

# Super Congruences Involving Alternating Harmonic Sums

Zhongyan Shen<sup>1</sup>, Tianxin Cai<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Mathematics, Zhejiang International Studies University, Hangzhou, China

<sup>2</sup>Department of Mathematics, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China

Email: huanchenszhan@163.com, txcai@zju.edu.cn

**How to cite this paper:** Shen, Z.Y. and Cai, T.X. (2020) Super Congruences Involving Alternating Harmonic Sums. *Advances in Pure Mathematics*, 10, 611-622. <https://doi.org/10.4236/apm.2020.1010037>

**Received:** September 23, 2020

**Accepted:** October 26, 2020

**Published:** October 29, 2020

Copyright © 2020 by author(s) and Scientific Research Publishing Inc.

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution International License (CC BY 4.0).

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



Open Access

## Abstract

Let  $p$  be an odd prime, the harmonic congruence such as

$$\sum_{i+j+k=p} \frac{1}{ijk} \equiv -2B_{p-3} \pmod{p},$$

and many different variations and generalizations have been studied intensively. In this note, we consider the congruences involving the combination of alternating harmonic sums,

$$\sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_n=p^r \\ i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1}}{i_1 i_2 \dots i_n}, \quad \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_n=p^r \\ i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1+i_2}}{i_1 i_2 \dots i_n}, \dots, \quad \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_n=p^r \\ i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor}}}{i_1 i_2 \dots i_n}.$$

where  $\mathcal{P}_p$  denotes the set of positive integers which are prime to  $p$ . And we establish the combinational congruences involving alternating harmonic sums for positive integer  $n = 3, 4, 5$ .

## Keywords

Bernoulli Numbers, Alternating Harmonic Sums, Congruences, Modulo Prime Powers

## 1. Introduction

At the beginning of the 21<sup>th</sup> century, Zhao (Cf. [1]) first announced the following curious congruence involving multiple harmonic sums for any odd prime  $p > 3$ ,

$$\sum_{i+j+k=p} \frac{1}{ijk} \equiv -2B_{p-3} \pmod{p}, \quad (1)$$

which holds when  $p = 3$  evidently. Here, Bernoulli numbers  $B_k$  are defined by the recursive relation:

$$\sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n+1}{i} B_i = 0, n \geq 1.$$

A simple proof of (1) was presented in [2]. This congruence has been generalized along several directions. First, Zhou and Cai [3] established the following harmonic congruence for prime  $p > 3$  and integer  $n \leq p - 2$

$$\sum_{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_n=p} \frac{1}{i_1 i_2 \dots i_n} \equiv \begin{cases} -(n-1)! B_{p-n} \pmod{p}, & \text{if } 2 \nmid n, \\ -\frac{n(n!)}{2(n+1)} p B_{p-n-1} \pmod{p^2}, & \text{if } 2 \mid n. \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

Later, Xia and Cai [4] generalized (1) to

$$\sum_{i+j+k=p} \frac{1}{ijk} \equiv \frac{12B_{p-3}}{p-3} - \frac{3B_{2p-4}}{p-4} \pmod{p^2},$$

where  $p > 5$  is a prime.

Recently, Wang and Cai [5] proved for every prime  $p \geq 3$  and positive integer  $r$ ,

$$\sum_{\substack{i+j+k=p^r \\ i,j,k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{ijk} \equiv -2p^{r-1} B_{p-3} \pmod{p^r}, \quad (3)$$

where  $\mathcal{P}_p$  denotes the set of positive integers which are prime to  $p$ .

Let  $n = 2$  or 4, for every positive integer  $r \geq \frac{n}{2}$  and prime  $p > n$ , Zhao [6] extended (3) to

$$\sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_n=p^r \\ i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{i_1 i_2 \dots i_n} \equiv -\frac{n!}{n+1} p^r B_{p-n-1} \pmod{p^{r+1}}. \quad (4)$$

For any prime  $p > 5$  and integer  $r > 1$ , Wang [7] proved that

$$\sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_5=p^r \\ i_1, i_2, \dots, i_5 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{i_1 i_2 \dots i_5} \equiv -\frac{5!}{6} p^{r-1} B_{p-5} \pmod{p^r}.$$

We consider the following alternating harmonic sums

$$\sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_n=p^r \\ i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{\sigma_1^{i_1} \sigma_2^{i_2} \dots \sigma_n^{i_n}}{i_1 i_2 \dots i_n},$$

where  $\sigma_i \in \{1, -1\}, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Given  $n$ , we only need to consider the following alternating harmonic sums,

$$\sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_n=p^r \\ i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1}}{i_1 i_2 \dots i_n}, \quad \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_n=p^r \\ i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1+i_2}}{i_1 i_2 \dots i_n}, \dots, \quad \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_n=p^r \\ i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor}}}{i_1 i_2 \dots i_n}$$

where  $\lfloor x \rfloor$  denotes the largest integer less than or equal to  $x$ .

In this paper, we consider the congruences involving the combination of alternating harmonic sums,

$$\sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_n=p^r \\ i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1}}{i_1 i_2 \dots i_n}, \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_n=p^r \\ i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1+i_2}}{i_1 i_2 \dots i_n}, \dots, \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_n=p^r \\ i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_n \lfloor \frac{p}{2} \rfloor}}{i_1 i_2 \dots i_n}.$$

We obtain the following theorems. Among them, Theorem 1 and Theorem 2 have been proved by Wang [8] using different method.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $p$  be an odd prime and  $r$  a positive integer, then*

$$\sum_{\substack{i+j+k=2p^r \\ i, j, k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} \equiv p^{r-1} B_{p-3} \pmod{p^r}.$$

**Remark 1.** There is no solution  $(i, j, k)$  for the equation  $i + j + k = 2p^r$  with  $i, j, k \in \mathcal{P}_{2p}$ .

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $p$  be an odd prime and  $r$  a positive integer, then*

$$\sum_{\substack{i+j+k=p^r \\ i, j, k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} \equiv \frac{1}{2} p^{r-1} B_{p-3} \pmod{p^r}.$$

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $p \geq 5$  be a prime and  $r$  a positive integer, then*

$$4 \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} + 3 \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1+i_2}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} \\ \equiv \begin{cases} \frac{216}{5} p B_{p-5} \pmod{p^2}, & \text{if } r = 1, \\ \frac{36}{5} p^r B_{p-5} \pmod{p^{r+1}}, & \text{if } r > 1. \end{cases}$$

**Theorem 4.** *Let  $p > 5$  be a prime and  $r$  a positive integer, then*

$$\sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4+i_5=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4, i_5 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 i_5} + 2 \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4+i_5=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4, i_5 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1+i_2}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 i_5} \\ \equiv \begin{cases} 12 B_{p-5} \pmod{p}, & \text{if } r = 1, \\ 6 p^{r-1} B_{p-5} \pmod{p^r}, & \text{if } r > 1. \end{cases}$$

## 2. Preliminaries

In order to prove the theorems, we need the following lemmas.

**Lemma 1 ([5])** *Let  $p$  be an odd prime and  $r, m$  positive integers, then*

$$\sum_{\substack{i+j+k=mp^r \\ i, j, k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{ijk} \equiv -2mp^{r-1} B_{p-3} \pmod{p^r}.$$

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $p$  be an odd prime and  $r, m$  positive integers, then*

$$\sum_{\substack{i+j+k=mp^r \\ i, j, k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{ijk} = \frac{6}{mp^r} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j < l \leq mp^r \\ j, l, l-j \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{jl}.$$

*Proof.* It is easy to see that

$$\sum_{\substack{i+j+k=mp^r \\ i,j,k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{ijk} = \frac{1}{mp^r} \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=mp^r \\ i,j,k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{i+j+k}{ijk} = \frac{3}{mp^r} \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=mp^r \\ i,j,k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{ij}$$

Let  $l = j+k$ , then  $1 \leq j < l \leq mp^r$  and  $j, l, l-j \in \mathcal{P}_p$ . By symmetry, we have

$$\frac{3}{mp^r} \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=mp^r \\ i,j,k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{ij} = \frac{3}{mp^r} \sum_{\substack{i+j < mp^r \\ i,j,l \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{l} \frac{i+j}{ij} = \frac{6}{mp^r} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j < l \leq mp^r \\ j,l,l-j \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{jl}$$

This completes the proof of Lemma 2.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.** Let  $p > 4$  be a prime and  $r, m$  positive integers, then

$$\sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=mp^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} = \frac{24}{mp^r} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq u_1 < u_2 < u_3 \leq mp^r \\ u_1, u_3, u_2-u_1, u_3-u_2 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 u_2 u_3}$$

*Proof.* The proof of Lemma 3 is similar to the proof of Lemma 2.  $\square$

**Lemma 4 ([3])** Let  $r, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  be positive integers,  $r = \alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_n \leq p-3$ , then

$$\sum_{\substack{1 \leq i_1, \dots, i_n \leq p-1 \\ i_t \neq i_j, \forall t \neq j}} \frac{1}{i_1^{\alpha_1} i_2^{\alpha_2} \dots i_n^{\alpha_n}} \equiv \begin{cases} (-1)^n (n-1)! \frac{r(r+1)}{2(r+2)} B_{p-r-2} p^2 \pmod{p^3}, & \text{if } 2 \nmid r, \\ (-1)^{n-1} (n-1)! \frac{r}{r+1} B_{p-r-1} p \pmod{p^2}, & \text{if } 2 \mid r. \end{cases}$$

**Lemma 5 ([7]).** Let  $p$  be an odd prime, and  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  positive integers, where  $r = \alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_n \leq p-3$ , then

$$\sum_{\substack{1 \leq i_1, \dots, i_n \leq 2p \\ i_t \neq i_j, i_t \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{i_1^{\alpha_1} i_2^{\alpha_2} \dots i_n^{\alpha_n}} \equiv \begin{cases} (-1)^n (n-1)! \frac{2r(r+1)}{r+2} B_{p-r-2} p^2 \pmod{p^3}, & \text{if } 2 \nmid r, \\ (-1)^{n-1} (n-1)! \frac{2r}{r+1} B_{p-r-1} p \pmod{p^2}, & \text{if } 2 \mid r. \end{cases}$$

**Lemma 6.** Let  $p > 4$  be a prime, then

$$\sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=2p \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} \equiv -\frac{240}{5} p B_{p-5} \pmod{p^2}.$$

*Proof.* By Lemma 3, we have

$$\sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=2p \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} = \frac{24}{2p} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq u_1 < u_2 < u_3 \leq 2p \\ u_1, u_3, u_2-u_1, u_3-u_2 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 u_2 u_3}. \tag{5}$$

It is easy to see that

$$\sum_{\substack{1 \leq u_1 < u_2 < u_3 \leq 2p \\ u_1, u_3, u_2-u_1, u_3-u_2 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 u_2 u_3} = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq u_1 < u_2 < u_3 \leq p \\ u_1, u_2, u_3, u_2-u_1, u_3-u_2 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 u_2 u_3} + \sum_{\substack{1 \leq u_1 < p < u_3 \leq 2p \\ u_1, u_3 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 p u_3}.$$

By Lemma 4, we have

$$\sum_{\substack{1 \leq u_1 < p < u_3 \leq 2p \\ u_1, u_3 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 p u_3} = \frac{1}{p} \sum_{1 \leq u_1 < p} \frac{1}{u_1} \sum_{p < u_3 < 2p} \frac{1}{u_3} \equiv 0 \pmod{p^3}. \tag{6}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{\substack{1 \leq u_1 < u_2 < u_3 \leq 2p \\ u_1, u_3, u_2 - u_1, u_3 - u_2 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 u_2 u_3} \equiv \sum_{\substack{1 \leq u_1 < u_2 < u_3 \leq 2p \\ u_1, u_2, u_3, u_2 - u_1, u_3 - u_2 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 u_2 u_3} \\ & \equiv \sum_{\substack{1 \leq u_1 < u_2 < u_3 \leq 2p \\ u_1, u_2, u_3 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 u_2 u_3} - \sum_{\substack{1 \leq u_1 < u_1 + p < u_3 \leq 2p \\ u_1, u_3 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 (u_1 + p) u_3} \\ & \quad - \sum_{\substack{1 \leq u_1 < u_2 < u_2 + p \leq 2p \\ u_1, u_2 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 u_2 (u_2 + p)} \pmod{p^3}. \end{aligned}$$

Replace  $u_3 = u_2 + p$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{\substack{1 \leq u_1 < u_1 + p < u_3 \leq 2p \\ u_1, u_3 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 (u_1 + p) u_3} = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq u_1 < u_1 + p < u_2 + p \leq 2p \\ u_1, u_2 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 (u_1 + p) (u_2 + p)} \\ & \equiv \sum_{1 \leq u_1 < u_2 < p} \frac{1}{u_1^2 u_2} \left( 1 - \frac{p}{u_1} + \frac{p^2}{u_1^2} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{p}{u_2} + \frac{p^2}{u_2^2} \right) \pmod{p^3}. \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\sum_{\substack{1 \leq u_1 < u_2 < u_2 + p \leq 2p \\ u_1, u_2 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 u_2 (u_2 + p)} \equiv \sum_{1 \leq u_1 < u_2 < p} \frac{1}{u_1 u_2^2} \left( 1 - \frac{p}{u_2} + \frac{p^2}{u_2^2} \right) \pmod{p^3}.$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{\substack{1 \leq u_1 < u_2 < u_3 \leq 2p \\ u_1, u_3, u_2 - u_1, u_3 - u_2 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 u_2 u_3} \\ & \equiv \sum_{\substack{1 \leq u_1 < u_2 < u_3 \leq 2p \\ u_1, u_2, u_3 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 u_2 u_3} - \sum_{1 \leq u_1 < u_2 < p} \left( \frac{1}{u_1^2 u_2} + \frac{1}{u_1 u_2^2} - p \left( \frac{1}{u_1^3 u_2} + \frac{1}{u_1^2 u_2^2} + \frac{1}{u_1 u_2^3} \right) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + p^2 \left( \frac{1}{u_1^4 u_2} + \frac{1}{u_1^3 u_2^2} + \frac{1}{u_1^2 u_2^3} + \frac{1}{u_1 u_2^4} \right) \right) \tag{7} \\ & \equiv \frac{1}{3!} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq u_1, u_2, u_3 \leq 2p \\ u_i \neq u_j, u_i \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 u_2 u_3} - \sum_{1 \leq u_1, u_2 < p} \left( \frac{1}{u_1^2 u_2} - p \left( \frac{1}{u_1^3 u_2} + \frac{1}{2 u_1^2 u_2^2} \right) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + p^2 \left( \frac{1}{u_1^4 u_2} + \frac{1}{u_1^3 u_2^2} \right) \right) \pmod{p^3}. \end{aligned}$$

Using Lemma 5 in the first sum of the right hand in (7) and using Lemma 4 in the second sum, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{\substack{1 \leq u_1 < u_2 < u_3 \leq 2p \\ u_1, u_3, u_2 - u_1, u_3 - u_2 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 u_2 u_3} \equiv \frac{1}{3!} (-1)^3 (3-1)! \frac{24}{5} B_{p-5} p^2 - (-1)^2 \frac{12}{10} B_{p-5} p^2 \\ & \quad + \frac{3p}{2} \left( -\frac{4}{5} B_{p-5} p \right) - p^2 \frac{30}{14} B_{p-7} p^2 \tag{8} \\ & \equiv -\frac{20}{5} p^2 B_{p-5} \pmod{p^3}. \end{aligned}$$

Combining (5) with (8), we complete the proof of Lemma 6.  $\square$

**Lemma 7.** Let  $p > 4$  be a prime and  $r > 1$  a positive integer, then

$$\sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} \equiv -\frac{48}{5} p^r B_{p-5} \pmod{p^{r+1}}.$$

*Proof.* The proof of Lemma 7 is similar to the proof method of (4) in [6].  $\square$

**Lemma 8 ([7]).** Let  $p > 5$  be a prime and  $r, m$  positive integers,  $(m, p) = 1$ , then

$$\sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_5=mp \\ i_1, i_2, \dots, i_5 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 i_5} \equiv \begin{cases} -4(5m+m^3)B_{p-5} \pmod{p}, & \text{if } r = 1, \\ -20mp^{r-1}B_{p-5} \pmod{p^r}, & \text{if } r > 1. \end{cases}$$

**Lemma 9.** Let  $p > 5$  be a prime and  $r, m$  positive integers, then

$$\sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_5=mp^r \\ i_1, i_2, \dots, i_5 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 i_5} = \frac{120}{mp^r} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq u_1 < u_2 < u_3 < u_4 \leq mp^r \\ u_1, u_4, u_2-u_1, u_3-u_2, u_4-u_3 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 u_2 u_3 u_4}.$$

*Proof.* The proof of Lemma 9 is similar to the proof of Lemma 2.  $\square$

### 3. Proofs of the Theorems

*Proof of Theorem 1.* It is easy to see that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=2p^r \\ i, j, k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} &= \frac{1}{2p^r} \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=2p^r \\ i, j, k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^i (i+j+k)}{ijk} \\ &= \frac{1}{2p^r} \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=2p^r \\ i, j, k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \left( \frac{(-1)^i}{jk} + \frac{2(-1)^i}{ij} \right). \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

Let  $l = j + k$ , then  $1 \leq j < l \leq 2p^r$  and  $j, l, l - j \in \mathcal{P}_p$ , hence

$$\sum_{\substack{i+j+k=2p^r \\ i, j, k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^i}{jk} = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j < l \leq 2p^r \\ j, l, l-j \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{l} \frac{(-1)^l (j+k)}{jk} = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j < l \leq 2p^r \\ j, l, l-j \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{2(-1)^l}{jl}. \tag{10}$$

Let  $l' = i + j$ , then  $1 \leq i < l' \leq 2p^r$  and  $i, l', l' - i \in \mathcal{P}_p$ , hence

$$\sum_{\substack{i+j+k=2p^r \\ i, j, k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{2(-1)^i}{ij} = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i < l' \leq 2p^r \\ i, l', l'-i \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{l'} \frac{2(-1)^i (i+j)}{ij} = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i < l' \leq 2p^r \\ i, l', l'-i \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \left( \frac{2(-1)^i}{jl'} + \frac{2(-1)^i}{il'} \right). \tag{11}$$

Noting that  $i = l' - j$ ,  $(-1)^{l'-j} = (-1)^{l'+j}$  and we rename  $l'$  to  $l$ , then

$$\sum_{\substack{1 \leq i < l' \leq 2p^r \\ i, l', l'-i \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{2(-1)^i}{jl'} = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j < l \leq 2p^r \\ j, l, l-j \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{2(-1)^{j+l}}{jl}. \tag{12}$$

Rename  $i$  to  $j$  and  $l'$  to  $l$ , then

$$\sum_{\substack{1 \leq i < l' \leq 2p^r \\ i, l', l'-i \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{2(-1)^i}{il'} = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j < l \leq 2p^r \\ j, l, l-j \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{2(-1)^j}{jl}. \tag{13}$$

Combining (9)-(13), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=2p^r \\ i,j,k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} &= \frac{1}{p^r} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j < l \leq 2p^r \\ j,l,l-j \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \left( \frac{(-1)^l}{jl} + \frac{(-1)^{j+l}}{jl} + \frac{(-1)^j}{jl} \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{p^r} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j < l \leq 2p^r \\ j,l,l-j \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(1+(-1)^l)(1+(-1)^j)}{jl} - \frac{1}{p^r} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j < l \leq 2p^r \\ j,l,l-j \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{jl} \\
 &= \frac{1}{p^r} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j < l \leq 2p^r \\ j,l,l-j \in \mathcal{P}_p, j \text{ even}, l \text{ even}}} \frac{4}{jl} - \frac{1}{p^r} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j < l \leq 2p^r \\ j,l,l-j \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{jl}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

Let  $j = 2j', l = 2l'$  in the first sum of (14) and noting that

$$\sum_{\substack{1 \leq j' < l' \leq p^r \\ j',l',l'-j' \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{j'l'} = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j < l \leq p^r \\ j,l,l-j \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{jl},$$

(14) is equal to

$$\sum_{\substack{i+j+k=2p^r \\ i,j,k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} = \frac{1}{p^r} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j < l \leq p^r \\ j,l,l-j \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{jl} - \frac{1}{p^r} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j < l \leq 2p^r \\ j,l,l-j \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{jl}. \tag{15}$$

By Lemma 1, Lemma 2 and (15), we obtain

$$\sum_{\substack{i+j+k=2p^r \\ i,j,k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} = \frac{1}{p^r} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j < l \leq p^r \\ j,l,l-j \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{jl} - \frac{1}{p^r} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j < l \leq 2p^r \\ j,l,l-j \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{jl} \equiv p^{r-1} B_{p-3} \pmod{p^r}.$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 2.* For every triple  $(i, j, k)$  of positive integers which satisfies  $i + j + k = 2p^r, i, j, k \in \mathcal{P}_p$ , we take it to 3 cases.

Cases 1. Let  $A(p^r) = \{(i, j, k) \mid 1 \leq i, j, k \leq p^r - 1 \text{ and } i, j, k \in \mathcal{P}_p\}$ .  $(i, j, k) \leftrightarrow (p^r - i, p^r - j, p^r - k)$  is a bijection between the solutions of  $i + j + k = 2p^r, (i, j, k) \in A(p^r)$  and  $i + j + k = p^r, i, j, k \in \mathcal{P}_p$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=2p^r \\ (i,j,k) \in A(p^r)}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} &\equiv \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=p^r \\ i,j,k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{p^r-i}}{(p^r-i)(p^r-j)(p^r-k)} \\
 &\equiv \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=p^r \\ i,j,k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} \pmod{p^r}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

Cases 2. Let

$B(p^r) = \{(i, j, k) \mid p^r + 1 \leq i \leq 2p^r - 1, 1 \leq j, k \leq p^r - 1 \text{ and } i, j, k \in \mathcal{P}_p\}$ .  $(i, j, k) \leftrightarrow (p^r + i, j, k)$  is a bijection between the solutions of  $i + j + k = 2p^r, (i, j, k) \in B(p^r)$  and  $i + j + k = p^r, i, j, k \in \mathcal{P}_p$ , we have

$$\sum_{\substack{i+j+k=2p^r \\ (i,j,k) \in B(p^r)}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} \equiv \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=p^r \\ i,j,k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{p^r+i}}{(p^r+i)jk} \equiv - \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=p^r \\ i,j,k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} \pmod{p^r}. \tag{17}$$

Cases 3. Let

$$C(p^r) = \{(i, j, k) \mid p^r + 1 \leq j \leq 2p^r - 1, 1 \leq i, k \leq p^r - 1 \text{ and } i, j, k \in \mathcal{P}_p\}$$

and

$$D(p^r) = \{(i, j, k) \mid p^r + 1 \leq k \leq 2p^r - 1, 1 \leq i, j \leq p^r - 1 \text{ and } i, j, k \in \mathcal{P}_p\}.$$

$(i, j, k) \leftrightarrow (i, p^r + j, k)$  in the former and  $(i, j, k) \leftrightarrow (i, j, p^r + k)$  in the later are the bijections between the solutions of

$i + j + k = 2p^r, (i, j, k) \in C(p^r)$  or  $(i, j, k) \in D(p^r)$  and  $i + j + k = p^r, i, j, k \in \mathcal{P}_p$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=2p^r \\ (i,j,k) \in C(p^r)}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} + \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=2p^r \\ (i,j,k) \in D(p^r)}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} \\ & \equiv \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=p^r \\ i,j,k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^i}{i(p^r+j)k} + \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=p^r \\ i,j,k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ij(p^r+k)} \\ & \equiv 2 \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=p^r \\ i,j,k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} \pmod{p^r}. \end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

Combining (16)-(18), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=2p^r \\ i,j,k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} &= \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=2p^r \\ (i,j,k) \in A(p^r)}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} + \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=2p^r \\ (i,j,k) \in B(p^r)}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} \\ &+ \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=2p^r \\ (i,j,k) \in C(p^r)}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} + \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=2p^r \\ (i,j,k) \in D(p^r)}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} \\ &\equiv 2 \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=p^r \\ i,j,k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} \pmod{p^r}. \end{aligned}$$

By Theorem 1, we complete the proof of Theorem 2.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 3.* By symmetry, it is easy to see that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} &= \frac{1}{2p^r} \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1} (i_1 + i_2 + i_3 + i_4)}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} \\ &= \frac{1}{2p^r} \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \left( \frac{(-1)^{i_1}}{i_2 i_3 i_4} + 3 \frac{(-1)^{i_1}}{i_1 i_3 i_4} \right). \end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

Let  $u_3 = i_2 + i_3 + i_4$  in the first sum of the last equation in (19), then  $i_1 = 2p^r - u_3$ , (19) equals to

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{2p^r} \left[ \sum_{\substack{u_3=i_2+i_3+i_4 < 2p^r \\ u_3, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{2p^r-u_3} (i_2 + i_3 + i_4)}{i_2 i_3 i_4 u_3} + 3 \sum_{\substack{u_3=i_1+i_3+i_4 < 2p^r \\ u_3, i_1, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1} (i_1 + i_3 + i_4)}{i_1 i_3 i_4 u_3} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2p^r} \left[ 3 \sum_{\substack{u_3=i_2+i_3+i_4 < 2p^r \\ u_3, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{u_3}}{i_3 i_4 u_3} + 3 \sum_{\substack{u_3=i_1+i_3+i_4 < 2p^r \\ u_3, i_1, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1}}{i_3 i_4 u_3} + 6 \sum_{\substack{u_3=i_1+i_3+i_4 < 2p^r \\ u_3, i_1, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1}}{i_1 i_3 u_3} \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{20}$$



Let  $u_2 = i_3 + i_4$  in the second sum of the last equation in (20), since  $u_3 = i_1 + i_3 + i_4$ , then  $i_1 = u_3 - u_2$ , (20) equals to

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \frac{1}{2p^r} \left[ 3 \sum_{\substack{u_2=i_3+i_4 < u_3 < 2p^r \\ u_3, u_3-u_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{u_3} (i_3 + i_4)}{i_3 i_4 u_2 u_3} + 3 \sum_{\substack{u_2=i_3+i_4 < u_3 < 2p^r \\ u_3, u_3-u_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{u_3-u_2} (i_3 + i_4)}{i_3 i_4 u_3} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + 6 \sum_{\substack{u_2=i_1+i_3 < u_3 < 2p^r \\ u_3, u_3-u_2, i_1, i_3 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1} (i_1 + i_3)}{i_1 i_3 u_2 u_3} \right] \\
 &= \frac{1}{2p^r} \left[ 6 \sum_{\substack{0 < u_1 < u_2 < u_3 < 2p^r \\ u_1, u_3, u_3-u_2, u_2-u_1 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{u_3}}{u_1 u_2 u_3} + 6 \sum_{\substack{0 < u_1 < u_2 < u_3 < 2p^r \\ u_1, u_3, u_3-u_2, u_2-u_1 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{u_3-u_2}}{u_1 u_2 u_3} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + 6 \sum_{\substack{0 < u_1 < u_2 < u_3 < 2p^r \\ u_1, u_3, u_3-u_2, u_2-u_1 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{u_2-u_1}}{u_1 u_2 u_3} + 6 \sum_{\substack{0 < u_1 < u_2 < u_3 < 2p^r \\ u_1, u_3, u_3-u_2, u_2-u_1 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{u_1}}{u_1 u_2 u_3} \right] \\
 &= \frac{3}{p^r} \sum_{\substack{0 < u_1 < u_2 < u_3 < 2p^r \\ u_1, u_3, u_3-u_2, u_2-u_1 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{u_3} + (-1)^{u_2+u_3} + (-1)^{u_1+u_2} + (-1)^{u_1}}{u_1 u_2 u_3}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we have

$$\sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1+i_2}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} = \frac{4}{p^r} \sum_{\substack{0 < u_1 < u_2 < u_3 < 2p^r \\ u_1, u_3, u_3-u_2, u_2-u_1 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{u_2} + (-1)^{u_1+u_2+u_3} + (-1)^{u_1+u_3}}{u_1 u_2 u_3}.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 &4 \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} + 3 \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1+i_2}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} \\
 &= \frac{12}{p^r} \sum_{\substack{0 < u_1 < u_2 < u_3 < 2p^r \\ u_1, u_3, u_3-u_2, u_2-u_1 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{[1 + (-1)^{u_1}][1 + (-1)^{u_2}][1 + (-1)^{u_3}] - 1}{u_1 u_2 u_3} \\
 &= \frac{12}{p^r} \sum_{\substack{0 < u_1 < u_2 < u_3 < p^r \\ u_1, u_3, u_3-u_2, u_2-u_1 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 u_2 u_3} - \frac{12}{p^r} \sum_{\substack{0 < u_1 < u_2 < u_3 < 2p^r \\ u_1, u_3, u_3-u_2, u_2-u_1 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 u_2 u_3}.
 \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 3, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 &4 \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} + 3 \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1+i_2}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} - \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4}.
 \end{aligned}$$

By (2) and Lemma 6, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 &4 \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=2p \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} + 3 \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=2p \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1+i_2}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} \\
 &\equiv -\frac{24}{5} pB_{p-5} + \frac{240}{5} pB_{p-5} \equiv \frac{216}{5} pB_{p-5} \pmod{p^2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

By (4) and Lemma 7, if  $r \geq 2$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} & 4 \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} + 3 \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1+i_2}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} \\ & \equiv -\frac{12}{5} p^r B_{p-5} + \frac{48}{5} p^r B_{p-5} \equiv \frac{36}{5} p^r B_{p-5} \pmod{p^{r+1}}. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 3.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 4.* Similar to the proofs of Theorem 1 and Theorem 3, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4+i_5=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4, i_5 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 i_5} &= \frac{12}{p^r} \sum_{\substack{0 < u_1 < u_2 < u_3 < u_4 < 2p^r \\ u_1, u_4, u_2-u_1, u_3-u_2, u_4-u_3 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 u_2 u_3 u_4} \left[ (-1)^{u_1} \right. \\ & \left. + (-1)^{u_4} + (-1)^{u_1+u_2} + (-1)^{u_2+u_3} + (-1)^{u_3+u_4} \right] \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4+i_5=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4, i_5 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1+i_2}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 i_5} \\ &= \frac{6}{p^r} \sum_{\substack{0 < u_1 < u_2 < u_3 < u_4 < 2p^r \\ u_1, u_4, u_2-u_1, u_3-u_2, u_4-u_3 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 u_2 u_3 u_4} \left[ (-1)^{u_2} + (-1)^{u_3} \right. \\ & \left. + (-1)^{u_1+u_3} + (-1)^{u_1+u_4} + (-1)^{u_2+u_4} + (-1)^{u_1+u_2+u_3} \right. \\ & \left. + (-1)^{u_1+u_2+u_4} + (-1)^{u_1+u_3+u_4} + (-1)^{u_2+u_3+u_4} + (-1)^{u_1+u_2+u_3+u_4} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4+i_5=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4, i_5 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 i_5} + 2 \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4+i_5=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4, i_5 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1+i_2}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 i_5} \\ &= \frac{12}{p^r} \sum_{\substack{0 < u_1 < u_2 < u_3 < u_4 < 2p^r \\ u_1, u_4, u_2-u_1, u_3-u_2, u_4-u_3 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{\left[ 1+(-1)^{u_1} \right] \left[ 1+(-1)^{u_2} \right] \left[ 1+(-1)^{u_3} \right] \left[ 1+(-1)^{u_4} \right] - 1}{u_1 u_2 u_3 u_4} \\ &= \frac{12}{p^r} \sum_{\substack{0 < u_1 < u_2 < u_3 < u_4 < p^r \\ u_1, u_4, u_2-u_1, u_3-u_2, u_4-u_3 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 u_2 u_3 u_4} - \frac{12}{p^r} \sum_{\substack{0 < u_1 < u_2 < u_3 < u_4 < 2p^r \\ u_1, u_4, u_2-u_1, u_3-u_2, u_4-u_3 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{u_1 u_2 u_3 u_4}. \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 9, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4+i_5=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4, i_5 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 i_5} + 2 \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4+i_5=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4, i_5 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1+i_2}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 i_5} \\ &= \frac{1}{10} \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4+i_5=p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4, i_5 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 i_5} - \frac{2}{10} \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4+i_5=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4, i_5 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{1}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 i_5}. \end{aligned}$$

By (2) and Lemma 8 (1), we have

$$\sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4+i_5=2p \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4, i_5 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 i_5} + 2 \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4+i_5=2p \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4, i_5 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1+i_2}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 i_5} \\ \equiv -\frac{24}{10} B_{p-5} + \frac{144}{10} B_{p-5} \equiv 12 B_{p-5} \pmod{p}.$$

By Lemma 8 (2), if  $r \geq 2$ , then

$$\sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4+i_5=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4, i_5 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 i_5} + 2 \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4+i_5=2p^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4, i_5 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1+i_2}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 i_5} \\ \equiv -2p^{r-1} B_{p-5} + 8p^{r-1} B_{p-5} \equiv 6p^{r-1} B_{p-5} \pmod{p^r}.$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 4.  $\square$

### 4. Conclusions

Let  $p$  be an odd prime and  $r, m$  positive integers,  $(m, p) = 1$ , using Lemma 1 and Lemma 2, similar to the proof of Theorem 1, we can prove that

$$\sum_{\substack{i+j+k=2mp^r \\ i, j, k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} \equiv mp^{r-1} B_{p-3} \pmod{p^r}.$$

In particular, if  $m = 1$ , it becomes Theorem 1.

Let  $p$  be odd prime and  $r, m$  positive integers,  $(m, p) = 1$ , similar to the proof of Theorem 2, we can prove that

$$\sum_{\substack{i+j+k=mp^r \\ i, j, k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} \equiv \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=2mp^r \\ i, j, k \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^i}{ijk} \equiv \frac{m}{2} p^{r-1} B_{p-3} \pmod{p^r}.$$

In particular, if  $m = 1$ , it becomes Theorem 2.

Let  $p > 4$  be a prime and  $r, m$  positive integers,  $(m, p) = 1$ , we can deduce the congruence  $\pmod{p^{r+1}}$  for

$$4 \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=2mp^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} + 3 \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4=2mp^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1+i_2}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4}.$$

Let  $p > 5$  be a prime and  $r, m$  positive integers,  $(m, p) = 1$ , we can deduce the congruence  $\pmod{p^r}$  for

$$\sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4+i_5=2mp^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4, i_5 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 i_5} + 2 \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3+i_4+i_5=2mp^r \\ i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4, i_5 \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{(-1)^{i_1+i_2}}{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 i_5}.$$

Similarly, we can consider the congruence  $\pmod{p^{r+1}}$  for

$$\sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_n=p^r \\ i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n \in \mathcal{P}_p}} \frac{\sigma_1^{i_1} \sigma_2^{i_2} \dots \sigma_n^{i_n}}{i_1 i_2 \dots i_n},$$

where  $\sigma_i \in \{1, -1\}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , but it seems much more complicated.

## Founding

This work is supported by the Natural Science Foundation of Zhejiang Province, Project (No. LY18A010016) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China, Project (No. 12071421).

## Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

## References

- [1] Zhao, J. (2007) Bernoulli Numbers, Wolstenholme's Theorem, and  $p^5$  Variations of Lucas' Theorem. *Journal of Number Theory*, **123**, 18-26. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnt.2006.05.005>
- [2] Ji, C. (2005) A Simple Proof of a Curious Congruence by Zhao. *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society*, **133**, 3469-3472. <https://doi.org/10.1090/S0002-9939-05-07939-6>
- [3] Zhou, X. and Cai, T. (2007) A Generalization of a Curious Congruence on Harmonic Sums. *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society*, **135**, 1329-1333. <https://doi.org/10.1090/S0002-9939-06-08777-6>
- [4] Xia, B. and Cai, T. (2010) Bernoulli Numbers and Congruences for Harmonic Sums. *International Journal of Number Theory*, **6**, 849-855. <https://doi.org/10.1142/S1793042110003265>
- [5] Wang, L. and Cai, T. (2014) A Curious Congruence Modulo Prime Power. *Journal of Number Theory*, **144**, 15-24. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnt.2014.04.004>
- [6] Zhao, J. (2014) Congruences Involving Multiple Harmonic Sums and Finite Multiple Zeta Values. arxiv:1404.3549.
- [7] Wang, L. (2015) A New Super Congruence Involving Multiple Harmonic Sums. *Journal of Number Theory*, **154**, 16-31. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnt.2015.01.021>
- [8] Wang, L. (2014) A Curious Congruence Involving Alternating Harmonic Sums. *Journal of Combinatorics and Number Theory*, **6**, 209-214.