

ON q -ANALOGUES OF SOME SERIES FOR π AND π^2

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ABSTRACT. We obtain a new q -analogue of the classical Leibniz series $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k / (2k+1) = \pi/4$, namely

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k q^{k(k+3)/2}}{1 - q^{2k+1}} = \frac{(q^2; q^2)_{\infty} (q^8; q^8)_{\infty}}{(q; q^2)_{\infty} (q^4; q^8)_{\infty}},$$

where q is a complex number with $|q| < 1$. We also show that the Zeilberger-type series $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (3k-1)16^k / (k \binom{2k}{k})^3 = \pi^2/2$ has two q -analogues with $|q| < 1$, one of which is

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^{n(n+1)/2} \frac{1 - q^{3n+2}}{1 - q} \cdot \frac{(q; q)_n^3 (-q; q)_n}{(q^3; q^2)_n^3} = (1 - q)^2 \frac{(q^2; q^2)_{\infty}^4}{(q; q^2)_{\infty}^4}.$$

1. INTRODUCTION

Let q be a complex number with $|q| < 1$. As usual, for $n \in \mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ and a complex number a , we define the q -shifted factorial by

$$(a; q)_n = \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} (1 - aq^k).$$

(An empty product is considered to take the value 1, and thus $(a; q)_0 = 1$.) We also adopt the standard notion

$$(a; q)_{\infty} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a; q)_n = \prod_{k=0}^{\infty} (1 - aq^k).$$

By the definition of the q -Gamma function [6, p. 20], we have

$$\frac{(q^2; q^2)_{\infty}}{(q; q^2)_{\infty}} = \Gamma_{q^2} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) (1 - q^2)^{-1/2}.$$

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Therefore,

$$\lim_{q \rightarrow 1} (1 - q) \frac{(q^2; q^2)_\infty^2}{(q; q^2)_\infty^2} = \Gamma \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^2 \lim_{q \rightarrow 1} \frac{1 - q}{1 - q^2} = \frac{\pi}{2} \quad (1.1)$$

and

$$\lim_{q \rightarrow 1} (1 - q^2) \frac{(q^4; q^4)_\infty^2}{(q^2; q^4)_\infty^2} = \frac{\pi}{2}.$$

In view of this, Ramanujan's formula

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-q)^k}{1 - q^{2k+1}} = \frac{(q^4; q^4)_\infty^2}{(q^2; q^4)_\infty^2} \quad (|q| < 1) \quad (1.2)$$

(equivalent to Example (iv) in [2, p. 139]) can be viewed as a q -analogue of Leibniz's identity

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k}{2k+1} = \frac{\pi}{4}. \quad (1.3)$$

Guo and Liu [8] used the WZ method to deduce the identities

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^{n^2} \frac{1 - q^{6n+1}}{1 - q} \cdot \frac{(q; q^2)_n^2 (q^2; q^4)_n}{(q^4; q^4)_n^3} = \frac{(1 + q)(q^2; q^4)_\infty (q^6; q^4)_\infty}{(q^4; q^4)_\infty^2} \quad (1.4)$$

and

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{3n^2} \frac{1 - q^{6n+1}}{1 - q} \cdot \frac{(q; q^2)_n^3}{(q^4; q^4)_n^3} = \frac{(q^3; q^4)_\infty (q^5; q^4)_\infty}{(q^4; q^4)_\infty^2} \quad (1.5)$$

with $|q| < 1$, which are q -analogues of Ramanujan's formulas [3, p. 352]

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (6n+1) \frac{(1/2)_n^3}{n!^3 4^n} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (6n+1) \frac{\binom{2n}{n}^3}{256^n} = \frac{4}{\pi}$$

and

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (6n+1) (-1)^n \frac{(1/2)_n^3}{n!^3 8^n} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (6n+1) \frac{\binom{2n}{n}^3}{(-512)^n} = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\pi},$$

where $(a)_n = \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} (a+k)$ is the Pochhammer symbol. Note that

$$\frac{(1/2)_n}{n!} = (-1)^n \binom{-1/2}{n} = \frac{\binom{2n}{n}}{4^n} \quad \text{for all } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Quite recently, Sun [12] provided q -analogues of Euler's classical formulas $\zeta(2) = \pi^2/6$ and $\zeta(4) = \pi^4/90$.

In 1993, Zeilberger [13] used the WZ method to show that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (21n+13) \frac{n!^6}{8(2n+1)!^3} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{21k-8}{k^3 \binom{2k}{k}^3} = \frac{\pi^2}{6}.$$

A complicated q -analogue of the identity $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (21k - 8)/(k^3 \binom{2k}{k})^3 = \zeta(2)$ was given by Hessami Pilehrood and Hessami Pilehrood [9] in 2011. Following Zeilberger's work, in 2008 Guillera [7, Identity 1] employed the WZ method to obtain the Zeilberger-type series

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(3k-1)16^k}{k^3 \binom{2k}{k}^3} = \frac{\pi^2}{2}. \quad (1.6)$$

In this paper we study q -analogues of the identities (1.3) and (1.6).

Now we state our main results.

Theorem 1.1. *For $|q| < 1$ we have*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k q^{k(k+3)/2}}{1 - q^{2k+1}} = \frac{(q^2; q^2)_{\infty} (q^8; q^8)_{\infty}}{(q; q^2)_{\infty} (q^4; q^8)_{\infty}}. \quad (1.7)$$

The above identity gives a new q -analogue of Leibniz's identity (1.3) since

$$\lim_{q \rightarrow 1} (1 - q^2) \frac{(q^2; q^2)_{\infty} (q^8; q^8)_{\infty}}{(q; q^2)_{\infty} (q^4; q^8)_{\infty}} = \lim_{q \rightarrow 1} \Gamma_{q^2} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) \Gamma_{q^8} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) = \Gamma \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^2 = \pi.$$

Theorem 1.2. *For $|q| < 1$ we have*

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^{2n(n+1)} (1 + q^{2n+2} - 2q^{4n+3}) \frac{(q^2; q^2)_n^3}{(q; q^2)_{n+1}^3 (-1; q)_{2n+3}} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2n}}{(1 - q^{2n+1})^2} \quad (1.8)$$

and

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^{n(n+1)/2} \frac{1 - q^{3n+2}}{1 - q} \cdot \frac{(q; q)_n^3 (-q; q)_n}{(q^3; q^2)_n^3} = (1 - q)^2 \frac{(q^2; q^2)_{\infty}^4}{(q; q^2)_{\infty}^4}. \quad (1.9)$$

Multiplying both sides of (1.8) by $(1 - q)^2$ and then letting $q \rightarrow 1$, we obtain

$$\frac{1}{4} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (3n + 2) \frac{2^{4n} n!^6}{(2n + 1)!^3} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n + 1)^2} = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{4} \right) \zeta(2) = \frac{\pi^2}{16},$$

which is equivalent to (1.6). In view of (1.1) and the fact that

$$\lim_{q \rightarrow 1} q^{n(n+1)/2} \frac{1 - q^{3n+2}}{1 - q} \cdot \frac{(q; q)_n^3 (-q; q)_n}{(q^3; q^2)_n^3} = \frac{(3n + 2)16^{n+1}}{2(n + 1)^3 \binom{2n+2}{n+1}^3},$$

the identity (1.9) is also a q -analogue of (1.6). The expansions of both sides of (1.9) are

$$1 + 2q - q^2 + 3q^4 - 6q^5 + 3q^6 + 8q^7 - 16q^8 + 8q^9 + 10q^{10} + \dots$$

In [11, Conjecture 1.4], Sun presented several conjectural identities similar to Zeilberger-type series (one of which is $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (10k-3)8^k / (k^3 \binom{2k}{k}^2 \binom{3k}{k}) = \pi^2/2$), but we could not find q -analogues of them.

We are going to show Theorems 1.1 and 1.2 in Sections 2 and 3 respectively. Finally, in Section 4, we give alternative proofs for (1.4) and (1.5).

2. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.1

As usual, for $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ we let T_x denote the triangular number $x(x+1)/2$.

Lemma 2.1. *Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and define*

$$t_2(n) := |\{(x, y) \in \mathbb{N}^2 : T_x + 4T_y = n\}|.$$

Then

$$t_2(n) = \sum_{\substack{d|8n+5 \\ d < \sqrt{8n+5}}} (-1)^{(d-1)/2}. \quad (2.1)$$

Proof. By Theorem 3.2.1 of [4, p. 56], for any positive integer m we have

$$r_2(m) = 4 \sum_{2 \nmid d|m} (-1)^{(d-1)/2},$$

where $r_2(m) := |\{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 : x^2 + y^2 = m\}|$. Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} t_2(n) &= |\{(x, y) \in \mathbb{N}^2 : (2x+1)^2 + 4(2y+1)^2 = 8n+5\}| \\ &= \frac{1}{4} |\{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 : x^2 + (2y)^2 = 8n+5\}| = \frac{1}{8} r_2(8n+5) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{d|8n+5} (-1)^{(d-1)/2} = \sum_{\substack{d|8n+5 \\ d < \sqrt{8n+5}}} \frac{(-1)^{(d-1)/2} + (-1)^{((8n+5)/d-1)/2}}{2} \\ &= \sum_{\substack{d|8n+5 \\ d < \sqrt{8n+5}}} (-1)^{(d-1)/2}. \end{aligned}$$

This proves (2.1). ■

As usual, for $|q| < 1$ we define

$$\psi(q) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^{T_n}.$$

By a known formula of Gauß (cf. (1.3.14) of [4, p. 11]),

$$\psi(q) = \frac{(q^2; q^2)_\infty}{(q; q^2)_\infty}. \quad (2.2)$$

First proof of (1.7). Let L and R denote the left-hand side and the right-hand side of (1.7), respectively. In view of Gauß' identity (2.2) and (2.1), we have

$$R = \psi(q)\psi(q^4) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} t_2(n)q^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{\substack{d|8n+5 \\ d < \sqrt{8n+5}}} (-1)^{(d-1)/2} \right) q^n.$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} q^{k(k+3)/2 + (2k+1)m} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k q^{((2k+1)(2k+1+4(2m+1))-5)/8} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\substack{d|8n+5 \\ d < \sqrt{8n+5}}} (-1)^{(d-1)/2} q^n. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore (1.7) is valid. ■

Second proof of (1.7). Recall the standard basic hypergeometric notation

$${}_r\phi_s \left[\begin{matrix} a_1, \dots, a_r; \\ b_1, \dots, b_s \end{matrix}; q, z \right] = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a_1; q)_\ell \cdots (a_r; q)_\ell}{(q; q)_\ell (b_1; q)_\ell \cdots (b_s; q)_\ell} \left((-1)^\ell q^{\binom{\ell}{2}} \right)^{s-r+1} z^\ell$$

(with $(a_1; q)_\ell \cdots (a_r; q)_\ell$ often abbreviated as $(a_1, \dots, a_r; q)_\ell$). We start with the transformation formula (cf. [6, Eq. (3.10.4)])

$$\begin{aligned} & {}_{10}\phi_9 \left[\begin{matrix} a, \sqrt{aq}, -\sqrt{aq}, b, x, -x, y, -y, \\ \sqrt{a}, -\sqrt{a}, aq/b, aq/x, -aq/x, aq/y, -aq/y, \end{matrix} \right. \\ & \quad \left. \begin{matrix} -q^{-n}, q^{-n} \\ -aq^{n+1}, aq^{n+1}; q, -\frac{a^3 q^{2n+3}}{bx^2 y^2} \end{matrix} \right] \\ &= \frac{(a^2 q^2, a^2 q^2/x^2 y^2; q^2)_n}{(a^2 q^2/x^2, a^2 q^2/y^2; q^2)_n} {}_5\phi_4 \left[\begin{matrix} q^{-2n}, x^2, y^2, -aq/b, -aq^2/b \\ x^2 y^2/a^2 q^{2n}, a^2 q^2/b^2, -aq, -aq^2; q^2, q^2 \end{matrix} \right], \end{aligned}$$

where n is a nonnegative integer. In this identity, set $a = q$, $x = y = \sqrt{q}$, and let $n \rightarrow \infty$. In this way, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & {}_4\phi_5 \left[\begin{matrix} q, b, \sqrt{q}, -\sqrt{q} \\ q^2/b, q^{3/2}, -q^{3/2}, 0, 0 \end{matrix}; q, \frac{q^4}{b} \right] \\ &= \frac{(q^2; q^2)_\infty (q^4; q^2)_\infty}{(q^3; q^2)_\infty^2} {}_4\phi_3 \left[\begin{matrix} q, -q^2/b, -q^3/b, q \\ -q^3, -q^2, q^4/b^2 \end{matrix}; q^2, q^2 \right]. \end{aligned}$$

By performing the limit as $b \rightarrow 0$, the above transformation formula is reduced to

$${}_3\phi_3 \left[\begin{matrix} q, \sqrt{q}, -\sqrt{q} \\ -q^{3/2}, q^{3/2}, 0 \end{matrix}; q, q^2 \right] = \frac{(q^2; q^2)_\infty (q^4; q^2)_\infty}{(q^3; q^2)_\infty^2} {}_2\phi_2 \left[\begin{matrix} q, q \\ -q^2, -q^3 \end{matrix}; q^2, q^3 \right].$$

If the left-hand side is written out explicitly, we see that it agrees with the left-hand side in (1.7) up to a multiplicative factor of $1 - q$. On the other hand, the ${}_2\phi_2$ -series on the right-hand side can be evaluated by means of the summation formula (cf. [6, Ex. 1.19(i); Appendix (II.10)])

$${}_2\phi_2 \left[\begin{matrix} a, q/a \\ -q, b \end{matrix}; q, -b \right] = \frac{(ab, bq/a; q^2)_\infty}{(b; q)_\infty}.$$

Thus, we arrive at

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k q^{k(k+3)/2} (1-q)}{1 - q^{2k+1}} = \frac{(q^2; q^2)_\infty (q^4; q^2)_\infty (-q^4; q^4)_\infty^2}{(-q^3; q^2)_\infty (q^3; q^2)_\infty^2},$$

which is indeed equivalent to (1.7). ■

3. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.2

Proof of (1.8). We construct a q -analogue of the WZ pair given by Guillera [7, Identity 1].

Recall that a pair of bivariate functions $(F(n, k), G(n, k))$ is called a *WZ pair* [10, Chapter 7] if

$$F(n+1, k) - F(n, k) = G(n, k+1) - G(n, k).$$

It was shown (cf. [1]) that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} G(n, 0) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} G(n, k) + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} F(0, k). \quad (3.1)$$

We make the following construction. Let

$$F_q(n, k) = 4 \cdot \frac{1 - q^{2n}}{1 - q} \cdot B_q(n, k)$$

and

$$G_q(n, k) = \frac{4(1 + q^{2n+1} - 2q^{4n+2k+1})}{(1 - q)(1 + q^{2n})(1 + q^{2n+1})} B_q(n, k),$$

where

$$B_q(n, k) = \frac{(q; q^2)_k^2 (q; q^2)_n^3}{(q^{2n+2}; q^2)_k^2 (q^2; q^2)_n^3 (-1; q)_{2n}} q^{2n^2 + 4nk}.$$

We can extend the definition of $B_q(n, k)$ from nonnegative integers n, k to any real numbers n, k by defining

$$(a; q)_n = \frac{(a; q)_\infty}{(aq^n; q)_\infty}.$$

Let a be a positive real number. It is straightforward to check that $(F_q(n+a, k), G_q(n+a, k))$ is a WZ pair. Observing that $B_q(n, k)$ contains the factor q^{4nk} , we get

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} G_q(n+a, k) = 0.$$

Thus,

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} G_q(n+a, 0) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} F_q(a, k). \quad (3.2)$$

Setting $a = 1/2$ and noting that

$$(q; q^2)_{n+1/2} = \frac{(q; q^2)_\infty}{(q \cdot q^{2n+1}; q^2)_\infty} = \frac{(q; q^2)_\infty (q^2; q^2)_n}{(q^2; q^2)_\infty}$$

and

$$(q^2; q^2)_{n+1/2} = \frac{(q^2; q^2)_\infty}{(q^2 \cdot q^{2n+1}; q^2)_\infty} = \frac{(q^2; q^2)_\infty (q; q^2)_{n+1}}{(q; q^2)_\infty}$$

for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we infer that

$$F_q\left(\frac{1}{2}, k\right) = \frac{2q^{1/2}}{1-q} \cdot \frac{q^{2k}}{(1-q^{2k+1})^2} \cdot \frac{(q; q^2)_\infty^6}{(q^2; q^2)_\infty^6},$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} G_q\left(n + \frac{1}{2}, 0\right) &= \frac{4q^{2n^2+2n+1/2}(1+q^{2n+2}-2q^{4n+3})}{(1-q)} \\ &\quad \times \frac{(q; q^2)_\infty^3 (q^{2n+3}; q^2)_\infty^3}{(-1; q)_{2n+3} (q^{2n+2}; q^2)_\infty^3 (q^2; q^2)_\infty^3}. \end{aligned}$$

After cancelling the common factors, we arrive at (1.8). ■

Remark 3.1. Guillera [7] obtained the identity (1.6) via the WZ pair

$$F(n, k) = 8nB(n, k), \quad G(n, k) = (6n + 4k + 1)B(n, k),$$

where

$$B(n, k) = \frac{(2k)!^2 (2n)!^3}{2^{8n+4k} (n+k)!^2 k!^2 n!^4}.$$

Since

$$\lim_{q \rightarrow 1} F_q(n, k) = F(n, k) \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{q \rightarrow 1} G_q(n, k) = G(n, k),$$

the pair $(F_q(n, k), G_q(n, k))$ is indeed a q -analogue of the pair $(F(n, k), G(n, k))$.

Proof of (1.9). We start from the quadratic transformation formula (cf. [6, Eq. (3.8.13)])

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(1 - aq^{3n}) (a, d, aq/d; q^2)_n (b, c, aq/bc; q)_n}{(1 - a) (q, aq/d, d; q)_n (aq^2/b, aq^2/c, bcq; q^2)_n} q^n \\ = \frac{(aq^2, bq, cq, aq^2/bc; q^2)_{\infty}}{(q, aq^2/b, aq^2/c, bcq; q^2)_{\infty}} {}_3\phi_2 \left[\begin{matrix} b, c, aq/bc \\ dq, aq^2/d \end{matrix}; q^2, q^2 \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

We set $a = q^2$ and $b = c = q$. This yields

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(1 - q^{3n+2}) (q^2, d, q^3/d; q^2)_n (q, q, q; q)_n}{(1 - q^2) (q, q^3/d, d; q)_n (q^3, q^3, q^3; q^2)_n} q^n \\ = \frac{(q^4, q^2, q^2, q^2; q^2)_{\infty}}{(q, q^3, q^3, q^3; q^2)_{\infty}} {}_3\phi_2 \left[\begin{matrix} q, q, q \\ dq, q^4/d \end{matrix}; q^2, q^2 \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (3.4)$$

At this point, we observe that the limit $d \rightarrow 0$ applied to the left-hand side of (3.4) produces exactly the left-hand side of (1.9). Thus, it remains to show the limit $d \rightarrow 0$ applied to the right-hand side of (3.4) yields the right-hand side of (1.9).

In order to see this, we take recourse to the transformation formula (cf. [6, Eq. (3.3.1) or Appendix (III.34)])

$$\begin{aligned} {}_3\phi_2 \left[\begin{matrix} A, B, C \\ D, E \end{matrix}; q, q \right] &= \frac{(BCq/E, q/E; q)_{\infty}}{(Cq/E, Bq/E; q)_{\infty}} {}_3\phi_2 \left[\begin{matrix} D/A, B, C \\ D, BCq/E \end{matrix}; q, \frac{Aq}{E} \right] \\ &\quad - \frac{(q/E, A, B, C, Dq/E; q)_{\infty}}{(Cq/E, Bq/E, D, E/q, Aq/E; q)_{\infty}} {}_3\phi_2 \left[\begin{matrix} Cq/E, Bq/E, Aq/E \\ Dq/E, q^2/E \end{matrix}; q, q \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Here we replace q by q^2 and set $A = B = C = q$, $D = dq$, and $E = q^4/d$, to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} {}_3\phi_2 \left[\begin{matrix} q, q, q \\ dq, q^4/d \end{matrix}; q^2, q^2 \right] &= \frac{(d, d/q^2; q^2)_{\infty}}{(d/q, d/q; q^2)_{\infty}} {}_2\phi_1 \left[\begin{matrix} q, q \\ dq \end{matrix}; q^2, \frac{d}{q} \right] \\ &\quad - \frac{(d/q^2, q, q, q, d^2/q; q^2)_{\infty}}{(d/q, d/q, dq, q^2/d, d/q; q^2)_{\infty}} {}_3\phi_2 \left[\begin{matrix} d/q, d/q, d/q \\ d^2/q, d \end{matrix}; q^2, q^2 \right]. \end{aligned}$$

From here it is evident that

$$\lim_{d \rightarrow 0} {}_3\phi_2 \left[\begin{matrix} q, q, q \\ dq, q^4/d \end{matrix}; q^2, q^2 \right] = 1. \quad (3.5)$$

Indeed, the first term on the right-hand side of (3.5) converges trivially to 1, while in the second term everywhere the substitution $d = 0$ is fine — and thus produces a well-defined *finite* value —, except for the factor $(q^2/d, q^2)_{\infty}$ in the denominator. However, as $d \rightarrow 0$ (to be precise, we take $d = q^2/D$

with $D \rightarrow -\infty$), this term becomes unbounded, whence the whole term tends to 0. Thus, performing this limit, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(1 - q^{3n+2}) (q^2; q^2)_n (q, q, q; q)_n}{(1 - q^2) (q; q)_n (q^3, q^3, q^3; q^2)_n} q^{n+\binom{n}{2}} \\ = \frac{(q^4, q^2, q^2, q^2; q^2)_{\infty}}{(q, q^3, q^3, q^3; q^2)_{\infty}} = \frac{(1 - q)^3 (q^2, q^2, q^2, q^2; q^2)_{\infty}}{(1 - q^2) (q, q, q, q; q^2)_{\infty}}, \end{aligned}$$

as desired. \blacksquare

4. ALTERNATIVE PROOFS OF THE IDENTITIES OF GUO AND LIU

In this last section, we provide alternative proofs of (1.4) and (1.5), showing that they can be obtained as special/limiting cases of a quadratic summation formula due to Gasper and Rahman [5].

Proof of (1.4). We start with the quadratic summation formula (cf. [6, Eq. (3.8.12)])

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1 - aq^{3k}}{1 - a} \cdot \frac{(a, b, q/b; q)_k}{(q^2, aq^2/b, abq; q^2)_k} \cdot \frac{(d, f, a^2q/df; q^2)_k}{(aq/d, aq/f, df/a; q)_k} \cdot q^k \\ + \frac{(aq, f/a, b, f/q; q)_{\infty}}{(a/f, fq/a, aq/d, df/a; q)_{\infty}} \cdot \frac{(d, a^2q/bd, a^2q/df, fq^2/d, df^2q/a^2; q^2)_{\infty}}{(aq^2/b, abq, fq/ab, bf/a, aq^2/bf; q^2)_{\infty}} \\ \times {}_3\phi_2 \left[\begin{matrix} f, bf/a, fq/ab \\ fq^2/d, df^2q/a^2 \end{matrix}; q^2, q^2 \right] \\ = \frac{(aq, f/a; q)_{\infty}}{(aq/d, df/a; q)_{\infty}} \cdot \frac{(aq^2/bd, abq/d, bdf/a, dfq/ab; q^2)_{\infty}}{(aq^2/b, abq, bf/a, fq/ab; q^2)_{\infty}}. \end{aligned}$$

Now replace f by a^2q^{2N+1}/d , with N a positive integer. The effect is that, because of the factor $(a^2q/df; q^2)_{\infty}$, this kills off the second term on the left-hand side. In other words, now this is indeed a genuine summation formula. Now replace q by q^2 and choose $a = b = q$. Then the above identity reduces to

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1 - q^{6k+1}}{1 - q} \cdot \frac{(d, q^{4N+4}/d, q^{-4N}; q^4)_k}{(q^4, q^4, q^4; q^4)_k} \cdot \frac{(q, q, q; q^2)_k}{(q^3/d, dq^{-4N-1}, q^{4N+3}; q^2)_k} \cdot q^{2k} \\ = \frac{(q^3, q^{4N+3}/d; q^2)_{\infty}}{(q^3/d, q^{4N+3}; q^2)_{\infty}} \cdot \frac{(q^4/d, q^4/d, q^{4N+4}, q^{4N+4}; q^4)_{\infty}}{(q^4, q^4, q^{4N+4}/d, q^{4N+4}/d; q^4)_{\infty}}. \quad (4.1) \end{aligned}$$

Finally, we set $d = q^2$ and let $N \rightarrow \infty$. Upon little simplification, we arrive at (1.4). \blacksquare

Proof of (1.5). We proceed in a similar manner. In (4.1), we set $d = q^{-2N}$ with N a positive integer. This yields the identity

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1 - q^{6k+1}}{1 - q} \cdot \frac{(q^{-2N}, q^{6N+4}, q^{-4N}; q^4)_k}{(q^4, q^4, q^4; q^4)_k} \cdot \frac{(q, q, q; q^2)_k}{(q^{2N+3}, q^{-6N-1}, q^{4N+3}; q^2)_k} \cdot q^{2k} \\ = \frac{(q^3; q^2)_N (q^{2N+4}; q^4)_N^2}{(q^4; q^4)_N^2 (q^{4N+3}; q^2)_N}. \end{aligned}$$

Letting $N \rightarrow \infty$, we then obtain (1.5). ■

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