BRANCHING RULES FOR SPECHT MODULES

HARALD ELLERS AND JOHN MURRAY

Abstract. Let $\Sigma_n$ be the symmetric group of degree $n$, and let $F$ be a field of characteristic distinct from 2. Let $S^\lambda_F$ be the Specht module over $F\Sigma_n$ corresponding to the partition $\lambda$ of $n$. We find the indecomposable components of the restricted module $S^\lambda_F \downarrow_{\Sigma_n-1}$ and the induced module $S^\lambda_F \uparrow_{\Sigma_n+1}$. Namely, if $b$ and $B$ are block idempotents of $F\Sigma_{n-1}$ and $F\Sigma_{n+1}$ respectively, then the modules $S^\lambda_F \downarrow_{\Sigma_n-1} b$ and $S^\lambda_F \uparrow_{\Sigma_n+1} B$ are 0 or indecomposable. We give examples to show that the assumption char $F \neq 2$ cannot be dropped.

1. Introduction

Let $n$ be a positive integer and let $\Sigma_n$ be the symmetric group of degree $n$. For any field $F$ and any partition $\lambda$ of $n$, the Specht module $S^\lambda_F$ is defined to be the submodule of the permutation module $F\Sigma^\lambda_F \uparrow_{\Sigma_n}$ spanned by certain elements called polytabloids, where $\Sigma^\lambda_F$ is the Young subgroup associated to $\lambda$ and $F\Sigma^\lambda_F$ is the principal $F\Sigma^\lambda_F$-module. (See [1] for definitions.) Specht modules play a central role in the representation theory of the symmetric group, because in characteristic 0 the Specht modules are the simple $F\Sigma_n$-modules, while in characteristic $p$ the heads of the Specht modules $S^\lambda_F$ such that $\lambda$ is $p$-regular are the simple $F\Sigma_n$-modules. When the field $F$ has characteristic 0, the structure of the restriction of $S^\lambda_F$ to $\Sigma_n-1$ is given by the Classical Branching Rule: the module $S^\lambda_F \downarrow_{\Sigma_n-1}$ is a direct sum $\bigoplus S^\mu_F$, where $\mu$ runs through all partitions of $n-1$ obtained from $\lambda$ by removing a node from its Young diagram. In 1971, Peel [4] gave the first characteristic $p$ version of the branching rule. He showed that there is a series of submodules such that the successive quotients are the Specht modules $S^\mu_F$, where $\mu$ runs through the same set. Nevertheless, the structure of the restriction $S^\lambda_F \downarrow_{\Sigma_n-1}$ is not well understood. For example, the problem of finding a composition series is open and very difficult, and the socle is not known. See Kleshchev [2] for an introduction to recent work on $S^\lambda_F \downarrow_{\Sigma_n-1}$.

In this paper, we find the indecomposable components of $S^\lambda_F \downarrow_{\Sigma_n-1}$, when the characteristic of $F$ is not 2. These are given by Theorem 3.4 if $b$ is a block idempotent of $F\Sigma_{n-1}$, then $S^\lambda_F \downarrow_{\Sigma_n-1} b$ is 0 or indecomposable. Thus there is a bijection between the set of indecomposable components of $S^\lambda_F \downarrow_{\Sigma_n-1}$ and the set of $p$-cores that can be obtained from $\lambda$ by removing first one node and then a sequence of rim $p$-hooks. We also prove the analogous theorem for the induced module $S^\lambda_F \uparrow_{\Sigma_n+1}$. The two proofs are almost identical. We give examples to show that the assumption char $F \neq 2$ cannot be dropped.

The combinatorial part of the proof is in section 2. Here we find the minimal polynomials for the actions of $E_{n-1}$ on $S^\lambda_F \downarrow_{\Sigma_n-1}$ and $E_{n+1}$ on $S^\lambda_F \uparrow_{\Sigma_n+1}$, where
$E_k$ is the sum of all the transpositions in $\Sigma_k$. These polynomials have degrees $m$ and $m+1$ respectively, where $m$ is the number of distinct parts of $\lambda$. The results of section 2 are valid for all fields, not just those of odd characteristic.

In section 3, we investigate the algebras $E = \text{End}_{F\Sigma_{n-1}}(S_F^{\lambda} \downarrow_{\Sigma_{n-1}})$ and $F = \text{End}_{F\Sigma_{n+1}}(S_F^{\lambda} \uparrow_{\Sigma_{n+1}})$. Under the assumption that $\text{char } F \neq 2$, we use the results from section 2 to show that the natural maps $Z(F\Sigma_{n-1}) \to E/J(E)$ and $Z(F\Sigma_{n+1}) \to F/J(F)$ are surjective, where $J(E)$ and $J(F)$ are the Jacobson radicals of $E$ and $F$. The main theorem follows easily.

## 2. The Minimal Polynomials of the Sum of All Transpositions Acting on the Restriction and Induction of a Specht Module

Throughout this paper $n$ is a fixed positive integer and $\lambda$ is a fixed partition of $n$. We orient the Young diagram $[\lambda]$ left to right and top to bottom. This means that the first row is the one at the top and the first column is the one at the left. The $(i,j)$ node is in the $i$th row and the $j$th column. We will use $\hat{n}$ to denote the set $\{1,\ldots,n\}$ and let $\Sigma_n$ denote the group of permutations of $\hat{n}$. Permutations and homomorphisms will generally act on the right. The Murphy element $L_n$ is the sum of all transpositions in $\Sigma_n$ that are not in $\Sigma_{n-1}$ (with $L_1 := 0$). We use $E_n$ to denote the sum of all transpositions in $\Sigma_n$. So $E_n$ is the 1-st elementary symmetric function in the Murphy elements.

Let $F$ be any field and let $S^\lambda$ denote the Specht module, defined over $F$, corresponding to $\lambda$. We use the notation
\[
\mathcal{R} \quad \text{for the restriction of } S^\lambda \text{ to } \Sigma_{n-1} \text{ and}
\mathcal{I} \quad \text{for the induction of } S^\lambda \text{ to } \Sigma_{n+1}.
\]

The purpose of this section is to compute the minimal polynomial of $E_{n-1}$ acting on $\mathcal{R}$ and the minimal polynomial of $E_{n+1}$ acting on $\mathcal{I}$.

We consider a $\lambda$-tableau to be a bijective map $t : [\lambda] \to \hat{n}$. The value of $t$ at a node $(r,c)$ is denoted by $t_{rc}$. The group $\Sigma_n$ acts on the set of all $\lambda$-tableaux by functional composition; $(t\pi)_{rc} = t_{rc}\pi$, for each $\pi \in \Sigma_n$.

Suppose that $\lambda$ has $l$ nonzero parts $[\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \ldots \geq \lambda_l]$. We regard a $\lambda$-tabloid as an ordered partition $P = (P_1,\ldots,P_l)$ of $\hat{n}$ such that the cardinality of $P_u$ is $\lambda_u$, for $u = 1,\ldots,l$. Each $\lambda$-tableau $t$ determines the $\lambda$-tabloid $\{t\}$ whose $w$-th part is the set of entries in the $u$-th row of $t$. If $s$ is a $\lambda$-tableau, then $\{t\} = \{s\}$ if and only if $s = t\pi$, for some $\pi$ in the row stabilizer $R_t$ of $t$. We denote the column stabilizer of $t$ by $C_t$. We denote by $M^\lambda$ the $F\Sigma_n$-module consisting of all formal $F$-linear combinations of $\lambda$-tabloids.

Adapting the notation of James [11], let $(r_1,c_1),\ldots,(r_m,c_m)$ be the removable nodes of $[\lambda]$, ordered so that $r_1 < \ldots < r_m$ and $c_1 > \ldots > c_m$. Set $r_0 = 0 = c_{m+1}$. The addable nodes of $[\lambda]$ are the $(m+1)$ nodes $(r_u + 1, c_{u+1} + 1)$, for $u = 0,\ldots,m$. We use $\lambda_{\downarrow u}$ to denote the partition of $n - 1$ obtained by decrementing the $r_u$-th part of $\lambda$ by 1, for $u \in \hat{m}$. In addition, we use $\lambda_{\uparrow u}$ to denote the partition of $n + 1$ obtained by incrementing the $(r_u + 1)$-th part of $\lambda$ by 1, for $u \in \hat{m} + 1$.

We need special notation for certain subsets of a $\lambda$-tableau $t$. For the rest of the paper, suppose that $\lambda$ has parts of $m$ different nonzero lengths. For any $u \in \hat{m}$, let $H_u(t)$ be the set of entries in the union of the top $r_u$ rows of $t$, and let $V_u(t)$ be the set of entries in the union of columns of $t$ numbered from $c_{u+1} + 1$ to $c_u$ (inclusive). Clearly $H_1(t) \subset \ldots \subset H_m(t)$, while $V_m(t),\ldots,V_1(t)$ forms a partition of $t$. Also
Lemma 2.3. Let \( I \) be a submodule of the permutation module \( M \), such that the map \( u_1 \cup u_2 \cup \ldots \cup u_{m+2} = 0 \), with \( I_u/I_{u+1} \cong S^{\lambda_u} \), for \( u \in \tilde{m} \). Each factor \( I/I_{u+1} \) is isomorphic to a submodule of the permutation module \( M^{\lambda_u} \).

**Proof.** If \( \text{char } F = 0 \), then \( M_u/M_{u-1} \) is an irreducible \( F \Sigma_n \)-module (a Specht module), and the conclusion is obvious. If \( \text{char } F = p \) is positive, then \( M_u/M_{u-1} \) is the \( p \)-modular reduction of an irreducible module defined over a suitable discrete valuation ring of characteristic 0. The conclusion follows in this case from the characteristic zero case. \( \square \)

This lemma allows us to give the following upper bound on the degrees of the minimal polynomials of \( E_{n-1} \) and \( E_{n+1} \).

**Corollary 2.2.** The minimal polynomial of \( E_{n-1} \) acting on \( R \) has degree at most \( m \), while the minimal polynomial of \( E_{n+1} \) acting on \( I \) has degree at most \( m+1 \).

**Proof.** Let \( u \in \tilde{m} \). Lemma 2.1 shows that \( R_u(E_{n-1} - z_u) \subseteq R_{u-1} \), for some scalar \( z_u \). It follows from a simple inductive argument that \( R \prod_{u=1}^{m} (E_{n-1} - z_u) = 0 \). A similar argument deals with the action of \( E_{n+1} \) on \( I \). \( \square \)

It will turn out that the polynomials given in the proof of Corollary 2.2 are minimal. Before we prove this, we will identify the scalars \( z_u \) in terms of Young diagrams.

The residue of a node \((r,c)\) is the scalar \((c-r)1_F\). We set \( E(\lambda) \) as the sum of the residues of all nodes in \( [\lambda] \). So \( E(\lambda) \) is the 1-st elementary symmetric function in the residues. An easy calculation shows that \( E(\lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \frac{1}{2} \lambda_i (\lambda_i + 1 - 2i)1_F \). The next lemma is a special case of a more general result proved by G. E. Murphy [M]: 1-st elementary symmetric function can be replaced by any symmetric function in \( n \) variables.

**Lemma 2.3.** \( E_n \) acts as the scalar \( E(\lambda) \) on \( S^\lambda \).

**Proof.** Let \( t \) be a \( \lambda \)-tableau, let \((r,c) \in [\lambda] \) and let \( i = t_{rc} \). Fix \( 1 \leq c_i < c \). Then by a simple Garnir relation (section 7 of [1]), \( e_t \sum_{j} (i,j) = e_t \), where \( j \) runs over all entries in the \( c_i \)-th column of \( t \). Also \( e_t(i,j) = -e_t \), for each entry \( j \) above \( i \) in column \( c \) of \( t \). It follows that \( e_t \sum_{j} (i,j) = (c-r)e_t \), where \( j \) runs over those elements of \( \tilde{n} \) that lie in \( t \) in columns strictly left of \( i \) or in the same column as \( i \) but strictly above \( i \). If we sum over all \((r,c) \in [\lambda] \), each
transposition \((i, j)\) occurs exactly once on the left hand side, while the coefficient of \(e_t\) on the right hand side is \(E(\lambda)\).

If \(t\) is a \(\lambda\)-tableau, the polytabloid \(e_t\) is the following element of \(M^\lambda:\)

\[
e_t := \sum_{\pi \in C_t} \text{sgn} \pi \{t\}.
\]

It is well known that the polytabloids span the Specht module \(S^\lambda\). James’ description of \(\mathcal{R}\), and the Garnir relations, show that \(e_t\) lies in \(\mathcal{R}_n\) if \(n \in V_u(t) \setminus H_{u-1}(t)\) (although we do not use this fact).

We next describe the induced module \(I\). Suppose that \(u \in \mathbb{N}^+\). Let \(T\) be a \(\lambda^{\uparrow u}\)-tableau, and let \(t\) denote the restriction of \(T\) to \([\lambda]\). Then the \((\lambda, T)\)-polytabloid \(e_T^\lambda\) is the following element of \(M^{\lambda^{\uparrow u}}:\)

\[
e_T^\lambda := \sum_{\pi \in C_t} \text{sgn} \pi \{T\}.
\]

In Section 17 of [1], James has shown that when \(u = m + 1\), the corresponding \((\lambda, T)\)-polytabloids span an \(F\Sigma_{n+1}\)-submodule of \(M^{\lambda^{\uparrow m+1}}\), which is isomorphic to the induced module \(I\). We will always work with this copy of \(I\).

When we are showing that the polynomials given in the proof of 2.2 are minimal, it will be convenient to look at the action of the Murphy elements \(L_n\) and \(L_{n+1}\) rather than \(E_{n-1}\) and \(E_{n+1}\). The following lemma provides a link between these actions. If \(t\) is a \(\lambda\)-tableau, its extension to \([\lambda^{\uparrow m+1}]\) is the \(\lambda^{\uparrow m+1}\)-tableau that is obtained from \(t\) by appending \(n + 1\) to the bottom of the first column.

**Lemma 2.4.** Let \(t\) be a \(\lambda\)-tableau and let \(T\) be its extension to \([\lambda^{\uparrow m+1}]\). Suppose that \(f(x) \in F[x]\). Then

\[
e_t f(E_{n-1}) = e_t f(E(\lambda) - L_n);
\]

\[
e_T^\lambda f(E_{n+1}) = e_T^\lambda f(E(\lambda) + L_{n+1}).
\]

*Proof.* Lemma 2.3 shows that \(E_n\) acts as the scalar \(E(\lambda)\) on \(\mathcal{R}\). The first statement then follows from \(E_{n-1} = E_n - L_n\).

Consider the subspace \(V\) of \(M^{\lambda^{\uparrow m+1}}\) spanned by all \(e_T^\lambda\) such that \(U\) is a \(\lambda^{\uparrow m+1}\)-tableau with \(n + 1\) in the unique entry of its last row. The subspace \(V\) is a direct summand of the restriction of \(I\) to \(\Sigma_n\), and as an \(F\Sigma_n\)-submodule, \(V\) is clearly isomorphic to \(S^\lambda\). Thus \(e_T^\lambda\) lies in a direct summand of the restriction of \(I\) to \(\Sigma_n\) that is isomorphic to \(S^\lambda\). So Lemma 2.3 shows that \(e_T^\lambda E_n = E(\lambda)e_T^\lambda\). The second statement now follows from \(E_{n+1} = E_n + L_{n+1}\), and the fact that \(E_nL_{n+1} = L_{n+1}E_n\).

When we are showing that the polynomials given in the proof of 2.2 are minimal, we will want to show that there is a \(\lambda\)-tableau \(t\) such that the set of vectors \(\{e_t(L_n)^i\} \mid 0 \leq i \leq m - 1\) is linearly independent. This will be accomplished using the following technical lemma concerning the action of \(L_n\) on \(\mathcal{R}\).

**Lemma 2.5.** Let \(t\) be a \(\lambda\)-tableau such that \(n \in V_m(t) \setminus H_{m-1}(t)\). For each \(u \in m - 1\), choose \(x_u \in V_u(t) \setminus H_{u-1}(t)\). Set \(s = t(n, x_{m-1}, x_{m-2}, \ldots, x_1)\). Let \(i\) be a positive integer with \(i \leq m - 1\). Then the coefficient of \(\{s\}\) in the expansion of
Lemma 2.6. Let \( \lambda \) be a \( \lambda \)-tableau and let \( T \) be its extension to \( \lambda^{\uparrow m+1} \). For each \( u \in \tilde{m} \), choose \( x_u \in V_u(t) \setminus H_{u-1}(t) \). Set \( S = T(n+1, x_m, x_{m-1}, \ldots, x_1) \). Let \( i \) be a positive integer with \( i \leq m \). Then the multiplicity of \( \{S\} \) in the expansion of \( e^I(L_{n+1})^i \) into tabloids is

\[
\begin{align*}
0, & \quad \text{when } 0 \leq i \leq m - 2; \\
1, & \quad \text{when } i = m - 1.
\end{align*}
\]

Proof. Clearly \( (L_n)^i = \sum (w_i, n)(w_{i-1}, n) \ldots (w_1, n) \), where \( (w_1, \ldots, w_i) \) ranges over all functions \( \hat{i} \to n - 1 \). Let \( (y_1, y_2) \) be a function \( \hat{i} \to n - 1 \), let \( \theta = (y_1, n)(y_1, n)^{-1} \), and assume that \( \{s\} \) appears with nonzero coefficient in the expansion of \( e^I \). We have two goals: (a) to show that \( i = m - 1 \), and (b) to show that when \( i = m - 1 \), the sequence \( (y_1, \ldots, y_{m-1}) \) is equal to the sequence \( (x_1, \ldots, x_{m-1}) \). The second part of the lemma follows easily from this second goal, as we now show. In the sum \( \sum e_t(w_i, n) \ldots (w_1, n), \{s\} \) can appear in only one term, namely \( e_t(x_{m-1}, n) \ldots (x_1, n) \). Since this term is equal to \( e_t(n, x_{m-1}, x_{m-2}, \ldots, x_1) = e_s, \{s\} \) appears with coefficient 1.

Since \( e^I = e_\theta \), there exists \( \pi \) in the column stabilizer of \( t \theta \) such that \( \{s\} = \{t \theta \pi\} \). Let \( u \in m - 1 \). Then by construction \( x_u \in V_{u+1}(s) \setminus H_u(s); \) since \( \{s\} = \{t \theta \pi\} \), it follows that \( x_u \notin H_u(t \theta \pi) \). As \( \pi^{-1} \) is a column permutation of \( t \theta \), we have \( x_u \in V_{u+1}(t \theta) \cup \ldots \cup V_m(t \theta) \). Thus

\[
\forall u \in \tilde{m} - 1, \quad x_u \theta^{-1} \in V_{u+1}(t) \cup \ldots \cup V_m(t).
\]

In particular, \( \theta \) does not fix any of the \( m - 1 \) distinct symbols \( x_1, \ldots, x_{m-1} \). In this paragraph, we will show that \( \theta \) does not fix \( n \). Assume that \( \theta \) does fix \( n \). If the symbols in the list \( y_1, \ldots, y_i \) were distinct, \( \theta \) would be the cycle \( (y_i, y_{i-1}, \ldots, y_1, n); \) since \( \theta \) fixes \( n \), it follows that there is some repetition in the list \( y_1, \ldots, y_i \). Since \( \theta = (y_1, n)(y_{i-1}, n) \ldots (y_1, n) \) and \( \theta \) fixes \( n \), the only symbols potentially moved by \( \theta \) are on the list \( y_1, \ldots, y_i \). Since this list contains a repeat, \( \theta \) moves at most \( i - 1 \) symbols. The previous paragraph shows that \( \theta \) moves at least \( m - 1 \) symbols. Therefore \( m \leq i \). But by hypothesis \( i \leq m - 1 \). This contradiction shows that \( \theta \) moves \( n \).

We now know that \( \theta \) moves all the \( m \) symbols in \( \{x_1, \ldots, x_{m-1}, n\} \). Since \( \theta = (y_1, n)(y_{i-1}, n) \ldots (y_1, n) \), \( \theta \) can only move symbols on the list \( y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_i, n \). By hypothesis, \( i \leq m - 1 \). It follows that \( i = m - 1 \), which is part (a) of our goal. It also follows that the sets \( \{x_1, \ldots, x_{m-1}\} \) and \( \{y_1, \ldots, y_{m-1}\} \) coincide and that the elements on the list \( y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_{m-1} \) are distinct. Hence \( \theta \) is equal to the \( m \)-cycle \( (y_{m-1}, y_{m-2}, \ldots, y_1, n) \). In particular, \( y_{m-1} \theta^{-1} = n \). From \( \square \) applied with \( u = m - 1 \), \( x_{m-1} \theta^{-1} = n \). (This is because \( n \) is the only symbol moved by \( \theta \) that is in \( V_{m}(t) \).) Hence \( y_{m-1} = x_{m-1} \). From this fact and \( \square \) applied with \( u = m - 2 \), it follows that \( x_{m-2} \theta^{-1} = x_{m-1} \). Hence \( y_{m-2} = x_{m-2} \). Continuing in this way, by reverse induction on \( u \), it follows that for all \( u \in m - 1 \), \( y_u = x_u \). This gives goal (b) above, and completes the proof.

The corresponding result for the action of \( L_{n+1} \) on \( \mathcal{I} \) is:

\[e^I(L_{n+1})^i \] into tabloids is

\[
\begin{align*}
0, & \quad \text{when } 0 \leq i \leq m - 1; \\
1, & \quad \text{when } i = m.
\end{align*}
\]
Proof. Clearly we have $(L_{n+1})^i = \sum (w_1, n + 1)(w_{i-1}, n + 1)\ldots(w_1, n + 1)$, where $(w_1, \ldots, w_i)$ ranges over all functions $i \rightarrow \hat{n}$. Let $(y_1, \ldots, y_i)$ be a function $i \rightarrow \hat{n}$, let $\theta = (y_i, n + 1)(y_{i-1}, n + 1)\ldots(y_1, n + 1)$, and assume that $\{S\}$ appears with nonzero multiplicity in the expansion of $e_1^\theta$ as a linear combination of tabloids. Then there exists $\pi$ in the column stabilizer of $t\theta$ such that $\{S\} = \{T\theta \pi\}$.

As $\pi$ fixes the single entry in the last row of $T\theta$, and $x_m$ occupies this node in $S$, it follows that $(n + 1)\theta = x_m$. Let $u \in m - 1$ and let $s$ denote the restriction of $S$ to $\lambda$. Then $x_u \in V_{u+1}(s)\setminus H_u(s)$, whence $x_u \notin H_u(t\theta \pi)$. As $\pi^{-1}$ is a column permutation of $t\theta$, we have $x_u \in V_{u+1}(t\theta) \cup \ldots \cup V_m(t\theta)$. Thus

\[(2) \quad x_u\theta^{-1} \in V_{u+1}(t) \cup \ldots \cup V_m(t).\]

In particular, $\theta$ does not fix $x_u$.

From its definition, $\theta$ moves at most $i + 1$ elements of $\widehat{n + 1}$. But $\theta$ does not fix any of the $m + 1$ distinct symbols $n + 1, x_m, \ldots, x_1$, and $i \leq m$. So we must have $i = m$. Together with (2), this implies that $x_u\theta^{-1} \in \{x_{u+1}, \ldots, x_m\}$. Reverse induction on $u$ shows that $x_u\theta^{-1} = x_{u+1}$. Thus $\theta$ coincides with the $(m + 1)$-cycle $(n+1, x_m, x_{m-1}, \ldots, x_2, x_1)$. We conclude that $x_u = y_u$, for $u \in \widehat{m}$. This shows that $\theta$ occurs with multiplicity 1 in the expansion of $(L_{n+1})^m$ as a linear combination of tabloids of group elements, whence $\{S\}$ appears with multiplicity 1 in the expansion of $e_1^\lambda(L_{n+1})^m$ as a linear combination of tabloids in $M^\lambda\uparrow^{m+1}$.

We can now prove the main result of this section.

**Theorem 2.7.** The minimal polynomial of $E_{n-1}$ acting on $R$ is

$$\prod_{u=1}^{m} (x - E(\lambda_u^\downarrow)),$$

while the minimal polynomial of $E_{n+1}$ acting on $I$ is

$$\prod_{u=1}^{m+1} (x - E(\lambda_u^\uparrow)).$$

**Proof.** First, we will prove the result on $R$. Let $t$ be as in Lemma 2.4. Then Lemma 2.6 implies that the set of vectors $\{e_i(L_n)^i \mid 0 \leq i \leq m - 1\}$ is linearly independent. It follows from Lemma 2.4 that the set $\{e_i(E_{n-1})^i \mid 0 \leq i \leq m - 1\}$ is linearly independent. So the minimal polynomial of $E_{n-1}$ has degree at least $m$. But Lemma 2.3 and the proof of Corollary 2.2 show that $R \prod_{u=1}^{m} (E_{n-1} - E(\lambda_u^\downarrow)) = 0$.

The result on $I$ follows from an identical argument using Lemma 2.6 in place of Lemma 2.4. \(\square\)

3. The indecomposable components of the restriction and induction of a Specht module

The purpose of this section is to compute the indecomposable components of $R$ and $I$, when the characteristic of $F$ is not 2. It is convenient to consider an $F\Sigma_n$-module $M$ that shares the following properties in common with $R$ and $I$:

1. $M$ has a Specht series

$$0 = M_0 \subset M_1 \subset \ldots \subset M_m = M,$$

such that $M_u/M_{u-1} \cong S^{\lambda_u}$, where $\lambda_u$ is a partition of $n$, for each $u \in \widehat{m}$.

2. The labelling partitions satisfy $\lambda_1 \leq \ldots \leq \lambda_m$. 

Harald Ellers and John Murray
(3) There exists \( z \in Z(F\Sigma_n) \) such that the minimal polynomial of \( z \) acting on \( M \) has degree \( m \).

Looking at the proof of Corollary 2.2, we see that \( z \) has minimal polynomial \( \prod_{u=1}^{m}(x-z_u) \), where \( z \) acts as the scalar \( z_u \) on the Specht factor \( M_u/M_{u-1} \).

**Lemma 3.1.** There exists \( \tau \in M \) such that for all \( u \in \hat{m}, \tau \prod_{i=u+1}^{m}(z-z_i) \) lies in \( M_u/M_{u-1} \).

**Proof.** The hypothesis on the degree of the minimal polynomial of \( z \) implies that there exists \( \tau \in M \) such that \( \tau z^{m-1} \) does not lie in the span of the vectors \( \{\tau, \tau z, \ldots, \tau z^{m-2}\} \). Set \( \tau_u = \tau \prod_{i=u+1}^{m}(z-z_i) \). Repeated application of Lemma 3.1 shows that \( \tau_u \in M_u \). We claim that \( \tau_u \notin M_{u-1} \). Suppose otherwise. Then \( \tau_u \prod_{i=1}^{m-1}(z-z_i) \subseteq M_{u-1} \prod_{i=1}^{m-1}(z-z_i) = 0 \), again using Lemma 2.1. Thus \( \tau \prod_{i=1,i\neq u}^{m}(z-z_i) = 0 \). This contradicts our choice of \( \tau \).

We now consider the endomorphism ring of a module that has properties (1) and (2) in common with \( M \).

**Lemma 3.2.** Suppose that \( \text{char} F \neq 2 \). Let \( \theta \) be a \( F\Sigma_n \)-endomorphism of \( M \). Then

1. for all \( u \in \hat{m}, M_u \theta \subseteq M_u \);
2. for all \( u \in \hat{m}, \) there is a well-defined \( \Sigma_n \)-endomorphism \( \theta_u : M_u/M_{u-1} \rightarrow M_u/M_{u-1} \) given by \( v + M_{u-1} \theta_u = v \theta + M_{u-1} \);
3. the map \( \Phi : \text{End}_{F\Sigma_n}(M) \rightarrow \bigoplus_u \text{End}_{F\Sigma_n}(M_u/M_{u-1}) \) given by \( (\theta)\Phi = (\theta_1, \ldots, \theta_m) \) is an algebra homomorphism;
4. the kernel of \( \Phi \) is the Jacobson radical of \( \text{End}_{F\Sigma_n}(M) \).

**Proof.** First, we prove (i). By induction, we may assume that \( M_{u-1} \theta \subseteq M_{u-1} \). Suppose that \( M_u \theta \not\subseteq M_u \). Choose \( v \) so that \( m \geq v > u \) and \( v \) is maximal so that \( M_u \theta \not\subseteq M_{v-1} \). Then \( M_v \theta \subseteq M_v \), and applying \( \theta \) to elements of \( M_v \) induces a well-defined nonzero \( \Sigma_n \)-homomorphism

\[
M_u/M_{u-1} \rightarrow M_v/M_{v-1} \rightarrow M_v/M_{v-1}.
\]

But \( \lambda_u < \lambda_v \). This, together with the fact that \( \text{char} F \neq 2 \), contradicts 13.17 of [1], proving (i). Part (ii) follows easily from part (i).

It is immediate from the definition of \( \theta_u \) that \( \Phi \) is a scalar algebra homomorphism. As \( \text{char} F \neq 2 \), the only \( \Sigma_n \)-endomorphisms of \( M_u/M_{u-1} \) are scalar multiples of the identity, by 13.17 of [1]. It follows that the codomain of \( \Phi \) is commutative and semisimple. Any element of the kernel must send \( M_u \) to \( M_{u-1} \) for all \( u \); therefore the kernel is nilpotent.

We now compute the indecomposable summands of \( M \).

**Proposition 3.3.** Assume that \( \text{char} F \neq 2 \). Let \( B \) be a block idempotent of \( F\Sigma_n \). Then the \( F\Sigma_n \)-module \( MB \) is 0 or indecomposable.

**Proof.** Assume that \( MB \neq 0 \). Let \( A \) be the algebra \( \text{End}_{F\Sigma_n}(MB) \). Identify the algebra \( A \) in the natural way with a direct summand of the algebra \( \text{End}_{F\Sigma_n}(M) \). We will use the notation and results from Lemma 3.2 throughout this proof. Our goal is to show that \( A/J(A) \) has dimension 1 over \( F \).

Suppose then that \( \theta \in A \). Let \( \theta \) be maximal such that the Specht module \( M_u/M_{u-1} \) belongs to \( B \). Our task is to show that if \( \theta_u = 0 \), then \( \theta_u = 0 \) for all \( u \) such that \( M_u/M_{u-1} \) belongs to \( B \). (The proposition follows easily from this. Let \( \phi \)

\[
\phi : M_u \rightarrow M_u.
\]
be in $A$. Then there is a scalar $c$ such that the map $\phi_w$ is $c$ times the identity. Let $\theta = \phi - c1_A$. Then $\theta_u = 0$. Since $\theta_u$ is also 0 for all $u$ with $M_u/M_{u-1}$ belonging to $B$, it follows from the last part of Lemma 3.2 that $\theta \in J(A)$. Hence $A/J(A)$ has dimension 1.

Now assume that $\theta_w = 0$, and let $u$ be an integer such that $M_u/M_{u-1}$ belongs to $B$. Let $\tau \in M$ be as in Lemma 3.1 set $\tau_u := \tau \prod_{i=u+1}^{m} (z_i - z_i^u)$, and set $\tau_w := \tau \prod_{i=w+1}^{m} (z_i - z_i^w)$. The lemma states that $\tau_u \in M_u \setminus M_{u-1}$ and $\tau_w \in M_w \setminus M_{w-1}$. Since $u \leq w$, we have

$$\tau_u \theta = \left( \tau_w \prod_{i=u+1}^{w} (z_i - z_i) \right) \theta$$

$$= \tau_w \theta \prod_{i=u+1}^{w} (z_i - z_i), \text{ as } \theta \text{ is in End}_{F \Sigma_u}(M),$$

$$\in M_{w-1} \prod_{i=u+1}^{w} (z_i - z_i), \text{ as } \theta_w = 0 \text{ implies that } \tau_w \theta \in M_{w-1},$$

$$= \left( M_{w-1} \prod_{i=u+1}^{w-1} (z_i - z_i) \right) (z - z_w)$$

$$\subseteq M_u (z - z_w), \text{ using Lemma 2.1 repeatedly.}$$

Now $M_u/M_{u-1}$ and $M_w/M_{w-1}$ both belong to $B$. So $z_u = z_w$, since both scalars are equal to the image of $z$ under the central character of $B$. Lemma 2.1 and the last inclusion displayed above then show that $\tau_u \theta \in M_{u-1}$. But $\tau_u \not\in M_u-1$, as proved in Lemma 3.1 and End$_{F \Sigma_u}(M_u/M_{u-1})$ is one-dimensional, by 13.17 of [1].

We conclude that $\theta_u = 0$, as required.

We have now done all the work to prove the main result of this paper.

**Theorem 3.4.** Assume that char $F \neq 2$. Let $b$ be a block idempotent of $F \Sigma_{n-1}$. Then the $F \Sigma_{n-1}$-module $(S^\lambda \downarrow \Sigma_{n-1}) b$ is 0 or indecomposable. Let $B$ be a block idempotent of $F \Sigma_{n+1}$. Then the $F \Sigma_{n+1}$-module $(S^\lambda \downarrow \Sigma_{n+1}) B$ is 0 or indecomposable.

**Proof.** We know that $\mathcal{R}$ and $\mathcal{I}$ satisfy properties (1) and (2) of $M$. That they also satisfy property (3) is a consequence of Theorem 2.7. The result now follows from Proposition 3.3.\[\square\]

We will finish by giving examples to show that the assumption char $F \neq 2$ cannot be dropped in Theorem 3.3.

Assume that char $F = 2$. Consider the Specht module $S^{(6,1,1,1)}$. The decomposition matrix for $\Sigma_9$ given in [11] shows that $S^{(8,1)}$ and $S^{(6,3)}$ are simple and that $S^{(6,1,1,1)}$ has a composition series with factors $S^{(8,1)}$ and $S^{(6,3)}$. By 23.8 in [11], $S^{(6,1,1,1)}$ is self-dual, so there is another composition series in which the factors appear in the other order. It follows that $S^{(6,1,1,1)} \cong S^{(8,1) \oplus S^{(6,3)}}$.

Now consider the restriction of $S^{(6,1,1,1)}$ to $\Sigma_8$. All components of the restriction belong to the principal 2-block of $\Sigma_8$, which is the block with empty core. Since $S^{(6,1,1,1)}$ is decomposable, so is its restriction to $\Sigma_8$.

For the other counterexample, let $M = S^{(6,1,1)} \downarrow \Sigma_9$. The module $M$ has a Specht series with factors $S^{(7,1,1)}, S^{(6,2,1)}$, and $S^{(6,1,1,1)}$. These factors belong to 2-blocks with cores (1), (1), and (2,1) respectively. It follows that if $B$ is the
block idempotent corresponding to 2-core (2, 1), then $MB \cong S^{(6,1,1,1)}$; thus $MB$ is decomposable.

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Department of Mathematics, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115, USA

E-mail address: ellers@math.niu.edu

Department of Mathematics, National University of Ireland - Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Ireland

E-mail address: jmurray@maths.may.ie