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L. Carlitz

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L. CARLITZ

Konhauser has introduced two polynomial sets $\{Y_n^c(x;k)\}$, $\{Z_n^c(x;k)\}$ that are biorthogonal with respect to the weight function $e^{-x}x^c$ over the interval $(0, \infty)$. An explicit expression was obtained for $Z_n^c(x;k)$ but not for $Y_n^c(x;k)$. An explicit polynomial expression for $Y_n^c(x;k)$ is given in the present paper.

1. Konhauser [2] has discussed two sets of polynomials $Y_n^c(x;k)$, $Z_n^c(x;k)$, $n = 0, 1, \cdots, k = 1, 2, 3, \cdots, c > -1$; $Y_n^c(x;k)$ is a polynomial in x while $Z_n^c(x;k)$ is a polynomial in x^k. Moreover

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-x}x^c Y_n^c(x;k)x^{ki}dx = \begin{cases} 0 & (0 \leqq i < n) \\ \neq 0 & (i = n) \end{cases} \tag{1}$$

and

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-x}x^c Z_n^c(x;k)x^{i}dx = \begin{cases} 0 & (0 \leqq i < n) \\ \neq 0 & (i = n)\,. \end{cases} \tag{2}$$

For $k = 1$, conditions (1) and (2) reduce to the orthogonality conditions satisfied by the Laguerre polynomials $L_n^c(x)$.

It follows from (1) and (2) that

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-x}x^c Y_i^c(x;k)Z_j^c(x;k)dx = \begin{cases} 0 & (i \neq j) \\ \neq 0 & (i = j)\,. \end{cases} \tag{3}$$

The polynomial sets $\{Y_n^c(x;k)\}, \{Z_n^c(x;k)\}$ are accordingly said to be biorthogonal with respect to the weight function $e^{-x}x^c$ over the interval $(0, \infty)$.

Konhauser showed that

$$Z_n^c(x;k) = \frac{\Gamma(kn+c+1)}{n!}\sum_{j=0}^n (-1)^j \binom{n}{j} \frac{x^{kj}}{\Gamma(kj+c+1)} \tag{4}$$

As for $Y_n^c(x;k)$, he showed that

$$\begin{aligned} Y_n^c(x;k) &= \frac{k}{2i}\int_C \frac{e^{-xt}(t+1)^{c+kn}}{[(t+1)^k-1]^{n+1}}\,dt \\ &= \frac{k}{n!}\frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n}\left\{\frac{e^{-xt}(t+1)^{c+kn}t^{n+1}}{[(t+1)^{k+1}-1]^{n+1}}\right\}_{t=0}\,. \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

In the integral in (5), C may be taken as a small circle about the origin in the t-plane.

In the present note we give a generating function and an explicit polynomial expression for the polynomial $Y_n^c(x; k)$. Moreover we show that $Y_n^c(x; k)$ can be identified with a polynomial studied recently by S. K. Chatterjea [1].

2. We apply the Lagrange expansion in the form [4, p. 125]

$$\frac{f(t)}{1 - w\phi'(t)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{w^n}{n!} \left\{\frac{d^n}{dt^n} [f(t)(\phi(t))^n]\right\}_{t=0}, \tag{6}$$

where

$$w = \frac{t}{\phi(t)}, \qquad \phi(t) = a_0 + a_1 t + \cdots \qquad (a_0 \neq 0).$$

Take

$$f(t) = \frac{e^{-xt}(t+1)^c t}{(t+1)^k - 1}, \qquad \phi(t) = \frac{(t+1)^k t}{(t+1)^k - 1}.$$

Then we have

$$1 - w\phi'(t) = \frac{kt}{(t+1)(t+1)^k - 1},$$

so that

$$\frac{f(t)}{1 - w\phi'(t)} = e^{-xt}(t+1)^{c+1}.$$

Thus, by (5) and (6), we have

$$e^{-xt}(t+1)^{c+1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} Y_n^c(x; k)\left(\frac{t}{\phi(t)}\right)^n. \tag{7}$$

If we put

$$w = \frac{t}{\phi(t)} = \frac{(t+1)^k - 1}{(t+1)^k} = 1 - (t+1)^{-k},$$

then

$$t = (1 - w)^{-1/k} - 1$$

and (7) becomes

$$(1 - w)^{-(c+1)/k} \exp\{-x[(1 - w)^{-1/k} - 1]\} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} Y_n^c(x; k) w^n. \tag{8}$$

In the next place, we have

$$\begin{aligned}(1-w)^{-(c+1)/k}&\exp\{-x[(1-w)^{-1/k}-1]\}\\ &=(1-w)^{-(c+1)/k}\sum_{r=0}^{\infty}\frac{x^r}{r!}[(1-w)^{-1/k}-1]^r\\ &=\sum_{r=0}^{\infty}\frac{x^r}{r!}\sum_{s=0}^{r}(-1)^s\binom{r}{s}(1-w)^{-(s+c+1)/k}\\ &=\sum_{r=0}^{\infty}\frac{x^r}{r!}\sum_{s=0}^{r}(-1)^s\binom{r}{s}\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\frac{((s+c+1)/k)_n}{n!}w^n\\ &=\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\frac{w^n}{n!}\sum_{r=0}^{n}\frac{x^r}{r!}\sum_{s=0}^{r}(-1)^s\binom{r}{s}\left(\frac{s+c+1}{k}\right)_n,\end{aligned}$$

where

$$(a)_n=a(a+1)\cdots(a+n-1),\qquad (a)_0=1\,.$$

It therefore follows from (8) that

$$Y_n^c(x;k)=\frac{1}{n!}\sum_{r=0}^{n}\frac{x^r}{r!}\sum_{s=0}^{r}(-1)^s\binom{r}{s}\left(\frac{s+c+1}{k}\right)_n\,. \tag{9}$$

3. Chatterjea [1] has defined the polynomial

$$T_{k\ n}^{(\alpha)}(x)-\frac{1}{n!}x^{-\alpha}e^{x^k}D^n(e^{\alpha+n}e^{-x^k}) \tag{10}$$

with $k=1,2,3,\cdots$. The case $\alpha=0$ had been discussed by Palas [3]. Chatterjea showed that (10) implies

$$T_{k,n}^{(\alpha)}(x)=\sum_{r=0}^{\infty}\frac{x^{kr}}{r!}\sum_{s=0}^{r}(-1)^s\binom{r}{s}\binom{\alpha+n+ks}{n}\,. \tag{11}$$

He also obtained operational formulas and a generating function for $T_{k,n}^{(\alpha)}(x)$. The assumption that k is a positive integer is not used in deriving (11).

If we replace k by k^{-1} and α by $k^{-1}\alpha$, (10) becomes

$$T_{k^{-1},k}^{(k^{-1}\alpha)}(x)=\sum_{r=0}^{n}\frac{x^{kr}}{r!}\sum_{s=0}^{r}(-1)^s\binom{r}{s}\binom{k^{-1}(\alpha+s)+n}{n}\,.$$

On the other hand, since

$$\frac{1}{n!}\left(\frac{s+c+1}{k}\right)_n=\binom{k^{-1}(s+c+1)+n-1}{n}\,,$$

(9) gives

$$Y_n^{c+k-1}(x^k;k)=\sum_{r=0}^{n}\frac{x^{kr}}{r!}\sum_{s=0}^{r}(-1)^s\binom{r}{s}\binom{k^{-1}(s+c)+n}{n}\,.$$

It follows at once that

$$Y_n^{c+k-1}(x^k;k)=T_{k^{-1},n}^{(k^{-1}c)}(x)\,, \tag{12}$$

or, if we prefer,

$$Y_n^{k\alpha+k-1}(x^k;\,k) = T_{k-1,n}^{(\alpha-1)}(x)\,. \tag{13}$$

4. It may be of interest to point out that a formula equivalent to (9) can be obtained without the use of the Lagrange expansion. In the integral representation (5), put

$$t = (1+u)^{1/k} - 1\,.$$

Then (5) becomes

$$Y_n^c(x;\,k) = \frac{1}{2\pi i}\int_C \frac{\exp\{-x[(1-u)^{1/k}-1]\}(1+u)^{k^{-1}(c+1)+n-1}}{u^{n+1}}\,du\,,$$

where C denotes a small circle about the origin in the u-plane. The numerator of the integral is equal to

$$\sum_{r=0}^{\infty}\frac{x^r}{r!}\sum_{s=0}^{r}(-1)^s\binom{r}{s}(1+u)^{k^{-1}(c+s+1)+n-1}$$
$$= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty}u^m\sum_{r=0}^{m}\frac{x^r}{r!}\sum_{s=0}^{r}(-1)^r\binom{r}{s}\binom{k^{-1}(c+s+1)+n-1}{m}\,.$$

Taking $m = n$, we therefore get

$$Y_n^c(x;\,k) = \sum_{r=0}^{n}\frac{x^r}{r!}\sum_{s=0}^{r}(-1)^r\binom{r}{s}\binom{k^{-1}(c+s+1)+n-1}{n}\,. \tag{14}$$

Since

$$\binom{c+n-1}{n} = \frac{(c)_n}{n!}\,,$$

it is evident that (14) is identical with (9).

5. Making use of the explicit formulas (4) and (9), we can give a rather brief proof of (3). Indeed we have

$$\begin{aligned}
J_{n,m} &= \int_0^\infty e^{-x}x^c Z_n^c(x;\,k)\,Y_m^c(x;\,k)\,dx \\
&= \frac{\Gamma(kn+c+1)}{n!}\sum_{j=0}^{n}(-1)^j\binom{n}{j}\frac{1}{\Gamma(kj+c+1)} \\
&\quad\cdot\frac{1}{m!}\sum_{r=0}^{m}\frac{1}{r!}\sum_{s=0}^{r}(-1)^s\binom{r}{s}\left(\frac{s+c+1}{k}\right)_m\cdot\int_0^\infty e^{-x}x^{kj+c+r}\,dx \\
&= \frac{\Gamma(kn+c+1)}{n!\,m!}\sum_{j=0}^{n}(-1)^j\binom{n}{j} \\
&\quad\cdot\sum_{r=0}^{m}\sum_{s=0}^{r}(-1)^s\binom{r}{s}\left(\frac{s+c+1}{k}\right)_m\binom{kj+c+r}{r}\,.
\end{aligned}$$

If $f(x)$ is a polynomial of degree m, it is familiar that

$$f(x) = \sum_{r=0}^{m} \binom{x}{r} \Delta^r f(0) ,$$

where

$$\Delta^r f(0) = \sum_{s=0}^{r} (-1)^{r-s} \binom{r}{s} f(s) .$$

In particular, for

$$f(x) = \left(\frac{x+c+1}{k}\right)_m ,$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}\left(\frac{x+c+1}{k}\right)_m &= \sum_{r=0}^{m} \binom{x}{r} \sum_{s=0}^{r} (-1)^{r-s} \binom{r}{s} \left(\frac{s+c+1}{k}\right)_m \\ &= \sum_{r=0}^{m} \binom{+x+r-1}{r} \sum_{s-r}^{n} (-1)^s \binom{r}{s} \left(\frac{s+c+1}{k}\right)_m .\end{aligned}$$

For $x = -kj - c - 1$ this reduces to

$$(-j)_m = \sum_{r=0}^{m} \binom{kj+c+r}{r} \sum_{s=0}^{r} (-1)^s \binom{r}{s} \left(\frac{s+c+1}{k}\right)_m .$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}J_{n,m} &= \frac{\Gamma(kn+c+1)}{n!} \sum_{j=0}^{n} (-1)^j \binom{n}{j} \frac{(-j)_m}{m!} \\ &= (-1)^m \frac{\Gamma(kn+c+1)}{n!} \sum_{j=0}^{n} (-1)^j \binom{n}{j} \binom{j}{m} .\end{aligned}$$

Since

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n} (-1)^j \binom{n}{j} \binom{j}{m} = \binom{n}{m} \sum_{j=m}^{n} (-1)^j \binom{n-m}{j-m} = (-1)^m \binom{n}{m} (1-1)^{n-m}$$

it is evident that

$$J_{n,m} = \frac{\Gamma(kn+c+1)}{n!} \delta_{nm} \tag{15}$$

in agreement with (3). In particular

$$J_{n,n} = \frac{\Gamma(kn+c+1)}{n!}$$

as proved in [2].

A little more generally, we have

$$\begin{aligned} J'_{n,m} &= \int_0^\infty e^{-x}x_c Z_n^c(x; k) Y_n^{c'}(x; k)dx \\ &= \frac{\Gamma(kn + c + 1)}{n!\, m!} \sum_{j=0}^{n} (-1)^j \binom{n}{j} \left(-j - \frac{c - c'}{k}\right)_m \\ &= (-1)^m \frac{\Gamma(kn + c + 1)}{n!} \sum_{j=0}^{n} (-1)^j \binom{n}{j} \binom{j + a}{m}, \end{aligned}$$

where $a = (c - c')/k$. It follows that

$$J'_{n,m} = \begin{cases} 0 & (n > m), \\ (-1)^{n+m} \dfrac{\Gamma(kn + c + 1)}{n!} \dbinom{a}{m - n} & (n \leqq m). \end{cases} \tag{16}$$

Clearly (16) includes (15).

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