

9.5.9

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Question:

Find the value of p for which one root of the quadratic equation

$$px^2 - 14x + 8 = 0$$

is 6 times the other.

Solution:

$$g(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{V} \mathbf{x} + 2\mathbf{u}^\top \mathbf{x} + f = 0$$

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{h} + \kappa \mathbf{m}$$

$$\kappa_{1,2} = \frac{-\mathbf{m}^\top (\mathbf{V} \mathbf{h} + \mathbf{u}) \pm \sqrt{(\mathbf{m}^\top (\mathbf{V} \mathbf{h} + \mathbf{u}))^2 - (\mathbf{m}^\top \mathbf{V} \mathbf{m}) g(\mathbf{h})}}{\mathbf{m}^\top \mathbf{V} \mathbf{m}} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Parabola: } px^2 - 14x - y + 8 = 0$$

$$\text{Line: } \mathbf{e}_2^\top \mathbf{x} = 0$$

$$\mathbf{V} = \begin{pmatrix} p & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} -7 \\ -1/2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad f = 8 \quad (2)$$

$$\mathbf{x} = \kappa \mathbf{e}_1 \implies \mathbf{h} = \mathbf{0}, \quad \mathbf{m} = \mathbf{e}_1 \quad (3)$$

$$\mathbf{m}^\top \mathbf{V} \mathbf{m} = \mathbf{e}_1^\top \mathbf{V} \mathbf{e}_1 = p \quad (4)$$

$$\mathbf{m}^\top (\mathbf{V} \mathbf{h} + \mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{e}_1^\top \mathbf{u} = -7 \quad (5)$$

$$g(\mathbf{h}) = g(\mathbf{0}) = 8 \quad (6)$$

$$\kappa_{1,2} = \frac{-(-7) \pm \sqrt{(-7)^2 - (p)(8)}}{p} = \frac{7 \pm \sqrt{49 - 8p}}{p} \quad (7)$$

Let the intersection points be $\mathbf{x}_1 = \kappa_1 \mathbf{e}_1$ and $\mathbf{x}_2 = \kappa_2 \mathbf{e}_1$. The condition that one root is 6 times the other means one intersection point's position vector is 6 times the other's.

$$\mathbf{x}_2 = 6\mathbf{x}_1 \quad (8)$$

$$\kappa_2 \mathbf{e}_1 = 6(\kappa_1 \mathbf{e}_1) \quad (9)$$

$$(\kappa_2 - 6\kappa_1) \mathbf{e}_1 = \mathbf{0} \implies \kappa_2 = 6\kappa_1 \quad (10)$$

$$\frac{7 + \sqrt{49 - 8p}}{p} = 6 \left(\frac{7 - \sqrt{49 - 8p}}{p} \right) \quad (11)$$

$$7 + \sqrt{49 - 8p} = 42 - 6\sqrt{49 - 8p} \quad (12)$$

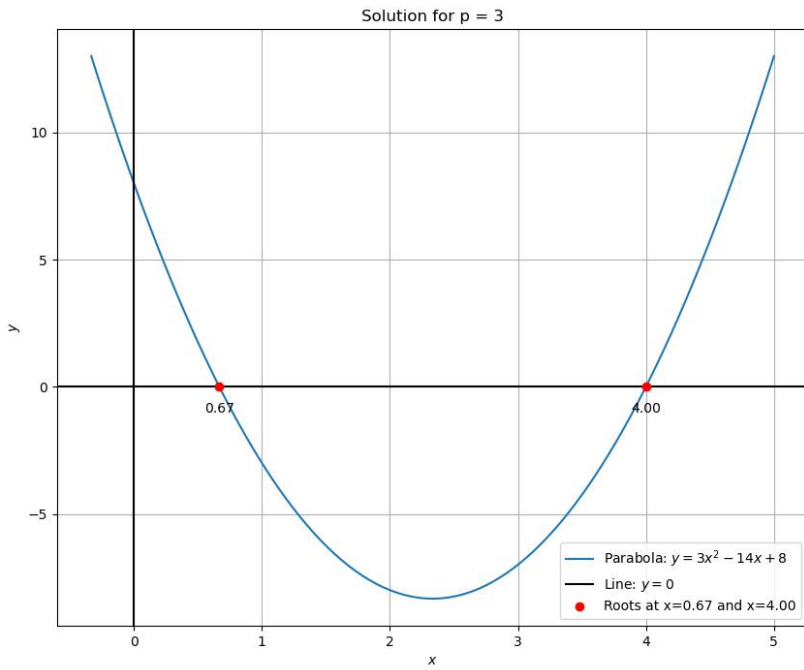
$$7\sqrt{49 - 8p} = 35 \quad (13)$$

$$\sqrt{49 - 8p} = 5 \quad (14)$$

$$49 - 8p = 25 \quad (15)$$

$$24 = 8p \quad (16)$$

$$p = 3 \quad (17)$$



Plot