

In C++ OOP, **constructors** and **destructors** are special member functions in a class that play crucial roles in the lifecycle of an object. Here's a detailed comparison and explanation:

1. Constructor

A constructor is a special member function automatically called when an object of a class is created. It initializes the object.

Key Features:

- **Same name as the class:** The constructor has the same name as the class.
- **No return type:** It does not return anything, not even `void`.
- **Can be overloaded:** You can have multiple constructors with different parameter lists (constructor overloading).
- **Types of constructors in C++:**
 - **Default Constructor:** Takes no arguments.
 - **Parameterized Constructor:** Takes arguments to initialize members.
 - **Copy Constructor:** Creates a new object as a copy of an existing object.

Example:

```
1  #include <iostream>
2  using namespace std;
3
4  class Student {
5      string name;
6      int age;
7
8      public:
9          // Default constructor
10         Student() {
11             name = "Unknown";
12             age = 0;
13         }
14
15         // Parameterized constructor
16         Student(string name, int age) {
17             this->name = name;
18             this->age = age;
19         }
20
21         // Copy constructor
22         Student(const Student &s) {
23             name = s.name;
24             age = s.age;
25         }
26         void display() {
27             cout << "Name: " << name << ", Age: " << age << endl;
28         }
29     };
30
31     main() {
32         Student s1;                // Default constructor
33         Student s2("Alice", 20);   // Parameterized constructor
34         Student s3 = s2;           // Copy constructor
35
36         s1.display();
37         s2.display();
38         s3.display();
39     }
```

```
Name: Unknown, Age: 0
Name: Alice, Age: 20
Name: Alice, Age: 20
```

```
Process returned 0 (0x0)   execution time : 0.050 s
Press any key to continue.
```

2. Destructor

A **destructor** is a special member function automatically called when an object goes out of scope or is deleted. It cleans up resources used by the object.

Key Features:

- **Same name as the class with a tilde (~):** E.g., if the class name is `Student`, the destructor is `~Student()`.
- **No return type or parameters:** A destructor cannot be overloaded.
- **Used to release resources:** Such as memory, file handles, or network connections.
- **Called automatically:** When the object is destroyed.

Example:

```
1  #include <iostream>
2  #include <fstream>
3  using namespace std;
4  class FileHandler {
5      string filename;
6      fstream file; //C++ syntax using OOP class and object
7      //FILE* file; //C syntax
8
9      public:
10         //Constructor to open a file
11         FileHandler(string fname) {
12             filename = fname;
13             //file = fopen(filename.c_str(), "w"); //C syntax
14             //C++ syntax open(filename, mode)
15             file.open(filename.c_str(), ios::in);
16
17             if(file) {
18                 cout << "File " << filename << " opened successfully." << endl;
19             } else {
20                 cout << "Failed to open file " << filename << endl;
21             }
22         }
23         // Destructor to close the file
24         ~FileHandler() {
25             if (file) {
26                 //fclose(file); //C syntax only
27                 file.close();
28                 cout << "File " << filename << " closed." << endl;
29             }
30         }
31     };
32
33     main() {
34         FileHandler myfile("example.txt"); // Constructor called here
35
36         cout<<"\tHello! You can do some operations with the file opening above \n";
37         cout<<"\tios::in is for read mode. Thus, you can read data from this file. \n";
38
39         // Destructor will be called automatically when the variable myfile
40         //goes out of scope
41     }
```

"D:\AdvacnedAlgorithm2024CADT\W6 Review week\OOP-destructor-constructor2.exe"

File example.txt opened successfully.

Hello! You can do some operations with the file opening above

ios::in is for read mode. Thus, you can read data from this file.

File example.txt closed.

Process returned 0 (0x0) execution time : 0.057 s

Press any key to continue.

Key Differences: Constructor vs Destructor

Feature	Constructor	Destructor
Purpose	Initializes an object.	Cleans up an object and releases resources.
Name	Same as the class name.	Same as class name, prefixed with ~.
Parameters	Can take parameters (overloading allowed).	Cannot take parameters (no overloading).
Return Type	No return type.	No return type.
Invocation	Called automatically when the object is created.	Called automatically when the object is destroyed.
Overloading	Can be overloaded.	Cannot be overloaded.
Resource Management	Allocates resources if necessary.	Releases resources like memory, files, etc.

When to Use Them

1. **Constructor:** When you need to initialize data members or allocate resources (e.g., memory, file handles).
2. **Destructor:** When you need to deallocate memory or clean up resources acquired during the object's lifetime.

Example: Constructor + Destructor Together

```
1  #include <iostream>
2  using namespace std;
3
4  class DynamicArray {
5      int* a;
6      int size;
7
8  public:
9      // Constructor: Allocates memory
10     DynamicArray(int size) {
11         this->size = size;
12         a = new int[size];
13         cout << "Dynamic array of size " << size << " created." << endl;
14     }
15
16     // Destructor: Frees memory
17     ~DynamicArray() {
18         delete[] a;
19         cout << "\n\n\tDynamic array of size " << size << " deleted.\n\n";
20     }
21
22     void set(int index, int value) {
23         if (index >= 0 && index < size) {
24             a[index] = value;
25         }
26     }
27
28     void display() {
29         for (int i = 0; i < size; ++i) {
30             cout << a[i] << " ";
31         }
32         cout << endl;
33     };
34 }
```

```
34 main() {
35     DynamicArray myarray(20);
36     myarray.set(0, 20);
37     myarray.set(2, 30);
38     myarray.set(4, 40);
39     myarray.set(6, 50);
40     myarray.set(8, 60);
41     myarray.set(10, 70);
42     myarray.display();
43 }
```

```
D:\AdvacnedAlgorithm2024\W6 Review week\OOP-destructor-constructor3.exe
Dynamic array of size 20 created.
20 0 30 0 40 0 50 0 60 0 70 61260 40445072 0 15532368 0 0 -1 738197548 61261

Dynamic array of size 20 deleted.

Process returned 0 (0x0)   execution time : 0.064 s
Press any key to continue.
```

Summary:

constructors are used for setting up an object with default value initialization, while **destructors** are used for cleaning up resources to prevent memory leaks.