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Ch 10 Quadratic Equations/Graphs

Definition

A **quadratic function** is a function that can be written in the form $y = ax^2 + bx + c$, where $a \neq 0$. This form is called the **standard form of a quadratic function**. Examples $y = 5x^2$ $y = x^2 + 7$ $y = x^2 - x - 3$

Standard Form of a Quadratic Function

The graph of a quadratic function is a U-shaped curve called a **parabola**. The graph of $y = x^2$, shown at the right, is a parabola.

You can fold a parabola so that the two sides match exactly. This property is called **symmetry**. The fold or line that divides the parabola into two matching halves is called the **axis of symmetry**.

The highest or lowest point of a parabola is its **vertex**, which is on the axis of symmetry.

If $a > 0$ in $y = ax^2 + bx + c$

↓

the parabola opens upward.

↓

The vertex is the **minimum** point or lowest point of the parabola.

If $a < 0$ in $y = ax^2 + bx + c$

↓

the parabola opens downward.

↓

The vertex is the **maximum** point or highest point of the parabola.

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1 EXAMPLE Identifying a Vertex

Identify the vertex of each graph. Tell whether it is a minimum or maximum.

a.

The vertex is (1, -2). It is a minimum.

b.

The vertex is (-2, 4). It is a maximum.

1 Identify the vertex of each graph. Tell whether it is a minimum or maximum.

a.

b.

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3 EXAMPLE Comparing Widths of Parabolas

Use the graphs below. Order the quadratic functions $f(x) = -4x^2$, $f(x) = \frac{1}{4}x^2$, and $f(x) = x^2$ from widest to narrowest graph.

$y = -4x^2$

$y = \frac{1}{4}x^2$

$y = x^2$

4 EXAMPLE Graphing $y = ax^2 + c$

Multiple Choice How is the graph of $y = 2x^2 + 3$ different from the graph of $y = 2x^2$?

(A) It is shifted 3 units up. (B) It is shifted 3 units down.
 (C) It is shifted 3 units to the right. (D) It is shifted 3 units to the left.

x	$y = 2x^2$	$y = 2x^2 + 3$
-2	8	11
-1	2	5
0	0	3
1	2	5
2	8	11

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Ch 10.3 Solving Quadratic Equations in $y = ax^2 + c$

a- tells how wide the graph will be
 c- moves the graph up and down

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EXAMPLE Solving by Graphing

Solve each equation by graphing the related function.

a. $x^2 - 4 = 0$
Graph $y = x^2 - 4$.

There are two solutions, ± 2 .

b. $x^2 = 0$
Graph $y = x^2$.

There is one solution, 0.

c. $x^2 + 4 = 0$
Graph $y = x^2 + 4$.

There is no solution.

To graph make a table of values and $x = -1, 0, 1$, etc.

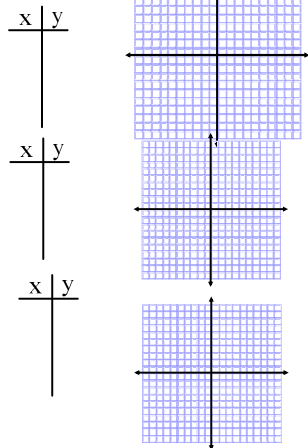
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Ex1) Sketch the graph and determine the number of solutions.

a) $x^2 - 1 = 0$

b) $2x^2 + 4 = 0$

c) $\frac{1}{4}x^2 + 1 = 0$



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Ex2) Solving quadratics:

1. set the variable² = 0

2. $\sqrt{\quad}$ square root both sides

* these are the x-intercepts if graphing.

a) $x^2 - 25 = 0$

b) $3x^2 + 12 = 12$

c) $2x^2 + 32 = 0$

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If $x = +$ number, then 2 solutions

if $x = 0$, one solution

if $x = -$ number, no solution.

Try#1. sketch a graph of $2x^2 + 2 = 0$, then determine how many solutions.

Try #2. Solve $2x^2 - 2 = 0$

Try #3. Solve $3x^2 = -27$

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