

Applications of Slowly Changing Functions in the Estimation of Growth Properties of Composite Entire Functions on the Basis of their Maximum Terms and Maximum Moduli

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Abstract

In the paper we prove some comparative growth properties of composite entire functions on the basis of their maximum terms and maximum moduli using generalised L^* -order and generalised L^* -lower order.

Mathematics Subject Classification: 30D35, 30D30

Keywords: Entire function, maximum term, maximum modulus, composition, growth, slowly changing function, generalised L^* -order (generalised L^* -lower order)

1 Introduction, Definitions and Notations.

Let \mathbb{C} be the set of all finite complex numbers and f be an entire function defined in \mathbb{C} . The maximum term $\mu(r, f)$ of $f = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n$ on $|z| = r$ is defined by $\mu(r, f) = \max_{n \geq 0} |a_n| r^n$ and the maximum modulus $M(r, f)$ of f on $|z| = r$ is defined as $M(r, f) = \max_{|z|=r} |f(z)|$. We use the standard notations and definitions in the theory of entire functions which are available in [11]. In the sequel we use the following notation :

$$\log^{[k]} x = \log \left(\log^{[k-1]} x \right) \text{ for } k = 1, 2, 3, \dots \text{ and } \log^{[0]} x = x.$$

To start our paper we just recall the following definitions :

Definition 1 The order ρ_f and lower order λ_f of an entire function f are defined as

$$\rho_f = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[2]} M(r, f)}{\log r} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_f = \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[2]} M(r, f)}{\log r}.$$

Extending this notion, Sato [6] defined the generalised order and generalised lower order of an entire function as follows :

Definition 2 [6] Let m be an integer ≥ 2 . The generalised order $\rho_f^{[m]}$ and generalised lower order $\lambda_f^{[m]}$ of an entire function f are defined by

$$\rho_f^{[m]} = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m]} M(r, f)}{\log r} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_f^{[m]} = \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m]} M(r, f)}{\log r}$$

respectively.

For $m = 2$, Definition 2 reduces to Definition 1.

If $\rho_f < \infty$ then f is of finite order. Also $\rho_f = 0$ means that f is of order zero. In this connection Datta and Biswas [2] gave the following definition :

Definition 3 [2] Let f be an entire function of order zero. Then the quantities ρ_f^{**} and λ_f^{**} of f are defined by:

$$\rho_f^{**} = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log M(r, f)}{\log r} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_f^{**} = \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log M(r, f)}{\log r}.$$

Let $L \equiv L(r)$ be a positive continuous function increasing slowly i.e., $L(ar) \sim L(r)$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$ for every positive constant a . Singh and Barker [7] defined it in the following way:

Definition 4 [7] A positive continuous function $L(r)$ is called a slowly changing function if for $\varepsilon (> 0)$,

$$\frac{1}{k^\varepsilon} \leq \frac{L(kr)}{L(r)} \leq k^\varepsilon \text{ for } r \geq r(\varepsilon) \text{ and}$$

uniformly for $k (\geq 1)$.

If further, $L(r)$ is differentiable, the above condition is equivalent to

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{rL'(r)}{L(r)} = 0.$$

Somasundaram and Thamizharasi [8] introduced the notions of L -order (L -lower order) for entire functions where $L \equiv L(r)$ is a positive continuous function increasing slowly i.e., $L(ar) \sim L(r)$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$ for every positive constant ' a '. The more generalised concept for L -order (L -lower order) for entire function are L^* -order (L^* -lower order). Their definitions are as follows:

Definition 5 [8] The L^* -order $\rho_f^{L^*}$ and the L^* -lower order $\lambda_f^{L^*}$ of an entire function f are defined as

$$\rho_f^{L^*} = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[2]} M(r, f)}{\log [re^{L(r)}]} \text{ and } \lambda_f^{L^*} = \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[2]} M(r, f)}{\log [re^{L(r)}]}.$$

In the line of Sato [6], Datta and Biswas [2] one can define the generalised L^* -order $\rho_f^{[m]L^*}$ and generalised L^* -lower order $\lambda_f^{[m]L^*}$ of an entire function f in the following manner :

Definition 6 Let m be an integer ≥ 1 . The generalised L^* -order $\rho_f^{[m]L^*}$ and generalised L^* -lower order $\lambda_f^{[m]L^*}$ of an entire function f are defined as

$$\rho_f^{[m]L^*} = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m]} M(r, f)}{\log [re^{L(r)}]} \text{ and } \lambda_f^{[m]L^*} = \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m]} M(r, f)}{\log [re^{L(r)}]}$$

respectively.

Datta, Biswas and Hoque [3] reformulated Definition 6 in terms of the maximum terms of entire functions in the following way:

Definition 7 [3] The growth indicators $\rho_f^{[m]L^*}$ and $\lambda_f^{[m]L^*}$ for an entire function f are defined as

$$\rho_f^{[m]L^*} = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m]} \mu(r, f)}{\log [re^{L(r)}]} \text{ and } \lambda_f^{[m]L^*} = \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m]} \mu(r, f)}{\log [re^{L(r)}]}$$

respectively where m be an integer ≥ 1 .

Lakshminarasimhan [4] introduced the idea of the functions of L -bounded index. Later Lahiri and Bhattacharjee [5] worked on the entire functions of L -bounded index and of non uniform L -bounded index. In this paper we would like to investigate some growth properties of composite entire functions on the basis of their maximum terms and maximum moduli using generalised L^* -order and generalised L^* -lower order .

2 Lemmas.

In this section we present some lemmas which will be needed in the sequel.

Lemma 1 [9] Let f and g be any two entire functions with $g(0) = 0$. Then for all sufficiently large values of r ,

$$\mu(r, f \circ g) \geq \frac{1}{2} \mu \left(\frac{1}{8} \mu \left(\frac{r}{4}, g \right) - |g(0)|, f \right).$$

Lemma 2 [1] If f and g are any two entire functions then for all sufficiently large values of r ,

$$M \left(\frac{1}{8} M \left(\frac{r}{2}, g \right) - |g(0)|, f \right) \leq M(r, f \circ g) \leq M(M(r, g), f).$$

3 Theorems.

In this section we present the main results of the paper.

Theorem 1 Let f and g be any two entire functions such that $0 < \lambda_f^{[m]L^*} \leq \rho_f^{[m]L^*} < \infty$ where $m \geq 1$ and $0 < \lambda_g^{L^*} \leq \rho_g^{L^*} < \infty$. Then for every constant A and real number x ,

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\left\{ \log^{[m]} \mu(r^A, f) \right\}^{1+x}} = \infty.$$

Proof. If x is such that $1+x \leq 0$, then the theorem is obvious. So we suppose that $1+x > 0$.

Now in view of Lemma 1, we get for all sufficiently large values of r that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu(r, f \circ g) &\geq \frac{1}{2} \mu\left(\frac{1}{16} \mu\left(\frac{r}{2}, g\right), f\right) \\
 i.e., \log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g) &\geq O(1) + \log^{[m]} \mu\left(\frac{1}{16} \mu\left(\frac{r}{2}, g\right), f\right) \\
 i.e., \log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g) &\geq O(1) + \left(\lambda_f^{[m]L^*} - \varepsilon\right) \left[\log \left\{ \frac{1}{16} \mu\left(\frac{r}{2}, g\right) \right\} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + L \left(\frac{1}{16} \mu\left(\frac{r}{2}, g\right) \right) \right] \\
 i.e., \log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g) &\geq O(1) + \left(\lambda_f^{[m]L^*} - \varepsilon\right) \left[\log M\left(\frac{r}{2}, g\right) + O(1) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + L \left(\frac{1}{16} \mu\left(\frac{r}{2}, g\right) \right) \right] \\
 i.e., \log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g) &\geq O(1) \\
 &\quad + \left(\lambda_f^{[m]L^*} - \varepsilon\right) \left\{ \left(\frac{r}{2}\right) e^{L(r)} \right\}^{\lambda_g^{L^*} - \varepsilon} + O(1) + L \left(\frac{1}{16} \mu\left(\frac{r}{2}, g\right) \right) \quad (1)
 \end{aligned}$$

where we choose $0 < \varepsilon < \min \left\{ \lambda_f^{[m]L^*}, \lambda_g^{L^*} \right\}$.

Also for all sufficiently large values of r , we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \log^{[m]} \mu(r^A, f) &\leq \left(\rho_{L(f)}^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon\right) \log \left\{ r^A e^{L(r^A)} \right\} \\
 i.e., \log^{[m]} \mu(r^A, f) &\leq \left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon\right) \log \left\{ r^A e^{L(r^A)} \right\} \\
 i.e., \left\{ \log^{[m]} \mu(r^A, f) \right\}^{1+x} &\leq \left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon\right)^{1+x} (A \log r + L(r^A))^{1+x}. \quad (2)
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore from (1) and (2) it follows for all sufficiently large values of r that

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\frac{\log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\left\{ \log^{[m]} \mu(r^A, f) \right\}^{1+x}} \\
 &\geq \frac{O(1) + \left(\lambda_f^{[m]L^*} - \varepsilon\right) \left\{ \left(\frac{r}{2}\right) e^{L(r)} \right\}^{\lambda_g^{L^*} - \varepsilon} + O(1) + L \left(\frac{1}{16} \mu\left(\frac{r}{2}, g\right) \right)}{\left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon\right)^{1+x} (A \log r + L(r^A))^{1+x}}. \quad (3)
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus the theorem follows from (3). ■

In the line of Theorem 1, we may establish the following theorem for the right factor of the composite entire function :

Theorem 2 *Let f and g be any two entire functions with $0 < \lambda_f^{[m]L^*} \leq \rho_f^{[m]L^*} < \infty$ and $0 < \lambda_g^{L^*} \leq \rho_g^{L^*} < \infty$ where $m \geq 1$. Then for every constant A and real number x ,*

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\left\{ \log^{[2]} \mu(r^A, g) \right\}^{1+x}} = \infty .$$

The proof is omitted.

Theorem 3 *Let f and g be any two entire functions such that $0 < \lambda_f^{[m]L^*} \leq \rho_f^{[m]L^*} < \infty$ and $0 < \lambda_g^{L^*} \leq \rho_g^{L^*} < \infty$ where $m \geq 1$. Then for any two positive integers α and β ,*

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m+1]} \mu(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)), f \circ g)}{\log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(r^\beta), f) + L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))} = \infty ,$$

$$\text{where } K(r, \alpha; L) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } r^\beta = o\{L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))\} \text{ as } r \rightarrow \infty \\ L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha))) & \text{otherwise} . \end{cases}$$

Proof. Taking $x = 0$ and $A = 1$ in Theorem 1, we obtain for $K > 1$ and for all sufficiently large values of r that

$$\begin{aligned} \log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g) &> K \log^{[m]} \mu(r, f) \\ \text{i.e., } \log^{[m-1]} \mu(r, f \circ g) &> \left\{ \log^{[m-1]} \mu(r, f) \right\}^K \\ \text{i.e., } \log^{[m-1]} \mu(r, f \circ g) &> \left\{ \log^{[m-1]} \mu(r, f) \right\}^K \\ \text{i.e., } \log^{[m-1]} \mu(r, f \circ g) &> \log^{[m-1]} \mu(r, f) \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

Therefore from (4) we get for all sufficiently large values of r that

$$\begin{aligned} \log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)), f \circ g) &> \log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)), f) \\ \text{i.e., } \log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)), f \circ g) &> \left(\lambda_f^{[m]L^*} - \varepsilon \right) \cdot \log \{ \exp(\exp(r^\alpha)) \cdot \exp L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha))) \} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & i.e., \log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)), f \circ g) \\ & > \left(\lambda_f^{[m]L^*} - \varepsilon \right) \cdot \{(\exp(r^\alpha)) + L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & i.e., \log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)), f \circ g) \\ & > \left(\lambda_f^{[m]L^*} - \varepsilon \right) \cdot \left\{ (\exp(r^\alpha)) \left(1 + \frac{L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))}{(\exp(r^\alpha))} \right) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} i.e., \log^{[m+1]} \mu(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)), f \circ g) & > O(1) + \log \exp(r^\alpha) \\ & + \log \left\{ 1 + \frac{L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))}{(\exp(r^\alpha))} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} i.e., \log^{[m+1]} \mu(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)), f \circ g) & > O(1) + r^\alpha \\ & + \log \left\{ 1 + \frac{L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))}{(\exp(r^\alpha))} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} i.e., \log^{[m+1]} \mu(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)), f \circ g) & > O(1) + r^\alpha + L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha))) \\ & - \log[\exp\{L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))\}] \\ & + \log \left[1 + \frac{L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))}{\exp(\mu r^\alpha)} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} i.e., \log^{[m+1]} \mu(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)), f \circ g) & > O(1) + r^\alpha + L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha))) \\ & + \log \left[\frac{1}{\exp\{L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))\}} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \frac{L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))}{\exp\{L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))\} \cdot \exp(r^\alpha)} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} i.e., \log^{[m+1]} \mu(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)), f \circ g) & > O(1) + r^{(\alpha-\beta)} \cdot r^\beta \\ & + L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha))) . \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

Again we have for all sufficiently large values of r that

$$\begin{aligned} \log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(r^\beta), f) & \leq \left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon \right) \log \left\{ \exp(r^\beta) e^{L(\exp(r^\beta))} \right\} \\ i.e., \log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(r^\beta), f) & \leq \left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon \right) \{ \log \exp(r^\beta) + L(\exp(r^\beta)) \} \\ i.e., \log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(r^\beta), f) & \leq \left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon \right) \{ r^\beta + L(\exp(r^\beta)) \} \end{aligned}$$

$$i.e., \frac{\log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(r^\beta), f) - \left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon\right) L(\exp(r^\beta))}{\left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon\right)} \leq r^\beta. \quad (6)$$

Now from (5) and (6) it follows for all sufficiently large values of r that

$$\begin{aligned} & \log^{[m+1]} \mu(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)), f \circ g) \\ & \geq O(1) + \left(\frac{r^{(\alpha-\beta)}}{\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon}\right) \left[\log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(r^\beta), f) - \left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon\right) L(\exp(r^\beta)) \right] \\ & \quad + L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha))) \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

$$\begin{aligned} i.e., \frac{\log^{[m+1]} \mu(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)), f \circ g)}{\log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(r^\beta), f)} & \geq \frac{L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha))) + O(1)}{\log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(r^\beta), f)} \\ & + \frac{r^{(\alpha-\beta)}}{\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon} \left\{ 1 - \frac{\left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon\right) L(\exp(r^\beta))}{\log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(r^\beta), f)} \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Again from (7) we get for all sufficiently large values of r that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\log^{[m+1]} \mu(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)), f \circ g)}{\log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(r^\beta), f) + L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))} \\ & \geq \frac{O(1) - r^{(\alpha-\beta)} L(\exp(r^\beta))}{\log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(r^\beta), f) + L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))} \\ & \quad + \frac{\left(\frac{r^{(\alpha-\beta)}}{\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon}\right) \log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(r^\beta), f)}{\log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(r^\beta), f) + L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))} \\ & \quad + \frac{L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))}{\log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(r^\beta), f) + L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))} \\ i.e., \frac{\log^{[m+1]} \mu(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)), f \circ g)}{\log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(r^\beta), f) + L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))} & \geq \frac{\frac{O(1) - r^{(\alpha-\beta)} L(\exp(r^\beta))}{L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))}}{\frac{\log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(r^\beta), f)}{L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))} + 1} \\ & \quad + \frac{\left(\frac{r^{(\alpha-\beta)}}{\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon}\right)}{1 + \frac{L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))}{\log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(r^\beta), f)}} + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{\log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(r^\beta), f)}{L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))}}. \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Case I. If $r^\beta = o\{L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))\}$ then it follows from (8) that

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m+1]} \mu(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)), f \circ g)}{\log^{[m]} \mu(\exp(r^\beta), f)} = \infty.$$

Case II. If $r^\beta \neq o\{L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))\}$ then two sub cases may arise:

Sub case (a). If $L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha))) = o\left\{\log^{[m]}\mu(\exp(r^\beta), f)\right\}$, then we get from (9) that

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m+1]}\mu(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)), f \circ g)}{\log^{[m]}\mu(\exp(r^\beta), f) + L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))} = \infty.$$

Sub case (b). If $L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha))) \sim \log^{[m]}\mu(\exp(r^\beta), f)$ then

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))}{\log^{[m]}\mu(\exp(r^\beta), f)} = 1$$

and we obtain from (9) that

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m+1]}\mu(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)), f \circ g)}{\log^{[m]}\mu(\exp(r^\beta), f) + L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))} = \infty.$$

Combining Case I and Case II we obtain that

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m+1]}\mu(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)), f \circ g)}{\log^{[m]}\mu(\exp(r^\beta), f) + L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))} = \infty,$$

where $K(r, \alpha; L) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } r^\mu = o\{L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))\} \text{ as } r \rightarrow \infty \\ L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha))) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

This proves the theorem. ■

Theorem 4 Let f and g be any two entire functions with $0 < \lambda_f^{[m]L^*} \leq \rho_f^{[m]L^*} < \infty$ and $0 < \lambda_g^{L^*} \leq \rho_g^{L^*} < \infty$ where $m \geq 1$. Then for any two positive integers α and β ,

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m+1]}\mu(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)), f \circ g)}{\log^{[2]}\mu(\exp(r^\beta), g) + L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))} = \infty,$$

where $K(r, \alpha; L) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } r^\beta = o\{L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha)))\} \text{ as } r \rightarrow \infty \\ L(\exp(\exp(r^\alpha))) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

The proof is omitted because it can be carried out in the line of Theorem 3.

Remark 1 In view of Lemma 2, the results analogous to Theorem 1, Theorem 2, Theorem 3 and Theorem 4 can also be derived in terms of maximum moduli of composite entire functions.

Theorem 5 *Let f and g be any two entire functions such that $0 < \rho_g^{L^*} < \lambda_f^{[m]L^*} \leq \rho_f^{[m]L^*} < \infty$ where $m \geq 1$. Then for any $\beta > 1$,*

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m]} \mu(r, f) \cdot K(r, g; L)} = 0 ,$$

$$\text{where } K(r, g; L) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } L(\mu(\beta r, g)) = o\{r^\alpha e^{\alpha L(r)}\} \text{ as } r \rightarrow \infty \\ & \text{and for some } \alpha < \lambda_f^{[m]L^*} \\ L(\mu(\beta r, g)) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Proof. In view of Lemma 2 and taking $R = \beta r$ in the inequality $\mu(r, f) \leq M(r, f) \leq \frac{R}{R-r} \mu(R, f)$ {cf. [10]}, we have for all sufficiently large values of r that

$$\mu(r, f \circ g) \leq M(r, f \circ g) \leq M(M(r, g), f)$$

$$\text{i.e., } \log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g) \leq \log^{[m]} M(M(r, g), f)$$

$$\text{i.e., } \log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g) \leq \left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon \right) [\log M(r, g) e^{L(M(r, g))}]$$

$$\text{i.e., } \log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g) \leq \left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon \right) [\log M(r, g) + L(M(r, g))] \quad (10)$$

$$\text{i.e., } \log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g) \leq \left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon \right) \left[\{re^{L(r)}\}^{(\rho_g^{L^*} + \varepsilon)} + L\left(\frac{\beta}{(\beta - 1)} \mu(\beta r, g)\right) \right]$$

$$\text{i.e., } \log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g) \leq \left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon \right) \left[\{re^{L(r)}\}^{(\rho_g^{L^*} + \varepsilon)} + L(\mu(\beta r, g)) \right]. \quad (11)$$

Also we obtain for all sufficiently large values of r that

$$\begin{aligned} \log^{[m]} \mu(r, f) &\geq \left(\lambda_f^{[m]L^*} - \varepsilon \right) \log [re^{L(r)}] \\ \text{i.e., } \log^{[m]} \mu(r, f) &\geq \left(\lambda_f^{[m]L^*} - \varepsilon \right) \log [re^{L(r)}] \\ \text{i.e., } \log^{[m]} \mu(r, f) &\geq [re^{L(r)}]^{(\lambda_f^{[m]L^*} - \varepsilon)}. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Now from (11) and (12) we get for all sufficiently large values of r that

$$\frac{\log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m]} \mu(r, f)} \leq \frac{\left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon \right) \left[\{r e^{L(r)}\}^{(\rho_g^{L^*} + \varepsilon)} + L(\mu(\beta r, g)) \right]}{[r e^{L(r)}]^{(\lambda_f^{[m]L^*} - \varepsilon)}}. \quad (13)$$

Since $\rho_g^{L^*} < \lambda_f^{[m]L^*}$, we can choose $\varepsilon (> 0)$ in such a way that

$$\rho_g^{L^*} + \varepsilon < \lambda_f^{[m]L^*} - \varepsilon. \quad (14)$$

Case I. Let $L(\mu(\beta r, g)) = o\{r^\alpha e^{\alpha L(r)}\}$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$ and for some $\alpha < \lambda_f^{[m]L^*}$. As $\alpha < \lambda_f^{[m]L^*}$, we can choose $\varepsilon (> 0)$ in such a way that

$$\alpha < \lambda_f^{[m]L^*} - \varepsilon. \quad (15)$$

Since $L(\mu(\beta r, g)) = o\{r^\alpha e^{\alpha L(r)}\}$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$ we get on using (15) that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{L(\mu(\beta r, g))}{r^\alpha e^{\alpha L(r)}} &\rightarrow 0 \text{ as } r \rightarrow \infty \\ \text{i.e., } \frac{L(\mu(\beta r, g))}{[r e^{L(r)}]^{(\lambda_f^{[m]L^*} - \varepsilon)}} &\rightarrow 0 \text{ as } r \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Now in view of (13), (14) and (16) we obtain that

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m]} \mu(r, f)} = 0. \quad (17)$$

Case II. If $L(\mu(\beta r, g)) \neq o\{r^\alpha e^{\alpha L(r)}\}$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$ and for some $\alpha < \lambda_f^{[m]L^*}$ then we get from (13) that for a sequence of values of r tending to infinity,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m]} \mu(r, f) L(\mu(\beta r, g))} &\leq \frac{\left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon \right) \{r e^{L(r)}\}^{(\rho_g^{L^*} + \varepsilon)}}{[r e^{L(r)}]^{(\lambda_f^{[m]L^*} - \varepsilon)} L(\mu(\beta r, g))} \\ &\quad + \frac{\left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon \right)}{[r e^{L(r)}]^{(\lambda_f^{[m]L^*} - \varepsilon)}}. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

Now using (14) it follows from (18) that

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m]} \mu(r, f) L(\mu(\beta r, g))} = 0. \quad (19)$$

Combining (17) and (19) we obtain that

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m]} \mu(r, f) \cdot K(r, g; L)} = 0 ,$$

$$\text{where } K(r, g; L) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } L(\mu(\beta r, g)) = o\{r^\alpha e^{\alpha L(r)}\} \text{ as } r \rightarrow \infty \\ & \text{and for some } \alpha < \lambda_f^{[m]L^*} \\ L(\mu(\beta r, g)) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Thus the theorem is established. ■

The following theorem can be carried out in the line of Theorem 5 and therefore its proof is omitted :

Theorem 6 *Let f and g be any two entire functions with $0 < \rho_g^{L^*} < \rho_f^{[m]L^*} < \infty$ where $m \geq 1$. Then for any $\beta > 1$,*

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m]} \mu(r, f) \cdot K(r, g; L)} = 0 ,$$

$$\text{where } K(r, g; L) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } L(\mu(\beta r, g)) = o\{r^\alpha e^{\alpha L(r)}\} \text{ as } r \rightarrow \infty \\ & \text{and for some } \alpha < \rho_f^{[m]L^*} \\ L(\mu(\beta r, g)) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Replacing maximum term by maximum modulus in Theorem 5 and Theorem 6 we respectively get Theorem 7 and Theorem 8 and therefore their proofs are omitted.

Theorem 7 *Let f and g be any two entire functions such that $0 < \rho_g^{L^*} < \lambda_f^{[m]L^*} \leq \rho_f^{[m]L^*} < \infty$ where $m \geq 1$. Then*

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m]} M(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m]} M(r, f) \cdot K(r, g; L)} = 0 ,$$

$$\text{where } K(r, g; L) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } L(M(r, g)) = o\{r^\alpha e^{\alpha L(r)}\} \text{ as } r \rightarrow \infty \\ & \text{and for some } \alpha < \lambda_f^{[m]L^*} \\ L(M(r, g)) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Theorem 8 *Suppose f and g be any two entire functions with $0 < \rho_g^{L^*} < \rho_f^{[m]L^*} < \infty$ where $m \geq 1$. Then*

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m]} M(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[m]} M(r, f) \cdot K(r, g; L)} = 0 ,$$

$$\text{where } K(r, g; L) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } L(M(r, g)) = o\{r^\alpha e^{\alpha L(r)}\} \text{ as } r \rightarrow \infty \\ & \text{and for some } \alpha < \rho_f^{[m]L^*} \\ L(M(r, g)) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Theorem 9 Let f and g be any two entire functions with $\rho_f^{[m]L^*} < \infty$, $0 < \lambda_g^{L^*} \leq \rho_g^{L^*} < \infty$ where m is any positive integer. Then for any $\beta > 1$,

(a) If $L(\mu(\beta r, g)) = o\left\{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g)\right\}$ then

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m+1]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))} \leq \frac{\rho_g^{L^*}}{\lambda_g^{L^*}}$$

and (b) if $\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) = o\{L(\mu(\beta r, g))\}$ then

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m+1]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))} = 0.$$

Proof. Taking $R = \beta r$ in the inequality

$$\mu(r, f) \leq M(r, f) \leq \frac{R}{R-r} \mu(R, f) \{cf. [10]\}$$

and also using $\log\left\{1 + \frac{O(1)+L(\mu(\beta r, g))}{\log \mu(\beta r, g)}\right\} \sim \frac{O(1)+L(\mu(\beta r, g))}{\log \mu(\beta r, g)}$, for all sufficiently large values of r we obtain from (10) that

$$\begin{aligned} & \log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g) \\ & \leq \left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon\right) \left[\log \mu(\beta r, g) + O(1) + L\left(\frac{\beta}{(\beta-1)} \mu(\beta r, g)\right)\right] \end{aligned}$$

$$i.e., \log^{[m]} \mu(r, f \circ g) \leq \left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon\right) \log \mu(\beta r, g) \left[1 + \frac{O(1) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))}{\log \mu(\beta r, g)}\right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} i.e., \log^{[m+1]} \mu(r, f \circ g) & \leq \log\left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon\right) + \log^{[2]} \mu(\beta r, g) \\ & \quad + \log\left\{1 + \frac{O(1) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))}{\log \mu(\beta r, g)}\right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} i.e., \log^{[m+1]} \mu(r, f \circ g) & \leq \log\left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon\right) + (\rho_g^{L^*} + \varepsilon) \log\{\beta r e^{L(\beta r)}\} \\ & \quad + \log\left\{1 + \frac{O(1) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))}{\log \mu(\beta r, g)}\right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} i.e., \log^{[m+1]} \mu(r, f \circ g) & \leq \log\left(\rho_f^{[m]L^*} + \varepsilon\right) + (\rho_g^{L^*} + \varepsilon) \log\{\beta r e^{L(r)}\} \\ & \quad + \log\left\{1 + \frac{O(1) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))}{\log \mu(\beta r, g)}\right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$i.e., \log^{[m+1]} \mu(r, f \circ g) \leq O(1) + (\rho_g^{L^*} + \varepsilon) \{\log \beta r + L(r)\} + \frac{O(1) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))}{\log \mu(\beta r, g)}$$

$$i.e., \log^{[m+1]} \mu(r, f \circ g) \leq O(1) + (\rho_g^{L^*} + \varepsilon) \{\log r + L(r)\} \\ + (\rho_g^{L^*} + \varepsilon) \log \beta + \frac{O(1) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))}{\log \mu(\beta r, g)}. \quad (20)$$

Again from the definition of L^* -lower order, we get for all sufficiently large values of r that

$$\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) \geq (\lambda_g^{L^*} - \varepsilon) \log [re^{L(r)}] \\ i.e., \log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) \geq (\lambda_g^{L^*} - \varepsilon) \log [re^{L(r)}] \\ i.e., \log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) \geq (\lambda_g^{L^*} - \varepsilon) [\log r + L(r)] \\ i.e., \log r + L(r) \leq \frac{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g)}{(\lambda_g^{L^*} - \varepsilon)}. \quad (21)$$

Hence from (20) and (21) it follows for all sufficiently large values of r that

$$\log^{[m+1]} \mu(r, f \circ g) \\ \leq O(1) + \left(\frac{\rho_g^{L^*} + \varepsilon}{\lambda_g^{L^*} - \varepsilon} \right) \cdot \log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) + (\rho_g^{L^*} + \varepsilon) \log \beta + \frac{O(1) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))}{\log \mu(\beta r, g)}$$

$$i.e., \frac{\log^{[m+1]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))} \\ \leq \frac{O(1) + (\rho_g^{L^*} + \varepsilon) \log \beta}{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))} + \left(\frac{\rho_g^{L^*} + \varepsilon}{\lambda_g^{L^*} - \varepsilon} \right) \cdot \frac{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g)}{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))} \\ + \frac{O(1) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))}{\left[\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) + L(\mu(\beta r, g)) \right] \log \mu(\beta r, g)}$$

$$i.e., \frac{\log^{[m+1]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))} \leq \frac{\frac{O(1) + (\rho_g^{L^*} + \varepsilon) \log \beta}{L(\mu(\beta r, g))}}{\frac{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g)}{L(\mu(\beta r, g))} + 1} + \frac{\left(\frac{\rho_g^{L^*} + \varepsilon}{\lambda_g^{L^*} - \varepsilon} \right)}{1 + \frac{L(\mu(\beta r, g))}{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g)}} \\ + \frac{1}{\left[1 + \frac{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g)}{L(\mu(\beta r, g))} \right] \log \mu(\beta r, g)}. \quad (22)$$

Since $L(\mu(\beta r, g)) = o\left\{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g)\right\}$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$ and $\varepsilon (> 0)$ is arbitrary, we obtain from (22) that

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m+1]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))} \leq \frac{\rho_g^{L^*}}{\lambda_g^{L^*}}. \quad (23)$$

Again if $\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) = o\{L(\mu(\beta r, g))\}$ then from (22) we get that

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m+1]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))} = 0. \quad (24)$$

Thus the theorem follows from (23) and (24). ■

Corollary 1 *Let f and g be any two entire functions with $\rho_f^{[m]L^*} < \infty$ and $0 < \rho_g^{L^*} < \infty$ where $m \geq 1$. Then for any $\beta > 1$,*

(a) *if $L(\mu(\beta r, g)) = o\left\{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g)\right\}$ then*

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m+1]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))} \leq 1$$

and (b) *if $\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) = o\{L(\mu(\beta r, g))\}$ then*

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m+1]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))} = 0.$$

We omit the proof of Corollary 1 because it can be carried out in the line of Theorem 7.

Remark 2 *The equality sign in Theorem 5 and Corollary 1 cannot be removed as we see in the following example:*

Example 1 *Let $f = g = \exp z$, $m = 2$, $\beta = 2$ and $L(r) = \frac{1}{p} \exp\left(\frac{1}{r}\right)$ where p is any positive real number.*

Then

$$\rho_f^{L^*} = \lambda_g^{L^*} = \rho_g^{L^*} = 1.$$

Now

$$\begin{aligned} \log \mu(r, f \circ g) &\leq \log M(r, f \circ g) = \exp r, \\ \text{and } 2\mu(2r, g) &\geq M(r, g) = \exp r. \end{aligned}$$

Also

$$\begin{aligned} \log \mu(r, f \circ g) &\geq \log M\left(\frac{r}{2}, f \circ g\right) + O(1) = \exp\left(\frac{r}{2}\right) + O(1), \\ \text{and } \mu(r, g) &\leq M(r, g) = \exp r. \end{aligned}$$

So

$$L(M(r, g)) = L(\exp r) = \frac{1}{p} \exp\left(\frac{1}{\exp r}\right).$$

Hence

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[3]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))} \leq \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log r}{\log r + O(1) + \frac{1}{p} \exp\left(\frac{1}{\exp r}\right)} = 1$$

and

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[3]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))} \geq \liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log r + O(1)}{\log r + \frac{1}{p} \exp\left(\frac{1}{\exp r}\right)} = 1.$$

Therefore

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[3]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))} = \limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[3]} \mu(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[2]} \mu(r, g) + L(\mu(\beta r, g))} = 1.$$

Theorem 10 Let f and g be any two entire functions with $\rho_f^{[m]L^*} < \infty$ and $0 < \lambda_g^{L^*} \leq \rho_g^{L^*} < \infty$ where m is any positive integer. Then

(a) if $L(M(r, g)) = o\{\log^{[2]} M(r, g)\}$ then

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m+1]} M(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[2]} M(r, g) + L(M(r, g))} \leq \frac{\rho_g^{L^*}}{\lambda_g^{L^*}}$$

and (b) if $\log^{[2]} M(r, g) = o\{L(M(r, g))\}$ then

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m+1]} M(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[2]} M(r, g) + L(M(r, g))} = 0.$$

Corollary 2 Let f and g be any two entire functions with $\rho_f^{[m]L^*} < \infty$ and $0 < \rho_g^{L^*} < \infty$ where $m \geq 1$. Then for any $\beta > 1$,

(a) if $L(M(r, g)) = o\{\log^{[2]} M(r, g)\}$ then

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m+1]} M(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[2]} M(r, g) + L(M(r, g))} \leq 1$$

and (b) if $\log^{[2]} M(r, g) = o\{L(M(r, g))\}$ then

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log^{[m+1]} M(r, f \circ g)}{\log^{[2]} M(r, g) + L(M(r, g))} = 0.$$

We omit the proof of Theorem 10 and Corollary 2 because in view of Lemma 2 it can be carried out in the line of Theorem 9 and Corollary 1 respectively.

Remark 3 Considering $f = g = \exp z$, $m = 2$ and $L(r) = \frac{1}{p} \exp\left(\frac{1}{r}\right)$ where p is any positive real number, one can easily verify that the equality sign in Theorem 10 and Corollary 2 cannot be removed.

Acknowledgement

The authors are thankful to Professor Huzoor H. Khan, Department of Mathematics, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh- 202002 (U.P.), India for his Constant encouragement to carry out the paper.

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Received: July 1, 2013