

Normal Families of Meromorphic Functions which Omit a Function Set

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Abstract

In this paper, a particular family of meromorphic functions, which omits a function set is considered. By using the famous Zalcman-Pang lemma, we derive a sufficient condition for the normality of this particular meromorphic functions family.

Keywords: *meromorphic functions family, normality, Zalcman-Pang lemma.*

1 Introduction and Main Results

In complex analysis, the analytic or meromorphic functions family with particular analytic or meromorphic structure is interesting and significant (see [1], [2], [3] and [4] for examples).

In this paper we deal with the normality of the meromorphic functions family omitting some functions. In [5], Yang proved that for a family of meromorphic functions \mathcal{F} on a domain D in \mathbb{C} , and let h be a function holomorphic on D and $h(z) \neq 0$. Suppose that for each $f \in \mathcal{F}$, $f(z) \neq 0$ and $f^{(k)}(z) \neq h(z)$ for $z \in D$, then \mathcal{F} is a normal family on D .

More recently, Pang and Zalcman [6] and [7] observed the following results:

Theorem 1.1 *Let \mathcal{F} be a family of functions meromorphic on a domain D in \mathbb{C} , all of whose zeros have multiplicity at least 4, and h be a function holomorphic on D such that $h(z) \neq 0$. Suppose that for each $f \in \mathcal{F}$, $f(z) \neq 0$ and $f'(z) \neq h(z)$ for $z \in D$, then \mathcal{F} is a normal family on D .*

Theorem 1.2 *Let \mathcal{F} be a family of functions meromorphic on a domain D in \mathbb{C} , all of whose zeros have multiplicity at least $k+3$, and h be a function holomorphic on D such that $h(z) \neq 0$. Suppose that for each $f \in \mathcal{F}$, $f(z) \neq 0$ and $f^{(k)}(z) \neq h(z)$ for $z \in D$, then \mathcal{F} is a normal family on D .*

In this paper, we deal with a generalization of the meromorphic functions family omitting a function, and study a particular family of meromorphic functions which omit a function set. We prove that this particular family of meromorphic functions has a well normality by using the famous Zalcman-Pang lemma. Firstly we present the definition of meromorphic functions omitting a function set.

Definition 1.3 (Meromorphic Functions Omitting a Function Set)

Let D be a domain in \mathbb{C} , f be a function meromorphic on D and \mathcal{S} is a set including finite meromorphic functions on D :

$$S = \{h_i(z) \mid z \in D, i = 1, \dots, l\}.$$

If for arbitrary $1 \leq i \leq l$ and $z \in D$ we have $f(z) \neq h_i(z)$, then the meromorphic function f is said to omit the function set \mathcal{S} .

Remark 1. It obvious that the meromorphic functions family which omits a function set is a natural generalization of the one omitting a function.

In this paper we will generalize the results in [5], [6] and [7] for the meromorphic functions family which omits a function to the one omitting a function set, and the main result of our paper is as follows:

Theorem 1.4 Let \mathcal{F} be a family of functions meromorphic on a domain D in \mathbb{C} , all of whose zeros have multiplicity at least k , and $\mathcal{S} = \{h_i(z) \mid z \in D, i = 1, \dots, l\}$ be a holomorphic functions set on D such that $h_i(z) \neq 0$ for arbitrary $1 \leq i \leq l$, the zeros of $h_i(z)$ have multiplicity m_i which satisfies $k \nmid m_i$ for arbitrary $1 \leq i \leq l$. Suppose that for each $f \in \mathcal{F}$, $|f^{(k)}(z)| < \min_{1 \leq i \leq l} |h_i(z)|$ whenever $f(z) = 0$ and $f^{(k)}(z)$ omits the function set \mathcal{S} , then \mathcal{F} is a normal family on D .

The paper is organized as follows. In section 2, we present some preliminary lemmas. In section 3, we prove Theorem 1.4 by using Zalcman-Pang's approach. In section 4, we give two interesting open problems.

2 Preliminary Results

In order to prove our main theorem, we need the following preliminary results.

Lemma 2.1 (Zalcman-Pang) Let \mathcal{F} be a family of functions meromorphic on the unit disc Δ , all of whose zeros have multiplicity at least k , and suppose that there exists $M \geq 1$, such that $|f^{(k)}(z)| \leq M$ whenever $f(z) = 0$. Then if \mathcal{F} is not normal at z_0 , for each $-1 \leq \alpha \leq k$, there exist

a) points $z_n \in \Delta, z_n \rightarrow z_0$;

- b) functions $f_n \in \mathcal{F}$;
- c) positive numbers $\rho_n \rightarrow 0^+$, such that

$$\frac{f_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi)}{\rho_n^\alpha} = g_n(\xi) \rightarrow g(\xi) \tag{1}$$

uniformly with respect to the spherical metric

$$\|f(z) - g(z)\| = \frac{|f(z) - g(z)|}{\sqrt{1 + |f(z)|^2} \sqrt{1 + |g(z)|^2}} \tag{2}$$

on compact subsets of \mathbb{C} , where g is a nonconstant meromorphic function on \mathbb{C} , all of whose zeros have multiplicity at least k , such that $g^\#(\xi) \leq g^\#(0) = kM + 1$. In particular, g has order at most 2 and $g^\#$ denotes

$$g^\#(z_0) = \lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} \frac{\|g(z) - g(z_0)\|}{|z - z_0|} = \frac{|g'(z_0)|}{1 + |g(z_0)|^2}$$

Lemma 2.2 (Hurwitz) *Let $\{f_n(z)\}$ be a family of functions meromorphic on a domain D in \mathbb{C} and converge to $f(z)$ uniformly on compact subsets of D . If $f(z) = a$ has a solution on D , then when n is large enough, $f_n(z) = a$ also has solutions on D .*

3 Proof of the Main Theorem

With the help of above lemmas, we then prove our main theorem.

Proof of Theorem 1.4. First we show that \mathcal{F} is normal on the subset D' of D , where $h_i(z) \neq 0$ for arbitrary $1 \leq i \leq l$. Suppose then that \mathcal{F} is not normal at $z_0 \in D'$, we may assume that $D = \Delta$ and let $M = \min_{1 \leq i \leq l} |h_i(z)| + 1 \geq 1$. By Lemma 2.1, there exist $f_n \in \mathcal{F}$, $z_n \in \Delta$, $z_n \rightarrow z_0$ and $\rho_n \rightarrow 0^+$ such that

$$\frac{f_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi)}{\rho_n^k} = g_n(\xi) \rightarrow g(\xi)$$

spherically uniformly on compact subsets of \mathbb{C} , where g is a nonconstant meromorphic function on \mathbb{C} , all of whose zeros have order at least k and satisfies

$$g^\#(\xi) \leq g^\#(0) = kM + 1 = k \left(\min_{1 \leq i \leq l} |h_i(z)| + 1 \right) + 1. \tag{3}$$

We then claim that:

Claim 3.1 *If $g(\xi) = 0$, then $|g^{(k)}(\xi)| \leq \min_{1 \leq i \leq l} |h_i(z_0)|$*

Proof of Claim 3.1. Indeed, suppose that if $g(\xi_0) = 0$ and $g(\xi) \neq 0$, by Hurwitz's Theorem there exists $\xi_n \rightarrow \xi_0$ such that (for n sufficiently large)

$$\frac{f_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi_n)}{\rho_n^k} = g_n(\xi_n) = 0,$$

thus $f_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi_n) = 0$. It follows from the hypotheses on \mathcal{F} that $\left| f_n^{(k)}(z_n + \rho_n \xi_n) \right| < \min_{1 \leq i \leq l} |h_i(z_n + \rho_n \xi_n)|$, hence

$$\left| g_n^{(k)}(\xi_n) \right| = \left| f_n^{(k)}(z_n + \rho_n \xi_n) \right| < \min_{1 \leq i \leq l} |h_i(z_n + \rho_n \xi_n)|$$

Let $n \rightarrow \infty$, then we complete the proof of Claim 3.1.

Since

$$g_n^{(k)}(\xi) - h_i(z_n + \rho_n \xi) = f_n^{(k)}(z_n + \rho_n \xi) - h_i(z_n + \rho_n \xi) \neq 0$$

for arbitrary $1 \leq i \leq l$, by Hurwitz's Theorem we have either

- (i) there exists $1 \leq i_0 \leq l$ such that $g^{(k)}(\xi) \equiv h_{i_0}(z_0)$, or
- (ii) for each $1 \leq i \leq l$ we always have $g^{(k)}(\xi) \neq h_i(z_0)$.

If (i) satisfies, since the zeros of g have order at least k , we have $g(\xi) = \frac{h_{i_0}(z_0)}{k!} (\xi - \xi_0)^k$,

by Claim 3.1 it follows that

$$|h_{i_0}(z_0)| = |g^{(k)}(\xi_0)| \leq \min_{1 \leq i \leq l} |h_i(z_0)|. \tag{4}$$

Moreover from the expression of g , one gets

$$g^\#(0) \leq \begin{cases} \frac{k}{2}, & |\xi_0| \geq 1 \\ |h_{i_0}(z_0)|, & |\xi_0| < 1, \end{cases} \tag{5}$$

then (4) and (5) lead a contradiction to (3).

If (ii) satisfies, it follows that $g^{(k)}(\xi) = h_{i_0}(z_0) + e^{a\xi+b}$ for some $1 \leq i_0 \leq l$. We divided this case into two parts:

- (a) If $a = 0$, then $g^{(k)}(\xi) = h_{i_0}(z_0) + c$, since the zeros of g have order at least k , we have $g(\xi) = \frac{h_{i_0}(z_0)+c}{k!} (\xi - \xi_1)^k$, then it follows from Claim 3.1 that

$$|h_{i_0}(z_0) + c| = |g^{(k)}(\xi_1)| \leq \min_{1 \leq i \leq l} |h_i(z_0)|. \tag{6}$$

Moreover

$$g^\#(0) \leq \begin{cases} \frac{k}{2}, & |\xi_1| \geq 1 \\ |h_{i_0}(z_0) + c|, & |\xi_1| < 1, \end{cases} \tag{7}$$

thus (6) and (7) also lead a contradiction to (3).

(b) If $a \neq 0$, we have $g(\xi) = \frac{h_{i_0}(z_0)}{k!} \xi^k + a_1 \xi^{k-1} + \dots + a_k + \frac{e^{a\xi+b}}{a^k}$. It follows that there exist infinite $\xi_n \rightarrow \infty$ such that $g(\xi_n) = 0$, that is to say

$$a^k \left(\frac{h_{i_0}(z_0)}{k!} \xi_n^k + a_1 \xi_n^{k-1} + \dots + a_k - \frac{h_{i_0}(z_0)}{a^k} \right) = -h_{i_0}(z_0) - e^{a\xi_n+b}.$$

By Claim 3.1 we have

$$|a^k| \left| \frac{h_{i_0}(z_0)}{k!} \xi_n^k + a_1 \xi_n^{k-1} + \dots + a_k - \frac{h_{i_0}(z_0)}{a^k} \right| = |h_{i_0}(z_0) + e^{a\xi_n+b}| = |g^{(k)}(\xi_n)| \leq \min_{1 \leq i \leq l} |h_i(z_0)|,$$

which has a contradiction to $\xi_n \rightarrow \infty$.

By all of above, we prove that \mathcal{F} is normal on the subset D' of D , where $h_i(z) \neq 0$ for arbitrary $1 \leq i \leq l$.

We now turn to prove \mathcal{F} is normal at points for which exists $1 \leq i_0 \leq l$ such that $h_{i_0}(z) = 0$. Making standard normalizations, we may assume that $h_{i_0}(z) = z^m b(z)$ for $z \in D$, $m \geq 1$, $b(0) = 1$ and $h_{i_0}(z) \neq 0$ for $0 < |z| < 1$. Let

$$\mathcal{G} = \left\{ \mathcal{G}(z) = \frac{f(z)}{z^m} \mid f \in \mathcal{F} \right\},$$

since $|f^{(k)}(0)| \neq \min_{1 \leq i \leq l} |h_i(0)| = 0$, $f(0) \neq 0$, we have $F(0) = \infty$. We then prove \mathcal{G} is normal at 0. Suppose not, then by Lemma 2.1, there exist $G_n \in \mathcal{G}$, $z_n \rightarrow 0$ and $\rho_n \rightarrow 0^+$ such that

$$g_n(\xi) = \frac{G_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi)}{\rho_n^k} = \frac{f_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi)}{\rho_n^k (z_n + \rho_n \xi)^m} \rightarrow g(\xi)$$

spherically uniformly on compact subsets of \mathbb{C} , where g is a nonconstant meromorphic function on \mathbb{C} , all of whose zeros have order at least k and satisfies

$$g^\#(\xi) \leq g^\#(0) = kM + 1. \tag{8}$$

We then consider the following two cases:

(i) Suppose $z_n/\rho_n \rightarrow \infty$, we have

$$f_n^{(k)}(z) = z^m G_n^{(k)}(z) + \sum_{j=1}^k c_j z^{m-j} G_n^{(k-j)}(z),$$

where

$$c_j = \begin{cases} m(m-1)(m-j+1), & j \leq m \\ 0, & j > m. \end{cases}$$

Since $\rho_n^j g_n^{(k-j)}(\xi) = G_n^{(k-j)}(z_n + \rho_n \xi)$ for arbitrary $0 \leq j \leq m$, we obtain

$$\frac{f_n^{(k)}(z_n + \rho_n \xi)}{h_{i_0}(z_n + \rho_n \xi)} = \left(g_n^{(k)}(\xi) + \sum_{j=1}^k c_j \frac{g_n^{(k-j)}(z_n + \rho_n \xi)}{(z_n/\rho_n + \xi)^j} \right) \frac{1}{b(z_n + \rho_n \xi)}. \tag{9}$$

Now

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{c_j}{(z_n/\rho_n + \xi)^j} = 0 \tag{10}$$

for arbitrary $1 \leq j \leq m$ and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{b(z_n + \rho_n \xi)} = 1. \tag{11}$$

It follows from (9), (10) and (11) that

$$\frac{f_n^{(k)}(z_n + \rho_n \xi)}{h_{i_0}(z_n + \rho_n \xi)} \rightarrow g^{(k)}(\xi) \tag{12}$$

uniformly on compact subsets of \mathbb{C} disjoint from the poles of g .

By $\rho_n^j g_n^{(k-j)}(\xi) = G_n^{(k-j)}(z_n + \rho_n \xi)$ and (9) we obtain that the M in (8) is equal to 1, thus by using (12) we can prove the following claim as the proof of Claim 3.1.

Claim 3.2 *If $g(\xi) = 0$, then $|g^{(k)}(\xi)| \leq 1$.*

Moreover since it follows from (12) that

$$g_n^{(k)}(\xi) + o(1) = \frac{f_n^{(k)}(z_n + \rho_n \xi)}{h_{i_0}(z_n + \rho_n \xi)} \neq 1,$$

Hurwitz's Theorem implies that either

- (i) $g^{(k)}(\xi) \equiv 1$, or
- (ii) $g^{(k)}(\xi) \neq 1$ for arbitrary ξ .

If (i) satisfies, since the zeros of g have order at least k , one get $g(\xi) = \frac{1}{k!}(\xi - \xi_0)^k$, thus

$$g^\#(0) \leq \begin{cases} \frac{k}{2}, & |\xi_0| \geq 1 \\ 1, & |\xi_0| < 1, \end{cases}$$

which contradicts $g^\#(0) = k + 1$.

If (ii) satisfies, it follows that $g^{(k)}(\xi) = 1 + e^{a\xi+b}$. We divided this case into two parts:

(a) If $a = 0$, then $g^{(k)}(\xi) = 1 + c$, since the zeros of g have order at least k , it follows that $g(\xi) = \frac{1+c}{k!}(\xi - \xi_1)^k$. By Claim 3.2 we have

$$|1 + c| = |g^{(k)}(\xi_1)| \leq 1. \tag{13}$$

Moreover from the expression of g , one gets

$$g^\#(0) \leq \begin{cases} \frac{k}{2}, & |\xi_1| \geq 1 \\ |1 + c|, & |\xi_1| < 1, \end{cases} \tag{14}$$

thus (13) and (14) also lead a contradiction to $g^\#(0) = k + 1$.

(b) If $a \neq 0$, we have $g(\xi) = \frac{1}{k!}\xi^k + a_1\xi^{k-1} + \dots + a_k + \frac{e^{a\xi+b}}{a^k}$. It follows that there exist infinite $\xi_n \rightarrow \infty$ such that $g(\xi_n) = 0$, that is to say

$$a^k \left(\frac{1}{k!}\xi_n^k + a_1\xi_n^{k-1} + \dots + a_k - \frac{1}{a^k} \right) = -1 - e^{a\xi_n+b}.$$

By Claim 3.2, we have

$$|a^k| \left| \frac{1}{k!}\xi_n^k + a_1\xi_n^{k-1} + \dots + a_k - \frac{1}{a^k} \right| = |1 + e^{a\xi_n+b}| = |g^{(k)}(\xi_n)| \leq 1,$$

which has a contradiction to $\xi_n \rightarrow \infty$.

(ii) So that we may assume that $z_n/\rho_n \rightarrow \alpha$, which is a finite complex number. Then we have

$$\frac{G_n(\rho_n\xi)}{\rho_n^k} = \frac{G_n(z_n + \rho_n(\xi - z_n/\rho_n))}{\rho_n^k} \rightarrow g(\xi - \alpha) = \tilde{g}(\xi),$$

the convergence being spherically uniform on compact sets of \mathbb{C} , hence uniform on compact disjoint from the poles of \tilde{g} . Clearly, all zeros of \tilde{g} have order at least k , and the pole of \tilde{g} at $\xi = 0$ has order at least m . Now

$$K_n(\xi) = \frac{f_n(\rho_n\xi)}{\rho_n^{k+m}} = \frac{G_n(\rho_n\xi)}{\rho_n^k} \frac{(\rho_n\xi)^m}{\rho_n^m} \rightarrow \xi^m \tilde{g}(\xi) = K(\xi) \tag{15}$$

uniformly on compact subsets of \mathbb{C} disjoint from the poles of \tilde{g} , and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{h_{i_0}(\rho_n\xi)}{\rho_n^m} = \xi^m$ uniformly on compact subsets of \mathbb{C} . Note that since \tilde{g} has a pole of order at least k at $\xi = 0$, $K(0) \neq 0$ and all zeros of K have order at least k . Furthermore since

$$K_n^{(k)}(\xi) - \frac{h_{i_0}(\rho_n\xi)}{\rho_n^m} = \frac{f_n^{(k)}(\rho_n\xi) - h_{i_0}(\rho_n\xi)}{\rho_n^m} \neq 0,$$

it follows from $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{h_{i_0}(\rho_n \xi)}{\rho_n^m} = \xi^m$ and Hurwitz's Theorem that either

- (i) $K^{(k)}(\xi) \equiv \xi^m$, or
- (ii) $K^{(k)}(\xi) \neq \xi^m$ for arbitrary ξ .

If (i) satisfies, it follows that K is a polynomial of multiplicity $m+k$. If all zeros of K has order k , we have $m+k = pk$, which has a contradiction to the zeros of $h_i(z)$ having multiplicity m_i such that $k \nmid m_i$ for arbitrary $1 \leq i \leq l$. If there exists a zero of K with order at least $k+1$, then $K^{(k)}(\xi)$ must vanish at any points where $K(\xi)$ vanishes. On the other hand, $K^{(k)}(\xi) \neq 0$ for $\xi \neq 0$, thus we have $K(0) = 0$, a contradiction.

If (ii) satisfies, we have $g^{(k)}(\xi) = 1 + e^{a\xi+b}$, firstly we claim that:

Claim 3.3 *If $K(\xi) = 0$, then $|K^{(k)}(\xi)| \leq |\xi|^m$.*

Proof of Claim 3.3. Indeed, suppose that if $K(\xi_0) = 0$ and $K(\xi) \neq 0$, by Hurwitz's Theorem there exists $\xi_n \rightarrow \xi_0$ such that (for n sufficiently large)

$$\frac{f_n(\rho_n \xi_n)}{\rho_n^{k+m}} = K_n(\xi_n) = 0,$$

thus $f_n(\rho_n \xi_n) = 0$. It follows from the hypotheses on \mathcal{F} that $|f_n^{(k)}(\rho_n \xi_n)| < \min_{1 \leq i \leq l} |h_i(\rho_n \xi_n)|$, hence

$$|K_n^{(k)}(\xi_n)| = \left| \frac{f_n^{(k)}(\rho_n \xi_n)}{\rho_n^m} \right| < \left| \frac{h_{i_0}(\rho_n \xi_n)}{\rho_n^m} \right| = \left| \frac{(\rho_n \xi_n)^m b(\rho_n \xi_n)}{\rho_n^m} \right| = |\xi_n|^m |b(\rho_n \xi_n)|.$$

Let $n \rightarrow \infty$, we complete the proof of Claim 3.3.

We then divided this case into two parts:

- (a) If $a = 0$, as the proof of case (i) we obtain a contradiction.
- (b) If $a \neq 0$, we have

$$K(\xi) = \frac{1}{(k+m) \cdots (m+1)} \xi^{k+m} + a_1 \xi^{k-1} + \cdots + a_k + \frac{e^{a\xi+b}}{a^k}.$$

It follows that there exist infinite $\xi_n \rightarrow \infty$ such that $K(\xi_n) = 0$, that is to say

$$a^k \left(\frac{1}{(k+m) \cdots (m+1)} \xi_n^{k+m} + a_1 \xi_n^{k-1} + \cdots + a_k - \frac{\xi_n^m}{a^k} \right) = -\xi_n^m - e^{a\xi_n+b}.$$

By using Claim 3.3, we have

$$|a^k| \left| \frac{1}{(k+m)\cdots(m+1)} \xi_n^{k+m} + a_1 \xi_n^{k-1} + \cdots + a_k - \frac{\xi_n^m}{a^k} \right| = |\xi_n^m + e^{a\xi_n+b}| = |K^{(k)}(\xi_n)| \leq |\xi_n|^m,$$

which also has a contradiction to $\xi_n \rightarrow \infty$.

The contradiction establishes \mathcal{G} is normal at 0. It remains to prove that \mathcal{F} is normal at 0. Since \mathcal{G} is normal at 0 and $G(0) = \infty$ for each $G(z) \in \mathcal{G}$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that if $G(z) \in \mathcal{G}$, then $|G(z)| \geq 1$ for all $z \in \Delta_\delta = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z| < \delta\}$. Thus $f(z) \neq 0$ for $z \in \Delta_\delta$ and for all $f \in \mathcal{F}$, which is equivalent to $1/f$ is analytic in Δ_δ for all $f \in \mathcal{F}$. Therefore, for all $f \in \mathcal{F}$, we have

$$\left| \frac{1}{f(z)} \right| = \left| \frac{1}{G(z)} \frac{1}{|z|^k} \right| \leq \frac{2^k}{\delta^k}, |z| = \frac{\delta}{2}. \tag{16}$$

By the Maximum Principle and Montel's Theorem, \mathcal{F} is normal at $\xi = 0$. This completes the proof of Theorem 1.4.

4 Open Problem

There are two interesting open problems related to our paper, one open problem is related to the meromorphic differential polynomial which omit a function set:

Problem 4.1 *Let \mathcal{F} be a family of functions meromorphic on a domain D in \mathbb{C} , all of whose zeros have multiplicity at least k , and $\mathcal{S} = \{h_i(z) \mid z \in D, i = 1, \dots, l\}$ be a holomorphic functions set on D such that $h_i(z) \neq 0$ for arbitrary $1 \leq i \leq l$, the zeros of $h_i(z)$ have multiplicity m_i which satisfies $k \nmid m_i$ for arbitrary $1 \leq i \leq l$. Suppose that for each $f \in \mathcal{F}$, $\max_{1 \leq j \leq k} |f^{(j)}(z)| < \min_{1 \leq i \leq l} |h_i(z)|$ whenever $f(z) = 0$ and the differential polynomial $\sum_{j=1}^k p_j(z) f^{(j)}(z)$ omits the function set \mathcal{S} , is \mathcal{F} is a normal family on D ?*

Another open problem is related to the meromorphic functions family which shares a function set, firstly we present the definition of meromorphic functions sharing a function set as follows:

Definition 4.2 (Meromorphic Functions Sharing a Function Set) *Let D be a domain in \mathbb{C} , f and g meromorphic on D and \mathcal{S} is a set including finite meromorphic functions on D :*

$$\mathcal{S} = \{h_i(z) \mid z \in D, i = 1, \dots, l\}.$$

If f and g satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} E_f(S) &= \{z \in D \mid f(z) = h_i(z), \exists 1 \leq i \leq l\} \\ &= \{z \in D \mid g(z) = h_j(z), \exists 1 \leq j \leq l\} \\ &= E_g(S), \end{aligned}$$

then the two meromorphic functions f and g on D are said to share the function set S .

The open problem is as follows:

Problem 4.3 Let \mathcal{F} be a family of functions meromorphic on a domain D in \mathbb{C} , all of whose zeros have multiplicity at least k . If there exists a holomorphic function set on D

$$S = \{h_i(z) \mid z \in D, i = 1, \dots, l\},$$

where $h_i(z) \neq 0$ for arbitrary $z \in D$ and $1 \leq i \leq l$, such that for each $f \in \mathcal{F}$, $E_f(S) = E_{f^{(k)}}(S)$ and $0 < |f^{(k)}(z)| \leq \sup_{1 \leq i \leq l} |h_i(z)|$ whenever $z \in E_f(0)$, is \mathcal{F} is a normal family on D ?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. I would especially like to express my appreciation to my advisor professor Yu Zheng for longtime encouragement and meaningful discussions. I would also especially like to thank the referee for meaningful suggestions that led to improvement of the article.

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