• ARTICLES •

January 2011 Vol. 54 No. 1: 55–64 doi: 10.1007/s11425-010-4125-1

Quantum Weyl symmetric polynomials and the center of quantum group $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_4)$

WU JingYan^{1,2}, WEI JunChao¹ & LI LiBin^{1,*}

¹School of Mathematics, Yangzhou University, Yangzhou 225002, China; ²Shijiazhuang Experimental Middle School, Shijiazhuang 050000, China Email: wujingyan 99@126.com, jcweiyz@yahoo.com.cn, lbli 324@yahoo.com

Received December 9, 2008; accepted November 30, 2009; published online November 18, 2010

Abstract Suppose that q is not a root of unity, it is proved in this paper that the center of the quantum group $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_4)$ is isomorphic to a quotient algebra of polynomial algebra with four variables and one relation.

Keywords quantized enveloping algebra, quantum group, quantum symmetric polynomials, center

MSC(2000): 16G10, 17B10, 20C30

Citation: Wu J Y, Wei J C, Li L B. Quantum Weyl symmetric polynomials and the center of quantum group $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_4)$. Sci China Math, 2011, 54(1): 55–64, doi: 10.1007/s11425-010-4125-1

1 Introduction

The Drinfel'd-Jimbo quantum group $U_q(g)$ (see [6, 7, 12]), associated with a complex simple finitedimensional Lie algebra g, plays a crucial role in the study of the quantum Yang-Baxter equations, two-dimensional solvable lattice models and the invariant of 3-manifolds to the fusion rules of conformal field theory (see, for instance, [14, 15]). In the Lie algebra case, the center of the universal enveloping algebra $U(\mathfrak{g})$ is isomorphic to the algebra $\mathcal{S}(\mathfrak{b})^W$, and the invariants of the Weyl group W are in the symmetric algebra of a Cartan subalgebra \mathfrak{b} of \mathfrak{g} . The isomorphism is given by the Harish-Chandra homomorphism (see [4,5,10]). Gauger [8] gave the explicit algebraically independent generating set for the center of $U(\mathfrak{g})$, in the case, \mathfrak{g} is one of the simple Lie algebras A_n , B_n , C_n , D_n (see also [1]).

When q is not the root of unity, the Harish-Chandra homomorphism can obviously be generalized to our Drinfel'd-Jimbo quantized enveloping algebra $U = U_q(\mathfrak{g})$, where we now get a homomorphism from $Z(U_q(\mathfrak{g}))$ to the Laurent polynomial algebra U^0 . It is easy to show that this homomorphism is injective using the fact that the intersection of the annihilators of all finite-dimensional modules is 0. Using nontrivial homomorphism between Verma modules, one sees that the image of the Harish-Chandra homomorphism is contained in $(U^0)^W$. By analogy with the classical case we might expect equality here, but that is not quite true, and the image turns out to be $(U_{ev}^0)^W$, where we denote by U_{ev}^0 the span of all k_{μ} with μ an "even" weight, that is, in 2 Λ . Yet, to the best of our knowledge, the minimal generating set for $(U_{ev}^0)^W$ was not determined in general. However, if \mathfrak{g} is of Type A_1 , then $Z(U) \cong (U_{ev}^0)^W$ is generated by the quantum Casimir element and $(U_{ev}^0)^W$ is isomorphic to the polynomial algebra k[x]. This intriguing result motivates the following question: Is it true that $(U_{ev}^0)^W$ is a polynomial algebra?

^{*}Corresponding author

The answer is negative in general. In [9], Farkas proved a version of the Shephard-Todd Chevally theorem, which characterized the finite subgroup G of $GL(n, \mathbb{Z})$ such that $(U^0)^G$ is a polynomial ring.

Now our main problem is to describe explicitly the algebra $(U_{ev}^0)^W$. There are several results in the literature. Using representation theory, for any $\lambda \in \Lambda$, one may construct an element $z_{\lambda} \in Z(U_q(\mathfrak{g}))$, and then obtain a basis for $Z(U_q(\mathfrak{g}))$, see [2, 11–14]. In [3], Caldero showed that $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ is free over its center. By Noether's theorem, $(U_{ev}^0)^W$ is a finitely generated algebra, see [9, 16] for details. Now the question is how to describe explicitly the minimal generating set and the relations of generators. In [17], we proved that the center of $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_3)$ is isomorphic to a quotient algebra of polynomial algebra with three variables and one relation.

In this paper, we contribute mainly to these questions in the case that \mathfrak{g} is the complex simple Lie algebra \mathfrak{sl}_4 . We shall prove that $(U_{ev}^0)^W$ is generated explicitly by four generators with one relation.

2 Quantum group $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_4)$ and Harish-Chandra homomorphism

Throughout this paper, $k = \mathbb{C}$ denotes the field of complex numbers and q is a non-zero complex number which is not a root of unity. We will adopt the following notations that agree with those of [11]. We denote by U the quantized enveloping algebra over \mathbb{C} of the complex simple Lie algebra of Type A_3 . Let

$$A = (a_{ij})_{3\times 3} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

be the corresponding Cartan matrix of Type A_3 . Recall that the quantized enveloping algebra $U = U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_4)$ is defined as the \mathbb{C} algebra generated by twelve generators $E_1, E_2, E_3, F_1, F_2, F_3, K_1, K_1^{-1}, K_2, K_2^{-1}, K_3, K_3^{-1}$ subject to the following relations:

$$\begin{split} &K_iK_j = K_jK_i, \quad K_iK_i^{-1} = K_i^{-1}K_i = 1, \quad K_iE_j = q^{a_{ij}}E_jK_i, \quad K_iF_j = q^{-a_{ij}}F_jK_i, \\ &E_iF_j - F_jE_i = \frac{\delta_{ij}(K_i - K_i^{-1})}{(q - q^{-1})}, \quad E_1E_3 = E_3E_1, \quad F_1F_3 = F_3F_1, \\ &E_1^2E_2 - (q + q^{-1})E_1E_2E_1 + E_2E_1^2 = 0, \quad E_2^2E_1 - (q + q^{-1})E_2E_1E_2 + E_1E_2^2 = 0, \\ &E_2^2E_3 - (q + q^{-1})E_2E_3E_2 + E_3E_2^2 = 0, \quad E_3^2E_2 - (q + q^{-1})E_3E_2E_3 + E_2E_3^2 = 0, \\ &F_1^2F_2 - (q + q^{-1})F_1F_2F_1 + F_2F_1^2 = 0, \quad F_2^2F_1 - (q + q^{-1})F_2F_1F_2 + F_1F_2^2 = 0, \\ &F_2^2F_3 - (q + q^{-1})F_2F_3F_2 + F_3F_2^2 = 0, \quad F_3^2F_2 - (q + q^{-1})F_3F_2F_3 + F_2F_3^2 = 0. \end{split}$$

Denote by U^0 the subalgebra of U generated by $K_1, K_1^{-1}, K_2, K_2^{-1}, K_3, K_3^{-1}$. It follows that $U^0 = \mathbb{C}[K_1, K_1^{-1}, K_2, K_2^{-1}, K_3, K_3^{-1}]$ is the laurent polynomial algebra over \mathbb{C} . Suppose that $\Pi = \{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3\}$ is a basis of the root system of the Lie algebra sl₄. Let $\Phi = \{\pm \alpha_1, \pm \alpha_2, \pm \alpha_3, \pm (\alpha_1 + \alpha_2), \pm (\alpha_2 + \alpha_3), \pm (\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3)\}$ be the root system of sl₄. For each λ in the root lattice $\mathbb{Z}\Phi = \mathbb{Z}\Pi = \mathbb{Z}\alpha_1 \oplus \mathbb{Z}\alpha_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}\alpha_3$, we can define an element K_{λ} in U^0 by

$$K_{\lambda} = K_1^{\lambda_1} K_2^{\lambda_2} K_3^{\lambda_3}, \quad \text{if } \lambda = \lambda_1 \alpha_1 + \lambda_2 \alpha_2 + \lambda_3 \alpha_3 \in \mathbb{Z}\Phi.$$

Denote the Weyl group of Φ by W. It is well known that W is generated by the reflections $S_{\alpha_1}, S_{\alpha_2}, S_{\alpha_2}$ and $W \cong S_4$, the 4-symmetric group. The Weyl group W acts naturally on U^0 such that

$$w \cdot K_{\lambda} = K_{\omega(\lambda)}, \text{ for all } w \in W \text{ and } \lambda \in \mathbb{Z}\Phi$$

Set $U_{\text{ev}}^0 = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}\Phi \cap 2\Lambda} kK_{\lambda}$, where Λ is the weight lattice. Notice that $\mathbb{Z}\Phi \cap 2\Lambda$ is a subgroup of $\mathbb{Z}\Phi \cap \Lambda$ and $\mathbb{Z}\Phi \cap 2\Lambda$ is *W*-stable. It follows that the action of *W* maps U_{ev}^0 to itself. The following theorem is well known (see [11]).

Theorem 1.1. There exists an algebra isomorphism between Z(U) and $(U_{ev}^0)^W$, where $(U_{ev}^0)^W = \{h \in U_{ev}^0 \mid w \cdot h = h, \forall w \in W\}$.

3 The center subalgebra of $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_4)$

Let $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$ be the fundamental weights corresponding to the root system Φ . Then the weight lattice $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}\lambda_1 + \mathbb{Z}\lambda_2 + \mathbb{Z}\lambda_3$. By direct computations, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_1 &= 2\lambda_1 - \lambda_2, \quad \alpha_2 &= -\lambda_1 + 2\lambda_2 - \lambda_3, \quad \alpha_3 &= -\lambda_2 + 2\lambda_3, \\ \lambda_1 &= \frac{3}{4}\alpha_1 + \frac{1}{2}\alpha_2 + \frac{1}{4}\alpha_3, \quad \lambda_2 &= \frac{1}{2}\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \frac{1}{2}\alpha_3, \quad \lambda_3 &= \frac{1}{4}\alpha_1 + \frac{1}{2}\alpha_2 + \frac{3}{4}\alpha_3 \end{aligned}$$

Also we have the Weyl group

$$W = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} e, S_{\alpha_1} S_{\alpha_2}, S_{\alpha_3}, S_{\alpha_1} S_{\alpha_2}, S_{\alpha_1} S_{\alpha_3}, S_{\alpha_2} S_{\alpha_3}, S_{\alpha_2} S_{\alpha_1}, S_{\alpha_3} S_{\alpha_2}, \\ S_{\alpha_1} S_{\alpha_2} S_{\alpha_1}, S_{\alpha_2} S_{\alpha_3} S_{\alpha_2}, S_{\alpha_1} S_{\alpha_2} S_{\alpha_3}, S_{\alpha_1} S_{\alpha_3} S_{\alpha_2}, S_{\alpha_2} S_{\alpha_1} S_{\alpha_3}, \\ S_{\alpha_3} S_{\alpha_2} S_{\alpha_1}, S_{\alpha_3} S_{\alpha_1} S_{\alpha_2} S_{\alpha_1}, S_{\alpha_1} S_{\alpha_2} S_{\alpha_3} S_{\alpha_2}, S_{\alpha_3} S_{\alpha_2} S_{\alpha_1} S_{\alpha_3}, \\ S_{\alpha_2} S_{\alpha_1} S_{\alpha_3} S_{\alpha_2}, S_{\alpha_1} S_{\alpha_2} S_{\alpha_3} S_{\alpha_1}, S_{\alpha_2} S_{\alpha_1} S_{\alpha_2} S_{\alpha_3} S_{\alpha_2}, S_{\alpha_1} S_{\alpha_3}, \\ S_{\alpha_2} S_{\alpha_1} S_{\alpha_3}, S_{\alpha_3} S_{\alpha_2} S_{\alpha_1} S_{\alpha_3} S_{\alpha_2}, S_{\alpha_1} S_{\alpha_3} S_{\alpha_2} S_{\alpha_1} S_{\alpha_3} S_{\alpha_2}, S_{\alpha_1} S_{\alpha_3} S_{\alpha_2} S_{\alpha_3} S_{\alpha_1} S_{\alpha_2} S_{\alpha_3} S_{\alpha_2} S_{\alpha_3} S_{\alpha_2} S_{\alpha_3} S_{\alpha_1} S_{\alpha_2$$

It is known that the Weyl group is isomorphic to the symmetric group S_4 , and the actions of the reflections $S_{\alpha_1}, S_{\alpha_2}, S_{\alpha_3}$ on $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3$ are given by

$$\begin{split} S_{\alpha_1} &: \alpha_1 \mapsto -\alpha_1, \quad \alpha_2 \mapsto \alpha_1 + \alpha_2, \quad \alpha_3 \mapsto \alpha_3; \\ S_{\alpha_2} &: \alpha_1 \mapsto \alpha_1 + \alpha_2, \quad \alpha_2 \mapsto -\alpha_2, \quad \alpha_3 \mapsto \alpha_2 + \alpha_3; \\ S_{\alpha_3} &: \alpha_1 \mapsto \alpha_1, \quad \alpha_2 \mapsto \alpha_2 + \alpha_3, \quad \alpha_3 \mapsto -\alpha_3. \end{split}$$

In order to describe the generators and generate relations of $(U_{ev}^0)^W$, we need the following proposition. **Proposition 3.1.** $\mathbb{Z}\Phi \cap 2\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}(2\alpha_1) + \mathbb{Z}(2\alpha_2) + \mathbb{Z}(\alpha_1 + \alpha_3).$

Proof. For any $2n_1\alpha_1 + 2n_2\alpha_2 + n_3(\alpha_1 + \alpha_3) \in \mathbb{Z}(2\alpha_1) + \mathbb{Z}(2\alpha_2) + \mathbb{Z}(\alpha_1 + \alpha_3)$, $n_1, n_2, n_3 \in \mathbb{Z}$, it is clear that $2n_1\alpha_1 + 2n_2\alpha_2 + n_3(\alpha_1 + \alpha_3) \in \mathbb{Z}\Phi$. Since $2\alpha_1 = 4\lambda_1 - 2\lambda_2 \in 2\Lambda$, $2\alpha_2 = -2\lambda_1 + 4\lambda_2 - 2\lambda_3 \in 2\Lambda$, $\alpha_1 + \alpha_3 = 2\lambda_1 - 2\lambda_2 + 2\lambda_3 \in 2\Lambda$. It follows that $\mathbb{Z}(2\alpha_1) + \mathbb{Z}(2\alpha_2) + \mathbb{Z}(\alpha_1 + \alpha_3) \subseteq \mathbb{Z}\Phi \cap 2\Lambda$. Conversely, suppose that $x \in \mathbb{Z}\Phi \cap 2\Lambda$, and write $x = m_1 2\lambda_1 + m_2 2\lambda_2 + m_3 2\lambda_3$, $m_1, m_2, m_3 \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \frac{3m_1 + 2m_2 + m_3}{2} \alpha_1 + (m_1 + 2m_2 + m_3)\alpha_2 + \frac{m_1 + 2m_2 + 3m_3}{2} \alpha_3 \\ &= \left(\frac{3m_1 + 2m_2 + m_3}{2} - \frac{m_1 + 2m_2 + 3m_3}{2}\right) \alpha_1 + (m_1 + 2m_2 + m_3)\alpha_2 \\ &+ \frac{m_1 + 2m_2 + 3m_3}{2} (\alpha_1 + \alpha_3) \\ &= (m_1 - m_3)\alpha_1 + (m_1 + 2m_2 + m_3)\alpha_2 + \frac{m_1 + 2m_2 + 3m_3}{2} (\alpha_1 + \alpha_3). \end{aligned}$$

Since $x \in \mathbb{Z}\Phi$, we have $\frac{3m_1+2m_2+m_3}{2}$, $\frac{m_1+2m_2+3m_3}{2}$, $m_1+2m_2+m_3$ are integers. It follows that $\frac{(3m_1+m_3)}{2} \in \mathbb{Z}$, i.e., $3m_1+m_3 \in \mathbb{Z}$ and hence $3m_1+m_3+m_1-m_3 = 4m_1$. Then $m_1-m_3 \in 2\mathbb{Z}$ and so $m_1+m_3 \in 2\mathbb{Z}$, i.e., $m_1+2m_2+m_3 \in 2\mathbb{Z}$. Thus we have $\mathbb{Z}\Phi \cap 2\Lambda \subseteq \mathbb{Z}(2\alpha_1) + \mathbb{Z}(2\alpha_2) + \mathbb{Z}(\alpha_1+\alpha_3)$. All these show that $\mathbb{Z}\Phi \cap 2\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}(2\alpha_1) + \mathbb{Z}(2\alpha_2) + \mathbb{Z}(\alpha_1+\alpha_3)$.

By Proposition 3.1 we know that $U_{ev}^0 = k[K_1^{\pm 2}, K_2^{\pm 2}, K_1^{\pm 1}K_3^{\pm 1}]$. Now for any

$$f(K_1, K_2, K_3) = \sum_{t,s,m \in \mathbb{Z}} a_{t,s,m} K_1^{2t} K_2^{2s} (K_1 K_3)^m \in U_{\text{ev}}^0$$

we define

$$\begin{split} \deg_{K_1} f &= \max\{2t + m | a_{t,s,m} \neq 0, t, s, m \in \mathbb{Z}\},\\ \deg_{K_2} f &= \max\{2s | a_{t,s,m} \neq 0, t, s, m \in \mathbb{Z}\},\\ \deg_{K_3} f &= \max\{m | a_{t,s,m} \neq 0, t, s, m \in \mathbb{Z}\}. \end{split}$$

For any $t, s \in \mathbb{Z}$, set

$$\begin{split} f_{t,s,m} &= K_1^{2t+m} K_2^{2s} K_3^m + K_1^{2t+m} K_2^{2s} K_3^{2s-m} + K_1^{2t+m} K_2^{2t+2m-2s} K_3^m \\ &\quad + K_1^{2t+m} K_2^{2t+2m-2s} K_3^{2t+m-2s} + K_1^{2t+m} K_2^{2t} K_3^{2s-m} \\ &\quad + K_1^{2t+m} K_2^{2t} K_3^{2t+m-2s} + K_1^{2s-2t-m} K_2^{2s} K_3^m + K_1^{2s-2t-m} K_2^{2s} K_3^{2s-m} \\ &\quad + K_1^{2s-2t-m} K_2^{-2t} K_3^m + K_1^{2s-2t-m} K_2^{-2t} K_3^{-2t-m} \\ &\quad + K_1^{2s-2t-m} K_2^{2s-2t-2m} K_3^{2s-m} + K_1^{2s-2t-m} K_2^{2s-2t-2m} K_3^{-2t-m} \\ &\quad + K_1^{m-2s} K_2^{2t+2m-2s} K_3^m + K_1^{m-2s} K_2^{2t+2m-2s} K_3^{2t+m-2s} \\ &\quad + K_1^{m-2s} K_2^{-2t} K_3^{-2t-m} + K_1^{m-2s} K_2^{-2t} K_3^m + K_1^{m-2s} K_2^{-2s} K_3^{2t+m-2s} \\ &\quad + K_1^{m-2s} K_2^{-2s} K_3^{-2t-m} + K_1^{-m} K_2^{2t} K_3^{2s-m} + K_1^{-m} K_2^{2t} K_3^{2t+m-2s} \\ &\quad + K_1^{m-2s} K_2^{-2s} K_3^{-2t-m} + K_1^{-m} K_2^{2s-2t-2m} K_3^{-2t-m} \\ &\quad + K_1^{-m} K_2^{2s-2t-2m} K_3^{2s-m} + K_1^{-m} K_2^{2s-2t-2m} K_3^{-2t-m} \\ &\quad + K_1^{-m} K_2^{2s-2t-2m} K_3^{2s-m} + K_1^{-m} K_2^{2s-2t-2m} K_3^{-2t-m} \end{split}$$

We shall call $f_{t,s,m}, t, s, m \in \mathbb{Z}$ the quantum Weyl symmetric polynomials.

Propsition 3.2. The invariant subalgebra $(U_{ev}^0)^W$ is spanned by $f_{t,s,m}$, where $t, s, m \in \mathbb{Z}$. *Proof.* On the one hand, it is easy to see that the actions of the generators $S_{\alpha_1}, S_{\alpha_2}$ and S_{α_3} of Won the element $f_{t,s,m}$ are invariant, and so the subspace V spanned all $f_{t,s,m}$ of U_{ev}^0 is in $(U_{ev}^0)^W$, i.e., $\sum_{t,s,m\in\mathbb{Z}} a_{t,s,m} f_{t,s,m} \in (U_{ev}^0)^W$.

On the other hand, take

$$\sum_{t,s,m\in\mathbb{Z}} a_{t,s,m} K_1^{2t} K_1^{2s} (K_1 K_3)^m = \sum_{t,s,m\in\mathbb{Z}} a_{t,s,m} K_1^{2t+m} K_1^{2s} K_3^m \in (U^0_{\text{ev}})^W, \quad a_{t,s,m} \in k.$$

Since the action of S_{α_1} on this element is invariant, we get

$$\sum_{t,s,m\in\mathbb{Z}}a_{t,s,m}K_1^{2t+m}K_2^{2s}K_3^m = \sum_{t,s,m\in\mathbb{Z}}a_{t,s,m}K_1^{2s-2t-m}K_2^{2s}K_3^m.$$

It follows that $a_{t,s,m} = a_{(s-t-m),s,m}$. Similarly, using the actions of the element of W, we get $a_{t,(t+m-s),m} = a_{t,s,m}, a_{t-s+m,s,2s-m} = a_{t,s,m}, \dots$

Thus we have

$$\sum_{t,s,m\in\mathbb{Z}} a_{t,s,m} K_1^{2t+m} K_2^{2s} K_3^m = \sum_{t,s,m\in\mathbb{Z}} a_{t,s,m} f_{t,s,m} \in V.$$

Let

$$\begin{split} x_1 &= \frac{1}{4} f_{0,1,1} = K_1 K_2^2 K_3 + K_1 K_3 + K_1 K_3^{-1} + K_1^{-1} K_3 + K_1^{-1} K_3^{-1} + K_1^{-1} K_2^{-2} K_3^{-1}, \\ x_2 &= \frac{1}{6} f_{-1,1,3} = K_1 K_2^2 K_3^3 + K_1 K_2^2 K_3^{-1} + K_1 K_2^{-2} K_3^{-1} + K_1^{-3} K_2^{-2} K_3^{-1}, \\ x_3 &= \frac{1}{6} f_{1,1,1} = K_1^3 K_2^2 K_3 + K_1^{-1} K_2^2 K_3 + K_1^{-1} K_2^{-2} K_3 + K_1^{-1} K_2^{-2} K_3^{-3}, \\ x_4 &= \frac{1}{2} f_{0,1,2} = K_1^2 K_2^2 K_3^2 + K_1^2 K_2^2 + K_2^2 K_3^2 + K_1^2 + K_2^2 + K_3^2 + K_1^{-2} \\ &\quad + K_2^{-2} + K_3^{-2} + K_1^{-2} K_2^{-2} + K_2^{-2} K_3^{-2} + K_1^{-2} K_2^{-2} K_3^{-2}. \end{split}$$

We call x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 the quantum elementary Weyl symmetric polynomials. Now we have the following theorem.

Theorem 3.3. The quantum elementary Weyl symmetric polynomial x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 are the minimal generators of $(U_{ev}^0)^W$.

Proof. Firstly, we prove x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 are the generators of $(U_{ev}^0)^W$. Notice that $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \in (U_{ev}^0)^W$, so by Proposition 3.2 we only need to prove that $f_{t,s,m}$ is generated by x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 for all $t, s, m \in \mathbb{Z}$.

When t = s = m = 0, $f_{t,s,m} = 24 \in k$, it is clear.

When $t \neq 0$ or $s \neq 0$, by the expression of $f_{t,s,m}$, it follows that there must exist a monomial such that the degrees of K_1, K_2, K_3 are all larger than zero. We may suppose that the term is the first one, i.e., 2t + m > 0, 2s > 0, 2m > 0, where $s, t, m \in \mathbb{Z}$. Set $w = \max\{\deg_{K_i} f_{t,s,m} \mid i = 1, 2, 3\}$. Notice that if a monomial appears, then the others certainly appear in $f_{t,s,m}$. Conveniently, for any $t, s, m \in \mathbb{Z}$, we denote $f_{t,s,m}$ only by a monomial containing w. For example, denote by $x_1 K_1 K_2^2 K_3 + \cdots$. In the following, we shall use induction on w to prove that $f_{t,s,m}$ can be generated by x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 .

When w = 2, then $f_{t,s,m} = f_{0,1,1} = 4x_1$ or $f_{t,s,m} = f_{0,1,2} = 2x_4$, which are clearly generated by x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 .

When w = 3, there are also two terms satisfying the condition:

$$f_{t,s,m} = f_{-1,1,3} = 6x_1, \quad f_{t,s,m} = f_{1,1,1} = 6x_3.$$

They are clearly generated by x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 .

Suppose that when $w < n \ (n \ge 4)$, for any $t, s, m \in \mathbb{Z}$, $f_{t,s,m}$ with $w = \max\{\deg_{K_i} f_{t,s,m} \mid i = 1, 2, 3\}$ are generated by x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 . Now we prove the case w = n, and we break the proof into several cases: If n is even.

Case 1. $n = \deg_{K_1} f_{t,s,m} > \deg_{K_i} f_{t,s,m}$ (i = 2, 3). By our assumption for t, s, m, it is clear that we only need to consider that n = 2t + m, n > 2s > m > 0.

$$K_1^n K_2^{2s} K_3^m + \dots = (K_1^{n-3} K_2^{2s-2} K_3^{m-1} + \dots) x_3 - (K_1^{n-4} K_2^{2s} K_3^m + \dots) - (K_1^{n-4} K_2^{n+m-2s} K_3^m + \dots) - (K_1^{n-4} K_2^{2s-4} K_3^{m-4} + \dots).$$

By the inductive hypothesis we know $K_1^{n-3}K_2^{2s-2}K_3^{m-1} + \cdots, K_1^{n-4}K_2^{2s}K_3^m + \cdots, K_1^{n-4}K_2^{n+m-2s}K_3^m + \cdots, K_1^{n-4}K_2^{2s-4}K_3^{m-4} + \cdots$ can be generated by x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 . So $K_1^n K_2^{2s} K_3^m + \cdots$ can be generated by x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 .

Case 2. $n = \deg_{K_2} f_{t,s,m} > \deg_{K_i} f_{t,s,m}$ (i = 1, 3). As in Case 1, we only need to consider that n = 2s > 2t + m, m > 0.

$$K_1^{2n+m} K_2^n K_3^m + \dots = (K_1^{2t+m-1} K_2^{n-2} K_3^{m-1} + \dots) x_1 - (K_1^{2t+m} K_2^{n-2} K_3^m + \dots) - (K_1^{2t+m} K_2^{n-2} K_3^{m-2} + \dots) - (K_1^{2t+m-2} K_2^{n-2} K_3^m + \dots) - (K_1^{2t+m-2} K_2^{n-2} K_3^{m-2} + \dots) - (K_1^{2t+m-2} K_2^{n-4} K_3^{m-2} + \dots).$$
(3.1)

Remark. When 2t + 2m = 2n - 2, (3.1) is

$$K_1^{2n+m}K_2^nK_3^m + \dots = \frac{1}{2}[(K_1^{2t+m-1}K_2^{n-2}K_3^{m-1} + \dots)x_1 - (K_1^{2t+m}K_2^{n-2}K_3^{m-2} + \dots) - (K_1^{2t+m-2}K_2^{n-2}K_3^m + \dots) - 2(K_1^{2t+m-2}K_2^{n-2}K_3^{m-2} + \dots)].$$

By the inductive hypothesis we know that

$$\begin{split} & K_1^{2t+m-1}K_2^{n-2}K_3^{m-1}+\cdots, \quad K_1^{2t+m}K_2^{n-2}K_3^m+\cdots, \\ & K_1^{2t+m}K_2^{n-2}K_3^{m-2}+\cdots, \quad K_1^{2t+m-2}K_2^{n-2}K_3^m+\cdots, \\ & K_1^{2t+m-2}K_2^{n-2}K_3^{m-2}+\cdots, \quad K_1^{2t+m-2}K_2^{n-4}K_3^{m-2}+\cdots. \end{split}$$

can be generated by x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 . So $K_1^{2n+m} K_2^n K_3^m + \cdots$ can be generated by x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 .

Case 3. $n = \deg_{K_3} f_{t,s,m} > \deg_{K_i} f_{t,s,m}$ (i = 1, 2). In this case it is clear that we only need to consider that n = m > 2s > 2t + m > 0. Then the proof is similar to Case 1.

Case 4. $n = \deg_{K_1} f_{t,s,m} = \deg_{K_2} f_{t,s,m} > \deg_{K_3} f_{t,s,m}$. In this case we only need to consider that n = 2t + m = 2s > m > 0 and $m \in 2\mathbb{Z}$.

$$K_1^n K_2^n K_3^m + \dots = (K_1^{n-3} K_2^{n-2} K_3^{m-1} + \dots) x_3 - (K_1^{n-4} K_2^n K_3^m + \dots)$$

Wu J Y et al. Sci China Math January 2011 Vol. 54 No. 1

$$-(K_1^{n-4}K_2^{n-4}K_3^m + \cdots) - (K_1^{n-4}K_2^{n-4}K_3^{m-4} + \cdots).$$
(3.2)

Remark. When n = 4, (3.2) is $K_1^n K_2^n K_3^m + \dots = \frac{1}{2} [(K_1^{n-3} K_2^{n-2} K_3^{m-1} + \dots) x_3 - 2(K_1^m K_2^m K_3^m + \dots)].$ By the inductive hypothesis we know that $K_1^{n-3} K_2^{n-2} K_3^{m-1} + \dots, K_1^{n-4} K_2^{n-4} K_3^m + \dots, K_1^{n-4} K_2^{n-4} K_2^{n-4}$

 $K_3^{m-4} + \cdots$ can both be generated by x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 . Notice that by Case 2 $K_1^{n-4} K_2^n K_3^m + \cdots$ is also generated by x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 . Thus, $K_1^n K_2^n K_3^m + \cdots$ can be generated by x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 .

Case 5. $n = \deg_{K_2} f_{t,s,m} = \deg_{K_3} f_{t,s,m} > \deg_{K_1} f_{t,s,m}$. In this case it is clear that we only need to consider that n = 2s = m > 2t + m > 0. Then the proof is similar to that of Case 4.

Case 6. $n = \deg_{K_i} f_{t,s,m}$ (i = 1, 2, 3). In this case we only need to consider that n = 2s = 2t + m = m.

$$K_1^n K_2^n K_3^n + \dots = (K_1^{n-1} K_2^{n-2} K_3^{n-3} + \dots) x_2 - 2(K_1^n K_2^n K_3^4 + \dots) - (K_1^{n-4} K_2^{n-4} K_3^{n-4} + \dots).$$
(3.3)

By the inductive hypothesis we know that $K_1^{n-1}K_2^{n-2}K_3^{n-3} + \cdots, K_1^{n-4}K_2^{n-4}K_3^{n-4} + \cdots$ can both be generated by x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 . Notice that by Case $4 K_1^n K_2^n K_3^4 + \cdots$ is also generated by x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 . Thus, $K_1^n K_2^n K_3^n + \cdots$ can be generated by x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 .

If n is odd.

Case 1. $n = \deg_{K_1} f_{t,s,m} > \deg_{K_i} f_{t,s,m}$ (i = 2, 3). It is easy to see that we only need to consider that n = 2t + m > 2s > m > 0.

$$K_1^n K_2^{2s} K_3^m + \dots = (K_1^{n-3} K_2^{2s-2} K_3^{m-1} + \dots) x_3 - (K_1^{n-4} K_2^{2s} K_3^m + \dots) - (K_1^{n-4} K_2^{n-4} K_3^{n-4} + \dots) - (K_1^{n-4} K_2^{2s-4} K_3^{m-4} + \dots).$$

By the inductive hypothesis we know $K_1^{n-3}K_2^{2s-2}K_3^{m-1} + \cdots, K_1^{n-4}K_2^{2s}K_3^m + \cdots, K_1^{n-4}K_2^{n+m-2s}K_3^m + \cdots, K_1^{n-4}K_2^{2s-4}K_3^{m-4} + \cdots$ can be generated by x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 . So $K_1^n K_2^{2s} K_3^m + \cdots$ can be generated by x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 .

Case 2. $n = \deg_{K_3} f_{t,s,m} > \deg_{K_i} f_{t,s,m}$ (i = 1, 2). In this case we only need to consider n = m > 2s > 2t + m > 0. Then the proof is similar to that of Case 1.

To sum up, m = n, for any $t, s, m \in \mathbb{Z}$, $f_{t,s,m}$ can be generated by x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 . By comparing the degrees, it is obvious that x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 cannot be generated by the others, hence x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 are the minimal generators of $(U_{ev}^0)^W$.

We need the following lemmas before proving the main theorem of this paper.

Lemma 3.4. The quantum elementary Weyl symmetric polynomials x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 satisfy the relation:

$$x_4^2 - 4x_1^2 - 2x_1x_2 - x_2x_3 - 2x_1x_3 + 8x_4 + 16 = 0.$$

Proof. By a direct computation it is easy to get the above conclusion. We omit its proof.

Suppose that $f \in (U_{ev}^0)^W$, then $f \in k[K_1, K_2, K_3]$. Using a lexicographic order, the first term is called the highest term of f. For example, the highest term of x_1 is $K_1K_2^2K_3$, the highest term of x_2 is $K_1K_2^2K_3^3$, the highest term of x_3 is $K_1^3K_2^2K_3$. Generally, the highest term of $x_1^{m_1}x_2^{m_2}x_3^{m_3}x_4^{m_4}$ is $K_1^{m_1+m_2+3m_3+2m_4}K_2^{2m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+3m_2+m_3+2m_4}$, where $m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4 \in \mathbb{N}$.

Lemma 3.5. For any $m_i, m'_i \in \mathbb{N}$, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, we have that the highest term of $x_1^{m_1} x_2^{m_2} x_3^{m_3} x_4^{m_4}$ is equal to the highest term of $x_1^{m'_1} x_2^{m'_2} x_3^{m'_3} x_4^{m'_4}$ if and only if there exists $d \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $m'_1 = m_1, m'_2 = m_2 + d, m'_3 = m_3 - d, m'_4 = m_4 + 2d$.

Proof. " \Leftarrow " Notice that the highest terms of $x_1^{m_1}x_2^{m_2}x_3^{m_3}x_4^{m_4}$ and $x_1^{m'_1}x_2^{m'_2}x_3^{m'_3}x_4^{m'_4}$ are

$$K_1^{m_1+m_2+3m_3+2m_4}K_2^{2m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+3m_2+m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+3m_2+m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+3m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_3+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_2+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^{m_1+2m_4}K_3^$$

and $K_1^{m'_1+m'_2+3m'_3+2m'_4}K_2^{2m'_1+2m'_2+2m'_3+2m'_4}K_3^{m'_1+3m'_2+m'_3+2m'_4}$ respectively. It follows that

$$m_1 + m_2 + 3m_3 + 2m_4 = m'_1 + m'_2 + d + 3m'_3 + 3d + 2m'_4 - 4d$$

60

$$= m'_1 + m'_2 + 3m'_3 + 2m'_4,$$

$$2m_1 + 2m_2 + 2m_3 + 2m_4 = 2m'_1 + 2m'_2 + 2d + 2m'_3 + 2d + 2m'_4 - 4d$$

$$= 2m'_1 + 2m'_2 + 2m'_3 + 2m'_4,$$

$$m_1 + 3m_2 + m_3 + 2m_4 = m'_1 + 3m'_2 + 3d + m'_3 + d + 2m'_4 - 4d$$

$$= m'_1 + 3m'_2 + m'_3 + 2m'_4.$$

Thus we have

$$K_{1}^{m_{1}+m_{2}+3m_{3}+2m_{4}}K_{2}^{2m_{1}+2m_{2}+2m_{3}+2m_{4}}K_{3}^{m_{1}+3m_{2}+m_{3}+2m_{4}} = K_{1}^{m_{1}'+m_{2}'+3m_{3}'+2m_{4}'}K_{2}^{2m_{1}'+2m_{2}'+2m_{3}'+2m_{4}'}K_{3}^{m_{1}'+3m_{2}'+m_{3}'+2m_{4}'},$$
(3.4)

i.e., the highest term of $x_1^{m_1}x_2^{m_2}x_3^{m_3}x_4^{m_4}$ is equal to the highest term of $x_1^{m'_1}x_2^{m'_2}x_3^{m'_3}x_4^{m'_4}$. " \Rightarrow " If the highest term of $x_1^{m_1}x_2^{m_2}x_3^{m_3}x_4^{m_4}$ is equal to the highest term of $x_1^{m'_1}x_2^{m'_2}x_3^{m'_3}x_4^{m'_4}$, then we have

$$m_1 + m_2 + 3m_3 + 2m_4 = m'_1 + m'_2 + 3m'_3 + 2m'_4,$$

$$2m_1 + 2m_2 + 2m_3 + 2m_4 = 2m'_1 + 2m'_2 + 2m'_3 + 2m'_4,$$

$$m_1 + 3m_2 + m_3 + 2m_4 = m'_1 + 3m'_2 + m'_3 + 2m'_4.$$

Thus we have $m_1 = m'_1, m_2 - m_3 = m'_2 - m_3, 2m_3 + m_4 = 2m'_3 + m'_4$. It follows that

$$m'_2 = m_2 - (m_3 - m'_3), \quad m'_4 = m_4 + 2(m_3 - m'_3).$$

Noticing that $m'_{3} = m_{3} - (m_{3} - m'_{3})$, set $m_{3} - m'_{3} = d$. Thus we have

$$\begin{cases} m_1' = m_1, \\ m_2' = m_2 - d, \\ m_3' = m_3 - d, \\ m_4' = m_4 + 2d \end{cases}$$

Hence we complete the proof.

By Lemma 3.5, we can define a relation in \mathbb{N}^4 as follows: $(m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4) \sim (m'_1, m'_2, m'_3, m'_4)$, if there exists $d \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that

$$m'_1 = m_1, m'_2 = m_2 - d, m'_3 = m_3 - d, m'_4 = m_4 + 2d.$$

It is clear that \sim is an equivalence relation. Denote by \mathbb{N}^4/\sim the quotient set corresponding to \sim , i.e.,

$$\mathbb{N}^4/ \sim = \{ [m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4] \mid m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4 \in \mathbb{N} \},\$$

where

$$[m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4] = \{ (m_1'.m_2', m_3', m_4') \in \mathbb{N}^4 \mid (m_1', m_2', m_3', m_4') \sim (m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4) \}.$$

Now, let $k[y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4]$ be the polynomial algebra over y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4 . For any $f = f(y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4) =$ $\sum_{i,j,s,t\in\mathbb{N}} a_{i,j,s,t} y_1^i y_2^j y_3^s y_4^t \in k[y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4],$ let

$$P = \{(i, j, s, t) \mid a_{i, j, s, t} \neq 0\}$$

Then P is a finite set. Thus there exists $r \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ such that

$$P = ([t_1, s_1, m_1, n_1] \cap P) \cup \dots \cup ([t_r, s_r, m_r, n_r] \cap P),$$

where $(t_i, s_i, m_i, n_i) \in \mathbb{N}^4$, i = 1, ..., r. Note that every $[t_i, s_i, m_i, n_i] \cap P$ is a finite set, so we can properly choose $[t_i, s_i, m_i, n_i]$ such that for any $(t, s, m, n) \in [t_i, s_i, m_i, n_i] \cap P$ we have $s_i - s \ge 0$. This means that

if $(t, s, m, n) \in [t_i, s_i, m_i, n_i] \cap P$, then there exists $d \ge 0$ such that $s_i - s = m_i - m = d$. Thus we can write f as

$$f = f_1 + f_2 + \dots + f_r$$
, where $f_i = \sum_{0 \le d \le \min\{s_i, m_i\}} a_{i,d} y_1^{t_i} y_2^{s_i - d} y_3^{m_i - d} y_4^{n_i + 2d}$.

Let

$$d_i = \max\{0 \leqslant d \leqslant \min\{s_i, m_i\} \mid a_{i,d} \neq 0\}$$

Then we have $\deg_{u_i} f_i = n_i + 2d_i$.

Now we can give the main theorem.

Theorem 3.6. Using the notations above, we have

$$Z(U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_4)) \cong k[y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4]/I,$$

where I is an ideal generated by one element

$$y_4^2 - 4y_1^2 - 2y_1y_2 - y_2y_3 - 2y_1y_3 + 8y_4 + 16.$$

Proof. By the Harish-Chandra isomorphism we only need to prove $(U_{ev}^0)^W \cong k[y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4]/I$. Define a map

$$\sigma: k[y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4] \longrightarrow (U^0_{\text{ev}})^W, \quad y_1 \mapsto x_1, \quad y_2 \mapsto x_2, \quad y_3 \mapsto x_3, \quad y_4 \mapsto x_4, \quad y_4 \mapsto x_4$$

By Theorem 3.3 we know σ is surjection, thus we only need to prove ker $\sigma = I$.

In fact, on the one hand, since

$$\sigma(y_4^2 - 4y_1^2 - 2y_1y_2 - y_2y_3 - 2y_1y_3 + 8y_4 + 16)$$

= $x_4^2 - 4x_1^2 - 2x_1x_2 - x_2x_3 - 2x_1x_3 + 8x_4 + 16 = 0,$

it follows that $y_4^2 - 4y_1^2 - 2y_1y_2 - y_2y_3 - 2y_1y_3 + 8y_4 + 16 \in \ker \sigma$, thus we have $I \subseteq \ker \sigma$.

On the other hand, let $f(y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4) = \sum_{i,j,s,t \in \mathbb{N}} a_{i,j,s,t} y_1^i y_2^j y_3^s y_4^t \in \ker \sigma$. Write $f = f_1 + f_2 + \dots + f_r$, where $f_i = \sum_{0 \le d \le \min\{s_i, m_i\}} a_{i,d} y_1^{t_i} y_2^{s_i - d} y_3^{m_i - d} y_4^{n_i + 2d}$. Then we have that

$$\sigma(f(y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4)) = \sigma(f_1) + \dots + \sigma(f_r)$$

$$= \sum_{\substack{0 \leq d \leq \min\{s_1, m_1\}}} a_{1,d} x_1^{t_1} x_2^{s_1 - d} x_3^{m_1 - d} x_4^{n_1 + 2d} + \dots$$

$$+ \sum_{\substack{0 \leq d \leq \min\{s_r, m_r\}}} a_{r,d} x_1^{t_r} x_2^{s_r - d} x_3^{m_r - d} x_4^{n_r + 2d}$$

$$= 0.$$

In the following we will prove the theorem by induction on $\deg_{y_4} f$.

When $\deg_{y_4} f = 0, 1$ or 2, since $\deg_{y_4} f_i = n_i + 2d_i$, $d_i = 0, \forall i = 1, \ldots, r$. Thus we have that for every f_i , and there is only one term $a_{i,0}y_1^{t_i}y_2^{s_i}y_3^{m_i}y_4^{n_i}$. It follows that we have $\sigma(f_i) = a_{i,0}x_1^{t_i}x_2^{s_i}x_3^{m_i}x_4^{n_i}$. From the definition of f and Lemma 3.5 we get the highest term of $\sigma(f_i)$, different from each other, where $i \in \{1, \ldots, r\}$. Applying the lexicographic order to the highest term of $\sigma(f_i)$, we get $a_{i,0} = 0, \forall i = 1, \ldots, r$. Thus $f(y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4) = 0$, and then $f(y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4) \in \ker \sigma$.

Now suppose that for any $f \in k[y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4]$ with $2 < \deg_{y_4} f < n$ and $f \in \ker \sigma$, we have $f(y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4) \in I$. Let $f \in k[y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4]$, $\deg_{y_4} f = n$ and $f \in \ker \sigma$. Noting that $f = f_1 + f_2 + \cdots + f_r$, we can suppose that

$$\deg_{y_4} f_i = n, \ i = 1, 2, \dots, l; \quad \deg_{y_4} f_i < n, \ i = l+1, \dots, n.$$

Moveover, $\deg_{y_4} f_i = n_i + 2d_i$, so $n_i + 2d_i = n$, i = 1, 2, ..., l. Thus when $1 \leq i \leq l$, we have

$$f_i = a_{i,d_i} y_1^{t_i} y_2^{s_i - d_i} y_3^{m_i - d_i} y_4^n + \sum_{0 \leqslant d < d_i} a_{i,d} y_1^{t_i} y_2^{s_i - d} y_3^{m_i - d} y_4^{n_i + 2d}.$$

Thus we have

$$f = \sum_{j=1}^{l} \left(a_{j,d_j} y_1^{t_j} y_2^{s_j - d} y_3^{m_j - d_j} y_4^n + \sum_{0 \le d < d_j} a_{j,d} y_1^{t_j} y_2^{s_j - d} y_3^{m_j - d} y_4^{n_j + 2d} \right) + \sum_{i=l+1}^{r} f_i$$

It follows that

$$\begin{split} \sigma(f) &= \sum_{j=1}^{l} \left(a_{j,d_{j}} x_{1}^{t_{j}} x_{2}^{s_{j}-d_{j}} x_{3}^{m_{j}-d_{j}} x_{4}^{n} + \sum_{0 \leqslant d < d_{j}} a_{j,d} x_{1}^{t_{j}} x_{2}^{s_{j}-d} x_{3}^{m_{j}-d} x_{4}^{n} \right) + \sum_{i=l+1}^{r} \sigma(f_{i}) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{l} \left(a_{j,d_{j}} x_{1}^{t_{j}} x_{2}^{s_{j}-d_{j}} x_{3}^{m_{j}-d_{j}} x_{4}^{n-2} x_{4}^{2} + \sum_{0 \leqslant d < d_{j}} a_{j,d} x_{1}^{t_{j}} x_{2}^{s_{j}-d} x_{3}^{m_{j}-d} x_{4}^{n} \right) + \sum_{i=l+1}^{r} \sigma(f_{i}) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{l} \left(a_{j,d_{j}} x_{1}^{t_{j}} x_{2}^{s_{j}-d_{j}} x_{3}^{m_{j}-d_{j}} x_{4}^{n-2} (4x_{1}^{2} + 2x_{1}x_{2} + 2x_{2}x_{3} + 2x_{1}x_{3} - 8x_{4} \right) \\ &- 16) + \sum_{0 \leqslant d < d_{j}} a_{j,d} x_{1}^{t_{j}} x_{2}^{s_{j}-d} x_{3}^{m_{j}-d} x_{4}^{n} \right) + \sum_{i=l+1}^{r} \sigma(f_{i}) \\ &= 0. \end{split}$$

Let

$$g = g(y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4)$$

= $\sum_{j=1}^{l} \left(a_{j,d_j} y_1^{t_j} y_2^{s_j - d_j} y_3^{m_j - d_j} y_4^{n-2} (4y_1^2 + 2y_1y_2 + 2y_2y_3 + 2y_1y_3 - 8y_4 - 16) + \sum_{0 \leqslant d < d_j} a_{j,d} y_1^{t_j} y_2^{s_j - d} y_3^{m_j - d} y_4^n \right) + \sum_{i=l+1}^{r} f_i.$

Then we have

$$\sigma(g(y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4))$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{l} \left(a_{j,d_j} x_1^{t_j} x_1^{t_j} x_2^{s_j - d_j} x_3^{m_j - d_j} x_4^{n-2} (4x_1^2 + 2x_1x_2 + 2x_2x_3 + 2x_1x_3 - 8x_4 - 16) \right)$$

$$+ \sum_{0 \leq d < d_j} a_{j,d} x_1^{t_j} x_2^{s_j - d} x_3^{m_j - d} x_4^n + \sum_{i=l+1}^{r} f_i,$$

i.e., $g(y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4) \in \ker \sigma$. Notice that $2 < \deg_{y_4} g < n$, so by the inductive hypothesis, we have $g = g(y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4) \in I$. Moveover, we have

$$f(y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4) - g(y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4)$$

= $\sum_{j=1}^{l} [a_{j,d_j} y_1^{t_j} y_2^{s_j - d_j} y_3^{m_j - d_j} y_4^{n-2} (4y_1^2 + 2y_1y_2 + 2y_2y_3 + 2y_1y_3 - 8y_4 - 16)]$
 $\in I,$

it follows that $f(y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4) \in I$.

Thus for any $f(y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4) = \sum_{i,j,s \in \mathbb{N}} a_{i,j,s,t} y_1^i y_2^j y_3^s y_4^t \in \ker \sigma$, we have $f(y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4) \in I$, it follows that $\ker \sigma \subseteq I$. Hence the assertion holds.

Based on the main results of this paper and [17], we formulate the following.

Problem 3.7. Describe the minimal generators in general for $(U_{ev}^0)^W$ and the relation for the minimal generators.

We will treat the case $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_{n+1}$ in a forthcoming paper.

Acknowledgements This work was supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant No. 10771182), Doctorate Foundation Ministry of Education of China (Grant No. 200811170001). The authors cordially thank the referees for their careful reading and helpful comments. The authors also thank Kang Mingchang for valuable comments, in particular for pointing out the reference [16].

References

- 1 Alev J, Dumas F. Sur le corps des fractions de certaines alg bres quantiques. J Algebra, 1994, 170: 229–265
- 2 Baumann P. On the centers of quantized enveloping algebras. J Algebra, 1998, 203: 244–260
- 3 Caldero P. On the q-commutations in $U_q(\mathfrak{n})$. J Algebra, 1998, 210: 557–576
- 4 Caldero P. On harmonic elements for semi-simple Lie algebras. Adv Math, 2002, 166: 73–99
- 5 Dixmier J. Enveloping Algebras. Grad Stud Math, vol. II. Providence, RI: Amer Math Soc, 1996
- 6 Drinfel'd V G. Hopf algebras and quantum Yang-Baxter equation. Soviet Math Dokl, 1985, 32: 254–258
- 7 Drinfel'd V G. Quantum Groups. Berkeley: Proc ICM, 1986, 798–820
- 8 Gauger M A. Some remarks on the center of the universal enveloping algebra of a classical simple Lie algebra. Pacific J Math, 1976, 62: 93–97
- 9 Farkas D R. Multiplicative invariants. Enseign Math, 1984, 30: 141-157
- 10 Humphreys J E. Introduction to Lie algebras and their representation theory. Grad Stud Math, vol. 9. New York: Springer-Verlag, 1972
- 11 Jantzen J C. Lecture on quantum groups. Grad Stud Math, vol. 6. Providence, RI: Amer Math Soc, 1996
- 12 Jimbo M. A q-difference analogue of $U(\mathfrak{g})$ and the Yang-Baxter equation. Lett Math Phys, 1985, 10: 63–69
- 13 Joseph A. Quantum groups and their primitive ideals. Ergenbnisse der Mathematik und ihrer Grenzgebiete. vol. 29. New York: Springer-Verlag, 1995
- 14 Kassel C. Quantum Groups. Berlin-Heidelberg-New York: Springer, 1995
- 15 Lachowska A. On the center of the small quantum group. J Algebra, 2003, 262: 313–331
- 16 Lorenz M. Multiplicative Invariant Theory. Berlin-Heidelberg-New York: Springer, 2006
- 17 Li L B, Wu J Y, Pan Y. Quantum Weyl polynomials and the center of quantum group $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_3)$. Algebra Colloq, to appear