



Umbral calculus associated with Bernoulli polynomials

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ABSTRACT

Text. Recently, R. Dere and Y. Simsek have studied applications of umbral algebra to generating functions for the Hermite type Genocchi polynomials and numbers [6]. In this paper, we investigate some interesting properties arising from umbral calculus. These properties are useful in deriving some identities of Bernoulli polynomials.

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1. Introduction

As is well known, the Bernoulli polynomials are defined by the generating function to be

$$\frac{te^{xt}}{e^t - 1} = e^{B(x)t} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} B_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!},\tag{1}$$

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with the usual convention about replacing $B^n(x)$ by $B_n(x)$. In the special case, x = 0, $B_n(0) = B_n$ are called the *n*-th Bernoulli numbers. From (1), we note that

$$B_0 = 1,$$
 $(B+1)^n - B^n = B_n(1) - B_n = \delta_{1,n}$ (see [2-4]),

where $\delta_{m,k}$ is the Kronecker symbol.

In particular, by (1), we set

$$B_n(x) = \sum_{l=0}^n \binom{n}{l} B_{n-l} x^l \quad (\text{see } [1-4,9,14]).$$
(2)

By (2), we see that $B_n(x)$ is a monic polynomial of degree *n*. We recall the Euler polynomials are defined by the generating function to be

$$\frac{2e^{xt}}{e^t + 1} = e^{E(x)t} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} E_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} \quad (\text{see } [1-4,6,9-24]), \tag{3}$$

with the usual convention about replacing $E^n(x)$ by $E_n(x)$. In the special case, x = 0, $E_n(0) = E_n$ are called the *n*-th Euler numbers. From (3), we can derive the following equation:

$$E_{n}(x) = \sum_{l=0}^{n} \binom{n}{l} E_{n-l} x^{l} \quad (\text{see } [11,14]).$$
(4)

Thus by (4), we see that $E_n(x)$ is also a monic polynomial of degree n. By (4), we get

$$E_0 = 1,$$
 $(E+1)^n + E^n = E_n(1) + E_n = 2\delta_{0,n}.$ (5)

Let \mathbb{C} be the complex number field and let \mathcal{F} be the set of all formal power series in the variable t over \mathbb{C} with

$$\mathcal{F} = \left\{ f(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{a_k}{k!} t^k \colon a_k \in \mathbb{C} \right\}.$$

We use the notation $\mathbb{P} = \mathbb{C}[x]$ and \mathbb{P}^* denotes the vector space of all linear functional on \mathbb{P} .

Let $\langle L \mid p(x) \rangle$ be the action of a linear functional L on a polynomial p(x), and we remind that the vector space operations on \mathbb{P}^* are defined by

where c is any constant in \mathbb{C} .

The formal power series

$$f(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{a_k}{k!} t^k \in \mathcal{F}$$
(6)

defines a linear functional on \mathbb{P} by setting

$$\langle f(t) \mid x^n \rangle = a_n \quad \text{for all } n \ge 0.$$
 (7)

Thus, by (6) and (7), we have

$$\langle t^k \mid x^n \rangle = n! \delta_{n,k} \quad (\text{see [6,18]}).$$
 (8)

Let $f_L(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\langle L | x^k \rangle}{k!} t^k$. Then we see that $\langle f_L(t) | x^n \rangle = \langle L | x^n \rangle$ and so as linear functionals $L = f_L(t)$ (see [6,18]). As is known in [18], the map $L \mapsto f_L(t)$ is a vector space isomorphism from \mathbb{P}^* onto \mathcal{F} . Henceforth, \mathcal{F} will denote both the algebra of formal poser series in t and the vector space of all linear functionals on \mathbb{P} , and so an element f(t) of \mathcal{F} will be thought of as both a formal power series and a linear functional. We shall call \mathcal{F} the umbral algebra. The umbral calculus is the study of umbral algebra and modern classical umbral calculus can be described as a systematic study of the class of Sheffer sequences (see [18]).

The order ord(f(t)) of a nonzero power series f(t) is the smallest integer k for which the coefficient of t^k does not vanish. If a series f(t) is with ord(f(t)) = 1, then f(t) is called a delta series. If a series f(t) is with ord(f(t)) = 0, then f(t) is called an invertible series (see [6,18]). For $f(t), g(t) \in \mathcal{F}$, we have

$$\left\langle f(t)g(t) \mid p(x) \right\rangle = \left\langle f(t) \mid g(t)p(x) \right\rangle \quad \left(\text{see } [6,18] \right). \tag{9}$$

Let us assume that $S_n(x)$ denotes a polynomial of degree n. If f(t) is a delta series and g(t) is an invertible series, then there exists a unique sequence $S_n(x)$ such that $\langle g(t)f(t)^k | S_n(x) \rangle = n! \delta_{n,k}, n, k \ge 0$ (see [6]). The sequence $S_n(x)$ is called the Sheffer sequence for (g(t), f(t)), denoted by $S_n(x) \sim (g(t), f(t))$. If $S_n(x) \sim (1, f(t))$, then $S_n(x)$ is called the associated sequence for f(t) or $S_n(x)$ is associated to f(t). If $S_n(x) \sim (g(t), t)$, then $S_n(x)$ is called the Appell sequence for g(t) or $S_n(x)$ is Appell for g(t) (see [6,18]). For $p(x) \in \mathbb{P}$, it is known (see [6,18]) that

$$\left\langle \frac{e^{yt} - 1}{t} \middle| p(x) \right\rangle = \int_{0}^{y} p(u) \, du, \tag{10}$$

$$\langle f(t) \mid xp(x) \rangle = \langle \partial_t f(t) \mid p(x) \rangle = \langle f'(t) \mid p(x) \rangle,$$
 (11)

and

$$\langle e^{yt} - 1 \mid p(x) \rangle = p(y) - p(0) \quad (\text{see } [6,18]).$$
 (12)

Let us assume that $S_n(x) \sim (g(t), f(t))$. Then we have the following equations (13)–(16):

$$h(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\langle h(t) \mid S_k(x) \rangle}{k!} g(t) f(t)^k, \quad h(t) \in \mathcal{F},$$
(13)

$$p(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\langle g(t)f(t)^k \mid p(x) \rangle}{k!} S_k(x), \quad p(t) \in \mathbb{P},$$
(14)

$$f(t)S_n(x) = nS_{n-1}(x) \quad (n \in \mathbb{Z}_+ = \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}),$$
 (15)

and

$$\frac{1}{g(\bar{f}(t))}e^{y\bar{f}(t)} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{S_k(y)}{k!} t^k, \quad \text{for all } y \in \mathbb{C},$$
(16)

where $\bar{f}(t)$ is the compositional inverse of f(t) (see [18]).

Let $f_1(t), \ldots, f_m(t) \in \mathcal{F}$. Then as is well known, we have

$$\left\langle f_1(t)f_2(t)\cdots f_m(t) \mid x^n \right\rangle = \sum \binom{n}{i_1,\ldots,i_m} \left\langle f_1(t) \mid x^{i_1} \right\rangle \cdots \left\langle f_m(t) \mid x^{i_m} \right\rangle, \tag{17}$$

where the sum is over all nonnegative integers i_1, \ldots, i_m such that $i_1 + \cdots + i_m = n$ (see [6,18]).

In [6], R. Dere and Y. Simsek have studied applications of umbral algebra to generating functions for the Hermite type Genocchi polynomials and numbers. In this paper, we derive some interesting properties of Bernoulli polynomials arising from umbral calculus. These properties will be used in studying identities on the Bernoulli polynomials

2. Umbral calculus and Bernoulli polynomials

Let
$$\mathbb{P}_n = \{p(x) \in \mathbb{C}[x]: \deg p(x) \leq n\}$$
 and let $S_n(x) \sim (g(t), t)$. From (16), we have

$$\frac{1}{g(t)}x^n = S_n(x) \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad x^n = g(t)S_n(x) \quad (n \ge 0).$$
(18)

Let us take $g(t) = \frac{1}{t}(e^t - 1) \in \mathcal{F}$. Then g(t) is invertible series. By (1), we get

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{B_k(x)}{k!} t^k = \frac{1}{g(t)} e^{xt}.$$
(19)

Thus by (19), we have

$$\frac{1}{g(t)}x^n = B_n(x) \quad (n \ge 0), \tag{20}$$

and

$$tB_n(x) = B'_n(x) = nB_{n-1}(x).$$
(21)

From (20) and (21), we note that $B_n(x)$ is an Appell sequence for $\frac{1}{t}(e^t - 1)$. By (2), we get

$$\int_{x}^{x+y} B_{n}(u) \, du = \frac{1}{n+1} \left\{ B_{n+1}(x+y) - B_{n+1}(x) \right\}$$
$$= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{y^{k}}{k!} t^{k-1} B_{n}(x) = \frac{e^{yt} - 1}{t} B_{n}(x).$$
(22)

In particular, for y = 1, we have

$$B_n(x) = \frac{t}{e^t - 1} \int_x^{x+1} B_n(u) \, du = \frac{t}{e^t - 1} x^n.$$
(23)

By (15), we easily get

$$B_n(x) = t \left\{ \frac{1}{n+1} B_{n+1}(x) \right\}.$$
 (24)

From (24), we can derive the following equation:

$$\left\langle \frac{e^{yt}-1}{t} \middle| B_n(x) \right\rangle = \left\langle e^{yt}-1 \middle| \frac{1}{n+1} B_{n+1}(x) \right\rangle = \int_0^y B_n(u) \, du.$$
(25)

For $r \in \mathbb{N}$, the *n*-th Bernoulli polynomials of order r are defined by the generating function to be

$$\left(\frac{t}{e^t - 1}\right)^r e^{xt} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} B_n^{(r)}(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} \quad (\text{see } [2,3]).$$
(26)

In the special case, x = 0, $B_n^{(r)}(0) = B_n^{(r)}$ are called the *n*-th Bernoulli numbers of order r. By (26), we get

$$B_n^{(r)}(x) = \sum_{l=0}^n \binom{n}{l} B_{n-l}^{(r)} x^r \quad (\text{see } [2,3]).$$
(27)

Note that

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$$B_n^{(r)} = \sum_{l_1 + \dots + l_r = n} \binom{n}{l_1, \dots, l_r} B_{l_1} \cdots B_{l_r}.$$
 (28)

From (27) and (28), we note that $B_n^{(r)}(x)$ is a monic polynomial with coefficients in \mathbb{Q} . By (27), we get

$$\int_{x}^{x+y} B_{n}^{(r)}(u) \, du = \frac{1}{n+1} \left\{ B_{n+1}^{(r)}(x+y) - B_{n+1}^{(r)}(x) \right\}$$
$$= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{y^{k}}{k!} t^{k-1} B_{n}(x) = \frac{e^{yt} - 1}{t} B_{n}^{(r)}(x), \tag{29}$$

and

$$B_n^{(r)}(x+1) - B_n^{(r)}(x) = n B_{n-1}^{(r-1)}(x).$$
(30)

From (29) and (30), we note that

$$\frac{e^t - 1}{t} B_n^{(r)}(x) = \int_x^{x+1} B_n^{(r)}(u) \, du = B_n^{(r-1)}(x).$$
(31)

By (31), we get

$$B_n^{(r)}(x) = \left(\frac{t}{e^t - 1}\right) B_n^{(r-1)}(x) = \left(\frac{t}{e^t - 1}\right)^{r-1} B_n(x) = \left(\frac{t}{e^t - 1}\right)^r x^n,$$
(32)

and

$$tB_n^{(r)}(x) = n\left(\frac{t}{e^t - 1}\right)^r x^{n-1} = nB_{n-1}^{(r)}(x).$$
(33)

It is easy to show that $(\frac{e^t-1}{t})^r$ is an invertible series in \mathcal{F} . Therefore, by (32) and (33), we obtain the following lemma.

Lemma 1. $B_n^{(r)}(x)$ is the Appell sequence for $(\frac{e^t-1}{t})^r$.

By (33), we get

$$B_n^{(r)}(x) = t \left\{ \frac{1}{n+1} B_{n+1}^{(r)}(x) \right\} \quad (n \ge 0).$$
(34)

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Thus, from (34), we have

$$\left\langle \frac{e^{yt} - 1}{t} \middle| B_n^{(r)}(x) \right\rangle = \left\langle e^{yt} - 1 \middle| \frac{1}{n+1} B_{n+1}^{(r)}(x) \right\rangle = \int_0^y B_n^{(r)}(u) \, du.$$
(35)

In the special case, y = 1, we have

$$\left\langle \frac{e^t - 1}{t} \mid B_n^{(r)}(x) \right\rangle = \int_0^1 B_n^{(r)}(u) \, du = B_n^{(r-1)}.$$

By (17), we get

$$\left\langle \left(\frac{t}{e^t - 1}\right)^r \middle| x^n \right\rangle = \sum_{n=i_1 + \dots + i_r} \binom{n}{i_1, \dots, i_r} \left\langle \frac{t}{e^t - 1} \middle| x^{i_1} \right\rangle \cdots \left\langle \frac{t}{e^t - 1} \middle| x^{i_r} \right\rangle \tag{36}$$

and

$$\left\langle \frac{t}{e^t - 1} \middle| x^n \right\rangle = B_n, \qquad \left\langle \left(\frac{t}{e^t - 1} \right)^r \middle| x^n \right\rangle = B_n^{(r)}.$$
 (37)

Thus, from (36) and (37), we have

$$\sum_{n=i_1+\cdots+i_r} \binom{n}{i_1,\ldots,i_r} B_{i_1}\cdots B_{i_r} = B_n^{(r)}.$$

Let us take $p(x) \in \mathbb{P}_n$ with

$$p(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{n} b_k B_k(x).$$
 (38)

From (20) and (21), we note that $B_n(x) \sim (\frac{e^t - 1}{t}, t)$. By the definition of Appell sequences, we get

$$\left\langle \frac{e^t - 1}{t} t^k \middle| B_n(x) \right\rangle = n! \delta_{n,k} \quad (n,k \ge 0),$$
(39)

and, from (38), we have

$$\left\langle \frac{e^t - 1}{t} t^k \middle| p(x) \right\rangle = \sum_{l=0}^n b_l \left\langle \frac{e^t - 1}{t} t^k \middle| B_l(x) \right\rangle = \sum_{l=0}^n b_l l! \delta_{l,k} = k! b_k.$$
(40)

Thus, by (25) and (40), we get

$$b_{k} = \frac{1}{k!} \left\langle \frac{e^{t} - 1}{t} t^{k} \middle| p(x) \right\rangle = \frac{1}{k!} \left\langle \frac{e^{t} - 1}{t} \middle| p^{(k)}(x) \right\rangle = \frac{1}{k!} \int_{0}^{1} p^{(k)}(u) \, du, \tag{41}$$

where $p^{(k)}(u) = \frac{d^k}{du^k} p(u)$. Therefore, by (38) and (41), we obtain the following theorem. **Theorem 2.** Let $p(x) \in \mathbb{P}_n$ with $p(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n b_k B_k(x)$. Then we have

$$b_k = \frac{1}{k!} \left\langle \frac{e^t - 1}{t} \mid p^{(k)}(x) \right\rangle = \frac{1}{k!} \int_0^1 p^{(k)}(u) \, du,$$

where $p^{(k)}(u) = \frac{d^k}{du^k} p(u)$.

Let $p(x) = B_n^{(r)}(x) \in \mathbb{P}_n$ with $p(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n b_k B_k(x)$. Then we have

$$p^{(k)}(x) = k! \binom{n}{k} B^{(r)}_{n-k}(x), \tag{42}$$

and

$$b_k = \frac{1}{k!} \left\langle \frac{e^t - 1}{t} \middle| p^{(k)}(x) \right\rangle = \binom{n}{k} \left\langle \frac{e^t - 1}{t} \middle| B^{(r)}_{n-k}(x) \right\rangle.$$
(43)

Therefore, by Theorem 2 and (43), we obtain the following corollary.

Corollary 3. For $n \ge 0$, we have

$$B_{n}^{(r)}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} \left\langle \frac{e^{t} - 1}{t} \mid B_{n-k}^{(r)}(x) \right\rangle B_{k}(x).$$

In other words,

$$B_n^{(r)}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} B_{n-k}^{(r-1)} B_k(x), \quad \text{where } n-k \ge 0.$$

From the definition of Appell sequences, we note that

$$\left\langle \left(\frac{e^t - 1}{t}\right)^r t^k \mid B_n^{(r)}(x) \right\rangle = n! \delta_{n,k} \quad (n,k \ge 0).$$

$$\tag{44}$$

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Let
$$p(x) \in \mathbb{P}_n$$
 with $p(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n b_k^{(r)} B_k^{(r)}(x)$. By (44), we get
 $\left\langle \left(\frac{e^t - 1}{t}\right)^r t^k \middle| p(x) \right\rangle = \sum_{l=0}^n b_l^{(r)} \left\langle \left(\frac{e^t - 1}{t}\right)^r t^k \middle| B_l^{(r)}(x) \right\rangle$
 $= \sum_{l=0}^n b_l^{(r)} l! \delta_{l,k} = k! b_k^{(r)}.$
(45)

Thus, by (45), we have

$$b_k^{(r)} = \frac{1}{k!} \left\langle \left(\frac{e^t - 1}{t}\right)^r t^k \middle| p(x) \right\rangle.$$
(46)

Therefore, by (46), we obtain the following theorem.

Theorem 4. Let $p(x) \in \mathbb{P}_n$ with $p(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n b_k^{(r)} B_k^{(r)}(x)$. Then we have

$$b_k^{(r)} = \frac{1}{k!} \left\langle \left(\frac{e^t - 1}{t}\right)^r t^k \mid p(x) \right\rangle.$$

Let us consider $p(x) = B_n(x)$ with

$$B_n(x) = p(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n b_k^{(r)} B_k^{(r)}(x).$$
(47)

By Theorem 4 and (47), we get

$$b_k^{(r)} = \frac{1}{k!} \left\langle \left(\frac{e^t - 1}{t}\right)^r t^k \middle| p(x) \right\rangle = \frac{1}{k!} \left\langle \left(\frac{e^t - 1}{t}\right)^r t^k \middle| B_n(x) \right\rangle.$$
(48)

For k < r, we have

$$b_{k}^{(r)} = \frac{1}{k!} \left\langle \left(\frac{e^{t}-1}{t}\right)^{r} t^{k} \middle| B_{n}(x) \right\rangle$$

$$= \frac{1}{k!} \left\langle \left(e^{t}-1\right)^{r} \middle| \frac{B_{n+r-k}(x)}{(n+1)\cdots(n+r-k)} \right\rangle$$

$$= \frac{1}{k!(r-k)!\binom{n+r-k}{r-k}} \left\langle \left(e^{t}-1\right)^{r} \middle| B_{n+r-k}(x) \right\rangle$$

$$= \frac{\binom{r}{k!\binom{n+r-k}{r-k}}}{r!\binom{n+r-k}{r-k}} \sum_{j=0}^{r} \binom{r}{j} (-1)^{r-j} \left\langle e^{jt} \middle| B_{n+r-k}(x) \right\rangle$$

$$= \frac{\binom{r}{k!}}{r!\binom{n+r-k}{r-k}} \sum_{j=0}^{r} \binom{r}{j} (-1)^{r-j} B_{n+r-k}(j).$$
(49)

Let $k \ge r$. Then by (48), we get

$$b_{k}^{(r)} = \frac{1}{k!} \langle \left(e^{t} - 1\right)^{r} t^{k-r} \mid B_{n}(x) \rangle = \frac{1}{k!} \langle \left(e^{t} - 1\right)^{r} \mid t^{k-r} B_{n}(x) \rangle$$
$$= \frac{1}{k!} \binom{n}{k-r} (k-r)! \langle \left(e^{t} - 1\right)^{r} \mid B_{n+r-k}(x) \rangle$$
$$= \frac{\binom{n}{k-r}}{r!\binom{k}{r}} \sum_{j=0}^{r} \binom{r}{j} (-1)^{r-j} \langle e^{jt} \mid B_{n+r-k}(x) \rangle$$
$$= \frac{\binom{n}{k-r}}{r!\binom{k}{r}} \sum_{j=0}^{r} \binom{r}{j} (-1)^{r-j} B_{n+r-k}(j).$$
(50)

Therefore, by (47), (49) and (50), we obtain the following theorem.

Theorem 5. For $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ and $r \in \mathbb{N}$, we have

$$B_{n}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{r-1} \frac{\binom{r}{k}}{r!\binom{n+r-k}{r-k}} \sum_{j=0}^{r} \binom{r}{j} (-1)^{r-j} B_{n+r-k}(j) B_{k}^{(r)}(x) + \sum_{k=r}^{n} \frac{\binom{n}{k-r}}{r!\binom{k}{r}} \sum_{j=0}^{r} \binom{r}{j} (-1)^{r-j} B_{n+r-k}(j) B_{k}^{(r)}(x).$$

3. Further remarks

For $n, m \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ with $n - m \ge 0$, we have

$$B_{n}^{(r)}(x)B_{n-m}^{(r)}(x) = \left(\sum_{l=0}^{n} \binom{n}{l} B_{n-l}^{(r-1)}B_{l}(x)\right) \left(\sum_{p=0}^{n-m} \binom{n-m}{p} B_{n-m-p}^{(r-1)}B_{p}(x)\right)$$
$$= \sum_{k=0}^{2n-m} \sum_{p=0}^{k} \binom{n-m}{p} \binom{n}{k-p} B_{n-m-p}^{(r-1)}B_{n-k+p}^{(r-1)}B_{p}(x)B_{k-p}(x), \quad (51)$$

where $n - m - p \ge 0$.

Let us consider $p(x) = E_n(x)$ with

$$E_n(x) = p(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n b_k B_k(x).$$
 (52)

Then we have

$$p^{(k)}(x) = k! \binom{n}{k} E_{n-k}(x),$$
(53)

and

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$$b_{k} = \frac{1}{k!} \left\langle \frac{e^{t} - 1}{t} \middle| p^{(k)}(x) \right\rangle = \binom{n}{k} \left\langle \frac{e^{t} - 1}{t} \middle| E_{n-k}(x) \right\rangle$$
$$= \binom{n}{k} \frac{E_{n-k+1}(1) - E_{n-k+1}}{n-k+1} = -2\binom{n}{k} \frac{E_{n-k+1}}{n-k+1}.$$
(54)

By (52) and (54), we get

$$E_n(x) = -2\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} \frac{E_{n-k+1}}{n-k+1} B_k(x).$$
 (55)

From (55), we can derive the following equation.

$$E_{n}(x)E_{n-m}(x) = 4\left(\sum_{l=0}^{n} \binom{n}{l} \frac{E_{n-l+1}}{n-l+1} B_{l}(x)\right) \left(\sum_{p=0}^{n-m} \binom{n-m}{p} \frac{E_{n-m-p+1}}{n-m-p+1} B_{p}(x)\right)$$
$$= 4\sum_{k=0}^{2n-m} \sum_{l=0}^{k} \binom{n-m}{l} \binom{n}{k-l} \frac{E_{n-m-l+1}E_{n-k+l+1}}{(n-m-l+1)(n-k+l+1)} B_{l}(x)B_{k-l}(x),$$

where $n, m \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ with $n - m \ge 0$.

Remark. Recently, R. Dere, Y. Simsek and H.M. Srivastava have studied special polynomials with viewpoint of umbral calculus (see [5,7,8]).

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Appendix A. Supplementary material

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