SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Coimbatore-35.
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COURSE NAME : OPERATING SYSTEMS

II YEAR/ IV SEMESTER

UNIT – IV FILE SYSTEMS
Topic: Free Space Management

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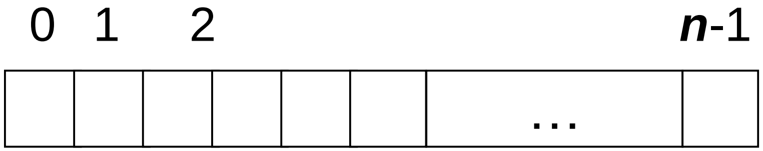
Free-Space Management

- File system maintains **free-space list** to track available blocks/clusters
  - (Using term "block" for simplicity)
- **Bit vector** or **bit map** (***n*** blocks)
- **Block number calculation**

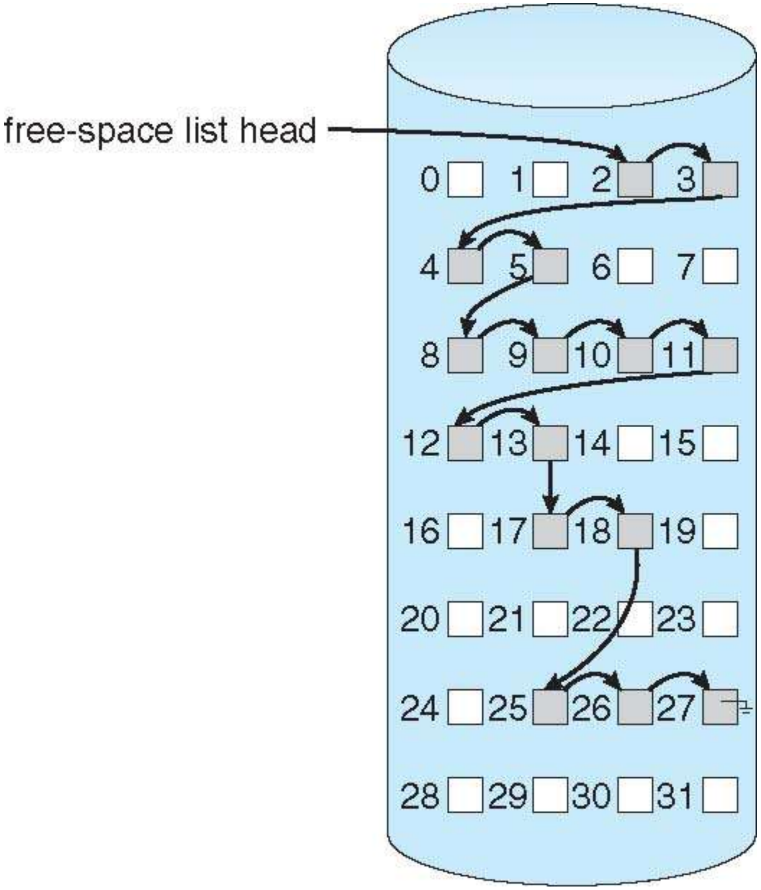


(number of bits per word) *
(number of 0-value words) +
offset of first 1 bit

$$\text{bit}[\boldsymbol{i}] = \begin{cases} 1 \Rightarrow \text{block}[\boldsymbol{i}] \text{ free} \\ 0 \Rightarrow \text{block}[\boldsymbol{i}] \text{ occupied} \end{cases}$$

Linked Free Space List on Disk

- **Linked list (free list)**
  - Cannot get contiguous space easily
  - No waste of space
  - No need to traverse the entire list (if # free blocks recorded)



Free-Space Management (Cont.)

- **Grouping**
  - Modify linked list to store address of next *n-1* free blocks in first free block, plus a pointer to next block that contains free-block-pointers (like this one)
- **Counting**
  - Because space is frequently contiguously used and freed, with contiguous-allocation allocation, extents, or clustering
    - Keep address of first free block and count of following free blocks
    - Free space list then has entries containing addresses and counts

Efficiency and Performance

- **Efficiency dependent on**:
  - Disk allocation and directory algorithms
  - Types of data kept in file’s directory entry
  - Pre-allocation or as-needed allocation of metadata structures
  - Fixed-size or varying-size data structures

Efficiency and Performance (Cont.)

- **Performance**
  - Keeping data and metadata close together
  - **Buffer cache** – separate section of main memory for frequently used blocks
  - **Synchronous** writes sometimes requested by apps or needed by OS
    - No buffering / caching – writes must hit disk before acknowledgement
    - **Asynchronous** writes more common, buffer-able, faster
  - **Free-behind** and **read-ahead** – techniques to optimize sequential access
  - Reads frequently slower than writes