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# Uniqueness of polynomial canonical representations

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Let  $P(z)$  and  $Q(y)$  be polynomials of the same degree  $k \geq 1$  in the complex variables  $z$  and  $y$ , respectively. In this extended abstract we study the non-linear functional equation  $P(z) = Q(y(z))$ , where  $y(z)$  is restricted to be analytic in a neighborhood of  $z = 0$ . We provide sufficient conditions to ensure that all the roots of  $Q(y)$  are contained within the range of  $y(z)$  as well as to have  $y(z) = z$  as the unique analytic solution of the non-linear equation. Our results are motivated from uniqueness considerations of polynomial canonical representations of the phase or amplitude terms of oscillatory integrals encountered in the asymptotic analysis of the coefficients of mixed powers and multivariable generating functions via saddle-point methods. Uniqueness shall prove important for developing algorithms to determine the Taylor coefficients of the terms appearing in these representations. The uniqueness of Levinson's polynomial canonical representations of analytic functions in several variables follows as a corollary of our one-complex variables results.

**Keywords:** analytic functions, Airy phenomena, asymptotics, coalescing saddle-point method, multivariable generating functions, polynomial canonical representations

## 1 Introduction

Unless otherwise stated  $d \geq 2$  is a fixed integer and  $i := \sqrt{-1}$ . We use boldface notation to denote vectors in  $\mathbb{C}^d$ . We reserve the script  $\mathbf{0}$  to refer to the zero vector. The script  $\mathbf{r}$  is reserved for a vector with strictly positive real coordinates. We refer to  $\mathbf{r}$  as a polyradius. The coordinates of a vector  $\mathbf{t}$  are denoted  $(t_1, \dots, t_d)$ . We define  $\mathbf{t}' := (t_1, \dots, t_{d-1})$ , in particular,  $\mathbf{t} = (\mathbf{t}', t_d)$ . The notation  $|\mathbf{t}| < \mathbf{r}$  means that  $|t_i| < r_i$  for all  $i$ . Similarly,  $|\mathbf{t}| \leq \mathbf{r}$  means that  $|t_i| \leq r_i$  for all  $i$ .

**Problem description.** A classical example of a polynomial canonical representation is the Weierstrass preparation theorem [Tay02] which asserts the following. If  $U(\mathbf{t})$  is a complex-valued analytic function in a neighborhood of  $\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{0}$  and

$$k := \min \left\{ n \geq 0 : \frac{\partial^n U}{\partial t_d^n}(\mathbf{0}) \neq 0 \right\} < \infty$$

then there exists a polyradius  $\mathbf{r}$  and analytic functions  $V, u_0, \dots, u_{k-1}$  such that

$$U(\mathbf{t}) = V(\mathbf{t}) \cdot \left\{ t_d^k + \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} u_j(\mathbf{t}') \cdot t_d^j \right\}, \tag{1}$$

for  $|\mathbf{t}| < \mathbf{r}$ . We refer to  $k$  as the *order of vanishing* of  $U$  about the origin with respect to the variable  $t_d$ . The factor within the parenthesis above is called the *Weierstrass polynomial* of  $U$  about the origin and it will be denoted as  $P(\mathbf{t})$ . It satisfies the following important property. For all  $|\mathbf{t}'| < \mathbf{r}'$  the polynomial equation in the variable  $t_d$ :  $P(\mathbf{t}', t_d) = 0$ , with  $|t_d| < r_d$ , has exactly  $k$  solutions repeated according to their multiplicity. Since  $V(\mathbf{0}) \neq 0$ , and since the roots of a monic polynomial identify it uniquely, the factorization in (1) is unique.

The problem of whether  $U(\mathbf{t})$  itself can be represented as a polynomial with respect to a possibly auxiliary variable dates back to the investigations of Chester, Friedman and Ursell [CFU57] who studied this problem for the special case of  $d = 2$ . Later work by Levinson [Lev60b] provided a way to represent certain analytic functions of  $d = 2$  complex variables in a canonical way as a polynomial in two auxiliary variables. More generally, for  $d \geq 2$ , Levinson proved the following [Lev60a]. If  $U(\mathbf{t})$  is like before then there exists a polyradius  $\mathbf{r}$  and analytic functions  $v_0, \dots, v_k, x$  such that

$$U(\mathbf{t}) = \sum_{j=0}^k v_j(\mathbf{t}') \cdot \{x(\mathbf{t})\}^j, \tag{2}$$

for  $|\mathbf{t}| < \mathbf{r}$ , with  $v_j(\mathbf{0}') = 0$  for  $j < k$ ,  $v_k(\mathbf{0}') \neq 0$ , and  $x(\mathbf{t}', 0) = 0$  and  $\partial x / \partial t_d(\mathbf{t}', 0) = 1$  for  $|\mathbf{t}'| < \mathbf{r}'$ .

Unlike the representation in (1), it is unclear that the representation in (2) is unique. Indeed, the issue of uniqueness was omitted in [Lev60a] and to the best of our knowledge it has not been addressed further. The main issue surrounding the uniqueness of this representation as well as other canonical representations is the introduction of auxiliary variables. Loosely speaking, the problem is how to certify in general the validity of the following implication

$$\left[ \sum_{j=0}^k v_j(\mathbf{t}') \cdot x^j = \sum_{j=0}^k w_j(\mathbf{t}') \cdot y^j \right] \implies [v_j = w_j, \text{ for all } j, \text{ and } x = y],$$

under the assumption that  $x = x(\mathbf{t}) = t_d + O(t_d^2)$  and  $y = y(\mathbf{t}) = t_d + O(t_d^2)$  uniformly for all  $\mathbf{t}$  sufficiently close to the origin. Clearly, to assert the uniqueness of the above factorization, it suffices to have  $x = y$  in some open neighborhood of the origin in  $\mathbb{C}^d$ . In fact, since  $x(\mathbf{t}', t_d)$  and  $y(\mathbf{t}', t_d)$  are —as functions of  $t_d$ — locally invertible about the origin, we shall see at the end of Section 2 that the validity of the above implication is closely related to the uniqueness of  $y(z) = z$  as an analytic solution of the non-linear functional equation

$$\begin{cases} \prod_{i=1}^k (z - z_i) = \prod_{i=1}^k (y(z) - y(z_i)), & |z| < R; \\ y(0) = 0 & ; & y'(0) = 1; \end{cases} \tag{3}$$

where  $R > 0$  is a given radius and  $z_1, \dots, z_k \in \mathbb{C}$  are fixed complex numbers such that  $|z_i| < R$ .

There is one case where the uniqueness issue of the above equation can be addressed directly. If  $y(z)$  is an entire function i.e.  $R = \infty$  then, according to (3),  $|y(z)/z|^k \rightarrow 1$  as  $|z| \rightarrow \infty$ . Since  $y(0) = 0$ ,  $y(z)/z$  is a bounded entire function. Hence, due to Liouville’s theorem [Rud87],  $y(z)/z$  must be constant and therefore  $y(z) = z$  because  $y'(0) = 1$ . Unfortunately, the case with  $R = \infty$  is not of much use to address uniqueness issues of polynomial canonical representations because —almost always— they only apply locally.

**Connections with mixed powers generating functions.** Polynomial canonical representations are pivotal for analyzing the asymptotic behavior of oscillatory integrals [BH86]. Integrals of this type arise frequently in the context of asymptotic enumeration or the analysis of discrete random structures [PW05].

A mixed power generating function is a generating function of the form  $\prod_{i=1}^d \{f_i(z)\}^{n_i}$ , where the factors  $f_1, \dots, f_d$  are complex-valued analytic functions near  $z = 0$  and  $n_1, \dots, n_d$  are nonnegative integers. The term of mixed power was introduced in [Lla06a] to emphasize the fact that one is usually interested in the coefficient of  $z^{n_0}$  of  $\prod_{i=1}^d \{f_i(z)\}^{n_i}$  as  $\max\{n_0, n_1, \dots, n_d\} \rightarrow \infty$ . If one defines  $\mathbf{n} := (n_1, \dots, n_d)$ , this is equivalent to request that  $\|(n_0, \mathbf{n})\| \rightarrow \infty$  where  $\|\cdot\|$  is any norm in  $\mathbb{R}^{1+d}$ .

Generating functions of the above form occur naturally in the context of the Lagrange inversion formula [GJ04, Wil90] with  $d = 1$ . More recent applications include the case of  $d = 2, 3$  to analyze the core size of various types of random planar maps [BFSS01].

Coefficients of mixed powers generating functions have been considered in the literature for factors  $f_i$  with nonnegative coefficients by Drmota [Drm94], for  $d = 1$  and  $n_0, n_1 \rightarrow \infty$  at a comparable rate. Gardy [Gar95] considered the case of nonnegative coefficients for  $d \geq 1$  with  $n_0 = \Theta(n_1)$  or  $n_0 = o(n_1)$  and  $n_i = o(n_1/\sqrt{n_0})$  for  $i > 1$ . A geometrically based approach, in the lines used by Pemantle and Wilson [PW02, PW04], was proposed in [Lla06a] to handle factors  $f_i$  with possibly negative Taylor coefficients. Given  $(t_0, \mathbf{t}) \in \mathbb{R}^{1+d}$  with nonnegative coordinates and such that  $\|(t_0, \mathbf{t})\| = 1$ , say that  $x$  is a *strictly minimal critical point* associated with  $(t_0, \mathbf{t})$  provided that

$$t_0 = \sum_{i=1}^d t_i \cdot \frac{x f_i'(x)}{f_i(x)};$$

$$\prod_{i=1}^d |f_i(z)|^{t_i} < \prod_{i=1}^d |f_i(x)|^{t_i},$$

for all  $z$  such that  $|z| = |x|$  and  $z \neq x$ . If the above conditions hold and some pathological behavior is ruled out, it follows from [Lla06a] that

$$[z^{n_0}] \prod_{i=1}^d \{f_i(z)\}^{n_i} \sim \frac{x^{-n_0}}{2\pi} \prod_{i=1}^d \{f_i(x)\}^{n_i} \cdot \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \exp \left\{ - \|(n_0, \mathbf{n})\| \cdot F(\theta; (t_0, \mathbf{t})) \right\} d\theta, \tag{4}$$

for  $(n_0, \mathbf{n})$  such that  $(n_0, \mathbf{n})/\|(n_0, \mathbf{n})\| = (t_0, \mathbf{t})$ , as  $\|(n_0, \mathbf{n})\| \rightarrow \infty$ . The function  $F$  is a computable function that is continuous in its  $(d + 2)$  arguments however it is also analytic in the variable  $\theta$ . For a fixed  $(t_0, \mathbf{t})$ , it satisfies that  $F = \partial F/\partial \theta = 0$  at  $\theta = 0$ , and the real-part of  $F$  is minimized at  $\theta = 0$ . Furthermore, the above expansion applies uniformly for all  $(n_0, \mathbf{n})/\|(n_0, \mathbf{n})\| \in \mathbb{T}$ , provided that  $\mathbb{T}$  is a compact set such that for all  $(t_0, \mathbf{t}) \in \mathbb{T}$ ,  $x = x(t_0, \mathbf{t})$  is a strictly critical point associated with  $(t_0, \mathbf{t})$  that depends continuously on  $(t_0, \mathbf{t})$ . In particular, the asymptotic analysis of the above integral is

amenable for the saddle-point method to obtain uniform asymptotic expansions for the coefficients in (4) for  $(n_0, \mathbf{n}) \in \|(n_0, \mathbf{n})\| \cdot \mathbb{T}$ , as  $\|(n_0, \mathbf{n})\| \rightarrow \infty$ .

It is precisely for the asymptotic analysis of integrals such as the one occurring in (4) that polynomial canonical representations of the type in (2) play a crucial role. In particular, uniqueness of these representations shall prove important to determine the Taylor coefficients of the various terms and auxiliary variables occurring in these representations. This should aid in automatizing the extraction of asymptotic formulae for coefficients of mixed powers generating functions as well as multivariable generating functions.

The lack of analyticity of  $F$  in (4) with respect to the variable  $(t_0, \mathbf{t})$  can be over passed by thinking of  $F$  as a function of  $(\theta; (t_0, \mathbf{t}); x)$ . The original function  $F$  can then be recovered by evaluating this new function at  $(\theta; \mathbf{t}; x(t_0, \mathbf{t}))$ . In order to apply the saddle-point method let  $k$  be the order of vanishing of  $F$  about  $(0; (t_0, \mathbf{t}); x(t_0, \mathbf{t}))$  with respect to the variable  $\theta$ . Since  $F = \partial F / \partial \theta = 0$  at points of this type, it follows from [Lla06b] that Levinson's polynomial canonical representation takes the form

$$F(\theta; (s_0, \mathbf{s}); x) = \sum_{j=2}^k v_j((s_0, \mathbf{s}); x) \cdot \{y(\theta; (s_0, \mathbf{s}); x)\}^j,$$

with  $y = 0$  and  $\partial y / \partial \theta = 1$  at points of the form  $(0; (s_0, \mathbf{s}); x)$  that are near  $(0; (t_0, \mathbf{t}); x(t_0, \mathbf{t}))$ . If  $k = 2$  the above translates into having the integral appearing in (4) to be described asymptotically by the Gamma function. In particular, the integral is of order  $\|(n_0, \mathbf{n})\|^{-1/2}$  as  $\|(n_0, \mathbf{n})\| \rightarrow \infty$ . On the other hand, if  $k = 3$  the integral is described asymptotically by the Airy function. In this case the integral in (4) has typically an asymptotic series expansion which is a linear combination of terms of order  $(\|(n_0, \mathbf{n})\|^{-l-1/3})_{l \geq 0}$  and also of order  $(\|(n_0, \mathbf{n})\|^{-l-2/3})_{l \geq 0}$ . See [BH86, Lla03] to follow up on uniform asymptotics for integrals that involve the Gamma and Airy function.

The interested reader is referred to [Lla06a] for concrete applications of the above methodology with  $k = 2, 3$ . The reader is also referred to [BFSS01] for a related yet more specialized discussion with  $k = 3$ . Although our motivation to study the uniqueness of polynomial canonical representations has been argued in the context of mixed powers generating functions, they also play a fundamental role in the extraction of asymptotics of multivariable generating functions. The reader is referred to [PW02, PW04, Lla06b] to follow up on this last remark.

## 2 Main results

We first introduce two one-complex variable results. Theorem 2.1 provides sufficient conditions to ensure that all the roots of a polynomial  $Q(y)$  are contained in the range of an analytic function  $y(z)$  when there exists another polynomial  $P(z)$ , of the same degree as  $Q(y)$ , such that  $P(z) = Q(y(z))$  in a neighborhood of  $z = 0$ . Under an appropriate rescaling, this translates into having  $\prod_{i=1}^k (z - z_i) = \prod_{i=1}^k (y(z) - y(z_i))$ , where  $k$  is the degree of  $P(z)$  and  $z_1, \dots, z_k$  are the roots of  $P(z)$  repeated according to their multiplicity. Theorem 2.2 provides sufficient conditions in order to conclude from this that  $y(z) = z$ . Our main two theorems are refined versions of some of the results obtained by the author in his doctoral dissertation [Lla03]. These are used to show the uniqueness of Levinson's representation in (2).

**Auxiliary results.** In what follows,  $R > 0$  is a given radius and we use the notation

$$D := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < R\},$$

$$\mathcal{H} := \{y : D \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \text{ such that } y \text{ is analytic}\}.$$

For  $0 \leq r < R$ , we define

$$\|f\|_r := \sup_{|z| \leq r} |f(z)| = \sup_{|z|=r} |f(z)|,$$

where the last identity is justified by the maximum modulus principle [Rud87].

**Theorem 2.1** *Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be polynomials of the same degree  $k \geq 1$  and assume that  $D$  contains all the roots  $z_1, \dots, z_k$  of  $P$  repeated according to their multiplicity. If  $y \in \mathcal{H}$  is such that  $P(z) = Q(y(z))$ , for all  $z \in D$ , then*

$$[Q^{-1}\{0\} \subset y(D)] \iff [\forall i : y'(z_i) \neq 0, \text{ and } \forall i, j : y(z_i) = y(z_j) \Leftrightarrow z_i = z_j]. \quad (5)$$

Furthermore, if either of the conditions in (5) apply then there exists a constant  $q \in \mathbb{C}$  such that

$$Q(y) = q \cdot \prod_{i=1}^k (y - y(z_i)). \quad (6)$$

**Theorem 2.2** *For all  $\rho$  and  $r$  such that  $0 \leq 2\rho < r < R$  there exists a  $\delta > 0$  such that if  $\max_i |z_i| \leq \rho$  then  $y(z) = z$  is the only solution of the non-linear functional equation*

$$\begin{cases} \prod_{i=1}^k (z - z_i) = \prod_{i=1}^k (y(z) - y(z_i)), & y \in \mathcal{H}; \\ y(0) = 0, \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

that satisfies the condition  $\|y(z) - z\|_r \leq \delta$ .

**Proof of uniqueness of Levinson's representation.** We use the stated theorems to show the uniqueness of Levinson's polynomial canonical representation in (2). Thus consider  $U(\mathbf{t})$  analytic in a neighborhood  $\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{0}$  and assume that

$$U(\mathbf{t}) = \sum_{j=0}^k v_j(\mathbf{t}') \cdot s^j = \sum_{j=0}^k w_j(\mathbf{t}') \cdot t^j \quad (8)$$

where  $v_j(\mathbf{0}') = w_j(\mathbf{0}') = 0$  for  $j < k$ ,  $v_k(\mathbf{0}') \neq 0$ ,  $w_k(\mathbf{0}') \neq 0$ , and  $s = t = 0$  and  $\partial s / \partial t_d = \partial t / \partial t_d = 1$  at all points in the domain of  $s$  and  $t$  of the form  $(\mathbf{t}', 0)$ . We show that  $v_j = w_j$ , for all  $j$ , and that  $s = t$ . For this consider the transformation  $\Phi(\mathbf{t}) = (\mathbf{t}', s(\mathbf{t}))$ . Since  $\Phi(\mathbf{0}) = \mathbf{0}$  and the Jacobian matrix of  $\Phi$  at  $\mathbf{0}$  is lower-triangular with non-zero entries along the diagonal, the inverse mapping theorem [Tay02] implies that  $\Phi^{-1}$  is a well-defined analytic function in some open neighborhood of the origin in  $\mathbb{C}^d$ . Define  $V(\mathbf{t}', z) := U(\Phi^{-1}(\mathbf{t}', z))$  and  $x = x(\mathbf{t}', z) := t(\Phi^{-1}(\mathbf{t}', z))$ . It follows from (8) that

$$V(\mathbf{t}', z) = \sum_{j=0}^k v_j(\mathbf{t}') \cdot z^j = \sum_{j=0}^k w_j(\mathbf{t}') \cdot x^j. \quad (9)$$

Observe that  $x = 0$  and  $\partial x / \partial z = 1$  at all points in the domain of  $x$  of the form  $(\mathbf{t}', 0)$ . Furthermore, according to the first identity above,  $V$  vanishes to degree  $k$  about the origin in the variable  $z$ . In particular, the Weierstrass preparation theorem [Tay02] implies that, for all  $\mathbf{t}'$  sufficiently close to  $\mathbf{0}'$ , the

roots of  $V(\mathbf{t}', z)$  can be listed as  $z_1(\mathbf{t}'), \dots, z_k(\mathbf{t}')$ , repeated according to their multiplicity. Since for  $\mathbf{t}'$  sufficiently close to the origin the transformation  $z \rightarrow x(\mathbf{t}', z)$  is a one-to-one transformation, we may use Theorem 2.1 in (9) to conclude that

$$v_k(\mathbf{t}') \cdot \prod_{j=1}^k \{z - z_j(\mathbf{t}')\} = w_k(\mathbf{t}') \cdot \prod_{j=1}^k \{x(\mathbf{t}', z) - x(\mathbf{t}', z_j(\mathbf{t}'))\}.$$

Observe that, according to (9),  $x(\mathbf{0}', z) = z \cdot (v_k(\mathbf{0}')/w_k(\mathbf{0}'))^{1/k}$  provided that the appropriate branch for the  $k$ -th root is selected. With this choice of branch, introduce the auxiliary variable

$$y = y(\mathbf{t}', z) := x(\mathbf{t}', z) \cdot \left\{ \frac{v_k(\mathbf{t}')}{w_k(\mathbf{t}')} \right\}^{-1/k}.$$

Notice that

$$\prod_{j=1}^k \{z - z_j(\mathbf{t}')\} = \prod_{j=1}^k \{y(\mathbf{t}', z) - y(\mathbf{t}', z_j(\mathbf{t}'))\},$$

for all  $\mathbf{t}'$  sufficiently close to the origin in  $\mathbb{C}^{d-1}$  and  $z$  such that  $|z| < R$ , where  $R > 0$  is certain real parameter independent of  $\mathbf{t}'$ . But observe that, according to the Weierstrass preparation theorem, if  $\mathbf{t}'$  is sufficiently close to the origin then  $|z_j(\mathbf{t}')| < R/4$ , for all  $j$ . On the other hand, since  $y(\mathbf{0}', z) = z$  and  $y$  is uniformly continuous over compact subsets of its domain, it follows for  $r = 3R/4$  that

$$\lim_{\mathbf{t}' \rightarrow \mathbf{0}'} \|y(\mathbf{t}', z) - z\|_r = 0.$$

Theorem 2.2 implies that  $y(\mathbf{t}', z) = z$ , for all  $\mathbf{t}'$  sufficiently close to the origin and all  $z$  such that  $|z| < R$ . In particular,  $x(\mathbf{t}', z) = z \cdot (v_k(\mathbf{t}')/w_k(\mathbf{t}'))^{1/k}$ . Since  $\partial x/\partial z = 1$  at all points in the domain of  $x$  of the form  $(\mathbf{t}', 0)$ , we conclude that  $x(\mathbf{t}', z) = z$ . This in (9) implies that  $v_j = w_j$ , for all  $j$ . Furthermore, since  $x(\mathbf{t}', z) := t(\Phi^{-1}(\mathbf{t}', z))$ , with  $\Phi(\mathbf{t}) = (\mathbf{t}', s(\mathbf{t}))$ , we find  $s = t$ . This shows that Levinson's polynomial canonical representations are unique.  $\square$

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