



## Two new $q$ -congruences from Gasper's Karlsson–Minton type summation

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**Abstract.** We give two new  $q$ -congruences by using the method of “creative microscoping” and Gasper's Karlsson–Minton type summation. In particular, we present a  $q$ -analogue of a congruence of Barman and Saikia.

**Keywords:** supercongruence;  $p$ -adic Gamma function; cyclotomic polynomials; creative microscoping.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Rodriguez-Villegas [12] studied hypergeometric families of Calabi–Yau manifolds, and found a number of possible supercongruences. For instance, he observed that, for any prime  $p > 2$ ,

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

where  $(a)_0 = 1$  and  $(a)_n = a(a+1) \cdots (a+n-1)$  ( $n \geq 1$ ) is the *rising factorial*. Mortenson [11] first confirmed the congruence (1). Later, the first author and Zeng [4] obtained a  $q$ -analogue of (1):

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

Here and throughout the paper,  $(a; q)_0 = 1$  and  $(a; q)_n = (1-a)(1-aq) \cdots (1-aq^{n-1})$  ( $n \geq 1$ ) is the  $q$ -shifted factorial, and  $[n] = 1 + q + \cdots + q^{n-1}$  is the  $q$ -integer. For convenience, we will also adopt the condensed notation  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m; q)_n = (a_1; q)_n (a_2; q)_n \cdots (a_m; q)_n$ .

In 2020, Barman and Saikia [1] gave a generalization of (1) as follows: for  $d \geq 1$  and any prime  $p$  satisfying  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{d^2 + d}$ ,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{(p-1)/(d+1)} \frac{(\frac{1}{d+1})_k^{d+1}}{(\frac{1}{d})_k^d k!} \equiv (-1)^{d+1} \Gamma_p(\frac{1}{d})^d \Gamma_p(\frac{d}{d+1})^{d+1} \pmod{p^2}, \quad (3)$$

where  $\Gamma_p(x)$  denotes the  $p$ -adic Gamma function (see [8]).

Let  $\Phi_n(q)$  be the  $n$ -th cyclotomic polynomial in  $q$ , which can be written as

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

where  $\zeta$  is an  $n$ -th primitive root of unity. The first aim of this note is to give the following  $q$ -analogue of Barman and Saikia's congruence (3).

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $d$  and  $n$  be positive integers with  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{d^2 + d}$ . Then, modulo  $\Phi_n(q)^2$ ,*

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

For  $n$  prime, letting  $q \rightarrow 1$  in Theorem 1, we arrive the following congruence: for  $d \geq 1$  and any prime  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{d^2 + d}$ ,

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

In view of properties of  $p$ -adic Gamma functions (see [10, Section 2]), it is not hard to show that

$$\frac{(-1)^{(p-1)/(d+1)} (\frac{p-1}{d+1})!}{(\frac{1}{d})_{(p-1)/(d^2+d)}^d} \equiv (-1)^{d+1} \Gamma_p(\frac{1}{d})^d \Gamma_p(\frac{d}{d+1})^{d+1} \pmod{p^2}. \quad (6)$$

Hence, the congruence (5) is equivalent to (3).

We shall also establish the following congruence similar to (3).

**THEOREM 2.** *Let  $d \geq 1$  and let  $p$  be a prime with  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{d^2 + d}$ . Then*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{(p-1)/(d+1)} \frac{k(\frac{1}{d+1})_k^{d+1}}{(\frac{1}{d})_k^d k!} \equiv \frac{(-1)^{d+2}}{2(d^2+d)} \Gamma_p(\frac{1}{d})^d \Gamma_p(\frac{d}{d+1})^{d+1} \pmod{p^2}. \quad (7)$$

Since  $\Gamma_p(1) = -1$  and  $\Gamma_p(\frac{1}{2})^2 = (-1)^{(p+1)/2}$ , for  $d = 1$ , the congruence (7) reduces to

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{k(\frac{1}{2})_k^2}{k!^2} \equiv \frac{(-1)^{(p+1)/2}}{4} \pmod{p^2}, \quad (8)$$

of which a generalization modulo  $p^3$  for  $p > 3$  has already been given by Sun [13, Theorem 1.2, (1.8) and (1.10)].

It is easy to see that, for any prime  $p > 2$ ,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{(p+1)/2} \frac{(-\frac{1}{2})_k^2}{k!^2} = \frac{2p+3}{4^{p+1}} \left( \frac{p+1}{(p+1)/2} \right)^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{p^2}. \quad (9)$$

The last aim of this note is to give the following generalization of (9).

**THEOREM 3.** *Let  $d$  and  $n$  be positive integers with  $n \equiv 2d + 1 \pmod{d^2 + d}$ . Then*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{(n+1)/(d+1)} \frac{(q^{-d}; q^{d^2+d})_k^{d+1} q^{(d^2+d)k}}{(q^{d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_k^d (q^{d^2+d}; q^{d^2+d})_k} \equiv 0 \pmod{\Phi_n(q)^2}. \quad (10)$$

In particular, letting  $n$  be prime and taking  $q \rightarrow 1$  in Theorem 3, we are led to the conclusion.

**COROLLARY 1.** *Let  $d \geq 1$  and let  $p$  be a prime with  $p \equiv 2d + 1 \pmod{d^2 + d}$ . Then*

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

Similarly to the proof of Theorem 2, we can also deduce the following congruence from Theorem 3.

**COROLLARY 2.** *Let  $d \geq 1$  and let  $p$  be a prime with  $p \equiv 2d + 1 \pmod{d^2 + d}$ . Then*

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

## 2. PROOF OF THEOREM 1

We will make use of Gasper's Karlsson–Minton type summation (see [2, (1.9.9)]; and see [3, (5.13)] for a generalization): for all non-negative integers  $n_1, \dots, n_m$ ,

$$\sum_{k=0}^N \frac{(q^{-N}, b_1 q^{n_1}, \dots, b_m q^{n_m}; q)_k}{(q, b_1, \dots, b_m; q)_k} q^k = (-1)^N \frac{(q; q)_N b_1^{n_1} \cdots b_m^{n_m}}{(b_1; q)_{n_1} \cdots (b_m; q)_{n_m}} q^{\binom{n_1}{2} + \cdots + \binom{n_m}{2}}, \quad (11)$$

where  $N = n_1 + \cdots + n_m$ . For some recent congruences and  $q$ -congruences related to (11), see [5, 7, 9].

We first build the following generalization of Theorem 1 with an extra parameter  $a$  by employing the “creative microscoping” method devised in [6].

**THEOREM 4.** *Let  $d, n > 1$  be integers with  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{d^2 + d}$ . Let  $a$  be an indeterminate. Then, modulo  $(1 - aq^n)(a - q^n)$ ,*

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=0}^{(n-1)/(d+1)} \frac{(a^d q^d, a^{d-2} q^d, \dots, a q^d; q^{d^2+d})_k}{(a^{d-1} q^{d+1}, a^{d-3} q^{d+1}, \dots, a^2 q^{d+1}, q^{d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_k} \\ & \times \frac{(a^{-d} q^d, a^{2-d} q^d, \dots, a^{-1} q^d; q^{d^2+d})_k q^{(d^2+d)k}}{(a^{1-d} q^{d+1}, a^{3-d} q^{d+1}, \dots, a^{-2} q^{d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_k (q^{d^2+d}; q^{d^2+d})_k} \\ & \equiv \frac{(-1)^{(n-1)/(d+1)} (q^{d^2+d}; q^{d^2+d})_{(n-1)/(d+1)}}{(a^{d-1} q^{d+1}, a^{d-3} q^{d+1}, \dots, a^2 q^{d+1}, q^{d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_{(n-1)/(d^2+d)}} \\ & \times \frac{q^{\frac{(n-1)(n+1+d-d^2)}{2(d+1)}}}{(a^{1-d} q^{d+1}, a^{3-d} q^{d+1}, \dots, a^{-2} q^{d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_{(n-1)/(d^2+d)}} \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

if  $d$  is odd, and

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{k=0}^{(n-1)/(d+1)} \frac{(a^d q^d, a^{d-2} q^d, \dots, a^2 q^d, q^d; q^{d^2+d})_k}{(a^{d-1} q^{d+1}, a^{d-3} q^{d+1}, \dots, a q^{d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_k} \\
& \times \frac{(a^{-d} q^d, a^{2-d} q^d, \dots, a^{-2} q^d; q^{d^2+d})_k q^{(d^2+d)k}}{(a^{1-d} q^{d+1}, a^{3-d} q^{d+1}, \dots, a^{-1} q^{d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_k (q^{d^2+d}; q^{d^2+d})_k} \\
& \equiv \frac{(-1)^{(n-1)/(d+1)} (q^{d^2+d}; q^{d^2+d})_{(n-1)/(d+1)}}{(a^{d-1} q^{d+1}, a^{d-3} q^{d+1}, \dots, a q^{d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_{(n-1)/(d^2+d)}} \\
& \times \frac{q^{\frac{(n-1)(n+1+d-d^2)}{2(d+1)}}}{(a^{1-d} q^{d+1}, a^{3-d} q^{d+1}, \dots, a^{-1} q^{d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_{(n-1)/(d^2+d)}} \quad (13)
\end{aligned}$$

if  $d$  is even.

*Proof.* It is obvious that  $\gcd(d, n) = 1$ , and therefore none of the numbers  $d, 2d, \dots, (n-1)d$  are divisible by  $n$ . This indicates that the denominators on the left-hand side of (12) do not have the factor  $1 - aq^n$  nor  $1 - a^{-1}q^n$ . Thus, for  $a = q^{-n}$  or  $a = q^n$ , the left-hand side of (12) may be written as

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{k=0}^{(n-1)/(d+1)} \frac{(q^{-(n-1)d}, q^{-(n-1)d+2n}, \dots, q^{-n+d}; q^{d^2+d})_k}{(q^{-(d-1)n+d+1}, q^{-(d-3)n+d+1}, \dots, q^{-2n+d+1}, q^{d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_k} \\
& \times \frac{(q^{(n+1)d}, q^{(n+1)d-2n}, \dots, q^{n+d}; q^{d^2+d})_k q^{(d^2+d)k}}{(q^{(d-1)n+d+1}, q^{(d-3)n+d+1}, \dots, q^{2n+d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_k (q^{d^2+d}; q^{d^2+d})_k}. \quad (14)
\end{aligned}$$

Letting  $q \mapsto q^{d^2+d}$ ,  $N = (n-1)/(1+d)$ ,  $m = d$ ,  $b_j = q^{-(d-1)n+d+1+(j-1)2n}$  and  $n_j = (n-1)/(d^2+d)$  ( $1 \leq j \leq d$ ) in (11), we conclude that (12) is equal to

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{(-1)^{(n-1)/(1+d)} (q^{d^2+d}; q^{d^2+d})_{(n-1)/(1+d)}}{(q^{-(d-1)n+d+1}, q^{-(d-3)n+d+1}, \dots, q^{-2n+d+1}, q^{d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_{(n-1)/(d^2+d)}} \\
& \times \frac{q^{(n-1)+d(d^2+d)\binom{(n-1)/2}{2}}}{(q^{(d-1)n+d+1}, q^{(d-3)n+d+1}, \dots, q^{2n+d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_{(n-1)/(d^2+d)}}. \quad (15)
\end{aligned}$$

which is just the  $a = q^{-n}$  or  $a = q^n$  case of the right-hand side (12). This proves the  $q$ -congruence (12).

Similarly, for  $a = q^{-n}$  or  $a = q^n$ , the left-hand side of (13) may be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{k=0}^{(n-1)/(d+1)} \frac{(q^{-(n-1)d}, q^{-(n-1)d+2n}, \dots, q^{-2n+d}, q^d; q^{d^2+d})_k}{(q^{-(d-1)n+d+1}, q^{-(d-3)n+d+1}, \dots, q^{-n+d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_k} \\
& \times \frac{(q^{(n+1)d}, q^{(n+1)d-2n}, \dots, q^{2n+d}, q^{d^2+d})_k q^{(d^2+d)k}}{(q^{(d-1)n+d+1}, q^{(d-3)n+d+1}, \dots, q^{n+d+1}, q^{d^2+d})_k (q^{d^2+d}; q^{d^2+d})_k}. \quad (16)
\end{aligned}$$

Letting  $q \mapsto q^{d(1+d)}$ ,  $N = (n-1)/(1+d)$ ,  $m = d$ ,  $b_j = q^{-(d-1)n+d+1+(j-1)2n}$  and  $n_j = (n-1)/(d^2+d)$  ( $1 \leq j \leq d$ ) in (11), we deduce that (16) is equal to the  $a = q^{-n}$  or  $a = q^n$  case of the right-hand side (13). This establishes (13).  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 1.* Note that  $\Phi_n(q)$  is a factor of  $1 - q^m$  if and only if  $m$  is divisible by  $n$ . Hence, when  $a = 1$  the denominators of (12) are all coprime with  $\Phi_n(q)$ . Meanwhile, when  $a = 1$  the polynomial  $(1 - aq^n)(a - q^n) = (1 - q^n)^2$  incorporates the factor  $\Phi_n(q)^2$ . The proof of (4) then follows immediately from the  $a = 1$  case of (12) and (13).  $\square$

### 3. PROOF OF THEOREM 2

Let  $n > 1$  be an integer with  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{d^2 + d}$ . Performing the substitution  $q \mapsto q^{-1}$  in (4), we get its dual form: modulo  $\Phi_n(q)^2$ ,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{(n-1)/(d+1)} \frac{(q^d; q^{d^2+d})_k^{d+1}}{(q^{d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_k^d (q^{d^2+d}; q^{d^2+d})_k} \equiv \frac{(-1)^{(n-1)/(1+d)} (q^{d^2+d}; q^{d^2+d})_{(n-1)/(1+d)} q^{\frac{(1-n)(nd+d^2)}{2(d+1)}}}{(q^{d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_{(n-1)/(d^2+d)}^d}. \quad (17)$$

Subtracting (4) from (17) and dividing both sides by  $1 - q$ , we are led to

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=0}^{(n-1)/(d+1)} \frac{(q^d; q^{d^2+d})_k^{d+1} (1 - q^{(d^2+d)k})}{(q^{d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_k^d (1 - q)} \\ & \equiv \frac{(-1)^{(n-1)/(1+d)} (q^d; q^{d^2+d})_{(n-1)/(1+d)} q^{\frac{(1-n)(nd+d^2)}{2(d+1)}} (1 - q^{\frac{(n-1)(nd+d+n+1)}{2(d+1)}})}{(q^{d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_{(n-1)/(d^2+d)}^d (1 - q)} \pmod{\Phi_n(q)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Letting  $n = p$  be a prime and taking the limit as  $q \rightarrow 1$  in the above  $q$ -supercongruence, we obtain the following result: for any positive integer  $d$  and prime  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{d^2 + d}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{(p-1)/(d+1)} \frac{k \left(\frac{1}{d+1}\right)_k^{d+1}}{\left(\frac{1}{d}\right)_k^d k!} & \equiv \frac{(-1)^{(p-1)/(d+1)} \left(\frac{p-1}{d+1}\right)! (p^2 - 1)}{2 \left(\frac{1}{d}\right)_{(p-1)/(d^2+d)}^d (d+1)(d^2+d)} \\ & \equiv \frac{(-1)^{(p+d)/(d+1)} \left(\frac{p-1}{d+1}\right)!}{2 \left(\frac{1}{d}\right)_{(p-1)/(d^2+d)}^d (d^2+d)}. \end{aligned}$$

The proof then follows from the congruence (6).

### 4. PROOF OF THEOREM 3

We will utilize another Karlsson–Minton type summation due to Gasper (see [2, (1.9.11)]): for all non-negative integers  $n_1, \dots, n_m$ ,

$$\sum_{k=0}^N \frac{(q^{-N}, b_1 q^{n_1}, \dots, b_m q^{n_m}; q)_k}{(q, b_1, \dots, b_m; q)_k} q^k = 0. \quad (18)$$

where  $N > n_1 + \dots + n_m$ .

We first establish the following parametric generalization of Theorem 3.

**THEOREM 5.** *Let  $d, n > 1$  be integers with  $n \equiv 2d + 1 \pmod{d^2 + d}$ . Let  $a$  be an indeterminate. Then, modulo  $(1 - aq^n)(a - q^n)$ ,*

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=0}^{(n+1)/(d+1)} \frac{(a^d q^{-d}, a^{d-2} q^{-d}, \dots, a q^{-d}; q^{d^2+d})_k}{(a^{d-1} q^{d+1}, a^{d-3} q^{d+1}, \dots, a^2 q^{d+1}, q^{d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_k} \\ & \times \frac{(a^{-d} q^{-d}, a^{2-d} q^{-d}, \dots, a^{-1} q^{-d}; q^{d^2+d})_k q^{(d^2+d)k}}{(a^{1-d} q^{d+1}, a^{3-d} q^{d+1}, \dots, a^{-2} q^{d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_k (q^{d^2+d}; q^{d^2+d})_k} = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

if  $d$  is odd, and

$$\sum_{k=0}^{(n+1)/(d+1)} \frac{(a^d q^{-d}, a^{d-2} q^{-d}, \dots, a^2 q^{-d}, q^{-d}; q^{d^2+d})_k}{(a^{d-1} q^{d+1}, a^{d-3} q^{d+1}, \dots, a q^{d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_k} \times \frac{(a^{-d} q^{-d}, a^{2-d} q^{-d}, \dots, a^{-2} q^{-d}; q^{d^2+d})_k q^{(d^2+d)k}}{(a^{1-d} q^{d+1}, a^{3-d} q^{d+1}, \dots, a^{-1} q^{d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_k (q^{d^2+d}; q^{d^2+d})_k} = 0 \quad (20)$$

if  $d$  is even.

*Proof.* It is easy to see that  $\gcd(d, n) = 1$  and so none of the numbers  $d, 2d, \dots, (n-1)d$  are multiples of  $n$ . This implies that the denominators of the left-hand sides of (19) have no factors  $1 - aq^n$  and  $1 - a^{-1}q^n$ . Therefore, for  $a = q^{-n}$  or  $a = q^n$ , the left-hand side of (19) can be expressed as

$$\sum_{k=0}^{(n+1)/(d+1)} \frac{(q^{-(n+1)d}, q^{-(n+1)d+2n}, \dots, q^{-n+d}; q^{d^2+d})_k}{(q^{-(d-1)n+d+1}, q^{-(d-3)n+d+1}, \dots, q^{-2n+d+1}, q^{d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_k} \times \frac{(q^{(n-1)d}, q^{(n-1)d-2n}, \dots, q^{n-d}; q^{d^2+d})_k q^{(d^2+d)k}}{(q^{(d-1)n+d+1}, q^{(d-3)n+d+1}, \dots, q^{2n+d+1}; q^{d^2+d})_k (q^{d^2+d}; q^{d^2+d})_k}. \quad (21)$$

Letting  $q \mapsto q^{d^2+d}$ ,  $N = nd + d$ ,  $m = d$ ,  $b_j = q^{-(d-1)n+d+1+(j-1)2n}$  and  $n_j = (n - 2d - 1)/(d^2 + d)$  ( $1 \leq j \leq d$ ) in (18), we conclude that (21) is equal to 0, which is just the  $a = q^{-n}$  or  $a = q^n$  case of the right-hand side of (19). Namely, the congruence (19) holds. Exactly in the same way, we can prove the  $q$ -congruence (20).  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 3.* When  $a = 1$ , the polynomial  $(1 - aq^n)(a - q^n)$  contains the factor  $\Phi_n(q)^2$ , which is coprime with the denominators of the left-hand sides of (19) and (20). Hence, the congruence (10) immediately follows from the  $a = 1$  case of (19) and (20).  $\square$

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