

Q4 E is a point inside the square $ABCD$ such that $EA + EB + EC$ attains its minimum value

$\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{6}$, find the length of the square.

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Rotate $\triangle ABE$ anti-clockwise by 60° about B to $\triangle FBG$.

Join EG .

$BE = BG$ and $\angle EBG = 60^\circ$

$\triangle BEG$ is an equilateral triangle.

$\angle ABF = 60^\circ$, $\angle CBF = 150^\circ$

$EA + EB + EC = FG + EG + EC$

which is a minimum when C, E, G, F are collinear.

Minimum distance = $CF = \sqrt{2} + \sqrt{6}$

Let $AB = BC = x$

$CF^2 = x^2 + x^2 - 2(x)(x) \cos 150^\circ$

$(\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{6})^2 = x^2(2 + \sqrt{3})$

$$x^2 = \frac{2 + 6 + 4\sqrt{3}}{2 + \sqrt{3}}$$

$$x^2 = 4$$

$$x = 2$$

