

Translations of
**MATHEMATICAL
MONOGRAPHS**

Volume 122

**Theory of Entire and
Meromorphic Functions
Deficient and Asymptotic
Values and Singular Directions**

Zhang Guan-Hou




American Mathematical Society

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Zhang Guan-Hou



American Mathematical Society
Providence, Rhode Island

整函数和亚纯函数理论

——亏值、渐近值和奇异方向

张广厚 著

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Preface

This is a monograph about the theory of entire and meromorphic functions. It sums up basically the development of this theory ever since the 1950s, with the discussion focus centered on the relationship among three main concepts, namely the deficient value, the asymptotic value and the singular direction.

In 1929, by examining some examples, R. Nevanlinna recognized that there is an intrinsic relationship between the problem of exceptional values (deficient values are exceptional value under a certain kind of implication) and the asymptotic value theory. Moreover, he anticipated that the study of their relationship might help to clarify some of the profound problems of the theory of entire and meromorphic functions [32a]. Concretely speaking, he conjectured that a deficient value is simultaneously an asymptotic value [32a]. However, this conjecture was negated later [37a, 3a]. In 1978, the author restudied this problem and found that there is a close relationship among the number of deficient values, the number of asymptotic values and the number of singular directions for a function of finite lower order. He obtained some general results [43c]. In recent years, new developments have been made for this study [43g, h, j]; for some other important kinds of functions, their corresponding related formulas are also obtained. The main content of this monograph is to introduce these studies. It is written in the sense that both systematic property and the reference of some results of recent studies are taken into consideration.

This book is divided into six chapters. The first chapter introduces Nevanlinna's fundamental theory, including mainly the famous First Fundamental Theorem, the Second Fundamental Theorem, as well as the related formulas of deficiencies. All these are the foundation of the whole book.

Chapter 2 introduces the Theory of Singular Directions, including mainly the proof of the existence of the Julia direction and the Borel direction, as well as some significant properties. In addition, this chapter includes the discussion and proof of the existence of the Nevanlinna direction under a certain meaning. This discussion is, in fact, a recent study made by Li Yunnan and the author himself.

Chapter 3 introduces the Deficient Theory. Deficient values are the main issue of the recent study of the Value Distribution Theory. The results obtained for this issue are particularly fruitful and wonderful. However, due to limited space, we can include in this chapter a relatively comprehensive and systematic discussion regarding merely the study of the number of deficient values. Particularly, here we include also the famous results due to Edrei-Fuchs and Weitsman, etc., with the proof of most of these results newly presented.

At the end of each of the above three chapters, we write an annotated note introducing some important results and corresponding books⁽¹⁾ that have not been covered in the main text as supplements.

Chapter 4 introduces the fundamental theory of asymptotic values and some new results of the study. Included are mainly the classical Iversen Theorem and the famous result regarding the proof of Denjoy's conjecture made by Ahlfors, as well as the estimation of the growth property of a function along the asymptotic path and the estimation of the length of the asymptotic path, all attributed to the author's effort.

The first four chapters lay the foundation for, simultaneously, Chapters 5 and 6, with these last two chapters being the focus of the whole book. Chapter 5 discusses the relationship among the number of deficient values, the number of asymptotic values and the number of Julia directions of an entire function whose lower order is finite, and also the relationship among the number of deficient values, the number of asymptotic values and the number of Julia directions of an entire function which consists of finite Julia directions or with its zeros accumulating around the neighborhood of finite half straight lines. Chapter 6 takes into consideration the case of a meromorphic function and discusses the corresponding problems of a meromorphic function whose lower order is finite or having a maximal deficiency sum. However, here we have to replace the number of asymptotic values with the number of directly transcendental singularities of an inverse function.

Readers intending to peruse this book need only have the knowledge of the complex function theory and of the real function theory provided in the mathematics department of a university. This book, however, is especially suitable for those postgraduate students who study the theory of entire and meromorphic functions under their advisors' guidance.

Finally, here I shall like to express my wholehearted gratitude to Professor Chuang Chi-tai. It is under his encouragement that I became determined to write this book, and through several discussions with him, the outline of this book was drawn. I shall also like to thank Associate Professor He Yu-zan for his meticulous checking and proofreading of the manuscripts. He put

⁽¹⁾ If readers want to have a relatively comprehensive understanding of the problem regarding the theory of entire and meromorphic functions in recent study and its progress, they can refer to [21d, f], [2a] and [8a].

forth lots of valuable opinions for amendments. Furthermore, I shall like to thank comrade Wu Peng-cheng who transcribed, proofread and examined the manuscripts several times. Without his assistance, surely it would have taken a longer time to finish writing this book. Finally, I shall also like to thank Associate Professor Li Yu-nian for his help. Before the publication of this book, he spared his busy time to seriously examine and proofread the entire book once.

Zhang Guan-Hou

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Some Supplementary Results

Ever since the publication of the book, several interesting and significant results concerning the numerical relationships among the order, lower order, numbers of deficient values, asymptotic values, and singular directions of an entire or a meromorphic function and its derivatives have been obtained. The following list provides some of the more significant ones.

In 1988, L. Yang [*Deficient values and angular distribution of entire functions*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. **308** (1988), 583–601] gave the following definition: Let $f(z)$ be an entire-function of lower order μ , where $0 < \mu < +\infty$. A ray $\arg z = \theta_0$ ($0 \leq \theta_0 < 2\pi$) is called a Borel direction of order $\geq \mu$ of $f(z)$, if for any positive number ε , the inequality

$$\overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\log n(r, \theta_0 - \varepsilon, \theta_0 + \varepsilon, f = a)}{\log r} \geq \mu$$

holds for any finite complex value a , with possibly one exceptional value, where $n(r, \theta_0 - \varepsilon, \theta_0 + \varepsilon, f = a)$ denotes the number of zeros of $f(z) - a$ in the region $(|z| \leq r) \cap (\theta_0 - \varepsilon \leq \arg z \leq \theta_0 + \varepsilon)$ multiple zeros being counted according to their multiplicities.

Meanwhile, L. Yang also proved the following result.

THEOREM. *Let $f(z)$ be an entire function of lower order μ , where $0 < \mu < +\infty$. If $q < +\infty$ is the number of Borel directions of order $\geq \mu$ of $f(z)$ and $p_l (l = 0, -1, -2, \dots)$ denotes the number of finite nonzero deficient values of $f^{(l)}(z)$ ($l = 0, -1, -2, \dots, f^{(0)}(z) \equiv f(z)$), when $l < 0, f^{(l)}(z)$ is the primitive of order $|l|$ of $f(z)$, then we have*

$$\sum_{l=0}^{-\infty} p_l \leq 2\mu,$$

More recently, as an extension over the above result, P. C. Wu obtained the following result in “Angular distribution of entire functions and its deficient values of each order derivative”, preprint.

THEOREM. *Let $f(z)$ be an entire function of lower order μ , where $0 < \mu < +\infty$. If $q < +\infty$ is the number of Borel directions of order $\geq \mu$ of $f(z)$*

and $p_l(l = 0, -1, -2, \dots)$ denotes the number of finite nonzero deficient values of $f^{(l)}(z)(l = 0, -1, -2, \dots, f^{(0)}(z) = f(z))$, then we have

$$\sum_{l=0}^{-\infty} p_l < 2\mu.$$

S. J. Wu also researched this topic in his thesis “Angular distribution and Borel theorem of entire and meromorphic functions”. For instance, the following two results were obtained.

THEOREM. *Suppose that $f(z)$ is an entire function of finite lower order μ and satisfies $p = \frac{q}{2}$ where $p(1 \leq p < +\infty)$ denotes the number of finite deficient values and q denotes the number of Borel directions of order $\geq \mu$ of $f(z)$. Then for every deficient value $a_j (j = 1, 2, \dots, p)$, there exists a corresponding angular domain $\Omega(\theta_{k_j}, \theta_{k_j+1})$ such that for every $\varepsilon > 0$ the inequality*

$$\log \frac{1}{|f(z) - a_j|} > A(\theta_{k_j}, \theta_{k_j+1}, \varepsilon, \delta(a_j, f))T(|z|, f)$$

holds for $z \in \Omega(\theta_{k_j} + \varepsilon, \theta_{k_j+1} - \varepsilon, r_\varepsilon, +\infty)$, where $A(\theta_{k_j}, \theta_{k_j+1}, \varepsilon, \delta(a_j, f))$ is a positive constant depending only on $\theta_{k_j}, \theta_{k_j+1}, \varepsilon$, and $\delta(a_j, f)$. In particular, every deficient value of $f(t)$ is also its deficient value.

THEOREM. *Under the hypothesis of the above theorem, we have*

- (i) *The order λ of $f(z)$ equals μ ,*
- (ii) *Every asymptotic value of $f(z)$ is also its deficient value,*
- (iii) $\sum_{a \in \mathbb{C}} \delta(a, f) \leq 1 - k(\mu)$,

where

$$k(\mu) = \begin{cases} \frac{|\sin \mu\pi|}{q + |\sin \mu\pi|}, & q \leq \mu \leq q + \frac{1}{2}, \\ \frac{|\sin \mu\pi|}{q + 1}, & q + \frac{1}{2} < \mu \leq q + 1. \end{cases}$$

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