

On the Derivatives of a Polynomial

by

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Abstract

For a polynomial $p(z)$ of degree n , having all its zeros in $|z| \leq k$, ($k \geq 1$), we obtain a refinement of known result [2]

$$\max_{|z|=1} |p'(z)| \geq \frac{n}{1+k^n} \max_{|z|=1} |p(z)|,$$

(by using certain coefficients of $p(z)$), and an inequality, similar to known result involving s^{th} derivative, ($2 \leq s \leq n$), instead of the first derivative of $p(z)$ (and better than the similar inequality, obtained by repeated applications of known result, in many cases).

Key Words: polynomial, derivatives, zeros in $|z| \leq k$, $k \geq 1$, certain coefficients, generalization of Schwarz's lemma.

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1 Introduction and statement of results

For an arbitrary polynomial $f(z)$ let $M(f, r) = \max_{|z|=r} |f(z)|$. Further let $p(z) = \sum_{j=0}^n a_j z^j$ be a polynomial of degree n . Concerning the estimate of $|p'(z)|$ on $|z| \leq 1$, we have firstly obtained

Theorem 1. *Let $p(z) = \sum_{j=0}^n a_j z^j$ be a polynomial of degree n , having all its zeros in $|z| \leq k$, ($k \geq 1$). Then*

$$M(p', 1) \geq n \frac{|a_0| + |a_n| k^{n+1}}{|a_0|(1+k^{n+1}) + |a_n|(k^{n+1} + k^{2n})} M(p, 1).$$

The result is best possible with equality for the polynomial $p(z) = z^n + k^n$.

Secondly we have obtained a result, similar to Theorem 1, involving the s^{th} derivative of $p(z)$, ($2 \leq s \leq n$), instead of the first derivative of $p(z)$. More precisely we have proved

Theorem 2. *If $p(z)$ is a polynomial of degree n , having all its zeros in $|z| \leq k$, ($k \geq 1$) then for $2 \leq s \leq n$*

$$M(p^{(s)}, 1) \geq n(n-1)(n-2)\dots(n-s+1)[k^n + \sum_{t=1}^{s-1} \binom{s}{t} \{(1+k^{n-t})(1+k^{n-t-1})\dots(1+k^{n-s+1})\} + \binom{s}{s}]^{-1} M(p, 1).$$

Remark 1. Theorem 1 is a refinement of Govil's result [2]

$$M(p', 1) \geq \frac{n}{1+k^n} M(p, 1). \quad (1.1)$$

Remark 2. Theorem 2 is better than the result

$$M(p^{(s)}, 1) \geq \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)\dots(n-s+2)(n-s+1)}{(1+k^n)(1+k^{n-1})\dots(1+k^{n-s+2})(1+k^{n-s+1})} M(p, 1), \quad (1.2)$$

(obtained by repeated applications of ineq.(1.1)), for

$$k > k_0,$$

where $k_0(> 1)$ is the greatest positive root of the equation

$$\{(1+k^{n-s+1})\dots(1+k^{n-1})(1+k^n)\} - [k^n + \sum_{t=1}^{s-1} \binom{s}{t} \{(1+k^{n-t})(1+k^{n-t-1})\dots(1+k^{n-s+1})\} + 1] = 0,$$

(it being easily observed that left hand side of the equation is negative for $k = 1$).

Remark 3. For the polynomial

$$p(z) = (z+1)^2(z+2),$$

having all its zeros in $|z| \leq 2$,

$$\begin{aligned} M(p', 1) &\geq 4, \quad (\text{by ineq. (1.1)}), \\ M(p', 1) &\geq 5.684, \quad (\text{by Theorem 1}), \end{aligned}$$

thereby implying that we get better estimate for $M(p', 1)$ by Theorem 1 than by ineq.(1.1) and similarly

$$\begin{aligned} M(p'', 1) &\geq 1.6, \quad (\text{by ineq. (1.2)}), \\ M(p'', 1) &\geq 3.789, \quad (\text{by Theorem 2}), \end{aligned}$$

thereby implying that we get better estimate for $M(p'', 1)$ by Theorem 2 than by ineq. (1.2).

2 Lemmas

For the proofs of the theorems we require the following lemmas.

Lemma 1. If $p(z)$ is a polynomial of degree n then

$$\max_{|z|=R} |p(z)| \leq R^n (\max_{|z|=1} |p(z)|), \quad R \geq 1,$$

with equality only for $p(z) = \lambda z^n$.

Proof of Lemma 1. It is a simple consequence of maximum modulus principle, (see [4]).

Lemma 2. Let $f(z)$ be analytic in $|z| < 1$, with $f(0) = a$ and $|f(z)| \leq M$, $|z| < 1$. Then

$$|f(z)| \leq M \frac{M|z| + |a|}{|a||z| + M}, \quad |z| < 1.$$

Lemma 2 is a well-known generalization of Schwarz's lemma, (see [5, p.212]).

Lemma 3. Let $f(z)$ be analytic in $|z| \leq 1$, with $f(0) = a$ and $|f(z)| \leq M$, $|z| \leq 1$. Then $|f(z)| \leq M \frac{M|z| + |a|}{|a||z| + M}$, $|z| \leq 1$.

Proof of Lemma 3. It easily follows from Lemma 2.

Lemma 4. Let $p(z)$ be a polynomial of degree n and

$$q(z) = z^n \overline{p(1/\bar{z})}.$$

Then for $1 \leq s \leq n$

$$\begin{aligned} q^{(s)}(z) = & (n(n-1) \dots (n-s+1)) z^{n-s} \overline{p(1/\bar{z})} - \\ & \binom{s}{1} ((n-1)(n-2) \dots (n-s+1)) z^{n-s-1} \overline{p'(1/\bar{z})} + \\ & \binom{s}{2} ((n-2)(n-3) \dots (n-s+1)) z^{n-s-2} \overline{p''(1/\bar{z})} - \\ & \binom{s}{3} ((n-3)(n-4) \dots (n-s+1)) z^{n-s-3} \overline{p'''(1/\bar{z})} + \dots + \\ & (-1)^t \binom{s}{t} ((n-t) \dots (n-s+1)) z^{n-s-t} \overline{p^{(t)}(1/\bar{z})} + \dots + \\ & (-1)^{s-1} \binom{s}{s-1} (n-s+1) z^{n-s-s+1} \overline{p^{(s-1)}(1/\bar{z})} + \\ & (-1)^s \binom{s}{s} z^{n-2s} \overline{p^{(s)}(1/\bar{z})}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof of Lemma 4. It follows easily by mathematical induction.

Lemma 5. If $p(z)$ is polynomial of degree n , having all its zeros in $|z| \leq k$, ($k \geq 1$) then for $2 \leq s \leq n$ and $1 \leq t \leq s-1$

$$\{(n-t)(n-t-1) \dots (n-s+1)\} M(p^{(t)}, 1) \leq \{(k^{n-t}+1)(k^{n-t-1}+1) \dots (k^{n-s+1}+1)\} M(p^{(s)}, 1).$$

Proof of Lemma 5. It follows by repeated applications of ineq.(1.1).

Lemma 6. Let $T(z)$ be a polynomial of degree n , having all its zeros in $|z| \leq 1$ and let $R(z)$ be a polynomial with its degree $\leq n$. If

$$|R(z)| \leq |T(z)|, \quad |z| = 1 \tag{2.1}$$

then for $0 \leq s \leq n$

$$|R^{(s)}(z)| \leq |T^{(s)}(z)|, \quad |z| \geq 1, \quad (R^{(0)}(z) = R(z), T^{(0)}(z) = T(z)).$$

Proof of Lemma 6. Using (2.1) we can say that the zero z'_j , (with $|z'_j| = 1$ and multiplicity t_j), of $T(z)$ will also be a zero, (with multiplicity $(\geq t_j)$), of $R(z)$, thereby helping us to write

$$T(z) = \phi_0(z) T_1(z), \tag{2.2}$$

$$R(z) = \phi_0(z) R_1(z), \tag{2.3}$$

$$\phi_0(z) = \begin{cases} \prod_{j=1}^m (z - z'_j)^{t_j}; & |z'_j| = 1 \quad \forall j \text{ with } \sum_{j=1}^m t_j = t, T(z) \text{ has certain zeros on } |z| = 1, \\ 1 & , T(z) \neq 0 \text{ on } |z| = 1, \end{cases} \tag{2.4}$$

$$T_1(z) \neq 0, \quad |z| = 1, \tag{2.5}$$

with

$$|R_1(z)| \leq |T_1(z)|, \quad |z| = 1, \text{ (by (2.1), (2.2), (2.3) and (2.4)).} \tag{2.6}$$

Firstly let $T(z)$ have certain zeros on $|z| = 1$. Then by (2.2), (2.4) and (2.5) we can say that $T_1(z)$ is a polynomial of degree $(n - t)$, having all its zeros in $|z| < 1$. Now by (2.6) we have for λ with $|\lambda| > 1$

$$|R_1(z)| < |\lambda T_1(z)|, \quad |z| = 1.$$

Therefore by Rouché’s theorem, the polynomial $\lambda T_1(z) - R_1(z)$ will have $(n - t)$ zeros in $|z| < 1$ and accordingly the polynomial $\lambda T(z) - R(z)$ will have all its zeros in $|z| \leq 1$. Further by using Gauss-Lucas’ theorem we can say that for $0 \leq s \leq n$, the polynomial $\lambda T^{(s)}(z) - R^{(s)}(z)$ will have all its zeros in $|z| \leq 1$ and therefore $|R^{(s)}(z)| \leq |T^{(s)}(z)|, |z| > 1$. On using continuity Lemma 6 follows for the possibility under consideration. Finally let $T(z) \neq 0$ on $|z| = 1$. Then $T_1(z) = T(z)$, (a polynomial of degree n), (by (2.2) and (2.4)), $R_1(z) = R(z)$, (by (2.3) and (2.4)). Now Lemma 6 for the present possibility will follow similar to previous possibility. This completes the proof of Lemma 6.

Remark 4. Lemma 6 is a generalization of Bernstein’s result([1], [3, Theorem C]).

Lemma 7. If $p(z)$ is a polynomial of degree n , having all its zeros in $|z| \leq k, (k \geq 1)$ and

$$q(z) = z^n \overline{p(1/\bar{z})} \tag{2.7}$$

then for $0 \leq s \leq n$

$$M(q^{(s)}, 1) \leq k^n M(p^{(s)}, 1).$$

Proof of Lemma 7. We observe that

$$P(z) = p(kz) \tag{2.8}$$

is a polynomial of degree n , having all its zeros in $|z| \leq 1$ and

$$Q(z) = z^n \overline{P(1/\bar{z})}, \tag{2.9}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= k^n \left(\frac{z}{k}\right)^n \overline{p(k/\bar{z})}, \text{ (by (2.8)),} \\ &= k^n q(z/k), \text{ (by (2.7))} \end{aligned} \tag{2.10}$$

is a polynomial of degree $\leq n$, with the characteristic $|Q(z)| = |P(z)|, |z| = 1$. Therefore by Lemma 6 we can say that for $0 \leq s \leq n$

$$|Q^{(s)}(z)| \leq |P^{(s)}(z)|, |z| \geq 1, \tag{2.11}$$

i.e.

$$k^{n-2s} |q^{(s)}(\frac{z}{k})| \leq |p^{(s)}(kz)|, |z| \geq 1, \text{ (by (2.8) and (2.10)).} \tag{2.12}$$

On taking $z = ke^{i\theta}, 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$, in (2.12) we get for $0 \leq s \leq n$

$$k^{n-2s} |q^{(s)}(e^{i\theta})| \leq |p^{(s)}(k^2 e^{i\theta})|, 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi,$$

which implies

$$\begin{aligned} k^{n-2s} M(q^{(s)}, 1) &\leq M(p^{(s)}, k^2), \\ &\leq (k^2)^{n-s} M(p^{(s)}, 1), \text{ (by Lemma 1)} \end{aligned}$$

and Lemma 7 follows.

3 Proofs of the theorems

Proof of Theorem 1. By symbols used in Proof of Lemma 7 and inequality (2.11) we can say that

$$|Q'(z)| \leq |P'(z)|, \quad |z| = 1. \tag{3.1}$$

Using (3.1) we can say that a zero z_j , (with $|z_j| = 1$ and multiplicity m_j), of $P'(z)$ will also be a zero, with multiplicity $(\geq m_j)$, of $Q'(z)$, thereby helping us to write

$$P'(z) = \phi(z)P_1(z), \tag{3.2}$$

$$Q'(z) = \phi(z)Q_1(z), \tag{3.3}$$

where

$$\phi(z) = \begin{cases} 1 & , P'(z) \neq 0 \text{ on } |z| = 1, \\ \prod_{j=1}^p (z - z_j)^{m_j}; |z_j| = 1 \forall j & , P'(z) \text{ has certain zeros on } |z| = 1, \end{cases} \tag{3.4}$$

$$P_1(z) \neq 0, \quad |z| = 1 \tag{3.5}$$

and

$$|Q_1(z)| \leq |P_1(z)|, \quad |z| = 1, \text{ (by (3.1), (3.2) and (3.3)).} \tag{3.6}$$

Now as $P(z)$ has all its zeros in $|z| \leq 1$, we can say by Gauss-Lucas' theorem that $P'(z)$ will also have all its zeros in $|z| \leq 1$. Therefore by (3.2), (3.4) and (3.5), we can say that

$$\psi(z) = \frac{Q_1(z)}{P_1(z)} \tag{3.7}$$

is analytic in $|z| > r'$, (for certain r' , with $(0 < r' < 1)$), including ∞ and accordingly

$$f(z) = \psi(1/z), \tag{3.8}$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} f(0) = \psi(\infty) &= \lim_{z \rightarrow \infty} \psi(z), \\ &= \lim_{z \rightarrow \infty} \frac{Q'(z)}{P'(z)}, \text{ (by (3.7), (3.2) and (3.3)),} \\ &= \frac{\overline{a_0}}{a_n k^n}, \text{ (by (2.8) and (2.9))} \end{aligned} \tag{3.9}$$

is analytic in $|z| < \frac{1}{r'}$, ($\frac{1}{r'} > 1$). Further $|\psi(z)| \leq 1, |z| = 1$, (by (3.6)) and therefore

$$|f(z)| \leq 1, \quad |z| = 1, \text{ (by (3.8)),} \tag{3.10}$$

which, by (3.9) and Lemma 3, helps us to write

$$|f(z)| \leq \frac{|z| + \left| \frac{a_0}{a_n k^n} \right|}{\left| \frac{a_0}{a_n k^n} \right| |z| + 1}, \quad |z| \leq 1,$$

i.e.

$$|f(re^{i\theta})| \leq \frac{|a_n|k^n r + |a_0|}{|a_0|r + |a_n|k^n}, \quad r \leq 1 \text{ and } 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi, \quad (3.11)$$

i.e.

$$|\psi\left(\frac{1}{r}e^{-i\theta}\right)| \leq \frac{|a_n|k^n r + |a_0|}{|a_0|r + |a_n|k^n}, \quad 0 < r \leq 1 \text{ and } 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi, \text{ (by (3.8))},$$

i.e.

$$|\psi(Re^{-i\theta})| \leq \frac{|a_n|k^n + |a_0|R}{|a_0| + |a_n|k^n R}, \quad R \geq 1 \text{ and } 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi,$$

i.e.

$$|Q_1(Re^{-i\theta})| \leq \frac{|a_n|k^n + |a_0|R}{|a_0| + |a_n|k^n R} |P_1(Re^{-i\theta})|, \quad R \geq 1, \text{ (by (3.7))},$$

i.e.

$$|Q'(Re^{-i\theta})| \leq \frac{|a_n|k^n + |a_0|R}{|a_0| + |a_n|k^n R} |P'(Re^{-i\theta})|, \quad R \geq 1, \text{ (by (3.2) and (3.3))},$$

i.e.

$$|Q'(z)| \leq \frac{|a_n|k^n + |a_0||z|}{|a_0| + |a_n|k^n |z|} |P'(z)|, \quad |z| \geq 1,$$

i.e.

$$k^{n-2}|q'(z/k)| \leq \frac{|a_n|k^n + |a_0||z|}{|a_0| + |a_n|k^n |z|} |p'(kz)|, \quad |z| \geq 1, \text{ (by (2.8) and (2.10))}. \quad (3.12)$$

By taking $z = ke^{i\theta}$ in (3.12) we get

$$k^{n-3}|q'(e^{i\theta})| \leq \frac{|a_n|k^{n-1} + |a_0|}{|a_0| + |a_n|k^{n+1}} |p'(k^2 e^{i\theta})|, \quad 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi,$$

which implies

$$k^{n-3}M(q', 1) \leq \frac{|a_n|k^{n-1} + |a_0|}{|a_0| + |a_n|k^{n+1}} M(p', k^2)$$

and therefore

$$M(q', 1) \leq \frac{|a_n|k^{n-1} + |a_0|}{|a_0| + |a_n|k^{n+1}} k^{n+1} M(p', 1), \text{ (by Lemma 1)}. \quad (3.13)$$

Now by (2.7), we get

$$|q'(e^{i\theta})| + |p'(e^{i\theta})| \geq n|p(e^{i\theta})|, \quad 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi,$$

which implies

$$M(q', 1) + M(p', 1) \geq nM(p, 1)$$

and on using (3.13) we get

$$M(p', 1) \geq n \frac{|a_0| + |a_n|k^{n+1}}{|a_0|(1 + k^{n+1}) + |a_n|(k^{n+1} + k^{2n})} M(p, 1). \quad (3.14)$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.

Remark 5. If instead of, the polynomial $p(z) = \sum_{j=0}^n a_j z^j$, (of degree n), having all its zeros in $|z| \leq k$, ($k \geq 1$) we consider the polynomial $p(z) = \sum_{j=m}^n a_j z^j$, ($0 \leq m < n$), (of degree n), having all its zeros in $|z| \leq k$, ($k \geq 1$), then, by thinking of, the function

$$\chi(z) = \frac{Q'(z)}{P'(z)}, \left(\begin{array}{l} (P(z) \text{ and } Q(z), \text{ as in (2.8) and (2.9)}), \\ \text{analytic in } 1 < |z| < \infty, \text{ as well as in } r' < |z| < 1, \\ \text{(for certain } r', \text{ with } (0 < r' < 1)) \end{array} \right), \quad (3.15)$$

$$= \frac{(n-m)\overline{a_m}k^m z^{n-m-1} + \dots + \overline{a_{n-1}}k^{n-1}}{na_n k^n z^{n-1} + \dots + a_m k^m m z^{m-1}}, \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{analytic in } 1 < |z| < \infty, \\ \text{as well as in } r' < |z| < 1 \end{array} \right), \quad (3.16)$$

along with

$$f(z) = \psi(1/z), \text{ (as in (3.8))}, \quad (3.17)$$

the relation

$$\begin{aligned} f(z) &= \chi(1/z), \quad (0 < |z| < 1, 1 < |z| < 1/r'), \\ &= z^m \frac{(n-m)\overline{a_m}k^m + \dots + \overline{a_{n-1}}k^{n-1}z^{n-m-1}}{na_n k^n + \dots + a_m k^m m z^{n-m}}, \quad (0 < |z| < 1, 1 < |z| < 1/r'), \\ & \hspace{15em} \text{(by (3.16))}, \end{aligned} \quad (3.18)$$

$$= z^m T(z), \text{ (say) }, \quad (0 < |z| < 1, 1 < |z| < 1/r'), \quad (3.19)$$

with

$$T(0) = \frac{(n-m)\overline{a_m}k^m}{na_n k^n}, \text{ (by (3.19))}, \quad (3.20)$$

$$= d, \text{ (say)},$$

$$T(z) = f(z)/z^m, \quad (0 < |z| < 1, 1 < |z| < 1/r'), \quad (3.21)$$

$$T(z) = \lim_{\zeta \rightarrow z} T(\zeta), \quad |z| = 1, \text{ (by using (3.21) and (3.17))}, \quad (3.22)$$

$$|T(z)| \leq 1, \quad |z| \leq 1, \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{as } T(z) \text{ is analytic in } |z| < 1, \text{ by (3.15), (3.19), (3.18)} \\ \text{and (3.20), and } T(z) \text{ is continuous in } |z| \leq 1, \text{ by (3.21),} \\ \text{(3.22) and the fact that } T(z) \text{ is analytic in } |z| < 1 \end{array} \right)$$

and on applying Lemma 2 to $T(z)$ we get

$$|T(z)| \leq \frac{|z| + |d|}{1 + |z||d|}, \quad |z| < 1,$$

which, by (3.21), implies that

$$|f(z)| \leq |z|^m \frac{|z| + |d|}{1 + |z||d|}, \quad 0 < |z| < 1$$

and therefore

$$|f(z)| \leq |z|^m \frac{|z| + |d|}{1 + |z||d|}, \quad |z| < 1,$$

as well as

$$|f(z)| \leq |z|^m \frac{|z| + |d|}{1 + |z||d|}, \quad |z| \leq 1, \quad (\text{by (3.10)}),$$

i.e.

$$|f(re^{i\theta})| \leq \frac{n|a_n|k^n r^{m+1} + (n-m)|a_m|k^m r^m}{n|a_n|k^n + (n-m)|a_m|k^m r}, \quad r \leq 1,$$

thereby giving, (on repeating steps from (3.11) to (3.14), (of, Proof of Theorem 1))

$$M(p', 1) \geq n \frac{n|a_n|k^{n+1} + (n-m)|a_m|k^m}{n|a_n|(k^{2n-m} + k^{n+1}) + (n-m)|a_m|(k^{n+1} + k^m)} M(p, 1), \quad (3.23)$$

a generalization of Theorem 1. (Please note that (3.23) is trivially true for $m = n$ also, thereby suggesting that (3.23) is true for the polynomial $p(z) = \sum_{j=m}^n a_j z^j$, ($0 \leq m \leq n$), (of degree n), having all its zeros in $|z| \leq k$, ($k \geq 1$)).

Proof of Theorem 2. Using Lemma 4 we get for $2 \leq s \leq n$

$$\begin{aligned} |q^{(s)}(z)| &+ \sum_{t=1}^{s-1} \binom{s}{t} ((n-t)(n-t-1) \dots (n-s+1)) |p^{(t)}(z)| + \binom{s}{s} |p^{(s)}(z)| \\ &\geq (n(n-1) \dots (n-s+1)) |p(z)|, \quad |z| = 1, \end{aligned}$$

which implies

$$\begin{aligned} M(q^{(s)}, 1) &+ \sum_{t=1}^{s-1} \binom{s}{t} ((n-t)(n-t-1) \dots (n-s+1)) M(p^{(t)}, 1) + \binom{s}{s} M(p^{(s)}, 1) \\ &\geq (n(n-1) \dots (n-s+1)) M(p, 1). \end{aligned} \quad (3.24)$$

Now by combining (3.24) with Lemma 5 and Lemma 7 we get for $2 \leq s \leq n$

$$\begin{aligned} [k^n &+ \sum_{t=1}^{s-1} \binom{s}{t} \{(1+k^{n-t})(1+k^{n-t-1}) \dots (1+k^{n-s+1})\} + \binom{s}{s}] M(p^{(s)}, 1) \\ &\geq (n(n-1) \dots (n-s+1)) M(p, 1) \end{aligned}$$

and Theorem 2 follows.

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