

A NOTE ON THE GROWTH PROPERTIES OF WRONSKIANs

BY

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Raja Rammohunpur, Darjeeling - 734013, West Bengal, India.**Abstract :**

In the paper we study the comparative growth properties of composite entire and meromorphic functions on the basis of $L - (p, q)$ th order ($L - (p, q)$ th lower order) and $L^* - (p, q)$ order ($L^* - (p, q)$ th lower order) where $L = L(r)$ is a slowly changing function and p, q are positive integers and $p > q$.

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বিমূর্ত সার (Bengali version of the Abstract)

$L - (p, q)$ - তম ক্রমের ভিত্তিতে [$L - (p, q)$ - তম নিম্নক্রম] এবং $L^* - (p, q)$ তম ক্রমের ভিত্তিতে [$L^* - (p, q)$ - তম নিম্নক্রম] যুগ্ম সম্পূর্ণ অপেক্ষক (Entire Function) এবং মেরোমরফিক অপেক্ষক (Meromorphic Function) - এর তুলনামূলক বৃদ্ধির ধর্মকে অনুসন্ধান করা হয়েছে যখন $L = L(r)$ ধীরে পরিবর্তনশীল অপেক্ষক এবং p, q ঋণাত্মক পূর্ণ সংখ্যা এবং $p > q$

1 Introduction, Definitions and Notations :

We denote by \mathbb{C} the set of all finite complex numbers. Let f be a meromorphic function defined on \mathbb{C} . We use the standard notations and definitions in the theory of entire and meromorphic functions which are available in [5] and [2]. In the sequel we use the following notation:

$$\log^{[k]} x = \log(\log^{[k-1]} x) \text{ for } k = 1, 2, 3, \dots \text{ and } \log^{[0]} x = x.$$

The following definitions are well known.

Definition 1 A meromorphic function $\alpha = \alpha(z)$ is called small with respect to f if $T(r, \alpha) = S(r, f)$.

Definition 2 Let a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k be linearly independent meromorphic functions and small with respect to f . We denote by $L(f) = W(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k, f)$ the Wronskian determinant of a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k, f i.e,

$$L(f) = \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & \dots & a_k & f \\ a_1' & a_2' & \dots & a_k' & f' \\ \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots & \vdots \\ a_1^{(k)} & a_2^{(k)} & \dots & a_k^{(k)} & f^{(k)} \end{vmatrix}.$$

Definition 3 If $\alpha \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$, the quantity

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(\alpha, f) &= 1 - \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N(r, \alpha, f)}{T(r, f)} \\ &= \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m(r, \alpha, f)}{T(r, f)} \end{aligned}$$

is called the Nevanlinna's deficiency of the value ' α '.

From the second fundamental theorem it follows that the set of values of $\alpha \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$ for which $\delta(\alpha, f) > 0$ is countable and $\sum_{\alpha \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}} \delta(\alpha, f) + \delta(\infty, f) \leq 2$ {cf. [2], p.43}. In particular, $\sum_{\alpha \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}} \delta(\alpha, f) + \delta(\infty, f) = 2$, we say that f has the maximum deficiency sum.

Definition 4 The order ρ_f and lower order λ_f of a meromorphic function f are defined as

$$\rho_f = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log T(r, f)}{\log r} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_f = \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log T(r, f)}{\log r}.$$

If f is entire then

$$\rho_f = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[2]} M(r, f)}{\log r} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_f = \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[2]} M(r, f)}{\log r}.$$

Somasundaram and Thamizharasi [4] introduced the notions of L -order and L -lower order for entire functions where $L = L(r)$ is a positive continuous function increasing slowly i.e., $L(ar) \sim L(r)$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$ for every positive constant 'a'. Their definitions are as follows:

Definition 5[4] The L -order ρ_f^L and the L -lower order λ_f^L of an entire function f are defined as follows:

$$\rho_f^L = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p]} M(r, f)}{\log [rL(r)]} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_f^L = \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p]} M(r, f)}{\log [rL(r)]}$$

When f is meromorphic, then

$$\rho_f^L = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log T(r, f)}{\log [rL(r)]} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_f^L = \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log T(r, f)}{\log [rL(r)]}$$

Juneja, Kapoor and Bajpai [3] defined the (p, q) th order and (p, q) th lower order of an entire function f respectively as follows:

$$\rho_f(p, q) = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p]} M(r, f)}{\log^{[q]} r} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_f(p, q) = \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p]} M(r, f)}{\log^{[q]} r}$$

where p, q are positive integers and $p > q$.

When f is meromorphic, one can easily verify that

$$\rho_f(p, q) = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]} T(r, f)}{\log^{[q]} r} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_f(p, q) = \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]} T(r, f)}{\log^{[q]} r}$$

where p, q are positive integers and $p > q$.

So with the help of the above notion one can easily define the $L - (p, q)$ th order and $L - (p, q)$ th lower order of entire and meromorphic functions.

Definition 6 The $L - (p, q)$ th order $\rho_f^L(p, q)$ and the $L - (p, q)$ th lower order $\lambda_f^L(p, q)$ of an entire function f are defined as

$$\rho_f^L(p, q) = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p]} M(r, f)}{\log^{[q]} [rL(r)]} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_f^L(p, q) = \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p]} M(r, f)}{\log^{[q]} [rL(r)]}$$

where p, q are positive integers and $p > q$.

When f is meromorphic, one can easily verify that

$$\rho_f^{[p,q]} = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]} T(r, f)}{\log^{[q]} [rL(r)]} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_f^{[p,q]} = \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]} T(r, f)}{\log^{[q]} [rL(r)]}$$

where p, q are positive integers and $p \geq q$.

The more generalised concept of $L = (p, q)$ th order and $L = (p, q)$ th lower order of entire and meromorphic functions are $L^s(p, q)$ th order and $L^s(p, q)$ th lower order respectively. In order to prove our results we require the following definitions:

Definition 7 The $L^s(p, q)$ -order $\rho_f^{[s]}$ and the $L^s(p, q)$ -lower order $\lambda_f^{[s]}$ of a meromorphic function f are defined by

$$\rho_f^{[s]} = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log T(r, f)}{\log [r\sigma^{[s]}(r)]} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_f^{[s]} = \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log T(r, f)}{\log [r\sigma^{[s]}(r)]}$$

When f is entire, one can easily verify that

$$\rho_f^{[s]} = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[s]} M(r, f)}{\log [r\sigma^{[s]}(r)]} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_f^{[s]} = \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[s]} M(r, f)}{\log [r\sigma^{[s]}(r)]}$$

Definition 8 The $L^s(p, q)$ th order $\rho_f^{[s]}(p, q)$ and the $L^s(p, q)$ th lower order $\lambda_f^{[s]}(p, q)$ of an entire function f are defined as

$$\rho_f^{[s]}(p, q) = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[s]} M(r, f)}{\log^{[q]} [r\sigma^{[s]}(r)]} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_f^{[s]}(p, q) = \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[s]} M(r, f)}{\log^{[q]} [r\sigma^{[s]}(r)]}$$

where p, q are positive integers and $p \geq q$.

When f is meromorphic, one can easily verify that

$$\rho_f^{[s]}(p, q) = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[s-1]} T(r, f)}{\log^{[q]} [r\sigma^{[s]}(r)]} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_f^{[s]}(p, q) = \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[s-1]} T(r, f)}{\log^{[q]} [r\sigma^{[s]}(r)]}$$

where p, q are positive integers and $p \geq q$.

Since the natural extension of a derivative is a differential polynomial, in this paper we prove our results for a special type of linear differential polynomials viz. the Wronskians. In the paper we study the comparative growth properties of composite entire and meromorphic functions on the basis of $L = (p, q)$ th order ($L = (p, q)$ th lower order) and $L^s(p, q)$ order ($L^s(p, q)$ th lower order) where $L = L(r)$ is a slowly changing function.

2 Lemmas.

In this section we present a lemma which will be needed in the sequel.

Lemma 1 [1] If f be a transcendental meromorphic function having the maximum deficiency sum. Then the $L^s - (p, q)$ th order (the $L^s - (p, q)$ th lower order) of $L(f)$ and that of f are same where p, q are positive integers and $p \geq q$.

Lemma 2 [1] Let f be a transcendental meromorphic function having the maximum deficiency sum. Then the $L - (p, q)$ th order (the $L - (p, q)$ th lower order) of $L(f)$ and that of f are same where p, q are positive integers and $p \geq q$.

3 Theorems.

In this section we present the main results of the paper.

Theorem 1 Let f be meromorphic and g be a transcendental entire function with the maximum deficiency sum such that $0 < \lambda_{\frac{p}{q}}^s(p, q) \leq \rho_{\frac{p}{q}}^s(p, q) < \infty$ and $0 < \lambda_{\frac{m}{q}}^s(m, q) \leq \rho_{\frac{m}{q}}^s(m, q) < \infty$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\lambda_{\frac{p}{q}}^s(p, q)}{\rho_{\frac{m}{q}}^s(m, q)} &\leq \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]} T(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g))} \leq \min \left\{ \frac{\lambda_{\frac{p}{q}}^s(p, q)}{\lambda_{\frac{m}{q}}^s(m, q)}, \frac{\rho_{\frac{p}{q}}^s(p, q)}{\rho_{\frac{m}{q}}^s(m, q)} \right\} \\ &\leq \max \left\{ \frac{\lambda_{\frac{p}{q}}^s(p, q)}{\lambda_{\frac{m}{q}}^s(m, q)}, \frac{\rho_{\frac{p}{q}}^s(p, q)}{\rho_{\frac{m}{q}}^s(m, q)} \right\} \leq \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]} T(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g))} \leq \frac{\rho_{\frac{p}{q}}^s(p, q)}{\lambda_{\frac{m}{q}}^s(m, q)} \end{aligned}$$

where p, m and q are positive integers such that $p \geq q$ and $m \geq q$ i.e., $\min\{p, m\} \geq q$.

Proof From the definition of $L^s(p, q)$ th order and $L^s(p, q)$ th lower order of $L(g)$ where g is a transcendental entire function we have for arbitrary positive ε and for all sufficiently large values of r ,

$$\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g)) \leq (\rho_{\frac{m}{q}}^s(m, q) + \varepsilon) \log^{[q]} [r \varrho^{L(r^q)}] \tag{1}$$

and

$$\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g)) \geq (\lambda_{L(g)}^{L^p}(m, q) - \varepsilon) \log^{[q]}[r \varepsilon^{L(r^q)}]. \tag{2}$$

Now in view of Lemma 1 we get from (1) for all sufficiently large values of r that

$$\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g)) \leq (\rho_{L(g)}^{L^p}(m, q) + \varepsilon) \log^{[q]}[r \varepsilon^{L(r^q)}]. \tag{3}$$

Similarly in view of Lemma 1 we get from (2) for all sufficiently large values of r

$$\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g)) \geq (\lambda_{L(g)}^{L^p}(m, q) - \varepsilon) \log^{[q]}[r \varepsilon^{L(r^q)}]. \tag{4}$$

Also for a sequence of values of r tending to infinity,

$$\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g)) \leq (\lambda_{L(g)}^{L^p}(m, q) + \varepsilon) \log^{[q]}[r \varepsilon^{L(r^q)}] \tag{5}$$

and

$$\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g)) \geq (\rho_{L(g)}^{L^p}(m, q) - \varepsilon) \log^{[q]}[r \varepsilon^{L(r^q)}]. \tag{6}$$

So in view of Lemma 1 we get from (5) for a sequence of values of r tending to infinity that

$$\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g)) \leq (\lambda_{L(g)}^{L^p}(m, q) + \varepsilon) \log^{[q]}[r \varepsilon^{L(r^q)}]. \tag{7}$$

Also in view of Lemma 1 we get from (6) for a sequence of values of r tending to infinity that

$$\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g)) \geq (\rho_{L(g)}^{L^p}(m, q) - \varepsilon) \log^{[q]}[r \varepsilon^{L(r^q)}]. \tag{8}$$

Now again from the definition of $L^p - (p, q)$ th order and $L^p - (p, q)$ th lower order of the composite function $f \circ g$ we have for arbitrary positive ε and for all sufficiently large values of r ,

$$\log^{[p-1]}(r, f \circ g) \leq (\rho_{f \circ g}^{L^p}(p, q) + \varepsilon) \log^{[q]}[r \varepsilon^{L(r^q)}] \tag{9}$$

and

$$\log^{[p-1]}(r, f \circ g) \geq (\lambda_{f \circ g}^{L^p}(p, q) - \varepsilon) \log^{[q]}[r \varepsilon^{L(r^q)}]. \tag{10}$$

Again for a sequence of values of r tending to infinity

$$\log^{[p-1]}(r, f \circ g) \leq (\lambda_{f \circ g}^{L^p}(p, q) + \varepsilon) \log^{[q]}[r \varepsilon^{L(r^q)}] \tag{11}$$

and

$$\log^{[p-1]}(r, f \circ g) \geq (\rho_{f \circ g}^{\lambda} (p, q) - \varepsilon) \log^{[q]}[r \varepsilon^{L(r)}]. \tag{12}$$

Now from (3) and (10) it follows for all sufficiently large values of r ,

$$\frac{\log^{[p-1]}T(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g))} \geq \frac{\lambda_{f \circ g}^{\lambda} (p, q) - \varepsilon}{\rho_{g}^{\lambda} (m, q) + \varepsilon}.$$

As $\varepsilon (> 0)$ is arbitrary, we obtain that

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]}T(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g))} \geq \frac{\lambda_{f \circ g}^{\lambda} (p, q)}{\rho_{g}^{\lambda} (m, q)}. \tag{13}$$

Again combining (4) and (11) we get for a sequence of values of r tending to infinity,

$$\frac{\log^{[p-1]}T(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g))} \leq \frac{\lambda_{f \circ g}^{\lambda} (p, q) + \varepsilon}{\lambda_{g}^{\lambda} (m, q) - \varepsilon}.$$

Since $\varepsilon (> 0)$ is arbitrary, it follows that

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]}T(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g))} \leq \frac{\lambda_{f \circ g}^{\lambda} (p, q)}{\lambda_{g}^{\lambda} (m, q)}. \tag{14}$$

Similarly from (8) and (9) it follows for a sequence of values of r tending to infinity that,

$$\frac{\log^{[p-1]}T(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g))} \leq \frac{\rho_{f \circ g}^{\lambda} (p, q) + \varepsilon}{\rho_{g}^{\lambda} (m, q) - \varepsilon}.$$

As $\varepsilon (> 0)$ is arbitrary, we obtain that

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]}T(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g))} \leq \frac{\rho_{f \circ g}^{\lambda} (p, q)}{\rho_{g}^{\lambda} (m, q)}. \tag{15}$$

Now combining (13), (14) and (15) we get that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\lambda_{f \circ g}^{\lambda} (p, q)}{\rho_{g}^{\lambda} (m, q)} &\leq \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]}T(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g))} \\ &\leq \min \left\{ \frac{\lambda_{f \circ g}^{\lambda} (p, q)}{\lambda_{g}^{\lambda} (m, q)}, \frac{\rho_{f \circ g}^{\lambda} (p, q)}{\rho_{g}^{\lambda} (m, q)} \right\}. \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

Now from (7) and (10) we obtain for a sequence of values of r tending to infinity,

$$\frac{\log^{[p-1]}T(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g))} \leq \frac{\lambda_{f \circ g}^{\lambda} (p, q) - \varepsilon}{\lambda_{g}^{\lambda} (m, q) + \varepsilon}.$$

Choosing $\delta \rightarrow 0$ we get that

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]} T(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g))} \geq \frac{\lambda_{f \circ g}^k(p, q)}{\lambda_g^k(m, q)}. \tag{17}$$

Again from (4) and (9) it follows for all sufficiently large values of r ,

$$\frac{\log^{[p-1]} T(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g))} \leq \frac{\rho_{f \circ g}^k(p, q) + \delta}{\lambda_g^k(m, q) - \delta}.$$

As $\delta (> 0)$ is arbitrary, we obtain that

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]} T(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g))} \leq \frac{\rho_{f \circ g}^k(p, q)}{\lambda_g^k(m, q)}. \tag{18}$$

Similarly combining (3) and (12) we get for a sequence of values of r tending to infinity,

$$\frac{\log^{[p-1]} T(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g))} \leq \frac{\rho_{f \circ g}^k(p, q) - \delta}{\rho_g^k(m, q) + \delta}.$$

Since $\delta (> 0)$ is arbitrary, it follows that

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]} T(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g))} \leq \frac{\rho_{f \circ g}^k(p, q)}{\rho_g^k(m, q)}. \tag{19}$$

Therefore combining (17), (18) and (19) we get that

$$\max \left\{ \frac{\lambda_{f \circ g}^k(p, q)}{\lambda_g^k(m, q)}, \frac{\rho_{f \circ g}^k(p, q)}{\rho_g^k(m, q)} \right\} \leq \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]} T(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g))} \leq \frac{\rho_{f \circ g}^k(p, q)}{\lambda_g^k(m, q)}. \tag{20}$$

Thus the theorem follows from (16) and (20).

Remark 1 Considering f to be a transcendental meromorphic function with the maximum deficiency sum and g be an entire function if we take $0 < \lambda_g^k(m, q) \leq \rho_g^k(m, q) < \infty$ instead of $0 < \lambda_{f \circ g}^k(m, q) \leq \rho_{f \circ g}^k(m, q) < \infty$ and the other conditions remain the same then also Theorem 1 holds with g replaced by f in the denominator.

In the line of Theorem 1 and in view of Lemma 2 we may state the following theorem without proof.

Theorem 2 Let f be meromorphic and g be a transcendental entire function with the maximum deficiency sum such that $0 < \lambda_{\frac{p}{q}}^k(p, q) \leq \rho_{\frac{p}{q}}^k(p, q) < \infty$ and $0 < \lambda_{\frac{m}{q}}^k(m, q) \leq \rho_{\frac{m}{q}}^k(m, q) < \infty$. Then

$$\frac{\lambda_{\frac{p}{q}}^k(p, q)}{\rho_{\frac{m}{q}}^k(m, q)} \leq \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]} T(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g))} \leq \min \left\{ \frac{\lambda_{\frac{p}{q}}^k(p, q)}{\lambda_{\frac{m}{q}}^k(m, q)}, \frac{\rho_{\frac{p}{q}}^k(p, q)}{\rho_{\frac{m}{q}}^k(m, q)} \right\}$$

$$\leq \max \left\{ \frac{\lambda_{\frac{p}{q}}^k(p, q)}{\lambda_{\frac{m}{q}}^k(m, q)}, \frac{\rho_{\frac{p}{q}}^k(p, q)}{\rho_{\frac{m}{q}}^k(m, q)} \right\} \leq \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[p-1]} T(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m-1]}(r, L(g))} \leq \frac{\rho_{\frac{p}{q}}^k(p, q)}{\lambda_{\frac{m}{q}}^k(m, q)}$$

where p, m and q are positive integers such that $p > q$ and $m > q$ i.e., $\min\{p, m\} > q$.

Remark 2 Considering f to be a transcendental meromorphic function with the maximum deficiency sum and g be an entire function if we take $0 < \lambda_{\frac{m}{q}}^k(m, q) \leq \rho_{\frac{m}{q}}^k(m, q) < \infty$ instead of $0 < \lambda_{\frac{p}{q}}^k(p, q) \leq \rho_{\frac{p}{q}}^k(p, q) < \infty$ and the other conditions remain the same then also Theorem 2 holds with g replaced by f in the denominator.

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