SUPERCONGRUENCES RELATED TO $3F_2(1)$ INVOLVING HARMONIC NUMBERS

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Abstract. We show various supercongruences for truncated series which involve central binomial coefficients and harmonic numbers. The corresponding infinite series are also evaluated.

1. Introduction

In 1997, Van Hamme [21] established the $p$-adic analogs of several Ramanujan type series. For one of them, the series labeled (H.1),

$$
\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{1}{64^k} = 3F_2\left[\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; \frac{3}{4}, 1; 1\right] = \frac{\pi}{\Gamma^4\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)},
$$

the modulo $p^2$ congruence (H.2) for the truncated version has been recently improved by Long and Ramakrishna in [9, Theorem 3],

$$
\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{1}{64^k} \equiv \begin{cases} 
-\frac{\Gamma^4_p\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)}{p} & \text{if } p \equiv 1, \\
-\frac{\sqrt{2}\pi^4_p\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)}{p} & \text{if } p \equiv 3.
\end{cases}
$$

where $p$ is any prime greater than 3 (we use the notation $a \equiv m b$ to mean $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$).

In this paper we will investigate the series and the corresponding partial sums where the terms have one of the following forms

$$
\binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{H_k}{64^k}, \quad \binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{H_k^{(2)}}{64^k}, \quad \binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{O_k}{64^k}, \quad \binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{O_k^{(2)}}{64^k}.
$$

Here $H_k^{(r)}$ denotes the $k$-th generalized harmonic number of order $r$ and $O_k^{(r)}$ is the sum with odd denominators,

$$
H_k^{(r)} = \sum_{j=1}^{k} \frac{1}{j^r} \quad \text{and} \quad O_k^{(r)} = \sum_{j=1}^{k} \frac{1}{(2j-1)^r}
$$

where we adopt the convention that $H_k = H_k^{(1)}$ and $O_k = O_k^{(1)}$.

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The main results are presented in Section 3 (evaluations of the infinite series) and Section 5 (congruences for the truncated series). For example we show that
\[ \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{O_k}{64^k} = \frac{\pi^2}{6\Gamma^4\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)}, \] and
\[ \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{O_k}{64^k} \equiv \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } p \equiv 1, \\ -\frac{p}{2} \Gamma_p^4 \left(\frac{1}{4}\right) & \text{if } p \equiv 3. \end{cases} \]

The correspondence between the right-hand sides of the infinite series and the finite sum is particularly striking for the appearance of the classic Gamma function and the \( p \)-adic analog.

2. Similar results of lower degree

Before dealing with the main issue, we are going to take a look to similar sums already in the literature, where the central binomial coefficient is raised to a power less than 3. Assume that \( p \) is a prime greater than 3. For \( n \geq 1 \), we have
\[ \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{H_k}{4^k} = \binom{2n}{n} \frac{2n(H_{n-1} - 2)}{4^n} + 2. \]

Thus, by \( n = p \), we obtain (see [19 (1.10)] for the modulo \( p^3 \) version)
\[ \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{H_k}{4^k} \equiv_p^4 2 - 2p + 4p^2 q_p(2) - 6p^3 q_p^2(2) - \frac{1}{3} p^3 B_{p-3}, \]
where \( q_p(a) = \frac{a^{p-1} - 1}{p} \) is the Fermat quotient and we used the Wolstenholme’s theorem \( \binom{2p}{p} \equiv_p^3 2 \), and the congruences
\[ H_{p-1} \equiv_p^3 -\frac{1}{3} p^2 B_{p-3}, \quad 4^{p-1} \equiv_p^3 1 + 2pq_p(2) + p^2 q_p^2(2) \]
(for the first one we can refer to [14 Theorem 5.1 (a)]). Moreover, the identity
\[ \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{H_k}{4^k} = \binom{2n}{n} \frac{2nH_{n-1}^{(2)}}{4^n} - 2 \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{H_k}{4^k} \]
implies (see [19 (1.11)] for the modulo \( p \) version)
\[ \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{H_k^{(2)}}{4^k} \equiv_p^3 -4q_p(2) + 2p^2 q_p^2(2) - \frac{4}{3} p^2 q_p^3(2) - \frac{1}{2} p^3 B_{p-3}, \]
where we employed the congruence established in [20 Theorem 1.1],
\[ \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}}{k4^k} \equiv_p^3, -H_{\frac{n-1}{2}} \]
and
\[ H_{p-1}^{(2)} \equiv_p^3 \frac{2}{3} p B_{p-3}, \quad H_{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv_p^3 -2q_p(2) + p^2 q_p^2(2) - \frac{2}{3} p^2 q_p^3(2) - \frac{7}{12} p^2 B_{p-3} \]
given in [14, Theorem 5.1 (a)] and [14, Theorem 5.2 (c)] respectively.

As regards the squared case, the identities [12, (2.4) and (2.8)]

\[
\sum_{k=1}^{n} \binom{n}{k} \binom{n+k}{k} (-1)^k H_k = 2(-1)^n H_n,
\]

\[
\sum_{k=1}^{n} \binom{n}{k} \binom{n+k}{k} (-1)^k H_k^{(2)} = 2(-1)^{n+1} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{(-1)^k}{k^2},
\]

and the congruence for \(0 \leq k \leq n = (p-1)/2\) (note that \(p\) divides \(\binom{2k}{k}\) for \(n < k < p\))

\[
\binom{n}{k} \binom{n+k}{k} (-1)^k \equiv \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2}{4k!} \prod_{j=1}^{k} (2j-1)^2 - p^2\]

(5)

imply [19, Theorem 4.1] (see also [17, Theorems 1.1 and 1.2] for a more general \(p^2\)-congruence)

\[
\sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \frac{(2k)^2}{16^k} \equiv p^2 (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} (4q_p(2) - 2pq_p^2(2)),
\]

\[
\sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \frac{(2k)^2}{16^k} \equiv p^2 - 8E_{p-3} + 4E_{2p-4},
\]

where we also used

\[
H_k^{(2)} \equiv p^2 \frac{7}{3} pB_p - 3, \quad H_{\frac{k}{2}}^{(2)} \equiv p^2 (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} (8E_{p-3} - 4E_{2p-4}) + \frac{14}{3} pB_p - 3
\]

(6)

given in [14, Corollary 5.2], [13, Corollary 3.8] and

\[
\sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{(-1)^k}{k^2} = \frac{1}{2} \left( H_{\left\lfloor \frac{p}{2} \right\rfloor}^{(2)} - H_{\left\lfloor \frac{p}{2} \right\rfloor} \right) \equiv p^2 (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} (8E_{p-3} - 4E_{2p-4}).
\]

(7)

3. Evaluations of the infinite series

The generalized hypergeometric function is defined as

\[
_{r}F_{s} \left[ \begin{array}{c} a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_r \\ b_1, b_2, \ldots, b_s \end{array} ; z \right] = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a_1)_k (a_2)_k \cdots (a_r)_k}{(b_1)_k (b_2)_k \cdots (b_s)_k} \frac{z^k}{k!}
\]

where \((x)_k = x(x+1) \cdots (x+k-1)\) for \(k \geq 1\) and \((x)_0 = 1\) is the Pochhammer symbol and \(a_i, b_j\) and \(z\) are complex numbers with none of the \(b_j\) being negative integers or zero.

We recall some well-known hypergeometric identities:

i) Dixon’s theorem [11, p.13]

\[
_{3}F_{2} \left[ \begin{array}{c} a, b, c \\ 1 + a - b, 1 + a - c \end{array} ; 1 \right] = \frac{\Gamma(1 + \frac{a}{2}) \Gamma(1 + a - b) \Gamma(1 + a - c) \Gamma(1 + \frac{a}{2} - b - c)}{\Gamma(1 + a) \Gamma(1 + \frac{a}{2} - b) \Gamma(1 + \frac{a}{2} - c) \Gamma(1 + a - b - c)},
\]

(8)
ii) Whipple’s theorem [12 p.16]

\[ 3F_2 \left[ \frac{a}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; 1 \right] = \pi^{21-2c} \Gamma(c) \Gamma(1+2c) \left[ \Gamma(a+c) \Gamma(1+c-a) \Gamma(1+c-a/2) \Gamma(1+c) \right]. \] (9)

In the next theorem we evaluate four specific series.

**Theorem 1.** We have that

\[ \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{2k}{k} \right)^3 \frac{H_k}{64^k} = \frac{2 \pi (\pi - 3 \ln 2)}{3 \Gamma^4(\frac{3}{4})}, \]

\[ \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{2k}{k} \right)^3 \frac{O_k}{64^k} = \frac{\pi^2}{6 \Gamma^4(\frac{3}{4})}, \]

where \( G = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k}{(2k+1)^2} \) is the Catalan’s constant.

**Proof.** Let

\[ H_k^{(r)}(x) = \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \frac{1}{(x+j)^r}. \]

Then

\[ \frac{d}{dx} ((x)_k) = (x)_k \cdot H_k(x) \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{d}{dx} \left( H_k^{(r)}(x) \right) = -r H_k^{(r+1)}(x). \]

For (10), let \( a = b = 1/2 \) in (9), then

\[ \frac{\partial}{\partial c} \left( 3F_2 \left[ \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; 1 \right] \right) \bigg|_{c=\frac{1}{2}} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{2k}{k} \right)^3 2O_k + H_k \]

By setting \( b = c = 1/2 \) in (9), we get

\[ \frac{\partial}{\partial a} \left( 3F_2 \left[ \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; 1 \right] \right) \bigg|_{a=\frac{1}{2}} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{2k}{k} \right)^3 2O_k - 2H_k.

On the other hand, by differentiating the right-hand side of (9) and (10) and by using

\[ \frac{d}{dx} \left( \Gamma(x) \right) = \Gamma(x) \cdot \Psi(x) \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{d}{dx} \left( \Psi^{(r)}(x) \right) = \Psi^{(r+1)}(x) \]

where \( \Psi^{(r)} \) is the polygamma function of order \( r \) (with \( \Psi^{(0)} = \Psi \)), we obtain

\[ \frac{\partial}{\partial c} \left( 3F_2 \left[ \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; 1 \right] \right) \bigg|_{c=\frac{1}{2}} = 3F_2 \left[ \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; 1 \right] \cdot (-\Psi(1) - \Psi \left( \frac{1}{4} \right) + \Psi \left( \frac{3}{4} \right) + \Psi \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)), \]

and

\[ \frac{\partial}{\partial a} \left( 3F_2 \left[ \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; 1 \right] \right) \bigg|_{a=\frac{1}{2}} = 3F_2 \left[ \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; 1 \right] \cdot \left( 2\Psi(1) - 2\Psi \left( \frac{3}{4} \right) - 2\ln(2) \right). \]
By considering a suitable linear combination of the previous two identities, the special values
\[ \Psi\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) - \Psi(1) = -\ln 4, \quad \Psi\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) - \Psi(1) = -\ln 8 - \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad \Psi\left(\frac{3}{4}\right) - \Psi(1) = -\ln 8 + \frac{\pi}{2}. \]
yield immediately (10).

Let \( a = c = 1/2 \) in (9), then
\[ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial e^2} \left( \binom{3}{F}_2\left[\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; e, 2 - e; 1\right] \right) \bigg|_{e=1} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{2H_k^{(2)}}{64^k}. \]
Moreover, for \( c = 1/2, \; e = 1 \) in (9), we find
\[ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial a^2} \left( \binom{3}{F}_2\left[a, 1 - a, \frac{1}{2}; 1\right] \right) \bigg|_{a=\frac{1}{2}} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{3 - 8G_k^{(2)}}{64^k}. \]
On the right-hand side, we have
\[ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial e^2} \left( \binom{3}{F}_2\left[\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; e, 2 - e; 1\right] \right) \bigg|_{e=1} = 3 \binom{3}{F}_2\left[\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; 1\right] \cdot \left( \frac{\pi^2}{3} - \Psi_1\left(\frac{3}{4}\right) \right), \]
and
\[ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial a^2} \left( \binom{3}{F}_2\left[a, 1 - a, \frac{1}{2}; 1\right] \right) \bigg|_{a=\frac{1}{2}} = 3 \binom{3}{F}_2\left[\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; 1\right] \cdot \left( \frac{1}{2} \Psi_1\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) - \frac{1}{2} \Psi_1\left(\frac{3}{4}\right) - \pi^2 \right). \]
As before, by combining the results and by using the special values
\[ \Psi_1\left(\frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{1}{4}\right) = \pi^2 \pm 8G \]
the conclusion (11) easily follows. \( \square \)

4. Congruences for the truncated series - Preliminary results

If \( n \) is an odd integer, by replacing \( k \) with \( n - k \) is easy to see that
\[ \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}^3 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}^3 H_k H_{n-k} = 0. \quad (12) \]
The next lemma follows from [2, Theorem 1].

Lemma 1. For any non-negative odd integer \( n = 2m + 1 \), we have
\[ \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}^3 H_k = -\frac{c_m}{6}, \quad (13) \]
\[ \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}^3 (3H_k^2 + H_k^{(2)}) = \frac{c_m}{2} (H_m - 4H_{2m+1} - H_{3m+2} + 2H_{6m+4}). \quad (14) \]
where \( c_m = \frac{(-1)^m(6m + 3)!m^3}{(3m + 1)!((2m + 1)!)^3} \).

The next lemma establishes some identities involving the harmonic numbers that we will need later on.

**Lemma 2.** For any non-negative integer \( n \), we have

\[
\sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} \binom{n+k}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{H^{(2)}_k}{(-4)^k} = \begin{cases} 
\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)^2 \cdot \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{(-1)^k}{k^2} \quad & \text{if } n \equiv 2 \ 0, \\
\binom{n-1}{n-1}^{-2} \cdot \frac{-4^{n-1}}{n^2} \quad & \text{if } n \equiv 2 \ 1.
\end{cases}
\]  

(15)

Moreover, for any even integer,

\[
\sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} \binom{n+k}{k} \binom{2k}{k} H_k \frac{H^{(2)}_k}{(-4)^k} = \left(\frac{n}{2}\right)^2 H_n 
\]

(16)

\[
\sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} \binom{n+k}{k} \binom{2k}{k} H_{2k} \frac{H^{(2)}_k}{(-4)^k} = \left(\frac{n}{2}\right)^2 \frac{H_n}{2 \cdot 4^n}
\]

(17)

**Proof.** For \( n = 2m \), let

\[
F(m, k) = \binom{2m}{k} \binom{2m+k}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \binom{2m}{m} (-4)^{2m-k}
\]

then by Wilf-Zeilberger method we find

\[
G(m, k) = -\frac{2(4m + 3)k^2}{(2m+1)^3} \binom{2m+1}{k-1} \binom{2m+k}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \binom{2m}{m} (-4)^{2m-k}
\]

such that

\[
F(m + 1, k) - F(m, k) = G(m, k + 1) - G(m, k).
\]

Let \( S(m) = \sum_{k \geq 1} F(m, k)H^{(2)}_k \) then, by summation by parts (see [5] for a similar approach), we have

\[
S(m + 1) - S(m) = \sum_{k \geq 0} (G(m, k + 1) - G(m, k))H^{(2)}_k
\]

\[
= -\sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{G(m, k + 1)}{(k+1)^2} = -\sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{G(m, k)}{k^2}
\]

\[
= -\frac{1}{(2m+1)^2} + \frac{1}{(2m+2)^2}.
\]

The other identities can be obtained in a similar way. \( \square \)
The Morita’s $p$-adic Gamma function $\Gamma_p$ is defined as the continuous extension to the set of all $p$-adic integers $\mathbb{Z}_p$ of the sequence
\[
n \mapsto (-1)^n \prod_{0 \leq k < n} \frac{k}{(k,p)=1}
\]
where $p$ is an odd prime and $n > 1$ is an integer (see [13] Chapter 7 for a detailed introduction to $\Gamma_p$). If $x \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ then $\Gamma_p(0) = 1$ and
\[
\Gamma_p(x + 1) = \begin{cases} 
-x \Gamma_p(x) & \text{if } |x|_p = 1, \\
-\Gamma_p(x) & \text{if } |x|_p < 1,
\end{cases}
\]
where $| \cdot |_p$ denotes the $p$-adic norm. By [9] Theorem 14, for all $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_p$,
\[
\Gamma_p(a + bp) \equiv_p \Gamma_p(a)(1 + G_1(a)bp)
\]
where $G_1(a) = \Gamma_p'(a)/\Gamma_p(a) \in \mathbb{Z}_p$. Moreover
\[
\Gamma_p(x)\Gamma_p(1 - x) = (-1)^{s_p(x)}
\]
where $s_p(x)$ is the integer in $\{1, 2, \ldots, p\}$ such that $s_p(x) \equiv_p x$. The above formula is the $p$-adic analog of the classic reflection formula for the classic Gamma function
\[
\Gamma(x)\Gamma(1 - x) = \frac{\pi}{\sin(\pi x)}.
\]

**Lemma 3.** For any prime $p > 3$,
\[
\frac{(2m)^2}{16^m} \equiv_p \begin{cases} 
-\Gamma^4_p\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) & \text{if } p \equiv 4 1, \\
16\Gamma^4_p\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)(1 + 2p) & \text{if } p \equiv 4 3,
\end{cases}
\]
where $m = \lfloor p/4 \rfloor$. Moreover if $p \equiv 4 3$ then
\[
c_m \equiv_p \frac{p}{2} \Gamma^4_p\left(\frac{1}{4}\right).
\]
**Proof.** We start with [21]. Since $p \equiv 3$, we have that $m = (p - 3)/4$ and
\[
c_m = \frac{(-1)^m(2m + p)(m!)^3}{(3m + 1)((2m + 1)!)^3} \equiv_p \frac{(-1)^{m+1}p(m!)^3}{2(3m + 2)((2m + 1)!)^2}
= \frac{(-1)^{m+1}p \Gamma^3_p\left(\frac{p+1}{4}\right)}{2\Gamma_p\left(\frac{3p+3}{4}\right)\Gamma^2_p\left(\frac{p+1}{2}\right)} \equiv_p \frac{p}{2} \Gamma^4_p\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)
\]
where, by [19],
\[
\Gamma^2_p\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} = 1, \quad \text{and} \quad \Gamma_p\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) \Gamma_p\left(\frac{3}{4}\right) = (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{4}} = (-1)^{m+1}.
\]
As regards (20), we consider only the case \( p \equiv 3 \mod 4 \) since the other case can be handled similarly. Then
\[
\frac{(2m)^2}{16^m} = \left( \frac{\left( \frac{1}{2} \right)_m}{(1)_m} \right)^2 = \frac{\Gamma_p^2 (1)}{\Gamma_p^2 \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)} \cdot \frac{\Gamma_p^2 (\frac{1}{2} + m)}{\Gamma_p^2 (1 + m)} = \frac{\Gamma_p^2 (-\frac{1}{4} + \frac{m}{2})}{\Gamma_p^2 (\frac{1}{4} + \frac{m}{2})}.
\]
By (18) and by [7, Lemma 2.4],
\[
\Gamma_p \left( -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{p^2}{4} \right) \equiv p^2 \Gamma_p \left( -\frac{1}{4} \right) (1 + (G_1(1) + H_{3m+1}) \frac{P}{4}),
\]
and
\[
\Gamma_p \left( \frac{1}{4} + \frac{p^2}{4} \right) \equiv p^2 \Gamma_p \left( \frac{1}{4} \right) (1 + (G_1(1) + H_{m}) \frac{P}{4}).
\]
Therefore, since \( \Gamma_p \left( -\frac{1}{4} \right) = 4\Gamma_p \left( -\frac{3}{4} \right) \),
\[
\frac{(2m)^2}{16^m} \equiv p^2 \frac{\Gamma_p \left( -\frac{1}{4} \right)}{\Gamma_p^2 \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)} \cdot \left( 1 + (H_{3m+1} - H_m) \frac{P}{2} \right) \equiv p^2 16\Gamma^{-4} \left( \frac{1}{4} \right) (1 + 2p)
\]
where we also used (22) and
\[
H_{3m+1} = H_{p-1} - \sum_{j=1}^{m+1} \frac{1}{p-j} \equiv_p H_m + \frac{4}{3p+1} \equiv_p H_m + 4.
\]

5. Congruences for the truncated series - Main results

**Theorem 2.** For any prime \( p > 3 \),
\[
\sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{H_k}{64^k} \equiv_p 2^{p-1} \begin{cases} \Gamma_p^4 \left( \frac{1}{4} \right) \cdot (2q_p(2) - pq_p^2(2)) & \text{if } p \equiv_4 1, \\ -\frac{p^2}{12}\Gamma_p^4 \left( \frac{1}{4} \right) & \text{if } p \equiv_4 3, \end{cases} \tag{23}
\]
and
\[
\sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{H_k^{(2)}}{64^k} \equiv_p 2^{p-1} \begin{cases} -\Gamma_p^4 \left( \frac{1}{4} \right) \cdot (4E_{p-3} - 2E_{2p-4}) & \text{if } p \equiv_4 1, \\ -\frac{1}{4}\Gamma_p^4 \left( \frac{1}{4} \right) & \text{if } p \equiv_4 3. \end{cases} \tag{24}
\]

**Proof.** For (24), if \( p \equiv_4 1 \) then \( n = (p-1)/2 \) is even and we use (5) and (15). Finally we use (20). If \( p \equiv_4 3 \) then \( n = (p-1)/2 = 2m + 1 \) is odd. We have
\[
\frac{\binom{2k}{k}}{(-4)^k} \binom{n}{k} = \prod_{j=0}^{k-1} \left( 1 - \frac{p}{2j+1} \right)^{-1} \equiv_p 2^{p-1} 1 - \frac{p}{2} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \frac{1}{n-j} = 1 - \frac{p}{2} (H_n - H_{n-k})
\]
and therefore
\[
\frac{1}{4^k} \binom{2k}{k} \equiv_p (-1)^k \binom{n}{k} \left( 1 - \frac{p}{2} (H_n - H_{n-k}) \right). \tag{25}
\]
Thus, by (12), (16), and (21),
\[
\sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{H_k}{64^k} \equiv_{p^2} \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}^3 \left(1 - \frac{3p}{2} (H_n - H_{n-k})\right) H_k
\]
\[
\equiv_{p^2} \left( 1 - \frac{3p}{2} H_n \right) \left( -\frac{c_m}{6} \right) \equiv_{p^2} \frac{p}{12} \Gamma^4 \left( \frac{1}{4} \right).
\]

As regards (24), we use (5) and (15) with Theorem 3.

For any prime \( p > 3 \),
\[
\sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{O_k}{64^k} \equiv_{p^2} \begin{cases} 
0 & \text{if } p \equiv 1, \\
-\frac{p}{12} \Gamma^4 \left( \frac{1}{4} \right) & \text{if } p \equiv 3,
\end{cases}
\]
and
\[
\sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{O_k^{(2)}}{64^k} \equiv_{p} \begin{cases} 
\frac{1}{7} \Gamma_p^4 \left( \frac{1}{4} \right) E_{p-3} & \text{if } p \equiv 1, \\
-\frac{1}{16} \Gamma_p^4 \left( \frac{1}{4} \right) & \text{if } p \equiv 3.
\end{cases}
\]

Proof. If \( n = (p - 1)/2 \) is even then by (5), (16) and (17),
\[
\sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{O_k}{64^k} = \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k}^3 \left( H_{2k} - \frac{H_k}{2} \right) \equiv_{p^2} \left( \frac{n}{4} \right)^2 \frac{H_n}{2} \cdot 4^n - \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{n}{4} \right)^2 \frac{H_n}{4^n} \equiv_{p^2} 0.
\]

Assume now that \( n = (p - 1)/2 = 2m + 1 \) is odd. We have that
\[
H_{2(n-k)} = H_{p-1} - \frac{2k}{p-j} \equiv_{p^2} H_{2k} + pH_{2k} \equiv_{p^2} H_{2k} + \frac{p}{4} (H_k^{(2)} - H_{n-k}^{(2)}).
\]

Hence
\[
\sum_{k=1}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}^3 H_{2k} = -\sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{n-k}^3 H_{2(n-k)}
\]
\[
\equiv_{p^2} -\sum_{k=1}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}^3 H_{2k} - \frac{p}{4} \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}^3 (H_k^{(2)} - H_{n-k}^{(2)})
\]
which implies
\[
\sum_{k=1}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}^3 H_{2k} \equiv_{p^2} -\frac{p}{8} \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}^3 (H_k^{(2)} - H_{n-k}^{(2)}) = -\frac{p}{4} \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}^3 H_k^{(2)}.
\]

Moreover
\[
H_{2k} = \frac{H_k}{2} + \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \frac{1}{2j+1} \equiv_{p} \frac{1}{2} \left( H_k - \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \frac{1}{n-j} \right) \equiv_{p} \frac{1}{2} (H_k + H_{n-k} - H_n).
\]
Consequently by (25), (28), (29),

\[ \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{H_{2k}^{(2)}}{64^k} \equiv p^2 \sum_{k=1}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}^3 \left( 1 - \frac{3p}{2} (H_n - H_{n-k}) \right) H_{2k} \]

\[ \equiv p^2 \sum_{k=1}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}^3 H_{2k} - \frac{3p}{4} \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}^3 (H_n - H_{n-k}) (H_k + H_{n-k} - H_n) \]

\[ \equiv p^2 - \frac{p}{4} \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}^3 H_{2k}^{(2)} - \frac{3p}{2} H_n \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}^3 H_k \]

\[ + \frac{3p}{4} \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}^3 H_{n-k}^{(2)} - \frac{3p}{4} H_n \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}^3 H_{n-k} \]

\[ \equiv p^2 - \frac{p}{4} \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}^3 \left( 3H_k^2 + H_{2k}^{(2)} \right) \equiv p^2 - \frac{p}{8} \Gamma_4 \left( \frac{1}{4} \right) \]  

(30)

where in the last step we used (13), (14), and (21) (note that \( m < 2m + 1 < 3m + 2 < p < 6m + 4 < 2p \)). Finally, by (25),

\[ \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{O_k}{64^k} = \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k}^3 \left( H_{2k} - H_k \right) \equiv p^2 - \frac{p^2}{12} \Gamma_4 \left( \frac{1}{4} \right) \]

and the proof of (26) is complete.

As regards (27), we have by (6)

\[ O_k^{(2)} = \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \frac{1}{(2j+1)^2} = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \frac{1}{(n-j)^2} = \frac{H_n^{(2)} - H_{n-k}^{(2)}}{4} \equiv p - \frac{H_{n-k}^{(2)}}{4} \]

(31)

where \( n = (p-1)/2 \). Then, by (25) and (31),

\[ \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{O_k^{(2)}}{64^k} = -\frac{1}{4} \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}^3 H_{n-k}^{(2)} = \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{4} \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k}^3 H_{k}^{(2)} \]

\[ \equiv p \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{4} \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{H_{2k}^{(2)}}{64^k} \]

and the desired result follows from (21).

\[ \square \]

**Remark 4.** By (23), (26), and (2) for any prime \( p > 3 \)

\[ \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{H_{2k} - H_k}{64^k} \equiv p q_p(2) \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{1}{64^k} \]
which is a particular case of [6, Corollary 2]. Moreover by (23) and (30), if $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ then
\[
\sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{H_k}{64^k} \equiv_p \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k}^3 \frac{H_{2k}}{64^k} \equiv 0
\]
which appears in [18].

6. Coda

In this final section we present a few more results with the same flavor related to $2F_1(1/2), 4F_3(-1)$, and $6F_5(-1)$.

By Bailey’s theorem [1, p.11],
\[
2F_1 \left[ a, 1 - a; c; \frac{1}{2} \right] = \frac{\Gamma(\frac{c}{2}) \Gamma(\frac{c+1}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{a+c}{2}) \Gamma(\frac{1-a+c}{2})}
\]
(32)
it follows that
\[
\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2k)^2}{32k} = 2F_1 \left[ \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; 1; \frac{1}{2} \right] = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{\Gamma^2(\frac{3}{4})}
\]
(33)
Moreover, it has been proved (see for example [10, Corollary 2.2] and [7, (1.4)])
\[
\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{(2k)^2}{32k} \equiv p^2 \left\{ \begin{array}{ll}
( -1 )^{\frac{p+1}{4}} \Gamma_p \left( \frac{1}{2} \right) \Gamma_p \left( \frac{1}{4} \right)^2 & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\
0 & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}.
\end{array} \right.
\]
(34)

Note that, by Clausen’s Formula and its truncated version [3, Lemma 18], equations (1), (33), and congruences (2), (34) satisfy the following connecting relationships,
\[
\left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2k)^2}{32k} \right)^2 = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2k)^3}{64k} \quad \text{and} \quad \left( \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{(2k)^2}{32k} \right)^2 \equiv p^2 \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{(2k)^3}{64k}.
\]

Now by letting $a = 1/2$ in (32), then
\[
\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \binom{2k}{k}^2 \frac{H_k}{32^k} = \left. \frac{\partial}{\partial c} \left( 2F_1 \left[ \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; c; \frac{1}{2} \right] \right) \right|_{c=1} = \left. \frac{\partial}{\partial c} \left( \frac{2^{1-c-\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma(c)} \cdot (2q_p(2) - pq_p^2(2))}{\Gamma^2(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{c}{2})} \right) \right|_{c=1} = \frac{\sqrt{\pi} (\pi - 4 \ln 2)}{2^{3/4} \Gamma(\frac{3}{4})}.
\]
The following result yields a $p$-adic analog of the above series.

Theorem 5. For any prime $p > 3$,
\[
\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k}^2 \frac{H_k}{32^k} \equiv_p \left\{ \begin{array}{ll}
\Gamma_p \left( \frac{1}{2} \right) \Gamma_p^2 \left( \frac{1}{4} \right) \cdot (2q_p(2) - pq_p^2(2)) & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\
\frac{1}{2} \Gamma_p \left( \frac{1}{2} \right) \Gamma_p^2 \left( \frac{1}{4} \right) & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}.
\end{array} \right.
\]
(35)
Proof. It suffices to use the identity,

\[ \sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} \binom{n+k}{k} H_k (-2)^k = \begin{cases} \frac{n^2}{2} \cdot \frac{(-1)^{\frac{n}{2}} H_n}{2^n} & \text{if } n \equiv 0, \\ \frac{n-1}{n} (-1)^{\frac{n+1}{2}} \cdot \frac{2^{n-1}}{n} & \text{if } n \equiv 1, \end{cases} \]

then the verification of congruence (35) can be carried out along the lines of the proof (23). The interested reader may fill in the necessary details. \( \square \)

By a couple of formulas which appear in \([1, (2) \text{ and } (3) \text{ p.28}]\),

\[ 4F_3 \left[ \begin{array}{c} a, 1 + \frac{a}{2}, d, e \\ \frac{a}{2}, 1 + a - d, 1 + a - e \\ -1 \end{array} \right] = \frac{\Gamma(1 + a - d) \Gamma(1 + a - e)}{\Gamma(1 + a) \Gamma(1 + a - d - e)} , \] (36)

\[ 6F_5 \left[ \begin{array}{c} a, 1 + \frac{a}{2}, b, c, d, e \\ \frac{a}{2}, 1 + a - b, 1 + a - c, 1 + a - d, 1 + a - e \\ -1 \end{array} \right] = \frac{\Gamma(1 + a - d) \Gamma(1 + a - e)}{\Gamma(1 + a) \Gamma(1 + a - d - e)} 3F_2 \left[ \begin{array}{c} 1 + a - b - c, d, e \\ 1 + a - b, 1 + a - c \\ 1 \end{array} \right] , \] (37)

we have the series labeled (B.1) and (A.1) in \([21]\)

\[ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (4k + 1) \frac{(2k)^3}{64^k} (-1)^k = 4F_3 \left[ \begin{array}{c} \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 1 \\ \frac{1}{4}, 1, 1, 1 \\ -1 \end{array} \right] = \frac{2}{\pi} , \]

\[ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (4k + 1) \frac{(2k)^5}{1024^k} (-1)^k = 6F_5 \left[ \begin{array}{c} \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{4}, 1, 1, 1, 1 \\ -1 \end{array} \right] = \frac{2}{\Gamma^4 \left( \frac{3}{4} \right)} . \]

Moreover, it has been shown that the \( p \)-analogs (B.2) and (A.2) in \([21]\) hold for any prime \( p > 3 \) (see \([10]\) and \([8]\)),

\[ \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} (4k + 1) \frac{(2k)^3}{64^k} (-1)^k \equiv_{p^3} (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} p \]

\[ \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} (4k + 1) \frac{(2k)^5}{1024^k} (-1)^k \equiv_{p^3} \begin{cases} -\frac{p}{\Gamma^4 \left( \frac{3}{4} \right)} & \text{if } p \equiv 1, \\ 0 & \text{if } p \equiv 3, \end{cases} \]

Recently Guillera proved this elegant Ramanujan-type formula involving harmonic numbers \([4, (32)]\),

\[ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2k)^3}{64^k} (2 - 3(4k + 1)H_k) (-1)^k = \frac{12 \ln 2}{\pi} \] (39)
The above evaluation can be established by noting that the left-hand side is equal to
\[ 2_4 F_3 \left[ \frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{4}, \frac{1}{4} ; -1 \right] + \frac{\partial}{\partial a} \left( 4 F_3 \left[ \frac{a, 1 + a}{2}, \frac{1 + a}{2} ; -1 \right] \right) \bigg|_{a = -\frac{1}{2}} - \frac{\partial}{\partial e} \left( 4 F_3 \left[ \frac{1}{2}, 1, \frac{3}{2} - e ; -1 \right] \right) \bigg|_{e = -1}. \]

Then by using (36) we obtain the right-hand side. In a similar way, from (37), we can get
\[ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2k)^5}{1024^k} (2 - 5(4k + 1)H_k) (-1)^k = \frac{4(15 \ln(2) - 2\pi)}{3\Gamma^4 \left( \frac{3}{4} \right)}. \] (40)

The infinite series (39) and (40) have p-adic analogs which are given in the next result.

**Theorem 6.** For any prime \( p > 3 \),
\[ \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{(2k)^3}{64^k} (2 - 3(4k + 1)H_k) (-1)^k \equiv p^2 \left( -1 \right)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} (2 + 6pq_p(2)), \] (41)
\[ \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{(2k)^4}{256^k} (2 - 4(4k + 1)H_k) \equiv p^2 - 12pq_p(2), \] (42)
\[ \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{(2k)^5}{1024^k} (2 - 5(4k + 1)H_k) (-1)^k \equiv p^2 \begin{cases} 
-2 + 10pq_p(2) \Gamma_p \left( \frac{1}{4} \right) & \text{if } p \equiv 4 \pmod{4}, \\
0 & \text{if } p \equiv 4 \pmod{3}.
\end{cases} \] (43)

**Proof.** Let \( n = \frac{p^2 - 1}{2} \), then, by (25), the left-hand side of (41) is congruent modulo \( p^2 \) to
\[ \sum_{k=0}^{n} \left( \begin{array}{c} n \\ k \end{array} \right)^3 \left( 1 - \frac{3p}{2} (H_n - H_{n-k}) \right) (2 + 3(2n - 4k - p)H_k) \]
\[ \equiv p^2 (2 - 3pH_n) \sum_{k=0}^{n} \left( \begin{array}{c} n \\ k \end{array} \right)^3 (1 + 3(n - 2k)H_k) + 3p \sum_{k=0}^{n} \left( \begin{array}{c} n \\ k \end{array} \right)^3 H_{n-k} \]
\[ + 9p \sum_{k=0}^{n} \left( \begin{array}{c} n \\ k \end{array} \right)^3 (n - 2k)H_kH_{n-k} - 3p \sum_{k=0}^{n} \left( \begin{array}{c} n \\ k \end{array} \right)^3 H_k \]
\[ \equiv p^2 (-1)^n (2 - 3pH_n) \equiv p^2 \left( -1 \right)^{\frac{p^2 - 1}{2}} (2 + 6pq_p(2)) \]

where we used (41) and the identities
\[ \sum_{k=0}^{n} \left( \begin{array}{c} n \\ k \end{array} \right)^3 (1 + 3(n - 2k)) H_k = (-1)^n \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{k=0}^{n} \left( \begin{array}{c} n \\ k \end{array} \right)^3 (n - 2k)H_kH_{n-k} = 0. \]

The first one follows from (11), whereas the second one follows by replacing \( k \) with \( (n - k) \).
Congruences (42) and (43) can be obtained in a similar way by using the identities

\[
\sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k}^4 (1 + 4(n - 2k)) H_k = (-1)^n \binom{2n}{n},
\]

\[
\sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k}^5 (1 + 5(n - 2k)) H_k = (-1)^n \sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k}^2 \binom{n+k}{k},
\]

which are equivalent to [11, (4)] and [11, (5)] respectively. □

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