

## UNIQUENESS OF ENTIRE FUNCTIONS\*

BY

YI ZHANG and WEI-LING XIONG

**Abstract.** In this paper, we study the uniqueness problems on meromorphic functions sharing a finite set. The results extend and improve some theorems obtained earlier by FANG (2002) and ZHANG-LIN (2008).

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### 1. Introduction and results

In this paper, we will use the standard notations of Nevanlinna's value distribution theory (cf. [2], [5]).

Let  $f$  be a nonconstant meromorphic function in the whole complex plane  $\mathbf{C}$ , we set  $E(a, f) = \{z | f(z) - a = 0, \text{counting multiplicities}\}$ . In general, put  $E(S, f) = \bigcup_{a \in S} E(a, f)$ , where  $S$  denotes a set of complex numbers. Let  $k$  be a positive integer. Set

$$E_k(S, f) = \bigcup_{a \in S} \{z | f(z) - a = 0, \exists i, 0 < i \leq k, \text{ s.t. } f^{(i)}(z) \neq 0\},$$

where each zero of  $f(z) - a$  with multiplicity  $m$  counted  $m$  times when  $m \leq k$  in  $E(S, f)$ .

Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two nonconstant entire functions,  $n, m, l, t$  and  $p$  be positive integers, we set

$$(1.1) \quad F = [f^n(f^l - 1)^t]^{(p)}, G = [g^n(g^l - 1)^t]^{(p)},$$

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$$(1.2) \quad H_m = \frac{(F^m)''}{(F^m)'} - 2 \frac{(F^m)'}{F^m - 1} - \frac{(G^m)''}{(G^m)'} + 2 \frac{(G^m)'}{G^m - 1}$$

and  $S_m = \{1, \omega, \omega^2, \dots, \omega^{m-1}\}$ , where  $\omega = e^{\frac{2\pi}{m}i}$ .

In 2002, FANG proved the following result.

**Theorem A** ([1]). *Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two nonconstant entire functions, and let  $n, k$  be two positive integers with  $n > 2k + 8$ . If  $[f^n(z)(f(z) - 1)]^{(k)}$  and  $[g^n(z)(g(z) - 1)]^{(k)}$  share 1 CM, then  $f(z) \equiv g(z)$ .*

In a latter paper, ZHANG and LIN improved Theorem A and obtained the following result.

**Theorem B** ([4]). *Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two nonconstant entire functions, and let  $n, m$  and  $k$  be three positive integer with  $n > 2k + m + 4$ . If  $[f^n(z)(f(z) - 1)^m]^{(k)}$  and  $[g^n(z)(g(z) - 1)^m]^{(k)}$  share 1 CM, then  $f(z) \equiv g(z)$  or  $f$  and  $g$  satisfy the algebraic equation  $R(f, g) \equiv 0$ , where  $R(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \omega_1^n(\omega_1 - 1)^m - \omega_2^n(\omega_2 - 1)^m$ .*

In this article, we prove

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two transcendental entire functions,  $n, m, t, l, p$  be positive integers. If  $E_1(S_m, [f^n(f^l - 1)^t]^{(p)}) = E_1(S_m, [g^n(g^l - 1)^t]^{(p)})$  and  $n > \frac{6}{m} + 3tl + 4p$ , then  $f(z) \equiv bg(z)$ , where  $b^l = 1$ .*

## 2. Lemmas

To prove the theorem, we need the following lemmas.

**Lemma 1** ([3]). *Let  $f(z)$  be a nonconstant meromorphic function,  $k$  be a positive integer, if  $f^{(k)} \not\equiv 0$ , then  $N(r, \frac{1}{f^{(k)}}) \leq N(r, \frac{1}{f}) + k\bar{N}(r, f) + S(r, f)$ .*

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $F, G$  be defined as (1.1) and (1.2). If  $E_1(S_m, F) = E_1(S_m, G)$ , and  $n > \frac{6}{m} + 3tl + 4p$ , then  $H_m \equiv 0$ .*

**Proof.** If  $H_m \not\equiv 0$ , then  $E_1(1, F^m) = E_1(1, G^m)$ , since  $E_1(S_m, F) = E_1(S_m, G)$ . Suppose that  $z_0$  is a common simple zero point of  $F^m - 1$  and  $G^m - 1$ , then it follows from (1.2) that  $z_0$  is a zero point of  $H_m$ , and zero point of  $F^m$  or  $G^m$  with multiplicity 1 also are not poles of  $H_m$ . Thus, we

have

$$\begin{aligned} N_1\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m-1}\right) &= N_1\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m-1}\right) \leq N\left(r, \frac{1}{H_m}\right) \leq T(r, H_m) + O(1) \\ &\leq N(r, H_m) + S(r). \end{aligned}$$

By the definition of  $H_m$ , we have poles of  $H_m$  with multiplicity 1. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} (2.1) \quad N_1\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m-1}\right) &= N_1\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m-1}\right) \leq \overline{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right) + \overline{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m}\right) \\ &\quad + \overline{N}_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(F^m)'}\right) + \overline{N}_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(G^m)'}\right) + \overline{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m-1}\right) \\ &\quad + \overline{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m-1}\right) + S(r). \end{aligned}$$

Where  $S(r) = \max\{S(r, f), S(r, g)\}$ .

By the second fundamental theorem, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (2.2) \quad T(r, F^m) + T(r, G^m) &\leq \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m-1}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m}\right) \\ &\quad + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m-1}\right) - \left[N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(F^m)'}\right) + N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(G^m)'}\right)\right] + S(r). \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 1, we get  $N(r, \frac{1}{(G^m)'}) \leq N(r, \frac{1}{G^m}) + S(r)$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} &\overline{N}_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(G^m)'}\right) + \overline{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m-1}\right) + N_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m}\right) - \overline{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m}\right) \\ &\leq N\left(r, \frac{1}{(G^m)'}\right) \leq N\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m}\right) + S(r). \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$(2.3) \quad \overline{N}_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(G^m)'}\right) + \overline{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m-1}\right) \leq \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m}\right) + S(r).$$

Similarly, we have

$$(2.4) \quad \overline{N}_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(F^m)'}\right) + \overline{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m-1}\right) \leq \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right) + S(r, f).$$

From (2.1)-(2.4) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 m(T(r, F) + T(r, G)) &\leq \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right) + \bar{N}_{(1)}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m - 1}\right) \\
 &+ \bar{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m - 1}\right) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m}\right) + \bar{N}_{(1)}\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m - 1}\right) \\
 (2.5) \quad &+ \bar{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m - 1}\right) - \left[N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(F^m)'}\right) + N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(G^m)'}\right)\right] \\
 &+ S(r) \leq 4\bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right) + 4\bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m}\right) + 2\bar{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right) \\
 &+ 2\bar{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m}\right) + S(r).
 \end{aligned}$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned}
 \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right) + \bar{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right) &\leq N\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right) \\
 &- \left[N_{(3)}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right) - 2\bar{N}_{(3)}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right)\right],
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$N_{(3)}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right) - 2\bar{N}_{(3)}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right) \geq [m(n-p) - 2]N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right),$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.6) \quad &\bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right) + \bar{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right) \\
 &\leq N\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right) - [m(n-p) - 2]N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right).
 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.7) \quad &\bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m}\right) + \bar{N}_{(2)}\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m}\right) \\
 &\leq N\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m}\right) - [m(n-p) - 2]N\left(r, \frac{1}{g}\right).
 \end{aligned}$$

Combining (2.5)-(2.7), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
m[T(r, F) + T(r, G)] &\leq 2\bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right) + 2\bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m}\right) \\
&+ 2\left[N\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right) - (m(n-p) - 2)N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right)\right] \\
&+ 2\left[N\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m}\right) - (m(n-p) - 2)N\left(r, \frac{1}{g}\right)\right] + S(r) \\
&\leq 2\bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right) + 2\bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m}\right) + 2N\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right) + 2N\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m}\right) \\
&- 2(m(n-p) - 2)\left[N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{g}\right)\right] + S(r) = 4N\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right) \\
&+ 4N\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m}\right) - [4m(n-p) - 6]\left[N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{g}\right)\right] + S(r).
\end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 1, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
m\left(m\left(r, \frac{1}{F_1}\right) + m\left(r, \frac{1}{G_1}\right)\right) &\leq m\left(m\left(r, \frac{1}{F}\right) + m\left(r, \frac{1}{G}\right)\right) + S(r) \\
&\leq 3m\left[N\left(r, \frac{1}{F}\right) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{G}\right)\right] - [4m(n-p) - 6]\left[N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{g}\right)\right] \\
&+ S(r) \leq 3m\left[N\left(r, \frac{1}{F_1}\right) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{G_1}\right)\right] \\
&- [4m(n-p) - 6]\left[N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{g}\right)\right] + S(r),
\end{aligned}$$

where  $F_1 = f^n(f^l - 1)^t$ ,  $G_1 = g^n(g^l - 1)^t$ . It follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
m[T(r, F_1) + T(r, G_1)] &\leq 4m\left[N\left(r, \frac{1}{F_1}\right) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{G_1}\right)\right] \\
&- [4m(n-p) - 6]\left[N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{g}\right)\right] + S(r).
\end{aligned}$$

We get  $[m(n+tl) - 4mtl - 4mp - 6][T(r, f) + T(r, g)] \leq S(r)$ , which contradicts the assumption that  $n > \frac{6}{m} + 3tl + 4p$ . Therefore  $H_m \equiv 0$ , which completes the proof of Lemma 2.

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $f$  be a transcendental meromorphic functions,  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  be two meromorphic functions such that  $T(r, a_j) = S(r, f)(j = 1, 2)$  and*

$a_1 \neq a_2$ , then

$$T(r, f) \leq \overline{N}(r, f) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f - a_1}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f - a_2}\right) + S(r, f).$$

**Lemma 4.** *Let  $f$  be a transcendental entire function,  $k$  be a positive integer, and  $c$  be a nonzero finite complex number. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} T(r, f) &\leq N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + N\left(r, \frac{1}{f^{(k)} - c}\right) - N\left(r, \frac{1}{f^{(k+1)}}\right) + S(r, f) \\ &\leq N_{k+1}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f^{(k)} - c}\right) - N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{f^{(k+1)}}\right) + S(r, f), \end{aligned}$$

where  $N_0(r, 1/f^{(k+1)})$  is the counting function which only counts those points such that  $f^{(k+1)} = 0$  but  $f(f^k - c) \neq 0$ .

### 3. Proof of Theorem 1

Let  $F$ ,  $G$  and defined as (1.1) and (1.2).

By Lemma 2, we have  $H_m \equiv 0$ , that is

$$\frac{(F^m)''}{(F^m)'} - 2\frac{(F^m)'}{F^m - 1} \equiv \frac{(G^m)''}{(G^m)'} - 2\frac{(G^m)'}{G^m - 1}.$$

Thus

$$(3.1) \quad \frac{1}{G^m - 1} \equiv \frac{A}{F^m - 1} + B,$$

where  $A \neq 0$  and  $B$  are two constants. Hence  $E(1, F^m) = E(1, G^m)$ ,  $T(r, F) = T(r, G)$ .

(I) Now we claim that

$$(3.2) \quad f^n(f^l - 1)^t \equiv ag^n(g^l - 1)^t.$$

Next we consider the following two cases.

*Case 1.* When  $B = 0$ , by (3.1), we have

$$(3.3) \quad F^m = AG^m + (1 - A).$$

(a) If  $A = 1$ , then by (3.3), we have  $F^m = G^m$ , and hence  $f^n(f^l - 1)^t \equiv ag^n(g^l - 1)^t$ .

(b) If  $A \neq 1$ , then by (3.3), we have

$$(3.4) \quad F^{m-1}F' = AG^{m-1}G'.$$

From (3.3) and (3.4) we get: when  $F = 0$ ,  $G^m \neq 0, 1$  and  $G' = 0$ , when  $G = 0$ ,  $F^m \neq 0, 1$  and  $F' = 0$ . Thus

$$(3.5) \quad \begin{aligned} N\left(r, \frac{1}{F}\right) - N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(G^m)'}\right) &= S(r, F), \\ N\left(r, \frac{1}{G}\right) - N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(F^m)'}\right) &= S(r, F). \end{aligned}$$

By the second fundamental theorem, we have

$$(3.6) \quad \begin{aligned} T(r, F^m) &\leq \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F^m - (1-A)}\right) - N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(F^m)'}\right) + S(r, F) \\ &\leq \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{G}\right) - N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(F^m)'}\right) + S(r, F). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we have

$$(3.7) \quad T(r, G^m) \leq \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{G}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F}\right) - N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(G^m)'}\right) + S(r, G).$$

From (3.5)-(3.7), we have

$$2mT(r, F) \leq \left[ \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{G}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F}\right) \right] + S(r, F) \leq 2T(r, F) + S(r, F).$$

Hence  $m = 1$ . By (3.3) we get

$$(3.8) \quad f^n(f^l - 1)^t \equiv ag^n(g^l - 1)^t + P(z),$$

where  $P(z)$  is a polynomial of degree at most  $p - 1$ .

If  $P(z) \not\equiv 0$ , by (3.8) and Lemma 3, we have

$$\begin{aligned} T(r, f^n(f^l - 1)^t) &\leq \overline{N}(r, f^n(f^l - 1)^t) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f^n(f^l - 1)^t}\right) \\ &+ \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f^n(f^l - 1)^t - P}\right) + S(r, f) \leq \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f^l - 1}\right) \\ &+ \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{g}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{g^l - 1}\right) + S(r, f) \leq 2(1 + l)T(r, f) + S(r, f). \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $n + tl \leq 2(1 + l)$ , which contradicts the assumption that  $n > \frac{6}{m} + 3tl + 4p$ .

*Case 2.* When  $B \neq 0$ , by (3.1), we have

$$(3.9) \quad \frac{1}{G^m - 1} = B \frac{F^m + (\frac{A}{B} - 1)}{F^m - 1}, \quad \frac{A}{F^m - 1} = -B \frac{G^m - (\frac{1}{B} + 1)}{G^m - 1},$$

and

$$\frac{G^{m-1}G'}{(G^m - 1)^2} = A \frac{F^{m-1}F'}{(F^m - 1)^2}.$$

Thus

$$(3.10) \quad F^m + \left(\frac{A}{B} - 1\right) \neq 0, \quad G^m - \left(\frac{1}{B} + 1\right) \neq 0.$$

(a) If  $A = B$ .

By (3.9), we have  $F \neq 0$ . Since  $F = (f^n(f^l - 1)^t)^{(p)}$  and  $n > p$ , thus  $f \neq 0$ . Let  $f = e^\alpha$ , where  $\alpha$  is a nonconstant entire function. Thus

$$f^n(f^l - 1)^t = e^{n\alpha} \sum_{j=0}^t (-1)^{t-j} C_t^j e^{lj\alpha} = \sum_{j=0}^t (-1)^{t-j} C_t^j e^{(n+lj)\alpha}.$$

Let

$$((-1)^{t-j} C_t^j e^{(n+lj)\alpha})^{(p)} = P_j(\alpha', \alpha'', \dots, \alpha^{(p)}) e^{(n+lj)\alpha},$$

where  $P_j(\alpha', \alpha'', \dots, \alpha^{(p)})$  ( $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, t$ ) are differential polynomials. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} F &= \sum_{j=0}^t P_j(\alpha', \alpha'', \dots, \alpha^{(p)}) e^{(n+lj)\alpha} = e^{n\alpha} \sum_{j=0}^t P_j(\alpha', \alpha'', \dots, \alpha^{(p)}) e^{lj\alpha} \\ &= e^{n\alpha} F_0, \end{aligned}$$

where  $F_0 = \sum_{j=0}^t P_j(\alpha', \alpha'', \dots, \alpha^{(p)}) e^{lj\alpha}$ .

Obviously, there exists  $j$  ( $0 \leq j \leq t$ ), such that  $P_j(\alpha', \alpha'', \dots, \alpha^{(p)}) \not\equiv 0$ . Suppose  $P_0(\alpha', \alpha'', \dots, \alpha^{(p)}) \not\equiv 0$ . Since  $F \neq 0$ , thus  $F_0 \neq 0$ . Since  $f$  is a



nonconstant entire function we use Lemma 3 to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 ltT(r, e^\alpha) &= T(r, F_0) \leq \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F_0}\right) \\
 &\quad + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{F_0 - P_0(\alpha', \alpha'', \dots, \alpha^{(p)})}\right) + \overline{N}(r, F_0) + S(r, e^\alpha) \\
 &= \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{\sum_{j=1}^t P_j(\alpha', \alpha'', \dots, \alpha^{(p)})e^{lj\alpha}}\right) + S(r, e^\alpha) \\
 &= \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{\sum_{j=1}^t P_j(\alpha', \alpha'', \dots, \alpha^{(p)})e^{l(j-1)\alpha}}\right) + S(r, e^\alpha) \\
 &\leq l(t-1)T(r, e^\alpha) + S(r, e^\alpha),
 \end{aligned}$$

which is a contradiction.

(b) If  $A \neq B$  and  $B = -1$ .

By (3.9), we have  $G \neq 0$ . Since  $G = (g^n(g^l - 1)^t)^{(p)}$  and  $n > p$ , thus  $g \neq 0$ . Let  $g = e^\beta$ , where  $\beta$  is a nonconstant entire function. Similarly, we have  $ltT(r, e^\beta) \leq l(t-1)T(r, e^\beta) + S(r, e^\beta)$ , which is a contradiction.

(c) If  $A \neq B$  and  $B \neq -1$ .

When  $m > 1$ , by (3.10) and the second fundamental theorem, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(r, G^m) &\leq \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m}\right) + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{G^m - (\frac{1}{B} + 1)}\right) + \overline{N}(r, G^m) + S(r, G) \\
 &\leq \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{G}\right) + S(r, G) \leq T(r, G) + S(r),
 \end{aligned}$$

thus  $G$  is constant, hence  $g$  is constant, which is a contradiction.

When  $m = 1$ , by (3.10), we have  $F + (\frac{A}{B} - 1) \neq 0$ , thus  $(f^n(f^l - 1)^t)^{(p)} + (\frac{A}{B} - 1) \neq 0$ , by Lemma 4, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (n + lt)T(r, f) &= T(r, f^n(f^l - 1)^t) + S(r, f) \leq N_{p+1}\left(r, \frac{1}{f^n(f^l - 1)^t}\right) \\
 &\quad + \overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{(f^n(f^l - 1)^t)^{(p)} + (\frac{A}{B} - 1)}\right) - N_0\left(r, \frac{1}{(f^n(f^l - 1)^t)^{(p+1)}}\right) + S(r, f) \\
 &\leq N_{p+1}\left(r, \frac{1}{f^n(f^l - 1)^t}\right) + S(r, f) \leq (p+1)\overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) \\
 &\quad + N_{p+1}\left(r, \frac{1}{(f^l - 1)^t}\right) + S(r, f) \leq (p+1+lt)T(r, f) + S(r, f),
 \end{aligned}$$

thus  $n \leq p + 1$ , which contradicts the assumption that  $n > \frac{6}{m} + 3tl + 4p$ .

By case 1 and case 2, we get (3.2).

By (3.2), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & f^{n-1}(f^l - 1)^{t-1} \left( f^l - \frac{n}{n+tl} \right) f' \\ (3.11) \quad & = ag^{n-1}(g^l - 1)^{t-1} \left( g^l - \frac{n}{n+tl} \right) g'. \end{aligned}$$

From (3.2) and (3.11), we get

(i) When  $f = 0$ , have  $g = 0$  or  $g^l = 1$ .

(ii) When  $f^l = 1$ , have  $g^l = 1$  or  $g = 0$ .

(iii) When  $f^l = \frac{n}{n+tl}$ , have  $g^l = \frac{n}{n+tl}$  or  $g' = 0$  (such that  $g^l \neq \frac{n}{n+tl}$ ,  $g \neq 0$ ,  $g^l \neq 1$ ).

By (3.2), (i) and (ii), we have

$$(3.12) \quad \overline{N} \left( r, \frac{1}{f^l - 1} \right) - \overline{N} \left( r, \frac{1}{f^l - 1}, \frac{1}{g^l - 1} \right) \leq \frac{t}{n} N \left( r, \frac{1}{f^l - 1} \right),$$

and

$$(3.13) \quad \overline{N} \left( r, \frac{1}{f} \right) - \overline{N} \left( r, \frac{1}{f}, \frac{1}{g} \right) \leq \frac{t}{n} N \left( r, \frac{1}{g^l - 1} \right).$$

Using the fact that  $f$  and  $g$  are nonconstant entire functions and the second fundamental theorem, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 2lT(r, f) & \leq \overline{N} \left( r, \frac{1}{f} \right) + \overline{N} \left( r, \frac{1}{f^l - 1} \right) + \overline{N} \left( r, \frac{1}{f^l - \frac{n}{n+tl}} \right) \\ (3.14) \quad & - N_0 \left( r, \frac{1}{f'} \right) + S(r, f) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} 2lT(r, g) & \leq \overline{N} \left( r, \frac{1}{g} \right) + \overline{N} \left( r, \frac{1}{g^l - 1} \right) + \overline{N} \left( r, \frac{1}{g^l - \frac{n}{n+tl}} \right) \\ (3.15) \quad & - N_0 \left( r, \frac{1}{g'} \right) + S(r, g). \end{aligned}$$

If  $f^l \equiv g^l$ , then there exists constant  $b$ , such that  $f \equiv bg$ , where  $b^l = 1$ .

If  $f^l \neq g^l$ , by (3.12)-(3.15),(i)-(iii), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 4lT(r, f) &= 2l[T(r, f) + T(r, g)] \leq 2\overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f}, \frac{1}{g}\right) \\
 &\quad + 2\overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f^l-1}, \frac{1}{g^l-1}\right) + 2\overline{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f^l-\frac{n}{n+tl}}, \frac{1}{g^l-\frac{n}{n+tl}}\right) \\
 &\quad + \frac{2t}{n}N\left(r, \frac{1}{f^l-1}\right) + \frac{2t}{n}N\left(r, \frac{1}{g^l-1}\right) + S(r, f) \\
 &\leq 2N\left(r, \frac{1}{f^l-V^l}\right) + \frac{2t}{n}N\left(r, \frac{1}{f^l-1}\right) \\
 &\quad + \frac{2t}{n}N\left(r, \frac{1}{g^l-1}\right) + S(r, g) \leq \left(2l + \frac{4tl}{n}\right)T(r, f) + S(r, f).
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $2l \leq \frac{4tl}{n}$ , which contradicts the assumption that  $n > \frac{6}{m} + 3tl + 4p$ .

Summarizing the above discussion we obtain Theorem 1.

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Liuzhou City Vocational College,  
Liuzhou Guangxi, 545001,  
P.R. CHINA  
cnzy2006@163.com

Department of Information and Computing Science of Guangxi University of  
Technology,  
Liuzhou Guangxi, 545006,  
P.R. CHINA