

Intercepts of the Quadratic

Given a quadratic $n(t) = at^2 + bt + c$ compute its discriminant Δ :

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

Case1: $\Delta > 0$

$t_{1,2} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$ computes the t-intercepts of multiplicity 1.
 $n(0) = c$ computes the single n-intercept.

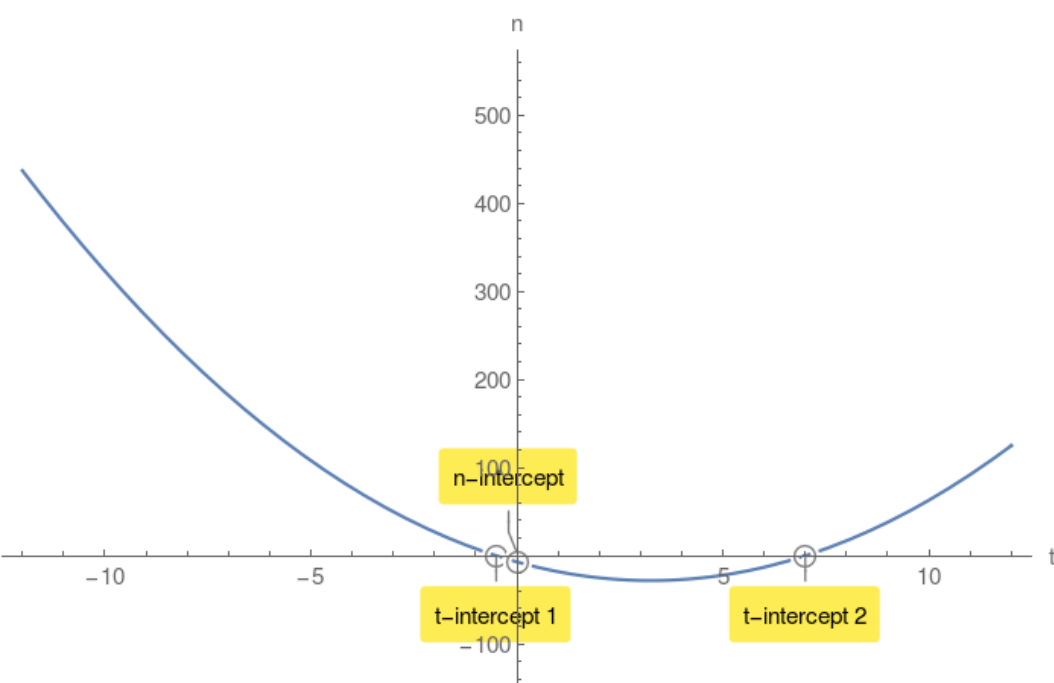
Example 1.

$n(t) = 2t^2 - 13t - 7$ compute its discriminant Δ :

$$\Delta = 225 > 0$$

$$t_{1,2} = -\frac{1}{2}, 7$$

$n(0) = -7$ n-intercept.



Case2: $\Delta = 0$

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

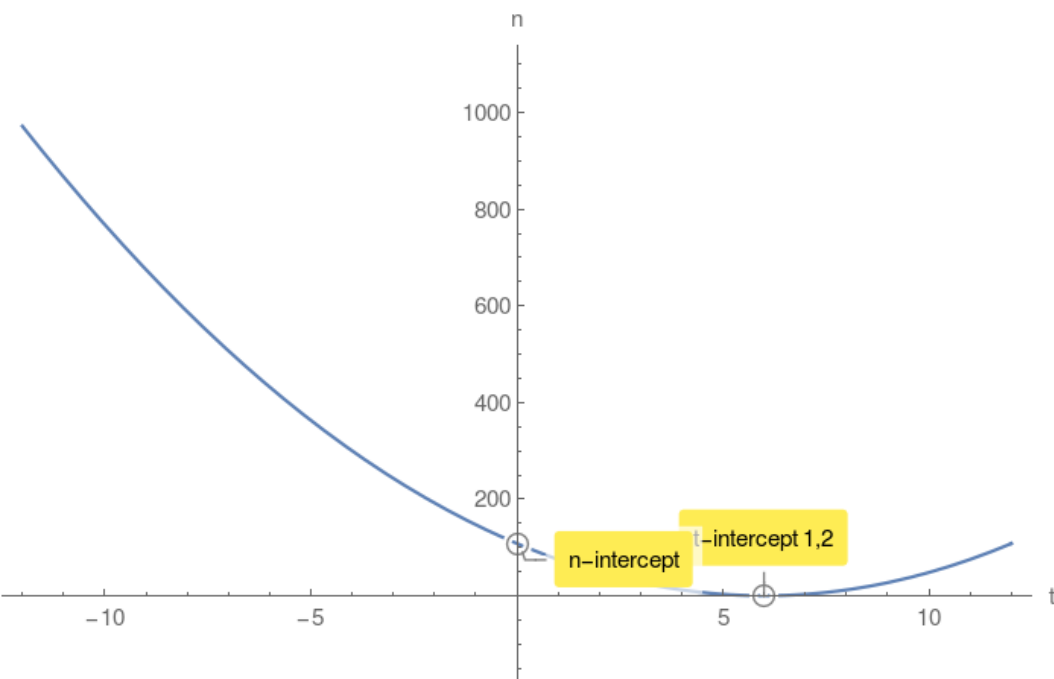
Example 2.

$n(t) = 3t^2 - 36t + 108$ compute its discriminant Δ :

$$\Delta = 0$$

$$t_{1,2} = 6, 6$$

$n(0) = 108$ n-intercept.



Case3: $\Delta < 0$

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

However there is a n-intercept.

Example 3.

$n(t) = 9t^2 - 126t + 490$ compute its discriminant Δ :

$$\Delta = -1764 < 0$$

$n(0) = 490$ n-intercept.

