



# Theta function identities and vanishing coefficient results for continued fractions of order sixty-four

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**Abstract** Eight continued fractions of order sixty-four are derived from a general continued fraction identity of Ramanujan. A general theta-function identity is proved for the eight continued fractions and partition-theoretic results are obtained therefrom. Some vanishing coefficient arising for the continued fractions and their reciprocals are also offered.

**Keywords** Continued fraction · Theta-function identities · Partition of integer · Colour partition · Vanishing coefficients

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## 1 Introduction

Throughout the paper, for any complex numbers  $\delta$  and  $q$ , define the  $q$ -product as

$$(\delta; q)_0 = 1, \quad (\delta; q)_t := \prod_{k=1}^{t-1} (1 - \delta q^k) \quad \text{for } t \geq 1. \quad (\delta; q)_\infty := \prod_{t=0}^{\infty} (1 - \delta q^t); \quad |q| < 1. \quad (1.1)$$

For brevity, we will write

$$(\delta_1; q)_\infty (\delta_2; q)_\infty (\delta_3; q)_\infty \dots (\delta_m; q)_\infty = (\delta_1, \delta_2, \delta_3, \dots, \delta_m; q)_\infty.$$

Ramanujan's general theta-function  $f(w, z)$  [2, p. 34] is defined as

$$f(w, z) = \sum_{t=-\infty}^{\infty} w^{t(t+1)/2} z^{t(t-1)/2}, \quad |wz| < 1. \quad (1.2)$$

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Also, Jacobi's triple product identity [2, p. 35, Entry 19] is given as

$$f(w, z) = (-w; wz)_\infty (-z; wz)_\infty (wz; wz)_\infty = (-w, -z, wz; wz)_\infty. \quad (1.3)$$

Three important special cases of  $f(w, z)$  [2, p. 36, Entry 22 (i)-(iii)] are given by

$$\phi(q) := f(q, q) = \sum_{t=-\infty}^{\infty} q^{t^2}, \quad (1.4)$$

$$\psi(q) := f(q, q^3) = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} q^{t(t+1)/2}, \quad (1.5)$$

and

$$f(-q) := f(-q, -q^2) = \sum_{t=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^t q^{t(3t-1)/2}. \quad (1.6)$$

Ramanujan [2, p. 24, Entry 12] in his notebook recorded the following general continued fraction identity: Let  $a, b$  and  $q$  are complex numbers such that  $|ab| < 1$  and  $|q| < 1$ , or for some integer  $m$ ,  $a = b^{2m+1}$ . Then

$$\frac{(a^2 q^3; q^4)_\infty (b^2 q^3; q^4)_\infty}{(a^2 q; q^4)_\infty (b^2 q; q^4)_\infty} = \frac{1}{1 - ab + \frac{(a - bq)(b - aq)}{(1 - ab)(q^2 + 1) + \frac{(a - bq^3)(b - aq^3)}{(1 - ab)(q^4 + 1) + \dots}}}. \quad (1.7)$$

As special cases of (1.7), we derived the following eight continued fractions of order sixty-four:

$$E_1(q) = q^{15/2} \frac{f(-q, -q^{63})}{f(-q^{31}, -q^{33})} = \frac{q^{15/2}(1 - q)}{(1 - q^{16}) + \frac{q^{16}(1 - q^{15})(1 - q^{17})}{(1 - q^{16})(1 + q^{32}) + \frac{q^{16}(1 - q^{47})(1 - q^{49})}{(1 - q^{16})(1 + q^{64}) + \dots}}}, \quad (1.8)$$

$$E_2(q) = q^{13/2} \frac{f(-q^3, -q^{61})}{f(-q^{29}, -q^{35})} = \frac{q^{13/2}(1 - q^3)}{(1 - q^{16}) + \frac{q^{16}(1 - q^{13})(1 - q^{19})}{(1 - q^{16})(1 + q^{32}) + \frac{q^{16}(1 - q^{45})(1 - q^{51})}{(1 - q^{16})(1 + q^{64}) + \dots}}}, \quad (1.9)$$

$$E_3(q) = q^{11/2} \frac{f(-q^5, -q^{59})}{f(-q^{27}, -q^{37})} = \frac{q^{11/2}(1 - q^5)}{(1 - q^{16}) + \frac{q^{16}(1 - q^{11})(1 - q^{21})}{(1 - q^{16})(1 + q^{32}) + \frac{q^{16}(1 - q^{43})(1 - q^{53})}{(1 - q^{16})(1 + q^{64}) + \dots}}}, \quad (1.10)$$

$$E_4(q) = q^{9/2} \frac{f(-q^7, -q^{57})}{f(-q^{25}, -q^{39})} = \frac{q^{9/2}(1 - q^7)}{(1 - q^{16}) + \frac{q^{16}(1 - q^9)(1 - q^{23})}{(1 - q^{16})(1 + q^{32}) + \frac{q^{16}(1 - q^{41})(1 - q^{55})}{(1 - q^{16})(1 + q^{64}) + \dots}}}, \quad (1.11)$$

$$E_5(q) = q^{7/2} \frac{f(-q^9, -q^{55})}{f(-q^{23}, -q^{41})} = \frac{q^{7/2}(1 - q^9)}{(1 - q^{16}) + \frac{q^{16}(1 - q^7)(1 - q^{25})}{(1 - q^{16})(1 + q^{32}) + \frac{q^{16}(1 - q^{39})(1 - q^{57})}{(1 - q^{16})(1 + q^{64}) + \dots}}},$$



$$E_6(q) = q^{5/2} \frac{f(-q^{11}, -q^{53})}{f(-q^{21}, -q^{43})} = \frac{q^{5/2}(1-q^{11})}{(1-q^{16}) + \frac{q^{16}(1-q^5)(1-q^{27})}{(1-q^{16})(1+q^{32}) + \frac{q^{16}(1-q^{37})(1-q^{59})}{(1-q^{16})(1+q^{64}) + \dots}}}, \quad (1.12)$$

$$E_7(q) = q^{3/2} \frac{f(-q^{13}, -q^{51})}{f(-q^{19}, -q^{45})} = \frac{q^{3/2}(1-q^{13})}{(1-q^{16}) + \frac{q^{16}(1-q^3)(1-q^{29})}{(1-q^{16})(1+q^{32}) + \frac{q^{16}(1-q^{35})(1-q^{61})}{(1-q^{16})(1+q^{64}) + \dots}}}, \quad (1.13)$$

$$E_8(q) = q^{1/2} \frac{f(-q^{15}, -q^{49})}{f(-q^{17}, -q^{47})} = \frac{q^{1/2}(1-q^{15})}{(1-q^{16}) + \frac{q^{16}(1-q)(1-q^{31})}{(1-q^{16})(1+q^{32}) + \frac{q^{16}(1-q^{33})(1-q^{63})}{(1-q^{16})(1+q^{64}) + \dots}}}. \quad (1.14)$$

To obtain  $E_1(q)$ ,  $E_2(q)$ ,  $E_3(q)$ ,  $E_4(q)$ ,  $E_5(q)$ ,  $E_6(q)$ ,  $E_7(q)$  and  $E_8(q)$ , we first replace  $q$  by  $q^{16}$  in (1.7), set  $\{a = q^{15/2}, b = q^{17/2}\}$ ,  $\{a = q^{13/2}, b = q^{19/2}\}$ ,  $\{a = q^{11/2}, b = q^{21/2}\}$ ,  $\{a = q^{9/2}, b = q^{23/2}\}$ ,  $\{a = q^{7/2}, b = q^{25/2}\}$ ,  $\{a = q^{5/2}, b = q^{27/2}\}$ ,  $\{a = q^{3/2}, b = q^{29/2}\}$  and  $\{a = q^{1/2}, b = q^{31/2}\}$  and then simplify using (1.3) and the results that  $\{(q^{65}; q^{64})_\infty = (q; q^{64})_\infty / (1-q)\}$ ,  $\{(q^{67}; q^{64})_\infty = (q^3; q^{64})_\infty / (1-q^3)\}$ ,  $\{(q^{69}; q^{64})_\infty = (q^5; q^{64})_\infty / (1-q^5)\}$ ,  $\{(q^{71}; q^{64})_\infty = (q^7; q^{64})_\infty / (1-q^7)\}$ ,  $\{(q^{73}; q^{64})_\infty = (q^9; q^{64})_\infty / (1-q^9)\}$ ,  $\{(q^{75}; q^{64})_\infty = (q^{11}; q^{64})_\infty / (1-q^{11})\}$ ,  $\{(q^{77}; q^{64})_\infty = (q^{13}; q^{64})_\infty / (1-q^{13})\}$  and  $\{(q^{79}; q^{64})_\infty = (q^{15}; q^{64})_\infty / (1-q^{15})\}$ , respectively.

The main objective of this paper is to establish some theta-function identities for the continued fractions  $E_1(q)$ ,  $E_2(q)$ ,  $E_3(q)$ ,  $E_4(q)$ ,  $E_5(q)$ ,  $E_6(q)$ ,  $E_7(q)$  and  $E_8(q)$  and to give some applications. In Sect. 2, we establish some theta-function identities for the continued fractions. In Sect. 3, we show that colour partition identities can be obtained from the theta-function identities of continued fractions with suitable examples. We also offer some vanishing coefficient results for the eight continued fractions and their reciprocals in Section 4.

## 2 Theta-function identities

**Theorem 2.1** For  $m = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7$  and  $8$ , we have

$$\frac{1}{E_m(q)} \pm E_m(q) = \frac{f(\pm q^{16-(2m-1)}, \pm q^{16+(2m-1)})\phi(\mp q^{16})}{q^{(16-(2m-1))/2} f(-q^{2m-1}, -q^{32-(2m-1)})\psi(q^{32})}.$$

*Proof* We give the proof of the case  $m = 1$  only and omit other cases as they follow similarly.

From (1.8), we obtain

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{E_1(q)}} - \sqrt{E_1(q)} = \frac{f(-q^{31}, -q^{33}) - q^{15/2} f(-q, -q^{63})}{\sqrt{q^{15/2} f(-q, -q^{63}) f(-q^{31}, -q^{33})}}. \quad (2.1)$$

From [2, p. 46, Entry 30 (ii) and (iii)], we note that

$$f(w, z) = f(w^3 z, w z^3) + w f(z/w, w^5 z^3). \quad (2.2)$$

Setting  $\{w = -q^{15/2}, z = q^{17/2}\}$  and  $\{w = q^{15/2}, z = -q^{17/2}\}$  in (2.2), we obtain

$$f(-q^{15/2}, q^{17/2}) = f(-q^{31}, -q^{33}) - q^{15/2} f(-q, -q^{63}) \quad (2.3)$$



and

$$f(q^{15/2}, -q^{17/2}) = f(-q^{31}, -q^{33}) + q^{15/2}f(-q, -q^{63}), \quad (2.4)$$

respectively. Again, from [2, p. 46, Entry 30 (i)], we note that

$$f(w, wz^2)f(z, w^2z) = f(w, z)\psi(wz). \quad (2.5)$$

Setting  $w = -q$  and  $z = -q^{31}$  in (2.5), we obtain

$$f(-q, -q^{63})f(-q^{31}, -q^{33}) = f(-q, -q^{31})\psi(q^{32}). \quad (2.6)$$

Employing (2.3) and (2.6) in (2.1), we find that

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{E_1(q)}} - \sqrt{E_1(q)} = \frac{f(-q^{15/2}, q^{17/2})}{\sqrt{q^{15/2}f(-q, -q^{31})\psi(q^{32})}}. \quad (2.7)$$

Similarly, from (1.8) and applying (2.4), we obtain

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{E_1(q)}} + \sqrt{E_1(q)} = \frac{f(q^{15/2}, -q^{17/2})}{\sqrt{q^{15/2}f(-q, -q^{31})\psi(q^{32})}}. \quad (2.8)$$

Combining (2.7) and (2.8), we obtain

$$\frac{1}{E_1(q)} - E_1(q) = \frac{f(-q^{15/2}, q^{17/2})f(q^{15/2}, -q^{17/2})}{q^{15/2}f(-q, -q^{31})\psi(q^{32})}. \quad (2.9)$$

Again, from [2, p. 46, Entry 30 (iv)], we note that

$$f(w, z)f(-w, -z) = f(-w^2, -z^2)\phi(-wz). \quad (2.10)$$

Setting  $w = -q^{15/2}$  and  $z = q^{17/2}$  in (2.10), we obtain

$$f(-q^{15/2}, q^{17/2})f(q^{15/2}, -q^{17/2}) = f(-q^{15}, -q^{17})\phi(q^{16}). \quad (2.11)$$

Employing (2.11) in (2.9), we obtain

$$\frac{1}{E_1(q)} - E_1(q) = \frac{f(-q^{15}, -q^{17})\phi(q^{16})}{q^{15/2}f(-q, -q^{31})\psi(q^{32})}. \quad (2.12)$$

Squaring (2.7), we obtain

$$\frac{1}{E_1(q)} + E_1(q) = \frac{f^2(-q^{15/2}, q^{17/2})}{q^{15/2}f(-q, -q^{31})\psi(q^{32})} + 2. \quad (2.13)$$

From [2, p. 46, Entry 30 (v),(vi)], we note that

$$f^2(w, z) = f(w^2, z^2)\phi(wz) + 2wf(z/w, w^3z)\psi(w^2z^2). \quad (2.14)$$

Setting  $w = -q^{15/2}$  and  $z = q^{17/2}$  in (2.14), we obtain

$$f^2(-q^{15/2}, q^{17/2}) = f(q^{15}, q^{17})\phi(-q^{16}) - 2q^{15/2}f(-q, -q^{31})\psi(q^{32}). \quad (2.15)$$

Employing (2.15) in (2.13), we obtain

$$\frac{1}{E_1(q)} + E_1(q) = \frac{f(q^{15}, q^{17})\phi(-q^{16})}{q^{15/2}f(-q, -q^{31})\psi(q^{32})}. \quad (2.16)$$

Thus, proof of the theorem (that is, identities (2.12) and (2.16)) is complete for the case  $m = 1$ .  $\square$



**Corollary 2.2** For  $(u, v) = \{(1, 8), (2, 7), (3, 6), (4, 5)\}$ , we have

$$\left(\frac{1}{E_u(q)} - E_u(q)\right) \left(\frac{1}{E_v(q)} - E_v(q)\right) = \frac{\phi^2(q^{16})}{q^8 \psi^2(q^{32})}. \quad (2.17)$$

*Proof* We give the proof of the case  $(u, v) = (1, 8)$  and omit other cases as the proofs are analogous. Setting  $m = 8$  in Theorem 2.1, we obtain

$$\frac{1}{E_8(q)} - E_8(q) = \frac{f(-q, -q^{31})\phi(q^{16})}{q^{1/2}f(-q^{15}, -q^{17})\psi(q^{32})}. \quad (2.18)$$

Multiplying (2.12) and (2.18), we obtain

$$\left(\frac{1}{E_1(q)} - E_1(q)\right) \left(\frac{1}{E_8(q)} - E_8(q)\right) = \frac{\phi^2(q^{16})}{q^8 \psi^2(q^{32})}. \quad (2.19)$$

□

**Theorem 2.3** For a positive integer  $k$  and  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7$  and  $8$ , we have

$$E_i^k(q)E_i^k(-q) = \begin{cases} E_i^k(q^2), & \text{if } k \equiv 0 \pmod{4} \\ -E_i^k(q^2), & \text{if } k \equiv 2 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

*Proof* Take  $i = 1$ , then from (1.8), we obtain

$$E_1^k(q)E_1^k(-q) = (-1)^{15k/2} q^{15k} \frac{f^k(-q, -q^{63})}{f^k(-q^{31}, -q^{33})} \times \frac{f^k(q, q^{63})}{f^k(q^{31}, q^{33})}. \quad (2.20)$$

Setting  $\{w = q, z = q^{63}\}$  and  $\{w = q^{31}, z = q^{33}\}$  in (2.10), we find that

$$f(q, q^{63})f(-q, -q^{63}) = f(-q^2, -q^{126})\phi(-q^{64}), \quad (2.21)$$

and

$$f(q^{31}, q^{33})f(-q^{31}, -q^{33}) = f(-q^{62}, -q^{66})\phi(-q^{64}), \quad (2.22)$$

respectively. Employing (2.21) and (2.22) in (2.20), we obtain

$$E_1^k(q)E_1^k(-q) = (-1)^{15k/2} q^{15k} \frac{f^k(-q^2, -q^{126})\phi^k(-q^{64})}{f^k(-q^{62}, -q^{66})\phi^k(-q^{64})} = (-1)^{15k/2} E_1^k(q^2). \quad (2.23)$$

Using fact that  $15k/2$  is even if  $k \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$  and odd if  $k \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$  in (2.23), we complete the proof of the case  $i = 1$ . The cases  $i = 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7$  and  $8$  of the theorem follow similarly, so omitted. □

### 3 Partition theoretic results

In this section, we show that colour partition identities can be obtained from the theta-function identities established in Theorem 2.1. As example, we deduce two partition-theoretic identities from the theta-function identities of the continued fraction  $E_1(q)$  using colour partition of integer. One can also obtain colour partition identities from the other theta-function identities of Theorem 2.1. First, we will give the definition of colour partition of integer and its generating functions.

A partition of a natural number  $n$  can be defined as finite sequence of positive integers  $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_k)$  such that

$$\sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j = n; \quad \alpha_j \geq \alpha_{j+1},$$



where  $\alpha_j$  are called parts or summands of the partition.

A summand in a partition of  $n$  is said to have  $r$  different colours if each part of the partition is assumed to have  $r$  distinct copies or colours. For any natural numbers  $n$  and  $r$ , let  $\xi_r(n)$  count the total number of partitions of  $n$  with each part having  $r$  different colours. For example, if each part of partition of 3 has 2 colours, say green (signified by the suffix  $g$ ) and black (signified by the suffix  $b$ ), then the number of 2 colour partition of 3 is 10, namely  $3_g, 3_b, 2_g + 1_g, 2_g + 1_b, 2_b + 1_g, 2_b + 1_b, 1_g + 1_g + 1_g, 1_g + 1_g + 1_b, 1_g + 1_b + 1_b, 1_b + 1_b + 1_b$ . The generating function of  $\xi_r(n)$  is given by

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \xi_r(n) q^n = \frac{1}{(q; q)_{\infty}^r}. \quad (3.1)$$

For positive integers  $s, m$  and  $r$ , the generating function of the total number of partitions of  $n$  with parts congruent to  $s$  modulo  $m$  and each part has  $r$  colours is given by

$$\frac{1}{(q^s; q^m)_{\infty}^r}. \quad (3.2)$$

For convenience, we write

$$(q^{r\pm}; q^t)_{\infty} := (q^r, q^{t-r}; q^t)_{\infty}, \quad (3.3)$$

where  $r$  and  $t$  are natural numbers with  $r < t$ .

**Theorem 3.1** For any integer  $n \geq 15$ , let  $\mathcal{E}_1(n) :=$  number of partitions of  $n$  into parts  $\equiv \pm 1, \pm 15, \pm 17$  or  $\pm 32 \pmod{64}$  such that the parts  $\equiv \pm 1$  and  $\pm 32 \pmod{64}$  have 2 colours,  $\mathcal{E}_2(n) :=$  number of partitions of  $n$  into parts  $\equiv \pm 15, \pm 17, \pm 31$  or  $\pm 32 \pmod{64}$  such that parts  $\equiv \pm 31$  and  $\pm 32 \pmod{64}$  have 2 colours and  $\mathcal{E}_3(n) :=$  number of partitions of  $n$  into parts  $\equiv \pm 1, \pm 16$  and  $\pm 31 \pmod{64}$  with 2 colours. Then

$$\mathcal{E}_1(n) - \mathcal{E}_2(n - 15) - \mathcal{E}_3(n) = 0.$$

*Proof* Employing (1.3), (1.4), (1.5) and (1.8) in the theta-function identity (2.12) in Theorem 2.1, we obtain

$$\frac{(q^{31\pm}; q^{64})_{\infty}}{q^{15/2}(q^{1\pm}; q^{64})_{\infty}} - q^{15/2} \frac{(q^{1\pm}; q^{64})_{\infty}}{(q^{31\pm}; q^{64})_{\infty}} - \frac{(q^{15\pm}; q^{32})_{\infty} (q^{32\pm}; q^{32})_{\infty}^6}{q^{15/2}(q^{1\pm}; q^{32})_{\infty} (q^{16\pm}; q^{16})_{\infty}^2 (q^{64}; q^{64})_4^4} = 0. \quad (3.4)$$

Changing the products in the third term of (3.4) to base  $q^{64}$  and simplifying, we obtain

$$\frac{(q^{31\pm}; q^{64})_{\infty}}{(q^{1\pm}; q^{64})_{\infty}} - q^{15} \frac{(q^{1\pm}; q^{64})_{\infty}}{(q^{31\pm}; q^{64})_{\infty}} - \frac{(q^{15\pm}, q^{17\pm}; q^{64})_{\infty} (q^{32\pm}; q^{64})_{\infty}^2}{(q^{1\pm}, q^{31\pm}; q^{64})_{\infty} (q^{16\pm}; q^{64})_{\infty}^2} = 0. \quad (3.5)$$

Dividing (3.5) by  $(q^{1\pm, 15\pm, 17\pm, 31\pm}; q^{64})_{\infty} (q^{32\pm}; q^{64})_{\infty}^2$ , we obtain

$$\frac{1}{(q^{15\pm, 17\pm}; q^{64})_{\infty} (q^{1\pm, 32\pm}; q^{64})_{\infty}^2} - \frac{q^{15}}{(q^{15\pm, 17\pm}; q^{64})_{\infty} (q^{31\pm, 32\pm}; q^{64})_{\infty}^2} - \frac{1}{(q^{1\pm, 16\pm, 31\pm}; q^{64})_{\infty}^2} = 0. \quad (3.6)$$

Equation (3.6) is equivalent to

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{E}_1(n) q^n - q^{15} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{E}_2(n) q^n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{E}_3(n) q^n = 0, \quad (3.7)$$

where we take  $\mathcal{E}_1(0) = \mathcal{E}_2(0) = \mathcal{E}_3(0) = 1$ . Comparing the coefficients of  $q^n$  on both sides of (3.7), we complete the proof.  $\square$

**Example:** By enumerating the relevant partitions of  $n = 15$ , one can verify that  $\mathcal{E}_1(15) = 17, \mathcal{E}_2(0) = 1$  and  $\mathcal{E}_3(15) = 16$  satisfy Theorem 3.1.



**Theorem 3.2** For any integer  $n \geq 15$ , let  $\mathcal{W}_1(n) :=$  number of partitions of  $n$  into parts  $\equiv \pm 1, \pm 16, \pm 30$  or  $\pm 32 \pmod{64}$  such that the parts  $\equiv \pm 1$  and  $\pm 16 \pmod{64}$  have 2 colours,  $\mathcal{W}_2(n) :=$  number of partitions of  $n$  into parts  $\equiv \pm 16, \pm 30, \pm 31$  or  $\pm 32 \pmod{64}$  such that parts  $\equiv \pm 16$  and  $\pm 31 \pmod{64}$  have 2 colours and  $\mathcal{W}_3(n) :=$  number of partitions of  $n$  into parts  $\equiv \pm 1, \pm 15, \pm 17$  and  $\pm 31 \pmod{64}$  such that the parts  $\equiv \pm 1$  and  $\pm 31 \pmod{64}$  have 2 colours. Then

$$\mathcal{W}_1(n) + \mathcal{W}_2(n - 15) - \mathcal{W}_3(n) = 0.$$

*Proof* Proceeding as in the proof of Theorem 3.1, identity (2.16) can be expressed as

$$\frac{1}{(q^{30\pm, 32\pm}; q^{64})_\infty (q^{1\pm, 16\pm}; q^{64})_\infty^2} + \frac{q^{15}}{(q^{30\pm, 32\pm}; q^{64})_\infty (q^{16\pm, 31\pm}; q^{64})_\infty^2} - \frac{1}{(q^{15\pm, 17\pm}; q^{64})_\infty (q^{1\pm, 31\pm}; q^{64})_\infty^2} = 0. \quad (3.8)$$

Noting the generating functions, we write (3.8) as

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{W}_1(n) q^n + q^{15} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{W}_2(n) q^n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{W}_3(n) q^n = 0, \quad (3.9)$$

where we take  $\mathcal{W}_1(0) = \mathcal{W}_2(0) = \mathcal{W}_3(0) = 1$ . The required result follows easily from (3.9).  $\square$

**Example:** By enumerating the relevant partitions of  $n = 15$ , one can see that  $\mathcal{W}_1(16) = 19$ ,  $\mathcal{W}_2(1) = 0$  and  $\mathcal{W}_3(16) = 19$  satisfy Theorem 3.2.

#### 4 Vanishing coefficients

Recently, many authors have studied vanishing coefficients in the arithmetic progressions of several  $q$ -series expansions. One can see [1], Hirschhorn [3] and references there in for details. In this section, we obtain vanishing coefficient results arising from the  $q$ -product expansion of the continued fractions  $E_i(q)$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8$ ) and their reciprocals. From [2, p. 34, Entry 18(iv)], we note here that, for integers  $t > s > 0$ ,

$$f(-q^t, -q^{-s}) = -q^{-s} f(-q^s, -q^{t-2s}). \quad (4.1)$$

**Theorem 4.1** If

$$E_1^*(q) := q^{-15/2} E_1(q) = \frac{f(-q, -q^{63})}{f(-q^{31}, -q^{33})} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \zeta_n q^n \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1}{E_1^*(q)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \zeta'_n q^n,$$

then

$$(i) \quad \zeta_{32n+16} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad (ii) \quad \zeta'_{32n+31} = 0.$$

*Proof* Write

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \zeta_n q^n = \frac{f(-q, -q^{63})}{f(-q^{31}, -q^{33})} = \frac{f(-q, -q^{63}) f(q^{31}, q^{33})}{f(-q^{31}, -q^{33}) f(q^{31}, q^{33})}. \quad (4.2)$$

From [2, p. 45, Entry 29], we note that, if  $a, b, c$  and  $d$  are complex numbers satisfying  $ab = cd$ , then

$$f(a, b) f(c, d) = f(ac, bd) f(ad, bc) + a f(b/c, ac^2 d) f(b/d, acd^2). \quad (4.3)$$



Setting  $a = -q$ ,  $b = -q^{63}$ ,  $c = q^{31}$ ,  $d = q^{33}$  in (4.3), we obtain

$$f(-q, -q^{63})f(q^{31}, q^{33}) = f(-q^{32}, -q^{96})f(-q^{34}, -q^{94}) - qf(-q^{32}, -q^{96})f(-q^{30}, -q^{98}). \quad (4.4)$$

Setting  $w = q^{31}$  and  $z = q^{33}$  in (2.10), we obtain

$$f(q^{31}, q^{33})f(-q^{31}, -q^{33}) = f(-q^{62}, -q^{66})\phi(-q^{64}). \quad (4.5)$$

Employing (4.5) and (4.11) in (4.2), we obtain

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \zeta_n q^n = \frac{f(-q^{32}, -q^{96})f(-q^{34}, -q^{94}) - qf(-q^{32}, -q^{96})f(-q^{30}, -q^{98})}{f(-q^{62}, -q^{66})\phi(-q^{64})}. \quad (4.6)$$

Extracting the terms containing  $q^{2n}$  in (4.6) and replacing  $q^2$  by  $q$ , we obtain

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \zeta_{2n} q^n = \frac{f(-q^{16}, -q^{48})f(-q^{17}, -q^{47})}{f(-q^{31}, -q^{33})\phi(-q^{32})} = \frac{f(-q^{16}, -q^{48})f(-q^{17}, -q^{47})f(q^{31}, q^{33})}{f(-q^{31}, -q^{33})f(q^{31}, q^{33})\phi(-q^{32})}. \quad (4.7)$$

Setting  $a = -q^{17}$ ,  $b = -q^{47}$ ,  $c = q^{31}$  and  $d = q^{33}$  in (4.3), we obtain

$$f(-q^{17}, -q^{47})f(q^{31}, q^{33}) = f(-q^{48}, -q^{80})f(-q^{50}, -q^{78}) - q^{17}f(-q^{16}, -q^{112})f(-q^{14}, -q^{114}). \quad (4.8)$$

Applying (4.5) and (4.8) in (4.7), we obtain

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \zeta_{2n} q^n = \frac{f(-q^{16}, -q^{48}) (f(-q^{48}, -q^{80})f(-q^{50}, -q^{78}) - q^{17}f(-q^{16}, -q^{112})f(-q^{14}, -q^{114}))}{f(-q^{62}, -q^{66})\phi(-q^{32})\phi(-q^{64})}. \quad (4.9)$$

Again, extracting the terms containing  $q^{2n}$  in (4.9) and replacing  $q^2$  by  $q$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \zeta_{4n} q^n &= \frac{f(-q^8, -q^{24})f(-q^{24}, -q^{40})f(-q^{25}, -q^{39})}{f(-q^{31}, -q^{33})\phi(-q^{16})\phi(-q^{32})} \\ &= \frac{f(-q^8, -q^{24})f(-q^{24}, -q^{40})f(-q^{25}, -q^{39})f(q^{31}, q^{33})}{f(-q^{31}, -q^{33})\phi(-q^{16})\phi(-q^{32})f(q^{31}, q^{33})}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.10)$$

Setting  $a = -q^{25}$ ,  $b = -q^{39}$ ,  $c = q^{31}$  and  $d = q^{33}$  in (4.3), we obtain

$$f(-q^{25}, -q^{39})f(q^{31}, q^{33}) = f(-q^{56}, -q^{72})f(-q^{58}, -q^{70}) - q^{25}f(-q^8, -q^{120})f(-q^6, -q^{122}). \quad (4.11)$$

Applying (4.5) and (4.11) in (4.10), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \zeta_{4n} q^n &= \frac{f(-q^8, -q^{24})f(-q^{24}, -q^{40})}{f(-q^{62}, -q^{66})\phi(-q^{16})\phi(-q^{32})\phi(-q^{64})} \left[ f(-q^{56}, -q^{72})f(-q^{58}, -q^{70}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - q^{25}f(-q^8, -q^{120})f(-q^6, -q^{122}) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (4.12)$$

Extracting the terms containing  $q^{2n}$  and replacing  $q^2$  by  $q$  in (4.12), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \zeta_{8n} q^n &= \frac{f(-q^4, -q^{12})f(-q^{12}, -q^{20})f(-q^{28}, -q^{36})f(-q^{29}, -q^{35})}{\phi(-q^8)\phi(-q^{16})\phi(-q^{32})f(-q^{31}, -q^{33})} \\ &= \frac{f(-q^4, -q^{12})f(-q^{12}, -q^{20})f(-q^{28}, -q^{36})f(-q^{29}, -q^{35})f(q^{31}, q^{33})}{\phi(-q^8)\phi(-q^{16})\phi(-q^{32})f(-q^{31}, -q^{33})f(q^{31}, q^{33})}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.13)$$





Setting  $a = -q^{29}$ ,  $b = -q^{35}$ ,  $c = q^{31}$  and  $d = q^{33}$  in (4.3), we obtain

$$f(-q^{29}, -q^{35})f(q^{31}, q^{33}) = f(-q^{60}, -q^{68})f(-q^{62}, -q^{66}) - q^{29}f(-q^4, -q^{124})f(-q^2, -q^{126}). \quad (4.14)$$

Applying (4.5) and (4.14) in (4.13), we obtain

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \zeta_{8n} q^n = \frac{f(-q^4, -q^{12})f(-q^{12}, -q^{20})f(-q^{28}, -q^{36})}{f(-q^{62}, -q^{66})\phi(-q^8)\phi(-q^{16})\phi(-q^{32})\phi(-q^{64})} \left[ f(-q^{60}, -q^{68})f(-q^{62}, -q^{66}) - q^{29}f(-q^4, -q^{124})f(-q^2, -q^{126}) \right]. \quad (4.15)$$

Again, extracting the terms containing  $q^{2n}$  and replacing  $q^2$  by  $q$  in (4.15), we obtain

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \zeta_{16n} q^n = \frac{f(-q^2, -q^6)f(-q^6, -q^{10})f(-q^{14}, -q^{18})f(-q^{30}, -q^{34})}{\phi(-q^4)\phi(-q^8)\phi(-q^{16})\phi(-q^{32})}. \quad (4.16)$$

The right hand side of (4.16) contains no term involving  $q^{2n+1}$ , so extracting terms containing  $q^{2n+1}$ , we arrive at (i).

To prove (ii), we note that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \zeta'_n q^n = \frac{f(-q^{31}, -q^{33})}{f(-q, -q^{63})} = \frac{f(-q^{31}, -q^{33})f(q, q^{63})}{f(-q, -q^{63})f(q, q^{63})}. \quad (4.17)$$

Setting  $a = -q^{31}$ ,  $b = -q^{33}$ ,  $c = q$ ,  $d = q^{63}$  in (4.3), we obtain

$$f(-q^{31}, -q^{33})f(q, q^{63}) = f(-q^{32}, -q^{96})f(-q^{94}, -q^{34}) - q^{31}f(-q^{32}, -q^{96})f(-q^{-30}, -q^{158}). \quad (4.18)$$

Setting  $s = 30$  and  $t = 158$  in (4.1), we obtain

$$f(-q^{158}, -q^{-30}) = -q^{-30}f(-q^{30}, -q^{98}). \quad (4.19)$$

Employing (4.19) in (4.18), we obtain

$$f(-q^{31}, -q^{33})f(q, q^{63}) = f(-q^{32}, -q^{96})f(-q^{94}, -q^{34}) + qf(-q^{32}, -q^{96})f(-q^{30}, -q^{98}). \quad (4.20)$$

Setting  $w = q$  and  $z = q^{63}$  in (2.10), we obtain

$$f(q, q^{63})f(-q, -q^{63}) = f(-q^2, -q^{126})\phi(-q^{64}). \quad (4.21)$$

Employing (4.20) and (4.21) in (4.17), we obtain

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \zeta'_n q^n = \frac{f(-q^{32}, -q^{96})f(-q^{94}, -q^{34}) + qf(-q^{32}, -q^{96})f(-q^{30}, -q^{98})}{f(-q^2, -q^{126})\phi(-q^{64})}. \quad (4.22)$$

Extracting the terms containing  $q^{2n+1}$  in (4.22), dividing by  $q$  and replacing  $q^2$  by  $q$ , we obtain

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \zeta'_{2n+1} q^n = \frac{f(-q^{16}, -q^{48})f(-q^{15}, -q^{49})}{f(-q, -q^{63})\phi(-q^{32})} = \frac{f(-q^{16}, -q^{48})f(-q^{15}, -q^{49})f(q, q^{63})}{f(-q, -q^{63})f(q, q^{63})\phi(-q^{32})}. \quad (4.23)$$

Setting  $a = -q^{15}$ ,  $b = -q^{49}$ ,  $c = q$  and  $d = q^{63}$  in (4.3), we obtain

$$f(-q^{15}, -q^{49})f(q, q^{63}) = f(-q^{16}, -q^{112})f(-q^{78}, -q^{50}) - q^{15}f(-q^{48}, -q^{80})f(-q^{-14}, -q^{142}). \quad (4.24)$$



Setting  $s = 14$  and  $t = 142$  in (4.1), we obtain

$$f(-q^{142}, -q^{-14}) = -q^{-14}f(-q^{14}, -q^{114}). \quad (4.25)$$

Employing (4.25) in (4.24), we obtain

$$f(-q^{15}, -q^{49})f(q, q^{63}) = f(-q^{16}, -q^{112})f(-q^{78}, -q^{50}) + qf(-q^{48}, -q^{80})f(-q^{14}, -q^{114}). \quad (4.26)$$

Applying (4.21) and (4.26) in (4.23), we obtain

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \zeta'_{2n+1} q^n = \frac{f(-q^{16}, -q^{48}) \left[ f(-q^{16}, -q^{112})f(-q^{78}, -q^{50}) + qf(-q^{48}, -q^{80})f(-q^{14}, -q^{114}) \right]}{f(-q^2, -q^{126})\phi(-q^{32})\phi(-q^{64})}. \quad (4.27)$$

Extracting the terms containing  $q^{2n+1}$  in (4.27), dividing by  $q$  and replacing  $q^2$  by  $q$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \zeta'_{4n+3} q^n &= \frac{f(-q^8, -q^{24})f(-q^{24}, -q^{40})f(-q^7, -q^{57})}{f(-q, -q^{63})\phi(-q^{16})\phi(-q^{32})} \\ &= \frac{f(-q^8, -q^{24})f(-q^{24}, -q^{40})f(-q^7, -q^{57})f(q, q^{63})}{f(-q, -q^{63})f(q, q^{63})\phi(-q^{16})\phi(-q^{32})}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.28)$$

Setting  $a = -q^7$ ,  $b = -q^{57}$ ,  $c = q$  and  $d = q^{63}$  in (4.3), we obtain

$$f(-q^7, -q^{57})f(q, q^{63}) = f(-q^8, -q^{120})f(-q^{70}, -q^{58}) - q^7f(-q^{56}, -q^{72})f(-q^{-6}, -q^{134}). \quad (4.29)$$

Setting  $s = 6$  and  $t = 134$  in (4.1), we obtain

$$f(-q^{134}, -q^{-6}) = -q^{-6}f(-q^6, -q^{122}). \quad (4.30)$$

Employing (4.30) in (4.29), we obtain

$$f(-q^7, -q^{57})f(q, q^{63}) = f(-q^8, -q^{120})f(-q^{70}, -q^{58}) + qf(-q^{56}, -q^{72})f(-q^6, -q^{122}). \quad (4.31)$$

Applying (4.21) and (4.31) in (4.28), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \zeta'_{4n+3} q^n &= \frac{f(-q^8, -q^{24})f(-q^{24}, -q^{40})}{f(-q^2, -q^{126})\phi(-q^{16})\phi(-q^{32})\phi(-q^{64})} \left[ f(-q^8, -q^{120})f(-q^{70}, -q^{58}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + qf(-q^{56}, -q^{72})f(-q^6, -q^{122}) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (4.32)$$

Extracting the terms containing  $q^{2n+1}$  in (4.32), dividing by  $q$  and replacing  $q^2$  by  $q$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \zeta'_{8n+7} q^n &= \frac{f(-q^4, -q^{12})f(-q^{12}, -q^{20})f(-q^{28}, -q^{36})f(-q^3, -q^{61})}{f(-q, -q^{63})\phi(-q^8)\phi(-q^{16})\phi(-q^{32})} \\ &= \frac{f(-q^4, -q^{12})f(-q^{12}, -q^{20})f(-q^{28}, -q^{36})f(-q^3, -q^{61})f(q, q^{63})}{f(-q, -q^{63})f(q, q^{63})\phi(-q^8)\phi(-q^{16})\phi(-q^{32})}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.33)$$

Setting  $a = -q^3$ ,  $b = -q^{61}$ ,  $c = q$  and  $d = q^{63}$  in (4.3), we obtain

$$f(-q^3, -q^{61})f(q, q^{63}) = f(-q^4, -q^{124})f(-q^{66}, -q^{62}) - q^3f(-q^{60}, -q^{68})f(-q^{-2}, -q^{130}). \quad (4.34)$$



Setting  $s = 2$  and  $t = 130$  in (4.1), we obtain

$$f(-q^{130}, -q^{-2}) = -q^{-2}f(-q^2, -q^{126}). \quad (4.35)$$

Employing (4.35) in (4.34), we obtain

$$f(-q^3, -q^{61})f(q, q^{63}) = f(-q^4, -q^{124})f(-q^{66}, -q^{62}) + qf(-q^{60}, -q^{68})f(-q^2, -q^{126}). \quad (4.36)$$

Applying (4.21) and (4.36) in (4.33), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \zeta'_{8n+7} q^n &= \frac{f(-q^4, -q^{12})f(-q^{12}, -q^{20})f(-q^{28}, -q^{36})}{f(-q^2, -q^{126})\phi(-q^8)\phi(-q^{16})\phi(-q^{32})\phi(-q^{64})} \left[ f(-q^4, -q^{124})f(-q^{66}, -q^{62}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + qf(-q^{60}, -q^{68})f(-q^2, -q^{126}) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (4.37)$$

Extracting the terms containing  $q^{2n+1}$  in (4.37), dividing by  $q$  and replacing  $q^2$  by  $q$ , we obtain

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \zeta'_{16n+15} q^n = \frac{f(-q^2, -q^6)f(-q^6, -q^{10})f(-q^{14}, -q^{18})f(-q^{30}, -q^{34})}{\phi(-q^4)\phi(-q^8)\phi(-q^{16})\phi(-q^{32})}. \quad (4.38)$$

The right hand side of (4.38) contains no term containing  $q^{2n+1}$ , so extracting terms containing  $q^{2n+1}$  from (4.38), we complete the proof.  $\square$

In the following table, we present vanishing coefficients of the  $q$ -series expressions connected with the continued fractions  $E_2(q)$ ,  $E_3(q)$ ,  $E_4(q)$ ,  $E_5(q)$ ,  $E_6(q)$ ,  $E_7(q)$ ,  $E_8(q)$  and their reciprocals. Proofs are identical to the proof of Theorem 4.1.

| $q$ -series/Continued fractions                                                                                      | Vanishing coefficients  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| $E_2^*(q) := q^{-13/2} E_2(q) = \frac{f(-q^3, -q^{61})}{f(-q^{29}, -q^{35})} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \lambda_n q^n$    | $\lambda_{32n+13} = 0$  |
| $\frac{1}{E_2^*(q)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \lambda'_n q^n$                                                            | $\lambda'_{32n+26} = 0$ |
| $E_3^*(q) := q^{-11/2} E_3(q) = \frac{f(-q^5, -q^{59})}{f(-q^{27}, -q^{37})} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \alpha_n q^n$     | $\alpha_{32n+6} = 0$    |
| $\frac{1}{E_3^*(q)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \alpha'_n q^n$                                                             | $\alpha'_{32n+17} = 0$  |
| $E_4^*(q) := q^{-9/2} E_4(q) = \frac{f(-q^7, -q^{57})}{f(-q^{25}, -q^{39})} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma_n q^n$      | $\gamma_{32n+27} = 0$   |
| $\frac{1}{E_4^*(q)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma'_n q^n$                                                             | $\gamma'_{32n+4} = 0$   |
| $E_5^*(q) := q^{-7/2} E_5(q) = \frac{f(-q^9, -q^{55})}{f(-q^{23}, -q^{41})} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta_n q^n$       | $\beta_{32n+12} = 0$    |
| $\frac{1}{E_5^*(q)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta'_n q^n$                                                              | $\beta'_{32n+19} = 0$   |
| $E_6^*(q) := q^{-5/2} E_6(q) = \frac{f(-q^{11}, -q^{53})}{f(-q^{21}, -q^{43})} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \delta_n q^n$   | $\delta_{32n+25} = 0$   |
| $\frac{1}{E_6^*(q)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \delta'_n q^n$                                                             | $\delta'_{32n+30} = 0$  |
| $E_7^*(q) := q^{-3/2} E_7(q) = \frac{f(-q^{13}, -q^{51})}{f(-q^{19}, -q^{45})} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \epsilon_n q^n$ | $\epsilon_{32n+2} = 0$  |
| $\frac{1}{E_7^*(q)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \epsilon'_n q^n$                                                           | $\epsilon'_{32n+5} = 0$ |
| $E_8^*(q) := q^{-7/2} E_8(q) = \frac{f(-q^9, -q^{55})}{f(-q^{23}, -q^{41})} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mu_n q^n$         | $\mu_{32n+7} = 0$       |
| $\frac{1}{E_8^*(q)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mu'_n q^n$                                                                | $\mu'_{32n+8} = 0$      |



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#### Declarations

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

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