

**KaHyPar**  
KARLSRUHE HYPERGRAPH PARTITIONING

# Modern Hypergraph Partitioning: KaHyPar, Mt-KaHyPar, and Beyond

ISPD 2026 · March, 18

**Sebastian Schlag**, **Tobias Heuer**<sup>1</sup>, **Christian Schulz**<sup>2</sup>, Yaroslav Akhremtsev<sup>3</sup>, Robin Andre<sup>3</sup>, Adil Chhabra<sup>2</sup>, Lars Gottesbüren<sup>3</sup>, Michael Hamann<sup>3</sup>, Vitali Henne<sup>3</sup>, Nikolai Maas<sup>3</sup>, Henning Meyerhenke<sup>3</sup>, Peter Sanders<sup>3</sup>, Daniel Seemaier<sup>3</sup>, Bora Uçar<sup>4</sup>, Dorothea Wagner<sup>3</sup>, Loris Wilwert<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>eBay Inc., <sup>2</sup>Heidelberg University, <sup>3</sup>Karlsruhe Institute Of Technology,

<sup>4</sup>CNRS and LIP (UMR 5668 CNRS - ENS Lyon - UCB Lyon 1 - Inria)

# Graphs and Hypergraphs

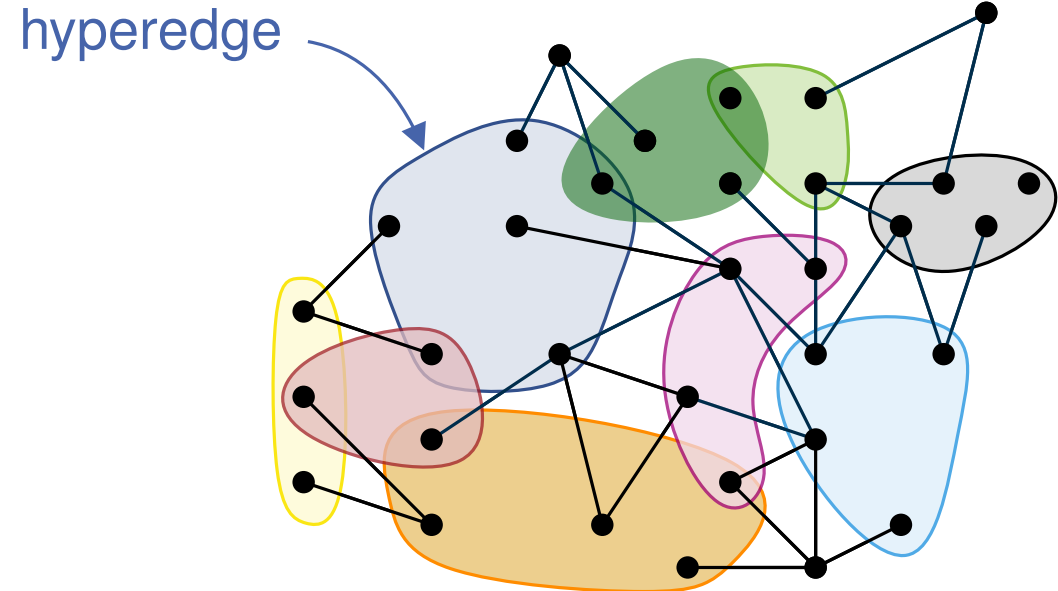
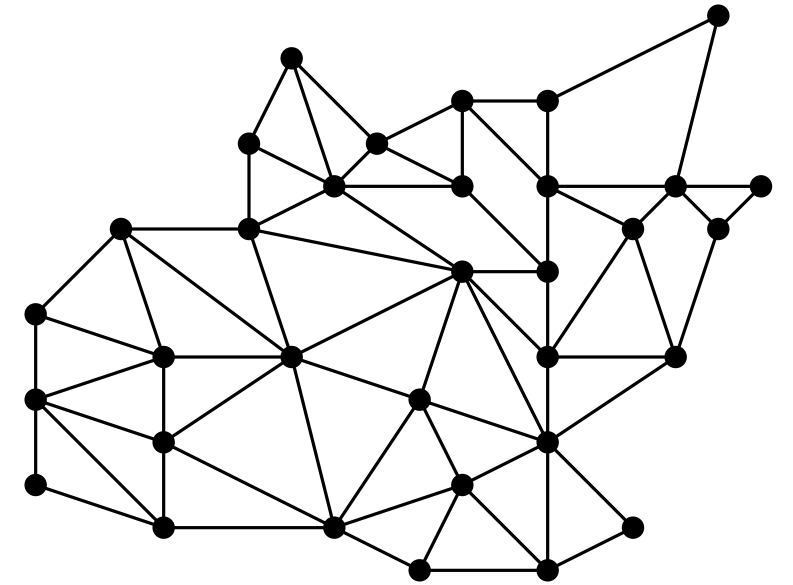
$$\text{Graph } G = (V, E)$$

vertices  edges 

- Models relationships between objects
- Dyadic (2-ary) relationships

$$\text{Hypergraph } H = (V, E)$$

- Generalization of a graph  
⇒ hyperedges connect  $\geq 2$  vertices
- Arbitrary ( $d$ -ary) relationships
- Edge set  $E \subseteq \mathcal{P}(V) \setminus \emptyset$



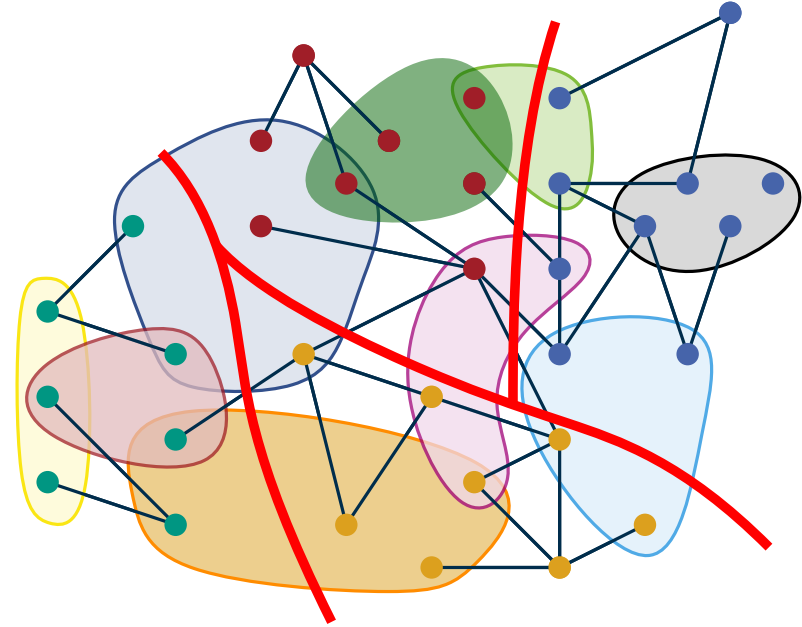
# $\varepsilon$ -Balanced Hypergraph Partitioning (HGP)

Partition hypergraph  $H = (V, E, c : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{>0}, \omega : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{>0})$  into  $k$  disjoint blocks  $\Pi = \{V_1, \dots, V_k\}$  such that

- Blocks  $V_i$  are roughly equal-sized:

$$c(V_i) \leq (1 + \varepsilon) \left\lceil \frac{c(V)}{k} \right\rceil$$

- Objective function on hyperedges is minimized



# $\epsilon$ -Balanced Hypergraph Partitioning (HGP)

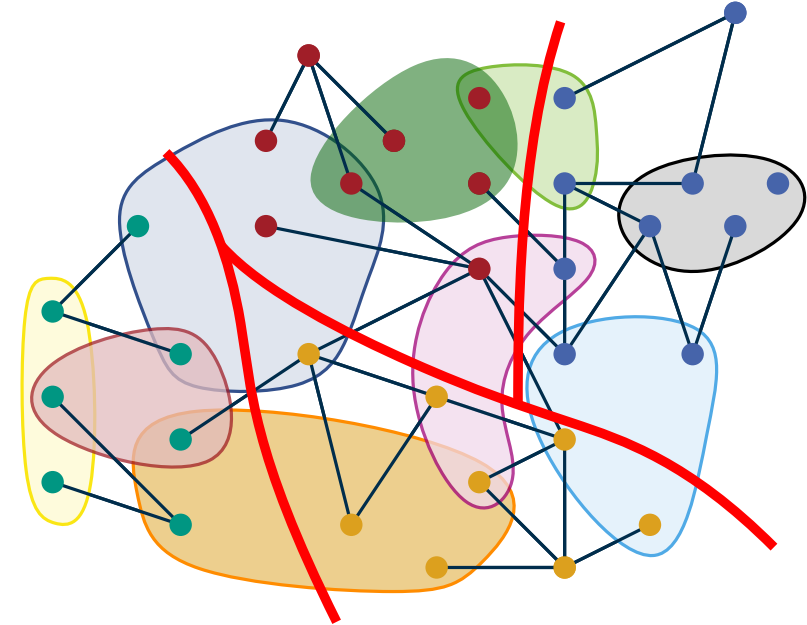
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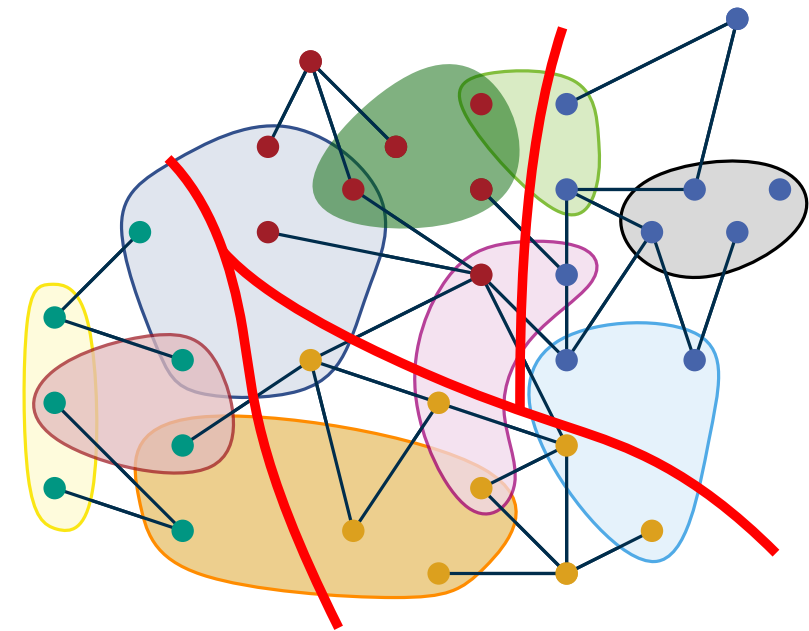
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## Common HGP Objectives:

- Cut-Net:  $\sum_{e \in \text{Cut}} \omega(e)$



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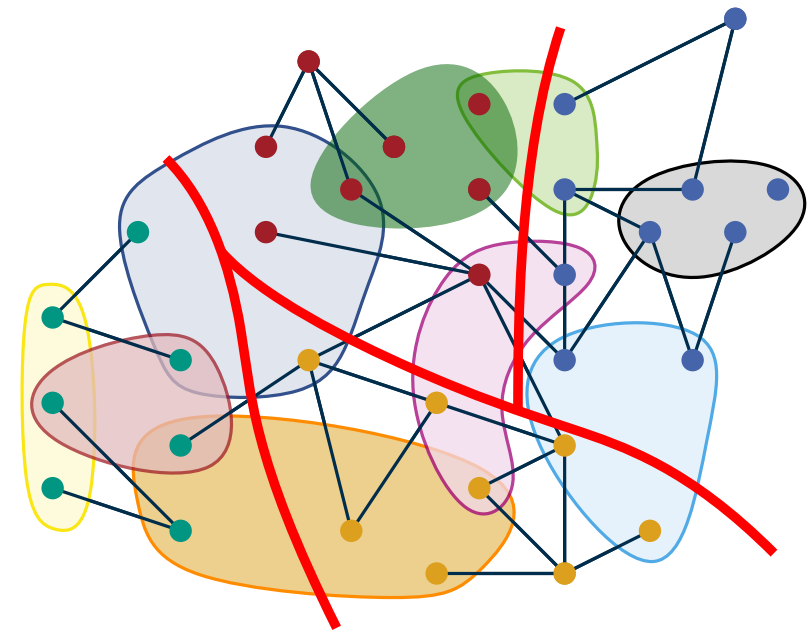
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imbalance parameter

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## Common HGP Objectives:

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- Connectivity:  $\sum_{e \in \text{cut}} (\lambda - 1) \omega(e)$



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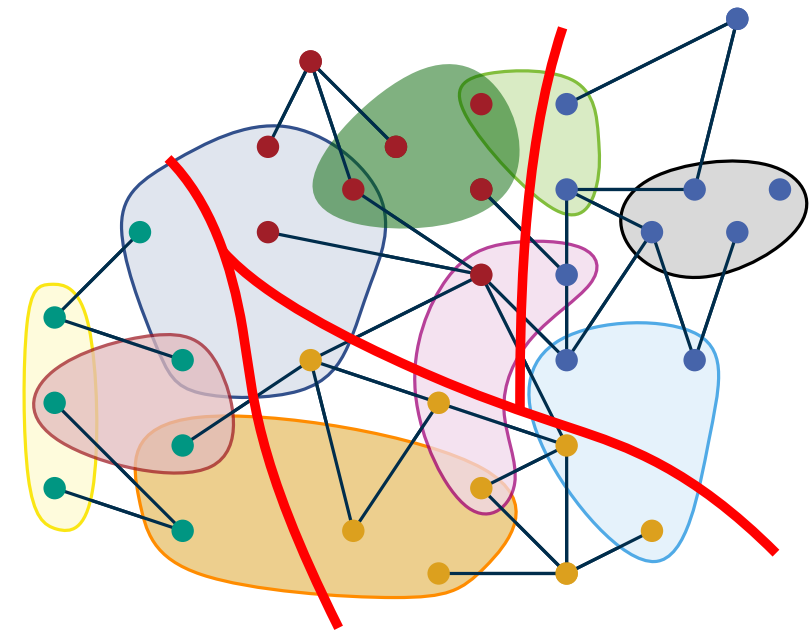
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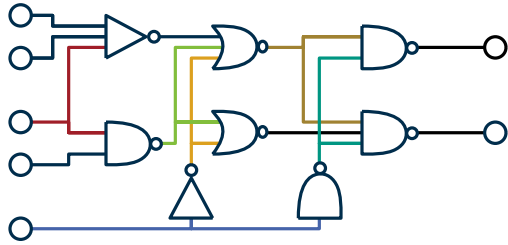
# blocks connected by  $e$



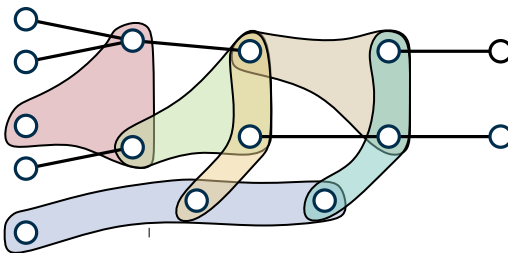
# Well-Known HGP Applications

## Circuit Design

Application



Model



Goal

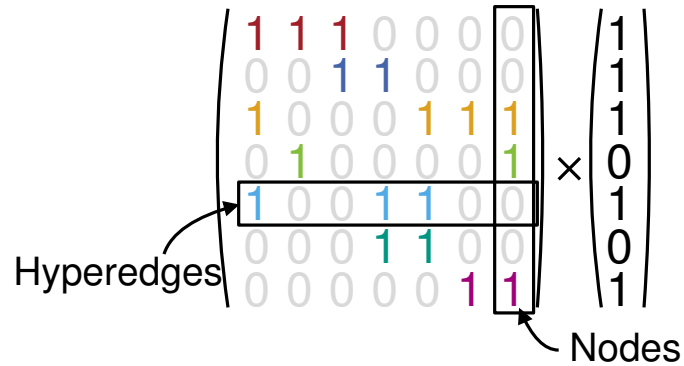
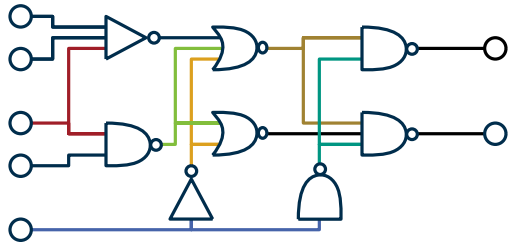
Facilitate  
Placement

# Well-Known HGP Applications

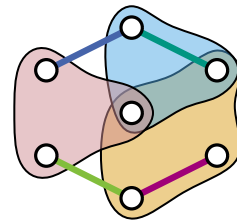
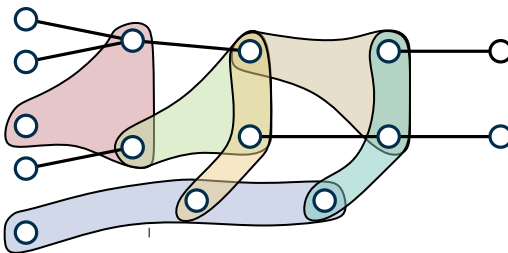
## Circuit Design

## Scientific Computing

Application



Model



Goal

Facilitate Placement

Minimize Communication

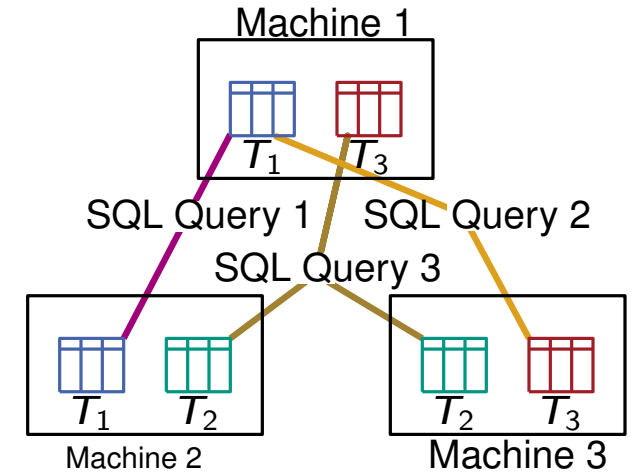
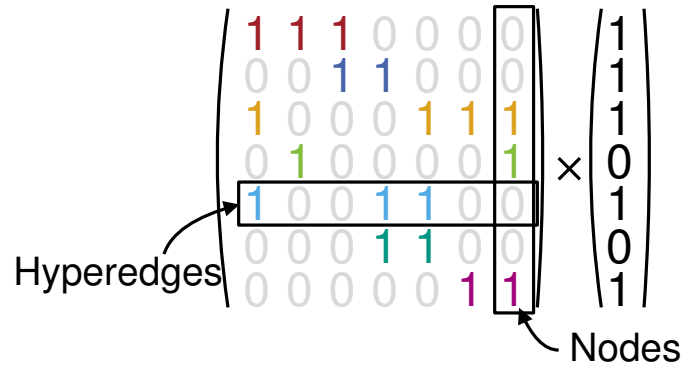
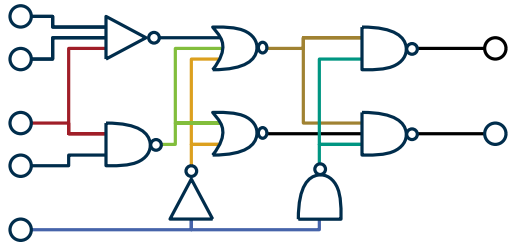
# Well-Known HGP Applications

## Circuit Design

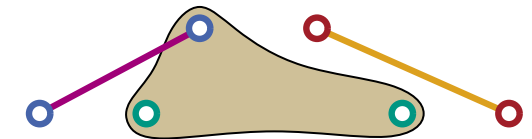
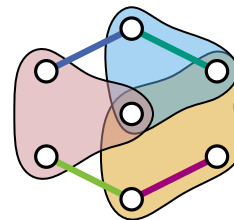
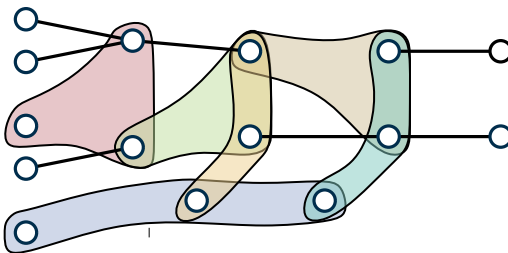
## Scientific Computing

## Distributed Databases

Application



Model



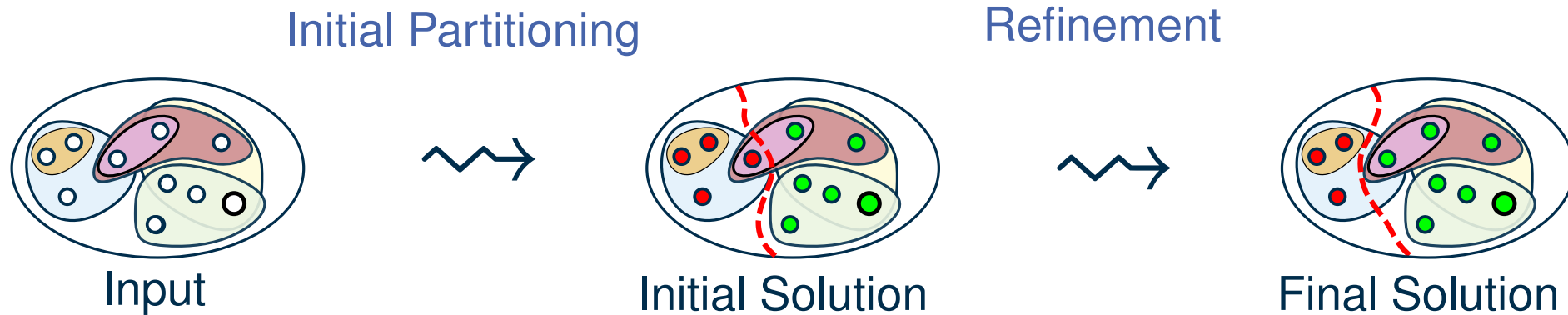
Goal

Facilitate Placement

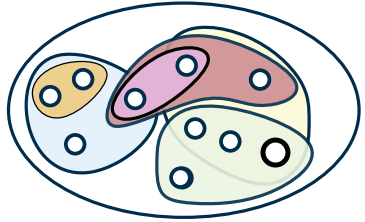
Minimize Communication

Minimize distr. Queries

# Classification: Single-Level Algorithms

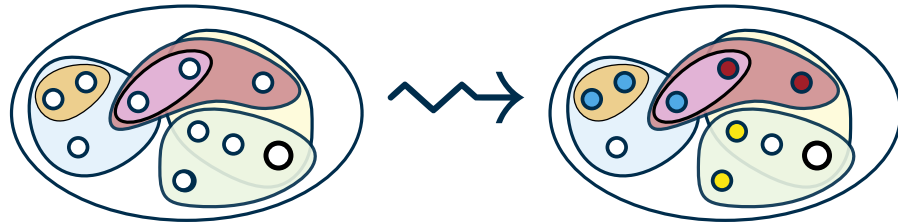


# Classification: Two-Level Algorithms

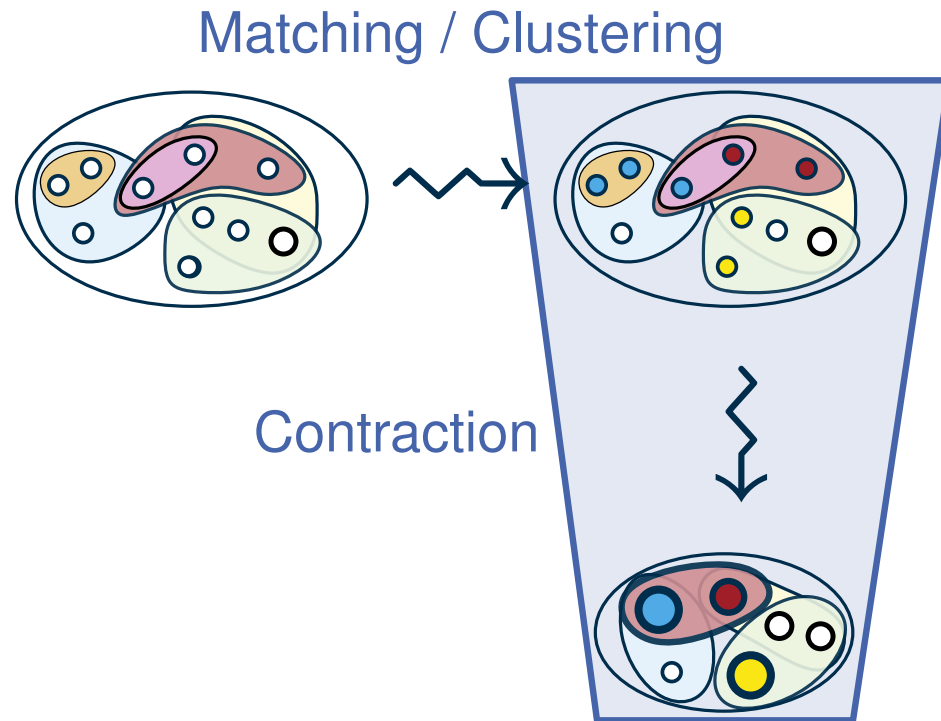


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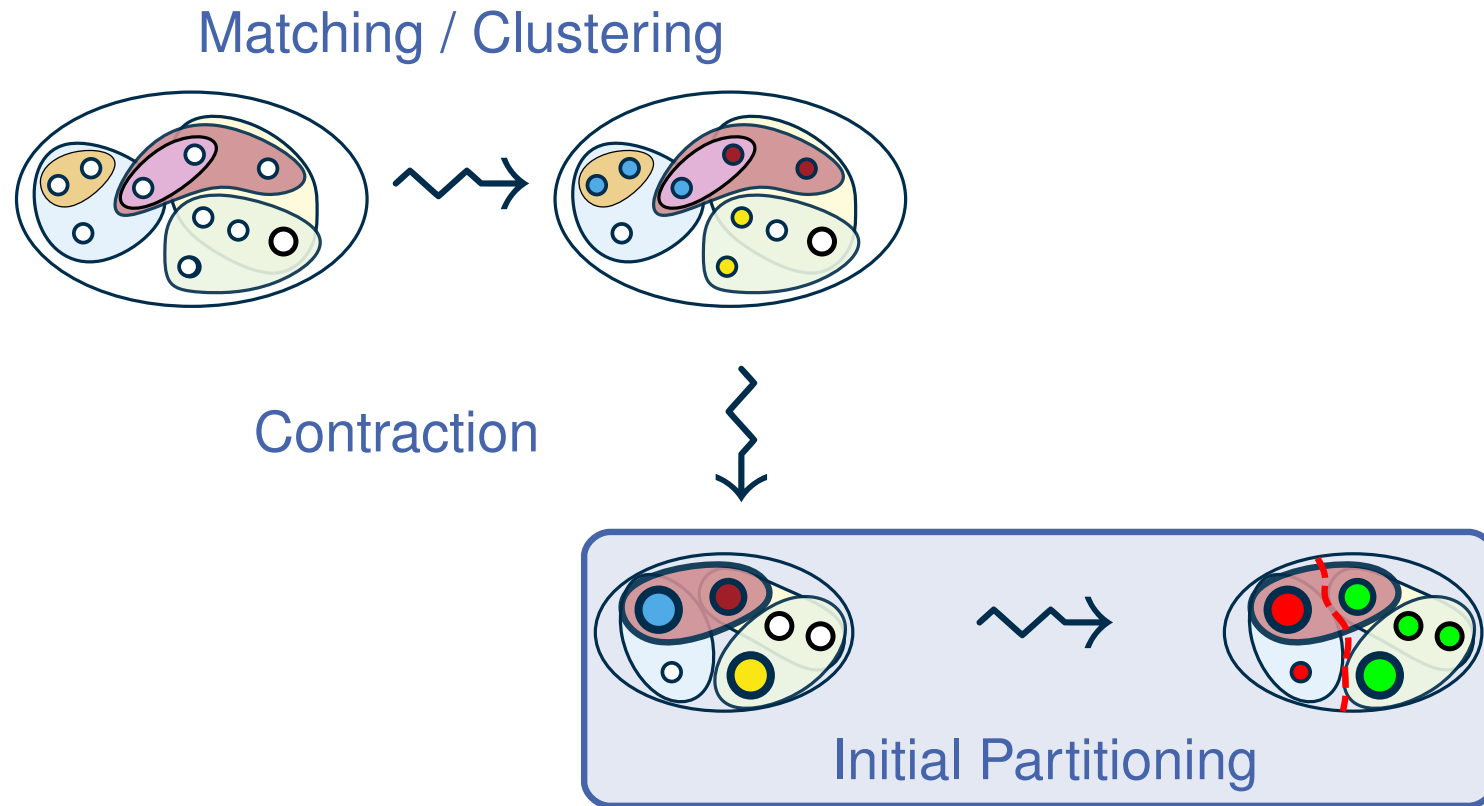
Matching / Clustering



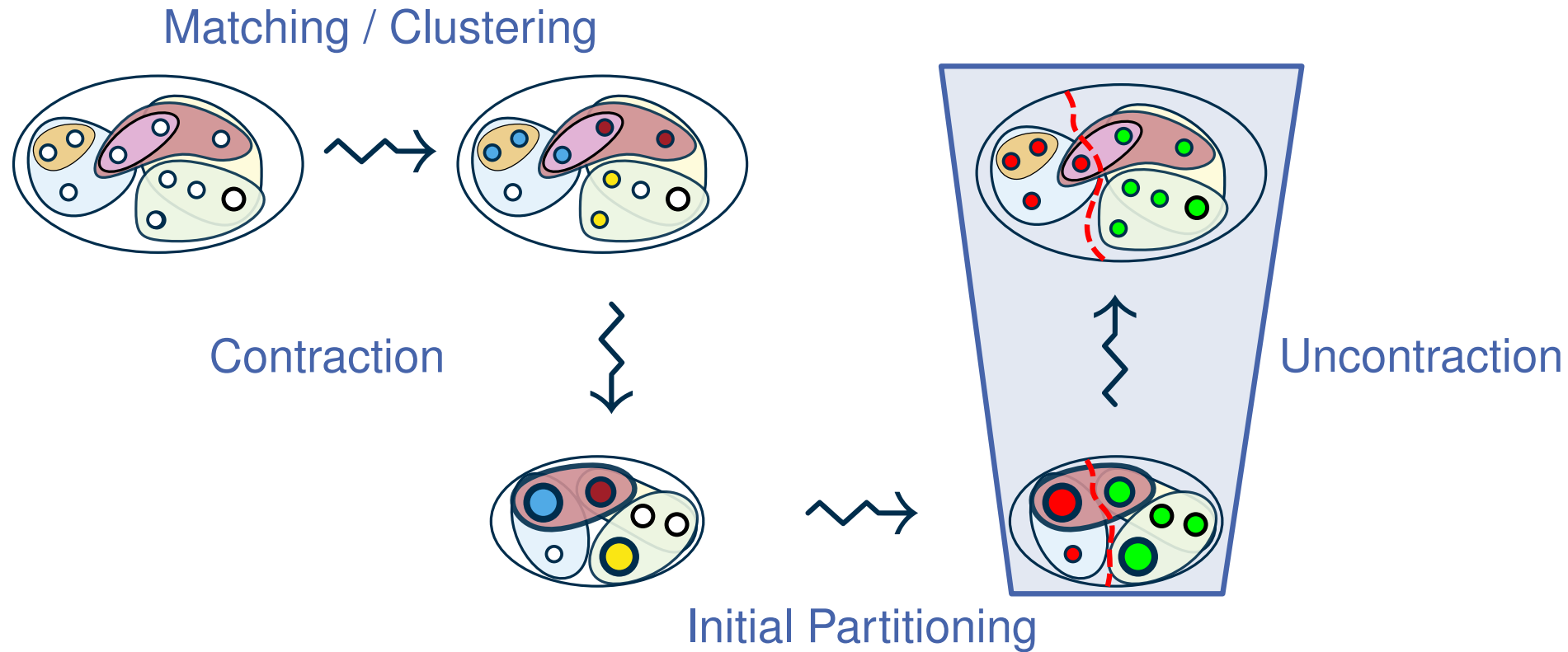
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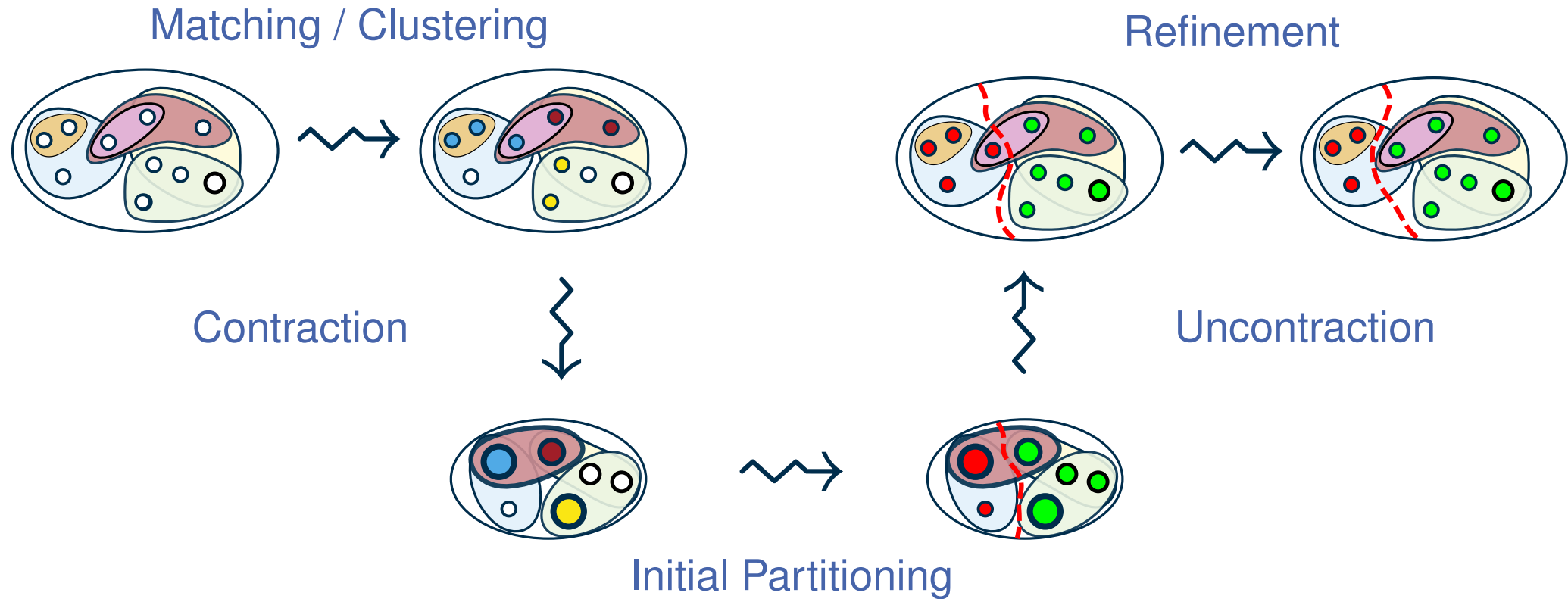
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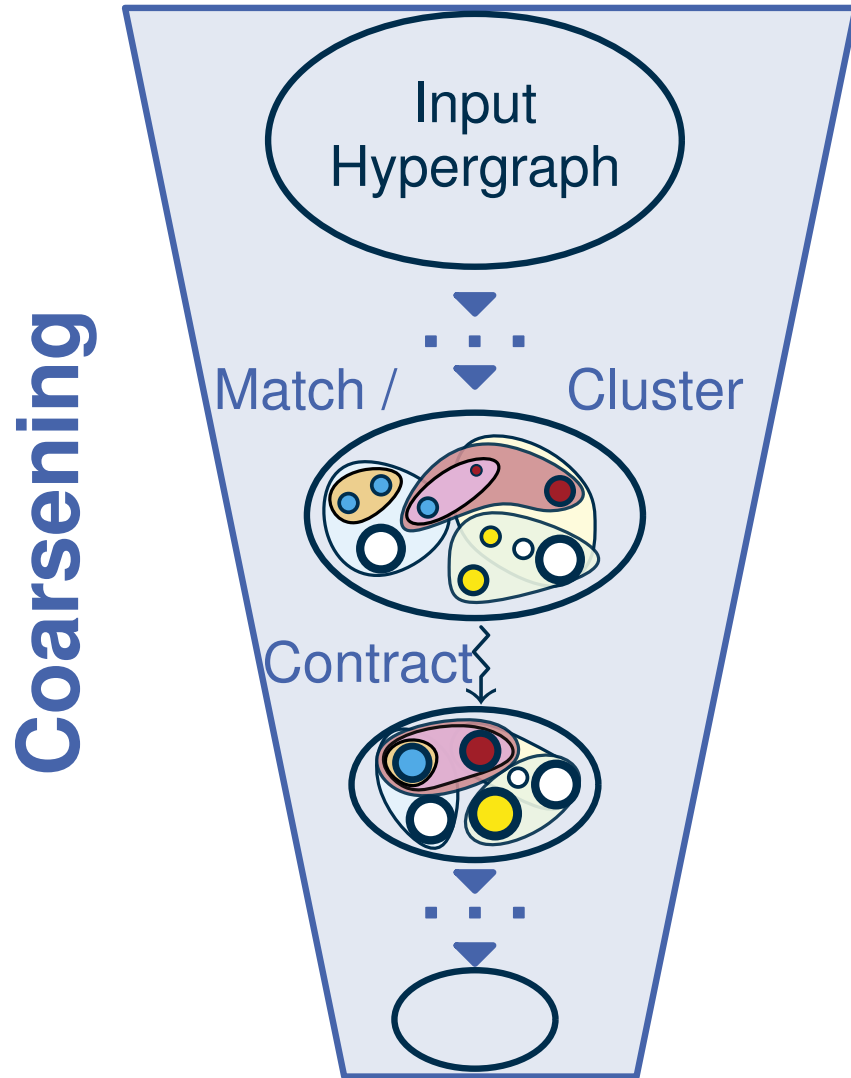
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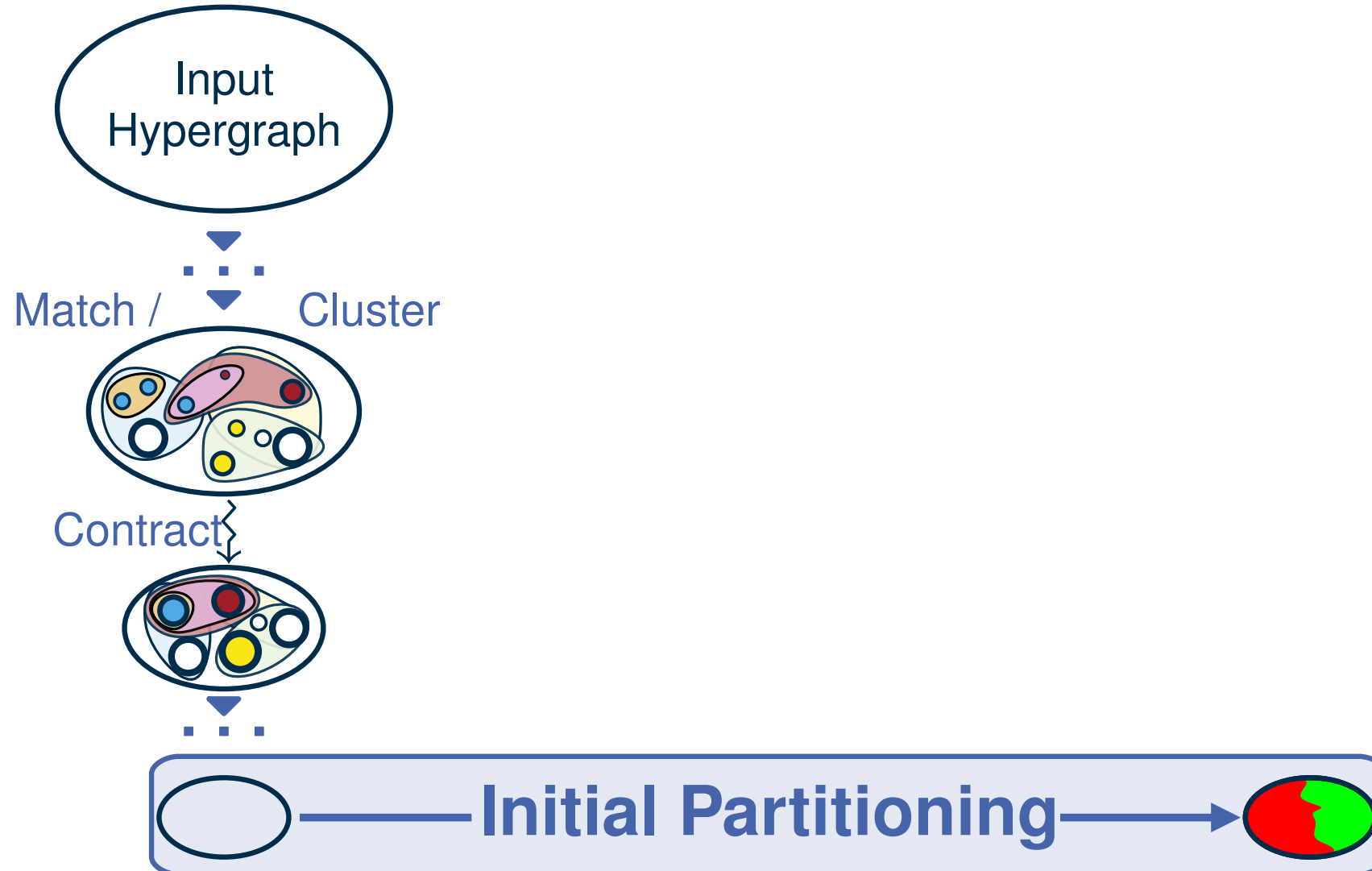


# Classification: Multi-Level Algorithms

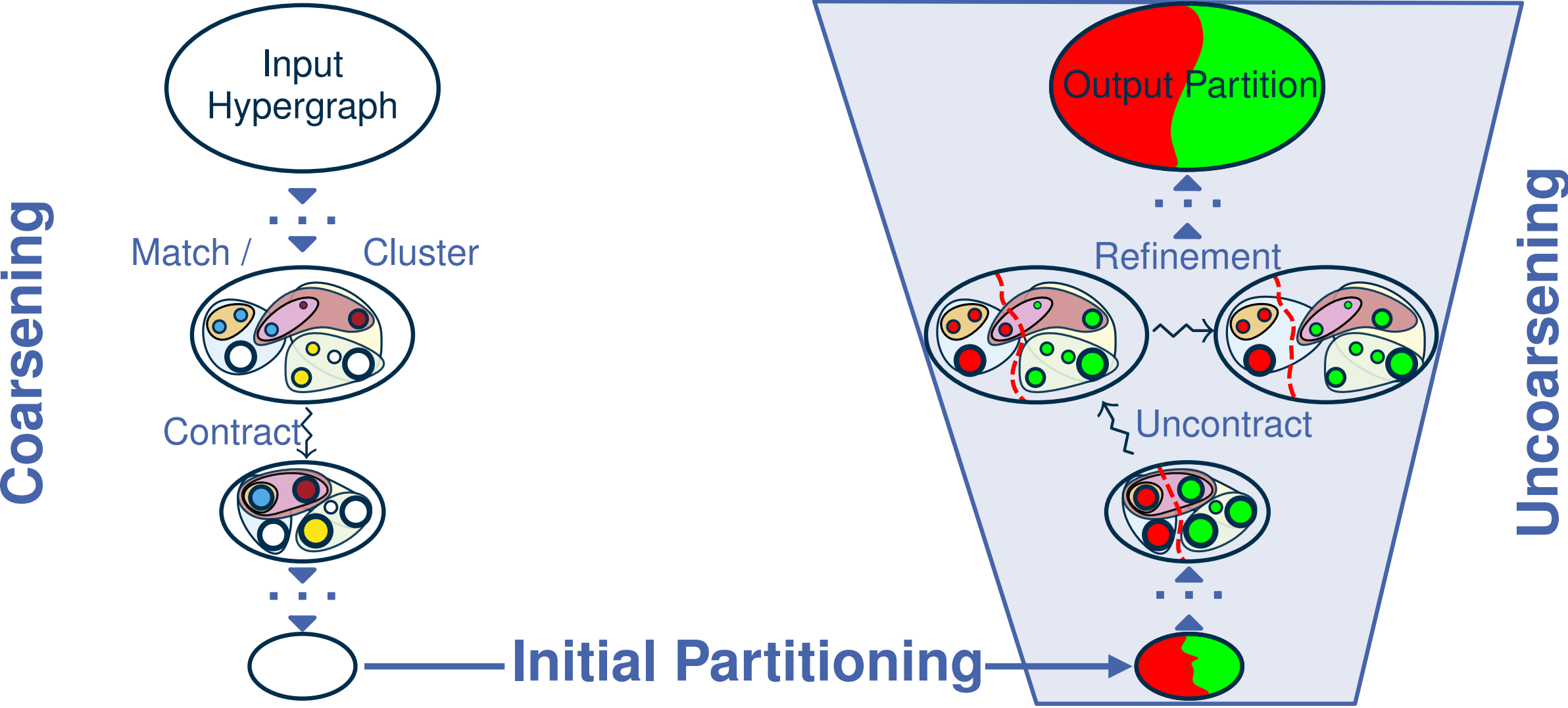


# Classification: Multi-Level Algorithms

Coarsening



# Classification: Multi-Level Algorithms



# Prior Work: Single-Level Algorithms

KL  
 FM  
 [KGV83]  
 LA<sub>ℓ</sub>-FM  
 Algl BIPART RCut  
 WHB EIG1 EIG-IG  
 IG-Match  
 DLA GRCA Parabolli FBB MELO  
 PANZA LIFO-LA<sub>ℓ</sub>-FM  
 LSMC PROP CLIP/CDIP  
 LSR ASFM PROP-Rex  
 DEEP/VAR-PROP MMP  
 VRW Shrink-PROP  
 CLIP<sub>2</sub>/LIFO<sub>2</sub> [CY00]  
 WalkPart  
 LFM  
**Bipartitioning**

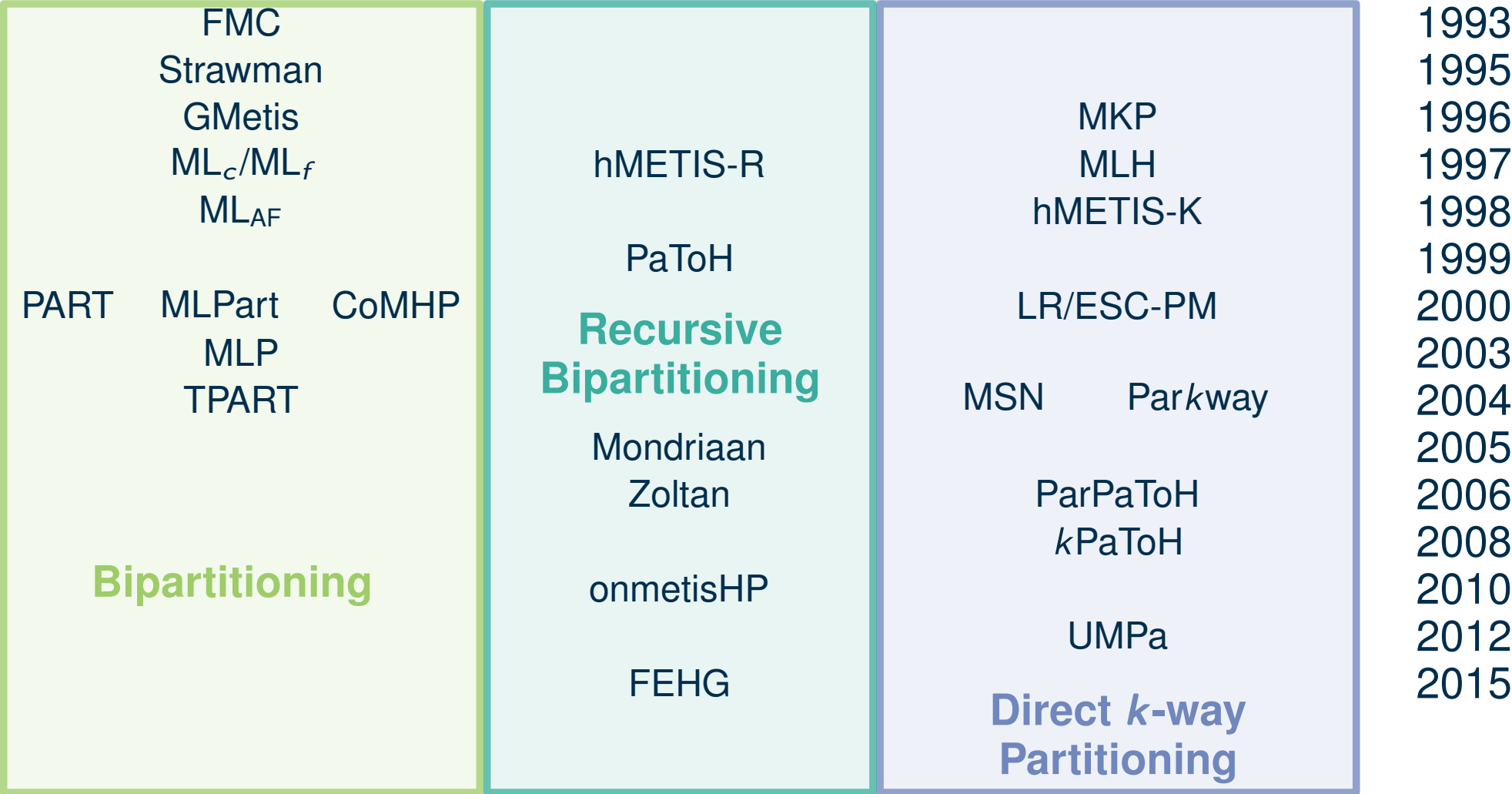
**Direct *k*-way  
 Partitioning**  
*k*-LA<sub>ℓ</sub>-FM  
 EV  
 MCPG  
 NETPART  
 SA/EIG-TS [PP93] KP KC/AGG  
 P(L/F)M SFC Window KDualPartFM  
 GFM  
 K-PM/LR  
 IDP [Are99]  
 MDC-RS NGSP  
 Hyper-PuLP  
 SHP  
 HYPE

1972  
 1982  
 1983  
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 2017  
 2018

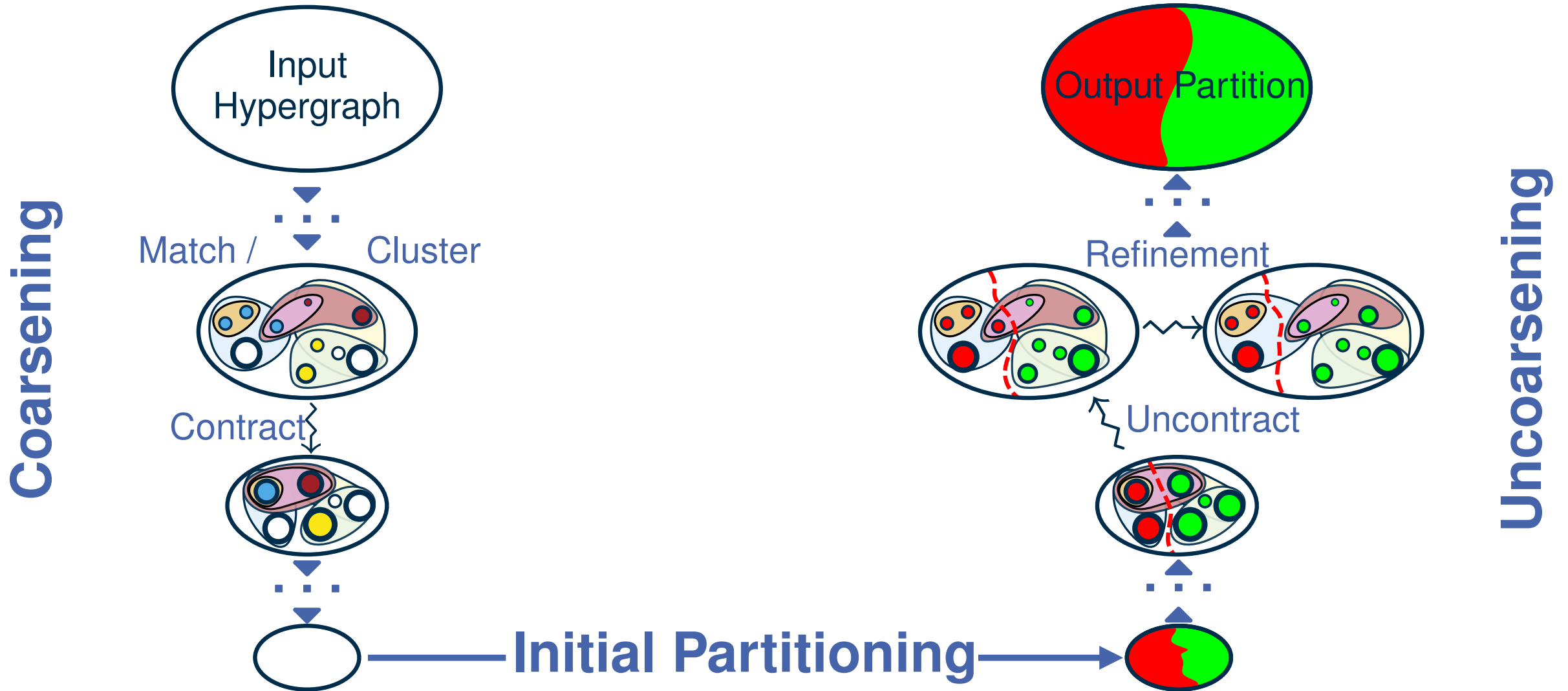
# Prior Work: Two-Level Algorithms

		[IKS75]	1975
dKLFM		<b>Direct <math>k</math>-way Partitioning</b>	1983
STABLE		PD	1990
			1991
[HK92a]			1992
[AK93]		HGCEP	1993
[Yan+94]	<b>Recursive Bipartitioning</b>		1994
BISECT			1995
CMM			1996
[HK97]			1997
TLP    CRC			1999
<b>Bipartitioning</b>	NaturalPart	GA-GC-DHC	2004
			2006

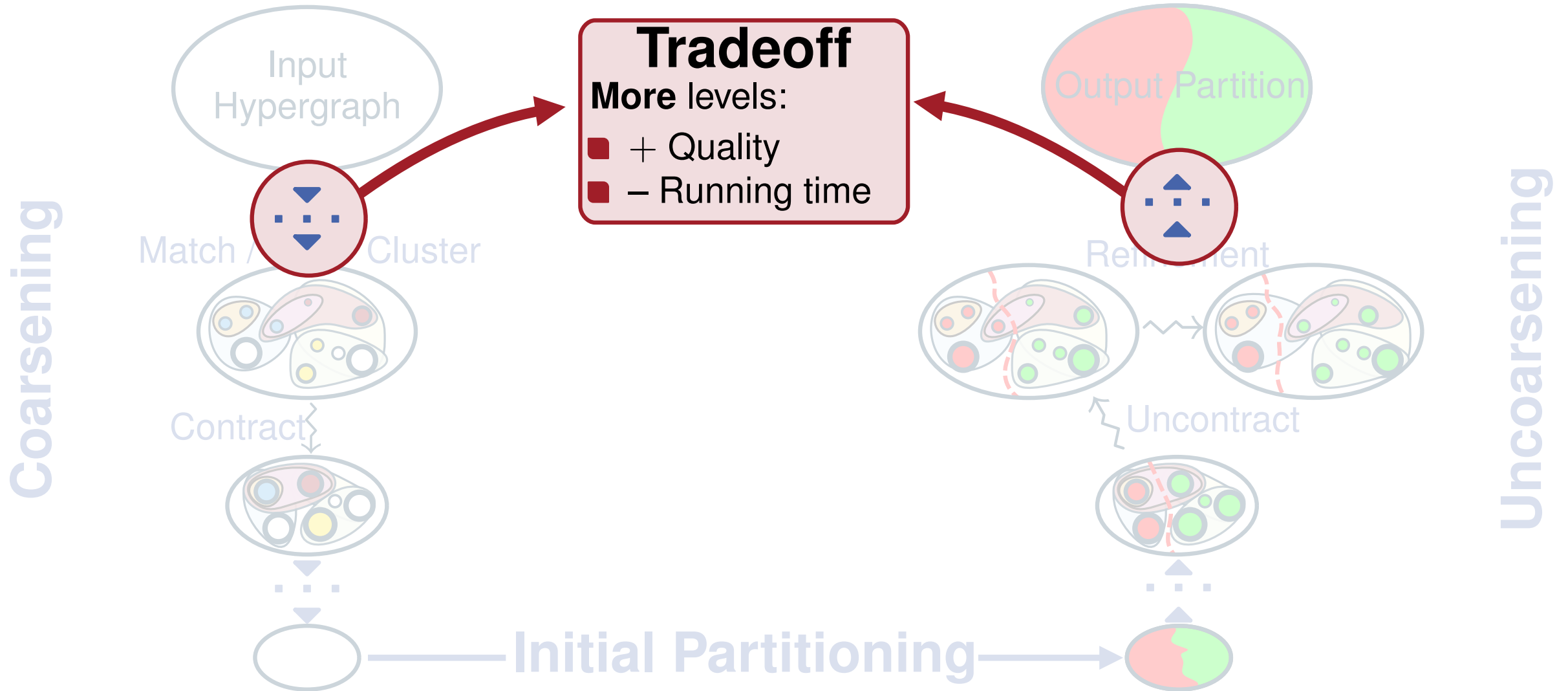
# Prior Work: Multi-Level Algorithms



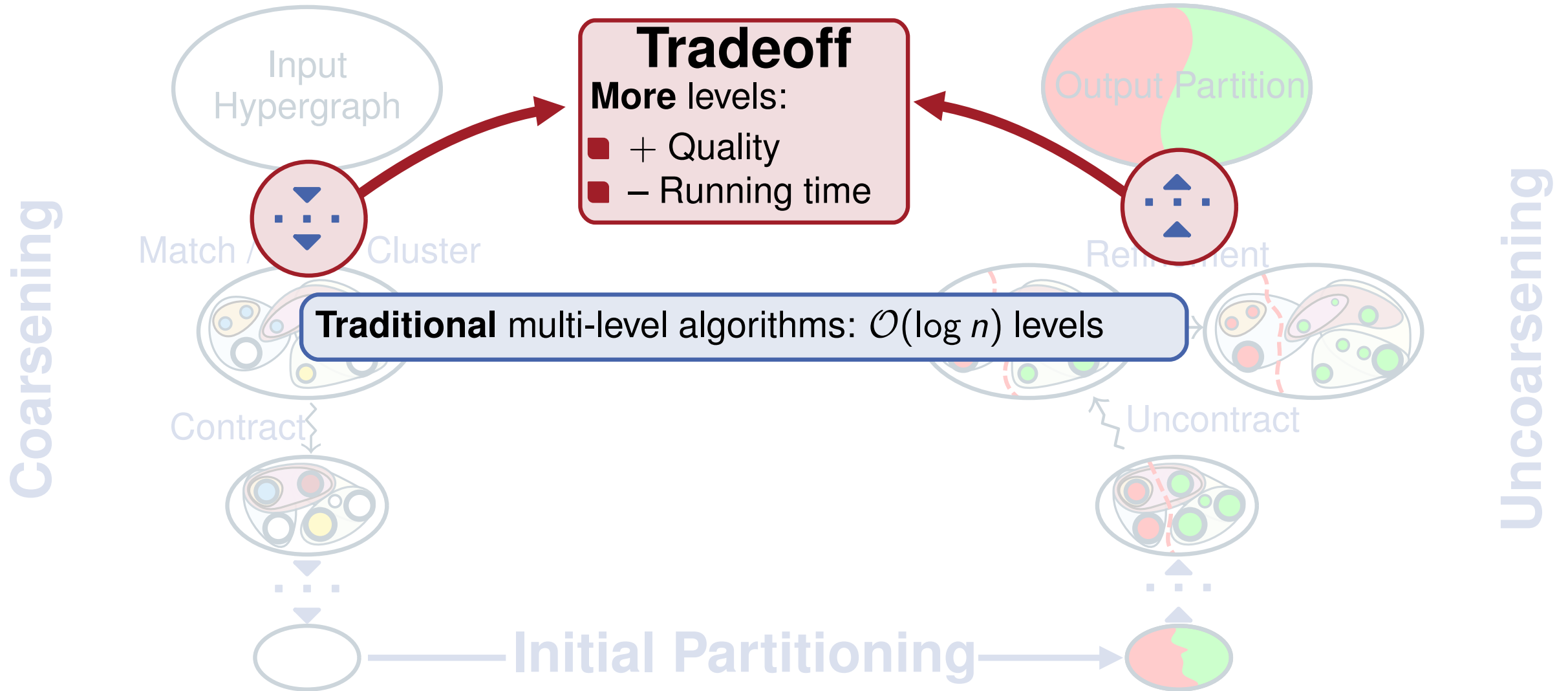
# Why Yet Another Multi-Level Algorithm?



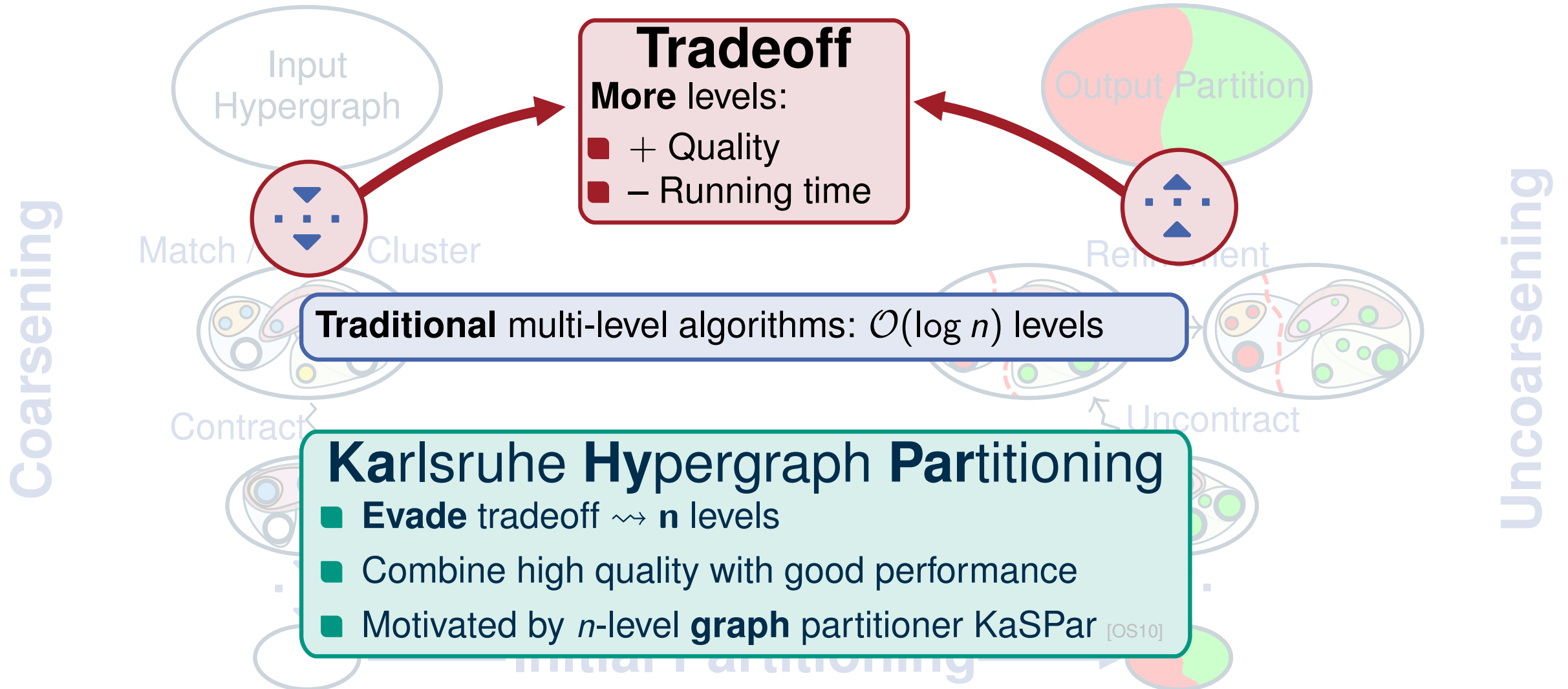
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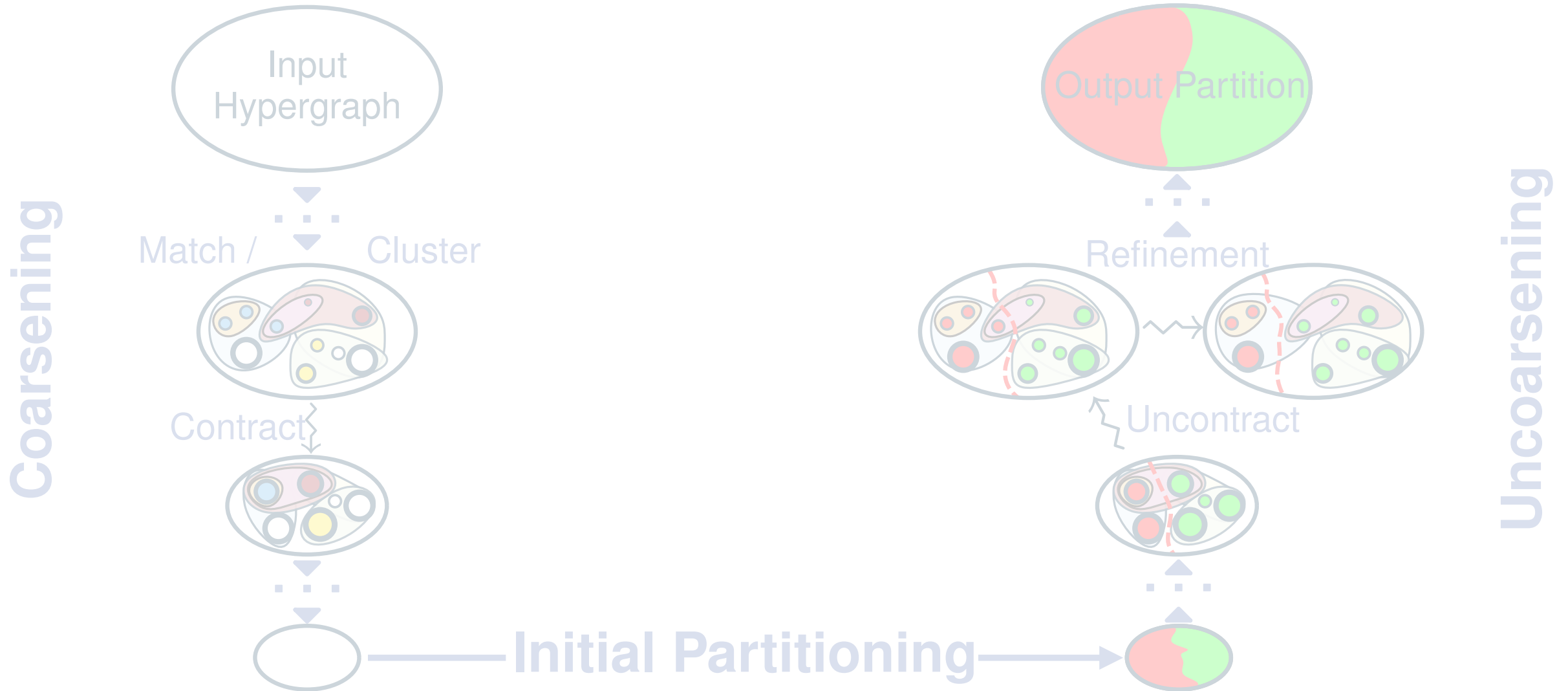
# Why Yet Another Multi-Level Algorithm?



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# Overview: Main Algorithmic Ingredients



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Coarsening

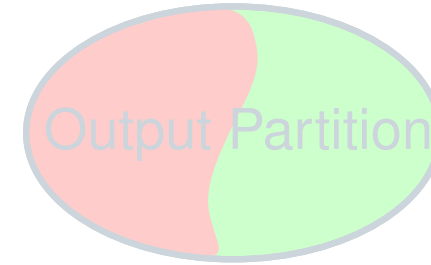
Match / Cluster



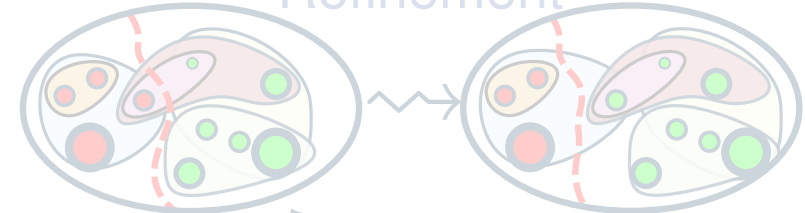
Contract



Initial Partitioning



Refinement

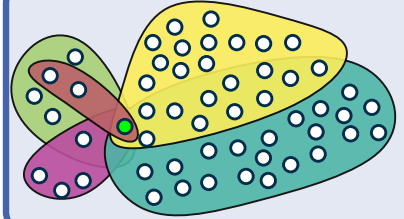


Uncontract

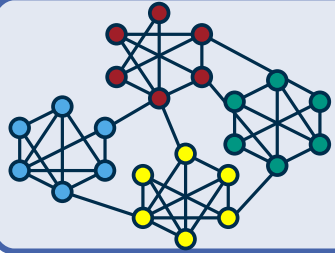


Uncoarsening

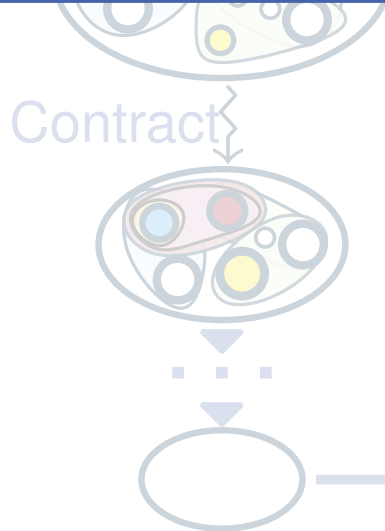
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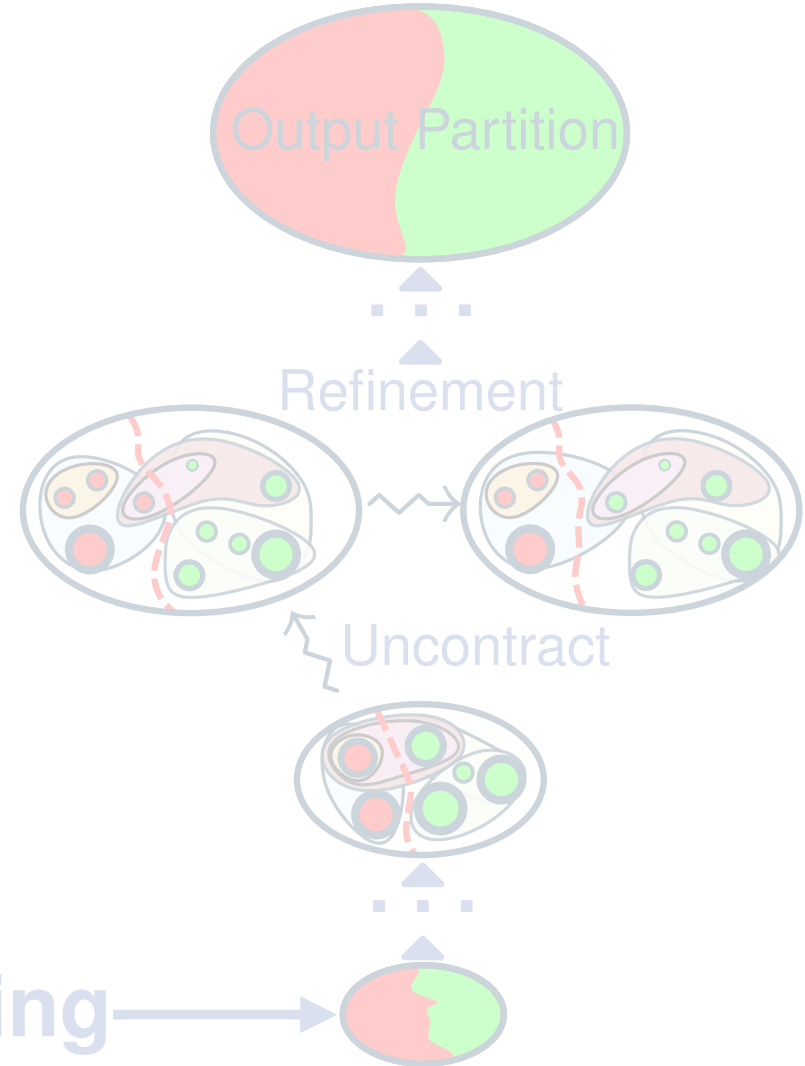
Pin Sparsification  
[ALENEX'17]



Community-Aware  
Coarsening  
[SEA'17]



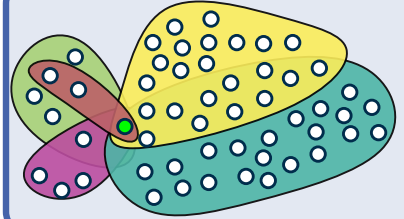
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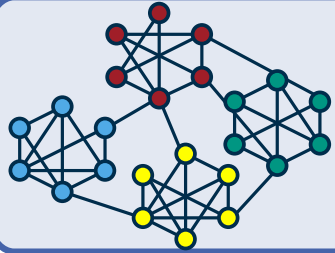
Coarsening

Uncoarsening

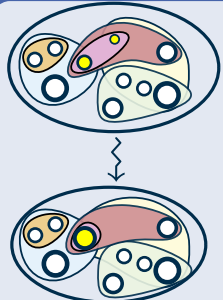
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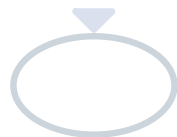
Pin Sparsification  
[ALENEX'17]



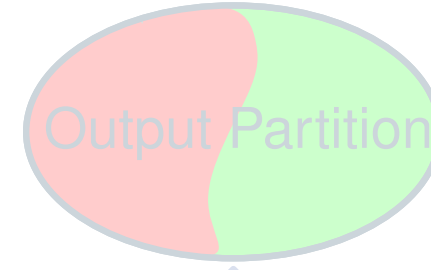
Community-Aware  
Coarsening  
[SEA'17]



Fast  $n$ -Level  
Coarsening  
[ALENEX'16]  
[ALENEX'17]

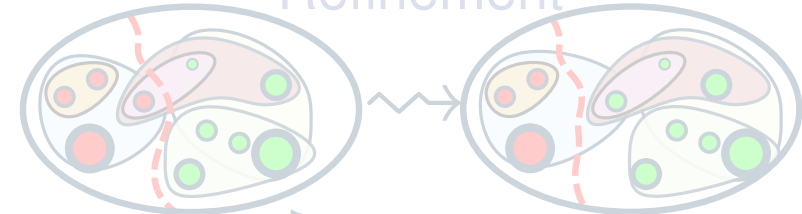


Initial Partitioning



Output Partition

Refinement



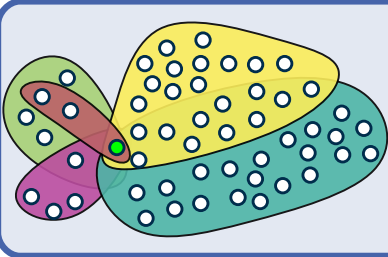
Uncontract



Coarsening

Uncoarsening

# Overview: Main Algorithmic Ingredients



**Pin Sparsification**  
[ALENEX'17]



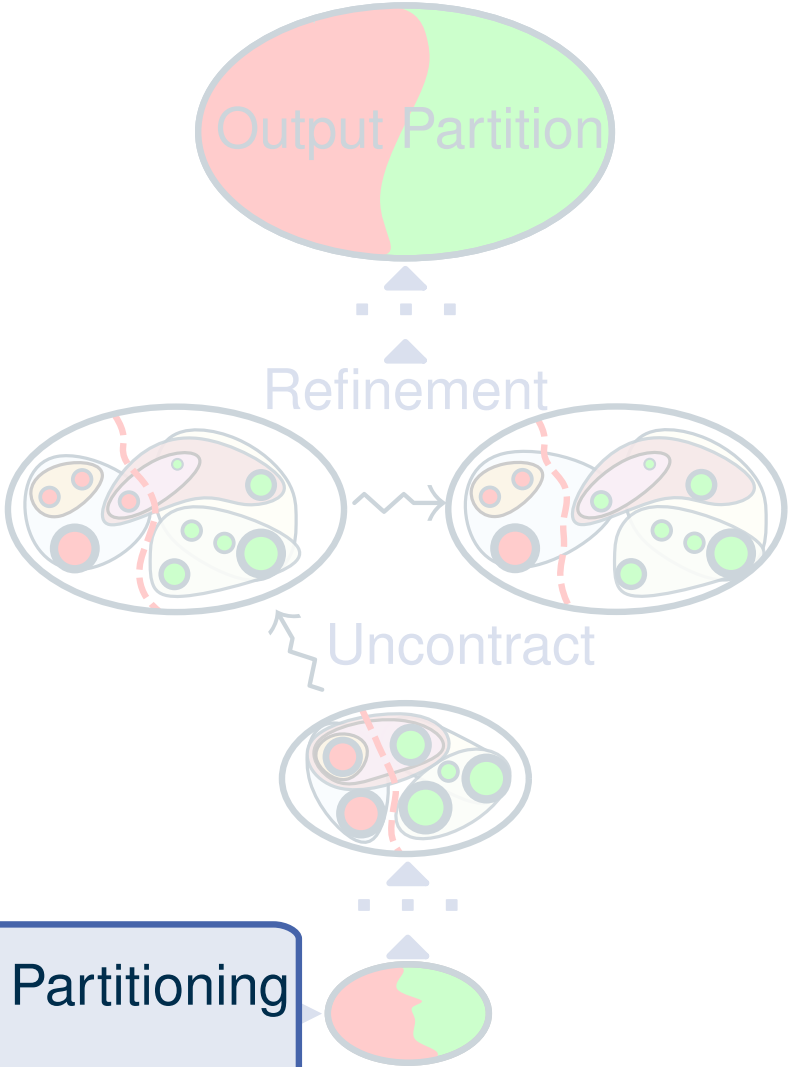
**Community-Aware Coarsening**  
[SEA'17]



**Fast  $n$ -Level Coarsening**  
[ALENEX'16]  
[ALENEX'17]



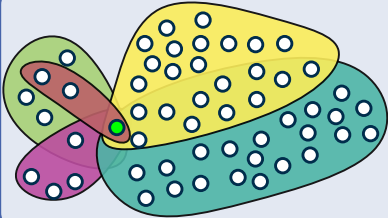
**Portfolio-based Initial Partitioning**  
[ALENEX'16]



Coarsening

Uncoarsening

# Overview: Main Algorithmic Ingredients



**Pin Sparsification**  
[ALENEX'17]



**Community-Aware Coarsening**  
[SEA'17]



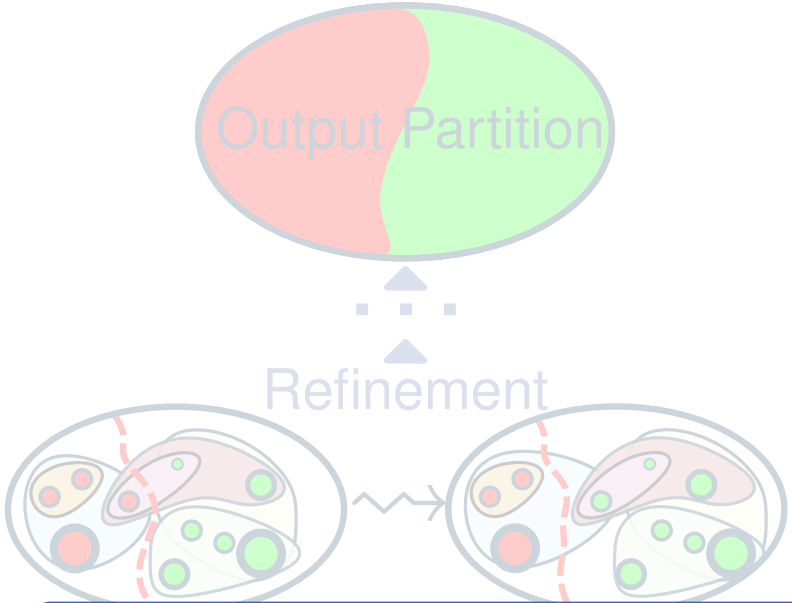
**Fast  $n$ -Level Coarsening**  
[ALENEX'16]  
[ALENEX'17]



**Portfolio-based Initial Partitioning**  
[ALENEX'16]



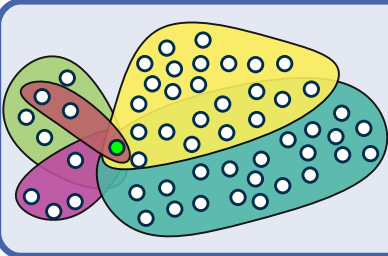
**Engineered 2-way &  $k$ -way localized FM Algorithms**  
[ALENEX'16] [ALENEX'17]



Coars

arsening

# Overview: Main Algorithmic Ingredients



Pin Sparsification  
[ALENEX'17]



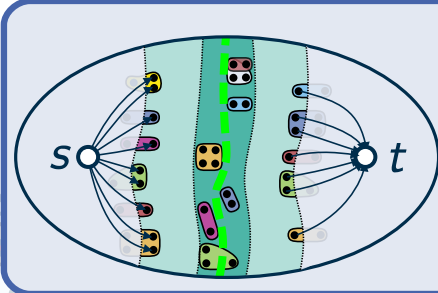
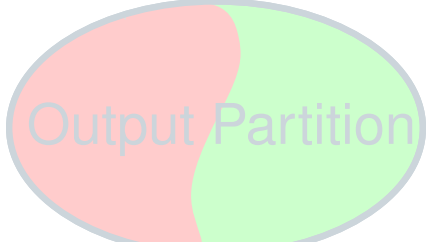
Community-Aware Coarsening  
[SEA'17]



Fast  $n$ -Level Coarsening  
[ALENEX'16]  
[ALENEX'17]



Portfolio-based Initial Partitioning  
[ALENEX'16]

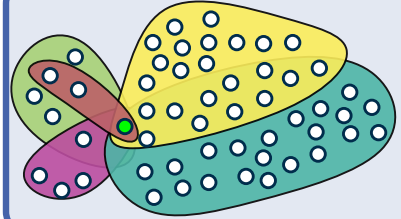


Max-Flow Min-Cut Refinement  
[SEA'18] [JEA'19] [SEA'20]

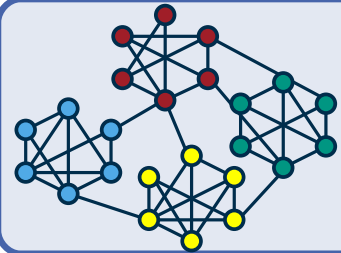


Engineered 2-way &  $k$ -way localized FM Algorithms  
[ALENEX'16] [ALENEX'17]

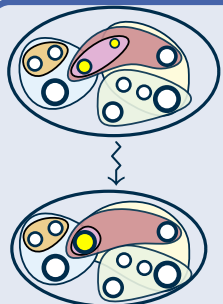
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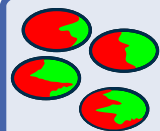
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Community-Aware  
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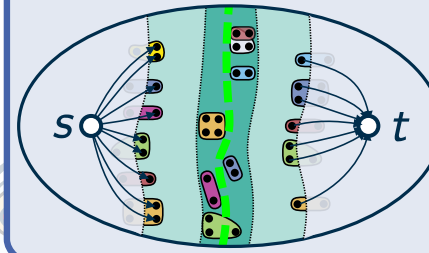
Fast  $n$ -Level  
Coarsening  
[ALENEX'16]  
[ALENEX'17]



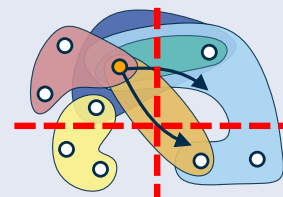
Portfolio-based Initial Partitioning  
[ALENEX'16]



Memetic Multi-Level Algorithm  
[GECCO'18]

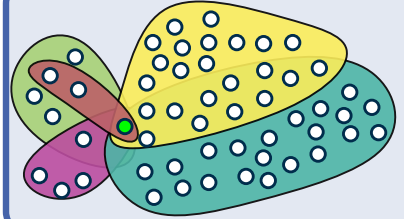


Max-Flow Min-Cut  
Refinement  
[SEA'18] [JEA'19] [SEA'20]



Engineered 2-way &  
 $k$ -way localized  
FM Algorithms  
[ALENEX'16] [ALENEX'17]

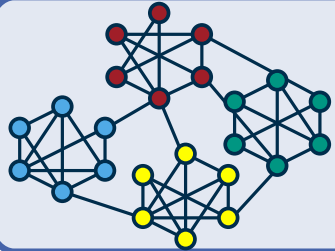
# Overview: Main Algorithmic Ingredients



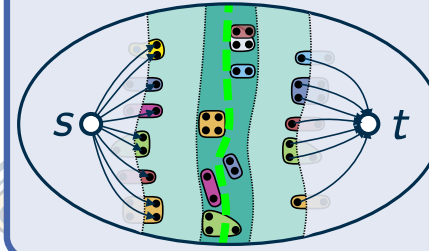
Pin Sparsification  
[ALENEX'17]



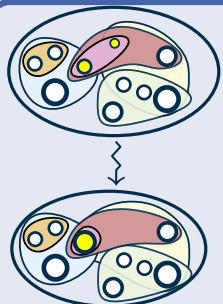
Memetic Multi-Level Algorithm  
[GECCO'18]



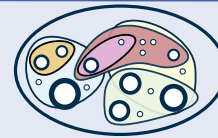
Community-Aware  
Coarsening  
[SEA'17]



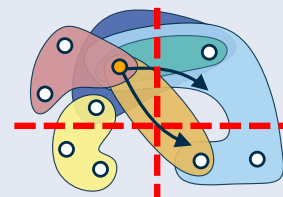
Max-Flow Min-Cut  
Refinement  
[SEA'18] [JEA'19] [SEA'20]



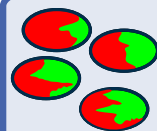
Fast  $n$ -Level  
Coarsening  
[ALENEX'16]  
[ALENEX'17]



Deep  
Balance for  
weighted  
Hypergraphs  
[SEA'21]



Engineered 2-way &  
 $k$ -way localized  
FM Algorithms  
[ALENEX'16] [ALENEX'17]

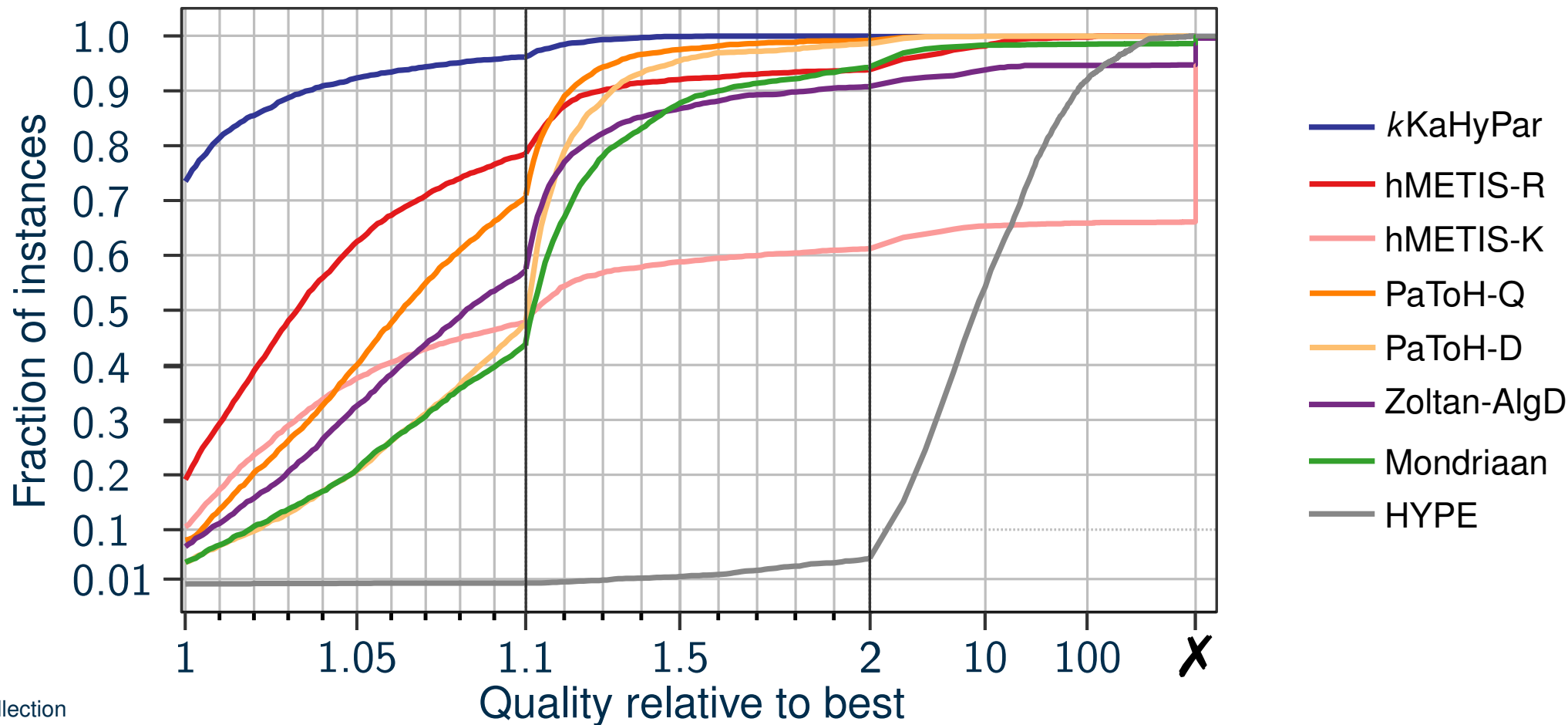


Portfolio-based Initial Partitioning  
[ALENEX'16]

# Connectivity Optimization: Solution Quality

488 Hypergraphs (VLSI\*, SAT†, Sparse Matrices‡)

$k \in \{2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128\}$ ,  $\varepsilon = 0.03$ , time limit: 8 hours



\* ISPD 1998, DAC 2012

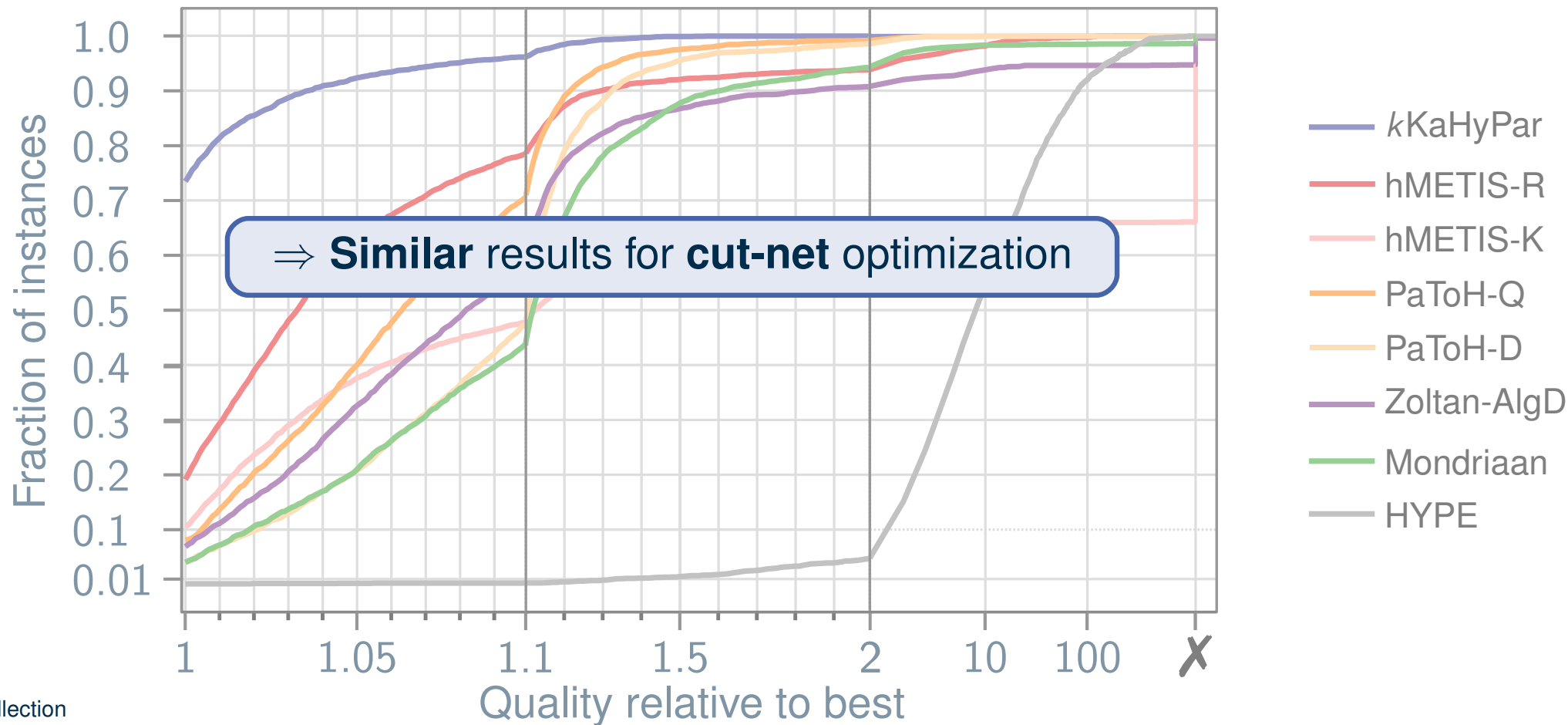
† SAT Competition 2014

‡ SuiteSparse Matrix Collection

# Connectivity Optimization: Solution Quality

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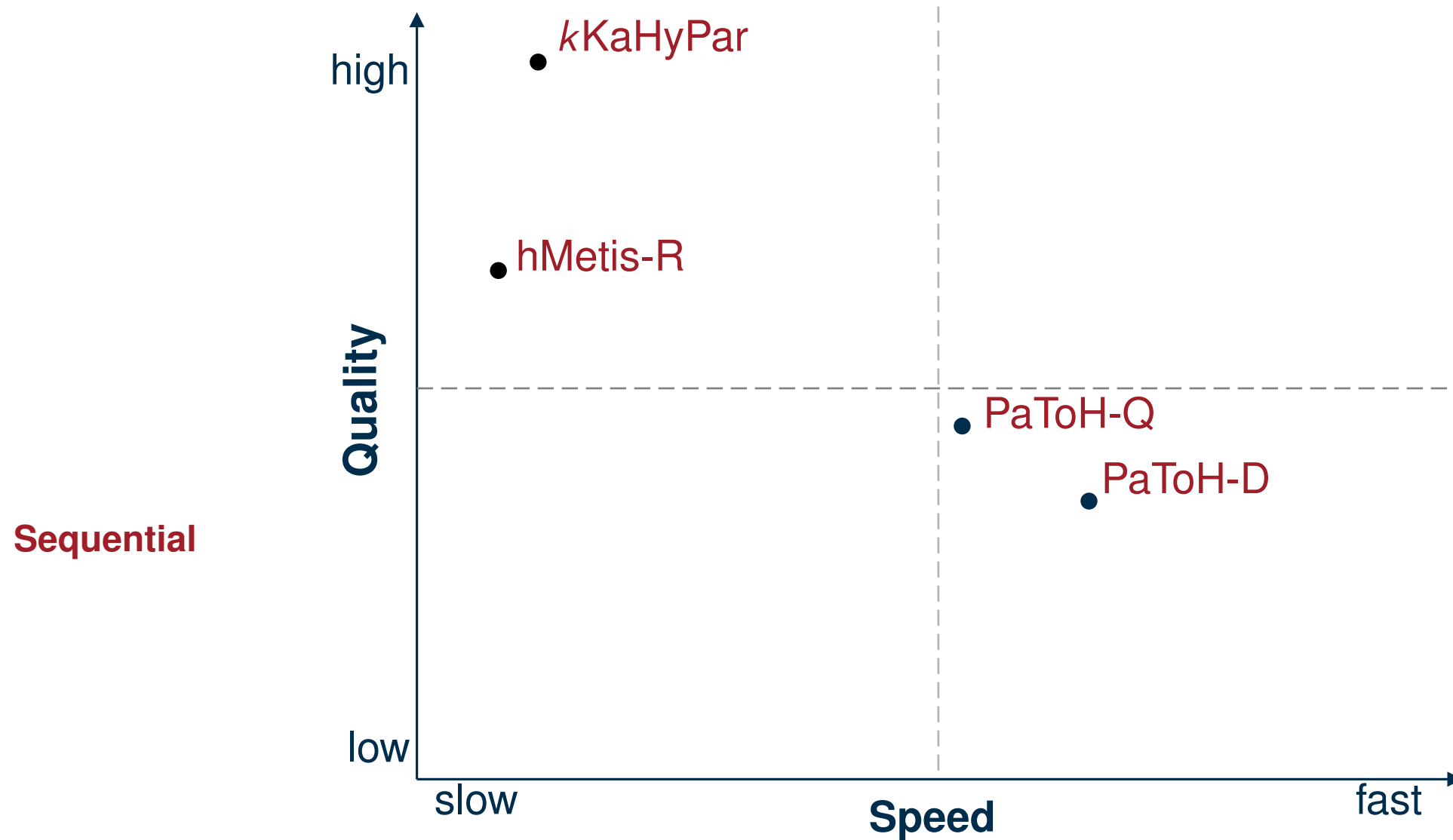


\* ISPD 1998, DAC 2012

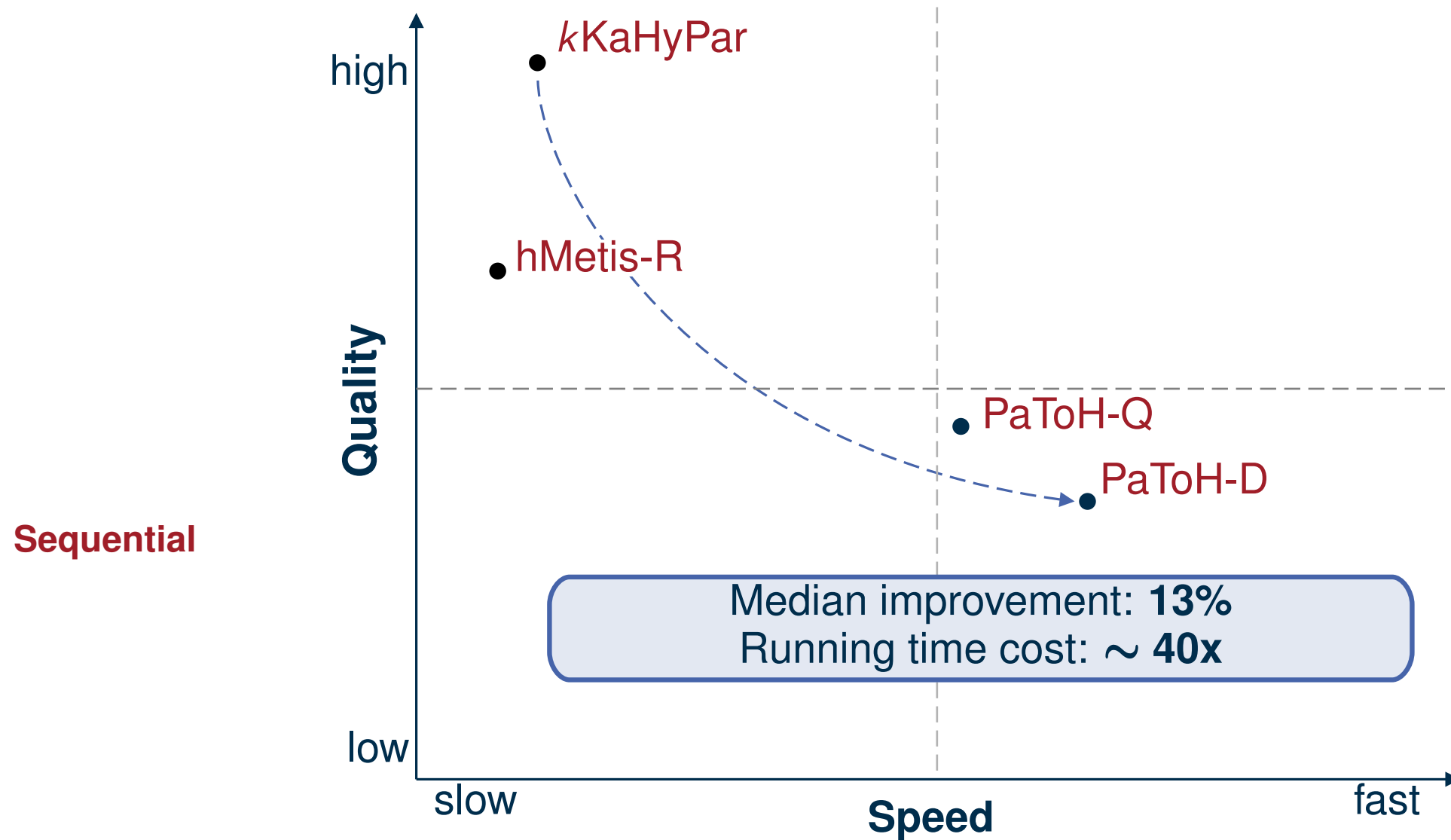
† SAT Competition 2014

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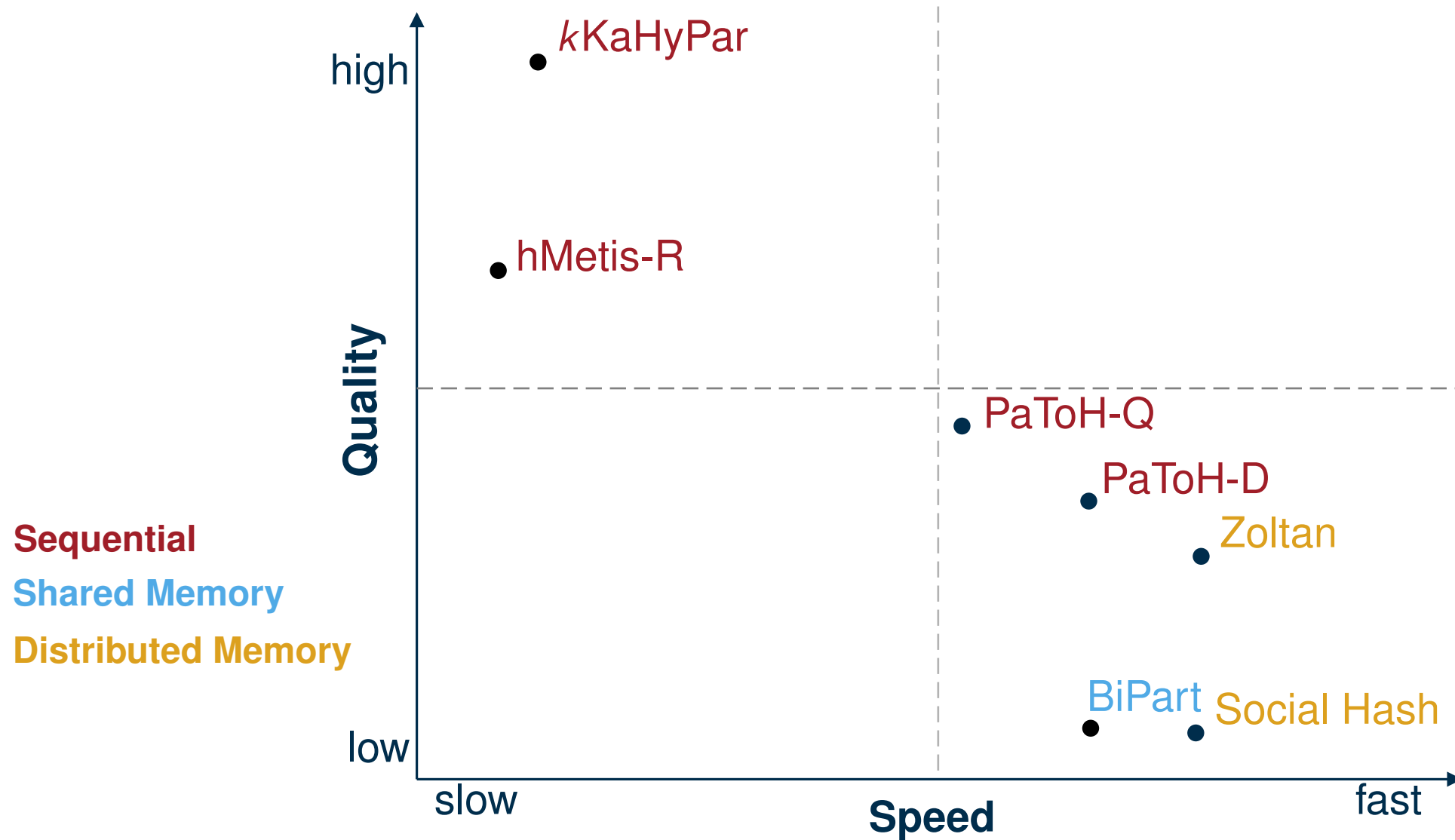
# Time–Quality Trade-Off Landscape



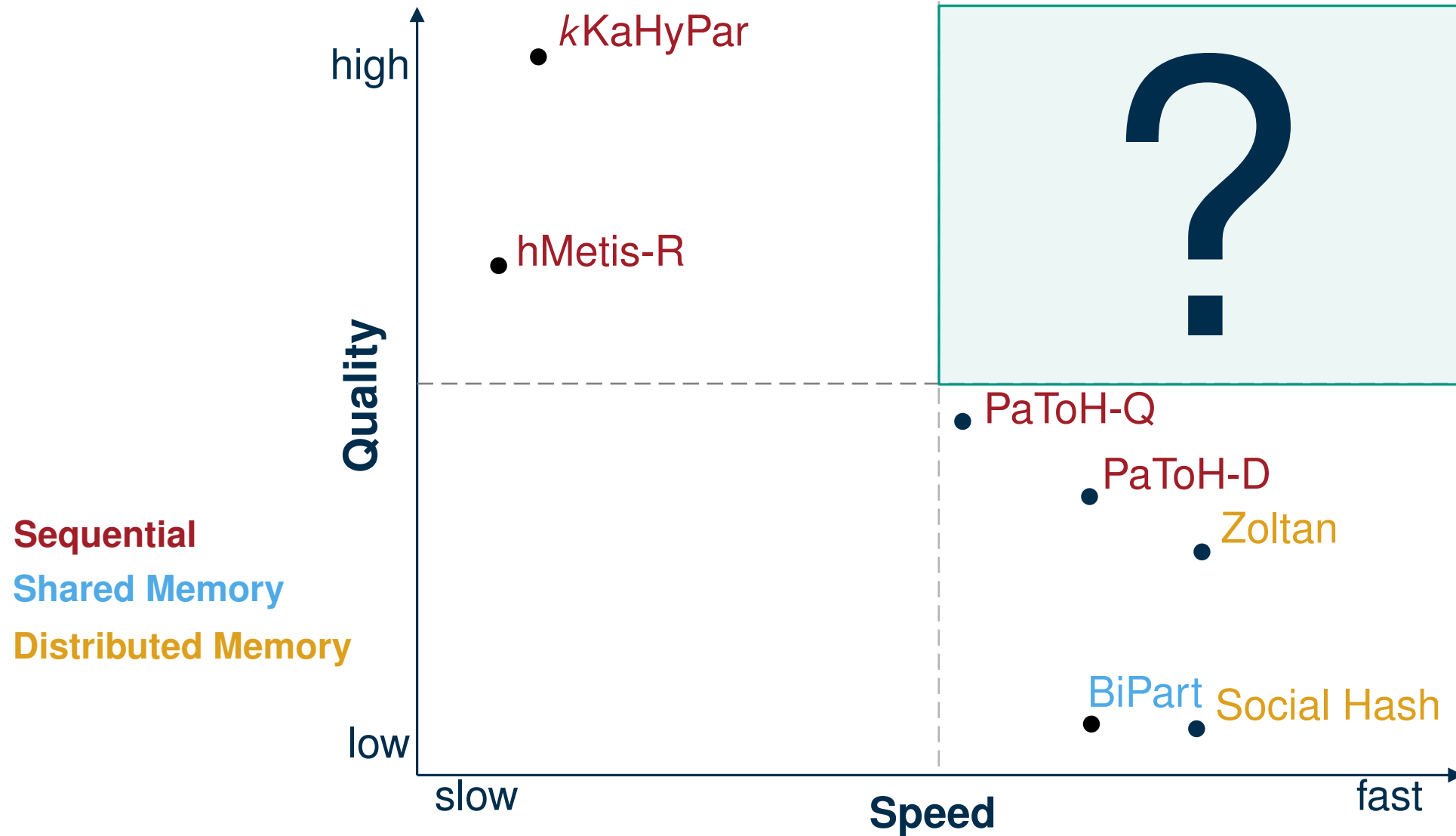
# Time–Quality Trade-Off Landscape



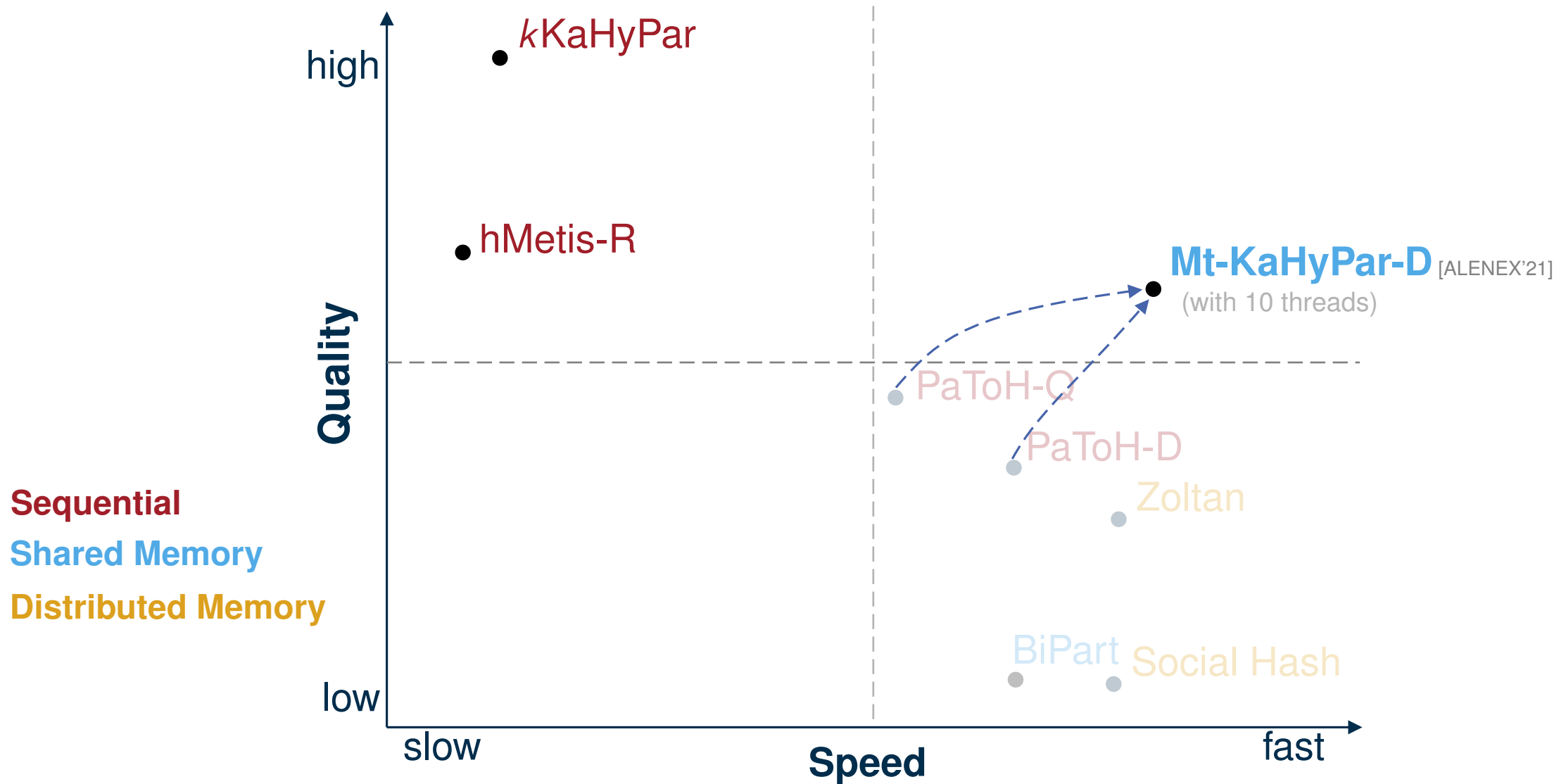
# Time–Quality Trade-Off Landscape



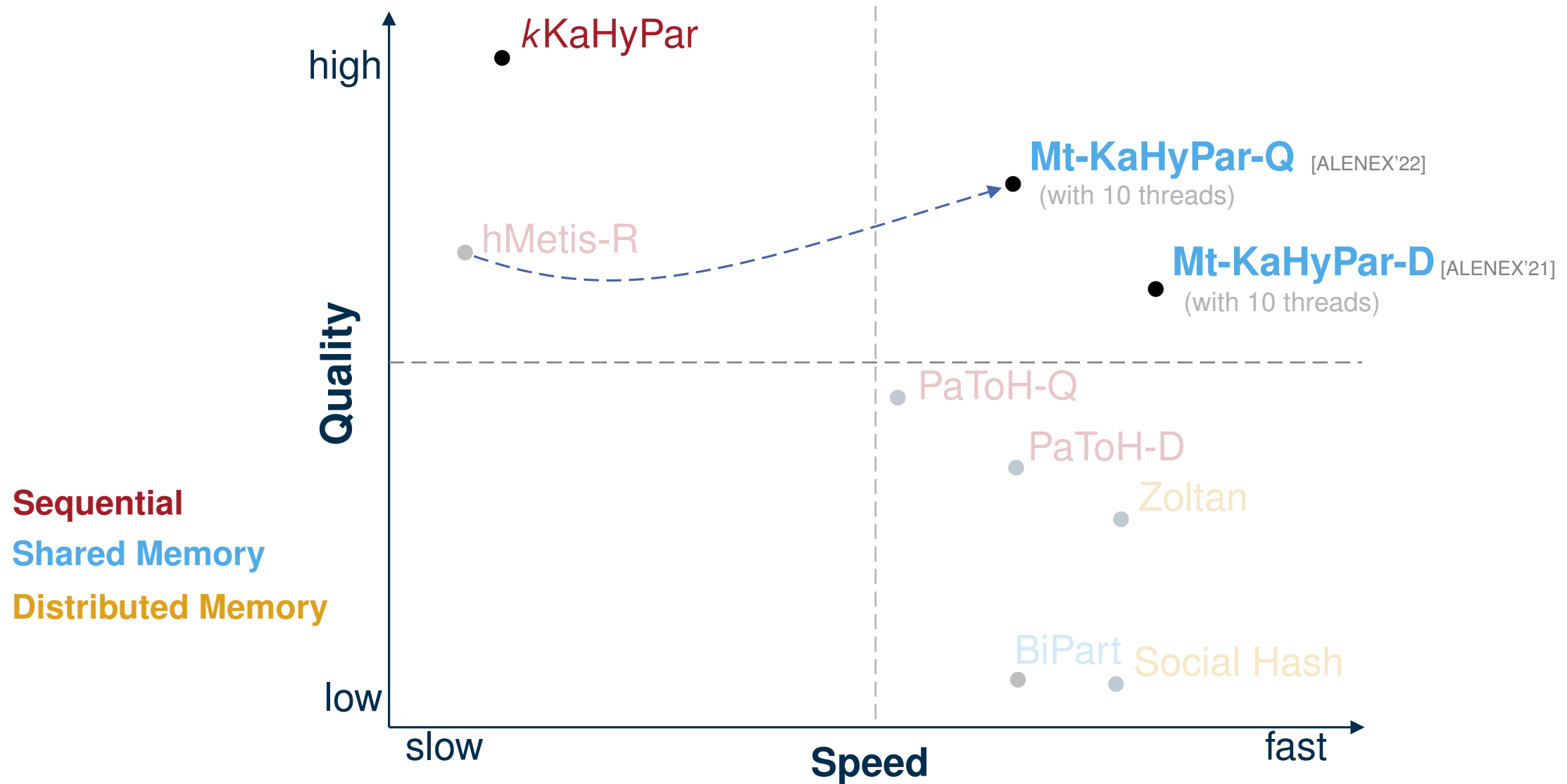
# Time–Quality Trade-Off Landscape



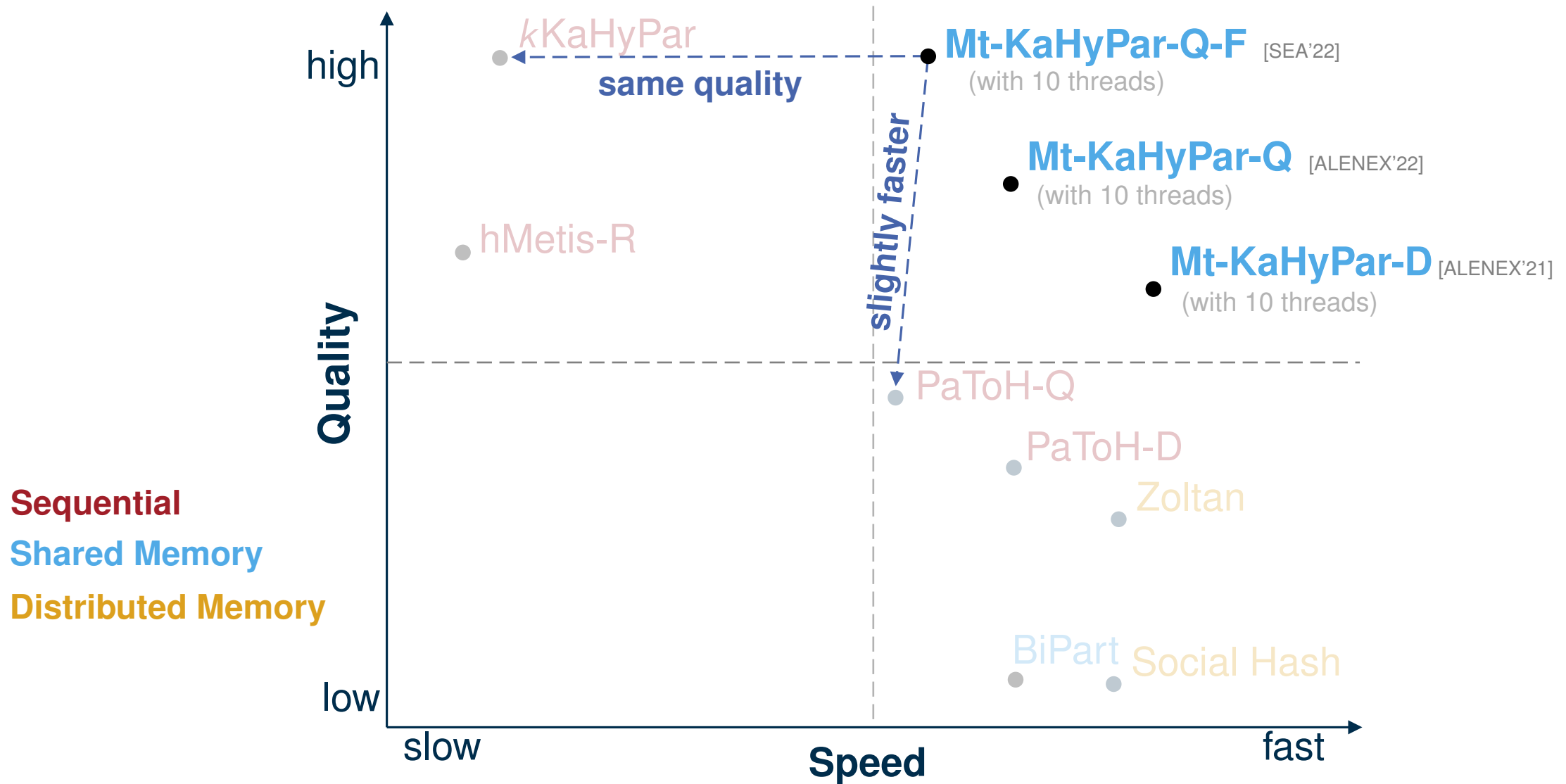
# Time–Quality Trade-Off Landscape



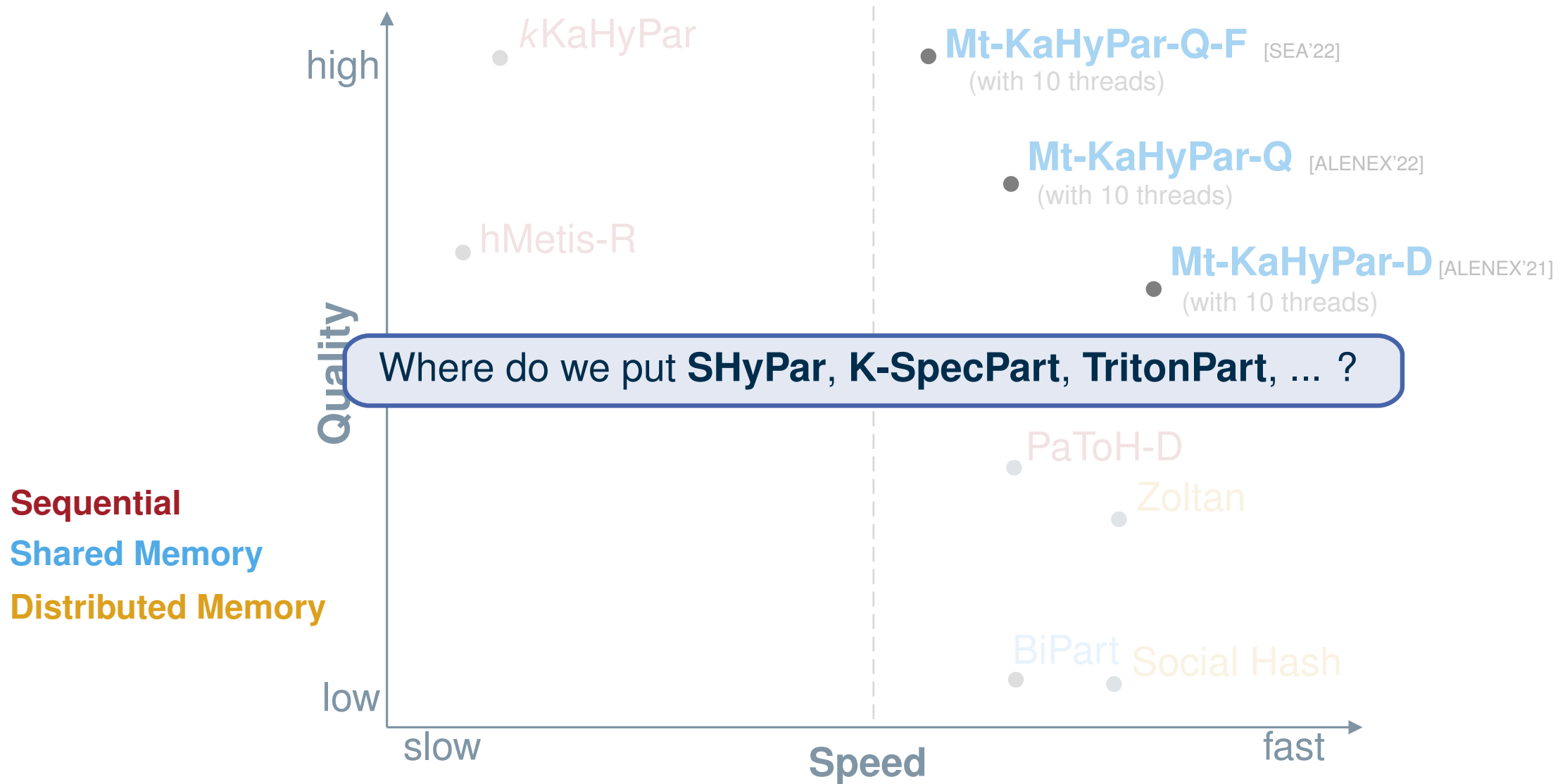
# Time–Quality Trade-Off Landscape



# Time–Quality Trade-Off Landscape



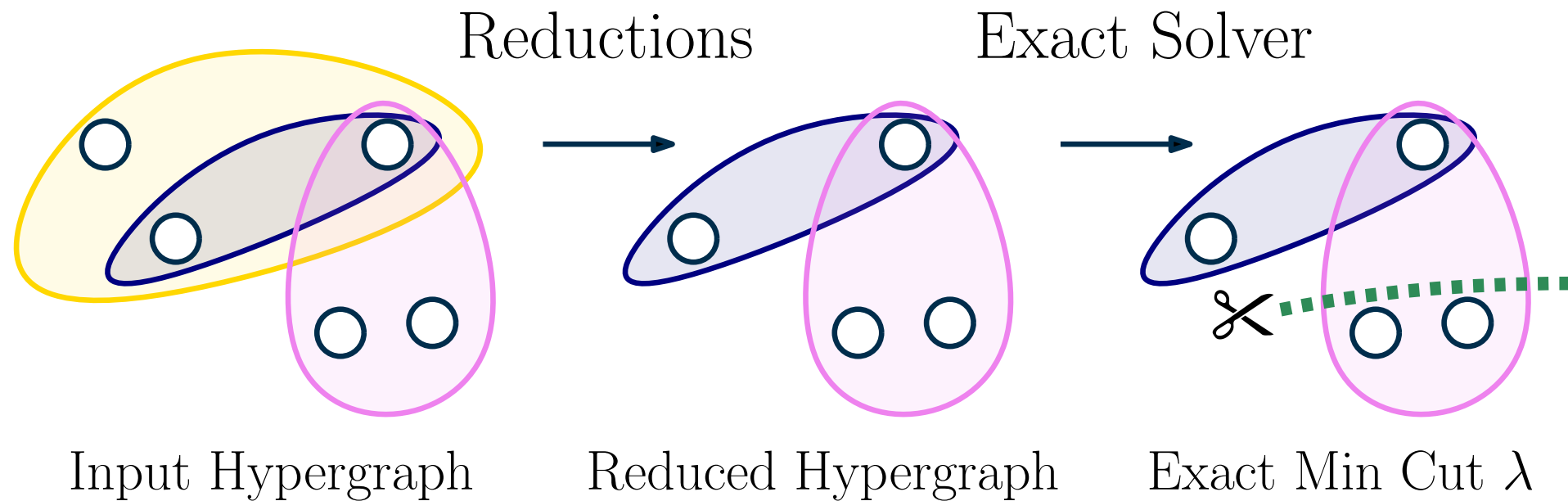
# Time–Quality Trade-Off Landscape (as of 2022)



Can we **scale exact minimum cut** computation to large hypergraphs?

# HeiCut: Overall Approach [ALENEX'26]

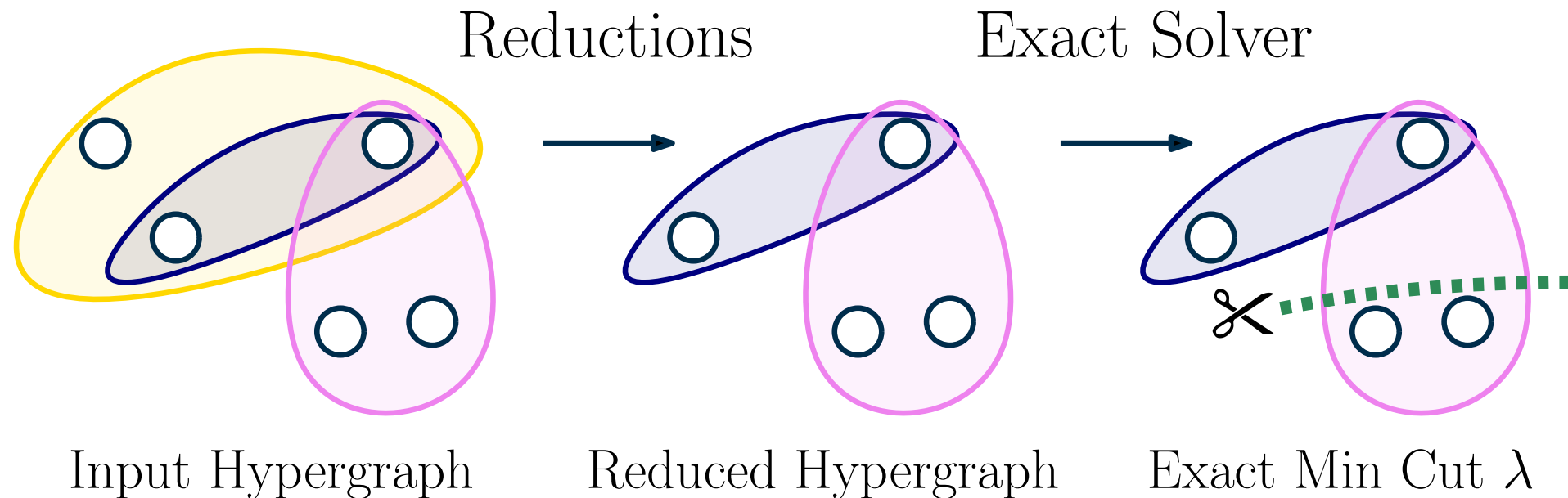
- **Key idea:** Aggressively shrink hypergraph using provably exact reduction rules
- Terminate early if the minimum cut is determined ( $|V| = 1$  or  $|E| = 0$ ), or
- Solve using an ordering-based exact solver



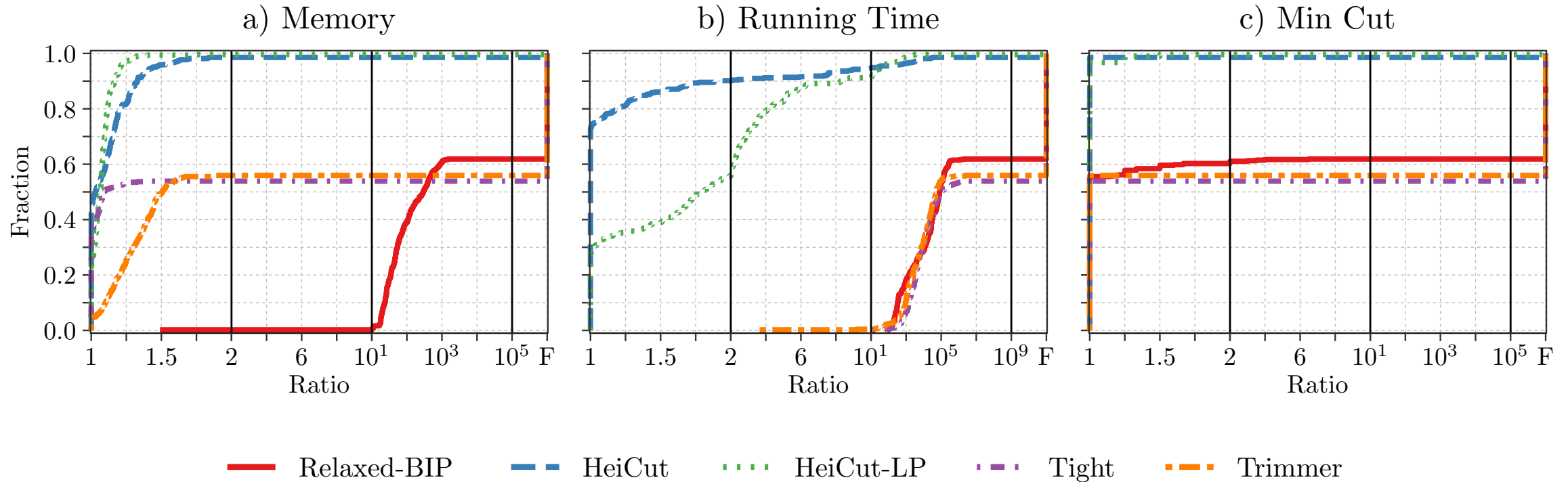
# HeiCut: Overall Approach [ALENEX'26]

Preserve the minimum cut value

- **Key idea:** Aggressively shrink hypergraph using provably exact reduction rules
- Terminate early if the minimum cut is determined ( $|V| = 1$  or  $|E| = 0$ ), or
- Solve using an ordering-based exact solver



# Experimental Results



C. Chekuri and C. Xu,  
Computing Minimum Cuts in Hypergraphs,  
SODA 2017

- HeiCut solves 98.6% of instances vs. Trimmer's 55%
- HeiCut is over 1000× faster than Trimmer on 85% of instances
- Fully reduced (single vertex) in 85% of instances → min cut **without** invoking exact solver

# Open-Source Frameworks

## **KaHyPar** – Sequential HGP (GPL v3)

- Objectives: cut, connectivity
- Supports: Fixed vertices, custom block weights, memetic partitioning
- Interfaces: C, Python, Java, Julia
- <http://www.kahypar.org>

## **Mt-KaHyPar** – Shared-Memory HGP (MIT)

- Objectives: cut, connectivity, sum-of-external-degrees, Steiner tree
- Supports: Fixed vertices, custom block weights, deterministic & large- $k$  partitioning
- Interfaces: C, Python, Julia
- <https://github.com/kahypar/mt-kahypar>

## **HeiCut** – Exact minimum cuts at scale (MIT)

- <https://github.com/HeiCut/HeiCut>