

# On the Number of Poles of the First Painlevé Transcendents and Higher Order Analogues II

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## 1. Introduction

Let  $w(z)$  be an arbitrary solution of the first Painlevé equation

$$(PI) \quad w'' = 6w^2 + z$$

( $' = d/dz$ ). Then,  $w(z)$  is a transcendental meromorphic function, and every pole is double. The counting function for poles is defined by

$$N(r, w) = \int_0^r (n(\rho, w) - n(0, w)) \frac{d\rho}{\rho} + n(0, w) \log r,$$

where  $n(r, w)$  denotes the number of poles inside the disk  $|z| \leq r$ , each counted according to its multiplicity. By a well-known argument in the Nevanlinna theory ([4, §2.4]), we have

$$(1.1) \quad \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m(r, w)}{T(r, w)} = 0, \quad \text{namely,} \quad \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N(r, w)}{T(r, w)} = 1,$$

which implies  $N(r, w) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ . Here,  $m(r, w)$  and  $T(r, w)$  are, respectively, the proximity and the characteristic functions defined by

$$m(r, w) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \log^+ |w(re^{i\phi})| d\phi, \quad \log^+ x = \max\{0, \log x\},$$

$$T(r, w) = m(r, w) + N(r, w)$$

(for the standard notation and basic facts in the Nevanlinna theory, see [2], [4]). For the magnitude of  $N(r, w)$ , the following is known ([1], [5], [6], [9]):

$$(1.2) \quad r^{5/2} \log r \ll N(r, w) \ll r^{5/2},$$

which implies that the growth order of  $w(z)$

$$\sigma(w) = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log T(r, w)}{\log r}$$

is equal to  $5/2$ . (We write  $f(r) \ll g(r)$  (or  $g(r) \gg f(r)$ ) if  $f(r) = O(g(r))$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ .)

A sequence of higher order analogues of (PI) is given by the following:

$$(PI_{2\nu}) \quad d_{\nu+1}[w] + 4z = 0, \quad \nu \in \mathbb{N}$$

(cf. [1, §16]; [3]). Here,  $d_\nu[w]$  ( $\nu = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ ) are differential polynomials in  $w$  determined by

$$(1.3) \quad d_0[w] = 1,$$

$$(1.4) \quad Dd_{\nu+1}[w] = (D^3 - 8wD - 4w')d_\nu[w], \quad D = d/dz, \quad \nu \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}.$$

Since

$$d_2[w]/4 = -w'' + 6w^2 + C_1w + C_0,$$

where  $C_j \in \mathbb{C}$  ( $j = 0, 1$ ) are arbitrary, equation  $(PI_2)$  essentially coincides with (PI). In general,  $(PI_{2\nu})$  is a  $2\nu$ -th order nonlinear equation; e.g. for  $\nu = 2, 3$ ,

$$(PI_4)_0 \quad w^{(4)} = 20ww'' + 10(w')^2 - 40w^3 + z,$$

$$(PI_6)_0 \quad w^{(6)} = 28ww^{(4)} + 56w'w^{(3)} + 42(w'')^2 - 280(w^2w'' + w(w')^2 - w^4) + z,$$

where the arbitrary constants corresponding to  $C_j$  of  $(PI_2)$  are taken to be 0. Let  $w_\nu(z)$  be an arbitrary meromorphic solution of  $(PI_{2\nu})$ . It is interesting to evaluate the growth order of  $w_\nu(z)$ . The following result gives a lower estimate of it:

**Theorem 1.1.** *For every  $\nu \in \mathbb{N}$ ,*

$$(1.5) \quad \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log N(r, w_\nu)}{\log r} \geq \frac{2\nu + 3}{\nu + 1},$$

*namely the growth order of  $w_\nu(z)$  is not less than  $(2\nu + 3)/(\nu + 1)$ .*

As an immediate consequence, we have

**Corollary 1.2.** *Equation  $(PI_{2\nu})$  admits no rational solutions.*

Viewing Theorem 1.1 combined with (1.2), we pose the following:

**Conjecture.** *The growth order of  $w_\nu(z)$  is equal to  $(2\nu + 3)/(\nu + 1)$ .*

We sketch the proof of Theorem 1.1, illustrating the particular case  $\nu = 2$ . The full proof is found in [8].

## 2. Sketch of the proof of Theorem 1.1 for $(PI_4)$

The basic idea is the same as in the proof for (PI) (cf. [7]). Suppose the contrary:

$$(2.1) \quad \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log N(r, w_2)}{\log r} < \frac{7}{3},$$

namely, for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $N(r, w_2) \ll r^{7/3-\varepsilon}$ , from which it follows that

$$(2.2) \quad n(r) = n(r, w_2) \ll r^{7/3-\varepsilon},$$

because

$$N(2r, w_2) \geq \int_r^{2r} (n(\rho, w_2) - n(0, w_2)) \frac{d\rho}{\rho} \geq (n(r, w_2) + O(1)) \log 2.$$

Starting from (2.1), we will derive a contradiction. Let  $\{a_j\}_{j=1}^\infty$  (or  $\{a_j\}_{j=1}^q$ ,  $q \in \mathbf{N}$ ) be the sequence of all distinct poles of  $w_2(z)$  arranged as  $|a_1| \leq \dots \leq |a_j| \leq \dots$ . It is easy to check that, around each pole  $a_j$ ,

$$w_2(z) = c(j)(z - a_j)^{-2} + O(1),$$

where  $c(j) = 1$  or  $3$ . By this fact combined with (2.2), we write  $w_2(z)$  in the form

$$(2.3) \quad w_2(z) = \Phi(z) + \varphi(z),$$

$$(2.4) \quad \Phi(z) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} c(j)((z - a_j)^{-2} - a_j^{-2}),$$

where  $\varphi(z)$  is an entire function; and in (2.4), if  $a_1 = 0$  the term  $(z - a_1)^{-2} - a_1^{-2}$  should be replaced by  $z^{-2}$ . Under (2.2), we have the following lemmas whose proofs are similar to those of [7, Lemmas 1.1 and 1.2].

**Lemma 2.1.** *For every  $r > 1$ , there exists  $z_r$  satisfying*

$$0.7r \leq |z_r| \leq r, \quad \sum_{|a_j| < 2r} |z_r - a_j|^{-2} \ll r^{1/3-\varepsilon/2}, \quad \sum_{|a_j| < 2r} |z_r - a_j|^{-3} \ll r^{1/2-\varepsilon}.$$

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $r$  be an arbitrary number satisfying  $r > 1$ . Then,*

$$\sum_{|a_j| \geq 2r} |(z - a_j)^{-2} - a_j^{-2}| \ll r^{1/3-\varepsilon}, \quad \sum_{|a_j| \geq 2r} |z - a_j|^{-3} \ll 1$$

for  $|z| \leq r$ , and

$$\sum_{0 < |a_j| < 2r} |a_j^{-2}| \ll r^{1/3-\varepsilon}.$$

By a well-known argument of the Nevanlinna theory, it is shown that  $\varphi(z)$  is a polynomial. Note that  $|\Phi(z)| \leq |\sum_{|a_j| < 2r}| + |\sum_{|a_j| \geq 2r}|$ . By Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2, for every  $r > 1$ , there exists  $z_r$ ,  $0.7r \leq |z_r| \leq r$  satisfying

$$(2.5) \quad \begin{aligned} |\Phi(z_r)| &\ll r^{1/3-\varepsilon/2}, & |\Phi'(z_r)| &\ll r^{1/2-\varepsilon}, \\ |\Phi''(z_r)| &\ll r^{2/3-\varepsilon}, & |\Phi^{(4)}(z_r)| &\ll r^{1-3\varepsilon/2}. \end{aligned}$$

$$(2.6) \quad w_2(z_r) \ll (|w_2^{(4)}(z_r)| + |w_2(z_r)||w_2''(z_r)| + |w_2'(z_r)|^2 + |z_r|)^{1/3} \\ \ll |w_2^{(4)}(z_r)|^{1/3} + |w_2(z_r)|^{1/3}|w_2''(z_r)|^{1/3} + |w_2'(z_r)|^{2/3} + |z_r|^{1/3}.$$

Substituting  $w_2^{(k)}(z_r) = \varphi^{(k)}(z_r) + \Phi^{(k)}(z_r)$  ( $k = 0, 1, 2, 4$ ) into (2.6) and using  $|\Phi^{(k)}(z_r)| \ll r^{1/3+k/6}$  (cf. (2.5)), we have

$$(1) \quad |\varphi(z_r)| \ll r^{1/3} + |\varphi^{(4)}(z_r)|^{1/3} \\ + (r^{1/9} + |\varphi(z_r)|^{1/3})(r^{2/9} + |\varphi''(z_r)|^{1/3}) + r^{1/3} + |\varphi'(z_r)|^{2/3},$$

which implies that  $\varphi(z) \equiv C \in \mathbb{C}$ . Then, by (PI<sub>4</sub>),

$$0.7r \leq |z_r| \ll |w_2^{(4)}(z_r)| + |w_2(z_r)||w_2''(z_r)| + |w_2'(z_r)|^2 + |w_2(z_r)|^3 \ll r^{1-\varepsilon},$$

which is a contradiction. Thus Theorem 1.1 with  $\nu = 2$  follows.

### 3. General case

To treat the general case, we need to know some facts related to the terms of the differential polynomial  $d_{\nu+1}[w]$ . Let  $[w, w', \dots, w^{(p)}]^\iota$  denote the monomial  $w^{\iota_0}(w')^{\iota_1} \dots (w^{(p)})^{\iota_p}$ , where  $\iota = (\iota_0, \iota_1, \dots, \iota_p) \in (\mathbb{N} \cup \{0\})^{p+1}$ . For this monomial with  $\iota = (\iota_0, \iota_1, \dots, \iota_p)$ , we define the weight of it by

$$||\iota|| := \sum_{\kappa=0}^p (2 + \kappa)\iota_\kappa.$$

Then,  $d_{\nu+1}[w]$  is written in the form:

**Lemma 3.1.** *For every  $\nu \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ ,*

$$d_{\nu+1}[w] = \gamma_{\nu+1}w^{\nu+1} + \sum_{||\iota|| \leq 2(\nu+1), \iota_0 \leq \nu} c_\iota [w, w', \dots, w^{(2\nu)}]^\iota, \quad \iota = (\iota_0, \iota_1, \dots, \iota_{2\nu}),$$

where  $c_\iota \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $\gamma_{\nu+1} \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ .

To show Theorem 1.1 for the general case, we start from the supposition that

$$N(r, w_\nu) \ll r^{(2\nu+3)/(\nu+1)-\varepsilon},$$

which implies that

$$(3.1) \quad n(r, w_\nu) \ll r^{(2\nu+3)/(\nu+1)-\varepsilon}$$

for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Let  $\{a_j\}_{j=1}^\infty$  (or  $\{a_j\}_{j=1}^q$ ) be a sequence of distinct poles of  $w_\nu(z)$ . Around  $a_j$ , we have

$$w_\nu(z) = c(a_j)(z - a_j)^{-2} + O(1),$$

where  $c(a_j) = k(a_j)(k(a_j) + 1)/2$  for some  $k(a_j) \in \{1, \dots, \nu\}$ . By (3.1),  $w_\nu(z)$  is written in the form

$$w_\nu(z) = \sum_{a_j} c(a_j)((z - a_j)^{-2} - a_j^{-2}) + \varphi(z),$$

where  $\varphi(z)$  is an entire function. Instead of Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2, we have the following under supposition (3.1):

**Lemma 3.2.** *For every  $r > 1$ , there exists  $z_r$  satisfying*

$$0.7r \leq |z_r| \leq r, \quad \sum_{|a_j| < 2r} |z_r - a_j|^{-2} \ll r^{1/(\nu+1)-\varepsilon/2}, \quad \sum_{|a_j| < 2r} |z_r - a_j|^{-3} \ll r^{(3/2)/(\nu+1)-\varepsilon}.$$

**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $r$  be an arbitrary number such that  $r > 1$ . Then*

$$\sum_{|a_j| \geq 2r} |(z - a_j)^{-2} - a_j^{-2}| \ll r^{1/(\nu+1)-\varepsilon}, \quad \sum_{|a_j| \geq 2r} |z - a_j|^{-3} \ll 1$$

for  $|z| \leq r$ , and

$$\sum_{0 < |a_j| < 2r} |a_j^{-2}| \ll r^{1/(\nu+1)-\varepsilon}.$$

Using Lemmas 3.2 and 3.3 combined with Lemma 3.1, we prove Theorem 1.1 for the general case.

## References

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