Answer to Question #87277 - Math - Algebra

Question

If the quadratic equation $(1 + a^2)x^2 + 2abx + b - c = 0$ has only one root, then find the value of $c^2(1 + a^2)$.

Solution

The quadratic equation is $(1 + a^2)x^2 + 2abx + b - c = 0$.

To get only one root for the above equation we must have the value of the discriminant equals to zero. That is,

$$(2ab)^2 - 4(1+a^2)(b-c) = 0$$

$$4a^2b^2 - 4(b - c + a^2b - a^2c) = 0$$

$$a^2b^2 - b + c - a^2b + a^2c = 0$$

$$a^2c + c = a^2b - a^2b^2 + b$$

$$c(a^2 + 1) = b(a^2 - a^2b + 1)$$

$$c(1 + a^2) = b(1 - a^2b + a^2)$$

Thus, the value of $c(1 + a^2)$ is $b(1 - a^2b + a^2)$.

Answer: $b(1 - a^2b + a^2)$.

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