

ON COMPOSITE POLYNOMIALS WHOSE ZEROS ARE IN A HALF-PLANE

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Let $P(z)$ and $Q(z)$ be two polynomials of the same degree n . If $P(z)$ and $Q(z)$ are apolar and if one of them has all its zeros in a circular region C , then according to a famous result known as Grace's Apolarity Theorem, the other will have at least one zero in C . In this paper we relax the condition that $P(z)$ and $Q(z)$ are of the same degree and present some generalizations of Grace's Apolarity theorem for the case when the circular region C is a closed half-plane. As an application of these results, we also generalize some results of Walsh and Szegő.

1. Introduction

Two polynomials

$$P(z) = \sum_{j=0}^n C(n,j)A_j z^j \quad \text{and} \quad Q(z) = \sum_{j=0}^n C(n,j)B_j z^j, \quad A_n B_n \neq 0$$

of the same degree n are said to be apolar if their coefficients satisfy the relation

$$C(n,0)A_0 B_n - C(n,1)A_1 B_{n-1} + \dots + (-1)^n C(n,n)A_n B_0 = 0.$$

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As to the relative location of the zeros of the polynomials $P(z)$ and $Q(z)$, we have the following fundamental result known as Grace's Apolarity theorem [4, p. 61].

THEOREM A. *If $P(z)$ and $Q(z)$ are apolar polynomials, then any circular region C containing all the zeros of $P(z)$ or $Q(z)$ contains at least one zero of the other polynomial.*

By a circular region we mean the closure of not merely the interior of a circle but also the exterior of a circle or a half-plane.

Recently in [2] and [3], (see also [7]), the author has presented certain generalizations of Theorem A and their applications in the case when the circular region C is the closed interior or exterior of a circle, by studying the relative location of the zeros of the two polynomials

$$(1) \quad P(z) = \sum_{j=0}^n C(n,j)A_j z^j \quad \text{and} \quad Q(z) = \sum_{j=0}^m C(m,j)B_j z^j, \quad A_n B_m \neq 0,$$

of degree n and m respectively, $m \leq n$, when the coefficients of these polynomials satisfy an apolar type relation. In this paper we study the relative location of the zeros of the two polynomials $P(z)$ and $Q(z)$ defined by (1) with their coefficients satisfying an apolar type relation and obtain some generalizations of Theorem A for the case when the circular region C is a closed half-plane. As an application of these results, we present certain generalizations of results of Walsh and Szegö.

2. Some generalizations of Theorem A for half-planes

THEOREM 1. *If*

$$P(z) = \sum_{j=0}^n C(n,j)A_j z^j, \quad A_0 \neq 0, \quad \text{and} \quad Q(z) = \sum_{j=0}^m C(m,j)B_j z^j,$$

are two polynomials of degree n and m respectively, $m \leq n$, such that

$$(2) \quad C(m,0)A_0 B_m - C(m,1)A_1 B_{m-1} + \dots + (-1)^m C(m,m)A_m B_0 = 0,$$

then the following holds.

(i) *If all the zeros of $P(z)$ or $Q(z)$ lie in the half-plane $\operatorname{Re}(z) \leq 0$, then at least one zero of the other polynomial lies in $\operatorname{Re}(z) \leq 0$.*

(ii) If all the zeros of $P(z)$ or $Q(z)$ lie in the half-plane $\text{Re}(z) \geq 0$, then at least one zero of the other polynomial lies in $\text{Re}(z) \geq 0$.

(i) and (ii) hold equally well if $\text{Re}(z)$ is replaced by $\text{Im}(z)$.

For the proof of Theorem 1, we need the following lemmas.

LEMMA 1. If all the zeros of a polynomial $P(z)$ of degree n lie in $\text{Re}(z) \leq a$ ($\text{Re}(z) \geq a$) and $\text{Re}(\alpha) > a$ ($\text{Re}(\alpha) < a$), then all the zeros of the first polar derivative

$$P_1(z) = nP(z) + (\alpha - z)P'(z),$$

of $P(z)$ lie in $\text{Re}(z) \leq a$ ($\text{Re}(z) \geq a$). Furthermore, under the given hypothesis with $a = 0$, if $P(0) \neq 0$, then $P_1(0) \neq 0$.

The first part of Lemma 1 is a special case of a result due to Laguerre [4, p. 49] or [6]. A new, simple and purely analytic proof of Laguerre's theorem is given in [1]. Here we prove the second part of Lemma 1.

Proof of the 2nd part of Lemma 1. Suppose that all the zeros z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n of $P(z)$ lie in $\text{Re}(z) \leq 0$, $P(0) \neq 0$ and $\text{Re}(\alpha) > 0$. Then $\text{Re}(z_j) \leq 0$ and $z_j \neq 0$ for all $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$. We have to show that $P_1(0) \neq 0$. Assume that $P_1(0) = 0$, then $nP(0) + \alpha P'(0) = 0$. Since $P(0) \neq 0$, this implies

$$\sum_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{z_j} = -\frac{P'(0)}{P(0)} = \frac{n}{\alpha},$$

which gives

$$\begin{aligned} n \operatorname{Re}\left(\frac{1}{\alpha}\right) &= \sum_{j=1}^n \operatorname{Re}\left(\frac{1}{z_j}\right) = \sum_{j=1}^n \operatorname{Re} \frac{\overline{z_j}}{|z_j|^2} \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\operatorname{Re}(z_j)}{|z_j|^2} \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\frac{\operatorname{Re}(\alpha)}{|\alpha|^2} = \frac{\operatorname{Re}(\overline{\alpha})}{|\alpha|^2} = \operatorname{Re}\left(\frac{1}{\alpha}\right) \leq 0.$$

This implies that $\text{Re}(\alpha) \leq 0$, which is a contradiction to the hypothesis that $\text{Re}(\alpha) > 0$. Thus $P_1(0) \neq 0$. Now if all the zeros of $P(z)$ lie in $\text{Re}(z) \geq 0$, $P(0) \neq 0$ and $\text{Re}(\alpha) < 0$, a similar proof shows that $P_1(0) \neq 0$. This completes the proof.

The following lemma can be proved in the same way as Lemma 1.

LEMMA 2. *If all the zeros of a polynomial $P(z)$ of degree n lie in $\text{Re}(z) < a(\text{Re}(z) > a)$ and $\text{Re}(\alpha) \geq a(\text{Re}(\alpha) \leq a)$, then all the zeros of the polynomial $P_1(z) = nP(z) + (\alpha - z)P'(z)$ lie in $\text{Re}(z) < a(\text{Re}(z) > a)$.*

Remark 1. It can be easily seen that both Lemma 1 and Lemma 2 remain true if $\text{Re}(z)$ and $\text{Re}(\alpha)$ are throughout replaced by $\text{Im}(z)$ and $\text{Im}(\alpha)$ respectively.

We also need

LEMMA 3 [4, p. 52]. *If $P(z) = \sum_{j=0}^n C(n, j)A_j z^j$ is a polynomial of degree n and $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_m$ are $m, m \leq n$, arbitrary real or complex numbers, then the k th polar derivative*

$P_k(z) = (n-k+1)P_{k-1}(z) + (\alpha_k - z)P'_{k-1}(z), k = 1, 2, \dots, m$, of $P(z)$, with $P_0(z) = P(z)$, can be written in the form

$$P_k(z) = \sum_{j=0}^{n-k} C(n-k, j)A_j^{(k)} z^j,$$

where

$$A_j^{(k)} = n(n-1)\dots(n-k+1) \sum_{i=0}^k S(k, i)A_{i+j}$$

and $S(k, i)$ is the symmetric function consisting of the sum of all possible products of $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_k$ taken i at a time.

Proof of Theorem 1. Let $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_m$ be the zeros of the polynomial $Q(z)$, then we have

$$(3) \quad \sum_{j=0}^m C(m, j)B_j z^j = B_m(z - \alpha_1)(z - \alpha_2)\dots(z - \alpha_m),$$

Comparing the coefficients of the like powers of z on the two sides of (3), we obtain

$$(4) \quad C(m, j)B_{m-j} = C(m, m-j)B_{m-j} = (-1)^j S(m, j)B_m .$$

Now suppose first that all the zeros of the polynomial $P(z)$ lie in $\text{Re}(z) \leq 0$. We have to show that at least one zero of $Q(z)$ lies in $\text{Re}(z) \leq 0$. Assume that all the zeros of $Q(z)$ lie in $\text{Re}(z) > 0$, then $\text{Re}(\alpha_i) > 0$ for all $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$. Since $P(0) \neq A_0 = 0$ and all the zeros of $P(z)$ lie in $\text{Re}(z) \leq 0$, it follows by repeated application of Lemma 1 that all the zeros of each polar derivative

$$(5) \quad P_k(z) = (n-k+1)P_{k-1}(z) + (\alpha_k - z)P'_{k-1}(z), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, m,$$

also lie in $\text{Re}(z) \leq 0$ and $P_k(0) \neq 0$. Hence in particular all the zeros of $P_m(z)$ lie in $\text{Re}(z) \leq 0$ and $P_m(0) \neq 0$. But by Lemma 3, $P_m(z)$ can be written as

$$(6) \quad P_m(z) = \sum_{j=0}^{n-m} C(n-m, j)A_j^{(m)} z^j,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} A_j^{(m)} &= n(n-1)\dots(n-m+1) \sum_{i=0}^m S(m, i)A_{i+j}, \\ &= \frac{n(n-1)\dots(n-m+1)}{B_m} \sum_{i=0}^m (-1)^i C(m, i)B_{m-i}A_{i+j}. \end{aligned}$$

Since by hypothesis

$$\sum_{i=0}^m (-1)^i C(m, i)B_{m-i}A_i = 0,$$

therefore, if $n > m$, then from (6) we get

$$\begin{aligned} P_m(0) = A_0^{(m)} &= \frac{n(n-1)\dots(n-m+1)}{B_m} \sum_{i=0}^m (-1)^i C(m, i)B_{m-i}A_i \\ &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

which clearly contradicts (5). In the case $n = m$, from (6) we have

$$P_m(z) \equiv A_0^{(m)} = 0.$$

Since

$$P_m(z) = P_{m-1}(z) + (\alpha_m - z)P'_{m-1}(z),$$

it follows that $P_{m-1}(\alpha_m) = 0$. But $\text{Re}(\alpha_m) > 0$, which contradicts (5)

again. Hence we conclude that $Q(z)$ must have a zero in $\text{Re}(z) \leq 0$.

We next suppose that all the zeros of the polynomial $Q(z)$ lie in $\text{Re}(z) \leq 0$. We have to show that $P(z)$ has at least one zero in $\text{Re}(z) \leq 0$. Assume the contrary, that is, assume that all the zeros of $P(z)$ lie in $\text{Re}(z) > 0$. Since in the present case $\text{Re}(\alpha_j) \leq 0$ for all $j = 1, 2, \dots, m$, it follows by repeated application of Lemma 2 that all the zeros of each polar derivative

$$(7) \quad P_k(z) = (n-k+1)P_{k-1}(z) + (\alpha_k - z)P'_{k-1}(z), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, m,$$

lie in $\text{Re}(z) > 0$. Hence in particular all the zeros of $P_m(z)$ lie in $\text{Re}(z) > 0$. Now if $n > m$, then with the help of (2) it follows from (6) that $P_m(0) = A_0^{(m)} = 0$. This shows that $z = 0$ is a zero of $P_m(z)$, which contradicts (7). If $n = m$, then from

$$P_{m-1}(z) + (\alpha_m - z)P'_{m-1}(z) = P_m(z) \equiv A_0^{(m)} = 0,$$

we get as before $P_{m-1}(\alpha_m) = 0$. Since $\text{Re}(\alpha_m) \leq 0$, this contradicts (7) once again. Thus we conclude that $P(z)$ must have at least one zero in $\text{Re}(z) \leq 0$. This completes the proof of the first part of Theorem 1. With the help of repeated applications of Lemma 1 and Lemma 2, part (ii) of Theorem 1 can be proved in a similar way to part (i) above. Part (ii) of this theorem also follows by applying part (i) to the polynomials $P(-z)$ and $Q(-z)$. Finally applying part (i) and part (ii) to the polynomials $P(iz)$ and $Q(iz)$, it can be easily seen that these results hold equally well if $\text{Re}(z)$ is replaced by $\text{Im}(z)$. This completes the proof of Theorem 1.

Remark 2. If in Theorem 1, the polynomial $P(z)$ has all its zeros in $\text{Re}(z) \geq a$ where $a \neq 0$ is a real number and $n > m$, then the polynomial $Q(z)$ need not have any zero in $\text{Re}(z) \geq a$. For example, consider the polynomials

$$P(z) = 1 + z + z^2 + \dots + z^n = \sum_{j=0}^n C(n,j)A_j z^j, \quad n > 1$$

and

$$Q(z) = n + z,$$

then $n > 1 = m$ and the relation (2) is satisfied. But $P(z)$ has all its zeros in $\text{Re}(z) \geq -1$, whereas the only zero of $Q(z)$ lies on $\text{Re}(z) = -n < -1$. However, in this case we establish the following result.

THEOREM 2. *If*

$$P(z) = \sum_{j=0}^n C(n,j)A_j z^j \quad \text{and} \quad Q(z) = \sum_{j=0}^m C(m,j)B_j z^j,$$

are two polynomials of degree n and m respectively, $m \leq n$, such that

$$C(m,0)B_0 A_n - C(m,1)B_1 A_{n-1} + \dots + (-1)^m C(m,m)B_m A_{n-m} = 0,$$

then the following holds.

(i) *If all the zeros of $P(z)$ or $Q(z)$ lie in the half-plane $\text{Re}(z) \leq a$, then at least one zero of the other polynomial lies in $\text{Re}(z) \leq a$.*

(ii) *If all the zeros of $P(z)$ or $Q(z)$ lie in the half-plane $\text{Re}(z) \geq b$, then at least one zero of the other polynomial lies in $\text{Re}(z) \geq b$.*

The results (i) and (ii) hold equally well if $\text{Re}(z)$ is replaced by $\text{Im}(z)$.

Proof of Theorem 2. Since $P(z)$ is a polynomial of degree n and therefore, $P^{(k)}(z)$ is a polynomial of degree $n - k$ and hence in particular $R(z) = (m!/n!)P^{(n-m)}(z)$ is a polynomial of degree m . It is an easy matter to see that the polynomial $R(z)$ can be written as

$$R(z) = \sum_{j=0}^m C(m,j)A_{n-m+j} z^j.$$

Let $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_m$ be the zeros of $R(z)$, then we have

$$(9) \quad \sum_{j=0}^m C(m,j)A_{n-m+j} z^j = A_n (z - \alpha_1)(z - \alpha_2) \dots (z - \alpha_m).$$

Equating the coefficients of the like powers of z on the two sides of (9), we get

$$(10) \quad C(m,j)A_{n-j} = C(m,m-j)A_{n-j} = (-1)^j S(m,j)A_n.$$

Now suppose first that all the zeros of $P(z)$ lie in $\text{Re}(z) \leq a$, then it follows by the Gauss-Lucas Theorem that all the zeros of $R(z)$

also lie in $\text{Re}(z) \leq a$. We have to show that the polynomial $Q(z)$ has at least one zero in $\text{Re}(z) \leq a$. Assume that all the zeros of $Q(z)$ lie in $\text{Re}(z) > a$. Since

$$(11) \quad \text{Re}(\alpha_j) \leq a \quad \text{for all } j = 1, 2, \dots, m,$$

it follows by repeated application of Lemma 2 that all the zeros of

$$(12) \quad Q_k(z) = (m-k+1)Q_{k-1}(z) + (\alpha_k - z)Q'_{k-1}(z), \quad k=1, 2, \dots, m-1,$$

also lie in $\text{Re}(z) > a$. Hence in particular all the zeros of $Q_{m-1}(z)$ lie in $\text{Re}(z) > a$. But by Lemma 3, (10) and (8) we have

$$(13) \quad Q_m(z) \equiv B_0^{(m)} = m(m-1) \dots 2.1 \sum_{i=0}^m S(m,i)B_i \\ = \frac{m!}{A_n} \sum_{i=0}^m (-1)^i C(m,i)A_{n-i}B_i = 0.$$

Since $Q_m(z) = Q_{m-1}(z) + (\alpha_m - z)Q'_{m-1}(z)$, it follows that $Q_{m-1}(\alpha_m) = 0$. But by (11) $\text{Re}(\alpha_m) \leq a$, which contradicts (12). Hence $Q(z)$ must have at least one zero in $\text{Re}(z) \leq a$.

Next suppose that all the zeros of $Q(z)$ lie in $\text{Re}(z) \leq a$. We have to show that $P(z)$ has at least one zero in $\text{Re}(z) \leq a$. Assume that all the zeros of $R(z)$ lie in $\text{Re}(z) > a$, then by the Gauss-Lucas Theorem all the zeros of $P(z)$ lie in $\text{Re}(z) > a$, so that we have

$$(14) \quad \text{Re}(\alpha_j) > a \quad \text{for all } j = 1, 2, \dots, m.$$

Since $Q(z)$ has all its zeros in $\text{Re}(z) \leq a$, it follows by repeated application of Lemma 1 that all the zeros of $Q_k(z)$ defined by (12) lie in $\text{Re}(z) \leq a$. Hence in particular $Q_{m-1}(z)$ has all its zeros in $\text{Re}(z) \leq a$. But by (13),

$$Q_{m-1}(z) + (\alpha_m - z)Q'_{m-1}(z) = Q_m(z) \equiv B_0^{(m)} = 0.$$

and therefore $Q_{m-1}(\alpha_m) = 0$, which implies $\text{Re}(\alpha_m) \leq a$. This clearly contradicts (14). Thus we conclude that $P(z)$ must have at least one zero in $\text{Re}(z) \leq a$. This completes the proof of the part (i) of the theorem. Part (ii) of Theorem 2 can be proved in a similar way to part (i) above. Finally if we replace $\text{Re}(z)$ by $\text{Im}(z)$ throughout in the above proof, it can be easily seen that part (i) and part (ii) hold

equally well when $\text{Re}(z)$ is replaced by $\text{Im}(z)$. This establishes Theorem 2 completely.

3. Some Applications

In the following, we denote by H any one of the half-planes $\text{Re}(z) \leq \alpha$, $\text{Re}(z) \geq \beta$, $\text{Im}(z) \leq a$ or $\text{Im}(z) \geq b$, where α, β, a, b are real numbers. As the first application of Theorem 2, we present the following result which is a generalization of the Coincidence Theorem of Walsh [5] for the case when the circular region C is a half-plane H . Since our method of proof of this result is similar to the proof of Theorem 2 of [3], we shall omit it.

THEOREM 3. *Let $G(z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n)$ be a symmetric n -linear form of total degree $m, m \leq n$, in z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n and let H be a half-plane containing the n points w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n . Then in H there exists at least one point w such that*

$$G(w, w, \dots, w) = G(w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n).$$

As our next application of Theorem 2, we deduce the following generalization of a result due to Szegő [4, p. 65] for half-planes.

THEOREM 4. *From the two given polynomials*

$$P(z) = \sum_{j=0}^n C(n, j) A_j z^j, \quad A_0 A_n \neq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad Q(z) = \sum_{j=0}^m C(m, j) B_j z^j,$$

of degree n and m respectively, $m \leq n$, we form the third polynomial

$$R(z) = \sum_{j=0}^m C(m, j) A_j B_j z^j,$$

of degree m . If all the zeros of $Q(z)$ lie in a half-plane H , then every zero w of $R(z)$ has the form $w = -\alpha\beta$ where α is a zero of $P(z)$ and β is a suitable chosen point in H .

Proof of Theorem 4. If w is a zero of the polynomial $R(z)$, then the equation

$$R(w) = \sum_{j=0}^m C(m, j) A_j B_j w^j = 0,$$

shows that the polynomials

$$z^n P(-w/z) = C(n,0)(-1)^n A_n w^n + \dots + C(n,m)(-1)^m A_m w^m z^{n-m} + \dots + C(n,n)A_0 z^n$$

and

$$Q(z) = C(m,0)B_0 + C(m,1)B_1 z + \dots + C(m,m)B_m z^m$$

satisfy the condition of Theorem 2. Since all the zeros of $Q(z)$ lie in H , it follows from Theorem 2 that $z^n P(-w/z)$ has at least one zero in H . If the zeros of $P(z)$ are denoted by $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n$, then the zeros of $z^n P(-w/z)$ will be $-w/\alpha_1, -w/\alpha_2, \dots, -w/\alpha_n$. One of these zeros must be β where $\beta \in H$. Therefore, we must have $w = -\alpha_j \beta$ for some $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$. This completes the proof.

By applying Theorem 2 to the polynomials $P(z)$ and $z^m Q(-w/z)$, we may deduce the following result in exactly the same way as Theorem 4.

THEOREM 5. *From the two given polynomials*

$$P(z) = \sum_{j=0}^n C(n,j)A_j z^j \quad \text{and} \quad Q(z) = \sum_{j=0}^m C(m,j)B_j z^j, \quad B_0 B_m \neq 0,$$

of degree n and m respectively, $m \leq n$, we form the third polynomial

$$R(z) = \sum_{j=0}^m C(m,j)A_{n-m+j} B_j z^j,$$

of degree m . If all the zeros of $P(z)$ lie in a half-plane H , then every zero w of $R(z)$ has the form $w = -\alpha\beta$ where β is a zero of $Q(z)$ and α is a suitably chosen point in H .

As an another application of Theorem 2, we obtain the following generalization of a result due to Walsh [5].

THEOREM 6. *From the two given polynomials*

$$P(z) = \sum_{j=0}^n a_j z^j = a_n \prod_{j=1}^n (z - \alpha_j)$$

and

$$Q(z) = \sum_{j=0}^m b_j z^j = b_m \prod_{j=1}^m (z - \beta_j),$$

of degree n and m respectively, $m \leq n$, let us form the third polynomial

$$R(z) = \sum_{j=0}^m (n-j)! a_{n-j} Q^{(j)}(z),$$

of degree m , then the following holds:

(i) If all the zeros of $P(z)$ lie in a half-plane H , then every zero w of $R(z)$ has the form $w = \alpha + \beta$ where α is a suitably chosen point in H and β is a zero of $Q(z)$.

(ii) If all the zeros of $Q(z)$ lie in a half-plane H , then every zero w of $R(z)$ has the form $w = \alpha + \beta$ where β is a suitably chosen point in H and α is a zero of $P(z)$.

Since the proof of Theorem 6 is analogous to the proof of Theorem 5 of [3], we omit it here. The following corollary is an immediate consequence of Theorem 6.

COROLLARY. If all the zeros of a polynomial $P(z) = \sum_{j=0}^n a_j z^j$ of degree n lie in $\operatorname{Re}(z) \geq a$ and all the zeros of a polynomial $Q(z) = \sum_{j=0}^m b_j z^j$ of degree m , $m \leq n$, lie in $\operatorname{Re}(z) \geq b$, then all the zeros of the polynomial

$$R(z) = \sum_{j=0}^m (n-j)! a_{n-j} Q^{(j)}(z),$$

of degree m lie in $\operatorname{Re}(z) \geq a + b$.

This follows from the fact that $\operatorname{Re}(\alpha) \geq a$ and $\operatorname{Re}(\beta) \geq b$ imply $\operatorname{Re}(w) = \operatorname{Re}(\alpha) + \operatorname{Re}(\beta) \geq a + b$.

Remark 3. In exactly the same way as Theorem 6, a result similar to Theorem 6 of [3] can be deduced from Theorem 1. Furthermore, in very much the same way as above, we can deduce from Theorems 1 - 6 many other interesting results.

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