

Definition: Suppose that q is a primitive l -th root of unity with l -odd, $l \geq 3$. Set for $b, \lambda \in k, \lambda \neq 0$:

$$Z_b(\lambda) := \frac{M(\lambda)}{U(m_\ell - b m_0)}$$

It has basis $m_0, \dots, m_{\ell-1}$ such that:

$$k m_i = q^{-2i} \lambda m_i$$

$$F m_i = \begin{cases} m_{i+1} & \text{if } i < \ell-1, \\ b m_0 & \text{if } i = \ell-1, \end{cases}$$

$$E m_i = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i=0, \\ [i] \cdot \frac{\lambda q^{1-i} - \lambda^{-1} q^{-i-1}}{q - q^{-1}} m_{i-1} & \text{if } i > 0. \end{cases}$$

Moreover the $\frac{-2i}{q \cdot \lambda}$ for $0 \leq i < \ell$ are distinct, hence: $Z_b(\lambda)_{\frac{-2i}{q \cdot \lambda}} = k m_i$ for $0 \leq i < \ell$

Proposition: Suppose that q is a primitive l -th root of unity with $l \geq 3$ odd

(i) If $b \neq 0$ or $\lambda^{\ell} \neq 1$ then $Z_b(\lambda)$ is a simple U -module.

(ii) If $b=0$ and $\lambda = \pm q^n$ with $0 \leq n < \ell$ then $Z_b(\lambda)$ is simple if and only if $n = \ell-1$, for $n < \ell-1$ the m_j with $j > n$ span a submodule of $Z_b(\lambda)$, and this is the only submodule different from 0 and $Z_b(\lambda)$

Proof: Let M be a nonzero submodule of $Z_b(\lambda)$. Since it is k -stable, M is the direct sum of its weight spaces: $M = \bigoplus_{\mu} M \cap Z_b(\lambda)_{\mu}$. Since $Z_b(\lambda)_{\frac{-2i}{q \cdot \lambda}} = k m_i$ for $0 \leq i < \ell$, M is spanned by the m_i

contained in M . Since $M \neq 0$, there is some $m_i \in M$. Choose $j \geq 0$ minimal with $m_j \in M$, then:

$$m_i = F^{i-j} m_j \in M \text{ for all } j \leq i < \ell. \text{ If } j=0 \text{ then } M = Z_b(\lambda).$$

Assume that $j > 0$. If $b \neq 0$ then $m_0 = b^{-1} F m_{\ell-1} \in M$ so $j=0$, hence $b=0$. Now M is the span of all m_i with $i \geq j$, and since $E m_j \in M$ is a multiple of $m_{j-1} \notin M$ we have $E m_j = 0$, hence $[j](\lambda q^{1-j} - \lambda^{-1} q^{-j-1}) = 0$. Since $0 < j < \ell$ our assumption on q implies $[j] \neq 0$. Therefore

$$\lambda^2 = q^{2(j-1)} \text{ so } \lambda^{\ell} = 1 \text{ and } \lambda = \pm q^{(j-1)}$$

When $b=0$ and $\lambda = \pm q^n$ with $0 \leq n < \ell-1$ the span of m_i for $i > n$ is a submodule as a consequence of $E m_{n+1} = 0$. \square

Remark: The $Z_0(\pm q^n)$ with $0 \leq n < \ell-1$ are not semisimple: the submodule spanned by $m_i, i > n$, has no complement. We found a finite dimensional U -module that is the direct sum of its weight spaces but is not semisimple. Hence another result for q not a root of unity won't be extended.

Finite dimensional simple U -modules: when q is a primitive l -th root of unity with $l \geq 3$ odd and $k = \mathbb{C}$.

(this guarantees that M is the direct sum of its weight spaces, and by Schur's lemma $E^{\ell}, F^{\ell}, K^{\ell}, C$ act as scalars)

Case 1: E^{ℓ} acts as 0 on M .

Then $\{m \in M \mid E m = 0\} \neq 0$ and it is k -stable since $K E K^{-1} = q^2 E$. Hence it has an eigenvector of K .

We can then find $m \in M$ with $m \neq 0$ and $\lambda \in k$ with $\lambda \neq 0$ such that $E m = 0$ and $K m = \lambda m$. By

the universal property, there is a homomorphism $\varphi: M(\lambda) \rightarrow M$. Since M is simple, φ is surjective. There is a scalar $b \in k$ such that F^ℓ acts as multiplication by b on M , so:

$$\varphi(F^\ell m_\ell - b m_0) = \varphi(F^\ell m_0) - b m = F^\ell m - b m = 0$$

Hence $U(m_\ell - b m_0)$ is contained in the kernel of φ so φ factors through $Z_b(\lambda)$. By the Proposition above, M is either isomorphic to $Z_b(\lambda)$ or $L(n, \pm)$.

Case 2: F^ℓ acts as 0 on M and E^ℓ does not

We use the automorphism $w: U \rightarrow U$. For any U -module N , set ${}^w N$ to be the U -module

$$\begin{aligned} E &\mapsto F \\ F &\mapsto E \\ k &\mapsto k^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

equal to N as a vector space and where each $u \in U$ acts on ${}^w N$ as $w(u)$ acts on N . Clearly ${}^w({}^w N) \cong N$ and ${}^w N$ is simple if and only if N is simple.

Now ${}^w M$ is a simple module as in Case 1 with $b \neq 0$, so M is isomorphic to some ${}^w Z_b(\lambda)$. It has dimension ℓ and there is a basis $m_0, \dots, m_{\ell-1}$ such that the action of U is:

$$\begin{aligned} k m_i &= q^{+2i} \lambda m_i \\ F m_i &= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i=0, \\ [i] \cdot \frac{\lambda q^{1-i} - \lambda^{-1} q^{-i-1}}{q - q^{-1}} m_{i-1} & \text{if } i > 0, \end{cases} \\ E m_i &= \begin{cases} m_{i+1} & \text{if } i < \ell-1, \\ b m_0 & \text{if } i = \ell-1. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Case 3: F^ℓ and E^ℓ do not act as 0 on M .

Let $b \in k, b \neq 0$, the scalar through which F^ℓ acts on M . Let $m_0 \neq 0$ be an eigenvector of eigenvalue λ for k . Set: $m_i = F^i m_0$ for $0 < i < \ell$, since $F^{\ell-i} m_i = F^\ell m_0 = b m_0 \neq 0$ we have $m_i \neq 0$.

Now k and F act as:

$$\begin{aligned} k m_i &= q^{-2i} \lambda m_i, \\ F m_i &= \begin{cases} m_{i+1} & \text{if } i < \ell-1, \\ b m_0 & \text{if } i = \ell-1 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Since the $q^{-2i} \lambda$ with $0 \leq i < \ell$ are distinct, the m_i are linearly independent (eigenvectors corresponding to different eigenvalues).

The central element C acts through a scalar on M , and since:

$$F E m_0 = C m_0 - \frac{k q + k^{-1} q^{-1}}{(q - q^{-1})^2} m_0, \text{ there is an } a' \in k \text{ with } F E m_0 = a' m_0.$$

Thus: $b E m_0 = F^\ell E m_0 = F^{\ell-1} a' m_0 = a m_{\ell-1}$, so $E m_0 = a m_{\ell-1}$ with $a = \frac{a'}{b}$. Now:

$$E m_i = E F^i m_0 = F^i E m_0 + [i] F^{i-1} [k; 1-i] m_0 \text{ for all } i > 0, \text{ hence:}$$

$$E m_i = \begin{cases} a m_{\ell-1} & \text{if } i=0, \\ \left(a b + \frac{(q^i - q^{-i})(\lambda q^{1-i} - \lambda^{-1} q^{-i-1})}{(q - q^{-1})^2} \right) m_{i-1} & \text{if } i > 0 \end{cases}$$

We then have that the span of the m_i is stable under all generators of U , hence equal to the simple module M . Hence the m_i are a basis of M and the above action describes the module completely.

Note: Given a, b, λ we can use the actions above to define a U -module. If $b \neq 0$ then this module is simple (the proof of the first Proposition holds). If a and all $ab + (q^i + q^{-i})(\lambda q^{-i} - \lambda^{-1} q^{i-1})(q - q^{-1})^{-2}$ are not zero, then E^l does not act as zero and we are in Case 3 above.

The module M uniquely determines b , but does not determine a nor λ : we could choose instead of m_0 any other m_i . We can thus replace λ by $q^{-2i} \lambda$ and a by $a + (q^i + q^{-i})(\lambda q^{-i} - \lambda^{-1} q^{i-1})(q - q^{-1})^{-2} b^{-1}$ and get an isomorphic module.

Goal: Determine the center of U

Recall: U is graded: $U = \bigoplus_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} U_m$ where U_m is spanned by all $F^s K^n E^r$ with $m = r - s$.

Lemma: a) If q is not a root of unity, then the center of U is contained in U_0 .

b) If q is a primitive l -th root of unity with $l \geq 3$ odd, then the center of U is generated by E^l, F^l , and their intersection with U_0 .

Proof: The center of a graded algebra inherits the grading. We need to find for each $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ which elements of U_m are central. If $0 \neq u \in U_m$ is central then: $KuK^{-1} = q^{2i}u$ implies $q^{2m} = 1$.

If q is not a root of unity, this means $m = 0$.

If q is a primitive l -th root of unity with $l \geq 3$ odd, this means $m = al$ for some $a > 0$. Then U_m is spanned by all $F^s K^n E^{s+al}$, so any $u \in U_m$ can be decomposed as: $u = u' E^{al}$ with $u' \in U_0$.

Then u is central if and only if u' is central (since E^l is central, hence E^{al} is central, and U has no zero divisors). Similarly, if $m = -al$ for some $a > 0$: $u = F^{al} u'$ with $u' \in U_0$ central. \square

Recall: Elements $u \in U_0$ can be written uniquely as $u = \sum_{r \in \mathbb{N}} F^r h_r E^r$ with almost all $h_r \in U_0$ zero.

Lemma: Let $u = \sum_{r \in \mathbb{N}} F^r h_r E^r \in U_0$, then it is central in U if and only if:

$$h_r - \gamma_{-2}(h_r) = [r+1][k; -r] h_{r+1} \quad \text{for all } r \geq 0$$

Proof: We have:

$$Eu = \sum_{r \in \mathbb{N}} E F^r h_r E^r = \sum_{r \in \mathbb{N}} F^r E h_r E^r + \sum_{r \in \mathbb{N}^+} [r] F^{r-1} [k; 1-r] h_r E^r =$$

$$= \sum_{r \in \mathbb{N}} F^r \gamma_{-2}(h_r) E^{r+1} + \sum_{r \in \mathbb{N}} [r+1] F^r [k; -r] h_{r+1} E^{r+1}$$

$$uE = \sum_{r \in \mathbb{N}} F^r h_r E^{r+1}$$

so $Eu = uE$ if and only if the desired equality is satisfied. The same condition suffices to show $Fu = uF$, and $Ku = uK$ always holds for any $u \in U_0$. \square .