

Let f be an entire function of exponential type $\tau > 0$ such that $f(0) = 0$. It is known that if $|f(x)| \leq M$ for all real x , then

$$|f(x)| < M |\sin \tau x| \quad \text{for } 0 < |x| < \frac{\pi}{2\tau},$$

unless $f(z) := Me^{i\gamma} \sin \tau z$ for some real γ . We intend to discuss the provenance of this result and mention certain extensions where the condition that “ $|f(x)|$ be less than or equal to M for all real x ” is significantly relaxed. Some indications about the proofs will also be given.