

## DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH MAHLER AND SHEFFER-MAHLER POLYNOMIALS

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**Abstract.** In this paper, we study linear differential equations arising from the generating functions of Mahler and Sheffer-Mahler polynomials. We give explicit identities for the Mahler and Sheffer-Mahler polynomials. In addition, we investigate the zeros of the Sheffer-Mahler polynomials with numerical methods.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Recently, nonlinear differential equations arising from the generating functions of special polynomials are studied by Kim and Kim in order to give explicit identities for special polynomials(see [1, 4]). In this paper, since the

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Mahler polynomial is not a Sheffer sequence, we introduce a new Sheffer-Mahler polynomials that become sheffer sequence. Next, we study linear differential equations arising from the generating functions of the Mahler and Sheffer-Mahler polynomials. We give explicit identities for the Mahler and Sheffer-Mahler polynomials. In order to study the Mahler and Sheffer-Mahler polynomials, we must understand the structure of the Mahler and Sheffer-Mahler polynomials. Therefore, using computer, a realistic study for the Mahler and Sheffer-Mahler polynomials is very interesting. Finally, we observe an interesting phenomenon of ‘scattering’ of the zeros of the the Mahler and Sheffer-Mahler polynomials in complex plane.

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

Mahler polynomials,  $g_n(x)(n \geq 0)$ , were introduced by Mahler in his work on the zeros of the incomplete gamma functions(see [5]). They are defined by the generating function (see [2, 5, 8]):

$$F = F(t, x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} = e^{x(1+t-e^t)}. \quad (2.1)$$

The first few examples of Mahler polynomials are

$$\begin{aligned} g_0(x) &= 1, & g_1(x) &= 0, & g_2(x) &= -x, & g_3(x) &= -x, \\ g_4(x) &= -x + 3x^2, & g_5(x) &= -x + 10x^2, & g_6(x) &= -x + 25x^2 - 15x^3, \\ g_7(x) &= -x + 56x^2 - 105x^3, & g_8(x) &= -x + 119x^2 - 490x^3 + 105x^4, \\ g_9(x) &= -x + 246x^2 - 1918x^3 + 1260x^4, \\ g_{10}(x) &= -x + 501x^2 - 6825x^3 + 9450x^4 - 945x^5. \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

We observe here that, as  $1+t-e^t = -\frac{1}{2!}t^2 - \frac{1}{3!}t^3 - \dots$  is not a delta series, the Mahler polynomials  $g_n(x)$  are not a Sheffer sequence. To remedy this, we introduce, what we call, the Sheffer-Mahler polynomials  $M_n(x)$  given by the generating function:

$$G = G(t, x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} M_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} = e^{x(1-t-e^t)}. \quad (2.3)$$

The first few of them are

$$\begin{aligned} M_0(x) &= 1, & M_1(x) &= -2x, & M_2(x) &= -x + 4x^2, \\ M_3(x) &= -x + 6x^2 - 8x^3, & M_4(x) &= -x + 11x^2 - 24x^3 + 16x^4, \\ M_5(x) &= -x + 20x^2 - 70x^3 + 80x^4 - 32x^5, \\ M_6(x) &= -x + 37x^2 - 195x^3 + 340x^4 - 240x^5 + 64x^6. \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

As  $1 - t - e^t = -2t - \frac{1}{2!}t^2 - \frac{1}{3!}t^3 - \dots$  is a delta series,  $M_n(x)$  is a Sheffer sequence. In Section 4, we will display the curves of  $M_n(x)$  ( $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ ), for  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots, 10$ , and study the zeros of  $M_n(x)$ , for some values of  $n$ .

As is well known, the Bell polynomials  $Bel_n(x)$  are given by the generating function (see [3]):

$$e^{x(e^t-1)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} Bel_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!}.$$

From (2.1), we note that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} &= e^{x(1+t-e^t)} \\ &= e^{-x(e^t-1)} e^{xt} \\ &= \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} Bel_k(-x) \frac{t^k}{k!} \right) \left( \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} x^m \frac{t^m}{m!} \right) \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} Bel_k(-x) x^{n-k} \right) \frac{t^n}{n!}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we get

$$g_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} Bel_k(-x) x^{n-k} \quad (n \geq 0). \tag{2.5}$$

In the same way, we have

$$M_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} Bel_k(-x) (-x)^{n-k} \quad (n \geq 0). \tag{2.6}$$

It is not difficult to show that

$$Bel_n(-x) = \sum_{m=0}^n S_2(n, m) (-x)^m,$$

where  $S_2(n, m)$  is the Stirling number of the second kind given by (see [8])

$$x^n = \sum_{l=0}^n S_2(n, l) (x)_l.$$

Here,  $(x)_l = x(x-1) \cdots (x-l+1)$ , ( $l \geq 1$ ), and  $(x)_0 = 1$ .

## 3. MAIN RESULTS

In this section, we study linear differential equations arising from the generating functions of Mahler polynomials.

Let

$$F = F(t, x) = e^{x(1+t-e^t)}. \quad (3.1)$$

Then, by (3.1), we get

$$\begin{aligned} F^{(1)} &= \frac{d}{dt}F(t, x) = \frac{d}{dt} \left( e^{x(1+t-e^t)} \right) = e^{x(1+t-e^t)} x(1-e^t) \\ &= x(1-e^t)F, \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} F^{(2)} &= \frac{d}{dt}F^{(1)} = x(-e^t)F + x(1-e^t)F^{(1)} \\ &= -xe^tF + x^2(1-e^t)^2F = (x^2 - (2x^2 + x)e^t + x^2e^{2t})F, \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

and

$$F^{(3)} = \frac{d}{dt}F^{(2)} = (x^3 - (3x^3 + 3x^2 + x)e^t + (3x^3 + 3x^2)e^{2t} - x^3e^{3t})F.$$

Continuing this process, we are led to put

$$F^{(N)} = \left( \frac{d}{dt} \right)^N F(t, x) = \left( \sum_{i=0}^N a_i(N, x) e^{it} \right) F, \quad (N = 0, 1, 2, \dots). \quad (3.4)$$

Taking the derivative with respect to  $t$  in (3.4), we have

$$\begin{aligned} F^{(N+1)} &= \frac{dF^{(N)}}{dt} = \left( \sum_{i=0}^N i a_i(N, x) e^{it} \right) F + \left( \sum_{i=0}^N a_i(N, x) e^{it} \right) F^{(1)} \\ &= \left( \sum_{i=0}^N i a_i(N, x) e^{it} \right) F + \left( \sum_{i=0}^N a_i(N, x) e^{it} \right) (x - xe^t)F \\ &= \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^N (x+i) a_i(N, x) e^{it} - \sum_{i=0}^N x a_i(N, x) e^{(i+1)t} \right\} F \\ &= \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^N (x+i) a_i(N, x) e^{it} - \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} x a_{i-1}(N, x) e^{it} \right\} F. \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

On the other hand, by replacing  $N$  by  $N+1$  in (3.4), we get

$$F^{(N+1)} = \left( \sum_{i=0}^{N+1} a_i(N+1, x) e^{it} \right) F. \quad (3.6)$$

Comparing the coefficients on both sides of (3.5) and (3.6), we obtain

$$a_0(N+1, x) = xa_0(N, x), \quad a_{N+1}(N+1, x) = -xa_N(N, x), \quad (3.7)$$

and

$$a_i(N+1, x) = -xa_{i-1}(N, x) + (x+i)a_i(N, x), \quad (1 \leq i \leq N). \quad (3.8)$$

In addition, by (3.4), we get

$$F = F^{(0)} = a_0(0, x)F. \quad (3.9)$$

Thus, by (3.9), we get

$$a_0(0, x) = 1. \quad (3.10)$$

It is not difficult to show that

$$\begin{aligned} (x - xe^t)F &= F^{(1)} = \left( \sum_{i=0}^1 a_i(1, x)e^{it} \right) F \\ &= (a_0(1, x) + a_1(1, x)e^t) F. \end{aligned} \quad (3.11)$$

Thus, by (3.11), we also get

$$a_0(1, x) = x, \quad a_1(1, x) = -x. \quad (3.12)$$

From (3.7), we note that

$$a_0(N+1, x) = xa_0(N, x) = x^2a_0(N-1, x) = \cdots = x^Na_0(1, x) = x^{N+1}, \quad (3.13)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} a_{N+1}(N+1, x) &= -xa_N(N, x) = (-x)^2a_{N-1}(N-1, x) \\ &= \cdots = (-x)^Na_1(1, x) = (-x)^{N+1}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.14)$$

For  $i = 1, 2, 3$  in (3.8), we have

$$a_1(N+1, x) = -x \sum_{k=0}^N (x+1)^k a_0(N-k, x), \quad (3.15)$$

$$a_2(N+1, x) = -x \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} (x+2)^k a_1(N-k, x), \quad (3.16)$$

and

$$a_3(N+1, x) = -x \sum_{k=0}^{N-2} (x+3)^k a_2(N-k, x). \quad (3.17)$$

Continuing this process, we can deduce that, for  $1 \leq i \leq N$ ,

$$a_i(N+1, x) = -x \sum_{k=0}^{N-i+1} (x+i)^k a_{i-1}(N-k, x). \quad (3.18)$$

**Theorem 3.1.** For  $N = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , the linear functional equations

$$F^{(N)} = \left( \sum_{i=0}^N a_i(N, x) e^{it} \right) F$$

have a solution

$$F = F(t, x) = e^{x(1+t-e^t)},$$

where

$$a_0(N, x) = x^N$$

and

$$a_i(N, x) = (-x)^i \sum_{k_i=0}^{N-i} \sum_{k_{i-1}=0}^{N-i-k_i} \cdots \sum_{k_1=0}^{N-i-k_i-\cdots-k_2} \left( \prod_{l=1}^i (x+l)^{k_l} \right) x^{N-i-\sum_{l=1}^i k_l},$$

$(1 \leq i \leq N).$

*Proof.* First, we give explicit expressions for  $a_i(N+1, x)$ . By (3.13)-(3.18), we get

$$\begin{aligned} a_1(N+1, x) &= -x \sum_{k_1=0}^N (x+1)^{k_1} a_0(N-k_1, x) \\ &= -x \sum_{k_1=0}^N (x+1)^{k_1} x^{N-k_1}, \end{aligned} \tag{3.19}$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_2(N+1, x) &= -x \sum_{k_2=0}^{N-1} (x+2)^{k_2} a_1(N-k_2, x) \\ &= (-x)^2 \sum_{k_2=0}^{N-1} \sum_{k_1=0}^{N-1-k_2} (x+2)^{k_2} (x+1)^{k_1} x^{N-k_2-k_1-1} \end{aligned} \tag{3.20}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} a_3(N+1, x) &= -x \sum_{k_3=0}^{N-2} (x+3)^{k_3} a_2(N-k_3, x) \\ &= (-x)^3 \sum_{k_3=0}^{N-2} \sum_{k_2=0}^{N-2-k_3} \sum_{k_1=0}^{N-2-k_3-k_2} (x+3)^{k_3} (x+2)^{k_2} (x+1)^{k_1} x^{N-k_3-k_2-k_1-2}. \end{aligned} \tag{3.21}$$

Continuing this process, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & a_i(N+1, x) \\
 &= (-x)^i \sum_{k_i=0}^{N-i+1} \sum_{k_{i-1}=0}^{N-i+1-k_i} \cdots \sum_{k_1=0}^{N-i+1-k_i-\cdots-k_2} \left( \prod_{l=1}^i (x+l)^{k_l} \right) x^{N-i+1-\sum_{l=1}^i k_l}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.22}$$

This complete the proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.2.** For  $k, N = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , we have

$$g_{k+N}(x) = \sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{m=0}^k \binom{k}{m} i^{k-m} a_i(N, x) g_m(x), \tag{3.23}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 & a_0(N, x) = x^N, \\
 & a_i(N, x) = (-x)^i \sum_{k_i=0}^{N-i} \sum_{k_{i-1}=0}^{N-i-k_i} \cdots \sum_{k_1=0}^{N-i-k_i-\cdots-k_2} \left( \prod_{l=1}^i (x+l)^{k_l} \right) x^{N-i-\sum_{l=1}^i k_l}, \\
 & (1 \leq i \leq N).
 \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* From (2.1), we note that

$$F^{(N)} = \left( \frac{d}{dt} \right)^N F(t, x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} g_{k+N}(x) \frac{t^k}{k!}. \tag{3.24}$$

From Theorem 3.1 and (3.24), we can derive the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} g_{k+N}(x) \frac{t^k}{k!} &= F^{(N)} = \left( \sum_{i=0}^N a_i(N, x) e^{it} \right) F \\
 &= \sum_{i=0}^N a_i(N, x) \left( \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} i^l \frac{t^l}{l!} \right) \left( \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} g_m(x) \frac{t^m}{m!} \right) \\
 &= \sum_{i=0}^N a_i(N, x) \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^k \binom{k}{m} i^{k-m} g_m(x) \frac{t^k}{k!} \right) \\
 &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{m=0}^k \binom{k}{m} i^{k-m} a_i(N, x) g_m(x) \right) \frac{t^k}{k!}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.25}$$

By comparing the coefficients on both sides of (3.25), we get assertion (3.23).  $\square$

**Corollary 3.3.** For  $N = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , we have

$$g_N(x) = \sum_{i=0}^N a_i(N, x).$$

*Proof.* Let us take  $k = 0$  in (3.23). This complete the proof of Corollary 3.3.  $\square$

Here we consider the Sheffer-Mahler polynomials  $M_n(x)$  given by the generating function

$$G = G(t, x) = e^{x(1-t-e^t)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} M_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!}. \quad (3.26)$$

As was noted in Section 1, while the Mahler polynomials  $g_n(x)$  are not Sheffer polynomials, the newly introduced Sheffer-Mahler polynomials  $M_n(x)$  are. Clearly, they are Sheffer polynomials associated to the delta series  $f(t)$ , with the compositional inverse  $\bar{f}(t)$  of  $f(t)$  given by

$$\bar{f}(t) = 1 - t - e^t. \quad (3.27)$$

We will be as brief as possible and leave the details to the reader, as everything can be carried out analogously to Section 2.

By taking the derivatives of  $G$  in (3.26), we get

$$G^{(1)} = \frac{d}{dt}G(t, x) = (-x - xe^t)G \quad (3.28)$$

and

$$G^{(2)} = \left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)^2 G(t, x) = (x^2 + (2x^2 - x)e^t + x^2e^{2t})G. \quad (3.29)$$

From (3.28) and (3.29), we can guess that

$$G^{(N)} = \left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)^N G(t, x) = \left(\sum_{i=0}^N b_i(N, x)e^{it}\right)G. \quad (3.30)$$

Taking the derivative of (3.30) with respect to  $t$  gives

$$G^{(N+1)} = \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^N (i-x)b_i(N, x)e^{it} - \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} xb_{i-1}(N, x)e^{it} \right\} G. \quad (3.31)$$

On the other hand, by replacing  $N$  by  $N+1$  in (3.30), we obtain

$$G^{(N+1)} = \left(\sum_{i=0}^{N+1} b_i(N+1, x)e^{it}\right)G. \quad (3.32)$$



Comparing (3.31) and (3.32), we have the following recurrence relations:

$$b_0(N+1, x) = -xb_0(N, x), \quad b_{N+1}(N+1, x) = -xb_N(N, x), \quad (3.33)$$

and

$$b_i(N+1, x) = -xb_{i-1}(N, x) + (i-x)b_i(N, x), \quad (1 \leq i \leq N). \quad (3.34)$$

In addition, from (3.30) with  $N = 0, 1$  and (3.28), we easily get

$$b_0(0, x) = 1, \quad b_0(1, x) = b_1(1, x) = -x. \quad (3.35)$$

From (3.33) and (3.34), we obtain

$$b_0(N+1, x) = (-x)^{N+1}, \quad b_{N+1}(N+1, x) = (-x)^{N+1}. \quad (3.36)$$

Also, proceeding just as in Section 2, from (3.34) we can deduce that, for  $1 \leq i \leq N$ ,

$$b_i(N+1, x) = -x \sum_{k=0}^{N-i+1} (i-x)^k b_{i-1}(N-k, x). \quad (3.37)$$

In turn, from (3.37) we can get the following explicit expressions for  $b_i(N+1, x)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} & b_i(N+1, x) \\ &= (-x)^i \sum_{k_i=0}^{N-i+1} \sum_{k_{i-1}=0}^{N-i+1-k_i} \cdots \sum_{k_1=0}^{N-i+1-k_i-\cdots-k_2} \left( \prod_{l=1}^i (-x+l)^{k_l} \right) (-x)^{N-i+1-\sum_{l=1}^i k_l}, \\ & \quad (1 \leq i \leq N+1). \end{aligned} \quad (3.38)$$

**Theorem 3.4.** For  $N = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , the family of linear functional equations

$$G^{(N)} = \left( \sum_{i=0}^N b_i(N, x) e^{it} \right) G$$

have a solution  $G = G(t, x) = e^{x(1-t-e^t)}$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} & b_0(N, x) = (-x)^N, \\ & b_i(N, x) = (-x)^i \sum_{k_i=0}^{N-i} \sum_{k_{i-1}=0}^{N-i-k_i} \cdots \sum_{k_1=0}^{N-i-k_i-\cdots-k_2} \left( \prod_{l=1}^i (-x+l)^{k_l} \right) (-x)^{N-i-\sum_{l=1}^i k_l}, \\ & \quad (1 \leq i \leq N). \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Note here that (3.38) is also valid for  $i = N+1$  (see (3.36)). Thus, from (3.33), (3.38), and (3.30), this complete the proof of Theorem 3.4.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.5.** For  $k, N = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , we have

$$M_{k+N}(x) = \sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{l=0}^k \binom{k}{l} i^l b_i(N, x) M_{k-l}(x).$$

In particular, for  $k = 0$ ,

$$M_N(x) = \sum_{i=0}^N b_i(N, x), \quad (N = 0, 1, 2, \dots).$$

*Proof.* From (3.26) we get

$$G^{(N)} = \left( \frac{d}{dt} \right)^N G = \sum_{k=0}^N M_{k+N}(x) \frac{t^k}{k!}. \quad (3.39)$$

On the other hand, from Theorem 3.4 we have

$$\begin{aligned} G^{(N)} &= \left( \sum_{i=0}^N b_i(N, x) e^{it} \right) G \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^N b_i(N, x) \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} i^l \frac{t^l}{l!} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} M_m(x) \frac{t^m}{m!} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{l=0}^k \binom{k}{l} i^l b_i(N, x) M_{k-l}(x) \right) \frac{t^k}{k!}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.40)$$

Comparing (3.39) with (3.40) gives Theorem 3.5.  $\square$

#### 4. ZEROS OF THE SHEFFER-MAHLER POLYNOMIALS

This section aims to demonstrate the benefit of using numerical investigation to support theoretical prediction and to discover new interesting pattern of the zeros of the Sheffer-Mahler polynomials  $M_n(x)$ . By using computer, the Sheffer-Mahler polynomials  $M_n(x)$  can be determined explicitly. A few of them are

$$\begin{aligned} M_0(x) &= 1, \\ M_1(x) &= -2x, \\ M_2(x) &= -x + 4x^2, \\ M_3(x) &= -x + 6x^2 - 8x^3, \\ M_4(x) &= -x + 11x^2 - 24x^3 + 16x^4, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 M_5(x) &= -x + 20x^2 - 70x^3 + 80x^4 - 32x^5, \\
 M_6(x) &= -x + 37x^2 - 195x^3 + 340x^4 - 240x^5 + 64x^6, \\
 M_7(x) &= -x + 70x^2 - 539x^3 + 1330x^4 - 1400x^5 + 672x^6 - 128x^7, \\
 M_8(x) &= -x + 135x^2 - 1498x^3 + 5033x^4 - 7280x^5 + 5152x^6 - 1792x^7 + 256x^8.
 \end{aligned}$$

We display the shapes of the Sheffer-Mahler polynomials  $M_n(x)$  and investigate the zeros of the Sheffer-Mahler polynomials  $M_n(x)$ . For  $n = 1, \dots, 10$ , we can draw a plot of the Sheffer-Mahler polynomials  $M_n(x)$ , respectively. This shows the ten plots combined into one. We display the shape of  $M_n(x)$ ,  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ . (Figure1). We investigate the beautiful zeros of the Sheffer-

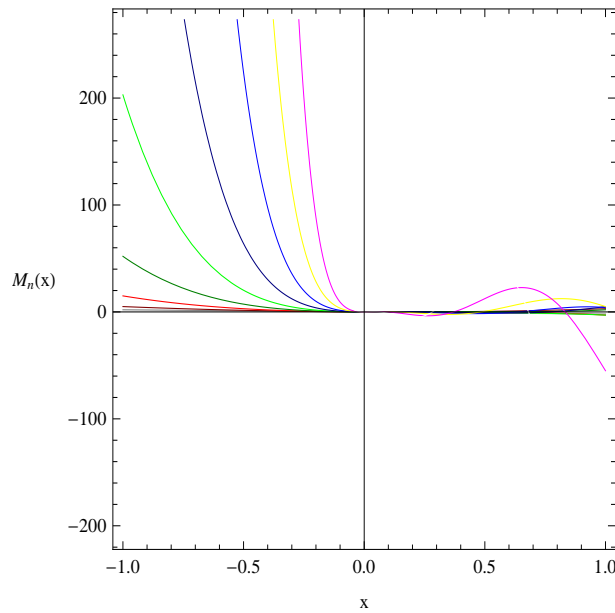
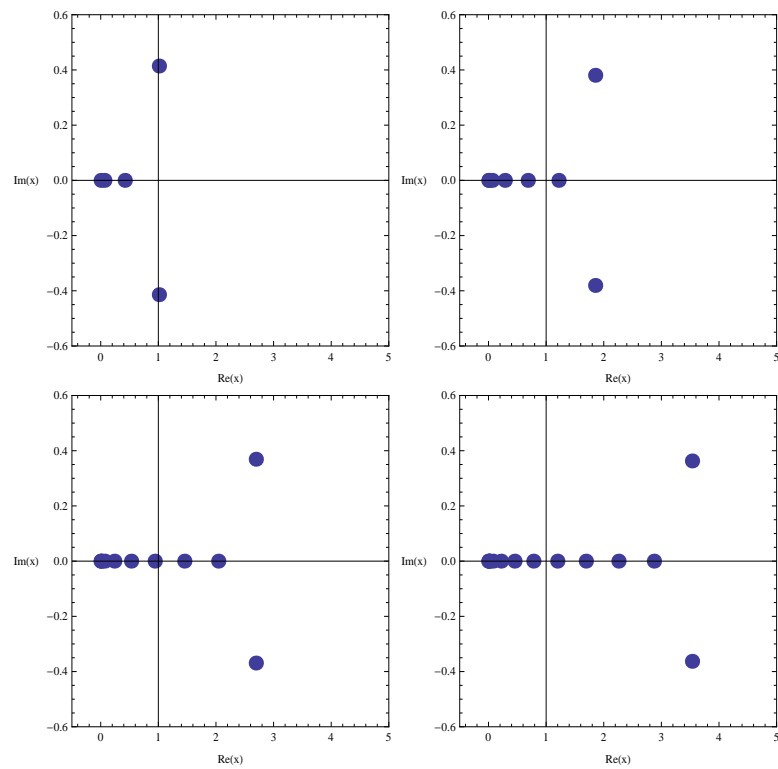


FIGURE 1. Curve of the Sheffer-Mahler polynomials  $M_n(x)$

Mahler polynomials  $M_n(x)$  by using a computer. We plot the zeros of the  $M_n(x)$  for  $n = 5, 10, 15, 20$  and  $x \in \mathbb{C}$ (Figure 2). In Figure 2(top-left), we choose  $n = 5$ . In Figure 2(top-right), we choose  $n = 10$ . In Figure 2(bottom-left), we choose  $n = 15$ . In Figure 2(bottom-right), we choose  $n = 20$ . Prove that  $M_n(x), x \in \mathbb{C}$ , has  $Im(x) = 0$  reflection symmetry analytic complex functions(see Figure 2). Stacks of zeros of the Sheffer-Mahler polynomials  $M_n(x)$  for  $1 \leq n \leq 20$  from a 3-D structure are presented(Figure 3). Our numerical results for approximate solutions of real zeros of the Sheffer-Mahler polynomials  $M_n(x)$  are displayed(Tables 1, 2).

FIGURE 2. Zeros of  $M_n(x)$ **Table 1.** Numbers of real and complex zeros of  $M_n(x)$ 

degree $n$	real zeros	complex zeros
1	1	0
2	2	0
3	3	0
4	2	2
5	3	2
6	4	2
7	5	2
8	6	2
9	5	4
10	6	4
11	7	4
12	8	4
13	9	4
14	8	6

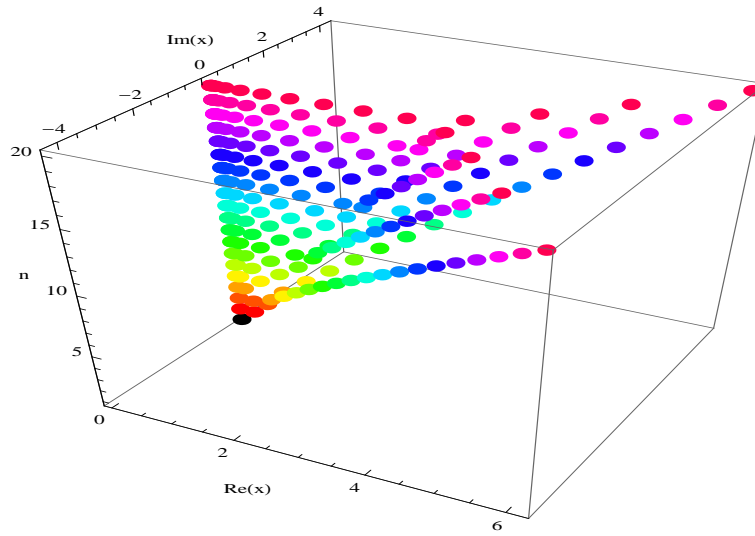


FIGURE 3. Stacks of zeros of  $M_n(x)$ ,  $1 \leq n \leq 20$

Plot of real zeros of  $M_n(x)$  for  $1 \leq n \leq 30$  structure are presented (Figure 4). We observe a remarkable regular structure of the complex roots of the

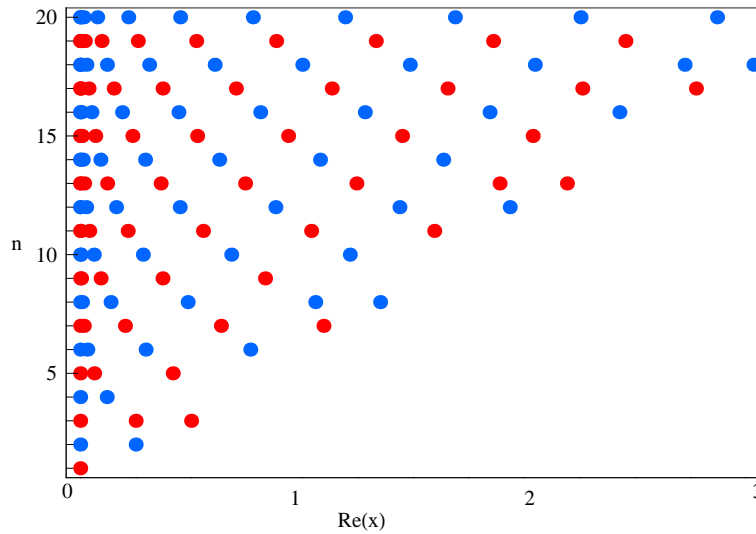


FIGURE 4. Real zeros of  $M_n(x)$  for  $1 \leq n \leq 20$

Sheffer-Mahler polynomials  $M_n(x)$ . We hope to verify a remarkable regular

structure of the complex roots of the Sheffer-Mahler polynomials  $M_n(x)$  (Table 1). Next, we calculated an approximate solution satisfying  $M_n(x) = 0, x \in \mathbb{C}$ . The results are given in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Approximate solutions of  $M_n(x) = 0, x \in \mathbb{C}$

degree $n$	$x$
1	0
2	0, 0.25000
3	0, 0.25000, 0.50000
4	0, 0.11966, 0.69017 - 0.21447i, 0.69017 + 0.21447i
5	0, 0.062862, 0.41719, 1.00998 - 0.41418i, 1.00998 + 0.41418i
6	0, 0.032188, 0.29492, 0.76667, 1.3281 - 0.6189i, 1.3281 + 0.6189i
7	0, 0.016235, 0.20182, 0.63436, 1.0966, 1.6505 - 0.8386i, 1.6505 + 0.8386i
8	0, 0.0081192, 0.13688, 0.48452, 1.0598, 1.3520, 1.9794 - 1.0701i, 1.9794 + 1.0701i

**Remark 4.1.** We can consider the more general problems based on numerical experiments. How many zeros does  $M_n(x)$  have? We are not able to decide if  $M_n(x) = 0$  has  $n$  distinct solutions(see Table 2). We would also like to know the number of complex zeros  $C_{M_n(x)}$  of  $M_n(x), Im(x) \neq 0$ . Since  $n$  is the degree of the polynomial  $M_n(x)$ , the number of real zeros  $R_{M_n(x)}$  lying on the real line  $Im(x) = 0$  is then  $R_{M_n(x)} = n - C_{M_n(x)}$ , where  $C_{M_n(x)}$  denotes complex zeros. See Table 1 for tabulated values of  $R_{M_n(x)}$  and  $C_{M_n(x)}$ . The authors have no doubt that investigations along these line will lead to a new approach employing numerical method in the research field of the Sheffer-Mahler polynomials  $M_n(x)$  which appear in applied mathematics and mathematical physics(see [6], [7]).

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