



CONGRUENCES FOR HYPER M -ARY OVERPARTITION FUNCTIONS

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Abstract

We discuss a new restricted m -ary overpartition function $\bar{h}_m(n)$, which is the number of hyper m -ary overpartitions of n , such that each power of m is allowed to be used at most m times as a non-overlined part. In this note we use generating function dissections to prove the following family of congruences for all $n \geq 0$, $m \geq 4$, $j \geq 0$, $3 \leq k \leq m - 1$, and $t \geq 1$:

$$\bar{h}_m(m^{j+t}n + m^{j+t-1}k + \cdots + m^j k) \equiv 0 \pmod{2^t(2^{j+1} - 1)}.$$

1. Introduction

Numerous functions which enumerate partitions into powers of a fixed number m (Here m is assumed to be bigger than 1) have been studied by Churchhouse [2], Rødseth [10], Andrews [1], Gupta [8] in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and Dirdal [5, 6] in the mid-1970s. For more recent work see [7, 11, 9].

Presently there are a lot of activities in the study of the objects named overpartitions by Corteel and Lovejoy [3]. Rødseth [12] discussed divisibility properties of the number of m -ary overpartitions of a natural number. Courtright and Sellers [4] gave arithmetic properties for hyper m -ary partition functions. In this note, we define $\bar{h}_m(n)$ to be the number of hyper m -ary overpartitions of n . A hyper m -ary overpartition of n is a non-increasing sequence of non-negative integral powers of m whose sum is n , and where the first occurrence (equivalently, the final occurrence) of a power of m may be overlined, such that each power of m is allowed to be used at most m times as a non-overlined part. We denote the number of hyper m -ary overpartitions of n by $\bar{h}_m(n)$ ($\bar{h}_m(n) = 0$ for all negative integers n). The overlined parts form an m -ary partition into distinct parts, and the non-overlined parts

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form a hyper m -ary partition. Thus, putting $\bar{h}_m(0) = 1$, we have the generating function

$$\bar{H}_m(q) := \sum_{n \geq 0} \bar{h}_m(n)q^n = \prod_{i \geq 0} (1 + q^{m^i}) \sum_{k=0}^m q^{k \cdot m^i}.$$

For example, for $m = 2$ we find

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \bar{h}_2(n)q^n = 1 + 2q + 4q^2 + 5q^3 + 8q^4 + 10q^5 + 13q^6 + \dots,$$

where the 10 hyper binary overpartitions of 5 are

$$\begin{aligned} &4 + 1, \bar{4} + 1, 4 + \bar{1}, \bar{4} + \bar{1}, 2 + 2 + 1, \bar{2} + 2 + 1, \\ &2 + 2 + \bar{1}, \bar{2} + 2 + \bar{1}, 2 + \bar{1} + 1 + 1, \bar{2} + \bar{1} + 1 + 1. \end{aligned}$$

From the generating function of $\bar{h}_m(n)$, we have

$$\bar{H}_m(q) = (1 + q)(1 + q + \dots + q^m)\bar{H}_m(q^m), \tag{1}$$

from which we obtain the following recurrences:

$$\bar{h}_m(mn) = \bar{h}_m(n) + 2\bar{h}_m(n - 1), \tag{2}$$

$$\bar{h}_m(mn + 1) = 2\bar{h}_m(n) + \bar{h}_m(n - 1), \tag{3}$$

$$\bar{h}_m(mn + k) = 2\bar{h}_m(n) \quad \text{for } 2 \leq k \leq m - 1. \tag{4}$$

The main object of this note is to prove the following family of congruences for all $n \geq 0$, $m \geq 4$, $j \geq 0$, $t \geq 1$, and k satisfying $3 \leq k \leq m - 1$,

$$\bar{h}_m(m^{j+t}n + m^{j+t-1}k + \dots + m^j k) \equiv 0 \pmod{2^t(2^{j+1} - 1)}.$$

2. Congruences for Hyper Binary and Trinary Overpartitions

We now focus our attention on the function $\bar{h}_2(n)$.

Lemma 1 *For all $n \geq 0$, we have*

$$\bar{h}_2(3n + 1) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}, \quad \bar{h}_2(3n + 2) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}.$$

Proof. We prove this lemma via induction on n . First, the lemma holds for the case $n = 0$ since $\bar{h}_2(1) = 2 \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$, $\bar{h}_2(2) = 4 \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$. Now, we assume the lemma is true for all $n \leq k$. Then we consider the case $n = k + 1$.

Case 1. $k = 2j$ for some integer $j < k$. Then from (2), (3) and induction hypothesis we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{h}_2(3(k+1)+1) &= \bar{h}_2(2(3j+2)) \\ &= \bar{h}_2(3j+2) + 2\bar{h}_2(3j+1) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}, \\ \bar{h}_2(3(k+1)+2) &= \bar{h}_2(2(3j+2)+1) \\ &= 2\bar{h}_2(3j+2) + \bar{h}_2(3j+1) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Case 2. $k = 2j + 1$ for some integer $j < k$. We also have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{h}_2(3(k+1)+1) &= \bar{h}_2(2(3j+3)+1) \\ &= 2\bar{h}_2(3j+3) + \bar{h}_2(3j+2) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}, \\ \bar{h}_2(3(k+1)+2) &= \bar{h}_2(2(3j+4)) \\ &= \bar{h}_2(3j+4) + 2\bar{h}_2(3j+3) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}. \end{aligned}$$

So the lemma is true for the case $n = k + 1$ and the proof is completed. □

By the lemma and similar techniques we can prove the following theorem:

Theorem 2 *For all $n \geq 0$, we have*

$$\bar{h}_2(n) \equiv 0 \pmod{2} \text{ if and only if } n \equiv 1, 2 \pmod{3}.$$

Proof. The sufficiency is handled in Lemma 2.1. We now prove the necessity. We need only to prove $\bar{h}_2(3n) \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ by induction on n . First, the case $n = 0$ is clear. Now, we assume the result is true for all $n \leq k$. Then we consider the case $n = k + 1$.

Case 1. $k = 2j$ for some integer $j < k$. Then from (2), (3), and the induction hypothesis we have

$$\bar{h}_2(3(k+1)) = \bar{h}_2(2(3j+1)+1) = 2\bar{h}_2(3j+1) + \bar{h}_2(3j) \equiv 1 \pmod{2}.$$

Case 2. $k = 2j + 1$ for some integer $j < k$. We also have

$$\bar{h}_2(3(k+1)) = \bar{h}_2(2(3j+3)) = \bar{h}_2(3j+3) + 2\bar{h}_2(3j+2) \equiv 1 \pmod{2}.$$

So the case $n = k + 1$ is true. This completes the proof. □

From the proof of Theorem 2.2 and $\bar{h}_2(3) \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, we have

Corollary 3 For all $n \geq 0$, we have $\bar{h}_2(3n) \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$.

Lemma 4 For all $k \geq 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{h}_2(2^k) - \bar{h}_2(2^k - 1) &= k + 1, \\ \bar{h}_2(2^k - 1) - \bar{h}_2(2^k - 2) &= 1, \\ \bar{h}_2(2^k - 2) - \bar{h}_2(2^k - 3) &= k.\end{aligned}$$

Proof. We prove this lemma by induction on k . First the case $k = 0$ is clear. Now, we assume the result is true for $k = n$ and we consider the case $k = n + 1$. By the recurrences (2) and (3), we have

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{h}_2(2^{n+1}) - \bar{h}_2(2^{n+1} - 1) &= \bar{h}_2(2 \cdot 2^n) - \bar{h}_2(2(2^n - 1) + 1) \\ &= \bar{h}_2(2^n) + 2\bar{h}_2(2^n - 1) - (2\bar{h}_2(2^n - 1) + \bar{h}_2(2^n - 2)) \\ &= \bar{h}_2(2^n) - \bar{h}_2(2^n - 1) + (\bar{h}_2(2^n - 1) - \bar{h}_2(2^n - 2)) \\ &= (n + 1) + 1 = n + 2.\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{h}_2(2^{n+1} - 1) - \bar{h}_2(2^{n+1} - 2) &= \bar{h}_2(2(2^n - 1) + 1) - \bar{h}_2(2(2^n - 1)) \\ &= 2\bar{h}_2(2^n - 1) + \bar{h}_2(2^n - 2) - (\bar{h}_2(2^n - 1) + 2\bar{h}_2(2^n - 2)) \\ &= \bar{h}_2(2^n - 1) - \bar{h}_2(2^n - 2) = 1.\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{h}_2(2^{n+1} - 2) - \bar{h}_2(2^{n+1} - 3) &= \bar{h}_2(2(2^n - 1)) - \bar{h}_2(2(2^n - 2) + 1) \\ &= \bar{h}_2(2^n - 1) + 2\bar{h}_2(2^n - 2) - (2\bar{h}_2(2^n - 2) + \bar{h}_2(2^n - 3)) \\ &= (\bar{h}_2(2^n - 1) - \bar{h}_2(2^n - 2)) + (\bar{h}_2(2^n - 2) - \bar{h}_2(2^n - 3)) \\ &= 1 + n = n + 1.\end{aligned}$$

So the lemma is true for the case $k = n + 1$ and the proof is completed. □

By Lemma 4 and induction on n , we can prove

Theorem 5 *For all $n \geq 0$, we have*

$$\bar{h}_2(2^n) = \frac{1}{2}(3^n + 1) + n + 1, \quad \bar{h}_2(2^n - 1) = \frac{1}{2}(3^n + 1).$$

Proof. We prove this theorem by induction on n . By Lemma 2.4, we need only to prove the first formula. First, the formula is true for $n = 0$. Now, we assume the formula is true for $n = k$. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{h}_2(2^{k+1}) &= \bar{h}_2(2^k) + 2\bar{h}_2(2^k - 1) \\ &= 3\bar{h}_2(2^k) - 2(\bar{h}_2(2^k) - \bar{h}_2(2^k - 1)) \\ &= \frac{3}{2}(3^k + 1) + 3(k + 1) - 2(k + 1) \\ &\hspace{10em} \text{(by induction hypothesis and Lemma 4)} \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(3^{k+1} + 1) + k + 2. \end{aligned}$$

So the theorem is true for the case $n = k + 1$ and the proof is completed. □

From Theorem 5 and Lemma 4 we can easily obtain

Corollary 6 *For all $n \geq 1$, we have*

$$\bar{h}_2(2^n - 2) = \frac{1}{2}(3^n - 1), \quad \bar{h}_2(2^n - 3) = \frac{1}{2}(3^n - 1) - n.$$

Now, we consider the function $\bar{h}_3(n)$.

Theorem 7 *For all $n \geq 0$, we have*

$$n \equiv 1, 2, 3 \pmod{4} \text{ implies } \bar{h}_3(n) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}.$$

Proof. We prove this theorem by induction on n . First the theorem is true for the case $n = 0$ since

$$\bar{h}_3(1) = 2, \quad \bar{h}_3(2) = 2, \quad \bar{h}_3(3) = 4.$$

Now we assume the lemma is true for all $n \leq k$ and we consider the case $n = k + 1$.

Case 1. $k = 3j$ for some integer $j < k$. Then from (2), (3), (4) and the induction hypothesis we have

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{h}_3(4(k+1)+1) &= \bar{h}_3(3(4j+1)+2) \\ &= 2\bar{h}_3(4j+1) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}, \\ \bar{h}_3(4(k+1)+2) &= \bar{h}_3(3(4j+2)) \\ &= \bar{h}_3(4j+2) + 2\bar{h}_3(4j+1) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}, \\ \bar{h}_3(4(k+1)+3) &= \bar{h}_3(3(4j+2)+1) \\ &= 2\bar{h}_3(4j+2) + \bar{h}_3(4j+1) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}.\end{aligned}$$

Case 2. $k = 3j + 1$ for some integer $j < k$. We also have

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{h}_3(4(k+1)+1) &= \bar{h}_3(3(4j+3)) \\ &= \bar{h}_3(4j+3) + 2\bar{h}_3(4j+2) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}, \\ \bar{h}_3(4(k+1)+2) &= \bar{h}_3(3(4j+3)+1) \\ &= 2\bar{h}_3(4j+3) + \bar{h}_3(4j+2) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}, \\ \bar{h}_3(4(k+1)+3) &= \bar{h}_3(3(4j+3)+2) \\ &= 2\bar{h}_3(4j+3) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}.\end{aligned}$$

Case 3. $k = 3j + 2$ for some integer $j < k$. We also have

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{h}_3(4(k+1)+1) &= \bar{h}_3(3(4j+4)+1) \\ &= 2\bar{h}_3(4j+4) + \bar{h}_3(4j+3) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}, \\ \bar{h}_3(4(k+1)+2) &= \bar{h}_3(3(4j+4)+2) \\ &= 2\bar{h}_3(4j+4) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}, \\ \bar{h}_3(4(k+1)+3) &= \bar{h}_3(3(4j+5)) \\ &= \bar{h}_3(4j+5) + 2\bar{h}_3(4j+4) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}.\end{aligned}$$

So the theorem is true for the case $n = k + 1$ and the proof is completed. □

From Theorem 7 and Recurrence (4) we can prove

Theorem 8 For all $n \geq 0, k \geq 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{h}_3(4n \cdot 3^k + 2 \cdot 3^k - 1) &\equiv 0 \pmod{2^{k+1}}, \\ \bar{h}_3(4n \cdot 3^k + 3 \cdot 3^k - 1) &\equiv 0 \pmod{2^{k+1}}, \\ \bar{h}_3(4n \cdot 3^k + 4 \cdot 3^k - 1) &\equiv 0 \pmod{2^{k+1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. We prove this result by induction on k . We first consider the case $k = 0$. Note that the case $k = 0$ is Theorem 2.7. Now, we assume

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{h}_3(4n \cdot 3^k + 2 \cdot 3^k - 1) &\equiv 0 \pmod{2^{k+1}}, \\ \bar{h}_3(4n \cdot 3^k + 3 \cdot 3^k - 1) &\equiv 0 \pmod{2^{k+1}}, \\ \bar{h}_3(4n \cdot 3^k + 4 \cdot 3^k - 1) &\equiv 0 \pmod{2^{k+1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Then by Recurrence (4) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{h}_3(4n \cdot 3^{k+1} + 2 \cdot 3^{k+1} - 1) &= \bar{h}_3(3(4n \cdot 3^k + 2 \cdot 3^k - 1) + 2) \\ &= 2\bar{h}_3(4n \cdot 3^k + 2 \cdot 3^k - 1) \equiv 0 \pmod{2^{k+2}}, \\ \bar{h}_3(4n \cdot 3^{k+1} + 3 \cdot 3^{k+1} - 1) &= \bar{h}_3(3(4n \cdot 3^k + 3 \cdot 3^k - 1) + 2) \\ &= 2\bar{h}_3(4n \cdot 3^k + 3 \cdot 3^k - 1) \equiv 0 \pmod{2^{k+2}}, \\ \bar{h}_3(4n \cdot 3^{k+1} + 4 \cdot 3^{k+1} - 1) &= \bar{h}_3(3(4n \cdot 3^k + 4 \cdot 3^k - 1) + 2) \\ &= 2\bar{h}_3(4n \cdot 3^k + 4 \cdot 3^k - 1) \equiv 0 \pmod{2^{k+2}}, \end{aligned}$$

thereby completing the proof. □

Furthermore, we obtain

Theorem 9 For all $n \geq 0$, we have $\bar{h}_3(3^n) = 2^{n+1}$, and $\bar{h}_3(3^n - 1) = 2^n$.

Proof. We prove this result via induction on n using Recurrences (2) and (4). First, the theorem holds for the case $n = 0$ since $\bar{h}_3(1) = 2, \bar{h}_3(0) = 1$. Now we assume the theorem is true for the case $n = k$. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{h}_3(3^{k+1}) &= \bar{h}_3(3^k) + 2\bar{h}_3(3^k - 1) = 2^{k+1} + 2 \cdot 2^k = 2^{k+2}, \\ \bar{h}_3(3^{k+1} - 1) &= 2\bar{h}_3(3^k - 1) = 2^{k+1}. \end{aligned}$$

So the theorem is true for the case $n = k + 1$ and the proof is complete. □

By Theorem 9 and Recurrence (4) we can easily prove

Corollary 10 *For all $n \geq 0$, we have $\bar{h}_3(3^{n+1} + 2) = 2^{n+2}$.*

3. General Conclusion

Lemma 11 *For all $n \geq 0, m \geq 3$ and $j \geq 0$, we have*

$$\bar{h}_m(m^j n) = \bar{h}_m(n) + (2^{j+1} - 2)\bar{h}_m(n - 1).$$

Proof. We prove this result by induction on j . Note that the case $j = 0$ is clear and the case $j = 1$ is the recurrence (2). Now, we assume the result is true for some positive integer j . This means we assume that

$$\bar{h}_m(m^j n) = \bar{h}_m(n) + (2^{j+1} - 2)\bar{h}_m(n - 1),$$

or that

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \bar{h}_m(m^j n) q^n = (1 + (2^{j+1} - 2)q)\bar{H}_m(q).$$

Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{h}_m(m^{j+1} n) &= [q^{mn}](1 + (2^{j+1} - 2)q)\bar{H}_m(q) \\ &= [q^{mn}](1 + (2^{j+1} - 2)q)(1 + q)(1 + q + \dots + q^m)\bar{H}_m(q^m) \\ &= [q^{mn}](1 + 2q^m + (2^{j+1} - 2)q \cdot 2q^{m-1})\bar{H}_m(q^m) \\ &= [q^n](1 + (2^{j+2} - 2)q)\bar{H}_m(q) \\ &= \bar{h}_m(n) + (2^{j+2} - 2)\bar{h}_m(n - 1). \end{aligned}$$

□

From Lemma 11 we can easily prove the following result, which generalizes Theorem 9.

Corollary 12 *For all $n \geq 0$ and $m \geq 3$, we have*

$$\bar{h}_m(m^n) = 2^{n+1}, \quad \bar{h}_m(m^n - 1) = 2^n.$$

We now prove a family of congruences using similar elementary techniques.

Lemma 13 *Let $m \geq 4, j \geq 0$, and $3 \leq k \leq m - 1$. Then for all $n \geq 0$, we have*

$$\bar{h}_m(m^{j+1} n + m^j k) = (2^{j+2} - 2)\bar{h}_m(n).$$

Proof. Using Lemma 11, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \bar{h}_m(m^{j+1}n + m^j k) &= [q^{mn+k}](1 + (2^{j+1} - 2)q)\bar{H}_m(q) \\
 &= [q^{mn+k}](1 + (2^{j+1} - 2)q) \\
 &\quad \times (1 + 2q + 2q^2 + \dots + 2q^m + q^{m+1})\bar{H}_m(q^m) \\
 &= [q^{mn+k}](2q^k + (2^{j+1} - 2)q \cdot 2q^{k-1})\bar{H}_m(q^m) \\
 &\quad \text{(since } 3 \leq k, \text{ so that } m + 2 < m + k) \\
 &= [q^{mn}](2^{j+2} - 2)\bar{H}_m(q^m) \\
 &= (2^{j+2} - 2)\bar{h}_m(n).
 \end{aligned}$$

□

Remark 14 Lemma 13 implies that, for $m \geq 4$, $j \geq 0$ and $3 \leq k \leq m - 1$, we have

$$\bar{h}_m(m^{j+1}n + m^j k) \equiv 0 \pmod{(2^{j+2} - 2)}.$$

Theorem 15 For all $n \geq 0$, $m \geq 4$, $j \geq 0$, $t \geq 1$ and k satisfying $3 \leq k \leq m - 1$, we have

$$\bar{h}_m(m^{j+t}n + m^{j+t-1}k + \dots + m^j k) = 2^t(2^{j+1} - 1)\bar{h}_m(n).$$

Proof. We prove this result by induction on t . The case $t = 1$ is proved in Lemma 13. Now we assume

$$\bar{h}_m(m^{j+t-1}n + m^{j+t-2}k + \dots + m^j k) = 2^{t-1}(2^{j+1} - 1)\bar{h}_m(n),$$

or that

$$\bar{h}_m(m^{j+t-1}n + m^{j+t-2}k + \dots + m^j k) = [q^n]2^{t-1}(2^{j+1} - 1)\bar{H}_m(q).$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\bar{h}_m(m^{j+t}n + m^{j+t-1}k + \dots + m^j k) \\
 &= [q^{mn+k}]2^{t-1}(2^{j+1} - 1)\bar{H}_m(q) \\
 &= [q^{mn+k}]2^{t-1}(2^{j+1} - 1)(1 + q)(1 + q + \dots + q^m)\bar{H}_m(q^m) \\
 &= [q^{mn+k}]2^{t-1}(2^{j+1} - 1) \cdot 2q^k\bar{H}_m(q^m) \\
 &= [q^n]2^t(2^{j+1} - 1)\bar{H}_m(q) \\
 &= 2^t(2^{j+1} - 1)\bar{h}_m(n).
 \end{aligned}$$

□

Remark 16 Theorem 15 implies that, for all $n \geq 0$, $m \geq 4$, $j \geq 1$, $3 \leq k \leq m - 1$, and $t \geq 1$,

$$\bar{h}_m(m^{j+t}n + m^{j+t-1}k + \cdots + m^j k) \equiv 0 \pmod{2^t(2^{j+1} - 1)}.$$

Corollary 17 For all $t \geq 0$, $m \geq 4$, we have

$$\bar{h}_m(m^{t+1} + m^t - 1) = 2^{t+2}. \quad (5)$$

Proof. A proof can be obtained by letting $n = m$, $j = 0$, $k = m - 1$ in Theorem 15.

Remark 18 We can easily prove (5) is true for the case $m = 3$.

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