

CSCI 104

Memory Allocation

Mark Redekopp

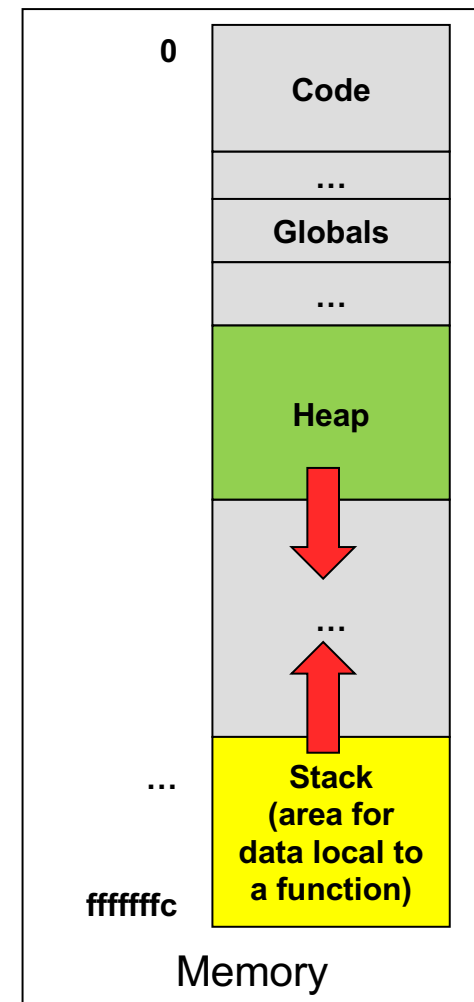
Updated Fall 2022 by Andrew Goodney

Revised: 8/22/2022

POINTERS, REFERENCES, AND SCOPING REVIEW

A Program View of RAM/Memory

- Code usually sits at low addresses
- Global variables somewhere after code
- System stack (memory for each function instance that is alive)
 - Local variables
 - Return link (where to return)
 - etc.
- Heap: Area of memory that can be allocated and de-allocated during program execution (i.e. dynamically at run-time) based on the needs of the program
- Heap grows downward, stack grows upward...
 - In rare cases of large memory usage, they could collide and cause your program to fail or generate an exception/error



Variables and Static Allocation

- Every variable/object in a computer has a:

- Name (by which *programmer* references it)
- Address (by which *computer* references it)
- Value

- Let's draw these as boxes

- Every variable/object has **scope** (its lifetime and visibility to other code)

- Automatic/Local Scope

- {...} of a function, loop, or if
- Lives on the stack
- Dies/Deallocated when the '}' is reached

- Logically, let's draw these as nested container boxes

Code

Computer

```
int x;
string s1("abc");
```

x
0x1a0 -154729832

s1
0x1a4 3 "abc"

```
int main()
{
    int x; cin >> x;
    if( x ){
        string s1("abc");
    }
}
```

main

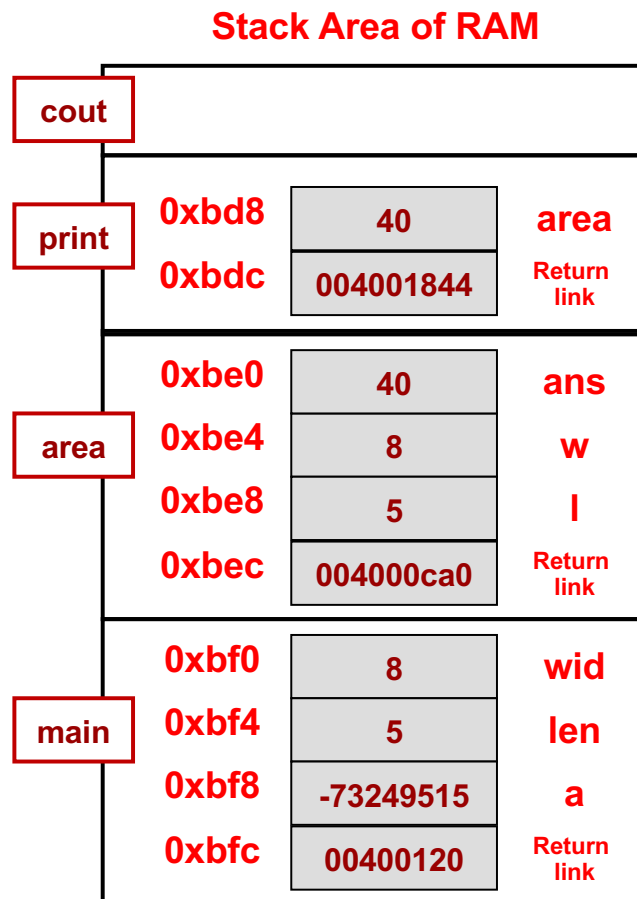
x
0x1a0 -154729832

if

s1
0x1a4 3 "abc"

Automatic/Local Variables

- Address wise, local variables (i.e. those declared inside {...}) are allocated on the stack
- Each function has an area of memory on the stack



```
// Computes rectangle area,
// prints it, & returns it
int area(int, int);
void print(int);
int main()
{
    int wid = 8, len = 5, a;
    a = area(wid, len);
}

int area(int w, int l)
{
    int ans = w * l;
    print(ans);
    return ans;
}

void print(int area)
{
    cout << "Area is " << area;
    cout << endl;
}
```

Kinds of References

Pointers

- A variable (like any other) which occupies memory and stores an **address of another variable** and can be updated (like any other variable) to store a new address to some other variable
- Declared with the **type*** syntax (e.g. **int***, **char***, **Item***)

C++ Reference Variable

- A special variable that simply gives a second (or third, or fourth) name to an already-declared variable
- Declared with the **type&** syntax (e.g. **int&**, **string&**, **Item&**)
- Does not occupy any memory (just tells the compiler to allow another name to reference some other variable)

Important Note: When we use the general term "reference" as in "pass-by-reference" we can use EITHER **pointers** OR **C++ Reference Variables**.
Lets' take a look at each...

Review of Pointers in C/C++

- Pointer (type *)
 - Really just the memory address of a variable
 - Pointer to a data-type is specified as *type ** (e.g. `int *`)
 - Operators: `&` and `*`
 - `&object` => **address-of object (Create a link to an object)**
 - `*ptr` => **object located at address given by ptr (Follow a link to an object)**
 - `*(&object)` => object [i.e. `*` and `&` are inverse operators of each other]
- Example: Indicate what each line prints or what variable is modified. Use **NA** for any invalid operation.

```
int* p, *q;
int i, j;

i = 5; j = 10;
p = &i;
cout << p << endl;
cout << *p << endl;
*p = j;
*q = *p;
q = p;
```

0xbe0		p
0xbe4		q
0xbe8	5	i
0xbec	10	j

Pointer Notes

- **NULL** (defined in `<cstdlib>`) or now **nullptr** (in C++11) are keywords for values you can assign to a pointer when it doesn't point to anything
 - NULL is effectively the value 0 so you can write:

```
int* p = nullptr;
if( p )
{ /* will never get to this code */ }
```
 - To use **nullptr** compile with the C++11 version:

```
$ g++ -std=c++11 -g -o test test.cpp
```
- An uninitialized pointer is a pointer waiting to cause a SEGFAULT
- Beware of SEGFAULTS! What are they and what causes them?
- `nullptr` is better (because the “NULL” pointer isn’t always represented with all-bits-equal-zero. Seriously, Google it.)
- What tool can help find what is causing SEGFAULTS?

Check Yourself

- Consider these declarations:
 - `int k, x[3] = {5, 7, 9};`
 - `int *myptr = x;`
 - `int **ourptr = &myptr;`
- Indicate the formal type that each expression evaluates to (i.e. `int`, `int *`, `int **`)

To figure out the type of data a pointer expression will yield...

- Each `*` in the expression cancels a `*` from the variable type.
- Each `&` in the expression adds a `*` to the variable type.

Orig. Type	Expr	Yields
<code>myptr = int*</code>	<code>*myptr</code>	<code>int</code>
<code>ourptr = int**</code>	<code>**ourptr</code>	<code>int</code>
	<code>*ourptr</code>	<code>int*</code>
<code>k = int</code>	<code>&k</code>	<code>int*</code>
	<code>&myptr</code>	<code>int**</code>

Expression	Type
<code>&x[0]</code>	
<code>x</code>	
<code>myptr</code>	
<code>*myptr</code>	
<code>(*ourptr) + 1</code>	
<code>myptr + 2</code>	
<code>&ourptr</code>	

Using C++ References

- Reference type (type &) creates an alias (another name) the programmer/compiler can use for some other variable
 - Is **NOT** another variable; does **NOT** require memory
- "Syntactic sugar" (i.e. make programmer's life easy) to avoid using pointers
- A variable declared with an 'int &' doesn't store an int, but is an alias for an actual variable
- MUST** assign to the reference variable when you declare it.

```
int main()
{
    int y = 3, *ptr;
    ptr = &y; // address-of
              // operator

    int &x = y; // reference
                // declaration
    // We've not copied y into x.
    // Rather, we've created an alias.
    // What we do to x happens to y.
    // Now x can never reference
    // any other int...only y!

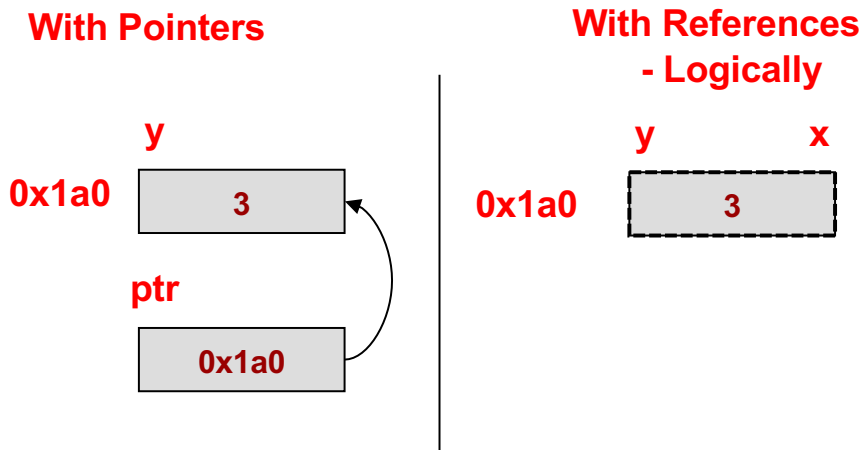
    x++; // y just got incr.

    cout << y << endl;

    int &z; // NO! must assign

    int w = 5;
    x = w; // doesn't make x
           // reference w...copies
           // w into y;

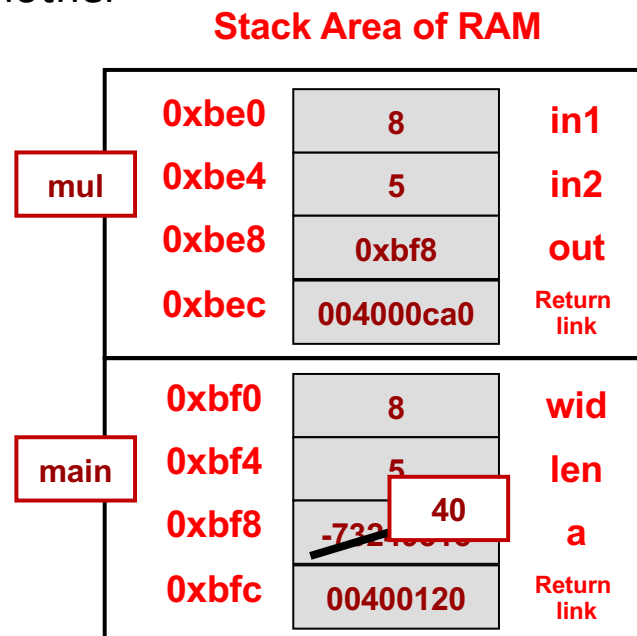
    return 0;
}
```



POINTERS, REFERENCES, AND SCOPING ASSESSMENT

Correct Usage of Pointers

- Commonly functions will take some inputs and produce some outputs
 - We'll use a simple 'multiply' function for now even though we can easily compute this without a function
 - We could use the return value from the function but let's practice with pointers
- Can use a pointer to have a function modify the variable of another



```
// Computes the product of in1 & in2
int mul1(int in1, int in2);
void mul2(int in1, int in2, int* out);

int main()
{
    int wid = 8, len = 5, a;
    mul2(wid, len, &a);
    cout << "Ans. is " << a << endl;
    return 0;
}

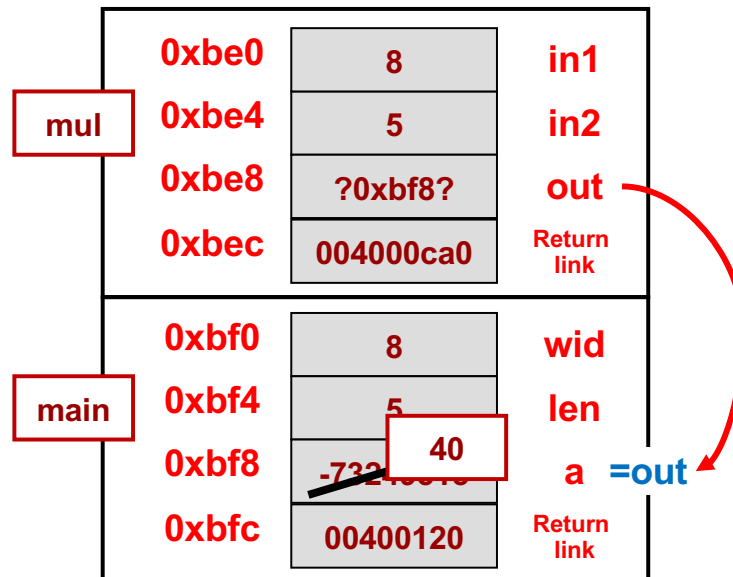
int mul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    return in1 * in2;
}

void mul2(int in1, int in2, int* out)
{
    *out = in1 * in2;
}
```

Now with C++ References

- We can pass using C++ reference
- The reference 'out' is just an alias for 'a' back in main
 - In memory, it might actually be a pointer, but you don't have to dereference (the kind of stuff you have to do with pointers)

Stack Area of RAM



```
// Computes the product of in1 & in2
void mul(int in1, int in2, int& out);

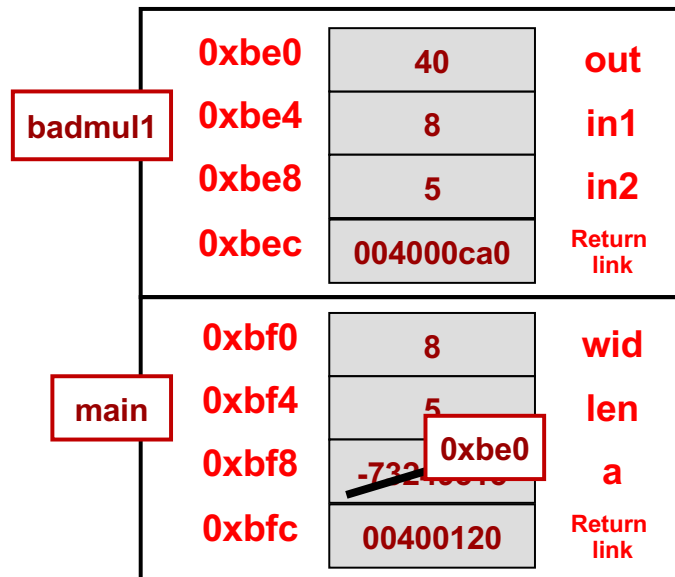
int main()
{
    int wid = 8, len = 5, a;
    mul(wid, len, a);
    cout << "Ans. is " << a << endl;
    return 0;
}

void mul(int in1, int in2, int& out)
{
    out = in1 * in2;
}
```

Misuse of Pointers/References

- Make sure you don't return a pointer or reference to a dead variable
- You might get lucky and find that old value still there, but likely you won't

Stack Area of RAM



```
// Computes the product of in1 & in2
int* badmul1(int in1, int in2);
int& badmul2(int in1, int in2);
```

```
int main()
{
    int wid = 8, len = 5;
    int *a = badmul1(wid, len);
    cout << "Ans. is " << *a << endl;
    return 0;
}
```

```
// Bad! Returns a pointer to a var.
// that will go out of scope
```

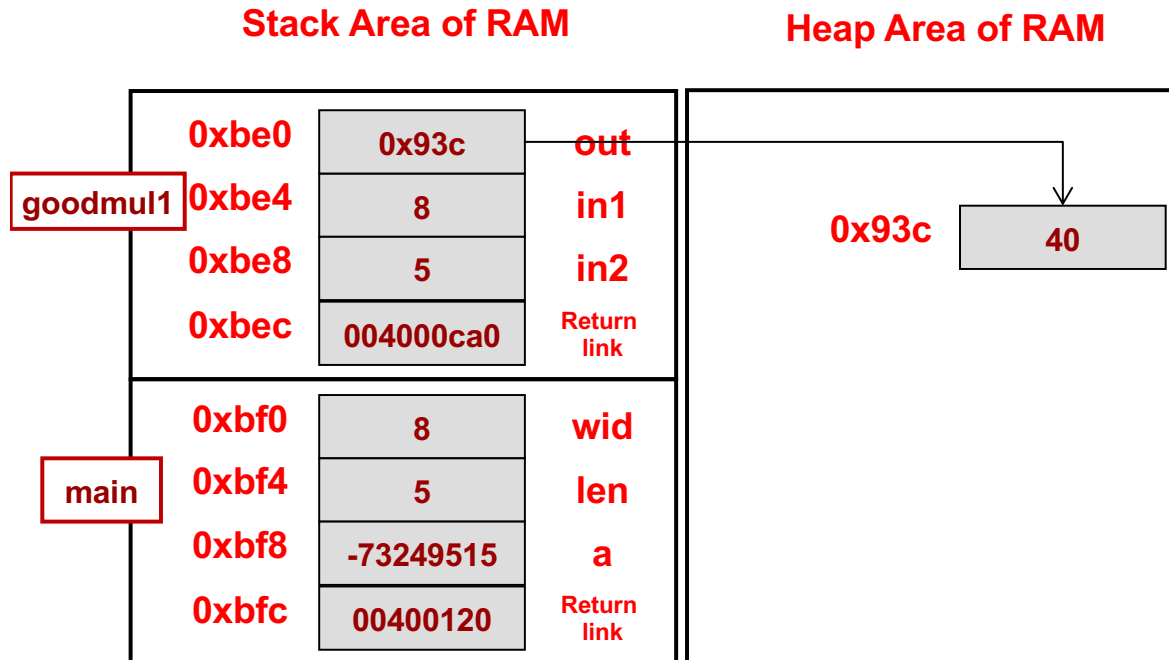
```
int* badmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int out = in1 * in2;
    return &out;
}
```

```
// Bad! Returns a reference to a var.
// that will go out of scope
```

```
int& badmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int out = in1 * in2;
    return out;
}
```

Dynamic Allocation

- Dynamic Allocation
 - Lives on the heap
 - Doesn't have a name, only pointer/address to it
 - Lives until you 'delete' it
 - Doesn't die at end of function (though pointer to it may)
- Let's draw the operation of **goodmul1()**



```
// Computes the product of in1 & in2
int* badmul1(int in1, int in2);
int* goodmul1(int in1, int in2);
```

```
int main()
{
    int wid = 8, len = 5;
    int *a = goodmul1(wid, len);
    cout << "Ans. is " << *a << endl;
    delete a;
    return 0;
}
```

```
// Bad! Returns a pointer to a var.
// that will go out of scope
int* badmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int out = in1 * in2;
    return &out;
}
```

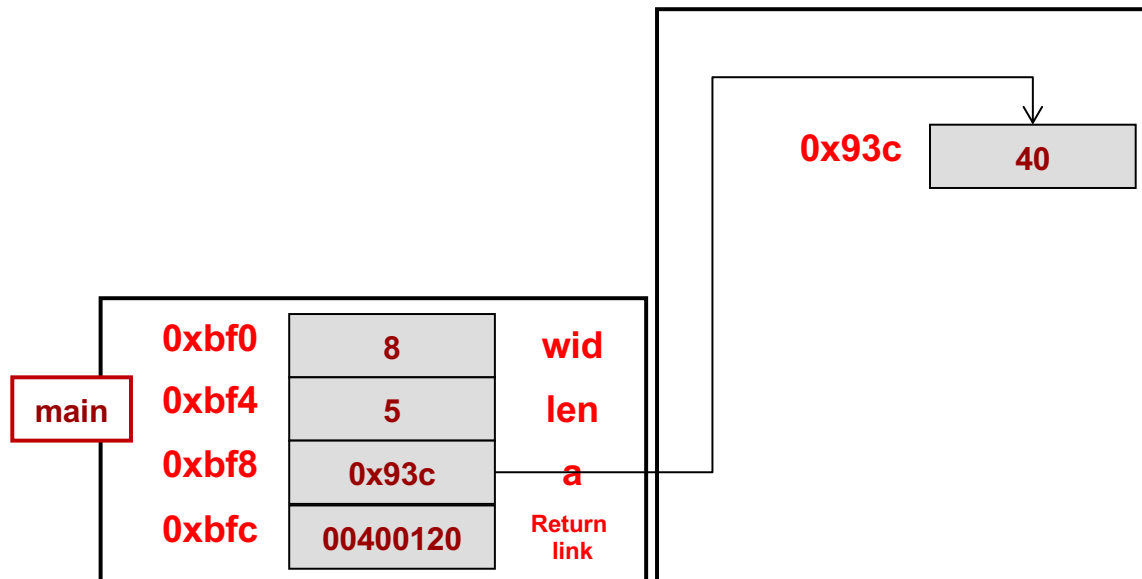
```
// Good! Returns a pointer to a var.
// that will continue to live
int* goodmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int* out = new int;
    *out = in1 * in2;
    return out;
}
```

Dynamic Allocation

- When `goodmul1()` exits, the out pointer goes out of scope
- Thus we need to return the pointer or save it somewhere so that there is a record of our allocation, otherwise we will have a leak

Stack Area of RAM

Heap Area of RAM



```
// Computes the product of in1 & in2
int* badmul1(int in1, int in2);
int* goodmul1(int in1, int in2);
```

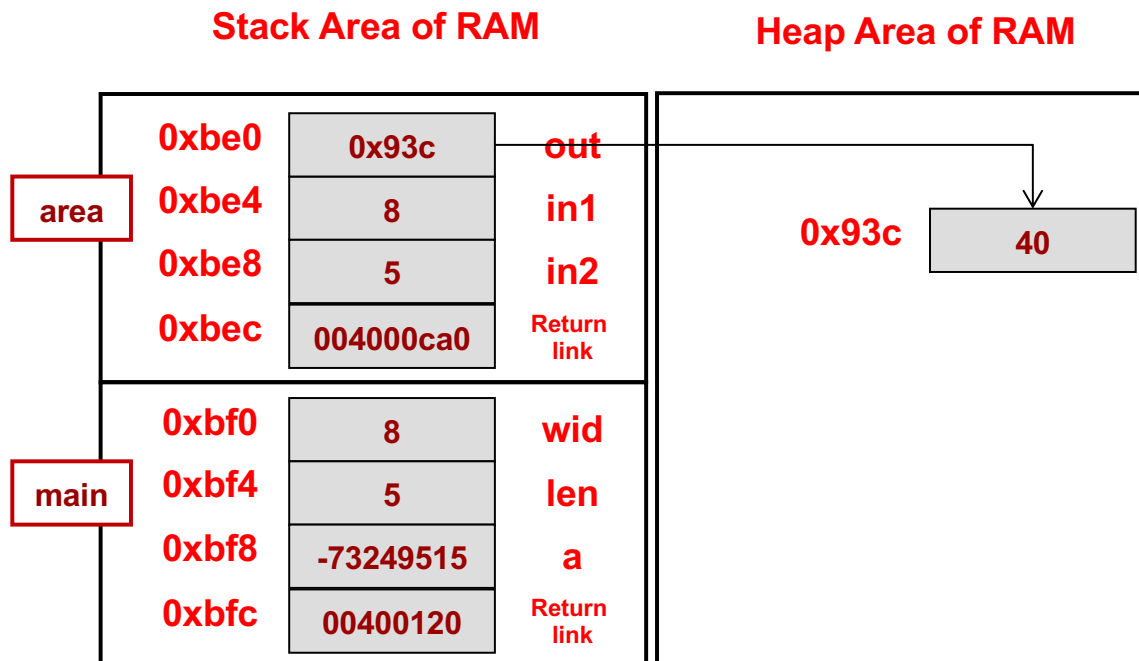
```
int main()
{
    int wid = 8, len = 5;
    int *a = goodmul1(wid, len);
    cout << "Ans. is " << *a << endl;
    delete a;
    return 0;
}
```

```
// Bad! Returns a pointer to a var.
// that will go out of scope
int* badmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int out = in1 * in2;
    return &out;
}
```

```
// Good! Returns a pointer to a var.
// that will continue to live
int* goodmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int* out = new int;
    *out = in1 * in2;
    return out;
}
```


Dynamic Allocation – Q1

- What happens if we comment the 'delete a' line?



```
// Computes the product of in1 & in2
int* badmul1(int in1, int in2);
int* goodmul1(int in1, int in2);
```

```
int main()
{
    int wid = 8, len = 5;
    int *a = goodmul1(wid, len);
    cout << "Ans. is " << *a << endl;
    // delete a;
    return 0;
}
```

```
// Bad! Returns a pointer to a var.
// that will go out of scope
int* badmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int out = in1 * in2;
    return &out;
}
```

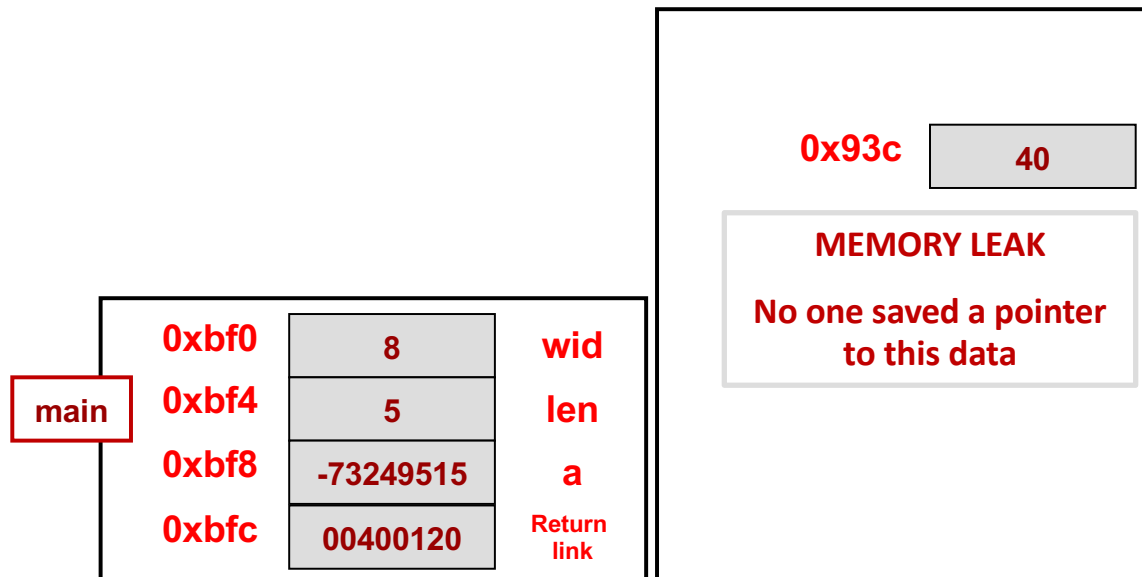
```
// Good! Returns a pointer to a var.
// that will continue to live
int* goodmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int* out = new int;
    *out = in1 * in2;
    return out;
}
```

Dynamic Allocation – A1

- What happens if we comment the 'delete a' line?
– **Memory LEAK!!**

Stack Area of RAM

Heap Area of RAM



```
// Computes the product of in1 & in2
int* badmul1(int in1, int in2);
int* goodmul1(int in1, int in2);
```

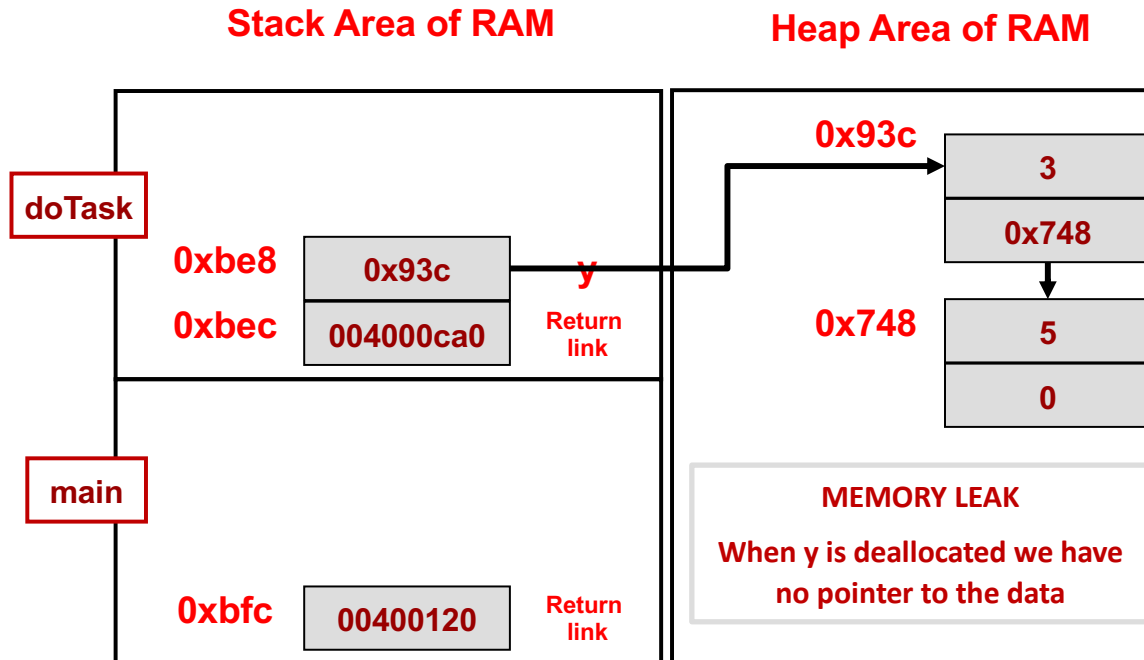
```
int main()
{
    int wid = 8, len = 5;
    int *a = goodmul1(wid, len);
    cout << "Ans. is " << *a << endl;
    // delete a;
    return 0;
}
```

```
// Bad! Returns a pointer to a var.
// that will go out of scope
int* badmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int out = in1 * in2;
    return &out;
}
```

```
// Good! Returns a pointer to a var.
// that will continue to live
int* goodmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int* out = new int;
    *out = in1 * in2;
    return out;
}
```

Dynamic Allocation

- The LinkedList object is allocated as a static/local variable
 - But each element is allocated on the heap
- When y goes out of scope only the data members are deallocated
 - You may have a memory leak



```
struct Item {
    int val; Item* next;
};
class LinkedList {
public:
    // create a new item
    // in the list
    void push_back(int v);
private:
    Item* head;
};
```

```
int main()
{
    doTask();
}

void doTask()
{
    LinkedList y;
    y.push_back(3);
    y.push_back(5);
    /* other stuff */
}
```

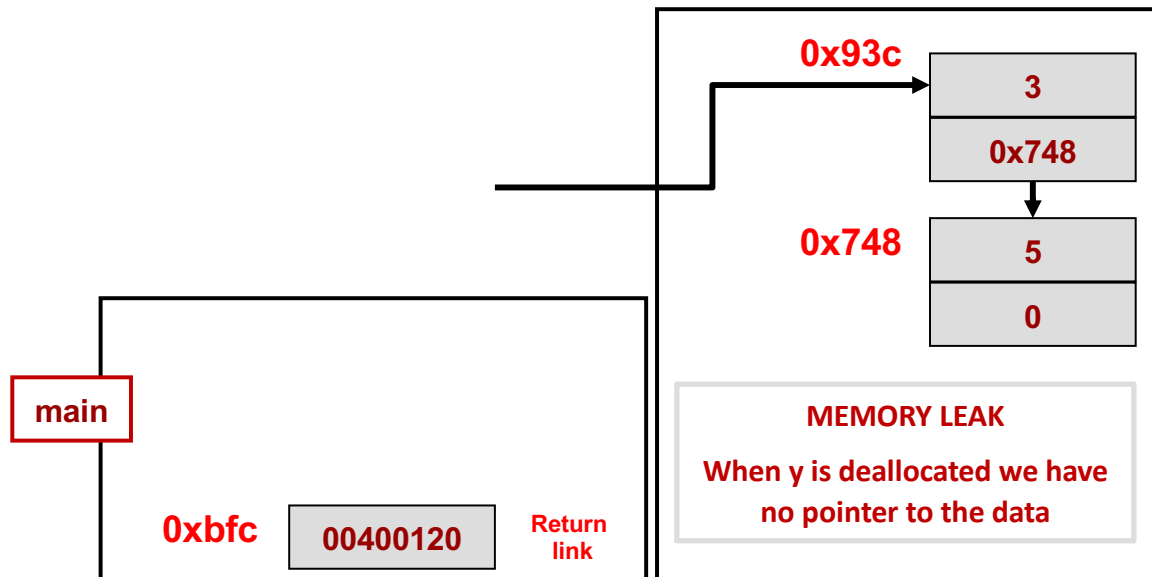
Dynamic Allocation

- The LinkedList object is allocated as a static/local variable
 - But each element is allocated on the heap
- When y goes out of scope only the data members are deallocated
 - You may have a memory leak

An Appropriate Destructor Will Help Solve This

Stack Area of RAM

Heap Area of RAM



```
struct Item {
    int val;  Item* next;
};
class LinkedList {
public:
    // create a new item
    // in the list
    void push_back(int v);
private:
    Item* head;
};
```

```
int main()
{
    doTask();
}

void doTask()
{
    LinkedList y;
    y.push_back(3);
    y.push_back(5);
    /* other stuff */
}
```

If time allows

PRACTICE ACTIVITY 1

Object Assignment

- Assigning one struct or class object to another will cause an element by element copy of the source data destination struct or class

```
#include<iostream>
using namespace std;

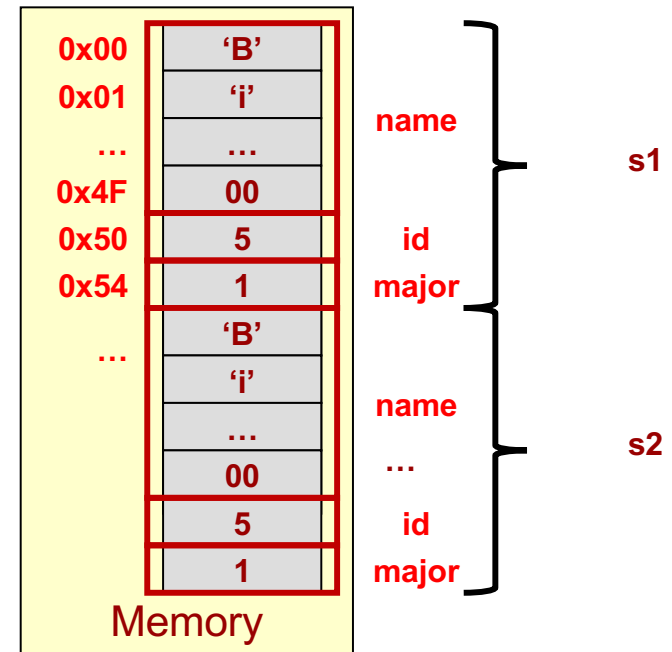
enum {CS, CECS };

struct student {
    char name[80];
    int id;
    int major;
};

int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    student s1;
    strncpy(s1.name,"Bill",80);
    s1.id = 5; s1.major = CS;

    student s2 = s1;

    return 0;
}
```



Memory Allocation Tips

- Take care when returning a pointer or reference that the object being referenced will persist beyond the end of a function
- Take care when assigning a returned referenced object to another variable...you are making a copy
- Try the examples yourself
 - `$ wget http://ee.usc.edu/~redekopp/cs104/memref.cpp`

Understanding Memory Allocation

There are no syntax errors. Which of these can correctly build an Item and then have main() safely access its data

```
class Item
{ public:
  Item(int w, string y);
};
Item buildItem()
{ Item x(4, "hi");
  return x;
}

int main()
{ Item i = buildItem();
  // access i's data.
}
```

ex1

```
class Item
{ public:
  Item(int w, string y);
};
Item& buildItem()
{ Item x(4, "hi");
  return x;
}

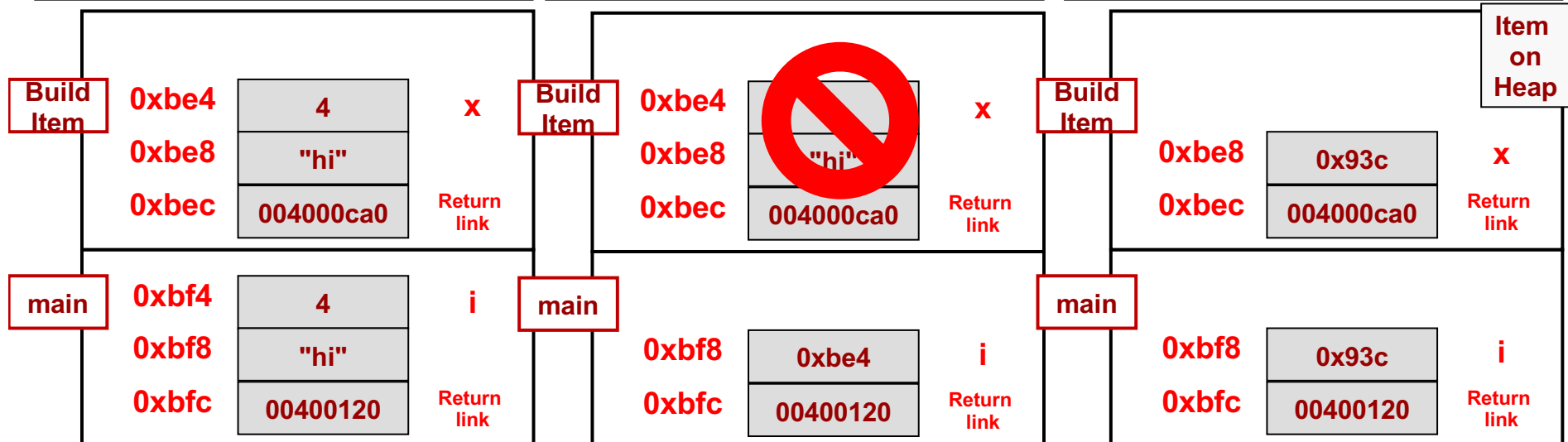
int main()
{ Item& i = buildItem();
  // access i's data
}
```

ex2

```
class Item
{ public:
  Item(int w, string y);
};
Item* buildItem()
{ Item* x = new Item(4, "hi");
  return x;
}

int main()
{ Item *i = buildItem();
  // access i's data
}
```

ex3



Understanding Memory Allocation

There are no syntax errors. Which of these can correctly build an Item and then have main() safely access its data

```
class Item
{ public:
  Item(int w, string y);

};
Item* buildItem()
{ Item x(4, "hi");
  return &x;
}

int main()
{ Item *i = buildItem();
  // access i's data
}
```

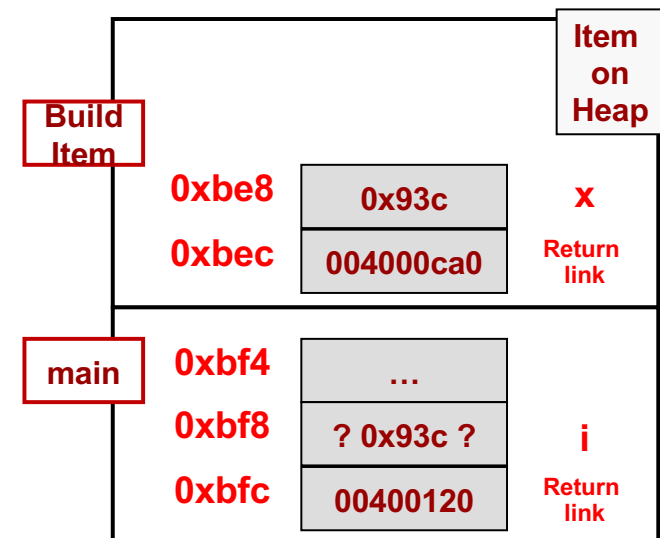
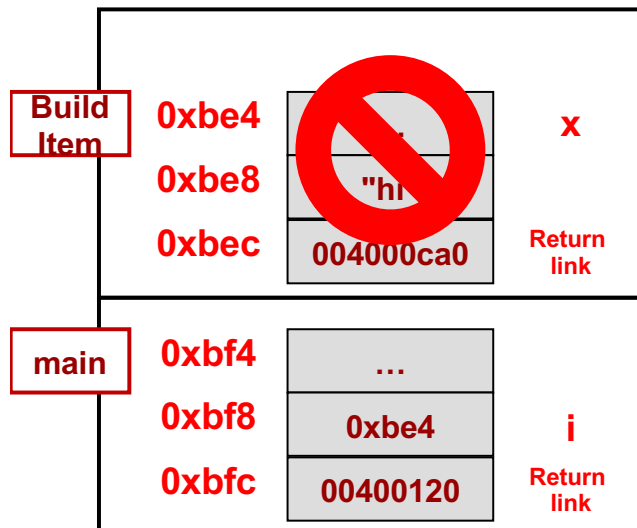
ex4

```
class Item
{ public:
  Item(int w, string y);

};
Item& buildItem()
{ Item* x = new Item(4, "hi");
  return *x;
}

int main()
{ Item& i = buildItem();
  // access i's data
}
```

ex5



Understanding Memory Allocation

```

class Item
{ public:
    Item(int w, string y);
};
Item& buildItem()
{ Item* x = new Item(4, "hi");
  return *x;
}

int main()
{ Item i = buildItem();
  // access i's data.
}

```

ex6

```

class Item
{ public:
    Item(int w, string y);
};
Item& buildItem()
{ Item* x = new Item(4, "hi");
  return *x;
}

int main()
{ Item *i = &(buildItem());
  // access i's data.
}

```

ex7

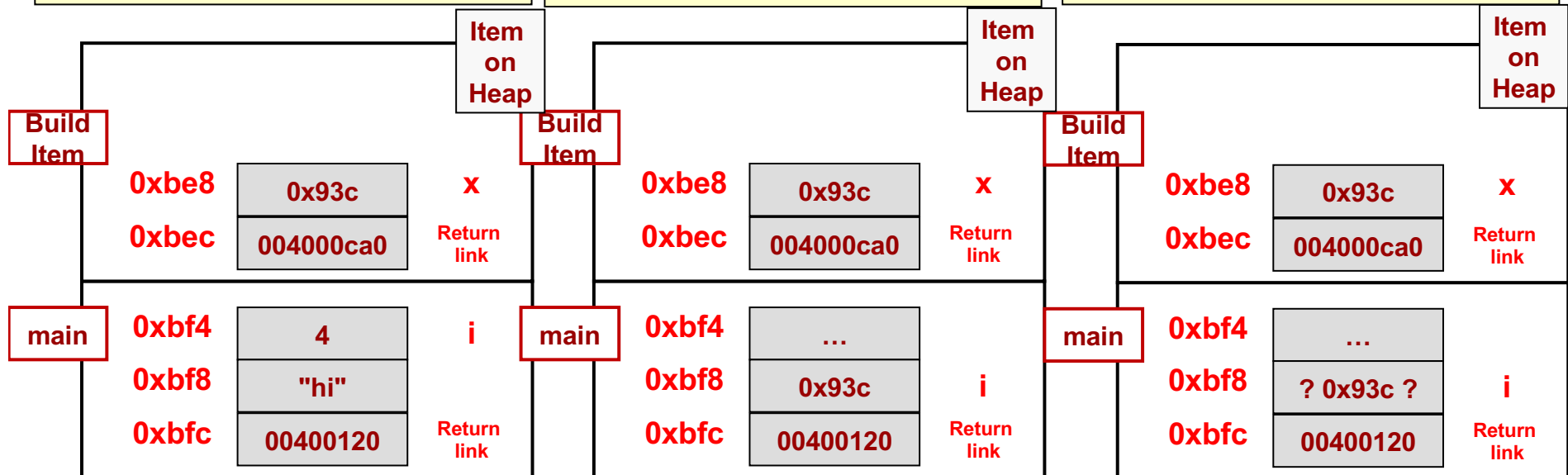
```

class Item
{ public:
    Item(int w, string y);
};
Item& buildItem()
{ Item* x = new Item(4, "hi");
  return *x;
}

int main()
{ Item &i = buildItem();
  // access i's data
}

```

ex8

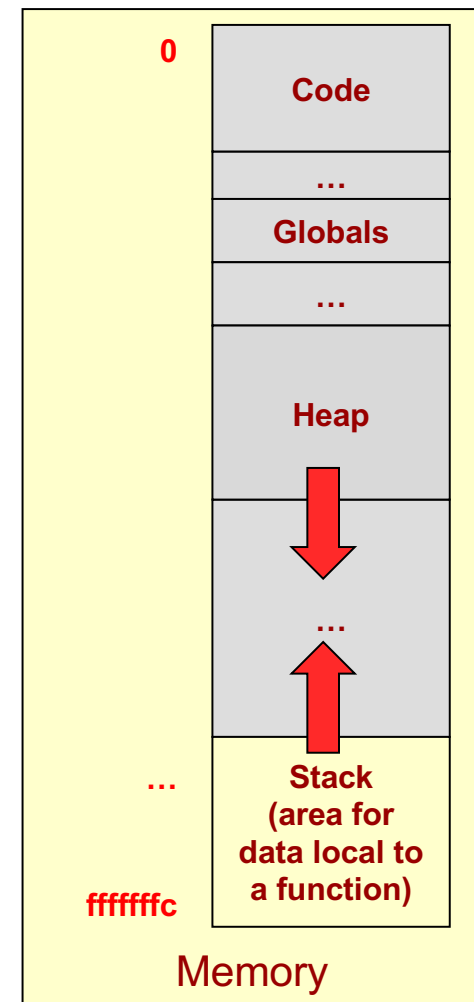


PRE-SUMMER 2021 BACKGROUND

VARIABLES & SCOPE

A Program View of RAM/Memory

- Code usually sits at low addresses
- Global variables somewhere after code
- System stack (memory for each function instance that is alive)
 - Local variables
 - Return link (where to return)
 - etc.
- Heap: Area of memory that can be allocated and de-allocated during program execution (i.e. dynamically at run-time) based on the needs of the program
- Heap grows downward, stack grows upward...
 - In rare cases of large memory usage, they could collide and cause your program to fail or generate an exception/error



Variables and Static Allocation

- Every variable/object in a computer has a:

- Name (by which *programmer* references it)
- Address (by which *computer* references it)
- Value

Code

Computer

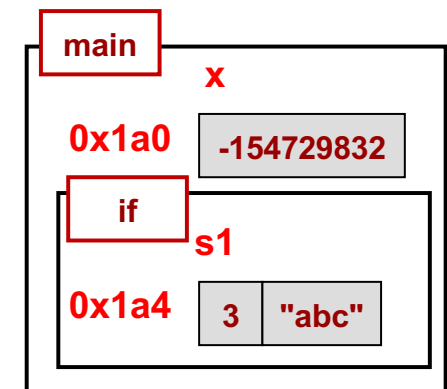
```
int x;
string s1("abc");
```

x
0x1a0 -154729832

s1
0x1a4 3 "abc"

- Let's draw these as boxes
- Every variable/object has **scope** (its lifetime and visibility to other code)
- Automatic/Local Scope
 - {...} of a function, loop, or if
 - Lives on the stack
 - Dies/Deallocated when the '}' is reached

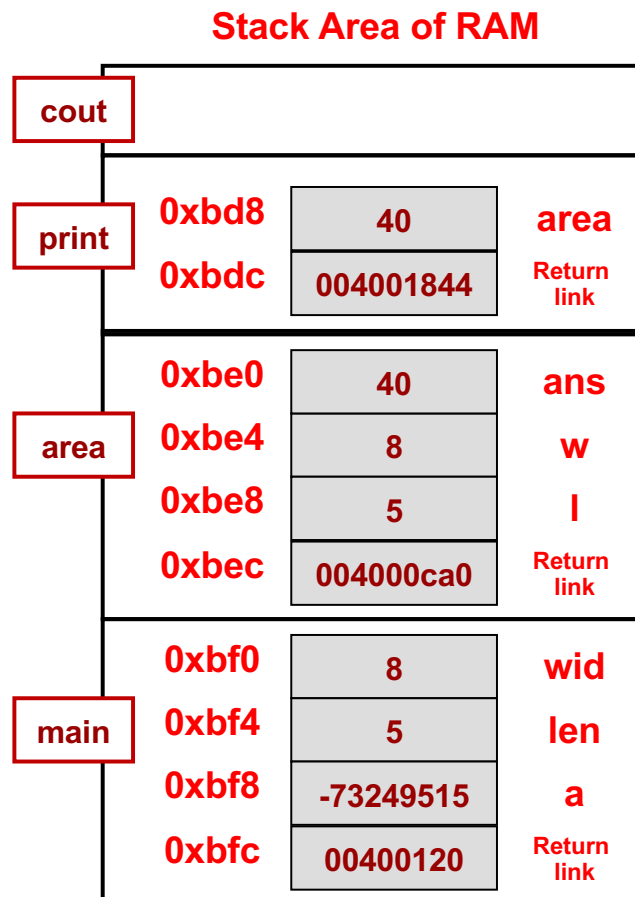
```
int main()
{
    int x; cin >> x;
    if( x ){
        string s1("abc");
    }
}
```



- Let's draw these as nested container boxes

Automatic/Local Variables

- Variables declared inside {...} are allocated on the stack
- This includes functions



```
// Computes rectangle area,
// prints it, & returns it
int area(int, int);
void print(int);
int main()
{
    int wid = 8, len = 5, a;
    a = area(wid, len);
}

int area(int w, int l)
{
    int ans = w * l;
    print(ans);
    return ans;
}

void print(int area)
{
    cout << "Area is " << area;
    cout << endl;
}
```

POINTERS & REFERENCES

Kinds of References

Pointers

- A variable (like any other) which occupies memory and stores an **address of another variable** and can be updated (like any other variable) to store a new address to some other variable
- Declared with the **type*** syntax (e.g. **int***, **char***, **Item***)

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- A special variable that simply gives a second (or third, or fourth) name to an already-declared variable
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- Does not occupy any memory (just tells the compiler to allow another name to reference some other variable)

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 - Really just the memory address of a variable
 - Pointer to a data-type is specified as *type ** (e.g. `int *`)
 - Operators: `&` and `*`
 - `&object` \Rightarrow **address-of object (Create a link to an object)**
 - `*ptr` \Rightarrow **object located at address given by ptr (Follow a link to an object)**
 - `*(&object)` \Rightarrow object [i.e. `*` and `&` are inverse operators of each other]
- Example: Indicate what each line prints or what variable is modified. Use **NA** for any invalid operation.

```
int* p, *q;
int i, j;

i = 5; j = 10;
p = &i;
cout << p << endl;
cout << *p << endl;
*p = j;
*q = *p;
q = p;
```

0xbe0		p
0xbe4		q
0xbe8	5	i
0xbec	10	j

Pointer Notes

- **NULL** (defined in `<cstdlib>`) or now **nullptr** (in C++11) are keywords for values you can assign to a pointer when it doesn't point to anything
 - NULL is effectively the value 0 so you can write:

```
int* p = NULL;  
if( p )  
{ /* will never get to this code */ }
```
 - To use **nullptr** compile with the C++11 version:

```
$ g++ -std=c++11 -g -o test test.cpp
```
- An uninitialized pointer is a pointer waiting to cause a SEGFAULT
- Beware of SEGFAULTS! What are they and what causes them?
- What tool can help find what is causing SEGFAULTS?

Check Yourself

- Consider these declarations:
 - `int k, x[3] = {5, 7, 9};`
 - `int *myptr = x;`
 - `int **ourptr = &myptr;`
- Indicate the formal type that each expression evaluates to (i.e. `int`, `int *`, `int **`)

To figure out the type of data a pointer expression will yield...

- Each `*` in the expression cancels a `*` from the variable type.
- Each `&` in the expression adds a `*` to the variable type.

Orig. Type	Expr	Yields
<code>myptr = int*</code>	<code>*myptr</code>	<code>int</code>
<code>ourptr = int**</code>	<code>**ourptr</code>	<code>int</code>
	<code>*ourptr</code>	<code>int*</code>
<code>k = int</code>	<code>&k</code>	<code>int*</code>
	<code>&myptr</code>	<code>int**</code>

Expression	Type
<code>&x[0]</code>	
<code>x</code>	
<code>myptr</code>	
<code>*myptr</code>	
<code>(*ourptr) + 1</code>	
<code>myptr + 2</code>	
<code>&ourptr</code>	

Using C++ References

- Reference type (type &) creates an alias (another name) the programmer/compiler can use for some other variable
 - Is **NOT** another variable; does **NOT** require memory
- "Syntactic sugar" (i.e. make programmer's life easy) to avoid using pointers
- A variable declared with an 'int &' doesn't store an int, but is an alias for an actual variable
- MUST** assign to the reference variable when you declare it.

```
int main()
{
    int y = 3, *ptr;
    ptr = &y; // address-of
              // operator

    int &x = y; // reference
                // declaration
    // We've not copied y into x.
    // Rather, we've created an alias.
    // What we do to x happens to y.
    // Now x can never reference
    // any other int...only y!

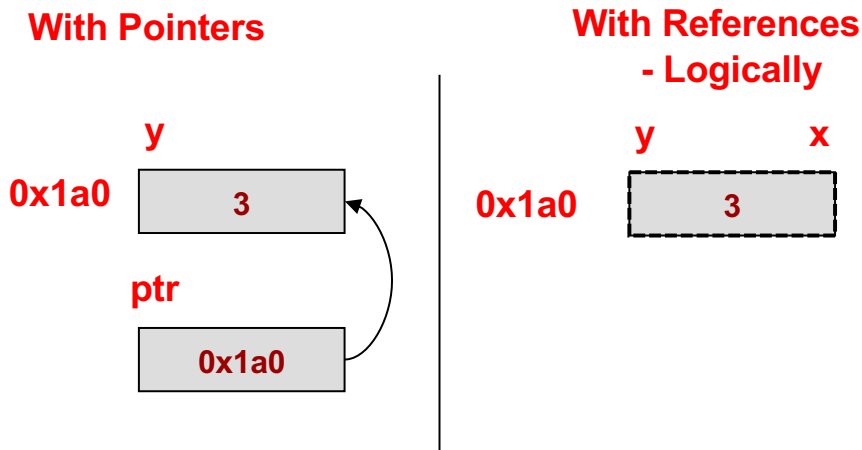
    x++; // y just got incr.

    cout << y << endl;

    int &z; // NO! must assign

    int w = 5;
    x = w; // doesn't make x
           // reference w...copies
           // w into y;

    return 0;
}
```



References in C/C++

- Declare a reference to an object as `type&` (e.g. `int&`)
- Must be initialized at declaration time (i.e. can't declare a reference variable if without indicating what object you want to reference)
 - Logically, C++ reference types DON'T consume memory...they are just an alias (another name) for the variable they reference
 - Physically, it *may* be implemented as a pointer to the referenced object but that is NOT your concern
- Cannot change what the reference variable refers to once initialized
- Most common usage is for parameter passing (see next slide)

Argument Passing Examples

- Pass-by-value => Passes a copy
- Pass-by-reference =>
 - Pass-by-pointer/address => Passes address of actual variable
 - Pass-by-reference => Passes an alias to actual variable (likely its really passing a pointer behind the scenes but now you don't have to dereference everything)

```
int main()
{
    int x=5,y=7;
    swapit(x,y);
    cout <<"x,y="<< x<<" "<< y;
    cout << endl;
}

void swapit(int x, int y)
{
    int temp;
    temp = x;
    x = y;
    y = temp;
}
```

program output: x=5,y=7

```
int main()
{
    int x=5,y=7;
    swapit(&x,&y);
    cout <<"x,y="<< x<<" "<< y;
    cout << endl;
}

void swapit(int *x, int *y)
{
    int temp;
    temp = *x;
    *x = *y;
    *y = temp;
}
```

program output: x=7,y=5

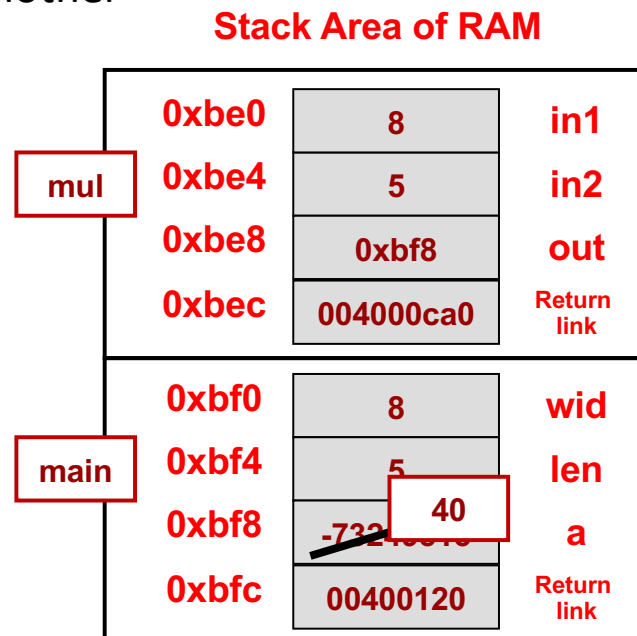
```
int main()
{
    int x=5,y=7;
    swapit(x,y);
    cout <<"x,y="<< x<<" "<< y;
    cout << endl;
}

void swapit(int &x, int &y)
{
    int temp;
    temp = x;
    x = y;
    y = temp;
}
```

program output: x=7,y=5

Correct Usage of Pointers

- Commonly functions will take some inputs and produce some outputs
 - We'll use a simple 'multiply' function for now even though we can easily compute this without a function
 - We could use the return value from the function but let's practice with pointers
- Can use a pointer to have a function modify the variable of another



```
// Computes the product of in1 & in2
int mul1(int in1, int in2);
void mul2(int in1, int in2, int* out);

int main()
{
    int wid = 8, len = 5, a;
    mul2(wid, len, &a);
    cout << "Ans. is " << a << endl;
    return 0;
}

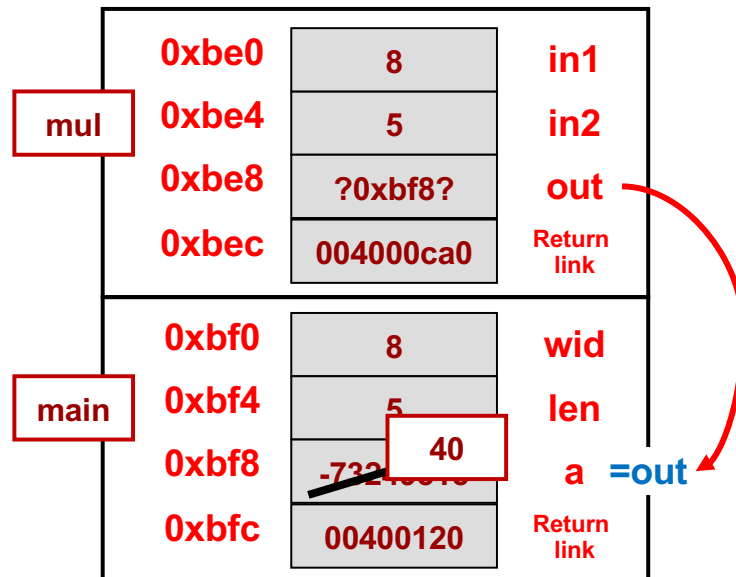
int mul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    return in1 * in2;
}

void mul2(int in1, int in2, int* out)
{
    *out = in1 * in2;
}
```


Now with C++ References

- We can pass using C++ reference
- The reference 'out' is just an alias for 'a' back in main
 - In memory, it might actually be a pointer, but you don't have to dereference (the kind of stuff you have to do with pointers)

Stack Area of RAM



```
// Computes the product of in1 & in2
void mul(int in1, int in2, int& out);

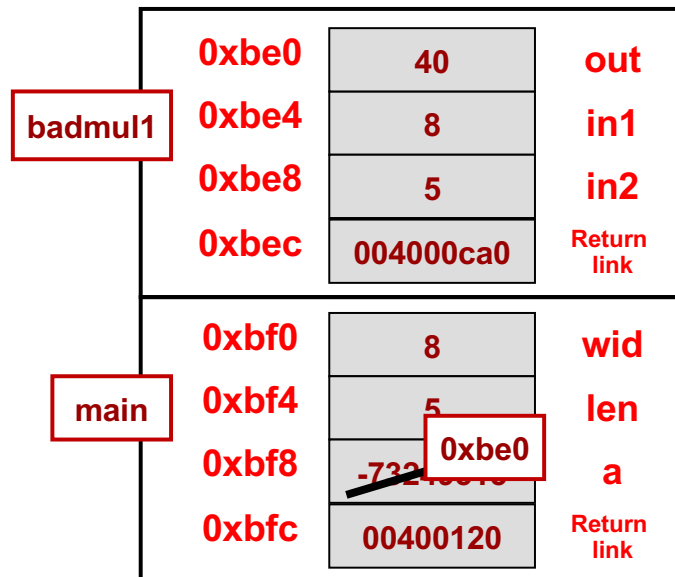
int main()
{
    int wid = 8, len = 5, a;
    mul(wid, len, a);
    cout << "Ans. is " << a << endl;
    return 0;
}

void mul(int in1, int in2, int& out)
{
    out = in1 * in2;
}
```

Misuse of Pointers/References

- Make sure you don't return a pointer or reference to a dead variable
- You might get lucky and find that old value still there, but likely you won't

Stack Area of RAM



```
// Computes the product of in1 & in2
int* badmul1(int in1, int in2);
int& badmul2(int in1, int in2);

int main()
{
    int wid = 8, len = 5;
    int *a = badmul1(wid, len);
    cout << "Ans. is " << *a << endl;
    return 0;
}

// Bad! Returns a pointer to a var.
// that will go out of scope
int* badmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int out = in1 * in2;
    return &out;
}

// Bad! Returns a reference to a var.
// that will go out of scope
int& badmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int out = in1 * in2;
    return out;
}
```

Pass-by-Value vs. -Reference

- Arguments are said to be:
 - Passed-by-value: A copy is made from one function and given to the other
 - Passed-by-reference (i.e. pointer or C++ reference): A reference (really the address) to the variable is passed to the other function

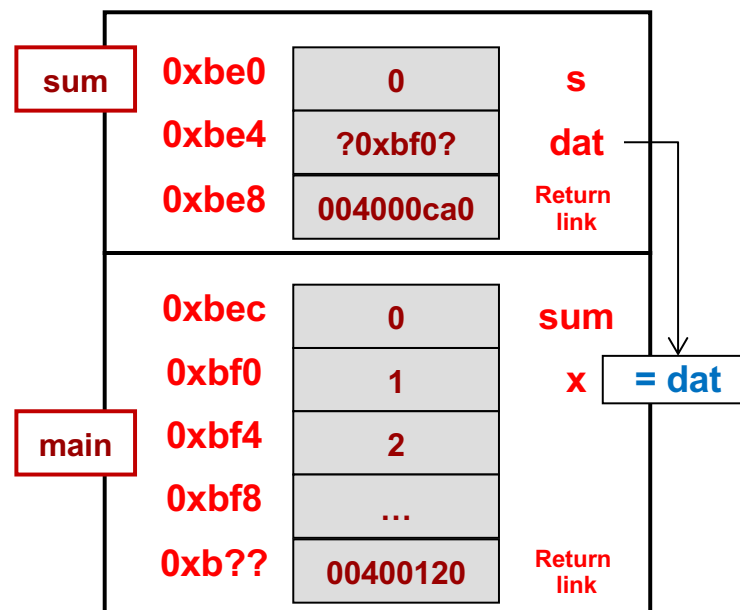
Pass-by-Value Benefits	Pass-by-Reference Benefits
+ Protects the variable in the caller since a copy is made (any modification doesn't affect the original)	+ Allows another function to modify the value of variable in the caller + Saves time vs. copying

- Care needs to be taken when choosing between the options

Pass by Reference

- Notice no copy of `x` need be made since we pass it to `sum()` by reference
 - Notice that likely the computer passes the address to `sum()` but you should just think of `dat` as an alias for `x`
 - The **const** keyword tells the compiler to double check that we don't modify the vector (giving the safety of pass-by-value but the performance of pass-by reference)

Stack Area of RAM



```
// Computes the sum of a vector
int sum(const vector<int>&);

int main()
{
    int result;
    vector<int> x = {1,2,3,4};
    result = sum(x);
}

int sum(const vector<int>& dat)
{
    int s = 0;
    for(int i=0; i < dat.size(); i++)
    {
        s += dat[i];
    }
    return s;
}
```

Pointers vs. References Summary

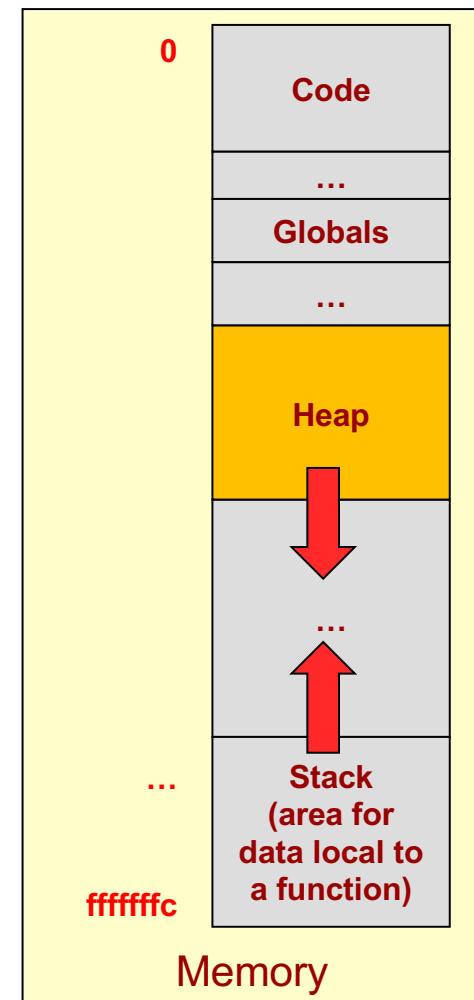
- How to tell references and pointers apart
 - Check if you see the '&' or '*' in a type declaration or expression

	With a Type	In an Expression
&	Indicates a C++ Reference Var (int &val, vector<int> &vec)	Address-of yields a pointer to the object Adds a * to the type of variable
*	Declares a pointer type variable (int *valptr = &val, vector<int> *vecptr = &vec)	De-Reference (Value @ address) Cancels a * from the type of variable

DYNAMIC ALLOCATION

Dynamic Memory & the Heap

- Code usually sits at low addresses
- Global variables somewhere after code
- System stack (memory for each function instance that is alive)
 - Local variables
 - Return link (where to return)
 - etc.
- Heap: Area of memory that can be allocated and de-allocated during program execution (i.e. dynamically at run-time) based on the needs of the program
- Heap grows downward, stack grows upward...
 - In rare cases of large memory usage, they could collide and cause your program to fail or generate an exception/error



Motivation

Automatic/Local Variables

- Deallocated (die) when they go out of scope
- As a general rule of thumb, they must be statically sized (size is a constant known at compile time)
 - `int data[100];`

Dynamic Allocation

- Persist until explicitly deallocated by the program (via 'delete')
 - Data lives indefinitely
- Can be sized at run-time
 - `int size;`
`cin >> size;`
`int *data = new int[size];`

(These are the 2 primary reasons to use dynamic allocation.)

C Dynamic Memory Allocation

- `void* malloc(int num_bytes)` function in `stdlib.h`
 - Allocates the number of bytes requested and returns a pointer to the block of memory
 - Use `sizeof(type)` macro rather than hardcoding 4 since the size of an `int` may change in the future or on another system
- `free(void * ptr)` function
 - Given the pointer to the (starting location of the) block of memory, `free` returns it to the system for re-use by subsequent `malloc` calls

```
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>

using namespace std;

int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    int num;

    cout << "How many students?" << endl;
    cin >> num;

    int *scores = (int*) malloc( num*sizeof(int) );
    // can now access scores[0] .. scores[num-1];

    free(scores);
    return 0;
}
```

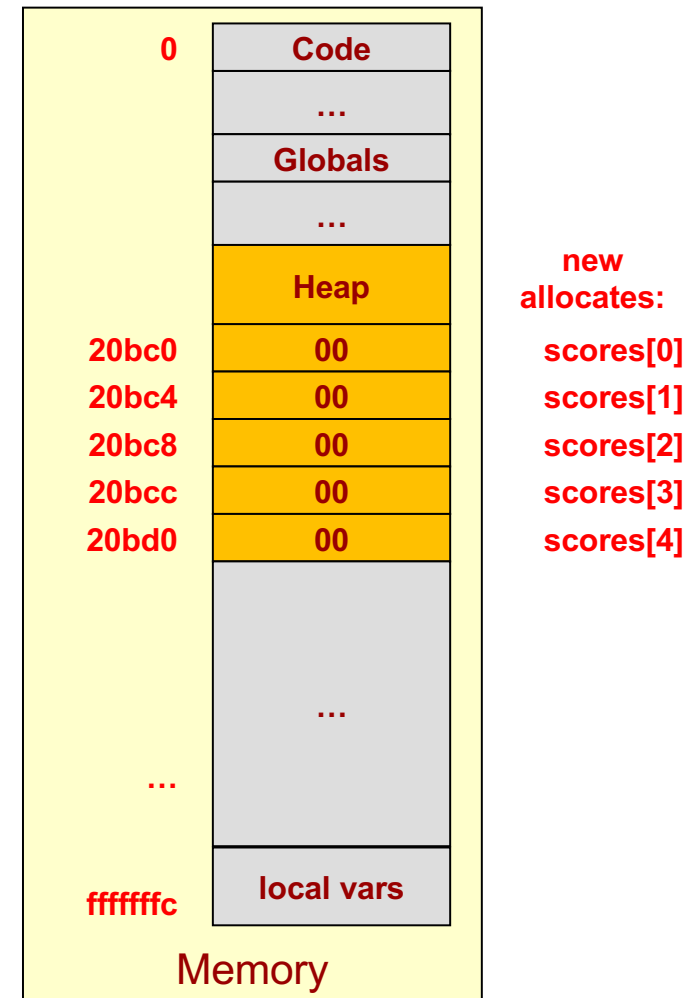
C++ new & delete operators

- **new** allocates memory from heap
 - followed with the type of the variable you want or an array type declaration
 - `double *dptr = new double;`
 - `int *myarray = new int[100];`
 - can obviously use a variable to indicate array size
 - **returns a pointer of the appropriate type**
 - if you ask for a new int, you get an int * in return
 - if you ask for an new array (`new int[10]`), you get an int * in return
- **delete** returns memory to heap
 - followed by the pointer to the data you want to de-allocate
 - `delete dptr;`
 - use `delete []` for pointers to arrays
 - `delete [] myarray;`

Dynamic Memory Allocation

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    int num;
    cout << "How many students?" << endl;
    cin >> num;
    int *scores = new int[num];
    // can now access scores[0] .. scores[num-1];
    return 0;
}
```

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    int num;
    cout << "How many students?" << endl;
    cin >> num;
    int *scores = new int[num];
    // can now access scores[0] .. scores[num-1];
    delete [] scores
    return 0;
}
```



Fill in the Blanks

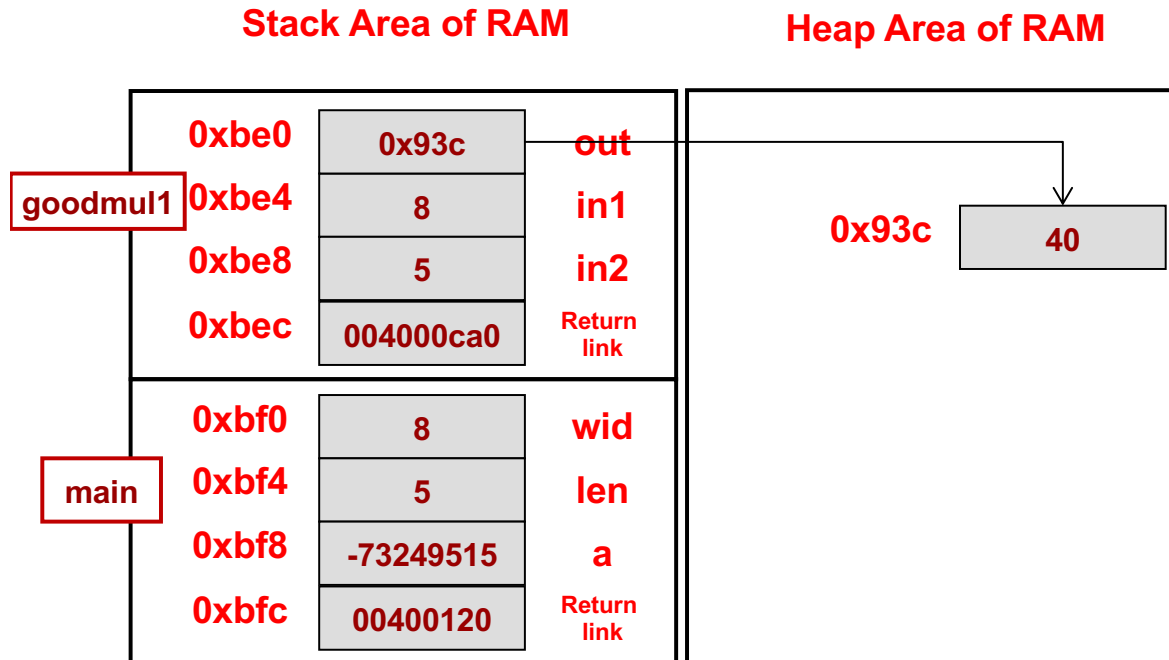
- _____ data = new int;
- _____ data = new char;
- _____ data = new char[100];
- _____ data = new char*[20];
- _____ data = new vector<string>;
- _____ data = new Student;

Fill in the Blanks

- _____ data = new int;
– int*
- _____ data = new char;
– char*
- _____ data = new char[100];
– char*
- _____ data = new char*[20];
– char**
- _____ data = new vector<string>;
– vector<string>*
- _____ data = new Student;
– Student*

Dynamic Allocation

- Dynamic Allocation
 - Lives on the heap
 - Doesn't have a name, only pointer/address to it
 - Lives until you 'delete' it
 - Doesn't die at end of function (though pointer to it may)
- Let's draw the operation of **goodmul1()**



```
// Computes the product of in1 & in2
int* badmul1(int in1, int in2);
int* goodmul1(int in1, int in2);
```

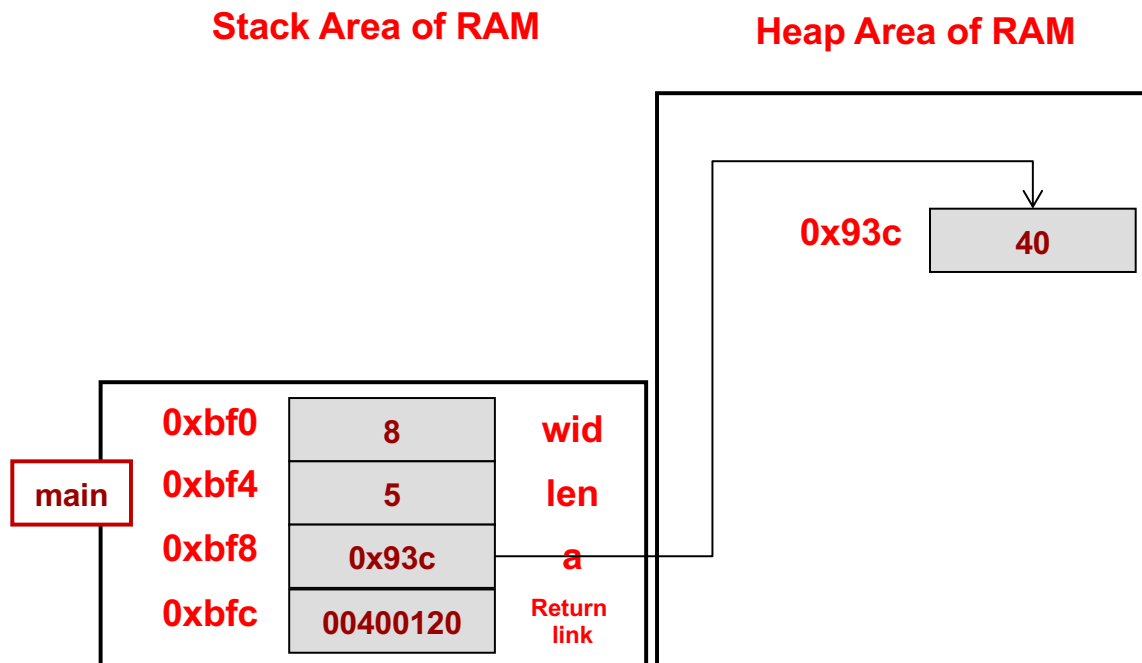
```
int main()
{
    int wid = 8, len = 5;
    int *a = goodmul1(wid, len);
    cout << "Ans. is " << *a << endl;
    delete a;
    return 0;
}
```

```
// Bad! Returns a pointer to a var.
// that will go out of scope
int* badmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int out = in1 * in2;
    return &out;
}
```

```
// Good! Returns a pointer to a var.
// that will continue to live
int* goodmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int* out = new int;
    *out = in1 * in2;
    return out;
}
```

Dynamic Allocation

- When `goodmul1()` exits, the out pointer goes out of scope
- Thus we need to return the pointer or save it somewhere so that there is a record of our allocation, otherwise we will have a leak



```
// Computes the product of in1 & in2
int* badmul1(int in1, int in2);
int* goodmul1(int in1, int in2);
```

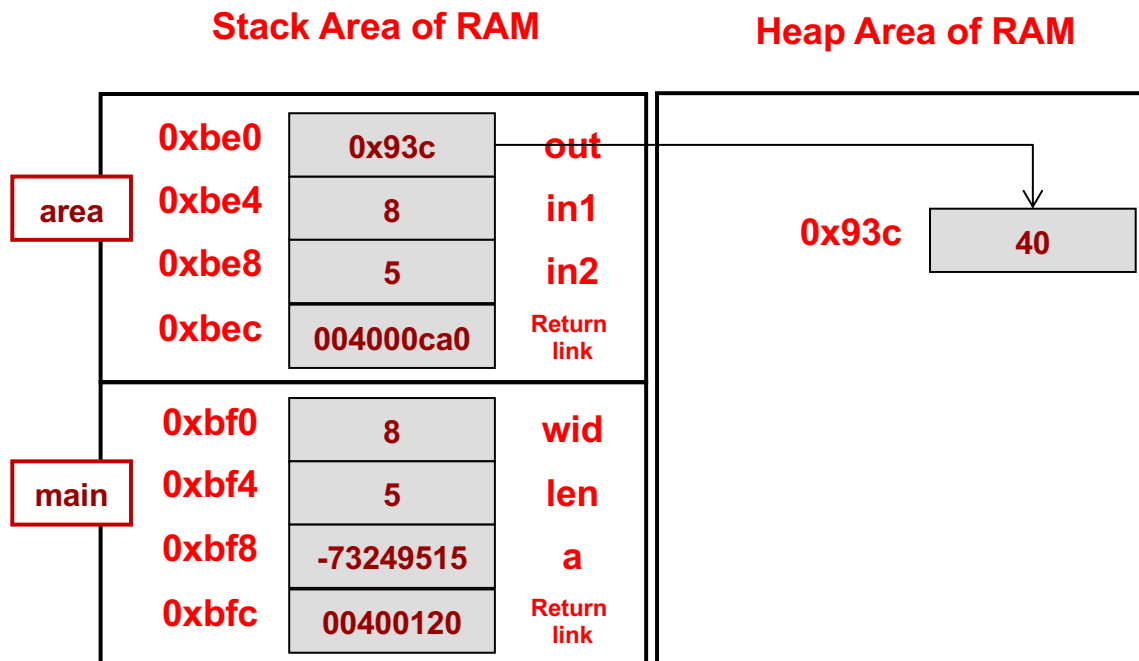
```
int main()
{
    int wid = 8, len = 5;
    int *a = goodmul1(wid, len);
    cout << "Ans. is " << *a << endl;
    delete a;
    return 0;
}
```

```
// Bad! Returns a pointer to a var.
// that will go out of scope
int* badmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int out = in1 * in2;
    return &out;
}
```

```
// Good! Returns a pointer to a var.
// that will continue to live
int* goodmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int* out = new int;
    *out = in1 * in2;
    return out;
}
```

Dynamic Allocation – Q1

- What happens if we comment the 'delete a' line?



```
// Computes the product of in1 & in2
int* badmul1(int in1, int in2);
int* goodmul1(int in1, int in2);
```

```
int main()
{
    int wid = 8, len = 5;
    int *a = goodmul1(wid, len);
    cout << "Ans. is " << *a << endl;
    // delete a;
    return 0;
}
```

```
// Bad! Returns a pointer to a var.
// that will go out of scope
int* badmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int out = in1 * in2;
    return &out;
}
```

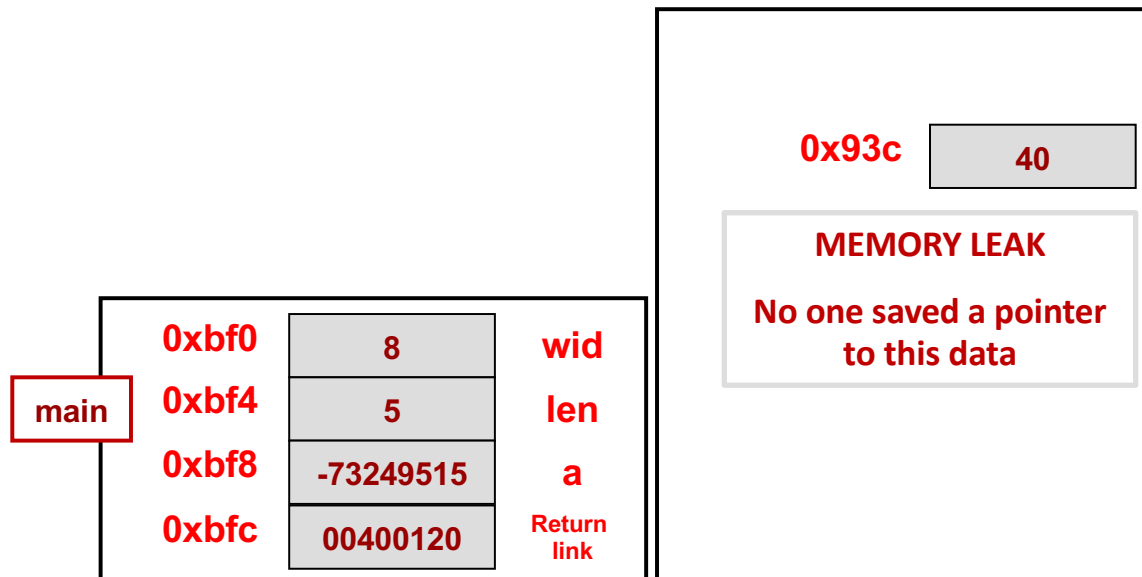
```
// Good! Returns a pointer to a var.
// that will continue to live
int* goodmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int* out = new int;
    *out = in1 * in2;
    return out;
}
```


Dynamic Allocation – A1

- What happens if we comment the 'delete a' line?
– **Memory LEAK!!**

Stack Area of RAM

Heap Area of RAM



```
// Computes the product of in1 & in2
int* badmul1(int in1, int in2);
int* goodmul1(int in1, int in2);
```

```
int main()
{
    int wid = 8, len = 5;
    int *a = goodmul1(wid, len);
    cout << "Ans. is " << *a << endl;
    // delete a;
    return 0;
}
```

```
// Bad! Returns a pointer to a var.
// that will go out of scope
int* badmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int out = in1 * in2;
    return &out;
}
```

```
// Good! Returns a pointer to a var.
// that will continue to live
int* goodmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int* out = new int;
    *out = in1 * in2;
    return out;
}
```

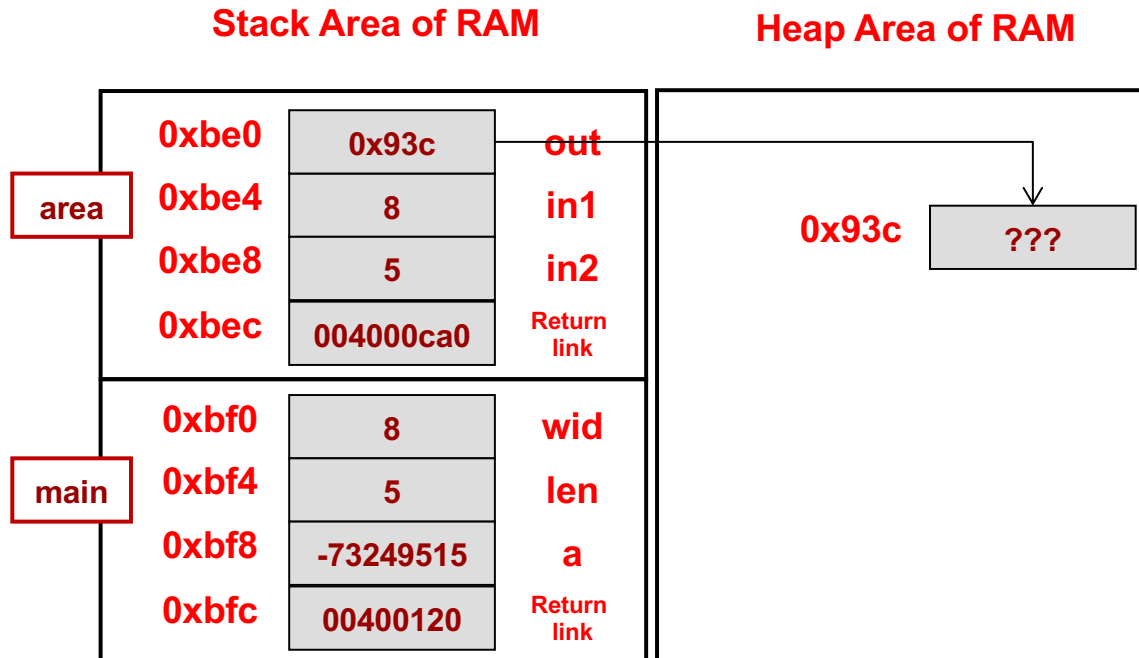
Dynamic Allocation – Q2

- What happens if we overwrite the only pointer to a dynamically allocated variable/object?

```
// Computes the product of in1 & in2
int* goodmul1(int in1, int in2);
```

```
int main()
{
    int wid = 8, len = 5;
    int *a = goodmul1(wid, len);
    cout << "Ans. is " << *a << endl;
    delete a;
    return 0;
}
```

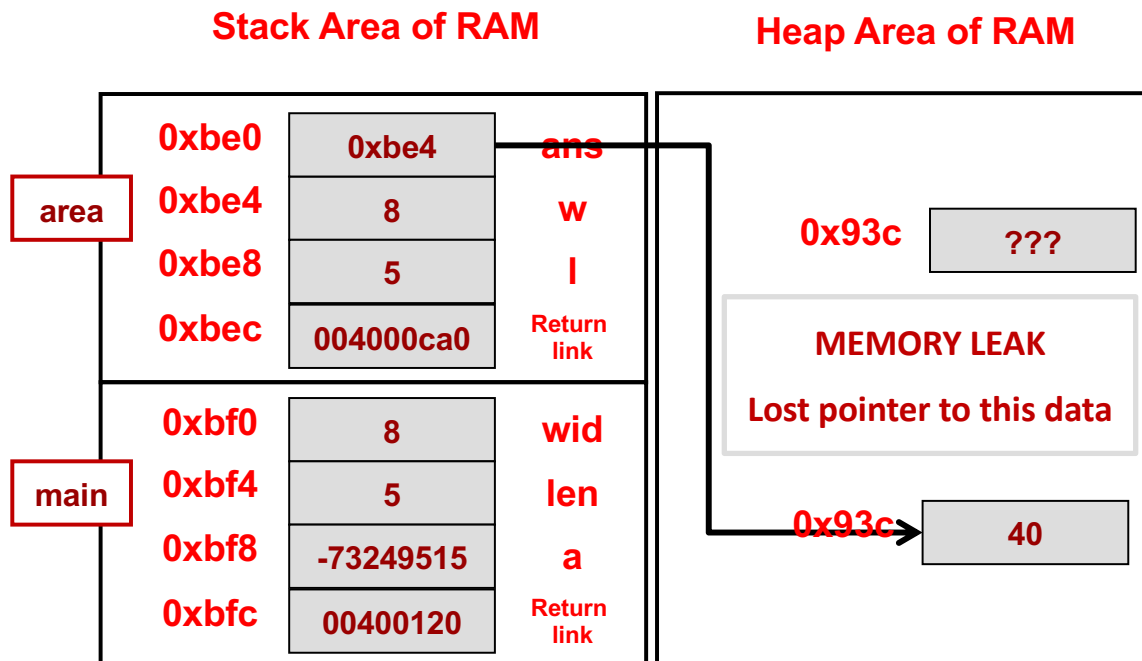
```
// Good! Returns a pointer to a var.
// that will continue to live
int* goodmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int* out = new int;
    out = new int; // another int
    *out = in1 * in2;
    return out;
}
```





Dynamic Allocation – A2

- What happens if we overwrite the only pointer to a dynamically allocated variable/object?
 - A memory leak
- Be sure you keep a pointer around somewhere otherwise you'll have a memory leak!



```
// Computes the product of in1 & in2
int* goodmul1(int in1, int in2);
```

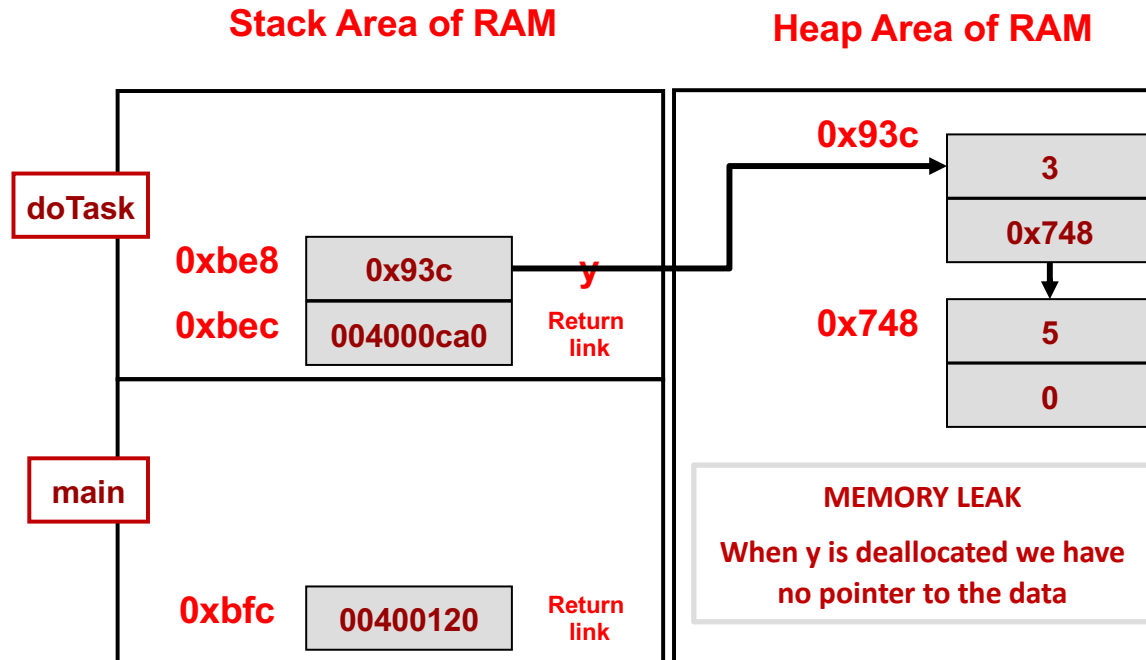
```
int main()
{
    int wid = 8, len = 5;
    int *a = goodmul1(wid, len);
    cout << "Ans. is " << *a << endl;
    delete a;
    return 0;
}
```

```
// Good! Returns a pointer to a var.
// that will continue to live
int* goodmul1(int in1, int in2)
{
    int* out = new int;
    out = new int; // another int
    *out = in1 * in2;
    return out;
}
```



Dynamic Allocation

- The LinkedList object is allocated as a static/local variable
 - But each element is allocated on the heap
- When y goes out of scope only the data members are deallocated
 - You may have a memory leak



```
// Computes rectangle area,
// prints it, & returns it
struct Item {
    int val; Item* next;
};

class LinkedList {
public:
    // create a new item
    // in the list
    void push_back(int v);
private:
    Item* head;
};
```

```
int main()
{
    doTask();
}
```

```
void doTask()
{
    LinkedList y;
    y.push_back(3);
    y.push_back(5);
    /* other stuff */
}
```

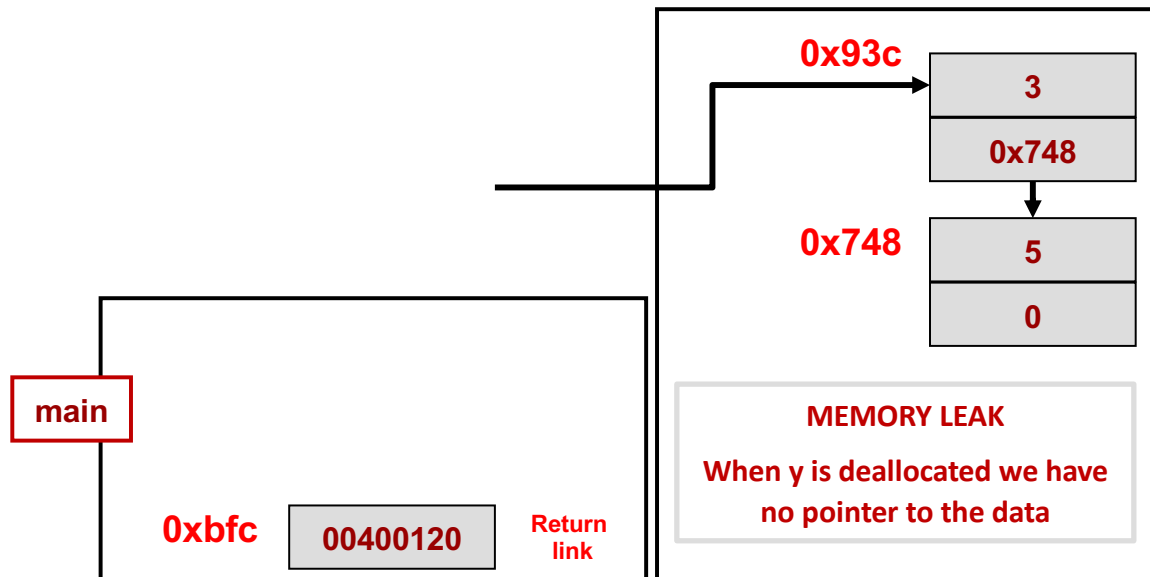
Dynamic Allocation

- The LinkedList object is allocated as a static/local variable
 - But each element is allocated on the heap
- When y goes out of scope only the data members are deallocated
 - You may have a memory leak

An Appropriate Destructor Will Help Solve This

Stack Area of RAM

Heap Area of RAM



```
// Computes rectangle area,
// prints it, & returns it
struct Item {
    int val;  Item* next;
};

class LinkedList {
public:
    // create a new item
    // in the list
    void push_back(int v);
private:
    Item* head;
};

int main()
{
    doTask();
}

void doTask()
{
    LinkedList y;
    y.push_back(3);
    y.push_back(5);
    /* other stuff */
}
```

If time allows

PRACTICE ACTIVITY

Object Assignment

- Assigning one struct or class object to another will cause an element by element copy of the source data destination struct or class

```
#include<iostream>
using namespace std;

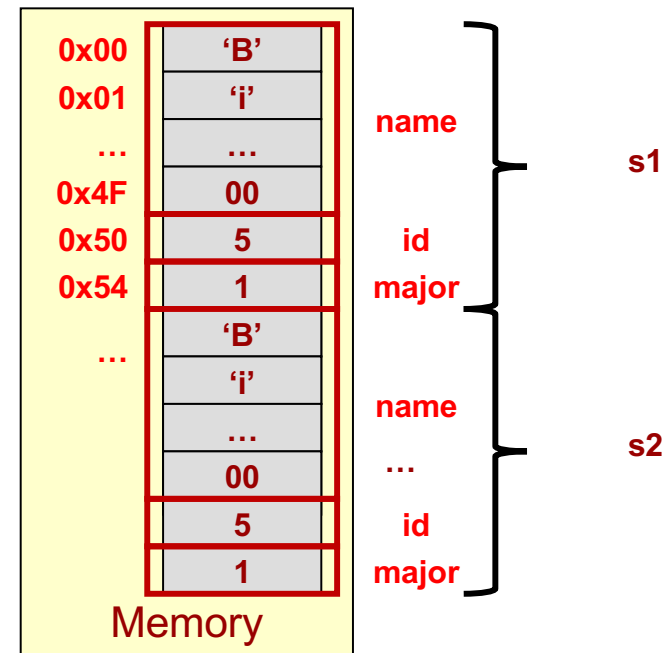
enum {CS, CECS };

struct student {
    char name[80];
    int id;
    int major;
};

int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    student s1;
    strncpy(s1.name,"Bill",80);
    s1.id = 5; s1.major = CS;

    student s2 = s1;

    return 0;
}
```



Memory Allocation Tips

- Take care when returning a pointer or reference that the object being referenced will persist beyond the end of a function
- Take care when assigning a returned referenced object to another variable...you are making a copy
- Try the examples yourself
 - `$ wget http://ee.usc.edu/~redekopp/cs104/memref.cpp`

Understanding Memory Allocation

There are no syntax errors. Which of these can correctly build an Item and then have main() safely access its data

```
class Item
{ public:
  Item(int w, string y);
};
Item buildItem()
{ Item x(4, "hi");
  return x;
}

int main()
{ Item i = buildItem();
  // access i's data.
}
```

ex1

```
class Item
{ public:
  Item(int w, string y);
};
Item& buildItem()
{ Item x(4, "hi");
  return x;
}

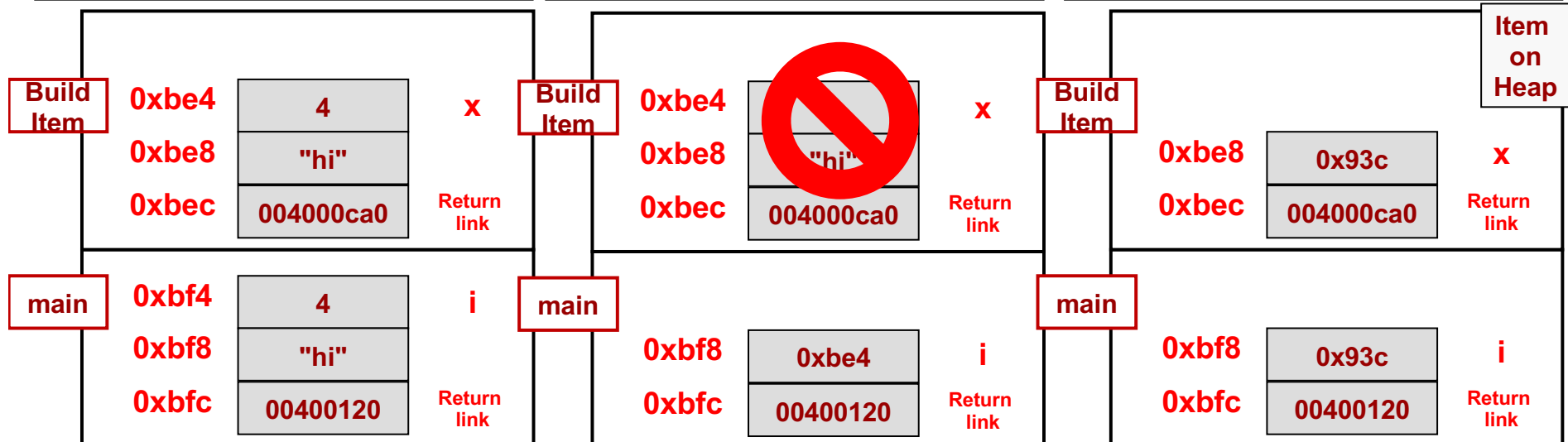
int main()
{ Item& i = buildItem();
  // access i's data
}
```

ex2

```
class Item
{ public:
  Item(int w, string y);
};
Item* buildItem()
{ Item* x = new Item(4, "hi");
  return x;
}

int main()
{ Item *i = buildItem();
  // access i's data
}
```

ex3



Understanding Memory Allocation

There are no syntax errors. Which of these can correctly build an Item and then have main() safely access its data

```
class Item
{ public:
    Item(int w, string y);
};
Item* buildItem()
{ Item x(4, "hi");
  return &x;
}

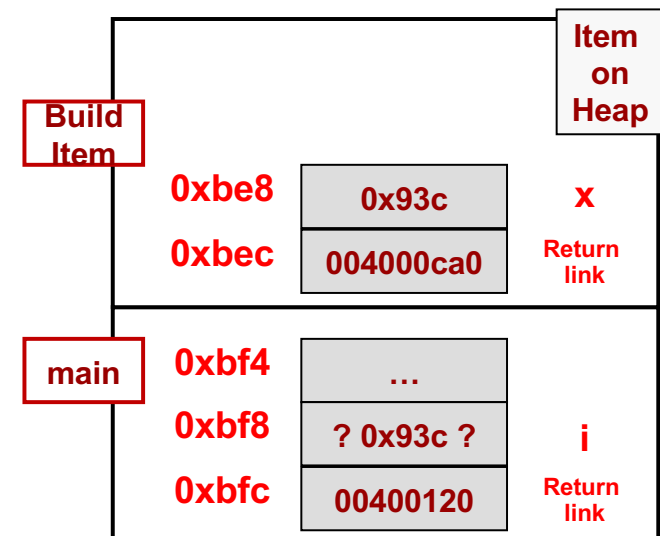
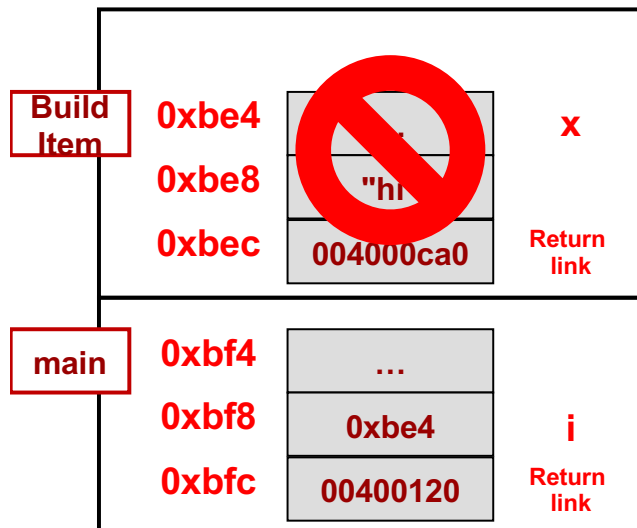
int main()
{ Item *i = buildItem();
  // access i's data
}
```

ex4

```
class Item
{ public:
    Item(int w, string y);
};
Item& buildItem()
{ Item* x = new Item(4, "hi");
  return *x;
}

int main()
{ Item& i = buildItem();
  // access i's data
}
```

ex5



Understanding Memory Allocation

```
class Item
{ public:
  Item(int w, string y);
};
Item& buildItem()
{ Item* x = new Item(4, "hi");
  return *x;
}

int main()
{ Item i = buildItem();
  // access i's data.
}
```

ex6



```
class Item
{ public:
  Item(int w, string y);
};
Item& buildItem()
{ Item* x = new Item(4, "hi");
  return *x;
}

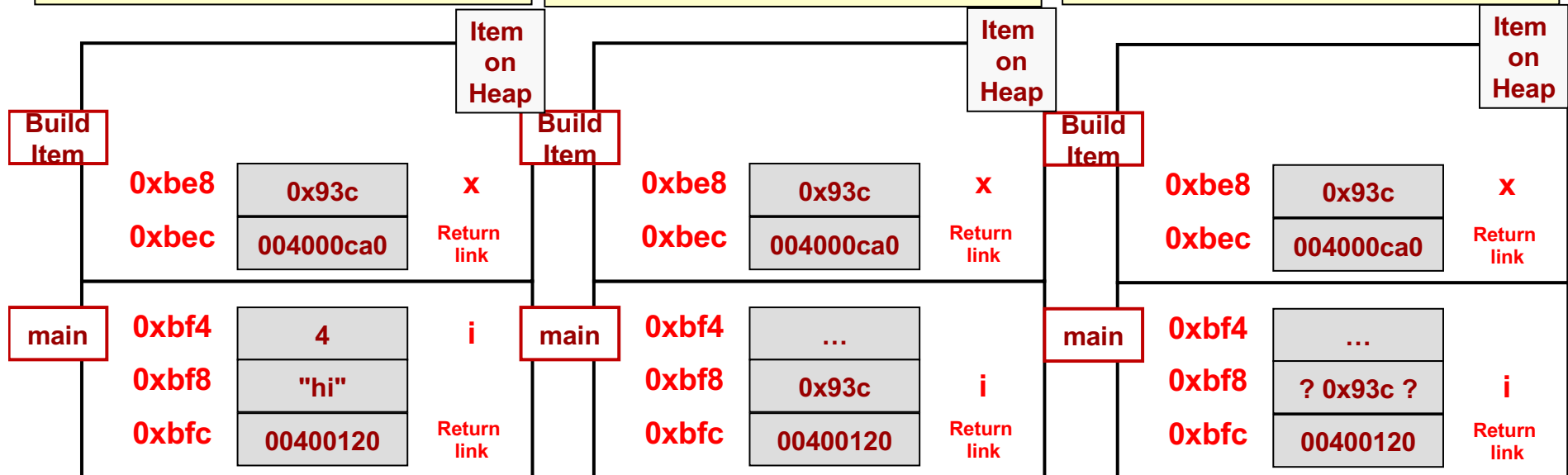
int main()
{ Item *i = &(buildItem());
  // access i's data.
}
```

ex7

```
class Item
{ public:
  Item(int w, string y);
};
Item& buildItem()
{ Item* x = new Item(4, "hi");
  return *x;
}

int main()
{ Item &i = buildItem();
  // access i's data
}
```

ex8



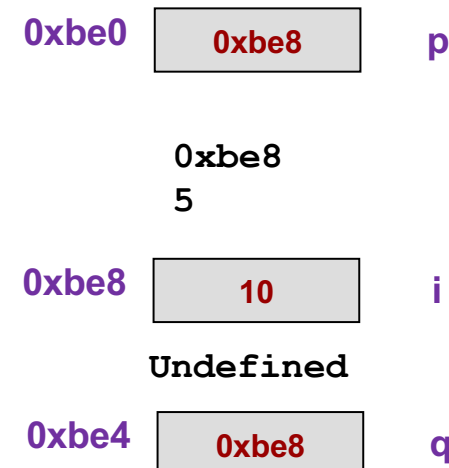
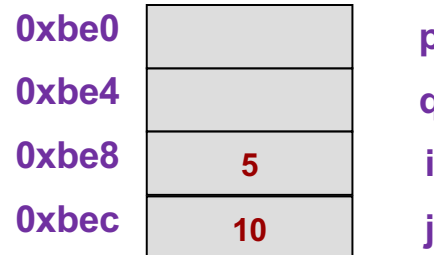
SOLUTIONS

Review of Pointers in C/C++

- Pointer (type *)
 - Really just the memory address of a variable
 - Pointer to a data-type is specified as *type ** (e.g. `int *`)
 - Operators: `&` and `*`
 - `&object` => **address-of object (Create a link to an object)**
 - `*ptr` => **object located at address given by ptr (Follow a link to an object)**
 - `*(&object)` => object [i.e. `*` and `&` are inverse operators of each other]
- Example: Indicate what each line prints or what variable is modified. Use **NA** for any invalid operation.

```
int* p, *q;
int i, j;

i = 5; j = 10;
p = &i;
cout << p << endl;
cout << *p << endl;
*p = j;
*q = *p;
q = p;
```



Check Yourself

- Consider these declarations:
 - `int k, x[3] = {5, 7, 9};`
 - `int *myptr = x;`
 - `int **ourptr = &myptr;`
- Indicate the formal type that each expression evaluates to (i.e. `int`, `int *`, `int **`)

To figure out the type of data a pointer expression will yield...

- Each `*` in the expression cancels a `*` from the variable type.
- Each `&` in the expression adds a `*` to the variable type.

Orig. Type	Expr	Yields
<code>myptr = int*</code>	<code>*myptr</code>	<code>int</code>
<code>ourptr = int**</code>	<code>**ourptr</code>	<code>int</code>
	<code>*ourptr</code>	<code>int*</code>
<code>k = int</code>	<code>&k</code>	<code>int*</code>
	<code>&myptr</code>	<code>int**</code>

Expression	Type
<code>&x[0]</code>	<code>int*</code>
<code>x</code>	<code>int*</code>
<code>myptr</code>	<code>int*</code>
<code>*myptr</code>	<code>int</code>
<code>(*ourptr) + 1</code>	<code>int*</code>
<code>myptr + 2</code>	<code>int*</code>
<code>&ourptr</code>	<code>int***</code>

Argument Passing Examples

- Pass-by-value => Passes a copy
- Pass-by-reference =>
 - Pass-by-pointer/address => Passes address of actual variable
 - Pass-by-reference => Passes an alias to actual variable (likely its really passing a pointer behind the scenes but now you don't have to dereference everything)

```
int main()
{
    int x=5,y=7;
    swapit(x,y);
    cout <<"x,y="<< x<<"<< y;
    cout << endl;
}

void swapit(int x, int y)
{
    int temp;
    temp = x;
    x = y;
    y = temp;
}
```



program output: x=5,y=7

```
int main()
{
    int x=5,y=7;
    swapit(&x,&y);
    cout <<"x,y="<< x<<"<< y;
    cout << endl;
}

void swapit(int *x, int *y)
{
    int temp;
    temp = *x;
    *x = *y;
    *y = temp;
}
```



program output: x=7,y=5

```
int main()
{
    int x=5,y=7;
    swapit(x,y);
    cout <<"x,y="<< x<<"<< y;
    cout << endl;
}

void swapit(int &x, int &y)
{
    int temp;
    temp = x;
    x = y;
    y = temp;
}
```



program output: x=7,y=5

Understanding Memory Allocation


There are no syntax errors. Which of these can correctly build an Item and then have main() safely access its data

```

class Item
{ public:
    Item(int w, string y);
};
Item buildItem()
{ Item x(4, "hi");
  return x;
}

int main()
{ Item i = buildItem();
  // access i's data.
}

```


ex1 

```

class Item
{ public:
    Item(int w, string y);
};
Item& buildItem()
{ Item x(4, "hi");
  return x;
}

int main()
{ Item& i = buildItem();
  // access i's data
}

```


ex2 

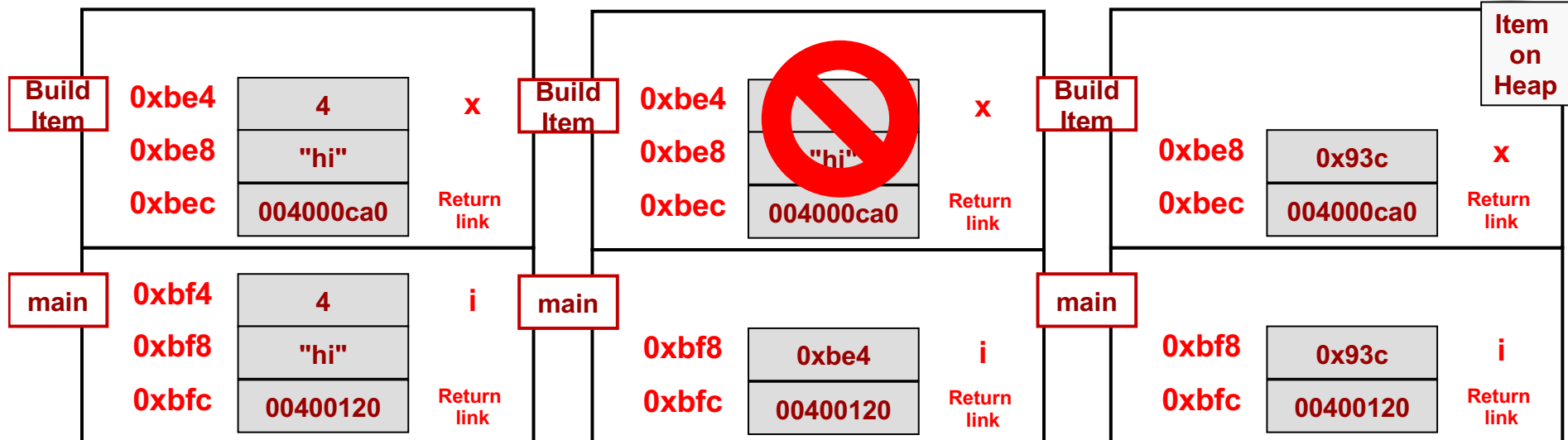
```

class Item
{ public:
    Item(int w, string y);
};
Item* buildItem()
{ Item* x = new Item(4, "hi");
  return x;
}

int main()
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}

```

ex3 



Understanding Memory Allocation

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}

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```

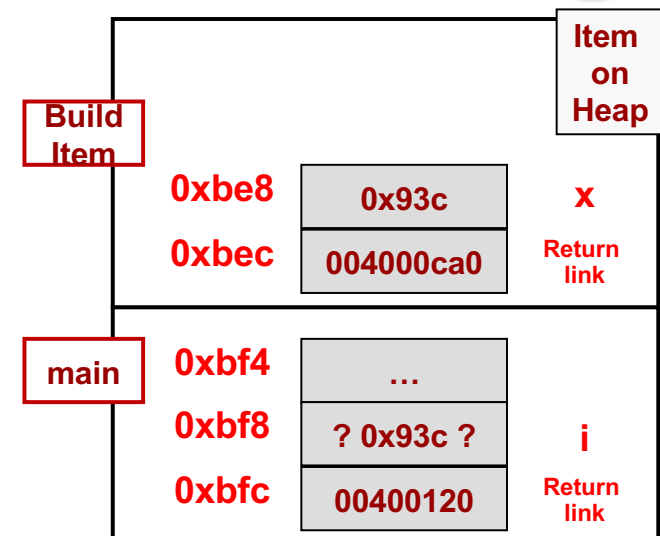
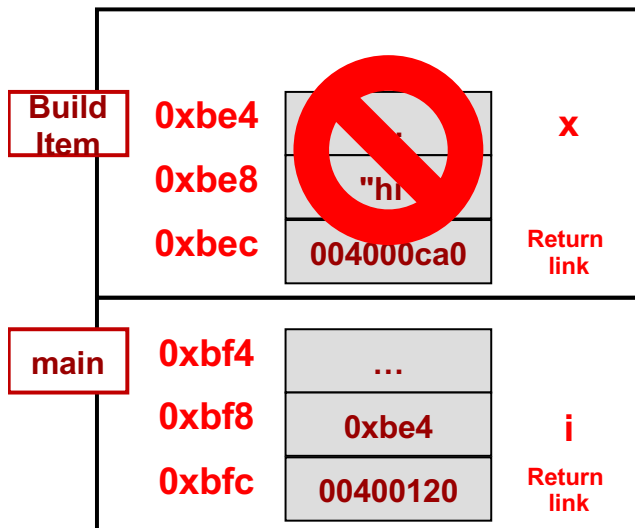
ex4



```
class Item
{ public:
  Item(int w, string y);
};
Item& buildItem()
{ Item* x = new Item(4, "hi");
  return *x;
}

int main()
{ Item& i = buildItem();
  // access i's data
}
```

ex5



Understanding Memory Allocation

```
class Item
{ public:
  Item(int w, string y);
};
Item& buildItem()
{ Item* x = new Item(4, "hi");
  return *x;
}

int main()
{ Item i = buildItem();
  // access i's data.
}
```

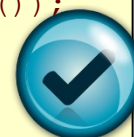
ex6



```
class Item
{ public:
  Item(int w, string y);
};
Item& buildItem()
{ Item* x = new Item(4, "hi");
  return *x;
}

int main()
{ Item *i = &(buildItem());
  // access i's data.
}
```

ex7



```
class Item
{ public:
  Item(int w, string y);
};
Item& buildItem()
{ Item* x = new Item(4, "hi");
  return *x;
}

int main()
{ Item &i = buildItem();
  // access i's data
}
```

ex8

