
COSC 462

Solving Linear Systems

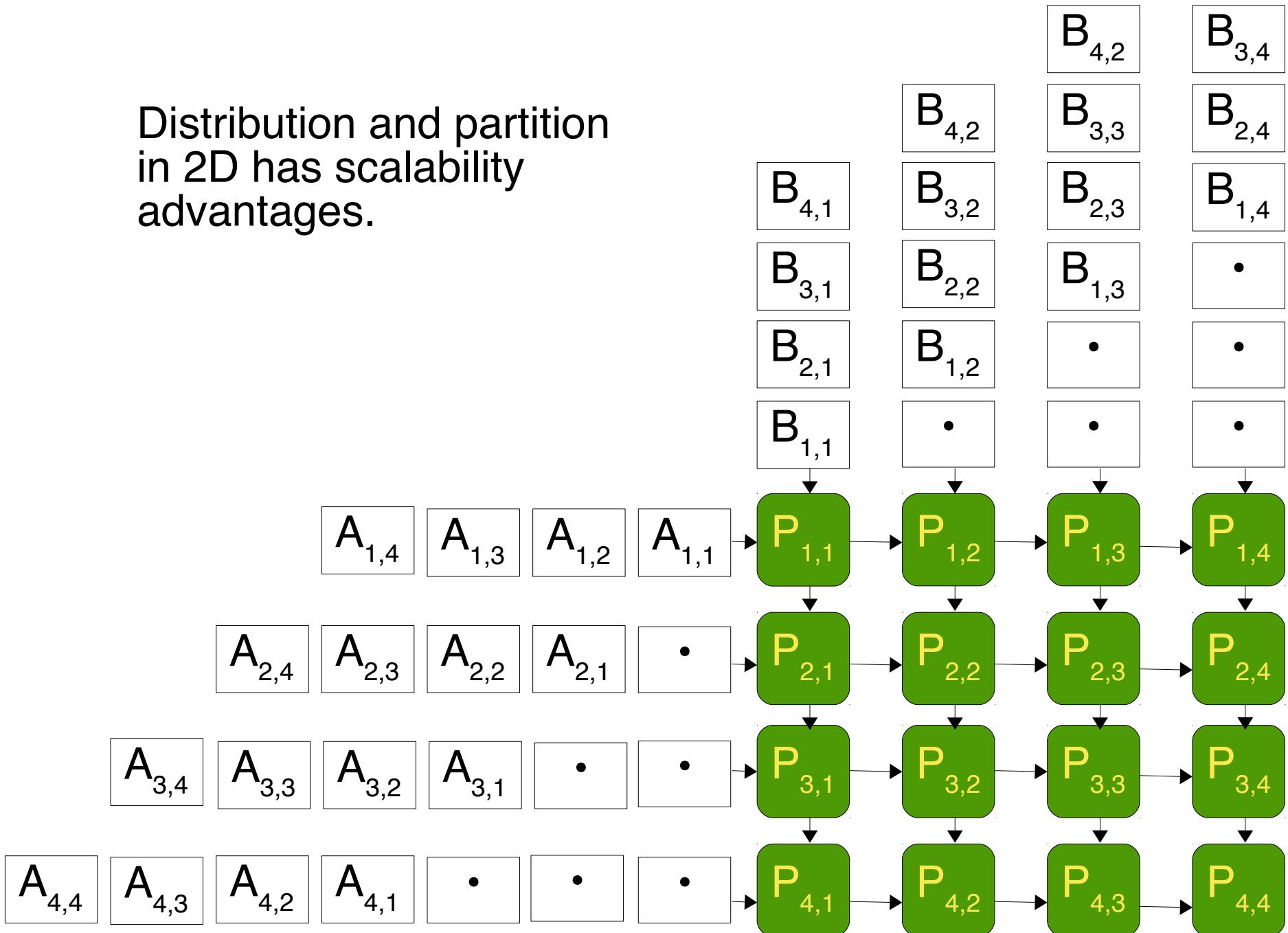
Piotr Luszczek

Applications Using Linear Solve

- Structural analysis (civil engineering)
- Heat transport (mechanical engineering)
- Analysis of power grids (electrical engineering)
- Production planning (economics)
- Regression analysis (statistics)
- Antenna/radar/stealth fighter design (electromagnetism)
- Plasma containment (physics)
- Benchmarking (TOP500, HPL)

Cannon's (Systolic) Algorithm Recap

Distribution and partition
in 2D has scalability
advantages.



Gaussian Elimination Example

$+x$	$-3y$	$+z$	$=$	$+4$
$+2x$	$-8y$	$+8z$	$=$	-2
$-6x$	$+3y$	$-15z$	$=$	9

Could divide by 2 to get row values closer to 1

$*(-2)$

$*6$

Could divide by 3 to get row values closer to 1

$+x$	$-3y$	$+z$	$=$	$+4$
$0x$	$-2y$	$+6z$	$=$	-10
$0x$	$-15y$	$-9z$	$=$	33

/2

$+x$	$-3y$	$+z$	$=$	$+4$
$0x$	$-y$	$+3z$	$=$	-5
$0x$	$-5y$	$-3z$	$=$	11

$*5$

$+x$	$-3y$	$+z$	$=$	$+4$
$0x$	$-y$	$+3z$	$=$	-5
$0x$	$0y$	$-18z$	$=$	36

$$x = 3$$

$$y = -1$$

$$z = -2$$

Back-substitution

Reference Implementation

- $Ax = b$
 - A is N by N matrix
 - x, b are N by 1 vectors
- ```
for (i = 0; i < N; ++i)
 pivot = A[max_loc(abs(A[:,i]))][j]
 A[i+1:N][j] /= pivot

 for (j = i+1; j < N; ++j)
 for (k = i+1; j < N; ++j)
 A[j][k] -= A[k][i] * A[i][j]
```
- Complexity
  - Time:  $O(\frac{2}{3}N^3)$
  - Memory:  $O(N^2)$
  - Ratio:  $O(N)$  more computation than communication

# Floating Point Arithmetic Primer

- Floating point numbers
  - in a computer: stored in IEEE 754 standard (1985, 2008)
  - A subset of rational numbers with infinities, NaN's, -0
  - Binary representation is sign, mantissa, exponent
    - $(-1)^S \cdot M \cdot 2^E$
  - Multiple sizes available
    - 16-bits (half precision, storage only)
    - 32-bits (single precision)
    - 64-bits (double precision)
    - 80-bits (extended precision)
    - 128-bits (quad precision)

# Floating Point Formats IEEE 754 (2008)

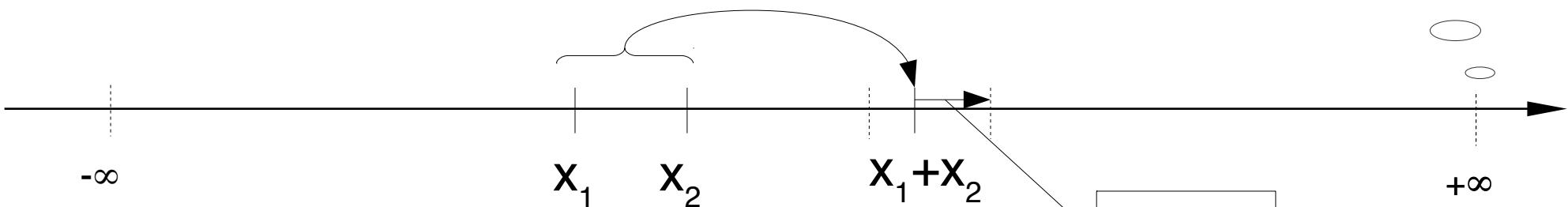
| Precision | Width | Exponent bits | Mantissa bits | Epsilon       | Max                    |
|-----------|-------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Quadruple | 128   | 15            | 112           | $O(10^{-34})$ | $1.2 \times 10^{4932}$ |
| Extended  | 80    | 15            | 64            | $O(10^{-19})$ |                        |
| Double    | 64    | 11            | 52            | $O(10^{-16})$ | $1.8 \times 10^{308}$  |
| Single    | 32    | 8             | 23            | $O(10^{-7})$  | $3.4 \times 10^{38}$   |
| Half*     | 16    | 5             | 10            | $O(10^{-3})$  | 65504                  |

\*Only storage format is specified

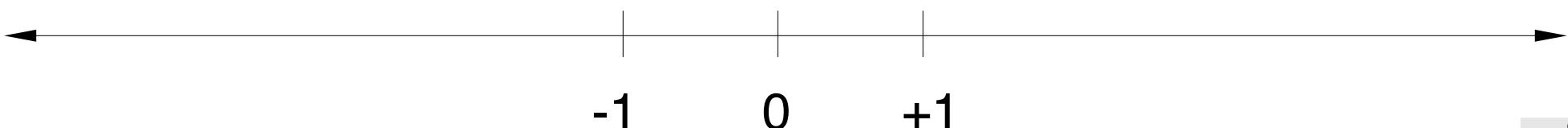
# Floating-Point and Math

round up to:  
 $(x_1 + x_2) + \varepsilon = x_1 \oplus x_2$

Infinity is a  
(special) number



The most amount of numbers per length



# Row Pivoting for Numerical Stability

Row pivoting

|       |       |        |   |      |
|-------|-------|--------|---|------|
| $+x$  | $-3y$ | $+z$   | = | $+4$ |
| $+2x$ | $-8y$ | $+8z$  | = | $-2$ |
| $-6x$ | $+3y$ | $-15z$ | = | $9$  |

|       |       |        |   |      |
|-------|-------|--------|---|------|
| $+x$  | $-3y$ | $+z$   | = | $+4$ |
| $+2x$ | $-8y$ | $+8z$  | = | $-2$ |
| $-6x$ | $+3y$ | $-15z$ | = | $9$  |

|       |       |        |   |      |
|-------|-------|--------|---|------|
| $-6x$ | $+3y$ | $-15z$ | = | $+9$ |
| $+2x$ | $-8y$ | $+8z$  | = | $-2$ |
| $+x$  | $-3y$ | $+z$   | = | $+4$ |

|         |         |         |   |        |
|---------|---------|---------|---|--------|
| $-x$    | $+1/2y$ | $-5/2z$ | = | $+3/2$ |
| $+1/3x$ | $-4/3y$ | $+3/2z$ | = | $+1/2$ |
| $+1/6x$ | $-1/2y$ | $+z/6$  | = | $+2/3$ |

|      |         |         |   |         |
|------|---------|---------|---|---------|
| $-x$ | $+1/2y$ | $-5/2z$ | = | $3/2$   |
| $0x$ | $-7/2y$ | $+8/6z$ | = | $-5/6$  |
| $0x$ | $-5/2y$ | $-3/2z$ | = | $+11/2$ |

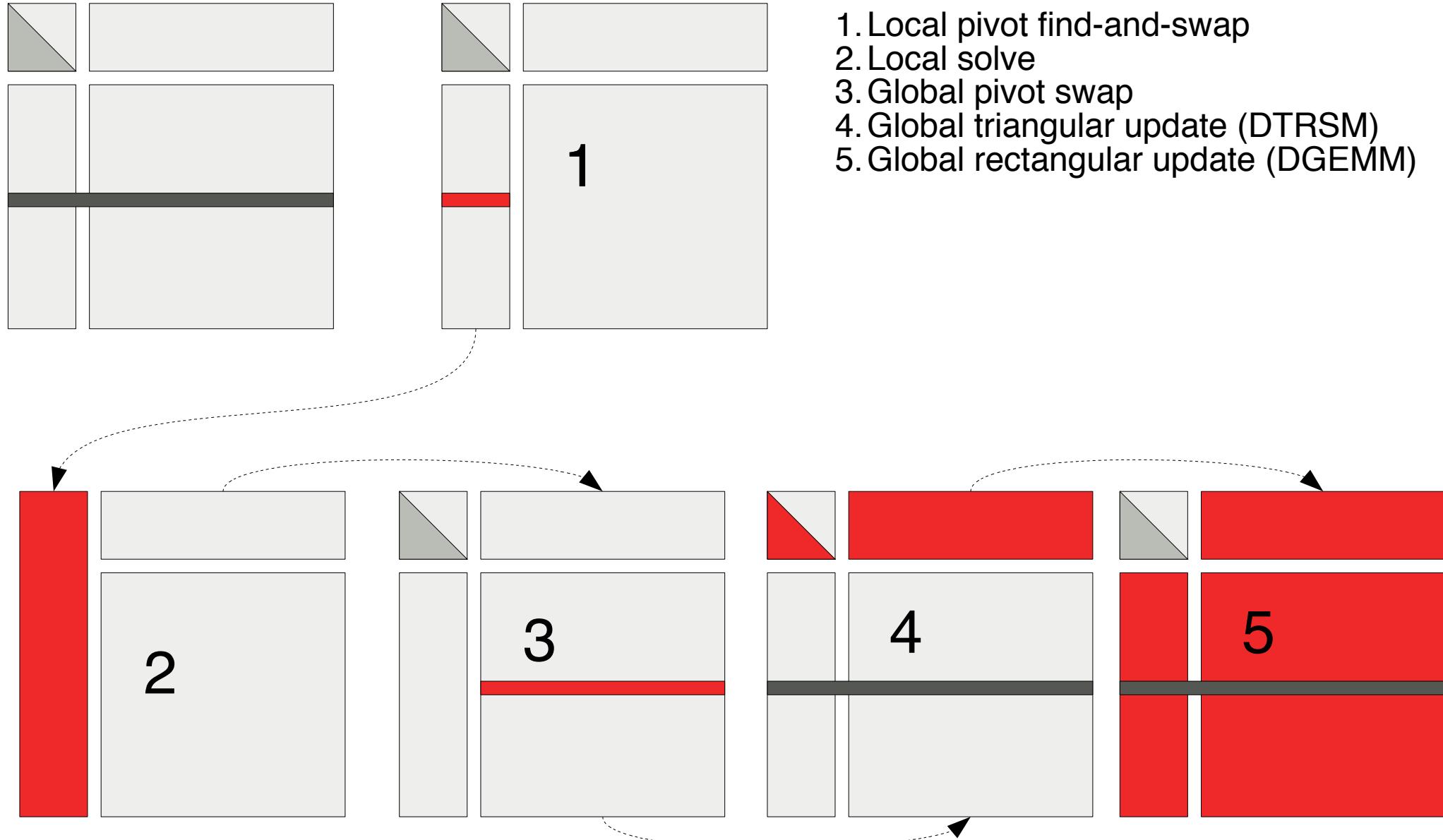
No pivoting

swap

|      |        |       |   |       |
|------|--------|-------|---|-------|
| $+x$ | $-3y$  | $+z$  | = | $+4$  |
| $0x$ | $-2y$  | $+6z$ | = | $-10$ |
| $0x$ | $-15y$ | $-9z$ | = | $33$  |

- /6 Without proper down-scaling, errors get multiplied and the **magnitude** of updated entries grows: phenomenon called **pivot growth**.

# Agglomeration: Blocking

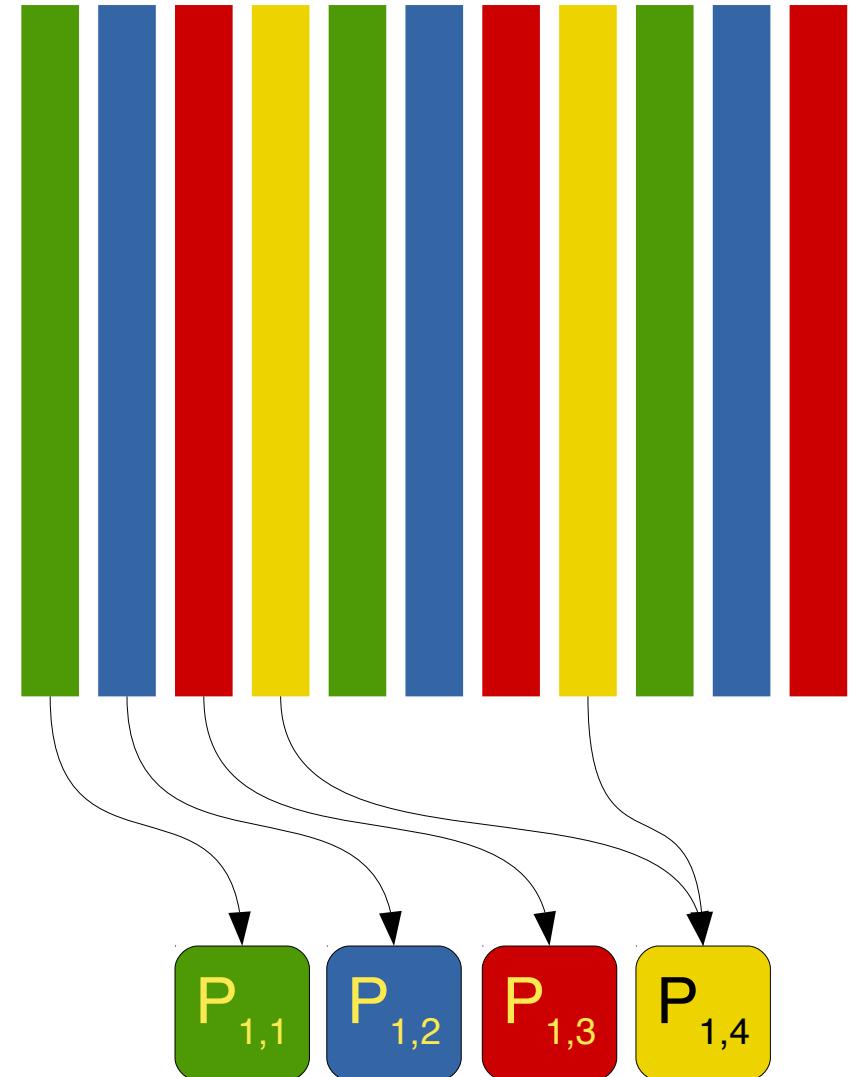


# Block Distribution vs. Block Cyclic Distribution



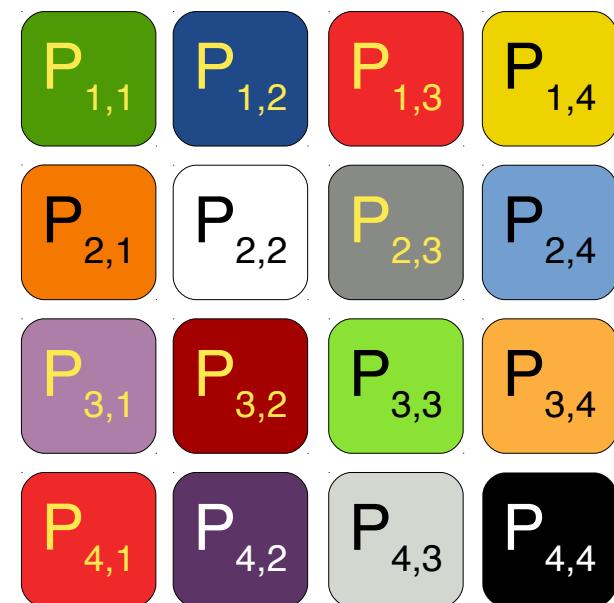
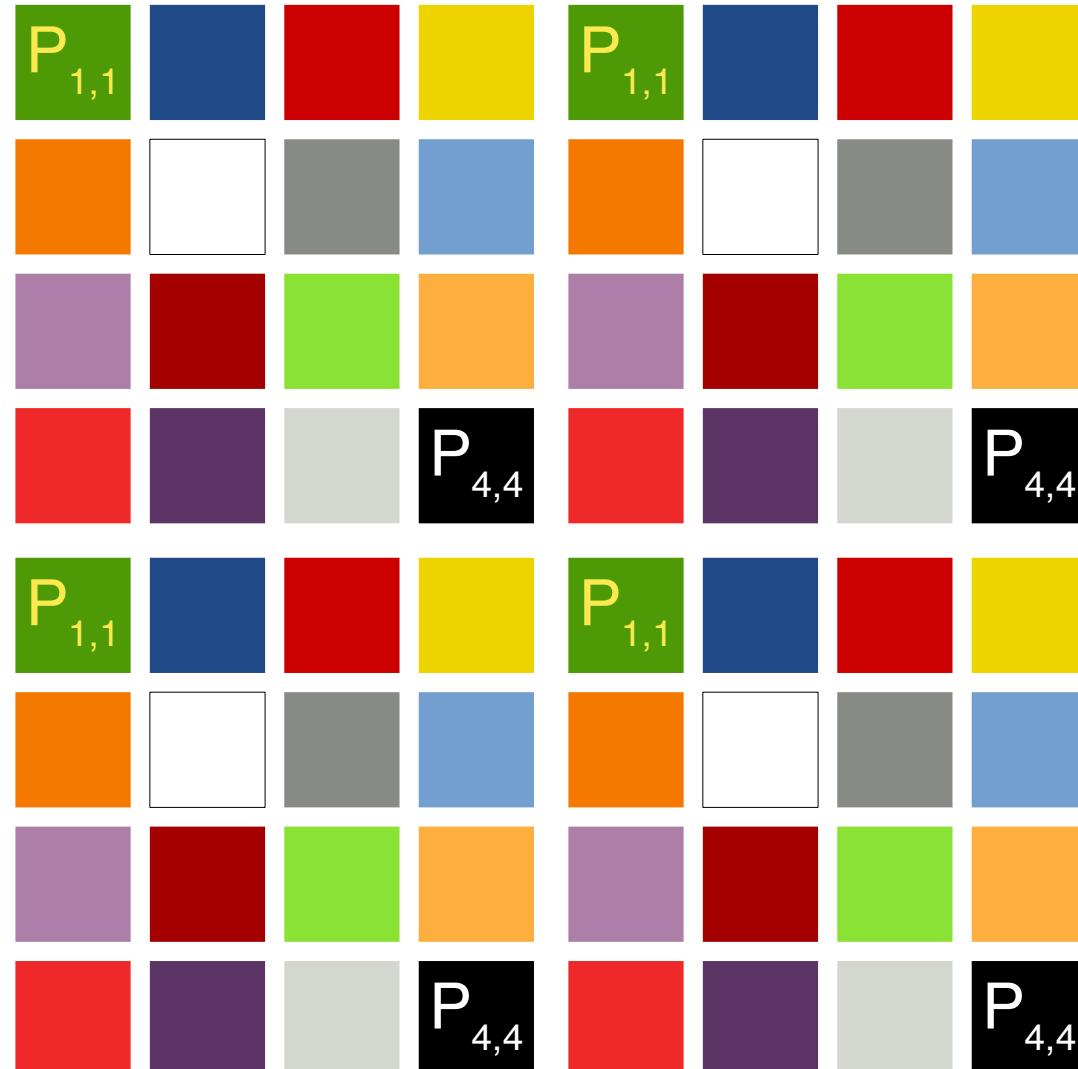
Non-cyclic distribution  
sequentializes the  
computational steps:

1. Solve first block
2. Wait for pivot information  
and scaling factors.



Cyclic distribution in both  
dimensions minimizes  
communication and improves  
scalability.

# Mapping: 2D Block Cyclic Distribution



# Divisibility and Padding

- If  $P$  is not a square of an integer
  - Use prime factors of  $P$  to form as square of the process grid as possible
  - If  $P$  is a prime then leave some of the processes out of the grid to get close-to-square grid
- If  $N$  is not divisible by  $P$ 
  - Consider implementing clean-up code
  - If extra operations are OK, pad the matrix with 0's and 1's
    - Example: extend to 8

