

This should be relatively straightforward once you get past the notation.

## 1. Lee Exercise 11.17 (page 280, SECOND)

Given polar  $(r, \theta)$  and rectangular  $(x := r \cos \theta, y := r \sin \theta)$  coordinates on  $\mathbb{R}^2$  we have that the coordinate vector fields transform, using Equation (11.4) on page 275, by

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial}{\partial r} &= \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} &= \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial y},\end{aligned}$$

for arbitrary coordinate transformations in any finite dimension. Using this fact, consider  $f(x, y) = x^2$  on  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and let  $X$  be the vector field

$$X = \text{grad } f = 2x \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$$

Compute the coordinate expression of  $X$  in polar coordinates (on some open subset on which they are defined) using Equation (11.4) on page 275, and show that it is *not* equal to

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}.$$

**Takeaway:** The partial derivatives of a smooth function cannot be interpreted in a coordinate-independent way as the components of a vector field. However, they can be interpreted as the components of a covector field. This is the most important application of covector fields.

## 2. (Linear Algebra Warm Up 1)

Let  $V$  and  $W$  be finite dimensional vector spaces and let  $A : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear map. Show that the dual map  $A^* : W^* \rightarrow V^*$  is given in coordinates as follows. Let  $\{e_i\}$  and  $\{f_j\}$  be bases for  $V$  and  $W$ , and let  $\{e^i\}$  and  $\{f^j\}$  be the corresponding dual bases for  $V^*$  and  $W^*$ . If  $Ae_i = A_i^j f_j$  then  $A^* f^j = A_i^j e^i$ .

## 3. (Linear Algebra Warm Up 2)

Let  $V$  be a finite dimensional vector space and let  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  be an inner product on  $V$ . The inner product determines an isomorphism  $\phi : V \rightarrow V^*$ .

(a) Show that the isomorphism  $\phi$  is given in coordinates as follows. Let  $\{e_i\}$  be a basis for  $V$ , let  $\{e^i\}$  be the dual basis, and write  $g_{ij} = \langle e_i, e_j \rangle$ . Then  $\phi(e_i) = g_{ij} e^j$ .

(b) The inner product, together with the isomorphism  $\phi$ , define an inner product on  $V^*$ . Write this in coordinates as  $g^{ij} = \langle e^i, e^j \rangle$ . Show that the matrix  $(g^{ij})$  is the inverse of the matrix  $(g_{ij})$ .

4. Let  $M$  be a smooth manifold with a Riemannian metric  $g : TM \otimes TM \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . If  $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a smooth function, the *gradient* of  $f$  with respect to  $g$  is the vector field  $\nabla f$  defined by

$$df = g(\nabla f, \cdot).$$

(a) In local coordinates  $\{x^i\}$ , if  $g(\partial/\partial x^i, \partial/\partial x^j) = g_{ij}$ , explain how to compute  $\nabla f$  in terms of  $g_{ij}$  and  $\partial f/\partial x^i$ . *Hint: This should fall out of the preceding two linear algebra warm ups.*

(b) Let  $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and let  $p \in M$ . Show that if  $V \in T_p M$  satisfies  $df_p(V) > 0$ , then there exists a Riemannian metric  $g$  on  $M$  with  $\nabla f(p) = V$ .

\* Which problems provided a worthwhile learning experience? How many hours did you spend on it?