

### [gex113] Uniform vector field in plane made into a tensor

Consider the vector field  $\mathbf{A} \doteq (A_x, A_y) = a \hat{\mathbf{i}} + b \hat{\mathbf{j}}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  with constant  $a, b$ . Finding the components of this vector field in polar coordinates is straightforward and a topic investigated in [gmd2]:

$$\mathbf{A} \doteq (A_\rho, A_\phi) = (a \cos \phi + b \sin \phi) \hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}} + (b \cos \phi - a \sin \phi) \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}.$$

The transformation between rectangular and polar coordinates,

$$x = \rho \cos \phi, \quad y = \rho \sin \phi,$$

is nonlinear and orthogonal.

(a) If we insist that  $A^1 = a, A^2 = b$  are the elements of a contravariant rank-1 tensor in rectangular coordinates, what are its elements  $\bar{A}^1, \bar{A}^2$  in polar coordinates?

(b) If instead we assume that  $A_1 = a, A_2 = b$  are the elements of a covariant rank-1 tensor in rectangular coordinates, what are its elements  $\bar{A}_1, \bar{A}_2$  in polar coordinates?

(c) Use The results of parts (a) and (b) to recover the original tensors via the inverse transition from polar to rectangular coordinates.

Hint: Use the elements of the Jacobian and its inverse determined in [gex112].

**Solution:**