Quiz 2 Name:

Winter 2011 Math 765

Recall that the Lie bracket of vector fields A and B is defined to satisfy

$$[A, B]f = A(Bf) - B(Af).$$

Compute the Lie bracket [A, B] of the vector fields

$$A = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$$

$$B = y \frac{\partial}{\partial x} - x \frac{\partial}{\partial y} = r \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}$$

on the manifold $M = \mathbb{R}^2 - \{0, 0\}$.

Solution