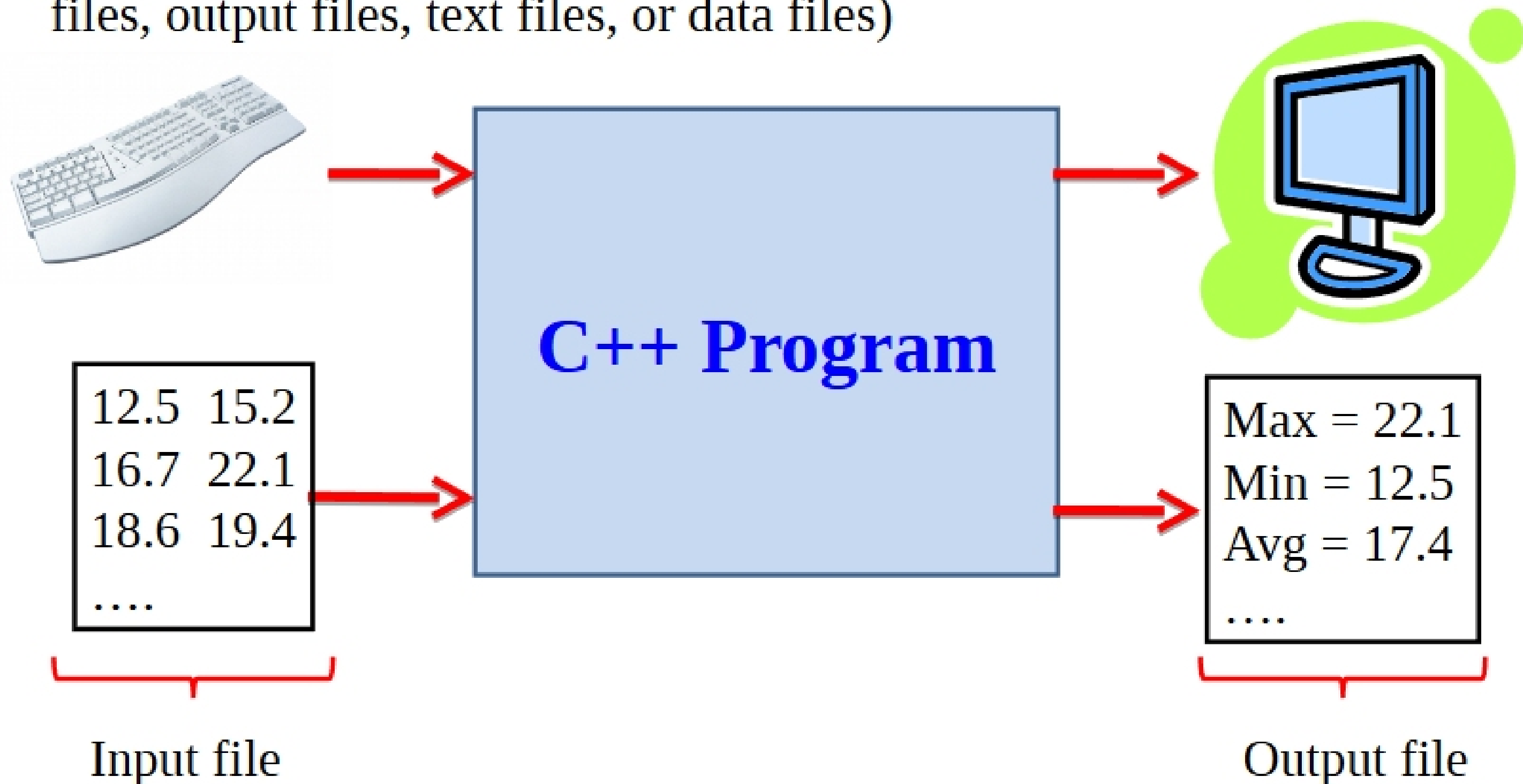


Chapter 8 – Data Files

- We have already seen how to read inputs from the keyboard and to output values to the computer screen.
- Now we will see how to read from and write to **files** (also called input files, output files, text files, or data files)



File (data file, output file, input file) – a computer file used for input to or output from a program.

Why use a file?

There are many uses for files, including:

- To provide permanent storage of data, such as:
 - Inventories
 - Bank accounts
 - Log sheets
 - Lab data
 - Etc
- To avoid entering large quantities of data from the keyboard
- To provide a copy or record of the output
- To store data where it can then be accessed by other programs, such as MatLab or Excel

Interactive programs

Our C++ programs so far have been *interactive* as they:

- Prompt the user on the screen to enter inputs
- Read inputs from the keyboard
- Display outputs on the screen

Non-interactive programs might read inputs from a data file, process the data, and write the results to another data file.