

## EXPLICIT VALUES OF A $q$ -MULTIPLE ZETA-STAR FUNCTION AT ROOTS OF UNITY

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**Abstract.** In this paper, we show some expressions of certain  $q$ -multiple zeta-star values at roots of unity. These explicit formulas are expressed by using the determinants or Bell polynomials. Explicit formulas for other types of values can be found from recurrence relations obtained using generating functions.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper, we consider the function

$$\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(q; m, s) := \sum_{1 \leq i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_m \leq n-1} \frac{1}{(1 - q^{i_1})^s (1 - q^{i_2})^s \dots (1 - q^{i_m})^s}. \quad (1.1)$$

Then we show some fundamental ways to find the values, and give explicit expressions of the values of  $\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, s)$  when  $m$  or  $s$  are comparatively small. When  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , the values in (1.1) may be called one of the  $q$ -multiple zeta-star values (see, *e.g.*, [1, 2]).

In previous papers ([3, 4]), as an application of the study of certain generalized Stirling numbers ([3, 5]), we considered a function

$$\mathfrak{Z}_n(q; m, s) := \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_m \leq n-1} \frac{1}{(1 - q^{i_1})^s (1 - q^{i_2})^s \dots (1 - q^{i_m})^s}. \quad (1.2)$$

When  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , these values may be called one of the  $q$ -multiple zeta values (see, *e.g.*, [6–10]). Then when  $q$  takes the root of unity  $\zeta_n$  in (1.2), some explicit expressions can be given:

$$\mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; m, 1) = \frac{1}{m+1} \binom{n-1}{m}, \quad (1.3)$$

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$$\mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; m, 2) = \frac{1}{n(m+1)} \left( \binom{n-1}{m} + (-1)^m \binom{n-1}{2m+1} \right) \quad (1.4)$$

$$= \frac{2 \cdot m!}{(2m+2)!} \binom{n-1}{m} \sum_{k=0}^m \left[ \begin{matrix} 2m+2 \\ m+k+2 \end{matrix} \right]_1^{(m+1,1)} (-n)^k, \quad (1.5)$$

where  $\left[ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right]_1^{(r,1)}$  denotes the  $r$ -Stirling number ([11]). In [4], we also have

$$\mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, s) = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{n-1}{2} & 1 & 0 & \cdots & \\ \frac{2}{3} \binom{n-1}{2} & \frac{n-1}{2} & 1 & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & 0 \\ \frac{s-1}{s} \binom{n-1}{s-1} & \frac{1}{s-1} \binom{n-1}{s-2} & \cdots & \frac{n-1}{2} & 1 \\ \frac{s}{s+1} \binom{n-1}{s} & \frac{1}{s} \binom{n-1}{s-1} & \cdots & \frac{1}{3} \binom{n-1}{2} & \frac{n-1}{2} \end{vmatrix}. \quad (1.6)$$

An expression of  $\mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; m, s)$  ( $s = 3, 4, \dots$ ) would be possible, but it looks to become very complicated.

In addition, even though there is no direct expression of  $\mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; m, s)$  ( $m = 2, 3, \dots$ ), its value may be calculated by using the known ones.

For example, when  $m = 2$ , we can obtain  $\mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 2, s)$  as

$$\mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 2, s) = \frac{1}{2} (\mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, s)^2 - \mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, 2s)). \quad (1.7)$$

Similarly, for  $m = 3$ ,

$$\mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 3, s) = \frac{1}{6} (\mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, s)^3 - 3\mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, s)\mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, 2s) + 2\mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, 3s)). \quad (1.8)$$

It is noticed that, while many explicit formulas for the  $q$ -multiple zeta values are known, few explicit formulas for the  $q$ -multiple zeta-star values are known, even though the relationships involving the  $q$ -multiple zeta-star values are known (see, *e.g.*, [12–14]). One of the reasons is that it is more difficult to handle the complete homogeneous symmetric functions corresponding to the  $q$ -multiple zeta-star values than the elementary symmetric functions corresponding to the  $q$ -multiple zeta values.

## 2. $q$ -GENERALIZED $(r, s)$ -STIRLING NUMBERS

In [3],  $q$ -generalized  $(r, s)$ -Stirling numbers of both kinds are introduced. These Stirling numbers are closely related to our  $q$ -multiple zeta function in (1.2) and  $q$ -multiple zeta-star function in (1.1).

Let  $[n]_q$  denote the  $q$ -number, defined by

$$[n]_q = \frac{q^n - 1}{q - 1} \quad (q \neq 1).$$

Its  $q$ -factorial is given by  $[n]_q! = [n]_q[n-1]_q \cdots [1]_q$  with  $[0]_q! = 1$ . Let  $r$  be a positive integer. The  $q$ -version of  $r$ -Stirling numbers of the first kind with higher level (level  $s$ ) are denoted by  $\left[ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right]_q^{(r,s)}$ , and appear in the coefficients in the expansion

$$(x)_{n,q}^{(r,s)} = \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^{n-k} \left[ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right]_q^{(r,s)} x^k, \quad (2.1)$$

where for  $r, s \geq 1$ ,  $(x)_{n,q}^{(r,s)}$  is defined by

$$(x)_{n,q}^{(r,s)} := x^r \prod_{i=r}^{n-1} (x - ([i]_q)^s) \quad (n > r)$$

with  $(x)_{r,q}^{(r,s)} = x^r$ . When  $r = s = 1$ ,  $s_q(n, k) = (-1)^{n-k} \llbracket n \rrbracket_q^{(1,1)}$  are the signed  $q$ -Stirling numbers of the first kind (see, *e.g.*, [15]), and  $\llbracket n \rrbracket_q = \llbracket n \rrbracket_q^{(1,1)}$  are the unsigned  $q$ -Stirling numbers of the first kind. When  $r = 1$  and  $q \rightarrow 1$ ,  $\llbracket n \rrbracket^{(s)} = \llbracket n \rrbracket_1^{(1,s)}$  are the (unsigned) Stirling numbers of the first kind with higher level ([16]). When  $r = s = 1$  and  $q \rightarrow 1$ ,  $\llbracket n \rrbracket = \llbracket n \rrbracket_1^{(1,1)}$  are the unsigned Stirling numbers of the first kind.

The  $q$ -version of  $r$ -Stirling numbers of the second kind with higher level are denoted by  $\left\{ \left\{ n \atop k \right\} \right\}_q^{(r,s)}$ , and appear in the coefficients in the expansion

$$x^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \left\{ \left\{ n \atop k \right\} \right\}_q^{(r,s)} (x)_{k,q}^{(r,s)}. \quad (2.2)$$

When  $r = 1$  and  $q \rightarrow 1$ ,  $\left\{ \left\{ n \atop k \right\} \right\}^{(s)} = \left\{ \left\{ n \atop k \right\} \right\}_1^{(1,s)}$  are the Stirling numbers of the second kind with higher level, studied in [17]. When  $r = s = 1$ ,  $S_q(n, k) = \left\{ \left\{ n \atop k \right\} \right\}_q = (-1)^{n-k} \left\{ \left\{ n \atop k \right\} \right\}_q^{(1,1)}$  are the signed  $q$ -Stirling numbers of the second kind (see, *e.g.*, [15]). When  $r = s = 1$  and  $q \rightarrow 1$ ,  $\left\{ \left\{ n \atop k \right\} \right\} = \left\{ \left\{ n \atop k \right\} \right\}_1^{(1,1)}$  are the classical Stirling numbers of the second kind.

From the definitions in (2.1) and (2.2), the following recurrence relations hold:

$$\llbracket n \rrbracket_q^{(r,s)} = \llbracket n-1 \rrbracket_q^{(r,s)} + ([n-1]_q)^s \llbracket n-1 \rrbracket_q^{(r,s)} \quad (2.3)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket n \rrbracket_q^{(r,s)} &= 0 \quad (0 \leq k \leq r, n \geq k), \\ \llbracket n \rrbracket_q^{(r,s)} &= 0 \quad (n < k), \quad \llbracket 0 \rrbracket_q^{(r,s)} = 1; \end{aligned}$$

$$\left\{ \left\{ n \atop k \right\} \right\}_q^{(r,s)} = \left\{ \left\{ n-1 \atop k-1 \right\} \right\}_q^{(r,s)} + ([k]_q)^s \left\{ \left\{ n-1 \atop k \right\} \right\}_q^{(r,s)} \quad (2.4)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \left\{ \left\{ n \atop k \right\} \right\}_q^{(r,s)} &= 0 \quad (0 \leq k \leq r-1, n \geq k), \quad \left\{ \left\{ 0 \atop 0 \right\} \right\}_q^{(r,s)} = 1, \\ \left\{ \left\{ n \atop k \right\} \right\}_q^{(r,s)} &= 0 \quad (n \leq k). \end{aligned}$$

By the definitions and/or the recurrence relations, we can get expressions with combinatorial summations ([3]).

**Lemma 2.1.** For  $r \leq m \leq n-1$  and  $r \geq 1$ , we have

$$\left[ \begin{matrix} n \\ m \end{matrix} \right]_q^{(r,s)} = \left( \frac{[n-1]_q!}{[r-1]_q!} \right)^s \sum_{r \leq i_1 < \dots < i_{m-r} \leq n-1} \frac{1}{([i_1]_q \dots [i_{m-r}]_q)^s}.$$

For  $n-m \geq r$  and  $r \geq 1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ \begin{matrix} n \\ n-m \end{matrix} \right]_q^{(r,s)} &= \sum_{r \leq i_1 < \dots < i_m \leq n-1} ([i_1]_q \dots [i_m]_q)^s \\ &= \sum_{r \leq i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_m \leq n-m} ([i_1]_q [i_2+1]_q \dots [i_m+m-1]_q)^s \\ &= \sum_{i_m=r}^{n-m} ([i_m+m-1]_q)^s \sum_{i_{m-1}=r}^{i_m} ([i_{m-1}+m-2]_q)^s \dots \sum_{i_2=r}^{i_3} ([i_2+1]_q)^s \sum_{i_1=r}^{i_2} ([i_1]_q)^s. \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 2.2.** For  $r+1 \leq k \leq n$  and  $r \geq 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \left\{ \left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right\} \right\}_q^{(r,s)} &= \sum_{i_{k-r}=0}^{n-k} ([k]_q)^{(n-k-i_{k-r})s} \sum_{i_{k-r-1}=0}^{i_{k-r}} ([k-1]_q)^{(i_{k-r}-i_{k-r-1})s} \\ &\quad \dots \sum_{i_2=0}^{i_3} ([r+2]_q)^{(i_3-i_2)s} \sum_{i_1=0}^{i_2} ([r+1]_q)^{(i_2-i_1)s} ([r]_q)^{i_1 s}. \end{aligned}$$

For  $n-k \geq r \geq 1$ ,

$$\left\{ \left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ n-k \end{matrix} \right\} \right\}_q^{(r,s)} = \sum_{r \leq i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_k \leq n-k} ([i_1]_q [i_2]_q \dots [i_k]_q)^s.$$

From Lemma 2.1 and Lemma 2.2,  $q$ -multiple zeta functions and  $q$ -multiple zeta-star functions can be written in terms of  $q$ -generalized  $(1, s)$ -Stirling numbers of the first kind and of the second kind, respectively.

**Proposition 2.3.** For positive integers  $n$ ,  $m$  and  $s$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{Z}_n(q; m, s) &= \frac{1}{(1-q)^{ms} ([n-1]_q!)} \left[ \begin{matrix} n \\ m+1 \end{matrix} \right]_q^{(1,s)}, \\ \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(q; m, s) &= \frac{1}{(1-q)^{ms}} \left\{ \left\{ \begin{matrix} n+m-1 \\ n-1 \end{matrix} \right\} \right\}_q^{(1,-s)}. \end{aligned}$$

### 3. THE MAIN RESULT

Note that  $\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(q; 1, s) = \mathfrak{Z}_n(q; 1, s)$ . Hence, one can have interest in the case where  $m \geq 2$ . Then, in light of the result of  $\mathfrak{Z}_n(q; m, s)$ , when  $q$  takes the root of unity, we can get the following expression using a determinant or a Bell polynomial.

**Theorem 3.1.** *For integers  $n, m$  with  $n \geq 2$  and  $m \geq 1$ , we have*

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, s) \\ &= \frac{1}{m!} \mathbf{Y}_m(\mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, s), 1! \mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, 2s), 2! \mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, 3s), 3! \mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, 4s), \dots) \\ &= \frac{1}{m!} \begin{vmatrix} \mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, s) & -1 & 0 & \dots & \\ \mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, 2s) & \mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, s) & -2 & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & 0 \\ \mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, (m-1)s) & \mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, (m-2)s) & \dots & \mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, s) & -m+1 \\ \mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, ms) & \mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, (m-1)s) & \dots & \mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, 2s) & \mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, s) \end{vmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

For example, when  $m = 2$ , we have

$$\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 2, s) = \frac{1}{2} (\mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, s)^2 + \mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, 2s)). \quad (3.1)$$

Another way is

$$\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 2, s) = \mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 2, s) + \mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, 2s). \quad (3.2)$$

Then for  $s = 1, 2, 3$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 2, 1) &= \frac{(n+1)(n-1)}{12}, \\ \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 2, 2) &= \frac{(n+1)(n-1)(n-3)(n-7)}{2 \cdot 5!}, \\ \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 2, 3) &= -\frac{(n+1)(n-1)(n^4 - 650n^2 + 3780n - 5291)}{12 \cdot 7!}. \end{aligned}$$

For example, when  $m = 2$  and  $s = 3$ , by using the known values of  $\mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 2, 3)$  (or  $\mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, 3)$ ) and  $\mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, 6)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 2, 3) &= \frac{1}{2} (\mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, 3)^2 + \mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, 6)) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{(n-1)^2(n-3)^2}{8^2} - \frac{(n-1)(2n^5 + 2n^4 - 355n^3 - 355n^2 + 11153n - 19087)}{12 \cdot 7!} \right) \\ &= -\frac{(n+1)(n-1)(n^4 - 650n^2 + 3780n - 5291)}{12 \cdot 7!} \end{aligned}$$

or

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 2, 3) &= \mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 2, 3) + \mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, 6) \\ &= \frac{6(n-1)(n-2)(n^4 + 3n^3 + 301n^2 - 2883n + 6898)}{9!} \\ &\quad - \frac{(n-1)(2n^5 + 2n^4 - 355n^3 - 355n^2 + 11153n - 19087)}{12 \cdot 7!} \\ &= -\frac{(n+1)(n-1)(n^4 - 650n^2 + 3780n - 5291)}{12 \cdot 7!}. \end{aligned}$$

In order to prove Theorem 3.1, we need the following Lemmas ([18], Prop. 1, [19], Ch.I, §2). Notice that in the case of (1.2), the equivalent of elementary symmetric functions arises, whereas in the case of (1.1), the equivalent of complete homogeneous symmetric functions arises.

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $n$ ,  $M$  and  $K$  be positive integers with  $M \geq K$ . For  $g_n := a_1^n + a_2^n + \cdots + a_M^n$  we have*

$$\sum_{1 \leq j_1 \leq j_2 \leq \cdots \leq j_K \leq M} a_{j_1} a_{j_2} \cdots a_{j_K} = \frac{1}{K!} \mathbf{Y}_K(g_1, 1!g_2, 2!g_3, 3!g_4, \dots),$$

where  $\mathbf{Y}_n(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  is the (complete exponential) Bell polynomial, defined by

$$\exp \left( \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} x_m \frac{t^m}{m!} \right) = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{Y}_n(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \frac{t^n}{n!}.$$

That is,

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{Y}_n(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{\substack{i_1+2i_2+\cdots+(n-k+1)i_{n-k+1}=n \\ i_1+i_2+i_3+\cdots=k}} \frac{n!}{i_1!i_2!\cdots i_{n-k+1}!} \left( \frac{x_1}{1!} \right)^{i_1} \left( \frac{x_2}{2!} \right)^{i_2} \cdots \left( \frac{x_{n-k+1}}{(n-k+1)!} \right)^{i_{n-k+1}} \end{aligned}$$

with  $\mathbf{Y}_0 = 1$ .

**Lemma 3.3.** *For two sequences  $\{a_n\}_{n \geq 0}$  and  $\{b_m\}_{m \geq 0}$  with  $a_0 = b_0 = 1$ , the following expressions are equivalent for any positive integers  $m$  and  $n$ .*

$$\begin{aligned} (i) \quad b_m &= \sum_{\substack{i_1+2i_2+\cdots+mi_m=m \\ i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m \geq 0}} \frac{1}{i_1!i_2!\cdots i_m!} \left( \frac{a_1}{1} \right)^{i_1} \left( \frac{a_2}{2} \right)^{i_2} \cdots \left( \frac{a_m}{m} \right)^{i_m} \\ (ii) \quad b_m &= \frac{1}{m!} \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & -1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ a_2 & a_1 & -2 & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & 0 \\ a_{m-1} & a_{m-2} & \cdots & a_1 & -m+1 \\ a_m & a_{m-1} & \cdots & a_2 & a_1 \end{vmatrix} \\ (iii) \quad a_n &= (-1)^{n-1} \begin{vmatrix} & b_1 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ & 2b_2 & b_1 & 1 & & \vdots \\ & \vdots & & \ddots & & 0 \\ (n-1)b_{n-1} & b_{n-2} & \cdots & b_1 & 1 \\ nb_n & b_{n-1} & \cdots & b_2 & b_1 \end{vmatrix} \\ (iv) \quad mb_m &= \sum_{i=1}^m a_i b_{m-i} \\ (v) \quad a_n &= - \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} b_j a_{n-j} + nb_n \end{aligned}$$

**Remark 3.4.** The relations between (i) and (ii) are yielded from a simple modification of Trudi's formula ([20], [21], Vol. 3, p. 214). By applying the inversion formula (see, e.g., [22], Lem. 1, [23], Thm. 1), we can find that (iv) and (v) are equivalent. Expanding the determinants (ii) and (iii) yield the relations (iv) and (v), respectively.

*Proof of Theorem 3.1.* Put  $b_m = \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, s)$  and  $a_j = \mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; 1, js)$  in Lemma 3.3 (1) and (2). By applying Lemma 3.2, we get the desired result.  $\square$

#### 4. THE VALUES $\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, s)$ FOR SMALL $s$

In the previous section, we considered the values  $\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, s)$  for small  $m$ . In this section we shall consider the values  $\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, s)$  for small  $s$ .

$\mathfrak{Z}_n(\zeta_n; m, 1)$  is expressed in a simple form as in (1.3), but  $\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, 1)$  is not. The following is obtained by repeating the Theorem 4.1 described later.

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 1, 1) &= \frac{n-1}{2}, \\
\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 2, 1) &= \frac{(n+1)(n-1)}{12}, \\
\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 3, 1) &= \frac{(n+1)(n-1)}{24}, \\
\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 4, 1) &= -\frac{(n+1)(n-1)(n^2-19)}{720}, \\
\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 5, 1) &= -\frac{(n+1)(n-1)(n+3)(n-3)}{480}, \\
\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 6, 1) &= \frac{(n+1)(n-1)(2n^4-145n^2+863)}{60480}, \\
\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 7, 1) &= \frac{(n+1)(n-1)(n+5)(n-5)(2n^2-11)}{24192}, \\
\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 8, 1) &= -\frac{(n+1)(n-1)(3n^6-497n^4+9247n^2-33953)}{3628800}, \\
\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 9, 1) &= -\frac{(n+1)(n-1)(n+7)(n-7)(3n^4-50n^2+167)}{1036800}.
\end{aligned}$$

As  $\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, s)$  is a complete homogeneous symmetric polynomial, let us consider the generating function:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{m=0}^{n-1} \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, s) X^m &= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, s) X^m \\
&= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{1 \leq i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_m \leq n-1} \frac{X^m}{(1-\zeta_n^{i_1})^s (1-\zeta_n^{i_2})^s \dots (1-\zeta_n^{i_m})^s} \\
&= \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{1 - \frac{X}{(1-\zeta_n^j)^s}} = n^s \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{(1-\zeta_n^j)^s - X}.
\end{aligned}$$

Let  $\alpha_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, s$ ) be the roots of the polynomial  $(1-Y)^s - X$ . Namely,

$$\prod_{i=1}^s (\alpha_i - Y) = (1-Y)^s - X. \tag{4.1}$$

Since by (4.1)

$$\prod_{i=1}^s (\alpha_i - 1) = -X,$$

we get

$$\prod_{j=1}^{n-1} \prod_{i=1}^s (\alpha_i - \zeta_n^j) = \prod_{i=1}^s \frac{\alpha_i^n - 1}{\alpha_i - 1} = \frac{-1}{X} \prod_{i=1}^s (\alpha_i^n - 1).$$

Hence,

$$\sum_{m=0}^{n-1} \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, s) X^m = -X n^s \prod_{i=1}^s \frac{1}{\alpha_i^n - 1}. \quad (4.2)$$

#### 4.1. The values $\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, 1)$

Let us consider the value  $\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, s)$  when  $s = 1$ . When  $s = 1, 2$ , it is simpler and faster to calculate the values directly, though there is a general method that is described in Section 4.3.

When  $s = 1$ , by  $\alpha_1 - Y = (1 - Y) - X$  in (4.1), we see that  $\alpha_1 = 1 - X$ . Thus, by (4.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, 1) X^m &= n \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{(1 - \zeta_n^j) - X} \\ &= \frac{-Xn}{\alpha_1^n - 1} = \frac{Xn}{1 - (1 - X)^n} \\ &= \frac{n}{\sum_{\kappa=0}^{n-1} (1 - X)^\kappa} = \frac{n}{\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{n}{k+1} (-1)^k X^k} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{n-1}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} X^k} = \frac{1}{1 - \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \binom{n-1}{k} \frac{(-1)^{k+1}}{k+1} X^k} \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \left( \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{n-1}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k+1} X^k \right) \left( \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, 1) X^m \right) \\ &= \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} \left( \sum_{j=0}^l \frac{(-1)^{l-j}}{l-j+1} \binom{n-1}{l-j} \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; j, 1) \right) X^l \\ &\quad + \sum_{l=n}^{2n-2} \left( \sum_{j=l-n+1}^{n-1} \frac{(-1)^{l-j}}{l-j+1} \binom{n-1}{l-j} \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; j, 1) \right) X^l. \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the coefficients on both sides, we have the recurrence formula when  $s = 1$ . By applying this formula repeatedly, we can get explicit expressions of  $\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, 1)$  ( $m = 1, 2, \dots, 9$ ) as seen above.

**Theorem 4.1.** For  $1 \leq m \leq n-1$ , we have

$$\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, 1) = \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} \frac{(-1)^{m-j+1}}{m-j+1} \binom{n-1}{m-j} \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; j, 1)$$

with  $\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 0, 1) = 1$ .

#### 4.2. The values $\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, 2)$

Let us consider the value  $\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, s)$  when  $s = 2$ . When  $s = 2$ , by (4.1), we see that  $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = 2$  and  $\alpha_1 \alpha_2 = 1 - X$ . Thus, by (4.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, 2) X^m &= n^2 \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{(1 - \zeta_n^j)^2 - X} \\ &= \frac{-Xn^2}{(\alpha_1^n - 1)(\alpha_2^n - 1)} = \frac{-Xn^2}{1 - ((1 + \sqrt{X})^n + (1 - \sqrt{X})^n) + (1 - X)^n} \\ &= \frac{-Xn^2}{1 - 2 \sum_{\kappa=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} \binom{n}{2\kappa} X^\kappa + \sum_{\kappa=0}^n \binom{n}{\kappa} (-X)^\kappa} \\ &= \frac{-n^2}{-2 \sum_{\kappa=1}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} \binom{n}{2\kappa} X^{\kappa-1} + \sum_{\kappa=1}^n \binom{n}{\kappa} (-1)^\kappa X^{\kappa-1}} \\ &= \frac{n^2}{2 \sum_{\kappa=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor - 1} \binom{n}{2\kappa+2} X^\kappa + \sum_{\kappa=0}^{n-1} \binom{n}{\kappa+1} (-1)^\kappa X^\kappa}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \left( \frac{2}{n^2} \sum_{\kappa=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor - 1} \binom{n}{2\kappa+2} X^\kappa \right) \left( \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, 2) X^m \right) \\ &\quad + \left( \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{\kappa=0}^{n-1} \binom{n}{\kappa+1} (-1)^\kappa X^\kappa \right) \left( \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, 2) X^m \right) \\ &= \sum_{l=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor - 1} \left( \sum_{j=0}^l \frac{2}{n^2} \binom{n}{2l-2j+2} \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; j, 2) \right) X^l \\ &\quad + \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} \left( \sum_{j=0}^l \frac{(-1)^{l-j}}{n^2} \binom{n}{l-j+1} \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; j, 2) \right) X^l \\ &\quad + R(n, l), \end{aligned}$$

where  $R(n, l)$  implies the terms for  $l \geq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$  and for  $l \geq n$ , respectively. Comparing the coefficients on both sides, we have for  $1 \leq l \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor - 1$

$$\sum_{j=0}^l \frac{1}{n^2} \left( 2 \binom{n}{2l-2j+2} + (-1)^{l-j} \binom{n}{l-j+1} \right) \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; j, 2) = 0.$$

Hence, we have the following.

**Theorem 4.2.** *For  $1 \leq m \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor - 1$ , we have*

$$\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, 2) = - \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} \frac{1}{n^2} \left( 2 \binom{n}{2m-2j+2} + (-1)^{m-j} \binom{n}{m-j+1} \right) \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; j, 2)$$

with  $\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 0, 2) = 1$ .

By applying this formula repeatedly, we can get explicit expressions of  $\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, 2)$  ( $m = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ ) as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 1, 2) &= -\frac{(n-1)(n-5)}{12}, \\ \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 2, 2) &= \frac{(n+1)(n-1)(n-3)(n-7)}{240}, \\ \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 3, 2) &= -\frac{(n+1)(n-1)(10n^4 - 126n^3 + 241n^2 + 1134n - 2699)}{12 \cdot 7!}, \\ \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 4, 2) &= \frac{(n+1)(n-1)(21n^6 - 300n^5 + 181n^4 + 9150n^3 - 21071n^2 - 41250n + 103669)}{10!}, \\ \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 5, 2) &= -\frac{(n+1)(n-1)(n-3)}{4 \cdot 11!} \times (30n^7 - 372n^6 - 1889n^5 \\ &\quad + 24671n^4 + 18790n^3 - 346648n^2 - 57251n + 1088429). \end{aligned}$$

### 4.3. The cases for $s \geq 3$

It is not easy to find an explicit expression of  $\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, s)$  when  $s \geq 3$  though it is possible theoretically.

The following method was hinted by Henrik Bachmann directly when the author visited his university in 2024. He kindly provided me his papers [12, 13]. In particular, [13], Theorem 1.1 is useful to achieve the result. In order to calculate  $\prod_{i=1}^s (\alpha_i^n - 1)^{-1}$ , we consider the function

$$\begin{aligned} f(X, Y) &:= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{Y^n}{n} \prod_{i=1}^s (\alpha_i^n - 1) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{Y^n}{n} \sum_{l=0}^s (-1)^{s-l} \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_l \leq s} (\alpha_{i_1} \dots \alpha_{i_l})^n \\ &= (-1)^{s-1} \sum_{l=0}^s (-1)^{l-1} \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_l \leq s} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(\alpha_{i_1} \dots \alpha_{i_l} Y)^n}{n} \\ &= (-1)^{s-1} \sum_{l=0}^s (-1)^l \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_l \leq s} \log(1 - \alpha_{i_1} \dots \alpha_{i_l} Y) \\ &= (-1)^{s-1} \log \left( \prod_{l=0}^s F_{s,l}(X, Y)^{(-1)^l} \right), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$F_{s,l}(X, Y) := \prod_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_l \leq s} (1 - \alpha_{i_1} \cdots \alpha_{i_l} Y) \quad (1 \leq l \leq s) \quad (4.3)$$

with  $F_{s,0}(X, Y) = 1 - Y$ . Here,  $F_{s,l}(X, Y)$ 's include the elementary symmetric functions but can be determined from (4.1) as the complete homogeneous symmetric functions.

For example, we can find that

$$\begin{aligned} F_{1,1}(X, Y) &= 1 - Y + XY, \\ F_{2,1}(X, Y) &= (1 - Y)^2 - XY^2, \\ F_{2,2}(X, Y) &= 1 - Y + XY, \\ F_{3,1}(X, Y) &= (1 - Y)^3 + XY^3, \\ F_{3,2}(X, Y) &= (1 - Y)^3 - 3XY^2 - (X^2 - 2X)Y^3, \\ F_{3,3}(X, Y) &= 1 - Y + XY. \end{aligned}$$

Though it becomes more complicated, using  $F_{1,1}(X, Y)$ , or  $F_{2,1}(X, Y)$  and  $F_{2,2}(X, Y)$ , we can find the expression  $\prod_{i=1}^s (\alpha_i^n - 1)$  for  $s = 1$  or  $s = 2$ , respectively.

Let us find the expression  $\prod_{i=1}^s (\alpha_i^n - 1)$  for  $s = 3$  by using  $F_{3,1}(X, Y)$ ,  $F_{3,2}(X, Y)$  and  $F_{3,3}(X, Y)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} f(X, Y) &= (-1)^{3-1} \log \left( \prod_{l=0}^3 F_{3,l}(X, Y)^{(-1)^l} \right) \\ &= \log \frac{(1 - Y)((1 - Y)^3 - 3XY^2 - (X^2 - 2X)Y^3)}{((1 - Y)^3 + XY^3)(1 - Y + XY)} \\ &= \log \left( 1 - \frac{3XY^2 + (X^2 - 2X)Y^3}{(1 - Y)^3} \right) - \log \left( 1 + \frac{XY^3}{(1 - Y)^3} \right) - \log \left( 1 + \frac{XY}{1 - Y} \right) \\ &= - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \left( \frac{3XY^2 + (X^2 - 2X)Y^3}{(1 - Y)^3} \right)^n - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} \left( \frac{XY^3}{(1 - Y)^3} \right)^n - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} \left( \frac{XY}{1 - Y} \right)^n \\ &= - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{X^n Y^{2n} (3 + (X - 2)Y)^n}{n} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \binom{3n + j - 1}{3n - 1} Y^j \\ &\quad + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n X^n Y^{3n}}{n} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \binom{3n + j - 1}{3n - 1} Y^j + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n X^n Y^n}{n} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \binom{n + j - 1}{n - 1} Y^j \\ &= - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{X^n Y^{2n}}{n} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} 3^{n-k} (X - 2)^k Y^k \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \binom{3n + j - 1}{3n - 1} Y^j \\ &\quad + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n X^n}{n} \sum_{\nu=3n}^{\infty} \binom{\nu - 1}{3n - 1} Y^{\nu} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n X^n}{n} \sum_{\nu=n}^{\infty} \binom{\nu - 1}{n - 1} Y^{\nu} \\ &= - \sum_{\nu=2}^{\infty} Y^{\nu} \sum_{\mu=1}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\mu} \frac{X^{\mu}}{\mu} \binom{\mu}{k} 3^{\mu-k} \sum_{l=0}^k \binom{k}{l} X^j (-2)^{k-l} \binom{\nu + \mu - k - 1}{3\mu - 1} \\ &\quad + \sum_{\nu=3}^{\infty} Y^{\nu} \sum_{m=1}^{\lfloor \frac{\nu}{3} \rfloor} \binom{\nu - 1}{3m - 1} \frac{(-1)^m X^m}{m} + \sum_{\nu=1}^{\infty} Y^{\nu} \sum_{m=1}^{\nu} \binom{\nu - 1}{m - 1} \frac{(-1)^m X^m}{m} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= - \sum_{\nu=2}^{\infty} Y^{\nu} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} X^m \sum_{l=0}^{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor} \sum_{k=l}^{m-l} \frac{3^{m-l-k} (-2)^{k-l}}{m-l} \binom{m-l}{k} \binom{k}{l} \binom{\nu+m-l-k-1}{3m-3l-1} \\
&\quad + \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} Y^n \sum_{m=1}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \rfloor} \binom{n-1}{3m-1} \frac{(-1)^m X^m}{m} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} Y^n \sum_{m=1}^n \binom{n-1}{m-1} \frac{(-1)^m X^m}{m}.
\end{aligned}$$

Comparing the coefficients, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\prod_{i=1}^3 (\alpha_i^n - 1) \\
&= n \sum_{m=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \rfloor - 1} \binom{n-1}{3m+2} \frac{(-1)^{m+1} X^{m+1}}{m+1} + n \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} \binom{n-1}{m} \frac{(-1)^{m+1} X^{m+1}}{m+1} \\
&\quad - n \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} X^{m+1} \sum_{l=0}^{\lfloor \frac{m+1}{2} \rfloor} \sum_{k=l}^{m-l+1} \frac{3^{m-l-k+1} (-2)^{k-l}}{m-l+1} \binom{m-l+1}{k} \binom{k}{l} \binom{n+m-l-k}{3m-3l+2}.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, by (4.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
n^2 &= \left( \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, 3) X^m \right) \left( \sum_{m=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \rfloor - 1} \binom{n-1}{3m+2} \frac{(-1)^m X^m}{m+1} + \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} \binom{n-1}{m} \frac{(-1)^m X^m}{m+1} \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} X^{m+1} \sum_{l=0}^{\lfloor \frac{m+1}{2} \rfloor} \sum_{k=l}^{m-l+1} \frac{3^{m-l-k+1} (-2)^{k-l}}{m-l+1} \binom{m-l+1}{k} \binom{k}{l} \binom{n+m-l-k}{3m-3l+2} \right).
\end{aligned}$$

Hence, we have the following.

**Theorem 4.3.** For  $1 \leq m \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{3} \rfloor - 1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, 3) \\
&= - \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} \frac{1}{n^2} \left( \sum_{l=0}^{\lfloor \frac{m-j+1}{2} \rfloor} \sum_{k=l}^{m-j-l+1} \frac{3^{m-j-l-k+1} (-2)^{k-l}}{m-j-l+1} \binom{m-j-l+1}{k} \binom{k}{l} \binom{n+m-j-l-k}{3m-3j-3l+2} \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \left( \binom{n-1}{3m-3j+2} + \binom{n-1}{m-j} \right) \frac{(-1)^{m-j}}{m-j+1} \right) \mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; j, 3)
\end{aligned}$$

with  $\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 0, 3) = 1$ .

By applying this formula repeatedly, we can get explicit expressions of  $\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; m, 3)$  ( $m = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ) as follows.

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 1, 3) &= - \frac{(n-1)(n-3)}{8}, \\
\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 2, 3) &= - \frac{(n+1)(n-1)(n^4 - 650n^2 + 3780n - 5291)}{12 \cdot 7!}, \\
\mathfrak{Z}_n^*(\zeta_n; 3, 3) &= \frac{(n+1)(n-1)(n-3)(8n^5 + 4n^4 - 2005n^3 + 6985n^2 + 11357n - 36509)}{60 \cdot 8!},
\end{aligned}$$

$$3_n^*(\zeta_n; 4, 3) = \frac{(n+1)(n-1)}{2 \cdot 15!} (703n^{10} - 1109042n^8 + 4324320n^7 + 165698599n^6 - 1101079980n^5 \\ - 545336011n^4 + 15460525080n^3 - 18165129202n^2 - 47055628620n + 76385318153).$$

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