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ON THE MAXIMUM MODULUS OF A POLYNOMIAL AND ITS DERIVATIVE

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Abstract. If p(z) is a polynomial of degree *n*, having no zeros in |z| < 1, then it was shown by Dewan et al [K. K. Dewan and Sunil Hans, Generalization of certain well known polynomial inequalities , J. Math. Anal. Appl. 363 (2010) 38–41] that for every real or complex number β with $|\beta| \le 1$ and |z| = 1,

$$|zp'(z) + \frac{n\beta}{2}p(z)| \le \frac{n}{2}\{(|\frac{\beta}{2}| + |1 + \frac{\beta}{2}|)\max_{|z|=1}|p(z)| - (|1 + \frac{\beta}{2}| - |\frac{\beta}{2}|)\min_{|z|=1}|p(z)|\}.$$

In this paper, we generalize the above inequality and some related inequalities by extending them to the class of polynomials having no zeros in |z| < 1 except *s*-fold zeros at the origin where $0 \le s \le n$. We also establish a compact generalization of some known polynomial inequalities.

Keywords: polynomial; inequality; maximum modulus; derivative.

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1. Introduction and statement of results

According to a well known Bernstein's inequality on the derivative of a polynomial p(z) of degree *n*, we have

$$\max_{|z|=1} |p'(z)| \le n \max_{|z|=1} |p(z)|.$$
(1)

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The result is best possible and equality holds for the polynomials having all its zeros at the origin (see [14]).

The inequality (1) can be sharpened, if we restrict ourselves to the class of polynomials having no zeros in |z| < 1.

In fact, P. Erdös conjectured and later Lax [12] proved that if $p(z) \neq 0$ in |z| < 1, then (1) can be replaced by

$$\max_{|z|=1} |p'(z)| \le \frac{n}{2} \max_{|z|=1} |p(z)|.$$
(2)

If the polynomial p(z) has all its zeros in $|z| \le 1$, then it was proved by Turan [15] that

$$\max_{|z|=1} |p'(z)| \ge \frac{n}{2} \max_{|z|=1} |p(z)|.$$
(3)

The inequalities (2) and (3) are sharp and equalities hold for polynomials having all its zeros on |z| = 1.

Recently Aziz and Zargar [5] improved inequality (3) and proved that if p(z) is a polynomial of degree *n* having all its zeros in $|z| \le 1$, with *s*-fold zeros at the origin, then

$$\max_{|z|=1} |p'(z)| \ge \frac{n+s}{2} \max_{|z|=1} |p(z)| + \frac{n-s}{2} \min_{|z|=1} |p(z)|.$$
(4)

As an improvement of inequality (2) Jain [11] proved that if p(z) is a polynomial of degree *n* having no zeros in |z| < 1, then

$$|zp'(z) + \frac{n\beta}{2}p(z)| \le \frac{n}{2}(|\frac{\beta}{2}| + |1 + \frac{\beta}{2}|)\max_{|z|=1}|p(z)|,$$
(5)

for every real or complex number β with $|\beta| \le 1$ and |z| = 1. The equality holds for $P(z) = az^n + b$, |a| = |b| = 1/2.

Dewan et al [7] proved that if P(z) is a polynomial of degree *n* and has all its zeros in |z| < 1, then for every real or complex number β with $|\beta| \le 1$,

$$\min_{|z|=1} |zp'(z) + \frac{n\beta}{2}p(z)| \ge n|1 + \frac{\beta}{2}|\min_{|z|=1}|p(z)|.$$
(6)

In the case p(z) having no zeros in |z| < 1, as a refinment of (5),

$$|zp'(z) + \frac{n\beta}{2}p(z)| \le \frac{n}{2}\{(|\frac{\beta}{2}| + |1 + \frac{\beta}{2}|)\max_{|z|=1}|p(z)| - (|1 + \frac{\beta}{2}| - |\frac{\beta}{2}|)\min_{|z|=1}|p(z)|\},$$
(7)

for every real or complex number β with $|\beta| \le 1$ and |z| = 1.

In this paper, we first obtain the following generalization of polynomial inequality (6), as follows:

Theorem 1.1. Let p(z) be a polynomial of degree n, having all its zeros in $|z| \le 1$, with s-fold zeros at the origin, $0 \le s \le n$, then

$$\min_{|z|=1} |zp'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2} p(z)| \ge |n+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}| \min_{|z|=1} |p(z)|, \tag{8}$$

for every real or complex number β with $|\beta| \le 1$. The result is best possible and equality holds for the polynomials $p(z) = az^n$.

If we take s = 0 in Theorem 1.1, the inequality (8) reduce to inequality (6). According to Lemma 2.1,

$$|zp'(z)| \ge \frac{n+s}{2}|p(z)|,$$

then for suitable argument β , we have

$$|zp'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}p(z)| = |zp'(z)| - |\beta| \frac{n+s}{2}|p(z)|.$$
(9)

Combining (8) and (9), we have

$$\begin{split} |zp'(z)| - |\beta| \frac{n+s}{2} |p(z)| &= |zp'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2} p(z)| \\ &\geq \min_{|z|=1} |zp'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2} p(z)| \geq |n+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}| \min_{|z|=1} |p(z)| \\ &\geq \{n-|\beta| \frac{n+s}{2}\} \min_{|z|=1} |p(z)|, \end{split}$$

or

$$|zp'(z)| - |\beta| \frac{n+s}{2} |p(z)| \ge \{n - |\beta| \frac{n+s}{2}\} \min_{|z|=1} |p(z)|,$$

equivalently

$$|zp'(z)| \ge |\beta| \frac{n+s}{2} |p(z)| + \{n - |\beta| \frac{n+s}{2}\} \min_{|z|=1} |p(z)|.$$

Making $|\beta| \rightarrow 1$, then we have the following interesting result which improve the inequality (4).

Corollary 1.2. Let p(z) be a polynomial of degree *n*, having all its zeros in $|z| \le 1$ with s-fold zeros at the origin, $0 \le s \le n$, then for |z| = 1, we have

$$|p'(z)| \ge \frac{n+s}{2} |p(z)| + \frac{n-s}{2} \min_{|z|=1} |p(z)|.$$
(10)

If we take $\beta = 0$ in Theorem 1.1, then inequality (8) reduces to the following result, which proved by Aziz and Dawood [1].

Corollary 1.3. Let p(z) be a polynomial of degree n, having all its zeros in $|z| \le 1$, then

$$\min_{|z|=1} |p'(z)| \ge n \min_{|z|=1} |p(z)|.$$
(11)

If we take $\beta = -1$ in (8), then we have:

Corollary 1.4. If p(z) is a polynomial of degree *n*, having all its zeros in $|z| \le 1$, with s-fold zeros at the origin, $0 \le s \le n$, then

$$\min_{|z|=1} |zp'(z) - \frac{n+s}{2}p(z)| \ge \frac{n-s}{2} \min_{|z|=1} |p(z)|.$$
(12)

Next by using Theorem 1.1, we generalize the inequality (7), more precisely:

Theorem 1.2. If p(z) is a polynomial of degree n, having no zeros in |z| < 1, except s-fold zeros at the origin, $0 \le s \le n$, then for every real or complex number β with $|\beta| \le 1$ and |z| = 1,

$$\max_{|z|=1} |zp'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2} p(z)| \leq \frac{1}{2} \{ (|n+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}| + |s+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}|) \max_{|z|=1} |p(z)| - (|n+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}| - |s+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}|) \min_{|z|=1} |p(z)| \}.$$
(13)

The result is best possible and equality holds in (13) for $p(z) = z^n + z^s$ and $\beta \ge 0$.

If we take s = 0 in Theorem 1.2, then inequality (13) reduces to inequality (7).

If we take $\beta = 0$ in Theorem 1.2, we have the following result which recently proved by Aziz and Zargar [5].

Corollary 1.5. If p(z) is a polynomial of degree n, having no zeros in |z| < 1, except s-fold zeros at the origin, $0 \le s \le n$, then

$$\max_{|z|=1} |p'(z)| \le \frac{n+s}{2} \max_{|z|=1} |p(z)| - \frac{n-s}{2} \min_{|z|=1} |p(z)|.$$
(14)

The result is best possible and equality holds in (14) for $p(z) = z^n + z^s$.

If we take $\beta = -1$ in Theorem 1.2, we have the following generalization of result due to K. K. Dewan [7].

Corollary 1.6. Let p(z) be a polynomial of degree n, not vanishing in |z| < 1, except s-fold zeros at the origin, $0 \le s \le n$, then

$$\max_{|z|=1} |zp'(z) - \frac{n+s}{2}p(z)| \le \frac{n-s}{2} \max_{|z|=1} |p(z)|.$$
(15)

2. Lemmas

For the proofs of these theorems, we need the following lemmas.

Lemma 2.1. If p(z) is a polynomial of degree n, having all its zeros in the closed disk $|z| \le 1$, with s-fold zeros at the origin, $0 \le s \le n$, then

$$|zp'(z)| \ge \frac{n+s}{2}|p(z)|, \ |z| = 1.$$
 (16)

This lemma is due to Aziz and Zargar [5].

Lemma 2.2. Let F(z) be a polynomial of degree n having all its zeros in $|z| \le 1$, with s-fold zeros at the origin, $0 \le s \le n$ and p(z) be a polynomial of degree not exceeding that of F(z), with s-fold zeros at the origin, $0 \le s \le n$. If $|p(z)| \le |F(z)|$ for |z| = 1, then for any $\beta \in \mathbb{C}$ with $|\beta| \le 1$ and |z| = 1,

$$|zp'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}p(z)| \le |zF'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}F(z)|.$$
(17)

Proof. By using the inequality $|p(z)| \le |F(z)|$ for |z| = 1, any zero of F(z) that lies on |z| = 1, is the zero of p(z). On the other hand, from Rouche's Theorem, it is obvious that for α with $|\alpha| < 1$, $F(z) + \alpha p(z)$ has as many zeros in |z| < 1 as F(z), and so has all of its zeros in |z| < 1. Therefore $F(z) + \alpha p(z)$ has all its zeros in $|z| \le 1$, with *s*-fold zeros at the origin, $0 \le s \le n$. On applying Lemma 2.1, we get

$$|zF'(z) + \alpha zp'(z)| \ge \frac{n+s}{2} |F(z) + \alpha p(z)|$$
 for $|z| = 1$.

Therefore, for any β with $|\beta| < 1$, we have for |z| = 1,

$$(zF'(z) + \alpha zp'(z)) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}(F(z) + \alpha p(z)) \neq 0,$$

i.e.

$$T(z) = (zF'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}F(z)) + \alpha(zp'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}p(z)),$$
(18)

will have no zeros on |z| = 1. Then for an appropriate choice of the argument of α , one get for |z| = 1,

$$|\alpha||zp'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}p(z)| \neq |zF'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}F(z)|.$$

Therefore on |z| = 1, we have

$$|zp'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}p(z)| \le |zF'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}F(z)|.$$
(19)

If inequality (19) is not true, then there is a point $z = z_0$ with $|z_0| = 1$ such that

$$|z_0p'(z_0) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}p(z_0)| > |z_0F'(z_0) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}F(z_0)|.$$

Now take

$$\alpha = -\frac{z_0 F'(z_0) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2} F(z_0)}{z_0 p'(z_0) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2} p(z_0)},$$

then $|\alpha| < 1$ and with this choice of α , we have from (18), $T(z_0) = 0$ for $|z_0| = 1$. But this contradicts the fact that $T(z) \neq 0$ for |z| = 1. For β with $|\beta| = 1$, inequality (19) follows by continuity. This is equivalent to the desired result.

If we take $F(z) = z^n \max_{|z|=1} |p(z)|$ in the Lemma 2.2, we have the following result:

Lemma 2.3. If p(z) is a polynomial of degree n with s-fold zeros at the origin, $0 \le s \le n$, then for any β with $|\beta| \le 1$ and |z| = 1,

$$|zp'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}p(z)| \le |n+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}|\max_{|z|=1}|p(z)|.$$

Lemma 2.4. If p(z) is a polynomial of degree n with s-fold zeros at the origin, $0 \le s \le n$, then for any β with $|\beta| \le 1$ and |z| = 1,

$$|zp'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}p(z)| + |zq'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}q(z)| \le \{|n+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}| + |s+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}|\} \max_{|z|=1} |p(z)|,$$

where

$$q(z) = z^{n+s} \overline{p(\frac{1}{\overline{z}})}.$$

Note that q(z) is a polynomial of degree *n* with *s*-fold zeros at the origin, $0 \le s \le n$, because $p(z) = z^s h(z)$ which h(z) is a polynomial of degree n - s, therefore

$$q(z) = z^{n+s}\overline{p(\frac{1}{\overline{z}})} = z^{n+s}\overline{(\frac{1}{\overline{z^s}}h(\frac{1}{\overline{z}}))} = z^n\overline{h(\frac{1}{\overline{z}})} = z^s(z^{n-s}\overline{h(\frac{1}{\overline{z}})}).$$

Since h(z) is a polynomial of degree n - s, where $h(0) \neq 0$, hence the polynomial $z^{n-s}\overline{h(\frac{1}{\overline{z}})}$ is a polynomial of degree n - s. Therefore q(z) is a polynomial of degree n with s-fold zeros at the origin, $0 \le s \le n$.

Proof. Let $M = \max_{|z|=1} |p(z)|$. For α with $|\alpha| > 1$, it follows by Rouche's Theorem that the polynomial $G(z) = p(z) - \alpha M z^s$ has no zeros in |z| < 1, except *s*-fold zeros at the origin. Correspondingly the polynomial

$$H(z) = z^{n+s} \overline{G(\frac{1}{\overline{z}})},$$

has all its zeros in $|z| \le 1$ with *s*-fold zeros at origin and |G(z)| = |H(z)| for |z| = 1. Therefore, by Lemma 2.2, for $|\beta| \le 1$ and |z| = 1, we have

$$|zG'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}G(z)| \le |zH'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}H(z)|.$$
(20)

On the other hand

$$H(z) = z^{n+s} \overline{G(\frac{1}{\overline{z}})} = z^{n+s} (\overline{p(\frac{1}{\overline{z}})} - \overline{\alpha} M z^{-s}) = q(z) - \overline{\alpha} M z^{n},$$

or

$$H(z) = q(z) - \overline{\alpha}Mz^n,$$

then by replacement in (20), we have

$$|zp'(z) - \alpha sz^{s}M + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}(p(z) - \alpha Mz^{s})| \leq |zq'(z) - n\overline{\alpha}Mz^{n} + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}(q(z) - \overline{\alpha}Mz^{n})|.$$

This implies for |z| = 1,

$$|zp'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}p(z)| - |\alpha||s + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}|M \le |(zq'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}q(z)) - \overline{\alpha}Mz^n(n + \beta \frac{n+s}{2})|.$$

$$(21)$$

As |p(z)| = |q(z)| for |z| = 1, then $M = \max_{|z|=1} |p(z)| = \max_{|z|=1} |q(z)|$ and q(z) has s-fold zeros at origin. On applying Lemma 2.3 to the polynomial q(z), we have for |z| = 1,

$$|zq'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}q(z)| \le |n+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}|\max_{|z|=1}|q(z)| < |\alpha||n+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}|M.$$

Therefore from inequality (21), by suitable choice of argument of α , we have |z| = 1,

$$|zp'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}p(z)| - |\alpha|M|s + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}| \le |\alpha|M|n + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}| - |zq'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}q(z)|,$$

i.e.

$$|zp'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}p(z)| + |zq'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}q(z)| \le |\alpha|(|n+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}| + |s+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}|)M.$$

Making $|\alpha| \rightarrow 1$, Lemma 2.4 follows.

The following lemma is due to Gardner, Govil and Musukula [8].

Lemma 2.5. If $p(z) = \sum_{\nu=0}^{n} a_{\nu} z^{\nu}$ is a polynomial of degree n, $p(z) \neq 0$ in |z| < k, (k > 0), then m < |p(z)| for |z| < k and in particular $m < |a_0|$, where $m = \min_{|z|=k} |p(z)|$.

2. Proofs of the theorems

Proof of the Theorem 1.1. If p(z) has a zero on |z| = 1, then inequality (8) is trivial. Therefore we assume that p(z) has all its zeros in |z| < 1. If $m = \min_{|z|=1} |p(z)|$, then m > 0 and $|p(z)| \ge m$ for |z| = 1. Therefore, if $|\lambda| < 1$ then it follows by Rouche's Theorem that the polynomial $G(z) = p(z) - \lambda m z^n$, has all its zeros in |z| < 1 with *s*-fold zeros at the origin, $0 \le s \le n$. Also by using Lemma 2.5 for k = 1, the polynomial $G(z) = p(z) - \lambda m z^n$ is of degree *n*, for $|\lambda| < 1$. On applying Lemma 2.1 to the polynomial G(z) of degree *n*, we get

$$|zG'(z)| \ge \frac{n+s}{2}|G(z)|,$$

i.e.

$$|zp'(z) - \lambda mnz^n| \ge \frac{n+s}{2} |p(z) - \lambda mz^n|,$$

where |z| = 1.

Therefore for β with $|\beta| < 1$, it can be easily verified that the polynomial

$$(zp'(z) - \lambda mnz^n) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2} \{p(z) - \lambda mz^n\},\$$

i.e.

$$(zp'(z)+\beta\frac{n+s}{2}p(z))-\lambda mz^n(n+\beta\frac{n+s}{2}),$$

will have no zeros on |z| = 1. As $|\lambda| < 1$, we have for β with $|\beta| < 1$ and |z| = 1,

$$|zp'(z)+\beta\frac{n+s}{2}p(z)|>m|\lambda z^n||n+\beta\frac{n+s}{2}|,$$

i.e.

$$|zp'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}p(z)| \ge m|n+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}|.$$
(22)

For β with $|\beta| = 1$, (22) follows by continuity. This completes the proof of Theorem 1.1.

Proof of Theorem 2.2. Let $m = \min_{|z|=1} |p(z)|$, then $m \le |p(z)|$ for $|z| \le 1$. Now for λ with $|\lambda| < 1$, we have

$$|\lambda m| < m \le |p(z)|,$$

where |z| = 1. Hence by Rouche's Theorem the polynomial $G(z) = p(z) - \lambda m z^s$, has no zero in |z| < 1 except *s*-fold zeros at the origin. Therefore the polynomial

$$H(z) = z^{n+s}\overline{G(1/\overline{z})} = q(z) - \overline{\lambda}mz^n,$$

will have all its zeros in $|z| \le 1$ with *s*-fold zeros at the origin. Also |G(z)| = |H(z)| for |z| = 1. On the other hand by using Lemma 2.5, the polynomial $q(z) - \overline{\lambda}mz^n$ is of degree *n*, for $|\lambda| < 1$. On applying Lemma 2.2 to the polynomial H(z) of degree *n*, we have for |z| = 1,

$$|zG'(z)+\beta\frac{n+s}{2}G(z)| \le |zH'(z)+\beta\frac{n+s}{2}H(z),$$

i.e.

$$|zp'(z) - \lambda smz^s + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}(p(z) - \lambda mz^s)| \le |zq'(z) - \overline{\lambda} nmz^n + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}(q(z) - \overline{\lambda} mz^n)|.$$

This implies

$$|zp'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}p(z) - (s+\beta \frac{n+s}{2})\lambda m z^{s}| \leq |zq'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}q(z) - (n+\beta \frac{n+s}{2})\overline{\lambda}m z^{n}|.$$
(23)

Since all the zeros of q(z) lie in $|z| \le 1$ with *s*-fold zeros at the origin, $0 \le s \le n$ and |p(z)| = |q(z)| for |z| = 1, hence on applying Theorem 1 to the polynomial q(z), we have for |z| = 1,

$$|zq'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}q(z)| \ge |n+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}|\min_{|z|=1}|q(z)| = |n+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}|m,$$

where |z| = 1 and $|\beta| \le 1$.

Then for an appropriate choice of the argument of λ , we have

$$|zq'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}q(z) - (n+\beta \frac{n+s}{2})\overline{\lambda}mz^n| = |zq'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}q(z)| - |n+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}||\lambda|m.$$
(24)

By combining (23) and (24), we get for |z| = 1 and $|\beta| \le 1$,

Equivalently

$$|zp'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}p(z)| \le |zq'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}q(z)| - (|n+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}| - |s+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}|)|\lambda|m$$

As $|\lambda| \to 1$, we have

$$|zp'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}p(z)| \le |zq'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}q(z)| - (|n+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}| - |s+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}|)m.$$

Which implies for every real or complex number β with $|\beta| \le 1$ and |z| = 1,

$$2|zp'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}p(z)| \le |zp'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}p(z)| + |zq'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}q(z)| - (|n+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}| - |s+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}|)m.$$

This in conjunction with Lemma 2.4 gives for $|\beta| \le 1$ and |z| = 1,

$$\begin{aligned} 2|zp'(z) + \beta \frac{n+s}{2}p(z)| &\leq (|n+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}| + |s+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}|) \max_{|z|=1} |p(z)| \\ &- (|n+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}| - |s+\beta \frac{n+s}{2}|) \min_{|z|=1} |p(z)|. \end{aligned}$$

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This completes the proof of Theorem 2.2.

Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests.

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