

ON THE AUXILIARY GEOMETRIC MEAN OF ENTIRE FUNCTIONS

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1. Introduction

Let

$$(1.1) \quad f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n$$

be an entire function. Set

$$M(r) \equiv M(r, f) = \max_{|z|=r} |f(z)|,$$

$$\mu(r) \equiv \mu(r, f) = \max_{n \geq 0} \{|a_n| r^n\}$$

and

$$\nu(r) \equiv \nu(r, f) = \max \{n : \mu(r) = |a_n| r^n\}.$$

$M(r)$, $\mu(r)$ and $\nu(r)$ are called respectively the maximum modulus, the maximum term and the rank of the maximum term of $f(z)$ for $|z|=r$.

The concept of (p, q) -order and lower (p, q) -order of $f(z)$ having an index pair (p, q) , ($p \geq 1, q \geq 1, p \geq q$), was introduced by Juneja, Kapoor and Bajpai [1]. Thus $f(z)$ is said to be of (p, q) -order ρ and lower (p, q) -order λ , if

$$(1.2) \quad \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p]} M(r)}{\log^{[q]} r} = \frac{\rho(p, q) \equiv \rho}{\lambda(p, q) \equiv \lambda}$$

where $\log^{[0]} x = x$ and $\log^{[n]} x = \log(\log^{[n-1]} x)$ for $0 < \log^{[n-1]} x < \infty$. For the definition of index-pair etc. (see Juneja et al. 1976).

The geometric mean of $f(z)$ for $|z|=r$ has been defined as [15, p.144]:

$$(1.3) \quad G(r) = \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \log |f(r e^{i\theta})| d\theta \right\}.$$

The following two geometric means $g_k(r)$ and $g_k^*(r)$ were introduced by Kamthan [10], and, Jain and Chugh [8], respectively

$$(1.4) \quad g_k(r) = \exp \left\{ \frac{k+1}{r^{k+1}} \int_0^r x^k \log G(x) dx \right\}, \quad k \in R_+,$$

$$(1.5) \quad g_k^*(r) = \exp \left\{ \frac{k+1}{(\log r)^{k+1}} \int_1^r x^{-1} (\log x)^k \log G(x) dx \right\}, \quad k \in R_+.$$

A number of properties regarding the growths of $g_k(r)$ with respect to $G(r)$ and other auxiliary functions for an entire function of order $\rho(2, 1)$ were obtained in ([3], [4], [9]–[14], [16]–[18] etc.). Also, some authors ([6]–[8], [20], [21] etc.) investigated the growth relations of the geometric mean $g_k^*(r)$ for an entire function of order $\rho(2, 2)$.

In the present paper we are introducing a unified geometric mean $J_{k,m}(r)$, $k \in R_+$, which we shall term as Auxiliary Geometric Mean (a.g.m.) of $f(z)$ and is given by

$$(1.6) \quad J_{k,m}(r) = \exp \left\{ \frac{k+1}{(\log^{[m-1]} r)^{k+1}} \int_{r_0}^r \frac{(\log^{[m-1]} x)^k \log G(x)}{V_{[m-2]}(x)} dx \right\}$$

where $m \in I_+$, $V_{[m]}(r) = \prod_{i=1}^m \log^{[i]} r$ and r_0 is a constant depending on m .

Our aim in this paper is to investigate certain growth properties of the a.g.m. with respect to $G(r)$ and $n(r)$ (number of zeros of $f(z)$ in $|z| \leq r$) for an entire function of (p, q) -order $\rho(p, q)$ and lower (p, q) -order $\lambda(p, q)$. The results that we obtained here generalize, improve and combined many of the known results (see e.g. [5], [6], [8], [9], [11]–[14], [18] etc.)

2. Statements of theorems

THEOREM 1. Let $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n$ be an entire function having (p, q) -order $\rho(p, q)$ and lower (p, q) -order $\lambda(p, q)$, then

$$(2.1) \quad \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p]} F(r)}{\log^{[q]} r} = \rho(p, q) \equiv \rho$$

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p]} F(r)}{\log^{[q]} r} = \lambda(p, q) \equiv \lambda,$$

where $F(r)$ may be replaced by $G(r)$ or $J_{k,m}(r)$.

THEOREM 2. Let $f(z)$ be an entire function having (p, q) -order ρ and $f(0) \neq 0$, then

$$(2.2) \quad \frac{\delta_2}{k+\rho+1} \leq \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log \{G(r)/J_{k,m}(r)\}}{(\log^{[q-1]} r)^\rho}$$

$$\leq \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log \{G(r)/J_{k,m}(r)\}}{(\log^{[q-1]} r)^\rho} \leq \frac{\delta_1}{k+\rho+1},$$

where,

$$(2.3) \quad \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n(r)V_{[m-1]}(r)}{r(\log^{[m-1]} r)^{\rho-1}} = \frac{\delta_1}{\delta_2}; \delta_1, \delta_2 \in R_+ \cup \{0\}.$$

THEOREM 3. For a class of entire functions for which

$$(2.4) \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[2]} J_{k,m}(r)}{\log^{[m]} r} = +\infty,$$

we have

$$(2.5) \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \sup \inf \frac{\log^{[3]} J_{k,m}(r)}{\log^{[m]} r} = \log L_-,$$

where,

$$(2.6) \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \sup \inf \left\{ \frac{\log G(r)}{\log J_{k,m}(r)} \right\}^{1/\log^{[m]} r} = L.$$

THEOREM 4. Let $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n$ be an entire function having (p, q) -order ρ , lower (p, q) -order λ and $f(0) \neq 0$, then

$$(2.7) \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \sup \inf \frac{\log^{[p-1]} (n(r) \log r)}{\log^{[q]} r} = \frac{\rho}{\lambda},$$

where $n(r)$ represents the number of zeros of $f(z)$ in $|z| \leq r$.

THEOREM 5. For an entire function $f(z)$ of (p, q) -order ρ , lower (p, q) -order λ , $f(0) \neq 0$ and $N(r) = \int_0^r n(x)/x dx$, we find

$$(2.8) \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \sup \inf \frac{\log^{[p-1]} N(r)}{\log^{[q]} r} = \frac{\rho}{\lambda}.$$

THEOREM 6. For $r_2 > r_1 > 0$,

$$(2.9) \quad \begin{aligned} & \{(\log^{[m-1]} r_2)^{k+1} - (\log^{[m-1]} r_1)^{k+1}\} \log G(r_1) \\ & \leq (\log^{[m-1]} r_2)^{k+1} \log J_{k,m}(r) - (\log^{[m-1]} r_1)^{k+1} \log J_{k,m}(r_1) \leq \\ & \{(\log^{[m-1]} r_2)^{k+1} - (\log^{[m-1]} r_1)^{k+1}\} \log G(r_2). \end{aligned}$$

THEOREM 7. Let $f_1(z)$ and $f_2(z)$ be two entire functions of (p, q) -orders ρ_1, ρ_2 and lower (p, q) -orders λ_1, λ_2 , respectively and $f(z)$ be an entire function satisfying

$$(2.10) \quad \log^{[p-1]} F(r, f) \sim [\{ \log^{[p-1]} F(r, f_1) \}^\alpha \{ \log^{[p-1]} F(r, f_2) \}^\beta],$$

$$\alpha, \beta \in R_+$$

Then the (p, q) -order ρ and lower (p, q) -order λ of $f(z)$ are bounded by

$$(2.11) \quad \alpha \lambda_1 + \beta \lambda_2 \leq \lambda \leq \rho \leq \alpha \rho_1 + \beta \rho_2,$$

and if,

$$(2.12) \quad \log^{[p]} F(r, f) \sim \{\log^{[p]} F(r, f_1)\}^\gamma \{\log^{[p]} F(r, f_2)\}^{1-\gamma}, \quad r \in (0, 1)$$

then

$$(2.13) \quad \lambda_1^\gamma \lambda_2^{1-\gamma} \leq \lambda \leq \rho \leq \rho_1^\gamma \rho_2^{1-\gamma}.$$

THEOREM 8. For every entire function $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n$ of (p, q) -order ρ , we find

$$(2.14) \quad \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]} \left\{ r \frac{G(r, f^{(1)})}{G(r, f)} \right\}}{\log^{[q]} r} = \theta$$

in the neighbourhood of points where $f(z) > M(r) (\nu(r))^{-1/8}$. Here $f^{(1)}(z)$ denotes the first derivative of $f(z)$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \rho = P(\theta) &\equiv P(\theta, p, q) = \theta && \text{if } p > q \\ &= 1 + \theta && \text{if } p = q = 2 \\ &= \max(1, \theta) && \text{if } 3 \leq p = q < \infty \\ &= \infty && \text{if } p = q = \infty, \\ 0 &\leq \theta \leq \infty. \end{aligned}$$

3. Lemmas

In this section we prove a few lemmas which are needed in the sequel.

LEMMA 1. $\log G(r)$ is an increasing convex function of $\log r$, $f(0) \neq 0$.

PROOF. By Jensen's formula, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \log G(r) &= \log |f(0)| + \int_0^r \frac{n(x)}{x} dx \\ &= \log G(r_0) + \int_{r_0}^r \frac{n(x)}{x} dx. \end{aligned}$$

This gives,

$$\frac{d[\log G(r)]}{d[\log r]} = n(r).$$

The right hand side is a non-decreasing function of r , since $n(r)$ is a non-decreasing function of r and tends to infinity as $r \rightarrow \infty$.

LEMMA 2. $(\log^{[m-1]} r)^{k+1} \{\log G(r)\}^2$ is an increasing convex function of r .
 (1) r_0 need not be the same at each occurrence.

$$(\log^{[m-1]} r)^{k+1} \log J_{k,m}(r).$$

PROOF. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d[(\log^{[m-1]} r)^{k+1} \{\log G(r)\}^2]}{d[(\log^{[m-1]} r)^{k+1} \log J_{k,m}(r)]} &= \frac{\frac{d}{dr} [(\log^{[m-1]} r)^{k+1} \{\log G(r)\}^2]}{\frac{d}{dr} \left[(k+1) \int_{r_0}^r \frac{(\log^{[m-1]} x)^k \log G(x)}{V_{[m-2]}(x)} dx \right]} \\ &= \log G(r) + \frac{2V_{[m-1]}(r) G'(r)}{(k+1) G(r)}, \end{aligned}$$

which increases with r for large values of r , since, by lemma 1, $\log G(r)$ is an increasing convex function of $\log r$.

LEMMA 3. For $R > r \geq 0$,

$$(3.1) \quad G(r) \leq M(r) \leq \{G(r)\}^{(R+r)/R-r}.$$

PROOF. This can easily be proved with the help of (1.3) and the Poisson-Jensen formula

$$\log |f(z)| = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{(R^2 - r^2) \log |f(Re^{i\phi})| d\phi}{R^2 - Rr \cos(\theta - \phi) + r^2} - \sum_{\mu=1}^m \log \left| \frac{R^2 - \bar{a}_\mu r e^{i\theta}}{R(r e^{i\theta} - a_\mu)} \right|.$$

LEMMA 4. For $R > r > 1$,

$$(3.2) \quad \log J_{k,m}(r) \leq \log G(r) \leq \frac{(\log^{[m-1]} R)^{k+1}}{(\log^{[m-1]} R)^{k+1} - (\log^{[m-1]} r)^{k+1}} \log J_{k,m}(R).$$

PROOF. From (1.6), we have

$$(3.3) \quad \log J_{k,m}(r) = \frac{k+1}{(\log^{[m-1]} r)^{k+1}} \int_{r_0}^r \frac{(\log^{[m-1]} x)^k \log G(x)}{V_{[m-2]}(x)} dx \leq \log G(r).$$

Further,

$$\begin{aligned} \log J_{k,m}(R) &\geq \frac{k+1}{(\log^{[m-1]} R)^{k+1}} \int_r^R \frac{(\log^{[m-1]} x)^k \log G(x)}{V_{[m-2]}(x)} dx \\ &\geq \frac{(k+1) \log G(r)}{(\log^{[m-1]} R)^{k+1}} \int_r^R \frac{(\log^{[m-1]} x)^k}{V_{[m-2]}(x)} dx \\ &= \frac{(\log^{[m-1]} R)^{k+1} - (\log^{[m-1]} r)^{k+1}}{(\log^{[m-1]} R)^{k+1}} \log G(r). \end{aligned}$$

(3.3) and (3.4) complete the proof of lemma 4.

4. Proofs of theorems

THEOREM 1. For $R=Kr$, $K>1$, (3.1) and (3.2) give

$$\log^{[p]} G(r) \leq \log^{[p]} M(r) \leq \log^{[p]} G(Kr) + o(1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{and } \log J_{k,m}(Kr) &\geq \frac{(\log^{[m-1]} Kr)^{k+1} - (\log^{[m-1]} r)^{k+1}}{(\log^{[m-1]} Kr)^{k+1}} \log G(r) \\ &= \left[1 - \left\{ \frac{\log^{[m-1]} r}{\log^{[m-1]} Kr} \right\}^{k+1} \right] \log G(r), \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{or, } \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \sup \inf \frac{\log^{[p]} G(r)}{\log^{[q]} r} = \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \sup \inf \frac{\log^{[p]} M(r)}{\log^{[q]} r} = \frac{\rho}{\lambda},$$

$$\text{and } \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \sup \inf \frac{\log^{[p]} J_{k,m}(r)}{\log^{[q]} r} \geq \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \sup \inf \frac{\log^{[p]} G(r)}{\log^{[q]} r} = \frac{\rho}{\lambda}.$$

Also, from (3.2), we have

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \sup \inf \frac{\log^{[p]} J_{k,m}(r)}{\log^{[q]} r} \leq \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \sup \inf \frac{\log^{[p]} G(r)}{\log^{[q]} r} = \frac{\rho}{\lambda}.$$

This completes the proof of theorem 1.

REMARK 1. Theorem 1 is the combination of the following five results investigated by different workers:

- (i) For $(p, q) = (2, 1)$, $F(r) = G(r)$, the result is due to Srivastava [18].
- (ii) For $(p, q) = (2, 2)$, $F(r) = G(r)$, the result is due to Jain and Chugh [6].
- (iii) For $(p, q) = (2, 1)$, $F(r) = J_{1,1}(r) \equiv g_1(r) \equiv g(r)$, the result is due to Kamthan [9].
- (iv) For $(p, q) = (2, 1)$, $F(r) = J_{k,1}(r) \equiv g_k(r)$, the result is due to Kuldip Kumar [12].
- (v) For $(p, q) = (2, 2)$, $F(r) = J_{k,2}(r) \equiv g_k^*(r)$, the result is due to Jain and Chugh [6].

THEOREM 2. Combining (1.3) and (1.6) and using Jensen's formula, we get

$$\begin{aligned} (4.1) \quad \log \left\{ \frac{G(r)}{J_{k,m}(r)} \right\} &= \frac{1}{(\log^{[m-1]} r)^{k+1}} \int_{r_0}^r (\log^{[m-1]} x)^{k+1} \frac{d}{dx} (\log G(X)) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{(\log^{[m-1]} r)^{k+1}} \int_{r_0}^r \frac{n(x)}{x} (\log^{[m-1]} x)^{k+1} dx. \end{aligned}$$

From (2.3), we have, for any $\varepsilon > 0$ and $r > r_0$,

$$(4.2) \quad (\delta_2 - \varepsilon) \frac{r(\log^{[m-1]} r)^{\rho-1}}{V_{[m-2]}(r)} \leq n(r) \leq (\delta_1 + \varepsilon) \frac{r(\log^{[m-1]} r)^{\rho-1}}{V_{[m-2]}(r)}$$

Using right-hand inequality in (4.1), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \log \left\{ \frac{G(r)}{J_{k,m}(r)} \right\} &< \frac{\delta_1 + \varepsilon}{(\log^{[m-1]} r)^{k+1}} \int_{r_0}^r \frac{(\log^{[m-1]} x)^{k+\rho}}{V_{[m-2]}(x)} dx \\ &= \frac{(\delta_1 + \varepsilon) (\log^{[m-1]} r)^\rho}{k + \rho + 1} (1 - 0(1)), \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{or, } \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log [G(r)/J_{k,m}(r)]}{(\log^{[m-1]} r)^\rho} \leq \frac{\delta_1}{k + \rho + 1}.$$

Similarly, on using left-hand inequality of (4.2) in (4.1) we find

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log [G(r)/J_{k,m}(r)]}{(\log^{[m-1]} r)^\rho} \geq \frac{\delta_2}{k + \rho + 1}.$$

REMARK 2. A result due to Vaish and Srivastava [21], for $(p, q) = (2, 2)$, $J_{k,2}(r) \equiv g_{k,2}^*(r)$, becomes the particular case of the above theorem.

THEOREM 3. We have

$$\log [(\log^{[m-1]} r)^{k+1} \log J_{k,m}(r)] = (k+1) \int_{r_0}^r \frac{\log G(x)}{\log J_{k,m}(x)} \frac{dx}{V_{[m-1]}(x)},$$

since numerator on the right-hand side is the differential coefficient of denominator. This gives

$$\log [(\log^{[m-1]} r)^{k+1} \log J_{k,m}(r)] < (k+1) \int_{r_0}^r (L + \varepsilon)^{\log^{[m]} x} \frac{dx}{V_{[m-1]}(x)}$$

for any $\varepsilon > 0$ and $r > r_0 = r_0(\varepsilon)$.

Hence, we obtain

$$\log [(\log^{[m-1]} r)^{k+1} \log J_{k,m}(r)] < (k+1) \frac{(L + \varepsilon)^{\log^{[m]} r}}{\log(L + \varepsilon)}.$$

$$\text{or, } \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[3]} J_{k,m}(r)}{\log^{[m]} r} \leq \log L,$$

$$\text{since, } \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[2]} J_{k,m}(r)}{\log^{[m]} r} = +\infty.$$

Further, using lemma 2, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \log \{(\log^{[m-1]}(2r))^{k+1} \log J_{k,m}(2r)\} \\ & \cong (k+1) \int_r^{2r} \frac{(\log G(x))^2}{\log J_{k,m}(x) \log G(x)} \frac{dx}{V_{[m-1]}(x)} \\ & \cong (k+1) \frac{(\log G(r))^2}{\log J_{k,m}(r)} \int_r^{2r} \frac{dx}{\log G(x) V_{[m-1]}(x)} \\ & \cong (k+1) \frac{(\log G(r))^2}{\log J_{k,m}(r)} \frac{1}{\log G(2r)} \{\log^{[m]}(2r) - \log^{[m]}r\} \\ & > (k+1)(L-\varepsilon) \log^{[m]}r \frac{\log G(r)}{\log G(2r)} \{\log^{[m]}2r - \log^{[m]}r\}, \end{aligned}$$

for a sequence of values of r tending to infinity. Consequently,

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[3]} J_{k,m}(r)}{\log^{[m]} r} \geq \log L.$$

In a similar manner, we prove that

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[3]} J_{k,m}(r)}{\log^{[m]} r} = \log l$$

This proves theorem 3.

REMARK 3. Theorem 3 is the generalization of the following results:

(i) (see theorem 11, p.107, [9]) due to Kamthan for $(p, q) = (2, 1)$,

$$J_{1,1}(r) \cong g_1(r) \cong g(r).$$

(ii) (see theorem 6, p.254, [11]) due to Kamthan and Jain for $(p, q) = (2, 1)$,

$$J_{k,1}(r) \cong g_k(r).$$

(iii) (see theorem 4, p.44, [12]) due to Kuldip Kumar for $(p, q) = (2, 1)$,

$$J_{k,1}(r) \cong g_k(r).$$

(iv) (see theorem 4, p.124, [8]) due to Jain and Chugh for $(p, q) = (2, 2)$,

$$J_{k,2}(r) \cong g_k^*(r).$$

In (ii) Kamthan and Jain used the hypothesis 'log log $G(r)$ is an increasing convex function of $\log r$ ' instead of (2.4) for proving the result (2.5) for $(p, q) = (2, 1)$ and $J_{k,1}(r) \cong g_k(r)$.

Similarly, in (iv) Jain and Chugh used the hypothesis 'log log $G(r)$ is an increasing convex function of $\log \log r$ ' instead of (2.4) for getting the result (2.5) for $(p, q) = (2, 2)$ and $J_{k,2}(r) \cong g_k^*(r)$.

THEOREM 4. From (3.3), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \log J_{k,m}(r) &\leq \log G(r) = \int_0^r \frac{n(x)}{x} dx + \log |f(0)| \\ &= \log G(r_0) + \int_{r_0}^r \frac{n(x)}{x} dx \leq n(r) \log r + o(1), \end{aligned}$$

or, $\limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]}(n(r) \log r)}{\log^{[q]} r} \geq \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p]} J_{k,m}(r)}{\log^{[q]} r} = \lambda.$

Again, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \log J_{k,m}(r^{\delta'}) &\geq \frac{k+1}{(\log^{[m-1]} r^{\delta'})^{k+1}} \int_{r^{\delta'}}^{r^{\delta}} \frac{(\log^{[m-1]} x)^k \log G(x)}{V_{[m-2]}(x)} dx, \quad \delta > \delta' > 1 \\ &\geq \frac{(k+1) \log G(r^{\delta'})}{(\log^{[m-1]} r^{\delta'})^{k+1}} \int_{r^{\delta'}}^{r^{\delta}} \frac{(\log^{[m-1]} x)^k}{V_{[m-2]}(x)} dx \\ &= \log G(r^{\delta'}) \left[1 - \left\{ \frac{\log^{[m-1]} r^{\delta'}}{\log^{[m-1]} r^{\delta}} \right\}^{k-1} \right] \\ &= \log G(r^{\delta'}) \{1 - o(1)\} \\ &> \int_r^{\delta'} \frac{n(x)}{x} dx \geq n(r) \log r. \end{aligned}$$

This gives,

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]}(n(r) \log r)}{\log^{[q]} r} \leq \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p]} J_{k,m}(r)}{\log^{[q]} r} = \lambda.$$

REMARK 4. For entire functions of non-integral order this theorem gives the following results as particular cases:

- (i) For $(p, q) = (2, 1)$, the result is given by Boas [1, p. 15].
- (ii) For $(p, q) = (2, 2)$, the result is given by Jain and Chugh [5, p. 98].

THEOREM 5. We have

$$N(r^2) \geq \int_r^{r^2} \frac{n(x)}{x} dx \geq n(r) \log r,$$

and $N(r) = o(1) + \int_{r_0}^r \frac{n(x)}{x} dx \leq n(r) \log r (1 + o(1)).$

Now this theorem follows from theorem 4 and the above two inequalities.

REMARKS 5. The proof of theorem 5 is given by Jain and Chugh [5, p. 99] for $(p, q) = (2, 2)$.

THEOREM 6. Since $G(r)$ is an increasing function of r , we have, from (1, 6)

$$\begin{aligned} & (\log^{[m-1]} r_2)^{k+1} \log J_{k,m}(r_2) - (\log^{[m-1]} r_1)^{k+1} \log J_{k,m}(r_1) \\ &= (k+1) \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \frac{(\log^{[m-1]} x)^k \log G(x)}{V_{[m-2]}(x)} dx \\ &\cong \{(\log^{[m-1]} r_2)^{k+1} - (\log^{[m-1]} r_1)^{k+1}\} \log G(r_2), \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & (\log^{[m-1]} r_2)^{k+1} \log J_{k,m}(r_2) - (\log^{[m-1]} r_1)^{k+1} \log J_{k,m}(r_1) \\ &= (k+1) \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \frac{(\log^{[m-1]} x)^k \log G(x)}{V_{[m-2]}(x)} dx \\ &\cong \{(\log^{[m-1]} r_2)^{k+1} - (\log^{[m-1]} r_1)^{k+1}\} \log G(r_1). \end{aligned}$$

COROLLARY 1. If η ($0 < \eta < 1$) is a constant, then

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\{J_{k,m}(\exp^{[m-1]}(\eta r))\}^{\eta^{k+1}}}{J_{k,m}(\exp^{[m-1]} r)} = 0.$$

Putting $r_1 = \exp^{[m-1]} r$, $r_2 = \exp^{[m-1]}(\eta r)$, ($\exp^{[m]} x = \exp(\exp^{[m-1]} x)$), $\exp^{[0]} x = x$, in (2.9), we get

$$\log G(\exp^{[m-1]} \eta r) \leq (1 - \eta^{k+1})^{-1} \log \left[\frac{J_{k,m}(\exp^{[m-1]} r)}{\{J_{k,m}(\exp^{[m-1]} \eta r)\}^{\eta^{k+1}}} \right] \leq \log G(\exp^{[m-1]} r)$$

Now, proceeding to limits the result follows.

THEOREM 7. For any $\varepsilon > 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\log [\log^{[p-1]} F(r, f_1)]^\alpha}{\log^{[q]} r} < \alpha \left(\rho_1 + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \right), \quad r > r_1(\varepsilon) \\ & \frac{\log [\log^{[p-1]} F(r, f_2)]^\beta}{\log^{[q]} r} < \beta \left(\rho_2 + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \right), \quad r > r_2(\varepsilon). \end{aligned}$$

Adding above two inequalities, we get, for $r > r_0 = \max(r_1, r_2)$,

$$\frac{\log\{[\log^{[p-1]} F(r, f_1)]^\alpha [\log^{[p-1]} F(r, f_2)]^\beta\}}{\log^{[q]} r} < \alpha \rho_1 + \beta \rho_2 + \frac{1}{2}(\alpha + \beta)\epsilon.$$

Similarly, for limit infimum as given by (2.1), we find

$$\frac{\log\{[\log^{[p-1]} F(r, f_1)]^\alpha [\log^{[p-1]} F(r, f_2)]^\beta\}}{\log^{[q]} r} > \alpha \lambda_1 + \beta \lambda_2 + \frac{1}{2}(\alpha + \beta)\epsilon.$$

Now, using (2.10), we have for sufficiently large values of r ,

$$\alpha \lambda_1 + \beta \lambda_2 + \frac{1}{2}(\alpha + \beta)\epsilon < \frac{\log^{[p]} F(r, f)}{\log^{[q]} r} < \alpha \rho_1 + \beta \rho_2 + \frac{1}{2}(\alpha + \beta)\epsilon,$$

or, $\alpha \lambda_1 + \beta \lambda_2 \leq \lambda \leq \rho \leq \alpha \rho_1 + \beta \rho_2$

Again, for any $\epsilon > 0$, we have, from (2.1)

$$\left\{ \frac{\log^{[p]} F(r, f_1)}{\log^{[q]} r} \right\}^\gamma < (\rho_1 + \epsilon)^\gamma, \quad r > r'(\epsilon)$$

and $\left\{ \frac{\log^{[p]} F(r, f_2)}{\log^{[q]} r} \right\}^{1-\gamma} < (\rho_2 + \epsilon)^{1-\gamma}, \quad r > r''(\epsilon).$

On multiplying the above two inequalities, we have, for any $\epsilon > 0$ and $r > r_0 = \max(r', r'')$

$$\frac{\{\log^{[p]} F(r, f_1)\}^\gamma \{\log^{[p]} F(r, f_2)\}^{1-\gamma}}{\log^{[q]} r} < \rho_1^\gamma \rho_2^{1-\gamma} \left\{ 1 + \epsilon \frac{\gamma}{\rho_1} + \frac{1-\gamma}{\rho_2} + 0(1) \right\}.$$

Similarly, proceeding to limit infimum,

$$\frac{\{\log^{[p]} F(r, f_1)\}^\gamma \{\log^{[p]} F(r, f_2)\}^{1-\gamma}}{\log^{[q]} r} > \lambda_1^\gamma \lambda_2^{1-\gamma} \left\{ 1 - \epsilon \left(\frac{\gamma}{\lambda_1} + \frac{1-\gamma}{\lambda_2} \right) + 0(1) \right\}.$$

On account of (2.12), we find for sufficiently large values of r ,

$$\lambda_1^\gamma \lambda_2^{1-\gamma} \left\{ 1 - \epsilon \left(\frac{\gamma}{\lambda_1} + \frac{1-\gamma}{\lambda_2} + 0(1) \right) \right\} < \frac{\log^{[p]} F(r, f)}{\log^{[q]} r} < \rho_1^\gamma \rho_2^{1-\gamma} \left\{ 1 - \epsilon \left(\frac{\gamma}{\rho_1} + \frac{1-\gamma}{\rho_2} + 0(1) \right) \right\}$$

Now, taking limits as $r \rightarrow \infty$, we get (2.13).

COROLLARY 2. Let $f_i(z)$, $i=1, 2, \dots, n$ be n entire functions of (p, q) -orders ρ_i and lower (p, q) -orders λ_i and $f(z)$ be an entire function satisfying

$$(4.3) \quad \log^{[p-1]} F(r, f) \sim \prod_{i=1}^n \{\log^{[p-1]} F(r, f_i)\}^{\alpha_i}, \quad \alpha_i \in R_+$$

then (p, q) -order ρ and lower (p, q) -order λ of $f(z)$ are bounded by

$$(4-4) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \lambda_i \leq \lambda \leq \rho \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \rho_i,$$

and if

$$(4.5) \quad \log^{[p]} F(r, f) \sim \prod_{i=1}^n \{\log^{[p]} F(r, f_i)\}^{\gamma_i}, \quad \gamma_i \in (0, 1), \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i = 1$$

then,

$$(4.6) \quad \prod_{i=1}^n \lambda_i^{\gamma_i} \leq \lambda \leq \rho \leq \prod_{i=1}^n \rho_i^{\gamma_i}.$$

This corollary is an immediate generalization of the above theorem to the case of n entire functions.

COROLLARY 3. Let $f_1(z)$ and $f_2(z)$ be two entire functions of regular (p, q) growth. Then $f(z)$ is also of regular (p, q) growth and its order is given by

$\rho = \alpha \rho_1 + \beta \rho_2$ and $\rho = \rho_1^{\gamma} \rho_2^{1-\gamma}$ under the conditions (2.10) and (2.12), respectively.

THEOREM 8. We have

$$\begin{aligned} G(r, f^{(1)}) &= \exp\left\{\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \log |f^{(1)}(r e^{i\theta})| d\theta\right\} \\ &= \exp\left\{\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \log \left| \frac{f^{(1)}(r e^{i\theta})}{f(r e^{i\theta})} \right| d\theta + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \log |f(r e^{i\theta})| d\theta\right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Also, we have [19, p.103], in the neighbourhood of points, where $|f(z)| > M(r)(\nu(r))^{-1/8}$,

$$\frac{f'(z)}{f(z)} = \{1 + h(z) (\nu(R))^{-1/16}\} \frac{\nu(r)}{z}, \quad |h| < k$$

where $\nu(r)$ denotes the rank of the maximum term in $f(z)$, for $|z|=r$.

Hence, in the neighbourhood of points, where $|f(z)| > M(r)(\nu(r))^{-1/8}$,

$$\begin{aligned} G(r, f^{(1)}) &= G(r, f) \exp\left\{\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \log \left(\{1 + h(z) (\nu(R))^{-1/16}\} \left| \frac{\nu(r)}{z} \right| \right) d\theta\right\} \\ (4.7) \quad &> G(r, f) \frac{\nu(r)}{r} (1 - k(\nu(R))^{-1/16}) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$(4.8) \quad G(r, f^{(1)}) < G(r, f) \frac{\nu(r)}{r} (1+k(\nu(R))^{-1/16}).$$

Proceeding to limits, as $r \rightarrow \infty$, (4.7) and (4.8) give

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]} \left\{ r \frac{G(r, f^{(1)})}{G(r, f)} \right\}}{\log^{[q]} r} = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]}(r)}{\log^{[q]} r} = \theta.$$

This completes the proof of theorem 8.

COROLLARY 5. For an entire function $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n$ of (p, q) -order ρ ,

$$(4.9) \quad \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]} \left[r \left\{ \frac{G(r, f^{(n)})}{G(r, f)} \right\}^{1/n} \right]}{\log^{[q]} r} = \theta.$$

From (4.7) and (4.8), we have

$$G(r, f^{(s)}) > G(r, f^{(s-1)}) \frac{\nu(r)}{r} (1-k(\nu(R))^{-1/16})$$

$$\text{and } G(r, f^{(s)}) < G(r, f^{(s-1)}) \frac{\nu(r)}{r} (1+k(\nu(R))^{-1/16}).$$

Taking $s=1, 2, \dots, n$ and multiplying all the inequalities thus obtained and proceeding to limits (4.9) follows.

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