

definitions

The **heap** is the run-time data area from which memory for all class instances and arrays is allocated. Heap storage for objects is reclaimed by an automatic storage management system (known as a **garbage collector**).

HotSpot JVM distinguishes the following memory areas:

Eden space is a memory pool in which memory is initially allocated.

Survivor space is a memory pool which contains objects that survived garbage collection in Eden space.

Young generation consists of eden and two equally sized survivor spaces.

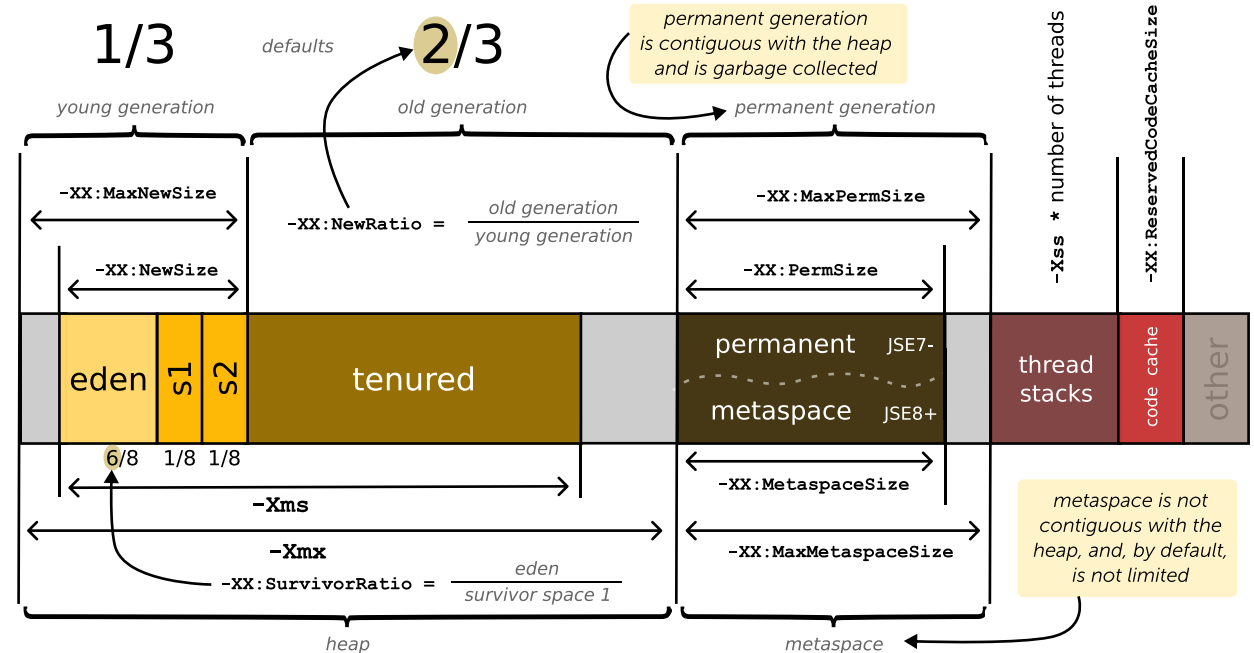
Tenured (old) generation contains objects that passed several garbage collections in the survivor spaces.

Permanent generation contains class and method data. It is NOT part of the heap, but is contiguous with the heap. It was replaced with **metaspace** in JDK 8.

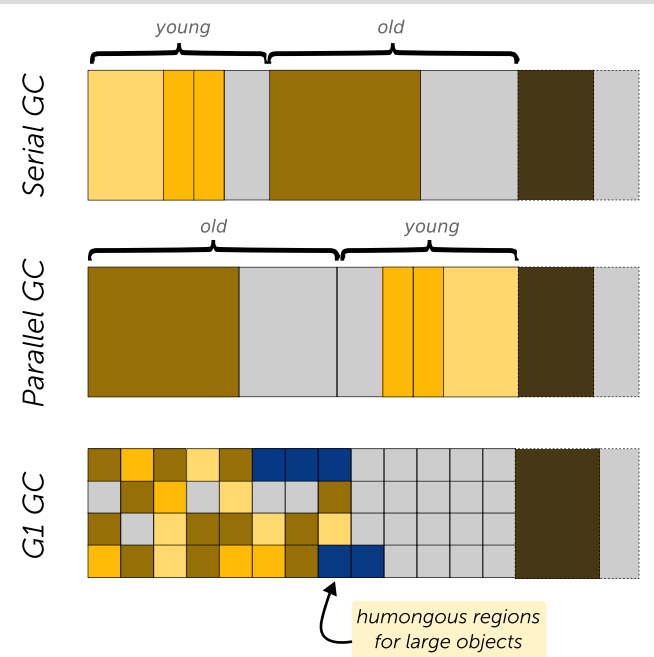
Metaspace is not contiguous with the heap and has different management mechanics. It is not limited by default, and, therefore, theoretically, can fill all available OS memory.

Code cache contains native code compiled by **JIT** compiler at runtime.

memory areas



memory layout



collectors

A **serial collector** uses a single CPU core to perform garbage collection.

A **parallel collector** uses multiple threads that can perform collection work at the same time, and can use of more than one CPU core.

A **stop-the-world (STW)** collector performs garbage collection during a pause when the application is not running any code that could mutate the heap.

A **concurrent collector** performs garbage collection concurrently with program execution, i.e. allowing program execution to proceed whilst collection is carried out.