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B.Sc. part-II (Sub), Date - 01-05-2020

Differential Calculus (maxima and minima)

Q.1. Find the maximum and minimum values of
 $2x^3 - 21x^2 + 36x - 20$

Soln: Let $y = 2x^3 - 21x^2 + 36x - 20$ — (I)

Differentiate w.r.t. x , we get

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 6x^2 - 42x + 36 \quad \text{--- (II)}$$

$$\text{and } \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 12x - 42 \quad \text{--- (III)}$$

For maximum or minimum values of y , we have

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 6x^2 - 42x + 36 = 0 \Rightarrow x^2 - 7x + 6 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 - 6x - x + 6 = 0 \Rightarrow x(x-6) - 1(x-6) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (x-1)(x-6) = 0, \therefore x = 1 \text{ or } x = 6$$

When $x=1$, then from III, $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -30 < 0$

Hence, y is maximum, when $x=1$

From (I), the maximum value of $y = -3$

When $x=6$, then from III, $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 30 > 0$

Hence, y is minimum, when $x=6$.

From (I), the minimum value of y

$$= 2 \times 6^3 - 21 \times 6^2 + 36 \times 6 - 20$$

$$= 432 - 756 + 216 - 20 = -128$$

Ans

Q.7. Find the maximum value of $x^{\frac{1}{x}}$.

Soln: Let $y = x^{\frac{1}{x}}$

Taking logarithm on both sides, we get

$$\log y = \frac{1}{x} \log x$$

Differentiating w.r.t. x , we get

$$\frac{1}{y} \frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{1}{x} \log x + \frac{1}{x^2} = \frac{1}{x^2} (1 - \log x) \quad \text{--- (I)}$$

For maximum or minimum of y , $1 - \log x = 0 \Rightarrow x = e$

Differentiating (I) w.r.t. x , we get

$$-\frac{1}{y^2} \left(\frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{y} \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -\frac{2}{x^3} (1 - \log x) - \frac{1}{x^3}$$

$$\text{when } x = e, \quad \frac{1}{y} \cdot \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -\frac{1}{e^3}$$

$$\therefore \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -e^{\frac{1}{e}} \cdot \frac{1}{e^3} < 0$$

$\therefore y$ is maximum when $x = e$ and the maximum value of $y = e^{\frac{1}{e}}$.