UNIQUENESS OF NONLINEAR DIFFERENTIAL POLYNOMIALS SHARING SIMPLE AND DOUBLE 1-POINTS

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We prove two theorems on the uniqueness of nonlinear differential polynomials, one of which improves a result of Fang and Hong.

1. Introduction, definitions, and results

Let *f* and *g* be two nonconstant meromorphic functions defined in the open complex plane \mathbb{C} . Let *k* be a positive integer or infinity and $a \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$. We denote by $E_{k}(a; f)$ the set of all *a*-points of *f* with multiplicities not exceeding *k*, where an *a*-point is counted according to its multiplicity. If for some $a \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$, $E_{\infty}(a; f) = E_{\infty}(a;g)$, we say that *f*, *g* share the value *a* CM (counting multiplicities).

During the last few years, a considerable amount of work is being done on the uniqueness problem concerning differential polynomials (cf. [1, 3, 5, 8]). Recently, Fang and Hong [1] proved the following result.

THEOREM 1.1 [1]. Let f and g be two transcendental entire functions and let $n(\geq 11)$ be an integer. If $f^n(f-1)f'$ and $g^n(g-1)g'$ share 1 CM, then $f \equiv g$.

In the paper, we prove the following two theorems, the first of which improves Theorem 1.1.

THEOREM 1.2. Let f and g be two transcendental entire functions and let $n(\geq 10)$ be an integer. If $E_{2}(1; f^n(f-1)f') = E_{2}(1; g^n(g-1)g')$, then $f \equiv g$.

THEOREM 1.3. Let f and g be two transcendental meromorphic functions such that $\Theta(\infty; f) + \Theta(\infty; g) > 4/(n+1)$ and let $n(\geq 17)$ be an integer. If $E_{2}(1; f^n(f-1)f') = E_{2}(1; g^n(g-1)g')$, then $f \equiv g$.

The following example shows that the condition $\Theta(\infty; f) + \Theta(\infty; g) > 4/(n+1)$ is sharp for Theorem 1.3.

Example 1.4. Let

$$f = \frac{(n+2)(1-h^{n+1})}{(n+1)(1-h^{n+2})}, \qquad g = \frac{(n+2)h(1-h^{n+1})}{(n+1)(1-h^{n+2})}, \qquad h = \frac{\alpha^2(e^z-1)}{e^z-\alpha}, \tag{1.1}$$

where $\alpha = \exp(2\pi i/(n+2))$ and *n* is a positive integer.

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Then, T(r, f) = (n+1)T(r, h) + O(1) and T(r, g) = (n+1)T(r, h) + O(1). Further, we see that $h \neq \alpha, \alpha^2$ and a root of h = 1 is not a pole of f and g. Hence, $\Theta(\infty; f) = \Theta(\infty; g) = 2/(n+1)$. Also $f^{n+1}(f/(n+2) - 1/(n+1)) \equiv g^{n+1}(g/(n+2) - 1/(n+1))$ and $f^n(f-1)f' \equiv g^n(g-1)g'$ but $f \neq g$.

Though we do not explain the standard notations of the value distribution theory (see [2]), we give the following definitions.

Definition 1.5 [4]. For $a \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$, denote by $N(r, a; f \mid = 1)$ the counting functions of simple *a*-points of *f*.

For a positive integer *m*, denote by $N(r, a; f | \le m)$ ($N(r, a; f | \ge m)$) the counting function of those *a*-points of *f* whose multiplicities are not greater (less) than *m*, where each *a*-point is counted according to its multiplicity.

 $\overline{N}(r,a; f \mid \leq m)$ and $\overline{N}(r,a; f \mid \geq m)$ are defined similarly, where in counting the *a*-points of *f*, the multiplicities are ignored.

Also N(r,a; f | < m), N(r,a; f | > m), $\overline{N}(r,a; f | < m)$ and $\overline{N}(r,a; f | > m)$ are defined analogously.

Definition 1.6 [12]. For $a \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$, put

$$N_k(r,a;f) = \overline{N}(r,a;f) + \overline{N}(r,a;f| \ge 2) + \overline{N}(r,a;f| \ge 3) + \dots + \overline{N}(r,a;f| \ge k), \quad (1.2)$$

where *k* is a positive integer.

For a meromorphic function f, we denote by S(r, f) any function satisfying $S(r, f)/T(r, f) \rightarrow 0$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$ possibly outside a set of finite linear measure.

2. Lemmas

In this section, we present some lemmas which are needed in the sequel. We denote by h the function

$$h = \left(\frac{f''}{f'} - \frac{2f'}{f-1}\right) - \left(\frac{g''}{g'} - \frac{2g'}{g-1}\right).$$
 (2.1)

LEMMA 2.1. If $E_{1}(1; f) = E_{1}(1; g)$ and $h \neq 0$, then

$$N(r,1;f \mid \le 1) = N(r,1;g \mid \le 1) \le N(r,0;h) \le N(r,\infty;h) + S(r,f) + S(r,g).$$
(2.2)

Proof. Since the functions f and g have the same simple one-points, there exists a meromorphic function α such that $\alpha \neq 0$ when f - 1 has a simple zero and α has no simple zero where $f \neq 1$ and $g = \alpha(f - 1) + 1$. It is now easy to verify by direct computation that the function h is zero whenever f - 1 has a simple zero. This proves the lemma.

LEMMA 2.2. If $E_{2}(1; f) = E_{2}(1; g)$ and $h \neq 0$, then

$$N(r,\infty;h) \leq \overline{N}(r,\infty;f \mid \geq 2) + \overline{N}(r,0;f \mid \geq 2) + \overline{N}(r,\infty;g \mid \geq 2)$$

+ $\overline{N}(r,0;g \mid \geq 2) + \overline{N}(r,1;f \mid \geq 3) + \overline{N}(r,1;g \mid \geq 3)$
+ $\overline{N}_0(r,0;f') + \overline{N}_0(r,0;g'),$ (2.3)

where $\overline{N}_0(r,0;f')$ and $\overline{N}_0(r,0;g')$ are the reduced counting functions of the zeros of f' and g' which are not the zeros of f(f-1) and g(g-1), respectively.

Proof. We can easily verify that possible poles of *h* occur at (i) multiple zeros of *f*, *g*; (ii) multiple poles of *f*, *g*; (iii) zeros of f - 1, g - 1 with multiplicities greater than or equal to 3; (iv) zeros of f' which are not the zeros of f(f - 1); (v) zeros of g' which are not the zeros of g(g - 1).

Since all the poles of h are simple, the lemma follows from above. This proves the lemma.

LEMMA 2.3 [6]. If $N(r,0; f^{(k)} | f \neq 0)$ denotes the counting function of those zeros of $f^{(k)}$ which are not the zeros of f, where a zero of $f^{(k)}$ is counted according to its multiplicity, then

$$N(r,0;f^{(k)} | f \neq 0) \le k\overline{N}(r,\infty;f) + N(r,0;f | < k) + k\overline{N}(r,0;f | \ge k) + S(r,f).$$
(2.4)

LEMMA 2.4. If $E_{2}(1; f) = E_{2}(1; g)$ and $h \neq 0$, then

$$T(r,f) + T(r,g) \leq \{3\overline{N}(r,0;f) + 2\overline{N}(r,0;f \mid \geq 2)\} + \{3\overline{N}(r,\infty;f) + 2\overline{N}(r,\infty;f \mid \geq 2)\}$$

+
$$\{3\overline{N}(r,0;g) + 2\overline{N}(r,0;g \mid \geq 2)\} + \{3\overline{N}(r,\infty;g) + 2\overline{N}(r,\infty;g \mid \geq 2)\}$$

+
$$S(r,f) + S(r,g).$$
(2.5)

Proof. By Nevanlinna's second fundamental theorem and Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2, we get

$$T(r,f) \leq \overline{N}(r,0;f) + \overline{N}(r,\infty;f) + \overline{N}(r,1;f) - N_0(r,0;f') + S(r,f)$$

$$\leq \overline{N}(r,0;f) + \overline{N}(r,\infty;f) + \overline{N}(r,1;f \mid \geq 2) + \overline{N}(r,0;f \mid \geq 0)$$

$$+ \overline{N}(r,\infty;f \mid \geq 2) + \overline{N}(r,0;g \mid \geq 2) + \overline{N}(r,1;f \mid \geq 3)$$

$$+ \overline{N}(r,1;g \mid \geq 3) + \overline{N}_0(r,0;g') + S(r,f) + S(r,g).$$
(2.6)

Also we get

$$\overline{N}(r,1;f \mid \geq 2) + \overline{N}(r,1;f \mid \geq 3) \leq N(r,0;f' \mid f \neq 0),
\overline{N}(r,1;g \mid \geq 3) + \overline{N}_0(r,0;g') \leq N(r,0;g' \mid g \neq 0).$$
(2.7)

So from (2.6), we get

$$T(r,f) \leq \overline{N}(r,0;f) + \overline{N}(r,0;f \mid \geq 2) + \overline{N}(r,\infty;f) + \overline{N}(r,\infty;f \mid \geq 2)$$

+ $\overline{N}(r,0;g \mid \geq 2) + \overline{N}(r,\infty;g \mid \geq 2) + N(r,0;f' \mid f \neq 0)$
+ $N(r,0;g' \mid g \neq 0) + S(r,f) + S(r,g).$ (2.8)

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Similarly,

$$T(r,g) \leq \overline{N}(r,0;g) + \overline{N}(r,0;g \mid \geq 2) + \overline{N}(r,\infty;g) + \overline{N}(r,\infty;g \mid \geq 2)$$

+ $\overline{N}(r,0;f \mid \geq 2) + \overline{N}(r,\infty;f \mid \geq 2) + N(r,0;f' \mid f \neq 0)$
+ $N(r,0;g' \mid g \neq 0) + S(r,f) + S(r,g).$ (2.9)

Adding (2.8) and (2.9) and using Lemma 2.3, we obtain the following lemma. \Box LEMMA 2.5 [10]. Let f be a nonconstant meromorphic function and $P(f) = a_0 + a_1 f + a_2 f^2 + \cdots + a_n f^n$, where a_0, a_1, \ldots, a_n are constants and $a_n \neq 0$. Then

$$T(r, P(f)) = nT(r, f) + O(1).$$
(2.10)

LEMMA 2.6. Let f and g be two nonconstant meromorphic functions such that

$$\Theta(\infty; f) + \Theta(\infty; g) > \frac{4}{n+1}, \tag{2.11}$$

where $n(\geq 2)$ is an integer. Then

$$f^{n+1}(af+b) \equiv g^{n+1}(ag+b)$$
 (2.12)

implies that $f \equiv g$, *where a, b are finite nonzero constants. Proof.* Let

$$f^{n+1}(af+b) \equiv g^{n+1}(ag+b)$$
(2.13)

and $f \neq g$. We consider the following two cases.

Case 1. Let y = g/f be a constant. Then $y \neq 1$ and from (2.13), we get

$$af(1-y^{n+2}) \equiv -b(1-y^{n+1}),$$
 (2.14)

from which it follows that $y^{n+1} \neq 1$, $y^{n+2} \neq 1$, and

$$f \equiv -\frac{b(1-y^{n+1})}{a(1-y^{n+2})}.$$
(2.15)

This is a contradiction because f is nonconstant.

Case 2. Let y = g/f be not a constant. Then from (2.13), we get

$$f \equiv \frac{b}{a} \left(\frac{y^{n+1}}{1+y+y^2+\dots+y^{n+1}} - 1 \right).$$
(2.16)

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From (2.16), we obtain by Nevanlinna's first fundamental theorem and Lemma 2.5

$$T(r, f) = T\left(r, \sum_{j=0}^{n+1} \frac{1}{y^j}\right) + S(r, y)$$

= $(n+1)T\left(r, \frac{1}{y}\right) + S(r, y)$
= $(n+1)T(r, y) + S(r, y).$ (2.17)

Now we note that a pole of *y* is not a pole of $(b/a)(y^{n+1}/(1 + y + y^2 + \dots + y^{n+1}) - 1)$. So from (2.16), we get

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n+1} \overline{N}(r, u_k; y) \le \overline{N}(r, \infty; f),$$
(2.18)

where $u_k = \exp(2k\pi i/(n+2))$ for k = 1, 2, ..., n+1.

So by Nevanlinna's second fundamental theorem, we obtain

$$(n-1)T(r,y) \leq \sum_{k=1}^{n+1} \overline{N}(r,u_k;y) + S(r,y)$$

$$\leq \overline{N}(r,\infty;f) + S(r,y)$$

$$< (1 - \Theta(\infty;f) + \varepsilon)T(r,f) + S(r,y)$$

$$= (n+1)(1 - \Theta(\infty;f) + \varepsilon)T(r,y) + S(r,y),$$

(2.19)

where $\varepsilon(>0)$.

Again putting $y_1 = 1/y$, noting that $T(r, y) = T(r, y_1) + O(1)$, and proceeding as above we get

$$(n-1)T(r,y) \le (n+1)\left(1 - \Theta(\infty;g) + \varepsilon\right)T(r,y) + S(r,y).$$

$$(2.20)$$

Since $\Theta(\infty; f) + \Theta(\infty; g) > 4/(n+1)$, there exists a $\delta(>0)$ such that $\Theta(\infty; f) + \Theta(\infty; g) > \delta + 4/(n+1)$. Now adding (2.19) and (2.20), we obtain

$$2(n-1)T(r,y) \le (n+1)(2 - \Theta(\infty; f) - \Theta(\infty; g) + 2\varepsilon)T(r,y) + S(r,y)$$

$$\le (n+1)\left(2 - \frac{4}{n+1} - \delta + 2\varepsilon\right)T(r,y) + S(r,y),$$
(2.21)

and so $(\delta - 2\varepsilon)T(r, y) \le S(r, y)$, which is a contradiction for any $\varepsilon(0 < 2\varepsilon < \delta)$. Therefore, $f \equiv g$ and the proof of the lemma is complete.

LEMMA 2.7. Let f and g be nonconstant meromorphic functions. Then

$$f^{n}(f-1)f'g^{n}(g-1)g' \neq 1, \qquad (2.22)$$

where $n(\geq 5)$ is an integer.

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Proof. Let

$$f^{n}(f-1)f'g^{n}(g-1)g' \equiv 1.$$
(2.23)

Let z_0 be a 1-point of f with multiplicity $p(\ge 1)$. Then z_0 is a pole of g with multiplicity $q(\ge 1)$ such that

$$2p - 1 = (n+2)q + 1, (2.24)$$

that is,

$$2p = (n+2)q + 2 \ge n+4, \tag{2.25}$$

that is,

$$p \ge \frac{n+4}{2}.\tag{2.26}$$

Let z_0 be a zero of f with multiplicity $p(\ge 1)$ and let it be a pole of g with multiplicity $q(\ge 1)$. Then

$$(n+1)p - 1 = (n+2)q + 1.$$
 (2.27)

From (2.27), we get

$$q+2 = (n+1)(p-q) \ge n+1, \tag{2.28}$$

that is,

$$q \ge n - 1. \tag{2.29}$$

Again from (2.27), we get

$$(n+1)p = (n+2)q + 2 \ge (n+2)(n-1) + 2, \tag{2.30}$$

that is,

$$p \ge \frac{(n+2)(n-1)+2}{n+1} = n.$$
 (2.31)

Since a pole of f is either a zero of g(g - 1) or a zero of g', we see that

$$\overline{N}(r,\infty;f) \leq \overline{N}(r,0;g) + \overline{N}(r,1;g) + \overline{N}_0(r,0;g')
\leq \frac{1}{n}N(r,0;g) + \frac{2}{n+4}N(r,1;g) + \overline{N}_0(r,0;g')
\leq \left(\frac{1}{n} + \frac{2}{n+4}\right)T(r,g) + \overline{N}_0(r,0;g').$$
(2.32)

Now by Nevanlinna's second fundamental theorem, we obtain

$$T(r,f) \leq \overline{N}(r,0;f) + \overline{N}(r,1;f) + \overline{N}(r,\infty;f) - \overline{N}_0(r,0;f') + S(r,f)$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{n}N(r,0;f) + \frac{2}{n+4}N(r,1;f) + \overline{N}(r,\infty;f) - \overline{N}_0(r,0;f') + S(r,f),$$
(2.33)

that is,

$$\left(1 - \frac{1}{n} - \frac{2}{n+4}\right)T(r,f) \le \left(\frac{1}{n} + \frac{2}{n+4}\right)T(r,g) + \overline{N}_0(r,0;g') - \overline{N}_0(r,0;f') + S(r,f).$$
(2.34)

Similarly, we get

$$\left(1 - \frac{1}{n} - \frac{2}{n+4}\right)T(r,g) \le \left(\frac{1}{n} + \frac{2}{n+4}\right)T(r,f) + \overline{N}_0(r,0;f') - \overline{N}_0(r,0;g') + S(r,g).$$
(2.35)

Adding (2.34) and (2.35), we get

$$\left(1 - \frac{2}{n} - \frac{4}{n+4}\right) \left\{T(r,f) + T(r,g)\right\} \le S(r,f) + S(r,g),$$
(2.36)

which is a contradiction because 1 - (2/n) - 4/(n+4) > 0. This proves the lemma. Lemma 2.8. Let *f* and *g* be two nonconstant meromorphic functions and

$$F = f^{n+1}\left(\frac{f}{n+2} - \frac{1}{n+1}\right), \qquad G = g^{n+1}\left(\frac{g}{n+2} - \frac{1}{n+1}\right), \tag{2.37}$$

where $n(\geq 4)$ is an integer. Then $F' \equiv G'$ implies that $F \equiv G$.

Proof. If $F' \equiv G'$, then $F \equiv G + c$, where *c* is a constant. Let $c \neq 0$. Then by Nevanlinna's second fundamental theorem and Lemma 2.5, we get

$$(n+2)T(r,f) \leq \overline{N}(r,\infty;F) + \overline{N}(r,0;F) + \overline{N}(r,c;F) + S(r,F)$$

$$= \overline{N}(r,\infty;f) + \overline{N}(r,0;f) + \overline{N}\left(r,\frac{n+2}{n+1};f\right) + \overline{N}(r,0;g)$$

$$+ \overline{N}\left(r,\frac{n+2}{n+1};g\right) + S(r,f) \leq 3T(r,f) + 2T(r,g) + S(r,f),$$

$$(2.38)$$

that is,

$$(n-1)T(r,f) \le 2T(r,g) + S(r,f).$$
(2.39)

Similarly, we get

$$(n-1)T(r,g) \le 2T(r,f) + S(r,g). \tag{2.40}$$

This shows that

$$(n-3)T(r,f) + (n-3)T(r,g) \le S(r,f) + S(r,g),$$
(2.41)

which is a contradiction. Therefore c = 0 and so $F \equiv G$. This proves the lemma.

LEMMA 2.9. If F and G are defined as in Lemma 2.8, then

- (i) $T(r,F) \le T(r,F') + N(r,0;f) + N(r,(n+2)/(n+1);f) N(r,1;f) N(r,0;f') + S(r,f),$
- (ii) $T(r,G) \le T(r,G') + N(r,0;g) + N(r,(n+2)/(n+1);g) N(r,1;g) N(r,0;g') + S(r,g).$

Proof. We prove (i) because (ii) is similar. Now in view of Nevanlinna's first fundamental theorem and Lemma 2.5, we get

$$\begin{split} T(r,F) &= T\left(r,\frac{1}{F}\right) + O(1) \\ &= N(r,0;F) + m\left(r,\frac{1}{F}\right) + O(1) \le N(r,0;F) + m\left(r,\frac{F'}{F}\right) + m\left(r,\frac{1}{F'}\right) \\ &= T(r,F') + N(r,0;F) - N(r,0;F') + S(r,F) \\ &= T(r,F') + (n+1)N(r,0;f) + N\left(r,\frac{n+2}{n+1};f\right) - nN(r,0;f) \\ &- N(r,1;f) - N(r,0;f') + S(r,f) \\ &= T(r,F') + N(r,0;f) + N\left(r,\frac{n+2}{n+1};f\right) - N(r,1;f) - N(r,0;f') + S(r,f). \end{split}$$
(2.42)

This proves the lemma.

LEMMA 2.10 [7]. Let f be a nonconstant meromorphic function and let k be a positive integer. Then

$$N_2(r,0;f^{(k)}) \le k\overline{N}(r,\infty;f) + N_{2+k}(r,0;f) + S(r,f).$$
(2.43)

LEMMA 2.11 [13]. If $h \equiv 0$ then f, g share 1 CM.

Proof. Since $h \equiv 0$, integrating, we get $f'/(f-1)^2 \equiv Ag'/(g-1)^2$, where *A* is a nonzero constant. From this, the lemma follows.

LEMMA 2.12 [9, 11]. If f and g share 1 CM, then one of the following cases holds:

(i) $T(r, f) + T(r, g) \le 2\{N_2(r, 0; f) + N_2(r, 0; g) + N_2(r, \infty; f) + N_2(r, \infty; g)\} + S(r, f) + S(r, g);$ (ii) $f \equiv g;$ (iii) $fg \equiv 1.$

3. Proof of theorems

We prove Theorem 1.3 only because Theorem 1.2 can be proved similarly noting that in this case, $\overline{N}(r, \infty; f) \equiv \overline{N}(r, \infty; g) \equiv 0$.

Proof of Theorem 1.3. Let *F* and *G* be defined as in Lemma 2.8 and $F_1 = F' = f^n(f-1)f'$, $G_1 = G' = g^n(g-1)g'$. Also we put

$$H = \left(\frac{F_1''}{F_1'} - \frac{2F_1'}{F_1 - 1}\right) - \left(\frac{G_1''}{G_1'} - \frac{2G_1'}{G_1 - 1}\right).$$
(3.1)

If possible, let $H \neq 0$. Then by Lemmas 2.4 and 2.9, we get

$$\begin{split} T(r,F) + T(r,G) &\leq T(r,F') + T(r,G') + N(r,0;f) + N\left(r,\frac{n+2}{n+1};f\right) \\ &\quad - N(r,1;f) - N(r,0;f') + N(r,0;g) + N\left(r,\frac{n+2}{n+1};g\right) \\ &\quad - N(r,1;g) - N(r,0;g') + S(r,f) + S(r,g) \\ &\leq \left\{ 3\overline{N}(r,0;f^n(f-1)f') + 2\overline{N}(r,0;f^n(f-1)f' \mid \geq 2) \right\} \\ &\quad + \left\{ 3\overline{N}(r,0;g^n(g-1)g') + 2\overline{N}(r,0;g^n(g-1)g' \mid \geq 2) \right\} \\ &\quad + 5\overline{N}(r,\infty;f) + 5\overline{N}(r,\infty;g) + N(r,0;f) + N\left(r,\frac{n+2}{n+1};f\right) \\ &\quad - N(r,1;f) - N(r,0;f') + N(r,0;g) + N\left(r,\frac{n+2}{n+1};g\right) \\ &\quad - N(r,1;g) - N(r,0;g') + S(r,f) + S(r,g) \\ &\leq 6N(r,0;f) + 2N_2(r,1;f) + 2N_2(r,0;f') + 5\overline{N}(r,\infty;f) \\ &\quad + N\left(r,\frac{n+2}{n+1};f\right) + 6N(r,0;g) + 2N_2(r,1;g) + 2N_2(r,0;g') \\ &\quad + 5\overline{N}(r,\infty;g) + N\left(r,\frac{n+2}{n+1};g\right) + S(r,f) + S(r,g). \end{split}$$

So by Lemmas 2.5 and 2.10, we get

$$(n+2)T(r,f) + (n+2)T(r,g) \le 9T(r,f) + 7\overline{N}(r,\infty;f) + 2N_3(r,0;f) + 9T(r,g) + 7\overline{N}(r,\infty;g) + 2N_3(r,0;g) + S(r,f) + S(r,g) \le 18T(r,f) + 18T(r,g) + S(r,f) + S(r,g),$$
(3.3)

that is,

$$(n-16)T(r,f) + (n-16)T(r,g) \le S(r,f) + S(r,g), \tag{3.4}$$

which is a contradiction.

Therefore $H \equiv 0$ and so by Lemma 2.11, F_1 and G_1 share 1 CM. In a similar manner as above, we can verify that the following inequality does not hold:

$$T(r,F_1) + T(r,G_1) \le 2\{N_2(r,0;F_1) + N_2(r,\infty;F_1) + N_2(r,0;G_1) + N_2(r,\infty;G_1)\} + S(r,F_1) + S(r,G_1).$$
(3.5)

So by Lemmas 2.12, 2.7, 2.8, and 2.6, we get $f \equiv g$. This proves the theorem.

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