Notes on Bernoulli Numbers for Evan

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1 Quick Note on subscripts

Bernoulli numbers have been subscripted in three different ways:

1. Where $B_1 = -\frac{1}{2}$. This is now standard, and is what I use in my dissertation. You probably learned it this way.

2. Where $B_1 = \frac{1}{2}$. This was common in algebraic number theory pre-1980. B_n for $n \neq 1$ agrees entirely with 1., above, so it only differs in this one location.

3. Where $B_1 = \frac{1}{6}$. In this case, B_n of this kind $= B_{2n}$ of either 1. or 2., above. This was common in Algebraic Topology, e.g. Milnor (one of the true giants of 20th-century mathematics, still alive and well in NJ as far as I know) and Lance (my advisor, who you see mentioned several times in my dissertation).