

```
SetAttributes[Strand, Orderless]; Strand /: Strand[i_, j_] Strand[j_, k_] := Strand[i, k];
```

```
Strand /: Strand[i_, i_] :=  $-q^{1/2} - q^{-1/2}$ ; Strand /: Strand[__]^2 :=  $-q^{1/2} - q^{-1/2}$ ;
```