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Let V be a finite dim. vector space over an alg. closed field \mathbb{K} . Let q be a nonzero scalar in \mathbb{K} that is not a root of unity. Consider a pair on linear maps $A : V \rightarrow V$, $A^* : V \rightarrow V$ which satisfy the following:

1. There exists a basis for V with respect to which the matrix representing A is diagonal and the matrix representing A^* is irreducible tridiagonal.
2. There exists a basis for V with respect to which the matrix representing A^* is diagonal and the matrix representing A is irreducible tridiagonal.

We call such a pair a Leonard pair on V . We assume there exist nonzero scalars a, b, c in \mathbb{K} such that the eigenvalues of A (resp. A^*) are aq^{2i-d} (resp. $bq^{2i-d} + cq^{d-2i}$) for $0 \leq i \leq d$. We discuss how such Leonard pairs are divided into two families. For one family we use the Leonard pair to construct two irreducible $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2)$ -module structures on V and describe how these modules are related to the actions of A and A^* . For the other family we use the Leonard pair to construct an irreducible $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ -module structure on V and describe how this module is related to the actions of A and A^* . (Received September 26, 2005)