

## Covectors

**Definition.** Let  $V$  be a finite-dimensional vector space. A **covector** on  $V$  is real-valued linear functional on  $V$ , that is, a linear map  $\omega : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

- The space of all covectors on  $V$  is itself a real vector space under the obvious operations of pairwise addition and scalar multiplication.
- It is denoted by  $V^*$  and called the **dual space** to  $V$ .

**Proposition 6.1.** Let  $V$  be a finite-dimensional vector space. If  $(E_1, \dots, E_n)$  is any basis for  $V$ , then the covectors  $(\varepsilon^1, \dots, \varepsilon^n)$  defined by

$$\varepsilon^i(E_j) = \delta_j^i = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } i = j, \\ 0, & \text{if } i \neq j, \end{cases}$$

form a basis for  $V^*$ , called the **dual basis** to  $(E_i)$ . Therefore,  $\dim V^* = \dim V$ .

**Example.** If  $(e_i)$  denote the standard basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , we denote the dual basis by

$$(e^1, \dots, e^n) \text{ (note the upper indices),}$$

and call it the **standard dual basis**.

- The basis vectors are the linear functions from  $\mathbb{R}^n$  to  $\mathbb{R}$  given by

$$e^j(v) = e^j(v^1, \dots, v^n) = v^j.$$

- In other words,  $e^j$  is just the linear functional that picks out the  $j$ th component of a vector.
- In matrix notation, a linear map from  $\mathbb{R}^n$  to  $\mathbb{R}$  is represented by a  $1 \times n$  matrix; i.e. a row matrix.
- The basis covectors can therefore also be thought of as the linear functionals represented by the row matrix

$$e^1 = (1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0), \dots, e^n = (0 \ \dots \ 0 \ 1).$$

- If  $(E_i)$  is a basis for  $V$  and  $(\varepsilon^j)$  is its dual basis, then for any matrix  $X = X^i E_i \in V$ , we have

$$\varepsilon^j(X) = X^i \varepsilon^j(E_i) = X^i \delta_i^j = X^j.$$

Thus as in the case of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\varepsilon^j$  picks out the  $j$ th component of a vector w.r.t. the basis  $(E_i)$ .

- More generally, Proposition 6.1 shows that we can express an arbitrary covector  $\omega \in V^*$  in terms of the dual basis as

$$(6.1) \quad \omega = \omega_j \varepsilon^j,$$

where the components  $\omega_j$  are determined by

$$(6.2) \quad \omega_j = \omega(E_j).$$

- We will write basis covectors with upper indices, and components of a covector with lower indices, because this helps to ensure that mathematically meaningful expressions such as (6.1) will always follow our index conventions:  
Any index that is to be summed over in a given term appears exactly twice, once as a subscript and once as a superscript.

**Proposition 6.2.** *The dual map satisfies the following properties.*

- (a)  $(A \circ B)^* = B^* \circ A^*$ .
- (b)  $(Id_V)^*; V^* \rightarrow V^*$  is the identity map of  $V^*$ .

- Apart from the fact that  $\dim V^* = \dim V$ , the second important fact is the following characterization of the **second dual space**  $V^{**} = (V^*)^*$ .
- For each vector space  $V$  there is a natural basis-independent map  $\xi : V \rightarrow V^{**}$ , defined as follows.

For each vector  $X \in V$ , define a linear functional  $\xi(X) : V^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by

$$\xi(X)(\omega) = \omega(X), \quad \forall \omega \in V^*.$$

**Proposition 6.4.** *For a finite-dimensional vector space  $V$ , the map  $\xi : V \rightarrow V^{**}$  is an isomorphism.*

*Proof.* Since  $V$  and  $V^*$  have the same dimension, it suffices to **claim:  $\xi$  is injective.**

Indeed, suppose  $X \in V$  is not zero. Extend  $X$  to a basis  $(E_1, E_2, \dots, E_n)$  for  $V$ ,  $X = E_1$  and let  $(\varepsilon^1, \dots, \varepsilon^n)$  denote the dual basis for  $V^*$ . Then

$$\xi(X)(\varepsilon^1) = \varepsilon^1(X) = \varepsilon^1(E_1) = 1 \neq 0,$$

so  $\xi(X) \neq 0$ .  $\square$

- The preceding proposition shows that when  $V$  is finite-dimensional, we can unambiguously identify  $V^{**}$  with  $V$  itself, because the map  $\xi$  is canonically defined, without reference to any basis.
- It is important to observe that although  $V^*$  is also isomorphic to  $V$ , there is **no canonical** isomorphism  $V \cong V^*$ .
- Because of Proposition 6.4, the real number  $\omega(X)$  obtained by applying a covector  $\omega$  to a vector  $X$  is sometimes denoted by either of the more symmetric-looking notations

$$\langle \omega, X \rangle, \quad \langle X, \omega \rangle;$$

both expressions can be thought of either as the action of the covector  $\omega \in V^*$  on the vector  $X \in V$ , or as the action of the covector  $\xi(X) \in V^{**}$  on the element  $\omega \in V^*$ .

- Whenever one of the arguments is a vector and the other a covector, the notation  $\langle \omega, X \rangle$  is always to be interpreted as the actual pairing between vectors and covectors, not as an inner product.

## Tangent Covectors on Manifolds

**Definition.** Let  $M$  be a smooth manifold. For each  $p \in M$ , we define the **cotangent space** at  $p$ , denoted by  $T_p^*M$ , to be the dual space to  $T_pM$ :

$$T_p^*M = (T_pM)^*.$$

Elements of  $T_p^*M$  are called **tangent covectors** at  $p$ .

- If  $(x^i)$  are smooth local coordinates on an open subset  $U \subset M$ , then  $\forall p \in U$ , the coordinate basis  $(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \Big|_p)$  give rise to a dual basis for  $T_p^*M$ , which we denote for the moment by  $(\lambda^i \Big|_p)$ .
- Any covector  $\omega \in T_p^*M$  can thus be written uniquely as  $\omega = \omega_i \lambda^i \Big|_p$ , where

$$\omega_i = \omega \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \Big|_p \right).$$

- Let  $(\tilde{x}^j)$  be another set of smooth local coordinates whose domain contains  $p$ , and let  $(\tilde{\lambda}^j \Big|_p)$  denote the basis for  $T_p^*M$  dual to  $(\frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{x}^j} \Big|_p)$ .
- We can compute the components of the same covector  $\omega$  w.r.t. the new coordinate system as follows.

— First recall that the coordinate vector fields transform as follows:

$$(6.4) \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \Big|_p = \frac{\partial \tilde{x}^j}{\partial x^i}(p) \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{x}^j} \Big|_p.$$

— Writing  $\omega$  in both systems as

$$\omega = \omega_i \lambda^i \Big|_p = \tilde{\omega}_j \tilde{\lambda}^j \Big|_p,$$

we can use (6.4) to compute the components  $\omega_i$  in terms of  $\tilde{\omega}_j$ :

$$(6.5) \quad \omega_i = \omega \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \Big|_p \right) = \omega \left( \frac{\partial \tilde{x}^j}{\partial x^i}(p) \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{x}^j} \Big|_p \right) = \frac{\partial \tilde{x}^j}{\partial x^i}(p) \tilde{\omega}_j.$$

- In the early days of smooth manifold theory, before most of the abstract coordinate-free definition we are using were developed, mathematicians tended to think of a tangent vector at a point  $p$  as an assignment of an  $n$ -tuples  $(X^1, \dots, X^n)$  and  $(\tilde{X}^1, \dots, \tilde{X}^n)$  assigned to two different systems  $(x^i)$  and  $(\tilde{x}^j)$  were related by the transformation law:

$$(6.6) \quad \tilde{X}^j = \frac{\partial \tilde{x}^j}{\partial x^i}(p) X^i.$$

- Similarly, a tangent covector was thought of as  $n$ -tuple  $(\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n)$  that transform, by virtue of (6.5), according to the following slightly different rule:

$$(6.7) \quad \omega_i = \frac{\partial \tilde{x}^j}{\partial x^i}(p) \tilde{\omega}_j.$$

- Thus it becomes customary to call the tangent covectors **covariant vectors** because their components transform in the same way as (“vary with”) the coordinate partial derivatives, with the Jacobian matrix  $(\frac{\partial \tilde{x}^j}{\partial x^i})$  multiplying the objects associated with the “new” coordinates  $(\tilde{x}^j)$  to obtain those associated with the “old” coordinates  $(x^i)$ .
- Analogously, tangent vectors were called **contravariant vectors**, because their components transform in the opposite way.

## The Cotangent Bundle

**Definition.** The disjoint union

$$T^*M = \coprod_{p \in M} T_p^*M$$

is called the **cotangent bundle** of  $M$ . It has a natural projection map

$$\pi : T^*M \rightarrow M$$

sending  $\omega \in T^*M$  to  $p \in M$ .

- As above, given any smooth local coordinates  $(x^i)$  on  $U \subset M$ , for each  $p \in U$  we denote the basis for  $T_p^*M$  dual to  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \Big|_p$  by  $(\lambda^i \Big|_p)$ .

This defines  $n$  maps  $\lambda^1, \dots, \lambda^n : U \rightarrow T^*M$ , called **coordinate covector fields**.

**Proposition 6.5.** Let  $M$  be a smooth manifold and let  $T^*M$  be its cotangent bundle. With the standard projection map and the natural vector space structure on each fiber,  $T^*M$  has a unique smooth manifold structure making it into a rank- $n$  vector bundle over  $M$  for which all coordinate covector fields are smooth local sections.

*Proof.* Given a smooth chart  $(U, \varphi)$  on  $M$ , with coordinate functions  $(x^i)$ , define  $\Phi : \pi^{-1}(U) \rightarrow U \times \mathbb{R}^n$  by

$$\Phi(\xi_i \lambda^i \Big|_p) = (p, (\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n)),$$

where  $\lambda^i$  is the  $i$ th coordinate covector field associated with  $(x^i)$ .

- Suppose  $(\tilde{U}, \tilde{\varphi})$  is another smooth chart on  $M$ , with coordinate functions  $(\tilde{x}^i)$ , and let  $\tilde{\Phi} : \pi^{-1}(\tilde{U}) \rightarrow \tilde{U} \times \mathbb{R}^n$  be defined analogously.
- On  $\pi^{-1}(U \cap \tilde{U})$ , it follows from (6.5) that

$$\Phi \circ \tilde{\Phi}^{-1}(p, (\tilde{\xi}_1, \dots, \tilde{\xi}_n)) = \left( p, \left( \frac{\partial \tilde{x}^j}{\partial x^1}(p) \tilde{\xi}_j, \dots, \frac{\partial \tilde{x}^j}{\partial x^n}(p) \tilde{\xi}_j \right) \right).$$

The  $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{R})$ -valued function  $(\frac{\partial \tilde{x}^j}{\partial x^i})(p)$  is smooth, so it follows that  $T^*M$  has a smooth structure making it into a smooth vector bundle for which the map  $\Phi$  are smooth local trivialisations.  $\square$

- As in the case of the tangent bundle, smooth local coordinates for  $M$  yield smooth local coordinates for its cotangent bundle.
- If  $(x^i)$  are smooth coordinates on an open set  $U \subset M$ , then the map  $\pi^{-1}(U)$  to  $\mathbb{R}^{2n}$  given by

$$\xi_i \lambda^i \Big|_p \mapsto (x^1(p), \dots, x^n(p), \xi_1, \dots, \xi_n)$$

is a smooth coordinate chart for  $T^*M$ .

- We will call  $(x^i, \xi_i)$  the **standard coordinates** for  $T^*M$  associated with  $(x^i)$ .

**Definition.** A section of  $T^*M$  is called a **covector field** or a **(differential) 1-form**.

- In any smooth local coordinates on an open set  $U \subset M$ , a covector field  $\omega$  can be written in terms of the coordinate covector fields  $(\lambda^i)$  as  $\omega = \omega_i \lambda^i$  for  $n$  functions  $\omega_i : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  called the **component functions** of  $\omega$ . They are characterized by

$$\omega_i(p) = \omega_p \left( \left. \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \right|_p \right).$$

**Lemma 6.6 (Smoothness Criteria for Covector Fields).** Let  $M$  be a smooth manifold, and let  $\omega : M \rightarrow T^*M$  be a rough section.

- (1) If  $\omega = \omega_i \lambda^i$  is the coordinate representation for  $\omega$  in any smooth chart  $(U, x^i)$  for  $M$ , then  $\omega$  is smooth iff its components functions are smooth.
- (2)  $\omega$  is smooth iff for every vector field  $X$  on an open subset  $U \subset M$ , the function  $\langle \omega, X \rangle : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by

$$\langle \omega, X \rangle(p) = \langle \omega_p, X_p \rangle = \omega_p(X_p)$$

is smooth.

**Definition.** We denote the real vector space of all smooth covector fields on  $M$  by  $\mathcal{T}^*(M)$ .

- As smooth sections of a vector bundle, elements of  $\mathcal{T}^*(M)$  can be multiplied by smooth real-valued function:

If  $f \in C^\infty(M)$  and  $\omega \in \mathcal{T}^*(M)$ , the covector field  $f\omega$  is defined by

$$(6.8) \quad (f\omega)_p = f(p)\omega_p.$$

- Like the space of smooth vector fields,  $\mathcal{T}^*(M)$  is a module over  $C^\infty(M)$ .

- Geometrically, we think of a vector field on  $M$  as a rule that attaches an arrow to each point of  $M$ .

- **What kind of geometric picture can we form of a covector field?**

- The key idea is that a nonzero linear functional  $\omega_p \in T_p^*M$  is completely determined by two pieces of data:

- (1) its kernel, which is a codimension-1 linear subspace of  $T_pM$  (a hyperplane), and
- (2) the set of vectors  $X$  for which  $\omega_p(X) = 1$ , which is an affine hyperplane parallel to the kernel.

- Thus you can **visualize a covector field** as defining a **pair of affine hyperplanes** in each tangent space, one through the origin and another parallel to it, and varying continuously from point to point.

- At points where the covector field takes on the value zero, one of the hyperplanes goes off to infinity.

### The Differential of a Function

- In elementary calculus, the gradient of a smooth real-valued function  $f$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is defined as the vector field whose components are the partial derivatives of  $f$ . In our notation, this would read

$$\text{grad } f = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}.$$

Unfortunately, in this form, the gradient does **not** make **coordinate independent** sense.

**Example.** Let  $f(x, y) = x^2$  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 of  $X$  in polar coordinates (on some open set on which they are defined) and show that  $\text{grad } f$  is not equal to

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

- Although the first partial derivatives of a smooth function cannot be interpreted in a coordinate-independent way as the components of a vector field, it turns out that they **can** be interpreted as the components of a covector field.
- This is the most important application of covector fields.

**Definition.** Let  $f$  be a smooth real-valued function on a smooth manifold  $M$ . We define a covector field  $df$ , called the **differential** of  $f$ , by

$$df_p(X_p) = X_p f, \quad \forall X_p \in T_p M.$$

**Lemma 6.7.** *The differential of a smooth function is a smooth covector field.*

*Proof.* (1) It is straightforward to verify that at each point  $p \in M$ ,  $df_p(X_p)$  depends linearly on  $X_p$ , so that  $df_p$  is indeed a covector at  $p$ .

(2) To see that  $df$  is **smooth**, we use Lemma 6.6 (b).

For any smooth vector field  $X$  on an open subset  $U \subset M$ , the function  $\langle df, X \rangle$  is smooth because it is equal to  $Xf$ .  $\square$

- **To see what  $df$  looks like more concretely**, we need to compute its coordinate representations.
- Let  $(x^i)$  be smooth coordinates on an open subset  $U \subset M$ , and let  $(\lambda^i)$  be the corresponding coordinate coframe on  $U$ .
- Writing  $df$  in coordinates as  $df_p = A_i(p)\lambda^i|_p$  for some functions  $A_i : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , the definition of  $df$  implies

$$A_i(p) = df_p \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \Big|_p \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \Big|_p f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^i}(p).$$

- This yields the following formula for the coordinate representation of  $df$ :

$$(6.9) \quad df_p = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^i}(p)\lambda^i \Big|_p.$$

- Thus the component functions of  $df$  in any smooth coordinate chart are the partial derivatives of  $f$  w.r.t. those coordinates.
- Because of this, we can think of  $df$  as an analogue of the classical gradient, reinterpreted in a way that makes **coordinate-independent** sense on a manifold.
- If we apply (6.9) to the special case in which  $f$  is one of the coordinate functions  $x^j : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , we obtain

$$dx^j \Big|_p = \frac{\partial x^j}{\partial x^i} \lambda^i \Big|_p = \delta_i^j \lambda^i \Big|_p = \lambda^j \Big|_p.$$

In other words, **the coordinate covector field  $\lambda^j$  is  $dx^j$** . Therefore, (6.9) can be rewritten as

$$df_p = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^i}(p) dx^i \Big|_p,$$

or as an equation between covector fields instead of covectors:

$$(6.10) \quad df = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^i} dx^i.$$

In particular, in the 1-dimensional case, this reduces to

$$df = \frac{df}{dx} dx.$$

**Example 6.8.** If  $f(x, y) = x^2 y \cos x$  on  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} df &= \frac{\partial(x^2 y \cos x)}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial(x^2 y \cos x)}{\partial y} dy \\ &= (2xy \cos x - x^2 y \sin x) dx + (x^2 \cos x) dy. \end{aligned}$$



- It is important to observe that for a smooth real-valued function  $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , we have now defined two different kinds of derivatives of  $f$  at a point  $p \in M$ .

- (1) The pushforward  $f_*$  is defined as a linear map from  $T_p M$  to  $T_{f(p)} \mathbb{R}$ .
- (2) The differential  $df_p$  as a covector at  $p$ ; i.e., a linear map from  $T_p M$  to  $\mathbb{R}$ .

These are really the same at  $p$ , once we take into account the canonical identification between  $\mathbb{R}$  and its tangent space at any point; one easy way to see this is to note that both are represented in coordinates by the row matrix whose components are the partial derivatives of  $f$ .

**Proposition 6.11 (Derivative of a Function Along a Curve).** *Suppose  $M$  is a smooth manifold,  $\gamma : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a smooth curve, and  $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a smooth function. Then the derivative of the real-valued function  $f \circ \gamma : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is given by*

$$(f \circ \gamma)'(t) = df_{\gamma(t)}(\gamma'(t)).$$

*Proof.* Directly from the definition, for any  $t_0 \in J$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} df_{\gamma(t_0)}(\gamma'(t_0)) &= \gamma'(t_0)f \\ &= \left(\gamma_* \frac{d}{dt} \Big|_{t_0}\right) f \\ &= \frac{d}{dt} \Big|_{t_0} (f \circ \gamma) \\ &= (f \circ \gamma)'(t_0). \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

- If  $\gamma$  is smooth curve in  $M$ , we have two different meanings for the expression  $(f \circ \gamma)'(t)$ .
  - (1)  $f \circ \gamma$  can be interpreted as a smooth curve in  $\mathbb{R}$ . Thus  $(f \circ \gamma)'(t)$  is its tangent vector at the point  $f \circ \gamma(t)$ , an element of the tangent space  $T_{f \circ \gamma(t)} \mathbb{R}$ . This tangent vector is equal to  $f_*(\gamma'(t))$ .
  - (2)  $f \circ \gamma$  can also be considered simply as a real-valued function of one real variable, and then  $(f \circ \gamma)'(t)$  is just its ordinary derivative. Proposition 6.11 shows that this derivative is equal to the real number  $df_{\gamma(t)}(\gamma'(t))$ .

### Pullbacks

- Let  $F : M \rightarrow N$  be a smooth map and  $p \in M$  be arbitrary. The pushforward map

$$F_* : T_p M \rightarrow T_{F(p)} N$$

yields a dual linear map

$$F^* : T_{F(p)}^* N \rightarrow T_p^* M,$$

which is characterized by

$$(F^* \omega)(X) = \omega(F_* X), \quad \forall \omega \in T_{F(p)}^* N, X \in T_p M.$$

- When we introduced the pushforward map, we made a point of noting that vector fields do not pushforward to vector fields, except in the special case of a diffeomorphism.
- The surprising thing about pullbacks is that **smooth vector fields always pull back to smooth covector fields**.

**Definition.** Given a smooth map  $G : M \rightarrow N$  and a smooth covector field  $\omega$  on  $N$ , define a covector field  $G^* \omega$  on  $M$  by

$$(6.12) \quad (G^* \omega)_p = G^*(\omega_{G(p)}).$$

- Observe that there is no ambiguity about what point to pull back from, in contrast to the vector field case.

**Lemma 6.12.** Let  $G : M \rightarrow N$  be a smooth map. Suppose  $f \in C^\infty(N)$  and  $\omega \in \mathcal{T}^*(N)$ . Then

$$(6.13) \quad G^* df = d(f \circ G);$$

$$(6.14) \quad G^*(f\omega) = (f \circ G)G^* \omega.$$

*Proof.* To prove (6.13), we let  $X_p \in T_p M$  be arbitrary and compute

$$\begin{aligned} (G^* df)_p(X_p) &= (G^*(df_{G(p)}))(X_p) && \text{(by (6.12))} \\ &= df_{G(p)}(G_* X_p) && \text{(by definition of } G^*) \\ &= (G_* X_p)f && \text{(by definition of } df) \\ &= X_p(f \circ G) && \text{(by definition of } G_*) \\ &= d(f \circ G)_p(X_p) && \text{(by definition of } d(f \circ G)). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, for (6.14) we compute

$$\begin{aligned} (G^*(f\omega))_p &= (G^*(f\omega)_{G(p)}) && \text{(by (6.12))} \\ &= G^*(f(G(p))\omega_{G(p)}) && \text{(by (6.8))} \\ &= f(G(p))G^*(\omega_{G(p)}) && \text{(by linearity of } G^*) \\ &= f(G(p))(G^* \omega)_p && \text{(by (6.12))} \\ &= ((f \circ G)G^* \omega)_p && \text{(by (6.8)).} \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

**Proposition 6.13.** *Suppose  $G : M \rightarrow N$  is smooth, and let  $\omega$  be a smooth covector field on  $N$ . Then  $G^*\omega$  is a smooth vector field on  $M$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $p \in M$  be arbitrary, and choose smooth coordinates  $(x^i)$  for  $M$  near  $p$  and  $(y^j)$  for  $N$  near  $G(p)$ .

Writing  $\omega$  in coordinates as  $\omega = \omega_j dy^j$  for smooth functions  $\omega_j$  defined near  $G(p)$  and using Lemma 6.12 twice, we have the following computation in a nbhd of  $p$ :

$$G^*\omega = G^*(\omega_j dy^j) = (\omega_j \circ G)G^* dy^j = (\omega_j \circ G)d(y^j \circ G),$$

which is smooth.  $\square$

- In the course of the preceding proof we derived the following formula for the pullback of a covector field w.r.t. smooth coordinates  $(x^i)$  on the domain and  $(y^j)$  on the range:

$$(6.15) \quad G^*\omega = G^*(\omega_j dy^j) = (\omega_j \circ G)d(y^j \circ G) = (\omega_j \circ G)dG^j,$$

where  $G^j$  is the  $j$ th component function of  $G$  in these coordinates.

- In other words, to compute  $G^*\omega$ , all we need to do is to substitute the component functions of  $G$  for the coordinate functions of  $N$  everywhere that appear in  $\omega$ .

**Example.** Let  $G : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  be the map given by

$$(u, v) = G(x, y, z) = (x^2 y, y \sin z),$$

and let  $\omega \in \mathcal{T}^*(\mathbb{R}^2)$  be the covector field

$$\omega = u dv + v du.$$

According to (6.15), the pullback  $G^*\omega$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} G^*\omega &= (u \circ G)d(v \circ G) + (v \circ G)d(u \circ G) \\ &= (x^2)d(y \sin z) + (y \sin z)d(x^2 y) \\ &= x^2 y(\sin z dy + y \cos z dz) + y \sin z(2xy dx + x^2 dy) \\ &= 2x^2 y \sin z dx + 2x^2 y \sin z dy + x^2 y^2 \cos z dz. \end{aligned}$$

**Example.** Let  $(r, \theta)$  be polar coordinates on the half-plane  $H = \{(x, y) : x > 0\}$ .

- We can think of the change of coordinates  $(x, y) = (r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta)$  as the coordinate expression for the identity map on  $H$ , but using  $(r, \theta)$  as coordinates for the domain and  $(x, y)$  for the range.
- Then the pullback formula (6.15) tells us what we can compute the polar coordinate expression for a covector field simply by substituting  $x = r \cos \theta$ ,  $y = r \sin \theta$  and expanding. For example,

$$\begin{aligned} x dy - y dx &= Id^*(x dy - y dx) \\ &= r \cos \theta d(r \sin \theta) - r \sin \theta d(r \cos \theta) \\ &= r \cos \theta(\sin \theta dr + r \cos \theta d\theta) - r \sin \theta(\cos \theta dr - r \sin \theta d\theta) \\ &= (r \cos \theta \sin \theta - r \sin \theta \cos \theta)dr + (r^2 \cos^2 \theta + r^2 \sin^2 \theta)d\theta \\ &= r^2 d\theta. \end{aligned}$$