

**Proposition 1** *If  $n \times n$  matrices  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $A - B$  are positive definite, then  $B^{-1} - A^{-1}$  is also positive definite.*

**Proof.** (by Kaiming Zhao, with an assist to Ed Wang, both of WLU.) Note first that  $A$  and  $B$  are hermitian ( $A = A^*$  and  $B = B^*$ ). Then  $B^{-1} - A^{-1}$  is pd if and only if  $A(B^{-1} - A^{-1})A^*$  is pd. But

$$\begin{aligned}
 A(B^{-1} - A^{-1})A^* &= A(B^{-1} - A^{-1})A \\
 &= (AB^{-1} - I)A \\
 &= (((A - B) + B)B^{-1} - I)A \\
 &= (A - B)B^{-1}A \\
 &= (A - B)B^{-1}(A - B + B) \\
 &= (A - B)B^{-1}(A - B) + (A - B) \\
 &= (A - B)B^{-1}(A - B)^* + (A - B)
 \end{aligned}$$

is pd because  $A - B$  and  $B^{-1}$  are pd. ■

Facts used in the proof (supplied by Ed):

- if  $K$  is pd, then so is  $K^{-1}$  (eigenvalues are reciprocals)
- if  $H$  and  $K$  are both pd, then so is  $H + K$  ( $\langle (H + K)x, x \rangle > 0$  using linearity)
- if  $K$  is pd, then  $H$  is pd iff  $KHK$  is pd (play with  $\langle KHKx, x \rangle$ )