Conditions

two pipes running together can fill a cistern in 40/13 mins. if one pipe takes 3 mins more than the other to fill the cistern, find the time in which each pipe would fill the cistern.

Solution

Let's the velocity of 1st pipe is x, of 2nd is y. Then:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{1}{x+y} = \frac{40}{13} \\ \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{y} = 3 \\ \begin{cases} 40(x+y) = 13 \\ y-x = 3xy \end{cases} \\ x = \frac{y}{3y+1} \\ 40\left(\frac{y}{3y+1} + y\right) = 13 \\ 40\left(\frac{2y+3y^2}{3y+1}\right) = 13 \\ 120y^2 + 80y - 39y - 13 = 0 \\ 120y^2 + 41y - 13 = 0 \\ D = 1681 + 6240 = 7921 \\ y = \frac{-41+89}{240} = 0.2 \end{cases}$$

The negative value of y is rejected as velocity can't be negative.

$$x = \frac{y}{3y+1} = \frac{0.2}{0.6+1} = 0.125$$
$$\frac{1}{x} = 8$$
$$\frac{1}{y} = 5$$

Answer: One pipe fills a cistern in 5 min, the other pipe - in 8 min