

## UNIQUENESS OF HOMOGENEOUS DIFFERENTIAL POLYNOMIALS OF MEROMORPHIC FUNCTIONS CONCERNING WEAKLY WEIGHTED SHARING

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*Abstract.* In 2006 S. Lin and W. Lin [3] first defined the concept of weakly-weighted sharing of functions and proved some results on uniqueness of a meromorphic function  $f$  and its  $n$ -th derivative  $f^{(n)}$ . Using this notion of weakly-weighted sharing of functions, in this paper we prove uniqueness of homogeneous differential polynomials  $P[f]$  and  $P[g]$  generated by meromorphic functions  $f$  and  $g$  respectively.

### 1. Introduction and main result

Let  $\mathbb{C}$  denote the complex plane and let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function defined on  $\mathbb{C}$ . We assume that the reader is familiar with the standard definitions and notations used in the Nevanlinna value distribution theory, such as  $T(r, f)$ ,  $m(r, f)$ ,  $N(r, f)$  (see [1, 10, 11]). By  $S(r, f)$  we denote any quantity satisfying the condition  $S(r, f) = o(T(r, f))$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$  possibly outside an exceptional set  $E$  of finite linear measure. A meromorphic function  $a$  is called a small function with respect to  $f$  if either  $a \equiv \infty$  or  $T(r, a) = S(r, f)$ . We denote by  $S(f)$  the collection of all small functions with respect to  $f$ . Clearly  $\mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\} \subset S(f)$  and  $S(f)$  is a field over the set of complex numbers. For  $a \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$  the quantities

$$\delta(a, f) = 1 - \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N(r, a; f)}{T(r, f)}$$

and

$$\Theta(a, f) = 1 - \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\overline{N}(r, a; f)}{T(r, f)}$$

are respectively called the deficiency and ramification index of  $a$  for the function  $f$ . We use  $\rho(f) = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log T(r, f)}{\log r}$  is the order of  $f$ .

For any two non-constant meromorphic functions  $f$  and  $g$ , and  $a \in S(f) \cap S(g)$  we say that  $f$  and  $g$  share  $a$  IM (CM) provided that  $f - a$  and  $g - a$  have the same zeros ignoring (counting) multiplicities. If  $\frac{1}{f}$  and  $\frac{1}{g}$  share 0 IM (CM), we say that  $f$

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and  $g$  share  $\infty$  IM (CM). Let  $f$  and  $g$  share 1 IM and let  $z_0$  be a zero of  $f - 1$  of multiplicity  $p$  and a zero of  $g - 1$  of multiplicity  $q$ . By  $\overline{N}_L(r, 1; f)$  we denote the reduced counting function of those 1-points of  $f$  and  $g$  where  $p > q \geq 1$ .  $\overline{N}_L(r, 1; g)$  is defined similarly.

The subject on sharing values between two non-constant meromorphic functions  $f$  and  $g$ , and their relationship studied by Yi [12] and proved the following results.

**THEOREM 1.** [12] *Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two non-constant meromorphic functions such that  $f^{(n)}$ ,  $g^{(n)}$  share the value 1 CM. If*

$$2\delta(0; f) + (n + 4)\Theta(\infty; f) > n + 5 \text{ and}$$

$$2\delta(0; g) + (n + 4)\Theta(\infty; g) > n + 5,$$

*then either  $f \equiv g$  or  $f^{(n)}.g^{(n)} \equiv 1$ .*

**THEOREM 2.** [12] *Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two non-constant meromorphic functions such that  $f^{(n)}$ ,  $g^{(n)}$  share the value 1 IM. If*

$$5\delta(0; f) + (4n + 7)\Theta(\infty; f) > 4n + 11 \text{ and}$$

$$5\delta(0; g) + (4n + 7)\Theta(\infty; g) > 4n + 11,$$

*then either  $f \equiv g$  or  $f^{(n)}.g^{(n)} \equiv 1$ .*

In [4] Li and Li considered the problem of replacing the derivatives by linear differential polynomials. Let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function. An expression of the form

$$L(f) = f^{(n)} + a_{k-1}f^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_0f, \quad (1)$$

where  $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}$  are complex constants is called a linear differential polynomial generated by  $f$ .

Li and Li [4] proved the following theorems:

**THEOREM 3.** [4] *Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two non-constant entire functions. Suppose that  $f, g$  share the value 0 CM and  $L(f), L(g)$  share the value 1 CM and  $\delta(0; f) > \frac{1}{2}$ . If  $\rho(f) \neq 1$ , then either  $f \equiv g$  or  $L(f).L(g) \equiv 1$ .*

**THEOREM 4.** [4] *Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two non-constant entire functions. Suppose that  $f, g$  share the value 0 CM and  $L(f), L(g)$  share the value 1 IM and  $\delta(0; f) > \frac{4}{5}$ . If  $\rho(f) \neq 1$ , then either  $f \equiv g$  or  $L(f).L(g) \equiv 1$ .*

Recently Lahiri and Pal [5] extend the results of Li and Li [4] to homogeneous differential polynomial by including the class of entire functions of order 1.

DEFINITION 1. Let  $n (\geq 1)$  be a positive integer,  $p (\geq 0)$  be an integer and  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function. An expression of the form

$$P[f] = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k \prod_{j=0}^p \left( f^{(j)} \right)^{l_{kj}}, \quad (2)$$

where  $a_k \in S(f)$  for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$  and  $l_{kj}$  ( $1 \leq k \leq n; 0 \leq j \leq p$ ) are non-negative integers and  $d = \sum_{j=0}^p l_{kj}$  for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , is called a homogeneous differential polynomial of degree  $d$  generated by  $f$ . Also we denote by  $Q$  the quantity  $Q = \max_{1 \leq k \leq n} \sum_{j=0}^p j l_{kj}$ .

Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two non-constant meromorphic functions. When we consider  $P[f]$  and  $P[g]$  are non-constant homogeneous differential polynomials of  $f$  and  $g$  respectively, then we understand that the coefficients  $a_j \in S(f) \cap S(g)$ .

Lahiri and Pal [5] proved the following theorem.

THEOREM 5. Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two non-constant meromorphic functions,  $a (\neq 0, \infty) \in S(f) \cap S(g)$ . Suppose  $P[f]$  and  $P[g]$ , as defined by (2) are non-constant. If  $P[f]$  and  $P[g]$  share a IM, and

$$\min \left\{ 5\delta(0, f) + \frac{4Q+7}{d}\Theta(\infty, f), 5\delta(0, g) + \frac{4Q+7}{d}\Theta(\infty, g) \right\} > \frac{4Q+4d+7}{d},$$

then either  $P[f] \equiv P[g]$  or  $P[f].P[g] \equiv a^2$ .

In 2019, Dilip et al [6] considered the weighted set sharing and proved the following result:

THEOREM 6. Let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function and  $p(z)$  be a polynomial in  $z$  of degree  $n (\geq 1)$  with  $p(0) = 0$ . Let  $a(z) (\neq 0, \infty)$  be an element of  $S(f)$ . Let  $P[f]$  be a non-constant differential polynomial of  $f$ . Suppose that  $p(f)$  and  $P[f]$  share the set  $S_m = \{a(z), a(z)\omega, \dots, a(z)\omega^{m-1}\}$  with weight  $l$  with one of the following conditions:

(i)  $l \geq 2$  and

$$\begin{aligned} & (mQ + 3)\Theta(\infty, f) + 2n\Theta(0, p(f)) + m\bar{d}(P)\delta(0, f) \\ & > (mQ + 3) + 2m\bar{d}(P) - m\underline{d}(P) - (m - 2)n, \end{aligned}$$

(ii)  $l = 1$  and

$$\begin{aligned} & (mQ + \frac{7}{2})\Theta(\infty, f) + \frac{5n}{2}\Theta(0, p(f)) + \bar{d}(P)\delta(0, f) \\ & > mQ + \frac{7}{2} + (m + 1)\bar{d}(P) - m\underline{d}(P) + (\frac{5}{2} - m)n, \end{aligned}$$

(iii)  $l = 0$  and

$$(2mQ + 6)\Theta(\infty, f) + 4n\Theta(0, p(f)) + 2m\bar{d}(P)\delta(0, f) \\ > 2mQ + 6 + 4m\bar{d}(P) - 2m\underline{d}(P) + (4 - m)n.$$

Then  $P[f] = tp(f)$  for some  $t$  such that  $t^m = 1$ .

To define weakly-weighted sharing we need the following definitions:

DEFINITION 2. [3] Let  $N_E(r, a)$  be the counting function of all common zeros of  $f - a$  and  $g - a$  with the same multiplicities and  $N_0(r, a)$  be the counting function of all common zeros of  $f - a$  and  $g - a$  ignoring multiplicities. We denote by  $\bar{N}_E(r, a)$  and  $\bar{N}_0(r, a)$  the reduced counting functions of  $f$  and  $g$  corresponding to the counting functions  $N_E(r, a)$  and  $N_0(r, a)$  respectively. If

$$\bar{N}(r, a; f) + \bar{N}(r, a; g) - 2\bar{N}_E(r, a) = S(r, f) + S(r, g),$$

then we say that  $f$  and  $g$  share  $a$  “CM”. If

$$\bar{N}(r, a; f) + \bar{N}(r, a; g) - 2\bar{N}_0(r, a) = S(r, f) + S(r, g),$$

then we say that  $f$  and  $g$  share  $a$  “IM”.

DEFINITION 3. Let  $p$  be a positive integer. Let  $f$  be a meromorphic function and  $a \in S(f)$ .

(i)  $\bar{N}_p(r, a; f)$  denotes the counting function of those  $a$ -points of  $f$  whose multiplicities are not greater than  $p$ , where each  $a$ -point is counted only once.

(ii)  $\bar{N}_p(r, a; f)$  denotes the counting function of those  $a$ -points of  $f$  whose multiplicities are not less than  $p$ , where each  $a$ -point is counted only once.

(iii)  $N_p(r, a; f)$  denotes the counting function of those  $a$ -points of  $f$ , where an  $a$ -point of  $f$  with multiplicity  $m$  counted  $m$  times if  $m \leq p$  and  $p$  times if  $m > p$ .

We denote by  $\delta_p(a, f)$  the quantity

$$\delta_p(a, f) = 1 - \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N_p(r, a; f)}{T(r, f)}.$$

Clearly  $\delta_p(a, f) \geq \delta(a, f)$ .

Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two non-constant meromorphic functions sharing  $a$  “IM”, for  $a \in S(f) \cap S(g)$ , and a positive integer  $l$  or  $\infty$ .

(i)  $\bar{N}_l^E(r, a)$  denotes the counting function of those  $a$ -points of  $f$  whose multiplicities are equal to the corresponding  $a$ -points of  $g$ , both of their multiplicities are not

greater than  $l$ , where each  $a$ -point is counted only once.

(ii)  $\overline{N}_{(l)}^0(r, a)$  denotes the reduced counting function of those  $a$ -points of  $f$  which are  $a$ -points of  $g$ , both of their multiplicities are not less than  $l$ , where each  $a$ -point is counted only once.

In 2006 S. Lin and W. Lin [3] first defined the concept of weakly-weighted sharing of functions as follows.

DEFINITION 4. [3] For  $a \in S(f) \cap S(g)$ , if  $l$  is a positive integer or  $\infty$ , and

$$\overline{N}_l(r, a; f) + \overline{N}_l(r, a; g) - 2\overline{N}_l^E(r, a) = S(r, f) + S(r, g)$$

$$\overline{N}_{(l+1)}(r, a; f) + \overline{N}_{(l+1)}(r, a; g) - 2\overline{N}_{(l+1)}^0(r, a) = S(r, f) + S(r, g),$$

or if  $l = 0$  and

$$\overline{N}(r, a; f) + \overline{N}(r, a; g) - 2\overline{N}_0(r, a) = S(r, f) + S(r, g),$$

then we say  $f$  and  $g$  weakly share  $a$  with weight  $l$ . Here, we write  $f, g$  share “ $(a, l)$ ” to mean that  $f, g$  weakly share  $a$  with weight  $l$ .

Obviously if  $f$  and  $g$  share “ $(a, l)$ ”, then  $f$  and  $g$  share “ $(a, s)$ ” for any  $s$  ( $0 \leq s < l$ ). Also, we note that  $f$  and  $g$  share  $a$  “IM” or “CM” if and only if  $f$  and  $g$  share “ $(a, 0)$ ” or “ $(a, \infty)$ ” respectively.

In 2006 S. Lin and W. Lin [3] proved the following theorem:

THEOREM 7. Let  $n (\geq 1)$  be a positive integer and let  $k$  be a non-negative integer or  $\infty$ . Let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function and  $a \in S(f)$  be such that  $a \neq 0, \infty$ . If  $f$  and  $f^{(n)}$  share “ $(a, k)$ ” with one of the following conditions:

(i)  $2 \leq k \leq \infty$  and

$$4\Theta(\infty, f) + 2\delta_{2+n}(0, f) > 5,$$

(ii)  $k = 1$  and

$$\left(\frac{n+9}{2}\right)\Theta(\infty, f) + \frac{5}{2}\delta_{2+n}(0, f) > \frac{n}{2} + 6,$$

(iii)  $k = 0$  and

$$(7+2n)\Theta(\infty, f) + 5\delta_{2+n}(0, f) > 2n + 11,$$

then  $f \equiv f^{(n)}$ .

Later in 2011, H-Y Xu and Y Hu [13] generalize Theorem 7 by proving the following theorem:

**THEOREM 8.** Let  $n (\geq 1)$  be positive integer and let  $k$  be a non-negative integer or  $\infty$ . Let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function and  $a \in S(f)$  be such that  $a \neq 0, \infty$ . Suppose  $L(f)$  is defined as in (1). If  $f$  and  $L(f)$  share “ $(a, k)$ ” with one of the following conditions:

(i)  $2 \leq k \leq \infty$  and

$$4\Theta(\infty, f) + 2\delta_{2+n}(0, f) > 5,$$

(ii)  $k = 1$  and

$$\left(\frac{7}{2} + n\right)\Theta(\infty, f) + \frac{3}{2}\delta_2(0, f) + \delta_{n+2}(0, f) > n + 5,$$

(iii)  $k = 0$  and

$$(6 + 2n)\Theta(\infty, f) + \delta_2(0, f) + 2\Theta(0, f) + 2\delta_{2+n}(0, f) > 2n + 10,$$

then  $f \equiv L(f)$ .

In 2019 Dilip et al [7, 8] proved uniqueness of homogeneous differential polynomials  $P[f]$  and  $P[g]$  when they share “ $(a, l)$ ”.

**THEOREM 9.** [7] Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two non-constant meromorphic functions,  $a (\neq 0, \infty) \in S(f) \cap S(g)$ . Suppose that  $P[f]$  and  $P[g]$ , as defined by (2), are non-constant. If  $P[f]$  and  $P[g]$  share “ $(a, l)$ ” with one of the following conditions:

(i)  $2 \leq l \leq \infty$  and

$$\min \left\{ 2\delta(0, f) + \frac{Q+4}{d}\Theta(\infty, f), 2\delta(0, g) + \frac{Q+4}{d}\Theta(\infty, g) \right\} > \frac{Q+d+4}{d},$$

(ii)  $l = 1$  and

$$\min \left\{ \frac{5}{2}\delta(0, f) + \frac{3Q+9}{2d}\Theta(\infty, f), \frac{5}{2}\delta(0, g) + \frac{3Q+9}{2d}\Theta(\infty, g) \right\} > \frac{3Q+3d+9}{2d},$$

(iii)  $l = 0$  and

$$\min \left\{ 5\delta(0, f) + \frac{4Q+7}{d}\Theta(\infty, f), 5\delta(0, g) + \frac{4Q+7}{d}\Theta(\infty, g) \right\} > \frac{4Q+4d+7}{d},$$

then either  $P[f] \equiv P[g]$  or  $P[f].P[g] \equiv a^2$ .

**THEOREM 10.** [8] Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two transcendental meromorphic functions,  $a = a(z)$  ( $a \neq 0, \infty$ )  $\in S(f) \cap S(g)$ . Suppose  $P[f]$  and  $P[g]$ , defined by (2) are non-constant. If  $P[f]$  and  $P[g]$  share “ $(a, k)$ ” with one of the the following conditions:

(i)  $k \geq 2$  and

$$\min \left\{ (Q+4)\Theta(\infty, f) + 2\delta_{2+p}(0, f), (Q+4)\Theta(\infty, g) + 2\delta_{2+p}(0, g) \right\} > (6 + Q - d),$$

(ii)  $k = 1$  and

$$\min \left\{ (3Q+9)\Theta(\infty, f) + 5\delta_{2+p}(0, f), (3Q+9)\Theta(\infty, g) + 5\delta_{2+p}(0, g) \right\} > 3Q+14-2d,$$

(iii)  $k = 0$  and

$$\min \left\{ (4Q+7)\Theta(\infty, f) + 5\delta_{2+p}(0, f), (4Q+7)\Theta(\infty, g) + 5\delta_{2+p}(0, g) \right\} > 4Q+12-d,$$

then either  $P[f] \equiv P[g]$  or  $P[f].P[g] \equiv a^2$ .

In this paper we prove the following theorem:

**THEOREM 11.** *Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two non-constant meromorphic functions,  $a (\neq 0, \infty) \in S(f) \cap S(g)$ . Suppose that  $P[f]$  and  $P[g]$ , as defined by (2) are non-constant. If  $P[f]$  and  $P[g]$  share “ $(a, l)$ ” with one of the following conditions:*

(i)  $l = \infty$  and

$$\min \left\{ 2\delta(0, f) + \frac{Q+4}{d}\Theta(\infty, f), 2\delta(0, g) + \frac{Q+4}{d}\Theta(\infty, g) \right\} > \frac{Q+d+4}{d}, \quad (3)$$

(ii)  $0 < l < \infty$  and

$$\begin{aligned} & \min \left\{ \frac{(2l+1)d}{l}\delta(0, f) + \left( \frac{Q+1+2l}{l} + Q+2 \right) \Theta(\infty, f), \right. \\ & \left. \frac{(2l+1)d}{l}\delta(0, g) + \left( \frac{Q+1+2l}{l} + Q+2 \right) \Theta(\infty, g) \right\} \\ & > \frac{(l+1)d+Q+1}{l} + 4+Q, \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

(iii)  $l = 0$  and

$$\min \left\{ 5\delta(0, f) + \frac{4Q+7}{d}\Theta(\infty, f), 5\delta(0, g) + \frac{4Q+7}{d}\Theta(\infty, g) \right\} > \frac{4Q+4d+7}{d}, \quad (5)$$

then either  $P[f] \equiv P[g]$  or  $P[f].P[g] \equiv a^2$ .

Suppose  $F$  and  $G$  share “ $(1, l)$ ” and let  $z_0$  be a zero of  $F-1$  of multiplicity  $p$  and a zero of  $G-1$  of multiplicity  $q$ . We define by  $\overline{N}_{G>l+1}(r, 1; F)$  the reduced counting function of those 1-points of  $F$  such that  $q > l+l$ ;  $\overline{N}_{F>l+1}(r, 1; G)$  is defined similarly. Also denote by  $N_E^1(r, 1; F)$  the counting function of those 1-points of  $F$  and  $G$  where  $p = q = 1$  and denote by  $\overline{N}_E^{(2)}(r, 1; F)$  the counting function of those 1-points of  $F$  and  $G$  where  $p = q \geq 2$ , where each such zero is counted only once.

## 2. Lemmas

Let  $F$  and  $G$  be two non-constant meromorphic functions. We shall define by  $H$  the following function

$$H = \left( \frac{F^{(2)}}{F^{(1)}} - 2 \frac{F^{(1)}}{F-1} \right) - \left( \frac{G^{(2)}}{G^{(1)}} - 2 \frac{G^{(1)}}{G-1} \right).$$

LEMMA 1. [5] Let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function and  $P[f]$  be defined by (2), then

$$\begin{aligned} (i) \quad & T(r, P) \leq dT(r, f) + Q\bar{N}(r, \infty; f) + S(r, f). \\ (ii) \quad & N(r, 0; P) \leq T(r, P) - dT(r, f) + dN(r, 0; f) + S(r, f), \\ & \leq Q\bar{N}(r, \infty; f) + dN(r, 0; f) + S(r, f). \end{aligned}$$

LEMMA 2. [2] Let  $f$  be a transcendental meromorphic function,  $P[f]$  be a homogeneous differential polynomial of degree  $d \geq 1$ . Then

$$dT(r, f) \leq \bar{N}(r, \infty; f) + \bar{N}(r, 1; F) + N(r, 0; f^d) - N_0(r, 0; (P(f))^{(1)}) + S(r, f),$$

where  $N_0(r, 0; (P[f])^{(1)})$  denotes the counting function corresponding to the zeros of  $(P[f])^{(1)}$  which are not the zeros of  $P[f]$  and  $P[f] - 1$ .

LEMMA 3. [9] Let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function and let

$$p(f) = a_n f^n + a_{n-1} f^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 f + a_0,$$

where  $a_i \in S(f)$  for  $i = 0, 1 \dots n$ ,  $a_n (\neq 0)$  be a polynomial of degree  $n$ . Then  $T(r, p(f)) = nT(r, f) + S(r, f)$ .

LEMMA 4. If  $F$  and  $G$  be non-constant meromorphic functions share “ $(1, l)$ ” where  $l$  is positive integer and  $H \neq 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} T(r, F) \leq & \left(1 + \frac{1}{l}\right)N(r, 0; F) + \left(2 + \frac{1}{l}\right)\bar{N}(r, \infty; F) + N(r, 0; G) + 2\bar{N}(r, \infty; G) \\ & + S(r, F) + S(r, G). \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Let  $H \neq 0$ . Then by a simple calculation we see that

$$\begin{aligned} N_E^{(1)}(r, 1; F) & \leq N(r, 0; H) \leq T(r, H) + O(1) \\ & \leq N(r, \infty; H) + S(r, F) + S(r, G). \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Since  $F$  and  $G$  share “ $(1, l)$ ”, we have

$$\begin{aligned} N(r, \infty; H) & \leq \bar{N}(r, \infty; F) + \bar{N}(r, \infty; G) + \bar{N}_{G>l+1}(r, 1; F) + \bar{N}_{F>l+1}(r, 1; G) + \bar{N}_{(2)}(r, 0; F) \\ & \quad + \bar{N}_{(2)}(r, 0; G) + \bar{N}_0(r, 0; F^{(1)}) + \bar{N}_0(r, 0; G^{(1)}) + S(r, F) + S(r, G). \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

By Nevanlinna’s second fundamental theorem, we have

$$\begin{aligned} T(r, F) + T(r, G) & \leq \bar{N}(r, 0; F) + \bar{N}(r, \infty; F) + \bar{N}(r, 1; F) + \bar{N}(r, 0; G) \\ & \quad + \bar{N}(r, \infty; G) + \bar{N}(r, 1; G) - N_0(r, 0; F^{(1)}) \\ & \quad - N_0(r, 0; G^{(1)}) + S(r, F) + S(r, G), \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$



where  $N_0(r, 0; F^{(1)})$  denotes the counting function corresponding to the zeros of  $F^{(1)}$  which are not the zeros of  $F$  and  $F - 1$ . Similarly defined  $N_0(r, 0; G^{(1)})$ .

Note that  $F$  and  $G$  share “(1,  $l$ )” and using (6), (7)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \overline{N}(r, 1; F) + \overline{N}(r, 1; G) &\leq N_E^{(1)}(r, 1; F) + \overline{N}_L(r, 1; F) + \overline{N}_L(r, 1; G) \\
 &\quad + N_E^{(2)}(r, 1; F) + \overline{N}(r, 1; G) \\
 &= N_E^{(1)}(r, 1; F) + \overline{N}_{G>l+1}(r, 1; F) + \overline{N}_{F>l+1}(r, 1; G) \\
 &\quad + N_E^{(2)}(r, 1; F) + \overline{N}(r, 1; G) \\
 &\leq \overline{N}(r, \infty; F) + \overline{N}(r, \infty; G) + \overline{N}_{(2)}(r, 0; F) + \overline{N}_{(2)}(r, 0; G) \\
 &\quad + 2\overline{N}_{G>l+1}(r, 1; F) + 2\overline{N}_{F>l+1}(r, 1; G) + N_E^{(2)}(r, 1; F) + \overline{N}(r, 1; G) \\
 &\quad + \overline{N}_0(r, 0; F^{(1)}) + \overline{N}_0(r, 0; G^{(1)}) + S(r, F) + S(r, G) \\
 &\leq \overline{N}(r, \infty; F) + \overline{N}(r, \infty; G) + \overline{N}_{(2)}(r, 0; F) + \overline{N}_{(2)}(r, 0; G) \\
 &\quad + \overline{N}_{G>l+1}(r, 1; F) + \overline{N}_{F>l+1}(r, 1; G) + N(r, 1; G) + \overline{N}_0(r, 0; F^{(1)}) \\
 &\quad + \overline{N}_0(r, 0; G^{(1)}) + S(r, F) + S(r, G) \\
 &\leq \overline{N}(r, \infty; F) + \overline{N}(r, \infty; G) + \overline{N}_{(2)}(r, 0; F) + \overline{N}_{(2)}(r, 0; G) \\
 &\quad + \overline{N}_{G>l+1}(r, 1; F) + \overline{N}_{F>l+1}(r, 1; G) + T(r, G) + \overline{N}_0(r, 0; F^{(1)}) \\
 &\quad + \overline{N}_0(r, 0; G^{(1)}) + S(r, F) + S(r, G). \tag{9}
 \end{aligned}$$

Also we have,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \overline{N}_{G>l+1}(r, 1; F) + \overline{N}_{F>l+1}(r, 1; G) &\leq \frac{1}{l}N(r, 0; F^{(1)}) + S(r, F) \\
 &\leq \frac{1}{l}N(r, 0; F) + \frac{1}{l}\overline{N}(r, \infty; F) + S(r, F). \tag{10}
 \end{aligned}$$

Now using (9), (10) in (8) we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(r, F) + T(r, G) &\leq 2\overline{N}(r, \infty; F) + 2\overline{N}(r, \infty; G) + \overline{N}(r, 0; F) + \overline{N}_{(2)}(r, 0; F) \\
 &\quad + \overline{N}(r, 0; G) + \overline{N}_{(2)}(r, 0; G) + \frac{1}{l}N(r, 0; F) + \frac{1}{l}\overline{N}(r, \infty; F) \\
 &\quad + T(r, G) + S(r, F) + S(r, G).
 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\overline{N}(r, 0; F) + \overline{N}_{(2)}(r, 0; F) \leq N(r, 0; F)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(r, F) &\leq \left(1 + \frac{1}{l}\right)N(r, 0; F) + \left(2 + \frac{1}{l}\right)\overline{N}(r, \infty; F) + N(r, 0; G) + 2\overline{N}(r, \infty; G) \\
 &\quad + S(r, F) + S(r, G).
 \end{aligned}$$

### 3. Proof of the main theorem

*Proof of Theorem 11.* Let

$$F = \frac{P[f]}{a}, \quad G = \frac{P[g]}{a}.$$

Since  $P[f]$  and  $P[g]$  share “ $(a, l)$ ”, it follows that  $F, G$  share “ $(1, l)$ ” except at the zeros and poles of  $a$ .

Now we consider the following cases:

Case 1:  $l = \infty$ . By (i) of Theorem 9 we get the result.

Case 2:  $0 < l < \infty$ . Suppose  $H \not\equiv 0$ . From Lemma 4 we get

$$\begin{aligned} T(r, F) &\leq \left(1 + \frac{1}{l}\right)N(r, 0; F) + \left(2 + \frac{1}{l}\right)\bar{N}(r, \infty; F) + N(r, 0; G) + 2\bar{N}(r, \infty; G) \\ &\quad + S(r, F) + S(r, G). \end{aligned}$$

Using Lemma 1 we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} dT(r, f) &\leq \frac{Q+1+2l}{l}\bar{N}(r, \infty; f) + (2+Q)\bar{N}(r, \infty; g) + \frac{(l+1)d}{l}N(r, 0; f) \\ &\quad + dN(r, 0; g) + S(r, f) + S(r, g). \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} dT(r, g) &\leq \frac{Q+1+2l}{l}\bar{N}(r, \infty; g) + (2+Q)\bar{N}(r, \infty; f) + \frac{(l+1)d}{l}N(r, 0; g) \\ &\quad + dN(r, 0; f) + S(r, f) + S(r, g). \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Adding (11) and (12) we get

$$\begin{aligned} &dT(r, f) + dT(r, g) \\ &\leq \left(\frac{Q+1+2l}{l} + Q+2\right)\bar{N}(r, \infty; f) + \frac{(2l+1)d}{l}N(r, 0; f) \\ &\quad + \left(\frac{Q+1+2l}{l} + Q+2\right)\bar{N}(r, \infty; g) + \frac{(2l+1)d}{l}N(r, 0; g) + S(r, f) + S(r, g). \\ &\left\{\frac{(2l+1)d}{l}\delta(0, f) + \left(\frac{Q+1+2l}{l} + Q+2\right)\Theta(\infty, f) - \frac{(l+1)d+Q+1}{l} - 4 - Q\right\}T(r, f) \\ &\quad + \left\{\frac{(2l+1)d}{l}\delta(0, g) + \left(\frac{Q+1+2l}{l} + Q+2\right)\Theta(\infty, g) - \frac{(l+1)d+Q+1}{l} - 4 - Q\right\}T(r, g) \\ &\leq S(r, f) + S(r, g), \end{aligned}$$

which contradict assumption (4).

Thus  $H \equiv 0$ . That is

$$\left(\frac{F^{(2)}}{F^{(1)}} - 2\frac{F^{(1)}}{F-1}\right) = \left(\frac{G^{(2)}}{G^{(1)}} - 2\frac{G^{(1)}}{G-1}\right).$$

By integrating twice we get

$$\frac{1}{G-1} = \frac{A}{F-1} + B,$$

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

Thus

$$G = \frac{(B+1)F + (A-B-1)}{BF + (A-B)} \quad (13)$$

and

$$F = \frac{(B-A)G + (A-B-1)}{BG - (B+1)}. \quad (14)$$

Next we consider following three subcases:

Subcase 2.1:  $B \neq 0, -1$ . Then from (14) we have

$$\bar{N}\left(r, \frac{B+1}{B}; G\right) = \bar{N}(r, \infty; F).$$

By Nevanlinna second fundamental theorem and (ii) of Lemma 1 we get

$$\begin{aligned} T(r, G) &\leq \bar{N}(r, \infty; G) + \bar{N}(r, 0; G) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{B+1}{B}; G\right) + S(r, G) \\ &\leq \bar{N}(r, \infty; G) + \bar{N}(r, 0; G) + \bar{N}(r, \infty; F) + S(r, G) \\ &\leq \bar{N}(r, \infty; G) + T(r, G) - dT(r, g) + dN(r, 0; g) + \bar{N}(r, \infty; F) + S(r, G) \\ \Rightarrow dT(r, g) &\leq \bar{N}(r, \infty; f) + dN(r, 0; g) + \bar{N}(r, \infty; g) + S(r, f) + S(r, g). \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

If  $A - B - 1 \neq 0$ , then it follows from (13) that

$$N\left(r, \frac{-A+B+1}{B+1}; F\right) = N(r, 0; G).$$

Again by Nevanlinna second fundamental theorem and Lemma 1 we have

$$\begin{aligned} T(r, F) &\leq \bar{N}(r, \infty; F) + \bar{N}(r, 0; F) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{-A+B+1}{B+1}; F\right) + S(r, F) \\ \Rightarrow dT(r, f) &\leq \bar{N}(r, \infty; f) + dN(r, 0; f) + Q\bar{N}(r, \infty; g) + dN(r, 0; g) + S(r, f) + S(r, g). \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Combining (15) and (16)

$$\begin{aligned} &T(r, f) + T(r, g) \\ &\leq N(r, 0; f) + \frac{2}{d}\bar{N}(r, \infty; f) + 2N(r, 0; g) + \frac{Q+1}{d}\bar{N}(r, \infty; g) + S(r, f) + S(r, g), \\ &\left\{ \delta(0, f) + \frac{2}{d}\Theta(\infty, f) - \frac{2}{d} \right\} T(r, f) + \left\{ 2\delta(0, g) + \frac{Q+1}{d}\Theta(\infty, g) - \frac{Q+d+1}{d} \right\} T(r, g) \\ &\leq S(r, f) + S(r, g), \end{aligned}$$

which contradict (4). Therefore  $A - B - 1 = 0$ . Then by (13)

$$\overline{N}(r, 0; F + \frac{1}{B}) = \overline{N}(r, \infty; G).$$

Again by Nevanlinna second fundamental theorem

$$\begin{aligned} T(r, F) &\leq \overline{N}(r, \infty; F) + \overline{N}(r, 0; F) + \overline{N}(r, 0; F + \frac{1}{B}) + S(r, F), \\ &\leq \overline{N}(r, \infty; f) + T(r, F) - dT(r, f) + dN(r, 0; f) + \overline{N}(r, \infty; g) + S(r, f) + S(r, g), \\ \Rightarrow dT(r, f) &\leq \overline{N}(r, \infty; f) + dN(r, 0; f) + \overline{N}(r, \infty; g) + S(r, f) + S(r, g). \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

Combining (15) and (17)

$$\begin{aligned} T(r, f) + T(r, g) &\leq N(r, 0; f) + \frac{2}{d}\overline{N}(r, \infty; f) + N(r, 0; g) + \frac{2}{d}\overline{N}(r, \infty; g) + S(r, f) + S(r, g), \\ \left\{ \delta(0, f) + \frac{2}{d}\Theta(\infty, f) - \frac{2}{d} \right\} T(r, f) &+ \left\{ \delta(0, g) + \frac{2}{d}\Theta(\infty, g) - \frac{2}{d} \right\} T(r, g) \\ &\leq S(r, f) + S(r, g), \end{aligned}$$

which violates assumption (4).

Subcase 2.2:  $B = -1$ . Then

$$G = \frac{A}{A+1-F}$$

and

$$F = \frac{(1+A)G-A}{G}.$$

If  $A+1 \neq 0$ ,

$$\overline{N}(r, A+1; F) = \overline{N}(r, \infty; G)$$

$$\overline{N}(r, \frac{A}{A+1}; G) = \overline{N}(r, 0; F).$$

By similar argument as Subcase 2.1 we have a contradiction.

Therefore  $A+1 = 0$  then

$$FG = 1 \Rightarrow P[f].P[g] \equiv a^2.$$

Subcase 2.3:  $B = 0$ . Then (13) and (14) gives  $G = \frac{F+A-1}{A}$  and  $F = AG + 1 - A$

If  $A-1 \neq 0$ ,  $\overline{N}(r, 0; A-1+F) = \overline{N}(r, 0; G)$  and  $\overline{N}(r, \frac{A-1}{A}; G) = \overline{N}(r, 0; F)$ . Proceeding similarly as in Subcase 2.1 we get a contradiction.

Therefore,  $A-1 = 0$  then  $F \equiv G$  i.e.,

$$P[f] \equiv P[g].$$

Case 3:  $l = 0$ . By (iii) of Theorem 9 we get the result.

This completes the proof.

For further study we should consider the following question: if we have  $P[f] \equiv P[g]$ , can we find more exact relation between  $f$  and  $g$ ?

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