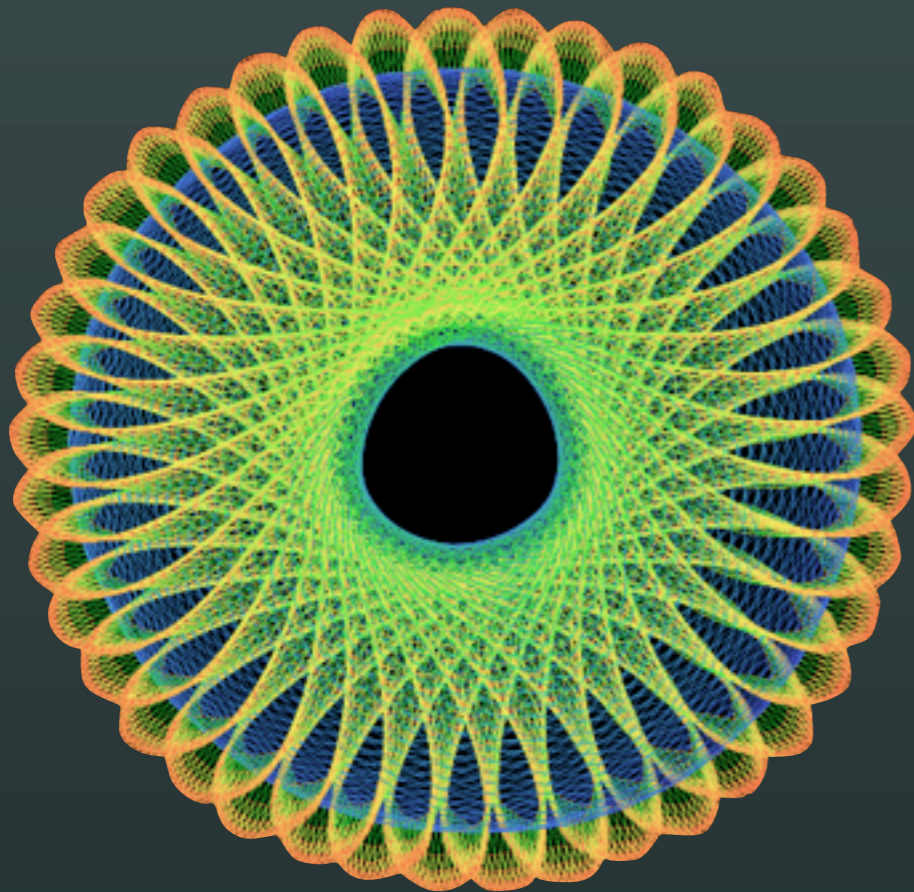


# Hierarchical Diagonal Blocking

and Precision Reduction Applied to Combinatorial Multigrid



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Carnegie Mellon University

Joint work with Guy Blelloch (CMU), Ioannis Koutis (CMU),  
and Gary Miller (CMU)

*\*image: GHS\_indef, 40,000 nodes, 120,000 edges, courtesy of Yifan Hu*

**Scalable Parallel SpMV Using**

**Hierarchical Diagonal Blocking**

and Precision Reduction Applied to Combinatorial Multigrid

# Sparse-Matrix Vector Multiply

the SpMV kernel



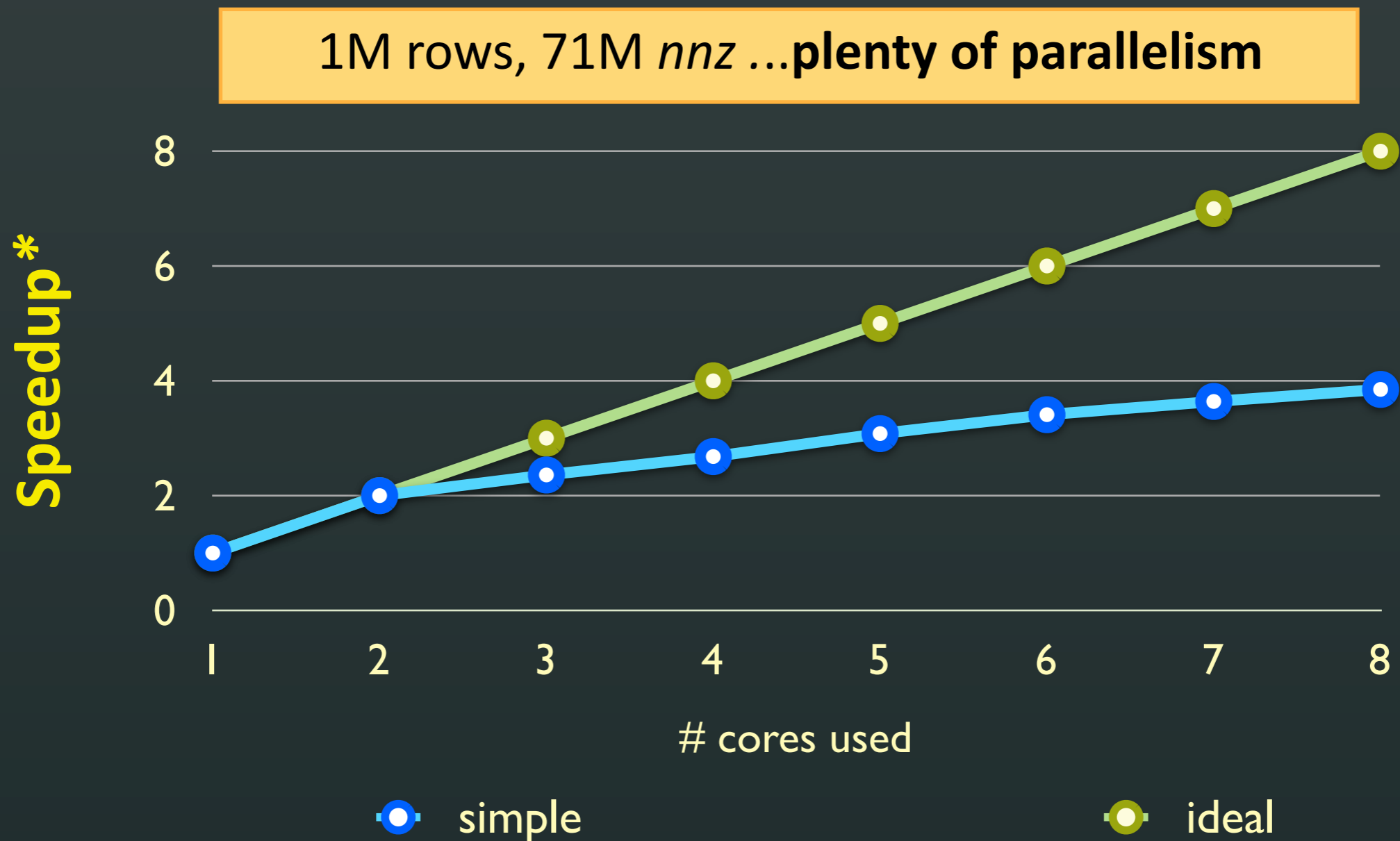
**Compute  $Ax$ , fast in parallel (shared memory)**

**Numerous applications:** iterative linear solver, eigenvalue, page rank, SVD, interior-point methods, ...

# Problem:

# Sparse matrix-vector product is **slow!**

Simple SpMV: for all rows, **in parallel**, compute  $A_i x$



\*Intel Nehalem X5550 2.66Ghz (8 cores), 8-core Bandwidth: 27.9 GBytes/sec

**Common observation:**

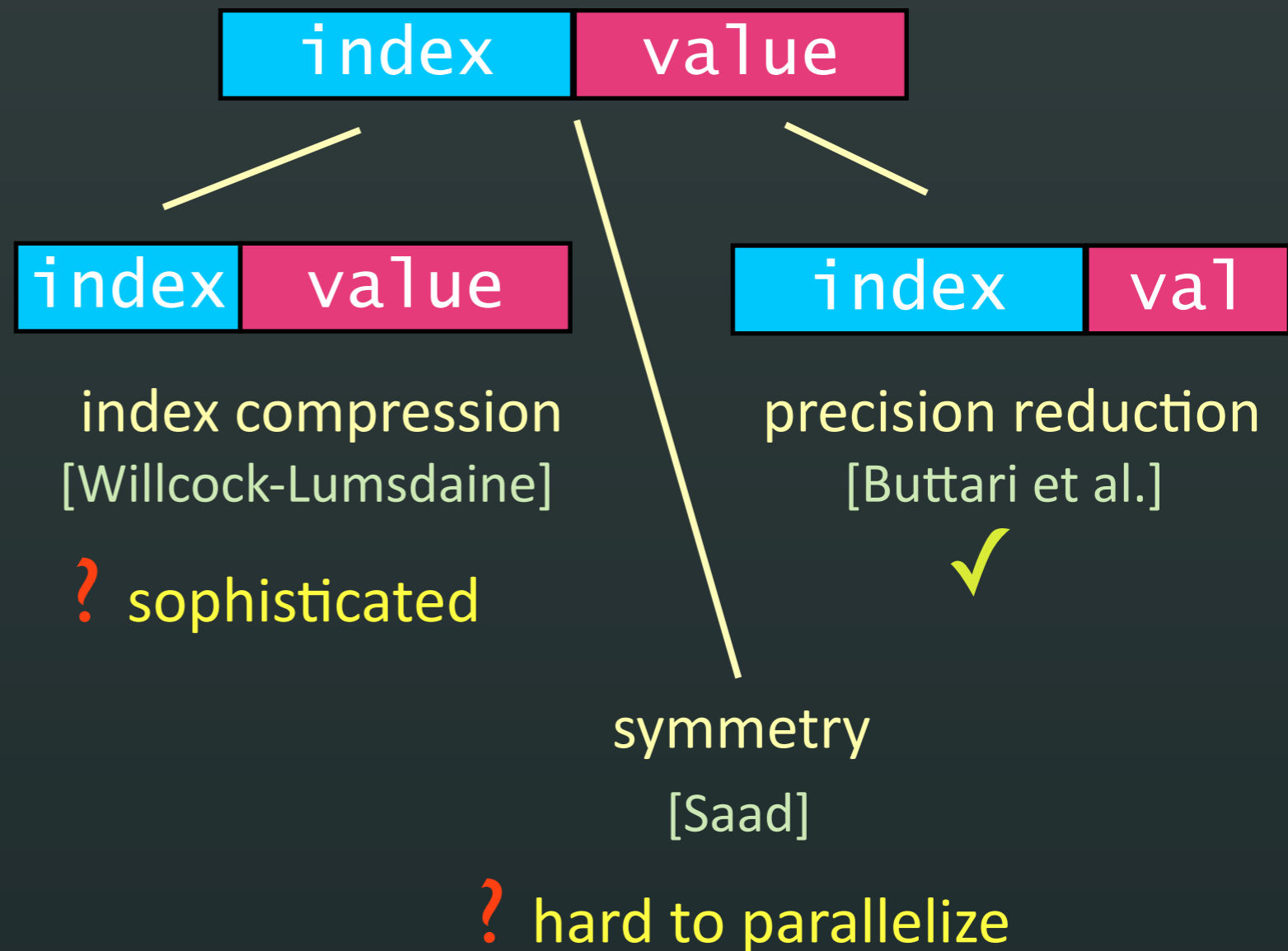
**Memory bandwidth is the  
limiting factor**

# Memory bandwidth is the limiting factor

## Previous Work:

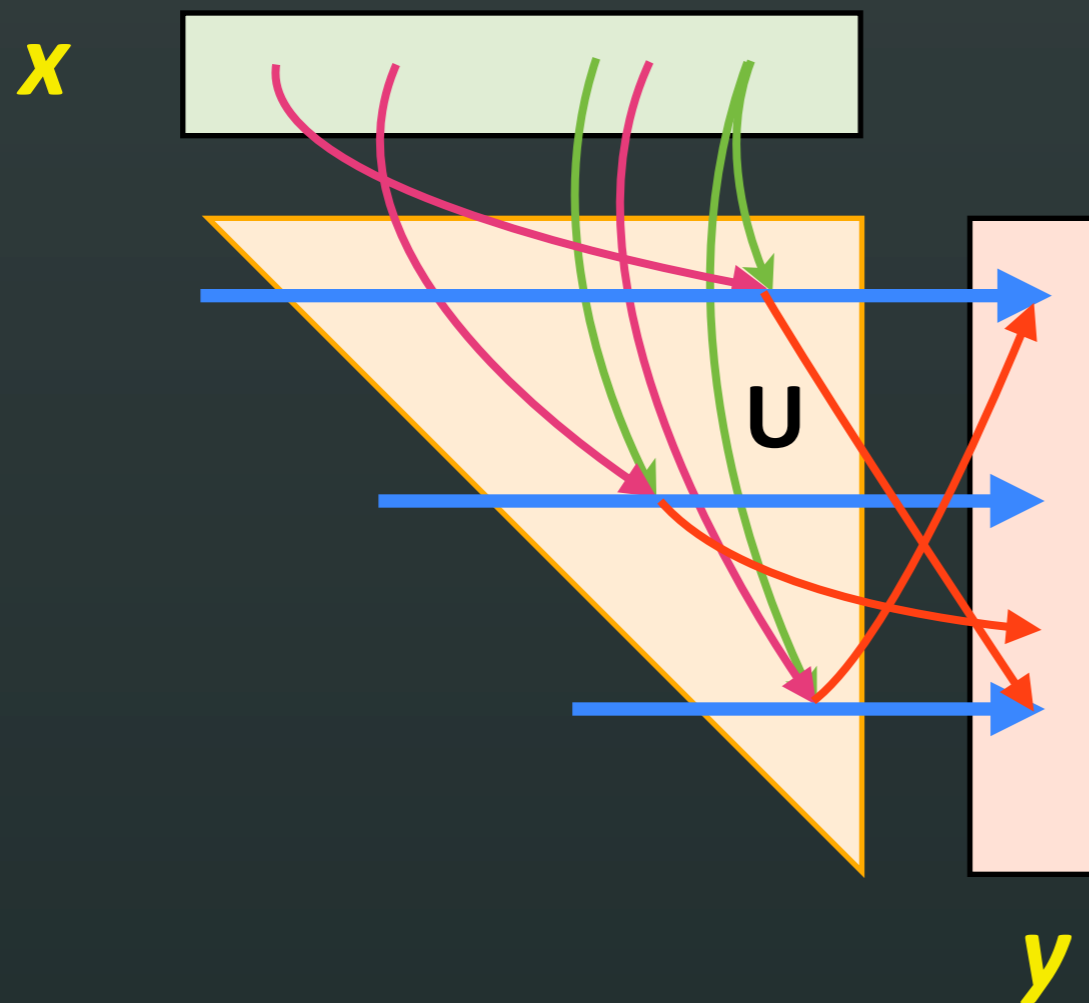
enhance  
locality

- ✓ row/column reordering  
[Oliker et al., Pothen et al.]
- ✓ cache blocking  
[Im et al., Williams et al.]



# Symmetric Form: Not Naturally Parallelizable

To compute  $y = Ax$



Concurrent Read  
Concurrent Write

# This Work:

Is there a **simple parallel algorithm** that offers the benefits of these optimizations using a **single, simple representation?**



# HDB: Hierarchical Diagonal Blocking

can take advantage of

row/column reordering

index compression ← simplified

cache blocking

symmetry ← made possible w/o locking

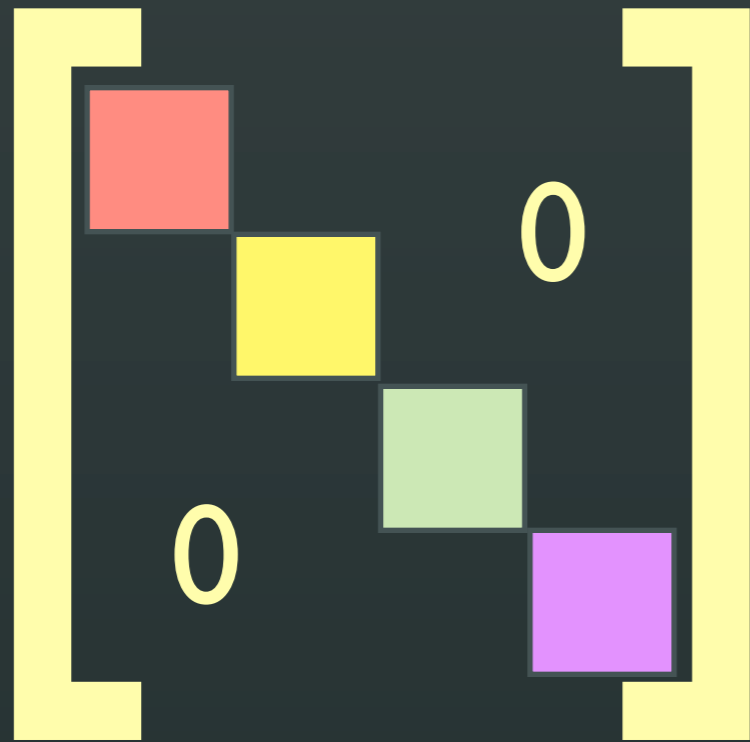
+

mixed precision + **parallelism**

**in a single representation**

# A Simple Example

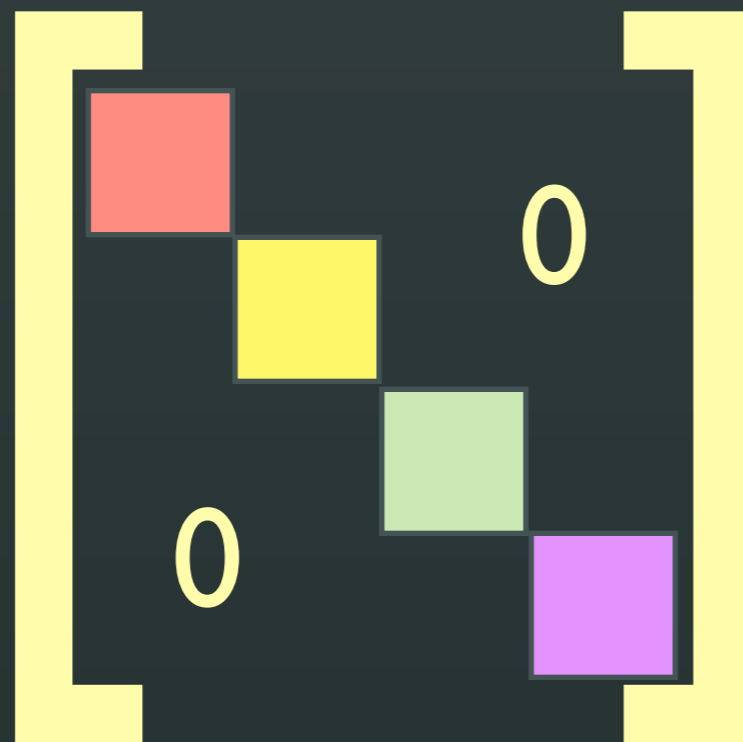
If a matrix can be ordered...



- natural parallelism
- good cache locality
- index compression
- symmetric form

# But, matrices aren't always nice!

Decompose A into



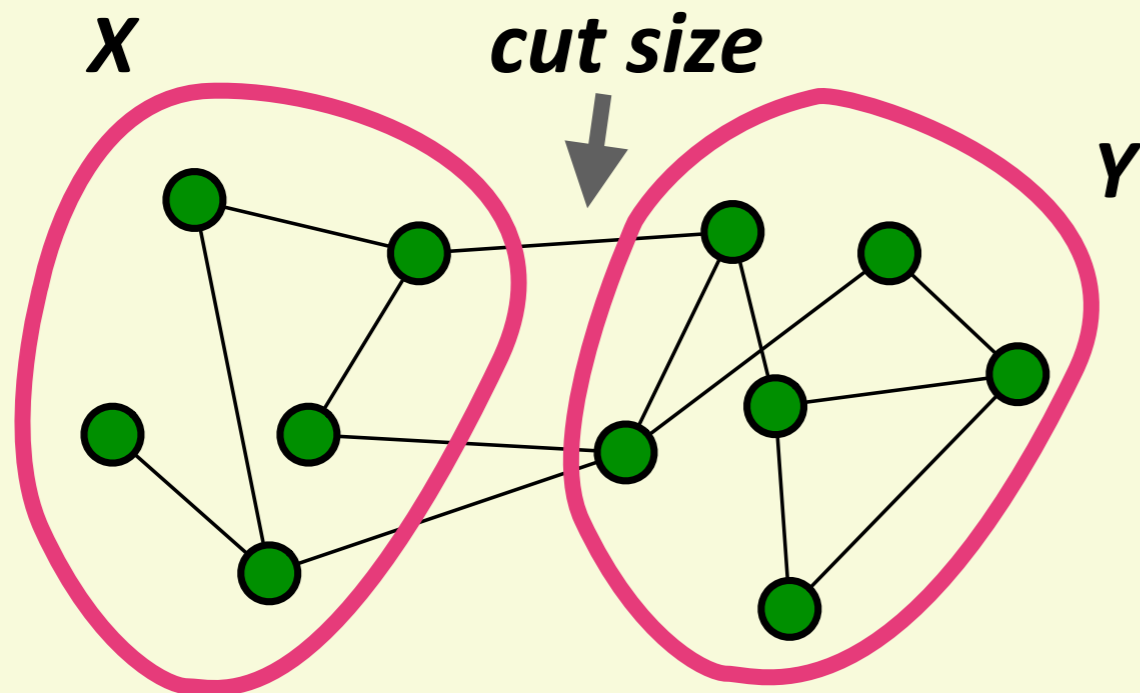
+ off diag.

**Question: When can we decompose a matrix into diagonal blocks with only few off-diagonal entries?**

# Key Observation:

a surprising number of real-world graphs  
have **small separators!**

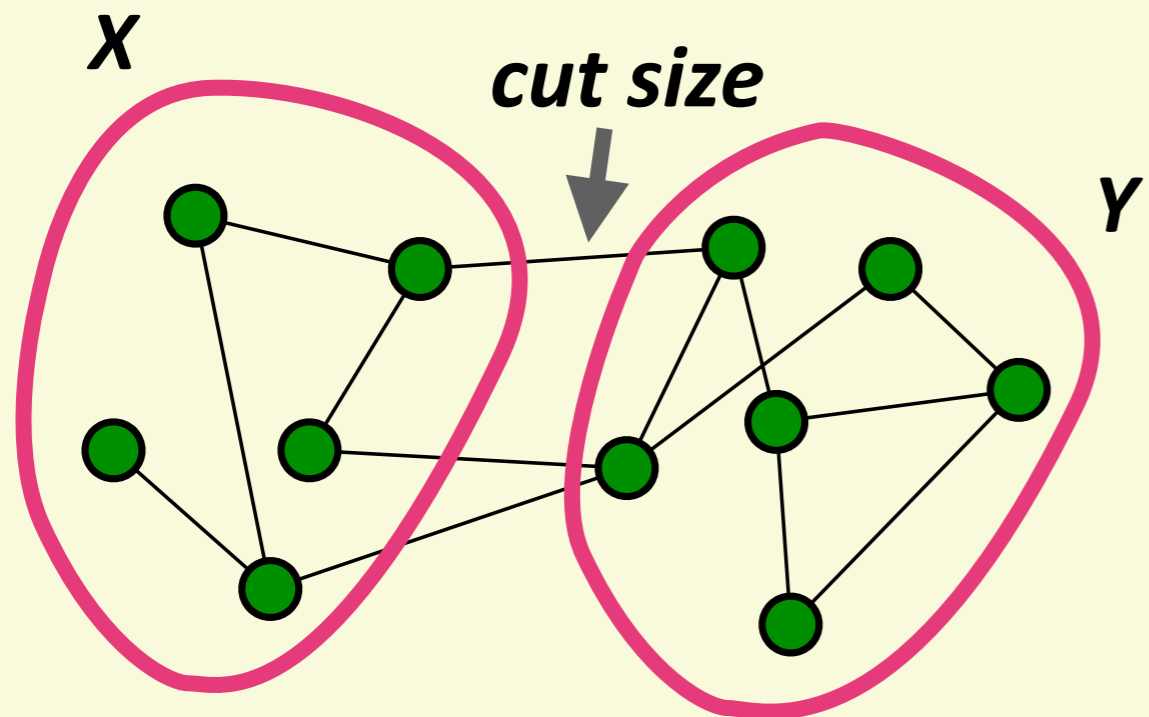
Graph  $\Leftrightarrow$  Matrix



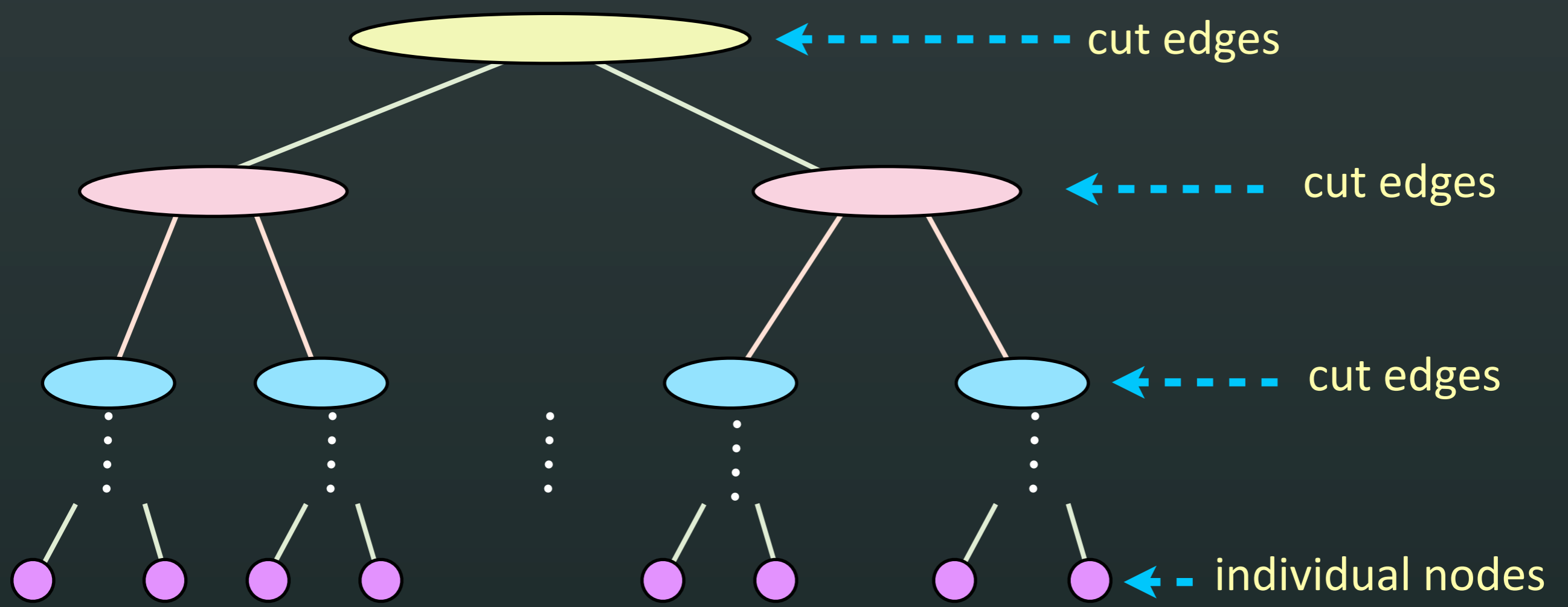
**small separators:**  
can be recursively  
partitioned into roughly  
equal-sized parts with  
cut size  $\leq O(n^{1-c})$

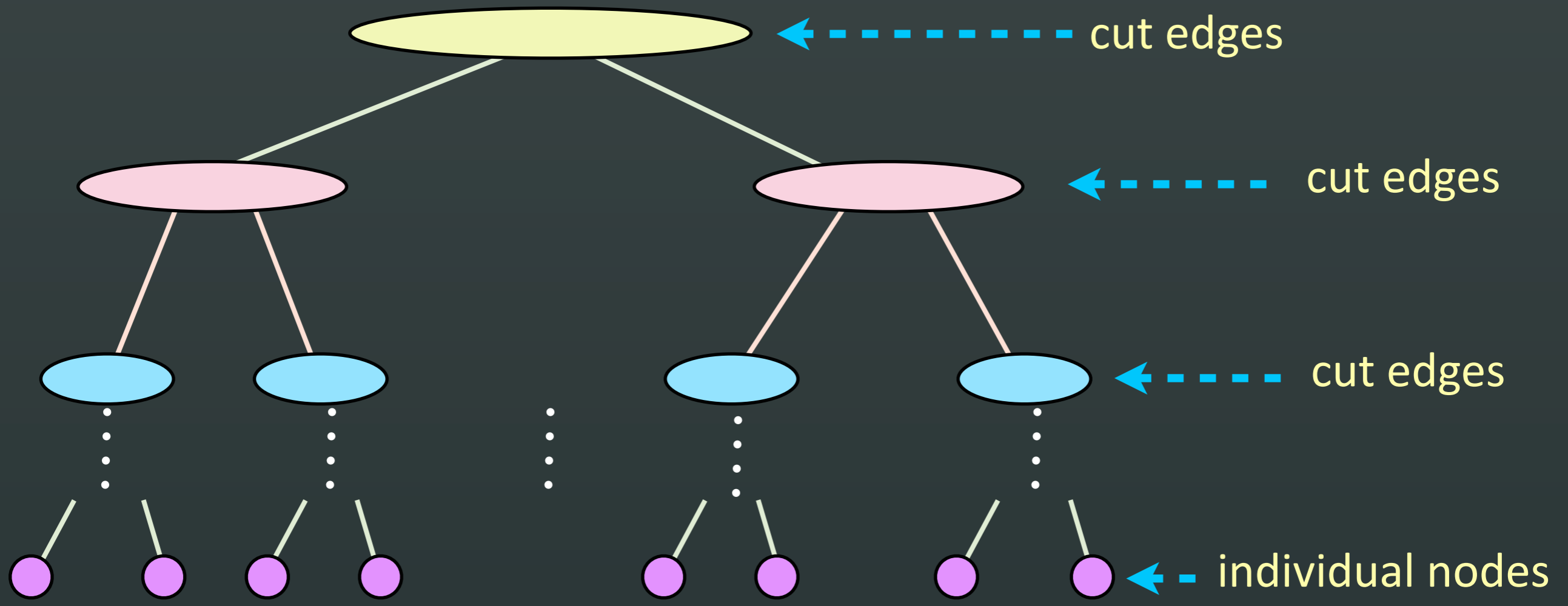
**Examples:** planar graphs, finite element meshes, google link graph, social networks, US road networks, etc.

e.g. [Ungar'51, Lipton-Tarjan'79, Blanford et al.'04]



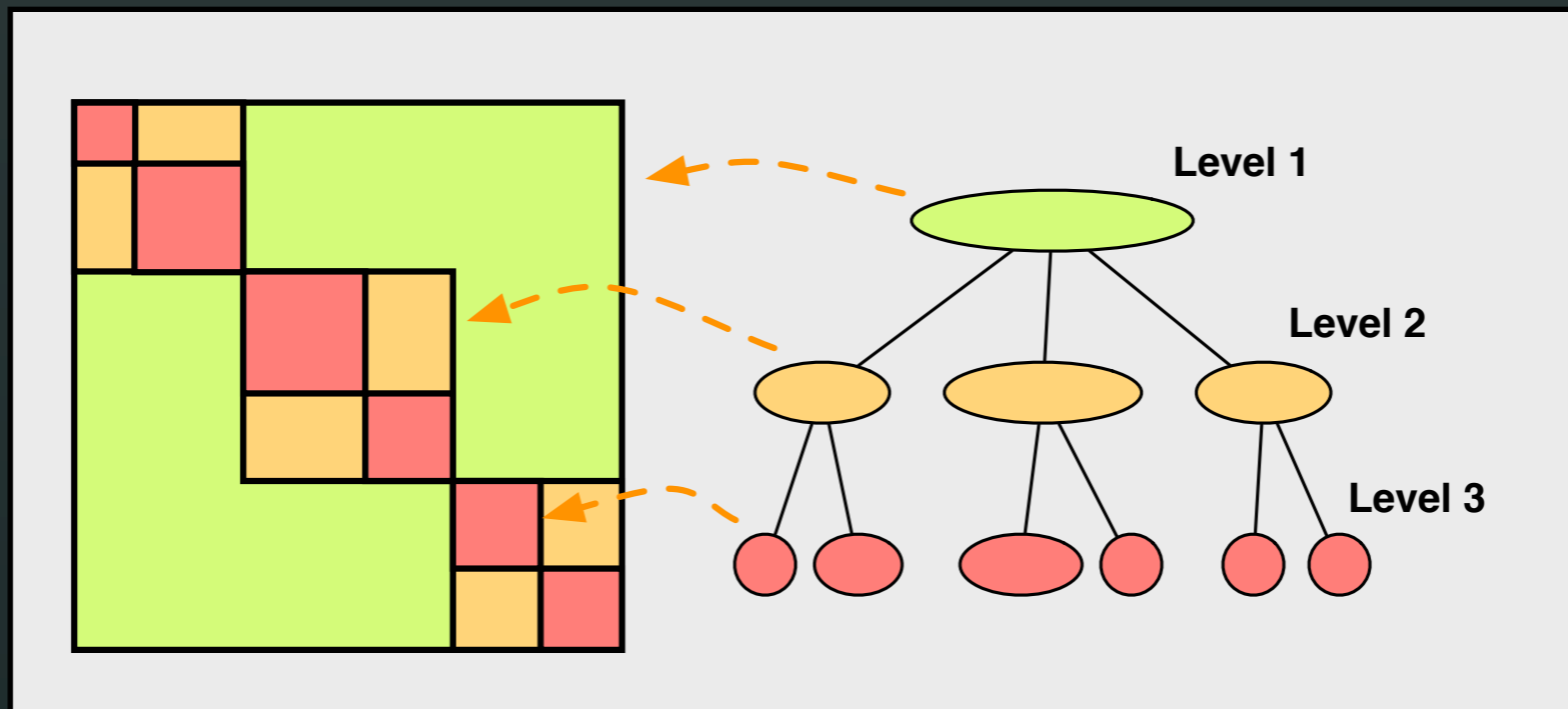
**small separators:**  
 can be recursively  
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**“separator tree” ordering**

**+ hierarchy of submatrices**



# HDB: Theoretical Guarantees

$w$  - word size

$B$  - block size

$M$  - cache size

## Theorem:

If an  $n$ -by- $n$  matrix has small separators ( $n^{1-c}$ ), then

(1) HDB  $\#nnz + O(n/w)$  words

(2) Cache oblivious algorithm with misses at most

$$\#nnz/B + O(1 + n/(Bw) + n/M^c)$$

(3) Algorithm has polylog depth and is work efficient

**This Talk:** How does this perform in practice?

# Experiments

large, sparse, symmetric matrices from various domains  
( > 1M non-zeros) e.g., FEM, vision (TV denoising)

Intel Nehalem X5550: **two** 4-core chips, 2.66Ghz

- ▶ How much bandwidth is saved?
- ▶ How does that translate into performance gain?
- ▶ What is the effect of separator quality?



# Representation Footprint

How much could we save?

**> 1.5x saving  
with blocking**

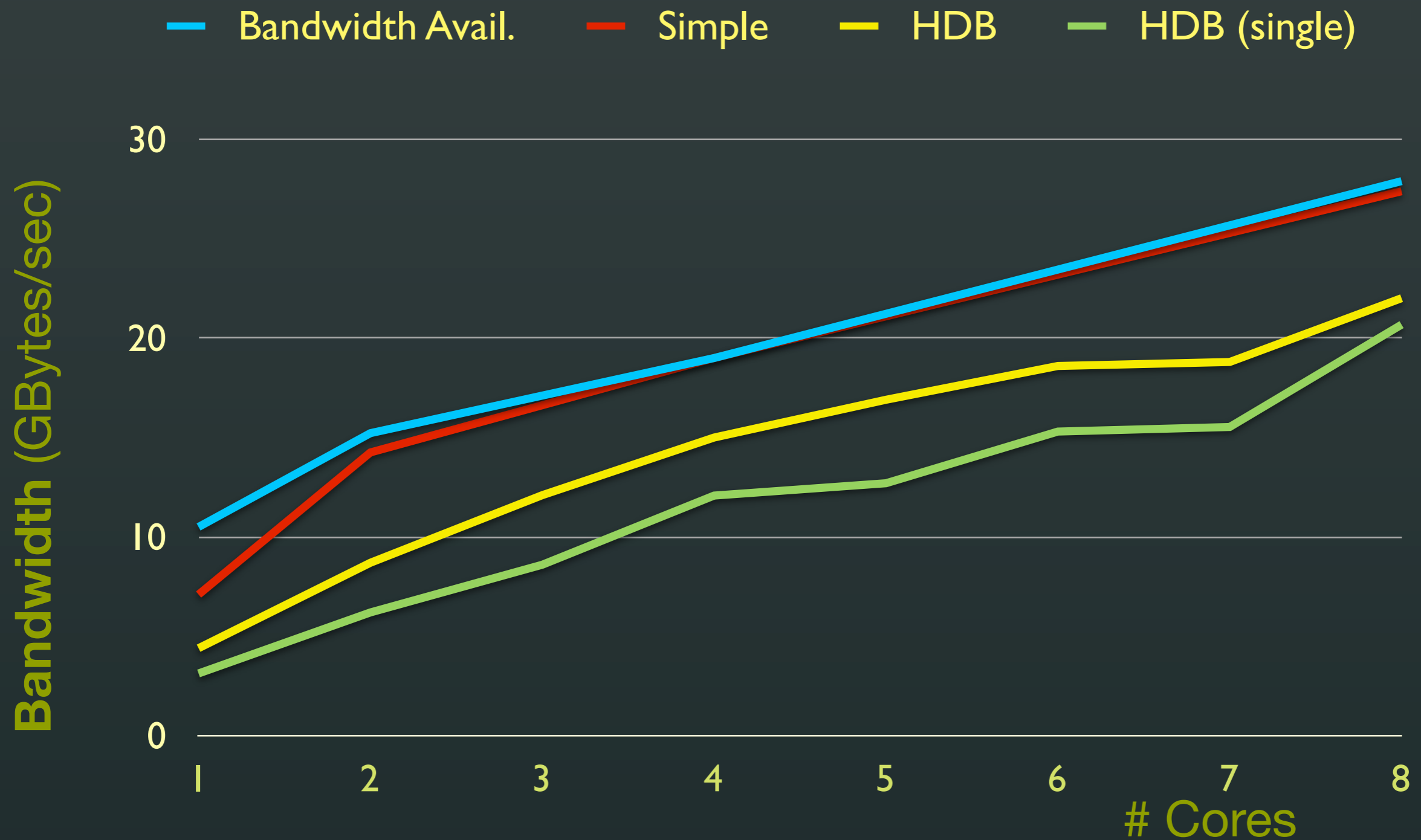
**more (~3x) with  
precision reduction**

Memory Access (MBytes)

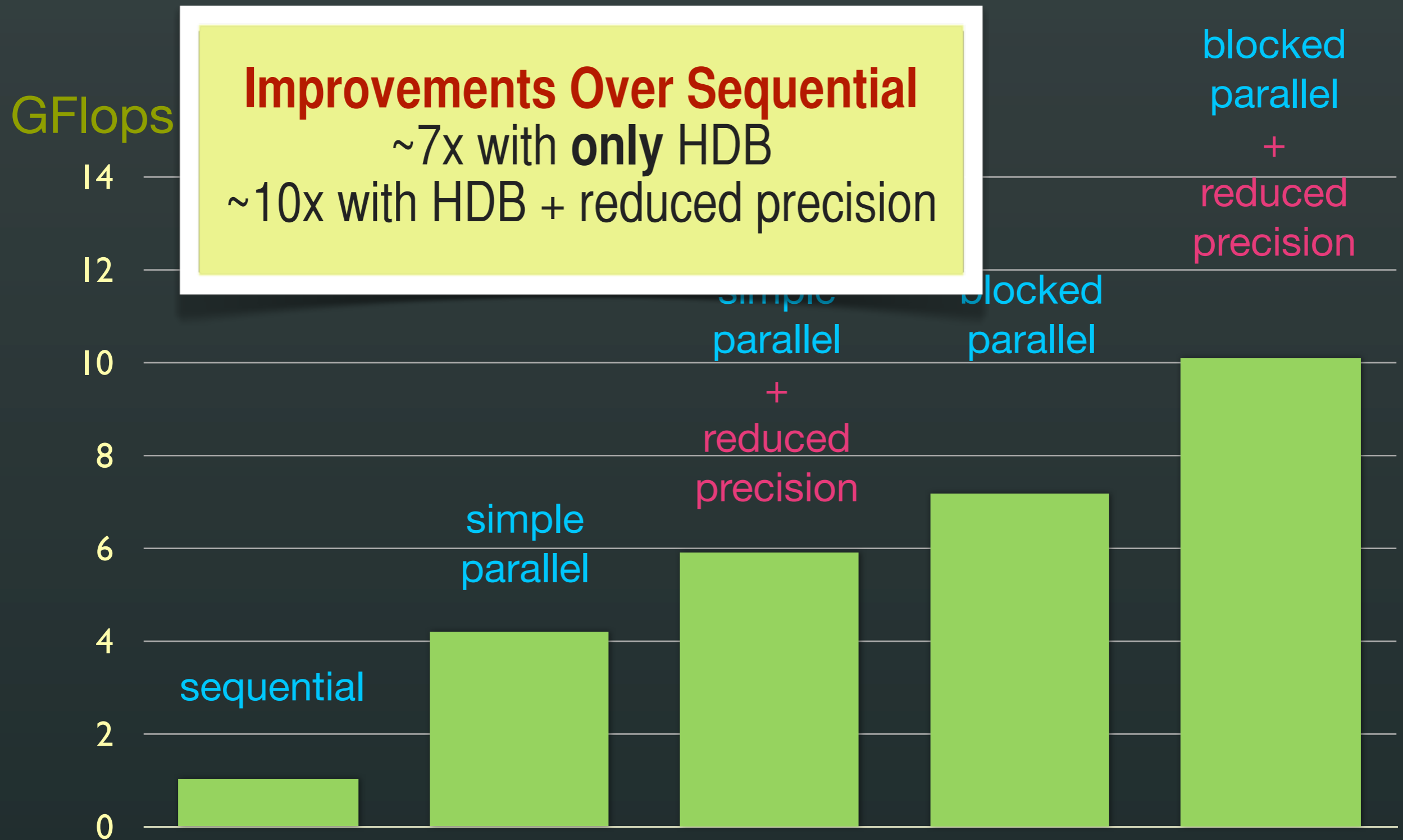
Matrix	CSR/dbl	HDB/dbl	HDB/singl
2d-A (1M rows, 50M nnz)	80	56	36
3d-A (1M rows, 69M nnz)	103	67	43
af_shell10 (1.5M rows, 53M nnz)	657	313	193
audikw_1 (.9M rows, 78M nnz)	951	426	261
bone010 (1M rows, 72M nnz)	880	404	251
ecology2 (1M rows, 50M nnz)	80	56	36
nd24k (72K rows, 29M nnz)	346	164	106
nlpkkt120 (3.5M rows, 97M nnz)	1,212	589	367
pwtk (3.5M rows, 97M nnz)	143	65	40

# Bandwidth Analysis

Matrix: bone010 - 1M rows, 72M nonzeros

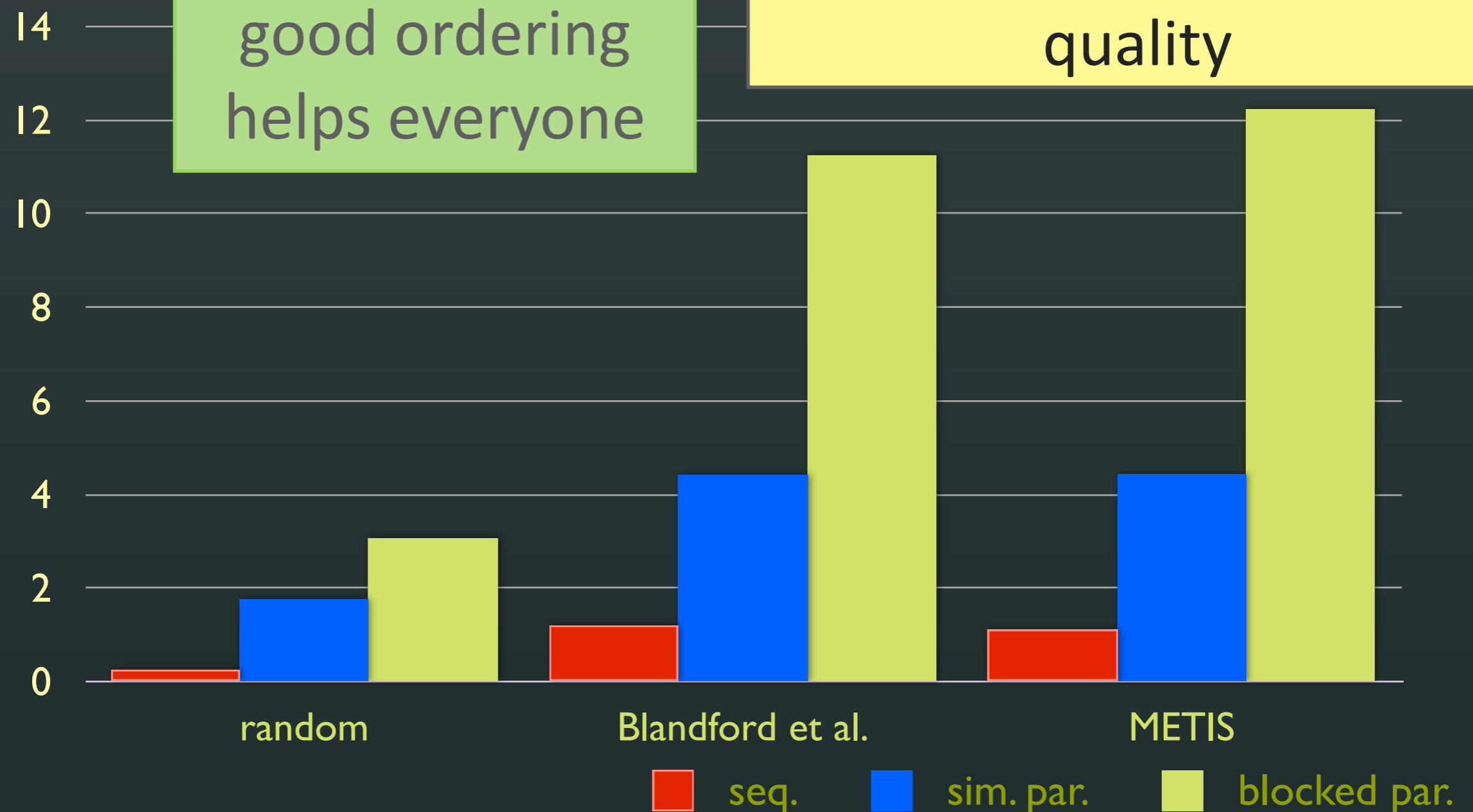


# Performance Analysis: Median



# Effects of Separator Quality

GFlops



\*Matrix: audikw\_1 - 1M rows, 78M nonzeros

# When is precision reduction viable?



low-precision “raw” data

A Linear System

$$\begin{aligned} 5X - 2Y + 3Z &= 1 \\ -2X + 7Y - 4Z &= 2 \\ 3X - 4Y + 8Z &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

*To solve this simple example of a symmetric diagonally dominant (SDD) linear system, values must be determined for X, Y and Z that satisfy all three equations.*

[Click here to see the solution to this example](#)

use approximate answers in intermediate steps to derive full-precision final solutions

# Combinatorial Multigrid (CMG) Solvers

symmetric diagonally  
dominant (SDD)

=

each diagonal element is  
larger than the sum of the  
absolute values of other  
elements in that row

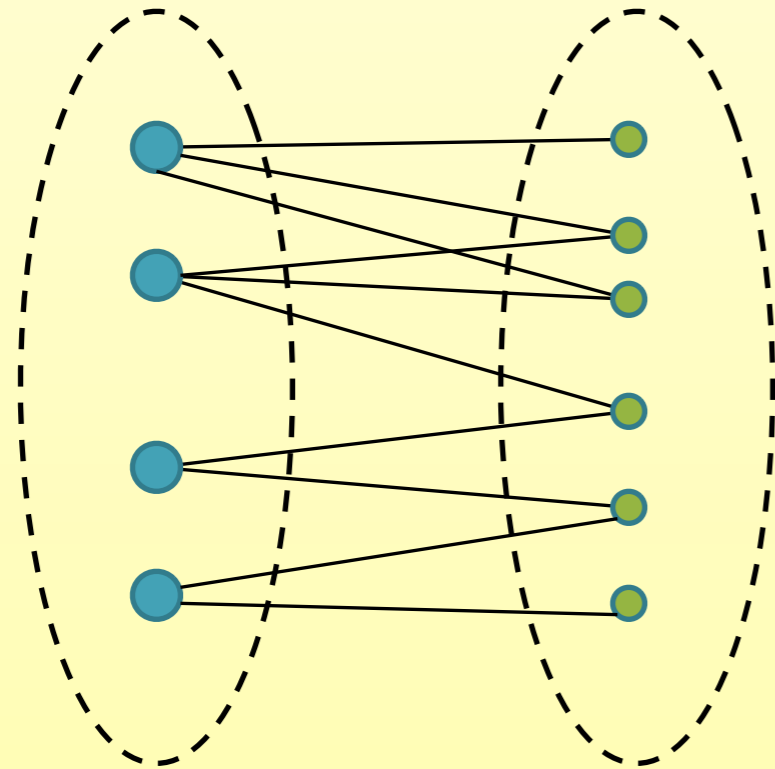

$$Ax = b$$

**combinatorial preconditioning**

# SDD Problem Examples

## Data Mining/Recommender

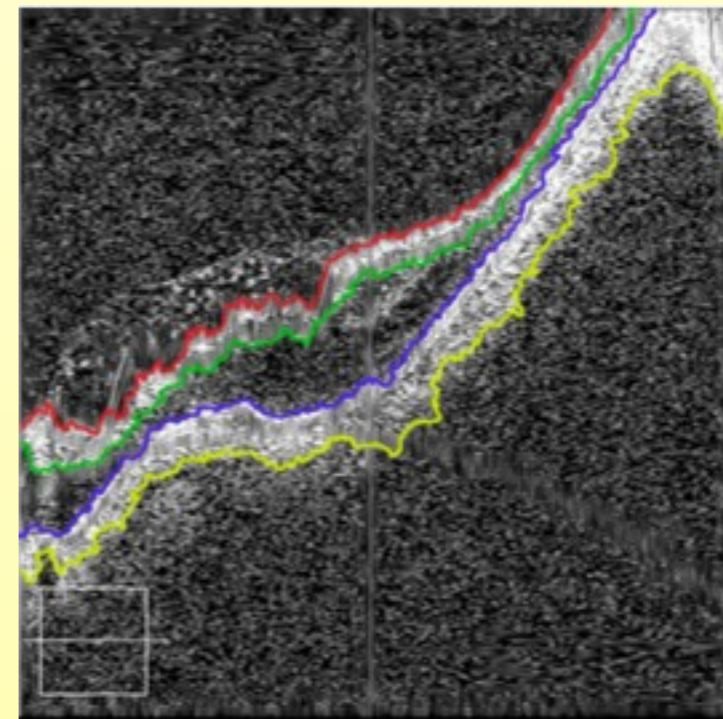
Compute electrical flow



Movie-Subscriber Graph

## Optical Coherence Tomography

Compute few eigenvectors



Retina Image

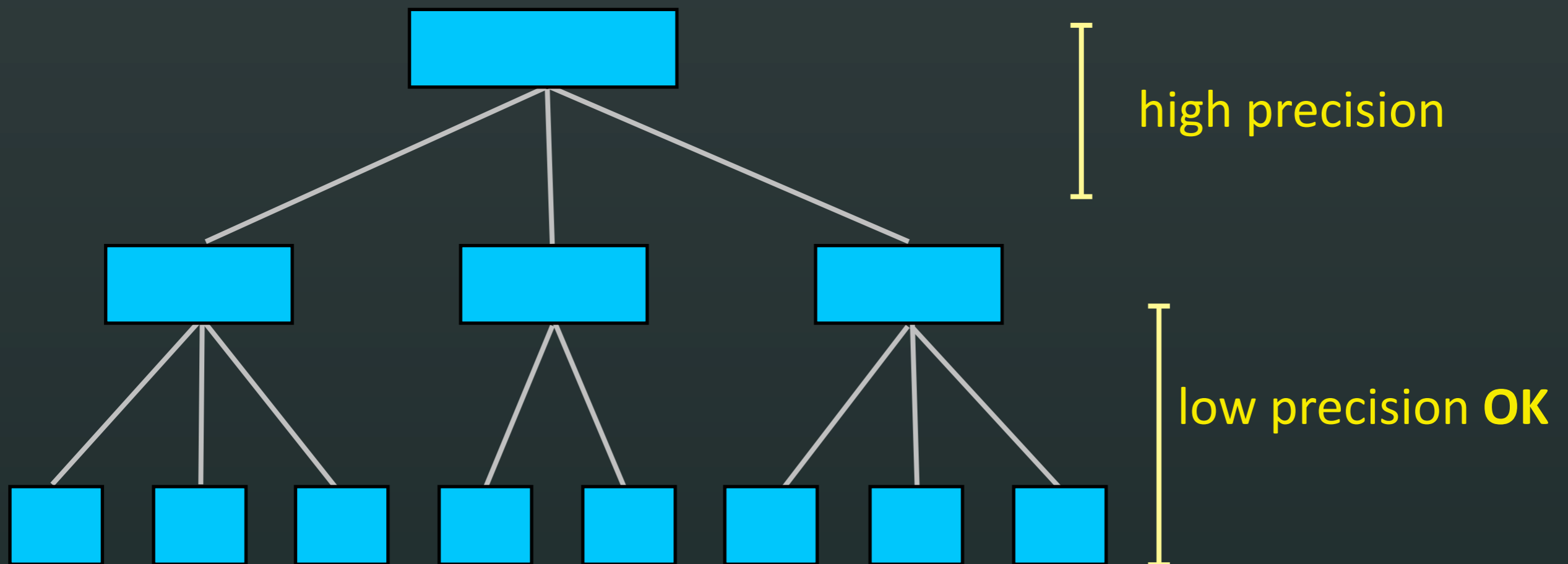
# CMG Overview

- hierarchical/recursive solver
- most work: SpMV + vector-vector ops

**Improvements Over Seq.**

> 7x on 8 cores (max)

5.2x (median)





# Take-Home Points

Thank you!

- ▶ Memory Bandwidth Bottleneck
- ▶ Hierarchical Diagonal Blocking (HDB)  
simple, compact, cache-friendly
- ▶ CMG using Low-Precision Guide  
full-precision answer from low-precision hints