where $x = \sum_{i=1}^{n} y_i v_i$, with $\alpha_i > 0$, $\beta_i > 0$, $1 \leq i \leq r$.

Assume that $p > q$ and derive a contradiction. First consider x in the subspace F spanned by

$$(u_1, \ldots, u_p, u_{r+1}, \ldots, u_n),$$

and observe that $\varphi(x, x) \geq 0$ if $x \neq 0$. Next consider x in the subspace G spanned by

$$(v_{q+1}, \ldots, v_r),$$

and observe that $\varphi(x, x) < 0$ if $x \neq 0$. Prove that $F \cap G$ is nontrivial (i.e., contains some nonnull vector), and derive a contradiction. This implies that $p \leq q$. Finish the proof.

The pair $(p, r - p)$ is called the *signature* of φ.

(4) A symmetric bilinear form φ is *definite* if for every $x \in E$, if $\varphi(x, x) = 0$, then $x = 0$.

Prove that a symmetric bilinear form is definite iff its signature is either $(n, 0)$ or $(0, n)$. In other words, a symmetric definite bilinear form has rank n and is either positive or negative.

Problem 12.12. Consider the $n \times n$ matrices $R^{i,j}$ defined for all i, j with $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ and $n \geq 3$, such that the only nonzero entries are

$$\begin{aligned} R^{i,j}(i, j) &= -1 \\ R^{i,j}(i, i) &= 0 \\ R^{i,j}(j, i) &= 1 \\ R^{i,j}(j, j) &= 0 \\ R^{i,j}(k, k) &= 1, \quad 1 \leq k \leq n, k \neq i, j. \end{aligned}$$

For example,

$$R^{i,j} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & & & & & & & & \\ & \ddots & & & & & & & & & \\ & & 1 & & & & & & & & \\ & & & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & -1 & & & \\ & & & 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & & & \\ & & & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & & & \\ & & & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & 0 & & & \\ & & & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & & & \\ & & & & & & & & 1 & & \\ & & & & & & & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & & & & & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(1) Prove that the $R^{i,j}$ are rotation matrices. Use the matrices R^{ij} to form a basis of the $n \times n$ skew-symmetric matrices.