Operating Systems

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43. Log-structured File Systems

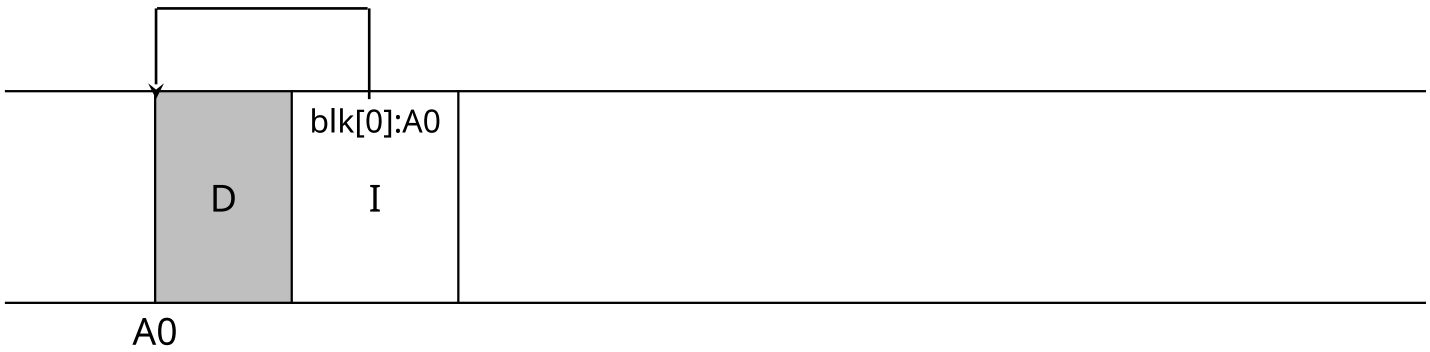
Overview

- In the early 90`s, a new file system known as the log-structured file system(LFS) was developed.
- The Motivation …
  - Memory sizes were growing.
  - Large gap between random IO and sequential IO performance.
  - Existing File System perform poorly on common workloads.
  - File System were not RAID-aware. There exists small write problem.
- In this chapter, we study Log-Structured Filesystem(LFS).
  - How can a file system **transform all writes into sequential writes**?

Writing to Disk Sequentially

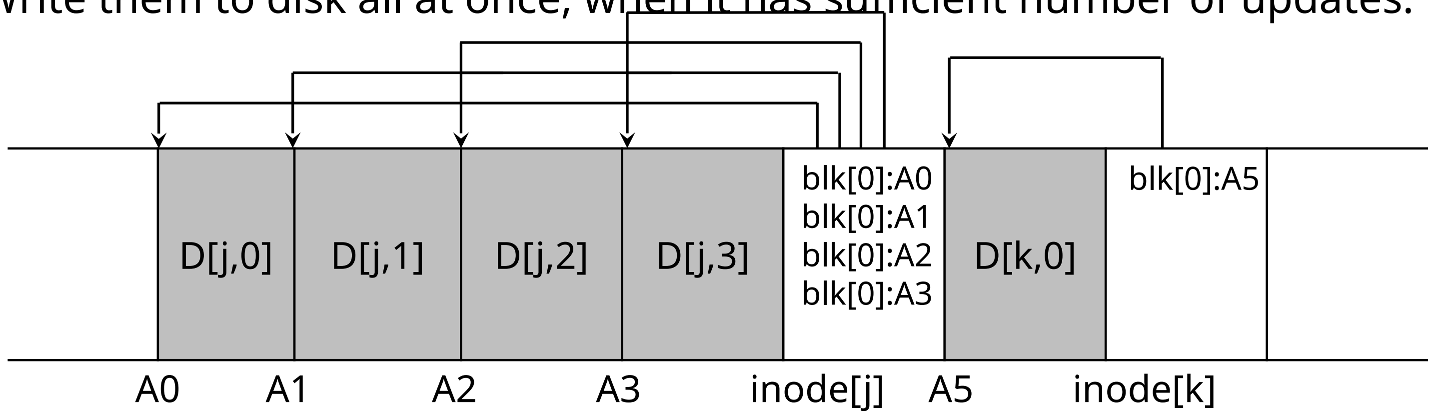
- How do we transform all updates to file-system state into a series of sequntial writes to disk?
  - data update

  - metadata needs to be updated too. (Ex. inode)



Segment

- Writing to the disk sequentially is not enough to guarantee the efficient writes.
  - Disk may rotate between the writes. → loose a single revolution between the writes.
- Write buffering.
  - Segment: a set of sequential writes that are written to the disk with a single unit.
  - Keep track of updates in **memory buffer**. (a few Mbyte)
  - Write them to disk all at once, when it has sufficient number of updates.



Right segment size

- Time to write D Mbyte

$$T_{write} = T_{position} + \frac{D}{R_{peak}}$$

- Effective write bandwidth

$$R_{effecitve} = \frac{D}{T_{write}} = \frac{D}{T_{position+} \frac{D}{R_{peak}}} \quad (43.2)$$

- We like to make the effective write bandwidth close to peak bandwidth with some fraction F (0<F<1)

$$R_{effecitve} = \frac{D}{T_{position+} \frac{D}{R_{peak}}} = \text{F x } R_{peak}$$

Right segment size

- Then, D can be computed as follows.

$$D = \mathrm{F} \text{ x } R_{peak} \text{ x } (T_{position} + \frac{D}{R_{peak}})$$

$$D = \left(\mathrm{F} \text{ x } R_{peak} \text{ x } T_{position}\right) + \left(F \text{ x } R_{peak} \text{ x } \frac{D}{R_{peak}}\right)$$

$$D = \frac{F}{1-F} \text{ x } R_{peak} \text{ x } T_{position}$$

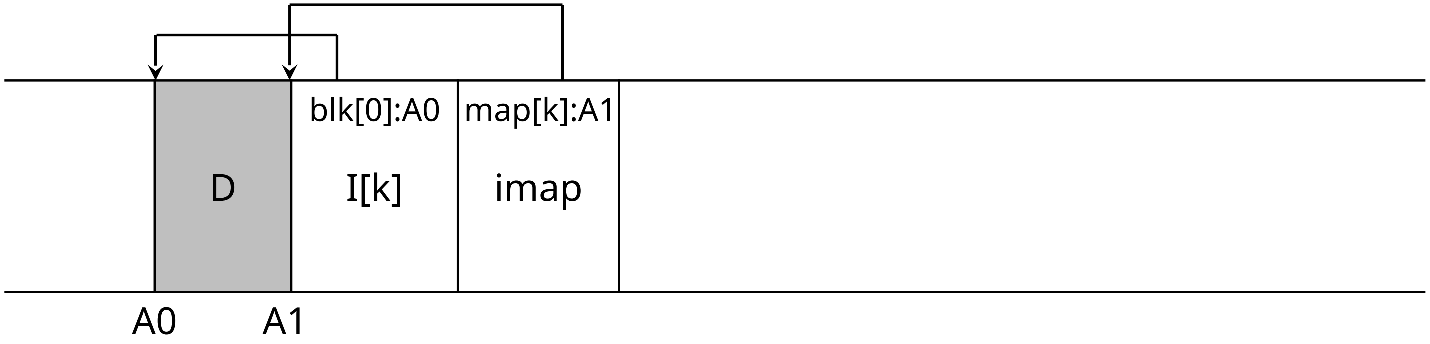
- Example: Positioning time 10 msec, peak transfer rate 100MByte/sec, we like to achieve 90% of the peak rate

D = 0.9*0.1*100 Mbyte/sec * 0.01 secs = 9 Mbyte

  - What is D if F = 0.95?

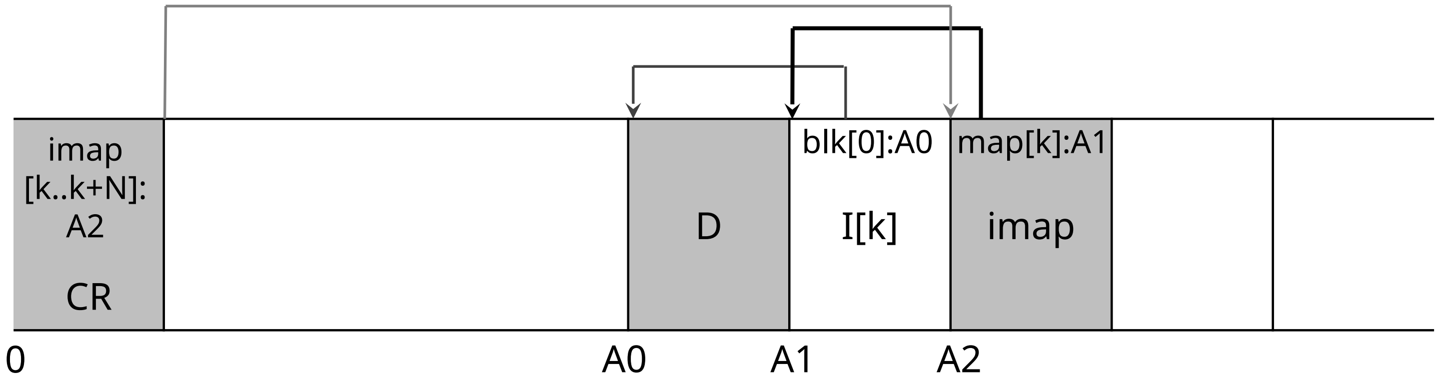
Finding Inode

- The position of the inodes keep changing.
- The Inode Map
  - A data structure that contains the location of the most recent inode for a given inode number.
  - Places the chunk of updated inode map next to the updated inode.
  - Where to find the inode map?



The Checkpoint Region

- How to find the inode map spread across the disk?
  - The LFS File system must have fixed location on disk to begin a file lookup.
- **Checkpoint Region**
  - fixed location in the LFS partition.
  - Contain the pointers to the latest of the inode map.



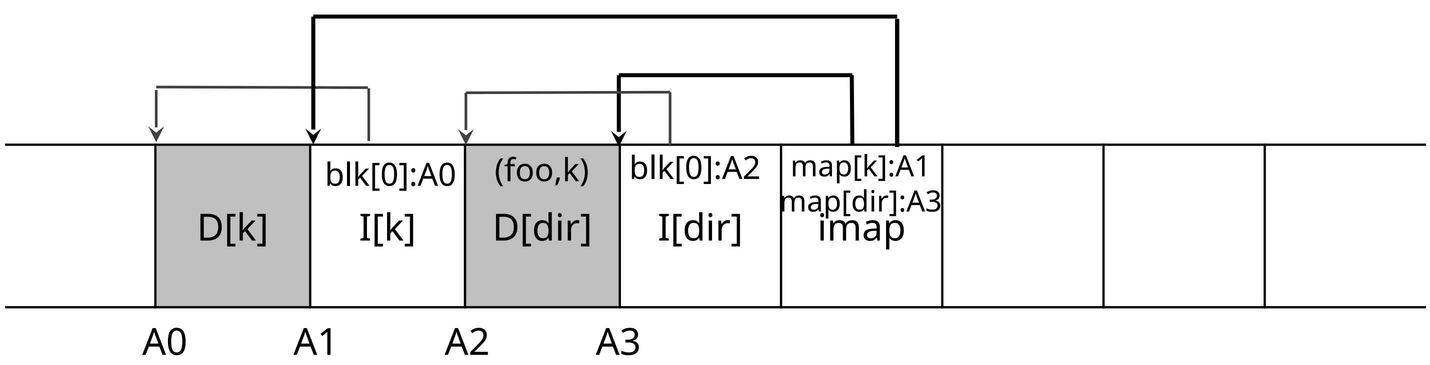
Reading a file from the disk

- Reading a file block
  - Read a checkpoint region
  - Read inode map
  - Read inode
  - Read data block
- What about sequential read?
  - It may become random read.

LFS is optimized for the write operation.

What About Directories?

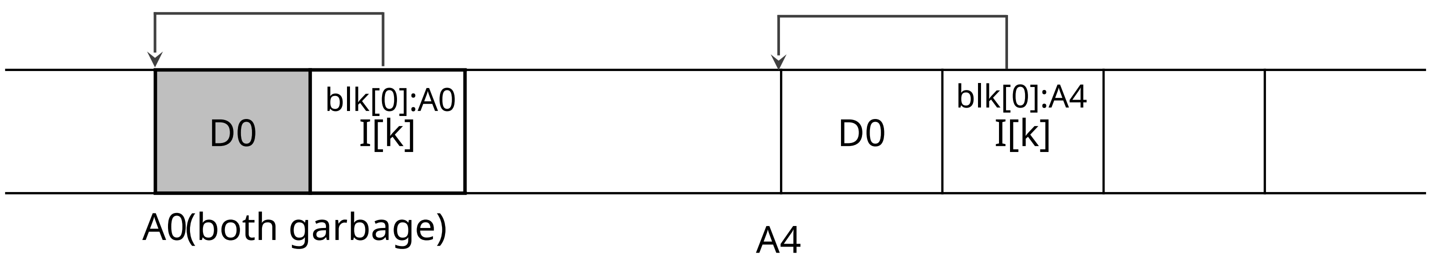
- Directory: a set of <inode, filename>
- How does LFS store directory data?
- Creating a file: `foo`
  - Update the directory inode. (inode #: dir)
  - Update the directory entry. (`foo`, k)
  - Update inode for the created file. (inode #: k)
  - Update the data block for the created file.



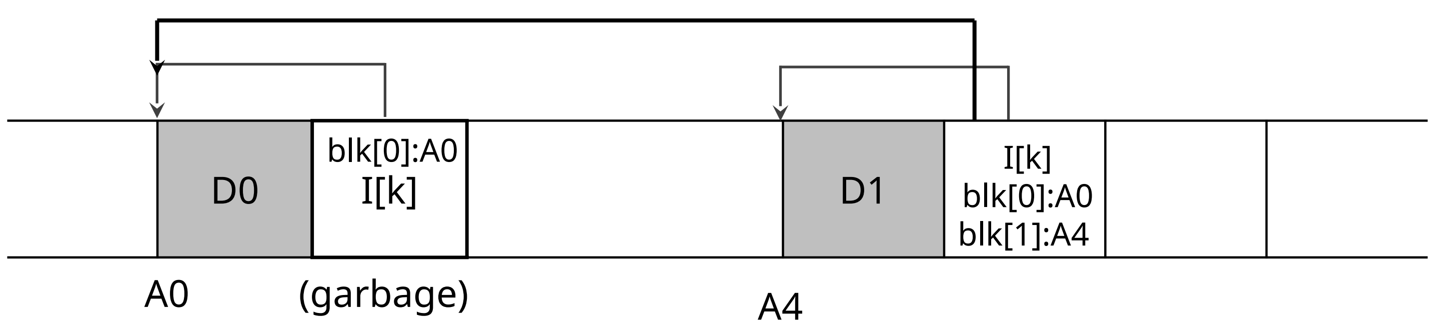
- Recursive update (cascade update issue): the location of the inode keeps changing. → the associated directory entry can be updated as well. → solved by inode map.

Garbage

- LFS keeps writing newer version of file.
- Garbage: LFS leaves the older versions of file structures all over the disk.
- An example of garbage
  - Overwrite the data block:



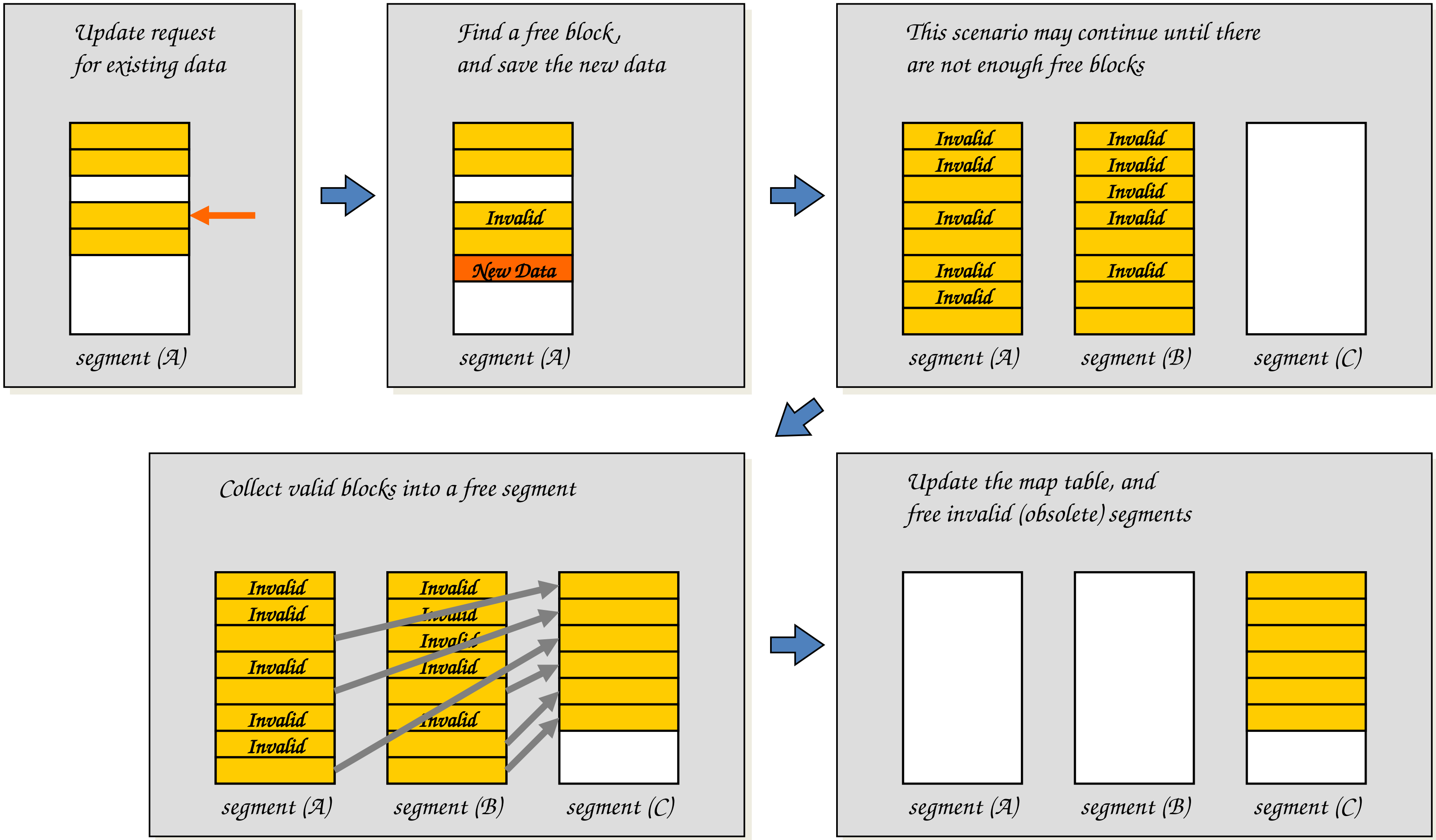
  - Append a block to that original file k:



Garbage Collection (segment cleaning)

- What to do with the older versions of the block
  - Versioning filesystem: keep the old blocks and allow the users to restore to the older version of the filesystem status.
  - LFS: periodically clean the older versions of the file data, inodes and other structures.
- Unit of garbage collection: Segment
  - Reads a number of old segments, M segments.
  - Identify the valid blocks.
  - Write them to a number of new segments (in memory), N segments.
  - Write N segments to the disk.
  - Then, $N < M$.

Garbage collection



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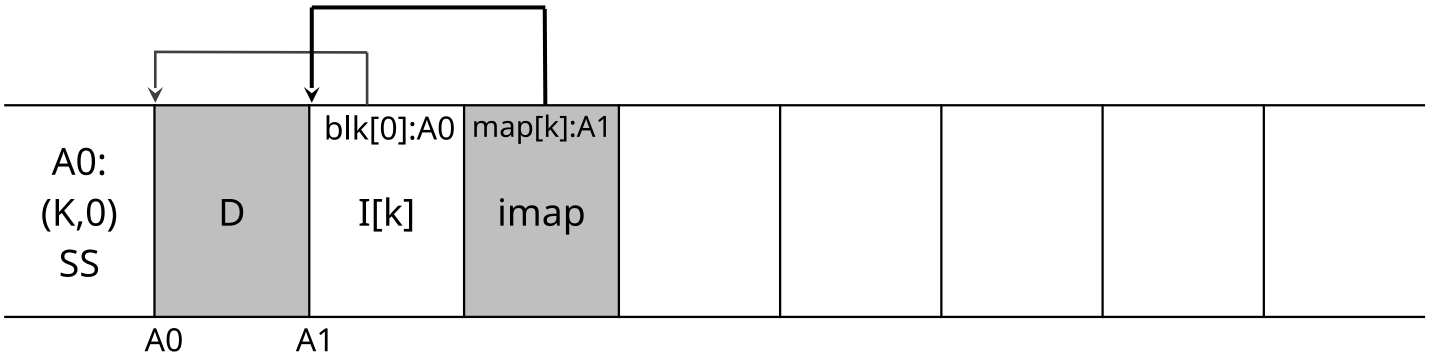
Segment Summary Block

- Store the inode and the file offset for each data block in it.
- In garbage collection, we need to identify the obsolete blocks.
- Compare the block address of file K offset 0 based upon the Segment Summary and based upon the in-memory imap. If they coincide, the block is alive. → expensive



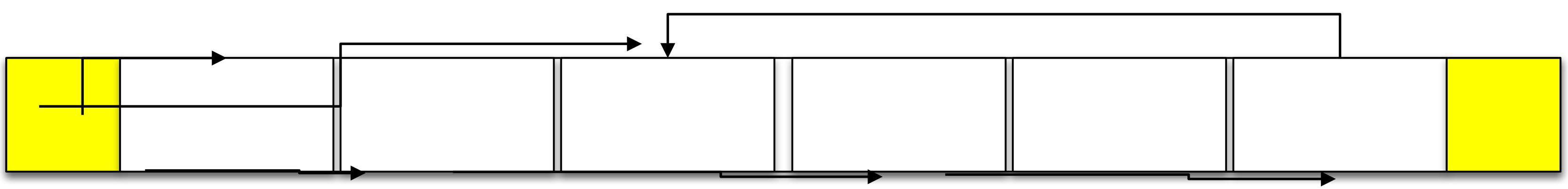
Issues in garbage collection

- When to clean
  - Periodically
  - When a system is idle
  - When the disk is full
- Which block to consolidate?
  - Hot segment: the blocks are updated periodically
  - Cold segment: the blocks are not updated.
  - Hot segment: clean later.
  - Cold segment: clean sooner.

Crash recovery

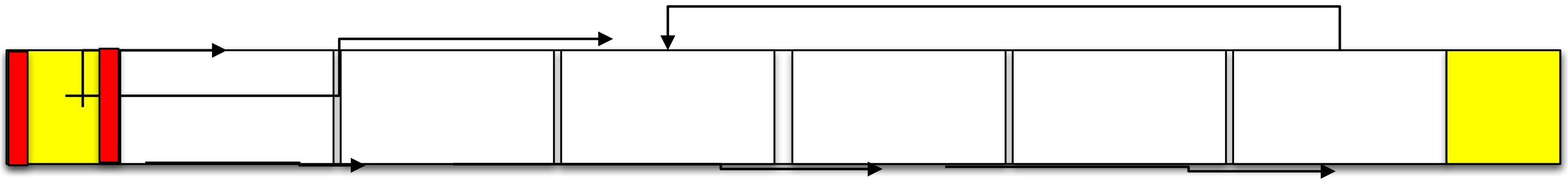
- What if the crash happens when the LFS is in the middle of writing the segment to the disk?
- LFS maintains a set of segments as a linked list in memory

- LFS organizes the filesystem partition as a log (a linked list of the segments).
  - Two checkpoint regions: one at the beginning and the one at the end.



Crash recovery

- Consistent Update on CR
  - Write timestamp at the beginning of CR.
  - Write CR body.
  - Write time stamp at the end of the CR.
  - When crash occurs, chooses the most recent CR with valid consistent time stamps.



- Crash recovery
  - Read the CR and rebuild imap.
  - Perform roll-forward.
    - Start from the first segment in CR.
    - Scan the valid segment following the “next segment” pointer and update the imap.

Summary

- Introduce a new approach to updating the disk.
  - **Shadow paging** in database system, **Copy-on-Write** in file system.
- Gather all updates into an in-memory segment.
  - Write them out together sequentially.
- LFS-style is excellent for performance on many different devices.
  - Hard drives, parity-based RAIDs, even Flash-based SSDs.
- Some modern commercial filesystems adopt a similar copy-on-write approach even though it generates garbage.
  - NetApp`s **WAFL,** Sun`s **ZFS** and Linux **btrfs**
  - In particular, WAFL turns cleaning problem into a feature, by providing old version of the file system via **snapshot.**