

# A Flexible, Scalable and Provably Tight Relaxation for Matching Problems

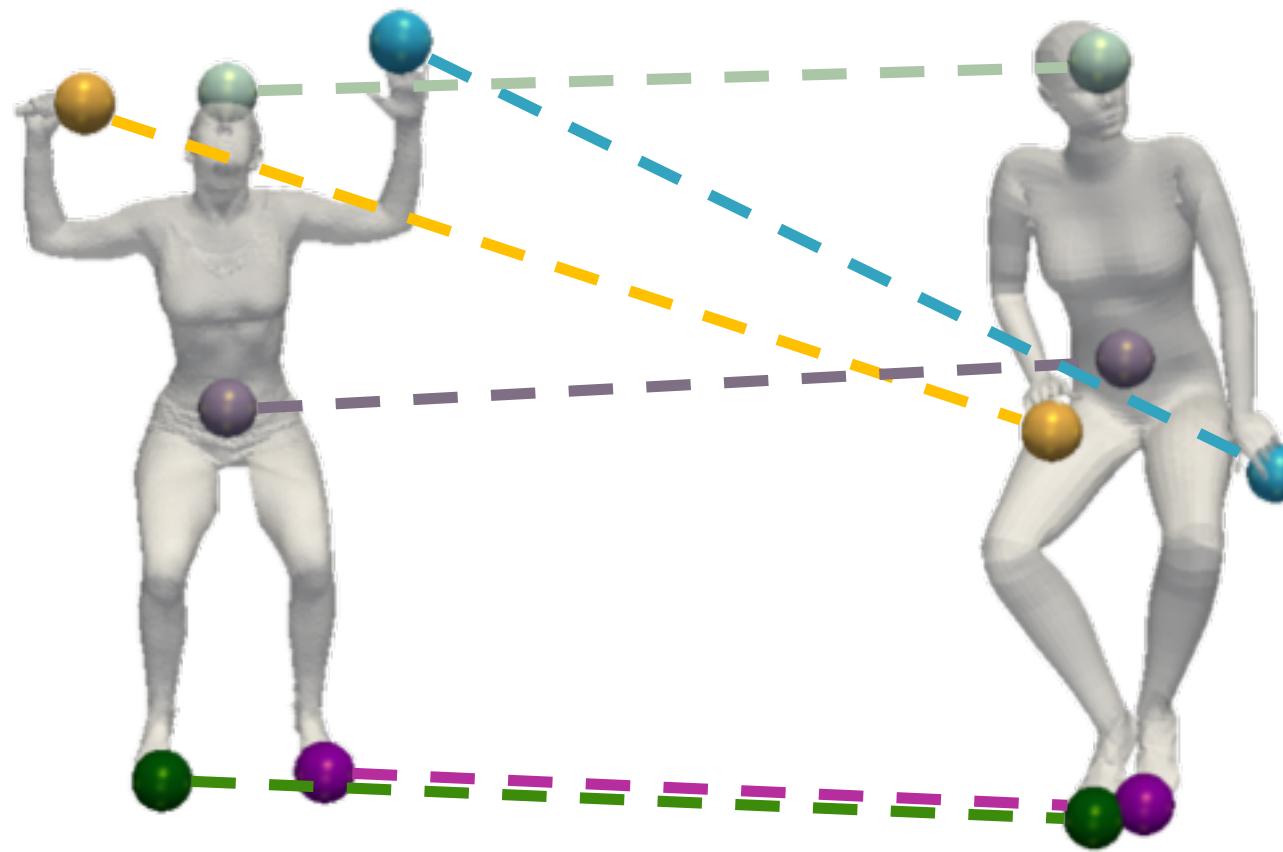
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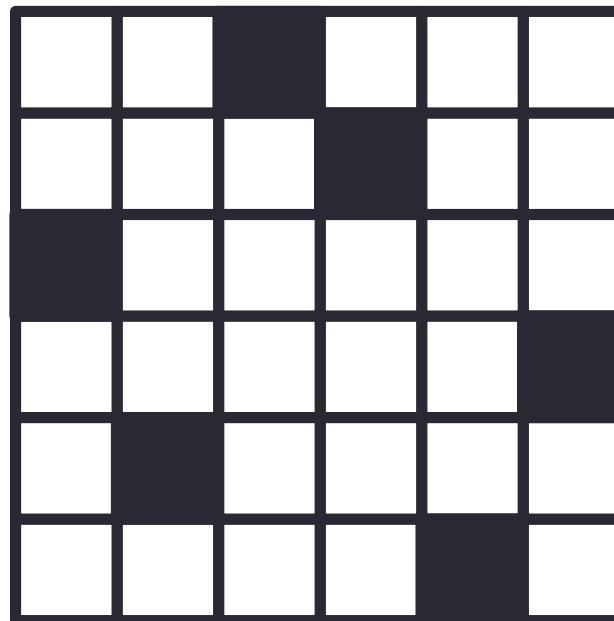
Weizmann Institute of Science



# Matching

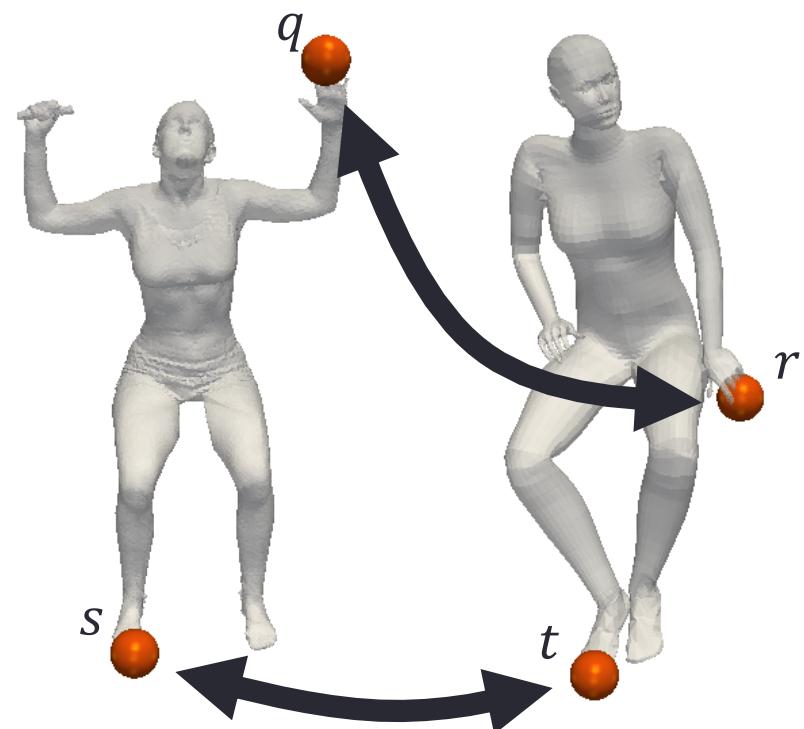


# Representing Correspondences



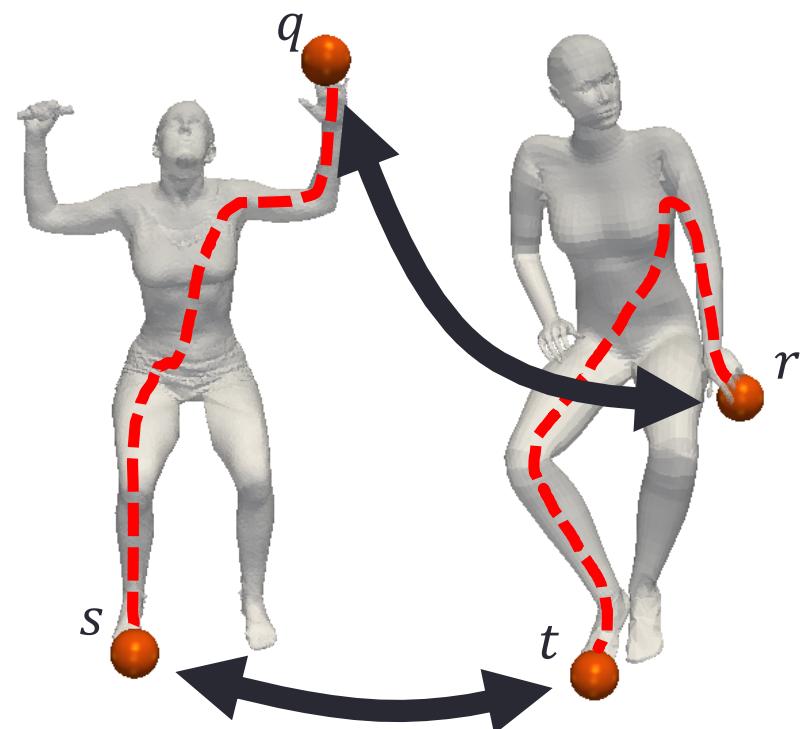
# Quadratic Matching

penalty for a pair of matches =  $W_{qr,st}$



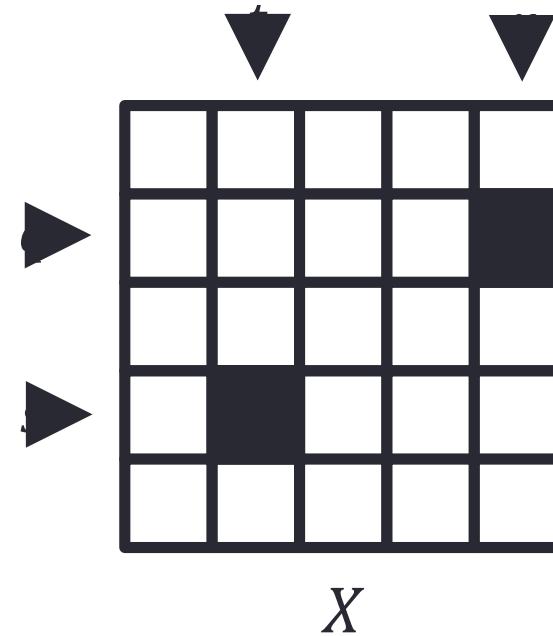
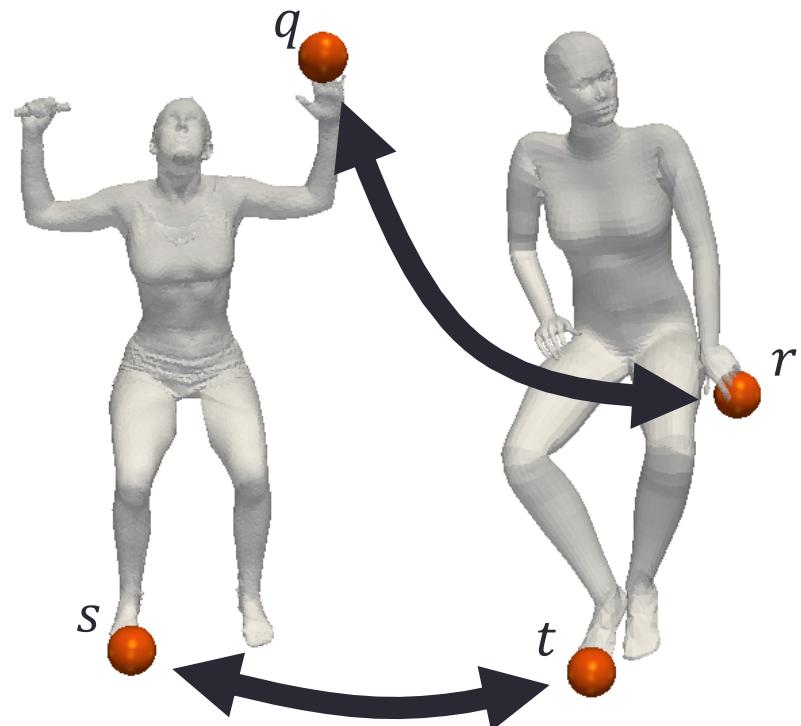
# Quadratic Matching

$$W_{qr,st} = |d_{qs} - d_{rt}|$$

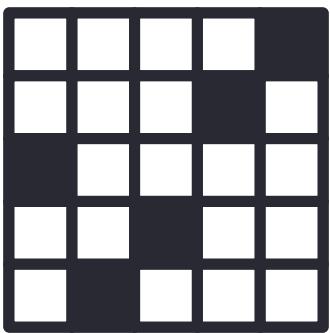


# Quadratic Matching

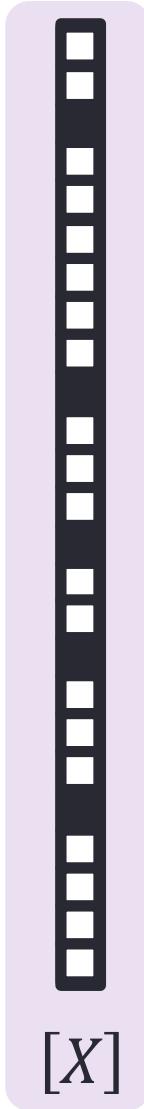
$$\min_{X \in \Pi} \sum_{q,r,s,t} W_{qr,st} X_{qr} X_{st}$$



# Quadratic Matching



$X$



$[X]$

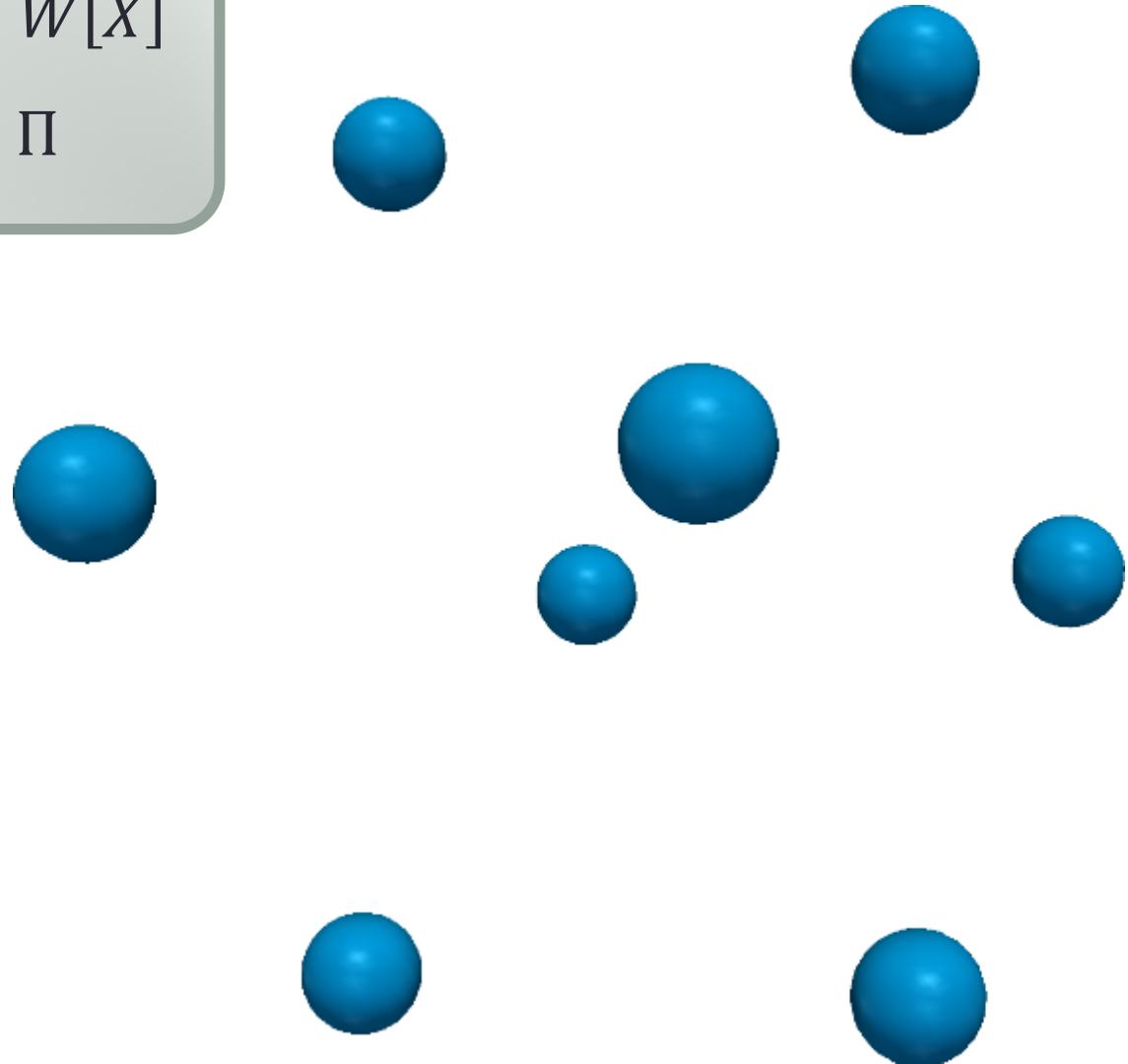
$$\min_{X \in \Pi} \sum_{q,r,s,t} W_{qr,st} X_{qr} X_{st}$$

$$\min_{X \in \Pi} [X]^T \mathcal{W} [X]$$

# The Challenge

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{X} \quad & [X]^T W [X] \\ \text{subject to} \quad & X \in \Pi \end{aligned}$$

- Non-convex objective
- Non-convex domain
- NP-hard problem

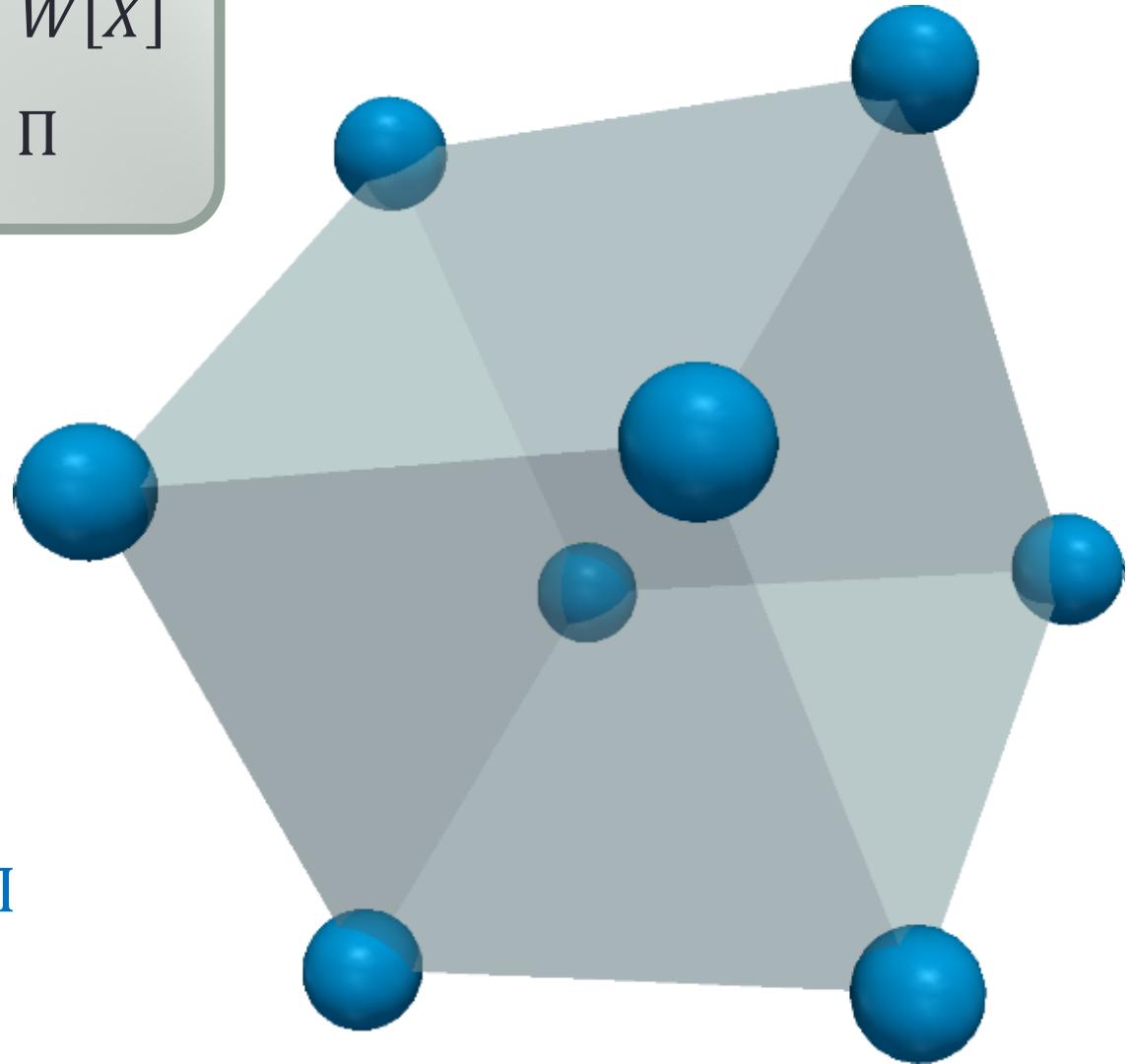


# Doubly Stochastic Relaxation

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{X} \quad & [X]^T W [X] \\ \text{subject to} \quad & X \in \Pi \end{aligned}$$

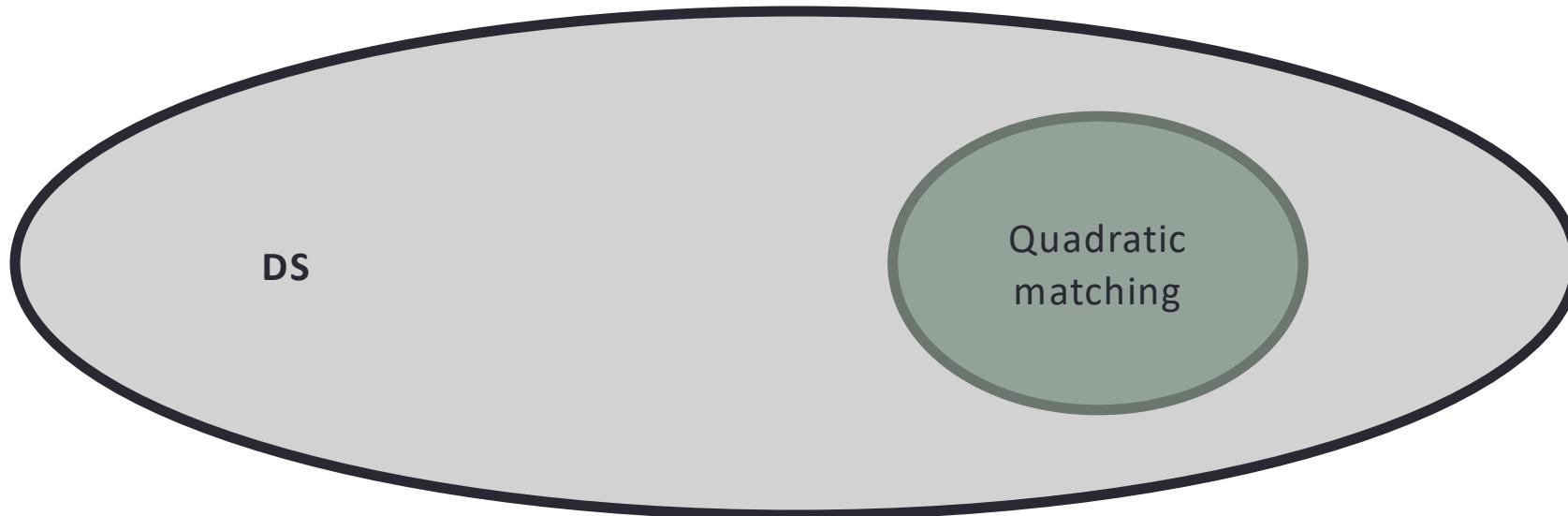
- Tractable for  $W \geq 0$

$X \in \text{conv}\Pi$



# Doubly Stochastic Relaxation

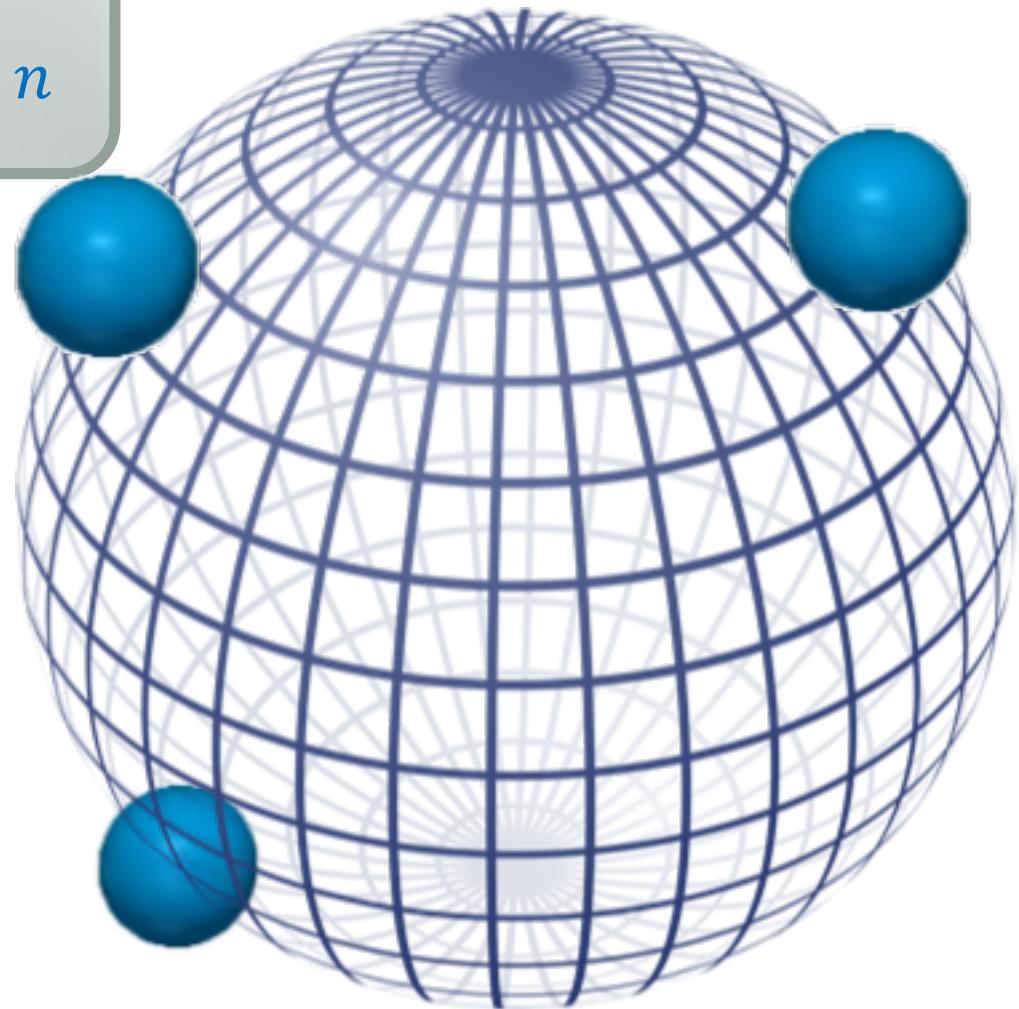
$$\begin{aligned} \min_{X} \quad & [X]^T W [X] \\ \text{subject to} \quad & X \in \text{conv}\Pi \end{aligned}$$



# Spectral Relaxation

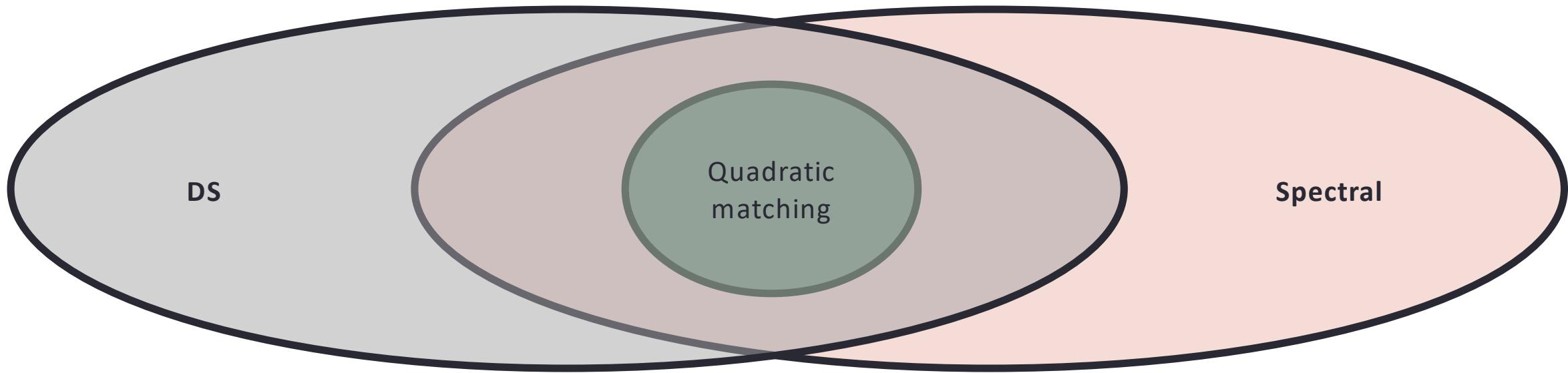
$$\begin{aligned} \min_X & [X]^T W [X] \\ \text{subject to } & \|X\|_F^2 = n \end{aligned}$$

- Eigenvector problem



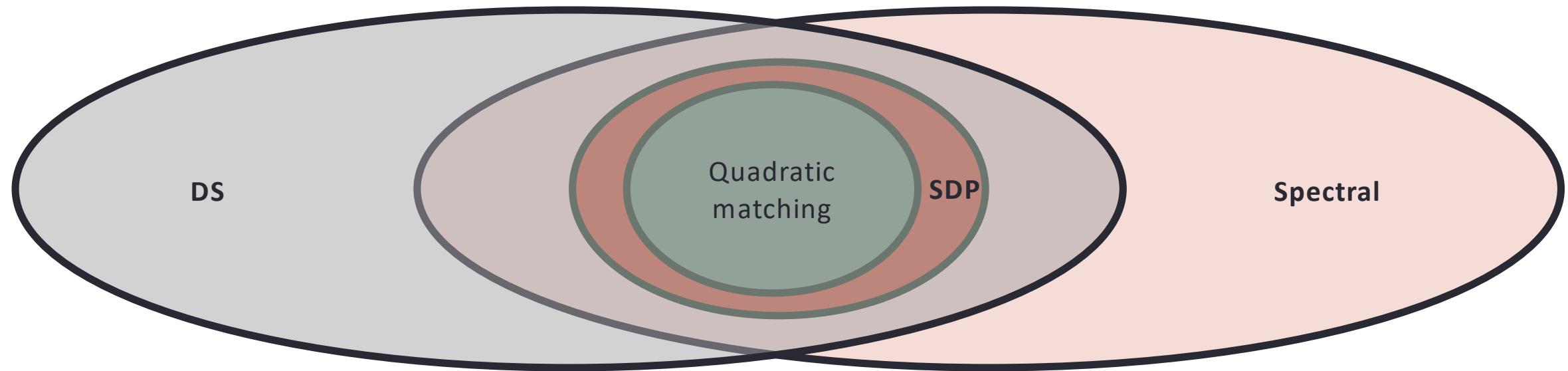
# Spectral Relaxation

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{X} \quad & [X]^T W [X] \\ \text{subject to} \quad & \|X\|_F^2 = n \end{aligned}$$



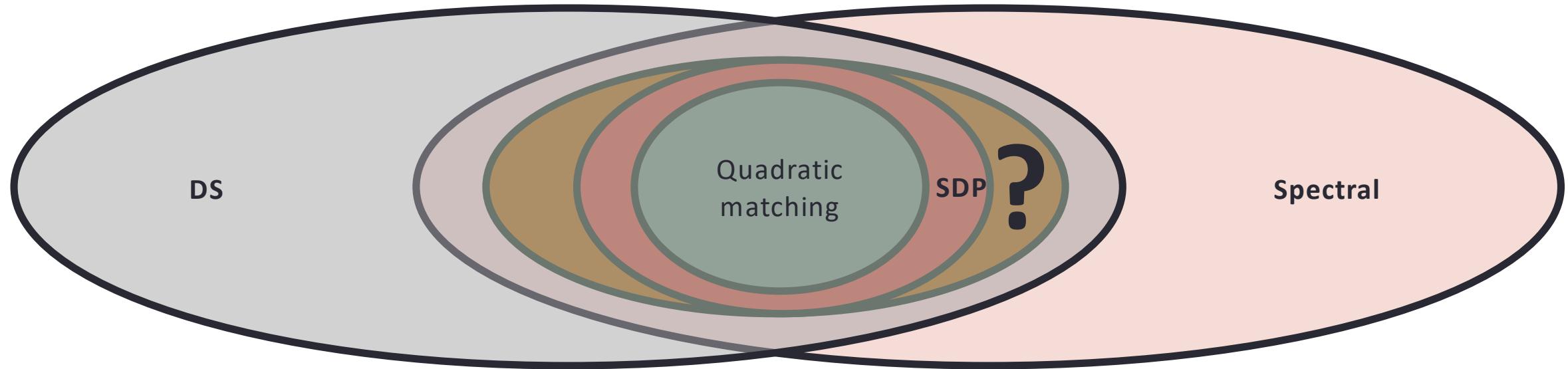
# SDP Relaxation

- Tight!
- Not scalable -  $O(n^4)$  variables



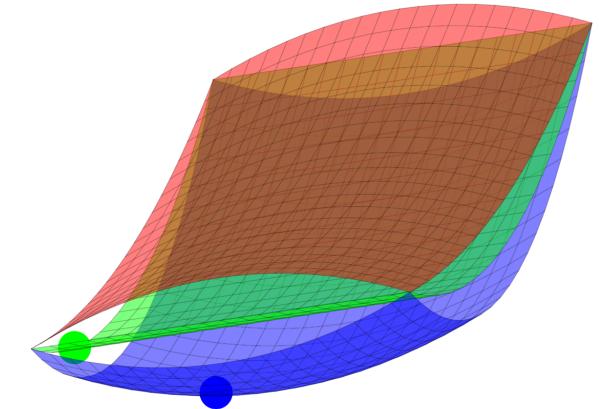
## Question:

Can we find a tight relaxation without  
compromising scalability?

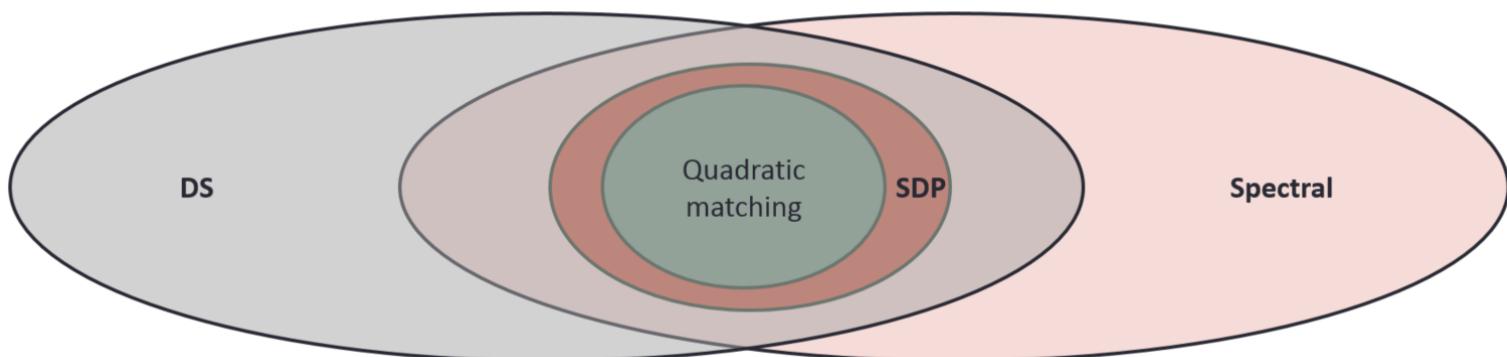


# Our approach

- Construct a parametric family of equivalent problems
- Choose optimal parameter value for relaxation
- Place in relaxation hierarchy



$$a = \lambda_{min}(W|_{aff(\Pi_n)})$$



## Equivalent formulations

$$[X]^T W [X] - \underbrace{a(\|X\|_F^2 - n)}_0$$

$$X \in \Pi_n$$

## Relaxation

$$\underbrace{[X]^T W [X] - a(\|X\|_F^2 - n)}_{E(X, a)}$$

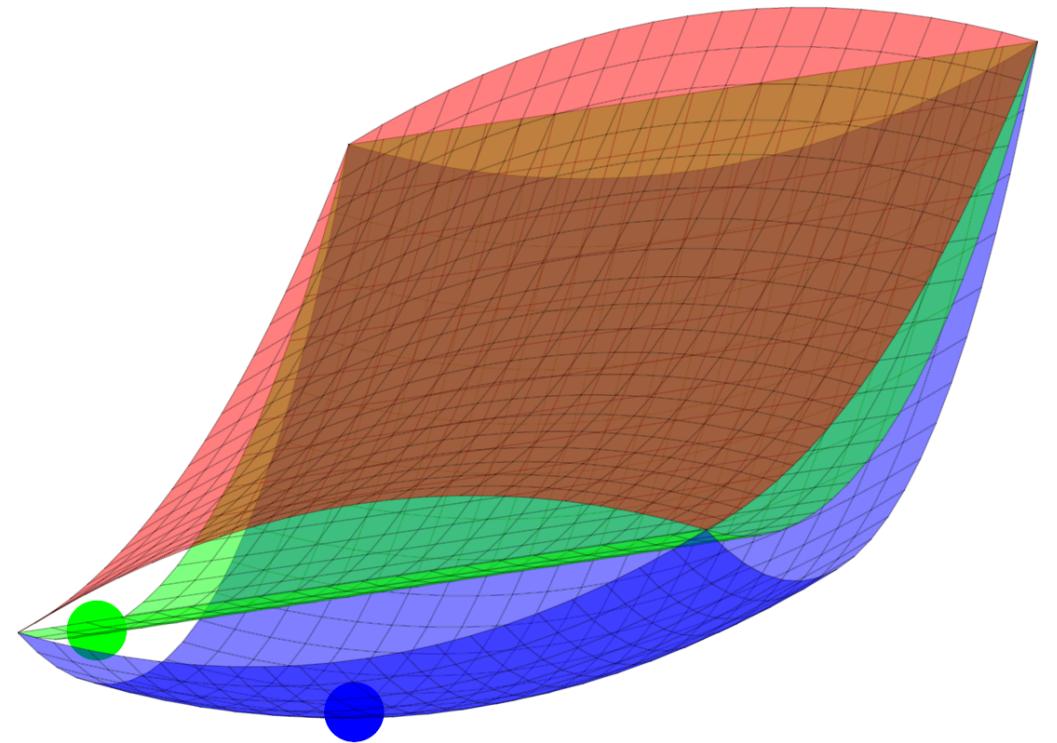
$$X \in \text{conv}(\Pi_n)$$

**Goal:** Find convex relaxation that  
generates maximal lower bound

# Optimal parameter value

Lemma

For  $X \in conv(\Pi_n)$ ,  $b > a$  we have  
 $E(X, b) > E(X, a)$



⇒ Take maximal a s.t. problem is convex

# Optimal parameter value

Solution (1)

Take  $a = \lambda_{min}(W)$

⇒ Hessian is  $W - \lambda_{min}I \Rightarrow$  convex

Can we do better?

# Optimal parameter value

Solution (2)

Take  $a = \overline{\lambda_{min}} = \lambda_{min}(W|_{aff(\Pi_n)})$

$\Rightarrow$  convex on  $aff(\Pi_n)$

# Recap

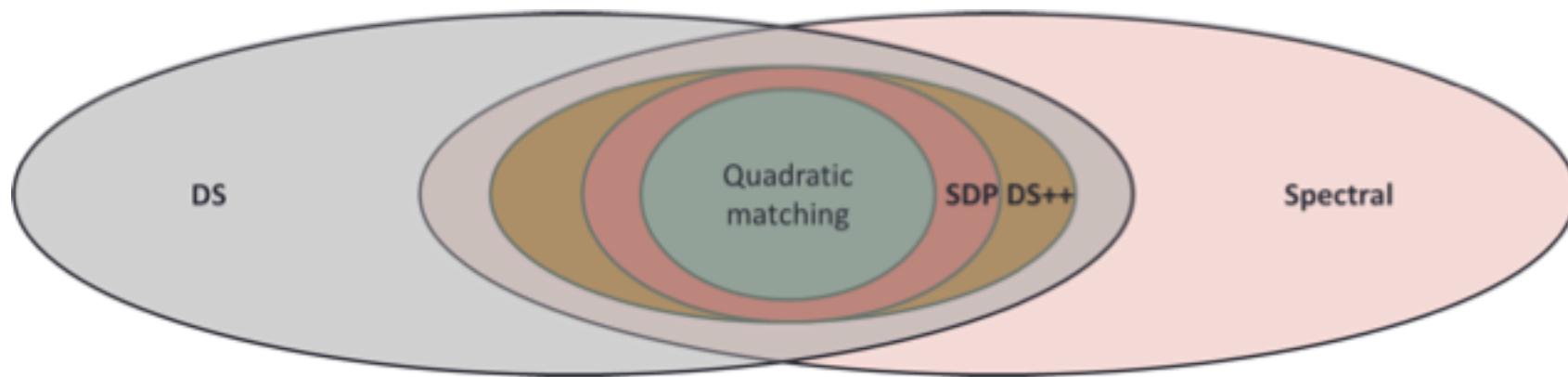
- We have found an optimal relaxation in the family we proposed. We call it **DS++**:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_X & [X]^T W[X] - \overline{\lambda_{min}} (\|X\|_F^2 - n) \\ \text{subject to} & \mathbf{x} \in \text{conv}(\Pi_n) \end{aligned}$$

- Is it a good relaxation?
  - We show it is
  - Method: compare all relaxations by “embedding” them in a high dim space

# Relaxation hierarchy

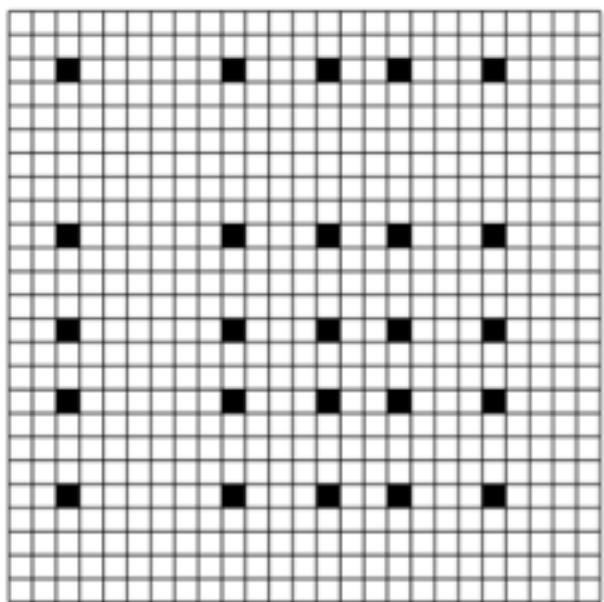
- Establish a partial order on relaxations
- In our case: partial order == relaxation domain inclusion



- Need to move to a common domain!

# Relaxation hierarchy

- New variable ( $X, Y$ )
- $Y$  represents quadratic monomials in  $X$



$Y$

$\approx$



$[X]$

$[X]^T$

# Relaxation hierarchy

- The **doubly stochastic relaxation** as SDP:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{X,Y} & \text{tr}(WY) \\ \text{subject to} & Y \geq [X][X]^T \\ & A[X] = b, \\ & [X] \geq 0 \end{array}$$

Similar to  $\text{tr}(WY) = \text{tr}(W[X][X]^T) = [X]^T W [X]$

SDP constraint

Equivalent to  $X \in \text{conv}\Pi_n$

# Relaxation hierarchy

- The **spectral relaxation** as SDP:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{X,Y} \quad & \text{tr}(WY) \\ \text{subject to} \quad & Y \succcurlyeq [X][X]^T \\ & \text{tr}Y = n \end{aligned}$$

# Relaxation hierarchy

## Theorem

DS++ is equivalent to the following:

$$\min_{X,Y} \quad \text{tr}(WY)$$

subject to  $Y \geq [X][X]^T$

$$Ax = b$$

$$[X] \geq 0$$

$$\text{tr}Y = n$$

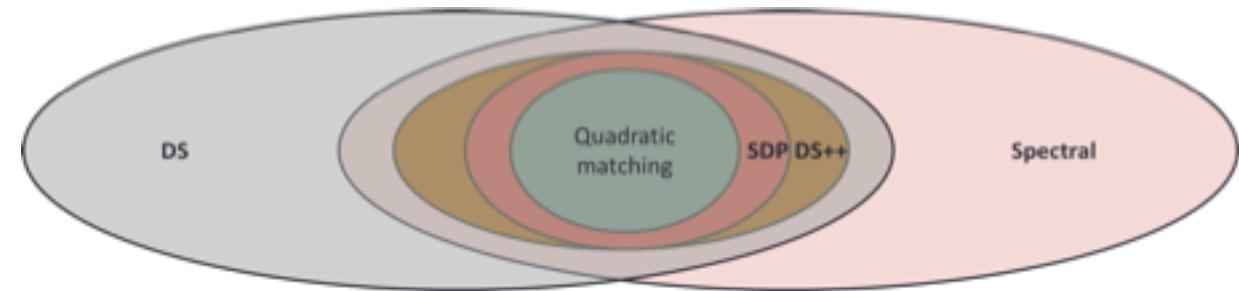
$$AY = bx^T$$

*doubly stochastic constraint*

*Spectral constraint*

*Additional  $n^3$  constraints!*

# Relaxation hierarchy



Corollary (1)

DS++ is more accurate than both the **DS** and **Spectral** relaxations!

Corollary (2)

DS++ is less accurate than [Kezurer 15']

## SDP relaxation in $n^4$ variables

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{X,Y} & \text{tr}(WY) \\ \text{subject to} & Y \succcurlyeq [X][X]^T \\ & Ax = b \\ & [X] \geq 0 \\ & \text{tr}Y = n \\ & AY = bx^T \end{array}$$

## quadratic program in $n^2$ variables

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_x & [X]^T W [X] \\ & - \lambda_{\min} (\|X\|_F^2 - n) \\ \text{subject to} & x \in \text{conv}(\Pi_n) \end{array}$$

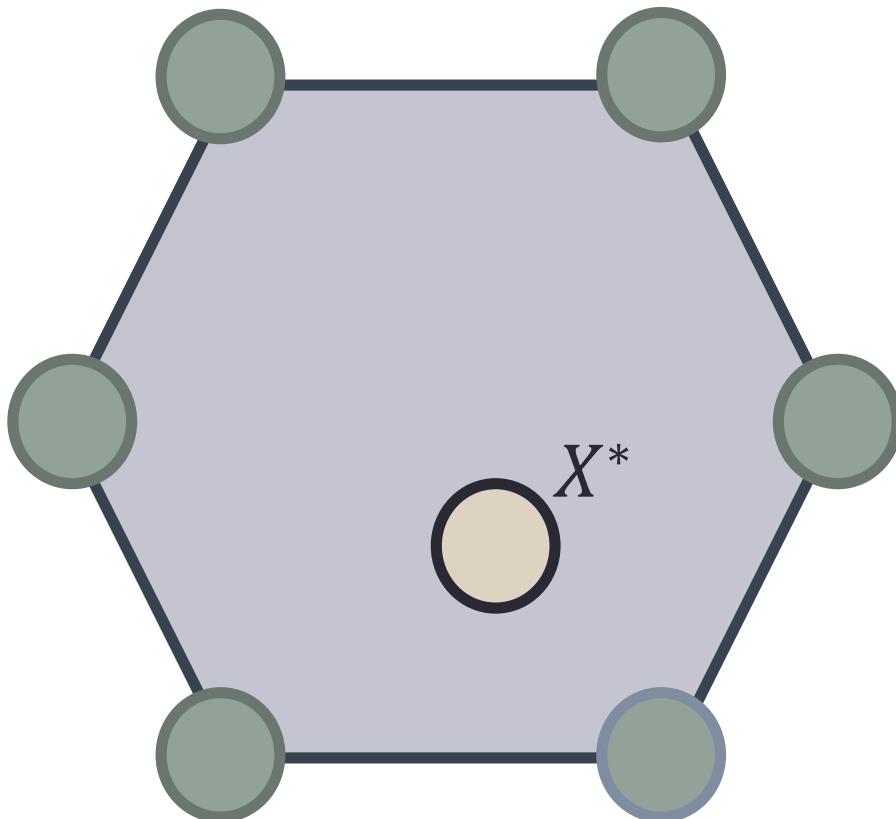
Tight!

Fast!

# Projection

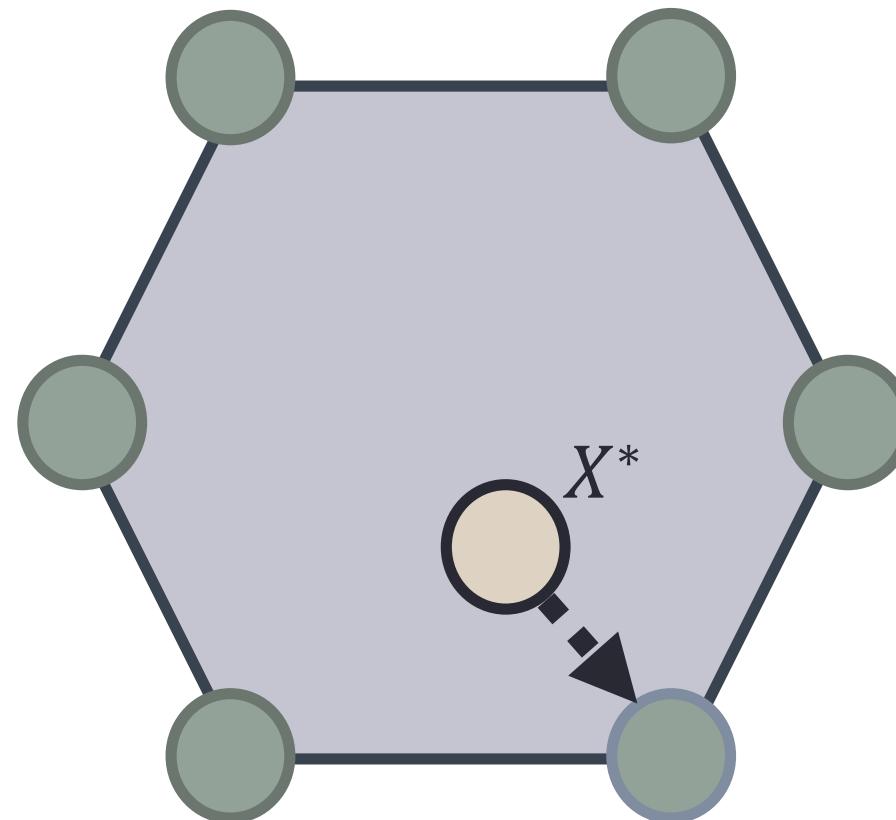
# Natural projection

- **Problem:** what if  $X^*$  is not a permutation matrix?



# Natural projection

- **Problem:** what if  $X^*$  is not a permutation matrix?
- **Common solution:**  $L_2$  projection – does not take functional into account

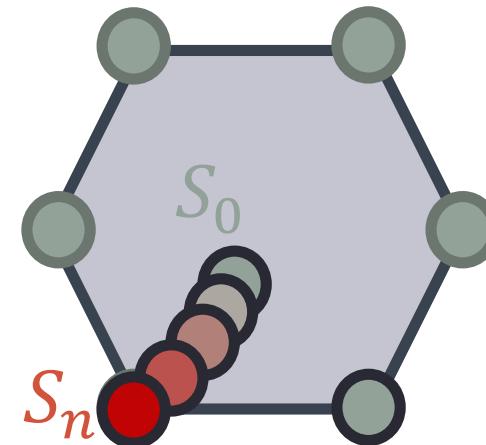


# Natural projection

- Our solution :
  - Solve convex relaxation  $E(X, a)$  for optimal  $a_0 = \lambda_{min}$ .
  - gradually deform objective from convex to concave by increasing  $a$

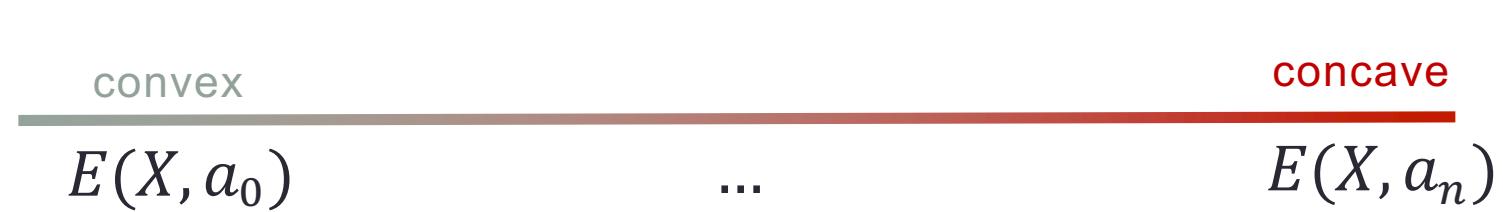
$$\begin{array}{c} \text{convex} \\ \hline E(X, a_0) & \dots & E(X, a_n) \end{array}$$

concave



- Concave objective – guaranteed to get a permutation!
- We use [Solomon et al. 2016] for optimization

# Natural projection

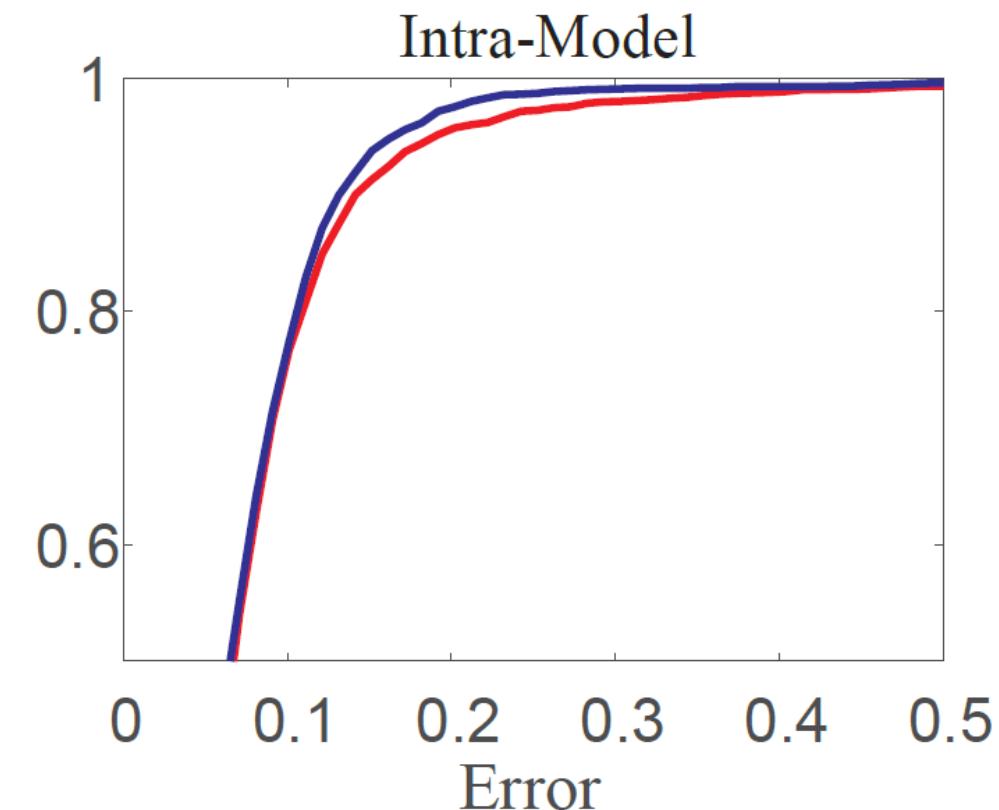
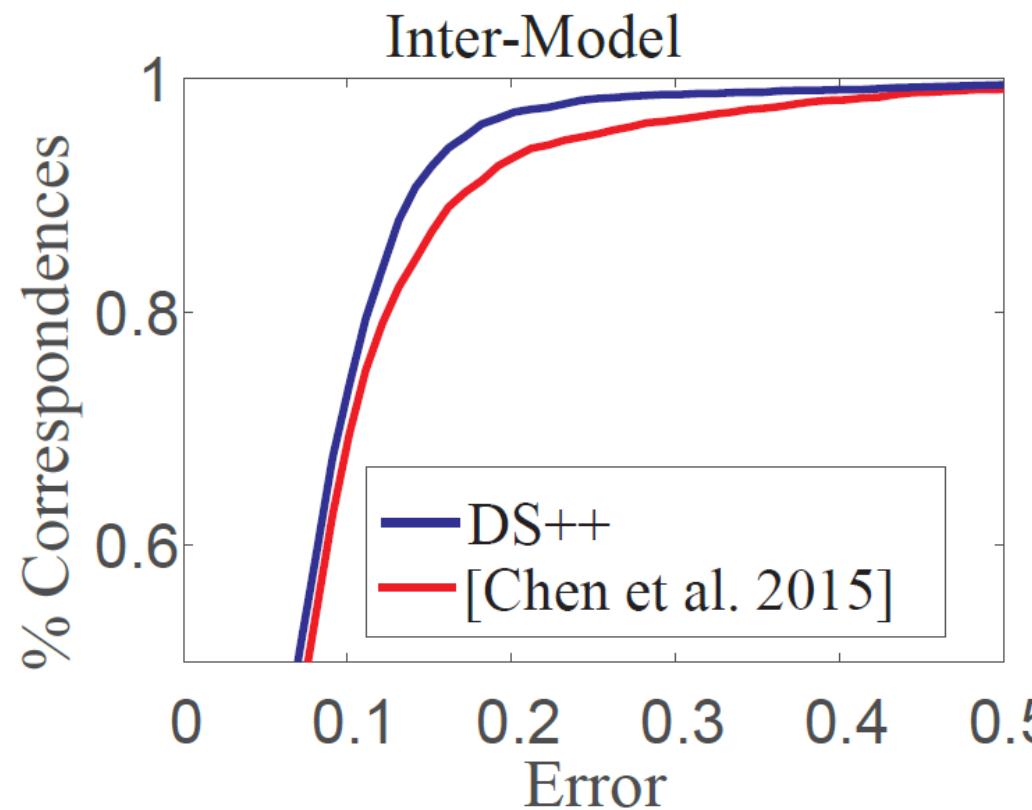


# Applications

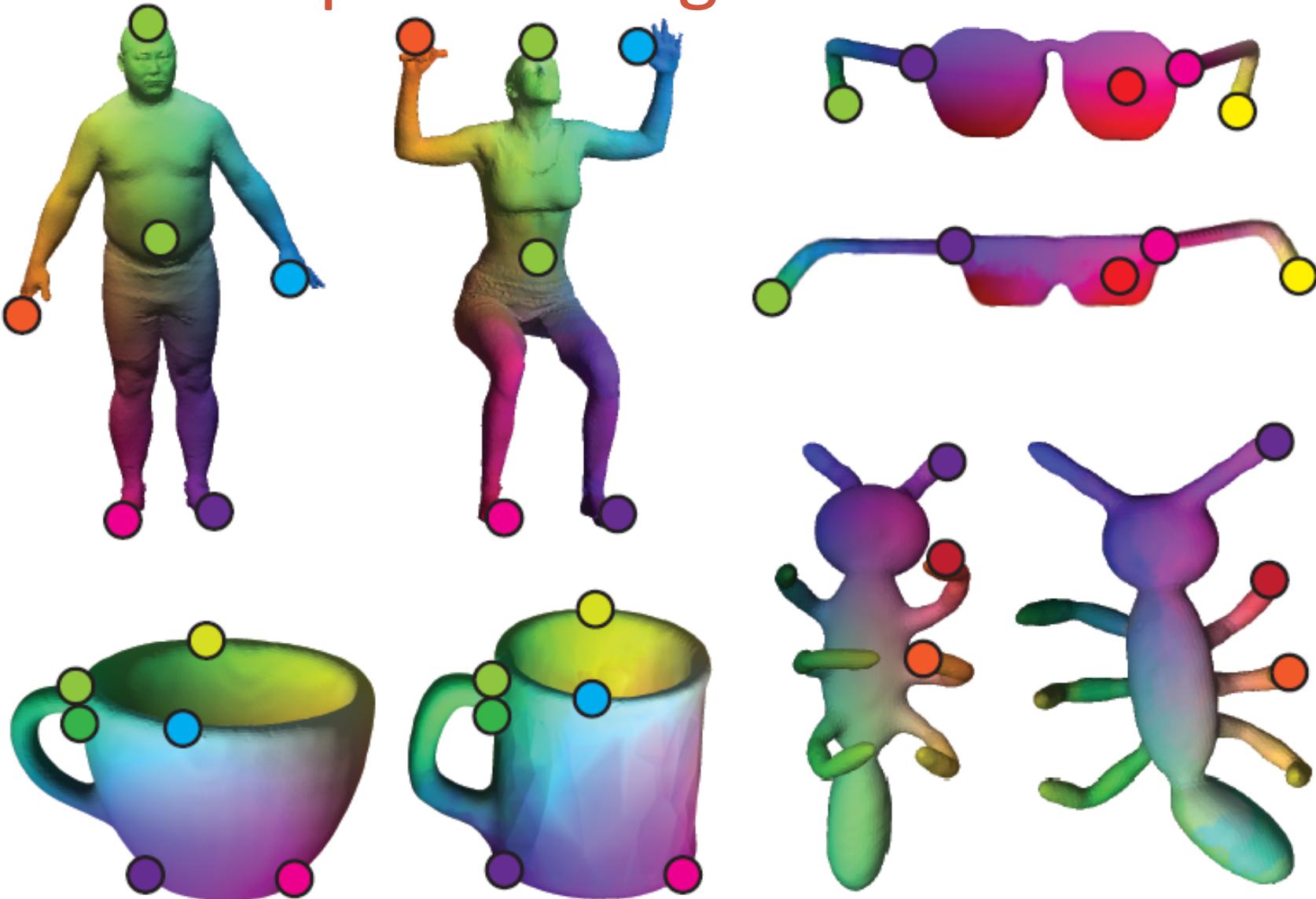
# Applications: shape matching



# Applications : shape matching



## Applications : shape matching

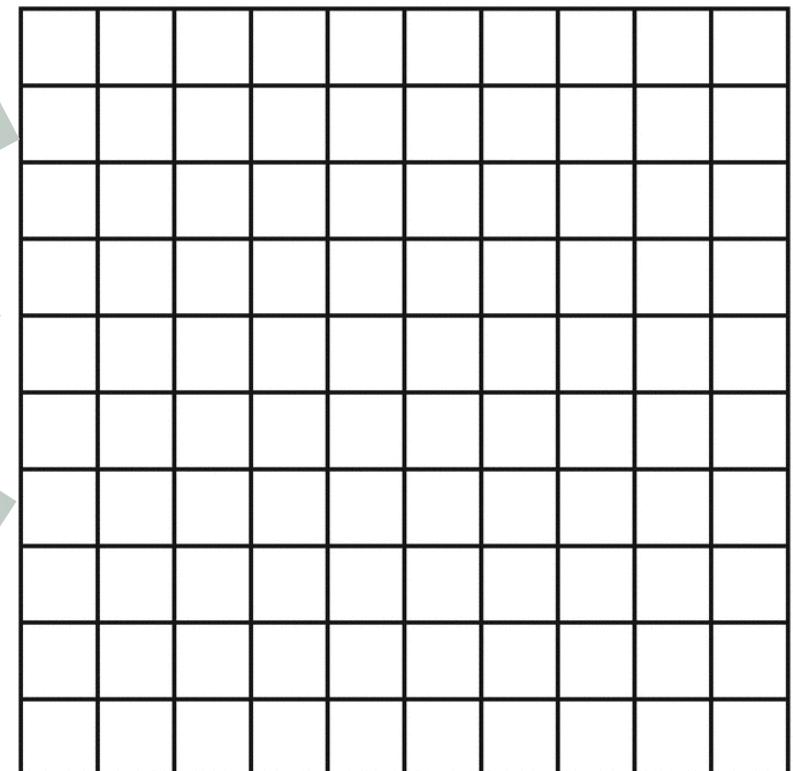


# Applications : image arrangement

Image metric space



Euclidean grid

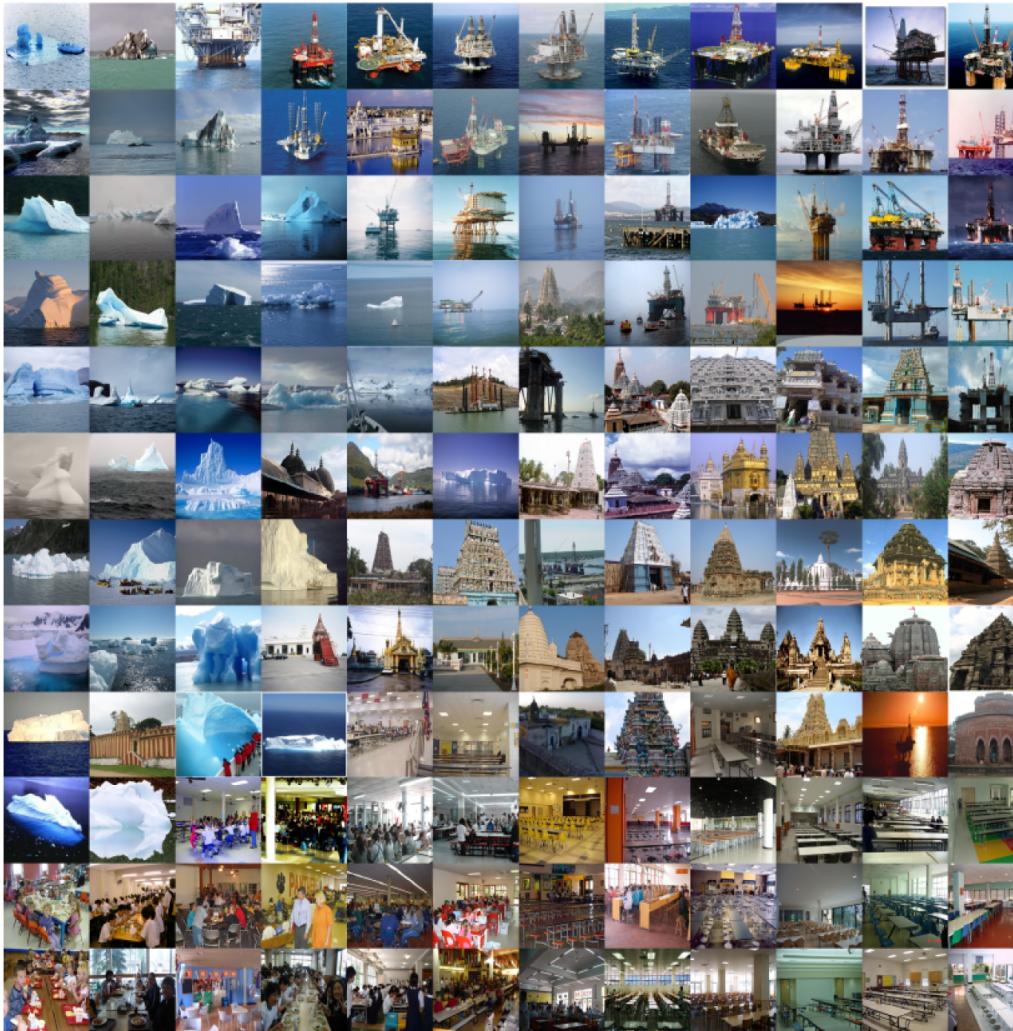


# Applications : image ordering



# Applications : image ordering

Icebergs



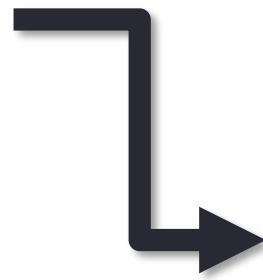
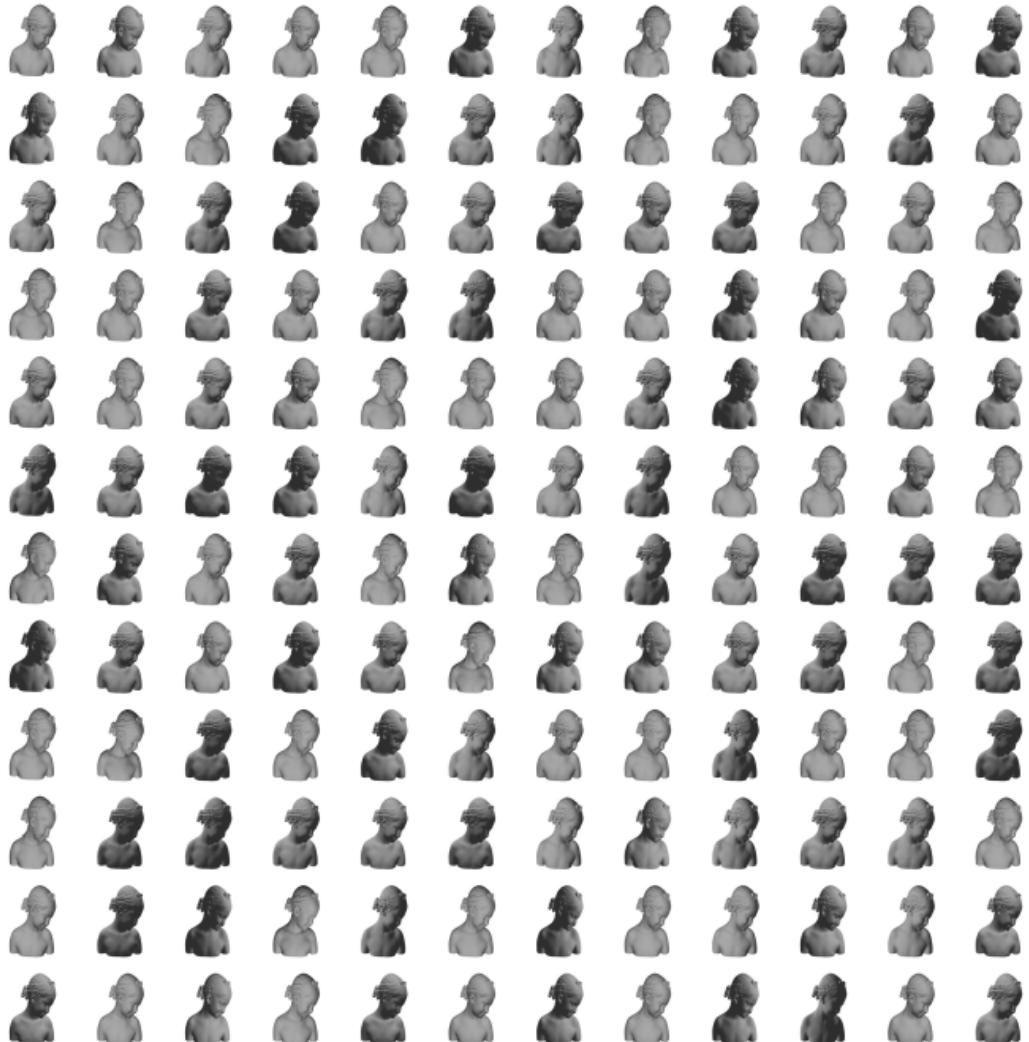
Oil rafts

Classrooms

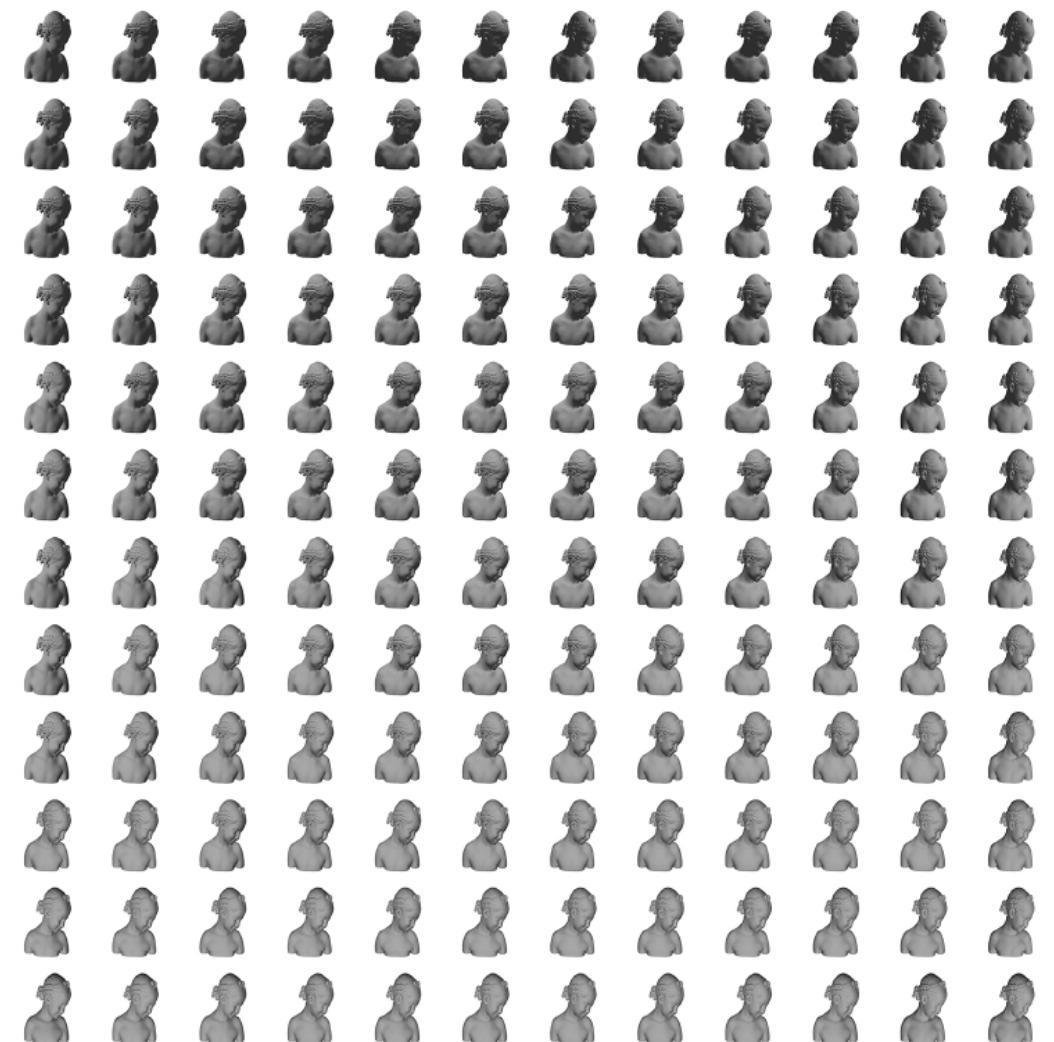
Temples

# Applications : image ordering

Before



after



# Conclusion

- More accurate relaxation at the same complexity
- Natural projection method
- Works on all convex and concave energies

# Limitations / future work

- Best relaxation in  $n^2$  variables?
- Partial matching
- Optimization with Frank-Wolfe scheme

# The End

- Code is available online:

<http://www.wisdom.weizmann.ac.il/~haggaim/>

- Support

- ERC Starting Grant (SurfComp)
- Israel Science Foundation
- I-CORE

- Thanks for listening!

