

3.2 Parabolas in Standard Form

In Standard Form, parabolas look like

$$y = ax^2 + bx + c$$

$$a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}, a \neq 0$$

e.g. $y = 2x^2 + 5x - 7$

not $y = 3x + 2$ (line)

$$y = -1.1x^2 - 18$$

$$y = 4x^3 + 9x - 4$$
 (Cubic)

$$y = (3x + 5)(2x + 5)$$

Link the Ideas – p. 165

$$y = ax^2 + bx + c$$

$$a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}, a \neq 0$$

- a determines the shape of the parabola & whether it opens up (+) or down (-)
- b influences the l & r position of the graph ★
- c represents the y-intercept

x coord of vertex
is $-\frac{b}{2a}$

We can expand out the vertex form using algebra:

e.g. $y = -2(x - 5)^2 + 1$ is the same as

$$= -2(x^2 - 10x + 25) + 1$$

$$= -2x^2 + 20x - 50 + 1$$

$$y = \underline{-2x^2 + 20x - 49}$$

On calculator: graph $Y_1 = -2x^2 + 20x - 49$

Zoom to an appropriate window showing
vertex and x & y intercepts

- calculate maximum: 2^{nd} Trace 4 $\rightarrow$ L, R, guess
- calculate y-intercept: Trace, sub in 0
- calculate x-intercept: 2^{nd} Trace 2 $\rightarrow$ L, R, guess

Example 1: graph the parabola $f(x) = 2x^2 - 3x - 5$ on a calculator to give:

- a) vertex $(0.75, -6.125)$
- b) axis of Symmetry $x = 0.75$
- c) direction of opening up
- d) y-intercept -5
- e) x-intercepts $-1, 2.5$

Example 2: expand $y = (2x + 5)(x - 1)$ out to standard form to give:

- a) direction of opening

$$2x^2 + 3x - 5 \rightarrow -\frac{b}{2a} = \frac{-3}{4}$$

- b) coordinates of vertex

$$(-0.75, -6.125)$$

- c) axis of symmetry

$$x = -0.75$$

Assignment: p. 174 # 2-6(ab), 7, 12