

Zeros of Polynomials

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Abstract— In this paper we find bounds for the number of zeros of a polynomial with certain conditions on its coefficients. The results thus obtained generalize many results known already.

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Index Terms— Bound, Coefficient, Polynomial, Zeros.

I. INTRODUCTION

Cauchy found a bound for all the zeros of a polynomial and proved the following result known as Cauchy's Theorem [1,3]:

Theorem A. All the zeros of the polynomial

$$P(z) = \sum_{j=0}^n a_j z^j \text{ of degree } n \text{ lie in the circle } |z| < 1 + M,$$

$$\text{where } M = \max_{0 \leq j \leq n-1} \left| \frac{a_j}{a_n} \right|.$$

The bound given by the above theorem depends on all the coefficients of the polynomial. A lot of such results is available in the literature [1-4]. In this connection Shah and Liman [4] proved the following results:

Theorem B. If $P(z) = \sum_{j=0}^n a_j z^j$ is a complex polynomial satisfying

$$\sum_{j=1}^n |a_j| < |a_0|,$$

Then $P(z)$ does not vanish in $|z| < 1$.

Theorem C. If $P(z) = \sum_{j=0}^n a_j z^j$ is a complex polynomial satisfying

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} |a_j| < |a_n|,$$

then $P(z)$ has all its zeros in $|z| < 1$.

Mezerji and Bidkham [2] generalized Theorems B and C by proving

Theorem D. Let $P(z) = a_0 + \sum_{i=\mu}^n a_j z^j$ be a complex polynomial of degree n . If for some $R \geq 1$,

$$R^{n-\mu} \sum_{i=0, i \neq j \notin A}^n |a_i| < |a_k|,$$

where $A = \{1, 2, \dots, \mu - 1\}$, then $P(z)$ has exactly μ zeros in $|z| < R$.

II. MAIN RESULTS

In this paper we prove the following result:

Theorem 1. Let

$$P(z) = a_0 + a_1 z + a_2 z^2 + \dots + a_p z^p + a_n z^n, 1 \leq p \leq n-1$$

be a complex polynomial of degree n . If for some $R \geq 1$,

$$R^{n-p} \sum_{j=0, i \neq p}^n |a_i| < |a_p|,$$

then $P(z)$ has exactly p zeros in $|z| < R$.

Remark 1. For $R=1$ and $p=n$, Theorem 1 reduces to Theorem C.

For $p=1$, $R=1$, Theorem 1 reduces to the following result:

Corollary 1. Let $P(z) = a_0 + a_1 z + a_n z^n$ such that

$$|a_0| + |a_n| < |a_1|. \text{ Then } P(z) \text{ has exactly 1 zero in } |z| < 1.$$

For $p=n-1$, we get the following result from Theorem 1:

Corollary 2. Let

$P(z) = a_0 + a_1 z + a_2 z^2 + \dots + a_{n-1} z^{n-1} + a_n z^n$ be a complex polynomial of degree n . If for some $R \geq 1$,

$$R \sum_{j=0, i \neq n-1}^n |a_i| < |a_{n-1}|,$$

then $P(z)$ has exactly $n-1$ zeros in $|z| < R$.

For $R=1$, Cor.2 gives the following result:

Corollary 3. Let

$P(z) = a_0 + a_1 z + a_2 z^2 + \dots + a_{n-1} z^{n-1} + a_n z^n$ be a complex polynomial of degree n . If

$$\sum_{j=0, i \neq n-1}^n |a_i| < |a_{n-1}|,$$

then $P(z)$ has exactly $n-1$ zeros in $|z| < 1$.

III. PROOF OF THEOREM 1

Let

$$g(z) = \frac{1}{a_p} \sum_{j=0, j \neq p}^n a_j z^j.$$

Then for $|z| = R$, $R \geq 1$,

$$|g(z)| \leq \frac{1}{|a_p|} \sum_{j=0, j \neq p}^n |a_j| |z|^j$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \frac{1}{|a_p|} \sum_{j=0, j \neq p}^n |a_j| R^j \\
 &\leq \frac{1}{|a_p|} \cdot R^n \sum_{j=0, j \neq p}^n |a_j| \\
 &\leq R^p \\
 &= |z|^p \\
 &= |z^p|
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, by Rouché's Theorem z^p and $g(z) +$

$z^p = \frac{P(z)}{a_p}$ have the same number of zeros in $|z| < R$.

Since z^p has p zeros there, it follows that $P(z)$ has exactly p zeros in $|z| < R$. That proves the result.

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