

## 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  $\boxed{\theta_1 \geq \lambda_1 + \mu_1}$ .