

A Q-Analog of a function $f(x)$ is a function $f(q, x)$ which equals $f(x)$ when $q = 1$.

The preferred Q-Analog of n is $(1-q^n)/(1-q)$, which can be shown to be a Q-Analog of n both by L'Hospital's Rule, and by geometric series. The notation of the Q-Analog is $[n]_q$. To show that it works, use the L'Hospital's Rule to differentiate the top and bottom, getting nq^{n-1} , and because q is 1, therefore this becomes n . To use the geometric series, turn it into $1/(1-q) - (q^n)/(1-q)$, and then expand using the fact that $1/(1-q) = 1+q+q^2+q^3\dots$, getting $1+q+q^2+\dots+q^{n-1}$.

The Q-Fibonacci numbers are a Q-Analog of the Fibonacci numbers, which use the formula $F_{n+1}(q) = F_n(q) + q^{n-1} F_{n-1}(q)$. To see how this is made, we can make a board of length n , and tile it with squares and dominoes. Those are the fibonacci numbers. Then, we can define the

weight of a board to be $w(x) = \sum_{\text{All dominoes at } (i,i+1)} i$. Then, the Q-analog of fibonacci is

$$f_n(x) = \sum_{\text{All Tilings } t \text{ of } n} q^{w(x)}$$

For example,

|=square

▭=domino

||▭ has a weight of 4.

To start getting identities that work with the Q-Fibonacci numbers, we must define the Q-Fibonacci shifted numbers, which have the formula $F_{n+1}^{(a)}(q) = F_n^{(a)}(q) + q^{n-1+a} F_{n-1}^{(a)}(q)$. These represent the amount of ways for a board which is shifted by a number a . You can multiply this by another board to get a board to get a board of size $m+n$ with no domino at place m or n .

Here is an example of a identity.

$$f_{2n+2} = f_n^2 + f_{n+1}^2$$

This is obvious because a board could either have a domino in the middle or not. The q-analog version is $f_{2n+3}(q) = q^{n+1} f_{n+1}(q) f_{n+1}^{(n+2)}(q) + f_{n+2}(q) f_{n+2}^{(n+1)}(q)$.

On the left hand side, there is the number of weighted ways to make a board of size $2n+2$. On the right hand side, we can consider position $n+1$ on the board. If there is a domino there, it contributes $n+1$ to the weight, and we have $f_{n+1}(q)$ weighted tilings to the left and right, but the ones on the right have to be shifted by $n+2$. If that domino is not there, on the other hand, then there just is $f_{n+2}(q)$ weighted tilings, and then we just shift the ones on the right side over by $n+1$.

There are also the Lucas numbers, which are the number of ways of tiling a bracelet of size n with squares and dominoes. We can say that it is "in phase" if there is no domino in the n th position, and we can say that it is "out of phase" if there is one. This satisfies the same recurrence as the fibonacci numbers, but has different starting conditions, with $L_0=2$, and $L_1=1$.

This can be shown, because L_0 could either be in phase or out of phase, giving 2, while L_1 can only have one tiling, a square. Then, the recurrence can be shown because if there is a domino at the n position, remove it, and therefore it is now a $n-2$ board, but if there is a square, do the same and have a $n-1$ board. We can do the same weighting method as the q -fibonacci numbers, and have the same recurrence.

Then, there is quantum calculus with the Q-Derivative and H-Derivative. These derivatives both do not have limits, and the Q-Derivative can not be evaluated at zero. The Q-Derivative is $\frac{f(qx)-f(x)}{qx-x}$. This derivative is very useful when finding the derivative of x^n . Just plug in, getting $[n]_q x^{n-1}$, and because $[n]_q$ is the q -analog of n , this becomes nx^{n-1} when q goes to 1.

You can invent a Q-Analog of almost anything, although Q-Analogs usually don't have uses, only to package information in a better way.