

Scope and Lifetime

Declaration is portion of program text to which it applies

Can be contiguous.

Static: independent of data.

Extent of storage is portion of program execution during which it exists.

Can be contiguous

Dynamic: depends on data

Extent:

Static duration of program

Automatic: duration of call or block execution (local variables)

From time of allocation statement (**new**) to deallocation.

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Under the Hood: Allocation

References (references) are represented as integer addresses.

Due to machine's own practice.

Do not convert integers ↔ pointers,

Parts of Java runtime implemented in C, or sometimes C++, where you can.

How in C:

```
[STORAGE_SIZE]; // Allocated array
pointer = STORAGE_SIZE;

// Pointer to a block of at least N bytes of storage */
void* malloc(size_t n) { // void*: pointer to anything
    if (remainder < n) ERROR();
    remainder = (remainder - n) & ~0x7; // Make multiple of 8
    return (void*) (store + remainder);
}
```

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Explicit Deallocating

Why require explicit deallocation, because of

Need in-time information about what is array

Need of converting pointers to integers.

Need in-time information about **unions**:

```
Various {
    int;
    * Pntr;
    double;
} // X is either an int, char*, or double
```

Need all three problems; automatic collection possible.

Freeing can be somewhat faster, but rather error-prone:

Corruption

Leaks

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Lecture #37

Side excursion into nitty-gritty stuff: Storage management

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Explicit vs. Automatic Freeing

Explicit means to free dynamic storage.

When no expression in any thread can possibly be influenced by an object, it might as well not exist:

```
def cleanup():
```

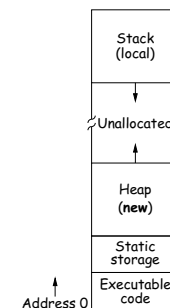
```
    c = new IntList(3, new IntList(4, null));
    tail = c;
    // Note: c now deallocated, so no way to reach it
    // Note: tail points to first cell of list
```

But, Java runtime, like Scheme's, recycles the object c via **garbage collection**.

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Example of Storage Layout: Unix



How to turn chunks of unallocated region into heap.

Automatically for stack.

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Free List Strategies

requests generally come in multiple sizes.

requests on the free list are big enough, and one may have to split a chunk and break it up if too big.

strategies to find a chunk that fits have been used:

Best fits:

requests in LIFO or FIFO order, or sorted by address.

requests for adjacent blocks.

requests for **first fit** on list, **best fit** on list, or **next fit** on list for the first-chosen chunk.

Best fits: separate free lists for different chunk sizes.

Best fits: A kind of segregated fit where some newly added blocks of one size are easily detected and combined with other chunks.

requests blocks reduces **fragmentation** of memory into lots of little free chunks.

Free Lists

allocator grabs chunks of storage from OS and gives to program.

program uses recycled storage, when available.

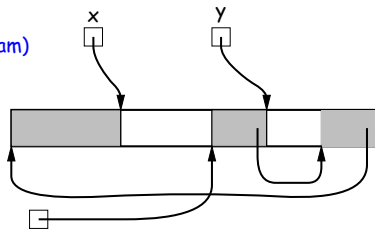
when memory is freed, added to a **free list** data structure to be reused.

program for explicit freeing and some kinds of automatic garbage collection.

variables (pointers to program)

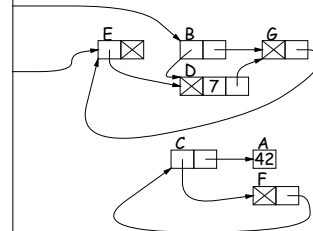
on the Heap

Free List

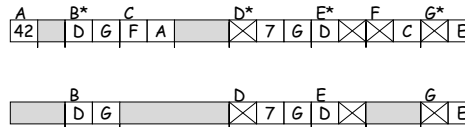


Garbage Collection: Mark and Sweep

(mathematics)



1. Traverse and **mark** the graph of objects.
2. **Sweep** through memory, freeing unmarked objects.



Copying Garbage Collection

approach: **copying garbage collection** takes time proportional to amount of active storage.

traverse the graph of active objects breadth first, **copying** them to a new contiguous area (called "to-space").

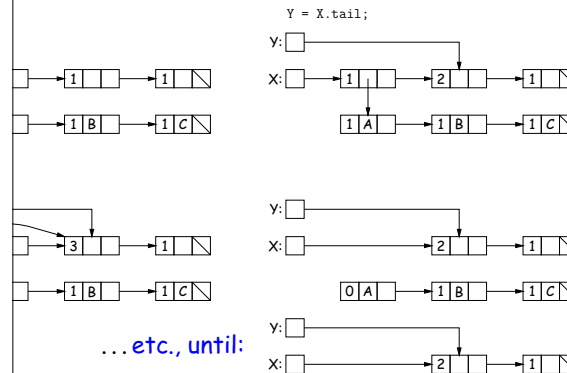
copy each object, mark it and put a **forwarding pointer** that points to where you copied it.

the next time you have to copy an already marked object, just put a forwarding pointer instead.

eventually, the space you copied from ("from-space") becomes to-space; in effect, all its objects are freed in constant time.

Garbage Collection: Reference Counting

keep track of count of number of pointers to each object. Release memory when count goes to 0.



Cost of Mark-and-Sweep

garbage collection algorithms don't move any existing objects—pointers are updated.

amount of work depends on the amount of memory swept—proportional to amount of active (non-garbage) storage + amount of garbage. It's not necessarily a big hit: the garbage had to be active at some point, and hence there was always some "good" processing in the memory before the byte of garbage scanned.

Objects Die Young: Generational Collection

Objects stay active, and need not be collected.

Need to avoid copying them over and over.

Generational garbage collection schemes have two (or more) spaces: one for newly created objects (*new space*) and one for objects that have survived garbage collection (*old space*).

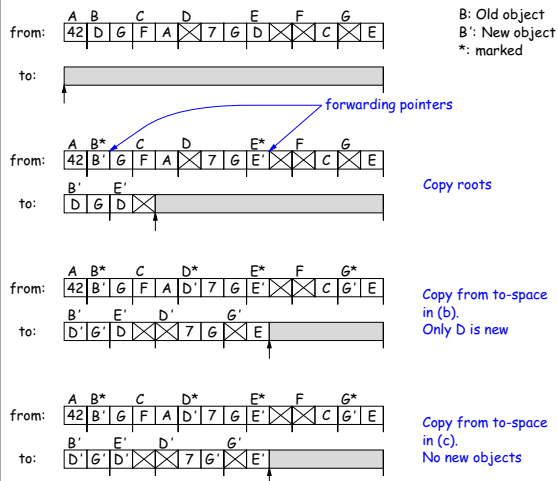
Old space garbage collection collects only in new space, ignores pointers pointing to old space, and moves objects to old space.

Old space has usual roots plus pointers in old space that have changed (or might be pointing to new space).

When new space full, collect all spaces.

This leads to much smaller *pause times* in interactive systems.

Copying Garbage Collection Illustrated



There's Much More

Next highlights.

Focus on how to implement these ideas efficiently.

garbage collection: What if objects scattered over many spaces?

Incremental collection: where predictable pause times are important, doing a little at a time.