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## VALUE-SHARING PROBLEM FOR $p$ -ADIC MEROMORPHIC FUNCTIONS AND THEIR DIFFERENCE OPERATORS AND DIFFERENCE POLYNOMIALS \*

### ЗАДАЧА ПРО СПІЛЬНІ ЗНАЧЕННЯ ДЛЯ $p$ -АДИЧНИХ МЕРОМОРФНИХ ФУНКЦІЙ ТА ЇХ РІЗНИЦЕВИХ ОПЕРАТОРІВ І РІЗНИЦЕВИХ ПОЛІНОМІВ

We discuss the value-sharing problem, versions of the Hayman conjecture, and the uniqueness problem for  $p$ -adic meromorphic functions and their difference operators and difference polynomials.

Досліджено питання про спільні значення і єдиність та аналоги гіпотези Хеймена для  $p$ -адичних мероморфних функцій та їх різницевих операторів і різницевих поліномів.

**1. Introduction.** The problem of determining a meromorphic (or entire) function on  $\mathbb{C}$  by its single pre-images, counting multiplicities, of finite sets is an important one and it has been studied by many mathematicians. For instance, in 1921 G. Polya showed that an entire function on  $\mathbb{C}$  is determined by the inverse images, counting multiplicities, of three distinct non-omitted values. In 1926, R. Nevanlinna showed that a meromorphic function on the complex plane is uniquely determined by the inverse images, ignoring multiplicities, of 5 distinct values.

In [16] Hayman proved the following well-known result:

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $f$  be a meromorphic function on  $\mathbb{C}$ . If  $f(z) \neq 0$  and  $f^{(k)}(z) \neq 1$  for some fixed positive integer  $k$  and for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , then  $f$  is constant.*

Hayman also proposed the following conjecture (see [16]).

**Hayman Conjecture.** *If an entire function  $f$  satisfies  $f^n(z)f'(z) \neq 1$  for a positive integer  $n$  and all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , then  $f$  is a constant.*

It has been verified for transcendental entire functions by Hayman himself for  $n > 1$  [16], and by Clunie for  $n \geq 1$  [5]. These results and some related problems caused increasingly attentions to the value-sharing problem of meromorphic functions and their derivatives (see [2, 4, 19, 21]).

In 1997 Yang and Hua [23] studied the unicity problem for meromorphic functions and differential monomials of the form  $f^n f'$ , when they share only one value, and obtained the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.2.** *Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two non-constant meromorphic functions, let  $n \geq 11$  be an integer, and  $a \in \mathbb{C}$  be a non-zero finite value. If  $f^n f'$  and  $g^n g'$  share the value  $a$  CM, then either  $f \equiv dg$  for some  $(n+1)$ -th root of unity  $d$ , or  $f = c_1 e^{cz}$  and  $g = c_2 e^{-cz}$  for three non-zero constants  $c_1, c_2$  and  $c$  such that  $(c_1 c_2)^{n+1} c^2 = -a^2$ .*

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Recently, there has been an increasing interest in studying value-sharing and uniqueness for meromorphic functions and their difference operators and difference polynomials. Halburd and Korhonen [14] established a version of Nevanlinna theory based on difference operators. For an analog of Hayman Conjecture for difference, Laine and Yang [20] investigated the value distribution of difference products of entire functions, and obtained the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.3.** *Let  $f(z)$  be a transcendental entire function of finite order, and  $c$  be a non-zero complex constant. Then  $n \geq 2$ ,  $f(z)^n f(z+c)$  assumes every non-zero value  $a \in \mathbb{C}$  infinitely often.*

In recent years the similar problems are investigated for functions in a non-Archimedean fields (see, for example, [3, 5]). In [22] J. Ojeda proved that for a transcendental meromorphic function  $f$  in an algebraically closed fields of characteristic zero, complete for a non-Archimedean absolute value  $\mathbb{K}$ , the function  $f^l f^n - 1$  has infinitely many zeros, if  $n \geq 2$ .

Ha Huy Khoai and Vu Hoai An [12] established a similar results for a differential monomial of the form  $f^n (f^{(k)})^m$ , where  $f$  is a meromorphic function in  $\mathbb{C}_p$ .

Now let  $\mathbb{K}$  be an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero, complete for a non-Archimedean absolute value. We denote by  $\mathcal{A}(\mathbb{K})$  the ring of entire functions in  $\mathbb{K}$ , by  $\mathcal{M}(\mathbb{K})$  the field of meromorphic functions, i.e., the field of fractions of  $\mathcal{A}(\mathbb{K})$ , and  $\widehat{\mathbb{K}} = \mathbb{K} \cup \{\infty\}$ . The value-sharing problem for meromorphic functions in  $\mathbb{K}$  was investigated first in [1] and [8]. In recent years, many interesting results on the value-sharing problem for meromorphic functions in  $\mathbb{K}$  were obtained (see [17, 13]).

Let us first recall some basic definitions. For  $f \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{K})$  and  $S \subset \widehat{\mathbb{K}}$ , we define

$$E_f(S) = \bigcup_{a \in S} \{(z, m) | f(z) = a \text{ with multiplicity } m\}.$$

Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a nonempty subset of  $\mathcal{M}(\mathbb{K})$ . Two functions  $f, g$  of  $\mathcal{F}$  are said to *share  $S$ , counting multiplicity* (share  $S$  CM), if  $E_f(S) = E_g(S)$ .

Now for  $f \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{K})$ . We define difference operators of  $f$  as

$$\Delta_c f = f(z+c) - f(z), \quad \Delta_c^1 f = \Delta_c f$$

and

$$\Delta_c^{n+1} f = \Delta_c^n f(z+c) - \Delta_c^n f(z), \quad n = 1, 2, \dots,$$

where  $c \in \mathbb{C}_p$  is a non-zero constant; and difference polynomial of  $f$  as

$$A(z, f) = \sum_{\Lambda \in I} a_\Lambda(z) f(z)^{\Lambda_0} f(z)^{\Lambda_1} \dots f(z)^{\Lambda_n},$$

where  $I$  be a finite set of multiindex  $\Lambda = (\Lambda_0, \Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_n)$  and the coefficients  $a_\Lambda(z)$  are *small* with respect to  $f(z)$  in the sense that  $T_{a_\Lambda}(r) = o(T_f(r))$ .

From now on, we assume  $P(z)$  is a non-zero polynomial on  $\mathbb{C}_p$  of degree  $n$ . Write  $P(z) = a_0(z-a_1)^{m_1}(z-a_2)^{m_2} \dots (z-a_s)^{m_s}$ ,  $a_0 \neq 0$ .

In this paper we discuss the value-sharing and versions of the Hayman Conjecture and uniqueness for  $p$ -adic meromorphic functions and their difference operators and difference polynomials, and prove a  $p$ -adic analog of Laine–Yang’s result. Namely, we prove the following theorems.

**Theorem 1.4** (A version of the Hayman Conjecture for  $p$ -adic meromorphic functions and their difference operators). *Let  $f$  be a meromorphic function on  $\mathbb{C}_p$  and  $n, k_i, s, q, i = 1, \dots, q$ , be integers,*

$$s \geq 1, \quad q \geq 1, \quad k_i \geq 1, \quad n \geq \sum_{i=1}^q (2k_i + 1)2^i + q + s + 1 - 3 \sum_{i=1}^q k_i,$$

*and  $\Delta^q f$  is not identically zero. Then  $P(f)(\Delta_c^1 f)^{k_1} \dots (\Delta_c^q f)^{k_q} - a$  has zeros, where  $a \in \mathbb{C}_p$  is a non-zero.*

**Theorem 1.5** (A version of the Hayman Conjecture for  $p$ -adic meromorphic functions and their difference polynomials). *Let  $f$  be a meromorphic function on  $\mathbb{C}_p$  and  $n, q_i, s, k, i = 1, \dots, k$ , be integers, and*

$$s \geq 1, \quad k \geq 1, \quad q_i \geq 1, \quad n \geq \sum_{i=1}^k q_i + 2k + s + 1.$$

*Then  $P(f)(f(z+c))^{q_1} \dots (f(z+kc))^{q_k} - a$  has zeros, where  $a \in \mathbb{C}_p$  is a non-zero.*

**Theorem 1.6** (A version of the Yang and Hua's Theorem 1.2 for  $p$ -adic meromorphic functions and their difference polynomials). *Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two non-constant  $p$ -adic meromorphic functions.*

(1) *If  $E_{f^n f(z+c)\dots f(z+kc)}(1) = E_{g^n g(z+c)\dots g(z+kc)}(1)$ , with  $k \geq 1$  and  $n \geq 5k + 8$  be integers, then  $f = hg$  with  $h^{n+k} = 1$  or  $fg = l$  with  $l^{n+k} = 1$ .*

(2) *If  $E_{f^n (f(z+c))^{q_1} \dots (f(z+kc))^{q_k}}(1) = E_{g^n (g(z+c))^{q_1} \dots (g(z+kc))^{q_k}}(1)$ , with*

$$q_i > 1, \quad i = 1, \dots, k, \quad k \geq 1, \quad n \geq \sum_{i=1}^k q_i + 8k + 8$$

*be integers, then  $f = hg$  with  $h^{n+q_1+\dots+q_k} = 1$  or  $fg = l$  with  $l^{n+q_1+\dots+q_k} = 1$ .*

(3) *If*

$$\begin{aligned} & E_{f^n (f(z+e_1c)\dots f(z+e_m c)(f(z+t_1c))^{q_1} \dots (f(z+t_k c))^{q_k})}(1) = \\ & = E_{g^n (g(z+e_1c)\dots g(z+e_m c)(g(z+t_1c))^{q_1} \dots (g(z+t_k c))^{q_k})}(1), \end{aligned}$$

*with*

$$e_j \geq 1, \quad j = 1, \dots, m, \quad t_i \geq 1, \quad q_i > 1, \quad i = 1, \dots, k, \quad k \geq 1,$$

$$n \geq 5m + \sum_{i=1}^k q_i + 8k + 8$$

*be integers, then  $f = hg$  with  $h^{n+m+q_1+\dots+q_k} = 1$  or  $fg = l$  with  $l^{n+m+q_1+\dots+q_k} = 1$ .*

The main tool of the proof is the  $p$ -adic Nevanlinna theory ([8–3, 17]). Therefore, in the next section we first establish some properties of the height function (a  $p$ -adic analog of the Nevanlinna characteristic function) for  $p$ -adic meromorphic functions and their difference operator and difference polynomials for later use.

**2. Height of  $p$ -adic meromorphic functions.** Let  $f$  be a non-constant holomorphic function on  $\mathbb{C}_p$ . For every  $a \in \mathbb{C}_p$ , expanding  $f$  around  $a$  as  $f = \sum P_i(z - a)$  with homogeneous polynomials  $P_i$  of degree  $i$ , we define

$$v_f(a) = \min\{i: P_i \neq 0\}.$$

For a point  $d \in \mathbb{C}_p$  we define the function  $v_f^d: \mathbb{C}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  by

$$v_f^d(a) = v_{f-d}(a).$$

Fix a real number  $\rho$  with  $0 < \rho \leq r$ . Define

$$N_f(a, r) = \frac{1}{\ln p} \int_{\rho}^r \frac{n_f(a, x)}{x} dx,$$

where  $n_f(a, x)$ , as usually, is the number of the solutions of the equation  $f(z) = a$  (counting multiplicity) in the disk  $D_x = \{z \in \mathbb{C}_p: |z| \leq x\}$ .

If  $a = 0$ , then set  $N_f(r) = N_f(0, r)$ .

For  $l$  a positive integer, set

$$N_{l,f}(a, r) = \frac{1}{\ln p} \int_{\rho}^r \frac{n_{l,f}(a, x)}{x} dx,$$

where

$$n_{l,f}(a, r) = \sum_{|z| \leq r} \min\{v_{f-a}(z), l\}.$$

Let  $k$  be a positive integer. Define the function  $v_f^{\leq k}$  from  $\mathbb{C}_p$  into  $\mathbb{N}$  by

$$v_f^{\leq k}(z) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } v_f(z) > k, \\ v_f(z) & \text{if } v_f(z) \leq k, \end{cases}$$

and

$$n_f^{\leq k}(r) = \sum_{|z| \leq r} v_f^{\leq k}(z), \quad n_f^{\leq k}(a, r) = n_{f-a}^{\leq k}(r).$$

Define

$$N_f^{\leq k}(a, r) = \frac{1}{\ln p} \int_{\rho}^r \frac{n_f^{\leq k}(a, x)}{x} dx.$$

If  $a = 0$ , then set  $N_f^{\leq k}(r) = N_f^{\leq k}(0, r)$ .

Set

$$N_{l,f}^{\leq k}(a, r) = \frac{1}{\ln p} \int_{\rho}^r \frac{n_{l,f}^{\leq k}(a, x)}{x} dx,$$

where

$$n_{l,f}^{\leq k}(a, r) = \sum_{|z| \leq r} \min \{v_{f-a}^{\leq k}(z), l\}.$$

In a like manner we define

$$N_f^{<k}(a, r), \quad N_{l,f}^{<k}(a, r), \quad N_f^{>k}(a, r), \quad N_f^{\geq k}(a, r), \quad N_{l,f}^{\geq k}(a, r), \quad N_{l,f}^{>k}(a, r).$$

Recall that for a holomorphic function  $f(z)$  in  $\mathbb{C}_p$ , represented by the power series

$$f(z) = \sum_0^{\infty} a_n z^n,$$

for each  $r > 0$ , we define  $|f|_r = \max\{|a_n|r^n, 0 \leq n < \infty\}$ .

Now let  $f = \frac{f_1}{f_2}$  be a non-constant meromorphic function on  $\mathbb{C}_p$ , where  $f_1, f_2$  be holomorphic functions on  $\mathbb{C}_p$  having no common zeros, we set  $|f|_r = \frac{|f_1|_r}{|f_2|_r}$ . For a point  $d \in \mathbb{C}_p \cup \{\infty\}$  we define the function  $v_f^d: \mathbb{C}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  by

$$v_f^d(a) = v_{f_1-df_2}(a)$$

with  $d \neq \infty$ , and

$$v_f^{\infty}(a) = v_{f_2}(a).$$

For a point  $a \in \mathbb{C}$  define

$$m_f(\infty, r) = \max \{0, \log |f|_r\}, \quad qm_f(a, r) = m_{1/f-a}(\infty, r),$$

$$N_f(a, r) = N_{f_1-af_2}(r), \quad N_f(\infty, r) = N_{f_2}(r),$$

$$T_f(r) = \max_{1 \leq i \leq 2} \log |f_i|_r.$$

In a like manner we define

$$N_{l,f}(a, r), \quad N_f^{<k}(a, r), \quad N_{l,f}^{<k}(a, r), \quad N_f^{>k}(a, r), \quad N_{l,f}^{>k}(a, r), \quad N_f^{>k}(a, r),$$

$$N_f^{\geq k}(a, r), \quad N_{l,f}^{\geq k}(a, r), \quad N_{l,f}^{>k}(a, r),$$

with  $a \in \mathbb{C}_p \cup \{\infty\}$ .

Then we have (see [9])

$$N_f(a, r) + m_f(a, r) = T_f(r) + O(1)$$

with  $a \in \mathbb{C}_p \cup \{\infty\}$ ,

$$T_f(r) = T_{1/f}(r) + O(1),$$

$$|f^{(k)}|_r \leq \frac{|f|_r}{r^k},$$

$$m_{f^{(k)}/f}(\infty, r) = O(1).$$

The following two lemmas were proved in [9].

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $f$  be a non-constant holomorphic function on  $\mathbb{C}_p$ . Then*

$$T_f(r) - T_f(\rho) = N_f(r),$$

where  $0 < \rho \leq r$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $f$  be a non-constant meromorphic function on  $\mathbb{C}_p$  and let  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_q$  be distinct points of  $\mathbb{C}_p$ . Then*

$$(q-1)T_f(r) \leq N_{1,f}(\infty, r) + \sum_{i=1}^q N_{1,f}(a_i, r) - N_{0,f'}(r) - \log r + O(1),$$

where  $N_{0,f'}(r)$  is the counting function of the zeros of  $f'$  which occur at points other than roots of the equations  $f(z) = a_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, q$ , and  $0 < \rho \leq r$ .

**3. Two versions of the Hayman Conjecture for  $p$ -adic meromorphic functions and their difference operators and difference polynomials.** We are going to prove Theorems 1.4–1.6. We need the following lemmas.

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $f$  be a non-constant  $p$ -adic meromorphic function and  $\Delta f$  is not identically zero and  $k, q$  be a positive integer. Then:*

- (1)  $m_{f(z+c)/f(z)}(\infty, r) = O(1)$ ;
- (2)  $m_{f(z+kc)/f(z)}(\infty, r) = O(1)$ ;
- (3)  $m_{\Delta_c f/f}(\infty, r) = O(1)$ ;
- (4)  $m_{(\Delta_c f)^q/f}(\infty, r) = O(1)$ ;
- (5)  $T_{f(z+c)}(r) = T_{f(z)}(r) + O(1)$ ;
- (6)  $T_{f(z+qc)}(r) = T_{f(z)}(r) + O(1)$ ;
- (7)  $T_{\Delta_c f/f}(r) \leq 2T_f(r) + O(1)$ .

**Proof.** Set  $A_c = \frac{f(z+c)}{f(z)}$ . Then:

(1) If  $|c| < r$ . Notice that the set of  $r \in \mathbb{R}_+$  such that there exist  $z \in \mathbb{C}_p$  with  $|z| = r$  is dense in  $\mathbb{R}_+$ . Therefore, without loss of generality one may assume that there exist  $z \in \mathbb{C}_p$  such that  $|z| = r$ . Then  $|c+z| = |z| = r$ . So  $|f(z)|_r = |f(z+c)|_r$  and  $|A_c| = 1$ . If  $r \leq |c|$ , then  $|c+z| \leq \max\{|c|, |z|\} \leq |c|$ . Thus  $|A_c| = O(1)$ . Therefore  $m_{A_c}(\infty, r) = \max\{0, \log |A_c|_r\} = O(1)$ .

(2) Similarly as the arguments of (1), we obtain  $m_{f(z+kc)/f(z)}(\infty, r) = O(1)$ .

(3) By  $m_{f(z+c)/f(z)}(\infty, r) = O(1)$ ,  $m_{\Delta_c f/f}(\infty, r) \leq \max\{m_{f(z+c)/f(z)}(\infty, r), 0\}$ , we have  $m_{\Delta_c f/f}(\infty, r) = O(1)$ .

(4) By  $m_{\Delta_c f/f}(\infty, r) = O(1)$ ,  $m_{(\Delta_c f)^q/f}(\infty, r) = qm_{\Delta_c f/f}(\infty, r)$ , we have  $m_{(\Delta_c f)^q/f}(\infty, r) = O(1)$ .

(5) Let  $f = \frac{f_1}{f_2}$  be a non-constant meromorphic function on  $\mathbb{C}_p$ , where  $f_1, f_2$  be holomorphic functions on  $\mathbb{C}_p$  having no common zeros. Similarly as the arguments of (1), we have:

If  $|c| < r$ , then  $|f_1(z)|_r = |f_1(z+c)|_r$  and  $|f_2(z)|_r = |f_2(z+c)|_r$ . If  $r \leq |c|$ , then  $|f_1(z)|_r \leq |f_1(z)|_c, |f_1(z+c)|_r \leq |f_1(z)|_c$ , and  $|f_2(z)|_r \leq |f_2(z)|_c, |f_2(z+c)|_r \leq |f_2(z)|_c$ . Moreover,  $T_f(r) = \max_{1 \leq i \leq 2} \log |f_i|_r$ . So  $T_{f(z+c)}(r) = T_{f(z)}(r) + O(1)$ .

(6) Similarly as the arguments of (5), we obtain  $T_{f(z+qc)}(r) = T_{f(z)}(r) + O(1)$ .

(7) We have

$$\begin{aligned} T_{\frac{\Delta_c f}{f}}(r) &= m_{\frac{f(z+c)-f(z)}{f(z)}}(\infty, r) + N_{\frac{f(z+c)-f(z)}{f(z)}}(\infty, r) \leq \\ &\leq m_{\frac{f(z+c)}{f(z)}}(\infty, r) + N_{\frac{f(z+c)}{f(z)}}(\infty, r) + O(1) \leq \\ &\leq m_{f(z)}(\infty, r) + N_{f(z)}(\infty, r) + m_{f(z+c)}(\infty, r) + N_{f(z+c)}(\infty, r) + O(1) = \\ &= T_{f(z+c)}(r) + T_{f(z)}(r) + O(1) \leq 2T_f(r) + O(1). \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 3.1 is proved.

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $f$  be a non-constant  $p$ -adic meromorphic function and  $\Delta^q f$  is not identically zero and  $k, q, m$  be a positive integer and  $P(z)$  is the above. Then:*

- (1)  $T_{\Delta_c^q f}(r) \leq 2^q T_f(r) + O(1)$ ;
- (2)  $T_{\Delta_c^q f/f}(r) \leq 2(2^q - 1)T_f(r) + O(1)$ ;
- (3)  $\left(n + 3 \sum_{i=1}^q k_i - \sum_{i=1}^q k_i 2^{i+1}\right) T_f(r) \leq T_{P(f)(\Delta_c^1 f)^{k_1} \dots (\Delta_c^q f)^{k_q}}(r) + O(1)$ ;
- (4)  $\left(n - \sum_{i=1}^k q_i\right) T_f(r) \leq T_{P(f)(f(z+c))^{q_1} \dots (f(z+kc))^{q_k}}(r) + O(1)$ .

**Proof.** We will prove (1) by induction on  $j$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq q - 1$ . With  $j = 1$ , we have  $T_{\Delta_c f}(\infty, r) \leq T_{f(z+c)}(r) + T_{f(z)}(r) + O(1)$ . By  $T_{f(z+c)}(r) = T_{f(z)}(r) + O(1)$ ,  $T_{\Delta_c f}(r) \leq 2T_f(r) + O(1)$ . Now assume that  $T_{\Delta_c^j f}(r) \leq 2^j T_f(r) + O(1)$ . Moreover we have  $\Delta_c^{j+1} f = \Delta_c(\Delta_c^j f)$ . From this and by induction,  $T_{\Delta_c^{j+1} f}(r) = T_{\Delta_c(\Delta_c^j f)}(r) \leq T_{\Delta_c^j f(z+c)}(r) + T_{\Delta_c^j f(z)}(r) + O(1) \leq 2 \cdot 2^j T_f(r) + O(1) = 2^{j+1} T_f(r) + O(1)$ .

We will prove (2) by induction on  $j$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq q - 1$ . With  $j = 1$ , by 3.1 (7) we have  $T_{\Delta_c f/f}(r) \leq 2T_f(r) + O(1)$ . Now assume that  $T_{\Delta_c^j f/f}(r) \leq 2(2^j - 1)T_f(r) + O(1)$ . Moreover we have

$$\begin{aligned} T_{\frac{\Delta_c^{j+1} f}{f}}(r) &= T_{\frac{\Delta_c^j f}{\Delta_c^j f} \frac{\Delta_c f}{f}}(r) \leq T_{\frac{\Delta_c^j f}{\Delta_c^j f}} + T_{\frac{\Delta_c f}{f}} + O(1) \leq \\ &\leq T_{\frac{\Delta_c(\Delta_c^j f)}{\Delta_c^j f}} + T_{\frac{\Delta_c f}{f}} + O(1) \leq 2T_{\Delta_c^j f} + 2(2^j - 1)T_f(r) + O(1). \end{aligned}$$

By (1),  $T_{\Delta_c^q f}(r) \leq 2^q T_f(r) + O(1)$ . Thus  $2T_{\Delta_c^j} + 2(2^j - 1)T_f(r) \leq 2(2^j + 2^j - 1)T_f(r) + O(1) \leq 2(2^{j+1} - 1)T_f(r) + O(1)$ . Therefore

$$T_{\frac{\Delta_c^{j+1}f}{f}}(r) \leq 2(2^{j+1} - 1)T_f(r) + O(1).$$

(3) Set  $G = P(f)(\Delta_c^1 f)^{k_1} \dots (\Delta_c^q f)^{k_q}$ . We have

$$f^{k_1} \dots f^{k_q} G = f^{k_1 + \dots + k_q} P(f)(\Delta_c^1 f)^{k_1} \dots (\Delta_c^q f)^{k_q}$$

and

$$\frac{1}{f^{k_1 + \dots + k_q} P(f)} = \frac{1}{G} \left( \frac{\Delta_c^1 f}{f} \right)^{k_1} \dots \left( \frac{\Delta_c^q f}{f} \right)^{k_q}.$$

From this and (2), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left( n + \sum_{i=1}^q k_i \right) T_f(r) &= T_{\frac{1}{f^{k_1 + \dots + k_q} P(f)}}(r) + O(1) = T_{\frac{1}{G} \left( \frac{\Delta_c^1 f}{f} \right)^{k_1} \dots \left( \frac{\Delta_c^q f}{f} \right)^{k_q}}(r) + O(1) \leq \\ &\leq T_{1/G}(r) + \sum_{i=1}^q T_{(\Delta_c^i f/f)^{k_i}}(r) + O(1) \leq T_{1/G}(r) + \sum_{i=1}^q k_i T_{\Delta_c^i f/f}(r) + O(1) \leq \\ &\leq T_G(r) + \sum_{i=1}^q k_i 2(2^i - 1)T_f(r) + O(1). \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\left( n + 3 \sum_{i=1}^q k_i - \sum_{i=1}^q k_i 2^{i+1} \right) T_f(r) \leq T_{P(f)(\Delta_c^1 f)^{k_1} \dots (\Delta_c^q f)^{k_q}}(r) + O(1).$$

(4) Set  $F = P(f)(f(z+c))^{q_1} \dots (f(z+kc))^{q_k}$ . We have  $f^{q_1} \dots f^{q_k} F = f^{q_1 + \dots + q_k} P(f)(f(z+c))^{q_1} \dots (f(z+kc))^{q_k}$  and  $f^{q_1 + \dots + q_k} P(f) = F \cdot \left( \frac{f(z)}{f(z+c)} \right)^{q_1} \dots \left( \frac{f(z)}{f(z+kc)} \right)^{q_k}$ . From this and 3.1 (5), 3.1 (6), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left( n + \sum_{i=1}^k q_i \right) T_f(r) &= T_{f^{q_1 + \dots + q_k} P(f)}(r) + O(1) = \\ &= T_{F \cdot \left( \frac{f(z)}{f(z+c)} \right)^{q_1} \dots \left( \frac{f(z)}{f(z+kc)} \right)^{q_k}}(r) + O(1) \leq T_F(r) + \sum_{i=1}^k T_{\left( \frac{f(z)}{f(z+ic)} \right)^{q_i}}(r) + O(1) \leq \\ &\leq T_F(r) + \sum_{i=1}^k q_i T_{\frac{f(z)}{f(z+ic)}}(r) + O(1) \leq T_F(r) + \sum_{i=1}^k q_i (T_f(r) + T_{f(z+ic)}(r)) + O(1). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\left( n + \sum_{i=1}^k q_i \right) T_f(r) \leq T_F(r) + 2 \sum_{i=1}^k q_i T_f(r) + O(1).$$

So

$$\left( n - \sum_{i=1}^k q_i \right) T_f(r) \leq T_{P(f)(f(z+c))^{q_1} \dots (f(z+kc))^{q_k}}(r) + O(1).$$

Lemma 3.2 is proved.



**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $f$  and  $g$  be non-constant  $p$ -adic meromorphic functions. If  $E_f(1) = E_g(1)$ , then one of the following three cases holds:*

(1)  $T_f(r) \leq N_{1,f}(\infty, r) + N_{1,f}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) + N_{1,f}(0, r) + N_{1,f}^{\geq 2}(0, r) + N_{1,g}(\infty, r) + N_{1,g}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) + N_{1,g}(0, r) + N_{1,g}^{\geq 2}(0, r) - \log r + O(1)$ , the same inequality holding for  $H_g(r)$ ;

(2)  $f \equiv g$ ;

(3)  $fg \equiv 1$ .

**Proof.** Set

$$\begin{aligned} F &= \frac{1}{f-1}, & G &= \frac{1}{g-1}, \\ L &= \frac{f''}{f'} - 2\frac{f'}{f-1} - \frac{g''}{g'} + 2\frac{g'}{g-1}. \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

Then

$$L = \frac{F''}{F'} - \frac{G''}{G'}. \tag{3.2}$$

Next we consider the following two cases:

*Case 1:*  $L \not\equiv 0$ . Since  $E_f(1) = E_g(1)$ , if  $f(a) = 1, g(a) = 1$  and  $v_f^1(a) = v_g^1(a)$ , then  $L(a) = 0$ . We now consider the poles of  $L$ . It is clear that all poles of  $L$  are of order 1. We can easily see from (3.1) that any simple pole of  $f$  and  $g$  is not a pole of  $L$  and the poles of  $L$  only occur at zeros of  $f'$  and  $g'$  and the multiple poles of  $f$  and  $g$ .

From (3.1) we have

$$m_L(\infty, r) = O(1),$$

and

$$N_{\bar{f}}^{\leq 1}(1, r) = N_g^{\leq 1}(1, r) \leq N_L(0, r) \leq T_L(r) + O(1) \leq N_L(\infty, r) + O(1). \tag{3.3}$$

On the other hand, by Lemma 2.2,

$$T_f(r) \leq N_{1,f}(\infty, r) + N_{1,f}(0, r) + N_{1,f}(1, r) - N_{0,f'}(r) - \log r + O(1),$$

where  $N_{0,f'}(r)$  denotes the counting function of those zeros of  $f'$  but not that of  $f(f-1)$ . Also,  $N_{1,0,f'}(r)$  is defined similarly, where in counting, each zero of  $f'$  is counted with multiplicity 1. From (3.1), (3.2) and (3.3) we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} N_{\bar{f}}^{\leq 1}(1, r) &\leq N_{1,f}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) + \\ &+ N_{1,g}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) + N_{1,0,f'}(r) + N_{1,0,g'}(r) + N_{1,f}^{\geq 2}(0, r) + N_{1,g}^{\geq 2}(0, r) + O(1). \end{aligned} \tag{3.4}$$

Since  $E_f(1) = E_g(1)$ ,

$$N_{1,f}(1, r) = N_f^{\leq 1}(1, r) + N_{1,g}^{\geq 2}(1, r).$$

Then

$$T_f(r) \leq N_{1,f}(\infty, r) + N_{1,f}(0, r) + N_f^{\leq 1}(1, r) + N_{1,g}^{\geq 2}(1, r) - N_{0,f'}(r) - \log r + O(1). \quad (3.5)$$

Now we consider  $N_{1,g}^{\geq 2}(1, r)$ .

By Lemma 2.1,

$$\begin{aligned} N_{g'}(0, r) - N_g(0, r) + N_{1,g}(0, r) &= N_{\frac{g'}{g}}(0, r) \leq T_{\frac{g'}{g}}(r) + O(1) = \\ &= N_{\frac{g'}{g}}(\infty, r) + m_{\frac{g'}{g}}(\infty, r) + O(1) = \\ &= N_{1,g}(\infty, r) + N_{1,g}(0, r) + O(1). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$N_{g'}(0, r) \leq N_{1,g}(\infty, r) + N_g(0, r) + O(1).$$

Moreover

$$N_{0,g'}(r) + N_{1,g}^{\geq 2}(1, r) + N_g^{\geq 2}(0, r) - N_{1,g}^{\geq 2}(0, r) \leq N_{g'}(0, r).$$

The above two inequalities yield

$$N_{0,g'}(r) + N_{1,g}^{\geq 2}(1, r) \leq N_{1,g}(\infty, r) + N_{1,g}(0, r) + O(1).$$

Combining this inequality and (3.4) and (3.5), we obtain (1).

Case 2:  $L \equiv 0$ . Then

$$\frac{f''}{f'} - 2\frac{f'}{f-1} \equiv \frac{g''}{g'} - 2\frac{g'}{g-1}. \quad (3.6)$$

By (3.6) we have

$$\frac{F''}{F'} \equiv \frac{G''}{G'}.$$

Thus

$$f \equiv \frac{ag + b}{cg + d},$$

where  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{C}_p$  satisfying  $ad - bc \neq 0$ . Then  $T_f(r) = T_g(r) + O(1)$ .

Next we consider the following subcases:

*Subcase 1:*  $ac \neq 0$ . Then

$$f - \frac{a}{c} \equiv \frac{b - \frac{ad}{c}}{cg + d}.$$

By Lemma 2.3

$$\begin{aligned} T_f(r) &\leq N_{1,f}(\infty, r) + N_{1,f-\frac{a}{c}}(0, r) + N_{1,f}(0, r) + O(1) = \\ &= N_{1,f}(\infty, r) + N_{1,g}(\infty, r) + N_{1,f}(0, r) + O(1). \end{aligned}$$

We get (1).

*Subcase 2:*  $a \neq 0, c = 0$ . Then  $f \equiv \frac{ag + b}{d}$ . If  $b \neq 0$ , by Lemma 2.2,

$$\begin{aligned} T_f(r) &\leq N_{1,f}(\infty, r) + N_{1,f-\frac{b}{d}}(0, r) + N_{1,f}(0, r) + O(1) = \\ &= N_{1,f}(\infty, r) + N_{1,g}(0, r) + N_{1,f}(0, r) + O(1). \end{aligned}$$

We get (1). If  $b = 0$ , then  $f \equiv \frac{ag}{d}$ . If  $\frac{a}{d} = 1$ , then  $f \equiv g$ . We obtain (2). If  $\frac{a}{d} \neq 1$ , then by  $E_f(1) = E_g(1)$  and Lemma 2.3

$$f \neq 1, \quad f \neq \frac{a}{d},$$

$$T_f(r) \leq N_{1,f}(\infty, r) + N_{1,f}\left(\frac{a}{d}, r\right) + N_{1,f}(1, r) + O(1) = N_{1,f}(\infty, r) + O(1).$$

We get (1).

*Subcase 3:*  $a = 0, c \neq 0$ . Then  $f \equiv \frac{b}{cg + d}$ . If  $d \neq 0$ , by Lemma 2.2,

$$\begin{aligned} T_f(r) &\leq N_{1,f}(\infty, r) + N_{1,f-\frac{b}{d}}(0, r) + N_{1,f}(0, r) + O(1) = \\ &= N_{1,f}(\infty, r) + N_{1,g}(0, r) + N_{1,f}(0, r) + O(1). \end{aligned}$$

We obtain (1).

If  $d = 0$ , then  $f \equiv \frac{b}{cg}$ . If  $\frac{b}{c} = 1$ , then  $fg \equiv 1$ . We obtain (3).

If  $\frac{b}{c} \neq 1$ , then by  $E_f(1) = E_g(1)$  and Lemma 2.2,

$$f \neq 1, \quad f \neq \frac{b}{c},$$

$$T_f(r) \leq N_{1,f}(\infty, r) + N_{1,f}\left(\frac{b}{c}, r\right) + N_{1,f}(1, r) + O(1) = N_{1,f}(\infty, r) + O(1).$$

We get (1).

Lemma 3.3 is proved.

Now we use the above lemmas to prove the main result of the paper.

**Proof of Theorem 1.4.** From  $P(z) = a_0(z - a_1)^{m_1}(z - a_2)^{m_2} \dots (z - a_s)^{m_s}$ ,  $a_0 \neq 0$ ,  $P(f) = a_0(f - a_1)^{m_1}(f - a_2)^{m_2} \dots (f - a_s)^{m_s}$ . Set  $G = P(f)(\Delta_c^1 f)^{k_1} \dots (\Delta_c^q f)^{k_q}$ . We see that any pole of  $G$  can occur only at poles of  $f$ ,  $f(z + c)$ ,  $f(z + 2c)$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $f(z + qc)$ , and any zero of  $G$  can occur only at zeros of  $f - a_1$ ,  $f - a_2, \dots, f - a_s$ ,  $\Delta_c^1 f, \dots, \Delta_c^q f$ . From this and by Lemmas 2.1, 2.2, 3.1 (5), 3.1 (6), 3.2 (1), 3.2 (3) we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( n + 3 \sum_{i=1}^q k_i - \sum_{i=1}^q k_i 2^{i+1} \right) T_f(r) \leq T_G(r) + O(1) \leq \\ & \leq N_{1,G}(\infty, r) + N_{1,G}(0, r) + N_{1,G}(a, r) - \log r + O(1) \leq \\ & \leq N_{1,f}(\infty, r) + \sum_{i=1}^q N_{1,f(z+ic)}(\infty, r) + \sum_{i=1}^s N_{1,f}(a_i, r) + \\ & \quad + \sum_{i=1}^q N_{1,\Delta_c^i f} + N_{1,G}(a, r) - \log r + O(1) \leq \\ & \leq T_f(r) + qT_f(r) + sT_f(r) + \sum_{i=1}^q 2^i T_f(r) + N_{1,G}(a, r) - \log r + O(1) = \\ & = \left( \sum_{i=1}^q 2^i + q + s + 1 \right) T_f(r) + N_{1,G}(a, r) - \log r + O(1). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\left( n + 3 \sum_{i=1}^q k_i - \sum_{i=1}^q (2k_i + 1)2^i - q - s - 1 \right) T_f(r) + \log r \leq N_{1,G}(a, r) + O(1).$$

Since and

$$n \geq \sum_{i=1}^q (2k_i + 1)2^i + q + s + 1 - 3 \sum_{i=1}^q k_i,$$

we obtain

$$P(f)(\Delta_c^1 f)^{k_1} \dots (\Delta_c^q f)^{k_q} - a$$

has zeros.

Theorem 1.4 is proved.

**Proof of Theorem 1.5.** From  $P(z) = a_0(z - a_1)^{m_1}(z - a_2)^{m_2} \dots (z - a_s)^{m_s}$ ,  $a_0 \neq 0$ ,  $P(f) = a_0(f - a_1)^{m_1}(f - a_2)^{m_2} \dots (f - a_s)^{m_s}$ . Set  $F = P(f)(f(z + c))^{q_1} \dots (f(z + kc))^{q_k}$ . We see that any pole of  $F$  can occur only at poles of  $f$ ,  $f(z + c)$ ,  $f(z + 2c)$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $f(z + kc)$ , and any zero of  $G$  can occur only at zeros of  $f - a_1$ ,  $f - a_2, \dots, f - a_s$ ,  $f(z + c)$ ,  $f(z + 2c), \dots, f(z + kc)$ . From this and by Lemmas 2.1, 2.2, 3.1 (5), 3.1 (6), 3.2 (4) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left( n - \sum_{i=1}^k q_i \right) T_f(r) &\leq T_F(r) + O(1) \leq \\ &\leq N_{1,F}(\infty, r) + N_{1,F}(0, r) + N_{1,F}(a, r) - \log r + O(1) \leq \\ &\leq N_{1,f}(\infty, r) + \sum_{i=1}^k N_{1,f(z+ic)}(\infty, r) + \sum_{i=1}^s N_{1,f}(a_i, r) + \sum_{i=1}^k N_{1,f(z+ic)}(0, r) + \\ &+ N_{1,F}(a, r) - \log r + O(1) \leq T_f(r) + kT_f(r) + sT_f(r) + kT_f(r) + N_{1,F}(a, r) - \\ &- \log r + O(1) = (2k + s + 1)T_f(r) + N_{1,F}(a, r) - \log r + O(1). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\left( n - \sum_{i=1}^k q_i - 2k - s - 1 \right) T_f(r) + \log r \leq N_{1,F}(a, r) + O(1).$$

Since and

$$n \geq \sum_{i=1}^k q_i + 2k + s + 1$$

we obtain

$$P(f)(f(z+c))^{q_1} \dots (f(z+kc))^{q_k} - a$$

has zeros.

Theorem 1.5 is proved.

**Proof of Theorem 1.6.** (1) Set  $A = f^n f(z+c) \dots f(z+kc)$ ,  $B = g^n g(z+c) \dots g(z+kc)$ .

It suffices to consider the following cases:

Case 1:

$$\begin{aligned} T_A(r) + O(1) &\leq N_{1,A}(\infty, r) + N_{1,A}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) + N_{1,A}(0, r) + N_{1,A}^{\geq 2}(0, r) + \\ &+ N_{1,B}(\infty, r) + N_{1,B}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) + N_{1,B}(0, r) + N_{1,B}^{\geq 2}(0, r) - \log r + O(1). \end{aligned}$$

By Lemmas 3.2 (4), 3.3,

$$\begin{aligned} (n-k)T_f(r) &\leq T_A(r) + O(1) \leq N_{1,A}(\infty, r) + N_{1,A}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) + N_{1,A}(0, r) + N_{1,A}^{\geq 2}(0, r) + \\ &+ N_{1,B}(\infty, r) + N_{1,B}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) + N_{1,B}(0, r) + N_{1,B}^{\geq 2}(0, r) - \log r + O(1), \\ (n-k)T_g(r) &\leq T_B(r) + O(1) \leq N_{1,A}(\infty, r) + N_{1,A}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) + N_{1,A}(0, r) + \\ &+ N_{1,A}^{\geq 2}(0, r) + N_{1,B}(\infty, r) + N_{1,B}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) + N_{1,B}(0, r) + N_{1,B}^{\geq 2}(0, r) - \log r + O(1). \end{aligned} \tag{3.7}$$

We see that any pole of  $A$  can occur only at poles of

$$f, f(z+c), f(z+2c), \dots, f(z+kc).$$

From this and by Lemmas 2.1, 3.1 (5), 3.1 (6) we have

$$\begin{aligned} & N_{1,A}(\infty, r) + N_{1,A}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) \leq \\ & \leq 2N_{1,f}(\infty, r) + \sum_{i=1}^k (N_{1,f(z+ic)}(\infty, r) + N_{1,f(z+ic)}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r)) + O(1) \leq \\ & \leq 2N_f(\infty, r) + \sum_{i=1}^k N_{f(z+ic)}(\infty, r) + O(1) \leq \\ & \leq 2T_f(r) + \sum_{i=1}^k T_{f(z+ic)}(r) + O(1) \leq (k+2)T_f(r) + O(1). \end{aligned}$$

So

$$N_{1,A}(\infty, r) + N_{1,A}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) \leq (k+2)T_f(r) + O(1). \quad (3.8)$$

Similarly, and note that any zero of  $A$  can occur only at zeros of

$$f, f(z+c), f(z+2c), \dots, f(z+kc),$$

we obtain

$$N_{1,A}(0, r) + N_{1,A}^{\geq 2}(0, r) \leq (k+2)T_f(r) + O(1). \quad (3.9)$$

Similarly we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & N_{1,B}(\infty, r) + N_{1,B}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) \leq (k+2)T_g(r) + O(1), \\ & N_{1,B}(0, r) + N_{1,B}^{\geq 2}(0, r) \leq (k+2)T_g(r) + O(1). \end{aligned} \quad (3.10)$$

From (3.7)–(3.10) we have

$$(n-k)T_f(r) \leq (2k+4)(T_f(r) + T_g(r)) - \log r + O(1).$$

Similarly

$$(n-k)T_g(r) \leq (2k+4)(T_f(r) + T_g(r)) - \log r + O(1).$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} & (n-k)(T_f(r) + T_g(r)) \leq (4k+8)(T_f(r) + T_g(r)) - 2\log r + O(1), \\ & (n-5k-8)(T_f(r) + T_g(r)) + 2\log r \leq O(1). \end{aligned}$$

By  $n \geq 5k+8$  we obtain a contradiction.

*Case 2:*  $A = f^n f(z+c) \dots f(z+kc) \equiv B = g^n g(z+c) \dots g(z+kc)$ . Set  $h = \frac{f}{g}$ . Assume that  $h$  is not a constant. Then we get

$$h^n = \frac{1}{h(z+c) \dots h(z+kc)}.$$

Thus, by Lemma 3.1 (5), we get

$$nT_h(r) = T_{h^n} = T_{\frac{1}{h(z+c) \dots h(z+kc)}} \leq \sum_{i=1}^k T_{h(z+ic)}(r) + O(1) \leq kT_h(r),$$

which is a contradiction with  $n \geq 5k + 8$ . Hence  $h$  must be a constant, which implies that  $h^{n+k} = 1$ , thus  $f = hg$  with  $h^{n+k} = 1$ .

*Case 3:*  $f^n f(z+c) \dots f(z+kc) \cdot g^n g(z+c) \dots g(z+kc) \equiv 1$ . From this we have  $(fg)^n (f(z+c)g(z+c)) \dots (f(z+kc)g(z+kc)) = 1$ . Set  $l = fg$ . Assume that  $l$  is not a constant. Then we get

$$l^n = \frac{1}{l(z+c) \dots l(z+kc)}.$$

Similar as above,  $l$  must be a constant. Thus  $fg = l$  with  $l^{n+k} = 1$ .

(2) Set  $C = f^n (f(z+c))^{q_1} \dots (f(z+kc))^{q_k}$ ,  $D = g^n (g(z+c))^{q_1} \dots (g(z+kc))^{q_k}$ .

It suffices to consider the following cases:

*Case 1:*

$$\begin{aligned} T_C(r) + O(1) &\leq N_{1,C}(\infty, r) + N_{1,C}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) + N_{1,C}(0, r) + N_{1,C}^{\geq 2}(0, r) + \\ &+ N_{1,D}(\infty, r) + N_{1,D}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) + N_{1,D}(0, r) + N_{1,D}^{\geq 2}(0, r) - \log r + O(1). \end{aligned}$$

By Lemmas 3.2 (4),

$$\begin{aligned} \left( n - \sum_{i=1}^k q_i \right) T_f(r) &\leq T_C(r) + O(1), \\ \left( n - \sum_{i=1}^k q_i \right) T_g(r) &\leq T_D(r) + O(1). \end{aligned} \tag{3.11}$$

By  $q_i \geq 2$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ ,

$$N_{1,(f(z+ic))^{q_i}}(\infty, r) + N_{1,(f(z+ic))^{q_i}}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) \leq 2N_{f(z+ic)}(\infty, r).$$

From this and similar as (3.8) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} N_{1,C}(\infty, r) + N_{1,C}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) &\leq (2k + 2)T_f(r) + O(1), \\ N_{1,C}(0, r) + N_{1,C}^{\geq 2}(0, r) &\leq (2k + 2)T_f(r) + O(1), \\ N_{1,D}(\infty, r) + N_{1,D}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) &\leq (2k + 2)T_g(r) + O(1), \\ N_{1,D}(0, r) + N_{1,D}^{\geq 2}(0, r) &\leq (2k + 2)T_g(r) + O(1). \end{aligned} \tag{3.12}$$

Since (3.11), (3.12), and similar as in (1) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} T_C(r) &\leq (4k+4)(T_f(r) + T_g(r)) - \log r + O(1), \\ T_D(r) &\leq (4k+4)(T_f(r) + T_g(r)) - \log r + O(1), \\ \left(n - \sum_{i=1}^k q_i - 8k - 8\right) (T_f(r) + T_g(r)) + 2 \log r &\leq O(1). \end{aligned}$$

By

$$n \geq \sum_{i=1}^k q_i + 8k + 8$$

we obtain a contradiction.

*Case 2:*  $C = f^n(f(z+c))^{q_1} \dots (f(z+kc))^{q_k} \equiv D = g^n(g(z+c))^{q_1} \dots (g(z+kc))^{q_k}$ .

Similar as Case 2 of (1) we get  $f = hg$  with  $h^{n+q_1+\dots+q_k} = 1$ .

*Case 3:*  $f^n(f(z+c))^{q_1} \dots (f(z+kc))^{q_k} \cdot g^n(g(z+c))^{q_1} \dots (g(z+kc))^{q_k} \equiv 1$ .

Similar as Case 3 of (1) we get  $fg = l$  with  $l^{n+q_1+\dots+q_k} = 1$ .

(3) Set  $E = f^n f(z+e_1c) \dots f(z+e_m c) (f(z+t_1c))^{q_1} \dots (f(z+t_kc))^{q_k}$ ,  $H = g^n g(z+e_1c) \dots g(z+e_m c) (g(z+t_1c))^{q_1} \dots (g(z+t_kc))^{q_k}$ .

It suffices to consider the following cases:

*Case 1:*

$$\begin{aligned} T_E(r) + O(1) &\leq N_{1,E}(\infty, r) + N_{1,E}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) + N_{1,E}(0, r) + N_{1,E}^{\geq 2}(0, r) + \\ &+ N_{1,H}(\infty, r) + N_{1,H}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) + N_{1,H}(0, r) + N_{1,H}^{\geq 2}(0, r) - \log r + O(1). \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 3.2 (4)

$$\begin{aligned} \left(n - m - \sum_{i=1}^k q_i\right) T_f(r) &\leq T_E(r) + O(1), \\ \left(n - m - \sum_{i=1}^k q_i\right) T_g(r) &\leq T_D(r) + O(1). \end{aligned} \tag{3.13}$$

Similar as Case 1 of (1) and (2) we have



$$\begin{aligned}
& N_{1,E}(\infty, r) + N_{1,E}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) \leq \\
& \leq 2N_f(\infty, r) + \sum_{i=1}^m N_{f(z+e_i c)}(\infty, r) + 2 \sum_{i=1}^k N_{f(z+t_i c)}(\infty, r) O(1) \leq \\
& \leq (m + 2k + 2)T_f(r) + O(1),
\end{aligned} \tag{3.14}$$

$$N_{1,E}(0, r) + N_{1,E}^{\geq 2}(0, r) \leq (m + 2k + 2)T_f(r) + O(1),$$

$$N_{1,H}(\infty, r) + N_{1,H}^{\geq 2}(\infty, r) \leq (m + 2k + 2)T_g(r) + O(1),$$

$$N_{1,H}(0, r) + N_{1,H}^{\geq 2}(0, r) \leq (m + 2k + 2)T_g(r) + O(1).$$

Since (3.13), (3.14), and similar as in (1), (2), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left( n - m - \sum_{i=1}^k q_i \right) T_f(r) \leq 2(m + 2k + 2)(T_f(r) + T_g(r)) - \log r + O(1), \\
& \left( n - m - \sum_{i=1}^k q_i \right) T_g(r) \leq 2(m + 2k + 2)(T_f(r) + T_g(r)) - \log r + O(1), \\
& \left( n - m - \sum_{i=1}^k q_i \right) (T_f(r) + T_g(r)) \leq 4(m + 2k + 2)(T_f(r) + T_g(r)) - 2 \log r + O(1), \\
& \left( n - 5m - \sum_{i=1}^k q_i - 8k - 8 \right) (T_f(r) + T_g(r)) + 2 \log r \leq +O(1).
\end{aligned}$$

Which is a contradiction with

$$n \geq 5m + \sum_{i=1}^k q_i + 8k + 8.$$

*Case 2:* Prove is similarly as in Case 2 of (1) and (2) we get  $f = hg$  with  $h^{n+m+q_1+\dots+q_k} = 1$ .

*Case 3:* Prove is similarly as in Case 2 of (1) and (2) we get  $fg = l$  with  $l^{n+m+q_1+\dots+q_k} = 1$ .

Theorem 1.6 is proved.

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