Announcements

- Reading Chapter 12

Allocation Methods

- How do we select a free disk block to use?
- Contiguous allocation
  - allocate a contiguous chunk of space to a file
  - directory entry indicates the starting block and the length of the file
  - easy to implement, but
    - how to satisfy a given sized request from a list of free holes?
    - two options
      - first fit (find the first gap that fits)
      - best fit (find the smallest gaps that is large enough)
    - What happens if one wants to append to file?
  - from time to time, one will need to repack files

Linked Allocation

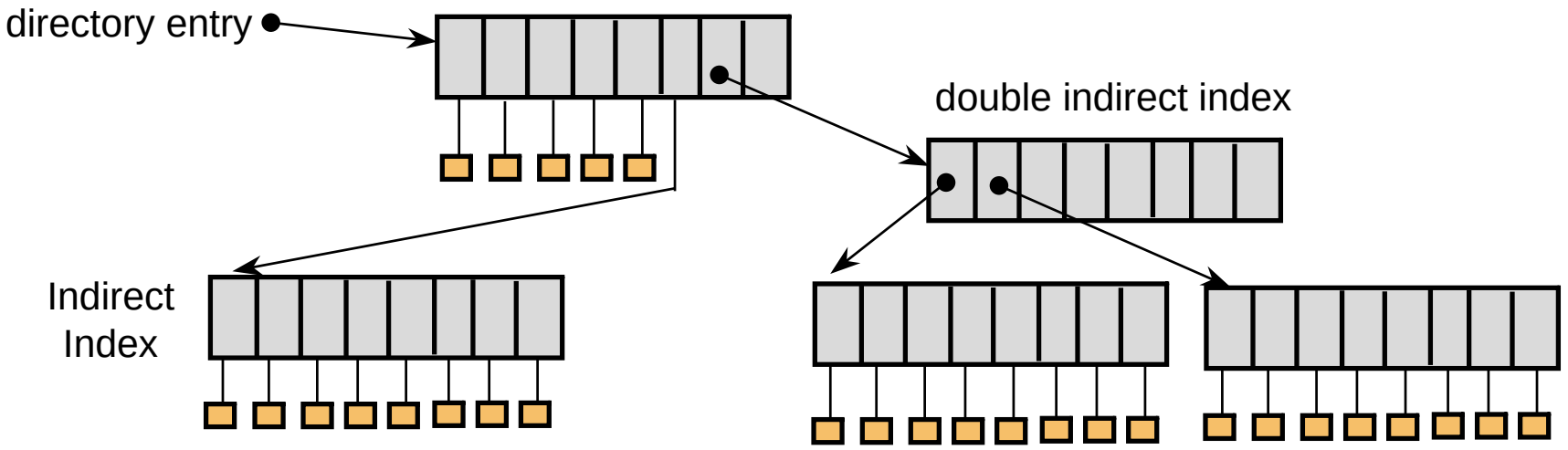
- Each file is a linked list of disk blocks, blocks can be located anywhere
  - Directory contains a pointer to the first and last block of a file
  - Each block contains a pointer to the next block
  - This is essentially a linked-list data structure
- Problems:
  - Best for sequential access data structures
    - requires sequential access whether you want to or not!
  - Reliability - one bad sector and all portions of your file downstream are lost
- Useful fix:
  - Maintain a separate data structure just to keep track of linked lists
  - Data-structure includes pointers to actual blocks

Indexed Allocation

- Bring all pointers together in an *index block*
  - Each file has its own index block - *i*th entry of index block points to *i*th block making up the file
- How large to make an index block?
  - To avoid a fixed maximum file size, index block must be extensible
- Linked scheme:
  - maintain a linked list of indexed blocks
- Multilevel index:
  - Index block can point to other index blocks (which point to index blocks ....), which point to files
- Hybrid multi-level index
  - first n blocks are from a fixed index
  - next m blocks from an indirect index
  - next o blocks from a double indirect index

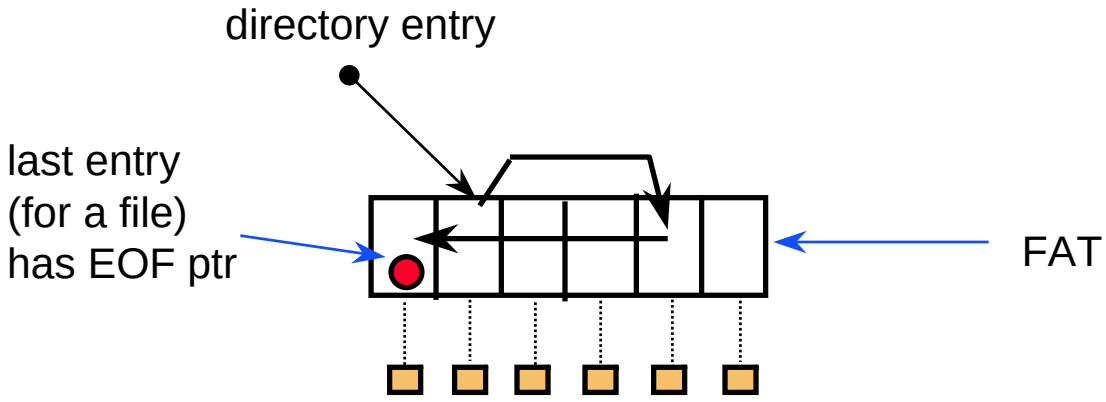
Hybrid Multi-level Index (UNIX)

- Observations
  - most files are small
  - most of the space on the disk is consumed by large files
- Want a flexible way to support different sized
  - assume 4096 byte block
  - first 12 blocks (48 KB) are from a fixed index
  - next 1024 blocks (4 MB) from an indirect index
  - next 1024^2 blocks (4 GB) from a double indirect index
  - final 1024^3 blocks (4 TB) from a triple indirect index



Modified Linked Allocation (FAT)

- Section of disk contains a table
  - called the file allocate table (FAT)
  - used in MS-DOS
- Directory entry contains the block number of the first block in the file
- Table entry contains the number of the next block in the file
- Last block has a end-of-file value as a table entry



i^{th} block corresponds to the i^{th} FAT entry

Performance Issues

- FAT
  - simple, easy to implement
  - faster to traverse than linked allocation
  - random access requires following links
  - files can't have holes in them
- Hybrid indirect
  - fast access to any part of the file
  - files can have holes in them
  - more complex

Free Space Management

- How do we find a disk block to allocate?
- Bit Vectors
  - array of bits (one per block) that indicates if a block is free
  - compact so can keep in memory
    - 100 GB disk, 4K blocks -> 6MB per disk (0.003%)
  - easy to find long runs of free blocks
- Linked lists
  - each disk block contains the pointer to the next free block
  - pointer to first free block is keep in a special location on disk
- Run length encoding (called counting in book)
  - pointer to first free block is keep in a special location on disk
  - each free block also includes a count of the number of consecutive blocks that are free

Implementing Directories

- Linear List
  - array of names for files
  - must search entire list to find or allocate a filename
  - sorting can improve search performance, but adds complexity
- Hash table
  - use hash function to find filenames in directory
  - needs a good hash function
  - need to resolve collisions
  - must keep table small and expand on demand since many directories are mostly empty

DOS Directories

- Root directory
  - immediately follows the FAT
- Directory is a table of 32 byte entries
  - 8 byte file name, 3 byte filename extension
  - size of file, data and time stamp, starting cluster number of the file, file attribute codes
  - Fixed size and capacity
- Subdirectory
  - This is just a file
  - Record of where the subdirectory is located is stored in the FAT