

Ramanujan Summation Formula

Let

$$f(z; \mu, q) := \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{q^k}{1 - \mu q^k} z^k, \quad z \neq 0. \quad (1)$$

We assume $0 < q < 1$, $|\mu| < 1$ and $\mu \neq q^k$, $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

1. As a function of z , show that f is holomorphic in the disk

$$1 < |z| < q^{-1}.$$

2. Show that f , again as a function of z , extends analytically to all $z \neq 0$ except for poles at $z = q^k$, $k \in \mathbb{Z}$.
3. The Ramanujan function ψ , traditionally denoted by ${}_1\psi_1$, is defined as

$$\psi(x; a, b) := \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{(a; q)_k}{(b; q)_k} x^k$$

where

$$\left| \frac{b}{a} \right| < |x| < 1, \quad |q| < 1 \quad \text{and} \quad (a; q)_n := (1 - a)(1 - aq) \cdots (1 - aq^{n-1}).$$

Setting

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

the Ramanujan summation formula is

$$\psi(x; a, b) = \frac{(b/a; q)_\infty (q; q)_\infty (q/ax; q)_\infty (ax; q)_\infty}{(b; q)_\infty (b/ax; q)_\infty (q/a; q)_\infty (x; q)_\infty} \quad (2)$$

Prove (2). You may want to consult (and fill in the details of) the paper¹

G. E. Andrews and R. Askey, *A simple proof of Ramanujan's summation of the ${}_1\psi_1$* , *Aequationes Mathematicae* **18** (1978), 333–337.

Show, by a judicious choice of the parameters a , b and x , that Ramanujan's formula (2) implies that (1) has the product representation

$$\mu f(z; \mu, q) = \frac{1 - \mu z}{(1 - z)(1 - \mu)} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 - q^n)^2}{(1 - zq^n)(1 - z^{-1}q^n)} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 - \mu z q^n)(1 - (\mu z)^{-1} q^n)}{(1 - \mu q^n)(1 - \mu^{-1} q^n)} \quad (3)$$

From this conclude that in both variables z and μ , f has simple poles at q^n , $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

¹For a recent review of topics centered on the Ramanujan summation formula, the article by S. Ole Warnaar is recommended—see Math 205A homepage for link.