601.220 Intermediate Programming

C++ dynamic memory allocation

C++ dynamic memory allocation

`new` and `delete` are essentially the C++ versions of `malloc` and `free`

Big differences: `new` not only allocates the memory, it also calls the appropriate constructor if used on a class type (more on this later)

Small differences: `new` and `delete` are **keywords** rather than functions, so you don't use `(...)` when calling them

new usage

```
// dynamic1.cpp
#include <iostream>

int main() {
    int *iptr = new int;
    *iptr = 10;
    std::cout << "value of iptr " << iptr << std::endl;
    std::cout << "value in *iptr " << *iptr << std::endl;
    return 0;
}
```

```
$ g++ -o dynamic1 dynamic1.cpp -std=c++11 -pedantic -Wall -Wextra
```

```
$ ./dynamic1
```

```
value of iptr 0x1d7bc20
value in *iptr 10
```

delete usage

delete deletes something allocated with new

```
// dynamic2.cpp
#include <iostream>
int main() {
    int *iptr = new int;
    *iptr = 10;
    // do more with iptr
    delete iptr;
    std::cout << "after delete" << std::endl;
    std::cout << "value in *iptr " << *iptr << std::endl;
    std::cout << "value of iptr " << iptr << std::endl;
    // note: new and delete don't use parentheses,
    // unlike malloc() / free()
    return 0;
}
```

`delete` usage

```
$ g++ -o dynamic2 dynamic2.cpp -std=c++11 -pedantic -Wall -Wextra

$ ./dynamic2

after delete
value in *iptr 0
value of iptr 0xb12c20
```

C++ dynamic array allocation

`T * fresh = new T[n]` allocates an array of `n` elements of type `T`

Use `delete[] fresh` to deallocate – always use `delete[]` (not `delete`) to deallocate a pointer returned by `new T[n]`

If `T` is a **built-in** type (`int`, `float`, `char`, etc), then the values are *not initialized*, like with `malloc`

If `T` is a `class`, then `T`s default constructor is called for **each** element allocated (more on this soon)

C++ dynamic array allocation in action

```
// dynamic3.cpp
1  #include <iostream>
2
3  int main() {
4      double *d_array = new double[10];
5      for(int i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
6          std::cout << (d_array[i] = i * 2) << " ";
7      }
8      std::cout << std::endl;
9      delete[] d_array;
10     return 0;
11 }
```

```
$ g++ -o dynamic3 dynamic3.cpp -std=c++11 -pedantic -Wall -Wextra
$ ./dynamic3
0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18
```