

# Combinatorial Counterpart of Some $q$ –Series in the light of Colour Partitions

Shaikh Fokor Uddin Ali Ahmed

Assistant Professor

F. A. Ahmed College, Garoimari, Kamrup, Assam, India.

Department Of Mathematics

E-mail: [fokoruddin86@gmail.com](mailto:fokoruddin86@gmail.com)

## Abstract

The  $n$  –Colour partition, introduced by Agarwal and Andrews [1] are extended to  $(n + t)$ –color partitions where the parts of size  $n$  can come in  $(n + t)$ ,  $t \geq 0$ , different colors. In the study of partition theory, the  $q$  –series plays an important role. The  $q$  –series are integral part of partition identities and hence for deep combinatorial study of analytic partition identities, it is important to know the combinatorial counterpart of  $q$  –series first.

In this paper, the combinatorial counterpart of some analytic  $q$  –series has been given in the light of Colour Partitions

**Keywords:**  $q$  –series,  $n$  –Colour partition,  $(n + t)$ –color partitions, Generating functions, Partition functions, Combinatorial interpretations, etc.

## 1. Introduction:

Throughout this paper, we assume  $|q| < 1$  and, as customary, we define

$$(a; q)_0 = 1$$

$$(a; q)_n = \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} (1 - aq^k), \text{ for } n \geq 1$$

and,

$$(a; q)_\infty = \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} (1 - aq^k).$$

It follows that  $(a; q)_n = \frac{(a; q)_\infty}{(aq^n; q)_\infty}$

The multiple  $q$ -shifted factorial is defined by

$$(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m; q)_n = (a_1; q)_n (a_2; q)_n \dots (a_m; q)_n$$

$$(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m; q)_\infty = (a_1; q)_\infty (a_2; q)_\infty \dots (a_m; q)_\infty$$

**Definition 1:** An  $n$ - colour partition (also called a partition with  $n$  copies of  $n$ ) of a positive integer  $\mu$  is a partition in which a part of size  $n$ , ( $n \geq 0$ ) can come in  $n$  different colours denoted by the subscripts:  $n_1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_n$  and the parts satisfy the order:

$$1_1 < 2_1 < 2_2 < 3_1 < 3_2 < 3_3 < 4_1 < 4_2 < 4_3 < 4_4 < 5_1 < \dots \dots \dots$$

For example, the six  $n$  colour partitions of 3 are:

$$3_1, 3_2, 3_3, 2_1 + 1_1, 2_2 + 1_1, 1_1 + 1_1 + 1_1$$

The concept of  $(n + t)$ - colour partitions or “ $(n + t)$  copies of  $n$ ”,  $t \geq 0$  is an extended work of  $n$ - colour partition.

**Definition 2:** A partition with “ $(n + t)$  copies of  $n$ ”,  $t \geq 0$ , is a partition in which a part of size  $n$ ,  $n \geq 0$ , can come in  $n + t$  different colours denoted by subscripts  $n_1, n_2, n_3, \dots, n_{n+t}$ . The parts in an  $(n + t)$ - colour partition can be arranged lexicographically as:

$$1_1 < 1_2 < 1_3 < 2_1 < 2_2 < 2_3 < 3_1 < 3_2 < 3_3 < \dots \dots \dots$$

Note that zero appears as a part if  $t \geq 1$  and also zeros are not allowed to repeat in any partition.

For example, there are twenty  $(n + 2)$ - colour partitions of 2 as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} 2_1 & 2_1 0_2 & 1_1 1_1 & 1_3 1_2 & 1_3 1_1 0_2 \\ 2_2 & 2_2 0_2 & 1_2 1_1 & 1_3 1_3 & 1_2 1_2 0_2 \\ 2_3 & 2_3 0_2 & 1_3 1_1 & 1_1 1_1 0_2 & 1_3 1_2 0_2 \\ 2_4 & 2_4 0_2 & 1_2 1_2 & 1_2 1_1 0_2 & 1_3 1_3 0_2 \end{array}$$

If  $m_i, n_j, m \geq n$  are any two parts of an  $n$  colour partition, then their weighted difference is defined by  $m - n - i - j$  and is denoted by  $((m_i - n_j))$ .

Since the  $(n + t)$ - colour partitions are only the extensions of  $n$ - colour partitions, so the weighted difference among any two parts  $m_i, n_j$ , in an  $(n + t)$ - colour partitions is same as defined  $n$ - colour partitions.

If  $P(\mu)$  denote the number of  $n$ -colour partitions of  $\gamma$  then the generating function  $F(q)$  for  $P(\mu)$  is given by,

$$F(q) = \sum_{\gamma=0}^{\infty} P(\mu) q^{\mu} = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1 - q^n)^n} \quad (1.1)$$

Using the notion of  $n$ -colour partition, Agarwal [4] obtained the combinatorial interpretation of the following generalised basic  $q$  –series

$$\sum_{\gamma=0}^{\infty} B_k(\mu) q^{\mu} = \frac{q^{n(1 + \frac{(k+3)(n-1)}{2})}}{(q; q)_n (q; q^2)_n} \quad (1.2)$$

where  $(q; q)_n = \prod_{k=1}^n (1 - q^k)$  and  $(q; q)_{\infty} = \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^k)$  for  $|q| < 1$ , as follows:

**Theorem 1.1:** For  $k \geq -3$ ,  $B_k(\mu)$  represents the number of  $n$ -colour partitions of  $\mu$  such that each pair of parts  $m_i, n_j$  satisfies  $((m_i - n_j)) > k$ .

For  $k = 0, -1, -2$ , Theorem 1.1, in view of the identities viz,

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{n(3n-1)/2}}{(q; q)_n (q; q^2)_n} = \frac{(q^4, q^6, q^{10}, q^{10})_{\infty}}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \quad (1.3)$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{n^2}}{(q;q)_n (q;q^2)_n} = \frac{(q^6, q^8, q^{14}; q^{14})_{\infty}}{(q;q)_{\infty}} \quad (1.4)$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{n(n+1)/2}}{(q;q)_n (q;q^2)_n} = \frac{(-q;q)_{\infty} (q^2, q^5, q^7; q^7)_{\infty}}{(q;q)_{\infty} (-q, -q^6; q^7)_{\infty}} \quad (1.5)$$

from [6, Eqn. (46), (61)] and [7, Eqn. (3.1)] reduces to the following Theorems (1.2), (1.3) and (1.4).

**Theorem (1.2):** The number of  $n$  –colour partitions of  $\mu$  such that each pair of parts  $m_i, n_j, m_i \geq n_j$  satisfies the weighted difference  $((m_i - n_j)) > 0$  is equal to the number of ordinary partitions of  $\mu$  into parts  $\not\equiv 0, \pm 4 \pmod{10}$ .

**Theorem (1.3):** The number of  $n$  –colour partitions of  $\mu$  such that each pair of parts  $m_i, n_j, m_i \geq n_j$  satisfies the weighted difference  $((m_i - n_j)) > 0$  is equal to the number of ordinary partitions of  $\mu$  into parts  $\not\equiv 0, \pm 6 \pmod{14}$ .

**Theorem (1.4):** The number of  $n$  –colour partitions of  $\mu$  such that each pair of parts  $m_i, n_j, m_i \geq n_j$  satisfies the weighted difference  $((m_i - n_j)) > 0$  is equal  $\sum_{k=0}^{\mu} C(\mu - k)D(k)$ , where  $C(\mu)$  denote the number of partitions of  $\mu$  into distinct parts  $\equiv \pm 3 \pmod{7}$  and  $D(\mu)$  denote the number of partitions of  $\mu$  into distinct parts  $\equiv \pm 4 \pmod{14}$ .

Recently, A.K. Agarwal and M. Rana [8], obtains the  $n$  –colour partition theoretic interpretation of a generalised  $q$  –series as follows:

**Theorem 1.5:** For a given positive integer  $k$ , let  $G_k(\mu)$  represent the  $n$  –colour partitions of  $\mu$  into parts greater than or equal to  $k$  such that first copy (resp. second copy) of the odd parts (resp. even parts) and the second copy (resp. first copy) of the even parts (resp. odd parts) appear if  $k$  is odd (resp. even). The weighted difference between any two parts is nonnegative and even. Then

$$\sum_{\gamma=0}^{\infty} G_k(\mu) q^{\mu} = \frac{(-q; q^2)_n q^{n(n+k-1)}}{(q^2; q^2)_n}$$

The Theorem 1.5 facilitates to give the  $n$  –colour combinatorial interpretations of the famous analytic versions of Gollnitz-Gordon identities as listed in [6, I(36), I(34)] and [9, Cor. 2.7, p.21 with  $q = q^2$  and  $a = -2$ ] for the sum sides.

## 2. Main Results:

In this section, we give the combinatorial interpretations of some  $q$  – Series with the help of  $(n + t)$  – colour partitions:

**Theorem 2.1:** If  $P_1(\mu)$  denote the number of partitions of  $\mu$  with  $n$  copies of  $n$  into parts greater than or equal to 2 such that if  $m_i$  is the least or only part in the partition then  $m - i \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$  and the weighted difference between consecutive parts is non-negative and  $\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ . Then the generating function of  $P_1(\mu)$  is given by

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P_1(\mu) q^{\mu} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2n^2}}{(q^4; q^4)_n (q; q^2)_n}$$

**Example 2.1:** For  $\mu = 8$ , there are three partitions enumerated by  $P_1(8)$  are:

$$8_2, 8_6 \text{ and } 5_1 3_1$$

**Proof of Theorem 2.1:** Let  $P_1(\mu, m)$  denote the number of partitions enumerated by  $P_1(\mu)$  into exactly  $m$  parts. We split the partitions enumerated by  $P_1(\mu, m)$  into the following three classes:

- (i) those that do not contain  $k_{k-1}$  as a part.
- (ii) those that contain  $2_1$  as a part.
- (iii) those that contain  $k_{k-2}$ , ( $k > 2$ ) as a part.

We now transform the partitions in class (i) by subtracting 4 from each part ignoring the subscripts, it will not disturb the inequalities between the parts and so the transformed partition will be of the type enumerated by  $P_1(m, \mu - 4m)$ .

Next, we transform the partitions in class (ii) by deleting the part  $2_1$  and then subtracting 4 from all the remaining parts ignoring the subscripts. The transformed partition will be of the type enumerated by  $P_1(m - 1, \mu - 4m + 2)$ .

Finally, we transform the partitions in class (iii) by replacing  $k_{k-2}$  by  $(k + 1)_{(k-3)}$  and then subtracting 2 from all the remaining parts. This will produce a partition of  $\mu - 2m + 1$  into  $m$  parts. It is important to note that, by this transformation we will get only the partitions of  $\mu - 2m + 1$  into  $m$  parts which contain a part of the form  $k_{k-2}$ . Therefore the actual number of partitions which belongs to class (iii) is  $P_1(m, \mu - 2m + 1) - P_1(m, \mu - 6m + 1)$ , where  $P_1(m, \mu - 6m + 1)$  is the number of partitions of  $\mu - 2m + 1$  into  $m$  parts which are free from parts like  $k_k$  or  $k_{(k-2)}$ .

The above transformations are reversible and hence establish bisection between the partitions enumerated by  $A_1(m, \gamma)$  and those enumerated by

$$P_1(m, \mu - 4m) + P_1(m - 1, \mu - 4m + 2) + P_1(m, \mu - 2m + 1) - P_1(m, \mu - 6m + 1)$$

This leads to the recurrence relation

$$P_1(m, \mu) = P_1(m, \mu - 4m) + P_1(m - 1, \mu - 4m + 2) + P_1(m, \mu - 2m + 1) - P_1(m, \mu - 6m + 1) \quad (2.1)$$

Let

$$g_1(z; q) = \sum_{\gamma=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} P_1(m, \gamma) z^m q^\gamma \quad (2.2)$$

Substituting  $P_1(m, \gamma)$  from (2.1) into (2.2), we get,

$$g_1(z; q) = g_1(zq^4; q) + zq^2 g_1(zq^4; q) + q^{-1} g_1(zq^2; q) - q^{-1} g_1(zq^6; q) \quad (2.3)$$

Consider

$$g_1(z; q) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \alpha_n(q) z^n \quad (2.4)$$

Now, using (2.4) in (2.3) and then comparing the coefficients of  $z^n$ , we get

$$\alpha_n(q) = q^{4n} \alpha_n(q) + q^{4n-2} \alpha_{n-1}(q) + q^{2n-1} \alpha_n(q) - q^{6n-1} \alpha_n(q) \quad (2.5)$$

Hence,

$$\alpha_n(q) = \frac{q^{4n-2}}{(1-q^{4n})(1-q^{2n-1})} \alpha_{n-1}(q) \quad (2.6)$$

Iterating (2.6)  $n$  –times and noting that  $\alpha_0(q) = 1$ , we get,

$$\alpha_n(q) = \frac{q^{2n^2}}{(q^4; q^4)_n (q; q^2)_n} \quad (2.7)$$

Putting the value of  $\alpha_n(q)$  in (2.4), we get

$$g_1(z; q) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \alpha_n(q) z^n$$

$$g_1(z; q) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2n^2}}{(q^4; q^4)_n (q; q^2)_n} \cdot z^n$$

$$g_1(1; q) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2n^2}}{(q^4; q^4)_n (q; q^2)_n}$$

Now, since

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\gamma=0}^{\infty} P_1(\mu) q^\gamma &= \sum_{\mu=0}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} P_1(m, \mu) \right) q^\mu \\ &= g_1(1; q) \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2n^2}}{(q^4; q^4)_n (q; q^2)_n} \end{aligned} \quad (2.8)$$

This completes the proof.

**Theorem 2.2.** let  $P_2(\mu)$  denote the number of partitions of  $\mu$  with “ $n$  copies of  $n$ ” into parts greater than or equal to 3 such that if  $m_i$  is the least or the only part in the partition then  $m - i \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$  and weighted difference between consecutive parts is non-negative and  $\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$

Then the generating function of  $P_2(\mu)$  is given by

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P_2(\mu) q^\mu = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2n^2+2n}}{(q^4; q^4)_n (q; q^2)_n}$$

**Proof:** let  $P_2(m, \mu)$  denote the number of partitions of  $\mu$  enumerated by  $P_2(\mu)$  into  $m$  parts. We split the partitions enumerated

by  $P_2(m, \mu)$  into three classes:

- (i) those that do not contain  $k_k - 2$  as a part,
- (ii) those that contain  $3_1$  as a part,
- (iii) those that contain  $k_{k-2} (k > 3)$  as a part.

We now transform the partitions into class (i) by subtracting 4 from each part ignoring the subscripts, it will not disturb the inequalities between the parts and transformed partition will be of the type enumerated by  $P_2(m, \mu - 4m)$ . Next, transform the partitions in class (ii) by deleting the least part  $3_1$  and then subtracting 2 from all the remaining parts ignoring the subscripts. The transformed partition will be of the type enumerated by  $P_2(m - 1, \mu - 2m - 1)$ . Finally, we transform the partitions in class (iii) by

replacing the part  $k_{k-2}$  by  $(k+1)_{k-3}$  and then subtracting 2 from all the parts. This will produce the partitions of  $(\mu - 2m + 1)$  into  $m$  parts. Note here that, by this transformation we will get only those partitions of  $(\mu - 2m + 1)$  into  $m$  parts which contain a part of the form  $k_{k-2}$ .

Therefore, the actual number of partitions which belong to class (iii) is  $P_2(m, \mu - 2m + 1) - P_2(m, \mu - 6m + 1)$  where  $P_2(m, \mu - 6m + 1)$  is the number of partitions of  $\mu - 2m + 1$  into  $m$  parts which are free from parts like  $K_{k-2}$ .

The above transformations are clearly reversible and bijection between the partitions enumerated by  $P_2(m, \mu)$  and those enumerated by  $P_2(m, \mu - 4m) + P_2(m - 1, \mu - 2m - 1) + P_2(m - 1, \mu - 2m + 1) - P_2(m, \mu - 6m + 1)$

This leads to the recurrence relation

$$P_2(m, \mu) = P_2(m, \mu - 4m) + P_2(m - 1, \mu - 2m - 1) + P_2(m - 1, \mu - 2m + 1) - P_2(m, \mu - 6m + 1) \quad (2.9)$$

Now let,

$$g_2(z; q) = \sum_{\mu=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} P_2(m, \mu) z^m q^\mu \quad (2.10)$$

Substituting  $P_2(m, \mu)$  from (2.9) into (2.10), we get,

$$g_2(z; q) = g_2(zq^4; q) + zq^3 g_2(zq^2; q) + q^{-1} g_2(zq^2; q) - q^{-1} g_2(zq^6; q) \quad (2.11)$$

Consider

$$g_2(z; q) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta_n(q) z^n \quad (2.12)$$

Now, using (2.12) in (2.11) and then comparing the coefficients of  $z^n$ , we get

$$\beta_n(q) = q^{4n} \beta_n(q) + q^{2n+1} \beta_{n-1}(q) + q^{2n-1} \beta_n(q) - q^{6n-1} \beta_n(q)$$

Hence,

$$\beta_n(q) = \frac{q^{2n+1}}{(1-q^{4n})(1-q^{2n-1})} \beta_{n-1}(q) \quad (2.13)$$

Iterating (2.13)  $n$  -times and noting that  $\beta_0(q) = 1$ , we get,

$$\beta_n(q) = \frac{q^{n^2+2n}}{(q^4; q^4)_n (q; q^2)_n} \quad (2.14)$$

Putting the value of  $\alpha_n(q)$  in (2.12), we get

$$g_2(z; q) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta_n(q) z^n$$

$$g_2(z; q) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{n^2+2n}}{(q^4; q^4)_n (q; q^2)_n} \cdot z^n$$

$$g_2(1; q) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{n^2+2n}}{(q^4; q^4)_n (q; q^2)_n}$$

Now,

$$\sum_{\gamma=0}^{\infty} P_2(\mu) q^\mu = \sum_{\mu=0}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} P_2(m, \mu) \right) q^\mu$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \sum_{\mu, m=0}^{\infty} P_2(m, \mu) q^{\mu} \\
 &= g_2(1; q) \\
 &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{n^2+2n}}{(q^4; q^4)_n (q; q^2)_n}
 \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof.

**Theorem 2.3.** let  $P_3(\mu)$  denote the number of partitions of  $\mu$  with “ $n$  copies of  $n$ ” into parts greater than or equal to 3 such that if  $m_i$  is the least or the only part in the partition then  $m \equiv i \pmod{4}$  and weighted difference between consecutive parts is non-negative and  $\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$

Then the generating function of  $P_3(\mu)$  is given by

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P_3(\mu) q^{\mu} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{n^2}}{(q^4; q^4)_n (q; q^2)_n} \quad (2.15)$$

**Proof:** let  $P_3(m, \mu)$  denote the number of partitions of  $\mu$  enumerated by  $P_3(\mu)$  into  $m$  parts. We split the partitions enumerated

by  $P_3(m, \mu)$  into three classes:

- (i) those that do not contain  $k_k$  as a part,
- (ii) those that contain  $1_1$  as a part,
- (iii) those that contain  $k_k$  ( $k > 2$ ) as a part.

We now transform the partitions into class (i) by subtracting 4 from each part ignoring the subscripts, it will not disturb the inequalities between the parts and transformed partition will be of the type enumerated by  $P_3(m, \mu - 4m)$ .

Next, transform the partitions in class (ii) by deleting the least part  $1_1$  and then subtracting 2 from all the remaining parts ignoring the subscripts. The transformed partition will be of the type enumerated by  $P_3(m - 1, \mu - 2m + 1)$ .

Finally, we transform the partitions in class (iii) by replacing the part  $k_k$  by  $(k + 1)_{k-1}$  and then subtracting 2 from all the parts. This will produce the partitions of  $(\mu - 2m + 1)$  into  $m$  parts. Note here that, by this transformation we will get only those partitions of  $(\mu - 2m + 1)$  into  $m$  parts which contain a part of the form  $k_k$ .

Therefore, the actual number of partitions which belong to class (iii) is  $P_3(m, \mu - 2m + 1) - P_3(m, \mu - 6m + 1)$  where  $P_3(m, \mu - 6m + 1)$  is the number of partitions of  $\mu - 2m + 1$  into  $m$  parts which are free from parts like  $K_{k-2}$ . The above transformations are clearly reversible and bijection between the partitions enumerated by  $P_3(m, \mu)$  and those enumerated by  $P_3(m, \mu - 4m) + P_3(m - 1, \mu - 2m + 1) + P_3(m, \mu - 2m + 1) - P_3(m, \mu - 6m + 1)$

This leads to the recurrence relation

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_3(m, \mu) = & P_3(m, \mu - 4m) + P_3(m - 1, \mu - 2m + 1) + P_3(m, \mu - 2m + 1) \\
 & - P_3(m, \mu - 6m + 1)
 \end{aligned} \quad (2.16)$$

Now let,

$$g_3(z; q) = \sum_{\mu=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} P_3(m, \mu) z^m q^{\mu} \quad (2.17)$$

Proceeding as same as in proof of Theorem 2.2, we get the following  $q$ -functional equation

$$g_3(z; q) = g_3(zq^4; q) + zq g_3(zq^2; q) + q^{-1} g_3(zq^2; q) - q^{-1} g_3(zq^6; q) \quad (2.18)$$

Consider

$$g_3(z; q) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma_n(q) z^n \quad (2.19)$$

Now, since  $g_3(0; q) = 1$ , using (2.19) in (2.18) and then comparing the coefficients of  $z^n$ , we get

$$\gamma_n(q) = q^{4n} \gamma_n(q) + q^{2n-1} \gamma_{n-1}(q) + q^{2n-1} \gamma_n(q) - q^{6n-1} \gamma_n(q)$$

Hence,

$$\gamma_n(q) = \frac{q^{2n-1}}{(1-q^{4n})(1-q^{2n-1})} \gamma_{n-1}(q) \quad (2.20)$$

Iterating (2.20)  $n$  –times and noting that  $\gamma_0(q) = 1$ , we get,

$$\gamma_n(q) = \frac{q^{n^2}}{(q^4; q^4)_n (q; q^2)_n} \quad (2.21)$$

Putting the value of  $\gamma_n(q)$  in (2.10), we get

$$\begin{aligned} g_3(z; q) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma_n(q) z^n \\ g_3(z; q) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{n^2+2n}}{(q^4; q^4)_n (q; q^2)_n} \cdot z^n \\ g_3(1; q) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{n^2+2n}}{(q^4; q^4)_n (q; q^2)_n} \end{aligned}$$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\mu=0}^{\infty} P_3(\mu) q^\mu &= \sum_{\mu=0}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} P_3(m, \mu) \right) q^\mu \\ &= \sum_{\mu, m=0}^{\infty} P_3(m, \mu) q^\mu \\ &= g_3(1; q) \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{n^2}}{(q^4; q^4)_n (q; q^2)_n} \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof.

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