

# Weighted Sharing and Uniqueness of Entire Functions whose Difference Polynomials Sharing a Polynomial of Certain Degree

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**Abstract.** *In this paper, we deal with the uniqueness problem of an entire functions whose difference polynomials sharing a polynomial of certain degree with finite weight. This paper extends and improves some classical results obtained by A. Banerjee and S. Majumder [20].*

**Keywords:** Difference polynomials, Entire function, Weighted Sharing etc.,

## I. Introduction and Main Results

In this paper by meromorphic functions we shall always mean meromorphic functions in the complex plane. Let  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$  be two non-constant meromorphic functions and let  $a \in \mathbb{C}$ . We say that  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$  share  $a$  CM, provided that  $f(z) - a$  and  $g(z) - a$  have the same zeros with the same multiplicities. Similarly, we say that  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$  share  $a$  IM, provided that  $f(z) - a$  and  $g(z) - a$  have the same zeros with ignoring multiplicities. In addition we say that  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$  share  $\infty$  CM if  $\frac{1}{f(z)}$  and  $\frac{1}{g(z)}$  share 0 CM, and we say that  $f$  and  $g$  share  $\infty$  IM, if  $\frac{1}{f(z)}$  and  $\frac{1}{g(z)}$  share 0 IM. We adopt the standard notations of value distribution theory (see [6]). For a non-constant meromorphic function  $f(z)$ , we denote by  $T(r, f)$  the Nevanlinna characteristic of  $f(z)$  and by  $S(r, f)$  any quantity satisfying  $S(r, f) = o\{T(r, f)\}$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$  possibly outside a set of finite linear measure. We denote by  $T(r)$  the maximum of  $T(r, f)$  and  $T(r, g)$ . The notation  $S(r)$  denotes any quantity satisfying  $S(r) = o(T(r))$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ , outside of a possible exceptional set of finite linear measure. A meromorphic function  $a(z)$  is called a small function with respect to  $f(z)$ , provided that  $T(r, a) = S(r, f)$ . The order of  $f(z)$  is defined by

$$\sigma(f) = 1 - \overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log T(r, f)}{\log r}.$$

Let  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$  be two non-constant meromorphic functions. Let  $a(z)$  be a small function with respect to  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$ . We say that  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$  share  $a(z)$  CM (counting multiplicities) if  $f(z) - a$  and  $g(z) - a$  have the same zeros with the same multiplicities and we say that  $f(z)$ ,  $g(z)$  share  $a(z)$  IM (ignoring multiplicities) if we do not consider the multiplicities. We say that a finite value  $z_0$  is called a fixed point of  $f(z)$  if  $f(z_0) = z_0$  or  $z_0$  is a zero of  $f(z) - z$ . For the sake of simplicity we also use the notation

$$m^* := \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } m = 0 \\ m, & \text{if } m \in \mathbb{N}. \end{cases}$$

Let  $f(z)$  be a transcendental meromorphic function,  $n$  be a positive integer. During the last few decades many authors investigated the value distributions of  $f^n f'$ .

In 1959, W. K. Hayman (see [5]) proved the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.** [5] *Let  $f$  be a transcendental meromorphic function and  $n (\geq 3)$  is an integer. Then  $f^n f' = 1$  has infinitely many solutions.*

The case  $n = 2$  was settled by Mues [14] in 1979. Bergweiler and Eremenko [1] showed that  $f^n f' - 1$  has infinitely many zeros. For an analogue of the above results Laine and Yang investigated the value distribution of difference products of entire functions in the following manner.

**Theorem 2.** [10] *Let  $f$  be a transcendental entire function of finite order, and  $c$  be a non-zero complex constants. Then, for  $n \geq 2$ ,  $f^n f(z + c)$  assumes every non-zero value  $a \in \mathbb{C}$  infinitely often.*

Afterwards, Liu and Yang [13] improved Theorem 2 and obtained next result.

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $f$  be a transcendental entire function of finite order, and  $c$  be a non-zero complex constant. Then, for  $n \geq 2$ ,  $f^n f(z + c) - p(z)$  has infinitely many zeros, where  $p(z)$  is a non-zero polynomial.*

Next we recall the uniqueness result corresponding to Theorem 1, obtained by Yang and Hua [17] which may be considered a gateway to a new research in the direction of sharing values of differential polynomials.

**Theorem 4.** *Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two non-constant entire functions,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $n \geq 6$ . If  $f^n f'$  and  $g^n g'$  share 1 CM, then either  $f(z) = c_1 e^{cz}$ ,  $g(z) = c_2 e^{-cz}$  where  $c_1, c_2, c \in \mathbb{C}$  satisfying  $4(c_1 c_2)^{n+1} c^2 = -1$ , or  $f \equiv tg$  for a constant  $t$  such that  $t^{n+1} = 1$ .*

In 2001, Fang and Hong [4] studied the uniqueness of differential polynomials of the form  $f^n(f - 1)f'$  and proved the following result.

**Theorem 5.** [4] *Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two non-constant entire functions, and let  $n \geq 11$  be a positive integer. If  $f^n(f - 1)f'$  and  $g^n(g - 1)g'$  share the value 1 CM, then  $f \equiv g$ .*

In 2004, Lin and Yi [12] extended the above result in view of the fixed point and they proved the following.

**Theorem 6.** [12] *Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two non-constant entire functions, and let  $n \geq 7$  be a positive integer. If  $f^n(f - 1)f'$  and  $g^n(g - 1)g'$  share the value  $z$  CM, then  $f \equiv g$ .*

In 2010, Zhang [19] got a analogue result in difference

**Theorem 7.** [19] *Let  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$  be two transcendental entire functions of finite order and  $\alpha(z)$  be a small function with respect to both  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$ . Suppose that  $c$  is a non-zero complex constant and  $n \geq 7$  is an integer. If  $f^n(f - 1)f(z + c)$  and  $g^n(g - 1)g(z + c)$  share  $\alpha(z)$  CM, then  $f(z) \equiv g(z)$ .*

In 2010, Qi, Yang and Liu [15] obtained the difference counterpart of Theorem 4 by proving the following theorem.

**Theorem 8.** [15] *Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two transcendental entire functions of finite order, and  $c$  be a non-zero complex constant, let  $n \geq 6$  be an integer. If  $f^n f(z+c)$  and  $g^n g(z+c)$  share  $z$  CM, then  $f \equiv t_1 g$  for a constant  $t_1$  satisfies  $t_1^{n+1} = 1$ .*

**Theorem 9.** [15] *Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two transcendental entire functions of finite order, and  $c$  be a non-zero complex constant, let  $n \geq 6$  be an integer. If  $f^n f(z+c)$  and  $g^n g(z+c)$  share 1 CM, then  $fg = t_2$  or  $f \equiv t_3 g$  for some constants  $t_2$  and  $t_3$  that satisfy  $t_3^{n+1} = 1$ .*

In 2020, A. Banerjee and S. Majumder [20] proved the following result.

**Theorem 10.** *Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two transcendental entire functions of finite order,  $c$  be a non-zero complex constant and let  $p(z)$  be a non-zero polynomial with  $\deg(p) \leq n-1$ ,  $n(\geq 1)$ ,  $m^*(\geq 0)$  be two integers such that  $n > m^* + 5$ . Let  $P(\omega) = a_m \omega^m + a_{m-1} \omega^{m-1} + \dots + a_1 \omega + a_0$  be a non-zero polynomial. If  $f^n P(f) f(z+c) - p$  and  $g^n P(g) g(z+c) - p$  share  $(0, 2)$  then*

(I) *when  $P(\omega) = a_m \omega^m + a_{m-1} \omega^{m-1} + \dots + a_1 \omega + a_0$  is a non-zero polynomial, one of the following three cases holds.*

(II)  *$f \equiv tg$  for a constant  $t$  such that  $t^d = 1$ , where  $d = \text{GCD}(n+m, \dots, n+m-i, \dots, n)$  and  $a_{m-i} \neq 0$  for some  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ ,*

(II2)  *$f$  and  $g$  satisfy the algebraic equation  $R(f, g) \equiv 0$ , where  $R(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \omega_1(a_m \omega_1^n + \dots + a_0) - \omega_2(a_m \omega_2^n + \dots + a_0)$ ,*

(II3)  *$P(\omega)$  reduces to a non-zero monomial, viz.,  $P(\omega) = a_i \omega^i \neq 0$ , for  $i \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, m\}$  if  $p(z)$  is a non-zero constant  $b$ , then we have  $f = e^{\alpha(z)}$  and  $g = e^{\beta(z)}$  where  $\alpha, \beta$  are two non-constant polynomials such that  $\alpha + \beta \equiv d \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $a_i^2 e^{(n_i+1)d} = b^2$ ;*

(II) *when  $P(\omega) = \omega^m - 1$ , then  $f \equiv tg$  for some constant  $t$  such that  $t^m = 1$ ;*

(III) *when  $P(\omega) = (\omega - 1)^m$ , ( $m \geq 2$ ) one of the following two cases holds:*

(III1)  *$f \equiv g$ ,*

(III2)  *$f$  and  $g$  satisfy the algebraic equation  $R(f, g) \equiv 0$ , where  $R(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \omega_1(a_m \omega_1^n + \dots + a_0) - \omega_2(a_m \omega_2^n + \dots + a_0)$ ;*

(IV) *when  $P(\omega) \equiv c_0$  one of the following two cases holds:*

(IV1)  *$f \equiv tg$  for some constant  $t$  such that  $t^{n+1} = 1$ ,*

(IV2)  *$f = e^{\alpha(z)}$  and  $g = e^{\beta(z)}$  where  $\alpha, \beta$  are two non-constant polynomials such that  $\alpha + \beta = d \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $c_0^2 e^{(n+1)d} = b^2$ .*

In this paper we are replacing  $f(z+c)$  by  $\sum_{j=1}^p a_j f(z+c_j)$  and obtained the following result.

**Theorem 11.** Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two transcendental entire functions of finite order,  $c$  be a non-zero complex constant and let  $p(z)$  be a non-zero polynomial with  $\deg(p) \leq n - 1$ ,  $n(\geq 1)$ ,  $m^*(\geq 0)$  be two integers such that  $n > m^* + p + 4$ . Let  $P(\omega) = a_m\omega^m + a_{m-1}\omega^{m-1} + \dots + a_1\omega + a_0$  be a non-zero polynomial. If  $f^n P(f) \sum_{j=1}^p a_j f(z + c_j) - p$  and  $g^n P(g) \sum_{j=1}^p a_j g(z + c_j) - p$  share  $(0, 2)$  then

(I) when  $p(\omega) = a_m\omega^m + a_{m-1}\omega^{m-1} + \dots + a_1\omega + a_0$  is a non-zero polynomial, one of the following three cases holds.

(I1)  $f \equiv tg$  for a constant  $t$  such that  $t^d = 1$ , where  $d = \text{GCD}(n + m + p, \dots, n + m + p - i, \dots, n)$  and  $a_{m-i} \neq 0$  for some  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ ,

(I2)  $f$  and  $g$  satisfy the algebraic equation  $R(f, g) \equiv 0$ , where

$$R(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \omega_1(a_m\omega_1^n + \dots + a_0) - \omega_2(a_m\omega_2^n + \dots + a_0),$$

(I3)  $P(\omega)$  reduces to a non-zero monomial, viz.,  $P(\omega) = a_i\omega^i \neq 0$ , for  $i \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, m\}$  if  $p(z)$  is a non-zero constant  $b$ , then we have  $f = e^{\alpha(z)}$  and  $g = e^{\beta(z)}$  where  $\alpha, \beta$  are two non-constant polynomials such that  $\alpha + \beta \equiv d \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $a_i^2 e^{(n_i+p)d} = b^2$ ;

(II) when  $P(\omega) = \omega^m - 1$ , then  $f \equiv tg$  for some constant  $t$  such that  $t^m = 1$ ;

(III) when  $p(\omega) = (\omega - 1)^m$ , ( $m \geq 2$ ) one of the following two cases holds:

(III1)  $f \equiv g$ ,

(III2)  $f$  and  $g$  satisfy the algebraic equation  $R(f, g) \equiv 0$ , where

$$R(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \omega_1(a_m\omega_1^n + \dots + a_0) - \omega_2(a_m\omega_2^n + \dots + a_0);$$

(IV) when  $P(\omega) \equiv c_0$  one of the following two cases holds:

(IV1)  $f \equiv tg$  for some constant  $t$  such that  $t^{n+1} = 1$ ,

(IV2)  $f = e^{\alpha(z)}$  and  $g = e^{\beta(z)}$  where  $\alpha, \beta$  are two non-constant polynomials such that  $\alpha + \beta = d \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $c_0^2 e^{(n+p)d} = b^2$ .

## II. Auxiliary Definitions

**Definition 1.** [7] Let  $a \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$ . For a positive integer  $p$  we denote by  $N(r, a; f| \leq p)$  the counting function of those  $a$ -points of  $f$  (counted with multiplicities) whose multiplicities are not greater than  $p$ . By  $\overline{N}(r, a; f| \leq p)$  we denote the corresponding reduced counting function. In an analogous manner we can define  $N(r, a; f| \geq p)$  and  $\overline{N}(r, a; f| \geq p)$ .

**Definition 2.** [9] Let  $k$  be a positive integer or infinity. We denote by  $N_k(r, a; f)$  the counting function of  $a$ - points of  $f$  where an  $a$ - point of multiplicity  $m$  is counted  $m$  times if  $m \leq k$  and  $k$  times if  $m > k$ . Then

$$N_k(r, a; f) = \overline{N}(r, a; f) + \overline{N}_{(2)}(r, a; f) + \dots + \overline{N}_{(k)}(r, a; f).$$

Clearly,  $N_1(r, a; f) = \overline{N}(r, a; f)$ .

**Definition 3.** [8], [9] Let  $k$  be a positive integer or infinity. For  $a \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$  we denote by  $E_k(a; f)$  the set of all  $a$ -points of  $f$  where an  $a$ -point of multiplicity  $m$  is counted  $m$  times if  $m \leq k$  and  $k + 1$  times if  $m > k$ . If  $E_k(a; f) = E_k(a; g)$  we say that  $f, g$  share the value  $a$  with weight  $k$ . The definition implies that if  $f, g$  share a value  $a$  with weight  $k$ , then  $z_0$  is an  $a$ -point of  $f$  with multiplicity  $m(\leq k)$  if and only if it is an  $a$ -point of  $g$  with multiplicity  $m(\leq k)$  and  $z_0$  is an  $a$ -point of  $f$  with multiplicity  $m(> k)$  if and only if it is an  $a$ -point of  $g$  with multiplicity  $n(> k)$ , where  $m$  is not necessarily equal to  $n$ . We write  $f, g$  share  $(a, k)$  to mean that  $f, g$  share the value  $a$  with weight  $k$ . Clearly, if  $f, g$  share  $(a, k)$  then  $f, g$  share  $(a, p)$  for any integer  $p, 0 \leq p < k$ . Also we note that  $f, g$  share a value  $a$  IM or CM if and only if  $f, g$  share  $(a, 0)$  or  $(a, \infty)$  respectively.

### III. Lemmas

**Lemma 1.** [16] Let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function, and let  $a_n (\neq 0), a_{n-1}, \dots, a_0$  be meromorphic functions such that  $T(r, a_i) = S(r, f)$  for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n$ . Then

$$T(r, a_n f^n + a_{n-1} f^{n-1} + \dots + a_0) = nT(r, f) + S(r, f).$$

**Lemma 2.** [2] Let  $f$  be a meromorphic function of finite order  $\sigma$ , and let  $c$  be fixed non-zero complex constant. Then for each  $\epsilon > 0$ , we have

$$m\left(r, \frac{f(z+c)}{f(z)}\right) + m\left(r, \frac{f(z)}{f(z+c)}\right) = O(r^{\sigma-1+\epsilon}).$$

**Lemma 3.** [2] Let  $f$  be a meromorphic function of finite order  $\sigma, c \neq 0$  be fixed. Then for each  $\epsilon > 0$ , we have

$$T(r, f(z+c)) = O(r^{\sigma-1+\epsilon}).$$

**Lemma 4.** Let  $f$  be an entire function of finite order  $\sigma, c$  be a fixed non-zero complex constant and let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $P(\omega)$  be defined as in Theorem 10. Then for each  $\epsilon > 0$ , we have

$$T(r, f^n P(f) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z+c_j)) = T(r, f^{n+p} P(f)) + O(r^{\sigma-1+\epsilon}).$$

*Proof.* By Lemma 2 we have

$$\begin{aligned} T(r, f^n P(f) f(z+c)) &= m\left(r, f^n P(f) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z+c_j)\right) \\ &\leq m\left(r, f^n P(f) f\right) + m\left(r, \frac{\sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z+c_j)}{f(z)}\right) \\ &\leq m\left(r, f^{n+p} P(f)\right) + O(r^{\sigma-1+\epsilon}) \\ &\leq T(r, f^{n+p} P(f)) + O(r^{\sigma-1+\epsilon}). \end{aligned}$$

Also, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(r, f^{n+p}P(f)) &= m(r, f^n P(f) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j)) \\
 &\leq m\left(r, f^n P(f) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j)\right) + m\left(r, \frac{\sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j)}{f(z)}\right) \\
 &\leq m\left(r, f^n P(f) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j)\right) + O(r^{\sigma-1+\epsilon}) \\
 &\leq m\left(r, f^n P(f) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j)\right) + O(r^{\sigma-1+\epsilon}) \leq T\left(r, f^n P(f) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j)\right) + O(r^{\sigma-1+\epsilon}).
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$T(r, f^{n+p}P(f)) = T\left(r, f^n P(f) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j)\right) + O(r^{\sigma-1+\epsilon}).$$

□

**Remark 1.** Under the conditions of Lemma 4, by Lemma 1 we have  $S\left(r, f^n P(f) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j)\right) = S(r, f)$ .

**Lemma 5.** ([3]) Let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function of finite order and  $c \in \mathbb{C}$ . Then

$$N(r, 0; f(z + c)) = N(r, 0; f) + S(r, f).$$

$$\bar{N}(r, 0; f(z + c)) = \bar{N}(r, 0; f) + S(r, f).$$

$$N(r, \infty; f(z + c)) = N(r, \infty; f) + S(r, f).$$

$$\bar{N}(r, \infty; f(z + c)) = \bar{N}(r, \infty; f) + S(r, f).$$

**Lemma 6.** Let  $f$  be transcendental entire function of finite order  $\sigma$ ,  $c$  be a fixed non-zero complex constant,  $n(\geq 1)$ ,  $m^*(\geq 0)$  be two integers and let  $a(z)(\neq 0, \infty)$  be a small function with respect to  $f$ . If  $n > 1$ , then  $f^n P(f) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j) - \alpha(z)$  has infinitely many zeros.

*Proof.* Let  $\phi = f^n P(f) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j)$ . Now in view of Lemma 5 and second fundamental theorem of small functions (see [18]) we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(r, \phi) &= \bar{N}(r, 0; \phi) + \bar{N}(r, \infty; \phi) + \bar{N}(r, a; \phi) + (\epsilon + o(1)) + T(r, f) \\
 &\leq \bar{N}(r, 0; f^n P(f)) + \bar{N}\left(r, 0; \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j)\right) + \bar{N}(r, a; \phi) + (\epsilon + o(1)) + T(r, f) \\
 &\leq 2\bar{N}(r, 0; f) + \bar{N}(r, 0; P(f)) + \bar{N}(r, a; \phi) + (\epsilon + o(1)) + T(r, f) \\
 &\leq (p + m^* + 1)T(r, f) + \bar{N}(r, a; \phi) + (\epsilon + o(1)) + T(r, f).
 \end{aligned}$$

for all  $\epsilon > 0$ . From Lemmas 1 and 4 we get

$$(n + m^* + p)T(r, f) \leq (p + m^* + 1)T(r, f) + \bar{N}(r, a; \phi) + (\epsilon + o(1)) + T(r, f).$$

Take  $\epsilon < 1$ . Since  $n > 1$  from the above one can easily say that  $\phi - a(z)$  has infinitely many zeros. This completes the Lemma.  $\square$

**Lemma 7.** [9] *Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two non-constant meromorphic functions sharing (1, 2). Then one of the following holds.*

- (i)  $T(r, f) \leq N_2(r, 0; f) + N_2(r, 0; g) + N_2(r, \infty; f) + N_2(r, \infty; g) + S(r, f) + S(r, g)$ .
- (ii)  $fg \equiv 1$ .
- (iii)  $f \equiv g$ .

**Lemma 8.** [Hadamard Factorization Theorem]. *Let  $f$  be an entire function of finite order  $\rho$  with zeros  $a_1, \dots$  each zeros is counted as often as its multiplicity. Then  $f$  can be expressed in the form*

$$f(z) = Q(z)e^{\alpha(z)},$$

where  $\alpha(z)$  is a polynomial of degree not exceeding  $\rho$  and  $Q(z)$  is the canonical product formed with the zeros of  $f$ .

**Lemma 9.** *Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two transcendental entire functions of finite order,  $c \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$  and  $p(z)$  be a non-zero polynomial such that  $\deg(p) \leq n - 1$ , where  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $P(\omega)$  be a non-zero polynomial defined as in Theorem 10. Suppose*

$$f^n P(f) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j) g^n P(g) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j g(z + c_j) \equiv p^2.$$

Then  $P(\omega)$  reduces to a non-zero monomial, namely  $P(\omega) = a_i \omega^i \neq 0$ , for  $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, m\}$ . If  $p(z) = b \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ , then  $f(z) = e^{\alpha(z)}$ ,  $g(z) = e^{\beta(z)}$ , where  $\alpha(z)$ ,  $\beta(z)$  are two non-constant polynomials such that  $\alpha + \beta \equiv d \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $a_i^2 e^{(n+i+p)d} = b^2$ .

*Proof.* Suppose

$$(0.1) \quad f^n P(f) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j) g^n P(g) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j g(z + c_j) \equiv p^2.$$

We consider the following cases:

**Case 1.** Let  $\deg(p(z)) = l (\geq 1)$ . From the assumption that  $f$  and  $g$  are two transcendental entire functions, we deduce by (0.1) that  $N(r, 0; f^n P(f)) = O(\log r)$  and  $N(r, 0; g^n P(g)) = O(\log r)$ . First we suppose that  $P(\omega)$  is not a non-zero monomial. for the sake of simplicity let  $P(\omega) = \omega - a$  where  $a \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$  clearly

$\Theta(0; f) + \Theta(a; f) = 2$  which is impossible for an entire function. Thus  $P(\omega)$  reduces to a non-zero monomial, namely  $P(\omega) \not\equiv a_i \omega^i$  for some  $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, m\}$  and so (0.1) reduces to

$$(0.2) \quad a_1^2 f^{n+i} \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j) g^{n+i} \sum_{j=0}^p a_j g(z + c_j) \equiv p^2.$$

From (0.2) it follows that  $N(r, 0; f) = O(\log r)$  and  $N(r, 0; g) = O(\log r)$ . Now by Lemma 8 we obtain that  $f = h_1 e^{\alpha_1}$  and  $g = h_2 e^{\beta_1}$ , where  $h_1, h_2$  are two non-zero polynomials. By virtue of the polynomials  $p(z)$ , from (0.2) we arrive at a contradiction.

**Case 2.** Let  $p(z) = b \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ . Then from (0.1) we have

$$(0.3) \quad f^n P(f) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j) = g^n P(g) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j g(z + c_j) \equiv b^2.$$

Now from the assumption that  $f$  and  $g$  are two non-constant entire functions, we deduce by (0.3) that  $f^n P(f) \neq 0$  and  $g^n P(g) \neq 0$ . By Picard's Theorem, we claim that  $P(\omega) = a_i \omega^i$  for  $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, m\}$ , otherwise the Picard's exceptional values are atleast three, which is a contradiction. Then (0.3) reduces to

$$(0.4) \quad a_i^2 f^{n+i} \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j) g^{n+i} \sum_{j=0}^p a_j g(z + c_j) \equiv b^2.$$

Hence by Lemma 8 we obtain that

$$(0.5) \quad f = e^{\alpha(z)}, \quad g = e^{\beta(z)},$$

where  $\alpha(z), \beta(z)$  are two non-constant polynomials. Now from (0.4) and (0.5) we obtain

$$(n + i)(\alpha(z) + \beta(z)) + \sum_{j=0}^p a_j \alpha(z + c_j) + \sum_{j=0}^p a_j \beta(z + c_j) \equiv d_1.$$

where  $d_1 \in \mathbb{C}$ , i.e.,

$$(0.6) \quad (n + i)(\alpha'(z) + \beta'(z)) + \sum_{j=0}^p a_j \alpha'(z + c_j) + \sum_{j=0}^p a_j \beta'(z + c_j) \equiv 0.$$

Let  $\gamma(z) = \alpha'(z) + \beta'(z)$ . Then from (0.6) we have

$$(0.7) \quad (n + i)\gamma(z) + \sum_{j=0}^p a_j \gamma(z + c_j) \equiv 0.$$

We assert that  $\gamma(z) \equiv 0$ . It is not suppose  $\gamma \not\equiv 0$ . Note that if  $\gamma(z) \equiv d_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ , from (0.7) we must have  $d_2 = 0$ . Suppose that  $\deg(\gamma) \geq 1$ . Let  $\gamma(z) = \sum_{j=1}^m b_j z^j$ , where  $b_m \neq 0$ . Therefore the co-efficient of  $z^m$  in

$(n + i)\gamma(z) + \sum_{j=0}^p a_j \gamma(z + c_j)$  is  $(n + p + i)b_m \neq 0$ . Thus we arrive at a contradiction from (0.7). Hence  $\gamma(z) \equiv 0$ , i.e.,  $\alpha + \beta \equiv d \in \mathbb{C}$ . Also from (0.4) we have  $a_i^2 e^{(n+i+p)d} = b^2$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$



**Lemma 10.** Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two transcendental entire functions of finite order,  $c \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$  and  $p(z)$  be a non-zero polynomial such that  $\deg(p) \leq n - 1$ , where  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $P(\omega)$  be defined as in Theorem 10 with atleast two of  $a_i$ ,  $i = 0, 1, \dots, m$  are non-zero. Then

$$f^n P(f) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j) g^n P(g) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j g(z + c_j) \not\equiv p^2.$$

*Proof.* Proof of the Lemma follows from Lemma 9. □

**Lemma 11.** Let  $f, g$  be two transcendental entire functions of finite order,  $c \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $n > 1$ . If  $f^n P(f) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j) \equiv g^n P(g) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j g(z + c_j)$  where  $P(\omega)$  is defined as in Theorem 10 then

(I) when  $p(\omega) = a_m \omega^m + a_{m-1} \omega^{m-1} + \dots + a_1 \omega + a_0$ , one of the following two cases holds:

(II)  $f \equiv tg$  for a constant  $t$  such that  $t^d = 1$ , where  $d = \text{GCD}(n + m, \dots, n + m - i, \dots, n)$ ,  $a_{m-i} \neq 0$  for some  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ ,

(I2)  $f$  and  $g$  satisfy the algebraic equation  $R(f, g) \equiv 0$ , where

$$R(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \omega_1 P(\omega_1) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j \omega_1(z + c_j) - \omega_2 P(\omega_2) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j \omega_2(z + c_j).$$

(II) when  $P(\omega) = \omega^m - 1$ , then  $f \equiv tg$  for some constant  $t$  such that  $t^m = 1$ ;

(III) when  $p(\omega) = (\omega - 1)^m$ , ( $m \geq 2$ ) one of the following two cases holds:

(III1)  $f \equiv g$ ,

(III2)  $f$  and  $g$  satisfy the algebraic equation  $R(f, g) \equiv 0$ , where

$$R(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \omega_1^n (\omega_1 - 1)^m \sum_{j=0}^p a_j \omega_1(z + c_j) - \omega_2^n (\omega_2 - 1)^m \sum_{j=0}^p a_j \omega_2(z + c_j);$$

(IV) when  $P(\omega) \equiv c_0$  then  $f \equiv tg$  for some constant  $t$  such that  $t^{n+1} = 1$ .

*Proof.* Suppose

$$(0.8) \quad f^n P(f) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j) \equiv g^n P(g) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j g(z + c_j).$$

Since  $g$  is transcendental entire function, hence  $g(z), \sum_{j=0}^p a_j g(z + c_j) \not\equiv 0$ . We consider following two cases.

**Case 1.**  $P(\omega) \equiv c_0$ . Let  $h = \frac{f}{g}$ . If  $h$  is a constant, by putting  $f = hg$  in (0.8) we get

$$a_m g^m (h^{m+n+p} - 1) + a_{m-1} g^{m-1} (h^{m+n} - 1) + \dots + a_0 (h^{n+1} - 1) \equiv 0,$$

which implies that  $h^d = 1$ , where  $d = \text{GCD}(n + m + p, \dots, n + m + p - i, \dots, n + 1)$ ,  $a_{m-i} \neq 0$  for some  $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, m\}$ . Thus  $f \equiv tg$  for a constant  $t$  such that  $t^d = 1$ , where  $d = \text{GCD}(n + m + p, \dots, n + m +$

$p - i, \dots, n + 1)$ ,  $a_{m-i} \neq 0$  for some  $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, m\}$ . If  $h$  is not a constant, we know by (0.8) that  $f$  and  $g$  satisfy the algebraic equation  $R(f, g) \equiv 0$ , where

$$R(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \omega_1^n P(\omega_1) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j \omega_1(z + c_j) - \omega_2^n P(\omega_2) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j \omega_2(z + c_j).$$

We now discuss the following subcases.

**Subcase 1.**  $P(\omega) = \omega - 1$ . Then from (0.8) we have

$$(0.9) \quad f^n(f^m - 1) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j) \equiv g^n(g^m - 1) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j g(z + c_j).$$

Let  $h = \frac{f}{g}$ . clearly from (0.9) we get

$$(0.10) \quad g^m [h^{m+n} \sum_{j=0}^p a_j h(z + c_j) - 1] \equiv h^n \sum_{j=0}^p a_j h(z + c_j) - 1.$$

First we suppose that  $h$  is non-constant. We assert that  $h^{m+n} \sum_{j=0}^p a_j h(z + c_j)$  is a non-constant. If not let

$h^{m+n} \sum_{j=0}^p a_j h(z + c_j) \equiv c_1 \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ . Then we have

$$h^{n+m} \equiv \frac{c_1}{\sum_{j=0}^p a_j h(z + c_j)}.$$

Now by Lemmas 1 and refL3 we get

$$(n + m)T(r, h) \leq T(r, \sum_{j=0}^p a_j h(z + c_j)) + S(r, h),$$

which contradicts with  $n > m + p + 4$ . Thus from (0.10) we have

$$(0.11) \quad g^m \equiv \frac{h^n \sum_{j=0}^p a_j h(z + c_j) - 1}{h^{m+n} \sum_{j=0}^p a_j h(z + c_j) - 1}.$$

Let  $z_0$  be a zero of  $h^{m+n} \sum_{j=0}^p a_j h(z + c_j) - 1$ . Since  $g$  is an entire function, it follows that  $z_0$  is also a zero of

$h^n \sum_{j=0}^p a_j h(z + c_j) - 1$ . Consequently  $z_0$  is a zero of  $h^m - 1$  and so

$$\overline{N}(r, 0; h^{m+n} \sum_{j=0}^p a_j h(z + c_j)) \leq \overline{N}(r, 0; h^m) \leq mT(r, h) + O(1).$$

So in view of Lemmas 1, 4, 5 and second fundamental theorem we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 (n + m + p)T(r, h) &= T(r, h^{m+n} \sum_{j=0}^p a_j h(z + c_j)) + S(r, h) \\
 &\leq \overline{N}(r, 0; h^{m+n} \sum_{j=0}^p a_j h(z + c_j)) + \overline{N}(r, 1; h^{m+n} \sum_{j=0}^p a_j h(z + c_j)) + S(r, h) \\
 &\leq N(r, 0; h) + mT(r, h) + pT(r, h) + S(r, h) \\
 &\leq (m + p + 1)T(r, h) + S(r, h),
 \end{aligned}$$

which contradicts with  $n > 1$ . Hence  $h$  is a constant. Since  $g$  is transcendental entire function, from (0.10) we have

$$h^{n+m} \sum_{j=0}^p a_j h(z + c_j) - 1 \equiv 0 \iff h^n \sum_{j=0}^p a_j h(z + c_j) - 1 \equiv 0$$

and so  $h^m = 1$ . Thus  $f = tg$  for a constant  $t$  such that  $t^m = 1$ .

**Subcase 2.** Let  $P(\omega) = (\omega - 1)^m$ . Then from (0.8) we have

$$(0.12) \quad f^n (f - 1)^m \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j) = g^n (g - 1)^m \sum_{j=0}^p a_j g(z + c_j).$$

Let  $h = \frac{f}{g}$ . If  $m = 1$ , then the result follows from Subcase 1. For  $m \geq 2$ : first we suppose that  $h$  is non-constant. Then from (0.12) we can say that  $f$  and  $g$  satisfy the algebraic equation  $R(f, g) \equiv 0$ , where

$$R(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \omega_1^n (\omega_1 - 1)^m \sum_{j=0}^p a_j \omega_1(z + c_j) - \omega_2^n (\omega_2 - 1)^m \sum_{j=0}^p a_j \omega_2(z + c_j);$$

Next, we suppose that  $h$  is a constant, then from (0.12) we get

$$(0.13) \quad f^n \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j) \sum_{i=0}^m {}^m C_{m-i} f^{m-i} \equiv g^n \sum_{j=0}^p a_j g(z + c_j) \sum_{i=0}^m {}^m C_{m-i} g^{m-i}.$$

Now substituting  $f = gh$  in (0.13) we get

$$\sum_{i=0}^m (-1)^{im} {}^m C_{m-i} g^{m-i} (h^{m+n+p-i} = 1) \equiv 0.$$

which implies that  $h = 1$ . Hence  $f \equiv g$ .

**Case 2.**  $P(\omega) \equiv c_0$ . Let  $h = \frac{f}{g}$ . Then from (0.8) we have

$$(0.14) \quad h^n(z) \equiv \frac{1}{\sum_{j=0}^p a_j h(z + c_j)}.$$

Thus from Lemmas 1 and 3 we have

$$nT(r, h) = T(r, \sum_{j=0}^p a_j h(z + c_j)) + O(1) = pT(r, h) + S(r, h),$$

which is a contradiction since  $n \geq 2$ . Hence  $h$  must be a constant, which implies that  $h^{n+p} = 1$ , thus  $f = tg$  and  $t^{n+p} = 1$ . This completes the proof. □

### IV. Proof of Main Results

**Proof of Theorem 11.**

*Proof.* Let  $F = \frac{f^n P(f) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j)}{p}$  and  $G = \frac{g^n P(g) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j g(z + c_j)}{p}$ . Then  $F$  and  $G$  share (1, 2) except the zeros of  $p(z)$ . Now applying Lemma we see that one of the following three cases holds.

**Case 1.** Suppose

$$T(r, F) \leq N_2(r, 0; F) + N_2(r, 0; G) + S(r, F) + S(r, G).$$

Now by applying Lemmas 1 and we have

$$\begin{aligned} T(r, F) &\leq N_2(r, 0; F) + N_2(r, 0; G) + S(r, F) + S(r, G) \\ &\leq N_2(r, 0; f^n P(f) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j)) + N_2(r, 0; g^n P(g) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j g(z + c_j)) + S(r, f) + S(r, g) \\ &\leq N_2(r, 0; f^n P(f)) + N_2(r, 0; g^n P(g)) + N_2(r, 0; \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j)) + N_2(r, 0; \sum_{j=0}^p a_j g(z + c_j)) + S(r, f) + S(r, g) \\ &\leq 2N(r, 0; f) + N(r, 0; P(f)) + N(r, 0; \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j)) + 2N(r, 0; g) + N(r, 0; P(g)) \\ &\quad + N(r, 0; \sum_{j=0}^p a_j g(z + c_j)) + S(r, f) + S(r, g) \\ &\leq (2 + m^* + p)T(r, f) + N(r, 0; f) + (2 + m^* + p)T(r, g) + N(r, 0; g) + S(r, f) + S(r, g) \\ &\leq (2 + m^* + p)T(r, f) + (2 + m^* + p)T(r, g) + S(r, f) + S(r, g) \\ &\leq (4 + 2m^* + 2p)T(r) + S(r). \end{aligned}$$

From Lemmas 1 and Lemma 4 we have

$$(0.15) \quad (n + m^* + p)T(r, f) \leq (4 + 2m^* + 2p)T(r) + S(r).$$

Similarly, we have

$$(0.16) \quad (n + m^* + p)T(r, g) \leq (4 + 2m^* + 2p)T(r) + S(r).$$

Combining the inequalities (0.15) and (0.16), we get

$$(n + m^* + p)T(r) \leq (4 + 2m^* + 2p)T(r) + S(r),$$

which contradicts with  $n > m^* + p + 4$ .

**Case 2.**  $F \equiv G$ . Then we have

$$f^n P(f) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j) \equiv g^n P(g) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j g(z + c_j).$$

and so the result follows from Lemma 11. □

**Case 3.**  $FG \equiv 1$ . Then we have

$$f^n P(f) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j f(z + c_j) g^n P(g) \sum_{j=0}^p a_j g(z + c_j) \equiv p^2.$$

and so result from Lemma 9. This completes the proof.

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