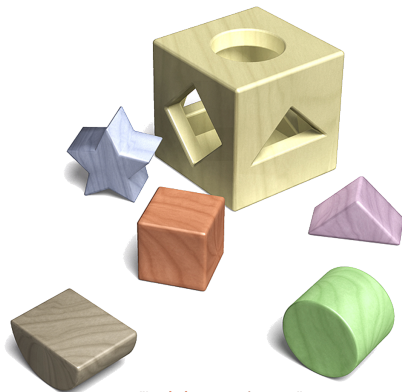


# SAT Solving – Parallel Search

Steffen Hölldobler and Norbert Manthey  
International Center for Computational Logic  
Technische Universität Dresden  
Germany

- ▶ **Parallel Approaches**
- ▶ **Abstract Description**
- ▶ **High-Level**
- ▶ **Problems**



*"Logic is everywhere ..."*



## Parallelization – Warm Up

- ▶ If an algorithm has three parts that consume 80 %, 10 % and 10 %



## Parallelization – Warm Up

- ▶ If an algorithm has three parts that consume 80 %, 10 % and 10 %
- ▶ Which task should be parallelized?



## Parallelization – Warm Up

- ▶ If an algorithm has three parts that consume 80 %, 10 % and 10 %
- ▶ Which task should be parallelized?
- ▶ What is the ideal speedup for two cores?



## Parallelization – Warm Up

- ▶ Assume two solvers  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  solve the formula  $F$  independently
- ▶  $S_1$  learns  $C$ ,  $S_2$  learns  $D$



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- ▶ If  $S_1$  receives  $D$ , is **equivalence** preserved?



## Parallelization – Warm Up

- ▶ Run unit propagation on

$$F = (\neg e \vee f) \wedge (\neg a \vee e) \wedge (\neg c \vee d) \wedge (\neg b \vee c) \wedge (\neg a \vee b) \wedge a$$





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- ▶ How would you parallelize?
- ▶ Can the steps be run in parallel?



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- ▶ From a complexity point of view, this is an open question!



## Parallelization – Revision

- ▶ A sequential algorithm
  - ▷ requires time  $t_1$  seconds
- ▶ A parallel algorithm
  - ▷ utilizes  $p$  computation units (cores)
  - ▷ requires time  $t_p$  seconds
- ▶ The **speedup**  $S_p = \frac{t_1}{t_p}$ 
  - ▷ A speedup  $S_p$  is **superlinear**, if  $S_p > p$
- ▶ The **efficiency**  $E_p = \frac{S_p}{p}$
- ▶ An algorithm is called **scalable**,  
if it can solve a given problem faster when additional resources are added



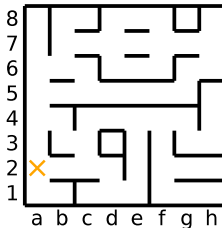
# Abstract Visualization



## Finding an Exit in a Maze

### ► Some rules

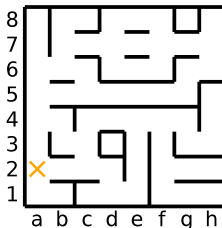
- ▷ starting point is located in the left column
- ▷ exit is on the right side (if there exists one)
- ▷ search decisions can be done only when moving right
- ▷ when moving left, use backtracking



## Finding an Exit in a Maze

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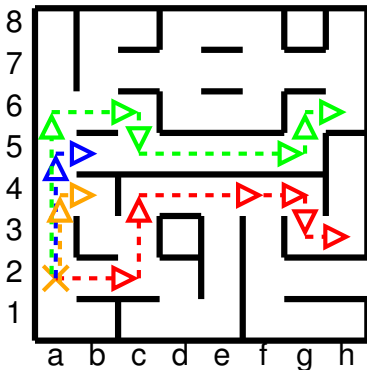
### ► Parallel approaches: multiple searches, search space splitting





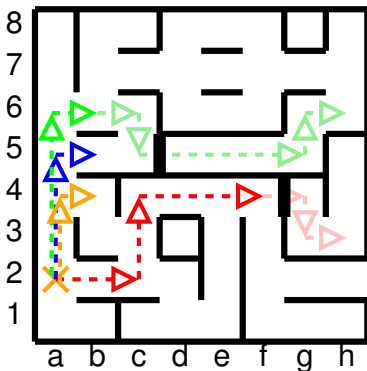
## Solve With Multiple Solvers

- ▶ Use a solver per computing resource
  - ▷ Use different heuristics
  - ▷ Solvers work independently



## Solve With Multiple Solvers

- ▶ **Learned clauses can be shared**
  - ▷ All solvers work on the same formula
  - ▷ No simplification involved



## Solve With Multiple Solvers

- ▶ **Arising questions:**
  - ▶ **How scalable is the presented approach?**



## Solve With Multiple Solvers

- ▶ **Arising questions:**
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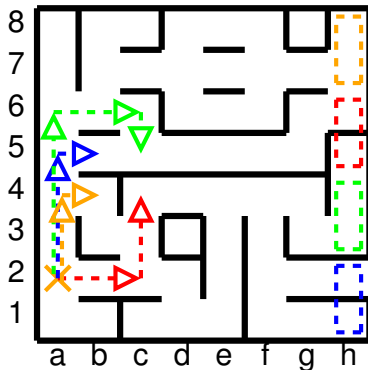
## Solve With Multiple Solvers

- ▶ **Arising questions:**
  - ▷ **How scalable is the presented approach?**
  - ▷ **What influences scalability?**
  - ▷ **How long is clause sharing valid wrt simplification?**
  - ▷ **Is there a good alternative?**



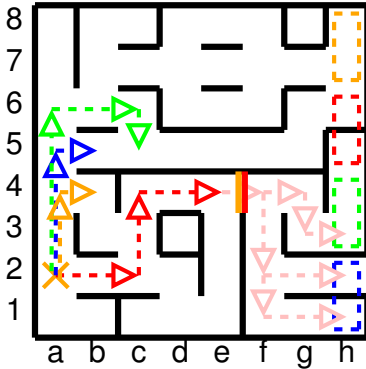
## Partition Search Space

- ▶ Create a partition per computing resource
  - ▷ Assign a solver to each partition
  - ▷ Solvers work independently



## Partition Search Space

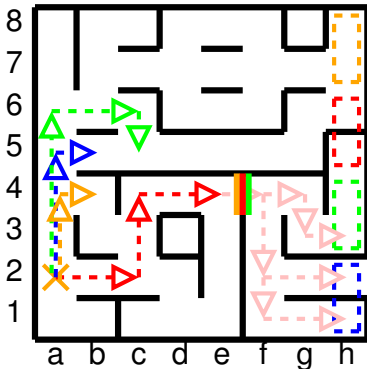
- ▶ **Learned clauses can be shared**





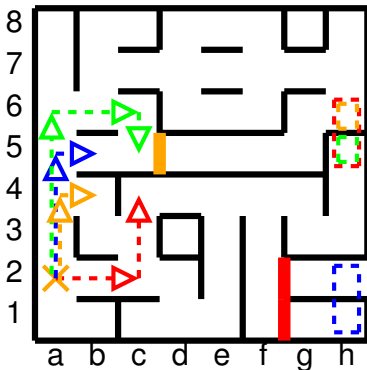
## Partition Search Space

- ▶ **Learned clauses can be shared**
  - ▷ with respect to the partition
  - ▷ carefully



## Partition Search Space

- ▶ Partitions can be re-partitioned
  - ▷ Ensure load balancing and applies many resources to hard partitions
  - ▷ Possible to use learned clauses of parent partition



# High Level Parallelization Approaches

**Parallel Portfolio Solvers**

**Search Space Partitioning Solvers**



## Parallel Portfolio Solvers

- ▶ Solve a formula  $F$  with  $n$  resources
- ▶ Idea: solve  $F$  with multiple solvers



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## Parallel Portfolio Solvers

- ▶ Solve a formula  $F$  with  $n$  resources
- ▶ Idea: solve  $F$  with multiple solvers
  - ▷ With different configurations
  - ▷ With knowledge sharing (learned clauses)
- ▶ Drawbacks:
  - ▷ Known to not scale well
  - ▷ A small set of configurations is already robust
  - ▷ Scalability is independent of formula size



## Parallel Portfolio Solvers – Sharing

- ▶ Given two solvers  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ , and let  $S_1$  learn a clause  $C$
- ▶ Let  $F^1$  and  $F^2$  be the working formulas of  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ , respectively
- ▶ When is  $S_2$  allowed to receive  $C$





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    - ▶▶ No simplification, then all clauses are entailed
    - ▶▶ Only **clause elimination** / **model increasing** techniques, then sharing preserves **equisatisfiability**



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- ▷ Addition of redundant, but not entailed, clauses
  - ▶▶ Extra care, otherwise:
  - ▶▶  $F^1 = x$ , and  $S_2$  applies simplification:  

$$F^2 = x \rightsquigarrow_{\text{modelInc}} F^2 = \emptyset \rightsquigarrow_{\text{modelDec}} F^2 = \bar{x}$$
  - ▶▶ Solver  $S_2$  receives  $(x)$  from  $S_1$ :  $F^2 = \bar{x} \wedge x$
  - ▶▶ Satisfiable formula is found to be unsatisfiable

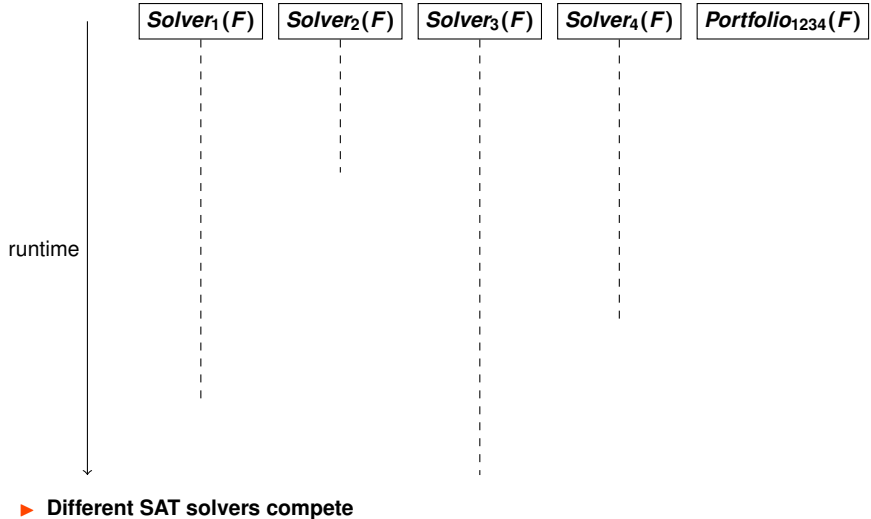


## Parallel Portfolio Solvers – Sharing

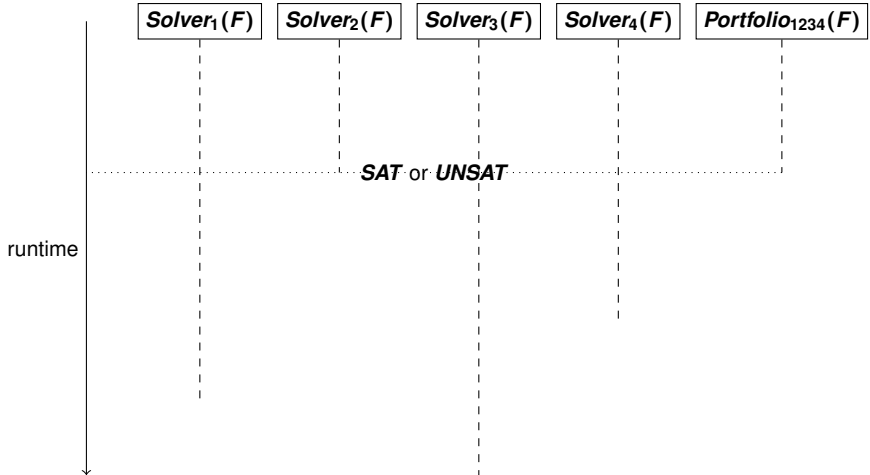
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  - ▷ Addition of redundant, but not entailed, clauses
    - ▶▶ Do not receive clauses, if a **model decreasing** has been used



## Solving SAT in parallel with the Portfolio approach



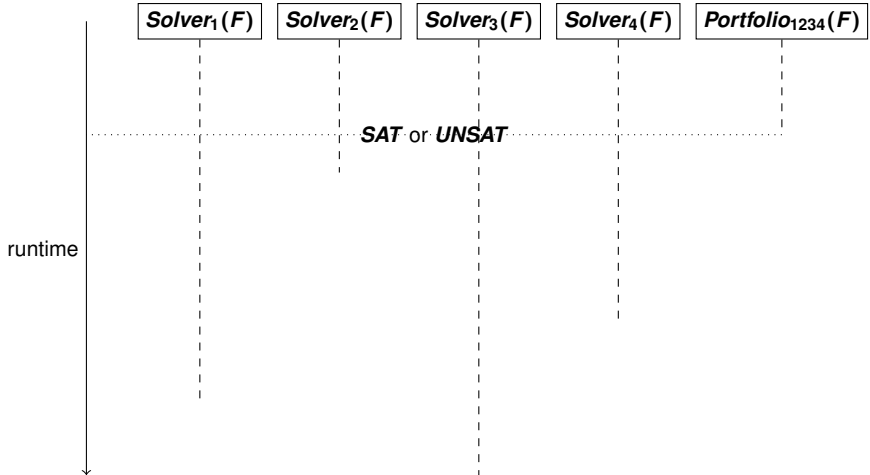
## Solving SAT in parallel with the Portfolio approach



- The portfolio of these solvers requires the **smallest** run time



## Solving SAT in parallel with the Portfolio approach



- By adding communication among the solvers, the performance **can** be improved



# High Level Parallelization Approaches

**Parallel Portfolio Solvers**

**Search Space Partitioning Solvers**





## Search Space Partitioning

- ▶ Partition search space of formula  $F$  into sub spaces:
  - ▷ For some  $r > 0$  create  $r$  “child”-formulas  $F^i$ ,  $0 < i \leq r$ , such that
    - ▶▶ their disjunction is equal to the initial formula  $F \equiv \bigvee F^i$
    - ▶▶ a **partition constraint**  $K^i$  in CNF is added,  $F^i := F \wedge K^i$



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  - ▶ Solve each child-formula with a sequential solver
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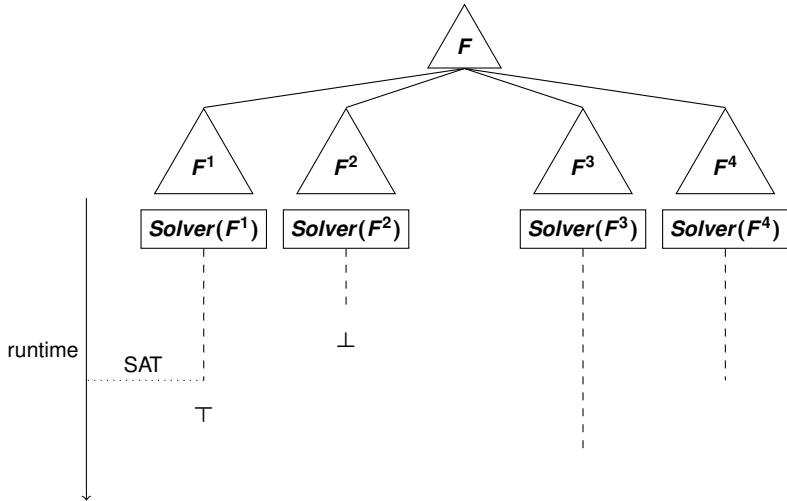


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  - ▶ Solve each child-formula with a sequential solver
  - ▶ If a solver proofed unsatisfiability of a sub formula
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  - ▶ Load-balancing is usually handled by providing sufficiently many child formulas
  - ▶ Can scale with the number of created child formulas, if partitioning works



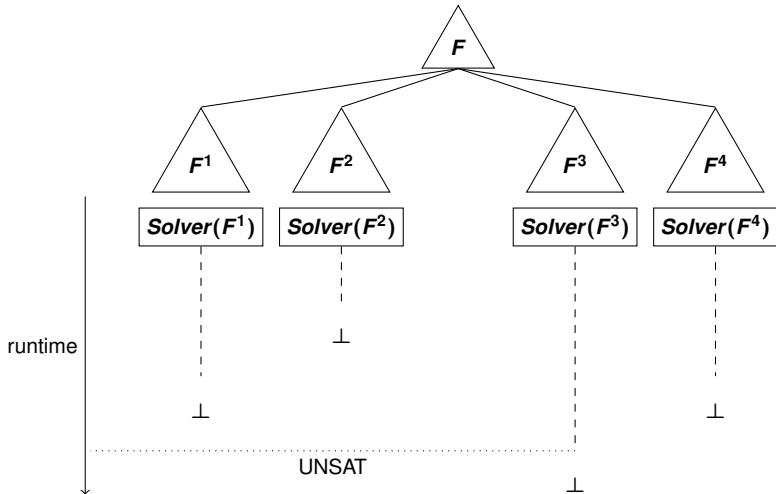
## (Plain) Search Space Partitioning



- finds models as fast as the fastest solver



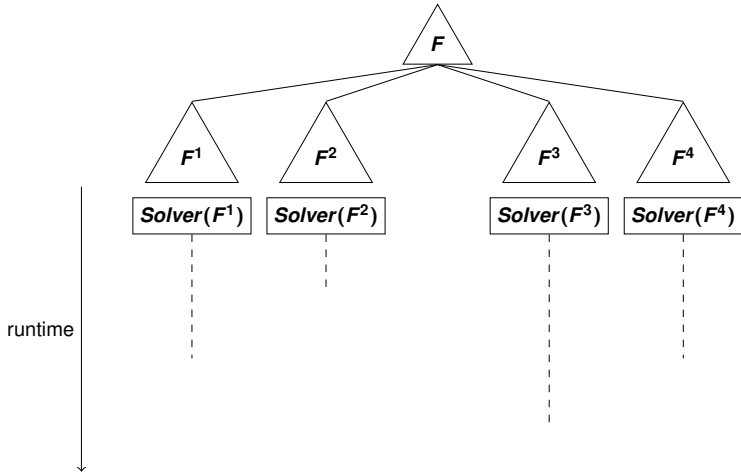
## (Plain) Search Space Partitioning



- **proves unsatisfiability as slow as the slowest solver**



## (Plain) Search Space Partitioning



► **not ensured:**

$$\max(t_{\text{Solver}(F^1)}, t_{\text{Solver}(F^2)}, t_{\text{Solver}(F^3)}, t_{\text{Solver}(F^4)}) \leq (t_{\text{Solver}(F)})$$



## Iterative Search Space Partitioning

- ▶ Partition search space of formula  $F$  into sub spaces:
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  - ▶ Solve **all** formulas with a sequential solver (not only child formulas)
  - ▶ If a solver proofed unsatisfiability of a sub formula, assign a new child formula
    - ▶▶ assign a new child formula
    - ▶▶ or by **recursively applying** the partitioning procedure to child formulas





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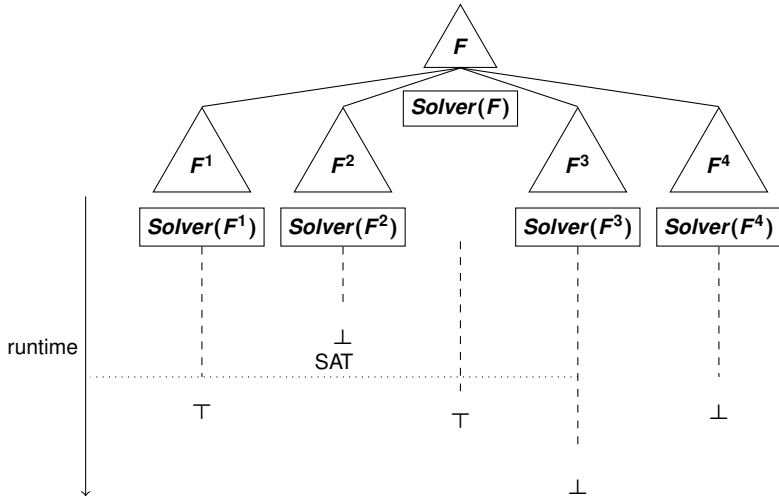


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    - ▶▶ or by **recursively applying** the partitioning procedure to child formulas
  - ▶ Creates a **breadth first search** in the search space
  - ▶ Can assign new child-formulas to new resources by iterative partitioning



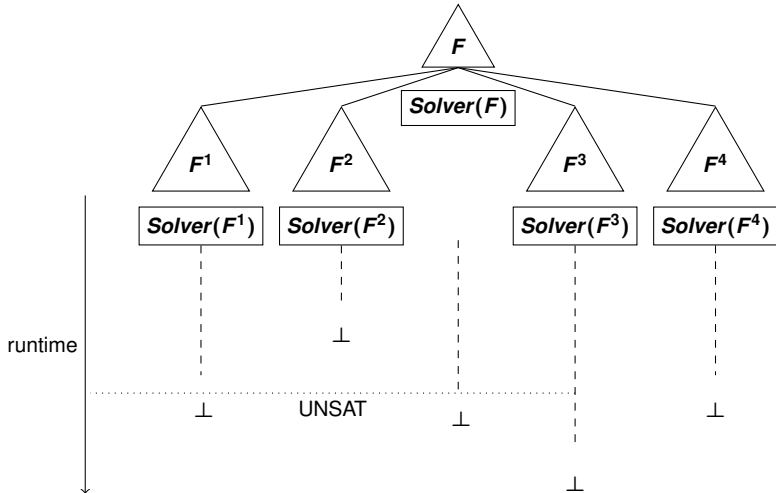
## Iterative Search Space Partitioning



► finds models as fast as the fastest solver



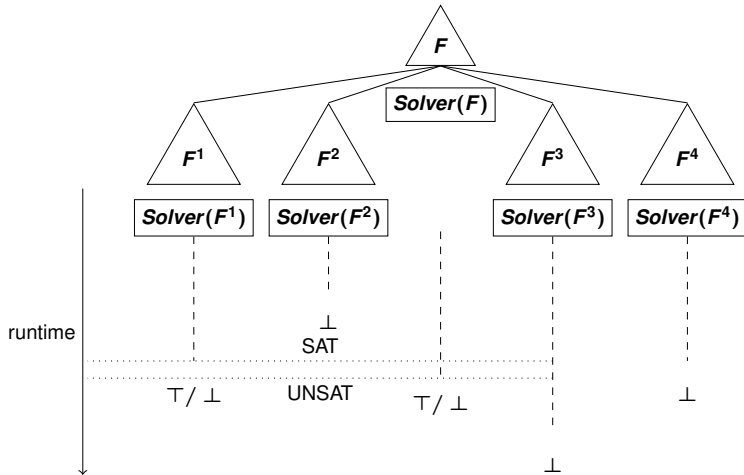
## Iterative Search Space Partitioning



- proofs unsatisfiability as fast as the slowest “necessary” solver



## Iterative Search Space Partitioning



- by iteratively partitioning the search space, new child formulas become more constrained



## Iterative Partitioning – Dependencies

- ▶ Solve formula  $F$
- ▶ Create a tree
  - ▶ Create **partitioning constraints**  $K^i$  with  $1 \leq i \leq r$ , for some  $r$
  - ▶  $F \equiv \bigvee_{1 \leq i \leq k} (F \wedge K^i)$
  - ▶  $K^i \wedge K^j \equiv \perp$  for all  $1 \leq i < j \leq k$
- ▶ **Definition**
  - ▶ A clause  $C$  **depends on** a path  $p$ , if  $p$  is the longest path of all clauses that participated in the derivation of  $C$ .



## Iterative Partitioning – Dependencies

$$F^p := ((x_1 \vee x_2 \vee x_5) \wedge (x_3 \vee x_4) \wedge (\overline{x_2}, x_6, x_1) \wedge (\overline{x_2} \vee \overline{x_6}))$$

$(\overline{x_1})$

$(x_1)$

$$F^{p1} := ((x_2 \vee x_5) \wedge (x_3 \vee x_4) \wedge (\overline{x_2} \vee x_6) \wedge \dots)$$

$$F^{p2} := ((x_3 \vee x_4) \wedge \dots)$$



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- The clauses  $(x_2 \vee x_5)$  and  $(\overline{x_2} \vee x_6)$  depend on the partitioning constraint





## Iterative Partitioning – Dependencies

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 \swarrow \quad \quad \quad \searrow & & \\
 (\overline{x_1}) & & (x_1) \\
 \swarrow \quad \quad \quad \searrow & & \\
 F^{p1} := ((x_2 \vee x_5) \wedge (x_3 \vee x_4) \wedge (\overline{x_2} \vee x_6) \wedge \dots) & & F^{p2} := ((x_3 \vee x_4) \wedge \dots)
 \end{array}$$

- ▶ The clauses  $(x_2 \vee x_5)$  and  $(\overline{x_2} \vee x_6)$  depend on the partitioning constraint
- ▶ Their label has to be adapted accordingly!



## Iterative Partitioning – A Abstract Example

- ▶ Solve formula  $F$
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  - ▷  $K^i \wedge K^j \equiv \perp$  for all  $1 \leq i < j \leq k$ 
    - ▶▶ e.g.  $K^1 = x \wedge y$ ,  $K^2 = ((\neg x \vee \neg y) \wedge c)$  and  $K^3 = ((\neg x \vee \neg y) \wedge \neg c)$
  - ▷ Label each node with its path to the root node,  
e.g.  $F^{132} = F \wedge K^1 \wedge K^{13} \wedge K^{132}$



## Iterative Partitioning – A Abstract Example

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    - ▶▶ e.g.  $K^1 = x \wedge y$ ,  $K^2 = ((\neg x \vee \neg y) \wedge c)$  and  $K^3 = ((\neg x \vee \neg y) \wedge \neg c)$
  - ▶ Label each node with its path to the root node,  
e.g.  $F^{132} = F \wedge K^1 \wedge K^{13} \wedge K^{132}$
- ▶ Have one solver for each core, assign a node to each solver



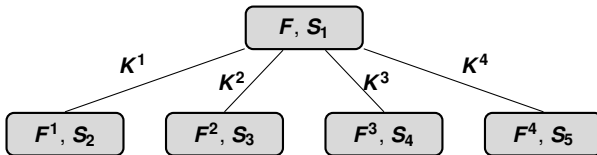
## Iterative Partitioning – A Abstract Example

- ▶ Solve formula  $F$
- ▶ Create a tree
  - ▶ Create **partitioning constraints**  $K^i$  with  $1 \leq i \leq r$ , for some  $r$
  - ▶  $F \equiv \bigvee_{1 \leq i \leq k} (F \wedge K^i)$
  - ▶  $K^i \wedge K^j \equiv \perp$  for all  $1 \leq i < j \leq k$ 
    - ▶ e.g.  $K^1 = x \wedge y$ ,  $K^2 = ((\neg x \vee \neg y) \wedge c)$  and  $K^3 = ((\neg x \vee \neg y) \wedge \neg c)$
  - ▶ Label each node with its path to the root node,  
e.g.  $F^{132} = F \wedge K^1 \wedge K^{13} \wedge K^{132}$
- ▶ Have one solver for each core, assign a node to each solver
- ▶ Partition nodes recursively if resources become available again



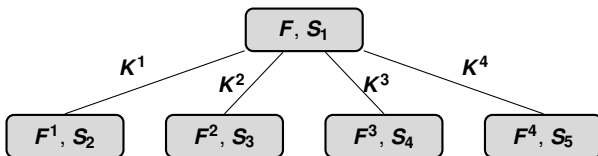
## Iterative Partitioning – A Abstract Example

- ▶ Created 4 nodes with their partitioning constraints
- ▶ Assign all 5 solvers  $S_1$  to  $S_5$  to nodes

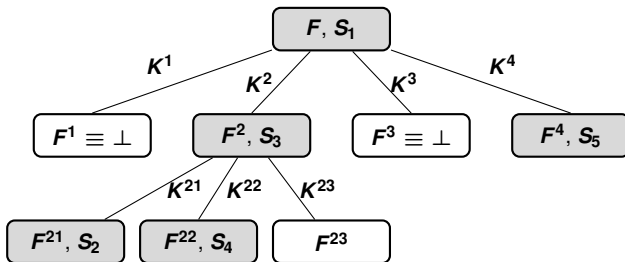


## Iterative Partitioning – A Abstract Example

- ▶ Solver  $S_2$  and  $S_4$  find their formula to be unsatisfiable
- ▶ Partition  $F^2$ , and assign the solvers again

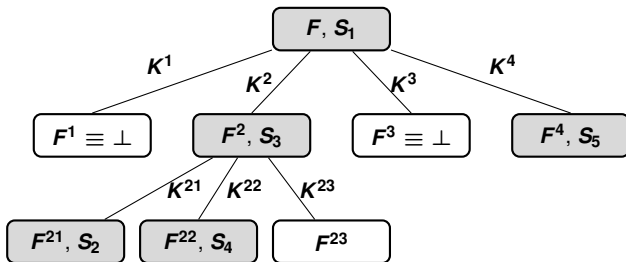


## Iterative Partitioning – A Abstract Example



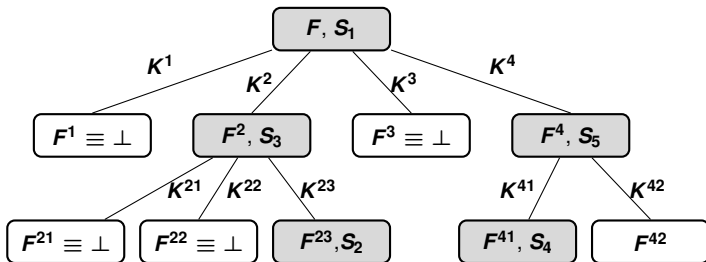
## Iterative Partitioning – A Abstract Example

- ▶ Solver  $S_2$  and  $S_4$  find their formula to be unsatisfiable
- ▶ Assign  $S_2$  to  $F^{21}$ , partition  $F^4$ , and assign  $S_4$  to  $F^{41}$



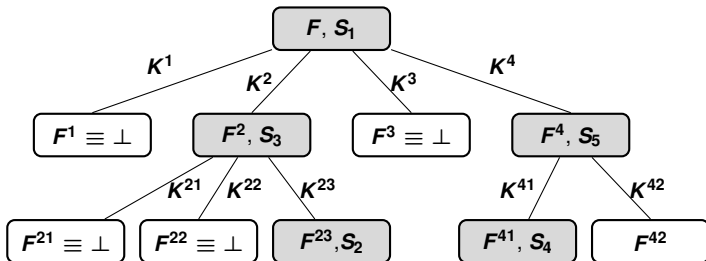


## Iterative Partitioning – A Abstract Example



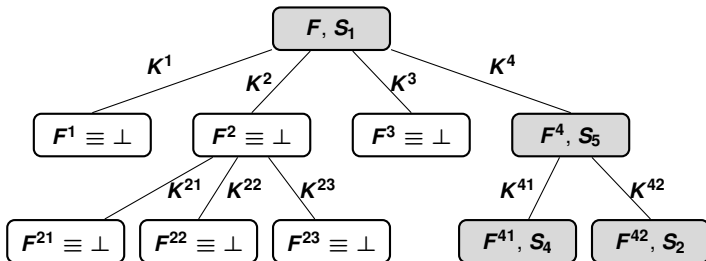
## Iterative Partitioning – A Abstract Example

- ▶ Solver  $S_2$  finds  $F^{23}$  to be unsatisfiable
- ▶  $F^2$  has to be unsatisfiable as well



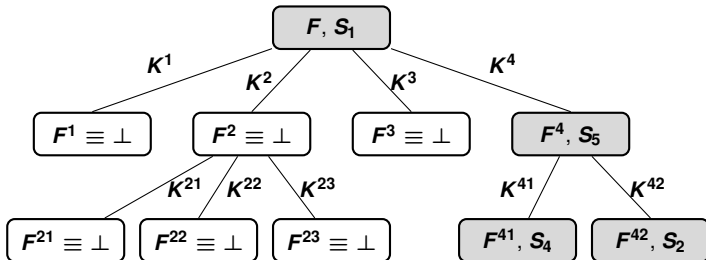
## Iterative Partitioning – A Abstract Example

- ▶ Solver  $S_2$  finds  $F^{23}$  to be unsatisfiable
- ▶  $F^2$  has to be unsatisfiable as well



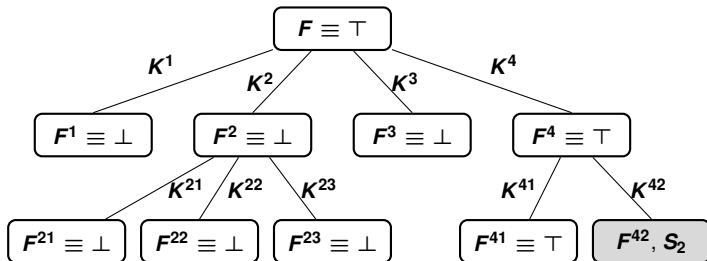
## Iterative Partitioning – A Abstract Example

- ▶ Solver  $S_4$  finds  $F^{41}$  to be satisfiable
- ▶ Then  $F^4$  and  $F$  are satisfiable as well



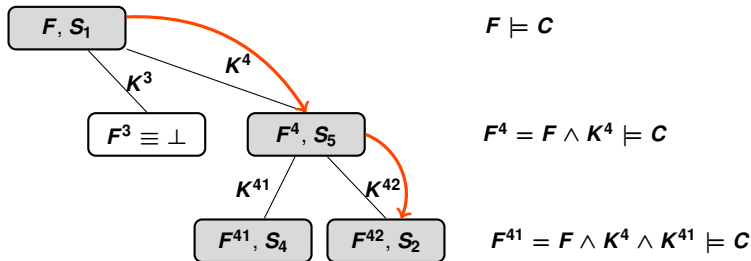
## Iterative Partitioning – A Abstract Example

- ▶ Solver  $S_4$  finds  $F^{41}$  to be satisfiable
- ▶ Then  $F^4$  and  $F$  are satisfiable as well



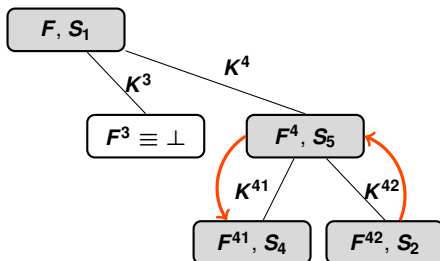
## Iterative Partitioning – Downward Sharing

- ▶ Solver  $S_1$  learns clause  $C$
- ▶ Downward clause sharing is safe,  $F \models C$ , then  $F \wedge K^i \models C$
- ▶ Assumption: no simplification



## Iterative Partitioning – Upward Sharing

- ▶ Solver  $S_2$  learns clause  $C$ ,  $F \wedge K^4 \wedge K^{42} \models C$
- ▶ Suppose  $C$  depends only on  $F$  and  $K^4$
- ▶ Upward clause sharing to  $F^4$  is safe
- ▶ Store dependency level for each clause
- ▶ Assumption: no simplification



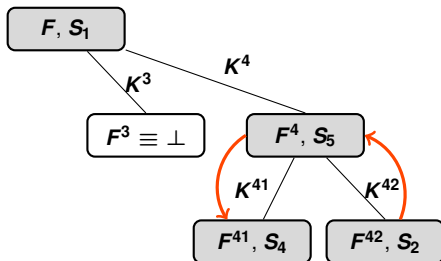
$$F^4 = F \wedge K^4 \models C$$

$$F^{41} = F \wedge K^4 \wedge K^{41} \models C$$



## Iterative Partitioning – Abort Redundant

- ▶ Solver  $S_2$  learns empty clause  $\perp$ ,  $F \wedge K^4 \wedge K^{42} \models \perp$
- ▶ Suppose the empty clause depends only on  $F$  and  $K^4$
- ▶ Upward clause sharing to  $F^4$  is safe
- ▶ Abort all solvers below  $F^4$  ( $S_2$ ,  $S_4$  and  $S_5$ )



$$F \models \perp$$

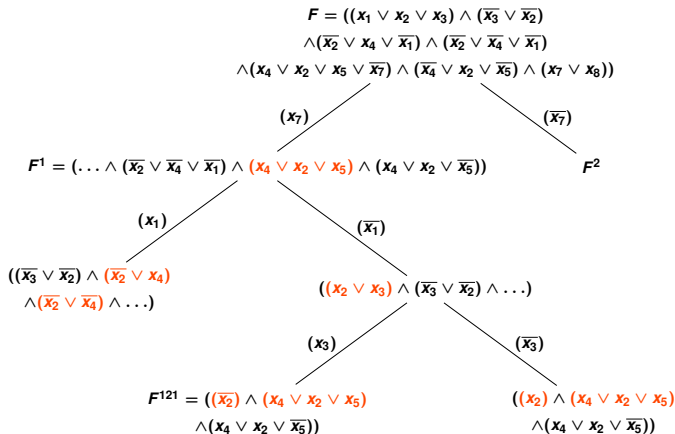
$$F^4 = F \wedge K^4 \models \perp$$

$$F^{41} = F \wedge K^4 \wedge K^{41} \models \perp$$





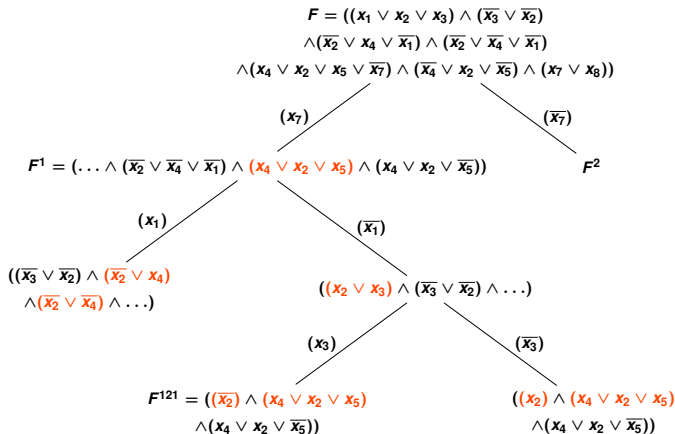
## Partition Tree With Shared Clauses



- ▶  $D = (x_4 \vee x_2)$  is learned by  $(x_4 \vee x_2 \vee x_5) \otimes (x_4 \vee x_2 \vee \overline{x_5})$  in formula  $F^{121}$
- ▶  $D$  depends on the partition constraint  $x_7$



## Partition Tree With Shared Clauses



- ▶  $D = (x_4 \vee x_2)$  is learned by  $(x_4 \vee x_2 \vee x_5) \otimes (x_4 \vee x_2 \vee \overline{x_5})$  in formula  $F^{121}$
- ▶  $D$  depends on the partition constraint  $x_7$
- ▶ Hence,  $D$  can be shared in the subtree of  $F^1$



## Not Discussed Here

- ▶ **Sharing and Simplification**
- ▶ **Low-Level Parallelization**
- ▶ **Parallel Simplification**

