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SOLUTION TO THE REFLECTION EQUATION RELATED TO THE \imath QUANTUM GROUP OF TYPE AII

HIROTO KUSANO AND MASATO OKADO

ABSTRACT. A solution to the reflection equation associated to a coideal subalgebra of $U_q(A_{2n-1}^{(1)})$ of type AII in the symmetric tensor representations is presented. If parameters of the coideal subalgebra are suitably chosen, the K matrix does not depend on the quantum parameter q and still agrees with a solution in [8] at $q = 0$.

1. INTRODUCTION

Reflection equation assures the integrability in one-dimensional quantum systems or two-dimensional statistical models with boundaries. In the context of quantum integrability, it is an equation involving two kinds of linear operators, called quantum R and K matrices, on the twofold tensor product of vector spaces. The mathematical framework to construct its solution lies in considering a pair of a quantum group and its coideal subalgebra. They are called a quantum symmetric pair [10] or an \imath quantum group [3] and known to be classified by Satake diagrams [10, 7]. In such a situation, R and K matrices contain the quantum parameter q . Moreover, if the representations have crystal bases in the sense of Kashiwara [6], one can take the limit where q goes to 0, and we obtain bijections between sets that still satisfy a combinatorial version of the reflection equation.

In [8], from the motivation of constructing a so-called box-ball system with boundary, we found three solutions of the combinatorial K matrix where the combinatorial R matrix in the reflection equation comes from the crystal basis of the symmetric tensor representation of the quantum affine algebra of type A . See (2.10)-(2.12) of [8]. They were called ‘‘Rotateleft’’, ‘‘Switch₁₂’’ and ‘‘Switch_{1n}’’. However, their quantum versions, namely, solutions of quantum K matrices, were not found for a long time. Only recently, in [9] the solution corresponding to ‘‘Rotateleft’’ were found. The purpose of this note is to find the origin of the other two solutions ‘‘Switch₁₂’’ and ‘‘Switch_{1n}’’ from the list of \imath quantum groups. The correct one was found to be the affine version of type AII. See e.g. [10, 7, 12]. Rather surprisingly, if we choose parameters in our \imath quantum group suitably, the K matrices does not depend on q , although the R matrices do.

There are many \imath quantum groups other than affine type AII which we dealt with in this note, and there also exists a notion of the universal (or quasi) K matrix [2, 3, 4, 1] as with the universal (quasi) R matrix of a quantum group. We hope to report more solutions of the reflection equation that become combinatorial upon taking the limit $q \rightarrow 0$ in near future.

2. $U_q(A_{2n-1}^{(1)})$ AND RELEVANT R MATRICES

2.1. $U_q(A_{2n-1}^{(1)})$ and relevant representations. Let $\mathbf{U} = U_q(A_{2n-1}^{(1)})$ be the Drinfeld-Jimbo quantum affine algebra (without the derivation operator). In this note, we assume $n \geq 2$. \mathbf{U} is generated by $e_i, f_i, k_i^{\pm 1}$ ($i \in \mathbb{Z}_{2n}$) obeying the relations

$$\begin{aligned} k_i k_i^{-1} = k_i^{-1} k_i = 1, \quad [k_i, k_j] = 0, \quad k_i e_j k_i^{-1} = q^{a_{ij}} e_j, \quad k_i f_j k_i^{-1} = q^{-a_{ij}} f_j, \quad [e_i, f_j] = \delta_{ij} \frac{k_i - k_i^{-1}}{q - q^{-1}}, \\ \sum_{\nu=0}^{1-a_{ij}} (-1)^\nu e_i^{(1-a_{ij}-\nu)} e_j e_i^{(\nu)} = 0, \quad \sum_{\nu=0}^{1-a_{ij}} (-1)^\nu f_i^{(1-a_{ij}-\nu)} f_j f_i^{(\nu)} = 0 \quad (i \neq j), \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

where $e_i^{(\nu)} = e_i^\nu / [\nu]!$, $f_i^{(\nu)} = f_i^\nu / [\nu]!$ and $[m]! = \prod_{j=1}^m [j]$. The Cartan matrix $(a_{ij})_{i,j \in \mathbb{Z}_{2n}}$ is given by $a_{ij} = 2\delta_{i,j} - \delta_{i,j+1} - \delta_{i,j-1}$. It is well known that \mathbf{U} is a Hopf algebra. We employ the coproduct Δ of the form

$$\Delta(k_i^{\pm 1}) = k_i^{\pm 1} \otimes k_i^{\pm 1}, \quad \Delta(e_i) = e_i \otimes 1 + k_i \otimes e_i, \quad \Delta(f_i) = f_i \otimes k_i^{-1} + 1 \otimes f_i. \tag{2}$$

We will be concerned with the two irreducible representations of \mathbf{U} labeled with a positive integer l :

$$\pi_{l,x} : \mathbf{U} \rightarrow \text{End}(V_{l,x}), \quad V_{l,x} = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in B_l} \mathbb{Q}(q)v_\alpha, \quad (3)$$

$$\pi_{l,x}^* : \mathbf{U} \rightarrow \text{End}(V_{l,x}^*), \quad V_{l,x}^* = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in B_l} \mathbb{Q}(q)v_\alpha^*, \quad (4)$$

where x is a spectral parameter in $\mathbb{Q}(q)$ and

$$B_l = \{\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{2n}) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^{2n} \mid |\alpha| = l\}. \quad (5)$$

Here $|\alpha| = \sum_{i=1}^{2n} \alpha_i$. The actions of the generators of \mathbf{U} on these representations are given by

$$e_i v_\alpha = x^{\delta_{i,0}} [\alpha_{i+1}] v_{\alpha + e_i - e_{i+1}}, \quad e_i v_\alpha^* = x^{\delta_{i,0}} [\alpha_i] v_{\alpha - e_i + e_{i+1}}^*, \quad (6)$$

$$f_i v_\alpha = x^{-\delta_{i,0}} [\alpha_i] v_{\alpha - e_i + e_{i+1}}, \quad f_i v_\alpha^* = x^{-\delta_{i,0}} [\alpha_{i+1}] v_{\alpha + e_i - e_{i+1}}^*, \quad (7)$$

$$k_i v_\alpha = q^{\alpha_i - \alpha_{i+1}} v_\alpha, \quad k_i v_\alpha^* = q^{-\alpha_i + \alpha_{i+1}} v_\alpha^*. \quad (8)$$

Here e_i is the i -th standard basis vector and the index j of the Chevalley generators or α should be understood as elements of \mathbb{Z}_{2n} . $V_{l,x}$ is the l -th symmetric tensor representation of \mathbf{U} . $V_{l,x}^*$ is constructed on the dual space of $V_{l,x}$ by using the anti-automorphism $*$ of \mathbf{U} defined on the generators as

$$e_i^* = e_i, \quad f_i^* = f_i, \quad k_i^* = k_i^{-1},$$

and by defining actions on $V_{l,x}^*$ as $\langle uv^*, v \rangle = \langle v^*, u^*v \rangle$ for $u \in \mathbf{U}, v \in V_{l,x}, v^* \in V_{l,x}^*$. Our basis $\{v_\alpha^*\}$ of $V_{l,x}^*$ is changed from the dual basis of $\{v_\alpha\}$ by multiplying $\prod_j [\alpha_j]!^{-1}$ on each dual basis vector, so it turns out that when $x = 1$ both $\{v_\alpha\}$ and $\{v_\alpha^*\}$ are upper crystal bases [6]. At $q = 0$, the former gives the crystal B_l and the latter its dual B_l^\vee in [8].

2.2. R matrices. We consider the following three R matrices R, R^*, R^{**} that are defined as intertwiners between the tensor product representations below.

$$R(x/y) : V_{l,x} \otimes V_{m,y} \rightarrow V_{m,y} \otimes V_{l,x}, \quad (\pi_{m,y} \otimes \pi_{l,x}) \Delta(u) R(x/y) = R(x/y) (\pi_{l,x} \otimes \pi_{m,y}) \Delta(u), \quad (9)$$

$$R^*(x/y) : V_{l,x}^* \otimes V_{m,y} \rightarrow V_{m,y} \otimes V_{l,x}^*, \quad (\pi_{m,y} \otimes \pi_{l,x}^*) \Delta(u) R^*(x/y) = R^*(x/y) (\pi_{l,x}^* \otimes \pi_{m,y}) \Delta(u), \quad (10)$$

$$R^{**}(x/y) : V_{l,x}^* \otimes V_{m,y} \rightarrow V_{m,y}^* \otimes V_{l,x}, \quad (\pi_{m,y}^* \otimes \pi_{l,x}^*) \Delta(u) R^{**}(x/y) = R^{**}(x/y) (\pi_{l,x}^* \otimes \pi_{m,y}^*) \Delta(u), \quad (11)$$

where $u \in \mathbf{U}$. They satisfy the Yang-Baxter equations:

$$(1 \otimes R(x))(R(xy) \otimes 1)(1 \otimes R(y)) = (R(y) \otimes 1)(1 \otimes R(xy))(R(x) \otimes 1), \quad (12)$$

$$(1 \otimes R^*(x))(R^*(xy) \otimes 1)(1 \otimes R(y)) = (R(y) \otimes 1)(1 \otimes R^*(xy))(R^*(x) \otimes 1), \quad (13)$$

$$(1 \otimes R^{**}(x))(R^{**}(xy) \otimes 1)(1 \otimes R^*(y)) = (R^*(y) \otimes 1)(1 \otimes R^{**}(xy))(R^{**}(x) \otimes 1), \quad (14)$$

$$(1 \otimes R^{**}(x))(R^{**}(xy) \otimes 1)(1 \otimes R^{**}(y)) = (R^{**}(y) \otimes 1)(1 \otimes R^{**}(xy))(R^{**}(x) \otimes 1). \quad (15)$$

3. REFLECTION EQUATION AND ITS SOLUTION

3.1. Coideal subalgebra. We consider two coideal subalgebras \mathbf{U}_ε^l ($\varepsilon = 0, 1$) of \mathbf{U} . Set $I = \{0, 1, \dots, 2n-1\}$. An element of I is considered to correspond to a vertex of the Dynkin diagram of $A_{2n-1}^{(1)}$. In view of this, we identify I with \mathbb{Z}_{2n} . For each $\varepsilon = 0, 1$, set

$$I_\circ = \{\varepsilon, 2 + \varepsilon, \dots, 2n - 2 + \varepsilon\}, \quad I_\bullet = I \setminus I_\circ.$$

We define two subalgebras \mathbf{U}_ε^l of \mathbf{U} for $\varepsilon = 0, 1$. Each one is generated by e_i, f_i, k_i ($i \in I_\bullet$), b_i ($i \in I_\circ$) where

$$b_i = f_i + \gamma_i T_{w_\bullet}(e_i) k_i^{-1},$$

$$T_{w_\bullet}(e_i) = e_{i+1} e_{i-1} e_i - q^{-1} (e_{i+1} e_i e_{i-1} + e_{i-1} e_i e_{i+1}) + q^{-2} e_i e_{i-1} e_{i+1}.$$

Here γ_i is a constant. Then, we have the following facts which are well known. See [10, 7, 12] for instance.

Proposition 1. For $i \in I_\circ$, $e_{i\pm 1} b_i = b_i e_{i\pm 1}$.

Proposition 2. \mathbf{U}_ε^l is a right coideal subalgebra of \mathbf{U} . Namely, we have $\Delta(\mathbf{U}_\varepsilon^l) \subset \mathbf{U}_\varepsilon^l \otimes \mathbf{U}$.

We also use the following result later.

TABLE 1. Satake diagrams of \mathbf{U}_0^e and \mathbf{U}_1^e

Lemma 3. For $i \in I_o$, the action of b_i on $V_{l,x}$ or $V_{l,x}^*$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} b_i v_\alpha &= x^{-\delta_{i,0}} [\alpha_i] v_{\alpha - e_i + e_{i+1}} - x^{\delta_{i,0} + \delta_{i,1} + \delta_{i,-1}} q^{-1} \gamma_i [\alpha_{i+2}] v_{\alpha + e_{i-1} - e_{i+2}}, \\ b_i v_\alpha^* &= x^{-\delta_{i,0}} [\alpha_{i+1}] v_{\alpha^* + e_i - e_{i+1}} - x^{\delta_{i,0} - \delta_{i,1} - \delta_{i,-1}} q^{-1} \gamma_i [\alpha_{i-1}] v_{\alpha^* - e_{i-1} + e_{i+2}}. \end{aligned}$$

3.2. K matrix and the reflection equation. For each $\varepsilon = 0, 1$, consider a linear map $K(x) : V_{l,x} \rightarrow V_{l,x-1}^*$ satisfying

$$K(x) \pi_{l,x}(a) = \pi_{l,x-1}^*(a) K(x) \quad \text{for any } a \in \mathbf{U}_\varepsilon^e. \quad (16)$$

To describe the solution, we introduce a particular permutation $\sigma^{(\varepsilon)}$ of entries of α for $\varepsilon = 0, 1$. $\sigma^{(\varepsilon)}$ switches α_{i-1} and α_i whenever $i \equiv \varepsilon \pmod{2}$. For instance, when $n = 3$ we have

$$\sigma^{(0)}(\alpha) = (\alpha_2, \alpha_1, \alpha_4, \alpha_3, \alpha_6, \alpha_5), \quad \sigma^{(1)}(\alpha) = (\alpha_6, \alpha_3, \alpha_2, \alpha_5, \alpha_4, \alpha_1).$$

Proposition 4. For each $\varepsilon = 0, 1$, the intertwining relation (16) has a solution if and only if

$$\prod_{j \in I_o} \gamma_j = (-q)^n,$$

in which case the solution is unique up to scalar multiple and given by

$$K(x) v_\alpha = x^{\varepsilon(\alpha_1 - \alpha_{2n})} \prod_{j=\varepsilon, 2+\varepsilon, \dots, 2n-2+\varepsilon} (-q^{-1} \gamma_j)^{-\sum_{i=1+\varepsilon}^j \alpha_i} v_{\sigma^{(\varepsilon)}(\alpha)}^*.$$

Proof. In the proof we assume $i \in I_\bullet, j \in I_o$. Define K_α^β by $K(x) v_\alpha = \sum_\beta K_\alpha^\beta v_\beta^*$. Note that K_α^β also depends on x . Comparing the coefficients of v_β^* in $K(x) \pi_{l,x}(a) v_\alpha = \pi_{l,x-1}^*(a) K(x) v_\alpha$ with k_i, e_i, f_i, b_j we obtain

$$K_\alpha^\beta \neq 0 \Rightarrow \alpha_i - \alpha_{i+1} = -\beta_i + \beta_{i+1}, \quad (17)$$

$$[\beta_i + 1] K_\alpha^{\beta + e_i - e_{i+1}} = x^{2\delta_{i,0}} [\alpha_{i+1}] K_{\alpha + e_i - e_{i+1}}^\beta, \quad (18)$$

$$[\alpha_i + 1] K_\alpha^{\beta + e_i - e_{i+1}} = x^{2\delta_{i,0}} [\beta_{i+1}] K_{\alpha + e_i - e_{i+1}}^\beta, \quad (19)$$

$$\begin{aligned} x^{\delta_{j,0}} [\beta_{j+1} + 1] K_\alpha^{\beta - e_j + e_{j+1}} - x^{-\delta_{j,0} - \delta_{j,1} - \delta_{j,-1}} q^{-1} \gamma_j [\beta_{j-1} + 1] K_\alpha^{\beta + e_{j-1} - e_{j+2}} \\ = x^{-\delta_{j,0}} [\alpha_j] K_\alpha^{\beta - e_j + e_{j+1}} - x^{\delta_{j,0} + \delta_{j,1} + \delta_{j,-1}} q^{-1} \gamma_j [\alpha_{j+2}] K_{\alpha + e_{j-1} - e_{j+2}}^\beta. \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

Since we look for a nontrivial solution, we assume the right hand side of (17). This condition together with (18),(19) implies

$$\alpha_i = \beta_{i+1}, \quad \beta_i = \alpha_{i+1} \quad (21)$$

or equivalently $\beta = \sigma^{(\varepsilon)}(\alpha)$. Then by taking β to $\sigma^{(\varepsilon)}(\alpha) - e_i + e_{i+1}$ in (18) or (19), we have

$$K_\alpha^{\sigma^{(\varepsilon)}(\alpha)} = x^{2\delta_{i,0}} K_{\alpha + e_i - e_{i+1}}^{\sigma^{(\varepsilon)}(\alpha + e_i - e_{i+1})}. \quad (22)$$

Similarly, assuming (21), (20) reduces to

$$\begin{aligned} x^{\delta_{j,0}} [\alpha_{j+2}] (K_\alpha^{\beta - e_j + e_{j+1}} + x^{\delta_{j,1} + \delta_{j,-1}} q^{-1} \gamma_j K_{\alpha + e_{j-1} - e_{j+2}}^\beta) \\ = x^{-\delta_{j,0}} [\alpha_j] (K_\alpha^{\beta - e_j + e_{j+1}} + x^{-\delta_{j,1} - \delta_{j,-1}} q^{-1} \gamma_j K_{\alpha + e_{j-1} - e_{j+2}}^\beta). \end{aligned}$$

If $\beta = \sigma^{(\varepsilon)}(\alpha) + e_j - e_{j+1}$, the right hand side vanishes, whereas if $\beta = \sigma^{(\varepsilon)}(\alpha - e_j + e_{j+1})$, the left one does. Under (22), both conditions reduce to

$$K_{\alpha - e_{j-1} + e_{j+1}}^{\sigma^{(\varepsilon)}(\alpha - e_{j-1} + e_{j+1})} / K_\alpha^{\sigma^{(\varepsilon)}(\alpha)} = -x^{\delta_{j,1} - \delta_{j,-1}} q^{-1} \gamma_j. \quad (23)$$

Replacing α with $\alpha + e_{j-1}$ in this equation and multiplying it for $j = \varepsilon, 2 + \varepsilon, \dots, 2n - 2 + \varepsilon$, we obtain the condition for K to exist. Set $K_\alpha^{\sigma^{(\varepsilon)}(\alpha)} = x^{\varepsilon(\alpha_1 - \alpha_{2n})} \mathcal{K}_\alpha$. Then (22) and (23) reduce to

$$\mathcal{K}_\alpha = \mathcal{K}_{\alpha + e_i - e_{i+1}}, \quad \mathcal{K}_{\alpha - e_{j-1} + e_{j+1}} / \mathcal{K}_\alpha = -q^{-1} \gamma_j.$$

Recall $i \in I_\bullet, j \in I_\circ$. From the first relation, one notices that \mathcal{K}_α depends only on $\alpha_i + \alpha_{i+1}$ ($i \in I_\bullet$). The second one then determines \mathcal{K}_α uniquely up to scalar multiple. \square

Remark 5. The K matrix corresponding to the same Satake diagram to ours but in the vector representation V_1 was considered in [11, Result 9.9].

In view of this proposition, we set $\gamma_j = -q$ for any $j \in I_\circ$ later in this note.

Theorem 6. *The reflection equation*

$$K_1(x)R^*((xy)^{-1})K_1(y)R(xy^{-1}) = R^*(xy^{-1})K_1(y)R^*((xy)^{-1})K_1(x) \quad (24)$$

holds as a linear map $V_{l,x} \otimes V_{m,y} \rightarrow V_{l,x^{-1}}^* \otimes V_{m,y^{-1}}^*$. Here $K_1(x) = K(x) \otimes 1$.

The proof is completely the same as that in [9, Theorem 1], although a similar reasoning goes back to [5] at the latest, under the assumption that $V_{l,x} \otimes V_{m,y}$ is irreducible as a $\mathbf{U}_\varepsilon^\varepsilon$ -module, which is shown in next section.

4. PROOF OF THE IRREDUCIBILITY OF $V_{l,x} \otimes V_{m,y}$

To show that the reflection equation holds (Theorem 6), we need to prove

Theorem 7. *As a $\mathbf{U}_\varepsilon^\varepsilon$ -module, $V_{l,x} \otimes V_{m,y}$ is irreducible.*

Actually, even when the spectral parameters x, y are specialized to 1, it is irreducible as we will see below. Hence, in this section we set $x = y = 1$, since it is enough to show the theorem. $V_{l,1}$ will be denoted by V_l . We can also restrict our proof to the $\varepsilon = 0$ case, since the consideration for the $\varepsilon = 1$ case is just the repetition by shifting the index i of the generators or the entries of α . Finally, in view of Proposition 4, we specialize γ_i for $i \in I_\circ$ to be $-q$.

4.1. Representation theory of $U_q(sl_2)$. $U_q(sl_2)$ is the subalgebra of \mathbf{U} generated only by e_1, f_1, k_1 . Its irreducible representations are parametrized by their dimensions which run positive integers. Let U_l be the $(l+1)$ -dimensional module of $U_q(sl_2)$. As a basis of U_l , one can take $\{v_\alpha \mid |\alpha| = l\}$ in (3) with $n = 1$. The actions of the generators e_1, f_1, k_1 are given by (6)-(8). It is well known that $U_l \otimes U_m$ decomposes into $\min(l, m) + 1$ components as

$$U_l \otimes U_m \simeq \bigoplus_{j=0}^{\min(l,m)} U_{l+m-2j}$$

where a highest weight vector of U_{l+m-2j} is given by

$$w_j^{(l,m)} = \sum_{p=0}^j (-1)^p q^{p(l-p+1)} \begin{bmatrix} j \\ p \end{bmatrix} v_{(l-p,p)} \otimes v_{(m-j+p,j-p)}. \quad (25)$$

Here $\begin{bmatrix} j \\ p \end{bmatrix}$ is the q -binomial coefficient defined by $\frac{[j]!}{[p]![j-p]!}$.

Now consider the subalgebra $\mathbf{U}(I_\bullet)$ of \mathbf{U}^ε generated by e_i, f_i, k_i ($i \in I_\bullet$). Recall $I_\bullet = \{1, 3, \dots, 2n-1\}$. $\mathbf{U}(I_\bullet)$ is isomorphic to $U_q(sl_2)^{\otimes n}$. We want to construct a basis of $V_l \otimes V_m$ using its $\mathbf{U}(I_\bullet)$ -module structure. To parametrize the highest weight vectors of $V_l \otimes V_m$, we introduce n -tuples of nonnegative integers $\mathbf{l} = (l_1, \dots, l_n), \mathbf{m} = (m_1, \dots, m_n)$ such that $|\mathbf{l}| = l, |\mathbf{m}| = m$. Here we use the notation $|\mathbf{l}|$ to signify the sum of entries of the vector \mathbf{l} irrespective of the number of entries. Let

$$\iota : \bigoplus_{\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{m}} (U_{l_1} \otimes U_{m_1}) \otimes \cdots \otimes (U_{l_n} \otimes U_{m_n}) \longrightarrow V_l \otimes V_m$$

be the linear map sending $(v_{(\alpha_1, \alpha_2)} \otimes v_{(\beta_1, \beta_2)}) \otimes \cdots \otimes (v_{(\alpha_{2n-1}, \alpha_{2n})} \otimes v_{(\beta_{2n-1}, \beta_{2n})})$ to $v_\alpha \otimes v_\beta$. Note that $U_{l_i} \otimes U_{m_i}$ is the tensor product of the irreducible highest weight modules U_{l_i}, U_{m_i} of the i -th $U_q(sl_2)$ of $U_q(sl_2)^{\otimes n}$ generated by $e_{2i-1}, f_{2i-1}, k_{2i-1}$. Since $U_q(sl_2)$ in different positions commute with each other, one obtains the following proposition.

Proposition 8. *For any \mathbf{l}, \mathbf{m} and $\mathbf{j} = (j_1, \dots, j_n)$ such that $0 \leq j_i \leq \min(l_i, m_i)$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$,*

$$\mathbf{w}_j^{(\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{m})} = \iota(w_{j_1}^{(l_1, m_1)} \otimes \cdots \otimes w_{j_n}^{(l_n, m_n)})$$

is a $\mathbf{U}(I_\bullet)$ -highest weight vector, and we have $\bigoplus_{\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{m}, \mathbf{j}} \mathbf{U}(I_\bullet) \mathbf{w}_j^{(\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{m})} = V_l \otimes V_m$.

4.2. Necessary formulas. In what follows, we assume $i \in I_o = \{0, 2, \dots, 2n-2\}$ and set $i = 2s$. By abuse of notation, we denote by e_s ($s = 1, \dots, n$) the s -th standard basis vector of the n -dimensional space, although we have used it in section 2 for the $2n$ -dimensional space. e_0 should be understood as e_n . For the action of \mathbf{U} on the tensor product, we abbreviate Δ .

Proposition 9. *On $V_l \otimes V_m$, we have*

$$b_i \mathbf{w}_j^{(l, m)} = D'_1 \mathbf{w}_{j-e_s}^{(l-e_s+e_{s+1}, m)} + D'_2 \mathbf{w}_{j-e_s}^{(l, m-e_s+e_{s+1})} + D'_3 \mathbf{w}_{j-e_{s+1}}^{(l+e_s-e_{s+1}, m)} + D'_4 \mathbf{w}_{j-e_{s+1}}^{(l, m+e_s-e_{s+1})},$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} D'_1 &= -q^{-j_s-j_{s+1}+l_s+m_{s+1}+1} [j_s], & D'_2 &= [j_s], \\ D'_3 &= -q^{-j_s-j_{s+1}+l_{s+1}+m_{s+1}+1} [j_{s+1}], & D'_4 &= q^{-2j_s-2j_{s+1}+l_s+l_{s+1}+2m_{s+1}+2} [j_{s+1}]. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Using Proposition 1, one finds that $b_i \mathbf{w}_j^{(l, m)}$ is a $\mathbf{U}(I_\bullet)$ -highest weight vector. By the weight consideration, it should be a linear combination of the following vectors.

$$\mathbf{w}_{j-e_s}^{(l-e_s+e_{s+1}, m)}, \mathbf{w}_{j-e_s}^{(l, m-e_s+e_{s+1})}, \mathbf{w}_{j-e_{s+1}}^{(l+e_s-e_{s+1}, m)}, \mathbf{w}_{j-e_{s+1}}^{(l, m+e_s-e_{s+1})}.$$

The four coefficients can be calculated directly. □

Proposition 10. *On $V_l \otimes V_m$, we have*

$$\begin{aligned} b_i f_{i-1} \mathbf{w}_j^{(l, m)} &= \frac{[l_s + m_s - j_s + 1]}{[l_s + m_s - 2j_s + 1]} (B'_1 \mathbf{w}_j^{(l-e_s+e_{s+1}, m)} + B'_2 \mathbf{w}_j^{(l, m-e_s+e_{s+1})}) \\ &\quad + \frac{[j_{s+1}]}{[l_s + m_s - 2j_s + 1]} (B'_3 \mathbf{w}_{j+e_s-e_{s+1}}^{(l+e_s-e_{s+1}, m)} + B'_4 \mathbf{w}_{j+e_s-e_{s+1}}^{(l, m+e_s-e_{s+1})}) \\ &\quad + \frac{[l_s + m_s - 2j_s]}{[l_s + m_s - 2j_s + 1]} (D'_1 f_{i-1} \mathbf{w}_{j-e_s}^{(l-e_s+e_{s+1}, m)} + D'_2 f_{i-1} \mathbf{w}_{j-e_s}^{(l, m-e_s+e_{s+1})}) \\ &\quad + D'_3 f_{i-1} \mathbf{w}_{j-e_{s+1}}^{(l+e_s-e_{s+1}, m)} + D'_4 f_{i-1} \mathbf{w}_{j-e_{s+1}}^{(l, m+e_s-e_{s+1})}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} b_i f_{i+1} \mathbf{w}_j^{(l, m)} &= \frac{[j_s]}{[l_{s+1} + m_{s+1} - 2j_{s+1} + 1]} (C'_1 \mathbf{w}_{j-e_s+e_{s+1}}^{(l-e_s+e_{s+1}, m)} + C'_2 \mathbf{w}_{j-e_s+e_{s+1}}^{(l, m-e_s+e_{s+1})}) \\ &\quad + \frac{[l_{s+1} + m_{s+1} - j_{s+1} + 1]}{[l_{s+1} + m_{s+1} - 2j_{s+1} + 1]} (C'_3 \mathbf{w}_j^{(l+e_s-e_{s+1}, m)} + C'_4 \mathbf{w}_j^{(l, m+e_s-e_{s+1})}) \\ &\quad + \frac{[l_{s+1} + m_{s+1} - 2j_{s+1}]}{[l_{s+1} + m_{s+1} - 2j_{s+1} + 1]} (D'_1 f_{i+1} \mathbf{w}_{j-e_s}^{(l-e_s+e_{s+1}, m)} + D'_2 f_{i+1} \mathbf{w}_{j-e_s}^{(l, m-e_s+e_{s+1})}) \\ &\quad + D'_3 f_{i+1} \mathbf{w}_{j-e_{s+1}}^{(l+e_s-e_{s+1}, m)} + D'_4 f_{i+1} \mathbf{w}_{j-e_{s+1}}^{(l, m+e_s-e_{s+1})}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} B'_1 &= q^{j_s-j_{s+1}-m_s+m_{s+1}} [l_s - j_s], & B'_2 &= [m_s - j_s], \\ B'_3 &= -q^{j_s-j_{s+1}-l_s-m_s+l_{s+1}+m_{s+1}} [m_s - j_s], & B'_4 &= -q^{2j_s-2j_{s+1}-l_s-2m_s+l_{s+1}+2m_{s+1}} [l_s - j_s], \\ C'_1 &= -q^{-j_s+j_{s+1}+l_s-l_{s+1}} [m_{s+1} - j_{s+1}], & C'_2 &= -[l_{s+1} - j_{s+1}], \\ C'_3 &= q^{-j_s+j_{s+1}} [l_{s+1} - j_{s+1}], & C'_4 &= q^{-2j_s+2j_{s+1}+l_s-l_{s+1}} [m_{s+1} - j_{s+1}], \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Using Proposition 1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} e_{i-1} b_i f_{i-1} \mathbf{w}_j^{(l, m)} &= b_i e_{i-1} f_{i-1} \mathbf{w}_j^{(l, m)} = b_i \{k_{i-1}\} \mathbf{w}_j^{(l, m)} = [l_s + m_s - 2j_s] b_i \mathbf{w}_j^{(l, m)}, \\ e_{i+1} b_i f_{i+1} \mathbf{w}_j^{(l, m)} &= b_i e_{i+1} f_{i+1} \mathbf{w}_j^{(l, m)} = b_i \{k_{i+1}\} \mathbf{w}_j^{(l, m)} = [l_{s+1} + m_{s+1} - 2j_{s+1}] b_i \mathbf{w}_j^{(l, m)}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\{k_i\} = \frac{k_i - k_i^{-1}}{q - q^{-1}}$. Thus same in Lemma 9, $e_{i+1} b_i f_{i+1}$ and $e_{i-1} b_i f_{i-1}$ are a linear combination of the following vectors.

$$\mathbf{w}_{j-e_s}^{(l-e_s+e_{s+1}, m)}, \mathbf{w}_{j-e_s}^{(l, m-e_s+e_{s+1})}, \mathbf{w}_{j-e_{s+1}}^{(l+e_s-e_{s+1}, m)}, \mathbf{w}_{j-e_{s+1}}^{(l, m+e_s-e_{s+1})}.$$

By considering weight, one find that $b_i f_{i-1}$ and $b_i f_{i+1}$ are a linear combination like a assertion, and coefficients can be calculated directly. □

Corollary 11. *On $V_l \otimes V_m$, we have*

$$\begin{aligned} b_i f_{i+1} \mathbf{w}_o^{(l, \mathbf{m})} &= [l_{s+1}] \mathbf{w}_o^{(l+e_s-e_{s+1}, \mathbf{m})} + q^{l'-l_{s+1}} [m_{s+1}] \mathbf{w}_o^{(l, \mathbf{m}+e_s-e_{s+1})}, \\ b_i f_{i-1} \mathbf{w}_o^{(l, \mathbf{m})} &= q^{m_{s+1}-m_s} [l_s] \mathbf{w}_o^{(l-e_s+e_{s+1}, \mathbf{m})} + [m_s] \mathbf{w}_o^{(l, \mathbf{m}-e_s+e_{s+1})}. \end{aligned}$$

Proposition 12. *On $V_l \otimes V_m$, we have*

$$\begin{aligned} & b_i f_{i-1} f_{i+1} \mathbf{w}_j^{(l, \mathbf{m})} \\ &= A_1 \mathbf{w}_{j+e_{s+1}}^{(l-e_s+e_{s+1}, \mathbf{m})} + B_1 f_{i+1} \mathbf{w}_j^{(l-e_s+e_{s+1}, \mathbf{m})} + C_1 f_{i-1} \mathbf{w}_j^{(l-e_s+e_{s+1}, \mathbf{m})} + D_1 f_{i-1} f_{i+1} \mathbf{w}_{j-e_s}^{(l-e_s+e_{s+1}, \mathbf{m})} \\ &+ A_2 \mathbf{w}_{j+e_{s+1}}^{(l, \mathbf{m}-e_s+e_{s+1})} + B_2 f_{i+1} \mathbf{w}_j^{(l, \mathbf{m}-e_s+e_{s+1})} + C_2 f_{i-1} \mathbf{w}_j^{(l, \mathbf{m}-e_s+e_{s+1})} + D_2 f_{i-1} f_{i+1} \mathbf{w}_{j-e_s}^{(l, \mathbf{m}-e_s+e_{s+1})} \\ &+ A_3 \mathbf{w}_{j+e_s}^{(l+e_s-e_{s+1}, \mathbf{m})} + B_3 f_{i+1} \mathbf{w}_{j+e_s-e_{s+1}}^{(l+e_s-e_{s+1}, \mathbf{m})} + C_3 f_{i-1} \mathbf{w}_j^{(l+e_s-e_{s+1}, \mathbf{m})} + D_3 f_{i-1} f_{i+1} \mathbf{w}_{j-e_{s+1}}^{(l+e_s-e_{s+1}, \mathbf{m})} \\ &+ A_4 \mathbf{w}_{j+e_s}^{(l, \mathbf{m}+e_s-e_{s+1})} + B_4 f_{i+1} \mathbf{w}_{j+e_s-e_{s+1}}^{(l, \mathbf{m}+e_s-e_{s+1})} + C_4 f_{i-1} \mathbf{w}_j^{(l, \mathbf{m}+e_s-e_{s+1})} + D_4 f_{i-1} f_{i+1} \mathbf{w}_{j-e_{s+1}}^{(l, \mathbf{m}+e_s-e_{s+1})}, \end{aligned} \tag{26}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 &= q^{j_s+j_{s+1}-l_{s+1}-m_s-1} \frac{[l_s-j_s][m_{s+1}-j_{s+1}][l_s+m_s-j_s+1]}{[l_s+m_s-2j_s+1][l_{s+1}+m_{s+1}-2j_{s+1}+1]} \\ A_2 &= -\frac{[l_{s+1}-j_{s+1}][m_s-j_s][l_s+m_s-j_s+1]}{[l_s+m_s-2j_s+1][l_{s+1}+m_{s+1}-2j_{s+1}+1]} \\ A_3 &= q^{j_s+j_{s+1}-l_s-m_s-1} \frac{[l_{s+1}-j_{s+1}][m_s-j_s][l_{s+1}+m_{s+1}-j_{s+1}+1]}{[l_s+m_s-2j_s+1][l_{s+1}+m_{s+1}-2j_{s+1}+1]} \\ A_4 &= -q^{2j_s+2j_{s+1}-l_s-l_{s+1}-2m_s-2} \frac{[l_s-j_s][m_{s+1}-j_{s+1}][l_{s+1}+m_{s+1}-j_{s+1}+1]}{[l_s+m_s-2j_s+1][l_{s+1}+m_{s+1}-2j_{s+1}+1]}, \\ B_j &= B'_j \frac{[l_s+m_s-j_s+1][l_{s+1}+m_{s+1}-2j_{s+1}]}{[l_s+m_s-2j_s+1][l_{s+1}+m_{s+1}-2j_{s+1}+1]} \quad (j=1, 2), \\ &= B'_j \frac{[j_{s+1}][l_{s+1}+m_{s+1}-2j_{s+1}]}{[l_s+m_s-2j_s+1][l_{s+1}+m_{s+1}-2j_{s+1}+1]} \quad (j=3, 4), \\ C_j &= C'_j \frac{[j_s][l_s+m_s-2j_s]}{[l_s+m_s-2j_s+1][l_{s+1}+m_{s+1}-2j_{s+1}+1]} \quad (j=1, 2), \\ &= C'_j \frac{[l_s+m_s-2j_s][l_{s+1}+m_{s+1}-j_{s+1}+1]}{[l_s+m_s-2j_s+1][l_{s+1}+m_{s+1}-2j_{s+1}+1]} \quad (j=3, 4), \\ D_j &= D'_j \frac{[l_s+m_s-2j_s][l_{s+1}+m_{s+1}-2j_{s+1}]}{[l_s+m_s-2j_s+1][l_{s+1}+m_{s+1}-2j_{s+1}+1]} \quad (j=1, 2, 3, 4). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Similar to Proposition 9 and 10, $b_i f_{i-1} f_{i+1} \mathbf{w}_j^{(l, \mathbf{m})}$ can be expressed with suitable scalars A_j, B_j, C_j, D_j ($1 \leq j \leq 4$) as (26). By applying $e_{i-1} e_{i+1}$ on both sides, the first to third terms in each line of the right hand side vanish. So by Proposition 9, D_j ($1 \leq j \leq 4$) is determined. Then, by applying e_{i+1} on both sides of (26), B_j ($1 \leq j \leq 4$) is determined, and by applying e_{i-1} , C_j ($1 \leq j \leq 4$) is done by Proposition 10. Finally, A_j ($1 \leq j \leq 4$) is determined by a direct calculation. \square

Corollary 13. *On $V_l \otimes V_m$, we have*

$$\begin{aligned} b_i f_{i-1} f_{i+1} \mathbf{w}_j^{(l, \mathbf{m})} &= A_1 \mathbf{w}_{j+e_{s+1}}^{(l-e_s+e_{s+1}, \mathbf{m})} + A_2 \mathbf{w}_{j+e_{s+1}}^{(l, \mathbf{m}-e_s+e_{s+1})} + A_3 \mathbf{w}_{j+e_s}^{(l+e_s-e_{s+1}, \mathbf{m})} + A_4 \mathbf{w}_{j+e_s}^{(l, \mathbf{m}+e_s-e_{s+1})} \\ &+ (\text{other terms}), \end{aligned}$$

where A_j ($j=1, 2, 3, 4$) is given in Proposition 12 and (other terms) stands for the linear combination of vectors of the form $\mathbf{w}_j^{(l', \mathbf{m}'')}$ possibly applied by f_{i-1}, f_{i+1} with (l', \mathbf{m}'') appearing in the right hand side and $j'_k \leq j_k$ for $1 \leq k \leq n$.

4.3. Proof of Theorem 7. We prove Theorem 7 when $\varepsilon = 0$. Suppose W is a nonzero \mathbf{U}^2 -invariant subspace of $V_l \otimes V_m$. Note that \mathbf{U}^2 contains $\mathbf{U}(I_\bullet)$. In view of Proposition 8, one can assume that W contains a vector of the form

$$\sum_{l, \mathbf{m}, j} c(l, \mathbf{m}, j) \mathbf{w}_j^{(l, \mathbf{m})} \tag{27}$$

where $c(\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{m}, \mathbf{j}) \in \mathbb{Q}(q)$ and $\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{m}, \mathbf{j}$ run over all possible integer vectors such that $l_s + m_s - 2j_s$ is constant for any $s = 1, \dots, n$. By applying b_i ($i \in I_\circ$) in a suitable order, from Proposition 9 one can assume $\mathbf{j} = \mathbf{o}$ in (27). Then by Corollary 11, one can eventually assume $\mathbf{l} = l\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{m} = m\mathbf{e}_1$ where $l = |\mathbf{l}|, m = |\mathbf{m}|$. Hence, we have $\mathbf{w}_\circ^{(l\mathbf{e}_1, m\mathbf{e}_1)} \in W$.

Next show $\mathbf{w}_\circ^{(l_1\mathbf{e}_1+l_2\mathbf{e}_2, m_1\mathbf{e}_1+m_2\mathbf{e}_2)} \in W$ for any l_1, l_2, m_1, m_2 such that $l_1 + l_2 = l, m_1 + m_2 = m$. We do it by induction on $k = l_2 + m_2$. The $k = 0$ case is done. Assume $\mathbf{w}_\circ^{(l_1\mathbf{e}_1+l_2\mathbf{e}_2, m_1\mathbf{e}_1+m_2\mathbf{e}_2)} \in W$ for $l_2 + m_2 = k$. By Corollary 11, we have

$$\begin{aligned} b_2 f_1 \mathbf{w}_\circ^{(l_1\mathbf{e}_1+l_2\mathbf{e}_2, m_1\mathbf{e}_1+m_2\mathbf{e}_2)} &= q^{m_2-m_1} [l_1] \mathbf{w}_\circ^{((l_1-1)\mathbf{e}_1+(l_2+1)\mathbf{e}_2, m_1\mathbf{e}_1+m_2\mathbf{e}_2)} + [m_1] \mathbf{w}_\circ^{(l_1\mathbf{e}_1+l_2\mathbf{e}_2, (m_1-1)\mathbf{e}_1+(m_2+1)\mathbf{e}_2)}, \\ (b_4 f_5) \cdots (b_{2n-2} f_{2n-1}) (b_0 f_1) \mathbf{w}_\circ^{(l_1\mathbf{e}_1+l_2\mathbf{e}_2, m_1\mathbf{e}_1+m_2\mathbf{e}_2)} & \\ &= [l_1] \mathbf{w}_\circ^{((l_1-1)\mathbf{e}_1+(l_2+1)\mathbf{e}_2, m_1\mathbf{e}_1+m_2\mathbf{e}_2)} + q^{l_2-l_1} [m_1] \mathbf{w}_\circ^{(l_1\mathbf{e}_1+l_2\mathbf{e}_2, (m_1-1)\mathbf{e}_1+(m_2+1)\mathbf{e}_2)}. \end{aligned}$$

If $l_1 + m_1 \neq l_2 + m_2$, these two vectors are linearly independent. Hence the induction proceeds up to $k \leq l_1 + m_1$. When $l_2 + m_2 \geq l_1 + m_1$, we first recognize that $\mathbf{w}_\circ^{(l_2, m_2)} \in W$ by applying $(b_2 f_1)^{l+m}$ to $\mathbf{w}_\circ^{(l\mathbf{e}_1, m\mathbf{e}_1)}$. We then do the same exercise as before.

Let us now show W contains $\mathbf{w}_\circ^{(\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{m})}$ for any possible \mathbf{l} and \mathbf{m} . From the previous paragraph, we know $\mathbf{w}_\circ^{(l_1\mathbf{e}_1+l_2\mathbf{e}_2, m_1\mathbf{e}_1+m_2\mathbf{e}_2)} \in W$. Applying $b_i f_{i-1}$ ($i = 4, \dots, 2n-2$) suitable times, we know $\mathbf{w}_\circ^{(l, m\mathbf{e}_1)} \in W$ for any l . Then by doing similarly including $i = 2$, we know $\mathbf{w}_\circ^{(\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{m})} \in W$ for any \mathbf{l}, \mathbf{m} .

By Proposition 8, it is enough to show W contains $\mathbf{w}_\mathbf{j}^{(\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{m})}$ for any possible $\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{m}, \mathbf{j}$. From the considerations so far, it is true when $|\mathbf{j}| = 0$. The following proposition makes the induction on $|\mathbf{j}|$ work and finishes the proof of Theorem 7.

Proposition 14. *Consider the following matrix C depending on l, m, j . Its row index runs over all $(i, \mathbf{l}, \mathbf{m}, \mathbf{j})$ with $i = 0, 2, \dots, 2n-2$ and $|\mathbf{l}| = l, |\mathbf{m}| = m, |\mathbf{j}| = j$, and its column index runs over all $(\mathbf{l}', \mathbf{m}', \mathbf{j}')$ with $|\mathbf{l}'| = l, |\mathbf{m}'| = m, |\mathbf{j}'| = j+1$. The entry for the pair $((i, \mathbf{l}, \mathbf{m}, \mathbf{j}), (\mathbf{l}', \mathbf{m}', \mathbf{j}'))$ is given by the coefficient of $\mathbf{w}_{\mathbf{j}'}^{(\mathbf{l}', \mathbf{m}')}$ in $b_i f_{i-1} f_{i+1} \mathbf{w}_\mathbf{j}^{(\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{m})}$ in the previous proposition. Then C is of full rank. Note that the rank does not depend on the orders of the index sets.*

Proof. Let A be the subring of $\mathbb{Q}(q)$ defined by $A = \{f(q) \in \mathbb{Q}(q) \mid f(q) \text{ is regular at } q=0\}$. Let α_t ($t = 1, 2, 3, 4$) be the largest integer such that A_t in Corollary 13 belongs to $q^{\alpha_t} A$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_1 - \alpha_2 &= \alpha_4 - \alpha_3 = j_s + j_{s+1} - l_s - m_{s+1} - 1 < 0, \\ \alpha_4 - \alpha_1 &= 2j_{s+1} - l_{s+1} - m_{s+1} - 1 < 0, \end{aligned}$$

since $j_t \leq \min(l_t, m_t)$ ($t = s, s+1$). Therefore, α_4 is minimal and the others are strictly larger.

For $\mathbf{w}_{\mathbf{j}'}^{(\mathbf{l}', \mathbf{m}')}$ such that $|\mathbf{l}'| = l, |\mathbf{m}'| = m, |\mathbf{j}'| = j+1$, choose the minimal s such $j'_s > 0$ and consider $b_i f_{i-1} f_{i+1} \mathbf{w}_{\mathbf{j}' - \mathbf{e}_s}^{(\mathbf{l}', \mathbf{m}' - \mathbf{e}_s + \mathbf{e}_{s+1})}$ with $i = 2s$. By Proposition 12 the fourth term of the above is nonzero. Consider the row of C corresponding to the index $(i, \mathbf{l}', \mathbf{m}' - \mathbf{e}_s + \mathbf{e}_{s+1}, \mathbf{j}' - \mathbf{e}_s)$. By multiplying a suitable scalar to this row, one can make the $((i, \mathbf{l}', \mathbf{m}' - \mathbf{e}_s + \mathbf{e}_{s+1}, \mathbf{j}' - \mathbf{e}_s), (\mathbf{l}', \mathbf{m}', \mathbf{j}'))$ -entry of C be 1, and the other three nonzero entries in the same row belong to qA . Consider the square matrix C' obtained by varying all possible $(\mathbf{l}', \mathbf{m}', \mathbf{j}')$ and picking the corresponding renormalized rows. Then from the construction, $\det C'$ belongs to $\{\pm 1\} + qA$. Hence the assertion is confirmed. \square

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