



Miskolc Mathematical Notes
Vol. 14 (2013), No 1, pp. 125-133

HU e-ISSN 1787-2413
DOI: 10.18514/MMN.2013.523

Tribonacci numbers with indices in arithmetic progression and their sums

Nurettin Irmak and Murat Alp



TRIBONACCI NUMBERS WITH INDICES IN ARITHMETIC PROGRESSION AND THEIR SUMS

NURETTIN IRMAK AND MURAT ALP

Received 3 May, 2012

Abstract. In this paper, we give a recurrence relation for the Tribonacci numbers with indices in arithmetics progression, $\{T_{rn+s}\}$ for $0 \leq s < n$. We find sums of $\{T_{rn}\}$ for arbitrary integer r via matrix methods.

2000 *Mathematics Subject Classification:* 11B39; 11C20

Keywords: Tribonacci numbers, sums, matrix methods

1. INTRODUCTION

For $n \geq 3$, the Tribonacci numbers are defined by

$$T_n = T_{n-1} + T_{n-2} + T_{n-3} \quad (1.1)$$

with initial conditions $T_0 = 0, T_1 = T_2 = 1$.

The Binet formula of the Tribonacci numbers is given by,

$$\begin{aligned} T_n &= c_1 \alpha^{n+1} + c_2 \beta^{n+1} + c_3 \gamma^{n+1} \\ &= c_4 \alpha^n + c_5 \beta^n + c_6 \gamma^n \end{aligned}$$

where $c_1 = \frac{1}{(\alpha-\beta)(\alpha-\gamma)}$, $c_2 = \frac{1}{(\beta-\alpha)(\beta-\gamma)}$, $c_3 = \frac{1}{(\gamma-\alpha)(\gamma-\beta)}$, $c_4 = \frac{1}{-\alpha^2+4\alpha-1}$, $c_5 = \frac{1}{-\beta^2+4\beta-1}$, $c_6 = \frac{1}{-\gamma^2+4\gamma-1}$ and α, β, γ are the roots of the equation $x^3 - x^2 - x - 1 = 0$. The Tribonacci sequence is a special generalization of Fibonacci sequence. Many authors studied the Tribonacci sequence and its various properties. For example, in [11], the author found a formula for the Tribonacci numbers by using analytic methods. In [13], the author studied relationships between third order sequences with different initial conditions. And in [10], the author investigated the Tribonacci numbers' De moivre-type identities. In [5], the author found some formulas and identities and generating matrices for the sequences $\{T_n\}, \{T_{4n}\}$ and their sums. In [9], one can find the well-known identities for Tribonacci sequences. For example,

the generating matrix of Tribonacci sequence is given by,

$$Q^n = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}^n = \begin{bmatrix} T_{n+1} & T_n + T_{n-1} & T_n \\ T_n & T_{n-1} + T_{n-2} & T_{n-1} \\ T_{n-1} & T_{n-2} + T_{n-3} & T_{n-2} \end{bmatrix}.$$

For more details, we refer to [1, 2, 11, 12].

The matrix method is very useful method in order to obtain some identities for special sequences. For example, using matrix methods, the authors obtained some identities for various special sequences (see [3, 4, 6–8]).

In this study, we will consider certain subsequences of the Tribonacci sequence of form $\{T_{rn+s}\}$ for arbitrary integers r, s with $0 \leq s < r$. After, we will find some formulas for sums of the sequence $\{T_{rn}\}$ by using matrix methods.

Now we are giving a lemma and a theorem for the subsequence of the Tribonacci sequences to determine the recurrence relation.

Lemma 1. *Let α, β and γ are roots of $x^3 - x^2 - x - 1 = 0$. Then, for any positive integer r , $(\alpha^r + \beta^r + \gamma^r)$, $(\alpha\beta)^r + (\alpha\gamma)^r + (\beta\gamma)^r$ and $(\alpha\beta\gamma)^r$ are always integers.*

Proof. We will use the induction method. Obviously, $\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 1$, $\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \alpha\gamma = -1$ and $\alpha\beta\gamma = 1$. Now, suppose that $(\alpha^n + \beta^n + \gamma^n)$, $(\alpha\beta)^n + (\alpha\gamma)^n + (\beta\gamma)^n$ and $(\alpha\beta\gamma)^n$ are the integers for $0 < n \leq r$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} (\alpha^r + \beta^r + \gamma^r)(\alpha + \beta + \gamma) &= \alpha^{r+1} + \beta^{r+1} + \gamma^{r+1} + \alpha^{r-1}(\alpha\beta + \alpha\gamma) \\ &\quad + \beta^{r-1}(\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma) + \gamma^{r-1}(\alpha\gamma + \beta\gamma) \end{aligned}$$

and since $\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \alpha\gamma = -1$,

$$\begin{aligned} (\alpha^r + \beta^r + \gamma^r)(\alpha + \beta + \gamma) &= \alpha^{r+1} + \beta^{r+1} + \gamma^{r+1} + \alpha^{r-1}(-1 - \beta\gamma) \\ &\quad + \beta^{r-1}(-1 - \alpha\gamma) + \gamma^{r-1}(-1 - \alpha\beta) \\ &= \alpha^{r+1} + \beta^{r+1} + \gamma^{r+1} - (\alpha^{r-1} + \beta^{r-1} + \gamma^{r-1}) \\ &\quad - (\alpha\beta\gamma)(\alpha^{r-2} + \beta^{r-2} + \gamma^{r-2}). \end{aligned}$$

Finally, we obtain

$$\alpha^{r+1} + \beta^{r+1} + \gamma^{r+1} = \alpha^r + \beta^r + \gamma^r + \alpha^{r-1} + \beta^{r-1} + \gamma^{r-1} + \alpha^{r-2} + \beta^{r-2} + \gamma^{r-2}.$$

Since $(\alpha^r + \beta^r + \gamma^r)$, $(\alpha^{r-1} + \beta^{r-1} + \gamma^{r-1})$ and $(\alpha^{r-2} + \beta^{r-2} + \gamma^{r-2})$ are the integers, $\alpha^{r+1} + \beta^{r+1} + \gamma^{r+1}$ is the integer. Similarly, it can be shown that the terms of $(\alpha\beta)^r + (\alpha\gamma)^r + (\beta\gamma)^r$ and $(\alpha\beta\gamma)^r$ are the integers. \square

Theorem 1. *For $n > 2$ and the integers r, s such that $0 \leq s < r$,*

$$\begin{aligned} T_{rn+s} &= (\alpha^r + \beta^r + \gamma^r) T_{r(n-1)+s} - ((\alpha\beta)^r + (\alpha\gamma)^r + (\beta\gamma)^r) T_{r(n-2)+s} \\ &\quad + (\alpha\beta\gamma)^r T_{r(n-3)+s}, \end{aligned} \quad (1.2)$$

where α, β and γ are the roots of characteristic polynomial of the Tribonacci sequence $x^3 - x^2 - x - 1$.

Proof. In order to prove the claim, we will use the Binet formula of the Tribonacci sequence. If we evaluate the right hand side of (1.2), then

$$\begin{aligned} & (\alpha^r + \beta^r + \gamma^r) T_{r(n-1)+s} \\ & - ((\alpha\beta)^r + (\alpha\gamma)^r + (\beta\gamma)^r) T_{r(n-2)+s} + (\alpha\beta\gamma)^r T_{r(n-3)+s} \\ & = (\alpha^r + \beta^r + \gamma^r) (c_1 \alpha^{rn+s} + c_2 \beta^{rn+s} + c_3 \gamma^{rn+s}) \\ & - ((\alpha\beta)^r + (\alpha\gamma)^r + (\beta\gamma)^r) (c_1 \alpha^{r(n-1)+s} + c_2 \beta^{r(n-1)+s} + c_3 \gamma^{r(n-1)+s}) \\ & + (\alpha\beta\gamma)^r (c_1 \alpha^{r(n-2)+s} + c_2 \beta^{r(n-2)+s} + c_3 \gamma^{r(n-2)+s}), \end{aligned}$$

where $c_1 = \frac{1}{(\alpha-\beta)(\alpha-\gamma)}$, $c_2 = \frac{1}{(\beta-\alpha)(\beta-\gamma)}$ and $c_3 = \frac{1}{(\gamma-\alpha)(\gamma-\beta)}$. If we simplify the above equation, then we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & (\alpha^r + \beta^r + \gamma^r) T_{r(n-1)+s} \\ & - ((\alpha\beta)^r + (\alpha\gamma)^r + (\beta\gamma)^r) T_{r(n-2)+s} + (\alpha\beta\gamma)^r T_{r(n-3)+s} \\ & = c_1 \alpha^{r(n+1)} + c_2 \beta^{r(n+1)} + c_3 \gamma^{r(n+1)} \\ & = T_{rn+s}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus the proof is complete. \square

When $r = 1$ in the above theorem, we obtain the well-known Tribonacci recurrence.

2. SUMS OF TERMS OF THE SUBSEQUENCE $\{T_{rn}\}$

In this section, we will compute sums of the Tribonacci numbers $\{T_{rn}\}$ and their sums by matrix methods.

$$S_{n,r} = \sum_{k=0}^n T_{rk} \quad (2.1)$$

where r is an integer, and define matrices F_r and $G_{n,r}$ as shown,

$$F_r = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & C_r^{(1)} & -C_r^{(2)} & C_r^{(3)} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$$G_{n,r} = \begin{bmatrix} T_r + T_r^* & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ S_{n,r} & T_{r(n+1)} & -C_r^{(2)} T_{rn} + C_r^{(3)} T_{r(n-1)} & C_r^{(3)} T_{rn} \\ S_{n-1,r} & T_{rn} & -C_r^{(2)} T_{r(n-1)} + C_r^{(3)} T_{r(n-2)} & C_r^{(3)} T_{r(n-1)} \\ S_{n-2,r} & T_{r(n-1)} & -C_r^{(2)} T_{r(n-2)} + C_r^{(3)} T_{r(n-3)} & C_r^{(3)} T_{r(n-2)} \end{bmatrix},$$

where $C_r^{(1)} = \alpha^r + \beta^r + \gamma^r$, $C_r^{(2)} = (\alpha\beta)^r + (\beta\gamma)^r + (\alpha\gamma)^r$ and $C_r^{(3)} = (\alpha\beta\gamma)^r$. For $n \geq 3$, the sequence $\{T_r^*\}$ is defined as follows

$$T_n^* = -T_{n-1}^* - T_{n-2}^* + T_{n-3}, \quad (2.2)$$

where initial conditions $T_0^* = T_1^* = 0, T_2^* = 1$.

Theorem 2. For $n \geq 3$,

$$T_r F_r^n + T_r^* F_r^{n-1} = G_{n,r}.$$

Proof. The proof follows from the induction method. \square

After some computations, the eigenvalues of matrix F_r are $\alpha^r, \beta^r, \gamma^r$ and 1. Define two matrices L_r and W_r as follows

$$L_r = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha^k & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \beta^k & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \gamma^k \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } W_r = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{-1}{C_r^{(1)} - C_r^{(2)}} & \alpha^{2k} & \beta^{2k} & \gamma^{2k} \\ \frac{-1}{C_r^{(1)} - C_r^{(2)}} & \alpha^k & \beta^k & \gamma^k \\ \frac{-1}{C_r^{(1)} - C_r^{(2)}} & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Theorem 3. If $n > 0$, then

$$S_{n,r} = \frac{1}{C_r^{(1)} - C_r^{(2)}} \left\{ T_{r(n+1)} - (C_r^{(2)} - 1) T_{rn} + C_r^{(3)} T_{r(n-1)} - (T_r + T_r^*) \right\}.$$

Proof. Since α, β are γ different zero, then $\det L_k \neq 0$. One can check that

$$T_r F_r^n W_r = T_r W_r L_r^n$$

and

$$T_r^* F_r^{n-1} W_r = T_r^* W_r L_r^{n-1}.$$

If we sum both equations side by side, we obtain that

$$(T_r F_r^n + T_r^* F_r^{n-1}) W_r = W_r (T_r L_r^n + T_r^* L_r^{n-1}).$$

By Theorem 2, we deduce

$$G_{n,r} W_r = W_r (T_r L_r^n + T_r^* L_r^{n-1})$$

Equating the (2,1)- elements of each sides of the above equation completes the proof. \square

In the above theorem, we give a formula for sum of the terms of the sequence $\{T_{rn}\}$ for arbitrary r and for the generating matrix of the sums. Now we define two

new matrices K_r and $R_{n,r}$ in order to give a Binet like-formula for the sum of the terms of the sequence $\{T_{rn}\}$,

$$K_r = \begin{bmatrix} C_r^{(1)} + 1 & -C_r^{(1)} - C_r^{(2)} & C_r^{(2)} + 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$$R_{n,r} = \begin{bmatrix} S_{n+1,r} & X_{n,r} & Y_{n,r} & -S_{n,r} \\ S_{n,r} & X_{n-1,r} & Y_{n-1,r} & -S_{n-1,r} \\ S_{n-1,r} & X_{n-2,r} & Y_{n-2,r} & -S_{n-2,r} \\ S_{n-2,r} & X_{n-3,r} & Y_{n-3,r} & -S_{n-3,r} \end{bmatrix}$$

where

$$X_{n,r} = -\left(C_r^{(1)} + C_r^{(2)}\right) S_{n,r} + \left(C_r^{(2)} + 1\right) S_{n-1,r} - S_{n-2,r},$$

$$Y_{n,r} = \left(C_r^{(2)} + 1\right) S_{n,r} + S_{n-1,r},$$

and $S_{n,r}$ was defined by (2.1).

Theorem 4. For $n \geq 3$,

$$T_r K_r^n + T_r^* K_r^{n-1} = R_{n,r} \quad (2.3)$$

where $\{T_r\}$ is the Tribonacci sequence and the sequence $\{T_r^*\}$ is defined as in (2.2).

Proof. The proof follows from the induction method. \square

Now we define two matrices Δ_1 and D_r as follow

$$\Delta_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha^{3r} & \beta^{3r} & \gamma^{3r} & 1 \\ \alpha^{2r} & \beta^{2r} & \gamma^{2r} & 1 \\ \alpha^r & \beta^r & \gamma^r & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } D_r = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha^r & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta^r & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \gamma^r & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Theorem 5. For $n > 4$,

$$S_{n,r} = T_r \left(\frac{\alpha^{r(n+2)}}{(\alpha^r - 1)(\alpha^r - \beta^r)(\alpha^r - \gamma^r)} + \frac{\beta^{r(n+2)}}{(\beta^r - 1)(\beta^r - \alpha^r)(\beta^r - \gamma^r)} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{\gamma^{r(n+2)}}{(\gamma^r - 1)(\gamma^r - \alpha^r)(\gamma^r - \beta^r)} \right) + \\ T_r^* \left(\frac{\alpha^{r(n+1)}}{(\alpha^r - 1)(\alpha^r - \beta^r)(\alpha^r - \gamma^r)} + \frac{\beta^{r(n+1)}}{(\beta^r - 1)(\beta^r - \alpha^r)(\beta^r - \gamma^r)} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{\gamma^{r(n+1)}}{(\gamma^r - 1)(\gamma^r - \alpha^r)(\gamma^r - \beta^r)} \right).$$

Proof. The characteristic equation of the matrix K_r is

$$x^4 - (C_r^{(1)} + 1)x^3 + (C_r^{(1)} + C_r^{(2)})x^2 - (C_r^{(1)} + 1)x + 1 = 0.$$

Computing roots of the equation, we obtain α^r , β^r , γ^r and 1. So the matrix K_r is diagonalizable. It can be shown that

$$T_r K_r^n \Delta_1 = T_r \Delta_1 D_r^n$$

and

$$T_r^* K_r^{n-1} \Delta_1 = T_r^* \Delta_1 D_r^{n-1}.$$

If we sum the both equalities, we obtain

$$(T_r K_r^n + T_r^* K_r^{n-1}) \Delta_1 = \Delta_1 (T_r D_r^n + T_r^* D_r^{n-1}).$$

Using (2.3), we deduce that

$$R_{n,r} \Delta_1 = \Delta_1 (T_r D_r^n + T_r^* D_r^{n-1}).$$

So, we have the following equation system,

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha^{3r} x(r)_{i,1} + \alpha^{2r} x(r)_{i,2} + \alpha^r x(r)_{i,3} + x(r)_{i,4} &= T_r \alpha^{r(n-i)+4r} + T_r^* \alpha^{r(n-i-1)+4r} \\ \beta^{3r} x(r)_{i,1} + \beta^{2r} x(r)_{i,2} + \beta^r x(r)_{i,3} + x(r)_{i,4} &= T_r \beta^{r(n-i)+4r} + T_r^* \beta^{r(n-i-1)+4r} \\ \gamma^{3r} x(r)_{i,1} + \gamma^{2r} x(r)_{i,2} + \gamma^r x(r)_{i,3} + x(r)_{i,4} &= T_r \gamma^{r(n-i)+4r} + T_r^* \gamma^{r(n-i-1)+4r} \\ x(r)_{i,1} + x(r)_{i,2} + x(r)_{i,3} + x(r)_{i,4} &= T_r + T_r^* \end{aligned}$$

where $R_{n,r} = [x(r)_{i,j}]$. In order to obtain $x(r)_{2,1}$, we use Cramer's method

$$x(r)_{2,1} = \frac{\det \begin{bmatrix} T_r \alpha^{r(n+2)} + T_r^* \alpha^{r(n+1)} & \alpha^{2r} & \alpha^r & 1 \\ T_r \beta^{r(n+2)} + T_r^* \beta^{r(n+1)} & \beta^{2r} & \beta^r & 1 \\ T_r \gamma^{r(n+2)} + T_r^* \gamma^{r(n+1)} & \gamma^{2r} & \gamma^r & 1 \\ T_r + T_r^* & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}{\det \begin{bmatrix} \alpha^{3r} & \beta^{3r} & \gamma^{3r} & 1 \\ \alpha^{2r} & \beta^{2r} & \gamma^{2r} & 1 \\ \alpha^r & \beta^r & \gamma^r & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}.$$

If we expand the first column of the matrix,

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} T_r \alpha^{r(n+2)} + T_r^* \alpha^{r(n+1)} & \alpha^{2r} & \alpha^r & 1 \\ T_r \beta^{r(n+2)} + T_r^* \beta^{r(n+1)} & \beta^{2r} & \beta^r & 1 \\ T_r \gamma^{r(n+2)} + T_r^* \gamma^{r(n+1)} & \gamma^{2r} & \gamma^r & 1 \\ T_r + T_r^* & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \det \begin{bmatrix} T_r \alpha^{r(n+2)} & \alpha^{2r} & \alpha^r & 1 \\ T_r \beta^{r(n+2)} & \beta^{2r} & \beta^r & 1 \\ T_r \gamma^{r(n+2)} & \gamma^{2r} & \gamma^r & 1 \\ T_r & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + \det \begin{bmatrix} T_r^* \alpha^{r(n+1)} & \alpha^{2r} & \alpha^r & 1 \\ T_r^* \beta^{r(n+1)} & \beta^{2r} & \beta^r & 1 \\ T_r^* \gamma^{r(n+1)} & \gamma^{2r} & \gamma^r & 1 \\ T_r^* & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

and after some simplifications, we obtain $S_{n,r}$ as

$$\begin{aligned} x(r)_{2,1} &= S_{n,r} \\ &= T_r \left(\frac{\alpha^{r(n+2)}}{(\alpha^r - 1)(\alpha^r - \beta^r)(\alpha^r - \gamma^r)} + \frac{\beta^{r(n+2)}}{(\beta^r - 1)(\beta^r - \alpha^r)(\beta^r - \gamma^r)} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{\gamma^{r(n+2)}}{(\gamma^r - 1)(\gamma^r - \alpha^r)(\gamma^r - \beta^r)} \right) + \\ &\quad T_r^* \left(\frac{\alpha^{r(n+1)}}{(\alpha^r - 1)(\alpha^r - \beta^r)(\alpha^r - \gamma^r)} + \frac{\beta^{r(n+1)}}{(\beta^r - 1)(\beta^r - \alpha^r)(\beta^r - \gamma^r)} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{\gamma^{r(n+1)}}{(\gamma^r - 1)(\gamma^r - \alpha^r)(\gamma^r - \beta^r)} \right). \end{aligned}$$

□

2.1. Determinantal representations

In this section, we give some relationships between the sequence $\{T_{rn}\}$, the sum of terms of the sequence and the permanents of certain matrices. We define $n \times n$ matrices $H_{n,r}$, $Z_{n,r}$ as follows

$$H_{n,r} = [u(r)_{i,j}] = \begin{cases} C_r^{(1)} & \text{if } i = j, \\ -C_r^{(2)} & \text{if } j = i + 1, \\ C_r^{(3)} & \text{if } j = i + 2, \\ 1 & \text{if } i = j + 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and

$$Z_{n,r} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & & \cdots & 1 \\ 1 & & & & \\ 0 & & H_{n-1} & & \\ \vdots & & & & \\ 0 & & & & \end{bmatrix}$$

We present some relationships with the following theorem.

Theorem 6. For $n > 1$

- (i) $T_r \text{per} H_{n,r} + T_r^* \text{per} H_{n-1,r} = T_{r(n+1)}$
- (ii) $T_r \text{per} Z_{n,r} + T_r^* \text{per} Z_{n-1,r} = \sum_{j=1}^n T_{rj}$

Proof. (i) If we expand the permanent of matrix $H_{n,r}$ according to the first column, then we obtain

$$\text{per}H_{n+1,r} = C_r^{(1)} \text{per}H_{n,r} - C_r^{(2)} \text{per}H_{n-1,r} + C_r^{(3)} \text{per}H_{n-1,r}.$$

Since $\text{per}H_{n,r}$ and $\{T_{rn}\}$ have the same recurrence relation and initial conditions, the proof is complete.

(ii) It can be proven similarly to the first identity. \square

3. COMBINATORIAL REPRESENTATIONS

In this part, we give some combinatorial representations of the terms of the sum of subsequence of the Tribonacci sequence and the entries of the n^{th} power of the companion matrix

$$A_k(k_1, k_2, \dots, k_k) = \begin{bmatrix} k_1 & k_2 & \cdots & k_k \\ 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

In [2], we can see the following results;

Theorem 7. The (i, j) entry $a_{i,j}^{(n)}(k_1, k_2, \dots, k_k)$ in matrix $A_k^{(n)}(k_1, k_2, \dots, k_k)$ is given by following formula:

$$\begin{aligned} & a_{i,j}^{(n)}(k_1, k_2, \dots, k_k) \\ &= \sum_{(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_k)} \frac{t_j + t_{j+1} + \cdots + t_k}{t_1 + t_2 + \cdots + t_k} \times \binom{t_1 + t_2 + \cdots + t_k}{t_1, t_2, \dots, t_k} k_1^{t_1} \cdots k_k^{t_k} \end{aligned} \quad (3.1)$$

where the summation is over nonnegative integers satisfying $t_1 + 2t_2 + \cdots + kt_k = n - i + j$, and the coefficient in (3.1) is defined to be 1 if $n = i - j$.

Corollary 1. Let $S_{n,r}$ be the sum of Tribonacci numbers where the subscripts form an arithmetic sequence. Then

$$\begin{aligned} S_{n,r} = \sum_{(r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4)} \binom{r_1 + r_2 + r_3 + r_4}{r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4} (C_r^{(1)} + 1)^{r_1} (-C_r^{(1)} + C_r^{(2)})^{r_2} \\ \times (-C_r^{(2)} + 1)^{r_3} (-1)^{r_4} \end{aligned}$$

where the summation is over nonnegative integers satisfying $r_1 + 2r_2 + 3r_3 + 4r_4 = n - 1$.

Corollary 2. Let T_n be the n^{th} Tribonacci number. Then

$$T_{rn} = \sum_{(t_1, t_2, t_3)} \binom{t_1 + t_2 + t_3}{t_1, t_2, t_3} (C_r^{(1)})^{t_1} (-C_r^{(2)})^{t_2} (C_r^{(3)})^{t_3}$$

where the summation is over nonnegative integers satisfying $t_1 + 2t_2 + 3t_3 = n - 1$.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors would like to thank the anonymous referee for a number of helpful suggestions.

REFERENCES

- [1] K. Alladi and V. E. j. Hoggatt, "On Tribonacci numbers and related functions," *Fibonacci Q.*, vol. 15, pp. 42–45, 1977.
- [2] W. Y. C. Chen and J. D. Louck, "The combinatorial power of the companion matrix," *Linear Algebra Appl.*, vol. 232, pp. 261–278, 1996.
- [3] E. Kiliç, "The generalized order- k Fibonacci-Pell sequence by matrix methods," *J. Comput. Appl. Math.*, vol. 209, no. 2, pp. 133–145, 2007.
- [4] E. Kiliç, "Sums of generalized Fibonacci numbers by matrix methods," *Ars Comb.*, vol. 84, pp. 23–31, 2007.
- [5] E. Kiliç, "Tribonacci sequences with certain indices and their sums," *Ars Comb.*, vol. 86, pp. 13–22, 2008.
- [6] E. Kiliç, "The generalized Fibonomial matrix," *Eur. J. Comb.*, vol. 31, no. 1, pp. 193–209, 2010.
- [7] E. Kiliç, "A matrix approach for generalizing two curious divisibility properties," *Math. Notes, Miskolc*, vol. 13, no. 2, pp. 389–396, 2012.
- [8] E. Kiliç and P. Stănică, "A matrix approach for general higher order linear recurrences," *Bull. Malays. Math. Sci. Soc. (2)*, vol. 34, no. 1, pp. 51–67, 2011.
- [9] T. Koshy, *Fibonacci and Lucas numbers with applications*, ser. Pure and Applied Mathematics. A Wiley-Interscience Series of Texts, Monographs, and Tracts. New York: Wiley, 2001.
- [10] P.-Y. Lin, "De Moivre-type identities for the Tribonacci numbers," *Fibonacci Q.*, vol. 26, no. 2, pp. 131–134, 1988.
- [11] C. P. McCarty, "A formula for Tribonacci numbers," *Fibonacci Q.*, vol. 19, pp. 391–393, 1981.
- [12] H. Minc, "Permanent of $(0, 1)$ -circulants," *Can. Math. Bull.*, vol. 7, pp. 253–263, 1964.
- [13] S. Pethe, "Some identities for Tribonacci sequences," *Fibonacci Q.*, vol. 26, no. 2, pp. 144–151, 1988.

Authors' addresses

Nurettin Irmak

Niğde University, Mathematics Department, 51240 Niğde, TURKEY

E-mail address: nirmak@nigde.edu.tr

Murat Alp

Niğde University, Mathematics Department, 51240 Niğde, TURKEY

E-mail address: muratalp@nigde.edu.tr