

Assignment 2

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A cone is inscribed in a sphere of radius 12 cm. If the volume of the cone is maximum, find its height.

Solution:

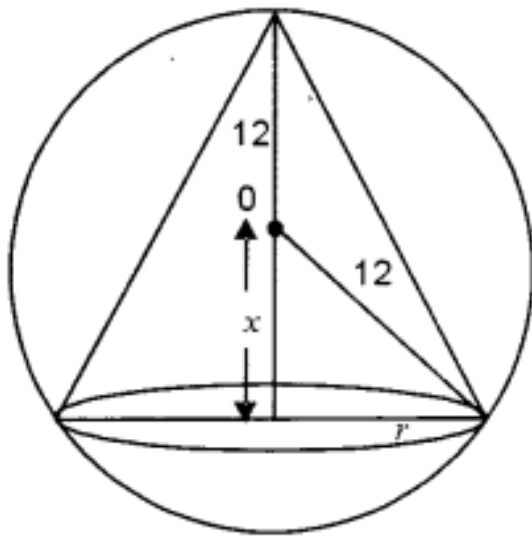


Fig. 0. Cone inscribed in a sphere

Let radius of cone be r and its height be h .

Here, $r^2 + x^2 = 12^2$

$$r^2 = 144 - x^2$$

Now, the volume of the cone $= \frac{1}{3} \times \pi \times r^2 \times h$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \times \pi \times (144 - x^2) \times (12 + x)$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \times \pi \times (12 - x) \times (12 + x)^2$$

Now, $\frac{dV}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{3} \times \pi \times (12 - x) \times (12 + x)^2 \right)$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \times \pi \times (-(12 + x)^2 + 2 \times (144 - x^2))$$

$$\frac{d^2V}{dx^2} = \frac{1}{3} \times \pi \times (-2 \times (12 + x) + 2 \times (0 - 2x))$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \times \pi \times (-24 - 2x - 4x)$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \times \pi \times -(24 + 6x)$$

Here, second derivative is negative, implies volume of cone is maximum. Now, put $\frac{dV}{dx} = 0$, we obtain,

$$\frac{\pi}{3} \times -(12 + x)^2 + 2 \times (144 - x^2) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (12 + x) \times (-(12 + x) + 2 \times (12 - x)) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (12 + x) \times -12 - x + 24 - 2 \times x = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (12 + x) \times (12 - 3x) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (12 + x = 0) \text{ or } (12 - 3x = 0)$$

$$\Rightarrow x = -12 \text{ or } x = 4$$

As distance cannot be negative, $x = 4$.

Hence, for maximum volume of cone, the height of the cone is $h = 12 + x$ where $x = 4$ cm

So, height of the cone is 16 cm.