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## RESULTS ON CERTAIN DIFFERENTIAL POLYNOMIALS OF L-FUNCTIONS SHARING A FINITE VALUE

PRIYANKA V., RAJESHWARI S., HUSNA V.

**ABSTRACT.** In this Article, we analyse a uniqueness of meromorphic functions of certain differential polynomials that share a nonzero finite value or have the same fixed points with the same of L-functions. The results in this paper extend the corresponding results from Xiao-Min Li, Fang Liu, Hong-Xun .

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In this Article, by L-functions with the Riemann zeta function as a prototype, are important objects in number theory, and value distribution of L-functions has been studied extensively. L-functions can be analytically continued as meromorphic functions in  $\mathbb{C}$ . It is well-known that a non-constant meromorphic function in  $\mathbb{C}$  completely determined by five such pre-images five such pre-images, which is a famous theorem due to Nevanlinna and often referred to as Nevanlinna's uniqueness theorem. Two meromorphic functions  $f$  and  $g$  in the complex plane are said to share a value  $c \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$  IM (ignoring multiplicities) if  $f^{-1}(c) = g^{-1}(c)$  as two sets in  $\mathbb{C}$ . Moreover,  $f$  and  $g$  are said to share a value  $c$  CM (counting multiplicities) if they share the value  $c$  and if the roots of the equations  $f(s) = c$  and  $g(s) = c$  have the same multiplicities. Throughout the paper, an L-function always means an L-function  $L$  in the Selberg class, which includes the Riemann zeta function  $\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^{-s}$  and essentially those Dirichlet series where one might expect a Riemann hypothesis. Such an L-function is defined to be a Dirichlet series  $L(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a(n)n^{-s}$  satisfying the following axioms[[19][20]] :

(i) Ramanujan hypothesis:

$$a(n) \ll n^{\varepsilon}$$

for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ .

(ii) Analytic continuation: There is a non negative integer  $k$  such that  $(s-1)^k L(s)$

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is an entire function of finite order.

(iii) Functional equation:  $L$  satisfies a functional equation of type

$$\Lambda_L(s) = \omega \overline{\Lambda_L(1 - \bar{s})},$$

where

$$\Lambda_L(s) = L(s)Q^s \prod_{j=1}^k \Gamma(\lambda_j s + \nu_j)$$

with positive real numbers  $Q, \lambda_j$  and complex numbers  $\nu_j, \omega$  with  $\operatorname{Re} \nu_j \geq 0$  and  $|\omega| = 1$ .

(iv) Euler product hypothesis:

$$L(s) = \prod_p \exp \left( \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{b(p^k)}{p^{ks}} \right)$$

with suitable coefficients  $b(p^k)$  satisfying  $b(p^k) \ll p^{k\theta}$  for some  $\theta < 1/2$ , where the product is taken over all prime numbers  $p$ .

We first recall the following result due to Steuding [20], which actually holds without the Euler product hypothesis:

**Theorem 1.1** [20] If two L-functions  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  with  $a(1) = 1$  share a complex value  $c \neq \infty$  CM, then  $L_1 = L_2$ .

Later on, Li [8] proved the following result to deal with a question posed by Chung-Chun Yang [22]:

**Theorem 1.2** [8] Let  $a$  and  $b$  be two distinct finite values, and let  $f$  be a meromorphic function in the complex plane such that  $f$  has finitely many poles in the complex plane. If  $f$  and a non-constant function  $L$  share a CM and b IM, then  $L = f$ .

In 1997, Lahiri [9] posed the following question: What can be said about the relationship between two meromorphic functions  $f$  and  $g$ , when two differential polynomials, generated by  $f$  and  $g$  respectively, share some nonzero finite value? In this direction, Fang [1] and Yang-Hua [22] respectively proved the following results:

**Theorem 1.3** [1] Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two non-constant entire functions, and let  $n$  and  $k$  be two positive integers such that  $n > 2k + 4$ . If  $(f^n)^{(k)}$  and  $(g^n)^{(k)}$  share 1 CM, then either  $f(z) = c_1 e^{cz}, g(z) = c_2 e^{-cz}$ , where  $c_1, c_2$  and  $c$  are three constants satisfying  $(-1)^k (c_1 c_2)^n (nc)^{2k} = 1$ , or  $f = tg$  for a constant  $t$  such that  $t^n = 1$ .

**Theorem 1.4** [22] Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two non-constant meromorphic functions, and let  $n \geq 11$  be a positive integer. If  $f^n f'$  and  $g^n g'$  share 1 CM, then either  $f(z) = c_1 e^{cz}, g(z) = c_2 e^{-cz}$ , where  $c_1, c_2$  and  $c$  are three constants satisfying  $(c_1 c_2)^{n+1} c^2 = -1$ , or  $f = tg$  for a constant  $t$  such that  $t^{n+1} = 1$ .

Regarding Theorems 1.1-1.4, one may ask, what can be said about the relationship between a meromorphic function  $f$  and an L-function  $L$ , if  $(f^n)^{(k)}$  and  $(L^n)^{(k)}$  share

1 CM or that  $(f^n)^{(k)}$  and  $(L^n)^{(k)}$  have the same fixed points, where  $n$  and  $k$  are positive integers? In this direction, Fang Liu, Xiao-Min Li and Hong-Xun Yi[10] proved the following two results respectively:

**Theorem 1.5** [10] Let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function, let  $L$  be an L-function, and let  $n$  and  $k$  be two positive integers with  $n > 3k + 6$ . If  $(f^n)^{(k)}$  and  $(L^n)^{(k)}$  share 1 CM, then  $f = tL$  for a constant  $t$  satisfying  $t^n = 1$ .

**Theorem 1.6** [10] Let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function, let  $L$  be an L-function, and let  $n$  and  $k$  be two positive integers with  $n > 3k + 6$ . If  $(f^n)^{(k)}(z) - z$  and  $(L^n)^{(k)}(z) - z$  share 0 CM, then  $f = tL$  for a constant  $t$  satisfying  $t^n = 1$ .

To prove Theorems 1.5 and 1.6 in the paper, authors applied Nevanlinna theory, which can be found in [[4],[11],[23],[24]]. In addition, we will use the lower order  $\mu(f)$  and the order  $\rho(f)$  of a meromorphic function  $f$ , which can be found, for example in [[4],[11],[24]], are in turn defined as follows:

$$\mu(f) = \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log T(r, f)}{\log r}$$

$$\rho(f) = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log T(r, f)}{\log r}$$

We also need the following two definitions:

**Definition 1** [12]. Let  $p$  be a positive integer and  $a \in \mathbf{C} \cup \{\infty\}$ . Next we denote by  $N_{(p)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right)$  the counting function of those  $a$ -points of  $f$  (counted with proper multiplicities) whose multiplicities are not greater than  $p$ , and denote by  $\bar{N}_{(p)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right)$  the counting function of those  $a$ -points of  $f$  (counted with proper multiplicities) whose multiplicities are not less than  $p$ . We denote by  $\bar{N}_{(p)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right)$  and  $\bar{N}_{(p)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right)$  the reduced forms of  $N_{(p)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right)$  and  $N_{(p)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right)$  respectively. Here  $N_{(p)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-\infty}\right)$ ,  $\bar{N}_{(p)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-\infty}\right)$ ,  $N_{(p)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-\infty}\right)$  and  $\bar{N}_{(p)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-\infty}\right)$  mean  $N_{(p)}(r, f)$ ,  $\bar{N}_{(p)}(r, f)$ ,  $N_{(p)}(r, f)$  and  $\bar{N}_{(p)}(r, f)$  respectively.

**Definition 2**[12] Let  $a$  be an any value in the extended complex plane and let  $k$  be an arbitrary non negative integer. We define

$$\Theta(a, f) = 1 - \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right)}{T(r, f)},$$

$$\delta_k(a, f) = 1 - \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N_k\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right)}{T(r, f)},$$

where

$$N_k\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right) = \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right) + \bar{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right) \\ + \cdots + \bar{N}_{(k)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right)$$

**Remark 1.** By Definition 2 , we have

$$0 \leq \delta_k(a, f) \leq \delta_{k-1}(a, f) \leq \delta_1(a, f) \leq \Theta(a, f) \leq 1$$

**Remark 2.** Recently Hu and Li pointed out that Theorem 1.4 is false when  $c = 1$ . A counter example was given by Hu and Li, see [3].

In 2010, Li [13] introduced the following question posed by Chung-Chun Yang:

**Question 1.** [13]. If  $f$  is a meromorphic function in  $\mathbb{C}$  that shares three distinct values  $a, b$  CM and  $c$  IM with the Riemann zeta function  $\zeta$ , where  $c \notin \{a, b, 0, \infty\}$ , is  $f$  equal to  $\zeta$  ?

Li [13] also proved the following result to deal with Question 1:

**Theorem 1.7** [13] Let  $a$  and  $b$  be two distinct finite values, and let  $f$  be a meromorphic function in the complex plane such that  $f$  has finitely many poles in the complex plane. If  $f$  and a non-constant L-function  $L$  share  $a$  CM and  $b$  IM, then  $L = f$ .

**Remark 3.** In 2012, Gao and Li completely solved Question 1, see [13].

Concerning the value distribution of nonlinear differential polynomials of meromorphic functions, we recall the following result proved by Fang in 2002:

**Theorem 1.8** [2] Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two non-constant entire functions, and let  $n, k$  be two positive integers satisfying  $n \geq 2k + 8$ . If  $(f^n(f-1))^{(k)}$  and  $(g^n(g-1))^{(k)}$  share 1 CM, then  $f = g$ .

Regarding Theorem 1.8, one may ask, what can be said about the relationship between two meromorphic functions  $f$  and  $g$ , if  $(f^n(f-1))^{(k)}$  and  $(g^n(g-1))^{(k)}$  share 1 CM (IM), where  $n$  and  $k$  are positive integers ? which was also posed by Professor M. L. Fang in 2009. By now this question is still open. In this paper, Xiao-Min Li , Fang Liu , Hong-Xun [7] proved the following result by considering the nonlinear differential polynomials of L-functions.

**Theorem 1.9** [7] Let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function, let  $L$  be an L-function, and let  $n$  and  $k$  be two positive integers with  $n > 3k + 9$  and  $k \geq 2$ . If  $(f^n(f-1))^{(k)}$  and  $(L^n(L-1))^{(k)}$  share 1 CM, then  $f = L$ .

**Theorem 1.10** [7] Let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function, let  $L$  be an L-function, and let  $n$  and  $k$  be two positive integers satisfying  $n > 7k + 17$  and  $k \geq 2$ . If  $(f^n(f-1))^{(k)}$  and  $(L^n(L-1))^{(k)}$  share 1 IM, then  $f = L$ .

Regarding Theorems 1.9 and 1.10 one may ask the following question. What happens if  $(f^n(f-1))^{(k)}$  and  $(L^n(L-1))^{(k)}$  is replaced by  $((f^n)^s P(f))^{(k)}$  and  $((L^n)^s P(L))^{(k)}$  in Theorems 1.9 and 1.10 ?

We obtain analogous results to answer the above question affirmatively, we prove the following results which is the main results of this article.

## 2. MAIN RESULT

**Theorem 2.1** Let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function, let  $L$  be an L-function, and let  $n$  and  $k$  be two positive integers with  $n > \frac{k+m+6+2s(k+1)}{s}$ . If  $((f^n)^s P(f))^{(k)}$  and  $((L^n)^s P(L))^{(k)}$  share 1 CM, then  $f = L$ .

In the same manner as in the proof of Theorem 2.1 in Section 4 of this paper, we can get the following result by Lemma 3.3 in Section 3 of this paper:

**Theorem 2.2** Let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function, let  $L$  be an L-function, and let  $n$  and  $k$  be two positive integers satisfying  $n > \frac{2k+7+5s(k+1)}{s}$ . If  $((f^n)^s P(f))^{(k)}$  and  $((L^n)^s P(L))^{(k)}$  share 1 IM, then  $f = L$ .

## 3. Some Lemmas

In this section, we present some lemmas which will be needed later on to prove main results .

**Lemma 3.1** [4] Let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function, let  $k \geq 1$  be a positive integer, and let  $c$  be a nonzero finite complex number. Then

$$\begin{aligned} T(r, f) &\leq \bar{N}(r, f) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{f^{(k)} - c}\right) - N\left(r, \frac{1}{f^{(k+1)}}\right) + S(r, f) \\ &\leq \bar{N}(r, f) + N_{k+1}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f^{(k)} - c}\right) - N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{f^{(k+1)}}\right) + S(r, f) \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 3.2** [16] (Valiron-Mokhonoko,). Let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function, and let

$$F = \frac{\sum_{k=0}^p a_k f^k}{\sum_{j=0}^q b_j f^j}$$

be an irreducible rational function in  $f$  with constant coefficients  $\{a_k\}$  and  $\{b_j\}$ , where  $a_p \neq 0$  and  $b_q \neq 0$ . Then  $T(r, F) = dT(r, f) + O(1)$ , where  $d = \max\{p, q\}$ .

**Lemma 3.3** [14] Let  $F$  and  $G$  be two non-constant meromorphic functions such that  $F^{(k)} - P$  and  $G^{(k)} - P$  share 0 CM, where  $k \geq 1$  is a positive integer,  $P \neq 0$  is a polynomial. If

$$(k+2)\Theta(\infty, F) + 2\Theta(\infty, G) + \Theta(0, F) + \Theta(0, G) + \delta_{k+1}(0, F) + \delta_{k+1}(0, G) > (k+7)$$

and

$$(k+2)\Theta(\infty, G) + 2\Theta(\infty, F) + \Theta(0, G) + \Theta(0, F) + \delta_{k+1}(0, G) + \delta_{k+1}(0, F) > (k+7),$$

then either  $F^{(k)}G^{(k)} = P^2$  or  $F = G$ .

**Lemma 3.4** [14] Let  $F$  and  $G$  be two non-constant meromorphic functions such that  $F^{(k)} - P$  and  $G^{(k)} - P$  share 0 IM, where  $k \geq 1$  is a positive integer,  $P \neq 0$  is a polynomial. If

$$(2k+3)\Theta(\infty, F) + (2k+4)\Theta(\infty, G) + \Theta(0, F) + \Theta(0, G) + 2\delta_{k+1}(0, F) + 3\delta_{k+1}(0, G) > (4k+13)$$

and

$$(2k+3)\Theta(\infty, G) + (2k+4)\Theta(\infty, F) + \Theta(0, G) + \Theta(0, F) + 2\delta_{k+1}(0, G) + 3\delta_{k+1}(0, F) > (4k+13),$$

then either  $F^{(k)}G^{(k)} = P^2$  or  $F = G$ .

**Lemma 3.5** [15] Suppose that  $f$  is a meromorphic of finite order in the plane, and that  $f^{(k)}$  has finitely many zeros for some  $k \geq 2$ . Then  $f$  has finitely many poles in the complex plane.

**Lemma 3.6** [25] Let  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  be two non-constant meromorphic functions such that

$$\overline{N}(r, f_j) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f_j}\right) = S(r)$$

for  $1 \leq j \leq 2$ . Then, either  $\overline{N}_0(r, 1; f_1, f_2) = S(r)$  or that there exist two integers  $p$  and  $q$  satisfying  $|p| + |q| > 0$ , such that  $f_1^p f_2^q = 1$ , where  $\overline{N}_0(r, 1; f_1, f_2)$  denotes the reduced counting function of the common 1-points of  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  in  $|z| < r$ ,  $T(r) = T(r, f_1) + T(r, f_2)$  and  $S(r) = o(T(r))$ , as  $r \notin E$  and  $r \rightarrow \infty$ . Here  $E \subset (0, +\infty)$  is a subset of finite linear measure.

**Lemma 3.7** [15] Let  $f$  be a transcendental meromorphic function in the complex plane. Then, for each  $K > 1$ , there exists a set  $M(K) \subset (0, +\infty)$  of the lower logarithmic density at most  $d(K) = 1 - (2e^{K-1} - 1)^{-1} > 0$ , that is

$$\underline{\log \text{dens}} M(K) = \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\log r} \int_{M(K) \cap [1, r]} \frac{dt}{t} \leq d(K),$$

such that, for every positive integer  $k$ , we have

$$\limsup_{\substack{r \rightarrow \infty \\ r \notin M(K)}} \frac{T(r, f)}{T(r, f^{(k)})} \leq 3eK.$$

**Lemma 3.8** [25] Let  $s > 0$  and  $t$  be relatively prime integers, and let  $c$  be a finite complex number such that  $c^s = 1$ , then there exists one and only one common zero of  $\omega^s - 1$  and  $\omega^t - c$ .

#### 4. Proof of Main Results

##### Proof of Theorem 2.1.

First of all, we denote by  $d$  the degree of  $L$ . Then  $d = 2 \sum_{j=1}^K \lambda_j > 0$  (cf.[22],p.113) where  $K$  and  $\lambda_j$  are respectively the positive integer and the positive real number in the functional equation of the axiom (iii) of the definition of L-functions. Therefore, by Steuding (cf.[20],p.150) we have

$$T(r, L) = \frac{d}{\pi} r \log r + O(r). \tag{1}$$

Noting that an L-function at most has one pole  $z = 1$  in the complex plane, we deduce by Lemma 3.1 and Lemma 3.2 that

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(r, L^n) &= nT(r, L) + O(1) \\
 &\leq \bar{N}(r, (L^n)^s P(L)) + N_{k+1}\left(r, \frac{1}{(L^n)^s P(L)}\right) \\
 &\quad + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{((L^n)^s P(L))^{(k)} - 1}\right) \\
 &\quad - N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{((L^n)^s P(L))^{(k+1)}}\right) + O(\log r) \\
 &\leq (s+m)\bar{N}(r, L) + (k+1+s+m)\bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{L}\right) \\
 &\quad + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{((f^n)^s P(f))^{(k)} - 1}\right) + O(\log r) \\
 &\leq (k+1+s+m)T(r, L) + T\left(r, ((f^n)^s P(f))^{(k)}\right) + O(\log r) \\
 (n-k-1-s-m)T(r, L) &\leq T\left(r, ((f^n)^s P(f))^{(k)}\right) + O(\log r)
 \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

Let

$$F = ((f^n)^s P(f)), G = ((L^n)^s P(L)) \tag{3}$$

now we let

$$\Delta_1 = (k+2)\Theta(\infty, F) + 2\Theta(\infty, G) + \Theta(0, F) + \Theta(0, G) + \delta_{k+1}(0, F) + \delta_{k+1}(0, G) \tag{4}$$

and

$$\Delta_2 = (k+2)\Theta(\infty, G) + 2\Theta(\infty, F) + \Theta(0, G) + \Theta(0, F) + \delta_{k+1}(0, G) + \delta_{k+1}(0, F). \tag{5}$$

by Lemma 3.2 we have

$$\Theta(\infty, F) = 1 - \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\bar{N}(r, F)}{T(r, F)} = 1 - \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\bar{N}(r, f)}{(n+1)T(r, f) + O(1)} \geq 1 - \frac{1}{ns+m}, \tag{6}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \delta_{k+1}(0, F) &= 1 - \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N_{k+1}\left(r, \frac{1}{F}\right)}{T(r, F)} \\
 &\geq 1 - \frac{s(k+1) + m}{ns+m}
 \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

and

$$\Theta(0, F) \geq 1 - \frac{2}{ns+m}, \quad \Theta(0, G) \geq 1 - \frac{2}{ns+m}, \quad \delta_{k+1}(0, G) \geq 1 - \frac{s(k+1) + m}{ns+m}. \tag{8}$$

by noting that an L-function has at most one pole  $z = 1$  in the complex plane, we have by equation 1 that

$$\Theta(\infty, G) = 1. \tag{9}$$

by equation 4-9 we have

$$\Delta_1 \geq k+8 - \frac{k+2s(k+1)+2m+6}{ns+m}, \quad \Delta_2 \geq k+8 - \frac{2s(k+1)+2m+6}{ns+m}. \tag{10}$$

By equation 10 and the assumption  $n > \frac{k+m+6+2s(k+1)}{s}$ , we have  $\Delta_1 > k + 7$  and  $\Delta_2 > k + 7$ . This together with equations 4 and 5, Lemma 3.3 and the assumption that  $F^{(k)}$  and  $G^{(k)}$  share 1 CM gives  $F^{(k)}G^{(k)} = 1$  or  $F = G$ . We consider the following two cases:

**Case 1.** Suppose that  $F^{(k)}G^{(k)} = 1$ . Then, by equation 3 we have

$$(((f^n)^s P(f))^{(k)})(((L^n)^s P(L))^{(k)}) = 1. \quad (11)$$

On the other hand, by equations 1 and 11, Lemma 3.2, a result from Whittaker (cf. [25], p.82) and the definition of the order of a meromorphic function we have

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(f) &= \rho((f^n)^s P(f)) = \rho\left(\left((f^n)^s P(f)\right)^{(k)}\right) = \rho\left(\left((L^n)^s P(L)\right)^{(k)}\right) = \rho((L^n)^s P(L)) \\ &= \rho(L) = 1. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

By equation 12 we can see that  $f$  is a transcendental meromorphic function. Since an L-function at most has one pole  $z = 1$  in the complex plane, we deduce by equation 11 that  $\left(\left((f^n)^s P(f)\right)^{(k)}\right)$  at most has one zero  $z = 1$  in the complex plane. Combining this with equation 12, Lemma 3.5 and the assumption  $k \geq 2$ , we have that  $(f^n)^s P(f)$ , and so  $f$  has at most finitely many poles in the complex plane. This together with equation 11 implies that  $\left(\left((L^n)^s P(L)\right)^{(k)}\right)$  has at most finitely many zeros in the complex plane. Therefore, by equation 3 we have

$$\bar{N}\left(r, F^{(k)}\right) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^{(k)}}\right) \leq O(\log r) \quad (13)$$

and

$$\bar{N}\left(r, G^{(k)}\right) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{G^{(k)}}\right) \leq O(\log r). \quad (14)$$

We now set

$$f_1 = \frac{F^{(k)}}{G^{(k)}}, \quad f_2 = \frac{F^{(k)} - 1}{G^{(k)} - 1}. \quad (15)$$

By equation 15 and the assumption that  $f$  and  $L$  are transcendental meromorphic functions, we have  $f_1 \not\equiv 0$  and  $f_2 \not\equiv 0$ . Suppose that one of  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  is a nonzero constant. Then, by equation 15 we see that  $F^{(k)}$  and  $G^{(k)}$  share  $\infty$  CM. Combining this with  $F^{(k)}G^{(k)} = 1$  we deduce that  $\infty$  is a Picard exceptional value of  $f$  and  $L$ . Next we suppose that  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  are non-constant meromorphic functions. We set

$$F_1 = F^{(k)}, \quad G_1 = G^{(k)}. \quad (16)$$

Then, by equations 15-16 we have

$$F_1 = \frac{f_1(1-f_2)}{f_1-f_2}, \quad G_1 = \frac{1-f_2}{f_1-f_2}. \quad (17)$$

By equation 17 we can find that there exists a subset  $I \subset (0, +\infty)$  with infinite linear measure such that  $S(r) = o(T(r))$  and

$$T(r, F_1) \leq 2(T(r, f_1) + T(r, f_2)) + S(r) \leq 8T(r, F_1) + S(r) \quad (18)$$

or

$$T(r, G_1) \leq 2(T(r, f_1) + T(r, f_2)) + S(r) \leq 8T(r, G_1) + S(r), \quad (19)$$

as  $r \in I$  and  $r \rightarrow \infty$ , where  $T(r) = T(r, f_1) + T(r, f_2)$ . Without loss of generality, we suppose that equation 18 holds. Then we have  $S(r) = S(r, F_1)$ , as  $r \in I$  and  $r \rightarrow \infty$ . By  $F_1 G_1 = 1$  we see that  $F_1$  and  $G_1$  share 1 and -1 CM. By noting that



$F_1$  and  $G_1$  are transcendental meromorphic functions such that  $F_1$  and  $G_1$  share 1 CM, we deduce by equations 13-15 that

$$\bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f_j}\right) + \bar{N}(r, f_j) = o(T(r)), (j = 1, 2), \quad (20)$$

as  $r \in I$  and  $r \rightarrow \infty$ . By noting that  $F_1$  and  $G_1$  share -1 CM, we deduce by equations 15 and 16 and the second fundamental theorem that

$$\begin{aligned} T(r, F_1) &\leq \bar{N}(r, F_1) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F_1}\right) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F_1 + 1}\right) + O(T(r, F_2)) \\ &\leq \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F_1 + 1}\right) + O(\log r) + o(T(r, F_1)) \\ &\leq \bar{N}_0(r, 1; f_1, f_2) + o(T(r, F_1)), \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

as  $r \in I$  and  $r \rightarrow \infty$ . By equations 18 and 21 we have

$$T(r, f_1) + T(r, f_2) \leq \bar{N}_0(r, 1; f_1, f_2) + o(T(r)), \quad (22)$$

By equations 13-16, 20, 22 and Lemma 3.6 we find that there exist two relatively prime integers  $x$  and  $y$  satisfying  $|x| + |y| > 0$ , such that  $f_1^x f_2^y = 1$ . Combining this with equations 15-16, we have

$$\left(\frac{F_1}{G_1}\right)^x \left(\frac{F_1 - 1}{G_1 - 1}\right)^y = 1. \quad (23)$$

we consider the following two subcases:

**Subcase 1.1** Suppose that  $xy < 0$ , say  $x > 0$  and  $y < 0$ , say  $y = -y_1$ , where  $y_1$  is some positive integer. Then, equation 23 can be rewritten as

$$\left(\frac{F_1}{G_1}\right)^x = \left(\frac{F_1 - 1}{G_1 - 1}\right)^{y_1}. \quad (24)$$

Let  $z_1 \in \mathbb{C}$  be a pole of  $F_1$  of multiplicity  $p_1 \geq 1$ . Then, by  $F_1 G_1 = 1$  we can see that  $z_1$  be a zero of  $G_1$  of multiplicity  $p_1$ . Therefore, by equation 24 we deduce that  $2x = y_1 = -y$ . Combining this with the assumption that  $x$  and  $y$  are two relatively prime integers, we have  $x = 1$  and  $y = -y_1 = -2$ . Therefore, equation 24 can be rewritten as  $F_1 (G_1 - 1)^2 = (F_1 - 1)^2 G_1$ , this equivalent to the obtained result  $F_1 G_1 = 1$ . Next we can deduce a contradiction by using the other method. Indeed, by equations 12 and 14, the right equality of equation 3 and the fact that  $L$ , and so  $((L^n)^s P(L))^{(k)}$  has at most one pole  $z = 1$  in the complex plane, we deduce

$$((L^n)^s(z)P(L))^{(k)} = \frac{P_1(z)}{(z-1)^{p_2}} e^{A_1 z + B_1}, \quad (25)$$

where  $P_1$  is a nonzero polynomial,  $p_2 \geq 0$  is an integer,  $A_1 \neq 0$  and  $B_1$  are constants. By equation 25, Hayman[6], Lemma 3.2 and Lemma 3.7 we deduce that there exists a subset  $I \subset (0, +\infty)$  with logarithmic measure  $I = \int_I \frac{dt}{t} = \infty$  such that for some given sufficiently large positive number  $K > 1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} (ns + m)T(r, L) &= T(r, ((L^n)^s P(L))) \\ &\leq 3eKT \left(r, ((L^n)^s P(L))^{(k)}\right) = \frac{3eK|A_1|r}{\pi} (1 + O(1)) + O(\log r), \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

as  $r \in I$  and  $r \rightarrow \infty$ . By equations 1 and 26 we have a contradiction.

**Subcase 1.2** Suppose that  $st = 0$ , say  $s = 0$  and  $t \neq 0$ . Then, by equation 23 we can see that  $F_1$  and  $G_1$  share  $\infty$  CM. This together with equations 3 and 16 and the assumption  $F_1G_1 = 1$  implies that  $\infty$  is a Picard exceptional value of  $f$  and  $L$ .

**Subcase 1.3** Suppose that  $st > 0$ , say  $s > 0$  and  $t > 0$ . Then, by equation 23 we can see that  $F_1$  and  $G_1$  share  $\infty$  CM. This together with equations 3 and 16 and the assumption  $F_1G_1 = 1$  implies that  $\infty$  is a Picard exceptional value of  $f$  and  $L$ .

By equations 3 and 14 and the assumption  $n > \frac{k+m+6+2s(k+1)}{s}$  we deduce that  $L$  has at most finitely many zeros in the complex plane. This together with the obtained result that  $\infty$  is a Picard exceptional value of  $f$  and  $L$  gives

$$L(z) = P_2(z)e^{A_2z+B_2}, \quad (27)$$

where  $P_2$  is a nonzero polynomial,  $A_2 \neq 0$  and  $B_2$  are constants. By equation 27 and Hayman [6] we have

$$T(r, L(z)) = T(r, P_2(z)e^{A_2z+B_2}) = \frac{|A_2|r}{\pi}(1 + O(1)) + O(\log r),$$

which contradicts equation 1.

**Case 2.** Suppose that  $F = G$ . Then by equation 3 we have

$$(f^n)^s P(f) = (L^n)^s P(L) \quad (28)$$

now we set

$$H = \frac{f}{L} \quad (29)$$

If  $H$  is a non-constant meromorphic function, then we get equation 28.

Suppose  $H$  is a constant. Then from equation 29, we get

$$[a_n f^m + a_{n-1} f^{m-1} + \dots + a_1 f][(f^n)^s] = [a_n L^m + a_{n-1} L^{m-1} + \dots + a_1 L][(L^n)^s]$$

i.e,

$$a_n L^{(m+ns)}[H^{m+ns} - 1] + a_{n-1} L^{(m+ns-1)}[H^{m+ns-1} - 1] + \dots + a_1 L^{(1+ns)}[H^{1+ns} - 1] = 0$$

which implies  $H^{\chi_n} = 1$ , where

$$\chi_n = \begin{cases} 1 & \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} |a_{n-j}| \neq 0 ; \\ d_1 & a_j = 0, \forall j = 1, 2, \dots, n-1, \end{cases}$$

$$d_1 = \gcd(m + ns, m + ns - 1, \dots, ns + 1),$$

Therefore,  $f = tL$ , for a constant  $t$  satisfies  $t^{\chi_n} = 1$ . We get the conclusion of Theorem 2.1. This completes the proof of Theorem 2.1.

### Proof of Theorem 2.2.

First of all, we denote by  $d$  the degree of  $L$ . Then  $d = 2 \sum_{j=1}^K \lambda_j > 0$  [22], where  $K$  and  $\lambda_j$  are respectively the positive integer and the positive real number in the functional equation of the axiom (iii) of the definition of L-function. Therefore, by

the results of Steuding equations we have equation 1. Now we let equation 3, and let

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_3 = & (2k+3)\Theta(\infty, F_1) + (2k+4)\Theta(\infty, G_1) + \Theta(0, F_1) + \Theta(0, G_1) \\ & + 2\delta_{k+1}(0, F_1) + 3\delta_{k+1}(0, G_1) \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_4 = & (2k+3)\Theta(\infty, G_1) + (2k+4)\Theta(\infty, F_1) + \Theta(0, G_1) + \Theta(0, F_1) \\ & + 2\delta_{k+1}(0, G_1) + 3\delta_{k+1}(0, F_1). \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

In the same manner as in the proof of Theorem 2.1 by equations 6-9 and by equations 30-31 we have

$$\Delta_3 \geq 4k+14 - \frac{2k+7+5m+5s(k+1)}{ns+m}, \quad \Delta_4 \geq 4k+14 - \frac{2k+8+5m+5s(k+1)}{ns+m}. \quad (32)$$

By equation 32 and the assumption  $n > \frac{2k+7+5s(k+1)+4m}{s}$  we deduce  $\Delta_3 > 4k+13$  and  $\Delta_4 > 4k+13$ . This together with Lemma 3.4 gives  $F^{(k)}G^{(k)} = 1$  or  $F = G$ . We consider the following two cases:

**Case 1.** Suppose that  $F^{(k)}G^{(k)} = 1$ . Then, in the same manner as in Case 1 of the proof of Theorem 2.1 we have a contradiction.

**Case 2.** Suppose that  $F = G$ . Then, in the same manner as in Case 2 of the proof of Theorem 2.1 we get the conclusion of Theorem 2.2 This completely proves Theorem 2.2.

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PRIYANKA V., HUSNA V.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY, BENGALURU-560 064

*Email address:* priyapriyankaram1994@gmail.com, husnav43@gmail.com

RAJESHWARI S.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, BANGALORE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, BENGALURU-560 004

*Email address:* rajeshwaripreetham@gmail.com