

**AN AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER TO TWO QUESTIONS  
CONCERNING SPECIAL CASE OF SIMSEK NUMBERS  
AND OPEN PROBLEMS**

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The purpose of this work is to give a positive answer to two questions asked by professor Yilmaz Simsek in a recent paper [6] concerning special numbers  $B(n, k)$  for computing negative order Euler numbers.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Let  $k$  a positive integer and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ . The Simsek numbers  $y_1(n, k, \lambda)$  are defined by the following generating function (see [6])

$$(1) \quad F_{y_1}(t, k; \lambda) = \frac{1}{k!} (\lambda e^t + 1)^k = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} y_1(n, k, \lambda) \frac{t^n}{n!}.$$

Explicitly from [6, Theorem 1] we get

$$(2) \quad y_1(n, k, \lambda) = \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{j=0}^k \binom{k}{j} j^n \lambda^j.$$

and then  $y_1(n, k, \lambda)$  is a polynomial on variable  $\lambda$  of degree  $k$ . In the case  $\lambda = 1$ , let the numbers

$$(3) \quad B(n, k) = k! y_1(n, k, 1)$$

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and from the identity (2) we deduce that

$$(4) \quad B(n, k) = \sum_{j=0}^k \binom{k}{j} j^n.$$

Golombek proved in [3] that

$$(5) \quad B(n, k) = \frac{d^n}{dt^n} (e^t + 1)^k \Big|_{t=0}$$

and the same thinks for Simsek numbers

$$(6) \quad y_1(n, k, \lambda) = \frac{1}{k!} \frac{d^n}{dt^n} (\lambda e^t + 1)^k \Big|_{t=0}$$

Interesting computation formulae and connections relations to other combinatorial numbers such as the Stirling numbers and special numbers including the Apostol-type number are developed in the papers [7] and [8].

Only in the work [6] Y. Simsek conjectured that

$$B(n, k) = (k^n + x_1 k^{n-1} + \cdots + x_{n-2} k^2 + x_{n-1} k) 2^{k-n}$$

where  $x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}$  are integers and  $n$  is a positive integer. Consequently, he arrives at the following open questions:

- 1)- How can we compute the coefficients  $x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}$ .
- 2)- We assume that for  $|x| < r$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} B(n, k) x^k = f_n(x)$$

Is it possible to find  $f_n(x)$ ?

In this paper we extend the problem to Simsek numbers in order to prove a more general Simsek conjecture and construct the appropriate generating functions. Consequently we give a positive answer to the last questions with proof different of that given by Xu in [10].

We end this work by the connection between numbers  $B(n, k; \lambda) = k! y_1(n, k, \lambda)$  and the first kind Apostol-Euler numbers  $E_n^{(k)}(\lambda)$  of order  $k$  (cf. [2],[5]) defined by means of the following generating function:

$$(7) \quad \left( \frac{2}{\lambda e^t + 1} \right)^k = \sum_{n \geq 0} E_n^{(k)}(\lambda) \frac{t^n}{n!}, \quad |t| < \pi.$$

Substituting  $\lambda = k = 1$  into (7) we obtain the first kind Euler numbers  $E_n = E_n^{(1)}(1)$ , which are defined by means of the following generating function ( see [9]

and references therein ):

$$(8) \quad \frac{2}{e^t + 1} = \sum_{n \geq 0} E_n \frac{t^n}{n!}, \quad |t| < \pi.$$

Finally we prove the following interesting identity concerning Euler numbers.

$$2E_n + 1 = - \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \binom{n}{j} E_{n-j}$$

## 2. EXPLICIT FORMULA OF SIMSEK NUMBERS

From the definition of  $F_{y_1}(t, k; \lambda)$ , we have in one hand

$$F'_{y_1}(t, k; \lambda) = \frac{\lambda e^t}{(k-1)!} (\lambda e^t + 1)^{k-1} = \lambda e^t F_{y_1}(t, k-1; \lambda).$$

Using Leibnitz formula (see [4]) for computing derivative at any order of product of two functions we conclude that

$$(9) \quad \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} F_{y_1}(t, k; \lambda) = \lambda e^t \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \binom{n-1}{i} \frac{\partial^i}{\partial t^i} F_{y_1}(t, k-1; \lambda).$$

This formula conducts to following new identity about Simsek numbers

$$(10) \quad y_1(n, k, \lambda) = \lambda \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \binom{n-1}{i} y_1(i, k-1, \lambda).$$

In another hand we have

$$(11) \quad F'_{y_1}(t, k; \lambda) = k F_{y_1}(t, k; \lambda) - F_{y_1}(t, k-1; \lambda).$$

Then the successive derivatives are given by the recursion formula:

$$(12) \quad \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} F_{y_1}(t, k; \lambda) = k \frac{\partial^{n-1}}{\partial t^{n-1}} F_{y_1}(t, k; \lambda) - \frac{\partial^{n-1}}{\partial t^{n-1}} F_{y_1}(t, k-1; \lambda).$$

Substitute  $t = 0$  in the identity (12) we deduce the Theorem 6 in [6]

$$(13) \quad y_1(n, k, \lambda) = k y_1(n-1, k, \lambda) - y_1(n-1, k-1, \lambda).$$

Combining identities (10) and (13) we obtain

$$y_1(n, k, \lambda) = \lambda \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \binom{n-1}{i} [(k-1) y_1(i-1, k-1, \lambda) - y_1(i-1, k-2, \lambda)].$$

Regarding the identity (13), one can conclude that  $y_1(n, k, \lambda)$  is a polynomial on the variable  $k$  of degree  $n$  in the ring  $\mathbb{C}[k]$ . The following theorem provide the confirmation.

**Theorem 2.1.** For any positive integers  $k, n$  and complex number  $\lambda$  we have

$$(14) \quad y_1(n, k, \lambda) = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{n,k}(\lambda, j) k^j$$

where the coefficients  $a_{n,k}(\lambda, j)$  are defined by

$$a_{n,k}(\lambda, 1) = 0 \text{ if } n > k, \quad a_{n,k}(\lambda, 1) = (-1)^n \frac{(\lambda + 1)^{k-n}}{(k-n)!} \text{ if } n \leq k$$

and

$$a_{n,k}(\lambda, n) = \frac{(1 + \lambda)^k}{k!}.$$

For others the recursive formulae

$$(15) \quad a_{n,k}(\lambda, j) = a_{n-1,k}(\lambda, j-1) - a_{n-1,k-1}(\lambda, j), \quad 2 \leq j \leq n-1.$$

*Proof.* The proof is by recursion; first we have

$$y_1(0, k, \lambda) = \frac{(\lambda + 1)^k}{k!}, \quad y_1(1, k, \lambda) = \frac{\lambda(\lambda + 1)^{k-1}}{(k-1)!}.$$

And we suppose for every positive integer  $k$  that

$$y_1(n, k, \lambda) = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{n,k}(\lambda, j) k^j$$

Using the identity (13) we obtain

$$y_1(n+1, k, \lambda) = k \sum_{j=1}^n a_{n,k}(\lambda, j) k^j - \sum_{j=1}^n a_{n,k-1}(\lambda, j) k^j.$$

Furthermore

$$y_1(n+1, k, \lambda) = \sum_{j=2}^{n+1} a_{n,k}(\lambda, j-1) k^j - \sum_{j=1}^n a_{n,k-1}(\lambda, j) k^j$$

and

$$y_1(n+1, k, \lambda) = -a_{n,k-1}(\lambda, 1) + \sum_{j=2}^n [a_{n,k}(\lambda, j-1) - a_{n,k-1}(\lambda, j)] k^j + a_{n,k}(\lambda, n) k^{n+1}.$$

We deduce that

$$y_1(n+1, k, \lambda) = \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} a_{n+1,k}(\lambda, j) k^j$$

where

$$a_{n+1,k}(\lambda, 1) = -a_{n,k-1}(\lambda, 1), \quad a_{n+1,k}(\lambda, n+1) = a_{n,k}(\lambda, n)$$

and

$$a_{n+1,k}(\lambda, j) = a_{n,k}(\lambda, j-1) - a_{n,k-1}(\lambda, j) \text{ for } 2 \leq j \leq n.$$

But we remark that

$$a_{n+1,k}(\lambda, n+1) = a_{n,k}(\lambda, n) = \cdots = a_{0,k}(\lambda, 0) = \frac{(1+\lambda)^k}{k!}$$

and  $a_{n,k}(\lambda, 1) = -a_{n-1,k-1}(\lambda, 1)$ . Thereafter for  $n > k$ ,

$$a_{n,k}(\lambda, 1) = -a_{n-1,k-1}(\lambda, 1) = (-1)^k a_{n-k,0}(\lambda, 1) = 0$$

and for  $n \leq k$ ;

$$a_{n,k}(\lambda, 1) = -a_{n-1,k-1}(\lambda, 1) = (-1)^n a_{0,k-n}(\lambda, 1) = (-1)^n \frac{(\lambda+1)^{k-n}}{(k-n)!}$$

Furthermore the Theorem (2.1) follows.  $\square$

**Remark 2.1.** *If  $\lambda \in \mathbb{N}$ , it follows from the identity (2) that  $k!y_1(n, k, \lambda) \in \mathbb{N}$  and we can easily prove that  $k!a_{n,k}(\lambda, j) \in \mathbb{N}$ .*

For  $\lambda = 1$ , let us denoting  $a_{n+1,k}(j) = a_{n+1,k}(\lambda, j)$ . As a direct consequence of Theorem 2.1 we get the following corollary and the proof is left as an exercise.

**Corollary 2.1.** *For any positive integers  $k, n$  we have*

$$(16) \quad B(n, k) = k! \sum_{j=1}^n a_{n,k}(j) k^j$$

where the coefficients  $a_{n,k}(j)$  are defined by

$$a_{n,k}(1) = 0 \text{ if } n > k, \quad a_{n,k}(1) = (-1)^n \frac{2^{k-n}}{(k-n)!} \text{ if } n \leq k \text{ and } a_{n,k}(n) = \frac{2^k}{k!}.$$

For others; the recursive formulae

$$(17) \quad a_{n,k}(j) = a_{n-1,k}(j-1) - a_{n-1,k-1}(j), \quad 2 \leq j \leq n-1.$$

In the following theorem we prove a new formula for the coefficients  $a_{n,k}(j)$  and explicit formula for Simsek numbers.

**Theorem 2.2.**

$$(18) \quad y_1(n, k, \lambda) = (\lambda+1)^{k-n} \sum_{j=1}^n x_j(\lambda, n, k) k^j$$

where the coefficients  $x_j(\lambda, n, k)$  are defined by

$$x_1(\lambda, n, k) = 0 \text{ if } n > k, \quad x_1(\lambda, n, k) = \frac{(-1)^n}{(k-n)!} \text{ if } n \geq k \text{ and } x_n(\lambda, n, k) = \frac{(1+\lambda)^n}{k!}.$$

For others; the recursive formula

$$x_j(\lambda, n, k) = (\lambda + 1)x_{j-1}(\lambda, n-1, k) - x_j(\lambda, n-1, k-1), \quad 2 \leq j \leq n-1.$$

*Proof.* The proof is by recursion, we have  $a_{n,k}(\lambda, 1)$  is 0 or  $(1+\lambda)^{k-n} \frac{(-1)^n}{(k-n)!}$  and

$$a_{n,k}(\lambda, n) = (1+\lambda)^{k-n} \frac{(1+\lambda)^n}{k!}$$

. Suppose for any positive integer  $k$  that

$$a_{n,k}(\lambda, j) = (\lambda + 1)^{k-n} x_j(\lambda, n, k)$$

then

$$x_1(\lambda, n+1, k) = 0 \text{ if } n+1 > k \text{ and } x_1(\lambda, n+1, k) = \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{(k-n-1)!} \text{ if } n+1 \geq k,$$

$$x_{n+1}(\lambda, n+1, k) = \frac{(1+\lambda)^{n+1}}{k!}$$

and for  $2 \leq j \leq n$

$$\begin{aligned} a_{n+1,k}(\lambda, j) &= a_{n,k}(\lambda, j-1) - a_{n,k-1}(\lambda, j) \\ &= (\lambda + 1)^{k-n} x_{j-1}(\lambda, n, k) - (\lambda + 1)^{k-1-n} x_j(\lambda, n, k-1) \\ &= (\lambda + 1)^{k-n-1} [(\lambda + 1) x_{j-1}(\lambda, n, k) - x_j(\lambda, n, k-1)]. \end{aligned}$$

And then

$$a_{n+1,k}(\lambda, j) = (\lambda + 1)^{k-n-1} x_j(\lambda, n+1, k)$$

with

$$x_j(\lambda, n+1, k) = (\lambda + 1)x_{j-1}(\lambda, n, k) - x_j(\lambda, n, k-1), \quad 2 \leq j \leq n.$$

□

Let us denoting  $x_j(n, k) = x_j(1, n, k)$ . The answer to Simsek conjecture can be found in the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.2.**

$$(19) \quad B(n, k) = 2^{k-n} k! \sum_{j=1}^n x_j(n, k) k^j$$

where the coefficients  $x_j(n, k)$  are defined by

$$x_1(n, k) = 0 \text{ if } n > k, x_1(n, k) = \frac{(-1)^n}{(k-n)!} \text{ if } n \geq k \text{ and } x_n(n, k) = \frac{2^n}{k!}.$$

For others; the recursive formula

$$x_j(n, k) = 2x_{j-1}(n-1, k) - x_j(n-1, k-1), \quad 1 \leq j \leq n-1$$

*Proof.* The proof is left as an exercise for the reader.  $\square$

Taking  $x_j = k!x_j(n, k)$  we deduce that

$$B(n, k) = 2^{k-n} \sum_{j=0}^n x_j k^j$$

which provide that the Simsek conjecture is true. One remarks that  $x_1 = 0$  and  $x_0 = (-1)^n (k)_n$ , where  $(k)_n = k(k-1) \cdots (k-n+1)$ . For more details about these numbers we refer to [1]. Others are computed from the recursion formula in Corollary 2.2.

### 3. GENERATING FUNCTIONS OF SIMSEK NUMBERS GENERATING FUNCTION

In the literature, only we are asked to compute generating functions for numbers or polynomials [2]. In this work we introduce the notion of generating functions for functions.

**Definition 3.1.** Let for every positive integer  $j$  the function  $f_j(t)$  defined on  $\mathbb{R}$ . We say that the family  $f_j$  admits a generating function in the interval  $I \subset \mathbb{R}$  if and only if there exists a function  $F(t, x)$  such that

$$(20) \quad F(t, x) = \sum_{j \geq 0} f_j(t) x^j.$$

**Example 3.1.** Let  $f(t)$  a function on  $\mathbb{R}$  such that  $|f(t)| \geq \theta > 0$  for  $t \in I \subset \mathbb{R}$ . Then the generating function of the family  $f^j(t)$  is  $\frac{1}{1-xf(t)}$ . More precisely we get

$$(21) \quad \frac{1}{1-xf(t)} = \sum_{j \geq 0} f^j(t) x^j, \quad |x| < \frac{1}{\theta} \text{ and } t \in I.$$

In those conditions

$$(22) \quad \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} \frac{1}{1-xf(t)} = \sum_{j \geq 0} \left( \frac{d^n}{dt^n} f^j(t) \right) x^j, \quad |x| < \frac{1}{\theta}.$$

and then

$$(23) \quad \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} \frac{1}{1 - xf(t)} \Big|_{t=0} = \sum_{j \geq 0} \left( \frac{d^n}{dt^n} f^j(t) \Big|_{t=0} \right) x^j, \quad |x| < \frac{1}{\theta}.$$

is the generating function of the numbers  $\frac{d^n}{dt^n} f^j(t) \Big|_{t=0}$ .

Now let the numbers  $B(n, k; \lambda) = k! y_1(n, k, \lambda)$ , then their generating function is given by the following theorem

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $\lambda \neq -1$  and  $t \geq 0$ , the generating function of  $B(n, k; \lambda)$  is*

$$f_n(\lambda, x) = \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} \frac{1}{1 - (\lambda e^t + 1)x} \Big|_{t=0}$$

i.e

$$(24) \quad f_n(\lambda, x) = \sum_{k \geq 0} B(n, k; \lambda) x^k, \quad |x| < \frac{1}{|\lambda + 1|}.$$

*Proof.* First we compute the generating function of the functions  $(\lambda e^t + 1)^k$ ;

$$\sum_{k \geq 0} (\lambda e^t + 1)^k x^k = \frac{1}{1 - (\lambda e^t + 1)x}$$

if and only if  $|(\lambda e^t + 1)x| < 1$ . For  $t \geq 0$  and  $\lambda + 1 \neq 0$  which means that the condition of the convergence is  $|x| < \frac{1}{|\lambda + 1|}$ .

We remark for  $|x| \leq \rho < \frac{1}{|\lambda + 1|}$  that the above series in normalcy convergent and we get

$$\frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} \sum_{k \geq 0} (\lambda e^t + 1)^k x^k = \sum_{k \geq 0} x^k \frac{d^n}{dt^n} (\lambda e^t + 1)^k$$

then

$$\frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} \frac{1}{1 - (\lambda e^t + 1)x} = \sum_{k \geq 0} x^k \frac{d^n}{dt^n} (\lambda e^t + 1)^k$$

Furthermore

$$\frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} \frac{1}{1 - (\lambda e^t + 1)x} \Big|_{t=0} = \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{d^n}{dt^n} (\lambda e^t + 1)^k \Big|_{t=0} x^k$$

but  $B(n, k; \lambda) = \frac{d^n}{dt^n} (\lambda e^t + 1)^k \Big|_{t=0}$  then the result (24) follows. □

Let  $f_n(x) = f_n(1, x)$ , the answer to second question of Y. Simsek is immediate

**Corollary 3.3.** *For  $n \geq 1$  we have  $B(n, 0) = 0$  and*

$$(25) \quad f_n(x) = \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} \frac{1}{1 - (e^t + 1)x} \Big|_{t=0} = \sum_{k \geq 1} B(n, k) x^k, \quad |x| < \frac{1}{2}.$$



*Proof.* The proof is left as an exercise.  $\square$

The first successive generating functions are

$$f_0(x) = \frac{1}{1-2x}$$

,

$$f_1(x) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{1}{1-(e^t+1)x} \Big|_{t=0} = \frac{xe^t}{(1-(e^t+1)x)^2} \Big|_{t=0} = \frac{x}{(1-2x)^2}$$

and

$$f_2(x) = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \frac{1}{1-(e^t+1)x} \Big|_{t=0} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{xe^t}{(1-(e^t+1)x)^2} \Big|_{t=0} = \frac{xe^t(1-(e^t+1)x) + 2x^2e^{2t}}{(1-(e^t+1)x)^3} \Big|_{t=0} = \frac{x}{(1-2x)^3}.$$

From the two generating functions and for a fixed integer  $n$  we remark that the generating function of  $B(n, k)$  is of the form

$$f_n(x) = \frac{P_n(x)}{(1-2x)^{n+1}}$$

where  $P_n(x)$  is a polynomial in  $\mathbb{Z}[x]$  of degree at most  $n$ . This formula leads us to ask the following open question: How can we compute the polynomials  $P_n(x)$ .

Here we give a partial answer to this problem by explaining the method for computing successive derivatives of  $f_0(x)$ . Taking  $f_0(x, t) = \frac{1}{1-(e^t+1)x}$  and  $g(x, t) = 1 - x - xe^t$ . By using some techniques illustrated in the work [4] we deduce for  $n \geq 1$  that

$$\sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j} \frac{\partial^j}{\partial t^j} f_0(x, t) \frac{\partial^{n-j}}{\partial t^{n-j}} g(x, t) = 0$$

and then

$$(1 - x - xe^t) \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} f_0(x, t) = -xe^t \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \binom{n}{j} \frac{\partial^j}{\partial t^j} f_0(x, t)$$

Finally

$$f_n(x) = -xf_0(x) \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \binom{n}{j} f_{n-j}(x).$$

#### 4. CONNECTION TO FIRST KIND APOSTOL-EULER NUMBERS

The following theorem explain how the numbers  $B(n, k, \lambda)$  are connected to first kind Apostol-Euler numbers  $E_n^{(k)}(\lambda)$  and their importance to obtain some statements about Euler numbers.

**Theorem 4.4.**

$$(26) \quad B(n, k, \lambda) = - \left( \frac{\lambda + 1}{2} \right)^k \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \binom{n}{j} B(j, k, \lambda) E_{n-j}^{(k)}(\lambda).$$

Furthermore for  $n \geq 1$

$$(27) \quad 2E_n + 1 = - \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \binom{n}{j} E_{n-j}.$$

*Proof.* In one hand we have

$$(\lambda e^t + 1)^k \left( \frac{2}{\lambda e^t + 1} \right)^k = 2^k$$

and in another hand

$$(\lambda e^t + 1)^k \left( \frac{2}{\lambda e^t + 1} \right)^k = \left( \sum_{n \geq 0} B(n, k; \lambda) \frac{t^n}{n!} \right) \left( \sum_{j \geq 0} E_j^{(k)}(\lambda) \frac{t^j}{j!} \right).$$

From the well-known Cauchy product of two generating function [4] we deduce that

$$2^k = \sum_{n \geq 0} \left( \sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j} B(j, k, \lambda) E_{n-j}^{(k)}(\lambda) \right) \frac{t^n}{n!}$$

hence  $B(0, k, \lambda) E_0^{(k)}(\lambda) = 2^k$  and

$$\sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j} B(j, k, \lambda) E_{n-j}^{(k)}(\lambda) = 0$$

which means that

$$B(n, k, \lambda) = - \frac{1}{E_0^{(k)}(\lambda)} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \binom{n}{j} B(j, k, \lambda) E_{n-j}^{(k)}(\lambda)$$

and

$$B(n, k, \lambda) = - \left( \frac{\lambda + 1}{2} \right)^k \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \binom{n}{j} B(j, k, \lambda) E_{n-j}^{(k)}(\lambda).$$

For  $\lambda = 1$  we conclude that

$$B(n, k) = - \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \binom{n}{j} B(j, k) E_{n-j}^{(k)}(1)$$

furthermore if  $k = 1$  we obtain

$$(28) \quad B(n, 1) = - \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \binom{n}{j} B(j, 1) E_{n-j}.$$

Since

$$e^t + 1 = \sum_{n \geq 0} B(n, 1) \frac{t^n}{n!}$$

and comparing with the identity

$$e^t + 1 = 2 + \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{t^n}{n!}$$

we deduce that  $B(0, 1) = 2$  and  $B(n, 1) = 1$  for  $n \geq 1$ . Returning back to the identity (28) we obtain for  $n \geq 1$

$$2E_n + 1 = - \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \binom{n}{j} E_{n-j}.$$

□

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