

Vertex of the Quadratic

Given a quadratic $p(n) = an^2 + bn + c$ compute its value at

$$n_1 = -\frac{b}{2a} \text{ namely } p(n_1) = c - \frac{b^2}{4a}$$

Now compute the same quadratic at n_1+h , namely

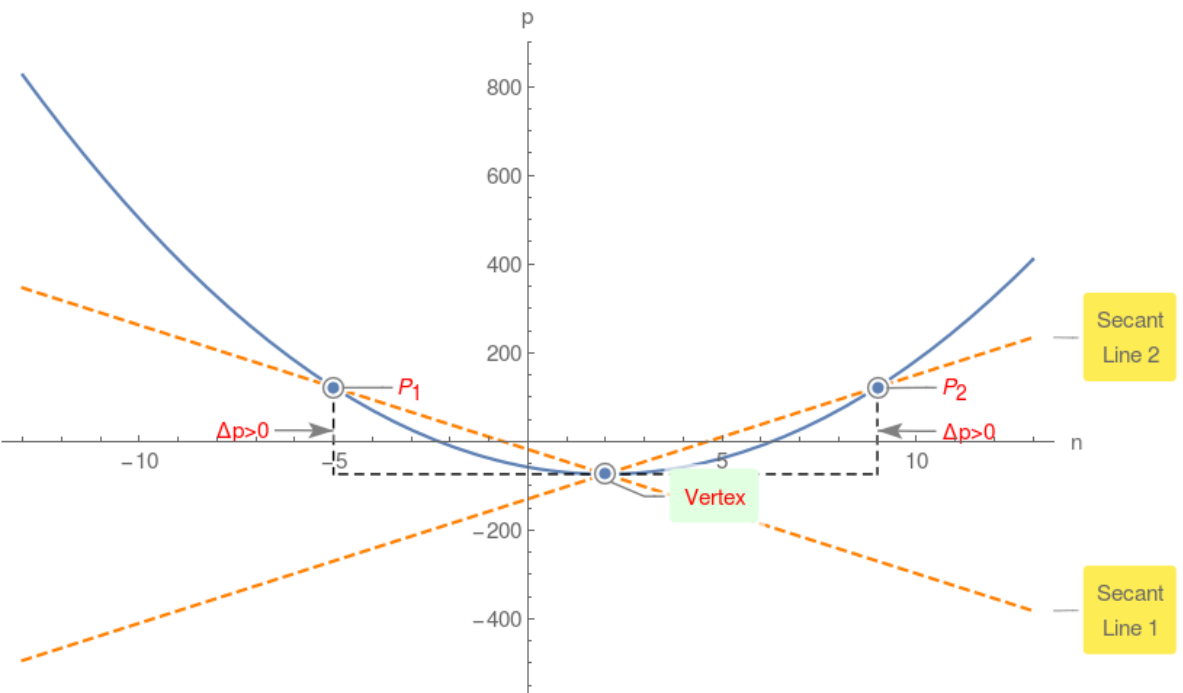
$$p(n_1+h) = -\frac{b^2}{4a} + ah^2 + c$$

$$\text{Compute } \Delta = p(n_1+h) - p(n_1) = ah^2$$

Since $h^2 > 0$, therefore if $a > 0$ then $\Delta > 0$ or vertex is the global minimum!

Example 1.

$$p(n) = 4n^2 - 16n - 58$$



However if $a < 0$ then $\Delta < 0$ or vertex is the global maximum!

Example 2.

$$p(n) = -3n^2 + 24n - 65$$

