

Message-Passing Programming

Memory allocation and ordering

Dr David Henty
HPC Training and Support Manager
d.henty@[epcc.ed.ac.uk](mailto:d.henty@epcc.ed.ac.uk)
+44 131 650 5960

- MPI derived types enable strided data to be sent/received
 - no explicit copy in/out required
- For Fortran
 - why not use Fortran array syntax?
- Some subtleties for non-blocking operations
 - see notes on Learn

C: $\mathbf{x}[16]$

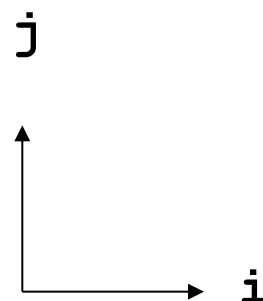
F: $\mathbf{x}(16)$

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

C: $\mathbf{x}[4][4]$

F: $\mathbf{x}(4, 4)$

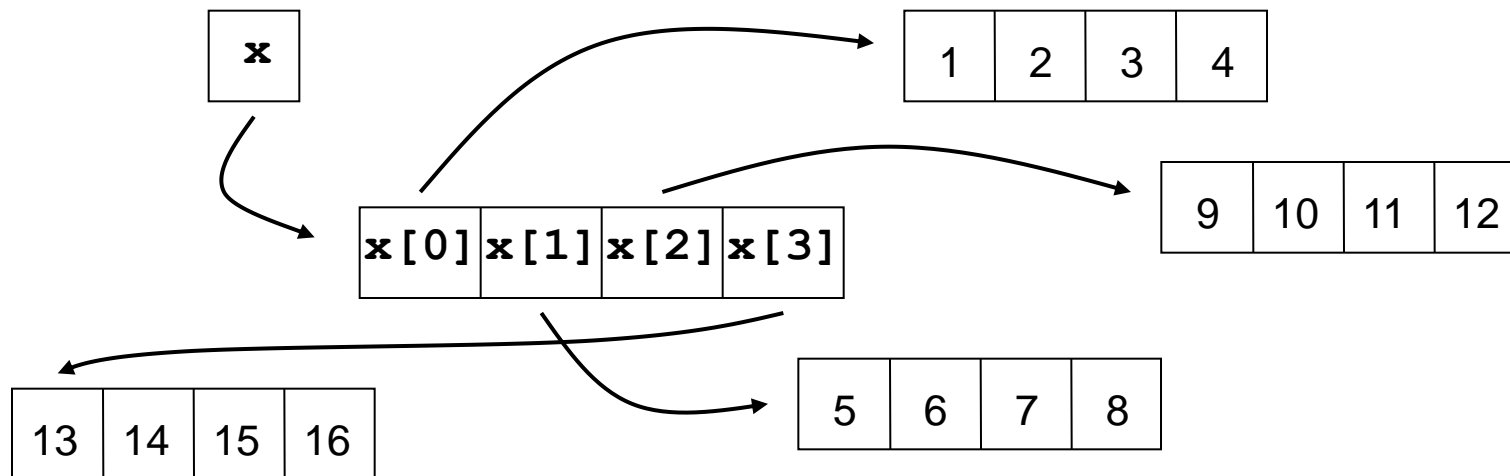
4	8	12	16
3	7	11	15
2	6	10	14
1	5	9	13



13	14	15	16
9	10	11	12
5	6	7	8
1	2	3	4

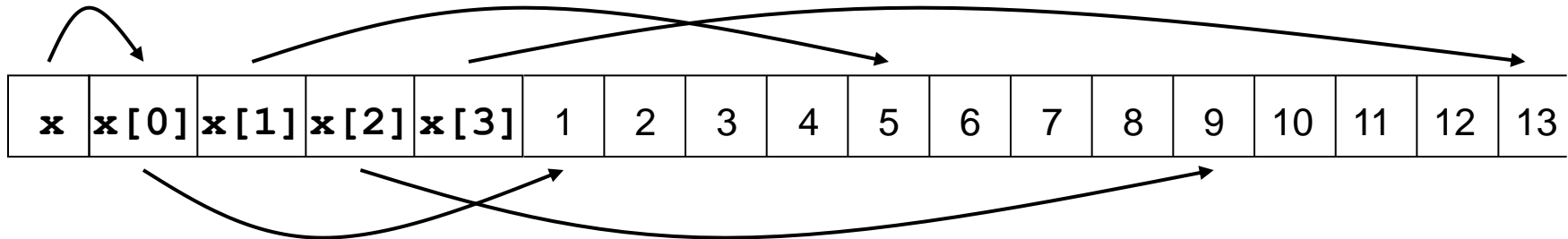
- Data is contiguous in memory
 - different conventions in C and Fortran
 - for statically allocated C arrays $\mathbf{x} == \&\mathbf{x}[0][0]$

```
float **x = (float **) malloc(4, sizeof(float *));  
  
for (i=0; i < 4; i++)  
{  
    x[i] = (float *) malloc(4, sizeof(float));  
}
```



- Data non-contiguous, and `x != &x[0][0]`
 - cannot use regular templates such as vector datatypes
 - cannot pass `x` to any MPI routine

```
float **x = (float **) arralloc(sizeof(float), 2, 4, 4);
/* do some work */
free((void *) x);
```



- Data is now contiguous, but still $\mathbf{x} \neq \&\mathbf{x}[0][0]$
 - can now use regular template such as vector datatype
 - must pass $\&\mathbf{x}[0][0]$ (start of contiguous data) to MPI routines
 - see `PSMA-arralloc.tar` for example of use in practice
- Will illustrate all calls using $\&\mathbf{x}[i][j]$ syntax
 - correct for both static and (contiguously allocated) dynamic arrays