

On Cauchy-Kowalevski's Theorem; A Necessary Condition

By

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1. Introduction

We are concerned with the Cauchy-Kowalevski theorem for an equation

$$(1.1) \quad \partial_t^m u(x, t) = \sum_{j=1}^m a_j(x, t; \partial_x) \partial_t^{m-j} u(x, t) + f(x, t), \\ (x, t) \in \mathbf{C}^l \times \mathbf{C}^1,$$

where the coefficients are assumed holomorphic in a neighborhood of the origin.***) The Cauchy-Kowalevski theorem says that, if

$$(1.2) \quad \text{order}(a_j) \leq j,$$

then for any holomorphic Cauchy data $\partial_t^j u|_{t=0} = u_j(x)$ ($0 \leq j \leq m-1$), and for any holomorphic f , given in the neighborhood of the origin, there exists a unique holomorphic solution u of (1.1) in a neighborhood of the origin. In (1.2), $\text{order}(a_j)$ means that of a_j in a neighborhood of the origin. Our question is the following: Is the condition (1.2) necessary for the Cauchy-Kowalevski theorem? Concerning this, the author showed in [3] the following result. Let q (> 1) be the minimum number satisfying

$$\text{order}(a_j) \leq qj \quad (1 \leq j \leq m),$$

and let $h_j(x, t; \partial)$ be the homogeneous part of order qj of a_j . Then in order that the above Cauchy-Kowalevski theorem hold, it is necessary that

Received March 30, 1974.

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**) We use the following abbreviations: $\partial_x^\alpha, \partial_t^j$ stand for $\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right)^\alpha, \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\right)^j$ respectively. Furthermore, ∂_x^α will be denoted simply by ∂^α .

$$(1.3) \quad h_j(x, 0; \zeta) \equiv 0.$$

This implies, in particular, when all the terms of order greater than j of $a_j(x, t; \zeta)$ are independent of t , then (1.2) becomes a necessary condition for the validity of the Cauchy-Kowalevski theorem.

Recently M. Miyake investigated this problem [2], and showed that in the case $m=1$, namely,

$$(1.4) \quad \partial_t u = \sum_j b_j(x, t; \partial_x) u + f, \quad (\text{order } (b_j) = j),$$

the condition $b_j(x, t; \zeta) \equiv 0$ for $j \geq 2$ is really necessary. So that (1.2) is necessary and sufficient in the case $m=1$. The purpose of this article is to show that when we follow the argument of Miyake together with that of Hasegawa in [1], we arrive at a sharper result than (1.3). Let us explain this. We expand each $a_j(x, t; \zeta)$ appearing in (1.1) in Taylor series in t around the origin. Then the terms appearing on the right hand side take the form:

$$t^n a(x) \partial_t^\alpha \partial_x^j \quad (a(x) \neq 0).$$

To all these terms, we define p (rational number) as the minimum satisfying

$$|a| + p(j - n) \leq pm.$$

By saying *modified principal part* with weight p of (1.1), we mean all the terms for which the equal sign hold. Our result is:

Theorem. *In order that the Cauchy-Kowalevski theorem hold at the origin, it is necessary that $p \leq 1$. Accordingly, in particular,*

$$\text{order } (a_j(x, 0; \partial_x)) \leq j$$

is a necessary condition.

2. Preliminaries

To make clear our argument, we treat (1.1) in matrix form. Put $\partial_t^j u = v_{j+1}$ ($0 \leq j \leq m-1$). Then (1.1) becomes

$$(2.1) \quad \partial_t v(x, t) = P(x, t; \partial_x) v(x, t) + g(x, t).$$

The Taylor expansion of $P(x, t; \partial_x)$ in t gives

$$(2.2) \quad P(x, t; \partial_x) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} t^j P_j(x; \partial_x),$$

where

$$(2.3) \quad P_0 = \begin{bmatrix} & & 0 & 1 & & & \\ & & & 0 & 1 & & \\ & & & & \dots & 1 & \\ & & & & & & \dots & 1 \\ a_m(x, 0; \partial_x) & \dots & a_1(x, 0; \partial_x) & & & & & \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P_j = \begin{bmatrix} & & & 0 & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ a_{jm}(x; \partial_x) & \dots & a_{j1}(x; \partial_x) & & & & \end{bmatrix} \quad (j \geq 1)$$

From the definition of the number ρ , we have

$$(2.4) \quad \text{order } (a_{jk}(x; \partial)) \leq \rho j + \rho k \quad (j \geq 0, 1 \leq k \leq m).$$

Our purpose is to show that, assuming $\rho > 1$, a formal solution corresponding to an appropriate holomorphic f does not converge in any neighborhood of the origin (assuming the initial data is 0).

Let the modified principal part (with weight ρ) of P_j be $\mathring{P}_j(x; \partial)$. It is easy to see that there exists an s such that $\mathring{P}_s \neq 0$ but $\mathring{P}_j = 0$ for $j > s$. For the foregoing argument, \mathring{P}_s plays an important role. The case $s=0$ can be treated in the similar way as in [3]. Therefore we suppose $s \geq 1$.

Let

$$(2.5) \quad P_s(x; \partial) = \begin{bmatrix} & & & 0 & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ h_{s1}(x; \partial) & \dots & h_{sm}(x; \partial) & & & & \end{bmatrix}$$

and $h_{s1}(x; \partial) \equiv \dots \equiv h_{s,i-1}(x; \partial) \equiv 0$, but $h_{si}(x; \partial) \neq 0$. Then, as we shall show at the end of this section, if $h_{si}(0; \zeta) \equiv 0$, then by choosing x_0 near the origin such that $h_{si}(x_0; \zeta) \neq 0$, without loss of generality, we can assume that

$$h_{si}(0; \zeta) \neq 0, \quad \text{for } \zeta \in \mathbb{C}^l \quad (|\zeta|=1).$$

We fix such a ζ once for all.

Next, by choosing j_0 satisfying $pj_0 = \text{integer}$, we take $f(x, t)$ as

$$(2.6) \quad \begin{cases} f(x, t) = \frac{t^{j_0}}{j_0!} f_0(x), \\ f_0(x) = \sum'_k c_k \frac{\langle \zeta, x \rangle^{pk}}{(pk)!} \end{cases}$$

where \sum'_k means the summation over all positive integers k satisfying $pk = \text{integer}$; c_k will be defined appropriately. To be precise, $|c_k| = (pk)!$ and their arguments are defined recursively. So that $f_0(x)$ is holomorphic in $|x| < 1$.

Let

$$(2.7) \quad v(x, t) \sim \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^j}{j!} v_j(x)$$

be the corresponding formal solution. We assume that $v_0(x) \equiv 0$, i.e. Cauchy data is zero. Then denoting

$$g_0(x) = {}^t(0, 0, \dots, 0, f_0(x)),$$

we have $v_0(x) \equiv v_1(x) \equiv \dots \equiv v_{j_0}(x) \equiv 0$. Comparing the coefficient of t^{n-1} , we get

$$(2.8) \quad \begin{cases} v_n(x) = P_0(x; \partial)v_{n-1}(x) + (n-1)P_1(x; \partial)v_{n-2}(x) + \\ + (n-1)(n-2)P_2(x; \partial)v_{n-3} + \dots + (n-1)\dots(n-s)P_s(x; \partial)v_{n-s-1} + \dots \end{cases}$$

Let us remark that

$$v_{j+1}(x) = P_0(x; \partial)g_0(x).$$

Finally our observation mentioned above (see the assumption with regards to h_{si}) relies on the following proposition which we used in [3]:

Proposition. *Let \mathcal{O} be a complex domain (in \mathbf{C}^{l+1}) containing the origin. We assume all the coefficients of (1.1) belong to $H(\mathcal{O})$, i.e. holomorphic in \mathcal{O} . Assume for each $f(x, t) \in H(\mathcal{O})$ there exists a solution $u(x, t) \in H(V_f)$ of (1.1) satisfying*

$$\partial_t^j u(x, 0) = 0 \text{ for } x \in V_f \cap \{t=0\} \quad (0 \leq j \leq m-1),$$

where V_f is a complex domain containing the origin which may depend

on f . Then there exists a fixed complex domain D containing the origin such that for any $f \in H(\mathcal{O})$, there exists always a solution $u(x, t) \in H(D)$ of (1.1) with zero Cauchy data.

Proof. Let

$$D_m = \{(x, t) \in \mathbf{C}^{l+1}; |x_i| < 1/m, |t| < 1/m\}.$$

For any pair (m, n) of positive integers, we define the set $E_{mn} \subset H(\mathcal{O})$ as follows. $f \in E_{mn}$, if and only if there exists a solution $u(x, t) \in H(D_m)$ of (1.1) with zero Cauchy data, satisfying

$$|u(x, t)| \leq n, \text{ for } (x, t) \in D_m.$$

Then E_{mn} is closed and symmetric. In fact, if $\{f_j\}$ is a sequence of E_{mn} , and $f_j \rightarrow f_0$ in $H(\mathcal{O})$, and let $\{u_j\}$ be the corresponding solution. If necessary, by picking a subsequence, we can assume $\{u_{j_p}(x, t)\}$ is a convergent sequence in $H(D_m)$. Then $u_{j_p}(x, t) \rightarrow u_0(x, t)$ in $H(D_m)$, and $|u_0(x, t)| \leq n$ in D_m . Since

$$L(u_{j_p}) \equiv \partial_t^m u_{j_p}(x, t) - \sum a_j(x, t; \partial_x) \partial_t^{m-j} u_{j_p}(x, t)$$

tends to $L(u_0)$ in $H(D_m)$, we obtain $L(u_0) = f_0$ which proves the closedness of E_{mn} . In view of $H(\mathcal{O}) = \bigcup_{m,n} E_{mn}$ by hypothesis, the proposition follows immediately from Baire's category theorem. Q.E.D.

Now let us make precise our hypothesis. First, let

$$\mathcal{O} = \{(x, t); |x_i| < \rho, |t| < \rho\}$$

where it is assumed $\rho < 1/2l$ (recall that l is the dimension of x -space). Then, from the above proposition, we can find a polydisc D , say $D = \{(x, t); |x_i| < \rho_0, |t| < \rho_0\}$. Now when $h_{si}(0; \zeta) \equiv 0$ for all ζ , and $h_{si}(x; \zeta) \not\equiv 0$, we can find $x_0(\in \mathbf{R}^l)$ in such a way that denoting $x_0 = (x_1^0, \dots, x_n^0)$, it satisfies $|x_i^0| < \min(\rho_0, 1/2l)$, so that we have

$$\mathcal{O} \subset \mathcal{O}' = \{(x, t); |x_i - x_i^0| < 1/l, |t| < 1/l\},$$

and that $(x_1^0, \dots, x_n^0, 0) \in D$. This shows that

$$f_0(x) = \sum'_k c_k \frac{\langle \zeta, x - x_0 \rangle^{pk}}{(pk)!} \quad (|c_k| = (pk)!),$$

which is holomorphic in \mathcal{O}' , is so in \mathcal{O} . Thus by hypothesis, the corresponding solution should be holomorphic in a neighborhood $V (\supset D)$ of $(x_0, 0)$.

3. Proof of Theorem

In (2.6), instead of $f_0(x)$ itself, we take simply

$$f_0(x) = \frac{\langle \zeta, x \rangle^{pk}}{(pk)!} \quad (pk = \text{integer}),$$

and consider the coefficients $v_j(x)$ ($j_0 \leq j \leq j_0 + k$) defined by (2.8). We are concerned with the leading term, i.e. the lowest homogeneous part in x of the h -th component $v_{j,h}(x)$ of $v_j(x)$. Note the following fact. Let

$$\begin{aligned} p(x, \partial) &= \sum_{|\alpha| \leq n} a_\alpha(x) \partial^\alpha = \sum_{|\alpha|=n} a_\alpha(x) \partial^\alpha + \sum_{|\alpha| < n} a_\alpha(x) \partial^\alpha \\ &= p_n(x, \partial) + q(x, \partial). \end{aligned}$$

Then for $j \geq n$,

$$p(x, \partial) \frac{\langle \zeta, x \rangle^j}{j!} = p_n(0, \zeta) \frac{\langle \zeta, x \rangle^{j-n}}{(j-n)!} + \dots$$

where the rest term on the right hand side is analytic function of vanishing order $\geq j - n + 1$. In view of this, we see that

$$v_{j,h}(x) = a_{j,h} \langle \zeta, x \rangle^{\nu(j,h)} / \nu(j,h)! + \dots$$

where $\nu(j, h) = pk - p(j - j_0) + p(m - h)$, and the rest term is of vanishing order $\geq \nu(j, h) + 1$.

Taking account of that, (2.8) gives a recurrence formula for $a_{j,h}$. In fact, let

$$\begin{aligned} P_0(\zeta) = \dot{P}_0(0; \zeta) &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & & \\ & 0 & 1 & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots \\ & & & 0 & 1 \\ h_{01}(0; \zeta) & \dots & \dots & h_{0m}(0; \zeta) \end{bmatrix}, \\ P_j(\zeta) = \dot{P}_j(0; \zeta) &= \begin{bmatrix} & & & 0 \\ & & & & \\ & & & & 0 \\ h_{j1}(0; \zeta) & \dots & \dots & h_{jm}(0; \zeta) \end{bmatrix} \quad (j \geq 1), \end{aligned}$$

where $h_{jk}(0; \zeta)$ are the terms of the modified principal part with weight p (see the definition in the Introduction), and let

$$\alpha_n = {}^t(\alpha_{n,1}, \dots, \alpha_{n,m}).$$

Then

$$(3.1) \quad \begin{cases} \alpha_n = P_0(\zeta)\alpha_{n-1} + (n-1)P_1(\zeta)\alpha_{n-2} + (n-1)(n-2)P_2(\zeta)\alpha_{n-3} + \\ + \dots + (n-1)(n-2)\dots(n-s)P_s(\zeta)\alpha_{n-s-1}, \end{cases}$$

where

$$\alpha_j = 0 \text{ for } j < j_0 \text{ and } \alpha_{j_0} = {}^t(0, 0, \dots, 0, 1).$$

Hereafter we denote

$$h_{sj}(0; \zeta) = h_j \quad (1 \leq j \leq m).$$

Then by hypothesis, $h_1 = h_2 = \dots = h_{i-1} = 0$, but $h_i \neq 0$. For convenience of the foregoing argument, let us denote

$$\alpha'_n = {}^t(\alpha_{n,i}, \alpha_{n,i+1}, \dots, \alpha_{n,m}),$$

and

$$|\alpha_n| = \sum_{j=1}^m |\alpha_{n,j}|; \quad |\alpha'_n| = \sum_{j=i}^m |\alpha_{n,j}|.$$

Next we choose a δ ($0 < \delta < 1$) once for all in such a way that

$$(3.2) \quad \max_{j>i} |h_j| \frac{\delta}{1-\delta} \leq \frac{1}{2} |h_i|.$$

Then for the sequence $\{\alpha_n\}$ we have the following lemma:

Lemma. *If j_0 is chosen large, then there exists an infinite subsequence $\{\alpha_{n_p}\}$ of $\{\alpha_n\}$ ($n \geq j_0$) satisfying the following increasing law (in the wider sense):*

$$|\alpha'_{n_p}| \geq \delta |\alpha'_{n_{p-1}}| \quad (p=2, 3, \dots),$$

moreover we can assume that

$$n_p - n_{p-1} \leq s + 1.$$

Proof. To define $\{n_p\}$, we proceed as follows: If n_p is defined, then n_{p+1} is defined as the minimum number m ($>n_p$) satisfying

$$(3.3) \quad |\alpha'_m| \geq \delta |\alpha'_{n_p}|.$$

Accordingly, let $n_p = n$, then it suffices to prove the following fact: If

$$(3.4) \quad |\alpha'_{n+1}|, |\alpha'_{n+2}|, \dots, |\alpha'_{n+s}| < \delta |\alpha'_n|,$$

then,

$$|\alpha'_{n+s+1}| \geq \delta |\alpha'_n|.$$

Let us consider the last, i.e. the m -th component of a_{n+s+1} . In view of (3.1), it amounts to consider those of $P_{s-i}(\zeta)a_{n+i}$ ($0 \leq i \leq s$). As we can observe, the case where $i = m$ is easy, so we argue as $i < m$. Denote the m -th component of $P_s(\zeta)a_n$ by $(P_s a_n)_m$.

$$(P_s(\zeta)a_n)_m = h_i a_{n,i} + \sum_{j>i} h_j a_{n,j}.$$

Thus,

$$(3.5) \quad |(P_s(\zeta)a_n)_m| \geq |h_i| |a_{n,i}| - \max_{j>i} |h_j| \sum_{j>i} |a_{n,j}|.$$

On the other hand, from (2.8) we see that, for general n ,

$$(3.6) \quad a_{n,j} = a_{n-1,j+1} \quad (1 \leq j \leq m-1).$$

In fact, all the entries of $P_1(\zeta), \dots, P_s(\zeta)$ are zero except the m th row, so that the components $a_{n,j}$ ($1 \leq j \leq m-1$) of a_n can be defined simply by $a_n = P_0(\zeta)a_{n-1}$. By hypothesis (3.4),

$$\sum_{j=i}^m |a_{n+1,j}| < \delta \sum_{j=i}^m |a_{n,j}|.$$

Next, by (3.6),

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=i+1}^m |a_{n,j}| &= \sum_{j=i+1}^m |a_{n+1,j-1}| = \sum_{j=i}^{m-1} |a_{n+1,j}| \\ &\leq \sum_{j=i}^m |a_{n+1,j}| < \delta \sum_{j=i}^m |a_{n,j}|. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$(1-\delta) \sum_{j=i+1}^m |a_{n,j}| < \delta |a_{n,i}|.$$

This implies, from (3.5) and (3.2),

$$|(P_s(\zeta)a_n)_m| \geq |h_i| |a_{n,i}| - \max_{j>i} |h_j| \frac{\delta}{1-\delta} |a_{n,i}| \geq \frac{1}{2} |h_i| |a_{n,i}|.$$

Further, since

$$|a'_n| = |a_{n,i}| + \sum_{j>i} |a_{n,j}| \leq |a_{n,i}| \left(1 + \frac{\delta}{1-\delta} \right),$$

i.e. $|a_{n,i}| \geq (1-\delta)|a'_n|$, the above relation can be written as

$$(3.7) \quad |(P_s(\zeta)a_n)_m| \geq \frac{1-\delta}{2} |h_i| |a'_n|.$$

Finally let us consider the last component of $P_{s-1}(\zeta)a_{n+1}$, $P_{s-2}(\zeta)a_{n+2}$, ..., $P_0(\zeta)a_{n+s}$. First, from our process of choosing $\{n_p\}$ (defined at the beginning), we have

$$(3.8) \quad |a'_{n-j}| \leq \frac{1}{\delta^j} |a'_n| \quad (j=1, 2, \dots).$$

In fact, it holds that $|a'_{n_{p-1}}| \leq \frac{1}{\delta} |a'_{n_p}|$, $|a'_{n_{p-2}}| \leq \frac{1}{\delta} |a'_{n_{p-1}}| \leq \frac{1}{\delta^2} |a'_{n_p}|$, and so on. Further for $n_{q-1} < \nu < n_q$, it holds $|a'_\nu| < |a'_{n_q}|$.

Next, from (3.6), for any h ($1 \leq h \leq i-1$), we have

$$a_{n+j,h} = a_{n+j-1,h+1} = a_{n+j-2,h+2} = \dots$$

This gives together with (3.8)

$$(3.9) \quad |a_{n+j,k}| \leq \frac{1}{\delta^m} |a'_n| \quad (0 \leq j \leq s),$$

and this is of course true for any k ($1 \leq k \leq m$) (see (3.4)).

Thus we have

$$(3.10) \quad \sum_{\nu=1}^s |(P_{s-\nu}(\zeta)a_{n+\nu})_m| \leq sm \cdot \max_{i,j} |h_{ij}(0; \zeta)| \frac{1}{\delta^m} |a'_n| \equiv K |a'_n|,$$

where

$$(3.11) \quad K = \frac{sm}{\delta^m} \max_{i,j} |h_{ij}(0; \zeta)|.$$

Finally from (3.1), (3.7) and (3.10), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |a_{n+s+1,m}| &\geq (n+s)(n+s-1)\dots(n+1) |(P_s(\zeta)a_n)_m| \\ &\quad - (n+s)\dots(n+2) \sum_{\nu=1}^s |(P_{s-\nu}(\zeta)a_{n+\nu})_m| \\ &\geq (n+s)\dots(n+1) \left\{ \frac{1-\delta}{2} |h_i| |a'_n| - \frac{1}{n+1} K |a'_n| \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Now we define j_0 in such a way that

$$(3.12) \quad \frac{1-\delta}{4} |h_i| j_0 \geq \max(1, K).$$

Then we have $|a_{n+s+1,m}| \geq |a'_n|$. This completes the proof. Q.E.D.

Let us return to (2.6). The above lemma gives the following result: there exist i_0, j ($0 \leq i_0 \leq s, 1 \leq j \leq m$) such that, if we write

$$v_{n+j_0-i_0,j}(x) = c_n \beta_n \frac{\langle \zeta, x \rangle^k}{k!} + \varphi_n(x) + \psi_n(x),$$

where $k = p i_0 + p(m-j)$, $\psi_n(x)$ being of vanishing order strictly greater than k , and $\varphi_n(x)$ is determined by $\{c_i\}$ for $i < n$, then, *there exists an infinite subsequence of n satisfying*

$$(3.13) \quad |\beta_n| \geq \delta'^n \quad (\delta' > 0)$$

for a fixed δ' .

Let us explain this. First we choose i_0 in such a way that there exists an infinite subsequence $\{n_p\}$ stated in the above lemma, which is congruent to $1-i_0$ modulo the denominator of p . Next, j is chosen in such a way that, for this subsequence, say $\{a'_{n_p}\}$, we have $|a'_{n_p,j}| \geq \frac{1}{m} |a'_{n_p}|$. Further let us decompose ($pn = \text{integer}$),

$$f_0(x) = c_n \frac{\langle \zeta, x \rangle^{pn}}{(pn)!} + \sum_{k < n} c_k \frac{\langle \zeta, x \rangle^{pk}}{(pk)!} + \sum'_{k > n} c_k \frac{\langle \zeta, x \rangle^{pk}}{(pk)!}.$$

Since the correspondence

$$f_0(x) \longrightarrow v_n(x)$$

is linear (see (3.1)), for the study of the structure of $v_n(x)$ we can consider the three terms separately. Now we see easily that the part of $v_{n+j_0-i_0,j}(x)$ corresponding to the third term in the above decomposition, is of vanishing order $\geq pi_0+p(m-j)+p$, hence this is greater than $k+1$.

Thus we obtain taking account of $|\zeta|=1$,

$$(3.14) \quad \langle \bar{\zeta}, \partial \rangle^k v_{n+j_0-i_0,j}(x)|_{x=0} = c_n \beta_n + \langle \bar{\zeta}, \partial \rangle^k \varphi_n(x)|_{x=0}.$$

Now we define c_n by

$$(3.15) \quad c_n = (pn)! e^{i\theta_n},$$

where θ_n is fixed in such a way that $e^{i\theta_n} \beta_n$ and $\langle \bar{\zeta}, \partial \rangle^k \varphi_n(x)|_{x=0}$ have the same argument. It follows from (3.13) that for an appropriate subsequence of n the left hand side of (3.14) is greater than, in absolute value, $(pn)! \delta'^n$.

Now we return to the formal solution (2.7), and consider

$$\langle \bar{\zeta}, \partial \rangle^k v(x, t)|_{x=0} \sim \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{t^n}{n!} \langle \bar{\zeta}, \partial \rangle^k v_n(x)|_{x=0}.$$

There are infinitely many integers of the form $n+j_0-i_0$ such that their j -th component are greater than in absolute value

$$\frac{1}{(n+j_0-i_0)!} |c_n \beta_n| \geq \frac{(pn)!}{(n+j_0-i_0)!} \delta'^n \underset{n \rightarrow \infty}{\sim} A c_0^n n^{(p-1)n},$$

where A and c_0 are appropriate positive constants. Since $p > 1$, the above series is never convergent for any $t (\neq 0)$. This completes the proof of Theorem in the Introduction.

References

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