

(v) Suppose that  $f(z)$  is transcendental, (3) is satisfied and  $p > k$ . Then

(a)  $f(z)$  has at most a finite number of poles if and only if  $h(z)$  has at most a finite number of poles and if  $M, N$  denote the poles of  $f(z), h(z)$  respectively then  $(p-k)M \leq N \leq (p+k)M$ .

(b)  $\rho_h(\infty) = p\rho_f(\infty)$ , where  $\rho_f(\infty) = \overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow \infty} (\log n(r, f)) / (\log r)$ , where  $n(r, f)$  is the counting function of poles used in Nevanlinna theory with similar meaning given to  $\rho_h(\infty)$ . It is deduced that  $\infty$  is a Borel exceptional value of  $f(z)$  if and only if it is a Borel exceptional value of  $h(z)$ .

(c) If, for any  $\sigma > 0$

$$\overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{T(\sigma r, f)}{T(r, f)} = \sigma^\rho, \quad (\rho = \rho_f),$$

then

$$\frac{(p+k)\delta(\infty, f) - 2k}{p-k} \leq \delta(\infty, h) \leq \frac{(p-k)\delta(\infty, f) + 2k}{p+k}$$

where  $\delta(\infty, \cdot)$  denotes the Nevanlinna deficiency of the value  $\infty$ . (In particular  $\delta(\infty, f) = 1$  if and only if  $\delta(\infty, h) = 1$ .)

(vi) Suppose that  $f(z)$  has infinitely many poles and (3) is satisfied then

$$\overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n(r, h)}{n(r, f)} = \infty$$

unless  $n(r, f) = O((\log r)^K)$  for some constant  $K$  ( $K > 1$ ).

Results (i)–(vi) remain valid, except the Remark in (iii), if (1) and (3) are replaced by (2) and (4) respectively.

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### On a geometric property of Lemniscates

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In the Euclidean space  $R^3$ , we define the product

$$p_n(w, w_k) = \prod_{k=1}^n |w - w_k|,$$

where  $w = (w_1, w_2, w_3)$ ,  $w_k = (w_{k1}, w_{k2}, w_{k3})$ , and  $|w - w_k|$  is the distance between  $w$  and  $w_k$ . Let  $C(n)$  be the class of all such products with the same degree  $n$ . For any product  $p$ , we call  $E(p) = \{w : p(w) \leq 1\}$  the lemniscate of  $p$ . With the help of those definitions, we prove the following

**THEOREM.** *Let  $p_n(w, w_k)$  and  $p_n^*(w, w_k^*)$  be two products in  $C(n)$  such that  $E(p_n) \subseteq E(p_n^*)$ . If all zeros  $w_k$  of  $p_n$  lie on the same plane, then we have  $p_n(w, w_k) \equiv p_n^*(w, w_k^*)$ .*

The condition that all zeros  $w_k$  of  $p_n$  lie on the same plane is necessary. Without it, the theorem is no longer true.

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