

SECTION 11.3

Quadratic Functions and Their Graphs

Objectives

- 1 Recognize characteristics of parabolas.
- 2 Graph parabolas in the form $f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$.
- 3 Graph parabolas in the form $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$.
- 4 Determine a quadratic function's minimum or maximum value.
- 5 Solve problems involving a quadratic function's minimum or maximum value.



We have a long history of throwing things. Before 400 B.C., the Greeks competed in games that included discus throwing. In the seventeenth century, English soldiers organized cannonball-throwing competitions. In 1827, a Yale University student, disappointed over failing an exam, took out his frustrations at the passing of a collection plate in chapel. Seizing the monetary tray, he flung it in the direction of a large open space on campus. Yale students see this act of frustration as the origin of the Frisbee.

In this section, we study quadratic functions and their graphs. By graphing functions that model the paths of the things we throw, you will be able to determine both the maximum height and the distance of these objects.

Graphs of Quadratic Functions

The graph of any quadratic function

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

is called a **parabola**. Parabolas are shaped like bowls or inverted bowls, as shown in **Figure 11.8**. If the coefficient of x^2 (the value of a in $ax^2 + bx + c$) is positive, the parabola opens upward. If the coefficient of x^2 is negative, the parabola opens downward. The **vertex** (or turning point) of the parabola is the lowest point on the graph when it opens upward and the highest point on the graph when it opens downward.

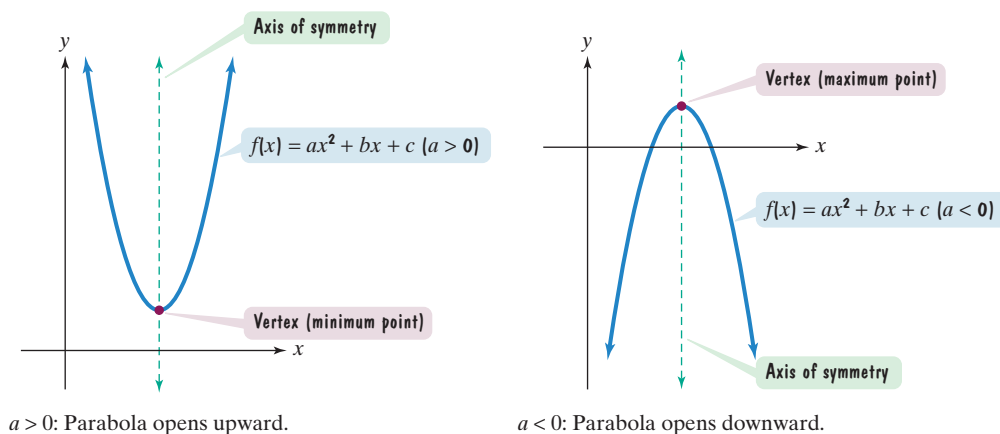


FIGURE 11.8 Characteristics of graphs of quadratic functions

The two halves of a parabola are mirror images of each other. A “mirror line” through the vertex, called the **axis of symmetry**, divides the figure in half. If a parabola is folded along its axis of symmetry, the two halves match exactly.

- 2** Graph parabolas in the form $f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$.

Graphing Quadratic Functions in the Form $f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$

One way to obtain the graph of a quadratic function is to use point plotting. Let's begin by graphing the functions $f(x) = x^2$, $g(x) = 2x^2$, and $h(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^2$ in the same rectangular coordinate system. Select integers for x , starting with -3 and ending with 3 . A partial table of coordinates for each function is shown below. The three parabolas are shown in **Figure 11.9**.

x	$f(x) = x^2$	(x, y) or $[x, f(x)]$	x	$g(x) = 2x^2$	(x, y) or $[x, g(x)]$
-3	$f(-3) = (-3)^2 = 9$	$(-3, 9)$	-3	$g(-3) = 2(-3)^2 = 18$	$(-3, 18)$
-2	$f(-2) = (-2)^2 = 4$	$(-2, 4)$	-2	$g(-2) = 2(-2)^2 = 8$	$(-2, 8)$
-1	$f(-1) = (-1)^2 = 1$	$(-1, 1)$	-1	$g(-1) = 2(-1)^2 = 2$	$(-1, 2)$
0	$f(0) = 0^2 = 0$	$(0, 0)$	0	$g(0) = 2 \cdot 0^2 = 0$	$(0, 0)$
1	$f(1) = 1^2 = 1$	$(1, 1)$	1	$g(1) = 2 \cdot 1^2 = 2$	$(1, 2)$
2	$f(2) = 2^2 = 4$	$(2, 4)$	2	$g(2) = 2 \cdot 2^2 = 8$	$(2, 8)$
3	$f(3) = 3^2 = 9$	$(3, 9)$	3	$g(3) = 2 \cdot 3^2 = 18$	$(3, 18)$

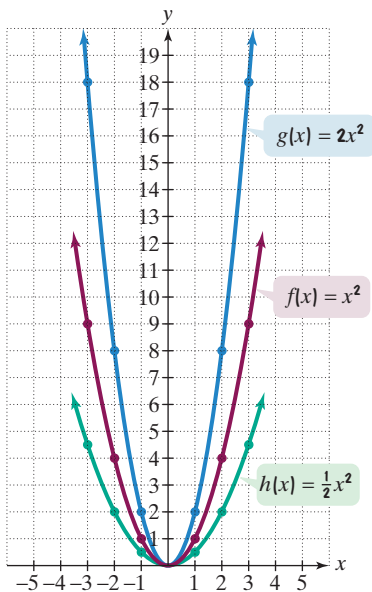


FIGURE 11.9

x	$h(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^2$	(x, y) or $[x, h(x)]$
-3	$h(-3) = \frac{1}{2}(-3)^2 = \frac{9}{2}$	$\left(-3, \frac{9}{2}\right)$
-2	$h(-2) = \frac{1}{2}(-2)^2 = 2$	$(-2, 2)$
-1	$h(-1) = \frac{1}{2}(-1)^2 = \frac{1}{2}$	$\left(-1, \frac{1}{2}\right)$
0	$h(0) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 0^2 = 0$	$(0, 0)$
1	$h(1) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 1^2 = \frac{1}{2}$	$\left(1, \frac{1}{2}\right)$
2	$h(2) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2^2 = 2$	$(2, 2)$
3	$h(3) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 3^2 = \frac{9}{2}$	$\left(3, \frac{9}{2}\right)$

Can you see that the graphs of f , g , and h all have the same vertex, $(0, 0)$? They also have the same axis of symmetry, the y -axis, or $x = 0$. This is true for all graphs of the form $f(x) = ax^2$. However, the blue graph of $g(x) = 2x^2$ is a narrower parabola than the red graph of $f(x) = x^2$. By contrast, the green graph of $h(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^2$ is a flatter parabola than the red graph of $f(x) = x^2$.

Is there a more efficient method than point plotting to obtain the graph of a quadratic function? The answer is yes. The method is based on comparing graphs of the form $g(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$ to those of the form $f(x) = ax^2$.

In **Figure 11.10(a)**, the graph of $f(x) = ax^2$ for $a > 0$ is shown in black. The parabola's vertex is $(0, 0)$ and it opens upward. In **Figure 11.10(b)**, the graph of $f(x) = ax^2$ for $a < 0$ is shown in black. The parabola's vertex is $(0, 0)$ and it opens downward.

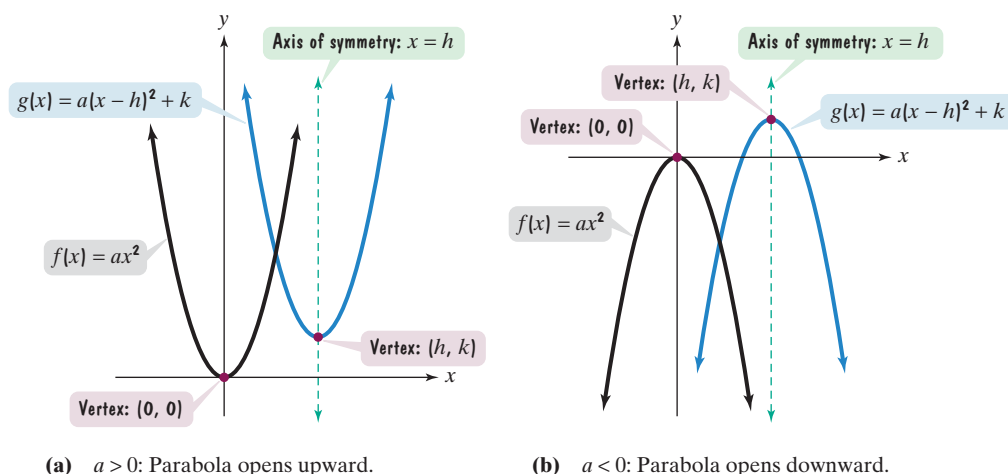


FIGURE 11.10 Moving, or shifting, the graph of $f(x) = ax^2$

Figure 11.10(a) and **11.10(b)** also show the graph of $g(x) = a(x-h)^2 + k$ in blue. Compare these graphs to those of $f(x) = ax^2$. Observe that h determines a horizontal move, or shift, and k determines a vertical move, or shift, of the graph of $f(x) = ax^2$:

$$g(x) = a(x-h)^2 + k.$$

If $h > 0$, the graph of $f(x) = ax^2$ is shifted h units to the right.

If $k > 0$, the graph of $y = a(x-h)^2$ is shifted k units up.

Consequently, the vertex $(0, 0)$ on the black graph of $f(x) = ax^2$ moves to the point (h, k) on the blue graph of $g(x) = a(x-h)^2 + k$. The axis of symmetry is the vertical line whose equation is $x = h$.

The form of the expression for g is convenient because it immediately identifies the vertex of the parabola as (h, k) .

Quadratic Functions in the Form $f(x) = a(x-h)^2 + k$

The graph of

$$f(x) = a(x-h)^2 + k, \quad a \neq 0$$

is a parabola whose vertex is the point (h, k) . The parabola is symmetric with respect to the line $x = h$. If $a > 0$, the parabola opens upward; if $a < 0$, the parabola opens downward.

The sign of a in $f(x) = a(x-h)^2 + k$ determines whether the parabola opens upward or downward. Furthermore, if $|a|$ is small, the parabola opens more flatly than if $|a|$ is large. On the next page is a general procedure for graphing parabolas whose equations are in this form.

Graphing Quadratic Functions with Equations in the Form $f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$

To graph $f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$,

1. Determine whether the parabola opens upward or downward. If $a > 0$, it opens upward. If $a < 0$, it opens downward.
2. Determine the vertex of the parabola. The vertex is (h, k) .
3. Find any x -intercepts by solving $f(x) = 0$. The equation's real solutions are the x -intercepts.
4. Find the y -intercept by computing $f(0)$.
5. Plot the intercepts, the vertex, and additional points as necessary. Connect these points with a smooth curve that is shaped like a bowl or an inverted bowl.

In the graphs that follow, we will show each axis of symmetry as a dashed vertical line. Because this vertical line passes through the vertex, (h, k) , its equation is $x = h$. The line is dashed because it is not part of the parabola.

Study Tip

It's easy to make a sign error when finding h , the x -coordinate of the vertex. In

$$f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k,$$

h is the number that follows the subtraction sign.

- $f(x) = -2(x - 3)^2 + 8$

The number after the subtraction is 3: $h = 3$.
- $f(x) = (x + 3)^2 + 1$
 $= (x - (-3))^2 + 1$

The number after the subtraction is -3 : $h = -3$.

EXAMPLE 1 Graphing a Quadratic Function in the Form $f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$

Graph the quadratic function $f(x) = -2(x - 3)^2 + 8$.

Solution We can graph this function by following the steps in the preceding box. We begin by identifying values for a , h , and k .

$$f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$$

$a = -2$

$h = 3$

$k = 8$

$$f(x) = -2(x - 3)^2 + 8$$

Step 1. Determine how the parabola opens. Note that a , the coefficient of x^2 , is -2 . Thus, $a < 0$; this negative value tells us that the parabola opens downward.

Step 2. Find the vertex. The vertex of the parabola is at (h, k) . Because $h = 3$ and $k = 8$, the parabola has its vertex at $(3, 8)$.

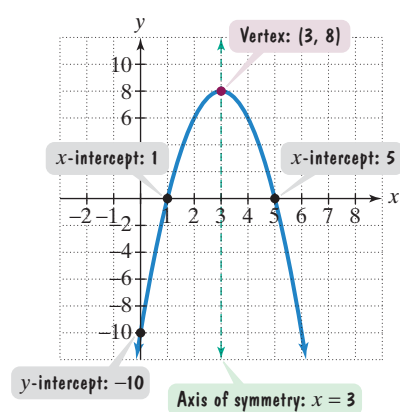


FIGURE 11.11 The graph of $f(x) = -2(x - 3)^2 + 8$

Step 3. Find the x -intercepts by solving $f(x) = 0$. Replace $f(x)$ with 0 in $f(x) = -2(x - 3)^2 + 8$.

$$0 = -2(x - 3)^2 + 8 \quad \text{Find } x\text{-intercepts, setting } f(x) \text{ equal to } 0.$$

$$2(x - 3)^2 = 8 \quad \text{Solve for } x. \text{ Add } 2(x - 3)^2 \text{ to both sides of the equation.}$$

$$(x - 3)^2 = 4 \quad \text{Divide both sides by 2.}$$

$$x - 3 = \sqrt{4} \quad \text{or} \quad x - 3 = -\sqrt{4} \quad \text{Apply the square root property.}$$

$$x - 3 = 2 \quad \quad \quad x - 3 = -2 \quad \quad \quad \sqrt{4} = 2$$

$$x = 5 \quad \quad \quad x = 1 \quad \quad \quad \text{Add 3 to both sides in each equation.}$$

The x -intercepts are 5 and 1. The parabola passes through (5, 0) and (1, 0).

Step 4. Find the y -intercept by computing $f(0)$. Replace x with 0 in $f(x) = -2(x - 3)^2 + 8$.

$$f(0) = -2(0 - 3)^2 + 8 = -2(-3)^2 + 8 = -2(9) + 8 = -10$$

The y -intercept is -10 . The parabola passes through (0, -10).

Step 5. Graph the parabola. With a vertex at (3, 8), x -intercepts at 5 and 1, and a y -intercept at -10 , the graph of f is shown in **Figure 11.11**. The axis of symmetry is the vertical line whose equation is $x = 3$.

☒ **CHECK POINT 1** Graph the quadratic function $f(x) = -(x - 1)^2 + 4$.

EXAMPLE 2 Graphing a Quadratic Function in the Form $f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$

Graph the quadratic function $f(x) = (x + 3)^2 + 1$.

Solution We begin by finding values for a , h , and k .

$$f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k \quad \text{Form of quadratic function}$$

$$f(x) = (x + 3)^2 + 1 \quad \text{Given function}$$

$$f(x) = 1(x - (-3))^2 + 1$$

$$a = 1 \quad h = -3 \quad k = 1$$

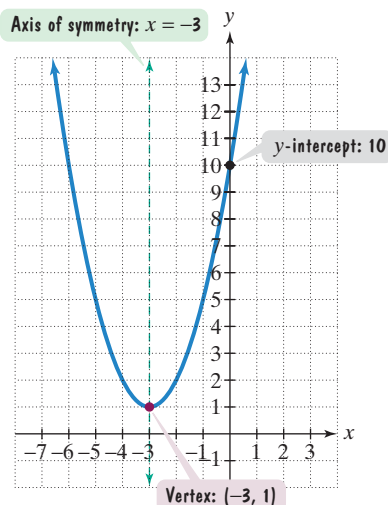


FIGURE 11.12 The graph of $f(x) = (x + 3)^2 + 1$

Step 1. Determine how the parabola opens. Note that a , the coefficient of x^2 , is 1. Thus, $a > 0$; this positive value tells us that the parabola opens upward.

Step 2. Find the vertex. The vertex of the parabola is at (h, k) . Because $h = -3$ and $k = 1$, the parabola has its vertex at $(-3, 1)$. This is shown in **Figure 11.12**.

Step 3. Find the x -intercepts by solving $f(x) = 0$. Replace $f(x)$ with 0 in $f(x) = (x + 3)^2 + 1$. Because the vertex is at $(-3, 1)$, which lies above the x -axis, and the parabola opens upward, it appears that this parabola has no x -intercepts. We can verify this observation algebraically.

$$0 = (x + 3)^2 + 1 \quad \text{Find possible } x\text{-intercepts, setting } f(x) \text{ equal to } 0.$$

$$-1 = (x + 3)^2 \quad \text{Solve for } x. \text{ Subtract 1 from both sides.}$$

$$x + 3 = \sqrt{-1} \quad \text{or} \quad x + 3 = -\sqrt{-1} \quad \text{Apply the square root property.}$$

$$x + 3 = i \quad \quad \quad x + 3 = -i \quad \quad \quad \sqrt{-1} = i$$

$$x = -3 + i \quad \quad \quad x = -3 - i \quad \quad \quad \text{The solutions are } -3 \pm i.$$

Because this equation has no real solutions, the parabola has no x -intercepts.


Step 4. Find the y-intercept by computing $f(0)$. Replace x with 0 in $f(x) = (x + 3)^2 + 1$.

$$f(0) = (0 + 3)^2 + 1 = 3^2 + 1 = 9 + 1 = 10$$

The y-intercept is 10. The parabola passes through $(0, 10)$, shown in **Figure 11.12**.

Step 5. Graph the parabola. With a vertex at $(-3, 1)$, no x -intercepts, and a y-intercept at 10, the graph of f is shown in **Figure 11.12**. The axis of symmetry is the vertical line whose equation is $x = -3$.

3 Graph parabolas in the form $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$.

 **CHECK POINT 2** Graph the quadratic function $f(x) = (x - 2)^2 + 1$.

Graphing Quadratic Functions in the Form $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$

Quadratic functions are frequently expressed in the form $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$. How can we identify the vertex of a parabola whose equation is in this form? Completing the square provides the answer to this question.

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

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

Factor out a from $ax^2 + bx$.

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

Complete the square by adding the square of half the coefficient of x .

By completing the square, we added $a \cdot \frac{b^2}{4a^2}$. To avoid changing the function's equation, we must subtract this term.

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

Write the trinomial as the square of a binomial and simplify the constant term.

Now let's compare the form of this equation with a quadratic function in the form $f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$.

The form we know how to graph

$$f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$$

$$h = -\frac{b}{2a}$$

$$k = c - \frac{b^2}{4a}$$

Equation under discussion

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

The important part of this observation is that h , the x -coordinate of the vertex, is $-\frac{b}{2a}$. The y -coordinate can be found by evaluating the function at $-\frac{b}{2a}$.

The Vertex of a Parabola Whose Equation Is $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$

Consider the parabola defined by the quadratic function $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$. The parabola's vertex is $\left(-\frac{b}{2a}, f\left(-\frac{b}{2a}\right)\right)$. The x -coordinate is $-\frac{b}{2a}$. The y -coordinate is found by substituting the x -coordinate into the parabola's equation and evaluating the function at this value of x .

EXAMPLE 3 Finding a Parabola's Vertex

Find the vertex for the parabola whose equation is $f(x) = 3x^2 + 12x + 8$.

Solution We know that the x -coordinate of the vertex is $x = -\frac{b}{2a}$. Let's identify the numbers a , b , and c in the given equation, which is in the form $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$.

$$f(x) = 3x^2 + 12x + 8$$

a = 3

b = 12

c = 8

Substitute the values of a and b into the equation for the x -coordinate:

$$x = -\frac{b}{2a} = -\frac{12}{2 \cdot 3} = -\frac{12}{6} = -2.$$

The x -coordinate of the vertex is -2 . We substitute -2 for x into the equation of the function, $f(x) = 3x^2 + 12x + 8$, to find the y -coordinate:

$$f(-2) = 3(-2)^2 + 12(-2) + 8 = 3(4) + 12(-2) + 8 = 12 - 24 + 8 = -4.$$

The vertex is $(-2, -4)$. ■

CHECK POINT 3 Find the vertex for the parabola whose equation is $f(x) = 2x^2 + 8x - 1$.

We can apply our five-step procedure and graph parabolas in the form $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$.

Graphing Quadratic Functions with Equations in the Form $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$

To graph $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$,

1. Determine whether the parabola opens upward or downward. If $a > 0$, it opens upward. If $a < 0$, it opens downward.
2. Determine the vertex of the parabola. The vertex is $\left(-\frac{b}{2a}, f\left(-\frac{b}{2a}\right)\right)$.
3. Find any x -intercepts by solving $f(x) = 0$. The real solutions of $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ are the x -intercepts.
4. Find the y -intercept by computing $f(0)$. Because $f(0) = c$ (the constant term in the function's equation), the y -intercept is c and the parabola passes through $(0, c)$.
5. Plot the intercepts, the vertex, and additional points as necessary. Connect these points with a smooth curve.

EXAMPLE 4

Graphing a Quadratic Function in the Form $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$

Graph the quadratic function $f(x) = -x^2 - 2x + 1$. Use the graph to identify the function's domain and its range.

Solution

Step 1. Determine how the parabola opens. Note that a , the coefficient of x^2 , is -1 . Thus, $a < 0$; this negative value tells us that the parabola opens downward.

Step 2. Find the vertex. We know that the x -coordinate of the vertex is $x = -\frac{b}{2a}$. We identify a , b , and c in $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$.

$$f(x) = -x^2 - 2x + 1$$

$a = -1$ $b = -2$ $c = 1$

Substitute the values of a and b into the equation for the x -coordinate:

$$x = -\frac{b}{2a} = -\frac{-2}{2(-1)} = -\left(\frac{-2}{-2}\right) = -1.$$

The x -coordinate of the vertex is -1 . We substitute -1 for x into the equation of the function, $f(x) = -x^2 - 2x + 1$, to find the y -coordinate:

$$f(-1) = -(-1)^2 - 2(-1) + 1 = -1 + 2 + 1 = 2.$$

The vertex is $(-1, 2)$.

Step 3. Find the x -intercepts by solving $f(x) = 0$. Replace $f(x)$ with 0 in $f(x) = -x^2 - 2x + 1$. We obtain $0 = -x^2 - 2x + 1$. This equation cannot be solved by factoring. We will use the quadratic formula to solve it.

$$-x^2 - 2x + 1 = 0$$

$a = -1$ $b = -2$ $c = 1$

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} = \frac{-(-2) \pm \sqrt{(-2)^2 - 4(-1)(1)}}{2(-1)} = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{4 - (-4)}}{-2}$$

To locate the x -intercepts, we need decimal approximations. Thus, there is no need to simplify the radical form of the solutions.

$$x = \frac{2 + \sqrt{8}}{-2} \approx -2.4 \quad \text{or} \quad x = \frac{2 - \sqrt{8}}{-2} \approx 0.4$$

The x -intercepts are approximately -2.4 and 0.4 . The parabola passes through $(-2.4, 0)$ and $(0.4, 0)$.

Step 4. Find the y -intercept by computing $f(0)$. Replace x with 0 in $f(x) = -x^2 - 2x + 1$.

$$f(0) = -0^2 - 2 \cdot 0 + 1 = 1$$

The y -intercept is 1 , which is the constant term in the function's equation. The parabola passes through $(0, 1)$.

Step 5. Graph the parabola. With a vertex at $(-1, 2)$, x -intercepts at -2.4 and 0.4 , and a y -intercept at 1 , the graph of f is shown in **Figure 11.13(a)**. The axis of symmetry is the vertical line whose equation is $x = -1$.

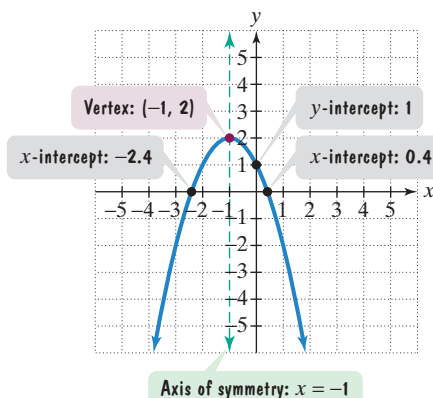


FIGURE 11.13(a) The graph of $f(x) = -x^2 - 2x + 1$

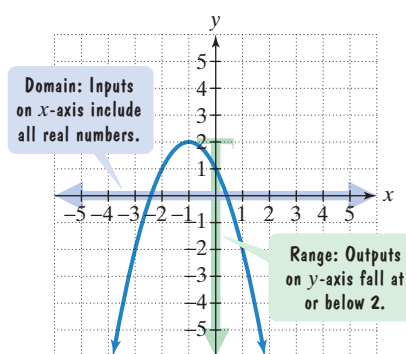


FIGURE 11.13(b) Determining the domain and range of $f(x) = -x^2 - 2x + 1$

Now we are ready to determine the domain and range of $f(x) = -x^2 - 2x + 1$. We can use the parabola, shown again in **Figure 11.13(b)**, to do so. To find the domain, look for all the inputs on the x -axis that correspond to points on the graph. As the graph widens and continues to fall at both ends, can you see that these inputs include all real numbers?

Domain of f is $\{x|x \text{ is a real number}\}$ or $(-\infty, \infty)$.

To find the range, look for all the outputs on the y -axis that correspond to points on the graph. **Figure 11.13(b)** shows that the parabola's vertex, $(-1, 2)$, is the highest point on the graph. Because the y -coordinate of the vertex is 2, outputs on the y -axis fall at or below 2.

Range of f is $\{y|y \leq 2\}$ or $(-\infty, 2]$.

Study Tip

The domain of any quadratic function includes all real numbers. If the vertex is the graph's highest point, the range includes all real numbers at or below the y -coordinate of the vertex. If the vertex is the graph's lowest point, the range includes all real numbers at or above the y -coordinate of the vertex.

☒ **CHECK POINT 4** Graph the quadratic function $f(x) = -x^2 + 4x + 1$. Use the graph to identify the function's domain and its range.

- 4** Determine a quadratic function's minimum or maximum value.

Minimum and Maximum Values of Quadratic Functions

Consider the quadratic function $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$. If $a > 0$, the parabola opens upward and the vertex is its lowest point. If $a < 0$, the parabola opens downward and the vertex is its highest point. The x -coordinate of the vertex is $-\frac{b}{2a}$. Thus, we can find the minimum or maximum value of f by evaluating the quadratic function at $x = -\frac{b}{2a}$.

Minimum and Maximum: Quadratic Functions

Consider the quadratic function $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$.

1. If $a > 0$, then f has a minimum that occurs at $x = -\frac{b}{2a}$. This minimum value is $f\left(-\frac{b}{2a}\right)$.
2. If $a < 0$, then f has a maximum that occurs at $x = -\frac{b}{2a}$. This maximum value is $f\left(-\frac{b}{2a}\right)$.

In each case, the value of x gives the location of the minimum or maximum value. The value of y , or $f\left(-\frac{b}{2a}\right)$, gives that minimum or maximum value.

EXAMPLE 5 Obtaining Information about a Quadratic Function from Its Equation

Consider the quadratic function $f(x) = -3x^2 + 6x - 13$.

- a. Determine, without graphing, whether the function has a minimum value or a maximum value.
- b. Find the minimum or maximum value and determine where it occurs.
- c. Identify the function's domain and its range.

Solution We begin by identifying a , b , and c in the function's equation:

$$f(x) = -3x^2 + 6x - 13.$$

$$a = -3$$

$$b = 6$$

$$c = -13$$

- Because $a < 0$, the function has a maximum value.
- The maximum value occurs at

$$x = -\frac{b}{2a} = -\frac{6}{2(-3)} = -\frac{6}{-6} = -(-1) = 1.$$

The maximum value occurs at $x = 1$ and the maximum value of $f(x) = -3x^2 + 6x - 13$ is

$$f(1) = -3 \cdot 1^2 + 6 \cdot 1 - 13 = -3 + 6 - 13 = -10.$$

We see that the maximum is -10 at $x = 1$.

- Like all quadratic functions, the domain is $\{x|x \text{ is a real number}\}$ or $(-\infty, \infty)$. Because the function's maximum value is -10 , the range includes all real numbers at or below -10 . The range is $\{y|y \leq -10\}$ or $(-\infty, -10]$.

We can use the graph of $f(x) = -3x^2 + 6x - 13$ to visualize the results of Example 5. **Figure 11.14** shows the graph in a $[-6, 6, 1]$ by $[-50, 20, 10]$ viewing rectangle. The maximum function feature verifies that the function's maximum is -10 at $x = 1$. Notice that x gives the location of the maximum and y gives the maximum value. Notice, too, that the maximum value is -10 and not the ordered pair $(1, -10)$.

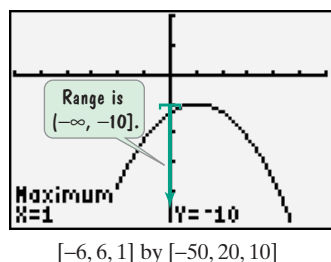


FIGURE 11.14

CHECK POINT 5 Repeat parts (a) through (c) of Example 5 using the quadratic function $f(x) = 4x^2 - 16x + 1000$.

- 5** Solve problems involving a quadratic function's minimum or maximum value.

Applications of Quadratic Functions

Many applied problems involve finding the maximum or minimum value of a quadratic function, as well as where this value occurs.

EXAMPLE 6 Parabolic Paths of a Shot Put

An athlete whose event is the shot put releases the shot with the same initial velocity, but at different angles. **Figure 11.15** shows the parabolic paths for shots released at angles of 35° and 65° .

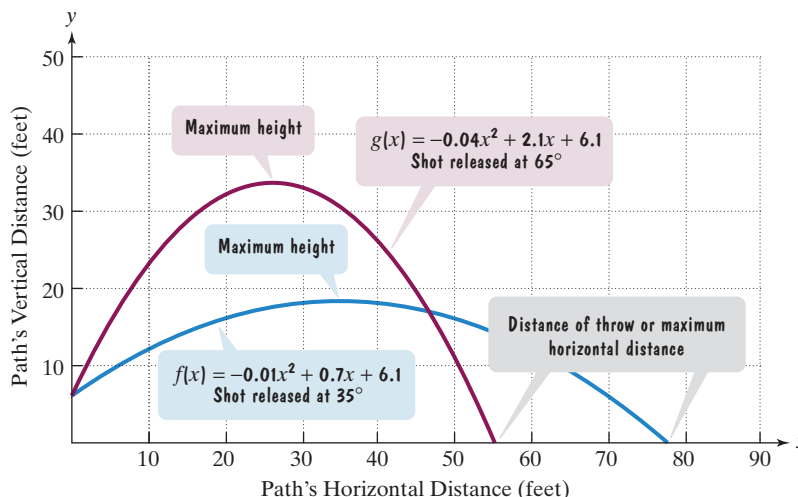


FIGURE 11.15 Two paths of a shot put

When the shot is released at an angle of 35° , its path can be modeled by the function

$$f(x) = -0.01x^2 + 0.7x + 6.1,$$

in which x is the shot's horizontal distance, in feet, and $f(x)$ is its height, in feet. What is the maximum height of this shot's path?

Solution The quadratic function is in the form $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$, with $a = -0.01$ and $b = 0.7$. Because $a < 0$, the function has a maximum that occurs at $x = -\frac{b}{2a}$.

$$x = -\frac{b}{2a} = -\frac{0.7}{2(-0.01)} = -(-35) = 35$$

This means that the shot's maximum height occurs when its horizontal distance is 35 feet. The maximum height of this path is

$$f(35) = -0.01(35)^2 + 0.7(35) + 6.1 = 18.35$$

or 18.35 feet. Use the blue graph of f in **Figure 11.15** on the previous page to verify a maximum height of 18.35 feet when the shot's horizontal distance is 35 feet. ■

✓ **CHECK POINT 6** Use function g , whose equation and graph are shown in **Figure 11.15** on the previous page, to find the maximum height, to the nearest tenth of a foot, when the shot is released at an angle of 65° .

Quadratic functions can also be modeled from verbal conditions. Once we have obtained a quadratic function, we can then use the x -coordinate of the vertex to determine its maximum or minimum value. Here is a step-by-step strategy for solving these kinds of problems:

Strategy for Solving Problems Involving Maximizing or Minimizing Quadratic Functions

1. Read the problem carefully and decide which quantity is to be maximized or minimized.
2. Use the conditions of the problem to express the quantity as a function in one variable.
3. Rewrite the function in the form $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$.
4. Calculate $-\frac{b}{2a}$. If $a > 0$, f has a minimum at $x = -\frac{b}{2a}$. This minimum value is $f\left(-\frac{b}{2a}\right)$. If $a < 0$, f has a maximum at $x = -\frac{b}{2a}$. This maximum value is $f\left(-\frac{b}{2a}\right)$.
5. Answer the question posed in the problem.

EXAMPLE 7 Minimizing a Product

Among all pairs of numbers whose difference is 10, find a pair whose product is as small as possible. What is the minimum product?

Solution

Step 1. Decide what must be maximized or minimized. We must minimize the product of two numbers. Calling the numbers x and y , and calling the product P , we must minimize

$$P = xy.$$

Step 2. Express this quantity as a function in one variable. In the formula $P = xy$, P is expressed in terms of two variables, x and y . However, because the difference of the numbers is 10, we can write

$$x - y = 10.$$

We can solve this equation for y in terms of x (or vice versa), substitute the result into $P = xy$, and obtain P as a function of one variable.

$$-y = -x + 10 \quad \text{Subtract } x \text{ from both sides of } x - y = 10.$$

$$y = x - 10 \quad \text{Multiply both sides of the equation by } -1 \text{ and solve for } y.$$

Now we substitute $x - 10$ for y in $P = xy$.

$$P = xy = x(x - 10).$$

Because P is now a function of x , we can write

$$P(x) = x(x - 10).$$

Step 3. Write the function in the form $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$. We apply the distributive property to obtain

$$P(x) = x(x - 10) = x^2 - 10x.$$

$$a = 1 \quad b = -10$$

Using Technology

Numeric Connections

The **TABLE** feature of a graphing utility can be used to verify our work in Example 7.

Enter $y_1 = x^2 - 10x$, the function for the product, when one of the numbers is x .

X	Y ₁
2	-16
3	-21
4	-24
5	-25
6	-24
7	-21
8	-16

The product is a minimum, -25 , when one of the numbers is 5.

Step 4. Calculate $-\frac{b}{2a}$. If $a > 0$, the function has a minimum at this value. The voice balloons show that $a = 1$ and $b = -10$.

$$x = -\frac{b}{2a} = -\frac{-10}{2(1)} = -(-5) = 5$$

This means that the product, P , of two numbers whose difference is 10 is a minimum when one of the numbers, x , is 5.

Step 5. Answer the question posed by the problem. The problem asks for the two numbers and the minimum product. We found that one of the numbers, x , is 5. Now we must find the second number, y .

$$y = x - 10 = 5 - 10 = -5.$$

The number pair whose difference is 10 and whose product is as small as possible is 5, -5 . The minimum product is $5(-5)$, or -25 .

CHECK POINT 7 Among all pairs of numbers whose difference is 8, find a pair whose product is as small as possible. What is the minimum product?

EXAMPLE 8 Maximizing Area

You have 100 yards of fencing to enclose a rectangular region. Find the dimensions of the rectangle that maximize the enclosed area. What is the maximum area?

Solution

Step 1. Decide what must be maximized or minimized. We must maximize area. What we do not know are the rectangle's dimensions, x and y .

Step 2. Express this quantity as a function in one variable. Because we must maximize area, we have $A = xy$. We need to transform this into a function in which A is represented by one variable. Because you have 100 yards of fencing, the perimeter of the rectangle is 100 yards. This means that

$$2x + 2y = 100.$$

We can solve this equation for y in terms of x , substitute the result into $A = xy$, and obtain A as a function in one variable. We begin by solving for y .

$$2y = 100 - 2x \quad \text{Subtract } 2x \text{ from both sides.}$$

$$y = \frac{100 - 2x}{2} \quad \text{Divide both sides by 2.}$$

$$y = 50 - x \quad \text{Divide each term in the numerator by 2.}$$

Now we substitute $50 - x$ for y in $A = xy$.

$$A = xy = x(50 - x)$$

The rectangle and its dimensions are illustrated in **Figure 11.16**. Because A is now a function of x , we can write

$$A(x) = x(50 - x).$$

This function models the area, $A(x)$, of any rectangle whose perimeter is 100 yards in terms of one of its dimensions, x .

Step 3. Write the function in the form $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$. We apply the distributive property to obtain

$$A(x) = x(50 - x) = 50x - x^2 = -x^2 + 50x.$$

$$a = -1$$

$$b = 50$$

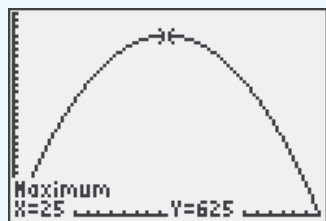
Using Technology

Graphic Connections

The graph of the area function

$$A(x) = x(50 - x)$$

was obtained with a graphing utility using a $[0, 50, 2]$ by $[0, 700, 25]$ viewing rectangle. The maximum function feature verifies that a maximum area of 625 square yards occurs when one of the dimensions is 25 yards.



Step 4. Calculate $-\frac{b}{2a}$. If $a < 0$, the function has a maximum at this value. The voice balloons show that $a = -1$ and $b = 50$.

$$x = -\frac{b}{2a} = -\frac{50}{2(-1)} = 25$$

This means that the area, $A(x)$, of a rectangle with perimeter 100 yards is a maximum when one of the rectangle's dimensions, x , is 25 yards.

Step 5. Answer the question posed by the problem. We found that $x = 25$. **Figure 11.16** shows that the rectangle's other dimension is $50 - x = 50 - 25 = 25$. The dimensions of the rectangle that maximize the enclosed area are 25 yards by 25 yards. The rectangle that gives the maximum area is actually a square with an area of 25 yards \cdot 25 yards, or 625 square yards. ■

✓ CHECK POINT 8 You have 120 feet of fencing to enclose a rectangular region. Find the dimensions of the rectangle that maximize the enclosed area. What is the maximum area?

11.3 EXERCISE SET


 MathXL
PRACTICE

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REVIEW

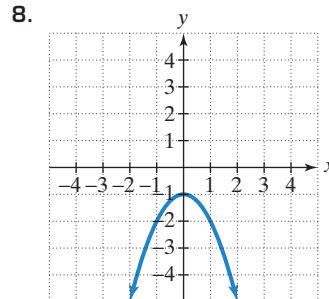
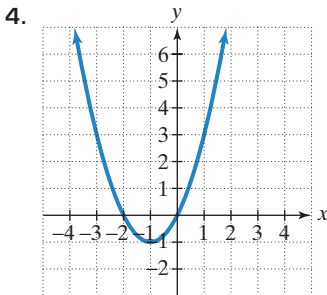
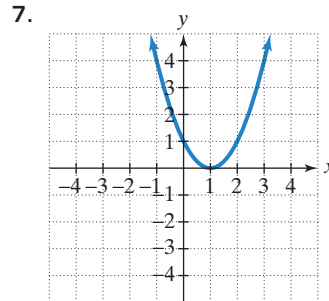
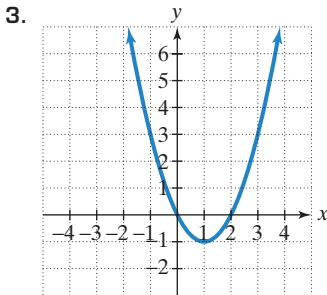
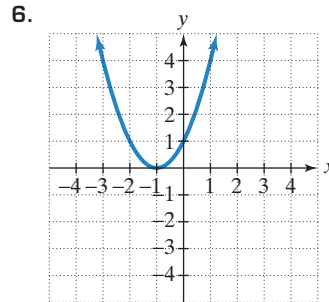
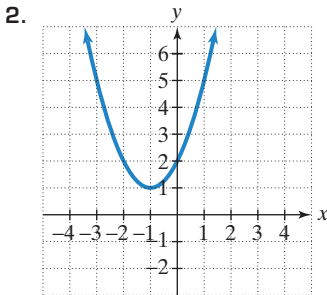
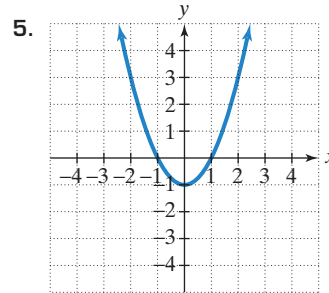
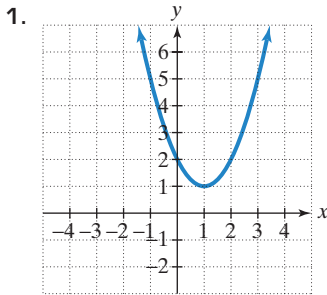
Practice Exercises

In Exercises 1–4, the graph of a quadratic function is given. Write the function's equation, selecting from the following options:

$$f(x) = (x + 1)^2 - 1, g(x) = (x + 1)^2 + 1, \\ h(x) = (x - 1)^2 + 1, j(x) = (x - 1)^2 - 1.$$

In Exercises 5–8, the graph of a quadratic function is given. Write the function's equation, selecting from the following options:

$$f(x) = x^2 + 2x + 1, g(x) = x^2 - 2x + 1, \\ h(x) = x^2 - 1, j(x) = -x^2 - 1.$$



In Exercises 9–16, find the coordinates of the vertex for the parabola defined by the given quadratic function.

9. $f(x) = 2(x - 3)^2 + 1$
10. $f(x) = -3(x - 2)^2 + 12$
11. $f(x) = -2(x + 1)^2 + 5$
12. $f(x) = -2(x + 4)^2 - 8$
13. $f(x) = 2x^2 - 8x + 3$
14. $f(x) = 3x^2 - 12x + 1$
15. $f(x) = -x^2 - 2x + 8$
16. $f(x) = -2x^2 + 8x - 1$

In Exercises 17–38, use the vertex and intercepts to sketch the graph of each quadratic function. Use the graph to identify the function's range.

17. $f(x) = (x - 4)^2 - 1$
18. $f(x) = (x - 1)^2 - 2$
19. $f(x) = (x - 1)^2 + 2$
20. $f(x) = (x - 3)^2 + 2$
21. $y - 1 = (x - 3)^2$
22. $y - 3 = (x - 1)^2$
23. $f(x) = 2(x + 2)^2 - 1$
24. $f(x) = \frac{5}{4} - \left(x - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2$
25. $f(x) = 4 - (x - 1)^2$
26. $f(x) = 1 - (x - 3)^2$
27. $f(x) = x^2 - 2x - 3$
28. $f(x) = x^2 - 2x - 15$
29. $f(x) = x^2 + 3x - 10$
30. $f(x) = 2x^2 - 7x - 4$
31. $f(x) = 2x - x^2 + 3$
32. $f(x) = 5 - 4x - x^2$
33. $f(x) = x^2 + 6x + 3$
34. $f(x) = x^2 + 4x - 1$
35. $f(x) = 2x^2 + 4x - 3$
36. $f(x) = 3x^2 - 2x - 4$
37. $f(x) = 2x - x^2 - 2$
38. $f(x) = 6 - 4x + x^2$

In Exercises 39–44, an equation of a quadratic function is given.

- a. Determine, without graphing, whether the function has a minimum value or a maximum value.
 - b. Find the minimum or maximum value and determine where it occurs.
 - c. Identify the function's domain and its range.
39. $f(x) = 3x^2 - 12x - 1$

40. $f(x) = 2x^2 - 8x - 3$

41. $f(x) = -4x^2 + 8x - 3$

42. $f(x) = -2x^2 - 12x + 3$

43. $f(x) = 5x^2 - 5x$

44. $f(x) = 6x^2 - 6x$

Practice PLUS

In Exercises 45–48, give the domain and the range of each quadratic function whose graph is described.

45. The vertex is $(-1, -2)$ and the parabola opens up.
46. The vertex is $(-3, -4)$ and the parabola opens down.
47. Maximum = -6 at $x = 10$
48. Minimum = 18 at $x = -6$

In Exercises 49–52, write an equation of the parabola that has the same shape as the graph of $f(x) = 2x^2$, but with the given point as the vertex.

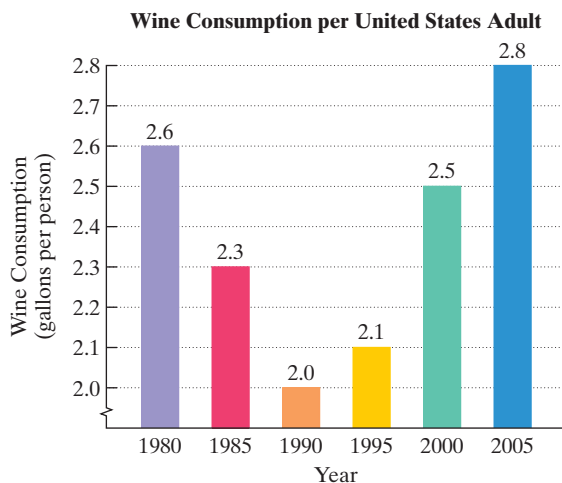
49. $(5, 3)$
50. $(7, 4)$
51. $(-10, -5)$
52. $(-8, -6)$

In Exercises 53–56, write an equation of the parabola that has the same shape as the graph of $f(x) = 3x^2$ or $g(x) = -3x^2$, but with the given maximum or minimum.

53. Maximum = 4 at $x = -2$
54. Maximum = -7 at $x = 5$
55. Minimum = 0 at $x = 11$
56. Minimum = 0 at $x = 9$

Application Exercises

57. The graph shows U.S. adult wine consumption, in gallons per person, for selected years from 1980 through 2005.



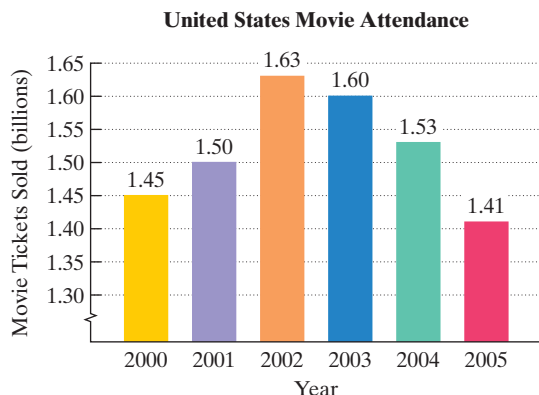
Source: Adams Business Media

The function

$$f(x) = 0.004x^2 - 0.094x + 2.6$$

models U.S. wine consumption, $f(x)$, in gallons per person, x years after 1980.

- According to this function, what was U.S. adult wine consumption in 2005? Does this overestimate or underestimate the value shown by the graph? By how much?
 - According to this function, in which year was wine consumption at a minimum? Round to the nearest year. What does the function give for per capita consumption for that year? Does this seem reasonable in terms of the data shown by the graph or has model breakdown occurred?
58. The graph shows the number of movie tickets sold in the United States, in billions, from 2000 through 2005.



Source: National Association of Theater Owners

The function

$$f(x) = -0.03x^2 + 0.14x + 1.43$$

models U.S. movie attendance, $f(x)$, in billions of tickets sold, x years after 2000.

- According to this function, how many billions of movie tickets were sold in 2005? Does this overestimate or underestimate the number shown by the graph? By how much?
- According to this function, in which year was movie attendance at a maximum? Round to the nearest year. What does the function give for the billions of tickets sold for that year? By how much does this differ from the number shown by the graph?

59. A person standing close to the edge on the top of a 160-foot building throws a baseball vertically upward. The quadratic function

$$s(t) = -16t^2 + 64t + 160$$

models the ball's height above the ground, $s(t)$, in feet, t seconds after it was thrown.

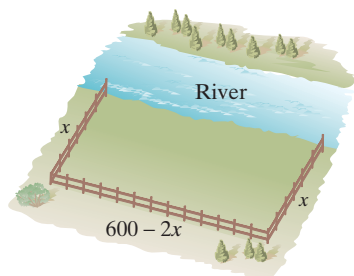
- After how many seconds does the ball reach its maximum height? What is the maximum height?
 - How many seconds does it take until the ball finally hits the ground? Round to the nearest tenth of a second.
 - Find $s(0)$ and describe what this means.
 - Use your results from parts (a) through (c) to graph the quadratic function. Begin the graph with $t = 0$ and end with the value of t for which the ball hits the ground.
60. A person standing close to the edge on the top of a 200-foot building throws a baseball vertically upward. The quadratic function

$$s(t) = -16t^2 + 64t + 200$$

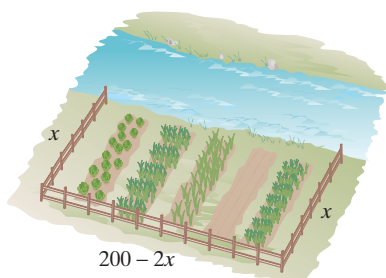
models the ball's height above the ground, $s(t)$, in feet, t seconds after it was thrown.

- After how many seconds does the ball reach its maximum height? What is the maximum height?
 - How many seconds does it take until the ball finally hits the ground? Round to the nearest tenth of a second.
 - Find $s(0)$ and describe what this means.
 - Use your results from parts (a) through (c) to graph the quadratic function. Begin the graph with $t = 0$ and end with the value of t for which the ball hits the ground.
61. Among all pairs of numbers whose sum is 16, find a pair whose product is as large as possible. What is the maximum product?
62. Among all pairs of numbers whose sum is 20, find a pair whose product is as large as possible. What is the maximum product?
63. Among all pairs of numbers whose difference is 16, find a pair whose product is as small as possible. What is the minimum product?
64. Among all pairs of numbers whose difference is 24, find a pair whose product is as small as possible. What is the minimum product?

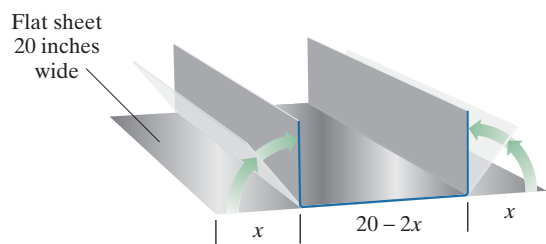
65. You have 600 feet of fencing to enclose a rectangular plot that borders on a river. If you do not fence the side along the river, find the length and width of the plot that will maximize the area. What is the largest area that can be enclosed?



66. You have 200 feet of fencing to enclose a rectangular plot that borders on a river. If you do not fence the side along the river, find the length and width of the plot that will maximize the area. What is the largest area that can be enclosed?



67. You have 50 yards of fencing to enclose a rectangular region. Find the dimensions of the rectangle that maximize the enclosed area. What is the maximum area?
68. You have 80 yards of fencing to enclose a rectangular region. Find the dimensions of the rectangle that maximize the enclosed area. What is the maximum area?
69. A rain gutter is made from sheets of aluminum that are 20 inches wide by turning up the edges to form right angles. Determine the depth of the gutter that will maximize its cross-sectional area and allow the greatest amount of water to flow. What is the maximum cross-sectional area?



70. A rain gutter is made from sheets of aluminum that are 12 inches wide by turning up the edges to form right angles. Determine the depth of the gutter that will maximize its cross-sectional area and allow the greatest amount of water to flow. What is the maximum cross-sectional area?

In Chapter 9, we saw that the profit, $P(x)$, generated after producing and selling x units of a product is given by the function

$$P(x) = R(x) - C(x),$$

where R and C are the revenue and cost functions, respectively.

Use these functions to solve Exercises 71–72.

71. Hunky Beef, a local sandwich store, has a fixed weekly cost of \$525.00, and variable costs for making a roast beef sandwich are \$0.55.
- Let x represent the number of roast beef sandwiches made and sold each week. Write the weekly cost function, C , for Hunky Beef.
 - The function $R(x) = -0.001x^2 + 3x$ describes the money that Hunky Beef takes in each week from the sale of x roast beef sandwiches. Use this revenue function and the cost function from part (a) to write the store's weekly profit function, P .
 - Use the store's profit function to determine the number of roast beef sandwiches it should make and sell each week to maximize profit. What is the maximum weekly profit?
72. Virtual Fido is a company that makes electronic virtual pets. The fixed weekly cost is \$3000, and variable costs for each pet are \$20.
- Let x represent the number of virtual pets made and sold each week. Write the weekly cost function, C , for Virtual Fido.
 - The function $R(x) = -x^2 + 1000x$ describes the money that Virtual Fido takes in each week from the sale of x virtual pets. Use this revenue function and the cost function from part (a) to write the weekly profit function, P .
 - Use the profit function to determine the number of virtual pets that should be made and sold each week to maximize profit. What is the maximum weekly profit?

Writing in Mathematics

73. What is a parabola? Describe its shape.
74. Explain how to decide whether a parabola opens upward or downward.
75. Describe how to find a parabola's vertex if its equation is in the form $f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$. Give an example.
76. Describe how to find a parabola's vertex if its equation is in the form $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$. Use $f(x) = x^2 - 6x + 8$ as an example.
77. A parabola that opens upward has its vertex at $(1, 2)$. Describe as much as you can about the parabola based on this information. Include in your discussion the number of x -intercepts (if any) for the parabola.

Technology Exercises

78. Use a graphing utility to verify any five of your hand-drawn graphs in Exercises 17–38.

79. a. Use a graphing utility to graph $y = 2x^2 - 82x + 720$ in a standard viewing rectangle. What do you observe?

b. Find the coordinates of the vertex for the given quadratic function.

c. The answer to part (b) is $(20.5, -120.5)$. Because the leading coefficient, 2, of the given function is positive, the vertex is a minimum point on the graph. Use this fact to help find a viewing rectangle that will give a relatively complete picture of the parabola. With an axis of symmetry at $x = 20.5$, the setting for x should extend past this, so try $X_{\min} = 0$ and $X_{\max} = 30$. The setting for y should include (and probably go below) the y -coordinate of the graph's minimum point, so try $Y_{\min} = -130$. Experiment with Y_{\max} until your utility shows the parabola's major features.

d. In general, explain how knowing the coordinates of a parabola's vertex can help determine a reasonable viewing rectangle on a graphing utility for obtaining a complete picture of the parabola.

In Exercises 80–83, find the vertex for each parabola. Then determine a reasonable viewing rectangle on your graphing utility and use it to graph the parabola.

80. $y = -0.25x^2 + 40x$

81. $y = -4x^2 + 20x + 160$

82. $y = 5x^2 + 40x + 600$

83. $y = 0.01x^2 + 0.6x + 100$

84. The following data show fuel efficiency, in miles per gallon, for all U.S. automobiles in the indicated year.

x (Years after 1940)	y (Average Number of Miles per Gallon for U.S. Automobiles)
1940: 0	14.8
1950: 10	13.9
1960: 20	13.4
1970: 30	13.5
1980: 40	15.9
1990: 50	20.2
2000: 60	22.0

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation

a. Use a graphing utility to draw a scatter plot of the data. Explain why a quadratic function is appropriate for modeling these data.

b. Use the quadratic regression feature to find the quadratic function that best fits the data.

c. Use the equation in part (b) to determine the worst year for automobile fuel efficiency. What was the average number of miles per gallon for that year?

d. Use a graphing utility to draw a scatter plot of the data and graph the quadratic function of best fit on the scatter plot.

Critical Thinking Exercises

Make Sense? In Exercises 85–88, determine whether each statement “makes sense” or “does not make sense” and explain your reasoning.

85. Parabolas that open up appear to form smiles ($a > 0$), while parabolas that open down frown ($a < 0$).

86. I must have made an error when graphing this parabola because its axis of symmetry is the y -axis.

87. I like to think of a parabola's vertex as the point where it intersects its axis of symmetry.

88. I threw a baseball vertically upward and its path was a parabola.

In Exercises 89–92, determine whether each statement is true or false. If the statement is false, make the necessary change(s) to produce a true statement.

89. No quadratic functions have a range of $(-\infty, \infty)$.

90. The vertex of the parabola described by $f(x) = 2(x - 5)^2 - 1$ is at $(5, 1)$.

91. The graph of $f(x) = -2(x + 4)^2 - 8$ has one y -intercept and two x -intercepts.

92. The maximum value of y for the quadratic function $f(x) = -x^2 + x + 1$ is 1.

In Exercises 93–94, find the axis of symmetry for each parabola whose equation is given. Use the axis of symmetry to find a second point on the parabola whose y -coordinate is the same as the given point.

93. $f(x) = 3(x + 2)^2 - 5$; $(-1, -2)$

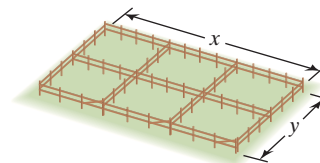
94. $f(x) = (x - 3)^2 + 2$; $(6, 11)$

In Exercises 95–96, write the equation of each parabola in $f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$ form.

95. Vertex: $(-3, -4)$; The graph passes through the point $(1, 4)$.

96. Vertex: $(-3, -1)$; The graph passes through the point $(-2, -3)$.

97. A rancher has 1000 feet of fencing to construct six corrals, as shown in the figure. Find the dimensions that maximize the enclosed area. What is the maximum area?



98. The annual yield per lemon tree is fairly constant at 320 pounds when the number of trees per acre is 50 or fewer. For each additional tree over 50, the annual yield per tree for all trees on the acre decreases by 4 pounds due to overcrowding. Find the number of trees that should be planted on an acre to produce the maximum yield. How many pounds is the maximum yield?

Review Exercises

99. Solve: $\frac{2}{x+5} + \frac{1}{x-5} = \frac{16}{x^2-25}$. (Section 7.6, Example 4)
100. Simplify: $\frac{1 + \frac{2}{x}}{1 - \frac{4}{x^2}}$.
(Section 7.5, Example 2 or Example 5)

101. Solve the system:

$$\begin{aligned} 2x + 3y &= 6 \\ x - 4y &= 14. \end{aligned}$$

(Section 4.3, Example 2)

Preview Exercises

Exercises 102–104 will help you prepare for the material covered in the next section.

In Exercises 102–103, solve each quadratic equation for u .

102. $u^2 - 8u - 9 = 0$
103. $2u^2 - u - 10 = 0$
104. If $u = x^{\frac{1}{3}}$, rewrite $5x^{\frac{2}{3}} + 11x^{\frac{1}{3}} + 2 = 0$ as a quadratic equation in u . [Hint: $x^{\frac{2}{3}} = (x^{\frac{1}{3}})^2$.]

MID-CHAPTER CHECK POINT

Section 11.1–Section 11.3



What You Know: We found the length

$$[d = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}]$$

and the midpoint $\left[\left(\frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}, \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2}\right)\right]$ of the line

segment with endpoints (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) . We saw that not all quadratic equations can be solved by factoring. We learned three new methods for solving these equations: the square root property, completing the square, and the quadratic formula. We saw that the discriminant of $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$, namely $b^2 - 4ac$, determines the number and type of the equation's solutions. We graphed quadratic functions using vertices, intercepts, and additional points, as necessary. We learned that the vertex of $f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$ is (h, k) and the vertex of $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ is $\left(-\frac{b}{2a}, f\left(-\frac{b}{2a}\right)\right)$. We used the vertex to solve problems that involved minimizing or maximizing quadratic functions.

In Exercises 1–13, solve each equation by the method of your choice. Simplify solutions, if possible.

- $(3x - 5)^2 = 36$
- $5x^2 - 2x = 7$
- $3x^2 - 6x - 2 = 0$
- $x^2 + 6x = -2$
- $5x^2 + 1 = 37$
- $x^2 - 5x + 8 = 0$
- $2x^2 + 26 = 0$

- $(2x + 3)(x + 2) = 10$
- $(x + 3)^2 = 24$
- $\frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{4}{x} + 1 = 0$
- $x(2x - 3) = -4$
- $\frac{x^2}{3} + \frac{x}{2} = \frac{2}{3}$
- $\frac{2x}{x^2 + 6x + 8} = \frac{x}{x + 4} - \frac{2}{x + 2}$
- Solve by completing the square: $x^2 + 10x - 3 = 0$.

In Exercises 15–16, find the length (in simplified radical form and rounded to two decimal places) and the midpoint of the line segment with the given endpoints.

- $(2, -2)$ and $(-2, 2)$
- $(-5, 8)$ and $(-10, 14)$

In Exercises 17–20, graph the given quadratic function. Give each function's domain and range.

- $f(x) = (x - 3)^2 - 4$
- $g(x) = 5 - (x + 2)^2$
- $h(x) = -x^2 - 4x + 5$
- $f(x) = 3x^2 - 6x + 1$