

Vertex of the Quadratic

Given a quadratic $q(s) = a s^2 + b s + c$ compute its value at

$$s_1 = -\frac{b}{2a} \text{ namely } q(s_1) = c - \frac{b^2}{4a}$$

Now compute the same quadratic at s_1+h , namely

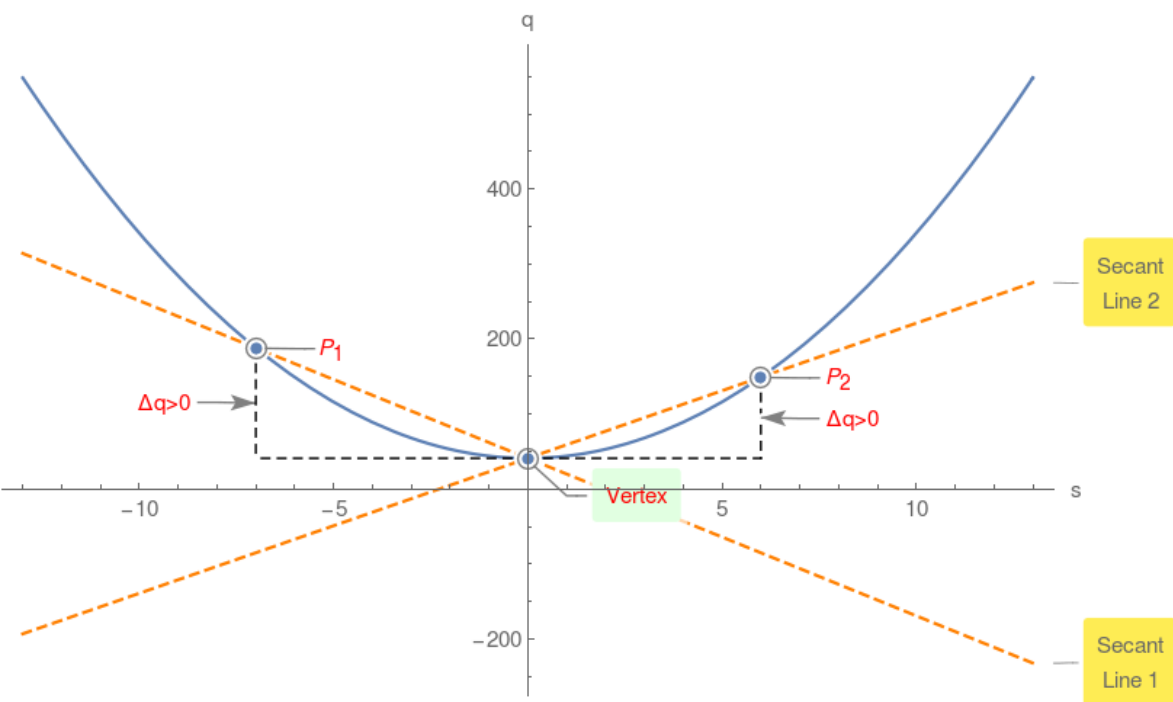
$$q(s_1+h) = -\frac{b^2}{4a} + a h^2 + c$$

$$\text{Compute } \Delta = q(s_1+h) - q(s_1) = a h^2$$

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

Example 1.

$$q(s) = 3s^2 + 41$$



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

Example 2.

$$q(s) = -3s^2 + 12s - 61$$

