

# SOME IDENTITIES INVOLVING ODD HOMOGENEOUS MULTIPLE HARMONIC NUMBERS AND OTHER RELATED SUMS

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**Abstract.** In this paper, we study a certain type of polynomials that yield new identities for (odd) homogeneous multiple harmonic numbers and other related sums.

## 1 Notation and preliminaries

The generalized harmonic number of order  $n$  of  $m$  is defined by

$$H_m(n) = \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{1}{i^n}.$$

For  $(n_1, \dots, n_k) \in \mathbb{N}^k$  we define the multiple harmonic sum (number) and the multiple harmonic star sum (number), respectively, by

$$H_m(n_1, \dots, n_k) := \sum_{1 \leq j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_k \leq m} \frac{1}{j_1^{n_1} \dots j_k^{n_k}},$$

and

$$H_m^*(n_1, \dots, n_k) := \sum_{1 \leq j_1 \leq j_2 \leq \dots \leq j_k \leq m} \frac{1}{j_1^{n_1} \dots j_k^{n_k}}.$$

When  $n_1 = n_2 = \dots = n_k = n$  we call these sums homogeneous multiple harmonic sums and homogeneous multiple harmonic star sums and denote them by

$$H_m(\{n\}^k) := \sum_{1 \leq j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_k \leq m} \frac{1}{j_1^n \dots j_k^n}, \quad H_m^*(\{n\}^k) := \sum_{1 \leq j_1 \leq j_2 \leq \dots \leq j_k \leq m} \frac{1}{j_1^n \dots j_k^n}.$$

When  $k = 1$  we omit the parentheses and find the generalized harmonic numbers.

If a bar is placed over some  $n_r$ , this indicates the insertion of a factor  $(-1)^{j_r}$  in the summand. For example,

$$H_m(\bar{n}_1, n_2, \dots, \bar{n}_k) := \sum_{1 \leq j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_k \leq m} \frac{(-1)^{j_1 + j_k}}{j_1^{n_1} \dots j_k^{n_k}}.$$

The odd multiple harmonic sum and the odd multiple harmonic star sum are defined as follow (other convention are also being used, see for example [2]. Here we adopt a simpler description)

$$O_m(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k) := \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_k \leq m \\ j_i \text{ odd}}} \frac{1}{j_1^{n_1} j_2^{n_2} \dots j_k^{n_k}},$$

$$O_m^*(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k) := \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j_1 \leq j_2 \leq \dots \leq j_k \leq m \\ j_i \text{ odd}}} \frac{1}{j_1^{n_1} j_2^{n_2} \dots j_k^{n_k}}.$$

In the homogeneous case we set

$$O_m(\{n\}^k) := \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_k \leq m \\ j_i \text{ odd}}} \frac{1}{j_1^n \dots j_k^n}, \quad O_m^*(\{n\}^k) := \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j_1 \leq j_2 \leq \dots \leq j_k \leq m \\ j_i \text{ odd}}} \frac{1}{j_1^n \dots j_k^n}.$$

For  $n_1 \geq 2$ , the limits

$$\zeta(n_1, \dots, n_k) := \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} H_m(n_1, \dots, n_k), \quad \zeta^*(n_1, \dots, n_k) := \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} H_m^*(n_1, \dots, n_k)$$

exist. These are the well-known *multiple zeta values* (MZVs) and *multiple zeta star values* (MZSVs); see for instance [3, 4, 11] for further properties and results.

Likewise, we define the odd multiple zeta values and odd multiple zeta star values by

$$O(n_1, \dots, n_k) := \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} O_m(n_1, \dots, n_k), \quad O^*(n_1, \dots, n_k) := \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} O_m^*(n_1, \dots, n_k).$$

The identities for multiple harmonic sums established in this paper can be converted into identities for multiple zeta values by taking limits. For instance, applying Theorem 2.4, Eq(2.8), we obtain

$$O(\{n\}^k) = \sum_{j=0}^k \frac{(-1)^{k-j}}{2^{n(k-j)}} \zeta(\{n\}^j) \zeta^*(\{n\}^{k-j}), \tag{1.1}$$

and from Eq(3.6) we deduce

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(3n, 3n) &= 3 \left[ \zeta(\{n\}^3)^2 + \zeta(\{n\}^6) + \zeta(n)^2 \zeta(\{n\}^4) \right] + \zeta(\{n\}^2)^3 \\ &\quad - 3 \left[ \zeta(n) \zeta(\{n\}^2) \zeta(\{n\}^3) + \zeta(\{n\}^2) \zeta(\{n\}^4) + \zeta(n) \zeta(\{n\}^5) \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{1.2}$$

Let  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_m$  be  $m$  variables. The  $k$ -th elementary symmetric polynomial and the complete homogeneous symmetric polynomial are defined by

$$\begin{aligned} e_k(X_1, \dots, X_m) &= \sum_{1 \leq j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_k \leq m} X_{j_1} \cdots X_{j_k}, \\ h_k(X_1, \dots, X_m) &= \sum_{1 \leq j_1 \leq j_2 \leq \dots \leq j_k \leq m} X_{j_1} \cdots X_{j_k}. \end{aligned}$$

These polynomials are characterized by the generating function identities

$$\prod_{i=1}^m (1 - X_i t) = \sum_{k=0}^m (-1)^k e_k(X_1, \dots, X_m) t^k, \quad \prod_{i=1}^m \frac{1}{1 - X_i t} = \sum_{k \geq 0} h_k(X_1, \dots, X_m) t^k.$$

We also define the  $k$ -th power sum symmetric polynomial by

$$s_k(X_1, \dots, X_m) = \sum_{i=1}^m X_i^k.$$

For a partition  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_\ell)$ , the monomial symmetric function is defined as

$$m_\lambda(X_1, \dots, X_m) = \sum_{\alpha} X_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots X_m^{\alpha_m},$$

where the sum runs over all distinct rearrangements  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m)$  of the sequence  $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_\ell, 0, \dots, 0)$  of length  $m$  (see [1] for further details).

When  $m$  is a non-negative integer, it follows directly from the above definitions that

$$\begin{aligned} e_k \left( 1, \frac{1}{2^n}, \dots, \frac{1}{m^n} \right) &= \sum_{1 \leq j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_k \leq m} \frac{1}{j_1^n \cdots j_k^n} = H_m(\{n\}^k), \\ s_k \left( 1, \frac{1}{2^n}, \dots, \frac{1}{m^n} \right) &= \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{1}{i^{nk}} = H_m(nk), \\ e_k \left( 1, \frac{1}{3^n}, \dots, \frac{1}{(m')^n} \right) &= \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_k \leq m \\ j_i \text{ odd}}} \frac{1}{j_1^n \cdots j_k^n} = O_m(\{n\}^k), \end{aligned}$$

where  $m' = m$  if  $m$  is odd, and  $m' = m - 1$  if  $m$  is even.

For the star analogues we have

$$\begin{aligned} h_k \left( 1, \frac{1}{2^n}, \dots, \frac{1}{m^n} \right) &= \sum_{1 \leq j_1 \leq j_2 \leq \dots \leq j_k \leq m} \frac{1}{j_1^n \cdots j_k^n} = H_m^*(\{n\}^k), \\ h_k \left( 1, \frac{1}{3^n}, \dots, \frac{1}{(m')^n} \right) &= \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j_1 \leq j_2 \leq \dots \leq j_k \leq m \\ j_i \text{ odd}}} \frac{1}{j_1^n \cdots j_k^n} = O_m^*(\{n\}^k), \end{aligned}$$

where  $m'$  is equal to  $m$  or  $m - 1$  depending on the parity of  $m$ .

## 2 Identities for (odd) homogeneous multiple harmonic sums

The identities in this paper are expressed in terms of a particular product of binomial coefficients defined over a field  $\mathbb{K}$ . For any  $x \in \mathbb{K}$  and integer  $k$ , we set

$$\binom{x}{k} = \begin{cases} \frac{x(x-1) \cdots (x-k+1)}{k!}, & k \geq 0, \\ 0, & k < 0. \end{cases}$$

For convenience, we define the even and odd parts of the binomial coefficient  $\binom{x-1}{m}$  by

$$\binom{x-1}{m}^e = \prod_{\substack{1 \leq j \leq m \\ j \text{ even}}} \frac{x-j}{j}, \quad \binom{x-1}{m}^o = \prod_{\substack{1 \leq j \leq m \\ j \text{ odd}}} \frac{x-j}{j}.$$

It follows immediately that

$$\binom{x-1}{m} = \binom{x-1}{m}^e \binom{x-1}{m}^o.$$

**Lemma 2.1.** *For all integers  $m \geq 0$ , We have the following decomposition:*

$$\binom{x-1}{m} = \binom{x-1}{m}^e \binom{x-1}{m}^o = \binom{\frac{x}{2}-1}{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor} \binom{x-1}{m}.$$

*Proof.* It suffices to show that

$$\binom{x-1}{m}^e = \binom{\frac{x}{2}-1}{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor}.$$

We consider two cases.

**Case 1:  $m$  even.** If  $m \geq 0$  is even, then

$$\binom{x-1}{m}^e = \frac{(x-2)(x-4) \cdots (x-m)}{2 \cdot 4 \cdots m} = \frac{2^{\frac{m}{2}} (\frac{x}{2}-1)(\frac{x}{2}-2) \cdots (\frac{x}{2}-\frac{m}{2})}{2^{\frac{m}{2}} (1 \cdot 2 \cdots \frac{m}{2})} = \binom{\frac{x}{2}-1}{\frac{m}{2}}.$$

Since  $\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor = \frac{m}{2}$ , the claim follows.

**Case 2:  $m$  odd.** If  $m \geq 1$  is odd, then

$$\binom{x-1}{m}^e = \frac{(x-2)(x-4) \cdots (x-(m-1))}{2 \cdot 4 \cdots (m-1)} = \frac{2^{\frac{m-1}{2}} (\frac{x}{2}-1)(\frac{x}{2}-2) \cdots (\frac{x}{2}-\frac{m-1}{2})}{2^{\frac{m-1}{2}} (1 \cdot 2 \cdots \frac{m-1}{2})} = \binom{\frac{x}{2}-1}{\frac{m-1}{2}}.$$

Since  $\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor = \frac{m-1}{2}$ , the claim follows. □

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $\mathbb{K}$  be any extension of  $\mathbb{Q}$  that contains the  $n$ -th roots of unity. Then, for all  $x \in \mathbb{K}$ , we have*

$$\prod_{\omega^n=1} \binom{\omega x-1}{m} = (-1)^{mn} \sum_{k=0}^m (-1)^k H_m(\{n\}^k) x^{kn}, \tag{2.1}$$

$$\frac{1}{\prod_{\omega^n=1} \binom{\omega x-1}{m}} = (-1)^{mn} \sum_{k \geq 0} H_m^*(\{n\}^k) x^{kn}. \tag{2.2}$$

*Proof.* This is a slight modification of the proof given in [5, Theorem 2]. Replacing the polynomial  $F_n(x)$  used there by

$$F_{n,m}(x) = \frac{(x^n-1^n)(x^n-2^n) \cdots (x^n-m^n)}{1^n 2^n \cdots m^n},$$

we can establish that

$$F_{n,m}(x) = (-1)^{m(n-1)} \prod_{\omega^n=1} \binom{\omega x-1}{m} = (-1)^m \sum_{k=0}^m (-1)^k H_m(\{n\}^k) x^{kn}, \tag{2.3}$$

$$\frac{1}{F_{n,m}(x)} = (-1)^{m(n-1)} \frac{1}{\prod_{\omega^n=1} \binom{\omega x-1}{m}} = (-1)^m \sum_{k \geq 0} H_m^*(\{n\}^k) x^{kn}. \tag{2.4}$$

□

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $m$  be a non-negative integer, then*

$$\prod_{\omega^n=1} \binom{\omega x-1}{m}^o = (-1)^{n \lfloor \frac{m+1}{2} \rfloor} \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor \frac{m+1}{2} \rfloor} (-1)^k O_m(\{n\}^k) x^{kn}, \tag{2.5}$$

$$\frac{1}{\prod_{\omega^n=1} \binom{\omega x-1}{m}^o} = (-1)^{n \lfloor \frac{m+1}{2} \rfloor} \sum_{k \geq 0} O_m^*(\{n\}^k) x^{kn}. \tag{2.6}$$

*Proof.* We first consider the case when  $m$  is even. Define

$$F_{n,m}^o(x) = \frac{(x^n-1^n)(x^n-3^n) \cdots (x^n-(m-1)^n)}{1^n 3^n \cdots (m-1)^n}.$$

Let  $\{1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_n\}$  denote the  $n$ -th roots of unity. Then the polynomial  $F_n(x)$  can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} F_{n,m}^o(x) &= \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \text{ odd}}}^m \frac{x-j}{m!!} \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \text{ odd}}}^m \frac{x-j\omega_2}{m!!} \cdots \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \text{ odd}}}^m \frac{x-j\omega_n}{m!!} \\ &= (1^{\frac{m}{2}} \omega_2^{\frac{m}{2}} \cdots \omega_n^{\frac{m}{2}}) \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \text{ odd}}}^m \frac{x-j}{m!!} \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \text{ odd}}}^m \frac{\omega_2^{-1}x-j}{m!!} \cdots \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \text{ odd}}}^m \frac{\omega_n^{-1}x-j}{m!!}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $m!!$  denotes the double factorial

$$m!! = \begin{cases} m(m-2)(m-4)\cdots 1 & \text{when } m \text{ is odd,} \\ m(m-2)(m-4)\cdots 2 & \text{when } m \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

As the product of roots  $1 \cdot \omega_2 \cdots \omega_n = (-1)^{n-1}$ , it follows

$$\begin{aligned} F_{n,m}^o(x) &= (-1)^{\frac{m(n-1)}{2}} \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \text{ odd}}}^m \frac{x-j}{m!!} \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \text{ odd}}}^m \frac{\omega_2^{-1}x-j}{m!!} \cdots \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \text{ odd}}}^m \frac{\omega_n^{-1}x-j}{m!!} \\ &= (-1)^{\frac{m(n-1)}{2}} \binom{x-1}{m}^o \binom{\omega_2^{-1}x-1}{m}^o \cdots \binom{\omega_n^{-1}x-1}{m}^o \\ &= (-1)^{\frac{m(n-1)}{2}} \prod_{\omega^n=1} \binom{\omega^{-1}x-1}{m}^o \\ &= (-1)^{\frac{m(n-1)}{2}} \prod_{\omega^n=1} \binom{\omega x-1}{m}^o. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} F_{n,m}^o(x) &= \frac{(x^n-1)(x^n-3^n)\cdots(x^n-(m-1)^n)}{(m-1)!!^n} \\ &= \left(\frac{x^n-1}{1^n}\right) \left(\frac{x^n-3^n}{3^n}\right) \cdots \left(\frac{x^n-(m-1)^n}{(m-1)^n}\right) \\ &= (-1)^{\frac{m}{2}} (1-x^n) \left(1-\frac{x^n}{3^n}\right) \cdots \left(1-\frac{x^n}{(m-1)^n}\right) \\ &= (-1)^{\frac{m}{2}} \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{m}{2}} (-1)^k e_k\left(1, \frac{1}{3^n}, \dots, \frac{1}{(m-1)^n}\right) x^{kn} \\ &= (-1)^{\frac{m}{2}} \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{m}{2}} (-1)^k O_m(\{n\}^k) x^{kn}. \end{aligned}$$

For odd  $m$  the proof is analogous. Combining both cases, we conclude that

$$F_{n,m}^a(x) = (-1)^{(n-1)\lfloor \frac{m+1}{2} \rfloor} \prod_{\omega^n=1} \binom{\omega x-1}{m}^o = (-1)^{\lfloor \frac{m+1}{2} \rfloor} \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor \frac{m+1}{2} \rfloor} (-1)^k O_m(\{n\}^k) x^{kn}.$$

□

**Theorem 2.4.** *Let  $m$  be a non-negative integer. Then, for all  $k \geq 0$  we have*

$$H_m(\{n\}^k) = \sum_{j=0}^k \frac{O_m(\{n\}^j) H_{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor}(\{n\}^{k-j})}{2^{n(k-j)}}. \tag{2.7}$$

$$O_m(\{n\}^k) = \sum_{j=0}^k \frac{(-1)^{k-j} H_m(\{n\}^j) H_{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor}^*(\{n\}^{k-j})}{2^{n(k-j)}}. \tag{2.8}$$

$$\frac{H_{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor}(\{n\}^k)}{2^{kn}} = \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^{k-j} H_m(\{n\}^j) O_m^*(\{n\}^{k-j}). \tag{2.9}$$

*Proof.* We use the simple observation  $\lfloor \frac{m+1}{2} \rfloor + \lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor = m$ .

(i) For the full product, we factor into odd and even parts:

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{\omega^n=1} \binom{\omega x-1}{m} &= \prod_{\omega^n=1} \binom{\omega x-1}{m}^o \binom{\omega x-1}{m}^e \\ &= \left[ (-1)^{n\lfloor \frac{m+1}{2} \rfloor} \sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor \frac{m+1}{2} \rfloor} (-1)^j O_m(\{n\}^j) x^{jn} \right] \\ &\quad \times \left[ (-1)^{n\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor} \sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor} (-1)^j H_{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor}(\{n\}^j) \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{jn} \right] \\ &= (-1)^{mn} \sum_{k=0}^m (-1)^k \left( \sum_{j=0}^k \frac{O_m(\{n\}^j) H_{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor}(\{n\}^{k-j})}{2^{n(k-j)}} \right) x^{kn}. \end{aligned}$$

Comparing with the expansion in Eq(2.3) yields the first identity.

(ii) For the odd part, we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{\omega^n=1} \binom{\omega x - 1}{m}^o &= \frac{\prod_{\omega^n=1} \binom{\omega x - 1}{m}}{\prod_{\omega^n=1} \binom{\frac{\omega x}{2} - 1}{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor}} \\ &= \left[ (-1)^{mn} \sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j H_m(\{n\}^j) x^{jn} \right] \left[ (-1)^{n \lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor} \sum_{j \geq 0} H_{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor}^*(\{n\}^j) \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{jn} \right] \\ &= (-1)^{n(m - \lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor)} \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^k \left( \sum_{j=0}^k \frac{(-1)^{k+j} H_m(\{n\}^j) H_{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor}^*(\{n\}^{k-j})}{2^{(k-j)n}} \right) x^{kn} \\ &= (-1)^{n \lfloor \frac{m+1}{2} \rfloor} \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor \frac{m+1}{2} \rfloor} (-1)^k O_m(\{n\}^k) x^{kn}. \end{aligned}$$

This gives the second identity.

(iii) For the even part, we similarly have

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{\omega^n=1} \binom{\omega x - 1}{m}^e &= \frac{\prod_{\omega^n=1} \binom{\omega x - 1}{m}}{\prod_{\omega^n=1} \binom{\omega x - 1}{m}^o} \\ &= \left[ (-1)^{mn} \sum_{j=0}^m (-1)^j H_m(\{n\}^j) x^{jn} \right] \left[ (-1)^{n \lfloor \frac{m+1}{2} \rfloor} \sum_{j \geq 0} O_m^*(\{n\}^j) x^{jn} \right] \\ &= (-1)^{n \lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor} \sum_{k \geq 0} (-1)^k \left( \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^{k+j} H_m(\{n\}^j) O_m^*(\{n\}^{k-j}) \right) x^{kn} \\ &= (-1)^{n \lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor} \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor} (-1)^k H_{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor}(\{n\}^k) \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{kn}. \end{aligned}$$

This proves the third identity. □

**Theorem 2.5.** Let  $m$  be a non-negative integer. Then, for all  $k \geq 0$  we have

$$H_m^*(\{n\}^k) = \sum_{j=0}^k \frac{O_m^*(\{n\}^j) H_{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor}^*(\{n\}^{k-j})}{2^{n(k-j)}}. \tag{2.10}$$

$$O_m^*(\{n\}^k) = \sum_{j=0}^k \frac{(-1)^j H_{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor}(\{n\}^j) H_m^*(\{n\}^{k-j})}{2^{nj}}. \tag{2.11}$$

$$\frac{H_{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor}^*(\{n\}^k)}{2^{kn}} = \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^j O_m(\{n\}^j) H_m^*(\{n\}^{k-j}). \tag{2.12}$$

*Proof.* The result follows by inverting the relations established in the previous proof. □

**Theorem 2.6.** Let  $m$  be a non-negative integer and let

$$\overline{N}_k = (\overline{2n}, 2n, \dots, 2n, \overline{2n}) \quad \text{or} \quad (\overline{2n}, 2n, \dots, \overline{2n}, 2n),$$

and similarly

$$N_k = (2n, \overline{2n}, \dots, 2n, \overline{2n}) \quad \text{or} \quad (2n, \overline{2n}, \dots, \overline{2n}, 2n).$$

Then, for any non-negative integer  $m$ , the following relations hold

$$H_m(\{\overline{N}_k\}) = \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^j \frac{O_m(\{2n\}^j) H_{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor}(\{2n\}^{k-j})}{2^{2n(k-j)}}. \tag{2.13}$$

$$H_m(\{N_k\}) = \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^{k-j} \frac{O_m(\{2n\}^j) H_{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor}(\{2n\}^{k-j})}{2^{2n(k-j)}}. \tag{2.14}$$

$$H_m^*(\{\overline{N}_k\}) = \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^j \frac{O_m^*(\{2n\}^j) H_{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor}^*(\{2n\}^{k-j})}{2^{2n(k-j)}}. \tag{2.15}$$

$$H_m^*(\{N_k\}) = \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^{k-j} \frac{O_m^*(\{2n\}^j) H_{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor}^*(\{2n\}^{k-j})}{2^{2n(k-j)}}. \tag{2.16}$$

*Proof.*

(i) First assume that  $m$  is even. Consider the polynomial

$$F_{2n,m}^a(x) = \frac{(x^{2n} + 1^{2n})(x^{2n} - 2^{2n}) \cdots (x^{2n} + m^{2n})}{1^{2n} 2^{2n} \cdots m^{2n}}.$$

Let  $\zeta$  be a primitive  $4n$ -th root of unity, so that  $\zeta^{2n} = -1$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} F_{2n,m}^a(x) &= \frac{(x^{2n} + 1^{2n})(x^{2n} + 3^{2n}) \cdots (x^{2n} + (m-1)^{2n})}{1^{2n} 3^{2n} \cdots (m-1)^{2n}} \\ &\quad \times \frac{(x^{2n} - 2^{2n})(x^{2n} - 4^{2n}) \cdots (x^{2n} - m^{2n})}{2^{2n} 4^{2n} \cdots m^{2n}} \\ &= \frac{(x^{2n} - (\zeta)^{2n})(x^{2n} - (3\zeta)^{2n}) \cdots (x^{2n} - ((m-1)\zeta)^{2n})}{1^{2n} 3^{2n} \cdots (m-1)^{2n}} \\ &\quad \times \frac{\left(\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2n} - 1^{2n}\right) \left(\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2n} - 2^{2n}\right) \cdots \left(\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2n} - \left(\frac{m}{2}\right)^{2n}\right)}{1^{2n} 2^{2n} \cdots \left(\frac{m}{2}\right)^{2n}} \\ &= (\zeta^{2n})^{\frac{m}{2}} \frac{\left(\left(\frac{x}{\zeta}\right)^{2n} - 1^{2n}\right) \left(\left(\frac{x}{\zeta}\right)^{2n} - 3^{2n}\right) \cdots \left(\left(\frac{x}{\zeta}\right)^{2n} - (m-1)^{2n}\right)}{1^{2n} 3^{2n} \cdots (m-1)^{2n}} F_{2n, \frac{m}{2}}\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \\ &= (-1)^{\frac{m}{2}} F_{2n,m}^o\left(\frac{x}{\zeta}\right) F_{2n, \frac{m}{2}}\left(\frac{x}{2}\right). \end{aligned}$$

If  $m$  is odd, a similar argument yields

$$F_{2n,m}^a(x) = (-1)^{\frac{m+1}{2}} F_{2n,m}^o\left(\frac{x}{\zeta}\right) F_{2n, \frac{m-1}{2}}\left(\frac{x}{2}\right).$$

Thus, in general,

$$F_{2n,m}^a(x) = (-1)^{\lfloor \frac{m+1}{2} \rfloor} F_{2n,m}^o\left(\frac{x}{\zeta}\right) F_{2n, \lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor}\left(\frac{x}{2}\right).$$

Expanding via the product identities for  $O_m(\{n\}^k)$  and  $H_{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor}(\{n\}^k)$  gives

$$F_{2n,m}^a(x) = (-1)^{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor} \left[ \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor \frac{m+1}{2} \rfloor} O_m(\{2n\}^k) x^{2nk} \right] \left[ \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor} (-1)^k H_{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor}(\{2n\}^k) \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2nk} \right].$$

On the other hand, by direct expansion one has

$$F_{2n,m}^a(x) = (-1)^{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor} \sum_{k=0}^m (-1)^k H_m(\overline{N}_k) x^{2nk}.$$

Comparing coefficients yields the first identity.

(ii) For the case of  $N_k$ , consider instead

$$F_{2n,m}^{a'}(x) = \frac{(x^{2n} - 1^{2n})(x^{2n} + 2^{2n}) \cdots (x^{2n} \pm m^{2n})}{1^{2n} 2^{2n} \cdots m^{2n}},$$

and follow the same procedure.

(iii) To obtain the last two identities, we consider the reciprocal polynomials  $\frac{1}{F_{2n,m}^a(x)}$  and  $\frac{1}{F_{2n,m}^{a'}(x)}$ , respectively. □

### 3 A shuffle like relation for homogeneous multiple harmonic sums indexed by integer partitions

In this section we establish a shuffle like relation (see for instance [3], [11]) between homogeneous multiple harmonic sums that involve the symmetric monomial polynomials evaluated at roots of unity.

**Lemma 3.1.** For  $a \geq 1$ , we have

$$F_{an,m}(x) = (-1)^{m(a-1)} F_{n,m}(x) F_{n,m}(\omega x) \cdots F_{n,m}(\omega^{a-1} x), \tag{3.1}$$

where  $\omega$  is a primitive  $an$ -th root of unity.

*Proof.* Let  $\omega$  be a primitive  $an$ -th root of unity. Set  $\{\omega_0 = 1, \omega_1, \dots, \omega_{a-1}\}$  to be the set of all  $a$ -th roots of unity. We can then rearrange terms so that  $\omega^{in} = \omega_i$  for  $0 \leq i \leq a-1$ . We have the following

$$\begin{aligned} F_{an,m}(x) &= \frac{(x^{an} - 1)(x^{an} - 2^{an}) \cdots (x^{an} - m^{an})}{m!^{an}} \\ &= \prod_{i=0}^{a-1} \prod_{j=1}^m \frac{x^n - \omega_i j^n}{m!^{an}} = \prod_{i=0}^{a-1} \prod_{j=1}^m \frac{\frac{x}{\omega_i} - j^n}{m!^{an}} \\ &= \omega_0^m \omega_1^m \cdots \omega_{a-1}^m \prod_{i=0}^{a-1} \prod_{j=1}^m \frac{\left(\frac{x}{\omega_i}\right)^n - j^n}{m!^{an}} \\ &= (-1)^{m(a-1)} F_{n,m}(x) F_{n,m}(\omega x) \cdots F_{n,m}(\omega^{a-1} x). \end{aligned}$$

□

**Theorem 3.2.** Let  $a \geq 1$  and  $k \geq 0$ , we have

(i) For homogeneous multiple harmonic sums, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (-1)^{(a-1)k} H_m(\{an\}^k) &= \sum_{l_0+\dots+l_{a-1}=ak} \omega_0^{l_0} \omega_1^{l_1} \dots \omega_{a-1}^{l_{a-1}} H_m(\{n\}^{l_0}) H_m(\{n\}^{l_1}) \dots H_m(\{n\}^{l_{a-1}}), \\ &= \sum_{\substack{\lambda=(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_a) \vdash ak \\ l(\lambda) \leq a}} m_\lambda(\omega_0, \dots, \omega_{a-1}) H_m(\{n\}^{\lambda_1}) H_m(\{n\}^{\lambda_2}) \dots H_m(\{n\}^{\lambda_a}). \end{aligned} \tag{3.2}$$

(ii) For homogeneous multiple harmonic star sums, we have

$$\begin{aligned} H_m^*(\{an\}^k) &= \sum_{l_0+\dots+l_{a-1}=ak} \omega_0^{l_0} \omega_1^{l_1} \dots \omega_{a-1}^{l_{a-1}} H_m^*(\{n\}^{l_0}) H_m^*(\{n\}^{l_1}) \dots H_m^*(\{n\}^{l_{a-1}}), \\ &= \sum_{\substack{\lambda=(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_a) \vdash ak \\ l(\lambda) \leq a}} m_\lambda(\omega_0, \dots, \omega_{a-1}) H_m^*(\{n\}^{\lambda_1}) H_m^*(\{n\}^{\lambda_2}) \dots H_m^*(\{n\}^{\lambda_a}). \end{aligned} \tag{3.3}$$

*Proof.* The result follows by expanding the product  $(-1)^{m(a-1)} F_{n,m}(x) F_{n,m}(\omega x) \dots F_{n,m}(\omega^{a-1} x)$  and comparing coefficients with those of  $F_{an,m}(x)$ . □

**Corollary 3.3.** When  $a = 2$  and  $k \geq 0$ , we find

$$\begin{aligned} (-1)^k H_m(\{2n\}^k) &= \sum_{l=0}^{2k} (-1)^l H_m(\{n\}^l) H_m(\{n\}^{2k-l}) = \\ &2 \sum_{l=0}^{\lfloor \frac{k+1}{2} \rfloor} H_m(\{n\}^{2l}) H_m(\{n\}^{2k-2l}) + (-1)^k H_m(\{n\}^k)^2 - 2 \sum_{l=0}^{\lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor} H_m(\{n\}^{2l+1}) H_m(\{n\}^{2k-2l-1}). \end{aligned} \tag{3.4}$$

We also have

$$\begin{aligned} H_m^*(\{2n\}^k) &= \sum_{l=0}^{2k} (-1)^l H_m^*(\{n\}^l) H_m^*(\{n\}^{2k-l}) = \\ &2 \sum_{l=0}^{\lfloor \frac{k+1}{2} \rfloor} H_m^*(\{n\}^{2l}) H_m^*(\{n\}^{2k-2l}) + (-1)^k H_m^*(\{n\}^k)^2 - 2 \sum_{l=0}^{\lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor} H_m^*(\{n\}^{2l+1}) H_m^*(\{n\}^{2k-2l-1}). \end{aligned} \tag{3.5}$$

*Proof.* We regroup similar terms. □

**Examples 1.** (i) When  $k = 3$ , we find

$$H_m(2n, 2n, 2n) = 2 \left[ -H_m(\{n\}^6) + H_m(n) H_m(\{n\}^5) - H_m(\{n\}^2) H_m(\{n\}^4) \right] + H_m(\{n\}^3)^2.$$

(ii) If we set  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  the two 3-roots of unity then

$$\begin{aligned} H_m(3n, 3n) &= (\alpha^2 \beta^2) H_m(\{n\}^2)^3 + (\alpha^3 + \beta^3 + \alpha^3 \beta^3) H_m(\{n\}^3)^2 + (1 + \alpha^6 + \beta^6) H_m(\{n\}^6) \\ &+ (\alpha^2 \beta + \alpha \beta^2 + \alpha^3 \beta + \alpha \beta^3 + \alpha^3 \beta^2 + \alpha^2 \beta^3) H_m(n) H_m(\{n\}^2) H_m(\{n\}^3) \\ &+ (\alpha \beta + \alpha^4 \beta + \alpha \beta^4) H_m(n)^2 H_m(\{n\}^4) \\ &+ (\alpha^2 + \alpha^4 + \beta^2 + \beta^4 + \alpha^4 \beta^2 + \alpha^2 \beta^4) H_m(\{n\}^2) H_m(\{n\}^4) \\ &+ (\alpha + \alpha^5 + \beta + \beta^5 + \alpha^5 \beta + \alpha \beta^5) H_m(n) H_m(\{n\}^5). \end{aligned}$$

Now, using relations  $\alpha\beta = 1, \alpha^3 = \beta^3 = 1$  and  $\alpha + \beta = -1$  the above equation may be simplified to

$$\begin{aligned} H_m(3n, 3n) &= H_m(\{n\}^2)^3 + 3 \left[ H_m(\{n\}^3)^2 + H_m(\{n\}^6) + H_m(n)^2 H_m(\{n\}^4) \right] \\ &- 3 \left[ H_m(n) H_m(\{n\}^2) H_m(\{n\}^3) + H_m(\{n\}^2) H_m(\{n\}^4) + H_m(n) H_m(\{n\}^5) \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{3.6}$$

A similar argument can be made to prove the following result on odd homogeneous multiple harmonic (star) sums.

**Theorem 3.4.** Let  $a \geq 1$  and  $k \geq 0$ , we have

(i) For odd homogeneous multiple harmonic sums, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (-1)^{(a-1)k} O_m(\{an\}^k) &= \sum_{l_0+\dots+l_{a-1}=ak} \omega_0^{l_0} \omega_1^{l_1} \dots \omega_{a-1}^{l_{a-1}} O_m(\{n\}^{l_0}) O_m(\{n\}^{l_1}) \dots O_m(\{n\}^{l_{a-1}}), \\ &= \sum_{\substack{\lambda=(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_a) \vdash ak \\ l(\lambda) \leq a}} m_\lambda(\omega_0, \dots, \omega_{a-1}) O_m(\{n\}^{\lambda_1}) O_m(\{n\}^{\lambda_2}) \dots O_m(\{n\}^{\lambda_a}). \end{aligned} \tag{3.7}$$

(ii) For odd homogeneous multiple harmonic star sums, we have

$$\begin{aligned} O_m^*(\{an\}^k) &= \sum_{l_0+\dots+l_{a-1}=ak} \omega_0^{l_0} \omega_1^{l_1} \dots \omega_{a-1}^{l_{a-1}} O_m^*(\{n\}^{l_0}) O_m^*(\{n\}^{l_1}) \dots O_m^*(\{n\}^{l_{a-1}}), \\ &= \sum_{\substack{\lambda=(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_a) \vdash ak \\ l(\lambda) \leq a}} m_\lambda(\omega_0, \dots, \omega_{a-1}) O_m^*(\{n\}^{\lambda_1}) O_m^*(\{n\}^{\lambda_2}) \dots O_m^*(\{n\}^{\lambda_a}). \end{aligned} \tag{3.8}$$

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