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**Robert Schneider\*** ([robert.schneider@emory.edu](mailto:robert.schneider@emory.edu)). *Jacobi's triple product, mock theta functions, unimodal sequences and the  $q$ -bracket.*

In Ramanujan's final letter to Hardy, he wrote of an enigmatic new class of infinite series he called "mock theta functions". It turns out the  $q$ -series listed in Ramanujan's letter are essentially specializations of a so-called universal mock theta function  $g_3(z, q)$  of Gordon–McIntosh. Here we show that  $g_3$  arises naturally from the reciprocal of the classical Jacobi triple product – and is intimately tied to rank generating functions for unimodal sequences, which are connected to mock modular and quantum modular forms – through the action of the  $q$ -bracket of Bloch–Okounkov. This operator from statistical physics has recently been studied by Zagier and other authors due to connections to quasimodular and  $p$ -adic modular phenomena, and plays a natural role in partition theory as well. (Received February 06, 2018)