C/C++ Memory Model

<u>Static memory:</u> - available for the lifetime of the program

public global functions and data
private global functions and data
local static data

defined outside any function (globals) and initialized before main is entered.

global data and functions are made private by qualifying as static, otherwise they are public

memory allocations local to a function, but qualified as static

<u>Stack memory:</u> - temporary scratch pad

main stack frame
function called by main stack frame
more stack frames :
current function stack frame

- defined only while computational thread passes through a function.
- holds input parameters, local data, and return values, used as scratch-pad memory
- guaranteed to be valid during the evaluation of a containing expression, won't be valid after
- expression evaluation starts with function evaluation first, then expression evaluation as algebraic combination of terms
- stack frame is destroyed when expression evaluation is complete

<u>heap memory:</u> - valid from the time of allocation to deallocation

allocated heap memory
free heap memory

- allocated/deallocated at run time by invoking operators new /delete (or functions malloc/free)
- memory is available to anyone with a pointer to the allocated memory from the time of allocation until deallocated.