

2 Make-up exams allowed

All on Friday. Preferences form will be released today

New questions - same format / similar content

If you have 5 exam points — do not sign up for retake

Lecture Thu

unrelated, but what does coalesce mean in the last question of the problem set

- exam review
- AMAA (Joe)
- fun topic — memory laid out in OS
  - Rust
  - other fun thing you want
  - rant about why malloc is bad and we shouldn't teach it

rounds up to the nearest multiple of 8, then  
LSB is 1 to show that it is being used

3 bytes "padding"  
↓  
Current

▀ means allocated/busy  
□ means free

a = malloc(13)

HEADSTART

b = malloc(21)

c = malloc(12)

free(b)

d = malloc(20)

GOAL: re-use space for b

Problem: our implementation used a variable "current"

to use as the start of new mallocs

What to do? Need a better strategy for selecting space to use.

How to find the free space from "b"?

scan the start of the heap and use the first  
free block that is large enough??

Scan through existing memory blocks in the  
heap and use the first free block that fits

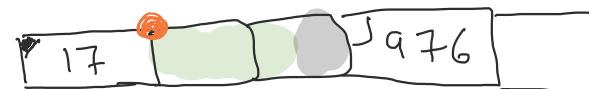
You need to scan the memory starting from  
the beginning or maintain a free list of  
available memory blocks.

split large block?

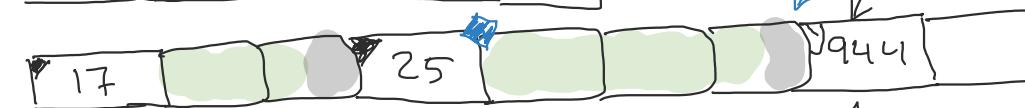
(initial heap)



a = malloc(13)

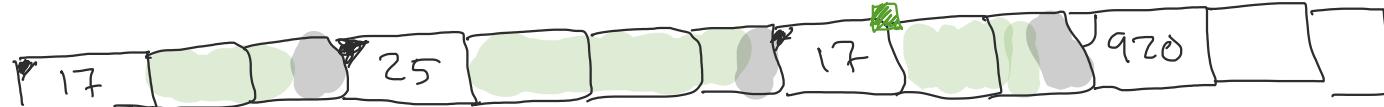


b = malloc(21)

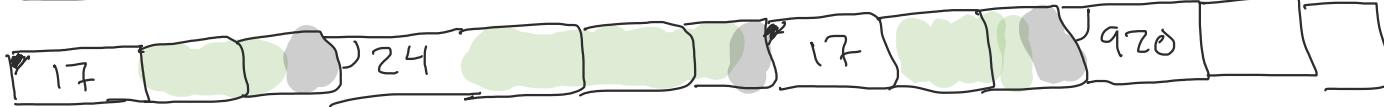


976 - 24 - 8

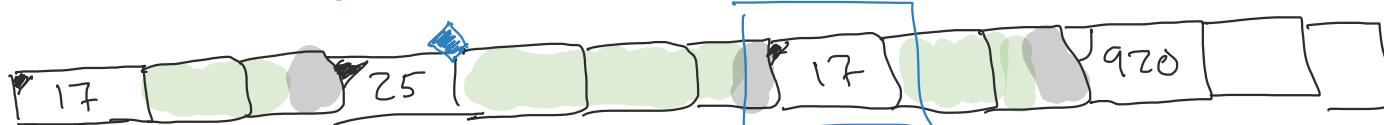
c = malloc(12)



free(b)



d = malloc(20)



does splitting mean we create a new header  
for the leftover free space

Yes!

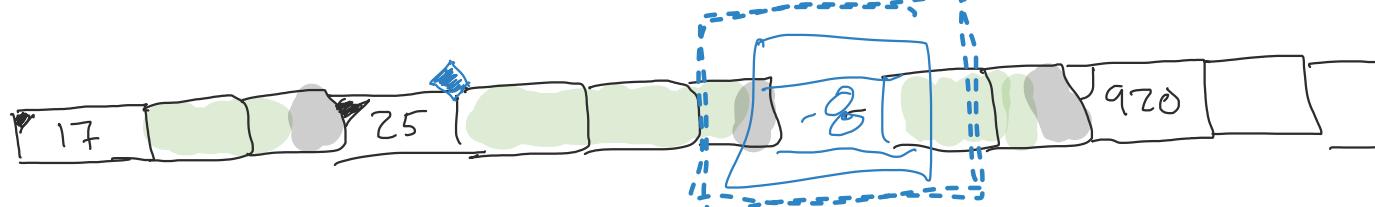
when we 'reallocate' we're just turning the Is  
0 into a 1 again? the block size is still 24+8  
and the previous stuff is there until we zero it  
out?

Yes!

Why after freeing b, we still have only 920  
left?

Doesn't it have more space?

920 bytes in the free block at  
the end  
and 24 free bytes at b



a = malloc(13)

b = malloc(21)

c = malloc(12)

free(b)

d = malloc(20)

free(a)

free(d)

e = malloc(40)

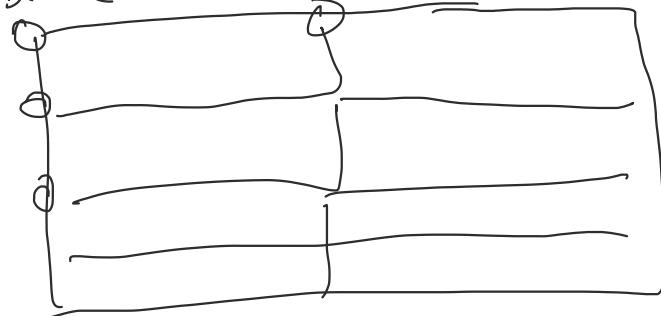


"coalescing" is the merging of adjacent  
free blocks

## malloc design points:

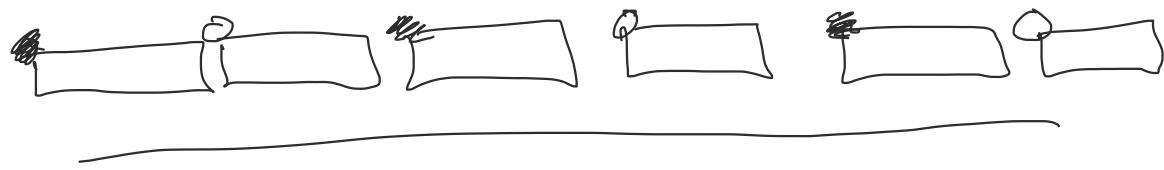
- throughput: how many ops/sec / how fast is malloc/free?
- utilization: how much overhead/wasted space?

`sbrk(10000)` // this is for 32 byte allocation



bitfield

- fragmentation  
coalescing



## Allocators

Virtual Memory is the  
OS-level of these strategies















