NAME

    alloc, free − core allocator

SYNOPSIS

    char *alloc(size)

    free(ptr)
    char *ptr;

DESCRIPTION

    Alloc and *free* provide a simple general-purpose core management package. *Alloc* is given a size in bytes; it returns a pointer to an area at least that size which is even and hence can hold an object of any type. The argument to *free* is a pointer to an area previously allocated by *alloc;* this space is made available for further allocation.

    Needless to say, grave disorder will result if the space assigned by *alloc* is overrun or if some random number is handed to *free.*

    The routine uses a first-fit algorithm which coalesces blocks being freed with other blocks already free. It calls *sbrk* (see *break(II))* to get more core from the system when there is no suitable space already free.

DIAGNOSTICS

    Returns −1 if there is no available core.

BUGS

    Allocated memory contains garbage instead of being cleared.