

Linear Functions and their Properties

A linear function is a function of the form

$$y = f(x) = mx + b$$

The graph of a linear function is a line with slope m and y -intercept b .

Domain is the set of all real numbers.

Functions that are not linear are said to be non-linear.

Example: $y = -3x + 5$

This is a linear function with slope -3 and y -intercept 5 .

Average rate of change of linear function:

The average rate of change of a linear function

$$f(x) = mx + b \text{ is } m = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$$

Example: The average rate of change of $g(x) = -\frac{2}{5}x + 5$ is $-\frac{2}{5}$

Increasing, decreasing or constant linear function:

A linear function $f(x) = mx + b$ is increasing over its domain if its slope m is positive.

It is decreasing if the slope m is negative.

It is constant over its domain if its slope m is zero.

Example:

(a) $f(x) = 5x - 2$. Linear function with positive slope 5.

So the function is increasing on the interval $(-\infty, \infty)$

(b) $f(x) = -2x + 8$

(c) $s(t) = \frac{3}{4}t - 4$

(d) $h(z) = 5$

Supply: The quantity supplied of a good is the amount of a product that a company is willing to make available for sale at a given price.

Demand: The quantity demanded of a good is the amount of product that consumers are willing to purchase at a given price.

Equilibrium price:

The equilibrium price of a product is defined as the price at which quantity supplied equals quantity demanded.

Example:

Suppose that the quantity supplied s and quantity demanded D of a cellular telephones each month are given by the following functions:

$$S(P) = 60P - 900$$

$$D(P) = -15P + 2850$$

- (a) Find the equilibrium price of the cellular telephones. What is the equilibrium quantity at the equilibrium price?

Soln:

To find the equilibrium price, solve the eqⁿ $S(P) = D(P)$

$$60P - 900 = -15P + 2850$$

$$\Rightarrow 60P + 15P = 2850 + 900$$

$$\Rightarrow 75P = 3750$$

$$\Rightarrow P = 50$$

The equilibrium price is \$50 per cellular phone.

To find the equilibrium quantity, evaluate either $S(P)$ or $D(P)$ at $P = 50$.

$$S(50) = 60 \times 50 - 900 = 2100$$

Therefore, at a price \$50, the company will produce and sell 2100 phones each month and have no shortage or excess inventory.

- (b) Determine the price for which quantity supplied is greater than quantity demanded?

Soln: The inequality $S(P) > D(P)$ is

$$60P - 900 > -15P + 2850$$

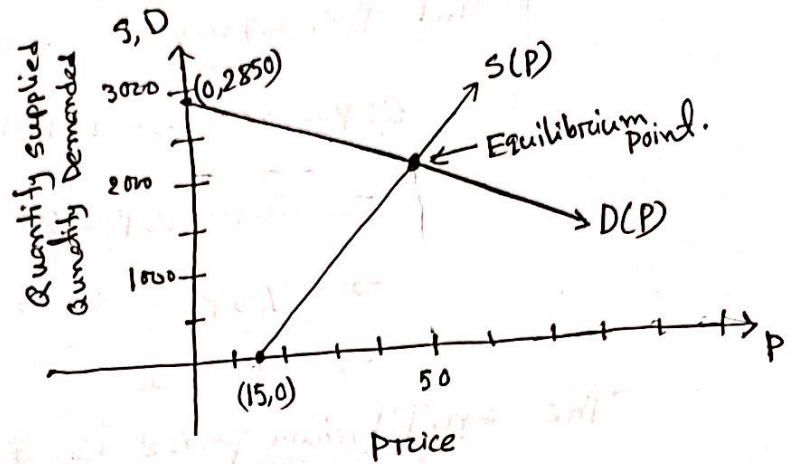
$$\Rightarrow 60P + 15P > 2850 + 900$$

$$\Rightarrow 75P > 3750$$

$$\Rightarrow P > 50$$

So if the company charges more than \$50 per phone then quantity supplied will exceed quantity demanded. In this case the company will have excess phones in inventory.

(C) Graph $S = S(P)$ and $D = D(P)$ and label the equilibrium price.



Quadratic Functions

A quadratic function is of the form

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

Domain is the set of all real numbers.

Given $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$

$$= a\left(x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x\right) + c$$

$$= a\left(x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{b^2}{4a^2}\right) + c - a \frac{b^2}{4a^2}$$

$$= a\left(x + \frac{b}{2a}\right)^2 + c - \frac{b^2}{4a}$$

$$= a\left(x + \frac{b}{2a}\right)^2 + \frac{4ac - b^2}{4a}$$

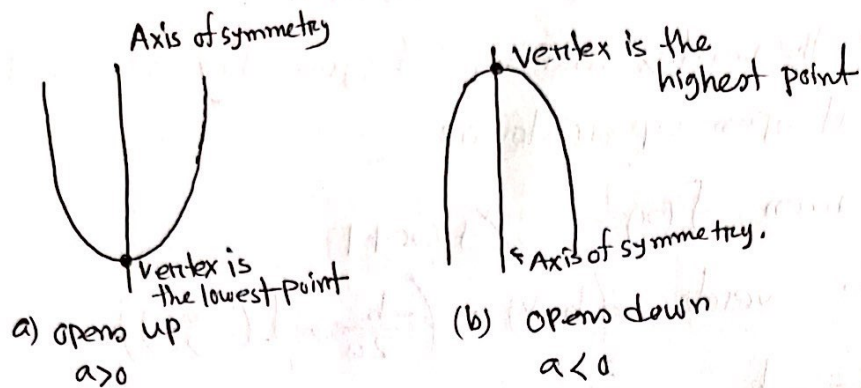
If $h = -\frac{b}{2a}$ and $k = \frac{4ac - b^2}{4a}$ then

$$f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c = a(x - h)^2 + k \text{ is the Parabola}$$

$y = ax^2$ shifted horizontally h units and vertically k units.

Here (h, k) is called vertex.

Identifying vertex, axis of symmetry and intercepts:



In ax^2+bx+c ; $a \neq 0$, if $a > 0$ then the parabola opens up and has a lowest point which is called vertex.

If $a < 0$ then the parabola opens down and has a highest point, that point is called vertex.

* The vertical line passing through the vertex point is called the axis of symmetry.

Properties of the graph of a quadratic function:

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

$$\text{Vertex: } (h, k) = \left(-\frac{b}{2a}, f\left(-\frac{b}{2a}\right) \right)$$

$$\text{Axis of symmetry} = \text{the line } x = -\frac{b}{2a}$$

Parabola opens up if $a > 0$; the vertex is a minimum point.

Parabola opens down if $a < 0$; the vertex is a maximum point.

Intercepts:

If $b^2 - 4ac > 0$, $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ has two distinct x -intercepts.

If $b^2 - 4ac = 0$, $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ has one x -intercept so it touches the x -axis at its vertex.

If $b^2 - 4ac < 0$, $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ has no x -intercepts.

Example: Suppose $f(x) = -3x^2 + 6x + 1$.

- (a) Locate the vertex and axis of symmetry of the parabola.
Does it open up or down?

Soln: Given, $f(x) = -3x^2 + 6x + 1$

We know vertex $= (h, k) = \left(-\frac{b}{2a}, f\left(-\frac{b}{2a}\right)\right)$

$$\therefore h = -\frac{b}{2a} = \frac{-6}{-6} = 1 \quad [\because a = -3, b = 6]$$

$$k = f\left(-\frac{b}{2a}\right) = f(1) = 4$$

\therefore vertex $= (1, 4)$.

Axis of symmetry is the line $x = 1$.

Because $a = -3 < 0$, the parabola opens down.

- (b) Find the intercepts of the function.

Soln: For y-intercept, let $x = 0$

$$\therefore f(0) = 1. \text{ So the y-intercept} = 1.$$

For x-intercept let $y = f(x) = 0$

$$\therefore -3x^2 + 6x + 1 = 0$$

The discriminant $b^2 - 4ac = (6)^2 - 4(-3)(1) = 36 + 12 = 48 > 0$

so the eqn has two real solutions and the graph has two x-intercepts.

$$\therefore x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} = \frac{-6 \pm \sqrt{48}}{-6} = \frac{-6 \pm 4\sqrt{3}}{-6}$$

$$\therefore x = \frac{-6 + 4\sqrt{3}}{-6} \quad \text{or} \quad x = \frac{-6 - 4\sqrt{3}}{-6}$$

$$\approx -0.15$$

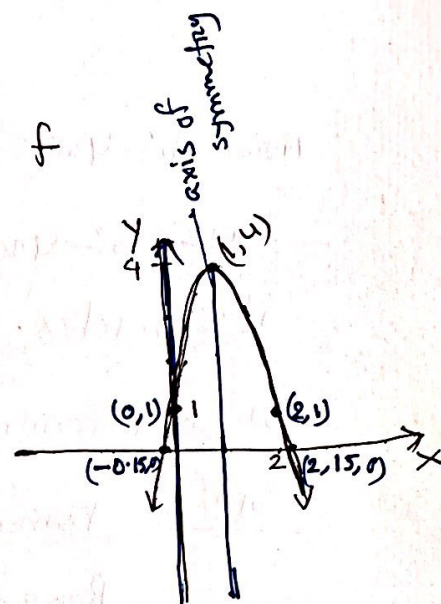
$$\approx 2.15$$

The x-intercepts are approximately -0.15 and 2.15 .

(c) Determine the domain and Range of f

Solⁿ: Domain, $D = (-\infty, \infty)$

Range, $R = (-\infty, 4]$



(d) Determine where f is increasing and where it is decreasing?

Solⁿ: increasing on the interval $(-\infty, 1)$
and decreasing on the interval $(1, \infty)$

Example:

(a) Graph $f(x) = x^2 - 6x + 9$. Determine whether the graph opens up or down and find its vertex, axis of symmetry, y-intercepts and x-intercepts, if any.

Solution:

Given $f(x) = x^2 - 6x + 9$

$a = 1, b = -6$

Since $a = 1 > 0$, the parabola opens up.

Vertex $= (h, k) = \left(-\frac{b}{2a}, f\left(-\frac{b}{2a}\right)\right)$

$$= \left(\frac{-(-6)}{2}, f\left(\frac{6}{2}\right)\right)$$

$$= (3, f(3))$$

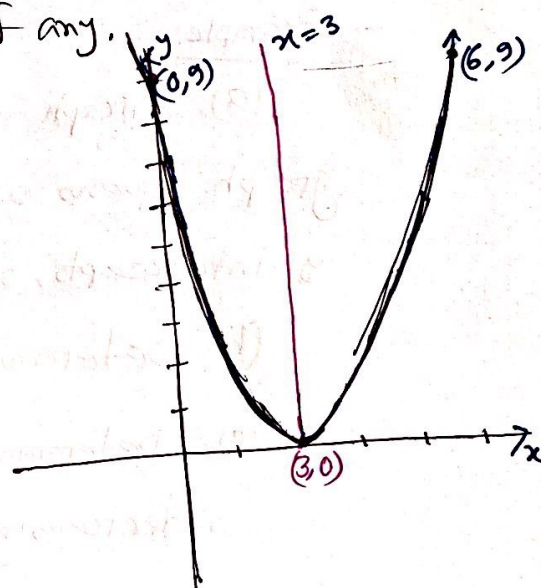
$= (3, 0)$; Axis of symmetry is the line $x = 3$.

y-intercept, let $x = 0$ which yields $f(0) = 9$.

So y-intercept = 9

For x-intercept let $f(x) = 0$

$$\therefore x^2 - 6x + 9 = 0$$



Now $b^2 - 4ac = (-6)^2 - 4 \cdot 1 \cdot 9 = 36 - 36 = 0$

Since $b^2 - 4ac = 0$, so the graph touches the x -axis at its vertex.

(b) determine domain and Range of f .

Soln:

Domain = $(-\infty, \infty)$

Range = $[0, \infty)$

(c) Determine where f is increasing and where it is decreasing?

Soln:

The function f is decreasing on the interval $(-\infty, 3)$ and increasing on the interval $(3, \infty)$.

Example:

(a) Graph $f(x) = 2x^2 + x + 1$, determine whether the graph opens up or down. Find its vertex, axis of symmetry, y -intercepts, x -intercepts if any.

(b) Determine the domain and Range of f .

(c) Determine where f is increasing and where it is decreasing?

Maximum and minimum value of quadratic function:

$$f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c; a \neq 0 \text{ has vertex } \left(-\frac{b}{2a}, f\left(-\frac{b}{2a}\right)\right).$$

* If the vertex is the highest point, then $f\left(-\frac{b}{2a}\right)$ is the maximum value of f .

* If the vertex is the lowest point, then $f\left(-\frac{b}{2a}\right)$ is the minimum value of f .

Example:

Determine whether the quadratic function $f(x) = x^2 - 4x - 5$ has a maximum or minimum value. Then find the maximum or minimum value.

Solution:

Given $f(x) = x^2 - 4x - 5$

Here $a=1$, $b=-4$; since $a>0$, f opens up, so the vertex is a minimum point.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{vertex} &= \left(-\frac{b}{2a}, f\left(-\frac{b}{2a}\right)\right) \\ &= \left(\frac{-(-4)}{2}, f\left(\frac{-(-4)}{2}\right)\right) \\ &= (2, f(2)) \\ &= (2, -9)\end{aligned}$$

The minimum point occurs at $x=2$ and the minimum value is $f(2) = -9$

If we have given the vertex (h, k) and one additional point on the graph of a quadratic function $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$, $a \neq 0$ we can use $f(x) = a(x-h)^2 + k$ to obtain the quadratic function.

Example:

Determine the quadratic function whose vertex is $(1, -5)$ and whose y-intercept is -3 .

Solution: The vertex $(1, -5)$ so $h=1$ and $k=-5$.

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore f(x) &= a(x-h)^2 + k \\ &= a(x-1)^2 - 5\end{aligned}$$

To determine the value of a , we use the fact that $f(0) = -3$.

$$f(x) = a(x-1)^2 - 5$$

$$\Rightarrow -3 = a(0-1)^2 - 5$$

$$\Rightarrow -3 = a - 5 \Rightarrow a = 2.$$

\therefore The quadratic function is

$$f(x) = 2(x-1)^2 - 5 = 2x^2 - 4x - 3$$