

Some Legendre theorems for partitions with early conditions

by

Darlison Nyirenda
University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Online Talk

9 February, 2023

- Introduction
- Motivation
- Partitions with initial repetitions
- On Andrews' partitions with initial 2-repetitions
- Variations

Definition

A partition of n shall be taken as a representation $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_m)$ where $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_m \geq 1$ such that $\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i = n$

- Multiplicity notation: $(\mu_1^{m_1}, \mu_2^{m_2}, \mu_3^{m_3}, \dots, \mu_\ell^{m_\ell})$ in which m_i denotes the multiplicity of the part μ_i and $\mu_1 > \mu_2 > \dots > \mu_\ell$. If $m_i = 1$ for all i , we have a partition into distinct parts.
- $d(n)$: the number of partitions of n into distinct parts. Let $d^e(n)$ (resp. $d^o(n)$) be the number of $d(n)$ -partitions with even (resp. odd) length.

It turns out (by A.M. Legendre) that proved

$$d^e(n) - d^o(n) = \begin{cases} (-1)^j, & \text{if } n = j(3j \pm 1)/2, j \geq 0; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Hence, any partition theorem in the *shape* of Theorem 1 shall be called a Legendre theorem.

Another class of interest is the class of partitions with initial repetitions. This class was introduced by George Andrews.

Definition

Let k be a positive integer. A partition of n with initial k -repetitions is one in which if j is repeated at least k times, every positive integer less than j is repeated at least k times (this means that all parts $> j$ have multiplicities strictly less than k)

For example, $(3^3 2^4, 1^5)$ is a partition with initial 3-repetitions. It is also a partition with initial 4-repetitions

Theorem (Andrews, 2009)

The number of partitions of n with initial k -repetitions is equal to the number of partitions in which each part appears not more than $2k - 1$ times.

Proof:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{k(1+2+3+\dots+n)}}{(1-q)(1-q^2)\dots(1-q^n)} \prod_{j=n+1}^{\infty} (1+q^j+\dots+q^{(k-1)j})$$

is equal to

$$\prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1-q^{2kn}}{1-q^n}.$$

A bijective proof of this theorem was given by W. Keith.

Notation:

$f_e(n, m)$: the number of partitions of n with initial 2-repetitions with m *different* parts and an even number of distinct parts

$f_o(n, m)$: the number of partitions of n with initial 2-repetitions with m *different* parts and an odd number of distinct parts.

We have the following Legendre theorem.

Theorem (Andrews, 2009)

$$f_e(n, m) - f_o(n, m) = \begin{cases} (-1)^j, & \text{if } m = j, n = \frac{j(j+1)}{2}; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

This theorem has a combinatorial proof.

A broader class called partitions with early conditions were studied.

Question: Can we find more of Legendre theorems in the category of partitions with early conditions.

Tools:

We assume that $q \in \mathbb{C}$ and $|q| < 1$:

$$\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} z^n q^{n(n+1)/2} = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^n)(1 + zq^n)(1 + z^{-1}q^{n-1}) \quad (2)$$

where $z \neq 0$,

$$\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{n^2} = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 - q^n}{1 + q^n}. \quad (3)$$

Main Results

- On Andrews partitions with initial 2-repetitions:
The following factorisations hold:

Lemma

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2n^2-n}}{(q; q)_{2n-1}} = (-q; q)_{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} q^{n^2}, \quad (4)$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2n^2+n}}{(q; q)_{2n}} = (-q; q)_{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{n^2}. \quad (5)$$

PROOF:

$d(n) = d^e(n) - d^o(n) + 2d^o(n)$ so that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} d(n)q^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (d^e(n) - d^o(n))q^n + 2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} d^o(n)q^n.$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} d^o(n)q^n &= (-q; q)_{\infty} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (d^e(n) - d^o(n))q^n \\ &= (-q; q)_{\infty} - (q; q)_{\infty} \\ &= (-q; q)_{\infty} \left(1 - \frac{(q; q)_{\infty}}{(-q; q)_{\infty}} \right) \\ &= (-q; q)_{\infty} \left(1 - \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{n^2} \right) \quad (\text{by (3)}) \end{aligned}$$

$$= 2(-q; q)_{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} q^{n^2}.$$

It is not difficult to see that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} d^o(n) q^n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{q^{n(2n-1)}}{(q; q)_{2n-1}}$$

from which (4) follows. For (5), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} d^e(n) q^n &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} d(n) q^n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} d_o(n) q^n \\ &= (-q; q)_{\infty} + (-q; q)_{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{n^2} \quad (\text{by (4)}) \end{aligned}$$

$$= (-q; q)_{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{n^2}$$

It can easily be shown that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} d^e(n) q^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{n(2n+1)}}{(q; q)_{2n}}$$

and so (5) follows.

We have the following theorem.

Theorem

Let $b^e(n)$ be the number of partitions of n with initial 2-repetitions in which either all parts are distinct or the largest repeated part is even. Similarly, let $b^o(n)$ denote the number of partitions of n with initial 2-repetitions in which at least one part is repeated and the largest repeated part is odd. Then

$$b^e(n) - b^o(n) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } n = \frac{j(j+1)}{2}, j \geq 0; \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

PROOF:

Note that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b^e(n) q^n &= (-q; q)_{\infty} + \\
 &+ \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2(1+2+3+\dots+2m)}}{(q; q)_{2m}} \prod_{j=2m+1}^{\infty} (1 + q^j) \\
 &= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2(1+2+3+\dots+2m)}}{(q; q)_{2m}} \prod_{j=2m+1}^{\infty} (1 + q^j) \\
 &= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2m(2m+1)}}{(q; q)_{2m}} \prod_{j=2m+1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 - q^{2j})}{(1 - q^j)}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2m(2m+1)}}{(q; q)_{2m} (q^{2m+1}; q)_{\infty}} \prod_{j=2m+1}^{\infty} (1 - q^{2j}) \\
&= \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} q^{2m(2m+1)} \frac{\prod_{j=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^{2j})}{\prod_{j=1}^{2m} (1 - q^{2j})} \\
&= \frac{(q^2; q^2)_{\infty}}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2m(2m+1)}}{(q^2; q^2)_{2m}}
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b^o(n) q^n = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2(1+2+3+\dots+2m-1)}}{(q; q)_{2m-1}} \prod_{j=2m}^{\infty} (1 + q^j)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2(1+2+3+\dots+2m-1)}}{(q; q)_{2m-1}} \prod_{j=2m}^{\infty} \frac{1 - q^{2j}}{1 - q^j} \\
&= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2m(2m-1)}}{(q; q)_{2m-1} (q^{2m}; q)_{\infty}} \prod_{j=2m}^{\infty} (1 - q^{2j}) \\
&= \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} q^{2m(2m-1)} \frac{\prod_{j=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^{2j})}{\prod_{j=1}^{2m-1} (1 - q^{2j})}
\end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{(q^2; q^2)_\infty}{(q; q)_\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2m(2m-1)}}{(q^2; q^2)_{2m-1}}.$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (b^e(n) - b^o(n)) q^n &= \\ &= \frac{(q^2; q^2)_\infty}{(q; q)_\infty} \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2n(2n+1)}}{(q^2; q^2)_{2n}} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2n(2n-1)}}{(q^2; q^2)_{2n-1}} \right) \\ &= \frac{(q^4; q^4)_\infty}{(q; q)_\infty} \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{2n^2} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} q^{2n^2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \text{(by (4) and (5))} \\
&= \frac{(q^4; q^4)_\infty}{(q; q)_\infty} \left(\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{2n^2} \right) \\
&= \frac{(q^4; q^4)_\infty}{(q; q)_\infty} \frac{(q^2; q^2)_\infty}{(-q^2; q^2)_\infty} \text{ (by (3))} \\
&= \frac{(q^4; q^4)_\infty (-q; q)_\infty}{(-q^2; q^2)_\infty} \\
&= (q^4; q^4)_\infty (-q; q^4)_\infty (-q^3; q^4)_\infty \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^{2n^2+n} \text{ (by (2))}
\end{aligned}$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^{n(n+1)/2}.$$

In the following section we demonstrate how to give partition theoretic interpretation of numerous identities of Rogers-Ramanujan identities due to Lucy J. Slater (1952). We use the following identity for demonstration. The interpretation is given in terms of a Legendre theorem.

$$(q^2; q^2)_{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2n(n+1)}}{(q; q)_{2n+1}} = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^{8n})(1 + q^{8n-1})(1 + q^{8n-7}) \quad (6)$$

For more examples, see the article on arxiv.org (Legendre Theorems for partitions with initial repetitions, D.

Nyirenda & B. Mugwangwavari). Let $c_2(n)$ denote the number of partitions of n in which either

- (a) even parts are distinct and the only odd part is 1
or
- (b) there exists $j \geq 1$ such that an even part $2j$ appears twice, all positive even integers $< 2j$ appear twice, any even part $> 2j$ is distinct and the largest odd part is at most $2j + 1$.

Furthermore, let $c_{2,e}(n)$ (resp. $c_{2,o}(n)$) be $c_2(n)$ -partitions with an even (resp. odd) number of distinct even parts.

Then we have the following.

Theorem

For all $n \geq 0$,

$$c_{2,e}(n) - c_{2,o}(n) = \begin{cases} 1, & n = 4j^2 + 3j, j \in \mathbb{Z}; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

PROOF:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_2(n) q^n \\
 &= \frac{(-q^2; q^2)_{\infty}}{1 - q} \\
 &+ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2+2+4+4+\dots+2n+2n}}{(1 - q)(1 - q^3) \dots (1 - q^{2n+1})} (-q^{2n+2}; q^2)_{\infty} \\
 &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2+2+4+4+\dots+2n+2n}}{(1 - q)(1 - q^3) \dots (1 - q^{2n+1})} (-q^{2n+2}; q^2)_{\infty},
 \end{aligned}$$

So we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (c_{2,e}(n) - c_{2,o}(n)) q^n \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2n(n+1)} (q^{2n+2}; q^2)_{\infty}}{(q; q^2)_{n+1}} \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2n(n+1)} (q^2; q^2)_{\infty}}{(q; q^2)_{n+1} (q^2; q^2)_n} \\
&= (q^2; q^2)_{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2n(n+1)}}{(q; q^2)_{n+1} (q^2; q^2)_n} \\
&= (q^2; q^2)_{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2n(n+1)}}{(q; q)_{2n+1}} \quad (\text{by (6)})
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 + q^{8n-1}) (1 + q^{8n-7}) (1 - q^{8n}) \\
&= \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} q^{4n^2+3n}.
\end{aligned}$$

Example

Consider $n = 10$.

The $c_2(10)$ -partitions are:

$$(10), (8, 2), (8, 1^2), (6, 4), (6, 2, 1^2), (6, 1^4), (5^2), (4, 2, 1^4), \\ (4, 1^6), (2, 1^8), (1^{10}).$$

From the above, note that $c_{2,e}(10)$ -partitions are:

$(8, 2), (5^2), (1^{10}), (6, 4), (6, 2, 1^2), (4, 2, 1^4)$ and





$c_{2,o}(10)$ -partitions are: $(10), (8, 1^2), (6, 1^4), (4, 1^6), (2, 1^8)$.

Thus,

$$c_{2,e}(10) - c_{2,o}(10) = 1.$$

This agrees with the theorem because

$$10 = 4(-2)^2 + 3(-2).$$

-  G. E. Andrews, Partitions with initial repetitions, *Acta Math. Sin. Engl. Ser.* **25**(9), 1437 – 1442 (2009)
-  G. E. Andrews, The Theory of Partitions, Cambridge University Press, 1984
-  A. M. Legendre, Theorie des Nombres, vol. II, 3rd. ed., 1830 (Reprinted: Blanchard, Paris, 1955)
-  L. J. Slater, Further identities of the Rogers-Ramanujan type, *Proc. London Math. Soc.* **54**, 147 – 167 (1952)

THANK YOU!