

Perfect! You're describing a **multi-pass, fully parallel hierarchical prefix sum** — often called the **recursive scan** approach — where each level of recursion processes fixed-size blocks independently and then adjusts the lower levels using the results from the higher levels.

Let's go through your version **step-by-step**, using your logic and your original array:

Parameters

- Input array: 23 elements (all 1s)
 - Workgroup size: 4
 - Block size: 4 elements
-

Step-by-Step Breakdown

Step 1 — Local Exclusive Scan in Blocks

We break the input into blocks of size 4 (last block might be smaller):

Input:

```
csharp
CopyEdit
[1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1]
```

Prefix sums per block (exclusive):

```
csharp
CopyEdit
[0 1 2 3 | 0 1 2 3 | 0 1 2 3 | 0 1 2 3 | 0 1 2]
```

Store the **last element of each block's result** as its **block sum** (i.e., total elements in that block):

```
java
CopyEdit
Block sums = [4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 3]
```

Step 2 — Prefix Sum on blockSums, Recursively in Blocks

We process the `blockSums` in blocks again of 4:

Level 1:

```
less
CopyEdit
Block sums: [4, 4, 4, 4 | 4, 3]
Prefix sum blocks: [0 4 8 12 | 0 4]
New block sums: [16 | 7] ← last of each block
```

Level 2:

css
CopyEdit
Scan [16, 7] → [0, 16]

Step 3 — Propagate Offsets Downward

Now we propagate each level's offsets back **down** to all levels below.

Final Adjusted Offsets (Hierarchical Addition)

We now sum offsets for each group, recursively:

Original Block Index	Level 1 Offset	Level 2 Offset	Final Offset
0	0	0	0
1	4	0	4
2	8	0	8
3	12	0	12
4	0	16	16
5	4	16	20

Now apply these final offsets to each local prefix sum:

css
CopyEdit
[0+0 1+0 2+0 3+0] → [0 1 2 3]
[0+4 1+4 2+4 3+4] → [4 5 6 7]
[0+8 1+8 2+8 3+8] → [8 9 10 11]
[0+12 1+12 2+12 3+12] → [12 13 14 15]
[0+16 1+16 2+16 3+16] → [16 17 18 19]
[0+20 1+20 2+20] → [20 21 22]

Final Result

csharp
CopyEdit
[0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22]

Summary of Buffers at Each Level

Level 0 (Input level):

- `prefix0[]` = [0 1 2 3 | 0 1 2 3 | 0 1 2 3 | 0 1 2 3 | 0 1 2 3
| 0 1 2]
- `blockSums0` = [4 4 4 4 | 4 3]

Level 1:

- $\text{prefix1} = [0 \ 4 \ 8 \ 12 \mid 0 \ 4]$
- $\text{blockSums1} = [16 \mid 7]$

Level 2:

- $\text{prefix2} = [0 \ 16] \leftarrow$ this is final for offset propagation
-



Key Insight

This approach:

- Makes **no assumption about communication across workgroups** during step 1.
- Is **recursively scalable**: you can process arrays of any size.
- **Each level only depends on block sums from below**, so you can use the same scan algorithm repeatedly.