

## Step-1

Let  $B$  be a symmetric positive definite matrix. Then for any vector  $y$ , we have  $y^T B y > 0$ . Suppose such a matrix  $B$  is added to the matrix  $A$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_2(A+B) &= \min_{x^T x_1=0} R(x) \\ &= \min_{x^T x_1=0} \frac{x^T (A+B)x}{x^T x} \\ &= \min_{x^T x_1=0} \frac{x^T A x}{x^T x} + \min_{x^T x_1=0} \frac{x^T B x}{x^T x} \\ &= \lambda_2(A) + \min_{x^T x_1=0} \frac{x^T B x}{x^T x}\end{aligned}$$

But it is clear that  $\min_{x^T x_1=0} \frac{x^T B x}{x^T x} > 0$ , for any  $x$ .

## Step-2

Therefore, it is proved that  $\boxed{\lambda_2(A+B) > \lambda_2(A)}$ .