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## ON MAXIMUM MODULUS POINTS AND ZERO SET FOR AN ENTIRE FUNCTION

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Let  $f$  be an entire function. Let  $w$  be a point such that  $|f(w)| = \max\{|f(z)| : |z| = |w|\}$  and  $R(w, f)$  be the distance between the point  $w$  and the zero set of  $f$ . We obtain asymptotic estimates for the function  $R(w, f)$ ,  $|w| \rightarrow \infty$ , when  $f$  is an entire function of arbitrary growth.

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Пусть  $f$  — целая функция. Точку  $w$ , для которой  $|f(w)| = \max\{|f(z)| : |z| = |w|\}$ , называем точкой максимума модуля функции  $f$ . Исследуется оценка снизу расстояния между точками максимума модуля и множеством нулей функции  $f$ .

**1. Introduction.** Let  $f$  be an entire function. A point  $w$  is called a *maximum modulus point* if  $|f(w)| = M(|w|, f)$ , where  $M(r, f) = \max\{|f(z)| : |z| = r\}$ . We denote by  $R(w, f)$  the distance between a maximum modulus point  $w$  and the zero set of  $f$ , i.e.

$$R(w, f) = \inf\{|w - z| : f(z) = 0\}.$$

Let  $\rho(r)$  be a proximate order such that  $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \rho(r) = \rho \in (0, \infty)$ . Denote by  $[\rho(r), \sigma]$  the set of all entire functions of proximate order  $\rho(r)$  and positive type  $\sigma$  with respect to  $\rho(r)$ .

I. V. Ostrovskii and A. E. Üreyen [1] showed that if  $f \in [\rho(r), \sigma]$ , then

$$\underline{\lim}_{|w| \rightarrow \infty} |w|^{\rho(|w|)-1} R(w, f) \geq \frac{1}{e^2 \rho \sigma}.$$

A. E. Üreyen [2] got similar results for the entire functions of zero or infinite order.

In particular, if entire function  $f$  satisfies the condition

$$0 < \sigma = \overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln M(r, f)}{(\ln r)^p} < +\infty, \quad (p > 1), \quad (1)$$

then

$$\underline{\lim}_{|w| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{p \cdot (\ln |w|)^{p-1}}{|w|} \cdot R(w, f) \geq \frac{1}{e^2 \sigma}. \quad (2)$$

This paper is devoted to the study of the lower asymptotic of  $R(w, f)$  for entire functions of arbitrary growth.

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**2. Auxiliary lemmas.** Let  $\Omega$  be the class of functions  $\Phi$  positive on  $(-\infty, +\infty)$ , with positive continuous increasing to  $+\infty$  derivatives  $\Phi'$ . For  $\Phi \in \Omega$  we denote  $\Psi(x) = x - \Phi(x)/\Phi'(x)$ . In [3] it is shown that  $\Psi$  is an increasing to  $+\infty$  function on  $(-\infty, +\infty)$ . By  $\Psi^{-1}$  we denote the inverse function to  $\Psi$ .

Let

$$K(r, f) := r \frac{d}{dr} \ln M(r, f) = \frac{d}{d \ln r} \ln M(r, f).$$

**Lemma 1.** *If  $\Phi \in \Omega$  and an entire function  $f$  satisfies the condition*

$$\overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln M(r, f)}{\Phi(\ln r)} = 1, \quad (3)$$

then

$$\overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{K(r, f)}{\Phi'(\Psi^{-1}(\ln r))} \leq 1. \quad (4)$$

*Proof.* Without loss of generality, we assume that  $f(0) = 1$ . For  $r < R$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \ln M(R, f) &= \int_0^R \frac{d}{dt} \ln M(t, f) dt = \int_0^R \frac{K(t, f)}{t} dt \geq \int_r^R \frac{K(t, f)}{t} dt \geq \\ &\geq K(r, f) \int_r^R \frac{dt}{t} = K(r, f) \ln \frac{R}{r}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\frac{K(r, f)}{\Phi'(\Psi^{-1}(\ln r))} \leq \frac{\ln M(R, f)}{\Phi(\ln R)} \cdot \frac{\Phi(\ln R)}{\Phi'(\Psi^{-1}(\ln r)) \cdot \ln \frac{R}{r}}.$$

We set  $R = r \cdot \exp \left\{ \frac{\Phi(\Psi^{-1}(\ln r))}{\Phi'(\Psi^{-1}(\ln r))} \right\}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\Phi(\ln R)}{\Phi'(\Psi^{-1}(\ln r)) \cdot \ln \frac{R}{r}} &= \frac{\Phi \left( \ln r + \frac{\Phi(\Psi^{-1}(\ln r))}{\Phi'(\Psi^{-1}(\ln r))} \right)}{\Phi(\Psi^{-1}(\ln r))} = \\ &= \frac{\Phi \left( \ln r + \Psi^{-1}(\ln r) - \left( \Psi^{-1}(\ln r) - \frac{\Phi(\Psi^{-1}(\ln r))}{\Phi'(\Psi^{-1}(\ln r))} \right) \right)}{\Phi(\Psi^{-1}(\ln r))} = \\ &= \frac{\Phi(\ln r + \Psi^{-1}(\ln r) - \Psi(\Psi^{-1}(\ln r)))}{\Phi(\Psi^{-1}(\ln r))} = \frac{\Phi(\Psi^{-1}(\ln r))}{\Phi(\Psi^{-1}(\ln r))} = 1. \end{aligned}$$

Hence we obtain inequality (4). □

We will use the following fact from [1] (substantially due to Macintyre [4]).

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $f$  be an arbitrary entire function and suppose that  $h > 0$ . Then*

$$R(w, f) \geq h \exp \left\{ -K(|w| + h, f) \cdot \frac{h}{|w|} \right\}.$$

**3. Main result.**

**Theorem 1.** *If  $\Phi \in \Omega$  and an entire function  $f$  satisfies condition (3), then*

$$\liminf_{|w| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{R(w, f)}{|w|} \cdot \Phi' \left( \Psi^{-1} \left( \ln |w| + \frac{1}{\Phi'(\Psi^{-1}(\ln |w|))} \right) \right) \geq \frac{1}{e}. \tag{5}$$

*Proof.* By Lemma 1 and 2, for arbitrary positive  $\varepsilon$ , we have

$$R(w, f) \geq h \exp \left\{ -(1 + \varepsilon) \Phi'(\Psi^{-1}(\ln(|w| + h))) \cdot \frac{h}{|w|} \right\},$$

when  $|w|$  is sufficiently large. Setting

$$h = \frac{|w|}{\Phi' \left( \Psi^{-1} \left( \ln |w| + \frac{1}{\Phi'(\Psi^{-1}(\ln |w|))} \right) \right)},$$

we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{R(w, f)}{|w|} \Phi' \left( \Psi^{-1} \left( \ln |w| + \frac{1}{\Phi'(\Psi^{-1}(\ln |w|))} \right) \right) \geq \\ & \geq \exp \left\{ -(1 + \varepsilon) \frac{\Phi' \left( \Psi^{-1} \left( \ln |w| + \frac{h}{|w|} \right) \right)}{\Phi' \left( \Psi^{-1} \left( \ln |w| + \frac{1}{\Phi'(\Psi^{-1}(\ln |w|))} \right) \right)} \right\} \geq \exp\{-(1 + \varepsilon)\}, \end{aligned}$$

which implies (5). □

The following corollary improves inequality (2).

**Corollary 1.** *If an entire function  $f$  satisfies the condition (1), then*

$$\liminf_{|w| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{p \cdot (\ln |w|)^{p-1}}{|w|} \cdot R(w, f) \geq \frac{1}{e\sigma} \cdot \left( \frac{p-1}{p} \right)^{p-1}.$$

*Proof.* For  $\Phi(x) = \sigma x^p$  we have  $\Psi^{-1}(x) = \frac{p}{p-1} \cdot x$ . Hence

$$\Phi'(\Psi^{-1}(\ln |w|)) = \sigma p (\ln |w|)^{p-1} \left( \frac{p}{p-1} \right)^{p-1}.$$

Thus we obtain the assertion of the corollary. □

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