

INFINITE FAMILIES OF ARITHMETIC IDENTITIES FOR 4-CORES

NAYANDEEP DEKA BARUAH  and KALLOL NATH

(Received 9 April 2012; accepted 13 April 2012; first published online 7 June 2012)

Abstract

Let $u(n)$ and $v(n)$ be the number of representations of a nonnegative integer n in the forms $x^2 + 4y^2 + 4z^2$ and $x^2 + 2y^2 + 2z^2$, respectively, with $x, y, z \in \mathbb{Z}$, and let $a_4(n)$ and $r_3(n)$ be the number of 4-cores of n and the number of representations of n as a sum of three squares, respectively. By employing simple theta-function identities of Ramanujan, we prove that $u(8n + 5) = 8a_4(n) = v(8n + 5) = \frac{1}{3}r_3(8n + 5)$. With the help of this and a classical result of Gauss, we find a simple proof of a result on $a_4(n)$ proved earlier by K. Ono and L. Sze [‘4-core partitions and class numbers’, *Acta Arith.* **80** (1997), 249–272]. We also find some new infinite families of arithmetic relations involving $a_4(n)$.

2010 *Mathematics subject classification*: primary 11P83; secondary 05A17.

Keywords and phrases: partitions, t -cores, theta functions, dissection.

1. Introduction

A partition λ is said to be a t -core if and only if it has no hook numbers that are multiples of t ; or if and only if λ has no rim hooks that are multiples of t . If $a_t(n)$ denotes the number of partitions of n that are t -cores, then the generating function for $a_t(n)$ is given by [3, Equation (2.1)]

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_t(n)q^n = \frac{(q^t; q^t)_{\infty}^t}{(q; q)_{\infty}};$$

here and throughout the paper, we assume that $|q| < 1$ and use the standard notation

$$(a; q)_{\infty} := \prod_{n=0}^{\infty} (1 - aq^n).$$

In particular, the generating function for $a_4(n)$ is given by

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_4(n)q^n = \frac{(q^4; q^4)_{\infty}^4}{(q; q)_{\infty}}. \tag{1.1}$$

In [4, 5], Hirschhorn and Sellers used some elementary generating function manipulations to find congruences and the following infinite families of arithmetic relations involving 4-cores: for $k \geq 1$,

$$3^k a_4(3n) = a_4\left(3^{2k+1}n + \frac{5 \times 3^{2k} - 5}{8}\right), \quad (1.2)$$

$$(2 \times 3^k - 1)a_4(3n + 1) = a_4\left(3^{2k+1}n + \frac{13 \times 3^{2k} - 5}{8}\right), \quad (1.3)$$

$$\left(\frac{3^{k+1} - 1}{2}\right)a_4(9n + 2) = a_4\left(3^{2k+2}n + \frac{7 \times 3^{2k+1} - 5}{8}\right), \quad (1.4)$$

$$\left(\frac{3^{k+1} - 1}{2}\right)a_4(9n + 8) = a_4\left(3^{2k+2}n + \frac{23 \times 3^{2k+1} - 5}{8}\right). \quad (1.5)$$

Again, if $h(-D)$ denotes the class number of primitive binary quadratic forms with discriminant $-D$ and $a_4(n)$ denotes the number of 4-cores of n , then, for a square-free integer $8n + 5$, Ono and Sze [7] proved that

$$a_4(n) = \frac{1}{2}h(-32n - 20). \quad (1.6)$$

Employing (1.6) and the index formulas for class numbers, Ono and Sze [7] proved (1.2)–(1.5) and some general identities conjectured by Hirschhorn and Sellers [5].

The main purpose of this paper is to use Ramanujan's simple theta-function identities to prove that $u(8n + 5) = 8a_4(n) = v(8n + 5) = \frac{1}{3}r_3(8n + 5)$, where $u(n)$ and $v(n)$ denote the number of representations of a nonnegative integer n in the form $x^2 + 4y^2 + 4z^2$ and $x^2 + 2y^2 + 2z^2$, respectively, with $x, y, z \in \mathbb{Z}$, and $r_3(n)$ denotes the number of representations of n as a sum of three squares. With the aid of this, we find new proofs of (1.2)–(1.5) as well as some analogous new infinite families of identities for $a_4(n)$. We note that Hirschhorn and Sellers [6] also proved the identity $8a_4(n) = \frac{1}{3}r_3(8n + 5)$ from which (1.2)–(1.5) can easily be deduced with the help of the other results in [6].

2. Preliminary results

For $|ab| < 1$, Ramanujan's general theta function $f(a, b)$ is defined by

$$f(a, b) := \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} a^{n(n+1)/2} b^{n(n-1)/2}.$$

Jacobi's famous triple product identity [1, p. 35, Entry 19] takes the form

$$f(a, b) = (-a; ab)_{\infty}(-b; ab)_{\infty}(ab; ab)_{\infty}. \quad (2.1)$$

The three most important special cases of $f(a, b)$ are

$$\varphi(q) := f(q, q) = 1 + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} q^{n^2} = (-q; q^2)_{\infty}^2 (q^2; q^2)_{\infty}, \tag{2.2}$$

$$\psi(q) := f(q, q^3) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^{n(n+1)/2} = \frac{(q^2; q^2)_{\infty}}{(q; q^2)_{\infty}}, \tag{2.3}$$

and

$$f(-q) := f(-q, -q^2) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{n(3n-1)/2} = (q; q)_{\infty}, \tag{2.4}$$

where the product representation in (2.2)–(2.4) arises from (2.1).

We note that, by (2.3) and manipulation of the q -products, (1.1) reduces to

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_4(n)q^n = \psi(q)\psi^2(q^2). \tag{2.5}$$

In the following lemmas, we state some theta-function identities of Ramanujan which will be used in our subsequent sections. (The first three are trivial.)

LEMMA 2.1 [1, Entry 25 (i) and (ii), p. 40]. *We have*

$$\varphi(q) = \varphi(q^4) + 2q\psi(q^8). \tag{2.6}$$

LEMMA 2.2 [1, Entry 25 (v) and (vi), p. 40]. *We have*

$$\varphi^2(q) = \varphi^2(q^2) + 4q\psi^2(q^4). \tag{2.7}$$

LEMMA 2.3 [1, p. 49, Corollary (i)]. *We have*

$$\varphi(q) = \varphi(q^{25}) + 2qf(q^{15}, q^{35}) + 2q^4f(q^5, q^{45}). \tag{2.8}$$

LEMMA 2.4 [1, p. 262, Entry 10(iv)]. *We have*

$$\varphi^2(q) - \varphi^2(q^5) = 4qf(q, q^9)f(q^3, q^7). \tag{2.9}$$

3. Main theorems

In this section, we present the relations among $u(n)$, $v(n)$, $r_3(n)$ with $a_4(n)$.

THEOREM 3.1. *If $u(n)$ and $v(n)$ denote the number of representations of a nonnegative integer n in the forms $x^2 + 4y^2 + 4z^2$ and $x^2 + 2y^2 + 2z^2$, respectively, where $x, y, z \in \mathbb{Z}$, and $a_4(n)$ is the number of 4-cores of n , then*

$$u(8n + 5) = 8a_4(n) = v(8n + 5). \tag{3.1}$$

In the following process of proving (3.1), we also find some other results involving $u(n)$ and $v(n)$.

PROOF. First we prove the first equality in (3.1). Clearly, the generating function for $u(n)$ is given by

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u(n)q^n = \varphi(q)\varphi^2(q^4).$$

With the aid of (2.6), we rewrite the above as

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u(n)q^n &= \varphi^2(q^4)(\varphi(q^4) + 2q\psi(q^8)) \\ &= \varphi^3(q^4) + 2q\varphi^2(q^4)\psi(q^8). \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

Extracting the terms involving q^{4n} , q^{4n+1} , q^{4n+2} and q^{4n+3} respectively in (3.2),

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u(4n)q^n = \varphi^3(q), \quad (3.3)$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u(4n+1)q^n = 2\varphi^2(q)\psi(q^2), \quad (3.4)$$

$$u(4n+2) = 0,$$

$$u(4n+3) = 0.$$

Now, with the help of (2.6), we can rewrite (3.3) in the form

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u(4n)q^n = \varphi^3(q^4) + 6q\varphi^2(q^4)\psi(q^8) + 12q^2\varphi(q^4)\psi^2(q^8) + 8q^3\psi^3(q^8). \quad (3.5)$$

Equating the coefficients of q^{4n} , q^{4n+1} , q^{4n+2} , q^{4n+3} respectively from both sides of (3.5),

$$u(16n) = u(4n),$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u(16n+4) = 6\varphi^2(q)\psi(q^2), \quad (3.6)$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u(16n+8) = 12\varphi(q)\psi^2(q^2), \quad (3.7)$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u(16n+12) = 8\psi^3(q^2). \quad (3.8)$$

From (3.8), it further follows that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u(32n+12) = 8\psi^3(q), \quad (3.9)$$

$$u(32n+28) = 0.$$

Again, from (3.4) and (3.6) it follows that

$$3u(4n + 1) = u(16n + 4). \quad (3.10)$$

Now, employing (2.7) in (3.4),

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u(4n + 1)q^n = 2\psi(q^2)\varphi^2(q^2) + 8q\psi(q^2)\psi^2(q^4). \quad (3.11)$$

Extracting the terms involving q^{2n} and q^{2n+1} from both sides of (3.11), we respectively find that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u(8n + 1)q^n = 2\psi(q)\varphi^2(q), \quad (3.12)$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u(8n + 5)q^n = 8\psi(q)\psi^2(q^2). \quad (3.13)$$

Employing (2.5) in (3.13) and then equating the coefficients of q^n from both sides, we readily deduce the first equality of (3.1).

We now prove the second equality of (3.1). To this end, we note that the generating function for $v(n)$ is given by

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} v(n)q^n = \varphi(q)\varphi^2(q^2). \quad (3.14)$$

With the help of (2.6), we rewrite (3.14) as

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} v(n)q^n &= \varphi^2(q^2)(\varphi(q^4) + 2q\psi(q^8)) \\ &= \varphi^2(q^2)\varphi(q^4) + 2q\varphi^2(q^2)\psi(q^8). \end{aligned}$$

Extracting the even and odd terms,

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} v(2n)q^n = \varphi^2(q)\varphi(q^2), \quad (3.15)$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} v(2n + 1)q^n = 2\varphi^2(q)\psi(q^4). \quad (3.16)$$

Now, applying (2.7) in (3.15), and then extracting the even and odd terms,

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} v(4n)q^n = \varphi^3(q), \quad (3.17)$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} v(4n + 2)q^n = 4\varphi(q)\psi^2(q^2). \quad (3.18)$$

Next, employing (2.6) in (3.17) and then extracting the terms involving q^{4n} , q^{4n+1} , q^{4n+2} and q^{4n+3} , respectively,

$$v(16n) = v(4n),$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} v(16n + 4)q^n = 6\varphi^2(q)\psi(q^2), \tag{3.19}$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} v(16n + 8)q^n = 12\varphi(q)\psi^2(q^2), \tag{3.20}$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} v(16n + 12)q^n = 8\psi^3(q^2). \tag{3.21}$$

It follows from (3.21) that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} v(32n + 12)q^n = 8\psi^3(q), \tag{3.22}$$

$$v(32n + 28) = 0.$$

Now, employing (2.7) in (3.16), and then extracting the even and odd terms,

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} v(4n + 1)q^n = 2\varphi^2(q)\psi(q^2), \tag{3.23}$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} v(4n + 3)q^n = 8\psi^3(q^2). \tag{3.24}$$

It follows from (3.24) that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} v(8n + 3)q^n = 8\psi^3(q), \tag{3.25}$$

$$v(8n + 7) = 0.$$

Also, from (3.19) and (3.23),

$$3v(4n + 1) = v(16n + 4). \tag{3.26}$$

On the other hand, employing (2.7) in (3.23) and then extracting the odd and even terms of the resulting identity, and with the aid of (2.5),

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} v(8n + 1)q^n = 2\psi(q)\varphi^2(q), \tag{3.27}$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} v(8n + 5)q^n = 8\psi(q)\psi^2(q^2) = 8 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_4(n)q^n. \tag{3.28}$$

From (3.28), we easily deduce the second equality of (3.1) to finish the proof. □

COROLLARY 3.2. *If $r_3(n)$ denotes the number of representations of n as a sum of three squares, then*

$$r_3(8n + 5) = 3u(8n + 5) = 3v(8n + 5) = 24a_4(n). \tag{3.29}$$

PROOF. We note that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(n)q^n = \varphi^3(q). \tag{3.30}$$

From (3.3), (3.17) and (3.30), we deduce that

$$r_3(n) = u(4n) = v(4n). \tag{3.31}$$

Now, replacing n by $2n + 1$ in (3.10) and (3.26), and then employing (3.31), $3u(8n + 5) = u(32n + 20) = r_3(8n + 5)$ and $3v(8n + 5) = v(32n + 20) = r_3(8n + 5)$, from which, with the help of (3.1), we easily deduce (3.29). \square

Next we deduce the formula given above as (1.6) due to Ono and Sze [7, Theorem 2].

COROLLARY 3.3 (Ono and Sze [7, Theorem 2]). *Formula (1.6) holds.*

PROOF. A classical result due to Gauss states that if n is square-free and $n > 4$, then

$$r_3(n) = \begin{cases} 24h(-n) & \text{for } n \equiv 3 \pmod{8}; \\ 12h(-n) & \text{for } n \equiv 1, 2, 5, 6 \pmod{8}; \\ 0 & \text{for } n \equiv 7 \pmod{8}. \end{cases}$$

Now (1.6) readily follows from Corollary 3.2. \square

We end this section by giving two more corollaries arising from the proof of the above theorem.

COROLLARY 3.4. *We have*

$$u(8n + 1) = v(8n + 1), \tag{3.32}$$

$$u(16n + 8) = v(16n + 8) = 3v(4n + 2). \tag{3.33}$$

PROOF. Identity (3.32) follows from (3.12) and (3.27), and (3.33) follows from (3.7), (3.18) and (3.20). \square

COROLLARY 3.5. *We have*

$$u(32n + 12) = r_3(8n + 3) = v(32n + 12) = v(8n + 3) = 8t_3(n), \tag{3.34}$$

where $t_3(n)$ is the number of representations of n as a sum of three triangular numbers.

PROOF. We note that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} t_3(n)q^n = \psi^3(q). \tag{3.35}$$

Now (3.34) follows easily from (3.35), (3.9), (3.22), (3.25), (3.3) and (3.30). \square

4. Infinite families of arithmetic properties of $a_4(n)$

In this section, we prove some infinite families of arithmetic identities for $a_4(n)$ by using the results from the previous sections. First, we deduce the infinite families of arithmetic identities (1.2)–(1.5).

THEOREM 4.1 (Hirschhorn and Sellers [5]). *The identities (1.2)–(1.5) hold.*

PROOF. Cooper and Hirschhorn [2] found the following arithmetic properties of $r_3(n)$. For any nonnegative integer n and any integer $k \geq 1$,

$$3^k r_3(6n + 5) = r_3(9^k(6n + 5)), \tag{4.1}$$

$$(2 \times 3^k - 1)r_3(24n + 13) = r_3(9^k(24n + 13)), \tag{4.2}$$

$$\left(\frac{3^{k+1} - 1}{2}\right)r_3(72n + 21) = r_3(9^k(72n + 21)), \tag{4.3}$$

$$\left(\frac{3^{k+1} - 1}{2}\right)r_3(72n + 69) = r_3(9^k(72n + 69)). \tag{4.4}$$

Replacing n by $4n$ in (4.1),

$$3^k r_3(8(3n) + 5) = r_3\left(8\left(3^{2k+1}n + \frac{5 \times 3^{2k} - 5}{8}\right) + 5\right),$$

from which we readily deduce (1.2) by employing (3.29).

In a similar fashion, (1.3)–(1.5) follow from (4.2)–(4.4), respectively. □

In the next theorem we give some more infinite families of arithmetic identities for $a_4(n)$.

THEOREM 4.2. *If $a_4(n)$ denotes the number of 4-cores of n , and $k \geq 1$ then*

$$5a_4(5n + 2) = a_4(125n + 65), \tag{4.5}$$

$$5a_4(5n + 3) = a_4(125n + 90), \tag{4.6}$$

$$\left(\frac{5^{k+1} - 1}{4}\right)a_4(25n) = a_4\left(5^{2k+2}n + \frac{5^{2k+1} - 5}{8}\right), \tag{4.7}$$

$$\left(\frac{5^{k+1} - 1}{4}\right)a_4(25n + 5) = a_4\left(5^{2k+2}n + \frac{9 \times 5^{2k+1} - 5}{8}\right), \tag{4.8}$$

$$\left(\frac{5^{k+1} - 1}{4}\right)a_4(25n + 10) = a_4\left(5^{2k+2}n + \frac{17 \times 5^{2k+1} - 5}{8}\right), \tag{4.9}$$

$$\left(\frac{5^{k+1} - 1}{4}\right)a_4(25n + 20) = a_4\left(5^{2k+2}n + \frac{33 \times 5^{2k+1} - 5}{8}\right). \tag{4.10}$$

Before proving the theorem, we prove the following lemma concerning $r_3(n)$.

LEMMA 4.3. *If $r_3(n)$ denotes the number of representations of n as a sum of three squares, then*

$$5r_3(5n + 1) = r_3(25(5n + 1)), \tag{4.11}$$

$$5r_3(5n + 4) = r_3(25(5n + 4)), \tag{4.12}$$

$$\left(\frac{5^{k+1} - 1}{4}\right)r_3(25n + 5) = r_3(25^k(25n + 5)), \tag{4.13}$$

$$\left(\frac{5^{k+1} - 1}{4}\right)r_3(25n + 10) = r_3(25^k(25n + 10)), \tag{4.14}$$

$$\left(\frac{5^{k+1} - 1}{4}\right)r_3(25n + 15) = r_3(25^k(25n + 15)), \tag{4.15}$$

$$\left(\frac{5^{k+1} - 1}{4}\right)r_3(25n + 20) = r_3(25^k(25n + 20)). \tag{4.16}$$

PROOF. Employing the 5-dissection of $\varphi(q)$ from (2.8) in (3.30) and then extracting the terms involving q^{5l+r} for $r = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$, respectively,

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(5n)q^n = \varphi^3(q^5) + 24q\varphi(q^5)f(q, q^9)f(q^3, q^7), \tag{4.17}$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(5n + 1)q^n = 6\varphi^2(q^5)f(q^3, q^7) + 24qf^2(q^3, q^7)f(q, q^9), \tag{4.18}$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(5n + 2)q^n = 12\varphi(q^5)f^2(q^3, q^7) + 8q^2f^3(q, q^9),$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(5n + 3)q^n = 8f^3(q^3, q^7) + 12q\varphi(q^5)f^2(q, q^9),$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(5n + 4)q^n = 6\varphi^2(q^5)f(q, q^9) + 24qf^2(q, q^9)f(q^3, q^7). \tag{4.19}$$

Now, employing (2.9) in (4.17),

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(5n)q^n = 6\varphi^2(q)\varphi(q^5) - 5\varphi^3(q^5), \tag{4.20}$$

which we rewrite, with the aid of (3.30), as

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(5n)q^n = 6\varphi^2(q)\varphi(q^5) - 5 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(n)q^{5n}. \tag{4.21}$$

Similarly, employing (2.9) in (4.18) and (4.19),

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(5n + 1)q^n = 6\varphi^2(q)f(q^3, q^7) \tag{4.22}$$

and

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(5n + 4)q^n = 6\varphi^2(q)f(q, q^9), \tag{4.23}$$

respectively.

Again, using (2.9) in (4.20), and then extracting the terms involving q^{5n} , we deduce that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(25n)q^n = 6\varphi(q)\varphi^2(q^5) + 48q\varphi(q)f(q, q^9)f(q^3, q^7) - 5\varphi^3(q). \tag{4.24}$$

Employing (2.9) once again in (4.24),

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(25n)q^n = 7\varphi^3(q) - 6\varphi(q)\varphi^2(q^5),$$

which we rewrite, with the help of (2.8), as

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(25n)q^n = 7\varphi^3(q) - 6\varphi^2(q^5)(\varphi(q^{25}) + 2qf(q^{15}, q^{35}) + 2q^4f(q^5, q^{45})). \tag{4.25}$$

Now, employing (3.30) in (4.25), and then extracting the terms involving q^{5n} ,

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(125n)q^n = 7 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(5n)q^n - 6\varphi^2(q)\varphi(q^5). \tag{4.26}$$

Employing (4.21) in (4.26), we arrive at

$$5 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(n)q^{5n} = 6 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(5n)q^n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(125n)q^n. \tag{4.27}$$

We are now in a position to prove (4.11)–(4.16). First we prove (4.11) and (4.12). Equating the terms involving q^{5n+1} and q^{5n+4} , respectively, from both sides of (4.25), we obtain

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(125n + 25)q^n = 7 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(5n + 1)q^n - 12\varphi^2(q)f(q^3, q^7) \tag{4.28}$$

and

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(125n + 100)q^n = 7 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_3(5n + 4)q^n - 12\varphi^2(q)f(q, q^9), \tag{4.29}$$

respectively. Employing (4.22) and (4.23) in (4.28) and (4.29) respectively, and then equating the coefficients of q^n from both sides of the resulting identities, we readily deduce (4.11) and (4.12).

Next, we prove (4.13). Equating the coefficients of q^{5n+1} from both sides of (4.27), we deduce that

$$6r_3(25n + 5) = r_3(25(25n + 5)), \quad (4.30)$$

which is (4.13) for $k = 1$.

Again, equating the coefficients of $q^{25(5n+1)}$ from both sides of (4.27),

$$5r_3(25n + 5) = 6r_3(5^2(25n + 5)) - r_3(25^2(25n + 5)),$$

which, with the aid of (4.30), reduces to

$$31r_3(25n + 5) = r_3(25^2(25n + 5)),$$

which is nothing but (4.13) with $k = 2$. We complete the proof of (4.13) by mathematical induction.

We now prove (4.14). Equating the coefficients of q^{5n+2} from both sides of (4.27),

$$6r_3(25n + 10) = r_3(25(25n + 10)), \quad (4.31)$$

which is (4.14) for $k = 1$.

Again, equating the coefficients of $q^{25(5n+2)}$ from both sides of (4.27),

$$5r_3(25n + 10) = 6r_3(5^2(25n + 10)) - r_3(25^2(25n + 10)),$$

which, by (4.31), reduces to

$$31r_3(25n + 10) = r_3(25^2(25n + 10)),$$

which is (4.14) with $k = 2$. Now the proof of (4.13) can be completed by mathematical induction.

In a similar fashion, equating the respective coefficients of q^{5n+3} and q^{5n+4} from both sides of (4.27), and proceeding as in the proofs of (4.13) and (4.14), we can prove (4.15) and (4.16). Thus, we complete the proof of the lemma. \square

PROOF OF THEOREM 4.2. Replacing n by $8n + 4$ in (4.11),

$$5r_3(8(5n + 2) + 5) = r_3(8(125n + 65) + 5). \quad (4.32)$$

Employing (3.29) in (4.32), we readily deduce (4.5).

Next, replacing n by $8n + 5$ in (4.12), and then using (3.29), we deduce (4.6).

Again, replacing n by $8n$ in (4.13),

$$\left(\frac{5^{k+1} - 1}{4}\right)r_3(8(25n) + 5) = r_3\left(8\left(5^{2k+2} + \frac{5^{2k+1} - 5}{8}\right) + 5\right),$$

which implies (4.7) with the aid of (3.29).

Similarly, replacing n by $8n + 3$, $8n + 6$, and $8n + 1$ in (4.14), (4.15) and (4.16) respectively, and then employing (3.29), we deduce (4.9), (4.10) and (4.8) respectively, to finish the proof. \square

References

- [1] B. C. Berndt, *Ramanujan's Notebooks, Part III* (Springer, New York, 1991).
- [2] S. Cooper and M. D. Hirschhorn, 'Results of Hurwitz type for three squares', *Discrete Math.* **274** (2004), 9–24.
- [3] F. Garvan, D. Kim and D. Stanton, 'Cranks and t -cores', *Invent. Math.* **101** (1990), 1–17.
- [4] M. D. Hirschhorn and J. A. Sellers, 'Two congruences involving 4-cores', *Electron. J. Combin.* **3**(2) (1996), R10.
- [5] M. D. Hirschhorn and J. A. Sellers, 'Some amazing facts about 4-cores', *J. Number Theory* **60** (1996), 51–69.
- [6] M. D. Hirschhorn and J. A. Sellers, 'On representations of a number as a sum of three squares', *Discrete Math.* **199** (1999), 85–101.
- [7] K. Ono and L. Sze, '4-core partitions and class numbers', *Acta Arith.* **80** (1997), 249–272.

NAYANDEEP DEKA BARUAH, Department of Mathematical Sciences,
Tezpur University, Sonitpur, PIN-784028, India
e-mail: nayan@tezu.ernet.in

KALLOL NATH, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Tezpur University,
Sonitpur, PIN-784028, India
e-mail: kallol08@tezu.ernet.in