

## Further Results on the Zeros of the Derivative of Oscillating Polynomials with Laguerre Weight \*

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Denote by  $\mathcal{V}_n(\lambda)$  the set of all weighted polynomials of the form  $f(x) = e^{-\lambda x} p(x)$  ( $\lambda > 0$ ), where  $p$  is an algebraic polynomial of degree  $n$  which has  $n$  simple real zeros. Given  $f \in \mathcal{V}_n(\lambda)$ , let  $x_1 < \dots < x_n$  and  $t_1 < \dots < t_n$  be the zeros of  $f$  and  $f'$ , respectively.

In a recent paper we proved sharp estimates of the form

$$x_k + c_k h_k \leq t_k \leq x_{k+1} - d_k h_k, \quad k = 1, \dots, n-1, \quad (1)$$

where  $h_k := x_{k+1} - x_k$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, n-1$ , and  $\{c_k\}_{k=1}^{n-1}$  ( $\{d_k\}_{k=1}^{n-1}$ ) are explicit expressions, depending on  $\lambda$  and  $h_k$ .

Here we present improvements of (1) of the form

$$x_k + c_k^* h_k \leq t_k \leq x_{k+1} - d_k^* h_k, \quad k = 1, \dots, n-1,$$

where  $\{c_k^*\}_{k=1}^{n-1}$  ( $\{d_k^*\}_{k=1}^{n-1}$ ) depend on  $\lambda, x_1, x_k, x_{k+1}$  ( $\lambda, x_k, x_{k+1}, x_n$ ).

We also give numerical examples and comparisons.

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### 1. Introduction and Statement of the Results

Denote by  $\pi_n$  the set of all real algebraic polynomials of degree at most  $n$ . Let  $\mathcal{P}_n$  be the subset of  $\pi_n$  which consists of the oscillating polynomials, i.e. polynomials from  $\pi_n$  having  $n$  simple real zeros.

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Various extremal problems, concerning estimation of a derivative of a function from a given class of oscillating functions were studied in the papers Bojanov and Rahman [5], Milev [8], Bojanov [3], Bojanov and Naidenov [4], Milev and Naidenov [9, 10, 12].

A natural problem related to oscillating polynomials is to find bounds for the zeros of the derivative in terms of the zeros of the polynomial. Sharp estimates of this type for algebraic polynomials were established by Sz. Nagy [14] (see also [15, Corollary 6.5.6]).

In [13] we proved a generalization of the result of Sz. Nagy for the class of oscillating polynomials with Laguerre weight:

$$\mathcal{V}_n(\lambda) := \{e^{-\lambda x} p(x) : p \in \mathcal{P}_n\}, \quad \lambda \neq 0.$$

Our approach is based on some monotonicity properties of the zeros of the polynomials from  $\mathcal{V}_n(\lambda)$ . In our opinion, the methods used in the case of algebraic polynomials cannot be applied for the class  $\mathcal{V}_n(\lambda)$ .

Next we formulate the main result from [13]. Without loss of generality we can suppose that  $\lambda > 0$ .

**Theorem A.** *Let  $f \in \mathcal{V}_n(\lambda)$ ,  $\lambda > 0$ , has zeros  $x_1 < \dots < x_n$  and let  $t_1 < \dots < t_n$  be the zeros of  $f'$ . Then the following estimates hold true:*

$$x_k + c_k h_k \leq t_k \leq x_{k+1} - d_k h_k, \quad k = 1, \dots, n-1, \quad (2)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} h_k &= x_{k+1} - x_k, \\ c_k &= \frac{2}{n-k+1 + \lambda h_k + \sqrt{h_k^2 \lambda^2 + 2\lambda(n-k-1)h_k + (n-k+1)^2}}, \\ d_k &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{(k+1 - \lambda h_k)^2 + 4\lambda h_k} + k+1 - \lambda h_k}, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$x_n + c_n h_{n-1} \leq t_n \leq x_n + d_n h_{n-1}, \quad (3)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} c_n &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{h_{n-1}^2 \lambda^2 + 4 + \lambda h_{n-1} - 2}}, \\ d_n &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{(n - \lambda h_{n-1})^2 + 4\lambda h_{n-1}} + \lambda h_{n-1} - n}. \end{aligned}$$

In addition, the inequalities (2) and (3) are sharp.

In the present paper we obtain sharper estimates of the type (2) for  $t_k$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, n-1$  taking into account the dependence of the factors  $c_k$  and  $d_k$  on the extreme zeros of a polynomial  $f \in \mathcal{V}_n(\lambda)$ .

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $f \in \mathcal{V}_n(\lambda)$ ,  $\lambda > 0$ , has zeros  $x_1 < \dots < x_n$  and let  $t_1 < \dots < t_n$  be the zeros of  $f'$ . Then the following estimates hold true:*

$$x_k + c_k^* h_k \leq t_k \leq x_{k+1} - d_k^* h_k, \quad k = 1, \dots, n-1, \quad (4)$$

where  $h_k = x_{k+1} - x_k$ ,  $c_1^*$  ( $d_{n-1}^*$ ) coincides with  $c_1$  ( $d_{n-1}$ ) from Theorem A,  $c_k^* = c_k^*(\lambda, x_1, x_k, x_{k+1})$ ,  $k = 2, \dots, n-1$  is such that  $\underline{t}_k = x_k + c_k^* h_k$  is the intermediate root of the equation  $p_k(x) = 0$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} p_k(x) := & -\lambda(x-x_1)(x-x_k)(x-x_{k+1}) + (k-1)(x-x_k)(x-x_{k+1}) \\ & + (x-x_1)(x-x_{k+1}) + (n-k)(x-x_1)(x-x_k), \end{aligned}$$

and  $d_k^* = d_k^*(\lambda, x_k, x_{k+1}, x_n)$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, n-2$  is such that  $\bar{t}_k = x_{k+1} - d_k^* h_k$  is the smallest root of the equation  $q_k(x) = 0$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} q_k(x) := & -\lambda(x-x_k)(x-x_{k+1})(x-x_n) + k(x-x_{k+1})(x-x_n) \\ & + (x-x_k)(x-x_n) + (n-k-1)(x-x_k)(x-x_{k+1}). \end{aligned}$$

We also give numerical results illustrating the advantage of the new estimates for different distributions of the zeros. In addition, we study numerically the sharpness of the estimates depending on  $\lambda$ .

## 2. Proof of Theorem 1

We shall use the following lemmas from [13].

Let  $X := \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) : x_1 < \dots < x_n\}$ .

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $f \in \mathcal{V}_n(\lambda)$ ,  $\lambda > 0$ , has zeros  $\bar{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in X$ . Denote by  $t_i(\bar{x}) \in (x_i, x_{i+1})$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$  ( $x_{n+1} := +\infty$ ) the zeros of  $f'$ . Then for all  $i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ ,  $t_i(\bar{x})$  is a strictly increasing function of  $x_j$  in the domain  $X$ .*

Let  $\bar{X} := \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) : x_1 \leq \dots \leq x_n\}$ .

**Lemma 2.** *Given  $\bar{x} \in \bar{X}$  and  $\lambda > 0$ , let  $f(\bar{x}; s) = e^{-\lambda s}(s-x_1) \cdots (s-x_n)$  and  $t_1(\bar{x}) \leq \dots \leq t_n(\bar{x})$  be the zeros of  $f'(\bar{x}; \cdot)$ . Then for every  $i = 1, \dots, n$ ,  $t_i(\bar{x})$  is a continuous function in  $\bar{X}$ .*

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two polynomials from  $\mathcal{V}_n(\lambda)$ ,  $\lambda > 0$ , with zeros  $\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$ , respectively, which satisfy the conditions:  $x_1 \leq \dots \leq x_n$ ,  $y_1 \leq \dots \leq y_n$ , and  $x_i \leq y_i$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Let  $t_1(\bar{x}) \leq \dots \leq t_n(\bar{x})$  and  $t_1(\bar{y}) \leq \dots \leq t_n(\bar{y})$  be the zeros of  $f'$  and  $g'$ . Then we have  $t_i(\bar{x}) \leq t_i(\bar{y})$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .*

*Proof of Theorem 1.* If  $n = 2$  the estimates (4) coincide with (2) from Theorem A. Thus we can suppose that  $n \geq 3$ .

First we shall prove the *upper estimate* for  $t_k$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, n - 2$ . Recall that for  $k = n - 1$  the estimate is the same as that of Theorem A.

If  $n = 3$  we have  $f'(x) = e^{-\lambda x} q_1(x)$  hence  $t_1 = \bar{t}_1$  and (4) holds as an equality.

Let us suppose that  $n \geq 4$ . We fix  $k \in \{1, \dots, n - 2\}$  and consider the polynomials

$$g_k(\bar{y}; x) = e^{-\lambda x} (x - y_1) \cdots (x - y_n),$$

where  $y_1 < \cdots < y_n$  satisfy the conditions

$$\begin{aligned} y_i \nearrow x_k, \quad i = 1, \dots, k - 1, \quad y_i \in [x_i, x_k), \\ y_i = x_i, \quad i = k, k + 1, \\ y_i \nearrow x_n, \quad i = k + 2, \dots, n - 1, \quad y_i \in [x_i, x_n), \\ y_n = x_n. \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

Here the notation  $x \nearrow c$  means that  $x$  is strictly increasing and tends to  $c$ . Let us denote the zeros of  $g'_k(\bar{y}; x)$  by  $\tau_{1,k}(\bar{y}) < \cdots < \tau_{n,k}(\bar{y})$ . It follows from Lemma 1 that  $\tau_{i,k}(\bar{y})$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$  are strictly increasing functions when  $\bar{y}$  changes from  $\bar{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$  to  $\bar{z} := ((x_k, k), x_{k+1}, (x_n, n - k - 1))$  as in (5). Let  $\bar{t}_{1,k} \leq \cdots \leq \bar{t}_{n,k}$  be the zeros of the derivative of

$$\bar{g}_k(x) := g_k(\bar{z}; x) = e^{-\lambda x} (x - x_k)^k (x - x_{k+1}) (x - x_n)^{n-k-1}.$$

By Lemma 2,  $\tau_{i,k}(\bar{y}) \rightarrow \bar{t}_{i,k}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . In particular,

$$t_k = \tau_{k,k}(\bar{x}) < \bar{t}_{k,k}. \tag{6}$$

In view of (6), it remains to prove that  $\bar{t}_k = \bar{t}_{k,k}$ . It can be verified that

$$\bar{g}'_k(x) = \bar{g}_k(x) \bar{h}_k(x),$$

where

$$\bar{h}_k(x) := -\lambda + \frac{k}{x - x_k} + \frac{1}{x - x_{k+1}} + \frac{n - k - 1}{x - x_n}.$$

By the definition of  $\bar{g}_k(x)$  and the Rolle's theorem it is seen that  $\bar{h}_k(x)$  has exactly three real zeros:  $\bar{t}_{k,k} \in (x_k, x_{k+1})$ ,  $\bar{t}_{k+1,k} \in (x_{k+1}, x_n)$  and  $\bar{t}_{n,k} \in (x_n, +\infty)$ . Since

$$\bar{h}_k(x) = \frac{q_k(x)}{(x - x_k)(x - x_{k+1})(x - x_n)},$$

the upper bound  $\bar{t}_{k,k}$  is the smallest root of the equation  $q_k(x) = 0$ , i.e.  $\bar{t}_{k,k} = \bar{t}_k$ . The proof of the upper bound in (4) is completed.

Now we shall prove the *lower estimate* for  $t_k$ ,  $k = 2, \dots, n - 1$  and  $n \geq 4$ . For  $k = 1$  the estimate follows from Theorem A, while for  $n = 3$  and  $k = 2$  we have  $f'(x) = e^{-\lambda x} p_2(x)$ .

We define the polynomials

$$g_k(\bar{y}; x) = e^{-\lambda x} (x - y_1) \cdots (x - y_n),$$

where  $y_1 < \cdots < y_n$  satisfy the conditions

$$\begin{aligned} y_1 &= x_1 \\ y_i &\searrow x_1, \quad i = 2, \dots, k-1, \quad y_i \in (x_1, x_i], \\ y_i &= x_i, \quad i = k, k+1, \\ y_i &\searrow x_{k+1}, \quad i = k+2, \dots, n, \quad y_i \in (x_{k+1}, x_i]. \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

The notation  $x \searrow c$  means that  $x$  strictly decreases and tends to  $c$ . Lemma 1 implies that the zeros  $\tau_{1,k}(\bar{y}) < \cdots < \tau_{n,k}(\bar{y})$  of  $g'_k(\bar{y}; x)$  are strictly decreasing when  $\bar{y} \rightarrow \bar{z} := ((x_1, k-1), x_k, (x_{k+1}, n-k))$  as in (7). By Lemma 2,  $\tau_{i,k}(\bar{y}) \rightarrow \underline{t}_{i,k}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , where  $\underline{t}_{1,k} \leq \cdots \leq \underline{t}_{n,k}$  are the zeros of the derivative of

$$\underline{g}_k(x) := g_k(\bar{z}; x) = e^{-\lambda x} (x - x_1)^{k-1} (x - x_k) (x - x_{k+1})^{n-k}.$$

Since  $\tau_{k,k}(\bar{y})$  strictly decreases from  $t_k$  to  $\underline{t}_{k,k}$ , we conclude that

$$\underline{t}_{k,k} < \tau_{k,k}(\bar{x}) = t_k. \tag{8}$$

Furthermore, we have

$$\underline{g}'_k(x) = \underline{g}_k(x) \underline{h}_k(x),$$

where

$$\underline{h}_k(x) := -\lambda + \frac{k-1}{x-x_1} + \frac{1}{x-x_k} + \frac{n-k}{x-x_{k+1}}.$$

Note that  $\underline{h}_k(x)$  has exactly three real zeros which are  $\underline{t}_{k-1,k} \in (x_1, x_k)$ ,  $\underline{t}_{k,k} \in (x_k, x_{k+1})$  and  $\underline{t}_{n,k} \in (x_{k+1}, +\infty)$ . The equality

$$\underline{h}_k(x) = \frac{p_k(x)}{(x-x_1)(x-x_k)(x-x_{k+1})},$$

shows that the lower bound  $\underline{t}_{k,k}$  is the intermediate root of the equation  $p_k(x) = 0$ , i.e.  $\underline{t}_{k,k} = \underline{t}_k$ . In view of (8), the proof of the lower bound in (4) is completed. Theorem 1 is proved.  $\square$

### 3. Numerical Examples and Comparisons

1. Let  $\lambda = 1$ ,  $n = 10$  and  $p(x) = L_{10}(x)$ , where  $L_n(x)$  denotes the Laguerre polynomial of degree  $n$ . Recall that  $L_n(x)$  is orthogonal to the polynomials of degree not exceeding  $n-1$  with weight  $\mu(x) = e^{-x}$  on the interval  $(0, \infty)$ .

Note that the zeros of  $L_{10}$  are:

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= 0.137793, \quad x_2 = 0.729455, \quad x_3 = 1.80834, \quad x_4 = 3.40143, \quad x_5 = 5.55250, \\ x_6 &= 8.33015, \quad x_7 = 11.8438, \quad x_8 = 16.2793, \quad x_9 = 21.9966, \quad x_{10} = 29.9207. \end{aligned}$$

Table 1 contains the values of the critical points and the corresponding estimates from Theorem A and Theorem 1 for  $f(x) = e^{-x}L_{10}(x) \in \mathcal{V}_{10}(1)$ .

$k$	$x_k + c_k h_k$	$x_k + c_k^* h_k$	$t_k$	$x_{k+1} - d_k^* h_k$	$x_{k+1} - d_k h_k$
1	0.193952	0.193952	0.334529	0.379853	0.390784
2	0.837661	0.85457	1.12825	1.32949	1.35414
3	1.97739	2.00987	2.39587	2.82409	2.86093
4	3.64286	3.69645	4.16684	4.8846	4.93242
5	5.88126	5.96451	6.48735	7.56453	7.62324
6	8.76508	8.89089	9.42835	10.9562	11.0272
7	12.4072	12.5943	13.1017	15.2155	15.3025
8	16.9937	17.2654	17.6965	20.6294	20.7377
9	22.8723	23.2412	23.5778	27.9584	27.9584

**Table 1.** Critical points and their estimates for  $f(x) = e^{-x}L_{10}(x)$ .

In order to compare the estimates we also consider the corresponding relative errors for the above weighted polynomial. The results are presented in Table 2.

$k$	$\frac{t_k - (x_k + c_k h_k)}{h_k}$	$\frac{t_k - (x_k + c_k^* h_k)}{h_k}$	$\frac{(x_{k+1} - d_k^* h_k) - t_k}{h_k}$	$\frac{(x_{k+1} - d_k h_k) - t_k}{h_k}$
1	0.237596	0.237596	0.0766055	0.09508
2	0.269345	0.253671	0.186521	0.209365
3	0.262685	0.242293	0.268797	0.291923
4	0.243589	0.218679	0.333675	0.355906
5	0.218205	0.188231	0.387801	0.408936
6	0.188772	0.152966	0.434828	0.455046
7	0.156576	0.114404	0.476566	0.496187
8	0.122929	0.0753967	0.51298	0.531928
9	0.0890258	0.0424728	0.552821	0.552821

**Table 2.** Relative errors of the estimates for the critical points of  $f(x) = e^{-x}L_{10}(x)$ .

**2.** Now we consider the polynomial  $f(x) \in \mathcal{V}_{10}(1)$  which has equally spaced zeros in the interval  $[0, 1]$ . The estimates for the critical points and the relative errors are given in Tables 3 and 4.

The following trend can be observed:

- the lower estimates from Theorem 1 improve more significantly these from Theorem A for the larger critical points;
- the upper estimates from Theorem 1 improve more significantly these from Theorem A for the smaller critical points.

$k$	$x_k + c_k h_k$	$x_k + c_k^* h_k$	$t_k$	$x_{k+1} - d_k^* h_k$	$x_{k+1} - d_k h_k$
1	0.109911	0.109911	0.128562	0.137903	0.148751
2	0.211002	0.212044	0.235246	0.258204	0.265918
3	0.312365	0.313738	0.340283	0.369419	0.374525
4	0.414113	0.41591	0.444719	0.476172	0.479676
5	0.516438	0.518846	0.548945	0.580586	0.583099
6	0.619684	0.623035	0.653205	0.683668	0.685538
7	0.724537	0.72943	0.757752	0.785938	0.787362
8	0.832601	0.840106	0.862994	0.887702	0.888778
9	0.948751	0.959966	0.970046	0.989909	0.989909

**Table 3.** Critical points and their estimates for  $f(x) = e^{-x} \prod_{k=1}^{10} (x - \frac{k}{10})$ .

$k$	$\frac{t_k - (x_k + c_k h_k)}{h_k}$	$\frac{t_k - (x_k + c_k^* h_k)}{h_k}$	$\frac{(x_{k+1} - d_k^* h_k) - t_k}{h_k}$	$\frac{(x_{k+1} - d_k h_k) - t_k}{h_k}$
1	0.186511	0.186511	0.0934074	0.201889
2	0.242439	0.232023	0.229574	0.306716
3	0.279183	0.265449	0.291366	0.342425
4	0.306069	0.288099	0.314526	0.349567
5	0.325068	0.300984	0.316412	0.341547
6	0.335208	0.301696	0.304631	0.323329
7	0.332144	0.283213	0.281861	0.296105
8	0.303934	0.228886	0.247075	0.257839
9	0.212953	0.100800	0.198632	0.198632

**Table 4.** Relative errors of the estimates for the critical points of  $f(x) = e^{-x} \prod_{k=1}^{10} (x - \frac{k}{10})$ .

The above observation is in accordance with the fact that  $c_1^* = c_1$  and  $d_{n-1}^* = d_{n-1}$ , respectively.

Moreover, the relative errors form either a monotone sequence or a sequence having one change of the monotonicity.

**3.** Our next goal is to study numerically, depending on  $\lambda$ , for a given polynomial  $f \in \mathcal{V}_n(\lambda)$  the quantities:

$$k_f^l(\lambda) = \frac{t_{n-1} - (x_{n-1} + c_{n-1} h_{n-1})}{t_{n-1} - (x_{n-1} + c_{n-1}^* h_{n-1})} \quad \text{and} \quad k_f^u(\lambda) = \frac{(x_2 - d_1 h_1) - t_1}{(x_2 - d_1^* h_1) - t_1}.$$

Here  $k_f^l(\lambda)$  ( $k_f^u(\lambda)$ ) is the ratio of the relative errors in the lower (upper) estimates, where the improvement is maximal.

$n = 10$	$\lambda = 0.1$	$\lambda = 0.5$	$\lambda = 1$	$\lambda = 5$	$\lambda = 10$	$\lambda = 25$
$k_f^l(\lambda)$	5.306	2.364	2.096	2.405	2.471	2.512
$k_f^u(\lambda)$	1.223	1.232	1.241	1.257	1.249	1.239

**Table 5.** The quantities  $k_f^l(\lambda)$  and  $k_f^u(\lambda)$  for  $f(x) = e^{-\lambda x} L_{10}(x)$ .

$n = 5$	$\lambda = 0.1$	$\lambda = 0.5$	$\lambda = 1$	$\lambda = 5$	$\lambda = 10$	$\lambda = 25$
$k_f^l(\lambda)$	7.740	4.407	3.463	3.443	3.509	3.557
$k_f^u(\lambda)$	1.791	1.837	1.874	1.886	1.871	1.859

**Table 6.** The quantities  $k_f^l(\lambda)$  and  $k_f^u(\lambda)$  for  $f(x) = e^{-\lambda x} L_5(x)$ .

$n = 10$	$\lambda = 0.1$	$\lambda = 0.5$	$\lambda = 1$	$\lambda = 5$	$\lambda = 10$	$\lambda = 25$
$k_f^l(\lambda)$	2.135	2.125	2.112	1.996	1.839	1.531
$k_f^u(\lambda)$	2.140	2.149	2.161	2.234	2.281	2.264

**Table 7.** The quantities  $k_f^l(\lambda)$  and  $k_f^u(\lambda)$  for  $f(x) = e^{-\lambda x} \prod_{k=1}^{10} (x - \frac{k}{10})$ .

$n = 5$	$\lambda = 0.1$	$\lambda = 0.5$	$\lambda = 1$	$\lambda = 5$	$\lambda = 10$	$\lambda = 25$
$k_f^l(\lambda)$	3.241	3.204	3.157	2.745	2.372	2.120
$k_f^u(\lambda)$	3.259	3.293	3.333	3.539	3.591	3.487

**Table 8.** The quantities  $k_f^l(\lambda)$  and  $k_f^u(\lambda)$  for  $f(x) = e^{-\lambda x} \prod_{k=1}^5 (x - \frac{k}{5})$ .

The numerical results in Tables 5–8 suggest the following conclusions.

The lower estimates from Theorem 1 give the largest improvement compared to these of the Theorem A for small positive  $\lambda$ .

For the upper estimates there exists a unique  $\lambda = \lambda^* > 0$ , for which  $k_f^u(\lambda)$  attains its maximal value.

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