

## Mex-Related Partition Identities

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**Abstract.** Recently, several authors have considered the smallest positive part missing from an integer partition, known as the minimal excludant or mex-function. After that, many properties and identities about the extended function  $p_{A,a}(n)$  and  $\bar{p}_{A,a}(n)$  appeared. In this paper, we deduce some new results about  $p_{A,a}(n)$  and  $\bar{p}_{A,a}(n)$ . Moreover, we generalize the definition of minimal excludant to overpartitions, and obtain some identities.

**Keywords:** partition, mex-function, overpartition

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### 1. Introduction

The main purpose of this paper is to present some new identities related to minimal excludant functions on partitions. To this end, we first introduce some definitions and notations.

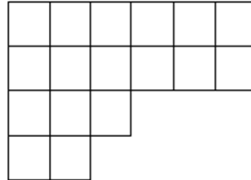
A *partition* [1] of  $n$  is a finite nonincreasing sequence of positive integers  $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_\ell)$  such that  $n = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_\ell$ . We write  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_\ell)$  and call  $\lambda_i$ 's the *parts* of  $\lambda$ . The *size* of  $\lambda$  is the sum of all parts, which is denoted by  $|\lambda|$ , and the *length* of  $\lambda$  is the number of parts, which is denoted by  $\ell(\lambda)$ . We also write a partition  $\lambda$  of  $n$  as  $(1^{f_1} 2^{f_2} \dots n^{f_n})$  if a part  $i$  has multiplicity  $f_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , where the superscript  $f_i$  can be neglected provided  $f_i = 1$ . The *conjugate* of  $\lambda$  is partition  $\lambda' = (\lambda'_1, \lambda'_2, \dots, \lambda'_{\lambda_1})$ , where  $\lambda'_i = |\{\lambda_j: \lambda_j \geq i, 1 \leq j \leq \ell\}|$  for  $1 \leq i \leq \lambda_1$ , or  $\lambda'$  can be equivalently expressed as  $(1^{\lambda_1 - \lambda_2} 2^{\lambda_2 - \lambda_3} \dots (\ell - 1)^{\lambda_{\ell-1} - \lambda_\ell} \ell^{\lambda_\ell})$ . For example, the conjugate of partition  $(5, 4, 3, 3)$  is  $(4, 4, 4, 2, 1)$ .

The *Young diagram* of  $\lambda$  is a graphical interpretation of  $\lambda$ , which is defined by a left-justified collection of  $n$  boxes in  $\ell$  rows with  $\lambda_i$  boxes in row  $i$ . The Young diagram of partition  $(6, 6, 3, 2)$  is given in Figure 1.

One can also check that taking the conjugate of partition  $\lambda$  is equivalent to transpose the Young diagram of  $\lambda$ .

A partition  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_\ell)$  is called a *distinct partition* if  $\lambda_1 > \lambda_2 > \dots > \lambda_\ell$ , and an *odd* (resp. *even*) *partition* if  $\lambda_i$  is odd (resp. even) for all  $1 \leq i \leq \ell$ . The

definition of the overpartition is introduced by Corteel and Lovejoy [9]. An *overpartition* is a partition of in which the final occurrence of a part may be overlined. For example, the 8 overpartitions of 3 are  $(3), (\overline{3}), (2,1), (\overline{2}, 1), (2, \overline{1}), (\overline{2}, \overline{1}), (1,1,1), (1,1, \overline{1})$ .



**Figure 1:**

The *minimal excludant* of a set of integers, abbreviated as *mex*, is the smallest positive integer not in the set. The following lists some examples of the mex applied to partitions:

$$mex(4,3,2) = 1, \quad mex(2,2,1) = 3.$$

The concept of “the smallest part that is not a summand” is first proposed by Andrews [2]. He and Newman [5] started using the term mex from combinatorial game theory. Given a partition  $\lambda$ , Andrews and Newman [6] defined  $mex_{A,a}(\lambda)$  as the smallest positive integer congruent to  $a$  modulo  $A$  that is not a part of  $\lambda$ , and denote by  $p_{A,a}(n)$  the number of partitions  $\lambda$  of  $n$  satisfying

$$mex_{A,a}(\lambda) \equiv a \pmod{2A},$$

and denote by  $\overline{p}_{A,a}(n)$  the number of partitions  $\lambda$  of  $n$  satisfying

$$mex_{A,a}(\lambda) \equiv a + A \pmod{2A}.$$

**Example 1.1.** Consider  $n = 4$ ,  $A = 3$ , and  $a = 1$ . There are 5 partitions of 4, and the  $mex(\lambda)$  and  $mex_{A,a}(\lambda)$  are

$$\begin{aligned} mex((4)) &= 1, \quad mex((3,1)) = 2, \quad mex((2,2)) = 1, \quad mex((2,1,1)) = 3, \\ &\quad \quad \quad mex((1,1,1,1)) = 2, \\ mex_{3,1}((4)) &= 1, \quad mex_{3,1}((3,1)) = 4, \quad mex_{3,1}((2,2)) = 1, \quad mex_{3,1}((2,1,1)) = 4, \\ &\quad \quad \quad mex_{3,1}((1,1,1,1)) = 4. \end{aligned}$$

Since two partitions  $(4)$  and  $(2,2)$  have  $mex_{3,1}$  congruent to 1 modulo 6, and three partitions  $(3,1)$ ,  $(2,1,1)$  and  $(1,1,1,1)$  have  $mex_{3,1}$  congruent to 4 modulo 6, we see  $p_{3,1}(4) = 2$  and  $\overline{p}_{3,1}(4) = 3$ , respectively.

Through out this paper, we use  $p(n)$  to denote the number of partitions of  $n$ , and set  $p_{A,a}(0) = p(0) = 1$  and  $p(n) = p_{A,a}(n) = \overline{p}_{A,a}(n) = 0$  for negative integer  $n$ . It is clear that

$$p(n) = p_{A,a}(n) + \overline{p}_{A,a}(n).$$

In [6, lemma 9] and [6, lemma 8], for  $k > 0$ , Andrews and Newman found that the generating functions of  $p_{k,k}(n)$  and  $\overline{p}_{2k,k}(n)$  are

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_{k,k}(n)q^n = \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{kn(n+1)/2}, \quad (1.1)$$

and

### Mex-Related Partition Identities

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_{2k,k}(n)q^n = \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{kn^2}, \quad (1.2)$$

where the  $q$ -series [11] notations are defined by

$$\begin{aligned} (a; q)_0 &= 1, \\ (a; q)_n &= (1-a)(1-aq) \cdots (1-aq^{n-1}), \quad \text{for } n \geq 1, \\ (a; q)_{\infty} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a; q)_n, \quad \text{for } |q| < 1. \end{aligned}$$

Recently, Dhar, Mukhopadhyay and Sarma [10] obtained a more general result that gives the generating functions of  $p_{A,a}(n)$  and  $\bar{p}_{A,a}(n)$  for all  $A$  and  $a$ .

**Theorem 1.1.** (Dhar, Mukhopadhyay and Sarma [10]) For positive integers  $A$  and  $a$ , we have

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_{A,a}(n)q^n = \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{\frac{An(n-1)}{2} + an}, \quad (1.3)$$

and

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \bar{p}_{A,a}(n)q^n = \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{\frac{An(n+1)}{2} + a(n+1)}, \quad (1.4)$$

Furthermore, they [10] obtained the generating function of the difference of  $p_{2k,2k-i}(n)$  and  $\bar{p}_{2k,i}(n)$ .

**Theorem 1.2.** (Dhar, Mukhopadhyay and Sarma [10]) For  $2k > i > 0$ , we have

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} (p_{2k,2k-i}(n) - \bar{p}_{2k,i}(n))q^n = \frac{(q^i; q^{2k})_{\infty} (q^{2k-i}; q^{2k})_{\infty} (q^{2k}; q^{2k})_{\infty}}{(q; q)_{\infty}}.$$

Based on the works of Andrews-Newman [6] and Dhar-Mukhopadhyay-Sarma [10], we present the following two theorems that gives the identities related to  $p_{A,a}(n)$  and  $\bar{p}_{A,a}(n)$  for certain values of  $a$  and  $A$ .

**Theorem 1.3.** For  $n > 0$ , we have

$$p_{3,2}(n) = \bar{p}_{3,1}(n).$$

**Theorem 1.4.** For  $k > 0, n > 0$  and  $r \geq s > 0$ , we have

$$\bar{p}_{rk,sk}(n) = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} p(n - k(rt + s)(2t + 1)) - \sum_{t=1}^{\infty} p(n - kt(2rt + 2s - r)).$$

We also get some results that gives the identities related to the difference between  $p_{A,a}(n)$  and  $\bar{p}_{A,a}(n)$  for certain values of  $a$  and  $A$ , which we state as the following theorems.

**Theorem 1.5.** We get

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_{10,3}(n)q^n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_{10,7}(n)q^n = \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n q^{n(n-1)/2}}{(q; q^2)_n}.$$

**Theorem 1.6.** Let  $p_d(n)$  denote the number of partitions of  $n$  with distinct parts, and

$p_d(0) = 1$ , then for any nonnegative  $n$ , we obtain

$$p_{6,4}(n) - \bar{p}_{6,2}(n) = p_d(n).$$

**Theorem 1.7.** For  $k > 0$ , we have

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (p_{2k,k}(n) - \bar{p}_{2k,k}(n))q^n = \frac{\chi(-q^k)^2 f(-q^{2k})}{f(-q)}.$$

**Theorem 1.8.** We have

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (p_{12,7}(n) - \bar{p}_{12,5}(n))q^n + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (p_{12,11}(n) - \bar{p}_{12,1}(n))q^{n+1} = \frac{(-q; q^2)_{\infty}}{(q; q^2)_{\infty}}.$$

Except for the identities related to ordinary partitions, in this paper, we also generalize the definition of  $\text{mex}_{A,a}(\lambda)$  to overlined parts of overpartitions, and we get some interesting results.

For an overpartition  $\lambda$ , let  $\overline{\text{mex}}_{A,a}(\lambda)$  denote the smallest positive integer congruent to  $a$  modulo  $A$  that is not an overlined part of  $\lambda$ . Let  $O_{A,a}(n)$  denote the number of overpartitions  $\lambda$  of  $n$  such that  $\overline{\text{mex}}_{A,a}(\lambda) \equiv a \pmod{2A}$  and the non-overlined parts of  $\lambda$  are not congruent to  $a$  modulo  $A$ , we define  $O_{A,a}(0) = 1$ .

**Example 1.1.** The overlined parts of the overpartition  $\lambda = (\overline{6}, 5, 4, \overline{3}, 2, 2, 1, \overline{1})$  are  $\overline{6}, \overline{3}, \overline{1}$ , thus  $\overline{\text{mex}}_{2,1}(\lambda) = \overline{5}$ . Let  $n = 3$ ,  $A = 2$ , and  $a = 1$  in  $O_{A,a}(n)$ , then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\text{mex}}_{2,1}(3) &= \overline{1}, & \overline{\text{mex}}_{2,1}(\overline{3}) &= \overline{1}, & \overline{\text{mex}}_{2,1}(2,1) &= \overline{1}, & \overline{\text{mex}}_{2,1}(\overline{2},1) &= \overline{1}, \\ \overline{\text{mex}}_{2,1}(2, \overline{1}) &= \overline{3}, & \overline{\text{mex}}_{2,1}(\overline{2}, \overline{1}) &= \overline{3}, & \overline{\text{mex}}_{2,1}(1,1,1) &= \overline{1}, & \overline{\text{mex}}_{2,1}(1,1, \overline{1}) &= \overline{3}. \end{aligned}$$

Only  $\overline{\text{mex}}_{2,1}(\overline{3}) = \overline{1}$  satisfies the condition, hence  $O_{2,1}(3) = 1$ .

**Theorem 1.9.** For  $n \geq 0$ , we get

$$p_{1,1}(n) \equiv O_{1,1}(n) \pmod{2}.$$

**Theorem 1.10.** Let  $E_{A,a}(n)$  denote the number of even partitions  $\pi$  of  $n$  such that  $\text{mex}_{A,a}(\pi) \equiv a \pmod{2A}$ , and define  $E_{A,a}(0) = 1$ . For  $n \geq 0$ , we get

$$E_{2,2}(n) \equiv O_{2,2}(n) \pmod{2}.$$

In addition to generalizing the minimal excludant function to the overlined parts of overpartitions, we also extend this definition to non-overlined parts. Let  $\overline{\text{mex}}_{A,a}(\lambda)$  be the smallest integer congruent to  $a$  modulo  $A$  that is not a non-overlined part in the overpartition  $\lambda$ , and define

$$\begin{aligned} op_{A,a}(n) &= |\{\lambda | \overline{\text{mex}}_{A,a}(\lambda) \equiv a \pmod{2A}\}|, \\ \overline{op}_{A,a}(n) &= |\{\lambda | \overline{\text{mex}}_{A,a}(\lambda) \equiv a + A \pmod{2A}\}|. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, it is easy to get

$$op_{A,a}(n) + \overline{op}_{A,a}(n) = \bar{p}(n), \tag{1.5}$$

where  $\bar{p}(n)$  is the number of overpartitions of  $n$ , and we set  $\bar{p}(0) = 1, op_{A,a}(0) = 1, \overline{op}_{A,a}(0) = 0$ . Let  $D_{A,a}(n)$  to be the number of overpartitions  $\lambda$  of  $n$ , where  $\overline{\text{mex}}_{A,a}(\lambda)$  are congruent to  $a$  modulo  $2A$  and the overlined parts are not congruent to

### Mex-Related Partition Identities

$a$  modulo  $A$ , we define  $D_{A,a}(0) = 1$ .

**Example 1.2.** The non-overlined parts of the overpartition  $\lambda = (\overline{6}, 5, 4, \overline{3}, 2, 2, 1, \overline{1})$  are  $5, 4, 2, 2, 1$ , thus  $\overline{\text{mex}}_{2,1}(\lambda) = 3$ . Let  $n = 3$ ,  $A = 2$ , and  $a = 1$ , we have

$\overline{\text{mex}}_{2,1}((3)) = 1$ ,  $\overline{\text{mex}}_{2,1}(\overline{(3)}) = 1$ ,  $\overline{\text{mex}}_{2,1}((2,1)) = 3$ ,  $\overline{\text{mex}}_{2,1}(\overline{(2,1)}) = 3$ ,  
 $\overline{\text{mex}}_{2,1}((2, \overline{1})) = 1$ ,  $\overline{\text{mex}}_{2,1}(\overline{(2, \overline{1})}) = 1$ ,  $\overline{\text{mex}}_{2,1}((1,1,1)) = 3$ ,  $\overline{\text{mex}}_{2,1}(\overline{(1,1, \overline{1})}) = 3$ .  
Hence  $op_{2,1}(3) = 4$ ,  $\overline{op}_{2,1}(3) = 4$ , and  $D_{2,1}(3) = 1$ .

After generalizing the definition minimal excludant function to overpartitions, we also get some identities related to  $op_{A,a}(n)$ .

**Theorem 1.11.** For  $n \geq 0, A > 0, a > 0$ , we obtain

$$op_{A,a}(n) \equiv \begin{cases} 1 \pmod{2}, & \text{if } n = \frac{Ak(k-1)}{2} + ak \text{ for some } k \geq 0, \\ 0 \pmod{2}, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

**Theorem 1.12.** For  $n \geq 0$ , we obtain

$$op_{3,1}(n) + op_{3,2}(n) = p_d(n) + \overline{p}(n).$$

**Theorem 1.13.** Let  $f_k(n)$  be the number of the partitions of  $n$  whose parts congruent to  $\pm k, 2k$  modulo  $4k$ , and we define  $f_k(0) = 1$ . For  $n \geq 0, k > 0$ , we obtain

$$op_{k,k}(n) \equiv f_k(n) \pmod{2}.$$

**Theorem 1.14.** For  $n \geq 0, k > 0$ , we obtain

$$D_{k,k}(n) \equiv O_{k,k}(n) \pmod{2}.$$

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 is dedicated to state the theorems that we frequently use in the proof. In Section 3, we will give the proof of the main theorems related to  $p_{A,a}(n)$ .

## 2. Preliminary results

In this section, we introduce some theorems that will be used to prove the main results of this paper.

**Theorem 2.1.** (Euler [1, p.5]) We have

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

**Theorem 2.2.** (Euler's pentagonal number theorem [1, p.11]) We have

$$\begin{aligned} (q; q)_{\infty} &= 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{n(3n-1)/2} (1 + q^n) \\ &= \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{n(3n-1)/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Jane Y.X. Yang and Li Zhou

**Theorem 2.3.** (Euler [1, p.19]) We have

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

**Theorem 2.4.** (Gauss[1, p.23]) We have

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

**Theorem 2.5.** ([3, p.158]) We have

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

**Theorem 2.6.** (The quintuple product identity, [7, p.18, Theorem 1.3.17]).

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} q^{3n^2+n} (z^{3n} q^{-3n} - z^{-3n-1} q^{3n+1}) \\ &= (q^2; q^2)_\infty (qz; q^2)_\infty (q/z; q^2)_\infty (z^2; q^4)_\infty (q^4/z^2; q^4)_\infty. \end{aligned}$$

### 3. Proofs of the main results

In this section, we present the proofs of the main theorems of this paper. For convenience, in the rest of this paper, we let  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  denote the set of partitions and the set of distinct partitions, respectively. Specifically, let  $\mathcal{P}(n)$  and  $\mathcal{D}(n)$  denote the set of partitions of  $n$  and the set of distinct partitions of  $n$ , respectively.

#### 3.1. Proofs of Theorems 1.3–1.10

By setting  $A \rightarrow rk$  and  $a \rightarrow sk$  in (1.3) and (1.4) respectively, we obtain the following lemmas.

**Lemma 3.1.** For  $k > 0$ ,  $r \geq s > 0$ , the generating function of  $p_{rk,sk}(n)$  is

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_{rk,sk}(n) q^n = \frac{1}{(q; q)_\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{k(nr+2s-r)n/2}.$$

**Lemma 3.2.** For  $k > 0$ ,  $r \geq s > 0$ , the generating function of  $\bar{p}_{rk,sk}(n)$  is

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \bar{p}_{rk,sk}(n) q^n = \frac{1}{(q; q)_\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{k(nr+2s)(n+1)/2}.$$

In the following part, we will give several proofs to Theorem 1.3.

**First proof of Theorem 1.3.** In [10, Theorem 3.1], we know  $p_{3,1}(n) + p_{3,2}(n) = p(n)$  for  $n > 0$ , and by the definition of  $p_{A,a}(n)$  and  $\bar{p}_{A,a}(n)$ , one has  $p_{3,1}(n) + \bar{p}_{3,1}(n) = p(n)$  for  $n > 0$ , then

$$p_{3,2}(n) = \bar{p}_{3,1}(n),$$

### Mex-Related Partition Identities

for  $n > 0$ .

**Second proof of Theorem 1.3.** In [3, p.232, Entry 9.4.1], we know

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n a^{2n} q^{n(n+1)/2}}{(-aq; q)_n} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a^{3n} q^{n(3n+1)/2} (1 - a^2 q^{2n+1}). \quad (3.1)$$

Let  $k \rightarrow 1, r \rightarrow 3, s \rightarrow 2$  in Lemma 3.1, and  $k \rightarrow 1, r \rightarrow 3, s \rightarrow 1$  in Lemma 3.2, respectively, and  $p_{3,2}(0) = 1, \bar{p}_{3,1}(0) = 0$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_{3,2}(n)q^n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \bar{p}_{3,1}(n)q^n \\ &= \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{n(3n+1)/2} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{(3n+2)(n+1)/2} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{n(3n+1)/2} (1 - q^{2n+1}) \\ &= \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n q^{n(n+1)/2}}{(q; q)_n} \quad (\text{let } a = -1 \text{ in (3.1)}) \\ &= \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} (q; q)_{\infty} \quad (\text{let } t = -q \text{ in Theorem 2.3}) \\ &= 1. \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

Comparing the coefficients of  $q^n$  on both sides, we complete the proof.

**Third proof of Theorem 1.3.** According to (3.2), we get

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_{3,2}(n)q^n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \bar{p}_{3,1}(n)q^n = \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n q^{\frac{n(n+1)}{2}}}{(q; q)_n}. \quad (3.3)$$

Now, we will prove that the right-hand side of (3.3) equals 1 by a combinatorial involution.

Denote by  $\mathcal{S}$  the set of pairs  $(\lambda, \mu)$  such that  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}, \mu \in \mathcal{D}$ , we obtain

$$\sum_{(\lambda, \mu) \in \mathcal{S}} (-1)^{\ell(\mu)} q^{|\lambda|+|\mu|} = \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n q^{n(n+1)/2}}{(q; q)_n}. \quad (3.4)$$

Let  $\lambda_m$  (resp.  $\mu_m$ ) be the largest part in  $\lambda$  (resp.  $\mu$ ). For convenience, we define  $\lambda_m = 0$  (resp.  $\mu_m = 0$ ) if there is no parts in  $\lambda$  (resp.  $\mu$ ). We compare  $\lambda_m$  and  $\mu_m$ .

**Case 1:** If  $\lambda_m \leq \mu_m$  and  $\mu_m > 0$ , we obtain  $\mu^*$  and  $\lambda^*$  by removing  $\mu_m$  from  $\mu$  and adding it to  $\lambda$ . Obviously, the new pair  $(\lambda^*, \mu^*) \in \mathcal{S}$  with  $|\lambda| + |\mu| = |\lambda^*| + |\mu^*|$ , and  $\ell(\mu^*) = \ell(\mu) - 1$ , which endows  $(\lambda^*, \mu^*)$  with the opposite sign compared to  $(\lambda, \mu)$ .

**Case 2:** If  $\lambda_m > \mu_m$ , we remove  $\lambda_m$  from  $\lambda$  and add it to  $\mu$  to get new partitions  $\lambda^*$  and  $\mu^*$  respectively. This new pair  $(\lambda^*, \mu^*)$  also inherits the size of  $(\lambda, \mu)$  but have a different sign to  $(\lambda, \mu)$ .

**Case 3:** If  $\lambda_m = 0, \mu_m = 0$ , we do nothing.

Consequently, the partition pairs in Case 1 and Case 2 cancel each other out, and there remains only Case 3, which contains partition pair  $(\lambda, \mu) = (\emptyset, \emptyset) \in \mathcal{S}$ . Then the right-hand side of (3.4) is 1. Thus, we know  $p_{3,2}(n) = \bar{p}_{3,1}(n)$  for  $n > 0$ .

**Proof of Theorem 1.4.** In Lemma 3.2, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \bar{p}_{rk,sk}(n)q^n \\
&= \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{k(rn+2s)(n+1)/2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p(n)q^n \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{k(rn+2s)(n+1)/2} \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p(n)q^n \left( \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} q^{k(rt+s)(2t+1)} - \sum_{t=1}^{\infty} q^{kt(2rt+2s-r)} \right) \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} p(n-k(rt+s)(2t+1)) - \sum_{t=1}^{\infty} p(n-kt(2rt+2s-r)) \right) q^n,
\end{aligned}$$

Comparing the coefficients of  $q^n$  on both sides, we complete the proof.

In the next part, we proceed to give the proofs of Theorems 1.5–1.10.

**Proof of Theorem 1.5.** In [4, p.90], we know

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{a^n q^{n(n+1)/2}}{(-aq^2; q^2)_n} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(q; q^2)_n (1 + aq^{4n+1}) a^{3n} q^{5n^2+n}}{(-aq^2; q^2)_n}. \quad (3.5)$$

Let  $a \rightarrow -q^{-1}$  in (3.5), we get

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n q^{n(n-1)/2}}{(q; q^2)_n} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1 - q^{4n}) (-1)^n q^{5n^2-2n}. \quad (3.6)$$

Next, let  $k \rightarrow 1, r \rightarrow 10, s \rightarrow 3$  and  $k \rightarrow 1, r \rightarrow 10, s \rightarrow 7$  in Lemma 3.1, respectively, we see

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_{10,3}(n)q^n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_{10,7}(n)q^n \\
&= \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{n(5n-2)} (1 - q^{4n}) \\
&= \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n q^{n(n-1)/2}}{(q; q^2)_n}. \quad (\text{by (3.6)})
\end{aligned}$$

**Proof of Theorem 1.6.** Let  $z = -q$  in Theorem 2.6, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{LHS} &= \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} q^{3n^2+n} ((-q)^{3n} q^{-3n} - (-q)^{-3n-1} q^{3n+1}) \\
&= 2 \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{3n^2+n} \\
&= 2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{3n^2+n} + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{3n^2-n}, \\
\text{RHS} &= (q^2; q^2)_{\infty} (-q^2; q^2)_{\infty} (-1; q^2)_{\infty} (q^2; q^4)_{\infty} (q^2; q^4)_{\infty} \\
&= 2(q^2; q^2)_{\infty} (-q^2; q^2)_{\infty}^2 (q^2; q^4)_{\infty}^2 \\
&= 2(q; q)_{\infty} (-q; q)_{\infty}^3 (q; q^2)_{\infty}^2 \\
&= 2(q; q)_{\infty} (-q; q)_{\infty}, \quad (\text{by Theorem 2.1})
\end{aligned}$$

thus



### Mex-Related Partition Identities

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{3n^2+n} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{3n^2-n} = (q; q)_{\infty} (-q; q)_{\infty}. \quad (3.7)$$

Let  $k = 2, r = 3, s = 2$  in Lemma 3.1 and  $k = 2, r = 3, s = 1$  in Lemma 3.2, respectively, we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_{6,4}(n)q^n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \bar{p}_{6,2}(n)q^n \\ &= \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{3n^2+n} - \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} q^{3n^2-n} \\ &= \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{3n^2+n} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{3n^2-n} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} (q; q)_{\infty} (-q; q)_{\infty} \quad (\text{by (3.7)}) \\ &= (-q; q)_{\infty} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_d(n)q^n. \end{aligned}$$

**Proof of Theorem 1.7.** In [3, p.21], we have

$$\chi(-q) = (q; q^2)_{\infty} \quad (3.8)$$

and

$$f(-q) = (q; q)_{\infty}. \quad (3.9)$$

Let  $i = k$  in Theorem 1.2, one has

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (p_{2k,k}(n) - \bar{p}_{2k,k}(n))q^n \\ &= \frac{(q^{2k}; q^{2k})_{\infty} (q^k; q^{2k})_{\infty} (q^k; q^{2k})_{\infty}}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \\ &= \frac{\chi(-q^k)^2 f(-q^{2k})}{f(-q)}. \quad (\text{let } q \rightarrow q^k \text{ in (3.8) and } q \rightarrow q^{2k} \text{ in (3.9)}) \end{aligned}$$

**Corollary 3.3.** We have

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (p_{6,3}(n) - \bar{p}_{6,3}(n))q^n = \frac{\phi(-q^3)}{f(-q)}.$$

**Proof:** In [3, p.21], we get

$$\phi(q) = (-q; q^2)_{\infty}^2 (q^2; q^2)_{\infty}, \quad (3.10)$$

let  $i = k = 3$  in Theorem 1.2, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (p_{6,3}(n) - \bar{p}_{6,3}(n))q^n &= \frac{(q^3; q^6)_{\infty} (q^3; q^6)_{\infty} (q^6; q^6)_{\infty}}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \\ &= \frac{\phi(-q^3)}{f(-q)}. \quad (\text{let } q \rightarrow -q^3 \text{ in (3.10)}) \end{aligned}$$

**Corollary 3.4.** *We obtain*

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (p_{8,4}(n) - \bar{p}_{8,4}(n))q^n = \frac{\chi(q^2)}{\chi(-q)}.$$

**Proof:** Let  $i = k = 4$  in Theorem 1.2, one has

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (p_{8,4}(n) - \bar{p}_{8,4}(n))q^n &= \frac{(q^4; q^8)_{\infty} (q^4; q^8)_{\infty} (q^8; q^8)_{\infty}}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \\ &= \frac{(-q^2; q^4)_{\infty}}{(q; q^2)_{\infty}} \\ &= \frac{\chi(q^2)}{\chi(-q)}. \quad (\text{let } q \rightarrow -q^2 \text{ in (3.8)}) \end{aligned}$$

**Proof of Theorem 1.8.** In [8], we know

$$\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} x^{(6n+1)n} - x \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} x^{(6n+5)n} = (x; x)_{\infty}. \quad (3.11)$$

By Lemma 3.1 and Lemma 3.2, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_{12,7}(n)q^n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \bar{p}_{12,5}(n)q^n + q \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_{12,11}(n)q^n - q \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \bar{p}_{12,1}(n)q^n \\ &= \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{(6n+1)n} - \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} q^{(6n-1)n} \\ &\quad + \frac{q}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{(6n+5)n} - \frac{q}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} q^{(6n-5)n} \\ &= \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{(6n+1)n} + \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{-1} (-1)^n q^{(6n+1)n} \\ &\quad + \frac{q}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{(6n+5)n} + \frac{q}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{-1} (-1)^n q^{(6n+5)n} \\ &= \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{(6n+1)n} + \frac{q}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{(6n+5)n} \\ &= \frac{(-q; -q)_{\infty}}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \quad (\text{let } x = -q \text{ in (3.11)}) \\ &= \frac{(-q; q^2)_{\infty}}{(q; q^2)_{\infty}}. \end{aligned}$$

**Proof of Theorem 1.9.** Let  $k = 1$  in (1.1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_{1,1}(n)q^n &= \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{n(n+1)/2} \\ &\equiv \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^{n(n+1)/2} \pmod{2} \end{aligned}$$

**Mex-Related Partition Identities**

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \frac{1}{(q; q)_\infty} \frac{(q^2; q^2)_\infty}{(q; q^2)_\infty} \quad (\text{by Theorem 2.4}) \\
 &= \frac{(-q; q)_\infty}{(q; q^2)_\infty} \\
 &= (-q; q)_\infty^2 \quad (\text{by Theorem 2.1}) \\
 &\equiv (q; q)_\infty^2 \pmod{2}. \tag{3.12}
 \end{aligned}$$

By the definition of  $O_{k,k}(n)$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} O_{k,k}(n)q^n \\
 &= \frac{(-q; q)_\infty (q^k; q^k)_\infty}{(q; q)_\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{kn(2n+1)}}{(-q^k; q^k)_{2n+1}} \\
 &= \frac{(-q; q)_\infty (q^k; q^k)_\infty}{(q; q)_\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n q^{kn(n+1)/2}}{(-q^k; q^k)_n} \quad (\text{let } q \rightarrow q^k \text{ in Theorem 2.5}) \\
 &\equiv (q^k; q^k)_\infty \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{kn(n+1)/2}}{(q^k; q^k)_n} \pmod{2}. \\
 &= (q^k; q^k)_\infty (-q^k; q^k)_\infty \quad (\text{let } t \rightarrow q^k \text{ and } q \rightarrow q^k \text{ in Theorem 2.3}) \\
 &\equiv (q^k; q^k)_\infty^2 \pmod{2}. \tag{3.13}
 \end{aligned}$$

Let  $k = 1$  in (3.13), we get

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} O_{1,1}(n)q^n \equiv (q; q)_\infty^2 \pmod{2}. \tag{3.14}$$

Combining (3.12) and (3.14), we get

$$p_{1,1}(n) \equiv O_{1,1}(n) \pmod{2},$$

which completes the proof.

**Proof of Theorem 1.10.** By the definition of  $E_{2,2}(n)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} E_{2,2}(n)q^n &= \frac{1}{(q^2; q^2)_\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^{2+4+6+\dots+4n} (1 - q^{4n+2}) \\
 &= \frac{1}{(q^2; q^2)_\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{n(n+1)} \equiv \frac{1}{(q^2; q^2)_\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^{n(n+1)} \pmod{2} \\
 &= \frac{1}{(q^2; q^2)_\infty} \frac{(q^4; q^4)_\infty}{(q^2; q^4)_\infty} \quad (\text{let } q \rightarrow q^2 \text{ in Theorem 2.4}) \\
 &\equiv \frac{(q^2; q^2)_\infty}{(q; q^2)_\infty^2} \pmod{2} \\
 &\equiv (q; q)_\infty^4 \pmod{2}. \quad (\text{by Theorem 2.1}) \tag{3.15}
 \end{aligned}$$

Let  $k = 2$  in (3.13), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} O_{2,2}(n)q^n &\equiv (q^2; q^2)_\infty^2 \pmod{2} \\
 &\equiv (q; q)_\infty^4 \pmod{2}. \tag{3.16}
 \end{aligned}$$

Combining (3.15) and (3.16), we get

Jane Y.X. Yang and Li Zhou

$$E_{2,2}(n) \equiv O_{2,2}(n) \pmod{2}.$$

which completes the proof.

### 3.2. Proofs of Theorems 1.11– 1.14

In this subsection, we shall prove some identities related to overpartitions.

Comparing the definitions of  $op_{A,a}(n)$  and  $\overline{op}_{A,a}(n)$  with the definitions of  $p_{A,a}(n)$  and  $\overline{p}_{A,a}(n)$ , we can directly deduce the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.5.** *We have*

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} op_{A,a}(n)q^n = (-q; q)_{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_{A,a}(n)q^n \quad (3.17)$$

and

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \overline{op}_{A,a}(n)q^n = (-q; q)_{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \overline{p}_{A,a}(n)q^n. \quad (3.18)$$

By (1.5), we have

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} op_{A,a}(n)q^n + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \overline{op}_{A,a}(n)q^n = \frac{(-q; q)_{\infty}}{(q; q)_{\infty}},$$

where  $\frac{(-q; q)_{\infty}}{(q; q)_{\infty}}$  is the generating function of overpartition [9].

*Proof of Theorem 1.11.* By (3.17), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} op_{A,a}(n)q^n &= (-q; q)_{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_{A,a}(n)q^n \\ &= \frac{(-q; q)_{\infty}}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n q^{\frac{An(n-1)}{2} + an} \quad (\text{by (1.3)}) \\ &\equiv \sum_{n \geq 0} q^{\frac{An(n-1)}{2} + an} \pmod{2}, \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof.

*Proof of Theorem 1.12.* Let  $A = 3, a = 1$  and  $A = 3, a = 2$  in (3.17), respectively, and let  $k = 1, r = 3, s = 1$  and  $k = 1, r = 3, s = 2$  in Lemma 3.1, respectively, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} op_{3,1}(n)q^n + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} op_{3,2}(n)q^n &= (-q; q)_{\infty} \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_{3,1}(n)q^n + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_{3,2}(n)q^n \right) \\ &= \frac{(-q; q)_{\infty}}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{n(3n-1)/2} + \frac{(-q; q)_{\infty}}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{n(3n+1)/2} \\ &= \frac{(-q; q)_{\infty}}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \left( \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{n(3n-1)/2} + 1 \right) \end{aligned}$$

### Mex-Related Partition Identities

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{(-q; q)_\infty}{(q; q)_\infty} ((q; q)_\infty + 1) \quad (\text{by Theorem 2.2}) \\
&= (-q; q)_\infty + \frac{(-q; q)_\infty}{(q; q)_\infty} \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_d(n)q^n + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \bar{p}(n)q^n.
\end{aligned}$$

Comparing the coefficients of  $q^n$  on both sides, we complete the proof.

**Proof of Theorem 1.13.** Let  $A = k$ ,  $a = k$  in (3.17), we get

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} op_{k,k}(n)q^n &= (-q; q)_\infty \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_{k,k}(n)q^n \\
&= \frac{(-q; q)_\infty}{(q; q)_\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{kn(n+1)/2} \quad (\text{by (1.1)}) \\
&\equiv \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^{kn(n+1)/2} \pmod{2} \\
&= \frac{(q^{2k}; q^{2k})_\infty}{(q^k; q^{2k})_\infty} (\text{let } q \rightarrow q^k \text{ in Theorem 2.4}) \\
&= (q^{2k}; q^{2k})_\infty (-q^k; q^k)_\infty \quad (\text{let } q \rightarrow q^k \text{ in Theorem 2.1}) \\
&\equiv (q^k; q^k)_\infty^3 \pmod{2}. \tag{3.19}
\end{aligned}$$

By the definition of  $f_k(n)$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f_k(n)q^n &= \frac{1}{(q^k; q^{4k})_\infty (q^{2k}; q^{4k})_\infty (q^{3k}; q^{4k})_\infty} \\
&= \frac{(q^{4k}; q^{4k})_\infty}{(q^k; q^k)_\infty} \\
&\equiv \frac{(q^k; q^k)_\infty^4}{(q^k; q^k)_\infty} \pmod{2} \\
&= (q^k; q^k)_\infty^3. \tag{3.20}
\end{aligned}$$

Combining (3.19) and (3.20), we arrive at

$$op_{k,k}(n) \equiv f_k(n) \pmod{2},$$

which completes the proof.

**Proof of Theorem 1.14.** For  $k > 0$ , by the definition of  $D_{k,k}(n)$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} D_{k,k}(n)q^n &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{k+2k+\dots+2nk} (1 - q^{(2n+1)k})}{(q; q)_\infty} \frac{(-q; q)_\infty}{(-q^k; q^k)_\infty} \\
&= \frac{(-q; q)_\infty}{(q; q)_\infty (-q^k; q^k)_\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{kn(n+1)/2} \\
&\equiv \frac{1}{(-q^k; q^k)_\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^{kn(n+1)/2} \pmod{2} \\
&= \frac{1}{(-q^k; q^k)_\infty} \frac{(q^{2k}; q^{2k})_\infty}{(q^k; q^{2k})_\infty} \quad (\text{let } q \rightarrow q^k \text{ in Theorem 2.4})
\end{aligned}$$

Jane Y.X. Yang and Li Zhou

$$\begin{aligned} &= (q^{2k}; q^{2k})_{\infty} \quad (\text{let } q \rightarrow q^k \text{ in Theorem 2.1}) \\ &\equiv (q^k; q^k)_{\infty}^2 \pmod{2}. \end{aligned} \tag{3.21}$$

Combining (3.21) and (3.13), we get

$$D_{k,k}(n) \equiv O_{k,k}(n) \pmod{2},$$

which completes the proof.

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