

**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.