The concept of **dynamic memory allocation in c language** *enables the C programmer to allocate memory at runtime*. Dynamic memory allocation in c language is possible by 4 functions of stdlib.h header file.

1. malloc()
2. calloc()
3. realloc()
4. free()

Before learning above functions, let's understand the difference between static memory allocation and dynamic memory allocation.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **static memory allocation** | **dynamic memory allocation** |
| memory is allocated at compile time. | memory is allocated at run time. |
| memory can't be increased while executing program. | memory can be increased while executing program. |
| used in array. | used in linked list. |

Now let's have a quick look at the methods used for dynamic memory allocation.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **malloc()** | allocates single block of requested memory. |
| **calloc()** | allocates multiple block of requested memory. |
| **realloc()** | reallocates the memory occupied by malloc() or calloc() functions. |
| **free()** | frees the dynamically allocated memory. |

malloc() function in C

The malloc() function allocates single block of requested memory.

It doesn't initialize memory at execution time, so it has garbage value initially.

It returns NULL if memory is not sufficient.

The syntax of malloc() function is given below:

ptr=(cast-type\*)malloc(byte-size)