

N ANALOGUE OF RAMANUJAN’S REMARKABLE PRODUCT OF THETA-FUNCTIONS AND ITS APPLICATIONS

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Abstract: In this paper, we define an analogue of Ramanujan’s remarkable product $l_{p,n}$ of theta functions $\phi(q)$ and $\psi(q)$. We establish some general theorems for the explicit evaluations of the product same product form. We also associate the product with Ramanujan’s cubic continued fraction $G(q)$ with some illustrations.

Keywords: Theta Functions, Class Invariant, Continued Fraction.

Introduction: Ramanujan in his notebooks [2], [5] and [9] has developed the theory of theta functions in his own notation. They are defined as follows:

For a and q complex number with $|q| < 1$
 $(a)_\infty := (a; q)_\infty = \prod_{n=0}^\infty (1 - aq^n)$

And $(a)_n := (a; q)_n = \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} (1 - aq^k) = \frac{(a)_\infty}{(aq^n)_\infty}$,

n : any integer,

$$f(a, b) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^\infty a^{n(n+1)/2} b^{n(n-1)/2}, \tag{1.1}$$

$$= (-a; ab)_\infty (-b; ab)_\infty (ab; ab)_\infty, |ab| < 1. \tag{1.2}$$

Identity (1.2) is the Jacobi’s triple product identity in Ramanujan’s notation [5, Ch.16, Entry 19]. It follows from (1.1) and (1.2) that

[5, Ch.16, Entry 22],

$$\phi(q) := f(q, q) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^\infty q^{n^2} = \frac{(-q; -q)_\infty}{(q; -q)_\infty}. \tag{1.3}$$

$$\psi(q) := f(q, q^2) = \sum_{n=0}^\infty q^{n(n+1)/2} = \frac{(q^2, q^2)_\infty}{(q; q^2)_\infty}. \tag{1.4}$$

$$\text{And } \chi(q) = (-q; q^2)_\infty, \tag{1.5}$$

On page 338 of his notebook [9], Ramanujan has defined the remarkable product of theta function

$$a_{m,n} = e^{-\frac{\pi}{4}(n-1)\sqrt{\frac{m}{n}}} \frac{\psi^2(e^{-\pi\sqrt{mn}})\phi^2(e^{-2\pi\sqrt{mn}})}{\psi^2\left(e^{-\pi\sqrt{\frac{m}{n}}}\right)\phi^2(e^{-2\pi\sqrt{mn}})}. \tag{1.6}$$

where m and n are positive real numbers. He also listed eighteen values of $a_{m,n}$ which was proved by Berndt et. al. [1]. Again, Mahadeva Naika et. al. in [7] has defined

$$b_{m,n} = ne^{-\frac{\pi}{4}(n-1)\sqrt{\frac{m}{n}}} \times \frac{\psi^2(e^{-\pi\sqrt{mn}})\phi^2(e^{-2\pi\sqrt{mn}})}{\psi^2(e^{-\pi\sqrt{m/n}})\phi^2(e^{-2\pi\sqrt{mn}})}. \tag{1.7}$$

Mahadeva Naika et. al. [8] has established many general formulas for explicit evaluations of Ramanujan’s cubic continued fraction $G(q)$ in terms of $a_{m,n}$ and $b_{m,n}$, where

$$G(q) := \frac{q^{1/3}}{1 + \frac{q+q^2}{1 + \frac{q^2+q^4}{1 + \frac{q^3+q^6}{1 + \dots}}}} |q| < 1, \tag{1.8}$$

Motivated by these works, in this paper, we define the product function $l_{p,n}$ as

$$l_{p,n} = \frac{\psi(-q^p)\psi(q)}{q^{(p-1)/8}\psi(-q)\phi(q^p)}, q = e^{-\pi\sqrt{n/p}}. \tag{1.9}$$

where n and p are positive real numbers.

In Section 2 we discuss few properties of $l_{p,n}$. Section 3 contains explicit evaluations of $l_{p,n}$ in terms of Ramanujan’s class invariants. In Section 4, we give some particular numerical values of $l_{p,n}$ and in

Section 5 we establish some formulas for explicit evaluations of $G(q)$ in terms of $l_{p,n}$.

To end this introduction, we present some preliminary results.

Let K, K', L and L' denote the complete integrals of the first kind associated with the moduli k, k', l and l' respectively. Suppose that the equality

$$n \frac{K'}{K} = \frac{L'}{L}. \tag{1.10}$$

holds for some positive integer n . Then a modular equation of degree n is a relation between the moduli k and l induced by (1.10). Ramanujan recorded his modular equations in terms of α and β where $\alpha = k^2$ and $\beta = l^2$. The multiplier m connecting α and β is defined by $m = z_1/z_n$ where $z_r = \phi^2(q^r)$ for $q = \exp(-\pi K'/K)$, $|q| < 1$.

Lemma 1 [5, Entry 27(i), p.43] If $\alpha\beta = \pi$, then

$$\sqrt{\pi}\phi(e^{-\alpha^2}) = \sqrt{\beta}\phi(e^{-\beta^2}). \tag{1.11}$$

Lemma 2 [3, (1.13), p.1049] If $\alpha\beta = \pi^2$, then $e^{-\alpha/8}\sqrt[4]{\alpha}\psi(-e^{-\alpha}) = e^{-\beta/8}\sqrt[4]{\beta}\psi(-e^{-\beta})$.

Lemma 3 [5, Entry 10 (i), p.122] One has $\phi(q) = \sqrt{z_1}$.

Lemma 4 [5, Entry 11 (ii), p.123] One has

$$\psi(-q) = \sqrt{\frac{z_1}{2}} \{\alpha(1-\alpha)\}^{1/8} q^{-1/8}. \tag{1.14}$$

Lemma 5 [5, Entry 12 (v), p.124] One has

$$\chi(q) = 2^{1/4} \left\{ \frac{\alpha(1-\alpha)}{q} \right\}^{-1/24},$$

$$\chi(-q) = 2^{1/6} (1-\alpha)^{1/12} \left(\frac{\alpha}{q} \right)^{-1/24}. \tag{1.15}$$

Note: Replacing q by q^n in Lemma 3 and 4, then z_1 and α will be replaced by z_n and β where β has degree n over α .

Lemma 6 [5, Entry 1 (i), (ii), p.345]

$$1 + \frac{1}{G(q)} = \frac{\psi(q^{1/3})}{q^{1/3}\psi(q^3)}. \tag{1.16}$$

$$1 + \frac{1}{G^3(q)} = \frac{\psi^4(q)}{q\psi^4(q^3)}. \tag{1.17}$$

$$2G(q) = 1 - \frac{\phi(-q^{1/3})}{\phi(-q^3)}. \tag{1.18}$$

Lemma 7 [5, p.347] If $G(q)$ is defined by (1.8), then

$$8G^3(q) = \frac{\phi^4(-q)}{\phi^4(-q^3)}. \tag{1.19}$$

Some Properties of $l_{p,n}$

In this section we discuss some properties of $l_{p,n}$.

Theorem 2.1 For all positive real numbers p and n, we have

1. $l_{1,1} = 1,$
2. $l_{p,1} = 1,$
3. $l_{p,n} = l_{p,1/n},$
4. $l_{p,n} = l_{n,p}.$

Proof of (i): It is obvious.

Proof of (ii): For $q=e^{-\pi\sqrt{1/p}}$, we have

$$l_{p,1} = \frac{\psi(-e^{-\pi p\sqrt{1/p}})\varphi(e^{-\pi\sqrt{1/p}})}{e^{-\frac{\pi}{8}(p-1)\sqrt{1/p}}\psi(-e^{-\pi\sqrt{1/p}})\varphi(e^{-\pi p\sqrt{1/p}})}. \tag{2.1}$$

Employing Lemma 1 and Lemma 2 in (2.1), we complete the proof of (ii).

Proof of (iii): For $q=e^{-\pi\sqrt{n/p}}$, we have

$$l_{p,n}l_{p,\frac{1}{n}} = \frac{\psi(-e^{-\pi p\sqrt{n/p}})\varphi(e^{-\pi\sqrt{n/p}})}{e^{-\frac{\pi}{8}(p-1)\sqrt{\frac{n}{p}}}\psi(-e^{-\pi\sqrt{n/p}})\varphi(e^{-\pi p\sqrt{n/p}})} \times \frac{\psi(-e^{-\pi p\sqrt{1/np}})\varphi(e^{-\pi\sqrt{1/np}})}{e^{-\frac{\pi}{8}(p-1)\sqrt{\frac{1}{np}}}\psi(-e^{-\pi\sqrt{1/np}})\varphi(e^{-\pi p\sqrt{1/np}})}. \tag{2.2}$$

Again Lemma 1 and Lemma 2 in (2.2), we easily obtain the result.

Proof of (iv): Interchanging n and p in (1.9), we have

$$\frac{l_{p,n}}{l_{n,p}} = \frac{\psi(-q^p)\varphi(q)}{q^{\frac{p-1}{8}}\psi(-q)\varphi(q^n)} \frac{q^{\frac{n-1}{8}}\psi(-q^n)\varphi(q^n)}{\psi(-q^n)\varphi(q)} \frac{e^{(-\pi\sqrt{p/n})(n-1)/8}}{e^{(-\pi\sqrt{n/p})(p-1)/8}} \times \frac{\psi(-e^{-\pi p\sqrt{\frac{n}{p}}})\psi(-e^{-\pi\sqrt{\frac{p}{n}}})\varphi(-e^{-\pi\sqrt{\frac{p}{n}}})\varphi(-e^{-\pi\sqrt{n/p}})}{\psi(-e^{-\pi\sqrt{\frac{n}{p}}})\psi(-e^{-\pi p\sqrt{\frac{p}{n}}})\varphi(-e^{-\pi\sqrt{\frac{p}{n}}})\varphi(-e^{-\pi p\sqrt{n/p}})}$$

Employing again Lemma 1 and Lemma 2 with some manipulation, we have (iv).

Explicit Values of $l_{p,n}$: We prove general theorems for explicit evaluations of $l_{p,n}$ using Ramanujan's class invariants. Ramanujan's two class invariants G_n and g_n are defined by

$$G_n = 2^{-1/4} q^{-1/24} \chi(q), \tag{3.1}$$

$$g_n = 2^{-1/4} q^{-1/24} \chi(-q), \quad q=e^{-\pi\sqrt{n}}.$$

where $\chi(q)$ is defined in (1.5) and n is a positive rational number. Using Lemma 5 in (3.1), we obtain

$$G_n = \{4\alpha(1-\alpha)\}^{-1/24}, \tag{3.2}$$

$$g_n = 2^{-1/12}(1-\alpha)^{1/12}\alpha^{-1/24}.$$

If β has degree d over α , then

$$G_{d^2,n} = \{4\beta(1-\beta)\}^{-1/24}, \tag{3.3}$$

$$g_{d^2,n} = 2^{-1/12}(1-\beta)^{1/12}\beta^{-1/24},$$

Theorem 3.1 We have

$$l_{p,n} = q^{(1-p)/4} \left(\frac{G_n/p}{G_{np}}\right)^3. \tag{3.4}$$

Proof: By the Lemma 3 and Lemma 4, $l_{p,n}$ becomes

$$l_{p,n} = \frac{1}{q^{(p-1)/4}} \left(\frac{\beta(1-\beta)}{\alpha(1-\alpha)}\right)^{1/8}.$$

By (3.2) and (3.3), we have

$$\{\alpha(1-\alpha)\}^{1/8} = \frac{1}{4^{1/8}} \left(\frac{1}{G_n/p}\right)^3. \tag{3.5}$$

$$\{\beta(1-\beta)\}^{1/8} = \frac{1}{4^{1/8}} \left(\frac{1}{G_{nnp}}\right)^3. \tag{3.6}$$

Employing (3.5) and (3.6), we obtain (3.4).

Remark: One can find the values of $l_{3,23}$, $l_{3,47}$ and $l_{3,71}$ (for $(p, n) = (3, 23), (3, 47), (3, 71)$ in Theorem 3.1 respectively) from the equations [p.227, (5.8)], [p. 229, (5.15)] and [p. 227, (5.25)], respectively of [6].

Corollary 3.4 We have

$$l_{n,n} = q^{(1-n)/4} G_{n^2}^{-3}. \tag{3.7}$$

Proof: Setting $p=n$ in (3.4), we have

$$l_{n,n} = q^{(1-n)/4} \left(\frac{G_1}{G_{n^2}}\right)^3 = q^{(1-n)/4} (G_{n^2})^{-3}, \quad \text{as } G_1=1.$$

Remark: Employing the corresponding values of G_n from [6, p.189-193], we obtain $l_{3,3}$, $l_{5,5}$, $l_{7,7}$ and $l_{9,9}$ for Corollary 3.4.

Explicit Evaluation of Ramanujan's Cubic Continued Fraction: In this section we discuss some formulas of explicit evaluations of Ramanujan's cubic continued fraction $G(q)$ in terms of the product $l_{p,n}$.

Theorem 4.1 We have

$$G^3(-e^{-\pi\sqrt{n/3}}) = \frac{1 + e^{-2\pi\sqrt{n/3}} l_{3,n}^4 - \sqrt{e^{-4\pi\sqrt{n/3}} l_{3,n}^8 + 34 e^{-2\pi\sqrt{n/3}} l_{3,n}^4 + 1}}{16}. \tag{4.1}$$

Proof: Changing q into $-q$ in (1.17) and (1.19), we have

$$1 + \frac{1}{G^3(-q)} = -\frac{\psi^4(-q)}{q\psi^4(-q^3)}, \tag{4.2}$$

$$1 - 8G^3(-q) = \frac{\varphi^4(q)}{\varphi^4(q^3)}. \tag{4.3}$$

Dividing (4.3) by (4.2) and simplifying, we obtain the equation

$$8G^6(-q) - (1+q^2 l_{3,n}^4) G^3(-q) - q^2 l_{3,n}^4 = 0. \tag{4.4}$$

Solving (4.4) for $q = e^{-\pi\sqrt{n/3}}$, we obtain (4.1).

Example: As $l_{3,1} = 1$, by Theorem 4.1, we have

$$G(-e^{-\pi\sqrt{1/3}}) = \left(\frac{1 + e^{-2\pi\sqrt{1/3}} - \sqrt{e^{-4\pi\sqrt{1/3}} + 34 e^{-2\pi\sqrt{1/3}} + 1}}{16}\right)^{1/3}.$$

Theorem 4.2:

$$G(e^{-\pi\sqrt{n/9}}) = \frac{1 + e^{-2\pi\sqrt{n/9}} l_{9,n} - \sqrt{e^{-4\pi\sqrt{n/9}} l_{9,n}^2 + 10 e^{-2\pi\sqrt{n/9}} l_{9,n} + 1}}{4}. \tag{4.5}$$

Proof: Changing q into $-q^2$ in (1.16) and (1.18), we have

$$1 + \frac{1}{G(-q^3)} = -\frac{\psi(-q)}{q\psi(-q^9)}, \tag{4.6}$$

$$2G(-q^2) = 1 - \frac{\varphi(q)}{\varphi(q^9)}. \tag{4.7}$$

Dividing (4.7) by (4.6) and simplifying, we obtain

$$2G^2(-q^2) - (1+q^2 l_{9,n}) G(-q^2) - q^2 l_{9,n} = 0 \tag{4.8}$$

Solving (4.8) for $q = e^{-\pi\sqrt{n/9}}$, we have (4.5).

Example: As $l_{9,1} = 1$, by Theorem 4.2, we have

$$G(-e^{-\pi/3}) = \frac{1 + e^{-2\pi/3} - \sqrt{e^{-4\pi/3} + 10 e^{-2\pi/3} + 1}}{4}.$$

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