# GROWTH OF SOLUTIONS TO LINEAR COMPLEX DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS IN AN ANGULAR REGION 

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#### Abstract

In this article, we consider the growth of solutions of higher-order linear differential equations in an angular region instead of the complex plane.


## 1. Introduction and statement of results

We assume that the reader is familiar with the fundamental results and standard notations of the Nevanlinna theory in the unit disk $\Delta=\{z:|z|<1\}$ and in the complex plane $\mathbb{C}$ (see [5, 7, 11), such as $T(r, f), N(r, f), m(r, f), \delta(a, f)$. The order and lower order of $f$ in $\mathbb{C}$ or in $\Delta$ are defined as follows:

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\rho_{\mathbb{C}}(f)=\limsup _{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log T(r, f)}{\log r}, & \rho_{\Delta}(f)=\limsup _{r \rightarrow 1-} \frac{\log T(r, f)}{-\log (1-r)}, \\
\mu_{\mathbb{C}}(f)=\liminf _{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log T(r, f)}{\log r}, & \mu_{\Delta}(f)=\liminf _{r \rightarrow 1-} \frac{\log T(r, f)}{-\log (1-r)} .
\end{array}
$$

The meromorphic functions in the unit disk can be divided into the following three classes:
(1) bounded type: $T(r, f)=O(1)$ as $r \rightarrow 1-$;
(2) rational type: $T(r, f)=O\left(\log (1-r)^{-1}\right)$ and $f(z)$ does not belong to (1);
(3) admissible in $\Delta$ :

$$
\limsup _{r \rightarrow 1-} \frac{T(r, f)}{-\log (1-r)}=\infty
$$

Meromorphic functions in the complex plane can also be divided into the following three classes:
(1) bounded type: $T(r, f)=O(1)$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$;
(2) rational type: $T(r, f)=O(\log r)$ and $f(z)$ does not belong to (1);
(3) admissible in $\mathbb{C}$ :

$$
\limsup _{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{T(r, f)}{\log r}=\infty
$$

[^0]The growth of solutions to higher-order linear differential equations in $\mathbb{C}$ and in $\Delta$ has been investigated by many authors. Gundersen [4] and Heittokangas [6] considered the growth of solutions of the second-order linear differential equations and obtained a theorem in $\mathbb{C}$ and in $\Delta$ respectively as follows.
Theorem 1.1 ([4, [6]). Let $B(z)$ and $C(z)$ be the analytic coefficients of the equation

$$
\begin{equation*}
g^{\prime \prime}+B(z) g^{\prime}+C(z) g=0 \tag{1.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

in $\mathbb{C}$ (or in $\Delta$ ). If either (i) $\rho(B)<\rho(C)$ or (ii) $B(z)$ is non-admissible while $C(z)$ is admissible, then all solutions $g \not \equiv 0$ of 1.1 are of infinite order of growth.

Chen [1] generalized Theorem 1.1] as follows.
Theorem $1.2\left([1)\right.$. Let $A_{0}(z), \ldots, A_{k}(z)$ be the analytic coefficients of the equation

$$
\begin{equation*}
A_{k}(z) f^{(k)}+A_{k-1}(z) f^{(k-1)}+\cdots+A_{0}(z) f=0 \tag{1.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

in $\mathbb{C}$ (or in $\Delta$ ). If either (i) $\max _{1 \leq j \leq k} \rho\left(A_{j}\right)<\rho\left(A_{0}\right)$, or (ii) $A_{j}(z)(j=1,2, \ldots, k)$ are non-admissible while $A_{0}(z)$ is admissible, then all solutions $f \not \equiv 0$ of (1.2) are of infinite order of growth.

In 1994, Wu [8, 9] used the Nevanlinna theory in an angle to study the growth of solutions of the second-order linear differential equation in an angular region and obtained the following two theorems.
Theorem 1.3 ([8]). Let $A(z)$ and $B(z)$ be meromorphic in $\mathbb{C}$ with $\rho(A)<\rho(B)$ and $\delta(\infty, B)>0$. Then every nontrivial meromorphic solution $f$ of the equation

$$
\begin{equation*}
f^{\prime \prime}+A(z) f^{\prime}+B(z) f=0 \tag{1.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

has infinite order. Furthermore, if $\rho(B) \leq 1 / 2$ and $\delta(\infty, B)=1$, then $\rho_{\alpha, \beta}(f)=$ $+\infty$ for every angular region $\Omega(\alpha, \beta)$.
Theorem $1.4(9])$. Let $A(z)$ and $B(z)$ be analytic on $\bar{\Omega}(\alpha, \beta)$. If for any $K>0$, the measure of

$$
\left\{\theta: \alpha<\theta<\beta, \liminf _{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\left(\left|A\left(r e^{i \theta}\right)\right|+1\right) r^{K}}{\left|B\left(r e^{i \theta}\right)\right|}=0\right\}
$$

is larger than zero, then any solution $f \not \equiv 0$ of 1.3 has $\varrho_{\alpha, \beta}(f)=+\infty$.
In 2009, Xu and Yi [10 generalized Theorem 1.4 to the case of linear higher order differential equation and obtained the following theorem.
Theorem 1.5. 10] Let $A_{j}(z)(j=0,1, \ldots, k-1)$ be analytic on $\Omega(\alpha, \beta)(0<\beta-\alpha \leq$ $2 \pi$ ), if for any $K>0$ the $\theta$ 's which satisfy $\alpha \leq \theta \leq \beta$ and

$$
\begin{equation*}
\liminf _{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\left(\left|A_{1}\left(r e^{i \theta}\right)\right|+\cdots+\left|A_{k-1}\left(r e^{i \theta}\right)\right|+1\right) r^{K}}{\left|A_{0}\left(r e^{i \theta}\right)\right|}=0 \tag{1.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

form a set of positive measure. Then for every solution $f \not \equiv 0$ of 1.4 we have $\varrho_{\alpha, \beta}(f)=+\infty$.
Remark 1.6. The order $\varrho_{\alpha, \beta}(f)$ in Theorems 1.4 and 1.5 is defined by

$$
\varrho_{\alpha, \beta}(f)=\limsup _{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log \log M(r, \bar{\Omega}, f)}{\log r}
$$

where $M(r, \bar{\Omega}, f)=\max _{\alpha \leq \theta \leq \beta}\left|f\left(r e^{i \theta}\right)\right|$ and $f \not \equiv 0$ is a function analytic on the set $\bar{\Omega}(\alpha, \beta)=\{z: \alpha \leq \arg z \leq \beta\}(0<\beta-\alpha \leq 2 \pi)$. The order $\rho_{\alpha, \beta}(f)$ in this paper is different from $\varrho_{\alpha, \beta}(f)$.

It is natural to pose the following question:
How does the solutions of linear differential equations with analytic or meromorphic coefficients grow in an angular region?
Before stating our results, we give some notation and definitions of a meromorphic function in an angular region $\Omega(\alpha, \beta)=\{z: \alpha<\arg z<\beta\}$. In this article, $\Omega$ usually denotes the angular region $\Omega(\alpha, \beta)$ and $\Omega_{\varepsilon}=\{z: \alpha+\varepsilon<\arg z<\beta-\varepsilon\}$, where $0<\varepsilon<(\beta-\alpha) / 2$. Let $f(z)$ be a meromorphic function on $\bar{\Omega}(\alpha, \beta)=\{z$ : $\alpha \leq \arg z \leq \beta\}$. Recall the definition of Ahlfors-Shimizu characteristic in an angular region (see [7]). Set $\Omega(r)=\Omega(\alpha, \beta) \cap\{z: 0<|z|<r\}=\{z: \alpha<\arg z<\beta, 0<$ $|z|<r\}$. Define

$$
\begin{gathered}
\mathcal{S}(r, \Omega, f)=\frac{1}{\pi} \iint_{\Omega(r)} \frac{\left(\left|f^{\prime}(z)\right|\right.}{\left.1+|f(z)|^{2}\right)^{2}} d \sigma \\
\mathcal{T}(r, \Omega, f)=\int_{0}^{r} \frac{\mathcal{S}(t, \Omega, f)}{t} d t
\end{gathered}
$$

The order and lower order of $f$ on $\Omega$ are defined as follows (see pp. 93 in [13]):

$$
\rho_{\Omega}(f)=\limsup _{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log \mathcal{T}(r, \Omega, f)}{\log r}, \quad \mu_{\Omega}(f)=\liminf _{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log \mathcal{T}(r, \Omega, f)}{\log r}
$$

We remark that the order $\rho_{\Omega}(f)$ of a meormorphic function $f$ in an angular region given here is reasonable, because $\mathcal{T}(r, \mathbb{C}, f)=T(r, f)+O(1)$ (see pp. 20 in [3]).

From [13, Theorem 2.7.6], we know that if $\varrho_{\alpha, \beta}(f)=+\infty$, then $\rho_{\alpha, \beta}(f)=+\infty$; if $\rho_{\alpha+\varepsilon, \beta-\varepsilon}(f)=+\infty$ for some $0<\varepsilon<\frac{\beta-\alpha}{2}$, then $\varrho_{\alpha, \beta}(f)=+\infty$.

Now, we state our results in the following theorems.
Theorem 1.7. Let $A(z)$ be analytic in an angular region $\Omega=\{z: \alpha<\arg z<$ $\beta\}(0<\beta-\alpha<2 \pi)$ satisfying

$$
\begin{equation*}
\limsup _{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathcal{T}\left(r, \Omega_{\varepsilon}, A\right)}{r^{\omega} \log r}=\infty \tag{1.5}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\Omega_{\varepsilon}=\{z: \alpha+\varepsilon<\arg z<\beta-\varepsilon\}, 0<\varepsilon<\frac{\beta-\alpha}{2}$, $\omega=\pi /(\beta-\alpha)$. Then, all solutions $f \not \equiv 0$ of the equation $f^{(k)}+A(z) f=0$ have the order $\rho_{\Omega}(f)=+\infty$.

Theorem 1.8. Let $A_{0}, \ldots, A_{k}$ be analytic in an angular region $\Omega=\{z: \alpha<$ $\arg z<\beta\}(0<\beta-\alpha<2 \pi)$. If either (i) for any small $0<\varepsilon<\frac{\beta-\alpha}{2}$, we have $\rho_{\Omega}\left(A_{j}\right)<\rho_{\Omega_{\varepsilon}}\left(A_{0}\right)-\omega(j=1,2, \ldots, k)$, or $(i i) A_{j}(z)(j=1,2, \ldots, k)$ satisfy $\mathcal{T}\left(r, \Omega, A_{j}\right)=O(\log r)$ while $A_{0}(z)$ satisfies

$$
\begin{equation*}
\limsup _{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathcal{T}\left(r, \Omega_{\varepsilon}, A_{0}\right)}{r^{\omega} \log r}=\infty \tag{1.6}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\Omega_{\varepsilon}=\{z: \alpha+\varepsilon<\arg z<\beta-\varepsilon\}, \omega=\pi /(\beta-\alpha)$, then all solutions $f \not \equiv 0$ of (1.2) have the order $\rho_{\Omega}(f)=+\infty$.

## 2. Preliminaries

In this section, we give some auxiliary results for the proof of the theorems. The following result was proved in [12].

Lemma 2.1 ([12]). The transformation

$$
\begin{equation*}
\zeta(z)=\frac{\left(z e^{-i \theta_{0}}\right)^{\pi /(\beta-\alpha)}-1}{\left(z e^{-i \theta_{0}}\right)^{\pi /(\beta-\alpha)}+1} \quad\left(\theta_{0}=\frac{\alpha+\beta}{2}\right) \tag{2.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

maps the angular region $X=\{z: \alpha<\arg z<\beta\}(0<\beta-\alpha<2 \pi)$ conformally onto the unit disk $\{\zeta:|\zeta|<1\}$ in the $\zeta$-plane, and maps $z=e^{i \theta_{0}}$ to $\zeta=0$. The image of $X_{\varepsilon}(r)=\{z: 1 \leq|z| \leq r, \alpha+\varepsilon \leq \arg z \leq \beta-\varepsilon\}\left(0<\varepsilon<\frac{\beta-\alpha}{2}\right)$ in the $\zeta$-plane is contained in the disk $\{\zeta:|\zeta| \leq h\}$, where

$$
h=1-\frac{\varepsilon}{\beta-\alpha} r^{-\frac{\pi}{\beta-\alpha}} .
$$

On the other hand, the inverse image of the disk $\{\zeta:|\zeta| \leq h\}(h<1)$ in the $z$-plane is contained in $X \cap\{z:|z| \leq r\}$, where

$$
r=\left(\frac{2}{1-h}\right)^{(\beta-\alpha) / \pi}
$$

The inverse transformation of 2.1 is

$$
\begin{equation*}
z=e^{i \theta_{0}}\left(\frac{1+\zeta}{1-\zeta}\right)^{(\beta-\alpha) / \pi} \tag{2.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

Using Lemma 2.1, we will prove the following lemma, which to the best of our knowledge has not been published before.

Lemma 2.2. Let $f(z)$ be meromorphic in an angular region $\Omega=\{z: \alpha<\arg z<$ $\beta\}(0<\beta-\alpha<2 \pi)$. For any small $\varepsilon>0$, write $\omega=\frac{\pi}{\beta-\alpha}, \eta=\frac{\varepsilon}{\beta-\alpha}$. Then the following inequalities hold:

$$
\begin{align*}
& \mathcal{T}(r, \mathbb{C}, f(z(\zeta))) \leq 2 \mathcal{T}\left(\left(\frac{2}{1-r}\right)^{1 / \omega}, \Omega, f(z)\right)+O(1)  \tag{2.3}\\
& \mathcal{T}\left(r, \Omega_{\varepsilon}, f(z)\right) \leq \frac{r^{\omega}}{\omega \eta} \mathcal{T}\left(1-\eta r^{-\omega}, \mathbb{C}, f(z(\zeta))\right)+O(1) \tag{2.4}
\end{align*}
$$

where $z=z(\zeta)$ is the inverse transformation of 2.1). Consequently,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\rho_{\Delta}(f(z(\zeta))) \leq \frac{1}{\omega} \rho_{\Omega}(f(z)), \quad \rho_{\Omega_{\varepsilon}}(f(z)) \leq\left(\rho_{\Delta}(f(z(\zeta)))+1\right) \omega . \tag{2.5}
\end{equation*}
$$

Proof. By Lemma 2.1, for the inverse of the transformation (2.1) it follows that

$$
z\left(\Delta_{h}\right) \subset \Omega \cap\left\{z:|z| \leq\left(\frac{2}{1-h}\right)^{1 / \omega}\right\}, \quad \text { where } \Delta_{h}=\{z:|z|<h\}
$$

Since the term $\mathcal{S}$ is a conformal invariant, we derive

$$
\mathcal{S}(t, \mathbb{C}, f(z(\zeta))) \leq \mathcal{S}\left(\left(\frac{2}{1-t}\right)^{1 / \omega}, \Omega, f(z)\right)
$$

Dividing the above by $t$ and integrating from 0 to $r$ gives

$$
\begin{align*}
\mathcal{T}(r, \mathbb{C}, f(z(\zeta))) & =\int_{0}^{r} \frac{\mathcal{S}(t, \mathbb{C}, f(z(\zeta)))}{t} d t=\int_{1 / 2}^{r} \frac{\mathcal{S}(t, \mathbb{C}, f(z(\zeta)))}{t} d t+O(1) \\
& \leq 2 \int_{1 / 2}^{r} \mathcal{S}(t, \mathbb{C}, f(z(\zeta))) d t+O(1) \\
& \leq 2 \int_{1 / 2}^{r} \mathcal{S}\left(\left(\frac{2}{1-t}\right)^{1 / \omega}, \Omega, f(z)\right) d t+O(1)  \tag{2.6}\\
& \leq 2 \int_{1}^{\left(\frac{2}{1-r}\right)^{1 / \omega}} \frac{\mathcal{S}(t, \Omega, f(z))}{t^{\omega+1}} d t+O(1) \\
& =2 \mathcal{T}\left(\left(\frac{2}{1-r}\right)^{1 / \omega}, \Omega, f(z)\right)+O(1)
\end{align*}
$$

Secondly, for the transformation (2.1), we have

$$
\zeta(\{z: 1 \leq|z| \leq r, \alpha+\varepsilon \leq \arg z \leq \beta-\varepsilon\}) \subset \Delta_{\left(1-\eta r^{-\omega}\right)}
$$

Then,

$$
\mathcal{S}\left(r, \Omega_{\varepsilon}, f(z)\right) \leq \mathcal{S}\left(1-\eta r^{-\omega}, \mathbb{C}, f(z(\zeta))\right)
$$

Divide the above by $r$ and integrate from 1 to $r$ :

$$
\begin{align*}
\mathcal{T}\left(r, \Omega_{\varepsilon}, f(z)\right) & =\int_{1}^{r} \frac{\mathcal{S}\left(t, \Omega_{\varepsilon}, f(z)\right)}{t} d t+O(1) \\
& \leq \int_{1}^{r} \frac{\mathcal{S}\left(1-\eta t^{-\omega}, \mathbb{C}, f(z(\zeta))\right)}{t} d t+O(1) \\
& =\frac{1}{\omega} \int_{1-\eta}^{1-\eta r^{-\omega}} \frac{\mathcal{S}(x, \mathbb{C}, f(z(\zeta)))}{1-x} d x+O(1)  \tag{2.7}\\
& \leq \frac{r^{\omega}}{\omega \eta} \int_{1-\eta}^{1-\eta r^{-\omega}} \mathcal{S}(x, \mathbb{C}, f(z(\zeta))) d x+O(1) \\
& \leq \frac{r^{\omega}}{\omega \eta} \int_{1-\eta}^{1-\eta r^{-\omega}} \frac{\mathcal{S}(x, \mathbb{C}, f(z(\zeta)))}{x} d x+O(1) \\
& =\frac{r^{\omega}}{\omega \eta} \mathcal{T}\left(1-\eta r^{-\omega}, \mathbb{C}, f(z(\zeta))\right)+O(1)
\end{align*}
$$

Using the definition of order, we obtain (2.5). The proof is complete.
Lemma 2.3 ([2]). Let $f(z)$ be meromorphic in $\Omega=\{z: \alpha<\arg z<\beta\}(0<$ $\beta-\alpha<2 \pi)$ and $z=z(\zeta)$ be the inverse transformation of 2.1. Write $F(\zeta)=$ $f(z(\zeta)), \psi(\zeta)=f^{(l)}(z(\zeta))$. Then,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\psi(\zeta)=\sum_{j=1}^{l} \alpha_{j} F^{(j)}(\zeta) \tag{2.8}
\end{equation*}
$$

where the coefficients $\alpha_{j}$ are the polynomials (with numerical coefficients) in the variables $V(\zeta)\left(=\frac{1}{z^{\prime}(\zeta)}\right), V^{\prime}(\zeta), V^{\prime \prime}(\zeta), \ldots$. Moreover, we have $T\left(r, \alpha_{j}\right)=O(\log (1-$ $\left.r)^{-1}\right), j=1,2, \ldots, l$.

Lemma 2.3 can be proved by the same method of [2, Lemma 1], where the lemma was stated for a different transformation:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\zeta=\frac{\left(z e^{-i \theta_{0}}\right)^{\omega}-\left(z e^{-i \theta_{0}}\right)^{-\omega}-\kappa}{\left(z e^{-i \theta_{0}}\right)^{\omega}-\left(z e^{-i \theta_{0}}\right)^{-\omega}+\kappa}, \quad \omega=\frac{\pi}{\beta-\alpha}, \tag{2.9}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\kappa$ is a positive parameter. However, the conformal transformation 2.9) maps the sector $\{z:|z|>1, \alpha<\arg$ ztheta $<\beta\}(0<\beta-\alpha<2 \pi)$ onto the unit disk $\{\zeta:|\zeta|<1\}$ while the transformation 2.1) maps the angular region $\{z: \alpha<\arg z<\beta\}(0<\beta-\alpha<2 \pi)$ onto the unit disk $\{\zeta:|\zeta|<1\}$. For completeness, we give the proof of Lemma 2.3 using the method of [2, Lemma 1].

Proof. Put

$$
V(\zeta)=\frac{1}{z^{\prime}(\zeta)}
$$

By a simple calculation, we have

$$
f^{\prime}(z(\zeta))=V(\zeta) F^{\prime}(\zeta)
$$

An obvious induction shows that

$$
\psi(\zeta)=f^{(l)}(z(\zeta))=\sum_{j=1}^{l} \alpha_{j} F^{(j)}(\zeta)
$$

where the coefficients $\alpha_{j}$ are polynomials (with numerical coefficients) in the variables $V, V^{\prime}, V^{\prime \prime}, \ldots$ Taking the derivative on both side of 2.2 , we obtain that

$$
\frac{d z}{d \zeta}=\frac{e^{i \theta_{0}}}{\omega}\left(\frac{1+\zeta}{1-\zeta}\right)^{\frac{1}{\omega}-1} \frac{2}{(1-\zeta)^{2}}, \quad \omega=\frac{\pi}{\beta-\alpha}, \theta_{0}=\frac{\alpha+\beta}{2} .
$$

Then

$$
\left|\frac{d z}{d \zeta}\right| \leq \frac{1}{\omega} \frac{2^{1 / \omega}}{(1-|\zeta|)^{\frac{1}{\omega}+1}}
$$

Therefore,

$$
T\left(r, z^{\prime}(\zeta)\right) \leq \log M\left(r, z^{\prime}(\zeta)\right) \leq\left(\frac{1}{\omega}+1\right) \log \frac{2}{1-r}+\log \frac{1}{\omega}
$$

By the first fundamental theorem,

$$
T\left(r, \frac{1}{z^{\prime}(\zeta)}\right)=T\left(r, z^{\prime}(\zeta)\right)+\log \frac{1}{\left|z^{\prime}(0)\right|} \leq\left(\frac{1}{\omega}+1\right) \log \frac{2}{1-r}+\log \frac{1}{\omega}+\log 2 \omega
$$

Thus,

$$
\begin{gathered}
T(r, V(\zeta))=T\left(r, \frac{1}{z^{\prime}(\zeta)}\right) \leq\left(\frac{1}{\omega}+1\right) \log \frac{2}{1-r}+\log \frac{1}{\omega}+\log 2 \omega \\
T\left(r, V^{(k)}\right)=m\left(r, V^{(k)}\right)+N\left(r, V^{(k)}\right) \leq m\left(r, \frac{V^{(k)}}{V}\right)+m(r, V)+k N(r, V) \\
\leq m\left(r, \frac{V^{(k)}}{V}\right)+(k+1) T(r, V) \leq O\left(\log \frac{2}{1-r}\right), \quad k=1,2, \ldots
\end{gathered}
$$

In view of the coefficients $\alpha_{j}$ are polynomials (with numerical coefficients) in the variables $V, V^{\prime}, V^{\prime \prime}, \ldots$, we have

$$
T\left(r, \alpha_{j}\right) \leq O\left(\log \frac{2}{1-r}\right), \quad j=1,2, \ldots, l
$$

The proof is complete.

## 3. Proof of Theorem 1.7

Suppose that $f \not \equiv 0$ is a solution of $f^{(k)}+A(z) f=0$ in $\Omega$. Then $F(\zeta)=f(z(\zeta))$ is a solution of the differential equation

$$
\begin{equation*}
\alpha_{k} F^{(k)}(\zeta)+\alpha_{k-1} F^{(k-1)}(\zeta)+\cdots+\alpha_{1} F^{\prime}(\zeta)+B(\zeta) F(\zeta)=0 \tag{3.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

in $\Delta$, where $B(\zeta)=A(z(\zeta)), \alpha_{j}(j=1,2, \ldots, k)$ are described in Lemma 2.3. From the condition 1.5 and the inequality 2.4 , we obtain that $B$ is admissible in $\Delta$. By Lemma 2.3. we get that $T\left(r, \alpha_{j}\right)=O\left(\log (1-r)^{-1}\right)(j=1,2, \ldots, k)$, so $\alpha_{j}(j=1,2, \ldots, k)$ are non-admissible in $\Delta$. By Theorem 1.2, we have $\rho_{\Delta}(F)=\infty$. Combining this with 2.5 leads to $\rho_{\Omega}(f)=\infty$. Theorem 1.7 follows.

## 4. Proof of Theorem 1.8

Suppose that $f \not \equiv 0$ is a solution of 1.2 in $\Omega$. In view of 2.8 , we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{i=1}^{k} A_{i}(z(\zeta)) f^{(i)}(z(\zeta))+A_{0}(z(\zeta)) f(z(\zeta)) \\
& =\sum_{i=1}^{k} A_{i}(z(\zeta)) \sum_{j=1}^{i} \alpha_{j} F^{(j)}(\zeta)+A_{0}(z(\zeta)) f(z(\zeta)) \\
& =\sum_{j=1}^{k} \alpha_{j} \sum_{i=j}^{k} A_{i}(z(\zeta)) F^{(j)}(\zeta)+A_{0}(z(\zeta)) f(z(\zeta))
\end{aligned}
$$

Then $F(\zeta)=f(z(\zeta))$ is a solution of the differential equation

$$
\begin{equation*}
B_{k}(\zeta) F^{(k)}(\zeta)+B_{k-1}(\zeta) F^{(k-1)}(\zeta)+\cdots+B_{1}(\zeta) F^{\prime}(\zeta)+B_{0}(\zeta) F(\zeta)=0 \tag{4.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

in $\Delta$, where $B_{0}(\zeta)=A_{0}(z(\zeta)), B_{j}(\zeta)=\alpha_{j} \sum_{i=j}^{k} A_{i}(z(\zeta))(j=1,2, \ldots, k)$. Since $T\left(r, \alpha_{j}\right)=O\left(\log (1-r)^{-1}\right)(j=1,2, \ldots, k)$, it follows that

$$
\begin{aligned}
T\left(r, B_{j}\right) & \leq T\left(r, \alpha_{j}\right)+\sum_{i=j}^{k} T\left(r, A_{i}(z(\zeta))\right)+O(1) \\
& =\sum_{i=j}^{k} T\left(r, A_{i}(z(\zeta))\right)+O\left(\log (1-r)^{-1}\right), \quad j=1,2, \ldots, k
\end{aligned}
$$

By Lemma 2.2, we have

$$
\begin{gathered}
\frac{1}{\omega} \rho_{\Omega_{\varepsilon}}\left(A_{0}\right) \leq \rho_{\Delta}\left(B_{0}\right)+1 \\
\rho_{\Delta}\left(B_{j}\right) \leq \frac{1}{\omega} \max _{1 \leq j \leq k} \rho_{\Omega}\left(A_{j}\right), \quad \text { for } j=1,2, \ldots, k
\end{gathered}
$$

Combining the above with the condition (i) gives

$$
\rho_{\Delta}\left(B_{j}\right)<\rho_{\Delta}\left(B_{0}\right), \quad \text { for } j=1,2, \ldots, k
$$

By Theorem 1.2, we have $\rho_{\Delta}(F)=\infty$. Combining this with 2.5 leads to $\rho_{\Omega}(f)=$ $\infty$.

In view of $\mathcal{T}\left(r, \Omega, A_{j}\right)=O(\log r)$ it follows that $T\left(r, B_{j}\right)=O\left(\log (1-r)^{-1}\right)$. From the condition $\sqrt{1.6}$ and the inequality 2.4 , we obtain that $B_{0}$ is admissible in $\Delta$. By Theorem 1.2, we have that $\rho_{\Delta}(F)=\infty$. This leads to $\rho_{\Omega}(f)=\infty$. Then Theorem 1.8 follows.

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