

**On the number of representations of  $n$  as a  
linear combination of four triangular numbers**

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**Abstract**

Let  $\mathbb{Z}$  and  $\mathbb{N}$  be the set of integers and the set of positive integers, respectively. For  $a, b, c, d, n \in \mathbb{N}$  let  $t(a, b, c, d; n)$  be the number of representations of  $n$  by  $ax(x-1)/2 + by(y-1)/2 + cz(z-1)/2 + dw(w-1)/2$  ( $x, y, z, w \in \mathbb{Z}$ ). In this paper we obtain explicit formulas for  $t(a, b, c, d; n)$  in the cases  $(a, b, c, d) = (1, 2, 2, 4), (1, 2, 4, 4), (1, 1, 4, 4), (1, 4, 4, 4), (1, 3, 9, 9), (1, 1, 3, 9), (1, 3, 3, 9), (1, 1, 9, 9), (1, 9, 9, 9)$  and  $(1, 1, 1, 9)$ .

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## 1. Introduction

Let  $\mathbb{Z}$  and  $\mathbb{N}$  be the set of integers and the set of positive integers, respectively. Let  $\mathbb{Z}^4 = \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\mathbb{N}^4 = \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ . For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  let

$$\sigma(n) = \sum_{d|n, d \in \mathbb{N}} d.$$

For convenience we define  $\sigma(n) = 0$  for  $n \notin \mathbb{N}$ . For  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$  set

$$N(a, b, c, d; n) = |\{(x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = ax^2 + by^2 + cz^2 + dw^2\}|$$

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and

$$t(a, b, c, d; n) = \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = a \frac{x(x-1)}{2} + b \frac{y(y-1)}{2} + c \frac{z(z-1)}{2} + d \frac{w(w-1)}{2} \right\} \right|.$$

The numbers  $\frac{x(x-1)}{2}$  ( $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ ) are called triangular numbers.

In 1828 Jacobi showed that

$$(1.1) \quad N(1, 1, 1, 1; n) = 8 \sum_{d|n, 4 \nmid d} d.$$

In 1847 Eisenstein (see [11]) gave formulas for  $N(1, 1, 1, 3; n)$  and  $N(1, 1, 1, 5; n)$ . From 1859 to 1866 Liouville made about 90 conjectures on  $N(a, b, c, d; n)$  in a series of papers. Most conjectures of Liouville have been proved. See [2-7], Cooper's survey paper [10], Dickson's historical comments [11] and Williams' book [16].

Let

$$t'(a, b, c, d; n) = \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{N}^4 \mid n = a \frac{x(x-1)}{2} + b \frac{y(y-1)}{2} + c \frac{z(z-1)}{2} + d \frac{w(w-1)}{2} \right\} \right|.$$

As  $\frac{1}{2}x(x-1) = \frac{1}{2}(-x+1)(-x)$  we have

$$t(a, b, c, d; n) = 16t'(a, b, c, d; n).$$

In [13] Legendre stated that

$$(1.2) \quad t'(1, 1, 1, 1; n) = \sigma(2n+1).$$

In 2003, Williams [15] showed that

$$t'(1, 1, 2, 2; n) = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{d|4n+3} (d - (-1)^{\frac{d-1}{2}}).$$

For  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $4 < a + b + c + d \leq 8$  let

$$C(a, b, c, d) = 16 + 4i_1(i_1 - 1)i_2 + 8i_1i_3,$$

where  $i_j$  is the number of elements in  $\{a, b, c, d\}$  which are equal to  $j$ . When  $4 < a + b + c + d \leq 7$ , in 2005 Adiga, Cooper and Han [1] showed that

$$(1.3) \quad C(a, b, c, d)t'(a, b, c, d; n) = N(a, b, c, d; 8n + a + b + c + d).$$

When  $a + b + c + d = 8$ , in 2008 Baruah, Cooper and Hirschhorn [8] proved that

$$(1.4) \quad C(a, b, c, d)t'(a, b, c, d; n) = N(a, b, c, d; 8n + 8) - N(a, b, c, d; 2n + 2).$$

In 2009, Cooper [10] determined  $t'(a, b, c, d; n)$  for  $(a, b, c, d) = (1, 1, 1, 3)$ ,  $(1, 3, 3, 3)$ ,  $(1, 2, 2, 3)$ ,  $(1, 3, 6, 6)$ ,  $(1, 3, 4, 4)$ ,  $(1, 1, 2, 6)$  and  $(1, 3, 12, 12)$ .

In this paper, by using some formulas for  $N(a, b, c, d; n)$  in [2-7] and Ramanujan's theta functions we obtain explicit formulas for  $t(a, b, c, d; n)$  in the cases  $(a, b, c, d) = (1, 2, 2, 4)$ ,  $(1, 2, 4, 4)$ ,  $(1, 1, 4, 4)$ ,  $(1, 4, 4, 4)$ ,  $(1, 3, 3, 9)$ ,  $(1, 1, 9, 9)$ ,  $(1, 9, 9, 9)$ ,  $(1, 1, 1, 9)$ ,  $(1, 3, 9, 9)$  and  $(1, 1, 3, 9)$ .

For  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $2 \mid m$  and  $2 \nmid n$  we define

$$S_m(n) = \sum_{\substack{(r,s) \in \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \\ n=r^2+ms^2 \\ r \equiv 1 \pmod{4}}} r.$$

As  $r^2 + 2s^2 \equiv 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 \pmod{8}$  for  $r, s \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we see that  $S_2(n) = 0$  for  $n \equiv 5, 7 \pmod{8}$ . Also,  $r^2 + 4s^2 \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{4}$  for  $r, s \in \mathbb{Z}$  implies that  $S_4(n) = 0$  for  $n \equiv 2, 3 \pmod{4}$ . In this paper, following [7] we also define

$$S(n) = \sum_{d|n} \frac{n}{d} \left( \frac{2}{d} \right),$$

where  $\left( \frac{a}{m} \right)$  is the Legendre-Jacobi-Kronecker symbol.

## 2. Formulas for $t(1, 3, 9, 9; n)$ and $t(1, 1, 3, 9; n)$

Ramanujan's theta functions  $\varphi(q)$  and  $\psi(q)$  are defined by

$$\varphi(q) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} q^{n^2} = 1 + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} q^{n^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \psi(q) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^{n(n+1)/2} \quad (|q| < 1).$$

It is evident that for  $|q| < 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} N(a, b, c, d; n) q^n &= \varphi(q^a) \varphi(q^b) \varphi(q^c) \varphi(q^d), \\ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} t'(a, b, c, d; n) q^n &= \psi(q^a) \psi(q^b) \psi(q^c) \psi(q^d). \end{aligned}$$

From [8, Lemma 4.1] we know that for  $|q| < 1$ ,

$$(2.1) \quad \varphi(q) = \varphi(q^4) + 2q\psi(q^8)$$

and

$$(2.2) \quad \psi(q)\psi(q^3) = \varphi(q^6)\psi(q^4) + q\psi(q^{12})\varphi(q^2).$$

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then*

$$N(1, 3, 9, 9; 8n + 22) = 40t'(1, 3, 9, 9; n).$$

*Proof.* By (2.1), for  $|q| < 1$  we have

$$\varphi(q^k) = \varphi(q^{4k}) + 2q^k\psi(q^{8k}) = \varphi(q^{16k}) + 2q^{4k}\psi(q^{32k}) + 2q^k\psi(q^{8k}).$$

Thus, for  $|q| < 1$  we have

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} N(1, 3, 9, 9; n) q^n$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \varphi(q)\varphi(q^3)\varphi(q^9)^2 \\
&= (\varphi(q^{16}) + 2q^4\psi(q^{32}) + 2q\psi(q^8))(\varphi(q^{48}) + 2q^{12}\psi(q^{96}) + 2q^3\psi(q^{24})) \\
&\quad \times (\varphi(q^{144}) + 2q^{36}\psi(q^{288}) + 2q^9\psi(q^{72}))^2 \\
&= (\varphi(q^{16})\varphi(q^{48}) + 4q^{16}\psi(q^{32})\psi(q^{96}) + 2q\psi(q^8)\varphi(q^{48}) + 2q^3\psi(q^{24})\varphi(q^{16}) \\
&\quad + 2q^4\psi(q^{32})\varphi(q^{48}) + 4q^4\psi(q^8)\psi(q^{24}) + 2q^{12}\psi(q^{96})\varphi(q^{16}) + 4q^7\psi(q^{24})\psi(q^{32}) \\
&\quad + 4q^{13}\psi(q^8)\psi(q^{96}))(\varphi(q^{144})^2 + 4q^{72}\psi(q^{288})^2 + 4q^{36}\varphi(q^{144})\psi(q^{288}) + 4q^{18}\psi(q^{72})^2 \\
&\quad + 4q^9\varphi(q^{144})\psi(q^{72}) + 8q^{45}\psi(q^{288})\psi(q^{72})).
\end{aligned}$$

Since

$$\varphi(q^{8k}) = 1 + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} q^{8kn^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \psi(q^{8k}) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^{8kn(n+1)/2} \quad (|q| < 1),$$

we see that for any nonnegative integers  $k_1, k_2, m_1$  and  $m_2$ ,

$$\varphi(q^{8k_1})^{m_1}\psi(q^{8k_2})^{m_2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n q^{8n} \quad (|q| < 1).$$

Now from the above we deduce that for  $|q| < 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
&\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} N(1, 3, 9, 9; 8n + 6)q^{8n+6} \\
&= 2q\psi(q^8)\varphi(q^{48}) \cdot 8q^{45}\psi(q^{288})\psi(q^{72}) + 2q^4\psi(q^{32})\varphi(q^{48}) \cdot 4q^{18}\psi(q^{72})^2 \\
&\quad + 4q^4\psi(q^8)\psi(q^{24}) \cdot 4q^{18}\psi(q^{72})^2 + 2q^{12}\psi(q^{96})\varphi(q^{16}) \cdot 4q^{18}\psi(q^{72})^2 \\
&\quad + 4q^{13}\psi(q^8)\psi(q^{96}) \cdot 4q^9\varphi(q^{144})\psi(q^{72}) \\
&= 16q^{46}\varphi(q^{48})\psi(q^8)\psi(q^{72})\psi(q^{288}) + 8q^{22}\varphi(q^{48})\psi(q^{32})\psi(q^{72})^2 + 16q^{22}\psi(q^8)\psi(q^{24})\psi(q^{72})^2 \\
&\quad + 8q^{30}\varphi(q^{16})\psi(q^{96})\psi(q^{72})^2 + 16q^{22}\varphi(q^{144})\psi(q^8)\psi(q^{72})\psi(q^{96})
\end{aligned}$$

and so

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{1}{8} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} N(1, 3, 9, 9; 8n + 6)q^{8n-16} \\
&= 2q^{24}\varphi(q^{48})\psi(q^8)\psi(q^{72})\psi(q^{288}) + \varphi(q^{48})\psi(q^{32})\psi(q^{72})^2 + 2\psi(q^8)\psi(q^{24})\psi(q^{72})^2 \\
&\quad + q^8\varphi(q^{16})\psi(q^{96})\psi(q^{72})^2 + 2\varphi(q^{144})\psi(q^8)\psi(q^{72})\psi(q^{96}).
\end{aligned}$$

Replacing  $q$  with  $q^{1/8}$  in the above we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{1}{8} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} N(1, 3, 9, 9; 8n + 22)q^n \\
&= \frac{1}{8} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} N(1, 3, 9, 9; 8n + 6)q^{n-2} \\
&= 2q^3\varphi(q^6)\psi(q)\psi(q^9)\psi(q^{36}) + \varphi(q^6)\psi(q^4)\psi(q^9)^2 + 2\psi(q)\psi(q^3)\psi(q^9)^2 \\
&\quad + q\varphi(q^2)\psi(q^{12})\psi(q^9)^2 + 2\varphi(q^{18})\psi(q)\psi(q^9)\psi(q^{12}).
\end{aligned}$$

Now applying (2.2) we get

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1}{8} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} N(1, 3, 9, 9; 8n + 22)q^n \\
&= 2\psi(q)\psi(q^3)\psi(q^9)^2 + \psi(q^9)^2\psi(q)\psi(q^3) + 2\psi(q)\psi(q^9)\psi(q^3)\psi(q^9) \\
&= 5\psi(q)\psi(q^3)\psi(q^9)^2 = 5 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} t'(1, 3, 9, 9; n)q^n.
\end{aligned}$$

Comparing the coefficients of  $q^n$  in the above expansion we obtain the result.  $\square$

For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  following [6] we define

$$\begin{aligned}
A(n) &= \sum_{d|n} d \left( \frac{12}{n/d} \right), & B(n) &= \sum_{d|n} d \left( \frac{-3}{d} \right) \left( \frac{-4}{n/d} \right), \\
C(n) &= \sum_{d|n} d \left( \frac{-3}{n/d} \right) \left( \frac{-4}{d} \right) & \text{and} & \quad D(n) = \sum_{d|n} d \left( \frac{12}{d} \right).
\end{aligned}$$

Let  $(a, b)$  be the greatest common divisor of integers  $a$  and  $b$ . Suppose that  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n = 2^\alpha 3^\beta n_1$ , where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are non-negative integers,  $n_1 \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $(n_1, 6) = 1$ . From [6, Theorem 3.1] we know that

$$\begin{aligned}
(2.3) \quad A(n) &= 2^\alpha 3^\beta A(n_1), & B(n) &= (-1)^{\alpha+\beta} 2^\alpha \left( \frac{-3}{n_1} \right) A(n_1), \\
C(n) &= (-1)^{\alpha+\beta+\frac{n_1-1}{2}} 3^\beta A(n_1) & \text{and} & \quad D(n) = \left( \frac{3}{n_1} \right) A(n_1).
\end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 2.1** ([2, Theorem 1.2]). *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then*

$$N(1, 3, 9, 9; n) = \begin{cases} 2A(n/3) + 2B(n/3) - C(n/3) - D(n/3) & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}, \\ 2A(n) - \frac{2}{3}B(n) + C(n) - \frac{1}{3}D(n) & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}, \\ 0 & \text{if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}. \end{cases}$$

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then*

$$\begin{aligned}
& t(1, 3, 9, 9; n) \\
&= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 3 \mid n - 2, \\ \frac{4}{3} \sum_{d|4n+11} d \left( \frac{3}{d} \right) & \text{if } 3 \mid n, \\ 2 \left( 3^{\beta-1} \left( \frac{3}{n_1} \right) - 1 \right) \sum_{d|n_1} d \left( \frac{3}{d} \right) & \text{if } 3 \mid n - 1 \text{ and } 4n + 11 = 3^\beta n_1 \ (3 \nmid n_1). \end{cases}
\end{aligned}$$

Proof. By Theorem 2.1,

$$t(1, 3, 9, 9; n) = 16t'(1, 3, 9, 9; n) = \frac{2}{5}N(1, 3, 9, 9; 8n + 22).$$

Now applying Lemma 2.1 and (2.3) we deduce that

$$t(1, 3, 9, 9; n) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 3 \mid n - 2, \\ \frac{4}{3}A(4n + 11) & \text{if } 3 \mid n, \\ 2(3^{\beta-1} - (\frac{3}{n_1}))A(n_1) & \text{if } 3 \mid n - 1 \text{ and } 4n + 11 = 3^\beta n_1 \ (3 \nmid n_1). \end{cases}$$

To see the result, we note that

$$(2.4) \quad A(m) = \sum_{d|m} d\left(\frac{12}{m}\right)\left(\frac{12}{d}\right) = \left(\frac{3}{m}\right) \sum_{d|m} d\left(\frac{3}{d}\right) \quad \text{for } m \in \mathbb{N} \text{ with } (6, m) = 1. \quad \square$$

**Lemma 2.2** ([2, Theorem 1.3]). *Let*  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . *Then*

$$N(1, 1, 3, 9; n) = \begin{cases} 2A(n/3) + 2B(n/3) - C(n/3) - D(n/3) & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}, \\ 4A(n) - \frac{4}{3}B(n) + 2C(n) - \frac{2}{3}D(n) & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}, \\ 2A(n) - \frac{2}{3}B(n) + C(n) - \frac{1}{3}D(n) & \text{if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}. \end{cases}$$

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let*  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . *Then*

$$t(1, 1, 3, 9; n) = \begin{cases} -\frac{8}{3} \sum_{d|4n+7} d\left(\frac{3}{d}\right) & \text{if } 3 \mid n, \\ \frac{8}{3} \sum_{d|4n+7} d\left(\frac{3}{d}\right) & \text{if } 3 \mid n - 1, \\ 2(3^{\beta-1}(\frac{3}{n_1}) - 1) \sum_{d|n_1} d\left(\frac{3}{d}\right) & \text{if } 3 \mid n - 2 \text{ and } 4n + 7 = 3^\beta n_1 \ (3 \nmid n_1). \end{cases}$$

Proof. Suppose  $|q| < 1$ . Then clearly

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} N(1, 1, 3, 9; n)q^n = \varphi(q)^2 \varphi(q^3) \varphi(q^9).$$

Since  $\varphi(q^k) = \varphi(q^{4k}) + 2q^k \psi(q^{8k}) = \varphi(q^{16k}) + 2q^{4k} \psi(q^{32k}) + 2q^k \psi(q^{8k})$  by (2.1), we see that

$$\begin{aligned} & \varphi(q)^2 \varphi(q^3) \varphi(q^9) \\ &= (\varphi(q^{16}) + 2q^4 \psi(q^{32}) + 2q \psi(q^8))^2 (\varphi(q^{48}) + 2q^{12} \psi(q^{96}) + 2q^3 \psi(q^{24})) \\ & \quad \times (\varphi(q^{144}) + 2q^{36} \psi(q^{288}) + 2q^9 \psi(q^{72})) \\ &= (\varphi(q^{16})^2 + 4q^4 \psi(q^{32}) \varphi(q^{16}) + 4q^8 \psi(q^{32})^2 \\ & \quad + 4q^2 \psi(q^8)^2 + 4q \varphi(q^{16}) \psi(q^8) + 8q^5 \psi(q^8) \psi(q^{32})) \\ & \quad \times (\varphi(q^{48}) \varphi(q^{144}) + 2q^{36} \varphi(q^{48}) \psi(q^{288}) + 2q^9 \varphi(q^{48}) \psi(q^{72}) + 2q^{12} \psi(q^{96}) \varphi(q^{144}) \\ & \quad + 4q^{48} \psi(q^{96}) \psi(q^{288}) + 4q^{21} \psi(q^{96}) \psi(q^{72}) + 2q^3 \psi(q^{24}) \varphi(q^{144}) \\ & \quad + 4q^{39} \psi(q^{24}) \psi(q^{288}) + 4q^{12} \psi(q^{24}) \psi(q^{72})). \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $\varphi(q^{8k_1})^{m_1}\psi(q^{8k_2})^{m_2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n q^{8n}$  for  $|q| < 1$  and any nonnegative integers  $k_1, k_2, m_1$  and  $m_2$ . From the above we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} N(1, 1, 3, 9; 8n + 6)q^{8n+6} \\ &= 4q\varphi(q^{16})\psi(q^8) \cdot 4q^{21}\psi(q^{96})\psi(q^{72}) + 8q^5\psi(q^8)\psi(q^{32}) \cdot 2q^9\varphi(q^{48})\psi(q^{72}) \\ & \quad + 4q^2\psi(q^8)^2 \cdot 2q^{36}\varphi(q^{48})\psi(q^{288}) + 4q^2\psi(q^8)^2 \cdot 2q^{12}\psi(q^{96})\varphi(q^{144}) \\ & \quad + 4q^2\psi(q^8)^2 \cdot 4q^{12}\psi(q^{24})\psi(q^{72}) \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{8} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} N(1, 1, 3, 9; 8n + 6)q^{8n-8} \\ &= 2q^8\varphi(q^{16})\psi(q^8)\psi(q^{72})\psi(q^{96}) + 2\psi(q^8)\psi(q^{32})\varphi(q^{48})\psi(q^{72}) \\ & \quad + q^{24}\psi(q^8)^2\varphi(q^{48})\psi(q^{288}) + \psi(q^8)^2\psi(q^{96})\varphi(q^{144}) + 2\psi(q^8)^2\psi(q^{24})\psi(q^{72}). \end{aligned}$$

Replacing  $q$  with  $q^{1/8}$  in the above we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{8} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} N(1, 1, 3, 9; 8n + 14)q^n \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} N(1, 1, 3, 9; 8n + 6)q^{n-1} \\ &= 2q\varphi(q^2)\psi(q)\psi(q^9)\psi(q^{12}) + 2\psi(q)\psi(q^4)\varphi(q^6)\psi(q^9) + q^3\psi(q)^2\varphi(q^6)\psi(q^{36}) \\ & \quad + \psi(q)^2\psi(q^{12})\varphi(q^{18}) + 2\psi(q)^2\psi(q^3)\psi(q^9). \end{aligned}$$

Now applying (2.2) we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{8} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} N(1, 1, 3, 9; 8n + 14)q^n \\ &= 2\psi(q)^2\psi(q^3)\psi(q^9) + \psi(q)^2\psi(q^3)\psi(q^9) + 2\psi(q)^2\psi(q^3)\psi(q^9) \\ &= 5\psi(q)^2\psi(q^3)\psi(q^9) = 5 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} t'(1, 1, 3, 9; n)q^n = \frac{5}{16} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} t(1, 1, 3, 9; n)q^n. \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the coefficients of  $q^n$  we obtain

$$t(1, 1, 3, 9; n) = \frac{2}{5}N(1, 1, 3, 9; 8n + 14).$$

Now applying Lemma 2.2, (2.3) and (2.4) we deduce the result.  $\square$

### 3. Formulas for $t(1, 1, 4, 4; n)$ , $t(1, 4, 4, 4; n)$ , $t(1, 2, 2, 4; n)$ and $t(1, 2, 4, 4; n)$

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $a, b, c, d, n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then*

$$t(a, b, c, d; n)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= N(a, b, c, d; 8n + a + b + c + d) - N(a, b, c, 4d; 8n + a + b + c + d) \\
&\quad - N(a, b, 4c, d; 8n + a + b + c + d) + N(a, b, 4c, 4d; 8n + a + b + c + d) \\
&\quad - N(a, 4b, c, d; 8n + a + b + c + d) + N(a, 4b, c, 4d; 8n + a + b + c + d) \\
&\quad + N(a, 4b, 4c, d; 8n + a + b + c + d) - N(a, 4b, 4c, 4d; 8n + a + b + c + d) \\
&\quad - N(4a, b, c, d; 8n + a + b + c + d) + N(4a, b, c, 4d; 8n + a + b + c + d) \\
&\quad + N(4a, b, 4c, d; 8n + a + b + c + d) - N(4a, b, 4c, 4d; 8n + a + b + c + d) \\
&\quad + N(4a, 4b, c, d; 8n + a + b + c + d) - N(4a, 4b, c, 4d; 8n + a + b + c + d) \\
&\quad - N(4a, 4b, 4c, d; 8n + a + b + c + d) + N(4a, 4b, 4c, 4d; 8n + a + b + c + d).
\end{aligned}$$

Proof. It is clear that

$$\begin{aligned}
&t(a, b, c, d; n) \\
&= \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = a \frac{x(x-1)}{2} + b \frac{y(y-1)}{2} + c \frac{z(z-1)}{2} + d \frac{w(w-1)}{2} \right\} \right| \\
&= \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid 8n + a + b + c + d \right. \right. \\
&\quad \left. \left. = a(2x-1)^2 + b(2y-1)^2 + c(2z-1)^2 + d(2w-1)^2 \right\} \right| \\
&= \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = ax^2 + by^2 + cz^2 + dw^2, 2 \mid xyzw - 1 \right\} \right| \\
&= \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = ax^2 + by^2 + cz^2 + dw^2, 2 \mid yzw - 1 \right\} \right| \\
&\quad - \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = 4ax^2 + by^2 + cz^2 + dw^2, 2 \mid yzw - 1 \right\} \right| \\
&= \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = ax^2 + by^2 + cz^2 + dw^2, 2 \mid zw - 1 \right\} \right| \\
&\quad - \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = ax^2 + 4by^2 + cz^2 + dw^2, 2 \mid zw - 1 \right\} \right| \\
&\quad - \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = 4ax^2 + by^2 + cz^2 + dw^2, 2 \mid zw - 1 \right\} \right| \\
&\quad + \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = 4ax^2 + 4by^2 + cz^2 + dw^2, 2 \mid zw - 1 \right\} \right| \\
&= \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = ax^2 + by^2 + cz^2 + dw^2, 2 \mid w - 1 \right\} \right| \\
&\quad - \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = ax^2 + by^2 + 4cz^2 + dw^2, 2 \mid w - 1 \right\} \right| \\
&\quad - \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = ax^2 + 4by^2 + cz^2 + dw^2, 2 \mid w - 1 \right\} \right| \\
&\quad + \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = ax^2 + 4by^2 + 4cz^2 + dw^2, 2 \mid w - 1 \right\} \right| \\
&\quad - \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = 4ax^2 + by^2 + cz^2 + dw^2, 2 \mid w - 1 \right\} \right| \\
&\quad + \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = 4ax^2 + by^2 + 4cz^2 + dw^2, 2 \mid w - 1 \right\} \right| \\
&\quad + \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = 4ax^2 + 4by^2 + cz^2 + dw^2, 2 \mid w - 1 \right\} \right| \\
&\quad - \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = 4ax^2 + 4by^2 + 4cz^2 + dw^2, 2 \mid w - 1 \right\} \right| \\
&= \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = ax^2 + by^2 + cz^2 + dw^2 \right\} \right| \\
&\quad - \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = ax^2 + by^2 + cz^2 + 4dw^2 \right\} \right| \\
&\quad - \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = ax^2 + by^2 + 4cz^2 + dw^2 \right\} \right| \\
&\quad + \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = ax^2 + by^2 + 4cz^2 + 4dw^2 \right\} \right| \\
&\quad - \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = ax^2 + 4by^2 + cz^2 + dw^2 \right\} \right| \\
&\quad + \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = ax^2 + 4by^2 + cz^2 + 4dw^2 \right\} \right| \\
&\quad + \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = ax^2 + 4by^2 + 4cz^2 + dw^2 \right\} \right| \\
&\quad - \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = ax^2 + 4by^2 + 4cz^2 + 4dw^2 \right\} \right| \\
&\quad - \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = 4ax^2 + by^2 + cz^2 + dw^2 \right\} \right|
\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
& + |\{(x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = 4ax^2 + by^2 + cz^2 + 4dw^2\}| \\
& + |\{(x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = 4ax^2 + by^2 + 4cz^2 + dw^2\}| \\
& - |\{(x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = 4ax^2 + by^2 + 4cz^2 + 4dw^2\}| \\
& + |\{(x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = 4ax^2 + 4by^2 + cz^2 + dw^2\}| \\
& - |\{(x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = 4ax^2 + 4by^2 + cz^2 + 4dw^2\}| \\
& - |\{(x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = 4ax^2 + 4by^2 + 4cz^2 + dw^2\}| \\
& + |\{(x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = 4ax^2 + 4by^2 + 4cz^2 + 4dw^2\}|.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus the result follows.  $\square$

For general positive integer  $n$ , in a series of papers A. Alaca, S. Alaca, M.F. Lemire and K.S. Williams (see [4,5,7]) gave explicit formulas for  $N(a, b, c, d; n)$  in the cases  $(a, b, c, d) = (1, 1, 4, 4), (1, 1, 16, 16), (1, 1, 4, 16), (1, 4, 4, 4), (1, 4, 16, 16), (1, 4, 4, 16), (1, 2, 2, 4), (1, 2, 2, 16), (1, 2, 16, 16), (1, 2, 4, 16), (1, 2, 4, 8), (1, 2, 4, 4), (1, 2, 8, 16), (1, 4, 8, 8)$  and  $(1, 8, 8, 16)$ . Based on Lemma 3.1, we need some special results in [4,5,7] to prove our formulas for  $t(1, 1, 4, 4; n), t(1, 4, 4, 4; n), t(1, 2, 2, 4; n)$  and  $t(1, 2, 4, 4; n)$ .

**Lemma 3.2** ([4, Theorem 1.11]). *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ . Then  $N(1, 1, 4, 4; n) = 4\sigma(n/2)$ .*

**Lemma 3.3** ([5, Theorems 4.6 and 4.8]). *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{8}$ . Then*

$$N(1, 1, 16, 16; n) = N(1, 1, 4, 16; n) = 2\sigma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + 2\left(\frac{2}{n/2}\right)S_4\left(\frac{n}{2}\right).$$

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then*

$$t(1, 1, 4, 4; n) = 2(\sigma(4n + 5) + (-1)^n S_4(4n + 5)).$$

Proof. Since  $x^2 \not\equiv 2 \pmod{4}$  for  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ , from Lemma 3.1 we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
& t(1, 1, 4, 4; n) \\
& = N(1, 1, 4, 4; 8n + 10) - N(1, 1, 4, 16; 8n + 10) \\
& \quad - N(1, 1, 16, 4; 8n + 10) + N(1, 1, 16, 16; 8n + 10) - N(1, 4, 4, 4; 8n + 10) \\
& \quad + N(1, 4, 4, 16; 8n + 10) + N(1, 4, 16, 4; 8n + 10) - N(1, 4, 16, 16; 8n + 10) \\
& \quad - N(4, 1, 4, 4; 8n + 10) + N(4, 1, 4, 16; 8n + 10) + N(4, 1, 16, 4; 8n + 10) \\
& \quad - N(4, 1, 16, 16; 8n + 10) + N(4, 4, 4, 4; 8n + 10) - N(4, 4, 4, 16; 8n + 10) \\
& \quad - N(4, 4, 16, 4; 8n + 10) + N(4, 4, 16, 16; 8n + 10) \\
& = N(1, 1, 4, 4; 8n + 10) - 2N(1, 1, 4, 16; 8n + 10) + N(1, 1, 16, 16; 8n + 10).
\end{aligned}$$

Now applying Lemmas 3.2 and 3.3 we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
t(1, 1, 4, 4; n) & = 4\sigma(4n + 5) - 2\left(2\sigma(4n + 5) + 2\left(\frac{2}{4n + 5}\right)S_4(4n + 5)\right) \\
& \quad + 2\sigma(4n + 5) + 2\left(\frac{2}{4n + 5}\right)S_4(4n + 5) \\
& = 2\left(\sigma(4n + 5) - \left(\frac{2}{4n + 5}\right)S_4(4n + 5)\right).
\end{aligned}$$

This yields the result.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.4** ([4, Theorem 1.18]). *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . Then*

$$N(1, 4, 4, 4; n) = 2\sigma(n).$$

**Lemma 3.5** ([5, Theorem 4.5]). *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . Then*

$$N(1, 4, 16, 16; n) = \frac{1}{2}\sigma(n) + \frac{1}{2}(2 + (-1)^{\frac{n-1}{4}})S_4(n).$$

**Lemma 3.6** ([5, Theorem 4.7]). *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . Then*

$$N(1, 4, 4, 16; n) = \sigma(n) + S_4(n).$$

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then*

$$t(1, 4, 4, 4; n) = \frac{1}{2}(\sigma(8n + 13) - 3S_4(8n + 13)).$$

Proof. Since  $x^2 \equiv 0, 1, 4 \pmod{8}$  for  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ , using Lemma 3.1 we see that

$$\begin{aligned} t(1, 4, 4, 4; n) &= N(1, 4, 4, 4; 8n + 13) - N(1, 4, 4, 16; 8n + 13) \\ &\quad - N(1, 4, 16, 4; 8n + 13) + N(1, 4, 16, 16; 8n + 13) - N(1, 16, 4, 4; 8n + 13) \\ &\quad + N(1, 16, 4, 16; 8n + 13) + N(1, 16, 16, 4; 8n + 13) - N(1, 16, 16, 16; 8n + 13) \\ &\quad - N(4, 4, 4, 4; 8n + 13) + N(4, 4, 4, 16; 8n + 13) + N(4, 4, 16, 4; 8n + 13) \\ &\quad - N(4, 4, 16, 16; 8n + 13) + N(4, 16, 4, 4; 8n + 13) - N(4, 16, 4, 16; 8n + 13) \\ &\quad - N(4, 16, 16, 4; 8n + 13) + N(4, 16, 16, 16; 8n + 13) \\ &= N(1, 4, 4, 4; 8n + 13) - 3N(1, 4, 4, 16; 8n + 13) + 3N(1, 4, 16, 16; 8n + 13). \end{aligned}$$

Now applying Lemmas 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6 we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} t(1, 4, 4, 4; n) &= 2\sigma(8n + 13) - 3(\sigma(8n + 13) + S_4(8n + 13)) + \frac{3}{2}(\sigma(8n + 13) + S_4(8n + 13)) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(\sigma(8n + 13) - 3S_4(8n + 13)). \end{aligned}$$

This proves the theorem.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.7** ([4, Theorem 1.14]). *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $2 \nmid n$ . Then*

$$N(1, 2, 2, 4; n) = 2\sigma(n).$$

**Lemma 3.8** ([5, Theorems 4.9, 4.11 and 4.13]). *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ . Then*

$$N(1, 2, 2, 16; n) = N(1, 8, 8, 16; n) = N(1, 2, 8, 16; n) = \sigma(n) + S_4(n).$$

**Lemma 3.9** ([5, Theorems 4.1 and 4.4]). *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . Then*

$$N(1, 2, 4, 8; n) = N(1, 4, 8, 8; n) = \sigma(n) + (-1)^{\frac{n-1}{4}}S_4(n).$$

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then*

$$t(1, 2, 2, 4; n) = \sigma(8n + 9) - S_4(8n + 9).$$

Proof. From Lemma 3.1 we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& t(1, 2, 2, 4; n) \\
&= N(1, 2, 2, 4; 8n + 9) - N(1, 2, 2, 16; 8n + 9) \\
&\quad - N(1, 2, 4, 8; 8n + 9) + N(1, 2, 8, 16; 8n + 9) - N(1, 2, 4, 8; 8n + 9) \\
&\quad + N(1, 2, 8, 16; 8n + 9) + N(1, 4, 8, 8; 8n + 9) - N(1, 8, 8, 16; 8n + 9) \\
&\quad - N(4, 2, 2, 4; 8n + 9) + N(4, 2, 2, 16; 8n + 9) + N(4, 2, 8, 4; 8n + 9) \\
&\quad - N(4, 2, 8, 16; 8n + 9) + N(4, 8, 2, 4; 8n + 9) - N(4, 8, 2, 16; 8n + 9) \\
&\quad - N(4, 8, 8, 4; 8n + 9) + N(4, 8, 8, 16; 8n + 9) \\
&= N(1, 2, 2, 4; 8n + 9) - N(1, 2, 2, 16; 8n + 9) - 2N(1, 2, 4, 8; 8n + 9) \\
&\quad + 2N(1, 2, 8, 16; 8n + 9) + N(1, 4, 8, 8; 8n + 9) - N(1, 8, 8, 16; 8n + 9).
\end{aligned}$$

Now applying Lemmas 3.7, 3.8 and 3.9 we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& t(1, 2, 2, 4; n) \\
&= 2\sigma(8n + 9) - (\sigma(8n + 9) + S_4(8n + 9)) - 2(\sigma(8n + 9) + S_4(8n + 9)) \\
&\quad + 2(\sigma(8n + 9) + S_4(8n + 9)) + \sigma(8n + 9) + S_4(8n + 9) - (\sigma(8n + 9) + S_4(8n + 9)) \\
&= \sigma(8n + 9) - S_4(8n + 9),
\end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.10** ([5, Theorems 4.17 and 4.18]). *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n \equiv 1, 3 \pmod{8}$ . Then*

$$N(1, 2, 4, 16; n) = N(1, 2, 16, 16; n) = S(n) + S_2(n).$$

**Lemma 3.11** ([7, Theorem 5.4]). *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $2 \nmid n$ . Then*

$$N(1, 2, 4, 4; n) = 2S(n).$$

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then*

$$t(1, 2, 4, 4; n) = - \sum_{d|8n+11} d\left(\frac{2}{d}\right) - S_2(8n + 11).$$

Proof. Since  $x^2 \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{4}$  for  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ , from Lemma 3.1 we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
& t(1, 2, 4, 4; n) \\
&= N(1, 2, 4, 4; 8n + 11) - N(1, 2, 4, 16; 8n + 11) \\
&\quad - N(1, 2, 16, 4; 8n + 11) + N(1, 2, 16, 16; 8n + 11) - N(1, 8, 4, 4; 8n + 11) \\
&\quad + N(1, 8, 4, 16; 8n + 11) + N(1, 8, 16, 4; 8n + 11) - N(1, 8, 16, 16; 8n + 11) \\
&\quad - N(4, 2, 4, 4; 8n + 11) + N(4, 2, 4, 16; 8n + 11) + N(4, 2, 16, 4; 8n + 11) \\
&\quad - N(4, 2, 16, 16; 8n + 11) + N(4, 8, 4, 4; 8n + 11) - N(4, 8, 4, 16; 8n + 11) \\
&\quad - N(4, 8, 16, 4; 8n + 11) + N(4, 8, 16, 16; 8n + 11) \\
&= N(1, 2, 4, 4; 8n + 11) - 2N(1, 2, 4, 16; 8n + 11) + N(1, 2, 16, 16; 8n + 11).
\end{aligned}$$

Now applying Lemmas 3.10 and 3.11 we obtain

$$t(1, 2, 4, 4; n) = 2S(8n + 11) - 2(S(8n + 11) + S_2(8n + 11)) + (S(8n + 11) + S_2(8n + 11))$$

$$= S(8n + 11) - S_2(8n + 11).$$

Since

$$S(8n + 11) = \sum_{d|8n+11} \frac{n}{d} \left(\frac{2}{d}\right) = \sum_{d|8n+11} d \left(\frac{2}{(8n+11)/d}\right) = - \sum_{d|8n+11} d \left(\frac{2}{d}\right),$$

from the above we deduce the result.  $\square$

## 4. Formulas for $t(1, 3, 3, 9; n)$ , $t(1, 1, 9, 9; n)$ , $t(1, 9, 9, 9; n)$ and $t(1, 1, 1, 9; n)$

For  $a, b, c, d, n \in \mathbb{N}$  let

$$N_0(a, b, c, d; n) = |\{(x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid n = ax^2 + by^2 + cz^2 + dw^2, 2 \nmid xyzw\}|.$$

From the proof of Lemma 3.1 we know that

$$(4.1) \quad t(a, b, c, d; n) = N_0(a, b, c, d; 8n + a + b + c + d).$$

**Lemma 4.1.** *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n + 1 = 2^\alpha 3^\beta n_1$  with  $(6, n_1) = 1$ . Then*

$$t(1, 1, 3, 3; n) = 2^{\alpha+4} \sigma(n_1).$$

Proof. By [8, Theorem 1.5],

$$t(1, 1, 3, 3; n) = 16t'(1, 1, 3, 3; n) = \begin{cases} 4N(1, 1, 3, 3; n + 1) & \text{if } 2 \mid n, \\ 2(N(1, 1, 3, 3; 2n + 2) - N(1, 1, 3, 3; n + 1)) & \text{if } 2 \nmid n. \end{cases}$$

Ramanujan (see [9, pp. 114, 223]) gave theta function identities equivalent to the following Liouville's conjecture (see [11]):

$$N(1, 1, 3, 3; n + 1) = \begin{cases} 4\sigma(n_1) & \text{if } 2 \mid n, \\ 4(2^{\alpha+1} - 3)\sigma(n_1) & \text{if } 2 \nmid n. \end{cases}$$

Since  $2n + 2 = 2^{\alpha+1} 3^\beta n_1$ , combining all the above yields the result.  $\square$

**Theorem 4.1.** *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n + 2 = 2^\alpha 3^\beta n_1$  with  $(6, n_1) = 1$ . Then*

$$t(1, 3, 3, 9; n) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}, \\ 2^{\alpha+4} \sigma(n_1) & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}, \\ 2^{\alpha+3} \sigma(n_1) & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}. \end{cases}$$

Proof. From (4.1) we know that  $t(1, 3, 3, 9; n) = N_0(1, 3, 3, 9; 8n + 16)$ . If  $3 \mid n - 2$ , then  $8n + 16 \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ . Since  $x^2 \not\equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  for any  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we get  $t(1, 3, 3, 9; n) = N_0(1, 3, 3, 9; 8n + 16) = 0$ . If  $3 \mid n - 1$ , then  $3 \mid 8n + 16$  and so

$$\begin{aligned} t(1, 3, 3, 9; n) &= N_0(1, 3, 3, 9; 8n + 16) \\ &= |\{(x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid 8n + 16 = (3x)^2 + 3y^2 + 3z^2 + 9w^2, 2 \nmid xyzw\}| \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid \frac{8n+16}{3} = 3x^2 + y^2 + z^2 + 3w^2, 2 \nmid xyzw \right\} \right| \\
&= N_0(1, 1, 3, 3; 8(n-1)/3 + 8) = t(1, 1, 3, 3; (n-1)/3).
\end{aligned}$$

If  $3 \mid n$ , since  $x^2 + y^2 \equiv 8n + 16 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  implies  $3 \mid x$  or  $3 \mid y$  we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
t(1, 1, 3, 3; n+1) &= N_0(1, 1, 3, 3; 8n+16) \\
&= \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid 8n+16 = (3x)^2 + y^2 + 3z^2 + 3w^2, 2 \nmid xyzw \right\} \right| \\
&\quad + \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid 8n+16 = x^2 + (3y)^2 + 3z^2 + 3w^2, 2 \nmid xyzw \right\} \right| \\
&= 2N_0(1, 3, 3, 9; 8n+16) = 2t(1, 3, 3, 9; n).
\end{aligned}$$

Now combining the above with Lemma 4.1 yields the result.  $\square$

For variable  $q$  with  $|q| < 1$  define

$$q \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^{6n})^4 = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c(n)q^n.$$

From [12, p.374] or [14, p.121] we know that

$$c(n) = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{\substack{x, y \in \mathbb{Z} \\ n = x^2 + 3xy + 3y^2 \\ 3 \mid x-2, 2 \mid y-1}} (-1)^x x.$$

Thus,

$$c(n) = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{\substack{x, y \in \mathbb{Z} \\ n = x^2 + 3x(1+2y) + 3(1+2y)^2 \\ x \equiv 2 \pmod{3}}} (-1)^x x = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{\substack{x, y \in \mathbb{Z} \\ 4n = x^2 + 3(x+2+4y)^2 \\ x \equiv 2 \pmod{3}}} (-1)^x x$$

and so

$$(4.2) \quad c(n) = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{\substack{4n = a^2 + 3b^2 \ (a, b \in \mathbb{Z}) \\ a \equiv 2 \pmod{3}, b \equiv a+2 \pmod{4}}} (-1)^a a.$$

**Lemma 4.2** ([2, Theorems 1.5 and 1.6]). *For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  we have*

$$N(1, 1, 9, 9; n) = \begin{cases} 4\sigma(n) - 8\sigma(n/2) & \text{if } n \equiv 2, 4 \pmod{6}, \\ \frac{4}{3}\sigma(n) & \text{if } n \equiv 5 \pmod{6}, \\ 8\sigma(n/9) - 32\sigma(n/36) & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{6}, \\ \frac{4}{3}\sigma(n) + \frac{8}{3}c(n) & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{6} \end{cases}$$

and

$$N(1, 9, 9, 9; n) = \begin{cases} 8\sigma(n/9) & \text{if } n \equiv 3 \pmod{6}, \\ 2\sigma(n) - 4\sigma(n/2) & \text{if } n \equiv 4 \pmod{6}, \\ 8\sigma(n/9) - 32\sigma(n/36) & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{6}. \end{cases}$$

**Lemma 4.3** ([3, Theorems 2.5 and 2.10]). *For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $4 \mid n$  we have*

$$N(1, 1, 36, 36; n) = \begin{cases} \frac{4}{3}\sigma(n/4) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma(n/16) + \frac{8}{3}c(n/4) & \text{if } n \equiv 4 \pmod{12}, \\ \frac{4}{3}\sigma(n/4) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma(n/16) & \text{if } n \equiv 8 \pmod{12}, \\ 8\sigma(n/36) - 32\sigma(n/144) & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{12} \end{cases}$$

and

$$N(1, 4, 36, 36; n) = \begin{cases} \frac{4}{3}\sigma(n/4) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma(n/16) + \frac{8}{3}c(n/4) & \text{if } n \equiv 4 \pmod{12}, \\ \frac{4}{3}\sigma(n/4) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma(n/16) & \text{if } n \equiv 8 \pmod{12}, \\ 8\sigma(n/36) - 32\sigma(n/144) & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{12}. \end{cases}$$

**Lemma 4.4** ([3, Theorem 2.4]). *For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $4 \mid n$  we have*

$$N(1, 1, 9, 36; n) = \begin{cases} \frac{4}{3}\sigma(n/4) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma(n/16) + \frac{8}{3}c(n/4) & \text{if } n \equiv 4 \pmod{12}, \\ \frac{4}{3}\sigma(n/4) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma(n/16) & \text{if } n \equiv 8 \pmod{12}, \\ 8\sigma(n/36) - 32\sigma(n/144) & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{12}. \end{cases}$$

**Lemma 4.5** ([3, Theorem 2.8]). *For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $4 \mid n$  we have*

$$N(1, 4, 9, 9; n) = \begin{cases} \frac{4}{3}\sigma(n/4) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma(n/16) + \frac{8}{3}c(n/4) & \text{if } n \equiv 4 \pmod{12}, \\ \frac{4}{3}\sigma(n/4) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma(n/16) & \text{if } n \equiv 8 \pmod{12}, \\ 8\sigma(n/36) - 32\sigma(n/144) & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{12}. \end{cases}$$

**Lemma 4.6** ([3, Theorem 2.9]). *For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $4 \mid n$  we have*

$$N(1, 4, 9, 36; n) = \begin{cases} \frac{4}{3}\sigma(n/4) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma(n/16) + \frac{8}{3}c(n/4) & \text{if } n \equiv 4 \pmod{12}, \\ \frac{4}{3}\sigma(n/4) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma(n/16) & \text{if } n \equiv 8 \pmod{12}, \\ 8\sigma(n/36) - 32\sigma(n/144) & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{12}. \end{cases}$$

**Lemma 4.7** ([3, Theorem 2.15]). *For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $4 \mid n$  we have*

$$N(4, 4, 9, 9; n) = \begin{cases} \frac{4}{3}\sigma(n/4) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma(n/16) + \frac{8}{3}c(n/4) & \text{if } n \equiv 4 \pmod{12}, \\ \frac{4}{3}\sigma(n/4) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma(n/16) & \text{if } n \equiv 8 \pmod{12}, \\ 8\sigma(n/36) - 32\sigma(n/144) & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{12}. \end{cases}$$

**Lemma 4.8** ([3, Theorem 2.16]). *For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $4 \mid n$  we have*

$$N(4, 4, 9, 36; n) = \begin{cases} \frac{4}{3}\sigma(n/4) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma(n/16) + \frac{8}{3}c(n/4) & \text{if } n \equiv 4 \pmod{12}, \\ \frac{4}{3}\sigma(n/4) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma(n/16) & \text{if } n \equiv 8 \pmod{12}, \\ 8\sigma(n/36) - 32\sigma(n/144) & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{12}. \end{cases}$$

**Theorem 4.2.** *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then*

$$t(1, 1, 9, 9; n) = \begin{cases} \frac{8}{3}\sigma(2n+5) & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}, \\ 16\sigma\left(\frac{2n+5}{9}\right) & \text{if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{9}, \\ 0 & \text{if } n \equiv 5, 8 \pmod{9}, \\ \frac{8}{3}(\sigma(2n+5) - c(2n+5)) & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}. \end{cases}$$

Proof. For  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  we see that  $3 \mid 8n+20$  and so

$$\begin{aligned} & t(1, 1, 9, 9; n) \\ &= N_0(1, 1, 9, 9; 8n+20) \\ &= |\{(x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid 8n+20 = (3x)^2 + (3y)^2 + 9z^2 + 9w^2, 2 \nmid xyzw\}| \\ &= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 9 \nmid n-2, \\ N_0(1, 1, 1, 1; \frac{8n+20}{9}) = t(1, 1, 1, 1; \frac{n-2}{9}) = 16\sigma\left(\frac{2n+5}{9}\right) & \text{if } 9 \mid n-2. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Now assume  $n \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{3}$ . By Lemma 3.1,

$$\begin{aligned} & t(1, 1, 9, 9; n) \\ &= N(1, 1, 9, 9; 8n+20) - 2N(1, 1, 9, 36; 8n+20) + N(1, 1, 36, 36; 8n+20) \\ &\quad - 2N(1, 4, 9, 9; 8n+20) + 4N(1, 4, 9, 36; 8n+20) - 2N(1, 4, 36, 36; 8n+20) \\ &\quad + N(4, 4, 9, 9; 8n+20) - 2N(4, 4, 9, 36; 8n+20) + N(1, 1, 9, 9; 2n+5). \end{aligned}$$

For  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  applying Lemmas 4.2-4.8 we see that

$$\begin{aligned} & t(1, 1, 9, 9; n) \\ &= 4\sigma(8n+20) - 8\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{2}\right) - 2\left(\frac{4}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{16}\right)\right) \\ &\quad + \frac{4}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{16}\right) - 2\left(\frac{4}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{16}\right)\right) \\ &\quad + 4\left(\frac{4}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{16}\right)\right) - 2\left(\frac{4}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{16}\right)\right) \\ &\quad + \frac{4}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{16}\right) - 2\left(\frac{4}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{16}\right)\right) + \frac{4}{3}\sigma(2n+5) \\ &= 28\sigma(2n+5) - 24\sigma(2n+5) - \frac{8}{3}\sigma(2n+5) + \frac{32}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{4n+5}{4}\right) + \frac{4}{3}\sigma(2n+5) \\ &= \frac{8}{3}\sigma(2n+5). \end{aligned}$$

For  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , applying Lemmas 4.2-4.8 we find that

$$\begin{aligned} & t(1, 1, 9, 9; n) \\ &= 4\sigma(8n+20) - 8\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{2}\right) - 2\left(\frac{4}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{16}\right) + \frac{8}{3}c\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right)\right) \\ &\quad + \frac{4}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{16}\right) + \frac{8}{3}c\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right) - 2\left(\frac{4}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{16}\right) + \frac{8}{3}c\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right)\right) \\ &\quad + \frac{8}{3}c\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right) + 4\left(\frac{4}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{16}\right) + \frac{8}{3}c\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right)\right) - 2\left(\frac{4}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{16}\right) + \frac{8}{3}c\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right)\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& -\frac{16}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{16}\right) + \frac{8}{3}c\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right) + \frac{4}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{16}\right) + \frac{8}{3}c\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right) \\
& - 2\left(\frac{4}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right) - \frac{16}{3}\sigma\left(\frac{8n+20}{16}\right) + \frac{8}{3}c\left(\frac{8n+20}{4}\right)\right) + \frac{4}{3}\sigma(2n+5) + \frac{8}{3}c(2n+5) \\
& = 28\sigma(2n+5) - 24\sigma(2n+5) - \frac{8}{3}\sigma(2n+5) - \frac{16}{3}c(2n+5) + \frac{4}{3}\sigma(2n+5) + \frac{8}{3}c(2n+5) \\
& = \frac{8}{3}(\sigma(2n+5) - c(2n+5)).
\end{aligned}$$

The proof is now complete.  $\square$

**Theorem 4.3.** *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then*

$$t(1, 9, 9, 9; n) = \begin{cases} 16\sigma\left(\frac{2n+7}{9}\right) & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{9}, \\ 0 & \text{if } n \equiv 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 \pmod{9}, \\ \frac{4}{3}(\sigma(2n+7) - c(2n+7)) & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}. \end{cases}$$

Proof. For  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$  we see that  $x(x-1)/2 \equiv 0, 1, 3, 6 \pmod{9}$ . Thus,  $t(1, 9, 9, 9; n) = 0$  for  $n \equiv 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 \pmod{9}$ . Now we assume that  $n \equiv 0, 1, 3, 6 \pmod{9}$ . For  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{9}$  we see that  $9 \mid 8n + 28$  and so

$$\begin{aligned}
t(1, 9, 9, 9; n) & = N_0(1, 9, 9, 9; 8n + 28) \\
& = |\{(x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid 8n + 28 = (3x)^2 + 9y^2 + 9z^2 + 9w^2, 2 \nmid xyzw\}| \\
& = N_0(1, 1, 1, 1; \frac{8n+28}{9}) = t(1, 1, 1, 1; \frac{n-1}{9}) = 16\sigma\left(\frac{2n+7}{9}\right).
\end{aligned}$$

For  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
t(1, 1, 9, 9; n+1) & = N_0(1, 1, 9, 9; 8n + 28) \\
& = |\{(x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid 8n + 28 = (3x)^2 + y^2 + 9z^2 + 9w^2, 2 \nmid xyzw\}| \\
& \quad + |\{(x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid 8n + 28 = x^2 + (3y)^2 + 9z^2 + 9w^2, 2 \nmid xyzw\}| \\
& = 2N_0(1, 9, 9, 9; 8n + 28) = 2t(1, 9, 9, 9; n).
\end{aligned}$$

Now applying Theorem 4.2 we deduce the result in this case.  $\square$

**Theorem 4.4.** *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then*

$$t(1, 1, 1, 9; n) = \begin{cases} 4\sigma(2n+3) + 12\sigma\left(\frac{2n+3}{9}\right) & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}, \\ 8\sigma(2n+3) & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}, \\ 4(\sigma(2n+3) - c(2n+3)) & \text{if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}. \end{cases}$$

Proof. For  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  we see that  $3 \mid 8n + 12$ . If  $8n + 12 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 + w^2$  for  $x, y, z, w \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then either  $x \equiv y \equiv z \equiv w \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  or  $xyzw \equiv \pm 3 \pmod{9}$ . Thus,

$$N_0(1, 1, 1, 1; 8n + 12) = 4N_0(1, 1, 1, 9; 8n + 12) - 3N_0(9, 9, 9, 9; 8n + 12).$$

This together with (4.1) yields

$$t(1, 1, 1, 1; n+1) = \begin{cases} 4t(1, 1, 1, 9; n) & \text{if } n \equiv 0, 6 \pmod{9}, \\ 4t(1, 1, 1, 9; n) - 3t(1, 1, 1, 1; \frac{n-3}{9}) & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}. \end{cases}$$



Now combining the above with (1.2) yields the result in this case.

Suppose  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ . Then  $8n + 12 \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ . If  $8n + 12 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 + 9w^2$  for  $x, y, z, w \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then  $3 \mid xyz$  but  $9 \nmid xyz$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} t(1, 1, 1, 9; n) &= N_0(1, 1, 1, 9; 8n + 12) \\ &= \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid 8n + 12 = (3x)^2 + y^2 + z^2 + 9w^2, 2 \nmid xyzw \right\} \right| \\ &\quad + \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid 8n + 12 = x^2 + (3y)^2 + z^2 + 9w^2, 2 \nmid xyzw \right\} \right| \\ &\quad + \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid 8n + 12 = x^2 + y^2 + (3z)^2 + 9w^2, 2 \nmid xyzw \right\} \right| \\ &= 3N_0(1, 1, 9, 9; 8n + 12) = 3t(1, 1, 9, 9; n - 1). \end{aligned}$$

This together with Theorem 4.2 yields the result in this case.

For  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  we see that  $8n + 12 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  and so

$$\begin{aligned} t(1, 1, 1, 9; n) &= N_0(1, 1, 1, 9; 8n + 12) \\ &= \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid 8n + 12 = (3x)^2 + (3y)^2 + z^2 + 9w^2, 2 \nmid xyzw \right\} \right| \\ &\quad + \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid 8n + 12 = x^2 + (3y)^2 + (3z)^2 + 9w^2, 2 \nmid xyzw \right\} \right| \\ &\quad + \left| \left\{ (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 \mid 8n + 12 = (3x)^2 + y^2 + (3z)^2 + 9w^2, 2 \nmid xyzw \right\} \right| \\ &= 3N_0(1, 9, 9, 9; 8n + 12) = 3t(1, 9, 9, 9; n - 2). \end{aligned}$$

Now combining the above with Theorem 4.3 yields the result in the case  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ . The proof is now complete.  $\square$

In conclusion we pose the following conjecture.

**Conjecture 4.1.** *Suppose  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $8n + 9 = 3^\beta n_1$  with  $3 \nmid n_1$ . Then*

$$t(1, 1, 3, 4; n) = \frac{1}{2} \left( 3^{\beta+1} \binom{3}{n_1} - 1 \right) \sum_{d \mid n_1} d \binom{3}{d} - \sum_{\substack{a, b \in \mathbb{N}, 2 \nmid a \\ 4(8n+9) = a^2 + 3b^2}} (-1)^{\frac{a-1}{2}} a.$$

Conjecture 4.1 has been checked for  $n \leq 1000$ .

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