

1. Three students are working on a problem involving a differentiable function  $f(x, y, z)$  at a point  $P_0$ .

- (1) *Student A* says: An equation for the tangent plane to the level surface of  $f$  passing through  $P_0$  is  $2x + 3y - 6z = 11$ .
- (2) *Student B* says: The largest possible rate of change of  $f$  at  $P_0$  in any direction is 25.
- (3) *Student C* says: The directional derivative of  $f$  at  $P_0$  in the direction of the vector  $\mathbf{A} = 2\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$  is 5.

*Student D*, who has been listening in, but does not know anything about the function  $f$ , decides that at least one of the *Students A, B, C* must have made a mistake in their calculations.

Explain *Student D*'s reasoning.

$$(1) \Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} f(P_0) = c \cdot (2\vec{i} + 3\vec{j} - 6\vec{k}) \text{ for some scalar } c$$

$$(2) \Rightarrow |\vec{\nabla} f(P_0)| = 25$$

$$(3) \Rightarrow D_{\vec{u}} f(P_0) = 5 \text{ where } \vec{u} = \frac{\vec{A}}{|\vec{A}|} = \frac{2\vec{i} + 2\vec{j} + \vec{k}}{3} \Rightarrow \vec{\nabla} f(P_0) \cdot \vec{u} = 5$$

$$(1) \text{ and } (2) \Rightarrow c^2 \cdot (2^2 + 3^2 + (-6)^2) = 25^2 \Rightarrow c^2 = \frac{25^2}{49} \Rightarrow c = \pm \frac{25}{7}$$

$$(1) \text{ and } (3) \Rightarrow c \cdot (2\vec{i} + 3\vec{j} - 6\vec{k}) \cdot \frac{2\vec{i} + 2\vec{j} + \vec{k}}{3} = 5 \Rightarrow \frac{4}{3}c = 5 \Rightarrow c = \frac{15}{4}$$

As  $\frac{25}{7} \neq \frac{15}{4}$  and  $-\frac{25}{7} \neq \frac{15}{4}$ , (1), (2), (3) cannot be all true statements.