



NUMBER OF ZEROS OF POLAR DERIVATIVES OF POLYNOMIALS

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Abstract

In this paper, we estimate the maximum number of zeros of polar derivatives of polynomials by considering more general coefficient conditions in a prescribed region. The results which we obtain generalize and improve some of the well known results.

1. Introduction

Let $D_{\alpha}P(z) = nP(z) + (\alpha - z)P'(z)$ denote the polar derivative of a polynomial $P(z)$ of degree n with respect to real or complex number α . Then polynomial $D_{\alpha}P(z)$ is of degree at most $n - 1$ and it generalizes the

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ordinary derivative in the sense that $\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow \infty} \frac{D_\alpha P(z)}{\alpha} = P'(z)$. Many results on the location of zeros of polynomials and zeros of polar derivatives are available in the literature [1-5]. Concerning the number of zeros of the polynomial in the region $|z| \leq \frac{1}{2}$, the following result is due to Mohammad [6].

Theorem A. *Let $P(z) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i z^i$ be a polynomial of degree n such that $0 < a_0 \leq a_1 \leq \dots \leq a_{n-1} \leq a_n$. Then the number of zeros of $P(z)$ in $|z| \leq \frac{1}{2}$, does not exceed $1 + \frac{1}{\log 2} \log \frac{a_n}{a_0}$.*

In this paper, we prove the following results.

Theorem 1. *Let $P(z) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i z^i$ be a polynomial of degree n with $Re(a_i) = \alpha_i$, $Im(a_i) = \beta_i$ for $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$ and $D_\alpha P(z) = nP(z) + (\alpha - z)P'(z)$ be the polar derivative of $P(z)$ with respect to a real number α such that $\alpha a_1 + a_0 \neq 0$ and*

$$\begin{aligned} [i+2]\alpha\alpha_{i+2} + [n-(i+1)]\alpha_{i+1} &\geq (i+1)\alpha\alpha_{i+1} + (n-i)\alpha_i, \\ [i+2]\alpha\beta_{i+2} + [n-(i+1)]\beta_{i+1} &\geq (i+1)\alpha\beta_{i+1} + (n-i)\beta_i, \end{aligned}$$

for $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-2$. Then the number of zeros of $D_\alpha P(z)$ in $|z| \leq \frac{R}{C}$ ($C > 1$, $R > 0$), does not exceed

$$\frac{1}{\log C} \log \frac{R^n [n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1} | + n\alpha[\alpha_n + \beta_n] + [\alpha_{n-1} + \beta_{n-1}] - \alpha[\alpha_1 + \beta_1] - n[\alpha_0 + \beta_0] + |\alpha a_1 + n a_0|]}{|\alpha a_1 + n a_0|}, \quad \text{if } R \geq 1$$

and

$$\frac{1}{\log C} \log \frac{R [n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1} | + n\alpha[\alpha_n + \beta_n] + [\alpha_{n-1} + \beta_{n-1}] - \alpha[\alpha_1 + \beta_1] - n[\alpha_0 + \beta_0] + |\alpha a_1 + n a_0|]}{|\alpha a_1 + n a_0|} \quad \text{if } R \leq 1.$$

Corollary 1. Let $P(z) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i z^i$ be a polynomial of degree n with $\operatorname{Re}(a_i) = \alpha_i$, $\operatorname{Im}(a_i) = \beta_i$ for $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$ and $D_\alpha P(z) = nP(z) + (\alpha - z)P'(z)$ be the polar derivative of $P(z)$ with respect to a real number α such that $\alpha a_1 + a_0 \neq 0$ and

$$[i + 2]\alpha a_{i+2} + [n - (i + 1)]a_{i+1} \geq (i + 1)\alpha a_{i+1} + (n - i)a_i,$$

for $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n - 2$. Then the number of zeros of $D_\alpha P(z)$ in $|z| \leq r$, $0 < r < 1$, does not exceed

$$\frac{1}{\log \frac{1}{r}} \log \frac{\left[|n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1}| + n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1} - \alpha a_1 - n\alpha_0 + |\alpha a_1 + \alpha_0| \right. \\ \left. + 2 \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} |(i + 1)\alpha \beta_{i+1} + (n - i)\beta_i| \right]}{|\alpha a_1 + na_0|}.$$

Corollary 2. Let $P(z) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i z^i$ be a polynomial of degree n with real coefficients and $D_\alpha P(z) = nP(z) + (\alpha - z)P'(z)$ be the polar derivative of $P(z)$ with respect to a real number α such that $\alpha a_1 + a_0 \neq 0$ and $[i + 2]\alpha a_{i+2} + [n - (i + 1)]a_{i+1} \geq (i + 1)\alpha a_{i+1} + (n - i)a_i$, for $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n - 2$. Then the number of zeros of $D_\alpha P(z)$ in $|z| \leq \frac{1}{2}$, does not exceed

$$\frac{1}{\log 2} \log \frac{\left[|n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1}| + n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1} - \alpha a_1 - a_0 + |\alpha a_1 + na_0| \right]}{|\alpha a_1 + na_0|}.$$

Remark 1. Taking $R = 1$, $C = \frac{1}{r}$, $0 < r < 1$, removing conditions on β_i in Theorem 1 and rearranging coefficients, we get Corollary 1.

Remark 2. Taking $R = 1$, $C = \frac{1}{2}$ and $\beta_i = 0$ for $i = 0, 1, \dots, n$ in Theorem 1, we get Corollary 2.

Theorem 2. Let $P(z) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i z^i$ be a polynomial of degree n with $Re(a_i) = \alpha_i$, $Im(a_i) = \beta_i$ for $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$ and $D_\alpha P(z) = nP(z) + (\alpha - z)P'(z)$ be the polar derivative of $P(z)$ with respect to a real number α such that $\alpha a_1 + a_0 \neq 0$ and

$$[i + 2]\alpha\alpha_{i+2} + [n - (i + 1)]\alpha_{i+1} \leq (i + 1)\alpha\alpha_{i+1} + (n - i)\alpha_i,$$

$$[i + 2]\alpha\beta_{i+2} + [n - (i + 1)]\beta_{i+1} \leq (i + 1)\alpha\beta_{i+1} + (n - i)\beta_i,$$

for $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n - 2$. Then the number of zeros of $D_\alpha P(z)$ in $|z| \leq \frac{R}{C}$ ($C > 1$, $R > 0$), does not exceed

$$\frac{1}{\log C} \log \frac{R^n [n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1} | - n\alpha[\alpha_n + \beta_n] - [\alpha_{n-1} + \beta_{n-1}] + \alpha[\alpha_1 + \beta_1] + n[\alpha_0 + \beta_0] + |\alpha a_1 + na_0|]}{|\alpha a_1 + na_0|}, \quad \text{if } R \geq 1$$

and

$$\frac{1}{\log C} \log \frac{R [n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1} | - n\alpha[\alpha_n - \beta_n] + [\alpha_{n-1} + \beta_{n-1}] + \alpha[\alpha_1 + \beta_1] + n[\alpha_0 + \beta_0] + |\alpha a_1 + na_0|]}{|\alpha a_1 + na_0|}, \quad \text{if } R \leq 1.$$

Corollary 3. Let $P(z) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i z^i$ be a polynomial of degree n with $Re(a_i) = \alpha_i$, $Im(a_i) = \beta_i$ for $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$ and $D_\alpha P(z) = nP(z) + (\alpha - z)P'(z)$ be the polar derivative of $P(z)$ with respect to a real number α such that $\alpha a_1 + a_0 \neq 0$ and

$$[i + 2]\alpha\alpha_{i+2} + [n - (i + 1)]\alpha_{i+1} \leq (i + 1)\alpha\alpha_{i+1} + (n - i)\alpha_i,$$

for some $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n - 2$. Then the number of zeros of $D_\alpha P(z)$ in $|z| \leq \frac{1}{2}$, does not exceed

$$\frac{1}{\log 2} \log \frac{\left[|n\alpha\alpha_n + \alpha_{n-1}| - n\alpha\alpha_n + \alpha_{n-1} - \alpha\alpha_1 + n\alpha_0 + |\alpha\alpha_1 + \alpha_0| \right. \\ \left. + 2 \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} |(i+1)\alpha\beta_{i+1} + (n-i)\beta_i| \right]}{|\alpha\alpha_1 + n\alpha_0|}.$$

Corollary 4. Let $P(z) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i z^i$ be a polynomial of degree n with real coefficients and $D_\alpha P(z) = nP(z) + (\alpha - z)P'(z)$ be the polar derivative of $P(z)$ with respect to a real number α such that $\alpha\alpha_1 + \alpha_0 \neq 0$ and $[i+2]\alpha\alpha_{i+2} + [n-(i+1)]\alpha_{i+1} \leq (i+1)\alpha\alpha_{i+1} + (n-i)\alpha_i$, for $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-2$. Then the number of zeros of $D_\alpha P(z)$ in $|z| \leq r$, $0 < r < 1$ does not exceed

$$\frac{1}{\log \frac{1}{r}} \log \frac{\left[|n\alpha\alpha_n + \alpha_{n-1}| - n\alpha\alpha_n - \alpha_{n-1} + \alpha\alpha_1 + n\alpha_0 + |\alpha\alpha_1 + n\alpha_0| \right]}{|\alpha\alpha_1 + n\alpha_0|}.$$

Remark 3. Taking $R = 1$, $C = \frac{1}{2}$, and removing conditions on β_i in Theorem 2, we get Corollary 3.

Remark 4. Taking $R = 1$, $C = \frac{1}{r}$, $0 < r < 1$ and $\beta_i = 0$ for $i = 0, 1, \dots, n$ in Theorem 2, and by rearranging coefficients, we get Corollary 4.

By rearranging the coefficient in Theorems 1 and 2, we get the following Theorems 3 and 4.

Theorem 3. Let $P(z) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i z^i$ be a polynomial of degree n with $Re(a_i) = \alpha_i$, $Im(a_i) = \beta_i$ for $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$ and $D_\alpha P(z) = nP(z) + (\alpha - z)P'(z)$ be the polar derivative of $P(z)$ with respect to a real number α such that $\alpha\alpha_1 + \alpha_0 \neq 0$ and

$$[i+2]\alpha\alpha_{i+2} + [n-(i+1)]\alpha_{i+1} \geq (i+1)\alpha\alpha_{i+1} + (n-i)\alpha_i,$$

$$[i+2]\alpha\beta_{i+2} + [n-(i+1)]\beta_{i+1} \leq (i+1)\alpha\beta_{i+1} + (n-i)\beta_i,$$

for $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-2$. Then the number of zeros of $D_\alpha P(z)$ in $|z| \leq \frac{R}{C}$ ($C > 1, R > 0$), does not exceed

$$\frac{1}{\log C} \log \frac{R^n [n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1}] + n\alpha[\alpha_n - \beta_n] + [\alpha_{n-1} - \beta_{n-1}] - \alpha[\alpha_1 - \beta_1] - n[\alpha_0 - \beta_0] + |\alpha a_1 + a_0|}{|\alpha a_1 + na_0|}, \quad \text{if } R \geq 1$$

and

$$\frac{1}{\log C} \log \frac{R [n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1}] + n\alpha[\alpha_n - \beta_n] + [\alpha_{n-1} - \beta_{n-1}] - \alpha[\alpha_1 - \beta_1] - n[\alpha_0 - \beta_0] + |\alpha a_1 + a_0|}{|\alpha a_1 + na_0|}, \quad \text{if } R \leq 1.$$

Theorem 4. Let $P(z) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i z^i$ be a polynomial of degree n with $Re(a_i) = \alpha_i$, $Im(a_i) = \beta_i$ for $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$ and $D_\alpha P(z) = nP(z) + (\alpha - z)P'(z)$ be the polar derivative of $P(z)$ with respect to a real number α such that $\alpha a_1 + a_0 \neq 0$ and

$$[i+2]\alpha\alpha_{i+2} + [n-(i+1)]\alpha_{i+1} \leq (i+1)\alpha\alpha_{i+1} + (n-i)\alpha_i,$$

$$[i+2]\alpha\beta_{i+2} + [n-(i+1)]\beta_{i+1} \geq (i+1)\alpha\beta_{i+1} + (n-i)\beta_i,$$

for $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-2$. Then the number of zeros of $D_\alpha P(z)$ in $|z| \leq r$, $0 < r < 1$ does not exceed

$$\frac{1}{\log \frac{1}{r}} \log \frac{[n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1}] - n\alpha[\alpha_n - \beta_n] - [\alpha_{n-1} - \beta_{n-1}] + \alpha[\alpha_1 - \beta_1] + n[\alpha_0 - \beta_0] + |\alpha a_1 + na_0|}{|\alpha a_1 + na_0|}.$$

We need the following lemma for the proofs of the above theorems.

2. Lemma

Lemma 1 [7]. *If $f(z)$ is regular, $f(0) \neq 0$ and $|f(z)| \leq M(R)$ in $|z| \leq 1$. Then the number of zeros of $f(z)$ in $|z| \leq \frac{R}{C}$, ($C > 1$, $R > 0$) does not exceed $\frac{1}{\log C} \log \frac{M(R)}{|f(0)|}$.*

3. Proof of the Theorems

Proof of Theorem 1. Let $P(z) = a_n z^n + a_{n-1} z^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 z + a_0$ be a polynomial of degree n with $Re(a_i) = \alpha_i$, $Im(a_i) = \beta_i$ for $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$.

Denote by $D_\alpha P(z) = nP(z) + (\alpha - z)P'(z)$ to be the polar derivative of $P(z)$ with respect to the real number α of degree $n - 1$. This implies

$$\begin{aligned} D_\alpha P(z) &= [n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1}]z^{n-1} + [(n-1)\alpha a_{n-1} + 2a_{n-2}]z^{n-2} \\ &\quad + [(n-2)\alpha a_{n-2} + 3a_{n-3}]z^{n-3} + \dots + [3\alpha a_3 + (n-2)a_2]z^2 \\ &\quad + [2\alpha a_2 + (n-1)a_1]z + [\alpha a_1 + na_0]. \end{aligned}$$

Now consider the polynomial $Q(z) = (1-z)D_\alpha P(z)$ so that

$$\begin{aligned} Q(z) &= -[n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1}]z^n + [n\alpha a_n + \{1 - (n-1)\alpha\}a_{n-1} - 2a_{n-2}]z^{n-1} \\ &\quad + [(n-1)\alpha a_{n-1} + \{2 - (n-2)\alpha\}a_{n-2} - 3a_{n-3}]z^{n-2} \\ &\quad + \dots + [3\alpha a_3 + \{(n-2) - 2\alpha\}a_2 - (n-1)a_1]z^2 \\ &\quad + [2\alpha a_2 + \{(n-1) - \alpha\}a_1 - na_0]z + [\alpha a_1 + na_0] \\ &= -[n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1}]z^n \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} [[i+2]\alpha a_{i+2} + ([n - (i+1)] - [i+1]\alpha)a_{i+1} - (n-i)a_i]z^i \\ &\quad + [\alpha a_1 + na_0]. \end{aligned}$$

For $|z| \leq R$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
|Q(z)| &\leq |n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1}| R^n \\
&\quad + \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} |[[i+2]\alpha a_{i+2} + ([n-(i+1)] - [i+1]\alpha) a_{i+1} - (n-i)a_i]| R^i \\
&\quad + |\alpha a_1 + n a_0| \\
&\leq |n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1}| R^n \\
&\quad + \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} |[[i+2]\alpha \alpha_{i+2} + ([n-(i+1)] - [i+1]\alpha) \alpha_{i+1} - (n-i)\alpha_i]| R^i \\
&\quad + \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} |[[i+2]\alpha \beta_{i+2} + ([n-(i+1)] - [i+1]\alpha) \beta_{i+1} - (n-i)\beta_i]| R^i \\
&\quad + |\alpha a_1 + n a_0| \\
&\leq |n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1}| R^n \\
&\quad + \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} |[[i+2]\alpha \alpha_{i+2} + ([n-(i+1)] - [i+1]\alpha) \alpha_{i+1} - (n-i)\alpha_i]| R^i \\
&\quad + \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} |[[i+2]\alpha \beta_{i+2} + ([n-(i+1)] - [i+1]\alpha) \beta_{i+1} - (n-i)\beta_i]| R^i \\
&\quad + |\alpha a_1 + n a_0| \\
&\leq \begin{cases} R^n [|n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1}| + n\alpha[\alpha_n + \beta_n] + [\alpha_{n-1} + \beta_{n-1}] \\ \quad - \alpha[\alpha_1 + \beta_1] - n[\alpha_0 + \beta_0] + |\alpha a_1 + n a_0|], & \text{if } R \geq 1, \\ R [|n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1}| + n\alpha[\alpha_n + \beta_n] + [\alpha_{n-1} + \beta_{n-1}] \\ \quad - \alpha[\alpha_1 + \beta_1] - n[\alpha_0 + \beta_0]] + |\alpha a_1 + n a_0|, & \text{if } R \leq 1. \end{cases} \quad (1)
\end{aligned}$$

Applying Lemma 1 to $Q(z)$, we get that the number of zeros of $Q(z)$ in $|z| \leq \frac{R}{C}$ ($C > 1$, $R > 0$), does not exceed

$$(i) \frac{1}{\log C} \log \frac{R^n [n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1} | + n\alpha[\alpha_n + \beta_n] + [\alpha_{n-1} + \beta_{n-1}] - \alpha[\alpha_1 + \beta_1] - n[\alpha_0 + \beta_0] + |\alpha a_1 + na_0|]}{|\alpha a_1 + na_0|}, \quad \text{if } R \geq 1$$

and

$$(ii) \frac{1}{\log C} \log \frac{R [n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1} | + n\alpha[\alpha_n + \beta_n] + [\alpha_{n-1} + \beta_{n-1}] - \alpha[\alpha_1 + \beta_1] - n[\alpha_0 + \beta_0] + |\alpha a_1 + na_0|]}{|\alpha a_1 + na_0|}, \quad \text{if } R \leq 1.$$

Hence the number of zeros of $D_\alpha P(z)$ in $|z| \leq \frac{R}{C}$ ($C > 1$, $R > 0$) is equal to the number of zeros of $Q(z)$ in $|z| \leq \frac{R}{C}$ ($C > 1$).

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.

Proof of Theorem 2. Consider the polar derivative of the polynomial $P(z)$ as in the proof of Theorem 1. From equation (1) in the proof of Theorem 1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |Q(z)| &\leq |n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1}| R^n \\ &+ \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} |[[i+2]\alpha\alpha_{i+2} + ([n-(i+1)]-[i+1]\alpha)a_{i+1} - (n-i)\alpha_i]| R^i \\ &+ \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} |[[i+2]\alpha\beta_{i+2} + ([n-(i+1)]-[i+1]\alpha)\beta_{i+1} - (n-i)\beta_i]| R^i \\ &+ |\alpha a_1 + na_0| \\ &\leq |n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1}| R^n \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} [(n-i)\alpha_i + ([i+1]\alpha - [n-(i+1)])\alpha_{i+1} - [i+2]\alpha\alpha_{i+2}]R^i \\
& + \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} [(n-i)\beta_i + ([i+1]\alpha - [n-(i+1)])\beta_{i+1} - [i+2]\alpha\beta_{i+2}]R^i \\
& + |\alpha a_1 + na_0| \\
& \leq \begin{cases} R^n [|n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1}| - n\alpha[\alpha_n + \beta_n] - [\alpha_{n-1} + \beta_{n-1}] + \alpha[\alpha_1 + \beta_1] \\ \quad + n[\alpha_0 + \beta_0] + |\alpha a_1 + na_0|], & \text{if } R \geq 1, \\ R [|n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1}| - n\alpha[\alpha_n + \beta_n] - [\alpha_{n-1} + \beta_{n-1}] + \alpha[\alpha_1 + \beta_1] \\ \quad + n[\alpha_0 + \beta_0]] + |\alpha a_1 + na_0|, & \text{if } R \leq 1. \end{cases}
\end{aligned}$$

Applying Lemma 1 to $Q(z)$, we get that the number of zeros of $Q(z)$ in $|z| \leq \frac{R}{C}$ ($C > 1$, $R > 0$), does not exceed

$$(i) \frac{1}{\log C} \log \frac{R^n [|n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1}| - n\alpha[\alpha_n + \beta_n] - [\alpha_{n-1} + \beta_{n-1}] + \alpha[\alpha_1 + \beta_1] + n[\alpha_0 + \beta_0] + |\alpha a_1 + na_0|]}{|\alpha a_1 + na_0|}, \quad \text{if } R \geq 1$$

and

$$(ii) \frac{1}{\log C} \log \frac{R [|n\alpha a_n + a_{n-1}| - n\alpha[\alpha_n + \beta_n] - [\alpha_{n-1} + \beta_{n-1}] + \alpha[\alpha_1 + \beta_1] + n[\alpha_0 + \beta_0] + |\alpha a_1 + na_0|]}{|\alpha a_1 + na_0|}, \quad \text{if } R \leq 1.$$

Hence the number of zeros of $D_\alpha P(z)$ in $|z| \leq \frac{R}{C}$ ($C > 1$, $R > 0$) is also equal to the number of zeros of $Q(z)$ in $|z| \leq \frac{R}{C}$ ($C > 1$).

This completes the proof of Theorem 2.

Similarly we can prove Theorem 3 and Theorem 4.

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