Provided for non-commercial research and educational use. Not for reproduction, distribution or commercial use.

# Serdica Mathematical Journal Сердика

## Математическо списание

The attached copy is furnished for non-commercial research and education use only. Authors are permitted to post this version of the article to their personal websites or institutional repositories and to share with other researchers in the form of electronic reprints. Other uses, including reproduction and distribution, or selling or licensing copies, or posting to third party websites are prohibited.

For further information on
Serdica Mathematical Journal
which is the new series of
Serdica Bulgaricae Mathematicae Publicationes
visit the website of the journal http://www.math.bas.bg/~serdica
or contact: Editorial Office
Serdica Mathematical Journal
Institute of Mathematics and Informatics
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Telephone: (+359-2)9792818, FAX:(+359-2)971-36-49
e-mail: serdica@math.bas.bg

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences Institute of Mathematics and Informatics

# SOME RESULTS ON UNIQUENESS OF DIFFERENCE POLYNOMIAL

Harina P. Waghamore, Ramya Maligi

Communicated by N. Nikolov

ABSTRACT. In this paper, we consider the uniqueness of the difference polynomial  $f^n P(f) \prod_{j=1}^d f(z+c_j)^{s_j}$ . The results of the paper improve and generalize some recent results due to Y. Liu, J. P. Wang and F. H. Liu [10].

1. Introduction and main results. In this paper a meromorphic function means meromorphic in the complex plane. We shall adopt the standard notations in Nevanlinna's value distribution theory of meromorphic functions as explained in [6, 7, 8]. By letter E we denote any set of positive real numbers of finite linear measure, not necessarily the same at each occurrence. For a nonconstant meromorphic function h, we denote by T(r,h) the Nevanlinna characteristic function of h and by S(r,h) any quantity satisfying the relation  $S(r,h) = o\{T(r,h)\}(r \to \infty, r \notin E)$ 

Key words: Meromorphic function, entire function, difference polynomials, uniqueness.

<sup>2010</sup> Mathematics Subject Classification: Primary 30D35.

Let f(z) and g(z) be two nonconstant meromorphic functions, and  $a \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$ . We define  $\Theta(a,f) = 1 - \limsup_{r \to \infty} \frac{\overline{N}\left(r,\frac{1}{f-a}\right)}{T(r,f)}$ . We say that f(z) and g(z) share the value a CM (counting multiplicities), provided that f-a and g-a have the same zeros with the same multiplicities. And if we do not consider the multiplicities, then we say that f(z) and g(z) share the value a IM(ignoring multiplicities).

**Definition 1** ([5]). Let k be a nonnegative integer or infinity. For  $a \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$  we denote by  $E_k(a; f)$  the set of all zeros of f(z) – a where each zero of multiplicity m is counted m times if  $m \le k$  and k+1 times if m > k. If  $E_k(a; f) = E_k(a, g)$ , we say that f(z), g(z) share the value a with weight k. Obviously, when k = 0 (resp.  $\infty$ ), f(z) and g(z) share the value a IM (resp. a CM).

**Definition 2** ([6]). For  $a \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$  and k is a positive integer or infinity. We denote by  $\overline{N}_{(k)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right)$  the counting function of the zeros of f-a whose multiplicities are not less than k, where each zero is counted only once. Then

$$N_k\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right) = \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right) + \overline{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right) + \dots + \overline{N}_{(k)}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right).$$
Clearly,  $N_1\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right) = \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f-a}\right).$ 

In 2010, Qi et al. [9] studied the uniqueness of the difference monomials and obtained the following result.

**Theorem A.** Let f(z) and g(z) be transcendental entire functions with finite order, c be a nonzero complex constant, and  $n \geq 6$  be an integer. If  $E(1, f^n(z)f(z+c)) = E(1, g^n(z)g(z+c))$ , then  $f(z) \equiv t_1g(z)$  or  $f(z)g(z) = t_2$ , for some constants  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  that satisfy  $t_1^{n+1} = 1$  and  $t_2^{n+1} = 1$ .

In 2015, Y. Liu, J. P. Wang and F. H. Liu [10] obtained the following results.

**Theorem B.** Let  $c \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ . Let f(z) and g(z) be two transcendental meromorphic functions with finite order, and  $n \geq 14$ ,  $k \geq 3$  be two positive integers. If  $E_k(1, f^n(z)f(z+c)) = E_k(1, g^n(z)g(z+c))$ , then  $f(z) \equiv t_1g(z)$  or  $f(z)g(z) = t_2$ , for some constants  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  that satisfy  $t_1^{n+1} = 1$  and  $t_2^{n+1} = 1$ .

**Theorem C.** Let  $c \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $n \geq 16$  be an integer. Let f(z) and g(z) be

two transcendental meromorphic functions with finite order. If  $E_2(1, f^n(z)f(z+c)) = E_2(1, g^n(z)g(z+c))$ , then  $f(z) \equiv t_1g(z)$  or  $f(z)g(z) = t_2$ , for some constants  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  that satisfy  $t_1^{n+1} = 1$  and  $t_2^{n+1} = 1$ .

**Theorem D.** Let  $c \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $n \geq 22$  be an integer. Let f(z) and g(z) be two transcendental meromorphic functions with finite order. If  $E_1(1, f^n(z)f(z+c)) = E_1(1, g^n(z)g(z+c))$ , then  $f(z) \equiv t_1g(z)$  or  $f(z)g(z) = t_2$ , for some constants  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  that satisfy  $t_1^{n+1} = 1$  and  $t_2^{n+1} = 1$ .

Regarding Theorems B–D, it is natural to ask the following question which is the motive of the present paper.

Question. What would happen if one replaced the difference polynomials  $f^n(z)f(z+c)$  by  $f^nP(f)\prod_{j=1}^d f(z+c_j)^{s_j}$  in Theorem B–D, where n is any positive integer?

In this paper, our main aim is to find the possible answer to the above question. We prove following results which improve and generalizes Theorems B-D. The following theorems are the main results of the paper.

**Theorem 1.** Let  $c \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $n \geq 9 + 2d + 3\lambda + m$ ,  $l \geq 3$  be an integer. Let f(z) and g(z) be two transcendental meromorphic functions with finite order. If  $E_l\left(1, f^n(z)P(f)\prod_{j=1}^d f(z+c_j)^{s_j}\right) = E_l\left(1, g^n(z)P(g)\prod_{j=1}^d g(z+c_j)^{s_j}\right)$ , then

 $f(z) \equiv t_1 g(z)$  or  $f(z)g(z) = t_2$ , for some constants  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  that satisfy  $t_1^{n+1} = 1$  and  $t_2^{n+1} = 1$ .

**Theorem 2.** Let  $c \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $n \geq 10 + 3d + 3\lambda + 2m$  be an integer. Let f(z) and g(z) be two transcendental meromorphic functions with finite order.

If 
$$E_2\left(1, f^n(z)P(f)\prod_{j=1}^d f(z+c_j)^{s_j}\right) = E_2\left(1, g^n(z)P(g)\prod_{j=1}^d g(z+c_j)^{s_j}\right)$$
, then

 $f(z) \equiv t_1 g(z)$  or  $f(z)g(z) = t_2$ , for some constants  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  that satisfy  $t_1^{n+1} = 1$  and  $t_2^{n+1} = 1$ .

**Theorem 3.** Let  $c \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $n \geq 13 + 6d + 3\lambda + 5m$  be an integer. Let f(z) and g(z) be two transcendental meromorphic functions with finite order.

If 
$$E_1\left(1, f^n(z)P(f)\prod_{j=1}^d f(z+c_j)^{s_j}\right) = E_1\left(1, g^n(z)P(g)\prod_{j=1}^d g(z+c_j)^{s_j}\right)$$
, then

 $f(z) \equiv t_1 g(z)$  or  $f(z)g(z) = t_2$ , for some constants  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  that satisfy  $t_1^{n+1} = 1$  and  $t_2^{n+1} = 1$ .

**Remark.** Since Theorems B–D can be obtained from Theorems 1–3, respectively, by putting  $m=0,\ d=1$  and  $\lambda=1$ . Theorems 1–3 improve and generalizes Theorems B–D, respectively.

### 2. Lemmas. We need following Lemmas to prove our results.

**Lemma 2.1** ([3]). Let f and g be two meromorphic functions and let k be a positive integer. If  $E_k(1; f) = E_k(1; g)$ , then one of the following cases must occur:

(i)

$$(2.1) T(r,f) + T(r,g) \leq \overline{N}_{2}(r,f) + \overline{N}_{2}\left(r,\frac{1}{f}\right) + \overline{N}_{2}(r,g) + \overline{N}_{2}\left(r,\frac{1}{g}\right)$$

$$+ \overline{N}\left(r,\frac{1}{f-1}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r,\frac{1}{g-1}\right) - N_{11}\left(r,\frac{1}{f-1}\right)$$

$$+ \overline{N}_{(k+1)}\left(r,\frac{1}{f-1}\right) + \overline{N}_{(k+1)}\left(r,\frac{1}{g-1}\right) + S(r,f) + S(r,g)$$

(ii)

(2.2) 
$$f \equiv \frac{(b+1)g + (a-b-1)}{bg + (a-b)},$$

where  $a \neq 0$ , b are two constants.

**Lemma 2.2** ([7]). Let f(z) be a nonconstant finite order meromorphic function and let  $c \neq 0$  be an arbitrary complex number. Then  $T(r, f(z+ \mid c \mid)) = T(r, f(z)) + S(r, f)$ .

**Remark 2.3.** It shows in [4], that for  $c \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ ,

$$(1 + o(1))T(r, f(r - \mid c \mid), f(z)) \leq T(r, f(z + c)) \leq (1 + o(1))T(r + \mid c \mid, f(z))$$

hold as  $r \to \infty$ , for a general meromorphic function. By this and Lemma 2.2, we obtain

$$T(r, f(z+ | c |)) = T(r, f(z)) + S(r, f).$$

**Lemma 2.4.** Let f(z) be a transcendental meromorphic function of finite order,  $n \ge 4 + 2m + 3d + \lambda$  a positive integer, and let  $F(z) = f^n(z)P(f)\prod_{i=1}^d f(z+1)$ 

$$(c_j)^{s_j}$$
 and  $F(z) = f^n(z)P(f)\prod_{j=1}^d f(z+c_j)^{s_j}$ . If

(2.3) 
$$F = \frac{(b+1)G + (a-b-1)}{bG + (a-b)}$$

where  $a(\neq 0)$ , b are two constants, then  $f(z) \equiv t_1 g(z)$  or  $f(z)g(z) = t_2$ , for some constants  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  that satisfy  $t_1^{n+1} = 1$  and  $t_2^{n+1} = 1$ .

Proof. Remark 2.3 yields that

(2.4) 
$$T(r,F) = T(r,f^{n}(z)P(f)\prod_{j=1}^{d} f(z+c_{j})^{s_{j}}) + S(r,f)$$

(2.5) 
$$\leq T(r, f^{n}(z)) + T(r, P(f)) + T(r, \prod_{j=1}^{d} f(z + c_{j})^{s_{j}}) + S(r, f)$$

(2.6) 
$$= (n + m + \lambda)T(r, f) + S(r, f).$$

On the other hand, together the first main Theorem with Remark 2.3, we obtain

$$(n+m+\lambda)T(r,f) = T(r,f^n f^m f^{\lambda}) + S(r,f)$$

$$\leq m \left(r, \frac{F(z)f^{\lambda}}{\prod_{j=1}^d f(z+c_j)^{s_j}}\right)$$

$$+ N \left(r, \frac{F(z)f^{\lambda}}{\prod_{j=1}^d f(z+c_j)^{s_j}}\right) + S(r,f)$$

$$\leq T(r,F(z)) + T \left(r, \frac{f^{\lambda}}{\prod_{j=1}^d f(z+c_j)^{s_j}}\right) + S(r,f)$$

$$(2.8) T(r,F) \ge (n+m-\lambda)T(r,f) + S(r,f)$$

Hence, (2.4) and (2.6) yield that

$$(2.9) S(r,F) = S(r,f).$$

Similarly, we obtain

$$(2.10) T(r,G) \ge (n+m-\lambda)T(r,g) + S(r,g),$$

and

$$(2.11) S(r,G) = S(r,g).$$

Set  $I_1 = \{r : T(r,g) \ge T(r,f)\} \subseteq (0,\infty)$  and  $I_2 = (0,\infty) \setminus I_1$ . Then there is at least one  $I_i$  (i=1,2) such that  $I_i$  has infinite logarithmic measure. Without loss of generality, we may suppose that  $I_1$  has infinite logarithmic measure. We break the rest of the proof into three cases.

**Case 1.**  $b \neq 0, -1$ . If  $a - b - 1 \neq 0$ , then we know from (2.3)

(2.12) 
$$\overline{N}(r, \frac{1}{F}) = \overline{N}(r, \frac{1}{G + \frac{a-b-1}{b+1}}).$$

Together with the first main theorem, the second main theorem with Remark 2.3, (2.8) and (2.12), we obtain

$$(n+m-\lambda)T(r,g) \leq T(r,G) + S(r,g) \leq \overline{N}(r,\frac{1}{G}) + \overline{N}(r,G)$$

$$\leq \overline{N}\left(r,\frac{1}{G-\frac{a-b-1}{b+1}}\right) + S(r,G) + S(r,g)$$

$$= \overline{N}(r,\frac{1}{G}) + \overline{N}(r,G) + \overline{N}(r,\frac{1}{F}) + S(r,g)$$

$$\leq \overline{N}\left(r,\frac{1}{g}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r,\frac{1}{P(g)}\right)$$

$$+ \overline{N}\left(r,\frac{1}{\prod_{j=1}^{d}g(z+c_{j})^{s_{j}}}\right)$$

$$+ \overline{N}\left(r,g^{n}P(g)\prod_{j=1}^{d}g(z+c_{j})^{s_{j}}\right)$$

$$+ \overline{N}\left(r,\frac{1}{f}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r,\frac{1}{P(f)}\right)$$

$$+ \overline{N}\left(r,\frac{1}{\prod_{j=1}^{d}f(z+c_{j})^{s_{j}}}\right) + S(r,g)$$

$$\leq (1+m+d)T(r,g) + (1+m+d)T(r,g)$$

$$+ (1+m+d)T(r,f) + S(r,g)$$

$$(2.14) \quad (n+m-\lambda)T(r,q) \le (3+3m+3d)T(r,q) + S(r,q), r \in I_1$$

which is impossible, since  $n \ge 4 + 2m + 3d + \lambda$ . Hence, we obtain a - b - 1 = 0, so

$$F(z) = \frac{(b+1)G(z)}{bG(z)+1}.$$

Using the similar method as above, we obtain

$$(n+m-\lambda)T(r,g) \le T(r,G) + S(r,g)$$

$$(2.15) \leq \overline{N}(r, \frac{1}{G}) + \overline{N}(r, G) + \overline{N}(r, \frac{1}{G + \frac{1}{b}}) + S(r, G)$$

$$\leq (3+3m+3d)T(r,g) + S(r,g), r \in I_1$$

which is a contradiction, since  $n \ge 4 + 2m + 3d + \lambda$ .

Case 2. b = -1,  $a \neq -1$ . By (2.3) we have

(2.16) 
$$F = \frac{a}{a+1-G}.$$

Similarly, we get a contradiction. Hence we obtain a = -1. So, we get

$$FG = 1$$
, that is  $f^n P(f) \prod_{j=1}^d f(z+c_j)^{s_j} g^n P(g) \prod_{j=1}^d g(z+c_j)^{s_j} = 1$ . Set  $H(z) =$ 

f(z)g(z). Suppose that H(z) is not a constant. Then we obtain

(2.17) 
$$H^{n}(z)H(z+c) = 1.$$

Remark 2.3, the first main Theorem and (2.16) imply that

$$(2.18) nT(r, H(z)) = T(r, H^n(z)) = T(r, \frac{1}{H(z+c)}) = T(r, H(z)) + S(r, H).$$

Hence H(z) must be a nonzero constant, since  $n \ge 4 + 2m + 3d + \lambda$ . Set  $H(z) = t_1$  by (2.17), we know  $t_1^{n+1} = 1$ . Thus  $f(z)g(z) = t_1$  where  $t_1^{n+1} = 1$ .

**Case 3.** 
$$b = 0, a \neq 1$$
. By (2.3), we obtain  $F = \frac{G + a - 1}{a}$ .

Similarly, we get a contradiction, hence we obtain a=1, so we get F=G, that is

$$f^{n}(z)P(f)\prod_{j=1}^{d}f(z+c_{j})^{s_{j}}=g^{n}(z)P(g)\prod_{j=1}^{d}g(z+c_{j})^{s_{j}}.$$

Let  $H(z) = \frac{f(z)}{g(z)}$ , using the similar method as above we also obtain that H(z) must be a nonzero constant. Thus we have  $f = t_2 g$ , where  $t_2^{n+1} = 1$ .  $\square$ 

### 3. Proof of the Theorems.

Proof of Theorem 1. Let  $F(z)=f^n(z)P(f)\prod_{j=1}^d f(z+c_j)^{s_j}$  and  $G(z)=g^n(z)P(g)\prod_{j=1}^d g(z+c_j)^{s_j}$ . Since  $l\geq 3$ , we have

$$(3.1)$$

$$\overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F-1}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{G-1}\right) - N_{11}\left(r, \frac{1}{F-1}\right)$$

$$+ \overline{N}_{(k+1)}\left(r, \frac{1}{F-1}\right) + \overline{N}_{(k+1)}\left(r, \frac{1}{G-1}\right)$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{2}N\left(r, \frac{1}{F-1}\right) + \frac{1}{2}N\left(r, \frac{1}{G-1}\right)$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{2}T(r, F) + \frac{1}{2}T(r, G) + S(r, f) + S(r, g).$$

(2.1) and (3.1) give that

(3.2) 
$$T(r,F) + T(r,G) \le 2\left\{N_2\left(r,\frac{1}{F}\right) + N_2(r,F) + N_2\left(r,\frac{1}{G}\right) + N_2(r,G)\right\} + S(r,f) + S(r,g)$$

Together the definition of F, the first main Theorem with Remark 2.3, we have

(3.3) 
$$N_{2}(r, \frac{1}{F}) \leq 2\overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{P(f)}\right) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{\prod_{j=1}^{d} f(z + c_{j})^{s_{j}}}\right) \leq (2 + m + \lambda)T(r, f) + S(r, f).$$

Similarly,

$$(3.4) N_2\left(r, \frac{1}{G}\right) \le (2+m+\lambda)T(r,g) + S(r,g)$$

$$(3.5) N_2(r,F) \le (2+d)T(r,f) + S(r,f).$$

Similarly,

$$(3.6) N_2(r,G) \le (2+d)T(r,g) + S(r,g).$$

(3.2)–(3.6) yields that

(3.7) 
$$T(r,F) + T(r,G) \le 2\{(2+m+\lambda)(T(r,f) + T(r,g))\} + (2+d)(T(r,f) + T(r,g))\} + S(r,f) + S(r,g)$$

Then, by (2.6), (2.8) and (3.7), we obtain

$$(3.8) (n-m-3\lambda-8-2d)(T(r,f)+T(r,g)) \le S(r,f)+S(r,g)$$

which is a contradiction since  $n \ge m+3\lambda+2d+9$ . Hence by Lemma 2.1, we have  $F=(b+1)G+\frac{(a-b-1)}{bG+a-b}$ , where  $a\ne 0$ , b are two constants. By Lemma 2.4, we get  $f(z)\equiv t_1g(z)$  or  $f(z)g(z)=t_2$ , for some constants  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  that satisfy  $t^{n+1}=1$  and  $t_2^{n+1}=1$ .  $\square$ 

Proof of Theorem 2. Note that

$$(3.9) \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F-1}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{G-1}\right) - N_{11}\left(r, \frac{1}{F-1}\right)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2}\overline{N}_{(3}\left(r, \frac{1}{F-1}\right) + \frac{1}{2}\overline{N}_{(3}\left(r, \frac{1}{G-1}\right)$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{2}N\left(r, \frac{1}{F-1}\right) + \frac{1}{2}N\left(r, \frac{1}{G-1}\right)$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{2}T(r, F) + \frac{1}{2}T(r, G) + S(r, f) + S(r, g).$$

Then we obtain from and (2.1) and (3.9)

$$T(r,F) + T(r,G) \le 2\{N_2\left(r, \frac{1}{F}\right) + N_2(r,F) + N_2\left(r, \frac{1}{G}\right) + N_2(r,G)\} + \overline{N}_{(3}\left(r, \frac{1}{F-1}\right) + \overline{N}_{(3}\left(r, \frac{1}{G-1}\right) + S(r,f) + S(r,g).$$

Obviously combining the first main Theorem and Remark 2.3 we have

$$\overline{N}_{(3)}\left(r, \frac{1}{F-1}\right) \leq \frac{1}{2}N\left(r, \frac{F}{F'}\right) = \frac{1}{2}N\left(r, \frac{F'}{F}\right) + S(r, f)$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{2}\overline{N}(r, F) + \frac{1}{2}\overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F}\right) + S(r, f)$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{2}\left[\overline{N}(r, f(z)) + \overline{N}(r, P(f)) + \overline{N}\left(r, \prod_{j=1}^{d} f(z + c_{j})^{s_{j}}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f(z)}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{P(f)}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{\prod_{j=1}^{d} f(z + c_{j})^{s_{j}}}\right)\right] + S(r, f)$$

$$\leq (1 + m + d)T(r, f) + S(r, f).$$

Similarly, we obtain

(3.11) 
$$\overline{N}_{(3)}(r, \frac{1}{G-1}) \le (1+m+d)T(r,g) + S(r,g).$$

Suppose that

$$(3.12) T(r,F) + T(r,G) \le 2 \left\{ N_2 \left( r, \frac{1}{F} \right) + N_2(r,F) + 2N_2 \left( r, \frac{1}{G} \right) + N_2(r,G) \right\}$$

$$+ \overline{N}_{(3)} \left( r, \frac{1}{F-1} \right) + \overline{N}_{(3)} \left( r, \frac{1}{G-1} \right)$$

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

Then we have from (2.8), (2.10), (3.3)–(3.6) and (3.10)–(3.12).

$$(n+m-\lambda)T(r,f) + (n+m-\lambda)T(r,g) \le T(r,F) + T(r,G)$$
  
$$\le (9+3m+2\lambda+3d)(T(r,f)+T(r,g))$$

which is a contradiction, since  $n \geq 2m + 3\lambda + 3d + 10$ . By Lemma 2.1, we obtain that  $F = (b+1)G + \frac{(a-b-1)}{bG+a-b}$ , where  $a \neq 0, b$  are two constants. By Lemma 2.4, we get  $f(z) \equiv t_1 g(z)$  or  $f(z)g(z) = t_2$ , for some constants  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  that satisfy  $t^{n+1} = 1$  and  $t_2^{n+1} = 1$ .  $\square$ 

Proof of Theorem 3. Since

$$(3.13) \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F-1}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{G-1}\right) - N_{11}\left(r, \frac{1}{F-1}\right)$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{2}N\left(r, \frac{1}{F}\right) + \frac{1}{2}N\left(r, \frac{1}{G}\right)$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{2}T(r, F) + \frac{1}{2}T(r, F) + S(r, f) + S(r, g).$$

Then (2.1) becomes

(3.14) 
$$T(r,F) + T(r,G) \le 2\left\{N_2\left(r,\frac{1}{F}\right) + N_2(r,F) + N_2\left(r,\frac{1}{G}\right) + N_2(r,G) + \overline{N}_{(2}\left(r,\frac{1}{F-1}\right) + \overline{N}_{(2}\left(r,\frac{1}{G-1}\right)\right) + S(r,f) + S(r,g)\right\}$$

Combining the first main Theorem and Remark 2.3, we obtain

$$\overline{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{F-1}\right) \leq N\left(r, \frac{F}{F'}\right) = N\left(r, \frac{F'}{F}\right) + S(r, f)$$

$$\leq \overline{N}(r, F) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F}\right) + S(r, f)$$

$$\leq \overline{N}(r, f(z)) + \overline{N}(r, P(f))$$

$$+ \overline{N}\left(r, \prod_{j=1}^{d} f(z + c_j)^{s_j}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f(z)}\right)$$

$$+ \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{P(f)}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{\frac{1}{f(z + c_j)^{s_j}}}\right) + S(r, f)$$

$$\leq (2 + 2m + 2d)T(r, f) + S(r, f).$$

Similarly, we get

(3.16) 
$$\overline{N}_{(2}(r, \frac{1}{G-1}) \le (2 + 2m + 2d)T(r, g) + S(r, g).$$

Suppose that

(3.17) 
$$T(r,F) + T(r,G) \le 2\left\{N_2\left(r,\frac{1}{F}\right) + N_2(r,F) + N_2\left(r,\frac{1}{G}\right) + N_2(r,G) + \overline{N}_{(2}\left(r,\frac{1}{F-1}\right) + \overline{N}_{(2}\left(r,\frac{1}{G-1}\right)\right) + S(r,f) + S(r,g)\right\}$$

Then we obtain from (2.8), (2.10), (3.3)–(3.6) and (3.15)–(3.17)

$$(n+m-\lambda)T(r,f) + (n+m-\lambda)T(r,g)$$

$$\leq T(r,F) + T(r,G)$$

$$\leq (12 + 6m + 2\lambda + 6d)(T(r,f) + T(r,g))$$

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

which is impossible, since  $n \geq 13 + 6d + 3\lambda + 5m$ . By Lemma 2.1, we obtain that  $F = (b+1)G + \frac{(a-b-1)}{bG+a-b}$ , where  $a \neq 0, b$  are two constants. By Lemma 2.4, we get  $f(z) \equiv t_1 g(z)$  or  $f(z)g(z) = t_2$ , for some constants  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  that satisfy  $t_1^{n+1} = 1$  and  $t_2^{n+1} = 1$ .  $\square$ 

### REFERENCES

- [1] Z.-X. CHEN, H.-X. YI. On sharing values of meromorphic functions and their differences. *Results Math.* **63**, 1–2 (2013), 557–565.
- [2] Y.-M. CHIANG, S.-J. FENG. On the Nevanlinna characteristic of  $f(z + \eta)$  and difference equations in the complex plane. Ramanujan J. 16, 1 (2008), 105–129.
- [3] C.-Y. FANG, M.-L. FANG. Uniqueness of meromorphic functions and differential polynomials. *Comput. Math. Appl.* 44, 5–6 (2002), 607–617.
- [4] A. A. Gol'dberg, I. V. Ostrovaskii. The Distribution of values of meromorphic functions. Moscow, Nauka, 1970 (in Russian).
- [5] R. G. Halburd, R. Korhonen. Difference analogue of the lemma on the logarithmic derivative with applications to difference equation. *J. Math. Anal. Appl.* **314**, 2 (2006), 477–487.
- [6] R. G. Halburd, R. Korhonen. Nevanlinna theory for the difference operator. *Ann. Acad. Sci. Fenn. Math.* **31**, 2 (2006), 463–478.
- [7] R. G. Halburd, R. Korhonen. Finite-order meromorphic solutions and the discrete Painlevé equations. *Proc. Lond. Math. Soc.* (3), **94**, 2 (2007), 443–474.
- [8] W. K. HAYMAN. Meromorphic Functions. Oxford Mathematical Monographs. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1964.
- [9] X.-G. QI, L.-Z.YANG, K. LIU. Uniqueness and periodicity of meromorphic functions concerning the difference operator. *Comput. Math. Appl.* **60**, 6 (2010), 1739–1746.

[10] Y. Liu, J. P. Wang, F. H. Liu. Some results on value distribution of the difference operator. *Bull. Iraninan Math. Soc.* 41, 3 (2015), 603–611.

Department of Mathematics Jnanabharathi Campus Bangalore University 560 056 Bengaluru, India

 $e\text{-}mail: \verb|harinapw@gmail.com|, \verb|harinapw@bub.ernet.in|| (Harina \ P.\ Waghamore)$ 

e-mail: ramyamalgi@gmail.com (Ramya Maligi)

Received November 27, 2019