

**Supercongruences involving products of three binomial coefficients**

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Received: 11 August 2022/Accepted: 21 May 2023

**Abstract**

Let  $p > 3$  be a prime, and let  $a$  be a rational  $p$ -adic integer. Using the WZ method we establish the congruences for  $\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{w(k)}{4^k}$  modulo  $p^3$ , where  $w(k) \in \{1, \frac{1}{k+1}, \frac{1}{(k+1)^2}, \frac{1}{2k-1}\}$ . Taking  $a = -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{6}$  in the congruences confirms some conjectures posed by the author earlier.

**Keywords:** congruence; binomial coefficient; combinatorial identity; Euler number; binary quadratic form

**Mathematics Subject Classification:** Primary 11A07, Secondary 05A19, 11B65, 11B68, 11E25

**1. Introduction**

The generalized binomial coefficient  $\binom{a}{k}$  is given by

$$\binom{a}{0} = 1, \quad \binom{a}{-k} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \binom{a}{k} = \frac{a(a-1)\cdots(a-k+1)}{k!} \quad \text{for } k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

For  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$  and given odd prime  $p$  let  $\left(\frac{a}{p}\right)$  denote the Legendre symbol. For positive integers  $a, b$  and  $n$ , if  $n = ax^2 + by^2$  for some integers  $x$  and  $y$ , we briefly write that  $n = ax^2 + by^2$ . Let  $p$  be an odd prime. In 1987, Beukers[3] conjectured a congruence equivalent to

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^3}{64^k} \equiv \begin{cases} 4x^2 - 2p \pmod{p^2} & \text{if } p = x^2 + 4y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ 0 \pmod{p^2} & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

This congruence was proved by several mathematicians including Ishikawa[5]( $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ ), Van Hamme[30]( $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ ) and Ahlgren[1]. Combining the results in [7], [21] and [29], in [25] the author stated that

$$(1.1) \quad \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^3}{64^k} \equiv \begin{cases} 4x^2 - 2p - \frac{p^2}{4x^2} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } p = x^2 + 4y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ -\frac{p^2}{4} \left(\frac{p-3}{2}\right)^{-2} \equiv -p^2 \left(\frac{p-1}{2}\right)^{-2} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

Let  $p > 3$  be a prime. In 2003, Rodriguez-Villegas[11] posed 22 conjectures on supercongruences modulo  $p^2$ . In particular, the following congruences are equivalent to certain conjectures due to Rodriguez-Villegas:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 \binom{3k}{k}}{108^k} &\equiv \begin{cases} 4x^2 - 2p \pmod{p^2} & \text{if } p = x^2 + 3y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}, \\ 0 \pmod{p^2} & \text{if } p \equiv 2 \pmod{3}, \end{cases} \\ \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 \binom{4k}{2k}}{256^k} &\equiv \begin{cases} 4x^2 - 2p \pmod{p^2} & \text{if } p = x^2 + 2y^2 \equiv 1, 3 \pmod{8}, \\ 0 \pmod{p^2} & \text{if } p \equiv 5, 7 \pmod{8}, \end{cases} \\ \left(\frac{p}{3}\right) \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k}}{12^{3k}} &\equiv \begin{cases} 4x^2 - 2p \pmod{p^2} & \text{if } p = x^2 + 4y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ 0 \pmod{p^2} & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

These conjectures have been solved by Mortenson[9] and Sun[26]. In 2018, Liu[6] conjectured the congruences modulo  $p^3$  for

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 \binom{3k}{k}}{108^k}, \quad \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 \binom{4k}{2k}}{256^k} \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k}}{1728^k}$$

in terms of  $p$ -adic Gamma functions. In [22], the author conjectured that

$$(1.2) \quad \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 \binom{3k}{k}}{108^k} \equiv \begin{cases} 4x^2 - 2p - \frac{p^2}{4x^2} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } p = x^2 + 3y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}, \\ -\frac{p^2}{2} \left(\frac{p-1}{p-5}\right)^{-2} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } p \equiv 2 \pmod{3}, \end{cases}$$

$$(1.3) \quad \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 \binom{4k}{2k}}{256^k} \equiv \begin{cases} 4x^2 - 2p - \frac{p^2}{4x^2} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } p = x^2 + 2y^2 \equiv 1, 3 \pmod{8}, \\ \frac{p^2}{3} \left(\frac{[p/4]}{[p/8]}\right)^{-2} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}, \\ -\frac{3}{2} p^2 \left(\frac{[p/4]}{[p/8]}\right)^{-2} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } p \equiv 7 \pmod{8}, \end{cases}$$

$$(1.4) \quad \left(\frac{p}{3}\right) \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k}}{12^{3k}} \equiv \begin{cases} 4x^2 - 2p - \frac{p^2}{4x^2} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } p = x^2 + 4y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ \frac{5}{12} p^2 \left(\frac{p-3}{p-3}\right)^{-2} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}, \end{cases}$$

where  $[a]$  is the greatest integer not exceeding  $a$ . It is easy to see that (see [15-18])

$$\begin{aligned} \binom{-\frac{1}{2}}{k} &= \frac{\binom{2k}{k}}{(-4)^k}, \quad \binom{-\frac{1}{3}}{k} \binom{-\frac{2}{3}}{k} = \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k}}{27^k}, \\ \binom{-\frac{1}{4}}{k} \binom{-\frac{3}{4}}{k} &= \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{4k}{2k}}{64^k}, \quad \binom{-\frac{1}{6}}{k} \binom{-\frac{5}{6}}{k} = \frac{\binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k}}{432^k}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, a natural and general problem is to determine  $\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{4^k}$  modulo  $p^3$ , where  $p > 3$  is a prime and  $a$  is a rational  $p$ -adic integer.

For a prime  $p$  let  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  be the set of rational numbers whose denominators are not divisible by  $p$ . For  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p$  let  $\langle a \rangle_p$  be given by  $\langle a \rangle_p \in \{0, 1, \dots, p-1\}$  and  $a \equiv \langle a \rangle_p \pmod{p}$ . In

[18], the author showed that for any odd prime  $p$  and  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ ,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{4^k} \equiv 0 \pmod{p^2} \quad \text{for } \langle a \rangle_p \equiv 1 \pmod{2}.$$

For an odd prime  $p$  and  $x \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ , the  $p$ -adic Gamma function  $\Gamma_p(x)$  is defined by

$$\Gamma_p(0) = 1, \quad \Gamma_p(n) = (-1)^n \prod_{\substack{k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\} \\ p \nmid k}} k \quad \text{for } n = 1, 2, 3, \dots, \quad \Gamma_p(x) = \lim_{\substack{n \in \{0, 1, \dots\} \\ |x-n|_p \rightarrow 0}} \Gamma_p(n).$$

In [10, Theorem 5.2], Pan, Tauraso and Wang stated a result equivalent to

$$(1.5) \quad \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \binom{2k}{k}}{4^k} \equiv \begin{cases} \frac{\Gamma_p(\frac{1}{2})^2}{\Gamma_p(\frac{2+a}{2})^2 \Gamma_p(\frac{1-a}{2})^2} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } 2 \mid \langle a \rangle_p, \\ \frac{a'(a'+1)p^2 \Gamma_p(\frac{1}{2})^2}{4 \Gamma_p(\frac{2+a}{2})^2 \Gamma_p(\frac{1-a}{2})^2} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } 2 \nmid \langle a \rangle_p, \end{cases}$$

where  $a' = (a - \langle a \rangle_p)/p$ . However, they only gave a sketch of the proof in the case  $2 \mid \langle a \rangle_p$ , and their method is complicated and based on hypergeometric series identities. It should be mentioned that (1.5) was first conjectured by Liu [6] in the case  $2 \mid \langle a \rangle_p$ . Using (1.5) and Jacobi sums, recently Mao [8] proved (1.2) and (1.3). We also note that Guo [4] established three congruences modulo  $p^3$  concerning the sums in (1.2)-(1.4) via  $q$ -congruences. For example, Guo showed that for any prime  $p \equiv 5 \pmod{6}$ ,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 \binom{3k}{k}}{108^k} \equiv \frac{2p \binom{-2/3}{(2p-1)/3}}{3 \binom{-7/6}{(2p-1)/3}} + \frac{p \binom{-5/6}{(p-2)/3}}{3 \binom{-4/3}{(p-2)/3}} \pmod{p^3}.$$

In [22], [24] and [25], the author posed numerous conjectures on the congruences modulo  $p^3$  for the sums

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{w(k) \binom{2k}{k}^3}{m^k}, \quad \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{w(k) \binom{2k}{k}^2 \binom{3k}{k}}{m^k}, \quad \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{w(k) \binom{2k}{k}^2 \binom{4k}{2k}}{m^k} \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{w(k) \binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k}}{m^k},$$

where  $w(k) \in \{1, \frac{1}{k+1}, \frac{1}{2k-1}, \frac{1}{(k+1)^2}, k, k^2, k^3\}$  and  $m$  is an integer not divisible by  $p$ .

Let  $p > 3$  be a prime and  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ . Inspired by the above work, using the WZ method we establish the congruences modulo  $p^3$  for  $\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{w(k)}{4^k}$  in terms of harmonic numbers, where  $w(k) \in \{1, \frac{1}{k+1}, \frac{1}{(k+1)^2}, \frac{1}{2k-1}\}$ . Our approach is natural and elementary, and the result in the case  $w(k) = 1$  seems better than (1.5) since  $\Gamma_p(x)$  is more complicated than harmonic numbers and it is very difficult to determine  $\Gamma_p(x)$  modulo  $p^3$ . On the other hand, the proof of (1.5) depends on hypergeometric series identities. As consequences, taking  $a = -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{1}{6}$  in our main results we obtain explicit congruences for

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{w(k) \binom{2k}{k}^3}{64^k}, \quad \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{w(k) \binom{2k}{k}^2 \binom{3k}{k}}{108^k}, \quad \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{w(k) \binom{2k}{k}^2 \binom{4k}{2k}}{256^k}, \quad \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{w(k) \binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k}}{1728^k}$$

modulo  $p^3$  or  $p^2$  and so solve some conjectures in [22] and [25].

The Catalan numbers  $\{C_k\}$  are defined by  $C_k = \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{k+1}$  ( $k \geq 0$ ). For convenience we also define  $C_{-1} = -\frac{1}{2}$ . Then clearly  $\binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{2k-1} = 2C_{k-1}$  for  $k \geq 0$ . As typical results in the paper, for any prime  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  and so  $p = x^2 + 4y^2$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{(p-1)/2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 C_k}{64^k} &\equiv 4x^2 - 2p \pmod{p^3}, & \sum_{k=0}^{(p-1)/2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} C_k^2}{64^k} &\equiv 8x^2 - 4p + \frac{p^2}{x^2} \pmod{p^3}, \\ \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 C_{k-1}}{64^k} &\equiv -x^2 + \frac{p}{2} + \frac{p^2}{8x^2} \pmod{p^3}, & \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} C_{k-1}^2}{64^k} &\equiv \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{p}{4} - \frac{p^2}{8x^2} \pmod{p^3}, \end{aligned}$$

for any prime  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  and so  $p = x^2 + 3y^2$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} C_k}{108^k} &\equiv 4x^2 - 2p \pmod{p^3}, & \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{3k}{k} C_k^2}{108^k} &\equiv 8x^2 - 4p + \frac{9p^2}{8x^2} \pmod{p^3}, \\ \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} C_{k-1}}{108^k} &\equiv -\frac{10}{9}x^2 + \frac{5}{9}p + \frac{p^2}{8x^2} \pmod{p^3}. \end{aligned}$$

In addition to the above notation, throughout this paper we use the following notations. Let  $H_0 = H_0^{(2)} = 0$ . For  $n \geq 1$  let  $H_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n}$  and  $H_n^{(2)} = 1 + \frac{1}{2^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^2}$ . For an odd prime  $p$  and  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p$  set  $q_p(a) = (a^{p-1} - 1)/p$  and

$$\begin{aligned} R_1(p) &= (2p + 2 - 2^{p-1}) \binom{(p-1)/2}{[p/4]}^2, \\ R_2(p) &= (5 - 4(-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}}) \left( 1 + (4 + 2(-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}})p - 4(2^{p-1} - 1) - \frac{p}{2} H_{[p/8]}^{(2)} \right) \binom{(p-1)/2}{[p/8]}^2, \\ R_3(p) &= \left( 1 + 2p + \frac{4}{3}(2^{p-1} - 1) - \frac{3}{2}(3^{p-1} - 1) \right) \binom{(p-1)/2}{[p/6]}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Define

$$S_n(a) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{4^k} \quad (n = 1, 2, 3, \dots).$$

Let  $\{E_n\}$  be the Euler numbers given by

$$E_{2n-1} = 0, \quad E_0 = 1, \quad E_{2n} = - \sum_{k=1}^n \binom{2n}{2k} E_{2n-2k} \quad (n = 1, 2, 3, \dots),$$

and the sequence  $\{U_n\}$  be given by

$$U_{2n-1} = 0, \quad U_0 = 1, \quad U_{2n} = -2 \sum_{k=1}^n \binom{2n}{2k} U_{2n-2k} \quad (n = 1, 2, 3, \dots).$$

## 2. The congruence for $\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{4^k}$ modulo $p^3$

For  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  set

$$F(a, k) = \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{4^k}$$

and

$$G(a, k) = (a+2)(2a+3) \frac{k}{4^{k-1}(a+1+k)} \binom{2k-1}{k-1} \binom{a+1}{k-1} \binom{-3-a}{k-1}.$$

It is easy to check that

$$(a+2)^2 F(a+2, k) - (a+1)^2 F(a, k) = G(a, k+1) - G(a, k).$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} & (a+2)^2 S_n(a+2) - (a+1)^2 S_n(a) \\ &= (a+2)^2 \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} F(a+2, k) - (a+1)^2 \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} F(a, k) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (G(a, k+1) - G(a, k)) = G(a, n) - G(a, 0) = G(a, n). \end{aligned}$$

That is,

$$(2.1) \quad \begin{aligned} & (a+2)^2 S_n(a+2) - (a+1)^2 S_n(a) \\ &= (a+2)(2a+3) \frac{n}{4^{n-1}(a+1+n)} \binom{2n-1}{n-1} \binom{a+1}{n-1} \binom{-3-a}{n-1}. \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $p$  be an odd prime,  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ ,  $a \not\equiv -1 \pmod{p}$  and  $a' = (a - \langle a \rangle_p)/p$ . Then*

$$(a+2)^2 S_p(a+2) - (a+1)^2 S_p(a) \equiv \begin{cases} \left(\frac{1}{a+1} + \frac{1}{a+2}\right) a'(a'+1) p^3 \pmod{p^4} & \text{if } \langle a \rangle_p < p-2, \\ (a+2)p \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } \langle a \rangle_p = p-2. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* From (2.1) we see that

$$\begin{aligned} & (a+2)^2 S_p(a+2) - (a+1)^2 S_p(a) \\ &= (a+2)(2a+3) \frac{p}{4^{p-1}(a+1+p)} \binom{2p-1}{p} \binom{a+2-1}{p-1} \binom{-a-2-1}{p-1}. \end{aligned}$$

We first assume  $\langle a \rangle_p < p-2$ . Then  $a+2 - \langle a+2 \rangle_p = a - \langle a \rangle_p = a'p$ . From [20, Lemma 2.2] we know that

$$(2.2) \quad \binom{a+2-1}{p-1} \binom{-a-2-1}{p-1} \equiv \frac{a'(a'+1)p^2}{(a+2)^2} \pmod{p^3}.$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} & (a+2)^2 S_p(a+2) - (a+1)^2 S_p(a) \\ &\equiv (a+2)(2a+3) \frac{p}{4^{p-1}(a+1+p)} \binom{2p-1}{p-1} \frac{a'(a'+1)p^2}{(a+2)^2} \\ &\equiv \left(\frac{1}{a+1} + \frac{1}{a+2}\right) a'(a'+1) p^3 \pmod{p^4}. \end{aligned}$$

Now we assume that  $\langle a \rangle_p = p - 2$ . Then  $a + 2 = p(a' + 1)$ . Appealing to [23, (2.6)],

$$\begin{aligned} \binom{a+2-1}{p-1} \binom{-a-2-1}{p-1} &= \binom{p-1+a'p}{p-1} \binom{p-1-(a'+2)p}{p-1} \\ &\equiv (1+a'pH_{p-1})(1-(a'+2)pH_{p-1}) \equiv 1 \pmod{p^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} &(a+2)^2 S_p(a+2) - (a+1)^2 S_p(a) \\ &\equiv (a+2)(2a+3) \frac{p}{4^{p-1}(a+1+p)} \binom{2p-1}{p-1} \equiv (a+2)p \pmod{p^3}. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof.

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $p$  be an odd prime and  $t \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ . Then*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \binom{pt}{k} \binom{-1-pt}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{4^k} \equiv 1 - 2t(2^{p-1} - 1) + (2t^2 + t)(2^{p-1} - 1)^2 \pmod{p^3}.$$

*Proof.* Clearly,

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \binom{pt}{k} \binom{-1-pt}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{4^k} \\ &= 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \frac{pt}{pt-k} \cdot \frac{((-1)^2 - p^2 t^2)((-2)^2 - p^2 t^2) \cdots ((-k)^2 - p^2 t^2)}{k!^2} \cdot \frac{\binom{2k}{k}}{4^k} \\ &\equiv 1 - \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \frac{pt(pt+k)}{k^2} \cdot \frac{\binom{2k}{k}}{4^k} \pmod{p^3}. \end{aligned}$$

By [19, Remark 3.1] or [27],

$$(2.3) \quad \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}}{k \cdot 4^k} = \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \frac{(-1)^k}{k} \binom{-1/2}{k} \equiv 2q_p(2) - pq_p(2)^2 \pmod{p^2}.$$

Taking  $x = \frac{1}{4}$  in [28, (9)] and then applying [13, Theorem 4.1] we see that

$$(2.4) \quad \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}}{k^2 \cdot 4^k} \equiv 4 \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \frac{1}{k^2 \cdot 2^k} \equiv -2q_p(2)^2 \pmod{p}.$$

It then follows that

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \binom{pt}{k} \binom{-1-pt}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{4^k} \equiv 1 - pt(2q_p(2) - pq_p(2)^2) - p^2 t^2 (-2q_p(2)^2) \pmod{p^3},$$

which yields the result.

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $p$  be an odd prime,  $n \in \{1, 2, \dots, \frac{p-1}{2}\}$  and  $t \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ . Then*

$$\binom{\frac{p-1}{2} + pt}{n}$$

$$\equiv \binom{\frac{p-1}{2}}{n} \left( 1 - 2pt \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{2k-1} + 2p^2t \left( t \left( \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{2k-1} \right)^2 - (t+1) \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(2k-1)^2} \right) \right) \pmod{p^3}.$$

*Proof.* For  $m \in \{n, n+1, \dots, p-1\}$  we see that

$$\begin{aligned} (2.5) \quad \binom{m+pt}{n} &= \frac{(pt+m)(pt+m-1)\cdots(pt+m-(n-1))}{n!} \\ &\equiv \binom{m}{n} \left( 1 + pt \sum_{m-n+1 \leq k \leq m} \frac{1}{k} + p^2t^2 \sum_{m-n+1 \leq i < j \leq m} \frac{1}{ij} \right) \\ &= \binom{m}{n} \left( 1 + pt(H_m - H_{m-n}) + \frac{1}{2}p^2t^2((H_m - H_{m-n})^2 - (H_m^{(2)} - H_{m-n}^{(2)})) \right) \pmod{p^3}. \end{aligned}$$

For given positive integer  $r$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{k=1}^{(p-1)/2} \frac{1}{k^r} - \sum_{k=1}^{(p-1)/2-n} \frac{1}{k^r} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{\left(\frac{p-(2k-1)}{2}\right)^r} = 2^r \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{(p+2k-1)^r}{(p^2 - (2k-1)^2)^r} \equiv (-2)^r \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{(2k-1)^r + rp(2k-1)^{r-1}}{(2k-1)^{2r}} \\ &= (-2)^r \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(2k-1)^r} + (-2)^r rp \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(2k-1)^{r+1}} \pmod{p^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} H_{\frac{p-1}{2}} - H_{\frac{p-1}{2}-n} &\equiv -2 \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{2k-1} - 2p \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(2k-1)^2} \pmod{p^2}, \\ H_{\frac{p-1}{2}}^{(2)} - H_{\frac{p-1}{2}-n}^{(2)} &\equiv 4 \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(2k-1)^2} \pmod{p}. \end{aligned}$$

Now, from the above we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} \binom{\frac{p-1}{2} + pt}{n} &\equiv \binom{\frac{p-1}{2}}{n} \left( 1 + pt \left( -2 \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{2k-1} - 2p \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(2k-1)^2} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{2}p^2t^2 \left( \left( -2 \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{2k-1} \right)^2 - 4 \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(2k-1)^2} \right) \right) \pmod{p^3}, \end{aligned}$$

which yields the result.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $p$  be an odd prime,  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ ,  $a \not\equiv 0, -1 \pmod{p}$  and  $a' = (a - \langle a \rangle_p)/p$ . If  $2 \mid \langle a \rangle_p$  and  $\langle a \rangle_p = 2n$ , then*

$$\begin{aligned} S_p(a) &\equiv \frac{\binom{(a-1)/2}{n}^2}{\binom{a/2}{n}^2} (1 - 2a'(2^{p-1} - 1) + a'(2a' + 1)(2^{p-1} - 1)^2) \\ &\equiv \binom{(p-1)/2}{n}^2 \left( 1 + p((2a' + 2)H_{2n} - (2a' + 1)H_n - 2a'q_p(2)) \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \frac{p^2}{2} \left( 2a'q_p(2)^2 + ((2a' + 2)H_{2n} - (2a' + 1)H_n - 2a'q_p(2))^2 \right. \\
& \left. + \frac{1}{2}(2a'^2 - 1)H_n^{(2)} + 2(1 - a'^2)H_{2n}^{(2)} \right) \pmod{p^3}.
\end{aligned}$$

If  $2 \nmid \langle a \rangle_p$ , then

$$S_p(a) \equiv \frac{4^{\langle a \rangle_p - 1} \cdot a'(a' + 1)p^2}{a^2 \binom{\langle a \rangle_p - 1}{\frac{2}{2}}} \equiv \frac{a'(a' + 1)p^2}{a^2 \binom{(p-1)/2}{(\langle a \rangle_p - 1)/2}} \pmod{p^3}.$$

*Proof.* We first assume that  $2 \mid \langle a \rangle_p$  and  $\langle a \rangle_p = 2n$ . From Lemma 2.1 we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
S_p(a) & \equiv \frac{(a-1)^2}{a^2} S_p(a-2) \equiv \frac{(a-1)^2}{a^2} \cdot \frac{(a-3)^2}{(a-2)^2} S_p(a-4) \equiv \dots \\
& \equiv \frac{(a-1)^2 (a-3)^2 \dots (a-2n+1)^2}{a^2 (a-2)^2 \dots (a-2n+2)^2} S_p(a-2n) \\
& = \prod_{k=1}^n \frac{\left(\frac{a+1}{2} - k\right)^2}{\left(\frac{a+2}{2} - k\right)^2} \cdot S_p(a-2n) = \frac{\binom{(a-1)/2}{n}^2}{\binom{a/2}{n}^2} S_p(a-2n) \pmod{p^3}.
\end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 2.2,

$$S_p(a-2n) = S_p(a'p) \equiv 1 - 2a'(2^{p-1} - 1) + a'(2a' + 1)(2^{p-1} - 1)^2 \pmod{p^3}.$$

Thus,

$$S_p(a) \equiv \binom{(a-1)/2}{n}^2 \binom{a/2}{n}^{-2} (1 - 2a'p q_p(2) + a'(2a' + 1)p^2 q_p(2)^2) \pmod{p^3}.$$

Since  $(1 + bp + cp^2)(1 - bp + (b^2 - c)p^2) \equiv 1 \pmod{p^3}$ , appealing to (2.5) we get

$$\begin{aligned}
\binom{a/2}{n}^{-1} & \equiv \binom{n + a'p/2}{n}^{-1} \equiv \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2}a'pH_n + \frac{1}{8}a'^2p^2(H_n^2 - H_n^{(2)}) \right)^{-1} \\
& \equiv 1 - \frac{1}{2}a'pH_n + \frac{1}{8}a'^2p^2(H_n^2 + H_n^{(2)}) \pmod{p^3}.
\end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 2.3,

$$\begin{aligned}
\binom{\frac{a-1}{2}}{n} & = (-1)^n \binom{-\frac{a-1}{2} + n - 1}{n} = (-1)^n \binom{\frac{p-1}{2} - \frac{a'+1}{2}p}{n} \\
& \equiv (-1)^n \binom{\frac{p-1}{2}}{n} \left( 1 + (a' + 1)p \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{2k-1} \right. \\
& \quad \left. + (a' + 1)p^2 \left( \frac{a'+1}{2} \left( \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{2k-1} \right)^2 + \frac{1-a'}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(2k-1)^2} \right) \right) \pmod{p^3}.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$(-1)^n \binom{\frac{a-1}{2}}{n} \binom{a}{n}^{-1} \binom{\frac{p-1}{2}}{n}^{-1}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
&\equiv \left(1 + (a' + 1)p \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{2k-1} + (a' + 1)p^2 \left( \frac{a' + 1}{2} \left( \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{2k-1} \right)^2 + \frac{1-a'}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(2k-1)^2} \right) \right) \\
&\quad \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}a'pH_n + \frac{1}{8}a'^2p^2(H_n^2 + H_n^{(2)})\right) \\
&\equiv 1 + p \left( (a' + 1) \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{2k-1} - \frac{a'}{2}H_n \right) + p^2 \left( \frac{1}{8}a'^2H_n^2 + \frac{1}{8}a'^2H_n^{(2)} \right) \\
&\quad + \frac{(a' + 1)^2}{2} \left( \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{2k-1} \right)^2 + \frac{1-a'^2}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(2k-1)^2} - \frac{1}{2}a'(a' + 1)H_n \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{2k-1} \\
&= 1 + p \left( (a' + 1) \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{2k-1} - \frac{a'}{2}H_n \right) \\
&\quad + p^2 \left( \frac{1}{8} \left( a'H_n - 2(a' + 1) \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{2k-1} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{8}a'^2H_n^{(2)} + \frac{1-a'^2}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(2k-1)^2} \right) \pmod{p^3}.
\end{aligned}$$

Note that  $(1 + bp + cp^2)^2 \equiv 1 + 2bp + (b^2 + 2c)p^2 \pmod{p^3}$ . From the above we derive that

$$\begin{aligned}
&\left( \frac{a-1}{2} \right)_n^2 \left( \frac{a}{2} \right)_n^{-2} \left( \frac{p-1}{2} \right)_n^{-2} \\
&\equiv 1 + p \left( 2(a' + 1) \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{2k-1} - a'H_n \right) + p^2 \left( 2 \left( (a' + 1) \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{2k-1} - \frac{a'}{2}H_n \right)^2 \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \frac{1}{4}a'^2H_n^{(2)} + (1 - a'^2) \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(2k-1)^2} \right) \\
&= 1 + p \left( 2(a' + 1)(H_{2n} - \frac{1}{2}H_n) - a'H_n \right) + p^2 \left( 2 \left( (a' + 1)(H_{2n} - \frac{1}{2}H_n) - \frac{a'}{2}H_n \right)^2 \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \frac{1}{4}a'^2H_n^{(2)} + (1 - a'^2)(H_{2n}^{(2)} - \frac{1}{4}H_n^{(2)}) \right) \\
&= 1 + p \left( (2a' + 2)H_{2n} - (2a' + 1)H_n \right) + p^2 \left( \frac{1}{2} \left( (2a' + 2)H_{2n} - (2a' + 1)H_n \right)^2 \right. \\
&\quad \left. + (1 - a'^2)H_{2n}^{(2)} + \frac{2a'^2 - 1}{4}H_n^{(2)} \right) \pmod{p^3}
\end{aligned}$$

and so

$$\begin{aligned}
S_p(a) &\equiv \binom{(p-1)/2}{n}^2 \left( 1 - 2a'pq_p(2) + a'(2a' + 1)p^2q_p(2)^2 \right) \\
&\quad \times \left( 1 + p \left( (2a' + 2)H_{2n} - (2a' + 1)H_n \right) + p^2 \left( \frac{1}{2} \left( (2a' + 2)H_{2n} - (2a' + 1)H_n \right)^2 \right. \right. \\
&\quad \left. \left. + (1 - a'^2)H_{2n}^{(2)} + \frac{2a'^2 - 1}{4}H_n^{(2)} \right) \right) \\
&\equiv \binom{(p-1)/2}{n}^2 \left( 1 + p \left( -2a'q_p(2) + 2(a' + 1)H_{2n} - (2a' + 1)H_n \right) + p^2 \left( a'q_p(2)^2 \right. \right. \\
&\quad \left. \left. + \frac{1}{2} \left( (2a' + 2)H_{2n} - (2a' + 1)H_n - 2a'q_p(2) \right)^2 \right. \right. \\
&\quad \left. \left. + (1 - a'^2)H_{2n}^{(2)} + \frac{2a'^2 - 1}{4}H_n^{(2)} \right) \right) \pmod{p^3},
\end{aligned}$$

which yields the result in the case  $2 \mid \langle a \rangle_p$ .

Now assume that  $2 \nmid \langle a \rangle_p$ . By Lemma 2.1, for  $\langle a \rangle_p \leq p-4$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
S_p(a) &\equiv \frac{(a+2)^2}{(a+1)^2} S_p(a+2) \equiv \frac{(a+2)^2}{(a+1)^2} \cdot \frac{(a+4)^2}{(a+3)^2} S_p(a+4) \equiv \cdots \\
&\equiv \prod_{k=0}^{\frac{p-\langle a \rangle_p}{2}-2} \frac{(a+2k+2)^2}{(a+2k+1)^2} \cdot S_p(p+a-\langle a \rangle_p-2) \\
&= \prod_{k=0}^{\frac{p-\langle a \rangle_p}{2}-2} \frac{(a+2k+1)^2 (a+2k+2)^2}{(a+2k+1)^4} \cdot S_p(p+a-\langle a \rangle_p-2) \\
&= \frac{(a+1)^2 (a+2)^2 \cdots (p+a-\langle a \rangle_p-3)^2 (p+a-\langle a \rangle_p-2)^2}{2^{4\left(\frac{p-\langle a \rangle_p}{2}-1\right)} \left(\frac{a+1}{2}\right) \left(\frac{a+1}{2}+1\right) \cdots \left(\frac{a+1}{2} + \frac{p-\langle a \rangle_p}{2} - 2\right)^4} \\
&\quad \times S_p(p+a-\langle a \rangle_p-2) \pmod{p^3}.
\end{aligned}$$

By Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2,

$$\begin{aligned}
((a'+1)p-1)^2 S_p((a'+1)p-2) &\equiv (a'+1)^2 p^2 S_p((a'+1)p) - (a'+1)p^2 \\
&\equiv (a'+1)^2 p^2 - (a'+1)p^2 = a'(a'+1)p^2 \pmod{p^3}.
\end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$S_p(p+a-\langle a \rangle_p-2) = S_p((a'+1)p-2) \equiv a'(a'+1)p^2 \pmod{p^3}.$$

Now, from the above we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned}
S_p(a) &\equiv a'(a'+1)p^2 \cdot \frac{(\langle a \rangle_p+1)^2 (\langle a \rangle_p+2)^2 \cdots (p-3)^2 (p-2)^2}{2^{4\left(\frac{p-\langle a \rangle_p}{2}-1\right)} \left(\frac{\langle a \rangle_p+1}{2}\right) \left(\frac{\langle a \rangle_p+1}{2}+1\right) \cdots \left(\frac{p-3}{2}\right)^4} \\
&= a'(a'+1)p^2 \cdot \frac{(p-2)!^2 \cdot \frac{\langle a \rangle_p-1}{2}!^4}{\langle a \rangle_p!^2 \cdot 2^{2(p-\langle a \rangle_p)-4} \cdot \frac{p-3}{2}!^4} \\
&= a'(a'+1)p^2 \cdot \frac{\left(\frac{p-1}{2}\right)^4}{(p-1)^2 \left(\frac{p-1}{2}\right)^2} \cdot \frac{1}{2^{2(p-\langle a \rangle_p)-4} \cdot \left(\frac{\langle a \rangle_p+1}{2}\right)^2 \left(\frac{\langle a \rangle_p}{2}\right)^2} \\
&\equiv \frac{a'(a'+1)p^2}{2^{2(p-\langle a \rangle_p)} \left(\frac{a+1}{2}\right)^2 \left(\frac{\langle a \rangle_p}{2}\right)^2} \equiv \frac{4^{\langle a \rangle_p} \cdot a'(a'+1)p^2}{(a+1)^2 \left(\frac{\langle a \rangle_p}{2}\right)^2} \\
&\equiv \frac{4^{\langle a \rangle_p-1} \cdot a'(a'+1)p^2}{a^2 \left(\frac{\langle a \rangle_p-1}{2}\right)^2} = \frac{a'(a'+1)p^2}{a^2 \left(\frac{-1/2}{(\langle a \rangle_p-1)/2}\right)^2} \equiv \frac{a'(a'+1)p^2}{a^2 \left(\frac{(p-1)/2}{(\langle a \rangle_p-1)/2}\right)^2} \pmod{p^3}.
\end{aligned}$$

For  $\langle a \rangle_p = p-2$ , using Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2 we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
S_p(a) &\equiv \frac{1}{(a+1)^2} ((a+2)^2 S_p(a+2) - (a+2)p) \equiv (a+2)^2 - (a+2)p \\
&\equiv \frac{4^{\langle a \rangle_p-1} \cdot a'(a'+1)p^2}{a^2 \left(\frac{\langle a \rangle_p-1}{2}\right)^2} \equiv \frac{a'(a'+1)p^2}{a^2 \left(\frac{(p-1)/2}{(\langle a \rangle_p-1)/2}\right)^2} \pmod{p^3}.
\end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof.

**Corollary 2.1.** *Let  $p$  be a prime with  $p > 3$  and  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ . Then*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k}}{1728^k} \equiv \begin{cases} -\frac{5p^2}{\binom{(p-1)/2}{[p/12]}^2} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } p \equiv 7 \pmod{12}, \\ -\frac{p^2}{5 \binom{(p-1)/2}{[p/12]}^2} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } p \equiv 11 \pmod{12}. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Recall that  $\binom{-\frac{1}{6}}{k} \binom{-\frac{5}{6}}{k} = \binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k} \frac{1}{432^k}$ . Let  $a = -\frac{1}{6}$  or  $-\frac{5}{6}$  according as  $p \equiv 7 \pmod{12}$  or  $p \equiv 11 \pmod{12}$ , and  $a' = (a - \langle a \rangle_p)/p$ . Then  $\langle a \rangle_p = [\frac{p}{6}]$ ,  $\frac{\langle a \rangle_p - 1}{2} = [\frac{p}{12}]$ ,  $a' = -\frac{1}{6}$  and  $a'(a' + 1) = -\frac{5}{36}$ . Now, the result follows from Theorem 2.1 immediately.

**Lemma 2.4** (See [12, Theorem 5.2] and [13, Corollaries 3.3 and 3.7]). *Let  $p > 3$  be a prime. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} H_{\frac{p-1}{2}} &\equiv -2q_p(2) + pq_p(2)^2 \pmod{p^2}, & H_{\frac{p-1}{2}}^{(2)} &\equiv 0 \pmod{p}, \\ H_{[\frac{p}{4}]} &\equiv -3q_p(2) + \frac{3}{2}pq_p(2)^2 - (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} pE_{p-3} \pmod{p^2}, \\ H_{[\frac{p}{4}]}^{(2)} &\equiv 4(-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} E_{p-3} \pmod{p}. \end{aligned}$$

We remark that putting  $a = -\frac{1}{2}$  in Theorem 2.1 and then applying Lemma 2.4 gives a natural and elementary proof of (1.1).

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $p > 3$  be a prime. Then*

$$S_p\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \equiv \begin{cases} -\frac{p^2}{4x^2} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } p = x^2 + 4y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ \frac{(p+1)^2}{2^{p-1}} \left(\frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-3)/4}\right)^2 + \frac{p^2}{2} \left(\frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-3)/4}\right)^2 E_{p-3} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } 4 \mid p-3. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Set  $a = \frac{1}{2}$ . Then  $\langle a \rangle_p = \frac{p+1}{2}$  and  $a' = -\frac{1}{2}$ . For  $p = x^2 + 4y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , since  $2 \nmid \langle a \rangle_p$  we have

$$S_p\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \equiv \frac{-\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot p^2}{\frac{1}{4} \binom{(p-1)/2}{(p-1)/4}^2} \equiv -\frac{p^2}{4x^2} \pmod{p^3}$$

by Theorem 2.1 and the known fact  $\binom{(p-1)/2}{(p-1)/4} \equiv 2(-1)^{\frac{x-1}{2}} x \pmod{p}$ . Now assume that  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ . Then  $\langle a \rangle_p = 2 \cdot \frac{p+1}{4}$ . From Theorem 2.1 and Lemma 2.4 we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} S_p\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) &\equiv \left(\frac{(p-1)/2}{(p+1)/4}\right)^2 \left(1 + p(H_{\frac{p+1}{2}} + q_p(2))\right) \\ &\quad + \frac{p^2}{2} \left(-q_p(2)^2 + (H_{\frac{p+1}{2}} + q_p(2))^2 - \frac{1}{4}H_{\frac{p+1}{4}}^{(2)} + \frac{3}{2}H_{\frac{p+1}{2}}^{(2)}\right) \\ &\equiv \left(\frac{(p-1)/2}{(p+1)/4}\right)^2 \left(1 + p\left(\frac{2}{p+1} - 2q_p(2) + pq_p(2)^2 + q_p(2)\right)\right) \\ &\quad + \frac{p^2}{2} \left(-q_p(2)^2 + \left(\frac{2}{p+1} - 2q_p(2) + pq_p(2)^2 + q_p(2)\right)^2\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& -\frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{16}{(p+1)^2} - 4E_{p-3}\right) + \frac{3}{2} \cdot \frac{4}{(p+1)^2} \\
& \equiv \left(\frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-3)/4}\right)^2 \left(1 + p(2 - q_p(2)) + p^2((1 - q_p(2))^2 + \frac{1}{2}E_{p-3})\right) \\
& \equiv \frac{(p+1)^2}{2^{p-1}} \left(\frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-3)/4}\right)^2 + \frac{p^2}{2} \left(\frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-3)/4}\right)^2 E_{p-3} \pmod{p^3}.
\end{aligned}$$

This proves the lemma.

**Theorem 2.2** (See [25, Conjecture 5.4]). *Let  $p$  be a prime with  $p > 3$ . Then*

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 C_{k-1}}{64^k} \\
& \equiv \begin{cases} -x^2 + \frac{p}{2} + \frac{p^2}{8x^2} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } p = x^2 + 4y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ -\frac{1}{8}(2 + p^2 E_{p-3}) \frac{(p+1)^2}{2^{p-1}} \left(\frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-3)/4}\right)^2 + \frac{p^2}{4 \binom{(p-1)/2}{(p-3)/4}^2} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } 4 \mid p-3. \end{cases}
\end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Note that

$$(2.6) \quad \binom{\frac{1}{2}}{k} \binom{-\frac{3}{2}}{k} = \frac{1+2k}{1-2k} \binom{-\frac{1}{2}}{k}^2 = \left(-1 - \frac{2}{2k-1}\right) \binom{2k}{k}^2 \frac{1}{16^k}.$$

We then have

$$(2.7) \quad 2 \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^3}{64^k(2k-1)} + \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^3}{64^k} = - \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \binom{\frac{1}{2}}{k} \binom{-\frac{3}{2}}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{4^k} = -S_p\left(\frac{1}{2}\right).$$

Now, applying (1.1), Lemma 2.5 and the fact that  $\binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{2k-1} = 2C_{k-1}$  yields the result.

### 3. The congruence for $\sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \frac{C_k}{4^k}$ modulo $p^3$

**Lemma 3.1.** *For any positive integer  $n$  and real number  $a \neq 0$  we have*

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \frac{C_k}{4^k} \\
& = S_n(a) + \frac{a+1}{a} S_n(a+1) - \frac{a+1}{a} \binom{a}{n-1} \binom{-2-a}{n-1} \binom{2n-1}{n-1} \frac{1}{4^{n-1}}.
\end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Set

$$\begin{aligned}
F(a, k) & = \left(\binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \left(\frac{1}{k+1} - 1\right) - \frac{a+1}{a} \binom{a+1}{k} \binom{-2-a}{k}\right) \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{4^k}, \\
G(a, k) & = -\frac{a+1}{a} \binom{a}{k-1} \binom{-2-a}{k-1} \binom{2k-1}{k-1} \frac{1}{4^{k-1}}.
\end{aligned}$$

It is easy to check that  $F(a, k) = G(a, k + 1) - G(a, k)$ . Thus,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} F(a, k) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (G(a, k + 1) - G(a, k)) = G(a, n) - G(a, 0) = G(a, n).$$

This yields the result.

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $p$  be an odd prime,  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ ,  $a \not\equiv 0, -1 \pmod{p}$  and  $a' = (a - \langle a \rangle_p)/p$ . Then*

$$G(a, p) \equiv \frac{\binom{a}{p-1} \binom{-1-a}{p-1} \binom{2(p-1)}{p-1}}{4^{p-1} \cdot p} \equiv -\frac{a'(a'+1)}{a(a+1)} p^2 \pmod{p^3},$$

where  $G(a, k)$  is given in the proof of Lemma 3.1.

*Proof.* By [20, Lemma 2.2] and Fermat's little theorem,

$$(3.1) \quad \binom{a}{p-1} \binom{-2-a}{p-1} \binom{2p-1}{p-1} \frac{1}{4^{p-1}} \equiv \frac{a'(a'+1)}{(a+1)^2} p^2 \pmod{p^3}.$$

Thus,  $G(a, p) \equiv -\frac{a'(a'+1)}{a(a+1)} p^2 \pmod{p^3}$ . On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\binom{a}{p-1} \binom{-1-a}{p-1} \binom{2(p-1)}{p-1}}{4^{p-1} \cdot p} &= \frac{a+1}{(a+p)(2p-1)} \binom{a}{p-1} \binom{-2-a}{p-1} \frac{\binom{2p-1}{p-1}}{4^{p-1}} \\ &\equiv -\frac{a+1}{a} \cdot \frac{a'(a'+1)}{(a+1)^2} p^2 = -\frac{a'(a'+1)}{a(a+1)} p^2 \pmod{p^3}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the lemma is proved.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $p$  be an odd prime,  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ ,  $a \not\equiv 0, -1 \pmod{p}$  and  $a' = (a - \langle a \rangle_p)/p$ . Then*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \frac{C_k}{4^k} \equiv S_p(a) + \frac{a+1}{a} S_p(a+1) \pmod{p^3}.$$

Thus, for  $2 \mid \langle a \rangle_p$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \frac{C_k}{4^k} \\ &\equiv \left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{\langle a \rangle_p/2} \right)^2 \left( 1 + p((2a'+2)H_{\langle a \rangle_p} - (2a'+1)H_{\frac{\langle a \rangle_p}{2}} - 2a'q_p(2)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{p^2}{2} \left( 2a'q_p(2)^2 + ((2a'+2)H_{\langle a \rangle_p} - (2a'+1)H_{\frac{\langle a \rangle_p}{2}} - 2a'q_p(2))^2 \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{2} (2a'^2 - 1)H_{\frac{\langle a \rangle_p}{2}}^{(2)} + 2(1 - a'^2)H_{\langle a \rangle_p}^{(2)} \right) + \frac{a'(a'+1)}{a(a+1)} p^2 \left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{\langle a \rangle_p/2} \right)^{-2} \pmod{p^3}; \end{aligned}$$

for  $2 \nmid \langle a \rangle_p$  and  $\langle a \rangle_p \neq p-2$  we have

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \frac{C_k}{4^k}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\equiv \frac{a+1}{a} \left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{(\langle a \rangle_p + 1)/2} \right)^2 \left( 1 + p((2a'+2)H_{\langle a \rangle_{p+1}} - (2a'+1)H_{\frac{\langle a \rangle_{p+1}}{2}} - 2a'q_p(2)) \right. \\
&\quad + \frac{p^2}{2} \left( 2a'q_p(2)^2 + ((2a'+2)H_{\langle a \rangle_{p+1}} - (2a'+1)H_{\frac{\langle a \rangle_{p+1}}{2}} - 2a'q_p(2))^2 \right. \\
&\quad \left. \left. + \frac{1}{2}(2a'^2 - 1)H_{\frac{\langle a \rangle_{p+1}}{2}}^{(2)} + 2(1 - a'^2)H_{\langle a \rangle_{p+1}}^{(2)} \right) \right) \\
&\quad + \frac{a'(a'+1)}{(a+1)^2} p^2 \left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{(\langle a \rangle_p + 1)/2} \right)^{-2} \pmod{p^3}.
\end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Taking  $n = p$  in Lemma 3.1 and then applying Lemma 3.2 gives

$$\begin{aligned}
&\sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \frac{C_k}{4^k} - S_p(a) - \frac{a+1}{a} S_p(a+1) \\
&= - \binom{a}{p-1} \binom{-1-a}{p-1} \binom{2(p-1)}{p-1} \frac{1}{4^{p-1}p} - \frac{a+1}{a} \binom{a}{p-1} \binom{-2-a}{p-1} \binom{2p-1}{p-1} \frac{1}{4^{p-1}} \\
&\equiv 0 \pmod{p^3}.
\end{aligned}$$

Now, applying Theorem 2.1 yields the remaining results.

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $p$  be an odd prime. Then*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 C_k}{64^k} \equiv \begin{cases} 4x^2 - 2p \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } p = x^2 + 4y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ -\frac{(p+1)^2}{2^{p-1}} \left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-3)/4} \right)^2 - p^2 \left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-3)/4} \right)^{-2} \\ \quad + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-3)/4} \right)^2 E_{p-3} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } 4 \mid p-3. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Note that  $p \mid \binom{2k}{k}$  for  $\frac{p}{2} < k < p$ . Taking  $a = -\frac{1}{2}$  in Theorem 3.1 gives

$$\sum_{k=0}^{(p-1)/2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 C_k}{64^k} \equiv \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 C_k}{64^k} \equiv \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^3}{64^k} - S_p\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \pmod{p^3}.$$

Now, applying (1.1) and Lemma 2.5 yields the result.

**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $p > 3$  be a prime. Then*

$$\begin{aligned}
H_{\left[\frac{p}{3}\right]} &\equiv -\frac{3}{2}q_p(3) + \frac{3}{4}pq_p(3)^2 - p\left(\frac{p}{3}\right)U_{p-3} \pmod{p^2}, \\
H_{\left[\frac{2p}{3}\right]} &\equiv -\frac{3}{2}q_p(3) + \frac{3}{4}pq_p(3)^2 + 2p\left(\frac{p}{3}\right)U_{p-3} \pmod{p^2}, \\
H_{\left[\frac{p}{3}\right]}^{(2)} &\equiv -H_{\left[\frac{2p}{3}\right]}^{(2)} \equiv 3\left(\frac{p}{3}\right)U_{p-3} \pmod{p}.
\end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* The first congruence was given in [14, Theorem 3.2]. By [14, Theorem 3.2],  $\sum_{k=1}^{\lfloor 2p/3 \rfloor} \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{k} \equiv 3p\left(\frac{p}{3}\right)U_{p-3} \pmod{p^2}$ . Thus,

$$H_{\left[\frac{2p}{3}\right]} = H_{\left[\frac{p}{3}\right]} + \sum_{k=1}^{\lfloor 2p/3 \rfloor} \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{k} \equiv -\frac{3}{2}q_p(3) + \frac{3}{4}pq_p(3)^2 + 2p\left(\frac{p}{3}\right)U_{p-3} \pmod{p^2}.$$

By [14, Theorem 3.3],  $H_{\lfloor \frac{p}{3} \rfloor}^{(2)} \equiv 3\left(\frac{p}{3}\right)U_{p-3} \pmod{p}$ . To complete the proof, we note that  $\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{1}{k^2} \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  (see [12, Theorem 5.1]) and so

$$H_{\lfloor \frac{2p}{3} \rfloor}^{(2)} = \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \frac{1}{k^2} - \sum_{k=1}^{\lfloor p/3 \rfloor} \frac{1}{(p-k)^2} \equiv -H_{\lfloor \frac{p}{3} \rfloor}^{(2)} \pmod{p}.$$

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $p$  be a prime with  $p > 3$ . For  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  and so  $p = x^2 + 3y^2$  we have*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} C_k}{108^k} \equiv 4x^2 - 2p \pmod{p^3}.$$

For  $p \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} C_k}{108^k} \\ & \equiv -2 \left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-5)/6} \right)^2 \left( 1 + p \left( 2 + \frac{4}{3}q_p(2) - \frac{3}{2}q_p(3) \right) + p^2 \left( 1 + \frac{8}{3}q_p(2) + \frac{2}{9}q_p(2)^2 \right. \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. - 3q_p(3) - 2q_p(2)q_p(3) + \frac{15}{8}q_p(3)^2 + \frac{3}{4}U_{p-3} \right) \right) - \frac{1}{2}p^2 \left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-5)/6} \right)^{-2} \pmod{p^3}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* For  $p = x^2 + 3y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  we have  $\langle \frac{2}{3} \rangle_p = \frac{p+2}{3} \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$  and  $\frac{2}{3} - \langle \frac{2}{3} \rangle_p = -\frac{p}{3}$ . Thus, from Theorem 2.1 and the well known fact  $\left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-1)/6} \right) \equiv 2x\left(\frac{x}{3}\right) \pmod{p}$  (see [2,p.283]) we obtain

$$S_p\left(\frac{2}{3}\right) \equiv \frac{-\frac{2}{9}p^2}{\frac{4}{9}\left(\frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-1)/6}\right)^2} \equiv -\frac{p^2}{8x^2} \pmod{p^3}.$$

Taking  $a = -\frac{1}{3}$  in Theorem 3.1 and then applying the above and (1.2) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} C_k}{108^k} & \equiv S_p\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right) - 2S_p\left(\frac{2}{3}\right) \equiv 4x^2 - 2p - \frac{p^2}{4x^2} - 2\left(-\frac{p^2}{8x^2}\right) \\ & = 4x^2 - 2p \pmod{p^3}. \end{aligned}$$

Now assume that  $p \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ . By Lemma 3.3,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{2}{3}H_{\frac{2(p+1)}{3}} + \frac{1}{3}H_{\frac{p+1}{3}} & \equiv \frac{2}{3} \left( \frac{1}{2(p+1)/3} - \frac{3}{2}q_p(3) + \frac{3}{4}pq_p(3)^2 + 2p\left(\frac{p}{3}\right)U_{p-3} \right) \\ & \quad + \frac{1}{3} \left( \frac{1}{(p+1)/3} - \frac{3}{2}q_p(3) + \frac{3}{4}pq_p(3)^2 - p\left(\frac{p}{3}\right)U_{p-3} \right) \\ & \equiv 2 - \frac{3}{2}q_p(3) + p \left( -2 + \frac{3}{4}q_p(3)^2 - U_{p-3} \right) \pmod{p^2}. \end{aligned}$$

From Lemma 3.3 we also have

$$H_{\frac{p+1}{3}}^{(2)} = \frac{9}{(p+1)^2} + H_{\lfloor \frac{p}{3} \rfloor}^{(2)} \equiv 9 - 3U_{p-3} \pmod{p},$$

$$H_{\frac{2(p+1)}{3}}^{(2)} = \frac{9}{4(p+1)^2} + H_{\lfloor \frac{2p}{3} \rfloor}^{(2)} \equiv \frac{9}{4} + 3U_{p-3} \pmod{p}.$$

Set  $a = -\frac{1}{3}$ . Then  $\langle a \rangle_p = \frac{2p-1}{3}$  and  $a' = -\frac{2}{3}$ . From Theorem 3.1 and the above,

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} C_k}{108^k} \\ & \equiv -2 \left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{(p+1)/3} \right)^2 \left( 1 + p \left( \frac{2}{3} H_{\frac{2(p+1)}{3}}^{(2)} + \frac{1}{3} H_{\frac{p+1}{3}} + \frac{4}{3} q_p(2) \right) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \frac{p^2}{2} \left( -\frac{4}{3} q_p(2)^2 + \left( \frac{2}{3} H_{\frac{2(p+1)}{3}}^{(2)} + \frac{1}{3} H_{\frac{p+1}{3}} + \frac{4}{3} q_p(2) \right)^2 - \frac{1}{18} H_{\frac{p+1}{3}}^{(2)} + \frac{10}{9} H_{\frac{2(p+1)}{3}}^{(2)} \right) \right) \\ & \quad - \frac{1}{2} p^2 \left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{(p+1)/3} \right)^{-2} \\ & \equiv -2 \left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-5)/6} \right)^2 \left( 1 + p \left( 2 + \frac{4}{3} q_p(2) - \frac{3}{2} q_p(3) \right) + p^2 \left( -2 + \frac{3}{4} q_p(3)^2 - U_{p-3} \right) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \frac{p^2}{2} \left( -\frac{4}{3} q_p(2)^2 + \left( 2 + \frac{4}{3} q_p(2) - \frac{3}{2} q_p(3) \right)^2 - \frac{1}{18} (9 - 3U_{p-3}) + \frac{10}{9} \left( \frac{9}{4} + 3U_{p-3} \right) \right) \right) \\ & \quad - \frac{1}{2} p^2 \left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-5)/6} \right)^{-2} \\ & \equiv -2 \left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-5)/6} \right)^2 \left( 1 + p \left( 2 + \frac{4}{3} q_p(2) - \frac{3}{2} q_p(3) \right) + p^2 \left( 1 + \frac{8}{3} q_p(2) + \frac{2}{9} q_p(2)^2 \right. \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. - 3q_p(3) - 2q_p(2)q_p(3) + \frac{15}{8} q_p(3)^2 + \frac{3}{4} U_{p-3} \right) \right) - \frac{1}{2} p^2 \left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-5)/6} \right)^{-2} \pmod{p^3}. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof.

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $p > 3$  be a prime. Then*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{4k}{2k} C_k}{256^k} \equiv \begin{cases} 4x^2 - 2p \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } p = x^2 + 2y^2 \equiv 1, 3 \pmod{8}, \\ -\frac{1}{3} R_2(p) \pmod{p^2} & \text{if } p \equiv 5, 7 \pmod{8}. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Taking  $a = -\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{3}{4}$  in Theorem 3.1 gives

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{4k}{2k} C_k}{256^k} \equiv S_p \left( -\frac{1}{4} \right) - 3S_p \left( \frac{3}{4} \right) \equiv S_p \left( -\frac{3}{4} \right) - \frac{1}{3} S_p \left( \frac{1}{4} \right) \pmod{p^3}.$$

For  $p = x^2 + 2y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$  we see that  $\langle \frac{3}{4} \rangle_p = \frac{p+3}{4} \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{4} - \langle \frac{3}{4} \rangle_p = -\frac{p}{4}$ . By Theorem 2.1 and the fact that  $\binom{(p-1)/2}{(p-1)/8} \equiv 2(-1)^{\frac{p-1}{8} + \frac{x-1}{2}} x \pmod{p}$  (see [2,p.272]),

$$S_p \left( \frac{3}{4} \right) \equiv \frac{-\frac{1}{4} (1 - \frac{1}{4}) p^2}{\left( \frac{3}{4} \right)^2 \left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-1)/8} \right)^2} \equiv -\frac{p^2}{12x^2} \pmod{p^3}.$$

Recall that  $S_p \left( -\frac{1}{4} \right) = \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 \binom{4k}{2k}}{256^k} \equiv 4x^2 - 2p - \frac{p^2}{4x^2} \pmod{p^3}$  by (1.3). We then get

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{4k}{2k} C_k}{256^k} \equiv S_p \left( -\frac{1}{4} \right) - 3S_p \left( \frac{3}{4} \right) \equiv 4x^2 - 2p - \frac{p^2}{4x^2} - 3 \left( -\frac{p^2}{12x^2} \right)$$



$$= 4x^2 - 2p \pmod{p^3}.$$

For  $p = x^2 + 2y^2 \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$  we see that  $\langle \frac{1}{4} \rangle_p = \frac{p+1}{4} \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4} - \langle \frac{1}{4} \rangle_p = -\frac{p}{4}$ . By Theorem 2.1 and the fact that  $\binom{(p-1)/2}{(p-3)/8} \equiv 2(-1)^{\frac{p+5}{8} + \frac{x-1}{2}} x \pmod{p}$  (see [2,p.417]), we deduce that

$$S_p\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) \equiv \frac{-\frac{1}{4}(1 - \frac{1}{4})p^2}{(\frac{1}{4})^2 \binom{(p-1)/2}{(p-3)/8}^2} \equiv -\frac{3p^2}{4x^2} \pmod{p^3}.$$

Recall that  $S_p(-\frac{3}{4}) = \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 \binom{4k}{2k}}{256^k} \equiv 4x^2 - 2p - \frac{p^2}{4x^2} \pmod{p^3}$ . We then get

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{4k}{2k} C_k}{256^k} &\equiv S_p\left(-\frac{3}{4}\right) - \frac{1}{3} S_p\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) \equiv 4x^2 - 2p - \frac{p^2}{4x^2} - \frac{1}{3} \left(-\frac{3p^2}{4x^2}\right) \\ &= 4x^2 - 2p \pmod{p^3}. \end{aligned}$$

For  $p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ , taking  $a = -\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\langle a \rangle_p = \frac{p-1}{4}$  and  $a' = -\frac{1}{4}$  in Theorem 3.1 and then applying the fact that  $H_{[\frac{p}{4}]} \equiv -3q_p(2) \pmod{p}$  (see [23,(2.4)]) yields

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{4k}{2k} C_k}{256^k} \\ &\equiv -3 \binom{(p-1)/2}{(p+3)/8}^2 \left(1 + p \left(\frac{3}{2} H_{\frac{p+3}{4}} - \frac{1}{2} H_{\frac{p+3}{8}} + \frac{1}{2} q_p(2)\right)\right) \\ &\equiv -3 \left(\frac{3p+1}{p+3}\right)^2 \binom{(p-1)/2}{(p-5)/8}^2 \left(1 + p \left(\frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{4}{p+3} - 3q_p(2)\right) - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{8}{p+3} + H_{[\frac{p}{8}]} + \frac{1}{2} q_p(2)\right)\right)\right) \\ &\equiv \left(-\frac{1}{3} - \frac{16}{9}p\right) \binom{(p-1)/2}{(p-5)/8}^2 \left(1 + p \left(\frac{2}{3} - 4q_p(2) - \frac{1}{2} H_{[\frac{p}{8}]} \right)\right) \equiv -\frac{1}{3} R_2(p) \pmod{p^2}. \end{aligned}$$

For  $p \equiv 7 \pmod{8}$ , taking  $a = -\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\langle a \rangle_p = \frac{p-3}{4}$  and  $a' = -\frac{1}{4}$  in Theorem 3.1 and then applying the fact that  $H_{[\frac{p}{4}]} \equiv -3q_p(2) \pmod{p}$  yields

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{4k}{2k} C_k}{256^k} \\ &\equiv -\frac{1}{3} \binom{(p-1)/2}{(p+1)/8}^2 \left(1 + p \left(\frac{3}{2} H_{\frac{p+1}{4}} - \frac{1}{2} H_{\frac{p+1}{8}} + \frac{1}{2} q_p(2)\right)\right) \\ &\equiv -\frac{1}{3} \cdot 9 \binom{(p-1)/2}{(p-7)/8}^2 \left(1 + p \left(\frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{4}{p+1} - 3q_p(2)\right) - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{8}{p+1} + H_{[\frac{p}{8}]} + \frac{1}{2} q_p(2)\right)\right)\right) \\ &\equiv -\frac{1}{3} \cdot 9 \binom{(p-1)/2}{(p-7)/8}^2 \left(1 + p \left(2 - 4q_p(2) - \frac{1}{2} H_{[\frac{p}{8}]} \right)\right) = -\frac{1}{3} R_2(p) \pmod{p^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Putting all the above together proves the theorem.

**Theorem 3.5.** *Let  $p$  be a prime with  $p > 3$ . Then*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k} C_k}{1728^k}$$

$$\equiv \begin{cases} \left(\frac{p}{3}\right)(4x^2 - 2p) \pmod{p^2} & \text{if } p = x^2 + 4y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ -\frac{1}{5} \left(\frac{\frac{p-1}{2}}{\lfloor \frac{p}{12} \rfloor}\right)^2 \left(1 + p(10 - 3q_p(2) - \frac{5}{2}q_p(3) - \frac{2}{3}H_{\lfloor \frac{p}{12} \rfloor})\right) \pmod{p^2} & \text{if } 12 \mid p - 7, \\ -5 \left(\frac{\frac{p-1}{2}}{\lfloor \frac{p}{12} \rfloor}\right)^2 \left(1 + p(2 - 3q_p(2) - \frac{5}{2}q_p(3) - \frac{2}{3}H_{\lfloor \frac{p}{12} \rfloor})\right) \pmod{p^2} & \text{if } 12 \mid p - 11. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* For  $p = x^2 + 4y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , taking  $a = -\frac{1}{6}$  in Theorem 3.1 and then applying Theorem 2.1 yields

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k} C_k}{1728^k} \equiv S_p\left(-\frac{1}{6}\right) - 5S_p\left(\frac{5}{6}\right) \equiv S_p\left(-\frac{1}{6}\right) \equiv \left(\frac{p}{3}\right)(4x^2 - 2p) \pmod{p^2}.$$

For  $p \equiv 7 \pmod{12}$ , taking  $a = -\frac{1}{6}$ ,  $\langle a \rangle_p = \frac{p-1}{6}$  and  $a' = -\frac{1}{6}$  in Theorem 3.1 and then applying the fact that  $H_{\lfloor \frac{p}{6} \rfloor} \equiv -2q_p(2) - \frac{3}{2}q_p(3) \pmod{p}$  (see [23,(2.4)]) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k} C_k}{1728^k} &\equiv -5 \left(\frac{(p-1)/2}{(p+5)/12}\right)^2 \left(1 + p\left(\frac{5}{3}H_{\frac{p+5}{6}} - \frac{2}{3}H_{\frac{p+5}{12}} + \frac{1}{3}q_p(2)\right)\right) \\ &\equiv -\frac{1}{5} \left(\frac{(p-1)/2}{\lfloor p/12 \rfloor}\right)^2 \left(1 + \frac{48}{5}p\right) \\ &\quad \times \left(1 + p\left(\frac{5}{3}\left(\frac{6}{p+5} - 2q_p(2) - \frac{3}{2}q_p(3)\right) - \frac{2}{3}\left(\frac{12}{p+5} + H_{\lfloor \frac{p}{12} \rfloor}\right) + \frac{1}{3}q_p(2)\right)\right) \\ &\equiv -\frac{1}{5} \left(\frac{\frac{p-1}{2}}{\lfloor \frac{p}{12} \rfloor}\right)^2 \left(1 + p(10 - 3q_p(2) - \frac{5}{2}q_p(3) - \frac{2}{3}H_{\lfloor \frac{p}{12} \rfloor})\right) \pmod{p^2}. \end{aligned}$$

For  $p \equiv 11 \pmod{12}$ , taking  $a = -\frac{5}{6}$ ,  $\langle a \rangle_p = \frac{p-5}{6}$  and  $a' = -\frac{1}{6}$  in Theorem 3.1 and then applying the fact that  $H_{\lfloor \frac{p}{6} \rfloor} \equiv -2q_p(2) - \frac{3}{2}q_p(3) \pmod{p}$  yields

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k} C_k}{1728^k} &\equiv -\frac{1}{5} \left(\frac{(p-1)/2}{(p+1)/12}\right)^2 \left(1 + p\left(\frac{5}{3}H_{\frac{p+1}{6}} - \frac{2}{3}H_{\frac{p+1}{12}} + \frac{1}{3}q_p(2)\right)\right) \\ &\equiv -5 \left(\frac{(p-1)/2}{\lfloor p/12 \rfloor}\right)^2 \left(1 + p\left(\frac{5}{3}\left(\frac{6}{p+1} - 2q_p(2) - \frac{3}{2}q_p(3)\right) - \frac{2}{3}\left(\frac{12}{p+1} + H_{\lfloor \frac{p}{12} \rfloor}\right) + \frac{1}{3}q_p(2)\right)\right) \\ &\equiv -5 \left(\frac{\frac{p-1}{2}}{\lfloor \frac{p}{12} \rfloor}\right)^2 \left(1 + p(2 - 3q_p(2) - \frac{5}{2}q_p(3) - \frac{2}{3}H_{\lfloor \frac{p}{12} \rfloor})\right) \pmod{p^2}. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof.

**Remark 3.1** Since  $C_k = \binom{2k}{k} - \binom{2k}{k+1}$  for  $k \geq 0$ , from [26] one may deduce that for any prime  $p > 3$ ,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 C_k}{64^k} \equiv 4x^2 - 2p \pmod{p^2} \quad \text{for } p = x^2 + 4y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4},$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} C_k}{108^k} &\equiv 4x^2 - 2p \pmod{p^2} \quad \text{for } p = x^2 + 3y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}, \\ \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{4k}{2k} C_k}{256^k} &\equiv 4x^2 - 2p \pmod{p^2} \quad \text{for } p = x^2 + 2y^2 \equiv 1, 3 \pmod{8}, \\ \left(\frac{p}{3}\right) \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k} C_k}{1728^k} &\equiv 4x^2 - 2p \pmod{p^2} \quad \text{for } p = x^2 + 4y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}. \end{aligned}$$

In [25], the author made a conjecture equivalent to

$$\left(\frac{p}{3}\right) \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k} C_k}{1728^k} \equiv \begin{cases} 4x^2 - 2p \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } p = x^2 + 4y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ \frac{3}{5} R_1(p) \pmod{p^2} & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

For the conjectures concerning Theorems 3.2-3.4 see [25, Conjectures 5.4, 5.11 and 5.16].

## 4. The congruence for $\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \frac{C_{k-1}}{4^k}$ modulo $p^3$

**Lemma 4.1.** *For any positive integer  $n$  and real number  $a$  we have*

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{4^k(2k-1)} \\ &= -(2a^2 + 2a + 1)S_n(a) - 2(a+1)^2 S_n(a+1) \\ &\quad + \frac{(2a+1)(2a+2)n}{2n-1} \binom{a}{n-1} \binom{-2-a}{n-1} \binom{2n-1}{n-1} \frac{1}{4^{n-1}}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Put

$$\begin{aligned} F(a, k) &= \left( \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \left( \frac{1}{2k-1} + (2a^2 + 2a + 1) \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 2(a+1)^2 \binom{a+1}{k} \binom{-2-a}{k} \right) \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{4^k}, \\ G(a, k) &= \frac{(2a+1)(2a+2)k}{2k-1} \binom{a}{k-1} \binom{-2-a}{k-1} \binom{2k-1}{k-1} \frac{1}{4^{k-1}}. \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to check that  $F(a, k) = G(a, k+1) - G(a, k)$ . Thus,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} F(a, k) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (G(a, k+1) - G(a, k)) = G(a, n) - G(a, 0) = G(a, n).$$

This yields the result.

**Theorem 4.1.** *Let  $p$  be an odd prime,  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ ,  $a \not\equiv 0, -1 \pmod{p}$  and  $a' = (a - \langle a \rangle_p)/p$ . Then*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \frac{C_{k-1}}{4^k}$$

$$\equiv -(a^2 + a + \frac{1}{2})S_p(a) - (a+1)^2 S_p(a+1) - (2a+1) \frac{a'(a'+1)}{a+1} p^3 \pmod{p^4}.$$

*Proof.* Since  $\binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{2^{2k-1}} = 2C_{k-1}$  for  $k \geq 0$ , putting  $n = p$  in Lemma 4.1 and then applying (3.1) yields the result.

**Corollary 4.1.** *Let  $p$  be an odd prime,  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p$  and  $a \not\equiv 0, -1 \pmod{p}$ . Then*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \frac{C_{k-1}}{4^k} \equiv -\frac{1}{2} S_p(a) - a(a+1) \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \frac{C_k}{4^k} \pmod{p^3}.$$

*Proof.* Combining Theorem 3.1 with Theorem 4.1 yields the result.

**Theorem 4.2.** *Let  $p > 3$  be a prime. Then*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} C_{k-1}^2}{64^k} \equiv \begin{cases} \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{p}{4} - \frac{p^2}{8x^2} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } p = x^2 + 4y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ \frac{3(p+1)^2}{2^{p+2}} \left(\frac{p-1}{p-3}\right)^2 + \frac{3}{16} p^2 \left(\frac{p-1}{p-3}\right)^2 E_{p-3} - \frac{p^2}{8} \left(\frac{p-1}{p-3}\right)^{-2} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } 4 \mid p-3. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Taking  $a = \frac{1}{2}$  in Theorem 4.1 and then applying Lemma 2.1 gives

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \binom{\frac{1}{2}}{k} \binom{-\frac{3}{2}}{k} \frac{C_{k-1}}{4^k} &\equiv -\left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\right) S_p\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) - \left(\frac{1}{2} + 1\right)^2 S_p\left(\frac{1}{2} + 1\right) \\ &\equiv -\frac{5}{4} S_p\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) - \frac{1}{4} S_p\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) \pmod{p^3}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $C_{k-1} = \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{2(2^{2k-1})}$  and  $\binom{1/2}{k} \binom{-3/2}{k} = -(1 + \frac{2}{2^{2k-1}}) \binom{2k}{k}^2 \frac{1}{16^k}$  by (2.6), from (2.7) and the above we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} 4 \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} C_{k-1}^2}{64^k} &= -\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 C_{k-1}}{64^k} - \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \binom{\frac{1}{2}}{k} \binom{-\frac{3}{2}}{k} \frac{C_{k-1}}{4^k} \\ &\equiv \frac{1}{4} \left( S_p\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + S_p\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) \right) + \frac{5}{4} S_p\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{4} S_p\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) \\ &= \frac{3}{2} S_p\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{2} S_p\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) \pmod{p^3}. \end{aligned}$$

Now, applying (1.1) and Lemma 2.5 yields the result.

**Theorem 4.3.** *Let  $p > 3$  be a prime. For  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  and so  $p = x^2 + 3y^2$  we have*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} C_{k-1}}{108^k} \equiv -\frac{10}{9} x^2 + \frac{5}{9} p + \frac{p^2}{8x^2} \pmod{p^3}.$$

*For  $p \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  we have*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} C_{k-1}}{108^k}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\equiv -\frac{4}{9} \left( \frac{p-1}{2} \right)^2 \left( 1 + p \left( 2 + \frac{4}{3} q_p(2) - \frac{3}{2} q_p(3) \right) + p^2 \left( 1 + \frac{8}{3} q_p(2) + \frac{2}{9} q_p(2)^2 \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. - 3q_p(3) - 2q_p(2)q_p(3) + \frac{15}{8} q_p(3)^2 + \frac{3}{4} U_{p-3} \right) \right) + \frac{5}{36} p^2 \left( \frac{p-1}{2} \right)^{-2} \pmod{p^3}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Taking  $a = -\frac{1}{3}$  in Corollary 4.1 gives

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} C_{k-1}}{108^k} \equiv -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 \binom{3k}{k}}{108^k} + \frac{2}{9} \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} C_k}{108^k} \pmod{p^3}.$$

Now applying (1.2) and Theorem 3.3 yields the result.

**Theorem 4.4.** *Let  $p > 3$  be a prime. Then*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{4k}{2k} C_{k-1}}{256^k} \equiv \begin{cases} -\frac{5}{4} x^2 + \frac{5}{8} p + \frac{p^2}{8x^2} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } p = x^2 + 2y^2 \equiv 1, 3 \pmod{8}, \\ -\frac{1}{16} R_2(p) \pmod{p^2} & \text{if } p \equiv 5, 7 \pmod{8}. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Taking  $a = -\frac{1}{4}$  in Corollary 4.1 gives

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{4k}{2k} C_{k-1}}{256^k} \equiv -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 \binom{4k}{2k}}{256^k} + \frac{3}{16} \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{4k}{2k} C_k}{256^k} \pmod{p^3}.$$

Now applying (1.3) and Theorem 3.4 yields the result.

**Theorem 4.5.** *Let  $p > 5$  be a prime. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k} C_{k-1}}{12^{3k}} \\ &\equiv \begin{cases} \left( \frac{p}{3} \right) \left( -\frac{13}{9} x^2 + \frac{13}{18} p \right) \pmod{p^2} & \text{if } p = x^2 + 4y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ -\frac{1}{36} \left( \frac{p-1}{2} \right)^2 \left( 1 + p \left( 10 - 3q_p(2) - \frac{5}{2} q_p(3) - \frac{2}{3} H_{[\frac{p}{12}]} \right) \right) \pmod{p^2} & \text{if } 12 \mid p-7, \\ -\frac{25}{36} \left( \frac{p-1}{2} \right)^2 \left( 1 + p \left( 2 - 3q_p(2) - \frac{5}{2} q_p(3) - \frac{2}{3} H_{[\frac{p}{12}]} \right) \right) \pmod{p^2} & \text{if } 12 \mid p-11. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Taking  $a = -\frac{1}{6}$  in Corollary 4.1 gives

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k} C_{k-1}}{12^{3k}} \equiv -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k}}{12^{3k}} + \frac{5}{36} \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k} C_k}{12^{3k}} \pmod{p^3}.$$

Now, applying Theorem 3.5 and the known result for  $\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k}}{12^{3k}}$  modulo  $p^2$  yields the result.

**Remark 4.1** For the conjectures concerning Theorems 4.2-4.5 see [25, Conjectures 5.4, 5.7, 5.11 and 5.16].

## 5. The congruence for $\sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{4^k(k+1)^2} \pmod{p^3}$

**Lemma 5.1.** *For any positive integer  $n$  and real number  $a \neq 0$  we have*

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{4^k(k+1)^2} \\ &= 2S_n(a) + \frac{2a^2 + 2a - 1}{a^2} S_n(a+1) + \frac{2((2a-1)n+a)}{a^2} \binom{a}{n-1} \binom{-1-a}{n} \binom{2n}{n} \frac{1}{4^n}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Let

$$\begin{aligned} F(a, k) &= \left( \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \left( \frac{1}{(k+1)^2} - 2 \right) - \frac{2a^2 + 2a - 1}{a^2} \binom{a+1}{k} \binom{-2-a}{k} \right) \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{4^k}, \\ G(a, k) &= \frac{2((2a-1)k+a)}{a^2} \binom{a}{k-1} \binom{-1-a}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{4^k}. \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to check that  $F(a, k) = G(a, k+1) - G(a, k)$ . Thus,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} F(a, k) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (G(a, k+1) - G(a, k)) = G(a, n) - G(a, 0) = G(a, n).$$

This yields the result.

**Theorem 5.1.** *Let  $p$  be an odd prime,  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ ,  $a \not\equiv 0, -1, -2 \pmod{p}$  and  $a' = (a - \langle a \rangle_p)/p$ . Then*

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{4^k(k+1)^2} \\ & \equiv 2S_p(a) + \frac{2a^2 + 2a - 1}{a^2} S_p(a+1) + \frac{4a^3 + 6a^2 - 3a + 2}{a^3(a+1)(a+2)} a'(a'+1)p^3 \pmod{p^4}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Taking  $n = p - 1$  in Lemma 5.1 and then applying Lemma 3.2 we see that

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{4^k(k+1)^2} \\ & \equiv 2S_{p-1}(a) + \frac{2a^2 + 2a - 1}{a^2} S_{p-1}(a+1) + \frac{2(a-1)}{a^2(a+2)} \left( -\frac{a'(a'+1)}{a(a+1)} p^3 \right) \\ & \equiv 2S_p(a) + 2 \frac{a'(a'+1)}{a(a+1)} p^3 + \frac{2a^2 + 2a - 1}{a^2} S_p(a+1) \\ & \quad + \frac{2a^2 + 2a - 1}{a^2} \cdot \frac{a'(a'+1)}{(a+1)(a+2)} p^3 - \frac{2(a-1)a'(a'+1)}{a^3(a+1)(a+2)} p^3 \\ & = 2S_p(a) + \frac{2a^2 + 2a - 1}{a^2} S_p(a+1) + \frac{4a^3 + 6a^2 - 3a + 2}{a^3(a+1)(a+2)} a'(a'+1)p^3 \pmod{p^4}. \end{aligned}$$

This proves the theorem.

**Theorem 5.2.** *Let  $p > 3$  be a prime,  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p$  and  $a \not\equiv 0, -1, -2 \pmod{p}$ . Then*

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{4^k(k+1)^2} \\ & \equiv \left(2 - \frac{1}{a(a+1)}\right) \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \frac{C_k}{4^k} + \frac{1}{a(a+1)} S_p(a) \pmod{p^3}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* By Theorems 5.1 and 3.1,

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \binom{2k}{k} \frac{1}{4^k(k+1)^2} \\ & \equiv 2S_p(a) + \frac{2a^2 + 2a - 1}{a^2} S_p(a+1) \\ & \equiv 2S_p(a) + \frac{2a^2 + 2a - 1}{a^2} \cdot \frac{a}{a+1} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \frac{C_k}{4^k} - S_p(a) \right) \\ & = \frac{2a(a+1) - 1}{a(a+1)} \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \binom{a}{k} \binom{-1-a}{k} \frac{C_k}{4^k} + \frac{1}{a(a+1)} S_p(a) \pmod{p^3}. \end{aligned}$$

This proves the theorem.

**Theorem 5.3.** *Let  $p > 3$  be a prime. Then*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} C_k^2}{64^k} \equiv \begin{cases} 8x^2 - 4p + \frac{p^2}{x^2} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } p = x^2 + 4y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ -\frac{6(p+1)^2}{2^{p-1}} \left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-3)/4} \right)^2 - 2p^2 \left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-3)/4} \right)^{-2} \\ \quad - 3p^2 \left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-3)/4} \right)^2 E_{p-3} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } 4 \mid p-3. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Since  $p \mid \binom{2k}{k}$  for  $\frac{p}{2} < k < p$ , taking  $a = -\frac{1}{2}$  in Theorem 5.2 gives

$$\sum_{k=0}^{(p-1)/2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} C_k^2}{64^k} \equiv 6 \sum_{k=0}^{(p-1)/2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 C_k}{64^k} - 4 \sum_{k=0}^{(p-1)/2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^3}{64^k} \pmod{p^3}.$$

Now applying (1.1) and Theorem 3.2 yields the result.

**Theorem 5.4.** *Let  $p$  be a prime with  $p > 5$ . For  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  and so  $p = x^2 + 3y^2$  we have*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{3k}{k} C_k^2}{108^k} \equiv 8x^2 - 4p + \frac{9p^2}{8x^2} \pmod{p^3}.$$

*For  $p \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  we have*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{3k}{k} C_k^2}{108^k}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\equiv -13 \left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-5)/6} \right)^2 \left( 1 + p \left( 2 + \frac{4}{3} q_p(2) - \frac{3}{2} q_p(3) \right) + p^2 \left( 1 + \frac{8}{3} q_p(2) + \frac{2}{9} q_p(2)^2 \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. - 3q_p(3) - 2q_p(2)q_p(3) + \frac{15}{8} q_p(3)^2 + \frac{3}{4} U_{p-3} \right) \right) - p^2 \left( \frac{(p-1)/2}{(p-5)/6} \right)^{-2} \pmod{p^3}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Taking  $a = -\frac{1}{3}$  in Theorem 5.2 yields

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{3k}{k} C_k^2}{108^k} \equiv \frac{13}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} C_k}{108^k} - \frac{9}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 \binom{3k}{k}}{108^k} \pmod{p^3}.$$

Now applying (1.2) and Theorem 3.3 yields the result.

**Theorem 5.5.** *Let  $p > 7$  be a prime. Then*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{4k}{2k} C_k^2}{256^k} \equiv \begin{cases} 8x^2 - 4p + \frac{4p^2}{3x^2} \pmod{p^3} & \text{if } p = x^2 + 2y^2 \equiv 1, 3 \pmod{8}, \\ -\frac{22}{9} R_2(p) \pmod{p^2} & \text{if } p \equiv 5, 7 \pmod{8}. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Taking  $a = -\frac{1}{4}$  in Theorem 5.2 yields

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{4k}{2k} C_k^2}{256^k} \equiv \frac{22}{3} \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{4k}{2k} C_k}{256^k} - \frac{16}{3} \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k}^2 \binom{4k}{2k}}{256^k} \pmod{p^3}.$$

Now applying (1.3) and Theorem 3.4 yields the result.

**Theorem 5.6.** *Let  $p$  be a prime with  $p \neq 2, 3, 11$ . Then*

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k}}{1728^k (k+1)^2} \\ &\equiv \begin{cases} \left( \frac{p}{3} \right) (8x^2 - 4p) \pmod{p^2} & \text{if } p = x^2 + 4y^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ -\frac{46}{25} \left( \frac{p-1}{\lfloor \frac{p}{12} \rfloor} \right)^2 \left( 1 + p \left( 10 - 3q_p(2) - \frac{5}{2} q_p(3) - \frac{2}{3} H_{\lfloor \frac{p}{12} \rfloor} \right) \right) \pmod{p^2} & \text{if } 12 \mid p-7, \\ -46 \left( \frac{p-1}{\lfloor \frac{p}{12} \rfloor} \right)^2 \left( 1 + p \left( 2 - 3q_p(2) - \frac{5}{2} q_p(3) - \frac{2}{3} H_{\lfloor \frac{p}{12} \rfloor} \right) \right) \pmod{p^2} & \text{if } 12 \mid p-11. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Taking  $a = -\frac{1}{6}$  in Theorem 5.2 yields

$$\sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k}}{1728^k (k+1)^2} \equiv \frac{46}{5} \sum_{k=0}^{p-2} \frac{\binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k} C_k}{1728^k} - \frac{36}{5} \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k}}{1728^k} \pmod{p^3}.$$

Now applying Theorem 3.5 and the known result for  $\sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \binom{2k}{k} \binom{3k}{k} \binom{6k}{3k} 1728^{-k}$  modulo  $p^2$  yields the result.

**Remark 5.1** Let  $p > 5$  be a prime. The congruence for  $\sum_{k=0}^{(p-1)/2} \binom{2k}{k} C_k^2 64^{-k}$  modulo  $p^2$  can be deduced from [29,(4)]. In [25] the author conjectured the congruences modulo  $p^2$  for the sums in Theorem 5.4-5.6.



Calculations by Maple suggest the following conjecture.

**Conjecture 5.1.** *Let  $p$  be an odd prime.*

(i) *For  $p \equiv 1, 2, 4 \pmod{7}$  and so  $p = x^2 + 7y^2$  we have*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{(p-1)/2} \binom{2k}{k} C_k^2 \equiv -68y^2 + p - \frac{p^2}{4y^2} \pmod{p^3},$$

$$(-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \sum_{k=0}^{(p-1)/2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} C_k^2}{4096^k} \equiv -1136y^2 + 64p + \frac{2p^2}{y^2} \pmod{p^3}.$$

(ii) *For  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  and so  $p = x^2 + 3y^2$  we have*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{(p-1)/2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} C_k^2}{16^k} \equiv -24y^2 + 2p - \frac{p^2}{2y^2} \pmod{p^3},$$

$$(-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \sum_{k=0}^{(p-1)/2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} C_k^2}{256^k} \equiv -48y^2 + 8p \pmod{p^3}.$$

(iii) *For  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  and so  $p = x^2 + 4y^2$  we have*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{(p-1)/2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} C_k^2}{(-8)^k} \equiv -32y^2 + p - \frac{7p^2}{16y^2} \pmod{p^3},$$

$$(-1)^{\frac{p-1}{4}} \sum_{k=0}^{(p-1)/2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} C_k^2}{(-512)^k} \equiv 64y^2 - 8p - \frac{p^2}{y^2} \pmod{p^3}.$$

(iv) *For  $p \equiv 1, 3 \pmod{8}$  and so  $p = x^2 + 2y^2$  we have*

$$(-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \sum_{k=0}^{(p-1)/2} \frac{\binom{2k}{k} C_k^2}{(-64)^k} \equiv -8y^2 - \frac{p^2}{y^2} \pmod{p^3}.$$

**Funding** The author was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant No. 12271200).

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