

## PRIME ENTIRE FUNCTIONS WITH PRESCRIBED NEVANLINNA DEFICIENCY

FRED GROSS,<sup>1</sup> CHARLES OSGOOD,<sup>2</sup> AND CHUNG-CHUN YANG<sup>2</sup>

### 1. Introduction.

According to [4] a meromorphic function  $h(z) = f(g)(z)$  is said to have  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$  as left and right factors respectively, provided that  $f(z)$  is non-linear and meromorphic and  $g(z)$  is non-linear and entire ( $g$  may be meromorphic when  $f(z)$  is rational).  $h(z)$  is said to be  $E$ -prime ( $E$ -pseudo prime) if every factorization of the above form into entire factors implies that one of the functions  $f$ , or  $g$  is linear (polynomial).  $h(z)$  is said to be prime (pseudo-prime) if every factorization of the above form, where the factors may be meromorphic, implies that one of  $f$  or  $g$  is linear (a polynomial or  $f$  is rational).

Recently the following result was proved by Goldstein [3].

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $F(z)$  be an entire function of finite order such that  $\delta(a, F) = 1$  for some  $a \neq \infty$ , where  $\delta(a, F)$  denotes the Nevanlinna deficiency. Then  $F(z)$  is  $E$ -pseudo prime.*

The above theorem might suggest that for an entire function of finite order the existence of Nevanlinna deficiency and the primeness of a function are closely related to each other. The purpose of this note is to show that it is not the case in general. More precisely, we shall show the following:

**THEOREM 2.** *Given any integer  $k > 0$ , and constant  $c$ ,  $0 \leq c \leq 1$ , one can construct a prime function  $f$  of order  $k$  with  $\delta(0, f) = c$ .*

*Remark.* By a well-known result of Nevanlinna [7] one sees immediately why the above result cannot hold for an arbitrary real positive  $k$ .

---

Received September 6, 1971.

<sup>1</sup> Mathematics Research Center, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C., and University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

<sup>2</sup> Mathematics Research Center, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C.

The proof of Theorem 2 also yields the following result.

**THEOREM 3.** *Given any  $0 \leq c \leq 1$ , there exist real constants  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  such that the function  $F = ze^{\lambda_1 e^z}(e^{\lambda_2 e^z} + 1)$  satisfies  $\delta(0, F) = c$ .*

Theorem 3 gives us an example of functions of infinite order which are not pseudo-prime and which have a prescribed deficiency. The analogous problem for functions of finite order remains open.

## 2. Definitions and preliminary lemmas.

We shall say that a polynomial in  $z$  with complex coefficients has property  $R$  if (i)  $p(z)$  is monic, (ii)  $p(0) = 0$ , and (iii) for some sequence of points  $(a_r)$  tending to  $\infty$  each root of  $p(z) - a_r = 0$  lies on one of a finite number of fixed rays  $r_1, \dots, r_l$  out from  $z = 0$ , for some positive integer  $l$ . If  $z \in C, z \neq 0$ , and  $z = |z|e^{i\theta}$  where  $-\pi \leq \theta < \pi$  we define  $\arg(z)$  to be  $\theta$ .

**LEMMA I.** (i) *The polynomial  $p(z)$  has property  $R$  if and only if  $p(z) = z^{\frac{1}{2}k}(z^{\frac{1}{2}k} + b)$  for some  $b \in C$  and positive integer  $k$ .* (ii) *If  $b \neq 0$  all but at most a finite number of the  $a_r$  lie on the ray defined by  $\arg(z) \equiv 2(\arg(b))$  modulo  $2\pi$ , while if  $b = 0$  the  $a_r$ 's lie on any finite collection of rays out from  $z = 0$ .*

*Proof.* We shall first show the "if" part of (i). If  $b = 0$  this is trivial. If  $b \neq 0$  set  $b = |b|\varepsilon$ . Choose the  $a_r$  to all be of the form  $a_r = |a_r|\varepsilon^2$ . Then we may write our equations as  $(z^{\frac{1}{2}k}\varepsilon^{-1})^2 + |b|(z^{\frac{1}{2}k}\varepsilon^{-1}) = |a_r|$ . Since  $|b|^2 + 4|a_r| > 0$  each  $z$  which is a root must be such that  $z^{\frac{1}{2}k}\varepsilon^{-1}$  is real. Thus the roots must lie on a finite number of rays out from  $z = 0$ .

The greater part of this proof will be spent establishing the "only if" part of (i). In doing so we shall show, also, that if  $p(z)$  has property  $R$  then there exists a subsequence of the  $a_r$  consisting only of points  $a_r$  with each  $\arg(a_r) = \alpha$  for some  $-\pi \leq \alpha < \pi$ . We shall now use this last assertion to help prove (ii) and shall then return to the proof of (i). If  $b = 0$  in (ii) there is nothing to prove. If  $b \neq 0$  pass to a subsequence of the  $(a_r)$  where each  $\arg(a_r) \equiv 2(\arg(b))$  modulo  $2\pi$ . (If this is not possible we are through.) We shall now obtain a contradiction. Note that as  $|a_r|$  goes to  $\infty$  the absolute values of the roots of  $p(z) - a_r = 0$  go to  $\infty$  also. Now  $\arg(a_r) = \arg(p(z_{1,r}))$  where  $p(z_{1,r}) = a_r$  and each  $z_{1,r}$  belongs to the ray  $r_1$ , say. Thus

$$(1) \quad \begin{aligned} \arg(a_r) &= \arg((z_{1,r}^{\frac{1}{k}})(z_{1,r}^{\frac{1}{k}} + b)) \\ &\equiv (k(\arg(z_{1,r})) + \arg(1 + bz_{1,r}^{-\frac{1}{k}})) \text{ modulo } 2\pi . \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\arg(a_r)$  and  $\arg(z_{1,r})$  are constants then so is  $\arg(1 + bz_{1,r}^{-\frac{1}{k}})$ . As  $|a_r|$  goes to infinity  $|z_{1,r}|$  goes to infinity and  $\arg(1 + bz_{1,r}^{-\frac{1}{k}})$  goes to zero. Thus each  $\arg(1 + bz_{1,r}^{-\frac{1}{k}}) = 0$  so every  $bz_{1,r}^{-\frac{1}{k}}$  is real and each  $b^2z_{1,r}^{-\frac{2}{k}}$  is positive. Also, from (1) we have now that

$$\arg(a_r) \equiv k(\arg(z_{1,r})) \text{ modulo } 2\pi$$

so, since  $b^2z_{1,r}^{-\frac{2}{k}}$  is positive,

$$\arg(a_r) \equiv 2(\arg(b)) \text{ modulo } 2\pi .$$

This contradiction proves (ii) subject to our (as yet) unproven assertion.

We next begin the proof of the "only if" part of (i). Let us look at the  $k$  different algebraic functions

$$z_j(a) = \rho^j a^{k-1} + b_0 + b_{-1} \rho^{-j} a^{-k-1} + \dots$$

for  $(1 \leq j \leq k)$  which are roots of  $p(z) = a$ , where  $\rho = \exp(2\pi i k^{-1})$  and the expressions are valid for all sufficiently large  $|a|$ . Let us now pass to a subsequence of the  $(a_r)$  such that each series for  $z_j(a_r)$  converges and each  $\arg(z_j(a_r))$  is constant (recall that there are only a finite number of values possible). Define  $-\pi \leq \varepsilon_j(\gamma) < \pi$  by

$$(2) \quad \arg(z_j(a_r)) \equiv (k^{-1} \arg(a_r) + jk^{-1}(2\pi) + \varepsilon_j(\gamma)) \text{ modulo } 2\pi ,$$

for each  $1 \leq j \leq k$ . Note that for each  $1 \leq j_1, j_2 \leq k$

$$(3) \quad \begin{aligned} \varepsilon_{j_1}(\gamma) - \varepsilon_{j_2}(\gamma) &\equiv (\arg(z_{j_1}(a_r)) - \arg(z_{j_2}(a_r))) \\ &\quad - (j_1 - j_2)k^{-1}(2\pi) \text{ modulo } 2\pi , \end{aligned}$$

and the right hand side above is a constant. Also each  $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \varepsilon_j(\gamma) = 0$  since  $\rho^j(a_r)^{k-1}$  is the dominant term of the expansion for  $z_j(a_r)$  about infinity. Thus each  $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} (\varepsilon_{j_1}(\gamma) - \varepsilon_{j_2}(\gamma)) = 0 - 0 = 0$ , so every  $\varepsilon_{j_1}(\gamma) - \varepsilon_{j_2}(\gamma) \equiv 0 \text{ modulo } 2\pi$ .

We now require that each  $|a_r|$  be sufficiently large to guarantee that every  $|\varepsilon_j(\gamma)| < k^{-1}\pi/2$ . Then every  $\varepsilon_{j_1}(\gamma) - \varepsilon_{j_2}(\gamma) = 0$ . Set  $\varepsilon(\gamma) = \varepsilon_1(\gamma) = \dots = \varepsilon_k(\gamma)$ . Since  $\pm a_r = \prod_{j=1}^k z_j(a_r)$  we have

$$\arg(a_r) \equiv \arg(a_r) + (k-1)\pi + k\varepsilon(\gamma) \text{ modulo } \pi ,$$

so  $k\varepsilon(\gamma) \equiv 0$  modulo  $\pi$ . Thus  $\varepsilon(\gamma) = 0$  for all sufficiently large  $\gamma$ . Then by (2) with each  $\varepsilon_j(\gamma) = 0$  we see that  $\arg(a_\gamma)$  is a constant on our subsequence. (This proves the statement needed in the proof of (ii).) From now on we assume that  $k > 2$ , since there is nothing to prove if  $k = 2$ . Also we have from (2) that, for each  $1 \leq j \leq k$ ,

$$(4) \quad \arg(z_j(a_\gamma)) \equiv (k^{-1}(\arg(a_\gamma)) + jk^{-1}(2\pi)) \text{ modulo } 2\pi.$$

Equation (4) says that each  $z_j(a_\gamma)$  has an argument equal to the argument of the dominant term in its expansion about  $a_\gamma = \infty$ . We shall next show by induction that for all non-negative integers  $n$ ,  $b_{-n} = 0$  unless  $k$  divides  $2(n+1)$ . Further if  $b_{-n} \neq 0$ , then, for sufficiently large  $\gamma$ ,  $\arg(b_{-n}(\rho^j a_\gamma^{k-1})^{-n}) \equiv \arg(\rho^j a_\gamma^{k-1})$  modulo  $\pi$ . (Actually, we are only interested in proving the first statement but the second statement is needed in order to make the induction go through.) Since  $k > 2$  we must show that  $b_0 = 0$ . Suppose  $b_0 \neq 0$ , then for sufficiently large  $\gamma$  we see that  $z_j(a_\gamma) - \rho^j(a_\gamma)^{k-1}$  does not vanish so

$$\begin{aligned} k^{-1}(\arg(a_\gamma) + j(2\pi)) &\equiv \lim_{\gamma \rightarrow \infty} (\arg(z_j(a_\gamma)) - \rho^j(a_\gamma)^{k-1}) \\ &\equiv \arg(b_0) \text{ modulo } \pi, \end{aligned}$$

for each  $0 \leq j \leq k-1$ . Since  $k > 2$  this is impossible. Thus  $b_0 = 0$ . Now assume the induction assumption for all  $0 \leq l \leq n-1$  and that  $b_{-n} \neq 0$ . If  $\gamma$  is sufficiently large  $z_j(a_\gamma) - \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} b_{-l}(\rho^j a_\gamma^{k-1})^{-l} \neq 0$  so that we have

$$\begin{aligned} (5) \quad k^{-1}(\arg(a_\gamma) + j(2\pi)) &\equiv \arg(z_j(a_\gamma)) \text{ modulo } 2\pi \\ &\equiv \arg(z_j(a_\gamma) - \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} b_{-l}(\rho^j a_\gamma^{k-1})^{-l}) \text{ modulo } \pi \\ &\equiv \arg(b_{-n}(\rho^j a_\gamma^{k-1})^{-n}). \end{aligned}$$

This proves the second statement in our induction assumption. Also we see from (5) that

$$k^{-1}((\arg(a_\gamma))(n+1) + j(2\pi)(n+1)) \equiv \arg(b_{-n}) \text{ modulo } \pi.$$

Setting  $j = 1, 0$  and subtracting we see that  $k^{-1}2(n+1)(\pi) \equiv 0$  modulo  $\pi$ . Therefore  $k$  divides  $2(n+1)$  if  $b_{-n} \neq 0$ . This completes the proof by induction.

We know that  $p(z) - a = \prod_{j=1}^k (z - z_j(a))$  and that each

$$z_j(a) = \rho^j a^{k-1} + b_{-(\frac{1}{2}k-1)}(\rho^j a^{k-1})^{-(\frac{1}{2}k-1)} + b_{-(k-1)}(\rho^j a^{k-1})^{-(k-1)} \\ + O((a^{k-1})^{-(\frac{3}{2}k-1)}),$$

where the last term indicates an infinite number of terms of order  $(a^{k-1})^{-(\frac{3}{2}k-1)}$  and lower. Since the coefficients of  $p(z)$  are independent of  $a$ , if we put in the different series for the  $z_j(a)$  in  $\prod_{j=1}^k (z - z_j(a))$  and find the total coefficient of  $a^0 z^l = z^l$ , for  $0 < l < k - 1$ , we will have the coefficient of  $z^l$  in  $p(z)$ . Our statement which must be demonstrated is that this coefficient vanishes if above  $l \neq \frac{1}{2}k$ . We shall show that it is impossible to find a term in the product above which equals a coefficient times  $a^0 z^l$ , if  $0 < l < k - 1$  and  $l \neq \frac{1}{2}k$ . It is clearly impossible to obtain such a term if we choose any factor from  $O((a^{k-1})^{-(\frac{3}{2}k-1)})$ . Also choosing a factor of  $(\rho^j a^{k-1})^{-(k-1)}$ , for any  $1 \leq j \leq k$ , forces us to choose  $k - 1$  factors of the form  $(\rho^j a^{k-1})$  and forces  $l$  to be zero. Thus the problem reduces to showing that one cannot find two non-negative integers  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  such that  $0 < h_1 + h_2 < k$  and  $(a^{k-1})^{h_1} (a^{k-1})^{-h_2(\frac{1}{2}k-1)} = a^0 = 1$  unless  $h_1 + h_2 = \frac{1}{2}k$ . Since  $k > 2$ ,  $h_2$  can equal only either 1 or 2. If  $h_2 = 1$ , then  $h_1 = \frac{1}{2}k - 1$ , so  $h_1 + h_2 = \frac{1}{2}k$ . If  $h_2 = 2$  then  $h_1 = k - 2$  so  $h_1 + h_2 = k$ , contrary to our assumption. This proves Lemma I.

LEMMA II. *If  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  are complex constants with  $\beta\gamma \neq 0$  and  $n$  is a positive integer then  $y = \gamma z(e^{\alpha z^n} + e^{\beta z^n})$  takes on all values.*

*Proof.* Suppose the statement is false. Then, by a result of Borel [1], one will obtain a contradiction. We leave the details to the reader.

LEMMA III. *The function  $y = \gamma z(e^{\alpha z^n} + e^{\beta z^n})$  cannot be written in the form  $p(g)$  where  $g$  is entire,  $p$  is any nonzero, nonlinear polynomial,  $n$  is a positive integer,  $\beta\gamma \neq 0$ , and  $\alpha\beta^{-1}$  is real.*

*Proof.* We shall assume that  $y = p(g)$  where  $y, g$ , and  $p = p(w)$  are as above. This will lead us to the conclusion that  $y$  takes on at least one value infinitely often with multiplicity larger than one; however, this latter conclusion will subsequently be shown to be false. Since  $p(w)$  is nonlinear,  $p'(w) = 0$  has at least one solution,  $w_0$ . Thus when  $g(z) = w_0$  we have that  $y(z) = p(w_0)$  and has multiplicity greater than one. If  $p'(w) = 0$  has two or more solutions  $g$  cannot omit both roots, hence  $y$  must take on the value of  $p(w_0)$  infinitely often with multiplicity greater than one, for some  $w_0$  such that  $p'(w_0) = 0$ . If  $w_0$  is the only root of

$p'(w) = 0$  then  $p(w) = p^{(k)}(w_0)(k!)^{-1}(w - w_0)^k + p(w_0)$  for some positive integer  $k \geq 2$ . Then either  $g$  takes on the value  $w_0$  infinitely often (so that  $y$  takes on the value  $p(w_0)$  infinitely often with multiplicity greater than one) or  $g$  takes on the value  $w_0$  only finitely often (so  $y$  takes on the value  $p(w_0)$  only finitely often, since  $p(w) - p(w_0)$  has only one zero). By Lemma II  $y$  does not omit any values, therefore  $y$  does assume some value  $a = p(w_0)$  infinitely often with multiplicity greater than one. We shall next show that this is impossible.

It is necessary first to dispose of the special cases when  $\alpha = 0$  or  $\alpha = \beta$ . Suppose  $\alpha = 0$ . Then replacing  $z$  by  $\sqrt[n]{\beta}z$  and then  $p(w)$  by  $(\gamma(\sqrt[n]{\beta})^{-1})^{-1}p(w)$  we may assume, without loss of generality, that  $y = z(e^{z^n} + 1)$ . (Similarly, if  $\alpha\beta^{-1} = 1$ , we may assume that  $y = ze^{z^n}$ .) Notice that  $a \neq 0$ , since if  $z \neq 0$ ,  $z(e^{z^n} + 1) = 0$ , and  $nz^n e^{z^n} + (e^{z^n} + 1) = 0$  we would have that  $e^{z^n} = 0$ . If  $a \neq 0$  then, for all nonzero  $z$ , if  $y(z) = a$  and  $y'(z) = 0$  we have  $0 = (y'(z))(y(z))^{-1} = z^{-1} + nz^{n-1}e^{z^n}(e^{z^n} + 1)^{-1} = z^{-1} + nz^n e^{z^n} a^{-1} = z^{-1} + nz^{n-1}(a - z)a^{-1} = z^{-1} + nz^{n-1} - na^{-1}z^n$ . For fixed  $a \neq 0$  this equation has at most  $n + 1$  distinct solutions. Suppose that  $ze^{z^n} = a$ ,  $e^{z^n} + nz^n e^{z^n} = 0$ , and  $z \neq 0$ . Then  $z^{-1}a + nz^{n-1}a = 0$ . Since  $z \neq 0$  we see that  $a \neq 0$ . Thus we have  $z^{-1} + nz^{n-1} = 0$  which can have at most  $n$  distinct solutions.

If  $\alpha\beta\gamma \neq 0$  and  $\alpha\beta^{-1} \neq 1$ , then without loss of generality we may take  $y$  to be of the form  $y = z(e^{\lambda z^n} + e^{z^n})$  where  $\lambda < 1$  but  $\lambda \neq 0$ . Suppose  $a = 0$ . Then requiring that  $z \neq 0$ , the equations  $z(e^{\lambda z^n} + e^{z^n}) = 0$  and  $(e^{\lambda z^n} + e^{z^n}) + nz^n(\lambda e^{\lambda z^n} + e^{z^n}) = 0$  imply that  $e^{\lambda z^n} = e^{z^n} = 0$ . This contradiction shows that  $a \neq 0$ . Now assuming that  $a \neq 0$  and  $z \neq 0$  we have  $0 = z^{-1} + nz^n(\lambda e^{\lambda z^n} + e^{z^n})(z(e^{\lambda z^n} + e^{z^n}))^{-1} = z^{-1} + nz^{n-1}a^{-1}(a + z(\lambda - 1)e^{\lambda z^n})$ . Then  $e^{\lambda z^n} = a(1 + nz^n)(nz^{n+1}(1 - \lambda))^{-1}$ , so substituting back in  $z(e^{\lambda z^n} + e^{z^n}) = a$  we have

$$z(a(1 + nz^n)(nz^{n+1}(1 - \lambda))^{-1}) + z(a(1 + nz^n)(nz^{n+1}(1 - \lambda))^{-1})^{\lambda-1} = a,$$

for an appropriate choice of the  $\lambda$ -th root above. Regardless of this choice, however, we see upon taking absolute values that  $\infty > |a| \geq |z| \cdot |a(1 + nz^n)(nz^{n+1}(1 - \lambda))^{-1}|^{\lambda-1} - |z| \cdot |a(1 + nz^n)(nz^{n+1}(1 - \lambda))^{-1}|$ . As  $|z|$  goes to infinity the first term on the right hand side above goes to  $+\infty$  while the second term remains bounded. This contradiction proves Lemma III.

The following lemma is essentially an observation out of Goldstein's proof of Theorem 1.

LEMMA IV. Let  $F(z) = ze^{z^k}(e^{az^k} + 1)$ , where  $k$  is a positive integer and  $a$  is a positive real number. Then  $F$  is  $E$ -pseudo prime.

*Sketch of the proof.* Set

$$K(z) = (e^{az^k} + 1) .$$

Then  $\delta(-1, K) = 1$ , and so by virtue of a result of Edrei and Fuchs [2, pp. 281–283] the estimate [2, p. 281] holds for  $K$  along a sequence of arcs and segments. Now we note along *those arcs* and segments  $e^{z^k}$  is bounded. Hence the mentioned estimate holds not only for  $K$  but also for  $F(z)$ . Then following Goldstein's argument we will arrive at the conclusion.

### 3. Proof of Theorem 2.

First of all, it is easy to verify that for any non-zero constants  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  and any positive integer  $k$ ,  $F(z) = ze^{\lambda_1 z^k}(e^{\lambda_2 z^k} + 1)$  cannot be periodic. Thus by virtue of a result of the first author [5], we need only to show that  $F$  is  $E$ -prime.

When  $c = 0$  or  $c = 1$  we choose  $F = z(e^{z^k} + 1)$  or  $F = ze^{z^k}$ , respectively, and it is easy to verify that they are all prime functions of order  $k$ . Therefore, we restrict ourselves to the case  $0 < c < 1$ .

Let us choose

$$(6) \quad F(z) = ze^{\lambda_1 z^k}(e^{\lambda_2 z^k} + 1) ,$$

where  $\lambda_1 > 0$  and  $\lambda_2 > 0$  are chosen such that  $\frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2} = c$ . We claim that  $f(z)$  is  $E$ -prime with  $\delta(0, F) = c$ . We first show that  $F$  is  $E$ -prime.  $F$  is  $E$ -pseudo prime by virtue of Lemma IV. By Lemma III,  $F$  also cannot assume the form  $F = p(g)$  with  $p$  a polynomial and  $g$  transcendental entire. Thus we only need to consider the possibility that  $F$  can be factorized as

$$(7) \quad F(z) = g(p(z)) ,$$

where  $g$  is transcendental, and  $p$  is a nonlinear polynomial. We may assume without loss of generality that  $p(0) = 0$  and that the leading coefficient of  $p$  is one.

Now, according to Lemma 1,

$$(8) \quad p(z) = z^{n/2}(z^{n/2} + b) .$$

where  $n$  is an integer and  $b$  a constant. We claim that  $n = 1$ . Suppose that  $n \geq 2$ . Then from (7) and (8) we have

$$(9) \quad F(z) = ze^{\lambda_1 z^k}(e^{\lambda_2 z^k} + 1) \equiv g(z^{n/2}(z^{n/2} + b)) .$$

Now if  $b \neq 0$ , then  $n$  has to be even. Let us substitute  $z$  by  $\zeta z$  into identity (9) where  $\zeta$  is a  $(n/2)$ -th root of unity other than one when  $n > 2$ , and substitute  $z$  by  $-z - b$  when  $n = 2$ . Then by Borel's result mentioned earlier one will obtain a contradiction. If  $b = 0$ , then  $n$  can be even or odd. We again substitute  $z$  by  $\zeta z$  into identity (9) and obtain a contradiction unless  $n = 1$  which means  $p(z)$  is linear. Thus we have also excluded the possibility (7). Hence  $F$  is  $E$ -prime, therefore is also prime.

Now we proceed to show that  $\delta(0, F) = c$ . Let us choose a non-negative number  $\lambda$  such that  $\lambda + \lambda_1 = n\lambda_2$ ,  $n$  a positive integer.

Multiplying  $F$  by  $e^{\lambda z^k}$  we have

$$(10) \quad H(z) = e^{\lambda z^k} F = ze^{n\lambda_2 z^k}(e^{\lambda_2 z^k} + 1) ,$$

or

$$(11) \quad H(z) = zf^n(z)(f(z) + 1) ,$$

where  $f(z) = e^{\lambda_2 z^k}$ .

According to a result of Hayman [6, p. 7]

$$(12) \quad \begin{aligned} T(r, H) &= T(r, zf^n(z)(f(z) + 1)) \sim T\{r, f^n(z)(f(z) + 1)\} \\ &\sim (n+1)T(r, f) \sim \frac{(n+1)\lambda_2}{\pi} r^k , \quad \text{as } r \rightarrow \infty . \end{aligned}$$

Now we have by Nevanlinna's first fundamental theorem and equation (10) that

$$(14) \quad \begin{aligned} T(r, F) &= F(r, He^{-\lambda z^k}) \\ &\geq T(r, H) - T(r, e^{-\lambda z^k}) + O(1) \\ &\geq \frac{(n+1)\lambda_2}{\pi} r^k - \frac{\lambda}{\pi} r^k + O(1) \\ &= \frac{(n\lambda_2 + \lambda_2 - \lambda)}{\pi} r^k + O(1) \\ &= \frac{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2}{\pi} r^k + O(1) . \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand

$$\begin{aligned}
(14) \quad T(r, F) &= T(r, ze^{\lambda_1 z^k}(e^{\lambda_2 z^k} + 1)) \\
&\leq T(r, e^{\lambda_1 z^k}) + T(r, e^{\lambda_2 z^k}) + O(\log r) \\
&\sim \frac{\lambda_1}{\pi} r^k + \frac{\lambda_2}{\pi} r^k + O(\log r) \\
&= \frac{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2}{\pi} r^k + O(\log r).
\end{aligned}$$

Thus from (13), (14), and noticing the fact that  $F$  is transcendental, we conclude

$$(15) \quad T(r, F) \sim (1 + o(1)) \frac{(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)}{\pi} r^k \quad \text{as } r \rightarrow \infty.$$

Now the counting function  $N\left(r, \frac{1}{F}\right)$  is equal to  $N\left(r, \frac{1}{e^{\lambda_2 z^k} + 1}\right)$  which is asymptotic to  $T(r, e^{\lambda_2 z^k})$  by Nevanlinna's second fundamental theorem.

Thus from this and (15) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
(16) \quad \delta(0, F) &= 1 - \overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N(r, 1/F)}{T(r, F)} \\
&= 1 - \overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(\lambda_2/\pi)r^k}{((\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)/\pi)r^k} = \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2} = c.
\end{aligned}$$

The theorem is thus proved.

#### REFERENCES

- [ 1 ] E. Borel, Sur les zéros des fonctions entières, *Acta Math.*, **20** (1897), p. 387.
- [ 2 ] A. Edrei and W. H. J. Fuchs, Valeurs déficientes et valeurs asymptotiques des fonctions mèromorphes, *Comm. Math. Helv.*, **33** (1959), pp. 258–295.
- [ 3 ] R. Goldstein, On factorisation of certain entire functions, *J. Lond. Math. Soc.*, (2), **2** (1970), pp. 221–224.
- [ 4 ] F. Gross, On factorization of meromorphic functions, *Trans. Amer. Math. Soc.*, Vol. **131**, No. 1, 1968.
- [ 5 ] —, Factorization of entire functions which are periodic mod  $g$ , *Indian Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics*, Vol. **2**, No. 3, 1971, p. 568.
- [ 6 ] W. K. Hayman, *Meromorphic functions*, Oxford, 1964.
- [ 7 ] R. Nevanlinna, Le théorème de Picard-Borel et la théorie des fonctions mèromorphes, Paris, Gauthier-Villars, 1929, p. 51.

