已知正四棱锥的侧棱长为 l,其各顶点都再同一球面上,若该球的体积为 36π ,且 $3 \le l \le 3\sqrt{3}$,则该正四棱锥体积的取值范围是 A. $[18, \frac{81}{4}]$ B. $[\frac{27}{4}, \frac{81}{4}]$ C. $[\frac{27}{4}, \frac{64}{3}]$ D. [18, 27]

解: 设四棱锥底面边长为 $\sqrt{2}a$, 则

$$(3+\sqrt{9-a^2})^2 + a^2 = l^2$$

化简得

$$a^2 = \frac{36l^2 - l^4}{36}$$

设 $t = l^2$, 棱锥体积为 V(t), 则

$$V(t) = 2a^2 + \frac{2a^2}{3} \times \sqrt{9 - a^2}$$
$$= \frac{t^2}{324}(36 - t) \qquad (t \in [9, 27])$$

对上式求导得

$$V'(t) = \frac{1}{324} \times [2t \times (36 - t) - t^2]$$
$$= \frac{24t - t^2}{108}$$

设能让 V(t) 取极值的自变量为 t_0 ,则

$$24t_0 - t_0^2 = 0 \Rightarrow t_0 = 0$$
(舍)或 $t_0 = 24$

由此可知 V(t) 在 (9,24) 上为增函数,在 (24,27) 上为减函数. 因而

$$V_{\text{max}} = V(24) = \frac{24^2}{324}(36 - 24) = \frac{64}{3}$$

$$V_{\min}=\min\{V(9),V(27)\}=\min\{\frac{9^2}{324}(36-9),\frac{27^2}{324}(36-27)\}=\frac{27}{4}$$
故选 C.