

# Plotting the Parabola

How to plot :  $f(m) = am^2 + bm + c$

## Step 1.

Examine the sign for the leading coefficient

If  $a > 0$  then the valley shape:

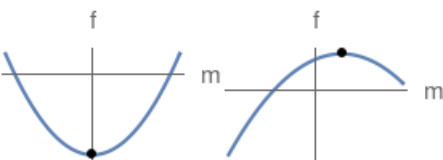


If  $a < 0$  then the hill shape:



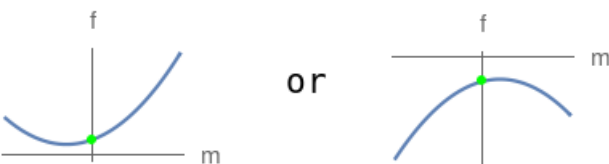
## Step 2.

Compute the vertex:  $(-\frac{b}{2a}, f(-\frac{b}{2a}))$



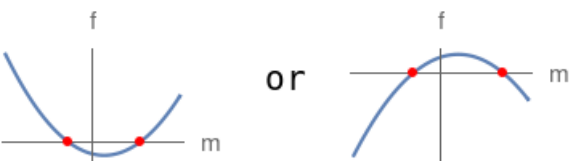
## Step 3.

Compute the f-intercept by setting  $m=0$ ,  $0^2a + 0b + c = c$



## Step 4.

Compute the m-intercepts by solving:  $am^2 + bm + c = 0$



## Step 5.

Sketch a rough plot, try to connect vertex to intercepts:

