

# BLOCK I/O

Reading and writing aggregate data

Delroy A. Brinkerhoff

#### BLOCK read AND write FUNCTIONS

- ifstream in(in\_name, ios::binary);
- ofstream out(out\_name, ios::binary);
- ostream& write(char\* buffer, streamsize nbytes);
- istream& read(char\* buffer, streamsize nbytes);
- buffer is a memory address
- nbytes is the number of bytes to transfer



#### 

## BASIC BLOCK I/O PATTERNS

- T data;
- out.write((char \*) &data, sizeof(T));
- in.read((char \*) &data, sizeof(T));
- while (in.read((char \*) &data, sizeof(T)))
   ...



## ARRAY I/O PATTERNS

• T data[100];

```
• for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++)
        out.write((char *) &data[i], sizeof(T));</pre>
```

```
• int i = 0;
while (i < 100 && in.read((char *) &data[i], sizeof(T)))
i++;  // and additional processing
```

#### 

## EN BLOCK I/O

- T data[100];
- out.write((char \*) data, n \* sizeof(T));
- in.read((char \*) data, n \* sizeof(T));
- 0 < n ≤ 100