

**UNIQUENESS OF MEROMORPHIC FUNCTIONS WITH FINITE  
LOGARITHMIC ORDER REGARDING THEIR  $q$ -SHIFT  
DIFFERENCE AND DIFFERENTIAL POLYNOMIAL**

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**ABSTRACT.** In this paper, we investigate the uniqueness and value distribution of transcendental meromorphic functions with zero order by considering their  $q$ -shift difference and differential polynomial and obtain some results which improve and generalise the previous theorems given by Zheng and Xu [15].

1. INTRODUCTION AND MAIN RESULTS

We assume that the reader is accustomed with the Nevanlinna value distribution theory and knows the standard notations and definitions used in it such as  $T(r, f)$ ,  $m(r, f)$ ,  $N(r, f)$ ,  $\bar{N}(r, f)$ , etc. (see Hayman [7], Yang [14], Yi and Yang [13]).

Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two transcendental meromorphic functions in the open complex plane. For  $a \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$  and  $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \cup \{\infty\}$  the set,  $E(a, f) = \{z : f(z) - a = 0\}$ , denotes all those  $a$ -points of  $f$ , where each  $a$ -point of  $f$  with multiplicity  $k$  is counted  $k$  times in the set and the set,  $\bar{E}(a, f) = \{z : f(z) - a = 0\}$ , denotes all those  $a$ -points of  $f$ , where the multiplicities are ignored. If  $f(z) - a$  and  $g(z) - a$  assumes the same zeros with the same multiplicities, then we say that  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$  share the value  $a$  CM (counting multiplicity) and we have  $E(a, f) = E(a, g)$ ; Suppose, if  $f(z) - a$  and  $g(z) - a$  assumes the same zeros ignoring the multiplicities, then we say that  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$  share the value  $a$  IM (ignoring multiplicity) and we will have  $\bar{E}(a, f) = \bar{E}(a, g)$ .

A meromorphic function  $a(z)$  is called a small function with respect to  $f(z)$ , if  $T(r, a) = S(r, f)$ , where  $S(r, f)$  denotes any quantity which satisfies  $S(r, f) = o(T(r, f))$  as  $r \rightarrow +\infty$  possibly outside a set  $I$  with finite linear measure  $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \int_{(1, r] \cap I} \frac{dt}{t} < \infty$ .

We also denote by  $S_1(r, f)$  any quantity which satisfies  $S_1(r, f) = o(T(r, f))$  for all  $r$  on a set  $F$  of logarithmic density 1.

We need the following standard definitions of Nevanlinna Theory.

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**Definition 1.1.** [3] *The logarithmic density of a set  $F$  is defined by,*

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\log r} \int_{(1,r] \cap F} \frac{1}{t} dt.$$

**Definition 1.2.** [3] *The order  $\rho(f)$  of a meromorphic function  $f(z)$  is defined as,*

$$\rho(f) = \overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log T(r, f)}{\log r}.$$

**Definition 1.3.** [3] *The logarithmic order of a meromorphic function  $f(z)$  is defined by,*

$$\rho_{\log}(f) = \overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log T(r, f)}{\log \log r}.$$

If  $\rho_{\log}(f) < \infty$ , then  $f(z)$  is said to be of finite logarithmic order. It is clear that, if a meromorphic function  $f(z)$  has finite logarithmic order, then  $f(z)$  has order zero. From the definition of logarithmic order, we can easily say that a constant function will have the logarithmic order zero and for a non-constant rational function it will be 1. A transcendental meromorphic function  $f(z)$  will have the logarithmic order atleast 1. If  $f(z)$  is a meromorphic function having finite positive logarithmic order  $\rho_{\log}(f)$ , then  $T(r, f)$  will have proximate logarithmic order  $\rho_{\log}(r)$ . The logarithmic-type function of  $T(r, f)$  is defined as  $U(r, f) = (\log r)^{\rho_{\log}(r)}$ . We will have  $T(r, f) \leq U(r, f)$  for sufficiently larger  $r$ . The logarithmic exponent of convergence of  $a$ -points of  $f(z)$  will be equal to the logarithmic order of  $n(r, f = a)$ , which is defined as,

$$\lambda_{\log}(a) = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log n\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right)}{\log \log r}.$$

It is known that for any meromorphic function  $f(z)$  having finite positive order and for any  $a \in \mathbb{C}$ , the counting function  $N(r, f = a)$  and  $n(r, f = a)$ , both have same order, the situation is different for functions having finite logarithmic order, that is logarithmic order of  $N(r, f = a)$  is  $\lambda_{\log}(a) + 1$ , where  $\lambda_{\log}(a)$  is logarithmic order of  $n(r, f = a)$ , see [3].

**Definition 1.4.** [8] *Let  $n_{0j}, n_{1j}, \dots, n_{kj}$  be non-negative integers. The expression,*

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

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

$$H[f] = \sum_{i=1}^l b_j M_j[f],$$

*is called a differential polynomial generated by  $f$  of degree  $\gamma_p = \max\{\gamma_{M_j} : 1 \leq j \leq l\}$  and weight  $\Gamma_p = \max\{\Gamma_{M_j} : 1 \leq j \leq l\}$ , where  $T(r, b_j) = S(r, f)$  for the co-efficients  $b_j (j = 1, 2, \dots, l)$ . The numbers,  $\underline{\gamma}_p = \min\{\gamma_{M_j} : 1 \leq j \leq l\}$  and  $k$  (the highest order of the derivarive of  $f$  in  $H[f]$ ) are called, respectively, the lower degree and order of  $H[f]$ . We denote by  $\sigma = \max\{\Gamma_{M_j} - \gamma_{M_j} : 1 \leq j \leq l\} = \max\{n_{1j} + 2n_{2j} + \dots + kn_{kj} : 1 \leq j \leq l\}$ .*

$H[f]$  is said to be homogeneous if  $\gamma_p = \underline{\gamma}_p$ . Also  $H[f]$  is called a quasi differential polynomial generated by  $f$ , if instead of assuming  $T(r, b_j) = S(r, f)$ , we just assume that  $m(r, b_j) = S(r, f)$  for the co-efficients  $b_j (j = 1, 2, \dots, l)$ .

In 1959, Hayman [6] discussed the Picard's value of meromorphic functions and their derivatives and he obtained the following well-known result.

**Theorem A.** [6] *Let  $f(z)$  be a transcendental entire function. Then*  
 (a) *for  $n \geq 2$ ,  $f'(z)f(z)^n$  assumes all finite values except possibly zero infinitely often;*  
 (b) *for  $n \geq 3$  and  $a \neq 0$ ,  $f'(z) - af(z)^n$  assumes all finite values infinitely often.*

Later in 1995, Chen and Fang [2] obtained the following result for transcendental meromorphic function.

**Theorem B.** [2] *Let  $f(z)$  be a transcendental meromorphic function. If  $n \geq 1$ , is a positive integer, then  $f'(z)f(z)^n - 1$  has infinitely many zeros.*

Around 2006, Halburd and Korhonen established the difference analogies of the Nevanlinna Theory (see [4], [5]). Since then the study of difference analogies became a subject of great interest for many mathematicians. In 2012, Xu and Zhang [11] studied the zeros of  $q$ -shift difference polynomials of meromorphic functions of finite logarithmic order and gave the following result.

**Theorem C.** [11] *If  $f(z)$  is a transcendental meromorphic function of finite logarithmic order  $\rho_{\log}(f)$  with the logarithmic exponent of convergence of poles less than  $\rho_{\log}(f) - 1$  and  $q, c$  are non-zero complex constants, then for  $n \geq 2$ ,  $f(z)^n f(qz + c)$  assumes every value  $b \in \mathbb{C}$  infinitely often.*

In 2014, Zheng and Xu [15] investigated the zeros of differential- $q$ -shift-difference polynomials about  $f(z)$ ,  $f'(z)$ , and  $f(qz + c)$ , where  $f(z)$  is of finite positive logarithmic order and obtained the following results.

**Theorem D.** [15] *Let  $f(z)$  be a transcendental meromorphic function of finite logarithmic order  $\rho_{\log}(f)$ , with the logarithmic exponent of convergence of poles less than  $\rho_{\log}(f) - 1$ . Set  $F_1(z) = f(qz + c)^n f'(z)$ . If  $n \geq 3$ , then  $F_1(z) - a(z)$  has infinitely many zeros.*

**Theorem E.** [15] *Let  $f(z)$  be a transcendental meromorphic function of finite logarithmic order  $\rho_{\log}(f)$ , with the logarithmic exponent of convergence of poles less than  $\rho_{\log}(f) - 1$ . Set  $F_3(z) = f(z)^m f(qz + c)^n f'(z)$ . If  $m, n$  satisfy  $m \geq n + 2$  or  $n \geq m + 2$ , then  $F_3(z) - a(z)$  has infinitely many zeros.*

Let  $P_n(z) = a_n z^n + a_{n-1} z^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 z + a_0$ , be a non-zero polynomial, where  $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n (\neq 0)$  are complex constants and  $t_n$  be the number of the distinct zeros of  $P_n(z)$ . Then

**Theorem F.** [15] *Let  $f(z)$  be a transcendental meromorphic function of finite logarithmic order  $\rho_{\log}(f)$ , with the logarithmic exponent of convergence of poles less than  $\rho_{\log}(f) - 1$ . Set  $F_4(z) = f(z)^m P_n(f(qz + c)) \prod_{j=1}^k f^{(j)}(z)$ . If  $m \geq n + k + 1$ , then  $F_4(z) - a(z)$  has infinitely many zeros.*

**Theorem G.** [15] *Let  $f(z)$  be a transcendental meromorphic function of finite logarithmic order  $\rho_{\log}(f)$ , with the logarithmic exponent of convergence of poles less*

than  $\rho_{\log}(f) - 1$ . Set  $F_5(z) = P_m(f(z))f(qz + c)^n \prod_{j=1}^k f^{(j)}(z)$ . If  $m \geq n + k + 1$ , then  $F_5(z) - a(z)$  has infinitely many zeros.

Zheng and Xu [15], further studied the uniqueness of differential  $q$ -shift difference polynomials of entire functions of order zero and gave the following results.

**Theorem H.** [15] *Let  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$  be transcendental entire functions of order zero and  $n \geq 5$ . If  $f(qz + c)^n f'(z)$  and  $g(qz + c)^n g'(z)$  share a non-zero polynomial  $p(z)$  CM, then  $f(qz + c)^n f'(z) = g(qz + c)^n g'(z)$ .*

**Theorem I.** [15] *Let  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$  be transcendental entire functions of order zero and  $m \geq n + 2t_n + 5$ . If  $f(z)^m P_n(f(qz + c))f'(z)$  and  $g(z)^m P_n(g(qz + c))g'(z)$  share a non-zero polynomial  $p(z)$  CM, then  $f(z)^m P_n(f(qz + c))f'(z) = g(z)^m P_n(g(qz + c))g'(z)$ .*

**Theorem J.** [15] *Let  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$  be transcendental entire functions of order zero and  $n \geq m + 2t_m + 5$ . If  $P_m(f(z))f(qz + c)^n f'(z)$  and  $P_m(g(z))g(qz + c)^n g'(z)$  share a non-zero polynomial  $p(z)$  CM, then  $P_m(f(z))f(qz + c)^n f'(z) = P_m(g(z))g(qz + c)^n g'(z)$ .*

The motivation to this paper is [10], where Thin, states that the inequality  $\bar{N}(r, P(f)) \leq mT(r, f) + S(r, f)$  (where  $P(z)$  is a polynomial with  $m$  distinct zeros and  $f(z)$  is a transcendental meromorphic function), is very weak and indeed we have the equality  $\bar{N}(r, P(f)) = \bar{N}(r, f)$ . Thus, we can easily get,  $\bar{N}(r, H[f]) = \bar{N}(r, f)$ , where  $H[f]$  is a differential polynomial generated by a transcendental meromorphic function  $f$ .

In this paper, we extend the above theorems H-J from entire functions to meromorphic functions and also extend the differential monomials  $f'(z)$  and  $g'(z)$  in theorems D-J to differential polynomials  $H[f]$  and  $H[g]$  respectively and we obtain the following generalised results.

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $f(z)$  be a transcendental meromorphic function of finite logarithmic order  $\rho_{\log}(f)$ , with the logarithmic exponent of convergence of poles less than  $\rho_{\log}(f) - 1$  and  $a(z)$  be a small function with respect to  $f(z)$ . Set  $\mathcal{F}_1(z) = f^n(qz + c)H[f]$ . If  $n \geq \gamma_p + \sigma + 1$ , then  $\mathcal{F}_1(z) - a(z)$  has infinitely many zeros.*

**Remark 1.1.** *In Theorem 1.1, if  $H[f] = f'(z)$ , then we get  $(\gamma_p = \gamma_{M_1} = 1)$ ,  $(\Gamma_p = \Gamma_{M_1} = 2)$  and  $(\sigma = \Gamma_{M_1} - \gamma_{M_1} = 1)$ , thus  $n \geq 3$  and hence Theorem 1.1 reduces to Theorem D.*

**Theorem 1.2.** *Let  $f(z)$  be a transcendental meromorphic function of finite logarithmic order  $\rho_{\log}(f)$ , with the logarithmic exponent of convergence of poles less than  $\rho_{\log}(f) - 1$  and  $a(z)$  be a small function with respect to  $f(z)$ . Set  $\mathcal{F}_2(z) = f(z)^m f^n(qz + c)H[f]$ . If  $m, n$  satisfy  $m \geq n + \gamma_p + \sigma$  (or)  $n \geq m + \gamma_p + \sigma$ , then  $\mathcal{F}_2(z) - a(z)$  has infinitely many zeros.*

**Remark 1.2.** *In Theorem 1.2, if  $H[f] = f'(z)$ , then we get,  $(\gamma_p = \gamma_{M_1} = 1)$ ,  $(\Gamma_p = \Gamma_{M_1} = 2)$  and  $(\sigma = \Gamma_{M_1} - \gamma_{M_1} = 1)$ , thus  $m \geq n + 2$  or  $n \geq m + 2$  and hence Theorem 1.2 reduces to Theorem E.*

**Theorem 1.3.** *Let  $f(z)$  be a transcendental meromorphic function of finite logarithmic order  $\rho_{\log}(f)$ , with the logarithmic exponent of convergence of poles less*

than  $\rho_{\log}(f) - 1$ ,  $a(z)$  be a small function with respect to  $f(z)$  and  $P_n(z) = a_n z^n + a_{n-1} z^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 z + a_0$ , where  $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n (\neq 0)$  are complex constants, be a polynomial of degree  $n$  and  $t_m$  distinct zeros. Set  $\mathcal{F}_3(z) = f(z)^m P_n(f(qz + c))H[f]$ . If  $m \geq n + \gamma_p + 1$ , then  $\mathcal{F}_3(z) - a(z)$  has infinitely many zeros.

**Remark 1.3.** In Theorem 1.3, if  $H[f] = \prod_{j=1}^k f^{(j)}(z)$ , then we get  $(\gamma_p = \gamma_{M_1} = k)$ ,  $(\Gamma_p = \Gamma_{M_1} = \frac{k(k+1)}{2} + k)$ , and  $(\sigma = \Gamma_{M_1} - \gamma_{M_1} = \frac{k(k+1)}{2})$ , thus  $n \geq m + k + 1$  and hence Theorem 1.3 reduces to Theorem F.

**Theorem 1.4.** Let  $f(z)$  be a transcendental meromorphic function of finite logarithmic order  $\rho_{\log}(f)$ , with the logarithmic exponent of convergence of poles less than  $\rho_{\log}(f) - 1$ ,  $a(z)$  be a small function with respect to  $f(z)$  and  $P_n(z) = a_n z^n + a_{n-1} z^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 z + a_0$ , where  $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n (\neq 0)$  are complex constants, be a polynomial of degree  $n$  and  $t_m$  distinct zeros. Set  $\mathcal{F}_4(z) = P_m(f(z))f^n(qz + c)H[f]$ . If  $m \geq n + \gamma_p + 1$ , then  $\mathcal{F}_4(z) - a(z)$  has infinitely many zeros.

**Remark 1.4.** In Theorem 1.4, if  $H[f] = \prod_{j=1}^k f^{(j)}(z)$ , then we get  $(\gamma_p = \gamma_{M_1} = k)$ ,  $(\Gamma_p = \Gamma_{M_1} = \frac{k(k+1)}{2} + k)$ , and  $(\sigma = \Gamma_{M_1} - \gamma_{M_1} = \frac{k(k+1)}{2})$ , thus  $n \geq m + k + 1$  and hence Theorem 1.4 reduces to Theorem G.

**Theorem 1.5.** Let  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$  be two transcendental meromorphic functions of order zero and  $n$  be a positive integer. If  $f^n(qz + c)H[f]$  and  $g^n(qz + c)H[g]$  share a non-zero polynomial  $q(z)$ ,  $\infty$  CM and  $n \geq 3\gamma_p + 3\sigma + 5$ , then  $f^n(qz + c)H[f] = g^n(qz + c)H[g]$ .

**Corollary 1.5.** Let  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$  be two transcendental entire functions of order zero and  $n$  be a positive integer. If  $f^n(qz + c)H[f]$  and  $g^n(qz + c)H[g]$  share a non-zero polynomial  $q(z)$  CM and  $n \geq 3\gamma_p + 3\sigma + 3$ , then  $f^n(qz + c)H[f] = g^n(qz + c)H[g]$ .

**Theorem 1.6.** Let  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$  be two transcendental meromorphic functions of order zero,  $n$  be a positive integer,  $P_m(z)$  be a polynomial of degree  $m$  and  $t_m$  distinct zeros. If  $f^n(z)P_m(f(qz + c))H[f]$  and  $g^n(z)P_m(g(qz + c))H[g]$  share a non-zero polynomial  $q(z)$ ,  $\infty$  CM and  $n \geq 2t_m + m + 3\gamma_p + 3\sigma + 5$ , then  $f^n(z)P_m(f(qz + c))H[f] = g^n(z)P_m(g(qz + c))H[g]$ .

**Corollary 1.6.** Let  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$  be two transcendental entire functions of order zero,  $n$  be a positive integer,  $P_m(z)$  be a polynomial of degree  $m$  and  $t_m$  distinct zeros. If  $f^n(z)P_m(f(qz + c))H[f]$  and  $g^n(z)P_m(g(qz + c))H[g]$  share a non-zero polynomial  $q(z)$  CM and  $n \geq 2t_m + m + 3\gamma_p + 3$ , then  $f^n(z)P_m(f(qz + c))H[f] = g^n(z)P_m(g(qz + c))H[g]$ .

**Theorem 1.7.** Let  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$  be two transcendental meromorphic functions of order zero,  $n$  be a positive integer,  $P_m(z)$  be a polynomial of degree  $m$  and  $t_m$  distinct zeros. If  $f^n(qz + c)P_m(f(z))H[f]$  and  $g^n(qz + c)P_m(g(z))H[g]$  share a non-zero polynomial  $q(z)$ ,  $\infty$  CM and  $n \geq 2t_m + m + 3\gamma_p + 3\sigma + 5$ , then  $f^n(qz + c)P_m(f(z))H[f] = g^n(qz + c)P_m(g(z))H[g]$ .

**Corollary 1.7.** Let  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$  be two transcendental entire functions of order zero,  $n$  be a positive integer,  $P_m(z)$  be a polynomial of degree  $m$  and  $t_m$  distinct zeros. If  $f^n(qz + c)P_m(f(z))H[f]$  and  $g^n(qz + c)P_m(g(z))H[g]$  share a non-zero polynomial  $q(z)$  CM and  $n \geq 2t_m + m + 3\gamma_p + 3$ , then  $f^n(qz + c)P_m(f(z))H[f] = g^n(qz + c)P_m(g(z))H[g]$ .

## 2. Lemmas

This section provides all the necessary lemmas used in the sequel.

**Lemma 2.1.** [13] *Let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function and let  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  be finite complex numbers,  $a_n \neq 0$ . Then*

$$T(r, a_n f^n + \dots + a_2 f^2 + a_1 f + a_0) = nT(r, f) + S(r, f).$$

**Lemma 2.2.** [11] *Let  $f(z)$  be a transcendental meromorphic function of finite logarithmic order and  $q, c$  be two non-zero complex constants. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} T(r, f(qz + c)) &= T(r, f) + S_1(r, f), \\ N(r, f(qz + c)) &= N(r, f) + S_1(r, f), \\ N\left(r, \frac{1}{f(qz + c)}\right) &= N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + S_1(r, f). \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 2.3.** [9] *Let  $f(z)$  be a non-constant zero order meromorphic function and  $q \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ . Then*

$$m\left(r, \frac{f(qz + c)}{f(z)}\right) = S_1(r, f).$$

**Lemma 2.4.** [13] *Let  $f(z)$  be a non-constant meromorphic function in the complex plane and  $k$  be a positive integer. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} T(r, f^{(k)}) &\leq T(r, f) + k\bar{N}(r, f) + S(r, f), \\ N(r, f^{(k)}) &\leq N(r, f) + k\bar{N}(r, f). \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 2.5.** [1] *Let  $f$  be a non constant meromorphic function and  $H[f]$  be a differential polynomial in  $f$ . Then*

$$\begin{aligned} m\left(r, \frac{H[f]}{f^{\gamma_p}}\right) &\leq (\gamma_p - \underline{\gamma}_p)m\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + S(r, f), \\ m\left(r, \frac{H[f]}{f^{\underline{\gamma}_p}}\right) &\leq (\gamma_p - \underline{\gamma}_p)m(r, f) + S(r, f), \\ N\left(r, \frac{H[f]}{f^{\gamma_p}}\right) &\leq (\gamma_p - \underline{\gamma}_p)N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \sigma\left[\bar{N}(r, f) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right)\right] \\ &\quad + S(r, f), \\ N(r, H[f]) &\leq \gamma_p N(r, f) + \sigma\bar{N}(r, f) + S(r, f), \\ T(r, H[f]) &\leq \gamma_p T(r, f) + \sigma\bar{N}(r, f) + S(r, f), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\sigma = \max\{n_{1j} + 2n_{2j} + 3n_{3j} + \dots + kn_{kj}; 1 \leq j \leq l\}$ .

**Lemma 2.6.** [3] *If  $f(z)$  is a transcendental meromorphic function of finite logarithmic order  $\rho_{\log}(f)$ , then for any two distinct small functions  $a(z)$  and  $b(z)$  with respect to  $f(z)$ , we have*

$$T(r, f) \leq N\left(r, \frac{1}{f - a}\right) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{f - b}\right) o(U(r, f)),$$

where  $U(r, f) = (\log r)^{\rho_{\log}(f)}$  is a logarithmic-type function of  $T(r, f)$ . Further, if  $T(r, f)$  has a finite lower logarithmic order

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

with  $\rho_{\log}(f) - \mu < 1$ , then

$$T(r, f) \leq N\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{f-b}\right) o(T(r, f)).$$

**Remark 2.1.** Here the complex values  $a$  and  $b$  can be easily changed into  $a(z)$  and  $b(z)$ , where  $a(z)$  and  $b(z)$  are two distinct small functions with respect to  $f(z)$ .

**Lemma 2.7.** Let  $f(z)$  be a transcendental meromorphic function of order zero. Set  $\mathcal{F}_1 = f^n(qz + c)H[f]$ . Then, we have

$$(n - \gamma_p - \sigma)T(r, f) + S_1(r, f) \leq T(r, \mathcal{F}_1) \leq (n + \gamma_p + \sigma)T(r, f) + S_1(r, f). \quad (1)$$

*Proof.* If  $f(z)$  is a meromorphic function of order zero, then from Lemmas 2.1, 2.2 and 2.5, we have

$$T(r, \mathcal{F}_1) \leq nT(r, f(qz + c)) + T(r, H[f]) \leq (n + \gamma_p + \sigma)T(r, f) + S_1(r, f).$$

Once again from Lemmas 2.1, 2.2 and 2.5, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (n + 1)T(r, f) &= T(r, f^{n+1}(qz + c)) + S_1(r, f) \\ &\leq T(r, \mathcal{F}_1) + T\left(r, \frac{f(qz + c)}{H[f]}\right) + S_1(r, f) \\ &\leq T(r, \mathcal{F}_1) + T(r, f) + \gamma_p T(r, f) + \sigma \bar{N}(r, f) + S_1(r, f) \\ &\leq T(r, \mathcal{F}_1) + (\gamma_p + \sigma + 1)T(r, f) + S_1(r, f). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we get (1). This completes the proof of Lemma 2.7.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.8.** Let  $f(z)$  be a transcendental meromorphic function of order zero. Set  $\mathcal{F}_2 = f^m(z)f^n(qz + c)H[f]$ . Then, we have

$$T(r, \mathcal{F}_2) \leq (m + n + \gamma_p + \sigma)T(r, f) + S_1(r, f) \quad (2)$$

and

$$(|m - n| - \gamma_p - \sigma)T(r, f) + S_1(r, f) \leq T(r, \mathcal{F}_2). \quad (3)$$

*Proof.* If  $f(z)$  is a meromorphic function of order zero, then from Lemmas 2.1, 2.2 and 2.5, we have

$$T(r, \mathcal{F}_2) \leq mT(r, f) + nT(r, f(qz + c)) + T(r, H[f]) \leq (m + n + \gamma_p + \sigma)T(r, f) + S_1(r, f).$$

Thus, we have (2). Once again from Lemmas 2.1, 2.2 and 2.5, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (n + m + 1)T(r, f) &= T(r, f^{n+m+1}) = T\left(r, \frac{f^{n+1}(z)\mathcal{F}_2}{f^n(qz + c)H[f]}\right) \\ &\leq T(r, \mathcal{F}_2) + T(r, f^{n+1}(z)) + T(r, f^n(qz + c)) \\ &\quad + T(r, H[f]) + S_1(r, f) \\ &\leq T(r, \mathcal{F}_2) + (2n + \gamma_p + \sigma + 1)T(r, f) + S_1(r, f). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have (3), where we assume  $m \geq n$  without the loss of generality.

This completes the proof of Lemma 2.8.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.9.** Let  $f(z)$  be a transcendental meromorphic function of order zero. Set  $\mathcal{F}_3 = f^m(z)P_n(f(qz + c))H[f]$ . Then, we have

$$(m - n - \gamma_p)T(r, f) \leq T(r, \mathcal{F}_3) + \sigma \bar{N}(r, f) + S_1(r, f) \quad (4)$$

and

$$T(r, \mathcal{F}_3) \leq (m + n + \gamma_p + \sigma)T(r, f) + S_1(r, f). \quad (5)$$

*Proof.* If  $f(z)$  is a transcendental meromorphic function of order zero, then from Lemmas 2.1, 2.2 and 2.5, we have

$$T(r, \mathcal{F}_3) \leq mT(r, f) + nT(r, f(qz+c)) + T(r, H[f]) \leq (m+n+\gamma_p+\sigma)T(r, f) + S_1(r, f).$$

Thus we have (5). Once again from Lemmas 2.1, 2.2 and 2.5, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (m+k)T(r, f) &= T(r, f^{m+k}) \leq T\left(r, \frac{f^k(z)\mathcal{F}_3}{P_n(f(qz+c))H[f]}\right) \\ &\leq T(r, \mathcal{F}_3) + T(r, P_n(f(qz+c))) + T(r, f^k(z)) + T(r, H[f]) \\ &\leq T(r, \mathcal{F}_3) + (n+k+\gamma_p)T(r, f) + \sigma\bar{N}(r, f) + S_1(r, f). \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof of Lemma 2.9.  $\square$

**Remark 2.2.** In Lemma 2.9, if  $H[f] = \prod_{j=1}^k f^{(j)}(z)$  then, we get  $(\gamma_p = \gamma_{M_1} = k)$ ,  $(\Gamma_p = \Gamma_{M_1} = \frac{k(k+1)}{2} + k)$  and  $(\sigma = \Gamma_{M_1} - \gamma_{M_1} = \frac{k(k+1)}{2})$  then Lemma 2.9. reduces to Lemma 2.8 in [15].

**Lemma 2.10.** Let  $f(z)$  be a transcendental meromorphic function of order zero. Set  $\mathcal{F}_4 = P_m(f(z))f^n(qz+c)H[f]$ . Then, we have

$$(n-m-\gamma_p)T(r, f) \leq T(r, \mathcal{F}_4) + \sigma\bar{N}(r, f) + S_1(r, f), \quad (6)$$

$$T(r, \mathcal{F}_4) \leq (m+n+\gamma_p+\sigma)T(r, f) + S_1(r, f). \quad (7)$$

*Proof.* Lemma 2.10 can be proved in a similar fashion to Lemma 2.9.  $\square$

**Remark 2.3.** In Lemma 2.10 if  $H[f] = \prod_{j=1}^k f^{(j)}(z)$  then, we get  $(\gamma_p = \gamma_{M_1} = k)$ ,  $(\Gamma_p = \Gamma_{M_1} = \frac{k(k+1)}{2} + k)$  and  $(\sigma = \Gamma_{M_1} - \gamma_{M_1} = \frac{k(k+1)}{2})$  then Lemma 2.10 reduces to Lemma 2.9 in [15].

### 3. Proof of Theorems

#### 3.1. Proof of Theorem 1.1.

*Proof.* From Lemma 2.7, we can conclude that  $T(r, \mathcal{F}_1) = O(T(r, f))$  holds for all  $r$  on a set of logarithmic density 1. Since  $f(z)$  is transcendental and  $n \geq \gamma_p + \sigma + 1$ , from Lemma 2.7,  $\mathcal{F}_1$  is transcendental. Since the logarithmic exponent of convergence of poles of  $f(z)$  less than  $\rho_{\log}(f) - 1$ , we have

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log N(r, f)}{\log \log r} < \rho_{\log}(f).$$

Assume that  $\mathcal{F}_1(z) - a(z)$  has only finitely many zeros. Then, from Lemmas 2.2, 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (n-\gamma_p-\sigma)T(r, f) &\leq T(r, \mathcal{F}_1) + S_1(r, f) \\ &\leq N(r, \mathcal{F}_1) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{\mathcal{F}_1 - a}\right) + o(U(r, f)) + S_1(r, f) \\ &\leq N(r, f^n(qz+c)) + N(r, H[f]) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{\mathcal{F}_1 - a}\right) \\ &\quad + o(U(r, f)) + S_1(r, f). \end{aligned}$$



Since  $\mathcal{F}_1(z) - a(z)$  has finitely many zeros, hence  $N\left(r, \frac{1}{\mathcal{F}_1 - a}\right) = S_1(r, \mathcal{F}_1) = S_1(r, f)$ , and hence, the above inequality reduces to,

$$(n - \gamma_p - \sigma)T(r, f) \leq (n + \gamma_p + \sigma)N(r, f) + o(U(r, f)) + S_1(r, f).$$

Since,  $n \geq \gamma_p + \sigma + 1$ , from the above inequality, we get

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log T(r, f)}{\log \log r} \leq \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log N(r, f)}{\log \log r} \leq \rho_{\log}(f),$$

which contradicts the fact that  $T(r, f)$  has finite logarithmic order  $\rho_{\log}(f)$ . Thus,  $\mathcal{F}_1(z) - a(z)$  has infinitely many zeros. i.e.,  $f^n(qz + c)H[f] - a(z)$  has infinitely many zeros.  $\square$

**3.2. Proofs of Theorems 1.2 - 1.4.** Theorems 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4 can be proved easily by using a similar argument of that of Theorem 1.1, by applying the Lemmas 2.8, 2.9 and 2.10 respectively.

**3.3. Proofs of Theorems 1.5 - 1.7.** Here, we only give the proof of Theorem 1.6, because the method of proof of Theorem 1.5, 1.6 and 1.7 are very similar. Their corollaries can also be proved in a similar fashion by taking  $N(r, f) = S(r, f)$ .

**3.4. Proof of Theorem 1.6.**

*Proof.* Let us consider,

$$F(z) = f^n(z)P_m(f(qz + c))H[f] \quad \text{and} \quad G(z) = g^n(z)P_m(g(qz + c))H[g]. \quad (8)$$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} T(r, F(z)) &= T(r, f^n(z)P_m(f(qz + c))H[f]) \\ &\leq T(r, f^n(z)) + T(r, P_m(f(qz + c))) + T(r, H[f]) + S_1(r, f). \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

From Lemmas 2.1, 2.2 and 2.5, we get

$$T(r, F(z)) \leq nT(r, f) + mT(r, f) + \gamma_p T(r, f) + \sigma \bar{N}(r, f) + S_1(r, f). \quad (10)$$

Therefore,

$$T(r, F(z)) \leq (n + m + \gamma_p + \sigma)T(r, f) + S_1(r, f). \quad (11)$$

Once again from Lemmas 2.1, 2.2, 2.5 and the First fundamental theorem,

$$\begin{aligned} (n + k)T(r, f) &= T(r, f^{n+k}) \\ &= T\left(r, \frac{f^k \cdot F(z)}{P_m(f(qz + c)) \cdot H[f]}\right) \\ &\leq T(r, F(z)) + T(r, P_m(f(qz + c))) + T(r, f^k) + T(r, H[f]) \\ &\quad + S_1(r, f) \\ &\leq T(r, F(z)) + mT(r, f) + kT(r, f) + \gamma_p T(r, f) + \sigma \bar{N}(r, f) \\ &\quad + S_1(r, f) \\ (n + k)T(r, f) &\leq T(r, F(z)) + (m + k + \gamma_p + \sigma)T(r, f) + S_1(r, f). \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Therefore,

$$(n - m - \gamma_p - \sigma)T(r, f) + S_1(r, f) \leq T(r, F(z)). \quad (13)$$

From (11) and (13), we get

$$(n - m - \gamma_p - \sigma)T(r, f) + S_1(r, f) \leq T(r, F(z)) \leq (n + m + \gamma_p + \sigma)T(r, f) + S_1(r, f). \quad (14)$$

From (14), we have  $S_1(r, F) = S_1(r, f)$ . Similarly, we have  $S_1(r, G) = S_1(r, g)$  and

$$(n - m - \gamma_p - \sigma)T(r, g) + S_1(r, g) \leq T(r, G(z)) \leq (n + m + \gamma_p + \sigma)T(r, g) + S_1(r, g). \quad (15)$$

Since  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$  are transcendental meromorphic functions of zero order and share  $q(z)$ ,  $\infty$  CM, we have

$$\frac{F(z)/q(z) - 1}{G(z)/q(z) - 1} = \beta, \quad (16)$$

where  $\beta$  is a non-zero constant.

**Case 1.** If  $\beta = 1$ , then we have  $F(z) = G(z)$ , which implies

$$f^n(z)P_m(f(qz + c))H[f] = g^n(z)P_m(g(qz + c))H[g].$$

**Case 2.** If  $\beta \neq 1$ , then we have

$$F(z) - q(z) = \beta G(z) - \beta q(z) \quad (17)$$

$$F(z) - (1 - \beta)q(z) = \beta G(z) \quad (18)$$

Since  $P_m(z)$  has  $t_m$  distinct zeros, hence by using Second fundamental theorem, we have

$$\begin{aligned} T(r, F(z)) &\leq \bar{N}(r, F) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F}\right) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F - q(z)(1 - \beta)}\right) + S_1(r, F) \\ &\leq \bar{N}(r, f) + \bar{N}(r, f(qz + c)) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{P_m(f(qz + c))}\right) \\ &\quad + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{H[f]}\right) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{G}\right) + S_1(r, f) \\ &\leq \bar{N}(r, f) + \bar{N}(r, f(qz + c)) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{P_m(f(qz + c))}\right) \\ &\quad + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{H[f]}\right) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{g}\right) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{P_m(g(qz + c))}\right) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{H[g]}\right) \\ &\quad + S_1(r, f) + S_1(r, g) \\ &\leq \bar{N}(r, f) + \bar{N}(r, f(qz + c)) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \sum_{i=1}^{t_m} \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f(qz + c) - a_i}\right) \\ &\quad + T(r, H[f]) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{g}\right) + \sum_{i=1}^{t_m} \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{g(qz + c) - a_i}\right) + T(r, H[g]) \\ &\quad + S_1(r, f) + S_1(r, g). \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$T(r, F(z)) \leq (t_m + \gamma_p + \sigma + 3)T(r, f) + (t_m + \gamma_p + \sigma + 1)T(r, g) + S_1(r, f) + S_1(r, g), \quad (19)$$

where  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{t_m}$  are the distinct zeros of  $P_m(z)$ .

Similarly, we have

$$T(r, G(z)) \leq (t_m + \gamma_p + \sigma + 3)T(r, g) + (t_m + \gamma_p + \sigma + 1)T(r, f) + S_1(r, f) + S_1(r, g). \quad (20)$$

From (14), (15), (19) and (20), we get

$$(n - m - \gamma_p - \sigma)\{T(r, f) + T(r, g)\} \leq (2t_m + 2\gamma_p + 2\sigma + 4)\{T(r, f) + T(r, g)\} + S_1(r, f) + S_1(r, g), \quad (21)$$

which contradicts with  $n \geq 2t_m + m + 3\gamma_p + 3\sigma + 5$ .

Hence  $\beta = 1$ , which implies,  $f^n(z)P_m(f(qz + c))H[f] = g^n(z)P_m(g(qz + c))H[g]$ .

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.6.  $\square$

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