Junction Type Representations of the Temperley–Lieb Algebra and Associated Symmetries[*]

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Abstract. Inspired by earlier works on representations of the Temperley–Lieb algebra we introduce a novel family of representations of the algebra. This may be seen as a generalization of the so called asymmetric twin representation. The underlying symmetry algebra is also examined and it is shown that in addition to certain obvious exact quantum symmetries non trivial quantum algebraic realizations that exactly commute with the representation also exist. Non trivial representations of the boundary Temperley–Lieb algebra as well as the related residual symmetries are also discussed. The corresponding novel R and K matrices solutions of the Yang–Baxter and reflection equations are identified, the relevant quantum spin chain is also constructed and its exact symmetries are studied.

Key words: quantum integrability; Temperley–Lieb algebras; symmetries associated to integrable models

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1 Introduction

There has been an increasing activity in recent years on the study of representations of (affine) Hecke algebras [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21] and their quotients, which can provide solutions [12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20] of the Yang–Baxter [1] and the reflection equations [4, 23]. Such investigations are of great physical significance due to the fact that the obtained solutions can be implemented into physical integrable systems, and conformal field theories with open boundary conditions that preserve integrability (see e.g. [7, 8, 15, 20, 22]), or lead to the construction of novel physical systems as will be transparent in the present investigation (see also [7]). In the present article, we focus on the investigation of novel representations in the context of the Temperley–Lieb (TL) algebra [24, 18], the so called junction representation. In fact, this may be seen as a natural generalization of the asymmetric twin (or cable) representation studied in [17, 7, 6]. More precisely, the representation is introduced and it is shown that it satisfies the defining relations of the algebra, provided that certain constraints are satisfied. In addition, the existence of non trivial quantum algebras that are exact symmetries of the aforementioned representation is investigated. Our analysis is further extended in the case of the boundary Temperley–Lieb (blob) algebra, and non trivial representations for the "boundary" element of the algebra are identified.

It is worth noting that the representation leads naturally to novel physical integrable systems – quantum spin chains, with non-trivial integrable boundary conditions. It is thus clear that the whole analysis presents not only mathematical, but physical interest as well, given that such

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investigations provide new boundary conditions that may alter the physical behavior as well as the symmetries associated to the corresponding system (see e.g. [7, 8, 6]).

The outline of this article is as follows: in the next section the definitions of the Temperley–Lieb algebra are reviewed, the junction representation is introduced, and it is shown that it satisfies the Temperley–Lieb algebra defining relations. The exact symmetries associated to the junction representation are then examined, certain obvious and non-trivial representations of quantum algebras are introduced, and turn out to exactly commute with all the elements of the Temperley–Lieb algebra in the junction representation. Explicit proof for the first non trivial case is provided, and expressions of a whole family of representations of the quantum algebra for the generic case are conjectured. In Section 3 the boundary Temperley–Lieb algebras and the related representations are discussed, and the residual symmetries are examined. In the last section we introduce the relevant quantum spin chain, and we also examine the associated symmetries of the open transfer matrix. In the Appendices various technical points are illustrated.

2 Temperley–Lieb algebra and representations

Let us briefly review the basic notions associated to the Temperley–Lieb algebra [24, 18]. The Temperley–Lieb $T_N(q)$ algebra is defined by the generators $\mathbb{U}_i$, $i = 1, \ldots, N$ satisfying

$$\mathbb{U}_i^2 = -\big(q + q^{-1}\big)\mathbb{U}_i, \qquad \mathbb{U}_i\mathbb{U}_{i\pm 1}\mathbb{U}_i = \mathbb{U}_i,$$
$$[\mathbb{U}_i, \mathbb{U}_j] = 0, \qquad |i - j| > 1. \tag{1}$$

A well known representation of the Temperley–Lieb algebra is the XXZ one. More precisely, consider the matrix

$$U = \sum_{a \neq b = 1}^{2} e_{ab} \otimes e_{ba} - \sum_{a \neq b = 1}^{2} q^{-\mathrm{sgn}(a-b)} e_{aa} \otimes e_{bb}, \tag{2}$$

where the matrices e_{ab} are in this case 2×2 matrices defined as: $(e_{ab})_{cd} = \delta_{ac}\delta_{bd}$. Then take the representation of the Temperley–Lieb algebra $\rho : T_n(q) \mapsto \mathrm{End}((\mathbb{C}^2)^{\otimes N})$ such that

$$\rho(\mathbb{U}_i) = \mathbb{I} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \underbrace{U}_{i,\, i+1} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbb{I}.$$

Inspired by the asymmetric twin (or cable) representation [17, 7] of the Temperley–Lieb algebra we introduce a novel representation, which we shall call for obvious reasons the *junction representation*. This involves essentially n copies of the XXZ representation i.e. $\Theta : T_n(q) \mapsto \mathrm{End}(((\mathbb{C}^2)^{\otimes n})^{\otimes N})$

$$\Theta(\mathbb{U}_l) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \rho_{a_i}(\mathbb{U}_{l^{(i)}}), \tag{3}$$

where a_i is the parameter associated with the i-th copy of the Temperley–Lieb algebra and is a representation of the Temperley–Lieb algebra itself provided that:

$$(-1)^n \prod_{i=1}^{n} \big(a_i + a_i^{-1}\big) = -\big(q + q^{-1}\big). \tag{4}$$

The latter condition apparently follows from the quadratic relation (Hecke condition) of the Temperley–Lieb algebra. Now observe that the matrices $\rho_{a_i}(\mathbb{U}_{l^{(i)}})$ commute among each other,

since they act on different vector spaces. Having that in mind and taking into account that each one of the matrices satisfy the TL algebra, one can immediately show that Θ provides a representation of the TL algebra. Constraints are only entailed from the condition (4). One then obtains n equations with n unknown quantities (see Appendix A for more details on the Hecke condition), hence a_i's can be explicitly determined. Recall that the asymmetric twin representation involves two copies of the XXZ representation i.e. $n = 2$. Note that we consider here the following sequence of spaces in the tensor product: $\cdots V_{l^{(1)}} \otimes V_{l^{(2)}} \otimes \cdots \otimes V_{l^{(n)}} \otimes V_{(l+1)^{(1)}} \otimes V_{(l+1)^{(2)}} \otimes \cdots \otimes V_{(l+1)^{(n)}} \cdots$, $V \equiv \mathbb{C}^2$. It is clear that the total number of $\mathbb{C}^2$ spaces (i.e. total number of "sites") is nN.

The junction representation can be schematically represented as follows:
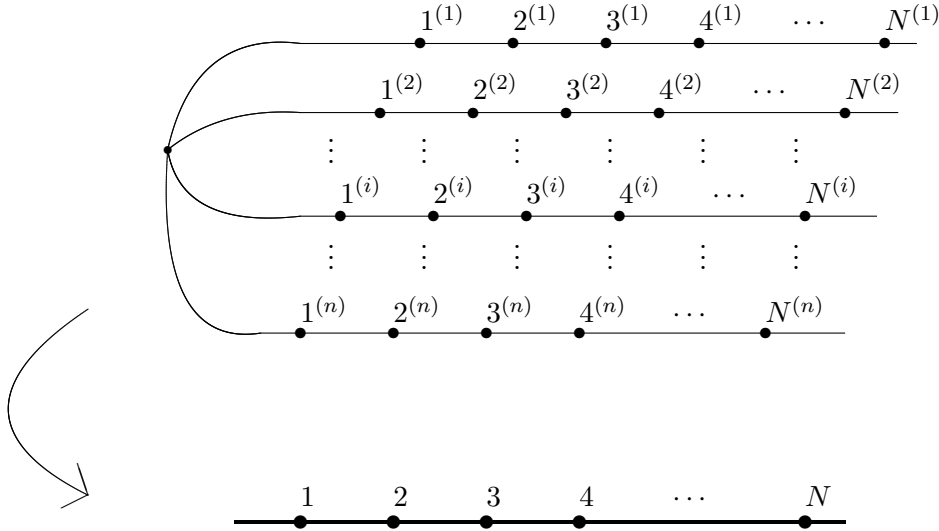
The thick line schematically presents the junction representation, showing somehow the "fusion" of n copies of the XXZ representation. In particular, each one of the indices l appearing there may be seen as a "fusion" of the indices $l^{(i)}$ as: $l \equiv \langle l^{(1)} l^{(2)} \ldots l^{(N)} \rangle$, $l + 1 \equiv \langle (l+1)^{(1)} (l+1)^{(2)} \ldots (l+1)^{(N)} \rangle$ and so on.

Let us now explicitly express each one of the terms in the product (3), defining the junction representation:

$$\rho_{a_m}(\mathbb{U}_{l^{(m)}}) = \cdots \mathbb{I} \otimes \left(\sum_{a \neq b} \underbrace{\mathbb{I} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbb{I}}_{m-1} \otimes \underbrace{e_{ab}}_{l^{(m)}} \otimes \underbrace{\mathbb{I} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbb{I}}_{n-1} \otimes \underbrace{e_{ba}}_{(l+1)^{(m)}} \otimes \underbrace{\mathbb{I} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbb{I}}_{n-m} \right.$$

$$\left. - \sum_{a \neq b} a_m^{-\mathrm{sgn}(a-b)} \underbrace{\mathbb{I} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbb{I}}_{m-1} \otimes \underbrace{e_{aa}}_{l^{(m)}} \otimes \underbrace{\mathbb{I} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbb{I}}_{n-1} \otimes \underbrace{e_{bb}}_{(l+1)^{(m)}} \otimes \underbrace{\mathbb{I} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbb{I}}_{n-m} \right) \otimes \mathbb{I} \cdots$$

with $m \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$.

The matrix above clearly acts non-trivially on the spaces $\mathbb{C}^2_{l^{(m)}} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2_{(l+1)^{(m)}}$.

2.1   The symmetry: $n = 3$

For the sake of simplicity and for illustrating purposes, we shall focus in this section on the simplest non-trivial case where $n = 3$. Nevertheless, expressions on the symmetries associated to higher n will be presented in the next subsection.

The junction representation of the Temperley–Lieb algebra is in this case $\Theta : T_N(q) \mapsto \text{End}((\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2)^{\otimes N})$

$$\Theta(\mathbb{U}_l) = \rho_{a_1}(\mathbb{U}_{l^{(1)}}) \, \rho_{a_2}(\mathbb{U}_{l^{(2)}}) \, \rho_{a_3}(\mathbb{U}_{l^{(3)}}).$$

It is clear from their structure that the above matrices $\rho_{a_i}(\mathbb{U}_{l^{(i)}})$ act on different spaces and hence they commute with each other. Let us now come to the study of the exact quantum symmetry algebras associated to the junction representation.

Let us first briefly recall the $U_q(sl_2)$ algebra, defined by generators e, f, h that satisfy [13]:

$$[h, e] = 2e, \qquad [h, f] = -2f, \qquad [e, f] = \frac{q^h - q^{-h}}{q - q^{-1}}.$$

The quantum algebra is as known equipped with a non-trivial co-product $\Delta : U_q(sl_2) \mapsto U_q(sl_2) \otimes U_q(sl_2)$

$$\Delta(q^h) = q^h \otimes q^h, \qquad \Delta(x) = x \otimes q^{\frac{h}{2}} + q^{-\frac{h}{2}} \otimes x, \qquad x \in \{e, f\}.$$

The n co-product may be obtained by iteration as: $\Delta^{(n)} = (\mathbb{I} \otimes \Delta^{(n-1)})\Delta$.

Recall that the spin $\frac{1}{2}$ representation of the algebra above is given by, $\pi_q : U_q(sl_2) \mapsto \text{End}(\mathbb{C}^2)$

$$\pi_q(h) = \sigma^z, \qquad \pi_q(e) = \sigma^+, \qquad \pi_q(f) = \sigma^-,$$

where σ^z, $\sigma^\pm$ are the 2×2 Pauli matrices. Now define:

$$\pi_1(x) = \pi_{a_1}(x) \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I}, \qquad \pi_2(x) = \mathbb{I} \otimes \pi_{a_2}(x) \otimes \mathbb{I},$$
$$\pi_3(x) = \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \pi_{a_3}(x), \qquad x \in U_{a_i}(sl_2).$$

Concerning the junction representation, it is easy to check that:

$$\left[\Theta(\mathbb{U}_l), \pi_i^{\otimes N}(\Delta^{(N)}(x))\right] = 0, \qquad x \in U_{a_i}(sl_2), \qquad i = 1, 2, 3. \tag{5}$$

It is obvious that each one of the representations acts on the spaces $V_{l^{(i)}}$ separately, that is

$$\left[\rho_{a_i}(U_{l^{(i)}}), \pi_j^{\otimes N}(\Delta^{(N)}(x))\right] = 0, \qquad i, j \in \{1, 2, 3\},$$

which immediately leads to (5). Hence, the junction representation enjoys a manifest

$$\mathcal{G}_0 \equiv U_{a_1}(sl_2) \otimes U_{a_2}(sl_2) \otimes U_{a_3}(sl_2)$$

symmetry, as is trivially expected by its construction.

However, as in the case of the twin asymmetric representation [7, 6], our main objective is to extract non trivial quantum algebra realizations that commute with the junction representation. Consider the following representations $f_i : U_{q_i}(sl_2) \mapsto \text{End}((\mathbb{C}^{(2)})^{\otimes 3})$, $i = 0, 1, 2, 3$

$$f_0(h) = e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} - e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} = h_1^{(0)} - h_2^{(0)},$$
$$f_0(e) = e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12}, \qquad f_0(f) = e_{21} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{21},$$
$$f_0(q_0^h) = \mathbb{I} + (q_0 - 1)h_1^{(0)} + (q_0^{-1} - 1)h_2^{(0)}, \tag{6a}$$
$$f_1(h) = e_{22} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} - e_{11} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} = h_1^{(1)} - h_2^{(1)},$$
$$f_1(e) = e_{21} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12}, \qquad f_1(f) = e_{12} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{21},$$
$$f_1(q_1^h) = \mathbb{I} + (q_1 - 1)h_1^{(1)} + (q_1^{-1} - 1)h_2^{(1)}, \tag{6b}$$
$$f_2(h) = e_{11} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{11} - e_{22} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{22} = h_1^{(2)} - h_2^{(2)},$$

$$f_2(e) = e_{12} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{12}, \qquad f_2(f) = e_{21} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{21},$$

$$f_2(q_2^h) = \mathbb{I} + (q_2 - 1)h_1^{(2)} + \left(q_2^{-1} - 1\right)h_2^{(2)}, \tag{6c}$$

$$f_3(h) = e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{22} - e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{11} = h_1^{(3)} - h_2^{(3)},$$

$$f_3(e) = e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{21}, \qquad f_3(f) = e_{21} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{12},$$

$$f_3(q_3^h) = \mathbb{I} + (q_3 - 1)h_1^{(3)} + \left(q_3^{-1} - 1\right)h_2^{(3)}. \tag{6d}$$

It is straightforward to check that each one of the f_i's defined above provide a representation of $U_{q_i}(sl_2)$.

After some quite cumbersome but straightforward computation, it is shown that

$$\left[\Theta(\mathbb{U}_l), f_i^{\otimes N}(\Delta^{(N)}(x))\right] = 0, \qquad x \in U_{q_i}(sl_2), \qquad i = 0, 1, 2, 3, \tag{7}$$

with q_i to be determined by symmetry requirements. In Appendix B some explicit computations for $i = 0$ are presented.

This in fact turns out to be an interesting combinatorics problem. Each symmetry is associated to a distinct q_i, which is determined by symmetry requirements. In particular, we found the following values for q_i, associated to the four representations f_i:

$$q_0 = a_1 a_2 a_3, \qquad q_1 = a_1^{-1} a_2 a_3, \qquad q_2 = a_1 a_2^{-1} a_3 \qquad q_3 = a_1 a_2 a_3^{-1}$$

(see also the Appendix A on the solution of the Hecke condition).

To summarize, this is the announced non trivial symmetry of the junction representation. For the simplest case, $n = 3$, we have extracted the extra non-trivial symmetry of the junction representation, i.e.

$$\mathcal{G} \equiv U_{q_0}(sl_2) \otimes U_{q_1}(sl_2) \otimes U_{q_2}(sl_2) \otimes U_{q_3}(sl_2),$$

essentially different from the manifest $\bigotimes_{i=1}^{3} U_{a_i}(sl_2)$ symmetry. It is important to note that this extra symmetry is structurally much richer than the manifest one, and is enlarged almost exponentially with respect to n, as will become transparent in the subsequent section.

2.2 Generic junction representation and exact symmetries

We shall generalize here the investigation of the exact symmetries associated to the generic junction representation ($n > 3$). Inspired by the $n = 3$ case, and the respective form of the representations that have been obtained there, we propose a big family of representations below for generic values of n. Actually, after inspection, one observes that the whole analysis merely reduces to a combinatorial problem.

Let us describe the generic family of representations of the quantum algebra. Consider first the representation $f_0 : U_{q_0}(sl_2) \mapsto \text{End}((\mathbb{C}^{(2)})^{\otimes n})$ as a starting point

$$f_0(h) = (e_{11})^{\otimes n} - (e_{22})^{\otimes n} \equiv h_1^{(0)} - h_2^{(0)}, \qquad f_0(e) = (e_{12})^{\otimes n}, \qquad f_0(f) = (e_{21})^{\otimes n},$$

$$f_0(q_0^h) = \mathbb{I} + (q_0 - 1)h_1^{(0)} + \left(q_0^{-1} - 1\right)h_2^{(0)}.$$

Recall that in the generic situation, n constants a_i are involved. The symmetry algebras examined here are in fact associated to all possible combinations of a_i's and their inverses. More precisely, consider first the combination $a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n$, which is in fact equal to q_0. By turning one of the a_i to its inverse we obtain n such combinations. Then we may turn two, three a_i's etc. into their inverses, and stop turning after we reach the values $\frac{n}{2}$ or $\frac{n-1}{2}$ (for n even and odd respectively). We stop basically because we reproduce the same algebras as we shall see

below. In fact, by repeating the procedure above we end up with a total number of combinations given by:

$$M = \sum_{m=0}^{\frac{n-1}{2}} \frac{n!}{m!(n-m)!} \qquad \text{if } n \text{ odd,}$$

$$M = \sum_{m=0}^{\frac{n}{2}-1} \frac{n!}{m!(n-m)!} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{n!}{\frac{n}{2}!\frac{n}{2}!} \qquad \text{if } n \text{ even.} \tag{8}$$

We can now introduce the following generic family of representations $f_{i_1 i_2 \ldots i_m}$, $m \in \{0, \ldots, L\}$ where $L = \frac{n}{2}$ for n even and $L = \frac{n-1}{2}$ for n odd (for $m = 0$ we basically obtain f_0). The corresponding deformation parameter is defined as

$$q_{i_1 i_2 \ldots i_m} = (-1)^{n+1} a_1 a_2 \cdots a_{i_1}^{-1} a_{i_1+1} \cdots a_{i_2}^{-1} \cdots a_{i_m}^{-1} \cdots a_n,$$

that is each one of the constants a_{i_j}, $i_j \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$ is turned to its inverse. It is thus clear that the total number of representations is given by the total number of combinations M given in (8). In fact, for every m we have $\frac{n!}{m!(n-m)!}$ number of representations, provided that for $m = 0$ there is only one representation, the f_0. Note also that

$$q_{i_1 \ldots i_m} = q_{\mathbb{P}(i_1 \ldots i_m)},$$

where $\mathbb{P}$ denotes all possible permutations among the elements i_j. Notice that in the case of n even and $m = \frac{n}{2}$ we keep only half of the combinations. For instance take $n = 4$; we should only consider q_{34}, q_{24}, q_{23}. It is clear that $q_{12} = q_{34}^{-1}$, $f_{12}(e) = f_{34}(f)$, $f_{12}(f) = f_{34}(e)$, and similarly for the rest (see also Appendix C for a more detailed description of the algebra elements). More generally, let us introduce the conjugate index:

$$\bar{i} = n - i + 1.$$

It is then clear that

$$q_{i_1 \ldots i_{\frac{n}{2}}} = q_{\bar{i}_1 \ldots \bar{i}_{\frac{n}{2}}}^{-1}.$$

It is worth noting that some kind of duality is manifest throughout this process. In particular, the quantum algebra with parameter $q_{i_1 \ldots i_m}$ is equivalent to the algebra with parameter $q_{i_1 \ldots i_m}^{-1}$, after interchanging $e \leftrightarrow f$ and $h \leftrightarrow -h$. This is the reason why we stop the procedure of turning a_i's to their inverses after reaching the values $\frac{n}{2}$ or $\frac{n-1}{2}$ for n even and odd respectively, as described earlier in the text. Consequently, physical systems which may possess such underlying structures are expected to enjoy some kind of physical equivalence that reflect this duality.

A generic representation is then defined along the lines described above as

$$f_{i_1 i_2 \ldots i_m} : \; U_{q_{i_1 i_2 \ldots i_m}}(sl_2) \to \text{End}((\mathbb{C}^2)^{\otimes n}),$$

$$f_{i_1 i_2 \ldots i_m}(h) = e_{11} \otimes \cdots e_{11} \otimes \cdots \otimes \underbrace{e_{22}}_{i_1} \otimes e_{11} \cdots \otimes \underbrace{e_{22}}_{i_2} \otimes \cdots \otimes \underbrace{e_{22}}_{i_m} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{11}$$

$$- e_{22} \otimes \cdots e_{22} \otimes \cdots \otimes \underbrace{e_{11}}_{i_1} \otimes e_{22} \cdots \otimes \underbrace{e_{11}}_{i_2} \otimes \cdots \otimes \underbrace{e_{11}}_{i_m} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{22}$$

$$\equiv h_1^{(i_1 \ldots i_m)} - h_2^{(i_1 \ldots i_m)} \tag{9}$$

$$f_{i_1 i_2 \ldots i_m}(e) = e_{12} \otimes \cdots e_{12} \otimes \cdots \otimes \underbrace{e_{21}}_{i_1} \otimes e_{12} \cdots \otimes \underbrace{e_{21}}_{i_2} \otimes \cdots \otimes \underbrace{e_{21}}_{i_m} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{12},$$

$$\mathrm{f}_{i_1 i_2 \ldots i_m}(f) = e_{21} \otimes \cdots e_{21} \otimes \cdots \otimes \underbrace{e_{12}}_{i_1} \otimes e_{21} \cdots \otimes \underbrace{e_{12}}_{i_2} \otimes \cdots \otimes \underbrace{e_{12}}_{i_m} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{21}.$$

All the above quantities emerge from f_0 by exchanging:

$$e_{11} \leftrightarrow e_{22} \qquad \text{for} \quad h, \qquad e_{12} \leftrightarrow e_{21} \qquad \text{for} \quad e, \ f,$$

for every site $i_j \in \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$.

In a similar fashion the generalized representation for the q^h element has the form

$$\mathrm{f}_{q_{i_1 \ldots i_m}}\left(q^h_{i_1 \ldots i_m}\right) = \mathbb{I} + (q_{i_1 \ldots i_m} - 1)h_1^{(i_1 \ldots i_m)} + \left(q_{i_1 \ldots i_m}^{-1} - 1\right)h_2^{(i_1 \ldots i_m)}.$$

To prove that the above relations define a representation of the $U_{q_{i_1 \ldots i_m}}(sl_2)$ algebra is a straight-forward task. One just takes into account the basic property: $e_{ij}e_{kl} = \delta_{jk}e_{il}$.

Having obtained this big family of $U_{q_{i_1 \ldots i_m}}(sl_2)$ representations, we conjecture that these are also non-trivial exact symmetries of the junction representation. More precisely, our main conjecture is that:

$$[\mathrm{f}^{\otimes N}_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(\Delta^{(N)}(x)), \Theta(\mathbb{U}_l)] = 0, \qquad x \in U_{q_{i_1 \ldots i_m}}(sl_2). \tag{10}$$

This is a plausible conjecture given the results for $n = 3$ and the particular structure of the mentioned representations. Note that we have also checked the validity of our conjecture for the cases $n = 4, 5$ with the use of the algebraic program `Mathematica`.

Let us make some general qualitative comments that further enforce our claim. Consider first the multiplication[1] $\Theta(\mathbb{U}_1)\mathrm{f}_0^{\otimes 2}(\Delta(h))$. Note that Θ contains a large number of different terms inside, which can be grouped into powers of a's. (From now on and only for the following argument we let $a_i = ay_i$ and count in powers of a.) Actually the number of terms of a specific power $\mathcal{O}(a^m)$ is given in terms of the binomial coefficient, but this is not so significant at the moment. On the other hand, it is instructive to note that the terms containing a's are either e_{11} or e_{22}, while those not containing a's are e_{12} and e_{21}.

Consider now the multiplication of Θ with the first term of $\mathrm{f}_0^{\otimes 2}(\Delta(h))$, that is with

$$(e_{11})^{\otimes n} \otimes \mathbb{I}^{\otimes n}.$$

Recall that Θ is naturally "broken" into two parts, each one living on $(\mathbb{C}^2)^{\otimes n}$. We see that in order for the product of Θ with the above term to be different from zero, the first part of Θ should only contain the basis vectors e_{11} and e_{21}, in every possible combination. Otherwise it just gives zero. Consequently, the problem is reduced into a combinatorics problem. However, for the case of $\mathrm{f}_0^{\otimes 2}(\Delta(h))$ the situation is easy to handle[2], and we see that the product $\Theta(\mathbb{U}_1)\mathrm{f}_0^{\otimes 2}(\Delta(h))$ vanishes identically. The reason is the following.

We observe that from the multiplication of Θ with the first term of $\mathrm{f}_0^{\otimes 2}(\Delta(h))$ only some specific terms survive. However, these are exactly the same terms that survive the multiplication of Θ with the last term of the co-product, namely with

$$\mathbb{I}^{\otimes n} \otimes (e_{22})^{\otimes n}.$$

And since those two terms appear with a different sign, they cancel out. The same happens with the other two terms. The same argument is also valid for the second term of the commutator,

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[1] We focus here on the f_0 representation but our arguments may be applied for the generic family of representations.

[2] For the co-products of the other two elements the situation is more difficult to handle, since the products with Θ do not vanish identically. Hence the various conditions relating a_i's must be taken into account, which makes the presentation of a general argument a difficult task.

that is for the multiplication $f_0^{\otimes 2}(\Delta(h))\Theta$, which is identically zero. Hence, we have shown – using a somehow heuristic argument – that

$$\left[\Theta(\mathbb{U}_1), f_0^{\otimes 2}(\Delta(h))\right] = 0.$$

Note that this result is valid for all the representations that belong to the generic family that we have considered so far, due to the highly symmetric nature of $f_{i_1 \ldots i_m}^{\otimes 2}(\Delta(h))$. It should be stressed that although the above argument is not a rigorous proof, we expect that it holds for the whole family of representations. Similar arguments, albeit more complicated in their technicalities, can be presented for the other two elements of the quantum algebra.

Finally, let us briefly discuss for completeness the existence of trivial symmetries associated to the junction representation. Define:

$$\pi_i(x) = \mathbb{I} \otimes \cdots \otimes \cdots \underbrace{\pi_{a_i}(x)}_{1^{(i)}} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbb{I}, \qquad x \in U_{a_i}(sl_2). \tag{11}$$

It is straightforward then to check that the junction representation commutes with the actions defined above. Each one of the representations ρ_{a_i} acts non trivially on the spaces $\mathbb{C}^2_{l^{(i)}} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2_{(l+1)^{(i)}}$ separately, that is

$$\left[\rho_{a_i}(U_{l^{(i)}}), \pi_j^{\otimes N}(\Delta^{(N)}(x))\right] = 0, \qquad i,j \in \{1, \ldots, n\},$$

which immediately leads to

$$\left[\Theta(\mathbb{U}_l), \pi_i^{\otimes N}(\Delta^{(N)}(x))\right] = 0, \qquad x \in U_{a_i}(sl_2), \tag{12}$$

exposing the manifest symmetry of a generic junction representation

$$\mathcal{G}_0 \equiv U_{a_1}(sl_2) \otimes U_{a_2}(sl_2) \otimes \cdots \otimes U_{a_n}(sl_2). \tag{13}$$

To summarize, we have been able to explicitly prove the existence of non-trivial exact symmetries (6), (7) associated to the junction representation for $n = 3$ (see Appendix B). We have conjectured the generic form of non-trivial symmetries of the junction representation (9) $\forall\, n$, and we have checked the validity of our conjecture (10) with Mathematica for $n = 4, 5$. The existence of trivial symmetries (11) is an immediate consequence of the structure of the junction representation, therefore the proof of (12), (13) is straightforward $\forall\, n$.

3 Boundary Temperley–Lieb algebra and representations

We shall discuss in this section extensions of the junction representation in the case of the boundary Temperley–Lieb algebra. The boundary Temperley–Lieb $B_N(q, Q)$ algebra is defined by generators $\mathbb{U}_i$ obeying (1) and $\mathbb{U}_0$ satisfying

$$\mathbb{U}_0^2 = \delta_0 \mathbb{U}_0, \qquad \mathbb{U}_1 \mathbb{U}_0 \mathbb{U}_1 = \kappa \mathbb{U}_1, \qquad [\mathbb{U}_0, \mathbb{U}_i] = 0, \qquad i > 1,$$

where $\delta_0 = -(Q + Q^{-1})$, $\kappa = qQ^{-1} + q^{-1}Q$, although there is a reparametrization freedom that one can appropriately use (see e.g. [7]).

The well known XXZ representation of the boundary Temperley–Lieb algebra is given next. Let U be the matrix defined in (2) and

$$U_0 = -Q^{-1}e_{11} - Qe_{22} + e_{12} + e_{21}. \tag{14}$$

Then the following is a representation of the boundary TL algebra,

$$\rho_{q,Q}: \ B_N(q,Q) \mapsto \mathrm{End}\big((\mathbb{C}^2)^{\otimes N}\big),$$
$$\rho_{q,Q}(\mathbb{U}_i) = \mathbb{I} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \underbrace{U}_{i,\,i+1} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbb{I}, \qquad \rho_{q,Q}(\mathbb{U}_0) = U_0 \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbb{I}. \tag{15}$$

The obvious junction representation for the "boundary" element for generic n is then the following

$$\Theta(\mathbb{U}_0) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \rho_{a_i, Q_i}(\mathbb{U}_0),$$

where each one of the XXZ representations act on the spaces $\mathbb{C}^2_{1(1)}$, $\mathbb{C}^2_{1(2)}$, ..., $\mathbb{C}^2_{1(n)}$; i.e.

$$\rho_{a_i, Q_i}(\mathbb{U}_0) = \mathbb{I} \otimes \cdots \otimes \underbrace{U_0}_{1^{(i)}} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbb{I}.$$

It is straightforward to check, due to the fact that spaces $\mathbb{C}^2_{l(i)}$ commute among each other that $\Theta(\mathbb{U}_i)$ and $\Theta(\mathbb{U}_0)$ do satisfy the algebraic relations of the boundary TL algebra, thus they provide a representation of the algebra.

However, our objective here is to search for non trivial boundary elements that mix essentially the spaces exactly as the non trivial symmetries mix the various spaces $\mathbb{C}^2_{1(i)}$. Consider the following matrices

$$M_{i_1 \ldots i_m} = -Q^{-1} h_1^{(i_1 \ldots i_m)} - Q h_2^{(i_1 \ldots i_m)} + \mathrm{f}_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(e) + \mathrm{f}_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(f),$$

and recall that $h_{1,2}^{(i_1 \ldots i_m)}$ and $\mathrm{f}_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(e, f)$ are defined in Section 2.2. The indices take values $i_j \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$ as also described in Section 2.2.

Let us focus again on the $n = 3$ case, where analytic proofs of our claims are available (for higher n analytic proofs are highly complicated, and only checks with the help of algebraic packages can be performed). First, introduce the following matrices corresponding to the four f_i representations of the $n = 3$ case described in Section 2.1,

$$M_0 = -Q^{-1} e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} - Q e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} + e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} + e_{21} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{21},$$
$$M_1 = -Q^{-1} e_{22} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} - Q e_{11} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} + e_{21} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} + e_{12} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{21},$$
$$M_2 = -Q^{-1} e_{11} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{11} - Q e_{22} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{22} + e_{12} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{12} + e_{21} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{21},$$
$$M_3 = -Q^{-1} e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{22} - Q e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{11} + e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{21} + e_{21} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{12}.$$

The matrices M_i act on $\mathbb{C}^2_{1(1)} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2_{1(2)} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2_{1(3)}$. Also set

$$\mathcal{M}_i = M_i \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbb{I},$$

where now $\mathbb{I}$ acts on $(\mathbb{C}^2)^{\otimes 3}$. It can be shown then that

$$\Theta(\mathbb{U}_1) \mathcal{M}_i \Theta(\mathbb{U}_1) = \kappa \Theta(\mathbb{U}_1), \qquad i = 0, 1, 2, 3,$$

and this suffices to prove that this is a representation of the boundary Temperley–Lieb algebra. Indeed we define the representation $\Theta_i : B_N(q,Q) \mapsto \mathrm{End}(\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2)^{\otimes N}$, $i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ such that:

$$\Theta_i(\mathbb{U}_l) = \Theta(\mathbb{U}_l), \qquad l \in \{1, 2, \ldots, N-1\}, \qquad \Theta_i(\mathbb{U}_0) = \mathcal{M}_i.$$

We can proceed then and state the following generic conjecture $\forall\, n > 3$. We conjecture that $\Theta_{i_1\ldots i_m}$ such that

$$\Theta_{i_1\ldots i_m}(\mathbb{U}_l) = \Theta(\mathbb{U}_l), \qquad l \in \{1,\ldots,N-1\}, \qquad \Theta_{i_1\ldots i_m}(\mathbb{U}_0) = \mathcal{M}_{i_1\ldots i_m},$$
$$\mathcal{M}_{i_1\ldots i_m} = M_{i_1\ldots i_m} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbb{I}$$

is a representation of the boundary Temperley–Lieb algebra. To prove this it is sufficient to show that

$$\Theta(\mathbb{U}_1)\mathcal{M}_{i_1\ldots i_m}\Theta(\mathbb{U}_1) = \kappa\Theta(\mathbb{U}_1).$$

As before, we have checked the validity of the latter conjecture by performing an analytical computation for $n = 3$ and by using `Mathematica` for the cases $n = 4, 5$. Therefore, we have strong indications that it is valid for generic n. The analytic proof for $n = 3$ is omitted here for brevity, but it is straightforward, although technically demanding, and is based on the explicit form of $\Theta(\mathbb{U}_1)$, $\mathcal{M}_{i_1\ldots i_m}$ and the property: $e_{ij}e_{kl} = \delta_{jk}e_{il}$

As mentioned above, the structure of these boundary elements is inspired by the form of the non trivial symmetries studied in the previous section. It will be transparent in the subsequent section that they break the respective symmetries then, along the lines described in [7, 8, 6].

3.1   Residual symmetries

In this section we shall examine how each one of the non-trivial boundary elements $\mathcal{M}_{i_1\ldots i_m}$ breaks the original symmetry of the Temperley–Lieb algebra. This will be particularly useful when studying the corresponding quantum spin chain symmetry.

Apart from the manifest symmetry of the algebra, we have exposed in the previous section a $U_{q_0}(sl_2)\otimes U_{q_1}(sl_2)\otimes U_{q_2}(sl_2)\otimes U_{q_3}(sl_2)$ symmetry for the junction representation. It is straightforward to check that each one of the non-trivial boundary elements breaks only part of this symmetry, while preserving the rest of it. In particular, it is shown that

$$[\mathrm{f}_i(x), M_j] = 0, \qquad x \in U_{q_i}(sl_2), \qquad i \neq j.$$

The above condition is not accidental at all. In fact, it is somehow expected, given that the structure of those boundary elements is strictly related to the respective non-trivial symmetries of the algebra. However, the case where $i = j$ requires particular attention.

Let us first consider the following combination of generators of the quantum algebra $U_{q_{i_1\ldots i_m}}(sl_2)$ (see also e.g. [6, 19, 5])

$$\mathcal{Q}_{i_1\ldots i_m} = q_{i_1\ldots i_m}^{-\frac{1}{2}}q_{i_1\ldots i_m}^{\frac{h}{2}}e + q_{i_1\ldots i_m}^{\frac{1}{2}}q_{i_1\ldots i_m}^{-\frac{h}{2}}f + x_{i_1\ldots i_m}q_{i_1\ldots i_m}^{h} - x_{i_1\ldots i_m}\mathbb{I},$$

where $x_{i_1\ldots i_m}$ are constants to be determined later on. Focus again on the simplest non-trivial situation $n = 3$. Using then the four f_i representations at hand one may compute the respective charges, which have the following form

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{f}_0(\mathcal{Q}_0) &= (-x_0 + q_0x_0)e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} + e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12}\\
&\quad + e_{21} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{21} + (-x_0 + q_0^{-1}x_0)e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22},\\
\mathrm{f}_1(\mathcal{Q}_1) &= (-x_1 + q_1x_1)e_{22} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} + e_{21} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12}\\
&\quad + e_{12} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{21} + (-x_1 + q_1^{-1}x_1)e_{11} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22},\\
\mathrm{f}_2(\mathcal{Q}_2) &= (-x_2 + q_2x_2)e_{11} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{11} + e_{12} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{12}\\
&\quad + e_{21} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{21} + (-x_2 + q_2^{-1}x_2)e_{22} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{22},
\end{aligned}$$

$$f_3(\mathcal{Q}_3) = (-x_3 + q_3 x_3)e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{22} + e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{21}$$
$$+ e_{21} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{12} + (-x_3 + q_3^{-1} x_3)e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{11}.$$

This charge commutes with all the irrespective boundary elements, that is

$$[f_i(\mathcal{Q}_i), M_j] = 0 \qquad \text{for} \ \ i \neq j,$$

but is also found to commute with the relevant boundary element

$$[f_i(\mathcal{Q}_i), M_i] = 0,$$

provided that the constants x_i satisfy

$$x_i = \frac{Q - Q^{-1}}{q_i - q_i^{-1}}.$$

To conclude, the symmetry we extract here for each representation Θ_i of the boundary Temperley–Lieb algebra is:

$$\left[\Theta_i(\mathbb{U}_l), f_i^{\otimes N}(\Delta^{(N)}(\mathcal{Q}_i)) \otimes_{i \neq j} f_j^{\otimes N}(\Delta^{(N)}(x))\right] = 0, \qquad x \in U_{q_j}(sl_2).$$

We may generalize the statement – as a conjecture – on the boundary symmetry $\forall n$, i.e., we conjecture that

$$\left[\Theta_{i_1 \dots i_m}(\mathbb{U}_l), f_{i_1 \dots i_m}^{\otimes N}(\Delta^{(N)}(\mathcal{Q}_{i_1 \dots i_m})) \otimes_{\{i_1, \dots, i_m\} \neq \{j_1, \dots, j_m\}} f_{j_1 \dots j_m}^{\otimes N}(\Delta^{(N)}(x))\right] = 0,$$
$$x \in U_{q_{j_1 \dots j_m}}(sl_2). \tag{16}$$

It is clear that the trivial representation defined in (14), (15) enjoys the symmetry (see also [6]):

$$\left[\Theta_i(\mathbb{U}_l), \pi_i^{\otimes N}(\Delta^{(N)}(\mathcal{Q}_i)) \otimes_{i \neq j} \pi_j^{\otimes N}(\Delta^{(N)}(x))\right] = 0, \qquad x \in U_{a_j}(sl_2), \qquad i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\},$$

where we define

$$\mathcal{Q}_i = a_i^{-\frac{1}{2}} a_i^{\frac{h}{2}} e + a_i^{\frac{1}{2}} a_i^{-\frac{h}{2}} f + x_i a_i^h - x_i \mathbb{I}, \qquad i \in \{1, \dots, n\},$$

and

$$x_i = \frac{Q - Q^{-1}}{a_i - a_i^{-1}}.$$

For a more detailed discussion on boundary symmetries we refer the interested reader to [7, 6].

4   The quantum spin chain

We shall now briefly discuss the corresponding quantum spin chain, enjoying the symmetries described above. Recall the $\check{R}$ matrix is a solution of the braid Yang–Baxter equation

$$\check{R}_{12}(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)\check{R}_{23}(\lambda_1)\check{R}_{12}(\lambda_2) = \check{R}_{23}(\lambda_2)\check{R}_{12}(\lambda_1)\check{R}_{23}(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2).$$

The $\check{R}$ matrix associated with representations of the Temperley–Lieb algebra may be expressed as [12]

$$\check{R}_{ii+1}(\lambda) = \sinh(\lambda + i\mu) + \sinh \lambda \rho(\mathbb{U}_i),$$

for any representation ρ of the TL algebra $T_N(q)$, and where $q = e^{i\mu}$.

Define the R matrix as: $R(\lambda) = \mathcal{P}\check{R}(\lambda)$. The R matrix associated with the junction representation satisfies unitarity and crossing symmetry i.e.

$$R_{ij}(\lambda)R_{ji}(-\lambda) \propto \mathbb{I}, \qquad R_{ij}(\lambda) \propto \mathbb{V}_i R_{ij}^{t_j}(-\lambda - i)\mathbb{V}_i,$$

where we define in general

$$\mathbb{V} = \otimes_{i=1}^n \begin{pmatrix} & a_i^{-\frac{1}{2}} \\ a_i^{\frac{1}{2}} & \end{pmatrix},$$

and for $n = 3$ in particular we have:

$$\mathbb{V} = \begin{pmatrix} & a_1^{-\frac{1}{2}} \\ a_1^{\frac{1}{2}} & \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} & a_2^{-\frac{1}{2}} \\ a_2^{\frac{1}{2}} & \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} & a_3^{-\frac{1}{2}} \\ a_3^{\frac{1}{2}} & \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} & & & & & & & q_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} \\ & & & & & & q_3^{-\frac{1}{2}} & \\ & & & & & q_2^{-\frac{1}{2}} & & \\ & & & & q_1^{\frac{1}{2}} & & & \\ & & & q_1^{-\frac{1}{2}} & & & & \\ & & q_2^{\frac{1}{2}} & & & & & \\ & q_3^{\frac{1}{2}} & & & & & & \\ q_0^{\frac{1}{2}} & & & & & & & \end{pmatrix}.$$

Recall also the identifications of q_i's, entailed by the exact symmetries of the representation.

Then one may construct the transfer matrix of an open spin chain with generic integrable boundary conditions [23]:

$$t(\lambda) = \mathrm{tr}_0\{M_0 K_0^+ \mathbb{T}(\lambda)\},$$

where

$$\mathbb{T} = T_0(\lambda)K_0(\lambda)T_0^{-1}(\lambda), \qquad T(\lambda) = R_{0N}(\lambda)\cdots R_{01}(\lambda).$$

The K matrix satisfies the reflection equation

$$R_{12}(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)K_1(\lambda_1)R_{21}(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)K_2(\lambda_2) = K_2(\lambda_2)R_{12}(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)K_1(\lambda_1)R_{21}(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2).$$

We shall focus here on the case of trivial left boundary, that is $K^+ \propto \mathbb{I}$. Also M is defined as

$$M = \mathbb{V}^t\mathbb{V},$$

and for $n = 3$ in particular it becomes:

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} q_0 & & & & & & & \\ & q_3 & & & & & & \\ & & q_2 & & & & & \\ & & & q_1^{-1} & & & & \\ & & & & q_1 & & & \\ & & & & & q_2^{-1} & & \\ & & & & & & q_3^{-1} & \\ & & & & & & & q_0^{-1} \end{pmatrix}.$$

It is known that solutions of the reflection equation may be expressed in terms of representations of the boundary Temperley–Lieb algebra as (see also e.g. [16, 7]):

$$K(\lambda) = x(\lambda) + y(\lambda)\rho(\mathbb{U}_0),$$
$$x(\lambda) = -\delta_0 \cosh(2\lambda + i\mu) - \kappa \cosh(2\lambda) - \cosh(2i\zeta),$$
$$y(\lambda) = 2\sinh(2\lambda)\sinh(i\mu).$$

Let us first consider the case of a trivial right boundary i.e. $K \propto \mathbb{I}$. Then as was proven in Section 2.1 that the junction representation enjoys the $\otimes_{i=0}^{3} U_{q_i}(sl_2)$ symmetry and consequently

$$\left[\check{R}, f_i^{\otimes 2}(\Delta^{\otimes 2}(x))\right] = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad f_i^{\otimes 2}(\Delta^{'\otimes 2}(x))R(\lambda) = R(\lambda)f_i^{\otimes 2}(\Delta^{\otimes 2}(x)), \qquad x \in U_{q_i}(sl_2),$$

where $\Delta' = \mathcal{P}\Delta\mathcal{P}$ and where R is the junction R matrix. From the relations above it is straightforward to show that:

$$f_i^{\otimes(N+1)}(\Delta^{'\otimes(N+1)}(x))T(\lambda) = T(\lambda)\Delta^{\otimes(N+1)}(f_i^{\otimes(N+1)}(x)),$$

which leads, for trivial boundary conditions to

$$f_i^{\otimes(N+1)}(\Delta^{'\otimes(N+1)}(x))\mathbb{T}(\lambda) = \mathbb{T}(\lambda)f_i^{\otimes(N+1)}(\Delta^{'\otimes(N+1)}(x))$$
$$\Rightarrow \quad [t(\lambda), f_i^{\otimes(N)}(\Delta^{\otimes(N)}(x))] = 0.$$

Hence, the transfer matrix with trivial boundary conditions enjoys the $\otimes_{i=0}^{3} U_{q_i}(sl_2)$ symmetry (similarly it may be shown that the transfer matrix enjoys the obvious symmetry $\otimes_{i=1}^{3} U_{a_i}(sl_2)$, see also [8, 6] for further details). The statement may be generalized for any $f_{i_1\dots i_m}$ representation $\forall n$ provided that relations (10) are valid:

$$\left[t(\lambda), f_{i_1\dots i_m}^{\otimes(N)}(\Delta^{\otimes(N)}(x))\right] = 0, \qquad x \in U_{q_{i_1\dots i_m}}(sl_2).$$

We shall focus here, since it is more interesting, on the breaking of the non trivial symmetries expressed via the representations f_i. The existence of a non-trivial "boundary" may couple the various $V_{l^{(i)}}$ spaces. In this case various choices of representations of the boundary Temperley–Lieb algebra lead to consistent breaking of the original symmetry in different ways. Particularly, focus first on the $n = 3$ case and define

$$K^{(i)} = x(\lambda) + y(\lambda)M_i \qquad \text{and} \qquad \mathbb{T}^{(i)} = T(\lambda)K^{(i)}(\lambda)T^{-1}(-\lambda).$$

It is clear bearing also in mind the results of Section 3 that

$$\left[K^{(i)}(\lambda), f_i(\mathcal{Q}_i) \otimes_{j\neq i} f_j(x)\right] = 0$$
$$\Rightarrow \quad \mathbb{T}^{(i)}(\lambda)f_i^{\otimes(N+1)}(\Delta^{'(N+1)}(\mathcal{Q}_i)) \otimes_{j\neq i} f_j^{\otimes(N+1)}(\Delta^{'(N+1)}(x))$$
$$= f_i^{\otimes(N+1)}(\Delta^{'(N+1)}(\mathcal{Q}_i)) \otimes_{j\neq i} f_j^{\otimes(N+1)}(\Delta^{'(N+1)}(x))\mathbb{T}^{(i)}(\lambda),$$

and it is then shown that

$$\left[t^{(i)}(\lambda), f_i^{\otimes N}(\Delta^{(N)}(\mathcal{Q}_i)) \otimes_{j\neq i} f_j^{\otimes N}(\Delta^{(N)}(x))\right] = 0, \qquad x \in U_{q_j}(sl_2).$$

With this statement we basically conclude our study on the symmetries of the junction spin chain with trivial and non-trivial integrable boundary conditions. Again the boundary symmetry statement can be generalized for any representation $f_{i_1\dots i_m}$, $\forall n$ provided that relations (10), (16) hold. Indeed, set

$$K^{(i_1\dots i_m)} = x(\lambda) + y(\lambda)M_{i_1\dots i_m}, \qquad t^{(i_1\dots i_m)}(\lambda) = \text{tr}\{MT(\lambda)K^{(i_1\dots i_m)}(\lambda)T^{-1}(-\lambda)\}.$$

Then it is straightforward to show, provided that (10), (16) are valid:

$$\left[t^{(i_1...i_m)}(\lambda), \mathrm{f}^{\otimes N}_{i_1...i_m}(\Delta^{(N)}(\mathcal{Q}_{i_1...i_m})) \otimes_{\{j_1,...,j_m\} \neq \{i_1,...i_m\}} \mathrm{f}^{\otimes N}_{j_1...j_m}(\Delta^{(N)}(x)) \right] = 0,$$
$$x \in U_{q_{j_1...j_m}}(sl_2).$$

Since the junction representation is a representation of the (boundary) TL algebra as is the XXZ one expects, according to the general discussion in [7], that the spectra of the models will by identical, up to multiplicities, (see universal expressions for Hamiltonians in [7] and generic expressions of open transfer matrices in terms of elements of the (boundary) Temperley–Lieb algebra in [6]). Note that the results of the present section are explicitly proven provided that the results, and conjectures of Sections 2.1, 2.2, 3 and 3.1 are valid.

5   Discussion

We have been able to identify a novel family of representations of the Temperley–Lieb algebra, the so called junction representations, which involve n copies of the familiar XXZ representation. Interestingly enough, it turns out that the number of exact symmetries associated to the junction representation is drastically increased with the number n. The existence of the extended junction representation in the case of the boundary Temperley–Lieb algebra is examined, and particular non-trivial "boundary" elements are identified. The results on the boundary case are non-trivial and analytic proof is provided in the case where $n = 3$, whereas in the general case a conjecture on the form of the representation of the boundary element is stated, and is checked with Mathematica for $n = 4$, 5. The associated residual symmetries in this case are also extracted.

More precisely, regarding the study of the associated symmetries: we explicitly show in Section 2.1 that in addition to the expected symmetries particular non-trivial algebra realizations commute with the junction representation, whereas in Section 3 we state a generic conjecture on the existence of a big number of non-trivial symmetry algebras, which we support qualitatively. We check however the validity of our conjecture with `Mathematica` up to $n = 5$. Similar results obtained in Section 3.1 concerning the associated boundary symmetries.

What is highly non-trivial in the present investigation in the existence of a large number of non-trivial exact symmetry algebras. It is important to note that for the moment there is no-rigorous proof that these consist the full symmetry algebra associated to the junction representation. Nevertheless, it would be very interesting if one could find an extra symmetry that does not fall to the categories discussed in the present study. Moreover, the obvious number of associated symmetries does not seem to coincide with the number of the obtained non-trivial symmetries, and this is also an intriguing issue, which is still open even in the simplest case $n = 2$, the "asymmetric twin" representation [7]. We hope to address these significant issues in future investigations.

Using this particular representation we constructed the corresponding novel physical quantum system, that is the "junction" quantum spin chain, and examined the associated exact symmetries. Within this spirit an interesting problem to pursue is the study of the aforementioned representations, and symmetries in the context of other statistical physics, such as face or loop models. An even more intriguing question is the possible existence of some kind of continuum limit of the junction spin chain, which also enjoys the big number of exact symmetries identified here. More precisely, universal local Hamiltonians in terms of the elements of the (boundary) Temperley–Lieb algebras are available (see e.g. [7, 8]), thus one may try to obtain the so called long wave length continuum limit (see e.g. [9]) of such expressions, that is obtain classical continuum Hamiltonians. We shall fully address these and related issues in forthcoming publications.

A   Parametrization and solution of the Hecke condition

In this appendix we present how one obtains solutions of the quadratic constraint of the Temperley–Lieb algebra (Hecke condition)

$$\mathbb{U}^2 = -\left(q + q^{-1}\right)\mathbb{U}.$$

We focus first for simplicity on the case $n = 3$. A detailed study for the generic solution will be presented elsewhere.

By taking into account the form of the junction representation, the Hecke condition is written as

$$a_1 a_2 a_3 + a_1^{-1} a_2^{-1} a_3^{-1} + a_1 a_2 a_3^{-1} + a_1 a_2^{-1} a_3 + a_1^{-1} a_2 a_3$$
$$+ a_1^{-1} a_2^{-1} a_3 + a_1^{-1} a_2 a_3^{-1} + a_1 a_2^{-1} a_3^{-1} = q + q^{-1}.$$

It is now convenient to parametrize a_i as follows:

$$a_i = z_i q^{\frac{1}{3}}, \qquad i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$$

In addition, if we set

$$a_1 a_2 a_3 = q \quad \Rightarrow \quad a_1^{-1} a_2^{-1} a_3^{-1} = q^{-1},$$

then the rest terms sum up to give zero. Hence we are left with three equations to solve in order to identify the three unknown quantities z_i, which read

$$z_1 z_2 z_3 = 1, \qquad z_1 z_2 z_3^{-1} + z_1 z_2^{-1} z_3 + z_1^{-1} z_2 z_3 = 0$$
$$z_1^{-1} z_2^{-1} z_3 + z_1^{-1} z_2 z_3^{-1} + z_1 z_2^{-1} z_3^{-1} = 0. \tag{17}$$

Solving the equations above one can explicitly fix the values of z_i, for the particular parametrization of a_i. Of course one may choose a different parametrization, but in any case these should be equivalent. A simple solution of the above system of equations is the following:

$$z_1 = e^{\frac{i\pi}{3}}, \qquad z_2 = e^{\frac{2i\pi}{3}}, \qquad z_3 = e^{i\pi}.$$

It is straightforward to check that the above solution satisfies the system (17).

Let us now generalize our comments for every $n > 3$. We start from the generic polynomial condition

$$(-1)^n \prod_{j=1}^{n} \left(a_j + a_j^{-1}\right) = -\left(q + q^{-1}\right),$$

and expanding the expressions above we take

$$a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n + \sum_i a_1 \cdots a_i^{-1} \cdots a_n + \sum_{i_1, i_2} a_1 \cdots a_{i_1}^{-1} \cdots a_{i_2}^{-1} \cdots a_n + \cdots = (-1)^{n-1}\left(q + q^{-1}\right).$$

We parameterize, as in $n = 3$ case, by setting

$$q = (-1)^{n-1} a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n, \qquad a_j = z_j q^{\frac{1}{n}}. \tag{18}$$

Our task now is to identify the constants z_i. By also requiring, in addition to (18), the factor in front of every power $q^{\frac{m}{n}}$ ($-n < m < n$) to disappear we end up with a set of n equations. More specifically, we end up with a system of n unknown quantities, the z_j's and n equations, so that in principle the system can be solved and z_j's can be determined.

B Proof for $n = 3$

As it has been already stated, we have checked the validity of our conjecture for the cases $n = 4, 5$ by using Mathematica. However, we were able to perform analytic calculations for the $n = 3$ case. In this appendix, we describe part of our analytic computation.

It is convenient for what follows to write down the explicit expression of the each one of the XXZ representations for $n = 3$: i.e.

$$\rho_{a_1}(\mathbb{U}_{l^{(1)}}) = \cdots \mathbb{I} \otimes \left(\sum_{a \neq b} e_{ab} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{ba} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \right.$$

$$\left. - \sum_{a \neq b} a_1^{-\mathrm{sgn}(a-b)} e_{aa} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{bb} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \right) \otimes \mathbb{I} \cdots ,$$

$$\rho_{a_2}(\mathbb{U}_{l^{(2)}}) = \cdots \mathbb{I} \otimes \left(\sum_{a \neq b} \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{ab} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{ba} \otimes \mathbb{I} \right.$$

$$\left. - \sum_{a \neq b} a_2^{-\mathrm{sgn}(a-b)} \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{aa} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{bb} \otimes \mathbb{I} \right) \otimes \mathbb{I} \cdots ,$$

$$\rho_{a_3}(\mathbb{U}_{l^{(3)}}) = \cdots \mathbb{I} \otimes \left(\sum_{a \neq b} \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{ab} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{ba} \right.$$

$$\left. - \sum_{a \neq b} a_3^{-\mathrm{sgn}(a-b)} \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{aa} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{bb} \right) \otimes \mathbb{I} \cdots .$$

Our purpose is to show that

$$\left[\Theta(\mathbb{U}_l), \mathrm{f}_i^{\otimes N}(\Delta(x)) \right] = 0, \qquad x \in U_{q_i}(sl_2),$$

for $i = 0, \ldots, 3$. Let us focus for simplicity, and for saving writing on $N = 2$, since it is then easy to generalize for any N (see also [7]). We shall show in detail the computation for the f_0 representation, the rest follow in the same spirit. Consider first the element e of the $U_{q_0}(sl_2)$ quantum algebra. The left-hand side of $[\Theta(\mathbb{U}_1), f_0^{\otimes 2}(\Delta(e))]$ is written explicitly as

$$\Theta(\mathbb{U}_1)\mathrm{f}_0^{\otimes 2}(\Delta(e)) = \left(\sum_{a \neq b} e_{ab} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{ba} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} - \sum_{a \neq b} a_1^{-\mathrm{sgn}(a-b)} e_{aa} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{bb} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \right)$$

$$\times \left(\sum_{m \neq n} \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{mn} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{nm} \otimes \mathbb{I} - \sum_{m \neq n} a_2^{-\mathrm{sgn}(m-n)} \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{mm} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{nn} \otimes \mathbb{I} \right)$$

$$\times \left(\sum_{k \neq l} \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{kl} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{lk} - \sum_{k \neq l} a_3^{-\mathrm{sgn}(k-l)} \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{kk} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{ll} \right)$$

$$\times \left(\left(q_0^{-\frac{e_{11}}{2}} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} + q_0^{\frac{e_{22}}{2}} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} + \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{11} \otimes_{22} + \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{11} \right) \right.$$

$$\otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} + \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12}$$

$$\left. \otimes \left(q_0^{\frac{e_{11}}{2}} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} + q_0^{-\frac{e_{22}}{2}} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} + \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{11} \otimes_{22} + \mathbb{I} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{11} \right) \right).$$

Using the property $e_{ij}e_{kl} = \delta_{jk}e_{il}$ and after some quite cumbersome algebra we end up with the following expression for the first

$$\Theta(\mathbb{U}_1)\mathrm{f}_0^{\otimes 2}(\Delta(e)) = q_0^{\frac{1}{2}} e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22}$$

$$+ q_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} - a_3^{-1} q_0^{\frac{1}{2}} e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{12}$$

$$- a_3 q_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} e_{22} \otimes e_2 \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{22} - a_2^{-1} q_0^{\frac{1}{2}} e_{12} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{22}$$

$$- a_2 q_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} e_{22} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{12} + a_2^{-1} a_3^{-1} q_0^{\frac{1}{2}} e_{12} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12}$$

$$+ a_2 a_3 q_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} e_{22} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} - a_1^{-1} q_0^{\frac{1}{2}} e_{22} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22}$$

$$- a_1 q_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} e_{12} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} + a_1^{-1} a_3^{-1} q_0^{\frac{1}{2}} e_{22} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{12}$$

$$+ a_1 a_2 q_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} e_{12} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12}$$

$$+ a_1^{-1} a_2^{-1} q_0^{\frac{1}{2}} e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{22}$$

$$+ a_1 a_2 q_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{12}$$

$$- a_1^{-1} a_2^{-1} a_3^{-1} q_0^{\frac{1}{2}} e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12}$$

$$- a_1 a_2 a_3 q_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22}. \tag{19}$$

and the second term of the commutator

$$f_0^{\otimes 2}(\Delta(e)) \Theta(\mathbb{U}_1) = q_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11}$$

$$+ q_0^{\frac{1}{2}} e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} - a_3 q_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{12}$$

$$- a_3^{-1} q_0^{\frac{1}{2}} e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{11} - a_2 q_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} e_{12} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{11}$$

$$- a_2^{-1} q_0^{\frac{1}{2}} e_{11} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{12} + a_2 a_3 q_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} e_{12} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12}$$

$$+ a_2^{-1} a_3^{-1} q_0^{\frac{1}{2}} e_{11} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} - a_1 q_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} e_{11} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11}$$

$$- a_1^{-1} q_0^{\frac{1}{2}} e_{12} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} + a_1 a_3 q_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} e_{11} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{12}$$

$$+ a_1^{-1} a_3^1 q_0^{\frac{1}{2}} e_{12} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{11} + a_1 a_2 q_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{11}$$

$$+ a_1^{-1} a_2^{-1} q_0^{\frac{1}{2}} e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{12}$$

$$- a_1 a_2 a_2 q_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12}$$

$$- a_1^{-1} a_2^{-1} a_3^{-1} q_0^{\frac{1}{2}} e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11}. \tag{20}$$

Now notice that every two terms in each side of the commutator are canceled provided that $q_0 = a_1 a_2 a_3$. This result has also been found to hold for the $n = 4, 5$ cases; each side of the commutator vanishes identically, for the appropriate form of q_i, $q_{i_1 i_2}$.

The commutator of the junction representation with $f_0^{\otimes 2}(\Delta(f))$ follows in the same spirit and the expressions obtained are very similar to those presented in (19) and (20). However, the commutator of the representation with $f_0^{\otimes 2}(\Delta(h))$ is even easier to cope with, since it gives identically zero, without requiring any particular form for the q_i. This has also been outlined in the general comments of Section 2.2, where the relation $[\Theta(\mathbb{U}_1), f_{i_1 \ldots i_m}^{\otimes N}(\Delta^{(N)}(h))] = 0$ has been proved there by using some simple heuristic arguments. In the same spirit the proof can be extended for $i = 1, 2, 3$ ($n = 3$).

C Explicit expressions for $n = 4$

We present in this Appendix explicit expressions of the representations for the $n = 4$ case to further illustrate the structure of these representations. We also write down the explicit value

of q_i, q_{ij} so that the respective representation is a quantum symmetry of our algebra

$$f_0(e) = e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12}, \qquad f_0(f) = e_{21} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{21},$$
$$f_0(h) = e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} - e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22}, \qquad q_0 = -a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4,$$
$$f_1(e) = e_{21} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12}, \qquad f_1(f) = e_{12} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{21},$$
$$f_1(h) = e_{22} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} - e_{11} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22}, \qquad q_1 = -a_1^{-1} a_2 a_3 a_4,$$
$$f_2(e) = e_{12} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12}, \qquad f_2(f) = e_{21} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{21},$$
$$f_2(h) = e_{11} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} - e_{22} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22}, \qquad q_2 = -a_1 a_2^{-1} a_3 a_4,$$
$$f_3(e) = e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{12}, \qquad f_3(f) = e_{21} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{21},$$
$$f_3(h) = e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{11} - e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{22}, \qquad q_3 = -a_1 a_2 a_3^{-1} a_4,$$
$$f_4(e) = e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{21}, \qquad f_4(f) = e_{21} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{12},$$
$$f_4(h) = e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{22} - e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{11}, \qquad q_4 = -a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4^{-1},$$
$$f_{34}(e) = e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{21}, \qquad f_{34}(f) = e_{21} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12},$$
$$f_{34}(h) = e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} - e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11}, \qquad q_{34} = -a_1 a_2 a_3^{-1} a_4^{-1},$$
$$f_{24}(e) = e_{12} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{21}, \qquad f_{24}(f) = e_{21} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{12},$$
$$f_{24}(h) = e_{11} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{22} - e_{22} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{11} \qquad q_{24} = -a_1 a_2^{-1} a_3 a_4^{-1},$$
$$f_{23}(e) = e_{12} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{21} \otimes e_{12}, \qquad f_{23}(f) = e_{21} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{12} \otimes e_{21},$$
$$f_{23}(h) = e_{11} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{22} \otimes e_{11} - e_{22} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{11} \otimes e_{22}, \qquad q_{23} = -a_1 a_2^{-1} a_3^{-1} a_4.$$

Acknowledgements

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