Linear Ordinary Differential Equations

Preliminaries: Matrix Norms. Denote by $M_n(\mathbb{R})$ the set of $n \times n$ matrix with real components, which can be identified the vector space \mathbb{R}^{n^2} . In particular, the Euclidean norm of \mathbb{R}^{n^2} induces a norm

(1.1)
$$|X|_{E} = \sqrt{\operatorname{tr}(^{t}XX)} = \sqrt{\sum_{i,j=1}^{n} x_{ij}^{2}}$$

on $M_n(\mathbb{R})$. On the other hand, we let

(1.2)
$$|X|_{\mathcal{M}} := \sup \left\{ \frac{|X\boldsymbol{v}|}{|\boldsymbol{v}|} ; \boldsymbol{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{\boldsymbol{0}\} \right\},$$

where $|\cdot|$ on the right-hand side denotes the Euclidean norm of $\mathbb{R}^n.$

Lemma 1.1. (1) The map $X \mapsto |X|_{\mathcal{M}}$ is a norm of $\mathcal{M}_n(\mathbb{R})$.

- (2) For $X, Y \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$, it holds that $|XY|_M \leq |X|_M |Y|_M$.
- (3) Let $\lambda = \lambda(X)$ be the maximum eigenvalue of semi-positive definite symmetric matrix tXX . Then $|X|_M = \sqrt{\lambda}$ holds.
- (4) $(1/\sqrt{n})|X|_{\rm E} \le |X|_{\rm M} \le |X|_{\rm E}$.
- (5) The map $|\cdot|_{M} \colon M_{n}(\mathbb{R}) \to \mathbb{R}$ is continuous with respect to the Euclidean norm.

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Proof. Since $|X\boldsymbol{v}|/|\boldsymbol{v}|$ is invariant under scalar multiplications to \boldsymbol{v} , we have $|X|_{\mathrm{M}} = \sup\{|X\boldsymbol{v}|; \boldsymbol{v} \in S^{n-1}\}$, where S^{n-1} is the unit sphere in \mathbb{R}^n . Here, the $S^{n-1} \ni \boldsymbol{x} \mapsto |A\boldsymbol{x}| \in \mathbb{R}$ is a continuous function defined on a compact space, and so the map takes maximum. Thus, the right-hand side of (1.2) is well-defined. It is easy to verify that $|\cdot|_{\mathrm{M}}$ satisfies the axiom of the norm.

Since $A := {}^t XX$ is positive semi-definite the eigenvalues λ_j (j = 1, ..., n) are non-negative real numbers. In particular, there exists an orthonormal basis $[\boldsymbol{a}_j]$ of \mathbb{R}^n satisfying $A\boldsymbol{a}_j = \lambda_j \boldsymbol{a}_j$ (j = 12, ..., n). Let λ be the maximum eigenvalues of A, and write $\boldsymbol{v} = v_1 \boldsymbol{a}_1 + \cdots + v_n \boldsymbol{a}_n$. Then it holds that

$$\langle X\boldsymbol{v}, X\boldsymbol{v}\rangle = \lambda_1 v_1^2 + \dots + \lambda_n v_n^2 \leq \lambda \langle \boldsymbol{v}, \boldsymbol{v}\rangle,$$

where $\langle \;,\; \rangle$ is the Euclidean inner product of \mathbb{R}^n . The equality of this inequality holds if and only if \boldsymbol{v} is the λ -eigenvector, proving (3). Noticing the norm (1.1) is invariant under conjugations $X \mapsto {}^t PXP$ ($P \in \mathrm{O}(n)$), we obtain $|X|_{\mathrm{E}} = \sqrt{\lambda_1 + \cdots + \lambda_n}$ by diagonalizing ${}^t XX$ by an orthogonal matrix P. Then we obtain (4). Hence two norms $|\cdot|_{\mathrm{E}}$ and $|\cdot|_{\mathrm{M}}$ induce the same topology $\mathrm{M}_n(\mathbb{R})$. In particular, we have (5).

Preliminaries: Matrix-valued Functions.

Lemma 1.2. Let X and Y be C^{∞} -maps defined on a domain $U \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ into $M_n(\mathbb{R})$. Then

(1)
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial u_j}(XY) = \frac{\partial X}{\partial u_j}Y + X\frac{\partial Y}{\partial u_j},$$

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(2) $\frac{\partial}{\partial u_i} \det X = \operatorname{tr}\left(\widetilde{X}\frac{\partial X}{\partial u_i}\right)$, and

(3)
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial u_j} X^{-1} = -X^{-1} \frac{\partial X}{\partial u_j} X^{-1},$$

where \widetilde{X} is the cofactor matrix of X, and we assume in (3).

Proposition 1.3. Assume two C^{∞} matrix-valued functions X(t) and $\Omega(t)$ satisfy

(1.3)
$$\frac{dX(t)}{dt} = X(t)\Omega(t), \qquad X(t_0) = X_0.$$

Then

(1.4)
$$\det X(t) = (\det X_0) \exp \int_{t_0}^t \operatorname{tr} \Omega(\tau) d\tau$$

holds. In particular, if $X_0 \in GL(n, \mathbb{R})$, ¹ then $X(t) \in GL(n, \mathbb{R})$ for all t.

Proof. By (2) of Lemma 1.2, we have

$$\frac{d}{dt}\det X(t) = \operatorname{tr}\left(\widetilde{X}(t)\frac{dX(t)}{dt}\right) = \operatorname{tr}\left(\widetilde{X}(t)X(t)\Omega(t)\right)$$
$$= \operatorname{tr}\left(\det X(t)\Omega(t)\right) = \det X(t)\operatorname{tr}\Omega(t).$$

Here, we used the relation $\widetilde{X}X = X\widetilde{X} = (\det X)\operatorname{id}^2$. Hence $\frac{d}{dt}(\rho(t)^{-1}\det X(t)) = 0$, where $\rho(t)$ is the right-hand side of (1.4).

Proposition 1.4. Assume $\Omega(t)$ in (1.3) is skew-symmetric for all t, that is, ${}^t\Omega + \Omega$ is identically O. If $X_0 \in O(n)$ (resp. $X_0 \in SO(n)$)³, $X(t) \in O(n)$ (resp. $X(t) \in SO(n)$) for all t.

Proof. By (1) in Lemma 1.2,

$$\frac{d}{dt}(X^t X) = \frac{dX}{dt}^t X + X^t \left(\frac{dX}{dt}\right)$$
$$= X\Omega^t X + X^t \Omega^t X = X(\Omega + t\Omega)^t X = O.$$

Hence X^tX is constant, that is, if $X_0 \in O(n)$,

$$X(t)^{t}X(t) = X(t_0)^{t}X(t_0) = X_0^{t}X_0 = id.$$

if $X_0 \in O(n)$, proves the first case of the proposition. Since $\det A = \pm 1$ when $A \in O(n)$, the second case follows by continuity of $\det X(t)$.

Preliminaries: Norms of Matrix-Valued functions. Let I = [a, b] be a closed interval, and denote by $C^0(I, \mathcal{M}_n(\mathbb{R}))$ the set of continuous functions $X : I \to \mathcal{M}_n(\mathbb{R})$. For any fixed number k, we define

(1.5)
$$||X||_{I,k} := \sup \left\{ e^{-kt} |X(t)|_{\mathcal{M}}; t \in I \right\}$$

for $X \in C^0(I, \mathcal{M}_n(\mathbb{R}))$. When $k = 0, ||\cdot||_{I,0}$ is the uniform norm for continuous functions, which is complete. Similarly, one can prove the following in the same way:

 $^{{}^{1}\}mathrm{GL}(n,\mathbb{R}) = \{A \in \mathrm{M}_{n}(\mathbb{R}) ; \det A \neq 0\}$: the general linear group.

²In this lecture, id denotes the identity matrix.

 $^{{}^3}O(n) = \{A \in M_n(\mathbb{R}); {}^tAA = A^tA = id\}: \text{ the orthogonal group; } SO(n) = \{A \in O(n); \det A = 1\}: \text{ the special orthogonal group.}$

Lemma 1.5. The map $||\cdot||_{I,k} \colon C^0(I, \mathcal{M}_n(\mathbb{R}))$ is a complete norm.

Linear Ordinary Differential Equations. We prove the fundamental theorem for *linear* ordinary differential equations.

Proposition 1.6. Let $\Omega(t)$ be a C^{∞} -function valued in $M_n(\mathbb{R})$ defined on an interval I. Then for each $t_0 \in I$, there exists the unique matrix-valued C^{∞} -function $X(t) = X_{t_0, \mathrm{id}}(t)$ such that

(1.6)
$$\frac{dX(t)}{dt} = X(t)\Omega(t), \qquad X(t_0) = \mathrm{id}.$$

Proof. Uniqueness: Assume X(t) and Y(t) satisfy (1.6). Then

$$Y(t) - X(t) = \int_{t_0}^t (Y'(\tau) - X'(\tau)) d\tau$$
$$= \int_{t_0}^t (Y(\tau) - X(\tau)) \Omega(\tau) d\tau$$

holds. Hence for an arbitrary closed interval $J \subset I$,

$$\begin{aligned} |Y(t) - X(t)|_{\mathcal{M}} & \leq \left| \int_{t_0}^t \left| \left(Y(\tau) - X(\tau) \right) \Omega(\tau) \right|_{\mathcal{M}} d\tau \right| \\ & \leq \left| \int_{t_0}^t \left| Y(\tau) - X(\tau) \right|_{\mathcal{M}} \left| \Omega(\tau) \right|_{\mathcal{M}} d\tau \right| \\ & = \left| \int_{t_0}^t e^{-k\tau} \left| Y(\tau) - X(\tau) \right|_{\mathcal{M}} e^{k\tau} \left| \Omega(\tau) \right|_{\mathcal{M}} d\tau \right| \end{aligned}$$

$$\leq ||Y - X||_{J,k} \sup_{J} |\Omega|_{M} \left| \int_{t_{0}}^{t} e^{k\tau} d\tau \right|
= ||Y - X||_{J,k} \frac{\sup_{J} |\Omega|_{M}}{|k|} e^{kt} \left| 1 - e^{-k(t - t_{0})} \right|$$

holds for $t \in J$. Here, setting $J = [t_0, a]$ and $k = 2 \sup_J |\Omega|_{\mathcal{M}}$, we have

$$||Y - X||_{J,k} \le \frac{1}{2}||Y - X||_{J,k},$$

that is, $||Y-X||_{J,k}=0$, proving Y(t)=X(t) for $t\in J$. Similarly, on the interval $J'=[a,t_0]$, we can conclude Y=X on J' setting $k=-2\sup_J |\Omega|_{\mathcal{M}}$. Since J and J' are arbitrary, Y=X holds on I.

Existence: Let $J := [t_0, a] \subset I$ be a closed interval, and define a sequence $\{X_j\}$ of matrix-valued functions defined on I satisfying $X_0(t) = \mathrm{id}$ and

(1.7)
$$X_{j+1}(t) = id + \int_{t_0}^t X_j(\tau) \Omega(\tau) d\tau \quad (j = 0, 1, 2, ...).$$

Let $k := 2 \sup_{J} |\Omega|_{\mathcal{M}}$. Then

$$|X_{j+1}(t) - X_{j}(t)|_{\mathcal{M}} \leq \int_{t_{0}}^{t} |X_{j}(\tau) - X_{j-1}(\tau)|_{\mathcal{M}} |\Omega(\tau)|_{\mathcal{M}} d\tau$$

$$\leq e^{kt} ||X_{j} - X_{j-1}||_{J,k} \frac{\sup_{J} |\Omega|_{\mathcal{M}}}{k} = \frac{e^{kt}}{2} ||X_{j} - X_{j-1}||_{J,k},$$

and hence $||X_{j+1}-X_j||_{J,k} \leq \frac{1}{2}||X_j-X_{j-1}||_{J,k}$, that is, $\{X_j\}$ is a Cauchy sequence with respect to $||\cdot||_{J,k}$. Thus, by completeness

(Lemma 1.5), it converges to some $X \in C^0(J, \mathcal{M}_n(\mathbb{R}))$. By (1.7), the limit X satisfies

$$X(t_0) = \mathrm{id}, \qquad X(t) = \mathrm{id} + \int_{t_0}^t X(\tau) \Omega(\tau) d\tau.$$

Applying the fundamental theorem of calculus, we can see that X satisfies $X'(t) = X(t)\Omega(t)$ (' = d/dt). Since J can be taken arbitrarily, existence of the solution on $I \cap \{t \ge t_0\}$ is proved. Existence of $I \cap \{t \le t_0\}$ can be proved in the same way. So far, existence of a differentiable function X(t) satisfying (1.6) is obtained.

Finally, we shall prove that X is of class C^{∞} . Since $X'(t) = X(t)\Omega(t)$, the derivative X' of X is continuous. Hence X is of class C^1 , and so is $X(t)\Omega(t)$. Thus we have that X'(t) is of class C^1 , and then X is of class C^2 . Iterating this argument, we can prove that X(t) is of class C^r for arbitrary r.

Corollary 1.7. Let $\Omega(t)$ be a matrix-valued C^{∞} -function defined on an interval I. Then for each $t_0 \in I$ and $X_0 \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$, there exists the unique matrix-valued C^{∞} -function $X(t) = X_{t_0,X_0}(t)$ defined on I such that

(1.8)
$$\frac{dX(t)}{dt} = X(t)\Omega(t), \qquad X(t_0) = X_0.$$

In particular, $X_{t_0,X_0}(t)$ is of class C^{∞} in X_0 and t.

Proof. We rewrite X(t) in Proposition 1.6 as $Y(t) = X_{t_0, id}(t)$. Then the function

(1.9)
$$X(t) := X_0 Y(t) = X_0 X_{t_0, id}(t),$$

is desired one. Conversely, assume X(t) satisfies the conclusion. Noticing Y(t) is a regular matrix for all t because of Proposition 1.3,

$$W(t) := X(t)Y(t)^{-1}$$

satisfies

$$\frac{dW}{dt} = \frac{dX}{dt}Y^{-1} - X(t)Y^{-1}\frac{dY}{dt}Y^{-1} = X\Omega Y^{-1} - XY^{-1}Y\Omega Y^{-1} = 0.$$

Hence

$$W(t) = W(t_0) = X(t_0)Y(t_0)^{-1} = X_0.$$

Hence the uniqueness is obtained. The final part is obvious by the expression (1.9).

Proposition 1.8. Let $\Omega(t)$ and B(t) be a matrix-valued C^{∞} -functions defined on I. Then for each $t_0 \in I$ and $X_0 \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$, there exists the unique matrix-valued C^{∞} -function defined on I satisfying

(1.10)
$$\frac{dX(t)}{dt} = X(t)\Omega(t) + B(t), \qquad X(t_0) = X_0.$$

Proof. Rewrite X in Proposition 1.6 as $Y(t) := X_{t_0,id}(t)$. Then

(1.11)
$$X(t) = \left(X_0 + \int_{t_0}^t B(\tau) Y^{-1}(\tau) d\tau\right) Y(t)$$

satisfies (1.10). Conversely, if X satisfies (1.10), $W := XY^{-1}$ satisfies

$$X' = W'Y + WY' = W'Y + WY\Omega, \quad X\Omega + B = WY\Omega + B,$$

$$W = X_0 + \int_{t_0}^t B(\tau) Y^{-1}(\tau) d\tau.$$

Thus we obtain (1.11).

Theorem 1.9. Let I and U be an interval and a domain in \mathbb{R}^m , respectively, and let $\Omega(t, \boldsymbol{\alpha})$ and $B(t, \boldsymbol{\alpha})$ be matrix-valued C^{∞} -functions defined on $I \times U$ ($\boldsymbol{\alpha} = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m)$). Then for each $t_0 \in I$, $\boldsymbol{\alpha} \in U$ and $X_0 \in \mathrm{M}_n(\mathbb{R})$, there exists the unique matrix-valued C^{∞} -function $X(t) = X_{t_0,X_0,\boldsymbol{\alpha}}(t)$ defined on I such that

(1.12)
$$\frac{dX(t)}{dt} = X(t)\Omega(t, \boldsymbol{\alpha}) + B(t, \boldsymbol{\alpha}), \qquad X(t_0) = X_0.$$

Moreover,

$$I \times I \times \mathrm{M}_n(\mathbb{R}) \times U \ni (t, t_0, X_0, \boldsymbol{\alpha}) \mapsto X_{t_0, X_0, \boldsymbol{\alpha}}(t) \in \mathrm{M}_n(\mathbb{R})$$

is C^{∞} -map.

Proof. Let $\widetilde{\Omega}(t, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}) := \Omega(t + t_0, \boldsymbol{\alpha})$ and $\widetilde{B}(t, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}) = B(t + t_0, \boldsymbol{\alpha})$, and let $\widetilde{X}(t) := X(t + t_0)$. Then (1.12) is equivalent to

(1.13)
$$\frac{d\widetilde{X}(t)}{dt} = \widetilde{X}(t)\widetilde{\Omega}(t,\tilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}) + \widetilde{B}(t,\tilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}), \quad \widetilde{X}(0) = X_0,$$

where $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} := (t_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m)$. There exists the unique solution $\widetilde{X}(t) = \widetilde{X}_{\mathrm{id}, X_0, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}}(t)$ of (1.13) for each $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}$ because of Proposition 1.8. So it is sufficient to show differentiability with respect

to the parameter $\tilde{\alpha}$. We set Z = Z(t) as the unique solution of

$$(1.14) \qquad \frac{dZ}{dt} = Z\widetilde{\Omega} + \widetilde{X} \frac{\partial \widetilde{\Omega}}{\partial \alpha_j} + \frac{\partial \widetilde{B}}{\partial \alpha_j}, \qquad Z(0) = O.$$

Then it holds that $Z = \partial \widetilde{X}/\partial \alpha_j$ (Problem 1-1). In particular, by the proof of Proposition 1.8, it holds that

$$Z = \frac{\partial \widetilde{X}}{\partial \alpha_j} = \left(\int_0^t \left(\widetilde{X}(\tau) \frac{\partial \widetilde{\Omega}(\tau, \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}})}{\partial \alpha_j} + \frac{\partial \widetilde{B}(\tau, \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}})}{\partial \alpha_j} \right) Y^{-1}(\tau) d\tau \right) Y(t).$$

Here, Y(t) is the unique matrix-valued C^{∞} -function satisfying $Y'(t) = Y(t)\widetilde{\Omega}(t, \widetilde{\alpha})$, and $Y(0) = \mathrm{id}$. Hence \widetilde{X} is a C^{∞} -function in $(t, \widetilde{\alpha})$.

Fundamental Theorem for Space Curves. As an application, we prove the fundamental theorem for space curves. A C^{∞} -map $\gamma \colon I \to \mathbb{R}^3$ defined on an interval $I \in \mathbb{R}$ into \mathbb{R}^3 is said to be a regular curve if $\dot{\gamma} \neq \mathbf{0}$ holds on I. For a regular curve $\gamma(t)$, there exists a parameter change t = t(s) such that $\tilde{\gamma}(s) := \gamma(t(s))$ satisfies $|\tilde{\gamma}'(s)| = 1$. Such a parameter s is called the arc-length parameter.

Let $\gamma(s)$ be a regular curve in \mathbb{R}^3 parametrized by the arclength satisfying $\gamma''(s) \neq \mathbf{0}$ for all s. Then

$$oldsymbol{e}(s) := \gamma'(s), \qquad oldsymbol{n}(s) := rac{\gamma''(s)}{|\gamma''(s)|}, \qquad oldsymbol{b}(s) := oldsymbol{e}(oldsymbol{s}) imes oldsymbol{n}(s)$$

forms a positively oriented orthonormal basis $\{e, n, b\}$ of \mathbb{R}^3 for each s. Regarding each vector as column vector, we have the

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(1.15)
$$\mathcal{F}(s) := (e(s), n(s), b(s)) \in SO(3).$$

in s, which is called the *Frenet frame* associated to the curve γ . Under the situation above, we set

$$\kappa(s) := |\gamma''(s)| > 0, \qquad \tau(s) := -\langle \boldsymbol{b}'(s), \boldsymbol{n}(s) \rangle,$$

which is called the *curvature* and *torsion*, respectively, of γ . Using these quantities, the Frenet frame satisfies

(1.16)
$$\frac{d\mathcal{F}}{ds} = \mathcal{F}\Omega, \qquad \Omega = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\kappa & 0 \\ \kappa & 0 & -\tau \\ 0 & \tau & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Proposition 1.10. The curvature and the torsion are invariant under the transformation $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}$ of \mathbb{R}^3 ($A \in SO(3)$, $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^3$). Conversely, two curves $\gamma_1(s)$, $\gamma_2(s)$ parametrized by arc-length parameter have common curvature and torsion, there exist $A \in SO(3)$ and $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ such that $\gamma_2 = A\gamma_1 + \mathbf{b}$.

Proof. Let κ , τ and \mathcal{F}_1 be the curvature, torsion and the Frenet frame of γ_1 , respectively. Then the Frenet frame of $\gamma_2 = A\gamma_1 + \boldsymbol{b}$ $(A \in SO(3), \boldsymbol{b} \in \mathbb{R}^3)$ is $\mathcal{F}_2 = A\mathcal{F}_1$. Hence both \mathcal{F}_1 and \mathcal{F}_2 satisfy (1.16), and then γ_1 and γ_2 have common curvature and torsion.

Conversely, assume γ_1 and γ_2 have common curvature and torsion. Then the frenet frame \mathcal{F}_1 , \mathcal{F}_2 both satisfy (1.16). Let \mathcal{F} be the unique solution of (1.16) with $\mathcal{F}(t_0) = \mathrm{id}$. Then by the proof of Corollary 1.7, we have $\mathcal{F}_j(t) = \mathcal{F}_j(t_0)\mathcal{F}(t)$ (j = 1, 2). In particular, since $\mathcal{F}_j \in \mathrm{SO}(3)$, $\mathcal{F}_2(t) = A\mathcal{F}_1(t)$ (A := 1, 2)

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 $\mathcal{F}_2(t_0)\mathcal{F}_1(t_0)^{-1} \in SO(3)$). Comparing the first column of these, $\gamma_2'(s) = A\gamma_1'(t)$ holds. Integrating this, the conclusion follows.

Theorem 1.11 (The fundamental theorem for space curves). For given C^{∞} -functions $\kappa(s)$ and $\tau(s)$ defined on I such that $\kappa(s) > 0$ on I. Then there exists a space curve $\gamma(s)$ parametrized by arc-length whose curvature and torsion are κ and τ , respectively. Moreover, such a curve is unique up to transformation $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b} \ (A \in \mathrm{SO}(3), \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^3)$ of \mathbb{R}^3 .

Proof. We have already shown the uniqueness in Proposition 1.10. We shall prove the existence: Let $\Omega(s)$ be as in (1.16), and $\mathcal{F}(s)$ the solution of (1.16) with $\mathcal{F}(s_0) = \mathrm{id}$. Since Ω is skew-symmetric, $\mathcal{F}(s) \in \mathrm{SO}(3)$ by Proposition 1.4. Denoting the column vectors of \mathcal{F} by $\boldsymbol{e}, \boldsymbol{n}, \boldsymbol{b}$, and let

$$\gamma(s) := \int_{s_0}^s \mathbf{e}(\sigma) \, d\sigma.$$

Then \mathcal{F} is the frenet frame of γ , and κ , and τ are the curvature and torsion of γ , respectively (Problem 1-2).

Exercises

- **1-1** Verify that Z in (1.14) coincides with $\partial \widetilde{X}/\partial \alpha_j$.
- **1-2** Complete the proof of Theorem 1.11.