

Intercepts of the Quadratic

Given a quadratic $q(r) = ar^2 + br + c$ compute its discriminant Δ :

$$\Delta = \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}$$

Case1: $\Delta > 0$

$r_{1,2} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$ computes the r-intercepts of multiplicity 1.

$q(0) = c$ computes the single q-intercept.

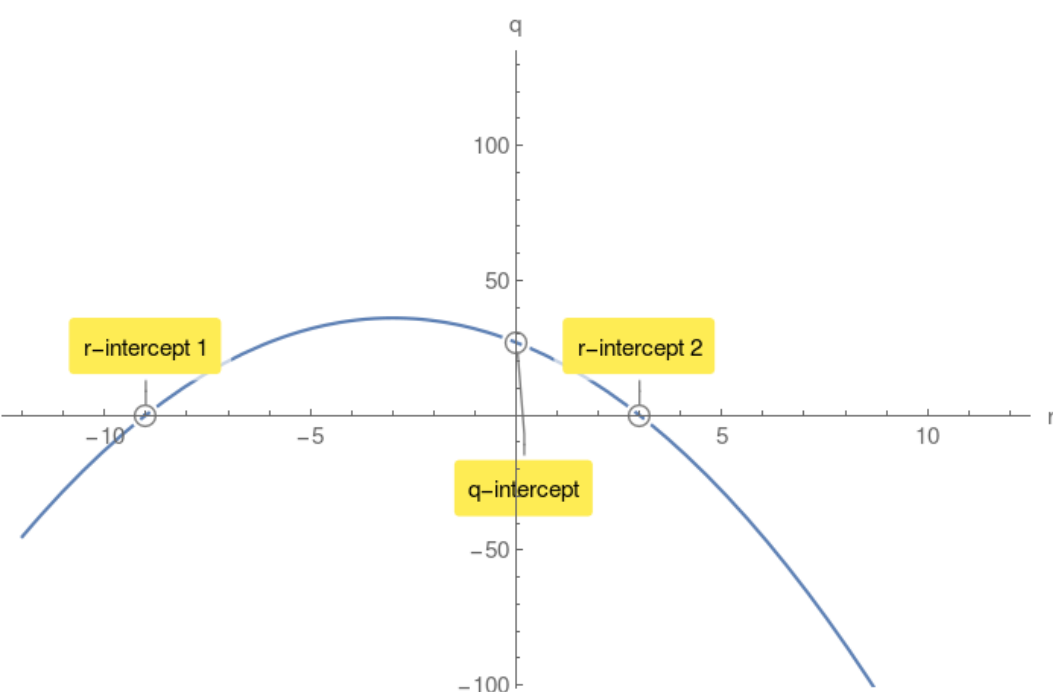
Example 1.

$q(r) = -r^2 - 6r + 27$ compute its discriminant Δ :

$$\Delta = 144 > 0$$

$$r_{1,2} = -9, 3$$

$q(0) = 27$ q-intercept.



Case2: $\Delta = 0$

$r_{1,2} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} = \frac{-b \pm 0}{2a} = \frac{-b}{2a}$ single r-intercept of multiplicity 2.

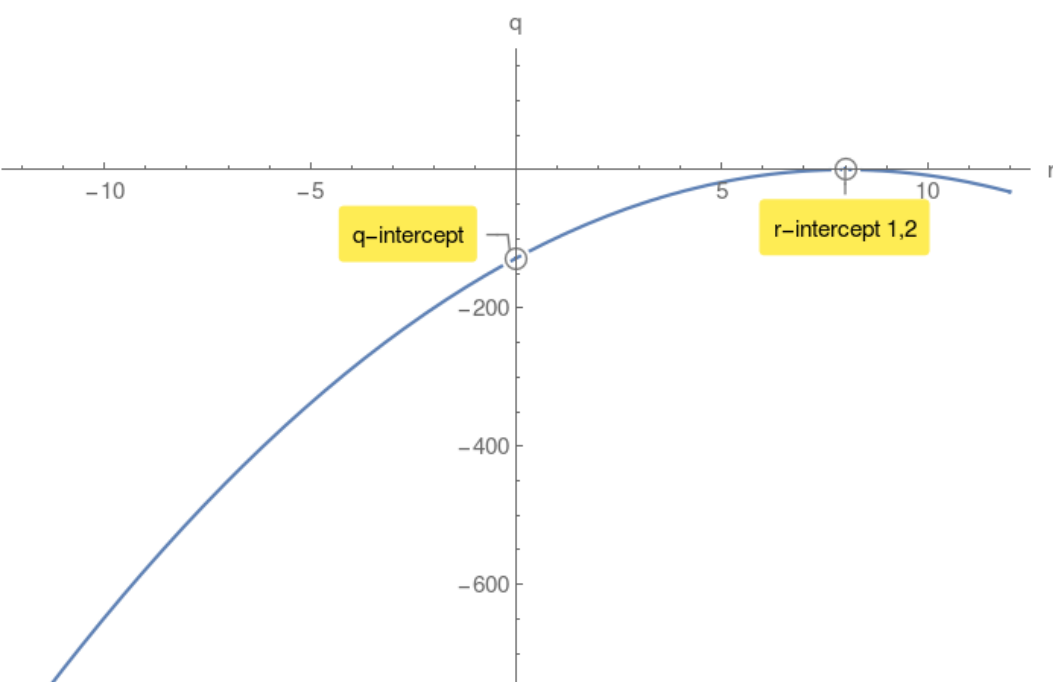
Example 2.

$q(r) = -2r^2 + 32r - 128$ compute its discriminant Δ :

$$\Delta = 0$$

$$r_{1,2} = 8, 8$$

$q(0) = -128$ q-intercept.



Case3: $\Delta < 0$

$\sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}$ has no value in Real Numbers. Therefore there are no r-intercepts.

However there is a q-intercept.

Example 3.

$q(r) = -9r^2 + 180r - 1000$ compute its discriminant Δ :

$$\Delta = -3600 < 0$$

$q(0) = -1000$ q-intercept.

