

## Research Article

# Normality of Composite Analytic Functions and Sharing an Analytic Function

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A result of Hinchliffe (2003) is extended to transcendental entire function, and an alternative proof is given in this paper. Our main result is as follows: let  $\alpha(z)$  be an analytic function,  $\mathcal{F}$  a family of analytic functions in a domain  $D$ , and  $H(z)$  a transcendental entire function. If  $H \circ f(z)$  and  $H \circ g(z)$  share  $\alpha(z)$  IM for each pair  $f(z), g(z) \in \mathcal{F}$ , and one of the following conditions holds: (1)  $H(z) - \alpha(z_0)$  has at least two distinct zeros for any  $z_0 \in D$ ; (2)  $\alpha(z)$  is nonconstant, and there exists  $z_0 \in D$  such that  $H(z) - \alpha(z_0) := (z - \beta_0)^p Q(z)$  has only one distinct zero  $\beta_0$ , and suppose that the multiplicities  $l$  and  $k$  of zeros of  $f(z) - \beta_0$  and  $\alpha(z) - \alpha(z_0)$  at  $z_0$ , respectively, satisfy  $k \neq lp$ , for each  $f(z) \in \mathcal{F}$ , where  $Q(\beta_0) \neq 0$ ; (3) there exists a  $z_0 \in D$  such that  $H(z) - \alpha(z_0)$  has no zero, and  $\alpha(z)$  is nonconstant, then  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in  $D$ .

## 1. Introduction and Main Results

Let  $f(z)$  and  $g(z)$  be two nonconstant meromorphic functions in the whole complex plane  $\mathbb{C}$ , and let  $a$  be a finite complex value or function. We say that  $f$  and  $g$  share  $a$  CM (or IM) provided that  $f - a$  and  $g - a$  have the same zeros counting (or ignoring) multiplicity. It is assumed that the reader is familiar with the standard notations and the basic results of Nevanlinna's value-distribution theory

$$T(r, f), m(r, f), N(r, f), \overline{N}(r, f), \dots \quad (1.1)$$

([1] or [2]). We denote by  $S(r, f)$  any function satisfying  $S(r, f) = o\{T(r, f)\}$ , as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ , possibly outside of a set of finite measure.

A meromorphic function  $\alpha(z)$  is called a small function related to  $f(z)$  if  $T(r, \alpha) = S(r, f)$ .

In 1952, Rosenbloom [3] proved the following theorem.

**Theorem A.** *Let  $P(z)$  be a polynomial of degree at least 2 and  $f(z)$  a transcendental entire function. Then*

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N(r, 1/[P(f) - z])}{T(r, f)} \geq 1. \quad (1.2)$$

Influenced from Bloch's principle ([1] or [4]), that is, there is a normal criterion corresponding to every Liouville-Picard type theorem, Fang and Yuan [5] proved a corresponding normality criterion for inequality (1.2).

**Theorem B.** *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of analytic functions in a domain  $D$  and  $P(z)$  a polynomial of degree at least 2. If  $P(f(z)) \neq z$  for each  $f(z) \in \mathcal{F}$ , then  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in  $D$ .*

In 1995, Zheng and Yang [6] proved the following result.

**Theorem C.** *Let  $P(z)$  be a polynomial of degree  $p$  at least 2,  $f(z)$  a transcendental entire function, and  $\alpha(z)$  a nonconstant meromorphic function satisfying  $T(r, \alpha) = S(r, f)$ . Then,*

$$T(r, f) \leq \mu \bar{N} \left( r, \frac{1}{P(f) - \alpha(z)} \right) + S(r, f). \quad (1.3)$$

Here  $\mu = 2/(p - 1)$  if  $P'(z)$  has only one zero; otherwise  $\mu = 2$ .

In 2000, Fang and Yuan [7] improved (1.3) and obtained the best possible  $k$ .

**Theorem D.** *Let  $P(z)$  be a polynomial of degree  $p$  at least 2 and  $f(z)$  a transcendental entire function, and  $\alpha(z)$  a nonconstant meromorphic function satisfying  $T(r, \alpha) = S(r, f)$ . If  $\alpha(z)$  is a constant, we also require that there exists a constant  $A \neq \alpha$  such that  $P(z) - A$  has a zero of multiplicity at least 2. Then*

$$T(r, f) \leq \mu \bar{N} \left( r, \frac{1}{P(f) - \alpha(z)} \right) + S(r, f). \quad (1.4)$$

Here  $\mu = 1/(p - 1)$  if  $P'(z)$  has only one zero; otherwise  $\mu = 1$ .

The corresponding normal criterion below to Theorem D was obtained by Fang and Yuan [7].

**Theorem E.** *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of analytic functions in a domain  $D$  and  $P(z)$  a polynomial of degree at least 2. Suppose that  $\alpha(z)$  is either a nonconstant analytic function or a constant function such that  $P(z) - \alpha$  has at least two distinct zeros. If  $P \circ f(z) \neq \alpha(z)$  for each  $f \in \mathcal{F}$ , then  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in  $D$ .*

In 2003, Hinchliffe [8] proved the following theorem.

**Theorem F.** *Let  $\alpha(z) = z$ ,  $\mathcal{F}$  a family of analytic functions in a domain  $D$ , and  $h(z)$  a transcendental meromorphic function. If  $\hat{C} \setminus h(\mathbf{C}) = \emptyset, \{\infty\}$  or  $\{\xi_1, \xi_2\}$ , where  $\{\xi_1, \xi_2\}$  are two distinct values in  $\hat{C} = \mathbf{C} \cup \{\infty\}$ , suppose that  $h \circ f(z) \neq \alpha(z)$  for each  $f \in \mathcal{F}$  and all  $z \in D$ . Then,  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in  $D$ .*

In 2004, Bergweiler [9] deals also with the case that  $\alpha(z)$  is meromorphic in Theorem F and extended Theorem E as follows.

**Theorem G.** *Let  $\alpha(z)$  be a nonconstant meromorphic function,  $\mathcal{F}$  a family of analytic functions in a domain  $D$ , and  $R(z)$  a rational function of degree at least 2. Suppose that  $R \circ f(z) \neq \alpha(z)$  for each  $f \in \mathcal{F}$  and all  $z \in D$ . Then,  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in  $D$ .*

Recently, Yuan et al. [10] generalized Theorem G in another manner and proved the following result.

**Theorem H.** *Let  $\alpha(z)$  be a nonconstant meromorphic function,  $\mathcal{F}$  a family of analytic functions in a domain  $D$ , and  $R(z)$  a rational function of degree at least 2. If  $R \circ f(z)$  and  $R \circ g(z)$  share  $\alpha(z)$  IM for each pair  $f(z), g(z) \in \mathcal{F}$  and one of the following conditions holds:*

- (1)  $R(z) - \alpha(z_0)$  has at least two distinct zeros or poles for any  $z_0 \in D$ ;
- (2) there exists  $z_0 \in D$  such that  $R(z) - \alpha(z_0) := P(z)/Q(z)$  has only one distinct zero (or pole)  $\beta_0$  and suppose that the multiplicities  $l$  and  $k$  of zeros of  $f(z) - \beta_0$  and  $\alpha(z) - \alpha(z_0)$  at  $z_0$ , respectively, satisfy  $k \neq lp$  (or  $k \neq lq$ ), for each  $f(z) \in \mathcal{F}$ , where  $P(z)$  and  $Q(z)$  are two of no common zero polynomials with degree  $p$  and  $q$ , respectively, and  $\alpha(z_0) \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$ .

Then,  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in  $D$ .

In this paper, we improve Theorems E and F and obtain the main result Theorem 1.1 which is proved below in Section 3.

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $\alpha(z)$  be an analytic function,  $\mathcal{F}$  a family of analytic functions in a domain  $D$ , and  $H(z)$  a transcendental entire function. If  $H \circ f(z)$  and  $H \circ g(z)$  share  $\alpha(z)$  IM for each pair  $f(z), g(z) \in \mathcal{F}$ , and one of the following conditions holds:*

- (1)  $H(z) - \alpha(z_0)$  has at least two distinct zeros for any  $z_0 \in D$ ;
- (2)  $\alpha(z)$  is nonconstant, and there exists  $z_0 \in D$  such that  $H(z) - \alpha(z_0) := (z - \beta_0)^p Q(z)$  has only one distinct zero  $\beta_0$  and suppose that the multiplicities  $l$  and  $k$  of zeros of  $f(z) - \beta_0$  and  $\alpha(z) - \alpha(z_0)$  at  $z_0$ , respectively, satisfy  $k \neq lp$ , for each  $f(z) \in \mathcal{F}$ , where  $Q(\beta_0) \neq 0$ ;
- (3) there exists a  $z_0 \in D$  such that  $H(z) - \alpha(z_0)$  has no zero, and  $\alpha(z)$  is nonconstant.

Then,  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in  $D$ .

## 2. Preliminary Lemmas

In order to prove our result, we need the following lemmas. Lemma 2.1 is an extending result of Zalcman [11] concerning normal families.

**Lemma 2.1** (see [12]). *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of functions on the unit disc. Then,  $\mathcal{F}$  is not normal on the unit disc if and only if there exist*

- (a) a number  $0 < r < 1$ ;
- (b) points  $z_n$  with  $|z_n| < r$ ;
- (c) functions  $f_n \in \mathcal{F}$ ;
- (d) positive numbers  $\rho_n \rightarrow 0$

such that  $g_n(\xi) := f_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi)$  converges locally uniformly to a nonconstant meromorphic function  $g(\xi)$ , which order is at most 2.

*Remark 2.2.*  $g(\xi)$  is a nonconstant entire function if  $\mathcal{F}$  is a family of analytic functions on the unit disc in Lemma 2.1.

The following Lemma 2.3 is very useful in the proof of our main theorem. We denote by  $U(z_0, r)$  the open disc of radius  $r$  around  $z_0$ , that is,  $U(z_0, r) := \{z \in \mathbf{C} : |z - z_0| < r\}$ .  $U^0(z_0, r) := \{z \in \mathbf{C} : 0 < |z - z_0| < r\}$ .

**Lemma 2.3** (see [13] or [14]). *Let  $\{f_n(z)\}$  be a family of analytic functions in  $U(z_0, r)$ . Suppose that  $\{f_n(z)\}$  is not normal at  $z_0$  but is normal in  $U^0(z_0, r)$ . Then, there exists a subsequence  $\{f_{n_k}(z)\}$  of  $\{f_n(z)\}$  and a sequence of points  $\{z_{n_k}\}$  tending to  $z_0$  such that  $f_{n_k}(z_{n_k}) = 0$ , but  $\{f_{n_k}(z)\}$  tending to infinity locally uniformly on  $U^0(z_0, r)$ .*

### 3. Proof of Theorem

*Proof of Theorem 1.1.* Without loss of generality, we assume that  $D = \{z \in \mathbf{C}, |z| < 1\}$ . Then, we consider three cases:

*Case 1.*  $H(z) - \alpha(z_0)$  has at least two distinct zeros for any  $z_0 \in D$

Suppose that  $\mathcal{F}$  is not normal in  $D$ . Without loss of generality, we assume that  $\mathcal{F}$  is not normal at  $z = 0$ .

Set  $H(z) - \alpha(0)$  have two distinct zeros  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$ .

By Lemma 2.1, there exists a sequence of points  $z_n \rightarrow 0$ ,  $f_n \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $\rho_n \rightarrow 0^+$  such that

$$F_n(\xi) := f_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi) \longrightarrow F(\xi) \quad (3.1)$$

uniformly on any compact subset of  $\mathbf{C}$ , where  $F(\xi)$  is a nonconstant entire function.

Hence,

$$H \circ f_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi) - \alpha(z_n + \rho_n \xi) \longrightarrow H \circ F(\xi) - \alpha(0) \quad (3.2)$$

uniformly on any compact subset of  $\mathbf{C}$ .

We claim that  $H \circ F(\xi) - \alpha(0)$  had at least two distinct zeros.

If  $F(\xi)$  is a nonconstant polynomial, then both  $F(\xi) - \beta_1$  and  $F(\xi) - \beta_2$  have zeros. So  $H \circ F(\xi) - \alpha(0)$  has at least two distinct zeros.

If  $F(\xi)$  is a transcendental entire function, then either  $F(\xi) - \beta_1$  or  $F(\xi) - \beta_2$  has infinite zeros. Indeed, suppose that it is not true, then by Picard's theorem [2], we obtain that  $F(\xi)$  is a polynomial, a contradiction.

Thus, the claim gives that there exist  $\xi_1$  and  $\xi_2$  such that

$$H \circ F(\xi_1) - \alpha(0) = 0; \quad H \circ F(\xi_2) - \alpha(0) = 0 \quad (\xi_1 \neq \xi_2). \quad (3.3)$$

We choose a positive number  $\delta$  small enough such that  $D_1 \cap D_2 = \emptyset$  and  $F(\xi) - \alpha(0)$  has no other zeros in  $D_1 \cup D_2$  except for  $\xi_1$  and  $\xi_2$ , where

$$D_1 = \{\xi \in \mathbf{C}; |\xi - \xi_1| < \delta\}, \quad D_2 = \{\xi \in \mathbf{C}; |\xi - \xi_2| < \delta\}. \quad (3.4)$$

By hypothesis and Hurwitz's theorem [14], for sufficiently large  $n$  there exist points  $\xi_{1n} \in D_1, \xi_{2n} \in D_2$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} H \circ f_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi_{1n}) - \alpha(z_n + \rho_n \xi_{1n}) &= 0, \\ H \circ f_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi_{2n}) - \alpha(z_n + \rho_n \xi_{2n}) &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

Note that  $H \circ f_m(z)$  and  $H \circ f_n(z)$  share  $\alpha(z)$  IM; it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} H \circ f_m(z_n + \rho_n \xi_{1n}) - \alpha(z_n + \rho_n \xi_{1n}) &= 0, \\ H \circ f_m(z_n + \rho_n \xi_{2n}) - \alpha(z_n + \rho_n \xi_{2n}) &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (3.6)$$

Taking  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , we obtain

$$H \circ f_m(0) - \alpha(0) = 0. \quad (3.7)$$

Since the zeros of

$$H \circ f_m(\xi) - \alpha(\xi) \quad (3.8)$$

have no accumulation points, we have

$$z_n + \rho_n \xi_{1n} = 0, \quad z_n + \rho_n \xi_{2n} = 0, \quad (3.9)$$

or equivalently

$$\xi_{1n} = -\frac{z_n}{\rho_n}, \quad \xi_{2n} = -\frac{z_n}{\rho_n}. \quad (3.10)$$

This contradicts with the facts that  $\xi_{1n} \in D_1, \xi_{2n} \in D_2$ , and  $D_1 \cap D_2 = \emptyset$ .

*Case 2.*  $\alpha(z)$  is nonconstant, and there exists  $z_0 \in D$  such that  $H(z) - \alpha(z_0) := (z - \beta_0)^p Q(z)$  has only one distinct zero  $\beta_0$ , and suppose that the multiplicities  $l$  and  $k$  of zeros of  $f(z) - \beta_0$  and  $\alpha(z) - \alpha(z_0)$  at  $z_0$ , respectively, satisfy  $k \neq lp$ , possibly outside finite  $f(z) \in \mathcal{F}$ , where  $Q(\beta_0) \neq 0$ .

We shall prove that  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal at  $z_0 \in D$ . Without loss of generality, we can assume that  $z_0 = 0$ .

By  $\alpha(z)$  nonconstant and analytic, we see that there exists a neighborhood  $U(0, r)$  such that

$$\alpha(z) \neq \alpha(0). \quad (3.11)$$

Hypothesis implies that  $H(z) - \alpha(0)$  has only one zero  $\beta_0$ , that is,  $H(\beta_0) = \alpha(0)$ .

We claim that  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal at  $z_0 \in U^0(0, r)$  for small enough  $r$ . In fact,  $H(z) - \alpha(z_0)$  has infinite zeros by Picard theorem. Hence, the conclusion of Case 1 tells us that this claim is true.

Next, we prove  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal at  $z = 0$ . For any  $\{f_n(z)\} \subset \mathcal{F}$ , by the former claim, there exists a subsequence of  $\{f_n(z)\}$ , denoted  $\{f_n(z)\}$  for the sake of simplicity, such that

$$f_n(z) \rightarrow G(z), \quad (3.12)$$

uniformly on a punctured disc  $U^0(0, r) \subset U$ .

By hypothesis, we see that  $\{H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(z)\}$  is an analytic family in the disc  $U(0, r)$ .

If  $\{f_n(z)\}$  is not normal at  $z = 0$ , then Lemma 2.3 gives that  $G(z) = \infty$ , on a punctured disc  $U^0(0, r)$  and  $f_n(z'_n) = 0$  for a sequence of points  $z'_n \rightarrow 0$ .

We claim that there exists a sequence of points  $z_n \in U(0, r)$  ( $z_n \rightarrow 0$ ) such that  $H \circ f_n(z_n) - \alpha(z_n) = 0$ .

In fact we may find  $\rho, \epsilon > 0$  such that  $|H(z) - \alpha(0)| > \epsilon$  for  $|z - \beta_0| = \rho$ . Next, we choose  $\delta$  with  $0 < \delta < r$  such that  $|\alpha(z) - \alpha(0)| < \epsilon$  for  $|z| < \delta$ .

Since  $f_n(z) \rightarrow \infty$  on  $U^0(0, r)$  and  $f_n(z'_n) = 0$  for a sequence of points  $z'_n \rightarrow 0$ , we know that if  $n$  sufficiently large, then

$$|(f_n(z) - \beta) - f_n(z)| = |\beta| \leq |\beta_0| + \rho < |f_n(z)| \quad (3.13)$$

for  $|z| = \delta$  and  $\beta \in U(\beta_0, \rho)$ . For large  $n$ , we also have  $|z'_n| < \delta$ , and thus we deduce that from Rouché's theorem that  $f_n(z)$  takes the value  $\beta \in U(0, \delta)$ , that is, we have  $f_n(U(0, \delta)) \supset U(\beta, \rho)$  for large  $n$ . Since also  $f_n(\partial U(0, \delta)) \cap U(\beta, \rho) = \emptyset$  for large  $n$ , we find a component  $U$  of  $f_n^{-1}(U(\beta_0, \rho))$  contained in  $U(0, \delta)$  for such  $n$ . Moreover,  $U$  is a Jordan domain, and  $f_n : U \rightarrow U(\beta_0, \rho)$  is a proper map.

For  $z \in \partial U$ , we then have  $f_n(z) \in \partial U(\beta_0, \rho)$ , and thus  $|H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(0)| > \epsilon$ . Hence

$$|H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(z) - (H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(0))| = |\alpha(z) - \alpha(0)| < \epsilon < |H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(0)| \quad (3.14)$$

for  $z \in \partial U$ . Now  $f_n$ , in particular, takes the value  $\beta_0$  in  $U$ , say,  $f_n(z''_n) = \beta_0$  with  $z''_n \in U$ . Hence,  $H \circ f_n(z''_n) - \alpha(0) = 0$ , and thus Rouché's theorem now shows that our claim holds.

By the similar argument as Case 1, we obtain that  $z_n = 0$  for sufficiently large  $n$ . Because  $H(z) - \alpha(0) = (z - \xi_0)^p H(z)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(z) &= (f_n(z) - \xi_0)^p H(f_n(z)) - (\alpha(z) - \alpha(0)), \\ (f_n(0) - \xi_0)^p H(f_n(0)) &= H \circ f_n(0) - \alpha(0) = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (3.15)$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(z) &= z^k \left[ z^{lp-k} h_n(z) - \beta(z) \right], \quad \text{if } lp > k; \\ H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(z) &= z^{lp} \left[ h_n(z) - z^{k-lp} \beta(z) \right], \quad \text{if } lp < k, \end{aligned} \quad (3.16)$$

where  $h_n(z), \beta(z)$  are analytic functions and  $h_n(0) \neq 0, \beta(0) \neq 0$ .

Set  $H_n(z) := z^{lp-k} h_n(z) - \beta(z)$ , if  $lp > k$ ; or  $H_n(z) := h_n(z) - z^{k-lp} \beta(z)$ , if  $lp < k$ . Thus,  $H_n(0) = -\beta(0) \neq 0$  or  $H_n(0) = h_n(0) \neq 0$ . Noting that  $lp \neq k$ , we see that  $\{H_n(z)\}$  is an analytic family and normal in  $U^0(0, r)$ .

By the same argument as above, there exists a sequence of points  $z_n^* \in U'$  such that  $z_n^* \rightarrow 0$ , and  $H_n(z_n^*) = 0$ . Obviously,  $z_n^* \neq 0$  and

$$H \circ f_n(z_n^*) - \alpha(z_n^*) = z_n^* H_n(z_n^*) = 0. \quad (3.17)$$

Noting that  $H \circ f_n(z)$  and  $H \circ f_m(z)$  share  $\alpha(z)$  IM, we obtain that

$$H \circ f_m(z_n^*) - \alpha(z_n^*) = 0 \quad (3.18)$$

for each  $m$ . That is,  $z_n^* H_m(z_n^*) = 0$ . Noting that  $z_n^* \neq 0$ , we deduce that  $H_m(z_n^*) = 0$ . Thus, taking  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $H_m(0) = 0$ , contradicting the hypothesis for  $H_m(0)$ .

*Case 3.* There exists a  $z_0 \in D$  such that  $H(z) - \alpha(z_0)$  has no zero, and  $\alpha(z)$  is nonconstant.

Suppose that  $\mathcal{F}$  is not normal in  $D$ . Without loss of generality, we assume that  $\mathcal{F}$  is not normal at  $z = 0$ .

By Picard theorem and (3.11), we know that  $H(z) - \alpha(z_0)$  has at least two distinct zeros at any  $z_0 \in U^0(0, r)$  for small enough  $r$ . The result of Case 1 tell us that  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in  $U^0(0, r)$ .

Thus, for any  $\{f_n(z)\} \subset \mathcal{F}$ , by the former conclusion and Lemma 2.3, there exists a subsequence of  $\{f_n(z)\}$ , denoted by  $\{f_n(z)\}$  for the sake of simplicity, such that

$$f_n(z) \rightarrow \infty, \quad (3.19)$$

uniformly on a punctured disc  $U^0(0, r) \subset U$  and  $f_n(z'_n) = 0$  for a sequence of points  $z'_n \rightarrow 0$ .

Obviously,  $\{H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(z)\}$  is an analytic normal family in the punctured disc  $U^0(0, r)$  for small enough  $r$ . We consider two subcases.

*Subcase 1* ( $\{H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(z)\}$  is not normal at  $z = 0$ ). Using Lemma 2.3 for  $\{H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(z)\}$ , we get that there exists a sequence of points  $z_n \in U(0, r)$  such that  $z_n \rightarrow 0$  and  $H \circ f_n(z_n) - \alpha(z_n) = 0$ .

Noting that  $H \circ f_m(z)$  and  $H \circ f_n(z)$  share  $\alpha(z)$  IM, and  $H(z) - \alpha(0)$  has no zero, it follows that  $z_n \neq 0$  and  $H \circ f_m(z_n) - \alpha(z_n) = 0$ . Taking  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , we obtain  $H \circ f_m(0) - \alpha(0) = 0$ . A contradiction with the hypothesis that  $H(z) - \alpha(0)$  has no zero.

Subcase 2 ( $\{H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(z)\}$  is normal at  $z = 0$ ). Then,  $\{(H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(0))/(\alpha(z) - \alpha(0))\}$  is normal in  $U^0(0, r)$ , which tends to a limit function  $h(z)$ , which is either identically infinite or analytic in  $U^0(0, r)$ . Set

$$M_n := \min\{|f_n(z)| : |z| = r\}, \quad (3.20)$$

noting that  $M_n \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . If  $n$  is large enough, we have  $z'_n \in U(0, r)$ , and hence  $U(0, M_n) \subseteq f_n(U(0, r))$ . Denote  $\partial f_n(U(0, r))$  by  $\Gamma_n$ , and note that the  $\Gamma_n$  are closed curves, arbitrarily distant from and surrounding the origin.

Suppose that  $h(z) \equiv \infty$  on  $U^0(0, r)$ . Since  $h_n(z) := (H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(0))/(\alpha(z) - \alpha(0)) \rightarrow \infty$  locally uniformly on  $\partial U(0, r)$ , there exists, for arbitrarily large positive  $M$ , an  $n_0(M)$  such that, for  $n \geq n_0$ ,  $|h_n(z)| \geq M$  on  $\partial U(0, r)$ . Thus, we have  $|H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(0)| \geq M|\alpha(z) - \alpha(0)|$  on  $\partial U(0, r)$ . Hence, for large  $n$ ,  $H(z)$  is bounded away from  $\alpha(0)$  on the curves  $\Gamma_n$ , and this contradicts Iversen's theorem [15].

On the other hand, suppose that  $h(z)$  is analytic on  $U^0(0, r)$ . Then, there exists some constant  $L$  such that  $|h(z)| \leq L$  on  $\partial U(0, r)$ , and so, for large  $n$ ,  $|h_n(z)| \leq 2L$  on  $\partial U(0, r)$ . Hence,  $|H \circ f_n(z) - \alpha(0)| \leq 2L|\alpha(z) - \alpha(0)|$  on  $\partial U(0, r)$ . Again,  $H(z)$  is therefore bounded away from  $\infty$  of its omitted value on the curves  $\Gamma_n$ , contradicting Iversen's theorem.

Therefore  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal in Case 3.

Theorem 1.1 is proved completely. □

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