Binet – Type Formula For The Sequence of Tetranacci Numbers by Alternate Methods

GAUTAM S. HATHIWALA AND DEVBHADRA V. SHAH

C.K. Pithawala College of Engineering & Technology, Surat.
Department of Mathematics, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat.

Email: gautamhathiwala1717@gmail.com

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Abstract The sequence \( \{T_n\} \) of Tetranacci numbers is defined by the recurrence relation
\[
T_n = T_{n-1} + T_{n-2} + T_{n-3} + T_{n-4} ; \quad n \geq 4
\]
with initial condition \( T_0 = T_1 = T_2 = 0 \) and \( T_3 = 1 \). In this paper, we obtain the explicit formula – Binet – type formula for \( T_n \) by two different methods. We use the concept of eigen decomposition as well as of generating functions to obtain the result.

Keywords: Binet formula, Fibonacci sequence, Tetranacci sequence.

Mathematics Subject Classification: 11B39, 15B36.

1. INTRODUCTION

Fibonacci sequence is a sequence of numbers defined by the recursive formula
\[
F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2} ; \quad \text{for } n > 2 \text{ with initial condition } F_1 = 1, F_2 = 1.
\]
This sequence possesses many interesting properties which have been studied in detail ([8], [12]). Analogous to Fibonacci sequence, many other sequences have been defined, either by changing the initial terms or the recursive relation or both, to obtain the new sequence which may possess similar properties ([9], [11]). One of the important result that is associated with Fibonacci numbers and which has been studied for centuries now, is the Binet formula given as
\[
F_n = \frac{\phi^n - (-\phi)^{-n}}{\sqrt{5}} ;
\]
where \( \phi = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \) and \( F_n \) is the \( n^{\text{th}} \) Fibonacci number.

Also, by changing the recursive formula or the initial terms, we can have a new sequence of numbers defined and correspondingly, a new Binet – type formula
Hathiwala, GS
Shah, DV

In this paper we consider the sequence of Tetranacci numbers and obtain the Binet – type formula for \( T_n \) by two different methods.

**Definition:** The sequence of Tetranacci numbers is defined by the recurrence relation

\[
T_n = T_{n-1} + T_{n-2} + T_{n-3} + T_{n-4} \quad \text{for } n \geq 4
\]

with initial terms \( T_0 = T_1 = T_2 = 0 \) and \( T_3 = 1 \). The first few terms of the sequence \( \{T_n\} \) are:

\[0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 2, 4, 8, 15, 29, 56, 108, 208, 401, 773, 1490, 2872 \ldots .\]

Many salient features of this sequence have been studied in detail ([4], [5], [10]).

2. PRELIMINARY RESULTS

In this section, we give some preliminary results which will be useful to derive the Binet – type formula for \( T_n \).

**Proposition 2.1**

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
T_n \\
T_{n+1} \\
T_{n+2} \\
T_{n+3}
\end{bmatrix} =
\begin{bmatrix}
0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\
1 & 1 & 1 & 1
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
0  \\
1  \\
0  \\
1
\end{bmatrix}
\]

**Proof:** Above result can be proved using principal of mathematical induction. It is clearly observed that result is true for \( n = 1 \). Let it be true for some positive integer \( k \). This gives,

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
T_k \\
T_{k+1} \\
T_{k+2} \\
T_{k+3}
\end{bmatrix} =
\begin{bmatrix}
0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\
1 & 1 & 1 & 1
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
0  \\
1  \\
0  \\
1
\end{bmatrix}
\]

Now consider \( n = k + 1 \). Then we have

\[
R.H.S. =
\begin{bmatrix}
0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \ldots & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & \ldots & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \ldots & 0 \\
1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & \ldots & 1
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
0  \\
0  \\
0  \\
1
\end{bmatrix} =
\begin{bmatrix}
0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\
1 & 1 & 1 & 1
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
0  \\
0  \\
0  \\
1
\end{bmatrix}
\]

38
Using the induction hypothesis, we get

\[ R.H.S. = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{k+1} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} T_k \\ T_{k+1} \\ T_{k+2} \\ T_{k+3} \end{pmatrix} = L.H.S. \]

Thus result is true for \( n = k + 1 \) also, and hence for all \( n \).

We next derive the generating function for the sequence \( \{ T_n \} \).

**Proposition 2.2:** \( t(x) = \frac{x^3}{1 - x - x^2 - x^3 - x^4} \).

**Proof:** Let \( t(x) \) be the polynomial of infinite degree with its coefficients as Tetranacci numbers, i.e. let \( t(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} T_n x^n = T_0 + T_1 x + T_2 x^2 + T_3 x^3 + T_4 x^4 + T_5 x^5 + \ldots \).

Now, multiplying this polynomial by \((-x), (-x^2), (-x^3)\) and \((-x^4)\) successively and adding them, we get

\[
(1 - x - x^2 - x^3 - x^4)t(x) = T_0 + (T_1 - T_0)x + (T_2 - T_1 - T_0)x^2 + (T_3 - T_2 - T_1 - T_0)x^3 + (T_4 - T_3 - T_2 - T_1 - T_0)x^4 + \ldots
\]

This gives, \( (1 - x - x^2 - x^3 - x^4)t(x) = x^3 \Rightarrow t(x) = \frac{x^3}{1 - x - x^2 - x^3 - x^4} \), as required.

We use this result to derive the Binet – type formula for \( T_n \). We first use the concept of eigen decomposition of a matrix to derive this formula and then we use the theory of generating functions to obtain the explicit formula for \( T_n \).

### 3. MAIN RESULT

**Theorem 3.1:**

\[
T_n = \frac{\alpha^n}{(\alpha - \beta)(\alpha - \gamma)(\alpha - \delta)} + \frac{\beta^n}{(\beta - \alpha)(\beta - \gamma)(\beta - \delta)} + \frac{\gamma^n}{(\gamma - \alpha)(\gamma - \beta)(\gamma - \delta)} + \frac{\delta^n}{(\delta - \alpha)(\delta - \beta)(\delta - \gamma)}
\]

where \( \alpha = 1.927562, \beta = -0.774804, \gamma = -0.076379 + 0.8147i \) and \( \delta = \bar{\gamma} \).

**Proof:** By proposition 2.2, we have \( t(x) = \frac{x^3}{1 - x - x^2 - x^3 - x^4} \). Let \( f(x) = 1 - x - x^2 - x^3 - x^4 \). Then for some \( \alpha, \beta, \gamma \) and \( \delta \), we write \( f(x) = (1 - \alpha x)(1 - \beta x)(1 - \gamma x)(1 - \delta x) \).
Thus, $\frac{1}{\alpha}, \frac{1}{\beta}, \frac{1}{\gamma}$ and $\frac{1}{\delta}$ are the roots of $f(x)$. This gives $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$ and $\delta$ as the roots of

$$f\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) = 1 - \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{1}{x^3} - \frac{1}{x^4} = 0.$$  

This implies $x^4 - x^3 - x^2 - x - 1 = 0$. We now solve this equation using Ferrari’s method. Consider the substitution $x = \left(y + \frac{1}{4}\right)$. This converts the above equation into depressed quartic form

$$y^4 - \frac{11}{2^3}y^2 - \frac{13}{2^3}y - \frac{339}{2^8} = 0,$$

which can be written as

$$\left(y^2 - \frac{11}{2^4}\right)^2 = \frac{13}{2^3}y + \frac{5 \times 23}{2^6}. \quad (1)$$

Next we introduce a new variable $m$ on the L.H.S. of (1) by adding $2y^2m - \frac{11}{2^3}m + m^2$ on both sides. Now regrouping the powers of $y$ on the R.H.S. of (1), above equation can be transformed as

$$\left(y^2 + \frac{11}{2^4} + m\right)^2 = 2my^2 + \frac{13}{2^3}y + m^2 - \frac{11}{2^3}m + \frac{5 \times 23}{2^6}. \quad (2)$$

We note that (1) and (2) are equivalent for any value of $m$. We select such a value of $m$ which makes R.H.S. of (2) a perfect square. Thus the discriminant in $y$ of this quadratic equation is zero or in other words $m$ is the root of the equation

$$\left(\frac{13}{2^3}\right)^2 - 4\left(2m\right)\left(m^2 - \frac{11}{2^3}m + \frac{5 \times 23}{2^6}\right) = 0.$$  

On simplification, we get

$$8m^3 - 11m^2 + \frac{5 \times 23}{2^3}m - \frac{13^2}{2^6} = 0. \quad (3)$$

Equation (3) is the resolvent cubic equation of the original quartic equation. We next apply Cardan’s method to solve equation (3). For that we take the substitution $m = t + \frac{11}{24}$ and on simplification get the depressed cubic equation as

$$t^3 + \frac{7}{6}t + \frac{65}{2^3 \times 3^3} = 0.$$
Now we introduce two new variables $i$ and $j$, such that $i + j = t$. Using this in above equation, we have $i^3 + j^3 + \left( 3ij + \frac{7}{6} \right)(i + j) + \frac{65}{2^3 \times 3^3} = 0$.

Next we impose the condition $3ij + \frac{7}{6} = 0$, which implies $ij = -\frac{7}{18}$.
This gives

$$i^3 + j^3 = -\frac{65}{2^3 \times 3^3} \text{ and } i^3j^3 = -\frac{7^3}{2^3 \times 3^6}.$$ 

Thus, we get a quadratic equation $z^2 + \frac{5 \times 13}{2^3 \times 3^3}z - \frac{7^3}{2^3 \times 3^6} = 0$, whose roots are $i^3$ and $j^3$.

We solve this quadratic equation to get the values of $i^3$ and $j^3$, and eventually values of $i$ and $j$ as

$$i = -\frac{1}{6} \sqrt{\frac{65 - 3\sqrt{1689}}{2}} \text{ and } j = -\frac{1}{6} \sqrt{\frac{65 + 3\sqrt{1689}}{2}}.$$ 

Thus, $t = i + j$ gives $t = -\frac{1}{6\sqrt{2}} \left( \sqrt{65 - 3\sqrt{1689}} + \frac{3\sqrt{65 + 3\sqrt{1689}}}{2} \right)$. This gives,

$$m = \frac{1}{2^3 \times 3} \left( 11 - 4 \left( \sqrt{\frac{65 - 3\sqrt{1689}}{2}} + \sqrt{\frac{65 + 3\sqrt{1689}}{2}} \right) \right).$$

For this value of $m$, the R.H.S. of equation (2) is of the form $\left( \sqrt{2my + \frac{13}{2^4\sqrt{2m}}} \right)^2$, which is a perfect square. Thus, from (2), we have

$$\left( y^2 + \frac{11}{2^4} + m \right)^2 = \left( \sqrt{2my + \frac{13}{2^4\sqrt{2m}}} \right)^2.$$ 

On solving, we get the four values of $y$ as $1.677561976, -1.024804114, -0.326378931 + 0.814703648i$ and $-0.326378931 - 0.814703648i$. Since $x = y + \frac{1}{4}$, we get the values of $x$, i.e. the roots of equation $x^4 - x^3 - x^2 - x - 1 = 0$ as

$$\alpha = 1.92756, \beta = -0.774804, \gamma = -0.076379 + 0.8147i \text{ and } \delta = -0.076379 - 0.8147i.$$ 

Now, using proposition 2.1, we write
Now define \( P = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \). We first find the eigenvalues of \( P \). For that we consider the characteristic equation as \( \det(P - \lambda I) = 0 \). This gives \( \lambda^4 - \lambda^3 - \lambda^2 - \lambda - 1 = 0 \). By above discussion it is clear that the roots of this equation are \( \alpha, \beta, \gamma \) and \( \delta \) and they are the eigenvalues of \( P \). Since \( P \) has four distinct eigenvalues, it is a diagonalizable matrix \([1]\). Moreover, for the eigen decomposition of \( P \) we find the eigenvectors for the corresponding eigenvalues.

Consider the matrix equation \( Px = ax \), where \( x \) is the eigenvector corresponding to eigenvalue \( \alpha \). This gives \( (P - \alpha I)x = \theta \). Solving this matrix equation is equivalent to finding the null – space of \( (P - \alpha I) \). Thus, we have

\[
\begin{bmatrix} -\alpha & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\alpha & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\alpha & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 - \alpha \end{bmatrix} = \theta.\]

Solving this, we get one of the eigenvector as

\[
\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \frac{1}{\alpha} \\ \frac{1}{\beta} \\ \frac{1}{\gamma} \end{bmatrix}.
\]

Similarly, for \( \beta, \gamma \) and \( \delta \), the corresponding eigenvectors are

\[
\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \frac{1}{\beta^3} \\ \frac{1}{\beta^2} \\ \frac{1}{\beta} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \frac{1}{\gamma^3} \\ \frac{1}{\gamma^2} \\ \frac{1}{\gamma} \end{bmatrix}
\]

respectively. Let \( M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \frac{1}{\alpha} \\ \frac{1}{\beta} \\ \frac{1}{\gamma} \\ \frac{1}{\delta} \end{bmatrix} \) be the matrix formed
whose column vectors are the eigenvectors of $P$ corresponding to eigenvalues $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$ and $\delta$. Then by eigen decomposition of a matrix [3], we write

$$P = M \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \gamma & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \delta \end{bmatrix} M^{-1}.$$ 

This gives,

$$P^n = M \begin{bmatrix} \alpha^n & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta^n & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \gamma^n & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \delta^n \end{bmatrix} M^{-1}. \quad (5)$$

By applying elementary row operations on $M$, we get
Using (5) in (4), we get

\[ T_n = [1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0] M \begin{bmatrix} \alpha^n & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta^n & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \gamma^n & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \delta^n \end{bmatrix} M^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \]
This gives,

\[
T_n = \begin{bmatrix}
1 & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
\frac{1}{\alpha^3} & \frac{1}{\beta^3} & \frac{1}{\gamma^3} & \frac{1}{\delta^3} \\
\frac{1}{\alpha^2} & \frac{1}{\beta^2} & \frac{1}{\gamma^2} & \frac{1}{\delta^2} \\
\frac{1}{\alpha} & \frac{1}{\beta} & \frac{1}{\gamma} & \frac{1}{\delta} \\
1 & 1 & 1 & 1
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
\alpha^n & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & \beta^n & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & \gamma^n & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & \delta^n
\end{bmatrix}
\]

\[
\times
\begin{bmatrix}
\alpha^3 \beta \gamma \delta \\
\frac{\alpha \beta^3 \gamma \delta}{(\alpha - \beta)(\alpha - \gamma)(\delta - \alpha)} \\
\frac{\alpha \beta \gamma^3 \delta}{(\gamma - \alpha)(\gamma - \beta)(\delta - \gamma)} \\
\frac{\alpha \beta \gamma \delta^3}{(\delta - \alpha)(\delta - \beta)(\gamma - \delta)}
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
\frac{\alpha^3 (\beta \gamma + \gamma \delta + \delta \beta)}{(\alpha - \beta)(\alpha - \gamma)(\delta - \alpha)} \\
\frac{\beta^3 (\alpha \gamma + \gamma \delta + \delta \alpha)}{(\beta - \alpha)(\beta - \gamma)(\beta - \delta)} \\
\frac{\gamma^3 (\alpha \beta + \beta \delta + \delta \alpha)}{(\gamma - \alpha)(\gamma - \beta)(\gamma - \delta)} \\
\frac{\delta^3 (\alpha \beta + \beta \gamma + \gamma \alpha)}{(\delta - \alpha)(\delta - \beta)(\delta - \gamma)}
\end{bmatrix}
\]

This gives on simplification.
We next find the same result by the use of generating function for $T_n$.

**Theorem 3.2:** \( T_n = \frac{\alpha^n}{(\alpha - \beta)(\alpha - \gamma)(\alpha - \delta)} + \frac{\beta^n}{(\beta - \alpha)(\beta - \gamma)(\beta - \delta)} + \frac{\gamma^n}{(\gamma - \alpha)(\gamma - \beta)(\gamma - \delta)} \) 
\[ + \frac{\delta^n}{(\delta - \alpha)(\delta - \beta)(\delta - \gamma)} \]

We require.

where \( \alpha = 1.97562, \beta = -0.774804, \gamma = -0.076379 + 0.8147i \) and \( \delta = \overline{\gamma} \).

**Proof:** By proposition 2.2, we have \( t(x) = \frac{x^3}{1-x-x^2-x^3-x^4} \).

From theorem 3.1, we write
\[
1 - x - x^2 - x^3 - x^4 = (1 - \alpha x)(1 - \beta x)(1 - \gamma x)(1 - \delta x).
\]
This gives
\[
t(x) = \frac{x^3}{(1 - \alpha x)(1 - \beta x)(1 - \gamma x)(1 - \delta x)}.
\]
We now write
\[
x^3 = \frac{A}{1 - \alpha x} + \frac{B}{1 - \beta x} + \frac{C}{1 - \gamma x} + \frac{D}{1 - \delta x}.
\]

Then \( x^3 = A(1 - \beta x)(1 - \gamma x)(1 - \delta x) + B(1 - \alpha x)(1 - \gamma x)(1 - \delta x) \)
\[ + C(1 - \alpha x)(1 - \beta x)(1 - \delta x) + D(1 - \alpha x)(1 - \beta x)(1 - \gamma x).\]

If we consider \( x = \frac{1}{\alpha} \), we get \( \left( \frac{1}{\alpha} \right)^3 = A \left( 1 - \frac{\beta}{\alpha} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{\gamma}{\alpha} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{\delta}{\alpha} \right) \).
This gives \( A = \frac{1}{(\alpha - \beta)(\alpha - \gamma)(\alpha - \delta)} \). Similarly, we get

\[
B = \frac{1}{(\beta - \alpha)(\beta - \gamma)(\beta - \delta)},
\]
\[
C = \frac{1}{(\gamma - \alpha)(\gamma - \beta)(\gamma - \delta)} \quad \text{and} \quad D = \frac{1}{(\delta - \alpha)(\delta - \beta)(\delta - \gamma)}.
\]

Thus (6) can be written as

\[
t(x) = A(1 - \alpha x)^{-1} + B(1 - \beta x)^{-1} + C(1 - \gamma x)^{-1} + D(1 - \delta x)^{-1}
\]

This gives \( t(x) = A \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \alpha^i x^i + B \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \beta^i x^i + C \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \gamma^i x^i + D \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \delta^i x^i \).

Using the values \( A, B, C \) and \( D \), we get

\[
t(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left( \frac{\alpha^i}{(\alpha - \beta)(\alpha - \gamma)(\alpha - \delta)} + \frac{\beta^i}{(\beta - \alpha)(\beta - \gamma)(\beta - \delta)} + \frac{\gamma^i}{(\gamma - \alpha)(\gamma - \beta)(\gamma - \delta)} + \frac{\delta^i}{(\delta - \alpha)(\delta - \beta)(\delta - \gamma)} \right) x^i.
\]

But, from lemma 2.2, \( t(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} T_n x^n \). Thus comparing coefficients on both sides, we get

\[
T_n = \frac{\alpha^n}{(\alpha - \beta)(\alpha - \gamma)(\alpha - \delta)} + \frac{\beta^n}{(\beta - \alpha)(\beta - \gamma)(\beta - \delta)} + \frac{\gamma^n}{(\gamma - \alpha)(\gamma - \beta)(\gamma - \delta)} + \frac{\delta^n}{(\delta - \alpha)(\delta - \beta)(\delta - \gamma)}
\]

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