

# *memory*

*don't forget to take out the garbage!*

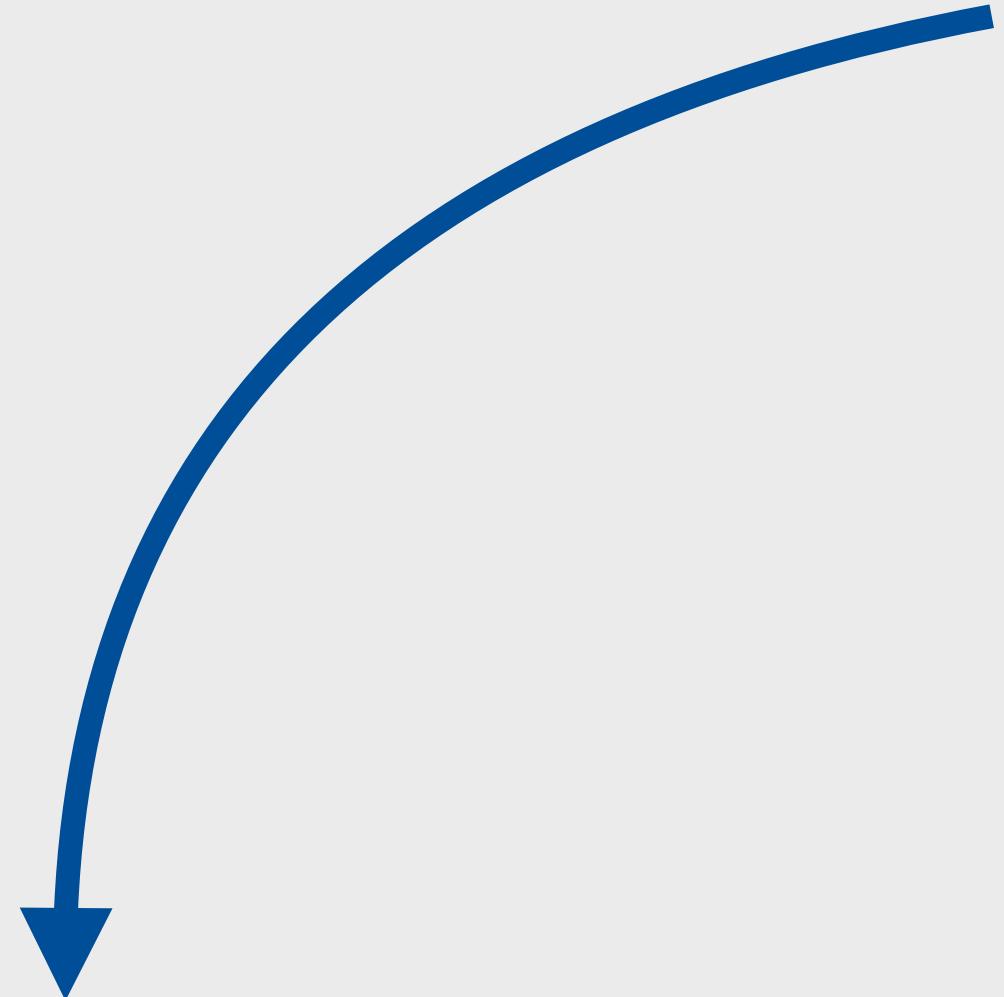
*katie fenn*

# *memory*

*don't forget to take out the garbage!*

*katie fenn*

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twitter



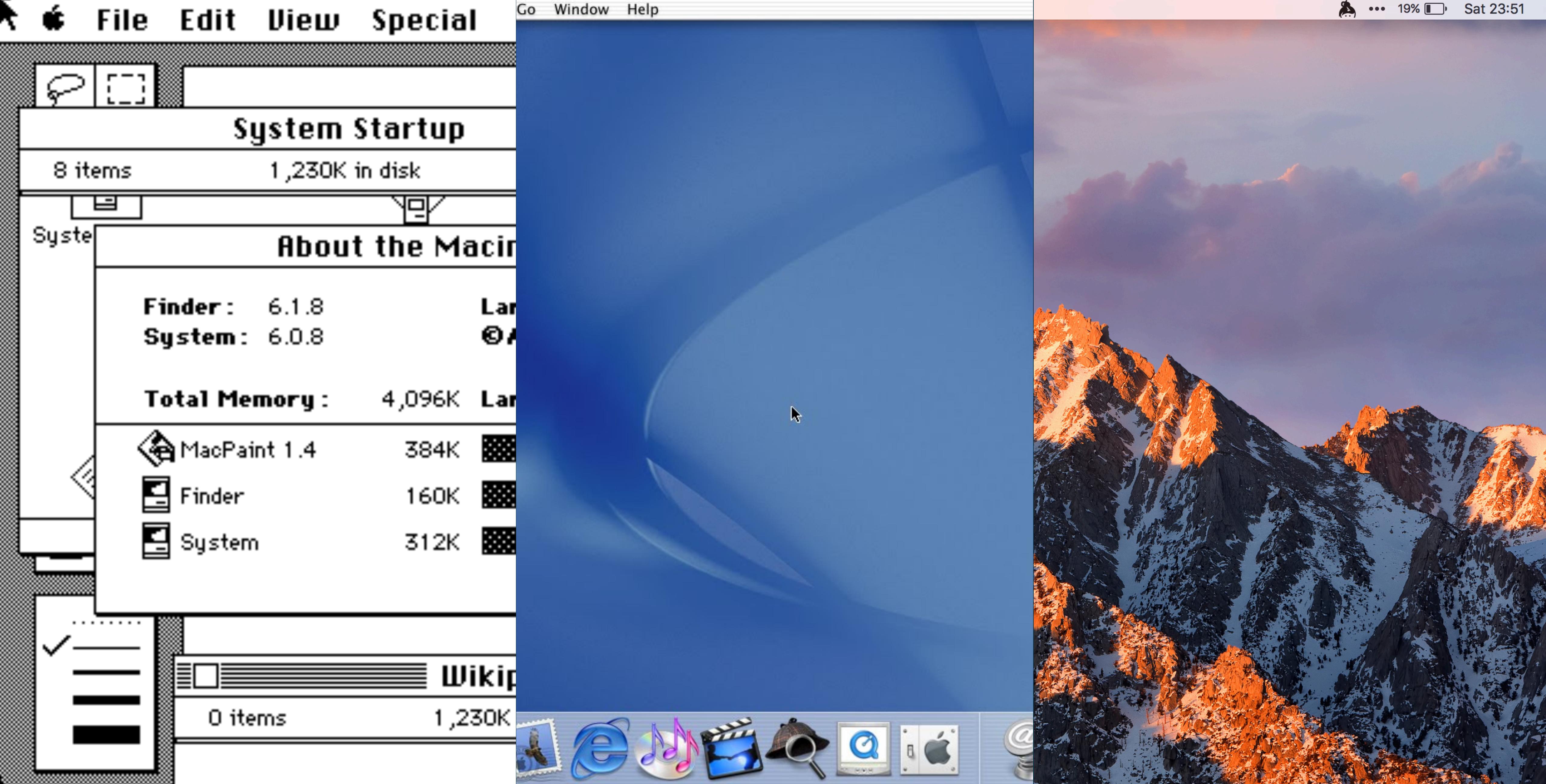
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find me on  
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content  
warnings

@katie\_fenn

cw: large animation

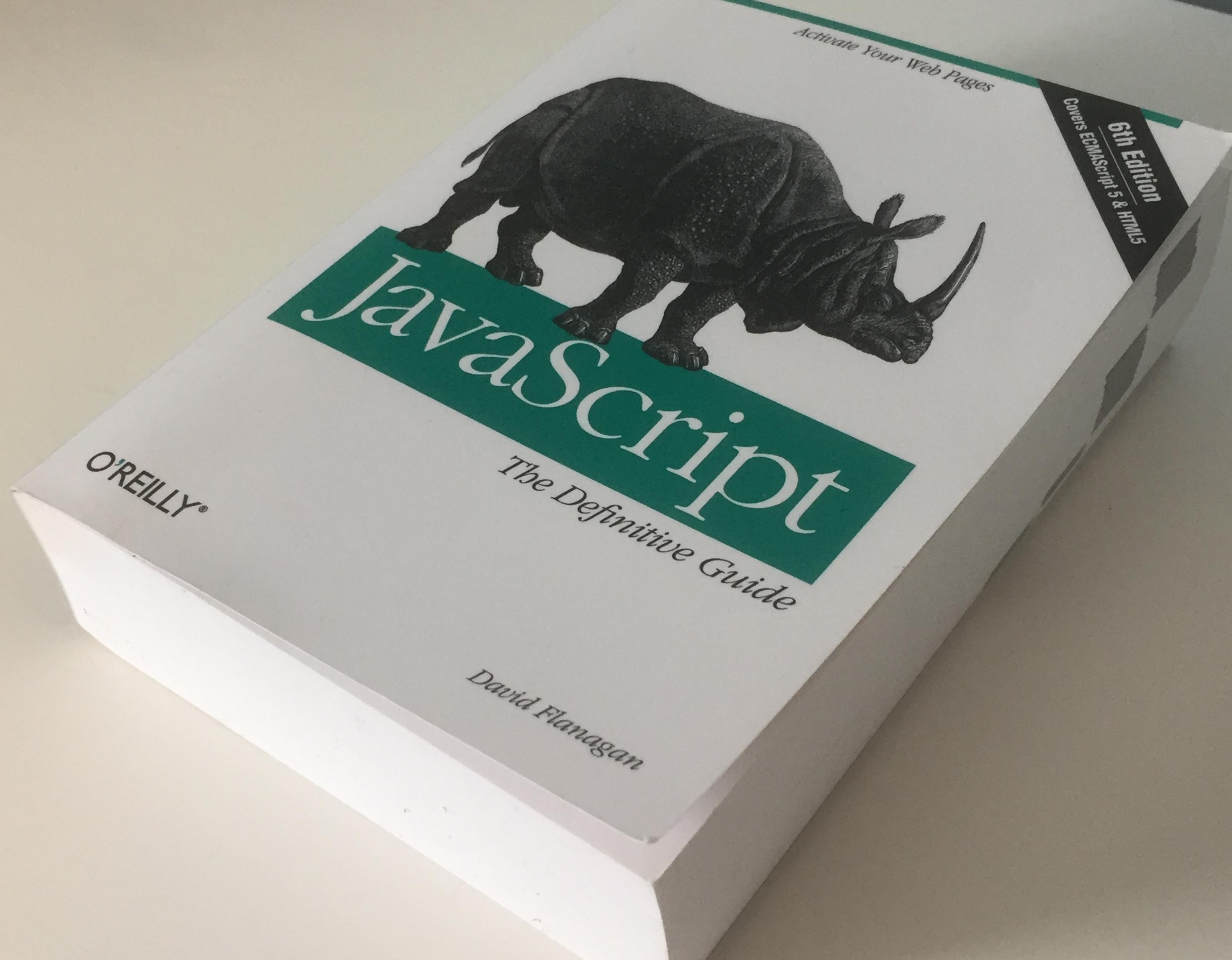


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<https://flic.kr/p/VdFhKw>



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# the programmer never needs to worry about deallocation

Functions that are written to be used (with the `new` operator) to initialize a newly created object are known as *constructors*. Each constructor defines a *class* of objects—the class of objects initialized by that constructor. Classes can be thought of as subtypes of object type. In addition to the `Array` and `Function` classes, core JavaScript defines the other useful classes. The `Date` class defines objects that represent dates. The `RegExp` class defines objects that represent regular expressions (a powerful pattern-matching tool described in Chapter 10). And the `Error` class defines objects that represent syntax and runtime errors that can occur in a JavaScript program. You can define your own classes of objects by defining appropriate constructor functions. This is explained in Chapter 9.

The JavaScript interpreter performs automatic *garbage collection* for memory management. This means that a program can create objects as needed, and the program never needs to worry about destruction or deallocation of those objects. When an object is no longer reachable—when a program no longer has any way to refer to it—the interpreter knows it can never be used again and automatically reclaims the memory it was occupying.

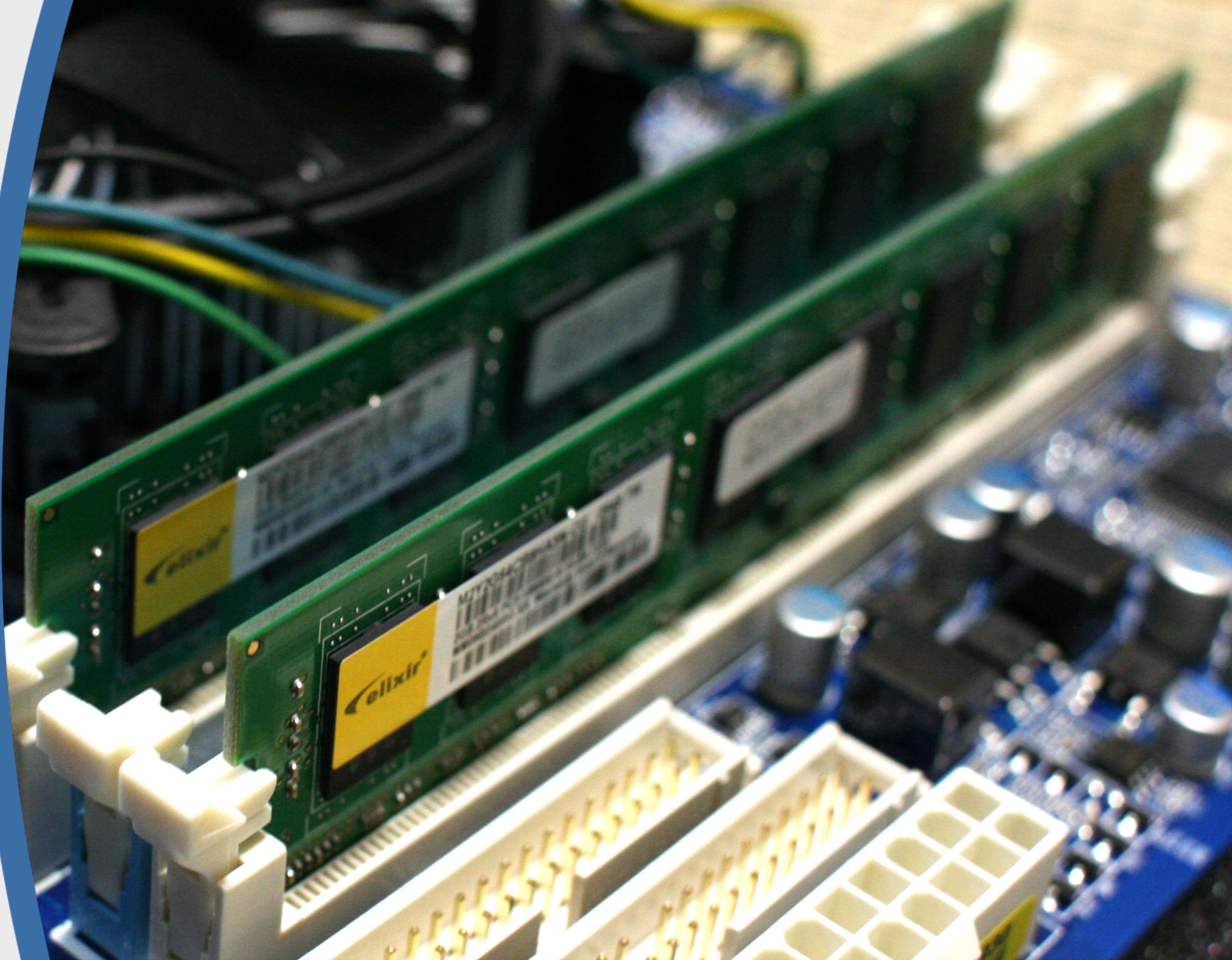
JavaScript is an object-oriented language. Loosely, this means that rather than having globally defined functions to operate on values of various types, the types themselves define *methods* for working with values. To sort the elements of an array `a`, for example, we don't pass `a` to a `sort()` function. Instead, we invoke the `sort()` method of `a`:

```
a.sort();      // The object-oriented version of sort(a).
```

Method definition is covered in Chapter 9. Technically, it is only JavaScript objects that have methods. But numbers, strings, and boolean values behave as if they had methods (§3.6 explains how this works). In JavaScript, `null` and `undefined` are the only values that methods cannot be invoked on.

*what is  
memory?*

ram

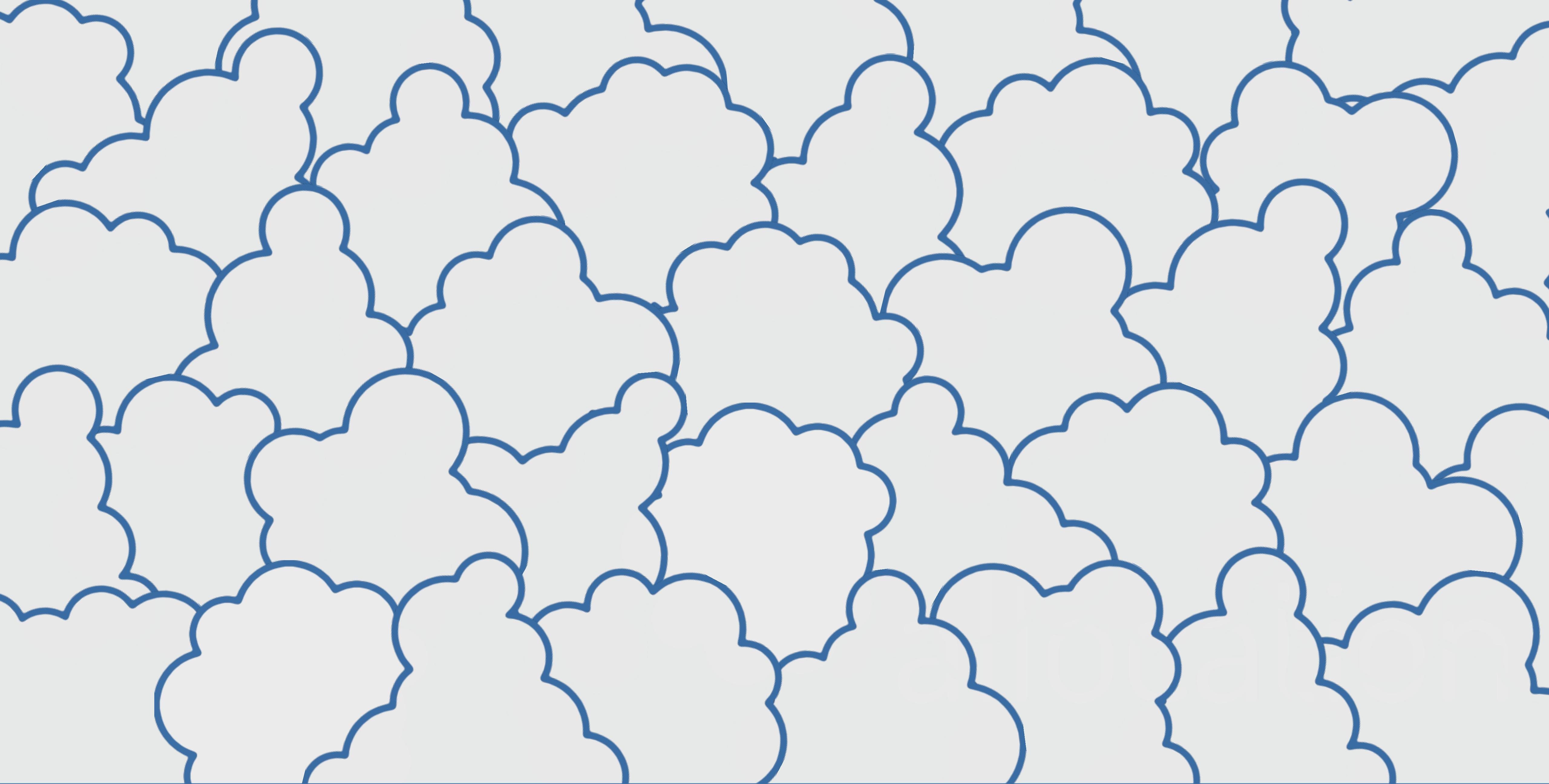


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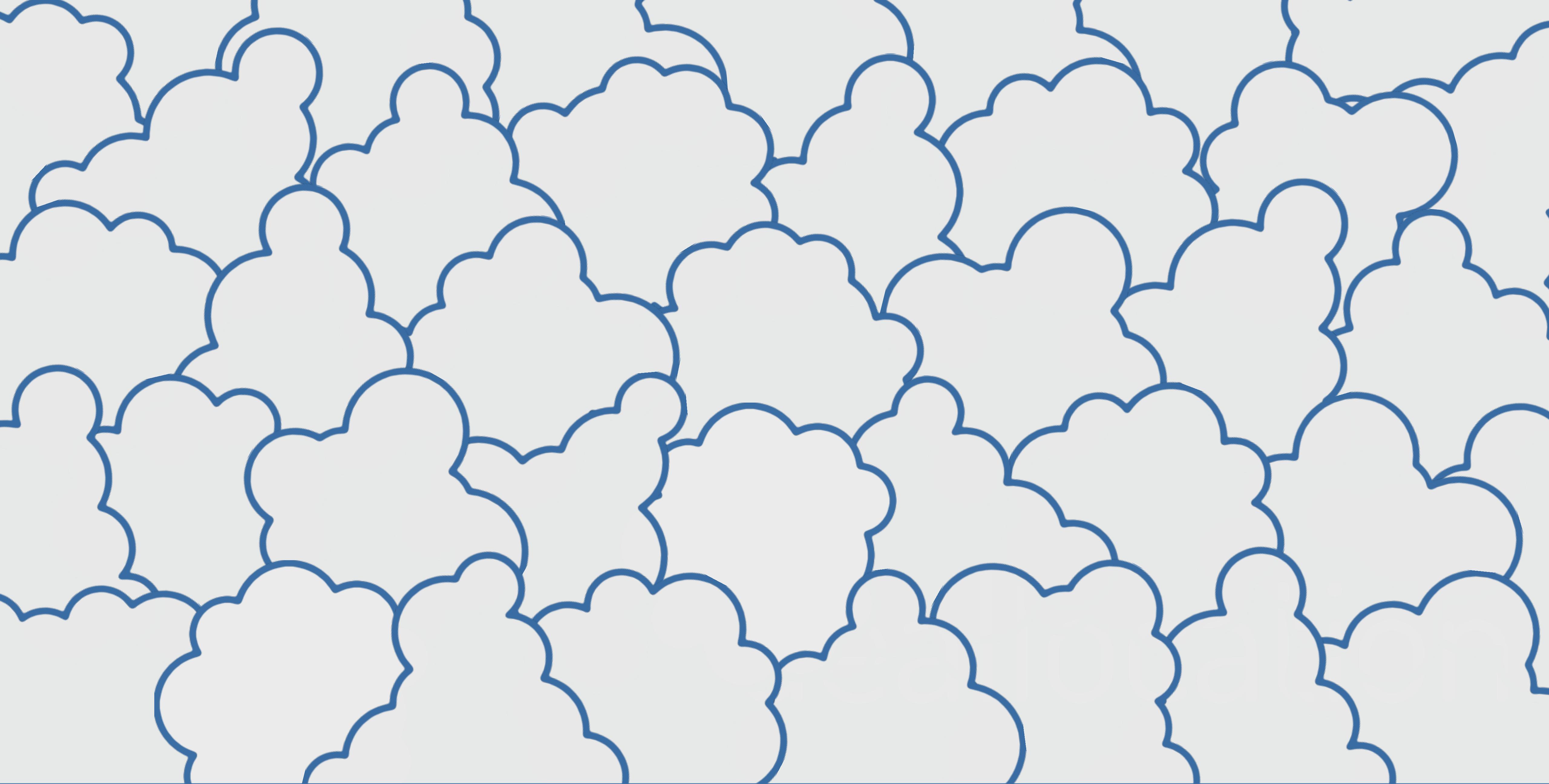
<https://flic.kr/p/7wBP68>



heaps



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# allocation

```
var variable = 'value'
```

# allocation

```
var variable = 'value'
```

var variable = 'value'

+=

allocation

<<=

^=

\*=

-=

|=

>>=

&=

\*\*=

/=

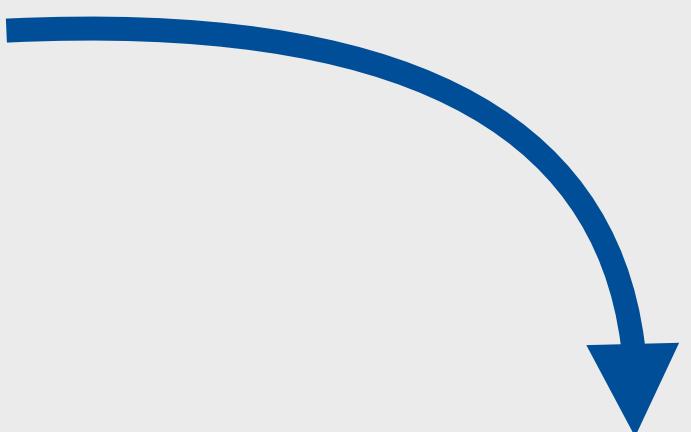
>>>=

%=

# allocation

assigns a value  
from the right...

```
var variable = 'value'
```



# allocation

assigns a value  
from the right...

```
var variable = 'value'
```

...to a  
memory address  
on the left

# deallocation

```
function () {  
    var a = 1  
    function () {  
        var b = 2  
  
    }()  
}()
```

# deallocation

```
▶ function () {  
    var a = 1  
    function () {  
        var b = 2  
        function () {  
            var c = a + b  
        }()  
    }()  
}()
```

a: 1

# deallocation

```
function () {  
    var a = 1  
    function () {  
        var b = 2  
        function () {  
            var c = a + b  
        }()  
    }()  
}()
```

a: 1,  
b: 2

a: 1



# deallocation

```
function () {  
    var a = 1  
    function () {  
        var b = 2  
        function () {  
            var c = a + b  
            }()  
    }()  
}()
```

a: 1,  
b: 2,  
c: 3

a: 1,  
b: 2

a: 1



# deallocation

```
function () {  
    var a = 1  
    function () {  
        var b = 2  
        function () {  
            var c = a + b  
            }()  
    }()  
}()
```

a: 1,  
b: 2,  
c: 3

a: 1,  
b: 2

a: 1



# deallocation

```
function () {  
    var a = 1  
    function () {  
        var b = 2  
        function () {  
            var c = a + b  
            }()  
    }()  
}()
```

a: 1,  
b: 2,  
c: 3

a: 1,  
b: 2

a: 1



# deallocation

```
function () {  
    var a = 1  
    function () {  
        var b = 2  
        function () {  
            var c = a + b  
        }()  
    }()  
}()
```

variables are retained  
**as long as their parent scope exists**



# garbage collection



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*garbage*  
collection

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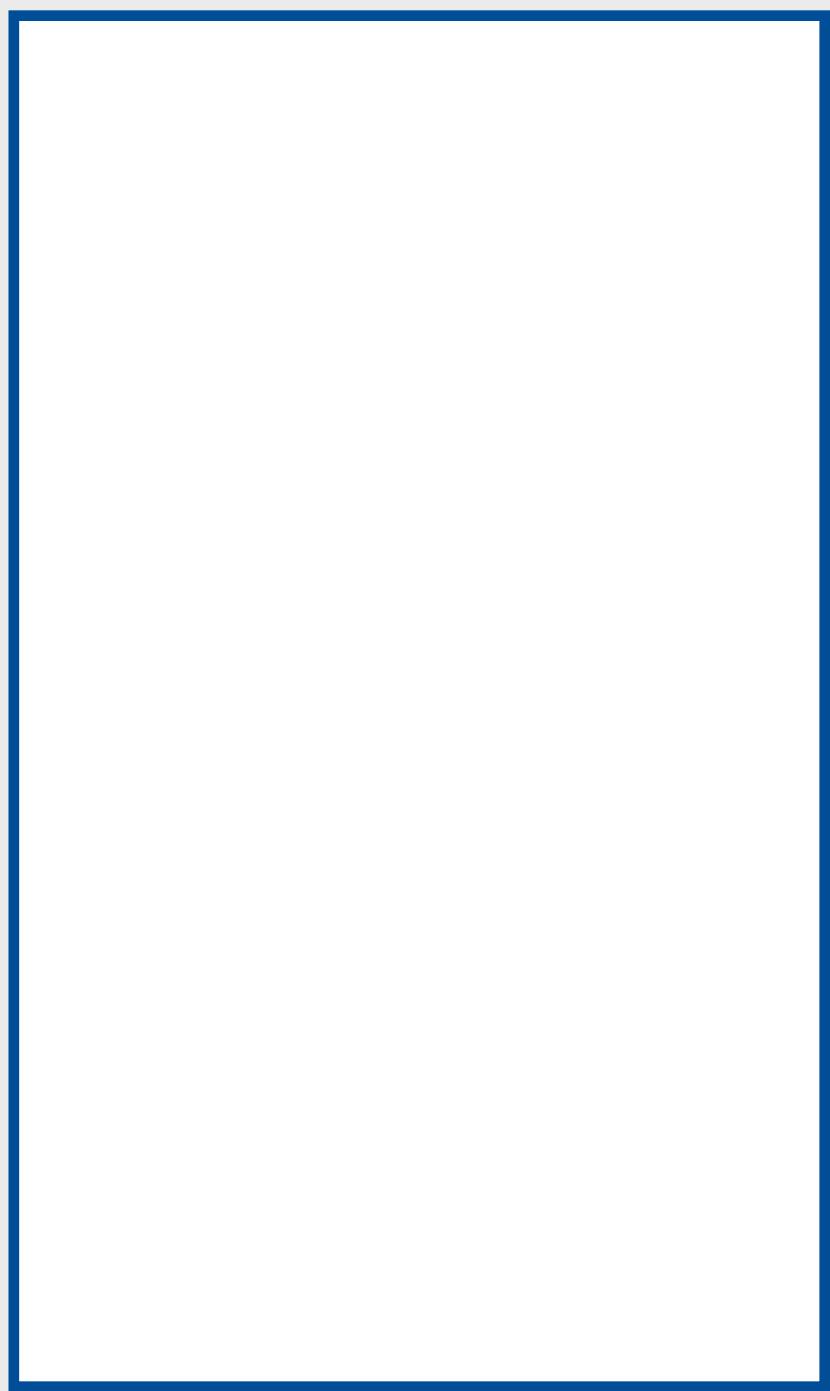
```
int *array = malloc(10 * sizeof(int));
```

```
int *array = malloc(10 * sizeof(int));  
garbage  
collector;  
free(array);
```



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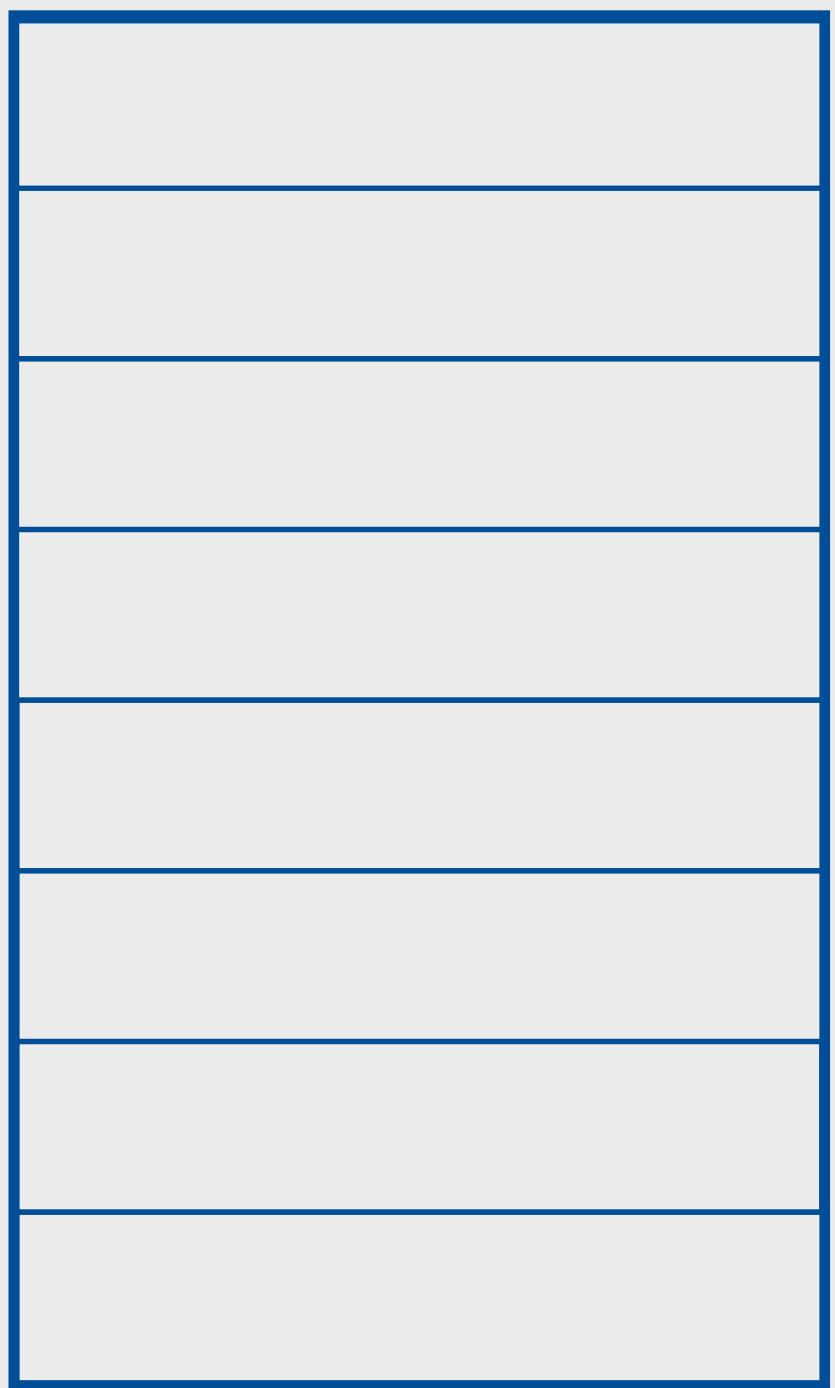
young generation



old generation



young generation

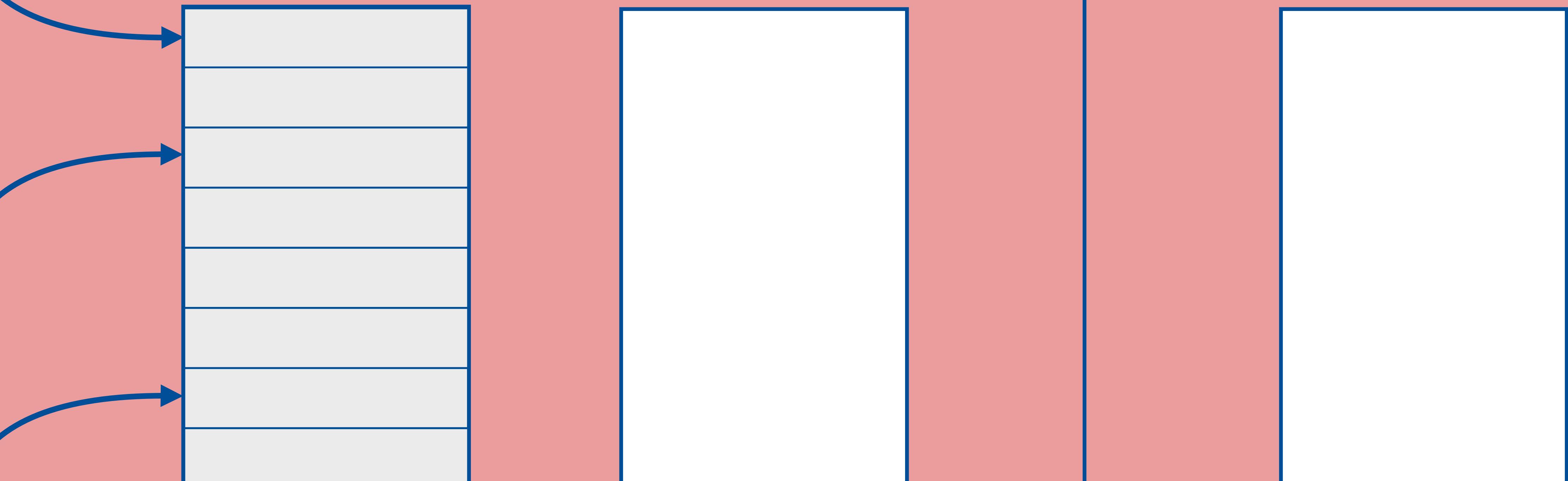


old generation



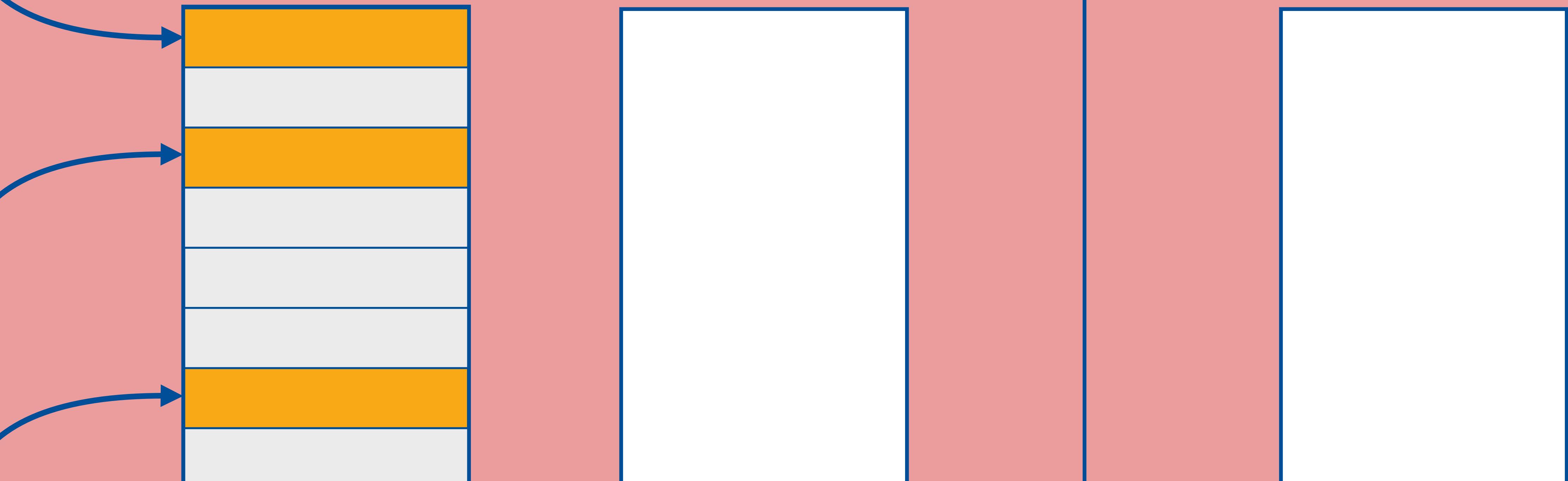
young generation

old generation

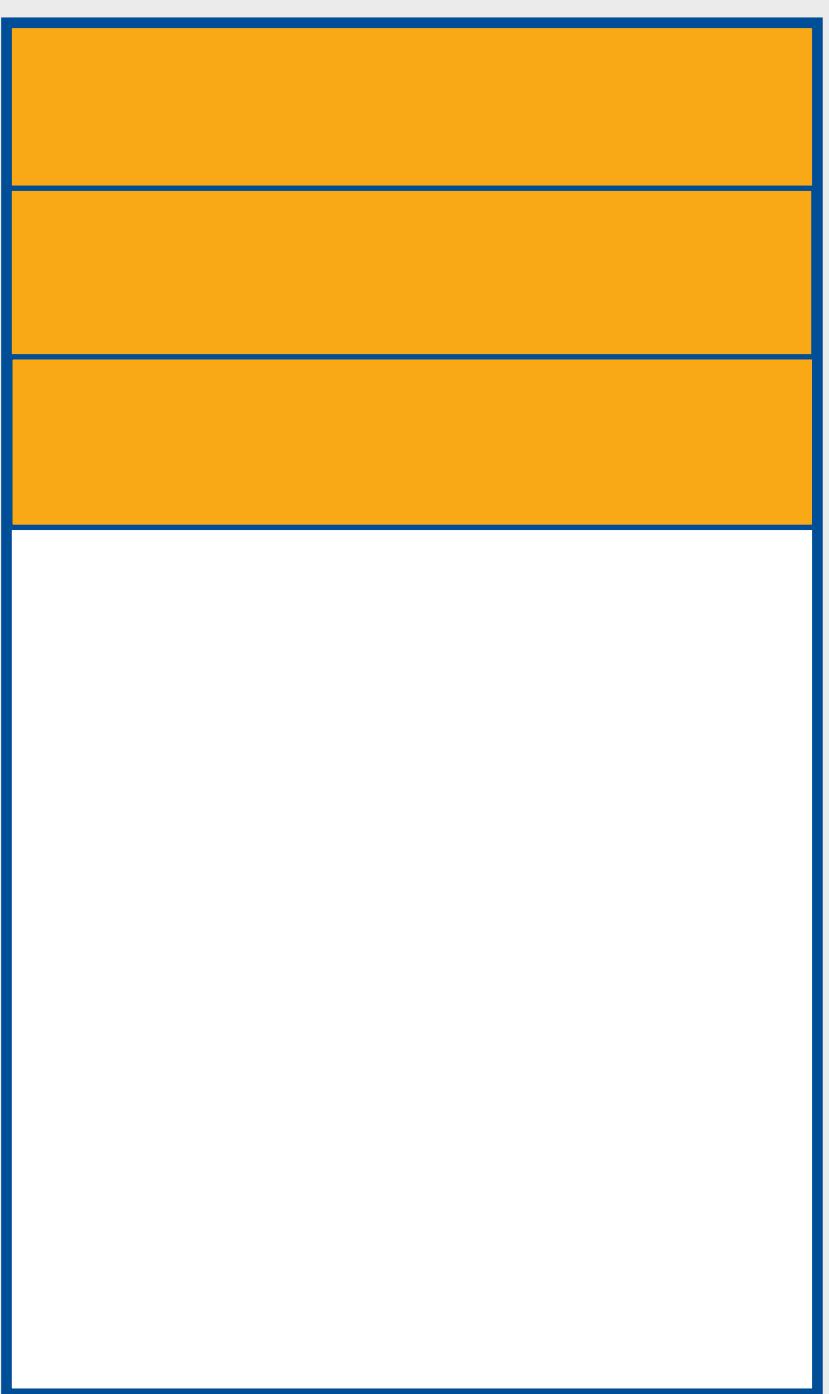
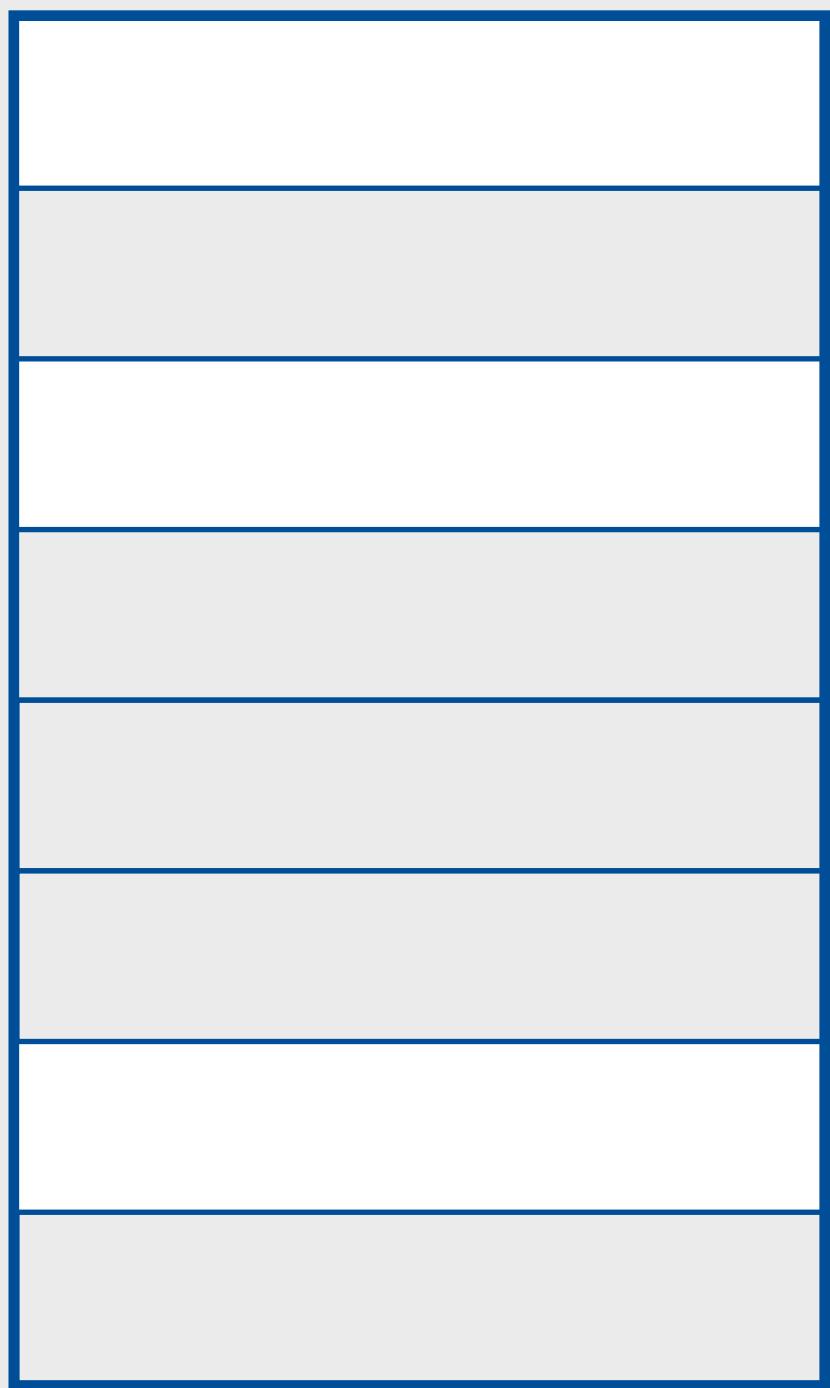


young generation

old generation



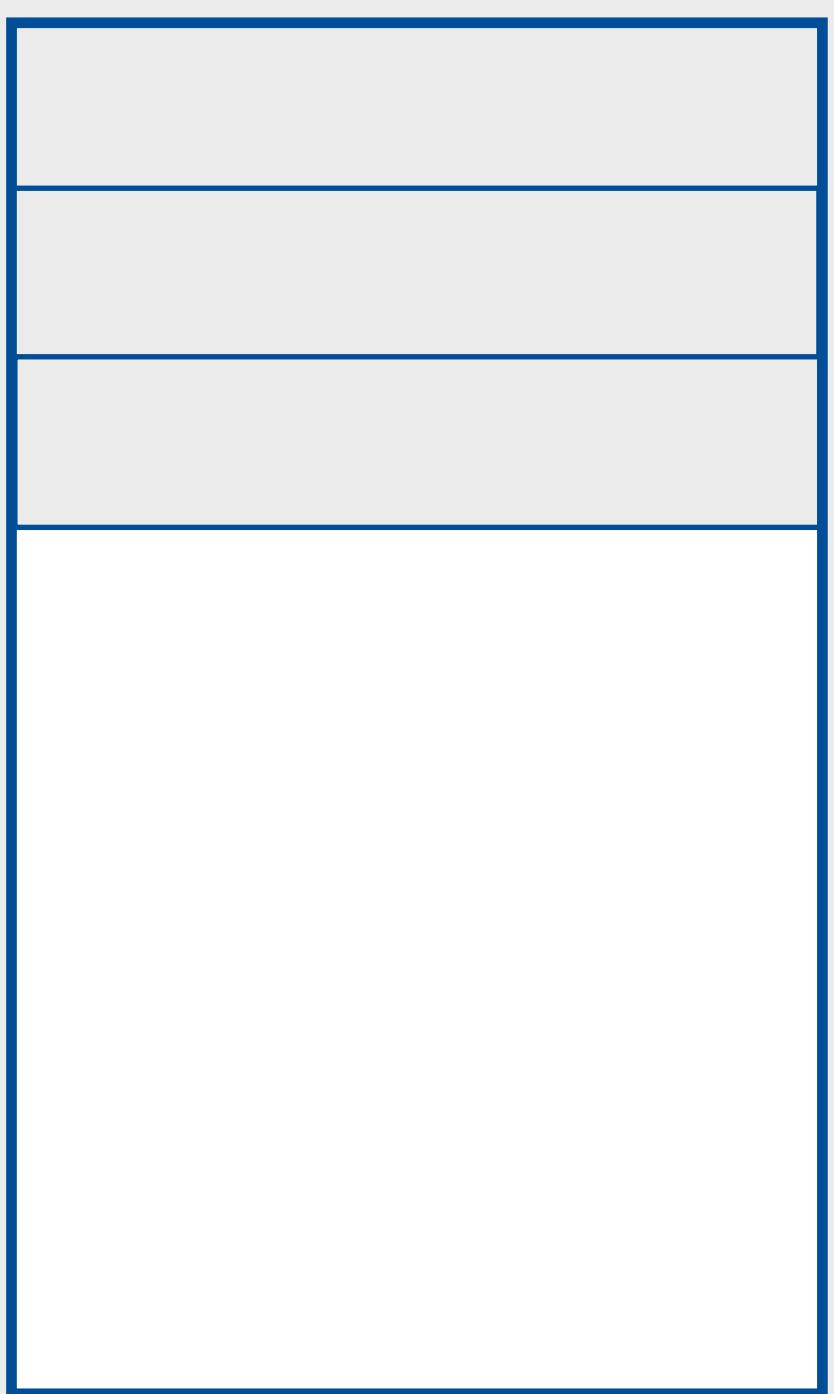
young generation



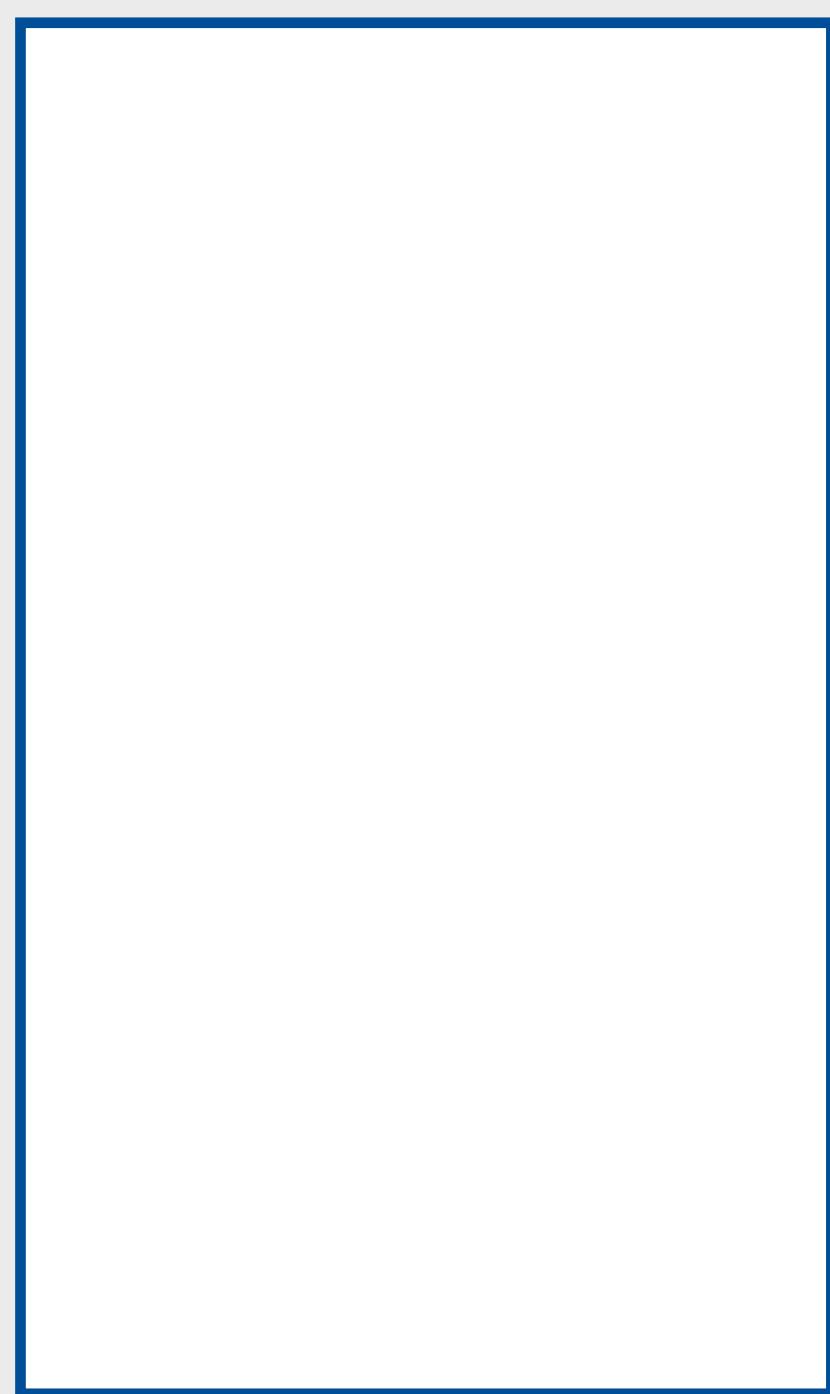
old generation



young generation

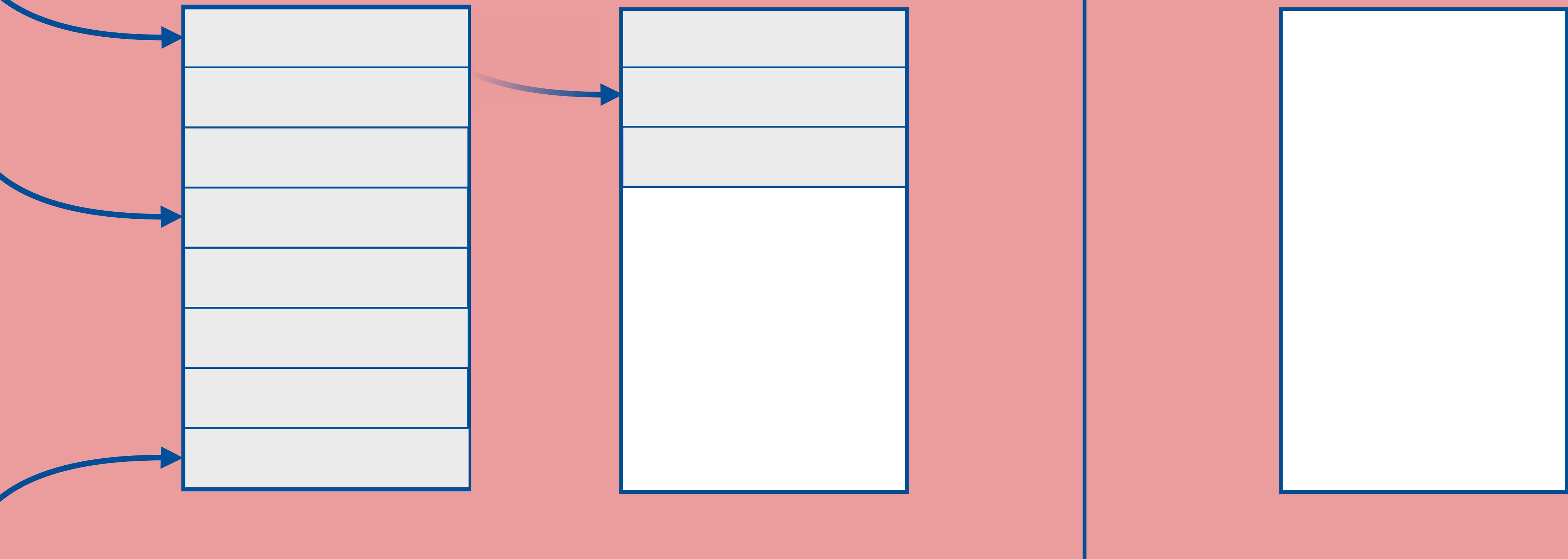


old generation

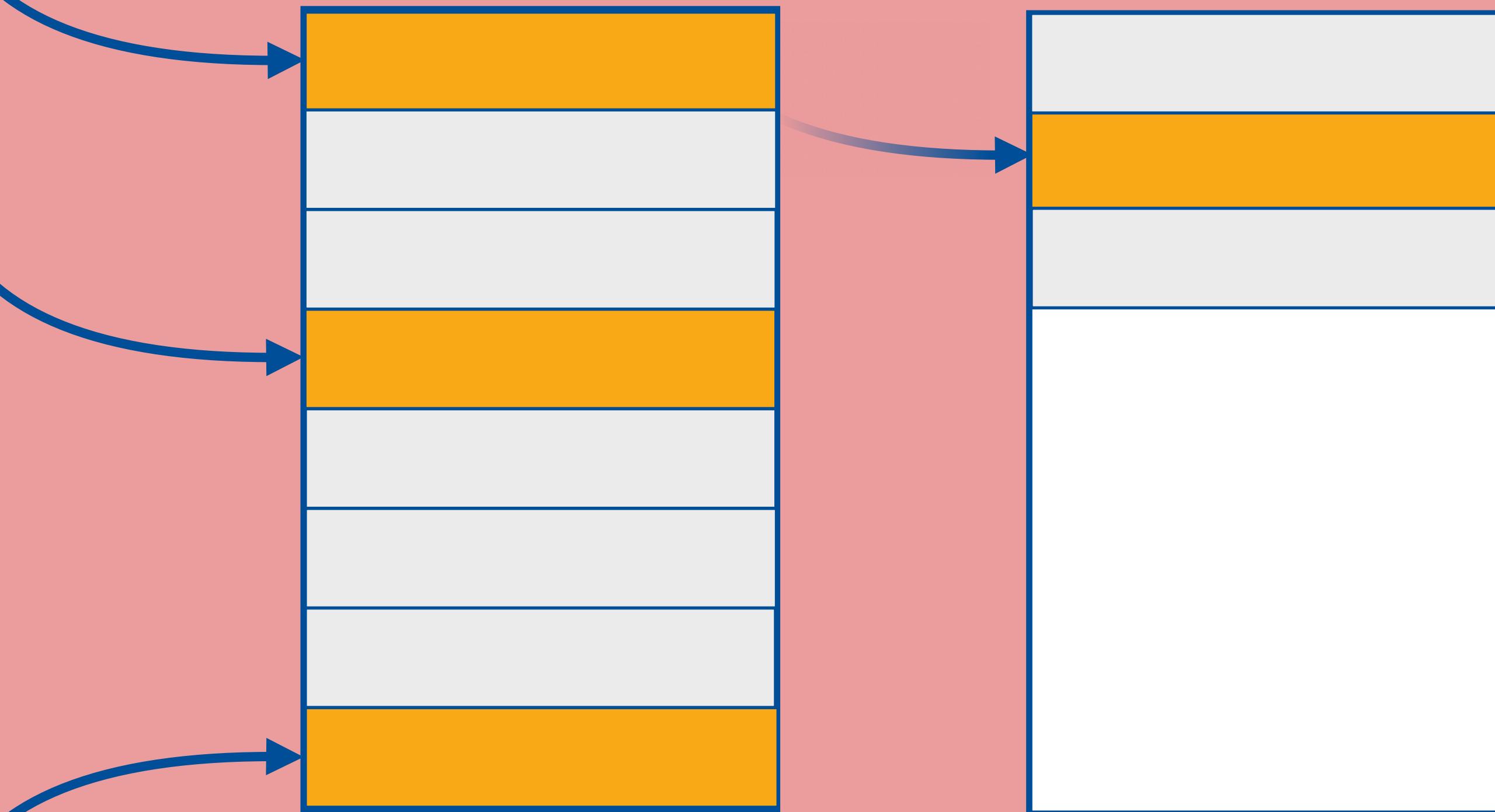


young generation

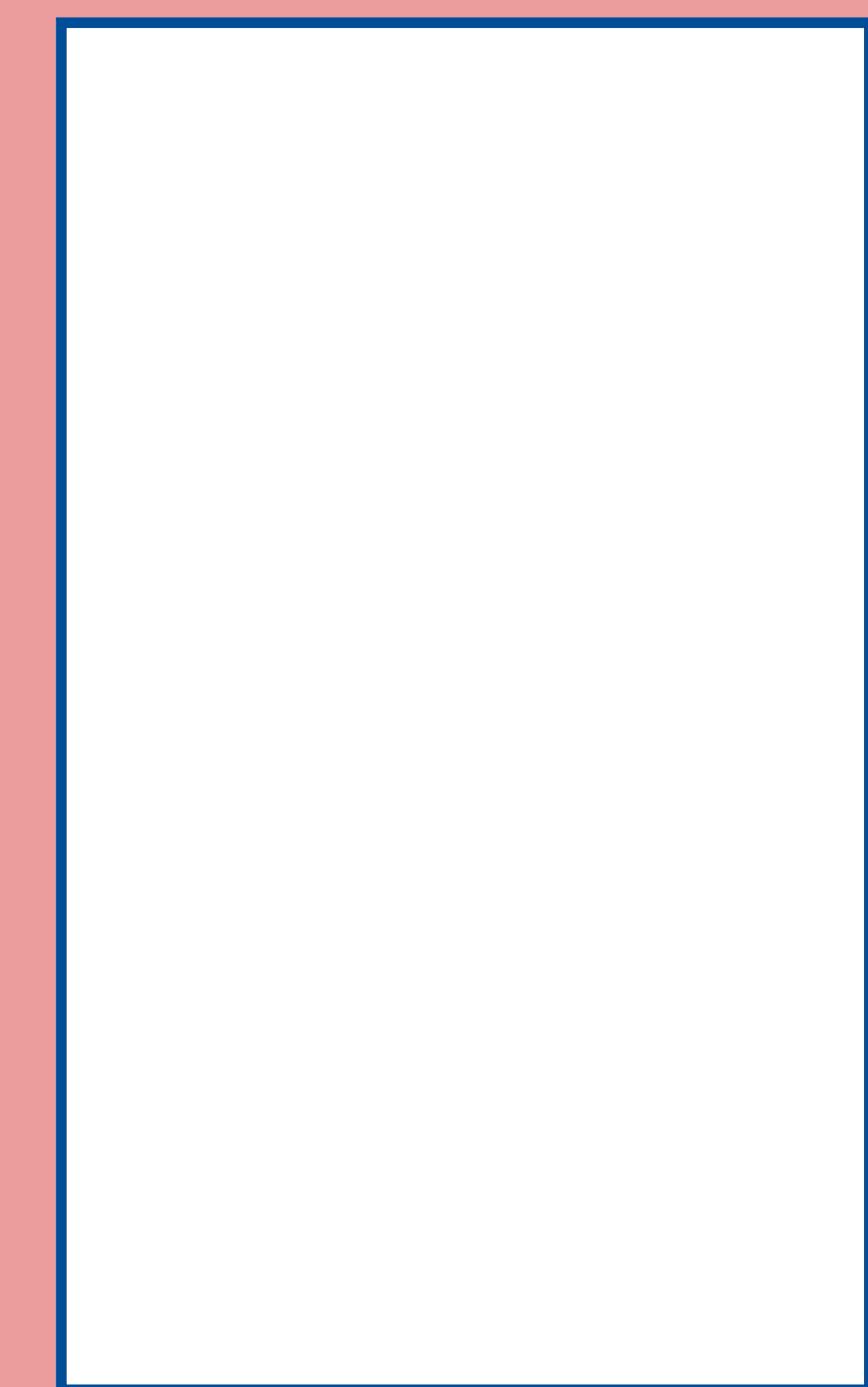
old generation



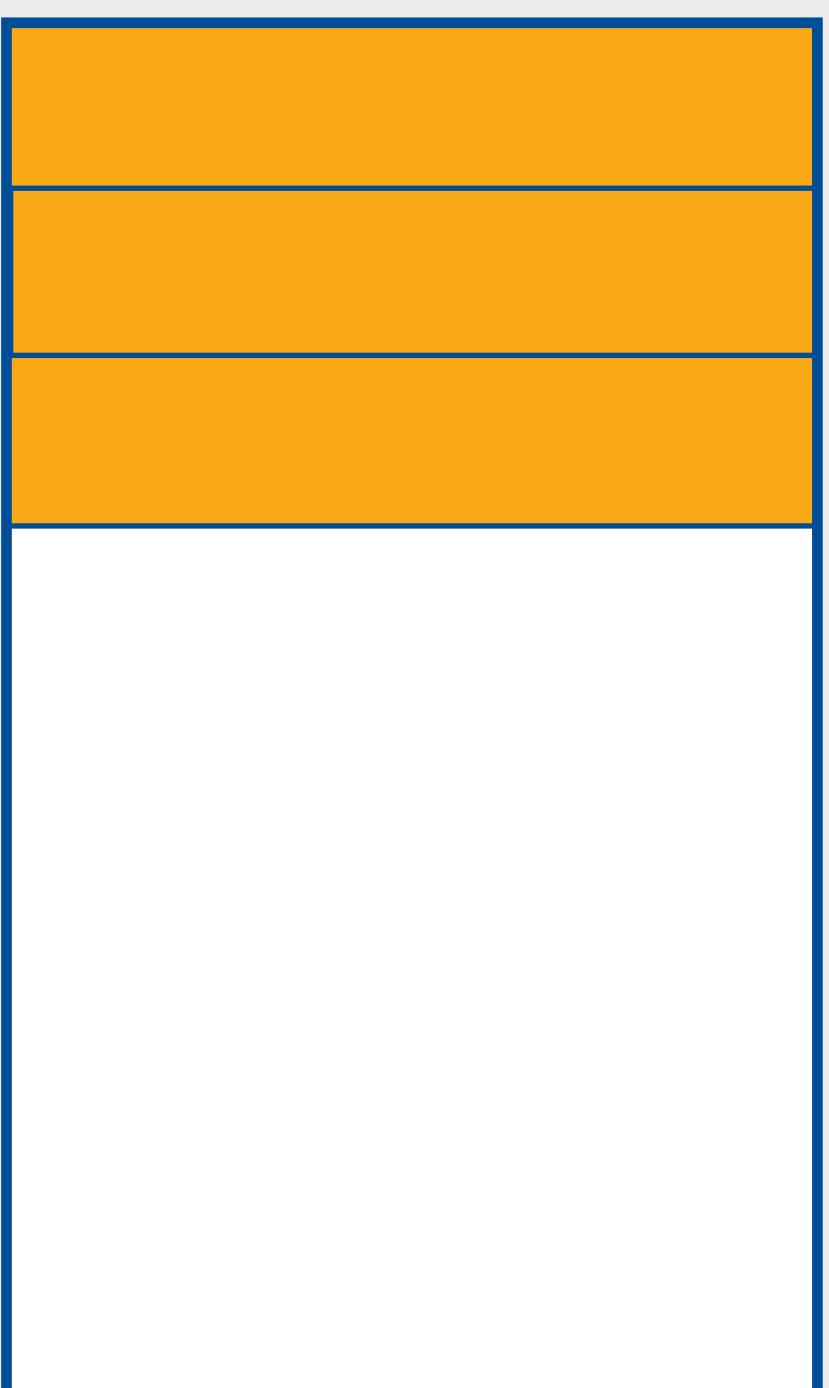
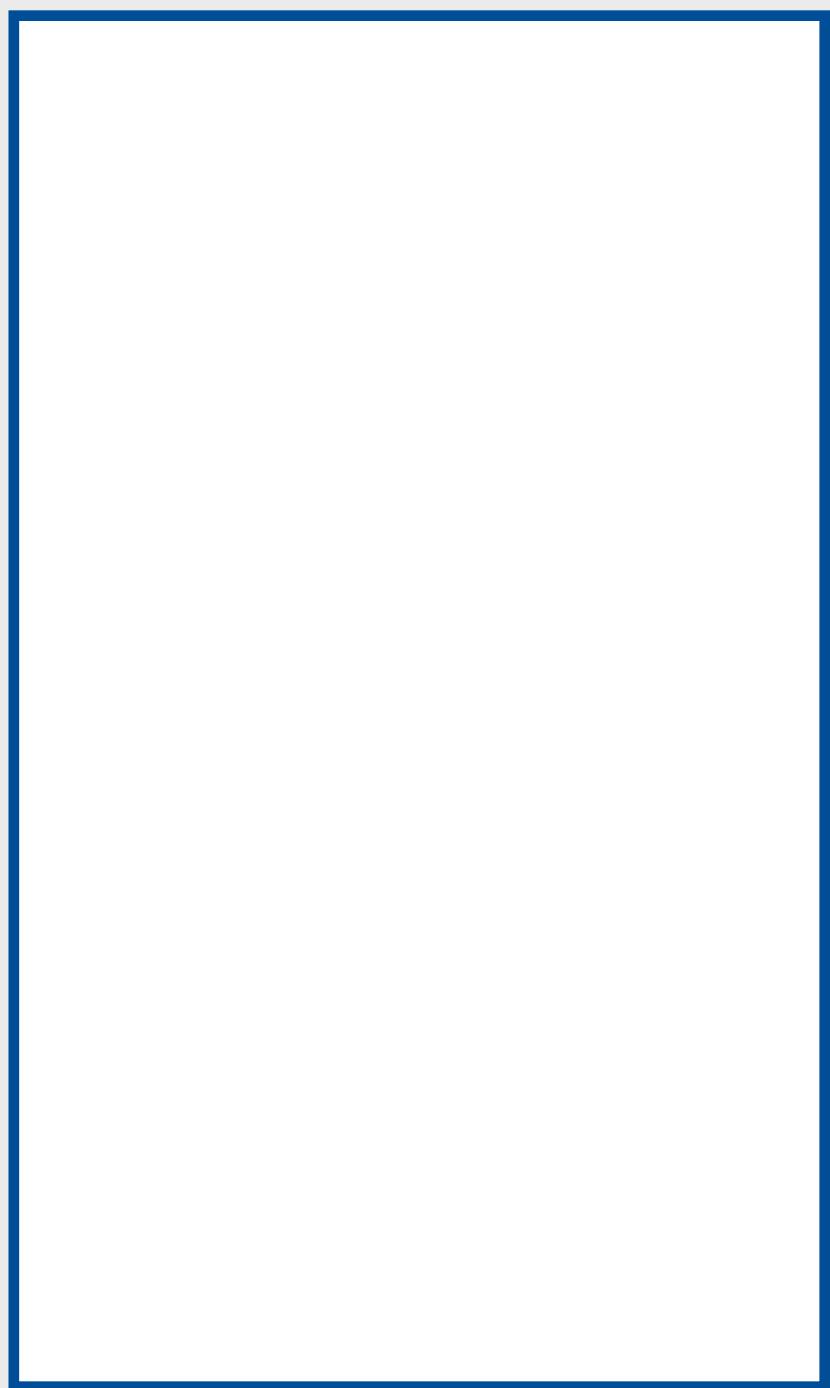
young generation



old generation



young generation



old generation



young generation

old generation

# scavenging:

the minor garbage collector

young generation

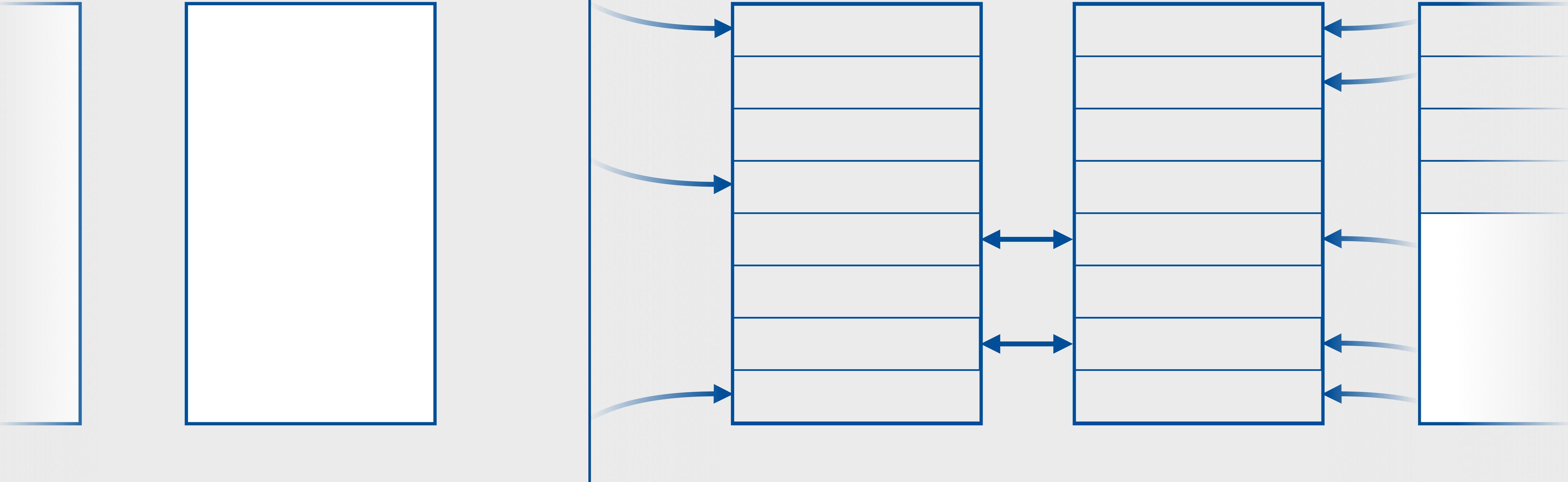


old generation



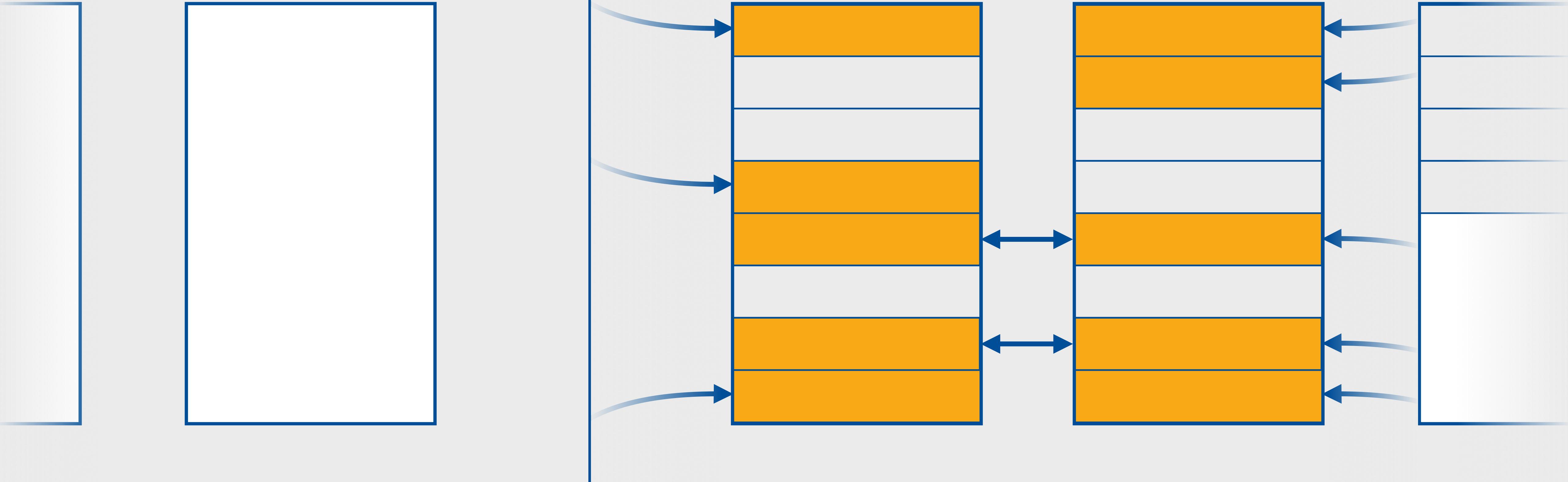
young generation

old generation



young generation

old generation



young generation

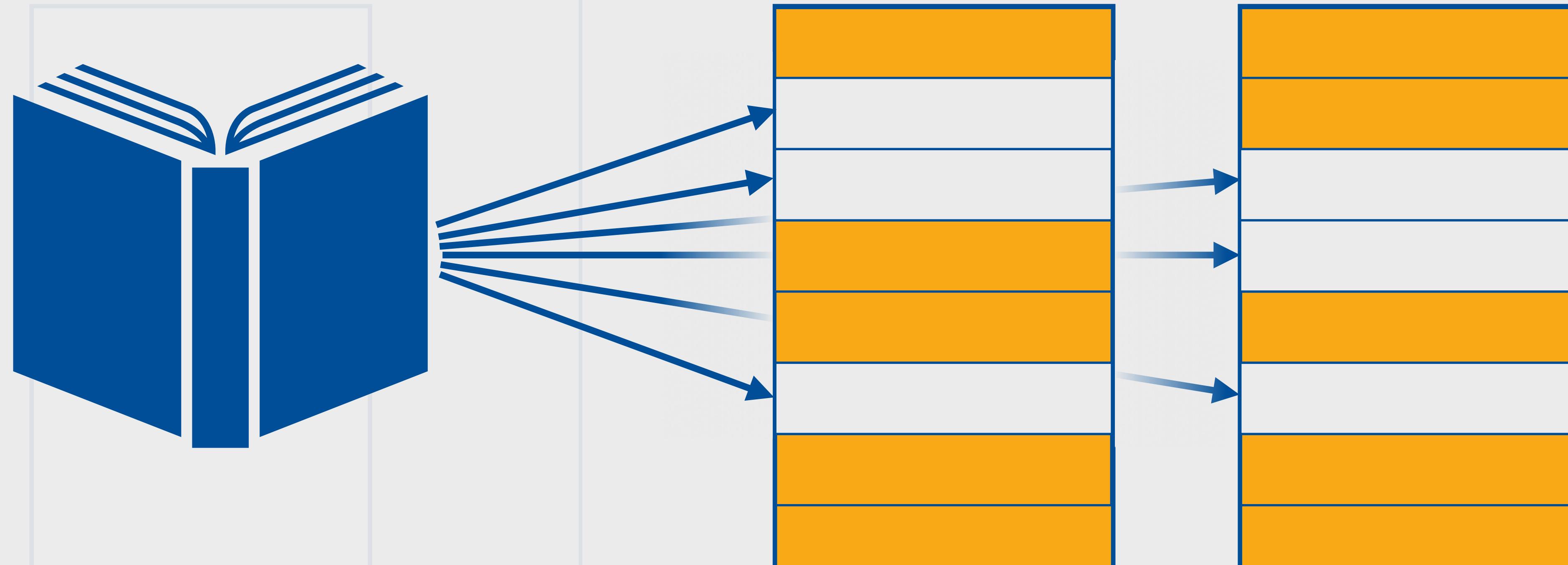
old generation

**marking**



young  
freelist

old generation

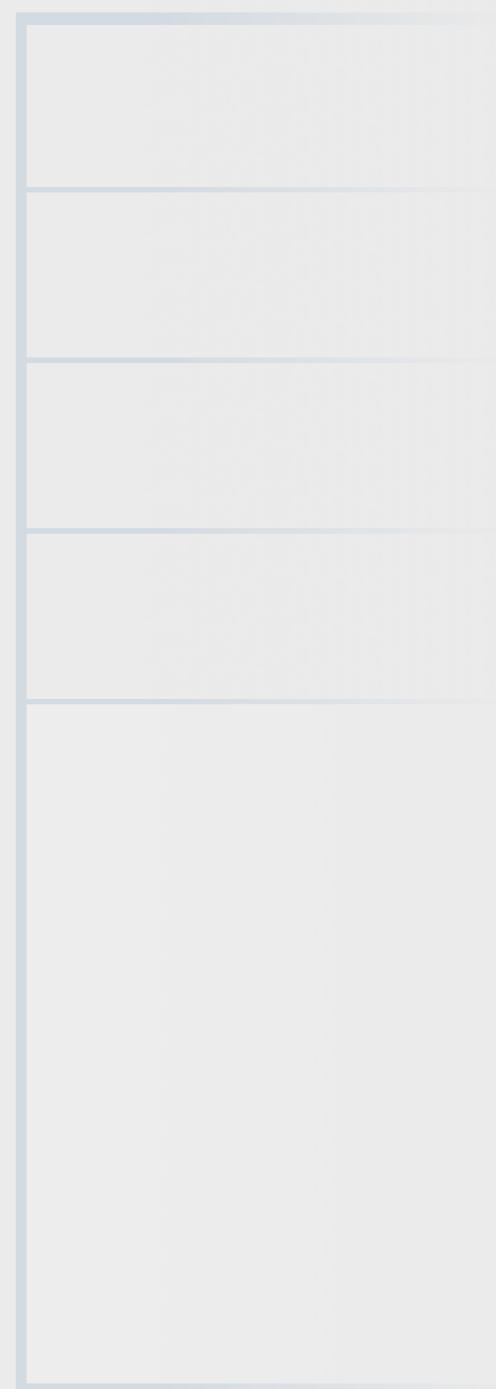
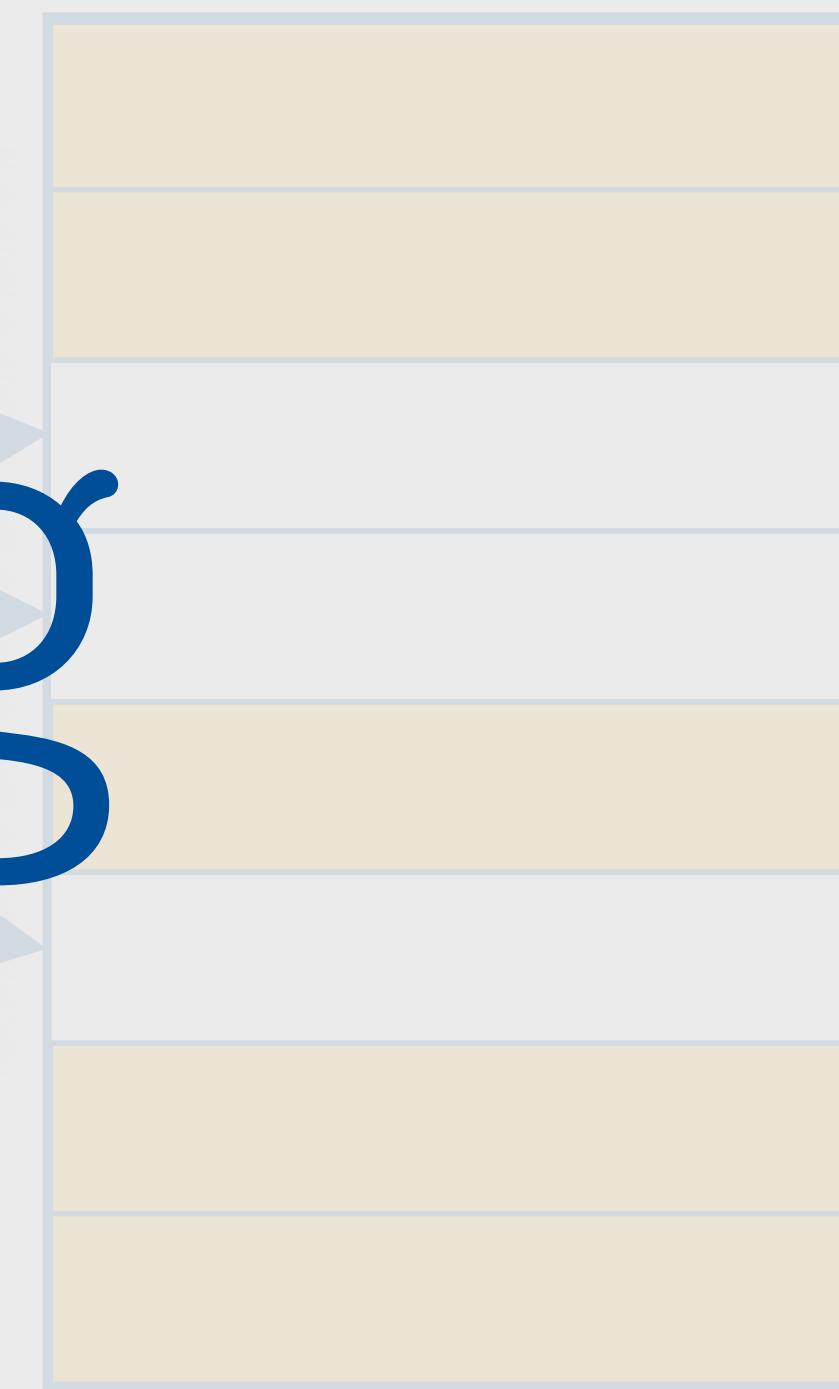


young free list

old generation

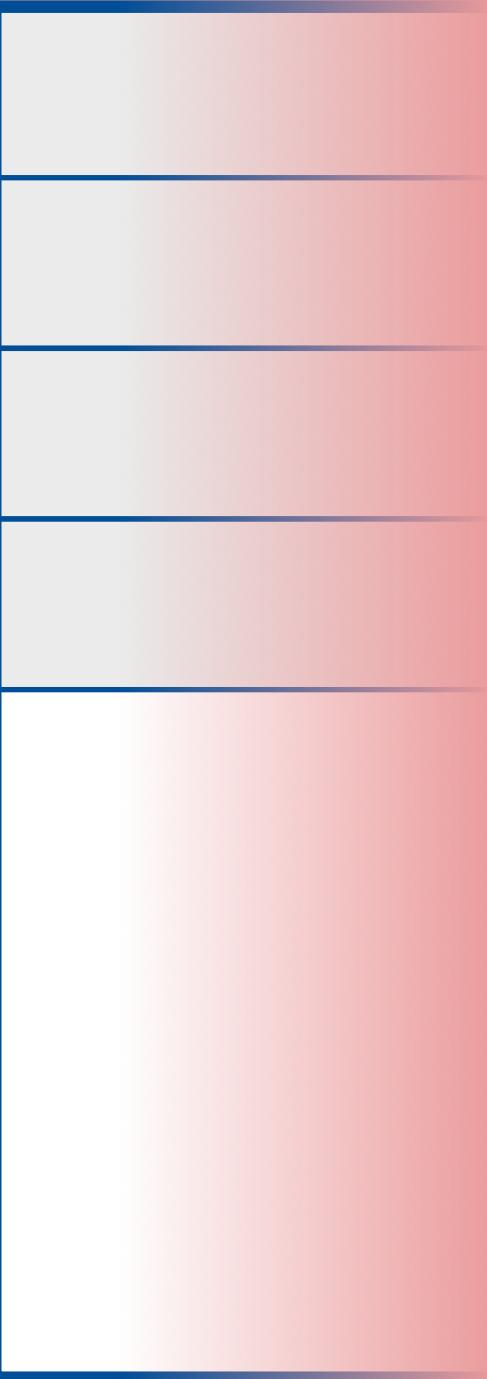
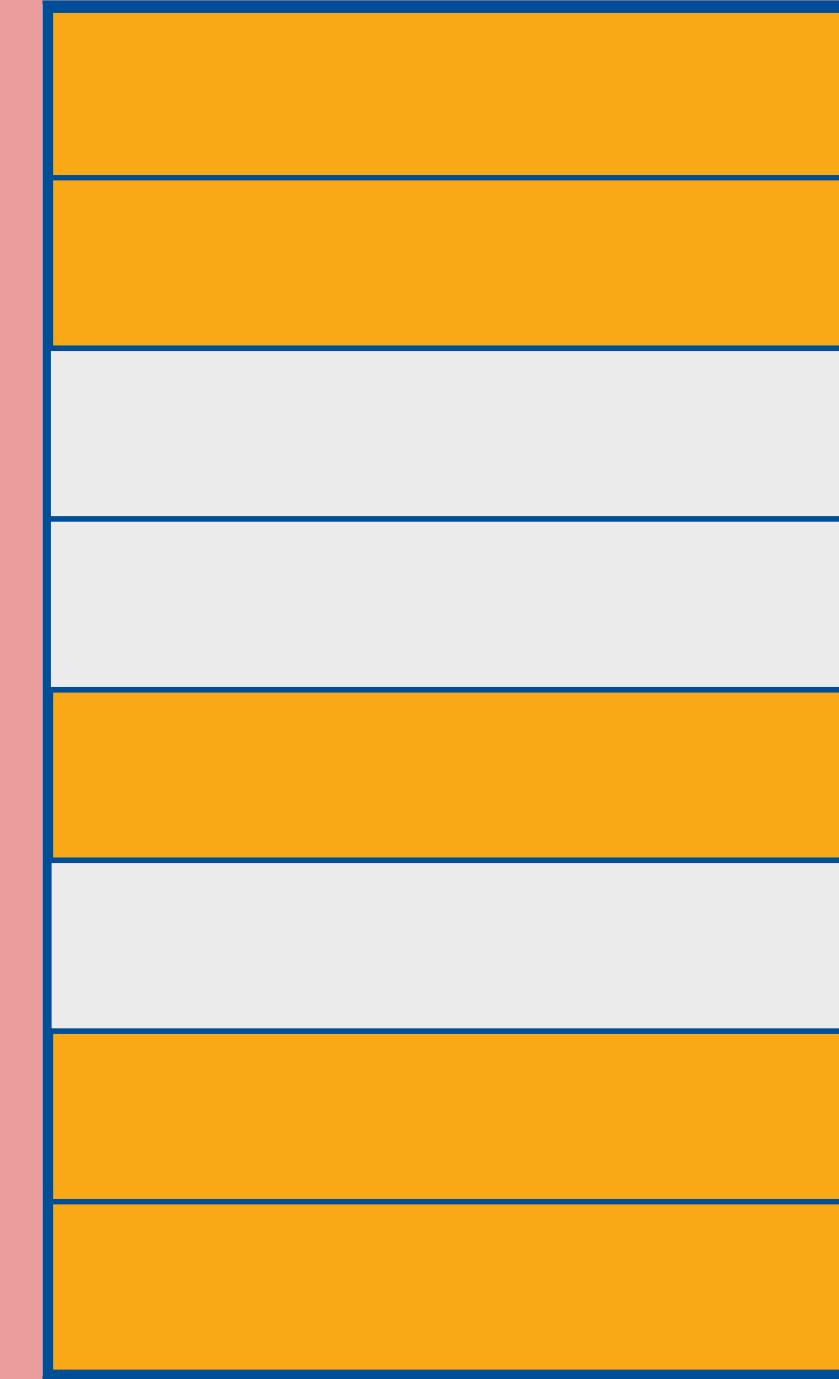
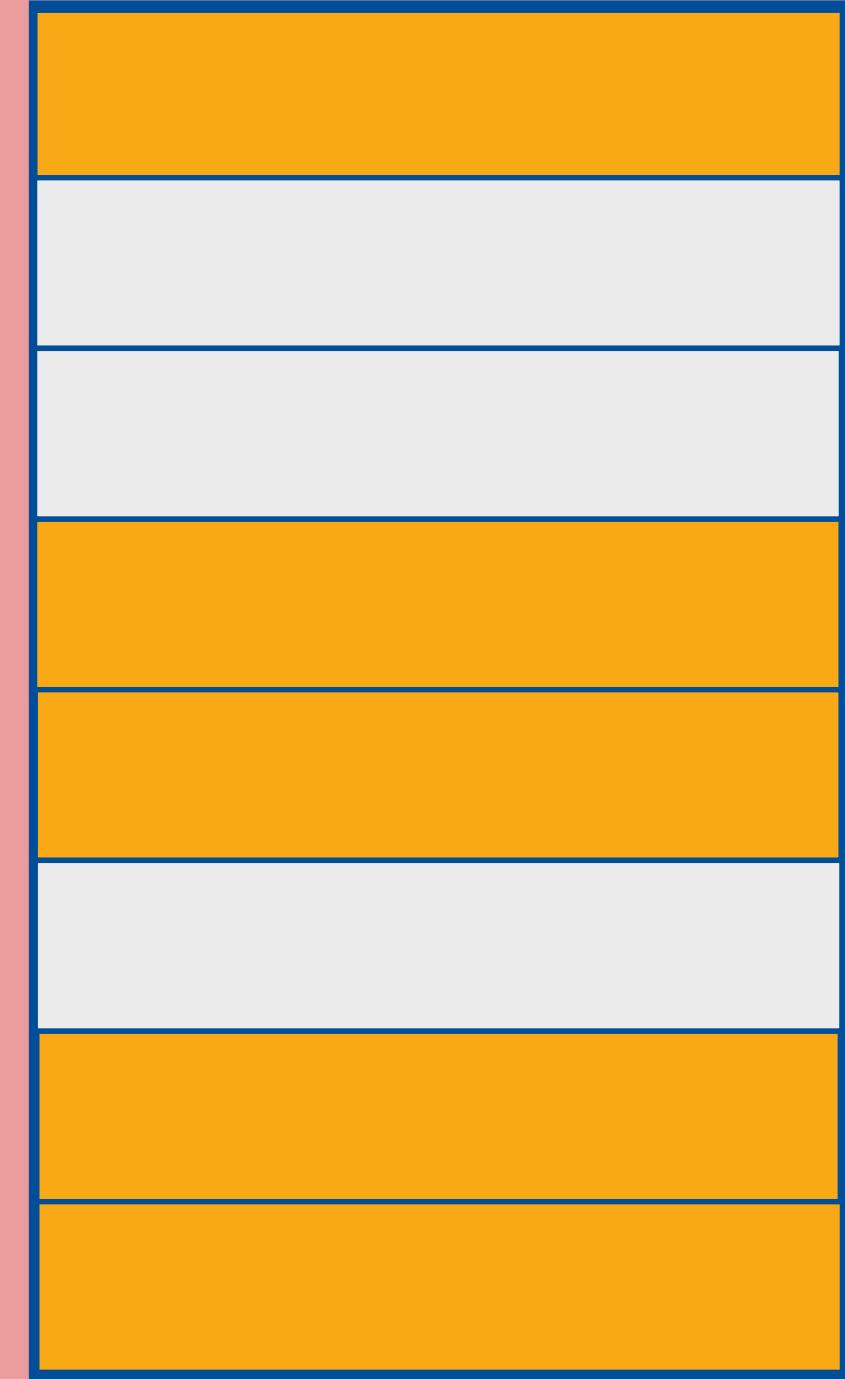


# sweeping



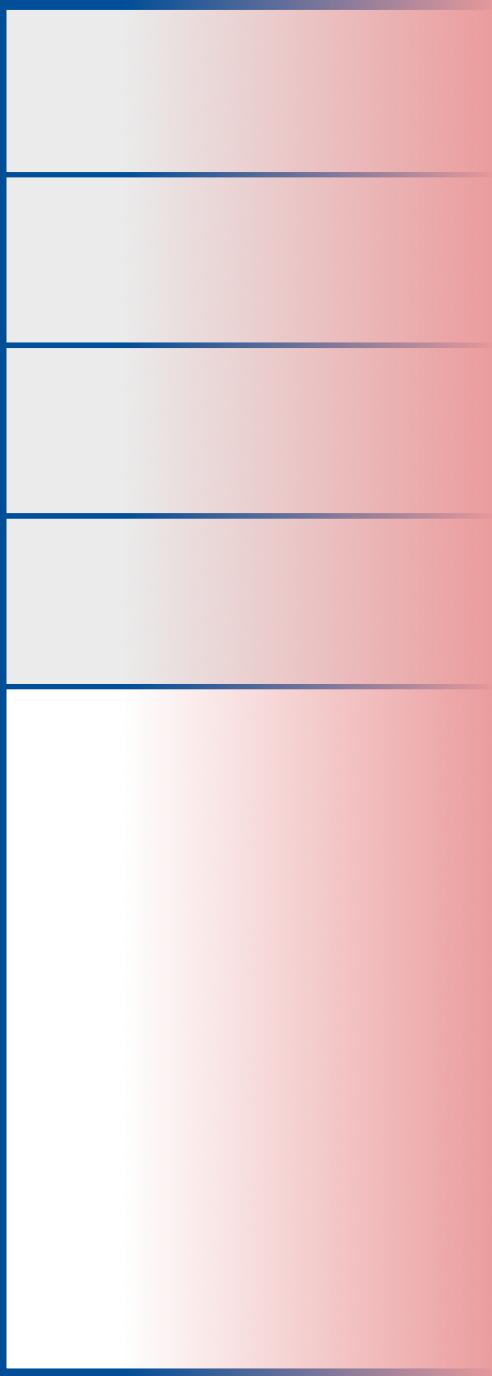
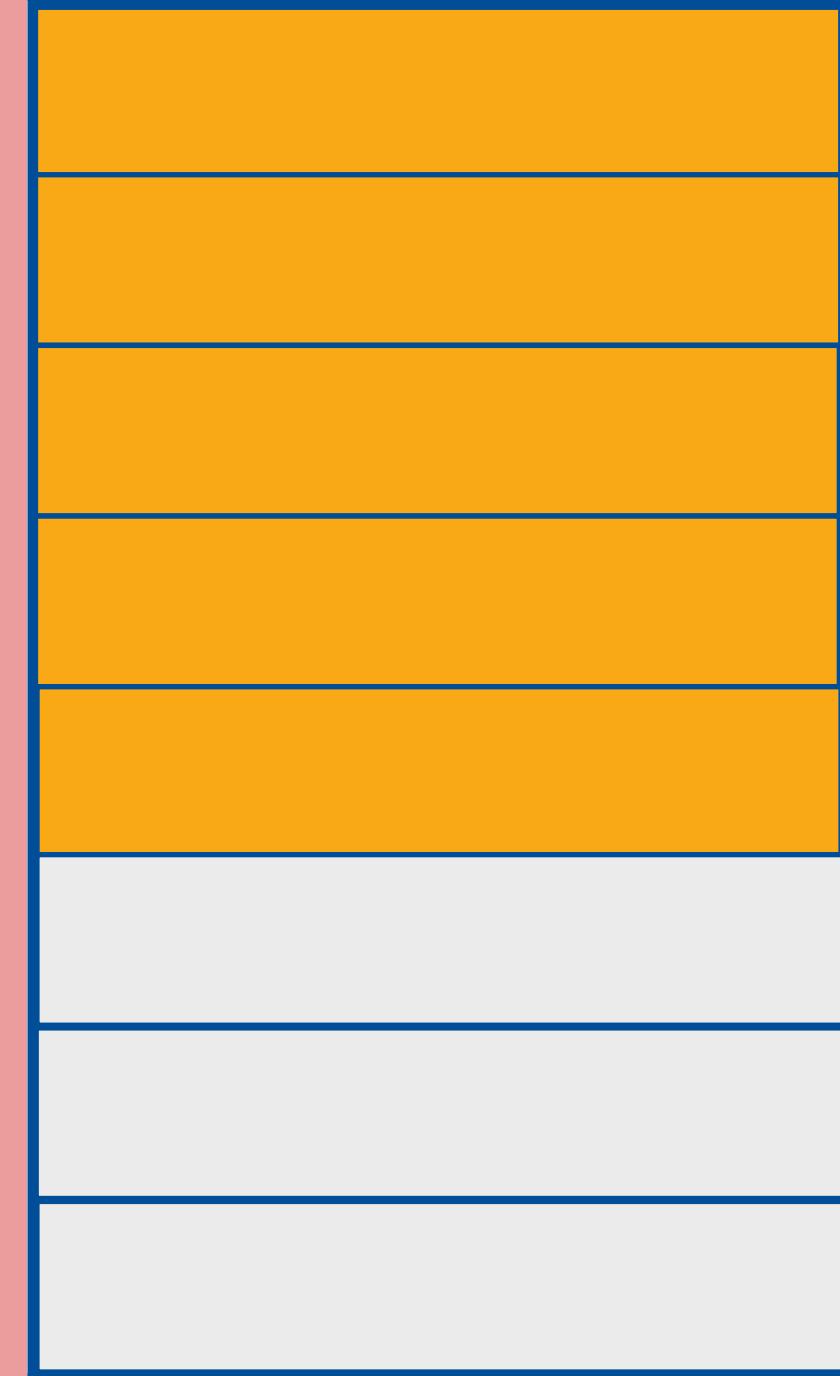
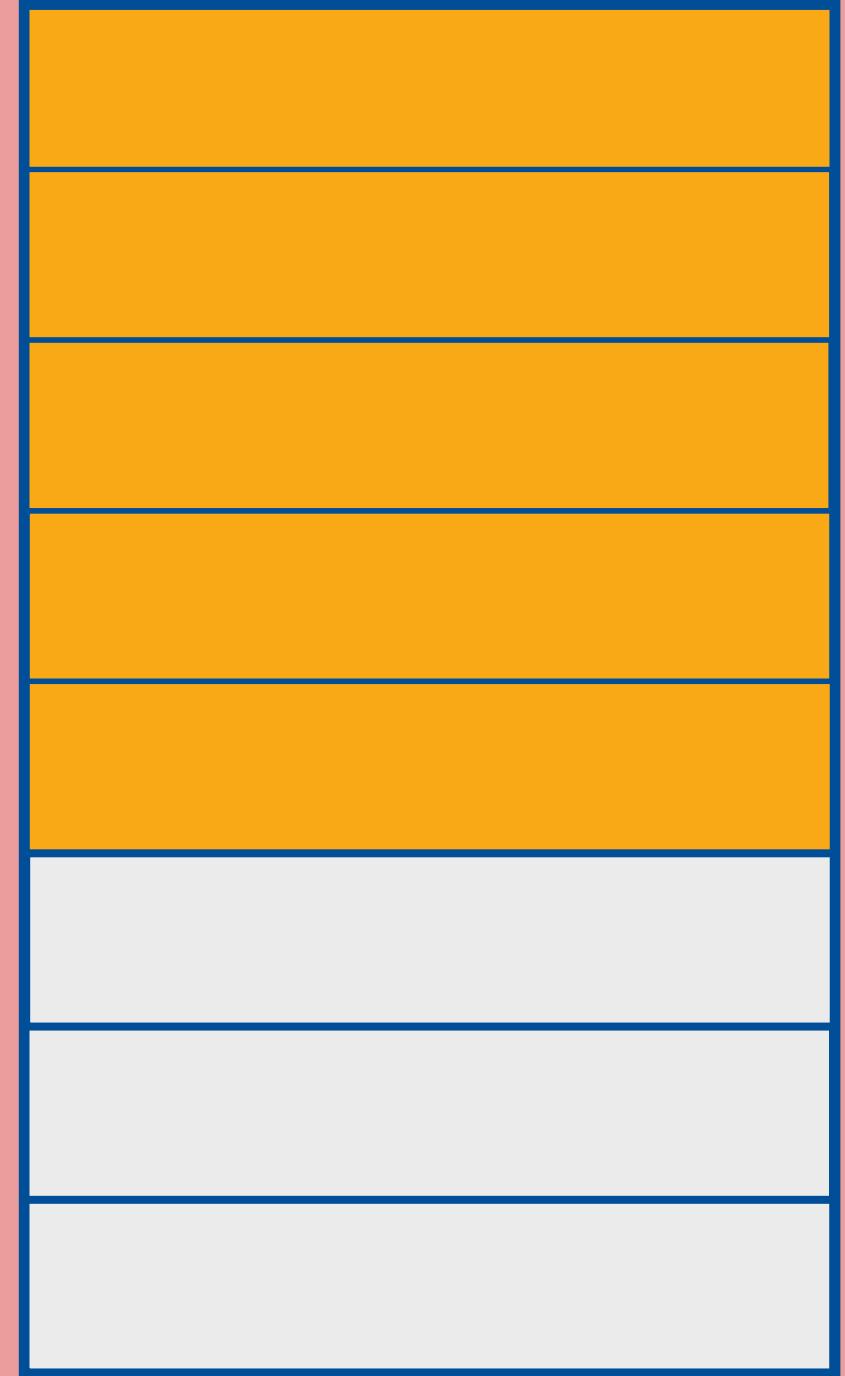
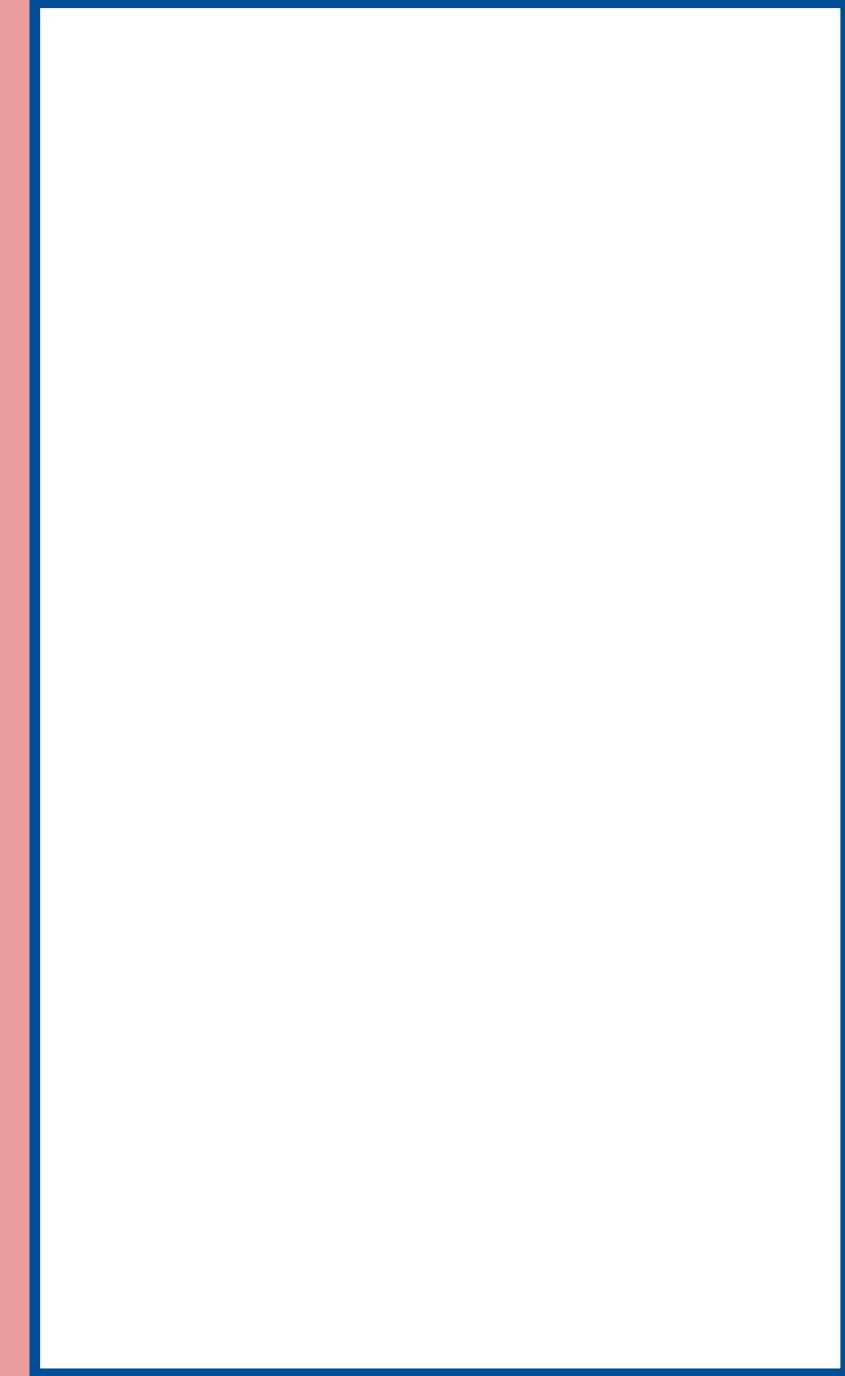
young generation

old generation



young generation

old generation



young generation

old generation

compacting

young generation

old generation

# mark and compact:

## the major garbage collector

# *memory bloat* and ***memory leaks***

@katie\_fenn

knowing you have a  
**problem**



Aw, Snap!

Something went wrong while displaying this web page.

[Learn more](#)

knowing you have a  
**problem**

kiki.local

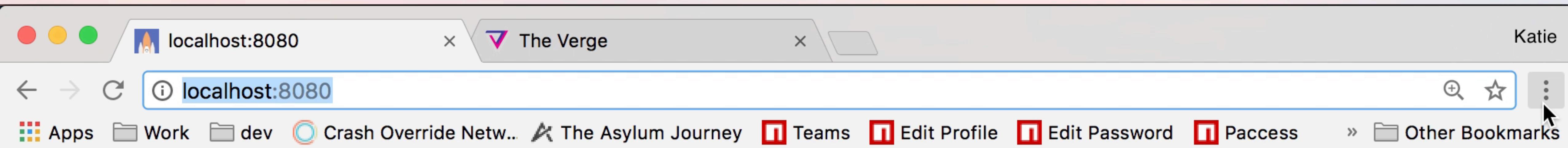
Hello World

Start timer

Stop timer

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memory bloat:  
making websites  
unnecessarily large  
for their purpose

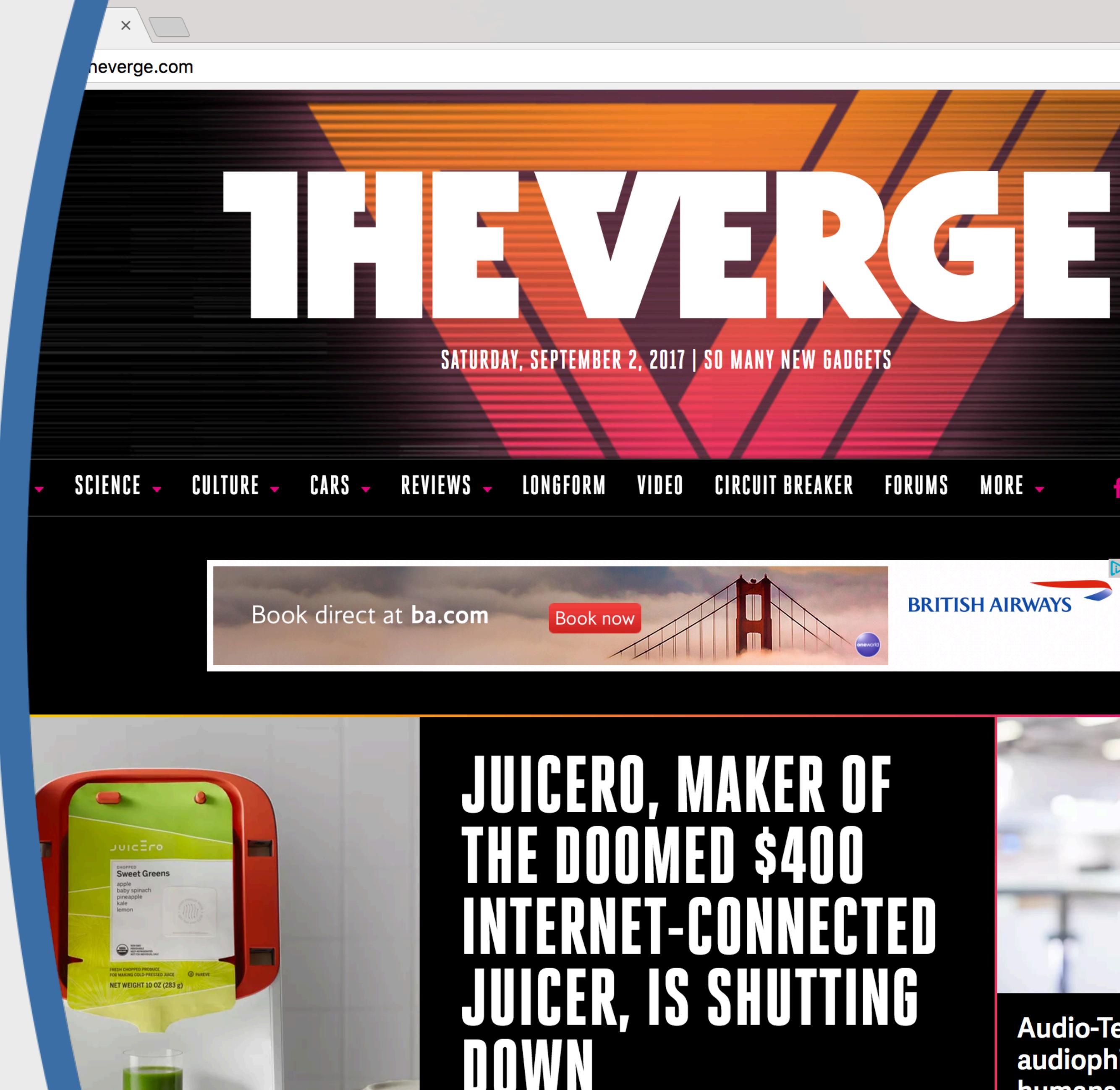


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baseline  
~100 MB  
~3KB js

# Hello World

the verge  
~200 MB  
~100KB js



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memory leaks:  
**when data does not die**

your  
data



@katie\_fenn

cw: large animation

you



@katie\_fenn

live demo

# summary

memory is a  
finite resource

summary

javascript

manages memory

on our behalf

summary  
the garbage collector  
frees memory  
after it is used

summary

bloat: websites that are  
unnecessarily large  
for their purpose

summary

memory leaks:

when unused memory  
is not freed

# summary

use devtools to  
confirm problems

thank  
you



special thanks  
@mathias  
and the v8 gc team



@katie\_fenn

[bit.ly/kf-nordicjs-2019](https://bit.ly/kf-nordicjs-2019)