

q -deformations of numbers and matrices

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based on joint work

with Valentin Ovsienko [arXiv:1908.04365](#) , [arXiv:1812.00170](#)

with Ludivine Leclerc [arXiv:2101.02953](#)

q-integers

$$n > 0 \quad [n]_q = 1 + q + q^2 + \dots + q^{n-1} = \frac{1-q^n}{1-q}$$

$$n < 0 \quad [n]_q = q^{-1} + q^{-2} + \dots + q^{-n} = \frac{1-q^{-n}}{1-q}$$

q-rationals? [MG-0]

$$R: x \mapsto x+1$$

$$S: x \mapsto -\frac{1}{x}$$

$\mathbb{Q} =$ orbit of 0 under S and R

$$0 \xrightarrow{R} 1 \xrightarrow{R} 2 \xrightarrow{S} -\frac{1}{2} \xrightarrow{R} \frac{1}{2} \xrightarrow{S} -2$$

$$0 \xrightarrow{R} 1 \xrightarrow{R} 1+q \xrightarrow{S} -\frac{1}{1+q} \xrightarrow{R} \frac{q}{1+q} \xrightarrow{S} -q^{-1} + q^{-2}$$

q-deformation

$$R_q: x \mapsto qx + 1$$

$$S_q: x \mapsto -\frac{1}{qx}$$

Defn: ${}_q\mathbb{Q} :=$ orbit of 0 under S_q and R_q

$\Rightarrow$ well defined map $\mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}(q)$

$$\frac{a}{b} \mapsto \left[\frac{a}{b} \right]_q$$

Properties $\left[\frac{a}{b} \right]_q = \pm q^{\pm N} \frac{A(q)}{B(q)}$ $A, B \in \mathbb{Z}[q]$
coprime

- positive coefficients
- monic and unitary

Conjecture: unimodality



[proved in particular cases by McGovern, Sagan, Smith]

Thm "Stabilization" [MG-0]

$$x \notin \mathbb{Q} \quad x_n \in \mathbb{Q} \quad x_n \rightarrow x$$

$$[x_n]_q = \sum_k \alpha_{k,n} q^k$$

1) $\forall k \quad (\alpha_{k,n})_n$ converges

2) The limit $\alpha_k := \lim \alpha_{k,n}$ does not depend on (x_n) only on x !

$\Rightarrow$ Defn: $[x]_q = \sum_k \alpha_k q^k$ q-reals!

Matrix approach:

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad S = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

generators of $PSL_2(\mathbb{Z}) = SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) / \pm Id$
 (relation $S^2 = -Id, (RS)^3 = -Id$)

Möbius transf.

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \cdot x = \frac{ax+b}{cx+d}$$

q-deformation [MGO] - [LMG]

$$R_q = \begin{pmatrix} q & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad S_q = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -q^{-1} \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\in PGL_2(\mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}])$$

$$\hookrightarrow \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix}, AD - BC = \pm q^{\pm N} \right\} / \pm q^{\pm N} Id$$

well defined map

$$[\]_q: PSL_2(\mathbb{Z}) \longrightarrow PSL_q(2, \mathbb{Z})$$

$$M \longmapsto [M]_q$$

$$(R, S) \mapsto (R_q, S_q)$$

$$\langle R_q, S_q \rangle_{\text{subgp}} \simeq PSL_2(\mathbb{Z})$$

Thm [LMG]

The $PSL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ -actions commute:

$$[M \cdot x]_q = [M]_q \cdot [x]_q \quad \forall M \in PSL_2(\mathbb{Z})$$

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Cor: q-quadratic irrationals are quadratic!

$$\frac{a+\sqrt{b}}{c} \xrightarrow{q} \frac{A+\sqrt{B}}{C} \quad A, B, C \in \mathbb{Z}(q)$$

Thm [LMG]

Traces of $[M]_q$ are palindromic polynomials with positive coefficients! (up to $\pm q^{\pm N}$)

Stabilization

$$\frac{12}{5} = 2.4$$

$$\left[\frac{12}{5} \right] = \frac{1+2q+3q^2+3q^3+2q^4+q^5}{1+q+2q^2+q^3}$$
$$= 1 + q + q^4 - 2q^6 + q^7 + 3q^8 - 3q^9 - 4q^{10} + 7q^{11} + 4q^{12} \dots$$

$$\frac{70}{29} = 2.4137\dots$$

$$\left[\frac{70}{29} \right] = \frac{1+3q+7q^2+11q^3+13q^4+13q^5+11q^6+7q^7+3q^8+q^9}{1+2q+5q^2+6q^3+6q^4+5q^5+3q^6+q^7}$$
$$= 1 + q + q^4 - 2q^6 + q^7 + 4q^8 - 5q^9 - 7q^{10} + 18q^{11} + 6q^{12} \dots$$

$$\frac{408}{169} = 2.41420\dots$$

$$\left[\frac{408}{169} \right] = \frac{1+4q+12q^2+25q^3+41q^4+56q^5+65q^6+\dots+4q^{12}+q^{13}}{1+3q+9q^2+16q^3+24q^4+29q^5+29q^6+\dots+4q^{10}+q^{11}}$$
$$= 1 + q + q^4 - 2q^6 + q^7 + 4q^8 - 5q^9 - 7q^{10} + 18q^{11} + 7q^{12} \dots$$

↓
 $1+\sqrt{2}$

↓
sequence limits

Stabilization

$$\frac{12}{5} = 2.4$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left[\frac{12}{5} \right]_q &= \frac{1+2q+3q^2+3q^3+2q^4+q^5}{1+q+2q^2+q^3} \\ &= 1 + q + q^4 - 2q^6 + q^7 + 3q^8 - 3q^9 - 4q^{10} + 7q^{11} + 4q^{12} \dots \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{70}{29} = 2.4137\dots$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left[\frac{70}{29} \right]_q &= \frac{1+3q+7q^2+11q^3+13q^4+13q^5+11q^6+7q^7+3q^8+q^9}{1+2q+5q^2+6q^3+6q^4+5q^5+3q^6+q^7} \\ &= 1 + q + q^4 - 2q^6 + q^7 + 4q^8 - 5q^9 - 7q^{10} + 18q^{11} + 6q^{12} \dots \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{408}{169} = 2.41420\dots$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left[\frac{408}{169} \right]_q &= \frac{1+4q+12q^2+25q^3+41q^4+56q^5+65q^6+\dots+4q^{12}+q^{13}}{1+3q+9q^2+16q^3+24q^4+29q^5+29q^6+\dots+4q^{10}+q^{11}} \\ &= 1 + q + q^4 - 2q^6 + q^7 + 4q^8 - 5q^9 - 7q^{10} + 18q^{11} + 7q^{12} \dots \end{aligned}$$

↓ *pt fix*
 $\begin{pmatrix} 5 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$$1 + \sqrt{2}$$

$$= 2.41421\dots$$

↓
 $[1 + \sqrt{2}]_q =$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{q^3 + 2q - 1 + \sqrt{q^6 + 4q^4 - 2q^3 + 4q^2 + 1}}{2q} \\ &= 1 + q + q^4 - 2q^6 + q^7 + 4q^8 - 5q^9 - 7q^{10} + 18q^{11} + 7q^{12} \dots \end{aligned}$$

Examples of q -deformed matrices

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}_q = \begin{pmatrix} q + q^2 & 1 \\ q & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}_q = \begin{pmatrix} q + 2q^2 + q^3 + q^4 & 1 + q \\ q + q^2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 7 & -5 \\ 3 & -2 \end{pmatrix}_q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 + 2q + 2q^2 + q^3 + q^4 & -q - 2q^2 - q^3 - q^4 \\ 1 + q + q^2 & -q - q^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 12 & 5 \\ 7 & 3 \end{pmatrix}_q = \begin{pmatrix} q + 2q^2 + 3q^3 + 3q^4 + 2q^5 + q^6 & 1 + q + 2q^2 + q^3 \\ q + 2q^2 + 2q^3 + q^4 + q^5 & 1 + q + q^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 31 & 13 \\ 19 & 8 \end{pmatrix}_q = \begin{pmatrix} q + 3q^2 + 5q^3 + 6q^4 + 7q^5 + 5q^6 + 3q^7 + q^8 & 1 + 2q + 3q^2 + 3q^3 + 3q^4 + q^5 \\ q + 3q^2 + 4q^3 + 4q^4 + 4q^5 + 2q^6 + q^7 & 1 + 2q + 2q^2 + 2q^3 + q^4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Examples of q -deformed matrices

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}_q = \begin{pmatrix} q + q^2 & 1 \\ q & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}_q = \begin{pmatrix} q + 2q^2 + q^3 + q^4 & 1 + q \\ q + q^2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\text{Tr} = 1 + q + q^2, \quad \text{Tr} = (1 + q + q^2)(1 + q^2)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 7 & -5 \\ 3 & -2 \end{pmatrix}_q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 + 2q + 2q^2 + q^3 + q^4 & -q - 2q^2 - q^3 - q^4 \\ 1 + q + q^2 & -q - q^2 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\text{Tr} = 1 + q + q^2 + q^3 + q^4$$

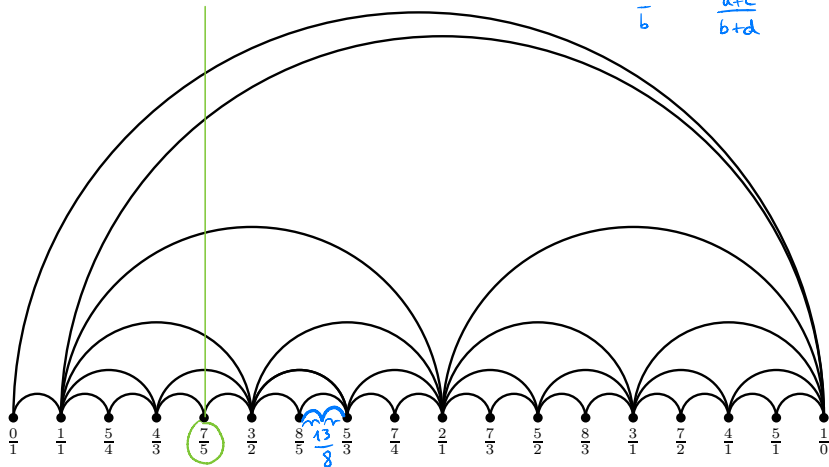
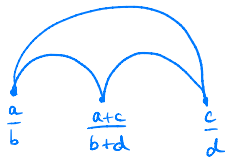
$$\begin{pmatrix} 12 & 5 \\ 7 & 3 \end{pmatrix}_q = \begin{pmatrix} q + 2q^2 + 3q^3 + 3q^4 + 2q^5 + q^6 & 1 + q + 2q^2 + q^3 \\ q + 2q^2 + 2q^3 + q^4 + q^5 & 1 + q + q^2 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\text{Tr} = (1 + q + q^2)(1 + q + q^2 + q^3 + q^4)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 31 & 13 \\ 19 & 8 \end{pmatrix}_q =$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} q + 3q^2 + 5q^3 + 6q^4 + 7q^5 + 5q^6 + 3q^7 + q^8 & 1 + 2q + 3q^2 + 3q^3 + 3q^4 + q^5 \\ q + 3q^2 + 4q^3 + 4q^4 + 4q^5 + 2q^6 + q^7 & 1 + 2q + 2q^2 + 2q^3 + q^4 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\text{Tr} = (1 + q + q^2)(1 + 2q + 2q^2 + 3q^3 + 2q^4 + 2q^5 + q^6)$$

Farey graph

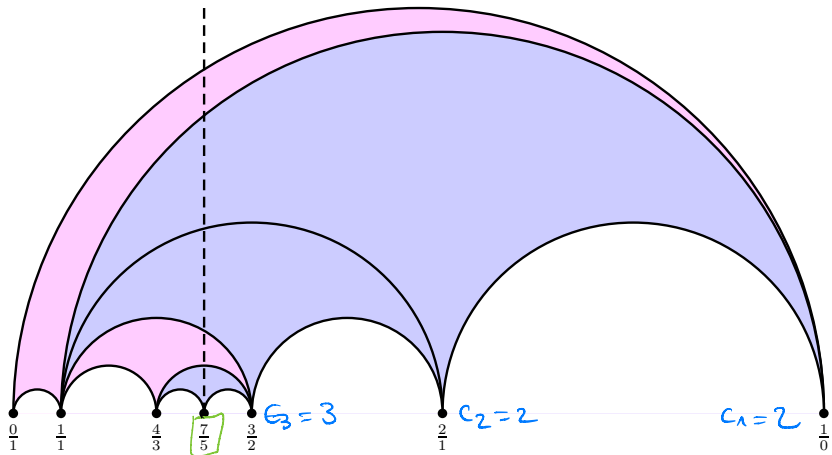
Vertices: $\mathbb{Q} \cup \{\frac{1}{0}\}$

edges: $\frac{a}{b} - \frac{c}{d} \Leftrightarrow ad - bc = \pm 1$



Farey graph

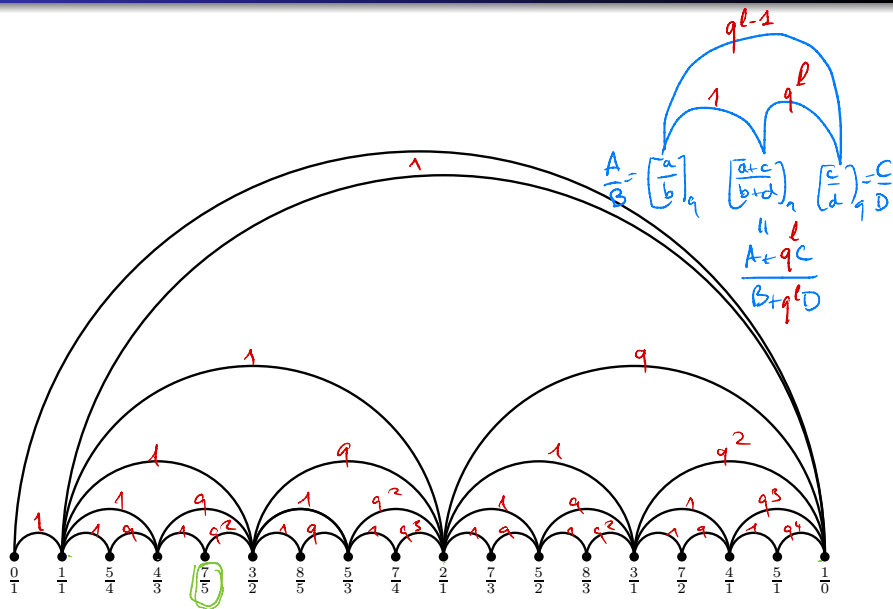
$c_i = \# \text{ triangles incident to vertex } i$



$$\frac{7}{5} = R^{c_1} S R^{c_2} S R^{c_3}(b)$$

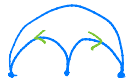
$$0 \xrightarrow{R^3} 3 \xrightarrow{S} -\frac{1}{3} \xrightarrow{R^2} \frac{5}{3} \xrightarrow{S} -\frac{3}{5} \xrightarrow{R^2} \frac{7}{5}$$

q -deformed Farey graph



q -deformed Farey graph

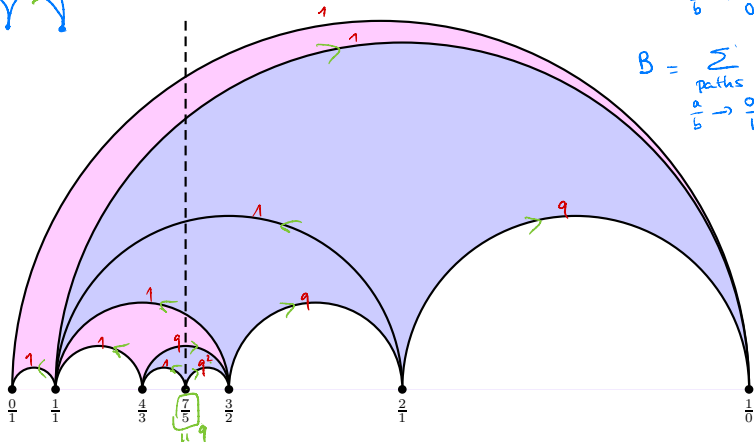
orientation



$$\left[\frac{a}{b} \right]_q = \frac{A}{B}$$

$$A = \sum_{\substack{\text{paths} \\ \frac{a}{b} \rightarrow \frac{1}{0}}} \text{wt}(\text{path})$$

$$B = \sum_{\substack{\text{paths} \\ \frac{a}{b} \rightarrow \frac{0}{1}}} \text{wt}(\text{path})$$



$$\frac{1+q+2q^2+q^4}{1+q+2q^2+q^3}$$