

HITCHIN MAP FOR THE MODULI SPACE OF Λ -MODULES IN POSITIVE CHARACTERISTIC

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ABSTRACT. Building on Simpson’s original definition over the complex numbers, we introduce the notion of restricted sheaf Λ of rings of differential operators on a variety defined over a field of positive characteristic. We define the notion of p -curvature for Λ -modules and the analogue of the Hitchin map on the moduli space of Λ -modules. We show that under certain conditions this Hitchin map descends under the Frobenius map of the underlying variety and we give examples.

1. INTRODUCTION

The notion of sheaf of rings of differential operators Λ over a smooth variety X defined over an algebraically closed field \mathbb{K} and the associated notion of Λ -module for \mathcal{O}_X -modules over X was introduced in [Sim94] over the complex numbers $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$ as a way to give a unifying structure for \mathcal{D}_X -modules, i.e. vector bundles with an integrable connection, and Higgs sheaves over X . Other examples of Λ -modules include connections along a foliation or logarithmic connections.

In this paper we consider Simpson’s original definition of sheaf of rings of differential operators Λ over a field \mathbb{K} of characteristic $p > 0$. Note that the sheaf of rings of crystalline differential operators \mathcal{D}_X (see [BO78] or [BMR08]) defined as the enveloping algebra of the Lie algebroid T_X is such a sheaf of rings of differential operators, but the usual sheaf of differential operators (e.g. [Gro67, Section 16]) is not. One of the main features of the sheaf of rings \mathcal{D}_X in positive characteristic is its large center, which can be described by using the p -th power map, or p -structure, on the Lie algebroid T_X . Our first contribution to the general study of Λ -modules in positive characteristic is the definition of *restricted* sheaf of rings of differential operators (see Definition 2.6) obtained by equipping Λ with a p -structure. Examples of restricted sheaves of rings of differential operators already appeared in [Lan14] as universal enveloping algebras of restricted Lie algebroids. New non-split examples are given, for instance, by the sheaf of rings of twisted differential operators $\mathcal{D}_X(L)$ for some line bundle L over X (see Subsection 4.5).

The main purpose of this paper is to prove a property of the analogue of the Hitchin map for restricted Λ -modules in positive characteristic over a projective variety X . First, we check (Section 5) that the notion of p -curvature ψ_{∇} of a Λ -module E over X adapts to our general set-up and thus defines for each Λ -module structure on the sheaf E a F^*H^{\vee} -valued Higgs field on E , where H is the first quotient Λ_1/Λ_0 associated to the filtration $\Lambda_0 \subset \Lambda_1 \subset \dots \subset \Lambda$ and F is the Frobenius

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map of X . Thus by applying the classical Hitchin map to the Higgs field ψ_{∇} we obtain a morphism

$$h_{\Lambda} : \mathcal{M}_X^{\Lambda}(r, P) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_r(X, F^*H^{\vee}),$$

where $\mathcal{M}_X^{\Lambda}(r, P)$ is the moduli space parameterizing Gieseker semi-stable Λ -modules over X of rank r and with Hilbert polynomial P , and $\mathcal{A}_r(X, F^*H^{\vee})$ is the Hitchin base for the vector bundle F^*H^{\vee} . Under the assumption that the anchor map $\delta : \Lambda_1/\Lambda_0 \rightarrow T_X$ induced by the commutator between elements of Λ_1 and local regular functions in \mathcal{O}_X is generically surjective, our main result (Theorem 6.6) says that the coefficients of the characteristic polynomial of ψ_{∇} descend under the Frobenius map F of the variety X . Equivalently, this means that the Hitchin morphism h_{Λ} factorizes through

$$(1.1) \quad h'_{\Lambda} : \mathcal{M}_X^{\Lambda}(r, P) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_r(X, H^{\vee}),$$

followed by the pull-back under the Frobenius map F of global sections. The latter theorem was first proved in [LP01] for a smooth projective curve X and for $\Lambda = \mathcal{D}_X$. It was observed in [EG20, Section 2.5] that in the case $\Lambda = \mathcal{D}_X$ the proof follows rather directly from the fact that the p -curvature ψ_{∇} is flat for the natural connection on the sheaf $\text{End}(E) \otimes F^*\Omega_X^1$, already proved in [Kat70, Proposition 5.2.3], and moreover their argument is independent of the dimension of the variety X . In this paper we show that the elegant argument given in [EG20] can be adapted to general restricted Λ -modules under the assumption that the anchor map $\delta : \Lambda_1/\Lambda_0 \rightarrow T_X$ is generically surjective. We also give an example showing that the result is false when δ is not generically surjective.

In the last section we present an analogue of the main Theorem in a relative situation by taking the Rees construction Λ^R on $X \times \mathbb{A}^1$ over \mathbb{A}^1 obtained from a sheaf of rings of differential operators Λ on X . Here we need to restrict attention to sheaves Λ obtained as a universal enveloping algebra of a restricted Lie algebroid H over X . Our theorem (Theorem 7.1) then gives an explicit deformation over the affine line \mathbb{A}^1 of the classical Hitchin map of H^{\vee} -valued Higgs sheaves to the Hitchin map (1.1) h'_{Λ} of Λ -modules. This result was already obtained in [LP01] for a smooth projective curve X in the case where $\Lambda = \mathcal{D}_X$ and $H = T_X$, see also [Lan14, Section 4.5] for some partial generalizations.

Finally we mention that the fibers of the Hitchin map (1.1) h'_{Λ} are described in [Gro16] for a smooth projective curve X and for $\Lambda = \mathcal{D}_X$. For general X and Λ , a description of the fibers of h'_{Λ} seems to be missing in the literature and studying it would be an interesting future line of work.

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2. PRELIMINARIES ON SHEAVES OF RINGS OF DIFFERENTIAL OPERATORS

2.1. Definitions and properties. Let \mathbb{K} be an algebraically closed field. Let X and S be schemes of finite type over \mathbb{K} and let

$$\pi : X \longrightarrow S$$

be a morphism. We recall from [Sim94, Section 2] the definition of sheaf of rings of differential operators on X over S . We note that the original definition in [Sim94] was given over $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$, but it can be considered over an arbitrary base field \mathbb{K} .

Definition 2.1. *A sheaf of rings of differential operators on X over S is a sheaf of associative and unital \mathcal{O}_S -algebras Λ over X with a filtration $\Lambda_0 \subset \Lambda_1 \subset \cdots$ which satisfies the properties*

- (1) $\Lambda = \bigcup_{i=0}^{\infty} \Lambda_i$ and $\Lambda_i \cdot \Lambda_j \subset \Lambda_{i+j}$.
- (2) The image of $\mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \Lambda$ equals Λ_0 .
- (3) The image of $\pi^{-1}(\mathcal{O}_S)$ in \mathcal{O}_X is contained in the center of Λ .
- (4) The left and right \mathcal{O}_X -module structures on $\mathrm{Gr}_i(\Lambda) := \Lambda_i/\Lambda_{i-1}$ are equal.
- (5) The \mathcal{O}_X -modules $\mathrm{Gr}_i(\Lambda)$ are coherent.
- (6) The graded \mathcal{O}_X -algebra $\mathrm{Gr}^\bullet(\Lambda) := \bigoplus_{i=0}^{\infty} \mathrm{Gr}_i(\Lambda)$ is generated by $\mathrm{Gr}_1(\Lambda)$.

Because of property (4) we have that for each $D \in \Lambda_1$ the commutator $[D, f]$ with $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$ is an element of Λ_0 . Moreover, for each $D \in \Lambda_1$ and each $f, g \in \mathcal{O}_X$ we have

$$[D, fg] = Dfg - fgD = Dfg - fDg + fDg - fgD = [D, f]g + f[D, g].$$

Thus, assuming that $\Lambda_0 = \mathcal{O}_X$, we see that the map $[D, -] : \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X$ is a \mathcal{O}_S -derivation that we will denote by δ_D (i.e., $\delta_D(f) = [D, f]$). Moreover, let us denote $H = \Lambda_1/\Lambda_0$. Then we have a short exact sequence

$$(2.1) \quad 0 \longrightarrow \Lambda_0 = \mathcal{O}_X \longrightarrow \Lambda_1 \xrightarrow{\mathrm{sb}} H \longrightarrow 0.$$

We call the map $\Lambda_1 \rightarrow H$ the symbol map and we will denote it by sb . We also note that the \mathcal{O}_X -linear map $\delta : D \mapsto \delta_D$ factorizes through H , so that we obtain an \mathcal{O}_X -linear map, also denoted

$$\delta : H \longrightarrow \mathrm{Der}_{\mathcal{O}_S}(\mathcal{O}_X, \mathcal{O}_X) = T_{X/S},$$

called the anchor map. Here $T_{X/S}$ is the relative tangent sheaf.

Remark 2.2. *The condition that the anchor map $\delta = 0$ is easily seen to be equivalent to the fact that the right and left \mathcal{O}_X -module structures on Λ are the same.*

In this paper we will be sometimes interested in sheaves of rings of differential operators having more properties.

Definition 2.3. *Let Λ be a sheaf of rings of differential operators on X over S with $H = \Lambda_1/\Lambda_0$. We say that Λ is*

- almost abelian, if the graded algebra $\mathrm{Gr}^\bullet(\Lambda)$ is abelian.
- almost polynomial, if $\mathcal{O}_X = \Lambda_0$, H is locally free and the graded algebra $\mathrm{Gr}^\bullet(\Lambda)$ equals the symmetric algebra $\mathrm{Sym}^\bullet(H)$.

- *split almost polynomial, if Λ is almost polynomial and the exact sequence (2.1) is split.*

For completeness we recall the following

Definition 2.4. A \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroid on X over S is a triple $(H, [-, -], \delta)$ consisting of an \mathcal{O}_X -module H , which is also a sheaf of \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebras, and an \mathcal{O}_X -linear anchor map $\delta : H \rightarrow T_{X/S}$ satisfying the following condition for all local sections $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$ and $D_1, D_2 \in H$

$$[D_1, fD_2] = f[D_1, D_2] + \delta_{D_1}(f)D_2.$$

Remark 2.5. If Λ is almost abelian, then $(H = \Lambda_1/\Lambda_0, [-, -], \delta)$ is a \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroid on X (see Proposition 3.4 for the “restricted” version).

2.2. Restricted sheaf of rings of differential operators. From now on we assume that the characteristic of \mathbb{K} is $p > 0$. In that situation we introduce the following

Definition 2.6. A restricted sheaf of rings of differential operators on X over S is a sheaf of rings of differential operators Λ on X over S together with a map

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [p] & : & \Lambda_1 \longrightarrow \Lambda_1 \\ & & D \longmapsto D^{[p]} \end{array}$$

called a p -structure, such that for every local sections $D, D_1, D_2 \in \Lambda_1$ and every local section $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$ the following properties hold

- (1) $\text{ad}(D^{[p]}) = \text{ad}(D)^p$
- (2) $(D_1 + D_2)^{[p]} = D_1^{[p]} + D_2^{[p]} + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} s_i(D_1, D_2)$
- (3) $(fD)^{[p]} = f^p D^{[p]} + \delta_{fD}^{p-1}(f)D$
- (4) $f^{[p]} = f^p$

where $s_i(x, y)$ are the universal Lie polynomials for the commutator in the associative algebra Λ , defined by the following expression in $\Lambda[t]$

$$\text{ad}(tx + y)^{p-1}(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} i s_i(x, y) t^{i-1}.$$

Remark 2.7. Note that property (1) is equivalent to the equality $\text{ad}(D^{[p]})(E) = \text{ad}(D)^p(E)$ for any local sections $D, E \in \Lambda_1$. In fact, by Jacobson’s identity we have $\text{ad}(D)^p = \text{ad}(D^p)$, hence if $D^{[p]} - D^p$ commutes with any $E \in \Lambda_1$, it commutes with any $E \in \Lambda$, since Λ is generated by Λ_1 .

Remark 2.8. Let $F : X \rightarrow X$ denote the absolute Frobenius of X and let $Z(\Lambda)$ denote the center of Λ . We note that the center $Z(\Lambda)$ does not have the structure of an \mathcal{O}_X -module. However, the left and right \mathcal{O}_X -module structures on the direct image $F_*(Z(\Lambda))$ coincide, since for any local sections $D \in \Lambda_1$ and $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$ we have

$$[D, f^p] = \delta_D(f^p) = 0.$$

Proposition 2.9. For every local sections $D \in \Lambda_1$ and $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$ we have

$$\delta_{fD}^{p-1}(f) = f \delta_D^{p-1}(f^{p-1}).$$

Proof. The relative tangent sheaf $T_{X/S} \cong \text{Der}_{\mathcal{O}_S}(\mathcal{O}_X, \mathcal{O}_X)$ with the standard commutator is a \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroid. Moreover this Lie algebroid is equipped with a p -structure $\nu \mapsto \nu^p \in T_{X/S}$ (see also Remark 3.2). Thus, by the Hochschild identity (see [Hoc55, Lemma 1], [Lan14, Lemma 4.3], [Sch16, Lemma 2.1]), we have for every local derivation $\nu \in T_{X/S}$ and every local section $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$ the equality

$$(f\nu)^p = f^p\nu^p + (f\nu)^{p-1}(f)\nu$$

in the associative \mathcal{O}_S -algebra $\text{End}_{\mathcal{O}_S}(\mathcal{O}_X)$. On the other hand, we have the following identity from Deligne (cf. [Kat70, Proposition 5.3])

$$(f\nu)^p = f^p\nu^p + f\nu^{p-1}(f^{p-1})\nu.$$

Therefore we have that for every $\nu \in T_X$

$$(f\nu)^{p-1}(f)\nu = f\nu^{p-1}(f^{p-1})\nu.$$

If $\nu = 0$, then clearly $(f\nu)^{p-1}(f) = f\nu^{p-1}(f^{p-1}) = 0$. Otherwise, the left-hand side and right-hand side of the equality are multiples of the same nonzero section of the torsion free sheaf $T_{X/S}$, so they are equal if and only if

$$(f\nu)^{p-1}(f) = f\nu^{p-1}(f^{p-1}).$$

Therefore, the latter equality holds for every local derivation $\nu \in T_{X/S}$ and every local section $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$. The proposition is then obtained by applying the previous equality to $\nu = \delta_D$ and taking into account that $f\delta_D = \delta_{fD}$, i.e. that the anchor map δ is \mathcal{O}_X -linear. \square

Corollary 2.10. *If Λ is a restricted sheaf of differential operators on X over S , then for every local sections $D \in \Lambda_1$ and $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$ we have*

$$(fD)^{[p]} = f^p D^{[p]} + f\delta_D^{p-1}(f^{p-1})D.$$

2.3. The map $\iota : \Lambda_1 \rightarrow Z(\Lambda)$. Using the p -structure on Λ , we can define the following map, generalizing the difference of p -th power maps on vector fields

$$\begin{aligned} \iota : \Lambda_1 &\longrightarrow \Lambda \\ D &\longmapsto \iota(D) = D^p - D^{[p]}. \end{aligned}$$

Proposition 2.11. *The map $\iota : \Lambda_1 \rightarrow \Lambda$ is a p -linear map, i.e., for every local sections $D, D_1, D_2 \in \Lambda_1$ and $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$ we have*

- a) $\iota(D_1 + D_2) = \iota(D_1) + \iota(D_2)$,
- b) $\iota(fD) = f^p \iota(D)$.

Proof. a) Let us apply Jacobson's identity in the associative ring $\Lambda(U)$, where U is any open subset where D_1 and D_2 are both defined

$$(D_1 + D_2)^p = D_1^p + D_2^p + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} s_i(D_1, D_2).$$

On the other hand, as $[p]$ is a p -structure on Λ , we have

$$(D_1 + D_2)^{[p]} = D_1^{[p]} + D_2^{[p]} + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} s_i(D_1, D_2).$$

Therefore, subtracting one from the other yields

$$\iota(D_1 + D_2) = (D_1 + D_2)^p - (D_1 + D_2)^{[p]} = D_1^p + D_2^p - D_1^{[p]} - D_2^{[p]} = \iota(D_1) + \iota(D_2).$$

b) Let us consider $f \in \mathcal{O}_X = \Lambda_0$ as a local section of Λ . Then we can apply Deligne's identity (cf. [Kat70, Proposition 5.3]) in the associative ring $\Lambda(U)$ for an open subset U such that $f \in \mathcal{O}_X(U)$ and $D \in \Lambda(U)$ and we obtain

$$(fD)^p = f^p D^p + f \operatorname{ad}(D)^{p-1}(f^{p-1})D.$$

As the adjoint of D applied to any local function is simply δ_D , we obtain

$$(fD)^p = f^p D^p + f \delta_D^{p-1}(f^{p-1})D.$$

On the other hand, by Corollary 2.10 we have

$$(fD)^{[p]} = f^p D^{[p]} + f \delta_D^{p-1}(f^{p-1})D.$$

Therefore, subtracting one from the other yields

$$\iota(fD) = (fD)^p - (fD)^{[p]} = f^p D^p - f^p D^{[p]} = f^p \iota(D).$$

□

Proposition 2.12. *The image of ι lies in the center $Z(\Lambda)$ of Λ .*

Proof. Using Jacobson's identity $\operatorname{ad}(D^p) = \operatorname{ad}(D)^p$ we obtain that for any local sections $D, E \in \Lambda_1$

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{ad}(\iota(D))(E) = \operatorname{ad}(D^p - D^{[p]})(E) &= \operatorname{ad}(D^p)(E) - \operatorname{ad}(D^{[p]})(E) \\ &= \operatorname{ad}(D)^p(E) - \operatorname{ad}(D)^p(E) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

So $\iota(D)$ commutes with every element in Λ_1 . As Λ_1 generates Λ , $\iota(D)$ commutes with every element in Λ . □

Observe that for each $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$ we have $\iota(f) = f^{[p]} - f^p = 0$ and that for each $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$ and $D \in \Lambda_1$ we have

$$\iota(f + D) = \iota(f) + \iota(D) = \iota(D).$$

So ι factorizes through the quotient

$$\iota : \Lambda_1/\Lambda_0 = H \longrightarrow Z(\Lambda).$$

Then, as ι is a p -linear map, it induces an \mathcal{O}_X -linear map

$$\iota : H \longrightarrow F_*(Z(\Lambda)),$$

where F denotes the absolute Frobenius of X . Moreover, $F_*(Z(\Lambda))$ is a commutative \mathcal{O}_X -algebra (see Remark 2.8), so, by the universal property of the symmetric algebra, the map ι induces a map of sheaves of commutative \mathcal{O}_X -algebras

$$\iota : \operatorname{Sym}^\bullet(H) \longrightarrow F_*(Z(\Lambda)).$$

Proposition 2.13. *Suppose that Λ is almost polynomial. Then the induced map $\iota : \operatorname{Sym}^\bullet(H) \rightarrow F_*(Z(\Lambda))$ is injective.*

Proof. We note that the symbol map $\text{sb} : \Lambda \rightarrow \text{Gr}^\bullet(\Lambda) \cong \text{Sym}^\bullet(H)$ is a multiplicative (but not \mathcal{O}_X -linear) map, so, composing with ι , we obtain a multiplicative map

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Sym}^\bullet(H) & \xrightarrow{\iota} & F_*(Z(\Lambda)) \\ & \searrow \text{sb}(\iota) & \downarrow \text{sb} \\ & & F_*(\text{Sym}^\bullet(H)). \end{array}$$

To prove that $\ker(\iota) = 0$ it is enough to prove that $\ker(\text{sb}(\iota)) = 0$. As Λ is almost polynomial, we have for every non-zero local $D \in H$ and any representative $\bar{D} \in \Lambda_1$ with $\text{sb}(\bar{D}) = D$

$$\text{sb}(\bar{D}^p) = D^p \in \text{Sym}^p(H).$$

So

$$\text{sb}(\iota(D)) = \text{sb}(\bar{D}^p) = D^p \neq 0.$$

Moreover, for every local section $D \in \text{Sym}^\bullet(H)$ there exist $D_1, \dots, D_k \in H$ such that $D = D_1 \cdots D_k + \tilde{D}$ with \tilde{D} of degree $< k$. Therefore

$$\text{sb}(\iota)(D) = \prod_{j=1}^k \text{sb}(\iota)(D_j) = \prod_{j=1}^k D_j^p \neq 0.$$

□

3. PROPERTIES OF ALMOST ABELIAN RESTRICTED SHEAVES OF RINGS OF DIFFERENTIAL OPERATORS

Assume that the characteristic of \mathbb{K} is $p > 0$. Let $\pi : X \rightarrow S$ be a morphism between schemes of finite type over \mathbb{K} .

3.1. Restricted \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroid. We need to recall some definitions ([Hoc55], [Rum00, Section 3.1], [Lan14, Definition 4.2], [Sch16, Definition 2.2]).

Definition 3.1. *A restricted \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroid on X is a quadruple $(H, [-, -], \delta, [p])$ consisting of an \mathcal{O}_X -module H , which is also a sheaf of restricted \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebras, a map $[p] : H \rightarrow H$ and an \mathcal{O}_X -linear anchor map $\delta : H \rightarrow T_{X/S}$ satisfying the following conditions for all local sections $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$ and $D, D_1, D_2 \in H$*

- (1) $[D_1, fD_2] = f[D_1, D_2] + \delta_{D_1}(f)D_2$,
- (2) $(fD)^{[p]} = f^p D^{[p]} + \delta_{fD}^{p-1}(f)D$.

Remark 3.2. *The standard example of restricted \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroid on X over S is the relative tangent sheaf $T_{X/S} \cong \text{Der}_{\mathcal{O}_S}(\mathcal{O}_X, \mathcal{O}_X)$ with the standard Lie bracket, $[p]$ the p -th power map and δ the identity map. Note that condition (2) is then equivalent to the Hochschild identity ([Hoc55, Lemma 1]).*

3.2. Examples of almost abelian restricted sheaves of rings of differential operators. We consider a restricted sheaf Λ of rings of differential operators as in Definition 2.6. In this subsection we assume that Λ is almost abelian, i.e., the graded algebra $\text{Gr}^\bullet(\Lambda)$ is abelian. Then for any two local sections $D_1, D_2 \in \Lambda_1$ we have

$$[\text{sb}(D_1), \text{sb}(D_2)]_{\text{Gr}^\bullet(\Lambda)} = 0 \in \Lambda_2/\Lambda_1,$$

so $[D_1, D_2] \in \Lambda_1$ and therefore Λ_1 with the induced commutator and anchor $\delta_D(f) = [D, f]$ for $D \in \Lambda_1$ and $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$ becomes an \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroid. In this case, conditions (1)-(3) of Definition 2.6 are equivalent to asking that $(\Lambda_1, [-, -], \delta, [p])$ is a restricted \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroid. Condition (4) is then equivalent to asking that the inclusion of \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroids

$$(\mathcal{O}_X, [-, -] = 0, \delta = 0, (-)^p) \hookrightarrow (\Lambda_1, [-, -], \delta, [p])$$

is a homomorphism of restricted \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroids.

We first need some information on the universal Lie polynomials used in Definition 2.6.

Lemma 3.3. *Let Λ be any sheaf of rings of differential operators on X over S . Let $D \in \Lambda_1$ and $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$. Then for every $i < p - 1$*

$$s_i(D, f) = 0$$

and

$$s_{p-1}(D, f) = \delta_D^{p-1}(f).$$

Proof. In any associative algebra of characteristic p it is a classical result that we can write the Lie polynomial $s_i(x_1, x_2)$ for $1 \leq i \leq p - 1$ as follows

$$s_i(x_1, x_2) = -\frac{1}{i} \sum_{\substack{\sigma : \{1, \dots, p-1\} \rightarrow \{1, 2\} \\ |\sigma^{-1}(1)| = i}} \text{ad}(x_{\sigma(1)}) \cdots \text{ad}(x_{\sigma(p-1)})(x_2).$$

Observe that for $x_1 = D \in \Lambda_1$ and $x_2 = f \in \mathcal{O}_X$ we have the following equalities

$$\text{ad}(x_1)(x_2) = \delta_D(f) \in \mathcal{O}_X, \quad \text{ad}(x_1)(x_1) = 0, \quad \text{ad}(x_2)(g) = 0 \quad \forall g \in \mathcal{O}_X.$$

In particular, observe that for any indices i and j

$$\text{ad}(x_i)(x_j) \in \mathcal{O}_X, \quad \text{ad}(x_i)(g) \in \mathcal{O}_X \quad \forall g \in \mathcal{O}_X.$$

Thus, for $i = 1, 2$ and $g \in \mathcal{O}_X$

$$\text{ad}(x_2) \text{ad}(x_i)(g) = 0.$$

In particular, if $\sigma(j) = 2$ for some $j < p - 1$ we have that

$$\text{ad}(x_{\sigma(j+1)}) \cdots \text{ad}(x_{\sigma(p-1)})(x_2) \in \mathcal{O}_X.$$

So

$$\text{ad}(x_2) \text{ad}(x_{\sigma(j+1)}) \cdots \text{ad}(x_{\sigma(p-1)})(x_2) = 0,$$

and the corresponding summand in the expression of $s_i(D, f)$ would be zero. Similarly, if $\sigma(p-1) = 2$ we have $\text{ad}(x_2)(x_2) = 0$ and the whole expression is zero. Thus

for the sum to be non-zero we must have $\sigma(j) = 1$ for all $j = 1, \dots, p-1$. Finally, we have that for $i = p-1$

$$s_{p-1}(D, f) = -\frac{1}{p-1} \operatorname{ad}(D) \cdot \operatorname{ad}(D)(f) = -\frac{1}{p-1} \delta_D^{p-1}(f) = \delta_D^{p-1}(f).$$

□

Proposition 3.4. *If Λ is an almost abelian restricted ring of differential operators on X over S , then $H = \Lambda_1/\Lambda_0$ inherits a restricted \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroid structure $(H, [-, -]_H, \delta, [p])$ such that the short exact sequence (2.1) becomes an exact sequence of restricted \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroids.*

Proof. First of all, for each $D_1, D_2 \in H$ define $[D_1, D_2]_H = \operatorname{sb}([\overline{D}_1, \overline{D}_2]_\Lambda)$ for any \overline{D}_i such that $\operatorname{sb}(\overline{D}_i) = D_i$ for $i = 1, 2$. In order to prove that it is well-defined observe that for each $f_1, f_2 \in \mathcal{O}_X$ we have

$$\operatorname{sb}([f_1 + \overline{D}_1, f_2 + \overline{D}_2]_\Lambda) = \operatorname{sb}([\overline{D}_1, \overline{D}_2]_{\Lambda_1} + \delta_{\overline{D}_1}(f_2) - \delta_{\overline{D}_2}(f_1)) = \operatorname{sb}([\overline{D}_1, \overline{D}_2]_{\Lambda_1}).$$

Similarly, as $\delta_f(g) = [f, g]_\Lambda = 0$ for each $f, g \in \mathcal{O}_X$, clearly δ factorizes through H .

Finally, define $D^{[p]} = \operatorname{sb}(\overline{D}^{[p]})$. Then for each $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$ we have that, using property (2) of the definition of p -structure and Lemma 3.3 we have

$$\operatorname{sb}((\overline{D} + f)^{[p]}) = \operatorname{sb}(\overline{D}^{[p]} + f^p + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} s_i(D, f)) = \operatorname{sb}(\overline{D}^{[p]} + f^p + \delta_{\overline{D}}^{p-1}(f)) = \operatorname{sb}(\overline{D}^{[p]}).$$

By construction, taking the symbol of the corresponding expressions in (1), (2) and (3), those properties are also satisfied for the induced p -structure on H , and the symbol map $\operatorname{sb} : \Lambda_1 \rightarrow H$ is a morphism of restricted \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroids. □

On the other hand, let us consider a restricted \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroid $(H, [-, -], \delta, [p])$. Then the universal enveloping algebra¹ Λ_H of the \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroid H , as defined e.g. in [Tor12, Section 4.3] or [Lan14, page 515], becomes a split almost polynomial restricted sheaf of rings of differential operators on X over S by taking the p -structure as follows: we have a splitting as \mathcal{O}_X -modules

$$(\Lambda_H)_1 = \mathcal{O}_X \oplus H,$$

and we define for every $D \in H$ and every $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$

$$(f + D)^{[p]} = f^p + D^{[p]} + \delta_D^{p-1}(f).$$

We will show in the next proposition that this map endows Λ_H with the structure of a restricted sheaf of rings of differential operators. First we will need two lemmas.

Lemma 3.5. *For any local sections $f_1, f_2 \in \mathcal{O}_X$ and $D_1, D_2 \in H$ we have the following equality in Λ_H*

$$\delta_{D_1}^{p-1}(f_1) + \delta_{D_2}^{p-1}(f_2) + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} s_i(f_1 + D_1, f_2 + D_2) = \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} s_i(D_1, D_2) + \delta_{D_1 + D_2}^{p-1}(f_1 + f_2).$$

¹This sheaf of algebras is called the universal enveloping algebra of differential operators associated to H in [Lan14]

Proof. We will use Jacobson's formula to compute $(f_1 + D_1 + f_2 + D_2)^p \in \Lambda_H$ in two different ways. On one hand, taking into account Lemma 3.3 we have

$$\begin{aligned} ((f_1 + D_1) + (f_2 + D_2))^p &= (f_1 + D_1)^p + (f_2 + D_2)^p + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} s_i(f_1 + D_1, f_2 + D_2) \\ &= f_1^p + D_1^p + \delta_{D_1}^{p-1}(f_1) + f_2^p + D_2^p + \delta_{D_2}^{p-1}(f_2) + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} s_i(f_1 + D_1, f_2 + D_2). \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, we have

$$\begin{aligned} ((f_1 + f_2) + (D_1 + D_2))^p &= f_1^p + f_2^p + (D_1 + D_2)^p + \delta_{D_1+D_2}^{p-1}(f_1 + f_2) \\ &= f_1^p + f_2^p + D_1^p + D_2^p + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} s_i(D_1, D_2) + \delta_{D_1+D_2}^{p-1}(f_1 + f_2). \end{aligned}$$

Subtracting both expressions yields the desired equality. \square

Lemma 3.6. *For any local sections $f, g \in \mathcal{O}_X$ and any local section $D \in H$ we have*

$$\delta_{gD}^{p-1}(gf) = g^p \delta_D^{p-1}(f) + \delta_{gD}^{p-1}(g)f.$$

Proof. As it is an equality of local sections in \mathcal{O}_X , it is enough to prove that the difference of the sections is zero on an open set. In particular, as the equality clearly holds if $f = 0$, we can assume that $f \neq 0$ and restrict to the open subset where f is invertible. Then $D' = D/f$ is an element of H and we have the following two identities as a consequence of the p -structure on H

$$((gf)D')^{[p]} = g^p f^p (D')^{[p]} + \delta_{gfD'}^{p-1}(gf)D',$$

$$(g(fD'))^{[p]} = g^p (fD')^{[p]} + \delta_{gfD'}^{p-1}(g)(fD') = g^p f^p (D')^{[p]} + g^p \delta_{fD'}^{p-1}(f)D' + \delta_{gfD'}^{p-1}(g)fD'.$$

Subtracting and considering coefficients of D' yields the equality

$$\delta_{gfD'}^{p-1}(gf) = g^p \delta_{fD'}^{p-1}(f) + \delta_{gfD'}^{p-1}(g)f.$$

Taking into account that $D = fD'$ we obtain the result. \square

Proposition 3.7. *Let H be a restricted \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroid on X over S . Then the map $[p] : \mathcal{O}_X \oplus H \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X \oplus H$ defined by*

$$(f + D)^{[p]} = f^p + D^{[p]} + \delta_D^{p-1}(f)$$

is a p -structure for the universal enveloping algebra Λ_H making the symbol map $\text{sb} : (\Lambda_H)_1 \rightarrow H$ a morphism of restricted \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroids.

Proof. It will be enough to check the four properties of Definition 2.6.

(1) By Jacobson's formula in Λ_H and by Lemma 3.3 we have the equality

$$(f + D)^p = f^p + D^p + \delta_D^{p-1}(f).$$

So

$$\text{ad}(f + D)^p = \text{ad}(f^p) + \text{ad}(D^{[p]}) + \text{ad}(\delta_D^{p-1}(f)) = \text{ad}((f + D)^{[p]}).$$

(2) To prove additivity we use Lemma 3.5 to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& (f_1 + D_1 + f_2 + D_2)^{[p]} \\
&= ((f_1 + f_2) + (D_1 + D_2))^{[p]} = f_1^p + f_2^p + (D_1 + D_2)^{[p]} + \delta_{D_1+D_2}^{p-1}(f_1 + f_2) \\
&= f_1^p + f_2^p + D_1^{[p]} + D_2^{[p]} + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} s_i(D_1, D_2) + \delta_{D_1+D_2}^{p-1}(f_1 + f_2) \\
&= f_1^p + f_2^p + D_1^{[p]} + D_2^{[p]} + \delta_{D_1}^{p-1}(f_1) + \delta_{D_2}^{p-1}(f_2) + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} s_i(f_1 + D_1, f_2 + D_2) \\
&= (f_1 + D_1)^{[p]} + (f_2 + D_2)^{[p]} + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} s_i(f_1 + D_1, f_2 + D_2).
\end{aligned}$$

(3) Let $f, g \in \mathcal{O}_X$ and $D \in H$. Then by Lemma 3.6 we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& (g(f + D))^{[p]} \\
&= (gf + gD)^{[p]} = g^p f^p + (gD)^{[p]} + \delta_{gD}^{p-1}(gf) \\
&= g^p f^p + g^p D^{[p]} + \delta_{gD}^{p-1}(g)D + \delta_{gD}^{p-1}(gf) \\
&= g^p f^p + g^p D^{[p]} + \delta_{gD}^{p-1}(g)D + g^p \delta_D^{p-1}(f) + \delta_{gD}^{p-1}(g)f \\
&= g^p (f + D)^{[p]} + \delta_{g(f+D)}^{p-1}(g)(f + D) = g^p (f + D)^{[p]} + \delta_{g(f+D)}^{p-1}(g)(f + D).
\end{aligned}$$

(4) This property is obvious by taking $D = 0$. □

To summarize, we have shown that the definition of a p -structure on the universal enveloping algebra Λ_H of a restricted \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroid H , as well as the usual notion of p -th power for crystalline differential operators are particular cases of our general definition of a p -structure for a restricted sheaf of rings of differential operators (Definition 2.6).

4. SOME EXAMPLES OF RESTRICTED SHEAVES OF RINGS OF DIFFERENTIAL OPERATORS

In this section we assume that $\pi : X \rightarrow S$ is a smooth morphism.

4.1. Sheaf of crystalline differential operators $\mathcal{D}_{X/S}$. The sheaf of crystalline differential operators (see e.g. [BMR08])

$$\Lambda^{dR} = \mathcal{D}_{X/S}$$

is a split almost polynomial restricted sheaf of rings of differential operators. Its associated restricted \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroid $\Lambda_1^{dR}/\Lambda_0^{dR}$ is the relative tangent sheaf $T_{X/S}$, taking the commutator as the Lie bracket of vector fields and taking the identity as the anchor map. The $\mathcal{D}_{X/S}$ -modules correspond to coherent \mathcal{O}_X -modules with a relative integrable connection.

For every derivation $\nu \in T_{X/S}$ the p -th power ν^p is again a derivation, since by applying Leibniz rule, we have for every local section $f, g \in \mathcal{O}_X$

$$\nu^p(fg) = \sum_{k=0}^p \binom{p}{k} \nu^k(f) \nu^{p-k}(g) = \nu^p(f)g + f\nu^p(g)$$

so taking $\nu^{[p]} = \nu^p$ gives us a p -structure $[p] : T_{X/S} \rightarrow T_{X/S}$ endowing $T_{X/S}$ with the structure of a restricted \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroid $(T_{X/S}, [-, -], \text{id}_{T_{X/S}}, [p])$ and, therefore, inducing a p -structure on \mathcal{D}_X .

4.2. Trivial p -structure on the symmetric algebra. Given a locally free \mathcal{O}_X -module H over X , the symmetric algebra

$$\Lambda^{\text{Higgs}} = \text{Sym}^\bullet(H)$$

is a split almost polynomial restricted sheaf of rings of differential operators, when taking the trivial p -structure on $\Lambda_1 = \mathcal{O}_X \oplus H$, i.e. we take $[p] : H \rightarrow H$ to be the zero map on H

$$D^{[p]} = 0.$$

Then a Λ^{Higgs} -module corresponds to a H^\vee -valued Higgs bundle (E, ϕ) , where E is a vector bundle over X and $\phi : E \rightarrow E \otimes H^\vee$ is a morphism of \mathcal{O}_X -modules satisfying $\phi \wedge \phi = 0$.

As Λ^{Higgs} is abelian, we have

$$\text{ad}_{\Lambda_1}(D)^p = 0 = \text{ad}_{\Lambda_1}(D^{[p]}).$$

Moreover $s_i(D_1, D_2) = 0$ for all $D_1, D_2 \in H$, so

$$(D_1 + D_2)^{[p]} = 0 = D_1^{[p]} + D_2^{[p]} = D_1^{[p]} + D_2^{[p]} + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} s_i(D_1, D_2).$$

Finally, Λ^{Higgs} being abelian implies $\delta = 0$, so we trivially have

$$0 = (fD)^{[p]} = f^p D^{[p]} + \delta_{fD}^p(f)D = 0.$$

4.3. p -structure on the reduction to the associated graded of $\mathcal{D}_{X/S}$. By the classical Rees construction applied to the filtered sheaf $\Lambda^{dR} = \mathcal{D}_{X/S}$ (see Subsection 4.1) we obtain a sheaf of rings over $X \times \text{Spec}(\mathbb{K}[t]) = X \times \mathbb{A}^1$ defined as

$$\Lambda^{dR,R} = \bigoplus_{i \geq 0} t^i \Lambda_i,$$

where t acts by multiplication with t on $\Lambda^{dR,R}$ using the inclusions $\Lambda_i \subset \Lambda_{i+1}$. Then by construction the fibers over the closed points 0 and 1 of \mathbb{A}^1 equal

$$(\Lambda^{dR,R})_0 = \text{Sym}^\bullet(T_{X/S}) \quad \text{and} \quad (\Lambda^{dR,R})_1 = \mathcal{D}_{X/S} = \Lambda^{dR}.$$

We observe that $\Lambda^{dR,R}$ is a split almost polynomial sheaf of rings of differential operators on $X \times \mathbb{A}^1$ relative to $S \times \mathbb{A}^1$ such that the fiber over each $\lambda \in \mathbb{A}^1$ corresponds to the universal enveloping algebra of the \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroid $(T_{X/S}, \lambda[-, -], \lambda \text{id}_{T_{X/S}})$.

We can endow $\Lambda^{dR,R}$ with a p -structure as follows. We note that

$$\Lambda_1^{dR,R} = \mathcal{O}_{X \times \mathbb{A}^1} \oplus T_{X \times \mathbb{A}^1/S \times \mathbb{A}^1} \quad \text{and} \quad T_{X \times \mathbb{A}^1/S \times \mathbb{A}^1} = T_{X/S}.$$

Then the p -structure on $\Lambda_1^{dR,R}$ over $X \times \mathbb{A}^1$ is defined by

$$[p]^R : T_{X/S} \rightarrow T_{X/S} \quad D^{[p]^R} = t^{p-1} D^{[p]},$$

where t is the coordinate on \mathbb{A}^1 and $D^{[p]}$ is the p -th power of the relative vector field $D \in T_{X/S}$. By construction of $\Lambda^{dR,R}$ the commutator of elements in $\Lambda_1^{dR,R}$ is the commutator of differential operators multiplied by the coordinate t , i.e., for every $D \in \Lambda_1^{dR,R}$

$$\text{ad}_{\Lambda_1^{dR,R}}(D) = t \text{ad}_{\Lambda_1^{dR}}(D)$$

Moreover, as the Lie polynomials $s_i(x, y)$ are homogeneous of degree $p-1$, we have

$$s_i^{\Lambda^{dR,R}}(x, y) = t^{p-1} s_i^{\Lambda^{dR}}(x, y).$$

Therefore, the following equalities hold for any local sections $D \in T_{X/S}$ and $f \in \mathcal{O}_{X \times \mathbb{A}^1}$

$$\text{ad}_{\Lambda_1^{dR,R}}(D^{[p]^R}) = t \text{ad}_{\Lambda_1^{dR}}(tD^{[p]}) = t^p \text{ad}_{\Lambda_1^{dR}}(D)^p = (t \text{ad}_{\Lambda_1^{dR}}(D))^p = \text{ad}_{\Lambda_1^{dR,R}}(D)^p,$$

$$\begin{aligned} (D_1 + D_2)^{[p]^R} &= t^{p-1} (D_1 + D_2)^{[p]} = t^{p-1} D_1^{[p]} + t^{p-1} D_2^{[p]} + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} t^{p-1} s_i^{\Lambda^{dR}}(D_1, D_2) \\ &= D_1^{[p]^R} + D_2^{[p]^R} + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} s_i^{\Lambda^{dR,R}}(D_1, D_2), \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (fD)^{[p]^R} &= t^{p-1} (fD)^{[p]} = t^{p-1} f^p D^{[p]} + t^{p-1} \left(\delta_{fD}^{\Lambda^{dR}} \right)^{p-1} (f)D \\ &= f^p D^{[p]^R} + \left(\delta_{fD}^{\Lambda^{dR,R}} \right)^{p-1} (f)D. \end{aligned}$$

This proves that $[p]^R$ is a p -structure for $\Lambda^{dR,R}$.

4.4. p -structure on the reduction to the associated graded: general case.

More generally, let $\Lambda = \Lambda_H$ be the restricted sheaf of rings of differential operators over X given as the universal enveloping algebra of a restricted \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroid $(H, [-, -], \delta, [p])$ — see Proposition 3.7. Consider the Rees construction Λ^R over $X \times \mathbb{A}^1$ relative to $S \times \mathbb{A}^1$ of the filtered sheaf of rings Λ . Then the fiber of Λ^R over $\lambda \in \mathbb{A}^1$ is the universal enveloping algebra of the \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroid $(H, \lambda[-, -], \lambda\delta)$. We also note that $\Lambda_1^R/\Lambda_0^R = p_X^*(H)$, where $p_X : X \times \mathbb{A}^1 \rightarrow X$ is the projection onto X . The anchor map δ^R of Λ^R equals

$$\delta^R = t\delta : \Lambda_1^R/\Lambda_0^R = p_X^*(H) \rightarrow p_X^*(T_{X/S}).$$

Then the previous argument proves that the map $[p]^R : p_X^*(H) \rightarrow p_X^*(H)$ over $X \times \mathbb{A}^1$ given by

$$D^{[p]^R} = t^{p-1} D^{[p]}$$

is a p -structure for Λ^R . This also yields an explicit deformation of the p -structure on Λ to the trivial p -structure on $\text{Gr}^\bullet(\Lambda) \cong \text{Sym}^\bullet(H)$.

4.5. p -structure on the Atiyah algebroid of a line bundle. Let us study an example which is almost polynomial, but not split. Let L be a line bundle on X and take Λ to be the sheaf of crystalline differential operators on L , i.e., the subalgebra

$$\Lambda = \mathcal{D}_{X/S}(L) \subset \text{End}_{\mathcal{O}_S}(L)$$

generated by the relative Atiyah algebroid $\text{At}_{X/S}(L) = \text{Diff}_{\mathcal{O}_S}^1(L, L)$. Note that

$$\Lambda_1 = \text{At}_{X/S}(L).$$

Local sections of $\text{At}_{X/S}(L)$ can be identified with local sections $D \in \text{End}_{\pi^{-1}(\mathcal{O}_S)}(L)$ such that for each $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$, $[D, f] \in \text{End}_{\mathcal{O}_X}(L) = \mathcal{O}_X = \mathcal{D}^0(L)$. Then, for every $D \in \text{At}_{X/S}(L)$ let us denote by $\delta_D : \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X$ the map

$$\delta_D(f) = [D, f] \in \mathcal{O}_X.$$

Observe that, as Λ is associative, we have that for each $f, g \in \mathcal{O}_X$

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_D(fg) = [D, fg] &= Dfg - fgD = Dfg - fDg + fDg - fgD \\ &= [D, f]g + f[D, g] = \delta_D(f)g + f\delta_D(g) \end{aligned}$$

thus, δ_D is a \mathcal{O}_S -derivation and we can consider the map $\delta : \text{At}_{X/S}(L) \rightarrow T_{X/S}$. So we obtain the short exact sequence

$$(4.1) \quad 0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \text{At}_{X/S}(L) \xrightarrow{\delta} T_{X/S} \rightarrow 0.$$

Thus the triple $(\text{At}_{X/S}(L), [-, -], \delta)$ becomes a \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroid. We will now endow this Lie algebroid with a p -structure.

Lemma 4.1. *Let $D \in \text{At}_{X/S}(L)$. Then for every $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$, $[D^p, f] \in \mathcal{O}_X$, so D^p can be identified with an element in $\text{At}_{X/S}(L)$ that we will denote as $D^{[p]}$.*

Proof. As Λ is an associative \mathcal{O}_X -algebra of characteristic p we can apply Jacobson's formula and we have that for every $D \in \text{At}_{X/S}(L)$ and every $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$

$$[D^p, f] = \text{ad}(D^p)(f) = \text{ad}(D)^p(f) = \delta_D^p(f) \in \mathcal{O}_X.$$

□

Proposition 4.2. *The map $[p] : \text{At}_{X/S}(L) \rightarrow \text{At}_{X/S}(L)$ described in the previous lemma is a p -structure for Λ .*

Proof. Property (1) was proved in the previous lemma. For the additivity property (2), observe that in Λ Jacobson's formula yields

$$(D_1 + D_2)^p = D_1^p + D_2^p + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} s_i(D_1, D_2).$$

As this is indeed an equality in the \mathcal{O}_X -algebra Λ , the commutator of the left and right side of the equation with an element of \mathcal{O}_X must yield the same element of \mathcal{O}_X , so both left and right sides remain equal under the identification of D_i^p with the corresponding element $D_i^{[p]} \in \text{At}_{X/S}(L)$. For (3), since Λ is associative, we can apply Deligne's identity [Kat70, Proposition 5.3] and we obtain that

$$(fD)^p = f^p D^p + f \text{ad}(D)^{p-1}(f^{p-1})D = f^p D^p + f \delta_D^{p-1}(f^{p-1})D.$$

Now, applying Proposition 2.9 we have that

$$f^p D^p + f \delta_D^{p-1}(f^{p-1})D = f^p D^p + \delta_{fD}^{p-1}(f)D$$

and, applying a similar argument to the previous property, we obtain the desired equality. Finally, it is trivial by construction that for every $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$, $f^{[p]} = f^p$. \square

Finally, we mention that $\Lambda = \mathcal{D}_{X/S}(L)$ coincides with the Sridharan enveloping algebra $\Lambda_{\text{At}_{X/S}(L)}$ associated to the non-split extension (4.1) of the Lie algebroid $T_{X/S}$ by \mathcal{O}_X as constructed in [Tor12, Section 4.3] (see also [Tor11, Example 3.2.3] for this particular case) or [Lan14, page 516].

4.6. p -structures on the symmetric algebra. Returning to the abelian setting, let us fix $\Lambda = \text{Sym}^\bullet(H)$ for some locally free \mathcal{O}_X -module H and let us study the possible p -structures on Λ . As before, Λ being abelian implies that for any $D \in H$

$$\text{ad}_{\Lambda_1}(D)^p = 0 = \text{ad}_{\Lambda_1}(D^{[p]})$$

and for any $D_1, D_2 \in H$, $s_i(D_1, D_2) = 0$. Moreover, for any $D \in H$, $\delta_D = 0$. Therefore, the conditions for a map $[p] : H \rightarrow H$ to endow Λ with a p -structure are the following

- (1) $(D_1 + D_2)^{[p]} = D_1^{[p]} + D_2^{[p]}$,
- (2) $(fD)^{[p]} = f^p D^{[p]}$.

So a p -structure on $\text{Sym}^\bullet(H)$ is given by a p -linear map from H to H , or equivalently by an \mathcal{O}_X -linear map

$$\alpha : F^*H \rightarrow H,$$

where F denotes the absolute Frobenius of X .

4.7. Classification of p -structures on a general Λ . In this subsection we will describe all p -structures on a given sheaf of rings of differential operators Λ .

Proposition 4.3. *Let $[p] : \Lambda_1 \rightarrow \Lambda_1$ be a p -structure for Λ . Then any other p -structure $[p]' : \Lambda_1 \rightarrow \Lambda_1$ is given by*

$$[p]' = [p] + \varphi \circ \text{sb}$$

where $\varphi : H \rightarrow Z(\Lambda_1)$ is a p -linear map from $H = \Lambda_1/\Lambda_0$ to the centralizer $Z(\Lambda_1)$ of Λ_1 in Λ_1 .

Proof. We put $\varphi(D) = D^{[p]} - D^{[p]'}$. Then for every local sections $D, E \in \Lambda_1$ we have

$$\text{ad}(\varphi(D))(E) = \text{ad}(D^{[p]})(E) - \text{ad}(D^{[p]'})'(E) = \text{ad}(D)^p(E) - \text{ad}(D)^p(E) = 0.$$

So $\varphi(D) \in Z(\Lambda_1)$ for every $D \in \Lambda_1$. Let $D_1, D_2 \in \Lambda_1$. Then

$$\varphi(D_1 + D_2) = D_1^{[p]} + D_2^{[p]} + \sum_{i=0}^{p-1} s_i(D_1, D_2) - D_1^{[p]'} - D_2^{[p]'} - \sum_{i=0}^{p-1} s_i(D_1, D_2) = \varphi(D_1) + \varphi(D_2).$$

Similarly

$$\varphi(fD) = f^p D^{[p]} + \delta_{fD}^{p-1}(f)D - f^p D^{[p]'} - \delta_{fD}^{p-1}(f)D = f^p \varphi(D).$$

So $\varphi : \Lambda_1 \rightarrow \Lambda_1$ is p -linear. Moreover, clearly

$$\varphi(f) = f^{[p]} - f^{[p]'} = f^p - f^p = 0.$$

So φ factors through the quotient $\varphi : H \longrightarrow Z(\Lambda_1)$.

Conversely, let $[p] : \Lambda_1 \rightarrow \Lambda_1$ be a p -structure on Λ and let $\varphi : H \rightarrow Z(\Lambda_1)$ be a p -linear map. We then define $D^{[p]'} = D^{[p]} + \varphi(\text{sb}(D))$. Then for every local section $D_1, D_2, D, E \in \Lambda_1$ and every local section $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$

$$\text{ad}(D^{[p]'}) (E) = \text{ad}(D^{[p]}) + \text{ad}(\varphi(\text{sb}(D)))(E) = \text{ad}(D)^p(E),$$

$$\begin{aligned} (D_1 + D_2)^{[p]'} &= (D_1 + D_2)^{[p]} + \varphi(\text{sb}(D_1) + \text{sb}(D_2)) \\ &= D_1^{[p]} + D_2^{[p]} + \sum_{i=0}^{p-1} s_i(D_1, D_2) + \varphi(\text{sb}(D_1)) + \varphi(\text{sb}(D_2)) = D_1^{[p]'} + D_2^{[p]'} + \sum_{i=0}^{p-1} s_i(D_1, D_2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (fD)^{[p]'} &= (fD)^{[p]} + \varphi(\text{sb}(fD)) = f^p D^{[p]} + \delta_{fD}^{p-1}(f)D + f^p \varphi(\text{sb}(D)) \\ &= f^p D^{[p]'} + \delta_{fD}^{p-1}(f)D, \end{aligned}$$

$$f^{[p]'} = f^{[p]} + \varphi(\text{sb}(f)) = f^p + \varphi(0) = f^p.$$

So $[p]' : \Lambda_1 \rightarrow \Lambda_1$ induces a p -structure on Λ . \square

Corollary 4.4. *The p -structures on $\Lambda^{dR} = \mathcal{D}_{X/S}$ are classified by global 1-forms $\omega \in H^0(F^*\Omega_{X/S}^1)$ and are given by*

$$(f + v)^{[p]'} = f^p + v^{[p]} + v^{p-1}(f) + \omega(F^*v)$$

for $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$ and $v \in T_{X/S}$, where $[p] : T_{X/S} \rightarrow T_{X/S}$ denotes the canonical p -structure on the relative tangent bundle given by the p -th power of vector fields.

Proof. We know that the p -th power on $T_{X/S}$ induces a p -structure $[p]$ on $\mathcal{D}_{X/S}$ given by

$$(f + v)^{[p]} = f^p + v^{[p]} + v^{p-1}(f)$$

for $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$ and $v \in T_{X/S}$. So by Proposition 4.3 any other p -structure is given by adding a \mathcal{O}_X -linear map $\varphi : F^*T_X \longrightarrow Z(\mathcal{D}_{X/S}^1)$ composed with the symbol. Let us compute the center $Z(\mathcal{D}_{X/S}^1)$. Any element of $Z(\mathcal{D}_{X/S}^1)$ has to commute in particular with all elements in $\mathcal{D}_{X/S}^0 = \mathcal{O}_X$. But the elements of $T_{X/S}$ that commute with \mathcal{O}_X are those in the kernel of the anchor map $\delta : T_{X/S} \rightarrow T_{X/S}$, which is the identity map. Thus we obtain that $Z(\mathcal{D}_{X/S}^1) \subset \mathcal{O}_X$ and we have

$$F_*(Z(\mathcal{D}_{X/S}^1)) = \mathcal{O}_X = \ker(d : F_*\mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow F_*\Omega_{X/S}^1).$$

Therefore, any other p -structure $[p]'$ must equal $[p] + \varphi \circ \text{sb}$, where $\varphi : F^*T_{X/S} \longrightarrow F^*\mathcal{O}_X$ is \mathcal{O}_X -linear, which corresponds a global 1-form in $H^0(F^*\Omega_{X/S}^1)$, yielding the result. \square

5. p -CURVATURE OF A RESTRICTED Λ -MODULE

Let Λ be a sheaf of rings of differential operators on X over S and let E be a coherent \mathcal{O}_X -module.

Definition 5.1. A Λ -module structure on E is an \mathcal{O}_X -linear map

$$\nabla : \Lambda \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_X} E \longrightarrow E$$

satisfying the usual module axioms and such that the \mathcal{O}_X -module structure on E induced by $\mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \Lambda$ coincides with the original one.

We will denote a Λ -module E by (E, ∇) and for any local section $D \in \Lambda$ the \mathcal{O}_S -linear endomorphism of E induced by the action of D will be denoted by $\nabla_D \in \text{End}_{\mathcal{O}_S}(E)$. Given a Λ -module (E, ∇) and a local section $D \in \Lambda_1$ we define the p -curvature $\psi_{\nabla}(D) : E \rightarrow E$ as the map

$$\psi_{\nabla}(D) = (\nabla_D)^p - \nabla_{D^{[p]}} \in \text{End}_{\mathcal{O}_S}(E).$$

We observe that we can define the p -curvature in terms of the map $\iota : \Lambda_1 \rightarrow \Lambda$ defined in Subsection 2.3 as follows

$$\psi_{\nabla}(D) = (\nabla_D)^p - \nabla_{D^{[p]}} = \nabla_{D^p} - \nabla_{D^{[p]}} = \nabla_{D^p - D^{[p]}} = \nabla_{\iota(D)}.$$

Proposition 5.2. For any $D \in \Lambda_1$, $\psi_{\nabla}(D) : E \rightarrow E$ is an \mathcal{O}_X -linear map.

Proof. By definition the \mathcal{O}_X -module structure induced by the action of Λ on E coincides with the \mathcal{O}_X -module structure of E , so for any local sections $s \in E$ and $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$ we have

$$fs = \nabla_f(s).$$

Moreover, as $\iota(D) \in Z(\Lambda)$ we have for any local section $D \in \Lambda_1$

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_{\nabla}(D)(fs) &= \nabla_{\iota(D)} \circ \nabla_f(s) = \nabla_{\iota(D)f}(s) \\ &= \nabla_{f\iota(D)}(s) = \nabla_f \circ \nabla_{\iota(D)}(s) = f\psi_{\nabla}(D)(s). \end{aligned}$$

□

This, together with Proposition 2.11 and the fact that ι factors through the symbol, proves that the p -curvature induces a p -linear map

$$\psi_{\nabla} : H \longrightarrow \text{End}_{\mathcal{O}_X}(E),$$

where $H = \Lambda_1/\Lambda_0$. So we obtain an \mathcal{O}_X -linear map

$$\psi_{\nabla} : F^*H \longrightarrow \text{End}_{\mathcal{O}_X}(E).$$

Proposition 5.3. For each Λ -module (E, ∇) the p -curvature ψ_{∇} induces a F^*H^{\vee} -valued Higgs field on E , i.e., a morphism of \mathcal{O}_X -algebras

$$\tilde{\psi}_{\nabla} : \text{Sym}^{\bullet} F^*H \longrightarrow \text{End}_{\mathcal{O}_X}(E).$$

Moreover, for any local sections $D \in H$ and $D' \in \Lambda$, $\nabla_{D'}$ commutes with $\psi_{\nabla}(D)$.

Proof. We have already proven that the p -curvature induces an \mathcal{O}_X -linear map $\psi_{\nabla} : F^*H \rightarrow \text{End}_{\mathcal{O}_X}(E)$. In order for this map to lift to a morphism of algebras $\text{Sym}^{\bullet} F^*H \rightarrow \text{End}_{\mathcal{O}_X}(E)$, it is necessary that for each $D_1, D_2 \in H$

$$[\psi_{\nabla}(D_1), \psi_{\nabla}(D_2)] = 0.$$

But, taking into account that from Proposition 2.12 we know that the image of $\iota : F^*H \rightarrow \Lambda$ lies in the center $Z(\Lambda)$, we have

$$[\psi_{\nabla}(D_1), \psi_{\nabla}(D_2)] = [\nabla_{\iota(D_1)}, \nabla_{\iota(D_2)}] = \nabla_{[\iota(D_1), \iota(D_2)]} = \nabla_0 = 0.$$

The second part follows from a similar computation

$$[\psi_{\nabla}(D), \nabla_{D'}] = [\nabla_{\iota(D)}, \nabla_{D'}] = \nabla_{[\iota(D), D']} = \nabla_0 = 0.$$

□

Remark 5.4. *The previous proposition was already obtained in [Lan14, Lemma 4.9] for modules over restricted \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroids H , which correspond to Λ -modules, where $\Lambda = \Lambda_H$ is the universal enveloping algebra of the \mathcal{O}_S -Lie algebroid H . We note that the proofs of the two previous propositions are similar to those given in [Lan14], but rely on the more general statement obtained in Proposition 2.12 for general restricted sheaves of rings of differential operators.*

6. HITCHIN MAP FOR RESTRICTED Λ -MODULES

In this section we assume that X is an integral projective scheme over $S = \text{Spec}(\mathbb{K})$. This assumption is needed in our main Theorem 6.6. We refer the reader to [Lan14] sections 3.5 and 4.5 for a construction of the Hitchin map in the relative case.

Given a restricted sheaf Λ of rings of differential operators on X and a Λ -module (E, ∇) of rank r over X , we have proved in Proposition 5.3 that the p -curvature of (E, ∇) induces a F^*H^\vee -valued Higgs field on E

$$\psi_{\nabla} \in H^0(X, \text{End}(E) \otimes F^*H^\vee).$$

Then, by taking the (classical) Hitchin map h for rank- r Higgs sheaves we obtain a point in the Hitchin base $\mathcal{A}_r(X, F^*H^\vee)$

$$h(E, \psi_{\nabla}) = (\text{tr}(\wedge^k \psi_{\nabla}))_{k=1}^r \in \mathcal{A}_r(X, F^*H^\vee) := \bigoplus_{k=1}^r H^0(X, \text{Sym}^k(F^*H^\vee)).$$

Therefore, the p -curvature map $(E, \nabla) \mapsto \psi_{\nabla}$ composed with the Hitchin map h defines a map h_Λ

$$(6.1) \quad h_\Lambda : \mathcal{M}_X^\Lambda(r, P) \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}_r(X, F^*H^\vee), \quad (E, \nabla) \mapsto h(E, \psi_{\nabla}),$$

where $\mathcal{M}_X^\Lambda(r, P)$ denotes the coarse moduli space parameterizing Gieseker semi-stable Λ -modules over X of rank r and with Hilbert polynomial P ([Sim94], [Lan04b], [Lan04a]).

In order to understand the structure of the map h_Λ , let us first consider the example given by the trivial p -structure on the symmetric algebra $\text{Sym}^\bullet(H)$ — see Subsection 4.2. In that case a $\text{Sym}^\bullet(H)$ -module is an H^\vee -valued Higgs sheaf and its p -curvature is just the p -th power of the Higgs field

$$\psi_{\nabla}(D) = \nabla_{D^p} = (\nabla_D)^p.$$

Then it is easily seen that the coefficients of the characteristic polynomial of ψ_∇ are pull-backs by the Frobenius map of global sections in $H^0(X, \text{Sym}^k(H^\vee))$.

Before proving our main result on the map h_Λ , we will need to recall the definition of the canonical connection

$$\nabla^{\text{can}} : F^*\mathcal{G} \longrightarrow F^*\mathcal{G} \otimes \Omega_X^1$$

on a pull-back sheaf $F^*\mathcal{G}$ for a coherent \mathcal{O}_X -module \mathcal{G} under the absolute Frobenius map F of X . Over an affine open subset $\text{Spec}(A) = U \subset X$, we denote the A -module of local sections $\mathcal{G}(U)$ by M . Then local sections of the pull-back $F^*\mathcal{G}(U)$ correspond to $A \otimes_A M$ with the A -module structure given by left multiplication and the action of A on A given by the Frobenius map F . In other words, we have the identifications $\lambda^p a \otimes_A m = a \otimes_A \lambda m$ for any $\lambda, a \in A$ and $m \in M$. Then with this notation the canonical connection is defined by

$$\nabla^{\text{can}} : a \otimes_A m \mapsto da \otimes_A m,$$

or equivalently, $\nabla_{\partial}^{\text{can}}(a \otimes_A m) = \partial a \otimes m$ for any vector field ∂ .

Lemma 6.1. *Let \mathcal{G} be a torsion-free \mathcal{O}_X -module over an integral scheme X and let $s \in H^0(X, F^*\mathcal{G})$ be a global section. Suppose that there exists an open subset $\Omega \subset X$ such that*

$$\nabla_{\partial}^{\text{can}}(s|_{\Omega}) = 0$$

for any vector field ∂ over Ω . Then s descends under the Frobenius map, i.e. there exists $s' \in H^0(X, \mathcal{G})$ such that $s = F^*(s')$.

Proof. It will be enough to show the statement locally on an affine open subset $\text{Spec}(A)$ of X . We then apply Cartier's theorem over $\text{Spec}(K)$, where K is the fraction field of A , and obtain the existence of the Frobenius descend s' over $\text{Spec}(K)$. Now the section s also descends over $\text{Spec}(A)$ since \mathcal{G} is torsion-free. The computations are straightforward and left to the reader. \square

Lemma 6.2. *Let (E, ∇) be a Λ -module. Then for any local sections $D \in H = \Lambda_1/\Lambda_0$ and $D' \in \Lambda_1$ we have the following commutative diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E \otimes F^*H^\vee & \xrightarrow{\text{Id} \otimes D} & E \\ \tilde{\nabla}_{D'} \downarrow & & \downarrow \nabla_{D'} \\ E \otimes F^*H^\vee & \xrightarrow{\text{Id} \otimes D} & E, \end{array}$$

where we define the endomorphism $\tilde{\nabla}_{D'}$ by

$$\tilde{\nabla}_{D'} = \nabla_{D'} \otimes \text{Id}_{F^*H^\vee} + \text{Id}_E \otimes \nabla_{\delta_{\text{osb}}(D')}^{\text{can}}.$$

Proof. It is enough to work locally over an affine open subset $U = \text{Spec}(A)$. Consider an irreducible tensor $v \otimes a \otimes h \in (E \otimes F^*H^\vee)(U)$, where $v \in E(U)$, $h \in H^\vee(U)$, $a \in A = \mathcal{O}_X(U)$ and the last tensor product is taken over the Frobenius map, i.e.

$$\lambda^p v \otimes a \otimes h = v \otimes \lambda^p a \otimes h = v \otimes a \otimes \lambda h.$$

Then, using associativity of the ring Λ and the fact that $[D', f] = \delta_{\text{sb}(D')}(f)$ for any $D' \in \Lambda_1$ and $f \in \mathcal{O}_X$, have the following

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\nabla}_{D'}(v \otimes a \otimes h) &= \nabla_{D'}(v) \otimes a \otimes h + v \otimes \nabla_{\delta_{\text{sb}(D')}}^{\text{can}}(a \otimes h) \\ &= \nabla_{D'}(v) \otimes a \otimes h + v \otimes \delta_{\text{sb}(D')}(a) \otimes h. \end{aligned}$$

Applying $\text{Id} \otimes D$ for a local section $D \in H$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\text{Id} \otimes D) \circ \tilde{\nabla}_{D'}(v \otimes a \otimes h) &= \nabla_{D'}(v) \otimes a \otimes \langle h, D \rangle + v \otimes \delta_{\text{sb}(D')}(a) \otimes \langle h, D \rangle \\ &= \langle h, D \rangle^p a \nabla_{D'}(v) + \langle h, D \rangle^p \delta_{\text{sb}(D')}(a) v, \end{aligned}$$

where $\langle -, - \rangle$ denotes the standard pairing between H^\vee and H . On the other hand

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{D'} \circ (\text{Id} \circ D)(v \otimes a \otimes h) &= \nabla_{D'}(\langle h, D \rangle^p a v) = \langle h, D \rangle^p a \nabla_{D'}(v) + \delta_{\text{sb}(D')}(\langle h, D \rangle^p a) v \\ &= \langle h, D \rangle^p a \nabla_{D'}(v) + \langle h, D \rangle^p \delta_{\text{sb}(D')}(a) v \end{aligned}$$

so we obtain the desired equality for an irreducible tensor. By additivity we conclude equality for any local section of $E \otimes F^* H^\vee$. \square

Corollary 6.3. *Let (E, ∇) be a Λ -module and let $\psi_\nabla : E \rightarrow E \otimes F^* H^\vee$ denote its p -curvature. Then for any local section $D' \in \Lambda_1$ the following diagram commutes*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E & \xrightarrow{\psi_\nabla} & E \otimes F^* H^\vee \\ \nabla_{D'} \downarrow & & \downarrow \tilde{\nabla}_{D'} \\ E & \xrightarrow{\psi_\nabla} & E \otimes F^* H^\vee, \end{array}$$

where $\tilde{\nabla}_{D'}$ was defined in the previous lemma.

Proof. By Proposition 5.3 we know that for any local sections $D \in H$ and $D' \in \Lambda_1$ the two endomorphisms $\psi_\nabla(D)$ and $\nabla_{D'}$ commute. Moreover, $\psi_\nabla(D) : E \rightarrow E$ is the composition of the following maps

$$E \xrightarrow{\psi_\nabla} E \otimes F^* H^\vee \xrightarrow{\text{Id} \otimes D} E$$

so we have the following diagram in which we know that the outer square and the inner right square (by Lemma 6.2) are commutative

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & \psi_\nabla(D) & & \\ & \frown & & \searrow & \\ E & \xrightarrow{\psi_\nabla} & E \otimes F^* H^\vee & \xrightarrow{\text{Id} \otimes D} & E \\ \nabla_{D'} \downarrow & & \downarrow \tilde{\nabla}_{D'} & & \downarrow \nabla_{D'} \\ E & \xrightarrow{\psi_\nabla} & E \otimes F^* H^\vee & \xrightarrow{\text{Id} \otimes D} & E \\ & \smile & & \swarrow & \\ & & \psi_\nabla(D) & & \end{array}$$

Thus, for any $D \in H$ and $D' \in \Lambda_1$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \nabla_{D'} \circ \psi_\nabla(D) - \psi_\nabla(D) \circ \nabla_{D'} = \nabla_{D'} \circ (\text{Id} \otimes D) \circ \psi_\nabla - (\text{Id} \otimes D) \circ \psi_\nabla \circ \nabla_{D'} \\ &= (\text{Id} \otimes D) \circ \tilde{\nabla}_{D'} \circ \psi_\nabla - (\text{Id} \otimes D) \circ \psi_\nabla \circ \nabla_{D'} \\ &= (\text{Id} \otimes D) \circ \left(\tilde{\nabla}_{D'} \circ \psi_\nabla - \psi_\nabla \circ \nabla_{D'} \right). \end{aligned}$$

As this composition is zero for any $D \in H$ and the kernel of the evaluation map in F^*H^\vee is trivial, we obtain that

$$\tilde{\nabla}_{D'} \circ \psi_{\nabla} - \psi_{\nabla} \circ \nabla_{D'} = 0.$$

□

The next proposition will be used in the proof of the main result (Theorem 6.6).

Proposition 6.4. *Assume that $p = \text{char}(\mathbb{K}) > 2$. Let Λ be a restricted sheaf of differential operators on X over S and let \mathcal{E} be a coherent \mathcal{O}_X -module together with a morphism of \mathcal{O}_S -modules $\nabla : \Lambda_1 \rightarrow \text{End}_{\mathcal{O}_S}(\mathcal{E})$ satisfying for any local sections $f, g \in \mathcal{O}_X$, $s \in \mathcal{E}$ and $D \in \Lambda_1$*

$$\nabla_D(fs) = f\nabla_D(s) + \delta_{\text{sb}(D)} \quad \text{and} \quad \nabla_g(s) = gs.$$

Let \mathcal{G} be a coherent \mathcal{O}_X -module and let $\psi : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E} \otimes F^*\mathcal{G}$ be an \mathcal{O}_X -linear map. Suppose that for $D \in \Lambda_1$ we have a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{E} & \xrightarrow{\psi} & \mathcal{E} \otimes F^*\mathcal{G} \\ \nabla_D \downarrow & & \downarrow \tilde{\nabla}_D \\ \mathcal{E} & \xrightarrow{\psi} & \mathcal{E} \otimes F^*\mathcal{G}, \end{array}$$

where the endomorphism $\tilde{\nabla}_D$ on the right is defined by

$$\tilde{\nabla}_D = \nabla_D \otimes \text{Id}_{F^*\mathcal{G}} + \text{Id}_{\mathcal{E}} \otimes \nabla_{\delta_{\text{osb}(D)}}^{\text{can}}.$$

Then over an open dense subset of X we have

$$\nabla_{\delta_{\text{osb}(D)}}^{\text{can}}(\text{tr}(\psi)) = 0,$$

where $\text{tr}(\psi) \in H^0(X, F^*\mathcal{G})$ denotes the trace of the \mathcal{O}_X -linear endomorphism ψ .

Proof. Since X is integral, we can restrict attention to the open dense subset $\Omega \subset X$ where both \mathcal{E} and \mathcal{G} are locally free. Moreover, it will be enough to check the equality locally. For $x \in \Omega$ we denote by \mathcal{O} the local ring of \mathcal{O}_X at the point x . Then we can write

$$\nabla_D = \partial + A,$$

where $\partial = \delta \circ \text{sb}(D)$ is a derivation on \mathcal{O} and A is a $r \times r$ matrix with values in \mathcal{O} and $r = \text{rk}(\mathcal{E})$. Similarly, let $n = \text{rk}(\mathcal{G})$ and choosing an \mathcal{O} -basis of \mathcal{G}_x then ψ corresponds to n $r \times r$ matrices B_1, \dots, B_n with values in \mathcal{O} . Then the commutation relations translate into the following n equalities for $i = 1, \dots, n$ in $\text{End}(\mathcal{O}^{\oplus r})$

$$\begin{aligned} B_i(\partial + A) &= ((\partial + A) \otimes \text{Id} + \text{Id} \otimes \partial)B_i \\ \iff B_i\partial + B_iA &= \partial B_i + AB_i + \partial.B_i \\ \iff [B_i, A] &= [\partial, B_i] + \partial.B_i = 2\partial.B_i, \end{aligned}$$

where $\partial.B_i$ denotes the matrix obtained from B_i by applying the derivation ∂ to all of its coefficients. We also have used the well-known identity $[\partial, B_i] = \partial.B_i$. Taking the trace, we obtain

$$0 = \text{tr}([B_i, A]) = 2\text{tr}(\partial.B_i) = 2\partial(\text{tr}(B_i)).$$

Hence, since $p > 2$, we obtain

$$\partial(\text{tr}(B_i)) = 0 \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, n.$$

This shows the result. \square

Proposition 6.5. *Let (E, ∇) be a restricted Λ -module of rank r and let $\psi_\nabla : E \rightarrow E \otimes F^*H^\vee$ denote its p -curvature. Then for $i = 1, \dots, r$ the \mathcal{O}_X -linear composite map*

$$\psi_i : \Lambda^i E \xrightarrow{\Lambda^i \psi_\nabla} \Lambda^i(E \otimes F^*H^\vee) \xrightarrow{pr} \Lambda^i E \otimes F^* \text{Sym}^i H^\vee$$

of $\Lambda^i \psi_\nabla$ with the natural projection map pr satisfies the commutation relations of Proposition 6.4 with $\mathcal{E} = \Lambda^i E$, $\mathcal{G} = \text{Sym}^i H^\vee$, $\psi = \psi_i$ and the natural actions of Λ_1 on \mathcal{E} and \mathcal{G} induced by ∇ .

Proof. We observe that if (E, ∇) is a Λ -module, the exterior power $\Lambda^i E$ need not necessarily be a Λ -module, but $\Lambda^i E$ can be equipped by an action of Λ_1 satisfying the properties given in Proposition 6.4. Since ψ_i is a composite map, it will be enough to check that the two maps $\Lambda^i \psi_\nabla$ and pr satisfy the commutation relations. Both checks follow immediately from the definitions of the maps. \square

We can now state our main result.

Theorem 6.6. *Assume that $p = \text{char}(\mathbb{K}) > 2$. Let Λ be a restricted sheaf of rings of differential operators over X . We assume that $H = \Lambda_1/\Lambda_0$ is locally free and that the anchor map $\delta : H \rightarrow T_X$ is generically surjective. Then the coefficients $\text{tr}(\psi_i)$ of the characteristic polynomial of the p -curvature ψ_∇ of a Λ -module (E, ∇) over X are p -th powers, i.e. descend under the Frobenius map F of X . This implies that the above defined Hitchin map h_Λ (6.1) factorizes as follows*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{M}_X^\Lambda(r, P) & \xrightarrow{h_\Lambda} & \mathcal{A}_r(X, F^*H^\vee) \\ & \searrow^{h'_\Lambda} & \uparrow F \\ & & \mathcal{A}_r(X, H^\vee), \end{array}$$

where the vertical map is the pull-back map of global sections under the Frobenius map F of X .

Proof. Let (E, ∇) be a restricted Λ -module of rank r with p -curvature ψ_∇ . Proposition 6.5 shows that the global section $\psi_i : \Lambda^i E \rightarrow \Lambda^i E \otimes F^* \text{Sym}^i H^\vee$ obtained by projecting $\Lambda^i \psi_\nabla$ satisfies the commutation relations of Proposition 6.4. Therefore, applying Proposition 6.4, we can conclude that for any local section $D \in \Lambda_1$

$$\nabla_{\delta_{\text{osb}}(D)}^{\text{can}}(\text{tr}(\psi_i)) = 0$$

over an open subset Ω_1 of X . Let Ω_2 be an open subset where the anchor map δ is surjective. Then over $\Omega_1 \cap \Omega_2$ we have $\nabla_{\partial}^{\text{can}}(\text{tr}(\psi_i)) = 0$ for any local vector field ∂ . Now we can apply Lemma 6.1, since X is integral and H locally free. \square

Remark 6.7. *The following example shows that the assumption that $\delta : H \rightarrow T_X$ is generically surjective cannot be dropped in Theorem 6.6. Let X be a smooth projective curve of genus $g \geq 2$ over $S = \text{Spec}(\mathbb{K})$ and let T_X (resp. K_X) be its tangent (resp. canonical) line bundle. We choose a non-zero global section $\varphi \in H^0(X, K_X^{p-1})$ with reduced zero divisor. We consider as explained in Subsection 4.6 the symmetric algebra $\Lambda = \text{Sym}^\bullet(T_X)$ with the p -structure given by the \mathcal{O}_X -linear*

map $\alpha : F^*T_X = T_X^{\otimes p} \rightarrow T_X$ corresponding to the multiplication with φ . Note that in this case $\delta = 0$. Then a Λ -module (E, ∇) over X corresponds to a vector bundle E together with a Higgs field, i.e., an \mathcal{O}_X -linear map $\nabla : E \rightarrow E \otimes K_X$. The p -curvature ψ_∇ of (E, ∇) then corresponds to the \mathcal{O}_X -linear map $E \rightarrow E \otimes F^*K_X$

$$\psi_\nabla = \nabla^p - \alpha.\nabla,$$

where $\alpha.\nabla$ denotes the composite map $(\text{id}_E \otimes \alpha^\vee) \circ \nabla$. Then clearly $\text{tr}(\psi_\nabla)$ does not descend under the Frobenius map.

Remark 6.8. The previous remark shows that asking for a generally surjective anchor $\delta : H \rightarrow T_X$ is indeed necessary for the Theorem, but it can be proven that, in some scenarios, this condition is generically satisfied. For instance, if X is a smooth curve, then any nonzero map $\delta : H \rightarrow T_X$ is generically surjective. As a consequence, for smooth curves, any restricted sheaf of rings of differential operators Λ on X with nonzero anchor satisfies Theorem 6.6. In particular, this holds when Λ is the universal enveloping algebra of any restricted Lie algebroid $(H, [-, -], \delta, [p])$ with $\delta \neq 0$ or, more generally, for any Λ in which the left and right \mathcal{O}_X -module structures are different (see Remark 2.2).

7. HITCHIN MAP FOR RESTRICTED Λ^R -MODULES

The argument used to show Theorem 6.6 can be adapted to the following particular relative case: consider for an integral projective scheme X over $S = \text{Spec}(\mathbb{K})$ the restricted sheaf of rings of differential operators Λ^R over $X \times \mathbb{A}^1$ relative to \mathbb{A}^1 obtained via the Rees construction from the universal enveloping algebra $\Lambda = \Lambda_H$ of a restricted Lie algebroid $(H, [-, -], \delta, [p])$ over X — see Subsection 4.4.

We consider the moduli space $\mathcal{M}_{X \times \mathbb{A}^1 / \mathbb{A}^1}^{\Lambda^R}(r, P)$ parameterizing Gieseker semi-stable Λ^R -modules over $X \times \mathbb{A}^1 / \mathbb{A}^1$ of rank r and with Hilbert polynomial P . Since $\Lambda_1^R / \Lambda_0^R = p_X^*(H)$ the Hitchin map h_{Λ^R} in the relative case (see [Lan14, Sections 3.5 and 4.5]) corresponds to a morphism

$$(7.1) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{M}_{X \times \mathbb{A}^1 / \mathbb{A}^1}^{\Lambda^R}(r, P) & \xrightarrow{h_{\Lambda^R}} & \mathcal{A}_r(X, F^*H^\vee) \times \mathbb{A}^1 \\ & \searrow & \downarrow p_{\mathbb{A}^1} \\ & & \mathbb{A}^1 \end{array}$$

over \mathbb{A}^1 . Then we obtain the

Theorem 7.1. *Assume that $p = \text{char}(\mathbb{K}) > 2$. Let $\Lambda = \Lambda_H$ be the universal enveloping algebra of a restricted Lie algebroid $(H, [-, -], \delta, [p])$ over an integral projective scheme X and let Λ^R be the restricted sheaf of rings of differential operators over $X \times \mathbb{A}^1$ relative to \mathbb{A}^1 obtained via the Rees construction from Λ_H . We assume that $H = \Lambda_1 / \Lambda_0$ is locally free and that the anchor map $\delta : H \rightarrow T_X$ is generically*

surjective. Then the above defined Hitchin map h_{Λ^R} (7.1) factorizes as follows

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{M}_{X \times \mathbb{A}^1 / \mathbb{A}^1}^{\Lambda^R}(r, P) & \xrightarrow{h_{\Lambda^R}} & \mathcal{A}_r(X, F^*H^\vee) \times \mathbb{A}^1 \\ & \searrow^{h'_{\Lambda^R}} & \uparrow^{F \times \text{id}} \\ & & \mathcal{A}_r(X, H^\vee) \times \mathbb{A}^1, \end{array}$$

where the vertical map is the pull-back map of global sections under the Frobenius map F of X .

Proof. Since the anchor $\delta : H \rightarrow T_X$ is generically surjective over X , the anchor $\delta^R = t\delta : p_X^*(H) \rightarrow p_X^*(T_X)$ is also generically surjective over $X \times \mathbb{A}^1$. Hence we can apply the same arguments as in the proof of Theorem 6.6 for local relative vector fields $\partial \in T_{X \times \mathbb{A}^1 / \mathbb{A}^1} = p_X^*(T_X)$. \square

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