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## ASYMPTOTIC ESTIMATES FOR ENTIRE FUNCTIONS OF MINIMAL GROWTH WITH GIVEN ZEROS

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Let  $\zeta = (\zeta_n)$  be an arbitrary complex sequence such that  $0 < |\zeta_1| \leq |\zeta_2| \leq \dots$  and  $\zeta_n \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , let  $n_\zeta(r)$  and  $N_\zeta(r)$  be the counting function and the integrated counting function of this sequence, respectively. By  $\mathcal{E}_\zeta$  we denote the class of all entire functions whose zeros are precisely the  $\zeta_n$ , where a complex number that occurs  $m$  times in the sequence  $\zeta$  corresponds to a zero of multiplicity  $m$ . Suppose that  $\Phi$  is a convex function on  $\mathbb{R}$  such that  $\Phi(\sigma)/\sigma \rightarrow +\infty$  as  $\sigma \rightarrow +\infty$ . It is proved that there exists an entire function  $f \in \mathcal{E}_\zeta$  such that

$$\overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln \ln M_f(r)}{\Phi(\ln r)} \leq \overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln n_\zeta(r)}{\Phi(\ln r)},$$

where  $M_f(r)$  denotes the maximum modulus of the function  $f$ , and it is shown that the above inequality implies the inequality

$$\overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln \ln M_f(r)}{\Phi(\ln r)} \leq \overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln N_\zeta(r)}{\Phi(\ln r)} + \overline{\lim}_{\sigma \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln \Phi'_+(\sigma)}{\Phi(\sigma)}.$$

The formulated result is a consequence of the following more general statement: if the right-hand derivative  $\Phi'_+$  of the function  $\Phi$  assumes only integer values and  $\sum_{n=1}^\infty e^{-\Phi(\ln |\zeta_n|)} < +\infty$ , then there exists an entire function  $f \in \mathcal{E}_\zeta$  such that  $\ln M_f(r) = o(e^{\Phi(\ln r)})$  as  $r \rightarrow +\infty$ .

**1. Introduction and main results.** We denote by  $H$  the class of all non-decreasing functions  $h$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  such that  $h(\sigma) \rightarrow +\infty$  as  $\sigma \rightarrow +\infty$ , and let  $\Omega$  be the class of all non-decreasing convex functions  $\Phi$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  such that  $\Phi(\sigma)/\sigma \rightarrow +\infty$  as  $\sigma \rightarrow +\infty$ .

Suppose that  $\mathcal{Z}$  is the class of all complex sequences  $\zeta = (\zeta_n)$  such that  $0 < |\zeta_1| \leq |\zeta_2| \leq \dots$  and  $\zeta_n \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . For any sequence  $\zeta = (\zeta_n)$  from the class  $\mathcal{Z}$  by  $\mathcal{E}_\zeta$  we denote the class of all entire functions whose zeros are precisely the  $\zeta_n$ , where a complex number that occurs  $m$  times in the sequence  $\zeta$  corresponds to a zero of multiplicity  $m$ . Let  $n_\zeta(r)$  and  $N_\zeta(r)$  be the counting function and the integrated counting function of the sequence  $\zeta$ , respectively, that is

$$n_\zeta(r) = \sum_{|\zeta_n| \leq r} 1, \quad N_\zeta(r) = \int_0^r \frac{n_\zeta(t)}{t} dt, \quad r \geq 0.$$

The common value of the orders of the functions  $n_\zeta(r)$  and  $N_\zeta(r)$  we denote by  $a_\zeta$ .

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For a non-constant entire function  $f$  and each  $r \geq 0$ , let  $M_f(r) = \max\{|f(z)| : |z| = r\}$  be the maximum modulus of the function  $f$ . We identify the growth of the function  $f$  with the growth of the function  $\ln M_f(r)$ . By  $\rho_f$  we denote the order of the function  $f$ .

Well-known classical results about the minimal growth of entire functions from the classes  $\mathcal{E}_\zeta$ , where  $\zeta \in \mathcal{Z}$ , are the Borel theorem on the order of a Weierstrass canonical product (see, for example, [1, p. 57]) and the Lindelöf theorem on the description of the zero sets of entire functions whose growth does not exceed normal type of a given order  $\rho > 0$  (see, for example, [2, p. 30]). In particular, the Borel theorem implies the following statement.

**Теорема А.** *Let  $\zeta \in \mathcal{Z}$ . Then there exists an entire function  $f \in \mathcal{E}_\zeta$  such that  $\rho_f = a_\zeta$ .*

Suppose that  $\lambda \in H$  is a continuous function on  $\mathbb{R}$ . Generalizing the Lindelöf theorem, L.A. Rubel and B.A. Taylor [3] found necessary and sufficient conditions on a sequence  $\zeta \in \mathcal{Z}$ , under which there exist an entire function  $f \in \mathcal{E}_\zeta$  and positive constants  $A$  and  $B$  such that  $\ln M_f(r) \leq A\lambda(Br)$  for all  $r > 0$ .

Let  $\zeta \in \mathcal{Z}$ . A.A. Gol'dberg [4] proposed another approach to describing the minimal growth of entire functions from the class  $\mathcal{E}_\zeta$ . The essence of this approach is to establish the best possible estimates from above on the growth of functions  $f \in \mathcal{E}_\zeta$  by  $n_\zeta(r)$  or  $N_\zeta(r)$ . This approach is used in many works. In particular, estimates from above for  $\ln M_f(r)$  by  $n_\zeta(r)$ , which describe the minimal growth of entire functions  $f \in \mathcal{E}_\zeta$  and hold along some increasing to  $+\infty$  sequences of values of  $r$ , were established in [5, 6, 7, 8, 9]. Similar estimates from above for  $\ln M_f(r)$  by  $N_\zeta(r)$  are found in [10, 11]. Best possible, in a certain sense, estimates from above on the growth of functions  $f \in \mathcal{E}_\zeta$  by  $n_\zeta(r)$  or  $N_\zeta(r)$ , that hold outside small exceptional sets of values of  $r$ , were obtained in [1, 6, 10, 12, 13]. M.M. Sheremeta [14] found upper estimates for  $\ln M_f(r)$ , where  $f \in \mathcal{E}_\zeta$ , which hold for all sufficiently large values of  $r$  (see Theorems B and C below).

For any function  $\Phi \in H$ , a non-constant entire function  $f$ , and a sequence  $\zeta \in \mathcal{Z}$ , we put

$$\rho_{\Phi,f} = \overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln \ln M_f(r)}{\Phi(\ln r)}, \quad a_{\Phi,\zeta} = \overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln n_\zeta(r)}{\Phi(\ln r)}, \quad A_{\Phi,\zeta} = \overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln N_\zeta(r)}{\Phi(\ln r)}.$$

The main results of this article are the following two theorems, the first of which follows from the second and is an analogue of Theorem A for  $\rho_{\Phi,f}$  and  $a_{\Phi,\zeta}$  instead of  $\rho_f$  and  $a_\zeta$ , respectively.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $\zeta \in \mathcal{Z}$  and  $\Phi \in \Omega$ . Then there exists an entire function  $f \in \mathcal{E}_\zeta$  such that  $\rho_{\Phi,f} \leq a_{\Phi,\zeta}$ .*

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $\zeta = (\zeta_n)$  be a sequence from the class  $\mathcal{Z}$  and let  $\Psi \in \Omega$  be a function such that  $\Psi'_+$  assumes only integer values. If*

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{e^{\Psi(\ln |\zeta_n|)}} < +\infty, \tag{1}$$

*then there exists an entire function  $f \in \mathcal{E}_\zeta$  such that*

$$\ln M_f(r) = o(e^{\Psi(\ln r)}), \quad r \rightarrow +\infty. \tag{2}$$

**2. Proof of main results.** For each  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  and an arbitrary integer  $p \geq 0$ , we denote by  $E(z, p)$  the Weierstrass primary factor, i.e.

$$E(z, p) = \begin{cases} 1 - z, & \text{if } p = 0; \\ (1 - z) \exp\left(\sum_{n=1}^p \frac{z^n}{n}\right), & \text{if } p \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

The following statement is well known (see, for example, [4]).

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $\zeta = (\zeta_n)$  be a sequence from the class  $\mathcal{Z}$  and let  $(p_n)$  be a sequence of non-negative integers. If the series*

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{r}{|\zeta_n|}\right)^{p_n+1} \quad (3)$$

converges for every  $r > 0$ , then the product

$$\prod_{n=1}^{\infty} E\left(\frac{z}{\zeta_n}, p_n\right) \quad (4)$$

converges absolutely and uniformly in any bounded subset of  $\mathbb{C}$  to an entire function  $f(z)$  such that  $f \in \mathcal{E}_{\zeta}$  and  $\ln M_f(r) \leq G(r)$  for all  $r \geq 0$ , where  $G(r)$  is the sum of series (3).

*Proof of Theorem 2.* Let  $\zeta = (\zeta_n)$  be a sequence from the class  $\mathcal{Z}$  and let  $\Psi \in \Omega$  be a function such that  $\Psi'_+$  assumes only integer values and (1) holds. Note that  $\Psi'_+ \in H$ . We put  $n_0 = \min\{n \in \mathbb{N} : \Psi'_+(\ln |\zeta_n|) \geq 1\}$ . Let  $p_n = \Psi'_+(\ln |\zeta_n|) - 1$  for all integers  $n \geq n_0$  and let  $p_n = 0$  if  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n < n_0$ . Consider series (3). Since  $\Psi(\sigma)/\sigma \rightarrow +\infty$  as  $\sigma \rightarrow +\infty$ , there exists a function  $l \in H$  such that

$$\sum_{n \leq l(r)} \left(\frac{r}{|\zeta_n|}\right)^{p_n+1} = o(e^{\Psi(\ln r)}), \quad r \rightarrow +\infty. \quad (5)$$

In addition, for any  $r > 0$  and every integer  $n \geq 1$ , we have

$$\Psi(\ln r) - \Psi(\ln |\zeta_n|) = \int_{|\zeta_n|}^r \frac{\Psi'_+(\ln t)}{t} dt \geq \Psi'_+(\ln |\zeta_n|)(\ln r - \ln |\zeta_n|).$$

Taking into account this fact, for any  $r > 0$  and every integer  $m \geq n_0$ , we obtain

$$\sum_{n \geq m} \left(\frac{r}{|\zeta_n|}\right)^{p_n+1} = e^{\Psi(\ln r)} \sum_{n \geq m} \frac{1}{e^{\Psi(\ln r) - \Psi'_+(\ln |\zeta_n|)(\ln r - \ln |\zeta_n|)}} \leq e^{\Psi(\ln r)} \sum_{n \geq m} \frac{1}{e^{\Psi(\ln |\zeta_n|)}}. \quad (6)$$

From (6) and (1) we see that series (3) converges for every  $r > 0$ , and therefore by Lemma 1 product (4) converges absolutely and uniformly in any bounded subset of  $\mathbb{C}$  to an entire function  $f(z)$  such that  $f \in \mathcal{E}_{\zeta}$  and  $\ln M_f(r) \leq G(r)$  for all  $r \geq 0$ , where  $G(r)$  is the sum of series (3). In addition, from (6) and (1) we obtain

$$\sum_{n > l(r)} \left(\frac{r}{|\zeta_n|}\right)^{p_n+1} = o(e^{\Psi(\ln r)}), \quad r \rightarrow +\infty. \quad (7)$$

It follows from (5) and (7) that  $G(r) = o(e^{\Psi(\ln r)})$  as  $r \rightarrow +\infty$ , and hence (2) holds.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 1.* Let  $\zeta = (\zeta_n)$  be a sequence from the class  $\mathcal{Z}$ ,  $\Phi \in \Omega$  and  $a = a_{\Phi, \zeta}$ . We suppose that  $a \in [0, +\infty)$ , since otherwise there is nothing to prove. From the definition of the quantity  $a_{\Phi, \zeta}$  it follows that there exist a function  $\varepsilon$  decreasing to  $a$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  and a number  $r_0 \geq |\zeta_0|$  such that

$$\ln(n_{\zeta}(r) \ln^2 n_{\zeta}(r)) \leq \varepsilon(\ln r) \Phi(\ln r), \quad r \geq r_0. \quad (8)$$

Without loss in generality we can assume that  $\Phi'_+(\ln r_0) > 0$  and, in the case when  $a = 0$ , that for all  $r \geq r_0$  the inequality  $\varepsilon(\ln r) \geq 1/\sqrt{\Phi'_+(\ln r)}$  holds.

Let  $\sigma_0 = \ln r_0$ . We put  $\gamma(x) = 0$  for all  $x < \sigma_0$  and let

$$\gamma(x) = \sup\{\varepsilon(t)\Phi'_+(t) : t \in [\sigma_0, x]\}, \quad x \geq \sigma_0.$$

It is easy to show that  $\gamma \in H$ ,  $\gamma(x)/\Phi'_+(x) \rightarrow a$  as  $x \rightarrow +\infty$ , and  $\gamma(x) \geq \varepsilon(x)\Phi'_+(x)$  for all  $x \geq \sigma_0$ . Therefore, taking  $\Gamma(\sigma) = \int_{\sigma_0}^{\sigma} \gamma(x)dx + \varepsilon(\sigma_0)\Phi(\sigma_0)$  for all  $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$ , we see that  $\Gamma \in \Omega$ ,  $\Gamma(\sigma)/\Phi(\sigma) \rightarrow a$  as  $\sigma \rightarrow +\infty$ , and

$$\Gamma(\sigma) \geq \varepsilon(\sigma) \int_{\sigma_0}^{\sigma} \Phi'_+(x)dx + \varepsilon(\sigma_0)\Phi(\sigma_0) \geq \varepsilon(\sigma)\Phi(\sigma), \quad \sigma \geq \sigma_0. \quad (9)$$

We put  $\Psi(\sigma) = \int_{\sigma_0}^{\sigma} ([\Gamma'_+(x)] + 1)dx + \Gamma(\sigma_0)$  for all  $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $\Psi \in \Omega$ ,  $\Psi'_+$  assumes only integer values,  $\Psi(\sigma) \sim \Gamma(\sigma)$  as  $\sigma \rightarrow +\infty$ , and  $\Psi(\sigma) \geq \Gamma(\sigma)$  for all  $\sigma \geq \sigma_0$ . From (8) and (9) we have  $\ln(n \ln^2 n) \leq \Psi(\ln |\zeta_n|)$  for all integers  $n \geq n_0$ , and therefore condition (1) holds. By Theorem 2, there exists an entire function  $f \in \mathcal{E}_{\zeta}$  such that (2) is satisfied. Taking into account the above estimates and using (2), we obtain  $\rho_{\Phi, f} \leq a$ .  $\square$

**3. Some consequences.** Let  $\zeta = (\zeta_n)$  be a sequence from the class  $\mathcal{Z}$ . We put  $\Gamma_{\zeta}(\ln r) = 0$  for all  $r \in (0, |\zeta_0|)$  and let

$$\Gamma_{\zeta}(\ln r) = \int_{|\zeta_0|}^r \frac{\ln n_{\zeta}(t)}{t} dt, \quad r \geq |\zeta_0|.$$

It is clear that  $\Gamma_{\zeta} \in \Omega$ .

We denote by  $\Omega'$  the class of all continuously differentiable on  $\mathbb{R}$  functions  $\Phi \in \Omega$  such that  $\Phi'$  is a positive function on  $\mathbb{R}$ . For each  $\Phi \in \Omega'$  we put

$$\Phi_0(\sigma) = \sigma - \frac{\Phi(\sigma)}{\Phi'(\sigma)}, \quad \sigma \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Note that  $\Phi_0$  is a continuously function on  $\mathbb{R}$  increasing to  $+\infty$  (see, for example, [15]).

As we have already noted above, M.M. Sheremeta [14] proved the following two theorems.

**Теорема B** ([14]). *Let  $\zeta \in \mathcal{Z}$ . Then for every  $q > 1$  there exists an entire function  $f \in \mathcal{E}_{\zeta}$  such that*

$$\ln \ln M_f(r) = O(\Gamma_{\zeta}(\ln(qr))), \quad r \rightarrow +\infty.$$

**Теорема C** ([14]). *Let  $\zeta = (\zeta_n)$  be a sequence from the class  $\mathcal{Z}$ ,  $\Phi \in \Omega'$ , and  $\delta \in (0, 1)$ . If*

$$\ln n \leq \Phi'(\Phi_0^{-1}((\delta + o(1)) \ln |\zeta_n|)) \ln |\zeta_n|, \quad n \rightarrow \infty, \quad (10)$$

*then there exists an entire function  $f \in \mathcal{E}_{\zeta}$  such that  $\rho_{\Phi, f} \leq 1/(1 - \delta)$ .*

In [14] it is noted that the number  $q > 1$  in Theorem B, generally speaking, cannot be replaced by 1. This fact also follows from the following result.

**Теорема D** ([12]). *Let  $l \in H$  be a continuously function on  $\mathbb{R}$ . Then there exists a sequence  $\zeta \in \mathcal{Z}$  such that  $\ln n_\zeta(r) \geq l(\ln r)$  for all  $r \geq r_0$ ,  $\ln n_\zeta(r-0) = l(\ln r)$  on an unbounded from above set of values  $r$ , and for any entire function  $f \in \mathcal{E}_\zeta$  we have*

$$l^{-1}(\ln n_\zeta(r)) \ln n_\zeta(r) = o(\ln \ln M_f(r)), \quad r \in F_f, \quad r \rightarrow +\infty,$$

where  $F_f \subset [1, +\infty)$  is a set of infinite logarithmic measure.

We show that Theorems B and C follow from Theorem 1.

Let  $\zeta = (\zeta_n)$  be a sequence from the class  $\mathcal{Z}$  and  $q > 1$ . Then for all  $r \geq |\zeta_0|$  we have

$$\ln n_\zeta(r) \leq \frac{1}{\ln q} \int_r^{qr} \frac{\ln n_\zeta(t)}{t} dt \leq \frac{1}{\ln q} \Gamma_\zeta(\ln(qr)),$$

and therefore, by Theorem 1, the following more precise version of Theorem A is true.

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $\zeta \in \mathcal{Z}$ . Then for every  $q > 1$  there exists an entire function  $f \in \mathcal{E}_\zeta$  such that*

$$\overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln \ln M_f(r)}{\Gamma_\zeta(\ln(qr))} \leq \frac{1}{\ln q}.$$

Let  $\Phi \in \Omega'$ ,  $\eta \in (0, 1)$ , and  $p = 1/\eta$ . Then for all  $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$  we have

$$\Phi(p\Phi_0(\sigma)) = \int_\sigma^{p\Phi_0(\sigma)} \Phi'(x) dx + \Phi(\sigma) \geq (p\Phi_0(\sigma) - \sigma)\Phi'(\sigma) + \Phi(\sigma) = (p-1)\Phi'(\sigma)\Phi_0(\sigma).$$

Making the substitution  $y = p\Phi_0(\sigma)$  and noting that  $\sigma = \Phi_0^{-1}(\eta y)$ , for all  $y \geq y_0$  we get  $\Phi(y) \geq (p-1)\Phi'(\Phi_0^{-1}(\eta y))\eta y = (1-\eta)\Phi'(\Phi_0^{-1}(\eta y))y$ . Now it is easy to see that condition (10) implies the condition  $a_{\Phi, \zeta} \leq 1/(1-\delta)$ , and therefore Theorem 1 implies Theorem C.

In view of Theorem 1, the following question arises: is it possible to replace the quantity  $a_{\Phi, \zeta}$  in this theorem with the quantity  $A_{\Phi, \zeta}$ ? The negative answer to this question follows from the following result.

**Теорема E** ([10]). *Let  $h \in H$ . Then there exists a sequence  $\zeta \in \mathcal{Z}$  such that for every entire function  $f \in \mathcal{E}_\zeta$  we have*

$$\overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln \ln M_f(r)}{h(\ln N_\zeta(r))} = +\infty.$$

Suppose, for example, that  $h(\sigma) = e^{2\sigma}$  for all  $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$ . Let  $\zeta \in \mathcal{Z}$  be a sequence whose existence for a given  $h$  is guaranteed by Theorem E. Put  $\Phi(\ln r) = N_\zeta(r)$  for all  $r > 0$ . Then  $\Phi \in \Omega$ ,  $A_{\Phi, \zeta} = 0$ , but  $\rho_{\Phi, f} = +\infty$  for every entire function  $f \in \mathcal{E}_\zeta$ .

For any function  $\Phi \in \Omega$  we put

$$\Delta_\Phi = \overline{\lim}_{\sigma \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln \Phi'_+(\sigma)}{\Phi(\sigma)}.$$

The following result shows that in the case when  $\Delta_\Phi = 0$  the answer to the above question is positive, that is in this case the inequality  $\rho_{\Phi, f} \leq a_{\Phi, \zeta}$  in Theorem 1 can be replaced by the equality  $\rho_{\Phi, f} = A_{\Phi, \zeta}$ .

**Theorem 4.** *Let  $\zeta \in \mathcal{Z}$  and  $\Phi \in \Omega$ . Then there exists an entire function  $f \in \mathcal{E}_\zeta$  such that  $\rho_{\Phi, f} \leq A_{\Phi, \zeta} + \Delta_\Phi$ .*

Theorem 4 is a direct consequence of Theorem 1 and the following lemma applied with  $\Psi(\sigma) = N_\zeta(e^\sigma)$  for all  $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$ .

**Lemma 2** ([16]). *Let  $\Psi, \Phi \in \Omega$ . Then*

$$\overline{\lim}_{\sigma \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln \Psi'_+(\sigma)}{\Phi(\sigma)} \leq \overline{\lim}_{\sigma \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln \Psi(\sigma)}{\Phi(\sigma)} + \Delta_\Phi.$$

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