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53706-1388. *Raising and Lowering Maps and Modules for the Quantum Affine Algebra $U_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$.*

Let \mathbb{K} denote an algebraically closed field and let $q \in \mathbb{K}$ be nonzero and not a root of unity. Let V be a nonzero finite dim. vector space over \mathbb{K} . Let V_0, V_1, \dots, V_d be a sequence of nonzero subspaces that direct sum to V . Suppose R and L are linear maps on V such that

1. $RV_i \subseteq V_{i+1} \quad (0 \leq i \leq d),$
2. $LV_i \subseteq V_{i-1} \quad (0 \leq i \leq d),$
3. for $0 \leq i \leq d/2$, $R^{d-2i}|_{V_i} : V_i \rightarrow V_{d-i}$ is a bijection,
4. for $0 \leq i \leq d/2$, $L^{d-2i}|_{V_{d-i}} : V_{d-i} \rightarrow V_i$ is a bijection,
5. $R^3L - [3]R^2LR + [3]RLR^2 - LR^3 = 0,$
6. $L^3R - [3]L^2RL + [3]LRL^2 - RL^3 = 0,$

where $[3] = (q^3 - q^{-3})/(q - q^{-1})$. Let K be the linear map on V such that, for $0 \leq i \leq d$, V_i is an eigenspace for K with eigenvalue q^{2i-d} . We show there exists a unique $U_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$ -module structure on V such that each of $R - e_1^-$, $L - e_0^-$, $K - K_0$, $K^{-1} - K_1$ vanish on V , where e_1^-, e_0^-, K_0, K_1 are Chevelley generators for $U_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$. We determine which $U_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$ -modules arise from our construction. (Received August 27, 2004)