

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 $\boxed{\lambda_2(A+B) > \lambda_2(A)}$.