

# Meromorphic Functions That Share One Finite Value CM or IM with Their First Derivative

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## ARTICLE INFO

Received: 19 / 5 /2022  
 Accepted: 28 / 5 /2022  
 Available online: 14/6/2012  
 DOI: 10.37652/juaps.2009.15579

### Keywords:

Nevanlinna theory,  
 uniqueness theorem,  
 share CM or IM.  
 Classification Categories: Math.  
 Subject classification: 30D35.

## ABSTRACT

In this paper we shall prove that if a non-constant meromorphic function  $f$  and its derivative  $f'$  share the value  $a(\neq 0, \infty)$  CM (IM) and if  $\overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) = S(r, f)$  ( $\overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f'}\right) = S(r, f)$ ), then either  $f = f'$  or  $f(z) = \frac{a(z-c)}{1+Ae^{-z}}$  ( $f(z) = \frac{2a}{1-Ae^{-2z}}$ ), where  $A(\neq 0)$  and  $c$  are constants. These results give improvement and extension of the following result of Gundersen: if a non-constant meromorphic function  $f$  and its derivative  $f'$  share two distinct values  $0, a(\neq \infty)$  CM, then  $f = f'$

## Introduction and Results

In this paper, the term meromorphic will always mean meromorphic in the complex plane. We use the standard notations and results of the Nevanlinna theory (see [1] or [2], for example). In particular,  $S(r, f)$  denotes any quantity satisfying  $S(r, f) = o(T(r, f))$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$  except possibly for a set  $E$  of  $r$  of finite linear measure. We say that two non-constant meromorphic functions  $f$  and  $g$  share a value  $a$  IM (ignoring multiplicities), if  $f$  and  $g$  have the same  $a$ -points. If  $f$  and  $g$  have the same  $a$ -points with the same multiplicities, we say that  $f$  and  $g$  share the value  $a$  CM (counting multiplicities). Let  $k$  be a positive integer, we denote by

$N_{(k)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right)$  the counting function of  $a$ -points of  $f$  with multiplicity  $\leq k$  and by  $N_{(k+1)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right)$  the counting function of  $a$ -points of  $f$  with multiplicity  $> k$ .

In [3] G. G. Gundersen proved the following theorem:

**Theorem A.** Let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function. If  $f$  and  $f'$  share two distinct values  $0, a(\neq \infty)$  CM, then  $f = f'$ .

In this paper we are give two improvement and extension of Theorem A and prove the following theorems:

**Theorem 1.** Let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function. If  $f$  and  $f'$  share the value  $a(\neq 0, \infty)$  CM, and if  $\overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) = S(r, f)$ , then either  $f = f'$  or

$$f(z) = \frac{a(z-c)}{1+Ae^{-z}}, \quad (1.1)$$

where  $A(\neq 0)$  and  $c$  are constants.

**Theorem 2.** Let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function. If  $f$  and  $f'$  share the value  $a(\neq 0, \infty)$  IM, and if  $\overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f'}\right) = S(r, f)$ , then either  $f = f'$  or

$$f(z) = \frac{2a}{1-Ae^{-2z}}, \quad (1.2)$$

where  $A$  is a nonzero constant.

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**Remark** Theorem 1 and Theorem 2 are give improvement and extension of Theorem A, because the condition “  $f$  and  $f'$  share 0 CM ” in Theorem A is exactly the condition

$$N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) = N\left(r, \frac{1}{f'}\right) = 0.$$

## 2. Proof of Theorem 1

Suppose  $a = 1$  (the general case follows by considering  $\frac{1}{a}f$  instead of  $f$ ) and  $f \neq f'$ . Since  $f$  and  $f'$  share 1 CM, we know that the zeros of  $f - 1$  are simple zeros. By the second fundamental

theorem and  $\bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) = S(r, f)$ , we have

$$T(r, f) \leq N\left(r, \frac{1}{f-1}\right) + \bar{N}(r, f) - N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{f'}\right) + S(r, f), \quad (2.1) \text{ where in}$$

$N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{f'}\right)$  only zeros of  $f'$  which are not zeros of  $f$  are to be considered.

We set

$$F = \frac{1}{f} \left( \frac{f''}{f'-1} - \frac{f'}{f-1} \right). \quad (2.2)$$

From the fundamental estimate of logarithmic derivative it follows that

$$m(r, F) = S(r, f). \quad (2.3)$$

If  $f$  has a pole of order  $p \geq 1$  at  $z_\infty$ , by (2.2)  $F$  is

holomorphic at  $z_\infty$ . From

this and the hypotheses of Theorem 1 we see that

$$N(r, F) = S(r, f). \quad (2.4)$$

If  $F = 0$ , then from (2.2), we find that  $f' - 1 = c(f - 1)$ , with  $c(\neq 0)$  constant. From which

and  $\bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) = S(r, f)$  we arrive at  $f = f'$  which

is a contradiction. Therefore  $F \neq 0$  and so we deduce from (2.2), (2.3) and (2.4) that

$$m(r, f) = S(r, f). \quad (2.5)$$

Again from (2.2), if  $z_\infty$  is a pole of  $f$  of order  $p \geq 2$ , then  $z_\infty$  is possible a zero of  $F$  of order  $p - 1$ .

Consequently, from (2.3) and (2.4),

$$N_{(2)}(r, f) \leq 2N\left(r, \frac{1}{F}\right) \leq 2T(r, F) + O(1) = S(r, f). \quad (2.6)$$

Set

$$H = \frac{f''(f-1)}{f'(f'-1)}. \quad (2.7)$$

Then from the fundamental estimate of logarithmic derivative and (2.5) it follows that

$$m(r, H) = S(r, f). \quad (2.8)$$

If  $f$  has a pole of order  $p$  at  $z_\infty$ , by (2.7)  $z_\infty$  is a pole of the numerator of (2.7) with order  $2(p + 1)$  and a pole of the denominator of (2.7) with order  $2(p + 1)$ . This shows that the poles of  $f$ , being not the poles of  $H$ . Also, because of  $f$  and  $f'$  share 1 CM,  $H$  is holomorphic at the zero of  $f' - 1$ . Thus, the poles of  $H$  can occur at only the zero of  $f'$ , and so that

$$N(r, H) \leq \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f'}\right). \quad (2.9)$$

Let  $z_\infty$  be a simple pole of  $f$ . By (2.7) a short calculation with Laurent series shows that  $H(z_\infty) = 2$ . If  $H = 2$  then  $f' - 1 = c(f - 1)^2$ , with  $c(\neq 0)$  constant. Since  $f$  and  $f'$  share 1 CM, we have a contradiction. Thus we conclude  $H \neq 2$ , and so

$$\begin{aligned} N_{(1)}(r, f) &\leq N\left(r, \frac{1}{H-2}\right) \\ &\leq T(r, H) + O(1) \\ &\leq \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f'}\right) + S(r, f) \\ &\leq \bar{N}_0\left(r, \frac{1}{f'}\right) + S(r, f), \end{aligned}$$

by (2.8) and (2.9). Combining this with (2.5) and (2.6) yields

$$T(r, f) \leq \bar{N}_0\left(r, \frac{1}{f'}\right) + S(r, f). \quad (2.10)$$

Hence, we obtain from (2.5), (2.6), (2.1), and (2.10) that

$$m\left(r, \frac{1}{f-1}\right) = S(r, f). \quad (2.11)$$

Set

$$L = \frac{f' - f}{f(f-1)}. \quad (2.12)$$

By using (2.11) and the hypotheses of Theorem 1 we may conclude that

$$T(r, L) = S(r, f). \quad (2.13)$$

Equation (2.12) may also be written in the form

$$f' - 1 = L(f - L)\left(f + \frac{1}{L}\right), \quad (2.14)$$

and also written

$$\frac{\left(f + \frac{1}{L}\right)'}{f + \frac{1}{L}} - \frac{1 + \left(\frac{1}{L}\right)'}{f + \frac{1}{L}} = L(f - 1). \quad (2.15)$$

Since  $f$  and  $f'$  share 1 CM, we may obtain from (2.14) and (2.13)

$$N\left(r, \frac{1}{f + \frac{1}{L}}\right) = S(r, f). \quad (2.16)$$

If  $1 + \left(\frac{1}{L}\right)' \neq 0$ , then from (2.15), (2.13) and (2.5) we

get  $m\left(r, \frac{1}{f + \frac{1}{L}}\right) = S(r, f)$  from which, (2.16) and

(2.13) we conclude  $T(r, f) = S(r, f)$ . This is

impossible. Therefore  $1 + \left(\frac{1}{L}\right)' = 0$ , and so  $L =$

$\frac{1}{c - z}$ , with  $c$  constant. Thus equation (2.14) may

now be put in the form  $\frac{d}{dz} \left[ \frac{(c - z)e^z}{f(z)} \right] = -e^z$ . By

integration and  $\bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) = S(r, f)$  we get (1.1). ■

### 3. Proof of Theorem 2

Suppose  $a = 1$  and  $f \neq f'$ . From (2.2), if  $z_p$  is a pole of  $f$  of multiplicity  $p \geq 1$ , then

$$F(z) = O((z - z_p)^{p-1}). \quad (3.1)$$

If  $z_1$  is a simple zero of  $f' - 1$ , then from (2.2) we find that  $F$  will be holomorphic at  $z_1$ . From this, (2.2), (3.1) and hypotheses of Theorem 2 it can be seen that the poles of  $F$  can only occur at the multiple zeros of  $f' - 1$ . That is

$$N(r, F) \leq \bar{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f' - 1}\right). \quad (3.2)$$

If  $F = 0$ , then similarly as in the proof of Theorem 1, we arrive at a contradiction. Next we assume that  $F \neq 0$ . Thus, we get from (3.1), (3.2) and (2.3)

$$\bar{N}_{(2)}(r, f) \leq N\left(r, \frac{1}{F}\right) \leq T(r, F) -$$

$$m\left(r, \frac{1}{F}\right) + O(1) \leq N(r, F) + m(r, F) -$$

$$m\left(r, \frac{1}{F}\right) + S(r, f) + O(1) \leq$$

$$\bar{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f' - 1}\right) - m\left(r, \frac{1}{F}\right) + S(r, f). \quad (3.3)$$

It follows from (2.2) that

$$m(r, f) \leq m\left(r, \frac{1}{F}\right) + S(r, f). \quad (3.4)$$

Combining (3.3) with (3.4) we obtain

$$\bar{N}_{(2)}(r, f) + m(r, f) \leq \bar{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f' - 1}\right) + S(r, f). \quad (3.5)$$

By (2.7), we have

$$m(r, H) \leq m(r, f) + S(r, f). \quad (3.6)$$

From (2.7), we know that if  $z_\infty$  is a pole of  $f$  of multiplicity  $p \geq 1$ , then

$$H(z_\infty) = \frac{p + 1}{p}. \quad (3.7)$$

Let  $z_1$  be a zero of  $f' - 1$  of multiplicity  $q \geq 1$ . Since  $f$  and  $f'$  share 1 IM, we must have  $z_1$  is a simple zero of  $f - 1$ . By a simple calculation on the local expansion we see that

$$H(z_1) = q. \quad (3.8)$$

From (3.7), (3.8) and  $\bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f'}\right) = S(r, f)$  we

conclude that

$$N(r, H) = S(r, f). \quad (3.9)$$

It can be obtained from (3.7), (3.8), (3.9) and (3.6) that, if  $H \neq 2$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} N_{(1)}(r, f) + \bar{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f'-1}\right) - \\ N_{(1)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f'-1}\right) \leq N\left(r, \frac{1}{H-2}\right) \leq T(r, H) + O(1) \\ \leq N(r, H) + \\ m(r, H) + O(1) \leq m(r, f) + S(r, f). \end{aligned}$$

Combining this with (3.5) yields

$$\bar{N}(r, f) \leq \bar{N}_{(3)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f'-1}\right) + S(r, f).$$

Hence, we get from this, the second fundamental

theorem for  $f'$  and  $\bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f'}\right) = S(r, f)$  that

$$\begin{aligned} T(r, f') \leq \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f'}\right) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f'-1}\right) + \\ \bar{N}(r, f) + S(r, f) \leq \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f'-1}\right) + \\ \bar{N}_{(3)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f'-1}\right) + S(r, f). \quad (3.10) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} N_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f'-1}\right) \leq \bar{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f'-1}\right) + \\ \bar{N}_{(3)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f'-1}\right) + S(r, f). \end{aligned}$$

This implies that

$$\bar{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f'-1}\right) = S(r, f). \quad (3.11)$$

It is easy to see that  $H \neq 1$ . Thus we deduce from (3.10), (3.11), (3.8), (3.9), (3.6) and (3.5) that

$$T(r, f') \leq N_{(1)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f'-1}\right) + S(r, f) \leq$$

$$N\left(r, \frac{1}{H-1}\right) + S(r, f) \leq T(r, H) +$$

$$S(r, f) = S(r, f),$$

which implies the contradiction  $T(r, f) = S(r, f)$ .

Therefore, we have  $H = 2$ , and integration yields

$$f' - 1 = c(f - 1)^2, \quad (3.12)$$

where  $c$  is a nonzero constant. We rewrite this in the

form  $f' = c(f - 1 + A)(f - 1 - A)$ , where  $A^2 =$

$-\frac{1}{c}$ . Since  $\bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f'}\right) = S(r, f)$  by the assumption, it

follows from the second fundamental theorem for  $f$

that if  $A \neq \pm 1$ ,

$$T(r, f) \leq \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-1+A}\right) +$$

$$\bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-1-A}\right) + S(r, f) = S(r, f),$$

which is a contradiction. Therefore, we have  $A = \pm 1$

and so  $c = -1$ . Then (3.12) reads  $\frac{f'}{f-2} - \frac{f'}{f} = -2$ .

By integration once we conclude (1.2). ■

## References

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## دوال الميرومورفك التي لها حصة قيمة واحدة منتهية CM او IM مع مشتقتها الاولى

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الخلاصة:

في هذا البحث نحن سوف نبرهن، اذا كانت  $f$  دالة ميرومورفك غير ثابتة و مشتقتها  $f'$  لها حصة قيمة واحدة منتهية  $a$  ( $\infty, 0 \neq$ ) CM (IM) واذا كانت  $(\bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f'}\right) = S(r, f))$  ، فان  $f = f'$  او  $f(z) = \frac{a(z-c)}{1+ Ae^{-z}}$  (حيث ان  $f(z) = \frac{2a}{1- Ae^{-2z}}$ ) و  $A(0 \neq)$  و  $c$  ثابتان . هاتان النتيجتان هي تطوير و توسيع للنتيجة التالية العائدة الى Gundersen: اذا كانت  $f$  دالة ميرومورفك غير ثابتة و مشتقتها  $f'$  لها حصة قيمتان مختلفتان  $0$  و  $a$  CM ( $\infty \neq$ ) ، فان  $f = f'$ .