

# Transcendental Meromorphic Functions Whose First Order Derivatives Have Finitely Many Zeros

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## Abstract

Let  $f$  be a meromorphic function in  $\mathbb{C}$ . If the order of  $f$  is greater than 2,  $f'$  has finitely many zeros and  $f$  takes a non-zero finite value finitely times, and then  $f'(f^{-1}(0))$  is unbounded.

## Keywords

Transcendental Meromorphic Functions, Derivatives, Zeros

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## 1. Introduction and Main Result

Let  $f$  be a meromorphic function in  $\mathbb{C}$ , define

$M_f = f'(f^{-1}(0)) = \{f'(z) : z \in \mathbb{C} \text{ and } f(z) = 0\}$ . W. Bergweiler [1] gave a conjecture in 2001 as follow: Conjecture 1: Let  $f$  be a transcendental meromorphic function in  $\mathbb{C}$ . If  $f'(z) \neq 1$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , then  $M_f$  is unbounded.

Bergweiler pointed that let  $g(z) = z - f(z)$ , Conjecture 1 is equivalent to the following one.

Conjecture 2: Let  $g$  be a transcendental meromorphic function in  $\mathbb{C}$ . Suppose that  $g'$  does not have zeros. Then there exist a sequence  $\{z_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  of fixed points of  $g$  such that  $|g'(z_n)| \rightarrow \infty$ .

Bergweiler [1] has separately proved Conjecture 1 is affirmative for finite order meromorphic functions and entire functions; Jianming Chang [2] has confirmed the conjecture for infinite order meromorphic functions for the first time, which is based on theory of normal and quasnormal families.

For the conjecture,  $f' \neq 1$  and  $f' \neq c(c \neq 0)$  are essentially equivalent. In fact, if  $f' \neq c(c \neq 0)$ , then  $\frac{f'}{c} \neq 1$  and  $\frac{f}{c}$  is also transcendental meromor-

phic function; the zeros of  $f$  and the zeros of  $\frac{f}{c}$  are the same and  $M_f$  is unbounded if and only if  $M_{\frac{f}{c}}$  is unbounded.

Considering the discussion above, it's natural to research the problem that whether the conclusion is true if  $f' \neq 0$  but not  $f' \neq c(c \neq 0)$ , the problem is radically different to the conjecture and gives a important supplement. We can give a example to show that the problem is significant. Let  $f = e^{e^z} - 1$ , it's obvious that  $f' \neq 0$  and  $M_f$  is unbounded. In details, we have

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $f$  be meromorphic in  $\mathbb{C}$  and the order is greater than 2. If  $f'$  has finitely many zeros and  $f$  takes a finite non-zero value finitely many times, then  $M_f$  is unbounded.*

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $f$  be entire in  $\mathbb{C}$  and the order is greater than 1. If  $f'$  has finitely many zeros and  $f$  takes a finite non-zero value finitely many times, then  $M_f$  is unbounded.*

## 2. Preliminary Lemmas

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $f$  be a meromorphic function. If the spherical derivative  $f^\#(z)$  of  $f(z)$  is bounded. Then the order of  $f(z)$  is at most 2.*

For details of lemma 1, can see [3]

Remark: Let  $f_n(z)$  be a sequence of meromorphic functions,  $f_n(z) \xrightarrow{loc.} g(z)$  means  $f_n(z)$  locally uniformly convergence to meromorphic function  $g(z)$ ; for a meromorphic function  $f$  in  $\mathbb{C}$ , let  $D(z_0, M) = \{z : |z - z_0| \leq M\}$ .

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of functions meromorphic in a domain  $D$ . Suppose that there exist  $K > 0$  such that  $M_g \subset D(0, K)$  for all  $g \in \mathcal{F}$ . For any given  $\alpha$  satisfying  $-1 < \alpha \leq 1$ , if  $\mathcal{F}$  is not normal, then there exist a sequence  $\{f_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$  in  $\mathcal{F}$ , a sequence  $\{z_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$  in  $D$ , a sequence  $\{\rho_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$  of positive real numbers and a non-constant finite order function  $f$  which is meromorphic in  $\mathbb{C}$  such that  $z_n \rightarrow z_0$  for some  $z_0 \in D, \rho_n \rightarrow 0$  and*

$$\frac{f(z_n + \rho_n z)}{\rho_n^\alpha} \xrightarrow{loc.} f(z) \quad (z \in \mathbb{C}; n \rightarrow \infty).$$

Moreover, the spherical derivative  $f^\#(z)$  of  $f$  satisfies  $f^\#(z) \leq f^\#(0) = K + 1$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

For details of lemma 2, can see [4]

In the case no hypothesis on  $M_g$  is required, the case  $\alpha = 0$  is due to Zalcman [5], and the case  $-1 < \alpha < 1$  is due to Pang [6] [7]. In the hypothesis of Lemma 2, if all  $g \in \mathcal{F}$  have no zero in  $D$ , then  $M_g = \emptyset$  and the conclusion is still right according to the proof of Lemma 2 in which  $K$  can take 0.

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $f$  be a meromorphic function,  $D$  be an bounded domain and  $c$  be constant in  $\mathbb{C}$ , if  $f(z) - c$  has  $l(l \geq 2)$  zeros in  $D$  and  $f'(z)$  has  $l - 1$  zeros in  $D$  which are all the zeros of  $f(z) - c$ . Then each discriminating zero of  $f(z) - c$  and  $f'(z)$  in  $D$  is the same one.*

*Proof.* Let  $f(z) - c = \prod_{j=1}^l (z - z_j)g(z) = R(z)g(z)$  with  $g(z)$  be a meromorphic function which have no zero in  $D$  satisfying  $g(z_j) \neq \infty (j = 1, \dots, l)$  and  $R(z) = \prod_{j=1}^l (z - z_j)$  in which  $z_j \in D (j = 1, \dots, l)$ .

Because  $f'(z)$  has  $l - 1$  zeros in  $D$  which are all the zeros of  $f(z) - c$ , there exist  $l - 1$  points in  $z_j (j = 1, \dots, l)$  be zeros of  $f'(z)$  and without loss of generality we may assume  $f'(z_j) = 0 (j = 1, \dots, l - 1)$ .

As  $f'(z) = R'(z)g(z) + R(z)g'(z)$ , we can deduce that

$$R'(z_j) = 0 (j = 1, \dots, l - 1), R'(z) = l \cdot \prod_{j=1}^l (z - z_j) \text{ and } \frac{R'(z)}{R(z)} = \frac{l}{z - z_l}$$

from the above it follows that  $R(z) = (z - z_l)^l$  and the proof of Lemma 3 is complete.

**Lemma 4.** *Let  $f$  be a holomorphic function, if the spherical derivative of  $f$  is bounded. Then the order of  $f$  is at most 1.*

For details of lemma 4, can see [8].

### 3. Proof of Theorem 1

*Proof.* we apply Lemma 1 to obtain a sequence  $\{\omega_n\}_{n=1}^\infty, \omega_n \rightarrow \infty (n \rightarrow \infty)$  such that  $f^\#(\omega_n) \rightarrow \infty, (n \rightarrow \infty)$ .  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $f_n(z) = f(z + \omega_n)$ , it's easy to apply Marty's theorem to know  $\{f_n(z)\}_{n=1}^\infty$  is not normal at 0. Suppose  $f(z) - \lambda$  only have finitely many zeros ( $\lambda \neq 0$ ), there exist a subsequence of  $\{f_n(z)\}_{n=1}^\infty$  we still suppose it's  $\{f_n(z)\}_{n=1}^\infty$  such that  $f(z) - \lambda$  have no zero in  $\mathbb{C}$ , thus according to Lemma 2, there exist a sequence  $\{z_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ , a sequence  $\{\rho_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$  of positive real numbers and a non-constant finite order function  $g(z)$  such that when  $n \rightarrow \infty, z_n \rightarrow 0, \rho_n \rightarrow 0$  and

$$\frac{f_n(z_n + \rho_n z) - \lambda}{\rho_n} = \frac{f(\omega_n + z_n + \rho_n z) - \lambda}{\rho_n} \xrightarrow{loc.} g(z)$$

in  $\mathbb{C}$  and  $g(z)$  satisfies  $g^\#(z) \leq g^\#(0) = 1$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $\tau_n = \omega_n + z_n$ , there exist entire functions  $F(z)$  and  $H(z)$  such that  $F(z)$  and  $H(z)$  have no common non-trivial divisor and

$$f(z) = \frac{H(z)}{F(z)}, \text{ then}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{f_n(z_n + \rho_n z) - \lambda}{\rho_n} &= \frac{f(\tau_n + \rho_n z) - \lambda}{\rho_n} = \frac{\frac{H(\tau_n + \rho_n z)}{F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)} - \lambda}{\rho_n} \xrightarrow{loc.} g(z) \\ &= \frac{\rho_n}{f(\tau_n + \rho_n z) - \lambda} \xrightarrow{loc.} \frac{1}{g(z)} \quad (z \in \mathbb{C}) \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

For  $f(\tau_n + \rho_n z) - \lambda \neq 0$  and  $g(z) \neq 0$ , the derivative of (1) is

$$\frac{\rho_n^2 f'(\tau_n + \rho_n z)}{\{f(\tau_n + \rho_n z) - \lambda\}^2} \xrightarrow{loc.} \frac{g'(z)}{g^2(z)} \quad (z \in \mathbb{C}) \tag{2}$$

here we divide two cases:

**Case 1:**  $\frac{g'(z)}{g^2(z)}$  have no zero in  $\mathbb{C}$ .

Because  $\left(\frac{1}{g(z)}\right)^\# = g^\#(z)$  is bounded, then we apply Lemma 4 to have that

the order of  $\frac{1}{g(z)}$  and  $\frac{g'(z)}{g^2(z)}$  are at most 1. On the other hand,  $\frac{g'(z)}{g^2(z)} \neq 0$ ,

we can deduce  $\frac{g'(z)}{g^2(z)} = e^{Az+B}$  ( $A, B \in \mathbb{C}, A \neq 0$ ) or constant  $\alpha$  ( $\alpha \neq 0$ ) and

$$\frac{1}{g(z)} = \frac{e^{Az+B}}{A} + d \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{1}{g(z)} = \alpha z + \beta \quad (d, \beta \in \mathbb{C}).$$

here we first proof that  $d \neq 0$ , if  $d = 0$ , we have

$$\frac{f(\tau_n + \rho_n z) - \lambda}{\rho_n} \xrightarrow{loc.} \frac{A}{e^{Az+B}} \quad (z \in \mathbb{C})$$

then we have that

$$f(\tau_n + \rho_n z) = \frac{H(\tau_n + \rho_n z)}{F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)} \xrightarrow{loc.} \lambda \quad (z \in \mathbb{C}) \tag{3}$$

$$\frac{H(\tau_n + \rho_n z) - \lambda F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)}{F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)} \xrightarrow{loc.} 0 \quad (z \in \mathbb{C}) \tag{4}$$

From (4) it can be deduced that because  $H(\tau_n + \rho_n z) - \lambda F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)$  have no zero,  $F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)$  have no zero in any bounded domain when  $n$  is large enough. Then so are  $H(\tau_n + \rho_n z)$  unite (3). What's more,  $f(\tau_n + \rho_n z)$  has no zero and pole and cannot take  $\lambda$  in any bounded domain, which contradict with Picard's Theorem, therefore  $d \neq 0$ .

From (1) we have

$$\frac{\rho_n}{f(\tau_n + \rho_n z) - \lambda} - \frac{\rho_n}{-\lambda} \xrightarrow{loc.} \frac{1}{g(z)} \quad (z \in \mathbb{C})$$

Because  $\frac{1}{g}$  have zero in  $\mathbb{C}$ , from above it can be deduced that  $f(\tau_n + \rho_n z)$

have to have zeros which convergence to the zeros of  $\frac{1}{g(z)}$ . From (2) when

$f(\tau_n + \rho_n z) = 0$  then  $\frac{\rho_n f'(\tau_n + \rho_n z)}{\lambda^2} \rightarrow -Ad$  or  $\alpha$  and  $f'(\tau_n + \rho_n z) (n \in \mathbb{N})$  have to be unbounded.

**Case 2:**  $\frac{g'(z)}{g^2(z)}$  have zero in  $\mathbb{C}$ . We will proof the case is impossible.

Take a finite zero  $c$  of  $\frac{g'(z)}{g^2(z)}$  and its multiple is  $k(k \in \mathbb{N}, k \geq 1)$  then there exist some sufficiently small neighborhood  $D_c$  of  $c$  such that  $D_c$  only have one zero of  $\frac{g'(z)}{g^2(z)}$ . (2) can be expressed as

$$\rho_n^2 \cdot \frac{F'(\tau_n + \rho_n z)H(\tau_n + \rho_n z) - H'(\tau_n + \rho_n z)F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)}{\{H(\tau_n + \rho_n z) - \lambda F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)\}^2} \xrightarrow{loc.} \frac{g'(z)}{g^2(z)} \quad (z \in \mathbb{C}).$$

Because  $f(z)$  take  $\lambda$  finitely many times and from (2)  $H(\tau_n + \rho_n z) - \lambda F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)$  have no zero in  $D_c$  then when  $n$  is large enough,  $F'(\tau_n + \rho_n z)H(\tau_n + \rho_n z) - H'(\tau_n + \rho_n z)F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)$  have  $k$  zeros in  $D_c$ , which are all the zeros of  $F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)$  due to that

$f' = \frac{H'(z)F(z) - H(z)F'(z)}{F^2(z)}$  only has finitely many zeros; therefore,  $c$  is the

zero of  $\frac{1}{g(z)}$  with  $k+1$  multiple and  $F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)$  have  $k+1$  zeros in  $D_c$ .

(1) can be expressed as

$$\frac{\rho_n \frac{F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)}{H(\tau_n + \rho_n z)}}{1 - \lambda \frac{F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)}{H(\tau_n + \rho_n z)}} \xrightarrow{loc.} \frac{1}{g(z)} \quad (z \in \mathbb{C}).$$

From (1) we have that

$$\lambda \frac{F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)}{H(\tau_n + \rho_n z)} \xrightarrow{loc.} 1 \quad (z \in D_c \setminus \{c\}). \tag{5}$$

Here we divide two cases for (5):

**Subcase 2.1:** If  $\left\{ \lambda \frac{F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)}{H(\tau_n + \rho_n z)} \right\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  is normal in  $D_c$ .

From (5) we have

$$\frac{\lambda F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)}{H(\tau_n + \rho_n z)} \xrightarrow{loc.} 1 \quad (z \in D_c). \tag{6}$$

$$\frac{\lambda F(\tau_n + \rho_n z) - H(\tau_n + \rho_n z)}{H(\tau_n + \rho_n z)} \xrightarrow{loc.} 0 \quad (z \in D_c).$$

when  $n$  is large enough, notice that  $H(\tau_n + \rho_n z) - \lambda F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)$  have no zero in  $D_c$ , therefore  $H(\tau_n + \rho_n z)$  have no zero in  $D_c$  and according to (6),  $F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)$  have no zero in  $D_c$  contradict with  $F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)$  have  $k+1$  zeros in  $D_c$ .

**Subcase 2.2:** If  $\left\{ \lambda \frac{F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)}{H(\tau_n + \rho_n z)} \right\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  is not normal in  $D_c$ . Let

$$\varphi_n(z) = \frac{\lambda F(\tau_n + \rho_n z) - H(\tau_n + \rho_n z)}{H(\tau_n + \rho_n z)}.$$

Then  $\{\varphi_n(z)\}_{n=1}^\infty$  is not normal and have no zero in  $D_c$ , we apply Lemma 2 to obtain  $\{v_n\}_{n=1}^\infty \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $\{\rho_n^*\}_{n=1}^\infty$  of positive real numbers and a non-constant finite order function  $\psi(\xi)$  such that  $v_n \rightarrow c, \rho_n^* \rightarrow 0$ , and

$$\psi_n(\xi) = \frac{\varphi_n(v_n + \rho_n^* \xi)}{\rho_n^*} \xrightarrow{loc.} \psi(\xi) (n \rightarrow \infty, \xi \in \mathbb{C}) \text{ with } \psi^\#(\xi) \leq \psi^\#(0) = 1.$$

here we will prove that  $\psi(\xi)$  has no simple pole if it exist; let  $\xi_0$  be the pole of  $\psi(\xi)$ , for  $\psi(\xi)$  cannot always be  $\infty$ , there exist closed disc  $\bar{D}(\xi_0, \delta)$  such that  $1/\psi(\xi)$  and  $1/\psi_n(\xi)$  are holomorphic in  $\bar{D}(\xi_0, \delta)$  and  $1/\psi_n(\xi) \Rightarrow 1/\psi(\xi)$  uniformly in  $\bar{D}(\xi_0, \delta)$  and so are  $1/\psi_n(\xi) + \rho_n^*$ .

Notice that  $1/\psi_n(\xi)$  cannot be constant, there exist  $\{\xi_n\}_{n=1}^\infty, \xi_n \rightarrow \xi_0 (n \rightarrow \infty)$  such that

$$\frac{1}{\psi_n(\xi_n)} + \rho_n^* = \frac{\rho_n^*}{\varphi_n(v_n + \rho_n^* \xi_n)} + \rho_n^* = 0, \quad \varphi_n(v_n + \rho_n^* \xi_n) + 1 = 0.$$

We firstly show that the discriminating zeros of  $\varphi_n(z) + 1$  in  $D_c$  are all the zeros of  $\varphi'_n(z)$  in  $D_c$  when  $n$  is large enough. In fact, we have that the  $k$  zeros of  $F'(\tau_n + \rho_n z)H(\tau_n + \rho_n z) - H'(\tau_n + \rho_n z)F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)$  as same as  $\varphi'_n(z)$ , which are all belong to the  $k+1$  zeros of  $F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)$  and  $\varphi_n(z) + 1$  in  $D_c$ , then Lemma 3 can be used to prove the conclusion and we further have

$$\left( \frac{1}{\psi(\xi)} \right)' \Big|_{\xi=\xi_0} = - \frac{\psi'(\xi_0)}{\{\psi(\xi_0)\}^2} = - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\psi'_n(\xi_n)}{\{\psi_n(\xi_n)\}^2} = - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{\rho_n^*\}^2 \cdot 0 = 0$$

which means  $\psi(\xi)$  has to have multiple pole if it exist.

Notice  $\frac{H'(z)F(z) - H(z)F'(z)}{F^2(z)}$  only has finitely many zeros, then

$H(\tau_n + \rho_n z)$  have no multiple zero in  $\mathbb{C}$  when  $n$  is large enough.

Considering  $1/\psi_n(\xi) \xrightarrow{loc.} 1/\psi(\xi) (\xi \in \mathbb{C})$ , since  $\lambda F(\tau_n + \rho_n z) - H(\tau_n + \rho_n z)$  have no zero in  $D_c$  when  $n$  is large enough,  $1/\psi_n(\xi)$  are analytic in  $D_c$  and according to Hurwitz's Theorem,  $\psi(\xi)$  has no multiple pole. With the assert above,  $\psi(\xi)$  have no pole and be entire.

Notice that  $\psi^\#(\xi) \leq \psi^\#(0) = 1 (\xi \in \mathbb{C})$  and Lemma 4, the order of  $\psi(\xi)$  is at most 1. Since  $\varphi_n(z)$  have no zero in  $D_c$  when  $n$  is large enough, then  $\varphi_n(v_n + \rho_n^* \xi)$  have no zero in any bounded domain, from the above it follows that  $\psi(\xi) \neq 0 (\xi \in \mathbb{C})$  and  $\psi(\xi) = e^{A\xi+B} (A, B \in \mathbb{C}, A \neq 0)$ .

$1/\psi_n(\xi) \xrightarrow{loc.} 1/\psi(\xi) (\xi \in \mathbb{C})$  is

$$\frac{\rho_n^* H(\tau_n + \rho_n v_n + \rho_n \rho_n^* \xi)}{\lambda F(\tau_n + \rho_n v_n + \rho_n \rho_n^* \xi) - H(\tau_n + \rho_n v_n + \rho_n \rho_n^* \xi)} \xrightarrow{loc.} e^{-A\xi-B} (\xi \in \mathbb{C}). \quad (7)$$

Let

$$\eta_n(z) = \frac{F(\tau_n + \rho_n z)H'(\tau_n + \rho_n z) - F'(\tau_n + \rho_n z)H(\tau_n + \rho_n z)}{\{\lambda F(\tau_n + \rho_n z) - H(\tau_n + \rho_n z)\}^2}$$

then the derivative of (7) is

$$(\rho_n^*)^2 \rho_n \lambda \eta_n (v_n + \rho_n^* \xi) \xrightarrow{loc.} -Ae^{-A\xi-B} \quad (n \rightarrow \infty, \xi \in \mathbb{C}). \tag{8}$$

(2) can be expressed as

$$\rho_n^2 \eta_n (z) \xrightarrow{loc.} \frac{g'(z)}{g^2(z)} \quad (n \rightarrow \infty, z \in \mathbb{C}).$$

$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $h_n(z)$  be the  $k$  order derivative of  $\eta_n(z)$ , then the  $k$  order derivative of (2) is

$$\rho_n^2 h_n (z) \xrightarrow{loc.} \left( \frac{1}{g(z)} \right)^{(k+1)} \quad (n \rightarrow \infty, z \in \mathbb{C}).$$

with  $\left( \frac{1}{g(z)} \right)^{(k+1)}$  have no zero in  $D_c$ . Let  $\left. \left( \frac{1}{g(z)} \right)^{(k+1)} \right|_{z=c} = G_c (\neq 0)$  then we have

$$\rho_n^2 h_n (v_n + \rho_n^* \xi) \xrightarrow{loc.} G_c \quad (n \rightarrow \infty, \xi \in \mathbb{C}). \tag{9}$$

The  $k$  order derivative of (8) is

$$(\rho_n^*)^{k+2} \rho_n \lambda h_n (v_n + \rho_n^* \xi) \xrightarrow{loc.} (-A)^{k+1} e^{-A\xi-B} \quad (n \rightarrow \infty, \xi \in \mathbb{C}), \tag{10}$$

(9) + (10) is

$$\left\{ \rho_n + \lambda (\rho_n^*)^{k+2} \right\} \rho_n h_n (v_n + \rho_n^* \xi) \xrightarrow{loc.} G_c + (-A)^{k+1} e^{-A\xi-B} \quad (n \rightarrow \infty, \xi \in \mathbb{C}).$$

It shows that  $h_n(v_n + \rho_n^* \xi)$  have to have zeros in  $\mathbb{C}$  when  $n$  is large enough, however, from (10) and Hurwitz's theorem, it is impossible; this gives a contradiction and the proof of Theorem 1 is complete.

### 4. Remarks

It follows from the proof of Theorem 1 that the hypothesis for order can be replaced by greater than 1 for entire functions. In fact, from Lemma 4, we can obtain a sequence  $\{\omega_n\}_{n=1}^\infty, \omega_n \rightarrow \infty (n \rightarrow \infty)$  such that  $f^\#(\omega_n) \rightarrow \infty, (n \rightarrow \infty)$ . Then using the start point of proof of Theorem 1,  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $f_n(z) = f(z + \omega_n)$ , it's easy to apply Marty's theorem to know  $\{f_n(z)\}_{n=1}^\infty$  is not normal at 0. Suppose  $f(z) - \lambda$  only has finitely many zeros ( $\lambda \neq 0$ ), there exist a subsequence of  $\{f_n(z)\}_{n=1}^\infty$ . We still suppose it's  $\{f_n(z)\}_{n=1}^\infty$  such that  $f_n(z) - \lambda$  has no zero in  $\mathbb{C}$ . Thus according to Lemma 2, there exist a sequence  $\{z_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ , a sequence  $\{\rho_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$  of positive real numbers and a non-constant finite order function  $g(z)$  such that when  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $z_n \rightarrow 0, \rho_n \rightarrow 0$  and

$$f_n(z_n + \rho_n z) - \lambda = f(\omega_n + z_n + \rho_n z) - \lambda \xrightarrow{loc.} g(z)$$

in  $\mathbb{C}$  and  $g(z)$  satisfies  $g^\#(z) \leq g^\#(0) = 1$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ . For  $g' \neq 0$  and  $g \neq 0$  we apply Lemma 6 to have the order of  $g$  at most 1, and

$g = e^{Az+B}$  ( $A \neq 0$ ) and we have

$$f(\omega_n + z_n + \rho_n z) \xrightarrow{\text{loc.}} e^{Az+B} + \lambda \quad (n \rightarrow \infty, z \in \mathbb{C}).$$

and the first order derivative is

$$\rho_n f'(\omega_n + z_n + \rho_n z) \xrightarrow{\text{loc.}} A e^{Az+B} \quad (n \rightarrow \infty, z \in \mathbb{C}).$$

If  $f(\omega_n + z_n + \rho_n z) = 0$ , then  $\rho_n f'(\omega_n + z_n + \rho_n z) \rightarrow -A\lambda$  and  $f'(\omega_n + z_n + \rho_n z)$  ( $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ) is unbounded. Then the proof of Theorem 2 is complete.

The requirement for order in Theorem 2 is sharp, let  $f = e^z - 1$ , then  $M_f = \{1\}$ .

By the equivalence between the conjecture 1 and 2, we can have two corollaries from Theorem 1 and 2.

**Corollary 1.** *Let  $g$  be meromorphic in  $\mathbb{C}$  and the order is greater than 2. If  $g' - 1$  has finitely many zeros and  $g - z$  takes a finite non-zero value finitely many times, then  $g$  has a sequence  $\{z_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  of fixed points such that  $g'(z_n) \rightarrow \infty$ , ( $n \rightarrow \infty$ ).*

**Corollary 2.** *Let  $g$  be entire in  $\mathbb{C}$  and the order is greater than 1. If  $g' - 1$  has finitely many zeros and  $g - z$  takes a finite non-zero value finitely many times, then  $g$  has a sequence  $\{z_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  of fixed points such that  $g'(z_n) \rightarrow \infty$ , ( $n \rightarrow \infty$ ).*

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## Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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