

## A NOTE ON THE VALUE DISTRIBUTION OF DIFFERENTIAL POLYNOMIALS

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ABSTRACT. Let  $f$  be a transcendental meromorphic function, defined in the complex plane  $\mathbb{C}$ . In this paper, we give a quantitative estimations of the characteristic function  $T(r, f)$  in terms of the counting function of a homogeneous differential polynomial generated by  $f$ . Our result improves and generalizes some recent results.

### 1. Introduction

Throughout of this article, we adopt the standard notations and results of classical value distribution theory [See, Hayman's Monograph ([2])]. A meromorphic function  $g$  is said to be rational if and only if  $T(r, g) = O(\log r)$ , otherwise,  $g$  is called a transcendental meromorphic function. Let  $f$  be a transcendental meromorphic function, defined in the complex plane  $\mathbb{C}$ .

We denote by  $S(r, f)$ , the quantity satisfying

$$S(r, f) = o(T(r, f)) \text{ as } r \rightarrow \infty, r \notin E,$$

where  $E$  is a subset of positive real numbers of finite linear measure, not necessarily the same at each occurrence.

In addition, in this paper, we also use another type of notation  $S^*(r, f)$  which is defined as

$$S^*(r, f) = o(T(r, f)) \text{ as } r \rightarrow \infty, r \notin E^*,$$

where  $E^*$  is a subset of positive real numbers of logarithmic density 0.

**Definition 1.1.** A meromorphic function  $b(z) (\neq 0, \infty)$  defined in  $\mathbb{C}$  is called a “small function” with respect to  $f$  if  $T(r, b(z)) = S(r, f)$ .

**Definition 1.2.** Let  $k$  be a positive integer, for any constant  $a$  in the complex plane. We denote

- i) by  $N_k(r, \frac{1}{f-a})$  the counting function of  $a$ -points of  $f$  with multiplicity  $\leq k$ ,

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ii) by  $N_{(k}(r, \frac{1}{(f-a)})$  the counting function of  $a$ -points of  $f$  with multiplicity  $\geq k$ .

Similarly, the reduced counting functions  $\overline{N}_{(k)}(r, \frac{1}{(f-a)})$  and  $\overline{N}_{(k)}(r, \frac{1}{(f-a)})$  are defined.

**Definition 1.3** ([5]). For a positive integer  $k$ , we denote  $N_k(r, 0; f)$  the counting function of zeros of  $f$ , where a zero of  $f$  with multiplicity  $q$  is counted  $q$  times if  $q \leq k$ , and is counted  $k$  times if  $q > k$ .

In 1979, E. Mues ([7]) proved that for a transcendental meromorphic function  $f(z)$  in  $\mathbb{C}$ ,  $f^2 f' - 1$  has infinitely many zeros.

Later, in 1992, Q. Zhang ([9]) proved a quantitative version of Mues’s result as follows:

**Theorem A.** For a transcendental meromorphic function  $f$ , the following inequality holds:

$$T(r, f) \leq 6N\left(r, \frac{1}{f^2 f' - 1}\right) + S(r, f).$$

In this direction, X. Huang and Y. Gu ([3]) further generalised Theorem A. They proved the following result:

**Theorem B.** Let  $f$  be a transcendental meromorphic function and  $k$  be a positive integer. Then

$$T(r, f) \leq 6N\left(r, \frac{1}{f^2 f^{(k)} - 1}\right) + S(r, f).$$

Next we recall the following definition:

**Definition 1.4.** Let  $q_{0j}, q_{1j}, \dots, q_{kj}$  be non negative integers. Then the expression

$$M_j[f] = (f)^{q_{0j}} (f^{(1)})^{q_{1j}} \dots (f^{(k)})^{q_{kj}}$$

is called a differential monomial generated by  $f$  of degree  $d(M_j) = \sum_{i=0}^k q_{ij}$  and weight  $\Gamma_{M_j} = \sum_{i=0}^k (i + 1)q_{ij}$ . The sum

$$P[f] = \sum_{j=1}^t b_j M_j[f]$$

is called a differential polynomial generated by  $f$  of degree  $\overline{d}(P) = \max\{d(M_j) : 1 \leq j \leq t\}$  and weight  $\Gamma_P = \max\{\Gamma_{M_j} : 1 \leq j \leq t\}$ , where  $T(r, b_j) = S(r, f)$  for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, t$ .

The numbers  $\underline{d}(P) = \min\{d(M_j) : 1 \leq j \leq t\}$  and  $k$  (the highest order of the derivative of  $f$  in  $P[f]$ ) are called respectively the lower degree and order of  $P[f]$ .

The differential polynomial  $P[f]$  is said to be homogeneous if  $\overline{d}(P) = \underline{d}(P)$ , otherwise,  $P[f]$  is called non-homogeneous differential polynomial. The term

$d(P) = \bar{d}(P) = \underline{d}(P)$  is called the degree of the homogeneous differential polynomial  $P[f]$ .

We also denote by  $\nu = \max \{\Gamma_{M_j} - d(M_j) : 1 \leq j \leq t\} = \max \{q_{1j} + 2q_{2j} + \dots + kq_{kj} : 1 \leq j \leq t\}$ .

In 2003, I. Lahiri and S. Dewan ([5]) considered the value distribution of a differential polynomial in more general settings. They proved the following theorem.

**Theorem C.** *Let  $f$  be a transcendental meromorphic function and  $\alpha = \alpha(z) (\neq 0, \infty)$  be a small function of  $f$ . If  $\psi = \alpha(f)^n (f^{(k)})^p$ , where  $n (\geq 0)$ ,  $p (\geq 1)$ ,  $k (\geq 1)$  are integers, then for any small function  $a = a(z) (\neq 0, \infty)$  of  $\psi$ ,*

$$(p + n)T(r, f) \leq \bar{N}(r, \infty; f) + \bar{N}(r, 0; f) + pN_k(r, 0; f) + \bar{N}(r, a; \psi) + S(r, f).$$

The following result is an immediate corollary of the above theorem.

**Theorem D.** *Let  $f$  be a transcendental meromorphic function. Let  $l (\geq 3)$ ,  $n (\geq 1)$ ,  $k (\geq 1)$  be positive integers. Then*

$$T(r, f) \leq \frac{1}{l-2} \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f^l (f^{(k)})^n - 1}\right) + S(r, f).$$

Since  $f^l (f^{(k)})$  is a specific form of a differential monomial, so the following questions are natural:

*Question 1.1 ([1]).* Does there exist positive constants  $B_1 (> 0)$ ,  $B_2 (> 0)$  such that the following two inequalities hold?

- i)  $T(r, f) \leq B_1 N\left(r, \frac{1}{M[f]-c}\right) + S(r, f)$ ,
- ii)  $T(r, f) \leq B_2 \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{M[f]-c}\right) + S(r, f)$ ,

where  $M[f]$  is any differential monomial as defined above generated by a transcendental meromorphic function  $f$  and  $c$  is any non zero constant.

In connection to the above questions, the following theorems are given in ([1]).

**Theorem E ([1]).** *Let  $f$  be a transcendental meromorphic function defined in  $\mathbb{C}$ , and  $M[f] = a(f)^{q_0} (f')^{q_1} \dots (f^{(k)})^{q_k}$  be a differential monomial generated by  $f$ , where  $a$  is a non zero complex constant; and  $k (\geq 2)$ ,  $q_0 (\geq 2)$ ,  $q_i (\geq 0)$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, k-1$ ),  $q_k (\geq 2)$  are integers. Let  $\mu = q_0 + q_1 + \dots + q_k$  and  $\mu_* = q_1 + 2q_2 + \dots + kq_k$ . Then*

$$(1) \quad T(r, f) \leq \frac{1}{q_0 - 1} N\left(r, \frac{1}{M[f] - 1}\right) + S^*(r, f),$$

where  $S^*(r, f) = o(T(r, f))$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty, r \notin E$ ,  $E$  is a set of logarithmic density 0.

Thus Theorem E improves, extends and generalizes Theorem D.

**Theorem F** ([1]). Let  $f$  be a transcendental meromorphic function defined in  $\mathbb{C}$ , and  $M[f] = a(f)^{q_0}(f')^{q_1} \dots (f^{(k)})^{q_k}$  be a differential monomial generated by  $f$ , where  $a$  is a non zero complex constant; and  $k(\geq 1)$ ,  $q_0(\geq 1)$ ,  $q_i(\geq 0)$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, k-1$ ),  $q_k(\geq 1)$  are integers. Let  $\mu = q_0 + q_1 + \dots + q_k$  and  $\mu_* = q_1 + 2q_2 + \dots + kq_k$ . If  $\mu - \mu_* \geq 3$ , then

$$(2) \quad T(r, f) \leq \frac{1}{\mu - \mu_* - 2} \bar{N} \left( r, \frac{1}{M[f] - 1} \right) + S(r, f),$$

where  $S(r, f) = o(T(r, f))$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $r \notin E$ ,  $E$  is a set of finite linear measure.

**Theorem G** ([1]). Let  $f$  be a transcendental meromorphic function defined in  $\mathbb{C}$ , and  $M[f] = a(f)^{q_0}(f')^{q_1} \dots (f^{(k)})^{q_k}$  be a differential monomial generated by  $f$ , where  $a$  is a non zero complex constant; and  $k(\geq 1)$ ,  $q_0(\geq 1)$ ,  $q_i(\geq 0)$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, k-1$ ),  $q_k(\geq 1)$  are integers. Let  $\mu = q_0 + q_1 + \dots + q_k$  and  $\mu_* = q_1 + 2q_2 + \dots + kq_k$ . If  $\mu - \mu_* \geq 5 - q_0$ , then

$$(3) \quad T(r, f) \leq \frac{1}{\mu - \mu_* - 4 + q_0} \bar{N} \left( r, \frac{1}{M[f] - 1} \right) + S(r, f).$$

The aim of this paper is to extend “Theorem D–Theorem G” for homogeneous differential polynomials.

## 2. Main results

**Theorem 2.1.** Let  $f$  be a transcendental meromorphic function and  $P[f]$  be a homogeneous differential polynomial generated by  $f$ . Let  $k(\geq 2)$  be the highest order of the derivative of  $f$  in  $P[f]$ . If  $q_{0j}(\geq 2)$ ,  $q_{ij}(\geq 0)$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, k-1$ ),  $q_{kj}(\geq 2)$  are integers for  $1 \leq j \leq t$ , then either

- i)  $P[f] \equiv 0$ , or
- ii)  $T(r, f) \leq \frac{1}{q_0 - 1} N \left( r, \frac{1}{P[f] - 1} \right) + S^*(r, f)$ ,

where  $S^*(r, f) = o(T(r, f))$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$  and  $r \notin E$ ,  $E$  is a set of logarithmic density 0.

**Example 2.1.** Let us take  $f(z) = e^z$  and

$$P[f] = f^2 \left( f'(f'')^2 (f^{(3)})^2 - (f')^2 f'' (f^{(3)})^2 \right).$$

Then  $P[f] \equiv 0$ . Thus the condition (i) in Theorem 2.1 is necessary.

*Remark 2.1.* If  $M[f]$  is differential monomial and  $f$  is a transcendental meromorphic function, then  $M[f] \not\equiv 0$ . Thus for the case of a differential monomial, the condition (i) in Theorem 2.1 is redundant.

*Remark 2.2.* Under the suppositions of Theorem 2.1, it is clear that either  $P[f]$  is identically zero or the equation  $P[f] = 1$  has infinitely many solutions.

**Theorem 2.2.** Let  $f$  be a transcendental meromorphic function. Also, let  $P[f]$  be a homogeneous differential polynomial generated by  $f$ , and of degree  $d(P)$ . Let  $k(\geq 1)$  be the highest order of the derivative of  $f$  in  $P[f]$  and  $q_{0j}(\geq 1)$ ,

$q_{ij}(\geq 0)$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, k-1$ ),  $q_{kj}(\geq 1)$  be integers for  $1 \leq j \leq t$ . If  $d(P) - \nu > 2$ , then either

- i)  $P[f] \equiv 0$  or,
- ii)  $T(r, f) \leq \frac{1}{d(P) - \nu - 2} \overline{N}(r, \frac{1}{P[f] - 1}) + S(r, f)$ ,

where  $S(r, f) = o(T(r, f))$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$  and  $r \notin E$ ,  $E$  is a set of finite linear measure.

**Example 2.2.** Let us take  $f(z) = e^{-z}$  and

$$P[f] = f^6 \left( f' f^{(3)} + f'' f^{(3)} \right).$$

Then  $P[f] \equiv 0$ . Thus the condition (i) in Theorem 2.2 is necessary.

*Remark 2.3.* If  $M[f]$  is differential monomial and  $f$  is a transcendental meromorphic function, then  $M[f] \not\equiv 0$ . Thus for the case of a differential monomial, the condition (i) in Theorem 2.2 is redundant.

*Remark 2.4.* Under the suppositions of Theorem 2.2, it is clear that either  $P[f]$  is identically zero or the equation  $P[f] = 1$  has infinitely many solutions.

**Theorem 2.3.** Let  $f$  be a transcendental meromorphic function. Also, let  $P[f]$  be a homogeneous differential polynomial generated by  $f$  and of degree  $d(P)$ . Let  $k(\geq 1)$  be the highest order of the derivative of  $f$  in  $P[f]$  and  $q_{0j}(\geq 1)$ ,  $q_{ij}(\geq 0)$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, k-1$ ),  $q_{kj}(\geq 1)$  be integers for  $1 \leq j \leq t$ . If  $d(P) + kq_* > 2(k+1) + \nu$ , then either

- i)  $P[f] \equiv 0$  or,
- ii)  $T(r, f) \leq \frac{(k+1)}{d(P) + kq_* - \nu - 2(k+1)} \overline{N}(r, \frac{1}{P[f] - 1}) + S(r, f)$ ,

where  $S(r, f) = o(T(r, f))$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$  and  $r \notin E$ ,  $E$  is a set of finite linear measure and  $q_* = \min_{j=1}^t \{q_{0j}\}$ .

**Example 2.3.** Let us take  $f(z) = e^z$  and

$$P[f] = f^5 (f')^3 - f^3 (f')^5.$$

Then  $P[f] \equiv 0$ . Thus the condition (i) in Theorem 2.3 is necessary.

*Remark 2.5.* If  $M[f]$  is differential monomial and  $f$  is a transcendental meromorphic function, then  $M[f] \not\equiv 0$ . Thus for the case of a differential monomial, the condition (i) in Theorem 2.3 is redundant.

*Remark 2.6.* Under the suppositions of Theorem 2.3, it is clear that either  $P[f]$  is identically zero or the equation  $P[f] = 1$  has infinitely many solutions.

### 3. Lemmas

**Lemma 3.1** ([4]). For a non constant meromorphic function  $g$ , the following equality holds:

$$N\left(r, \frac{g'}{g}\right) - N\left(r, \frac{g}{g'}\right) = \overline{N}(r, g) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{g}\right) - N\left(r, \frac{1}{g'}\right).$$

The next lemma plays the major role to prove Theorem 2.1, which is an immediate corollary of Yamanoi’s Celebrated Theorem ([8]). Yamanoi’s Theorem is a correspondent result to the famous Gol’dberg Conjecture.

**Lemma 3.2** ([8]). *Let  $f$  be a transcendental meromorphic function in  $\mathbb{C}$  and let  $k(\geq 2)$  be an integer. Then*

$$(k - 1)\overline{N}(r, f) \leq N\left(r, \frac{1}{f^{(k)}}\right) + S^*(r, f),$$

where  $S^*(r, f) = o(T(r, f))$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$  and  $r \notin E$ ,  $E$  is a set of logarithmic density 0.

**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $f$  be a transcendental meromorphic function and  $b(z)(\neq 0, \infty)$  be a small function with respect to  $f$ . If  $P[f]$  is a homogeneous differential polynomial of degree  $d(P)$  and  $q_{0j}(\geq 1)$ , then either  $P[f] \equiv 0$  or,  $b(z)P[f]$  can not be a non zero constant.*

*Proof.* Let us assume that

$$(4) \quad b(z)P[f] \equiv C$$

for some constant  $C$ .

If  $C = 0$ , then there is nothing to prove. Thus we assume that  $C \neq 0$ . Then from equation (4) and Lemma of logarithmic derivative, we have

$$(5) \quad d(P)m\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) = m\left(r, \frac{b(z)P[f]}{Cf^{d(P)}}\right) = S(r, f).$$

Since  $q_{0j} \geq 1$ , it is clear from equation (4) that

$$(6) \quad N(r, 0; f) \leq N(r, 0; P[f]) + S(r, f) = S(r, f).$$

Thus  $T(r, f) = S(r, f)$ , which is absurd since  $f$  is a transcendental meromorphic function. □

**Lemma 3.4.** *Let  $f$  be a transcendental meromorphic function. Then*

$$T\left(r, b(z)P[f]\right) = O(T(r, f)) \text{ and } S\left(r, b(z)P[f]\right) = S(r, f).$$

*Proof.* The proof is similar to the proof of Lemma 2.4 of ([6]). □

**Lemma 3.5.** *Let  $f$  be a transcendental meromorphic function and  $b(z)(\neq 0, \infty)$  be a small function with respect to  $f$ . If  $P[f]$  is a homogeneous differential polynomial of degree  $d(P)$  and  $q_{0j}(\geq 1)$ , then either  $P[f] \equiv 0$ , or*

$$d(P)T(r, f) \leq d(P)N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \overline{N}(r, \infty; f) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{b(z)P[f] - 1}\right) - N\left(r, \frac{1}{(b(z)P[f])'}\right) + S(r, f).$$

*Proof.* Assume that  $P[f] \not\equiv 0$ . Then by Lemma 3.3, we have  $b(z)P[f]$  can not be a non zero constant. Thus we can write

$$\frac{1}{f^{d(P)}} = \frac{b(z)P[f]}{f^{d(P)}} - \frac{(b(z)P[f])' b(z)P[f] (b(z)P[f] - 1)}{b(z)P[f] f^{d(P)} (b(z)P[f])'}$$

Thus in view of first fundamental theorem, Lemma 3.4 and Lemma 3.1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (7) \quad & d(P)m(r, \frac{1}{f}) \\ & \leq m\left(r, \frac{b(z)P[f] - 1}{(b(z)P[f])'}\right) + S(r, f) \\ & \leq T\left(r, \frac{b(z)P[f] - 1}{(b(z)P[f])'}\right) - N\left(r, \frac{b(z)P[f] - 1}{(b(z)P[f])'}\right) + S(r, f) \\ & \leq N\left(r, \frac{(b(z)P[f])'}{b(z)P[f] - 1}\right) - N\left(r, \frac{b(z)P[f] - 1}{(b(z)P[f])'}\right) + S(r, f) \\ & \leq \bar{N}(r, \infty; f) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{b(z)P[f] - 1}\right) - N\left(r, \frac{1}{(b(z)P[f])'}\right) + S(r, f). \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} d(P)T(r, f) & \leq d(P)N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \bar{N}(r, \infty; f) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{b(z)P[f] - 1}\right) \\ & \quad - N\left(r, \frac{1}{(b(z)P[f])'}\right) + S(r, f). \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

**Lemma 3.6.** *Let  $f$  be a transcendental meromorphic function and  $b(z) (\neq 0, \infty)$  be a small function with respect to  $f$ . If  $P[f]$  is a homogeneous differential polynomial of degree  $d(P)$  and  $q_{0j} (\geq 1)$ ,  $q_{kj} (\geq 1)$ , then either  $P[f] \equiv 0$ , or*

$$\begin{aligned} (8) \quad & d(P)T(r, f) \\ & \leq \bar{N}(r, \infty; f) + \bar{N}(r, 0; f) + \nu \bar{N}_{(k+1)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + (d(P) - q_*) N_k\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) \\ & \quad + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{P[f] - 1}\right) - N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(P[f])'}\right) + S(r, f), \end{aligned}$$

where  $N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(P[f])'}\right)$  is the counting function of the zeros of  $(P[f])'$  but not the zeros of  $f(P[f] - 1)$  and  $q_* = \min_{j=1}^t \{q_{0j}\}$ .

*Proof.* Clearly

$$\begin{aligned} (9) \quad & d(P)N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{P[f] - 1}\right) - N\left(r, \frac{1}{(P[f])'}\right) \\ & = d(P)N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \bar{N}(r, 1; P[f]) + \sum_{t=2}^{\infty} \bar{N}_{(t)}(r, 1; P[f]) - N(r, 0; (P[f])') \end{aligned}$$

$$\leq d(P)N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) - N_\star\left(r, \frac{1}{(P[f])'}\right) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{P[f]-1}\right) - N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(P[f])'}\right),$$

where  $N_\star\left(r, \frac{1}{(P[f])'}\right)$  is the counting function of the zeros of  $(P[f])'$  which comes from the zeros of  $f$ .

Let  $z_0$  be a zero of  $f$  with multiplicity  $q$  such that  $b_j(z_0) \neq 0, \infty$ .

**Case-1** If  $q \leq k$ , then  $z_0$  is the zero of  $(P[f])'$  of order at least  $qq_\star - 1$ .

**Case-2** If  $q \geq k + 1$ , then  $z_0$  is the zero of  $(P[f])'$  of order at least

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{1 \leq j \leq t} \{q_{0j}q + q_{1j}(q-1) + \dots + q_{kj}(q-k)\} - 1 \\ &= qd(P) - \max_{1 \leq j \leq t} \{q_{1j} + 2q_{2j} + \dots + kq_{kj}\} - 1 \\ &= qd(P) - \nu - 1, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$qd(P) - \nu - 1 \geq (kd(P) - \nu) + (d(P) - 1) > 0.$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} (10) \quad d(P)N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) &\leq N_\star\left(r, \frac{1}{(P[f])'}\right) + (\nu + 1)\bar{N}_{(k+1)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) \\ &\quad + (d(P) - q_\star)N_k\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \bar{N}_k\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + S(r, f). \end{aligned}$$

Assume that  $P[f] \not\equiv 0$ . Now using Lemma 3.5 and the inequalities (9), (10), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & d(P)T(r, f) \\ &\leq d(P)N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \bar{N}(r, \infty; f) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{b(z)P[f]-1}\right) \\ &\quad - N\left(r, \frac{1}{(b(z)P[f])'}\right) + S(r, f) \\ &\leq N_\star\left(r, \frac{1}{(P[f])'}\right) + (\nu + 1)\bar{N}_{(k+1)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + (d(P) - q_\star)N_k\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) \\ &\quad + \bar{N}_k\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \bar{N}(r, \infty; f) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{b(z)P[f]-1}\right) \\ &\quad - N\left(r, \frac{1}{(b(z)P[f])'}\right) + S(r, f) \\ &\leq \bar{N}(r, \infty; f) + \bar{N}(r, 0; f) + \nu\bar{N}_{(k+1)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + (d(P) - q_\star)N_k\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) \\ &\quad + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{P[f]-1}\right) - N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(P[f])'}\right) + S(r, f). \end{aligned}$$

□

**4. Proof of the Theorems**

*Proof of Theorem 2.1.* Given that  $f$  is a transcendental meromorphic function and  $k \geq 2, q_{0j} \geq 2, q_{kj} \geq 2$  for  $1 \leq j \leq t$ . Let  $P[f] \neq 0$ . Now

$$(11) \quad (q_0 - 1)N(r, 0; f) + (q_k - 1)N(r, 0; f^{(k)}) \leq N(r, 0; (P[f])').$$

Now in view of equation (11) and Lemmas 3.2 and 3.5, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & d(P)T(r, f) \\ & \leq d(P)N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \bar{N}(r, \infty; f) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{b(z)P[f] - 1}\right) \\ & \quad - N\left(r, \frac{1}{(b(z)P[f])'}\right) + S(r, f) \\ & \leq (d(P) - (q_0 - 1))N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \bar{N}(r, \infty; f) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{b(z)P[f] - 1}\right) \\ & \quad - (q_k - 1)N(r, 0; f^{(k)}) + S(r, f) \\ & \leq (d(P) - (q_0 - 1))N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + (1 - (k - 1)(q_k - 1))\bar{N}(r, \infty; f) \\ & \quad + N\left(r, \frac{1}{b(z)P[f] - 1}\right) + S^*(r, f) + S(r, f) \\ & \leq (d(P) - q_0 + 1)T(r, f) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{b(z)P[f] - 1}\right) + S^*(r, f), \end{aligned}$$

i.e.,

$$T(r, f) \leq \frac{1}{q_0 - 1}N\left(r, \frac{1}{P[f] - 1}\right) + S^*(r, f).$$

This completes the proof. □

*Proof of Theorem 2.2.* If  $P[f] \neq 0$ , then using Lemma 3.6, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & d(P)T(r, f) \\ & \leq \bar{N}(r, \infty; f) + \bar{N}(r, 0; f) + \nu\bar{N}_{(k+1)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + (d(P) - q_*)N_k\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) \\ & \quad + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{P[f] - 1}\right) - N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(P[f])'}\right) + S(r, f). \end{aligned}$$

That is,

$$\begin{aligned} (12) \quad d(P)T(r, f) & \leq 2T(r, f) + (\nu - d(P) + q_*)\bar{N}_{(k+1)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) \\ & \quad + (d(P) - q_*)\left(\bar{N}_{(k+1)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + N_k\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right)\right) \\ & \quad + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{P[f] - 1}\right) - N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(P[f])'}\right) + S(r, f) \end{aligned}$$

$$\leq (\nu + 2)T(r, f) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{P[f] - 1}\right) + S(r, f),$$

i.e.,

$$T(r, f) \leq \frac{1}{d(P) - \nu - 2} \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{P[f] - 1}\right) + S(r, f).$$

This completes the proof.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 2.3.* If  $P[f] \neq 0$ , then from the inequality (12), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & (q_* - 2)T(r, f) \\ & \leq (\nu - d(P) + q_*)\bar{N}_{(k+1)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{P[f] - 1}\right) \\ & \quad - N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(P[f])^\nu}\right) + S(r, f) \\ & \leq \frac{\nu - d(P) + q_*}{k + 1}T(r, f) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{P[f] - 1}\right) + S(r, f), \end{aligned}$$

i.e.,

$$T(r, f) \leq \frac{(k + 1)}{d(P) + kq_* - \nu - 2(k + 1)} \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{P[f] - 1}\right) + S(r, f).$$

This completes the proof.  $\square$

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