

ON p -ADIC F -FUNCTIONS

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Abstract

We introduce the class of p -adic F -functions which contains both the p -adic E -functions and p -adic G -functions, as well as other functions. In this paper we obtain lower bounds for polynomials in the values at algebraic points of a class of p -adic F -functions defined over the completion of the algebraic closure of a p -adic field.

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1. Introduction

One speaks of the Siegel-Šidlovskii method for studying the arithmetic properties of E -functions and G -functions in virtue of Siegel's seminal paper [12] and Šidlovskii's far-reaching generalization [10] of this work. In the p -adic case, Flicker [4] considering a polynomial in p -adic G -functions, and Remmal [8] generalized a result of Bundschuh and Walliser [2] on the p -adic exponential functions by considering polynomials in p -adic E -functions defined over the completion of the algebraic closure of a p -adic field. Estimates at rational points are given. Remmal [8] also deals with the p -adic function $\sum_{h=0}^{\infty} h!z^h$ which is not a p -adic E -function or G -function. His work motivates us to consider a new class of p -adic functions. We name these functions p -adic F -functions and give estimates for values at algebraic points of a class of p -adic F -functions.

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2. Notations and results

As usual \mathbb{Q} denotes the field of rational numbers. If p is a fixed prime then \mathbb{Q}_p denotes the field of p -adic rationals and \mathbb{C}_p a completion of an algebraic closure of \mathbb{Q}_p . We denote by \mathbb{K} a subfield of \mathbb{C}_p of degree d over \mathbb{Q} , and by $O_{\mathbb{K}}$ the domain of integers of \mathbb{K} . We use $|\cdot|$ to denote the archimedean valuation (that is, the ordinary absolute value), $|\cdot|_p$ the normalised non-archimedean valuation (that is, the p -adic valuation with $|p|_p = p^{-1}$), and use $\|\cdot\|$ to denote the size of an algebraic element of \mathbb{C}_p (by which we mean the maximum of the absolute values of the element and its field conjugates).

A p -adic F -function is defined as an analytic function of the form

$$f(z) = \sum_{h=0}^{\infty} a_h z^h$$

where the a_h have the following properties:

(i) $a_h \in \mathbb{K}$, $h \geq 0$, and there exists a sequence of natural numbers q_0, q_1, \dots , and a function $\phi(h)$, which is an increasing function of h , such that

$$q_h a_j \in O_{\mathbb{K}} \text{ and } \max(q_h, \|q_h a_j\|) \leq \phi(h), \quad h \geq 0, 0 \leq j \leq h.$$

(ii) There are constants $a \geq 1$, $b \geq 1$, and $c > 0$ such that

$$|a_0|_p \leq a, \quad |a_h|_p \leq ah^b c^h, \quad h \geq 1.$$

So the series $f(z)$ converges in the subdisc of those z in \mathbb{C}_p with $|z|_p < c^{-1}$.

Suppose now that we have a system of linear differential equations

$$(1) \quad y'_i = Q_{i0}(z) + \sum_{h=1}^m Q_{ih}(z)y_h, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m,$$

with the $Q_{ih}(z) \in \mathbb{K}(z)$. There is then no loss of generality in supposing that the $Q_{ih}(z)$ are rational functions with coefficients in $O_{\mathbb{K}}$ (see [10]). We denote by $T(z)$ a least common denominator for the rational functions $Q_{ih}(z)$. Thus $T(z)$ is a polynomial in $O_{\mathbb{K}}[z]$ such that all the $T(z)Q_{ih}(z)$ are in $O_{\mathbb{K}}[z]$.

Let

$$(2) \quad g = \max_{i,h} (\deg T(z), \deg(T(z)Q_{ij}(z))),$$

$$T = \max_{i,h} (\overline{|T(z)|}, \overline{|T(z)Q_{ih}(z)|})$$

where $\overline{|T(z)|}$ denotes the height of polynomial $T(z)$ (that is, the maximum of the sizes of its coefficients).

If a set of p -adic F -functions $f_1(z), \dots, f_m(z)$ satisfies (1) and (2) then we speak of them as belonging to the class $f(\mathbb{K}; \phi(h); a, b, c; g, T)$.

In particular, the standard E -functions, $\sum_h a_h z^h/h!$, belong to the class $F(\mathbf{K}; C^{2(h+1)}h!; C, 0, Cp^{1/(p-1)}; g, T)$ for a suitable constant C , and the standard G -functions, $\sum_h a_h z^h$, belong to the class $F(\mathbf{K}; C^{2(h+1)}; C, 0, C; g, T)$ again for a suitable constant C . (Compare [8] and [4].)

We give some further examples: Let a be a non-negative integer. Consider a function

$$f_a(z) = \sum_{h=0}^{\infty} (a + 1) \cdots (a + h)z^h.$$

Using a method similar to that of Lemma 3.1 in Chapter II of Bachman's book [1], it is easy to verify that for $h \geq 1$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} |(a + 1) \cdots (a + h)|_p &\leq p^{-h/(p-1) + \log(h+a)/\log p + 1} \\ &\leq p(a + 1)h(p^{-1/(p-1)})^h. \end{aligned}$$

So the series $f_a(z)$ converges in the subdisc of those z in \mathbf{C}_p with $|z|_p < p^{1/(p-1)}$. Moreover, the function $f_a(z)$ satisfies a linear differential equation

$$y' = -\frac{1}{z^2} + \frac{1 - (a + 1)z}{z^2}y.$$

Let a_1, \dots, a_m be m distinct non-negative integers. Put $a = \max(a_1, \dots, a_m)$. Then $f_{a_1}(z), \dots, f_{a_m}(z)$ belong to the class of p -adic F -functions

$$F(\mathbf{K}; (a + (h + 1)/2)^h; p(a + 1), 1, p^{-1/(p-1)}; 2, a + 1).$$

In this paper we shall suppose that p -adic F -functions $f_1(z), \dots, f_m(z)$ do not satisfy any algebraic equations of degree at most r , and with coefficients in \mathbf{K} . Let $P(x_1, \dots, x_m) \not\equiv 0$ be any polynomial in $O_{\mathbf{K}}[x_1, \dots, x_m]$ with degree $s \leq r$ and with height H , say

$$(3) \quad P(x_1, \dots, x_m) = \sum_{0 \leq i_1 + \dots + i_m \leq s} c_{i_1, \dots, i_m} x_1^{i_1} \cdots x_m^{i_m},$$

$$c_{i_1, \dots, i_m} \in O_{\mathbf{K}} \quad \text{and} \quad \|c_{i_1, \dots, i_m}\| \leq H.$$

Put

$$u = \binom{r + m}{m}, \quad v = \binom{r - s + m}{m}.$$

Suppose that $\xi \in \mathbf{K}$ with $\xi T(\xi) \neq 0$ and let q be the smallest natural number such that $q\xi^\sigma \in O_{\mathbf{K}}$, where the ξ^σ are the field conjugates of ξ . Let $Q = \max(q, \|q\xi\|)$. Clearly we have

$$(4) \quad Q^{-d} \leq \|q\xi\|^{-d} < |N(q\xi)|^{-1} \leq |q\xi|_p \leq |\xi|_p,$$

where $N(\cdot)$ denotes the norm of an element of \mathbf{K} . We assume

$$(5) \quad |\xi|_p \leq Q^{-d'}$$

where d' is a positive number with

$$(6) \quad 0 < d' \leq d \quad \text{and} \quad d_0 = d'u - d(u - v) > 0.$$

Then we obtain

THEOREM 1. *Under the assumptions above, there exist positive constants $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3$ and η_0 , independent of Q and H , and there is a non-zero function $\Psi(\eta)$, such that for any real number $0 < \eta < \eta_0$ and any ξ in \mathbf{K} as above and with*

$$Q > \max(\gamma_1, \gamma_2 \Psi(\eta) H^\eta)$$

we have

$$|P(f_1(\xi), \dots, f_m(\xi))|_p > \gamma_3 Q^{-\lambda/\eta},$$

where

$$(7) \quad \lambda = 3d'duv/d_0.$$

In general, the constant $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3$ are effectively computable but the constant η_0 is not. $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3$ and $\Psi(\eta)$ will be detailed in the proof of the theorem.

THEOREM 2. *Consider a set of p -adic E -functions $f_1(z), \dots, f_m(z)$ defined as above. Under the assumptions of Theorem 1, there exists a positive constant γ_4 , independent of Q and H , such that for any real number $0 < \eta < \eta_0$ and any ξ in \mathbf{K} as above and with*

$$Q > \gamma_4 \eta^{-4d(u-v)/d_0} H^\eta,$$

we have

$$|P(f_1(\xi), \dots, f_m(\xi))|_p > Q^{-\lambda/\eta}$$

where η_0, λ are as in Theorem 1.

This result is a generalization of the theorem in Section 3 of Remmal [8].

A similar result can be obtained for a set of p -adic G -functions when $Q > \gamma_5 H^\eta$ (in place of the condition in Theorem 2). Additional hypotheses seem to be required to obtain more precise results of the type given by Flicker [4].

THEOREM 3. *Let $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_\mu$ be μ distinct integers in $O_{\mathbf{K}}$ which are linearly independent over \mathbf{Q} , and let $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_\nu$ be some other ν distinct non-zero integers in $O_{\mathbf{K}}$ with*

$$\alpha = \max_{i,j} (\|\alpha_i\|, \|\beta_j\|), \quad \alpha_p = \max_{i,j} (|\alpha_i|_p, |\beta_j|_p).$$

If

$$u = \binom{r + \mu + \nu}{\mu + \nu}, \quad d_0 = d'u - d(u - 1) > 0,$$

then there exist positive constants γ_6, γ_7 , depending on $p, \mu, \nu, d, d', \alpha, \alpha_p$ and there is a non-zero function $\Psi_1(\eta)$ such that for any non-zero polynomial $P(x_1, \dots, x_{\mu+\nu})$ in $O_{\mathbb{K}}[x_1, \dots, x_{\mu+\nu}]$ of degree r and with height H and for any real number $0 < \eta < \eta_0$ and any ξ in \mathbb{K} as above and with

$$Q > \max(\gamma_6, \gamma_7, \Psi_1(\eta)H^\eta),$$

we have

$$|P(e^{\alpha_1 \xi}, \dots, e^{\alpha_\mu \xi}, -\log(1 - \beta_1 \xi), \dots, -\log(1 - \beta_\nu \xi))|_p > Q^{-3d'u/(d_0\eta)}.$$

This result is a p -adic analogue of Theorem 2 of Čirskii [3].

THEOREM 4. Let a_1, \dots, a_m be m distinct non-negative rational integers with $a = \max(a_1, \dots, a_m)$. We consider p -adic functions

$$f_{a_i}(z) = \sum_{h=0}^{\infty} (a_i + 1) \cdots (a_i + h)z^h, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m.$$

If

$$u = \binom{r + m}{m}, \quad d_0 = d'u - d(u - 1) > 0,$$

then there exist positive constants γ_8, γ_9 , and there is a non-zero function $\Psi_2(\eta)$ such that for any non-zero polynomial $P(x_1, \dots, x_m) \in O_{\mathbb{K}}[x_1, \dots, x_m]$ of degree r and with height H and for any real number $0 < \eta < \eta_0$ and any ξ in \mathbb{K} as above and with

$$Q > \max(\gamma_8, \gamma_9\Psi_2(\eta)H^\eta),$$

we have

$$|P(f_{a_1}(\xi), \dots, f_{a_m}(\xi))|_p > Q^{-3d'u/(d_0\eta)}.$$

This result is a generalization of the theorem of Remmal [8], Section 1.

Let $f_1(z), \dots, f_m(z)$ belong to $F(\mathbb{K}; \phi(h); a, b, c; g, T)$. We consider the set of functions

$$f_1^{h_1}(z) \cdots f_m^{h_m}(z), \quad 0 \leq h_1 + \cdots + h_m \leq r,$$

and name them $F_1(z), \dots, F_u(z)$, with the convention that $F_1(z) = 1$. As in [5], Lemma 7, we see that $F_1(z), \dots, F_u(z)$ belong to

$$F(\mathbb{K}; 2^{r+h}\phi(h)\phi([h/2]) \cdots \phi([h/r])); a^r, rb, c; g, rT)$$

and satisfy a system of linear homogeneous differential equations

$$(8) \quad y'_i = \sum_{h=1}^u Q_{ih}^*(z)y_h, \quad 1 \leq i \leq u.$$

There are u polynomials

$$P_i(z) = \sum_{h=0}^{n-1} p_{ih}z^h, \quad 1 \leq i \leq u,$$

in $O_{\mathbf{K}}[z]$ and not all zero, with the properties

(i) $|P_i(z)| \leq C_1^n \Phi(n)$, where

$$(9) \quad C_1 = (4^{rd+1}d)^{u^2/\omega},$$

and

$$(10) \quad \Phi(n) = \{\phi(un)\phi([un/2]) \cdots \phi([un/r])\}^{du/\omega};$$

(ii) $R(z) = \sum_{i=1}^u P_i(z)F_i(z)$ satisfies $\text{ord } R(z) \geq un - [\omega n] - 1$, where $\text{ord } R(z)$ denotes the order of the zero of $R(z)$ at $z = 0$; and

(iii) $|R(z)|_p \leq (au^{rb})^n (c|z|_p)^{un-[\omega n]-1}$ for all z in \mathbf{K} with $|z|_p < c^{-1}$. Here ω is a constant satisfying $0 < \omega \leq 1/2$.

To construct the required polynomials note that (ii) amounts to $M = un - [\omega n] - 1$ linear equations in the $N = un$ unknowns p_{ih} , the coefficients in the equations being in $O_{\mathbf{K}}$ and having sizes at most $A = 2^{r+un}\Phi(n)^{\omega/(du)}$. There is a solution of this system with

$$\|p_{ih}\| \leq (2^{M/2}d^N N^M A^{M+(d-1)N})^{1/(N-M)}$$

which gives (i). (The particular estimate used here follows from the proof of Lemma 1.3.1 in [15] and the remarks in [14].) Finally (iii) follows since the coefficients of the $F_i(z)$ have p -adic valuations not exceeding $a^r h^{rb} c^h$ and $a^r h^{rb} c^h |z|_p^h$ is a decreasing function of h .

Let $R_1(z) = R(z)$ and

$$(11) \quad R_k(z) = T(z) \frac{d}{dz} R_{k-1}(z), \quad k \geq 2.$$

It follows that

$$(12) \quad R_k(z) = \sum_{i=1}^u P_{ki}(z)F_i(z), \quad k \geq 1,$$

where the $P_{ki}(z)$ are in $O_{\mathbf{K}}[z]$ and satisfy the recurrence relation

$$P_{ki}(z) = T(z) \frac{d}{dz} P_{k-1,i}(z) + \sum_{h=1}^u T(z) Q_{hi}^*(z) P_{k-1,h}(z),$$

$$k \geq 2, \quad 1 \leq i \leq u,$$

with $P_{i1}(z) = P_i(z)$ and $Q_{hi}^*(z)$ as in (8). Let the dimension of the vector space over $\mathbf{K}(z)$ generated by the $R_k(z)$ be l . From [6], Theorem 3,

$$(13) \quad \text{ord } R(z) \leq ln + \Omega(m)s^\tau,$$

where $\tau = (m + 1)^{m+1} + m + 1$ and $\Omega(m)$ is a constant depending on the functions $f_1(z), \dots, f_m(z)$.

Let $\Delta(z) = \det(P_{ki}(z))_{1 \leq i, k \leq u}$ and put

$$(14) \quad t = [\omega n] + u(u - 1)g/2,$$

$$(15) \quad n_0 = 2\Omega(m)s^\tau + 2.$$

If $n > n_0$, we see, as in Lemma 8 of [11], that

$$\Delta(z) = z^{un - [\omega n] - 1} \Delta_1(z),$$

where $\Delta_1(z)$ is in $O_{\mathbf{K}}[z]$ and not identically zero and $\text{deg } \Delta_1(z) \leq t$.

Let ξ be given as above with $|\xi|_p < \min(1, c^{-1})$ and let

$$(16) \quad u_0 = u(u - 1)g/2 + u.$$

If $n > \max(n_0, u_0/\omega)$, then there are u distinct suffixes j_1, \dots, j_u with $1 \leq j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_u \leq t + u$ such that the $u \times u$ determinant with entries

$$q_{ki} = q^{n+j_k g} P_{j_k, i}(\xi), \quad 1 \leq i, k \leq u.$$

is non-zero. Further, the q_{ki} are in $O_{\mathbf{K}}$ and satisfy

$$\|q_{ki}\| \leq C_2^n \Phi(n) n^{2\omega n} Q_{n+j_k g},$$

where

$$(17) \quad C_2 = 4^{g+1} r T C_1.$$

This follows from the argument of Lemma 6 of [13] and Lemma 7 of [10].

Finally we estimate $|R_{j_k}(\xi)|_p$. It is easily seen by induction that

$$|R_{j_k}(\xi)|_p \leq \max_{1 \leq j \leq j_k - 1} |R^{(j)}(\xi)|_p.$$

Moreover, since $\text{ord } R^{(j)}(z) \geq M - j_k - 1$, we have

$$|R^{(j)}(\xi)|_p \leq \max_{h \geq M} (a^r h^{rb} c^h |h(h - 1) \dots (h - j + 1) \xi^{h-j}|_p) \leq a^r M^{rb} c^M |\xi|_p^{M-j}.$$

Therefore

$$|R_{j_k}(\xi)|_p \leq C_3^n |\xi|_p^{un - 3\omega n},$$

with

$$(18) \quad C_3 = (au)^{rb} c^u.$$

3. The proofs of theorems

PROOF OF THEOREM 1. We consider the set of functions

$$f_1^{h_1} \cdots f_m^{h_m} P(f_1, \dots, f_m), \quad 0 \leq h_1 + \cdots + h_m \leq r - s,$$

and denote them by $\psi_1(z), \dots, \psi_v(z)$. Then we have

$$\psi_k(z) = \sum_{i=1}^u c_{ki} F_i(z), \quad 1 \leq k \leq v$$

where the c_{ki} satisfy the conditions (3). We define

$$r_k(\xi) = q^{n+j_k g} R_{j_k}(\xi) = \sum_{i=1}^u q_{ki} F_i(\xi).$$

From the above construction, the linear forms $r_1(\xi), \dots, r_u(\xi)$ are linearly independent. Since $\psi_1(\xi), \dots, \psi_v(\xi)$ are linearly independent, we can select $w = u - v$ linear forms, indeed, without loss of generality, the first w forms, such that

$$r_1(\xi), \dots, r_w(\xi), \psi_1(\xi), \dots, \psi_v(\xi)$$

are u linearly independent linear forms. Denote the determinant of their coefficients by Δ . Clearly $\Delta \neq 0$ and $\Delta \in O_{\mathbf{K}}$. We have $|N(\Delta)| \geq 1$. By replacing the first column on the left by the sum of the i th column multiplied by $F_i(\xi)$, we get

$$(19) \quad \Delta = \begin{vmatrix} q_{11} & q_{12} & \cdots & q_{1u} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ q_{w1} & q_{w2} & \cdots & q_{wu} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ c_{11} & c_{12} & \cdots & c_{1u} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ c_{v1} & c_{v2} & \cdots & c_{vu} \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} r_1(\xi) & q_{12} & \cdots & q_{1u} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ r_w(\xi) & q_{w2} & \cdots & q_{wu} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \psi_1(\xi) & c_{12} & \cdots & c_{1u} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \psi_v(\xi) & c_{v2} & \cdots & c_{vu} \end{vmatrix}.$$

We now estimate the size of Δ using the determinant on the left of (19). Since $1 \leq j_1 + \cdots + j_w \leq 2w\omega n$ we obtain by (3)

$$\|\Delta\| \leq u! H^v C_2^{wn} (\Phi(n))^w n^{2w\omega n} Q^{wn+2w\omega n},$$

and so

$$(20) \quad |\Delta|_p \geq |N(\Delta)|^{-1} \geq \|\Delta\|^{-d} \geq u^{-dn} C_2^{-dwn} H^{-dv} (\Phi(n))^{-dw} n^{-dwn} Q^{-dwn-2d\omega n}.$$

By (4) and (5) we have

$$(21) \quad |r_k(\xi)|_p \leq C_3^n Q^{-d'un+3\omega n}.$$

We now take

$$(22) \quad d_1 = 3d + 2dg(u - v), \quad d^* = \min(d_0, d_1), \quad \omega_0 = d^*/(2d_1).$$

Clearly $0 < \omega_0 \leq 1/2$. We choose

$$(23) \quad \gamma_1 = \min\left(C_3^{-1/(3d\omega_0)}, (2c)^{1/d'}\right),$$

$$(24) \quad \gamma_2 = u^{2d/d_0} C_2^{2d(u-v)/d_0} C_3^{2/d_0} (3dv/d_0)^{2d(u-v)/d_0},$$

$$(25) \quad \gamma_3 = \left(\max\left(a, a(b/(e \log 2))^b\right)\right)^{s-r},$$

$$(26) \quad \eta_0 = \min(2dv/(d_0 n_0), 2dv\omega_0/(d_0 u_0)),$$

$$(27) \quad \omega = \omega_0.$$

For any real number $0 < \eta < \eta_0$ we set

$$(28) \quad n = [2dv/(d_0 \eta)] + 1.$$

Then for any Q with $Q > \gamma_2 \Psi(\eta) H^n$, where

$$(29) \quad \Psi(\eta) = \Phi(3dv/(d_0 \eta))^{(u-v)\eta/v} \eta^{-2d(u-v)/d_0},$$

we have

$$(30) \quad u^{dn} C_2^{dwn} C_3^n (\Phi(n)n^n)^{dw} H^{dv} < Q^{d_0 n/2} < Q^{(d'u-dw-(3d+2d_wg)\omega)n},$$

so that $|r_k(\xi)|_p < |\Delta|_p$ by (20) and (21). Finally, we use the determinant on the right of (19). This gives

$$\Delta = \sum_{k=1}^w r_k(\xi) \Delta_k + \sum_{k=1}^v \psi_k(\xi) \delta_k,$$

where Δ_k and δ_k are certain minors of the determinant. Clearly $|\Delta_k|_p \leq 1$, $|\delta_k|_p \leq 1$. Since $Q > \gamma_1 \geq (2c)^{1/d'}$ we see that $|\xi|_p < (2c)^{-1}$ and that for $1 \leq i \leq m$,

$$\begin{aligned} |f_i(\xi)|_p &\leq \max_{h \geq 0} (|a_{ih}|_p |\xi|_p^h) \leq \max_{h \geq 1} (a, ah^b c^h (2c)^{-h}) \\ &\leq \max(a, a(b/(e \log 2))^b). \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} |\Delta|_p &\leq \max_k (|\psi_k(\xi)|_p) \leq \max(a, a(b/(e \log 2))^b)^{r-s} |P(f_1(\xi), \dots, f_m(\xi))|_p \\ &\leq \gamma_3^{-1} |P(f_1(\xi), \dots, f_m(\xi))|_p. \end{aligned}$$

Noting $Q > \gamma_1 \geq C_3^{-1/(3d\omega_0)}$, we have

$$|P(f_1(\xi), \dots, f_m(\xi))|_p > \gamma_3 Q^{-d'un} = \gamma_3 Q^{-\lambda/\eta}$$

by (7), (20), (21), (30), completing the proof of Theorem 1.

REMARK 1. If the p -adic functions $f_1(z), \dots, f_m(z)$ are algebraically independent over \mathbf{K} , then for any non-zero polynomial $P(x_1, \dots, x_m) \in \mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{K}}[x_1, \dots, x_m]$ with

degree s , we can choose $r = s$. S in this case we have $v = 1, \gamma_3 = 1$ and the theorem takes a simpler form.

REMARK 2. The constant $\Omega(m)$ in Theorem 1 is not effectively computable. However, suppose that $f_1(z), \dots, f_m(z)$ constitute an irreducible set of functions. That is, the functions satisfy a system of linear homogeneous differential equations and an equation

$$\sum_{k=1}^m P_k(z)y_k = 0, \quad P_k(z) \in \mathbb{C}_p[z], 1 \leq k \leq m,$$

where y_1, \dots, y_m is some solution of the system of differential equations, occurs only when $P_k(z)y_k = 0, 1 \leq k \leq m$, identically in z . In this case the constant $\Omega(m)$ is effectively computable. However we should note that proofs of the irreducibility of sets of functions are very complicated (for example see [11]).

If the functions $F_1(z), \dots, F_u(z)$ constitute an irreducible set of functions then we can compute the constant n_0 in (15) by using methods similar to those of Lemma 6 of [10], and Lemma 3 of [11]. This gives

$$(31) \quad n_0 = 2\sigma + u(u - 1)g,$$

where σ is the least order of a zero of the functions $F_i(z)$ at $z = 0$.

PROOF OF THEOREM 2. Using a similar method we can compute the constant γ_4 as follows: Let

$$D_1 = 4^{g+1}rT(4^d r^{2d-1} C^{(2d-1)r})^{u^2/\omega_0},$$

$$D_2 = (rC^r p^{1/(p-1)})^u.$$

Then

$$\gamma_4 = u^{2d/d_0} D_1^{2d(u-v)/d_0} D_2^{2/d_0} (2dv/d_0)^{4d(u-v)/d_0},$$

where the constant ω_0 is given by (22). This completes the proof of Theorem 2.

Similarly, to obtain the remark about G -functions, let

$$D_3 = 4^{g+1}rT(4^d r^{2d-1} C^{(2d-1)r})^{u^2/\omega_0},$$

and

$$\gamma_5 = u^{2d/d_0} D_3^{2d(u-v)/d_0} (rC^r)^{2u/d_0}.$$

PROOF OF THEOREM 3. It is easy to verify that the functions

$$e^{\alpha_1 z}, \dots, e^{\alpha_\mu z}, -\log(1 - \beta_1 z), \dots, -\log(1 - \beta_\nu z)$$

satisfy the system of linear differential equations

$$\begin{aligned} y'_i &= \alpha_i y_i, & 1 \leq i \leq \mu, \\ y'_j &= \beta_j / (1 - \beta_j z), & 1 \leq j \leq \nu, \end{aligned}$$

and belong to the class of p -adic F -functions

$$F(\mathbf{K}; \alpha^h h^h; 1, 0, \alpha_p p^{1/(p-1)}; \nu, (2\alpha)^{\nu+1}).$$

We can see from an analogue of the theorem in [7] that these functions are algebraically independent over $C_p(z)$. Clearly $v = 1, \gamma_3 = 1$ (see Remark 1), and

$$u = \binom{r + \mu + \nu}{\mu + \nu}.$$

Hence

$$\eta_0 = \min(2d / (d_0 n_0), 23d\omega_0 / (d_0 u_0))$$

and we can compute the constant γ_6 from (18), (22), (23), (27); γ_7 from (9), (17), (18), (22), (24), (27), and the function $\Psi_1(\eta)$ is given by (10), (27), (29).

PROOF OF THEOREM 4. From our example of p -adic F -functions in Section 1 we see that the functions $f_{a_1}(z), \dots, f_{a_m}(a)$ belong to

$$F(\mathbf{K}; (a + (h + 1)/2)^h; p(a + 1), 1, p^{-1/(p-1)}; 2, a + 1).$$

It is easy to verify that the functions $f_{a_1}(z), \dots, f_{a_m}(z)$ are algebraically independent over $C_p(z)$. Using a method similar to the proof of Theorem 3 we can compute the constants γ_8, γ_9 and η_0 and the function $\Psi_2(\eta)$.

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