

FURTHER q -SUPERCONGRUENCES FROM ANDREWS' TERMINATING ${}_4\phi_3$ SUMMATION

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ABSTRACT. Recently, Liu and Liu gave a q -supercongruence from Andrews' terminating q -analogue of Watson's formula. In this paper, employing the method of creative microscoping devised by the author and Zudilin in 2019, we deduce more q -supercongruences from Andrew's summation.

1. Introduction

In 2003, Rodriguez-Villegas [12] observed several interesting supercongruences between a truncated hypergeometric series associated to a Calabi–Yau manifold at a prime p and the number of its \mathbb{F}_p -points. In particular, he proposed four conjectures on supercongruences related to elliptic curves, one of which can be stated as follows: for any odd prime p ,

$$(1) \quad \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k}^2 16^{-k} \equiv (-1)^{(p-1)/2} \pmod{p^2},$$

which was first confirmed by Mortenson [11].

In 2014, the author and Zeng [7] gave a q -analogue of (1) as follows:

$$(2) \quad \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{(q; q^2)_k^2}{(q^2; q^2)_k^2} q^{2k} \equiv (-1)^{(p-1)/2} q^{(p^2-1)/4} \pmod{[p]^2},$$

and a more general form of (2) was later given by the author, Pan, and Zhang [5]. Here and in what follows, assuming that $|q| < 1$, the q -shifted factorial is defined as $(a; q)_0 = 1$ and $(a; q)_n = (1-a)(1-aq) \cdots (1-aq^{n-1})$ for $n \geq 1$ or $n = \infty$. For simplicity, we will also use the shorthand notation $(a_1, \dots, a_m; q)_n = (a_1; q)_n \cdots (a_m; q)_n$ for $n \geq 0$ or $n = \infty$. The n -th cyclotomic polynomial $\Phi_n(q)$ is defined by

$$\Phi_n(q) = \prod_{\substack{1 \leq k \leq n \\ \gcd(n, k) = 1}} (q - \zeta^k),$$

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where ζ denotes an n -th primitive root of unity. Let $[n] = [n]_q = (1 - q^n)/(1 - q)$ be the q -integer. In addition, for two rational functions $A(q)$ and $B(q)$, and a polynomial $P(q) \in \mathbb{Z}[q]$, the q -congruence $A(q) \equiv B(q) \pmod{P(q)}$ is meant that the numerator of $A(q) - B(q)$ is divisible by $P(q)$ in the polynomial ring $\mathbb{Z}[q]$.

In 2011, Z.-W. Sun [15, Conjecture 5.5] raised the following conjecture: for any odd prime p ,

$$(3) \quad \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k}^2 32^{-k} \equiv \begin{cases} 2x - \frac{p}{2x}, & \text{if } p = x^2 + y^2 \text{ with } x \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ 0, & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}, \end{cases}$$

which was confirmed by Tauraso [16] and Z.-H. Sun [13, 14].

The author and Zeng [7, Corollary 2.7] gave a q -analogue of (3) for the second case as follows: for primes $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$,

$$(4) \quad \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{(q; q^2)_k^2 q^{2k}}{(q^2; q^2)_k (q^4; q^4)_k} \equiv 0 \pmod{[p]^2}.$$

The author and Zudilin [8, eq. (54)] further generalized the above q -congruence to the modulus $\Phi_n(q)^2$ case where $n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ is a positive integer. For any rational number x and positive integer n satisfying the denominator of x is coprime with n , we let $\langle x \rangle_n$ stand for the *least non-negative residue* of x modulo n . Then a special case of [4, Theorem 1.3] implies the following result: for positive integers d, r , and n such that $\gcd(d, n) = 1$ and $n \equiv \langle -r/d \rangle_n \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$,

$$(5) \quad \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(q^r; q^d)_k (q^{d-r}; q^d)_k q^{dk}}{(q^d; q^d)_k (q^{2d}; q^{2d})_k} \equiv 0 \pmod{\Phi_n(q)^2},$$

which is clearly a generalization of (4).

Recently, Liu and Liu [10] gave a q -analogue of (3) for the first case as follows: for any positive odd integer $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$,

$$(6) \quad \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(q; q^2)_k^2 q^{2k}}{(q^2; q^2)_k (q^4; q^4)_k} \equiv (-1)^{(n-1)/4} \frac{(q^2; q^4)_{(n-1)/4}}{(q^4; q^4)_{(n-1)/4}} q^{(n-1)(n+3)/8} \pmod{\Phi_n(q)^2}.$$

In this paper, we shall establish the following generalization of (6), which is also a compliment to (5).

Theorem 1.1. *Let d, r, n be positive integers such that $\gcd(d, n) = 1$, n is odd, and $\langle -r/d \rangle_n \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$. Then, modulo $\Phi_n(q)^2$,*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(q^r; q^d)_k (q^{d-r}; q^d)_k q^{dk}}{(q^d; q^d)_k (q^{2d}; q^{2d})_k} q^{dk}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\equiv \frac{r_2(-1)^{\langle -r/d \rangle_n/2} (q^d; q^{2d})_{\langle -r/d \rangle_n/2} q^{d\langle -r/d \rangle_n(\langle -r/d \rangle_n+2)/4}}{(r_1 + r_2)(q^{2d}; q^{2d})_{\langle -r/d \rangle_n/2}} \\
(7) \quad &+ \frac{r_1(-1)^{\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n/2} (q^d; q^{2d})_{\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n/2} q^{d\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n(\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n+2)/4}}{(r_1 + r_2)(q^{2d}; q^{2d})_{\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n/2}},
\end{aligned}$$

where $r_1 = (r + d\langle -r/d \rangle_n)/n$ and $r_2 = (d - r + d\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n)/n$.

It is easy to see that when $(d, r) = (2, 1)$, the q -congruence (7) reduces to (6). Moreover, for $(d, r) = (2, 3), (3, 1), (4, 1), (6, 1)$, we deduce the following corollaries from Theorem 1.1.

Corollary 1.2. *Let $n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ be a positive integer. Then, modulo $\Phi_n(q)^2$,*

$$\begin{aligned}
(8) \quad \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(q^3; q^2)_k (q^{-1}; q^2)_k q^{2k}}{(q^2; q^2)_k (q^4; q^4)_k} &\equiv \frac{(-1)^{(n-3)/4}}{2} \left\{ \frac{(q^2; q^4)_{(n-3)/4}}{(q^4; q^4)_{(n-3)/4}} q^{(n-3)(n+1)/8} \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \frac{(q^2; q^4)_{(n+1)/4}}{(q^4; q^4)_{(n+1)/4}} q^{(n+1)(n+5)/8} \right\}.
\end{aligned}$$

Suppose that n is a prime. Letting $q \rightarrow 1$ in (8) and multiplying both sides by -1 , we obtain the following supercongruence: for any prime $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$,

$$\begin{aligned}
&\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{2k+1}{2k-1} \binom{2k}{k}^2 3^{2-k} \\
&\equiv \frac{(-1)^{(p-3)/4}}{2} \left\{ \left(\frac{(p+1)/2}{(p+1)/4} \right) 2^{-(p+1)/2} - \left(\frac{(p-3)/2}{(p-3)/4} \right) 2^{-(p-3)/2} \right\} \pmod{p^2}.
\end{aligned}$$

Corollary 1.3. *Let $n \equiv 1 \pmod{6}$ be a positive integer. Then, modulo $\Phi_n(q)^2$,*

$$\begin{aligned}
(9) \quad \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(q; q^3)_k (q^2; q^3)_k}{(q^3; q^3)_k (q^6; q^6)_k} q^{3k} &\equiv (-1)^{(n-1)/6} \frac{2(q^3; q^6)_{(n-1)/6}}{3(q^6; q^6)_{(n-1)/6}} q^{(n-1)(n+5)/12} \\
&+ \frac{(q^3; q^6)_{(n-1)/3}}{3(q^6; q^6)_{(n-1)/3}} q^{(n-1)(n+2)/3}.
\end{aligned}$$

Letting n be a prime and taking $q \rightarrow 1$ in (9), we have the following supercongruence: for any prime $p \equiv 1 \pmod{6}$,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)_k \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)_k}{k! 2^{2k}} \equiv (-1)^{(p-1)/6} \frac{2\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)_{(p-1)/6}}{3(1)_{(p-1)/6}} + \frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)_{(p-1)/3}}{3(1)_{(p-1)/3}} \pmod{p^2},$$

where $(x)_a = x(x+1)\dots(x+a-1)$ is the Pochhammer symbol.

Corollary 1.4. *Let $n \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ be a positive integer. Then, modulo $\Phi_n(q)^2$,*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(q; q^4)_k (q^3; q^4)_k}{(q^4; q^4)_k (q^8; q^8)_k} q^{4k} \equiv (-1)^{(n-1)/8} \left\{ \frac{3(q^4; q^8)_{(n-1)/8}}{4(q^8; q^8)_{(n-1)/8}} q^{(n-1)(n+7)/16} \right.$$

$$(10) \quad + \frac{(q^4; q^8)_{4(n-1)/8}}{4(q^6; q^6)_{3(n-1)/8}} q^{(3n-3)(3n+5)/16} \Bigg\}.$$

Likewise, when n is a prime and $q \rightarrow 1$ in (10), we get the following result: for any prime $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{(\frac{1}{4})_k (\frac{3}{4})_k}{k! 2^{2k}} \equiv (-1)^{(p-1)/8} \left(\frac{3(\frac{1}{2})_{(p-1)/8}}{4(1)_{(p-1)/8}} + \frac{(\frac{1}{2})_{3(p-1)/8}}{4(1)_{3(p-1)/8}} \right) \pmod{p^2}.$$

Corollary 1.5. *Let $n \equiv 1 \pmod{12}$ be a positive integer. Then, modulo $\Phi_n(q)^2$,*

$$(11) \quad \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(q; q^6)_k (q^5; q^6)_k}{(q^6; q^6)_k (q^{12}; q^{12})_k} q^{6k} \equiv (-1)^{(n-1)/12} \left\{ \frac{5(q^6; q^{12})_{(n-1)/12} q^{(n-1)(n+11)/24}}{6(q^{12}; q^{12})_{(n-1)/12}} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{(q^6; q^{12})_{5(n-1)/12} q^{(5n-5)(5n+7)/24}}{6(q^{12}; q^{12})_{5(n-1)/12}} \right\}.$$

Similarly as before, letting n be a prime and taking the limits as $q \rightarrow 1$ in (11), we are led to the following supercongruence: for any prime $p \equiv 1 \pmod{12}$,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{(\frac{1}{6})_k (\frac{5}{6})_k}{k! 2^{2k}} \equiv (-1)^{(p-1)/12} \left(\frac{5(\frac{1}{2})_{(p-1)/12}}{6(1)_{(p-1)/12}} + \frac{(\frac{1}{2})_{5(p-1)/12}}{6(1)_{5(p-1)/12}} \right) \pmod{p^2}.$$

We shall prove Theorem 1.1 by using the method of “creative microscoping” introduced by the author and Zudilin [8] in 2019. For more recent work related to this method, we refer the reader to [3, 6, 9, 17, 18].

2. Proof of Theorem 1.1

Following Gasper and Rahman [2], the *basic hypergeometric series* ${}_r+1\phi_r$ is defined by

$${}_r+1\phi_r \left[\begin{matrix} a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{r+1} \\ b_1, b_2, \dots, b_r \end{matrix} ; q, z \right] = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{r+1}; q)_k z^k}{(q, b_1, \dots, b_r; q)_k}.$$

We shall use Andrews’ terminating q -analogue of Watson’s formula (see [1] or [2, (II.17)]):

$$(12) \quad {}_4\phi_3 \left[\begin{matrix} q^{-n}, a^2 q^{n+1}, b, -b \\ aq, -aq, b^2 \end{matrix} ; q, q \right] = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } n \text{ is odd,} \\ \frac{b^n (q, a^2 q^2 / b^2; q^2)_{n/2}}{(a^2 q^2, b^2 q; q^2)_{n/2}}, & \text{if } n \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

The $b \rightarrow 0$ case of (12) reduces to

(13)

$${}_4\phi_3 \left[\begin{matrix} q^{-n}, a^2 q^{n+1}, 0, 0 \\ aq, -aq, 0 \end{matrix}; q, q \right] = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } n \text{ is odd,} \\ \frac{(-1)^{n/2} (q; q^2)_{n/2}}{(a^2 q^2; q^2)_{n/2}} a^n q^{n(n+2)/4}, & \text{if } n \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

Theorem 2.1. *Let d, r, n be positive integers such that $\gcd(d, n) = 1$, n is odd, and $\langle -r/d \rangle_n \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$. Let a be an indeterminate. Then, modulo $(1 - aq^{r_1 n})(a - q^{r_2 n})$,*

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(aq^r; q^d)_k (q^{d-r}/a; q^d)_k}{(q^d; q^d)_k (q^{2d}; q^{2d})_k} q^{dk} \\ & \equiv \frac{(-1)^{\langle -r/d \rangle_n/2} (q^d; q^{2d})_{\langle -r/d \rangle_n/2} (a^{r_1+r_2} - a^{r_2} q^{r_1 r_2 n})}{(q^{2d}; q^{2d})_{\langle -r/d \rangle_n/2} (a^{r_1+r_2} - 1)} q^{d\langle -r/d \rangle_n (\langle -r/d \rangle_n + 2)/4} \\ & + \frac{(-1)^{\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n/2} (q^d; q^{2d})_{\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n/2} (1 - a^{r_2} q^{r_1 r_2 n})}{(q^{2d}; q^{2d})_{\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n/2} (1 - a^{r_1+r_2})} \\ & \times q^{d\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n (\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n + 2)/4}, \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

where $r_1 = (r + d\langle -r/d \rangle_n)/n$ and $r_2 = (d - r + d\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n)/n$.

Proof. For $a = q^{-r_1 n}$, the left-hand side of (14) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=0}^{\langle -r/d \rangle_n} \frac{(q^{-d\langle -r/d \rangle_n}; q^d)_k (q^{d+d\langle -r/d \rangle_n}/a; q^d)_k}{(q^d; q^d)_k (q^{2d}; q^{2d})_k} q^{dk} \\ & = {}_4\phi_3 \left[\begin{matrix} q^{-d\langle -r/d \rangle_n}, q^{d+d\langle -r/d \rangle_n}, 0, 0 \\ q^d, -q^d, 0 \end{matrix}; q^d, q^d \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

Performing the parameter substitutions $n \mapsto \langle -r/d \rangle_n$, $q \mapsto q^d$, and $a = 1$ in (13), since $\langle -r/d \rangle_n \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$, we see that the right-hand side of (15) is equal to

$$\frac{(-1)^{\langle -r/d \rangle_n/2} (q^d; q^{2d})_{\langle -r/d \rangle_n/2}}{(q^{2d}; q^{2d})_{\langle -r/d \rangle_n/2}} q^{d\langle -r/d \rangle_n (\langle -r/d \rangle_n + 2)/4},$$

which is exactly the right-hand side of (14) with $a = q^{-r_1 n}$. Namely, the q -congruence (14) is true modulo $1 - aq^{r_1 n}$.

Similarly, for $a = q^{r_2 n}$, the left-hand side of (14) is equal to

$$\frac{(-1)^{\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n/2} (q^d; q^{2d})_{\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n/2}}{(q^{2d}; q^{2d})_{\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n/2}} q^{d\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n (\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n + 2)/4},$$

which is the value of the right-hand side of (14) at $a = q^{r_2 n}$. This means that the q -congruence (14) is true modulo $a - q^{r_2 n}$.

Since $1 - aq^{r_1n}$ and $a - q^{r_2n}$ are relatively prime polynomials in q , we finish the proof of the theorem. \square

Proof of Theorem 1.1. Observe that $1 - a^{r_2}q^{r_1r_2n}$ is divisible by $1 - aq^{r_1n}$, and $a^{r_1} - q^{r_1r_2n}$ is divisible by $a - q^{r_2n}$. In light of the identities

$$1 = \frac{(a^{r_2} - 1) + (1 - a^{r_2}q^{r_1r_2n})}{a^{r_2}(1 - q^{r_1r_2n})} = \frac{(1 - a^{r_1}) + (a^{r_1} - q^{r_1r_2n})}{1 - q^{r_1r_2n}},$$

we can rewrite (14) as follows: modulo $(1 - aq^{r_1n})(a - q^{r_2n})$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(aq^r; q^d)_k (q^{d-r}/a; q^d)_k}{(q^d; q^d)_k (q^{2d}; q^{2d})_k} q^{dk} \\ & \equiv \frac{(-1)^{\langle -r/d \rangle_n / 2} (q^d; q^{2d})_{\langle -r/d \rangle_n / 2} (a^{r_1} - q^{r_1r_2n}) (a^{r_2} - 1)}{(q^{2d}; q^{2d})_{\langle -r/d \rangle_n / 2} (a^{r_1+r_2} - 1) (1 - q^{r_1r_2n})} q^{d\langle -r/d \rangle_n (\langle -r/d \rangle_n + 2)/4} \\ & \quad + \frac{(-1)^{\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n / 2} (q^d; q^{2d})_{\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n / 2} (1 - a^{r_2}q^{r_1r_2n}) (1 - a^{r_1})}{(q^{2d}; q^{2d})_{\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n / 2} (1 - a^{r_1+r_2}) (1 - q^{r_1r_2n})} \\ (16) \quad & \times q^{d\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n (\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n + 2)/4}. \end{aligned}$$

In view of $q^n \equiv 1 \pmod{\Phi_n(q)}$, from the proof of Theorem 2.1 we conclude that, modulo $\Phi_n(q)$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{(-1)^{\langle -r/d \rangle_n / 2} (q^d; q^{2d})_{\langle -r/d \rangle_n / 2}}{(q^{2d}; q^{2d})_{\langle -r/d \rangle_n / 2}} q^{d\langle -r/d \rangle_n (\langle -r/d \rangle_n + 2)/4} \\ & \equiv \frac{(-1)^{\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n / 2} (q^d; q^{2d})_{\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n / 2}}{(q^{2d}; q^{2d})_{\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n / 2}} q^{d\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n (\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n + 2)/4}. \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{(-1)^{\langle -r/d \rangle_n / 2} (q^d; q^{2d})_{\langle -r/d \rangle_n / 2} (a^{r_1} - q^{r_1r_2n}) (a^{r_2} - 1)}{(q^{2d}; q^{2d})_{\langle -r/d \rangle_n / 2} (a^{r_1+r_2} - 1)} q^{d\langle -r/d \rangle_n (\langle -r/d \rangle_n + 2)/4} \\ & + \frac{(-1)^{\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n / 2} (q^d; q^{2d})_{\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n / 2} (1 - a^{r_2}q^{r_1r_2n}) (1 - a^{r_1})}{(q^{2d}; q^{2d})_{\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n / 2} (1 - a^{r_1+r_2})} \\ & \times q^{d\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n (\langle (r-d)/d \rangle_n + 2)/4} \\ & \equiv 0 \pmod{\Phi_n(q)}. \end{aligned}$$

This implies that the denominator of (the reduced form of) the right-hand side of (16) is coprime with $\Phi_n(q)$.

The limit of $(1 - aq^{r_1n})(a - q^{r_2n})$ as $a \rightarrow 1$ contains the factor $\Phi_n(q)^2$. Therefore, taking $a \rightarrow 1$ in (16) and applying L'Hôpital's rule, we arrive at (7). \square

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