

The Chu-Vandermonde convolution  
generates transformation formulas  
for hypergeometric series\*

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Abstract: Several well-known hypergeometric series identities are  
proved using only powerseries computation and the Chu-Vandermonde  
convolution for binomial coefficients.

1. Introduction.

The close relationship between binomial coefficient identities  
and hypergeometric series has been noticed by several authors; see  
for example [1, 6]. In this note we will show how some of the  
well-known hypergeometric series identities can be derived by using  
only powerseries computation and the Chu-Vandermonde convolution  
(the CV for short) for binomial coefficients (2.1).

In Section 2 we review the powerseries computation proof of the  
Kummer transformations for  ${}_1F_1$  and  ${}_2F_1$  (2.2)-(2.3). Some  
authors write this proof in their textbooks ( [4; p.76], [7;  
p.31] ); however, since such a proof does not seem to be widespread  
and the Kummer transformations are referred to in later sections, we  
repeat the proof here.

In Section 3 the transformation formulas for the Lauricella

series  $F_A$  and  $F_D$  (3.1)-(3.4) are proved using only powerseries computation and the CV. The proof of (3.4) goes along a line slightly different from those for (3.1)-(3.3), which appeals to something of powerseries operator calculus. In fact we can also give purely in an operator calculus manner a proof of (3.4) as well as those of other identities for hypergeometric series of one or several indeterminates; see [8].

In Section 4 we first review the interrelationship between the CV, the Kummer transformation for  ${}_2F_1$ , the Saalschütz formula for  ${}_3F_2$ , and a quadratic transformation for  ${}_2F_1$  (4.2). We show three more examples of quadratic transformations for  ${}_2F_1$  (4.3)-(4.5) which can be proved using the CV through powerseries computation. The proof of (4.5) would perhaps be more interesting than those of (4.3) and (4.4), as it makes use of the Lagrange inversion formula.

## 2. Kummer Transformations.

Throughout the present article we fix a base field  $K$  of characteristic zero and the letters  $a, b, c, \dots, x_1, x_2, \dots$  etc. denote indeterminates; thus the hypergeometric series

$${}_2F_1(a, b; c; x) := \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{a^{(i)} b^{(i)}}{c^{(i)} i!} x^i$$

is considered to be an element of  $K(a, b, c)[[x]]$  and the Lauricella series

$$F_D(a; b_1, \dots, b_n; c; x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

$$:= \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_n \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{a^{(i_1 + \dots + i_n)} b_1^{(i_1)} \dots b_n^{(i_n)}}{c^{(i_1 + \dots + i_n)} i_1! \dots i_n!} x_1^{i_1} \dots x_n^{i_n}$$

is considered to be an element of  $K(a, b_1, \dots, b_n, c)[[x_1, \dots,$

$x_n]]$ , where  $a^{(i)} := a(a+1)\cdots(a+i-1)$  denotes the rising factorial. Similar consideration applies to all the powerseries appearing in the sequel.

We have

$$\frac{a^{(k)}}{k!} = \binom{a+k-1}{k} = \sum_{i+j=k} \binom{c+k-1}{i} \binom{a-c}{j} \quad (k \in \mathbb{N}) \quad (2.1)$$

by the Chu-Vandermonde convolution which we call the CV throughout this paper.

**Theorem 2.1.**      The Kummer transformations

$${}_1F_1(a; c; x) = e^x {}_1F_1(c-a; c; -x), \quad (2.2)$$

$${}_2F_1(a, b; c; x) = (1-x)^{-b} {}_2F_1(c-a, b; c; \frac{x}{x-1}), \quad (2.3)$$

and the formula (2.1) are equivalent to each other, where  ${}_1F_1$  denotes the confluent hypergeometric series.

Proof.      The formula (2.1) is equivalent to

$$\frac{a^{(k)}}{c^{(k)} k!} = \sum_{i+j=k} \frac{(c-a)^{(j)} (-1)^j}{i! c^{(j)} j!}. \quad (2.4)$$

Multiplying both sides of (2.4) by  $x^k$  and summing these terms over  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , we obtain (2.2). To show (2.3) we multiply both sides of (2.4) by  $b^{(k)} x^k$  and sum these terms over  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ; the left-hand side equals  ${}_2F_1(a, b; c; x)$ . Noting that  $b^{(k)} = b^{(j)} (b+j)^{(i)}$  ( $i+j=k$ ), we see that

the right-hand side

$$= \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{b^{(j)} (c-a)^{(j)}}{c^{(j)} j!} (-x)^j \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{(b+j)^{(i)}}{i!} x^i$$

$$= (1-x)^{-b} {}_2F_1(c-a, b; c; \frac{x}{x-1}).$$

Conversely, we can reverse the above reasoning by taking the coefficients of  $x^k$  ( $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ).

Remark 2.2.

Using the Hadamard product of powerseries ( $f * g$

$:= \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} f_i g_i x^i$  for  $f = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} f_i x^i$  and  $g = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} g_i x^i$ ), we can summarize

the proof of Theorem 2.1 as

$$\begin{aligned} {}_1F_1(a; c; x) &= (1-x)^{-a} * \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}_c} \frac{1}{(i)} x^i \\ &= ((1-x)^{-c} (1-x)^{c-a}) * \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}_c} \frac{1}{(i)} x^i \\ &= e^x {}_1F_1(c-a; c; -x) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} {}_2F_1(a, b; c; x) &= (1-x)^{-a} * \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}_c} \frac{b^{(i)}}{(i)} x^i \\ &= ((1-x)^{-c} (1-x)^{c-a}) * \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}_c} \frac{b^{(i)}}{(i)} x^i \\ &= (1-x)^{-b} {}_2F_1(c-a, b; c; \frac{x}{x-1}). \end{aligned}$$

### 3. Transformation formulas for the Lauricella series.

We give the proofs, making use of only powerseries computation and the CV, of the transformation formulas for the Lauricella series  $F_A$  and  $F_D$ :

$$\begin{aligned} (i) \quad &F_A(a; b_1, \dots, b_n; c_1, \dots, c_n; x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ &= (1-x_1 - \dots - x_n)^{-a} F_A(a; c_1 - b_1, \dots, c_n - b_n; c_1, \dots, \end{aligned}$$

$$c_n; \frac{x_1}{x_1 + \dots + x_n - 1}, \dots, \frac{x_n}{x_1 + \dots + x_n - 1}), \quad (3.1)$$

where the left-hand side denotes

$$\sum_{i_1, \dots, i_n \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{a^{(i_1 + \dots + i_n)} b_1^{(i_1)} \dots b_n^{(i_n)}}{c_1^{(i_1)} \dots c_n^{(i_n)} i_1! \dots i_n!} x_1^{i_1} \dots x_n^{i_n},$$

$$\begin{aligned} (ii) \quad & F_A(a; b_1, \dots, b_n; c_1, \dots, c_n; x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ &= (1 - x_1)^{-a} F_A(a; c_1 - b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n; c_1, \dots, c_n; \frac{x_1}{x_1 - 1}, \\ & \frac{x_2}{1 - x_1}, \dots, \frac{x_n}{1 - x_1}), \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} (iii) \quad & F_D(a; b_1, \dots, b_n; c; x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ &= (1 - x_1)^{-a} F_D(a; c - b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n; c; \frac{x_1}{x_1 - 1}, \frac{x_1 - x_2}{x_1 - 1}, \dots, \\ & \frac{x_1 - x_n}{x_1 - 1}), \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

$$\begin{aligned} (iv) \quad & F_D(a; b_1, \dots, b_n; c; x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ &= (1 - x_1)^{-b_1} \dots (1 - x_n)^{-b_n} F_D(c - a; b_1, \dots, b_n; c; \frac{x_1}{x_1 - 1}, \\ & \dots, \frac{x_n}{x_n - 1}). \end{aligned} \quad (3.4)$$

Proof of (i). We compute:

the right-hand side of (3.1)

$$\begin{aligned} &= \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} a^{(i)} (1 - (x_1 + \dots + x_n))^{-a-i} (-1)^i x \\ & \times \sum_{i_1 + \dots + i_n = i} \frac{(c_1 - b_1)^{(i_1)} \dots (c_n - b_n)^{(i_n)}}{c_1^{(i_1)} \dots c_n^{(i_n)} i_1! \dots i_n!} x_1^{i_1} \dots x_n^{i_n}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

Substituting  $(1 - (x_1 + \dots + x_n))^{-a-i} = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{(a+i)(j)}{j!} x$

$\times \sum_{j_1 + \dots + j_n = j} \frac{j!}{j_1! \dots j_n!} x_1^{j_1} \dots x_n^{j_n}$  into (3.5) and noting that  $a^{(i)}(a$

$+ i)(j) = a^{(k)}$  with  $k = i + j$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.5) &= \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} a^{(k)} x \\
 &\times \sum_{i_1 + \dots + i_n + j_1 + \dots + j_n = k} \frac{(c_1 - b_1)^{(i_1)} \dots (c_n - b_n)^{(i_n)}}{c_1^{(i_1)} \dots c_n^{(i_n)} i_1! \dots i_n! j_1! \dots j_n!} x \\
 &\quad \times (-1)^{i_1 + \dots + i_n} x_1^{i_1 + j_1} \dots x_n^{i_n + j_n} \\
 &= \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} a^{(k)} \sum_{k_1 + \dots + k_n = k} x_1^{k_1} \dots x_n^{k_n} x \\
 &\quad \times \prod_{m=1}^n \sum_{i_m + j_m = k_m} \frac{(-1)^{i_m} (c_m - b_m)^{(i_m)}}{i_m! j_m! c_m^{(i_m)}}. \tag{3.6}
 \end{aligned}$$

The last summation factor is transformed into

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\frac{1}{c_m^{(k_m)}} \sum_{i_m + j_m = k_m} \binom{b_m - c_m}{i_m} \binom{c_m + k_m - 1}{j_m} \\
 &= \frac{\binom{k_m}{b_m}}{c_m^{(k_m)} k_m!} \tag{3.7}
 \end{aligned}$$

by the CV. Substitution of (3.7) into (3.6) yields the left-hand side of (3.1).

Proof of (ii). We compute:

the right-hand side of (3.2)

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} a^{(i)} (1 - x_1)^{-a-i} \sum_{i_1 + \dots + i_n = i} \frac{(c_1 - b_1)^{(i_1)} b_2^{(i_2)} \dots b_n^{(i_n)}}{c_1^{(i_1)} \dots c_n^{(i_n)}} x_1^{i_1} \dots x_n^{i_n} \\
&\quad \times \frac{(-1)^{i_1} x_1^{i_1} x_2^{i_2} \dots x_n^{i_n}}{i_1! i_2! \dots i_n!}. \tag{3.8}
\end{aligned}$$

Substituting  $(1 - x_1)^{-a-i} = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{(a+i)^{(j)}}{j!} x_1^j$  into (3.8) and noting

that  $a^{(i)} (a+i)^{(j)} = a^{(i_1 + \dots + i_n + j)}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
(3.8) &= \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_n, j \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{a^{(i_1 + \dots + i_n + j)} (-1)^{i_1} (c_1 - b_1)^{(i_1)}}{c_1^{(i_1)} \dots c_n^{(i_n)} j! i_1!} x_1^{i_1 + j} \dots x_n^{i_n} \\
&\quad \times \frac{b_2^{(i_2)} \dots b_n^{(i_n)}}{i_2! \dots i_n!} x_1^{i_1 + j} x_2^{i_2} \dots x_n^{i_n} \\
&= \sum_{k, i_2, \dots, i_n \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{a^{(k + i_2 + \dots + i_n)} b_2^{(i_2)} \dots b_n^{(i_n)}}{c_2^{(i_2)} \dots c_n^{(i_n)} i_2! \dots i_n!} x_1^k x_2^{i_2} \dots x_n^{i_n} \\
&\quad \times \sum_{i_1 + j = k} \frac{(-1)^{i_1} (c_1 - b_1)^{(i_1)}}{j! i_1! c_1^{(i_1)}}. \tag{3.9}
\end{aligned}$$

The last summation factor is transformed into

$$\frac{1}{c_1^{(k)}} \sum_{i_1 + j = k} \binom{b_1 - c_1}{i_1} \binom{c_1 + k - 1}{j} = \frac{b_1^{(k)}}{c_1^{(k)} k!} \tag{3.10}$$

by the CV. Substitution of (3.10) into (3.9) yields the left-hand side of (3.2).

Proof of (iii). We compute:

the right-hand side of (3.3)

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{a^{(i)} (-1)^i}{c^{(i)}} (1 - x_1)^{-a-i} x_1^i \\
&\times \sum_{i_1 + \dots + i_n = i} \frac{(c - B)^{(i_1)} b_2^{(i_2)} \dots b_n^{(i_n)}}{i_1! i_2! \dots i_n!} x_1^{i_1} x_2^{i_2} \dots x_n^{i_n} \\
&\times \sum_{j_2 + k_2 = i_2} \frac{i_2!}{j_2! k_2!} x_1^{j_2} (-x_2)^{k_2} \dots \sum_{j_n + k_n = i_n} \frac{i_n!}{j_n! k_n!} x_1^{j_n} (-x_n)^{k_n} \\
&= \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{a^{(i)} (-1)^i}{c^{(i)}} \sum_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{(a + i)^{(m)}}{m!} x_1^m x_2^i \\
&\times \sum_{i_1 + j_2 + k_2 + \dots + j_n + k_n = i} \frac{(c - B)^{(i_1)} b_2^{(j_2 + k_2)} \dots b_n^{(j_n + k_n)}}{i_1! j_2! k_2! \dots j_n! k_n!} x_1^{i_1} x_2^{j_2 + k_2} \dots x_n^{j_n + k_n} \\
&\times x_1^{i_1 + j_2 + \dots + j_n} (-1)^{k_2 + \dots + k_n} x_2^{k_2} \dots x_n^{k_n} \\
&= \sum_{i, m \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{a^{(i+m)} (-1)^i}{c^{(i)} m!} x_1^m \sum_{j+k=i} x_1^j (-1)^{k+j} x_2^k \dots x_n^k \\
&\times \sum_{k_2 + \dots + k_n = k} \frac{b_2^{(k_2)} \dots b_n^{(k_n)}}{k_2! \dots k_n!} x_2^{k_2} \dots x_n^{k_n} \\
&\times \sum_{i_1 + j_2 + \dots + j_n = j} \binom{-c + B}{i_1} \binom{-b_2 - k_2}{j_2} \dots \binom{-b_n - k_n}{j_n}. \quad (3.11)
\end{aligned}$$

The last summation factor is equal to  $\binom{-c + b_1 - k}{j}$  by the multivariate CV. Thus, putting

$$S_k := \sum_{k_2 + \dots + k_n = k} \frac{b_2^{(k_2)} \dots b_n^{(k_n)}}{k_2! \dots k_n!} x_2^{k_2} \dots x_n^{k_n}, \quad (3.12)$$

we have

$$(3.11) = \sum_{j, k, m \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{a^{(j+k+m)}}{c^{(j+k)} m!} \binom{-c + b_1 - k}{j} S_k x_1^{j+m}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum_{i, k \in \mathbb{N}} S_k \sum_{j+m=i} \frac{a^{(i+k)} (c+j+k)^{(m)}}{c^{(i+k)} m!} \binom{-c+b_1-k}{j} x_1^i \\
&= \sum_{i, k \in \mathbb{N}} S_k \frac{a^{(i+k)}}{c^{(i+k)}} x_1^i \sum_{j+m=i} \binom{c+i+k-1}{m} \binom{-c+b_1-k}{j}. \quad (3.13)
\end{aligned}$$

The last summation factor is transformed into  $\binom{b_1+i-1}{i} = b_1^{(i)}/i!$  by the CV. Substitution of (3.12) into (3.13) yields the left-hand side of (3.3).

Proof of (iv). (See also [8].) We make use of the Kummer transformation (2.2). Writing  $L := K(a, b_1, \dots, b_n, c)$ , we define the  $L$ -linear endomorphism  $\sigma$  of  $L[[x_1, \dots, x_n]]$  by

$$\begin{aligned}
\sigma(x_1^{i_1} \dots x_n^{i_n}) &:= \sum_{j=1}^n (b_j + i_j) x_j \cdot x_1^{i_1} \dots x_n^{i_n} \\
&\quad (i_1, \dots, i_n \in \mathbb{N}).
\end{aligned}$$

By induction we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\sigma^k(1) &= \sum_{k_1 + \dots + k_n = k} \frac{k!}{k_1! \dots k_n!} b_1^{(k_1)} \dots b_n^{(k_n)} x_1^{k_1} \dots x_n^{k_n} \\
&\quad (k \in \mathbb{N}). \quad (3.14)
\end{aligned}$$

With  $M$  being the maximal ideal we have  $\sigma(M^i) \subset M^{i+1}$  ( $i \in \mathbb{N}$ ); hence any  $f(\sigma) \in L[[\sigma]]$  acts as an  $L$ -linear endomorphism of  $L[[x_1, \dots, x_n]]$ . Thus we have from (2.2) that

$${}_1F_1(a; c; \sigma)(1) = e^\sigma {}_1F_1(c-a; c; -\sigma)(1). \quad (3.15)$$

The left-hand side of (3.15) is equal to that of (3.4) by virtue of (3.14). The right-hand side of (3.15) is

$$\sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{(c-a)^{(i)}}{c^{(i)} i!} (-\sigma)^i e^\sigma(1);$$

hence it suffices to show that

$$\begin{aligned}
 (-\sigma)^i e^\sigma(1) &= (1-x_1)^{-b_1} \dots (1-x_n)^{-b_n} \\
 &\times \sum_{i_1+\dots+i_n=i} \frac{i!}{i_1! \dots i_n!} b_1^{(i_1)} \dots b_n^{(i_n)} \\
 &\times (x_1/(x_1-1))^{i_1} \dots (x_n/(x_n-1))^{i_n} \quad (i \in \mathbb{N})
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.16}$$

to obtain (3.4). We show an equivalent form of (3.16):

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sigma^i e^\sigma(1) &= \sum_{i_1+\dots+i_n=i} \frac{i!}{i_1! \dots i_n!} b_1^{(i_1)} \dots b_n^{(i_n)} x_1^{i_1} \dots x_n^{i_n} \\
 &\times (1-x_1)^{-b_1-i_1} \dots (1-x_n)^{-b_n-i_n} \quad (i \in \mathbb{N}).
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.17}$$

We compute:

the right-hand side of (3.17)

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \sum_{i_1+\dots+i_n=i} \frac{i!}{i_1! \dots i_n!} \sum_{j_1 \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{b_1^{(i_1+j_1)}}{j_1!} x_1^{i_1+j_1} \dots \\
 &\times \sum_{j_n \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{b_n^{(i_n+j_n)}}{j_n!} x_n^{i_n+j_n} \\
 &= \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{1}{j!} \sum_{j_1+\dots+j_n=j} \frac{j!}{j_1! \dots j_n!} \sum_{i_1+\dots+i_n=i} \frac{i!}{i_1! \dots i_n!} \\
 &\times b_1^{(i_1+j_1)} \dots b_n^{(i_n+j_n)} x_1^{i_1+j_1} \dots x_n^{i_n+j_n} \\
 &= \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{1}{j!} \sum_{k_1+\dots+k_n=i+j} b_1^{(k_1)} \dots b_n^{(k_n)} x_1^{k_1} \dots x_n^{k_n} \\
 &\times \sum_A \frac{i!}{i_1! \dots i_n!} \frac{j!}{j_1! \dots j_n!},
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.18}$$

where the summation  $\sum_A$  ranges over the set  $\{(i_1, \dots, i_n; j_1, \dots, j_n) \mid i_1 + \dots + i_n = i, j_1 + \dots + j_n = j\}$ .

$\dots, j_n) \in \mathbb{N}^{2n} \mid i_1 + j_1 = k_1, \dots, i_n + j_n = k_n, i_1 + \dots + i_n = i,$   
 $j_1 + \dots + j_n = j \}$ . Eliminating  $j_1, \dots, j_n$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_A(\dots) &= \sum_{i_1 + \dots + i_n = i} \binom{k_1}{i_1} \dots \binom{k_n}{i_n} \frac{i!j!}{k_1! \dots k_n!} \\ &= \frac{(i+j)!}{k_1! \dots k_n!} \end{aligned} \quad (3.19)$$

by the multivariate CV. Substitution of (3.19) into (3.18) yields the left-hand side of (3.17) by virtue of (3.14), completing the proof.

We note that, since (3.15) follows from (2.2) which is a consequence of the CV, the proof of (3.4) is in fact performed using only powerseries computation and the CV.

#### 4. Quadratic transformations.

As we have seen in Section 2, the Kummer transformation for  $F := {}_2F_1$  (2.3) follows from the CV. Applying (2.3) twice, we have

$$F(a, b; c; x) = (1-x)^{c-a-b} F(c-a, c-b; c; x). \quad (4.1)$$

As shown in [3; pp.65-66] and [7; pp.48-49], (4.1) is equivalent to the Saalschütz formula for terminating  ${}_3F_2$ . Thus we see:

Proposition 4.1. The Saalschütz formula is a consequence of the CV.

Using the Saalschütz formula, we can directly prove one of the quadratic transformations for  $F = {}_2F_1$

$$\begin{aligned} &F(a, b; 1+a-b; x) \\ &= (1-x)^{-a} F(a/2, (a+1-2b)/2; 1+a-b; -4x/(1-x)^2); \end{aligned}$$

(4.2)

see [3; p66] or [7; pp.49-50]. By Proposition 4.1 we can say that (4.2) is also a consequence of the CV. We will further give the proofs of some other quadratic transformations for  $F = {}_2F_1$  using only powerseries computation and the CV:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(i)} \quad & \left( [3; \text{p.65, (26)}] \right) \quad F(a, a + 1/2; b; x) \\
 & = (2/(1 + (1 - x)^{1/2}))^{2a} F(2a, 2a - b + 1; b; \\
 & \quad (1 - (1 - x)^{1/2})/(1 + (1 - x)^{1/2})), \quad (4.3)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(ii)} \quad & \left( [3; \text{p.65, (27)}] \right) \quad F(a, b; a + b + 1/2; 4x(1 - x)) \\
 & = F(2a, 2b; a + b + 1/2; x), \quad (4.4)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(iii)} \quad & \left( [3; \text{p.66, (33)}] \right) \quad F(a, b; 2b; x) \\
 & = (1 - x/2)^{-a} F(a/2, a/2 + 1/2; b + 1/2; (x/(2 - x))^2). \quad (4.5)
 \end{aligned}$$

Proof of (i). It is sufficient to show that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (1 + t)^{-2a} F(a, a + 1/2; b; 4t/(1 + t)^2) \\
 & = F(2a, 2a - b + 1; b; t); \quad (4.6)
 \end{aligned}$$

replacing  $t$  by  $(1 - (1 - x)^{1/2})/(1 + (1 - x)^{1/2})$  gives (4.3).

Note that  $2/(1 + (1 - x)^{1/2})$  is a powerseries with constant term unity so that (4.3) has no ambiguity as a powerseries identity.

Comparing the coefficients of  $x^k$  of both sides of (4.6), we have to show

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{i+j=k} \frac{a^{(i)} (a + 1/2)^{(i)} 2^{2i} (2i + 2a)^{(j)} (-1)^j}{b^{(i)} i! j!} \\
 & = \frac{(2a)^{(k)} (2a - b + 1)^{(k)}}{b^{(k)} k!} \quad (k \in \mathbb{N}). \quad (4.7)
 \end{aligned}$$

We compute:

the left-hand side of (4.7)

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \sum_{i+j=k} \frac{(2a)^{(2i+j)} (-1)^j}{b^{(i)} i! j!} \\
 &= \frac{(2a)^{(k)}}{b^{(k)}} \sum_{i+j=k} \frac{(2a+k)^{(i)} (-1)^j (b+i)^{(j)}}{i! j!} \\
 &= \frac{(2a)^{(k)} (-1)^k}{b^{(k)}} \sum_{i+j=k} \binom{-2a-k}{i} \binom{b+k-1}{j},
 \end{aligned}$$

which is equal to the right-hand side of (4.7) by the CV.

Proof of (ii). Replacing  $a$  by  $2a$ ,  $b$  by  $a - b + 1/2$ , and  $-4x/(1-x)^2$  by  $t$  in (4.2), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 F(a, b; a + b + 1/2; t) &= (2/((1-t)^{1/2} + 1))^{2a} F(2a, a - b + \\
 &1/2; a + b + 1/2; ((1-t)^{1/2} - 1)/((1-t)^{1/2} + 1)).
 \end{aligned}$$

Applying (2.3) to the right-hand side of the above identity, we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
 &F(a, b; a + b + 1/2; t) \\
 &= F(2a, 2b; a + b + 1/2; (1 - (1-t)^{1/2})/2),
 \end{aligned}$$

which is equivalent to (4.4) through the substitution  $x = (1 - (1-t)^{1/2})/2$ .

Proof of (iii). We compute:

the right-hand side of (4.5)

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{a^{(i)} x^i}{i! 2^i} \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{(a/2)^{(j)} (a/2 + 1/2)^{(j)} x^{2j}}{(b + 1/2)^{(j)} j!} (2-x)^{-2j} \\
 &= \sum_{i, j, k \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{x^{i+2j+k} a^{(i)} (a/2)^{(j)} (a/2 + 1/2)^{(j)} (2j)^{(k)}}{2^{i+2j+k} i! (b + 1/2)^{(j)} j! k!}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$= \sum_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{x^m}{2^m} \sum_{i+2j+k=m} \frac{a^{(i)} a^{(2j)} b^{(j)} (2j)^{(k)}}{i! (2b)^{(2j)} j! k!}; \quad (4.8)$$

The last summation factor is transformed as

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{2j \leq m} \frac{a^{(2j)} b^{(j)}}{(2b)^{(2j)} j!} \sum_{i+k=m-2j} \frac{a^{(i)} (2j)^{(k)}}{i! k!} \\ &= \sum_{2j \leq m} \frac{a^{(2j)} b^{(j)}}{(2b)^{(2j)} j!} (-1)^{m-2j} \binom{-a-2j}{m-2j} \quad (\text{by the CV}) \\ &= \sum_{2j \leq m} \frac{a^{(m)} b^{(j)}}{(2b)^{(2j)} j! (m-2j)!} \\ &= \frac{a^{(m)}}{(2b)^{(m)}} \sum_{2j \leq m} \frac{b^{(j)} (2b+2j)^{(m-2j)}}{j! (m-2j)!} \\ &= \frac{a^{(m)}}{(2b)^{(m)}} \sum_{2j \leq m} (-1)^j \binom{-b}{j} \binom{2b+m-1}{m-2j} \\ &= \frac{a^{(m)}}{(2b)^{(m)}} \times (\text{the coefficient of } x^m \text{ in the powerseries expansion} \\ & \text{of } (1-x^2)^{-b} (1+x)^{2b+m-1} = (1-x)^{-b} (1+x)^{b+m-1}). \quad (4.9) \end{aligned}$$

We show that the coefficient in the parentheses is equal to

$2^m \binom{b+m-1}{m}$ , which is the coefficient of  $x^m$  in the expansion of  $(1+2x)^{b+m-1}$ ; substitution of this equality into (4.9) will yield that (4.8) is equal to the left-hand side of (4.5).

To show that the above two coefficients are mutually equal we use a form of the Lagrange inversion formula [2; p.150, Theorem D]: Let  $K$  be a field of characteristic zero. For  $f(x) \in K[[x]]$  invertible with respect to powerseries composition,  $g(x) \in K[[x]]$  its compositional inverse, and  $H(x) \in K[[x]]$  any powerseries, the coefficients of  $x^m$  in the expansions of  $xH(g(x))/g(x)f'(g(x))$  and  $H(x)(f(x)/x)^{-m}$  are mutually equal, where  $f'(x)$  denotes the

derivative of  $f(x)$  with respect to  $x$ . Take  $f(x) := x/(1 - x)$ ,  
 $g(x) := x/(1 + x)$ , and  $H(x) := (1 - x)^{-b-m}(1 + x)^{b+m-1}$  to obtain  
 the desired result.

Remark 4.2. As shown in [3; p.66], the formula

$$F(a, b; 2b; 4x/(1 + x)^2) = (1 + x)^{2a} x \\ \times F(a, a + 1/2 - b; b + 1/2; x^2) \quad (4.10)$$

follows from (4.3) and (4.5); hence (4.10) is also a consequence of  
 the CV through powerseries computation.

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