ESTIMATES OF THE LOGARITHMIC DERIVATIVE NEAR A SINGULAR POINT AND APPLICATIONS

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Abstract. In this paper, we will give estimates for the logarithmic derivative \(|f^{(k)}(z)|/|f(z)||\) where \(f\) is a meromorphic function in a region of the form \(D(0,R) = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : 0 < |z| < R\}\). Some applications on the growth of solutions of linear differential equations near a singular point are given.

1. Introduction and statement of results

Throughout this paper, we assume that the reader is familiar with the fundamental results and the standard notations of the Nevanlinna value distribution theory of meromorphic function on the complex plane \(\mathbb{C}\) and in the unit disc \(D = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < 1\}\) (see \([10, 19, 15]\)). The importance of this theory has inspired many authors to find modifications and generalizations to different domains. Extensions of Nevanlinna Theory to annuli have been made by \([1, 12, 13, 14, 16]\). Recently in \([4, 9]\), Hamouda and Fettouch investigated the growth of solutions of a class of linear differential equations

\[
\tag{1.1} f^{(k)} + A_{k-1}(z)f^{(k-1)} + \ldots + A_1(z)f' + A_0(z)f = 0
\]

near a singular point where the coefficients \(A_j(z) (j = 0, 1, \ldots, k-1)\) are meromorphic or analytic in \(\mathbb{C} - \{z_0\}\) and for that they gave estimates of the logarithmic derivative \(|f^{(k)}(z)|/|f(z)||\) for a meromorphic function \(f\) in \(\mathbb{C} - \{z_0\}\), \(\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}\). A question was asked in \([4]\) as the following: can we get similar estimates of \(|f^{(k)}(z)|/|f(z)||\) in a region of the form \(D_{z_0}(0,R) = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : 0 < |z-z_0| < R\}\)? Naturally, this allows us to study the solutions of \((1.1)\) with meromorphic coefficients in \(D_{z_0}(0,R)\). The same question was asked in \([9]\) for another problem concerning the case when the coefficients of \((1.1)\) are analytic in \(\mathbb{C} - \{z_0\}\), the solutions may be non analytic in \(\mathbb{C} - \{z_0\}\). In this paper, we will answer this question and give some applications. Without lose of generality, we will study the case \(z_0 = 0\) and for \(z_0 \neq 0\) we may use the change of variable \(w = z - z_0\).

Throughout this paper, we will use the following notation:

\[
D(R_1,R_2) = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : R_1 < |z| < R_2\}, \quad D(R) = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < R\}.
\]

2010 Mathematics Subject Classification. Primary 34M10; Secondary 30D35.

Key words and phrases. Logarithmic derivative estimates, linear differential equations, growth of solutions, near a singular point.
We recall the appropriate definitions \([4, 13, 16]\). Suppose that \(f(z)\) is meromorphic in \(\mathbb{C} - \{0\}\). Define the counting function near 0 by

\[
N_0(r, f) = - \int_0^r \frac{n(t, f) - n(\infty, f)}{t} \, dt - n(\infty, f) \log r,
\]

where \(n(t, f)\) counts the number of poles of \(f(z)\) in the region \(\{z \in \mathbb{C} : t \leq |z|\} \cup \{\infty\}\) each pole according to its multiplicity; and the proximity function by

\[
m_0(r, f) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \ln |f(re^{i\varphi})| \, d\varphi.
\]

The characteristic function of \(f\) is defined by

\[
T_0(r, f) = m_0(r, f) + N_0(r, f).
\]

For a meromorphic function \(f(z)\) in \(D(0, R)\), we define the counting function near 0 by

\[
N_0(r, R', f) = \int_r^{R'} \frac{n(t, f)}{t} \, dt,
\]

where \(n(t, f)\) counts the number of poles of \(f(z)\) in the region \(\{z \in \mathbb{C} : t \leq |z| \leq R'\}\) \((0 < R' < R)\), each pole according to its multiplicity; and the proximity function near the singular point 0 by

\[
m_0(r, f) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \ln |f(re^{i\varphi})| \, d\varphi.
\]

The characteristic function of \(f\) is defined in the usual manner by

\[
T_0(r, R', f) = m_0(r, f) + N_0(r, R', f).
\]

In addition, the order of growth of a meromorphic function \(f(z)\) near 0 is defined by

\[
\sigma_T(f, 0) = \limsup_{r \to 0} \frac{\log T_0(r, R', f)}{-\log r}.
\]

For an analytic function \(f(z)\) in \(D(0, R)\), we have also the definition

\[
\sigma_M(f, 0) = \limsup_{r \to 0} \frac{\log^+ M_0(r, f)}{-\log r},
\]

where \(M_0(r, f) = \max\{|f(z)| : |z| = r\}\).

If \(f(z)\) is meromorphic in \(D(0, R)\) of finite order \(0 < \sigma_T(f, 0) = \sigma < \infty\), then we can define the type of \(f\) as the following:

\[
\tau_T(f, 0) = \limsup_{r \to 0} r^{\sigma} T_0(r, R', f).
\]

If \(f(z)\) is analytic in \(D(0, R)\) of finite order \(0 < \sigma_M(f, 0) = \sigma < \infty\), we have also another definition of the type of \(f\) as the following:

\[
\tau_M(f, 0) = \limsup_{r \to 0} r^{\sigma} \log^+ M_0(r, f).
\]

By the usual manner, we define the iterated order near 0 as follows:
\begin{equation}
\sigma_{n,R} (f,0) = \limsup_{r \to 0} \frac{\log^+ T_0(r, R', f)}{-\log r},
\end{equation}
\begin{equation}
\sigma_{n,M} (f,0) = \limsup_{r \to 0} \frac{\log_{n+1} M_0(r, f)}{-\log r},
\end{equation}
where $\log^+ x = \max \{\log x, 0\}$ and $\log^+_n x = \log^+ \log^+ \cdots \log^+ x$ for $n \geq 2$.

**Remark 1.** The choice of $R'$ in (1.2) does not have any influence in the values $\sigma_T (f,0)$ and $\tau_T (f,0)$. In fact, if we take two values of $R'$, namely $0 < R'_1 < R'_2 < R$, then we have
\[
\int_{R'_1}^{R'_0} \frac{n(t,f)}{t} dt = n \log \frac{R'_2}{R'_1},
\]
where $n$ designates the number of poles of $f(z)$ in the region $\{z \in \mathbb{C} : R'_1 \leq |z| \leq R'_2\}$ which is bounded. Thus, $T_0(r, R'_1, f) = T_0(r, R'_2, f) + C$ where $C$ is a real constant. So, we can write briefly $T_0(r, f)$ instead of $T_0(r, R', f)$.

**Example 1.** Consider the function $f(z) = \exp \left\{ z^2 + \frac{1}{z^2} \right\}$. We have
\[
T_0(r, f) = m_0(r, f) = \frac{1}{\pi} \left( r^2 + \frac{1}{r^2} \right),
\]
then $\sigma_T (f,0) = 2$, $\tau_T (f,0) = \frac{1}{2}$. Also we have
\[
M_0(r, f) = \exp \left\{ r^2 + \frac{1}{r^2} \right\},
\]
then $\sigma_M (f,0) = 2$, $\tau_M (f,0) = 1$.

The main tool we use throughout this paper is the decomposition lemma of G. Valiron.

**Lemma 1.** [18][16] (Valiron’s decomposition lemma) Let $f$ be meromorphic function in $D(R_1, R_2)$, and set $R_1 < R' < R_2$. Then $f$ may be represented as
\[
f(z) = z^m \phi(z) \mu(z)
\]
where
a) The poles and zeros of $f$ in $D(R_1, R')$ are precisely the poles and zeros of $\phi(z)$. The poles and zeros of $f$ in $D(R', R_2)$ are precisely the poles and zeros of $\mu(z)$.
b) $\phi(z)$ is meromorphic in $D(R_1, \infty)$ and analytic and nonzero in $D[R', \infty]$.
c) $\phi(z)$ satisfies
\[
\left| \frac{\phi'(\xi e^{i\theta})}{\phi(\xi e^{i\theta})} \right| = O \left( \frac{1}{\xi^2} \right), \quad \xi \to \infty.
\]
d) $\mu(z)$ is meromorphic in $D(R)$ and analytic and nonzero in $D(R')$.
e) $m \in \mathbb{Z}$.

**Remark 2.** Let $f$ be a non constant meromorphic function in $D(0, R)$ and $f(z) = z^m \phi(z) \mu(z)$ is a Valiron’s decomposition. Set $\hat{\phi}(z) = z^m \phi(z)$. It is easy to see that
\begin{equation}
T_0(r, f) = T_0(r, \hat{\phi}) + O(1).
\end{equation}
If $f$ be a non constant analytic function in $D(0, R)$, then $\tilde{\phi}(z)$ is analytic in $D(0, \infty)$ and by [1] and (1.13), we obtain that $\sigma_{n,T}(f,0) = \sigma_{n,M}(f,0)$ for $n \geq 1$.

Now, we give estimates on the logarithmic derivative of a meromorphic function in $D(0, R)$.

**Theorem 1.** Let $f$ be meromorphic function in $D(0, R)$ with a singular point at the origin and let $\alpha > 0$, then

(i) there exists a set $E_1^* \subset (0, R')$ $(0 < R' < R)$ that has finite logarithmic measure

$$\int_0^{R'} \frac{\chi_{E_1^*}(t)}{t} dt < \infty$$

and a constant $C > 0$ such that for all $r = |z|$ satisfying $r \in (0, R') \setminus E_1^*$, we have

$$\frac{|f^{(k)}(z)|}{f(z)} \leq C \left[ \frac{1}{r} T_0 \left( \frac{r}{\alpha}, f \right) \log^\alpha \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) \log T_0 \left( \frac{r}{\alpha}, f \right) \right]^k \quad (k \in \mathbb{N});$$

(ii) there exists a set $E_2^* \subset [0, 2\pi)$ that has a linear measure zero such that for all $\theta \in [0, 2\pi) \setminus E_2^*$ there exists a constant $r_0 = r_0(\theta) > 0$ such that (1.14) holds for all $z$ satisfying $\arg z \in [0, 2\pi) \setminus E_2^*$ and $r = |z| < r_0$.

The following two corollaries are consequences of Theorem 1 and have independent interest.

**Corollary 1.** Let $f$ be a non constant meromorphic function in $D(0, R)$ with a singular point at the origin of finite order $\sigma(f,0) = \sigma < \infty$; let $\varepsilon > 0$ be a given constant. Then the following two statements hold.

i) There exists a set $E_1^* \subset (0, R')$ that has finite logarithmic measure

$$\int_0^{R'} \frac{\chi_{E_1^*}(t)}{t} dt < \infty$$

such that for all $r = |z|$ satisfying $r \in (0, R') \setminus E_1^*$, we have

$$\frac{|f^{(k)}(z)|}{f(z)} \leq \frac{1}{r^{\kappa(\sigma+1+\varepsilon)}}, \quad (k \in \mathbb{N}).$$

ii) There exists a set $E_2^* \subset [0, 2\pi)$ that has a linear measure zero such that for all $\theta \in [0, 2\pi) \setminus E_2^*$ there exists a constant $r_0 = r_0(\theta) > 0$ such that for all $z$ satisfying $\arg z \in [0, 2\pi) \setminus E_2^*$ and $r = |z| < r_0$ the inequality (1.13) holds.

**Corollary 2.** Let $f$ be a non constant meromorphic function in $D(0, R)$ with a singular point at the origin of finite iterated order $\sigma_n(f,0) = \sigma < \infty$ $(n \geq 2)$; let $\varepsilon > 0$ be a given constant. Then the following two statements hold.

i) There exists a set $E_1^* \subset (0, R')$ that has finite logarithmic measure

$$\int_0^{R'} \frac{\chi_{E_1^*}(t)}{t} dt < \infty$$

such that for all $r = |z|$ satisfying $r \in (0, R') \setminus E_1^*$, we have

$$\frac{|f^{(k)}(z)|}{f(z)} \leq \exp_{n-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{r^{\sigma+\varepsilon}} \right\}, \quad (k \in \mathbb{N}).$$

ii) There exists a set $E_2^* \subset [0, 2\pi)$ that has a linear measure zero such that for all $\theta \in [0, 2\pi) \setminus E_2^*$ there exists a constant $r_0 = r_0(\theta) > 0$ such that for all $z$ satisfying $\arg z \in [0, 2\pi) \setminus E_2^*$ and $r = |z| < r_0$ the inequality (1.13) holds.

As applications of Theorem 1, we have the following results.
Theorem 2. Let $A_0(z) \neq 0, A_1(z), ..., A_{k-1}(z)$ be analytic functions in $D(0,R)$. All solutions $f$ of
\begin{equation}
(1.16) \quad f^{(k)} + A_{k-1}(z)f^{(k-1)} + ... + A_1(z)f' + A_0(z)f = 0
\end{equation}
satisfy $\sigma_{n+1}(f,0) \leq \alpha$ if and only if $\sigma_n(A_j,0) \leq \alpha$ for all $(j = 0, 1, ..., k-1)$, where $n$ is a positive integer. Moreover, if $q \in \{0, 1, ..., k-1\}$ is the largest index for which $\sigma_n(A_q,0) = \max_{0 \leq j \leq k-1} \{\sigma_n(A_j,0)\}$ then there are at least $k - q$ linearly independent solutions $f$ of (1.16) such that $\sigma_{n+1}(f,0) = \sigma_n(A_q,0)$.

Similar result to Theorem 2 in the unit disc has been given by [11, Theorem 1.1].

Corollary 3. Let $A_0(z) \neq 0, A_1(z), ..., A_{k-1}(z)$ be analytic functions in $D(0,R)$ satisfying $\sigma_n(A_j,0) < \sigma_n(A_0,0) < \infty$ $(j = 1, ..., k-1)$. Then, every solution $f(z) \neq 0$ of (1.16) satisfies $\sigma_{n+1}(f,0) = \sigma_n(A_0,0)$.

Corollary 4. Let $b \neq 0$ be complex constants and $n$ be a positive integer. Let $A(z), B(z) \neq 0$ be analytic functions in $D(0,R)$ with $\max\{\sigma(A,0), \sigma(B,0)\} < n$. Then, every solution $f(z) \neq 0$ of the differential equation
\begin{equation}
(1.17) \quad f'' + A(z)f' + B(z)\exp\left\{\frac{b}{z^n}\right\}f = 0,
\end{equation}
satisfies $\sigma_2(f,0) = n$.

Example 2. Every solution $f(z) \neq 0$ of the differential equation
\begin{equation}
(1.18) \quad f'' + \exp\left\{\frac{1}{(1-z)^m}\right\}f' + \exp\left\{\frac{1}{z^n}\right\}f = 0,
\end{equation}
satisfies $\sigma_2(f,0) = n$, where $m$ and $n$ are positive integers.

Similar equations to (1.17) and (1.18) with analytic coefficients in the unit disc are investigated in [7].

Now, we will study the case when $\sigma(A_j,0) = \sigma(A_0,0)$ for some $j \neq 0$.

Theorem 3. Let $A_0(z) \neq 0, A_1(z), ..., A_{k-1}(z)$ be analytic functions in $D(0,R)$ satisfying $0 < \sigma(A_j,0) \leq \sigma(A_0,0) < \infty$ and
\[
\max\{\tau_M(A_j,0) : \sigma(A_j,0) = \sigma(A_0,0)\} < \tau_M(A_0,0) \quad (j = 1, ..., k-1).
\]
Then, every solution $f(z) \neq 0$ of (1.16) satisfies $\sigma_2(f,0) = \sigma(A_0,0)$.

The analogous of this result in the complex plane and in the unit disc are investigated in [17, 8].

Theorem 4. Let $a, b \neq 0$ be complex constants such that $\arg a \neq \arg b$ or $a = cb$ $(0 < c < 1)$ and $n$ be a positive integer. Let $A(z), B(z) \neq 0$ be analytic functions in $D(0,R)$ with $\max\{\sigma(A,0), \sigma(B,0)\} < n$. Then, every solution $f(z) \neq 0$ of the differential equation
\begin{equation}
(1.19) \quad f'' + A(z)\exp\left\{\frac{a}{z^n}\right\}f' + B(z)\exp\left\{\frac{b}{z^n}\right\}f = 0,
\end{equation}
satisfies $\sigma_2(f,0) = n$.

Similar results to Theorem 4 are established in different situations in [2, 7, 4].
Example 3. By Theorem 4, every solution \( f(z) \neq 0 \) of the differential equation
\[
f'' + \exp \left( \frac{i}{z(z+1)} \right) f' + \exp \left( \frac{1}{z(z-1)^2} \right) f = 0,
\]
satisfies \( \sigma_2(f,0) = 1 \) and \( \sigma_2(f,1) = 2 \).

2. Preliminaries lemmas

To prove these results we need the following lemmas.

Lemma 2. [5] Let \( g \) be a transcendental meromorphic function in \( \mathbb{C} \), and let \( \alpha > 0 \) \( \varepsilon > 0 \) be given real constants; then
i) there exists a set \( E_1 \subset (1, \infty) \) that has a finite logarithmic measure and a constant \( c > 0 \) that depends only on \( \alpha \) such that for all \( R = |w| \) satisfying \( R \notin [0,1) \cup E_1 \), we have
\[
(2.1) \quad \frac{g^{(k)}(w)}{g(w)} \leq c \left[ T(\alpha R,g) \frac{\log^\alpha(R)}{R} \log T(\alpha R,g) \right]^k;
\]
ii) there exists a set \( E_2 \subset [0,2\pi) \) that has a linear measure zero such that for all \( \theta \in [0,2\pi) \setminus E_2 \) there exists a constant \( R_0 = R_0(\theta) > 0 \) such that (2.1) holds for all \( z \) satisfying \( \arg z \in [0,2\pi) \setminus E_2 \) and \( r = |z| > R_0 \).

Lemma 3. [4] Let \( \phi \) be a non constant meromorphic function in \( D(0,\infty) \) and set \( g(w) = \phi \left( \frac{1}{w} \right) \). Then, \( g(w) \) is meromorphic in \( \mathbb{C} \) and we have
\[
T \left( \frac{1}{r}, g \right) = T_0(r, \phi),
\]
and so \( \sigma(f,0) = \sigma(g) \).

Lemma 4. Let \( f \) be a non constant analytic function in \( D(0,\rho) \) of finite order \( \sigma(f,0) = \sigma > 0 \) and a finite type \( \tau(f,0) = \tau > 0 \). Then, for any given \( 0 < \beta < \tau \) there exists a set \( F \subset (0,1) \) of infinite logarithmic measure such that for all \( r \in F \) we have
\[
\log M_0(r,f) > \frac{\beta}{r^\sigma},
\]
where \( M_0(r,f) = \max \{|f(z)| : |z| = r\} \).

Proof. By the definition of \( \tau(f,0) \), there exists a decreasing sequence \( \{r_m\} \to 0 \) satisfying \( \frac{m}{m+1}r_m > r_{m+1} \) and
\[
\lim_{m \to \infty} r_m^\sigma \log M_0(r_m,f) = \tau.
\]
Then, there exists \( m_0 \) such that for all \( m > m_0 \) and for a given \( \varepsilon > 0 \), we have
\[
\log M_0(r_m,f) > \frac{\tau - \varepsilon}{r_m^\sigma}, \quad (2.2)
\]
There exists \( m_1 \) such that for all \( m > m_1 \) and for a given \( 0 < \varepsilon < \tau - \beta \), we have
\[
\left( \frac{m}{m+1} \right)^\sigma > \frac{\beta}{\tau - \varepsilon}, \quad (2.3)
\]
By (2.2) and (2.3), for all \( m > m_2 = \max \{m_0,m_1\} \) and for any \( r \in \left[ \frac{m}{m+1}r_m, r_m \right] \), we have
\[
\log M_0(r,f) > \log M_0(r_m,f) > \frac{\tau - \varepsilon}{r_m^\sigma} > \frac{\tau - \varepsilon}{r^\sigma} \left( \frac{m}{m+1} \right)^\sigma > \frac{\beta}{r^\sigma}.
\]
Set \( F = \bigcup_{m=m_2}^{\infty} \left[ \frac{m}{m+1}, r_m, r_m \right] \); then we have
\[
\sum_{m=m_2}^{\infty} \int_{m+1}^{r_m} \frac{dt}{t} = \sum_{m>m_2} \log \frac{m+1}{m} = \infty.
\]

By the same method of the proof of Lemma 4, we can prove the following lemma.

**Lemma 5.** Let \( f \) be a non constant analytic function in \( D(0,R) \) of order \( \sigma(f,0) > \alpha > 0 \). Then there exists a set \( F \subset (0,1) \) of infinite logarithmic measure such that for all \( r \in F \) we have
\[
\log M_0(r,f) > \frac{1}{r^\alpha}.
\]

**Lemma 6.** [3, Theorem 8] Let \( f \) be non constant analytic function in \( \mathbb{C} - \{z_0\} \). Then, there exists a set \( E \subset (0,1) \) that has finite logarithmic measure, that is
\[
\int_0^1 \frac{1}{t} dt < \infty,
\]
such that for all \( j=0,1,\ldots,k \), we have
\[
\frac{f^{(j)}(z_r)}{f(z_r)} = (1 + o(1)) \left( \frac{V_{z_0}(r)}{z_r - z_0} \right)^j,
\]
as \( r \to 0 \), \( r \notin E \), where \( V_{z_0}(r) \) is the central index of \( f \) and \( z_r \) is a point in the circle \( |z_0 - z| = r \) that satisfies \( |f(z_r)| = \max_{|z_0 - z| = r} |f(z)| \).

**Lemma 7.** Let \( f \) be a non constant analytic function in \( \mathbb{C} - \{z_0\} \) of iterated order \( \sigma_n(f,z_0) = \sigma \) \( (n \geq 2) \), and let \( V_{z_0}(r) \) be the central index of \( f \). Then
\[
\limsup_{r \to 0} \frac{\log^+ V_{z_0}(r)}{-\log r} = \sigma.
\]

**Proof.** Set \( g(w) = f(z_0 - \frac{1}{w}) \). Then \( g(w) \) is entire function of iterated order \( \sigma_n(g) = \sigma_n(f,z_0) = \sigma \), and if \( V(R) \) denotes the central index of \( g \), then \( V_{z_0}(r) = V(R) \) with \( R = \frac{1}{r} \). From [3, Lemma 2], we have
\[
\limsup_{R \to +\infty} \frac{\log^+ V(R)}{\log R} = \sigma.
\]
Substituting \( R \) by \( \frac{1}{r} \) in (2.5), we get (2.4). \( \square \)

**Lemma 8.** Let \( A_j(z) \) \( (j=0,\ldots,k-1) \) be analytic functions in \( D(0,R) \) such that 0 is a singular point for at least one of the coefficients \( A_j(z) \) and \( \sigma_n(A_j,0) \leq \alpha < \infty \). If \( f \) is a solution of the differential equation
\[
f^{(k)} + A_{k-1}(z)f^{(k-1)} + \ldots + A_1(z)f' + A_0(z)f = 0,
\]
then \( \sigma_{n+1}(f,0) \leq \alpha \).

**Proof.** Let \( f \neq 0 \) be a solution of (2.6). It is clear that \( f \) is analytic in \( D(0,R) \). Let \( f(z) = z^m \phi(z) \mu(z) \) be a Valiron’s decomposition and set \( \tilde{\phi}(z) = z^m \tilde{\phi}(z) \). By Valiron’s decomposition lemma and since \( f(z) \) is analytic function in \( D(0,R) \),
\(\tilde{\phi}(z)\) is analytic in \(D(0, \infty)\). By Lemma [6] there exists a set \(E \subset (0, 1)\) that has finite logarithmic measure, such that for all \(j = 0, 1, \ldots, k\), we have
\[
(2.7) \quad \frac{\tilde{\phi}^{(j)}(z_r)}{\phi(z_r)} = (1 + o(1)) \left(\frac{V_0(r)}{z_r}\right)^j,
\]
as \(r \to 0\), \(r \notin E\), where \(V_0(r)\) is the central index of \(f\) near the singular point 0, \(z_r\) is a point in the circle \(|z| = r\) that satisfies \(|f(z_r)| = \max_{|z| = r} |f(z)|\). Since \(\mu(z)\) is analytic and non zero in \(D(R')\), we have
\[
(2.8) \quad \left|\frac{\mu(j)(z)}{\mu(z)}\right| \leq M, \quad (j \in \mathbb{N}).
\]
Set \(M_0(r) = \max\{|A_j(z)| : j = 0, 1, \ldots, k - 1\}\). From (2.6), we can write
\[
(2.9) \quad \frac{f(k)}{f} + A_{k-1}(z)\frac{f(k-1)}{f} + \cdots + A_1(z)\frac{f'}{f} + A_0(z) = 0.
\]
We have \(f(z) = \tilde{\phi}(z)\mu(z)\), and then
\[
(2.10) \quad \frac{f^{(j)}}{f(z)} = \sum_{i=0}^{j} C_j^i \hat{\phi}^{(j-i)}(z)\frac{\mu^{(i)}(z)}{\mu(z)}, \quad j = 1, \ldots, k,
\]
where \(C_j^i = \frac{k!}{i!(k-i)!}\) is the binomial coefficient. By combining (2.7), (2.8) and (2.10) in (2.9), we get
\[
(2.11) \quad V_0(r)^k \leq C_k^k (V_0(r))^{k-1} M_0(r);
\]
where \(r\) near enough to 0 and \(C > 0\), and then
\[
(2.12) \quad \exp\left\{(1 + \varepsilon) \delta_\alpha(\varphi) \frac{1}{\mu}\right\} \leq |g(z)| \leq \exp\left\{(1 - \varepsilon) \delta_\alpha(\varphi) \frac{1}{\mu}\right\},
\]
(i) If \(\delta_\alpha(\varphi) > 0\), then
\[
(2.13) \quad \exp\left\{(1 + \varepsilon) \delta_\alpha(\varphi) \frac{1}{\mu}\right\} \leq |g(z)| \leq \exp\left\{(1 - \varepsilon) \delta_\alpha(\varphi) \frac{1}{\mu}\right\}.
\]
Proof. Let \(A(z) = z^m \phi(z)\mu(z)\) be a Valiron’s decomposition and set \(\tilde{\phi}(z) = z^m \phi(z)\). By Valiron’s decomposition lemma and since \(A(z)\) is analytic function in \(D(0, R)\), \(\tilde{\phi}(z)\) is analytic in \(D(0, \infty)\). By Remark [2], \(\sigma(\tilde{\phi}, 0) = \sigma(A, 0) < n\). Since \(\mu(z)\) analytic and nonzero in \(D(R')\), we have
\[
(2.14) \quad 0 < c_1 \leq |\mu(z)| \leq c_2 \text{ as } r \text{ is near enough to } 0.
\]
By applying [4, Lemma 2.9] for \(\tilde{\phi}(z)\), and (2.14), we get (2.12) and (2.13). \(\square\)
Lemma 10. Let \( f_{0,1}, f_{0,2}, ..., f_{0,m} \) be \( m \) (\( m \geq 2 \)) linearly independent meromorphic (in \( D(0, R) \)) solutions of an equation of the form
\[
y^{(k)} + A_{0,k-1}(z)y^{(k-1)} + ... + A_{0,0}(z)y = 0, \quad k \geq m,
\]
where \( A_{0,0}(z), ..., A_{0,k-1}(z) \) are meromorphic functions in \( D(0, R) \). For \( 1 \leq q \leq m-1 \), set
\[
f_{q,j} = \left( \frac{f_{q-1,j+1}}{f_{q-1,1}} \right), \quad j = 1, 2, ..., m-q.
\]
Then, \( f_{q,1}, f_{q,2}, ..., f_{q,m-q} \) are \( m-q \) linearly independent meromorphic (in \( D(0, R) \)) solutions of the equation
\[
y^{(k-q)} + A_{q,k-q-1}(z)y^{(k-q-1)} + ... + A_{q,0}(z)y = 0,
\]
where
\[
A_{q,j}(z) = \sum_{i=j+1}^{k-q-1} \binom{i}{j+1} A_{q-1,j}(z) f_{q-1,1}^{(i-j-1)}(z)
\]
for \( j = 0, 1, ..., k-q-1 \). Here we set \( A_{i,k-i}(z) \equiv 1 \) for all \( i = 0, 1, ..., q \).
Moreover, let \( \varepsilon > 0 \) and suppose for each \( j \in \{0, 1, ..., k-1\} \), there exists a real number \( \alpha_j \) such that
\[
|A_{0,j}(z)| \leq \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{\rho \alpha_j + \varepsilon} \right\}, \quad r = |z| \notin E.
\]
Suppose further that each \( f_{0,j} \) is of finite hyper-order \( \sigma_2(f_{0,j}, 0) \). Set \( \beta = \max_{1 \leq j \leq m} \{ \sigma_2(f_{0,j}, 0) \} \) and \( \tau_p = \max_{p \leq j \leq k-1} \{ \alpha_j \} \). Then for any given \( \varepsilon > 0 \), we have
\[
|A_{q,j}(z)| \leq \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{\rho \max\{\tau_{q+j},\beta\} + \varepsilon} \right\}, \quad r = |z| \notin E,
\]
for \( j = 0, 1, ..., k-q-1 \).

Proof. By [6, Lemma 6.2 and Lemma 6.3], we obtain (2.17) and (2.18). Therefore, we need only to prove (2.20). For this proof, we use induction on \( q \). First suppose that \( q = 1 \). Then, from (2.18) we get
\[
A_{1,j}(z) = \sum_{i=j+1}^{k} \binom{i}{j+1} A_{0,i}(z) f_{0,1}^{(i-j-1)}(z), \quad j = 0, 1, ..., k-2.
\]
Since \( \sigma_2(f_{0,j}, 0) \leq \beta \), by Theorem 11 we have
\[
\left| f_{0,1}^{(i-j-1)}(z) \right| \leq \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{\rho \beta + \varepsilon} \right\}, \quad r = |z| \notin E.
\]
It follows from (2.19) and (2.21) that (2.20) holds for \( q = 1 \). For the induction step, we make the assumption that (2.20) holds for \( q - 1 \); i.e.
\[
|A_{q-1,j}(z)| \leq \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{\rho \max\{\tau_{q-1+j},\beta\} + \varepsilon} \right\}, \quad r \notin E,
\]
for \( j = 1, 2, ..., k - q - 1 \); and we show that (2.20) holds for \( q \). From (2.18) we get
\[
A_{q,j}(z) = \sum_{i=j+1}^{k-q-1} \binom{i}{j+1} A_{q-1,j} f_q^{(i-j-1)} \frac{f_q^{(i-j-1)}(z)}{f_q^{(i-j-1)}(0)}. \tag{2.24}
\]
Since \( \sigma_2(f_{0,j}, 0) \) and by elementary order considerations we get \( \sigma_2(f_{q-1,1,0}) \leq \beta \), and by Theorem 1, we obtain
\[
\left| \frac{f_q^{(i-j-1)}(z)}{f_q^{(i-j-1)}(0)} \right| \leq \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{p^{\beta+\varepsilon}} \right\}, \, r = |z| \notin E. \tag{2.25}
\]
From (2.23)-(2.25), we get
\[
|A_{q,j}(z)| \leq \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{p^{\max\{|q+j, \beta\}+\varepsilon}} \right\}, \, r \notin E. \tag{2.26}
\]
This proves the induction step, and therefore completes the proof of Lemma 10. □

**Lemma 11.** Under the assumptions of Lemma 10, we have
\[
A_{q,0} = A_{q,0} + G_q(z), \tag{2.27}
\]
where \( G_q(z) = \sum_{j=2}^{q+1} H_j \) with
\[
H_j = \sum_{i=j}^{k-q+j-1} \binom{i}{j-1} A_{q-j+1,i} f_q^{(i-j+1)} \frac{f_q^{(i-j+1)}(z)}{f_q^{(i-j+1)}(0)}. \tag{2.28}
\]
Moreover, \( G_q(z) \) satisfies
\[
|G_q(z)| \leq \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{p^{\max\{|q+j, \beta\}+\varepsilon}} \right\}, \, r = |z| \notin E. \tag{2.29}
\]
**Proof.** (2.27) and (2.28) are the same in [6, Lemma 6.5]. So, we need only to prove (2.20). We have
\[
|G_q(z)| \leq \sum_{j=2}^{q+1} \sum_{i=j}^{k-q+j-1} \binom{i}{j-1} |A_{q-j+1,i}(z)| \left| \frac{f_q^{(i-j+1)}(z)}{f_q^{(i-j+1)}(0)} \right|. \tag{2.20}
\]
By applying (2.20) for the coefficients \( |A_{q-j+1,i}(z)| \) and Theorem 1 for the logarithmic derivatives \( \left| \frac{f_q^{(i-j+1)}(z)}{f_q^{(i-j+1)}(0)} \right| \) by taking account that \( \sigma_2(f_{q-j+1,1,0}) \leq \beta \), we obtain (2.29). □

3. **Proof of theorems**

**Proof of Theorem 1.** Suppose that \( f \) is meromorphic function in \( D(0, R) \) with a singular point at the origin. By Valiron’s decomposition lemma we have
\[
f(z) = z^m \phi(z) \mu(z) \tag{3.1}
\]
where
a) The poles and zeros of \( f \) in \( D(0, R') \) are precisely the poles and zeros of \( \phi(z) \). The poles and zeros of \( f \) in \( D(R', R) \) are precisely the poles and zeros of \( \mu(z) \).

b) \( \phi(z) \) is meromorphic in \( D(0, \infty) \) and analytic and nonzero in \( D[R', \infty) \).
c) $\mu \left( z \right)$ is meromorphic in $D \left( R \right)$ and analytic and nonzero in $D \left( R' \right)$.

Set $\hat{\phi} \left( z \right) = z^m \phi \left( z \right)$, we have

$$\frac{f' \left( z \right)}{f \left( z \right)} = \frac{\hat{\phi}' \left( z \right)}{\hat{\phi} \left( z \right)} + \frac{\mu \left( z \right)}{\mu \left( z \right)};$$

and thus

$$\left| \frac{f' \left( z \right)}{f \left( z \right)} \right| \leq \left| \frac{\hat{\phi}' \left( z \right)}{\hat{\phi} \left( z \right)} \right| + \left| \frac{\mu \left( z \right)}{\mu \left( z \right)} \right| \tag{3.2}$$

Since $\mu \left( z \right)$ is analytic and non zero in $D \left( R' \right)$, we have

$$\left| \frac{\mu \left( z \right)}{\mu \left( z \right)} \right| \leq M, \ (j \in \mathbb{N}). \tag{3.3}$$

Set $g \left( w \right) = \hat{\phi} \left( \frac{1}{w} \right)$. Since $\phi \left( z \right)$ satisfy b), $g \left( w \right)$ is meromorphic in $\mathbb{C}$. We have $\hat{\phi} \left( z \right) = g \left( w \right)$ such that $w = \frac{1}{z}$; then $\hat{\phi}' \left( z \right) = \frac{1}{z^2} g' \left( w \right)$ and then

$$\frac{\hat{\phi}' \left( z \right)}{\phi \left( z \right)} = \frac{-1}{z^2} \frac{g' \left( w \right)}{g \left( w \right)} \tag{3.4}$$

By Lemma 2 there exists a set $E_1 \subset \left( 1, \infty \right)$ that has a finite logarithmic measure such that for all $\left| w \right| = \frac{1}{|r|} = \frac{1}{r}$ satisfying $\frac{1}{r} \notin \left[ 0, 1 \right) \cup E_1$, we have

$$\left| \frac{g' \left( w \right)}{g \left( w \right)} \right| \leq C \left[ T \left( \frac{\alpha}{r}, g \right) r \log^\alpha \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) \log T \left( \frac{\alpha}{r}, g \right) \right], \quad \frac{1}{r} \notin E_1;$$

and by Lemma 3 and (3.4), we get

$$\left| \frac{\hat{\phi}' \left( z \right)}{\phi \left( z \right)} \right| \leq C \left[ \frac{1}{r} T_0 \left( \frac{r}{\alpha}, \hat{\phi} \right) \log^\alpha \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) \log T_0 \left( \frac{r}{\alpha}, \hat{\phi} \right) \right], \quad r \notin E_1^*; \tag{3.5}$$

where $\frac{1}{r} = R \notin E_1 \iff r \notin E_1^*$ and $\int_0^{\infty} \frac{x}{\log x} dx = \int_1^{\infty} \frac{x}{\log x} dt < \infty$, (the constant $C > 0$ is not the same at each occurrence). Combining (3.2)-(3.3) with (3.5) and by taking account Remark 2 we get

$$\left| \frac{f' \left( z \right)}{f \left( z \right)} \right| \leq C \left[ \frac{1}{r} T_0 \left( \frac{r}{\alpha}, f \right) \log^\alpha \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) \log T_0 \left( \frac{r}{\alpha}, f \right) \right], \quad r \notin E_1^*.$$

We have $\hat{\phi}'' \left( z \right) = \frac{1}{z^2} g'' \left( w \right) + \frac{2}{z^3} g' \left( w \right)$; and so

$$\frac{\hat{\phi}'' \left( z \right)}{\phi \left( z \right)} = \frac{1}{z^2} \frac{g'' \left( w \right)}{g \left( w \right)} + \frac{2}{z^3} \frac{g' \left( w \right)}{g \left( w \right)}.$$

and by Lemma 2 and Lemma 3 we obtain

$$\left| \frac{\hat{\phi}'' \left( z \right)}{\phi \left( z \right)} \right| \leq C \left[ \frac{1}{r} T_0 \left( \frac{r}{\alpha}, \hat{\phi} \right) \log^\alpha \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) \log T_0 \left( \frac{r}{\alpha}, \hat{\phi} \right) \right]^2, \quad r \notin E_1^* \tag{3.6}$$

We have

$$\frac{f'' \left( z \right)}{f \left( z \right)} = \frac{\hat{\phi}'' \left( z \right)}{\phi \left( z \right)} + \frac{\mu'' \left( z \right)}{\mu \left( z \right)} + \frac{2 \hat{\phi}' \left( z \right) \mu' \left( z \right)}{\phi \left( z \right) \mu \left( z \right)} \tag{3.7}$$
where \( \phi \) is the binomial coefficient. Combining (3.9)-(3.10), with (3.3) and Remark 2 we obtain

\[
\mathcal{E} \left( \frac{r}{\alpha} \phi \right) \leq C \left[ \frac{1}{r} T_0 \left( \frac{r}{\alpha}, \phi \right) \log \frac{1}{r} \log T_0 \left( \frac{r}{\alpha}, f \right) \right]^k \quad (k \in \mathbb{N}),
\]

The same reasoning for the case (ii); noting that \( \theta \in E_2 \Leftrightarrow 2\pi - \theta \in E_2^* \); so, if \( E_2 \subset [0, 2\pi) \) has linear measure zero, then \( E_2^* \subset [0, 2\pi) \) has also linear measure zero.

**Proof of Theorem 2.** We divide the proof into three parts:

1) If \( \sigma_n(A_j, 0) \leq \alpha \) for all \( j = 0, 1, \ldots, k - 1 \), then by Lemma 8 all solutions \( f \) of (1.10) satisfy \( \sigma_{n+1}(f, 0) \leq \alpha \).

2) Suppose that \( \sigma_n(A_j, 0) = \alpha_j \), and let \( q \in \{0, 1, \ldots, k - 1\} \) be the largest index such that \( \alpha_q = \max \{\alpha_j\} \). By Part 1) all solutions \( f \) of (1.10) satisfy \( \sigma_{n+1}(f, 0) \leq \alpha_q \). Assume that there are \( q + 1 \) linearly independent solutions \( f_{0,1}, f_{0,2}, \ldots, f_{0,q+1} \) of (1.10) satisfy \( \sigma_{n+1}(f_{0,j}, 0) < \alpha_q \) for all \( j = 1, \ldots, q + 1 \). By Lemma 10 with \( m = q + 1 \), there exists a solution \( f_{q,1} \neq 0 \) of (2.17) such that \( \sigma_{n+1}(f_{q,1}) < \alpha_q \) and for any \( \varepsilon > 0 \)

\[
|A_{q,j}(z)| \leq \exp_n \left\{ \frac{1}{r^{\max\{\tau_{q,j}, \beta\} + \varepsilon}} \right\}, \quad r \notin E.
\]

where \( \tau_{q+j} = \max_{q+j \leq \ell \leq k-1} \{\alpha_l\} \) and \( j = 1, \ldots, k - q - 1 \). We have max \( \{\tau_{q+j}, \beta\} < \alpha_q \) and then

\[
|A_{q,j}(z)| \leq \exp_n \left\{ \frac{1}{r^{\alpha_q - 2\varepsilon}} \right\}, \quad r \notin E,
\]
for all $j = 1, \ldots, k - q - 1$ and for $\varepsilon > 0$ small enough. Now, by Lemmas \ref{3:12} $\sigma_n(A_{q,0}, 0) = \sigma_n(A_{q,0}, 0) = \alpha_q$ and by Lemma \ref{3:5} there exists a set $F \subset (0, R')$ of infinite logarithmic measure such that for all $r \in F$ we have

\begin{equation}
|A_{q,0}(z)| \geq \exp_n \left\{ \frac{1}{r^{\alpha_q - \varepsilon}} \right\},
\end{equation}

where $|A_{q,j}(z)| = M_0(r, A_{q,j})$. On the other hand, by (2.14)

\begin{equation}
|A_{q,0}(z)| \leq \frac{f(q-1)}{f(q-1)} + |A_{q,k-q-1}(z)||\frac{f(q-1)}{f(q-1)}| + \cdots + |A_{q,1}(z)||\frac{f'(q-1)}{f'(q-1)}|,
\end{equation}

and so by (3.12) and Corollary \ref{3:2} with $\sigma_{n+1}(f_{q,1}) < \alpha_q$, we get

\begin{equation}
|A_{q,0}(z)| \leq \exp_n \left\{ \frac{1}{r^{\alpha_q - 2\varepsilon}} \right\}, r \notin E.
\end{equation}

By taking $r \in F \setminus E$, (3.14) contradicts (3.13). Hence, there are at most $q$ linearly independent solutions $f$ of (1.16) such that $\sigma_{n+1}(f) < \alpha_q$. Since $\sigma_{n+1}(f) \leq \alpha_q$ for all solutions $f$ of (1.16), there are at least $k - q$ linearly independent solutions $f$ of (1.16) such that $\sigma_{n+1}(f, 0) = \alpha_q$.

3) Suppose that all solutions $f$ of (1.16) satisfy $\sigma_{n+1}(f, 0) \leq \alpha$, and assume that there is a coefficient $A_j(z)$ of (1.16) such that $\sigma_n(A_j) > \alpha$. If $q \in \{0, 1, \ldots, k - 1\}$ is the largest index such that $\alpha_q = \max_{0 \leq j \leq k-1} \{\alpha_j\}$, then by part 2), (1.16) has at least $k - q$ linearly independent solutions $f$ such that $\sigma_{n+1}(f, 0) = \alpha_q > \alpha$. A contradiction. So, $\sigma_n(A_j) \leq \alpha$ for all $j = 0, 1, \ldots, k - 1$.

\textbf{Proof of Theorem \ref{3:3}.} From (1.16) we can write

\begin{equation}
|A_0(z)| \leq \left| \frac{f(k)}{f} \right| + |A_{k-1}(z)||\frac{f(k-1)}{f}| + \cdots + |A_1(z)||\frac{f'}{f}|.
\end{equation}

\textbf{Case (i):} $\sigma(A_j, 0) < \sigma(A_0, 0) < \infty$ ($j = 1, \ldots, k - 1$). Set $\max\{\sigma(A_j, 0) : j \neq 0\} < \beta < \alpha < \sigma(A_0, 0)$. By (1.9), there exists $r_0 > 0$ such that for all $r$ satisfying $r_0 \geq r > 0$, we have

\begin{equation}
|A_j(z)| \leq \exp\left\{ \frac{1}{r^{\beta + \varepsilon}} \right\}, \quad j = 1, 2, \ldots, k - 1.
\end{equation}

By Lemma \ref{3:4}, there exists a set $F \subset (0, R')$ of infinite logarithmic measure such that for all $r \in F$, we have

\begin{equation}
|A_0(z)| > \exp\left\{ \frac{1}{r^{p_0}} \right\},
\end{equation}

where $|A_0(z)| = M_0(r, A_0)$. From Theorem \ref{3:1} there exists a set $E^*_1 \subset (0, R')$ that has finite logarithmic measure and a constant $C > 0$ such that for all $r = |z|$ satisfying $r \in (0, R') \setminus E^*_1$, we have

\begin{equation}
|f^{(j)}(z)| \leq C \left| \frac{f(j)}{f(z)} \right| \leq \frac{C}{r^{2k}} \left| T_0 \left( \frac{r}{\alpha}, f \right) \right|^{2k} \quad (j = 1, \ldots, k - 1).
\end{equation}

Using (3.16) in (3.18), for $r \in F \setminus E^*_1$, we obtain

\begin{equation}
\exp\left\{ \frac{1}{r^{\beta}} \right\} \leq \frac{C}{r^{2k}} \left| T_0 \left( \frac{r}{\alpha}, f \right) \right|^{2k} \exp\left\{ \frac{1}{r^{\beta + \varepsilon}} \right\}.
\end{equation}

From (3.19), we obtain that $\sigma_2(f, 0) \geq \alpha$.\qed
On the other hand, applying Lemma 8 with (1.10), we obtain that \( \sigma_2(f,0) \leq \sigma(A_0,0) \). Since \( \alpha \leq \sigma_2(f,0) \leq \sigma(A_0,0) \) holds for all \( \alpha < \sigma(A_0,0) \), then \( \sigma_2(f,0) = \sigma(A_0,0) \).

**Case (ii):** \( 0 < \sigma(A_0,0) \leq \sigma(A_0,0) \leq \infty \) and \( \max \{ \tau_M(A_j,0) : \sigma(A_j,0) = \sigma(A_0,0) \} < \tau_M(A_0,0) \) \( (j = 1, \ldots, k-1) \). Set \( \max \{ \tau_M(A_j,0) : \sigma(A_j,0) = \sigma(A_0,0) \} < \mu < \nu < \tau_M(A_0,0) \) and \( \sigma(A_0,0) = \sigma \). By (1.10), there exists \( r_0 > 0 \) such that for all \( r \) satisfying \( r_0 \geq r > 0 \), we have

\[
|A_j(z)| \leq \exp\left\{ \frac{\mu}{r^\sigma} \right\}, \quad j = 1, 2, \ldots, k-1.
\]

By Lemma 4 there exists a set \( F \subset (0, R') \) of infinite logarithmic measure such that for all \( r \in F \) and \( |A_0(z)| = M_0(r, A_0) \), we have

\[
|A_0(z)| > \exp\left\{ \frac{\nu}{r^\sigma} \right\}.
\]

Combining (3.20)-(3.21) with (3.18) and (3.15), we get for \( r \in F \setminus E_1^0 \),

\[
\exp\left\{ \frac{\nu}{r^\sigma} \right\} \leq C \frac{1}{2k} \left[ T_0 \left( \frac{r}{\alpha}, f \right) \right]^{2k} \exp\left\{ \frac{\mu}{r^\sigma} \right\}.
\]

From (3.22), we get \( \sigma_2(f,0) \geq \sigma \), and combining this with Lemma 8 we obtain that \( \sigma_2(f,0) = \sigma(A_0,0) \). \( \square \)

**Proof of Theorem 4.** We begin with the case \( a = cb \) \( (0 < c < 1) \). It is easy to see that \( \tau_M(A(z) \exp \left\{ \frac{b}{z^n} \right\}, 0) = |a| \) and \( \tau_M(B(z) \exp \left\{ \frac{b}{z^n} \right\}, 0) = |b| \). By Theorem 8 case (ii), we get \( \sigma_2(f,0) = n \). Now, suppose that \( \arg a \neq \arg b \). Then, there exist \( (\varphi_1, \varphi_2) \subset [0, 2\pi) \) such that for \( \arg(z) = \varphi \in (\varphi_1, \varphi_2) \), we have \( \delta_b(\varphi) > 0 \) and \( \delta_a(\varphi) < 0 \). From (1.10), we can write

\[
|B(z) \exp \left\{ \frac{b}{z^n} \right\}| \leq |A''(z)| + |A(z) \exp \left\{ \frac{a}{z^n} \right\}||f'||.
\]

Since \( \max \{ \sigma(A,0), \sigma(B,0) \} < n \), then by Lemma 9 (1.14) and (3.23), we obtain

\[
\exp \left\{ (1 - \varepsilon) \delta_b(\varphi) \frac{1}{r^\sigma} \right\} \leq \frac{C}{r^\sigma} \left[ T_0 \left( \frac{r}{\alpha}, f \right) \right]^{2k} \exp \left\{ (1 - \varepsilon) \delta_a(\varphi) \frac{1}{r^\sigma} \right\}.
\]

From (3.24) we get \( \sigma_2(f,0) \geq n \) and combining this with Lemma 8 we obtain that \( \sigma_2(f,0) = n \). \( \square \)

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