



Some Results on q -Multiple Harmonic Sums

Junjie Quan^a

^a*School of Information Science and Technology, Xiamen University Tan Kah Kee College, Xiamen Fujian 363105, P.R. China*

Abstract. In this paper the author present some new identities for q -analogues of multiple harmonic (star) sums whose indices are the sequences $(\{p\}_a)$ and $(\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b)$. Then we use these formulas to establish some relations between multiple harmonic (star) sums and classical harmonic numbers and binomial coefficients. As an application we give some explicit formulas involving multiple zeta star values. Some interesting consequences and illustrative examples are also given.

1. Introduction

Let \mathbb{R} and \mathbb{C} denote, respectively the sets of real and complex numbers and let $\mathbb{N} := \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ be the set of natural numbers, and $\mathbb{N}_0 := \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ be the set of positive integers and $\mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\} := \{2, 3, 4, \dots\}$. For any multi-index $\mathbf{S} := (s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k)$ ($s_i \in \mathbb{C}$, $k \in \mathbb{N}$), the general multiple harmonic sum $\zeta_n(\mathbf{S})$ and the multiple harmonic star sum $\zeta_n^*(\mathbf{S})$ are defined, respectively, by convergent series ([3, 10])

$$\zeta_n(\mathbf{S}) \equiv \zeta_n(s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k) := \sum_{n \geq n_1 > \dots > n_k \geq 1} \frac{1}{n_1^{s_1} n_2^{s_2} \dots n_k^{s_k}}, \quad (1.1)$$

$$\zeta_n^*(\mathbf{S}) \equiv \zeta_n^*(s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k) := \sum_{n \geq n_1 \geq \dots \geq n_k \geq 1} \frac{1}{n_1^{s_1} n_2^{s_2} \dots n_k^{s_k}}, \quad (1.2)$$

where $s_1 + \dots + s_k$ is called the weight and k is the depth. When $n < k$, then $\zeta_n(s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k) = 0$, and $\zeta_n(\emptyset) = \zeta_n^*(\emptyset) = 1$. For convenience, we let $\{a\}_k$ be the k repetitions of a such that

$$\zeta_n(4, 3, \{1\}_2) = \zeta_n(4, 3, 1, 1), \quad \zeta_n^*(5, 2, \{1\}_3) = \zeta_n^*(5, 2, 1, 1, 1).$$

If $k = 1$ in (1.1) and (1.2), then the sums reduce to classical harmonic numbers, which are defined by (see [1, 2, 11, 18, 19])

$$H_n^{(p)} \equiv \zeta_n(p) \equiv \zeta_n^*(p) := \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{j^p} \quad (p, n \in \mathbb{N}).$$

2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary 65B10; Secondary 33D05; 11M99; 11M06; 11M32

Keywords. (q -)multiple harmonic sums; multiple zeta star values; Riemann zeta values; (q -)binomial coefficients.

Received: 17 December 2019; Accepted: 20 February 2021

Communicated by Miodrag Spalević

Email address: qjunjiexmu@xujc.com (Junjie Quan)

$$H_n = H_n^{(1)} = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{j}.$$

The limit cases of multiple harmonic sums and multiple harmonic star sums give rise to multiple zeta values (MZVs) and multiple zeta star values (MZSVs) (see [3, 12, 14]):

$$\zeta(s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \zeta(s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k), \tag{1.3}$$

$$\zeta^*(s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \zeta^*(s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k) \tag{1.4}$$

defined for positive integers $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k \geq 1$ and $s_1 \geq 2$ to ensure convergence of the series. The origin of these numbers goes back to the correspondence of Euler with Goldbach in 1742-1743 (see [12]) and Euler’s paper [9] that appeared in 1776. Euler studied double zeta values and established some important relation formulas for them. For example, he proved that (see [11])

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{H_n}{n^k} = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ (k+2) \zeta(k+1) - \sum_{i=1}^{k-2} \zeta(k-i) \zeta(i+1) \right\}. \tag{1.5}$$

It has been discovered in the course of the years that many multiple zeta (star) values admit expressions involving finitely “zeta values”, that is say values of the Riemann zeta function,

$$\zeta(s) := \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s} \quad (\Re(s) > 1).$$

with positive integer arguments. The relationship between the values of the Riemann zeta values and multiple zeta (star) values has been studied by many authors. For details and historical introductions, please see [3–5, 11, 18, 19] and references therein.

The purpose of the present paper is to establish some identities of q -analogues of multiple harmonic (star) sums and q -harmonic numbers. We then apply it to obtain a family of identities relating multiple zeta (star) values to classical zeta values.

We begin with some basic notations. The q -analogues of multiple harmonic numbers and q -analogues multiple harmonic star numbers are defined by

$$\zeta_n[s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k] := \sum_{n \geq n_1 > n_2 > \dots > n_k \geq 1} \frac{q^{n_1+n_2+\dots+n_k}}{[n_1]_q^{s_1} [n_2]_q^{s_2} \dots [n_k]_q^{s_k}} \quad (s_i \in \mathbb{C}, k \in \mathbb{N}), \tag{1.6}$$

$$\zeta_n^*[s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k] := \sum_{n \geq n_1 \geq n_2 > \dots > n_k \geq 1} \frac{q^{n_1+n_2+\dots+n_k}}{[n_1]_q^{s_1} [n_2]_q^{s_2} \dots [n_k]_q^{s_k}} \quad (s_i \in \mathbb{C}, k \in \mathbb{N}), \tag{1.7}$$

with $\zeta_n[s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k] = 0$ if $n < k$, and $\zeta_n[\emptyset] = \zeta_n^*[\emptyset] = 1$, where $[n]_q$ denotes the q -analog of a non-negative integer defined by

$$[n]_q := \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} q^k = \frac{1 - q^n}{1 - q} \quad (0 < q < 1).$$

Let n, m denote integers, the Gaussian q -binomial coefficient is defined by [1]

$$\begin{bmatrix} n \\ m \end{bmatrix}_q := \frac{[n]_q!}{[m]_q! [n - m]_q!},$$

where $0 \leq m \leq n$ and $[n]_q! = [1]_q [2]_q \dots [n]_q$ with $\begin{bmatrix} n \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_q := 1$. Obviously, the q -binomial coefficient tends to the ordinary binomial coefficient when $q \rightarrow 1$. Xu et.al [20] define the q -polylogarithm function $\text{Li}_p[x]$ and

the partial sum of $\text{Li}_p[x]$ by

$$\text{Li}_p[x] := \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{[k]_q^p} \quad (x \in (-1, 1), \Re(p) \geq 1), \tag{1.8}$$

$$\zeta_n [p; x] := \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{x^k}{[k]_q^p} \quad (x \in (-1, 1), \Re(p) \geq 1). \tag{1.9}$$

When $x = q^s$ in (1.9), then $\zeta_n [p; q^s]$ ($s \in \mathbb{N}$) is called the q -harmonic number. It is obviously that

$$\lim_{q \rightarrow 1} \zeta_n [p; q^s] = \zeta_n [p] = H_n^{(p)}.$$

There are many results for sums of the types (1.6) and (1.7). Some related results for q -multiple harmonic (star) sums may be seen in the works of [7, 8, 10, 15, 16, 20] and references therein.

Theorem 1.1. For positive integer n, m and any sequences $a_i \in \mathbb{C}$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, n$), the following identity holds:

$$\sum_{k_1=1}^n a_{k_1} \sum_{k_2=1}^{k_1} a_{k_2} \cdots \sum_{k_m=1}^{k_{m-1}} a_{k_m} = \sum_{r=1}^n \frac{a_r^m}{\prod_{i=1, i \neq r}^n \left(1 - \frac{a_i}{a_r}\right)}. \tag{1.10}$$

Proof. We consider the product

$$\frac{1}{\prod_{i=1}^n (1 - a_i t)} = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} A_m(n) t^m, \quad A_0(n) = 1, \tag{1.11}$$

where

$$|t| < \min \left\{ |a_1|^{-1}, \dots, |a_n|^{-1} \right\}.$$

By a direct calculation, the following identity is easily derived

$$A_m(n) := \sum_{k_1=1}^n a_{k_1} \sum_{k_2=1}^{k_1} a_{k_2} \cdots \sum_{k_m=1}^{k_{m-1}} a_{k_m}. \tag{1.12}$$

Expanding the product on the left hand side of (1.11), we deduce that

$$\frac{1}{\prod_{i=1}^n (1 - a_i t)} = \sum_{r=1}^n \frac{B_r(n)}{1 - a_r t} = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \left\{ \sum_{r=1}^n B_r(n) a_r^m \right\} t^m \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}, a_i \in \mathbb{C}), \tag{1.13}$$

where

$$B_r(n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow a_r^{-1}} \frac{1 - a_r t}{\prod_{i=1}^n (1 - a_i t)} = \prod_{i=1, i \neq r}^n \left(1 - \frac{a_i}{a_r}\right)^{-1}.$$

By comparing the coefficients of t^m in (1.11) and (1.13), we obtain the desired result. \square

Noting that, let $X_n(m) := \sum_{k=1}^n a_k^m$, we can rewrite formula (1.11) as

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} A_m(n) t^m &= \frac{1}{\prod_{i=1}^n (1 - a_i t)} = \exp \left\{ - \sum_{k=1}^n \ln(1 - a_k t) \right\} \\ &= \exp \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_k^m}{m} t^m \right\} = \exp \left\{ \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{X_n(m)}{m} t^m \right\} \\ &= \exp \left\{ X_n(1) + \frac{1}{2!} X_n(2) + \frac{1}{3!} X_n(3) + \frac{1}{4!} X_n(4) \dots \right\} \\ &= 1 + X_n(1) t + \frac{1}{2} \{ X_n^2(1) + X_n(2) \} t^2 \\ &\quad + \left\{ \frac{1}{3} X_n^3(1) + \frac{1}{2} X_n(1) X_n(2) + \frac{1}{6} X_n(3) \right\} t^3 + \dots \end{aligned} \tag{1.14}$$

Hence, by comparing the coefficients of t^m in above equation, we deduce the following identities

$$\begin{aligned} A_0(n) &= 1, \\ A_1(n) &= X_n(1), \\ A_2(n) &= \frac{X_n^2(1) + X_n(2)}{2}, \end{aligned} \tag{1.15}$$

$$A_3(n) = \frac{X_n^3(1) + 3X_n(1) X_n(2) + 2X_n(3)}{3!}, \tag{1.16}$$

$$A_4(n) = \frac{X_n^4(1) + 8X_n(1) X_n(3) + 3X_n^2(2) + 6X_n^2(1) X_n(2) + 6X_n(4)}{4!}, \tag{1.17}$$

$$A_5(n) = \frac{1}{5!} \left\{ \begin{aligned} &X_n^5(1) + 10X_n^3(1) X_n(2) + 20X_n^2(1) X_n(3) + 15X_n(1) X_n^2(2) \\ &+ 30X_n(1) X_n(4) + 20X_n(2) X_n(3) + 24X_n(5) \end{aligned} \right\}, \tag{1.18}$$

$$A_6(n) = \frac{1}{6!} \left\{ \begin{aligned} &X_n^6(1) + 15X_n^4(1) X_n(2) + 40X_n^3(1) X_n(3) + 90X_n^2(1) X_n(4) \\ &+ 144X_n(1) X_n(5) + 45X_n^2(1) X_n^2(2) + 120X_n(1) X_n(2) X_n(3) \\ &+ 40X_n^2(3) + 15X_n^3(2) + 90X_n(2) X_n(4) + 120X_n(6) \end{aligned} \right\}. \tag{1.19}$$

From (1.14), we know that the multiple sums $A_m(n)$ can be expressed as a rational linear combination of products of $X_n(j)$. In fact, by using the following recurrence relation of exponential complete Bell polynomials Y_n (see [17])

$$Y_k(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k) = \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \binom{k-1}{j} x_{k-j} Y_j(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_j) \quad (k \in \mathbb{N}) \tag{1.20}$$

and letting $x_m = (k-1)! X_n(m)$ ($m = 1, 2, \dots, k$), then with the help of formula (1.14), we deduce that the sums $A_k(n)$ satisfy the recurrence

$$A_k(n) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} A_j(n) X_n(k-j), \tag{1.21}$$

$$Y_k(X_n(1), 1!X_n(2), \dots, (k-1)!X_n(k)) = k! A_k(n). \tag{1.22}$$

Here the exponential complete Bell polynomial Y_n is defined by [6, 17]

$$\exp \left(\sum_{m \geq 1} x_m \frac{t^m}{m!} \right) = 1 + \sum_{k \geq 1} Y_k(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k) \frac{t^k}{k!}, \quad Y_0(\cdot) = 1. \tag{1.23}$$

Similarly, in the same way as in the proofs of formulas (1.15)-(1.19), by considering the product

$$\prod_{i=1}^n (1 + a_i t) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \bar{A}_m(n) t^m, \tag{1.24}$$

$$\bar{A}_m(n) := \sum_{1 \leq k_1 < \dots < k_m \leq n} a_{k_1} \cdots a_{k_m} \quad (a_k \in \mathbb{C}), \tag{1.25}$$

we can obtain the following formulas

$$\bar{A}_1(n) = X_n(1), \tag{1.26}$$

$$\bar{A}_2(n) = \frac{X_n^2(1) - X_n(2)}{2!}, \tag{1.27}$$

$$\bar{A}_3(n) = \frac{X_n^3(1) - 3X_n(1)X_n(2) + 2X_n(3)}{3!}, \tag{1.28}$$

$$\bar{A}_4(n) = \frac{X_n^4(1) - 6X_n^2(1)X_n(2) + 8X_n(1)X_n(3) + 3X_n^2(2) - 6X_n(4)}{4!}, \tag{1.29}$$

$$\bar{A}_5(n) = \frac{1}{5!} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} X_n^5(1) - 10X_n^3(1)X_n(2) + 20X_n^2(1)X_n(3) + 15X_n(1)X_n^2(2) \\ -30X_n(1)X_n(4) - 20X_n(2)X_n(3) + 24X_n(5) \end{array} \right\}, \tag{1.30}$$

$$\bar{A}_6(n) = \frac{1}{6!} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} X_n^6(1) - 15X_n^4(1)X_n(2) + 40X_n^3(1)X_n(3) - 90X_n^2(1)X_n(4) \\ +144X_n(1)X_n(5) + 45X_n^2(1)X_n^2(2) - 120X_n(1)X_n(2)X_n(3) \\ +40X_n^2(3) - 15X_n^3(2) + 90X_n(2)X_n(4) - 120X_n(6) \end{array} \right\}, \tag{1.31}$$

where $\bar{A}_0(n) = A_0(n) = 1$. If $n < m$, then $\bar{A}_m(n) = 0$. Moreover, the multiple sums $\bar{A}_m(n)$ can also be expressed as a rational linear combination of products of $X_n(j)$. In fact, by using the definition of Bell polynomial Y_n again, we can find that

$$Y_k(X_n(1), -1!X_n(2), \dots, (-1)^{k-1}(k-1)!X_n(k)) = k! \bar{A}_k(n). \tag{1.32}$$

Hence, letting $x_k = (-1)^{k-1}(k-1)!X_n(k)$ in (1.20) and combining above identity (1.32), we deduce the following recurrence relation

$$\bar{A}_k(n) = \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{k} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} (-1)^j \bar{A}_j(n) X_n(k-j). \tag{1.33}$$

2. Main Theorems

The main result can be stated as follows.

Theorem 2.1. For integers $p \in \mathbb{N}$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and $a, b \in \mathbb{N}_0 := \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$, the following identity holds:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{a+b=m-1} \zeta_n^*[\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b; x] &= m \sum_{r=1}^n \frac{x^{mr}}{[r]_q^{p(m+1)} \prod_{i=1, i \neq r}^n \left(1 - \frac{[r]_q^p}{[i]_q^p} x^{i-r}\right)} \\ &\quad + \sum_{r=1}^n \frac{x^{(m-1)r} \left(\sum_{i=1, i \neq r}^n \frac{[r]_q - [i]_q}{([i]_q^p - [r]_q^p) x^{i-r}} x^i \right)}{[r]_q^{p(m-1)+1} \prod_{i=1, i \neq r}^n \left(1 - \frac{[r]_q^p}{[i]_q^p} x^{i-r}\right)}, \end{aligned} \tag{2.1}$$

where

$$\zeta_n^*[s_1, \dots, s_m; x] := \sum_{1 \leq k_1 \leq \dots \leq k_m \leq n} \frac{x^{k_1 + \dots + k_m}}{[k_1]_q^{s_1} \cdots [k_m]_q^{s_m}}. \tag{2.2}$$

Proof. Letting $a_k = \frac{x^k}{([k]_q+a)^p}$ in Theorem 1.1 we obtain

$$\sum_{1 \leq k_m \leq \dots \leq k_1 \leq n} \frac{x^{k_1+\dots+k_m}}{([k_1]_q+a)^p \cdots ([k_m]_q+a)^p} = \sum_{r=1}^n \frac{x^{mr}}{([r]_q+a)^{pm} \prod_{i=1, i \neq r}^n \left(1 - \left(\frac{[r]_q+a}{[i]_q+a}\right)^p x^{i-r}\right)}. \tag{2.3}$$

Upon differentiating both members of (2.3) with respect to a and then setting $a = 0$, we may easily deduce the desired result. \square

Theorem 2.2. For real $p > 1$, integers $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and $a, b \in \mathbb{N}_0$, the sums

$$\sum_{a+b=m-1} \zeta_n \left[\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b \right]$$

and

$$\sum_{a+b=m-1} \zeta_n^* \left[\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b \right]$$

can be expressed as a rational linear combination of products of q -harmonic numbers.

Proof. In above section 1 we prove that the multiple sums $A_m(n)$ and $\bar{A}_m(n)$ can also be expressed as a rational linear combination of products of $X_n(j)$. Setting $a_k = \frac{q^k}{([k]_q+a)^p}$ in recurrence formulas (1.21) and (2.32), then

$$A_m(n) = \sum_{1 \leq k_m \leq \dots \leq k_1 \leq n} \frac{q^{k_1+\dots+k_m}}{([k_1]_q+a)^p \cdots ([k_m]_q+a)^p},$$

$$\bar{A}_m(n) = \sum_{1 \leq k_m < \dots < k_1 \leq n} \frac{q^{k_1+\dots+k_m}}{([k_1]_q+a)^p \cdots ([k_m]_q+a)^p},$$

$$X_n(j) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{q^{ij}}{([i]_q+a)^{pj}}$$

and

$$A_k(n) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} A_j(n) \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{q^{i(k-j)}}{([i]_q+a)^{p(k-j)}} \right)$$

$$\bar{A}_k(n) = \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{k} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} (-1)^j \bar{A}_j(n) \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{q^{i(k-j)}}{([i]_q+a)^{p(k-j)}} \right).$$

Hence, by differentiating with respect to a and then letting $a = 0$, we obtain the result. \square

Therefore, taking $x = 1, q \rightarrow 1$ in Theorem 2.1 and $q \rightarrow 1, n \rightarrow \infty$ in Theorem 2.2, we can give the following corollaries.

Corollary 2.3. For integers $p \in \mathbb{N}$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and $a, b \in \mathbb{N}_0$, the following identity holds:

$$\sum_{a+b=m-1} \zeta_n^* (\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b) = \left(m + \frac{1}{p}\right) \sum_{r=1}^n \frac{1}{r^{pm+1} \prod_{i=1, i \neq r}^n \left(1 - \frac{r^p}{i^p}\right)} - \sum_{r=1}^n \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \left(\sum_{j=1}^p i^{p-j+1} r^{j-p}\right)^{-1}}{r^{pm} \prod_{j=1, j \neq r}^n \left(1 - \frac{r^p}{j^p}\right)}. \tag{2.4}$$

Corollary 2.4. For real $p > 1$, integers $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and $a, b \in \mathbb{N}_0$, the sums

$$\sum_{a+b=m-1} \zeta (\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b)$$

and

$$\sum_{a+b=m-1} \zeta^* (\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b)$$

can be expressed as a rational linear combination of products of Riemann zeta values.

3. Some examples

From Theorems 2.1-2.2 and Corollaries 2.3-2.4 with the help of formulas (1.15)-(1.18), (1.27)-(1.29), we can get the following examples. Here $a, b \in \mathbb{N}_0$.

Example 3.1. Some illustrative examples follow.

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{a+b=1} \zeta_n [\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b] &= \zeta_n [p; q] \zeta_n [p+1; q] - \zeta_n [2p+1; q^2], \\ \sum_{a+b=2} \zeta_n [\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b] &= \frac{1}{2} \zeta_n^2 [p; q] \zeta_n [p+1; q] - \frac{1}{2} \zeta_n [p+1; q] \zeta_n [2p; q^2] \\ &\quad - \zeta_n [p; q] \zeta_n [2p+1; q^2] + \zeta_n [3p+1; q^3], \\ \sum_{a+b=3} \zeta_n [\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b] &= \frac{1}{6} \zeta_n^3 [p; q] \zeta_n [p+1; q] + \frac{1}{3} \zeta_n [p+1; q] \zeta_n [3p; q^3] \\ &\quad + \zeta_n [p; q] \zeta_n [3p+1; q^3] + \frac{1}{2} \zeta_n [2p; q^2] \zeta_n [2p+1; q^2] \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \zeta_n [p; q] \zeta_n [p+1; q] \zeta_n [2p; q^2] - \frac{1}{2} \zeta_n^2 [p; q] \zeta_n [2p+1; q^2] \\ &\quad - \zeta_n [4p+1; q^4], \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{a+b=4} \zeta_n [\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b] &= \frac{1}{24} \zeta_n^4 [p; q] \zeta_n [p+1; q] - \frac{1}{4} \zeta_n^2 [p; q] \zeta_n [p+1; q] \zeta_n [2p; q^2] \\
 &\quad - \frac{1}{6} \zeta_n^3 [p; q] \zeta_n [2p+1; q^2] + \frac{1}{3} \zeta_n [p; q] \zeta_n [p+1; q] \zeta_n [3p; q^3] \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \zeta_n^2 [p; q] \zeta_n [3p+1; q^3] + \frac{1}{8} \zeta_n [p+1; q] \zeta_n^2 [2p; q^2] \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \zeta_n [p; q] \zeta_n [2p; q^2] \zeta_n [2p+1; q^2] - \frac{1}{4} \zeta_n [p+1; q] \zeta_n [4p; q^4] \\
 &\quad - \zeta_n [p; q] \zeta_n [4p+1; q^4] - \frac{1}{3} \zeta_n [2p+1; q^2] \zeta_n [3p; q^3] \\
 &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \zeta_n [2p; q^2] \zeta_n [3p+1; q^3] + \zeta_n [5p+1; q^5], \\
 \sum_{a+b=1} \zeta_n^* [\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b] &= \zeta_n [p; q] \zeta_n [p+1; q] + \zeta_n [2p+1; q^2], \\
 \sum_{a+b=2} \zeta_n^* [\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b] &= \frac{1}{2} \zeta_n^2 [p; q] \zeta_n [p+1; q] + \frac{1}{2} \zeta_n [p+1; q] \zeta_n [2p; q^2] \\
 &\quad + \zeta_n [p; q] \zeta_n [2p+1; q^2] + \zeta_n [3p+1; q^3], \\
 \sum_{a+b=3} \zeta_n^* [\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b] &= \zeta_n^3 [p; q] \zeta_n [p+1; q] + \frac{1}{3} \zeta_n [p+1; q] \zeta_n [3p; q^3] \\
 &\quad + \zeta_n [p; q] \zeta_n [3p+1; q^3] + \frac{1}{2} \zeta_n [2p; q^2] \zeta_n [2p+1; q^2] \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \zeta_n [p; q] \zeta_n [p+1; q] \zeta_n [2p; q^2] + \frac{1}{2} \zeta_n^2 [p; q] \zeta_n [2p+1; q^2] \\
 &\quad + \zeta_n [4p+1; q^4], \\
 \sum_{a+b=4} \zeta_n^* [\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b] &= \frac{1}{24} \zeta_n^4 [p; q] \zeta_n [p+1; q] + \frac{1}{4} \zeta_n^2 [p; q] \zeta_n [p+1; q] \zeta_n [2p; q^2] \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{6} \zeta_n^3 [p; q] \zeta_n [2p+1; q^2] + \frac{1}{3} \zeta_n [p; q] \zeta_n [p+1; q] \zeta_n [3p; q^3] \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \zeta_n^2 [p; q] \zeta_n [3p+1; q^3] + \frac{1}{8} \zeta_n [p+1; q] \zeta_n^2 [2p; q^2] \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \zeta_n [p; q] \zeta_n [2p; q^2] \zeta_n [2p+1; q^2] + \frac{1}{4} \zeta_n [p+1; q] \zeta_n [4p; q^4] \\
 &\quad + \zeta_n [p; q] \zeta_n [4p+1; q^4] + \frac{1}{3} \zeta_n [2p+1; q^2] \zeta_n [3p; q^3] \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \zeta_n [2p; q^2] \zeta_n [3p+1; q^3] + \zeta_n [5p+1; q^5],
 \end{aligned}$$

Example 3.2. For positive integers n and m , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \zeta_n^* [\{1\}_m] &= \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r-1} q^{r(r+2m-1)/2} \frac{\begin{bmatrix} n \\ r \end{bmatrix}_q}{[r]_q^m}, \\
 \zeta_n^* [\{2\}_m] &= \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r-1} q^{r(r+2m-1)/2} (1+q^r) \frac{\begin{bmatrix} n \\ r \end{bmatrix}_q}{[r]_q^{2m} \begin{bmatrix} n+r \\ r \end{bmatrix}_q},
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{a+b=m-1} \zeta_n^* [\{1\}_a, 2, \{1\}_b] &= m \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r-1} q^{r(r+2m-1)/2} \frac{\begin{bmatrix} n \\ r \end{bmatrix}_q}{[r]_q^{m+1}} \\
 &+ \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r-1} q^{r(r+2m+1)/2} \frac{\begin{bmatrix} n \\ r \end{bmatrix}_q}{[r]_q^{m+1}} \\
 &- \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r-1} q^{r(r+2m-1)/2} \frac{\zeta_n [1; q] \begin{bmatrix} n \\ r \end{bmatrix}_q}{[r]_q^m}, \\
 \sum_{a+b=m-1} \zeta_n^* [\{2\}_a, 3, \{2\}_b] &= m \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r-1} q^{r(r+2m-1)/2} (1+q^r) \frac{\begin{bmatrix} n \\ r \end{bmatrix}_q}{[r]_q^{2m+1} \begin{bmatrix} n+r \\ r \end{bmatrix}_q} \\
 &+ \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r-1} q^{r(r+2m+1)/2} \frac{\begin{bmatrix} n \\ r \end{bmatrix}_q}{[r]_q^{2m+1} \begin{bmatrix} n+r \\ r \end{bmatrix}_q} \\
 &- \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r-1} q^{r(r+2m-1)/2} (1+q^r) \frac{(\zeta_n [1; 1] - \zeta_{n+r} [1; 1] + \zeta_r [1; 1]) \begin{bmatrix} n \\ r \end{bmatrix}_q}{[r]_q^{2m} \begin{bmatrix} n+r \\ r \end{bmatrix}_q}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Example 3.3. For any real $p > 1$, the following identities hold:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{a+b=1} \zeta(\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b) &= \zeta(p) \zeta(p+1) - \zeta(2p+1), \\
 \sum_{a+b=2} \zeta(\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b) &= \frac{1}{2} \zeta^2(p) \zeta(p+1) - \frac{1}{2} \zeta(p+1) \zeta(2p) - \zeta(p) \zeta(2p+1) \\
 &+ \zeta(3p+1), \\
 \sum_{a+b=3} \zeta(\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b) &= \frac{1}{6} \zeta^3(p) \zeta(p+1) + \frac{1}{3} \zeta(p+1) \zeta(3p) + \zeta(p) \zeta(3p+1) \\
 &+ \frac{1}{2} \zeta(2p) \zeta(2p+1) - \frac{1}{2} \zeta(p) \zeta(p+1) \zeta(2p) \\
 &- \frac{1}{2} \zeta^2(p) \zeta(2p+1) - \zeta(4p+1), \\
 \sum_{a+b=4} \zeta(\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b) &= \frac{1}{24} \zeta^4(p) \zeta(p+1) - \frac{1}{4} \zeta^2(p) \zeta(p+1) \zeta(2p) - \frac{1}{6} \zeta^3(p) \zeta(2p+1) \\
 &+ \frac{1}{3} \zeta(p) \zeta(p+1) \zeta(3p) + \frac{1}{2} \zeta^2(p) \zeta(3p+1) + \frac{1}{8} \zeta(p+1) \zeta^2(2p) \\
 &+ \frac{1}{2} \zeta(p) \zeta(2p) \zeta(2p+1) - \frac{1}{4} \zeta(p+1) \zeta(4p) - \zeta(p) \zeta(4p+1) \\
 &- \frac{1}{3} \zeta(2p+1) \zeta(3p) - \frac{1}{2} \zeta(2p) \zeta(3p+1) + \zeta(5p+1),
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{a+b=1} \zeta^* (\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b) &= \zeta(p) \zeta(p+1) + \zeta(2p+1), \\ \sum_{a+b=2} \zeta^* (\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b) &= \frac{1}{2} \zeta^2(p) \zeta(p+1) + \frac{1}{2} \zeta(p+1) \zeta(2p) + \zeta(p) \zeta(2p+1) \\ &\quad + \zeta(3p+1), \\ \sum_{a+b=3} \zeta^* (\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b) &= \frac{1}{6} \zeta^3(p) \zeta(p+1) + \frac{1}{3} \zeta(p+1) \zeta(3p) + \zeta(p) \zeta(3p+1) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \zeta(2p) \zeta(2p+1) + \frac{1}{2} \zeta(p) \zeta(p+1) \zeta(2p) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \zeta^2(p) \zeta(2p+1) + \zeta(4p+1), \\ \sum_{a+b=4} \zeta^* (\{p\}_a, p+1, \{p\}_b) &= \frac{1}{24} \zeta^4(p) \zeta(p+1) + \frac{1}{4} \zeta^2(p) \zeta(p+1) \zeta(2p) + \frac{1}{6} \zeta^3(p) \zeta(2p+1) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{3} \zeta(p) \zeta(p+1) \zeta(3p) + \frac{1}{2} \zeta^2(p) \zeta(3p+1) + \frac{1}{8} \zeta(p+1) \zeta^2(2p) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \zeta(p) \zeta(2p) \zeta(2p+1) + \frac{1}{4} \zeta(p+1) \zeta(4p) + \zeta(p) \zeta(4p+1) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{3} \zeta(2p+1) \zeta(3p) + \frac{1}{2} \zeta(2p) \zeta(3p+1) + \zeta(5p+1). \end{aligned}$$

Example 3.4. For positive integers m and n , it hold

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta_n^* (\{1\}_m) &= \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r-1} \frac{\binom{n}{r}}{r^m}, \\ \zeta_n^* (\{2\}_m) &= 2 \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r-1} \frac{\binom{n}{r}}{r^{2m} \binom{n+r}{r}}, \\ \zeta_n^* (\{3\}_m) &= 3 \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r-1} \frac{\binom{n}{r}}{r^{3m} \prod_{k=1}^n \left(1 + \frac{r}{k} + \frac{r^2}{k^2}\right)}, \\ \zeta_n^* (\{4\}_m) &= 4 \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r-1} \frac{\binom{n}{r}}{r^{4m} \binom{n+r}{r} \prod_{k=1}^n \left(1 + \frac{r^2}{k^2}\right)}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\sum_{a+b=m-1} \zeta_n^* (\{1\}_a, 2, \{1\}_b) = (m+1) \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r-1} \frac{\binom{n}{r}}{r^{m+1}} - \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r-1} \frac{H_n \binom{n}{r}}{r^m},$$

$$\sum_{a+b=m-1} \zeta_n^* (\{2\}_a, 3, \{2\}_b) = (2m + 1) \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r-1} \frac{\binom{n}{r}}{r^{2m+1} \binom{n+r}{r}} - 2 \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r-1} \frac{(H_n - H_{n+r} + H_r) \binom{n}{r}}{r^{2m} \binom{n+r}{r}}. \tag{3.1}$$

Letting $n \rightarrow \infty$ in (3.1), the result is

$$\sum_{a+b=m-1} \zeta^* (\{2\}_a, 3, \{2\}_b) = (2m + 1) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n^{2m+1}} - 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{H_n}{n^{2m}} (-1)^{n-1}. \tag{3.2}$$

Some results of Example 3.2 and 3.4 have been proven in [7, 13, 14].

Acknowledgments. The author thank the anonymous referee for suggestions which led to improvements in the exposition.

References

[1] G.E. Andrews, R. Askey and R. Roy, *Special Functions*, Cambridge University Press., 2000.
 [2] G. E. Andrews, K. Uchimura, Identities in combinatorics IV: Differentiation and harmonic numbers, *Utilitas Mathe.*, **28**(1985), 265-269.
 [3] J.M. Borwein, D.M. Bradley and D.J. Broadhurst, Evaluations of k -fold Euler/Zagier sums: a compendium of results for arbitrary k , *Electron. J. Combin.*, **4**(2)(1997), 1-21.
 [4] J.M. Borwein, D.M. Bradley and D.J. Broadhurst, Petr. Lisoněk, Special values of multiple polylogarithms, *Trans. Amer. Math. Soc.*, **353**(3)(2001), 907-941.
 [5] J.M. Borwein and R. Girgensohn, Evaluation of triple Euler sums, *Electron. J. Combin.*, (1996), 2-7.
 [6] L. Comtet, *Advanced combinatorics*, Boston: D Reidel Publishing Company, 1974.
 [7] K. Dilcher, Some q -series identities related to divisor functions, *Discrete Math.*, **145**(1995), 83-93.
 [8] K. Dilcher, K.H. Pilehrood and T.H. Pilehrood, On q -analogues of double Euler sums, *J. Math. Anal. Appl.*, **2**(410)(2014), 979-988.
 [9] L. Euler. *Meditationes circa singulare serierum genus*. Novi Comm. Acad. Sci. Petropol., 1775, **20**: 140-186; reprinted. In: Opera Omnia, Ser. 1, vol. 15, Teubner, Berlin, 1927, 217-267.
 [10] K. Ebrahimi-Fard, D. Manchon and J. Singer, Duality and (q) -multiple zeta values, *Adv. Math.*, **298**(2016), 254-285.
 [11] P. Flajolet and B. Salvy, Euler sums and contour integral representations, *Exp. Math.*, **7**(1)(1998), 15–35.
 [12] M.E. Hoffman, *Multiple zeta values: from Euler to the present*. In: *MAA Sectional Meeting, Annapolis*, Maryland, November 10, 2007. <http://www.usna.edu/Users/math/meh>.
 [13] Kh. Hessami Pilehrood, T. Hessami Pilehrood, R. Tauraso, New properties of multiple harmonic sums modulo p and p -analogues of Leshchiner’s series, *Trans. Amer. Math. Soc.*, **366**(6)(2014), 3131-3159.
 [14] Kh. Hessami Pilehrood and T. Hessami Pilehrood. *On q -analogues of two-one formulas for multiple harmonic sums and multiple zeta star values*, *Monatsh. Math.*, **176**(2015), 275-291.
 [15] Z. Li and C. Xu, On q -analogues of quadratic Euler sums, *Period. Math. Hungarica*, **81**(2020), 1-19.
 [16] A. S. Lorente, *Some q -representations of the q -analogue of the Hurwitz zeta function*. *Lecturas Matematicas.*, 2015, **36**(1), 13-20
 [17] J. Riordan, *An Introduction to Combinatorial Analysis*, Reprint of the 1958 original, Dover Publications, Inc., Mineola, NY, 2002.
 [18] C. Xu and Z. Li, Tornheim type series and nonlinear Euler sums, *J. Number Theory*, **174**(2017), 40-67.
 [19] C. Xu, Y. Yan and Z. Shi, Euler sums and integrals of polylogarithm functions, *J. Number Theory*, **165**(2016), 84-108.
 [20] C. Xu, M. Zhang and W. Zhu, Some evaluation of q -analogues of Euler sums, *Monatsh. Math.*, **182**(4)(2016), 957-975.