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WHAT & WHY DYNAMIC MEMORY ALLOCATION?



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• An statically allocated variable or array has a fixed size in memory.

- We have learnt to create big enough arrays to fit in our inputs but this doesn't seem like an optimal way to allocate memory.
- Memory is a very useful resource.
- Clearly we need a way to request memory on runtime.
- **Dynamic Memory Allocation** is a way in which the size of a data structure can be changed during the runtime.

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STATIC VS DYNAMIC MEMORY ALLOCATION

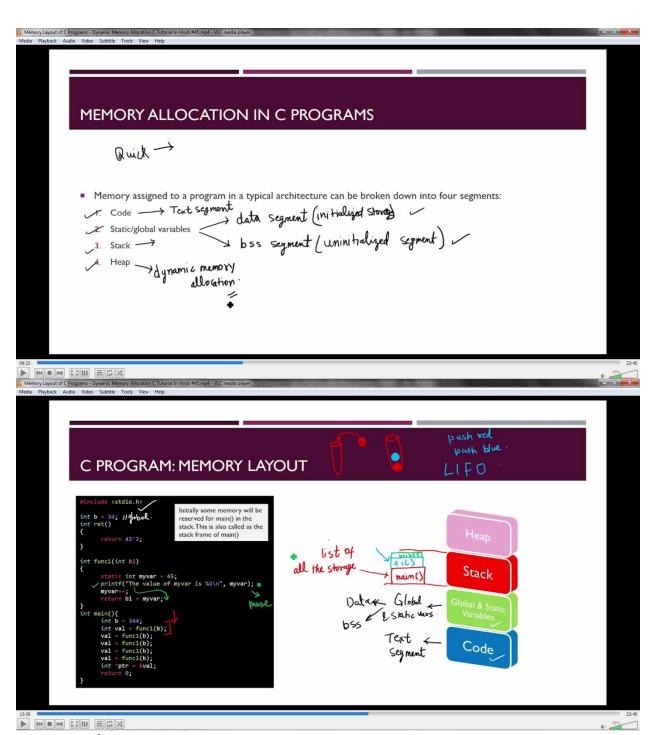
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Static Memory Allocation

- Allocation is done before the program's execution
- There is no memory reusability and the memory allocated cannot be freed.
- Less efficient

Dynamic Memory Allocation

- Allocation is done during the program's execution
- There is memory reusability and the allocated memory can be freed when not required
- More efficient



LIFO - Last in first out

