Ullman et al. :
Database System Principles

Disk Organization

Topics for today

- How to lay out data on disk
- How to move it to memory

What are the data items we want to store?

- a salary
- a name
- a date
- a picture

⇨ What we have available: Bytes

To represent:

- Integer (short): 2 bytes

  e.g., 35 is

00000000	00100011

- Real, floating point

  n bits for mantissa, *m* for exponent....

To represent:

- Characters

  → various coding schemes suggested,
  most popular is ascii

  Example:
  A: 1000001
  a: 1100001
  5: 0110101
  LF: 0001010

To represent:

- Boolean

  e.g., TRUE 1111 1111

  FALSE 0000 0000

- Application specific

  e.g., RED → 1 GREEN → 3

  BLUE → 2 YELLOW → 4 …

⇨ Can we use less than 1 byte/code?

Yes, but only if desperate…

To represent:

- Dates

  e.g.: - Integer, # days since Jan 1, 1900

  - 8 characters, YYYYMMDD

  - 7 characters, YYYYDDD

  (not YYMMDD! Why?)

- Time

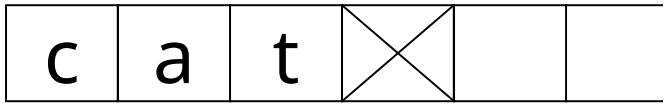
  e.g. - Integer, seconds since midnight

  - characters, HHMMSSFF

To represent:

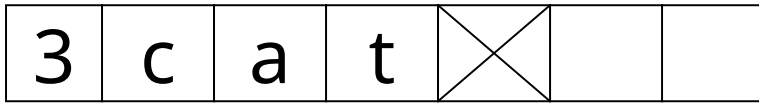
- String of characters
  - Null terminated

    e.g.,



  - Length given

    e.g.,



  - Fixed length

To represent:

- Bag of bits

Length	Bits

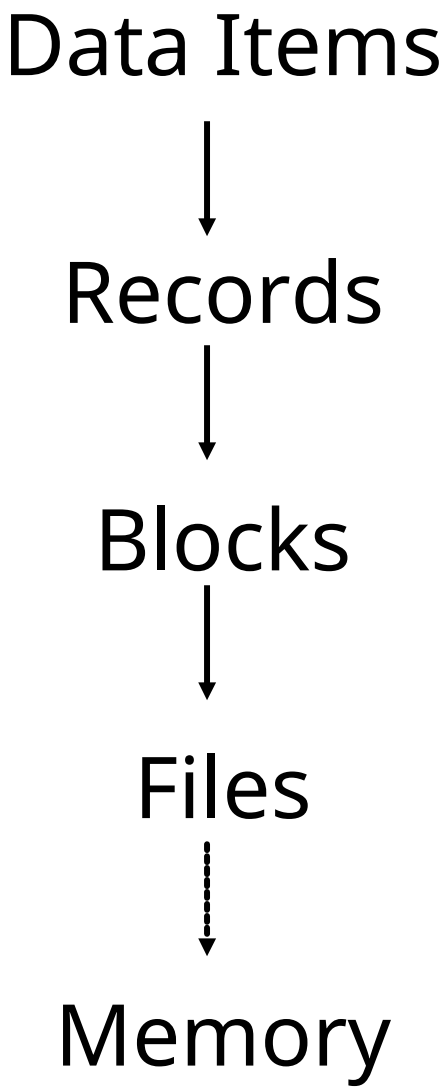
Key Point

- Fixed length items
- Variable length items
  - usually length given at beginning

Also

- Type of an item: Tells us how to interpret (plus size if fixed)

Overview



Record - Collection of related data items (called FIELDS)

E.g.: Employee record:

name field,

salary field,

date-of-hire field, ...

Types of records:

- Main choices:
  - FIXED vs VARIABLE FORMAT
  - FIXED vs VARIABLE LENGTH

Fixed format

A SCHEMA (not record) contains following information

- # fields
- type of each field
- order in record
- meaning of each field

Example: fixed format and length

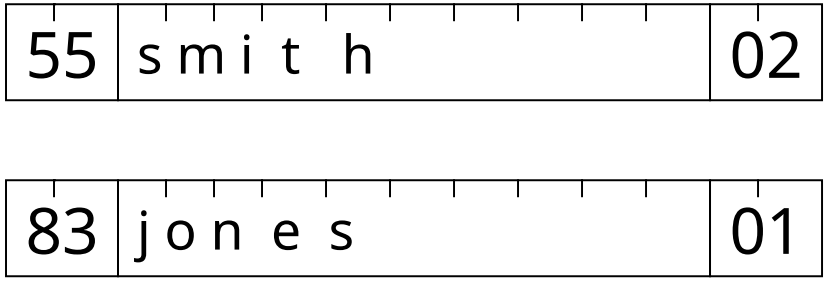
Employee record

(1) E#, 2 byte integer

(2) E.name, 10 char.

(3) Dept, 2 byte code

Schema

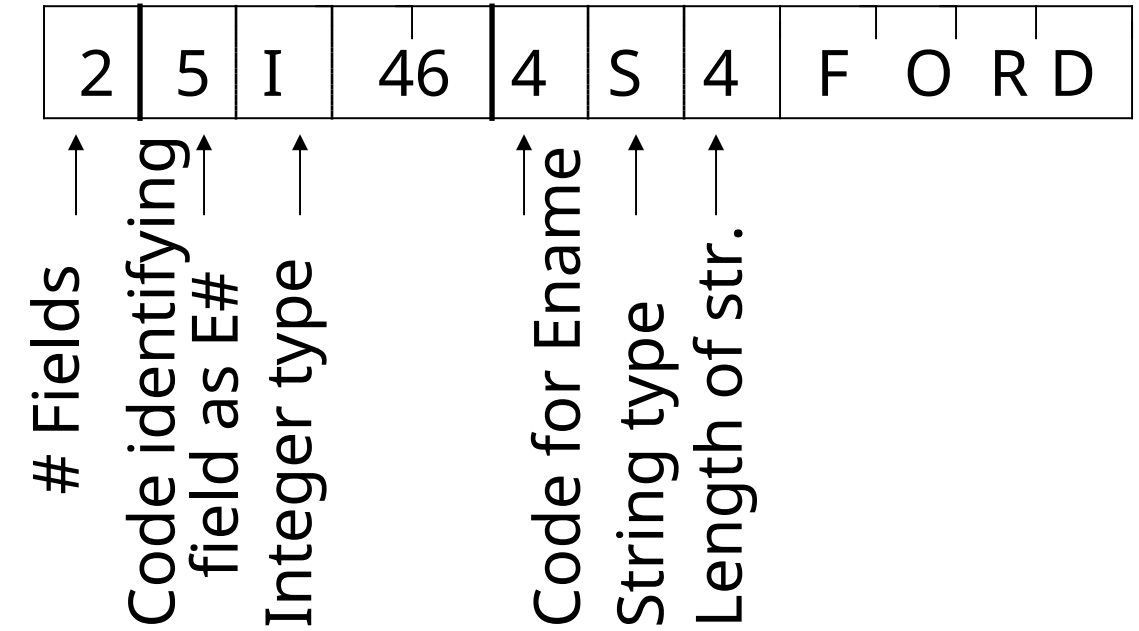


Records

Variable format

- Record itself contains format
  “Self Describing”

Example: variable format and length



Field name codes could also be strings, i.e. TAGS

Variable format useful for:

- “sparse” records
- repeating fields
- evolving formats

⟶ But may waste space…

- EXAMPLE: var format record with repeating fields

  Employee → one or more → children

3	E_name: Fred	Child: Sally	Child: Tom

Note: Repeating fields does not imply

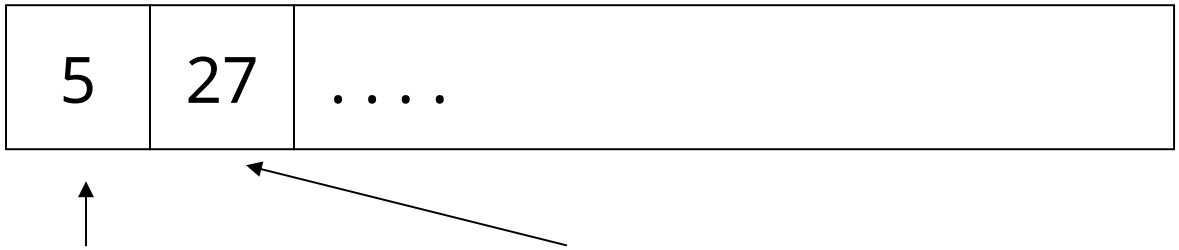
- variable format, nor
- variable size

John	Sailing	Chess	--

- Key is to allocate maximum number of repeating fields (if not used $\rightarrow$ null)

☆ Many variants between fixed - variable format:

Example: Include record type in record



tells me what

to expect

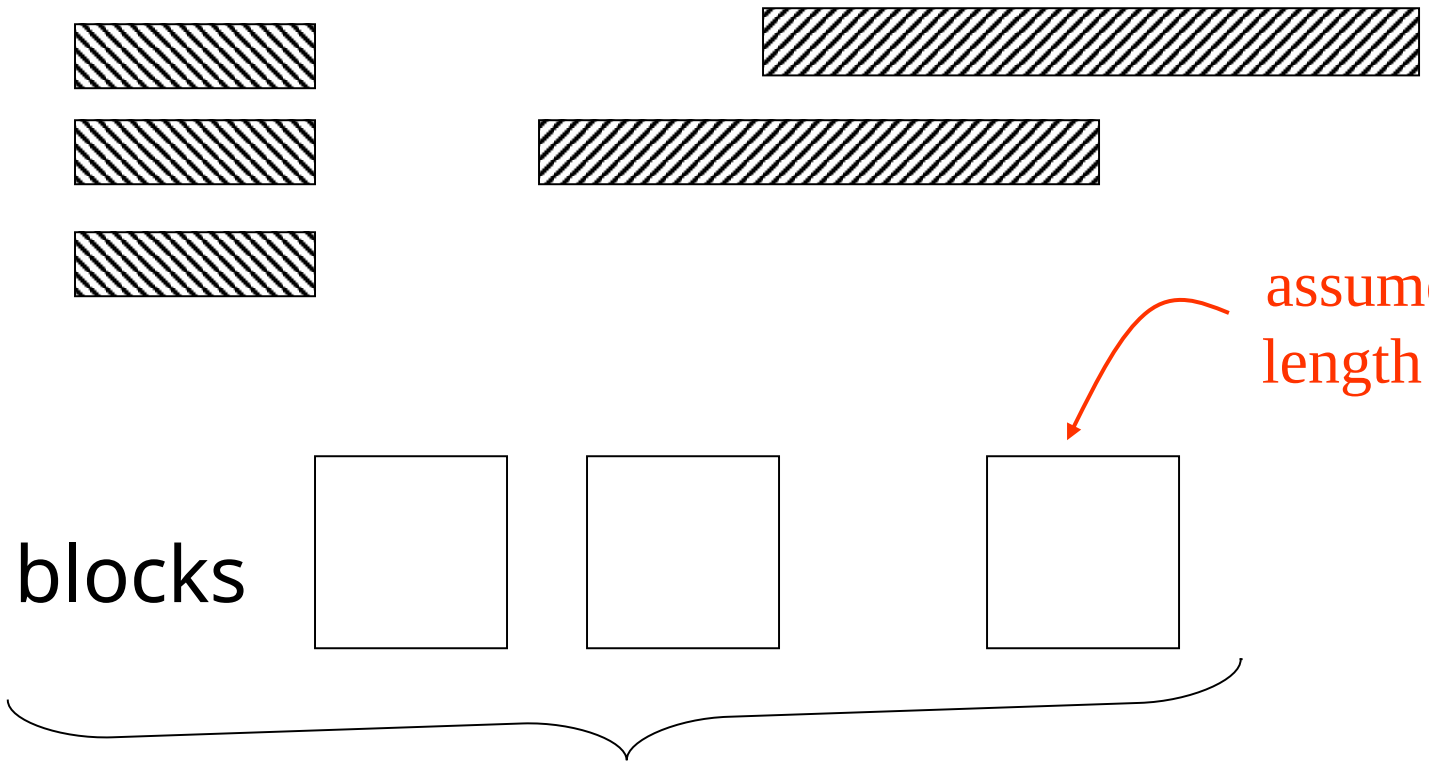
(i.e. points to schema)

Record header - data at beginning that describes record

May contain:

- record type
- record length
- time stamp
- other stuff …

Next: placing records into blocks



Options for storing records in blocks:

(1) separating records

(2) spanned vs. unspanned

(3) sequencing

(4) indirection

(1) Separating records

Block

(a) no need to separate - fixed size recs.

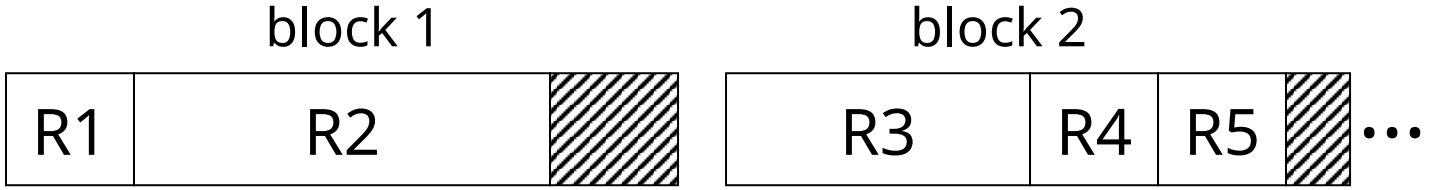
(b) special marker

(c) give record lengths (or offsets)

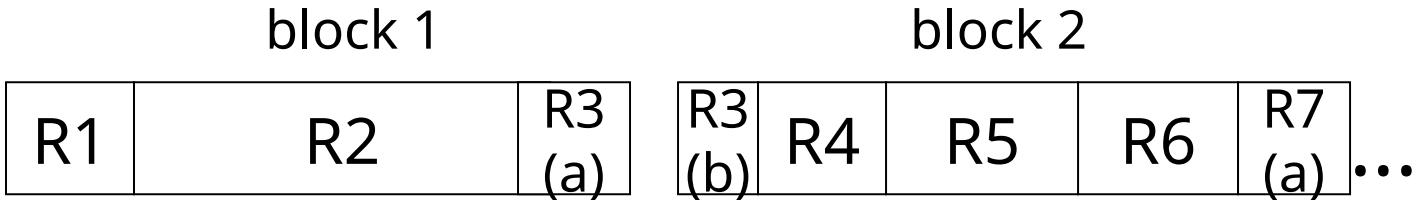
- within each record
- in block header

(2) Spanned vs. Unspanned

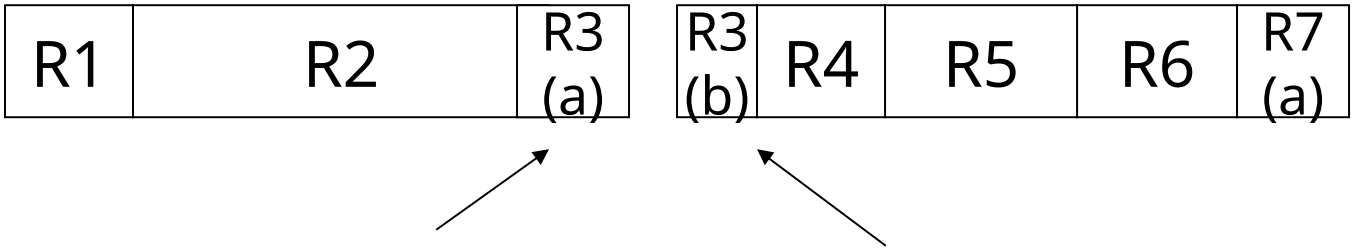
- Unspanned: records must be within one block



- Spanned



With spanned records:



need indication
of partial record
“pointer” to rest

need indication
of continuation
(+ from where?)

Spanned vs. unspanned:

- Unspanned is much simpler, but may waste space…
- Spanned essential if

  record size > block size

(3) Sequencing

- Ordering records in file (and block) by some key value

  Sequential file (⇒ sequenced)

Why sequencing?

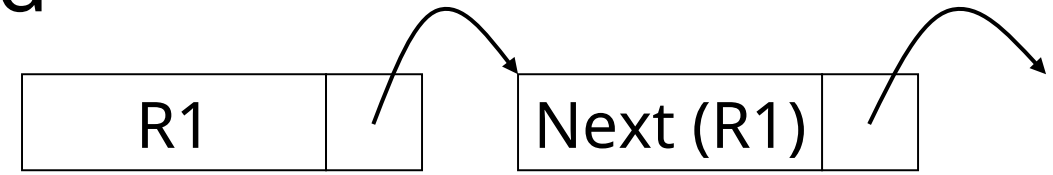
Typically to make it possible to efficiently read records in order

(e.g., to do a merge-join — discussed later)

Sequencing Options

(a) Next record physically contiguous

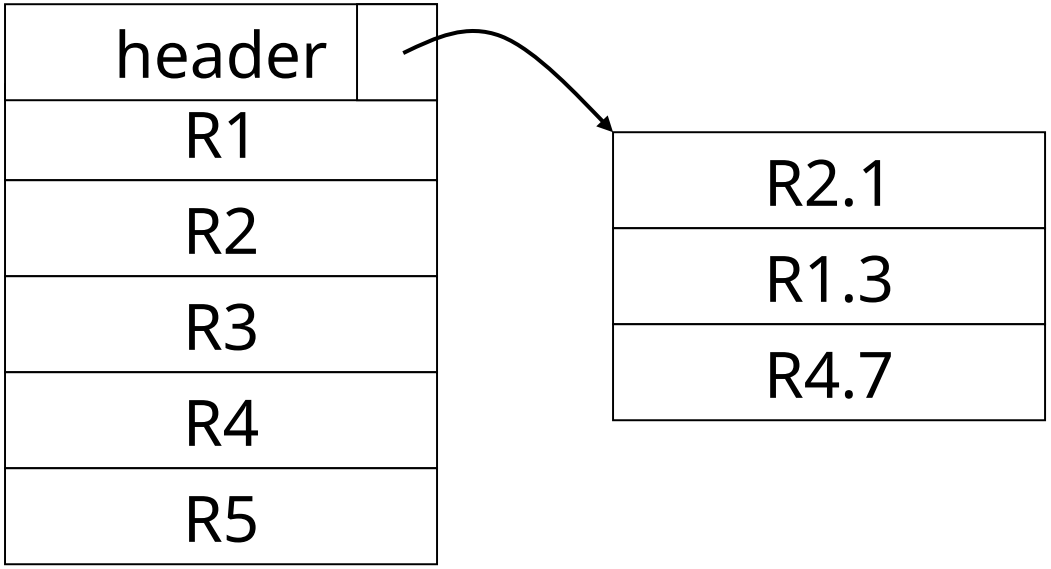
(b) Linked



Sequencing Options

(c) Overflow area

Records in sequence



(4) Indirection

- How does one refer to records?

(4) Indirection

- How does one refer to records?

Many options:

Physical ⟷ Indirect

☆ Purely Physical

E.g., Record Address or ID =

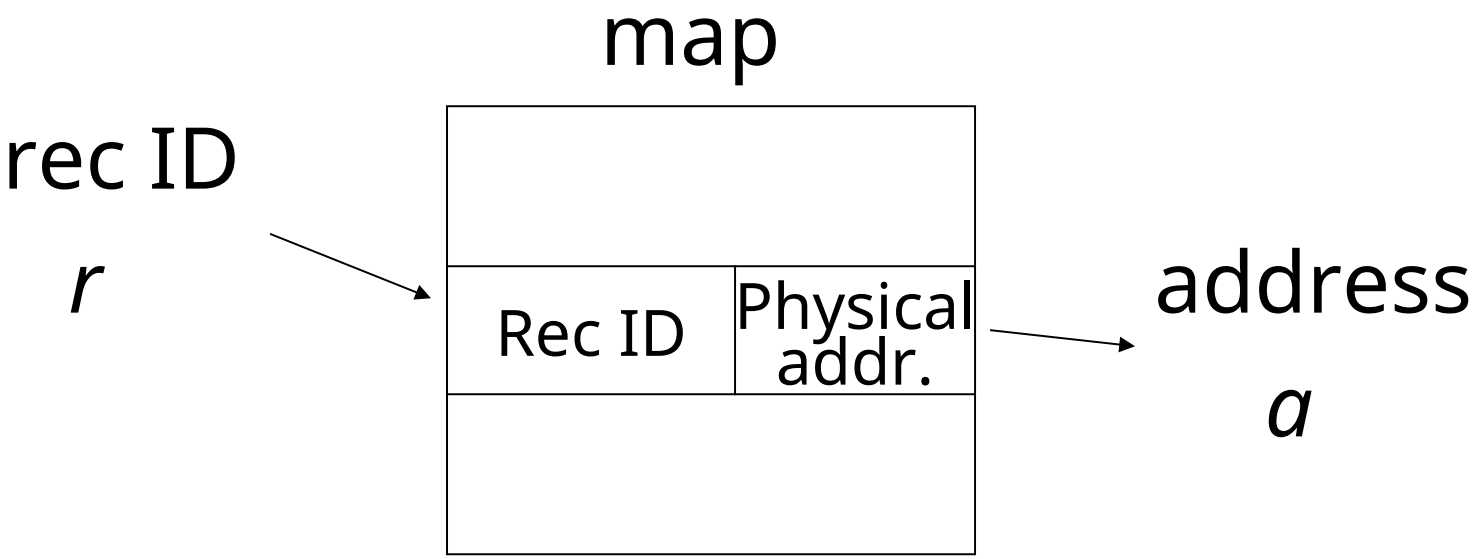
- Device ID
- Cylinder #
- Track #
- Block #

(Device ID, Cylinder #, Track # and Block # together: Block ID)

- Offset in block

☆ Fully Indirect

E.g., Record ID is arbitrary bit string

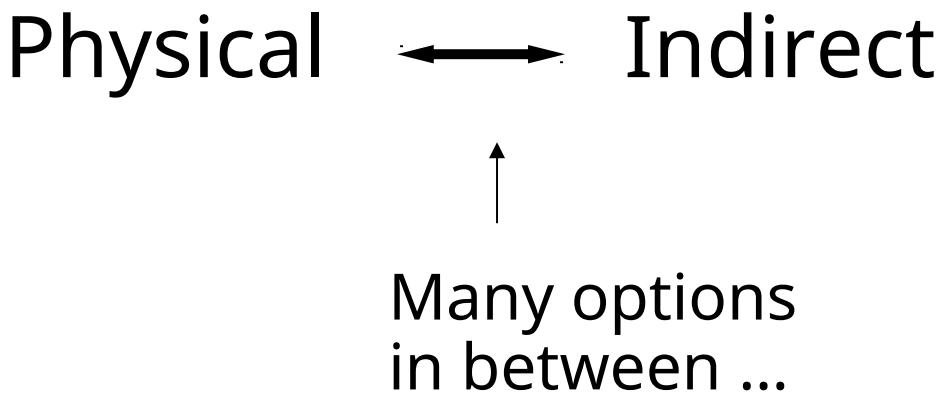


Tradeoff

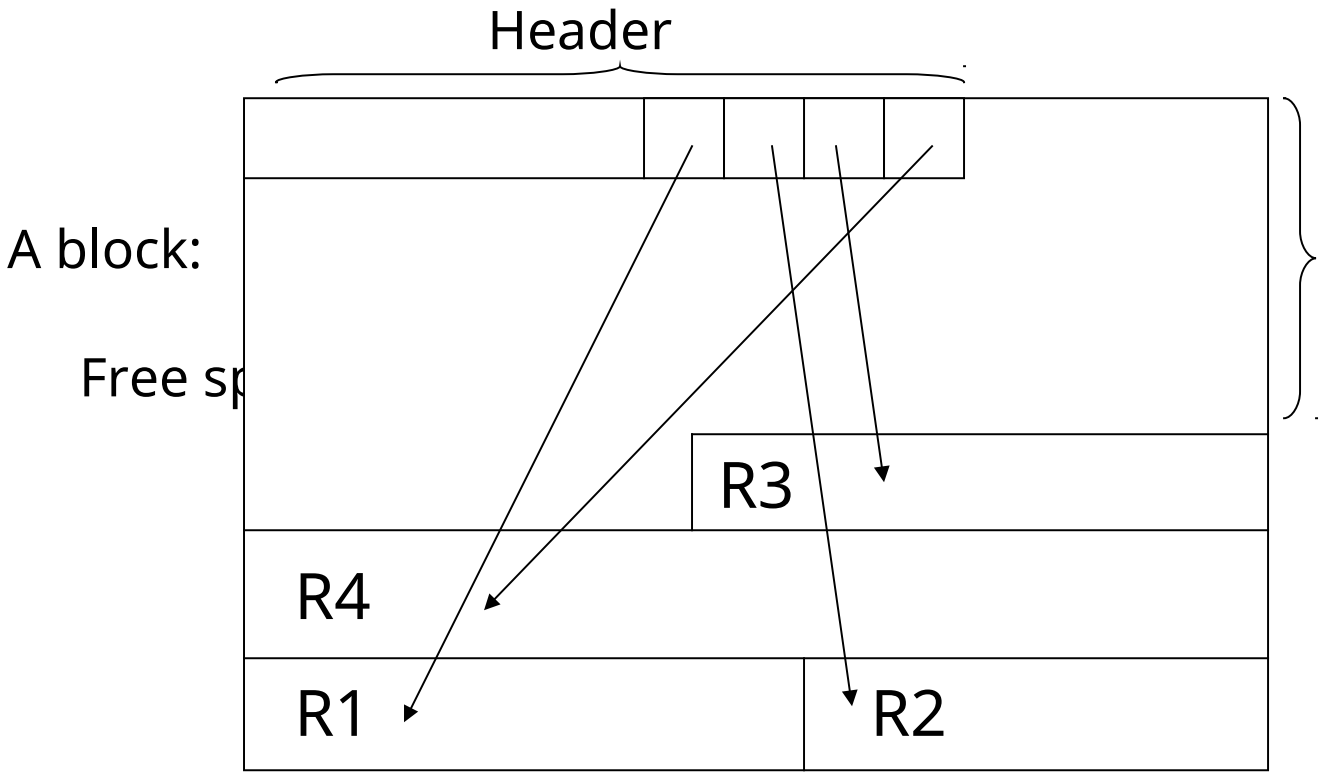
Flexibility ⟷ Cost

to move records of indirection

(for deletions, insertions)


Physical
Indirect
Many options
in between …

Example: Indirection in block



Block header - data at beginning that describes block

May contain:

- File ID (or RELATION or DB ID)
- This block ID
- Record directory
- Pointer to free space
- Type of block (e.g. contains recs type 4; is overflow, ...)
- Pointer to other blocks “like it”
- Timestamp ...

Other Topics

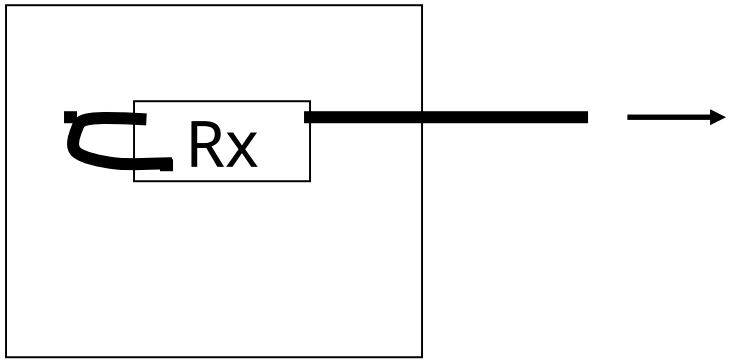
(1) Insertion/Deletion

(2) Buffer Management

(3) Comparison of Schemes

Deletion

Block



Options:

(a) Immediately reclaim space

(b) Mark deleted

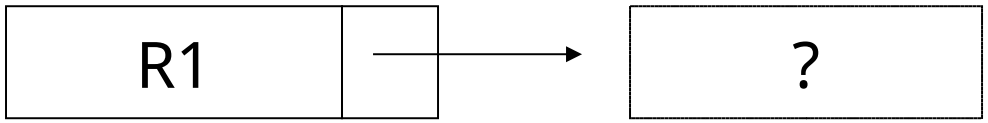
- May need chain of deleted records (for re-use)
- Need a way to mark:
  - special characters
  - delete field
  - in map

☆ As usual, many tradeoffs…

- How expensive is to move valid record to free space for immediate reclaim?
- How much space is wasted?
  - e.g., deleted records, delete fields, free space chains,…

Concern with deletions

Dangling pointers

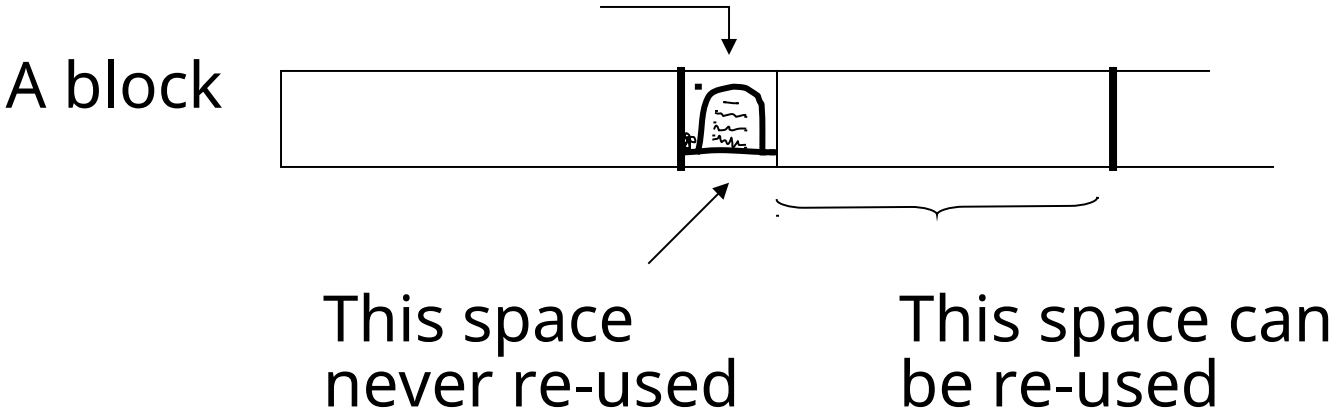


Solution #1: Do not worry

Solution #2: Tombstones

E.g., Leave “MARK” in map or old location

- Physical IDs



Solution #2: Tombstones

E.g., Leave “MARK” in map or old location

- Logical IDs

map

ID	LOC
7788	

Never reuse ID 7788 nor space in map…

Insert

Easy case: records not in sequence

→ Insert new record at end of file

or in deleted slot

→ If records are variable size, not as easy...

Insert

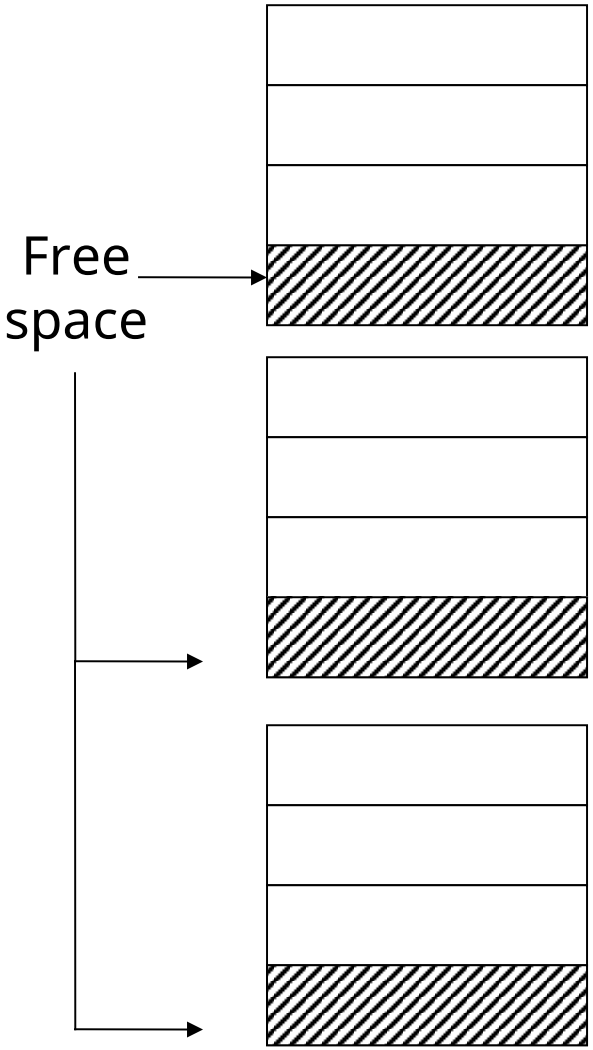
Hard case: records in sequence

→ If free space “close by”, not too bad…

→ Or use overflow idea…

Interesting problems:

- How much free space to leave in each block, track, cylinder?
- How often do I reorganize file + overflow?


Free
space

Buffer Management

- DB features needed
- Why LRU may be bad
- Pinned blocks
- Forced output
- Double buffering

Row vs Column Store

- So far we assumed that fields of a record are stored contiguously (row store)…
- Another option is to store like fields together (column store)

Row Store

- Example: Order consists of
  - id, cust, prod, store, price, date, qty

id1	cust1	prod1	store1	price1	date1	qty1
id2	cust2	prod2	store2	price2	date2	qty2
id3	cust3	prod3	store3	price3	date3	qty3

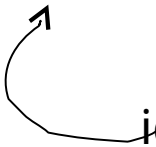
Column Store

- Example: Order consists of
  - id, cust, prod, store, price, date, qty

id1	cust1
id2	cust2
id3	cust3
id4	cust4
...	...

id1	prod1
id2	prod2
id3	prod3
id4	prod4
...	...

id1	price1	qty1
id2	price2	qty2
id3	price3	qty3
id4	price4	qty4
...	...	...



ids may or may not be stored explicitly

Row vs Column Store

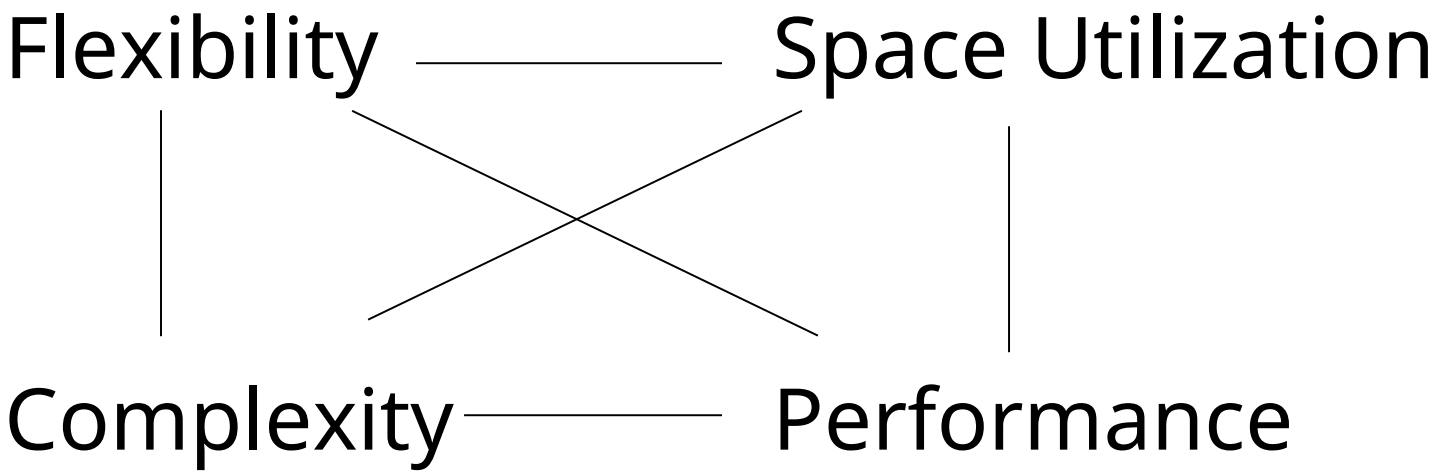
- Advantages of Column Store
  - more compact storage (fields need not start at byte boundaries)
  - efficient reads on data mining operations
- Advantages of Row Store
  - writes (multiple fields of one record)more efficient
  - efficient reads for record access (OLTP)

Comparison

- There are 10,000,000 ways to organize my data on disk…

Which is right for me?

Issues:



- To evaluate a given strategy, compute following parameters:

  -> space used for expected data

  -> expected time to

  - fetch record given key
  - fetch record with next key
  - insert record
  - append record
  - delete record
  - update record
  - read all file
  - reorganize file

Summary

- How to lay out data on disk

Data Items

Records

Blocks

Files

Memory

DBMS

How to find a record quickly, given a key