

Collingwood 30

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17 November 2020

7.1 Context: Write the following quadratic functions in vertex form, find the vertex, the axis of symmetry and sketch a rough graph.

7.1a Problem: $f(x) = 2x^2 - 16x + 41$.

7.1a Solution: Rewriting in vertex form:

$$\begin{aligned}f(x) &= 2x^2 - 16x + 41 \\&= 2(x^2 - 8x + 16) + 41 - 32 \\&= 2(x - 4)^2 + 9\end{aligned}$$

From vertex form, we see that the vertex is $(4, 9)$, from which it can be derived that the axis of symmetry is $x = 4$. Therefore, the vertex form is $2(x - 4)^2 - 9$, the axis of symmetry is $x = 4$, and the vertex is $(4, 9)$.

7.1b Problem: $f(x) = 3x^2 - 15x - 77$.

7.1b Solution: Rewriting in vertex form:

$$\begin{aligned}f(x) &= 3x^2 - 15x - 77 \\&= 3\left(x^2 - 5x + \frac{25}{4}\right) - 77 - \frac{75}{4} \\&= 3\left(x^2 - \frac{5}{2}\right)^2 - \frac{383}{4}\end{aligned}$$

From vertex form, we see that the vertex is $\left(\frac{5}{2}, -\frac{383}{4}\right)$, from which it can be derived that the axis of symmetry is $x = \frac{5}{2}$. Therefore, the vertex form is $3\left(x^2 - \frac{5}{2}\right)^2 - \frac{383}{4}$, the axis of symmetry is $x = \frac{5}{2}$, and the vertex is $\left(\frac{5}{2}, -\frac{383}{4}\right)$.

7.1c Problem: $f(x) = x^2 - \frac{3}{7}x + 13$.

7.1c Solution: Rewriting in vertex form:

$$\begin{aligned}f(x) &= x^2 - \frac{3}{7}x + 13 \\&= x^2 - \frac{3}{7}x + \frac{9}{196} + 13 - \frac{9}{196} \\&= \left(x - \frac{3}{14}\right)^2 + \frac{2539}{196}\end{aligned}$$

From vertex form, we see that the vertex is $(\frac{3}{14}, \frac{2539}{196})$, from which it can be derived that the axis of symmetry is $x = \frac{3}{14}$. Therefore, the vertex form is $(x - \frac{3}{14})^2 + \frac{2539}{196}$, the axis of symmetry is $x = \frac{3}{14}$, and the vertex is $(\frac{3}{14}, \frac{2539}{196})$.

7.1d Problem: $f(x) = 2x^2$.

7.1d Solution: Rewriting in vertex form:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= 2x^2 \\ &= 2(x - 0)^2 + 0 \end{aligned}$$

From vertex form, we see that the vertex is $(0, 0)$, from which it can be derived that the axis of symmetry is $x = 0$. Therefore, the vertex form is $2(x - 0)^2 + 0$, the axis of symmetry is $x = 0$, and the vertex is $(0, 0)$.

7.1e Problem: $f(x) = \frac{1}{100}x^2$.

7.1e Solution: Rewriting in vertex form:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \frac{1}{100}x^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{100}(x - 0)^2 + 0 \end{aligned}$$

From vertex form, we see that the vertex is $(0, 0)$, from which it can be derived that the axis of symmetry is $x = 0$. Therefore, the vertex form is $\frac{1}{100}(x - 0)^2 + 0$, the axis of symmetry is $x = 0$, and the vertex is $(0, 0)$.



Figure 1: Red: $2x^2 - 16x + 41$, Blue: $3x^2 - 15x - 77$, Green: $x^2 - \frac{3}{7}x + 13$, Purple: $2x^2$, Black: $\frac{1}{100}x^2$.

7.2 Context: In each case, find a quadratic function whose graph passes through the given points:

7.2a Problem: $(0, 0)$, $(1, 1)$ and $(3, -1)$.

7.2a Solution: Consider coefficients a , b , and c in the quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c$. We have three systems of equations:

$$\begin{cases} a0 + b0 + c = 0 \rightarrow c = 0 \\ a1 + b1 + c = 1 \rightarrow a + b + c = 1 \\ a9 + b3 + c = -1 \rightarrow 9a + 3b + c = -1 \end{cases}$$

We know that $c = 0$, so we can simplify the other two equations as $a + b = 1$ and $9a + 3b = -1$. We can substitute b in the latter equation with $b = 1 - a$ (derived from the first equation) to form $9a + 3(1 - a) = -1 \rightarrow 9a + 3 - 3a = -1 \rightarrow 6a = -4 \rightarrow a = -\frac{2}{3}$. Then, b is equal to $1 - a = \frac{5}{3}$. Therefore, the quadratic is

$$y = -\frac{2}{3}x^2 + \frac{5}{3}x.$$

7.2b Problem: $(-1, 1)$, $(1, -2)$ and $(3, 4)$.

7.2b Solution: Consider coefficients a , b , and c in the quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c$. We have three systems of equations:

$$\begin{cases} a(1) + b(-1) + c = 1 \rightarrow a - b + c = 1 \\ a1 + b1 + c = -2 \rightarrow a + b + c = -2 \\ a9 + b3 + c = 4 \rightarrow 9a + 3b + c = 4 \end{cases}$$

We can subtract the first equation from the second to produce $2b = -3 \rightarrow b = -\frac{3}{2}$. Therefore, we have that $a - \frac{3}{2} + c = -2 \rightarrow a + c = -\frac{1}{2}$ and $9a + 3(-\frac{3}{2}) + c = 4 \rightarrow 9a + c = \frac{17}{2}$. Subtracting this from the first derived equation yields $8a = \frac{18}{2} = 9 \rightarrow a = \frac{9}{8}$. Plugging this into $a + c = -\frac{1}{2}$, it is apparent that $-\frac{13}{8}$.

Therefore, the quadratic is $y = \frac{9}{8}x^2 - \frac{3}{2}x - \frac{13}{8}$.

7.2c Problem: $(2, 1)$, $(3, 2)$ and $(5, 1)$.

7.2c Solution: Consider coefficients a , b , and c in the quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c$. We have three systems of equations:

$$\begin{cases} a4 + b2 + c = 1 \rightarrow 4a + 2b + c = 1 \\ a9 + b3 + c = 2 \rightarrow 9a + 3b + c = 2 \\ a25 + b5 + c = 1 \rightarrow 25a + 5b + c = 4 \end{cases}$$

Subtracting the second from the first yields $5a + b = 1$, and subtracting the third from the second yields $16a + 2b = -1$. Multiplying the first derived equation yields $10a + 2b = 2$. Subtracting this from the second derived equation yields $6a = -3$, hence $a = -\frac{1}{2}$. Thus, $5(-\frac{1}{2}) + b = 1 \rightarrow -\frac{5}{2} + b = 1 \rightarrow b = \frac{7}{2}$. Therefore, $4(-\frac{1}{2}) + 2(\frac{7}{2}) + c = 1 \rightarrow -\frac{4}{2} + \frac{14}{2} + c = 1 \rightarrow -2 + 7 + c = 1 \rightarrow c = -4$. Therefore, the quadratic is

$$y = -\frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{7}{2}x - 4.$$

7.2d Problem: $(0, 1)$, $(1, 1)$ and $(1, 3)$.

7.2d Solution: Consider coefficients a , b , and c in the quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c$. We have three systems of equations:

$$\begin{cases} a0 + b0 + c = 1 \rightarrow c = 1 \\ a1 + b1 + c = 1 \rightarrow a + b + c = 1 \\ a1 + b1 + 1 = 9 \rightarrow a + b + c = 9 \end{cases}$$

Setting the second and third equations equal to each other yields $1 = 9$, which is not true. Therefore, there are no solutions.