

# The Yang-Baxter Equation and Quantum Group Symmetry

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Based on Honours thesis sup. by Prof. V. Mangazeev<sup>2</sup>

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Australian National University

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# Overview



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2. A case study in “solving” the YBE

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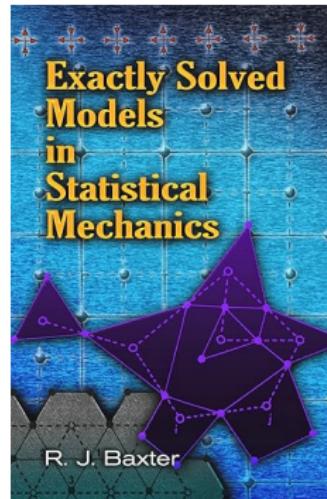
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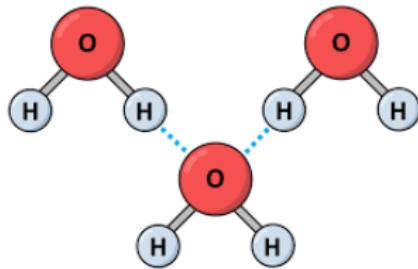
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Rodney Baxter in 1999.

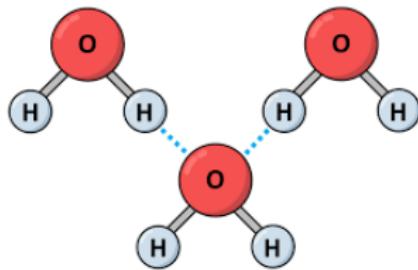
# Ice type models in statistical mechanics

E.g. 6-vertex model: models hydrogen bonding in (2D crystalline) water:



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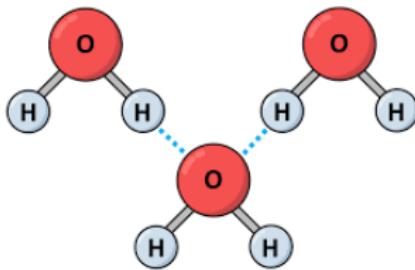
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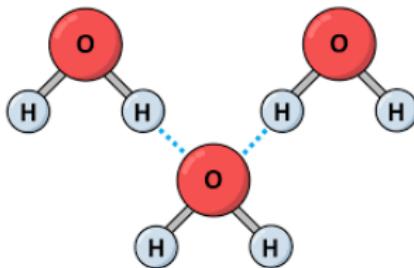
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- ▶ Each  $H_2O$  molecule bonding with 4 others.
- ▶ Oxygen atoms regularly arranged, bonds share a hydrogen which is closer to one of the neighbouring oxygens.
- ▶ Electronic neutrality condition - each oxygen is near two hydrogens.

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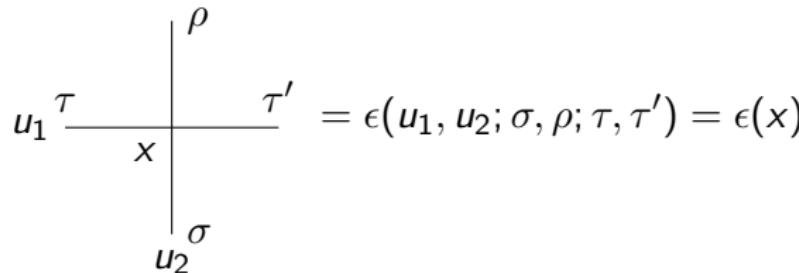
- ▶ Take spin  $\sigma \in \mathcal{S}$  variables for each edge (bond)
- ▶ To each vertex (atom) we compute a local energy or Boltzmann weight:

$$u_1 \xrightarrow[\tau]{\hspace{1cm}} \begin{array}{c} \rho \\ | \\ \tau' \\ | \\ \sigma \\ | \\ u_2 \end{array} = \epsilon(u_1, u_2; \sigma, \rho; \tau, \tau') = \epsilon(x)$$

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- ▶ Total energy of a configuration  $\Phi$  is

$$E(\Phi) = \sum_x \epsilon(x)$$

# Ice type models

An important quantity to compute is the Partition function:

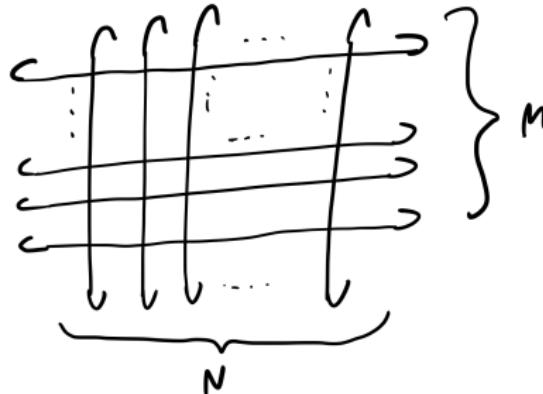
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A huge sum ( $|S|^{N \cdot M}$ )... but finite!





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## Ice type models

How to compute...? Define the **transfer matrix**  $T(u_1, u_2)$ , labelled by pairs  $\sigma, \rho \in \mathcal{S}^N$ :

$$(T(u_1, u_2))_{\sigma, \rho} := \sum_{\tau \in \mathcal{S}^N} \prod_{i=1}^N w(u_1, u_2; \sigma_i, \rho_i; \tau_i, \tau_{i+1})$$

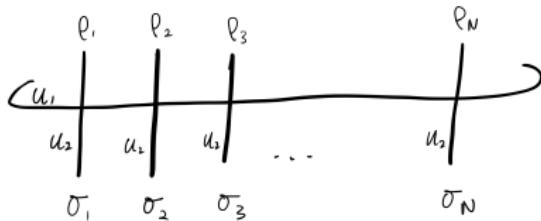
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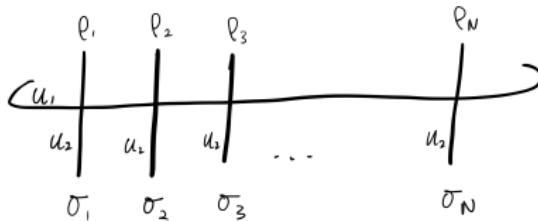


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Then

$$\mathcal{Z}_{N,M}(u_1, u_2) = \text{Tr}(T(u_1, u_2)^M)$$

# Yang-Baxter Equation

Now suppose the Boltzmann weights satisfy:

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{\rho'', \sigma'', \tau''} w(u_1, u_2; \rho, \rho''; \sigma, \sigma'') w(u_1, u_3; \rho'', \rho'; \tau, \tau') w(u_2, u_3; \sigma'', \sigma'; \tau'', \tau') \\ &= \sum_{\rho'', \sigma'', \tau''} w(u_2, u_3; \sigma, \sigma''; \tau, \tau'') w(u_1, u_3; \rho, \rho''; \tau'', \tau') w(u_1, u_2; \rho'', \rho'; \sigma'', \sigma') \end{aligned}$$

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Which is the component form of the YBE:

$$R_{12}(u_1, u_2) R_{13}(u_1, u_3) R_{23}(u_2, u_3) = R_{23}(u_2, u_3) R_{13}(u_1, u_3) R_{12}(u_1, u_2),$$

in  $(\mathbb{C}\mathcal{S})^{\otimes 3}$ .

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in  $(\mathbb{C}\mathcal{S})^{\otimes 3}$ . Then we have a commuting family of transfer matrices (assuming invertibility of  $R$ ):

$$[T(u, u'), T(v, u')] = 0.$$

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Family of commuting transfer matrices  $\Rightarrow$  simultaneously diagonalisable! (Well behaved spectrum)

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E.g. the 6-vertex model:  $\mathcal{S} = \{+1, -1\}$  taking  $u = u_1 - u_2$ ,

$$R(u_1, u_2) = R(u) = \rho \begin{pmatrix} \sinh(h+u) & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sinh(u) & \sinh(h) & 0 \\ 0 & \sinh(h) & \sinh(u) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \sinh(h+u) \end{pmatrix}.$$



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E.g. for 6-vertex model

$$R(u) := \rho \sinh(u) \left( I + h \begin{pmatrix} \frac{e^u + e^{-u}}{e^u - e^{-u}} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{e^u + e^{-u}}{e^u - e^{-u}} \end{pmatrix} + \mathcal{O}(h^2) \right)$$

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Then  $r(u)$  solves the classical YBE:

$$[r_{12}(u - v), r_{13}(u)] + [r_{12}(u - v), r_{23}(u)] + [r_{13}(u), r_{23}(v)] = 0.$$

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Belavin and Drinfeld classify solutions of CYBE  $r(u) \in \mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathfrak{g}$  in 1982, for  $\mathfrak{g}$  a f.d. simple Lie algebra.

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Each solution of the CYBE defines a **deformation** of the UEA,  $U_h(\mathfrak{g})$  which is known as **quantum groups**.

$U_h(\mathfrak{g})$  is an algebra (say with multiplication  $*$ ) over  $\mathbb{C}[[h]]$ , such that  $U_h(\mathfrak{g})/hU_h(\mathfrak{g}) \simeq U(\mathfrak{g})$  and for  $x, y \in \mathfrak{g}$

$$x * y - y * x = [x, y] + h\{x, y\}_r + \mathcal{O}(h^2).$$

# Yang-Baxter Equation

The YBE on  $\text{End}(\textcolor{red}{V}_1 \otimes \textcolor{green}{V}_2 \otimes \textcolor{blue}{V}_3)$  is

$$\begin{aligned} & R_{\textcolor{red}{V}_1, \textcolor{green}{V}_2}(u_1, u_2) R_{\textcolor{red}{V}_1, \textcolor{blue}{V}_3}(u_1, u_3) R_{\textcolor{green}{V}_2, \textcolor{blue}{V}_3}(u_2, u_3) \\ &= R_{\textcolor{green}{V}_2, \textcolor{blue}{V}_3}(u_2, u_3) R_{\textcolor{red}{V}_1, \textcolor{blue}{V}_3}(u_1, u_3) R_{\textcolor{red}{V}_1, \textcolor{green}{V}_2}(u_1, u_2), \end{aligned}$$

( $R_{V_i, V_j}(u_i, u_j)$  invertible).

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Additive dependence  $\Rightarrow R_{V_i, V_j}(u_i, u_j) = R_{V_i, V_j}(u_i - u_j)$

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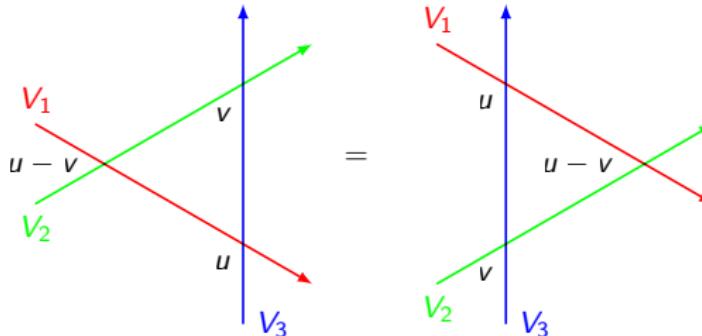
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## RLL-Method

Our Goal: construct an  $R$ -matrix  $\mathcal{R}(u) \in \text{End}(\mathcal{V} \otimes \mathcal{V})$ ,

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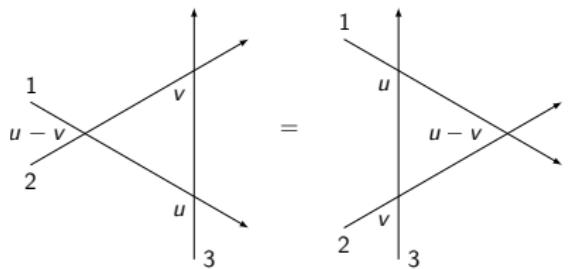
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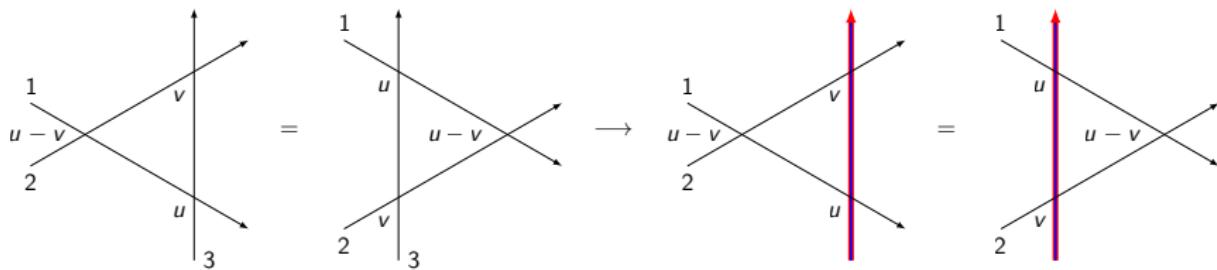
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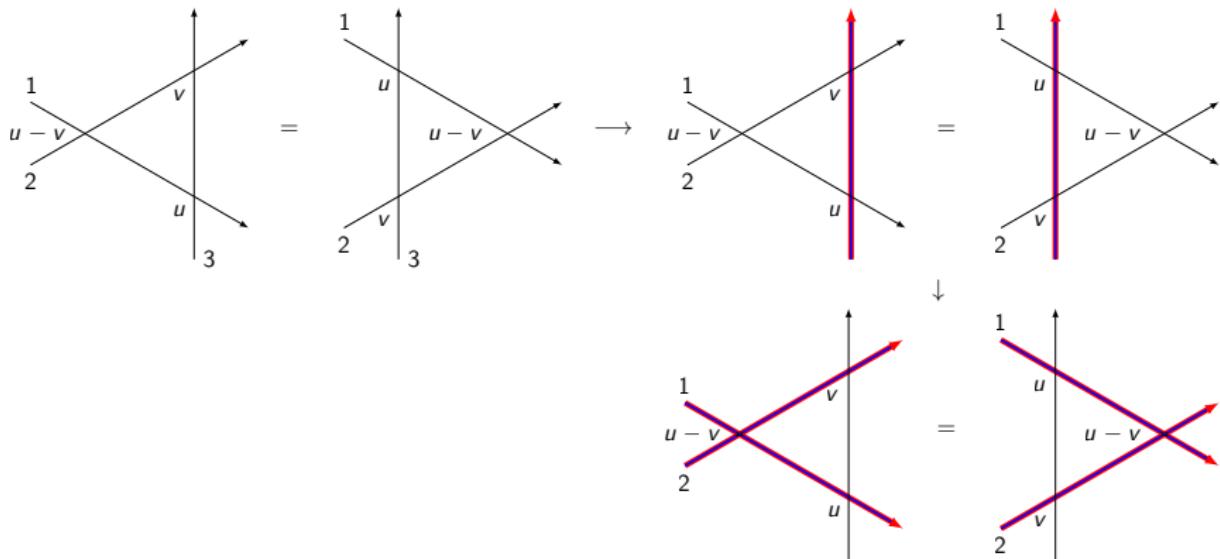
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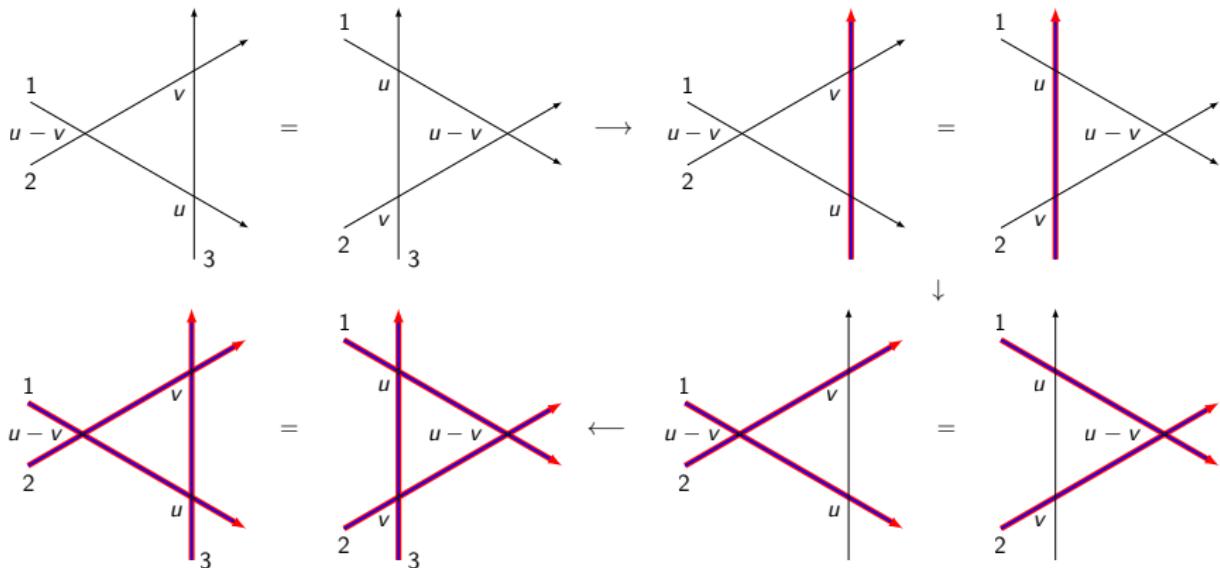
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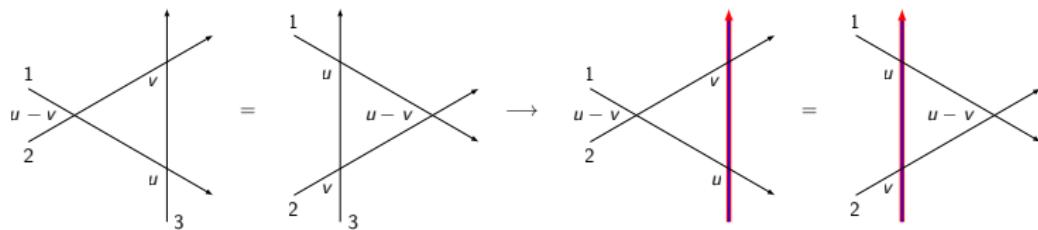
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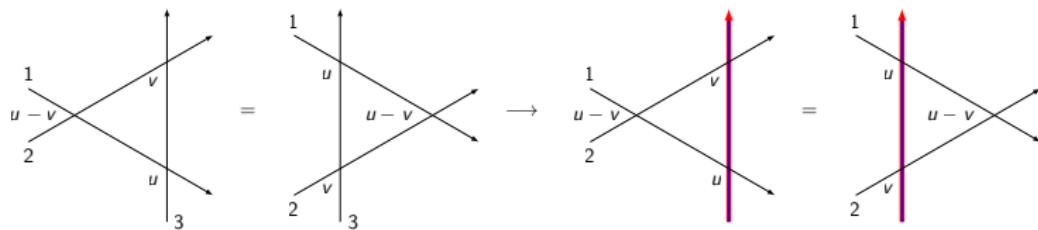
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# Defining $R$ -Matrix and $L$ -operators

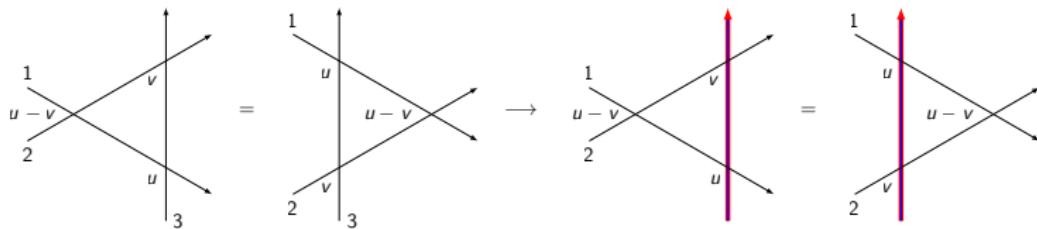


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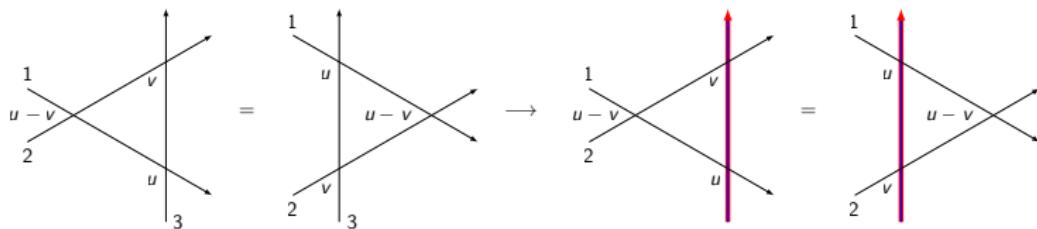
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►  $R_{12}(u) = \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \diagdown \\ u \\ \diagup \\ 2 \end{array} \in \text{End}(\mathbb{C}^n \otimes \mathbb{C}^n)$  (an  $n^2 \times n^2$  matrix).

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- ▶  $L(u) = \begin{smallmatrix} & 1 \\ \diagdown & \diagup \\ u & \\ \diagup & \diagdown \\ & 2 \end{smallmatrix} \in \text{End}(\mathbb{C}^n) \otimes \mathcal{A}$ , where  $\mathcal{A} \subset \text{End}(\mathcal{V})$ . An  $n \times n$  matrix with values in  $\mathcal{A}$ .

# Defining $R$ -Matrix and Universal $L$ -operators

RLL relation in  $\text{End}(\mathbb{C}^n \otimes \mathbb{C}^n \otimes \mathcal{V})$ :

$$R_{12}(u - v)L_1(u)L_2(v) = L_2(v)L_1(u)R_{12}(u - v).$$

$$L_1(u) = L(u) \otimes \text{id}_n, \quad L_2(v) = \text{id}_n \otimes L(v).$$

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Why YBE for  $R$ ? This is a consistency condition for associativity of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

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where  $e_{ij}$  is the matrix unit. Here  $\{E_{ij}\}$  is the Cartan-Weyl basis for  $\mathfrak{sl}_n$ :

$$\begin{aligned} h_i &= E_{ii} - E_{i+1,i+1}, & \sum_i E_{ii} &= 0, & E_{i,i+1} &= e_i, & E_{i+1,i} &= f_i, \\ [E_{ij}, E_{kl}] &= \delta_{jk} E_{il} - \delta_{ik} E_{lj}. \end{aligned}$$

## Differential Representation of $\mathfrak{sl}_n$

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[Derkachov and Manashov, 2006]

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E.g.  $n = 2$  case: Taking  $N_x = x\partial_x$  and  $m = \rho_2 - \rho_1 + 1$ ,

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- ▶ It has a factorised  $L$ -operator!

$$L(\mathbf{u}) = ZD(\mathbf{u})Z^{-1} = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ | \end{array} \xrightarrow[u]{\hspace{1cm}} \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ | \end{array}$$

$\mathbf{u} = (u_i)$ , where  $u_i = u - \rho_i$ .

## $q$ -Deformed Case: $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_n)$

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- ▶ Notation:  $[x]_q = (q^x - q^{-x})/(q - q^{-1})$

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and a universal  $L$ -operator [Jimbo, 1986]

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Now specialise:

Is there an analogous class of representations for  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_n)$ ? How about a factorised  $L$ -operator?

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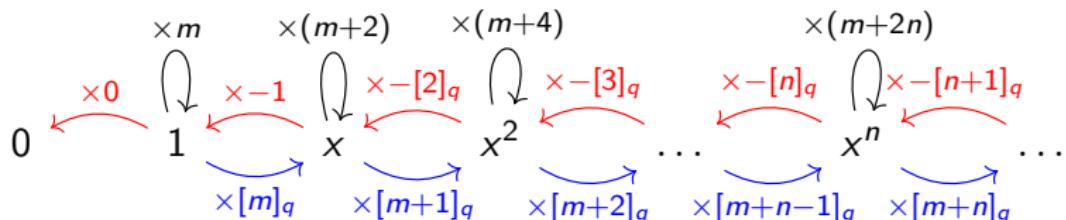
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$n = 2$  case: Just one variable  $x_{21} = x$

$$f = -D_x, \quad e = x[m + N_x]_q, \quad h = 2N_x + m,$$



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- ▶ An Explicit formula:  $m_i = \rho_{n-i} - \rho_{n+1-i} + 1$

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_{ii}^{(n)} &= -\rho_{n+1-i} - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} N_{ij} + \sum_{j=i+1}^n (N_{ji} + 1), \\
 f_i^{(n)} &= -D_{i+1,i} q^{\sum_{j=1}^{i-1} (N_{ij} - N_{i+1,j})} - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} x_{ij} D_{i+1,j} q^{\sum_{k=1}^{j-1} (N_{ik} - N_{i+1,k})}, \\
 e_i^{(n)} &= x_{i+1,i} \left[ m_i + N_{i+1,i} + \sum_{j=i+2}^n (N_{ji} - N_{j,i+1}) \right]_q + q^{-m_i} \sum_{j=i+2}^n x_{ji} D_{j,i+1} q^{\sum_{k=j}^n (N_{k,i+1} - N_{k,i})} \\
 &\quad - q^{m_i + 2N_{i+1,i}} \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} x_{i+1,j} D_{ij} q^{\sum_{k=i+2}^n (N_{ki} - N_{k,i+1}) + \sum_{k=j+1}^{i-1} (N_{i+1,k} - N_{i,k})},
 \end{aligned}$$

# $q$ -Difference Representation of $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_n)$

- ▶ For  $\rho \in \mathbb{C}^n$ , there is an analogous representation  $\mathcal{V}_\rho$  of  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_n)$  [Dobrev, Truini, and Biedenharn, 1994].
- ▶ Explicit formula? obtained inductively + not unique!
- ▶ An Explicit formula:  $m_i = \rho_{n-i} - \rho_{n+1-i} + 1$

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_{ii}^{(n)} &= -\rho_{n+1-i} - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} N_{ij} + \sum_{j=i+1}^n (N_{ji} + 1), \\
 f_i^{(n)} &= -D_{i+1,i} q^{\sum_{j=1}^{i-1} (N_{ij} - N_{i+1,j})} - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} x_{ij} D_{i+1,j} q^{\sum_{k=1}^{j-1} (N_{ik} - N_{i+1,k})}, \\
 e_i^{(n)} &= x_{i+1,i} \left[ m_i + N_{i+1,i} + \sum_{j=i+2}^n (N_{ji} - N_{j,i+1}) \right]_q + q^{-m_i} \sum_{j=i+2}^n x_{ji} D_{j,i+1} q^{\sum_{k=j}^n (N_{k,i+1} - N_{k,i})} \\
 &\quad - q^{m_i + 2N_{i+1,i}} \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} x_{i+1,j} D_{ij} q^{\sum_{k=i+2}^n (N_{ki} - N_{k,i+1}) + \sum_{k=j+1}^{i-1} (N_{i+1,k} - N_{i,k})},
 \end{aligned}$$

[Awata, Noumi, and Odake, 1994]

# Factorised $L$ -operator?

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$$\underline{\mathfrak{sl}_n}: L(\mathbf{u}) = ZD(\mathbf{u})Z^{-1}$$

$$Z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & & \\ x_{21} & 1 & & & \\ x_{31} & x_{32} & 1 & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ x_{n1} & x_{n2} & \dots & x_{n,n-1} & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad D(\mathbf{u}) = \begin{pmatrix} u_n & P_{21} & P_{31} & \dots & P_{n1} \\ u_{n-1} & P_{32} & \dots & & P_{n2} \\ \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & & \vdots \\ u_2 & & & P_{n,n-1} & \\ u_1 & & & & u_1 \end{pmatrix},$$

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$$\underline{U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_n)}: \text{Postulate } L(\mathbf{u}) = Z_1(\mathbf{u})D(\mathbf{u})Z_2(\mathbf{u})^{-1}$$

$$D(\mathbf{u}) = \begin{pmatrix} [u_n]_q q^{b_1} & P_{21} & \dots & P_{n1} \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ & & [u_2]_q q^{b_{n-1}} & P_{n,n-1} \\ & & & [u_1]_q q^{b_n} \end{pmatrix},$$

$$P_{ij} = -D_{ij}q^{b_{ij}} - \sum_{k=i+1}^n x_{ki}D_{kj}q^{b_{ijk}}, \quad Z_i(\mathbf{u}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ x_{21}q^{a_{21}^{(i)}} & 1 & & \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ x_{n1}q^{a_{n1}^{(i)}} & \dots & x_{n,n-1}q^{a_{n,n-1}^{(i)}} & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

# Factorised $L$ -operator?

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n=2: Yes [Derkachov, Karakhanyan, and Kirschner, 2007]

$$L(u_1, u_2) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ q^{u_1 - N_x} x & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} [u_2]_q q^{-N_x - 1} & -D_x q^{N_x} \\ 0 & [u_1]_q q^{N_x} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -q^{u_2 - N_x} x & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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n=3: Yes [Valinevich et al., 2008],  $L(u_1, u_2, u_3) = Z_1 D Z_2^{-1}$  with

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} [u_3]_q q^{-N_{21} + N_{31}} (D_{21} + x_{32} D_{31} q^{N_{31} - N_{32} - 1}) q^{N_{21} + N_{31}} & D_{31} q^{N_{31}} \\ 0 & [u_2]_q q^{N_{21} - N_{32}} \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & [u_1]_q q^{N_{32} + N_{31}} \end{pmatrix},$$

$$Z_1 = \begin{pmatrix} q^{u_2 - N_{31} + N_{32} - N_{21}} x_{21} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ q^{-u_1 - N_{31} + N_{32}} x_{31} & q^{u_1 - u_2 - N_{32}} x_{32} & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Z_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ q^{c_{21}} x_{21} & 1 & 0 \\ q^{c_{31}} x_{31} & q^{c_{32}} x_{32} & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$c_{21} = u_3 - N_{21}, \quad c_{31} = -u_3 - N_{31} - N_{21} - 1, \quad c_{32} = N_{21} + N_{31} - N_{32}.$$



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"Controlled deformation" breaks - We have "pure quantum phenomena" in the Cartan-Weyl elements:

$$\begin{aligned} E_{42} = [f_3, f_2]_q = & - D_{42} q^{N_{21}-N_{32}-N_{41}-1} - x_{21} D_{41} q^{-(1+N_{31})} \\ & +(q - q^{-1}) x_{31} D_{41} D_{32} q^{N_{21}-N_{31}-1}. \end{aligned}$$



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Such terms cannot arise from our ansatz.

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$$Z_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ x_{21}q^{a_{21}} & 1 & & \\ x_{31}q^{a_{31}} & x_{32}q^{a_{32}} & 1 & \\ x_{41}q^{a_{41}} & x_{42}q^{a_{42}} & x_{43}q^{a_{43}} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ x_{21}q^{a_{21}} & & & \\ -(q-q^{-1})x_{31}D_{32}q^{a_{321}} & 1 & & \\ x_{31}q^{a_{31}} & x_{32}q^{a_{32}} & 1 & \\ x_{41}q^{a_{41}} & x_{42}q^{a_{42}} & x_{43}q^{a_{43}} & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$Z_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ x_{21}q^{c_{21}} & 1 & & \\ x_{31}q^{c_{31}} & x_{32}q^{c_{32}} & 1 & \\ x_{41}q^{c_{41}} & x_{42}q^{c_{42}} & x_{43}q^{c_{43}} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ x_{21}q^{c_{21}} & & & \\ x_{31}q^{c_{31}} & x_{32}q^{c_{32}} & & \\ -(q-q^{-1})x_{21}D_{31}q^{c_{321}} & 1 & & \\ x_{41}q^{c_{41}} & x_{42}q^{c_{42}} & x_{43}q^{c_{43}} & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

# Factorised $L$ -operator?

General n: Order of highest term in  $(q - q^{-1})$

$$\mathcal{O}(L^+(\mathbf{u})) \sim \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & & & \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & & & & \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & & & & \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & & & & & \\ 0 & 0 & & & & & & \\ 0 & & & & & & & \end{pmatrix}$$

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⇒ factorisation involves higher terms in  $(q - q^{-1})$ .

Q: Factor  $L$ -operator with near diagonal matrices which are only first order in  $(q - q^{-1})$ .

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$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ u-v \quad v \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ 2 \end{array} & = & 
 \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ u \quad u-v \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 2 \end{array} \\
 & & \sim
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{aligned}
 & \check{\mathcal{R}}(u-v)L_1(\mathbf{u})L_2(\mathbf{v}) \\
 & = L_1(\mathbf{v})L_2(\mathbf{u})\check{\mathcal{R}}(u-v).
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 \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 1: } \text{Two strands } u \text{ and } v \text{ cross. } u \text{ goes over } v. \\
 \text{Strand } u \text{ has labels } 1 \text{ at top and } u-v \text{ at bottom.} \\
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 & & \sim \check{\mathcal{R}}(u-v)L_1(u)L_2(v) \\
 & & = L_1(v)L_2(u)\check{\mathcal{R}}(u-v).
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$\check{\mathcal{R}}$  realises the permutation  $(u, v) \mapsto (v, u) \in \text{Perm}(u, v) \simeq S_{2n}$ .

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 & & \sim \check{\mathcal{R}}(u-v)L_1(\mathbf{u})L_2(\mathbf{v}) \\
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IDEA: Factorise  $\check{\mathcal{R}}(u-v)$  in terms of elementary transposition operators  $S_i \in \text{End}(\mathcal{V}_\rho \otimes \mathcal{V}_\sigma)$

$$S_i L_{12}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = L_{12}(s_i(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}))S_i, \quad (L_{12}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = L_1(\mathbf{u})L_2(\mathbf{v}))$$

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Simplification: Can just find  $n-1$ -“intertwining” operators

$\mathcal{T}_i \in \text{End}(\mathcal{V}_\rho)$ :

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and a single “exchange” operator:

$$\mathcal{S}_n(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) L_{12}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = \mathcal{S}_n(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) L_{12}(u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}, v_1, u_n, v_2, \dots, v_n).$$

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$$\check{\mathcal{R}}_{12}(v-w)\check{\mathcal{R}}_{23}(u-w)\check{\mathcal{R}}_{12}(u-v) = \check{\mathcal{R}}_{23}(u-v)\check{\mathcal{R}}_{12}(u-w)\check{\mathcal{R}}_{23}(v-w).$$

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These operators should define an action of  $S_{2n}$ , i.e.,

$$s_{i_j} \dots s_{i_2} s_{i_1} \mapsto \mathcal{S}_{i_j}(s_{i_{j-1}} \dots s_{i_1}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})) \dots \mathcal{S}_{i_2}(s_{i_1}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})) \mathcal{S}_{i_1}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}),$$

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respects the group relations.

YBE then follows from equivalence of the decompositions in  
 $\text{Perm}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w})$

$$(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) \xrightarrow{\check{\mathcal{R}}_{12}} (\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w}) \xrightarrow{\check{\mathcal{R}}_{23}} (\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{u}) \xrightarrow{\check{\mathcal{R}}_{12}} (\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u}),$$

$$(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) \xrightarrow{\check{\mathcal{R}}_{23}} (\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{v}) \xrightarrow{\check{\mathcal{R}}_{12}} (\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) \xrightarrow{\check{\mathcal{R}}_{23}} (\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u}).$$

# Literature



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where  $F(x, y)$  is a polynomial in  $y_{ij}$  and  $(x_{j1} - y_{j1})$ .

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$U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_3)$  Case: [Valinevich et al., 2008]

# $q$ -Deformed Case

## Proposition

The intertwiners for the  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_n)$  ( $|q| < 1$ ) L-operator are given by

$$\mathcal{T}_{n-i}^{(n)}(\alpha) = \left( \Lambda_{n-i}^{(n)} \right)^\alpha \frac{e_{q^2}(q^{2(N_{i+1,i}+1)} \mathbf{X}_{n-i}^{(n)})}{e_{q^2}(q^{2(N_{i+1,i}+1-\alpha)} \mathbf{X}_{n-i}^{(n)})},$$

$$e_{q^2}(\mathbf{Z}) = ((\mathbf{Z}; q^2)_\infty)^{-1} = [(1 - \mathbf{Z})(1 - q^2 \mathbf{Z})(1 - q^{2 \cdot 2} \mathbf{Z}) \dots]^{-1},$$

$$\frac{e_{q^2}(\mathbf{Z})}{e_{q^2}(q^{-\alpha} \mathbf{Z})} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(q^{-\alpha}; q)_j}{(q; q)_j} \mathbf{Z}^j, \quad \Lambda_{n-i}^{(n)} = (x_{i+1,i})^{-1} q^{\beta_i}$$

where  $\alpha = u_{n-i} - u_{n+1-i}$ , and

$$\mathbf{X}_{n-i}^{(n)} = 1 + x_{i+1,i} \sum_{j=i+2}^n \frac{x_{j,i+1}}{x_{ji}} (q^{N_{ij}} - q^{-N_{ij}}) q^{\gamma_i}.$$

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Obtained using an approach from [Valinevich et al., 2008].



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### Proof.

The only non-trivial relation is the braid relation

$$\mathcal{T}_i(\alpha)\mathcal{T}_{i+1}(\alpha + \beta)\mathcal{T}_i(\beta) = \mathcal{T}_{i+1}(\beta)\mathcal{T}_i(\alpha + \beta)\mathcal{T}_{i+1}(\alpha).$$

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After a series expansion it is reduced to a family of (terminating)  $q$ -series identity relating rank  $i + 1$  and rank  $2i - 1$   $q$ -Lauricella series. □

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[Andrews, 1972] gives a general transformation formula allowing us to rewrite  $(*)$  in terms of a  ${}_n\phi_n$  hypergeometric series.

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The identity we need is the equality  $\Theta_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{l}, \mathbf{m}} = \Omega_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{l}, \mathbf{m}}$

$$\Theta_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{l}, \mathbf{m}} = \frac{(\xi; q)_{L+M}}{(\xi \zeta; q)_{L+M}} \Phi_D^{(2n-1)} [\zeta; q^{-\mathbf{l}}, q^{-\mathbf{m}}; q^{1-L-M}/\xi; q^{\mathbf{r}+\mathbf{l}+(\mathbf{m}, 0)}, q^{(r_i, \hat{r}_n)+\mathbf{m}}],$$

$$\Omega_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{l}, \mathbf{m}} = \zeta^{k_0} \frac{(\xi; q)_K}{(\xi \zeta; q)_K} \Phi_D^{(n+1)} [\zeta; q^{-\mathbf{k}}; q^{1-K}/\xi; q^{1+k_0-K}/(\xi \zeta), q^{\mathbf{p}+\tilde{\mathbf{k}}}],$$

for arbitrary complex parameters  $\xi, \zeta$ .

# Exchange Operator

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The defining relation for the exchange operator  $\mathcal{S}_n$  is

$$\mathcal{S}_n L_1(\textcolor{red}{u}_n) L_2(\textcolor{green}{v}_1) = L_1(\textcolor{green}{v}_1) L_2(\textcolor{red}{u}_n) \mathcal{S}_n.$$

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Recall the (postulated) factorisation for  $L(\mathbf{u})$ . This can be put into the form:

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Now we can reduce the defining relation to

$$\begin{aligned} & Z_2^{(x, \tilde{\mathbf{u}})}(\textcolor{green}{v_1}) \left[ (D^{(x, \tilde{\mathbf{u}})})^{-1} \mathcal{S}_n D^{(x, \tilde{\mathbf{u}})} \right] \left( Z_2^{(x, \tilde{\mathbf{u}})}(\textcolor{red}{u_n}) \right)^{-1} \\ &= Z_1^{(y, \tilde{\mathbf{v}})}(\textcolor{red}{u_n}) \left[ D^{(y, \tilde{\mathbf{v}})} \mathcal{S}_n (D^{(y, \tilde{\mathbf{v}})})^{-1} \right] \left( Z_1^{(y, \tilde{\mathbf{v}})}(\textcolor{green}{v_1}) \right)^{-1}, \end{aligned}$$

if  $\mathcal{S}_n^{(x,y)}$  commutes (element wise) with  $Z_1^{(x)}$  and  $Z_2^{(y)}$ .

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Recall in the  $n \geq 4$  case the postulated ansatz for the factorisation was inconsistent - the outer most factors will now have  $q$ -difference terms.



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Recall in the  $n \geq 4$  case the postulated ansatz for the factorisation was inconsistent - the outer most factors will now have  $q$ -difference terms.

This seems to represent a serious obstruction to constructing the exchange operator - unclear whether to expect a multiplication operator (by shifted variables) to work or not



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- ▶ We introduced the *RLL*-method as a means for obtaining solutions to the YBE in the class of differential ( $q$ -difference) representations of  $\mathfrak{sl}_n$  ( $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_n)$ ). A key feature here is a factorisation property of the  $L$ -operators.

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- ▶ We described explicitly all but one of the transposition operators in the  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_n)$  case, and prove they obey the necessary symmetric group relations.
- ▶ We explain how the failure of the factorisation property for the  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_4)$   $L$ -operator represents an obstruction to constructing the missing “exchange” operator.



# Thank You!



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Questions?

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