Operating System Labs

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Operating System Labs

- Project 2 Due
  - 21:00, Nov. 12
- Project 2
  - group of 3
  - You now have 3 “late days”, but start early!
  - Oral test at week 12 (Nov. 27)
- We encourage using **git** for your group assignments (geeks' choice).

Operating System Labs

- C Memory API
- Free Memory Management

C Memory API

- Type of memory
  - Stack
  - Heap

C Memory API

- Stack
  - Allocated / Deallocate automatically
  - By the compiler
  - Automatic memory

C Memory API

- Stack
  - Example (local variable)

```
void func()
{
        int x = 0;
    ...
}
```

  - You only declare the variable
  - Compiler will allocate it when someone calls the function
  - Also will deallocate it when func returns

C Memory API

- Heap
  - Allocated / Deallocate explicitly
  - By you, the programmer

C Memory API

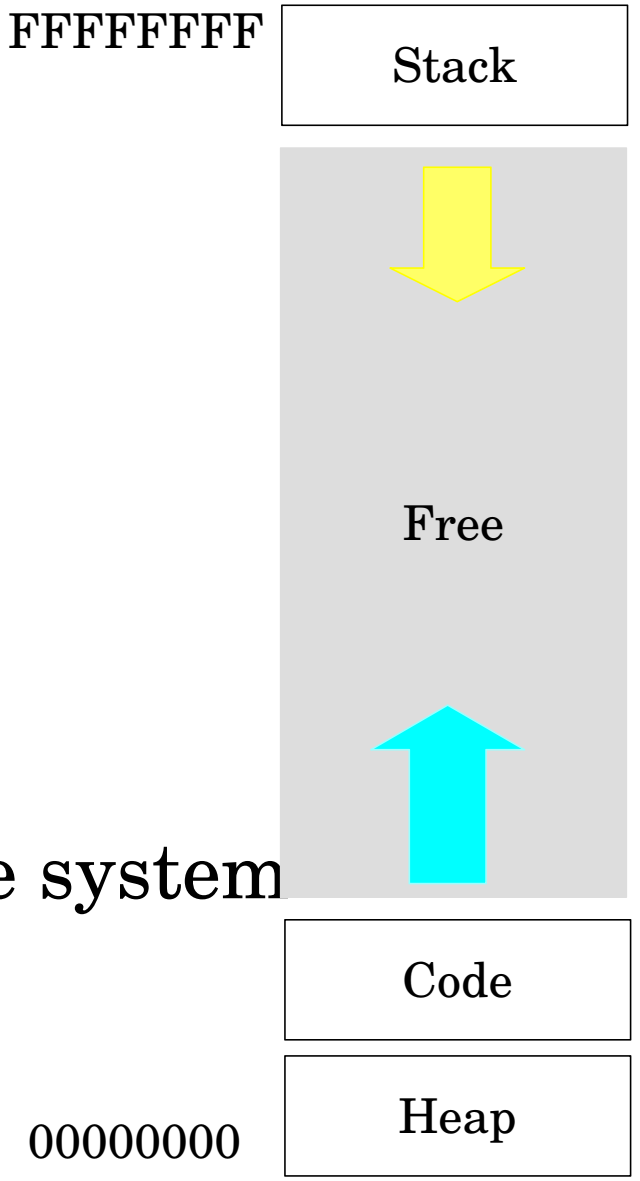
- Heap
  - Example (malloc)

```
void func()
{
        int *ptr = (int*)malloc(sizeof(int));
    ...
}
```

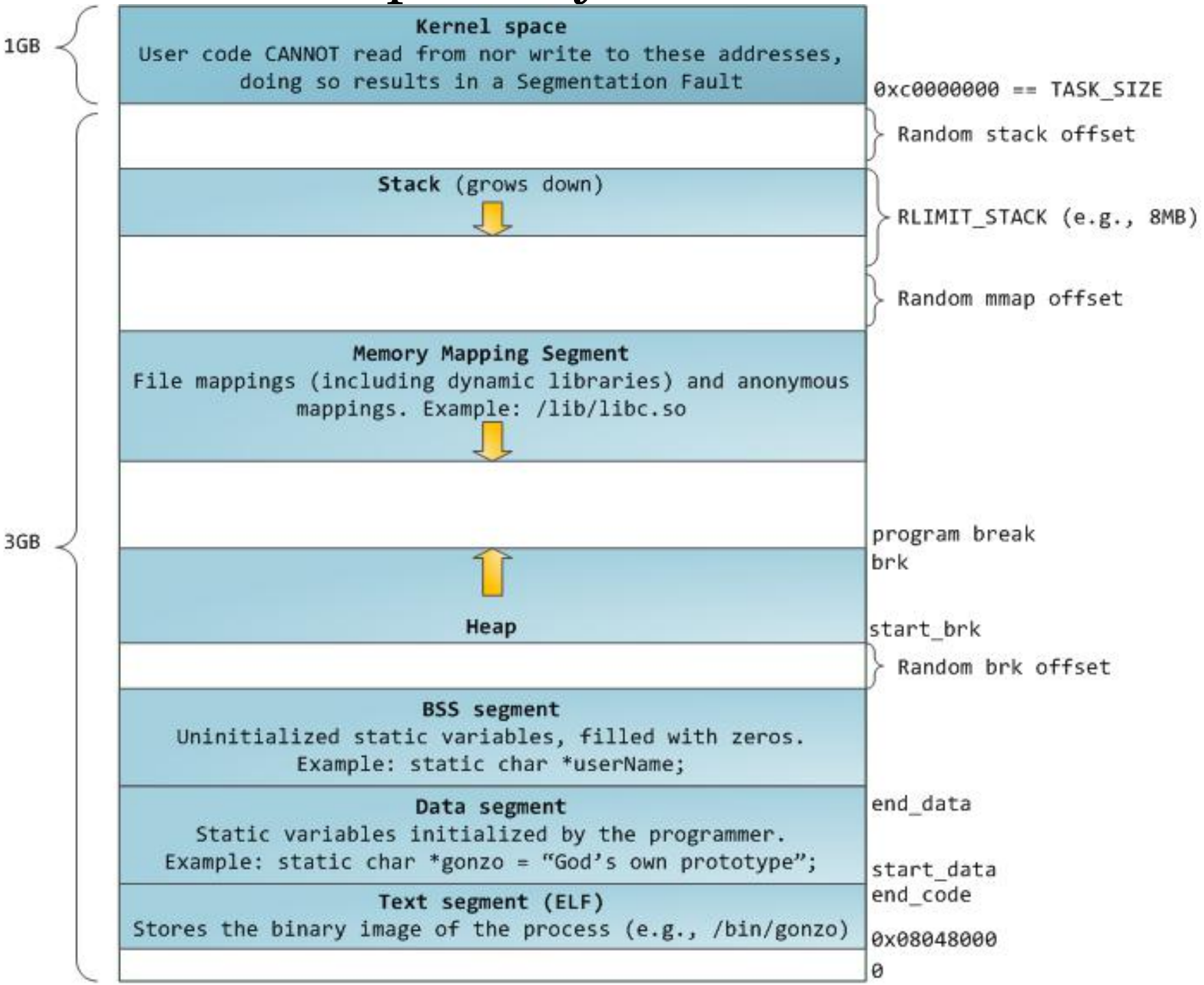
  - Both stack and heap allocation
  - When func returns,
    - Stack memory will be deallocated
    - Heap memory is still there

C Memory API

- Stack and Heap
  - Heap
    - From low addr to high addr
  - Stack
    - From high addr to low addr
- Let's see
- pmap
  - front-end for smap file proc file system



- A real address space layout



C Memory API

- Malloc

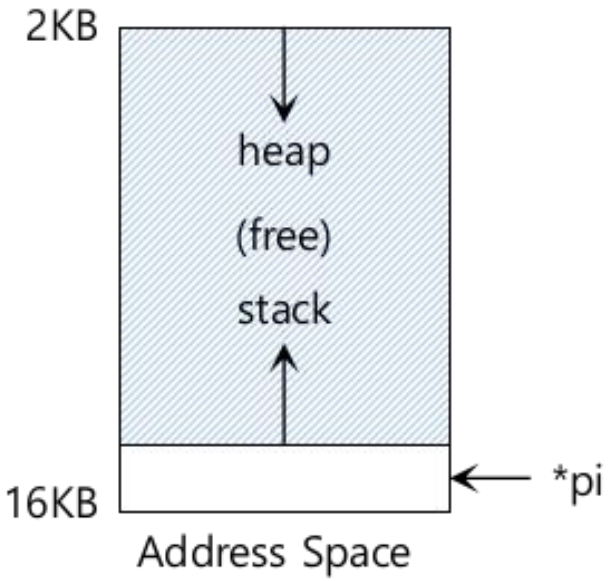
```
#include <stdlib.h>
void *malloc(size_t size);
```

  - If failed, return NULL

- Free

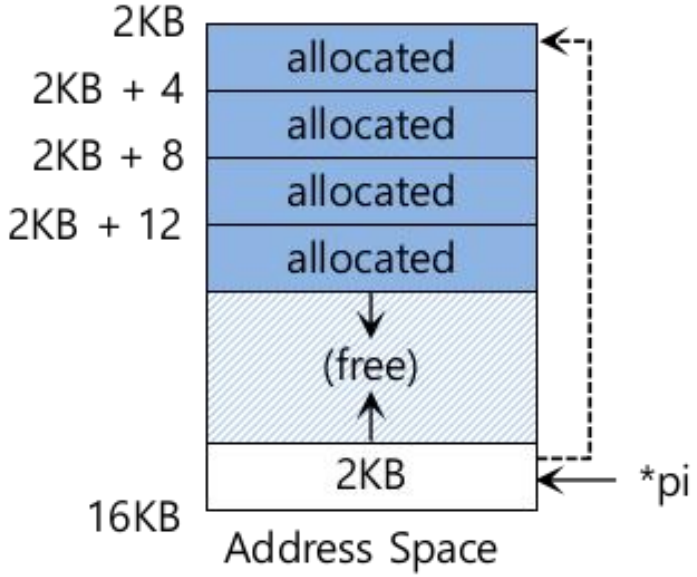
```
#include <stdlib.h>
void free(void* ptr);
```

Allocation



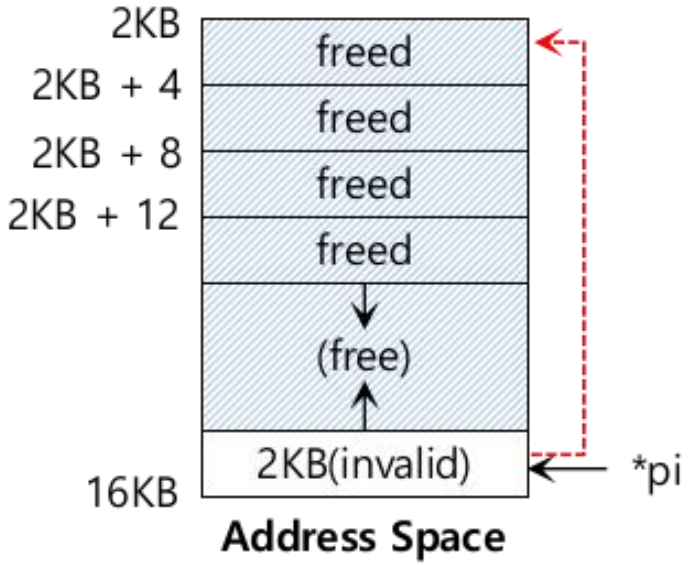
pointer

```
int *pi; // local variable
```

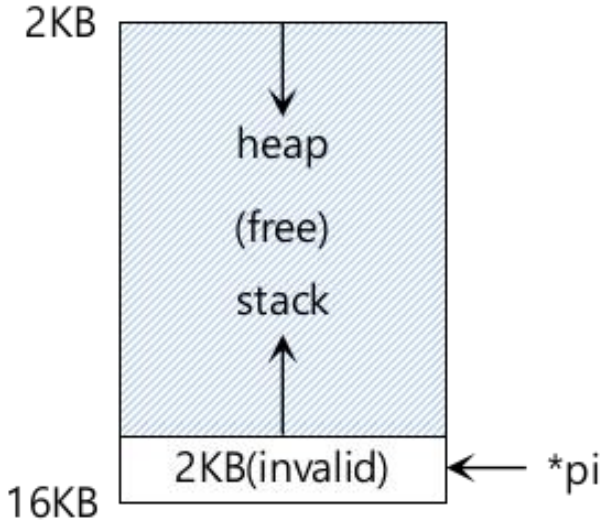



```
pi = (int *)malloc(sizeof(int)*
4);
```

Free


2KB
2KB + 4
2KB + 8
2KB + 12
freed
freed
freed
freed
(free)
2KB(invalid)
*pi
16KB
Address Space

```
free(pi);
```


2KB
heap
(free)
stack
2KB(invalid)
*pi
16KB

C Memory API

- Segment fault

```
char *src = "hello";
char *dst;
strcpy(dst, src);
```

- run this code, it will likely lead to a

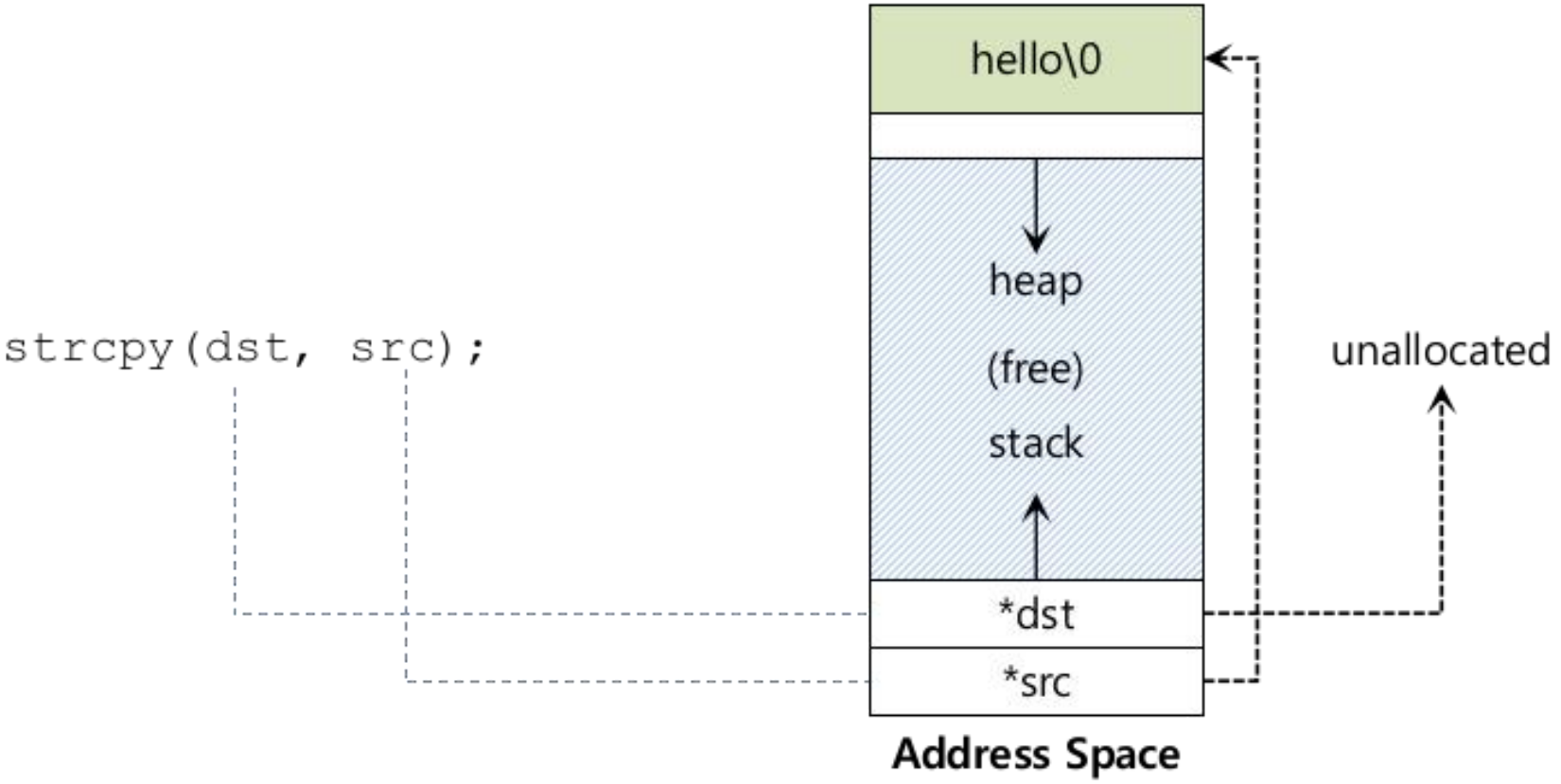
segmentation fault

- It is a fancy term for

YOU DID SOMETHING WRONG WITH MEMORY
YOU FOOLISH PROGRAMMER AND I AM ANGRY.

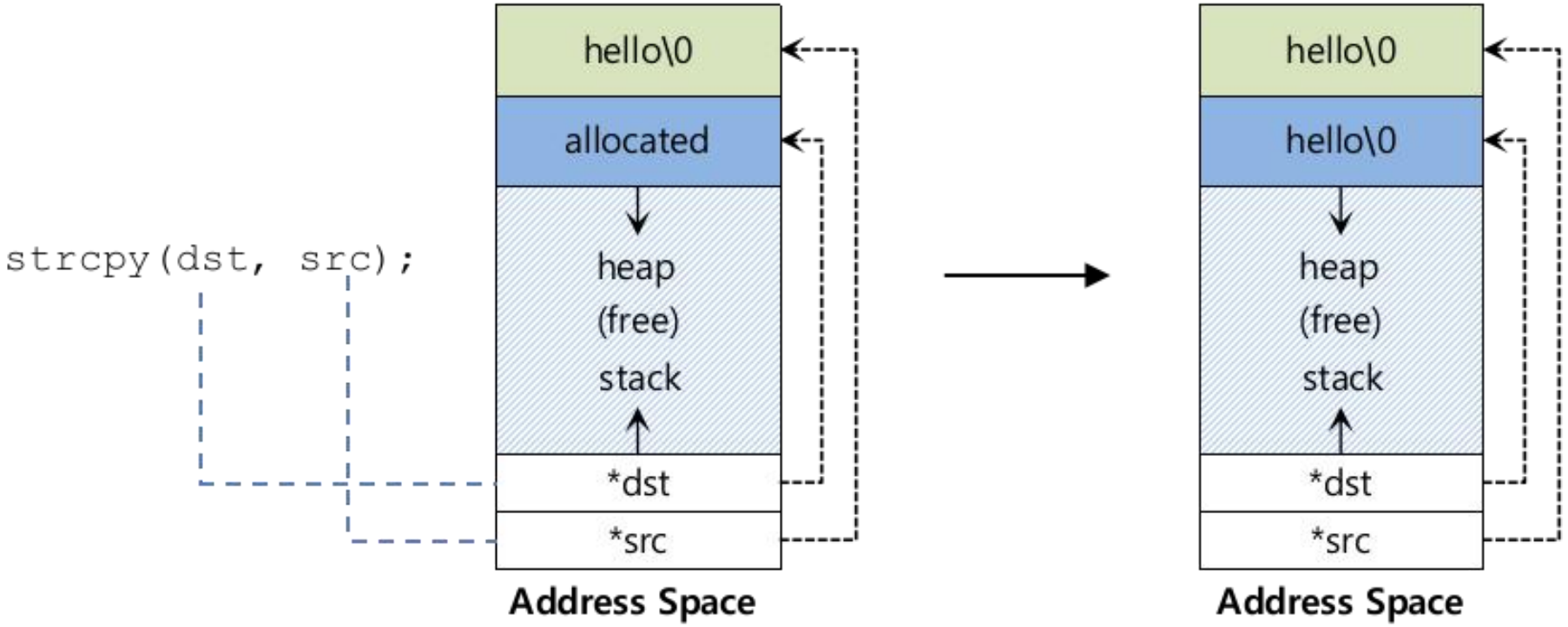
Segmentation Fault

```
char *src = "hello"; //character string constant
char *dst;           //unallocated
strcpy(dst, src);    //segfault and die
```



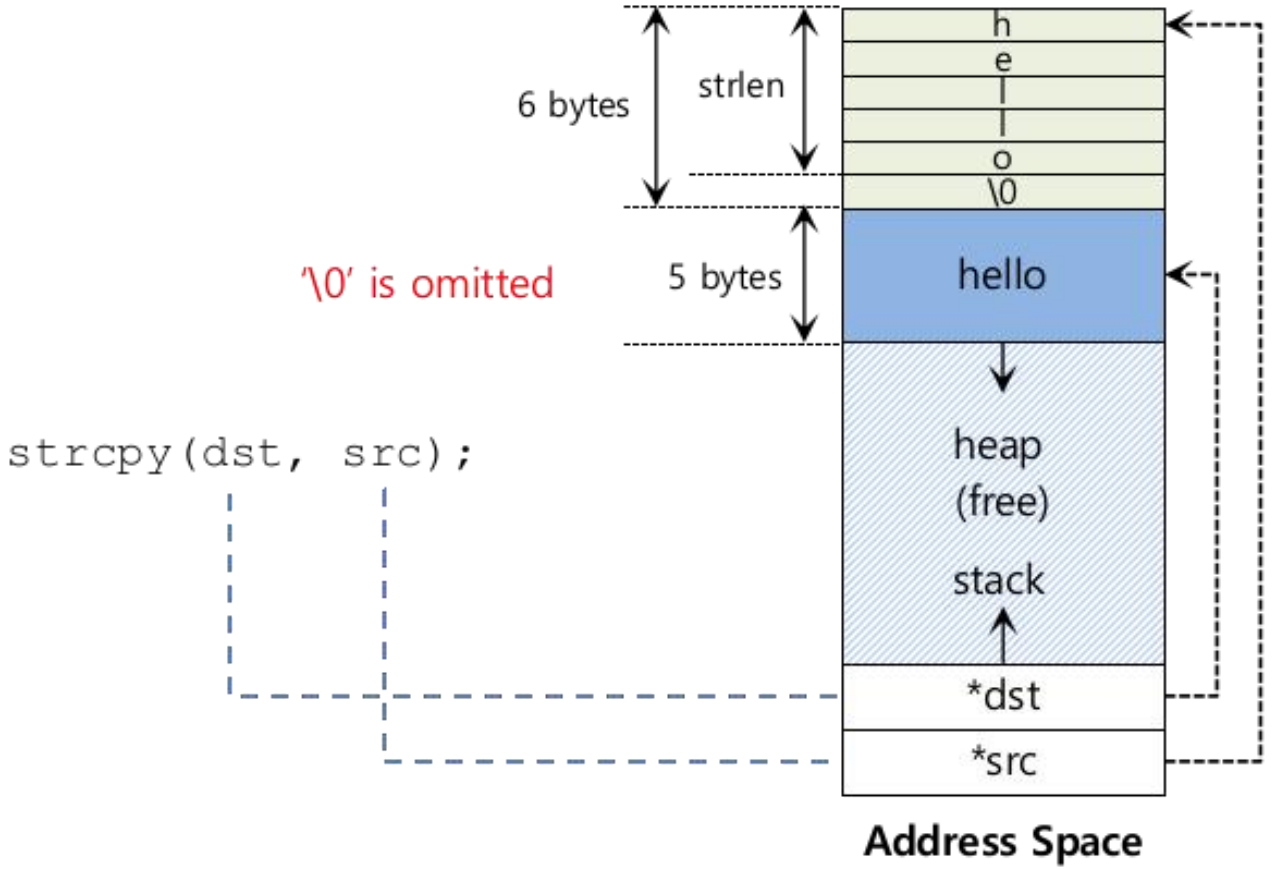
Correct Code

```
char *src = "hello";   //character string constant
char *dst (char *)malloc(strlen(src) + 1 ); // allocated
strcpy(dst, src);      //work properly
```



Works, but buggy

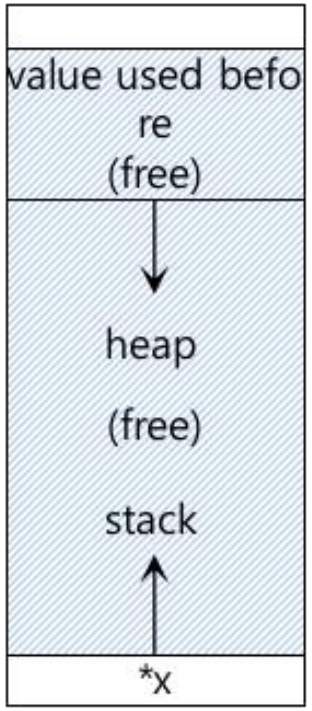
```
char *src = "hello"; //character string constant
char *dst (char *)malloc(strlen(src)); // too small
strcpy(dst, src);    //work properly
```



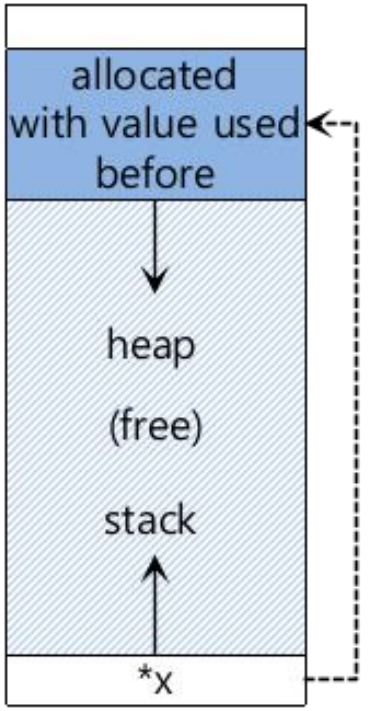
Uninitialized Read

- Wild pointer

```
int *x = (int *)malloc(sizeof(int)); // allocated
printf("*x = %d\n", *x); // uninitialized memory access
```

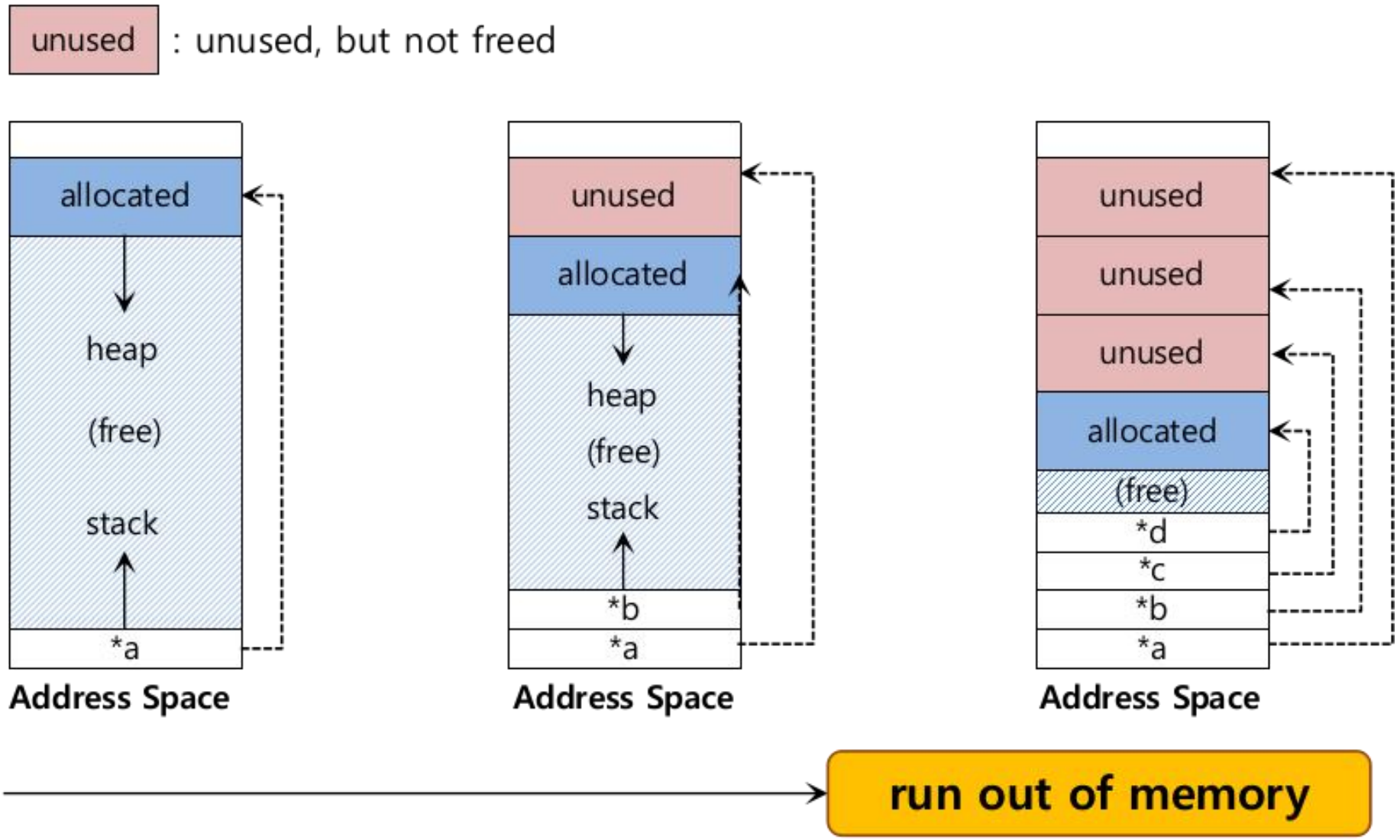


Address Space

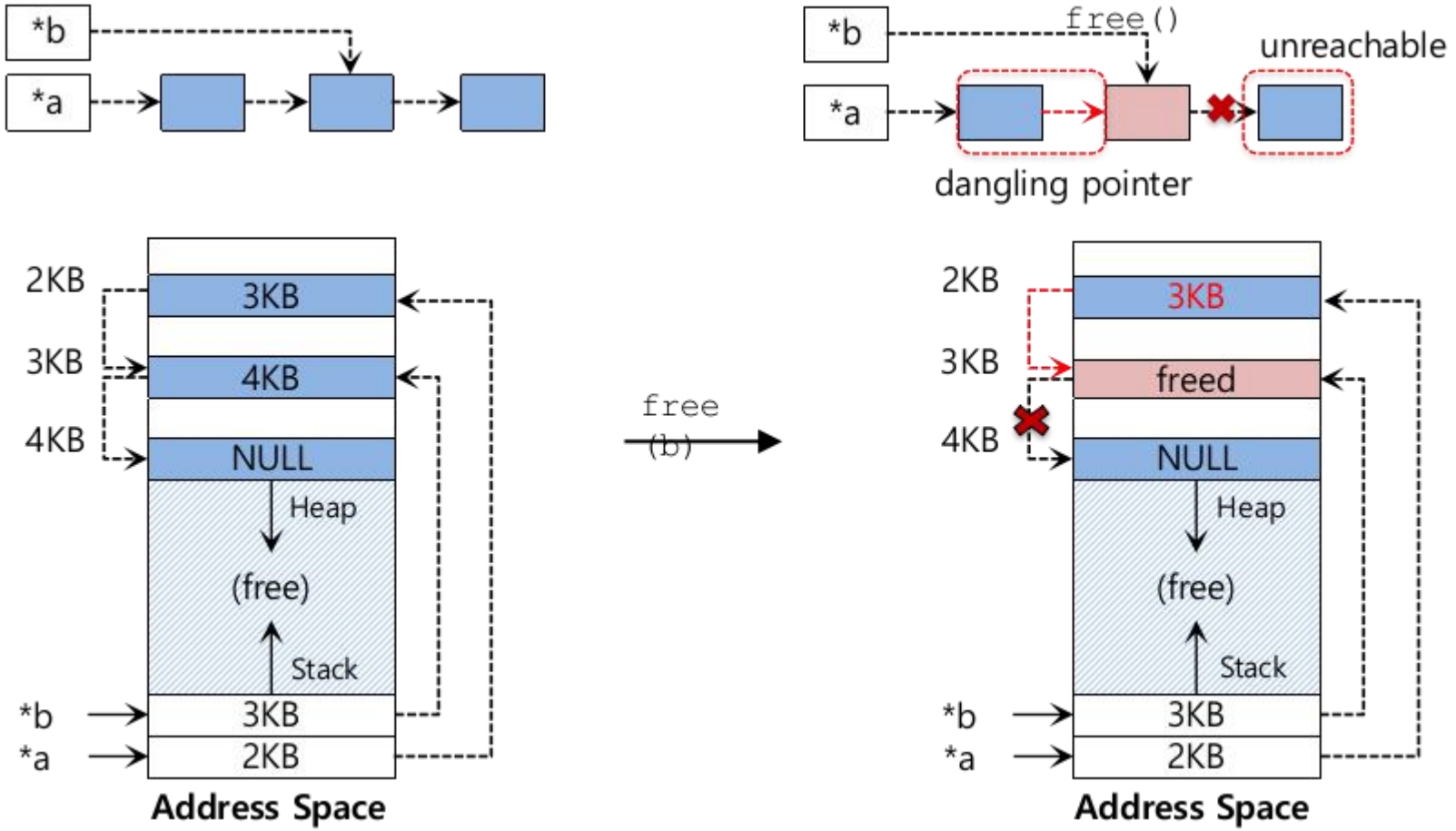


Address Space

Memory Leak


unused
: unused, but not freed
allocated
heap
(free)
stack
*a
Address Space
unused
allocated
heap
(free)
stack
*b
*a
Address Space
unused
unused
unused
allocated
(free)
*d
*c
*b
*a
Address Space
run out of memory

Dangling Pointer



C Memory API

- Standard library
  - malloc(), realloc(), free()
- System calls
  - brk(), sbrk()
  - mmap()
- For comparison
  - printf() and write()
  - “Buffer the system call“

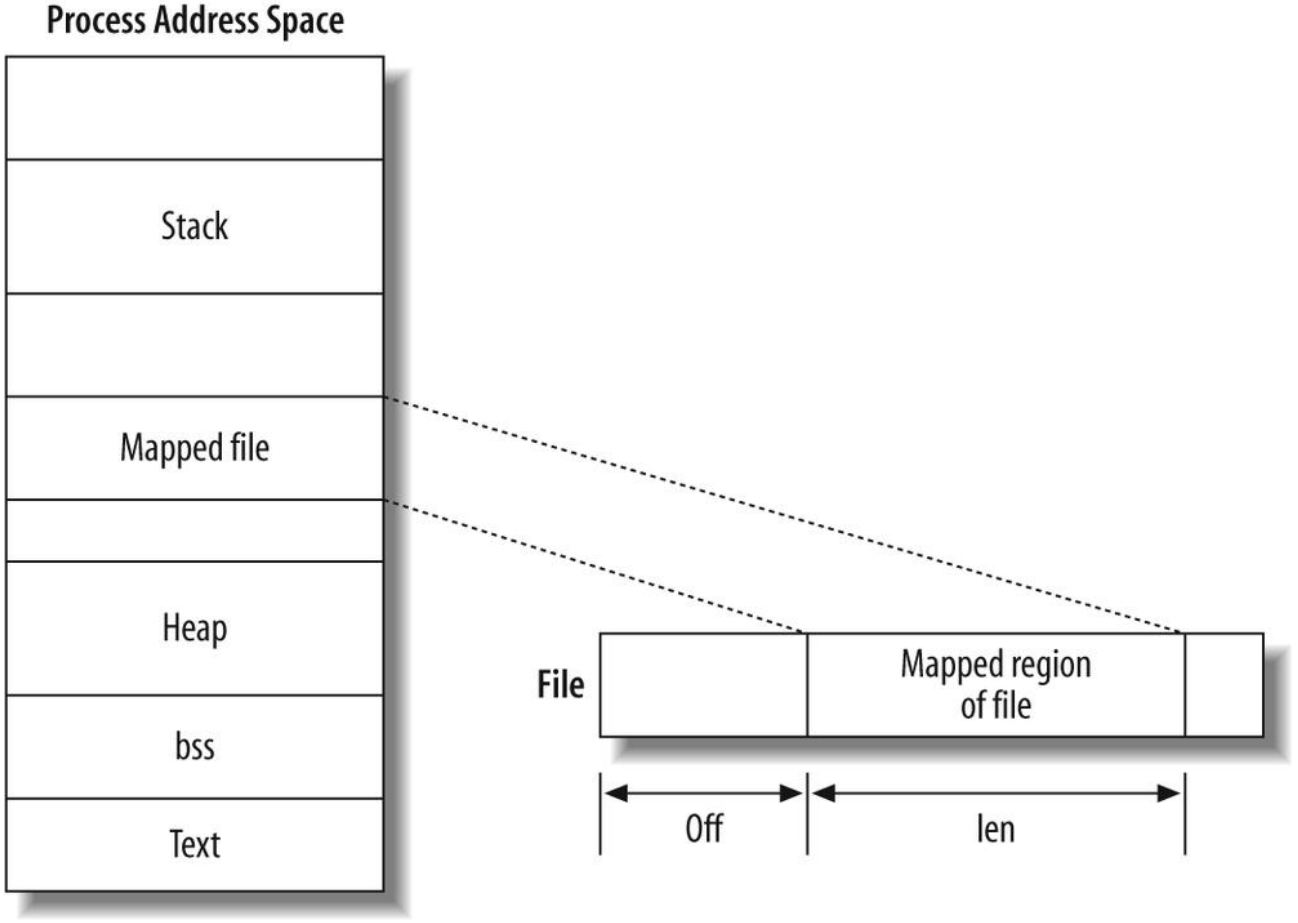
System calls: brk(), sbrk()

```
#include <unistd.h>

int brk(void *addr)
void *sbrk(intptr_t increment);
```

- brk/sbrk: expand the program's break.
  - break: The location of the end of the heap in address space

System calls: mmap()

```
#include <sys/mman.h>

void *mmap(void *ptr, size_t length, int port, int flags,
int fd, off_t offset)
```



C Memory API

- Summary: common errors
  - Forget to allocate memory
  - Not allocating enough memory
  - Forget to initialize allocated memory
  - Forget to free memory
  - Free memory before you are done with it
  - Free memory repeatedly
  - Call free() incorrectly


OKAY, HUMAN.
HUH?
BEFORE YOU HIT 'COMPILE', LISTEN UP.
YOU KNOW WHEN YOU'RE FALLING ASLEEP, AND YOU IMAGINE YOURSELF WALKING OR SOMETHING.
AND SUDDENLY YOU MISSTEP, STUMBLE, AND JOLT AWAKE?
YEAH!
WELL, THAT'S WHAT A SEGFAULT FEELS LIKE.
DOUBLE-CHECK YOUR DAMN POINTERS, OKAY?

Free Memory Management

Dark Forest of Pointers

Free Memory Management

- Manage a bunch of “free memory”
- Where ?
  - implementation of virtual memory (kernel space)
  - implementation of memory allocation librarys (user space)

Free Memory Management

- Fixed-size unit
  - Paging
  - Problem: internal fragmentation
- Variable-size unit
  - User level: memory allocation library
  - Kernel level: VM implemented with segmentation
  - Problem: external fragmentation

Free Memory Management

- Proj2 (linux part)
  - manage variable-size free memory units
  - implement a use space memory allocation library
    - malloc(size_t size)
    - free(void *ptr)

Free Memory Management

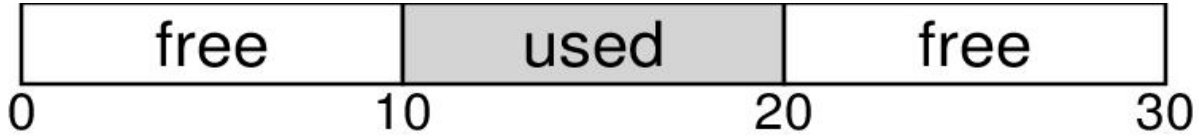
- Assumptions
  - Focus on external fragmentation
  - No compaction
  - Manage a contiguous region of bytes (by mmap() system call)

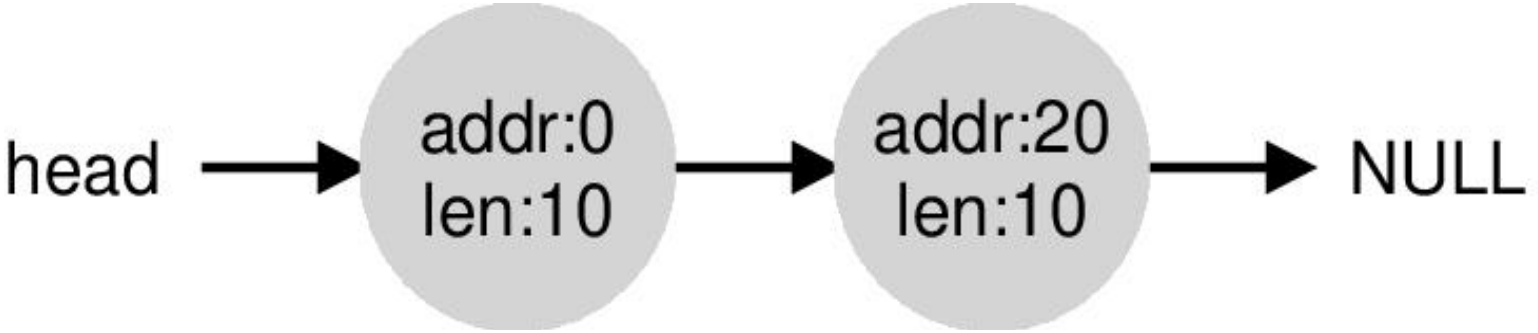
Free Memory Management

- Low-level Mechanisms
  - Splitting and Coalescing
  - Tracking allocated regions
  - Implementation of a free list
- High-level Intelligence
  - Best fit
  - Worst fit
  - First fit
  - Next fit

Free Memory Management

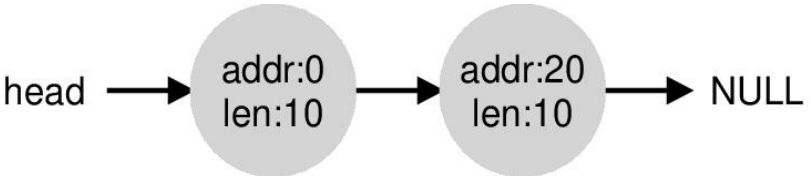
- **Splitting and Coalescing**
  - Free list: a set of free chunks
  - Two chunks (10 bytes each)

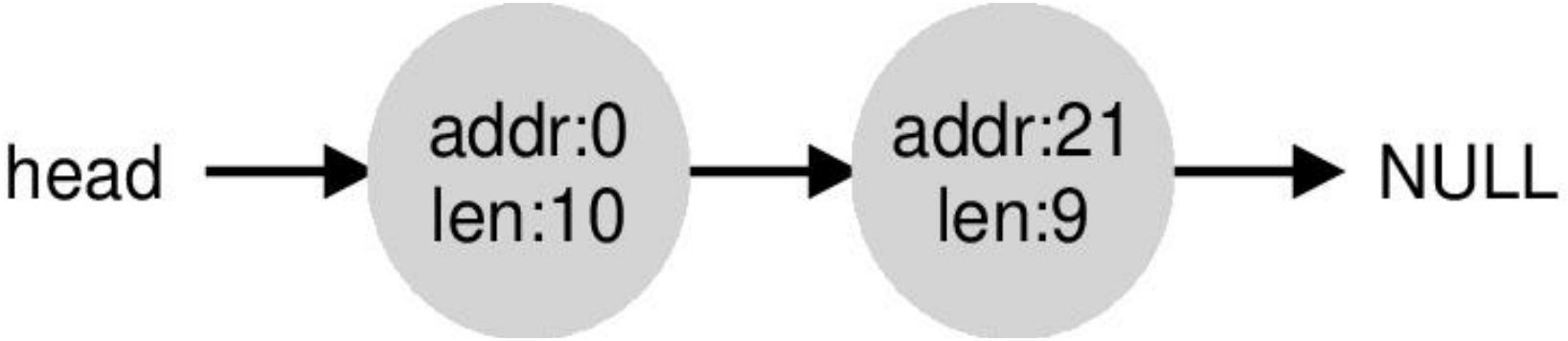




Free Memory Management

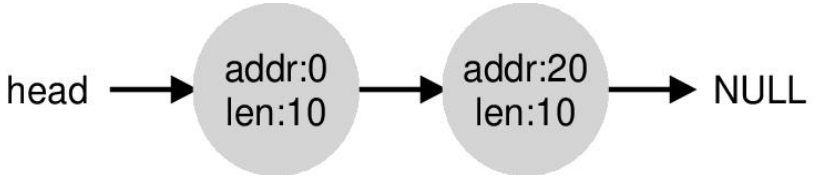
- **Splitting and Coalescing**
  - request less than 10 bytes? (e.g. malloc(1))
  - Splitting

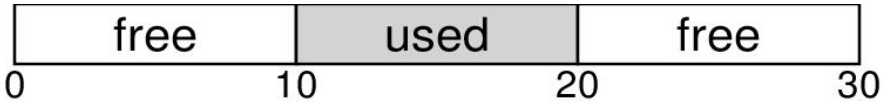


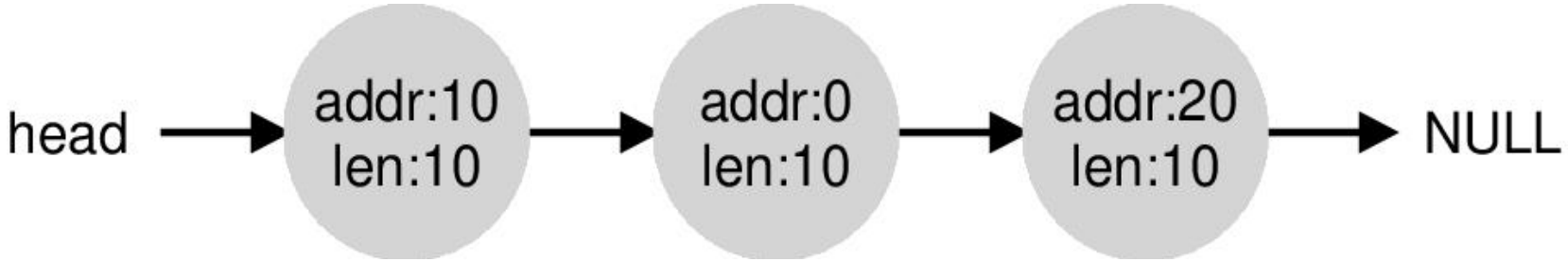


Free Memory Management

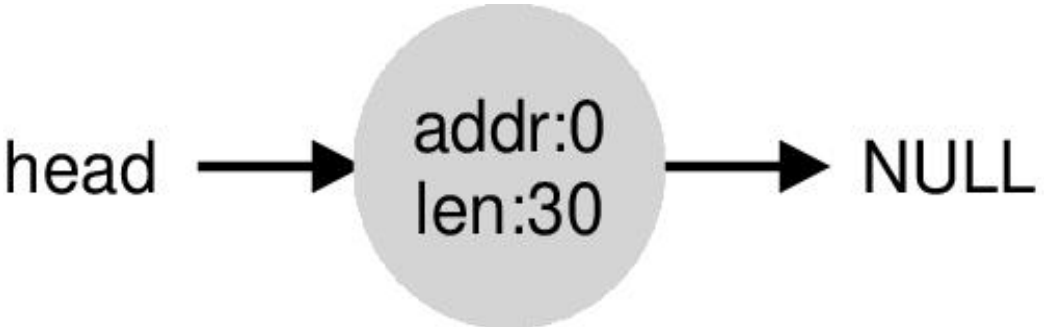
- **Splitting and Coalescing**
  - Free a chunk?







  - Malloc(20)?
  - Coalescing



Free Memory Management

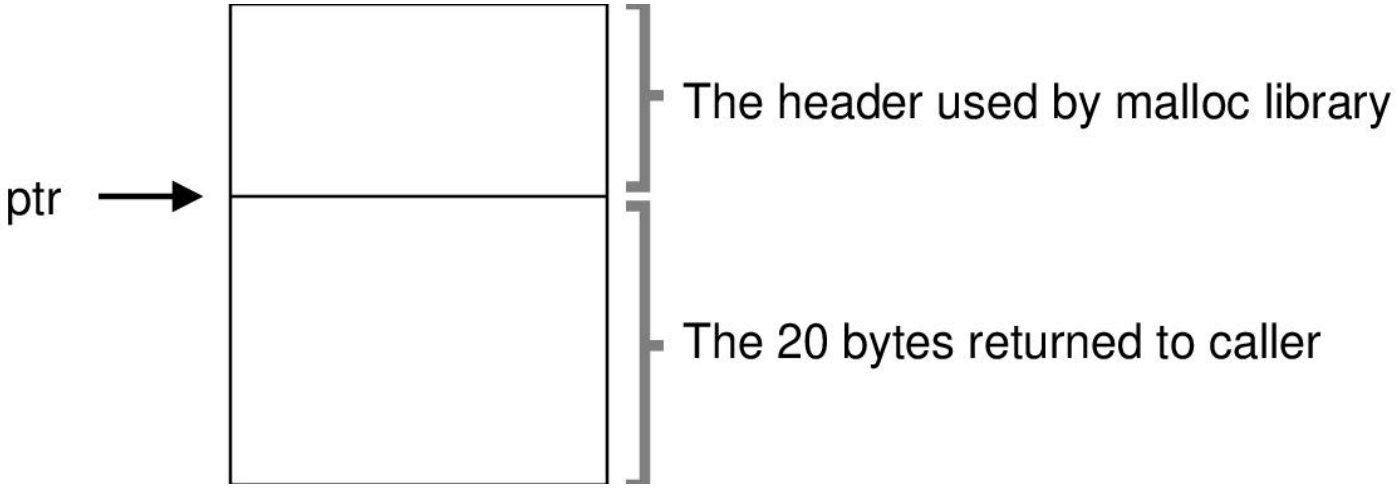
- **Tracking Allocated Regions**
  - Observation on free(void *ptr)
    - No size parameter
  - Given a pointer, the malloc library could determine the size of region
  - How?
    - Some extra information
    - header of a memory block

Free Memory Management

- **Tracking Allocated Regions**
  - header

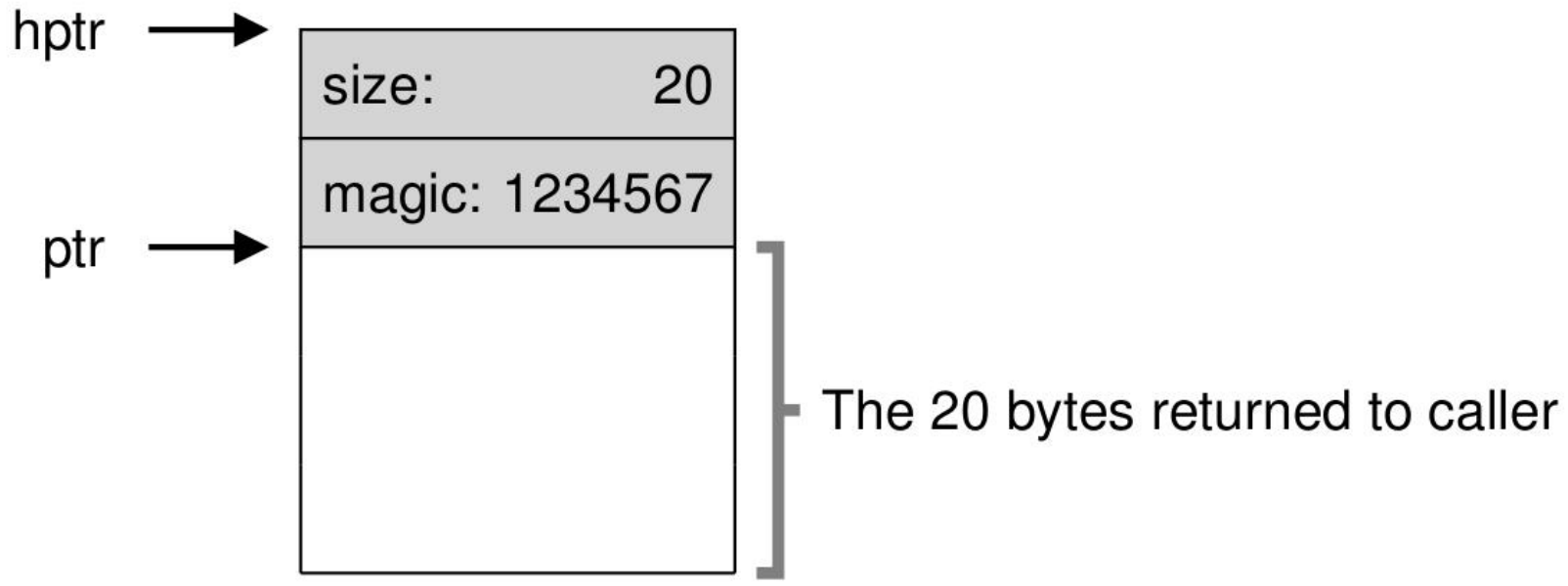
```
typedef struct __header_t {
        int size;
        int magic;
} header_t;
```

  - malloc(20)



Free Memory Management

- **Tracking Allocated Regions**
  - header: example



Free Memory Management

- **Tracking Allocated Regions**
  - free(ptr)
    - Get the size of the region

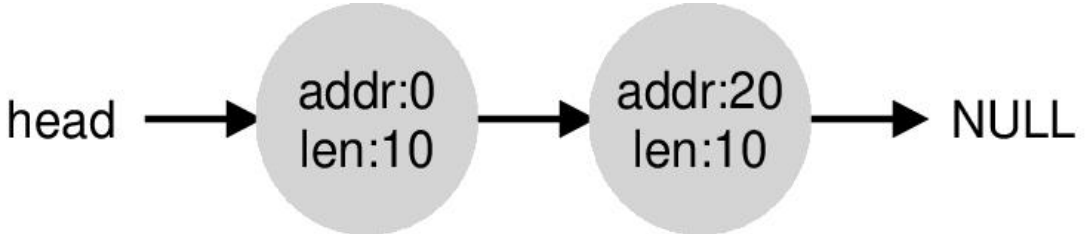
```
void free(void *ptr) {
        header_t *hptr = (void *)ptr - sizeof(header_t);
}
```

    - Check whether ptr is valid

```
assert(hptr->magic == 1234567)
```

Free Memory Management

- **Implementation of the Free List**
  - Free list



  - Implementation
    - List node (allocate a node when needed)
    - Can NOT do this here! All you have is a given free space
  - How to build a free list **inside** the free space?

Free Memory Management

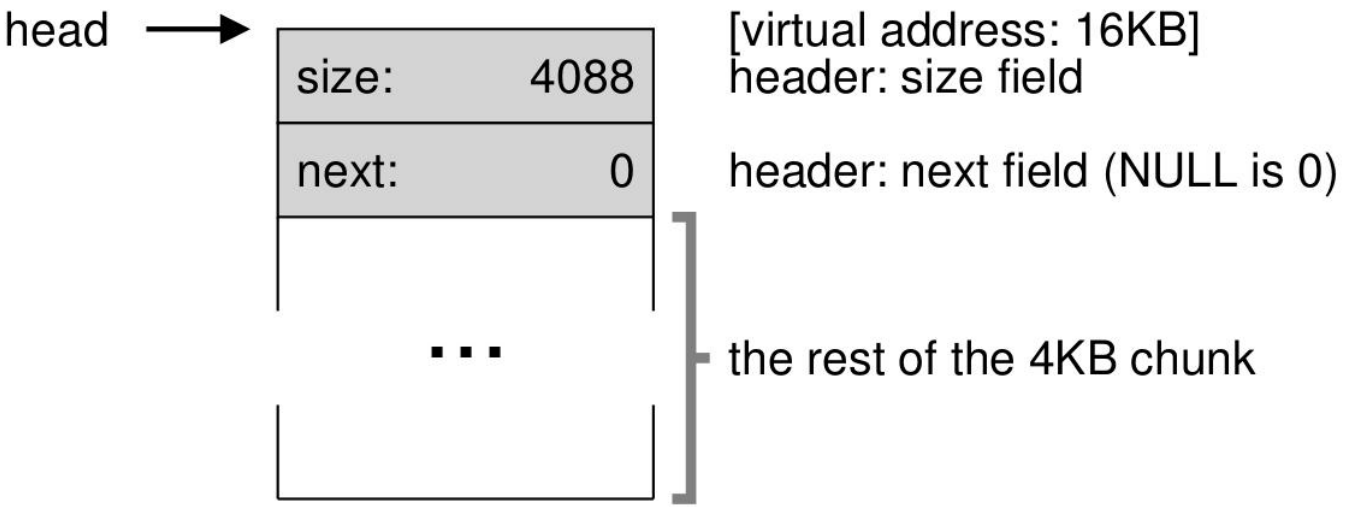
- **Implementation of the Free List**
  - Node in free list

```
typedef struct __node_t {
        int size;
        struct __node_t *next;
} node_t;
```

Free Memory Management

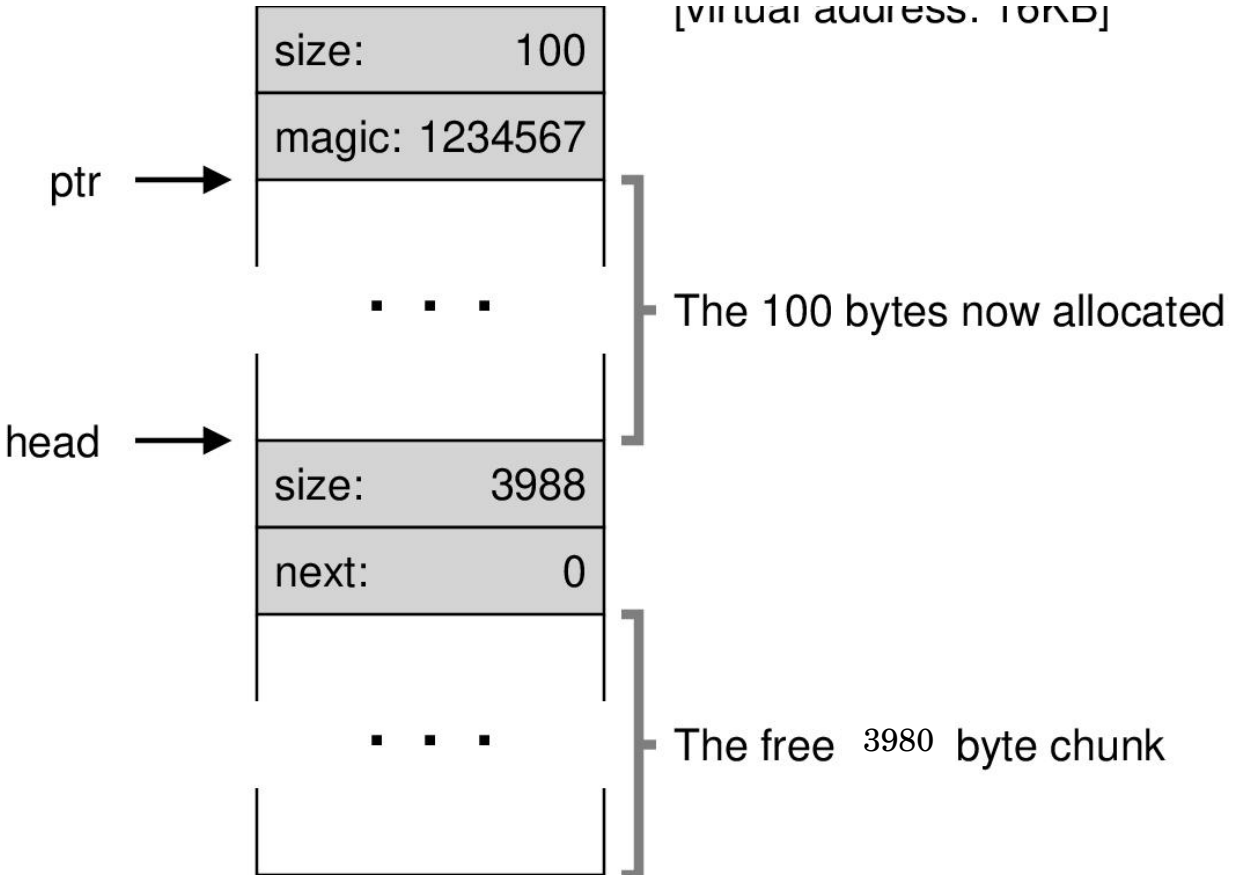
- **Implementation of the Free List**
  - Initialization (e.g. 4096)

```
// mmap() returns a pointer to a chunk of free space
node_t *head = mmap(NULL, 4096, PROT_READ|
                    PROT_WRITE, MAP_ANON|MAP_PRIVATE, -1, 0);
head->size = 4096 - sizeof(node_t);
head->next = NULL;
```

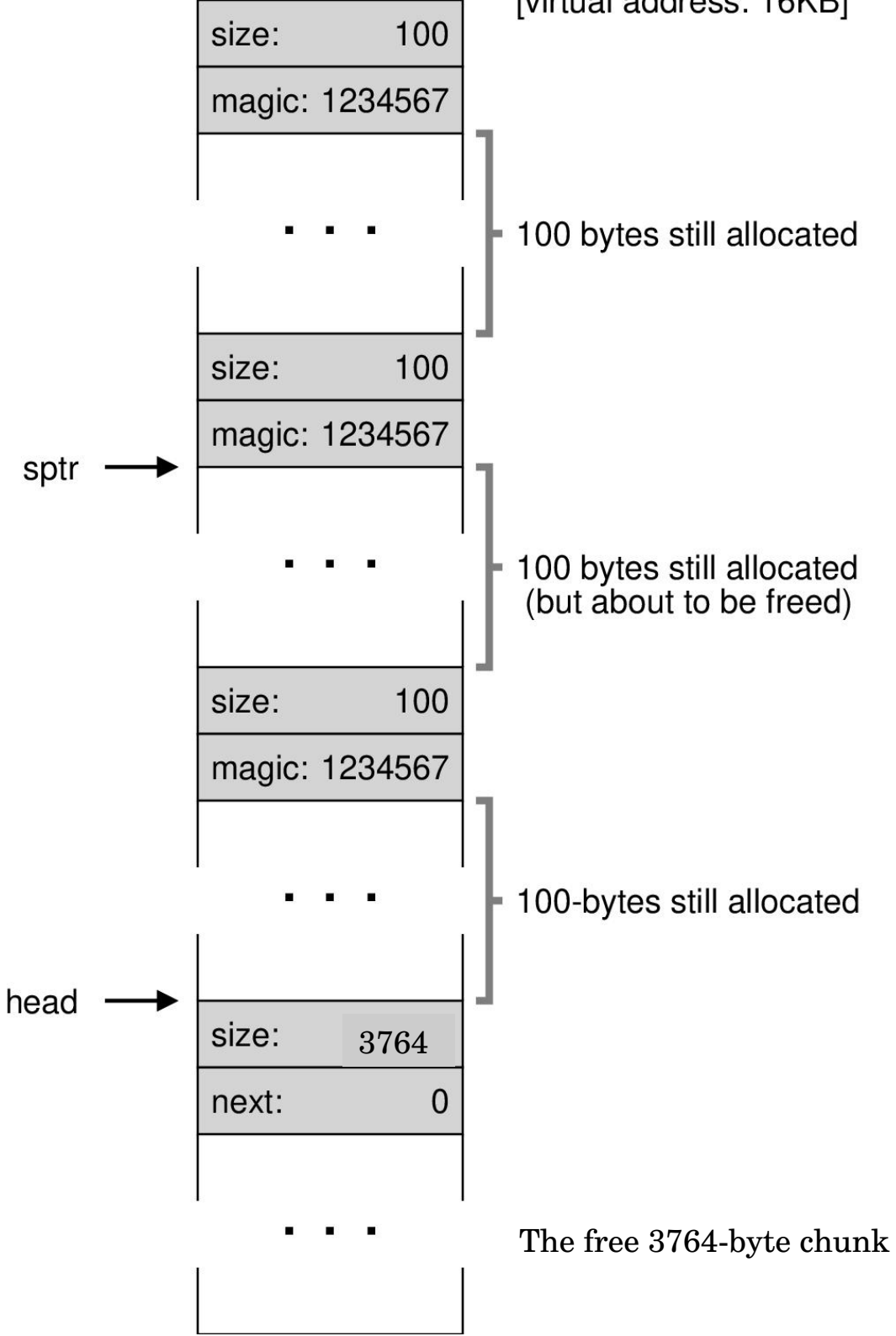


Free Memory Management

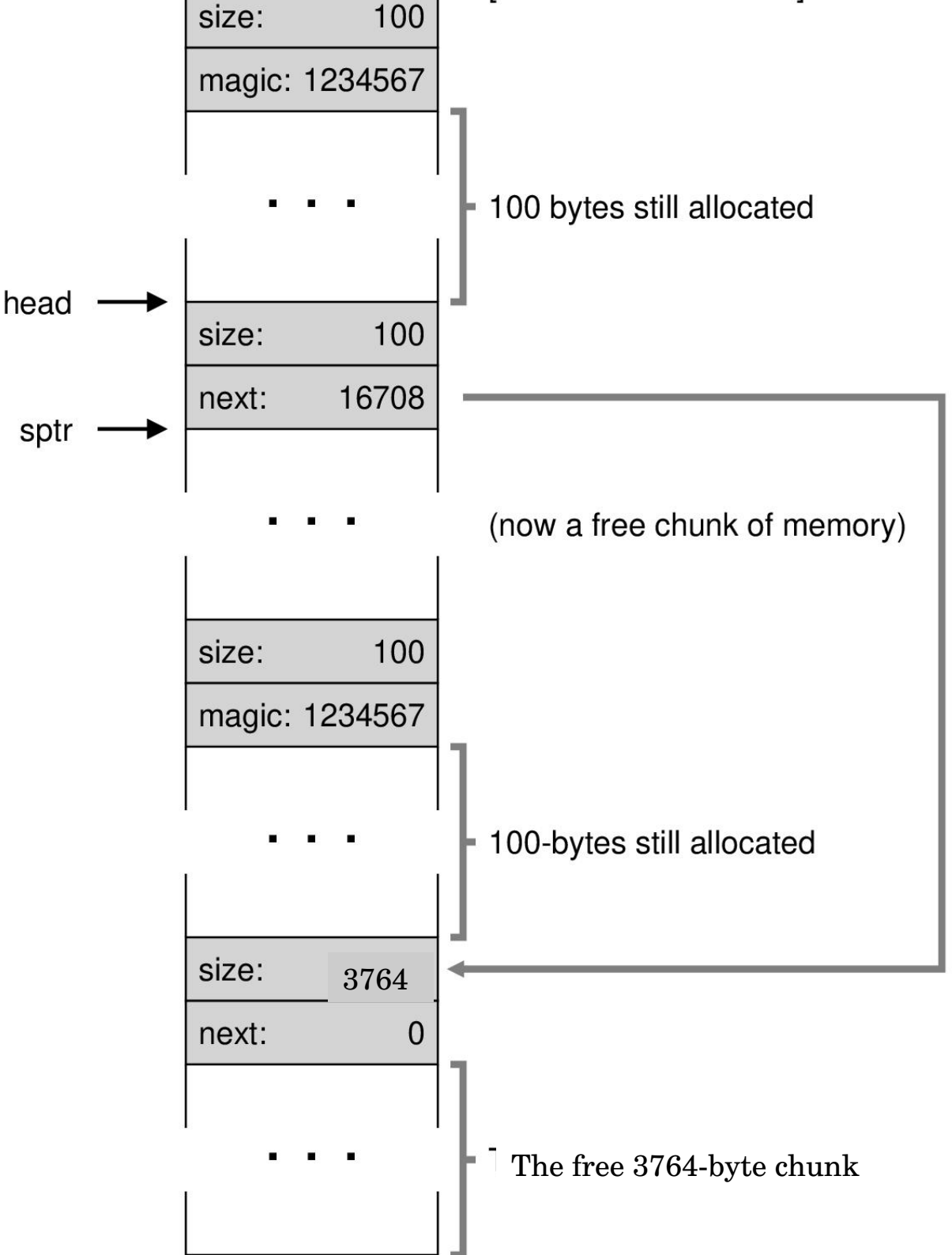
- **Implementation of the Free List**
  - malloc(100)



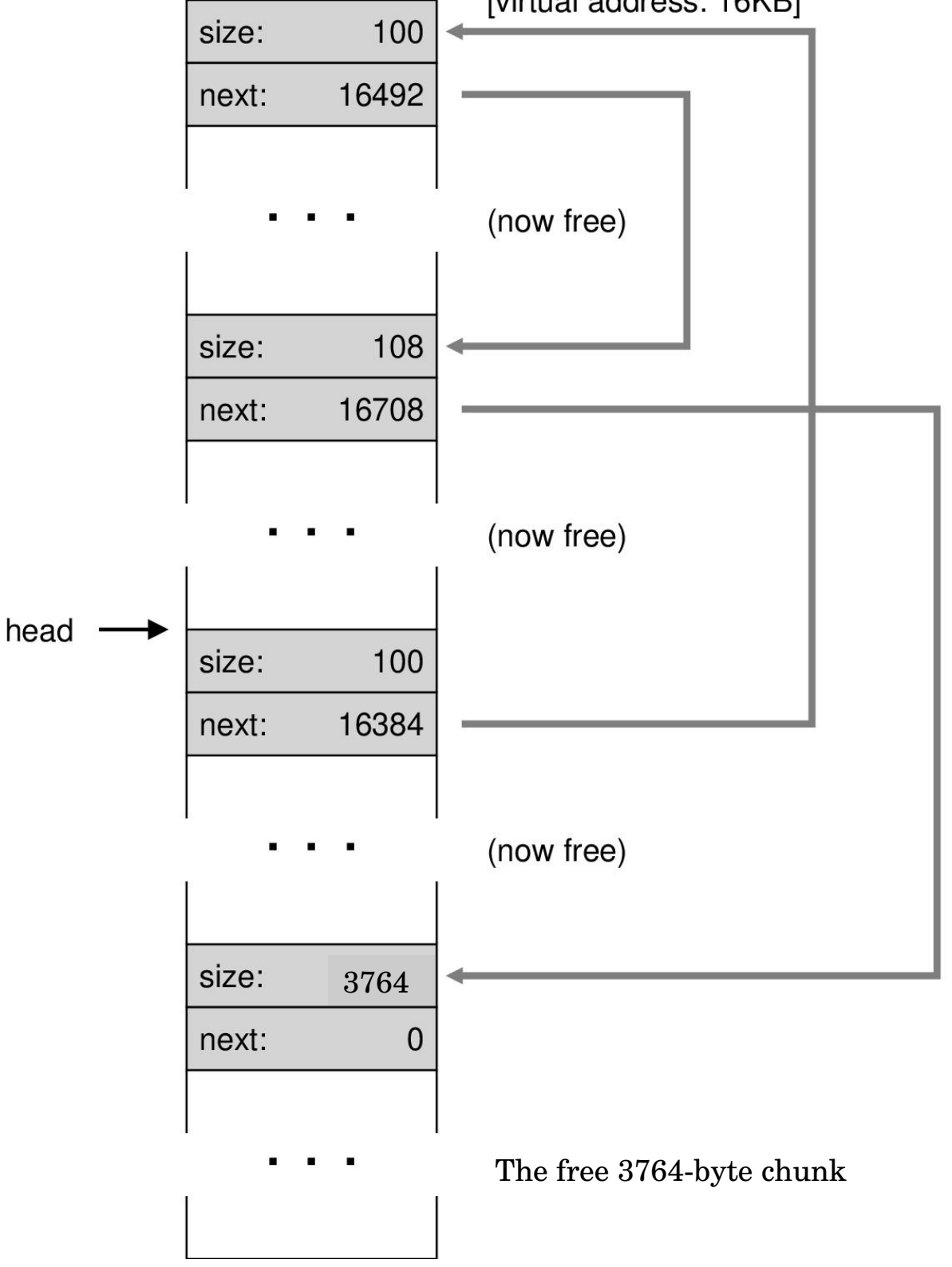
- malloc(100)*3


[virtual address: 16KB]
size: 100
magic: 1234567
. . .
100 bytes still allocated
size: 100
magic: 1234567
sptr
. . .
100 bytes still allocated
(but about to be freed)
size: 100
magic: 1234567
. . .
100-bytes still allocated
head
size: 3764
next: 0
. . .
The free 3764-byte chunk

- Free(16500)
  - 16384+108+8



- Free()*3
- Coalesce
  - Merge adjacent
  - chunks



Free Memory Management

- Growing the Heap
  - What if the heap runs out of space?
    - Return NULL
  - Increase the size of heap
    - OS find free physical pages
    - Map them into address space of the process

Free Memory Management

- Summary of low-level Mechanisms
  - Splitting and Coalescing
  - Tracking allocated regions
  - Implementation of a free list
  - Growing the heap

Free Memory Management

- High-level intelligence
  - How to find the proper nodes in the free list?
    - Less fragmentation
    - Fast allocation
  - Some simple strategies
    - The stream of allocation and free requests can be arbitrary
    - Any strategy could be arbitrarily bad/good

Free Memory Management

- Best Fit
  - Find the smallest feasible node
- Worst Fit
  - Find the largest feasible node
- First Fit
  - Find the first feasible node

Free Memory Management

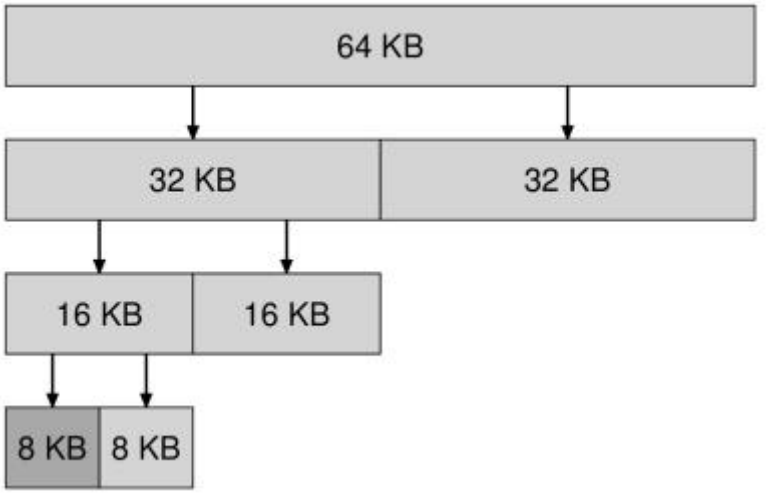
- Example
  - 

  - Best fit

  - Worst fit

Free Memory Management

- Other approaches
  - Segregated List
    - Slab allocator
  - Buddy Allocation
    - Binary search tree



Free Memory Management

- Dlmalloc (Doug Lea allocator)
  - Segregated list for small size allocations
  - Search the free list
  - sbrk and mmap
  - …
- http://g.oswego.edu/dl/html/malloc.html
- https://cs61.seas.harvard.edu/wiki/images/e/e2/Lec11-Dynamic_memory_2.pdf