

# Normal Criteria and Shared Values by Differential Polynomials\*

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## Abstract

For a family  $F$  of meromorphic functions on a domain  $D$ , it is discussed whether  $F$  is normal on  $D$  if for every pair functions  $f(z)$ ,  $g(z) \in F$ ,  $f' - af^n$  and  $g' - ag^n$  share value  $d$  on  $D$  when  $n = 2, 3$ , where  $a, b$  are two complex numbers,  $a \neq 0, \infty, b \neq \infty$ . Finally, the following result is obtained: Let  $F$  be a family of meromorphic functions in  $D$ , all of whose poles have multiplicity at least 4, all of whose zeros have multiplicity at least 2. Suppose that there exist two functions  $a(z)$  not identically equal to zero,  $d(z)$  analytic in  $D$ , such that for each pair of functions  $f$  and  $g$  in  $F$ ,  $f' - a(z)f^2$  and  $g' - a(z)g^2$  share the function  $d(z)$ . If  $a(z)$  has only a multiple zeros and  $f(z) \neq \infty$  whenever  $a(z) = 0$ , then  $F$  is normal in  $D$ .

**Keywords:** Normal Family, Meromorphic Function, Shared Value, Differential Polynomial

## 1. Introduction and the Main Result

In 1959, Hayman [4] proved

**Theorem 1.1.** Let  $f$  be meromorphic functions in  $C$ ,  $n$  be a positive integer and  $a, b$  be two constant such that  $n \geq 5$ ,  $a \neq 0, \infty$  and  $b \neq \infty$ . If

$$f' - af^n \neq b$$

then  $f$  is a constant.

Corresponding to Theorem 1.1 there is the following theorems which confirmed a Hayman's well-known conjecture about normal families in [5].

**Theorem 1.2.** Let  $F$  be a meromorphic function family in  $D$ ,  $n$  be a positive integer and  $a, b$  be two constant such that  $a \neq 0, \infty$  and  $b \neq \infty$ . If  $n \geq 3$  and for each function  $f \in F$ ,  $f' - af^n \neq b$ , then  $F$  is normal in  $D$ .

This result is due to S. Y. Li [8] ( $n \geq 5$ ), X. J. Li [9] ( $n \geq 5$ ), X. C. Pang [10] ( $n = 4$ ), H. H. Chen and M. L. Fang [2] ( $n = 3$ ).

In 2001, M. L. Fang and W. J. Yuan [3] obtained

**Theorem 1.3.** Let  $F$  be a meromorphic function family

in  $D$ ,  $a, b$  be two constants such that  $a \neq 0, \infty$  and  $b \neq \infty$ . If, for each function  $f \in F$ ,  $f' - af^2 \neq b$  and the poles of  $f(z)$  are of multiplicity 3 at least, then  $F$  is normal in  $D$ .

Let  $D$  be a domain in  $C$ ,  $f(z)$  be meromorphic on  $D$ , and  $a \in C$

$$E_f(a) = f^{-1}(a) \cap D = \{Z \in D : f(z) = a\}$$

Two functions  $f$  and  $g$  are said to share the value  $a$  if  $E_f(a) = E_g(a)$ . For a case  $n \geq 4$  in Theorem 1.2, Q. C. Zhang [14] improved Theorem 1.2 by the idea of shared values and obtained the following result.

**Theorem 1.4.** Let  $F$  be a family of meromorphic functions in  $D$ ,  $n$  be a positive integer and  $a, b$  be two constant such that  $n \geq 4$ ,  $a \neq 0, \infty$  and  $b \neq \infty$ . If, for each pair of functions  $f$  and  $g$  in  $F$ ,  $f' - af^n$  and  $g' - ag^n$  share the value  $b$ , then  $F$  is normal in  $D$ .

In this paper, we shall discuss a condition on which  $F$  still is normal in  $D$  for the case  $2 \leq n \leq 3$  and obtain the following result.

**Theorem 1.5.** Let  $F$  be a family of meromorphic functions in  $D$ , all of whose poles have multiplicity 2 at least, and  $a, b$  be two constant such that  $a \neq 0, \infty$  and  $b \neq \infty$ .

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If, for each pair of functions  $f$  and  $g$  in  $F$ ,  $f' - af^3$  and  $g' - ag^3$  share the value  $b$  in  $D$ , then  $F$  is normal in  $D$ .

We denote  $f^\#(z) = \frac{|f'(z)|}{1+|f(z)|^2}$  for the spherical derivatives of  $f(z)$ . The following example imply that the restriction of poles in Theorem 1.5 is necessary.

*Example 1.* [14] Let  $D = \{z : |z| < 1\}$  and  $F = \{f_n\}$ , where

$$f_n(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}(z-1/n)}, z \in D, n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Then for each pair  $m, n$ ,  $f'_m - f_m^3$  and  $f'_n - f_n^3$  share the value 0 in  $D$ . But  $F$  is not normal at  $z = 0$  since  $f_n^\#(1/\sqrt{n}) \rightarrow \infty$ .

But we also have the following examples which imply that on the same as restriction of poles in Theorem 1.5  $F$  is not normal in  $D$  if for each pair of functions  $f$  and  $g$  in  $F$ ,  $f' - af^2$  and  $g' - ag^2$  share the value  $b$  on  $D$ .

*Example 2.* [3] Let  $f_n(z) = nz / (z\sqrt{n} - 1)^2$  for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , and  $\Delta = \{z : |z| < 1\}$ . Clearly,

$$f'_n(z) + f_n^2 = n(z\sqrt{n} - 1)^{-4} \neq 0,$$

and  $f_n(z)$  only a double pole and a simple zero. Since  $f_n^\#(0) = n \rightarrow \infty$ , as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  from Marty's criterion we have that  $\{f_n(z)\}$  is not normal in  $\Delta$ . In fact, in the present paper we also obtain two results as follows.

**Theorem 1.6.** Let  $F$  be a family of meromorphic functions in  $D$ , all of whose poles have multiplicity 4 at least, all of whose zeros have multiplicity 2 at least, and  $a, b$  be two constant such that  $a \neq 0, \infty$  and  $b \neq \infty$ . If, for each pair of functions  $f$  and  $g$  in  $F$ ,  $f' - af^2$  and  $g' - ag^2$  share the value  $b$  in  $D$ , then  $F$  is normal in  $D$ .

**Theorem 1.7.** Let  $F$  be a family of meromorphic functions in  $D$ , all of whose poles have multiplicity at least 4, all of whose zeros have multiplicity at least 2. Suppose that there exist two functions  $a(z)$  not identically equal to zero,  $d(z)$  analytic in  $D$ , such that for each pair of functions  $f$  and  $g$  in  $F$ ,  $f' - a(z)f^2$  and  $g' - a(z)g^2$  share the function  $d(z)$  in  $D$ . If  $a(z)$  has only a multiple zeros and  $f(z) \neq \infty$  whenever  $a(z) = 0$  then  $F$  is normal in  $D$ .

The following example shows that the condition  $f(z) \neq \infty$  when  $a(z) = 0$  in Theorem 1.7 is necessary.

*Example 3.* [7] Let  $D = \{z : |z| < 1\}$  and  $F = \{f_n\}$

where  $f_n(z) = \frac{1}{nz^4}, z \in D, n = 1, 2, \dots$ . We take

$a(z) = -4z^3$  and  $d(z) \equiv 0$ . Clearly,  $F$  fails to be normal at  $z = 0$ . However, all poles of  $f_n(z)$  are of multiplicity 4, and for each pair  $m, n$ ,  $f'_m - a(z)f_m^2$  and  $f'_n - a(z)f_n^2$  share analytic functions  $d(z)$  in  $\Delta$ .

## 2. Lemmas

To prove the above theorems, we need some lemma as follows:

**Lemma 2.1.** ([1,2]) Let  $f(z)$  be a meromorphic function in  $C$ ,  $n$  be a positive integer and  $b$  be a non-zero constant. If  $f^n f' \neq b$ , then  $f$  is a constant. Moreover if  $f$  is a transcendental meromorphic function, then  $f^n f'(z)$  assumes every finite non-zero value finitely often.

**Lemma 2.2.** ([1]) Let  $f(z)$  be a transcendental meromorphic function with finite order in  $C$ . If  $f(z)$  has only multiple zeros, then it's first derivative  $f'$  assumes every finite value except possibly zero infinitely often.

**Lemma 2.3.** ([12]) Let  $f(z)$  be a non-polynomial rational function in  $C$ . If  $f(z)$  has only zeros of multiplicity 2 at least, then  $f = \frac{(cz+d)^2}{az+b}$  where  $a, b, c, d$

are four constants,  $a \neq 0, c \neq 0$ .

**Lemma 2.4.** ([4]) If  $f(z)$  be a transcendental meromorphic function in  $C$ , then either  $f(z)$  assumes every finite value infinitely often or every derivative  $f^{(l)}$  assumes every finite value except possibly zero infinitely often. If  $f(z)$  is a non-constant rational function and  $f(z) \neq a$ ,  $a$  is a finite value, then  $f^{(l)}$  assumes every finite value except possibly zero at least once.

**Lemma 2.5.** ([11]) Let  $f(z)$  be a transcendental meromorphic function with finite order, all of whose zeroes are of multiplicity at least  $k+1$ , and let  $P(z)$  be a polynomial,  $P(z)$  is not identically equal to zero. Then  $f^{(k)}(z) - P(z)$  has infinitely many zeros often.

**Lemma 2.6.** ([6]) Let  $f(z)$  be a non-polynomial rational functions in  $C$ , all of whose zeroes are of multiplicity at least 4. Then  $f'(z) - z^r$  has a zeros at least often.

**Lemma 2.7.** ([13]) Let  $F$  be a family of meromorphic functions on the unit disc  $\Delta$ , all of whose zeroes have multiplicity  $p$  at least, all of whose poles have multiplicity  $q$  at least. Let  $\alpha$  be a real number satisfying  $-p < \alpha < q$ . Then  $F$  is not normal at a point  $z_0 \in \Delta$  if and only if there exist

- 1) points  $z_n \in \Delta, z_n \rightarrow z_0$ ;
- 2) functions  $f_n \in F$ ; and
- 3) positive numbers  $\rho_n \rightarrow 0$  such that

$$\rho_n^\alpha f_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi) = g_n(\xi) \rightarrow g(\xi)$$

spherically uniformly on each compact subset of  $C$ , where  $g(\xi)$  is a non-constant meromorphic function satisfying the zeros of  $g(\xi)$  are of multiplicities  $p$  at least and the poles of  $g(\xi)$  are of multiplicities  $q$  at least. Moreover, the order of  $g(\xi)$  is not greater than 2.

### 3. Proofs of Theorem 1.5.-1.7.

#### 3.1. Proof of Theorem 1.5.

Suppose that there exists one point  $z_0 \in D$  such that  $F$  is not normal at point  $z_0$ . Without loss of generality we assume that  $z_0 = 0$ . By Lemma 2.7, there exist points,  $z_n \in \Delta, z_n \rightarrow z_0$ , functions  $f_n \in F$  and positive numbers  $\rho_n \rightarrow 0$  such that

$$g_j(\xi) = \rho_j^{\frac{1}{n-1}} f_j(z_j + \rho_j \xi) \Rightarrow g(\xi) \tag{3.1}$$

spherically uniformly on each compact subset of  $C$ , where  $g(\xi)$  is a non-constant meromorphic function with order  $\leq 2$ , all of whose poles are of multiplicities  $k$  at least.

From (3.1) we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \rho_j^{\frac{n}{n-1}} \{f_j'(z_j + \rho_j \xi) - a f_j^n(z_j + \rho_j \xi) - b\} \\ &= g_j'(\xi) - a g_j^n(\xi) - \rho_j^{\frac{n}{n-1}} b \Rightarrow g'(\xi) - a g^n \end{aligned} \tag{3.2}$$

By the same method as [14], from Lemma 2.1 it is not difficult to find that  $g' - a g^n$  has just a unique zero  $\xi = \xi_0$ .

Set  $g = 1/\varphi$  again, if  $n \geq 3$  then

$$g' - a g^n = -[\varphi' \varphi^{n-2} + a] / \varphi^n$$

thus  $[\varphi' \varphi^{n-2} + a] / \varphi^n$  has just a unique zero  $\xi = \xi_0$ .

Thus  $\xi_0$  is a multiple pole of  $\varphi$  or else a zero of  $\varphi' \varphi^{n-2} + a$ .

If  $\xi_0$  is a multiple pole of  $\varphi$ , since

$$[\varphi' \varphi^{n-2} + a] / \varphi^n$$

has only one zero  $\xi_0$ , then  $\varphi' \varphi^{n-2} + a \neq 0$ . By Lemma 2.1 again,  $\varphi$  is a constant which contradicts with  $g$  is not any constant.

So we have that  $\varphi$  has no multiple poles and  $\varphi' \varphi' + a$  have only a unique zero. By Lemma 2.1, and Lemma 2.4, we have  $\varphi$  is not transcendental.

If  $\varphi$  is non-constant polynomial, then

$$\varphi' \varphi^{n-2} + a = A(\xi - \xi_0)^l$$

Since all zeros of  $\psi$  are of multiplicity 2, then  $l \geq 3$ . Denoting  $\psi$  for  $\varphi^{n-1} / (n-1)$ ,  $\psi = \varphi^{n-1} / (n-1)$ , we

have  $\psi' = A(\xi - \xi_0)^l - a$  and  $\psi'' = A l (\xi - \xi_0)^{l-1}$ . Since all zeros of  $\varphi$  are of multiplicity  $2(n-1) \geq 4$ , then  $\psi(\xi) \neq 0, \xi \neq \xi_0$ .

If  $\psi(\xi_0) = 0$ , then  $\psi'(\xi_0) = 0$  which contradicts with  $\psi'(\xi_0) = -a \neq 0$ . So  $\psi$  is a constant.

Next we prove that there exists no rational functions such as  $\psi$ . Noting that  $\psi = \varphi^{n-1} / (n-1)$  and  $\psi$  has no multiple pole, we may set

$$\psi(\xi) = A \frac{(\xi - \xi_1)^{m_1} (\xi - \xi_2)^{m_2} \dots (\xi - \xi_s)^{m_s}}{(\eta - \eta_1)^{n-1} (\eta - \eta_2)^{n-1} \dots (\eta - \eta_t)^{n-1}}, \tag{3.3}$$

where  $A$  is a non-zero constant,  $s \geq 1, t \geq 1, m_1, m_2, \dots, m_s$  are  $s$  positive integers,  $m_j \geq 2(n-1), (j = 1, 2, \dots, s)$ . For a convenience of stating, we denote

$$m = m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_s, \tag{3.4}$$

then  $m \geq 2(n-1)s$ .

From (3.3), we have

$$\psi'(\xi) = A \frac{(\xi - \xi_1)^{m_1-1} \dots (\xi - \xi_s)^{m_s-1} h(\xi)}{(\eta - \eta_1)^n \dots (\eta - \eta_t)^n} = \frac{p_1(\xi)}{q_1(\xi)}, \tag{3.5}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} h(\xi) &= [m - t(n-1)] \xi^{s+t-1} + a_{s+t-2} \xi^{s+t-2} + \dots + a_0 \\ p_1(\xi) &= (\xi - \xi_1)^{m_1-1} \dots (\xi - \xi_s)^{m_s-1} h(\xi) \\ q_1(\xi) &= (\eta - \eta_1)^n \dots (\eta - \eta_t)^n, \end{aligned} \tag{3.6}$$

are three polynomials. Since  $\psi'(\xi) + a$  has only a unique zero  $\xi_0$  then there exists a non-zero constant  $B$  such that

$$\psi'(\xi) + a = \frac{B(\xi - \xi_0)^l}{(\eta - \eta_1)^n (\eta - \eta_2)^n \dots (\eta - \eta_t)^n}, \tag{3.7}$$

so

$$\psi''(\xi) = \frac{B(\xi - \xi_0)^{l-1} p_2(\xi)}{(\eta - \eta_1)^{n+1} (\eta - \eta_2)^{n+1} \dots (\eta - \eta_t)^{n+1}}, \tag{3.8}$$

where  $p_2(\xi) = (l - nt) \xi^t + b_{t-1} \xi^{t-1} + \dots + b_0$  is a polynomial. From (3.5) we also have

$$\psi''(\xi) = A \frac{(\xi - \xi_1)^{m_1-2} \dots (\xi - \xi_s)^{m_s-2} p_3(\xi)}{(\eta - \eta_1)^{n+1} \dots (\eta - \eta_t)^{n+1}} \tag{3.9}$$

where  $p_3(\xi)$  is a polynomial also.

We denote  $\deg(p)$  for the degree of a polynomial  $p(\xi)$ , from (3.5) and (3.6) we may obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \deg(h) &\leq s + t + 1 \\ \deg(p_1) &\leq m + t + 1, \quad \deg(q_1) = nt \end{aligned} \tag{3.10}$$

From (3.8), (3.9) and (3.10) we may obtain

$$\deg(p_2) \leq t, \tag{3.11}$$

$$\deg(p_3) \leq 2t + 2s - 2. \tag{3.12}$$

Since  $\psi'(\xi) + a$  has only a unique zero  $\xi = \xi_0$  and

$$m_j - 2 \geq 1 \quad (j = 1, 2, \dots, s),$$

then  $\xi_0 \neq \xi_j \quad (j = 1, 2, \dots, s)$ . From (3.8), (3.9) and (3.11) it follows that  $\deg(p_3(\xi)) \geq l - 1$  then

$$m - 2s \leq \deg(p_2) \leq t, \tag{3.13}$$

Since  $m_j \geq 2(n - 1)$ , then  $m \geq 2(n - 1)s$ , so by (3.13) we have  $2s \leq t$ .

If  $l \geq nt$ , from (3.8), (3.9) and (3.12), we have

$$nt - 1 \leq l - 1 \leq \deg(p_3) \leq 2t + 2s - 2$$

Then,  $t \leq 2s - 1$ . Combining with above inequality  $2s \leq t$ , we bring about a contradiction.

If  $l < nt$ , then from (3.5) and (3.7) we have

$$\deg(p_1) = \deg(q_1)$$

that is  $m - s + \deg(h) = nt$ . If  $m = t(n - 1)$ , then  $\deg(h) \leq s + t - 2$ . So

$$\begin{aligned} m - t(n - 1) &= s + nt - \deg(h) - t(n - 1) \\ &= s + t - \deg(h) \\ &\geq s + t(s + t - 2) = 2 \end{aligned}$$

this is impossible. Thus,  $m \neq t(n - 1)$  and  $\deg(h) = s + t - 1$ . Therefore,  $m = 1 + t(n - 1)$ . Again from (3.8) and (3.9), we have  $m - 2s \leq t$ . Then  $t \leq 2s - 1$ , this contradicts to  $2s \leq t$ .

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.5.

### 3.2. Proof of Theorem 1.6.

For any points  $z_0 \in D$ , Without loss of generality, we set  $z_0 = 0$ . Suppose that  $F$  is not normal at  $z_0 = 0$ , then by Lemma 2.7, we have that there exist a subsequence  $f_n \subset F$ , points sequence  $z_0 \in D$ , and a positive numbers  $\rho_n, \rho_n \rightarrow 0^+$ , such that

$$g_n(\xi) = 1/\rho_n \quad f_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi) \rightarrow g(\xi), \tag{3.14}$$

spherically uniformly on each compact subset of  $C$ , where  $g(\xi)$  is a non-constant meromorphic function with order  $\leq 2$ , all of whose poles are of multiplicities at least 2, all of whose zeros are of multiplicities at least 4.

From (3.14) we have

$$\frac{1}{g_n^2(\xi)} (g_n'(\xi) + a) + \rho_n^2 d \rightarrow \frac{g'(\xi) + a}{g^2(\xi)} \tag{3.15}$$

If  $g'(\xi) + a \equiv 0$ , then  $g(\xi) = -a\xi + c_0$ , this contra-

dicts to which all zeros of  $g(\xi)$  have multiplicity at least 4. If for any point  $\xi \in C, g'(\xi) + a \neq 0$ , then By Lemma 2.2, we have that  $g(\xi)$  is not transcendental in  $C$ , so  $g(\xi)$  is non-constant rational function in  $C$ . By Lemma 2.3 we also have that

$$g(\xi) = \frac{(c\xi + d)^3}{a\xi + b}$$

a contradictions. Therefore,  $[g'(\xi) + a]/g^2(\xi)$  have a zeros. We may claim that  $[g'(\xi) + a]/g^2(\xi)$  has a unique zero  $\xi + \xi_0$ . Otherwise, suppose that  $\xi_0, \xi_0^*$  are two distinguish zeros of

$$[g'(\xi) + a]/g^2(\xi)$$

then there exists a positive number  $\delta > 0$  such that  $N(\xi_0, \delta) \cap N(\xi_0^*, \delta) = \emptyset$ . On the other hand, by Hurwitz's Theorem we can find two point sequences  $\xi_n \in N(\xi_0, \delta), \xi_n^* \in N(\xi_0^*, \delta)$  Such that  $\xi_n \rightarrow \xi_0, \xi_n^* \rightarrow \xi_0^*$ , and

$$g_n^{-2}(\xi_n) [g_n'(\xi_n) + a] + \rho_n^2 d = 0$$

$$g_m^{-2}(\xi_m^*) [g_m'(\xi_m^*) + a] + \rho_m^2 d = 0$$

then, we have

$$f_n'(z_n + \rho_n \xi_n) - a f_n^2(z_n + \rho_n \xi_n) - d = 0,$$

$$f_m'(z_m + \rho_m \xi_m^*) - a f_m^2(z_m + \rho_m \xi_m^*) - d = 0.$$

From the hypothesis that for every pair functions  $f, g$  in  $F, f'(z) - af^2$  and  $g'(z) - ag^2$  share complex number  $d$  in  $D$ , we have

$$f_m'(z_n + \rho_n \xi_n) - a f_n^2(z_n + \rho_n \xi_n) - d = 0,$$

$$f_m'(z_n + \rho_n \xi_n^*) - a f_n^2(z_n + \rho_n \xi_n^*) - d = 0.$$

Fix  $m$ , let  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , then  $f_m'(0) - a f_m^2(0) - d = 0$ .

Since  $f_m'(z) - a f_m^2(z) - d$  has no accumulation points, so for sufficiently large  $n$  we have

$$z_n + \rho_n \xi_n = 0, \quad z_m + \rho_m \xi_m^* = 0$$

then

$$\xi_n = -\frac{z_n}{\rho_n}, \quad \xi_n^* = -\frac{z_n}{\rho_n}$$

This contradicts to  $N(\xi_0, \delta) \cap N(\xi_0^*, \delta) = \emptyset$ . Thus,  $[g'(\xi) + a]/g^2(\xi)$  has a unique zero  $\xi = \xi_0$ . Furthermore, we have that either  $\xi = \xi_0$  is a multiple poles of  $g(\xi)$  or  $\xi = \xi_0$  is a unique zero of  $g'(\xi) + a$ . If  $\xi = \xi_0$  is a multiple poles of  $g(\xi)$ , then  $g'(\xi) + a \neq 0$ , for any  $\xi \in C$ . By Lemma 2.2 and Lemma 2.3, we immediately deduce that  $g(\xi)$  must be a constant in  $C$ ,

which contradicts to  $g(\xi)$  is a non-constant meromorphic functions in  $C$ . Therefore,  $g(\xi)$  has only a simple poles and  $g'(\xi)+a$  has a unique  $\xi = \xi_0$ . But since  $g(\xi)$  has only a multiple poles, so we have that  $g(\xi)$  is entire in  $C$  and  $g'(\xi)+a$  has a unique  $\xi = \xi_0$ . Also by Lemma 2.2, we have that  $g(\xi)$  is a non-constant polynomials, all of whose zeros are of multiplicity at least 4. Setting

$$g(\xi) = A(\xi - \xi_1)^{m_1} (\xi - \xi_2)^{m_2} \dots (\xi - \xi_s)^{m_s},$$

we have

$$g'(\xi) = A(\xi - \xi_1)^{m_1-1} (\xi - \xi_2)^{m_2-1} \dots (\xi - \xi_s)^{m_s-1} h(\xi)$$

Where  $h(\xi) = m\xi^{s-1} + a_0\xi^{s-2} + \dots + a_{s-2}$ ,  $A \neq 0$ ,  $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{s-2}$  are some complex constants,  $m_j (j=1, 2, \dots, s)$  are  $s$  positive integers,  $m_j \geq 4$ , and  $m = \sum_{j=1}^s m_j$ . Thus, we have

$$g'(\xi) + a = B(\xi - \xi_0)^l,$$

where  $l \geq 3$ . So we have that  $g''(\xi) + a = Bl(\xi - \xi_0)^{l-1}$ .

If  $g(\xi_0) = 0$ , then  $g'(\xi_0) = g''(\xi_0) = g'''(\xi_0) = 0$ .

But  $g'(\xi_0) = -a \neq 0$ , a contradictions.

Therefore,  $F$  is normal at  $z = 0$ .

### 3.3. Proof of Theorem 1.7.

For any  $z \in D$ , if  $a(z) \neq 0$ , we may give the complete proof of Theorem 1.7 by the same argument as Theorem 1.6, we omit the detail. In the sequel, we shall prove that  $F$  is normal at which  $a(z) = 0$ . Set  $a(z) = z^r b(z)$ , where  $b(z)$  is analytic at  $z = 0$ ,  $b(0) = 1$ ,  $r$  is a positive integer,  $r \geq 2$ .

$$F_1 = \left\{ F : F(z) = \frac{1}{z^r f(z)}, f(z) \in F \right\}$$

For every function  $F(z)$  in  $F_1$ , from the hypothesis in Theorem 1.7, we can see that all zeros of  $F(z)$  are of order at least 4, all poles of  $F(z)$  are of multiplicity at least 2.

Suppose that  $F_1$  is not normal at  $z = 0$ , then by Lemma 2.7, there exists a subsequence  $F_n \subset F_1$ , a point sequence  $z_n, |z_n| < r < 1$ , and a positive number sequence  $\rho_n, \rho_n \rightarrow 0^+$ , such that

$$\begin{aligned} g_n(\xi) &= \rho_n^{-1} F_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi) \\ &= \rho_n^{-1} (z_n + \rho_n \xi)^{-r} f_n^{-1}(z_n + \rho_n \xi) \quad (3.16) \\ &\rightarrow g(\xi) \end{aligned}$$

spherically uniformly on compact subsets of  $C$ , where  $g(\xi)$  is a non-constant meromorphic function on  $C$ , all of whose zeros are of multiplicity at least 4, and all of

whose poles are multiple. Moreover,  $g(\xi)$  has an order at most 2.

Now we distinguish two cases:

**Case 1.**  $z_n/\rho_n \rightarrow \infty$ . Without loss of a generalization, we assume that there exists a point  $z'$  such that  $z_n \rightarrow z', |z'| \leq r \leq 1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} &f'_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi) \\ &= -\frac{g'_n(\xi)}{\rho_n^2 (z_n + \rho_n \xi)^r g_n^2(\xi)} - \frac{r}{\rho_n (z_n + \rho_n \xi)^{r+1} g_n(\xi)} \\ &= -\frac{1}{\rho_n^2 (z_n + \rho_n \xi)^r} \left\{ \frac{g'_n(\xi)}{g_n^2(\xi)} + r \left( \frac{z_n + \xi}{\rho_n} \right)^{-1} \cdot \frac{1}{g_n(\xi)} \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (3.17)$$

For the sake of convenience, we denote  $S_1$  for the set of all zeros of  $g(\xi)$ ,  $S_2$  for the set of all zeros of  $g'(\xi)$ , and  $S_3$  for the set of all poles of  $g(\xi)$ .

Since  $\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{g'_n(\xi)}{g_n^2(\xi)} = \frac{g'(\xi)}{g^2(\xi)}$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{g_n(\xi)} = \frac{1}{g(\xi)}$  uniformly on compact subsets of  $C \setminus S_1$ , and

$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{r}{z_n/(\rho_n + \xi)} = 0$  uniformly on compact subsets of  $C$ ,

thus  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f'_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi) = \infty$ , uniformly on compact subsets of  $C \setminus (S_1 \cup S_2 \cup S_3)$ . Thus, it is not difficult to see that

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{f'_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi) - a(z_n + \rho_n \xi) f_n^2(z_n + \rho_n \xi)}{a(z_n + \rho_n \xi) f_n^2(z_n + \rho_n \xi) - d(z_n + \rho_n \xi)} \\ &\quad \frac{d(z_n + \rho_n \xi)}{a(z_n + \rho_n \xi) f_n^2(z_n + \rho_n \xi) - d(z_n + \rho_n \xi)} \quad (3.18) \\ &\rightarrow -\frac{g'(\xi)}{b(z')} - 1 \end{aligned}$$

uniformly on compact subsets of  $C \setminus (S_1 \cup S_2 \cup S_3)$ . If  $-\frac{g'(\xi)}{b(z')} - 1 \neq 0$ , then  $g'(\xi) \neq -b(z')$ , for any

$\xi \in C \setminus (S_1 \cup S_2 \cup S_3)$ . Thus,  $g'(\xi) \neq -b(z')$  for any  $\xi \in C$ . By Lemma 2.5, we can see that  $g(\xi)$  is not transcendental in  $C$ , but is a rational function. Also from Lemma 2.3, we deduce that  $g(\xi)$  is constant, which contradicts to the fact that  $g(\xi)$  is non-constant. On the other hand, it is easy to see that  $g'(\xi)$  is not identically equal to  $-b(z')$ . Hence,  $g'(\xi) + b(z')$  has one zeros at least in  $C$ . In fact, by the same as the arguments in Theorem 1.5 and Theorem 1.6, we deduce that  $g(\xi)$  has a unique zero  $\xi = \xi_0$ . By Lemma 2.5, we can see that  $g(\xi)$  is not transcendental in  $C$ , so  $g(\xi)$  is non-constant rational function in  $C$ . For a non-constant poly-

nomials  $g(\xi)$ , and noting that  $g(\xi)$  has only a zero with multiplicity at least 4, we have

$$g'(\xi) + b(z') = B(\xi - \xi_0)^l, \quad l \geq 3$$

Thus,  $g''(\xi) = Bl(\xi - \xi_0)^{l-1}$ . Hence,  $g(\xi)$  has a zero  $\xi = \xi_0$  at most. If  $\xi = \xi_0$  is a zero of  $g(\xi)$ , then  $g'(\xi_0) = g''(\xi_0) = g'''(\xi_0) = 0$ . But  $g'(\xi_0) = -b(z') \neq 0$ , a contradiction.

In the sequel, we denote  $\deg(p)$  for the degree of a polynomial  $p(\xi)$ . If  $g(\xi)$  is non polynomials rational functions, then we set

$$g(\xi) = A \frac{(\xi - \xi_1)^{m_1} (\xi - \xi_2)^{m_2} \cdots (\xi - \xi_s)^{m_s}}{(\xi - \eta_1)^{n_1} (\xi - \eta_2)^{n_2} \cdots (\xi - \eta_t)^{n_t}}, \quad (3.19)$$

Where  $m_j \geq 4, j = 1, 2, \dots, s$ ;  $n_j \geq 2, j = 1, 2, \dots, t$ .

$$m = \sum_{j=1}^s m_j \geq 4s, q = \sum_{k=1}^t n_k \geq 2t \quad (3.20)$$

Then,

$$g'(\xi) = \frac{p_1(\xi)}{q_1(\xi)} = \frac{A(\xi - \xi_1)^{m_1-1} \cdots (\xi - \xi_s)^{m_s-1} h(\xi)}{(\xi - \eta_1)^{n_1+1} \cdots (\xi - \eta_t)^{n_t+1}} \quad (3.21)$$

where

$$h(\xi) = (m-q)\xi^{s+t-1} + a_0\xi^{s+t-2} + \cdots + a_{s+t-2},$$

$$\deg(h) \leq s+t-1$$

$$p_1(\xi) = A(\xi - \xi_1)^{m_1-1} (\xi - \xi_2)^{m_2-1} \cdots (\xi - \xi_s)^{m_s-1} h(\xi)$$

$$q_1(\xi) = (\xi - \eta_1)^{n_1+1} (\xi - \eta_2)^{n_2+1} \cdots (\xi - \eta_t)^{n_t+1}$$

Since  $g'(\xi) + b(z')$  has a unique zero  $\xi = \xi_0$ , so we set

$$g'(\xi) + b(z') = \frac{B(\xi - \xi_0)^l}{(\xi - \eta_1)^{n_1+1} \cdots (\xi - \eta_t)^{n_t+1}} \quad (3.22)$$

where  $B$  is a nonzero constant. Then from (3.22), we have

$$g''(\xi) = \frac{B(\xi - \xi_0)^{l-1} p_2(\xi)}{(\xi - \eta_1)^{n_1+2} \cdots (\xi - \eta_t)^{n_t+2}} \quad (3.23)$$

where  $p_2(\xi) = (l-q-t)\xi^t + b_0\xi^{t-1} + \cdots + b_{t-1}$  is a polynomial,  $\deg(p_2) \leq t$ .

From (3.21), it follow that

$$g''(\xi) = \frac{A(\xi - \xi_1)^{m_1-2} \cdots (\xi - \xi_s)^{m_s-2} p_3(\xi)}{(\xi - \eta_1)^{n_1+2} \cdots (\xi - \eta_t)^{n_t+2}} \quad (3.24)$$

where

$$p_3(\xi) = (m-q)(m-q+1) \cdot \xi^{2s+2t-2} + c_0\xi^{2s+2t-3} + \cdots + c_{2s+2t-3}$$

is also a polynomial,  $\deg(p_3) \leq 2s+2t-2$ .

We distinguish five cases to derivative a contradiction:

**Subcase 1.1.**  $m = q$ . Then from (3.21), we have  $l = q + t$ . So,

$$\deg(p_2) = t - i_2, 1 \leq i_2 \leq t,$$

$$\deg(h) = s + t - 1 - h_0, 1 \leq h_0 \leq s + t - 1$$

and

$$\deg(p_3) = 2s + 2t - 2 - i_3, 1 \leq i_3 \leq 2s + 2t - 2$$

From (3.23) and (3.24), we have  $i_2 = i_3 + 1$ . So also from (3.23) and (3.24), we also have  $l - 1 \leq \deg(p_3)$ . Thus, we have  $l \leq 2s + 2t - 1 - i_3 = 2s + 2t - i_2$ .

Since  $l = q + t$  and  $q \geq 2t$ , then we have  $t \leq 2s - i_2$ . On the other hand, from (3.23) and (3.24), we also have  $m - 2s \leq \deg(p_2)$ . Since  $m \geq 4s$ , we have  $2s \leq t - i_2$ . This is impossible.

**Subcase 1.2.**  $m = q - 1$ . Then  $l = q + t$ ,

$$\deg(p_2) = t - i_2, 1 \leq i_2 \leq t, \deg(h) = s + t - 1$$

and

$$\deg(p_3) = 2s + 2t - 2 - i_3, 1 \leq i_3 \leq 2s + 2t - 2$$

Similarly to Subcase (1.1), from (3.23) and (3.24), we also have that  $i_2 = i_3 + 1$ .

Also from (3.23) and (3.24), we have  $l - 1 \leq \deg(p_3)$ , then, we have  $t \leq 2s + 1 - i_2$ . On the other hand, similarly to the argument of Subcase (1.1), from (3.23) and (3.24), we also have  $m - 2s \leq \deg(p_2) = t - i_2$ , then  $2s \leq t - 1 - i_2$ . This also is impossible.

**Subcase 1.3.**  $m \leq q - 2$ . Then we still have

$l = q + t \geq 3t, \deg(p_2) = t - i_2, 1 \leq i_2 \leq t, \deg(h) = s + t - 1$ , and  $\deg(p_3) = 2s + 2t - 2$ . Therefor,  $l \leq 2s + 2t - 2$ , so  $t \leq 2s - 2$ . Similarly, we have  $m - 2s \leq 2s + t - i_2$ , then  $2s \leq t - i_2$ . This is a contradiction.

**Subcase 1.4.**  $m = q + 1$ . Then  $l \leq q + t$ ,

$\deg(h) = s + t - 1, \deg(p_3) = 2s + 2t - 2$ , and  $\deg(p_2) = t - i_2, 0 \leq i_2 \leq t$ . From (3.23) and (3.24), we have  $m \leq 2s + t - i_2$ . Thus,  $2s \leq t - i_2$  and  $t \leq 2s - 1 - i_2$ . This is impossible.

**Subcase 1.5.**  $m \geq q + 2$ . Then  $l > q + t$ ,

$\deg(h) = s + t - 1, \deg(p_3) = 2s + 2t - 2$ , and  $\deg(p_2) = t$ . From (3.23) and (3.24), we have  $l - 1 \leq \deg(p_3) = 2s + 2t - 1$  and  $m - 2s \leq \deg(p_2) = t$ . So, we have that  $t \leq 2s - 1$  and  $2s \leq t$ . This is a contradiction.

**Case 2.** Suppose that there exists a complex number  $\alpha \in C$  and a subsequence of sequence  $\{z_n \rho_n^{-1}\}$ , still noting it  $z_n \rho_n^{-1}$ , such that  $z_n \rho_n^{-1} \rightarrow \alpha$ . We have a con-

verges

$$\begin{aligned} H_n(\xi) &= \rho_n^{-1} F_n(\rho_n \xi) = \rho_n^{-1} F_n(z_n + \rho_n(\xi - z_n/\rho_n)) \\ &\rightarrow g(\xi - \alpha) = \hat{g}(\xi) \end{aligned} \tag{3.25}$$

spherically uniform on compact subsets of  $C$ . Clearly, all zeros of  $\hat{g}(\xi)$  are of multiplicity at least 4, all poles of  $\hat{g}(\xi)$  are of multiplicity at least 2. For each  $\xi_0 \neq 0$ , it is easy to see that there exists a neighborhood  $N(\xi_0, \delta)$  of  $\xi_0$ , such that  $\xi^r H_n(\xi) \Rightarrow \xi^r \hat{g}(\xi)$ , the convergence being spherically uniform on  $N(\xi_0, \delta)$ . For  $\xi_0 = 0$ , since  $\xi_0$  is the pole of  $g(\xi)$ , then there exists  $\delta > 0$ , such that  $1/\hat{g}(\xi)$  is analytic on  $D_{2\delta} = \{\xi : |\xi| < 2\delta\}$ ,  $1/H_n(\xi)$  are analytic on  $D_{2\delta} = \{\xi : |\xi| < 2\delta\}$  for sufficiently large  $n$ . Since

$$1/H_n(\xi) = \rho_n \xi^r f_n(\rho_n \xi)$$

then  $\xi_0 = 0$  is a zero of  $1/\hat{g}(\xi)$  has order at least  $r$ , we can deduce that  $1/(\xi^r H_n(\xi))$  converges uniformly to  $1/(\xi^r \hat{g}(\xi))$  on

$$D_{\delta/2} = \{\xi : |\xi| < \delta/2\}$$

Hence, we have

$$G_n(\xi) = \frac{1}{\rho_n^{r+1} f_n(\rho_n \xi)} = \xi^r H_n(\xi) \rightarrow \xi^r \hat{g}(\xi) \tag{3.26}$$

spherically uniform on compact subsets of  $C$ . It follows that  $G(0) \neq 0$  from  $f(\xi) \neq \infty$  whenever  $a(\xi) = 0$  for  $\xi \in D$ , hence all of zeros of  $G(\xi)$  have order at least 4, all of poles of  $G(\xi)$  have order at least 2. Noting that

$$\begin{aligned} &[G'_n(\xi) + b(\rho_n \xi) \xi^r] G_n^{-2}(\xi) + \rho_n^{r+2} d(\rho_n \xi) \\ &= \rho_n^{r+2} \{-f_n(\rho_n \xi) + a(\rho_n \xi) f_n^2(\rho_n \xi) + d(\rho_n \xi)\} \\ &\rightarrow [G'(\xi) + \xi^r] G^{-2}(\xi) \end{aligned} \tag{3.27}$$

If  $[G'(\xi) + \xi^r] G^{-2}(\xi) \equiv 0$ , then  $G'(\xi) + \xi^r \equiv 0$ , so

$$G'(\xi) = -\xi^r, \quad G(\xi) = -\frac{\xi^{r+1}}{r+1} + C_0$$

for any  $\xi \in C$ . Since  $G(0) \neq 0$ , then  $C_0 \neq 0$ . Also since  $G(\xi)$  has the zeros of multiplicity at least 4, then  $G(\xi) \neq 0$ , this is a contradiction. Therefore,

$$[G'(\xi) + \xi^r] G^{-2}(\xi)$$

is not identically equal to zero.

If  $[G'(\xi) + \xi^r]/G^{-2}(\xi)$  for any  $\xi \in C$ , then  $G(\xi)$  has no multiple poles and  $G'(\xi) + \xi^r \neq 0$ . Note that

$G(\xi)$  has only multiple poles, so  $G(\xi)$  is entire on  $C$ . Also by Lemma 2.5, we have that  $G(\xi)$  is not transcendental in  $C$ , and then  $G(\xi)$  is a polynomial. Thus,  $G'(\xi) = -\xi^r + C_0$ , where  $C_0 \neq 0$ . We have  $G''(\xi) = -r\xi^{r-1}$ , then from  $G(0) \neq 0$  and a multiplicities of every zeros of  $G(\xi)$  it follows that  $G(\xi) \neq 0$  for any  $\xi \in C$ , this is impossible. Hence,  $[G'(\xi) + \xi^r]/G^{-2}(\xi)$  has some zeros. In fact, by the same argument as the Case 1, we may deduce that  $[G'(\xi) + \xi^r]/G^2(\xi)$  has a unique zero  $\xi = \xi_0$ . Thus, we have that either  $\xi = \xi_0$  is multiple poles of  $G(\xi)$  or  $\xi = \xi_0$  is a unique zero of  $G(\xi) + \xi^r$ .

Similarly, if  $\xi = \xi_0$  is multiple poles of  $G(\xi)$ , from that  $[G'(\xi) + \xi^r]/G^2(\xi)$  has a unique zero  $\xi = \xi_0$  it follows that  $G'(\xi) \neq -\xi^r$  for any  $\xi \in C$ . By Lemma 2.5, we have that  $G(\xi)$  is not transcendental. Again by Lemma 2.6, we have that  $G(\xi)$  is a constant, which is a contradiction. Hence,  $G(\xi)$  has no multiple pole and  $G'(\xi) + \xi^r$  has a unique zero  $\xi = \xi_0$ . Thus,  $G(\xi)$  is entire on  $C$  and  $G'(\xi) + \xi^r$  has a unique zero  $\xi = \xi_0$ . By Lemma 2.5, we have that  $G(\xi)$  must be a polynomial. Setting

$$g(\xi) = A(\xi - \xi_1)^{m_1} (\xi - \xi_2)^{m_2} \cdots (\xi - \xi_s)^{m_s}, \tag{3.28}$$

where,  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_s$  are  $s$  positive integers,  $m_j \geq 4$

$$j = 1, 2, \dots, s, \quad m = \sum_{j=1}^s m_j$$

$$G'(\xi) + \xi^r = B(\xi - \xi_0)^l, \tag{3.29}$$

where  $l$  is a positive integer,  $l \geq 3$ , we have

$$G''(\xi) + r\xi^{r-1} = Bl(\xi - \xi_0)^{l-1}, \tag{3.30}$$

$$G^{(3)}(\xi) + r(r-1)\xi^{r-1} = Bl(l-1)(\xi - \xi_0)^{l-2}. \tag{3.31}$$

For  $G(0) \neq 0$ , we have  $\xi_0 \neq 0$  and  $\xi_j \neq 0$ . From (3.29) it follows that  $\xi_j \neq \xi_0, j = 1, 2, \dots, s$ .

From (3.29), (3.30) and (3.31), for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, s$ , we have

$$\xi_j^r = B(\xi_j - \xi_0)^l \tag{3.32}$$

$$r\xi_j^{r-1} = Bl(\xi_j - \xi_0)^{l-1} \tag{3.33}$$

$$r(r-1)\xi_j^{r-2} = Bl(l-1)(\xi_j - \xi_0)^{l-2} \tag{3.34}$$

From (3.32) and (3.33), we have

$$(r-l)\xi_j = r\xi_0, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, s \tag{3.35}$$

If  $l = r$ , then  $\xi_0 = 0$ , this is impossible. Therefore, we have  $l \neq r$ , and so

$$\xi_1 = \xi_2 = \cdots = \xi_s = \frac{r}{r-1} \xi_0$$

From (3.33) and (3.34), we also have ,

$$\xi_1 = \xi_2 = \cdots = \xi_s = \frac{r-1}{r-1} \xi_0$$

then  $r\xi_0 = (r-1)\xi_0$ . Thus, we have  $\xi_0 = 0$ , a contradiction.

Finally, we prove that  $F$  is normal at the origin. For any function sequence  $\{f_n(z)\}$  in  $F$ , since  $F_1$  is normal at  $z=0$ , then there exist a positive number  $\delta < 1/2$  and subsequence  $\{F_{n_k}\}$  of  $\{F_n\}$  such that  $F_{n_k}$  converges uniformly to a meromorphic function  $h(z)$  or  $\infty$  on  $N(0, 2\delta)$ . Noting  $F_n(0) = \infty$ , we deduce that there exists a positive number  $M > 0$  such that  $|F_{n_k}(z)| \geq M$  for any  $z \in N(0, \delta)$ . Again noting that  $f_{n_k}(0) \neq \infty$  we have that  $f_{n_k}(z) \neq \infty$  for all  $z \in N(0, \delta)$ , that is,  $f_{n_k}(z)$  is analytic in  $N(0, \delta)$ . Therefore, for all  $n_k$ , we have

$$|f_{n_k}(z)| = \left| \frac{1}{z^r F_{n_k}(z)} \right| \leq \frac{1}{M \delta^r}, |z| < \frac{\delta}{2}$$

By Montel's Theorem,  $\{f_{n_k}(z)\}$  is normal at  $z=0$ , and thus  $F$  is normal at  $z=0$ . The complete proof of Theorem 1.7 is given.

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