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ABSTRACT

We show that some q -series such as universal mock theta functions are linear sums of theta quotients and mock Jacobi forms of weight $1/2$, which become holomorphic parts of real analytic modular forms when they are restricted to torsion points and multiplied by suitable powers of q . We also prove that certain linear sums of q -series are weakly holomorphic modular forms of weight $1/2$ due to annihilation of mock Jacobi forms or completion by mock Jacobi forms. As an application, we obtain a relation between the rank and crank of a partition.

1. Introduction and summary of results

A Jacobi form is a holomorphic function of two variables $z \in \mathbb{C}$ and $\tau \in \mathbb{H}$, the upper half of the complex plane, which satisfies elliptic transformation properties with respect to z , modular transformation properties with respect to τ , and a certain growth condition. It is well known [EZ85, Theorem 1.3] that a Jacobi form at torsion points, $z = r\tau + s$, with $r, s \in \mathbb{Q}$, multiplied by a suitable rational power of $q = e^{2\pi i\tau}$ is a modular form with respect to τ . For example, the classical theta series

$$\vartheta(z) = \vartheta(z; \tau) := \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} e^{\pi i(2n+1)z} q^{n(n+1)/2+1/8} \quad (1.1)$$

is the most famous Jacobi form and $q^{r^2/2} \vartheta(r\tau + s; \tau)$ is an ordinary modular form of weight $1/2$.

In his ground-breaking work on mock theta functions [Zwe02], Zwegers constructed a non-holomorphic but real analytic Jacobi form whose holomorphic part is a normalized Lerch sum and whose non-holomorphic part can be written in terms of a period integral of a weight $3/2$ unary theta series. The holomorphic part of Zwegers' real analytic Jacobi form is defined by

$$\mu(u, v) = \mu(u, v; \tau) := \frac{a^{1/2}}{\vartheta(v)} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{(-b)^n q^{n(n+1)/2}}{1 - aq^n}, \quad (1.2)$$

where $a = e^{2\pi iu}$ and $b = e^{2\pi iv}$ for complex values u and v . Following Zagier, we call μ a *mock Jacobi form*, because it behaves almost like a Jacobi form with two elliptic variables and, when the elliptic variables are restricted to torsion points, it becomes a *mock modular form* up to a factor of a rational power of q . Each mock modular form of weight k is the holomorphic part of

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a real analytic modular form of weight k , of which the non-holomorphic part is determined by an ordinary modular form of weight $2 - k$, called the *shadow* of the mock modular form. The real analytic modular form that has a mock modular form as its holomorphic part is now called a harmonic weak Maass form. Moreover, a mock theta function is a q -series that is a mock modular form of weight $1/2$ multiplied by a rational power of q whose shadow is a unary theta series of weight $3/2$. For a full description of the notions of mock modular forms and their shadows, the reader is referred to [Zag06].

We recall that the *rank* of a partition is defined as its largest part minus its number of parts. Then the generating function for the number of partitions of given size and rank is given by

$$\mathcal{R}(w; q) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{n^2}}{\prod_{k=1}^n (1 - wq^k)(1 - q^k/w)}.$$

When $w = -1$, this reduces to one of Ramanujan’s third order mock theta functions $f(q)$, and Zwegers [Zwe01] proved that $q^{-1/24}f(q)$ is a component of a vector-valued real analytic modular form of weight $1/2$. With the aid of this work, Bringmann and Ono [BO06, BO] showed that $q^{-1/24}f(q)$ is the holomorphic part of a weak Maass form of weight $1/2$. Furthermore, they [BO, Theorem 1.2] generalized this to other roots of unity. By using Zwegers’ mock Jacobi form μ , Zagier [Zag06, Theorem 7.1] then found a result that subsumes and is also much simpler in formulation and proof than that by Bringmann and Ono, as remarked by Zagier himself. Once we represent $\mathcal{R}(w; q)$ in terms of a generalized Lambert series, we can easily deduce that

$$\frac{q^{-1/24}\mathcal{R}(e^{2\pi i\alpha}; q)}{e^{-\pi i\alpha} - e^{\pi i\alpha}} = \frac{\eta^3(3\tau)}{\eta(\tau)\vartheta(3\alpha; 3\tau)} - q^{-1/6}e^{-2\pi i\alpha}\mu(3\alpha, -\tau; 3\tau) + q^{-1/6}e^{2\pi i\alpha}\mu(3\alpha, \tau; 3\tau), \tag{1.3}$$

where $\eta(\tau)$ is the Dedekind eta-function satisfying $q^{-1/24}\eta(\tau) = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty}(1 - q^n)$. (The values $q^{-1/6}$ in the last two terms of the right-hand side are missing in [Zag06].) Applying Zwegers’ result to (1.3), Zagier [Zag06, Theorem 7.1] proved that, for any root of unity $\zeta = e^{2\pi i\alpha} \neq 1$, $q^{-1/24}\mathcal{R}(\zeta; q)$ is a mock modular form of weight $1/2$ with shadow proportional to $(\zeta^{-1/2} - \zeta^{1/2}) \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \binom{12}{n} n \sin(\pi n\alpha) q^{n^2/24}$.

In this paper, we find more q -series which are composed of sums of theta quotients and mock Jacobi forms like the rank generating function $\mathcal{R}(w; q)$. They become mock modular forms when the elliptic variables are restricted to torsion points. In particular, both of the following *universal mock theta functions* are such series:

$$g_2(w; q) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-q)_n q^{n(n+1)/2}}{(w; q)_{n+1} (q/w; q)_{n+1}}, \tag{1.4}$$

$$g_3(w; q) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{n(n+1)}}{(w; q)_{n+1} (q/w; q)_{n+1}}, \tag{1.5}$$

where $(a)_0 = (a; q)_0 := 1$, $(a)_n = (a; q)_n := \prod_{j=0}^{n-1} (1 - aq^j)$, $n \geq 1$, and $(a)_\infty = (a; q)_\infty := \prod_{j=0}^{\infty} (1 - aq^j)$. We call these functions universal mock theta functions as all mock theta functions of even (respectively odd) order are expressed in terms of g_2 (respectively g_3). This was first noticed by Hickerson [Hic88a, Hic88b] when he proved that mock theta conjectures on mock theta functions of orders five and seven can be stated in terms of g_3 . Recently Gordon and McIntosh [GM] observed that this is a uniform phenomenon for mock theta functions of all orders. They also noticed that g_3 can be written in terms of g_2 , and hence named g_2 a universal mock theta function [GM]. In addition to those reviewed above, there are many results on

these two functions. However, we show that Zwegers' mock Jacobi form μ naturally reveals the properties of g_2 and g_3 .

THEOREM 1.1. *Let α be any complex number such that $\alpha \neq n\tau + m/2$ for $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$. If $w = e^{2\pi i\alpha}$, then*

$$wg_2(w; q) = \frac{\eta^4(2\tau)}{\eta^2(\tau)\vartheta(2\alpha; 2\tau)} + wq^{-1/4}\mu(2\alpha, \tau; 2\tau), \tag{1.6}$$

which is a mock modular form of weight $1/2$ times a rational power of q at torsion points up to a certain holomorphic function. In particular, if $\zeta \neq 1$ is a root of unity, then $\zeta g_2(\zeta; q) + 1/2$ is a mock modular form of weight $1/2$ with shadow proportional to $\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^n n \zeta^{-2n} q^{n^2}$.

When $w = q^r$ for a rational number r , Bringmann, Ono and Rhoades [BOR08, Theorem 1.3] proved that $q^{r(1-r)}(g_2(w; q) + g_2(-w; q))$ is a weight $1/2$ weakly holomorphic modular form on a subgroup of the full modular group $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ depending on r by showing that the summands are distinct Maass forms with equal non-holomorphic parts of opposite signs. If we use elliptic transformation properties of μ and ϑ , we can easily deduce a more general result from (1.6).

THEOREM 1.2. *Let α be any complex number such that $\alpha \neq n\tau + m/2$ for $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$. If $w = e^{2\pi i\alpha}$, then we have a meromorphic Jacobi form*

$$w(g_2(w; q) + g_2(-w; q)) = \frac{2\eta^4(2\tau)}{\eta^2(\tau)\vartheta(2\alpha; 2\tau)}. \tag{1.7}$$

If $\alpha = r\tau + s$ with $r, s \in \mathbb{Q}$, then it is a weight $1/2$ weakly holomorphic modular form on a subgroup of $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ depending on r and s when it is multiplied by q^{-r^2} .

By writing $g_3(w; q)$ as a sum of a theta quotient and mock Jacobi forms, we can derive an analogous result for $g_3(w; q)$ as well.

THEOREM 1.3. *Let α be any complex number such that $\alpha \neq n\tau + m/3$ for $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$. If $w = e^{2\pi i\alpha}$ and $\zeta_3 = e^{2\pi i/3}$, then we have a meromorphic Jacobi form*

$$w^{3/2}q^{-1/24}(g_3(w; q) + g_3(\zeta_3 w; q) + g_3(\zeta_3^2 w; q)) = \frac{3\eta^3(3\tau)}{\eta(\tau)\vartheta(3\alpha; 3\tau)}. \tag{1.8}$$

If $\alpha = r\tau + s$ with $r, s \in \mathbb{Q}$, then it is a weight $1/2$ weakly holomorphic modular form on a subgroup of $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ depending on r and s when it is multiplied by $q^{-3r^2/2}$.

We can apply Theorem 1.3 to the theory of partitions. Let $p(n)$ denote the number of partitions of n . The rank of a partition gives combinatorial interpretations for Ramanujan's famous congruences $p(5n + 4) \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ and $p(7n + 5) \equiv 0 \pmod{7}$ by splitting the partitions of $5n + 4$ (respectively $7n + 5$) into 5 (respectively 7) equal classes when sorted according to the rank modulo 5 (respectively 7). Besides the rank, there is another partition statistic, called the *crank*, which gives combinatorial interpretations not only for the two congruences above but also for Ramanujan's third partition congruence $p(11n + 6) \equiv 0 \pmod{11}$. From Theorem 1.3, we derive a relation between ranks and cranks which yields the following theorem.

THEOREM 1.4. *Let $N(m, n)$ and $M(m, n)$ denote the numbers of partitions of a non-negative integer n with rank m and crank m , respectively, and let $p_3(n)$ be the number of partitions of n into parts congruent to ± 1 modulo 3. Then, for each integer m , we have*

$$N(3m - 1, n) + N(3m, n) + N(3m + 1, n) = \sum_{0 \leq 3k \leq n} M(m, k)p_3(n - 3k). \tag{1.9}$$

However, it is very interesting to note that Theorem 1.2 is an immediate consequence of Ramanujan’s ${}_1\psi_1$ summation formula [AAR99, p. 502],

$${}_1\psi_1(\alpha; \beta; z) := \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{(\alpha)_n}{(\beta)_n} z^n = \frac{(\beta/\alpha)_\infty (\alpha z)_\infty (q/(\alpha z))_\infty (q)_\infty}{(q/\alpha)_\infty (\beta/(\alpha z))_\infty (\beta)_\infty (z)_\infty} \quad \text{for } |\beta/\alpha| < |z| < 1. \quad (1.10)$$

After some manipulations, we can observe that $g_2(w; q)$ arises from a positive indexed summation while $g_2(-w; q)$ arises from a negative indexed summation of the bilateral series in (1.10). This tells us the beauty of the ${}_1\psi_1$ summation formula comes from annihilation of mock Jacobi forms in some specific cases. The following theorem, however, shows that another specific case of (1.10) holds due to a different reason.

THEOREM 1.5. *Define $K'(w; \tau)$ and $K''(w; \tau)$ by*

$$K'(w; \tau) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n q^{n^2} (q; q^2)_n}{(wq^2; q^2)_n (q^2/w; q^2)_n},$$

$$K''(w; \tau) := \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n q^{n^2} (q; q^2)_{n-1}}{(wq; q^2)_n (q/w; q^2)_n}.$$

Let α be any complex number such that $\alpha \neq n\tau + m$ for $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$. If $w = e^{2\pi i \alpha}$, then we have a meromorphic Jacobi form

$$\frac{q^{-1/8}}{w^{-1/2} - w^{1/2}} K'(w; \tau) + q^{-1/8} (w^{1/2} - w^{-1/2}) K''(w; \tau) = \frac{\eta^4(\tau)}{\eta^2(2\tau) \vartheta(\alpha; \tau)}. \quad (1.11)$$

If $\alpha = r\tau + s$ with $r, s \in \mathbb{Q}$, then it is a weight $1/2$ weakly holomorphic modular form on a subgroup of $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ depending on r and s when it is multiplied by $q^{-r^2/2}$.

The two terms on the left-hand side of (1.11) are mock Jacobi forms and each of them is about the half of a meromorphic Jacobi form on the right-hand side. That is, there occurs a completion to a meromorphic Jacobi form by mock Jacobi forms, not annihilation of mock Jacobi forms as in Theorem 1.1. A slightly weaker result than Theorem 1.5 is proved in [BOR08].

This paper is presented as follows. In § 2, we review Zwegers’ results on mock Jacobi forms and Zagier’s notion of shadows of mock modular forms very briefly. In § 3, we decompose universal mock theta functions as sums of theta quotients and mock Jacobi forms and show that they are mock modular forms at torsion points when they are multiplied by suitable powers of q . Moreover, using the results, we prove Theorems 1.2 and 1.3. In § 4, using Theorem 1.3, we establish a relation between rank and crank generating functions and discuss further relations between ranks and cranks, including Theorem 1.4. Finally, in § 5, we re-prove some of the results in § 3 using the theory of basic hypergeometric series and prove Theorem 1.5.

2. Properties of Mock Jacobi forms and Mock Modular forms

We first recall important properties of a mock Jacobi form in (1.2) stated in Zwegers’ PhD thesis [Zwe02]. Note that our ϑ is i times Zwegers’ ϑ function and hence our μ is $-i$ times his μ function. (See [Zwe02, Proposition 1.3].) It is well known that the theta series in (1.1) is an odd function of z having a product representation

$$\vartheta(z; \tau) = q^{1/8} x^{-1/2} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^n)(1 - xq^{n-1})(1 - x^{-1}q^n), \quad (2.1)$$

where $x = e^{2\pi iz}$ by the Jacobi triple product identity.

PROPOSITION 2.1 [Zwe02, Propositions 1.4 and 1.5]. *The mock Jacobi form $\mu(u, v; \tau)$ in (1.2) is a meromorphic function of u with simple poles in the points $u = n\tau + m$ for $n, m \in \mathbb{Z}$, symmetric in u and v , and satisfies the elliptic transformation properties*

$$\mu(u + 1, v) = -\mu(u, v) = e^{-2\pi i(u-v) - \pi i \tau} \mu(u + \tau, v) + e^{-\pi i(u-v) - \pi i \tau/4}, \tag{2.2}$$

and the modular transformation properties

$$e^{\pi i/4} \mu(u, v; \tau + 1) = -(-i\tau)^{-1/2} e^{\pi i(u-v)^2/\tau} \mu\left(\frac{u}{\tau}, \frac{v}{\tau}; \frac{-1}{\tau}\right) - \frac{1}{2} h(u - v; \tau) = \mu(u, v; \tau), \tag{2.3}$$

where $h(z) = h(z; \tau) := \int_{\mathbb{R}} (e^{\pi i \tau x^2 - 2\pi z x} / \cosh \pi x) dx$, a Mordell integral.

Zwegers then constructed a non-holomorphic function $R(z; \tau)$ for $z \in \mathbb{C}$ so that

$$\widehat{\mu}(u, v; \tau) := \mu(u, v; \tau) + \frac{1}{2} R(u - v; \tau) \tag{2.4}$$

is a real analytic Jacobi form. For rational numbers a and b , $q^\lambda \mu(a\tau, b; \tau)$ is a mock modular form of weight $1/2$ for a certain rational number λ and its shadow is a weight $3/2$ unary theta series.

In general, the shadow $g(\tau)$ of a mock modular form $f(\tau)$ of weight k is proportional to $y^k (\bar{\partial}/\partial \bar{\tau})(f + E)(\tau)$, where $y = \text{Im}(\tau)$ and $E(\tau)$ is the associated non-holomorphic function to $f(\tau)$ such that $f(\tau) + E(\tau)$ is a real analytic modular form of weight k . Under this differential operator, the holomorphic part is mapped to zero, and thus the shadow is determined by the correction function $E(\tau)$ as follows.

PROPOSITION 2.2 [Zag06, §5]. *If $E(\tau)$ is the correction function of a mock modular form of weight k with the shadow $g(\tau)$ and $y = \text{Im}(\tau)$, then $y^k \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{\tau}} E(\tau)$ is proportional to $\overline{g(\bar{\tau})}$ and*

$$E(\tau) = (i/2)^{k-1} \int_{-\bar{\tau}}^{i\infty} \frac{\overline{g(-\bar{z})}}{(z + \tau)^k} dz. \tag{2.5}$$

The differential operator $y^k \bar{\partial}/\partial \bar{\tau}$ is also discussed as a map from the space of harmonic weak Maass forms of weight k to the space of weakly holomorphic modular forms of weight $2 - k$ in [BF04, Proposition 3.2].

Specifically, when $a \in (-1/2, 1/2)$ and $b \in \mathbb{R}$, we may use an explicit formula for $R(a\tau - b)$ that writes $R(a\tau - b)$ in terms of the period integral of a unary theta function of weight $3/2$.

PROPOSITION 2.3 [Zwe02, Theorem 1.16]. *For $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, define a unary theta series of weight $3/2$,*

$$g_{a,b}(\tau) := \sum_{\nu \in a + \mathbb{Z}} \nu e^{\pi i \nu^2 \tau + 2\pi i \nu b}. \tag{2.6}$$

Then, for $a \in (-1/2, 1/2)$ and $b \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$\int_{-\bar{\tau}}^{i\infty} \frac{g_{a+1/2, b+1/2}(z)}{\sqrt{-i}(z + \tau)} dz = -e^{-\pi i a^2 \tau + 2\pi i a(b+1/2)} R(a\tau - b). \tag{2.7}$$

Although (2.7) holds for $a \in (-1/2, 1/2)$ only, we can extend the result to all real numbers a but $a \in -1/2 + \mathbb{Z}$ thanks to the following elliptic transformation property satisfied by R [Zwe02, Proposition 1.9]:

$$R(u) + e^{-2\pi i u - \pi i \tau} R(u + \tau) = 2e^{-\pi i u - \pi i \tau/4}. \tag{2.8}$$

Thus, it remains to extend (2.7) to the case when $a = -1/2$. Noting that the only difference we need to be concerned with between when $a \in (-1/2, 1/2)$ and when $a = -1/2$ is $\text{sgn}(\nu + a) = \text{sgn}(v)$ for all $v \in \frac{1}{2} + \mathbb{Z}$ for the former and $\text{sgn}(\nu + a) = \text{sgn}(v)$ for all $v \in \frac{1}{2} + \mathbb{Z}$ but $v = \frac{1}{2}$ for the latter, we follow Zwegers' proof for Proposition 2.3 in [Zwe02, p. 20] and obtain the following result.

LEMMA 2.1. *If $g_{a,b}$ is defined as in (2.6), then*

$$\int_{-\bar{\tau}}^{i\infty} \frac{g_{0,b+1/2}(z)}{\sqrt{-i(z+\tau)}} dz = -e^{-\pi i\tau/4 - \pi i(b+1/2)} R\left(-\frac{\tau}{2} - b\right) - i. \tag{2.9}$$

3. Universal mock theta functions in terms of mock Jacobi forms

We first recall generalized Lambert series expansions of universal mock theta functions. As the standard method of deriving a generalized Lambert series expansion of a q -series is using a limiting case of the Watson–Whipple transformation formula, we state the formula here. For convenience, we use the notation $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k)_n := (a_1)_n(a_2)_n \cdots (a_k)_n$. Letting $N \rightarrow \infty$ in [GR04, Equation (2.5.1), p. 43], we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, \epsilon)_n (1 - \alpha q^{2n}) q^{n(n+3)/2}}{(\alpha q/\beta, \alpha q/\gamma, \alpha q/\delta, \alpha q/\epsilon, q)_n (1 - \alpha)} \left(-\frac{\alpha^2}{\beta\gamma\delta\epsilon}\right)^n \\ &= \frac{(\alpha q, \alpha q/(\delta\epsilon))_{\infty}}{(\alpha q/\delta, \alpha q/\epsilon)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\delta, \epsilon, \alpha q/(\beta\gamma))_n}{(\alpha q/\beta, \alpha q/\gamma, q)_n} \left(\frac{\alpha q}{\delta\epsilon}\right)^n. \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

Setting $\alpha = q$, $\beta\gamma = q^2$, $\delta = x$, and $\epsilon = q/x$ in (3.1) and then multiplying both sides of the resulting equation by $(1 - q)/((1 - w)(1 - q/w))$ yields the following well known Lambert series expansion of a theta quotient.

LEMMA 3.1. *Let α be any complex number such that $\alpha \neq n\tau + m$ for $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$. If $w = e^{2\pi i\alpha}$, then*

$$\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n q^{n(n+1)/2}}{1 - wq^n} = \frac{(q; q)_{\infty}^2}{(w; q)_{\infty}(q/w; q)_{\infty}}. \tag{3.2}$$

The generalized Lambert series expansions for both g_2 and g_3 are already known in the literature (see, for example, [GM, Hic88a]). Utilizing (3.1) again, we have the following lemma.

LEMMA 3.2. *If $g_2(w; q)$ and $g_3(w; q)$ are defined as in (1.4) and (1.5), respectively, then*

$$g_2(w; q) = \frac{(-q)_{\infty}}{(q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n q^{n(n+1)}}{1 - wq^n} \tag{3.3}$$

and

$$g_3(w; q) = \frac{1}{(q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n q^{3n(n+1)/2}}{1 - wq^n}. \tag{3.4}$$

Now, we can decompose both $g_2(w; q)$ and $g_3(w; q)$ as sums of theta quotients and mock Jacobi forms. First let us prove Theorem 1.1.

Proof of Theorem 1.1. Using the fact that

$$\frac{1}{1-x} = \frac{1+x}{1-x^2},$$

we deduce from (3.3) that

$$g_2(w; q) = \frac{(-q)_\infty}{(q)_\infty} \left(\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n q^{n^2+n}}{1-w^2 q^{2n}} + w \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{(-q)^n q^{n^2+n}}{1-w^2 q^{2n}} \right).$$

Using Lemma 3.1 and the definitions of $\vartheta(z)$ and $\mu(u, v)$ in (1.1) and (1.2), respectively, we establish (1.6). Hence, by the results in §2, we can see that $wg_2(w; q)$ is a mock modular form of weight $1/2$ at torsion points $\alpha = r\tau + s$, when it is multiplied by a rational power of q up to some holomorphic function depending on r . In particular, if we restrict α to a rational number, then in (1.6) the first term is a weakly holomorphic modular form of weight $1/2$ and the second term is a mock modular form of weight $1/2$ with the correction term $e^{2\pi i\alpha} q^{-1/4} R(2\alpha - \tau; 2\tau)/2$. Hence it follows from Lemma 2.1 that $g_{0,-2\alpha+1/2}(2\tau)$ satisfies

$$e^{2\pi i\alpha} q^{-1/4} \frac{R(2\alpha - \tau; 2\tau)}{2} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{i}{2} \int_{-2\bar{\tau}}^{i\infty} \frac{g_{0,-2\alpha+1/2}(z)}{\sqrt{-i(z+2\tau)}} dz \tag{3.5}$$

and thus the shadow function for $\zeta g_2(\zeta; q) + 1/2$ is

$$-\frac{i}{2} g_{0,-2\alpha+1/2}(2\tau) = -\frac{i}{2} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} (-1)^n n e^{-4\pi i n \alpha + 2\pi i n^2 \tau}.$$

We have similar results for g_3 . □

THEOREM 3.1. *Let α be any complex number such that $\alpha \neq n\tau + m/3$ for $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then*

$$q^{-1/24} e^{3\pi i\alpha} g_3(e^{2\pi i\alpha}; q) = \frac{\eta^3(3\tau)}{\eta(\tau)\vartheta(3\alpha; 3\tau)} + q^{-1/6} e^{2\pi i\alpha} \mu(3\alpha, \tau; 3\tau) + q^{-2/3} e^{4\pi i\alpha} \mu(3\alpha, 2\tau; 3\tau), \tag{3.6}$$

which is a mock modular form of weight $1/2$ times a rational power of q at torsion points up to a certain holomorphic function. In particular, if $\zeta \neq 1$ is a root of unity, then $q^{-1/24}(\zeta^{1/2} + \zeta^{3/2} g_3(\zeta; q))$ is a mock modular form of weight $1/2$ with shadow proportional to $\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (\frac{12}{n}) n \sin(\pi n \alpha) q^{n^2/24}$.

Remark. As stated in [Zag06, Theorem 7.1],

$$\mathcal{R}(w; q) = \frac{1-w}{(q)_\infty} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n q^{(3n^2+n)/2}}{1-wq^n}.$$

By comparing this with the Lambert series expansion of $g_3(w; q)$ in (3.4), we can easily see that $g_3(w; q) = -1/w + (1/w(1-w))\mathcal{R}(w; q)$. Hence we may obtain the result for $g_3(\zeta; q)$ in Theorem 3.1 from the fact summarized earlier in the introduction that $q^{-1/24}\mathcal{R}(\zeta; q)$ is a mock modular form of weight $1/2$.

Proof. The proof is similar to that of Theorem 1.1. It follows from (3.4) and $1/(1-x) = (1+x+x^2)/(1-x^n)$ that

$$g_3(w; q) = \frac{1}{(q)_\infty} \left(\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n q^{3n(n+1)/2}}{1-w^3 q^{3n}} + \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{(-q)^n w q^{3n(n+1)/2}}{1-w^3 q^{3n}} + \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{(-q^2)^n w^2 q^{3n(n+1)/2}}{1-w^3 q^{3n}} \right).$$

From Lemma 3.1 and the definitions of $\vartheta(z)$ and $\mu(u, v)$ in (1.1) and (1.2), respectively, we deduce (3.6), where $w = e^{2\pi i \alpha}$. Hence, by the results in §2, we can see that $q^{-1/24} e^{3\pi i \alpha} g_3(e^{2\pi i \alpha}; q)$ is a mock modular form of weight 1/2 at torsion points when it is multiplied by a rational power of q (up to a holomorphic function). In particular, if we restrict α to a rational number, the first term in (3.6) is a weakly holomorphic modular form of weight 1/2 and the last two terms are mock modular forms of weight 1/2 with correction terms $(e^{2\pi i \alpha} q^{-1/6}/2)R(3\alpha - \tau; 3\tau)$ and $(e^{4\pi i \alpha} q^{-2/3}/2)R(3\alpha - 2\tau; 3\tau)$ by (2.4). By the elliptic property of $R(u)$ in (2.8), we have the correction term of $q^{-1/24} e^{3\pi i \alpha} g_3(e^{2\pi i \alpha}; q)$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{e^{2\pi i \alpha} q^{-1/6}}{2} R(3\alpha - \tau; 3\tau) - \frac{e^{-2\pi i \alpha} q^{-1/6}}{2} R(3\alpha + \tau; 3\tau) + e^{\pi i \alpha} q^{-1/24} \\ &= e^{\pi i \alpha} q^{-1/24} - \frac{1}{2} \int_{-3\bar{\tau}}^{i\infty} \frac{e^{\pi i/3} g_{1/6, -3\alpha+1/2}(z) - e^{-\pi i/3} g_{5/6, -3\alpha+1/2}(z)}{\sqrt{-i(z+3\tau)}} dz, \end{aligned} \tag{3.7}$$

where the equality follows from Proposition 2.3.

Therefore, the shadow for $q^{-1/24}(e^{\pi i \alpha} + e^{3\pi i \alpha} g_3(e^{2\pi i \alpha}; q))$ is

$$\begin{aligned} & -\frac{1}{2}(e^{\pi i/3} g_{1/6, -3\alpha+1/2}(3\tau) - e^{-\pi i/3} g_{5/6, -3\alpha+1/2}(3\tau)) \\ &= -\frac{1}{6} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^n (6n+1) q^{(6n+1)^2/24} \sin(\pi(6n+1)\alpha). \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

Next, let us prove Theorems 1.2 and 1.3.

Proof of Theorem 1.2. The result follows immediately from (1.6), as we have

$$g_2(-e^{2\pi i \alpha}; q) = g_2(e^{2\pi i(\alpha+1/2)}; q) = \frac{\eta^4(2\tau)e^{-2\pi i \alpha}}{\eta^2(\tau)\vartheta(2\alpha; 2\tau)} - q^{-1/4} \mu(2\alpha, \tau; 2\tau)$$

by elliptic properties of ϑ and μ such as $\vartheta(z+1) = -\vartheta(z)$ and $\mu(u+1, v) = -\mu(u, v)$. □

Proof of Theorem 1.3. Applying (3.6) three times with the elliptic properties of ϑ and μ , we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} & q^{-1/24}(g_3(w; q) + g_3(\zeta_3 w; q) + g_3(\zeta_3^2 w; q)) \\ &= \frac{3\eta^3(3\tau)e^{-3\pi i \alpha}}{\eta(\tau)\vartheta(3\alpha; 3\tau)} + e^{-\pi i \alpha} q^{-1/6} \mu(3\alpha, \tau; 3\tau)(1 - e^{-\pi i/3} + e^{-2\pi i/3}) \\ & \quad + e^{\pi i \alpha} q^{-2/3} \mu(3\alpha, 2\tau; 3\tau)(1 - e^{\pi i/3} + e^{2\pi i/3}), \end{aligned}$$

where the last two terms are zero. □

4. Applications to partitions

Using (1.3) or using Theorem 1.3, we also have a similar result to Theorem 1.3 for the rank generating function $\mathcal{R}(w; q)$: if $w = e^{2\pi i\alpha}$ for any complex number $\alpha \neq n\tau + m/3$ with $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $\zeta = e^{2\pi i/3}$, then

$$w^{3/2}q^{-1/24} \left(\frac{\mathcal{R}(w; q)}{w(1-w)} + \frac{\mathcal{R}(w\zeta; q)}{w\zeta(1-w\zeta)} + \frac{\mathcal{R}(w\zeta^2; q)}{w\zeta^2(1-w\zeta^2)} \right) = \frac{3\eta^3(3\tau)}{\eta(\tau)\vartheta(3\alpha; 3\tau)}. \tag{4.1}$$

We recall the *crank* of a partition π , which is defined by

$$\text{crank}(\pi) = \begin{cases} \text{the largest part} & \text{if part 1 does not appear,} \\ e(k) - k & \text{if part 1 appears } k \text{ times,} \end{cases}$$

where $e(k)$ denotes the number of parts in π that are strictly larger than k . Let $M(m, n)$ denote the number of partitions of a non-negative integer n with crank m . If we define $M(0, 1) = -1$, $M(-1, 1) = M(1, 1) = 1$ and $M(m, 1) = 0$ otherwise, the generating function for $M(m, n)$ is given by [AG88]

$$\mathcal{C}(w; q) := 1 + \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} M(m, n)w^m q^n = \frac{(q; q)_{\infty}}{(wq; q)_{\infty}(q/w; q)_{\infty}}. \tag{4.2}$$

Then from (4.1), we deduce the following relation between $\mathcal{R}(w; q)$ and $\mathcal{C}(w; q)$:

$$\frac{\mathcal{R}(w; q)}{w(1-w)} + \frac{\mathcal{R}(w\zeta; q)}{w\zeta(1-w\zeta)} + \frac{\mathcal{R}(w\zeta^2; q)}{w\zeta^2(1-w\zeta^2)} = \frac{3(q^3; q^3)_{\infty}\mathcal{C}(w^3; q^3)}{(q; q)_{\infty}(1-w^3)}. \tag{4.3}$$

Furthermore, we note that the left-hand side of equation (4.3) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} L := & \frac{1}{1-w^3} \left(\mathcal{R}(w; q) \left(\frac{1}{w} + 1 + w \right) + \mathcal{R}(w\zeta; q) \left(\frac{1}{w\zeta} + 1 + w\zeta \right) \right. \\ & \left. + \mathcal{R}(w\zeta^2; q) \left(\frac{1}{w\zeta^2} + 1 + w\zeta^2 \right) \right). \end{aligned} \tag{4.4}$$

If we apply

$$\mathcal{R}(w; q) = 1 + \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} N(m, n)w^m q^n$$

in (4.4), we find that

$$L = \frac{3}{1-w^3} \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (N(3m, n) + N(3m+1, n) + N(3m-1, n))w^{3m} q^n, \tag{4.5}$$

from the fact $1 + \zeta + \zeta^2 = 0$. Hence, from (4.3), we derive the theorem below after replacing w^3 by w .

THEOREM 4.1. *Let $N(m, n)$ and $M(m, n)$ denote the numbers of partitions of a non-negative integer n with rank m and crank m , respectively. Then we have*

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (N(3m, n) + N(3m+1, n) + N(3m-1, n))w^m q^n \\ & = \frac{(q^3; q^3)_{\infty}}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} M(m, n)w^m q^{3n}. \end{aligned} \tag{4.6}$$

Theorem 1.4 follows from Theorem 4.1 immediately. For example, when $n = 4$, there are five different partitions, and $N(-1, 4) + N(0, 4) + N(1, 4) = 3 = M(0, 0)p_3(4) + M(0, 1)p_3(1)$.

For another consequence of Theorem 4.1, we substitute $w = -1$ in (4.6) and obtain the following result.

COROLLARY 4.1. *Let $N(t, m, n)$ and $M(t, m, n)$ denote the number of partitions of n with rank and crank, respectively, congruent to t modulo m . Then*

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} N_{(6)}(n)q^n = \frac{(q^3; q^3)_{\infty}}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} M_{(2)}(n)q^{3n} = \frac{(q^3; q^3)_{\infty}^2}{(q; q)_{\infty}(-q^3; q^3)_{\infty}^2}, \tag{4.7}$$

where

$$N_{(6)}(n) := \sum_{t=0, \pm 1} N(t, 6, n) - \sum_{t=3, \pm 2} N(t, 6, n)$$

and

$$M_{(2)}(n) := M(0, 2, n) - M(1, 2, n).$$

Hence,

$$N_{(6)}(n) = \sum_{0 \leq 3k \leq n} M_{(2)}(k)p_3(n - 3k). \tag{4.8}$$

From the work of Treneer [Tre06], we know that $N_{(6)}(n)$ has infinitely many congruences in arithmetic progressions modulo any prime coprime to 6. Although $M_{(2)}(n)$ satisfies a Ramanujan type congruence modulo 5, namely, $M_{(2)}(5n + 4) \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ which is proved in [CKL], we could not find such simple congruences for $N_{(6)}(n)$. However, it seems that $N_{(6)}(2n) > 0$ and $N_{(6)}(2n + 1) < 0$ for any non-negative integers n such as $M_{(2)}(n)$ with one exception: $N_{(6)}(1) > 0$ while $M_{(2)}(1) < 0$. We will leave this observation as a conjecture.

In closing this section, we should mention that Theorem 1.3 is a special case of a more general identity due to Atkin and Swinnerton-Dyer [AS54, Equation (5.1)] who used the general identity to prove Dyson’s results for the rank modulo 5 and 7. It also leads to the rank–crank PDE [AG03, Theorem 1.1], which is another relation between the rank and crank.

5. Mock Jacobi forms that arise in ${}_1\psi_1$ summation formula

It is much more convenient to discuss our subject in terms of the following equivalent form of Ramanujan’s ${}_1\psi_1$ summation formula (1.10).

PROPOSITION 5.1 (Three variable Reciprocity theorem [Kan07]). *If $c \neq -aq^{-n}, -bq^{-m}$ for non-negative integers n and m , then*

$$\rho(a, b, c) - \rho(b, a, c) = \left(\frac{1}{b} - \frac{1}{a}\right) \frac{(c)_{\infty}(aq/b)_{\infty}(bq/a)_{\infty}(q)_{\infty}}{(-c/a)_{\infty}(-c/b)_{\infty}(-aq)_{\infty}(-bq)_{\infty}}, \tag{5.1}$$

where

$$\rho(a, b, c) := \left(1 + \frac{1}{b}\right) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(c)_n(-1)^n q^{n(n+1)/2} (a/b)^n}{(-aq)_n(-c/b)_{n+1}}. \tag{5.2}$$

If we set $c = 0$ in (5.1), we obtain Ramanujan’s reciprocity theorem [Kan07, Theorem 1.1] and identity (1.7) is a special case of (5.1) when $c = -q$.

Second proof of Theorem 1.2. Letting $b = -a = -w$ and $c = -q$ in the three variable reciprocity theorem (5.1), we find that

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

Applying Jacobi triple product identity (2.1), we obtain (1.7). □

As commented in the introduction, Bringmann *et al.* proved Theorem 1.2 when $w = q^r$ for a rational number r in [BOR08, Theorem 1.3]. The theorem has one more result, and we state it here again with their notation.

PROPOSITION 5.2 [BOR08, Theorem 1.3]. Let K' and K'' be defined as in Theorem 1.5 and $0 < \alpha < \gamma$. If $\zeta_{\gamma} := e^{2\pi i/\gamma}$, $f_{\gamma} := 2\gamma/\text{gcd}(\gamma, 4)$, and

$$\tilde{K}(\alpha, \gamma; \tau) := \frac{1}{4} \csc(\alpha\pi/\gamma) q^{-1/8} K'(\zeta_{\gamma}^{\alpha}; \tau) + \sin(\alpha\pi/\gamma) q^{-1/8} K''(\zeta_{\gamma}^{\alpha}; \tau),$$

then $\tilde{K}(\alpha, \gamma; 2f_{\gamma}^2\tau)$ is a weight $1/2$ weakly holomorphic modular form on $\Gamma_1(64f_{\gamma}^4)$.

Theorem 1.5 is more general than Proposition 5.2 and it is an immediate consequence of the reciprocity theorem above.

First proof of Theorem 1.5. Replacing q by q^2 , and letting $a = -w$, $b = -wq$ and $c = q$ in (5.1), and simplifying the resulting equation, we deduce that

$$\frac{1}{1-w} K'(w; \tau) + \left(1 - \frac{1}{w}\right) K''(w; \tau) = \frac{(q; q^2)_{\infty}^3 (q^2; q^2)_{\infty}}{(w; q)_{\infty} (q/w; q)_{\infty}}. \tag{5.3}$$

Using Jacobi triple product identity (2.1), we finish this proof. □

Second proof of Theorem 1.5. We first find generalized Lambert series expansions for $K'(w; \tau)$ and $K''(w; \tau)$ so that we can observe what happens in terms of mock Jacobi forms. If we let $\epsilon \rightarrow \infty$ and then replace q by q^2 in (3.1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(\alpha q^2; q^2)_{n-1} (\beta, \gamma, \delta; q^2)_n (1 - \alpha q^{4n}) q^{2n(n+1)}}{(\alpha q^2/\beta, \alpha q^2/\gamma, \alpha q^2/\delta, q^2; q^2)_n} \left(\frac{\alpha^2}{\beta\gamma\delta}\right)^n \\ &= \frac{(\alpha q^2; q^2)_{\infty}}{(\alpha q^2/\delta; q^2)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\delta, \alpha q^2/(\beta\gamma); q^2)_n q^{n(n+1)}}{(\alpha q^2/\beta, \alpha q^2/\gamma, q^2; q^2)_n} \left(-\frac{\alpha}{\delta}\right)^n, \end{aligned} \tag{5.4}$$

by $\lim(\epsilon)_n \epsilon^{-n} = (-1)^n q^{n(n-1)/2}$. Setting $\alpha = 1$, $\delta = q$, $\beta = w$, and $\gamma = 1/w$ in (5.4), we deduce that

$$K'(w; \tau) = \frac{(q; q^2)_{\infty}}{(q^2; q^2)_{\infty}} \left\{ 1 + (1-w) \left(1 - \frac{1}{w}\right) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 + q^{2n}) q^{2n^2+n}}{(1 - q^{2n}/w)(1 - wq^{2n})} \right\}. \tag{5.5}$$

Hence

$$\frac{1}{1-w} K'(w; \tau) = \frac{(q; q^2)_{\infty}}{(q^2; q^2)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2n^2+n}}{1 - wq^{2n}}. \tag{5.6}$$

Next, after letting $\epsilon \rightarrow \infty$, setting q by q^2 , $\alpha = q^2$, $\delta = q$, $\beta = wq$, and $\gamma = q/w$ in (3.1), we find that

$$K''(w; \tau) = -\frac{(q; q^2)_{\infty}}{(q^2; q^2)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(1 + q^{2n+1}) q^{2n^2+3n+1}}{(1 - q^{2n+1}/w)(1 - wq^{2n+1})}. \tag{5.7}$$

Thus

$$\left(1 - \frac{1}{w}\right)K''(w; \tau) = -\frac{(q; q^2)_\infty}{(q^2; q^2)_\infty} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2n^2+3n+1}}{1 - wq^{2n+1}}. \quad (5.8)$$

Adding (5.6) and (5.8), we derive that

$$\frac{1}{1-w}K'(w; \tau) + \left(1 - \frac{1}{w}\right)K''(w; \tau) = \frac{(q; q^2)_\infty}{(q^2; q^2)_\infty} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n q^{n(n+1)/2}}{1 - wq^n}. \quad (5.9)$$

Now by using Lemma 3.1 and Jacobi triple product identity (2.1), we complete the proof. \square

According to (5.6) and (5.8), each of $(1/(1-w))K'(w; \tau)$ and $(1-1/w)K''(w; \tau)$ belongs to a more general type of mock Jacobi forms than μ in (1.2), called a level 2 Appell function by Zagier and Zwegers [Zw]. The proof above shows that when the index n in the series in the right-hand side of (5.9) is even, the sum equals $(1/(1-w))K'(w; \tau)$ and when it is odd, the sum is $(1-1/w)K''(w; \tau)$. Hence the theta quotient in (1.11) is a completion by two mock Jacobi forms.

6. Concluding remarks

We have observed that once we write q -series as generalized Lambert series

$$\frac{1}{\theta(\tau; k\tau)} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n q^{kn(n+1)/2}}{1 - wq^n} \quad (1 \leq k \leq 3),$$

Zwegers' work on mock Jacobi forms provides short but beautiful and complete information on the q -series. When $k=1$ and $\theta(\tau; k\tau)=1$, the series is a theta quotient and when $k=2$ or 3 and $\theta=\vartheta$, it is a sum of a theta quotient and $k-1$ mock Jacobi forms. For larger values of k , Zagier and Zwegers [Zw] observed that it is still a holomorphic part of a mock modular form which is a sum of a theta quotient and $k-1$ correction terms. Further study in this direction may help us to see which q -series is a mock modular form.

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