## Research Article Binomial tribonacci sums

<sup>1</sup>Department of Physics and Engineering Physics, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

<sup>2</sup>Landesbank Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart, Germany

<sup>3</sup>Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine

(Received: 20 August 2021. Received in revised form: 28 September 2021. Accepted: 6 October 2021. Published online: 13 October 2021.)

© 2021 the authors. This is an open access article under the CC BY (International 4.0) license (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

#### Abstract

We derive expressions for several binomials sums involving a generalized tribonacci sequence. We also study double binomial sums involving this sequence. Several explicit examples involving tribonacci and tribonacci–Lucas numbers are stated to highlight the results.

Keywords: generalized tribonacci sequence; tribonacci number; tribonacci-Lucas number; binomial transform.

2020 Mathematics Subject Classification: 11B37, 11B39.

## 1. Introduction

There is a dearth of tribonacci summation identities including binomial coefficients. Our goal in this paper is to derive several new binomial tribonacci sums such as

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} G_{4k+s} = 2^{n} G_{3n+s}, \qquad \sum_{k=1}^{n} \binom{n}{k} \frac{G_{4k+s}}{k} = \sum_{m=1}^{n} \frac{2^{m} G_{3m+s} - G_{s}}{m},$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{3n/2} \binom{3n}{2k} G_{2k+s} = 2^{n-1} \left( G_{4n+s} + (-1)^{n} G_{s-2n} \right), \qquad \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^{n-k} \binom{n+k}{2k} \frac{4^{k}}{n+k} G_{4n+2k+s} = \frac{G_{8n+s} + G_{s}}{2n},$$

and double binomial tribonacci summation identities such as

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} \sum_{p=0}^{k} (-1)^{k+p} \binom{n}{k} \binom{k}{p} G_{5k+p+s} = 3^{n} G_{3n+s}, \qquad \sum_{k=0}^{n} \sum_{p=0}^{k} \binom{n}{k} \binom{k}{p} \frac{G_{k+5p+s}}{3^{k}} = \left(\frac{7}{3}\right)^{n} G_{3n+s}.$$

In the above identities, n denotes a non-negative integer, s and p are arbitrary integers and  $G_n$  is a generalized tribonacci number.

The generalized tribonacci sequence  $G_n = G_n(c_0, c_1, c_2)$ ,  $n \ge 0$ , is defined recursively by

$$G_n = G_{n-1} + G_{n-2} + G_{n-3}, \qquad n \ge 3,$$

with initial values  $G_0 = c_0$ ,  $G_1 = c_1$ ,  $G_2 = c_2$  not all being zero. Extension of the definition of  $G_n$  to negative subscripts is provided by writing the recurrence relation as

$$G_{-n} = G_{-(n-3)} - G_{-(n-2)} - G_{-(n-1)},$$

so that  $G_n$  is defined for all integers n.

The most prominent representatives of  $G_n$  and widely studied in the literature are  $G_n(0,1,1) = T_n$  the sequence of tribonacci numbers and  $G_n(3,1,3) = K_n$  the sequence of tribonacci-Lucas numbers (sequences A000073 and A001644 in [19], respectively).

The first few tribonacci numbers and tribonacci-Lucas numbers with positive and negative subscripts are given in Table 1.

Discrete Math. Lett. 8 (2022) 30-37

DOI: 10.47443/dml.2021.0080



<sup>\*</sup>Corresponding author (adegoke00@gmail.com).

n	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
$T_n$	0	1	1	2	4	7	13	24	44	81	149	274	504	927	1705
$T_{-n}$	0	0	1	-1	0	2	-3	1	4	-8	5	7	-20	18	9
$K_n$	3	1	3	7	11	21	39	71	131	241	443	815	1499	2757	5071
$K_{-n}$	3	-1	-1	5	-5	-1	11	-15	3	23	-41	21	43	-105	83

Table 1: Tribonacci and tribonacci-Lucas numbers.

Properties of (generalized) tribonacci sequences were investigated in the recent articles [1–4, 7, 8, 10, 12–18, 20, 21], among others. For instance, Janjić [16] found the remarkable combinatorial identity

$$T_n = 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \sum_{i=0}^{k} \sum_{j=i}^{n-k} \binom{k}{i} \binom{j-1}{i-1} \binom{j}{n-k-2j}.$$

A generalized tribonacci number  $G_n(c_0, c_1, c_2)$  is given by the Binet formula

$$G_n(c_0, c_1, c_2) = A\alpha^n + B\beta^n + C\gamma^n,$$
(1)

where  $\alpha, \beta$  and  $\gamma$  are the distinct roots of the equation  $x^3 - x^2 - x - 1 = 0$ . The coefficients *A*, *B* and *C* depend on the initial values and are determined by the system

$$\begin{cases} A+B+C=c_0,\\ A\alpha+B\beta+C\gamma=c_1,\\ A\alpha^2+B\beta^2+C\gamma^2=c_2. \end{cases}$$

The Binet formulas for  $T_n$  and  $K_n$  are

$$T_n = \frac{\alpha^{n+1}}{(\alpha - \beta)(\alpha - \gamma)} + \frac{\beta^{n+1}}{(\beta - \alpha)(\beta - \gamma)} + \frac{\gamma^{n+1}}{(\gamma - \alpha)(\gamma - \beta)}$$

and

$$K_n = \alpha^n + \beta^n + \gamma^n \,,$$

where

$$\alpha = \frac{1 + \sqrt[3]{19 + 3\sqrt{33}} + \sqrt[3]{19 - 3\sqrt{33}}}{3}, \qquad \beta = \frac{1 + \omega\sqrt[3]{19 + 3\sqrt{33}} + \omega^2\sqrt[3]{19 - 3\sqrt{33}}}{3}$$
$$\gamma = \frac{1 + \omega^2\sqrt[3]{19 + 3\sqrt{33}} + \omega\sqrt[3]{19 - 3\sqrt{33}}}{3}, \qquad \beta = \frac{1 + \omega\sqrt[3]{19 - 3\sqrt{33}}}{3}, \qquad \beta$$

and  $\omega = \frac{-1+i\sqrt{3}}{2}$  is a primitive cube root of unity.

Tribonacci and tribonacci-Lucas numbers with negative indices can be accessed directly, using the following result.

#### Lemma 1.1. For integer n,

$$T_{-n} = T_{n-1}^2 - T_{n-2}T_n, (2)$$

$$K_{-n} = \frac{K_n^2 - K_{2n}}{2}.$$
(3)

For a proof of (2), see, for example, [8, Theorem 2.2]. The proof of (3) one can find in [6, Formula (9)].

In this article, we study binomial and double binomial sums with terms being a generalized tribonacci sequence. We derive closed forms for several such sums. We also prove a general binomial identity characterizing  $G_{an+b}$  for  $a \ge 1$  and b an arbitrary integer.

#### 2. Some auxiliary results

In this section we present some results that we will use in the sequel.

**Lemma 2.1.** Let  $\phi \in \{\alpha, \beta, \gamma\}$ . Then, for all  $n \ge 0$ , we have

$$\phi^{n+1} = \phi^2 T_n + \phi(T_{n-1} + T_{n-2}) + T_{n-1}.$$
(4)

For a proof of (4), see [7, Formula (6)].

#### Lemma 2.2. We have

$$(\alpha - 1)^3 = 2\alpha^{-2},\tag{5}$$

$$(\alpha+1)^3 = 2\alpha^4,\tag{6}$$

$$(\alpha^2 + 1)^3 = 4\alpha^5, (7)$$

$$(\alpha^3 - 1)^3 = 2\alpha^7,$$
(8)

$$\alpha^4 + 1 = 2\alpha^3,\tag{9}$$

with identical relations for  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$ .

Proof. Since

$$1 + \alpha + \alpha^2 = \alpha^3, \tag{10}$$

we have

$$\frac{\alpha^2 + 1}{\alpha^2 - 1} = \alpha \tag{11}$$

and

$$\frac{\alpha+1}{\alpha-1} = \alpha^2. \tag{12}$$

Addition of (11) and (12) gives

$$(\alpha + 1)^2(\alpha - 1) = 2\alpha^2,$$
 (13)

while their subtraction produces

$$(\alpha - 1)^2 (\alpha + 1) = 2. \tag{14}$$

Eliminating  $\alpha + 1$  between (13) and (14) gives identity (5), while the elimination of  $\alpha - 1$  yields (6).

Cubing identity  $\alpha^2 + 1 = \frac{2\alpha}{\alpha - 1}$  and making use of (5) gives (7). Subtracting (10) from  $\alpha + \alpha^2 + \alpha^3 = \alpha^4$  produces identity (8). Identity (9) follows from  $\alpha^4 + 1 = \alpha^4 + \alpha^3 + \alpha^2 + \alpha = (\alpha^2 + 1)(\alpha + 1)$  with the help of (6) and (7).

**Lemma 2.3.** Let a, b, c and d be rational numbers and  $\lambda$  an irrational number. Then

 $a + \lambda b = c + \lambda d \quad \iff \quad a = c, \quad b = d.$ 

## 3. Identities from the binomial theorem and binomial transform

The next lemma will be the key ingredient to derive many results in this paper. For a proof and some applications to Horadam numbers, see [11].

**Lemma 3.1.** Let n and j be integers with  $0 \le j \le n$ . Then, for each  $x, y \in \mathbb{C}$ , we have

$$\sum_{k=j}^{n} (\pm 1)^{k-j} \binom{k}{j} \binom{n}{k} y^{k} x^{n-k} = \binom{n}{j} y^{j} (x \pm y)^{n-j}.$$

We also mention the standard fact about sequences and their binomial transforms [5]: Let  $(a_n)_{n\geq 0}$  be a sequence of numbers and  $(b_n)_{n\geq 0}$  be its binomial transform. Then we have the following relations:

$$b_n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} a_k \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad a_n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} (-1)^{n-k} b_k.$$
(15)

Furthermore, if  $a_0 = 0$  (so that  $b_0 = 0$  too) the binomial pair exhibits the following properties:

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} \binom{n}{k} \frac{a_k}{k} = \sum_{m=1}^{n} \frac{b_m}{m}$$
(16)

and

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} \binom{n}{k} \frac{a_k}{k+1} = \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{m=1}^{n} b_m.$$
(17)

**Theorem 3.1.** Let j and s be integers such that s is arbitrary and  $j \ge 0$ . Then

$$\sum_{k=j}^{n} \binom{k}{j} \binom{n}{k} G_{4k+s} = \binom{n}{j} 2^{n-j} G_{3n+j+s}.$$
(18)

*Proof.* Use identity (9) in Lemma 3.1 with x = 1 and  $y = \alpha^4$ , taking note of Lemma 2.3.

**Corollary 3.1.** For *n* a non-negative integer and *s* any integer,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} G_{4k+s} = 2^{n} G_{3n+s},$$
(19)

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} (-2)^{k} G_{3k+s} = (-1)^{n} G_{4n+s},$$
(20)

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} \binom{n}{k} \frac{G_{4k+s}}{k} = \sum_{m=1}^{n} \frac{2^m G_{3m+s} - G_s}{m}$$
(21)

and

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} \binom{n}{k} \frac{G_{4k+s}}{k+1} = \frac{1}{n+1} \left( \sum_{m=1}^{n} 2^m G_{3m+s} - nG_s \right).$$
(22)  
). Identities (20), (21) and (22) follow form (15), (16) and (17), respectively.

*Proof.* To obtain (19) set j = 0 in (18). Identities (20), (21) and (22) follow form (15), (16) and (17), respectively.

From (19) and (20) we immediately obtain the following binomial tribonacci and tribonacci–Lucas relations.

**Corollary 3.2.** For  $n \ge 0$ ,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} T_{4k} = 2^{n} T_{3n}, \qquad \sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} K_{4k} = 2^{n} K_{3n},$$
$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} T_{4k-3n+1} = 2^{n}, \qquad \sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} K_{4k-3n+1} = 2^{n},$$
$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} T_{4k-3n} = 0, \qquad \sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} K_{4k-3n} = 3 \cdot 2^{n}.$$

**Theorem 3.2.** For non-negative integer n, any integer s, we have

$$\sum_{k=0}^{3n} \delta^k \binom{3n}{k} G_{pk+s} = \delta^n 2^{qn} G_{rn+s}$$

where the values of  $\delta$ , p, q and r as given in each column in Table 2.

δ	-1	1	1	-1
p	1	1	2	3
q	1	1	2	1
r	-2	4	5	7

Table 2: Values of  $\delta$ , p, q and r from Theorem 3.2.

*Proof.* Each of the identities (5)–(8) can be written as  $(\alpha^p + \delta)^3 = 2^q \alpha^r$ , where the values of  $\delta$ , p, q and r in each case are as given in each column in Table 2. The identity of the theorem then follows from the binomial theorem and Lemma 2.3.

Lemma 3.2. For non-negative integer n and real or complex z,

$$2\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor 3n/2 \rfloor} {3n \choose 2k} z^{2k} = (1+z)^{3n} + (1-z)^{3n},$$
$$2\sum_{k=1}^{\lfloor 3n/2 \rfloor} {3n \choose 2k-1} z^{2k-1} = (1+z)^{3n} - (1-z)^{3n}$$

**Theorem 3.3.** For non-negative integer n and any integer s,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor 3n/2 \rfloor} \binom{3n}{2k} G_{2k+s} = 2^{n-1} \left( G_{4n+s} + (-1)^n G_{s-2n} \right),$$
$$\sum_{k=1}^{\lceil 3n/2 \rceil} \binom{3n}{2k-1} G_{2k+s-1} = 2^{n-1} \left( G_{4n+s} - (-1)^n G_{s-2n} \right)$$

*Proof.* Set  $z = \alpha$  in Lemma 3.2, make use of identities (5) and (6), noting Lemma 2.3 with  $\lambda = \alpha$ .

Setting s = 0 in Theorem 3.3, we immediately obtain the following.

**Corollary 3.3.** For non-negative integer n,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor 3n/2 \rfloor} {\binom{3n}{2k}} G_{2k} = 2^{n-1} \big( G_{4n} + (-1)^n G_{-2n} \big),$$
$$\sum_{k=1}^{\lceil 3n/2 \rceil} {\binom{3n}{2k-1}} G_{2k-1} = 2^{n-1} \big( G_{4n} - (-1)^n G_{-2n} \big)$$

As special cases of formulas above we have:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor 3n/2 \rfloor} \binom{3n}{2k} T_{2k} = 2^{n-1} \left( T_{4n} + (-1)^n (T_{2n-1}^2 - T_{2n-2}T_{2n}) \right),$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\lfloor 3n/2 \rfloor} \binom{3n}{2k-1} T_{2k-1} = 2^{n-1} \left( T_{4n} - (-1)^n (T_{2n-1}^2 - T_{2n-2}T_{2n}) \right)$$

and

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor 3n/2 \rfloor} {3n \choose 2k} K_{2k} = 2^{n-2} \left( 2K_{4n} + (-1)^n (K_{2n}^2 - K_{4n}) \right),$$
$$\sum_{k=1}^{\lfloor 3n/2 \rfloor} {3n \choose 2k-1} K_{2k-1} = 2^{n-2} \left( 2K_{4n} - (-1)^n (K_{2n}^2 - K_{4n}) \right)$$

**Theorem 3.4.** For non-negative integer n and any integer s,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor 3n/2 \rfloor} \binom{3n}{2k} G_{4k+s} = 2^{2n-1} \left( G_{5n+s} + (-1)^n G_{2n+s} \right),$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\lceil 3n/2 \rceil} \binom{3n}{2k-1} G_{4k+s-2} = 2^{2n-1} \left( G_{5n+s} - (-1)^n G_{2n+s} \right).$$

*Proof.* Combining (5) with (6) yields

$$(\alpha^2 - 1)^3 = 4\alpha^2.$$
(23)

Now set  $z = \alpha^2$  in Lemma 3.2 and make use of identities (7) and (23), noting Lemma 2.3 with  $\lambda = \alpha$ .

**Theorem 3.5.** For non-negative integer n and any integer s,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor 3n/2 \rfloor} {\binom{3n}{2k}} G_{8k+s} = 2^{3n-1} (G_{9n+s} + (-2)^n G_{7n+s}),$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\lceil 3n/2 \rceil} {\binom{3n}{2k-1}} G_{8k+s-4} = 2^{3n-1} (G_{9n+s} - (-2)^n G_{7n+s}).$$

*Proof.* Combining (7) and (23) we have

$$(\alpha^4 - 1)^3 = 16\alpha^7.$$
(24)

Set  $z = \alpha^4$  in Lemma 3.2 and make use of identities (9) and (24), noting Lemma 2.3 with  $\lambda = \alpha$ .

## 4. Identities from the Waring formulas

Our next result provides two combinatorial identities for generalized tribonacci numbers involving binomial coefficients. Lemma 4.1. The following identities hold for  $n \ge 0$  and real or complex x and y:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} (-1)^k \binom{n-k}{k} (xy)^k (x+y)^{n-2k} = \frac{x^{n+1} - y^{n+1}}{x-y}$$
(25)

and

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} (-1)^k \binom{n-k}{k} \frac{n}{n-k} (xy)^k (x+y)^{n-2k} = x^n + y^n.$$
(26)

Formulas (25) and (26) are well-known in combinatorics and called Waring (sometimes Girard-Waring) formulas. The proof of these formulas can be found, for example, in [9].

**Theorem 4.1.** Let n be a non-negative integer and s any integer. Then

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \left( -\frac{1}{4} \right)^k \binom{n-k}{k} \left( G_{3n-2k+s+4} - G_{3n-2k+s} \right) = \frac{G_{4n+s+4} - G_s}{2^n}$$

and

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \left( -\frac{1}{4} \right)^k \binom{n-k}{k} \frac{G_{3n-2k+s}}{n-k} = \frac{G_{4n+s}+G_s}{2^n n}$$

*Proof.* Set  $(x, y) = (1, \alpha^4)$  in (25) and (26), respectively, Lemma 4.1 and use identity (8) and Lemma 2.3.

**Corollary 4.1.** For  $n \ge 0$ ,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \left( -\frac{1}{4} \right)^k \binom{n-k}{k} (G_{n-2k+4} - G_{n-2k}) = \frac{G_{2n+4} - G_{-2n}}{2^n},$$
$$\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \left( -\frac{1}{4} \right)^k \binom{n-k}{k} \frac{G_{n-2k}}{n-k} = \frac{G_{2n} + G_{-2n}}{n2^n}.$$

In particular,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \left( -\frac{1}{4} \right)^k \binom{n-k}{k} (T_{n-2k+4} - T_{n-2k}) = \frac{T_{2n+4} - T_{2n-1}^2 + T_{2n-2}T_{2n}}{2^n}$$
$$\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \left( -\frac{1}{4} \right)^k \binom{n-k}{k} (K_{n-2k+4} - K_{n-2k}) = \frac{2K_{2n+4} - K_{2n}^2 + K_{4n}}{2^{n+1}}$$

and

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \left( -\frac{1}{4} \right)^k \binom{n-k}{k} \frac{T_{n-2k}}{n-k} = \frac{T_{2n-1}^2 + T_{2n}(1-T_{2n-2})}{n2^n}$$
$$\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \left( -\frac{1}{4} \right)^k \binom{n-k}{k} \frac{K_{n-2k}}{n-k} = \frac{K_{2n}^2 + 2K_{2n} - K_{4n}}{n2^{n+1}}.$$

# 5. Double binomial tribonacci sums

**Theorem 5.1.** Let n, j and s be integers with s arbitrary and  $j \ge 0$ . Then,

$$\sum_{k=j}^{n} \sum_{p=0}^{k} (-1)^{k-p} \binom{k}{j} \binom{n}{k} \binom{k}{p} G_{5k+p+s} = 3^{n-j} \binom{n}{j} \sum_{p=0}^{j} (-1)^{j-p} \binom{j}{p} G_{3n+2j+p+s}.$$
(27)

*Proof.* The identity can be derived from Lemma 3.1 using  $3\phi^3 = \phi^6 - \phi^5 + 1$ .

**Corollary 5.1.** Let *n* and *s* be integers. Then,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} \sum_{p=0}^{k} (-1)^{k-p} \binom{n}{k} \binom{k}{p} G_{5k+p+s} = 3^{n} G_{3n+s},$$
$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} \sum_{p=0}^{k} (-1)^{k-p} \binom{n}{k} \binom{k}{p} k G_{5k+p+s} = n 3^{n-1} (G_{3n+s} + G_{3n+s+1}).$$

*Proof.* Set j = 0 and j = 1 in (27), respectively.

**Theorem 5.2.** Let j and s be integers with s arbitrary and  $j \ge 0$ . Then

$$\sum_{k=j}^{n} \sum_{p=0}^{k} \binom{k}{j} \binom{n}{k} \binom{k}{p} \frac{G_{k+4p+s}}{2^{k}} = 2^{2n-j} \binom{n}{j} \sum_{m=0}^{j} \binom{j}{m} G_{3n-2j+4m+s},$$
(28)

$$\sum_{k=j}^{n} \sum_{p=0}^{k} \binom{k}{j} \binom{n}{k} \binom{k}{p} \frac{G_{k+5p+s}}{3^{k}} = \frac{7^{n-j}}{3^{n}} \binom{n}{j} \sum_{m=0}^{j} \binom{j}{m} G_{3n-2j+5m+s}.$$
(29)

*Proof.* Use Lemma 3.1 in conjunction with  $4\phi^3 = \phi^5 + \phi + 2$  and  $7\phi^3 = \phi^6 + \phi + 3$ , respectively.

Corollary 5.2. Let n and s be integers. Then,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} \sum_{p=0}^{k} \binom{n}{k} \binom{k}{p} \frac{G_{k+4p+s}}{2^{k}} = 2^{n} G_{3n+s},$$
$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} \sum_{p=0}^{k} \binom{n}{k} \binom{k}{p} \frac{k G_{k+4p+s}}{2^{k}} = 2^{n-2} n (G_{3n+s+2} + G_{3n+s-2})$$

and

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} \sum_{p=0}^{k} \binom{n}{k} \binom{k}{p} \frac{G_{k+5p+s}}{3^{k}} = \left(\frac{7}{3}\right)^{n} G_{3n+s},$$
$$7 \sum_{k=1}^{n} \sum_{p=0}^{k} \binom{n}{k} \binom{k}{p} \frac{k G_{k+5p+s}}{3^{k}} = \left(\frac{7}{3}\right)^{n} n(G_{3n+s+3} + G_{3n+s-2}).$$

*Proof.* Set j = 0 and j = 1 in (28) and (29), respectively.

### 6. A general binomial sum identity

**Theorem 6.1.** Let *j*, *s* and *v* be integers with  $j, v \ge 0$ ,  $v \ne 0$ ,  $v \ne 1$ . Then,

$$\binom{n}{j} \sum_{m=0}^{j} \sum_{q=0}^{j-m} (-1)^{j+m+q} \binom{j}{j-m} \binom{j-m}{q} \left(\frac{T_{v}}{T_{v-1}}\right)^{m} G_{vn-j(v-1)+q+s}$$
$$= \frac{T_{v-2}^{n}}{T_{v-1}^{j}} \sum_{k=j}^{n} \sum_{p=0}^{k} \sum_{w=0}^{k-p} (-1)^{k+w+p} \binom{k}{j} \binom{n}{k} \binom{k}{k-p} \binom{k-p}{w} \left(\frac{T_{v-1}}{T_{v-2}}\right)^{k} \left(\frac{T_{v}}{T_{v-1}}\right)^{p} G_{k+w+s}.$$

*Proof.* For  $v \ge 1$  and  $\phi = \alpha$  write (4) in the form

$$\alpha^{v} = \alpha \left( T_{v} + T_{v-1}(\alpha - 1) \right) + T_{v-2}$$

Now, identify  $x = \alpha (T_v + T_{v-1}(\alpha - 1))$  and  $a = T_{v-2}$  and use Lemma 3.1 and the binomial theorem to get

$$\sum_{k=j}^{n} \binom{k}{j} \binom{n}{k} (-1)^{k} T_{v-2}^{n-k} \sum_{p=0}^{k} \binom{k}{p} T_{v}^{p} T_{v-1}^{k-p} \sum_{w=0}^{k-p} \binom{k-p}{w} (-1)^{w+p} \alpha^{k+w}$$
$$= \binom{n}{j} \sum_{m=0}^{j} \binom{j}{m} T_{v}^{m} T_{v-1}^{j-m} \sum_{q=0}^{j-m} \binom{j-m}{q} (-1)^{j-(m+q)} \alpha^{vn-j(v-1)+q}.$$

Multiply both sides by  $\alpha^s$  and combine the similar results for  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  according to the Binet formula (1). **Corollary 6.1.** *We have* 

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} \sum_{p=0}^{k} \sum_{w=0}^{k-p} (-1)^{k+w+p} \binom{n}{k} \binom{k}{p} \binom{k-p}{w} \left(\frac{T_{v-1}}{T_{v-2}}\right)^{k} \left(\frac{T_{v}}{T_{v-1}}\right)^{p} G_{k+w+s} = \frac{G_{vn+s}}{T_{v-2}^{n}}.$$

For v = 1 the left-hand side collapses and we end with  $G_{n+s}$  on both sides of the equality sign. The special values for v = 2 and v = 3 are given by

$$\sum_{p=0}^{n} \sum_{w=0}^{n-p} (-1)^{w+p} \binom{n}{p} \binom{n-p}{w} G_{n+w+s} = (-1)^n G_{2n+s}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} \sum_{p=0}^{k} \sum_{w=0}^{k-p} (-1)^{w+p+k} \binom{n}{k} \binom{k}{k-p} \binom{k-p}{w} 2^{p} G_{k+w+s} = G_{3n+s}.$$

### References

- [1] K. Adegoke, Weighted tribonacci sums, Konuralp J. Math. 8 (2020) 355–360.
- [2] K. Adegoke, R. Frontczak, T. Goy, Special sums with squared Horadam numbers and generalized Tribonacci numbers, Palest. J. Math. (2021), To appear.
- [3] K. Adegoke, A. Olatinwo, W. Oyekanmi, New Tribonacci recurrence relations and addition formulas, *Notes Number Theory Discrete Math.* **26** (2020) 164–172.
- [4] P. Anantakitpaisal, K. Kuhapatanakul, Reciprocal sums of the tribonacci numbers, J. Integer Seq. 19 (2016) #16.2.1.
- [5] K. N. Boyadzhiev, Notes on the Binomial Transform: Theory and Table with Appendix on Stirling Transform, World Scientific, Singapore, 2018.
- [6] M. Catalani, Identities for Tribonacci–related sequences, arXiv:0209179 [math.CO], (2002).
- [7] G. Cerda-Morales, Quadratic approximation of generalized tribonacci sequences, Discuss. Math. Gen. Algebra Appl. 38 (2018) 227-237.
- [8] E. Choi, Modular tribonacci numbers by matrix method, J. Korean Soc. Math. Educ. Ser. B Pure Appl. Math. 20 (2013) 207–221.
- [9] L. Comtet, Advanced Combinatorics: The Art of Finite and Infinite Expansions, D. Reidel, Dordrecht, 1974.
- [10] J. Feng, More identities on the Tribonacci numbers, Ars Combin. 100 (2011) 73-78.
- [11] R. Frontczak, A short remark on Horadam identities with binomial coefficients, Ann. Math. Inf. 54 (2021) DOI: 10.33039/ami.2021.03.016, In press.
- [12] R. Frontczak, Convolutions for generalized Tribonacci numbers and related results, Int. J. Math. Anal. 12 (2018) 307–324.
- [13] R. Frontczak, Relations for generalized Fibonacci and Tribonacci sequences, Notes Number Theory Discrete Math. 25 (2019) 178–192.
- [14] R. Frontczak, Sums of Tribonacci and Tribonacci-Lucas numbers, Int. J. Math. Anal. 12 (2018) 19-24.
- [15] T. Goy, M. Shattuck, Determinant identities for Toeplitz-Hessenberg martices with tribonacci number entries, Trans. Comb. 9 (2020) 89–109.
- [16] M. Janjić, Words and linear recurrences, J. Integer Seq. 21 (2018) #18.1.4.
- [17] T. Komatsu, R. Li, Convolution identities for Tribonacci numbers with symmetric formulae, Math. Rep. 21(71) (2019) 27-47.
- [18] K. Kuhapatanakul, L. Sukruan, The generalized tribonacci numbers with negative subscripts, *Integers* 14 (2014) #A32.
- [19] N. J. A. Sloane, The On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences, https://oeis.org.
- [20] Y. Soykan, Tribonacci and Tribonacci-Lucas matrix sequences with negative subscripts, Comm. Math. Appl. 11 (2020) 141-159.
- [21] N. Yilmaz, N. Taskara, Tribonacci and Tribonacci–Lucas numbers via the determinants of special matrices, Appl. Math. Sci. 8 (2014) 1947–1955.