2.1.1.1 Size of the In-Memory Area

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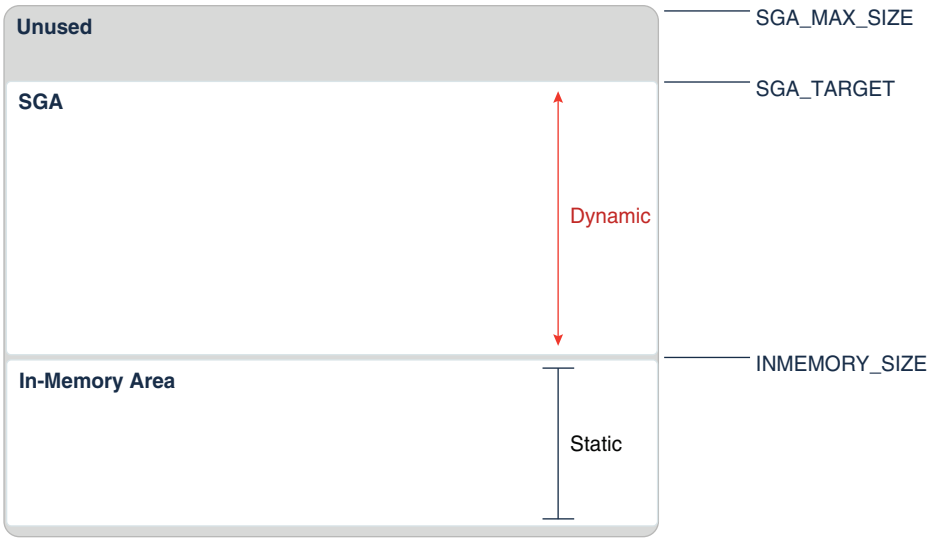
The In-Memory Area is controlled by the `INMEMORY_SIZE` initialization parameter. By default, the size of the In-Memory Area is 0, which means the IM column store is disabled.

To enable the IM column store, set the In-Memory Area to at least 100 MB. The size is shown in `V$SGA`.

The In-Memory Area and SGA_TARGET

The In-Memory Area is subtracted from the `SGA_TARGET` initialization parameter setting. For example, if you set `SGA_TARGET` to 10 GB, and if you set the `INMEMORY_SIZE` to 4 GB, then 40% of the `SGA_TARGET` setting is allocated to the In-Memory Area. The following graphic illustrates the relationship.

Figure 2-2 INMEMORY_SIZE and SGA_TARGET



Unlike the other components of the SGA, including the buffer cache and the shared pool, the In-Memory Area size is not controlled by automatic memory management. The database does not automatically shrink the In-Memory Area when the buffer cache or shared pool requires more memory, or increase the In-Memory Area when it runs out of space.

Dynamic Resizing of the In-Memory Area

Starting in Oracle Database 12c Release 2 (12.2), you can dynamically increase `INMEMORY_SIZE` by using the `ALTER SYSTEM` statement. The database allocates increased memory when the following conditions are met:

- Free memory is available in the SGA.
- The new size for `INMEMORY_SIZE` is at least 128 MB greater than the current setting.