

Quantum binomials in the second quantization

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The classical formula: $(1+x)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k$, with n a positive integer, is quantized.

We quantize the classical formula

$$(1+x)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k .$$

We have:

$$1+x = \sum_{k=0}^n \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim x^k , \quad (1a)$$

$$(1+qx)(1+q^{-1}x) = 1 + [2]_q^\sim x + x^2 , \quad (1b)$$

where

$$[x]_q^\sim = \frac{q^x - q^{-x}}{q - q^{-1}} , \quad (2)$$

so that

$$[2]_q^\sim = q + q^{-1} , \quad (3a)$$

$$[3]_q^\sim = q^2 + 1 + q^{-2} , \dots \quad (3b)$$

We thus expect for an m -product (starting with $(1+q^m x)$) to have:

$$\prod_{i=0}^m (1+q^{m-2i}x) = \sum_{k=0}^{m+1} \begin{bmatrix} m+1 \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim x^k , \quad (4)$$

where:

$$\begin{bmatrix} m \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim = \frac{[m]_q^\sim}{[k]_q^\sim! [m-k]_q^\sim!} , \quad (5)$$

and

$$[s]_q^\sim! = [1]_q^\sim \dots [s]_q^\sim ; \quad s \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1} ; \quad [0]_q^\sim! = 1 \quad (6)$$

We prove formula (4) by induction on m . Assuming it is true for the $(m-2)$ product:

$$\prod_{i=0}^{m-2} (1+q^{m-2-2i}x) = \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} \begin{bmatrix} m-1 \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim x^k , \quad (7)$$

and by factoring the first and last factors out of (4), we may write:

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{i=0}^m (1 + q^{m-2i}x) &= (1 + q^m x)(1 + q^{-m}x) \prod_{i=0}^{m-2} (1 + q^{m-2-2i}x) \\ &= (1 + [2]_{q^m}^\sim x + x^2) \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} \begin{bmatrix} m-1 \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim x^k \stackrel{?}{=} \sum_{k=0}^{m+1} \begin{bmatrix} m+1 \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim x^k, \end{aligned}$$

which is equivalent to

$$\begin{bmatrix} m+1 \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim \stackrel{?}{=} \begin{bmatrix} m-1 \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim + [2]_{q^m} \begin{bmatrix} m-1 \\ k-1 \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim + \begin{bmatrix} m-1 \\ k-2 \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim, \quad (8)$$

which is immediate, based on the triple of formulae:

$$\begin{bmatrix} m+1 \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim = q^k \begin{bmatrix} m \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim + q^{k-m-1} \begin{bmatrix} m \\ k-1 \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim, \quad (9a)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} m \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim = q^{-k} \begin{bmatrix} m-1 \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim + q^{m-k} \begin{bmatrix} m-1 \\ k-1 \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim, \quad (9b)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} m-1 \\ k-1 \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim = q^{1-k} \begin{bmatrix} m-2 \\ k-1 \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim + q^{m+2-k} \begin{bmatrix} m-2 \\ k-2 \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim, \quad (9c)$$

and the formula

$$\begin{bmatrix} m+1 \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim = q^k \begin{bmatrix} m \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim + q^{k-m-1} \begin{bmatrix} m \\ k-1 \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim. \quad (10)$$

Substituting formulae (9) into (10), we recover the desired (8). Above, we used the easily verifiable formula

$$\begin{bmatrix} m+1 \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim = q^a \begin{bmatrix} m \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim + q^b \begin{bmatrix} m \\ k-1 \end{bmatrix}_q^\sim, \quad (11)$$

where

$$\binom{a}{b} = \binom{k}{k-m-1} \text{ or } \binom{-k}{m+1-k},$$

which results from the standard identity

$$[x+y]_q^\sim = q^y [x]_q^\sim + q^{-x} [y]_q^\sim = q^{-y} [x]_q^\sim + q^x [y]_q^\sim,$$

upon dividing (11) by $[m]_q^\sim! / [k]_q^\sim! [m+1-k]_q^\sim!$.