

[13.12] Let $T: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ be a linear transformation. Unlike Beckmann, I interpret this problem using the definition of linear transformation given on p. 255: $T[\alpha(x_1, y_1) + \beta(x_2, y_2)] = \alpha T(x_1, y_1) + \beta T(x_2, y_2)$. This makes for a much easier problem.

Show $\exists \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R} \ni T(x, y) = (\alpha_{1x} + \beta_{1y}, \alpha_{2x} + \beta_{2y})$. That is $\begin{cases} x \rightarrow \alpha_1 x + \beta_1 y \\ y \rightarrow \alpha_2 x + \beta_2 y \end{cases}$.

Solution: Define $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2) = T(1, 0)$ and $(\beta_1, \beta_2) = T(0, 1)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} T(x, y) &= xT(1, 0) + yT(0, 1) = x(\alpha_1, \alpha_2) + y(\beta_1, \beta_2) \\ &= (\alpha_1 x + \beta_1 y, \alpha_2 x + \beta_2 y). \quad \checkmark \end{aligned}$$