

**Problem 5.1.1**

A function  $f(x)$  is expanded in a series of orthonormal functions

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n \varphi_n(x)$$

Show that the series expansion is unique for a given set of  $\varphi_n(x)$ . The functions  $\varphi_n(x)$  are being taken here as the basis vectors in an infinite-dimensional Hilbert space.

**Solution** Consider the Orthonormal function:

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n \phi_n(x)$$

The objective is to show that the series expansion is unique for  $\phi_n(x)$ . Here, the functions  $\phi_n(x)$  are as the basis vectors in an infinite-dimensional Hilbert space. If the functions  $\phi_i$  are orthogonal and

$$f = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \phi_i,$$

then the scalar

$$a_i = \frac{\langle \phi_i | f \rangle}{\langle \phi_i | \phi_i \rangle}$$

Using the Orthogonality definition, the value of  $\langle \phi_n | f \rangle$  is,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \phi_n | f \rangle &= a_n \\ &= \int_a^b w(x) f(x) \phi_n(x) dx \end{aligned}$$

This is derived from the function  $f$ . Assume that  $\langle \phi_n | f \rangle = a'_n$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \phi_n | f \rangle &= a'_n \\ &= \int_a^b w'(x) f(x) \phi_n(x) dx \end{aligned}$$

Then,  $a_n = a'_n$  since  $w(x) = w'(x)$  Therefore,  $\langle \phi_n | f \rangle = a_n$  is unique.

**Problem 5.1.2**

A function  $f(x)$  is represented by a finite set of basis functions  $\varphi_i(x)$

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^N c_i \varphi_i(x)$$

Show that the components  $c_i$  are unique, that no different set  $c'_i$  exists. Note. Your basis functions are automatically linearly independent. They are not necessarily orthogonal.

**Solution** Consider the function:

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^N c_i \phi_i(x)$$

The objective is to show that the components  $c_i$  are unique. The function can be written as,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \sum_i c_i \phi_i(x) \\ &= \sum_j c'_j \phi_j(x) \end{aligned}$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_i (c_i - c'_i) \phi_i &= \sum_i c_i \phi_i - \sum_i c'_i \phi_i \\ &= \sum_i c_i \phi_i - \sum_i c_i \phi_i \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Assume  $c_m - c'_m \neq 0$  Then,

$$\phi_m = \frac{-1}{c_m - c'_m} \sum_{b=m} (c_b - c'_b) \phi_b$$

It confirms that,  $\phi_m$  is not linearly independent of the  $\phi_i$ , which is a contradiction to our assumption. So,  $c_m - c'_m = 0$  Therefore, the scalars  $c_i$  are unique.

**Problem 5.1.3**

A function  $f(x)$  is approximated by a power series  $\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} c_i x^i$  over the interval  $[0,1]$  Show that minimizing the mean square error leads to a set of linear equations

$$A\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{b}$$

where

$$A_{ij} = \int_0^1 x^{i+j} dx = \frac{1}{i+j+1}, \quad i, j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1$$

and

$$b_i = \int_0^1 x^i f(x) dx, \quad i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1$$

Note. The  $A_{ij}$  are the elements of the Hilbert matrix of order  $n$ . The determinant of this Hilbert matrix is a rapidly decreasing function of  $n$ . For  $n = 5$ ,  $\det A = 3.7 \times 10^{-12}$  and the set of equations  $A\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{b}$  is becoming ill-conditioned and unstable.

**Solution** For

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} c_i x^i$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} b_j &= \int_0^1 x^j f(x) dx, \quad j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1 \\ &= \sum_l c_l \int_0^1 x^{l+j} dx \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{c_i}{i+j+1} \\ &= A_{ji} c_i \end{aligned}$$

This result also minimizing the mean square error

$$\int_0^1 \left[ f(x) - \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} c_i x^i \right]^2 dx$$

upon varying the  $c_i$

**Problem 5.1.4**

In place of the expansion of a function  $F(x)$  given by

$$F(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n \varphi_n(x)$$

with

$$a_n = \int_a^b F(x) \varphi_n(x) w(x) dx$$

take the finite series approximation

$$F(x) \approx \sum_{n=0}^m c_n \varphi_n(x)$$

Show that the mean square error

$$\int_a^b \left[ F(x) - \sum_{n=0}^m c_n \varphi_n(x) \right]^2 w(x) dx$$

is minimized by taking  $c_n = a_n$

Note. The values of the coefficients are independent of the number of terms in the finite series. This independence is a consequence of orthogonality and would not hold for a least-squares fit using powers of  $x$ .

**Solution** Consider the function

$$F(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n \phi_n(x)$$

Here,

$$a_n = \int_a^b F(x) \phi_n(x) w(x) dx$$

and

$$F(x) \approx \sum_{n=0}^m c_n \phi_n(x)$$

The objective is to show the mean square error is minimized when  $c_n = a_n$ . For

$$F(x) = \sum_{n=0}^m a_n \phi_n(x),$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} c_j &= \int_0^1 x^j f(x) dx, j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, m \\ &= \sum_i a_i \int_0^1 x^{j+i} dx \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^m \frac{a_i}{i+j+1} \\ &= A_{ji} a_i \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $A_{ij}$  's represents the elements of the Hilbert matrix of order  $n$ . The determinant of this Hilbert matrix is a decreasing function of  $n$ . Write the function as

$$F(x) = \sum_{n=0}^m c_n \phi_n(x)$$

$$F(x) - \sum_{n=0}^m c_n \phi_n(x) = 0$$

$$\int_a^b \left[ F(x) - \sum_{n=0}^m c_n \phi_n(x) \right]^2 w(x) dx = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial c_l} \int_a^b \left[ F(x) - \sum_{n=0}^m c_n \phi_n(x) \right]^2 w(x) dx = 0$$

Remember that

$$c_n = \int_a^b F(x) \phi_n(x) w(x) dx$$

This result is also minimizing the mean square error

$$\int_a^b \left[ F(x) - \sum_{n=0}^m c_n \phi_n(x) \right]^2 w(x) dx$$

is minimized when  $c_n = a_n$

### Problem 5.1.5

The functions  $\cos nx$  ( $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ ) and  $\sin nx$  ( $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ) have (together) been shown to form a complete set on the interval  $-\pi < x < \pi$ . since this determination is obtained subject to convergence in the mean, there is the possibility of deviation at isolated points, thereby permitting the description of functions with isolated discontinuities.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{h}{2}, & 0 < x < \pi \\ -\frac{h}{2}, & -\pi < x < 0 \end{cases} = \frac{2h}{\pi} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(2n+1)x}{2n+1}$$

a) Show that

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} [f(x)]^2 dx = \frac{\pi}{2} h^2 = \frac{4h^2}{\pi} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (2n+1)^{-2}$$

For a finite upper limit this would be Bessel's inequality. For the upper limit  $\infty$ , this is Parseval's identity.

b) Verify that

$$\frac{\pi}{2} h^2 = \frac{4h^2}{\pi} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (2n+1)^{-2}$$

by evaluating the series. Hint. The series can be expressed in terms of the Riemann zeta function  $\zeta(2) = \pi^2/6$

**Solution** The objective is to show that

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} [f(x)]^2 dx = \frac{\pi}{2} h^2 = \frac{4h^2}{\pi} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (2n+1)^{-2}$$

First, we start saying that the integral  $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} [f(x)]^2 dx$  can be evaluated as

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} [f(x)]^2 dx &= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cdot f(x) dx \\ &= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx \cdot \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx \\ &= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{2h}{\pi} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(2n+1)x}{2n+1} dx \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{2h}{\pi} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(2m+1)x}{2m+1} dx \\ &= \left( \frac{4h^2}{\pi^2} \right) \sum_{m,n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n+1)(2m+1)} \times \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin[(2n+1)x] \sin[(2m+1)x] dx \\ &= \frac{4h^2}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n+1)^2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin^2[(2n+1)x] dx \\ &= \frac{4h^2}{\pi^2} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{5^2} + \frac{1}{7^2} + \dots \right) \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \left( \frac{1 - \cos(2(2n+1)x)}{2} \right) dx \\ &= \frac{4h^2}{\pi^2} \left( \frac{\pi^2}{8} \right) \left( \frac{x - \frac{\sin(2(2n+1)x)}{2(2n+1)}}{2} \right) \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi} \\ &= \frac{4h^2}{\pi^2} \left( \frac{\pi^2}{8} \right) \left( \frac{\pi - \frac{\sin(2(2n+1)\pi)}{2(2n+1)}}{2} - \left( \frac{(-\pi) - \frac{\sin(2(2n+1)(-\pi))}{2(2n+1)}}{2} \right) \right) \\ &= \frac{4h^2}{\pi^2} \left( \frac{\pi^2}{8} \right) \left( \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{\pi}{2} \right) \\ &= \frac{4h^2}{\pi^2} \left( \frac{\pi^2}{8} \right) (\pi) \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{h^2\pi}{2}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} [f(x)]^2 dx &= \frac{\pi}{2} h^2 \\ \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} [f(x)]^2 dx &= \frac{4h^2}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n+1)^2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin^2[(2n+1)x] dx \\ &= \frac{4h^2}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (2n+1)^{-2} (\pi) \\ &= \frac{4h^2}{\pi} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (2n+1)^{-2}\end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} [f(x)]^2 dx = \frac{\pi}{2} h^2 = \frac{4h^2}{\pi} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (2n+1)^{-2}$$

For (b)

$$\begin{aligned}\text{RHS} &= \frac{4h^2}{\pi} \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n+1)^2} \right) \\ &= \frac{4h^2}{\pi} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{5^2} + \frac{1}{7^2} + \cdots \right) \\ &= \frac{4h^2}{\pi} \left( \frac{\pi^2}{8} \right) \\ &= \frac{\pi h^2}{2}\end{aligned}$$

**Problem 5.1.6**

Derive the Schwarz inequality from the identity

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ \int_a^b f(x)g(x)dx \right]^2 &= \int_a^b [f(x)]^2 dx \int_a^b [g(x)]^2 dx \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \int_a^b dx \int_a^b dy [f(x)g(y) - f(y)g(x)]^2 \end{aligned}$$

**Solution** The double integral can be written as,

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ \int_a^b f(x)g(x)dx \right]^2 &= \int_a^b [f(x)]^2 dx \int_a^b [g(x)]^2 dx \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \int_a^b dx \int_a^b dy [f(x)g(y) - f(y)g(x)]^2 \\ |\langle f|g \rangle|^2 &= \langle f \rangle^2 \langle g \rangle^2 - \frac{1}{2} \int_a^b \int_a^b [f(x)g(y) - f(y)g(x)]^2 \\ &\leq \langle f \rangle^2 \langle g \rangle^2 \\ |\langle f|g \rangle|^2 &\leq \langle f|f \rangle \langle g|g \rangle \end{aligned}$$

since the double integral is non-negative, so  $\langle f|g \rangle^2 \geq 0$ . Hence, the result of Schwarz inequality is derived.

**Problem 5.1.7**

Starting from

$$I = \left\langle f - \sum_i a_i \varphi_i \middle| f - \sum_j a_j \varphi_j \right\rangle \geq 0$$

derive Bessel's inequality,

$$\langle f|f \rangle \geq \sum_n |a_n|^2$$

**Solution** The functions  $\phi_j$  are assumed to be orthonormal. Expand the value of  $I$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \left\langle f - \sum_i a_i \phi_i \middle| f - \sum_j a_j \phi_j \right\rangle \\ &= \langle f|f \rangle - \sum_i a_i \langle \phi_i|f \rangle - \sum_i a_i \langle f|\phi_i \rangle + \sum_i a_i a_j \langle \phi_i|\phi_j \rangle \\ &\geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the result of Bessel's inequality is derived.



**Problem 5.1.8**

Expand the function  $\sin \pi x$  in a series of functions  $\varphi_i$  that are orthogonal (but not normalized) on the range  $0 \leq x \leq 1$  when the scalar product has definition

$$\langle f|g \rangle = \int_0^1 f^*(x)g(x)dx$$

Keep the first four terms of the expansion. The first four  $\varphi_i$  are:

$$\varphi_0 = 1, \quad \varphi_1 = 2x - 1, \quad \varphi_2 = 6x^2 - 6x + 1, \quad \varphi_3 = 20x^3 - 30x^2 + 12x - 1$$

Note. The integrals that are needed are the subject of Example 1.10 .5 .

**Solution** Consider the function:  $\sin(\pi x)$  Expand the function  $\sin(\pi x)$  in a series of functions  $\phi_i$  which are orthogonal. Write the function  $\sin(\pi x)$  in a series of functions  $\phi_i$  as,

$$\sin(\pi x) = \sum_i \frac{\langle \phi_i | \sin \pi x \rangle}{\langle \phi_i, \phi_i \rangle} \phi_i(x)$$

Here,  $\phi_0 = 1, \phi_1 = 2x - 1, \phi_2 = 6x^2 - 6x + 1, \phi_3 = 20x^3 - 30x^2 + 12x - 1$  The integrals are calculated as,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \phi_0 | \phi_0 \rangle &= \int_0^1 dx \\ &= (x) \Big|_0^1 \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\langle \phi_1 | \phi_1 \rangle = \int_0^1 (2x - 1)^2 dx$$

$$\langle \phi_1 | \phi_1 \rangle = \int_0^1 (4x^2 - 4x + 1) dx$$

$$\langle \phi_1 | \phi_1 \rangle = \left( \frac{4x^3}{3} - 2x^2 + x \right) \Big|_0^1$$

$$\langle \phi_1 | \phi_1 \rangle = \left( \frac{4}{3} - 2 + 1 \right)$$

$$\langle \phi_1 | \phi_1 \rangle = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \phi_2 | \phi_2 \rangle &= \int_0^1 (6x^2 - 6x + 1)^2 dx \\ &= \int_0^1 (36x^4 - 72x^3 + 48x^2 - 12x + 1) dx \\ &= \left( \frac{36x^5}{5} - 18x^4 + 16x^3 - 6x^2 + x \right) \Big|_0^1 \\ &= \frac{36}{5} - 18 + 16 - 6 + 1 \\ &= \frac{1}{5} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \phi_3 | \phi_3 \rangle &= \int_0^1 (20x^3 - 30x^2 + 12x - 1)^2 dx \\
&= \int_0^1 (400x^6 - 1200x^5 + 1380x^4 - 760x^3 + 204x^2 - 24x + 1) dx \\
&= \left( \frac{400x^7}{7} - 200x^6 + 276x^5 - 190x^4 + 68x^3 - 12x^2 + x \right) \Big|_0^1 \\
&= \frac{400}{7} - 200 + 276 - 190 + 68 - 12 + 1 \\
&= \frac{1}{7}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \phi_0 | f \rangle &= \int_0^1 \sin \pi x dx \\
&= \left( \frac{-\cos \pi x}{\pi} \right) \Big|_0^1 \\
&= - \left( \frac{\cos \pi(1)}{\pi} - \frac{\cos \pi(0)}{\pi} \right) \\
&= - \left( \frac{-1}{\pi} - \frac{1}{\pi} \right) \\
&= \frac{2}{\pi}
\end{aligned}$$

The value of  $\langle \phi_1 | f \rangle$  is,

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \phi | f \rangle &= \int_0^1 (2x - 1) \sin(\pi x) dx \\
&= \left( \frac{2 \sin(\pi x) + (\pi - 2\pi x) \cos(\pi x)}{\pi^2} \right) \Big|_0^1
\end{aligned}$$

Using  $\int_0^1 (2x - 1) \sin(\pi x) dx = \frac{2 \sin(\pi x) + (\pi - 2\pi x) \cos(\pi x)}{\pi^2}$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{2 \sin(\pi \cdot 1) + (\pi - 2\pi \cdot 1) \cos(\pi \cdot 1)}{\pi^2} - \\
&= \frac{2 \sin(\pi \cdot 0) + (\pi - 2\pi \cdot 0) \cos(\pi \cdot 0)}{\pi^2} \\
&= \frac{2(0) + (-\pi) \cdot 1}{\pi^2} - \left( \frac{2(0) + (-\pi)1}{\pi^2} \right) \\
&= 0
\end{aligned}$$

$$\langle \varphi_2 | f \rangle = \frac{2}{\pi} - \frac{24}{\pi^3}$$

$$\langle \varphi_3 | f \rangle = 0$$

$$\sin \pi x = \frac{2/\pi}{1} \varphi_0 + \frac{2/\pi - 24/\pi^3}{1/5} \varphi_2 + \dots$$

$$\sin(\pi x) = 0.6366 - 0.6871 (6x^2 - 6x + 1) + \dots$$

**Problem 5.1.9**

Expand the function  $e^{-x}$  in Laguerre polynomials  $L_n(x)$ , which are orthonormal on the range  $0 \leq x < \infty$  with scalar product

$$\langle f|g \rangle = \int_0^\infty f^*(x)g(x)e^{-x}dx$$

Keep the first four terms of the expansion. The first four  $L_n(x)$  are

$$L_0 = 1, \quad L_1 = 1 - x, \quad L_2 = \frac{2 - 4x + x^2}{2}, \quad L_3 = \frac{6 - 18x + 9x^2 - x^3}{6}$$

**Solution** The value of  $a_0$  is

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 &= \int_0^\infty L_0(x)e^{-2x}dx \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{-2x}dx \\ &= \left( \frac{e^{-2x}}{-2} \right) \Big|_0^\infty \\ &= \frac{-1}{2} (e^{-2(\infty)} - e^0) \\ &= \frac{-1}{2} (0 - 1) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

The value of  $a_1$  is

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 &= \int_0^\infty L_1(x)e^{-2x}dx \\ &= \int_0^\infty (1 - x)e^{-2x}dx \\ &= \left( \frac{1}{4}e^{-2x}(2x - 1) \right) \Big|_0^\infty \\ &= \frac{1}{4} (e^{-2(\infty)}(2(\infty) - 1) - e^0(2(0) - 1)) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} (0 + 1) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \end{aligned}$$

The value of  $a_2$  is

$$\begin{aligned} a_2 &= \int_0^\infty L_2(x)e^{-2x}dx \\ &= \int_0^\infty \left( \frac{2 - 4x + x^2}{2} \right) e^{-2x}dx \\ &= \left( \frac{-1}{8}e^{-2x}(1 - 6x + 2x^2) \right) \Big|_0^\infty \end{aligned}$$

The value of  $a_3$  is,

$$\begin{aligned} a_3 &= \int_0^\infty L_3(x)e^{-2x}dx \\ &= \int_0^\infty \left( \frac{6 - 18x + 9x^2 - x^3}{6} \right) e^{-2x}dx \\ &= \left( \frac{1}{48}e^{-2x}(4x^3 - 30x^2 + 42x - 3) \right) \Big|_0^\infty \\ &= \frac{3}{48} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{1}{16}$$

Thus, the expansion of  $e^{-x}$  is

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-x} &= a_0 L_0(x) + a_1 L_1(x) + a_2 L_2(x) + a_3 L_3(x) + \cdots \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(1) + \frac{1}{4}(1-x) + \frac{1}{8}\left(\frac{2-4x+x^2}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{16}\left(\frac{6-18x+9x^2-x^3}{6}\right) + \cdots \end{aligned}$$

**Problem 5.1.10**

The explicit form of a function  $f$  is not known, but the coefficients  $a_n$  of its expansion in the orthonormal set  $\varphi_n$  are available. Assuming that the  $\varphi_n$  and the members of another orthonormal set,  $\chi_n$ , are available, use Dirac notation to obtain a formula for the coefficients for the expansion of  $f$  in the  $\chi_n$  set.

**Solution** The coefficients of  $f$  in the  $\phi$  basis are  $a_i = \langle \phi_i | f \rangle$ , so the above equation is equivalent to,

$$f = \sum_j b_j \chi_j$$

Here,  $b_j = \sum_i \langle \chi_j | \phi_i \rangle a_i$

**Problem 5.1.11**

Using conventional vector notation, evaluate  $\sum_j |\hat{\mathbf{e}}_j\rangle \langle \hat{\mathbf{e}}_j| \mathbf{a} \rangle$ , where  $\mathbf{a}$  is an arbitrary vector in the space spanned by the  $\hat{\mathbf{e}}_j$

**Solution** We assume the unit vectors are orthogonal. Then,

$$\sum_j |\hat{\mathbf{e}}_j\rangle \langle \hat{\mathbf{e}}_j| \mathbf{a} \rangle = \sum_j (\hat{\mathbf{e}}_j \cdot \mathbf{a}) \hat{\mathbf{e}}_j$$

This expression is a component decomposition of  $\mathbf{a}$ .

**Problem 5.1.12**

Letting  $\mathbf{a} = a_1 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 + a_2 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2$  and  $\mathbf{b} = b_1 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_1 + b_2 \hat{\mathbf{e}}_2$  be vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , for what values of  $k$ , if any, is

$$\langle \mathbf{a} | \mathbf{b} \rangle = a_1 b_1 - a_1 b_2 - a_2 b_1 + k a_2 b_2$$

a valid definition of a scalar product?

**Solution** Consider the two vectors:

$$\mathbf{a} = a_1 \mathbf{e}_1 + a_2 \mathbf{e}_2$$

and

$$\mathbf{b} = b_1 \mathbf{e}_1 + b_2 \mathbf{e}_2$$

The objective is to for what values of  $k$  the scalar product

$$\langle \mathbf{a} | \mathbf{b} \rangle = a_1 b_1 - a_1 b_2 - a_2 b_1 + k a_2 b_2$$

is valid. The scalar product  $\langle \mathbf{a} | \mathbf{a} \rangle$  must be positive for every non-zero vector in the space. If we write  $\langle \mathbf{a} | \mathbf{a} \rangle$  in the form,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathbf{a} | \mathbf{a} \rangle &= a_1 a_1 - a_1 a_2 - a_2 a_1 + k a_2 a_2 \\ &= a_1^2 - 2a_1 a_2 + k a_2^2 \\ &= (a_1^2 - 2a_1 a_2 + a_2^2) - a_2^2 + k a_2^2 \\ &= (a_1 - a_2)^2 - a_2^2 + k a_2^2 \\ &= (a_1 - a_2)^2 + (k - 1) a_2^2 \end{aligned}$$

This condition is violated for some non-zero vector  $\mathbf{a}$  unless  $k > 1$ . Therefore, the scalar product is valid when  $k > 1$ .