

Step-1

Let x_1 , y_1 , and z_1 be the eigenvectors of A , B , and $A + B$ respectively, corresponding to the smallest eigenvalues.

Thus, we have

$$Ax_1 = \lambda_1 x_1$$

$$By_1 = \mu_1 y_1$$

$$Cz_1 = \theta_1 z_1$$

Step-2

Suppose w is any vector. From the properties of Rayleigh quotient, we can say the following:

$$\frac{w^T A w}{w^T w} \geq \lambda_1$$

$$\frac{w^T B w}{w^T w} \geq \mu_1$$

Step-3

Now consider the following;

$$\begin{aligned}\theta_1 &= R(z_1) \\ &= \frac{z_1^T (A + B) z_1}{z_1^T z_1} \\ &= \frac{z_1^T A z_1 + z_1^T B z_1}{z_1^T z_1}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\theta_1 &= \frac{z_1^T A z_1}{z_1^T z_1} + \frac{z_1^T B z_1}{z_1^T z_1} \\ &\geq \lambda_1 + \mu_1\end{aligned}$$

Step-4

Thus, we have shown that $\boxed{\theta_1 \geq \lambda_1 + \mu_1}$.