

Two q -supercongruences from Jackson's ${}_6\phi_5$ summation

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Abstract

Employing Jackson's ${}_6\phi_5$ summation and the 'creative microscoping' method introduced by Guo and Zudilin, we prove two q -supercongruences modulo the cube of a cyclotomic polynomial. As conclusions, we obtain two supercongruences, one of which can be stated as follows: for any prime $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ and $0 \leq s \leq (p-1)/4$, modulo p^3 ,

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

where $(x)_n = x(x+1)\cdots(x+n-1)$ is the Pochhammer symbol.

Key Words: q -supercongruences, supercongruences, Jackson's ${}_6\phi_5$ summation, creative microscoping.

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1 Introduction

In 1997, Van Hamme [5] presented 13 remarkable supercongruences corresponding to Ramanujan or to Ramanujan-like formulas for $1/\pi$. For instance, the infinite series

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (8k+1) \frac{\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)_k^4}{k!^4} = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^2},$$

corresponds to the following supercongruence for truncated hypergeometric series: for any prime $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$,

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

which is marked (G.2) in Van Hamme's list. Here and throughout the paper, $(a)_n = a(a+1)\cdots(a+n-1)$ is the Pochhammer symbol, and $\Gamma(x)$ stands for Morita's p -adic Gamma function [8]. He [6] and Swisher [9] independently proved that (1) is true modulo the stronger power p^4 .

Recently, motivated by an extension of Van Hamme's (A.2) supercongruence given by Guo [2], Tang [10] gave a generalization of (1) as follows: for any prime $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ and $0 \leq s \leq (p-1)/4$,

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

In fact, Tang proved (2) by establishing the following q -supercongruence: for any integer $n > 1$ with $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ and nonnegative integer $s \leq (n-1)/4$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=s}^{(n-1)/4} [8k+1] \frac{(q; q^4)_{k-s} (q; q^4)_{k+s} (q; q^4)_k^2}{(q^4; q^4)_{k-s} (q^4; q^4)_{k+s} (q^4; q^4)_k^2} q^{2k} \\ & \equiv [n+4s] \frac{(q; q^4)_s^2 (q; q^4)_{(n-1)/4+s} (q^2; q^4)_{(n-1)/4-s}}{(q^4; q^4)_s^2 (q^4; q^4)_{(n-1)/4+s} (q; q^4)_{(n-1)/4-s}} q^{3s+(1-n)/4} \pmod{\Phi_n(q)^3}. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Here we need to familiarize ourselves with the standard q -notation. The q -integer is defined by $[n] = 1 + q + \cdots + q^{n-1}$, the q -shifted factorial is defined as

$$(a; q)_n = \begin{cases} (1-a)(1-aq) \cdots (1-aq^{n-1}), & \text{if } n \geq 1, \\ 1, & \text{if } n = 0, \end{cases}$$

and the n -th cyclotomic polynomial in q is given by

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

where ζ is an n -th primitive root of unity.

It is clear that (2) follows from (3) by taking $n = p$ and $q \rightarrow 1$. Note that the $s = 0$ case of (3) was given by Liu and Wang [7], which may also be derived from [3, Theorem 4.3].

In this paper, we shall establish the following q -supercongruence similar to (3).

Theorem 1.1. *Let $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ be a positive integer and let $0 \leq s \leq (n-1)/4$. Then, modulo $\Phi_n(q)^3$,*

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=s}^{(3n-3)/4} [8k+3] \frac{(q^3; q^4)_{k-s} (q^3; q^4)_{k+s} (q^3; q^4)_k^2}{(q^4; q^4)_{k-s} (q^4; q^4)_{k+s} (q^4; q^4)_k^2} q^{-2k} \\ & \equiv [3n+4s] \frac{(q^3; q^4)_s^2 (q^3; q^4)_{(3n-3)/4+s} (q^6; q^4)_{(3n-3)/4-s}}{(q^4; q^4)_s^2 (q^4; q^4)_{(3n-3)/4+s} (q^3; q^4)_{(3n-3)/4-s}} q^{s+(9-9n)/4}. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

It should be mentioned that the $s = 0$ case of (4) was first given by Guo and Schlosser [3, Lemma 2.3]. Moreover, letting $n = p$ be a prime and taking $q \rightarrow 1$ in (4), we are led to the following result: for any prime $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ and $0 \leq s \leq (p-1)/4$, modulo p^3 ,

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

Tang [10] also proved that, for any positive integer $n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ and nonnegative integer $s \leq (n-3)/4$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=s}^{(3n-1)/4} [8k+1] \frac{(q; q^4)_{k-s} (q; q^4)_{k+s} (q; q^4)_k^2}{(q^4; q^4)_{k-s} (q^4; q^4)_{k+s} (q^4; q^4)_k^2} q^{2k} \\ & \equiv [3n+4s] \frac{(q; q^4)_s^2 (q; q^4)_{(3n-1)/4+s} (q^2; q^4)_{(3n-1)/4-s}}{(q^4; q^4)_s^2 (q^4; q^4)_{(3n-1)/4+s} (q; q^4)_{(3n-1)/4-s}} q^{3s+(1-3n)/4} \pmod{\Phi_n(q)^3}. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we shall establish the following q -supercongruence.

Theorem 1.2. *Let $n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ be a positive integer and let $0 \leq s \leq (n-3)/4$. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=s}^{(n-3)/4} [8k+3] \frac{(q^3; q^4)_k^2 (q^3; q^4)_{k-s} (q^3; q^4)_{k+s}}{(q^4; q^4)_k^2 (q^4; q^4)_{k-s} (q^4; q^4)_{k+s}} q^{-2k} \\ & \equiv [n+4s] \frac{(q^3; q^4)_s^2 (q^3; q^4)_{(n-3)/4+s} (q^6; q^4)_{(n-3)/4-s}}{(q^4; q^4)_s^2 (q^4; q^4)_{(n-3)/4+s} (q^3; q^4)_{(n-3)/4-s}} q^{s-3(n-3)/4} \pmod{\Phi_n(q)^3}. \quad (5) \end{aligned}$$

Likewise, letting $n = p$ be a prime and taking $q \rightarrow 1$ in (5), we arrive at the following supercongruence: for any prime $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ and $0 \leq s \leq (p-3)/4$,

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

Our proof of Theorems 1.1 and 1.2 will make use of the vigorous method of ‘creative microscoping’, which was introduced by Guo and Zudilin [4]. Meanwhile, we shall utilize Jackson’s ${}_6\phi_5$ summation (see [1, Appendix (II.21)]):

$${}_6\phi_5 \left[\begin{matrix} a, qa^{\frac{1}{2}}, -qa^{\frac{1}{2}}, b, c, q^{-n} \\ a^{\frac{1}{2}}, -a^{\frac{1}{2}}, aq/b, aq/c, aq^{n+1} \end{matrix} ; q, \frac{aq^{n+1}}{bc} \right] = \frac{(aq; q)_n (aq/bc; q)_n}{(aq/b; q)_n (aq/c; q)_n}, \quad (6)$$

where the *basic hypergeometric series* ${}_{r+1}\phi_r$ is defined as

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

2 Proof of Theorem 1.1

We require the following q -congruence, which is due to Guo and Schlosser [3, Lemma 2.1].

Lemma 2.1. *Let d, m and n be positive integers with $m \leq n-1$. Let r be an integer satisfying $dm \equiv -r \pmod{n}$. Then, for $0 \leq k \leq m$, we have*

$$\frac{(aq^r; q^d)_{m-k}}{(q^d/a; q^d)_{m-k}} \equiv (-a)^{m-2k} \frac{(aq^r; q^d)_k}{(q^d/a; q^d)_k} q^{m(dm-d+2r)/2+(d-r)k} \pmod{\Phi_n(q)}.$$

In order to prove Theorem 1.1, we first present the following q -congruence with a parameter a .

Theorem 2.2. *Let $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ be a positive integer. Let a be an indeterminate and $0 \leq s \leq (n-1)/4$. Then, modulo $\Phi_n(q)(1-aq^{3n})(a-q^{3n})$,*

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=s}^{(3n-3)/4} [8k+3] \frac{(aq^3; q^4)_k (q^3/a; q^4)_k (q^3; q^4)_{k-s} (q^3; q^4)_{k+s}}{(aq^4; q^4)_k (q^4/a; q^4)_k (q^4; q^4)_{k-s} (q^4; q^4)_{k+s}} q^{-2k} \\ & \equiv [3n+4s] \frac{(aq^3; q^4)_s (q^3/a; q^4)_s (q^3; q^4)_{(3n-3)/4+s} (q^6; q^4)_{(3n-3)/4-s}}{(aq^4; q^4)_s (q^4/a; q^4)_s (q^4; q^4)_{(3n-3)/4+s} (q^3; q^4)_{(3n-3)/4-s}} q^{s+(9-9n)/4}. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Proof. For $a = q^{-3n}$ or $a = q^{3n}$, the left-hand side of (7) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=s}^{(3n-3)/4} [8k+3] \frac{(q^{3-3n}; q^4)_k (q^{3+3n}; q^4)_k (q^3; q^4)_{k-s} (q^3; q^4)_{k+s}}{(q^{4-3n}; q^4)_k (q^{4+3n}; q^4)_k (q^4; q^4)_{k-s} (q^4; q^4)_{k+s}} q^{-2k} \\ & = \sum_{k=0}^{(3n-3)/4-s} [8k+8s+3] \frac{(q^{3-3n}; q^4)_{k+s} (q^{3+3n}; q^4)_{k+s} (q^3; q^4)_k (q^3; q^4)_{k+2s}}{(q^{4-3n}; q^4)_{k+s} (q^{4+3n}; q^4)_{k+s} (q^4; q^4)_k (q^4; q^4)_{k+2s}} q^{-2k-2s} \\ & = [8s+3] \frac{(q^{3-3n}; q^4)_s (q^{3+3n}; q^4)_s (q^3; q^4)_{2s}}{(q^{4-3n}; q^4)_s (q^{4+3n}; q^4)_s (q^4; q^4)_{2s}} q^{-2s} \\ & \quad \times {}_6\phi_5 \left[\begin{matrix} q^{3+8s}, & q^{\frac{11}{2}+4s}, & -q^{\frac{11}{2}+4s}, & q^3, & q^{3+3n+4s}, & q^{3-3n+4s} \\ & q^{\frac{3}{2}+4s}, & -q^{\frac{3}{2}+4s}, & q^{4+8s}, & q^{4-3n+4s}, & q^{4+3n+4s} \end{matrix} ; q^4, q^{-2} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Letting $q \mapsto q^4$, $a = q^{3+8s}$, $b = q^3$, $c = q^{3+3n+4s}$, and $n \mapsto (3n-3)/4-s$ in (6), we see that the right-hand side of (8) may be written as

$$\begin{aligned} & q^{-2s} [8s+3] \frac{(q^{3-3n}; q^4)_s (q^{3+3n}; q^4)_s (q^3; q^4)_{2s} (q^{7+8s}; q^4)_{(3n-3)/4-s} (q^{1-3n+4s}; q^4)_{(3n-3)/4-s}}{(q^{4-3n}; q^4)_s (q^{4+3n}; q^4)_s (q^4; q^4)_{2s} (q^{4+8s}; q^4)_{(3n-3)/4-s} (q^{4-3n+4s}; q^4)_{(3n-3)/4-s}} \\ & = [3n+4s] \frac{(q^{3-3n}; q^4)_s (q^{3+3n}; q^4)_s (q^3; q^4)_{(3n-3)/4+s} (q^6; q^4)_{(3n-3)/4-s}}{(q^{4-3n}; q^4)_s (q^{4+3n}; q^4)_s (q^4; q^4)_{(3n-3)/4+s} (q^3; q^4)_{(3n-3)/4-s}} q^{s+(9-9n)/4}, \end{aligned}$$

which is just the right-hand side of (7) with $a = q^{-3n}$ or $a = q^{3n}$. This proves that (7) holds modulo $1-aq^{3n}$ and $a-q^{3n}$.

Since $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, letting $d = 4$, $r = 3$ and $m = (3n-3)/4$ in Lemma 2.1, we get

$$\frac{(aq^3; q^4)_{m-k}}{(q^4/a; q^4)_{m-k}} \equiv (-a)^{m-2k} \frac{(aq^3; q^4)_k}{(q^4/a; q^4)_k} q^{m(2m+1)+k} \pmod{\Phi_n(q)} \quad (9)$$

for $0 \leq k \leq m$. Applying this q -congruence, it is routine to check that, for $m = (3n-3)/4$ and $s \leq k \leq m-s$,

$$\begin{aligned} & [8(m-k)+3] \frac{(aq^3; q^4)_{m-k} (q^3/a; q^4)_{m-k} (q^3; q^4)_{m-k-s} (q^3; q^4)_{m-k+s}}{(aq^4; q^4)_{m-k} (q^4/a; q^4)_{m-k} (q^4; q^4)_{m-k-s} (q^4; q^4)_{m-k+s}} q^{2k-2m} \\ & \equiv -[8k+3] \frac{(aq^3; q^4)_k (q^3/a; q^4)_k (q^3; q^4)_{k-s} (q^3; q^4)_{k+s}}{(aq^4; q^4)_k (q^4/a; q^4)_k (q^4; q^4)_{k-s} (q^4; q^4)_{k+s}} q^{-2k} \pmod{\Phi_n(q)}. \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Besides, for $(3n - 3)/4 - s < k \leq (3n - 3)/4$, the summand indexed k on the left-hand side of (7) is congruent to 0 modulo $\Phi_n(q)$ because $k + s > (3n - 3)/4$ and $(q^3; q^4)_{k+s}$ in the numerator contains the factor $1 - q^{3n}$. This implies that the left-hand side of (7) is congruent to 0 modulo $\Phi_n(q)$. In view of

$$[3n + 4s](q^3; q^4)_{(3n-3)/4+s} = [3n](q^3; q^4)_{(3n-3)/4}(q^{3n+4}; q^4)_s \equiv 0 \pmod{\Phi_n(q)}$$

for $n > 1$, we conclude that (7) is also true modulo $\Phi_n(q)$. Observing that $1 - aq^n$, $a - q^n$, and $\Phi_n(q)$ are pairwise coprime polynomials, we finish the proof of the theorem. \square

Proof of Theorem 1.1. Since $(n, 4) = 1$, the factors related to a in the denominators on both sides of (7) are coprime with $\Phi_n(q)$ for $a = 1$. Moreover, when $a = 1$ the polynomial $(1 - aq^{3n})(a - q^{3n}) = (1 - q^{3n})^2$ has the factor $\Phi_n(q)^2$. Hence, setting $a = 1$ in (7), we get the desired q -supercongruence (4). \square

3 Proof of Theorem 1.2

The proof is analogous to that of Theorem 1.1. We first build the following parametric generalization of Theorem 1.2.

Theorem 3.1. *Let $n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ be an integer greater than 1. Let a be an indeterminate and $0 \leq s \leq (n - 3)/4$. Then, modulo $\Phi_n(q)(1 - aq^n)(a - q^n)$,*

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=s}^{(n-3)/4} [8k + 3] \frac{(aq^3; q^4)_k (q^3/a; q^4)_k (q^3; q^4)_{k-s} (q^3; q^4)_{k+s}}{(aq^4; q^4)_k (q^4/a; q^4)_k (q^4; q^4)_{k-s} (q^4; q^4)_{k+s}} q^{-2k} \\ & \equiv [n + 4s] \frac{(aq^3; q^4)_s (q^3/a; q^4)_s (q^3; q^4)_{(n-3)/4+s} (q^6; q^4)_{(n-3)/4-s}}{(aq^4; q^4)_s (q^4/a; q^4)_s (q^4; q^4)_{(n-3)/4+s} (q^3; q^4)_{(n-3)/4-s}} q^{s-3(n-3)/4}. \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

Proof. For $a = q^{-n}$ or $a = q^n$, the left-hand side of (11) is equal to

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=s}^{(n-3)/4} [8k + 3] \frac{(q^{3-n}; q^4)_k (q^{3+n}; q^4)_k (q^3; q^4)_{k-s} (q^3; q^4)_{k+s}}{(q^{4-n}; q^4)_k (q^{4+n}; q^4)_k (q^4; q^4)_{k-s} (q^4; q^4)_{k+s}} q^{-2k} \\ & = [8s + 3] \frac{(q^{3-n}; q^4)_s (q^{3+n}; q^4)_s (q^3; q^4)_{2s}}{(q^{4-n}; q^4)_s (q^{4+n}; q^4)_s (q^4; q^4)_{2s}} q^{-2s} \\ & \quad \times {}_6\phi_5 \left[\begin{matrix} q^{3+8s}, & q^{\frac{1}{2}+4s}, & -q^{\frac{1}{2}+4s}, & q^3, & q^{3+n+4s}, & q^{3-n+4s} \\ & q^{\frac{3}{2}+4s}, & -q^{\frac{3}{2}+4s}, & q^{4+8s}, & q^{4-n+4s}, & q^{4+n+4s} \end{matrix} ; q^4, q^{-2} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Letting $q \mapsto q^4$, $a = q^{3+8s}$, $b = q^3$, $c = q^{3+n+4s}$, and $n \mapsto (n - 3)/4 - s$ in (6), we see that the right-hand side of (12) has the following closed form:

$$\begin{aligned} & q^{-2s} [8s + 3] \frac{(q^{3-n}; q^4)_s (q^{3+n}; q^4)_s (q^3; q^4)_{2s} (q^{7+8s}; q^4)_{(n-3)/4-s} (q^{1-n+4s}; q^4)_{(n-3)/4-s}}{(q^{4-n}; q^4)_s (q^{4+n}; q^4)_s (q^4; q^4)_{2s} (q^{4+8s}; q^4)_{(n-3)/4-s} (q^{4-n+4s}; q^4)_{(n-3)/4-s}} \\ & = [n + 4s] \frac{(q^{3-n}; q^4)_s (q^{3+n}; q^4)_s (q^3; q^4)_{(n-3)/4+s} (q^6; q^4)_{(n-3)/4-s}}{(q^{4-n}; q^4)_s (q^{4+n}; q^4)_s (q^4; q^4)_{(n-3)/4+s} (q^3; q^4)_{(n-3)/4-s}} q^{s-3(n-3)/4}. \end{aligned}$$

This means that (11) is true modulo $1 - aq^n$ and $a - q^n$.

Since $n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$, taking $d = 4, r = 3$ and $m = (n - 3)/4$ in Lemma 2.1, we have (9) for $0 \leq k \leq m$ once more. Using this q -congruence, we can easily verify (10) for $m = (n - 3)/4$ and $s \leq k \leq m - s$. Moreover, for $(n - 3)/4 - s < k \leq (n - 3)/4$, the summand indexed k on the left-hand side of (11) is congruent to 0 modulo $\Phi_n(q)$ because $k + s > (n - 3)/4$ and $(q^3; q^4)_{k+s}$ in the numerator incorporates the factor $1 - q^n$. This indicates that the left-hand side of (11) is congruent to 0 modulo $\Phi_n(q)$. In light of

$$[n + 4s](q^3; q^4)_{(n-3)/4+s} = [n](q^3; q^4)_{(n-3)/4}(q^{n+4}; q^4)_s \equiv 0 \pmod{\Phi_n(q)}$$

for $n > 1$, we conclude that (11) also holds modulo $\Phi_n(q)$. \square

Proof of Theorem 1.2. For $a = 1$ the polynomial $(1 - aq^n)(a - q^n) = (1 - q^n)^2$ has the factor $\Phi_n(q)^2$. Thus, taking $a = 1$ in (11), we obtain the q -supercongruence (5). \square

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