

A NOTE ON NORMALITY AND SHARED VALUES

MINGLIANG FANG and LAWRENCE ZALCMAN

(Received 7 August 2002; revised 26 February 2003)

Communicated by P. C. Fenton

Abstract

Let k be a positive integer and b a nonzero constant. Suppose that \mathcal{F} is a family of meromorphic functions in a domain D . If each function $f \in \mathcal{F}$ has only zeros of multiplicity at least $k + 2$ and for any two functions $f, g \in \mathcal{F}$, f and g share 0 in D and $f^{(k)}$ and $g^{(k)}$ share b in D , then \mathcal{F} is normal in D . The case $f \neq 0, f^{(k)} \neq b$ is a celebrated result of Gu.

2000 *Mathematics subject classification*: primary 30D45.

Keywords and phrases: meromorphic function, normality, shared value.

1. Introduction

Let D be a domain in \mathbb{C} and \mathcal{F} a family of meromorphic functions defined in D . \mathcal{F} is said to be normal in D , in the sense of Montel, if each sequence $\{f_n\} \subset \mathcal{F}$ has a subsequence $\{f_{n_j}\}$ which converges spherically locally uniformly in D , to a meromorphic function or ∞ (see Hayman [4], Schiff [7], Yang [12]).

Suppose that f, g are meromorphic functions on D and $a \in \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$. If $f(z) = a$ if and only if $g(z) = a$, we say that f and g share a in D .

In 1912, Montel [6] proved the following well-known normality criterion.

THEOREM A. *Let \mathcal{F} be a family of meromorphic functions defined in D , and let a, b and c be three distinct values in the extended complex plane. If for each function $f \in \mathcal{F}$, $f \neq a, b, c$, then \mathcal{F} is normal in D .*

In 1994, Sun [8] extended Theorem A as follows (see for example [1]).

The first author was supported by the NNSF of China (Grant No. 10071038) and by the Fred and Barbara Kort Sino-Israel Post Doctoral Fellowship Program at Bar-Ilan University. The second author was supported by the German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development, G.I.F. Grant No. G-643-117.6/1999.

© 2004 Australian Mathematical Society 1446-7887/04 \$A2.00 + 0.00

THEOREM B. *Let \mathcal{F} be a family of meromorphic functions defined in D , and let a, b and c be three distinct values in the extended complex plane. If each pair of functions f and g in \mathcal{F} share a, b and c in D , then \mathcal{F} is normal in D .*

In 1979, Gu [2] proved the following result.

THEOREM C. *Let \mathcal{F} be a family of meromorphic functions defined in D , and let k be a positive integer and b a nonzero constant. If for each function $f \in \mathcal{F}$, $f \neq 0$ and $f^{(k)} \neq b$ in D , then \mathcal{F} is normal in D .*

It is natural to ask whether Theorem C can be extended in the same way that Theorem B extends Theorem A. In this note, we offer such an extension. In each of the results below, k is a positive integer and b is a nonzero complex constant.

THEOREM 1. *Let \mathcal{F} be a family of meromorphic functions defined in D , all of whose zeros have multiplicity at least $k + 2$. If each pair of functions f and g in \mathcal{F} share 0 in D and $f^{(k)}$ and $g^{(k)}$ share b in D , then \mathcal{F} is normal in D .*

EXAMPLE 1. Let n, k be positive integers. Let $D = \{z : |z| < 1\}$ and $\mathcal{F} = \{f_n\}$, where

$$f_n(z) = \frac{nz^{k+1}}{k!(nz - 1)}, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Each function in \mathcal{F} has a single zero of multiplicity $k + 1$. Clearly, for each pair m, n of positive integers, f_m, f_n share 0 in D . Moreover, since

$$f_n(z) = \frac{1}{k!} \left(z^k + \frac{1}{n}z^{k-1} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^{k-1}}z + \frac{1}{n^k} + \frac{1}{n^k} \frac{1}{nz - 1} \right),$$

$$f_n^{(k)}(z) = 1 + \frac{(-1)^k}{(nz - 1)^{k+1}} \neq 1.$$

Thus $f_m^{(k)}$ and $f_n^{(k)}$ also share the value 1 in D . But \mathcal{F} clearly fails to be normal on any neighbourhood of 0. This shows that the condition in Theorem 1 that the zeros of functions in \mathcal{F} have multiplicity at least $k + 2$ cannot be weakened.

THEOREM 2. *Let \mathcal{F} be a family of meromorphic functions defined in D , all of whose zeros have multiplicity at least $k + 1$ and whose poles have multiplicity at least 2. If each pair of functions f and g in \mathcal{F} share 0 in D and $f^{(k)}$ and $g^{(k)}$ share b in D , then \mathcal{F} is normal in D .*

COROLLARY 3. *Let \mathcal{F} be a family of holomorphic functions defined in D , all of whose zeros have multiplicity at least $k + 1$. If each pair of functions f and g in \mathcal{F} share 0 in D and $f^{(k)}$ and $g^{(k)}$ share b in D , then \mathcal{F} is normal in D .*

COROLLARY 4. *Let \mathcal{F} be a family of meromorphic functions defined in D . If each pair of functions f and g in \mathcal{F} share 0 in D and $f^m f'$ and $g^m g'$ share b in D , then \mathcal{F} is normal in D .*

To prove Corollary 4, set $\tilde{\mathcal{F}} = \{f^{m+1}/(m+1) : f \in \mathcal{F}\}$ and apply Theorem 2 to this family with $k = 1$.

EXAMPLE 2. Let $D = \{z : |z| < 1\}$ and $\mathcal{F} = \{f_n\}$, where $f_n(z) = nz^k$, $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$. Then the zeros of functions in \mathcal{F} all have multiplicity k . Moreover, any pair of functions f and g in \mathcal{F} clearly share 0 in D and $f^{(k)}$ and $g^{(k)}$ share $1/2$ in D ; but \mathcal{F} is not normal in D . This shows that the condition that the zeros of functions in \mathcal{F} have multiplicity at least $k + 1$ in Theorem 2 and Corollary 3 is best possible.

2. Some lemmas

For the proofs of Theorem 1 and Theorem 2, we require the following results.

LEMMA 1 ([9, Theorem 7]). *Let \mathcal{F} be a family of meromorphic functions defined in D , all of whose zeros have multiplicity at least $k + 2$. If $f^{(k)} \neq b$ for each $f \in \mathcal{F}$, then \mathcal{F} is normal in D .*

LEMMA 2 ([9, Theorem 5]). *Let \mathcal{F} be a family of meromorphic functions defined in D , all of whose zeros have multiplicity at least $k + 1$ and whose poles have multiplicity at least 2. If $f^{(k)} \neq b$ for each $f \in \mathcal{F}$, then \mathcal{F} is normal in D .*

Below, we assume the basic results and notation of Nevanlinna Theory [4, 12]. In particular, $S(r, f)$ denotes any function satisfying $S(r, f) = O(\log rT(r, f))$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$, possibly outside a set of finite measure, where $T(r, f)$ is Nevanlinna's characteristic function. In fact, the functions for which we use this notation are all of finite order, so the exceptional set does not occur. For such functions, we have $S(r, f) = o(T(r, f))$ [4, page 41].

LEMMA 3 ([4, Theorem 3.2]). *Let f be a nonconstant meromorphic function in the complex plane. Then*

$$(2.1) \quad T(r, f) \leq \bar{N}(r, f) + N(r, 1/f) + \bar{N}(r, 1/(f^{(k)} - b)) + S(r, f).$$

By [4, page 61], we also have

LEMMA 4. *Let f be a nonconstant meromorphic function in the complex plane. Then*

$$(2.2) \quad \bar{N}(r, f) \leq \left(1 + \frac{1}{k}\right) N\left(r, \frac{1}{f}\right) + \left(1 + \frac{2}{k}\right) \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f^{(k)} - b}\right) + S(r, f).$$

LEMMA 5. *Let f be a meromorphic function in the complex plane and l a positive integer satisfying $l > k + 4 + 2/k$. If $f \neq 0$ and the zeros of $f^{(k)} - b$ have multiplicity at least l , then f is a constant.*

PROOF. Since $f \neq 0$ and the zeros of $f^{(k)} - b$ have multiplicity at least l , we have by (2.2)

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.3) \quad \bar{N}(r, f) &\leq \left(1 + \frac{2}{k}\right) \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f^{(k)} - b}\right) + S(r, f) \\
 &\leq \frac{1 + 2/k}{l} N\left(r, \frac{1}{f^{(k)} - b}\right) + S(r, f) \\
 &\leq \frac{1 + 2/k}{l} T(r, f^{(k)}) + S(r, f) \\
 &\leq \frac{1 + 2/k}{l} [T(r, f) + k\bar{N}(r, f)] + S(r, f).
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus by (2.3) we get

$$(2.4) \quad \bar{N}(r, f) \leq \frac{k + 2}{k(l - k - 2)} T(r, f) + S(r, f).$$

By (2.1) and the facts that $f \neq 0$ and the zeros of $f^{(k)} - b$ have multiplicity at least l , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.5) \quad T(r, f) &\leq \bar{N}(r, f) + \bar{N}\left(r, \frac{1}{f^{(k)} - b}\right) + S(r, f) \\
 &\leq \bar{N}(r, f) + \frac{1}{l} N\left(r, \frac{1}{f^{(k)} - b}\right) + S(r, f) \\
 &\leq \bar{N}(r, f) + \frac{1}{l} T(r, f^{(k)}) + S(r, f) \\
 &\leq \bar{N}(r, f) + \frac{1}{l} [T(r, f) + k\bar{N}(r, f)] + S(r, f) \\
 &\leq \left(1 + \frac{k}{l}\right) \bar{N}(r, f) + \frac{1}{l} T(r, f) + S(r, f).
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$(2.6) \quad T(r, f) \leq \frac{l + k}{l - 1} \bar{N}(r, f) + S(r, f).$$

By (2.4) and (2.6), we have

$$T(r, f) \leq \frac{(k + 2)(l + k)}{k(l - 1)(l - k - 2)} T(r, f) + S(r, f),$$

that is, $[k(l-1)(l-k-2) - (k+2)(l+k)]T(r, f) \leq S(r, f)$. Since $l > k+4+2/k$, we have $k(l-1)(l-k-2) - (k+2)(l+k) > 0$. Thus $T(r, f) = S(r, f)$, so f is constant. □

LEMMA 6 ([3, Theorem 3], [4, Corollary to Theorem 3.5]). *Let f be a nonconstant meromorphic function on \mathbb{C} , and let b be a nonzero value. Then for each positive integer k , either f or $f^{(k)} - b$ vanishes. If f is transcendental, then for each positive integer k , either f or $f^{(k)} - b$ has infinitely many zeros.*

LEMMA 7 ([10, 13]). *Let \mathcal{F} be a family of functions meromorphic on the unit disc. Suppose that each $f \in \mathcal{F}$, $f \neq 0$. Then if \mathcal{F} is not normal, there exist, for each $\alpha \geq 0$,*

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

such that $\rho_n^{-\alpha} f_n(z_n + \rho_n \zeta) = g_n(\zeta) \rightarrow g(\zeta)$ locally uniformly with respect to the spherical metric, where g is a nonconstant meromorphic function on \mathbb{C} .

3. Proof of Theorem 1

PROOF OF THEOREM 1. Let $z_0 \in D$. We show that \mathcal{F} is normal at z_0 . Let $f \in \mathcal{F}$. We consider two cases.

Case 1: $f^{(k)}(z_0) \neq b$. Then there exists a disk $D_\delta = \{z : |z - z_0| < \delta\}$ such that $f^{(k)} \neq b$ in D_δ . Thus, for every $g \in \mathcal{F}$, the zeros of g have multiplicity at least $k + 2$ and $g^{(k)} \neq b$ in D_δ . By Lemma 1, \mathcal{F} is normal in D_δ . Hence \mathcal{F} is normal at z_0 .

Case 2: $f^{(k)}(z_0) = b$. Then, by the condition of the theorem, $f(z_0) \neq 0$. Hence there exists a disk $D_\delta = \{z : |z - z_0| < \delta\}$ such that $f \neq 0$ in D_δ and $f^{(k)} \neq b$ in $D_\delta^o = \{z : 0 < |z - z_0| < \delta\}$. Hence, by Lemma 1, \mathcal{F} is normal in D_δ^o . We complete the proof of the theorem by using the method of Yang [11].

Let $\{f_n\}$ be a sequence in \mathcal{F} ; then there exists a subsequence of $\{f_n\}$ (which, without loss of generality, we may again denote by $\{f_n\}$) which converges locally spherically uniformly on D_δ^o to a function h . We consider two subcases.

Case 2.1: $h \neq 0$. Then, by Hurwitz's Theorem, $h \neq 0$ in D_δ^o . Therefore,

$$\min_{0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi} |h(z_0 + \delta e^{i\theta}/2)| > A > 0$$

for some constant A .

Hence for sufficiently large n ,

$$\min_{0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi} \left| f_n \left(z_0 + \frac{\delta}{2} e^{i\theta} \right) \right| > \frac{A}{2} > 0.$$

Since f_n is meromorphic and $f_n \neq 0$ in D_δ , $1/f_n$ is holomorphic in D_δ . Thus $1/f_n$ is holomorphic in $\bar{D}_{\delta/2} = \{z : |z - z_0| \leq \delta/2\}$, and

$$\max_{0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi} \frac{1}{|f_n(z_0 + \delta e^{i\theta}/2)|} < \frac{2}{A}.$$

By the maximum principle, we conclude that

$$\max_{|z-z_0| \leq \delta/2} \frac{1}{|f_n(z)|} < \frac{2}{A}, \quad \text{so} \quad \min_{|z-z_0| \leq \delta/2} |f_n(z)| > \frac{A}{2} > 0.$$

Hence there exists a subsequence of $\{f_n\}$ which converges locally spherically uniformly in $D_{\delta/2}$.

Case 2.2: $h \equiv 0$. Then $\{f_n\}$ converges locally uniformly to 0 in D_δ^o . Thus $\{f_n^{(k)}\}$ and $\{f_n^{(k+1)}\}$ also converge locally uniformly to 0. Hence, for sufficiently large n , we have by the argument principle

$$(3.1) \quad \left| N \left(\frac{\delta}{2}, z_0, f_n^{(k)} - b \right) - N \left(\frac{\delta}{2}, z_0, \frac{1}{f_n^{(k)} - b} \right) \right| = \left| \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{|z-z_0|=\delta/2} \frac{f_n^{(k+1)}(z)}{f_n^{(k)}(z) - b} dz \right| < 1.$$

Thus we have

$$N \left(\frac{\delta}{2}, z_0, f_n^{(k)} - b \right) = N \left(\frac{\delta}{2}, z_0, \frac{1}{f_n^{(k)} - b} \right).$$

Since any pole of $f_n^{(k)} - b$ must have multiplicity at least $k + 1$, it follows that the zero of $f_n^{(k)} - b$ at z_0 has multiplicity at least $k + 1$.

We consider two subcases.

Case 2.2.1. The set S of positive integers n such that the zeros of $f_n^{(k)} - b$ at z_0 have multiplicity greater than $k + 4 + 2/k$ is infinite. We claim that $G = \{f_n : n \in S\}$ is normal in $D_{\delta/2}$.

Indeed, suppose that G is not normal in $D_{\delta/2}$. Then by Lemma 7, we have (renumbering, as we may) $f_n \in G$, $z_n \in D_{\delta/2}$, and $\rho_n \rightarrow 0^+$ such that

$$g_n(\xi) = \frac{f_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi)}{\rho_n^k} \rightarrow g(\xi).$$

locally uniformly with respect to the spherical metric, where g is a nonconstant meromorphic function on \mathbb{C} .

By Hurwitz's Theorem, $g \neq 0$ and any zeros of $g^{(k)} - b$ have multiplicity greater than $k + 4 + 2/k$. Thus, by Lemma 5, g is constant, a contradiction. Hence there exists a subsequence of $\{f_n\}$ which converges locally spherically uniformly in $D_{\delta/2}$.

Case 2.2.2. The set S_l of positive integers n such that the zeros of $f_n^{(k)} - b$ at z_0 have multiplicity l for some positive integer l such that $k + 1 \leq l \leq k + 4 + 2/k$ is infinite. We claim that $G = \{f_n : n \in S_l\}$ is normal in $D_{\delta/2}$.

In fact, suppose that G is not normal in $D_{\delta/2}$. Then by Lemma 7, we have (again renumbering) $f_n \in G$, $z_n \in D_{\delta/2}$, and $\rho_n \rightarrow 0^+$ such that

$$g_n(\xi) = \frac{f_n(z_n + \rho_n \xi)}{\rho_n^k} \rightarrow g(\xi)$$

locally uniformly with respect to the spherical metric, where g is a nonconstant meromorphic function on \mathbb{C} .

By Hurwitz's Theorem, $g \neq 0$ and each zero of $g^{(k)} - b$ has multiplicity at least l . We claim, in addition, that $g^{(k)} - b$ has only a single zero. That $g^{(k)} - b$ must vanish somewhere follows from Lemma 6. Suppose that ξ_1 and ξ_2 are distinct zeros of $g^{(k)} - b$; then the zeros of $g^{(k)} - b$ at ξ_1 and ξ_2 have multiplicity at least l . Let γ be a simple closed curve containing ξ_1 and ξ_2 in its interior and such that g has no zeros on γ and no poles on or inside γ . Then $g_n(\xi)$ converges to $g(\xi)$ uniformly on and inside γ , and so $g_n^{(k)} - b$ converges to $g^{(k)} - b$ uniformly on and inside γ . By the argument principle, $g_n^{(k)} - b$ and $g^{(k)} - b$ have the same number of zeros (counting multiplicity) inside γ for sufficiently large n . But $g_n^{(k)} - b$ has only l zeros (counting multiplicity) while $g^{(k)} - b$ has at least $2l$ zeros (counting multiplicity) for sufficiently large n , which is a contradiction.

From the above discussion, $g^{(k)} - b$ has only a single zero, whose multiplicity is l . Since $f_n^{(k)}(z_n + \rho_n \xi) = g_n^{(k)}(\xi)$, which converges to $g^{(k)}(\xi)$ uniformly on compact subsets of \mathbb{C} disjoint from the poles of g , it follows from the formula after (3.1) that $f_n^{(k)}$ has l poles (counting multiplicity) in $D_{\delta/2}$ and hence $g_n^{(k)}$ has l poles (counting multiplicity) on the disc $\{\xi : z_n + \rho_n \xi \in D_{\delta/2}\}$. We conclude easily from the argument principle that $g^{(k)}$ has at most l poles (counting multiplicity) in \mathbb{C} .

Thus

- (i) $g \neq 0$;
- (ii) $g^{(k)} - b$ has a single zero, whose multiplicity is l ;
- (iii) $g^{(k)}$ has at most l poles, counting multiplicities.

We claim that no such function exists. By Lemma 6, there is no transcendental function, satisfying (i) and (ii). Clearly, g cannot be a polynomial. We now turn to the somewhat tedious verification that no rational function satisfies conditions (i), (ii), and (iii). We consider three subcases.

Case 2.2.2.1: $k \geq 3$. Since $k + 1 \leq l \leq k + 4 + 2/k$, g has only a single pole. Thus $g(\xi) = A/(\xi - a_1)^m$, where A is a nonzero constant, a_1 is a constant, and m is a positive integer.

Obviously, $g^{(k)} - b$ has $m + k$ distinct zeros, which contradicts the fact that $g^{(k)} - b$ has a single zero.

Case 2.2.2.2: $k = 2$. Since $3 \leq l \leq 7$, g has one of the following forms:

- (1) $g(\xi) = A/(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2)^2, l = 7;$
- (2) $g(\xi) = A/(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2), l = 6;$
- (3) $g(\xi) = A/(\xi - a_1)^m, l = m + 2, 1 \leq m \leq 5,$

where A is a nonzero constant, a_1 and a_2 are distinct constants, and m is a positive integer.

If $g(\xi) = A/[(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2)^2]$, then

$$g''(\xi) - b = -\frac{A[3(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2) - (3\xi - 2a_1 - a_2)(5\xi - 3a_1 - 2a_2)]}{(\xi - a_1)^3(\xi - a_2)^4} - \frac{b(\xi - a_1)^3(\xi - a_2)^4}{(\xi - a_1)^3(\xi - a_2)^4}.$$

Since $g'' - b$ has only a single zero, we have

$$(3.2) \quad A[3(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2) - (3\xi - 2a_1 - a_2)(5\xi - 3a_1 - 2a_2)] + b(\xi - a_1)^3(\xi - a_2)^4 = b(\xi - c)^7.$$

Differentiating the two sides of (3.2) three times, we have

$$(3.3) \quad (\xi - a_2)p(\xi) = 210b(\xi - c)^4,$$

where p is a polynomial and c is a constant.

Thus $a_2 = c$. It then follows from (3.2) that $a_1 = a_2$, a contradiction.

If g is of the form (2) or (3), we can similarly get a contradiction.

Case 2.2.2.3: $k = 1$. Since $2 \leq l \leq 7$, g has one of the following forms:

- (1) $g(\xi) = A/(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2)(\xi - a_3)^2, l = 7;$
- (2) $g(\xi) = A/(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2)(\xi - a_3), l = 6;$
- (3) $g(\xi) = A/(\xi - a_1)^2(\xi - a_2)^m, l = m + 4, 2 \leq m \leq 3;$
- (4) $g(\xi) = A/(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2)^m, l = m + 3, 1 \leq m \leq 4;$
- (5) $g(\xi) = A/(\xi - a_1)^m, l = m + 1, 1 \leq m \leq 6,$

where A is a nonzero constant, a_1, a_2 and a_3 are distinct constants, and m is a positive integer.

We deal with case (1). If $g(\xi) = A/[(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2)(\xi - a_3)^2]$, then

$$g'(\xi) - b = -\frac{A[(2\xi - a_1 - a_2)(\xi - a_3) + 2(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2)]}{(\xi - a_1)^2(\xi - a_2)^2(\xi - a_3)^3} - \frac{b(\xi - a_1)^2(\xi - a_2)^2(\xi - a_3)^3}{(\xi - a_1)^2(\xi - a_2)^2(\xi - a_3)^3}.$$

Since $g' - b$ has only a single zero, we have

$$(3.4) \quad A[(2\xi - a_1 - a_2)(\xi - a_3) + 2(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2)] + b(\xi - a_1)^2(\xi - a_2)^2(\xi - a_3)^3 = b(\xi - c)^7.$$

Differentiating the two sides of (3.4), we have

$$(3.5) \quad b(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2)(\xi - a_3)^2[2(2\xi - a_1 - a_2)(\xi - a_3) + 3(\xi - a_1)(\xi - a_2)] + A(8\xi - 3a_1 - 3a_2 - 2a_3) = 7b(\xi - c)^6.$$

Setting $\xi = a_3$ in (3.5) gives

$$(3.6) \quad 3A(2a_3 - a_1 - a_2) = 7b(a_3 - c)^6.$$

Differentiating the two sides of (3.5), we obtain

$$(3.7) \quad 8A + (\xi - a_3)p(\xi) = 42b(\xi - c)^5,$$

where p is a polynomial.

Setting $\xi = a_3$ in (3.7), we get

$$(3.8) \quad 8A = 42b(a_3 - c)^5.$$

Thus by (3.6) and (3.8) we have

$$(3.9) \quad c = -\frac{7}{2}a_3 + \frac{9}{4}a_1 + \frac{9}{4}a_2.$$

On the other hand, differentiating both sides of (3.4) six times and putting $\xi = c$, we obtain

$$(3.10) \quad c = (2a_1 + 2a_2 + 3a_3)/7.$$

Comparing (3.9) and (3.10) gives $a_3 = c$, which contradicts (3.8) since $A \neq 0$.

If g has one of the other forms, we obtain a contradiction in a similar fashion.

Thus we have proved that $\{f_n\}$ is normal in $D_{\delta/2}$. Hence, there exists a subsequence of $\{f_n\}$ which converges locally spherically uniformly in $D_{\delta/2}$. It follows that \mathcal{F} is normal at z_0 , and so \mathcal{F} is normal in D . The proof of the theorem is complete. \square

The proof of Theorem 2, which uses Lemma 2, is similar. We omit the details.

References

- [1] M. L. Fang and W. Hong, 'Some results on normal family of meromorphic functions', *Bull. Malays. Math. Sci. Soc. (2)* **23** (2000), 143–151.
- [2] Y. X. Gu, 'Un critère de normalité de fonctions méromorphes', *Sci. Sinica, Special Issue 1* (1979), 267–274.
- [3] W. K. Hayman, 'Picard values of meromorphic functions and their derivatives', *Ann. of Math. (2)* **70** (1959), 9–42.
- [4] ———, *Meromorphic functions* (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1964).
- [5] H. Milloux, *Les fonctions méromorphes et leurs dérivées* (Hermann et Cie., Paris, 1940).
- [6] P. Montel, 'Sur les familles de fonctions analytiques qui admettent des valeurs exceptionnelles dans un domaine', *Ann. École Norm. Sup. (3)* **29** (1912), 487–535.
- [7] J. Schiff, *Normal families* (Springer, 1993).
- [8] D. C. Sun, 'The shared value criterion for normality', *J. Wuhan Univ. Natur. Sci. Ed.* **3** (1994), 9–12.
- [9] Y. F. Wang and M. L. Fang, 'Picard values and normal families of meromorphic functions with multiple zeros', *Acta Math. Sinica (N.S.)* **14** (1998), 17–26.
- [10] G. F. Xue and X. C. Pang, 'A criterion for normality of a family of meromorphic functions', *J. East China Norm. Univ. Natur. Sci. Ed.* **2** (1988), 15–22.
- [11] L. Yang, 'Normality for families of meromorphic functions', *Sci. Sinica, Ser. A* **29** (1986), 1263–1274.
- [12] ———, *Value distribution theory* (Springer, Berlin; Science Press, Beijing, 1993).
- [13] L. Zalcman, 'Normal families: New perspectives', *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* **35** (1998), 215–230.

Department of Mathematics
Nanjing Normal University
Nanjing 210097
P. R. China
e-mail: mlfang@pine.njnu.edu.cn

Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Bar-Ilan University
52900 Ramat-Gan
Israel
e-mail: zalcman@macs.biu.ac.il