WE ALL HAVE STRUGGLED WITH DYNAMIC MEMORY ALLOCATION IN C

DYNAMIC MEMORY ALLOCATION

A C PROGRAM RUNS USING SOME MEMORY FROM YOUR MACHINE - A SPECIFIC PORTION OF THIS MEMORY IS ALLOCATED TO YOUR PROGRAM

EACH LOCATION IN MEMORY HAS AN APPRESS

WE REFER TO THESE APPRESSES IMPLICITLY USING VARIABLES AND MORE EXPLICITLY WHEN WE USE POINTERS

SO FAR WE'VE POINTED TO VARIABLES WHICH HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO SOME MEMORY LOCATION BY THE COMPUTER

WHAT IF WE SET UP A POINTER AND THEN WANT TO ALLOCATE SOME MEMORY FOR IT?

WHAT IF WE SET UP AN ARRAY AND WANT TO SET UP SOME MEMORY FOR IT TO STORE N INTEGERS? HERE IS N IS SOME VALUE WHICH THE USER SPECIFIES AT RUNTIME

```
void *malloc(int num);
```

THIS A SPECIAL FUNCTION PROVIDED BY THE STDLIBH LIBRARY IN C TO ALLOW DEVELOPERS TO MANAGE MEMORY

IF YOU, AS A DEVELOPER ALLOCATE MEMORY, THEN IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FREE IT AS WELL!

```
void free(void *address);
```



RETURN VALUE

NUMBER OF BYTES

A VOID* POINTER INDICATES
THAT THE POINTER CAN BE TO
ANY DATA TYPE

THIS CAN BE CAST TO THE TYPE OF POINTER WE'RE ALLOCATING MEMORY FOR

THIS SPECIFIES HOW MUCH MEMORY, IN BYTES, WE WANT TO ALLOCATE

```
int* int_ptr = (int *)malloc(sizeof(int));
```

HERE WE ALLOCATE MEMORY FOR AN INTEGER POINTER, CAST THE RETURN VALUE TO AN INT*

SIZEOF CAN BE USED WITH PRIMITIVES, STRUCTS AND CONSTANTS TO FIGURE OUT HOW MUCH SPACE EACH OF THEM OCCUPY

SIZEOF RETURNS AN INTEGER VALUE AND CAN BE USED IN ARITHMETIC AND OTHER OPERATIONS

```
struct Point3D {
  int x;
  int y;
  int z;
}
```

```
sizeof(struct Point3D) RETURNS 4 + 4 + 4 = 12
```

WHAT YOU ALLOCATE YOU MUST FREE!

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THE ONUS OF CLEANING UP MEMORY LIES WITH THE PEVELOPER

ANY MEMORY ALLOCATED USING MALLOC HAS TO BE CLEANED UP BY USING FREE

void free(void *address);

IF YOU ONLY ALLOCATE AND DO NOT FREE MEMORY ANY LONG RUNNING PROGRAM WILL RUN OUT OF SPACE!

AS YOUR PROGRAM GETS MORE COMPLEX - FREEING MEMORY BECOMES PAINFUL AND COMPLICATED

WHAT YOU ALLOCATE YOU MUST FREE!

void free(void *address);

FREE RETURNS NOTHING, SIMPLY FREES UP THAT PORTION OF THE MEMORY FOR USE BY OTHER PORTIONS OF THE PROGRAM

IT TAKES IN AN VOID* WHICH MEANS YOU CAN PASS IN A POINTER TO ANY DATA TYPE

FREING MEMORY

```
int* int_ptr = (int *)malloc(sizeof(int));
int a = 34;

...
free(int_ptr);
free(a);
THIS FREES THE MEMORY SPACE
THAT INT_PTR USED
```

YOU CANNOT FREE THE INTEGER A, YOU HAVE NOT ALLOCATED MEMORY FOR IT.

THE CPU ALLOCATES MEMORY FOR A AND THE CPU WILL FREE IT

STACK MEMORY VS HEAP MEMORY

STACK MEMORY VS HEAP MEMORY

IN C THERE ARE 2 KINDS OF MEMORY AVAILABLE TO USE

STACK MEMORY

THE CPU MANAGES THE STACK MEMORY - THE CPU IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALLOCATING SPACE IN IT AND FREEING UP SPACE AS WELL

PEVELOPERS DO NOT ALLOCATE OR PE-ALLOCATE SPACE ON THE STACK

HEAP MEMORY

THIS PORTION OF MEMORY IS MANAGED BY THE DEVELOPER WRITING CODE IN C

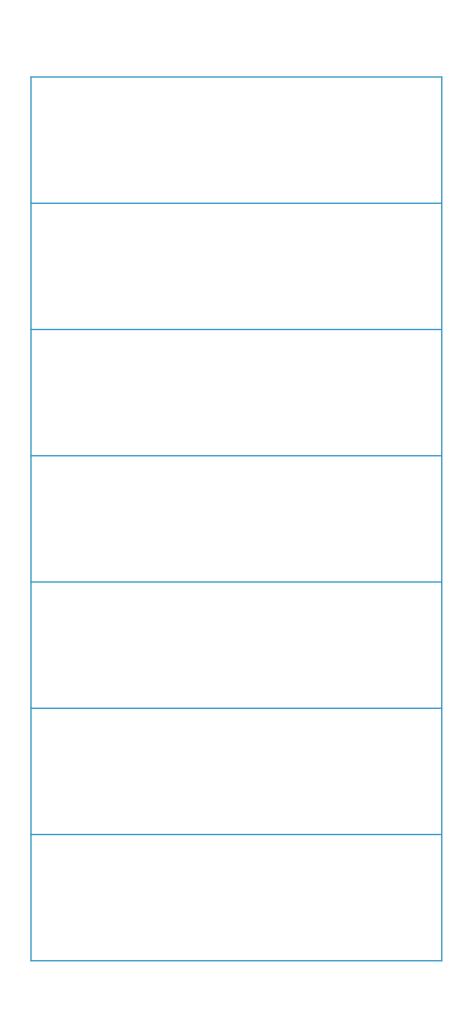
THE PEVELOPER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALLOCATING AND FREEING MEMORY ON THE HEAP

MEMORY ALLOCATED FOR VARIABLES WHICH WE JUST DECLARE AND USE IS ON THE STACK

```
int a;
char c;
float f;
struct point3D;
```

THE MEMORY FOR ALL VARIABLES DECLARED IN THIS FASHION ARE PUT ON THE STACK MANAGED BY THE CPU

IT'S CALLED A STACK BECAUSE IT BEHAVES LIKE A STACK!





main()

funci() SOMEWHERE IN MAIN WE CALL FUNC1

func2() FUNC1 CALLS FUNC2

func3() FUNC2 CALLS FUNC3

funcl() main()

func2() FUNC1 CALLS FUNC2

func3() FUNC2 CALLS FUNC3

func2() funcl() main()

func3() FUNC2 CALLS FUNC3

func3()

func2()

funcl()

main()

THE VARIABLES ASSOCIATED WITH EACH FUNCTION IS ADDED TO THE STACK MEMORY

FUNCTIONS CALLED LATER ARE ADDED TO THE TOP

AS WE RETURN FROM FUNCTIONS (UNWIND) THE VARIABLES ASSOCIATED WITH THE FUNCTION ARE REMOVED ENTIRELY

func3() func2() funcl() main()

SAY WE RETURN FROM FUNC3

VARIABLES PECLARED IN FUNC3 ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE FOR US TO USE!

THE STACK GROWS AND SHRINKS AS FUNCTIONS PUSH AND POP LOCAL VARIABLES - NEWER VARIABLES GO TO THE TOP OF THE STACK

VARIABLES IN THE STACK ARE MANAGED BY C AUTOMATICALLY

STACK VARIABLES ONLY EXIST SO LONG AS THE FUNCTION WHICH CREATED THEM IS BEING EXECUTED

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HEAP MEMORY

THE HEAP REGION OF YOUR COMPUTER'S MEMORY IS NOT MANAGED AUTOMATICALLY

MEMORY FOR POINTERS IS ALLOCATED IN THE HEAP REGION

THE DEVELOPER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING MEMORY USING FUNCTIONS LIKE malloc() AND free()

IF YOU FAIL TO PEALLOCATE MEMORY USEP ON A HEAP IT RESULTS IN A MEMORY LEAK

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STACK MEMORY

FAST ACCESS

SPACE MANAGED AUTOMATICALLY AND EFFICIENTLY - DOES NOT GET FRAGMENTED

VARIABLES ARE IN THE SCOPE OF THE FUNCTION DECLARED

SMALLER IN SIZE - HAS SIZE LIMITS

HEAP MEMORY

ACCESS IS SLOWER

MANAGED BY THE DEVELOPER AND CAN GET FRAGMENTED

VARIABLES CAN BE ACCESSED ANYWHERE IN THE PROGRAM

LARGER - TYPICALLY LIMITED BY THE MEMORY ON YOUR COMPUTER

UTHER WAYS TO ALLOCATE MEMORY

void *calloc(int num, int size);

THIS IS A SPECIAL FUNCTION WHICH IS USEFUL TO ALLOCATE MEMORY FOR ARRAYS

THIS WILL ALLOCATE MEMORY FOR NUM ELEMENTS WHERE EACH ELEMENT IS OF SIZE BYTES

ALLUCATING MEMORY FOR ARRAYS

SAY YOU HAVE TO ALLOCATE MEMORY FOR A 100 INTEGER ELEMENTS IN AN ARRAY

```
int* arr = (int *)malloc(100 * sizeof(int));
```

IS EQUIVALENT TO:

```
int* arr = (int *)calloc(100, sizeof(int));
```

KESIZING A BLOCK OF MEMORY

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY ALLOCATED SOME MEMORY FOR AN ARRAY, LATER YOU REALIZE THAT YOU WANT TO STORE ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS

ORIGINAL ALLOCATION

```
int* arr = (int *)malloc(100 * sizeof(int));
```

REALLOCATION WITH INCREASED SIZE

```
arr = (int *)realloc(arr, 200 * sizeof(int));
```

KESIZING A BLOCK OF MEMORY

```
int* arr = (int *)malloc(100 * sizeof(int));
arr = (int *)realloc(arr, 200 * sizeof(int));
```

THE RE-ALLOCATED MEMORY BLOCK WILL START AT THE SAME ADDRESS AS THE ONE ORIGINALLY ALLOCATED

IT WILL TRY TO EXTEND THE BLOCK OF MEMORY FROM THE END - WHICH MEANS ORIGINAL ELEMENTS FROM THE ARRAY WILL BE PRESERVED

WHAT IF MEMORY IS NOT AVAILABLE?

EACH OF THESE FUNCTIONS TO ALLOCATE MEMORY MALLOC(), CALLOC() AND REALLOC() WILL RETURN A NULL POINTER IF THE MEMORY IS NOT AVAILABLE

WEALSO JUST LEARNT ABOUT OBJECTS, CLASSES, CONSTRUCTORS AND PESTRUCTORS

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A CLASS IS BASICALLY A STRUCT ON STEROIDS

AN OBJECT IS A VARIABLE OF THAT CLASS

"OBJECT" AND "CLASS" ARE POSSIBLY THE 2 MOST IMPORTANT WORDS IN PROGRAMMING

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DYNAMIC MEMORY ALLOCATION IN C++ IS VERY DIFFERENT THAN IN C

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ANYTIME YOU NEED TO CREATE A SINGLE VARIABLE OF A POINTER TYPE, JUST new TO BOTH ALLOCATE AND CONSTRUCT THE VARIABLE

YOU CAN USE THIS WITH SIMPLE TYPES (INT/FLOAT ETC) AS WELL AS WITH OBJECTS

YOU CAN ALSO PASS IN ARGUMENTS TO THE CONSTRUCTOR

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DESTRUCTORS ARE CRUCIAL WHEN YOUR CLASS HAS POINTERS OR FILE HANDLES AMONG ITS MEMBER VARIABLES.

In such cases, not freeing memory or closing files can lead to serious bugs - and memory and resource leaks.

PYNAMIC MEMORY ALLOCATION IN C++

IS VERY VERY SIMPLE - IF YOU REMEMBER 5 RULES

RULE #1: NEVER USE malloc/free AGAIN. EVER.

RULE #2: USE new/delete FOR SINGLE VARIABLES OF ALL TYPES.

RULE #3: USE new[]/delete[] FOR ARRAY VARIABLES OF ALL TYPES.

RULE #4: COROLLARY OF RULES 2 AND 3: NEVER MIX new/
delete AND new[]/delete[]

RULE #5: CLEAN UP ALL POINTER MEMBER VARIABLES IN YOUR PESTRUCTOR