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# Some identities on Bernoulli and Euler polynomials arising from orthogonality of Legendre polynomials

Dae San Kim<sup>1</sup>, Seog-Hoon Rim<sup>2</sup> and Taekyun Kim<sup>3\*</sup>

\*Correspondence: tkkim@kw.ac.kr

<sup>3</sup>Department of Mathematics,  
Kwangwoon University, Seoul,  
139-701, Republic of Korea  
Full list of author information is  
available at the end of the article

## Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to investigate some interesting identities on the Bernoulli and Euler polynomials arising from the orthogonality of Legendre polynomials in the inner product space  $\mathbb{P}_n$ .

## 1 Introduction

As is well known, the Legendre polynomial  $P_n(x)$  is a solutions of the following differential equation:

$$(1-x^2)u'' - 2xu' + n(n+1)u = 0 \quad (\text{see [1-7]}),$$

where  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

It is a polynomial of degree  $n$ . If  $n$  is even or odd, then  $P_n(x)$  is accordingly even or odd. They are determined up to constant and normalized so that  $P_n(1) = 1$ .

Rodrigues' formula is given by

$$P_n(x) = \frac{1}{2^n n!} \left\{ \left( \frac{d}{dx} \right)^n (x^2 - 1)^n \right\}, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}_+. \quad (1.1)$$

Integrating by parts, we can derive

$$\int_{-1}^1 P_m(x)P_n(x) dx = \frac{2}{2n+1} \delta_{m,n} \quad (\text{see [1-7]}), \quad (1.2)$$

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

By (1.1), we get

$$P_n(x) = \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k} \binom{2n-2k}{n} x^{n-2k}. \quad (1.3)$$

The generating function is given by

$$(1-2xt+t^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P_n(x)t^n. \quad (1.4)$$

The Bernoulli polynomial is defined by a generating function to be

$$\frac{t}{e^t - 1} e^{xt} = e^{B(x)t} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} B_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} \quad (\text{see [8-13]}) \tag{1.5}$$

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 *Bernoulli numbers*.

From (1.5), we have

$$B_n(x) = \sum_{l=0}^n \binom{n}{l} B_{n-l} x^l \quad (\text{see [10-26]}). \tag{1.6}$$

As is well known, the *Euler numbers* are defined by

$$E_0 = 1, \quad (E + 1)^n + E_n = 2\delta_{0,n} \quad (\text{see [10-13]}) \tag{1.7}$$

with the usual convention about replacing  $E^n$  by  $E_n$ .

The Euler polynomials are defined as

$$E_n(x) = \sum_{l=0}^n \binom{n}{l} E_{n-l} x^l \quad (\text{see [27-31]}). \tag{1.8}$$

Let  $\mathbb{P}_n = \{p(x) \in \mathbb{O}[x] \mid \deg p(x) \leq n\}$ . Then  $\mathbb{P}_n$  is an inner product space with respect to the inner product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  with

$$\langle q_1(x), q_2(x) \rangle = \int_{-1}^1 q_1(x) q_2(x) dx,$$

where  $q_1(x), q_2(x) \in \mathbb{P}_n$ .

From (1.2), we can show that  $\{P_0(x), P_1(x), \dots, P_n(x)\}$  is an orthogonal basis for  $\mathbb{P}_n$ . In this paper, we derive some interesting identities on the Bernoulli and Euler polynomials from the orthogonality of Legendre polynomials in  $\mathbb{P}_n$ .

## 2 Some identities on the Bernoulli and Euler polynomials

For  $q(x) \in \mathbb{P}_n$ , let

$$q(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n C_k P_k(x). \tag{2.1}$$

Then, from (1.2), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle q(x), P_k(x) \rangle &= C_k \langle P_k(x), P_k(x) \rangle \\ &= C_k \int_{-1}^1 \{P_k(x)\}^2 dx \\ &= \frac{2}{2k + 1} C_k. \end{aligned} \tag{2.2}$$

By (2.2), we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 C_k &= \frac{2k+1}{2} \langle q(x), P_k(x) \rangle = \frac{2k+1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 P_k(x) q(x) dx \\
 &= \left( \frac{2k+1}{2} \right) \frac{1}{2^{k+1}k!} \int_{-1}^1 \left( \frac{d^k}{dx^k} (x^2-1)^k \right) q(x) dx \\
 &= \left( \frac{2k+1}{2^{k+1}k!} \right) \int_{-1}^1 \left( \frac{d^k}{dx^k} (x^2-1)^k \right) q(x) dx.
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.3}$$

Therefore, by (2.1) and (2.3), we obtain the following proposition.

**Proposition 2.1** For  $q(x) \in \mathbb{P}_n$ , let

$$q(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n C_k P_k(x).$$

Then

$$C_k = \frac{2k+1}{2^{k+1}k!} \int_{-1}^1 \left( \frac{d^k}{dx^k} (x^2-1)^k \right) q(x) dx.$$

Let us assume that  $q(x) = x^n \in \mathbb{P}_n$ .

From Proposition 2.1, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 C_k &= \frac{2k+1}{2^{k+1}k!} \int_{-1}^1 \left( \frac{d^k}{dx^k} (x^2-1)^k \right) x^n dx \\
 &= \frac{2k+1}{2^{k+1}} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k} \int_{-1}^1 (x^2-1)^k x^{n-k} dx \\
 &= \frac{2k+1}{2^{k+1}} \binom{n}{k} (1 + (-1)^{n-k}) \int_0^1 (1-x^2)^k x^{n-k} dx.
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.4}$$

For  $n - k \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ , by (2.4), we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 C_k &= \frac{2k+1}{2^{k+1}} \binom{n}{k} \int_0^1 (1-y)^k y^{\frac{n-k-1}{2}} dy \\
 &= \frac{2k+1}{2^{k+1}} \binom{n}{k} B\left(k+1, \frac{n-k+1}{2}\right) \\
 &= \frac{2k+1}{2^{k+1}} \binom{n}{k} \frac{\Gamma(k+1)\Gamma(\frac{n-k+1}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{n+k+1}{2}+1)} \\
 &= \frac{2k+1}{2^{k+1}} \binom{n}{k} \frac{k! \Gamma(\frac{n-k+1}{2})}{(\frac{n+k+1}{2})(\frac{n+k-1}{2}) \dots (\frac{n-k+1}{2}) \Gamma(\frac{n-k+1}{2})} \\
 &= \frac{2k+1}{2^{k+1}} \binom{n}{k} k! 2^{k+1} \frac{(n-k)!(n+k+2)(n+k) \dots (n-k+2)}{(n+k+2)!} \\
 &= \frac{(2k+1)2^{k+1}}{(n+k+2)!} \times \frac{n! \binom{n+k+2}{2}}{\binom{n-k}{2}!}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.5}$$

Here the beta function  $B(x, y)$  is defined by

$$B(x, y) = \int_0^1 t^{x-1}(1-t)^{y-1} dt \quad (\operatorname{Re}(x), \operatorname{Re}(y) > 0),$$

and it is well known that

$$B(x, y) = \frac{\Gamma(x)\Gamma(y)}{\Gamma(x+y)},$$

where  $\Gamma(s) = \int_0^\infty t^{s-1}e^{-t} dt$  ( $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 0$ ) is the gamma function.

By Proposition 2.1 and (2.5), we get

$$x^n = \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n, n-k \equiv 0 \pmod{2}} \frac{(2k+1)n!2^{k+1}(\frac{n+k+2}{2})!}{(n+k+2)!(\frac{n-k}{2})!} P_k(x). \tag{2.6}$$

From (1.5), we can easily derive the following equation (2.7):

$$x^n = \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{l=0}^n \binom{n+1}{l} B_l(x) \quad (n \in \mathbb{Z}_+). \tag{2.7}$$

Therefore, by (2.6) and (2.7), we obtain the following Proposition 2.2.

**Proposition 2.2** *For  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ , we have*

$$\sum_{l=0}^n \frac{B_l(x)}{(n+1-l)!l!} = \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n, n-k \equiv 0 \pmod{2}} \frac{(2k+1)2^{k+1}(\frac{n+k+2}{2})!}{(n+k+2)!(\frac{n-k}{2})!} P_k(x).$$

Let us take  $q(x) = B_n(x) \in \mathbb{P}_n$ . By Proposition 2.1, we get

$$\begin{aligned} C_k &= \frac{2k+1}{2^{k+1}k!} \int_{-1}^1 \left( \frac{d^k}{dx^k} (x^2-1)^k \right) B_n(x) dx \\ &= \frac{(-1)^k(2k+1)}{2^{k+1}} \binom{n}{k} \int_{-1}^1 (x^2-1)^k B_{n-k}(x) dx \\ &= \frac{(-1)^k(2k+1)}{2^{k+1}} \binom{n}{k} \sum_{l=0}^{n-k} \binom{n-k}{l} B_{n-k-l} \int_{-1}^1 (x^2-1)^k x^l dx \\ &= \frac{2k+1}{2^{k+1}} \binom{n}{k} \sum_{l=0}^{n-k} \binom{n-k}{l} B_{n-k-l} (1+(-1)^l) \int_0^1 (1-x^2)^k x^l dx. \end{aligned} \tag{2.8}$$

For  $l \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  with  $l \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} C_k &= \frac{2k+1}{2^{k+1}} \binom{n}{k} \sum_{0 \leq l \leq n-k, l \text{ is even}} \binom{n-k}{l} B_{n-k-l} \int_0^1 (1-y)^k y^{\frac{l-1}{2}} dy \\ &= \frac{2k+1}{2^{k+1}} \binom{n}{k} \sum_{0 \leq l \leq n-k, l \text{ is even}} \binom{n-k}{l} B_{n-k-l} \frac{\Gamma(k+1)\Gamma(\frac{l+1}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{2k+l+1}{2}+1)} \\ &= (2k+1)2^{k+1}n! \sum_{0 \leq l \leq n-k, l \equiv 0 \pmod{2}} \frac{B_{n-k-l}}{(n-k-l)!} \times \frac{(\frac{2k+l+2}{2})!}{(2k+l+2)!(\frac{l}{2})!}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.9}$$

In [14], we showed that

$$B_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-2} \binom{n}{k} B_{n-k} E_k(x) + E_n(x) = \sum_{k=0, k \neq n-1}^n \binom{n}{k} B_{n-k} E_k(x). \quad (2.10)$$

Therefore, by Proposition 2.1, (2.9) and (2.10), we obtain the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.3** For  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ , we have

$$\frac{1}{n!} \sum_{k=0, k \neq n-1}^n \binom{n}{k} B_{n-k} E_k(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \left( \sum_{0 \leq l \leq n-k, l \equiv 0 \pmod{2}} \frac{(2k+1)2^{k+1} \binom{l+2k+2}{2}! B_{n-k-l}}{(n-k-l)!(l+2k+2)!(\frac{l}{2})!} \right) P_k(x).$$

By the same method of Theorem 2.3, we easily see that

$$\frac{E_n(x)}{n!} = \sum_{k=0}^n \left( \sum_{0 \leq l \leq n-k, l \equiv 0 \pmod{2}} \frac{(2k+1)2^{k+1} \binom{l+2k+2}{2}! B_{n-k-l}}{(n-k-l)!(l+2k+2)!(\frac{l}{2})!} \right) P_k(x). \quad (2.11)$$

Let us take  $q(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n B_k(x) B_{n-k}(x) \in \mathbb{P}_n$ . Then we see that

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=0}^n B_k(x) B_{n-k}(x) \\ &= (n+1) \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{\binom{n}{k}}{n-k+1} \left\{ \sum_{l=k}^n B_{l-k} B_{n-l} + B_{n-1-k} \right\} E_k(x) + \frac{(n^2-1)n}{12} E_{n-2}(x). \end{aligned} \quad (2.12)$$

The equation (2.12) was proved in [14].

By (2.12) and Proposition 2.2, we have

$$\begin{aligned} C_k &= \frac{2k+1}{2^{k+1}k!} \left\{ (n+1) \sum_{l=0}^n \frac{\binom{n}{l}}{n-l+1} \left( \sum_{m=l}^n B_{m-l} B_{n-m} + B_{n-1-l} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \times \int_{-1}^1 E_l(x) \left( \frac{d^k}{dx^k} (x^2-1)^k \right) dx \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{(n^2-1)n}{12} \int_{-1}^1 \left( \frac{d^k}{dx^k} (x^2-1)^k \right) E_{n-2}(x) dx \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.13)$$

Integrating by parts, we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{-1}^1 E_l(x) \left( \frac{d^k}{dx^k} (x^2-1)^k \right) dx \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^l \binom{l}{j} E_{l-j} \int_{-1}^1 x^j \frac{d^k}{dx^k} (x^2-1)^k dx \\ &= \sum_{j=k}^l \binom{l}{j} E_{l-j} \frac{(-1)^k j!}{(j-k)!} \int_{-1}^1 x^{j-k} (x^2-1)^k dx \\ &= \sum_{j=k}^l \binom{l}{j} E_{l-j} \frac{j!}{(j-k)!} (1 + (-1)^{j-k}) \int_0^1 x^{j-k} (-x^2+1)^k dx. \end{aligned} \quad (2.14)$$

Then we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_{-1}^1 E_l(x) \left( \frac{d^k}{dx^k} (x^2 - 1)^k \right) dx \\
 &= \sum_{j=k, j-k \equiv 0 \pmod{2}}^l \binom{l}{j} E_{l-j} \frac{j!}{(j-k)!} \int_0^1 t^{\frac{j-k-1}{2}} (1-t)^k dt \\
 &= \sum_{j=k, j-k \equiv 0 \pmod{2}}^l \binom{l}{j} E_{l-j} \frac{j!}{(j-k)!} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{j-k+1}{2}) \Gamma(k+1)}{\Gamma(\frac{j+k+1}{2} + 1)} \\
 &= \sum_{j=k, j-k \equiv 0 \pmod{2}}^l \binom{l}{j} E_{l-j} \frac{j! k!}{(j-k)!} \times \frac{(j-k)! 2^{2k+2}}{(j+k+2)!} \times \frac{(\frac{j+k+2}{2})!}{(\frac{j-k}{2})!} \\
 &= \sum_{j=k, j-k \equiv 0 \pmod{2}}^l \binom{l}{j} E_{l-j} \frac{j! k! 2^{2k+2}}{(j+k+2)!} \times \frac{(\frac{j+k+2}{2})!}{(\frac{j-k}{2})!}. \tag{2.15}
 \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to show that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_{-1}^1 \left( \frac{d^k}{dx^k} (x^2 - 1)^k \right) E_{n-2}(x) dx \\
 &= \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} \binom{n-2}{j} E_{n-2-j} \int_{-1}^1 \left( \frac{d^k}{dx^k} (x^2 - 1)^k \right) x^j dx \\
 &= \sum_{j=k}^{n-2} \binom{n-2}{j} E_{n-2-j} (1 + (-1)^{j-k}) (-1)^k \frac{j!}{(j-k)!} \int_0^1 (x^2 - 1)^k x^{j-k} dx \\
 &= \sum_{k \leq j \leq n-2, j-k \equiv 0 \pmod{2}} \binom{n-2}{j} E_{n-2-j} \frac{j! k! 2^{2k+2}}{(j+k+2)!} \times \frac{(\frac{j+k+2}{2})!}{(\frac{j-k}{2})!}. \tag{2.16}
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, by (2.13), (2.14), (2.15) and (2.16), we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 C_k &= (2k+1)2^{k+1} \left\{ (n+1) \sum_{l=k}^n \frac{\binom{n}{k}}{n-l+1} \left( \sum_{m=l}^n B_{m-l} B_{n-m} + B_{n-1-l} \right) \right. \\
 &\quad \times \sum_{k \leq j \leq l, j-k \equiv 0 \pmod{2}} \binom{l}{j} E_{l-j} \frac{j!}{(j+k+2)!} \times \frac{(\frac{j+k+2}{2})!}{(\frac{j-k}{2})!} \\
 &\quad \left. + \frac{(n^2-1)n}{12} \sum_{k \leq j \leq n-2, j-k \equiv 0 \pmod{2}} \binom{n-2}{j} E_{n-2-j} \frac{j!}{(j+k+2)!} \times \frac{(\frac{j+k+2}{2})!}{(\frac{j-k}{2})!} \right\}. \tag{2.17}
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, by Proposition 2.1 and (2.17), we obtain the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.4** For  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{k=0}^n B_k(x) B_{n-k}(x) \\
 &= \sum_{k=0}^n (2k+1)2^{k+1} \left\{ (n+1) \sum_{l=k}^n \frac{\binom{n}{k}}{n-l+1} \left( \sum_{m=l}^n B_{m-l} B_{n-m} + B_{n-1-l} \right) \right.
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \times \sum_{k \leq j \leq l, j-k \equiv 0 \pmod{2}} \binom{l}{j} E_{l-j} \frac{j!}{(j+k+2)!} \times \frac{\left(\frac{j+k+2}{2}\right)!}{\left(\frac{j-k}{2}\right)!} \\ & + \frac{(n^2-1)n}{12} \sum_{k \leq j \leq n-2, j-k \equiv 0 \pmod{2}} \binom{n-2}{j} E_{n-2-j} \frac{j!}{(j+k+2)!} \times \frac{\left(\frac{j+k+2}{2}\right)!}{\left(\frac{j-k}{2}\right)!} \Big\} P_k(x). \end{aligned}$$

**Remark 2.5** The extended Laguerre polynomials are given by

$$L_n^\alpha(x) = \sum_{r=0}^n \frac{(-1)^r}{r!} \binom{n+\alpha}{n-r} x^r \quad (\alpha > -1).$$

By the same method, we get

$$L_n^\alpha(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \sum_{0 \leq l \leq n-k, l \equiv 0 \pmod{2}} \frac{(-1)^{k+l} (2k+1) 2^{k+1} \binom{n+\alpha}{n-k-l} \left(\frac{l+2k+2}{2}\right)!}{(l+2k+2)! \left(\frac{l}{2}\right)!} P_k(x)$$

and

$$H_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \sum_{0 \leq l \leq n-k, l \equiv 0 \pmod{2}} \frac{(2k+1) 2^{2k+l+1} n! \left(\frac{l+2k+2}{2}\right)! H_{n-k-l}}{(n-k-l)! (l+2k+2)! \left(\frac{l}{2}\right)!} P_k(x),$$

where  $H_n(x)$  is the Hermite polynomial of degree  $n$  (see [7]).

**Competing interests**

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

**Authors' contributions**

All authors contributed equally in this paper. They read and approved the final manuscript.

**Author details**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Mathematics, Sogang University, Seoul, 121-742, Republic of Korea. <sup>2</sup>Department of Mathematics Education, Kyungpook National University, Taegu, 702-701, Republic of Korea. <sup>3</sup>Department of Mathematics, Kwangwoon University, Seoul, 139-701, Republic of Korea.

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