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**Alexander Blokh\***, Dept of Math, UAB, UAB Station, Birmingham, AL 35294. *Counting Wandering Continua*. Preliminary report.

Let  $P$  be a polynomial of degree  $d$ . Let  $N$  be the number of all non-repelling periodic orbits of  $P$ . The Fatou-Douady-Shishikura inequality in this polynomial case states that then  $N \leq d - 1$ . Define a *ray continuum*  $K$  as a continuum or a point which is the union of impressions of some external rays to the Julia set  $J$  of  $P$ ; the maximal number of such rays is called the *valence* of  $K$ . A *wandering collection* (of ray continua) is a collection of wandering ray continua whose forward orbits are pairwise disjoint. Given a non-empty wandering collection  $\Gamma$  of ray continua with valences  $M_1, \dots, M_k$  we prove that  $\sum_{\Gamma} (M_i - 2) + N \leq d - 2$ . (Received September 19, 2007)