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Research Article

Normality of Composite Analytic Functions and Sharing an Analytic Function

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A result of Hinchliffe (2003) is extended to transcendental entire function, and an alternative proof is given in this paper. Our main result is as follows: let $\alpha(z)$ be an analytic function, $\mathcal F$ a family of analytic functions in a domain D, and H(z) a transcendental entire function. If $H \circ f(z)$ and $H \circ g(z)$ share $\alpha(z)$ IM for each pair f(z), $g(z) \in \mathcal F$, and one of the following conditions holds: (1) $H(z) - \alpha(z_0)$ has at least two distinct zeros for any $z_0 \in D$; (2) $\alpha(z)$ is nonconstant, and there exists $z_0 \in D$ such that $H(z) - \alpha(z_0) := (z - \beta_0)^p Q(z)$ has only one distinct zero β_0 , and suppose that the multiplicities l and l of zeros of l of l and l of zeros of l of l and l of zeros of l of zeros of l on an l of zeros of l on l on l on l on l on l of zeros of l on l o

1. Introduction and Main Results

Let f(z) and g(z) be two nonconstant meromorphic functions in the whole complex plane C, and let a be a finite complex value or function. We say that f and g share a CM (or IM) provided that f - a and g - a have the same zeros counting (or ignoring) multiplicity. It is assumed that the reader is familiar with the standard notations and the basic results of Nevanlinna's value-distribution theory

$$T(r,f), m(r,f), N(r,f)\overline{N}(r,f), \dots$$
(1.1)

([1] or [2]). We denote by S(r, f) any function satisfying $S(r, f) = o\{T(r, f)\}$, as $r \to \infty$, possibly outside of a set of finite measure.

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A meromorphic function $\alpha(z)$ is called a small function related to f(z) if $T(r,\alpha) = S(r, f)$.

In 1952, Rosenbloom [3] proved the following theorem.

Theorem A. Let P(z) be a polynomial of degree at least 2 and f(z) a transcendental entire function. Then

$$\lim_{r \to \infty} \inf \frac{N(r, 1/[P(f) - z])}{T(r, f)} \ge 1. \tag{1.2}$$

Influenced from Bloch's principle ([1] or [4]), that is, there is a normal criterion corresponding to every Liouville-Picard type theorem, Fang and Yuan [5] proved a corresponding normality criterion for inequality (1.2).

Theorem B. Let \mathcal{F} be a family of analytic functions in a domain D and P(z) a polynomial of degree at least 2. If $P(f(z)) \neq z$ for each $f(z) \in \mathcal{F}$, then \mathcal{F} is normal in D.

In 1995, Zheng and Yang [6] proved the following result.

Theorem C. Let P(z) be a polynomial of degree p at least 2, f(z) a transcendental entire function, and $\alpha(z)$ a nonconstant meromorphic function satisfying $T(r, \alpha) = S(r, f)$. Then,

$$T(r,f) \le \mu \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{P(f) - \alpha(z)}\right) + S(r,f).$$
 (1.3)

Here $\mu = 2/(p-1)$ if P'(z) has only one zero; otherwise $\mu = 2$.

In 2000, Fang and Yuan [7] improved (1.3) and obtained the best possible *k*.

Theorem D. Let P(z) be a polynomial of degree p at least 2 and f(z) a transcendental entire function, and $\alpha(z)$ a nonconstant meromorphic function satisfying $T(r,\alpha) = S(r,f)$. If $\alpha(z)$ is a constant, we also require that there exists a constant $A \neq \alpha$ such that P(z) - A has a zero of multiplicity at least 2. Then

$$T(r,f) \le \mu \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{P(f) - \alpha(z)}\right) + S(r,f).$$
 (1.4)

Here $\mu = 1/(p-1)$ if P'(z) has only one zero; otherwise $\mu = 1$.

The corresponding normal criterion below to Theorem D was obtained by Fang and Yuan [7].

Theorem E. Let \mathcal{F} be a family of analytic functions in a domain D and P(z) a polynomial of degree at least 2. Suppose that $\alpha(z)$ is either a nonconstant analytic function or a constant function such that $P(z) - \alpha$ has at least two distinct zeros. If $P \circ f(z) \neq \alpha(z)$ for each $f \in \mathcal{F}$, then \mathcal{F} is normal in D.

In 2003, Hinchliffe [8] proved the following theorem.

Theorem F. Let $\alpha(z) = z$, \mathcal{F} a family of analytic functions in a domain D, and h(z) a transcendental meromorphic function. If $\widehat{\mathbb{C}} \setminus h(\mathbb{C}) = \emptyset$, $\{\infty\}$ or $\{\xi_1, \xi_2\}$, where $\{\xi_1, \xi_2\}$ are two distinct values in $\widehat{\mathbb{C}} = \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$, suppose that $h \circ f(z) \neq \alpha(z)$ for each $f \in \mathcal{F}$ and all $z \in D$. Then, \mathcal{F} is normal in D.

In 2004, Bergweiler [9] deals also with the case that $\alpha(z)$ is meromorphic in Theorem F and extended Theorem E as follows.

Theorem G. Let $\alpha(z)$ be a nonconstant meromorphic function, \mathcal{F} a family of analytic functions in a domain D, and R(z) a rational function of degree at least 2. Suppose that $R \circ f(z) \neq \alpha(z)$ for each $f \in \mathcal{F}$ and all $z \in D$. Then, \mathcal{F} is normal in D.

Recently, Yuan et al. [10] generalized Theorem G in another manner and proved the following result.

Theorem H. Let $\alpha(z)$ be a nonconstant meromorphic function, \mathcal{F} a family of analytic functions in a domain D, and R(z) a rational function of degree at least 2. If $R \circ f(z)$ and $R \circ g(z)$ share $\alpha(z)$ IM for each pair f(z), $g(z) \in \mathcal{F}$ and one of the following conditions holds:

- (1) $R(z) \alpha(z_0)$ has at least two distinct zeros or poles for any $z_0 \in D$;
- (2) there exists $z_0 \in D$ such that $R(z) \alpha(z_0) := P(z)/Q(z)$ has only one distinct zero (or pole) β_0 and suppose that the multiplicities l and k of zeros of $f(z) \beta_0$ and $\alpha(z) \alpha(z_0)$ at z_0 , respectively, satisfy $k \neq lp$ (or $k \neq lq$), for each $f(z) \in \mathcal{F}$, where P(z) and Q(z) are two of no common zero polynomials with degree p and q, respectively, and $\alpha(z_0) \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$.

Then, \mathcal{F} is normal in D.

In this paper, we improve Theorems E and F and obtain the main result Theorem 1.1 which is proved below in Section 3.

Theorem 1.1. Let $\alpha(z)$ be an analytic function, \mathcal{F} a family of analytic functions in a domain D, and H(z) a transcendental entire function. If $H \circ f(z)$ and $H \circ g(z)$ share $\alpha(z)$ IM for each pair $f(z), g(z) \in \mathcal{F}$, and one of the following conditions holds:

- (1) $H(z) \alpha(z_0)$ has at least two distinct zeros for any $z_0 \in D$;
- (2) $\alpha(z)$ is nonconstant, and there exists $z_0 \in D$ such that $H(z) \alpha(z_0) := (z \beta_0)^p Q(z)$ has only one distinct zero β_0 and suppose that the multiplicities l and k of zeros of $f(z) \beta_0$ and $\alpha(z) \alpha(z_0)$ at z_0 , respectively, satisfy $k \neq lp$, for each $f(z) \in \mathcal{F}$, where $Q(\beta_0) \neq 0$;
- (3) there exists a $z_0 \in D$ such that $H(z) \alpha(z_0)$ has no zero, and $\alpha(z)$ is nonconstant.

Then, \mathcal{F} *is normal in* D.

2. Preliminary Lemmas

In order to prove our result, we need the following lemmas. Lemma 2.1 is an extending result of Zalcman [11] concerning normal families.

Lemma 2.1 (see [12]). Let \mathcal{F} be a family of functions on the unit disc. Then, \mathcal{F} is not normal on the unit disc if and only if there exist

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

such that $g_n(\zeta) := f_n(z_n + \rho_n \zeta)$ converges locally uniformly to a nonconstant meromorphic function $g(\zeta)$, which order is at most 2.

Remark 2.2. $g(\zeta)$ is a nonconstant entire function if \mathcal{F} is a family of analytic functions on the unit disc in Lemma 2.1.

The following Lemma 2.3 is very useful in the proof of our main theorem. We denote by $U(z_0,r)$ the open disc of radius r around z_0 , that is, $U(z_0,r):=\{z\in \mathbb{C}:|z-z_0|< r\}$. $U^0(z_0,r):=\{z\in \mathbb{C}:0<|z-z_0|< r\}$.

Lemma 2.3 (see [13] or [14]). Let $\{f_n(z)\}$ be a family of analytic functions in $U(z_0, r)$. Suppose that $\{f_n(z)\}$ is not normal at z_0 but is normal in $U^0(z_0, r)$. Then, there exists a subsequence $\{f_{n_k}(z)\}$ of $\{f_n(z)\}$ and a sequence of points $\{z_{n_k}\}$ tending to z_0 such that $f_{n_k}(z_{n_k}) = 0$, but $\{f_{n_k}(z)\}$ tending to infinity locally uniformly on $U^0(z_0, r)$.

3. Proof of Theorem

Proof of Theorem 1.1. Without loss of generality, we assume that $D = \{z \in \mathbb{C}, |z| < 1\}$. Then, we consider three cases:

Case 1. $H(z) - \alpha(z_0)$ has at least two distinct zeros for any $z_0 \in D$

Suppose that \mathcal{F} is not normal in D. Without loss of generality, we assume that \mathcal{F} is not normal at z = 0.

Set $H(z) - \alpha(0)$ have two distinct zeros β_1 and β_2 .

By Lemma 2.1, there exists a sequence of points $z_n \to 0$, $f_n \in \mathcal{F}$ and $\rho_n \to 0^+$ such that

$$F_n(\xi) := f_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi) \longrightarrow F(\xi) \tag{3.1}$$

uniformly on any compact subset of C, where $F(\xi)$ is a nonconstant entire function. Hence,

$$H \circ f_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi) - \alpha(z_n + \rho_n \xi) \longrightarrow H \circ F(\xi) - \alpha(0)$$
(3.2)

uniformly on any compact subset of C.

We claim that $H \circ F(\xi) - \alpha(0)$ had at least two distinct zeros.

If $F(\xi)$ is a nonconstant polynomial, then both $F(\xi) - \beta_1$ and $F(\xi) - \beta_2$ have zeros. So $H \circ F(\xi) - \alpha(0)$ has at least two distinct zeros.

If $F(\xi)$ is a transcendental entire function, then either $F(\xi) - \beta_1$ or $F(\xi) - \beta_2$ has infinite zeros. Indeed, suppose that it is not true, then by Picard's theorem [2], we obtain that $F(\xi)$ is a polynomial, a contradiction.

Thus, the claim gives that there exist ξ_1 and ξ_2 such that

$$H \circ F(\xi_1) - \alpha(0) = 0; \quad H \circ F(\xi_2) - \alpha(0) = 0 \quad (\xi_1 \neq \xi_2).$$
 (3.3)

We choose a positive number δ small enough such that $D_1 \cap D_2 = \emptyset$ and $F(\xi) - \alpha(0)$ has no other zeros in $D_1 \cup D_2$ except for ξ_1 and ξ_2 , where

$$D_1 = \{ \xi \in \mathbb{C}; |\xi - \xi_1| < \delta \}, \qquad D_2 = \{ \xi \in \mathbb{C}; |\xi - \xi_2| < \delta \}. \tag{3.4}$$

By hypothesis and Hurwitz's theorem [14], for sufficiently large n there exist points $\xi_{1n} \in D_1$, $\xi_{2n} \in D_2$ such that

$$H \circ f_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi_{1n}) - \alpha(z_n + \rho_n \xi_{1n}) = 0,$$

$$H \circ f_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi_{2n}) - \alpha(z_n + \rho_n \xi_{2n}) = 0.$$
(3.5)

Note that $H \circ f_m(z)$ and $H \circ f_n(z)$ share $\alpha(z)$ IM; it follows that

$$H \circ f_m(z_n + \rho_n \xi_{1n}) - \alpha(z_n + \rho_n \xi_{1n}) = 0,$$

$$H \circ f_m(z_n + \rho_n \xi_{2n}) - \alpha(z_n + \rho_n \xi_{2n}) = 0.$$
(3.6)

Taking $n \to \infty$, we obtain

$$H \circ f_m(0) - \alpha(0) = 0. \tag{3.7}$$

Since the zeros of

$$H \circ f_m(\xi) - \alpha(\xi) \tag{3.8}$$

have no accumulation points, we have

$$z_n + \rho_n \xi_{1n} = 0, \qquad z_n + \rho_n \xi_{2n} = 0,$$
 (3.9)

or equivalently

$$\xi_{1n} = -\frac{z_n}{\rho_n}, \qquad \xi_{2n} = -\frac{z_n}{\rho_n}.$$
 (3.10)

This contradicts with the facts that $\xi_{1n} \in D_1$, $\xi_{2n} \in D_2$, and $D_1 \cap D_2 = \emptyset$.

Case 2. $\alpha(z)$ is nonconstant, and there exists $z_0 \in D$ such that $H(z) - \alpha(z_0) := (z - \beta_0)^p Q(z)$ has only one distinct zero β_0 , and suppose that the multiplicities l and k of zeros of $f(z) - \beta_0$ and $\alpha(z) - \alpha(z_0)$ at z_0 , respectively, satisfy $k \neq lp$, possibly outside finite $f(z) \in \mathcal{F}$, where $Q(\beta_0) \neq 0$.

We shall prove that \mathcal{F} is normal at $z_0 \in D$. Without loss of generality, we can assume that $z_0 = 0$.

By $\alpha(z)$ nonconstant and analytic, we see that there exists a neighborhood U(0,r) such that

$$\alpha(z) \neq \alpha(0). \tag{3.11}$$

Hypothesis implies that $H(z) - \alpha(0)$ has only one zero β_0 , that is, $H(\beta_0) = \alpha(0)$.

We claim that \mathcal{F} is normal at $z_0 \in U^0(0,r)$ for small enough r. In fact, $H(z) - \alpha(z_0)$ has infinite zeros by Picard theorem. Hence, the conclusion of Case 1 tells us that this claim is true.

Next, we prove \mathcal{F} is normal at z = 0. For any $\{f_n(z)\} \subset \mathcal{F}$, by the former claim, there exists a subsequence of $\{f_n(z)\}$, denoted $\{f_n(z)\}$ for the sake of simplicity, such that

$$f_n(z) \longrightarrow G(z),$$
 (3.12)

uniformly on a punctured disc $U^0(0,r) \subset U$.

By hypothesis, we see that $\{H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(z)\}$ is an analytic family in the disc U(0,r). If $\{f_n(z)\}$ is not normal at z=0, then Lemma 2.3 gives that $G(z)=\infty$, on a punctured disc $U^0(0,r)$ and $f_n(z'_n)=0$ for a sequence of points $z'_n\to 0$.

We claim that there exists a sequence of points $z_n \in U(0,r)$ $(z_n \to 0)$ such that $H \circ f_n(z_n) - \alpha(z_n) = 0$.

In fact we may find ρ , $\epsilon > 0$ such that $|H(z) - \alpha(0)| > \epsilon$ for $|z - \beta_0| = \rho$. Next, we choose δ with $0 < \delta < r$ such that $|\alpha(z) - \alpha(0)| < \epsilon$ for $|z| < \delta$.

Since $f_n(z) \to \infty$ on $U^0(0,r)$ and $f_n(z'_n) = 0$ for a sequence of points $z'_n \to 0$, we know that if n sufficiently large, then

$$|(f_n(z) - \beta) - f_n(z)| = |\beta| \le |\beta_0| + \rho < |f_n(z)|$$
 (3.13)

for $|z| = \delta$ and $\beta \in U(\beta_0, \rho)$. For large n, we also have $|z'_n| < \delta$, and thus we deduce that from Rouché's theorem that $f_n(z)$ takes the value $\beta \in U(0, \delta)$, that is, we have $f_n(U(0, \delta)) \supset U(\beta, \rho)$ for large n. Since also $f_n(\partial U(0, \delta)) \cap U(\beta, \rho) = \emptyset$ for large n, we find a component U of $f_n^{-1}(U(\beta_0, \rho))$ contained in $U(0, \delta)$ for such n. Moreover, U is a Jordan domain, and $f_n: U \to U(\beta_0, \rho)$ is a proper map.

For $z \in \partial U$, we then have $f_n(z) \in \partial U(\beta_0, \rho)$, and thus $|H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(0)| > \epsilon$. Hence

$$|H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(z) - (H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(0))| = |\alpha(z) - \alpha(0)| < \epsilon < |H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(0)|$$
 (3.14)

for $z \in \partial U$. Now f_n , in particular, takes the value β_0 in U, say, $f_n(z_n'') = \beta_0$ with $z_n'' \in U$. Hence, $H \circ f_n(z_n'') - \alpha(0) = 0$, and thus Rouché's theorem now shows that our claim holds.

By the similar argument as Case 1, we obtain that $z_n = 0$ for sufficiently large n. Because $H(z) - \alpha(0) = (z - \xi_0)^p H(z)$, we have

$$H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(z) = (f_n(z) - \xi_0)^p H(f_n(z)) - (\alpha(z) - \alpha(0)),$$

$$(f_n(0) - \xi_0)^p H(f_n(0)) = H \circ f_n(0) - \alpha(0) = 0.$$
(3.15)

Hence,

$$H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(z) = z^k \left[z^{lp-k} h_n(z) - \beta(z) \right], \quad \text{if } lp > k;$$

$$H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(z) = z^{lp} \left[h_n(z) - z^{k-lp} \beta(z) \right], \quad \text{if } lp < k,$$

$$(3.16)$$

where $h_n(z)$, $\beta(z)$ are analytic functions and $h_n(0) \neq 0$, $\beta(0) \neq 0$.

Set $H_n(z) := z^{lp-k}h_n(z) - \beta(z)$, if lp > k; or $H_n(z) := h_n(z) - z^{k-lp}\beta(z)$, if lp < k. Thus, $H_n(0) = -\beta(0) \neq 0$ or $H_n(0) = h_n(0) \neq 0$. Noting that $lp \neq k$, we see that $\{H_n(z)\}$ is an analytic family and normal in $U^0(0,r)$.

By the same argument as above, there exists a sequence of points $z_n^* \in U'$ such that $z_n^* \to 0$, and $H_n(z_n^*) = 0$. Obviously, $z_n^* \neq 0$ and

$$H \circ f_n(z_n^*) - \alpha(z_n^*) = z_n^* H_n(z_n^*) = 0. \tag{3.17}$$

Noting that $H \circ f_n(z)$ and $H \circ f_m(z)$ share $\alpha(z)$ IM, we obtain that

$$H \circ f_m(z_n^*) - \alpha(z_n^*) = 0 \tag{3.18}$$

for each m. That is, $z_n^* H_m(z_n^*) = 0$. Noting that $z_n^* \neq 0$, we deduce that $H_m(z_n^*) = 0$. Thus, taking $n \to \infty$, $H_m(0) = 0$, contradicting the hypothesis for $H_m(0)$.

Case 3. There exists a $z_0 \in D$ such that $H(z) - \alpha(z_0)$ has no zero, and $\alpha(z)$ is nonconstant.

Suppose that \mathcal{F} is not normal in D. Without loss of generality, we assume that \mathcal{F} is not normal at z = 0.

By Picard theorem and (3.11), we know that $H(z) - \alpha(z_0)$ has at least two distinct zeros at any $z_0 \in U^0(0,r)$ for small enough r. The result of Case 1 tell us that \mathcal{F} is normal in $U^0(0,r)$.

Thus, for any $\{f_n(z)\}\subset \mathcal{F}$, by the former conclusion and Lemma 2.3, there exists a subsequence of $\{f_n(z)\}$, denoted by $\{f_n(z)\}$ for the sake of simplicity, such that

$$f_n(z) \longrightarrow \infty,$$
 (3.19)

uniformly on a punctured disc $U^0(0,r) \subset U$ and $f_n(z'_n) = 0$ for a sequence of points $z'_n \to 0$. Obviously, $\{H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(z)\}$ is an analytic normal family in the punctured disc $U^0(0,r)$ for small enough r. We consider two subcases.

Subcase 1 ($\{H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(z)\}$ is not normal at z = 0). Using Lemma 2.3 for $\{H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(z)\}$, we get that there exists a sequence of points $z_n \in U(0,r)$ such that $z_n \to 0$ and $H \circ f_n(z_n) - \alpha(z_n) = 0$.

Noting that $H \circ f_m(z)$ and $H \circ f_n(z)$ share $\alpha(z)$ IM, and $H(z) - \alpha(0)$ has no zero, it follows that $z_n \neq 0$ and $H \circ f_m(z_n) - \alpha(z_n) = 0$. Taking $n \to \infty$, we obtain $H \circ f_m(0) - \alpha(0) = 0$. A contradiction with the hypothesis that $H(z) - \alpha(0)$ has no zero.

Subcase 2 ($\{H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(z)\}$ is normal at z = 0). Then, $\{(H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(0))/(\alpha(z) - \alpha(0))\}$ is normal in $U^0(0,r)$, which tends to a limit function h(z), which is either identically infinite or analytic in $U^0(0,r)$. Set

$$M_n := \min\{|f_n(z)| : |z| = r\},\tag{3.20}$$

noting that $M_n \to \infty$ as $n \to \infty$. If n is large enough, we have $z'_n \in U(0,r)$, and hence $U(0,M_n) \subseteq f_n(U(0,r))$. Denote $\partial f_n(U(0,r))$ by Γ_n , and note that the Γ_n are closed curves, arbitrarily distant from and surrounding the origin.

Suppose that $h(z) \equiv \infty$ on $U^0(0,r)$. Since $h_n(z) := (H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(0))/(\alpha(z) - \alpha(0)) \to \infty$ locally uniformly on $\partial U(0,r)$, there exists, for arbitrarily large positive M, an $n_0(M)$ such that, for $n \ge n_0$, $|h_n(z)| \ge M$ on $\partial U(0,r)$. Thus, we have $|H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(0)| \ge M|\alpha(z) - \alpha(0)|$ on $\partial U(0,r)$. Hence, for large n, H(z) is bounded away from $\alpha(0)$ on the curves Γ_n , and this contradicts Iversen's theorem [15].

On the other hand, suppose that h(z) is analytic on $U^0(0,r)$. Then, there exists some constant L such that $|h(z)| \le L$ on $\partial U(0,r)$, and so, for large n, $|h_n(z)| \le 2L$ on $\partial U(0,r)$. Hence, $|H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(0)| \le 2L|\alpha(z) - \alpha(0)|$ on $\partial U(0,r)$. Again, H(z) is therefore bounded away from ∞ of its omitted value on the curves Γ_n , contradicting Iversen's theorem.

Therefore ₹ is normal in Case 3.

Theorem 1.1 is proved completely.

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