

THE EQUIVALENCE OF TWO SEMI-FINITE FORMS OF THE QUINTUPLE PRODUCT IDENTITY

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Abstract

Through the application of Abel's summation by parts approach, it is demonstrated that two semi-finite forms of the quintuple product identity are comparable.

Keywords: quintuple product identity; semi-finite form; Abel's method on summing by parts; q-series.

• INTRODUCTION

The celebrated quintuple product identity states that [1, p. 82]:

$$(1.1) \quad \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^k q^{\frac{k(3k-1)}{2}} (1 + zq^k) z^{3k} = \frac{(q, q/z^2, z^2; q)_{\infty}}{(z, q/z; q)_{\infty}}, \quad z \neq 0.$$

Here and throughout this note, we define the products of q-shifted factorials as usual by

$$(a; q)_{\infty} = \prod_{l=0}^{\infty} (1 - aq^l) \quad \text{and} \quad (a; q)_n = \frac{(a; q)_{\infty}}{(aq^n; q)_{\infty}},$$

for $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $|q| < 1$, with the following abbreviated multiple parameter notation $(a, b, \dots, c; q)_k = (a; q)_k (b; q)_k \dots (c; q)_k, k \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{\infty\}$.

For the historical remark and numerous proofs of this significant identity (1.1), the reader can consult the study [5]. Liu [6] provided a strong generalisation of (1.1) along with certain applications.

Two of the three semi-finite forms of the quintuple product identity provided by the author and Zhang [7, 8] are expressed in the ensuing two theorems, respectively.

Theorem 1. ([7, 8]) It has holds

$$(1.2) \quad \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(z^2; q)_k}{(q; q)_k} q^{k^2} (1 + zq^k) z^k = (-z; q)_{\infty} (z^2 q; q^2)_{\infty},$$

Theorem 1.2. ([8]) There holds

$$(1.3) \quad \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(z^2q; q)_k}{(q; q)_k} q^{k^2} (1 - z^2q^{2k+1}) z^k = (-zq; q)_{\infty} (z^2q; q^2)_{\infty}, \quad z \in \mathbb{C}.$$

We direct the reader to [7] and [8], respectively, for the technicalities of deriving the quintuple product identity (1.1) from Theorem 1.1 and 1.2.

Using Abel's summing by parts method, we shall demonstrate in this brief note that Theorem 1.2 is equal to Theorem 1.1.

When assessing finite and infinite summations, the modified version of Abel's lemma on summation by parts works incredibly well. See, for example, [2-4]. This approach is limited to the situation where the series is unilateral and nonterminating, as indicated by the lemma that follows.

For an arbitrary complex sequence $\{A_k\}$, let

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} B_k \nabla A_k = [AB]_+ - A_{-1} B_0 + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} A_k \Delta B_k,$$

$$\nabla A_k := A_k - A_{k-1} \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta A_k := A_k$$

$- A_{k+1}$. Lemma 1.3. Let $\{A_k\}$ and $\{B_k\}$ be two complex sequences.

Then we have

provided that the series on both sides are convergent and there exists

the limit $[AB]_+ := \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} A_k B_{k+1}$.

• THE EQUIVALENCE of THEOREM 1.1 AND 1.2

Let

$$f(z) := \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(z^2q; q)_k}{(q; q)_k} q^{k^2} (1 - z^2q^{2k+1}) z^k$$

And

$$g(z) := \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(z^2; q)_k}{(q; q)_k} q^{k^2} (1 + zq^k) z^k.$$

Define

$$A_k := \frac{(q^2 z^2; q)_k}{(q; q)_k} (-1)^k q^{\frac{k^2+k}{2}} \quad \text{and} \quad B_k := (-1)^k q^{\frac{k^2+k}{2}} z^k.$$

Then, we have

With the differences

And

Using Lemma 1.3, we get

$$A_{-1}B_0 = [AB]_+ = 0$$

$$\nabla A_k = \frac{(1 - z^2 q^{2k+1})(z^2 q; q)_k}{(1 - z^2 q)(q; q)_k} (-1)^k q^{\frac{k^2-k}{2}}$$

$$\Delta B_k = (-1)^k q^{\frac{k^2+k}{2}} (1 + zq^{k+1}) z^k.$$

$$f(z) = (1 - z^2 q) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} B_k \nabla A_k = (1 - z^2 q) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} A_k \Delta B_k$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= (1 - z^2 q) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(q^2 z^2; q)_k}{(q; q)_k} q^{k^2+k} (1 + zq^{k+1}) z^k \\
 (2.1) \quad &= (1 - z^2 q) g(qz).
 \end{aligned}$$

- From Theorem 1.2 to Theorem 1.1. Combining (2.1) and Theorem 1.2, we get

$$g(qz) = \frac{f(z)}{1 - z^2 q} = \frac{(-zq; q)_{\infty} (z^2 q; q^2)_{\infty}}{1 - z^2 q} = (-zq; q)_{\infty} (z^2 q^3; q^2)_{\infty}.$$

Then, replacing z with zq^{-1} gives the identity (1.2), which completes the proof of Theorem 1.1.

- From Theorem 1.1 to Theorem 1.2. Using (2.1) and Theorem 1.1, we have

$f(z) = (1 - z^2 q)g(qz) = (1 - z^2 q)(-zq; q)_{\infty} (z^2 q^3; q^2)_{\infty} = (-zq; q)_{\infty} (z^2 q; q^2)_{\infty}$, which is the identity (1.3). This ends the proof of Theorem 1.2.

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