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invariant form (Lie algebras)

 ${\bf Canonical\ name} \quad {\bf Invariant Form Lie Algebras}$

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Author bwebste (988) Entry type Definition Classification msc 17B15 Let V be a representation of a Lie algebra $\mathfrak g$ over a field k. Then a bilinear form $B:V\times V\to k$ is invariant if

$$B(Xv, w) + B(v, Xw) = 0.$$

for all $X \in \mathfrak{g}, v, w \in V$. This criterion seems a little odd, but in the context of Lie algebras, it makes sense. For example, the map $\tilde{B}: V \to V^*$ given by $v \mapsto B(\cdot, v)$ is equivariant if and only if B is an invariant form.