

Wingquist's Identity (1969)

Suppose $a, b \neq 0$ and $|q| < 1$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (a)_\infty (q/a)_\infty (b)_\infty (q/b)_\infty \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)_\infty \left(\frac{bq}{a}\right)_\infty \\
 & (ab)_\infty \left(\frac{q}{ab}\right)_\infty (q)_\infty^2 \\
 &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^{i+j} \left(a^{-3i} - a^{3i+3} \right) \left(b^{-3j} - b^{3j+1} \right) \\
 & \quad + \left(a^{-3j+1} - a^{3j+2} \right) \left(b^{3i+2} - b^{-3i-1} \right) \\
 & \quad \cdot q^{\frac{3}{2}i(i+1) + j(3j+1)/2}
 \end{aligned}$$

Proof:

Let

$$F(a, b, q) := \frac{(a)_\infty (q/a)_\infty (b)_\infty (q/b)_\infty \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)_\infty \left(\frac{bq}{a}\right)_\infty}{(ab)_\infty \left(\frac{q}{ab}\right)_\infty (q)_\infty^2}$$

$$\text{Let } f(a) = (a)_\infty (q/a)_\infty$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(aq) &= (aq)_\infty (1/a)_\infty = f\left(\frac{1}{a}\right) \\
 &= f(a) \cdot \frac{(1-a^{-1})}{(1-aq)} = \frac{-a^{-1}(1-a)}{(1-a)} f(a)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$= -a^{-1} f(a).$$

$$F(a, b, q) := f(a) f(b) f\left(\frac{a}{b}\right) f(ab) (q)_\infty^2$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 F(aq, b, q) &:= f(aq) f(b) f\left(\frac{aq}{b}\right) f(abq) (q)_\infty^2 \\
 &= (-a^{-1}) f(a) f(b) \left(-\frac{a}{b}\right)^{-1} f\left(\frac{ab}{b}\right) (-ab)^{-1} f(ab) (q)_\infty^2
 \end{aligned}$$

$$= -a^{-3} F(a, b, q).$$