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De Bruijn and Newman introduced a deformation of the completed Riemann zeta function  $\zeta(s)$ , and proved there is a real constant  $\Lambda$  which encodes the movement of the nontrivial zeros of  $\zeta(s)$  under the deformation. The Riemann hypothesis is equivalent to the assertion that  $\Lambda \leq 0$ . Newman, however, conjectured that  $\Lambda \geq 0$ .

Andrade, Chang, and Miller extended the machinery of Newman and Polya to  $L$ -functions for function fields  $\mathbb{F}_q(T)$ . In this setting we must consider a modified Newman's conjecture:  $\sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \Lambda_f \geq 0$ , for  $\mathcal{F}$  a family of  $L$ -functions. We prove this modified Newman's conjecture for several families of  $L$ -functions. In contrast with previous work, we exhibit specific  $L$ -functions for which  $\Lambda = 0$ , and thereby prove a stronger statement:  $\max_{L \in \mathcal{F}} \Lambda_L = 0$ . To prove this, we show a certain  $L$ -function must have a double root, which implies  $\Lambda = 0$ . For a different family, we construct particular elliptic curves  $E$  with  $p + 1$  points over  $\mathbb{F}_p$  and use the Weil conjectures to conclude  $\#E(\mathbb{F}_{p^{2n}})$  attains the bound over  $\mathbb{F}_{p^{2n}}$ . This tells us that the associated  $L$ -function satisfies  $\Lambda = 0$ . (Received August 27, 2014)