



The quantum Cayley–Hamilton theorem¹

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Abstract

Let $X = (x_{ij})_{n \times n}$ be the generic matrix of the quantum group $K[GL_q(n)]$. First we prove that X satisfies two quantum characteristic equations, both become the classical characteristic equation when $q = 1$. Second we prove a quantum version of Muir’s formula for X . © Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

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1. Definitions and basic properties

Let K be a field and let q be a nonzero element in K . The quantum group $K[GL_q(n)]$ is a deformation of the Hopf algebra $K[GL(n)]$; as an algebra, it is defined by

$$K[GL_q(n)] = K[M_q(n)][D^{-1}] \quad \text{and} \quad K[M_q(n)] = K\langle x_{ij} \rangle / (R_q)$$

where $K\langle x_{ij} \rangle$ is the free algebra generated by $\{x_{ij} \mid i, j = 1, \dots, n\}$ and (R_q) is the ideal generated by the following quadratic relations:

$$\begin{aligned} x_{jt}x_{it} &= qx_{it}x_{jt} && \text{for all } i < j \text{ and } t, \\ x_{it}x_{is} &= qx_{is}x_{it} && \text{for all } s < t \text{ and } i, \\ x_{it}x_{js} &= x_{js}x_{it} && \text{for all } i < j \text{ and } s < t, \\ x_{is}x_{jt} - x_{jt}x_{is} &= (q - q^{-1})x_{it}x_{js} && \text{for all } i < j \text{ and } s < t. \end{aligned}$$

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The relation vector space R_q has dimension $\frac{1}{2}n^2(n^2 - 1)$ as in the classical case ($q = 1$). The basic properties of $K[GL_q(n)]$ can be found in [1]. The quantum determinant, denoted by D , is

$$D = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} (-q)^{-l(\sigma)} x_{\sigma(1)1} \cdots x_{\sigma(n)n} = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} (-q)^{-l(\sigma)} x_{1\sigma(1)} \cdots x_{n\sigma(n)}$$

where S_n is the n th symmetric group, $l(i_1, \dots, i_n)$ is the number of inversions of the sequence (i_1, \dots, i_n) and $l(\sigma) = l(\sigma(1), \dots, \sigma(n))$. The coalgebra structure of $K[M_q(n)]$ and $K[GL_q(n)]$ is determined by the following rules:

$$\Delta(x_{ij}) = \sum_{k=1}^n x_{ik} \otimes x_{kj} \quad \text{for all } i \text{ and } j,$$

$$\varepsilon(x_{ij}) = \delta_{ij} \quad \text{for all } i \text{ and } j,$$

where δ_{ij} is the Kronecker delta. The matrix $X = (x_{ij})_{n \times n}$ is called the generic matrix of $K[M_q(n)]$ and $K[GL_q(n)]$. If $q \neq 1$, the entries of X are noncommutative.

The left and right quantum minors (or sub-determinants) and left and right quantum sub-permanents play a key role in this paper. Let (i_1, \dots, i_m) and (j_1, \dots, j_m) be two sequences of integers between 1 and n . Here neither (i_1, \dots, i_m) nor (j_1, \dots, j_m) needs to be increasing. The left and right quantum minors $D_l(i_s | j_s)$ and $D_r(i_s | j_s)$ are

$$D_l(i_s | j_s) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_m} (-q)^{-l(j_{\sigma(s)}) + l(j_s)} x_{i_1 j_{\sigma(1)}} \cdots x_{i_m j_{\sigma(m)}},$$

$$D_r(i_s | j_s) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_m} (-q)^{-l(i_{\sigma(s)}) + l(i_s)} x_{i_{\sigma(1)j_1}} \cdots x_{i_{\sigma(m)j_m}}.$$

The left and right quantum sub-permanents $P_l(i_s | j_s)$ and $P_r(i_s | j_s)$ are

$$P_l(i_s | j_s) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_m} q^{l(j_{\sigma(s)}) - l(j_s)} x_{i_1 j_{\sigma(1)}} \cdots x_{i_m j_{\sigma(m)}},$$

$$P_r(i_s | j_s) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_m} q^{l(i_{\sigma(s)}) - l(i_s)} x_{i_{\sigma(1)j_1}} \cdots x_{i_{\sigma(m)j_m}}.$$

The following properties of quantum minors and quantum sub-permanents can be found in [1], which can be proved easily by using corepresentations of $K[M_q(n)]$.

(P1.1) Given a positive integer $m \leq n$, let Φ_m denote the set

$$\Phi_m = \{(i_1, \dots, i_m) \mid 1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_m \leq n\}.$$

If (i_s) and (j_s) are in Φ_m , then $D_l(i_s | j_s) = D_r(i_s | j_s)$; in this case, it is called quantum minor and denoted by $D(i_s | j_s)$. Similarly $P_l(i_s | j_s) = P_r(i_s | j_s)$, and it is called quantum sub-permanent and denoted by $P(i_s | j_s)$. The set Φ_0 has only one element which is the empty set ϕ . We assume that $P(\phi | \phi) = D(\phi | \phi) = 1$ (used in Section 3). By definition, $P(i | j) = D(i | j) = x_{ij}$ and $D(1 \cdots n | 1 \cdots n) = D$. The sub-permanent $P(1 \cdots n | 1 \cdots n)$ is

denoted by P and it is called the quantum permanent of X . In general, $P(i_s|j_s) \neq D(i_s|j_s)$ when $m \geq 2$.

(P1.2) A left (resp. right) quantum minor $D_l(i_s|j_s)$ (resp. $D_r(i_s|j_s)$) is equal to zero if and only if either $i_s = i_t$ for some $s < t$ or $j_s = j_t$ for some $s < t$. This statement is not true for the quantum sub-permanents. If (i'_s) (resp. (j'_s)) is a permutation of a nondecreasing sequence (i_s) (resp. (j_s)), then

$$D_l(i'_s|j'_s) = (-q)^{l(j'_s) - l(i'_s)} D(i_s|j_s) \quad \text{and} \quad D_r(i'_s|j'_s) = (-q)^{l(i'_s) - l(j'_s)} D(i_s|j_s)$$

and

$$P_l(i'_s|j'_s) = q^{l(i'_s) - l(j'_s)} P(i_s|j_s) \quad \text{and} \quad P_r(i'_s|j'_s) = q^{l(j'_s) - l(i'_s)} P(i_s|j_s).$$

(P1.3) Quantum versions of the Laplace expansion hold:

$$\begin{aligned} & D_l(i_1 \cdots i_m | j_1 \cdots j_m) \\ &= \sum_{\sigma \in S_m^k} (-q)^{-l(j_{\sigma(s)}) + l(j_s)} D_l(i_1 \cdots i_k | j_{\sigma(1)} \cdots j_{\sigma(k)}) D_l(i_{k+1} \cdots i_m | j_{\sigma(k+1)} \cdots j_{\sigma(m)}), \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & D_r(i_1 \cdots i_m | j_1 \cdots j_m) \\ &= \sum_{\sigma \in S_m^k} (-q)^{-l(i_{\sigma(s)}) + l(i_s)} D_r(i_{\sigma(1)} \cdots i_{\sigma(k)} | j_1 \cdots j_k) D_r(i_{\sigma(k+1)} \cdots i_{\sigma(m)} | j_{k+1} \cdots j_m), \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & P_l(i_1 \cdots i_m | j_1 \cdots j_m) \\ &= \sum_{\sigma \in S_m^k} q^{l(j_{\sigma(s)}) - l(j_s)} P_l(i_1 \cdots i_k | j_{\sigma(1)} \cdots j_{\sigma(k)}) P_l(i_{k+1} \cdots i_m | j_{\sigma(k+1)} \cdots j_{\sigma(m)}), \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & P_r(i_1 \cdots i_m | j_1 \cdots j_m) \\ &= \sum_{\sigma \in S_m^k} q^{l(i_{\sigma(s)}) - l(i_s)} P_r(i_{\sigma(1)} \cdots i_{\sigma(k)} | j_1 \cdots j_k) P_r(i_{\sigma(k+1)} \cdots i_{\sigma(m)} | j_{k+1} \cdots j_m), \end{aligned}$$

where $S_m^k = \{\sigma \in S_m | \sigma(1) < \cdots < \sigma(k) \text{ and } \sigma(k+1) < \cdots < \sigma(m)\}$ consists of all k -shuffles in S_n .

2. The Cayley–Hamilton theorem

Let $A = (a_{ij})_{n \times n}$ be an $n \times n$ matrix over a commutative ring. Then A satisfies the classical characteristic equation

$$A^n - \text{tr}_1 A^{n-1} + \cdots + (-1)^{n-1} \text{tr}_{n-1} A + (-1)^n \det A I_{n \times n} = 0$$

where the k th trace tr_k is the sum of all $k \times k$ principal minors of A , $\det A$ is the determinant of A and $I_{n \times n}$ is the $n \times n$ identity matrix.

It is easy to check that if $q \neq 1$, the generic matrix X of the quantum group $K[GL_q(n)]$ does not satisfy the classical characteristic equation. The aim of this section is to prove X satisfies two quantum versions of the characteristic equation. We need to define quantum trace and other notations. For simplicity, let $q_{ij} = q$ if $i < j$, $q_{ij} = 1$ if $i = j$, and $q_{ij} = q^{-1}$ if $i > j$. For every i, j and m , denote

$$tr_m(j) = \sum_{(i_s) \in \Phi_m} \left(\prod_{t=1}^m q_{ji_t} \right) D(i_s | i_s),$$

$$Tr_m = (tr_m(j) \delta_{ij})_{n \times n},$$

$$b_m(ij) = \sum_{(i_s) \in \Phi_m} D_1(i, (i_s) | (i_s), j).$$

So Tr_m is a diagonal $n \times n$ -matrix. Let B_m denote the $n \times n$ -matrix $(b_m(ij))_{n \times n}$. The following lemma gives some relations between X , B_m and Tr_m .

Lemma 2.1. (1) $B_0 = X$.

(2) $B_{n-1} = (-1)^{n-1} Tr_n$ and $tr_n(i) = q^{n+1-2i} D$.

(3) $B_m = 0$ for all $m \geq n$.

(4) $B_m = (-1)^m X \cdot Tr_m + X \cdot B_{m-1}$ for all $m = 1, \dots, n - 1$.

(5) $B_m = \sum_{k=0}^m (-1)^{m-k} X^{k+1} \cdot Tr_{m-k}$ for all $m = 1, \dots, n - 1$.

Proof. (1) If $m = 0$, $b_0(ij) = D_1(i | j) = x_{ij}$, and $B_0 = X$.

(2) By (P1.2), $b_{n-1}(i, j) = 0$ for all $i \neq j$ and $b_{n-1}(ii) = (-1)^{n-1} tr_n(i)$, which gives that $B_{n-1} = (-1)^{n-1} Tr_n$. An easy computation shows that $tr_n(i) = q^{n+1-2i} D$.

(3) By (P1.2), for all $m \geq n$, $b_m(ij) = 0$ and then $B_m = 0$.

(4) By (P1.2) and (P1.3),

$$D_1(i, (i_s) | (i_s), j) = \prod_{t=1}^m (-q_{ji_t}) x_{ij} D_1(i_s | i_s) + \sum_{t=1}^m x_{i i_t} D_1(i_t i_1 \cdots i_{t-1} \hat{i}_t i_{t+1} \cdots i_m | i_1 \cdots i_{t-1} \hat{i}_t i_{t+1} \cdots i_m, j),$$

and hence

$$b_m(ij) = \sum_{(i_s) \in \Phi_m} D_1(i, (i_s) | (i_s), j) = (-1)^m x_{ij} \left(\sum_{(i_s) \in \Phi_m} \prod_{t=1}^m q_{ji_t} D(i_s | i_s) \right) + \sum_{i_s=1}^n x_{i i_s} b_{m-1}(i_s j).$$

Therefore we obtain $B_m = (-1)^m X \cdot Tr_m + X B_{m-1}$.

(5) This follows from (4) and straightforward induction. \square

We are ready to prove the first quantum version of the characteristic equation.

Theorem 2.2. *The generic matrix $X = (x_{ij})_{n \times n}$ satisfies the following characteristic equation:*

$$X^n - X^{n-1} \cdot Tr_1 + \dots + (-1)^{n-1} X \cdot Tr_{n-1} + (-1)^n Tr_n = 0.$$

Proof. By Lemma 2.1(5),

$$LHS = \left(\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (-1)^{n-1-k} X^{k+1} Tr_{n-1-k} \right) + (-1)^n Tr_n = B_{n-1} - B_{n-1} = 0. \quad \square$$

By definition, only when $q=1$, Tr_k become the classical k th trace function of X . In Theorem 2.2, we use the ordinary powers of X and quantum traces Tr_k . Next we will prove another quantum version of characteristic equation by using ordinary trace functions tr_k and quantum powers of X . Let $Y = (y_{ij})_{n \times n}$ be an $n \times n$ matrix over $K[GL_q(n)]$. The q -multiplication of X and Y is defined by

$${}_q(X \cdot Y) = ({}_q(X \cdot Y)_{ij})_{n \times n} \quad \text{and} \quad {}_q(X \cdot Y)_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^n x_{ik} q_{kj} y_{kj}.$$

It is easy to see that the q -multiplication is generally not associative. The m th q -power of X is defined as follows:

$${}_qX^1 = X \quad \text{and} \quad {}_qX^{m+1} = {}_q(X \cdot {}_qX^m).$$

As before, we need some notations:

$$\begin{aligned} tr_m &= \sum_{(i_s) \in \mathfrak{Q}_m} D(i_s | i_s), \\ C_m(ij) &= (-1)^m \sum_{(i_s) \in \mathfrak{Q}_m} D_1(i, (i_s) | j, (i_s)), \\ C_m &= (C_m(ij))_{n \times n}. \end{aligned}$$

The relations between ${}_qX^m$, C_m and tr_m are the following.

- Lemma 2.3.** (1) $C_0 = X$.
 (2) $C_{n-1} = (-1)^{n-1} tr_n I_{n \times n} = (-1)^{n-1} D I_{n \times n}$.
 (3) $C_m = 0$ for all $m \geq n$.
 (4) $C_m = (-1)^m X tr_m + {}_q(X \cdot C_{m-1})$ for all $m = 1, \dots, n-1$.
 (5) $C_m = \sum_{k=0}^m (-1)^{m-k} {}_qX^{k+1} tr_{m-k}$ for all $m = 1, \dots, n-1$.

Proof. (1)–(3), and (5) can be proved in the same way as those in Lemma 2.1 (see the proof of Lemma 2.1).

(4) By (P1.2) and (P1.3),

$$\begin{aligned} D_1(i, (i_s) | j, (i_s)) &= x_{ij} D(i_s | i_s) \\ &+ \sum_{t=1}^m (-q_{i,j}) x_{ii} D_1(i_t i_1 \cdots i_{t-1} \hat{i}_t i_{t+1} \cdots i_m | j, i_1 \cdots i_{t-1} \hat{i}_t i_{t+1} \cdots i_m), \end{aligned}$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 c_m(ij) &= (-1)^m \sum_{(i_s) \in \Phi_m} D_1(i, (i_s) | j, (i_s)) \\
 &= (-1)^m x_{ij} \sum_{(i_s) \in \Phi_m} D(i_s | i_s) + (-1)^{m-1} \sum_{i_t=1}^n x_{ii_t} q_{i_t j} c_{m-1}(i_t j).
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore it follows that $C_m = (-1)^m X tr_m + {}_q(X C_{m-1})$. \square

Now we are ready to prove the second quantum version of the characteristic equation.

Theorem 2.4. *The generic matrix $X = (x_{ij})_{n \times n}$ satisfies the following characteristic equation:*

$${}_q X^n - {}_q X^{n-1} tr_1 + \dots + (-1)^{n-1} X tr_{n-1} + (-1)^n D I_{n \times n} = 0.$$

Proof. By Lemma 2.3(5)

$$LHS = \left(\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (-1)^{n-1-k} {}_q X^{k+1} tr_{n-1-k} \right) + (-1)^n D I_{n \times n} = C_{n-1} - C_{n-1} = 0. \quad \square$$

By definition, ${}_q X^m = X^m$ when $q = 1$. Hence, if $q = 1$, both quantum characteristic equations reduce to the classical one.

3. Muir’s formula

Let $A = (a_{ij})_{n \times n}$ be an $n \times n$ matrix over a commutative ring. Muir’s formula states that

$$\sum_{m=0}^n (-1)^m \sum_{(i_s) \in \Phi_m} P(i_s | i_s) D(1 \dots (\hat{i}_s) \dots n | 1 \dots (\hat{i}_s) \dots n) = 0.$$

Here $(1 \dots (\hat{i}_s) \dots n)$ is the complement of $(i_1 \dots i_m)$ in the set $(1, \dots, n)$. As in Section 2, $P(i_s | i_s)$ (resp. $D(1 \dots (\hat{i}_s) \dots n | 1 \dots (\hat{i}_s) \dots n)$) is an $m \times m$ principal sub-permanent (resp. $(n - m) \times (n - m)$ principal minor) of A . In this section we will prove Muir’s formula for the generic matrix X of the quantum group $K[GL_q(n)]$. As usual we need some new notations. Denote

$$\begin{aligned}
 O_m &= \sum_{(i_s) \in \Phi_m, i_1 > 1} \left\{ P(i_s | i_s) D(1 \dots (\hat{i}_s) \dots n | 1 \dots (\hat{i}_s) \dots n) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \left[\sum_{t=1}^m q^{-1} P_r(i_1 \dots \hat{i}_t \dots i_m, 1 | i_1 \dots \hat{i}_t \dots i_m i_t) \right] \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$E_m = \sum_{(i_s) \in \Phi_m} P(i_s | i_s) D(1 \cdots (\hat{i}_s) \cdots n | 1 \cdots (\hat{i}_s) \cdots n) \times \left. D_1(i_t 2 \cdots (\hat{i}_s) \cdots n | 1, 2 \cdots (\hat{i}_s) \cdots n) \right\},$$

The relations between O_m and E_m are the following:

- Lemma 3.1.** (1) $E_1 - O_1 = D = D(1 \cdots n | 1 \cdots n)$.
 (2) $O_{n-1} = P = P(1 \cdots n | 1 \cdots n)$.
 (3) $O_m = E_{m+1} - O_{m+1}$ for all $m = 1, \dots, n - 2$.

Proof. We will use (P1.2) and (P1.3) and the following versions of the Laplace expansion:

$$D_1(i, (i_s) | j, (i_s)) = x_{ij} D(i_s | i_s) + \sum_{t=1}^m (-q_{i_j}) x_{i_i} D_1(i_1 i_t \cdots i_{t-1} \hat{i}_t i_{t+1} \cdots i_m | j, i_1 \cdots i_{t-1} \hat{i}_t i_{t+1} \cdots i_m),$$

$$P_r((i_s), i | (i_s), j) = P(i_s | i_s) x_{ij} + \sum_{t=1}^m q_{i_i} P_r(i_1 \cdots i_{t-1} \hat{i}_t i_{t+1} \cdots i_m, i | i_1 \cdots i_{t-1} \hat{i}_t i_{t+1} \cdots i_m i_t) x_{i_j}.$$

(1)

$$E_1 - O_1 = \sum_{i=1}^n x_{ii} D(1 \cdots \hat{i} \cdots n | 1 \cdots \hat{i} \cdots n) - \sum_{i=2}^n \{x_{ii} D(1 \cdots \hat{i} \cdots n | 1 \cdots \hat{i} \cdots n) + q^{-1} x_{1i} D_1(i 2 \cdots \hat{i} \cdots n | 1, 2 \cdots \hat{i} \cdots n)\}$$

$$= x_{11} D(2 \cdots n | 2 \cdots n) + \sum_{i=2}^n (-q_{i1}) x_{1i} D_1(i 2 \cdots \hat{i} \cdots n | 1, 2 \cdots \hat{i} \cdots n)$$

$$= D(1 \cdots n | 1 \cdots n) = D.$$

(2)

$$P = P_r(2 \cdots n, 1 | 2 \cdots n, 1)$$

$$= P_r(2 \cdots n | 2 \cdots n) x_{11} + \sum_{i=2}^n q^{-1} P_r(2 \cdots \hat{i} \cdots n, 1 | 2 \cdots \hat{i} \cdots n, i) x_{i1}$$

$$= O_{n-1}.$$

(3) Follows by direct and tedious computations. Details are left to the reader. \square

We are now ready to prove Muir’s formula for the quantum generic matrix X .

Theorem 3.2. Let $X = (x_{ij})_{n \times n}$ be the generic matrix of $K[GL_q(n)]$. The following equation holds:

$$\sum_{m=0}^n (-1)^m \sum_{(i_s) \in \Phi_m} P(i_s | i_s) D(1 \cdots (\hat{i}_s) \cdots n | 1 \cdots (\hat{i}_s) \cdots n) = 0.$$

Proof. By Lemma 3.1(3), $E_m = O_m + O_{m-1}$ for $m = 2, \dots, n - 1$. Hence

$$\sum_{m=2}^{n-1} (-1)^m E_m = O_1 + (-1)^{n-1} O_{n-1} = E_1 - D + (-1)^{n-1} P.$$

Therefore $D + \sum_{m=1}^{n-1} (-1)^m E_m + (-1)^n P = 0$, or equivalently, $\sum_{m=0}^n (-1)^m E_m = 0$. \square

In general, $P(i_s | i_s)$ and $D(1 \cdots (\hat{i}_s) \cdots n | 1 \cdots (\hat{i}_s) \cdots n)$ do not commute with each other since $K[GL_q(n)]$ is not a commutative ring. However we can similarly prove the following Muir’s formula.

$$\sum_{m=0}^n (-1)^m \sum_{(i_s) \in \Phi_m} D(1 \cdots (\hat{i}_s) \cdots n | 1 \cdots (\hat{i}_s) \cdots n) P(i_s | i_s) = 0.$$

4. Some remarks

Remark 4.1. In general, $X^{n-l} Tr_l \neq Tr_l X^{n-l}$ and

$$X^n - Tr_1 X^{n-1} + \cdots + (-1)^{n-1} Tr_{n-1} \cdot X + (-1)^n Tr_n \neq 0.$$

Similarly, ${}_q X^{n-l} tr^l \neq tr^l {}_q X^{n-l}$ and

$${}_q X^n - tr_{1q} X^{n-1} + \cdots + (-1)^{n-1} tr_{n-1} X + D I_{n \times n} \neq 0.$$

But the following two equations hold:

$$(X^\tau)^n - Tr_1 (X^\tau)^{n-1} + \cdots + (-1)^{n-1} Tr_{n-1} X^\tau + (-1)^n Tr_n = 0,$$

$$(X^\tau)_q^n - tr_1 (X^\tau)_q^{n-1} + \cdots + (-1)^{n-1} tr_{n-1} X^\tau + D I_{n \times n} = 0.$$

Here X^τ is the transpose matrix of X and $(X^\tau)_q^l$ is another kind of l th q -power of X^τ .

Remark 4.2. All theorems in this paper hold for the multiparameter quantization of $GL(n)$ (for a definition see [2]). The left and right quantum minors as well as the left and right sub-permanents are defined in a similar way. Both quantum versions of the Cayley–Hamilton theorem and Muir’s formula hold for the generic matrix $X = (x_{ij})_{n \times n}$ of the multiparameter quantization of $GL(n)$.

Remark 4.3. To prove the Cayley–Hamilton theorem and Muir’s formula, only half of the relations are needed. For example, we consider the algebra $K\langle x_{ij} \rangle / (r_q)$, where

(r_q) is the relation ideal generated by the following relations:

$$x_{it}x_{is} - qx_{is}x_{it} = 0 \quad \text{for all } s < t \text{ and } i,$$

$$x_{it}x_{js} + qx_{jt}x_{is} - qx_{is}x_{jt} - q^2x_{js}x_{it} = 0 \quad \text{for all } i < j \text{ and } s < t.$$

These relations span a subspace of R_q with dimension $\frac{1}{4}n^2(n^2 - 1)$, where R_q is the relation vector space for the quantum semigroup $K[M_q(n)]$. Recall that $\dim R_q = \frac{1}{2}n^2(n^2 - 1)$. Both quantum versions of the Cayley–Hamilton theorem and Muir’s formula hold for the generic matrix X of $K\langle x_{ij} \rangle / (r_q)$.

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