# An elementary alternative proof for Chan's analogue of Ramanujan's most beautiful identity and some inequality of the cubic partition 

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#### Abstract

In this paper we provide an alterative proof for the congruence modulo 3 of the cubic partition $a(n)$. That apart we also examine inequalities for $a(n)$ and provide upper bound for it in the fashion of the classic partition function $p(n)$.


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## 1 Introduction

There are many astonishing and beautiful results attributed to Ramanujan. However, the congruence identities he discovered for the partition function were the ones described by Hardy as his 'most beautiful identity'. Ramanujan showed that $p(5 n+4) \equiv 0(\bmod 5)$ and this was the first congruence result regarding the partition function. Over the course of years many such congruences were discovered. It has also been proven that such congruence results exists [3] for all integers co-prime to 6 . Like the classic partition function $p(n)$ the function $a(n)$ also known as
the cubic partition gives the number of partitions of n where every even number comes with two different labels and is given by a similar generating function viz.

$$
\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a(n) x^{n}=\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\left(1-x^{i}\right)\left(1-x^{2 i}\right)}
$$

In his paper [1], Chan showed that $a(3 n+2) \equiv 0(\bmod 3)$ which was the first of such congruence results for the function $a(n)$. In section 3 we provide an alternative proof of this result. That apart we exhibit a simple analogous inequality for $a(n)$ as well as upper bound for it. Here we prove the following theorems:

Theorem 1.1. Alternative proof of $a(3 n+2) \equiv 0(\bmod 3)$.
Theorem 1.2. Given any positive integer $n \geq 2$,

$$
a(n+2)+a(n-2)>2 a(n) .
$$

Theorem 1.3. For any positive integer $n$,

$$
a(n)<\exp ^{k \sqrt{n}},
$$

where $k=\pi$.
In the next section, we present some background material on partition function $p(n)$ and some useful theorems due to Euler which will help us to prove our theorems.

## 2 Preliminaries

A partition of a natural number $n$ is a finite sequence of non-increasing positive integer parts where the sum of the parts is equal to $n$. If $p(n)$ denote the number of partitions of $n$, then

$$
\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p(n) q^{n}=\frac{1}{(q ; q)_{\infty}}
$$

where, as customary, for any complex number $a$ and $|q|<1$

$$
(a ; q)_{\infty}=\prod_{k=0}^{\infty}\left(1-a q^{k}\right)
$$

Next define integers $a(n)$ by

$$
\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a(n) q^{n}=\frac{1}{(q ; q)_{\infty}\left(q^{2} ; q^{2}\right)_{\infty}} .
$$

Note that $a(n)$ is the number of cubic partitions of $n$ where one of the colors appears only in parts that are multiples of 2 .

We will be using the following two well-known results due to Euler to prove Theorem 1.1.

### 2.1 Result 1 (Generating function for integer partition)

For $|x|<1$ we have,

$$
\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1-x^{i}}=\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} p(n) x^{n}
$$

where $p(0)=1$.
Another very well referred result in integer partition is Euler's pentagonal number theorem, which states the following.

### 2.2 Result 2 (Euler's pentagonal number theorem)

If $|x|<1$ we have,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\prod_{m=1}^{\infty}\left(1-x^{m}\right) & =1-x-x^{2}+x^{5}+x^{7}-x^{12}-x^{15}+\ldots \\
& =1+\sum_{n=1}^{\infty}(-1)^{n}\left(x^{\omega(n)}+x^{\omega(-n)}\right) \\
& =\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} x^{\omega(n)}
\end{aligned}
$$

where $\omega(n)=\frac{3 n^{2}+n}{2}$.

## 3 Proof of Theorems

### 3.1 Proof of Theorem 1.1

Chan showed the beautiful identity regarding cubic partition $a(n)$, i.e., $a(3 n+2) \equiv 0(\bmod 3)$ using modular forms and Roger-Ramanujan continued fraction. In 1950, D. Kruyswijk [2] gave an alternative proof of celebrated partition congruence result $p(5 n+4) \equiv 0(\bmod 5)$. One can apply the method of Kruyswijk to a certain extent to provide an alternative proof of $a(3 n+2) \equiv$ $0(\bmod 3)$. Here we show explicitly the generating function of $a(3 n+2)$, i.e., we establish the following identity:

$$
\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a(3 m+2) x^{m}=3 \frac{\left(\phi\left(x^{3}\right)\right)^{3}\left(\phi\left(x^{6}\right)\right)^{3}}{\phi(x)^{4} \phi\left(x^{2}\right)^{4}}
$$

where $x$ is a complex number satisfying $|x|<1$; from the above identity it is clear that $a(3 n+2) \equiv$ $0(\bmod 3)$, where

$$
\phi(x)=\prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left(1-x^{n}\right)
$$

In order to prove the Theorem 1.1 we will prove following lemmas.

### 3.1. Lemma

$$
\prod_{h=1}^{k}\left(1-x \epsilon^{h}\right)\left(1-x^{2} \epsilon^{h}\right)=\left(1-x^{k}\right)\left(1-x^{2 k}\right)
$$

where $\epsilon=\exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i}{k}}, i=\sqrt{-1}$.
Proof: To prove the lemma it suffices to prove the identity

$$
\prod_{h=1}^{k}\left(1-x \epsilon^{h}\right)=\left(1-x^{k}\right)
$$

and one can deduce the lemma from the fact.
We know that

$$
\left(x^{k}-1\right)=\prod_{h=1}^{k}\left(x-\epsilon^{h}\right)
$$

and so

$$
\begin{aligned}
\left(1-x^{k}\right) & =(-1)^{k+1} \prod_{h=1}^{k}\left(\epsilon^{h}-x\right)=(-1)^{k+1} \prod_{h=1}^{k}\left(\epsilon^{-h}-x\right) \\
& =(-1)^{k+1} \prod_{h=1}^{k} \epsilon^{-h} \prod_{h=1}^{k}\left(1-x \epsilon^{h}\right) \\
& =(-1)^{k+1} \epsilon^{-\frac{k(k+1)}{2}} \prod_{h=1}^{k}\left(1-x \epsilon^{h}\right) \\
& =\prod_{h=1}^{k}\left(1-x \epsilon^{h}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

### 3.1.2 Lemma

For $\operatorname{gcd}(n, k)=d$;

$$
\prod_{h=1}^{k}\left(1-x \epsilon^{n h}\right)\left(1-x^{2} \epsilon^{n h}\right)=\left(1-x^{\frac{k}{d}}\right)^{d}\left(1-x^{\frac{2 k}{d}}\right)^{d}
$$

and can deduce that

$$
\begin{aligned}
\prod_{h=1}^{k}\left(1-x^{n} \epsilon^{n h}\right)\left(1-x^{2 n} \epsilon^{n h}\right) & =\left(1-x^{n k}\right)\left(1-x^{2 n k}\right), \text { if } \operatorname{gcd}(n, k)=1 \\
& =\left(1-x^{n}\right)^{k}\left(1-x^{2 n}\right)^{k}, \text { if } k \mid n
\end{aligned}
$$

Proof: We just compute for

$$
\prod_{h=1}^{k}\left(1-x \epsilon^{n h}\right)
$$

and can comment about the product.
Let $d=\operatorname{gcd}(n, k) ; m=\frac{n}{d}$ and let $\delta=\exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i d}{k}}, i=\sqrt{-1}$. Then,

$$
\prod_{h=1}^{k}\left(1-x \epsilon^{n h}\right)=\prod_{h=1}^{k}\left(1-x \delta^{m h}\right)^{d}
$$

since $\left(m, \frac{k}{d}\right)=1, m h$ runs through a complete system of residues $\bmod k$, hence by what we have done before

$$
\prod_{h=1}^{\frac{k}{d}}\left(1-x \delta^{m n}\right)^{d}=\prod_{h=1}^{\frac{k}{d}}\left(1-x \delta^{h}\right)^{d}=\left(1-x^{\frac{k}{d}}\right)^{d}
$$

so, if $\operatorname{gcd}(n, k)=1$, then

$$
\prod_{h=1}^{k}\left(1-x^{n} \exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i n h}{k}}\right)=\left(1-x^{n k}\right)
$$

Also if $k \mid n$ then $\operatorname{gcd}(n, k)=k$, so

$$
\prod_{h=1}^{k}\left(1-x^{n} \exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i n h}{k}}\right)=\left(1-x^{n}\right)^{k}
$$

And similarly one can do for

$$
\begin{aligned}
\prod_{h=1}^{k}\left(1-x^{2 n} \epsilon^{n h}\right) & =\left(1-x^{2 n k}\right), \text { if } \operatorname{gcd}(n, k)=1 \\
& =\left(1-x^{2 n}\right)^{k}, \text { if } k \mid n
\end{aligned}
$$

so, we are done.

### 3.1.3 Lemma

for prime $q$ and $|x|<1$ we have

$$
\prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \prod_{h=1}^{q}\left(1-x^{n} \exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i n h}{q}}\right)\left(1-x^{2 n} \exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i n h}{k}}\right)=\frac{\phi\left(x^{q}\right)^{q+1}}{\phi\left(x^{q^{2}}\right)} \frac{\phi\left(x^{2 q}\right)^{q+1}}{\phi\left(x^{2 q^{2}}\right)}
$$

where

$$
\phi(x)=\prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left(1-x^{n}\right)
$$

Proof:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \prod_{h=1}^{q}\left(1-x^{n} \exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i n h}{q}}\right) \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \prod_{h=1}^{q}\left(1-x^{2 n} \exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i n h}{k}}\right) \\
= & \prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left(1-x^{q n}\right)^{q} \prod_{r=1}^{q-1} \prod_{m=1}^{\infty}\left(1-x^{q(m q-r)}\right) \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \prod_{h=1}^{q}\left(1-x^{2 n} \exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i n h}{q}}\right) \\
= & \phi\left(x^{q}\right)^{q} \prod_{r=0}^{q-1} \prod_{m=1}^{\infty}\left(1-x^{q(m q-r)}\right) \prod_{m=1}^{\infty}\left(1-x^{q^{2} m}\right)^{-1} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \prod_{h=1}^{q}\left(1-x^{2 n} \exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i n h}{q}}\right) \\
= & \frac{\phi\left(x^{q}\right)^{q+1} \phi\left(x^{2 q}\right)^{q+1}}{\phi\left(x^{q^{2}}\right) \phi\left(x^{2 q^{2}}\right)}
\end{aligned}
$$

Next, we want to give an identity regarding the generating function of $a(n)$ with the help of Lemma 3.

### 3.1.4 Lemma

$$
\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a(m) x^{m}=\frac{\phi\left(x^{9}\right) \phi\left(x^{18}\right)}{\phi\left(x^{3}\right)^{4} \phi\left(x^{6}\right)^{4}} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \prod_{h=1}^{2}\left(1-x^{n} \exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i n h}{q}}\right)\left(1-x^{2 n} \exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i n h}{3}}\right) .
$$

Proof: Just apply prime $q=3$ in Lemma 3 we have,

$$
\begin{align*}
& \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \prod_{h=1}^{3}\left(1-x^{n} \exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i n h}{3}}\right)\left(1-x^{2 n} \exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i n h}{3}}\right)=\frac{\phi\left(x^{3}\right)^{4} \phi\left(x^{6}\right)^{4}}{\phi\left(x^{9}\right) \phi\left(x^{18}\right)} \\
\Rightarrow & \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \prod_{h=1}^{2}\left(1-x^{n} \exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i n h}{3}}\right)\left(1-x^{2 n} \exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i n h}{3}}\right) \prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left(1-x^{n}\right)\left(1-x^{2 n}\right)=\frac{\phi\left(x^{3}\right)^{4} \phi\left(x^{6}\right)^{4}}{\phi\left(x^{9}\right) \phi\left(x^{18}\right)} \\
\Rightarrow & \frac{\phi\left(x^{9}\right) \phi\left(x^{18}\right)}{\phi\left(x^{3}\right)^{4} \phi\left(x^{6}\right)^{4}} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \prod_{h=1}^{2}\left(1-x^{n} \exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i n h}{3}}\right)\left(1-x^{2 n} \exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i n h}{3}}\right)=\prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\left(1-x^{n}\right)\left(1-x^{2 n}\right)} \\
& \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a(m) x^{m}=\frac{\phi\left(x^{9}\right) \phi\left(x^{18}\right)}{\phi\left(x^{3}\right)^{4} \phi\left(x^{6}\right)^{4}} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \prod_{h=1}^{2}\left(1-x^{n} \exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i n h}{3}}\right)\left(1-x^{2 n} \exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i n h}{3}}\right) . \tag{1}
\end{align*}
$$

Definition: If $q$ is a prime and if $0 \leq r<q$, a power series of the form

$$
\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b(n) x^{q n+r}
$$

is said to be of type $r \bmod q$. Observe that if $S_{k}$ is a series of type $k \bmod q, S_{m}$ is a series of type $m \bmod q$ then $S_{k} \times S_{m}$ is a series of type $k+m \bmod q$.

Next, we can estimate the product series

$$
\prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left(1-x^{n}\right)\left(1-x^{2 n}\right)
$$

as a sum of power series of type $k \bmod 3$ by Euler pentagonal number theorem.

### 3.1.5 Lemma

We show that

$$
\begin{aligned}
\phi(x) \phi\left(x^{2}\right) & =\prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left(1-x^{n}\right)\left(1-x^{2 n}\right) \\
& =I_{0}+I_{1}+I_{2}
\end{aligned}
$$

where $I_{k}$ denotes a power series of type $k \bmod 3$.

## Proof:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \phi(x) \phi\left(x^{2}\right) \\
= & \prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left(1-x^{n}\right) \prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left(1-x^{2 n}\right) \\
= & \left(1-x-x^{2}+x^{5}+x^{7}-x^{12}-x^{15}+\ldots\right)\left(1-x^{2}-x^{4}+x^{10}+x^{14}-x^{24}-x^{30}+\ldots\right) b y 2.2 \\
= & 1-x-2 x^{2}+x^{3}+2 x^{5}+x^{6}-2 x^{9}+x^{10}-2 x^{11}-\ldots \\
= & \left(1+x^{3}+x^{6}-2 x^{9}-\ldots\right)+\left(-x+x^{10}+\ldots\right)+\left(-2 x^{2}+2 x^{5}-2 x^{11}+\ldots\right) \\
= & I_{0}+I_{1}+I_{2} .
\end{aligned}
$$

In very next lemma we want to estimate the product

$$
\prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \prod_{h=1}^{2}\left(1-x^{n} \exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i n h}{3}}\right)\left(1-x^{2 n} \exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i n h}{3}}\right)
$$

### 3.1.6 Lemma

We show

$$
\prod_{h=1}^{2} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left(1-x^{n} \alpha^{n h}\right)\left(1-x^{2 n} \alpha^{n h}\right)=\prod_{h=1}^{2}\left(I_{0}+I_{1} \alpha^{h}+I_{2} \alpha^{2 h}\right), \alpha=\exp ^{\frac{2 \pi i}{3}}
$$

Proof: Here,

$$
\phi\left(x \alpha^{h}\right)=\prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left(1-x^{n} \alpha^{n h}\right)
$$

and

$$
\phi\left(x^{2} \alpha^{2 h}\right)=\prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left(1-x^{2 n} \alpha^{2 n h}\right)=\prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left(1-x^{2 n} \alpha^{n h}\right)=\phi\left(x^{2} \alpha^{h}\right) .
$$

So, now with a bit of calculation using Euler pentagonal number theorem we have,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\phi\left(x \alpha^{h}\right) \phi\left(x^{2} \alpha^{h}\right)= & \prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left(1-x^{n} \alpha^{n h}\right)\left(1-x^{2 n} \alpha^{n h}\right) \\
= & \left(1-x \alpha^{h}-x^{2} \alpha^{2 h}+x^{5} \alpha^{2 h}+x^{7} \alpha^{h}-x^{12}-x^{15}+\ldots\right) \\
& \left(1-x^{2} \alpha^{2 h}-x^{4} \alpha^{h}+x^{10} \alpha^{h}+\ldots\right) \\
= & \left(1+x^{3}+x^{6}-2 x^{9}-\ldots\right)+\left(-x+x^{10}+\ldots\right) \alpha^{h} \\
& +\left(-2 x^{2}+2 x^{5}-2 x^{11}+\ldots\right) \alpha^{2 h} \\
= & I_{0}+I_{1} \alpha^{h}+I_{2} \alpha^{2 h} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Therefore,

$$
\prod_{h=1}^{2} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left(1-x^{n} \alpha^{n h}\right)\left(1-x^{2 n} \alpha^{n h}\right)=\prod_{h=1}^{2}\left(I_{0}+I_{1} \alpha^{h}+I_{2} \alpha^{2 h}\right)
$$

Then (1) gives:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a(m) x^{m}=\frac{\phi\left(x^{9}\right) \phi\left(x^{18}\right)}{\phi\left(x^{3}\right)^{4} \phi\left(x^{6}\right)^{4}} \prod_{h=1}^{2}\left(I_{0}+I_{1} \alpha^{h}+I_{2} \alpha^{2 h}\right) \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

So by equating terms of type $2 \bmod 3$ in L.H.S and R.H.S of 2 we have,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a(3 m+2) x^{3 m+2}=B_{2} \frac{\phi\left(x^{9}\right) \phi\left(x^{18}\right)}{\phi\left(x^{3}\right)^{4} \phi\left(x^{6}\right)^{4}}, \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $B_{2}$ is the power series of type $2 \bmod 3$ in

$$
\prod_{h=1}^{2}\left(I_{0}+I_{1} \alpha^{h}+I_{2} \alpha^{2 h}\right) .
$$

(As if $S_{k}$ is a series of type $k \bmod 3, S_{m}$ is a series of type $m \bmod 3$, then $S_{k} \times S_{m}$ is a series of type $k+m \bmod 3$. hence $\frac{\phi\left(x^{9}\right) \phi\left(x^{18}\right)}{\phi\left(x^{3}\right)^{4} \phi\left(x^{6}\right)^{4}}$ is of type $\left.0 \bmod 3\right)$.

Next we compute the product

$$
\prod_{h=1}^{2}\left(I_{0}+I_{1} \alpha^{h}+I_{2} \alpha^{2 h}\right)
$$

to find an explicit series for $B_{2}$. It is clear that

$$
\prod_{h=1}^{2}\left(I_{0}+I_{1} \alpha^{h}+I_{2} \alpha^{2 h}\right)=\left(I_{0}^{2}-I_{1} I_{2}\right)+\left(I_{2}^{2}-I_{0} I_{1}\right)+\left(I_{1}^{2}-I_{2} I_{0}\right)
$$

In above expression $I_{1}^{2}-I_{2} I_{0}$ is the only series of type $2 \bmod 3$. So,

$$
\begin{equation*}
B_{2}=\left(I_{1}^{2}-I_{2} I_{0}\right) . \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

### 3.1.7 Lemma

We show $I_{2} I_{0}=-2 I_{1}^{2}$ and $I_{1}=-x \phi\left(x^{9}\right) \phi\left(x^{18}\right)$.
Proof:

$$
\begin{aligned}
I_{0} I_{2} & =\left(1+x^{3}+x^{6}-2 x^{9}-\ldots\right)\left(-2 x^{2}+2 x^{5}-2 x^{4}+\ldots\right) \\
& =(-2)\left(1+x^{3}+x^{6}-2 x^{9}-\ldots\right)\left(x^{2}-x^{5}+x^{4}-\ldots\right) \\
& =(-2)\left(x^{2}-2 x^{11}-3 x^{20}+4 x^{29}-\ldots\right) \\
& =-2 I_{1}^{2}
\end{aligned}
$$

$\left(\right.$ Since $\left.I_{1}^{2}=\left(-x+x^{10}+2 x^{19}+\ldots\right)\left(-x+x^{10}+2 x^{19}+\ldots\right)=\left(x^{2}-2 x^{11}-3 x^{20}+4 x^{29}-\ldots\right)\right)$
Now we prove the next part of the lemma

$$
\begin{aligned}
-x \prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left(1-x^{9 n}\right)\left(1-x^{18 n}\right) & =-x\left(1-x^{9}-2 x^{18}+x^{27}+\ldots\right) \\
& =\left(-x+x^{10}+2 x^{19}-\ldots\right) \\
& =I_{1} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Hence, proved.

Then 4 gives, $B_{2}=\left(I_{1}^{2}-I_{2} I_{0}\right)=3 I_{1}^{2}$ and $I_{1}=-x \phi\left(x^{9}\right) \phi\left(x^{18}\right)$. Therefore from 3 we have

$$
\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a(3 m+2) x^{3 m+2}=3 x^{2} \frac{\left(\phi\left(x^{9}\right)\right)^{3}\left(\phi\left(x^{18}\right)\right)^{3}}{\phi\left(x^{3}\right)^{4} \phi\left(x^{6}\right)^{4}}
$$

Next we dividing both side by $x^{2}$ and replacing $x^{3}$ by $x$, We have

$$
\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a(3 m+2) x^{m}=3 \frac{\left(\phi\left(x^{3}\right)\right)^{3}\left(\phi\left(x^{6}\right)\right)^{3}}{\phi(x)^{4} \phi\left(x^{2}\right)^{4}}
$$

Hence

$$
a(3 n+2) \equiv 0(\bmod 3)
$$

### 3.2 Proof of Theorem 1.2

Here we want to establish a recursive type of inequality of cubic partition of $n$, i.e., $a(n)$.
Let $a(n)$ denote the cubic partitions of $n$, i.e., in which even parts of $n$ come up with two colours. Here we denote the two colours as labeling 1 and 2 , viz 2 comes up with $2_{1}$ and $2_{2}$.

We have to proof the given condition $1.2 a(n+2)+a(n-2)>2 a(n)$. This condition may be arranged to give $a(n+2)-a(n)>a(n)-a(n-2)$.

Consequently, let us have a look at the cubic partitions of integers $n$ and $n+2$. Now, if $2_{1}$ is added as an exrtra part at the end of a cubic partition of $n$, a cubic partition of $n+2$ is obtained. In particular a cubic partition that contains $2_{1}$.

Conversely, if $2_{1}$ is deleted from a cubic partition of $n+2$, which contains a $2_{1}$, a cubic partition of $n$ results. Thus, there is one to one correspondence between the entire set of cubic partition of $n$, and the subset of cubic partitions of $n+2$ that contain $2_{1}$. Hence, $a(n+2)-a(n)$ is the number of cubic partitions of $n+2$ in the subset $X$ of cubic partitions which do not contain $2_{1}$. Similarly, $a(n)-a(n-2)$ is the number of cubic partition of $n$ in the subset $Y$ of cubic partitions which do not contain $2_{1}$.

If we can show that cardinality of $X$ greater than cardinality of $Y$, then the desired conclusion follows. This simply requires we show that, to each overpartition in $Y$, there corresponds a distinct overpartition in $X$.

Now we define a one-one function from $Y$ to $X$, which is not onto.
Let $f: Y \longrightarrow X$ be defined by $y_{1}+y_{2}+\cdots+y_{k} \longrightarrow y_{1}+y_{2}+\cdots+\left(2+y_{i}\right)+\cdots+y_{k}$, $y_{i}=\max \left(y_{1}, y_{2}, \ldots, y_{k}\right)$, where an even number (not equal to 2 ) with two different label we prefer the even number with label 1 ,(viz $4_{1}>4_{2}$ ).

Clearly this is a well defined one-one function but not onto (since $1+1+\cdots+1$ is a member of $X$ whose pre-image is not in $Y$ ).

Thus, cardinality of $X$ greater than cardinality of $Y$ and we are done.

### 3.3 Proof of Theorem 1.3

In this section we give an upper bound for $a(n)$ almost like the classical upper bound for $p(n)$ by estimating the logarithm of generating function $F(x)$ for $a(n)$, where

$$
F(x)=\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\left(1-x^{i}\right)\left(1-x^{2 i}\right)} .
$$

Now,

$$
F(x)=\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\left(1-x^{i}\right)\left(1-x^{2 i}\right)}=1+\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a(n) x^{n}
$$

and restrict to the interval $0<x<1$.
Then clearly $a(n) x^{n}<F(x)$, from which we obtain, $\log a(n)<\log F(x)+n \log \frac{1}{x}$.
We estimate the terms $\log F(x)$ and $n \log \frac{1}{x}$ separately. First, we note that

$$
\begin{aligned}
\log F(x) & =-\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \log \left(1-x^{i}\right)-\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \log \left(1-x^{2 i}\right) \\
& =\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m} \frac{x^{m}}{1-x^{m}}+\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m} \frac{x^{2 m}}{1-x^{2 m}}
\end{aligned}
$$

Since we have the following identity

$$
\frac{1-x^{m}}{1-x}=1+x+x^{2}+\cdots+x^{m-1}
$$

for $0<x<1$ one can deduce that

$$
m x^{m-1}<\frac{1-x^{m}}{1-x}<m
$$

so,

$$
\frac{1}{m^{2}} \frac{x^{m}}{1-x} \leq \frac{1}{m} \frac{x^{m}}{1-x^{m}} \leq \frac{1}{m^{2}} \frac{x}{1-x}
$$

and sum over $m$ we have,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m^{2}} \frac{x^{m}}{1-x} \leq \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m^{2}} \frac{x}{1-x}=\frac{\pi^{2}}{6 t}, \text { where } t=\frac{1-x}{x} . \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

Similarly, for $0<x<1$ one can deduce that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2 m^{2}} \frac{x^{2 m}}{1-x} \leq \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m} \frac{x^{2 m}}{1-x^{2 m}} \leq \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2 m^{2}} \frac{x}{1-x} \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

From 5 and 6 we get,

$$
\log F(x) \leq \frac{x}{1-x} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m^{2}}+\frac{x}{1-x} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2 m^{2}} .
$$

We defined $t=\frac{1-x}{x}$. Also note that $t$ varies from $\infty$ to 0 through positive values as $x$ varies from 0 to 1 .

Finally, estimate the term $n \log \frac{1}{x}$ and give an upper bound for $a(n)$.
Now, for $t>0$ we have $\log (1+t)<t$.
Since $t=\frac{1-x}{x}$, therefore, $\log \frac{1}{x}<t$. Thus,

$$
\log a(n)<\log F(x)+n \log \frac{1}{x}<\frac{\pi^{2}}{4 t}+n t
$$

In order to get that bound we need to check for which value of $t$ minimum of $\frac{\pi^{2}}{4 t}+n t$ occurs.
One can easily check that for $t=\frac{\pi}{2 \sqrt{n}}$ minimum occurs and for this value of $t$, we have $\log a(n)<\pi \sqrt{n}$. Hence, we are done.

## 4 Remark

Chen and Lin proved another congruence result on cubic partition $a(25 n+22) \equiv 0(\bmod 5)$ using modular forms in their paper [4]. One may provide our method to prove the above result.

## References

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