

RESEARCH

Open Access



# Degenerate poly-Bernoulli polynomials with umbral calculus viewpoint

Dae San Kim<sup>1</sup>, Taekyun Kim<sup>2\*</sup>, Hyuck In Kwon<sup>2</sup> and Toufik Mansour<sup>3</sup>

\*Correspondence: [tkkim@kw.ac.kr](mailto:tkkim@kw.ac.kr)

<sup>2</sup>Department of Mathematics, Kwangwoon University, Seoul, 139-701, S. Korea

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

## Abstract

In this paper, we consider the degenerate poly-Bernoulli polynomials. We present several explicit formulas and recurrence relations for these polynomials. Also, we establish a connection between our polynomials and several known families of polynomials.

**MSC:** 05A19; 05A40; 11B83

**Keywords:** degenerate poly-Bernoulli polynomials; umbral calculus

## 1 Introduction

The *degenerate Bernoulli polynomials*  $\beta_n(\lambda, x)$  ( $\lambda \neq 0$ ) were introduced by Carlitz [1] and rediscovered by Ustinov [2] under the name *Korobov polynomials of the second kind*. They are given by the generating function

$$\frac{t}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1} (1 + \lambda t)^{x/\lambda} = \sum_{n \geq 0} \beta_n(\lambda, x) \frac{t^n}{n!}.$$

When  $x = 0$ ,  $\beta_n(\lambda) = \beta_n(\lambda, 0)$  are called the *degenerate Bernoulli numbers* (see [3]). We observe that  $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \beta_n(\lambda, x) = B_n(x)$ , where  $B_n(x)$  is the *n*th ordinary Bernoulli polynomial (see the references).

The *poly-Bernoulli polynomials*  $PB_n^{(k)}(x)$  are defined by

$$\frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{e^t - 1} e^{xt} = \sum_{n \geq 0} PB_n^{(k)}(x) \frac{t^n}{n!},$$

where  $Li_k(x)$  ( $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ ) is the classical *polylogarithm function* given by  $Li_k(x) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{x^n}{n^k}$  (see [4–6]).

For  $0 \neq \lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , the *degenerate poly-Bernoulli polynomials*  $P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x)$  are defined by Kim and Kim to be

$$\frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1} (1 + \lambda t)^{x/\lambda} = \sum_{n \geq 0} P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) \frac{t^n}{n!} \quad (\text{see [5]}). \tag{1.1}$$

When  $x = 0$ ,  $P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda) = P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, 0)$  are called *degenerate poly-Bernoulli numbers*. We observe that  $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) = PB_n^{(k)}(x)$ .

The goal of this paper is to use umbral calculus to obtain several new and interesting identities of degenerate poly-Bernoulli polynomials. To do that we recall the umbral calculus as given in [7, 8]. We denote the algebra of polynomials in a single variable  $x$  over  $\mathbb{C}$  by  $\Pi$  and the vector space of all linear functionals on  $\Pi$  by  $\Pi^*$ . The action of a linear functional  $L$  on a polynomial  $p(x)$  is denoted by  $\langle L \mid p(x) \rangle$ . We define the vector space structure on  $\Pi^*$  by  $\langle cL + c'L' \mid p(x) \rangle = c\langle L \mid p(x) \rangle + c'\langle L' \mid p(x) \rangle$ , where  $c, c' \in \mathbb{C}$ . We define the algebra of formal power series in a single variable  $t$  to be

$$\mathcal{H} = \left\{ f(t) = \sum_{k \geq 0} a_k \frac{t^k}{k!} \mid a_k \in \mathbb{C} \right\}. \tag{1.2}$$

A power series  $f(t) \in \mathcal{H}$  defines a linear functional on  $\Pi$  by setting

$$\langle f(t) \mid x^n \rangle = a_n, \quad \text{for all } n \geq 0 \text{ (see [6, 8–10])}. \tag{1.3}$$

By (1.2) and (1.3), we have

$$\langle t^k \mid x^n \rangle = n! \delta_{n,k}, \quad \text{for all } n, k \geq 0, \tag{1.4}$$

where  $\delta_{n,k}$  is the Kronecker symbol. Let  $f_L(t) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \langle L \mid x^n \rangle \frac{t^n}{n!}$ . From (1.4), we have  $\langle f_L(t) \mid x^n \rangle = \langle L \mid x^n \rangle$ . So, the map  $L \mapsto f_L(t)$  is a vector space isomorphism from  $\Pi^*$  onto  $\mathcal{H}$ . Thus,  $\mathcal{H}$  is thought of as set of both formal power series and linear functionals. We call  $\mathcal{H}$  the *umbral algebra*. The *umbral calculus* is the study of umbral algebra.

The *order*  $O(f(t))$  of the non-zero power series  $f(t) \in \mathcal{H}$  is the smallest integer  $k$  for which the coefficient of  $t^k$  does not vanish. Suppose that  $f(t), g(t) \in \mathcal{H}$  such that  $O(f(t)) = 1$  and  $O(g(t)) = 0$ , then there exists a unique sequence  $s_n(x)$  of polynomials such that

$$\langle g(t)(f(t))^k \mid s_n(x) \rangle = n! \delta_{n,k}, \tag{1.5}$$

where  $n, k \geq 0$ . The sequence  $s_n(x)$  is called the *Sheffer* sequence for  $(g(t), f(t))$ , which is denoted by  $s_n(x) \sim (g(t), f(t))$  (see [7, 8]). For  $f(t) \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $p(x) \in \Pi$ , we have  $\langle e^{yt} \mid p(x) \rangle = p(y)$ ,  $\langle f(t)g(t) \mid p(x) \rangle = \langle g(t) \mid f(t)p(x) \rangle$ , and

$$f(t) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \langle f(t) \mid x^n \rangle \frac{t^n}{n!}, \quad p(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \langle t^n \mid p(x) \rangle \frac{x^n}{n!} \tag{1.6}$$

(see [7, 8]). From (1.6), we obtain  $\langle t^k \mid p(x) \rangle = p^{(k)}(0)$  and  $\langle 1 \mid p^{(k)}(x) \rangle = p^{(k)}(0)$ , where  $p^{(k)}(0)$  denotes the  $k$ th derivative of  $p(x)$  with respect to  $x$  at  $x = 0$ . So, we get  $t^k p(x) = p^{(k)}(x) = \frac{d^k}{dx^k} p(x)$ , for all  $k \geq 0$ . Let  $s_n(x) \sim (g(t), f(t))$ , then we have

$$\frac{1}{g(\bar{f}(t))} e^{y\bar{f}(t)} = \sum_{n \geq 0} s_n(y) \frac{t^n}{n!}, \tag{1.7}$$

for all  $y \in \mathbb{C}$ , where  $\bar{f}(t)$  is the compositional inverse of  $f(t)$  (see [7, 8]). For  $s_n(x) \sim (g(t), f(t))$  and  $r_n(x) \sim (h(t), \ell(t))$ , let  $s_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n c_{n,k} r_k(x)$ , then we have

$$c_{n,k} = \frac{1}{k!} \left\langle \frac{h(\bar{f}(t))}{g(\bar{f}(t))} (\ell(\bar{f}(t)))^k \mid x^n \right\rangle \tag{1.8}$$

(see [7, 8]).

From (1.1), we see that  $P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x)$  is the Sheffer sequence for the pair

$$(g(t), f(t)) = \left( \frac{e^t - 1}{Li_k(1 - e^{-\frac{1}{\lambda}(e^{\lambda t} - 1)})}, \frac{1}{\lambda}(e^{\lambda t} - 1) \right). \tag{1.9}$$

In this paper, we will use umbral calculus in order to derive some properties, explicit formulas, recurrence relations, and identities as regards the degenerate poly-Bernoulli polynomials. Also, we establish a connection between our polynomials and several known families of polynomials.

### 2 Explicit formulas

In this section we present several explicit formulas for the degenerate poly-Bernoulli polynomials, namely  $P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x)$ . To do so, we recall that Stirling numbers  $S_1(n, k)$  of the first kind can be defined by means of exponential generating functions as  $\sum_{\ell \geq j} S_1(\ell, j) \frac{t^\ell}{\ell!} = \frac{1}{j!} \log^j(1 + t)$  and can be defined by means of ordinary generating functions as

$$(x)_n = \sum_{m=0}^n S_1(n, m) x^m \sim (1, e^t - 1), \tag{2.1}$$

where  $(x)_n = x(x-1)(x-2) \cdots (x-n+1)$  with  $(x)_0 = 1$ . For  $\lambda \neq 0$ , we define  $(x \mid \lambda)_n = \lambda^n (x/\lambda)_n$ . Sometimes, for simplicity, we denote the function  $\frac{e^t - 1}{Li_k(1 - e^{-\frac{1}{\lambda}(e^{\lambda t} - 1)})}$  by  $G_k(t)$ .

First, we express the degenerate poly-Bernoulli polynomials in terms of degenerate poly-Bernoulli numbers.

**Theorem 2.1** For all  $n \geq 0$ ,

$$P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) = \sum_{j=0}^n \sum_{\ell=j}^n \binom{n}{\ell} S_1(\ell, j) \lambda^{\ell-j} P\beta_{n-\ell}^{(k)}(\lambda) x^j.$$

*Proof* By (1.5), for  $s_n(x) \sim (g(t), f(t))$  we have  $s_n(x) = \sum_{j=0}^n \frac{1}{j!} \langle (g(\bar{f}(t)))^{-1} \bar{f}(t)^j \mid x^n \rangle x^j$ . Thus, in the case of degenerate poly-Bernoulli polynomials (see (1.9)), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{j!} \langle (g(\bar{f}(t)))^{-1} \bar{f}(t)^j \mid x^n \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{j!} \left\langle \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1} \left( \frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1 + \lambda t) \right)^j \mid x^n \right\rangle \\ &= \lambda^{-j} \left\langle \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1} \mid \frac{\log^j(1 + \lambda t)}{j!} x^n \right\rangle \\ &= \lambda^{-j} \left\langle \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1} \mid \sum_{\ell \geq j} S_1(\ell, j) \frac{\lambda^\ell t^\ell}{\ell!} x^n \right\rangle \\ &= \sum_{\ell=j}^n \binom{n}{\ell} S_1(\ell, j) \lambda^{\ell-j} \left\langle \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1} \mid x^{n-\ell} \right\rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \sum_{\ell=j}^n \binom{n}{\ell} S_1(\ell, j) \lambda^{\ell-j} \left\langle \sum_{m \geq 0} P\beta_m^{(k)}(\lambda) \frac{t^m}{m!} \middle| x^{n-\ell} \right\rangle \\
 &= \sum_{\ell=j}^n \binom{n}{\ell} S_1(\ell, j) \lambda^{\ell-j} P\beta_{n-\ell}^{(k)}(\lambda),
 \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof. □

Note that Stirling numbers  $S_2(n, k)$  of the second kind can be defined by the exponential generating functions as

$$\sum_{n \geq k} S_2(n, k) \frac{x^n}{n!} = \frac{(e^t - 1)^k}{k!}. \tag{2.2}$$

**Theorem 2.2** For all  $n \geq 0$ ,

$$P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) = \sum_{j=0}^n \left( \sum_{m=j}^n \sum_{\ell=0}^{m-j} \binom{m}{j} S_1(n, m) S_2(m-j, \ell) \lambda^{n-\ell-j} P\beta_\ell^{(k)}(\lambda) \right) x^j.$$

*Proof* By (2.1), we have  $(x | \lambda)_n = \sum_{m=0}^n S_1(n, m) \lambda^{n-m} x^m \sim (1, \frac{1}{\lambda}(e^{\lambda t} - 1))$ , and by (1.9), we have

$$G_k(t) P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) \sim \left( 1, \frac{1}{\lambda}(e^{\lambda t} - 1) \right), \tag{2.3}$$

which implies  $G_k(t) P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) = \sum_{m=0}^n S_1(n, m) \lambda^{n-m} x^m$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}
 P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) &= \sum_{m=0}^n S_1(n, m) \lambda^{n-m} \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-\frac{1}{\lambda}(e^{\lambda t} - 1)})}{e^t - 1} x^m \\
 &= \sum_{m=0}^n S_1(n, m) \lambda^{n-m} \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-\nu})}{(1 + \lambda \nu)^{1/\lambda} - 1} \Big|_{\nu = \frac{1}{\lambda}(e^{\lambda t} - 1)} x^m \\
 &= \sum_{m=0}^n \sum_{\ell \geq 0} S_1(n, m) \lambda^{n-m} P\beta_\ell^{(k)}(\lambda) \frac{(\frac{1}{\lambda}(e^{\lambda t} - 1))^\ell}{\ell!} x^m \\
 &= \sum_{m=0}^n \sum_{\ell=0}^m S_1(n, m) \lambda^{n-m-\ell} P\beta_\ell^{(k)}(\lambda) \sum_{j \geq \ell} S_2(j, \ell) \frac{\lambda^j t^j}{j!} x^m \\
 &= \sum_{m=0}^n \sum_{\ell=0}^m \sum_{j=\ell}^m \binom{m}{j} S_1(n, m) S_2(j, \ell) \lambda^{n-m-\ell+j} P\beta_\ell^{(k)}(\lambda) x^{m-j} \\
 &= \sum_{m=0}^n \sum_{\ell=0}^m \sum_{j=0}^{m-\ell} \binom{m}{j} S_1(n, m) S_2(m-j, \ell) \lambda^{n-\ell-j} P\beta_\ell^{(k)}(\lambda) x^j \\
 &= \sum_{j=0}^n \left( \sum_{m=j}^n \sum_{\ell=0}^{m-j} \binom{m}{j} S_1(n, m) S_2(m-j, \ell) \lambda^{n-\ell-j} P\beta_\ell^{(k)}(\lambda) \right) x^j, \tag{2.4}
 \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof. □

**Theorem 2.3** For all  $n \geq 1$ ,

$$P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) = \sum_{j=0}^n \left( \sum_{\ell=0}^{n-j} \sum_{m=0}^{n-j-\ell} \binom{n-1}{\ell} \binom{n-\ell}{j} \lambda^{n-m-j} S_2(n-j-\ell, m) B_\ell^{(n)} P\beta_m^{(k)}(\lambda) \right) x^j.$$

*Proof* Note that  $x^n \sim (1, t)$ . Thus, by (2.3) and transfer formula, we have

$$\begin{aligned} G_k(t)P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) &= x \left( \frac{\lambda t}{e^{\lambda t} - 1} \right)^n x^{-1} x^n = x \left( \frac{\lambda t}{e^{\lambda t} - 1} \right)^n x^{n-1} \\ &= x \sum_{\ell \geq 0} B_\ell^{(n)} \frac{\lambda^\ell t^\ell}{\ell!} x^{n-1} = x \sum_{\ell=0}^{n-1} \binom{n-1}{\ell} \lambda^\ell B_\ell^{(n)} x^{n-1-\ell} \\ &= \sum_{\ell=0}^{n-1} \binom{n-1}{\ell} \lambda^\ell B_\ell^{(n)} x^{n-\ell}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{n-1} \binom{n-1}{\ell} \lambda^\ell B_\ell^{(n)} G_k(t)^{-1} x^{n-\ell}$ , which, by (2.4), completes the proof. □

**Theorem 2.4** For all  $n \geq 0$ ,

$$P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) = \sum_{\ell=0}^n \left( \sum_{m=0}^{\ell} (-1)^{m+\ell} \binom{n}{\ell} \frac{(m+1)!}{(m+1)^k(\ell+1)} S_2(\ell+1, m+1) \right) \beta_{n-\ell}(\lambda, x).$$

*Proof* By (2.3), we have

$$\begin{aligned} P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, y) &= \left\langle \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1} (1 + \lambda t)^{y/\lambda} \mid x^n \right\rangle \\ &= \left\langle \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{t} \mid \frac{t}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1} (1 + \lambda t)^{y/\lambda} x^n \right\rangle \\ &= \left\langle \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{t} \mid \sum_{\ell \geq 0} \beta_\ell(\lambda, y) \frac{t^\ell}{\ell!} x^n \right\rangle \\ &= \sum_{\ell=0}^n \binom{n}{\ell} \beta_\ell(\lambda, y) \left\langle \frac{1}{t} \sum_{m \geq 1} \frac{(1 - e^{-t})^m}{m^k} \mid x^{n-\ell} \right\rangle \\ &= \sum_{\ell=0}^n \sum_{m=1}^{n-\ell+1} \binom{n}{\ell} \beta_\ell(\lambda, y) \left\langle \frac{(-1)^m (e^{-t} - 1)^m}{m^k t} \mid x^{n-\ell} \right\rangle. \end{aligned} \tag{2.5}$$

Thus, by (2.2), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, y) &= \sum_{\ell=0}^n \sum_{m=0}^{n-\ell} \binom{n}{\ell} \beta_\ell(\lambda, y) \left\langle \frac{(-1)^{m+1} (m+1)!}{(m+1)^k} \sum_{j=m+1}^{n-\ell+1} S_2(j, m+1) \frac{(-1)^j}{j!} t^{j-1} \mid x^{n-\ell} \right\rangle \\ &= \sum_{\ell=0}^n \sum_{m=0}^{n-\ell} \binom{n}{\ell} \beta_\ell(\lambda, y) \frac{(-1)^{m+1} (m+1)!}{(m+1)^k} S_2(n-\ell+1, m+1) \frac{(-1)^{n-\ell+1} (n-\ell)!}{(n-\ell+1)!} \\ &= \sum_{\ell=0}^n \sum_{m=0}^{n-\ell} (-1)^{n+m-\ell} \binom{n}{\ell} \frac{(m+1)!}{(m+1)^k (n-\ell+1)} S_2(n-\ell+1, m+1) \beta_\ell(\lambda, y), \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof. □

Note that the above theorem has been obtained in Theorem 2.2 in [5].

**Theorem 2.5** For all  $n \geq 0$ ,

$$P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) = \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{\ell=0}^n \sum_{m=0}^{\ell} \binom{n+1}{n-\ell, m, \ell-m+1} P\beta_m^{(k)} \beta_{n-\ell}(\lambda, x),$$

where  $\binom{a}{b_1, b_2, b_3} = \frac{a!}{b_1! b_2! b_3!}$  is the multinomial coefficient.

*Proof* By (2.5), we have

$$\begin{aligned} P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, y) &= \sum_{\ell=0}^n \binom{n}{\ell} \beta_{\ell}(\lambda, y) \left\langle \frac{e^t - 1}{t} \mid \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{e^t - 1} x^{n-\ell} \right\rangle \\ &= \sum_{\ell=0}^n \binom{n}{\ell} \beta_{\ell}(\lambda, y) \left\langle \frac{e^t - 1}{t} \mid \sum_{m \geq 0} P\beta_m^{(k)} \frac{t^m}{m!} x^{n-\ell} \right\rangle \\ &= \sum_{\ell=0}^n \sum_{m=0}^{n-\ell} \binom{n}{\ell} \binom{n-\ell}{m} \beta_{\ell}(\lambda, y) P\beta_m^{(k)} \left\langle \frac{e^t - 1}{t} \mid x^{n-\ell-m} \right\rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $\langle \frac{e^t - 1}{t} \mid x^{n-\ell-m} \rangle = \int_0^1 u^{n-\ell-m} du = \frac{1}{n-\ell-m+1}$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, y) &= \sum_{\ell=0}^n \sum_{m=0}^{n-\ell} \frac{1}{n-\ell-m+1} \binom{n}{\ell} \binom{n-\ell}{m} P\beta_m^{(k)} \beta_{\ell}(\lambda, y) \\ &= \sum_{\ell=0}^n \sum_{m=0}^{\ell} \frac{1}{\ell-m+1} \binom{n}{\ell} \binom{\ell}{m} P\beta_m^{(k)} \beta_{n-\ell}(\lambda, y) \\ &= \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{\ell=0}^n \sum_{m=0}^{\ell} \binom{n+1}{n-\ell, m, \ell-m+1} P\beta_m^{(k)} \beta_{n-\ell}(\lambda, y), \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof. □

Note that  $Li_2(1 - e^{-t}) = \int_0^t \frac{y}{e^y - 1} dy = \sum_{j \geq 0} B_j \frac{1}{j!} \int_0^t y^j dy = \sum_{j \geq 0} \frac{B_j t^{j+1}}{j!(j+1)}$ . For general  $k \geq 2$ , the function  $Li_k(1 - e^{-t})$  has the integral representation

$$Li_k(1 - e^{-t}) = \int_0^t \underbrace{\frac{1}{e^y - 1} \int_0^y \frac{1}{e^y - 1} \int_0^y \cdots \frac{1}{e^y - 1} \int_0^y \frac{y}{e^y - 1} dy \cdots dy}_{(k-2) \text{ times}} dy,$$

which, by induction on  $k$ , implies

$$Li_k(1 - e^{-t}) = \sum_{j_1 \geq 0} \cdots \sum_{j_{k-1} \geq 0} t^{j_1 + \cdots + j_{k-1} + 1} \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{B_{j_i}}{j_i!(j_1 + \cdots + j_i + 1)}. \tag{2.6}$$

**Theorem 2.6** For all  $n \geq 0$  and  $k \geq 2$ ,

$$P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) = \sum_{\ell=0}^n \binom{n}{\ell} \beta_{n-\ell}(\lambda, x) \left( \sum_{j_1 + \cdots + j_{k-1} = \ell} \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{B_{j_i}}{j_i!(j_1 + \cdots + j_i + 1)} \right).$$

*Proof* By (2.5), we have

$$P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) = \sum_{\ell=0}^n \binom{n}{\ell} \beta_\ell(\lambda, x) \left\langle \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{t} \mid x^{n-\ell} \right\rangle.$$

Thus, by (2.6), we obtain

$$P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) = \sum_{\ell=0}^n \frac{n!}{\ell!} \beta_\ell(\lambda, x) \left( \sum_{j_1+\dots+j_{k-1}=n-\ell} \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{B_{j_i}}{j_i!(j_1 + \dots + j_i + 1)} \right),$$

which completes the proof. □

Note that here we compute  $A = \langle Li_k(1 - e^{-t}) \mid x^{n+1} \rangle$  in several different ways. As for the first way, we have

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \left\langle \int_0^t \frac{d}{ds} Li_k(1 - e^{-s}) ds \mid x^{n+1} \right\rangle = \left\langle \int_0^t \frac{e^{-s} Li_{k-1}(1 - e^{-s})}{1 - e^{-s}} ds \mid x^{n+1} \right\rangle \\ &= \left\langle \int_0^t \frac{Li_{k-1}(1 - e^{-s})}{e^s - 1} ds \mid x^{n+1} \right\rangle = \sum_{m \geq 0} \frac{PB_m^{(k-1)}}{m!} \left\langle \int_0^t s^m ds \mid x^{n+1} \right\rangle \\ &= \sum_{m \geq 0} \frac{PB_m^{(k-1)}}{(m+1)!} \langle t^{m+1} \mid x^{n+1} \rangle = PB_n^{(k-1)}. \end{aligned}$$

As for the second way, we have

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \left\langle \frac{(e^t - 1) Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{e^t - 1} \mid x^{n+1} \right\rangle = \left\langle \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{e^t - 1} \mid (e^t - 1)x^{n+1} \right\rangle \\ &= \left\langle \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{e^t - 1} \mid (x+1)^{n+1} - x^{n+1} \right\rangle = \sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n+1}{m} \left\langle \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{e^t - 1} \mid x^m \right\rangle \\ &= \sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n+1}{m} PB_m^{(k)}. \end{aligned}$$

As for the third way, by (2.6), we have

$$A = (n+1)! \sum_{j_1+\dots+j_{k-1}=n} \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{B_{j_i}}{j_i!(j_1 + \dots + j_i + 1)}.$$

Hence, we can state the following result.

**Theorem 2.7** For all  $n \geq 0$ ,

$$PB_n^{(k-1)} = \sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n+1}{m} PB_m^{(k)} = (n+1)! \sum_{j_1+\dots+j_{k-1}=n} \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{B_{j_i}}{j_i!(j_1 + \dots + j_i + 1)}.$$

### 3 Recurrences

In this section, we present several recurrences for the degenerate poly-Bernoulli polynomials, namely  $P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x)$ . Note that, by (1.9) and the fact that  $(x | \lambda)_n \sim (1, \frac{e^{\lambda t}-1}{\lambda})$ , we obtain the following identity.

**Proposition 3.1** For all  $n \geq 0$ ,  $P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x + y) = \sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j} P\beta_j^{(k)}(\lambda, x)(y | \lambda)_{n-j}$ .

It is well known that if  $s_n(x) \sim (g(t), f(t))$ , then we have  $f(t)s_n(x) = ns_{n-1}(x)$ . Thus, by (1.9), we obtain  $\frac{e^{\lambda t}-1}{\lambda} P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) = nP\beta_{n-1}^{(k)}(\lambda, x)$ , which implies the following result.

**Proposition 3.2** For all  $n \geq 0$ ,  $P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x + \lambda) = P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) + n\lambda P\beta_{n-1}^{(k)}(\lambda, x)$ .

**Theorem 3.3** For all  $n \geq 0$ ,

$$P\beta_{n+1}^{(k)}(\lambda, x) - xP\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x - \lambda) = \sum_{i=0}^{m+1} \sum_{\ell=0}^{m+1-i} \binom{m+1}{i} \lambda^{m+1-i-\ell} S_2(m+1-i, \ell) (PB_\ell^{(k)} B_i(x) - P\beta_\ell^{(k)}(\lambda) B_i(x + 1 - \lambda)).$$

*Proof* By applying the fact that  $s_{n+1}(x) = (x - \frac{g'(t)}{g(t)}) \frac{1}{f'(t)} s_n(x)$  for all  $s_n(x) \sim (g(t), f(t))$  and (1.9), we obtain

$$P\beta_{n+1}^{(k)}(\lambda, x) = \left(x - \frac{g'(t)}{g(t)}\right) e^{-\lambda t} P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) = xP\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x - \lambda) - e^{-\lambda t} \frac{g'(t)}{g(t)} P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{g'(t)}{g(t)} &= (\log(e^t - 1) - \log Li_k(1 - e^{-\frac{1}{\lambda}(e^{\lambda t}-1)}))' \\ &= \frac{e^t}{e^t - 1} - \frac{1}{Li_k(1 - e^{-\frac{1}{\lambda}(e^{\lambda t}-1)})} \frac{Li_{k-1}(1 - e^{-\frac{1}{\lambda}(e^{\lambda t}-1)})}{1 - e^{-\frac{1}{\lambda}(e^{\lambda t}-1)}} e^{\lambda t} e^{-\frac{1}{\lambda}(e^{\lambda t}-1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the expression  $A = e^{-\lambda t} \frac{g'(t)}{g(t)} P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x)$  is given by

$$\frac{1}{t} \left( \frac{te^{(1-\lambda)t}}{e^t - 1} G_k(t)^{-1} - \frac{t}{e^{\frac{1}{\lambda}(e^{\lambda t}-1)} - 1} G_{k-1}(t)^{-1} \right) G_k(t) P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x).$$

Note that, by (1.9), we have  $G_k(x)P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) = \sum_{m=0}^n S_1(n, m)\lambda^{n-m}x^m$ . Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \sum_{m=0}^n S_1(n, m)\lambda^{n-m} \frac{1}{t} \left( \frac{te^{(1-\lambda)t}}{e^t - 1} G_k(t)^{-1} - \frac{t}{e^{\frac{1}{\lambda}(e^{\lambda t}-1)} - 1} G_{k-1}(t)^{-1} \right) x^m \\ &= \sum_{m=0}^n \frac{S_1(n, m)}{m+1} \lambda^{n-m} \left( \frac{te^{(1-\lambda)t}}{e^t - 1} G_k(t)^{-1} - \frac{t}{e^{\frac{1}{\lambda}(e^{\lambda t}-1)} - 1} G_{k-1}(t)^{-1} \right) x^{m+1}. \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

We remark that the expression in the parentheses in (3.1) has order at least one. Now, let us simplify (3.1):



$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{te^{(1-\lambda)t}}{e^t - 1} G_k(t)^{-1} x^{m+1} \\
 &= \frac{te^{(1-\lambda)t}}{e^t - 1} \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-s})}{(1 + \lambda s)^{1/\lambda} - 1} \Big|_{s=\frac{e^{\lambda t}-1}{\lambda}} x^{m+1} \\
 &= \frac{te^{(1-\lambda)t}}{e^t - 1} \sum_{\ell=0}^{m+1} P\beta_\ell^{(k)}(\lambda) \frac{(e^{\lambda t}-1)^\ell}{\ell!} x^{m+1} \\
 &= \frac{te^{(1-\lambda)t}}{e^t - 1} \sum_{\ell=0}^{m+1} \sum_{i=\ell}^{m+1} \binom{m+1}{i} \lambda^{i-\ell} S_2(i, \ell) P\beta_\ell^{(k)}(\lambda) x^{m+1-i} \\
 &= \sum_{i=0}^{m+1} \sum_{\ell=0}^{m+1-i} \binom{m+1}{i} \lambda^{m+1-i-\ell} S_2(m+1-i, \ell) P\beta_\ell^{(k)}(\lambda) \frac{te^{(1-\lambda)t}}{e^t - 1} x^i \\
 &= \sum_{i=0}^{m+1} \sum_{\ell=0}^{m+1-i} \binom{m+1}{i} \lambda^{m+1-i-\ell} S_2(m+1-i, \ell) P\beta_\ell^{(k)}(\lambda) B_i(x+1-\lambda)
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.2}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{t}{e^{\frac{1}{\lambda}(e^{\lambda t}-1)} - 1} G_{k-1}(t)^{-1} x^{m+1} \\
 &= \frac{t}{e^t - 1} \frac{Li_{k-1}(1 - e^{-s})}{e^s - 1} \Big|_{s=\frac{e^{\lambda t}-1}{\lambda}} x^{m+1} \\
 &= \frac{t}{e^t - 1} \sum_{\ell=0}^{m+1} P\beta_\ell^{(k)} \frac{(e^{\lambda t}-1)^\ell}{\ell!} x^{m+1} \\
 &= \frac{t}{e^t - 1} \sum_{\ell=0}^{m+1} \sum_{i=\ell}^{m+1} \binom{m+1}{i} \lambda^{i-\ell} S_2(i, \ell) P\beta_\ell^{(k)} x^{m+1-i} \\
 &= \sum_{i=0}^{m+1} \sum_{\ell=0}^{m+1-i} \binom{m+1}{i} \lambda^{m+1-i-\ell} S_2(m+1-i, \ell) P\beta_\ell^{(k)} \frac{t}{e^t - 1} x^i \\
 &= \sum_{i=0}^{m+1} \sum_{\ell=0}^{m+1-i} \binom{m+1}{i} \lambda^{m+1-i-\ell} S_2(m+1-i, \ell) P\beta_\ell^{(k)} B_i(x).
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.3}$$

Hence, by (3.1)-(3.3), we complete the proof. □

In the next result we express  $\frac{d}{dx} P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x)$  in terms of  $P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x)$ .

**Proposition 3.4** For all  $n \geq 0$ ,  $\frac{d}{dx} P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) = n! \sum_{\ell=0}^{n-1} \frac{(-\lambda)^{n-\ell-1}}{\ell!(n-\ell)} P\beta_\ell^{(k)}(\lambda, x)$ .

*Proof* Note that  $\frac{d}{dx} s_n(x) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{n-1} \binom{n}{\ell} \langle \bar{f}(t) | x^{n-\ell} \rangle s_\ell(x)$  for all  $s_n(x) \sim (g(t), f(t))$ . Thus, by (1.9), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle \bar{f}(t) | x^{n-\ell} \rangle &= \left\langle \frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1 + \lambda t) \Big| x^{n-\ell} \right\rangle = \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_{m \geq 1} (-1)^{m-1} \lambda^m (m-1)! \left\langle \frac{x^m}{m!} \Big| x^{n-\ell} \right\rangle \\
 &= (-\lambda)^{n-\ell-1} (n-\ell-1)!,
 \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof. □

**Theorem 3.5** For all  $n \geq 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 &P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) - xP\beta_{n-1}^{(k)}(\lambda, x - \lambda) \\
 &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n}{m} (P\beta_m^{(k-1)}(\lambda, x)B_{n-m} - P\beta_m^{(k)}(\lambda, x + 1 - \lambda)\beta_{n-m}(\lambda)).
 \end{aligned}$$

*Proof* By (1.9), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, y) &= \left\langle \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1} (1 + \lambda t)^{y/\lambda} \mid x^n \right\rangle \\
 &= \left\langle \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1} \frac{d}{dt} (1 + \lambda t)^{y/\lambda} \mid x^{n-1} \right\rangle \tag{3.4}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$+ \left\langle \frac{d}{dt} \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1} (1 + \lambda t)^{y/\lambda} \mid x^{n-1} \right\rangle. \tag{3.5}$$

The term in (3.4) is given by

$$y \left\langle \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1} (1 + \lambda t)^{(y-\lambda)/\lambda} \mid x^{n-1} \right\rangle = yP\beta_{n-1}^{(k)}(\lambda, y - \lambda). \tag{3.6}$$

For the term in (3.5), we observe that  $\frac{d}{dt} \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1} = \frac{1}{t}(A - B)$ , where

$$A = \frac{t}{e^t - 1} \frac{Li_{k-1}(1 - e^{-t})}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1}, \quad B = \frac{t}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1} \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1} (1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda - 1}.$$

Note that the expression  $A - B$  has order of at least 1. Now, we are ready to compute the term in (3.5). By (1.9), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\left\langle \frac{d}{dt} \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1} (1 + \lambda t)^{y/\lambda} \mid x^{n-1} \right\rangle \\
 &= \left\langle \frac{1}{t}(A - B)(1 + \lambda t)^{y/\lambda} \mid x^{n-1} \right\rangle \\
 &= \frac{1}{n} \left\langle A(1 + \lambda t)^{y/\lambda} \mid x^n \right\rangle - \frac{1}{n} \left\langle B(1 + \lambda t)^{y/\lambda} \mid x^n \right\rangle \\
 &= \frac{1}{n} \left\langle \frac{t}{e^t - 1} \mid \sum_{m \geq 0} P\beta_m^{(k-1)}(\lambda, y) \frac{t^m}{m!} x^n \right\rangle \\
 &\quad - \frac{1}{n} \left\langle \frac{t}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1} \mid \sum_{m \geq 0} P\beta_m^{(k)}(\lambda, y + 1 - \lambda) \frac{t^m}{m!} x^n \right\rangle \\
 &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n}{m} P\beta_m^{(k-1)}(\lambda, y) \left\langle \frac{t}{e^t - 1} \mid x^{n-m} \right\rangle \\
 &\quad - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n}{m} P\beta_m^{(k)}(\lambda, y + 1 - \lambda) \left\langle \frac{t}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1} \mid x^{n-m} \right\rangle \\
 &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n}{m} (P\beta_m^{(k-1)}(\lambda, y)B_{n-m} - P\beta_m^{(k)}(\lambda, y + 1 - \lambda)\beta_{n-m}(\lambda)). \tag{3.7}
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, if we replace (3.4) by (3.6) and (3.5) by (3.7), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 &P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) - xP\beta_{n-1}^{(k)}(\lambda, x - \lambda) \\
 &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n}{m} (P\beta_m^{(k-1)}(\lambda, x)B_{n-m} - P\beta_m^{(k)}(\lambda, x + 1 - \lambda)\beta_{n-m}(\lambda)),
 \end{aligned}$$

as claimed. □

#### 4 Connections with families of polynomials

In this section, we present a few examples on the connections with families of polynomials. We start with the connection to *Bernoulli polynomials*  $B_n^{(s)}(x)$  of order  $s$ . Recall that the *Bernoulli polynomials*  $B_n^{(s)}(x)$  of order  $s$  are defined by the generating function  $(\frac{t}{e^t-1})^s e^{xt} = \sum_{n \geq 0} B_n^{(s)}(x) \frac{t^n}{n!}$ , equivalently,

$$B_n^{(s)}(x) \sim \left( \left( \frac{e^t - 1}{t} \right)^s, t \right) \tag{4.1}$$

(see [11–13]). In the next result, we express our polynomials  $P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x)$  in terms of *Bernoulli polynomials* of order  $s$ . To do that, we recall that the Bernoulli numbers  $b_n^{(s)}$  of the second kind of order  $s$  are defined as

$$\frac{t^s}{\log^s(1+t)} = \sum_{n \geq 0} b_n^{(s)} \frac{t^n}{n!}. \tag{4.2}$$

**Theorem 4.1** For all  $n \geq 0$ ,

$$P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) = \sum_{m=0}^n \left( \sum_{\ell=m}^n \sum_{r=0}^{n-\ell} \sum_{j=0}^{n-\ell-r} \sum_{i=0}^j \frac{\binom{n}{\ell, r, j, n-\ell-r-j}}{\binom{j+s}{j}} \lambda^{\ell+r+i-m} c_{n,m}(\ell, r, j, i) \right) B_m^{(s)}(x),$$

where  $c_{n,m}(\ell, r, j, i) = S_1(\ell, m)S_1(j + s, j - i + s)S_2(j - i + s, s)b_r^{(s)}P\beta_{n-\ell-r-j}^{(k)}(\lambda)$  and  $\binom{a}{b_1, \dots, b_m} = \frac{a!}{b_1! \dots b_m!}$  is the multinomial coefficient.

*Proof* Let  $h_s(t) = (\frac{(1+\lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1}{t})^s$  and  $P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) = \sum_{m=0}^n c_{n,m}B_m^{(s)}(x)$ . By (1.8), (1.9), and (4.1), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 &m! \lambda^m c_{n,m} \\
 &= \left\langle \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1} \left( \frac{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1}{t} \right)^s \left( \frac{\lambda t}{\log(1 + \lambda t)} \right)^s \mid (\log(1 + \lambda t))^m x^n \right\rangle,
 \end{aligned}$$

which, by (4.2), implies

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lambda^m c_{n,m} &= \sum_{\ell=m}^n \binom{n}{\ell} \lambda^\ell S_1(\ell, m) \left\langle \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1} h_s(t) \left( \frac{\lambda t}{\log(1 + \lambda t)} \right)^s \mid x^{n-\ell} \right\rangle \\
 &= \sum_{\ell=m}^n \binom{n}{\ell} \lambda^\ell S_1(\ell, m) \left\langle \frac{Li_k(1 - e^{-t})}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1} h_s(t) \mid \left( \frac{\lambda t}{\log(1 + \lambda t)} \right)^s x^{n-\ell} \right\rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \sum_{\ell=m}^n \sum_{r=0}^{n-\ell} \binom{n}{\ell} \binom{n-\ell}{r} \lambda^{\ell+r} S_1(\ell, m) b_r^{(s)} \left\langle \frac{Li_k(1-e^{-t})}{(1+\lambda t)^{1/\lambda}-1} h_s(t) \mid x^{n-\ell-r} \right\rangle \\
 &= \sum_{\ell=m}^n \sum_{r=0}^{n-\ell} \binom{n}{\ell} \binom{n-\ell}{r} \lambda^{\ell+r} S_1(\ell, m) b_r^{(s)} \left\langle \frac{Li_k(1-e^{-t})}{(1+\lambda t)^{1/\lambda}-1} \mid h_s(t) x^{n-\ell-r} \right\rangle.
 \end{aligned}$$

One can show that

$$\begin{aligned}
 h_s(t) &= \left( \frac{e^{\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1+\lambda t)} - 1}{t} \right)^s \\
 &= s! \sum_{j \geq 0} \sum_{i=0}^j S_1(j+s, j-i+s) S_2(j-i+s, s) \frac{\lambda^i}{(j+s)!} t^j.
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by (1.9), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 c_{n,m} &= \sum_{\ell=m}^n \sum_{r=0}^{n-\ell} \sum_{j=0}^{n-\ell-r} \sum_{i=0}^j \left( s! \binom{n}{\ell} \binom{n-\ell}{r} \lambda^{\ell+r-m} S_1(\ell, m) b_r^{(s)} S_1(j+s, j-i+s) \right. \\
 &\quad \times S_2(j-i+s, s) \frac{\lambda^i}{(j+s)!} (n-\ell-r)_j \left. \left\langle \frac{Li_k(1-e^{-t})}{(1+\lambda t)^{1/\lambda}-1} \mid x^{n-\ell-r-j} \right\rangle \right) \\
 &= \sum_{\ell=m}^n \sum_{r=0}^{n-\ell} \sum_{j=0}^{n-\ell-r} \sum_{i=0}^j \left( \frac{\binom{n}{\ell, r, j, n-\ell-r-j}}{\binom{j+s}{j}} \lambda^{\ell+r+i-m} S_1(\ell, m) S_1(j+s, j-i+s) \right. \\
 &\quad \times S_2(j-i+s, s) b_r^{(s)} P\beta_{n-\ell-r-j}^{(k)}(\lambda) \left. \right),
 \end{aligned}$$

as required. □

Similar techniques as in the proof of the previous theorem, we can express our polynomials  $P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x)$  in terms of other families. Below we present three examples, where we leave the proofs to the interested reader.

The first example is to express our polynomials  $P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x)$  in terms of Frobenius-Euler polynomials. Note that the *Frobenius-Euler polynomials*  $H_n^{(s)}(x \mid \mu)$  of order  $s$  are defined by the generating function  $(\frac{1-\mu}{e^t-\mu})^s e^{xt} = \sum_{n \geq 0} H_n^{(s)}(x \mid \mu) \frac{t^n}{n!}$  ( $\mu \neq 1$ ), or equivalently,  $H_n^{(s)}(x \mid \mu) \sim ((\frac{e^t-\mu}{1-\mu})^s, t)$  (see [10, 14]).

**Theorem 4.2** For all  $n \geq 0$ ,

$$P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) = \sum_{m=0}^n \left( \sum_{\ell=m}^n \sum_{r=0}^{n-\ell} \sum_{i=0}^s \binom{n}{\ell} \binom{n-\ell}{r} \binom{s}{i} \frac{\lambda^{\ell-m} (-\mu)^{s-i}}{(1-\mu)^s} c_{n,m}(\ell, r, i) \right) H_m^{(s)}(x \mid \mu),$$

where  $c_{n,m}(\ell, r, i) = S_1(\ell, m)(i \mid \lambda)_{n-\ell-r} P\beta_r^{(k)}(\lambda)$ .

If we express our polynomials  $P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x)$  in terms of *falling polynomials*  $(x \mid \lambda)_n$ , then we get the following result.

**Theorem 4.3** For all  $n \geq 0$ ,  $P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) = \sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n}{m} P\beta_{n-m}^{(k)}(\lambda)(x \mid \lambda)_m$ .

Our last example is to express our polynomials  $P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x)$  in terms of *degenerate Bernoulli polynomials*  $\beta_n^{(s)}(\lambda, x)$  of order  $s$ . Note that the degenerate Bernoulli polynomials  $\beta_n^{(s)}(\lambda, x)$  of order  $s$  are given by

$$\left(\frac{t}{(1 + \lambda t)^{1/\lambda} - 1}\right)^s (1 + \lambda t)^{x/\lambda} = \sum_{n \geq 0} \beta_n^{(s)}(\lambda, x) \frac{t^n}{n!}.$$

**Theorem 4.4** For all  $n \geq 0$ ,

$$P\beta_n^{(k)}(\lambda, x) = \sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n}{m} \left( \sum_{j=0}^{n-m} \sum_{i=0}^j \frac{\binom{n-m}{j}}{\binom{j+s}{s}} \lambda^i c_{n,m}(j, i) \right) \beta_m^{(s)}(\lambda, x),$$

where  $c_{n,m}(j, i) = S_1(j + s, j - i + s)S_2(j - i + s, s)P\beta_{n-m-j}^{(k)}(\lambda)$ .

**Competing interests**

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

**Authors' contributions**

All authors contributed equally to the writing of this paper. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

**Author details**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Mathematics, Sogang University, Seoul, 121-742, S. Korea. <sup>2</sup>Department of Mathematics, Kwangwoon University, Seoul, 139-701, S. Korea. <sup>3</sup>Department of Mathematics, University of Haifa, Haifa, 3498838, Israel.

**Acknowledgements**

This work was supported by the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) grant funded by the Korean government (MOE) (No. 2012R1A1A2003786).

Received: 7 April 2015 Accepted: 2 July 2015 Published online: 22 July 2015

**References**

1. Carlitz, L: Degenerate Stirling, Bernoulli and Eulerian numbers. *Util. Math.* **15**, 51-88 (1979)
2. Ustinov, AV: Korobov polynomials and umbral analysis. *Chebyshevskii Sb.* **4**, 137-152 (2003) (in Russian)
3. Kim, DS, Kim, T, Dolgy, DV: A note on degenerate Bernoulli numbers and polynomials associated with  $p$ -adic invariant integral on  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ . *Appl. Math. Comput.* **295**, 198-204 (2015)
4. Jolany, H, Faramarzi, H: Generalization on poly-Eulerian numbers and polynomials. *Sci. Magna* **6**, 9-18 (2010)
5. Kim, DS, Kim, T: A note on degenerate poly-Bernoulli numbers and polynomials (2015). arXiv:1503.08418
6. Kim, DS, Kim, T: A note on poly-Bernoulli and higher-order poly-Bernoulli polynomials. *Russ. J. Math. Phys.* **22**, 26-33 (2015)
7. Roman, S: More on the umbral calculus, with emphasis on the  $q$ -umbral calculus. *J. Math. Anal. Appl.* **107**, 222-254 (1985)
8. Roman, S: *The Umbral Calculus*. Dover, New York (2005)
9. Kim, DS, Kim, T:  $q$ -Bernoulli polynomials and  $q$ -umbral calculus. *Sci. China Math.* **57**, 1867-1874 (2014)
10. Kim, T: Identities involving Laguerre polynomials derived from umbral calculus. *Russ. J. Math. Phys.* **21**, 36-45 (2014)
11. Bayad, A, Kim, T: Identities involving values of Bernstein,  $q$ -Bernoulli, and  $q$ -Euler polynomials. *Russ. J. Math. Phys.* **18**(2), 133-143 (2011)
12. Ding, D, Yang, J: Some identities related to the Apostol-Euler and Apostol-Bernoulli polynomials. *Adv. Stud. Contemp. Math.* **20**(1), 7-21 (2010)
13. Kim, T: A note on  $q$ -Bernstein polynomials. *Russ. J. Math. Phys.* **18**, 73-82 (2011)
14. Araci, S, Acikgoz, M: A note on the Frobenius-Euler numbers and polynomials associated with Bernstein polynomials. *Adv. Stud. Contemp. Math.* **22**(3), 399-406 (2012)