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Split Strongly Abelian p-Chief Factors and First Degree Restricted Cohomology

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Abstract. In this paper we investigate the relation between the multiplicities of split strongly abelian p-chief factors of finite-dimensional restricted Lie algebras and first degree restricted cohomology. As an application we obtain a characterization of solvable restricted Lie algebras in terms of the multiplicities of split strongly abelian p-chief factors. Moreover, we derive some results in the representation theory of restricted Lie algebras related to the principal block and the projective cover of the trivial irreducible module of a finite-dimensional restricted Lie algebra. In particular, we obtain a characterization of finite-dimensional solvable restricted Lie algebras in terms of the second Loewy layer of the projective cover of the trivial irreducible module. The analogues of these results are well known in the modular representation theory of finite groups.
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Key Words and Phrases: Solvable restricted Lie algebra, irreducible module, p-chief factor, strongly abelian p-chief factor, split p-chief factor, multiplicity of a split strongly abelian p-chief factor, restricted cohomology, transgression, principal block, projective indecomposable module, Loewy layer.

1. Introduction

Let p be an arbitrary prime number, and let G be a finite group whose order is divisible by p. Moreover, let $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$ denote the group algebra of G over the field $\mathbb{F}_p$ with p elements, and let S be an irreducible (unital left) $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-module. Then $[G:S]_{\mathrm{p-split}}$ denotes the number of *p-elementary abelian chief factors* or for short *p-chief factors* G_j/G_{j-1} $(1 \le j \le n)$ of a given chief series

$$\{1\} = G_0 \subset G_1 \subset \cdots \subset G_n = G$$

that are isomorphic to S as $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-modules and for which the exact sequence $\{1\} \to G_j/G_{j-1} \to G/G_{j-1} \to G/G_j \to \{1\}$ splits in the category of groups. It is well known that $[G:S]_{\mathrm{p-split}}$ is independent of the choice of the chief series of G (see also Theorem 1.2 below).

W. Gaschütz proved the "only if"-part of the following result on split (or complementable) p-chief factors of finite p-solvable groups (see [8, Theorem VII.15.5]). The converse of Gaschütz' theorem is due to U. Stammbach [12,

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Corollary 1]), and in an equivalent form it was also proved by W. Willems [14, Theorem 3.9].

Theorem 1.1. *A finite group G is p-solvable if, and only if,* $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^1(G,S) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} \mathrm{End}_{\mathbb{F}_p[G]}(S) \cdot [G:S]_{\mathrm{p-split}}$ *holds for every irreducible $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-module S.*

Let $C_G(M) := \{g \in G \mid g \cdot m = m \text{ for every } m \in M\}$ denote the *centralizer* of an $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-module M in G. In order to be able to apply his cohomological characterization of p-solvable groups (see [11, Theorem A]) in the proof of Theorem 1.1, Stammbach established the following result (see the main result of [12]):

Theorem 1.2. *Let G be a finite group, and let S be an irreducible $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-module with centralizer algebra $\mathbb{D} := \mathrm{End}_{\mathbb{F}_p[G]}(S)$. Then*

$$[G:S]_{\mathrm{p-split}} = \dim_{\mathbb{D}} H^1(G,S) - \dim_{\mathbb{D}} H^1(G/C_G(S),S)$$

holds. In particular, $[G:S]_{\mathrm{p-split}}$ is independent of the choice of the chief series of G.

The goal of this paper is to investigate whether analogues of Theorem 1.1 and Theorem 1.2 hold in the context of restricted Lie algebras. Recently, the authors have obtained analogues of these results for ordinary Lie algebras (see [6, Theorem 4.3] and [6, Theorem 2.1], respectively). The key result of this paper is a restricted analogue of Theorem 1.2 (see Theorem 2.3). All the other major results in this paper are consequences of it and [6, Theorem 5.5]. Let us remark that the characterizations of solvable restricted Lie algebras by the cohomological and representation-theoretic properties of this paper ultimately follow from [6, Theorem 4.3]. Contrary to group algebras of finite groups, universal enveloping algebras of non-zero finite-dimensional Lie algebras are infinite-dimensional. Therefore, the proof of [6, Theorem 4.3] requires filtration techniques. It would have been possible to make this paper independent of [6] by using (co-)induced modules for restricted universal enveloping algebras instead of truncated (co-)induced modules for ordinary universal enveloping algebras. We leave the details to the interested reader, but give a complete proof of Theorem 2.3 although it follows the argument used in the proof of [6, Theorem 2.1] very closely. An important tool in the proof is the restricted analogue of [1, Lemma 2] (see Lemma 2.1) that we prove first and which might be of independent interest.

As a consequence of Theorem 2.3 and the equivalence (i)$\Longleftrightarrow$(iv) in [6, Theorem 5.5], we obtain the analogue of Theorem 1.1 for split strongly abelian p-chief factors of restricted Lie algebras (see Theorem 2.7). In the final section we apply the results obtained in Section 2 to the second Loewy layer of the projective cover of the trivial irreducible module. The equivalence (i)$\Longleftrightarrow$(ii) in Theorem 3.6 is an analogue of Willems' module-theoretic characterization of p-solvable groups (see [14, Theorem 3.9] and also [12, Corollary 2]) for restricted Lie algebras.

Let $\langle X\rangle_{\mathbb{F}}$ denote the $\mathbb{F}$-subspace of a vector space V over a field $\mathbb{F}$ spanned by a subset X of V. For more notation and some well-known results from the structure and representation theory of restricted Lie algebras we refer the reader to Chapters 2 and 5 in [13].

2. Split strongly abelian p-chief factors and restricted cohomology

In analogy to group theory we define a *p-chief series* for a finite-dimensional restricted Lie algebra L to be an ascending chain $0 = L_0 \subset L_1 \subset \cdots \subset L_n = L$ of p-ideals in L such that L_j/L_{j-1} is a minimal (non-zero) p-ideal of L/L_{j-1} for every integer j with $1 \leq j \leq n$. Any L_j/L_{j-1} is then called a *p-chief factor* of L. We say that L_j/L_{j-1} is a *strongly abelian p-chief factor* if it is an abelian Lie algebra with zero p-mapping (see [7, p. 565] for the notion of a strongly abelian restricted Lie algebra).

Observe that strongly abelian p-chief factors are irreducible restricted modules but this is not the case for arbitrary p-chief factors. Let S be a simple Lie algebra that is not restrictable, and let L be the minimal p-envelope of S. Then L has no non-zero proper p-ideals (see [5, Proposition 1.4(1)]), and therefore L is a p-chief factor of L which is not irreducible as an L-module, because S is a non-zero proper L-submodule of L (see [5, Proposition 1.1(1)]). Note also that every p-chief factor of a solvable restricted Lie algebra is abelian but not necessarily strongly abelian as any non-zero torus shows.

For an irreducible L-module S and a given p-chief series

$$0 = L_0 \subset L_1 \subset \cdots \subset L_n = L$$

of L we denote by $[L : S]_{\mathrm{p-split}}$ the number of strongly abelian p-chief factors L_j/L_{j-1} that are isomorphic to S as an L-module and for which the exact sequence $0 \to L_j/L_{j-1} \to L/L_{j-1} \to L/L_j \to 0$ splits in the category of restricted Lie algebras. Since we will show in Theorem 2.3 that $[L : S]_{\mathrm{p-split}}$ is independent of the choice of the p-chief series, we will not indicate the p-chief series in the notation.

Let L be a finite-dimensional restricted Lie algebra over a field $\mathbb{F}$ of prime characteristic, and let $u(L)$ denote the restricted universal enveloping algebra of L (see [9, p. 192] or [13, p. 90]). Then every restricted L-module is an $u(L)$-module and vice versa, and so there is a bijection between the irreducible restricted L-modules and the irreducible $u(L)$-modules. In particular, as $u(L)$ is finite-dimensional (see [9, Theorem 12, p. 191] or [13, Theorem 2.5.1(2)]), every irreducible restricted L-module is finite-dimensional. Following Hochschild [7] we define the *restricted cohomology* of L with coefficients in a restricted L-module M by $H^n_*(L, M) := \mathrm{Ext}^n_{u(L)}(\mathbb{F}, M)$ for every non-negative integer n.

For any restricted extension $\mathcal{E} : 0 \to M \to E \to L \to 0$ of a strongly abelian restricted Lie algebra M by a restricted Lie algebra L the Hochschild-Serre spectral sequence for restricted cohomology yields the five-term exact sequence

$$0 \to H^1_*(L, M) \to H^1_*(E, M) \to \mathrm{Hom}_L(M, M) \stackrel{d_2^{\mathcal{E}}}{\to} H^2_*(L, M) \to H^2_*(E, M)\,.$$

As for ordinary Lie algebras (see [1, Lemma 2]) one has the following result for the transgression $d_2^{\mathcal{E}}$ which will be needed in the proof of Theorem 2.3.

Lemma 2.1. *Let L be a finite-dimensional restricted Lie algebra over a field of prime characteristic p, let I be a minimal p-ideal of L that is strongly abelian, and let $\mathcal{E}$ denote the equivalence class of the restricted extension*

$$0 \to I \to L \to L/I \to 0.$$

Then the following statements hold:

(a) *If $\mathcal{E}$ splits, then the transgression $d_2^{\mathcal{E}} : \mathrm{Hom}_L(I,I) \to H_*^2(L/I,I)$ is zero.*

(b) *If $\mathcal{E}$ does not split, then the transgression $d_2^{\mathcal{E}} : \mathrm{Hom}_L(I,I) \to H_*^2(L/I,I)$ is injective.*

Proof. (a): If $\pi : L \to L/I$ is a homomorphism of restricted Lie algebras, then $\pi^* : H_*^2(L/I,I) \to H_*^2(L,I)$ is the mapping induced by the pull-back functor. Suppose that $\mathcal{E}$ splits. Then there exists a homomorphism of restricted Lie algebras $\sigma : L/I \to L$ such that $\pi \circ \sigma = \mathrm{id}_{L/I}$. Consequently, $\sigma^* \circ \pi^* = \mathrm{id}_{H_*^2(L/I,I)}$, and therefore the inflation π^* is injective. Hence the exactness of the five-term sequence implies that $d_2^{\mathcal{E}} = 0$.

(b): It follows from the minimality of I that $\mathbb{D} := \mathrm{Hom}_L(I,I)$ is a division algebra. Then the $\mathbb{D}$-linear restriction $H_*^1(L,I) \to \mathrm{Hom}_L(I,I)$ is either zero, or its image contains id_I. In the former case the exactness of the five-term sequence yields that $d_2^{\mathcal{E}}$ is injective. In the latter case, there is a restricted derivation $D : L \to I$ such that $D_{|I} = \mathrm{id}_I$. Consequently, $L = I \oplus \mathrm{Ker}(D)$, where $\mathrm{Ker}(D)$ is a p-subalgebra isomorphic to L/I. Hence $\mathcal{E}$ splits, which is a contradiction. ■

Remark 2.2. If one ignores in the proof of Lemma 2.1 the compatibility of the homomorphisms with the p-mappings, then one obtains a conceptual proof of [1, Lemma 2].

We say that a restricted Lie algebra L over a ground field $\mathbb{F}$ is *p-perfect* if $L = [L,L] + \langle L^{[p]} \rangle_{\mathbb{F}}$. By virtue of [3, Proposition 2.7], L is p-perfect if, and only if, $H_*^1(L,\mathbb{F}) = 0$. Our main result is completely analogous to the main result of [12] (see also [6, Theorem 2.1] for the analogue for ordinary Lie algebras):

Theorem 2.3. *Let L be a finite-dimensional restricted Lie algebra over a field of prime characteristic p, and let S be an irreducible L-module with centralizer algebra $\mathbb{D} := \mathrm{End}_L(S)$. Then*

$$[L:S]_{\mathrm{p-split}} = \dim_{\mathbb{D}} H_*^1(L,S) - \dim_{\mathbb{D}} H_*^1(L/\mathrm{Ann}_L(S),S) \qquad (1)$$

holds. In particular, $[L:S]_{\mathrm{p-split}}$ is independent of the choice of the p-chief series of L.

Proof. We proceed by induction on the dimension of L. If L is one-dimensional, then L is either a torus or strongly abelian. For a torus both sides of (1) vanish, and in the strongly abelian case the only irreducible restricted L-module is trivial, so that both sides of (1) are also equal. Thus, we may assume that the dimension of L is greater than one, and that the claim holds for all restricted Lie algebras of dimension less than $\dim_{\mathbb{F}} L$. Let $0 = L_0 \subset L_1 \subset \cdots \subset L_n = L$ be a p-chief series of L. For the remainder of the proof the multiplicity $[L:S]_{p-\mathrm{split}}$ always refers to this fixed p-chief series.

If $\mathrm{Ann}_L(S) = 0$, then the right-hand side of (1) is zero. But as strongly abelian p-chief factors have non-zero annihilators, the left-hand side also vanishes and the assertion holds. Therefore, we may assume that $\mathrm{Ann}_L(S) \neq 0$.

We first assume that $L_1 \subseteq \operatorname{Ann}_L(S)$. Then the five-term exact sequence for restricted cohomology in conjunction with [3, Proposition 2.7] yields the exactness of

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \longrightarrow H^1_*(L/L_1, S) \longrightarrow H^1_*(L, S) & \\ \longrightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_L(L_1/[L_1, L_1] + \langle L_1^{[p]}\rangle_{\mathbb{F}}, S) \longrightarrow H^2_*(L/L_1, S)\,. \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

Since S is also an irreducible restricted L/L_1-module, one obtains by induction that

$$[L/L_1 : S]_{\mathrm{p-split}} = \dim_{\mathbb{D}} H^1_*(L/L_1, S) - \dim_{\mathbb{D}} H^1_*(L/\operatorname{Ann}_L(S), S)\,. \tag{3}$$

As L_1 is a minimal p-ideal of L, L_1 is either p-perfect or strongly abelian. In the former case, the third term in (2) vanishes, and thus $H^1_*(L/L_1, S) \cong H^1_*(L, S)$. Since L_1 is not strongly abelian, one has $[L : S]_{\mathrm{p-split}} = [L/L_1 : S]_{\mathrm{p-split}}$. Hence (1) holds in this case.

If L_1 is strongly abelian, one has

$$\operatorname{Hom}_L(L_1/[L_1, L_1] + \langle L_1^{[p]}\rangle_{\mathbb{F}}, S) = \operatorname{Hom}_L(L_1, S)\,.$$

If in addition L_1 and S are not isomorphic as L-modules, then $\operatorname{Hom}_L(L_1, S) = 0$, and the assertion follows as before.

For $L_1 \cong S$ one has to distinguish two cases depending on the strongly abelian p-chief factor L_1 being split, or being not split. In case that L_1 is split, one has

$$\begin{aligned} [L : S]_{\mathrm{p-split}} &= [L/L_1 : S]_{\mathrm{p-split}} + 1 \\ &= \dim_{\mathbb{D}} H^1_*(L/L_1, S) - \dim_{\mathbb{D}} H^1_*(L/\operatorname{Ann}_L(S), S) + 1\,, \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

and Lemma 2.1(a) shows that the transgression $\operatorname{Hom}_L(L_1, S) \to H^2_*(L/L_1, S)$ is zero. The exactness of (2) implies that the restriction $H^1_*(L, S) \to \operatorname{Hom}_L(L_1, S)$ is surjective, and therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \dim_{\mathbb{D}} H^1_*(L, S) &= \dim_{\mathbb{D}} H^1_*(L/L_1, S) + \dim_{\mathbb{D}} \operatorname{Hom}_L(L_1, S) \\ &= \dim_{\mathbb{D}} H^1_*(L/L_1, S) + 1\,. \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

Hence (4) and (5) yield the assertion. Suppose now that L_1 is not split. In this case Lemma 2.1(b) implies that the transgression $\operatorname{Hom}_L(L_1, S) \to H^2_*(L/L_1, S)$ is injective. According to (2), the inflation $H^1_*(L/L_1, S) \to H^1_*(L, S)$ is bijective. Then one has $[L : S]_{\mathrm{p-split}} = [L/L_1 : S]_{\mathrm{p-split}}$, and the claim follows from (3).

Finally, assume that $L_1 \not\subseteq \operatorname{Ann}_L(S)$, i.e., $L_1 \cap \operatorname{Ann}_L(S) = 0$ and $S^{L_1} = 0$. Suppose that L_j/L_{j-1} is strongly abelian and $L_j/L_{j-1} \cong S$ as L-modules for some integer j with $1 \le j \le n$. Then L_j – and thus L_1 – would be contained in $\operatorname{Ann}_L(S)$, a contradiction. Hence $[L : S]_{\mathrm{p-split}} = 0$. As $S^{L_1} = 0$, one concludes from the beginning of the five-term exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow H^1_*(L/L_1, S^{L_1}) \longrightarrow H^1_*(L, S) \longrightarrow H^1_*(L_1, S)^L \longrightarrow H^2_*(L/L_1, S^{L_1})$$

that the vertical mappings in the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H^1_*(L/\operatorname{Ann}_L(S), S) & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & H^1_*(L, S) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ H^1_*(L_1 + \operatorname{Ann}_L(S)/\operatorname{Ann}_L(S), S)^L & \xrightarrow{\beta} & H^1_*(L_1, S)^L \end{array}$$

are isomorphisms. Because β is an isomorphism, α is an isomorphism as well. This shows that in this case the right-hand side of (1) is also zero.

Since the right-hand side of (1) does not depend on the choice of the p-chief series, the left-hand side does not either. This completes the proof of the theorem. ■

In the extreme case $\operatorname{Ann}_L(S) = L$, Theorem 2.3 in conjunction with [3, Proposition 2.7] has the following consequence:

Corollary 2.4. *Let L be a finite-dimensional restricted Lie algebra over a field $\mathbb{F}$ of prime characteristic p. Then the trivial irreducible L-module occurs with multiplicity $\dim_{\mathbb{F}} L/[L,L] + \langle L^{[p]}\rangle_{\mathbb{F}}$ as a split strongly abelian p-chief factor of L.*

Moreover, the next result follows from Hochschild's six-term exact sequence relating ordinary and restricted cohomology (see [7, p. 575]) in conjunction with Corollary 2.4 and [6, Corollary 2.2]. (Here $[L : S]_{\text{split}}$ denotes the multiplicity of S as a split abelian chief factor of the ordinary Lie algebra L.)

Corollary 2.5. *Let L be a finite-dimensional restricted Lie algebra over a field $\mathbb{F}$ of prime characteristic p. If S is an irreducible restricted L-module, then*

$$[L : S]_{\text{p-split}} = \begin{cases} [L : S]_{\text{split}} & \text{if } S \not\cong \mathbb{F} \\ [L : S]_{\text{split}} - \dim_{\mathbb{F}}(\langle L^{[p]}\rangle_{\mathbb{F}}/[L,L] \cap \langle L^{[p]}\rangle_{\mathbb{F}}) & \text{if } S \cong \mathbb{F} \end{cases}.$$

In particular, $[L : S]_{\text{p-split}} \leq [L : S]_{\text{split}}$.

The equality of $[L : S]_{\text{p-split}}$ and $[L : S]_{\text{split}}$ for non-trivial irreducible restricted L-modules S explains why the results in Section 5 of [6] could be obtained although their ingredients belong to different categories.

Recall that the *principal block* of a restricted Lie algebra is the block that contains the trivial irreducible module. For the convenience of the reader we include a proof of the following result which is completely analogous to the corresponding proof for modular group algebras (see [11, Proposition 1]).

Proposition 2.6. *Every strongly abelian p-chief factor of a finite-dimensional restricted Lie algebra L belongs to the principal block of L.*

Proof. Let $S = I/J$ be a strongly abelian p-chief factor of L. In particular, S is a trivial I-module. Then the five-term exact sequence for restricted cohomology in conjunction with [3, Proposition 2.7] yields the exactness of

$$0 \longrightarrow H^1_*(L/I, S) \longrightarrow H^1_*(L/J, S) \longrightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_L(S, S) \longrightarrow H^2_*(L/I, S)\,.$$

Since the third term is non-zero, the second or fourth term must also be non-zero. According to [4, Lemma 1(a)], in either case S belongs to the principal block of a restricted Lie factor algebra of L. Then it follows from [4, Lemma 4] that S also belongs to the principal block of L. ■

The analogue of Theorem 1.1 for restricted Lie algebras is another consequence of Theorem 2.3 in conjunction with the equivalence (i)$\Longleftrightarrow$(iv) in [6, Theorem 5.5].

Theorem 2.7. *Let L be a finite-dimensional restricted Lie algebra over a field $\mathbb{F}$ of prime characteristic p. Then the following statements are equivalent:*

(i) *L is solvable.*

(ii) $\dim_{\mathbb{F}} H^1_*(L, S) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}} \mathrm{End}_L(S) \cdot [L : S]_{\mathrm{p-split}}$ *holds for every irreducible L-module S.*

(iii) $\dim_{\mathbb{F}} H^1_*(L, S) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}} \mathrm{End}_L(S) \cdot [L : S]_{\mathrm{p-split}}$ *holds for every irreducible L-module S belonging to the principal block of L.*

Proof. The equivalence of (i) and (ii) is a consequence of Theorem 2.3 and the equivalence (i)$\Longleftrightarrow$(iv) in [6, Theorem 5.5], and the equivalence of (ii) and (iii) follows from [4, Lemma 1(a)] in conjunction with Proposition 2.6. ■

Remark 2.8. It is an immediate consequence of Theorem 2.3 that

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}} H^1_*(L, S) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}} \mathrm{End}_L(S) \cdot [L : S]_{\mathrm{p-split}}$$

holds for the trivial irreducible L-module S. Hence one can also obtain Theorem 2.7 immediately from Corollary 2.5 and the equivalence of (i), (vi), and (vii) in [6, Theorem 5.5]. We included the proof given above since it is the precise analogue of the proof of [12, Corollary 1].

3. Split strongly abelian p-chief factors and the 0-PIM

Let A be a finite-dimensional (unital) associative algebra with Jacobson radical $\mathrm{Jac}(A)$, and let M be a (unital left) A-module. Then the descending filtration

$$M \supset \mathrm{Jac}(A)M \supset \mathrm{Jac}(A)^2M \supset \mathrm{Jac}(A)^3M \supset \cdots \supset \mathrm{Jac}(A)^\ell M \supset \mathrm{Jac}(A)^{\ell+1}M = 0$$

is called the *Loewy series* of M and the factor module $\mathrm{Jac}(A)^{n-1}M/\mathrm{Jac}(A)^nM$ is called the n^{th} *Loewy layer* of M (see [2, Definition 1.2.1] or [8, Definition VII.10.10a)]).

Recall that a projective module $P_A(M)$ is a *projective cover* of M, if there exists an A-module epimorphism π_M from $P_A(M)$ onto M such that the kernel of π_M is contained in the radical $\mathrm{Jac}(A)P_A(M)$ of $P_A(M)$. If projective covers exist, then they are unique up to isomorphism. It is well known that projective covers of finite-dimensional modules over finite-dimensional associative algebras exist and are finite-dimensional. Moreover, every projective indecomposable A-module is isomorphic to the projective cover of some irreducible A-module. In this way one obtains a one-to-one correspondence between the isomorphism classes of the projective indecomposable A-modules and the isomorphism classes of the irreducible A-modules.

In the sequel we use the notation $P_L(\mathbb{F}) := P_{u(L)}(\mathbb{F})$ for the projective cover of the trivial irreducible module of a finite-dimensional restricted Lie algebra L over a field $\mathbb{F}$ of prime characteristic. Using [2, Proposition 2.4.3] and Theorem 2.3 one can bound the multiplicity $[\operatorname{Jac}(u(L))P_L(\mathbb{F})/\operatorname{Jac}(u(L))^2P_L(\mathbb{F}) : S]$ of an irreducible restricted L-module S in the second Loewy layer of $P_L(\mathbb{F})$ from below (see [14, Theorem 3.7] for the analogue in the modular representation theory of finite groups):

Theorem 3.1. *Let L be a finite-dimensional restricted Lie algebra over a field $\mathbb{F}$ of prime characteristic p. Then*

$$[\operatorname{Jac}(u(L))P_L(\mathbb{F})/\operatorname{Jac}(u(L))^2P_L(\mathbb{F}) : S] \geq [L : S]_{\mathrm{p-split}}$$

for every irreducible restricted L-module S.

Proof. We obtain from [2, Proposition 2.4.3] and Theorem 2.3 that

$$\begin{aligned}\dim_{\mathbb{F}} \operatorname{End}_L(S) \cdot [&\operatorname{Jac}(u(L))P_L(\mathbb{F})/\operatorname{Jac}(u(L))^2P_L(\mathbb{F}) : S] \\ &= \dim_{\mathbb{F}} \operatorname{Ext}^1_{u(L)}(\mathbb{F}, S) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}} H^1_*(L, S) \\ &\geq \dim_{\mathbb{F}} H^1_*(L, S) - \dim_{\mathbb{F}} H^1_*(L/\operatorname{Ann}_L(S), S) \\ &= \dim_{\mathbb{F}} \operatorname{End}_L(S) \cdot [L : S]_{\mathrm{p-split}}\,.\end{aligned}$$

Cancelling $\dim_{\mathbb{F}} \operatorname{End}_L(S)$ yields the desired inequality. ∎

Remark 3.2. If one uses the main result of [12] instead of Theorem 2.3, then the above proof would also work in the case of finite-dimensional modular group algebras. This provides an alternative proof of [14, Theorem 3.7].

The following example shows that equality does not necessarily hold in Theorem 3.1. We will see soon that equality holds if, and only if, the restricted Lie algebra is solvable (see the equivalence (i)$\Longleftrightarrow$(ii) in Theorem 3.6).

Example 3.3. Consider the three-dimensional restricted simple Lie algebra $L := \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{F})$ over an algebraically closed field $\mathbb{F}$ of characteristic $p > 2$. Take for S the $(p-1)$-dimensional irreducible restricted L-module. Then it follows from [10, Theorem 1(ii)] that $[\operatorname{Jac}(u(L))P_L(\mathbb{F})/\operatorname{Jac}(u(L))^2P_L(\mathbb{F}) : S] = 2$, but on the other hand one has $[L : S]_{\mathrm{p-split}} = 0$.

As an immediate consequence of Theorem 3.1, we obtain the following weak analogue of a well-known result for finite modular group algebras:

Corollary 3.4. *Every split strongly abelian p-chief factor of a finite-dimensional restricted Lie algebra L is a direct summand of the second Loewy layer of the projective cover $P_L(\mathbb{F})$ of the trivial irreducible L-module. In particular, every split strongly abelian p-chief factor of a finite-dimensional restricted Lie algebra L is a composition factor of $P_L(\mathbb{F})$.*

Problem 3.5. In view of Corollary 3.4, it is natural to ask whether every strongly abelian p-chief factor of a finite-dimensional solvable restricted Lie algebra L is a composition factor of $P_L(\mathbb{F})$, or even more generally (see Proposition 2.6), whether every irreducible module in the principal block of $u(L)$ is a composition factor of $P_L(\mathbb{F})$ (for an affirmative answer to the analogous question in the modular representation theory of finite p-solvable groups see [8, Theorem VII.15.8]).

Finally, we obtain the following characterization of solvable restricted Lie algebras which was motivated by [6, Theorem 5.5] but contrary to the latter allows to include the trivial irreducible module in the implications (i)$\Longrightarrow$(ii) and (i)$\Longrightarrow$(iii) (see [14, Theorem 3.9] for the analogue of (i)$\Longleftrightarrow$(ii) in the modular representation theory of finite groups).

Theorem 3.6. *Let L be a finite-dimensional restricted Lie algebra over a field $\mathbb{F}$ of prime characteristic p. Then the following statements are equivalent:*

(i) *L is solvable.*

(ii) $[\mathrm{Jac}(u(L))P_L(\mathbb{F})/\mathrm{Jac}(u(L))^2P_L(\mathbb{F}) : S] = [L : S]_{\mathrm{p-split}}$ *for every irreducible restricted L-module S.*

(iii) $[\mathrm{Jac}(u(L))P_L(\mathbb{F})/\mathrm{Jac}(u(L))^2P_L(\mathbb{F}) : S] = [L : S]_{\mathrm{p-split}}$ *for every irreducible restricted L-module S belonging to the principal block of L.*

Proof. The equivalence of the three statements is a consequence of Theorem 2.7 in conjunction with

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}} \mathrm{End}_L(S) \cdot [\mathrm{Jac}(u(L))P_L(\mathbb{F})/\mathrm{Jac}(u(L))^2P_L(\mathbb{F}) : S] = \dim_{\mathbb{F}} H^1_*(L, S)\,. \qquad \blacksquare$$

Remark 3.7. It follows from the proof of Theorem 3.1 that the equality in statements (ii) and (iii) of Theorem 3.6 holds for the trivial irreducible L-module. Hence one can also obtain Theorem 3.6 from Corollary 2.5 and the equivalence of (i), (viii), and (ix) in [6, Theorem 5.5].

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