

## ADVANCED PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

EDITED BY  
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### PROBLEMS PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE

#### **H-868 Proposed by Juan Lopez Gonzalez, Madrid, Spain**

Prove that if  $N$  is an odd perfect number, then it satisfies

$$\frac{\sigma_0(N) \ln 2}{2} = N \ln 2 - \sum_{\substack{d|N \\ d>1}} \sum_{k=1}^{(d-1)/2} \sum_{\ell \geq 1} \frac{k^{2\ell} (2^{2\ell} - 1)}{\ell 2^{2\ell}} \zeta(2\ell),$$

where  $\sigma_0(N)$  is the number of divisors of  $N$  and for  $k > 1$ ,  $\zeta(k)$  is the Riemann zeta function.

#### **H-869 Proposed by Hideyuki Ohtsuka, Saitama, Japan**

For positive integer  $n$ , prove that

$$\sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^k L_k F_k^5 = \frac{(-1)^n (F_n^5 F_{n+3} - F_n^2)}{2}.$$

#### **H-870 Proposed by Hideyuki Ohtsuka, Saitama, Japan**

For any positive integer  $n$ , find closed form expressions for the sums

$$(i) \quad \sum_{k=1}^n (L_{F_k} L_{F_{k+1}}) (F_{F_k} F_{F_{k+1}})^3 \quad \text{and} \quad (ii) \quad \sum_{k=1}^n (F_{F_k} F_{F_{k+1}}) (L_{F_k} L_{F_{k+1}})^3.$$

#### **H-871 Proposed by Robert Frontczak, Stuttgart, Germany**

Let  $(B_n)_{n \geq 0}$  and  $(C_n)_{n \geq 0}$  be the balancing and Lucas-balancing numbers, respectively, i.e.,  $B_{n+1} = 6B_n - B_{n-1}$  and  $C_{n+1} = 6C_n - C_{n-1}$  for all  $n \geq 1$  and  $B_0 = 0$ ,  $B_1 = 1$ ,  $C_0 = 1$ ,  $C_1 = 3$ . Show that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{B_n}{n(n+1)6^n} = 6 \ln 6 - \frac{17}{\sqrt{8}} \ln(3 + \sqrt{8}) \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{C_n}{n(n+1)6^n} = 1 - 17 \ln 6 + 6\sqrt{8} \ln(3 + \sqrt{8}).$$

**H-872 Proposed by Robert Frontczak, Stuttgart, Germany**

Prove that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \eta(2n) \frac{F_{2n}}{5^n} = \frac{\pi}{10 \cos(\frac{\pi}{2\sqrt{5}})} \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \eta(2n) \frac{L_{2n}}{5^n} = \frac{\pi}{2 \cos(\frac{\pi}{2\sqrt{5}})} - 1,$$

where  $\eta(s) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{k-1}/k^s$  (defined for  $\text{Re}(s) > 0$ ) is the Dirichlet  $\eta$  (or alternating Riemann zeta) function.

**SOLUTIONS**

**Closed formulas for some sums of products of balancing numbers**

**H-834 Proposed by Robert Frontczak, Stuttgart, Germany**

(Vol. 57, No. 1, February 2018)

Let  $\{B_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$  and  $\{C_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$  denote the balancing and Lucas-balancing numbers, respectively, given by

$$B_{n+1} = 6B_n - B_{n-1} \quad \text{and} \quad C_{n+1} = 6C_n - C_{n-1} \quad \text{for all } n \geq 1,$$

with  $B_0 = 0, B_1 = 1, C_0 = 1, C_1 = 3$ . Prove that for integers  $n \geq 1, j \geq 0$

- (i)  $\sum_{k=1}^n C_{k \mp j} B_{k \pm j} = \frac{1}{32}(C_{2n+1} - 3) \pm \frac{n}{2} B_{2j}$ ;
- (ii)  $\sum_{k=1}^n C_{k-j} C_{k+j} B_{k-j} B_{k+j} = \frac{1}{768}(B_{4n+2} - 6(2n+1)) - \frac{n}{4} B_{2j}^2$ .

**Solution by Ángel Plaza, Gran Canaria, Spain**

We will use Binet's formulas for these numbers,  $B_n = \frac{\alpha^n - \beta^n}{4\sqrt{2}}$  and  $C_n = \frac{\alpha^n + \beta^n}{2}$ , where  $\alpha = 3 + 2\sqrt{2}$  and  $\beta = 3 - 2\sqrt{2}$ . Note that  $\alpha\beta = 1$ .

Therefore, for (i)

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^n C_{k \mp j} B_{k \pm j} &= \frac{1}{8\sqrt{2}} \sum_{k=1}^n (\alpha^{k \mp j} + \beta^{k \mp j}) (\alpha^{k \pm j} - \beta^{k \pm j}) \\ &= \frac{1}{8\sqrt{2}} \sum_{k=1}^n (\alpha^{2k} - \beta^{2k}) + \frac{1}{8\sqrt{2}} \sum_{k=1}^n \left( \left( \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \right)^{\pm j} - \left( \frac{\beta}{\alpha} \right)^{\pm j} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{8\sqrt{2}} \left( \frac{\alpha^2 - \alpha^{2n+2}}{1 - \alpha^2} - \frac{\beta^2 - \beta^{2n+2}}{1 - \beta^2} \right) + \frac{n}{2} \left( \frac{\left( \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \right)^{\pm j} - \left( \frac{\beta}{\alpha} \right)^{\pm j}}{4\sqrt{2}} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{8\sqrt{2}} \left( \frac{\alpha - \alpha^{2n+1}}{\beta - \alpha} - \frac{\beta - \beta^{2n+1}}{\alpha - \beta} \right) \pm \frac{n}{2} B_{2j} \\ &= \frac{-\alpha - \beta + \alpha^{2n+1} + \beta^{2n+1}}{8\sqrt{2} \cdot 4\sqrt{2}} \pm \frac{n}{2} B_{2j} \\ &= \frac{1}{32}(C_{2n+1} - 3) \pm \frac{n}{2} B_{2j}. \end{aligned}$$

Now, for (ii), we use that for any integer  $m$ ,  $C_m B_m = \frac{C_{2m}}{4\sqrt{2}}$ , so

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^n C_{k-j} C_{k+j} B_{k-j} B_{k+j} &= \frac{1}{(4\sqrt{2})^2} \sum_{k=1}^n C_{2k-2j} C_{2k+2j} \\ &= \frac{1}{32 \cdot 4} \sum_{k=1}^n (\alpha^{2k-2j} + \beta^{2k-2j}) (\alpha^{2k+2j} + \beta^{2k+2j}) \\ &= \frac{1}{128} \sum_{k=1}^n \left( \alpha^{4k} + \beta^{4k} + \left(\frac{\alpha}{\beta}\right)^{2j} + \left(\frac{\beta}{\alpha}\right)^{2j} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{128} \left( \frac{\alpha^4 - \alpha^{4n+4}}{1 - \alpha^4} + \frac{\beta^4 - \beta^{4n+4}}{1 - \beta^4} + n(\alpha^{4j} + \beta^{4j}) \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{128} \left( \frac{\alpha^2 - \alpha^{4n+2}}{\beta^2 - \alpha^2} + \frac{\beta^2 - \beta^{4n+2}}{\alpha^2 - \beta^2} + n(32B_{2j}^2 + 2) \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{768} \left( -\frac{\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + \alpha^{4n+2} - \beta^{4n+2}}{\alpha - \beta} + 6n(32B_{2j}^2 + 2) \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{768} (B_{4n+2} - 6(2n+1)) - \frac{n}{4} B_{2j}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Also solved by Brian Bradie, Kenneth B. Davenport, Dmitry Fleischman, Hideyuki Ohtsuka, and the proposer.

Identities between higher order Bernoulli numbers and Stirling numbers

**H-835** Proposed by Andrei K. Svinin and Svetlana V. Svinina, Matrosov Institute for System Dynamics and Control Theory of SB RAS, Irkutsk, Russia (Vol. 57, No. 1, February 2019)

Let  $B_q^{(k)}$  be the higher order Bernoulli numbers that are defined by an exponential generating function as

$$\frac{t^k}{(e^t - 1)^k} = \sum_{q \geq 0} \frac{B_q^{(k)}}{q!} t^q.$$

Prove that

$$B_n^{(k)} = \sum_{q=1}^n \frac{s(q+k, k)}{\binom{q+k}{k}} S(n, q),$$

where  $s(n, k)$  and  $S(n, k)$  are the Stirling numbers of the first and second type, respectively.

**Solution by Ulrich Abel, Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen, Friedberg, Germany**

We apply the exponential generating functions

$$\log^m(1+x) = m! \sum_{n=m}^{\infty} s(n, m) \frac{x^n}{n!} \quad \text{and} \quad (e^x - 1)^m = m! \sum_{n=m}^{\infty} S(n, m) \frac{x^n}{n!}$$

of the Stirling numbers of the first and second kind, respectively. Putting  $t = \log(1+x)$ , such that  $|\log(1+x)| < 2\pi$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{t^k}{(e^t - 1)^k} &= \frac{\log^k(1+x)}{x^k} = k! \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} s(j+k, k) \frac{x^j}{(j+k)!} \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} s(j+k, k) \binom{j+k}{k}^{-1} \frac{(e^t - 1)^j}{j!} \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} s(j+k, k) \binom{j+k}{k}^{-1} \sum_{n=j}^{\infty} S(n, j) \frac{t^n}{n!} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^n}{n!} \sum_{j=0}^n \binom{j+k}{k}^{-1} s(j+k, k) S(n, j). \end{aligned}$$

This proves that

$$\frac{t^k}{(e^t - 1)^k} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} B_n^{(k)} \frac{t^n}{n!}$$

with coefficients

$$B_n^{(k)} = \sum_{j=0}^n \binom{j+k}{k}^{-1} s(j+k, k) S(n, j).$$

Remark 1. Note that  $S(n, 0) = 0$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . If the sum starts with  $j = 0$ , it is correct also in the case  $n = 0$ .

Remark 2. In the special case  $k = 1$ , we obtain a representation of the Bernoulli numbers

$$B_n = B_n^{(1)} = \sum_{j=0}^n (-1)^j \frac{j!}{j+1} S(n, j)$$

in terms of Stirling numbers of the second kind. Here, we used  $s(j+1, 1) = (-1)^j j!$  for  $j \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ .

Remark 3. In [1], we find formula (2.2):

$$(x-1)(x-2)\cdots(x-m) = \sum_{n=0}^m \binom{m}{n} B_n^{(m+1)} x^{m-n},$$

which is cited from Chapter 6 of the book [2]. Comparison with

$$\begin{aligned} x(x-1)(x-2)\cdots(x-m) &= \sum_{j=0}^{m+1} s(m+1, j) x^j, \\ (x-1)(x-2)\cdots(x-m) &= \sum_{j=0}^{m+1} s(m+1, m+1-j) x^{m-j} \end{aligned}$$

yields, for  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , the initial Bernoulli numbers of higher order

$$B_n^{(k)} = \binom{k-1}{n}^{-1} s(k, k-n) \quad (n = 0, \dots, k-1).$$

Another view is, for fixed  $n$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} B_0^{(k)} &= 1 \quad (k \geq 0), \\ B_1^{(k)} &= \frac{1}{k-1} s(k, k-1) = -k/2 \quad (k \geq 1). \end{aligned}$$

More of such formulas can be found on Page 146 of [2].

[1] L. Carlitz, *Some theorems on Bernoulli numbers of higher order*, Pacific J. Math., **2** (1952), 127–139.

[2] N. E. Nörlund, *Vorlesungen über Differenzenrechnung*, Berlin, 1924.

Also solved by Khristo N. Boyadzhiev, Dmitry Fleischman, Won Kyun Jeong, and the proposers.

Closed formulas for sums of products of members from a certain sequence

**H-836 Proposed by Hideyuki Ohtsuka, Saitama, Japan**  
(Vol. 57, No. 1, February 2019)

Given a real number  $p > 0$ , define the sequence  $\{S_n\}_{n \geq 0}$  by

$$S_0 = p, \quad S_n = S_{n-1}^2 + p \quad \text{for } n \geq 1.$$

For any integer  $n \geq 0$ , find closed form expressions for the sums

$$(i) \quad \sum_{k=0}^n S_k S_{k+1} \cdots S_n \quad \text{and} \quad (ii) \quad \sum_{k=0}^n (S_k S_{k+1} \cdots S_n)^2.$$

**Solution by Raphael Schumacher, ETH Zurich, Switzerland**

We will prove by induction that

$$\sum_{k=0}^n S_k S_{k+1} \cdots S_n = \frac{S_{n+1}}{p} - 1 = \frac{S_n^2}{p} \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}_0,$$

and that

$$\sum_{k=0}^n (S_k S_{k+1} \cdots S_n)^2 = \frac{S_n^4 + 2pS_n^2}{p(p+2)} = \frac{S_{n+1}^2 - p^2}{p(p+2)} \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}_0.$$

The above two formulas are true for  $n = 0$ , because we have

$$p = S_0 = \sum_{k=0}^0 S_k S_{k+1} \cdots S_n = \frac{S_{0+1}}{p} - 1 = \frac{S_1}{p} - 1 = \frac{p^2 + p}{p} - 1 = p = \frac{p^2}{p} = \frac{S_0^2}{p}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} p^2 &= S_0^2 = \sum_{k=0}^0 (S_k S_{k+1} \cdots S_n)^2 = \frac{S_0^4 + 2pS_0^2}{p(p+2)} = \frac{p^4 + 2p^3}{p(p+2)} \\ &= \frac{(p^2 + p)^2 - p^2}{p(p+2)} = \frac{S_{0+1}^2 - p^2}{p(p+2)} = \frac{S_1^2 - p^2}{p(p+2)}. \end{aligned}$$

We assume that the first formula

$$\sum_{k=0}^n S_k S_{k+1} \cdots S_n = \frac{S_{n+1}}{p} - 1$$

is correct for  $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$  and show that this implies the correctness of the formula for  $n + 1 \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{n+1} S_k S_{k+1} \cdots S_n &= \left( \sum_{k=0}^n S_k S_{k+1} \cdots S_n \right) S_{n+1} + S_{n+1} = \left( \frac{S_{n+1}}{p} - 1 \right) S_{n+1} + S_{n+1} \\ &= \frac{S_{n+1}^2}{p} - S_{n+1} + S_{n+1} = \frac{S_{n+1}^2}{p} = \frac{S_{n+2} - p}{p} = \frac{S_{n+2}}{p} - 1 = \frac{S_{(n+1)+1}}{p} - 1 \end{aligned}$$

for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ . The formula

$$\sum_{k=0}^n S_k S_{k+1} \cdots S_n = \frac{S_{n+1}}{p} - 1 = \frac{S_{n+1} - p}{p} = \frac{(S_n^2 + p) - p}{p} = \frac{S_n^2}{p} \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}_0$$

is equivalent and also true. If the second formula

$$\sum_{k=0}^n (S_k S_{k+1} \cdots S_n)^2 = \frac{S_n^4 + 2pS_n^2}{p(p+2)}$$

is correct for  $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ , then this implies that the formula is also correct for  $n + 1 \in \mathbb{N}$ , because

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{n+1} (S_k S_{k+1} \cdots S_n)^2 &= \left( \sum_{k=0}^n (S_k S_{k+1} \cdots S_n)^2 \right) S_{n+1}^2 + S_{n+1}^2 = \left( \frac{S_n^4 + 2pS_n^2}{p(p+2)} \right) S_{n+1}^2 + S_{n+1}^2 \\ &= \left( \frac{S_n^4 + 2pS_n^2}{p(p+2)} + 1 \right) S_{n+1}^2 = \left( \frac{S_n^4 + 2pS_n^2 + p^2 + 2p}{p(p+2)} \right) S_{n+1}^2 \\ &= \left( \frac{(S_n^2 + p)^2 + 2p}{p(p+2)} \right) S_{n+1}^2 = \left( \frac{S_{n+1}^2 + 2p}{p(p+2)} \right) S_{n+1}^2 = \frac{S_{n+1}^4 + 2pS_{n+1}^2}{p(p+2)} \end{aligned}$$

for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$  and it holds also that

$$\sum_{k=0}^n (S_k S_{k+1} \cdots S_n)^2 = \frac{S_n^4 + 2pS_n^2}{p(p+2)} = \frac{(S_n^2 + p)^2 - p^2}{p(p+2)} = \frac{S_{n+1}^2 - p^2}{p(p+2)} \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}_0.$$

Also solved by Dmitry Fleischman and the proposer.

**Relations among sums of Tribonacci numbers**

**H-837 Proposed by Robert Frontczak, Stuttgart, Germany**

**(Vol. 57, No. 2, May 2019)**

The Tribonacci numbers  $\{T_n\}_{n \geq 0}$  satisfy  $T_0 = 0$ ,  $T_1 = T_2 = 1$ , and  $T_n = T_{n-1} + T_{n-2} + T_{n-3}$  for all  $n \geq 3$ . Prove that for any  $n \geq 1$

$$\sum_{k=1}^n T_{2(n-k)+2} \left( \sum_{j=0}^{2(n-k)} T_j \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \left( \sum_{k=1}^n T_{2k} \right)^2 - \left( \sum_{k=1}^n T_{2k-1} \right)^2 \right).$$

**Solution by Hideyuki Ohtsuka, Saitama, Japan**

The given identity can be rewritten as follows

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} T_{2k+2} \sum_{j=0}^{2k} T_j = \frac{1}{2} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{2n} T_k \right) \left( \sum_{k=1}^{2n} (-1)^k T_k \right).$$

Here, using the identities

$$\sum_{k=1}^n T_k = \frac{T_{n+2} + T_n - 1}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^k T_k = \frac{(-1)^n (T_{n+1} - T_{n-1}) - 1}{2}$$

(see [1]), we have

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} T_{2k+2} (T_{2k+2} + T_{2k} - 1) = \frac{1}{4} (T_{2n+2} + T_{2n} - 1) (T_{2n+1} - T_{2n-1} - 1). \quad (1)$$

The proof of (1) is by induction on  $n$ . For  $n = 1$ , we have the left side and right side of (1) equal 0. We assume that (1) holds for  $n$ . For  $n + 1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^n T_{2k+2} (T_{2k+2} + T_{2k} - 1) &= T_{2n+2} (T_{2n+2} + T_{2n} - 1) + \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} T_{2k+2} (T_{2k+2} + T_{2k} - 1) \\ &= T_{2n+2} (T_{2n+2} + T_{2n} - 1) + \frac{1}{4} (T_{2n+2} + T_{2n} - 1) (T_{2n+1} - T_{2n-1} - 1) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} (4T_{2n+2} + T_{2n+1} - T_{2n-1} - 1) (T_{2n+2} + T_{2n} - 1) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} (T_{2n+4} + T_{2n+2} - 1) (T_{2n+3} - T_{2n+1} - 1) \quad \text{because} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &(4T_{2n+2} + T_{2n+1} - T_{2n-1} - 1) - (T_{2n+4} + T_{2n+2} - 1) = 3T_{2n+2} + T_{2n+1} - T_{2n-1} - T_{2n+4} \\ &= 3T_{2n+2} + T_{2n+1} - T_{2n-1} - (T_{2n+3} + T_{2n+2} + T_{2n+1}) = -T_{2n+3} + 2T_{2n+2} - T_{2n-1} \\ &= -(T_{2n+2} + T_{2n+1} + T_{2n}) + 2T_{2n+2} - T_{2n-1} = T_{2n+2} - T_{2n+1} - T_{2n} - T_{2n-1} = 0, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$(T_{2n+2} + T_{2n} - 1) - (T_{2n+3} - T_{2n+1} - 1) = T_{2n+2} + T_{2n+1} + T_{2n} - T_{2n+3} = 0.$$

Thus, (1) holds for  $n + 1$ . Therefore, (1) is proved.

[1] R. Frontczak, *Sums of Tribonacci and Tribonacci-Lucas numbers*, Internat. J. Math. Analysis, **12** (2018), 19–24.

**Also solved by Brian Bradie, Kenneth B. Davenport, Dmitry Fleischman, Raphael Schumacher, and the proposer.**

**Sums with Lucas numbers and binomial coefficients**

**H-838 Proposed by Sergio Falcón and Ángel Plaza, Gran Canaria, Spain (Vol. 57, No. 2, May 2019)**

Find a closed form expression for the following sum, where  $r > 1$  and  $n \geq r$  are integers

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n-r} \left( \binom{r+j}{r} - \binom{r+j-1}{r} - \binom{r+j-2}{r} \right) L_{n-(r+j)}.$$

**Solution by Brian Bradie, Newport News, VA**

We find a closed form expression for the more general sum

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n-r} \left( \binom{r+j}{j} - \binom{r+j-1}{j} - \binom{r+j-2}{j} \right) G_{n-(r+j)},$$

where  $\{G_n\}_{n \geq 0}$  is the generalized Fibonacci sequence with  $G_0 = a$ ,  $G_1 = b$ , and  $G_n = G_{n-1} + G_{n-2}$  for  $n \geq 2$ . Now,

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{j=0}^{n-r} \left( \binom{r+j}{j} - \binom{r+j-1}{j} - \binom{r+j-2}{j} \right) G_{n-(r+j)} \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{n-r-2} \binom{r+j}{j} (G_{n-r-j} - G_{n-r-j-1} - G_{n-r-j-2}) + \binom{n-1}{r} (G_1 - G_0) + \binom{n}{r} G_0 \\ &= \binom{n-1}{r} (b - a) + \binom{n}{r} a = \frac{(n-1)!}{r!(n-r)!} (ar + b(n-r)). \end{aligned}$$

Now for the Lucas sequence  $a = 2$  and  $b = 1$ , we have

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n-r} \left( \binom{r+j}{r} - \binom{r+j-1}{r} - \binom{r+j-2}{r} \right) L_{n-(r+j)} = \frac{(n-1)!}{r!(n-r)!} (n+r).$$

**Also solved by Dmitry Fleischman, Hideyuki Ohtsuka, and the proposers.**

**Late acknowledgement:** Dmitry Fleischman has solved Advanced Problem **H-833**.

**Errata:** In Advanced Problem **H-854** the correct limit to compute is

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( (f(x+1))^{\frac{L_n}{(x+1)^{L_{n+1}}} - (f(x))^{\frac{L_n}{x^{L_{n+1}}}} \right) x^{\frac{L_{n-1}}{L_{n+1}}} \right).$$