

Integrable representations of the quantum affine special linear superalgebra

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The simple integrable modules with finite dimensional weight spaces are classified for the quantum affine special linear superalgebra $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$ at generic q . Any such module is shown to be a highest weight or lowest weight module with respect to one of the two natural triangular decompositions of the quantum affine superalgebra depending on whether the level of the module is zero or not. Furthermore, integrable $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$ -modules at nonzero levels exist only if M or N is 1.

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1. Introduction

Quantum supergroups associated with simple Lie superalgebras and their affine analogues were introduced [2, 31, 46] (see also [4, 11, 28]) in the early 90s, and their structure and representations have since been extensively developed (see, e.g., [1, 16, 17, 20, 22, 29, 33, 34, 36, 39, 42, 43, 47, 48]). Quantum supergroups were applied to solve interesting problems in a variety of areas such as topology of knots and 3-manifolds [13, 37, 40], quantum supergeometry [43, 44], and in particular, Yang-Baxter type integrable models [2, 10, 33, 45], where the problem of constructing solutions of the spectral parameter dependent Yang-Baxter equation was converted to the much easier linear problem of solving the \mathbb{Z}_2 -graded Jimbo equations [2] by using the representation theory of quantum supergroups.

The \mathbb{Z}_2 -graded Jimbo equations determine the universal R -matrix [16] of quantum affine superalgebras in loop representations. A basic problem in studying the equations is to determine which finite dimensional irreducible representation of a quantum supergroup can be lifted to a representation of the corresponding quantum affine superalgebra. It was shown that the natural representations of quantum orthosymplectic supergroups can be lifted [45], and more importantly, every finite dimensional irreducible representation of the quantum general linear supergroup $U_q(\mathfrak{gl}(M|N))$ [39] can be lifted to an irreducible representation of the untwisted quantum affine general linear superalgebra $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{gl}}(M|N))$ [36].

In a very recent paper [35], Huafeng Zhang gave a classification of the finite dimensional simple modules for $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$ (more precisely the subalgebra $U'_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$ without the degree operator) at generic q , providing a parametrisation of such simple modules in terms of highest weight polynomials. This has much similarity to the classification [41] of finite dimensional simple modules for the $\mathfrak{gl}(M|N)$ super Yangian, as explained in [35].

The present paper generalises results of [26, 27, 30] on $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N)$ to the quantum setting to obtain a classification of the simple integrable modules with finite dimensional weight spaces for $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$ at generic q . This also extends results on loop modules for quantum $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(n)$ [6] to that for the quantum affine superalgebra. A module for a quantum affine superalgebra $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{g}})$ is integrable if it is integrable with respect to the subalgebra $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}_0)$, which is the quantised universal enveloping algebra of the even subalgebra $\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}_0$ of $\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}$. Thus the integrability of a $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$ -module amounts to integrability

with respect to the subalgebras $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M))$ and $U_{q^{-1}}(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(N))$. The requirement of having finite dimensional weight spaces imposes further stringent conditions on the module.

One result of this paper, Theorem 3.10, states that a zero-level simple integrable module with finite dimensional weight spaces is necessarily of highest weight type with respect to the triangular decomposition of $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$ induced by the distinguished triangular decomposition of $\mathfrak{sl}(M|N)$ (cf. equation (2.3)). A classification of such modules is given in terms of their highest weight polynomials (see Theorem 3.11).

We show in Theorem 3.11 that any simple integrable $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$ -module V of zero level with finite dimensional weight spaces can be embedded in a quantum loop module (cf. (3.9)) as a direct summand. By setting the loop parameter to 1, we obtain from the image of V a finite dimensional evaluation $U'_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$ -module (cf. (3.10)). This way we recover all the finite dimensional simple $U'_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$ -modules, which were classified in [35].

We prove in Theorem 4.2 that only when M or N is equal to 1, $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$ admits integrable modules with finite dimensional weight spaces at nonzero levels. Such a simple integrable module is necessarily a highest or lowest weight module with respect to the standard triangular decomposition of $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$ given in Proposition 2.2. The necessary and sufficient condition for a simple highest weight $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$ -module to be integrable with finite dimensional weight spaces is that the highest weight is integral and dominant [8, 18] with respect to the quantised universal enveloping algebra $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N)_{\bar{0}})$ of the even subalgebra of $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N)$.

We mention that the quantised universal enveloping superalgebras of symmetrizable affine Lie superalgebras without isotropic odd simple roots admit many more integrable highest weight modules at nonzero levels. A classification of such simple modules was obtained in [42], where a "super duality" was discovered (see also [38]) identifying such quantised universal enveloping superalgebras with certain classes of ordinary quantum affine algebras. Such a super duality emerged as a strong-weak coupling duality between supergroup Chern-Simons theories on \mathbb{R}^3 in quantum field theoretical investigations on supergroup invariants of knots and 3-manifolds [13, 37, 40] by Mikhaylov and Witten [19].

2. Preliminaries

In order to study the integrable modules for the quantum affine special linear superalgebra $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$, we need its loop presentation [32], which we discuss here.

2.1. Quantum affine special linear superalgebra

Let us start by discussing some basic structural properties of the special linear superalgebra [14]. Fix positive integers M and N , and assume that at least one of them is greater than 1. Let I be the set $\{1, 2, \dots, M + N - 1\}$. We choose the distinguished Borel subalgebra \mathfrak{b} for $\mathfrak{sl}(M|N)$, which consists of the upper triangular matrices. The Cartan subalgebra $\mathfrak{h} \subset \mathfrak{b}$ consists of the diagonal matrices in $\mathfrak{sl}(M|N)$. Let \mathfrak{n} be the strictly upper triangular matrices, then $\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \mathfrak{n}$.

Equip the free \mathbb{Z} -module $\oplus_{i=1}^{M+N} \mathbb{Z}\epsilon_i$ with the following bilinear form

$$(\epsilon_i, \epsilon_j) = l_i \delta_{ij}, \quad l_i = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq M, \\ -1, & \text{if } M + 1 \leq i \leq M + N. \end{cases}$$

Then the roots of $\mathfrak{sl}(M|N)$ can be expressed as $\epsilon_i - \epsilon_j$ for all $i \neq j$, and the simple roots with respect to \mathfrak{b} are given by $\{\alpha_i := \epsilon_i - \epsilon_{i+1} \mid i \in I\}$. The even subalgebra $\mathfrak{sl}(M|N)_{\bar{0}}$ of $\mathfrak{sl}(M|N)$ is $\mathfrak{sl}(M) \oplus \mathbb{C}z \oplus \mathfrak{sl}(N)$, where $\mathbb{C}z$ is the center of $\mathfrak{sl}(M|N)_{\bar{0}}$. Let \mathfrak{h}_1 (resp. \mathfrak{h}_2) be the Cartan subalgebra of $\mathfrak{sl}(M)$ (resp. $\mathfrak{sl}(N)$), and denote by Δ_0^1 (resp. Δ_0^2) the corresponding set of roots. Denote by Q the root lattice of $\mathfrak{sl}(M|N)$, and set $Q^+ = \sum_{i \in I} \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \alpha_i$.

Let $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N) = \mathfrak{sl}(M|N) \otimes \mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}] \oplus \mathbb{C}c \oplus \mathbb{C}d$ be the untwisted extended affine Lie superalgebra associated with $\mathfrak{sl}(M|N)$, where c spans the center, and d is the degree operator. We take the following Cartan subalgebra $\widehat{\mathfrak{h}} = \mathfrak{h} \otimes 1 \oplus \mathbb{C}c \oplus \mathbb{C}d$ for $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N)$. Introduce the affine weight ω_0 and null root δ in $\widehat{\mathfrak{h}}^*$ such that $\omega_0(c) = 1$, $\delta(d) = 1$, and $\omega_0(h) = \delta(h) = 0$, $\forall h \in \mathfrak{h}$. Then

$$(\omega_0, \alpha_i) = (\delta, \alpha_i) = 0, \quad \forall i \in I, \quad (\omega_0, \omega_0) = (\delta, \delta) = 0, \quad (\omega_0, \delta) = 1.$$

Then ω_0, δ and all the α_i together form a basis of $\widehat{\mathfrak{h}}^*$. Denote by \widehat{Q} the \mathbb{Z} -span of the α_i and δ , i.e., the root lattice of $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N)$, and let $\alpha_0 = \delta - \sum_{i \in I} \alpha_i$.

Recall that we have the following Borel subalgebras of $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N)$,

$$(2.1) \quad \mathbb{C}c \oplus \mathbb{C}d \oplus \mathfrak{b} \oplus \mathfrak{sl}(M|N) \otimes t\mathbb{C}[t],$$

$$(2.2) \quad \mathbb{C}c \oplus \mathbb{C}d \oplus \mathfrak{b} \otimes \mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}],$$

where (2.1) is the standard Borel subalgebra, while (2.2) is induced by $\mathfrak{b} \subset \mathfrak{sl}(M|N)$. Later we will make use of quantum universal enveloping superalgebras of these Borel subalgebras.

Let us fix once for all a nonzero complex number q which is not a root of 1. For any $m \in \mathbb{Z}_+$, define $[m]_q = \frac{q^m - q^{-m}}{q - q^{-1}}$. Let $q_i = q^{(\epsilon_i, \epsilon_i)}$ for $i \in I$, and set

$$a_{ij} = (\epsilon_i - \epsilon_{i+1}, \epsilon_j - \epsilon_{j+1}), \quad \text{for all } i, j \in I.$$

The quantum affine superalgebra $\widehat{U}_q := U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$ is a Hopf superalgebra over \mathbb{C} [2, 16, 32, 36, 46], which has two presentations, a Serre presentation in terms of Chevalley generators and Serre type relations, and loop presentation. Its loop presentation was constructed in [32].

Definition 2.1. The loop presentation of $\widehat{U}_q := U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$ is as follows. The set of generators is

$$\{X_i^\pm(n), K_i^{\pm 1}, h_i(s), C^{\pm 1/2}, D^{\pm 1} \mid i \in I, n, s \in \mathbb{Z}, s \neq 0\},$$

where $X_M^\pm(m)$ for all $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ are odd, and the other elements are even.

The relations are

$C^{\pm 1/2}$ are central,

$$\begin{aligned} K_i K_i^{-1} = 1 = K_i^{-1} K_i, \quad [K_i, K_j] = [K_i, h_j(s)] = 0, \quad [K_i, D] = 0, \\ DD^{-1} = D^{-1} D = 1, \quad Dh_i(s)D^{-1} = q^s h_i(s), \quad DX_i^\pm(s)D^{-1} = q^s X_i^\pm(s), \\ K_i X_j^\pm(n) K_i^{-1} = q^{\pm a_{ij}} X_j^\pm(n), \end{aligned}$$

$$[h_i(m), h_j(n)] = \delta_{m+n,0} \frac{[ml_i a_{ij}]_{q_i} (C^m - C^{-m})}{m(q_i - q_i^{-1})},$$

$$[h_i(s), X_j^\pm(n)] = \pm \frac{[sl_i a_{ij}]_{q_i}}{s} C^{\mp \frac{|s|}{2}} X_j^\pm(n + s),$$

$$[X_i^+(m), X_j^-(n)] = \delta_{ij} \frac{C^{(m-n)/2} \phi_i^+(m+n) - C^{-(m-n)/2} \phi_i^-(m+n)}{q_i - q_i^{-1}},$$

$$[X_i^\pm(m), X_j^\pm(n)] = 0 \quad \text{for } a_{ij} = 0,$$

$$[X_i^\pm(m+1), X_j^\pm(n)]_{q^{\pm a_{ij}}} + [X_j^\pm(n+1), X_i^\pm(m)]_{q^{\pm a_{ij}}} = 0 \quad \text{for } a_{ij} \neq 0,$$

and

$$\text{Sym}_{m,n}[X_i^\pm(m), [X_i^\pm(n), X_j^\pm(k)]_{q^{-1}}]_q = 0 \quad \text{for } a_{ij} = \pm 1, i \neq M,$$

$$\text{Sym}_{n,u}[[X_{M-1}^\pm(m), X_M^\pm(n)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{M+1}^\pm(k)]_q, X_M^\pm(u) = 0, \quad \text{when } M, N > 1,$$

where $\phi_i^\pm(n)$ are given by the generating series

$$\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \phi_i^\pm(n) z^n = K_i^{\pm 1} \exp(\pm(q_i - q_i^{-1}) \sum_{s \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}} h_i(\pm s) z^{\pm s}) \in \widehat{U}_q[[z, z^{-1}]],$$

and the symbol $\text{Sym}_{k,l}$ means symmetrization with respect to k and l . We have used the notation of q -brackets $[X, Y]_u = XY - (-1)^{|X||Y|} uYX$, and written $[X, Y]$ for $[X, Y]_1$ for simplicity.

We denote by $U'_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$ the subalgebra of \widehat{U}_q without the generators $D^{\pm 1}$. By dropping the generators $X_M^\pm(n)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, we obtain a subalgebra of \widehat{U}_q , which is the quantised universal enveloping algebra $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N)_{\bar{0}})$ of the even subalgebra $\mathfrak{sl}(M|N)_{\bar{0}}$ of $\mathfrak{sl}(M|N)$. Note that this subalgebra contains $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M))$ and $U_{q^{-1}}(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(N))$ as subalgebras.

The superalgebra \widehat{U}_q is \mathbb{Z} -graded $\widehat{U}_q = \bigoplus_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} (\widehat{U}_q)_k$ with homogeneous components $(\widehat{U}_q)_k = \{x \in \widehat{U}_q \mid Dx D^{-1} = q^k x\}$. Let us introduce the following subalgebras of \widehat{U}_q :

- $\widehat{U}_q^+(\gg)$ (resp. $\widehat{U}_q^+(\ll)$) denotes the subalgebra generated by the elements $X_i^+(m)$ for all $m \geq 0$ and $i \in I$ (resp. $X_i^+(m)$ for all $m < 0$ and $i \in I$);
- $\widehat{U}_q^-(\gg)$ (resp. $\widehat{U}_q^-(\ll)$) denotes the subalgebra generated by the elements $X_i^-(m)$ for all $m > 0$ and $i \in I$ (resp. $X_i^-(m)$ for all $m \leq 0$ and $i \in I$);
- $\widehat{U}_q^0(\gg)$ (resp. $\widehat{U}_q^0(\ll)$) denotes the subalgebra generated by the elements $h_i(r)$ for all $r > 0$ and $i \in I$ (resp. $h_i(r)$ for all $r < 0$ and $i \in I$);
- \widehat{U}_q^0 denotes the subalgebra generated by $K_i^{\pm 1}$ ($i \in I$), $D^{\pm 1}$ and $C^{\pm 1/2}$.

We have the following obvious result.

Proposition 2.2. *Define the following subspaces of \widehat{U}_q*

$$\widehat{U}_q(+) := \widehat{U}_q^+(\gg) \widehat{U}_q^-(\gg) \widehat{U}_q^0(\gg), \quad \widehat{U}_q(-) := \widehat{U}_q^+(\ll) \widehat{U}_q^-(\ll) \widehat{U}_q^0(\ll).$$

Then $\widehat{B} = \widehat{U}_q(-) \widehat{U}_q(0)$ and $\widehat{B} = \widehat{U}_q(0) \widehat{U}_q(+)$ are subalgebras, and

$$\widehat{U}_q = \widehat{U}_q(-) \widehat{U}_q^0 \widehat{U}_q(+).$$

Note that \widehat{B} is the quantised universal enveloping algebra of the Borel subalgebra of $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N)$ given in (2.1). Thus this triangular decomposition of

\widehat{U}_q is the quantum analogue of the triangular decomposition of $U(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$ with respect to the Borel subalgebra (2.1).

2.2. Quantum loop superalgebra of $\mathfrak{sl}(M|N)$

Let $U_q(\mathcal{L}(\mathfrak{sl}(M|N)))$ be the extended quantum loop superalgebra, namely the quotient of \widehat{U}_q by the ideal generated by $C^{\pm 1/2} - 1$. We write $U_q = U_q(\mathcal{L}(\mathfrak{sl}(M|N)))$, and denote by U'_q the \mathbb{C} -subalgebra of U_q without the generators $D^{\pm 1}$. Define the following subalgebras of U_q :

- $U_q(0)$ denotes the subalgebra generated by $h_i(r)$, $K_i^{\pm 1}$, $D^{\pm 1}$ for all $i \in I$ and $0 \neq r \in \mathbb{Z}$;
- U_q^+ (resp. U_q^-) denotes the subalgebra generated by $X_i^+(m)$ for all $i \in I$ and $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ (resp. $X_i^-(m)$ for all $i \in I$ and $m \in \mathbb{Z}$),

and let $U'_q(0) = U_q(0) \cap U'_q$, which is a subalgebra of U'_q . Then

$$(2.3) \quad U_q = U_q^- U_q(0) U_q^+, \quad U'_q = U_q^- U'_q(0) U_q^+.$$

Define the following subalgebras of U_q and U'_q respectively:

$$(2.4) \quad B := U_q(0) U_q^+, \quad B' := U'_q(0) U_q^+.$$

Then B can be considered as the quantised universal enveloping superalgebra of the Borel subalgebra of $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N)$ given in (2.2) without the central element, and B' is the subalgebra of B without the generators $D^{\pm 1}$. Thus the triangular decompositions (2.3) are quantum analogues of the triangular decomposition of $U(\mathfrak{sl}(M|N))$ with respect to the Borel subalgebra (2.2) of $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N)$.

Set $\delta = \{\beta_{ij} := \alpha_i + \alpha_{i+1} + \dots + \alpha_j | i, j \in I, i \leq j\}$ with the following total ordering $\beta_{i,j} < \beta_{i',j'}$ if $i < i'$ or $i = i', j < j'$. For $\beta_{i,j} \in \delta$ and $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, define

$$X_{i,j}^+(n) = [\dots [[X_i^+(n), X_{i+1}^+(0)]_{q_{i+1}}, X_{i+2}^+(0)]_{q_{i+2}}, \dots, X_j^+(0)]_{q_j},$$

with the convention that $X_{i,i}^+(n) = X_i^+(n)$.

Proposition 2.3. [35, Theorem 3.12] U_q^+ is spanned by vectors of the form

$$\prod_{1 \leq a \leq b \leq M+N-1}^{\rightarrow} \left(\prod_{i=1}^{c_{ab}} X_{a,b}^+(n_{ab,i}) \right), \quad c_{ab} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}, n_{ab,i} \in \mathbb{Z},$$

where $\overrightarrow{\prod}$ is the ordered product positioning $X_{a,b}^+(m)$ on the left of $X_{a',b'}^+(n)$ if $\beta_{a,b} < \beta_{a',b'}$.

2.3. Weight modules

All the modules for \widehat{U}_q and \widehat{U}'_q considered in this paper are assumed to be \mathbb{Z}_2 -graded. Given a \widehat{U}_q -module V , let

$$V_\mu = \{v \in V \mid Dv = q^{(\mu, \omega_0)}v, C^{\pm 1/2}v = q^{\pm \frac{1}{2}(\mu, \delta)}v, K_i v = q_i^{(\mu, \alpha_i)}v, i \in I\}$$

for any $\mu \in \widehat{\mathfrak{h}}^*$. If $V_\mu \neq 0$, we say that μ is a weight of V , and denote by $P(V)$ the set of the weights. The module V is said to be a *weight module of type 1* if

$$V = \bigoplus_{\mu \in P(V)} V_\mu.$$

From now on, all modules will be assumed to be of type 1. A \widehat{U}_q module V is *integrable* if $V = \bigoplus_{\mu \in P(V)} V_\mu$, and the elements $X_i^\pm(m)$ ($i \in I, m \in \mathbb{Z}$) act locally nilpotently. If $C^{\pm 1/2}$ act by the identity, we say that V is a *zero-level module*, or *at level 0*.

3. Zero-level integrable representations for $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$

In this section we classify the irreducible integrable modules for $\widehat{U}_q := U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$ with finite dimensional weight spaces such that $C^{\pm 1/2}$ act as the identity. Such modules descend to modules for $U_q = U_q(\mathcal{L}(\mathfrak{sl}(M|N)))$.

3.1. Zero-level integrable representations

Let H (resp. H') be the subalgebra of U_q generated by $K_i^{\pm 1}, D^{\pm 1}, i \in I$ (resp. $K_i^{\pm 1}, i \in I$). A module V of U_q (resp. U'_q) is called a *highest weight module* if there exists a nonzero weight vector $v \in V$ with respect to H (resp. H') such that

- 1) $U_q v = V$ (resp. $U'_q v = V$),
- 2) $X_i^+(m)v = 0$ for all $i \in I$ and $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, and
- 3) $U_q(0)v$ (resp. $U'_q(0)v$) is an irreducible $U_q(0)$ -module (resp. $U'_q(0)$ -module).

Call v a highest weight vector of V relative to B (resp. B') as $Bv = \mathbb{C}v$ (resp. $B'v = \mathbb{C}v$). These highest weight modules are defined relative to the triangular decompositions for U_q (resp. U'_q) defined by (2.3).

Let $\psi : U'_q(0) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be any algebra homomorphism, and let $U'_q(0)$ act on the one dimensional vector space $\mathbb{C}_\psi = \mathbb{C}$ by ψ . We extend \mathbb{C}_ψ to a module over B' (cf. (2.4)) by letting U'_q act trivially. Construct the induced U'_q -module

$$M(\psi) = U'_q \otimes_{B'} \mathbb{C}_\psi,$$

which has a unique simple quotient:

$$(3.1) \quad V(\psi) = \text{the simple quotient } U'_q\text{-module of } M(\psi).$$

The following definition is taken from [35].

Definition 3.1. [35] Let $\mathcal{R}_{M,N}$ be the set consisting of elements (P, f, c, Q) , where

- 1) $f(z) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} f_n z^n \in \mathbb{C}[[z, z^{-1}]]$ is a formal series and $Q(z) \in 1 + z\mathbb{C}[z]$ is a polynomial such that

$$Q(z)f(z) = 0;$$

- 2) $c \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ with $\frac{c-c^{-1}}{q-q^{-1}} = f_0$;
- 3) $P = (P_1, \dots, P_{M-1}, P_{M+1}, \dots, P_{M+N-1})$ with $P_i \in 1 + z\mathbb{C}[z]$.

With the help of results from [35], we can characterise the integrability of $V(\psi)$ as follows.

Theorem 3.2. *The following are equivalent for the simple U'_q -module $V(\psi)$ (cf. (3.1)).*

- 1) $V(\psi)$ is an integrable U'_q -module with finite dimensional weight spaces.

2) There exists $(P, f, c, Q) \in \mathcal{R}_{M,N}$ such that for any highest weight vector $v \in V(\psi)$,

$$(3.2) \quad X_i^+(n)v = 0 \quad \text{for } i \in I, n \in \mathbb{Z},$$

$$(3.3) \quad \psi \left(\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \phi_i^\pm(n)z^n \right) v = q_i^{\deg P_i} \frac{P_i(zq_i^{-1})}{P_i(zq_i)} v \in \mathbb{C}[[z^{\pm 1}]], \quad i \in I, i \neq M,$$

$$(3.4) \quad (X_i^-(0))^{1+\deg P_i} v = 0, \quad i \in I, i \neq M,$$

$$(3.5) \quad \psi(K_M)v = cv, \quad \psi \left(\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{\phi_M^+(n) - \phi_M^-(n)}{q - q^{-1}} z^n \right) v = f(z)v,$$

$$(3.6) \quad \sum_{s=0}^d a_{d-s} X_M^-(s+r)v = 0, \quad \forall r \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad \text{with } Q(z) = \sum_{s=0}^d a_s z^s,$$

where (3.3) is understood as an equation of Laurent series expanded about $z = 0$ for ϕ_i^+ (resp. $z = \infty$ for ϕ_i^-).

3) $V(\psi)$ is finite dimensional.

Proof. (1) \Rightarrow (2). When $i \neq M$, let $U_q^{(i)}$ be the $U_{q_i}(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(2))$ subalgebra generated by

$$X_i^\pm(n), K_i^{\pm 1}, h_i(r), \quad n, r \in \mathbb{Z}, r \neq 0.$$

Then $U_q^{(i)}v$ is an integrable highest weight $U_q^{(i)}$ -module. By [8, Theorem 3.4], there exists a polynomial $P_i \in 1 + z\mathbb{C}[z]$ satisfying (3.3) and (3.4).

When $i = M$, there exist $c \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}, f_n \in \mathbb{C}, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} K_M v &= cv, \\ \frac{\phi_M^+(n) - \phi_M^-(n)}{q - q^{-1}} v &= \psi \left(\frac{\phi_M^+(n) - \phi_M^-(n)}{q - q^{-1}} \right) v = f_n v, \quad n \neq 0, \\ \frac{\phi_M^+(0) - \phi_M^-(0)}{q - q^{-1}} v &= \psi \left(\frac{K_M - K_M^{-1}}{q - q^{-1}} \right) v = f_0 v. \end{aligned}$$

Since $X_M^-(n)v$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ belong to the same weight space of $V(\psi)$, and all weight spaces are finite dimensional, there exist $m \in \mathbb{Z}, d \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ and $a_0, \dots, a_d \in \mathbb{C}$ satisfying $a_d \neq 0$ and $a_0 = 1$ such that

$$\sum_{s=0}^d a_{d-s} X_M^-(s+m)v = 0.$$

Applying $h_{M-1}(r)$ to the above equality, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \sum_{s=0}^d a_{d-s} [h_{M-1}(r), X_M^-(s+m)]v + \sum_{s=0}^d a_{d-s} X_M^-(s+m)h_{M-1}(r)v \\ &= \sum_{s=0}^d a_{d-s} \frac{[r]_q}{r} X_M^-(s+m+r)v + \sum_{s=0}^d a_{d-s} X_M^-(s+m)\psi(h_{M-1}(r))v \\ &= \frac{[r]_q}{r} \left(\sum_{s=0}^d a_{d-s} X_M^-(s+m+r)v \right). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, $\sum_{s=0}^d a_{d-s} X_M^-(s+m+r)v = 0$ and (3.6) holds.

Applying $X_M^+(0)$ to $\sum_{s=0}^d a_{d-s} X_M^-(s+m+r)v = 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &X_M^+(0) \sum_{s=0}^d a_{d-s} X_M^-(s+m+r)v \\ &= \sum_{s=0}^d a_{d-s} \frac{\phi_M^+(s+m+r) - \phi_M^-(s+m+r)}{q - q^{-1}}v \\ &= \sum_{s=0}^d a_{d-s} f_{s+m+r}v = 0, \end{aligned}$$

which implies that $Q(z)(\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} f_n z^n) = 0$, where $Q(z) = \sum_{s=0}^d a_s z^s$.

(2) \Rightarrow (3). This was established in [35, Theorem 4.5], which is a key result in the classification of finite dimensional simple U'_q -modules.

(3) \Rightarrow (1). Clear. □

Definition 3.3. We will denote by $V(P, f, c, Q)$ the U'_q -module $V(\psi)$ corresponding to $(P, f, c, Q) \in \mathcal{R}_{M,N}$ in Theorem 3.2, and call P, f and Q the highest weigh polynomials of $V(P, f, c, Q)$.

Note that f is a formal Laurent series in general.

The following result is [6, Lemma 1.4].

Lemma 3.4. *Let $\chi : U'_q(0) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}]$ be a nontrivial homomorphism of \mathbb{Z} -graded algebras. Then there exists a unique $r > 0$ such that the image of χ equals to $\mathbb{C}[t^r, t^{-r}]$.*

Let $\tilde{\varphi} : U'_q(0) \rightarrow L := \mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}]$ be a \mathbb{Z} -graded algebra homomorphism such that $\tilde{\varphi}(C^{\pm 1/2}) = 1$ and $\tilde{\varphi}(K_i^{\pm 1}) \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$. Then for any given $b \in \mathbb{C}$,

we can turn L into a $U_q(0)$ -module via $\tilde{\varphi}$ defined for all $f \in L$ by

$$(3.7) \quad Df = q^{t \frac{d}{dt} + b} f, \quad xf = \tilde{\varphi}(x)f, \quad x \in U'_q(0).$$

We write $\varphi = (\tilde{\varphi}, b)$ and denote by L_φ the image of $\tilde{\varphi}$ regarded as a \mathbb{Z} -graded $U_q(0)$ -submodule. Then L_φ is $L_0 := \mathbb{C}$ or a Laurent subring $L_r := \mathbb{C}[t^r, t^{-r}]$ for some integer $r > 0$. This follows from Lemma 3.4.

Assume that L_φ is a simple $U_q(0)$ -module. We extend L_φ to a module over B (cf. (2.4)) with U_q^+ acting trivially, and construct the induced U_q -module

$$(3.8) \quad M(\varphi) = U_q \otimes_B L_\varphi.$$

This has a unique irreducible quotient, which we denote by $V(\varphi)$. Then every irreducible highest weight U_q -module is isomorphic to some $V(\varphi)$.

Given any simple U'_q -module $V(\psi)$ (cf. (3.1)), we form the vector space $V(\psi) \otimes L$ and denote $w(s) = w \otimes t^s$ for any $w \in V(\psi)$ and $s \in \mathbb{Z}$. For any $b \in \mathbb{C}$, we now turn $V(\psi) \otimes L$ into a U_q -module by defining the action

$$(3.9) \quad \begin{aligned} C^{\pm 1/2} w(s) &= w(s), & Dw(s) &= q^{s+b} w(s), \\ xw(s) &= (xw)(s+m), & x &\in (U_q)_m. \end{aligned}$$

We denote this U_q -module by $L(V(\psi); b)$ and call it the *quantum loop module associated to $V(\psi)$ and b* . Then $V(\psi)$ is an integrable U'_q -module if and only if $L(V(\psi); b)$ is an integrable U_q -module.

Theorem 3.5. *Let $V(\varphi)$ be a \widehat{U}_q -module such that $L_\varphi \cong L_r$ is an irreducible $U'_q(0)$ -module. Define $\psi = S \circ \tilde{\varphi} : U'_q(0) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ with $S : L \rightarrow \mathbb{C}, t \mapsto 1$, being the evaluation map. Let v be a highest weight vector of $V(\psi)$ and denote $v(i) = v \otimes t^i$ for any $i \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then*

- 1) $V(\psi) \otimes L \cong \bigoplus_{i=0}^{r-1} U_q v(i)$ as U_q -modules, where U_q -submodules $U_q v(i)$ are simple. Furthermore, $U_q v(0) \cong V(\varphi)$.
- 2) $V(\varphi)$ has finite dimensional weight spaces with respect to H if and only if $V(\psi)$ has finite dimensional weight spaces with respect to H' .

Proof. The proofs of [23, Theorem 1.8] and [24, Lemma 1.10] can be adopted verbatim to prove this result. We refer the interested readers to the paper [23, 24] for details. □

We note that $U_q v(i) \cong V(\tilde{\varphi}, b + i)$. In the case $r = 0$, the formula in part (1) of the theorem should be understood as $V(\psi) \otimes L \cong \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} U_q v(i)$.

Given any nonzero simple U_q -submodule $U_q v(i) \subseteq L(V(\psi), b)$, we define the *evaluation module* for U'_q by setting $t = 1$:

$$(3.10) \quad U_q v(i) \longrightarrow V(\psi), \quad w(s) \mapsto w.$$

This is a U'_q -module homomorphism, which is surjective.

3.2. Classification theorem

Let V be an irreducible integrable U_q -module with finite dimensional weight spaces. In this section we generalize the method developed in [30] to show that V has to be a highest weight module with respect to the triangular decomposition of U_q given in (2.3).

Introduce the set $S = \{(a, b) | 1 \leq a \leq M \leq b \leq M + N - 1, a < b\}$, and order the elements so that $(a, b) > (a', b')$ if and only if $b - a > b' - a'$ or $b - a = b' - a', a < a'$.

We have the following lemmas, which play a key role in the remainder of the section. Their proofs are relegated to Appendices B and C as they involve very lengthy computations.

Lemma 3.6. *Let $v_{a-1, b-1}$ be a weight vector in V . For any $n_1, \dots, n_p \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $p \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, denote*

$$v_{a,b} := X_{a,b}^+(n_p) \cdots X_{a,b}^+(n_1) v_{a-1, b-1}, \quad \text{if } b - 1 \neq M + N,$$

$$(\text{resp. } v_{1, b-a} := X_{1, b-a}^+(n_p) \cdots X_{1, b-a}^+(n_1) v_{a-1, b-1}, \quad \text{if } b - 1 = M + N).$$

If $X_i^+(m) v_{a-1, b-1} = X_{k,l}^+(m) v_{a-1, b-1} = 0, \forall i \neq M, m \in \mathbb{Z}, (k, l) > (a - 1, b - 1)$, then

$$X_i^+(m) v_{a,b} = X_{k,l}^+(m) v_{a,b} = 0 \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{Z}, (k, l) > (a, b), i \neq M,$$

$$(\text{resp. } X_i^+(m) v_{1, b-a} = X_{k,l}^+(m) v_{1, b-a} = 0 \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{Z}, (k, l) > (1, b - a)).$$

Proof. See Appendix B . □

Lemma 3.7. *For $(a, b) \in S$, let $v_{a,b}$ be a weight vector in V such that*

$$(3.11) \quad \begin{aligned} X_i^+(m)(X_{a,b}^+(n_1) \cdots X_{a,b}^+(n_r) v_{a,b}) &= 0, \quad \forall m, n_1, \dots, n_r \in \mathbb{Z}, i \neq M, \\ X_{a,b}^+(p) X_{a,b}^+(k) v_{a,b} &= 0, \quad \forall p, k \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ with } p \equiv k \pmod{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$(3.12) \quad X_{a,b}^+(p) X_{a,b}^+(i) X_{a,b}^+(j) v_{a,b} = 0, \quad \forall p, i, j \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Furthermore, there exists k ($0 \leq k \leq 2$) and $n_1, \dots, n_k \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that

$$(3.13) \quad \begin{aligned} w_{a,b} &:= X_{a,b}^+(n_1) \cdots X_{a,b}^+(n_k)v_{a,b} \neq 0, \\ X_{a,b}^+(m)w_{a,b} &= 0, \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{Z}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. See Appendix C . □

Let V be an irreducible zero-level integrable module for U_q with finite dimensional weight spaces. By definition, V is integrable over the even subalgebra of U_q . It follows from Chari’s work [6] that there is a non-zero weight vector $v \in V$ such that

$$(3.14) \quad X_i^+(m)v = 0, \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{Z}, i \neq M.$$

Denote by $wt(v)$ the weight of v . Let X be the subspace of V spanned by the vectors $X_M^+(k)X_M^+(-k)v$ for all $k \geq 0$, which is a subspace of $V_{wt(v)+2\alpha_M}$, thus is finite dimensional. Therefore, there exists a finite positive integer K such that

$$X = \text{span}\{X_M^+(k)X_M^+(-k)v \mid 0 < k < K\}.$$

Thus for any $r \in \mathbb{Z}$ we have

$$(3.15) \quad X_M^+(r)X_M^+(-r)v = \sum_{0 < k < K} a_k^{(r)} X_M^+(k)X_M^+(-k)v, \quad a_k^{(r)} \in \mathbb{C}.$$

Note that the elements $X_M^+(k)$ for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ anti-commute among themselves and satisfy $X_M^+(k)^2 = 0$. Thus equation (3.16) below immediately follows from (3.15).

Lemma 3.8. *Let V be a simple zero-level integrable U_q -module, and let $v \in V$ be a nonzero weight vector satisfying (3.14). Then the following relations hold for large k :*

$$(3.16) \quad X_M^+(n_k)X_M^+(-n_k) \cdots X_M^+(n_1)X_M^+(-n_1)v = 0, \quad \forall n_1, \dots, n_k \in \mathbb{Z};$$

$$(3.17) \quad X_{1,M+N-1}^+(m_k) \cdots X_{1,M+N-1}^+(m_1)v = 0, \quad \forall m_1, \dots, m_k \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Proof. Since (3.16) was proven already, we only need to consider (3.17). For notational simplicity, we write $E(m) = X_{1,M+N-1}^+(m)$ for all m . Applying

$$(X_{M+N-1}^+(0))^{2k} \cdots (X_{M+1}^+(0))^{2k} (X_1^+(m))^{2k} (X_2^+(0))^{2k} \cdots (X_{M-1}^+(0))^{2k}$$

to (3.16) and then using (A.2), we can show that

$$(3.18) \quad E(m + n_k)E(m - n_k) \cdots E(m + n_1)E(m - n_1)v = 0.$$

Let $l + 1$ be the minimal integer such that (3.18) holds. Then there exist r_1, \dots, r_l such that

$$\begin{aligned} v' &:= E(m + r_l)E(m - r_l) \cdots E(m + r_1)E(m - r_1)v \neq 0, \\ E(p)E(k)v' &= 0 \quad \text{for all } p, k \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ with } p \equiv k \pmod{2}. \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 3.6, we have

$$X_i^+(m)(E(n_1) \cdots E(n_k)v') = 0, \quad i \neq M, n_1, \dots, n_k \in \mathbb{Z}, k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}.$$

Now (3.17) follows from (3.13). □

Using Lemma 3.8, we can prove the following result.

Proposition 3.9. *Let V be an irreducible zero-level integrable U_q -module with finite dimensional weight spaces. Then there always exists a nonzero weight vector $w \in V$ such that*

$$(3.19) \quad X_i^+(r)w = 0, \quad \forall i \neq M, r \in \mathbb{Z},$$

$$(3.20) \quad X_{a,b}^+(r)w = 0, \quad \forall (a, b) \in S, r \in \mathbb{Z},$$

$$(3.21) \quad X_M^+(n_1) \cdots X_M^+(n_k)w = 0, \quad \forall n_i \in \mathbb{Z}, \text{ large } k.$$

Proof. By Lemma 3.8, one can find a non-zero weight vector $v_{1,M+N-1}$ such that

$$X_i^+(m)v_{1,M+N-1} = X_{1,M+N-1}^+(m)v_{1,M+N-1} = 0 \quad i \neq M, m \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

We observe that (3.16) still holds if we replace v by $v_{1,M+N-1}$, namely, for large k ,

$$(3.22) \quad X_M^+(n_k)X_M^+(-n_k) \cdots X_M^+(n_1)X_M^+(-n_1)v_{1,M+N-1} = 0, \\ \forall n_1, \dots, n_k \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Applying

$$(X_{M+N-2}^+(0))^{2k} \cdots (X_{M+1}^+(0))^{2k} (X_1^+(m))^{2k} (X_2^+(0))^{2k} \cdots (X_{M-1}^+(0))^{2k}$$

to this equation, and then using (A.2), we obtain

$$Q_{M+N-2}(n_1, \dots, n_k)v_{1,M+N-1} = 0,$$

where $Q_{M+N-2}(n_1, \dots, n_k)$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} X_{1,M+N-2}^+(m+n_k)X_{1,M+N-2}^+(m-n_k) \cdots \\ \cdots X_{1,M+N-2}^+(m+n_1)X_{1,M+N-2}^+(m-n_1). \end{aligned}$$

Clearly, $m+n_i \equiv m-n_i \pmod{2}, i=1, \dots, k$. By using Lemma 3.6 and Lemma 3.7, we can find a non-zero weight vector $v_{1,M+N-2}$ such that for all $m \in \mathbb{Z}$,

$$\begin{aligned} X_i^+(m)v_{1,M+N-2} &= 0, \quad i \neq M, \\ X_{1,M+N-1}^+(m)v_{1,M+N-2} &= X_{1,M+N-2}^+(m)v_{1,M+N-2} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Now (3.16) holds with $v = v_{1,M+N-2}$. Thus for large k ,

$$X_M^+(n_k)X_M^+(-n_k) \cdots X_M^+(n_1)X_M^+(-n_1)v_{1,M+N-2} = 0, \quad \forall n_1, \dots, n_k \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Applying

$$(X_{M+N-2}^+(0))^{2k} \cdots (X_{M+1}^+(0))^{2k} (X_2^+(m))^{2k} (X_3^+(0))^{2k} \cdots (X_{M-1}^+(0))^{2k}$$

to this equation, and then using Lemma 3.6 and Lemma 3.7, we can find a non-zero weight vector $v_{2,M+N-1}$ such that for all $m \in \mathbb{Z}$,

$$\begin{aligned} X_i^+(m)v_{2,M+N-1} &= 0, \quad i \neq M, \\ X_{1,M+N-1}^+(m)v_{2,M+N-1} &= X_{1,M+N-2}^+(m)v_{2,M+N-1} \\ &= X_{2,M+N-2}^+(m)v_{2,M+N-1} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Repeating the above process for $v = v_{2,M+N-1}$ etc., and after a finite number of iterations, we will find a nonzero weight vector w such that

$$(3.23) \quad X_i^+(m)w = X_{a,b}^+(m)w = 0, \quad i \neq M, \quad m \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad (a, b) \in S,$$

where the set S is defined in the beginning of Section 3.2.

Let μ be the weight of w . Observe that V , being irreducible, must be cyclically generated by w over U_q . By using the PBW theorem for U_q and equation (3.23), we easily show that any weight of V which is bigger than μ (relative to B ; see also the Borel subalgebra of $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N)$ defined by (2.2)) must be of the form

$$(3.24) \quad \mu + a(\epsilon_M - \epsilon_{M+1}) + b\delta, \quad a \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}, b \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Now we prove (3.21). Suppose it is false, that is, for any positive integer p , there always exist $k > p$ and $n_1, \dots, n_k \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $\tilde{w} := X_M^+(n_1) \cdots X_M^+(n_k)w \neq 0$. Then $\nu := \mu + k(\epsilon_M - \epsilon_{M+1}) + \sum_{i=1}^k n_i\delta$ is the weight of \tilde{w} . But for large p , and hence large k , we have $(\nu, \epsilon_{M-1} - \epsilon_M) < 0$. Thus $\nu + (\epsilon_{M-1} - \epsilon_M)$ is a weight of V by considering the action of the $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ subalgebra generated by $X_{M-1}^\pm(0)$ and $K_{M-1}^{\pm 1}$. However, the weight $\nu + (\epsilon_{M-1} - \epsilon_M)$ is not of the form (3.24), proving (3.21) by contradiction. \square

The following theorem is now an easy consequence of Proposition 3.9.

Theorem 3.10. *Let V be an irreducible zero-level integrable U_q -module with finite dimensional weight spaces. Then V is a highest weight module with respect to the triangular decomposition of U_q given by (2.3).*

Proof. Consider the weight vector w of Proposition 3.9, and let s be the minimal integer such that (3.21) holds. Then there exist $r_1, \dots, r_{s-1} \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} v &:= X_M^+(r_1) \cdots X_M^+(r_{s-1})w \neq 0, \\ X_M^+(r)v &= 0, \quad \forall r \in \mathbb{Z}. \end{aligned}$$

It is not difficult to show that we also have $X_i^+(m)v = 0$ for all $i \neq M$ and $m \in \mathbb{Z}$. \square

Theorem 3.11. *Let W be an irreducible integrable U_q -module of type 1 with finite dimensional weight spaces. Then W is isomorphic to an irreducible component of $L(V, b)$ for some $b \in \mathbb{C}$, where $V = V(P, f, c, Q)$ (see Definition 3.3) for some $(P, f, c, Q) \in \mathcal{R}_{M,N}$.*

Proof. It follows from Theorem 3.10 that there exists a nonzero highest weight vector $v \in W$, and $W = U_q v = U_q^- U_q(0)v$, where the second equality follows from (2.3). Clearly $U_q(0)v = U_q'(0)v$. Irreducibility of W requires that $U_q'(0)v$ be an irreducible $U_q(0)$ -module, and hence an irreducible $U_q'(0)$ -module. Since $U_q'(0)$ is a \mathbb{Z} -graded commutative algebra, $U_q'(0)v$ being an

irreducible graded module must be the quotient of $U'_q(0)$ by a maximal graded ideal \mathcal{M} of $U'_q(0)$ which annihilates v . It follows from Lemma 3.4 that $U'_q(0)/\mathcal{M} \cong L_r := \mathbb{C}[t^r, t^{-r}]$. Thus we have a natural \mathbb{Z} -graded homomorphism $\tilde{\varphi} : U'_q(0) \rightarrow U'_q(0)/\mathcal{M} \cong L_r$ such that $\tilde{\varphi}(x)v = xv$ for all $x \in U'_q(0)$. There exists some $b \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $Dv = q^b v$. Set $\varphi = (\tilde{\varphi}, b)$ (see notation immediately below (3.7)). Then W is isomorphic to $V(\varphi)$.

Set $\psi = S \circ \tilde{\varphi}$ and consider the irreducible module $V(\psi)$. By Theorem 3.5, $V(\varphi)$ is isomorphic to an irreducible component of $L(V(\psi), b)$. Since $V(\varphi)$ is an integrable U_q -module with finite dimensional weight spaces, so is $V(\psi)$. Thus it follows from Theorem 3.2 that $V(\psi)$ is isomorphic to $V(P, f, c, Q)$ (see Definition 3.3) for some $(P, f, c, Q) \in \mathcal{R}_{M,N}$. This completes the proof. \square

4. Integrable representations of $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$ at nonzero levels

In this section, highest and lowest weight modules for $\widehat{U}_q = U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N))$ are defined relative to the triangular decomposition of \widehat{U}_q given in Proposition 2.2.

4.1. Integrable representations at nonzero levels

The subalgebra of \widehat{U}_q generated by $X_i^\pm(n), K_i^{\pm 1}, h_i(r), C^{\pm 1/2}, D^{\pm 1}$ (with $M + 1 \leq i \leq M + N - 1, n, r \in \mathbb{Z}, r \neq 0$) is $U_{q^{-1}}(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(N))$. Thus C acts on any nontrivial simple integrable highest weight $U_{q^{-1}}(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(N))$ -module [8, 18] by the multiplication by $q^{-\ell}$ for some fixed $\ell > 0$.

We have the following result.

Proposition 4.1. 1) *Let W be an integrable $U_{q^{-1}}(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(N))$ -module with finite dimensional weight spaces. Suppose that the center C acts on W by $(q^{-1})^r$ with $r \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. If λ is a weight of W , then there exists $K > 0$ such that*

$$\lambda + \alpha + k\delta \text{ is not a weight of } W \text{ for all } k \geq K \text{ and } \alpha \in \Delta_0^2 \cup \{0\}.$$

2) *Let V be an irreducible integrable module for \widehat{U}_q with finite dimensional weight spaces. Suppose that the center C acts on V by $(q^{-1})^r$ with $r \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. Then for any $\lambda \in P(V)$ there exists $K > 0$ such that*

$$\lambda + \alpha + k\delta \notin P(V) \quad \text{for all } k \geq K \text{ and for all } \alpha \in \Delta_0^2 \cup \{0\}.$$

Proof. Part (1) can be easily proved by adapting the proof of [25, Theorem 1.10] to the present context. We omit the details.

To prove part (2), set $T = \mathbb{C}[(K_M^N K_{M+1}^{N-1} \cdots K_{M+N-2}^2 K_{M+N-1})^{\pm 1}, K_{M-1}^{\pm 1}, \dots, K_1^{\pm 1}]$. Observe that T commutes with $U_{q^{-1}}(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(N))$. Decompose V into the direct sum of T -invariant subspaces. Each T -invariant subspace is an integrable $U_{q^{-1}}(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(N))$ -module with finite dimensional weight spaces. Now part (1) implies part (2). \square

Theorem 4.2. *Assume that both M and N are greater than 1. Then there exists no integrable \widehat{U}_q -module with finite dimensional weight spaces, where C does not act by the identity.*

Proof. Without loss of generality, we may assume that C acts by q^{-r} with $r > 0$. Let $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M))$ be the subalgebra of \widehat{U}_q generated by $X_i^{\pm}(n)$, $K_i^{\pm 1}$, $h_i(s)$, $C^{\pm 1/2}$ with $1 \leq i \leq M - 1$, $n, s \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $s \neq 0$. Regard V as an integrable $\widehat{U}_q(\mathfrak{sl}(M))$ -module. Note that C acts on V by q^{-r} with $r > 0$. By [6, Theorem 5], there exists a weight vector $v \in V$ of weight λ such that $X_i^{\pm}(n)v = 0$ and $h_i(n)v = 0$ for all $n < 0$ and $1 \leq i \leq M - 1$. Then $h_i(n)v \neq 0$ for all $n > 0$ and $1 \leq i \leq M - 1$. Thus $\lambda + n\delta \in P(V)$ for all $n > 0$. This contradicts Proposition 4.1, completing the proof. \square

Remark 4.3. A similar result has long been known [12, 15] for affine Lie superalgebras in the classical setting.

4.2. Integrable representations of $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(1|N))$

From now on we assume that $N > M = 1$.

Lemma 4.4. $X_{1,a}^{\pm}(m)X_{1,a}^{\pm}(n) = -X_{1,a}^{\pm}(n)X_{1,a}^{\pm}(m)$, $1 \leq a \leq N - 1, m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Proof. The $a = 1$ case is a defining relation of \widehat{U}_q . For $a \geq 2$, we have

$$[X_{1,a}^+(m), X_{1,a}^+(n)]_{q^{-2}} = [[X_1^+(m), X_{2,a}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}}, [X_1^+(n), X_{2,a}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}}]_{q^{-2}}.$$

We can rewrite the right hand side as

$$\begin{aligned} & [X_1^+(m), [X_{2,a}^+(0), X_{1,a}^+(n)]_{q^{-1}}]_{q^{-2}} \\ & + q^{-1} [[X_1^+(m), [X_1^+(n), X_{2,a}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}}]_{q^{-1}}, X_{2,a}^+(0)], \end{aligned}$$

where the first term vanishes by Lemma A.2. The second term can be expressed as

$$q^{-1}[[[X_1^+(m), X_1^+(n)], X_{2,a}^+(0)]_{q^{-2}}, X_{2,a}^+(0)] - q^{-1}[[X_1^+(n), [X_1^+(m), X_{2,a}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}}]_{q^{-1}}, X_{2,a}^+(0)],$$

where the first term vanishes, as $[X_1^+(m), X_1^+(n)] = 0$. By manipulating the second term, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} [X_{1,a}^+(m), X_{1,a}^+(n)]_{q^{-2}} &= -q^{-1}[X_1^+(n), [X_{1,a}^+(m), X_{2,a}^+(0)]_q]_{q^{-2}} \\ &\quad + q[[X_1^+(n), X_{2,a}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}}, [X_1^+(m), X_{2,a}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}}]_{q^{-2}} \\ &= -[X_{1,a}^+(n), X_{1,a}^+(m)]_{q^{-2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, $X_{1,a}^+(m)X_{1,a}^+(n) = -X_{1,a}^+(n)X_{1,a}^+(m)$.

Similarly, one can show that $X_{1,a}^-(m)X_{1,a}^-(n) = -X_{1,a}^-(n)X_{1,a}^-(m)$. □

Theorem 4.5. *Assume that $N > M = 1$. Let V be an irreducible integrable \widehat{U}_q -module with finite dimensional weight spaces. Suppose that C acts by $(q^{-1})^r$ for some non-zero $r \in \mathbb{Z}$. If $r > 0$ (resp. $r < 0$), then V is a highest (resp. lowest) weight module.*

Proof. Without lose of generality, we may assume that $r > 0$.

Claim 1. *For any weight vector $v \in V$, the following vector space, spanned by*

$$\left\{ X_{1,a_1}^+(m_1) \cdots X_{1,a_k}^+(m_k)v \mid \begin{array}{l} 1 \leq a_1 \leq \cdots \leq a_k \leq N, k \geq 0, \\ m_i \geq 0, m_i < m_{i+1} \text{ when } a_i = a_{i+1} \end{array} \right\},$$

is finite-dimensional.

By Proposition 2.3, it is sufficient to prove that, for $1 \leq p \leq N$, the vector space $S_p^+(v)$ spanned by $\{X_{1,p}^+(m_1) \cdots X_{1,p}^+(m_r)v \mid r \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}, m_i \geq 0\}$ is finite-dimensional.

For $S_1^+(v)$, which is spanned by $\{X_1^+(m_1) \cdots X_1^+(m_r)v \mid 0 \leq m_1 < \cdots < m_r, r \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}\}$, we consider

$$\begin{aligned} X_1^+(n)v &= \frac{n(q - q^{-1})}{q^{-n} - q^n} C^{\frac{|n|}{2}} [h_2(n), X_1^+(0)]v \\ &= \frac{n(q - q^{-1})}{q^{-n} - q^n} C^{\frac{|n|}{2}} (h_2(n)X_1^+(0)v - X_1^+(0)h_2(n)v). \end{aligned}$$

From Proposition 4.1 there exists $n_0 > 0$ such that

$$h_2(n)v = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad h_2(n)X_1^+(0)v = 0$$

for all $n > n_0$. Now it is easy to see that $S_1^+(v)$ is spanned by

$$\{X_M^+(m_1) \cdots X_M^+(m_r)v \mid r \geq 0, 0 \leq m_i \leq n_0, m_i \neq m_j, i \neq j\},$$

which is clearly finite-dimensional.

For any $r \geq 1$ and $m_i \geq 0$, observe that

$$(4.1) \quad X_1^+(m_1) \cdots X_1^+(m_r)v = 0,$$

if there exists $j(1 \leq j \leq r)$ such that $m_j > n_0$. From Proposition 4.1 there exists $K_v > 0$ such that $X_i^+(k)v = 0$ for all $k \geq K_v, 2 \leq i \leq N$. Applying the element $Q_p := (X_p^+(K_v))^r \cdots (X_2^+(K_v))^r$ ($p \geq 2$ and $Q_2 = (X_2^+(K_v))^r$) to (4.1), and using equations (A.2) and (A.4) repeatedly, we obtain

$$X_{1,p}^+(m_1 + (M - p)K_v) \cdots X_{1,p}^+(m_r + (M - p)K_v)v = 0,$$

if $m_j > n_0$ for some $j(1 \leq j \leq r)$. Combining this with Lemma 4.4, we conclude that the vector space $S_p^+(v)$ is spanned by

$$\{X_{1,p}^+(m_1) \cdots X_{1,p}^+(m_r)v \mid 0 \leq m_1 < \cdots < m_r \leq (M - p)K_v + n_0, r \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}\},$$

which is finite-dimensional. This completes the proof of Claim 1.

In a similar way, one can prove

Claim 2. *For any weight vector $v \in V$, the vector space spanned by the following set*

$$\left\{ X_{1,a_1}^-(m_1) \cdots X_{1,a_k}^-(m_k)v \mid \begin{array}{l} 1 \leq a_1 \leq \cdots \leq a_k \leq N, k \geq 0, \\ m_i > 0, m_i < m_{i+1} \text{ when } a_i = a_{i+1} \end{array} \right\},$$

is finite-dimensional.

Let \mathcal{N}^+ (resp. \mathcal{N}^-) be the subalgebra of \widehat{U}_q generated by $X_{1,a}^+(0), X_{1,a}^\pm(n), n > 0, 1 \leq a \leq N$ (resp. $X_{1,a}^+(0), X_{1,a}^\pm(n), n < 0, 1 \leq a \leq N$). Combining Proposition 2.3 with Claims 1 and 2, we obtain

Claim 3. *For any weight vector $v \in V$, the space \mathcal{N}^+v is finite-dimensional.*

For any weight vector $v \in V$, set $W = \mathbb{C}[K_1, K_1^{-1}]U(\bigoplus_{n>0} \mathbb{C}h_1(n))\mathcal{N}^+v$. From Proposition 4.1 and Claim 3, one can see that W is finite-dimensional.

Define the following subalgebras of \widehat{U}_q :

- $U_{q^{-1}}(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(N))$ is generated by $X_i^\pm(n), h_i(r), K_i^{\pm 1}, C^{\pm 1/2}, D^{\pm 1}, n, r \in \mathbb{Z}, r \neq 0, 2 \leq i \leq N$;
- $\widehat{U}_{q^{-1},N}^+$ by $\{X_i^+(0), X_i^\pm(n), h_i(n) \mid n > 0, 2 \leq i \leq N\}$;
- $\widehat{U}_{q^{-1},N}^-$ by $\{X_i^-(0), X_i^\pm(n), h_i(n) \mid n < 0, 2 \leq i \leq N\}$; and
- $\widehat{U}_{q^{-1},N}^0$ by $\{K_i^{\pm 1}, C^{\pm 1/2}, D^{\pm 1} \mid 2 \leq i \leq N\}$.

Now consider $\mathcal{W} = \widehat{U}_{q^{-1},N}^- \widehat{U}_{q^{-1},N}^0 \widehat{U}_{q^{-1},N}^+ W$. Clearly, \mathcal{W} is an integrable $U_{q^{-1}}(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(N))$ -module. Using Proposition 4.1, one can show that $\widehat{U}_{q^{-1},N}^+ W$ is finite-dimensional. By [6, Proposition 1.7], we have $\mathcal{W} \cong \bigoplus_\lambda m_\lambda V(\lambda)$, where $V(\lambda)$ are irreducible integrable $U_{q^{-1}}(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(N))$ -modules with highest weight λ and multiplicities $m_\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$, which are nonzero for only finitely many λ . Thus \mathcal{W} has a maximal weight. Since V is simple, $V = \mathcal{N}^- U(\bigoplus_{n<0} \mathbb{C}h_1(n))\mathcal{W}$. Thus this maximal weight of \mathcal{W} is also the highest weight of V . □

Recall that for ordinary quantum affine algebras, a simple highest (resp. lowest) weight module is integrable if and only if its highest (resp. lowest) weight is integral dominant (resp. anti-dominant) [8, 18].

Corollary 4.6. *Assume that $N > M = 1$. A simple \widehat{U}_q -module V at nonzero level is integrable with finite dimensional weight spaces if and only if V is*

- 1) *a highest weight module with a highest weight which is integral dominant with respect to $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N)_{\bar{0}})$, or*
- 2) *a lowest weight module with a lowest weight which is integral anti-dominant with respect to $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(M|N)_{\bar{0}})$.*

Proof. As simple highest or lowest weight \widehat{U}_q -modules defined with respect to the triangular decomposition of \widehat{U}_q given in Proposition 2.2 automatically have finite dimensional weight spaces, the corollary immediately follows from Theorem 4.5 and the preceding remarks on integrable highest weight modules for ordinary quantum affine algebras. □

Appendix A. Relations in $U_q(\mathcal{L}(\mathfrak{sl}(M|N)))$

We present some technical results which are used in the main body of the paper.

The following identities are valid for the q -bracket.

Lemma A.1. *For any homogeneous elements a, b, c of \widehat{U}_q , and nonzero scalars u, v, x ,*

$$\begin{aligned}
 (A.1) \quad & [a, bc]_v = [a, b]_x c + (-1)^{|a||b|} x b [a, c]_{\frac{v}{x}}, \\
 & [ab, c]_v = a [b, c]_x + (-1)^{|b||c|} x [a, c]_{\frac{v}{x}} b, \\
 & [a, [b, c]_u]_v = [[a, b]_x, c]_{\frac{uv}{x}} + (-1)^{|a||b|} x [b, [a, c]_{\frac{v}{x}}]_{\frac{u}{x}}, \\
 & [[a, b]_u, c]_v = [a, [b, c]_x]_{\frac{uv}{x}} + (-1)^{|b||c|} x [[a, c]_{\frac{v}{x}}, b]_{\frac{u}{x}}.
 \end{aligned}$$

We can derive from Definition 2.1 the following relations:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (A.2) \quad & [X_i^+(m), [X_i^+(m), X_j^+(k)]_{q^{-1}}]_q \\
 & = [X_i^+(m), [X_i^+(m), X_j^+(k)]_q]_{q^{-1}} = 0, \quad i \neq M, \quad a_{i,j} = \pm 1,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (A.3) \quad & [X_M^+(m), [X_M^+(m), X_j^+(k)]_{q^{-1}}]_{q^{-1}} \\
 & = [X_M^+(m), [X_M^+(m), X_j^+(k)]_q]_q = 0, \quad a_{M,j} = \pm 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (A.4) \quad & [X_{i-1}^+(m), X_i^+(n)]_{q_i} \\
 & = q_i^k [X_{i-1}^+(m+k), X_i^+(n-k)]_{q_i} \\
 & \quad + \sum_{s=1}^k q_i^{s-1} (q_i^2 - 1) X_i^+(n-s) X_{i-1}^+(m+s),
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (A.5) \quad & [X_{i-1}^+(m), X_i^+(n)]_{q_i} \\
 & = q_i^{-k} [X_{i-1}^+(m-k), X_i^+(n+k)]_{q_i} \\
 & \quad - \sum_{s=0}^{k-1} q_i^{-s-1} (q_i^2 - 1) X_i^+(n+s) X_{i-1}^+(m-s).
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (A.6) \quad & [X_M^+(m), X_{M+1}^+(n)]_q \\
 & = q^k [X_M^+(m+k), X_{M+1}^+(n-k)]_q \\
 & \quad + \sum_{s=0}^{k-1} q^s (1 - q^2) X_M^+(m+s) X_{M+1}^+(n-s).
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (A.7) \quad & [X_{i+1}^+(m), X_i^+(n)]_q \\
 &= q^k [X_{i+1}^+(m-k), X_i^+(n+k)]_q \\
 &+ \sum_{s=1}^k q^{s-1} (q^2 - 1) X_i^+(n+s) X_{i+1}^+(m-s), \quad i \geq M.
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (A.8) \quad & [X_{i+1}^+(m), X_i^+(n)]_q \\
 &= q^{-k} [X_{i+1}^+(m+k), X_i^+(n-k)]_q \\
 &- \sum_{s=0}^{k-1} q^{-s-1} (q^2 - 1) X_i^+(n-s) X_{i+1}^+(m+s), \quad i \geq M.
 \end{aligned}$$

Combining (A.4) with (A.5), (A.7) with (A.8), respectively, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (A.9) \quad & [X_{i-1}^+(m), X_i^+(n)]_{q_i} \\
 &= q_i^{\pm k} [X_{i-1}^+(m \pm k), X_i^+(n \mp k)]_{q_i} \\
 &+ \sum_{s=0}^{|k|} c_s X_i^+(n \mp s) X_{i-1}^+(m \pm s) \quad c_s \in \mathbb{C},
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (A.10) \quad & [X_{i+1}^+(m), X_i^+(n)]_q \\
 &= q^{\pm k} [X_{i+1}^+(m \mp k), X_i^+(n \pm k)]_q \\
 &+ \sum_{s=0}^{|k|} c_s X_i^+(n \pm s) X_{i+1}^+(m \mp s), \quad i \geq M, c_s \in \mathbb{C}.
 \end{aligned}$$

We have the following result.

Lemma A.2.

- 1) $[[X_{i-1}^+(m), X_i^+(n)]_{q_i}, X_{i+1}^+(k)]_{q_{i+1}}, X_i^+(n)] = 0, \quad i \neq M.$
- 2) $[X_i^+(0), X_{a,b}^+(n)] = 0, \quad a < i < b, n \in \mathbb{Z}.$
- 3) $[X_M^+(0), X_{a,M}^+(n)]_{q^{-1}} = 0, \quad a < M, n \in \mathbb{Z}.$
- 4) $[X_b^+(0), X_{a,b}^+(n)]_{q_b} = 0, \quad b \neq M, n \in \mathbb{Z}.$

Proof. Part (1) can be found in [31, Lemma 6.1.1]. Part (2) follows from (1), part (3) follows from (A.3), and part (4) follows from (A.2). □

Appendix B. Proof of Lemma 3.6

Proof of Lemma 3.6. Set $v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} := X_{a,b}^+(n_{t-1}) \cdots X_{a,b}^+(n_1)v_{a-1,b-1}$, $t = 1, \dots, p + 1$. We use induction on t starting from the given case $t = 1$. Assume that

$$(B.1) \quad \begin{aligned} X_i^+(m)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} &= 0 = X_{k,l}^+(m)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)}, \\ \text{for all } i \neq M, m \in \mathbb{Z}, (k, l) &> (a, b). \end{aligned}$$

We claim that both equalities hold at t , and we will prove this in the sections below.

B.1. Proof of first equality

We first prove that $X_i^+(m)v_{a,b}^{(t)} = 0$ for all $i \neq M$.

- If $i > b + 1$ or $i < a - 1$, then $[X_i^+(m), X_{a,b}^+(n)] = 0$. Thus $X_i^+(m)v_{a,b}^{(t)} = 0$.
- If $i = a - 1$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} X_{a-1}^+(m)v_{a,b}^{(t)} &= [X_{a-1}^+(m), X_{a,b}^+(n_t)]_{q_a} v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= [[X_{a-1}^+(m), X_a^+(n_t)]_{q_a}, X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_{q_{a+1}} v_{a,b}^{(t-1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Using equation (A.9), we can rewrite the right hand side as

$$\begin{aligned} & q_a^{n_t} [[X_{a-1}^+(m + n_t), X_a^+(0)]_{q_a}, X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_{q_{a+1}} v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ & + \sum_{s=0}^{|n_t|} c_s [[X_a^+(n_t \mp s)X_{a-1}^+(m \pm s), X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_{q_{a+1}} v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ & = q_a^{n_t} X_{a-1,b}^+(m + n_t)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} + \sum_{s=0}^{|n_t|} c_s X_{a,b}^+(n_t \mp s)X_{a-1}^+(m \pm s)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ & = 0. \end{aligned}$$

- If $i = b + 1$, we consider the case with $a = M - 1$ and $b = M + 1$ as an example, and the proof for the general case is similar. By (A.7) and (A.8),

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & X_{M+2}^+(m)v_{M-1,M+1}^{(t)} \\
 &= X_{M+2}^+(m)X_{M-1,M+1}^+(n_t)v_{M-1,M+1}^{(t-1)} \\
 &= [X_{M+2}^+(m), [X_{M-1,M}^+(n_t), X_{M+1}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}}]_q v_{M-1,M+1}^{(t-1)} \\
 &= [X_{M-1,M}^+(n_t), [X_{M+2}^+(m), X_{M+1}^+(0)]_q]_{q^{-1}} v_{M-1,M+1}^{(t-1)} \\
 &= q^m [X_{M-1,M}^+(n_t), [X_{M+2}^+(0), X_{M+1}^+(m)]_q]_{q^{-1}} v_{M-1,M+1}^{(t-1)} \\
 &\quad + \sum_{s=0}^{|m|} c_s [X_{M-1,M}^+(n_t), X_{M+1}^+(\pm s)]_{q^{-1}} X_{M+2}^+(m \mp s) v_{M-1,M+1}^{(t-1)},
 \end{aligned}$$

where the second term on the right hand side vanishes by (B.1). We can rewrite first term as

$$-q^{1+m} [[X_{M-1}^+(n_t), X_M^+(0)]_q, X_{M+1}^+(m)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{M+2}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}} v_{M-1,M+1}^{(t-1)},$$

which, by (A.1), is equal to

$$\begin{aligned}
 & -q^{1+m} [[X_{M-1}^+(n_t), [X_M^+(0), X_{M+1}^+(m)]_{q^{-1}}]_q, X_{M+2}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}} v_{M-1,M+1}^{(t-1)} \\
 &= q^m [[X_{M-1}^+(n_t), [X_{M+1}^+(m), X_M^+(0)]_q], X_{M+2}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}} v_{M-1,M+1}^{(t-1)}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Using (A.10), we can cast the right hand side into

$$\begin{aligned}
 & q^{2m} [[X_{M-1}^+(n_t), [X_{M+1}^+(0), X_M^+(m)]_q], X_{M+2}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}} v_{M-1,M+1}^{(t-1)} \\
 & + \sum_{k=0}^{|m|} c'_k [[X_{M-1}^+(n_t), X_M^+(m \pm k)X_{M+1}^+(\mp k)]_q, X_{M+2}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}} v_{M-1,M+1}^{(t-1)},
 \end{aligned}$$

where the second term vanishes by (B.1), and the first term can be rewritten as

$$-q^{1+2m} [[X_{M-1}^+(n_t), X_M^+(m)]_q, X_{M+1}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{M+2}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}} v_{M-1,M+1}^{(t-1)}.$$

By (A.9), this can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned}
 & -q^{1+3m} [[[X_{M-1}^+(n_t + m), X_M^+(0)]_q, X_{M+1}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{M+2}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}} v_{M-1, M+1}^{(t-1)} \\
 & + \sum_{l=0}^{|m|} c_l'' [[X_M^+(m \pm l) X_{M-1}^+(n_t \mp l), X_{M+1}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{M+2}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}} v_{M-1, M+1}^{(t-1)} \\
 & = -q^{1+3m} X_{M-1, M+2}^+(n_t + m) v_{M-1, M+1}^{(t-1)} = 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

• For $i = a$ ($a \neq M$), we obviously have

$$\begin{aligned}
 X_a^+(m) v_{a,b}^{(t)} & = X_a^+(m) X_{a,b}^+(n_t) v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} = [X_a^+(m), X_{a,b}^+(n_t)]_{q_{a+1}^{-1}} v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\
 & = [[[X_a^+(m), [X_a^+(n_t), X_{a+1}^+(0)]_{q_{a+1}}]_{q_{a+1}^{-1}}, X_{a+2,b}^+(0)]_{q_b} v_{a,b}^{(t-1)},
 \end{aligned}$$

which can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned}
 & q_a^{m-n_t} [[[X_a^+(m), [X_a^+(m), X_{a+1}^+(n_t - m)]_{q_{a+1}}]_{q_{a+1}^{-1}}, X_{a+2,b}^+(0)]_{q_b} v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\
 & + \sum_{s=0}^{|n_t-m|} c_s [[[X_a^+(m), X_{a+1}^+(\pm s) X_a^+(n_t \mp s)]_{q_{a+1}^{-1}}, X_{a+2,b}^+(0)]_{q_b} v_{a,b}^{(t-1)},
 \end{aligned}$$

by using (A.9). The first term vanishes by (A.2), and the second terms is equal to

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{s=0}^{|n_t-m|} c_s \left(X_a^+(m) X_{a+1,b}^+(\pm s) X_a^+(n_t \mp s) \right. \\
 & \quad \left. - q_{a+1}^{-1} X_{a+1,b}^+(\pm s) X_a^+(n_t \mp s) X_a^+(m) \right) v_{a,b}^{(t-1)},
 \end{aligned}$$

which obviously vanishes. Similarly, one can prove that $X_b^+(m) v_{a,b}^{(t)} = 0$.

• For $a < i < M$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & X_i^+(m) v_{a,b}^{(t)} = [X_i^+(m), X_{a,b}^+(n_t)]_{q_{a,b}} v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\
 & = [X_{a,i-2}^+(n_t), [[[X_i^+(m), [X_{i-1}^+(0), [X_i^+(0), X_{i+1}^+(0)]_q]_q, X_{i+2,b}^+(0)]_{q_b}]_q v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\
 & = q_i^m [X_{a,i-2}^+(n_t), [[[X_i^+(m), [X_{i-1}^+(0), [X_i^+(m), X_{i+1}^+(-m)]_q]_q, X_{i+2,b}^+(0)]_{q_b}]_q v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\
 & + \sum_{s=0}^{|m|} c_s [X_{a,i-2}^+(n_t), [[[X_i^+(m), [X_{i-1}^+(0), X_{i+1}^+(\pm s) X_i^+(\mp s)]_q]_q, X_{i+2,b}^+(0)]_{q_b}]_q v_{a,b}^{(t-1)},
 \end{aligned}$$

where the first term on the right hand side vanishes by lemma A.2 (1). Hence by (B.1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} X_i^+(m)v_{a,b}^{(t)} &= \sum_{s=0}^{|m|} c_s [X_i^+(m), [X_{a,i-1}^+(n_t), X_{i+1,b}^+(\pm s)X_i^+(\mp s)]_{q_i}]v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= 0, \quad \text{for } a < i < M. \end{aligned}$$

- Similarly, one can prove that $X_i^+(m)v_{a,b}^{(t)} = 0$ for $M < i < b$. Thus we have proved that $X_i^+(m)v_{a,b}^{(t)} = 0, \forall i \neq M, m \in \mathbb{Z}$.

B.2. Proof of second equality

Now we prove that $X_{k,l}^+(m)v_{a,b}^{(t)} = 0$ for all $m \in \mathbb{Z}, (k, l) > (a, b)$.

- For $k < a < M$ and $l < b$,

$$\begin{aligned} X_{k,l}^+(m)v_{a,b}^{(t)} &= X_{k,l}^+(m)X_{a,b}^+(n_t)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} = [[X_{k,a}^+(m), X_{a+1,l}^+(0)]_q, X_{a,b}^+(n_t)]v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= [[X_{k,a}^+(m), [X_{a+1,l}^+(0), X_{a,b}^+(n_t)]]_q v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} - [[X_{k,a}^+(m), X_{a,b}^+(n_t)], X_{a+1,l}^+(0)]_q v_{a,b}^{(t-1)}, \end{aligned}$$

where the first term on the right hand side vanishes by Lemma A.2. It is not difficult to show that $[X_{k,a}^+(m), X_{a,b}^+(n_t)]v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} = 0$. Hence we can rewrite the right hand side as

$$\begin{aligned} &- [X_{k,a}^+(m), X_{a,b}^+(n_t)]X_{a+1,l}^+(0)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= -[[X_{k,a-1}^+(m), X_a^+(0)]_q, [X_a^+(n_t), X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_q]X_{a+1,l}^+(0)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= -[[[X_{k,a-1}^+(m), X_a^+(0)]_q, X_a^+(n_t)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_{q^2}X_{a+1,l}^+(0)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &\quad - q^{-1}[X_a^+(n_t), [[X_{k,a-1}^+(m), X_a^+(0)]_q, X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_q]_{q^2}X_{a+1,l}^+(0)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= -[[[[X_{k,a-2}^+(m), X_{a-1}^+(0)]_q, X_a^+(0)]_q, X_a^+(n_t)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_{q^2}X_{a+1,l}^+(0)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &\quad - q^{-1}[X_a^+(n_t), X_{k,b}^+(m)]_{q^2}X_{a+1,l}^+(0)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)}, \end{aligned}$$

where the second term on the right hand side vanishes, and the first term can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} &- [[X_{k,a-2}^+(m), [[X_{a-1}^+(0), X_a^+(0)]_q, X_a^+(n_t)]_{q^{-1}}]_q, X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_{q^2}X_{a+1,l}^+(0)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} = \\ &- q^{-n_t}[[X_{k,a-2}^+(m), [[X_{a-1}^+(-n_t), X_a^+(n_t)]_q, X_a^+(n_t)]_{q^{-1}}]_q, X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_{q^2}X_{a+1,l}^+(0)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &+ \sum_{s=0}^{|n_t|} c_s [[X_{k,a-2}^+(m), [X_a^+(\pm s)X_{a-1}^+(\mp s), X_a^+(n_t)]_{q^{-1}}]_q, X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_{q^2}X_{a+1,l}^+(0)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)}. \end{aligned}$$

The first term on the right hand side vanishes by (A.2), and the second term can be expanded into

$$\sum_{s=0}^{|n_t|} c_s [X_a^+(\pm s) [X_{k,a-2}^+(m), X_{a-1}^+(\mp s)]_q, X_{a,b}^+(n_t)] X_{a+1,l}^+(0) v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} + q^2 \sum_{s=0}^{|n_t|} c_s [X_{a,b}^+(\pm s) [X_{k,a-2}^+(m), X_{a-1}^+(\mp s)]_q, X_a^+(n_t)]_{q^{-2}} X_{a+1,l}^+(0) v_{a,b}^{(t-1)}$$

by using (A.1). We can show that the first term vanishes identically, and the second can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} & q^2 \sum_{s=0}^{|n_t|} c_s X_{a,b}^+(\pm s) X_{k,a-2}^+(m) X_{a-1}^+(\mp s) X_a^+(n_t) X_{a+1,l}^+(0) v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= q^2 \sum_{s=0}^{|n_t|} c_s X_{a,b}^+(\pm s) X_{k,a-2}^+(m) X_{a-1}^+(\mp s) X_{a,l}^+(n_t) v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= q^2 \sum_{s=0}^{|n_t|} c_s X_{a,b}^+(\pm s) X_{k,l}^+(m \mp s + n_t) v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

- By modifying the above computations slightly, one can prove that $X_{k,l}^+(m) v_{a,b}^{(t)} = 0$ for $k < a, l < b$. It is even easier to show that $X_{k,l}^+(m) v_{a,b}^{(t)} = 0$ for $k < a, l \geq b$.

- Now consider the cases $k \geq a, l > b$. For $k < M$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} X_{k,l}^+(m) v_{a,b}^{(t)} &= X_{k,l}^+(m) X_{a,b}^+(n_t) v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= [X_k^+(m), [X_{k+1,b}^+(0), X_{b+1,l}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}}]_{q^{k+1}} X_{a,b}^+(n_t) v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= X_k^+(m) [X_{k+1,b}^+(0), X_{b+1,l}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}} X_{a,b}^+(n_t) v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= (X_k^+(m) X_{k+1,b}^+(0) X_{b+1,l}^+(0) - q^{-1} X_k^+(m) X_{b+1,l}^+(0) X_{k+1,b}^+(0)) X_{a,b}^+(n_t) v_{a,b}^{(t-1)}, \end{aligned}$$

which, by using Lemma A.2, can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} & -q X_k^+(m) X_{k+1,b}^+(0) ([X_{a,b}^+(n_t), X_{b+1,l}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}} - X_{a,b}^+(n_t) X_{b+1,l}^+(0)) v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ & -q^{-2} X_k^+(m) X_{b+1,l}^+(0) X_{a,b}^+(n_t) X_{k+1,b}^+(0) v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= -q X_k^+(m) X_{k+1,b}^+(0) X_{a,l}^+(n_t) v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ & + q X_k^+(m) X_{k+1,b}^+(0) X_{a,b}^+(n_t) X_{b+1,l}^+(0) v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ & -q^{-2} X_k^+(m) X_{b+1,l}^+(0) X_{a,b}^+(n_t) X_{k+1,b}^+(0) v_{a,b}^{(t-1)}, \end{aligned}$$

where the first two terms on the right hand side vanish by (B.1), and the third can be manipulated to yield

$$\begin{aligned} & -q^{-2}X_k^+(m)[X_{b+1,l}^+(0), X_{a,b}^+(n_t)]_q X_{k+1,b}^+(0)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ & + X_k^+(m)X_{a,b}^+(n_t)X_{k+1,l}^+(0)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ = & q^{-1}X_k^+(m)X_{a,l}^+(0)X_{k+1,b}^+(0)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} + X_k^+(m)X_{a,b}^+(n_t)X_{k+1,l}^+(0)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ = & X_k^+(m)X_{a,b}^+(n_t)X_{k+1,l}^+(0)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)}. \end{aligned}$$

We can further manipulate the right hand side to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & X_k^+(m)X_{a,b}^+(n_t)X_{k+1,l}^+(0)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ = & [X_k^+(m), [[X_{a,k-1}^+(n_t), [X_k^+(0), X_{k+1}^+(0)]_{q_{k+1}}]_{q_k}, X_{k+2,b}^+(0)]_{q_{k+2}} X_{k+1,l}^+(0)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ = & q^m [X_k^+(m), [[X_{a,k-1}^+(n_t), [X_k^+(m), X_{k+1}^+(-m)]_{q_{k+1}}]_{q_k}, X_{k+2,b}^+(0)]_{q_{k+2}} X_{k+1,l}^+(0)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ & + \sum_{s=0}^{|m|} c_s [X_k^+(m), [[X_{a,k-1}^+(n_t), X_{k+1}^+(\pm s)X_k^+(\mp s)]_{q_k}, X_{k+2,b}^+(0)]_{q_{k+2}} X_{k+1,l}^+(0)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)}, \end{aligned}$$

where the first term on the right hand side vanishes by (A.2). Hence we can rewrite the right hand side as

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{s=0}^{|m|} c_s [X_k^+(m), [X_{a,k-1}^+(n_t), X_{k+1,b}^+(\pm s)X_k^+(\mp s)]_{q_k}] X_{k+1,l}^+(0)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ = & \sum_{s=0}^{|m|} c_s X_k^+(m)X_{a,k-1}^+(n_t)X_{k+1,b}^+(\pm s)X_k^+(\mp s)X_{k+1,l}^+(0)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ = & \sum_{s=0}^{|m|} c_s X_k^+(m)X_{a,k-1}^+(n_t)X_{k+1,b}^+(\pm s)X_{k,l}^+(\mp s)v_{a,b}^{(t-1)} \\ = & 0. \end{aligned}$$

- Now we consider the case $k = a = M, l > b$. Since

$$\begin{aligned} X_{M,l}^+(m)v_{M,b}^{(t)} & = [X_{M,b+1}^+(m), X_{b+2,l}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}} v_{M,b}^{(t)} \\ & = -q^{-1}X_{b+2,l}^+(0)X_{M,b+1}^+(m)v_{M,b}^{(t)}, \end{aligned}$$

it is sufficient to show that $X_{M,b+1}^+(m)v_{M,b}^{(t)} = 0$.

By (A.10) and $X_i^+(m)v_{M,b}^{(t-1)} = X_i^+(m)v_{M,b}^{(t)} = 0$ for $i \neq M$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & X_{M,b+1}^+(m)X_{M,b}^+(n_t)v_{M,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= [X_{M,b}^+(0), X_{b+1}^+(m)]_{q^{-1}} [X_{M,b-1}^+(0), X_b^+(n_t)]_{q^{-1}} v_{M,b}^{(t-1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} & X_{M,b+1}^+(m)v_{M,b}^{(t)} = X_{M,b+1}^+(m)X_{M,b}^+(n_t)v_{M,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= [[X_{M,b}^+(0), X_{b+1}^+(m)]_{q^{-1}}, [X_{M,b-1}^+(0), X_b^+(n_t)]_{q^{-1}}]_q v_{M,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= [[[X_{M,b}^+(0), X_{b+1}^+(m)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{M,b-1}^+(0)]_q, X_b^+(n_t)]_{q^{-1}} v_{M,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &\quad - q[X_{M,b-1}^+(0), [[X_{M,b}^+(0), X_{b+1}^+(m)]_{q^{-1}}, X_b^+(n_t)]]_{q^{-2}} v_{M,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= -q[X_{M,b-1}^+(0), [[X_{M,b-2}^+(0), [X_{b-1}^+(0), [X_b^+(0), X_{b+1}^+(m)]]_{q^{-1}}]_{q^{-1}}, X_b^+(n_t)]]_{q^{-2}} v_{M,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= [X_{M,b-1}^+(0), [X_{M,b-2}^+(0), [[X_{b-1}^+(0), [X_{b+1}^+(m), X_b^+(0)]_q]_{q^{-1}}, X_b^+(n_t)]]_{q^{-1}}]_{q^{-2}} v_{M,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= q^{n_t} [X_{M,b-1}^+(0), [X_{M,b-2}^+(0), [[X_{b-1}^+(0), [X_{b+1}^+(m - n_t), X_b^+(n_t)]_q]_{q^{-1}}, X_b^+(n_t)]]_{q^{-1}}]_{q^{-2}} v_{M,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &\quad + \sum_{s=0}^{|n_t|} c_s [X_{M,b-1}^+(0), [X_{M,b-2}^+(0), [[X_{b-1}^+(0), X_b^+(\pm s)X_{b+1}^+(m \mp s)]_{q^{-1}}, X_b^+(n_t)]]_{q^{-1}}]_{q^{-2}} v_{M,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= \sum_{s=0}^{|n_t|} c_s [X_{M,b-1}^+(0), [[X_{M,b-1}^+(0), X_b^+(\pm s)X_{b+1}^+(m \mp s)]_{q^{-1}}, X_b^+(n_t)]]_{q^{-2}} v_{M,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= \sum_{s=0}^{|n_t|} c_s [X_{M,b-1}^+(0), [[X_{M,b-1}^+(0), X_b^+(\pm s)]_{q^{-1}} X_{b+1}^+(m \mp s), X_b^+(n_t)]]_{q^{-2}} v_{M,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= \sum_{s=0}^{|n_t|} c_s [[X_{M,b-1}^+(0), X_b^+(\pm s)]_{q^{-1}} X_{b+1}^+(m \mp s), X_b^+(n_t)] X_{M,b-1}^+(0) v_{M,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= \sum_{s=0}^{|n_t|} c_s [X_{M,b-1}^+(0), X_b^+(\pm s)]_{q^{-1}} X_{b+1}^+(m \mp s) X_b^+(n_t) X_{M,b-1}^+(0) v_{M,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &\quad + X_b^+(n_t) [X_{M,b-1}^+(0), X_b^+(\pm s)]_{q^{-1}} X_{b+1}^+(m \mp s) X_{M,b-1}^+(0) v_{M,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= \sum_{s=0}^{|n_t|} c_s [X_{M,b-1}^+(0), X_b^+(\pm s)]_{q^{-1}} X_{b+1}^+(m \mp s) X_b^+(n_t) X_{M,b-1}^+(0) v_{M,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= \sum_{s=0}^{|n_t|} c_s [X_{M,b-1}^+(0), X_b^+(\pm s)]_{q^{-1}} X_{M,b+1}^+(m \mp s + n_t) v_{M,b}^{(t-1)} \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof of the second equality.

Thus Lemma 3.6 is proved. □

Appendix C. Proof of Lemma 3.7

Proof of Lemma 3.7. Note that (3.13) directly follows from (3.12). Hence we only need to prove (3.12).

We first show that

$$(C.1) \quad X_{a,b}^+(p)X_{a,b}^+(k)X_{a,b}^+(l)v_{a,b} = 0 \quad \text{for all } p, k, l \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ with } p \equiv l \pmod{2}.$$

For $a < M$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & [X_{a,b}^+(p), X_{a,b}^+(p+1)] \\ = & [[X_a^+(p), X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_q, [X_a^+(p+1), X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_q] \\ = & [[X_a^+(p), X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_q, X_a^+(p+1)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_{q^2} \\ & + q^{-1}[X_a^+(p+1), [[X_{a,b}^+(p), X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_q]_{q^2} \\ = & [[[X_a^+(p), X_{a+1}^+(0)]_q, X_a^+(p+1)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{a+2,b}^+(0)]_{q^{a+2}}, X_{a+1,b}^+(0)] \\ = & -q[[[X_{a+1}^+(0), X_a^+(p)]_{q^{-1}}, X_a^+(p+1)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{a+2,b}^+(0)]_{q^{a+2}}, X_{a+1,b}^+(0)] \\ = & q[[[X_a^+(p+1), X_{a+1}^+(-1)]_{q^{-1}}, X_a^+(p+1)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{a+2,b}^+(0)]_{q^{a+2}}, X_{a+1,b}^+(0)] \\ = & 0. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, one can show that $[X_{M,b}^+(p), X_{M,b}^+(p+1)] = 0, b > M$.

From (3.11), we have

$$X_{a,b}^+(p)X_{a,b}^+(p \pm 1)X_{a,b}^+(l)v_{a,b} = 0 \quad \text{for all } p \equiv l \pmod{2}.$$

This establishes (C.1) for $|p - k| = 1$.

We now use induction on $|p - k|$ to prove (C.1). By the induction hypothesis, for all $p, k, l \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $p \equiv l \pmod{2}$, $|p - k| \leq 2i - 1$,

$$(C.2) \quad X_{a,b}^+(p)X_{a,b}^+(k)X_{a,b}^+(l)v_{a,b} = 0.$$

We now consider $X_{a,b}^+(p)X_{a,b}^+(p+1+2i)X_{a,b}^+(l)v_{a,b}$.

For $a < M$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & [X_{a,b}^+(p), X_{a,b}^+(p+1+2i)] \\ = & [X_{a,b}^+(p), [X_a^+(p+1+2i), X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_q] \\ = & [[X_{a,b}^+(p), X_a^+(p+1+2i)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_{q^2} \\ & + q^{-1}[X_a^+(p+1+2i), [X_{a,b}^+(p), X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_q]_{q^2} \end{aligned}$$

where the second term on the right hand side vanishes by Lemma A.2, and the first can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} & [[[[X_a^+(p), X_{a+1}^+(0)]_q, X_a^+(p+1+2i)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{a+2,b}^+(0)]_{q_{a+2}}, X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_{q^2} \\ &= q^{2i} [[[[X_a^+(p+2i), X_{a+1}^+(-2i)]_q, X_a^+(p+1+2i)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{a+2,b}^+(0)]_{q_{a+2}}, X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_{q^2} \\ &+ \sum_{s=1}^{2i} c_s [[[X_{a+1}^+(-s) X_a^+(p+s), X_a^+(p+1+2i)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{a+2,b}^+(0)]_{q_{a+2}}, X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_{q^2}, \end{aligned}$$

We note that the first term on the right hand side vanishes:

$$\begin{aligned} & [[X_a^+(p+2i), X_{a+1}^+(-2i)]_q, X_a^+(p+1+2i)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{a+2,b}^+(0)]_{q_{a+2}} \\ &= -q [[X_{a+1}^+(-2i), X_a^+(p+2i)]_{q^{-1}}, X_a^+(p+1+2i)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{a+2,b}^+(0)]_{q_{a+2}} \\ &= q [[X_a^+(p+2i+1), X_{a+1}^+(-2i-1)]_{q^{-1}}, X_a^+(p+1+2i)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{a+2,b}^+(0)]_{q_{a+2}} \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} & [X_{a,b}^+(p), X_{a,b}^+(p+1+2i)] \\ &= \sum_{s=1}^{2i} c_s [[[X_{a+1}^+(-s) X_a^+(p+s), X_a^+(p+1+2i)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{a+2,b}^+(0)]_{q_{a+2}}, X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_{q^2} \\ &= \sum_{s=1}^{2i} c_s [[X_{a+1,b}^+(-s) X_a^+(p+s), X_a^+(p+1+2i)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_{q^2}. \end{aligned}$$

By (3.11),

$$X_{a,b}^+(p) X_{a,b}^+(p+1+2i) X_{a,b}^+(l) v_{a,b} = [X_{a,b}^+(p), X_{a,b}^+(p+1+2i)] X_{a,b}^+(l) v_{a,b}.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} & X_{a,b}^+(p) X_{a,b}^+(p+1+2i) X_{a,b}^+(l) v_{a,b} \\ &= \sum_{s=1}^{2i} c_s [[X_{a+1,b}^+(-s) X_a^+(p+s), X_a^+(p+1+2i)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{a+1,b}^+(0)]_{q^2} X_{a,b}^+(l) v_{a,b}. \end{aligned}$$

We can rewrite the right hand side as

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{s=1}^{2i} c_s \left(X_{a+1,b}^+(-s) X_a^+(p+s) X_a^+(p+1+2i) \right. \\ & \quad \left. - q^{-1} X_a^+(p+1+2i) X_{a+1,b}^+(-s) X_a^+(p+s) \right) X_{a+1,b}^+(0) X_{a,b}^+(l) v_{a,b} \\ &= \sum_{s=1}^{2i} c_s X_{a+1,b}^+(-s) X_a^+(p+s) X_{a,b}^+(p+1+2i) X_{a,b}^+(l) v_{a,b} \\ & \quad - \sum_{s=1}^{2i} q^{-1} c_s X_a^+(p+1+2i) X_{a+1,b}^+(-s) X_{a,b}^+(p+s) X_{a,b}^+(l) v_{a,b}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that the first term on the right hand side vanishes by (3.11), and by using (3.11) and (A.9) we can rewrite the second term as

$$\begin{aligned} & - \sum_{s=1}^{2i} q^{-1} c_s [[X_a^+(p+1+2i), X_{a+1}^+(-s)]_q, X_{a+2,b}^+(0)]_{q^{a+2}} X_{a,b}^+(p+s) X_{a,b}^+(l) v_{a,b} \\ &= \sum_{s=1}^{2i} d_s [[X_a^+(p+1+2i-s), X_{a+1}^+(0)]_q, X_{a+2,b}^+(0)]_{q^{a+2}} X_{a,b}^+(p+s) X_{a,b}^+(l) v_{a,b} \\ & \quad + \sum_{s=1}^{2i} d'_s \sum_{r=0}^{s-1} c_r [X_{a+1}^+(-s+r) X_a^+(p+1+2i-r), X_{a+2,b}^+(0)]_{q^{a+2}} X_{a,b}^+(p+s) X_{a,b}^+(l) v_{a,b}. \end{aligned}$$

The second term on the right hand side vanishes by (3.11). This leads to

$$\begin{aligned} & X_{a,b}^+(p) X_{a,b}^+(p+1+2i) X_{a,b}^+(l) v_{a,b} \\ &= \sum_{s=1}^{2i} d_s X_{a,b}^+(p+1+2i-s) X_{a,b}^+(p+s) X_{a,b}^+(l) v_{a,b}. \end{aligned}$$

We observe that $|(p+1+2i-s) - (p+s)| = |1+2i-2s| \leq 2i$ for $1 \leq s \leq 2i-1$. Thus $X_{a,b}^+(p) X_{a,b}^+(p+1+2i) X_{a,b}^+(l) v_{a,b} = 0$ by (C.2).

For $a = M$, by using (A.6), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & [X_{M,b}^+(p), X_{M,b}^+(p+1+2i)] \\ &= [X_{M,b}^+(p), [X_M^+(p+1+2i), X_{M+1,b}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}}] \\ &= [[X_{M,b}^+(p), X_M^+(p+1+2i)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{M+1,b}^+(0)] \\ & \quad - q^{-1} [X_M^+(p+1+2i), [X_{M,b}^+(p), X_{M+1,b}^+(0)]_q], \end{aligned}$$

where the second term on the right hand side vanishes by Lemma A.2. We note that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & [X_{M,b}^+(p), X_M^+(p+1+2i)]_{q^{-1}} \\
 &= [[X_M^+(p), X_{M+1}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}}, X_M^+(p+1+2i)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{M+2,b}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}} \\
 &= q^{-1}[[X_M^+(p+1), X_{M+1}^+(-1)]_q, X_M^+(p+1+2i)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{M+2,b}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}} \\
 &= q^{2i-1}[[X_M^+(p+1+2i), X_{M+1}^+(-1-2i)]_q, X_M^+(p+1+2i)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{M+2,b}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}} \\
 &\quad + \sum_{s=0}^{2i-1} c_s [[X_M^+(p+1+s)X_{M+1}^+(-1-s), X_M^+(p+1+2i)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{M+2,b}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}} \\
 &= \sum_{s=0}^{2i-1} c_s [X_M^+(p+1+s)X_{M+1,b}^+(-1-s), X_M^+(p+1+2i)]_{q^{-1}}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 & [X_{M,b}^+(p), X_{M,b}^+(p+1+2i)] \\
 &= \sum_{s=0}^{2i-1} c_s [[X_M^+(p+1+s)X_{M+1,b}^+(-1-s), X_M^+(p+1+2i)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{M+1,b}^+(0)].
 \end{aligned}$$

Now we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & X_{M,b}^+(p)X_{M,b}^+(p+1+2i)X_{M,b}^+(l)v_{M,b} \\
 &= [X_{M,b}^+(p), X_{M,b}^+(p+1+2i)]X_{M,b}^+(l)v_{M,b} \quad \text{by (C.2)} \\
 &= \sum_{s=0}^{2i-1} c_s [[X_M^+(p+1+s)X_{M+1,b}^+(-1-s), X_M^+(p+1+2i)]_{q^{-1}}, X_{M+1,b}^+(0)]X_{M,b}^+(l)v_{M,b} \\
 &= \sum_{s=0}^{2i-1} c_s X_{M+1,b}^+(0)X_M^+(p+1+s)X_{M+1,b}^+(-1-s)X_M^+(p+1+2i)X_{M,b}^+(l)v_{M,b} \quad \text{by (3.11)} \\
 &= \sum_{s=0}^{2i-1} c_s X_{M+1,b}^+(0)X_M^+(p+1+s)[X_{M+1,b}^+(-1-s), X_M^+(p+1+2i)]_q X_{M,b}^+(l)v_{M,b}
 \end{aligned}$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & [X_{M+1,b}^+(-1-s), X_M^+(p+1+2i)]_q X_{M,b}^+(l)v_{M,b} \\
 &= [[X_{M+1}^+(-1-s), X_M^+(p+1+2i)]_q, X_{M+2,b}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}} X_{M,b}^+(l)v_{M,b}.
 \end{aligned}$$

By using (A.7), we can rewrite the right hand side as

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{s=0}^{2i-1} q^{-1-s} [[X_{M+1}^+(0), X_M^+(p+2i-s)]_q, X_{M+2,b}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}} X_{M,b}^+(l) v_{M,b} \\ & + \sum_{s=0}^{2i-1} \sum_{r=0}^s c_r [X_M^+(p+1+2i-r) X_{M+1}^+(r-1-s), X_{M+2,b}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}} X_{M,b}^+(l) v_{M,b}, \end{aligned}$$

and this can be simplified to

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{s=0}^{2i-1} q^{-1-s} [[X_{M+1}^+(0), X_M^+(p+2i-s)]_q, X_{M+2,b}^+(0)]_{q^{-1}} X_{M,b}^+(l) v_{M,b} \\ & = \sum_{s=0}^{2i-1} q^{-s} X_{M,b}^+(p+2i-s) X_{M,b}^+(l) v_{M,b}. \quad \text{by (3.11)} \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} & X_{M,b}^+(p) X_{M,b}^+(p+1+2i) X_{M,b}^+(l) v_{M,b} \\ & = \sum_{s=0}^{2i-1} c_s q^{-s} X_{M+1,b}^+(0) X_M^+(p+1+s) X_{M,b}^+(p+2i-s) X_{M,b}^+(l) v_{M,b}. \end{aligned}$$

By using (3.11), we can rewrite the right hand side as

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{s=0}^{2i-1} c_s q^{-s} [X_{M+1,b}^+(0) X_M^+(p+1+s)]_q X_{M,b}^+(p+2i-s) X_{M,b}^+(l) v_{M,b} \\ & = - \sum_{s=0}^{2i-1} c_s q^{1-s} X_{M,b}^+(p+1+s) X_{M,b}^+(p+2i-s) X_{M,b}^+(l) v_{M,b}. \end{aligned}$$

We observe that $X_{M,b}^+(p+2i) X_{M,b}^+(l) v_{M,b} = 0$ by (3.11) since $p+2i \equiv l \pmod{2}$, and $|p+2i-s-(p+1+s)| \leq 2i-1$ for $1 \leq s \leq 2i-1$. Hence, from (C.2) and the above equality we have

$$X_{M,b}^+(p) X_{M,b}^+(p+1+2i) X_{M,b}^+(l) v_{M,b} = 0.$$

Now we have prove that

$$(C.3) \quad X_{a,b}^+(p) X_{a,b}^+(p+1+2i) X_{a,b}^+(l) v_{a,b} = 0 \quad (a, b) \in S.$$

Similarly, one can prove that

$$(C.4) \quad X_{a,b}^+(p)X_{a,b}^+(p-1-2i)X_{a,b}^+(l)v_{a,b} = 0.$$

This completes the proof of (C.1).

Using arguments similar to those in the proof of (C.1) one can show that

$$(C.5) \quad X_{a,b}^+(p)X_{a,b}^+(k)X_{a,b}^+(l)v_{a,b} = 0 \quad \text{for all } p, k, l \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ with } p \equiv k \pmod{2}.$$

Now (3.12) follows from (C.1), (C.5) and (3.11). \square

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