# Some Theorems on Ramanujan's Cubic Continued Fraction and Related Identities \*

M. S. Mahadeva Naika<sup> $\dagger$ </sup>

Department of Mathematics, Bangalore University, Central College Campus, Bangalore-560 001, Karnataka, India

Received February 9, 2007, Accepted March 27, 2007.

#### Abstract

On page 366 of his lost notebook [8], Ramanujan has recorded cubic continued fraction and several theorems analogous to Rogers-Ramanujan continued fractions. In this paper we establish several interesting results of cubic continued fraction which are analogous to Rogers-Ramanujan continued fractions.

**Keywords and Phrases:** *Cubic continued fraction, Modular equation, Thetafunction.* 

## 1. Introduction

In Chapter 16, of his second note book [1], [3, pp.257-262], Ramanujan develops the theory of theta-function and his theta-function is defined by

$$f(a,b) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} a^{\frac{n(n+1)}{2}} b^{\frac{n(n-1)}{2}}, \ |ab| < 1,$$
$$= (-a; ab)_{\infty} (-b; ab)_{\infty} (ab; ab)_{\infty},$$

<sup>\*2000</sup> Mathematics Subject Classification. 33D10, 11A55, 11F27.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>dagger}\text{E-mail:}$ msmnaika@rediffmail.com

where,  $(q;q)_{\infty} = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1-q^n), |q| < 1.$ Following Bamanujan, we define

Following Ramanujan, we define

$$\varphi(q) := f(q,q) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} q^{n^2} = (-q;q^2)^2_{\infty}(q^2;q^2)_{\infty},$$
 (1.1)

$$\psi(q) := f(q, q^3) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} q^{\frac{n(n+1)}{2}} = \frac{(q^2; q^2)_{\infty}}{(q; q^2)_{\infty}},$$
(1.2)

$$f(-q) := f(-q, -q^2) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{\frac{n(3n-1)}{2}} = (q; q)_{\infty}, \quad (1.3)$$

$$\chi(q) := (-q; q^2)_{\infty}.$$
 (1.4)

Let

$$R(q) := \frac{q^{\frac{1}{5}}}{1+} \frac{q}{1+} \frac{q^2}{1+\cdots}, \qquad |q| < 1, \tag{1.5}$$

denote the Rogers-Ramanujan continued fraction. On page 365 of his lost notebook [8], Ramanujan wrote five identities which shows the relation between R(q) and the five continued fractions R(-q),  $R(q^2)$ ,  $R(q^3)$ ,  $R(q^4)$  and  $R(q^5)$ .

On page 366 of his lost notebook [8], Ramanujan has recorded cubic continued fraction

$$V(q) := \frac{q^{\frac{1}{3}}}{1+} \frac{q+q^2}{1+} \frac{q^2+q^4}{1+\cdots}, \qquad |q| < 1,$$
(1.6)

and claimed that there are many results of V(q) which are analogous to R(q).

In Section 2, we establish several modular equations of degrees 3 and 9. In Section 3, we establish general formulas to find explicit evaluations of V(q) and reciprocity theorems. In Section 4, we establish the relation between  $\mu(q)$  and the other four identities  $\mu(-q)$ ,  $\mu(q^2)$  and  $\mu(q^3)$ , where  $\mu(q) := 2V(q)V(q^2)$ . We also establish reciprocity theorems, integral representations and several explicit evaluations of  $\mu(q)$ .

## 2. Modular Equations of Degrees 3 and 9

Theorem 2.1. We have

$$\frac{f^6(-q)}{f^6(-q^3)} = \frac{\psi^2(q)}{\psi^2(q^3)} \frac{\psi^4(q) - 9q\psi^4(q^3)}{\psi^4(q) - q\psi^4(q^3)},$$
(2.1)

$$\frac{f^{6}(-q^{2})}{qf^{6}(-q^{6})} = \frac{\varphi^{2}(-q)}{\varphi^{2}(-q^{3})} \frac{\varphi^{4}(-q) - 9\varphi^{4}(-q^{3})}{\varphi^{4}(-q) - \varphi^{4}(-q^{3})},$$
(2.2)
$$f^{12}(-q) \qquad \varphi^{8}(-q) \ \varphi^{4}(-q) - 9\varphi^{4}(-q^{3})$$
(2.2)

$$\frac{f^{12}(-q)}{qf^{12}(-q^3)} = \frac{\varphi^8(-q)}{\varphi^8(-q^3)} \frac{\varphi^4(-q) - 9\varphi^4(-q^3)}{\varphi^4(-q) - \varphi^4(-q^3)},$$
(2.3)

$$\frac{f^{12}(-q^2)}{f^{12}(-q^6)} = \frac{\psi^8(q)}{\psi^8(q^3)} \frac{\psi^4(q) - 9q\psi^4(q^3)}{\psi^4(q) - q\psi^4(q^3)}.$$
(2.4)

**Proof of** (2.1). By using Theorem 9.9 and Theorem 9.10 of Chapter 33 of Ramanujan notebooks [5, p.148], in Theorem 10.5 of Chapter 33 of Ramanujan's notebooks [5, p.156], we find that

$$\frac{\varphi^4(-q)}{\varphi^4(-q^3)} = \frac{\psi^4(q) - 9q\psi^4(q^3)}{\psi^4(q) - q\psi^4(q^3)}.$$
(2.5)

Using Entry 24(ii) of Chapter 16 of Ramanujan's notebooks [3, p.39] in (2.5), we obtain (2.1).

As the proofs of the identities (2.2)-(2.4) are similar to the proof of the identity (2.1). So we omit the details.

Theorem 2.2. We have

$$\frac{f^{3}(-q)}{^{3}(-q^{9})} = \frac{\psi(q)}{\psi(q^{9})} \left(\frac{\psi(q) - 3q\psi(q^{9})}{\psi(q) - q\psi(q^{9})}\right)^{2}, \qquad (2.6)$$

$$\frac{f'(q)}{f^{3}(-q^{9})} = \frac{\psi(q)}{\psi(q^{9})} \left( \frac{\psi(q) - 5q\psi(q)}{\psi(q) - q\psi(q^{9})} \right) , \qquad (2.6)$$

$$\frac{f^{3}(-q^{2})}{f^{3}(-q^{18})} = \frac{\psi^{2}(q)}{\psi^{2}(q^{9})} \frac{\psi(q) - 3q\psi(q^{9})}{\psi(q) - q\psi(q^{9})}, \qquad (2.7)$$

$$\frac{f^{3}(-q)}{qf^{3}(-q^{9})} = \frac{\varphi^{2}(-q)}{\varphi^{2}(-q^{9})} \frac{\varphi(-q) - 3\varphi(-q^{9})}{\varphi(-q) - \varphi(-q^{9})},$$
(2.8)

$$\frac{f^3(-q^2)}{q^2 f^3(-q^{18})} = \frac{\varphi(-q)}{\varphi(-q^9)} \left(\frac{\varphi(-q) - 3\varphi(-q^9)}{\varphi(-q) - \varphi(-q^9)}\right)^2.$$
(2.9)

Proofs of the identities (2.6)-(2.9) are similar to the proof of the identity (2.1). So we omit the details.

### Theorem 2.3 We have

$$\varphi(q) - \varphi(q^3) = 2q\chi(q)f(-q, -q^{11}),$$
 (2.10)

$$\varphi(q) + \varphi(q^3) = 2\chi(q)f(-q^5, -q^7),$$
 (2.11)

$$\varphi^2(q) - \varphi^2(q^3) = 4q\chi^2(q)\psi(q^6)f(-q, -q^5), \qquad (2.12)$$

$$\varphi^2(q) + \varphi^2(q^3) = 2\chi^2(q)\varphi(-q^3)f(q^2, q^4).$$
(2.13)

**Proof of** (2.10). Using (1.1), we find that

$$\varphi(-q) - \varphi(-q^3) = \frac{(q;q)_{\infty}}{(-q;q)_{\infty}} \left[ 1 - \frac{(-q;q)_{\infty}(q^3;q^3)_{\infty}}{(q;q)_{\infty}(-q^3;q^3)_{\infty}} \right] \\
= (q;q^2)_{\infty} [f(-q,-q^2) - f(q,q^2)].$$
(2.14)

Using Entry 30(iii) of Chapter 16 of Ramanujan's notebooks [3, p.46] and then changing q by -q, we obtain (2.10).

Proofs of the identities (2.11)-(2.13) are similar to the proof of the identity (2.10). So we omit the details.

**Corollary 2.1.** We have (i)

$$\frac{\varphi(q)}{\varphi(q^3)} = \frac{1+P}{1-P}, \quad where \quad P := P(q) = \frac{qf(-q,-q^{11})}{f(-q^5,-q^7)}. \tag{2.15}$$

For more details, one can see [6]. (ii) If V(q) is defined as in (1.6), then

$$\frac{\varphi^2(q)}{\varphi^2(q^3)} = \frac{1+\mu}{1-\mu}, \quad where \quad \mu := \mu(q) = 2V(q)V(q^2), \tag{2.16}$$

(iii)

$$\frac{\psi^2(q^2)}{q\psi^2(q^6)} = \frac{2-\mu}{\mu},\tag{2.17}$$

(iv) If 
$$t = \frac{q^{\frac{1}{12}}(-q^3;q^3)_{\infty}}{(-q;q)_{\infty}}$$
, then  

$$\mu(-q) = \frac{1 - \sqrt{x}}{1 + \sqrt{x}}, \quad where \quad x = \sqrt[4]{\frac{1 + t^{12} + \sqrt{t^{24} - 34t^{12} + 1}}{2}}, \qquad (2.18)$$

(v) If  $\mu(q) < 1$ , then  $\frac{f^6(-q^2)}{qf^6(-q^6)} = \frac{(1+\mu)(1-2\mu)(2-\mu)}{\mu(1-\mu)},$ (2.19)

(vi)

$$\frac{\psi^4(-q)}{q\psi^4(-q^3)} = \frac{(2\mu - 1)(\mu - 2)}{\mu}.$$
(2.20)

**Proof of (i).** Using (2.6) and (2.7), we find that

$$\frac{\varphi(q) - \varphi(q^3)}{\varphi(q) + \varphi(q^3)} = \frac{qf(-q, -q^{11})}{f(-q^5, -q^7)}.$$

Hence, we complete the proof.

Proofs of (ii)-(vi) are similar to proof of (i). So we omit the details. **Theorem 2.4.** If  $\alpha = \frac{1-i\sqrt{3}}{2}$  and  $\beta = \frac{1+i\sqrt{3}}{2}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(-q) + i\sqrt{3}\varphi(-q^3) &= \frac{(1+i\sqrt{3})\chi(-q)f(-q^4)}{\prod_{n\equiv 0,2,3(\mod,4)}(1-\alpha q^n)\prod_{n\equiv 0,1,2(\mod,4)}(1-\beta q^n)}, \end{aligned}$$
(2.21)  
$$\varphi(-q) - i\sqrt{3}\varphi(-q^3) &= \frac{(1-i\sqrt{3})\chi(-q)f(-q^4)}{\prod_{n\equiv 0,1,2(\mod,4)}(1-\alpha q^n)\prod_{n\equiv 0,2,3(\mod,4)}(1-\beta q^n)}, \end{aligned}$$
(2.22)  
$$\varphi^2(-q) + 3\varphi^2(-q^3) &= 4\chi^2(-q)f(-q^4)\prod_{n\equiv 0(\mod,3)}(1+q^n)(1+q^{2n}). \end{aligned}$$
(2.23)

**Proof of** (2.21). Let  $\omega = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}}$  then putting  $\omega = -\alpha$  and  $\omega^2 = -\beta$ . Since  $\beta - \alpha = i\sqrt{3}$ . Using (1.1), we obtain

$$\begin{split} \varphi(-q) + i\sqrt{3}\varphi(-q^3) &= \frac{(q;q)_{\infty}}{(-q;q)_{\infty}} \left[ 1 + \frac{(\beta - \alpha)(q^3;q^3)_{\infty}(-q;q)_{\infty}}{(-q^3;q^3)_{\infty}(q;q)_{\infty}} \right] \\ &= \frac{(q;q)_{\infty}}{(-q;q)_{\infty}} \left[ 1 + \omega(1-\omega) \prod_{i=1}^2 \frac{(\omega^i q;q)_{\infty}}{(-\omega^i q;q)_{\infty}} \right] \\ &= \chi(-q) \left[ \frac{f(\omega,\omega^2 q) - f(-\omega,-\omega^2 q)}{(-\omega;q)_{\infty}(-\omega^2 q;q)_{\infty}} \right]. \end{split}$$

Using Entry 30(iii) of Chapter 16 of Ramanujan's notebooks [3, p.46], we find that 2 - (-) f(-2 - 3)

$$\varphi(-q) + i\sqrt{3}\varphi(-q^3) = \frac{2\omega\chi(-q)f(\omega q, \omega^2 q^3)}{(1+\omega)(-\omega q; q)_{\infty}(-\omega^2 q; q)_{\infty}}.$$

247

On simplification of the above identity, we obtain (2.21).

Proofs of the identities (2.22) and (2.23) are similar to the proof of the identity (2.21). So we omit the details.

Theorem 2.5. We have

$$\left[27 + \frac{f^{12}(-q)}{qf^{12}(-q^3)}\right]^{\frac{1}{3}} = \frac{1}{V} + 4V^2, \qquad (2.24)$$

$$\left[27 + \frac{f^{12}(-q^2)}{q^2 f^{12}(-q^6)}\right]^{\frac{1}{3}} = \frac{1}{V^2} - 2V, \qquad (2.25)$$

$$3 + \frac{f^3(-q^{\frac{1}{3}})}{q^{\frac{1}{3}}f^3(-q^3)} = \frac{1}{V} + 4V^2, \qquad (2.26)$$

$$3 + \frac{f^3(-q^{\frac{2}{3}})}{q^{\frac{2}{3}}f^3(-q^6)} = \frac{1}{V^2} - 2V.$$
 (2.27)

**Proof of** (2.24). By Entry 1(i) of Chapter 20 of Ramanujan's notebooks [3, p.345], we have

$$1 + \frac{1}{V^3} = \frac{\psi^4(q)}{q\psi^4(q^3)}.$$
(2.28)

Using (2.28) in (2.1), we find that

$$\frac{f^{12}(-q)}{qf^{12}(-q^3)} = (1 + \frac{1}{V^3})(1 - 8V^3)^2.$$
(2.29)

On simplification of the above identity (2.29), we obtain (2.24).

As the proofs of the identities (2.25)-(2.27) are similar to the proof of the identity (2.24). So we omit the details.

Theorem 2.6. We have

$$\frac{\varphi(q^{\frac{1}{3}})}{\varphi(q^{3})} = 1 + \sqrt[3]{\frac{4\mu(q)}{(1-\mu(q))^{2}}},$$
(2.30)

$$\frac{\psi(q^{\frac{2}{3}})}{q^{\frac{2}{3}}\psi(q^6)} = 1 + \sqrt[3]{\frac{4(1-\mu(q))}{\mu(q)}}.$$
(2.31)

**Proof of** (2.30). Using (2.16) in (24.29) of Chapter 18 of Ramanujan notebooks [3, p.218], we obtain (2.30).

**Proof of** (2.31). Using (2.17) in (24.28) of Chapter 18 of Ramanujan notebooks [3, p.218], we obtain (2.31).

# 3. General Formulas For Explicit Evaluations of V(q)

In this section, we prove some general formulas for explicit evaluations of V(q). **Theorem 3.1.** We have (i) For  $q = e^{-2n\sqrt{\frac{n}{3}}}$ ,

$$3(1+A_n^2)^{\frac{1}{3}} = \frac{1}{V} + 4V^2, \quad where \quad A_n := \frac{1}{3\sqrt{3}} \frac{f^6(-q)}{q^{\frac{1}{2}} f^6(-q^3)}, \quad (3.1)$$

where V := V(q) is defined as in (1.6), (ii) For  $q = e^{-\pi \sqrt{\frac{n}{3}}}$ ,

$$3(1+B_n^2)^{\frac{1}{3}} = \frac{1}{V^2} - 2V, \quad where \quad B_n := \frac{1}{3\sqrt{3}} \frac{f^6(-q^2)}{qf^6(-q^6)}, \quad (3.2)$$

(*iii*) For  $q = e^{-\pi \sqrt{\frac{n}{3}}}$ ,

$$3(1-\lambda_n^2)^{\frac{1}{3}} = \frac{1}{V(-q)} + 4V(-q)^2, \quad where \quad \lambda_n := \frac{1}{3\sqrt{3}} \frac{f^6(q)}{q^{\frac{1}{2}} f^6(q^3)}, \tag{3.3}$$

(iv) For  $q = e^{-2\pi\sqrt{n}}$ ,

$$3(1+\sqrt{3}D_n^3) = \frac{1}{V} + 4V^2, \quad where \quad D_n := \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \frac{f(-q^{\frac{1}{3}})}{q^{\frac{1}{9}}f(-q^3)}, \quad (3.4)$$

(v) For  $q = e^{-\pi\sqrt{n}}$ ,

$$3(1+\sqrt{3}C_n^3) = \frac{1}{V^2} - 2V, \quad where \quad C_n := \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \frac{f(-q^{2/3})}{q^{2/9}f(-q^6)}, \quad (3.5)$$

(vi) For  $q = e^{-\pi\sqrt{n}}$ ,

$$3(1 - \sqrt{3}F_n^3) = \frac{1}{V(-q)} + 4V^2(-q), \quad where \quad F_n := \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \frac{f(q^{\frac{1}{3}})}{q^{\frac{1}{9}}f(q^3)}.$$
 (3.6)

Theorem(3.1) can be easily proved by using the results in Theorem(2.5).

Corollary 3.1. We have

$$A_1 = B_1 = C_1 = D_1 = F_1 = \lambda_1 = 1, \qquad (3.7)$$

$$V(e^{-\frac{\pi}{\sqrt{3}}}) = 2^{-\frac{4}{3}} \left[ \sqrt[3]{3 + 2\sqrt{2}} + \sqrt[3]{3 - 2\sqrt{2}} - 1 \right].$$
(3.8)

**Proof of** (3.7). It follows from the definitions and transformation formulas in Entry 27 (iii), (iv) of Chapter 16 of Ramanujan's notebooks [3, p.43]. **Proof of** (3.8). Putting n=1 in (3.2), we find that

$$B_1 = 1.$$
 (3.9)

Using (3.9) in (3.2), we deduce that

$$3\sqrt[3]{2} = \frac{1}{x^2} - 2x, \quad where \quad x := V(e^{\frac{\pi}{\sqrt{3}}}).$$
 (3.10)

Solving the above equation, we obtain the required result.

**Theorem 3.2.** If V = V(q) is defined as in (1.6), then

$$V(-e^{-\pi\sqrt{\frac{n}{3}}}) = -\frac{1}{2} \left[ \sqrt[3]{\lambda_n + 1} - \sqrt[3]{\lambda_n - 1} \right], \ \lambda_n \ge 1,$$
(3.11)

where  $\lambda_n$  is defined as in (3.2).

**Proof.** The equation (3.3) can be written as

$$4V^{3}(-q) - 3(1 - \lambda_{n}^{2})^{\frac{1}{3}}V(-q) + 1 = 0.$$

Solving the above equation, we obtain the required result.

Corollary 3.2. We have

$$V(-e^{\frac{-\pi}{\sqrt{3}}}) = \frac{-1}{\sqrt[3]{4}}.$$
(3.12)

Proof. Putting n=1 in (3.3), we find that

$$\lambda_1 = 1$$

Using  $\lambda_1 = 1$  in (3.11), we obtain (3.12).

**Theorem 3.3.** If V(q) is defined as in (1.6), then

$$V(-e^{-\pi\sqrt{n}}) = \frac{-1}{2} \left[ \sqrt[3]{a+1} - \sqrt[3]{a-1} \right], \quad \sqrt{3}F_n^3 - 1 \ge 0, \tag{3.13}$$

where

$$a = \sqrt{3\sqrt{3}F_n^3 - 9F_n^6 + 3\sqrt{3}F_n^9}$$

and  $F_n$  is defined as in (3.6).

**Proof.** The equation (3.6) can be written as

$$4V^{3}(-q) + 3(\sqrt{3}F_{n}^{3} - 1)V(-q) + 1 = 0, \ \sqrt{3}F_{n}^{3} - 1 \ge 0.$$

Putting x = -4V(-q) in the above equation, we find that

$$x^{3} + 12(\sqrt{3}F_{n}^{3} - 1)x - 16 = 0, \ \sqrt{3}F_{n}^{3} - 1 \ge 0.$$

Solving the above equation we obtain the required result.

Corollary 3.3. We have

$$V(-e^{-\pi}) = \frac{-1}{2} \left[ \sqrt[3]{\sqrt{6\sqrt{3}-9}+1} - \sqrt[3]{\sqrt{6\sqrt{3}-9}-1} \right].$$

**Proof.** Putting n = 1 in (3.6), we find that

 $F_1 = 1.$ 

Using  $F_1 = 1$  in (3.13), we obtain the required result.

**Remark.** One can evaluate V(q) by finding the explicit evaluations of  $\lambda_n$  and  $F_n$ , using Ramanujan's modular equations [4, pp.204-236] and transformation formulas [3, p.43].

# 4. Relation Between Parameter $\mu(q)$ and $\mu(q^n)$

**Theorem 4.1.** If  $u := \mu(q)$ ,  $v := \mu(-q)$ ,  $w := \mu(-q^2)$ ,  $x := \mu(q^2)$ ,  $y := \mu(q^3)$  and  $z := \mu(q^5)$ , then

$$v^{2} + (u + \frac{1}{u} - 5)v + 1 = 0, \qquad (4.1)$$

$$(1 - u + u2)w2 + (4 - u - 2u2)w + u2 = 0, (4.2)$$

$$u^{2} + 2ux - 2x - 2ux^{2} + 2x^{2} = 0, (4.3)$$

$$u^{3} + 3u^{2}y - 9u^{2}y^{2} - 4u^{3}y + 4u^{3}y^{2} - 4y + 6uy + 4y^{2} - 3uy^{2} + u^{2}y^{3} - y^{3} = 0.$$
(4.4)

**Proof of** (4.1). Using (2.20) and (2.16) in (2.5), we find that

$$\left(\frac{1+\mu(-q)}{1-\mu(-q)}\right)^2 = \frac{(2\mu(q)-1)(\mu(q)-2)-9\mu(q)}{(2\mu(q)-1)(\mu(q)-2)-\mu(q)}.$$
(4.5)

On simplification of the above identity, we obtain (4.1). **Proof of** (4.2). Using (2.16) and (2.17) in (2.5), we deduce that

$$\left(\frac{1+\mu(-q^2)}{1-\mu(-q^2)}\right)^2 = \frac{9\mu^2(q) - (2-\mu(q))^2}{\mu^2(q) - (2-\mu(q))^2}.$$
(4.6)

On simplification of the above identity, we obtain (4.2). **Proof of** (4.3). Using (2.1), (2.4) and (2.16), we find that

$$x^{2}(2-u)^{4}(1-x)^{2}(1-u-2u^{2}) = u^{4}(1-u)(2-x)^{2}(1-x-2x^{2}).$$

We find that

$$-2(ux^{2} - 2x + 2 + 2ux - 2u)(u^{2}x^{2} + 2x - 2ux - 2u^{2}x + u^{2})$$
$$(2x^{2} - 2ux^{2} - 2x + 2ux + u^{2}) = 0.$$

The first two factors does not vanish in the neighbourhood of  $q = e^{-\pi}$ . But the third factor vanish in the neighbourhood of  $q = e^{-\pi}$ . So by the identity theorem it vanish identically. Hence, we complete the proof.

**Proof of** (4.4). Using (2.16) in Entry 1(ii) of Chapter 20 of Ramanujan's notebooks [3, p.345], we find that

$$(u^3(2-y)^3 + 6u^2y(1-u)(1-y))^2 + 3uy^2(2-u)^2(2-y)$$
  
=  $y(1-u)^3(1-y)^2 + 9u^2y^3(1-u).$ 

On simplification of the above identity, we obtain (4.4). **Theorem 4.2.** If  $3\alpha\beta = 1$ , then

$$\mu(e^{-\pi\beta}) = \frac{1 - 2\mu(e^{-\pi\alpha})}{2 - \mu(e^{-\pi\alpha})}.$$
(4.7)

where  $\mu(q)$  is defined as in (2.16). **Proof.** Putting  $q = e^{-\pi \alpha}$  in (2.16), we find that

$$\frac{\varphi^2(e^{-\pi\alpha})}{\varphi^2(e^{-3\pi\alpha})} = \frac{1+\mu(e^{-\pi\alpha})}{1-\mu(e^{-\pi\alpha})}.$$
(4.8)

### Some Theorems on Ramanujan's Cubic Continued Fraction

Replacing  $\alpha$  by  $\beta$  in the above identity (4.8), we obtain

$$\frac{\varphi^2(e^{-\pi\beta})}{\varphi^2(e^{-3\pi\beta})} = \frac{1+\mu(e^{-\pi\beta})}{1-\mu(e^{-\pi\beta})}.$$
(4.9)

Using Entry 27(i) of Chapter 16 of Ramanujan's notebooks [3, p.43], (4.8) and (4.9), we find that

$$\frac{(1+\mu(e^{-\pi\alpha}))(1+\mu(e^{-\pi\beta}))}{(1-\mu(e^{-\pi\alpha}))(1-\mu(e^{-\pi\beta}))} = 3.$$

After some simplification, we obtain the required result. **Theorem 4.3.** *We have* 

$$\mu(q) = \frac{-1 + \exp(4\int_0^q \psi^2(-t)\psi^2(-t^3)dt)}{1 + \exp(4\int_0^q \psi^2(-t)\psi^2(-t^3)dt)}$$
(4.10)

$$= \frac{-1+3 \exp\left(-4\int_0^{\exp\left(\frac{\pi^2}{\log q}\right)} \psi^2(-t)\psi^2(-t^3)dt\right)}{1+3 \exp\left(-4\int_0^{\exp\left(\frac{\pi^2}{\log q}\right)} \psi^2(-t)\psi^2(-t^3)dt\right)}$$
(4.11)

$$=\frac{2}{1+9 \exp(4\int_{q}^{1}\varphi^{2}(-t)\varphi^{2}(-t^{3})\frac{dt}{t})}$$
(4.12)

**Proof of** (4.10). Putting x = y = 2, m = 1, k = 3 in [2, Theorem 2.5(a)], we obtain

$$\frac{\varphi^2(q)}{\varphi^2(q^3)} = \exp\left(4\int_0^q \psi^2(-t)\psi^2(-t^3)dt\right).$$
(4.13)

Using (2.18) and (4.13), we obtain (4.10).

**Proof of** (4.11). In Entry 27(i) of Chapter 16 of Ramanujan's notebooks [3, p.43], let  $\alpha^2 = \log\left(\frac{1}{q}\right)$  and  $\beta^2 = \log\left(\frac{1}{Q^3}\right)$ , then

$$\log^{\frac{1}{4}}\left(\frac{1}{q}\right)\varphi(q) = \log^{\frac{1}{4}}\left(\frac{1}{Q^3}\right)\varphi(Q^3),\tag{4.14}$$

where

$$3\log\left(\frac{1}{q}\right)\log\left(\frac{1}{Q}\right) = \pi^2.$$

253

Replacing q and Q by  $q^3$  and  $Q^{\frac{1}{3}}$  respectively, we obtain

$$\log^{\frac{1}{4}}\left(\frac{1}{q^3}\right)\varphi(q^3) = \log^{\frac{1}{4}}\left(\frac{1}{Q}\right)\varphi(Q).$$
(4.15)

Using (4.14) and (4.15), we find that

$$\frac{\varphi(q)}{\varphi(q^3)} = \sqrt{3} \frac{\varphi(Q^3)}{\varphi(Q)}.$$
(4.16)

Using (4.13), (4.16) and (2.16), we obtain (4.11). **Proof of** (4.12) Putting r = u = m = 2 and k = 6

**Proof of** (4.12). Putting x = y = m = 2 and k = 6 in [2, Theorem 2.5(c)], we obtain

$$\frac{\psi^2(q^2)}{q\psi^2(q^6)} = 9 \exp\left(4\int_q^1 \varphi^2(-t)\varphi^2(-t^3)\frac{dt}{t}\right).$$
(4.17)

Using (4.17) and (2.17), we obtain (4.12). Theorem 4.4. We have

$$\mu(e^{-\pi}) = \frac{\sqrt{6\sqrt{3}-9}-1}{\sqrt{6\sqrt{3}-9}+1},\tag{4.18}$$

$$\mu(e^{-\sqrt{3}\pi}) = \frac{3\sqrt{\sqrt[3]{2}-1} - \sqrt{\sqrt[3]{2}+1}}{3\sqrt{\sqrt[3]{2}-1} + \sqrt{\sqrt[3]{2}+1}},\tag{4.19}$$

$$\mu(e^{-\sqrt{5}\pi}) = \frac{3 - \sqrt{1 + 2\sqrt{3} + 2\sqrt{5}}}{3 + \sqrt{1 + 2\sqrt{3} + 2\sqrt{5}}},$$
(4.20)

$$\mu(e^{-\sqrt{7}\pi}) = \frac{12\sqrt{2} - \sqrt{32 + \sqrt{5 + \sqrt{21}}}(\sqrt{5 + \sqrt{21}} + \sqrt{\sqrt{21} - 3})^3}{12\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{32 + \sqrt{5 + \sqrt{21}}}(\sqrt{5 + \sqrt{21}} + \sqrt{\sqrt{21} - 3})^3} (4.21)$$
$$\mu(e^{-3\pi}) = (4.22)$$

$$\frac{3\sqrt{\sqrt[3]{2(\sqrt{3}-1)}-1}-\sqrt{\sqrt[3]{2(\sqrt{3}-1)}-1+2(3\sqrt{3}-5)(\sqrt[3]{2(\sqrt{3}+1)}+1)}}{3\sqrt{\sqrt[3]{2(\sqrt{3}-1)}-1}+\sqrt{\sqrt[3]{2(\sqrt{3}-1)}-1+2(3\sqrt{3}-5)(\sqrt[3]{2(\sqrt{3}+1)}+1)}},$$

$$\mu(e^{-\sqrt{13}\pi}) =$$
(4.23)

$$\frac{3\sqrt{2\sqrt{2}} - \sqrt{2\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{(2\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{13})(5\sqrt{13} - 18)}(\sqrt[4]{3} + \sqrt{4 + \sqrt{3}})^3}}{3\sqrt{2\sqrt{2}} + \sqrt{2\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{(2\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{13})(5\sqrt{13} - 18)}(\sqrt[4]{3} + \sqrt{4 + \sqrt{3}})^3}},$$

$$\mu(e^{-\frac{\pi}{\sqrt{2}}}) = \frac{2}{3\sqrt{3}+3\sqrt{2}+1},$$
(4.24)

$$\mu(e^{-\frac{\pi}{\sqrt{3}}}) = 2 - \sqrt{3}, \tag{4.25}$$

$$\mu(e^{-\frac{\pi}{\sqrt{6}}}) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{6} + \sqrt{3} + 1}, \tag{4.26}$$

$$\mu(e^{-\frac{\pi}{3}}) = \frac{\sqrt[4]{3} - \sqrt{2} - \sqrt{3}}{\sqrt[4]{3} + \sqrt{2} - \sqrt{3}},\tag{4.27}$$

$$\mu(e^{-\pi\sqrt{\frac{5}{3}}}) = \frac{\sqrt{6} - \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{5}}{\sqrt{6} + \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{5}},\tag{4.28}$$

$$\mu(e^{-\pi\sqrt{\frac{7}{3}}}) = \frac{3-\sqrt{1+2(2\sqrt{7}+3\sqrt{3})(3-\sqrt{7})}}{3+\sqrt{1+2(2\sqrt{7}+3\sqrt{3})(3-\sqrt{7})}},$$
(4.29)

$$\mu(e^{-\pi\sqrt{\frac{11}{3}}}) = \frac{\sqrt{15+9\sqrt{3}} - \sqrt{15+4\sqrt{11}+\sqrt{3}}}{\sqrt{15+9\sqrt{3}} + \sqrt{15+4\sqrt{11}+\sqrt{3}}},$$
(4.30)

$$\mu(e^{-\pi\sqrt{\frac{19}{3}}}) = \frac{3-\sqrt{1+2(2+\sqrt{3})^3(3\sqrt{19}-13)}}{3+\sqrt{1+2(2+\sqrt{3})^3(3\sqrt{19}-13)}}.$$
(4.31)

**Proof of** (4.18). From [5, p.330] we have

$$\frac{\varphi^2(e^{-\pi})}{\varphi^2(e^{-3\pi})} = \sqrt{6\sqrt{3}-9}.$$
(4.32)

Using (4.32) in (2.16) and simplifying the resultant equation, we obtain the required result.

The identities (4.19)-(4.31) can be obtained by using Ramanujan's Class-Invariants[5, pp.189-199] and equation (4.5) of [5, eqn.(4.5), p.330] in (2.16) and (2.17). So we omit the details.

**Remark.** We can also obtain several other evaluations of  $\mu(q)$ , using (2.16), (2.17), (2.30) and (2.31) and Ramanujan's class invariants.

### Acknowledgements

The author is grateful to Prof. H. M. Srivastava for his valuable suggestions to improve the quality of the paper.

## References

- C. Adiga, B. C. Berndt, S. Bhargava and G. N. Watson, Chapter 16 of Ramanujan's second notebook: Theta-function and q-series, *Mem. Amer. Math. Soc.* 53, No.315(1985), Amer. Math. Soc. Providence, 1985.
- [2] C. Adiga, K. R. Vasuki, and M. S. Mahadeva Naika, Some new identities involving integrals of theta-functions, Advan. Stud. Contemp. Math. 3(2001), No.2, 1-11.
- [3] B. C. Berndt, Ramanujan's Notebooks, Part III, Springer-Verlag, New York, 1991.
- [4] B. C. Berndt, Ramanujan's Notebooks, Part IV, Springer-Verlag, New York, 1994.
- [5] B. C. Berndt, Ramanujan's Notebooks, Part V, Springer-Verlag, New York, 1998.
- [6] M. S. Mahadeva Naika, B. N. Dharmendra and K. Shivashankara, A continued fraction of order twelve, *Cent. Eur. J. Math.* (2008).
- [7] S. Ramanujan, Notebooks (2 volumes), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay, 1957.
- [8] S. Ramanujan, *The lost notebook and other unpublished papers*, Narosa, New Delhi, 1988.
- [9] J. V. Uspenskey, *Theory of Equations*, McGraw-hill, New York, 1948.