

$$\frac{1}{x} + \lambda x = 0, \quad \frac{1}{y} + \lambda y = 0, \quad \frac{1}{z} + \lambda z = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{1}{\lambda} = x^2 = y^2 = z^2 \quad (\text{or}) \quad x = y = z$$

Thus V is stationary when $x = y = z = a/\sqrt{3}$, from (2)

The lengths of the edges of the rectangular Parallelopiped are $2x, 2y, 2z$. So V is stationary when the rectangular parallelopiped is a cube.

Now regard x and y as independent variables and z as a function of x and y given by (2).

From (1), $\log V = \log 8 + \log x + \log y + \log z$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{z} \cdot \frac{\partial z}{\partial x}$$

Differentiating (2) partially w.r.t x taking y as constant, we get

$$2x + 2z \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \right) = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = -x/z$$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{z} \cdot \frac{-x}{z} = \frac{1}{x} - \frac{x}{z^2}$$

$$\text{So that } \frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} - \frac{1}{V^2} \left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \right)^2 = -\frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{1}{z^2} + \frac{2x}{z^3} \frac{\partial z}{\partial x}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{1}{z^2} - \frac{2x^2}{z^4}$$

But at the stationary point, we have $\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} = 0$.

$\therefore$ at the stationary point found above, we have

$$\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} = -V \left[\frac{1}{x^2} + \frac{1}{z^2} + \frac{2x^2}{z^4} \right] = -8xyz \left[\frac{1}{x^2} + \frac{1}{z^2} + \frac{2x^2}{z^4} \right],$$

which is -ve when $x = y = z = a/\sqrt{3}$.

Thus V is maximum when $x = y = z = a/\sqrt{3}$.

Hence the rectangular solid of maximum volume inscribed in a sphere is a cube.