

Classes w/ dynamic memory

- Constructors: are called when a variable is created. E.g.,
vector v;
// before any other member functions are
// called, vector::vector will be called
// to set things up in a "safe" way.
// Another way, they establish "class invariant"

- Copy constructor: used to make copies.

E.g. vector v;
// do stuff to v. ...

vector w(v);

Also used automatically when you

- call by value
- return by value
- temporary objects.

Why do we need a copy constructor??

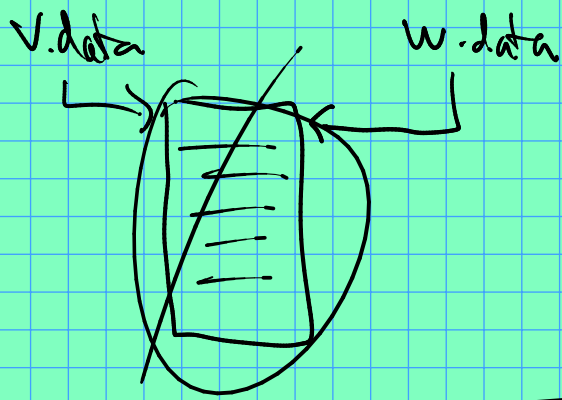
```
void f(vector w) {  
    // stuff ~
```

} ← destructor for w will be called.

```
int main() {  
    vector v;  
    v.push_back(...);  
    :  
    f(v);  
    :  
}
```

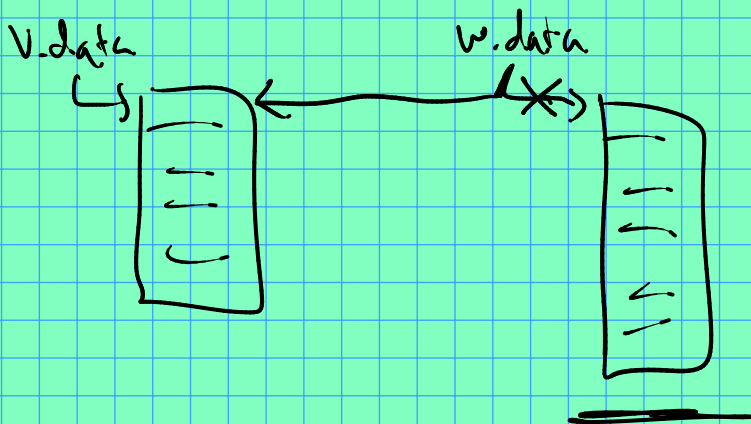
Default copy constructor:

```
vector::vector(vector& v) {  
    size = v.size;  
    capacity = v.capacity;  
    data = v.data;  
}
```



Similar issues arise w/ the assignment operator:

$W = V;$



Same issue — double free.

Also $W.data$ is "lost"
so you can't free it,
could also lead to segmentation
fault (put this in a
function call...)

(last thing you always need: destructor.
But we've been assuming that was implemented
all along.)