

## Research Article

# A Note on the $q$ -Euler Numbers and Polynomials with Weak Weight $\alpha$

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We construct a new type of  $q$ -Euler numbers and polynomials with weak weight  $\alpha$ :  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}$ ,  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$ , respectively. Some interesting results and relationships are obtained. Also, we observe the behavior of roots of the  $q$ -Euler numbers  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}$  and polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  with weak weight  $\alpha$ . By means of numerical experiments, we demonstrate a remarkably regular structure of the complex roots of  $q$ -Euler polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}$  with weak weight  $\alpha$ .

## 1. Introduction

The Euler numbers and polynomials possess many interesting properties arising in many areas of mathematics and physics. Recently, many mathematicians have studied the area of the  $q$ -Euler numbers and polynomials (see [1–19]). In this paper, we construct a new type of  $q$ -Euler numbers  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}$  and polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  with weak weight  $\alpha$ . The main purpose of this paper is also to investigate the zeros of the  $q$ -Euler polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  with weak weight  $\alpha$ . Furthermore, we give a table for the zeros of the  $q$ -Euler numbers and polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  with weak weight  $\alpha$ .

Throughout this paper we use the following notations. By  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  we denote the ring of  $p$ -adic rational integers,  $\mathbb{Q}_p$  denotes the field of  $p$ -adic rational numbers,  $\mathbb{C}_p$  denotes the completion of algebraic closure of  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ ,  $\mathbb{N}$  denotes the set of natural numbers,  $\mathbb{Z}$  denotes the ring of rational integers,  $\mathbb{Q}$  denotes the field of rational numbers,  $\mathbb{C}$  denotes the set of complex numbers, and  $\mathbb{Z}_+ = \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ . Let  $\nu_p$  be the normalized exponential valuation of  $\mathbb{C}_p$  with  $|p|_p = p^{-\nu_p(p)} = p^{-1}$ . When one talks of  $q$ -extension,  $q$  is considered in many ways such as an indeterminate, a complex number  $q \in \mathbb{C}$ , or  $p$ -adic number  $q \in \mathbb{C}_p$ . If  $q \in \mathbb{C}$  one

normally assume that  $|q| < 1$ . If  $q \in \mathbb{C}_p$ , we normally assume that  $|q - 1|_p < p^{-1/(p-1)}$  so that  $q^x = \exp(x \log q)$  for  $|x|_p \leq 1$ . Throughout this paper we use the notation

$$[x]_q = \frac{1 - q^x}{1 - q}, \quad [x]_{-q} = \frac{1 - (-q)^x}{1 + q}. \quad (1.1)$$

(cf. [1–11, 15–18]). Hence,  $\lim_{q \rightarrow 1} [x]_q = x$  for any  $x$  with  $|x|_p \leq 1$  in the present  $p$ -adic case. For

$$g \in UD(\mathbb{Z}_p) = \{g \mid g : \mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_p \text{ is uniformly differentiable function}\}, \quad (1.2)$$

the fermionic  $p$ -adic  $q$ -integral on  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  is defined by Kim as follows:

$$I_{-q}(g) = \int_{\mathbb{Z}_p} g(x) d\mu_{-q}(x) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{[p^N]_{-q}} \sum_{x=0}^{p^N-1} g(x) (-q)^x. \quad (1.3)$$

(cf. [3–6]). If we take  $g_1(x) = g(x + 1)$  in (1.3), then we easily see that

$$qI_{-q}(g_1) + I_{-q}(g) = [2]_q g(0). \quad (1.4)$$

From (1.4), we obtain

$$q^n I_{-q}(g_n) + (-1)^{n-1} I_{-q}(g) = [2]_q \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} (-1)^{n-1-l} q^l g(l), \quad (1.5)$$

where  $g_n(x) = g(x + n)$  (cf. [3–6]).

As well-known definition, the Euler polynomials are defined by

$$F(t) = \frac{2}{e^t + 1} = e^{Et} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} E_n \frac{t^n}{n!}, \quad (1.6)$$

$$F(t, x) = \frac{2}{e^t + 1} e^{xt} = e^{E(x)t} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} E_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!},$$

with the usual convention of 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 (cf. [1–11]).

Our aim in this paper is to define  $q$ -Euler numbers  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}$  and polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  with weak weight  $\alpha$ . We investigate some properties which are related to  $q$ -Euler numbers  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}$  and polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  with weak weight  $\alpha$ . We also derive the existence of a specific interpolation function which interpolates  $q$ -Euler numbers  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}$  and polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  with weak weight  $\alpha$  at negative integers. Finally, we investigate the behavior of roots of the  $q$ -Euler polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}$  with weak weight  $\alpha$ .

## 2. Basic Properties for $q$ -Euler Numbers and Polynomials with Weak Weight $\alpha$

Our primary goal of this section is to define  $q$ -Euler numbers  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}$  and polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  with weak weight  $\alpha$ . We also find generating functions of  $q$ -Euler numbers  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}$  and polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  with weak weight  $\alpha$ .

For  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $q \in \mathbb{C}_p$  with  $|1 - q|_p \leq 1$ ,  $q$ -Euler numbers  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}$  are defined by

$$E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)} = \int_{\mathbb{Z}_p} [x]_q^n d\mu_{-q^\alpha}(x). \quad (2.1)$$

By using  $p$ -adic  $q$ -integral on  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{Z}_p} [x]_q^n d\mu_{-q^\alpha}(x) &= \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{[p^N]_{-q^\alpha}} \sum_{x=0}^{p^N-1} [x]_q^n (-q^\alpha)^x \\ &= [2]_{q^\alpha} \left( \frac{1}{1-q} \right)^n \sum_{l=0}^n \binom{n}{l} (-1)^l \frac{1}{1+q^{\alpha+l}} \\ &= [2]_{q^\alpha} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m q^{\alpha m} [m]_q^n. \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

By (2.1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)} &= [2]_{q^\alpha} \left( \frac{1}{1-q} \right)^n \sum_{l=0}^n \binom{n}{l} (-1)^l \frac{1}{1+q^{\alpha+l}} \\ &= [2]_{q^\alpha} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m q^{\alpha m} [m]_q^n. \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

We set

$$F_q^{(\alpha)}(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)} \frac{t^n}{n!}. \quad (2.4)$$

By using above equation and (2.2), we have

$$\begin{aligned} F_q^{(\alpha)}(t) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)} \frac{t^n}{n!} \\ &= [2]_{q^\alpha} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left( \left( \frac{1}{1-q} \right)^n \sum_{l=0}^n \binom{n}{l} (-1)^l \frac{1}{1+q^{\alpha+l}} \right) \frac{t^n}{n!} \\ &= [2]_{q^\alpha} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m q^{\alpha m} e^{[m]_q t}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

Thus  $q$ -Euler numbers with weak weight  $\alpha$ ,  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}$  are defined by means of the generating function

$$F_q^{(\alpha)}(t) = [2]_{q^\alpha} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m q^{\alpha m} e^{[m]_q t}. \quad (2.6)$$

By using (2.1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)} \frac{t^n}{n!} &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int_{\mathbb{Z}_p} [x]_q^n d\mu_{-q^\alpha}(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{Z}_p} e^{[x]_q t} d\mu_{-q^\alpha}(x). \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

By (2.5), (2.7), we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{Z}_p} e^{[x]_q t} d\mu_{-q^\alpha}(x) = [2]_{q^\alpha} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m q^{\alpha m} e^{[m]_q t}. \quad (2.8)$$

Next, we introduce  $q$ -Euler polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  with weak weight  $\alpha$ . The  $q$ -Euler polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  with weak weight  $\alpha$  are defined by

$$E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x) = \int_{\mathbb{Z}_p} [x+y]_q^n d\mu_{-q^\alpha}(y). \quad (2.9)$$

By using  $p$ -adic  $q$ -integral, we obtain

$$E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x) = [2]_{q^\alpha} \left( \frac{1}{1-q} \right)^n \sum_{l=0}^n \binom{n}{l} (-1)^l q^{xl} \frac{1}{1+q^{\alpha+l}}. \quad (2.10)$$

We set

$$F_q^{(\alpha)}(t, x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x) \frac{t^n}{n!}. \quad (2.11)$$

By using (2.10) and (2.11), we obtain

$$F_q^{(\alpha)}(t, x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} = [2]_{q^\alpha} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m q^{\alpha m} e^{[m+x]_q t}. \quad (2.12)$$

Obverse that if  $q \rightarrow 1$ , then  $F_q^{(\alpha)}(t, x) \rightarrow F(t, x)$  and  $F_q^{(\alpha)}(t) \rightarrow F(t)$ .

Since  $[x + y]_q = [x]_q + q^x [y]_q$ , we easily obtain that

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x) &= \int_{\mathbb{Z}_p} [x + y]_q^n d\mu_{-q^\alpha}(y) \\
 &= \sum_{l=0}^n \binom{n}{l} [x]_q^{n-l} q^{xl} E_{l,q}^{(\alpha)} \\
 &= ([x]_q + q^x E_q^{(\alpha)})^n \\
 &= [2]_{q^\alpha} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m q^{\alpha m} [x + m]_q^n.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2.13}$$

Observe that if  $q \rightarrow 1$ , then  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)} \rightarrow E_n$  and  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x) \rightarrow E_n(x)$ .  
 By (2.10), we have the following complement relation.

**Theorem 2.1** (property of complement). *One has*

$$E_{n,q^{-1}}^{(\alpha)}(1 - x) = (-1)^n q^n E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x). \tag{2.14}$$

By (2.10), we have the following distribution relation.

**Theorem 2.2** (distribution relation). *For any positive integer  $m$ (=odd), one has*

$$E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x) = \frac{[2]_{q^\alpha}}{[2]_{q^{\alpha m}}} [m]_q^n \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} (-1)^i q^{\alpha i} E_{n,q^m}^{(\alpha)}\left(\frac{i+x}{m}\right), \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}_+. \tag{2.15}$$

By (1.5), (2.1), and (2.9), we easily see that

$$[2]_{q^\alpha} \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} (-1)^{n-1-l} q^{\alpha l} [l]_q^m = q^{\alpha n} E_{m,q}^{(\alpha)}(n) + (-1)^{n-1} E_{m,q}^{(\alpha)}. \tag{2.16}$$

Hence, we have the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $m \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ . If  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ , then*

$$q^{\alpha n} E_{m,q}^{(\alpha)}(n) - E_{m,q}^{(\alpha)} = [2]_{q^\alpha} \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} (-1)^{l+1} q^{\alpha l} [l]_q^m. \tag{2.17}$$

*If  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ , then*

$$q^{\alpha n} E_{m,q}^{(\alpha)}(n) + E_{m,q}^{(\alpha)} = [2]_{q^\alpha} \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} (-1)^l q^{\alpha l} [l]_q^m. \tag{2.18}$$

From (1.4), one notes that

$$\begin{aligned}
 [2]_{q^\alpha} &= q^\alpha \int_{\mathbb{Z}_p} e^{[x+1]_q t} d\mu_{-q^\alpha}(x) + \int_{\mathbb{Z}_p} e^{[x]_q t} d\mu_{-q^\alpha}(x) \\
 &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left( q^\alpha \int_{\mathbb{Z}_p} [x+1]_q^n d\mu_{-q^\alpha}(x) + \int_{\mathbb{Z}_p} [x]_q^n d\mu_{-q^\alpha}(x) \right) \frac{t^n}{n!} \\
 &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left( q^\alpha E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(1) + E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)} \right) \frac{t^n}{n!}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.19}$$

Therefore, we obtain the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.4.** For  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ , one has

$$q^\alpha E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(1) + E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)} = \begin{cases} [2]_{q^\alpha}, & \text{if } n = 0, \\ 0, & \text{if } n > 0. \end{cases} \tag{2.20}$$

By Theorem 2.4 and (2.13), we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.5.** For  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ , one has

$$q^\alpha \left( q E_q^{(\alpha)} + 1 \right)^n + E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)} = \begin{cases} [2]_{q^\alpha}, & \text{if } n = 0, \\ 0, & \text{if } n > 0, \end{cases} \tag{2.21}$$

with the usual convention of replacing  $(E_q^{(\alpha)})^n$  by  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}$ .

By (2.12), one has

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left( q^\alpha E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x+1) + E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x) \right) \frac{t^n}{n!} \\
 &= [2]_{q^\alpha} q^\alpha \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m q^{\alpha m} e^{[m+1+x]_q t} + [2]_{q^\alpha} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m q^{\alpha m} e^{[m+x]_q t} \\
 &= [2]_{q^\alpha} e^{[x]_q t} \\
 &= [2]_{q^\alpha} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} [x]_q^n \frac{t^n}{n!}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.22}$$

Hence we have the following difference equation.

**Theorem 2.6** (difference equation). For  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ , one has

$$q^\alpha E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x+1) + E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x) = [2]_{q^\alpha} [x]_q^n. \tag{2.23}$$

Using  $q$ -Euler numbers and polynomials with weak weight  $\alpha$ ,  $q$ -Euler zeta function with weak weight  $\alpha$  and Hurwitz  $q$ -Euler zeta functions with weak weight  $\alpha$  are defined. These functions interpolate the  $q$ -Euler numbers and  $q$ -Euler polynomials with weak weight  $\alpha$ , respectively. In this section we assume that  $q \in \mathbb{C}$  with  $|q| < 1$ . From (2.6), we note that

$$\left. \frac{d^k}{dt^k} F_q^{(\alpha)}(t) \right|_{t=0} = [2]_{q^\alpha} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{\alpha n} [n]_q^k, \quad (k \in \mathbb{N}). \quad (2.24)$$

Using the above equation, we are now ready to define  $q$ -Euler zeta functions.

*Definition 2.7.* Let  $s \in \mathbb{C}$ .

$$\zeta_q^{(\alpha)}(s) = [2]_{q^\alpha} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n q^{\alpha n}}{[n]_q^s}. \quad (2.25)$$

Note that  $\zeta_q^{(\alpha)}(s)$  is a meromorphic function on  $\mathbb{C}$ . Note that, if  $q \rightarrow 1$ , then  $\zeta_q^{(\alpha)}(s) = \zeta(s)$  which is the Euler zeta functions. Relation between  $\zeta_q^{(\alpha)}(s)$  and  $E_{k,q}^{(\alpha)}$  is given by the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.8.** For  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , one has

$$\zeta_q^{(\alpha)}(-k) = E_{k,q}^{(\alpha)}. \quad (2.26)$$

Observe that  $\zeta_q^{(\alpha)}(s)$  function interpolates  $E_{k,q}^{(\alpha)}$  numbers at nonnegative integers. By using (2.12), we note that

$$\left. \frac{d^k}{dt^k} F_q^{(\alpha)}(t, x) \right|_{t=0} = [2]_{q^\alpha} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{\alpha n} [n+x]_q^k, \quad (k \in \mathbb{N}), \quad (2.27)$$

$$\left( \frac{d}{dt} \right)^k \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} \right) \Big|_{t=0} = E_{k,q}^{(\alpha)}(x), \quad \text{for } k \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (2.28)$$

By (2.27) and (2.28), we are now ready to define the Hurwitz  $q$ -Euler zeta functions.

*Definition 2.9.* Let  $s \in \mathbb{C}$ . Then, one has

$$\zeta_q^{(\alpha)}(s, x) = [2]_{q^\alpha} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n q^{\alpha n}}{[n+x]_q^s}. \quad (2.29)$$

Note that  $\zeta_q^{(\alpha)}(s, x)$  is a meromorphic function on  $\mathbb{C}$ . Obverse that, if  $q \rightarrow 1$ , then  $\zeta_q^{(\alpha)}(s, x) = \zeta(s, x)$  which is the Hurwitz Euler zeta functions. Relation between  $\zeta_q^{(\alpha)}(s, x)$  and  $E_{k,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  is given by the following theorem.

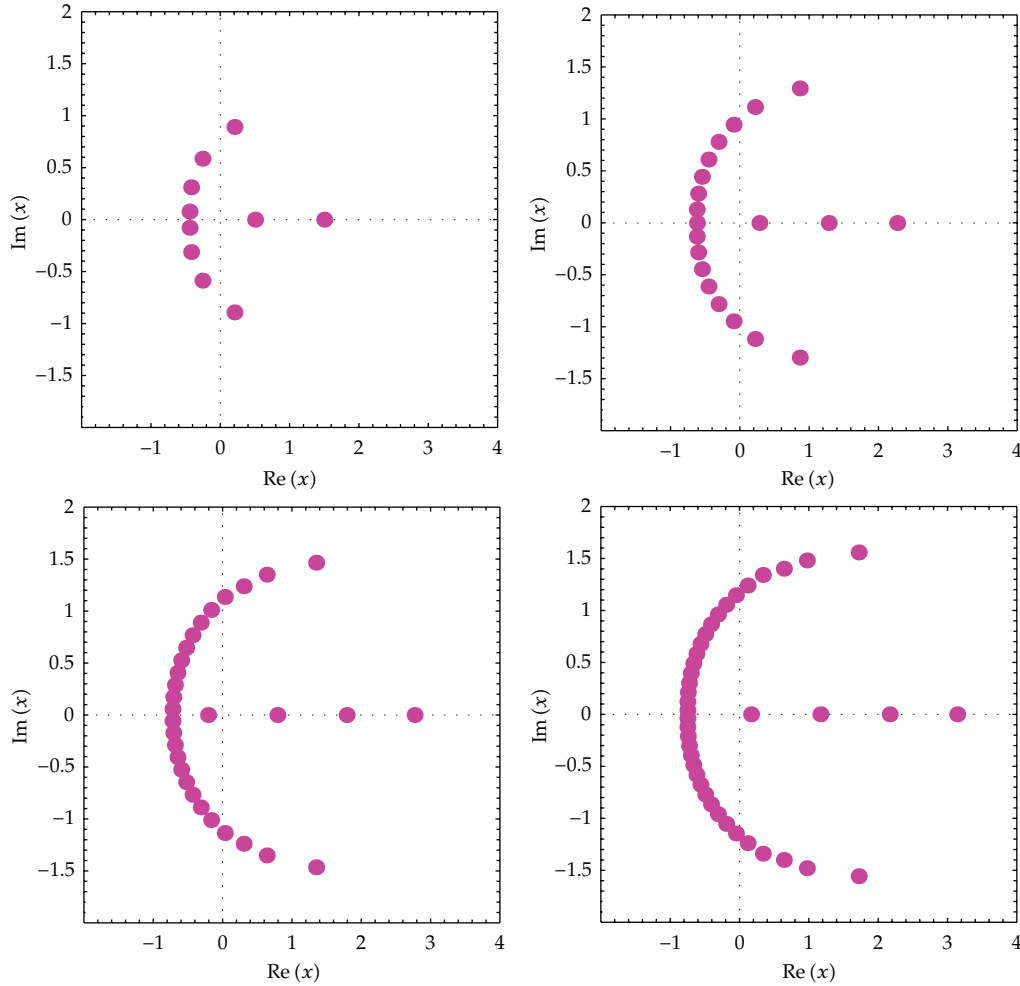


Figure 1: Zeros of  $E_{n,1/2}^{(3)}(x)$ .

**Theorem 2.10.** For  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , one has

$$\zeta_q^{(\alpha)}(-k, x) = E_{k,q}^{(\alpha)}(x). \quad (2.30)$$

Observe that  $\zeta_q^{(\alpha)}(-k, x)$  function interpolates  $E_{k,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  numbers at nonnegative integers.

### 3. Distribution and Structure of the Zeros

In this section, we assume that  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $q \in \mathbb{C}$ , with  $|q| < 1$ . We observe the behavior of roots of the  $q$ -Euler polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$ . We display the shapes of the  $q$ -Euler polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}$ , and we investigate the zeros of the  $q$ -Euler polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$ . We plot the zeros of the  $q$ -Euler polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  for  $n = 10, 20, 30, 40$  and  $x \in \mathbb{C}$  (Figure 1). In Figure 1 (top-left), we



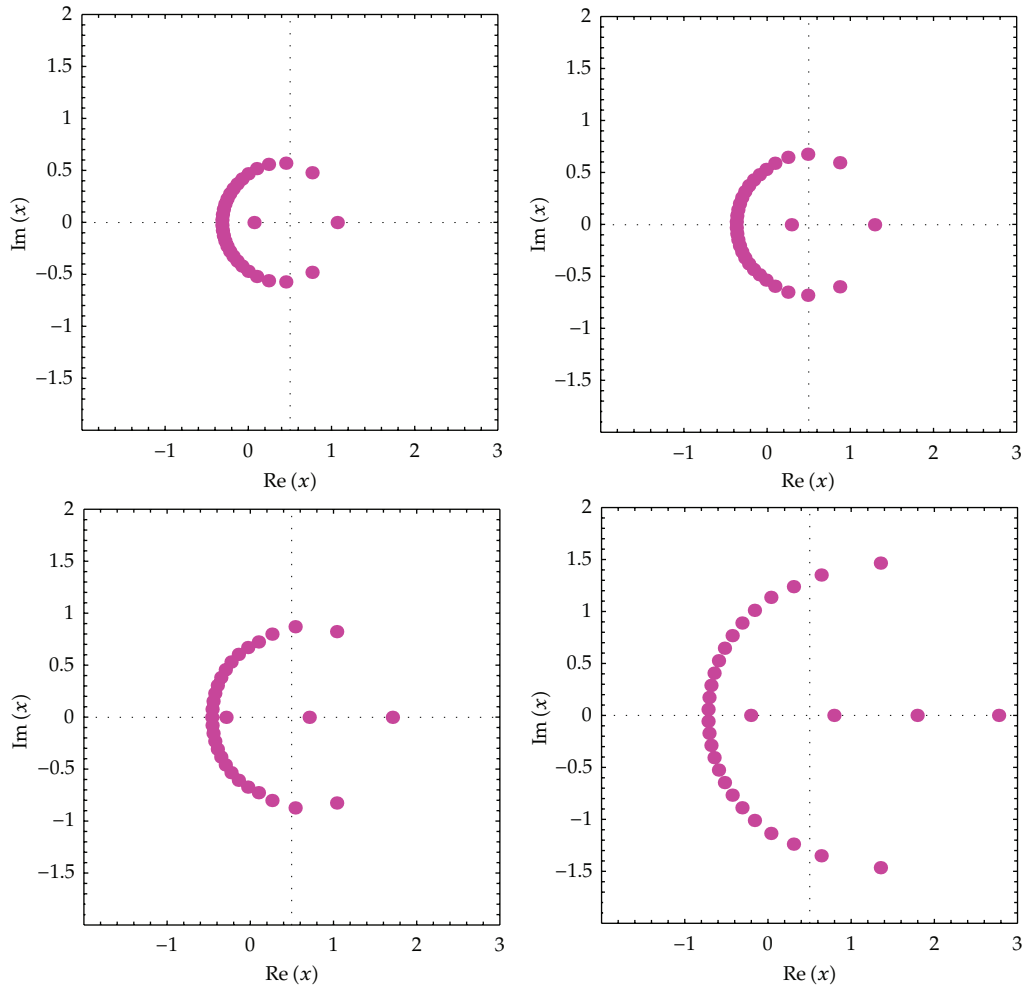


Figure 2: Zeros of  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$ .

choose  $n = 10, q = 1/2$ , and  $\alpha = 3$ . In Figure 1 (top-right), we choose  $n = 20, q = 1/2$ , and  $\alpha = 3$ . In Figure 1 (bottom-left), we choose  $n = 30, q = 1/2$ , and  $\alpha = 3$ . In Figure 1 (bottom-right), we choose  $n = 40, q = 1/2$ , and  $\alpha = 3$ .

In order to understand zeros behavior better, we present Figures 2 and 3. We plot the zeros of  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  (Figure 2).

In Figure 2 (top-left), we choose  $n = 30, q = 1/5$ , and  $\alpha = 3$ . In Figure 2 (top-right), we choose  $n = 30, q = 1/4$ , and  $\alpha = 3$ . In Figure 2 (bottom-left), we choose  $n = 30, q = 1/3$ , and  $\alpha = 3$ . In Figure 2 (bottom-right), we choose  $n = 30, q = 1/2$ , and  $\alpha = 3$ .

We plot the zeros of the  $q$ -Euler polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  for  $n = 30, q = 1/2, \alpha = 5, 7, 9, 11$  and  $x \in \mathbb{C}$  (Figure 3).

In Figure 3 (top-left), we choose  $n = 30, q = 1/2$ , and  $\alpha = 5$ . In Figure 3 (top-right), we choose  $n = 30, q = 1/2$ , and  $\alpha = 7$ . In Figure 3 (bottom-left), we choose  $n = 30, q = 1/2$ , and  $\alpha = 9$ . In Figure 3 (bottom-right), we choose  $n = 30, q = 1/2$ , and  $\alpha = 11$ .

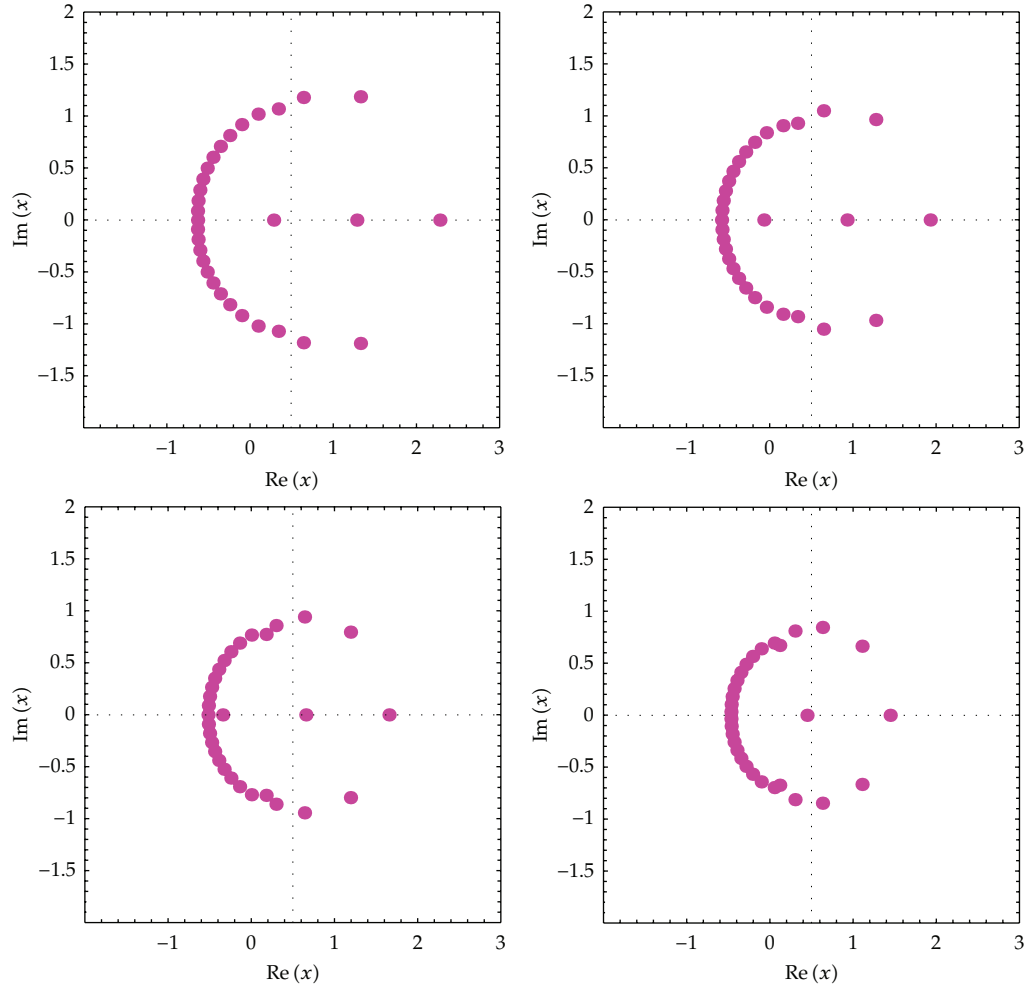


Figure 3: Zeros of  $E_{30,1/2}(x)$  for  $\alpha = 5, 7, 9, 11$ .

Our numerical results for approximate solutions of real zeros of the  $q$ -Euler polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$ ,  $q = 1/2$ , are displayed (Tables 1 and 2).

Next, we calculated an approximate solution satisfying the  $q$ -Euler polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$ . The results are given in Table 2.

We observe a remarkably regular structure of the complex roots of the  $q$ -Euler polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$ . We hope to verify a remarkably regular structure of the complex roots of the  $q$ -Euler polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  (Table 1). This numerical investigation is especially exciting because we can obtain an interesting phenomenon of scattering of the zeros of the  $q$ -Euler polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$ . These results are used not only in pure mathematics and applied mathematics, but also in mathematical physics and other areas.

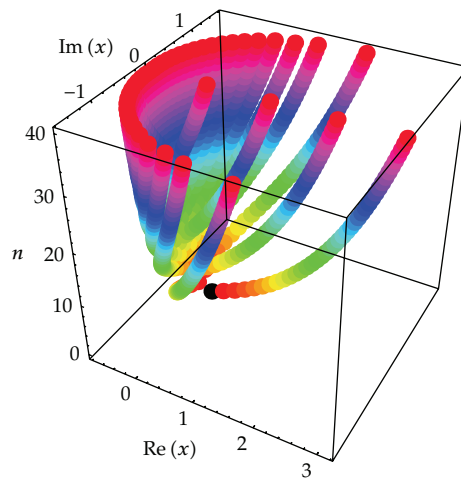
Stacks of zeros of  $E_{n,q}^{(3)}(x)$  for  $q = 1/2, 1 \leq n \leq 30$  from a 3D structure are presented (Figure 4).

**Table 1:** Numbers of real and complex zeros of  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$ .

| Degree $n$ | $\alpha = 3$ |               | $\alpha = 5$ |               |
|------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
|            | Real zeros   | Complex zeros | Real zeros   | Complex zeros |
| 1          | 1            | 0             | 1            | 0             |
| 2          | 2            | 0             | 2            | 0             |
| 3          | 1            | 2             | 1            | 2             |
| 4          | 2            | 2             | 2            | 2             |
| 5          | 3            | 2             | 1            | 4             |
| 6          | 2            | 4             | 2            | 4             |
| 7          | 3            | 4             | 3            | 4             |
| 8          | 2            | 6             | 2            | 6             |
| 9          | 3            | 6             | 3            | 6             |
| 10         | 2            | 8             | 2            | 8             |
| 11         | 3            | 8             | 3            | 8             |
| 12         | 4            | 8             | 2            | 10            |
| 13         | 3            | 10            | 3            | 10            |

**Table 2:** Approximate solutions of  $E_{n,q}^{(3)}(x) = 0, q = 1/2, x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

| Degree $n$ | $x$                            |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| 1          | 0.0824622                      |
| 2          | -0.176174, 0.301704            |
| 3          | 0.513012                       |
| 4          | -0.220226, 0.701301            |
| 5          | -0.306596, -0.132473, 0.868839 |
| 6          | 0.0191767, 1.01918             |
| 7          | -0.41178, 0.155365, 1.15534    |
| 8          | 0.279948, 1.27971              |
| $\vdots$   | $\vdots$                       |



**Figure 4:** Stacks of zeros of  $E_{n,q}^{(3)}(x), 1 \leq n \leq 40$ .

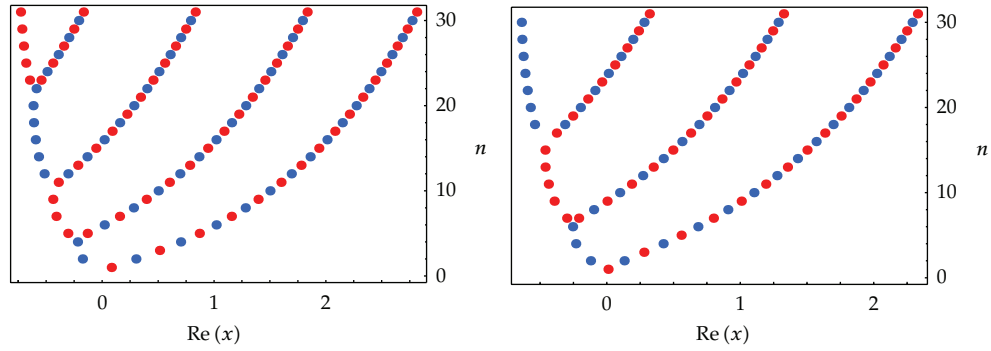


Figure 5: Zeros of  $E_{n,30}^{(3)}(x)$ .

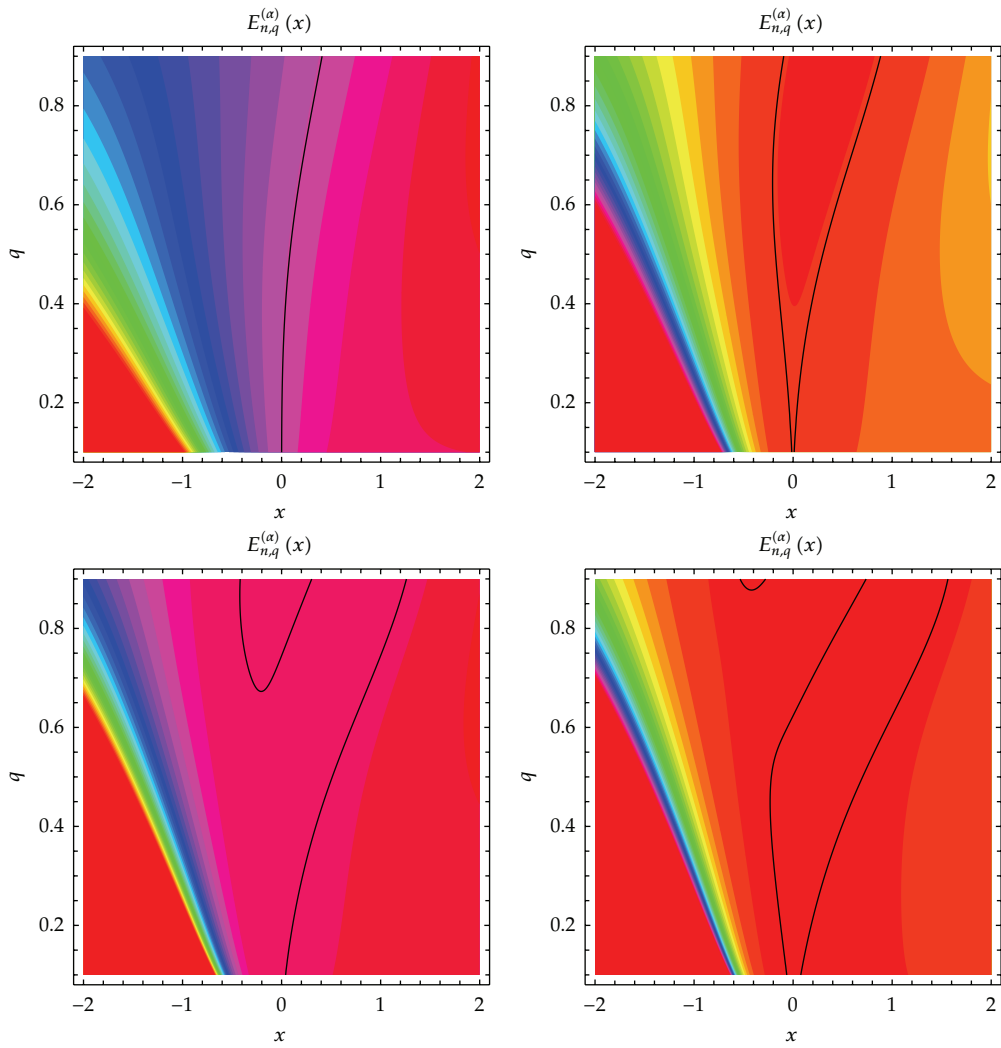


Figure 6: Zero contour of  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$ .

We present the distribution of real zeros of the  $q$ -Euler polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  for  $q = 1/2, 1 \leq n \leq 30$  (Figure 5).

In Figure 5 (left), we choose  $\alpha = 3$ . In Figure 3 (right), we choose  $\alpha = 5$ .

The plot above shows  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  for real  $1/10 \leq q \leq 9/10$  and  $-2 \leq x \leq 2$ , with the zero contour indicated in black (Figure 6). In Figure 6 (top-left), we choose  $n = 1$  and  $\alpha = 3$ . In Figure 6 (top-right), we choose  $n = 2$  and  $\alpha = 3$ . In Figure 6 (bottom-left), we choose  $n = 3$  and  $\alpha = 3$ . In Figure 6 (bottom-right), we choose  $n = 4$  and  $\alpha = 3$ .

#### 4. Direction for Further Research

We observe the behavior of complex roots of the  $q$ -Euler polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$ , using numerical investigation. How many roots does  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  have in general? This is an open problem. Prove or disprove:  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  has  $n$  distinct solutions, that is, all the zeros are nondegenerate. Find the numbers of complex zeros  $C_{E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)}$  of  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$ ,  $\text{Im}(x) \neq 0$ . Since  $n$  is the degree of the polynomial  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$ , the number of real zeros  $R_{E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)}$  lying on the real plane  $\text{Im}(x) = 0$  is then  $R_{E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)} = n - C_{E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)}$ , where  $C_{E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)}$  denotes complex zeros. See Table 1 for tabulated values of  $R_{E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)}$  and  $C_{E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)}$ . We prove that  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{C}$ , has  $\text{Im}(x) = 0$  reflection symmetry analytic complex functions. If  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x) = 0$ , then  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x^*) = 0$ , where  $*$  denotes complex conjugate (see Figures 1, 2, and 3). The theoretical prediction on the zeros of  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  requires further study. In order to study the  $q$ -Euler polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$ , we must understand the structure of the  $q$ -Euler polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$ . Therefore, using computer, in a realistic study for the  $q$ -Euler polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  play an important part. The authors have no doubt that investigation along this line will lead to a new approach employing numerical method in the field of research of the  $q$ -Euler polynomials  $E_{n,q}^{(\alpha)}(x)$  to appear in mathematics and physics. For related topics the interested reader is referred to [16].

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