

9.4.40

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Question. A train travels 360 km at a uniform speed. If the speed had been 5 km/hr more, it would have taken 1 hour less for the same journey. Find the speed of the train.

Solution:

Let us solve the given equation theoretically and then verify the solution computationally.

Let the uniform speed of the train be s km/hr.

Let the time taken for the journey be t hours.

From 1st journey:

$$360 = s \times t \quad (1)$$

$$t = \frac{360}{s} \quad (2)$$

For the second scenario:

$$360 = (s + 5)(t - 1) \quad (3)$$

Now substitute Eq.2 in Eq.3

$$360 = (s + 5)\left(\frac{360}{s} - 1\right) \quad (4)$$

$$s^2 + 5s - 1800 = 0 \quad (5)$$

Let

$$u = s^2 + 5s - 1800 \quad (6)$$

This can be expressed as:

$$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{x} + 2\mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{x} + f = 0 \quad (7)$$

Where,

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} s \\ u \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{V} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 2.5 \\ -0.5 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } f = -1800 \quad (8)$$

Now finding the point of intersection of parabola with s-axis:

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{h} + k\mathbf{m} \quad (9)$$

$$\mathbf{h} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{m} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (10)$$

$$\mathbf{x} = k \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (11)$$

Now substitute Eq.11 in Eq.7

$$k^2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}^T \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + 2 \begin{pmatrix} 2.5 \\ -0.5 \end{pmatrix}^T k \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} - 1800 = 0 \quad (12)$$

$$k^2 + 5k - 1800 = 0 \quad (13)$$

$$k = \frac{-5 \pm \sqrt{25 - 4(-1800)}}{4} \quad (14)$$

$$k = 40 \text{ and } k = -45 \quad (15)$$

Speed cannot be negative. So,

$$k = 40 \quad (16)$$

Substitute in Eq.11

$$s = 40 \text{ km/hr} \quad (17)$$

From the figure it is clearly verified that the theoretical solution matches with the computational solution.

