

MAT102 - College Algebra - Polynomial and Rational Functions

3.1 Quadratic Functions and Applications [1]

Miraj Samarakkody

Tougaloo College

Updated - June 2, 2025

Graph a Quadratic Function Written in Vertex Form

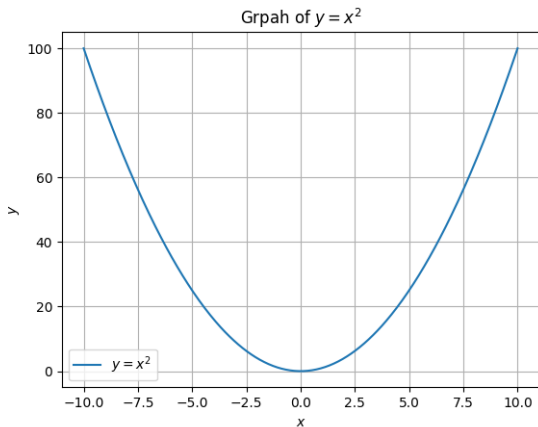
- ▶ A function of the form $f(x) = mx + c$ ($m \neq 0$) is a linear function.

Graph a Quadratic Function Written in Vertex Form

- ▶ A function of the form $f(x) = mx + c$ ($m \neq 0$) is a linear function.
- ▶ The function defined by $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ ($a \neq 0$) is called a **quadratic function**.

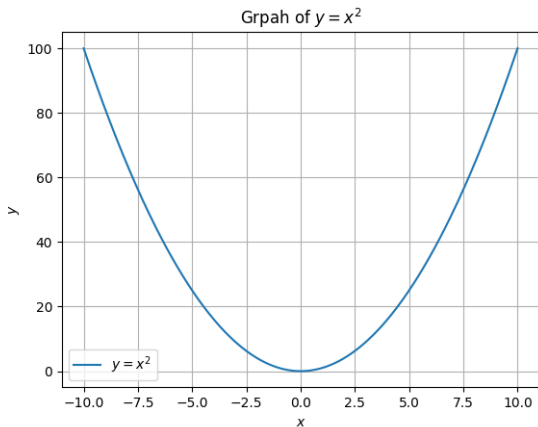
Graph a Quadratic Function Written in Vertex Form

- ▶ A function of the form $f(x) = mx + c$ ($m \neq 0$) is a linear function.
- ▶ The function defined by $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ ($a \neq 0$) is called a **quadratic function**.

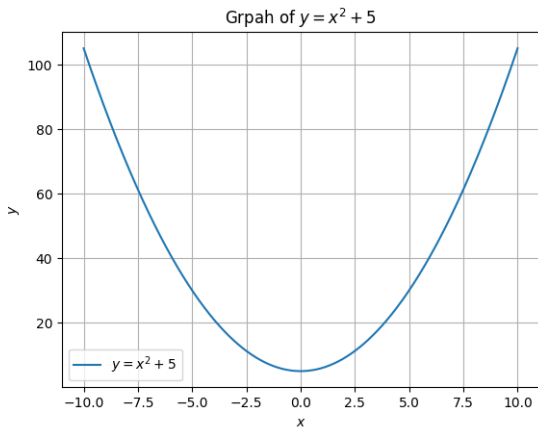


Graph a Quadratic Function Written in Vertex Form

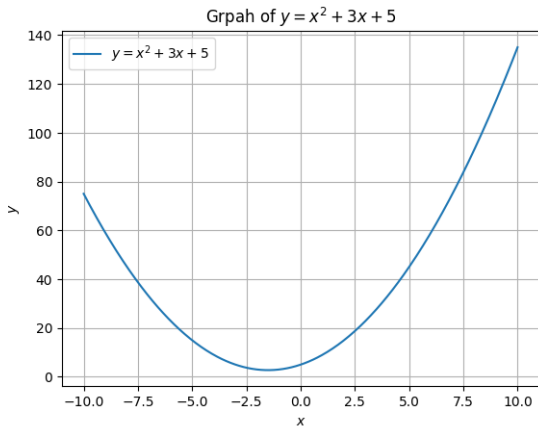
- ▶ A function of the form $f(x) = mx + c$ ($m \neq 0$) is a linear function.
- ▶ The function defined by $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ ($a \neq 0$) is called a **quadratic function**.



Graph a Quadratic Function Written in Vertex Form



Graph a Quadratic Function Written is Vertex Form



Quadratic Function

A function defined by $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ ($a \neq 0$) is called a **quadratic function**. By completing the square, $f(x)$ can be expressed in **vertex form** as $f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$.

Quadratic Function

A function defined by $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ ($a \neq 0$) is called a **quadratic function**. By completing the square, $f(x)$ can be expressed in **vertex form** as $f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$.

- ▶ The graph of f is a parabola with vertex (h, k) .

Quadratic Function

A function defined by $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ ($a \neq 0$) is called a **quadratic function**. By completing the square, $f(x)$ can be expressed in **vertex form** as $f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$.

- ▶ The graph of f is a parabola with vertex (h, k) .
- ▶ If $a > 0$, the parabola opens upward, and the vertex is the minimum point. The minimum value of f is k .

Quadratic Function

A function defined by $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ ($a \neq 0$) is called a **quadratic function**. By completing the square, $f(x)$ can be expressed in **vertex form** as $f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$.

- ▶ The graph of f is a parabola with vertex (h, k) .
- ▶ If $a > 0$, the parabola opens upward, and the vertex is the minimum point. The minimum value of f is k .
- ▶ If $a < 0$, the parabola opens downward, and the vertex is the maximum point. The maximum value of f is k .

Quadratic Function

A function defined by $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ ($a \neq 0$) is called a **quadratic function**. By completing the square, $f(x)$ can be expressed in **vertex form** as $f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$.

- ▶ The graph of f is a parabola with vertex (h, k) .
- ▶ If $a > 0$, the parabola opens upward, and the vertex is the minimum point. The minimum value of f is k .
- ▶ If $a < 0$, the parabola opens downward, and the vertex is the maximum point. The maximum value of f is k .
- ▶ The axis of symmetry is $x = h$. This is the vertical line that passes through the vertex.

Example - Analyzing and Graphing a Quadratic Function

Given $f(x) = -2(x - 1)^2 + 8$,

1. Determine whether the graph of the parabola opens upward or downward.

Example - Analyzing and Graphing a Quadratic Function

Given $f(x) = -2(x - 1)^2 + 8$,

1. Determine whether the graph of the parabola opens upward or downward.
2. Identify the vertex.

Example - Analyzing and Graphing a Quadratic Function

Given $f(x) = -2(x - 1)^2 + 8$,

1. Determine whether the graph of the parabola opens upward or downward.
2. Identify the vertex.
3. Determine the x -intercepts.

Example - Analyzing and Graphing a Quadratic Function

Given $f(x) = -2(x - 1)^2 + 8$,

1. Determine whether the graph of the parabola opens upward or downward.
2. Identify the vertex.
3. Determine the x -intercepts.
4. Determine the y -intercepts.

Example - Analyzing and Graphing a Quadratic Function

Given $f(x) = -2(x - 1)^2 + 8$,

1. Determine whether the graph of the parabola opens upward or downward.
2. Identify the vertex.
3. Determine the x -intercepts.
4. Determine the y -intercepts.
5. Sketch the function.

Example - Analyzing and Graphing a Quadratic Function

Given $f(x) = -2(x - 1)^2 + 8$,

1. Determine whether the graph of the parabola opens upward or downward.
2. Identify the vertex.
3. Determine the x -intercepts.
4. Determine the y -intercepts.
5. Sketch the function.
6. Determine the axis of symmetry.

Example - Analyzing and Graphing a Quadratic Function

Given $f(x) = -2(x - 1)^2 + 8$,

1. Determine whether the graph of the parabola opens upward or downward.
2. Identify the vertex.
3. Determine the x -intercepts.
4. Determine the y -intercepts.
5. Sketch the function.
6. Determine the axis of symmetry.
7. Determine the maximum or minimum value of f .

Example - Analyzing and Graphing a Quadratic Function

Given $f(x) = -2(x - 1)^2 + 8$,

1. Determine whether the graph of the parabola opens upward or downward.
2. Identify the vertex.
3. Determine the x -intercepts.
4. Determine the y -intercepts.
5. Sketch the function.
6. Determine the axis of symmetry.
7. Determine the maximum or minimum value of f .
8. Write down the domain and range in interval notation.

Example - Writing a Quadratic Function in Vertex Form

Given $f(x) = 3x^2 + 12x + 5$,

1. Write the function in vertex form.

Example - Writing a Quadratic Function in Vertex Form

Given $f(x) = 3x^2 + 12x + 5$,

1. Write the function in vertex form.
2. Identify the vertex.

Example - Writing a Quadratic Function in Vertex Form

Given $f(x) = 3x^2 + 12x + 5$,

1. Write the function in vertex form.
2. Identify the vertex.
3. Identify the x -intercept.

Example - Writing a Quadratic Function in Vertex Form

Given $f(x) = 3x^2 + 12x + 5$,

1. Write the function in vertex form.
2. Identify the vertex.
3. Identify the x -intercept.
4. Identify the y -intercept.

Example - Writing a Quadratic Function in Vertex Form

Given $f(x) = 3x^2 + 12x + 5$,

1. Write the function in vertex form.
2. Identify the vertex.
3. Identify the x -intercept.
4. Identify the y -intercept.
5. Sketch the function.

Example - Writing a Quadratic Function in Vertex Form

Given $f(x) = 3x^2 + 12x + 5$,

1. Write the function in vertex form.
2. Identify the vertex.
3. Identify the x -intercept.
4. Identify the y -intercept.
5. Sketch the function.
6. Determine the axis of symmetry.

Example - Writing a Quadratic Function in Vertex Form

Given $f(x) = 3x^2 + 12x + 5$,

1. Write the function in vertex form.
2. Identify the vertex.
3. Identify the x -intercept.
4. Identify the y -intercept.
5. Sketch the function.
6. Determine the axis of symmetry.
7. Determine the minimum or maximum value of f .

Example - Writing a Quadratic Function in Vertex Form

Given $f(x) = 3x^2 + 12x + 5$,

1. Write the function in vertex form.
2. Identify the vertex.
3. Identify the x -intercept.
4. Identify the y -intercept.
5. Sketch the function.
6. Determine the axis of symmetry.
7. Determine the minimum or maximum value of f .
8. Write the domain and range in interval notation.

Vertex Formula to Find the Vertex of a Parabola

For $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ ($a \neq 0$), the vertex is given by

$$\left(\frac{-b}{2a}, f\left(\frac{-b}{2a}\right) \right)$$

Example - Using the Vertex Formula

Given $f = -x^2 + 4x - 5$,

1. State whether the graph of the parabola opens upward or downward.

Example - Using the Vertex Formula

Given $f = -x^2 + 4x - 5$,

1. State whether the graph of the parabola opens upward or downward.
2. Determine the vertex of the parabola by using the vertex formula.

Example - Using the Vertex Formula

Given $f = -x^2 + 4x - 5$,

1. State whether the graph of the parabola opens upward or downward.
2. Determine the vertex of the parabola by using the vertex formula.
3. Determine the x -intercepts.

Example - Using the Vertex Formula

Given $f = -x^2 + 4x - 5$,

1. State whether the graph of the parabola opens upward or downward.
2. Determine the vertex of the parabola by using the vertex formula.
3. Determine the x -intercepts.
4. Determine the y -intercepts.

Example - Using the Vertex Formula

Given $f = -x^2 + 4x - 5$,

1. State whether the graph of the parabola opens upward or downward.
2. Determine the vertex of the parabola by using the vertex formula.
3. Determine the x -intercepts.
4. Determine the y -intercepts.
5. Sketch the graph.

Example - Using the Vertex Formula

Given $f = -x^2 + 4x - 5$,

1. State whether the graph of the parabola opens upward or downward.
2. Determine the vertex of the parabola by using the vertex formula.
3. Determine the x -intercepts.
4. Determine the y -intercepts.
5. Sketch the graph.
6. Determine the axis of symmetry.

Example - Using the Vertex Formula

Given $f = -x^2 + 4x - 5$,

1. State whether the graph of the parabola opens upward or downward.
2. Determine the vertex of the parabola by using the vertex formula.
3. Determine the x -intercepts.
4. Determine the y -intercepts.
5. Sketch the graph.
6. Determine the axis of symmetry.
7. Determine the minimum or maximum value of f .

Example - Using the Vertex Formula

Given $f = -x^2 + 4x - 5$,

1. State whether the graph of the parabola opens upward or downward.
2. Determine the vertex of the parabola by using the vertex formula.
3. Determine the x -intercepts.
4. Determine the y -intercepts.
5. Sketch the graph.
6. Determine the axis of symmetry.
7. Determine the minimum or maximum value of f .
8. Write the domain and range in interval notation.

Using the Discriminant to Determine the Number of x -Intercepts

Given a quadratic function defined by
 $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ ($a \neq 0$),

Using the Discriminant to Determine the Number of x —Intercepts

Given a quadratic function defined by

$$f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c \quad (a \neq 0),$$

- ▶ If $b^2 - 4ac = 0$, the graph of $y = f(x)$ has one x —intercept.

Using the Discriminant to Determine the Number of x -Intercepts

Given a quadratic function defined by

$$f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c \quad (a \neq 0),$$

- ▶ If $b^2 - 4ac = 0$, the graph of $y = f(x)$ has one x -intercept.
- ▶ If $b^2 - 4ac > 0$, the graph of $y = f(x)$ has two x -intercept.

Using the Discriminant to Determine the Number of x -Intercepts

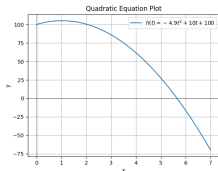
Given a quadratic function defined by

$$f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c \quad (a \neq 0),$$

- ▶ If $b^2 - 4ac = 0$, the graph of $y = f(x)$ has one x -intercept.
- ▶ If $b^2 - 4ac > 0$, the graph of $y = f(x)$ has two x -intercept.
- ▶ If $b^2 - 4ac < 0$, the graph of $y = f(x)$ has no x -intercept.

Example - Using a Quadratic Function for Projectile Motion

A stone is thrown from a 100-m cliff at an initial speed of 20 m/sec at an angle of 30° from the horizontal. The height of the stone can be modeled by $h(t) = -4.9t^2 + 10t + 100$, where $h(t)$ is the height in meters and t is the time in seconds after the stone is

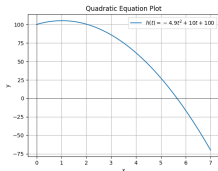


released.

1. Determine the time at which the stone will be at its maximum height.

Example - Using a Quadratic Function for Projectile Motion

A stone is thrown from a 100-m cliff at an initial speed of 20 m/sec at an angle of 30° from the horizontal. The height of the stone can be modeled by $h(t) = -4.9t^2 + 10t + 100$, where $h(t)$ is the height in meters and t is the time in seconds after the stone is

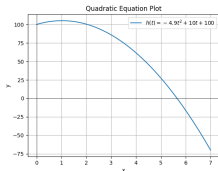


released.

1. Determine the time at which the stone will be at its maximum height.
2. Determine the maximum height.

Example - Using a Quadratic Function for Projectile Motion

A stone is thrown from a 100-m cliff at an initial speed of 20 m/sec at an angle of 30° from the horizontal. The height of the stone can be modeled by $h(t) = -4.9t^2 + 10t + 100$, where $h(t)$ is the height in meters and t is the time in seconds after the stone is

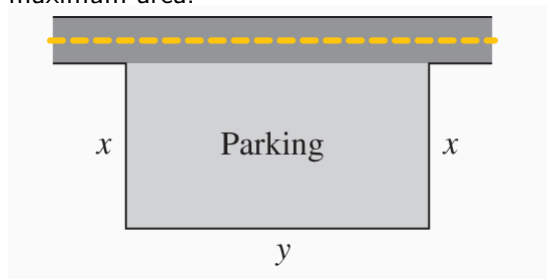


released.

1. Determine the time at which the stone will be at its maximum height.
2. Determine the maximum height.
3. Determine the time at which the stone will hit the ground.

Example - Applying a Quadratic Function to Geometry

A parking area is to be constructed adjacent to a road. The developer has purchased 340 ft of fencing. Determine dimensions for the parking lot that would maximize the area. Then find the maximum area.



References



Julie Miller and Donna Gerken.

College Algebra.

McGraw-Hill Education, New York, 2nd edition, 2016.