Research Article

Some Inequalities for the Maximum Modulus of Rational Functions

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For a polynomial $p(z)$ of degree $n$, it follows from the maximum modulus theorem that $\max_{|z| \leq R} |p(z)| \leq R^n \max_{|z| = 1} |p(z)|$. It was shown by Ankeny and Rivlin that if $p(z) \neq 0$ for $|z| < 1$, then $\max_{|z| \leq R} |p(z)| \leq \frac{(R^n + 1)}{2}\max_{|z| = 1} |p(z)|$. In 1998, Govil and Mohapatra extended the above two inequalities to rational functions, and in this paper, we study the refinements of these results of Govil and Mohapatra.

1. Introduction and Statement of Results

Let $P_n$ denote the set of all complex algebraic polynomials $p$ of degree at most $n$ and let $p'$ be the derivative of $p$. For a function $f$ defined on the unit circle $T = \{z||z| = 1\}$ in the complex plane $\mathbb{C}$, set $\|f\| = \sup_{z \in T} |f(z)|$, the Chebyshev norm of $f$ on $T$.

Let $D_-$ denote the region strictly inside $T$ and $D_+$ be the region strictly outside $T$. For $a_i \in \mathbb{C}, \nu = 1, 2, \ldots, n$, let

$w(z) = \prod_{\nu=1}^{n} (z - a_{\nu}),$

$B(z) = \prod_{\nu=1}^{n} \frac{(1 - \bar{a}_{\nu}z)}{(z - a_{\nu})},$

being the Blaschke product, and

$\mathcal{R}_n = \mathcal{R}_n(a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n) = \left\{ \frac{p(z)}{w(z)} : p \in P_n \right\}.$

Then, $\mathcal{R}_n$ is the set of rational functions with possible poles at $a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n$ and having a finite limit at $\infty$. Also, note that $B(z) \in \mathcal{R}_n$.

1.1. Definitions

(i) For polynomial $p(z) = \sum_{\nu=0}^{n} a_{\nu}z^{\nu}$, the conjugate transpose (reciprocal) $p^*$ of $p$ is defined by

$p^*(z) = z^n \overline{p\left(\frac{1}{z}\right)} = z^n \overline{p\left(\frac{1}{z}\right)}$

$= \overline{a_0}z^n + \overline{a_1}z^{n-1} + \cdots + \overline{a_n}.$

(ii) For rational function $r(z) = p(z)/w(z) \in \mathcal{R}_n$, the conjugate transpose, $r^*$, of $r$ is defined by

$r^*(z) = B(z) \overline{r\left(\frac{1}{z}\right)} = B(z)\overline{r(1/z)}.$
Let Theorem 2.

A result given as follows, that is analogous to inequality (6) due to Ankeny and Rivlin [3]. Both inequalities (5) and (6) are sharp; inequality (5) becomes its zeros in $T \cup D$, then it is well known that

$$\max_{|z|=R} |p(z)| \leq R^n \|p\|. \quad (5)$$

This inequality is an immediate consequence of the maximum modulus theorem. Furthermore, if $p \in P_n$ has all its zeros in $T \cup D$, then

$$\max_{|z|=R} |p(z)| \leq \frac{R^n + 1}{2} \|p\|. \quad (6)$$

Inequality (6) is due to Ankeny and Rivlin [3]. Both inequalities (5) and (6) are sharp; inequality (5) becomes equality for $p(z) = \lambda z^n$, where $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$, and inequality (6) becomes equality for $p(z) = az^n + \beta$, where $|\alpha| = |\beta|$.

Golov and Mohapatra [4] gave a result analogous to inequality (5), but for rational functions, it is as follows.

**Theorem 1.** If

$$r(z) = \frac{p(z)}{w(z)} = \frac{p(z)}{\prod_{v=1}^n (z - a_v)} \in \mathcal{R}_n, \quad (7)$$

is a rational function with $|a_v| > 1$ for $1 \leq v \leq n$, then for $|z| \geq 1$,

$$|r(z)| \leq \|r\| |B(z)|. \quad (8)$$

This result is best possible and equality holds for $r(z) = \lambda \prod_{v=1}^n (1 - \alpha_v z)/(z - a_v) = \lambda B(z)$, where $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$.

In the same paper, Golov and Mohapatra [4] also proved a result given as follows, that is analogous to inequality (6) for rational functions.

**Theorem 2.** Let

$$r(z) = p(z) = \frac{p(z)}{w(z)} = \frac{p(z)}{\prod_{v=1}^n (z - a_v)} \in \mathcal{R}_n, \quad (9)$$

with $|a_v| > 1$ for $1 \leq v \leq n$. If all the zeros of $r$ lie in $T \cup D$, then for $|z| \geq 1$,

$$|r(z)| \leq \|r\| |B(z)|. \quad (10)$$

This result is best possible and equality holds for the rational function $r(z) = aB(z) + \beta$, where $|\alpha| = |\beta|$.

In this paper, we firstly present the following refinement of the above Theorem 1. Here, $p(z) = \sum_{v=0}^n a_v z^v$ is a polynomial of degree at most $n$.

**Theorem 3.** If

$$r(z) = \frac{p(z)}{w(z)} = \frac{p(z)}{\prod_{v=1}^n (z - a_v)} \in \mathcal{R}_n, \quad (11)$$

is a rational function with $|a_v| > 1$, $1 \leq v \leq n$, then for $|z| \geq 1$,

$$|r(z)| \leq \|r\| |B(z)| \left\{ 1 - \left( \frac{1}{|r| - |r^*(0)|} \right) \left( |z| - 1 \right) \right\}. \quad (12)$$

**Remark 1.** It is clear that Theorem 3 sharpens Theorem 1. Also, we can use Theorem 3 to derive a sharpening form of Bernstein’s inequality for polynomials. For this, let $p(z) = \sum_{v=0}^n a_v z^v$ be a polynomial of degree $n$. Then, $r(z) = p(z)/\prod_{v=1}^n (z - a_v) \in \mathcal{R}_n$, and hence by Theorem 3, for $|z| \geq 1$,

$$\frac{|r(z)|}{|B(z)|} = \left| \frac{p(z)}{\prod_{v=1}^n (1 - \alpha_v z)} \right| \leq \|r\| \left\{ 1 - \left( \frac{|r| - |r^*(0)|}{|r^*(0)| + |z||r|} \right) \left( |z| - 1 \right) \right\}. \quad (13)$$

If $z^*$ on $|z| = 1$ is such that

$$|r| = |r^*(z^*)| = \frac{|p(z^*)|}{\prod_{v=1}^n (z^* - a_v)}, \quad (14)$$

then we get from (13)

$$\left| \frac{p(z^*)}{\prod_{v=1}^n (z^* - a_v)} \right| \leq \|r\| \left\{ 1 - \left( \frac{|r| - |r^*(0)|}{|r^*(0)| + |z||r|} \right) \left( |z| - 1 \right) \right\}. \quad (15)$$

Since $p(z) = \sum_{v=0}^n a_v z^v$ and $r^*(z) = p^*(z)/\prod_{v=1}^n (z - a_v)$, we get $|r^*(0)| = |\alpha|/\prod_{v=1}^n |a_v|$, and therefore, from (16), we have for $|z| > 1$,
\[ |p(z)| \leq |p(z^*)| \prod_{v=1}^{n} \left| 1 - \frac{\beta_v z}{z - a_v} \right| \left\{ 1 - \frac{\left| p(z^*) \right| - |a_v| \prod_{i=1}^{n} \left| \frac{z^* - a_v}{a_i} \right| (|z| - 1)}{|a_v| \prod_{i=1}^{n} \left| \frac{z^* - a_v}{a_i} \right| + |z| |p(z^*)|} \right\}. \]  

(17)

Since (17) holds for all \( |a_v| \geq 1 \), where \( 1 \leq v \leq n \), making \( |a_v| \to \infty \), where \( 1 \leq v \leq n \), we get that, for \( |z| \geq 1 \),

\[ |p(z)| \leq \|p\| |z|^n \left\{ 1 - \left( \frac{\|p\| - |a_v|}{|a_v| + |z| \|p\|} \right) (|z| - 1) \right\}. \]  

(18)

We show in Lemma 2, in Section 2, that the expression on the right hand side of (18) is an increasing function of \( |p(z^*)| \). Note that if \( |p(z^*)| \neq 0 \), then \( |r(z^*)| \neq 0 \). On applying this fact to (18), we get that, for \( |z| \geq 1 \),

\[ |p(z)| \leq \|p\| |z|^n \left\{ 1 - \left( \frac{\|p\| - |a_v|}{|a_v| + |z| \|p\|} \right) (|z| - 1) \right\}, \]  

which is equivalent to that \( |z| \geq R \geq 1 \), we have

\[ |p(z)| \leq R^n \left\{ 1 - \left( \frac{\|p\| - |a_v|}{|a_v| + |R| \|p\|} \right) (R - 1) \right\} \|p\|. \]  

(20)

This rate of growth result for a polynomial, which is a sharpening of Bernstein inequality, first appeared as Lemma 3 of [5].

Before we proceed to the proof of Theorem 3, we state the following result recently proved by Mir [6] and which is a refinement of Theorem 2.

**Theorem 4.** Let \( r(z) = p(z)/w(z) = p(z)/\prod_{v=1}^{n} (z - a_v) \in \mathbb{R}_n \) with \( |a_v| > 1 \) for \( 1 \leq v \leq n \). If all the zeros of \( r \) lie in \( T \cup D_n \), then for \( |z| \geq 1 \),

\[ |r(z)| \leq \|r\| \left\{ \frac{|B(z)| + 1}{2} - \frac{|B(z) - 1}{2} \right\} \min_{|z|=1} |r(z)|. \]  

(21)

We omit the proof of this theorem since it is already proved in the paper due to Mir [6]. However, related to this, we make the following two remarks.

**Remark 2.** It is clear that, in case \( \min_{|z|=1} |r(z)| = 0 \), the above Theorem 4 reduces to Theorem 2. Also, it has been claimed by Mir [6] that, in all other cases except when \( \min_{|z|=1} |r(z)| = 0 \), it gives a bound that is sharper than the one obtainable from Theorem 2. Although this claim seems to be correct but to justify this, it is necessary to show that \( |B(z)| \geq 1 \) for \( |z| \geq 1 \), which we show as follows.

Since \( |a_v| > 1 \) for \( 1 \leq v \leq n \), the Blaschke product

\[ B(z) = \prod_{j=1}^{n} \left( 1 - \frac{\beta_j z}{z - a_j} \right). \]  

is analytic in \( |z| \leq 1 \). Furthermore, on \( |z| = 1 \), we have \( |B(z)| = 1 \); hence, by the maximum modulus principle, we have \( |B(z)| \leq 1 \) for \( |z| \leq 1 \), which clearly implies

\[ |B(z)| \leq 1 \leq \frac{|z - \beta_j|}{|z - a_j|}. \]  

(22)

**Theorem 5.** Let \( p(z) = \sum_{v=0}^{n} a_v z^v \) be a polynomial of degree at most \( n \). If \( p(z) \) has no zeros in \( |z| < 1 \), then for \( R \geq 1 \),

\[ \max_{|z|=R} |p(z)| \leq \left( \frac{R^2 + 1}{2} \right) \max_{|z|=1} |p(z)| - \left( \frac{R^2 - 1}{2} \right) \min_{|z|=1} |p(z)|. \]  

(26)

The result is best possible and equality holds for \( p(z) = az^m + \beta \), where \( |a| = |\beta| \).

The above Theorem 5 clearly sharpens inequality (6) in all cases except when \( \min_{|z|=1} |p(z)| = 0 \), in which case it clearly reduces to (6).

**Remark 4.** It has come to our notice that, around the same time, our paper was submitted for publication, Milovanović and Mir [8] also submitted a paper containing Theorem 3. However, our proof of Theorem 3 is different than the one given in [8] because of our proof using the generalised result of Schwarz’s lemma given in Nehari [9, p. 167] (also, see Govil et al. [10, p. 326]) while the proof in [8] uses a lemma due to Osserman [11].

Now, we proceed with the proof of Theorem 3, and in this regard, we present the following lemmas.

**2. Lemmas**

The following is a well-known generalization of Schwarz’s lemma, given in Nehari [9, p. 167] (also, see Govil et al. [10, p. 326]).

**Lemma 1.** If \( f \) is analytic inside and on the circle \( |z| = 1 \), then for \( |z| \leq 1 \),
\[ |f(z)| \leq \frac{\|f\|\|z\| + |f(0)|}{|f(0)||z| + \|f\|} \quad (27) \]

**Lemma 2.** For \(|z| \geq 1\), and \(\alpha_n \in \mathbb{C}\), the function 
\[ g(x) = x\left(1 - \frac{(x - |\alpha_n|)(|z| - 1)}{|\alpha_n| + |z||x|}\right) \]
\[ = x\left|\frac{|\alpha_n||z| + x}{|\alpha_n| + |z||x|}\right|, \quad (28) \]

from which it clearly follows that for \(x > 0\), we have
\[ g(x) = \frac{|x|^2 + 2|\alpha_n||x| + |\alpha_n|^2}{(|\alpha_n| + |z||x|)^2} \quad (29) \]

Since the above expression is positive for \(x > 0\), the function \(g(x)\) is increasing for \(x > 0\), as claimed. \(\square\)

**3. Proof of Theorem 3**

Since
\[ r(z) = \frac{p(z)}{w(z)} = \frac{p(z)}{\prod_{v=1}^{n} (z - a_v)} \in \mathcal{R}_n, \quad (30) \]

with \(|a_v| > 1\) for \(1 \leq v \leq n\), the function
\[ r^*(z) = \frac{p^*(z)}{\prod_{v=1}^{n} (z - a_v)} \quad (31) \]
is analytic in \(|z| \leq 1\). Therefore, by Lemma 1 we get that, for \(|z| \leq 1\),
\[ |r^*(z)| \leq \|r^*\|\|z\| + |r^*(0)| \]  
\[ \quad + \|r^*\|\|z\| \quad (32) \]

and since \(\|r^*\| = \|r\|\), inequality (32) is in fact equivalent to the inequality that, for \(|z| \leq 1\),
\[ |r^*(z)| \leq \|r\| + |r^*(0)| \quad (33) \]

Since by definition \(r^*(z) = B(z)r(1/z)\), we get from (33) that, for \(|z| \leq 1\),
\[ \left|\frac{r(1/z)}{B(z)}\right| \leq \frac{\|r\|\|z\| + |r^*(0)|}{\|B(z)\|\|r^*(0)\|\|z\| + \|r\|} \quad (34) \]

which clearly gives that, for \(|z| \geq 1\),
\[ |r(z)| \leq \frac{\|r\|\|z\| + |r^*(0)|\|z\|}{\|B(1/z)\|\|r^*(0)\|\|z\| + \|r\|} \quad (35) \]

It is clear from the definition of \(B(z)\) that \(|B(1/z)| = 1/|B(z)|\) and this, when combined with (35), gives that, for \(|z| \geq 1\),
\[ |r(z)| \leq \frac{\|r\|\|B(z)\|\|r^*(0)\|\|z\|}{\|r^*(0)\|\|z\| + \|r\|\|z\|} \]
\[ = \|r\|\|B(z)\|\left(1 - \frac{\|r\| - |r^*(0)|}{|r^*(0)| + \|r\|\|z\|}\right) \quad (36) \]

which is (12) and the proof of Theorem 3 is thus complete.

**Data Availability**

No data were used to support this study.

**Conflicts of Interest**

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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