

MINIMUM VALUE CALCULATION

Over all real numbers, find the minimum value of a positive real number, y such that

$$y = \sqrt{(x+6)^2 + 25} + \sqrt{(x-6)^2 + 121}$$

Solution:

$$y = \sqrt{(x+6)^2 + 25} + \sqrt{(x-6)^2 + 121}$$

differentiating , using chain rule

$$\frac{d_y}{d_x} = \frac{2(x+6)}{2\sqrt{(x+6)^2 + 25}} + \frac{2(x-6)}{2\sqrt{(x-6)^2 + 121}}$$

$$\frac{d_y}{d_x} = \frac{(x+6)}{\sqrt{(x+6)^2 + 25}} + \frac{(x-6)}{\sqrt{(x-6)^2 + 121}}$$

To calculate minimum value we find the stationary points where,
 $dy/dx = 0$

$$\frac{x+6}{\sqrt{(x+6)^2 + 25}} + \frac{x-6}{\sqrt{(x-6)^2 + 121}} = 0$$

$$\frac{x+6}{\sqrt{(x+6)^2 + 25}} = \frac{6-x}{\sqrt{(x-6)^2 + 121}}$$

Squaring both sides,

$$\frac{(x+6)^2}{(x+6)^2 + 25} = \frac{(6-x)^2}{(x-6)^2 + 121}$$

$$\frac{x^2 + 12x + 36}{x^2 + 12x + 61} = \frac{x^2 - 12x + 36}{x^2 - 12x + 157}$$

Cross multiplying

$$(x^2 + 12x + 36)(x^2 - 12x + 157) = (x^2 - 12x + 36)(x^2 + 12x + 61)$$

Simplifying,

$$x^4 + 49x^2 + 1452x + 5652 = x^4 - 47x^2 - 300x + 2196$$

$$49x^2 + 47x^2 + 1452x + 300x + 5652 - 2196 = 0$$

$$96x^2 + 1752x - 3456 = 0$$

Solving the above equation quadratically, we get

$$x_1 = 1.796$$

$$x_2 = -20.046$$

Substituting x_1 and x_2 respectively, to get the minimum value of y

$$y = \sqrt{(x + 6)^2 + 25} + \sqrt{(x - 6)^2 + 121}$$

At $x = 1.796$,

$$y(1.796) = \sqrt{(1.796 + 6)^2 + 25} + \sqrt{(1.796 - 6)^2 + 121}$$

$$y = 21.04$$

At $x = -20.046$

$$y(-20.046) = \sqrt{(-20.046 + 6)^2 + 25} + \sqrt{(-20.046 - 6)^2 + 121}$$

$$y = 43.18$$

Therefore, **$x = 1.796$** is a minimum and the minimum value is **$y = 21.04$**