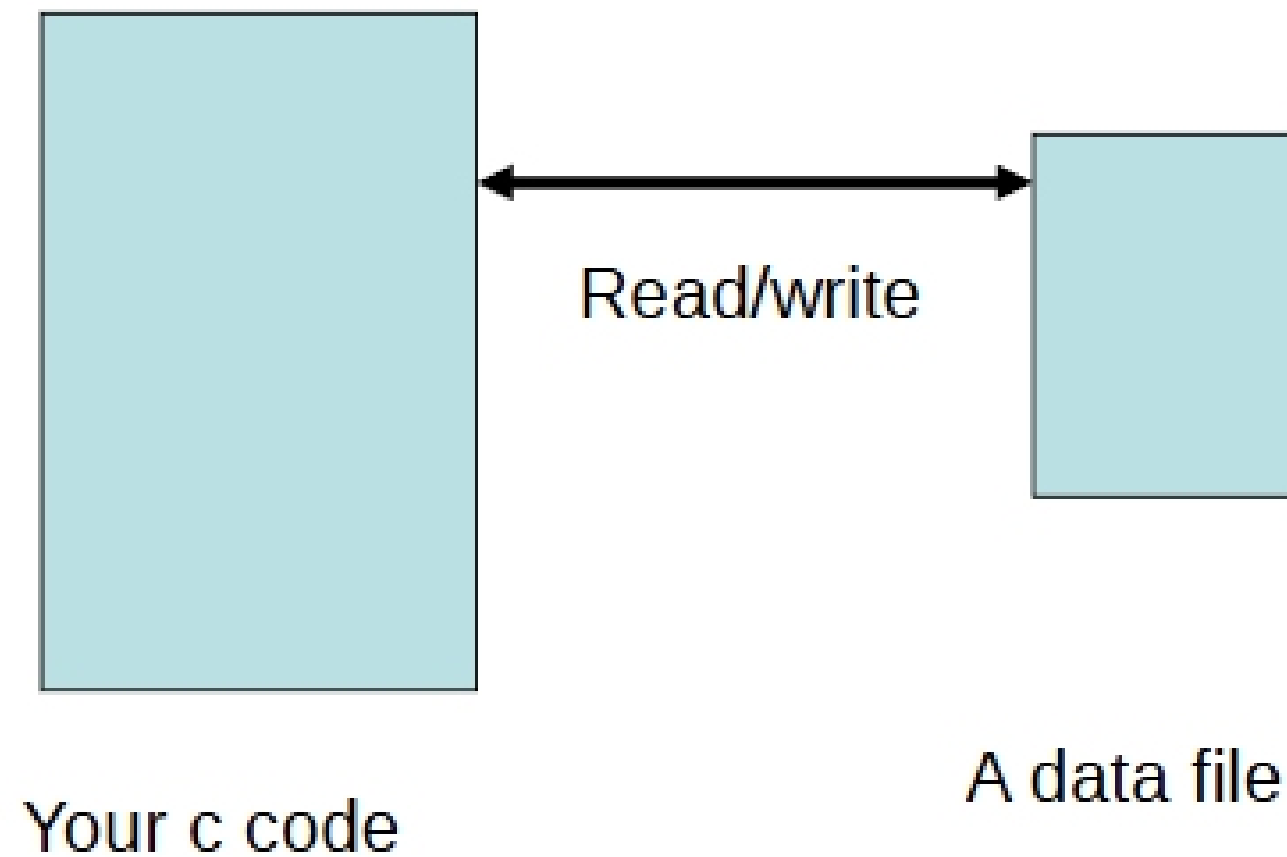


# What is a File

- A **file** is a package of information with a name attached to it.
- Files are used for various purposes:
  - Files can record **data**, such as text or numbers.
  - Some files record ways to perform various processing procedures on data. These are referred to as **programs** or **commands**.
- Conceptually, a file is a **sequence of characters**, which resides somewhere on a disk.

# Access Files

- To access a file
  - Open
  - Read / Write
  - Close



# File Pointer

- A new data-type in C to communicate with files
  - Defined in `stdio.h`
  - Written as `FILE *`
- E.g. a file pointer called `output_file` is declared in a statement like
  - `FILE *output_file;`
- File pointer holds disk location of the disk file