Congruences of Finite Summations of the Coefficients in certain Generating Functions

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Abstract
In this paper we develop a general method to enumerate the congruences of finite summations \( \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{a_k}{m^k} \pmod{p} \) and \( \sum_{k=0}^{p-1-h} \frac{a_k a_{k+h}}{p^k} \pmod{p} \) for the infinite sequence \( \{a_n\}_{n \geq 0} \) with generating functions \( (1+xf(x))^{N/2} \), where \( f(x) \) is an integer polynomial and \( N \) is an odd integer with \( |N| < p \). We also enumerate the congruences of some similar finite summations involving generating functions \( \frac{1-ax-\sqrt{1-2(a+\beta)x+Bx^2}}{2\beta x} \) and \( \frac{1-ax-\sqrt{1-2ax+(a^2-4\beta)x^2}}{2\beta x^2} \).

1 Introduction
Let \( p \) be an odd prime number and \( m \) be an integer with \( m \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p} \). The initial topic of this article is to enumerate

\[ \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{a_k}{m^k} \pmod{p} \tag{1} \]
the congruence of the $p$th partial sum of the infinite sequence $\{a_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$. The study of the congruence of a single term, $a_n \pmod{p}$, has a long history extending form the most famous and edge-old problem of Pascal’s fractal, which is originally formed by the parities of binomial coefficients \( \binom{n}{k} \) [5, 6, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 25], to the most recent works about Apéry numbers [2, 4, 9, 11, 20], central Delannoy numbers [9], Catalan numbers [1, 7, 10, 17, 21], Motzkin numbers [7, 9, 18] and etc. [12].

This article focuses on the sequence $\{a_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ with generating functions (GF’s) $(1 + x f(x))^\frac{N}{2}$, where $f(x)$ is an integer polynomial and $N$ is an odd integer with $|N| < p$. Neither $a_n$ nor $\frac{a_n}{m^k}$ in (1) is necessarily an integer if we deal with the field of rational numbers; therefore, we shall consider both $a_n$ and $\frac{a_n}{m^k}$ the congruences in the modular arithmetic field with modulus $p$. For instance, usually $\binom{1/2}{k}$ is a fraction; however, in the modular arithmetic field $\mathbb{Z}_p = \{0, 1, \ldots, p-1\}$, we have

$$\binom{\frac{1}{2}}{k} \equiv \binom{\frac{p+1}{2}}{k} \pmod{p} \text{ for } k = 0, 1, \ldots, p-1, \quad (2)$$

which is always an integer. For example let $p = 5$, and then $\binom{\frac{1}{2}}{2} = \left(\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{-1}{2}\right)/2! = \frac{-1}{8} \equiv 3 \pmod{5} = \binom{\frac{3}{2}}{2}$.

Z.-W. Sun [24] applied (2) and some other tools to verify the equivalence

$$\sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \frac{c_k}{m^k} \equiv \frac{m - 4}{2} \left(1 - \left(\frac{m(m-4)}{p}\right)\right) \pmod{p}, \quad (3)$$

where $c_k$ is the $k$th Catalan number and $\left(\frac{\cdot}{p}\right)$ denotes the Legendre symbol defined by

$$\left(\frac{a}{p}\right) = \begin{cases} 
0 & \text{if } p \mid a; \\
1 & \text{if } a \text{ is a quadratic residue modulo } p; \\
-1 & \text{if } a \text{ is a quadratic nonresidue modulo } p.
\end{cases}$$

One has the following well-known and useful congruence:

$$\left(\frac{a}{p}\right) \equiv a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \pmod{p}, \text{ with } \left(\frac{a}{p}\right) \in \{-1, 0, 1\}. \quad (4)$$

In [24], Sun also derived $\sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \frac{a_k}{m^k} \pmod{p}$ for $a_k$ being the $k$th central Delannoy number or Schröder number respectively. The results by Sun initiate the motivation of our study. In this article, we wish to provide a systematic method to deal with the problems of this kind.

The article is organized as follows. In Section 2, we exam the problem in (1) by generating functions. As applications, similar problems of (1) involving generating functions modified from $\sqrt{1 + Ax + Bx^2}$ are given in Section 3. In Section 4, we focus on another type of problem $\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{a_k}{m^k} \pmod{p}$. And then some applications are demonstrated in Sections 5 and 6.
Let $\{a_k\}_{k \geq 0}$ be the sequence associating with the generating function
\[
(1 + x f(x))^\frac{N}{2},
\]
where $f(x)$ is an integer polynomial and $N$ is an odd integer with $|N| < p$. To formulate $\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} a_k m^k \mod p$ and $\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{a_k}{m^k} \mod p$, which are same problem in different forms, we need the following facts:

(i) $\left(\frac{N}{k}\right) \equiv \left(\frac{p+N}{k}\right) \mod k$ for $k = 0, 1, \ldots, p - 1$;

(ii) $\left(\frac{N}{k}\right) \equiv \left(\frac{p+N}{k}\right) \equiv 0 \mod k$ for $k = \frac{p+N+2}{2}, \ldots, p - 1$;

(iii) $\left(\frac{N}{p}\right) \equiv -2^{-1} \mod p$; moreover, $\left(\frac{N}{p+k}\right) \equiv -2^{-1} \left(\frac{p+N}{k}\right) \mod k$ for $k = 0, 1, \ldots, p - 1$.

The reason for (i) is trivial and the congruence 0 in (ii) is due to that $\frac{p+N}{2}$ is an integer and $k > \frac{p+N}{2}$. The reason for the first equivalence in (iii) is because of the bijection between $\{N, N - 2, \ldots, N - 2p + 2\}$ and $\{0, 1, \ldots, p - 1\}$ under modulo $p$; however, the element $N - 2i$ such that $N - 2i \equiv 0 \mod p$ is $-p$, and additionally $2^{-p} \equiv 2^{-1} \mod (p)$. The second equivalence in (iii) directly follows the first one. The advantage of (i) is that $\left(\frac{p+N}{k}\right)$ is a normal binomial coefficient; therefore, we can apply $\left(\frac{p+N}{k}\right) = \left(\frac{p+N}{2-N-k}\right)$.

In the following, the equivalence $f(x) \equiv g(x) \mod h(x)$ means that $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ share same residue with respect to divisor $h(x)$. Moreover, $f(x) \equiv g(x) \mod x^q, p$ indicates that the coefficients of $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ for the term $x^k$, with $k = 0, 1, \ldots, q - 1$, are congruent modulo $p$.

**Theorem 1.** Given an odd prime $p$ and an integer $m$ with $m \not\equiv 0 \mod p$. Let $\{a_k\}_{k \geq 0}$ be a sequence of integers whose generating function is $(1 + x f(x))^\frac{N}{2}$, where $f(x)$ is an integer polynomial and $N$ is an odd integer with $|N| < p$. We have

\[
(1 + x f(x))^\frac{N}{2} \equiv (1 + x f(x))^\frac{p+N}{2} \mod x^p, p, \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} a_k m^k \equiv (1 + m f(m))^\frac{N}{p+1} \left(\frac{1 + m f(m)}{p}\right) - E(m) \mod p, \tag{5}\]

where $E(x)$ is the polynomial consisting of each terms $x^t$ with $t \geq p$ in the expansion of $(1 + x f(x))^\frac{p+N}{2}$.

**Proof.** Actually, (5) and (6) are equivalent. The following can prove both at the same time.

\[
\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} a_k m^k = \left[(1 + x f(x))^\frac{N}{2} \mod x^p\right]_{x=m} \tag{7}
\]
\[
\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right)^k (xf(x))^k \pmod{x^p}
\]
\[
\sum_{k=0}^{p+N \over 2} (\frac{p+N}{2}) (xf(x))^k \pmod{x^p, p}
\]
\[
\left( (1 + xf(x))^{p+N \over 2} - E(x) \right) \pmod{x^p, p}
\]
\[
(1 + mf(m))^{N+1 \over 2} \left( \frac{1 + mf(m)}{p} \right) - E(m) \pmod{p}.
\]
Notice that the equivalence in (8) responds to modulus \( p \) by applying (i) and (ii), and the equation in (9) yields by modulus \( x^p \) and that \( \frac{p+N}{2} \) is an exponent of positive integer. The last equivalence is because of (4). Referring to (7) and (8) without substituting \( x = m \), we then verify (5).

It takes time to enumerate \( E(x) \) unless \( f(x) \) is simple enough. In the rest of this section we assume \( f(x) = A + Bx \). Let \( [x^n]g(x) \) denote the coefficient of \( x^n \) in the power series \( g(x) \). We derive the following rules:

1. If \( B \equiv 0 (\pmod{p}) \) then \( E(x) \equiv 0 (\pmod{p}) \). Moreover, we have

\[
\sum_{k=0}^{t} a_k m^k \equiv (1 + mf(m))^{N+1 \over 2} \left( \frac{1 + mf(m)}{p} \right) \pmod{p},
\]

for \( t = \frac{p+N}{2}, \frac{p+N+2}{2}, \ldots, p-1 \) due to \( a_{\frac{p+N}{2}} \equiv \cdots \equiv a_{p-1} \equiv 0 (\pmod{p}) \) by (ii).

2. If \( N \leq -1 \) then \( E(x) = 0 \) again.

3. If \( N \geq 1 \) and \( B \neq 0 (\pmod{p}) \), then \( E(x) \neq 0 \). Let

\[
(1 + Ax + Bx^2)^{p+N \over 2} = q_0 + q_1 x + \cdots + q_{p+N} x^{p+N}.
\]

For the precise value of \( q_m \), we can simply apply the following formula:

\[
[x^e] (1 + ax + \beta x^2)^M
\]
\[
= \begin{cases} 
\sum_{k=[e/2]}^{\min(e,M)} \binom{M}{M-k} (-\beta)^{k} \beta^{e-k} & \text{if } M > 0 \text{ and } e \leq 2M; \\
\sum_{k=[e/2]}^{\min(e,M+k-1)} (-1)^k (\beta)^{k} \beta^{e-k} & \text{if } M < 0.
\end{cases}
\]

Therefore,

\[
q_m = \sum_{k=[m/2]}^{\min(m, p+N \over 2)} \left( \frac{p+N}{2} - k, 2k - m, m - k \right) A^{2k-m} B^{m-k}.
\]
Particularly, if \( N = 1 \) then \( E(x) \equiv \frac{A}{2} \left( \frac{B}{p} \right) x^p + B \left( \frac{B}{p} \right) x^{p+1} \pmod{p} \); if \( p > 3 \) and \( N = 3 \) then

\[
E(x) \equiv \left( \frac{3}{2^2} A \left( \frac{B}{p} \right) - \frac{1}{2^4} A^2 B^{-1} \left( \frac{B}{p} \right) \right) x^p + \left( \frac{3}{2} B \left( \frac{B}{p} \right) + \frac{3}{2^3} A^2 \left( \frac{B}{p} \right) \right) x^{p+1} + \frac{3}{2} AB \left( \frac{B}{p} \right) x^{p+2} + B^2 \left( \frac{B}{p} \right) x^{p+3} \pmod{p}.
\]

In case that \( E(x) = 0 \), we reach a particular case as follows.

**Corollary 2.** If \( f(x) \) is a constant function or \( f(x) = A + Bx \) with \( N \leq -1 \), then we have \( E(x) = 0 \) and

\[
\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{a_k}{m^k} \equiv \left( \frac{m^2 + Am + B}{m^2} \right)^\frac{N+1}{2} \left( \frac{m^2 + Am + B}{p} \right) \pmod{p}.
\]

Here we recall some sequences as applications of the last corollary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sequence name</th>
<th>first few terms</th>
<th>GF</th>
<th>( \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{a_k}{m^k} \pmod{p} )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>central binomial coeff.</td>
<td>1, 2, 6, 20, 70, \ldots</td>
<td>\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-4x}}</td>
<td>\left( \frac{m^2-4m}{p} \right)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>central trinomial coeff.</td>
<td>1, 1, 3, 7, 19, 51, \ldots</td>
<td>\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-2x-3x^2}}</td>
<td>\left( \frac{m^2-2m-3}{p} \right)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>central Delannoy numbers</td>
<td>1, 3, 13, 63, 321, \ldots</td>
<td>\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-8x+x^2}}</td>
<td>\left( \frac{m^2-6m+1}{p} \right) (see [24])</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A002457, in [22]</td>
<td>1, 6, 30, 140, 630, \ldots</td>
<td>(1 - 4x)^\frac{3}{2}</td>
<td>\frac{m^2-4m}{m^2} (\frac{m^2-4m}{p})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A002420, in [22]</td>
<td>1, -2, -2, -4, -10, \ldots</td>
<td>\sqrt{1-4x}</td>
<td>\frac{m^2-4m}{m^2} (\frac{m^2-4m}{p})</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Some direct applications of Corollary 2

Let us take advance to enumerate \( \sum_{k=0}^{p} \frac{a_k}{m^k} \) and \( \sum_{k=0}^{p+1} \frac{a_k}{m^k} \), which will be used in the nest section. We need to enumerate two additional terms, \( \frac{a_p}{m^p} \) and \( \frac{a_{p+1}}{m^{p+1}} \). Using (4), (i), (ii) and (iii), we calculate \( a_p \) and \( a_{p+1} \) as follows:

\[
[x^p](1 + Ax + Bx^2))^\frac{N}{2} = \sum_{k=0}^{p} \left( \frac{\binom{N}{2}}{k} \right) (x(A+Bx))^k
\]

\[
= \sum_{k=0}^{p} \left( \frac{\binom{N}{2}}{k} \right) [x^{p-k}](A+Bx)^k
\]

\[
= \left( \frac{\binom{N}{2}}{p+1} \right) [x^{p-1}](A+Bx)^\frac{p+1}{2} + \left( \frac{\binom{N}{2}}{p} \right) [x^0](A+Bx)^p \pmod{p}
\]

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\[
\equiv \left( p + \frac{N}{2} \right) \frac{p + 1}{2} \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{A^p}{p} \quad \text{(mod } p)\]
\[
\equiv \frac{A}{2} \left( \frac{p + N}{p} \right) \left( \frac{B}{p} - 1 \right) \quad \text{(mod } p),
\]
\[
[x^{p+1}(1 + Ax + Bx^2)]_2^N = \sum_{k=\frac{p+1}{2}}^{p+1} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) [x^{p-k+1}](A + Bx)^k,
\]
\[
\equiv \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) [x^{p+1}](A + Bx)^{\frac{p+1}{2}} + \left( \frac{N}{p} \right) [x](A + Bx)^p
\]
\[
+ \left( \frac{N}{p+1} \right) [x^0](A + Bx)^{p+1} \quad \text{(mod } p)
\]
\[
\equiv \left( \frac{p+1}{p+1} \right) \left( \frac{B}{p} \right) B - \frac{N}{2} A^2 \quad \text{(mod } p).
\]

If \( B \equiv 0 \) (mod } p) or \( N \leq -1 \), then \( \sum_{k=0}^{p} \frac{a_k}{m^k} \) and \( \sum_{k=0}^{p+1} \frac{a_k}{m^k} \) are ready because we have \( \frac{a_k}{m^k} \equiv -A \) (mod } p), \( \frac{a_{p+1}}{m^{p+1}} \equiv -\frac{A^2}{4m^2} \) (mod } p), \( E(x) = 0 \) and referring (6). When \( B \equiv 0 \) (mod } p) and \( N \geq 1 \), then the larger \( N \) is, the more complicate \( E(x) \) is. However the two summations for \( N = 1 \) are also ready as follows.

**Corollary 3.** Let \( \{a_n\}_{n \geq 0} \) be the sequence whose generating function is \( \sqrt{1 + Ax + Bx^2} \). We have

\[
\sum_{k=0}^{p} \frac{a_k}{m^k} \equiv \frac{m^2 + Am + B}{m^2} \left( \frac{m^2 + Am + B}{p} \right) - \frac{A}{2m} - \frac{B}{m^2} \left( \frac{B}{p} \right) \quad \text{(mod } p),
\]
\[
\sum_{k=0}^{p+1} \frac{a_k}{m^k} \equiv \frac{m^2 + Am + B}{m^2} \left( \frac{m^2 + Am + B}{p} \right) - \frac{A}{2m} - \frac{A^2}{4m^2} \quad \text{(mod } p).
\]

### 3 GF’s modified from \( \sqrt{1 + Ax + Bx^2} \)

Many well-known sequences are associated with generating functions modified from \( (1 + Ax + Bx^2)^\frac{1}{2} \). In this section, we consider two types:

\[
1 - \alpha x - \sqrt{1 - 2(\alpha + \beta)x + Bx^2} / \beta x \quad \text{and} \quad 1 - \alpha x - \sqrt{1 - 2(\alpha + \beta)x + (\alpha^2 - 4\beta)x^2} / 2\beta x^2.
\]

Let \( \frac{1 - \alpha x - \sqrt{1 - 2(\alpha + \beta)x + Bx^2}}{\beta x} \) be the generating function of the sequence \( \{b_n\}_{n \geq 0} \), and let \( A = -2(\alpha + \beta) \) for convenience. For examples, \( (\alpha, \beta, B) = (0, 2, 0) \) yields the Catalan
number, \((1, 2, 1)\) and \((-1, 4, 1)\) provide the large and the little Schröder numbers respectively, and \((1, 2, 5)\) is associated with the number of restricted hexagonal polyominoes [22, A002212].

**Theorem 4.** We have

\[
\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{b_k}{m^k} \equiv 1 + \frac{m^2 + Am + B}{\beta m} \left( 1 - \left( \frac{m^2 + Am + B}{p} \right) \right) + \frac{B}{\beta m} \left( \frac{B}{p} - 1 \right) \pmod{p}.
\]

**Proof.** We still let \(\{a_n\}_{n \geq 0}\) associate with \(\sqrt{1 + Ax + Bx^2}\). Notice that \(b_k = -\frac{a_{k+1}}{\beta}\) for \(k \geq 1\). Also it is clear that \(a_0 = 1, a_1 = \frac{A}{2}\) and \(b_0 = 1\).

\[
\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{b_k}{m^k} = 1 - \frac{m}{\beta} \sum_{k=2}^{p} \frac{a_k}{m^k}
\]

\[
= 1 + \frac{m}{\beta} + \frac{A}{2\beta} - \frac{m}{\beta} \sum_{k=0}^{p} \frac{a_k}{m^k}
\]

\[
= 1 + \frac{m}{\beta} + \frac{A}{2\beta} - \frac{m}{\beta} \left( \frac{m^2 + Am + B}{m^2} \right) \left( \frac{m^2 + Am + B}{p} \right) - \frac{A}{2m}
\]

\[
- \frac{B}{m^2} \left( \frac{B}{p} \right) \pmod{p},
\]

\[
= 1 + \frac{m^2 + Am + B}{\beta m} \left( 1 - \left( \frac{m^2 + Am + B}{p} \right) \right) + \frac{B}{\beta m} \left( \frac{B}{p} - 1 \right) .
\]

\(\square\)

In particular, the last term in the last theorem is zero if \(B \equiv 0 \pmod{p}\) or \(\left( \frac{B}{p} \right) = 1\).

This particular case happens for the Catalan numbers (see (3) and also [24, Lemma 2.1]), the large Schröder numbers (see [24, Theorem 1.2]) and the little Schröder numbers.

Now let \(\frac{1-\alpha x-\sqrt{1-2\alpha x+(\alpha^2-4\beta)x^2}}{2\alpha x^2}\) be the generating function of the sequence \(\{d_n\}_{n \geq 0}\). For convenient, let \(A = -2\alpha\) and \(B = \alpha^2 - 4\beta\). Lots of famous sequences have GF’s of this form. For examples, \((\alpha, \beta) = (1, 1)\) yields the Motzkin number, and \((3, 9)\) as well as \((5, 5)\) are associated with the numbers of Motzkin paths with multiple colors for level steps. Also \((\alpha, \beta) = (2, 1)\) creates a shifted Catalan number, \((3, 2)\) a shifted little Schröder number [22, A001003], and \((4, 1)\) the number of walks on cubic lattice starting and finishing on the horizontal plane but never going below it [22, A005572]. For more examples, please refer to [3]. The next result can be verified by a process similar to the proof of the last theorem.

**Theorem 5.** We have

\[
\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{d_k}{m^k} \equiv \frac{m^2 + Am + B}{2\beta} \left( 1 - \left( \frac{m^2 + Am + B}{p} \right) \right) + 2 \pmod{p}.
\]
4 Enumerating $\sum_{k=0}^{p-1-h} \frac{a_k a_{k+h}}{(\pm B)^k} \pmod{p}$

Let \( \{a_n\}_{n \geq 0} \) still associate with a generating functions of form \((1 + Ax + Bx^2)^N\). In this and the next sections we assume \( B \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p} \). Given nonnegative integer \( h \) with \( h \leq p - 1 \), we are interested in two summations: (S1) \( \sum_{k=0}^{p-1-h} \frac{a_k a_{k+h}}{(\pm B)^k} \pmod{p} \) and (S2) \( \sum_{k=0}^{p-1-h} \frac{a_k a_{k+h}}{(\pm B)^k} \pmod{p} \). For convenience, we use \( \pm B \) to denote \( B \) and \( -B \) simultaneously.

Let \( G(x) = a_0 + a_1 x + \cdots + a_{p-1} x^{p-1} \equiv (1 + Ax + Bx^2)^N \pmod{x^p} \) and \( Q(x) = (1 + Ax + Bx^2)^N \pmod{x^p} \). (See (3) for the formula of \( q_m \).) Now we apply \( [x^{-h}]G(x)G(\frac{1}{x}) \) to evaluate \( \sum_{k=0}^{p-1-h} a_k a_{k+h} \) and also use the fact \( G(x) \equiv Q(x) \pmod{p, x^p} \) (see Theorem 1).

\[
\sum_{k=0}^{p-1-h} \frac{a_k a_{k+h}}{(\pm B)^k} = [x^{-h}]G(\frac{x}{\pm B})G(\frac{1}{x}) \\
= [x^{-h}][Q(\frac{x}{\pm B})Q(\frac{1}{x}) - \sum_{k \geq p-h} q_k q_{k+h} (\pm B)^k] \pmod{p} \\
= [x^{-h}](1 + Ax \pm B + x^2 B) \left( 1 + A x + B \frac{x^2}{B} \right)^{\frac{p+N}{2}} - \sum_{k \geq p-h} q_k q_{k+h} (\pm B)^k \\
= B^{\frac{p+N}{2}} [x^{p+N-h}] \left( 1 + Ax \pm B + x^2 B \right)^{\frac{p+N}{2}} \left( 1 + A x \pm B + \frac{x^2 B}{B^2} \right) \left( 1 + A x \pm B + \frac{x^2 B}{B^2} \right)^{\frac{p+N}{2}} - \sum_{k \geq p-h} q_k q_{k+h} (\pm B)^k \\
= - \sum_{k \geq p-h} \frac{q_k q_{k+h}}{(\pm B)^k} + B^{\frac{p-N}{2}} [x^{p+N-h}] \begin{cases} (1 + \frac{A}{B} x + \frac{1}{B} x^2)^{p+N} \quad \text{for (S1)}; \\ (1 + \frac{2B - A^2}{B^2} x^2 + \frac{1}{B^2} x^4)^{\frac{p+N}{2}} \quad \text{for (S2)} \end{cases} \text{ (10)}
\]

The first common term \( \sum_{k \geq p-h} \frac{q_k q_{k+h}}{(\pm B)^k} \) can be avoided if and only if \( N \leq -1 \) (see (r2) and (r3)). Now the result of (S2) is ready.

**Theorem 6.** The summation \( \sum_{k=0}^{p-1-h} \frac{a_k a_{k+h}}{(\pm B)^k} \pmod{p} \) is equivalent to

\[
B^{\frac{N+1}{2}} \left( \frac{B}{p} \right) [x^{p+N-h}] \left( 1 + \frac{2B - A^2}{B^2} x^2 + \frac{1}{B^2} x^4 \right)^{\frac{p+N}{2}} - \sum_{k \geq p-h} \frac{q_k q_{k+h}}{(\pm B)^k} \pmod{p}.
\]

**Particularly,** if \( h \) is odd then the first term is 0, and if \( N \leq -1 \) then the last term is 0.

**Example 7.** Let \( N = -1 \) and \( B = 1 \). For instances, \( \frac{1}{\sqrt[4]{1-6x+x^2}} \) is the GF of the central Delannoy numbers, \( \frac{1}{\sqrt[4]{1-10x+x^2}} \) is associated with the colored Delannoy paths, and \( \frac{1}{\sqrt[4]{1-14x+x^2}} \) is associated with the central coefficients of \((1 + 7x + 12x^2)\). So \( \sum_{k=0}^{p-h-1} (-1)^k a_k a_{k+h} \equiv 0 \pmod{p} \) if \( h \) is odd; otherwise let \( p-h-1 = 2e \) and \( \frac{p-1}{2} = M \), and then \( \sum_{k=0}^{p-h-1} (-1)^k a_k a_{k+h} \pmod{p} \) is equivalent to

\[
[x^{e}](1 + (2 - A^2)x + x^2)^M = \sum_{k=\lceil e \rceil}^{M} \binom{M}{M-k, 2k-e, e-k} (2-A^2)^{2k-e}.
\]
As for (S1), we continuously simplify the last term in (10) as
\[ x^{p+N-h} \left( 1 + \frac{A}{B}x + \frac{1}{B}x^2 \right)^N + \frac{A}{B} x^{N-h} \left( 1 + \frac{A}{B}x + \frac{1}{B}x^2 \right)^N, \]
because \((1 + \frac{A}{B}x + \frac{1}{B}x^2)^p \equiv 1 + \frac{A}{B}x^p + \frac{1}{B}x^{2p} \pmod{p}\) in which \(x^{2p}\) is ignored for its exponent being too large.

**Theorem 8.** Let \((1 + Ax + Bx^2)^{N^2} = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n x^n\) and \((1 + Ax + Bx^2)^{p+N} = \sum_{n=0}^{p+N} q_n x^n\). Then \(\sum_{k=0}^{p-h-1} \frac{a_k q_{k+h}}{B^k} \equiv 0\) (mod \(p\)) is equivalent to
\[
B^{\frac{N+h}{2}} \left( \frac{B}{p} \right)^{x^{p+N-h}} \left( 1 + \frac{A}{B}x + \frac{1}{B}x^2 \right)^N + AB^{\frac{N-1}{2}} \left( \frac{B}{p} \right)^{x^{N-h}} \left( 1 + \frac{A}{B}x + \frac{1}{B}x^2 \right)^N - \sum_{k \geq p-h} \frac{q_k q_{k+h}}{B^k}.
\]
Particularly, only the first term remains when \(N \leq -1\), the first term is zero when \(N \geq 1\) and \(p > N + h\), and the second term is zero when \(N < h\).

**Example 9.** Again, let \(N = -1\) and then \(\sum_{k=0}^{p-h-1} \frac{a_k q_{k+h}}{B^k} \equiv 0\) (mod \(p\)) is equivalent to
\[
\left( \frac{B}{p} \right)^{x} (1 + \frac{A}{B}x + \frac{1}{B}x^2)^{e-1} = \sum_{k=\left\lfloor \frac{e}{2} \right\rfloor}^{e} (-1)^k \binom{k}{2k-e} e^{2k-e} B^{-k}
\]
where \(e = p - h - 1\).

Since \(x/(1 + \frac{A}{B}x + \frac{1}{B}x^2)\) is the generating function of the Lucas sequence \(u_n\) that satisfies the second order recurrence relation
\[
u_n = -\frac{A}{B} u_{n-1} - \frac{1}{B} u_{n-2},
\]
with the initial \(u_0 = 0\) and \(u_1 = 1\), we also have
\[
\sum_{k=0}^{p-h-1} \frac{a_k a_{k+h}}{B^k} \equiv u_{p-h} \left( \frac{B}{p} \right) \pmod{p}
= \frac{\alpha^{p-h} - \beta^{p-h}}{\alpha - \beta} \left( \frac{B}{p} \right),
\]
where \(\alpha\) and \(\beta\) are roots of \(x^2 + \frac{A}{B}x + \frac{1}{B}\).
5 Summations $\sum_{k=0}^{p-2-h} \frac{b_k b_{k+h}}{(\pm B)^k}$ and $\sum_{k=0}^{p-3-h} \frac{d_k d_{k+h}}{B^k}$

We observe some applications here. Let $\frac{1-\alpha x - \sqrt{1-4\alpha^2 x^2}}{2\beta x}$ be the generating function of $\{d_n\}_{n \geq 0}$. For convenience let $A = -2\alpha$ and $B = \alpha^2 - 4\beta$.

Since $d_{k-2} = -\frac{a_k}{2\beta} \pmod{p}$ for $k = 2, 3, \ldots, p-1$, we have

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-3-h} \frac{d_k d_{k+h}}{B^k} = \frac{B^2}{4\beta^2} \sum_{k=2}^{p-1-h} \frac{a_k a_{k+h}}{(\pm B)^k} \pmod{p}$$

$$= \frac{B^2}{4\beta^2} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{p-1-h} \frac{a_k a_{k+h}}{(\pm B)^k} - a_0 a_h - \frac{a_1 a_{h+1}}{\pm B} \right).$$

Before we apply the formula of $\sum_{k \geq h} \frac{q_k a_{k+h}}{(\pm B)^k}$ given in the last section, let us recall the term $\sum_{k \geq h} \frac{q_k a_{k+h}}{(\pm B)^k}$ in both Theorems 6 and 8. With $N = 1$ we have

$$\sum_{k \geq h} \frac{q_k a_{k+h}}{(\pm B)^k} = \frac{q_0 + q_1 x + \cdots + q_M x^M}{(\pm B)^p} + \frac{q_{2M} x^{2M}}{(\pm B)^p}.$$

Notice that, the coefficients of $(1 + A x + B x^2)^M q_0 + q_1 x + \cdots + q_M x^M$ have a sort of symmetric property, i.e., $B^{M-k} q_k = q_{2M-k}$ for $k = 1, 2, \ldots, 2M$, which can be easily proved by induction on $M$. Let $M = \frac{p+1}{2}$ and we get

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1-h} \frac{a_k a_{k+h}}{(\pm B)^k} = (\pm 1)^h \frac{P_{k+k+h}}{(\pm B)^k} \pmod{p}.$$

Particularly, $\sum_{k \geq h} \frac{q_k a_{k+h}}{(\pm B)^k} \equiv (\pm 1)^h a_0 a_h \pmod{p}$ and $\sum_{k \geq h} \frac{q_k a_{k+h}}{(\pm B)^k} \equiv (\pm 1)^h a_0 a_{h+1} \pmod{p}$. Moreover, for $N = 1$ and $h \leq p-3$, the term $B^{\frac{p+1}{2}} \frac{(B/p) [x^{p+h}] (1 + A B x + B^{2} x^2)}{B} - 2a_0 a_h - \frac{2a_1 a_{h+1}}{B}$ in Theorem 8 must be 0. Now we derive conclusion and show some examples as follows.

**Theorem 10.** The congruence $\sum_{k=0}^{p-3-h} \frac{d_k d_{k+h}}{B^k} \pmod{p}$ is equivalent to

$$\frac{B^2}{4\beta^2} \left( A \frac{(B/p)}{A} [x^{1-h}] \left( 1 + \frac{A}{B} x + \frac{B}{A} x^2 \right) - 2a_0 a_h - \frac{2a_1 a_{h+1}}{B} \right).$$

**Corollary 11.** Let $2 \leq h \leq p-3$. We have

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-3-h} \frac{d_k d_{k+h}}{B^k} \equiv -\frac{B^2}{2\beta^2} \left( a_0 a_h + \frac{a_1 a_{h+1}}{B} \right) \pmod{p},$$

which is a fixed number modulo any prime $p > 2$.

**Example 12.** Notice that $a_0 = 1$, $a_1 = \frac{A}{2}$, $a_2 = \frac{B}{2} - \frac{A^2}{8}$, $a_3 = -\frac{AB}{4} + \frac{A^3}{16}$ and $a_4 = -\frac{B^2}{8} + \frac{3A^2 B}{16} - \frac{5A^4}{128}$. For $h = 0, 1, 2, 3$ and $p \geq h + 3$ we have following examples:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-3} \frac{d_k}{B^k} \equiv \frac{B}{8\beta^2} \left( 2A^2 \left( \frac{B}{p} \right) - 4B - A^2 \right) \pmod{p},$$
The congruence Theorem 13. Particularly, given \((A, B, \beta) = (-2, -3, 1)\) (so we need \(p \neq 3\)) that yields the Motzkin numbers, the four summations above are respectively equivalent to

\[-3 \left(\frac{-3}{p}\right) - 3, \quad -\frac{9}{2} \left(\frac{-3}{p}\right) + \frac{15}{2}, \quad 12 \text{ and } 15 \pmod{p}.

**Theorem 13.** The congruence \(\sum_{k=0}^{p-3-h} \frac{d_k d_{k+h}}{(-B)^k} \pmod{p}\) is equivalent to 0 if \(h\) is odd, and equivalent to

\[\frac{B^2}{4 \beta^2} \left( B \left(\frac{B}{p}\right) [x^{p+1-h}] \left( 1 + \frac{2B - A^2}{B^2} x^2 + \frac{1}{B^2} x^4 \right)^{\frac{p+1}{2}} - 2a_0 a_h - 2 a_1 a_{1+h} \right),\]

if \(h\) is even.

One can refer to (13) for the precise value of \([x^{p+1-h}] \left( 1 + \frac{2B - A^2}{B^2} x^2 + \frac{1}{B^2} x^4 \right)^{\frac{p+1}{2}}\).

Let \(\frac{1 - \alpha x - \sqrt{1 - 2(\alpha + \beta) x + B x^2}}{\beta x}\) be the generating function of the sequence \(\{b_n\}_{n \geq 0}\), and let \(A = -2(\alpha + \beta)\) for convenience. Since \(b_0 = 1\) and \(b_{k-1} \equiv -\frac{a_k}{\beta} \pmod{p}\) for \(k = 2, 3, \ldots, p-1\), we have

\[\sum_{k=0}^{p-2-h} \frac{b_k b_{k+h}}{(-B)^k} \equiv b_0 b_h + \frac{B}{\beta^2} \sum_{k=0}^{p-1-h} \frac{a_k a_{k+h}}{(-B)^k} \pmod{p}\]

\[= b_h \pm \frac{B}{\beta^2} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{p-1-h} \frac{a_k a_{k+h}}{(-B)^k} - a_0 a_h - \frac{a_1 a_{1+h}}{B} \right).

This is quick similar to (11), so we can directly get

**Theorem 14.** The congruence \(\sum_{k=0}^{p-2-h} \frac{b_k b_{k+h}}{B^p} \pmod{p}\) is equivalent to

\[b_h + \frac{B}{\beta^2} \left( A \left(\frac{B}{p}\right) [x^{h}] \left( 1 + \frac{A}{B} x + \frac{1}{B} x^2 \right) - 2a_0 a_h - \frac{2a_1 a_{1+h}}{B} \right)\]

The congruence \(\sum_{k=0}^{p-2-h} \frac{b_k b_{k+h}}{(-B)^p} \pmod{p}\) is equivalent to \(b_h\) if \(h\) is odd, and equivalent to

\[b_h - \frac{B}{\beta^2} \left( B \left(\frac{B}{p}\right) [x^{p+h}] \left( 1 + \frac{2B - A^2}{B^2} x^2 + \frac{1}{B^2} x^4 \right)^{\frac{p+1}{2}} - 2a_0 a_h - \frac{2a_1 a_{1+h}}{B} \right),\]

if \(h\) is even.
6 More applications

Let \( a_n = \binom{2n}{n} \) be the central binomial coefficient whose generating function is \( G(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-4x}} \). We have

\[
\sum_{k=0}^{p-1-h} 16^k a_k a_{k+h} = 4^h [x^{-h}] G(x/4) G(1/4x)
\]

\[
\equiv 4^h \left( -\frac{1}{p} \right) [x^{p-1-h}](1-x)^{p-1} \pmod{p}
\]

\[
\equiv 4^h \left( -\frac{1}{p} \right) [x^{p-1-h}](1-x)^{-1} \pmod{p}
\]

\[
= 4^h \left( -\frac{1}{p} \right).
\]

Almost same procedure can be applied on the problem \( \sum_{k=0}^{p-1-h} A^{-2k} a_k a_{k+h} \) for some other \( a_n \) whose generating function is \( G(x) = (1-Ax)^{N/2} \) for odd integer \( N \) with \( |N| < p \).

In the following final example, we show an application involving two different sequences by the same technique.

Lemma 15. Given integers \( r = \lfloor \frac{p-1}{4} \rfloor, \ldots, \frac{p-3}{2}, \frac{p+1}{2} \) and \( 0 \leq h \leq \lfloor \frac{3p+1}{4} \rfloor - 2 \), we have

\[
\sum_{k=0}^{r} 64^{-k} \binom{4k}{2k} x^k \equiv \begin{cases} 
0 \pmod{p} & \text{if } 0 \leq h < \frac{p-3}{4} \text{ or } \frac{p-1}{2} < h \leq \lfloor \frac{3p+1}{4} \rfloor - 2; \\
2^{2h+1} \left( -\frac{1}{p} \right) \binom{\frac{p+3}{2}}{\frac{p-1-2h}{2}} \pmod{p} & \text{if } \frac{p-3}{4} \leq h \leq \frac{p-1}{2}.
\end{cases}
\]

Proof. The sequence of the central binomial coefficients \( \binom{2k}{k} \) \( (k \geq 0) \) has GF \( \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-4x}} \) that comes from the identity \( \binom{2k}{k} = 4^k \binom{-1/2}{k} \). Given \( t = \frac{p-1}{2}, \frac{p+1}{2}, \ldots, p-1 \), we have

\[
\sum_{k=0}^{t} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{x^k}{4^k} = \sum_{k=0}^{t} \binom{-1/2}{k} x^k
\]

\[
\equiv \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \binom{-1/2}{k} x^k \pmod{p}
\]

\[
\equiv (1-x)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \pmod{x^p}
\]

\[
\equiv (1-x)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \pmod{x^p, p} \text{ or } \pmod{x^{p-1}, p},
\]

where the equivalence on the second line dues to (ii) in Section 1. By the same reason, we can write \( \pmod{x^{p-1}, p} \) additionally on the last line. And then we get

\[
\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor \frac{t}{2} \rfloor} \binom{4k}{2k} \frac{x^{2k}}{16^k} \equiv \frac{1}{2} \left( (1-x)^{\frac{p-1}{4}} + (1+x)^{\frac{p-1}{4}} \right) \pmod{x^{p-1}, p}.
\]
For convenience, let $t = \frac{p-1}{2}$ in the rest of the proof.

On the other hand, the sequence of the Catalan numbers $c_k$ has GF $C(x) = \frac{1-\sqrt{1-4x}}{2x}$. Again, $c_k \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ for $k = \frac{p+1}{2}, \ldots, p-2$ by (ii). So we have

$$
\sum_{k=0}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} c_k \frac{x^{-2k}}{4^k} \equiv \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{p-2}{2}} c_k \frac{x^{-2k}}{4^k} \pmod{p}
\equiv C\left(\frac{1}{4x^2}\right) \pmod{x^{p-1}}
\equiv 2x^2 - 2x^{-(p-1)}(x^2 - 1)^{\frac{p+1}{2}}.
$$

Given $0 \leq h \leq \lfloor \frac{3p+1}{4} \rfloor - 2$ (for $\lfloor \frac{p-1}{4} \rfloor + h \leq p-2$ by considering the term $c_{k+h}$), finally we derive that

$$
\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor \frac{p-1}{4} \rfloor} \frac{4k}{2^k} \cdot c_{k+h} \frac{x^{-2h}}{4^{k+h}} \equiv [x^{-2h}] - x^{-(p-1)}(x^2 - 1)^{\frac{p+1}{2}} \left( (1-x)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} + (1+x)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \right) \pmod{p}
\equiv [x^{p-1-2h}] \left( \frac{-1}{p} \right) (1-x^2)^{\frac{p+1}{2}} \left( (1-x)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} + (1+x)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \right) \pmod{p}
\equiv [x^{p-1-2h}] \left( \frac{-1}{p} \right) (1+x)^{\frac{p+1}{2}} \left( (1-x)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \right) \pmod{p}
\equiv \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 0 \leq h < \frac{p-1}{4} \\ - \frac{1}{p} \left( \frac{p+1}{p-1-2h} \right) & \text{if } \frac{p-3}{4} \leq h \leq \frac{p-1}{2} \end{cases}.
$$

We complete the proof by replacing the upper limit $\lfloor \frac{p-1}{4} \rfloor$ by any of $\lfloor \frac{p-1}{4} \rfloor, \ldots, \frac{p-1}{2}$.

**References**


