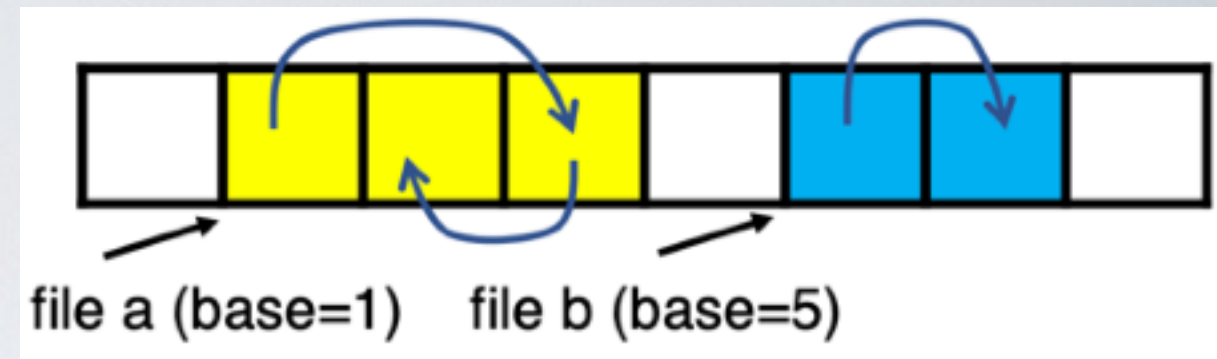


## Straw Man #2 : Linked Files



Basically a linked list on disk

- Keep a linked list of all free blocks
  - Inode contents : a pointer to file's first block
  - In each block, keep a pointer to the next one
- ✓ Easy dynamic growth & sequential access, no fragmentation
- Linked lists on disk a bad idea because of access times  
Random very slow (e.g., traverse whole file to find last block)  
Pointers take up room in block, skewing alignment

# DOS FAT (simplified)

- ➔ Linked files with key optimization: puts links in fixed-size "file allocation table" (FAT) rather than in the blocks
- Still do pointer chasing

