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11.11.2.5

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CLASS 11, CHAPTER 11, EXERCISE 2.5

Q. Find the coordinates of the focus, axis of the parabola, the equation of the directrix and the length of the latus rectum $y^2 = 10x$

Solution: The given equation of the parabola can be rearranged as

$$y^2 - 10x = 0 \tag{1}$$

The above equation can be equated to the generic equation of conic sections

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

Comparing coefficients of (1) and (2),

$$\mathbf{V} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{3}$$

$$\mathbf{u} = -\begin{pmatrix} 5\\0 \end{pmatrix} \tag{4}$$

$$f = 0 (5)$$

1) From (3), since **V** is already diagonalized, the Eigen values λ_1 and λ_2 are given as

$$\lambda_1 = 0 \tag{6}$$

$$\lambda_2 = 1 \tag{7}$$

and the eigenvector matrix

$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{I}.\tag{8}$$

$$\therefore \mathbf{n} = \sqrt{\lambda_2} \mathbf{p}_1 \tag{9}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \tag{10}$$

Since

$$c = \frac{\|\mathbf{u}\|^2 - \lambda_2 f}{2\mathbf{u}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{n}},\tag{11}$$

Substituting values of $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{n}, \lambda_2$ and f in (11),

we get

$$c = \frac{5^2 - 1(0)}{-2(5 \ 0)\binom{1}{0}} = -\frac{5}{2}$$
 (12)

(13)

The focus F of parabola is expressed as

$$\mathbf{F} = \frac{ce^2\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{u}}{\lambda_2} \tag{14}$$

$$= \frac{-\frac{5}{2}(1)^2 \binom{1}{0} + \binom{5}{0}}{1} \tag{15}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{5}{2} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \tag{16}$$

2) The directrix is given by

$$\mathbf{n}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{x} = c \tag{17}$$

$$\implies (1 \quad 0)\mathbf{x} = -\frac{5}{2} \tag{18}$$

(19)

3) The equation for the axis of parabola passing through **F** and orthogonal to the directrix is given as

$$\mathbf{m}^{\mathsf{T}} \left(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{F} \right) = 0 \tag{20}$$

where **m** is the normal vector to the axis and also the slope of the directrix.

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{m} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{21}$$

$$\implies \left(0 \quad 1\right) \left(\mathbf{x} - \begin{pmatrix} \frac{5}{2} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}\right) = 0 \tag{22}$$

or,
$$(0 \ 1)\mathbf{x} = 0$$
 (23)

4) The latus rectum of a parabola is given by

$$l = \frac{\eta}{\lambda_2} = -\frac{2\mathbf{u}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{p_1}}{\lambda_2} \tag{24}$$

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$$= -\frac{2\left(-5 \quad 0\right)\begin{pmatrix} 1\\0 \end{pmatrix}}{1}$$

$$= 10 \text{ units}$$
(24)

$$= 10 \text{ units} \tag{26}$$