

## A NOTE ON NORMALITY AND SHARED VALUES

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### Abstract

Let  $k$  be a positive integer and  $b$  a nonzero constant. Suppose that  $\mathcal{F}$  is a family of meromorphic functions in a domain  $D$ . If each function  $f \in \mathcal{F}$  has only zeros of multiplicity at least  $k + 2$  and for any two functions  $f, g \in \mathcal{F}$ ,  $f$  and  $g$  share 0 in  $D$  and  $f^{(k)}$  and  $g^{(k)}$  share  $b$  in  $D$ , then  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in  $D$ . The case  $f \neq 0$ ,  $f^{(k)} \neq b$  is a celebrated result of Gu.

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### 1. Introduction

Let  $D$  be a domain in  $\mathbb{C}$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  a family of meromorphic functions defined in  $D$ .  $\mathcal{F}$  is said to be normal in  $D$ , in the sense of Montel, if each sequence  $\{f_n\} \subset \mathcal{F}$  has a subsequence  $\{f_{n_i}\}$  which converges spherically locally uniformly in  $D$ , to a meromorphic function or  $\infty$  (see Hayman [4], Schiff [7], Yang [12]).

Suppose that  $f, g$  are meromorphic functions on  $D$  and  $a \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$ . If  $f(z) = a$  if and only if  $g(z) = a$ , we say that  $f$  and  $g$  share  $a$  in  $D$ .

In 1912, Montel [6] proved the following well-known normality criterion.

**THEOREM A.** *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of meromorphic functions defined in  $D$ , and let  $a, b$  and  $c$  be three distinct values in the extended complex plane. If for each function  $f \in \mathcal{F}$ ,  $f \neq a, b, c$ , then  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in  $D$ .*

In 1994, Sun [8] extended Theorem A as follows (see for example [1]).

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**THEOREM B.** Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of meromorphic functions defined in  $D$ , and let  $a, b$  and  $c$  be three distinct values in the extended complex plane. If each pair of functions  $f$  and  $g$  in  $\mathcal{F}$  share  $a, b$  and  $c$  in  $D$ , then  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in  $D$ .

In 1979, Gu [2] proved the following result.

**THEOREM C.** Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of meromorphic functions defined in  $D$ , and let  $k$  be a positive integer and  $b$  a nonzero constant. If for each function  $f \in \mathcal{F}$ ,  $f \neq 0$  and  $f^{(k)} \neq b$  in  $D$ , then  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in  $D$ .

It is natural to ask whether Theorem C can be extended in the same way that Theorem B extends Theorem A. In this note, we offer such an extension. In each of the results below,  $k$  is a positive integer and  $b$  is a nonzero complex constant.

**THEOREM 1.** Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of meromorphic functions defined in  $D$ , all of whose zeros have multiplicity at least  $k + 2$ . If each pair of functions  $f$  and  $g$  in  $\mathcal{F}$  share 0 in  $D$  and  $f^{(k)}$  and  $g^{(k)}$  share  $b$  in  $D$ , then  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in  $D$ .

**EXAMPLE 1.** Let  $n, k$  be positive integers. Let  $D = \{z : |z| < 1\}$  and  $\mathcal{F} = \{f_n\}$ , where

$$f_n(z) = \frac{nz^{k+1}}{k!(nz - 1)}, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Each function in  $\mathcal{F}$  has a single zero of multiplicity  $k + 1$ . Clearly, for each pair  $m, n$  of positive integers,  $f_m, f_n$  share 0 in  $D$ . Moreover, since

$$f_n(z) = \frac{1}{k!} \left( z^k + \frac{1}{n}z^{k-1} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^{k-1}}z + \frac{1}{n^k} + \frac{1}{n^k} \frac{1}{nz - 1} \right),$$

$$f_n^{(k)}(z) = 1 + \frac{(-1)^k}{(nz - 1)^{k+1}} \neq 1.$$

Thus  $f_m^{(k)}$  and  $f_n^{(k)}$  also share the value 1 in  $D$ . But  $\mathcal{F}$  clearly fails to be normal on any neighbourhood of 0. This shows that the condition in Theorem 1 that the zeros of functions in  $\mathcal{F}$  have multiplicity at least  $k + 2$  cannot be weakened.

**THEOREM 2.** Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of meromorphic functions defined in  $D$ , all of whose zeros have multiplicity at least  $k + 1$  and whose poles have multiplicity at least 2. If each pair of functions  $f$  and  $g$  in  $\mathcal{F}$  share 0 in  $D$  and  $f^{(k)}$  and  $g^{(k)}$  share  $b$  in  $D$ , then  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in  $D$ .

**COROLLARY 3.** Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of holomorphic functions defined in  $D$ , all of whose zeros have multiplicity at least  $k + 1$ . If each pair of functions  $f$  and  $g$  in  $\mathcal{F}$  share 0 in  $D$  and  $f^{(k)}$  and  $g^{(k)}$  share  $b$  in  $D$ , then  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in  $D$ .

**COROLLARY 4.** *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of meromorphic functions defined in  $D$ . If each pair of functions  $f$  and  $g$  in  $\mathcal{F}$  share 0 in  $D$  and  $f^m f'$  and  $g^m g'$  share  $b$  in  $D$ , then  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in  $D$ .*

To prove Corollary 4, set  $\tilde{\mathcal{F}} = \{f^{m+1}/(m+1) : f \in \mathcal{F}\}$  and apply Theorem 2 to this family with  $k = 1$ .

**EXAMPLE 2.** Let  $D = \{z : |z| < 1\}$  and  $\mathcal{F} = \{f_n\}$ , where  $f_n(z) = nz^k$ ,  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ . Then the zeros of functions in  $\mathcal{F}$  all have multiplicity  $k$ . Moreover, any pair of functions  $f$  and  $g$  in  $\mathcal{F}$  clearly share 0 in  $D$  and  $f^{(k)}$  and  $g^{(k)}$  share  $1/2$  in  $D$ ; but  $\mathcal{F}$  is not normal in  $D$ . This shows that the condition that the zeros of functions in  $\mathcal{F}$  have multiplicity at least  $k + 1$  in Theorem 2 and Corollary 3 is best possible.

## 2. Some lemmas

For the proofs of Theorem 1 and Theorem 2, we require the following results.

**LEMMA 1** ([9, Theorem 7]). *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of meromorphic functions defined in  $D$ , all of whose zeros have multiplicity at least  $k + 2$ . If  $f^{(k)} \neq b$  for each  $f \in \mathcal{F}$ , then  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in  $D$ .*

**LEMMA 2** ([9, Theorem 5]). *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of meromorphic functions defined in  $D$ , all of whose zeros have multiplicity at least  $k + 1$  and whose poles have multiplicity at least 2. If  $f^{(k)} \neq b$  for each  $f \in \mathcal{F}$ , then  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in  $D$ .*

Below, we assume the basic results and notation of Nevanlinna Theory [4, 12]. In particular,  $S(r, f)$  denotes any function satisfying  $S(r, f) = O(\log r T(r, f))$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ , possibly outside a set of finite measure, where  $T(r, f)$  is Nevanlinna's characteristic function. In fact, the functions for which we use this notation are all of finite order, so the exceptional set does not occur. For such functions, we have  $S(r, f) = o(T(r, f))$  [4, page 41].

**LEMMA 3** ([4, Theorem 3.2]). *Let  $f$  be a nonconstant meromorphic function in the complex plane. Then*

$$(2.1) \quad T(r, f) \leq \bar{N}(r, f) + N(r, 1/f) + \bar{N}(r, 1/(f^{(k)} - b)) + S(r, f).$$

By [4, page 61], we also have

**LEMMA 4.** *Let  $f$  be a nonconstant meromorphic function in the complex plane. Then*

$$(2.2) \quad \bar{N}(r, f) \leq \left(1 + \frac{1}{k}\right) N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \left(1 + \frac{2}{k}\right) \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f^{(k)} - b}\right) + S(r, f).$$

**LEMMA 5.** *Let  $f$  be a meromorphic function in the complex plane and  $l$  a positive integer satisfying  $l > k + 4 + 2/k$ . If  $f \neq 0$  and the zeros of  $f^{(k)} - b$  have multiplicity at least  $l$ , then  $f$  is a constant.*

**PROOF.** Since  $f \neq 0$  and the zeros of  $f^{(k)} - b$  have multiplicity at least  $l$ , we have by (2.2)

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.3) \quad \bar{N}(r, f) &\leq \left(1 + \frac{2}{k}\right) \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f^{(k)} - b}\right) + S(r, f) \\
 &\leq \frac{1 + 2/k}{l} N\left(r, \frac{1}{f^{(k)} - b}\right) + S(r, f) \\
 &\leq \frac{1 + 2/k}{l} T(r, f^{(k)}) + S(r, f) \\
 &\leq \frac{1 + 2/k}{l} [T(r, f) + k\bar{N}(r, f)] + S(r, f).
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus by (2.3) we get

$$(2.4) \quad \bar{N}(r, f) \leq \frac{k + 2}{k(l - k - 2)} T(r, f) + S(r, f).$$

By (2.1) and the facts that  $f \neq 0$  and the zeros of  $f^{(k)} - b$  have multiplicity at least  $l$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.5) \quad T(r, f) &\leq \bar{N}(r, f) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f^{(k)} - b}\right) + S(r, f) \\
 &\leq \bar{N}(r, f) + \frac{1}{l} N\left(r, \frac{1}{f^{(k)} - b}\right) + S(r, f) \\
 &\leq \bar{N}(r, f) + \frac{1}{l} T(r, f^{(k)}) + S(r, f) \\
 &\leq \bar{N}(r, f) + \frac{1}{l} [T(r, f) + k\bar{N}(r, f)] + S(r, f) \\
 &\leq \left(1 + \frac{k}{l}\right) \bar{N}(r, f) + \frac{1}{l} T(r, f) + S(r, f).
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$(2.6) \quad T(r, f) \leq \frac{l + k}{l - 1} \bar{N}(r, f) + S(r, f).$$

By (2.4) and (2.6), we have

$$T(r, f) \leq \frac{(k + 2)(l + k)}{k(l - 1)(l - k - 2)} T(r, f) + S(r, f),$$

that is,  $[k(l-1)(l-k-2) - (k+2)(l+k)]T(r, f) \leq S(r, f)$ . Since  $l > k+4+2/k$ , we have  $k(l-1)(l-k-2) - (k+2)(l+k) > 0$ . Thus  $T(r, f) = S(r, f)$ , so  $f$  is constant.  $\square$

**LEMMA 6** ([3, Theorem 3], [4, Corollary to Theorem 3.5]). *Let  $f$  be a nonconstant meromorphic function on  $\mathbb{C}$ , and let  $b$  be a nonzero value. Then for each positive integer  $k$ , either  $f$  or  $f^{(k)} - b$  vanishes. If  $f$  is transcendental, then for each positive integer  $k$ , either  $f$  or  $f^{(k)} - b$  has infinitely many zeros.*

**LEMMA 7** ([10, 13]). *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of functions meromorphic on the unit disc. Suppose that each  $f \in \mathcal{F}$ ,  $f \neq 0$ . Then if  $\mathcal{F}$  is not normal, there exist, for each  $\alpha \geq 0$ ,*

- (a) *a number  $0 < r < 1$ ;*
- (b) *points  $z_n$ ,  $|z_n| < r$ ;*
- (c) *functions  $f_n \in \mathcal{F}$ ; and*
- (d) *positive numbers  $\rho_n \rightarrow 0$*

*such that  $\rho_n^{-\alpha} f_n(z_n + \rho_n \zeta) = g_n(\zeta) \rightarrow g(\zeta)$  locally uniformly with respect to the spherical metric, where  $g$  is a nonconstant meromorphic function on  $\mathbb{C}$ .*

### 3. Proof of Theorem 1

**PROOF OF THEOREM 1.** Let  $z_0 \in D$ . We show that  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal at  $z_0$ . Let  $f \in \mathcal{F}$ . We consider two cases.

**Case 1:**  $f^{(k)}(z_0) \neq b$ . Then there exists a disk  $D_\delta = \{z : |z - z_0| < \delta\}$  such that  $f^{(k)} \neq b$  in  $D_\delta$ . Thus, for every  $g \in \mathcal{F}$ , the zeros of  $g$  have multiplicity at least  $k + 2$  and  $g^{(k)} \neq b$  in  $D_\delta$ . By Lemma 1,  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in  $D_\delta$ . Hence  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal at  $z_0$ .

**Case 2:**  $f^{(k)}(z_0) = b$ . Then, by the condition of the theorem,  $f(z_0) \neq 0$ . Hence there exists a disk  $D_\delta = \{z : |z - z_0| < \delta\}$  such that  $f \neq 0$  in  $D_\delta$  and  $f^{(k)} \neq b$  in  $D_\delta^o = \{z : 0 < |z - z_0| < \delta\}$ . Hence, by Lemma 1,  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in  $D_\delta^o$ . We complete the proof of the theorem by using the method of Yang [11].

Let  $\{f_n\}$  be a sequence in  $\mathcal{F}$ ; then there exists a subsequence of  $\{f_n\}$  (which, without loss of generality, we may again denote by  $\{f_n\}$ ) which converges locally spherically uniformly on  $D_\delta^o$  to a function  $h$ . We consider two subcases.

**Case 2.1:**  $h \not\equiv 0$ . Then, by Hurwitz's Theorem,  $h \neq 0$  in  $D_\delta^o$ . Therefore,

$$\min_{0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi} |h(z_0 + \delta e^{i\theta}/2)| > A > 0$$

for some constant  $A$ .

Hence for sufficiently large  $n$ ,

$$\min_{0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi} \left| f_n \left( z_0 + \frac{\delta}{2} e^{i\theta} \right) \right| > \frac{A}{2} > 0.$$

Since  $f_n$  is meromorphic and  $f_n \neq 0$  in  $D_\delta$ ,  $1/f_n$  is holomorphic in  $D_\delta$ . Thus  $1/f_n$  is holomorphic in  $\bar{D}_{\delta/2} = \{z : |z - z_0| \leq \delta/2\}$ , and

$$\max_{0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi} \frac{1}{|f_n(z_0 + \delta e^{i\theta}/2)|} < \frac{2}{A}.$$

By the maximum principle, we conclude that

$$\max_{|z-z_0| \leq \delta/2} \frac{1}{|f_n(z)|} < \frac{2}{A}, \quad \text{so} \quad \min_{|z-z_0| \leq \delta/2} |f_n(z)| > \frac{A}{2} > 0.$$

Hence there exists a subsequence of  $\{f_n\}$  which converges locally spherically uniformly in  $D_{\delta/2}$ .

**Case 2.2:  $h \equiv 0$ .** Then  $\{f_n\}$  converges locally uniformly to 0 in  $D_\delta^o$ . Thus  $\{f_n^{(k)}\}$  and  $\{f_n^{(k+1)}\}$  also converge locally uniformly to 0. Hence, for sufficiently large  $n$ , we have by the argument principle

$$\begin{aligned} (3.1) \quad & \left| N \left( \frac{\delta}{2}, z_0, f_n^{(k)} - b \right) - N \left( \frac{\delta}{2}, z_0, \frac{1}{f_n^{(k)} - b} \right) \right| \\ & = \left| \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{|z-z_0|=\delta/2} \frac{f_n^{(k+1)}(z)}{f_n^{(k)}(z) - b} dz \right| < 1. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have

$$N \left( \frac{\delta}{2}, z_0, f_n^{(k)} - b \right) = N \left( \frac{\delta}{2}, z_0, \frac{1}{f_n^{(k)} - b} \right).$$

Since any pole of  $f_n^{(k)} - b$  must have multiplicity at least  $k + 1$ , it follows that the zero of  $f_n^{(k)} - b$  at  $z_0$  has multiplicity at least  $k + 1$ .

We consider two subcases.

**Case 2.2.1.** The set  $S$  of positive integers  $n$  such that the zeros of  $f_n^{(k)} - b$  at  $z_0$  have multiplicity greater than  $k + 4 + 2/k$  is infinite. We claim that  $G = \{f_n : n \in S\}$  is normal in  $D_{\delta/2}$ .

Indeed, suppose that  $G$  is not normal in  $D_{\delta/2}$ . Then by Lemma 7, we have (renumbering, as we may)  $f_n \in G$ ,  $z_n \in D_{\delta/2}$ , and  $\rho_n \rightarrow 0^+$  such that

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

locally uniformly with respect to the spherical metric, where  $g$  is a nonconstant meromorphic function on  $\mathbb{C}$ .

By Hurwitz's Theorem,  $g \neq 0$  and any zeros of  $g^{(k)} - b$  have multiplicity greater than  $k + 4 + 2/k$ . Thus, by Lemma 5,  $g$  is constant, a contradiction. Hence there exists a subsequence of  $\{f_n\}$  which converges locally spherically uniformly in  $D_{\delta/2}$ .

**Case 2.2.2.** The set  $S_l$  of positive integers  $n$  such that the zeros of  $f_n^{(k)} - b$  at  $z_0$  have multiplicity  $l$  for some positive integer  $l$  such that  $k + 1 \leq l \leq k + 4 + 2/k$  is infinite. We claim that  $G = \{f_n : n \in S_l\}$  is normal in  $D_{\delta/2}$ .

In fact, suppose that  $G$  is not normal in  $D_{\delta/2}$ . Then by Lemma 7, we have (again renumbering)  $f_n \in G$ ,  $z_n \in D_{\delta/2}$ , and  $\rho_n \rightarrow 0^+$  such that

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

locally uniformly with respect to the spherical metric, where  $g$  is a nonconstant meromorphic function on  $\mathbb{C}$ .

By Hurwitz's Theorem,  $g \neq 0$  and each zero of  $g^{(k)} - b$  has multiplicity at least  $l$ . We claim, in addition, that  $g^{(k)} - b$  has only a single zero. That  $g^{(k)} - b$  must vanish somewhere follows from Lemma 6. Suppose that  $\xi_1$  and  $\xi_2$  are distinct zeros of  $g^{(k)} - b$ ; then the zeros of  $g^{(k)} - b$  at  $\xi_1$  and  $\xi_2$  have multiplicity at least  $l$ . Let  $\gamma$  be a simple closed curve containing  $\xi_1$  and  $\xi_2$  in its interior and such that  $g$  has no zeros on  $\gamma$  and no poles on or inside  $\gamma$ . Then  $g_n(\xi)$  converges to  $g(\xi)$  uniformly on and inside  $\gamma$ , and so  $g_n^{(k)} - b$  converges to  $g^{(k)} - b$  uniformly on and inside  $\gamma$ . By the argument principle,  $g_n^{(k)} - b$  and  $g^{(k)} - b$  have the same number of zeros (counting multiplicity) inside  $\gamma$  for sufficiently large  $n$ . But  $g_n^{(k)} - b$  has only  $l$  zeros (counting multiplicity) while  $g^{(k)}$  has at least  $2l$  zeros (counting multiplicity) for sufficiently large  $n$ , which is a contradiction.

From the above discussion,  $g^{(k)} - b$  has only a single zero, whose multiplicity is  $l$ . Since  $f_n^{(k)}(z_n + \rho_n \xi) = g_n^{(k)}(\xi)$ , which converges to  $g^{(k)}(\xi)$  uniformly on compact subsets of  $\mathbb{C}$  disjoint from the poles of  $g$ , it follows from the formula after (3.1) that  $f_n^{(k)}$  has  $l$  poles (counting multiplicity) in  $D_{\delta/2}$  and hence  $g_n^{(k)}$  has  $l$  poles (counting multiplicity) on the disc  $\{\xi : z_n + \rho_n \xi \in D_{\delta/2}\}$ . We conclude easily from the argument principle that  $g^{(k)}$  has at most  $l$  poles (counting multiplicity) in  $\mathbb{C}$ .

Thus

- (i)  $g \neq 0$ ;
- (ii)  $g^{(k)} - b$  has a single zero, whose multiplicity is  $l$ ;
- (iii)  $g^{(k)}$  has at most  $l$  poles, counting multiplicities.

We claim that no such function exists. By Lemma 6, there is no transcendental function, satisfying (i) and (ii). Clearly,  $g$  cannot be a polynomial. We now turn to the somewhat tedious verification that no rational function satisfies conditions (i), (ii), and (iii). We consider three subcases.

**Case 2.2.2.1:  $k \geq 3$ .** Since  $k + 1 \leq l \leq k + 4 + 2/k$ ,  $g$  has only a single pole. Thus  $g(\xi) = A/(\xi - a_1)^m$ , where  $A$  is a nonzero constant,  $a_1$  is a constant, and  $m$  is a positive integer.

Obviously,  $g^{(k)} - b$  has  $m + k$  distinct zeros, which contradicts the fact that  $g^{(k)} - b$  has a single zero.

**Case 2.2.2.2:  $k = 2$ .** Since  $3 \leq l \leq 7$ ,  $g$  has one of the following forms:

- (1)  $g(\xi) = A/(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2)^2, l = 7;$
- (2)  $g(\xi) = A/(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2), l = 6;$
- (3)  $g(\xi) = A/(\xi - a_1)^m, l = m + 2, 1 \leq m \leq 5,$

where  $A$  is a nonzero constant,  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  are distinct constants, and  $m$  is a positive integer.

If  $g(\xi) = A/[(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2)^2]$ , then

$$g''(\xi) - b = -\frac{A[3(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2) - (3\xi - 2a_1 - a_2)(5\xi - 3a_1 - 2a_2)]}{(\xi - a_1)^3(\xi - a_2)^4} - \frac{b(\xi - a_1)^3(\xi - a_2)^4}{(\xi - a_1)^3(\xi - a_2)^4}.$$

Since  $g'' - b$  has only a single zero, we have

$$(3.2) \quad A[3(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2) - (3\xi - 2a_1 - a_2)(5\xi - 3a_1 - 2a_2)] + b(\xi - a_1)^3(\xi - a_2)^4 = b(\xi - c)^7.$$

Differentiating the two sides of (3.2) three times, we have

$$(3.3) \quad (\xi - a_2)p(\xi) = 210b(\xi - c)^4,$$

where  $p$  is a polynomial and  $c$  is a constant.

Thus  $a_2 = c$ . It then follows from (3.2) that  $a_1 = a_2$ , a contradiction.

If  $g$  is of the form (2) or (3), we can similarly get a contradiction.

**Case 2.2.2.3:  $k = 1$ .** Since  $2 \leq l \leq 7$ ,  $g$  has one of the following forms:

- (1)  $g(\xi) = A/(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2)(\xi - a_3)^2, l = 7;$
- (2)  $g(\xi) = A/(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2)(\xi - a_3), l = 6;$
- (3)  $g(\xi) = A/(\xi - a_1)^2(\xi - a_2)^m, l = m + 4, 2 \leq m \leq 3;$
- (4)  $g(\xi) = A/(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2)^m, l = m + 3, 1 \leq m \leq 4;$
- (5)  $g(\xi) = A/(\xi - a_1)^m, l = m + 1, 1 \leq m \leq 6,$

where  $A$  is a nonzero constant,  $a_1, a_2$  and  $a_3$  are distinct constants, and  $m$  is a positive integer.



We deal with case (1). If  $g(\xi) = A/[(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2)(\xi - a_3)^2]$ , then

$$g'(\xi) - b = -\frac{A[(2\xi - a_1 - a_2)(\xi - a_3) + 2(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2)]}{(\xi - a_1)^2(\xi - a_2)^2(\xi - a_3)^3} - \frac{b(\xi - a_1)^2(\xi - a_2)^2(\xi - a_3)^3}{(\xi - a_1)^2(\xi - a_2)^2(\xi - a_3)^3}.$$

Since  $g' - b$  has only a single zero, we have

$$(3.4) \quad A[(2\xi - a_1 - a_2)(\xi - a_3) + 2(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2)] + b(\xi - a_1)^2(\xi - a_2)^2(\xi - a_3)^3 = b(\xi - c)^7.$$

Differentiating the two sides of (3.4), we have

$$(3.5) \quad b(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2)(\xi - a_3)^2[2(2\xi - a_1 - a_2)(\xi - a_3) + 3(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2)] + A(8\xi - 3a_1 - 3a_2 - 2a_3) = 7b(\xi - c)^6.$$

Setting  $\xi = a_3$  in (3.5) gives

$$(3.6) \quad 3A(2a_3 - a_1 - a_2) = 7b(a_3 - c)^6.$$

Differentiating the two sides of (3.5), we obtain

$$(3.7) \quad 8A + (\xi - a_3)p(\xi) = 42b(\xi - c)^5,$$

where  $p$  is a polynomial.

Setting  $\xi = a_3$  in (3.7), we get

$$(3.8) \quad 8A = 42b(a_3 - c)^5.$$

Thus by (3.6) and (3.8) we have

$$(3.9) \quad c = -\frac{7}{2}a_3 + \frac{9}{4}a_1 + \frac{9}{4}a_2.$$

On the other hand, differentiating both sides of (3.4) six times and putting  $\xi = c$ , we obtain

$$(3.10) \quad c = (2a_1 + 2a_2 + 3a_3)/7.$$

Comparing (3.9) and (3.10) gives  $a_3 = c$ , which contradicts (3.8) since  $A \neq 0$ .

If  $g$  has one of the other forms, we obtain a contradiction in a similar fashion.

Thus we have proved that  $\{f_n\}$  is normal in  $D_{\delta/2}$ . Hence, there exists a subsequence of  $\{f_n\}$  which converges locally spherically uniformly in  $D_{\delta/2}$ . It follows that  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal at  $z_0$ , and so  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in  $D$ . The proof of the theorem is complete.  $\square$

The proof of Theorem 2, which uses Lemma 2, is similar. We omit the details.

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