

# THE RANK OF A UNIMODAL SEQUENCE AND A PARTIAL THETA IDENTITY OF RAMANUJAN

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ABSTRACT. We study the number of unimodal sequences of weight  $n$  and rank  $m$  using a partial theta identity discovered by Ramanujan. We obtain rank difference identities as well as a congruence for the second rank moment.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $U(n)$  denote the number of unimodal sequences of the form

$$a_1 \leq a_2 \leq \cdots \leq a_r \leq \bar{c} \geq b_1 \geq b_2 \geq \cdots \geq b_s \quad (1.1)$$

with weight  $n = c + \sum_{i=1}^r a_i + \sum_{i=1}^s b_i$ . For example,  $U(4) = 12$ , the relevant sequences being

$$\begin{aligned} &(\bar{4}), (1, \bar{3}), (\bar{3}, 1), (1, \bar{2}, 1), (\bar{2}, 2), (2, \bar{2}), \\ &(1, 1, \bar{2}), (\bar{2}, 1, 1), (\bar{1}, 1, 1, 1), (1, \bar{1}, 1, 1), (1, 1, \bar{1}, 1), (1, 1, 1, \bar{1}). \end{aligned}$$

The rank of a unimodal sequence is  $s - r$ . Let  $U(m, n)$  be the number of unimodal sequences of weight  $n$  and rank  $m$  and let  $U(t, m, n)$  be the number of unimodal sequences of weight  $n$  and rank congruent to  $t$  modulo  $m$ . We note the symmetries  $U(m, n) = U(-m, n)$  and  $U(m - t, m, n) = U(t, m, n)$ , and we assume that the empty sequence has rank 0.

Define the rank difference  $U_{t_1 t_2}(x)$  by

$$U_{t_1 t_2}(x) := \sum_{n \geq 0} \left( U(t_1, m, mn + x) - U(t_2, m, mn + x) \right) q^{mn+x}. \quad (1.2)$$

With our first result we consider the case  $m = 5$  and find formulas for all of the rank differences in terms of partial theta functions and modular forms. Recall the usual  $q$ -series notation,

$$(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k)_n := (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k; q)_n := \prod_{i=1}^k (1 - a_i)(1 - a_i q) \cdots (1 - a_i q^{n-1}). \quad (1.3)$$

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**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $m = 5$ . We have*

$$U_{02}(0) = \left( \sum_{n \geq 0} - \sum_{n \leq -1} \right) (-1)^n q^{5n(15n+1)/2} + (-1)^n q^{(5n+3)(15n+10)/2}, \quad (1.4)$$

$$U_{12}(0) = \frac{\sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(5n)(5n+1)/2}}{(q^5; q^{25})_\infty (q^{20}; q^{25})_\infty} + \sum_{n \leq -1} (-1)^n q^{(5n+3)(15n+10)/2} - \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{5n(15n+1)/2}, \quad (1.5)$$

$$U_{02}(1) = \frac{\sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(5n+3)(5n+4)/2}}{(q^5; q^{25})_\infty (q^{20}; q^{25})_\infty} + \frac{q \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(5n+4)(5n+5)/2}}{(q^{10}; q^{25})_\infty (q^{15}; q^{25})_\infty} + q(q^{25}, q^{50}, q^{75}; q^{75})_\infty, \quad (1.6)$$

$$U_{12}(1) = \frac{\sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(5n+3)(5n+4)/2}}{(q^5; q^{25})_\infty (q^{20}; q^{25})_\infty} - \frac{q \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(5n)(5n+1)/2}}{(q^{10}; q^{25})_\infty (q^{15}; q^{25})_\infty} + q(q^{25}, q^{50}, q^{75}; q^{75})_\infty, \quad (1.7)$$

$$U_{02}(2) = \frac{q \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(5n+3)(5n+4)/2}}{(q^{10}; q^{25})_\infty (q^{15}; q^{25})_\infty} + \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(5n+1)(15n+4)/2} - \sum_{n \leq -1} (-1)^n q^{(5n+2)(15n+7)/2}, \quad (1.8)$$

$$U_{12}(2) = \left( \sum_{n \geq 0} - \sum_{n \leq -1} \right) (-1)^n q^{(5n+1)(15n+4)/2} + (-1)^n q^{(5n+2)(15n+7)/2}, \quad (1.9)$$

$$U_{02}(3) = \frac{\sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(5n+2)(5n+3)/2}}{(q^5; q^{25})_\infty (q^{20}; q^{25})_\infty}, \quad (1.10)$$

$$U_{12}(3) = 0, \quad (1.11)$$

$$U_{02}(4) = 0, \quad (1.12)$$

$$U_{12}(4) = \frac{q \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(5n+2)(5n+3)/2}}{(q^{10}; q^{25})_\infty (q^{15}; q^{25})_\infty}. \quad (1.13)$$

Theorem 1.1 is of course reminiscent of the many rank difference identities for partitions [9, 17, 19, 24, 26, 27] and overpartitions [21, 22, 23]. However, while those rank differences are now understood in the context of modular and mock modular forms [1, 14, 16], there is apparently no such modular structure in the case of unimodal sequences. Instead Theorem 1.1 is a curious and unexpected application of a partial theta identity discovered by Ramanujan (see (2.3)).

For  $m = 7$  we are unable to find simple formulas for the rank differences using the partial theta identity. However, there is a congruence for the second rank moment modulo 7 which is reminiscent of rank moment congruences for partitions and overpartitions [4, 8, 11, 12, 18]. Define the  $k$ th rank moment  $\mathcal{U}_k(n)$  by

$$\mathcal{U}_k(n) := \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} m^k U(m, n). \quad (1.14)$$

Our second result is the following congruence.

**Theorem 1.2.** *We have*

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \mathcal{U}_2(n)q^n \equiv \sum_{n \geq 0} (n+1)U(n)q^n + \left( \sum_{n \geq 0} - \sum_{n \leq -1} \right) (-1)^n (n-1)q^{n(3n+1)/2} \pmod{7}. \quad (1.15)$$

In particular, for all  $n \geq 0$  we have

$$\mathcal{U}_2(7n+6) \equiv 0 \pmod{7}. \quad (1.16)$$

The paper is organized as follows. In the next section we establish some useful generating functions and in Section 3 we prove the main theorems. We close in Section 4 with some remarks on the moduli 3 and 4.

Before continuing, we note that in prior studies the unimodal sequences in (1.1) have been viewed as stacks, two-quadrant Ferrers graphs or convex compositions [5, 10, 29, 31, 32]. The perspective of unimodal sequences is in line with recent work on asymptotic formulas [13] and mixed mock and quantum modular forms [15, 25].

## 2. GENERATING FUNCTIONS

We begin by establishing four generating functions for  $U(m, n)$ . Define  $F(x, q)$  by

$$F(x, q) := \sum_{\substack{n \geq 0 \\ m \in \mathbb{Z}}} U(m, n)x^m q^n. \quad (2.1)$$

**Proposition 2.1.** *We have*

$$F(x, q) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{q^n}{(xq)_n (q/x)_n} \quad (2.2)$$

$$= \frac{\sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n x^{2n+1} q^{\binom{n+1}{2}}}{(xq)_\infty (q/x)_\infty} + (1-x) \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n x^{3n} q^{n(3n+1)/2} (1-x^2 q^{2n+1}) \quad (2.3)$$

$$= \frac{\sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n x^{2n+1} q^{\binom{n+1}{2}}}{(xq)_\infty (q/x)_\infty} + (1-x) \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n} q^{\binom{n+1}{2}}}{(xq)_n} \quad (2.4)$$

$$= \frac{(1-x)}{(q)_\infty^2} \left( \sum_{n, r \geq 0} - \sum_{n, r < 0} \right) \frac{(-1)^{n+r} q^{n(n+1)/2 + (2n+1)r + r(r+1)/2}}{(1-xq^r)}. \quad (2.5)$$

*Proof.* Equation (2.2) follows immediately from the fact that  $\sum_{i=1}^r a_i$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^s b_i$  in (1.1) are partitions into  $r$  and  $s$  parts, respectively. Equation (2.3) is an identity in Ramanujan's lost notebook [6, Entry 6.3.2]. Equation (2.4) follows from another identity in Ramanujan's lost notebook. It is the case  $a = -1/x$  and  $b = -x$  of [6, Entry 6.3.1]. We remark in passing that the equivalence of (2.3) and (2.4) follows from Franklin's involution on partitions into distinct parts [2].

For (2.5) we use Bailey pairs. It is not necessary to go into detail on these (the interested reader may consult [3] or [30]), only to note that if  $(\alpha_n, \beta_n)$  is a Bailey pair relative to  $a$ , then

[20, Eq. (1.5)]

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} q^n \beta_n = \frac{1}{(aq, q)_\infty} \sum_{r, n \geq 0} (-a)^n q^{\binom{n+1}{2} + (2n+1)r} \alpha_r, \quad (2.6)$$

and that the sequences

$$\alpha_n = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } n = 0, \\ \frac{q^{\binom{n+1}{2}} (-1)^n (1+q^n)(1-x)(1-1/x)}{(1-xq^n)(1-q^n/x)}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and

$$\beta_n = \frac{1}{(xq)_n (q/x)_n}$$

form a Bailey pair relative to 1 (see [28, Eq. (4.1)] with  $(a, c, d) = (1, x, 1/x)$ ). Substituting this Bailey pair into (2.6) and using the fact that for  $r \geq 1$

$$\frac{(1+q^r)(1-x)(1-1/x)}{(1-xq^r)(1-q^r/x)} = \frac{1-x}{1-xq^r} + \frac{1-1/x}{1-q^r/x},$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} F(x, q) &= \frac{1}{(q)_\infty^2} \left( \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{\binom{n+1}{2}} + \sum_{\substack{r \geq 1 \\ n \geq 0}} (-1)^{n+r} q^{\binom{n+1}{2} + (2n+1)r + \binom{r+1}{2}} \left( \frac{1-x}{1-xq^r} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{\substack{r \geq 1 \\ n \geq 0}} (-1)^{n+r} q^{\binom{n+1}{2} + (2n+1)r + \binom{r+1}{2}} \left( \frac{1-1/x}{1-q^r/x} \right) \right) \\ &= \frac{(1-x)}{(q)_\infty^2} \sum_{r, n \geq 0} \frac{(-1)^{n+r} q^{\binom{n+1}{2} + (2n+1)r + \binom{r+1}{2}}}{1-xq^r} - \frac{(1-1/x)}{(q)_\infty^2} \sum_{r, n < 0} \frac{(-1)^{n+r} q^{\binom{n+1}{2} + (2n+1)r + \binom{r+1}{2}}}{1-q^{-r}/x} \\ &= \frac{(1-x)}{(q)_\infty^2} \left( \sum_{n, r \geq 0} - \sum_{n, r < 0} \right) \frac{(-1)^{n+r} q^{n(n+1)/2 + (2n+1)r + r(r+1)/2}}{(1-xq^r)}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

as desired.  $\square$

Setting  $x = 1$  in (2.2) and (2.3) (or (2.4)) we have two generating functions for  $U(n)$ .

**Corollary 2.2.** *We have*

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} U(n) q^n = \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{q^n}{(q)_n^2} \quad (2.8)$$

$$= \frac{1}{(q)_\infty^2} \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{\binom{n+1}{2}}. \quad (2.9)$$

Next we find a generating function for the second rank moment.

**Proposition 2.3.** *We have*

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n \geq 0} \mathcal{U}_2(n)q^n &= \frac{1}{(q)_\infty^2} \left( 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{nq^n}{1-q^n} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{\binom{n+1}{2}} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n (4n^2 + 4n + 1) q^{\binom{n+1}{2}} \right) \\ &\quad - \left( \sum_{n \geq 0} - \sum_{n \leq -1} \right) (-1)^n (6n + 1) q^{n(3n+1)/2}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.10)$$

*Proof.* From the definition of rank moment we have that

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \mathcal{U}_k(n)q^n = \partial_x^k \Big|_{x=1} F(x, q), \quad (2.11)$$

where  $\partial_x := x \frac{d}{dx}$ . We calculate  $\partial_x^2 \Big|_{x=1} F(x, q)$  using equation (2.4). Let  $G(x, q)$  and  $H(x, q)$  denote the first and second terms on the right-hand side. The fact that

$$\partial_x^2 \Big|_{x=1} H(x, q) = \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^{n+1} (6n + 1) q^{n(3n+1)/2} + \sum_{n \leq -1} (-1)^n (6n + 1) q^{n(3n+1)/2} \quad (2.12)$$

is a straightforward calculation.

For  $G(x, q)$  we observe that

$$G(x, q) = \frac{1}{(q)_\infty} \frac{(q)_\infty}{(xq)_\infty (q/x)_\infty} \sum_{m \geq 0} (-1)^m x^{2m+1} q^{\binom{m+1}{2}},$$

and note that

$$\frac{(q)_\infty}{(xq)_\infty (q/x)_\infty} =: C_0(x, q)$$

is the two-variable generating function for the crank of a partition [7].

We compute that

$$\partial_x G(x, q) = \frac{1}{(q)_\infty} C_1(x, q) \sum_{m \geq 0} (-1)^m x^{2m+1} q^{\binom{m+1}{2}} + \frac{1}{(q)_\infty} C_0(x, q) \sum_{m \geq 0} (-1)^m (2m+1) x^{2m+1} q^{\binom{m+1}{2}}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_x^2 G(x, q) &= \frac{1}{(q)_\infty} C_2(x, q) \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m x^{2m+1} q^{\binom{m+1}{2}} + \frac{2}{(q)_\infty} C_1(x, q) \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m (2m+1) x^{2m+1} q^{\binom{m+1}{2}} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{(q)_\infty} C_0(x, q) \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m (2m+1)^2 q^{\binom{m+1}{2}}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $C_k(x, q) = \partial_x^k C_0(x, q)$ . Now we have [8]

$$\begin{aligned} C_0(1, q) &= \frac{1}{(q)_\infty}, \\ C_1(1, q) &= 0, \\ C_2(1, q) &= \frac{2}{(q)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{nq^n}{1-q^n}, \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$\partial_x^2 G(x, q)|_{x=1} = \frac{1}{(q)_\infty^2} \left( 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{nq^n}{1-q^n} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{\binom{n+1}{2}} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n (4n^2 + 4n + 1) q^{\binom{n+1}{2}} \right). \quad (2.13)$$

Together with (2.12), this completes the proof.  $\square$

Finally we record generating functions for  $U(m, n)$  and  $U(t, m, n)$ . These are not necessary for the sequel but are quite useful for computations.

**Proposition 2.4.**

(1) For  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$  we have

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} U(m, n) q^n = \chi(m = 0) + \frac{-1}{(q)_\infty^2} \sum_{r, n \geq 0} (-1)^{n+r} q^{n(n+1)/2+r(r+1)/2+2rn+|m|r} (1 - q^r). \quad (2.14)$$

(2) For  $m \geq 1$  and  $0 \leq t \leq m - 1$  we have

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} U(t, m, n) q^n = \chi(t = 0) + \frac{-1}{(q)_\infty^2} \sum_{r, n \geq 0} (-1)^{n+r} q^{n(n+1)/2+r(r+1)/2+2rn} (1 - q^r) \frac{(q^{rt} + q^{r(m-t)})}{1 - q^{rm}}. \quad (2.15)$$

*Proof.* For  $m \geq 1$  equation (2.14) follows from (2.5) after expanding

$$(1 - x)/(1 - xq^r) = (1 - x) \sum_{m \geq 0} x^m q^{mr}$$

and picking off the coefficient of  $x^m$ . The case  $m < 0$  follows from the symmetry  $U(m, n) = U(-m, n)$ . The case  $m = 0$  is trickier. For this we need the identity

$$\left( \sum_{r, n \geq 0} - \sum_{r, n < 0} \right) (-1)^{n+r} q^{\binom{n+1}{2} + (2n+1)r + \binom{r+1}{2}} = (q)_\infty^2, \quad (2.16)$$

which follows from (2.6) and the unit Bailey pair relative to 1, [3, Theorem 1],

$$\alpha_n = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } n = 0, \\ q^{\binom{n}{2}} (-1)^n (1 + q^n), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and

$$\beta_n = \chi(n = 0).$$

Specifically, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (q)_\infty^2 &= \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{\binom{n+1}{2}} + \sum_{\substack{r \geq 1 \\ n \geq 0}} (-1)^{n+r} q^{\binom{n+1}{2} + 2nr + \binom{r+1}{2}} (1 + q^r) \\ &= \sum_{\substack{r \geq 1 \\ n \geq 0}} (-1)^{n+r} q^{\binom{n+1}{2} + 2nr + \binom{r+1}{2}} + \sum_{r, n \geq 0} (-1)^{n+r} q^{\binom{n+1}{2} + (2n+1)r + \binom{r+1}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Replacing  $(r, n)$  by  $(-r, -n - 1)$  in the first sum gives (2.16).

Now picking off the coefficient of  $x^0$  in (2.5) (c.f. equation (2.7)), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{n \geq 0} U(0, n)q^n &= \frac{1}{(q)_\infty^2} \left( \sum_{r, n \geq 0} (-1)^{n+r} q^{\binom{n+1}{2} + (2n+1)r + \binom{r+1}{2}} + \sum_{\substack{r \geq 1 \\ n \geq 0}} (-1)^{n+r} q^{\binom{n+1}{2} + (2n+1)r + \binom{r+1}{2}} \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{(q)_\infty^2} \left( (q)_\infty^2 + \sum_{r, n < 0} (-1)^{n+r} q^{\binom{n+1}{2} + (2n+1)r + \binom{r+1}{2}} + \sum_{\substack{r \geq 1 \\ n \geq 0}} (-1)^{n+r} q^{\binom{n+1}{2} + (2n+1)r + \binom{r+1}{2}} \right) \\
 &= 1 + \frac{1}{(q)_\infty^2} \left( - \sum_{\substack{r \geq 1 \\ n \geq 0}} (-1)^{n+r} q^{\binom{n+1}{2} + 2nr + \binom{r+1}{2}} + \sum_{\substack{r \geq 1 \\ n \geq 0}} (-1)^{n+r} q^{\binom{n+1}{2} + (2n+1)r + \binom{r+1}{2}} \right),
 \end{aligned}$$

which gives (2.14) when  $m = 0$ .

Finally, equation (2.15) follows from (2.14) after noting that

$$U(t, m, n) = \sum_{v \geq 0} U(mv + t, n) + \sum_{v \geq 1} U(mv - t, n).$$

□

### 3. PROOFS OF THE MAIN RESULTS

We are now ready to prove Theorems 1.1 – 1.2. For  $0 \leq i \leq 4$  define the sums  $X_i$  and  $Y_i$  by

$$X_i := \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} (-1)^m q^{(5m+i)(5m+i+1)/2} \quad (3.1)$$

and

$$Y_i := \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(5n+i)(5n+i+1)/2}. \quad (3.2)$$

We will frequently use the fact that  $X_0 = -X_4$ ,  $X_1 = -X_3$ , and  $X_2 = 0$ , which follow upon replacing  $m$  by  $-m - 1$  in  $X_i$ .

*Proof of Theorem 1.1.* We begin by observing that

$$\begin{aligned}
 F(\zeta_5, q) &= \sum_{\substack{n \geq 0 \\ m \in \mathbb{Z}}} U(m, n) \zeta_5^m q^n \\
 &= \sum_{\substack{n \geq 0 \\ m \in \mathbb{Z}}} \sum_{i=0}^4 U(5m + i, n) \zeta_5^{5m+i} q^n \\
 &= \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{i=0}^4 U(i, 5, n) \zeta_5^i q^n.
 \end{aligned}$$

This together with (2.3) gives

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{i=0}^4 U(i, 5, n) \zeta_5^i q^n &= \frac{1}{(\zeta_5 q, \zeta_5^{-1} q)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n \zeta_5^{2n+1} q^{\binom{n+1}{2}} \\ &\quad + (1 - \zeta_5) \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n \zeta_5^{3n} q^{n(3n+1)/2} (1 - \zeta_5^2 q^{2n+1}). \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

Using the fact that

$$(q^5; q^5)_\infty = (\zeta_5 q, \zeta_5^{-1} q, \zeta_5^2 q, \zeta_5^{-2} q, q)_\infty,$$

together with the triple product identity,

$$\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} z^n q^{\binom{n+1}{2}} = (-1/z, -zq, q)_\infty, \quad (3.4)$$

we may rewrite (3.3) as

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{i=0}^4 U(i, 5, n) \zeta_5^i q^n &= \frac{1}{(1 - \zeta_5^2)(q^5; q^5)_\infty} \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} (-1)^m \zeta_5^{-2m} q^{\binom{m+1}{2}} \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n \zeta_5^{2n+1} q^{\binom{n+1}{2}} \\ &\quad + (1 - \zeta_5) \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n \zeta_5^{3n} q^{n(3n+1)/2} (1 - \zeta_5^2 q^{2n+1}). \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

We first treat equations (1.10) - (1.13). These are the simplest cases since the exponent of  $q$  is never of the form  $q^{5n+3}$  or  $q^{5n+4}$  in the final sum on the right-hand side of (3.5).

To obtain an exponent of the form  $5n+3$  in the product of the first two sums on the right-hand side of (3.5) we require  $(m, n) \equiv (0, 2), (2, 0), (4, 2),$  or  $(2, 4)$  modulo 5. Thus we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{i=0}^4 U(i, 5, 5n+3) \zeta_5^i q^{5n+3} &= \frac{1}{(1 - \zeta_5^2)(q^5; q^5)_\infty} (X_0 Y_2 + \zeta_5^2 X_2 Y_0 + \zeta_5^2 X_4 Y_2 + X_2 Y_4) \\ &= \frac{1}{(1 - \zeta_5^2)(q^5; q^5)_\infty} (X_0 Y_2 + \zeta_5^2 X_4 Y_2) \\ &= \frac{1}{(1 - \zeta_5^2)(q^5; q^5)_\infty} (X_0 Y_2 - \zeta_5^2 X_0 Y_2) \\ &= \frac{1}{(q^5; q^5)_\infty} \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} (-1)^m q^{5m(5m+1)/2} \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(5n+2)(5n+3)/2} \\ &= \frac{1}{(q^5; q^{25})_\infty (q^{20}; q^{25})_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(5n+2)(5n+3)/2}, \end{aligned}$$

by an application of (3.4). Thus, writing

$$U_i(x) := \sum_{n \geq 0} U(i, 5, 5n+x) q^{5n+x}, \quad (3.6)$$

we have

$$U_0(3) - \frac{\sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(5n+2)(5n+3)/2}}{(q^5; q^{25})_\infty (q^{20}; q^{25})_\infty} + U_1(3) \zeta_5 + U_2(3) \zeta_5^2 + U_3(3) \zeta_5^3 + U_4(3) \zeta_5^4 = 0.$$



The fact that the minimal polynomial of  $\zeta_5$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$  is  $1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4$  implies that the coefficients of  $\zeta_5^i$  are all identical, giving equations (1.10) and (1.11).

Equations (1.12) and (1.13) are similar. To obtain an exponent of the form  $5n + 4$  in the product of the first two sums on the right-hand side of (3.5) we require  $(m, n) \equiv (2, 1), (2, 3), (1, 2),$  or  $(3, 2)$  modulo 5. Arguing as above we find that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{i=0}^4 U(i, 5, 5n+4) \zeta_5^i q^{5n+4} &= \frac{1}{(1 - \zeta_5^2)(q^5; q^5)_\infty} (-\zeta_5^3 X_1 Y_2 - \zeta_5^4 X_3 Y_2) \\ &= \frac{1}{(1 - \zeta_5^2)(q^5; q^5)_\infty} (-\zeta_5^3 X_1 Y_2 + \zeta_5^4 X_1 Y_2) \\ &= \frac{(\zeta_5 + \zeta_5^4)}{(q^5; q^5)_\infty} \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} (-1)^m q^{(5m+1)(5m+2)/2} \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(5n+2)(5n+3)/2} \\ &= \frac{(\zeta_5 + \zeta_5^4)q}{(q^{10}; q^{25})_\infty (q^{15}; q^{25})_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(5n+2)(5n+3)/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Recalling (3.6) we have

$$\begin{aligned} U_0(4) + \left( U_1(4) - \frac{q \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(5n+2)(5n+3)/2}}{(q^{10}; q^{25})_\infty (q^{15}; q^{25})_\infty} \right) \zeta_5 + U_2(4) \zeta_5^2 + U_3(4) \zeta_5^3 \\ + \left( U_4(4) - \frac{q \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(5n+2)(5n+3)/2}}{(q^{10}; q^{25})_\infty (q^{15}; q^{25})_\infty} \right) \zeta_5^4 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

As before, the coefficients of  $\zeta_5^i$  are identical, giving (1.12) and (1.13).

Next we turn to equations (1.8) and (1.9). Here we will need to take into account the fact that the exponent of  $q$  in the first term on the right-hand side of (3.5) may be  $5n + 2$ . But first, to obtain an exponent of the form  $5n + 2$  in the product of the first two sums on the right-hand side of (3.5) we require  $(m, n) \equiv (1, 1), (1, 3), (3, 1),$  or  $(3, 3)$  modulo 5. The contribution to

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{i=0}^4 U(i, 5, 5n+2) \zeta_5^i q^{5n+2}$$

is thus

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{(1 - \zeta_5^2)(q^5; q^5)_\infty} (\zeta_5 X_1 Y_1 + X_1 Y_3 + \zeta_5^2 X_3 Y_1 + \zeta_5 X_3 Y_3) \\ = \frac{1}{(1 - \zeta_5^2)(q^5; q^5)_\infty} ((\zeta_5 - \zeta_5^2) X_1 Y_1 + (1 - \zeta_5) X_1 Y_3). \end{aligned} \quad (3.7)$$

Next we turn to the final sum in (3.5). The contribution to  $q^{5n+2}$  comes from  $q^{m(3m+1)/2}$  with  $m \equiv 1, 2 \pmod{5}$  or  $q^{m(3m+1)/2+2m+1}$  with  $m \equiv 2, 3 \pmod{5}$ . Thus the contribution is

$$(1 - \zeta_5) \zeta_5^3 C_1 + (1 - \zeta_5) \zeta_5 C_2 + (1 - \zeta_5) \zeta_5^3 C_3 + (1 - \zeta_5) \zeta_5 C_4, \quad (3.8)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} C_1 &= \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^{n+1} q^{(5n+1)(15n+4)/2}, \\ C_2 &= \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(5n+2)(15n+7)/2}, \\ C_3 &= \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^{n+1} q^{(5n+2)(15n+7)/2+10n+5} = \sum_{n \leq -1} (-1)^n q^{(5n+2)(15n+7)/2}, \\ C_4 &= \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(5n+3)(15n+10)/2+10n+7} = \sum_{n \leq -1} (-1)^{n+1} q^{(5n+1)(15n+4)/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Putting equations (3.7) and (3.8) together we have

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{i=0}^4 U(i, 5, 5n+2) \zeta_5^i q^{5n+2} = \frac{\zeta_5 X_1 Y_1 + X_1 Y_3}{(1 + \zeta_5)(q^5; q^5)_\infty} + (\zeta_5^3 - \zeta_5^4)(C_1 + C_3) + (\zeta_5 - \zeta_5^2)(C_2 + C_4).$$

Now, multiplying both sides of the above by  $(1 + \zeta_5)$ , recalling the notation (3.6), and simplifying, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \left( U_0(2) + U_4(2) - X_1 Y_3 + C_1 + C_3 \right) + \zeta_5 \left( U_1(2) + U_0(2) - X_1 Y_1 - (C_2 + C_4) \right) \\ &\quad + \zeta_5^2 \left( U_2(2) + U_1(2) \right) + \zeta_5^3 \left( U_3(2) + U_2(2) + C_2 + C_4 - (C_1 + C_3) \right) + \zeta_5^4 \left( U_4(2) + U_3(2) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Again since the minimal polynomial of  $\zeta_5$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$  is  $1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4$  we have that the coefficients of  $\zeta_5^i$  must be equal. Subtracting the coefficient of  $\zeta_5^2$  from the coefficient of  $\zeta_5^0$  and applying (3.4) gives (1.8), and subtracting the coefficient of  $\zeta_5^3$  from the coefficient of  $\zeta_5^2$  gives (1.9).

Equations (1.4) and (1.5) are similar. To obtain an exponent of the form  $5n$  in the product of the first two sums on the right-hand side of (3.5) we require  $(m, n) \equiv (0, 0), (0, 4), (4, 0),$  or  $(4, 4)$  modulo 5. The contribution to

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{i=0}^4 U(i, 5, 5n) \zeta_5^i q^{5n}$$

is thus

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{(1 - \zeta_5^2)(q^5; q^5)_\infty} (\zeta_5 X_0 Y_0 + \zeta_5^4 X_0 Y_4 + \zeta_5^3 X_4 Y_0 + \zeta_5 X_4 Y_4) \\ &= \frac{1}{(1 - \zeta_5^2)(q^5; q^5)_\infty} ((\zeta_5 - \zeta_5^3) X_0 Y_0 + (\zeta_5 - \zeta_5^4) X_4 Y_4). \end{aligned} \tag{3.9}$$

Next the contribution to  $q^{5n}$  from the final sum in (3.5) comes from  $q^{m(3m+1)/2}$  with  $m \equiv 0, 3 \pmod{5}$  or  $q^{m(3m+1)/2+2m+1}$  with  $m \equiv 1, 4 \pmod{5}$ . Thus the contribution is

$$(1 - \zeta_5) D_1 + (1 - \zeta_5) \zeta_5^4 D_2 + (1 - \zeta_5) D_3 + (1 - \zeta_5) \zeta_5^4 D_4, \tag{3.10}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 D_1 &= \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(5n)(15n+1)/2}, \\
 D_2 &= \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^{n+1} q^{(5n+3)(15n+10)/2}, \\
 D_3 &= \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(5n+1)(15n+4)/2+10n+3} = \sum_{n \leq -1} (-1)^{n+1} q^{(5n+3)(15n+10)/2}, \\
 D_4 &= \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^{n+1} q^{(5n+4)(15n+13)/2+10n+9} = \sum_{n \leq -1} (-1)^n q^{(5n)(15n+1)/2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Putting equations (3.9) and (3.10) together we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{i=0}^4 U(i, 5, 5n) \zeta_5^i q^{5n} &= \frac{(\zeta_5 + \zeta_5^2) X_0 Y_0 + (\zeta_5 + \zeta_5^2 + \zeta_5^3) X_4 Y_4}{(1 + \zeta_5)(q^5; q^5)_\infty} \\
 &\quad + (1 - \zeta_5)(D_1 + D_3) + (\zeta_5^4 - 1)(D_2 + D_4).
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.11}$$

Now, multiplying both sides of the above by  $(1 + \zeta_5)$ , recalling the notation (3.6), and simplifying, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 0 &= \left( U_0(0) + U_4(0) - (D_1 + D_3) \right) + \zeta_5 \left( U_1(0) + U_0(0) - X_0 Y_0 - X_4 Y_4 + D_2 + D_4 \right) \\
 &\quad + \zeta_5^2 \left( U_2(0) + U_1(0) - X_0 Y_0 - X_4 Y_4 + D_1 + D_3 \right) + \zeta_5^3 \left( U_3(0) + U_2(0) - X_4 Y_4 \right) \\
 &\quad + \zeta_5^4 \left( U_4(0) + U_3(0) - (D_2 + D_4) \right).
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.12}$$

As usual since the minimal polynomial of  $\zeta_5$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$  is  $1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4$  we have that the coefficients of  $\zeta_5^i$  must be equal. Subtracting the coefficient of  $\zeta_5^2$  from the coefficient of  $\zeta_5$  gives (1.4), and subtracting the coefficient of  $\zeta_5^3$  from the coefficient of  $\zeta_5^2$  and applying (3.4) gives (1.5).

The final case is the progression  $5n + 1$ . Here there are nine pairs  $(m, n)$  which give an exponent of  $q$  of the form  $5n + 1$  in the first term on the right-hand side of (3.5), namely  $(0, 1)$ ,  $(0, 3)$ ,  $(4, 1)$ ,  $(4, 3)$ ,  $(2, 2)$ ,  $(1, 0)$ ,  $(3, 0)$ ,  $(1, 4)$ , and  $(3, 4)$  We obtain a contribution of

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\frac{\left( -\zeta_5^3 X_0 Y_1 - \zeta_5^2 X_0 Y_3 - X_4 Y_1 - \zeta_5^4 X_4 Y_3 + \zeta_5 X_2 Y_2 - \zeta_5^4 X_1 Y_0 - X_3 Y_0 - \zeta_5^2 X_1 Y_4 - \zeta_5^3 X_3 Y_4 \right)}{(1 - \zeta_5^2)(q^5; q^5)_\infty} \\
 &= \frac{\left( (\zeta_5^4 - \zeta_5^2) X_0 Y_3 + (1 - \zeta_5^4) X_1 Y_0 + (1 - \zeta_5^3) X_0 Y_1 + (\zeta_5^3 - \zeta_5^2) X_1 Y_4 \right)}{(1 - \zeta_5^2)(q^5; q^5)_\infty}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.13}$$

The contribution from the final sum in (3.5) comes from  $q^{m(3m+1)/2}$  with  $m \equiv 4 \pmod{5}$  or  $q^{m(3m+1)/2+2m+1}$  with  $m \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ . We obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& (1 - \zeta_5) \zeta_5^2 \sum_{n \geq 0} q^{(5n+4)(15n+13)/2} - (1 - \zeta_5) \zeta_5^2 \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{5n(15n+1)/2+10n+1} \\
&= (\zeta_5^2 - \zeta_5^3) \left( \sum_{n \geq 0} q^{(5n+4)(15n+13)/2} + \sum_{n \leq -1} (-1)^n q^{(5n+4)(15n+13)/2} \right) \\
&= (\zeta_5^3 - \zeta_5^2) \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} q^{(5n+1)(15n+2)/2} \\
&= (\zeta_5^3 - \zeta_5^2) q(q^{25}, q^{50}, q^{75}; q^{75})_\infty \\
&=: (\zeta_5^3 - \zeta_5^2) P.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.14}$$

Putting equations (3.13) and (3.14) together we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{i=0}^4 U(i, 5, 5n+1) \zeta_5^i q^{5n+1} &= \frac{\left( (\zeta_5^4 - \zeta_5^2) X_0 Y_3 + (1 - \zeta_5^4) X_1 Y_0 + (1 - \zeta_5^3) X_0 Y_1 + (\zeta_5^3 - \zeta_5^2) X_1 Y_4 \right)}{(1 - \zeta_5^2)(q^5; q^5)_\infty} \\
&\quad + (\zeta_5^3 - \zeta_5^2) P.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.15}$$

Multiplying both sides of the above by  $(1 - \zeta_5^2)$ , recalling the notation (3.6), and simplifying, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
0 &= \left( U_0(1) - U_3(1) - X_1 Y_0 - X_0 Y_1 - P \right) + \zeta_5 \left( U_1(1) - U_4(1) \right) \\
&\quad + \zeta_5^2 \left( U_2(1) - U_0(1) + X_0 Y_3 + X_1 Y_4 + P \right) + \zeta_5^3 \left( U_3(1) - U_1(1) + X_0 Y_1 - X_1 Y_4 - P \right) \\
&\quad + \zeta_5^4 \left( U_4(1) - U_2(1) - X_0 Y_3 + X_1 Y_0 - P \right).
\end{aligned} \tag{3.16}$$

Now the coefficients of  $\zeta_5^i$  are all equal to 0 since the coefficient of  $\zeta_5$  is 0. The fact that the coefficient of  $\zeta_5^2$  is 0 gives (1.6) and the fact that the coefficient of  $\zeta_5^4$  is 0 gives (1.7).

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.1.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 1.2.* Define  $U(q)$  by

$$U(q) := \sum_{n \geq 0} U(n) q^n = \frac{1}{(q)_\infty^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{\binom{n+1}{2}}.$$

Then, we calculate that

$$\begin{aligned}
q \frac{d}{dq} U(q) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{\binom{n+1}{2}} \left( -2(q)_\infty^{-3}(q)_\infty \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{-nq^n}{1-q^n} \right) + \frac{1}{(q)_\infty^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{n^2+n}{2} q^{\binom{n+1}{2}} \\
&\equiv \frac{2}{(q)_\infty^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{\binom{n+1}{2}} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{nq^n}{1-q^n} + \frac{1}{(q)_\infty^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n (4n^2 + 4n) q^{\binom{n+1}{2}} \pmod{7}.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.17}$$

Comparing this with equation (2.10) gives equation (1.15).  $\square$

We remark that Theorem 1.2 implies the congruence

$$U(1, 7, 7n + 6) + 4U(2, 7, 7n + 6) + 2U(3, 7, 7n + 6) \equiv 0 \pmod{7}. \quad (3.18)$$

We also note that the proof of Theorem 1.2 only works modulo 7, as 7 is the only prime  $p$  for which  $2^{-1} \equiv 4 \pmod{p}$ .

#### 4. REMARKS ON THE MODULI 3 AND 4

We have focused on the moduli 5 and 7, but equation (2.3) can also be used to obtain results modulo 3 and modulo 4. In the latter case, we consider  $F(\iota, q)$ , and find that on one hand

$$\begin{aligned} F(\iota, q) &= \sum_{n \geq 0} \left( U(0, 4, n) + U(1, 4, n)\iota - U(2, 4, n) - U(3, 4, n)\iota \right) q^n \\ &= \sum_{n \geq 0} \left( U(0, 4, n) - U(2, 4, n) \right) q^n, \end{aligned} \quad (4.1)$$

while on the other hand using (2.3) we have (assuming that  $q$  is real)

$$F(\iota, q) = \Re \left( \frac{\iota \sum_{n \geq 0} q^{\binom{n+1}{2}}}{(-q^2; q^2)_\infty} + (1 - \iota) \sum_{n \geq 0} \iota^n q^{n(3n+1)/2} (1 + q^{2n+1}) \right). \quad (4.2)$$

Thus picking off the real part of the final sum gives:

**Theorem 4.1.**

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \left( U(0, 4, n) - U(2, 4, n) \right) q^n = \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^{\binom{n}{2}} q^{n(3n+1)/2} (1 + q^{2n+1}). \quad (4.3)$$

Turning to the modulus 3, we have

$$\begin{aligned} F(\zeta_3, q) &= \sum_{n \geq 0} \left( U(0, 3, n) + (\zeta_3 + \zeta_3^2)U(1, 3, n) \right) q^n \\ &= \frac{(q)_\infty}{(q^3; q^3)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n \zeta_3^{2n+1} q^{\binom{n+1}{2}} + (1 - \zeta_3) \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{n(3n+1)/2} (1 - \zeta_3^2 q^{2n+1}). \end{aligned} \quad (4.4)$$

After expanding  $(q)_\infty = \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} (-1)^m q^{m(3m+1)/2}$  it is a straightforward calculation to determine the coefficients of  $q^{3n+x}$  on the right-hand side of (4.4). We omit the details, but record the result.

**Theorem 4.2.**

$$\begin{aligned} U_{01}(0) &= \frac{q^2(q^3, q^{24}, q^{27}; q^{27})_\infty}{(q^3; q^3)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(3n+1)(3n+2)/2} \\ &\quad - \frac{(q^{12}, q^{15}, q^{27}; q^{27})_\infty}{(q^3; q^3)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(3n+2)(3n+3)/2} + \left( \sum_{n \geq 0} -2 \sum_{n \leq -1} \right) (-1)^n q^{(3n)(9n+1)/2}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.5)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
U_{01}(1) &= \frac{q(q^6, q^{21}, q^{27}; q^{27})_\infty}{(q^3; q^3)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(3n+2)(3n+3)/2} \\
&\quad - \frac{(q^{12}, q^{15}, q^{27}; q^{27})_\infty}{(q^3; q^3)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(3n+1)(3n+2)/2} + \left( \sum_{n \geq 0} -2 \sum_{n \leq -1} \right) (-1)^n q^{(3n+2)(9n+7)/2},
\end{aligned} \tag{4.6}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
U_{01}(2) &= \frac{q(q^6, q^{21}, q^{27}; q^{27})_\infty}{(q^3; q^3)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(3n+1)(3n+2)/2} \\
&\quad + q^2 \frac{(q^3, q^{24}, q^{27}; q^{27})_\infty}{(q^3; q^3)_\infty} \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{(3n+2)(3n+3)/2} - \left( \sum_{n \geq 0} -2 \sum_{n \leq -1} \right) (-1)^n q^{(3n+1)(9n+4)/2}.
\end{aligned} \tag{4.7}$$

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