

Research Article

Some Properties of a Sequence Similar to Generalized Euler Numbers

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We introduce the sequence $\{U_n^{(x)}\}$ given by generating function $(1/(e^t + e^{-t} - 1))^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} U_n^{(x)} (t^n/n!)$ ($|t| < (1/3)\pi$, $1^x := 1$) and establish some explicit formulas for the sequence $\{U_n^{(x)}\}$. Several identities involving the sequence $\{U_n^{(x)}\}$, Stirling numbers, Euler polynomials, and the central factorial numbers are also presented.

1. Introduction and Definitions

For a real or complex parameter α , the generalized Euler polynomials $E_n^{(\alpha)}(x)$ are defined by the following generating function (see [1–4])

$$\left(\frac{2}{e^t + 1}\right)^\alpha e^{xt} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} E_n^{(\alpha)}(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} \quad (|t| < \pi, 1^\alpha := 1). \quad (1)$$

Obviously, we have

$$E_n^{(1)}(x) = E_n(x) \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}_0 := \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}), \quad (2)$$

in terms of the classical Euler polynomials $E_n(x)$, \mathbb{N} being the set of positive integers. The classical Euler numbers E_n are given by the following:

$$E_n = 2^n E_n\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}_0). \quad (3)$$

The so-called the generalized Euler numbers $E_{2n}^{(x)}$ are defined by (see [3, 5])

$$\left(\frac{2}{e^t + e^{-t}}\right)^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} E_{2n}^{(x)} \frac{t^{2n}}{(2n)!} \quad (|t| < \frac{\pi}{2}, 1^x := 1). \quad (4)$$

In fact, $E_{2n}^{(k)}$ ($k \in \mathbb{Z}$) are the Euler numbers of order k , \mathbb{Z} being the set of integers. The numbers $E_{2n}^{(1)} = E_{2n}$ are the ordinary Euler numbers.

Zhi-Hong Sun introduces the sequence $\{U_n\}$ similar to Euler numbers as follows (see [6, 7]):

$$U_0 = 1, \quad U_n = -2 \sum_{k=1}^{[n/2]} \binom{n}{2k} U_{n-2k}, \quad (n \geq 1), \quad (5)$$

where (and in what follows) $[x]$ is the greatest integer not exceeding x .

Clearly, $U_{2n-1} = 0$ for $n \geq 1$. The first few values of U_{2n} are shown below

$$U_2 = -2, \quad U_4 = 22, \quad U_6 = -602, \quad U_8 = 30742, \\ U_{10} = -2523002, \quad U_{12} = 303692662. \quad (6)$$

The sequence $\{U_n\}$ is related to the classical Bernoulli polynomials $B_n(x)$ (see [8–11]) and the classical Euler polynomials $E_n(x)$. Zhi-Hong Sun gets the generating function of

$\{U_n\}$ and deduces many identities involving $\{U_n\}$. As example, (see [6]),

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{e^t + e^{-t} - 1} &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} U_n \frac{t^n}{n!} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} U_{2n} \frac{t^{2n}}{(2n)!} \quad \left(|t| < \frac{1}{3}\pi \right), \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

$$\frac{1}{2 \cos t - 1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n U_{2n} \frac{t^{2n}}{(2n)!} \quad \left(|t| < \frac{1}{3}\pi \right), \tag{8}$$

$$U_{2n} = 3^{2n} E_{2n} \left(\frac{1}{3} \right). \tag{9}$$

Similarly, we can define the generalized sequence $\{U_n^{(x)}\}$. For a real or complex parameter x , the generalized sequence $\{U_n^{(x)}\}$ is defined by the following generating function:

$$\left(\frac{1}{e^t + e^{-t} - 1} \right)^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} U_n^{(x)} \frac{t^n}{n!} \quad \left(|t| < \frac{1}{3}\pi, 1^x := 1 \right). \tag{10}$$

Obviously,

$$U_0^{(x)} = 1, \quad U_n^{(1)} = U_n \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}). \tag{11}$$

By using (10), we can obtain

$$U_n^{(k)} = n! \sum_{\substack{v_1 + \dots + v_k = n \\ v_1, \dots, v_k \in \mathbb{N}_0}} \frac{U_{v_1} \dots U_{v_k}}{v_1! \dots v_k!} \quad (k \in \mathbb{N}). \tag{12}$$

We now return to the Stirling numbers $s(n, k)$ of the first kind, which are usually defined by (see [2, 5, 8, 11, 12])

$$x(x-1)(x-2)\dots(x-n+1) = \sum_{k=0}^n s(n, k) x^k \tag{13}$$

or by the following generating function:

$$(\log(1+x))^k = k! \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} s(n, k) \frac{x^n}{n!}. \tag{14}$$

It follows from (13) or (14) that

$$s(n, k) = s(n-1, k-1) - (n-1)s(n-1, k) \tag{15}$$

and that

$$\begin{aligned} s(n, 0) &= 0 \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}), \quad s(n, n) = 1 \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}_0), \\ s(n, 1) &= (-1)^{n-1} (n-1)! \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}), \\ s(n, k) &= 0 \quad (k > n \text{ or } k < 0). \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

The central factorial numbers $T(n, k)$ are given by the following expansion formula (see [3, 5, 13]):

$$\begin{aligned} x^n &= \sum_{k=0}^n T(n, k) x(x-1^2) \\ &\quad \times (x-2^2)\dots(x-(k-1)^2) \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

or by means of the generating function

$$(e^x + e^{-x} - 2)^k = (2k)! \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} T(n, k) \frac{x^{2n}}{(2n)!}. \tag{18}$$

It follows from (17) or (18) that

$$T(n, k) = T(n-1, k-1) + k^2 T(n-1, k), \tag{19}$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} T(0, 0) &= 1, \quad T(n, 0) = 0 \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}), \\ T(n, 1) &= 1 \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}). \end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

We also find from (18) that

$$T(n, 2) = \frac{1}{4} (4^{n-1} - 1), \tag{21}$$

$$T(n, 3) = \frac{9^n}{360} - \frac{4^n}{60} + \frac{1}{24} \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}).$$

The main purpose of this paper is to prove some formulas for the generalized sequence $\{U_n^{(x)}\}$ and $E_n(x)$. Some identities involving the sequence $\{U_n^{(x)}\}$, Stirling numbers $s(n, k)$, and the central factorial numbers $T(n, k)$ are deduced.

2. Main Results

Theorem 1. Let $n \geq k$ ($n, k \in \mathbb{N}$) and

$$q(n, k) = (-1)^k \sum_{j=k}^n \frac{(2j)!}{j!} T(n, j) s(j, k). \tag{22}$$

Then,

$$U_{2n}^{(x)} = \sum_{k=1}^n q(n, k) x^k. \tag{23}$$

Remark 2. By (15), (19), (20), and Theorem 1, we know that $U_{2n}^{(x)}$ is a polynomial of x with integral coefficients. For example, by setting $n = 1, 2, 3, 4$ in Theorem 1, we get

$$\begin{aligned} U_2^{(x)} &= -2x, \quad U_4^{(x)} = 10x + 12x^2, \\ U_6^{(x)} &= -182x - 300x^2 - 120x^3, \end{aligned} \tag{24}$$

$$U_8^{(x)} = 6970x + 13692x^2 + 8400x^3 + 1680x^4.$$

Taking $x = 1$ in Theorem 1, we can obtain the following.

Corollary 3. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then,

$$U_{2n} = \sum_{j=0}^n (-1)^j (2j)! T(n, j). \tag{25}$$

From Corollary 3, we may immediately deduce the following results.

Corollary 4. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} U_{2n} &\equiv -2 \pmod{24}, \\ U_{2n} &\equiv -2 + 24T(n, 2) \pmod{720}, \\ U_{2n} &\equiv -2 + 24T(n, 2) - 720T(n, 3) \pmod{40320}. \end{aligned} \tag{26}$$

Theorem 5. Let $n \geq k$ ($n, k \in \mathbb{N}$). Then,

$$\begin{aligned} U_{2n} &= \sum_{k=1}^n q(n, k), \\ U_{2n} &= 2 \sum_{k=1}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} q(n, 2k) - 2 \\ &= 2 \sum_{k=1}^{\lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor} q(n, 2k+1) + 2. \end{aligned} \tag{27}$$

Theorem 6. Let $n \geq k$ ($n, k \in \mathbb{N}$). Suppose also that $q(n, k)$ is defined by (22). Then,

$$\begin{aligned} k!q(n, k) &= (2n)!3^{2n-k} \\ &\times \sum_{\substack{v_1+\dots+v_k=n \\ v_1, \dots, v_k \in \mathbb{N}}} \left(E_{2v_1-1}(0) - E_{2v_1-1}\left(\frac{2}{3}\right) \right) \\ &\quad \dots \left(E_{2v_k-1}(0) - E_{2v_k-1}\left(\frac{2}{3}\right) \right) \\ &\quad \times ((2v_1)! \dots (2v_k!))^{-1}. \end{aligned} \tag{28}$$

Theorem 7. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then,

$$-2 \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{2n-1}{2k} U_{2k} = 3^{2n-1} \left(E_{2n-1}(0) - E_{2n-1}\left(\frac{2}{3}\right) \right). \tag{29}$$

Theorem 8. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then,

$$U_{n+1} = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{n}{k} \left((1 - 2^{n-k}) U_{k+1} - 2^{n-k} U_k \right). \tag{30}$$

Theorem 9. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$. Then,

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(n+1)!} U_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \log \frac{2e - 1 - \sqrt{3}}{2(2 - \sqrt{3})e - 5 + 3\sqrt{3}}. \tag{31}$$

3. Proofs of Theorems

Proof of Theorem 1. By (10), (13), and (18), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} U_{2n}^{(x)} \frac{t^{2n}}{(2n)!} &= \left(\frac{1}{e^t + e^{-t} - 1} \right)^x \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{1 + (e^t + e^{-t} - 2)} \right)^x \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (-1)^j \binom{x+j-1}{j} (e^t + e^{-t} - 2)^j \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (-1)^j \binom{x+j-1}{j} (2j)! \sum_{n=j}^{\infty} T(n, j) \frac{t^{2n}}{(2n)!} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^{2n}}{(2n)!} \sum_{j=0}^n (-1)^j (2j)! \binom{x+j-1}{j} T(n, j), \end{aligned} \tag{32}$$

which readily yields

$$\begin{aligned} U_{2n}^{(x)} &= \sum_{j=0}^n (-1)^j (2j)! \binom{x+j-1}{j} T(n, j) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^n (-1)^j (2j)! T(n, j) \frac{1}{j!} x(x+1) \dots (x+j-1) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^n \frac{(2j)!}{j!} T(n, j) \sum_{k=1}^j (-1)^k s(j, k) x^k \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^k \sum_{j=k}^n \frac{(2j)!}{j!} T(n, j) s(j, k) x^k \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n q(n, k) x^k. \end{aligned} \tag{33}$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 1. □

Proof of Theorem 5. By (10), we have

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} U_{2n}^{(-1)} \frac{t^{2n}}{(2n)!} = e^t + e^{-t} - 1 = 2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^{2n}}{(2n)!} - 1, \tag{34}$$

and $U_0^{(x)} = 1$, thus

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} U_{2n}^{(-1)} \frac{t^{2n}}{(2n)!} = e^t + e^{-t} - 1 = 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{t^{2n}}{(2n)!}. \tag{35}$$

By Theorem 1 and comparing the coefficient of $t^{2n}/(2n)!$ on both sides of (35), we get

$$\sum_{k=1}^n q(n, k) (-1)^k = U_{2n}^{(-1)} = 2. \tag{36}$$

Again, by taking $x = 1$ in Theorem 1, we have

$$\sum_{k=1}^n q(n, k) = U_{2n}. \tag{37}$$

By (36) and (37), we immediately obtain (27). This completes the proof of Theorem 5. \square

Proof of Theorem 6. By applying Theorem 1, we have

$$k!q(n, k) = \frac{d^k}{dx^k} \left\{ U_n^{(x)} \right\} \Big|_{x=0}. \tag{38}$$

On the other hand, it follows from (10) that

$$\sum_{n=k}^{\infty} \frac{d^k}{dx^k} \left\{ U_n^{(x)} \right\} \Big|_{x=0} \frac{t^{2n}}{(2n)!} = \left(\log \left(\frac{1}{e^t + e^{-t} - 1} \right) \right)^k. \tag{39}$$

By using (38) and (39), we find that

$$k! \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} q(n, k) \frac{t^{2n}}{(2n)!} = \left(\log \left(\frac{1}{e^t + e^{-t} - 1} \right) \right)^k. \tag{40}$$

We now note that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{d}{dt} \left\{ \log \left(\frac{1}{e^t + e^{-t} - 1} \right) \right\} \\ &= \frac{e^{-t} - e^t}{e^t + e^{-t} - 1} \\ &= \frac{e^{-t} - e^t}{2} \left(\frac{2e^t}{e^{3t} + 1} + \frac{2e^{-t}}{e^{-3t} + 1} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\left(\frac{2}{e^{3t} + 1} - \frac{2}{e^{-3t} + 1} \right) - \left(\frac{2e^{2t}}{e^{3t} + 1} - \frac{2e^{-2t}}{e^{-3t} + 1} \right) \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} E_n(0) \frac{(3t)^n}{n!} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} E_n(0) \frac{(-3t)^n}{n!} \right) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} E_n \left(\frac{2}{3} \right) \frac{(3t)^n}{n!} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} E_n \left(\frac{2}{3} \right) \frac{(-3t)^n}{n!} \right) \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 3^{2n+1} \left(E_{2n+1}(0) - E_{2n+1} \left(\frac{2}{3} \right) \right) \frac{t^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!}. \end{aligned} \tag{41}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \log \frac{1}{e^t + e^{-t} - 1} &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 3^{2n+1} \left(E_{2n+1}(0) - E_{2n+1} \left(\frac{2}{3} \right) \right) \frac{t^{2n+2}}{(2n+2)!} \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 3^{2n-1} \left(E_{2n-1}(0) - E_{2n-1} \left(\frac{2}{3} \right) \right) \frac{t^{2n}}{(2n)!} \end{aligned} \tag{42}$$

yields

$$\begin{aligned} & k! \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} q(n, k) \frac{t^{2n}}{(2n)!} \\ &= \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 3^{2n-1} \left(E_{2n-1}(0) - E_{2n-1} \left(\frac{2}{3} \right) \right) \frac{t^{2n}}{(2n)!} \right)^k \\ &= \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} \frac{t^{2n}}{(2n)!} (2n)! 3^{2n-k} \\ &\quad \times \sum_{\substack{v_1 + \dots + v_k = n \\ v_1, \dots, v_k \in \mathbb{N}}} \left(E_{2v_1-1}(0) - E_{2v_1-1} \left(\frac{2}{3} \right) \right) \\ &\quad \dots \left(E_{2v_k-1}(0) - E_{2v_k-1} \left(\frac{2}{3} \right) \right) \\ &\quad \times ((2v_1)! \dots (2v_k!))^{-1}. \end{aligned} \tag{43}$$

Comparing the coefficient of $t^{2n}/(2n)!$ on both sides of (43), we immediately get (28). This completes the proof of Theorem 6. \square

Proof of Theorem 7. Consider

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \left\{ \log \left(\frac{1}{e^t + e^{-t} - 1} \right) \right\} &= \frac{e^{-t} - e^t}{e^t + e^{-t} - 1} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} U_{2n} \frac{t^{2n}}{(2n)!} \left(-2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!} \right) \\ &= -2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n+1}{2k} U_{2k} \frac{t^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!}. \end{aligned} \tag{44}$$

Thus,

$$\log \frac{1}{e^t + e^{-t} - 1} = -2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{2n-1}{2k} U_{2k} \frac{t^{2n}}{(2n)!}. \tag{45}$$

By (42) and (45) we obtain (29). This completes the proof of Theorem 7. \square

Proof of Theorem 8. By using (7), we have

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} U_n \frac{t^{n-1}}{(n-1)!} = \frac{e^{-t} - e^t}{(e^t + e^{-t} - 1)^2}. \tag{46}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} (e^{2t} - e^t + 1) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} U_n \frac{t^{n-1}}{(n-1)!} &= (1 - e^{2t}) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} U_n \frac{t^n}{n!}, \\ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (2^n - 1) \frac{t^n}{n!} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} U_{n+1} \frac{t^n}{n!} &+ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} U_{n+1} \frac{t^n}{n!} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} U_n \frac{t^n}{n!} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 2^n \frac{t^n}{n!} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} U_n \frac{t^n}{n!}. \end{aligned} \tag{47}$$

That is,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} (2^{n-k} - 1) U_{k+1} \frac{t^n}{n!} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} U_{n+1} \frac{t^n}{n!} \\ = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} U_n \frac{t^n}{n!} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} 2^{n-k} U_k \frac{t^n}{n!}. \end{aligned} \quad (48)$$

Comparing the coefficient of $t^n/n!$ on both sides of (48), we get the following:

$$U_{n+1} - U_n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} ((1 - 2^{n-k}) U_{k+1} - 2^{n-k} U_k). \quad (49)$$

By (49) we immediately obtain (30). This completes the proof of Theorem 8. \square

Proof of Theorem 9. By integrating (7) with respect to t from 0 to 1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(n+1)!} U_n &= \int_0^1 \frac{1}{e^t + e^{-t} - 1} dt \\ &= \int_0^1 \frac{1}{e^{2t} - e^t + 1} de^t = \int_1^e \frac{1}{x^2 - x + 1} dx. \end{aligned} \quad (50)$$

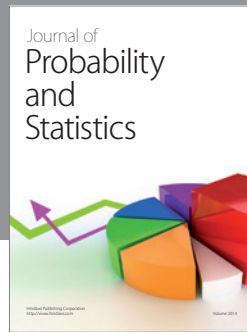
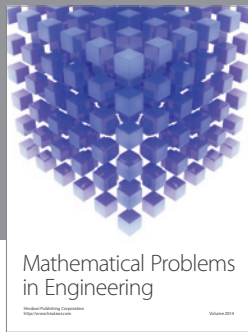
By (50) and $\int (1/(ax^2+bx+c))dx = (1/\sqrt{b^2-4ac}) \log |(2ax + b - \sqrt{b^2-4ac})/(2ax + b + \sqrt{b^2-4ac})| + c$ (c is constant), we have (31). This completes the proof of Theorem 9. \square

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