

Let  $b_0$  be the restriction of  $b$  to  $V_0$  and  $f_0$  be the nonzero determinant form on  $V_0$  defined by  $f_0(v_1, \dots, v_n) := -f(v_1, \dots, v_n, x)$ . Then  $b_0$  is a nondegenerate symmetric bilinear form on  $V_0$  and for all  $v_i \in V_0$ ,  $i \in \underline{n}$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} b_0([v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}]_x, v_n) &= b_0([v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}, x], v_n) \\ &= f(v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}, x, v_n) \\ &= -f(v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}, v_n, x) \\ &= f_0(v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}, v_n). \end{aligned}$$

This means that the  $(n-1)$ -Lie algebra  $V_0$  can be realized as  $(K^n, b_0, f_0)$ . Therefore  $V_0$  is simple by Proposition 1.2.2. It follows that  $Kx$  is the centre of  $V(x)$  and  $V(x)$  is reductive.

Now let  $K$  be algebraically closed. Let  $y \in V$ ,  $y \neq x$ , be such that  $b(y, y) \neq 0$ . We may ask whether the reductive  $(n-1)$ -Lie algebras  $V(x)$  and  $V(y)$  are isomorphic. Let  $V(y) = Ky \oplus V_1$ . Since  $V_0$  and  $V_1$  are simple  $(n-1)$ -Lie algebras, there exists an  $(n-1)$ -Lie algebra isomorphism  $T$  from  $V_0$  onto  $V_1$  (see Theorem 1.2.4). Extend  $T$  to  $V(x)$  linearly via:

$$T_{x,y}(v + \alpha x) := T(v) + \alpha y, \quad v \in V_0, \alpha \in K.$$

One can easily check that  $T_{x,y}$  is an  $(n-1)$ -Lie algebra isomorphism.

We can also construct an isomorphism from  $V(x)$  onto  $V(y)$  as follows. Since  $b(x, x) \neq 0$  and  $b(y, y) \neq 0$ , there exists a scalar  $\alpha \in K$ ,  $\alpha \neq 0$  and an element  $\tau \in O(K^{n+1}, b)$  such that  $y = \alpha \tau(x)$ . Let  $\tau' := (\alpha \det(\tau))^{-\frac{1}{n-2}} \tau$ . From

$$\begin{aligned} b([\tau'v_1, \dots, \tau'v_{n-1}]_y, v_n) &= (\alpha \det(\tau))^{-\frac{n-1}{n-2}} b([\tau v_1, \dots, \tau v_{n-1}]_y, v_n) \\ &= (\alpha \det(\tau))^{-\frac{n-1}{n-2}} f(\tau v_1, \dots, \tau v_{n-1}, y, v_n) \\ &= (\alpha \det(\tau))^{-\frac{1}{n-2}} f(v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}, x, \tau^{-1}v_n) \\ &= (\alpha \det(\tau))^{-\frac{1}{n-2}} b([v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}]_x, \tau^{-1}v_n) \\ &= (\alpha \det(\tau))^{-\frac{1}{n-2}} b(\tau[v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}]_x, v_n) \\ &= b(\tau'[v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}]_x, v_n) \end{aligned}$$

it follows that  $\tau'[v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}]_x = [\tau'v_1, \dots, \tau'v_{n-1}]_y$  for all  $v_i \in V$ ,  $i \in \underline{n-1}$ , that is,  $\tau'$  is an isomorphism from  $V(x)$  onto  $V(y)$ .

In the following theorem we give two criteria for reductivity.

**Theorem 2.10:** *Let  $K$  be of characteristic 0 and  $V$  be an  $n$ -Lie algebra  $V$  over  $K$ . The following are equivalent.*

- 1)  $Inder(V)$  is semisimple.