

On a New Class of Function Systems of Faber–Schauder Type

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Received June 2, 2005; in final form, April 1, 2007

Abstract—In this paper, we introduce a new class of function systems generalizing the classical Faber–Schauder system. Under the condition that the generating sequence is bounded, we show that systems of such a class constitute bases in the space of continuous functions and prove some properties of series expansions of functions in these systems.

DOI: 10.1134/S0001434607110016

Key words: *Faber–Schauder function system, piecewise linear function, Vandermonde determinant, modulus of continuity, modulus of smoothness.*

In 1910, Faber [1] constructed a function system, which, in 1927, was rediscovered by Schauder [2] and is now called the “Faber–Schauder system” (see also [3]). This system, consisting of continuous piecewise linear functions, is one of the simplest bases in the space of continuous functions on $[0, 1]$. More recently, various properties of the series expansions of functions in this system were studied by a number of authors [4]–[9].

In the present paper, we introduce a new class Φ of function systems $\Phi\{p_n\}$ containing the Faber–Schauder system.

Suppose that we are given a sequence $\{p_n\}$ of natural numbers such that $p_0 = 1$, and $p_n \geq 2$, $n = 1, 2, \dots$.

Set $m_n = p_0 p_1 \cdots p_n$, $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$. Then, for any point $x \in [0, 1] \setminus Q$, where

$$Q = \left\{ \frac{l}{m_n} \right\}, \quad 0 \leq l \leq m_n, \quad n \geq 0, \quad l \in \mathbb{Z},$$

there exists a unique expansion

$$x = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\alpha_k(x)}{m_k},$$

where $0 \leq \alpha_k(x) \leq p_k - 1$, and $\alpha_k(x)$ are integers.

Any integer $k \geq 2$ can be uniquely expressed as

$$k = m_n + r(p_n + 1 - 1) + s, \quad (1)$$

$$n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \quad r = 0, 1, \dots, m_n - 1, \quad s = 1, 2, \dots, p_{n+1} - 1.$$

Let us define the function system $\Phi\{p_n\} = \{\varphi_k(x)\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$, $x \in [0, 1]$ in which $\varphi_0(x) = 1$, $\varphi_1(x) = x$, $x \in [0, 1]$,

$$\varphi_k(x) = \varphi_{n,r}^{(s)}(x) = \begin{cases} (m_{n+1}x - p_{n+1}r - \alpha_{n+1}(x)) \exp \frac{2\pi i s \alpha_{n+1}(x)}{p_{n+1}} + \frac{1 - \exp(2\pi i s \alpha_{n+1}(x)/p_{n+1})}{1 - \exp(2\pi i s/p_{n+1})}, & x \in \left(\frac{r}{m_n}, \frac{r+1}{m_n} \right) \setminus Q, \\ 0, & x \in \left[\frac{r}{m_n}, \frac{r+1}{m_n} \right], \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

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where $k \geq 2$ and n, r, s are defined in (1).

Using the fact that the set $[0, 1] \setminus Q$ is everywhere dense on $[0, 1]$, we extend the function $\varphi_{n,r}^{(s)}(x)$ by continuity to the interval $[r/m_n, (r+1)/m_n]$.

Thus, the system $\Phi\{p_n\}$ is completely defined and consists of continuous piecewise linear functions. For $p_n = 2, n = 1, 2, \dots$, the function system $\Phi\{p_n\}$ coincides with the Faber–Schauder system.

Consider the following series in the system $\Phi\{p_n\}$,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k \varphi_k(x) = a_0 \varphi_0(x) + a_1 \varphi_1(x) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{r=0}^{m_n-1} \sum_{s=1}^{p_{n+1}-1} a_{n,r}^{(s)} \varphi_{n,r}^{(s)}(x) \quad (3)$$

and suppose that it is convergent at each point of the interval $[0, 1]$ to some function $f(x)$. Then the coefficients a_k are uniquely defined by the function $f(x)$.

Indeed, it follows from (2) that

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 &= a_0 \varphi_0(0) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k \varphi_k(0) = f(0), \\ a_0 + a_1 &= a_0 \varphi_0(1) + a_1 \varphi_1(1) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k \varphi_k(1) = f(1), \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

because $\varphi_k(0) = 0$ for all $k \geq 1$ and $\varphi_k(1) = 0$ for all $k \geq 2$. Hence

$$a_1 = f(1) - f(0).$$

But if $k \geq 2$, then $a_k \equiv a_{n,r}^{(s)}$ (see (1)) and, for k such that

$$m_n + r(p_{n+1} - 1) < k \leq m_n + (r+1)(p_{n+1} - 1),$$

the following system of linear equations is valid:

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{s=1}^{p_{n+1}-1} a_{n,r}^{(s)} \sum_{l=0}^R \exp \frac{2\pi i s l}{p_{n+1}} \\ &= \sum_{k=m_{n+1}}^{\infty} a_k \varphi_k \left(\frac{r}{m_n} + \frac{R+1}{m_{n+1}} \right) = f \left(\frac{r}{m_n} + \frac{R+1}{m_{n+1}} \right) - S_{m_n} \left(\frac{r}{m_n} + \frac{R+1}{m_{n+1}} \right) \\ &= f \left(\frac{r}{m_n} + \frac{R+1}{m_{n+1}} \right) - \frac{1}{p_{n+1}} \left[(p_{n+1} - R - 1) f \left(\frac{r}{m_n} \right) + (R+1) f \left(\frac{r+1}{m_n} \right) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

where $R = 0, 1, \dots, p_{n+1} - 2$.

By elementary transformations, the system of linear equations (5) can be reduced to the following system of equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{s=1}^{p_{n+1}-1} a_{n,r}^{(s)} \exp \frac{2\pi i s R}{p_{n+1}} &= f \left(\frac{r}{m_n} + \frac{R+1}{m_{n+1}} \right) - f \left(\frac{r}{m_n} + \frac{R}{m_{n+1}} \right) \\ &+ \frac{1}{p_{n+1}} \left[f \left(\frac{r}{m_n} \right) - f \left(\frac{r+1}{m_n} \right) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where $R = 0, 1, \dots, p_{n+1} - 2$.

The determinant of system (6) is the Vandermonde determinant and is equal to the following expression:

$$\prod_{1 \leq k < l \leq p_{n+1}-1} \left(\exp \frac{2\pi i l}{p_{n+1}} - \exp \frac{2\pi i k}{p_{n+1}} \right),$$

which is not zero.

Thus, for a fixed n and r , the coefficients $a_{n,r}^{(s)}$, $s = 1, 2, \dots, p_{n+1} - 1$, are uniquely defined by the system of equations (6).

Consider these cofactors

$$\begin{aligned}
 A_{ij} &= (-1)^{i+j} \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ \lambda & \lambda^2 & \dots & \lambda^{j-1} & \lambda^{j+1} & \dots & \lambda^k \\ \lambda^2 & \lambda^4 & \dots & \lambda^{2(j-1)} & \lambda^{2(j+1)} & \dots & \lambda^{2k} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \lambda^{i-2} & \lambda^{2(i-2)} & \dots & \lambda^{(j-1)(i-2)} & \lambda^{(j+1)(i-2)} & \dots & \lambda^{k(i-2)} \\ \lambda^i & \lambda^{2i} & \dots & \lambda^{(j-1)i} & \lambda^{(j+1)i} & \dots & \lambda^{ki} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \lambda^{k-1} & \lambda^{2(k-1)} & \dots & \lambda^{(j-1)(k-1)} & \lambda^{(j+1)(k-1)} & \dots & \lambda^{k(k-1)} \end{vmatrix} \\
 &= (-1)^{i+j} \sigma_{k-i} \prod_{1 \leq s < l \leq k, s \neq j, l \neq j} (\lambda^l - \lambda^s),
 \end{aligned}$$

where σ_{k-i} is the sum of all possible products of the numbers $\lambda, \lambda^2, \dots, \lambda^{j-1}, \lambda^{j+1}, \dots, \lambda^k$ taken $k - i$ at a time (see [11, p. 40]). Since $|\lambda| = 1$, the modulus of each term in the sum σ_{k-i} is 1. The number of terms in the sum σ_{k-i} is equal to $C_{k-1}^{k-i}, i = 1, 2, \dots, k$.¹ Therefore,

$$|\sigma_{k-i}| \leq C_{k-1}^{k-i}. \tag{8}$$

Now consider the ratios

$$\frac{\prod_{1 \leq s < l \leq k, s \neq j, l \neq j} (\lambda^l - \lambda^s)}{\prod_{1 \leq s < l \leq k} (\lambda^l - \lambda^s)}, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, k.$$

After cancelations, the denominator contains products of factors of the form $\lambda^l - \lambda^j, l = 1, 2, \dots, j - 1, j + 1, \dots, k$. Let us estimate $|\lambda^l - \lambda^j|$ from below:

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\lambda^l - \lambda^j| &= \left| \exp \frac{2\pi i l}{k+1} - \exp \frac{2\pi i j}{k+1} \right| = \left| \exp \frac{2\pi i (l-j)}{k+1} - 1 \right| \\
 &= \left| \cos \frac{2\pi (l-j)}{k+1} - 1 + i \sin \frac{2\pi (l-j)}{k+1} \right| = 2 \left| \sin \frac{\pi (l-j)}{k+1} \right| \geq 2 \sin \frac{\pi}{k+1}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, for any $j = 1, 2, \dots, k$, we have

$$\frac{\prod_{1 \leq s < l \leq k, s \neq j, l \neq j} (\lambda^l - \lambda^s)}{\prod_{1 \leq s < l \leq k} (\lambda^l - \lambda^s)} \leq \frac{1}{(2 \sin \pi / (k+1))^{k-1}}. \tag{9}$$

The quantities b_i can be estimated by definition as follows:

$$|b_i| \leq 2\omega \left(\frac{1}{m_{n+1}}, f \right), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, k. \tag{10}$$

It follows from (8) that

$$\sum_{i=1}^k |\sigma_{k-i}| \leq \sum_{i=1}^k C_{k-1}^{k-i} = 2^{k-1}. \tag{11}$$

Further, from (9)–(11), we find that

$$|x_j| = \left| \frac{\Delta_j}{\Delta} \right| \leq 2^k \frac{\omega(1/m_{n+1}, f)}{(2 \sin \pi / (k+1))^{k-1}} = \frac{2\omega(1/m_{n+1}, f)}{(\sin \pi / (k+1))^{k-1}}.$$

Returning to the original notation, we obtain (7). Theorem 1 is proved. □

¹Here and elsewhere, C_n^m denotes the binomial coefficient $\binom{n}{m}$.

Denote by $\omega_2(\delta, f)$ the modulus of smoothness of a function $f \in C[0, 1]$:

$$\omega_2(\delta, f) = \sup_{0 < h < \delta} \max_{x \in [0, 1]} |f(x + h) + f(x - h) - 2f(x)|,$$

where $h \leq x \leq 1 - h$ and $0 < \delta < 1$.

Theorem 2. *The system $\Phi\{p_n\}$ with $p_n \leq N, n = 1, 2, \dots$, is a basis in the space $C[0, 1]$. Moreover, if*

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k \varphi_k, \quad f(x) \in C[0, 1],$$

then the following estimates hold::

$$|a_k(f)| = |a_{n,r}^{(s)}(f)| \leq C\omega\left(\frac{1}{m_{n+1}}, f\right), \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \tag{12}$$

$$\left\| f(x) - \sum_{k=0}^l a_k(f) \varphi_k(x) \right\|_{C[0,1]} \leq \omega_2\left(\frac{1}{m_n}, f\right), \quad l = m_n + r(p_{n+1} - 1). \tag{13}$$

Proof. It follows from (4), (5) that the equality

$$\sum_{m=1}^l a_m \varphi_m(x) \equiv 0$$

on $[0, 1]$ for $l = 1, 2, \dots$ holds only for $a_n = 0$, i.e., the functions of the system $\Phi\{p_n\}$ are linearly independent. For

$$l = m_n + r(p_{n+1} - 1), \quad n = 0, 1, \dots, \quad r = 0, 1, \dots, m_n - 1,$$

the definition of such functions $\varphi_m(x), m = 0, 1, \dots$, and their linear independence imply the following properties:

a) the space $G_l(\Phi)$ of polynomials in the system $\Phi\{p_n\}$ of the form

$$p_n(x) = \sum_{m=0}^l a_m \varphi_m(x)$$

is of dimension $l + 1$ and coincides with the space L_l defined by

$$L_1 = \{f \in C[0, 1] : f''(x) = 0 \text{ for } x \in (0, 1)\},$$

$$L_l = \left\{ f \in C[0, 1] : f''(x) = 0 \text{ for } x \in \left(\bigcup_{k=0}^{rp_{n+1}-1} \delta_{n+1,k} \right) \cup \left(\bigcup_{k=r+1}^{m_n-1} \delta_{n,k} \right) \right\},$$

where $\delta_{n,k} = (k/m_n, (k + 1)/m_n)$;

b) the partial sums

$$S_l(f, x) = \sum_{m=0}^l a_m(f) \varphi_m(x)$$

satisfy the relation

$$S_l(f, x) = f(x)$$

for $x \in \pi_l$, where

$$\pi_1 = \{0, 1\}, \quad \pi_l = \left\{ \frac{k}{m_{n+1}} \right\}_{k=0}^{rp_{n+1}} \cup \left\{ \frac{k}{m_n} \right\}_{k=r+1}^{m_n}.$$

Now it follows from (4), (5), a), and b) that, for an arbitrary function $f(x) \in C[0, 1]$, there exists a unique series

$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_m(f) \varphi_m(x)$$

whose partial sums $S_l(f, x)$ are uniformly convergent to $f(x)$ on the sequence of values

$$l = m_n + r(p_{n+1} - 1), \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \quad r = 0, 1, \dots, m_n - 1.$$

Therefore, it suffices to prove that there exists a constant M for which the following inequalities hold:

$$\left\| \sum_{s=1}^k a_{n,r}^{(s)}(f) \varphi_{n,r}^{(s)}(x) \right\|_{C(0,1)} \leq M \left\| \sum_{s=1}^{p_{n+1}-1} a_{n,r}^{(s)}(f) \varphi_{n,r}^{(s)}(x) \right\|_{C(0,1)} \quad (14)$$

for all $k = 1, 2, \dots, p_{n+1} - 1$. But, for a bounded generating sequence, $\{p_n\}$ is collectively bounded, because, in view of (2), we have the estimate

$$\|\varphi_{n,r}^{(s)}(x)\|_{C(0,1)} \leq p_{n+1} - 1, \quad (15)$$

while Theorem 1 implies estimate (12). Now from (12) and (15) we obtain (14), thus establishing the basis property of the function system in $C[0, 1]$.

Let us pass to the proof of estimate (13). Suppose we are given a function $f(x) \in C(0, 1)$ and an interval $I = [\alpha, \beta] \subset [0, 1]$. On the closed interval I , consider the function

$$u(x) = f(x) - \left\{ f(\alpha) + \frac{f(\beta) - f(\alpha)}{\beta - \alpha} (x - \alpha) \right\}.$$

Obviously, $u(\alpha) = u(\beta) = 0$. If $u(x) \neq 0$ on $[\alpha, \beta]$, then let us find a point $x_0 \in [\alpha, \beta]$ such that

$$|u(x_0)| = \max_{x \in (\alpha, \beta)} |u(x)|.$$

Without loss of generality, we assume that

$$|\alpha - x_0| \leq |\beta - x_0|.$$

Then the point $x_1 = \alpha + 2|\alpha - x_0|$ belongs to I . Taking the second difference, we have

$$|2u(x_0) - u(\alpha) - u(x_1)| = |2u(x_0) - u(x_1)| = |u(x_0) + (u(x_0) - u(x_1))| \geq |u(x_0)|. \quad (16)$$

By the linearity of the function

$$f(\alpha) + \frac{f(\beta) - f(\alpha)}{\beta - \alpha} (x - \alpha),$$

from (16) we obtain

$$|u(x_0)| \leq |2u(x_0) - u(\alpha) - u(x_1)| = |2f(x_0) - f(\alpha) - f(x_1)| \leq \omega_2\left(\frac{\beta - \alpha}{2}, f\right). \quad (17)$$

Since (see a) and b)) the function

$$S_l(f, x) = \sum_{k=0}^l a_k(f) \varphi_k(x)$$

for $l = m_n + r(p_{n+1} - 1)$ is a polygonal line with vertices at the points

$$\pi_l = \left\{ \frac{k}{m_{n+1}} \right\}_{k=0}^{rp_{n+1}} \cup \left\{ \frac{k}{m_n} \right\}_{k=r+1}^{m_n}$$

and satisfies the condition

$$S_l(f, x) = f(x)$$

for $x \in \pi_l$, it follows from (17) that

$$\begin{aligned} \left| f(x) - \sum_{k=0}^l a_k(f) \varphi_k(x) \right| &\leq \max \left\{ \max_{0 \leq k \leq r p_{n+1}} \left[\max_{x \in \delta_{n+1,k}} \left| f(x) - \sum_{k=0}^l a_k(f) \varphi_k(x) \right| \right], \right. \\ &\quad \left. \max_{r+1 \leq k \leq m_n-1} \left[\max_{x \in \delta_{n,k}} \left| f(x) - \sum_{k=0}^l a_k(f) \varphi_k(x) \right| \right] \right\} \\ &\leq \max \left\{ \omega_2 \left(\frac{1}{2m_{n+1}}, f \right), \omega_2 \left(\frac{1}{2m_n}, f \right) \right\} \leq \omega_2 \left(\frac{1}{2m_n}, f \right). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, estimate (13) is proved. □

Theorem 3. *In order that the series (3) with $\sup p_n = N < \infty$ be an expansion of the function $f(x) \in \text{Lip } \alpha$, $0 < \alpha < 1$, it is necessary and sufficient that the following relation holds:*

$$|a_k| \leq ck^{-\alpha}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots \tag{18}$$

Proof. If $f(x) \in \text{Lip } \alpha$, then estimate (12) implies

$$|a_k| \leq ck^{-\alpha}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots$$

Suppose that we are given a series of the form (3) whose coefficients satisfy (18). Then this series is absolutely and uniformly convergent, because, for $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$,

$$\sum_{k=m_n+1}^{m_{n+1}} |a_k \varphi_k(x)| \leq N^2 \max_{m_n < k \leq m_{n+1}} |a_k| \leq \frac{N^2 c}{m_n^\alpha}$$

and, therefore, $f(x)$ is the sum of its expansion in the system $\Phi\{p_n\}$. Moreover, for $x, y \in [0, 1]$,

$$\begin{aligned} |f(x) - f(y)| &\leq \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} |a_k| |\varphi_k(x) - \varphi_k(y)| \\ &= |a_1| |x - y| + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{r=0}^{m_n-1} \sum_{s=1}^{p_{n+1}-1} |a_{n,r}^{(s)}| |\varphi_{n,r}^{(s)}(x) - \varphi_{n,r}^{(s)}(y)|. \end{aligned}$$

Choose a number n_0 so that

$$\frac{N}{m_{n_0+1}} < |x - y| \leq \frac{N}{m_{n_0}},$$

and use the fact that, for all $n = 1, 2, \dots, r = 0, 1, \dots, m_n - 1, s = 1, 2, \dots, p_n + 1 - 1$, and $x, y \in [0, 1]$ the following inequality holds:

$$|\varphi_{n,r}^{(s)}(x) - \varphi_{n,r}^{(s)}(y)| \leq \min\{p_{n+1}, m_{n+1}|x - y|\},$$

while the number of nonzero terms in the sum

$$\sum_{r=0}^{m_n-1} \sum_{s=1}^{p_{n+1}-1} |a_{n,r}^{(s)}| |\varphi_{n,r}^{(s)}(x) - \varphi_{n,r}^{(s)}(y)|$$

is not greater than $2(p_{n+1} - 1)$ for all $x, y \in [0, 1]$.

Further, we have

$$|f(x) - f(y)| \leq |a_1| |x - y| + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2(p_{n+1} - 1) \max_{r,s} |a_{n,r}^{(s)}| \min\{p_{n+1}, m_{n+1}|x - y|\}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq |a_1||x - y| + 2N^2c \sum_{n=1}^{n_0} \frac{1}{m_n^\alpha} (p_{n+1} - 1)m_{n+1}|x - y| \\
&\quad + 2N^3c \sum_{n=n_0+1}^{\infty} \frac{(p_{n+1} - 1)}{m_n^\alpha} \\
&\leq |a_1||x - y| + C_1|x - y| \sum_{n=1}^{n_0} m_n^{1-\alpha} + C_2 \sum_{n=n_0+1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m_n^\alpha} \leq K|x - y|^\alpha.
\end{aligned}$$

Theorem 3 is proved. □

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