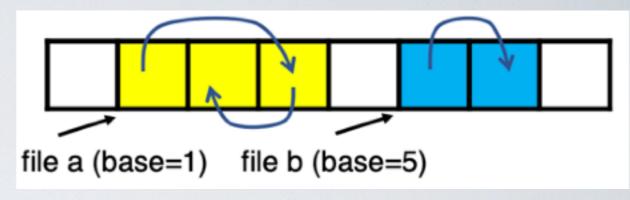
Straw Man #2: Linked Files



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

