

# Crossed Extensions of Lie Algebras

Apurba Das

Communicated by A. Fialowski

**Abstract.** It is known that Hochschild cohomology groups are represented by crossed extensions of associative algebras. In this paper, we introduce crossed  $n$ -fold extensions of a Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  by a module  $M$ , for  $n \geq 2$ . We show that such extensions represent elements in the  $(n + 1)$ -th Chevalley-Eilenberg cohomology group  $H_{CE}^{n+1}(\mathfrak{g}, M)$ .

*Mathematics Subject Classification:* 17B56, 17B55, 17A32.

*Key Words:* Lie algebras, Chevalley-Eilenberg cohomology, crossed modules, crossed extensions.

## 1. Introduction

Group cohomology of a group  $G$  with coefficients in a  $G$ -module  $M$  is related to crossed extensions of  $G$  by  $M$ . More precisely, crossed  $n$ -fold extensions of  $G$  by  $M$  represent elements in the  $(n + 1)$ -th group cohomology  $H^{n+1}(G, M)$  [7]. A similar result for Hochschild cohomology was considered by Baues and Minian [2]. Namely, they introduce crossed  $n$ -fold extensions of an associative algebra  $A$  by an  $A$ -bimodule  $M$  and prove that such extensions represent elements in the  $(n + 1)$ -th Hochschild cohomology  $HH^{n+1}(A, M)$  as abelian groups. A further generalization of this result has been obtained in [3].

The cohomology of a Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  with coefficients in a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module  $M$  is given by the Chevalley-Eilenberg cohomology. This cohomology theory controls the deformation of a given Lie algebra structure. The Chevalley-Eilenberg cohomology groups  $H_{CE}^\bullet(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  are also related to special type of  $L_\infty$ -algebras [1, Theorem 6.7]. In this paper, we give another interpretation of Chevalley-Eilenberg cohomology in terms of crossed extensions. The idea is the same as Baues and Minian for associative algebra case. We introduce crossed  $n$ -fold extensions of a Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  by a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module  $M$ . We show that such extensions represent elements in  $H_{CE}^{n+1}(\mathfrak{g}, M)$ . The only explanation for the truth of this result given in Gerstenhaber's article [6] is the sentence: "This follows immediately from the fact that both [cohomology theories] satisfy the axioms and vanish on injectives." Our aim in this paper is to give a full proof of this result.

We also sketch the similar result for Leibniz algebras. All vector spaces, linear maps are over a field  $\mathbb{K}$ .

## 2. Chevalley-Eilenberg cohomology

Let  $(\mathfrak{g}, [\cdot, \cdot])$  a Lie algebra. A *module* over  $\mathfrak{g}$  consists of a vector space  $M$  together with a  $\mathbb{K}$ -bilinear map  $[\cdot, \cdot] : \mathfrak{g} \times M \rightarrow M$  satisfying

$$[[x, y], m] = [x, [y, m]] - [y, [x, m]],$$

for  $x, y \in \mathfrak{g}$  and  $m \in M$ . It is clear that  $\mathfrak{g}$  is a module over  $\mathfrak{g}$  with respect to the Lie bracket. It is called the *adjoint module*.

Given a Lie algebra  $(\mathfrak{g}, [\cdot, \cdot])$  and a module  $M$ , the corresponding Chevalley-Eilenberg cochain groups  $\{C_{CE}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M)\}_{n \geq 0}$  are given by  $C_{CE}^0(\mathfrak{g}, M) = M$  and  $C_{CE}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M) = \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{K}}(\wedge^n \mathfrak{g}, M)$ , for  $n \geq 1$ . The coboundary map

$$\delta : C_{CE}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M) \rightarrow C_{CE}^{n+1}(\mathfrak{g}, M)$$

is given by

$$\begin{aligned} (\delta m)(x) &= [x, m], \quad \text{for } m \in M \text{ and } x \in \mathfrak{g}, \\ (\delta f)(x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}) &= \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} (-1)^{i+1} [x_i, f(x_1, \dots, \hat{x}_i, \dots, x_{n+1})] \\ &\quad + \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n+1} (-1)^{i+j} f([x_i, x_j], x_1, \dots, \hat{x}_i, \dots, \hat{x}_j, \dots, x_{n+1}), \end{aligned}$$

for  $f \in C_{CE}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  and  $x_1, \dots, x_{n+1} \in \mathfrak{g}$ . The corresponding cohomology groups are denoted by  $H_{CE}^\bullet(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  and called the Chevalley-Eilenberg cohomology of  $\mathfrak{g}$  with coefficients in the module  $M$  [13].

It is easy to see that  $H_{CE}^0(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  is the submodule of invariants of  $M$ :

$$H_{CE}^0(\mathfrak{g}, M) = \{m \in M \mid [x, m] = 0, \forall x \in \mathfrak{g}\}.$$

The first cohomology group  $H_{CE}^1(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  can be seen as the space of outer derivations

$$H_{CE}^1(\mathfrak{g}, M) = \text{OutDer}(\mathfrak{g}, M) := \frac{\text{Der}(\mathfrak{g}, M)}{\text{InnDer}(\mathfrak{g}, M)},$$

where a derivation is a map  $f : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow M$  satisfying  $f[x, y] = [x, fy] - [y, fx]$ , for all  $x, y \in \mathfrak{g}$  and is called inner if  $f(x) = [x, m]$ , for some  $m \in M$ .

The second cohomology group  $H_{CE}^2(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  can be described as the space of equivalence classes of Lie algebra extensions of  $\mathfrak{g}$  by the module  $M$  [13].

### Pushout of $\mathfrak{g}$ -modules

Pushout in a category is an important tool to study some nice properties of the category.

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a category. Given two morphisms  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : A \rightarrow C$ , a *pushout* (or *fibered sum*) is a triple  $(D, i, j)$  where  $D \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$  and  $i : B \rightarrow D$  and  $j : C \rightarrow D$  are morphisms in  $\mathcal{C}$  such that  $ig = if$  that satisfies the

following universal property: for any triple  $(D', i', j')$  with  $j'g = i'f$ , there is a unique morphism  $\theta : D \rightarrow D'$  making the following diagram commute

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{g} & C \\
 f \downarrow & & \downarrow j \\
 B & \xrightarrow{i} & D
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{g} & C \\
 f \downarrow & & \downarrow j \\
 B & \xrightarrow{i} & D \\
 & \searrow i' & \downarrow \theta \\
 & & D'
 \end{array}$$

Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a Lie algebra. Consider the category  $\mathfrak{g}\text{-mod}$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$ -modules and  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module morphisms. Then the pushout of two maps  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : A \rightarrow C$  in  $\mathfrak{g}\text{-mod}$  exists.

Let  $S = \{(f(a), -g(a)) \mid a \in A\}$ . Then it is easy to see that  $S$  is a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -submodule of  $B \oplus C$ . Take  $D = \frac{B \oplus C}{S}$  and define  $i : B \rightarrow D$  by  $i(b) = (b, 0) + S$  and  $j : C \rightarrow D$  by  $j(c) = (0, c) + S$ . It is easy to see that  $fg = if$ . Moreover, if  $(D', i', j')$  is another triple with  $j'g = i'f$ , we define  $\theta : D \rightarrow D'$  by  $\theta((b, c) + S) = i'(b) + j'(c)$ . It is also easy to check that  $\theta$  is unique. Hence the claim.

### 3. Crossed modules of Lie algebras

In this section, we give an interpretation of  $H_{CE}^3(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  in terms of crossed module over Lie algebras. Our definition and terminologies are motivated by the one given by Baues and Minian for associative algebras [2].

**Definition 3.1.** A *crossed module* over a Lie algebra is a triple  $(V, L, \partial)$  in which  $L$  is a Lie algebra,  $V$  is a  $L$ -module and  $\partial : V \rightarrow L$  is a map of  $L$ -modules such that  $[\partial v, w] = -[\partial w, v]$ , for  $v, w \in V$ .

The above notion of crossed module is equivalent to the usual notion of crossed module [12] in the following way. Note that the vector space  $V$  can be equipped with a bracket  $[v, w]_V := [\partial v, w]$ , i.e. the action of  $\partial v$  on  $w$ . This bracket is skew-symmetric, satisfies the Jacobi identity and renders  $\partial$  a crossed module of Lie algebras in the usual sense. The other direction is obvious.

**Definition 3.2.** Let  $(V, L, \partial)$  and  $(V', L', \partial')$  be two crossed modules. A map between them consists of a linear map  $\alpha : V \rightarrow V'$  and a Lie algebra map  $\beta : L \rightarrow L'$  such that the following diagram commute

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 V & \xrightarrow{\partial} & L \\
 \alpha \downarrow & & \downarrow \beta \\
 V' & \xrightarrow{\partial'} & L'
 \end{array}$$

and satisfying  $\alpha[x, v] = [\beta(x), \alpha(v)]$ , for  $x \in L, v \in V$ .

Given a crossed module  $(V, L, \partial)$ , we consider  $\mathfrak{g} = \text{coker}(\partial)$  and  $M = \ker(\partial)$ . The Lie algebra structure on  $L$  induces a Lie algebra structure on  $\mathfrak{g}$  by  $[\pi(x), \pi(y)] = \pi[x, y]$ , where  $\pi : L \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$  is the projection map. Moreover, the action of  $L$  on  $V$  induces an action of  $\mathfrak{g}$  on  $M$  via  $[\pi(x), m] = [x, m]$ , for  $m \in M$ .

Hence a crossed module yields an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{i} V \xrightarrow{\partial} L \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0.$$

We call  $(V, L, \partial)$  a crossed module over the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  with kernel a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module  $M$ .

**Definition 3.3.** Two crossed modules  $(V, L, \partial)$  and  $(V', L', \partial')$  over  $\mathfrak{g}$  with kernel  $M$  are said to be *equivalent* if there is a morphism of crossed modules

$$(V, L, \partial) \rightarrow (V', L', \partial')$$

which induces identity maps on  $\mathfrak{g}$  and  $M$ .

Let  $\text{Cross}(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  be the category of such crossed modules and morphisms between them. Let  $\pi_0\text{Cross}(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  be the class of connected components in the category  $\text{Cross}(\mathfrak{g}, M)$ . In the next theorem, we see that elements of  $\pi_0\text{Cross}(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  are in one-to-one correspondence with the third Chevalley-Eilenberg cohomology group. See also [12].

**Theorem 3.4.** *There is a bijection  $\psi : \pi_0\text{Cross}(\mathfrak{g}, M) \rightarrow H_{CE}^3(\mathfrak{g}, M)$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $\mathcal{E} : 0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{i} V \xrightarrow{\partial} L \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0$  be an element in  $\pi_0\text{Cross}(\mathfrak{g}, M)$ . Choose  $\mathbb{K}$ -linear sections  $s : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow L$  with  $\pi s = \text{id}$  and  $q : \text{Im}(\partial) \rightarrow V$  with  $\partial q = \text{id}$ . For any  $x, y \in \mathfrak{g}$ , we have

$$\pi([s(x), s(y)] - s[x, y]) = 0.$$

This shows that  $[s(x), s(y)] - s[x, y]$  is in  $\ker(\pi) = \text{Im}(\partial)$ . Take

$$g(x, y) = q([s(x), s(y)] - s[x, y]) \in V.$$

Define a map  $\theta_{\mathcal{E}, s, q} : \mathfrak{g}^{\otimes 3} \rightarrow M$  by

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_{\mathcal{E}, s, q}(x, y, z) &= [s(x), g(y, z)] - [s(y), g(x, z)] + [s(z), g(x, y)] \\ &\quad - g([x, y], z) + g([x, z], y) - g([y, z], x). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\partial$  is a map of  $L$ -modules, it follows that  $\partial(\theta_{\mathcal{E}, s, q}(x, y, z)) = 0$ . Therefore,  $\theta_{\mathcal{E}, s, q}(x, y, z) \in \ker(\partial) = M$ . The map  $\theta_{\mathcal{E}, s, q} : \mathfrak{g}^{\otimes 3} \rightarrow M$  is skew-symmetric in  $x, y, z$ . Hence  $\theta_{\mathcal{E}, s, q} : \wedge^3 \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow M$ . The map  $\theta_{\mathcal{E}, s, q}$  defines a 3-cocycle in the Chevalley-Eilenberg cohomology of  $\mathfrak{g}$  with coefficients in  $M$ .

We first show that the class of  $\theta_{\mathcal{E}, s, q}$  in  $H_{CE}^3(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  does not depend on the section  $s$ . Suppose  $\bar{s} : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow L$  is another section of  $\pi$  and let  $\theta_{\mathcal{E}, \bar{s}, q}$  be the corresponding 3-cocycle defined by using  $\bar{s}$  instead of  $s$ . Then there exists a linear map  $h : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow V$  with  $s - \bar{s} = \partial h$ . Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} [s(x), g(y, z)] - [\bar{s}(x), \bar{g}(y, z)] &= [s(x) - \bar{s}(x), g(y, z)] + [\bar{s}(x), (g - \bar{g})(y, z)] \\ &= [\partial h(x), q([s(y), s(z)] - s[y, z])] + [\bar{s}(x), (g - \bar{g})(y, z)] \\ &= - [[s(y), s(z)] - s[y, z], h(x)] + [\bar{s}(x), (g - \bar{g})(y, z)]. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\theta_{\mathcal{E},s,q} - \theta_{\mathcal{E},\bar{s},q})(x, y, z) \\
 &= -([s(y), s(z)] - s[y, z]), h(x) + ([s(x), s(z)] - s[x, z]), h(y) \\
 &\quad - ([s(x), s(y)] - s[x, y]), h(z) + [\bar{s}(x), (g - \bar{g})(y, z)] \\
 &\quad - [\bar{s}(y), (g - \bar{g})(x, z)] + [\bar{s}(z), (g - \bar{g})(x, y)] \\
 &\quad - (g - \bar{g})([x, y], z) + (g - \bar{g})([x, z], y) - (g - \bar{g})([y, z], x). \tag{1}
 \end{aligned}$$

Define a map  $b : \wedge^2 \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow V$  by

$$b(x, y) = [s(x), h(y)] - h([x, y]) - [s(y), h(x)] - [\partial h(x), h(y)].$$

Then a easy calculation shows that  $\partial b = \partial(g - \bar{g})$ . Hence  $(g - \bar{g} - b) : \wedge^2 \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow M$ . It follows from (1) that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\theta_{\mathcal{E},s,q} - \theta_{\mathcal{E},\bar{s},q})(x, y, z) \\
 &= -([s(y), s(z)] - s[y, z]), h(x) + ([s(x), s(z)] - s[x, z]), h(y) \\
 &\quad - ([s(x), s(y)] - s[x, y]), h(z) + (\delta(g - \bar{g} - b))(x, y, z) \\
 &\quad + [\bar{s}(x), b(y, z)] - [\bar{s}(y), b(x, z)] + [\bar{s}(z), b(x, y)] \\
 &\quad - b([x, y], z) + b([x, z], y) - b([y, z], x).
 \end{aligned}$$

In the right hand side of the above equation, we substitute the definition of  $b$  in last six terms. After many cancellations on the right hand side (one has to use the fact that  $(V, L, \partial)$  is a crossed module for some cancellations), we are only left with the term  $(\delta(g - \bar{g} - b))(x, y, z)$ . Hence the class of  $\theta_{\mathcal{E},s,q}$  does not depend on the section  $s$ .

Next consider a map

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
 \mathcal{E} := & 0 & \longrightarrow & M & \xrightarrow{i} & V & \xrightarrow{\partial} & L & \xrightarrow{\pi} & \mathfrak{g} & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 & & & \parallel & & \alpha \downarrow & & \downarrow \beta & & \parallel & & \\
 \mathcal{E}' := & 0 & \longrightarrow & M & \xrightarrow{i'} & V' & \xrightarrow{\partial'} & L' & \xrightarrow{\pi'} & \mathfrak{g} & \longrightarrow & 0
 \end{array}$$

of crossed modules. Let  $s' : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow L'$  and  $q' : \text{Im}(\partial') \rightarrow V'$  be sections of  $\pi'$  and  $\partial'$ , respectively. Note that  $(\pi' \beta s)(x) = (\pi s)(x) = x$ , for all  $x \in \mathfrak{g}$ . Therefore,  $\beta s : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow L'$  is another section of  $\pi'$ . Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\theta_{\mathcal{E},s,q} - \theta_{\mathcal{E}',\beta s,q'})(x, y, z) &= [s(x), g(y, z)] - [s(y), g(x, z)] + [s(z), g(x, y)] \\
 &= -g([x, y], z) + g([x, z], y) - g([y, z], x) \\
 &\quad - [\beta s(x), g'(y, z)] + [\beta s(y), g'(x, z)] - [\beta s(z), g'(x, y)] \\
 &= +g'([x, y], z) - g'([x, z], y) - g'([y, z], x),
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $g'(x, y) = q'([\beta s(x), \beta s(y)] - \beta s[x, y])$ . Here we have used the same notation  $[ , ]$  to denote the action of  $L$  on  $V$  and the action on  $L'$  on  $V'$ .

Hence, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
(\theta_{\mathcal{E},s,q} - \theta_{\mathcal{E}',\beta s,q'})(x,y,z) &= [\beta s(x), (\alpha q - q'\beta)([s(y), s(z)] - s[y,z])] \\
&\quad - [\beta s(y), (\alpha q - q'\beta)([s(x), s(z)] - s[x,z])] \\
&\quad + [\beta s(z), (\alpha q - q'\beta)([s(x), s(y)] - s[x,y])] \\
&\quad - (\alpha q - q'\beta)([s[x,y], s(z)] - s[[x,y],z]) \\
&\quad + (\alpha q - q'\beta)([s[x,z], s(y)] - s[[x,z],y]) \\
&\quad - (\alpha q - q'\beta)([s[y,z], s(x)] - s[[y,z],x]).
\end{aligned}$$

It follows from the above expression that  $(\theta_{\mathcal{E},s,q} - \theta_{\mathcal{E}',\beta s,q'})(x,y,z) = (\delta\phi)(x,y,z)$  for some  $\phi : \wedge^2 \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow M$ . Hence,  $[\theta_{\mathcal{E},s,q}] = [\theta_{\mathcal{E}',\beta s,q'}]$  in  $H_{CE}^3(\mathfrak{g}, M)$ . Moreover, from the first part, we have  $[\theta_{\mathcal{E}',\beta s,q'}] = [\theta_{\mathcal{E}',s',q'}]$ . Hence the class  $[\theta_{\mathcal{E},s,q}]$  does not depend on the sections  $s$  and  $q$ . We denote the corresponding class by  $[\theta_{\mathcal{E}}]$ . Therefore, the map

$$\psi : \pi_0 \text{Cross}(\mathfrak{g}, M) \rightarrow H_{CE}^3(\mathfrak{g}, M), \quad \mathcal{E} \rightarrow [\theta_{\mathcal{E}}]$$

is well-defined. The injectivity of  $\psi$  follows similarly to the case of Shukla cohomology [4]. See also [12]. The surjectivity of  $\psi$  follows from the next observation. ■

Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a Lie algebra and  $0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow M' \xrightarrow{\pi} M'' \rightarrow 0$  an exact sequence of  $\mathfrak{g}$ -modules. Given an abelian extension

$$0 \rightarrow M'' \rightarrow \mathfrak{e} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0 \quad (2)$$

of  $\mathfrak{g}$  by  $M''$ , we consider the Yoneda product

$$0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow M' \xrightarrow{\mu} \mathfrak{e} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0. \quad (3)$$

Writing  $\mathfrak{e} = M'' \oplus \mathfrak{g}$  as a vector space, we have  $\mu(m') = (\pi(m'), 0)$ . An  $\mathfrak{e}$ -action on  $M'$  is induced from the  $\mathfrak{g}$ -action on  $M'$ , namely,

$$[(m'', x), m'] = [x, m'], \quad \text{for } (m'', x) \in \mathfrak{e} \text{ and } m' \in M'.$$

It is easy to see that (3) defines a crossed module of  $\mathfrak{g}$  by  $M$ . It has been shown in [12] that the corresponding third cohomology class in  $H_{CE}^3(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  as constructed above is the image of the second cohomology class in  $H_{CE}^2(\mathfrak{g}, M'')$  (defined by the abelian extension (2)) under the connecting homomorphism  $\partial$  in the cohomology long exact sequence

$$\cdots \rightarrow H_{CE}^2(\mathfrak{g}, M) \rightarrow H_{CE}^2(\mathfrak{g}, M') \rightarrow H_{CE}^2(\mathfrak{g}, M'') \xrightarrow{\partial} H_{CE}^3(\mathfrak{g}, M) \rightarrow \cdots$$

**Observation.** *Surjectivity of the map  $\psi$  (of Theorem 3.4).* The surjectivity of  $\psi$  can be shown as follows [12]. As the category  $\mathfrak{g}\text{-mod}$  possesses enough injectives, we can choose an injective  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module  $I$  and a monomorphism  $i : M \rightarrow I$ . Consider the short exact sequence of  $\mathfrak{g}$ -modules

$$0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{i} I \rightarrow M'' \rightarrow 0 \quad (4)$$

where  $M''$  is the cokernel of the map  $i$ . Since  $I$  is injective, the cohomology long exact sequence yields  $H_{CE}^2(\mathfrak{g}, M'') \cong H_{CE}^3(\mathfrak{g}, M)$ . This isomorphism is given by the connecting homomorphism in the long exact sequence of cohomology.

Thus, a cohomology class  $[\gamma] \in H_{CE}^3(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  corresponds to a class  $[\alpha] \in H_{CE}^2(\mathfrak{g}, M'')$ . We now consider an abelian extension  $0 \rightarrow M'' \rightarrow \mathfrak{e} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0$  corresponding to the cohomology class  $[\alpha] \in H_{CE}^2(\mathfrak{g}, M'')$ . It follows from the above discussion that the Yoneda product of (4) and the above abelian extension gives rise to a crossed module whose associated third cohomology class is given by  $[\gamma]$ .

#### 4. Crossed $n$ -fold extensions of Lie algebras

Using the notion of crossed modules of the previous section, we introduce crossed  $n$ -fold extensions of a Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  by a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module  $M$ . Finally, we show that such extensions represent cohomology classes in  $H_{CE}^{n+1}(\mathfrak{g}, M)$ .

Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a Lie algebra and  $M$  be a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module. Let  $n \geq 2$ .

**Definition 4.1.** A crossed  $n$ -fold extension of  $\mathfrak{g}$  by  $M$  is an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{f} M_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{n-1}} \dots \xrightarrow{\partial_2} M_1 \xrightarrow{\partial_1} L \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0$$

of  $\mathbb{K}$ -vector spaces with the following properties:

- $(M_1, L, \partial_1)$  is a crossed module with  $\text{coker}(\partial_1) = \mathfrak{g}$ ,
- for  $1 < i \leq n - 1$ ,  $M_i$  is a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module and  $\partial_i, f$  are morphisms of  $\mathfrak{g}$ -modules.

**Definition 4.2.** Let

$$\mathcal{E} := (0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{f} M_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{n-1}} \dots \xrightarrow{\partial_2} M_1 \xrightarrow{\partial_1} L \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0)$$

and

$$\mathcal{E}' := (0 \rightarrow M' \xrightarrow{f'} M'_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\partial'_{n-1}} \dots \xrightarrow{\partial'_2} M'_1 \xrightarrow{\partial'_1} L' \xrightarrow{\pi'} \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0)$$

be two crossed  $n$ -fold extensions of  $\mathfrak{g}$  by  $M$  and  $M'$ , respectively. A morphism between them consists of maps  $\alpha : M \rightarrow M', \beta : L \rightarrow L'$  and  $\delta_i : M_i \rightarrow M'_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n - 1$  such that

- all squares commute (see Figure 4.1),
- $\alpha, \delta_i (2 \leq i \leq n - 1)$  are morphism of  $\mathfrak{g}$ -modules,
- $(\delta_1, \beta) : (M_1, L, \partial_1) \rightarrow (M'_1, L', \partial'_1)$  is a map of crossed modules inducing the identity map on  $\mathfrak{g}$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccccccc}
 0 & \longrightarrow & M & \xrightarrow{f} & M_{n-1} & \xrightarrow{\partial_{n-1}} & M_{n-2} & \longrightarrow & \dots & \longrightarrow & M_1 & \xrightarrow{\partial_1} & L & \xrightarrow{\pi} & \mathfrak{g} & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 & & \alpha \downarrow & & \delta_{n-1} \downarrow & & \delta_{n-2} \downarrow & & & & \delta_1 \downarrow & & \beta \downarrow & & \parallel & & \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & M & \xrightarrow{f'} & M'_{n-1} & \xrightarrow{\partial'_{n-1}} & M'_{n-2} & \longrightarrow & \dots & \longrightarrow & M'_1 & \xrightarrow{\partial'_1} & L' & \xrightarrow{\pi'} & \mathfrak{g} & \longrightarrow & 0
 \end{array}$$

Figure 4.1

Let  $\mathcal{E}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  be the category whose objects are  $n$ -fold extensions of  $\mathfrak{g}$  by  $M$  and the morphisms are the maps between such  $n$ -fold extensions that induce the identity map on  $M$ .

We take  $\text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M) = \pi_0 \mathcal{E}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  the class of connected components in the category  $\mathcal{E}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M)$ . Then it follows that  $\text{Opext}^2(\mathfrak{g}, M) = \pi_0 \text{Cross}(\mathfrak{g}, M)$ . Next we show that  $\text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  has a natural abelian group structure. To do that, we start with the following proposition.

**Proposition 4.3.** *Let  $\mathcal{E} \in \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  be an  $n$ -fold extension of  $\mathfrak{g}$  by  $M$  and  $\alpha : M \rightarrow M'$  be an  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module map. Then there exists an  $n$ -fold extension  $\alpha\mathcal{E} \in \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M')$  and a morphism of the form  $(\alpha, \delta_{n-1}, \dots, \delta_1, \beta)$  from  $\mathcal{E}$  to  $\alpha\mathcal{E}$ . Moreover,  $\alpha\mathcal{E} \in \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M')$  is the unique  $n$ -fold extension with this property.*

**Proof.** The proof is based on pushout of  $\mathfrak{g}$ -modules. Let

$$\mathcal{E} := (0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{f} M_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{n-1}} \dots \xrightarrow{\partial_2} M_1 \xrightarrow{\partial_1} L \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0) \in \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M)$$

be a crossed  $n$ -fold extension. We consider the  $n$ -fold extension  $\alpha\mathcal{E} \in \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M')$  as

$$\alpha\mathcal{E} := (0 \rightarrow M' \rightarrow \overline{M_{n-1}} \rightarrow M_{n-2} \xrightarrow{\partial_{n-2}} \dots \xrightarrow{\partial_2} M_1 \xrightarrow{\partial_1} L \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0)$$

where  $M' \rightarrow \overline{M_{n-1}} \rightarrow M_{n-2}$  is obtained from the following pushout of  $\mathfrak{g}$ -modules

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M & \longrightarrow & M_{n-1} \\ \alpha \downarrow & & \downarrow i \\ M' & \longrightarrow & \overline{M_{n-1}} \\ & \searrow 0 & \downarrow \text{dotted} \\ & & M_{n-2} \end{array}$$

Moreover  $(\alpha, i, \text{id}, \dots, \text{id})$  defines a morphism from  $\mathcal{E}$  to  $\alpha\mathcal{E}$ .

Finally, let  $\mathcal{E}' \in \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M')$  be an  $n$ -fold extension and there is a morphism  $(\alpha, \delta_{n-1}, \dots, \delta_1, \beta) : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}'$ . Then by properties of pushout, one obtains a map  $(1, j, \delta_{n-2}, \dots, \delta_1, \beta) : \alpha\mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}'$ . This shows that the class of  $\alpha\mathcal{E}$  and  $\mathcal{E}'$  is same in  $\text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M)$ .  $\blacksquare$

Thus, it follows from the above proposition that a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module map  $\alpha : M \rightarrow M'$  induces a well-defined map

$$\alpha_* : \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M) \rightarrow \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M'), \quad \mathcal{E} \mapsto \alpha\mathcal{E}.$$

**Definition 4.4.**

Let  $\mathcal{E} = (0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{f} M_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{n-1}} \dots \xrightarrow{\partial_2} M_1 \xrightarrow{\partial_1} L \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0) \in \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M)$

and  $\mathcal{E}' = (0 \rightarrow M' \xrightarrow{f'} M'_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\partial'_{n-1}} \dots \xrightarrow{\partial'_2} M'_1 \xrightarrow{\partial'_1} L' \xrightarrow{\pi'} \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0) \in \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M')$

be two crossed  $n$ -fold extensions of  $\mathfrak{g}$  by  $M$  and  $M'$ , respectively. The sum of  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $\mathcal{E}'$  over  $\mathfrak{g}$  is denoted by  $\mathcal{E} \oplus_{\mathfrak{g}} \mathcal{E}'$  and is given by the following  $n$ -fold extension

$$0 \rightarrow M \oplus M' \rightarrow M_{n-1} \oplus M'_{n-1} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow M_1 \oplus M'_1 \xrightarrow{(\partial_1, \partial'_1)} L \times_{\mathfrak{g}} L' \xrightarrow{q} \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0.$$

Here the Lie algebra structure on  $L \times_{\mathfrak{g}} L'$  is given by

$$[(x, x'), (y, y')] = ([x, y], [x', y']), \quad \text{for } (x, x'), (y, y') \in L \times_{\mathfrak{g}} L'.$$

The projection  $q : L \times_{\mathfrak{g}} L' \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$  is the obvious one. The action of the Lie algebra  $L \times_{\mathfrak{g}} L'$  on  $M_1 \oplus M'_1$  is defined coordinatewise. It is easy to check that

$$(M_1 \oplus M'_1, L \times_{\mathfrak{g}} L', (\partial_1, \partial'_1))$$

defines a crossed module.

**Definition 4.5.** (Baer sum) Let  $\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{E}' \in \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  with  $n \geq 3$ . Then the Baer sum  $\mathcal{E} + \mathcal{E}' \in \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  is defined by

$$\mathcal{E} + \mathcal{E}' = \nabla_M(\mathcal{E} \oplus_{\mathfrak{g}} \mathcal{E}')$$

where  $\nabla_M : M \oplus M \rightarrow M$ ,  $(m_1, m_2) \mapsto m_1 + m_2$  is the codiagonal map.

**Definition 4.6.** (Zero extension) Let  $n \geq 3$ . Then

$$0 \rightarrow M = M \rightarrow \underbrace{0 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 0}_{n-2} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0$$

is a crossed  $n$ -fold extension of  $\mathfrak{g}$  by  $M$ . We define  $0 \in \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  to be the class of this extension.

**Remark 4.7.** Let

$$\mathcal{E} := (0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{f} M_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{n-1}} \cdots \xrightarrow{\partial_2} M_1 \xrightarrow{\partial_1} L \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0) \in \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M)$$

be a crossed  $n$ -fold extension, for  $n \geq 3$ . Suppose there is a map  $g : M_{n-1} \rightarrow M$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$ -modules satisfying  $gf = \text{id}_M$ . Then there is a morphism

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & M & \xrightarrow{f} & M_{n-1} & \xrightarrow{\partial_{n-1}} & M_{n-2} & \xrightarrow{\partial_{n-2}} & \cdots & \xrightarrow{\partial_2} & M_1 & \xrightarrow{\partial_1} & L & \xrightarrow{\pi} & \mathfrak{g} & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \parallel & & \downarrow g & & \downarrow 0 & & & & \downarrow 0 & & \downarrow \pi & & \parallel & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & M & \xlongequal{\quad} & M & \xrightarrow{0} & 0 & \longrightarrow & \cdots & \longrightarrow & 0 & \xrightarrow{0} & \mathfrak{g} & \xlongequal{\quad} & \mathfrak{g} & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$

of crossed  $n$ -fold extensions. This shows that the class of  $\mathcal{E}$  defines  $0 \in \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M)$ .

Let  $M$  be an injective  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module and  $\mathcal{E} \in \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  be any crossed  $n$ -fold extension defined above. Consider the inclusion  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module map  $M \xrightarrow{f} M_{n-1}$  and the identity map  $\text{id}_M : M \rightarrow M$ . Since  $M$  is an injective  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module, there exists a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module map  $g : M_{n-1} \rightarrow M$  such that  $gf = \text{id}_M$ . Therefore, it follows from the previous paragraph that  $\mathcal{E}$  defines  $0 \in \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M)$ . In other words, we get  $\text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M) = 0$ , for  $n \geq 3$ .

**Remark 4.8.** Let

$$\mathcal{E} := (0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{f} M_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{n-1}} \cdots \xrightarrow{\partial_2} M_1 \xrightarrow{\partial_1} L \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0) \in \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M)$$

be a crossed  $n$ -fold extension, for  $n \geq 3$ . It follows from Proposition 4.3 that  $f\mathcal{E} \in \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M_{n-1})$  and is given by the bottom row of the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & M & \xrightarrow{f} & M_{n-1} & \xrightarrow{\partial_{n-1}} & M_{n-2} & \xrightarrow{\partial_{n-2}} & \cdots & \xrightarrow{\partial_1} & L & \xrightarrow{\pi} & \mathfrak{g} & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \downarrow f & & \downarrow (\text{id}, \partial_{n-1}) & & \parallel & & & & \parallel & & \parallel & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & M_{n-1} & \xrightarrow{(\text{id}, 0)} & M_{n-1} \oplus M_{n-2} & \xrightarrow{pr_2} & M_{n-2} & \longrightarrow & \cdots & \xrightarrow{\partial_1} & L & \xrightarrow{\pi} & \mathfrak{g} & \longrightarrow & 0. \end{array}$$

Observe that, in  $f\mathcal{E}$ , there is a map  $g = pr_1 : M_{n-1} \oplus M_{n-2} \rightarrow M_{n-1}$  which satisfies  $g \circ (\text{id}, 0) = \text{id}_{M_{n-1}}$ . Hence, it follows from Remark 4.7 that  $f\mathcal{E} = 0$  in  $\text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M_{n-1})$ .

**Definition 4.9.** (Inverse of an extension) Let

$$\mathcal{E} := (0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{f} M_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{n-1}} \cdots \xrightarrow{\partial_2} M_1 \xrightarrow{\partial_1} L \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0) \in \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M)$$

be an extension. Then

$$-\mathcal{E} := (0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{-f} M_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{n-1}} \cdots \xrightarrow{\partial_2} M_1 \xrightarrow{\partial_1} L \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0) \in \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M)$$

defines a new crossed  $n$ -extension of  $\mathfrak{g}$  by  $M$ .

The proof of the following theorem is straightforward.

**Theorem 4.10.** Let  $n \geq 3$ . Then the set  $\text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  equipped with the Baer sum is an abelian group. The zero element and inverse elements of this group are given by Definitions 4.6 and 4.6, respectively.

Moreover, if  $\alpha : M \rightarrow M'$  is a morphism of  $\mathfrak{g}$ -modules, the map

$$\alpha_* : \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M) \rightarrow \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M')$$

is a morphism of groups.

**Remark 4.11.** The set  $\text{Opext}^2(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  also inherits the structure of an abelian group. We denote  $0 \in \text{Opext}^2(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  to be the class of the crossed module

$$0 \rightarrow M = M \xrightarrow{0} \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0.$$

The addition in  $\text{Opext}^2(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  is given as follows. Let

$$\mathcal{E} := (0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{i} V \xrightarrow{\partial} L \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0)$$

and  $\mathcal{E}' := (0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{i'} V' \xrightarrow{\partial'} L' \xrightarrow{\pi'} \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0)$  be two crossed modules in  $\text{Opext}^2(\mathfrak{g}, M)$ .

Then the Baer sum  $\mathcal{E} + \mathcal{E}'$  is the class of the extension

$$0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{j} V + V' \xrightarrow{\tilde{\partial}} L \times_{\mathfrak{g}} L' \xrightarrow{q} \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0.$$

Here  $V + V'$  is the pushout of  $\mathbb{K}$ -vector spaces

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M \oplus M & \xrightarrow{i \oplus i'} & V \oplus V' \\ \nabla_M \downarrow & & \downarrow r \\ M & \xrightarrow{j} & V + V' \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \searrow (\partial, \partial') \\ \searrow \tilde{\partial} \\ \searrow 0 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \rightarrow L \times_{\mathfrak{g}} L' \end{array}$$

The  $(L \times_{\mathfrak{g}} L')$ -module structure on  $V + V'$  is induced from the module structure on  $V \oplus V'$  via the quotient map  $r : V \oplus V' \rightarrow V + V'$ . Namely, the action is given by  $[(x, x'), r(v, v')] = r([x, v], [x', v'])$ , for  $(x, x') \in L \times_{\mathfrak{g}} L'$  and  $(v, v') \in V \oplus V'$ . With this module structure on  $V + V'$ , it is easy to show that  $(V + V', L \times_{\mathfrak{g}} L', \tilde{\partial})$  is a crossed module.

Next we associate a long exact sequence to any short exact sequence of  $\mathfrak{g}$ -modules. This will help us to prove our main theorem. Let

$$0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{\alpha} M' \xrightarrow{\beta} M'' \rightarrow 0$$

be a short exact sequence of  $\mathfrak{g}$ -modules. For any  $n \geq 2$ , we define a homomorphism

$$\delta : \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M'') \rightarrow \text{Opext}^{n+1}(\mathfrak{g}, M)$$

as follows. Given an extension

$$\mathcal{E} = (0 \rightarrow M'' \xrightarrow{f} M_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{n-1}} \dots \xrightarrow{\partial_2} M_1 \xrightarrow{\partial_1} L \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0) \in \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M''),$$

we define  $\delta\mathcal{E} \in \text{Opext}^{n+1}(\mathfrak{g}, M)$  to be the class of the extension

$$0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{\alpha} M' \xrightarrow{f\beta} M_{n-1} \xrightarrow{\partial_{n-1}} \dots \xrightarrow{\partial_2} M_1 \xrightarrow{\partial_1} L \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow 0.$$

Then  $\delta$  is a well-defined homomorphism for  $n \geq 2$ .

The proof of the following theorem is similar to the proof of Baues and Minian for associative algebra case [2], hence we omit the details.

**Theorem 4.12.** *A short exact sequence*

$$0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{\alpha} M' \xrightarrow{\beta} M'' \rightarrow 0$$

*of  $\mathfrak{g}$ -modules induces a long exact sequence of abelian groups ( $n \geq 2$ )*

$$\text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M) \xrightarrow{\alpha_*} \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M') \xrightarrow{\beta_*} \text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M'') \xrightarrow{\delta} \text{Opext}^{n+1}(\mathfrak{g}, M) \rightarrow \dots$$

Using the above result, we can now prove our main theorem.

**Theorem 4.13.** *For any  $n \geq 2$ , there exists an isomorphism of abelian groups*

$$\text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M) \cong H_{CE}^{n+1}(\mathfrak{g}, M).$$

**Proof.** The result is true for  $n = 2$  (see Theorem 3.4). Let  $n \geq 3$ . We consider a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{\alpha} M' \xrightarrow{\beta} M'' \rightarrow 0$$

of  $\mathfrak{g}$ -modules with  $M'$  injective. Then by Remark 4.7 and Theorem 4.12, it follows that

$$\text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{g}, M'') \cong \text{Opext}^{n+1}(\mathfrak{g}, M).$$

Moreover, it follows from the cohomology long exact sequence that

$$H_{CE}^{n+1}(\mathfrak{g}, M'') \cong H_{CE}^{n+2}(\mathfrak{g}, M).$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Opext}^3(\mathfrak{g}, M) &\cong \text{Opext}^2(\mathfrak{g}, M'') \cong H_{CE}^3(\mathfrak{g}, M'') && \text{(by Theorem 3.4)} \\ &\cong H_{CE}^4(\mathfrak{g}, M). \end{aligned}$$

We conclude the result by using the induction on  $n$ . ■

**Remark 4.14.** Lie-Rinehart algebras are algebraic analog of Lie algebroids and closely related to Lie algebras. These algebras pay special attention due to its connection in Poisson geometry [8]. In [5] the authors studied crossed modules for Lie-Rinehart algebras and classify them by the third cohomology of Lie-Rinehart algebras. However, their crossed modules are similar to the traditional one for Lie algebras. It would be interesting to study crossed extensions of Lie-Rinehart algebras and their classification in terms of higher cohomologies of Lie-Rinehart algebras.

### 5. The case of a Leibniz algebra

The notion of Leibniz algebra was introduced by Loday in connection with cyclic homology and Hochschild homology of matrix algebras [10]. The cohomology theory of Leibniz algebras was introduced by the same author. In this section, we outline that Leibniz cohomology groups are also represented by crossed extensions of Leibniz algebras.

A (right) Leibniz algebra is a  $\mathbb{K}$ -vector space  $\mathfrak{h}$  together with a  $\mathbb{K}$ -bilinear map  $[\ , \ ] : \mathfrak{h} \times \mathfrak{h} \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}$  satisfying

$$[x, [y, z]] = [[x, y], z] - [[x, z], y], \quad \text{for all } x, y, z \in \mathfrak{h}.$$

Let  $(\mathfrak{h}, [\ , \ ])$  be a Leibniz algebra. An  $\mathfrak{h}$ -module is a vector space  $M$  together with two bilinear maps (both of them denoted by  $[\ , \ ]$ )  $\mathfrak{h} \times M \rightarrow M$  and  $M \times \mathfrak{h} \rightarrow M$  satisfying

$$[x, [y, z]] = [[x, y], z] - [[x, z], y],$$

whenever one of the variable is from  $M$  and the others two are from  $\mathfrak{h}$ .

The cohomology of the Leibniz algebra  $\mathfrak{h}$  with coefficients in  $M$  is the cohomology of the complex  $(C_{Leib}^n(\mathfrak{h}, M), \delta)_{n \geq 0}$  where  $C_{Leib}^0(\mathfrak{h}, M) = M$  and  $C_{Leib}^n(\mathfrak{h}, M) = \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathfrak{h}^{\otimes n}, M)$ , for  $n \geq 1$ . The differential  $\delta$  is given by  $(\delta m)(x) = [x, m]$ , for  $m \in M$ ,  $x \in \mathfrak{h}$  and

$$\begin{aligned} (\delta f)(x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}) &= [x_1, f(x_2, \dots, x_{n+1})] + \sum_{i=2}^{n+1} (-1)^i [f(x_1, \dots, \hat{x}_i, \dots, x_{n+1}), x_i] \\ &+ \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n+1} (-1)^{j+1} f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, [x_i, x_j], x_{i+1}, \dots, \hat{x}_j, \dots, x_n). \end{aligned}$$

See [10] for more details. Similar to the case of Chevalley-Eilenberg cohomology, the lower degree Leibniz cohomology has the following interpretations. The zero-th cohomology group  $H_{Leib}^0(\mathfrak{h}, M)$  is the submodule of invariants on  $M$  and the first cohomology group

$$H_{Leib}^1(\mathfrak{h}, M) = \frac{\{f : \mathfrak{h} \rightarrow M \mid f[x, y] = [x, f(y)] + [f(x), y], \forall x, y \in \mathfrak{h}\}}{\{\delta m \mid m \in M\}}$$

is the space of outer derivations. The second cohomology group  $H_{Leib}^2(\mathfrak{h}, M)$  classifies the equivalence classes of extensions of the Leibniz algebra  $\mathfrak{h}$  by  $M$ .

Crossed modules over a Leibniz algebra can be defined similarly. One only needs to care about the non-skew-symmetric version of the identities used in the case of

Lie algebra. A crossed module over a Leibniz algebra is a triple  $(V, L, \partial)$  in which  $L$  is a Leibniz algebra,  $V$  is a  $L$ -module and  $\partial : V \rightarrow L$  is a map of  $L$ -modules satisfying

$$[\partial v, w] = [v, \partial w], \quad \text{for all } v, w \in V.$$

In a similar way, a crossed module yields a Leibniz algebra structure on  $\mathfrak{h} = \text{coker}(\partial)$  and there is an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow V \xrightarrow{\partial} L \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathfrak{h} \rightarrow 0$$

where  $M = \ker(\partial)$ . Moreover, there is a Leibniz algebra action of  $\mathfrak{h}$  on  $M$ . A morphism of crossed modules over Leibniz algebras can be defined in a similar way. Let  $\text{Cross}(\mathfrak{h}, M)$  be the category of such crossed extensions and morphisms between them. In this case, one can also prove that elements of  $\pi_0 \text{Cross}(\mathfrak{h}, M)$  are in one-to-one correspondence with  $H^3_{Leib}(\mathfrak{h}, M)$ . The proof is similar to the Lie algebra case (Theorem 3.4). However, in this case, the Leibniz 3-cocycle  $\theta_{\mathcal{E},s,q} : \mathfrak{h}^{\otimes 3} \rightarrow M$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_{\mathcal{E},s,q}(x, y, z) &= [s(x), g(y, z)] + [g(x, z), s(y)] - [g(x, y), s(z)] \\ &\quad - g([x, y], z) + g([x, z], y) + g(x, [y, z]). \end{aligned}$$

Associated to any third cohomology class in  $H^3_{Leib}(\mathfrak{h}, M)$  the existence of the corresponding crossed module can be shown by the way that have been described in Theorem 3.4.

Moreover, one can define crossed  $n$ -fold extensions of a Leibniz algebra  $\mathfrak{h}$  by a module  $M$ . We denote the category of crossed  $n$ -fold extensions and morphisms between them by  $\mathcal{E}^n(\mathfrak{h}, M)$ . Moreover, we have the following theorem for Leibniz algebras.

**Theorem 5.1.** *The set  $\text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{h}, M)$  of connected components in the category  $\mathcal{E}^n(\mathfrak{h}, M)$  forms an abelian group, for  $n \geq 2$ . Moreover, there exists an isomorphism of abelian groups  $\text{Opext}^n(\mathfrak{h}, M) \cong H^{n+1}_{Leib}(\mathfrak{h}, M)$ .*

The proof is similar to the lines of Section 4. We only need to verify that the Leibniz cohomology vanishes on injective modules. Let  $\mathfrak{h}$  be a Leibniz algebra. An  $\mathfrak{h}$ -module  $I$  is said to be injective if for any  $\mathfrak{h}$ -module  $M$ , any submodule  $N \subset M$  and any morphism of  $\mathfrak{h}$ -modules  $N \rightarrow I$ , there exists an extension to an  $\mathfrak{h}$ -module morphism  $M \rightarrow I$ .

In [11] Loday-Pirashvili defined the universal enveloping algebra  $UL(\mathfrak{h})$  of a Leibniz algebra  $\mathfrak{h}$  and show that the Leibniz cohomology  $H^*_{Leib}(\mathfrak{h}, M)$  can be expressed as

$$H^*_{Leib}(\mathfrak{h}, M) \cong \text{Ext}^*_{UL(\mathfrak{h})}(U(\mathfrak{h}_{Lie}), M), \tag{5}$$

where  $\mathfrak{h}_{Lie}$  is the Lie algebra obtained from  $\mathfrak{h}$  quotienting by the relation  $[x, x] = 0$ , for all  $x \in \mathfrak{h}$ . If  $I$  is an injective  $\mathfrak{h}$ -module, one can take the injective resolution which is  $I$  in degree zero and 0 in higher degrees. Therefore, as a consequence of (5) we get that  $H^i_{Leib}(\mathfrak{h}, I) = 0$ , for  $i > 0$ .

**Acknowledgements.** The author would like to thank the referee for his/her valuable comments on the earlier version of the manuscript. The research is supported by the fellowship of Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (India).

## References

- [1] J. Baez, A. S. Crans: *Higher-dimensional algebra. VI. Lie 2-algebras*, Theory Appl. Categories 12 (2004) 492–538.
- [2] H.-J. Baues, E. G. Minian: *Crossed extensions of algebras and Hochschild cohomology*, Homology Homotopy Appl. 4/2 (2002) 63–82.
- [3] H.-J. Baues, E. G. Minian, B. Richter: *Crossed modules over operads and operadic cohomology*, K-Theory 31/1 (2004) 39–69.
- [4] H.-J. Baues, T. Pirashvili: *Shukla cohomologies and additive track theories*, arXiv: 0401158v1 (2004).
- [5] J. M. Casas, M. Ladra, T. Pirashvili: *Crossed modules for Lie-Rinehart algebras*, J. Algebra 274/1 (2004) 192–201.
- [6] M. Gerstenhaber: *A uniform cohomology theory for algebras*, Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 51 (1964) 626–629.
- [7] J. Huebschmann: *Crossed  $n$ -fold extensions of groups and cohomology*, Comment. Math. Helv. 55/2 (1980) 302–313.
- [8] J. Huebschmann: *Poisson cohomology and quantization*, J. Reine Angew. Math. 408 (1990) 57–113.
- [9] C. Kassel, J.-L. Loday: *Extensions centrales d'algèbres de Lie*, Ann. Inst. Fourier (Grenoble) 32/4 (1982) 119–142.
- [10] J.-L. Loday: *Une version non commutative des algèbres de Lie : les algèbres de Leibniz*, Enseign. Math. (2) 39/3-4 (1993) 269–293.
- [11] J.-L. Loday, T. Pirashvili: *Universal enveloping algebras of Leibniz algebras and (co)homology*, Math. Ann. 296 (1993) 139–158.
- [12] F. Wagemann: *On Lie algebra crossed modules*, Comm. Algebra 34/5 (2006) 1699–1722.
- [13] C. Weibel: *An Introduction to Homological Algebra*, Cambridge Studies in Advanced Mathematics 38, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (1994).

Apurba Das, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India; apurbadas348@gmail.com.

Received April 12, 2020  
and in final form November 30, 2021