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# Some Binomial Sums Involving Absolute Values 

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#### Abstract

We consider several families of binomial sum identities whose definition involves the absolute value function. In particular, we consider centered double sums of the form $$
S_{\alpha, \beta}(n):=\sum_{k, \ell}\binom{2 n}{n+k}\binom{2 n}{n+\ell}\left|k^{\alpha}-\ell^{\alpha}\right|^{\beta},
$$ obtaining new results in the cases $\alpha=1,2$. We show that there is a close connection between these double sums in the case $\alpha=1$ and the single centered binomial sums considered by Tuenter.


## 1 Introduction

The problem of finding a closed form for the binomial sum

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{k, \ell}\binom{2 n}{n+k}\binom{2 n}{n+\ell}\left|k^{2}-\ell^{2}\right| \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

arises in an application of the probabilistic method to the Hadamard maximal determinant problem [7]. Because of the double-summation and the absolute value occurring in (1), it is not obvious how to apply standard techniques $[10,15,19]$. A closed-form solution

$$
\begin{equation*}
2 n^{2}\binom{2 n}{n}^{2} \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

was proved by Brent and Osborn in [6], and simpler proofs were subsequently found [5, 8, 16]. In this paper we consider a wider class of binomial sums with the distinguishing feature that an absolute value occurs in the summand.

Specifically, we consider certain $d$-fold binomial sums of the form

$$
\begin{equation*}
S(n):=\sum_{k_{1}, \ldots, k_{d}} \prod_{i=1}^{d}\binom{2 n}{n+k_{i}}\left|f\left(k_{1}, \ldots, k_{d}\right)\right| \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $f: \mathbb{Z}^{d} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is a homogeneous polynomial and $|f|$ will be called the weight function. For example, a simple case is $d=1, f(k)=k$. This case was considered by Best [1] in an application to Hadamard matrices. The closed-form solution is

$$
\sum_{k}\binom{2 n}{n+k}|k|=n\binom{2 n}{n}
$$

A generalization $f(k)=k^{r}$ (for a fixed $r \in \mathbb{N}$ ) was considered by Tuenter [18], and shown to be expressible using Dumont-Foata polynomials [9]. Tuenter gave an interpretation in terms
of the moments of the distance to the origin in a symmetric Bernoulli random walk. It is easy to see that this interpretation generalizes: $4^{-n d} S(n)$ is the expectation of $\left|f\left(k_{1}, \ldots, k_{d}\right)\right|$ if we start at the origin and take $2 n$ random steps $\pm \frac{1}{2}$ in each of $d$ dimensions, thus arriving at the point $\left(k_{1}, \ldots, k_{d}\right) \in \mathbb{Z}^{d}$ with probability

$$
4^{-n d} \prod_{i=1}^{d}\binom{2 n}{n+k_{i}}
$$

A further generalization replaces $\binom{2 n}{n+k_{i}}$ by $\binom{2 n_{i}}{n_{i}+k_{i}}$, allowing the number of random steps $\left(2 n_{i}\right)$ in dimension $i$ to depend on $i$. With a suitable modification to the definition of $S$, we could also drop the restriction to an even number of steps in each dimension. ${ }^{1}$ We briefly consider such a generalization in $\S 2$.

Tuenter's results for the case $d=1$ were generalized by the first author [3]. In this paper we concentrate on the case $d=2$. Generalizations of some of the results to arbitrary $d$ are known. More specifically, the paper [4] gives closed-form solutions for the $d$-dimensional generalization of the sum (9) below in the cases $\alpha, \beta \in\{1,2\}$.

There are many binomial coefficient identities in the literature, e.g. 500 are given by Gould [11]. Many such identities can be proved via generating functions [12, 19] or the Wilf-Zeilberger algorithm [15]. Nevertheless, we hope that the reader will find our results interesting, in part because of the applications mentioned above, and also because it is a challenge to generalize the results to higher values of $d$.

A preliminary version of this paper, with some of the results conjectural, was made available on arXiv [5]. All the conjectures have since been proved by Bostan, Lairez, and Salvy [2], Krattenthaler and Schneider [14], Brent, Krattenthaler, and Warnaar [4], and the present authors.

An outline of the paper follows.
In $\S 2$ we consider a special class of double sums that can be reduced to the single sums of $[3,18]$.

In $\S 3$ we consider a generalization of the motivating case (1) described above: $f(k, \ell)=$ $\left(k^{\alpha}-\ell^{\alpha}\right)^{\beta}$. In the case $\alpha=2$ we give recurrence relations that allow such sums to be evaluated in closed form for any given positive integer $\beta$. The recurrence relations naturally split into the cases where $\beta$ is even (easy) and odd (more difficult).

Theorem 10 in $\S 4$ gives a closed form for an analogous triple sum. In [5, Conjecture 2] a closed form for the analogous quadruple sum was conjectured. This conjecture has now been proved by Brent, Krattenthaler, and Warnaar [4]; in fact they give a generalization to arbitrary positive integer $d$.

In $\S 5$ we state several double sum identities that were proved or conjectured by us [5]. The missing proofs have now been provided by Bostan, Lairez, and Salvy [2], and by Krattenthaler and Schneider [14].

[^0]
### 1.1 Notation

The set of all integers is $\mathbb{Z}$, and the set of non-negative integers is $\mathbb{N}$.
The binomial coefficient $\binom{n}{k}$ is defined to be zero if $k<0$ or $k>n$ (and hence always if $n<0$ ). Using this convention, we often avoid explicitly specifying upper and lower limits on $k$ or excluding cases where $n<0$.

In the definition of the weight function $|f|$, we always interpret $0^{0}$ as 1 .

## 2 Some double sums reducible to single sums

Tuenter [18] considered the binomial sum

$$
\begin{equation*}
S_{\beta}(n):=\sum_{k}\binom{2 n}{n+k}|k|^{\beta}, \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

and a generalization ${ }^{2}$ to

$$
\begin{equation*}
U_{\beta}(n):=\sum_{k}\binom{n}{k}\left|\frac{n}{2}-k\right|^{\beta} \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

was given by the first author [3].
Tuenter showed that

$$
\begin{equation*}
S_{2 \beta}(n)=Q_{\beta}(n) 2^{2 n-\beta}, \quad S_{2 \beta+1}(n)=P_{\beta}(n) n\binom{2 n}{n} \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $P_{\beta}(n)$ and $Q_{\beta}(n)$ are polynomials of degree $\beta$ with integer coefficients, satisfying certain three-term recurrence relations, and expressible in terms of Dumont-Foata polynomials [9]. Closed-form expressions for $S_{\beta}(n), P_{\beta}(n), Q_{\beta}(n)$ are known [3].

In this section we consider the double sum

$$
\begin{equation*}
T_{\beta}(m, n):=\sum_{k, \ell}\binom{2 m}{m+k}\binom{2 n}{n+\ell}|k-\ell|^{\beta} \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

and show that it can be expressed as a single sum of the form (4).
Theorem 1. For all $\beta, m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, we have

$$
T_{\beta}(m, n)=S_{\beta}(m+n),
$$

where $T_{\beta}$ is defined by (7) and $S_{\beta}$ is defined by (4).

[^1]Proof. If $\beta=0$ then $T_{0}(m, n)=2^{2(m+n)}=S_{0}(m+n)$. Hence, we may assume that $\beta>0$ (so $0^{\beta}=0$ ). Let $d=|k-\ell|$. We split the sum (7) defining $T_{\beta}(m, n)$ into three parts, corresponding to $k>\ell, k<\ell$, and $k=\ell$. The third part vanishes. If $k>\ell$ then $d=k-\ell$ and $k=d+\ell$; if $k<\ell$ then $d=\ell-k$ and $\ell=d+k$. Thus, we get

$$
\begin{aligned}
T_{\beta}(m, n) & =\sum_{d>0} \sum_{\ell}\binom{2 m}{m+d+\ell}\binom{2 n}{n+\ell} d^{\beta}+\sum_{d>0} \sum_{k}\binom{2 m}{m+k}\binom{2 n}{n+k+d} d^{\beta} \\
& =\sum_{d>0} d^{\beta} \sum_{\ell}\binom{2 m}{m+d+\ell}\binom{2 n}{n-\ell}+\sum_{d>0} d^{\beta} \sum_{k}\binom{2 n}{n+k+d}\binom{2 m}{m-k} .
\end{aligned}
$$

By Vandermonde's identity, the inner sums over $k$ and $\ell$ are both equal to $\binom{2 m+2 n}{m+n+d}$. Thus,

$$
T_{\beta}(m, n)=2 \sum_{d>0}\binom{2 m+2 n}{m+n+d} d^{\beta}=\sum_{d}\binom{2 m+2 n}{m+n+d}|d|^{\beta}=S_{\beta}(m+n) .
$$

Remark 2. If $m=n$ then, by the shift-invariance of the weight $|k-\ell|^{\beta}$, we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
T_{\beta}(n, n)=\sum_{k, \ell}\binom{2 n}{k}\binom{2 n}{\ell}|k-\ell|^{\beta}=S_{\beta}(2 n) \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

There is no need for the upper argument of the binomial coefficients to be even in (8). We can adapt the proof of Theorem 1 to show that, for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$
\sum_{k, \ell}\binom{n}{k}\binom{n}{\ell}|k-\ell|^{\beta}=S_{\beta}(n)
$$

## 3 Centered double sums

In this section we consider the centered double binomial sums defined by ${ }^{3}$

$$
\begin{equation*}
S_{\alpha, \beta}(n):=\sum_{k, \ell}\binom{2 n}{n+k}\binom{2 n}{n+\ell}\left|k^{\alpha}-\ell^{\alpha}\right|^{\beta} . \tag{9}
\end{equation*}
$$

Note that $S_{1, \beta}(n)=T_{\beta}(n, n)$, so the case $\alpha=1$ is covered by Theorem 1. Thus, in the following we can assume that $\alpha \geq 2$. Since we mainly consider the case $\alpha=2$, it is convenient to define

$$
\begin{equation*}
W_{\beta}(n):=S_{2, \beta}(n)=\sum_{k, \ell}\binom{2 n}{n+k}\binom{2 n}{n+\ell}\left|k^{2}-\ell^{2}\right|^{\beta} . \tag{10}
\end{equation*}
$$

[^2]Remark 3. The sequences $\left(S_{\alpha, \beta}(n)\right)_{n \geq 1}$ for $\alpha \in\{1,2\}$ and $1 \leq \beta \leq 4$ are in the OEIS [17]. Specifically, $\left(S_{1,1}(n)\right)_{n \geq 1}$ is a subsequence of A166337 (the entry corresponding to $n=0$ must be discarded). $\left(S_{2,1}(n)\right)_{n \geq 0}$ is A254408, and $\left(S_{\alpha, \beta}(n)\right)_{n \geq 0}$ for $(\alpha, \beta)=(1,2),(2,2),(1,3),(2,3),(1,4),(2,4)$ are A268147, A268148, ..., A268152, respectively.

## $3.1 W_{\beta}$ for odd $\beta$

The analysis of $W_{\beta}(n)$ naturally splits into two cases, depending on the parity of $\beta$. We first consider the case that $\beta$ is odd. A simpler approach is possible when $\beta$ is even, as we show in §3.3.

As mentioned in $\S 1$, the evaluation of $W_{1}(n)$ was the motivation for this paper, and is given in the following theorem.

Theorem 4 (Brent and Osborn).

$$
W_{1}(n)=\sum_{k, \ell}\binom{2 n}{n+k}\binom{2 n}{n+\ell}\left|k^{2}-\ell^{2}\right|=2 n^{2}\binom{2 n}{n}^{2} .
$$

Numerical evidence suggested the following generalization of Theorem 4. It was conjectured by the present authors [5, Conjecture 2], and proved by Krattenthaler and Schneider [14].

Theorem 5 (Krattenthaler and Schneider). For all $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$
\sum_{k, \ell}\binom{2 m}{m+k}\binom{2 n}{n+\ell}\left|k^{2}-\ell^{2}\right| \geq 2 m n\binom{2 m}{m}\binom{2 n}{n}
$$

with equality if and only if $m=n$.

### 3.2 Recurrence relations for the odd case

Theorem 4 gives $W_{1}(n)$. We show how $W_{3}(n), W_{5}(n), \ldots$ can be computed using recurrence relations. More precisely, we express the double sums $W_{2 r+1}(n)$ in terms of certain single sums $G_{r}(n, m)$, and give a recurrence for the $G_{r}(n, m)$. We then show that $W_{2 r+1}(n)$ is a linear combination of $P_{r}(n), \ldots, P_{2 r}(n)$, where the polynomials $P_{m}(n)$ are as in (6), and the coefficients multiplying these polynomials satisfy another recurrence relation.

Define

$$
f_{\ell}= \begin{cases}1, & \text { if } \ell \neq 0 \\ \frac{1}{2}, & \text { if } \ell=0\end{cases}
$$

Using symmetry and the definition (10) of $W_{r}(n)$, we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
W_{2 r+1}(n)=8 \sum_{\ell=0}^{n} \sum_{k=\ell}^{n}\binom{2 n}{n+k}\binom{2 n}{n+\ell}\left(k^{2}-\ell^{2}\right)^{2 r+1} f_{\ell} ; \tag{11}
\end{equation*}
$$

the factor $f_{\ell}$ allows for terms which would otherwise be counted twice.
Let $m=k-\ell$. Since $k^{2}-\ell^{2}=m(m+2 \ell)$, we can write the double sum $W_{2 r+1}(n) / 8$ in (11) as

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{\ell=0}^{n} \sum_{k=\ell}^{n}\binom{2 n}{n+k}\binom{2 n}{n+\ell}\left(k^{2}-\ell^{2}\right)^{2 r+1} f_{\ell}=\sum_{m \geq 0} m^{2 r+1} G_{r}(n, m) \tag{12}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
\begin{equation*}
G_{r}(n, m):=\sum_{\ell \geq 0}\binom{2 n}{n+m+\ell}\binom{2 n}{n+\ell}(m+2 \ell)^{2 r+1} f_{\ell} . \tag{13}
\end{equation*}
$$

Observe that $G_{r}(0, m)=0$. For convenience we define $G_{r}(-1, m)=0$. We observe that $G_{r}(n, m)$ satisfies a recurrence relation, as follows.

Lemma 6. For all $m, n, r \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$
\begin{align*}
G_{r+2}(n, m)= & 2\left(4 n^{2}+m^{2}\right) G_{r+1}(n, m)-\left(4 n^{2}-m^{2}\right)^{2} G_{r}(n, m) \\
& +64 n^{2}(2 n-1)^{2} G_{r}(n-1, m) . \tag{14}
\end{align*}
$$

Proof. If $n=0$ the proof of (14) is trivial, since $G_{r}(0, m)=G_{r}(-1, m)=0$. Hence, suppose that $n>0$. We observe that

$$
\begin{aligned}
& {\left[(m+2 \ell)^{4}-2\left(4 n^{2}+m^{2}\right)(m+2 \ell)^{2}+\left(4 n^{2}-m^{2}\right)^{2}\right]\binom{2 n}{n+m+\ell}\binom{2 n}{n+\ell}} \\
& =16(n+m+\ell)(n-m-\ell)(n+\ell)(n-\ell)\binom{2 n}{n+m+\ell}\binom{2 n}{n+\ell} \\
& =64 n^{2}(2 n-1)^{2}\binom{2 n-2}{n-1+m+\ell}\binom{2 n-2}{n-1+\ell} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Now multiply each side by $(m+2 \ell)^{2 r+1} f_{\ell}$ and sum over $\ell \geq 0$.
The recurrence (14) may be used to compute $G_{r}(n, m)$ for given $(n, m)$ and $r=0,1,2, \ldots$, using the initial values

$$
G_{0}(n, m)=\frac{n}{2}\binom{2 n}{n}\binom{2 n}{n+m}
$$

and

$$
G_{1}(n, m)=\frac{4 n^{2}+(2 n-5) m^{2}}{2 n-1} G_{0}(n, m)
$$

These initial values may be verified from the definition (13) by standard methods [15] - we omit the details.

Write $g_{r}(n, m)=0$ if $G_{r}(n, m)=0$, and otherwise define $g_{r}(n, m)$ by

$$
G_{r}(n, m)=\binom{2 n}{n}\binom{2 n}{n+m} g_{r}(n, m) .
$$

The recurrence (14) for $G_{r}$ gives a corresponding recurrence for $g_{r}$ :

$$
\begin{align*}
g_{r+2}(n, m)= & 2\left(4 n^{2}+m^{2}\right) g_{r+1}(n, m)-\left(4 n^{2}-m^{2}\right)^{2} g_{r}(n, m) \\
& +16 n^{2}\left(n^{2}-m^{2}\right) g_{r}(n-1, m), \tag{15}
\end{align*}
$$

with initial values

$$
g_{0}(n, m)=\frac{n}{2}, \quad g_{1}(n, m)=\frac{4 n^{2}+(2 n-5) m^{2}}{2 n-1} g_{0}(n, m) .
$$

Note that the $g_{r}(n, m)$ are rational functions in $n$ and $m$; if computation with bivariate polynomials over $\mathbb{Z}$ is desired then $g_{r}(n, m)$ can be multiplied by $(2 n-1)(2 n-3) \cdots(2 n-$ $(2 r-1))$. If $n$ is fixed, then $g_{r}(n, m)$ is an even polynomial in $m$ and, from the recurrence (15), the degree is $2 r$. This suggests that we should define rational functions $\gamma_{r, j}(n)$ by

$$
g_{r}(n, m)=\sum_{j=0}^{r} \gamma_{r, j}(n) m^{2 j}
$$

For $j<0$ or $j>r$ we define $\gamma_{r, j}(n)=0$. From the recurrence (15), we obtain the following recurrence for the $\gamma_{r, j}(n)$ :

$$
\begin{align*}
\gamma_{r+2, j}(n)= & 8 n^{2} \gamma_{r+1, j}(n)+2 \gamma_{r+1, j-1}(n)-16 n^{4} \gamma_{r, j}(n)+8 n^{2} \gamma_{r, j-1}(n) \\
& -\gamma_{r, j-2}(n)+16 n^{4} \gamma_{r, j}(n-1)-16 n^{2} \gamma_{r, j-1}(n-1) \tag{16}
\end{align*}
$$

The $\gamma_{r, j}(n)$ can be computed from (16), using the initial values

$$
\begin{align*}
& \gamma_{0,0}(n)=n / 2 \\
& \gamma_{1,0}(n)=2 n^{3} /(2 n-1)  \tag{17}\\
& \gamma_{1,1}(n)=n(2 n-5) /(4 n-2) .
\end{align*}
$$

Using the definition of $\gamma_{r, j}(n)$ and (11)-(13), we obtain

$$
W_{2 r+1}(n)=4\binom{2 n}{n} \sum_{j=0}^{r} \gamma_{r, j}(n) S_{2 r+2 j+1}(n) .
$$

Since $S_{2 r+1}(n)=P_{r}(n) n\binom{2 n}{n}$, we obtain the following theorem, which shows that the double sums $W_{2 r+1}(n)$ may be expressed in terms of the same polynomials $P_{m}(n)$ that occur in expressions for the single sums of $[3,18]$.

Theorem 7.

$$
\begin{equation*}
W_{2 r+1}(n)=4 n \sum_{j=0}^{r} \gamma_{r, j}(n) P_{r+j}(n) \cdot\binom{2 n}{n}^{2} \tag{18}
\end{equation*}
$$

where the polynomials $P_{r+j}(n)$ are as in (6), and the $\gamma_{r, j}(n)$ may be computed from the recurrence (16) and the initial values given in (17).

The factor before the binomial coefficient in (18) is a rational function $\omega_{r}(n)$ with denominator $(2 n-1)(2 n-3) \cdots(2 n-2\lceil r / 2\rceil+1)$. Thus, we have the following corollary of Theorem 7.

Corollary 8. If $r \in \mathbb{N}$ and $W_{r}(n)$ is defined by (10), then

$$
W_{2 r+1}(n)=\omega_{r}(n)\binom{2 n}{n}^{2}
$$

where

$$
\omega_{r}(n) \prod_{j=1}^{\lceil r / 2\rceil}(2 n-2 j+1)
$$

is a polynomial of degree $2 r+\lceil r / 2\rceil+2$ over $\mathbb{Z}$. The first four cases are:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\omega_{0}(n)= & 2 n^{2}, \\
\omega_{1}(n)= & \frac{2 n^{3}\left(8 n^{2}-12 n+5\right)}{2 n-1}, \\
\omega_{2}(n)= & \frac{2 n^{3}\left(128 n^{4}-512 n^{3}+800 n^{2}-568 n+153\right)}{2 n-1}, \text { and } \\
\omega_{3}(n)= & \frac{2 n^{3} \bar{\omega}_{3}(n)}{(2 n-1)(2 n-3)}, \text { where } \\
\bar{\omega}_{3}(n)= & 9216 n^{7}-86016 n^{6}+350464 n^{5}-802304 n^{4}+ \\
& 1106856 n^{3}-914728 n^{2}+417358 n-80847 .
\end{aligned}
$$

## $3.3 W_{\beta}$ for even $\beta$

Now we consider $W_{\beta}(n)$ for even $\beta$. This case is easier than the case of odd $\beta$ because the absolute value in the definition (10) has no effect when $\beta$ is even. Theorem 9 shows that $W_{2 r}(n)$ can be expressed in terms of the single sums $S_{0}(n), S_{2}(n), \ldots, S_{4 r}(n)$ or, equivalently, in terms of the polynomials $Q_{0}(n), Q_{1}(n), \ldots, Q_{2 r}(n)$. It follows that $2^{2 r-4 n} W_{2 r}(n)$ is a polynomial over $\mathbb{Z}$ of degree $2 r$ in $n$.

Theorem 9. For all $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$
\begin{aligned}
W_{2 r}(n) & =\sum_{k}(-1)^{k}\binom{2 r}{k} S_{2 k}(n) S_{4 r-2 k}(n) \\
& =2^{4 n-2 r} \sum_{k}(-1)^{k}\binom{2 r}{k} Q_{k}(n) Q_{2 r-k}(n),
\end{aligned}
$$

where $Q_{r}(n)$ and $S_{r}(n)$ are as (4)-(6) of §2, and $W_{\beta}(n)$ is defined by (10).

Proof. From the definition of $W_{2 r}(n)$ we have

$$
W_{2 r}(n)=\sum_{i} \sum_{j}\binom{2 n}{n+i}\binom{2 n}{n+j}\left(i^{2}-j^{2}\right)^{2 r}
$$

Write

$$
\left(i^{2}-j^{2}\right)^{2 r}=\sum_{k}(-1)^{k}\binom{2 r}{k} i^{4 r-2 k} j^{2 k}
$$

change the order of summation in the resulting triple sum, and observe that the inner sums over $i$ and $j$ separate, giving $S_{4 r-2 k}(n) S_{2 k}(n)$. This proves the first part of the theorem. The second part follows from (6).

For example, the first four cases are

$$
\begin{aligned}
& W_{0}(n)=2^{4 n} \\
& W_{2}(n)=2^{4 n-1} n(2 n-1), \\
& W_{4}(n)=2^{4 n-2} n(2 n-1)\left(18 n^{2}-33 n+17\right) \\
& W_{6}(n)=2^{4 n-3} n(2 n-1)\left(900 n^{4}-4500 n^{3}+8895 n^{2}-8055 n+2764\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

It follows from Theorem 9 that the coefficients of $2^{2 r-4 n} W_{2 r}(n)$ are in $\mathbb{Z}$, but it is not obvious how to prove the stronger result, suggested by the cases above, that the coefficients of $2^{r-4 n} W_{2 r}(n)$ are in $\mathbb{Z}$. We leave this as a conjecture.

## 4 A triple sum

In Theorem 10 we give a triple sum that is analogous to the double sum of Theorem 4. A straightforward but tedious proof is given in [5, Appendix]. The result also follows from the case $d=3$ of a more general result proved in [4, Proposition 1.1] for the analogous $d$-fold sum, where the weight function is generalized to the absolute value of a Vandermonde $\left|\Delta\left(i_{1}^{2}, i_{2}^{2}, \ldots, i_{d}^{2}\right)\right|$.
Theorem 10. For all $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{i, j, k}\binom{2 n}{n+i}\binom{2 n}{n+j}\binom{2 n}{n+k}\left|\left(i^{2}-j^{2}\right)\left(i^{2}-k^{2}\right)\left(j^{2}-k^{2}\right)\right| \\
& \quad=3 n^{3}(n-1)\binom{2 n}{n}^{2} 2^{2 n-1}
\end{aligned}
$$

## 5 Further identities

In this section we give various identities that were stated in [5]. Of these, (25), (26), (27), (30) and (32) were conjectural. The conjectures have since been proved by Bostan, Lairez, and Salvy [2, §7.3.2].

### 5.1 Centered double sums

Recall that, from the definition (9), we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
S_{\alpha, 1}(n)=\sum_{i, j}\binom{2 n}{n+i}\binom{2 n}{n+j}\left|i^{\alpha}-j^{\alpha}\right| . \tag{19}
\end{equation*}
$$

We give closed-form expressions for $S_{\alpha, 1}(n), 1 \leq \alpha \leq 8$. Observe that (24) follows from Theorem 1 since $S_{1,1}(n)=T_{1}(n, n)$, and (20) is equivalent to Theorem 4. It appears that, for even $\alpha, S_{\alpha, 1}(n)$ is a rational function of $n$ multiplied by $\binom{2 n}{n}^{2}$, but for odd $\alpha$, it is a rational function of $n$ multiplied by $\binom{4 n}{2 n}$. This was conjectured in [5], and has been proved by Krattenthaler and Schneider [14].

$$
\begin{align*}
& S_{2,1}(n)=2 n^{2}\binom{2 n}{n}^{2},  \tag{20}\\
& S_{4,1}(n)=\frac{2 n^{3}(4 n-3)}{2 n-1}\binom{2 n}{n}^{2},  \tag{21}\\
& S_{6,1}(n)=\frac{2 n^{3}\left(11 n^{2}-15 n+5\right)}{2 n-1}\binom{2 n}{n}^{2},  \tag{22}\\
& S_{8,1}(n)=\frac{2 n^{3}\left(80 n^{4}-306 n^{3}+428 n^{2}-266 n+63\right)}{(2 n-1)(2 n-3)}\binom{2 n}{n}^{2},  \tag{23}\\
& S_{1,1}(n)=2 n\binom{4 n}{2 n},  \tag{24}\\
& S_{3,1}(n)=\frac{4 n^{2}(5 n-2)}{4 n-1}\binom{4 n-1}{2 n-1},  \tag{25}\\
& S_{5,1}(n)=\frac{8 n^{2}\left(43 n^{3}-70 n^{2}+36 n-6\right)}{(4 n-2)(4 n-3)}\binom{4 n-2}{2 n-2},  \tag{26}\\
& S_{7,1}(n)=\frac{16 n^{2} P_{7,1}(n)}{(4 n-3)(4 n-4)(4 n-5)}\binom{4 n-3}{2 n-3}, n \geq 2, \text { where } \\
& P_{7,1}(n)=531 n^{5}-1960 n^{4}+2800 n^{3}-1952 n^{2}+668 n-90,  \tag{27}\\
& \left(S_{7,1}(1)=12\right. \text { is a special case). }
\end{align*}
$$

Following are some similar identities. We observe that, since $i^{4}-j^{4}=\left(i^{2}+j^{2}\right)\left(i^{2}-j^{2}\right)$, (28) is easily seen to be equivalent to (21). Similarly, since $i^{6}-j^{6}=\left(i^{4}+i^{2} j^{2}+j^{4}\right)\left(i^{2}-j^{2}\right)$, any two of (22), (29) and (31) imply the third. Higher-dimensional generalizations of (30)-(31) are known [4].

$$
\begin{align*}
\sum_{i, j}\binom{2 n}{n+i}\binom{2 n}{n+j}\left|i^{2}\left(i^{2}-j^{2}\right)\right| & =\frac{n^{3}(4 n-3)}{2 n-1}\binom{2 n}{n}^{2},  \tag{28}\\
\sum_{i, j}\binom{2 n}{n+i}\binom{2 n}{n+j}\left|i^{4}\left(i^{2}-j^{2}\right)\right| & =\frac{n^{3}\left(10 n^{2}-14 n+5\right)}{2 n-1}\binom{2 n}{n}^{2},  \tag{29}\\
\sum_{i, j}\binom{2 n}{n+i}\binom{2 n}{n+j}\left|i j\left(i^{2}-j^{2}\right)\right| & =\frac{2 n^{3}(n-1)}{2 n-1}\binom{2 n}{n}^{2},  \tag{30}\\
\sum_{i, j}\binom{2 n}{n+i}\binom{2 n}{n+j}\left|i^{2} j^{2}\left(i^{2}-j^{2}\right)\right| & =\frac{2 n^{4}(n-1)}{2 n-1}\binom{2 n}{n}^{2},  \tag{31}\\
\sum_{i, j}\binom{2 n}{n+i}\binom{2 n}{n+j}\left|i^{3} j^{3}\left(i^{2}-j^{2}\right)\right| & =\frac{2 n^{4}(n-1)\left(3 n^{2}-6 n+2\right)}{(2 n-1)(2 n-3)}\binom{2 n}{n}^{2} . \tag{32}
\end{align*}
$$

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[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ For example, in the case $d=1$ we could consider $\sum_{k}\binom{n}{k}|f(n-2 k)|$.

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ It is a generalization because $S_{\beta}(n)=U_{\beta}(2 n)$, but $U_{\beta}(n)$ is well-defined for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

[^2]:    ${ }^{3}$ The double sum $S_{\alpha, \beta}(n)$ should not be confused with the single sum $S_{\alpha}(n)$ of $\S 2$.

