

Problem 14 of 14.8:

$$\begin{cases} \nabla f = \lambda \nabla g \\ g = 0 \end{cases} \quad \text{where } f(x, y, z) = x^4 + y^4 + z^4, \\ g(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - 1$$

The system becomes:

$$\begin{cases} 4x^3 = 2\lambda x \\ 4y^3 = 2\lambda y \\ 4z^3 = 2\lambda z \\ x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1 \end{cases} \quad \text{This is a system of 4 equations and 4 unknowns.}$$

Equivalently,

$$\begin{cases} 2x(2x^2 - \lambda) = 0 \implies x = 0 \text{ or } \lambda = 2x^2 \\ 2y(2y^2 - \lambda) = 0 \implies y = 0 \text{ or } \lambda = 2y^2 \\ 2z(2z^2 - \lambda) = 0 \implies z = 0 \text{ or } \lambda = 2z^2 \\ x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1 \implies x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1 \end{cases}$$

There are 8 cases total:

(1) $x=0, y=0, z=0 \implies$ excluded because $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 0 \neq 1$

(2) $x=0, y=0, \lambda = 2z^2 \implies z^2 = 1 - x^2 - y^2 = 1 \implies x=0, y=0, z = \pm 1$

(3) $x=0, \lambda = 2y^2, \lambda = 2z^2$

.....

(8) $\lambda = 2x^2, \lambda = 2y^2, \lambda = 2z^2 \implies x^2 = y^2 = z^2 = \frac{1}{3} \implies \dots$

In total, you will see that there are 26 triples of (x, y, z) . The maximum of f at these points is the maximum.