make

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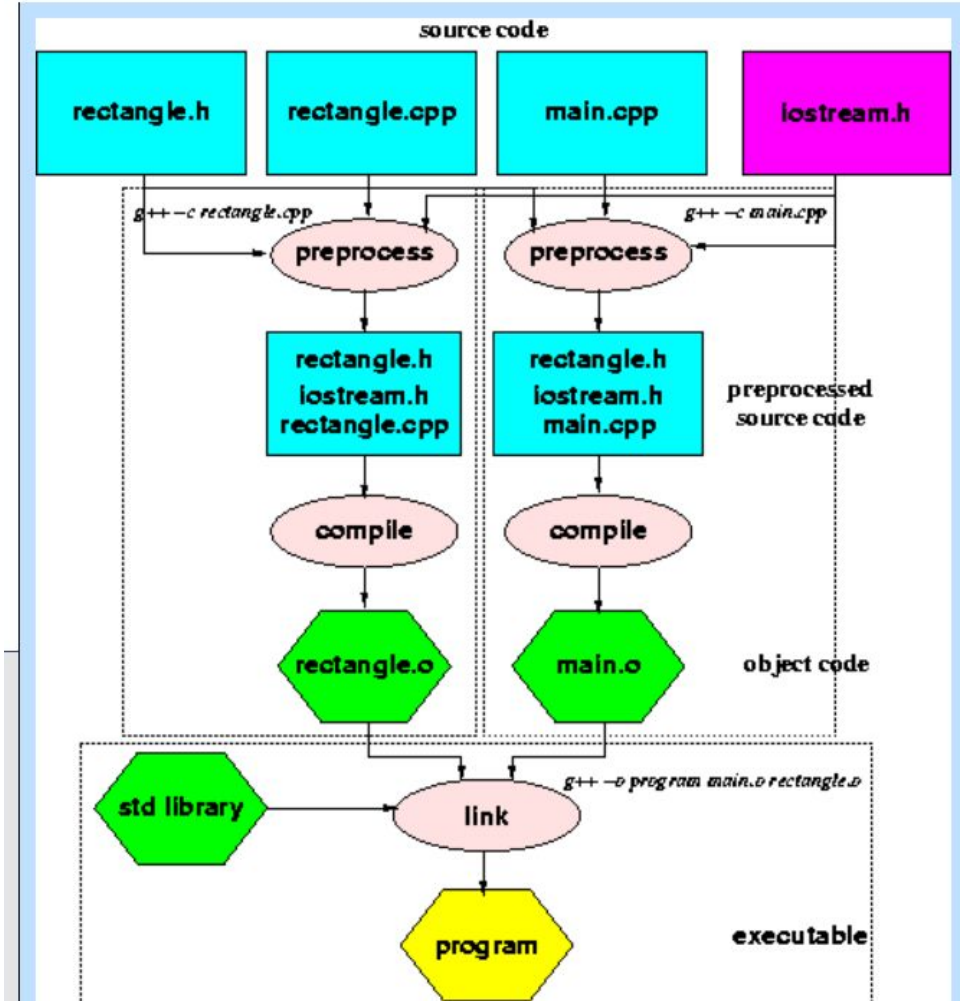
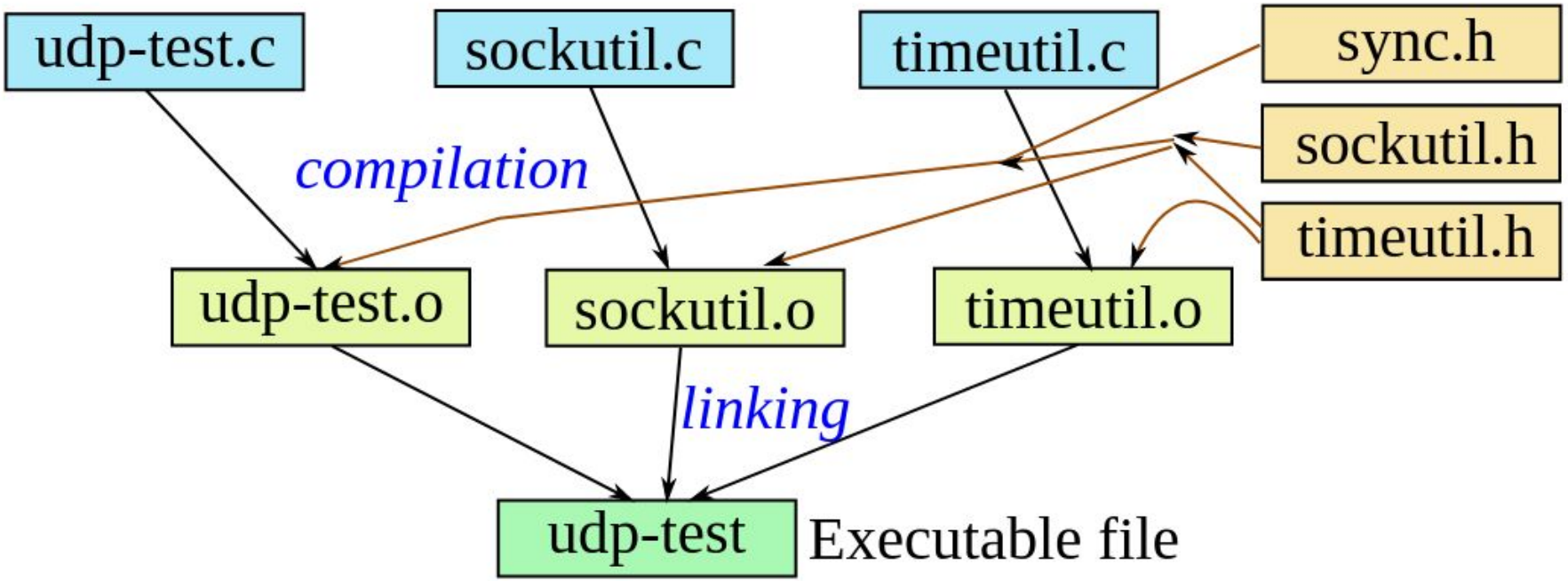
Compiling C/C++

- Popular : gcc (for C) and g++ (for C++)
  - Cc can refer to either, depends on system
- Source files: header files (.h, .hpp) and compilation units (.c, .cpp)
  - header file contains shared declarations
  - non-header files contains definitions and local (non-shared) declarations


source code
rectangle.h
rectangle.cpp
main.cpp
iostream.h
g++ -c rectangle.cpp
g++ -c main.cpp
preprocess
preprocess
rectangle.h
iostream.h
rectangle.cpp
rectangle.h
iostream.h
main.cpp
preprocessed
source code
compile
compile
rectangle.o
main.o
object code
std library
g++ -o program main.o rectangle.o
link
program
executable

Motivation Example



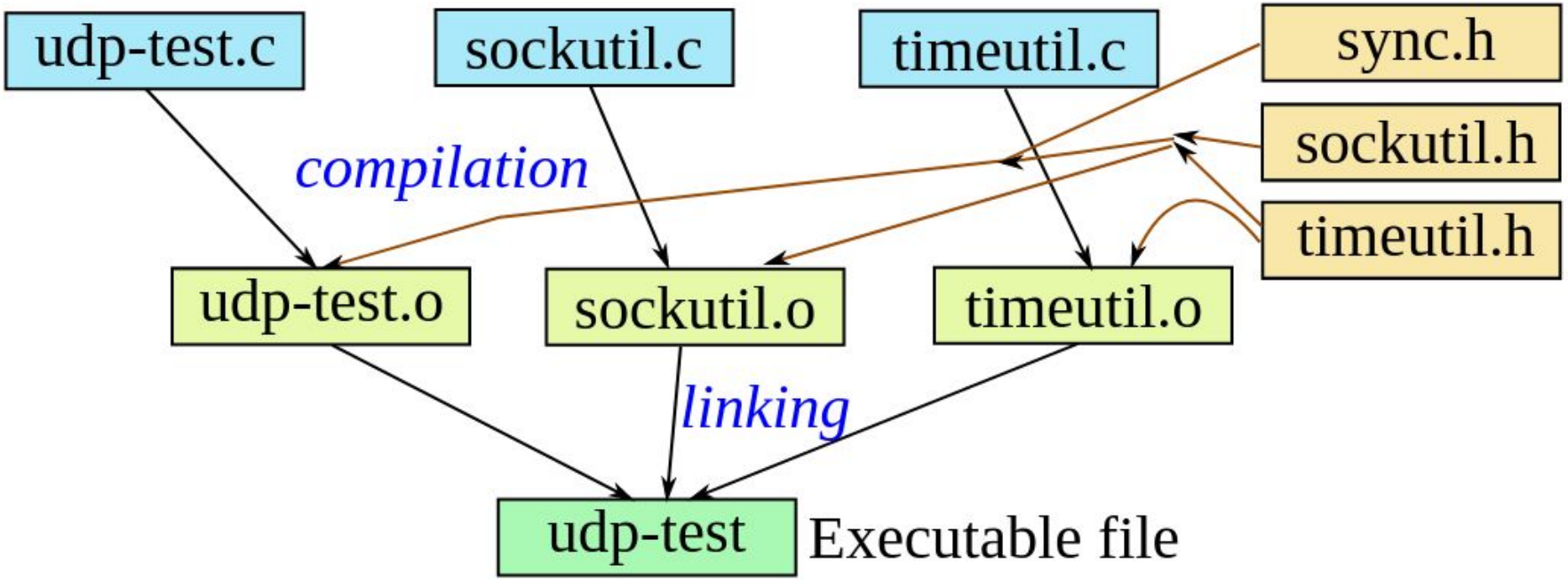
Without Makefile

- Scenario-1: Initial Compilation and Linking
  - cc -o udp-test udp-test.c sockutil.c timeutil.c
- Scenario-2: After modifying timeutil.c
  - cc -o udp-test udp-test.c sockutil.c timeutil.c

Compilation of udp-test.c and sockutil.c is unnecessary!

- Big projects have many files
- Makefile: simplifies project management
  - Minimum compilation when something is changed
    - Especially important for large projects, where compilation takes many minutes to hours
  - More error free compared to manual compiling
  - Help others build the project from source code easily
  - Gives a good overview of the project structure and dependencies

The Dependence DAG (Directed Acyclic Graph)



Makefile: a specification of the dependence DAG

Syntax

target: dependencies
    command
    command
    command

- Target: mostly name of a file that is generated by a program
  - E.g. executable or object files
  - Phony Targets also there, will cover later
  - No target specified?
    - Will execute the first target defined in the Makefile
    - Often named “all” by convention.

- Dependencies: file names separated by spaces, need to exist before the commands for the target are run
  - target ‘clean’ does not have dependencies.
- Command: an action that needs to be carried out
  - Need to start with a tab character, not spaces (for some obscure reason)

Variables

- Variables are strings and assigned values via =
  - E.g. OBJ = udp-test.o sockutil.o timeutil.o
- Can reference variables using either ${} or $()
  - $(OBJ)

Implicit Rules

- Implicit rules: do not have to provide too much detail
  - E.g. in C, compilation takes a .c file and makes a .o file
    - No need to specify the command
    - Make applies the implicit rule when it sees this combination of file name endings

Phony Target

- Phony target: name for some commands to be executed (not name of a file)
  - a target of “.PHONY” will prevent Make from confusing the phony target with a file name

Handling errors

- Add -k when running make to continue running even in the face of errors
  - Helpful if you want to see all the errors of Make at once
- Add a - before a command to suppress the error

Naming of Makefile

- make commands looks for a makefile
  - Tries the following names in order: `GNUmakefile', `makefile' and `Makefile'
- Use a different name, use make -f

Advanced Make

Variable

```
#x = hello also works
x := hello

all:
	echo $(x)
	echo ${x}

	# Bad practice, but works
	echo $x
```

$@

$@ is an automatic variable that contains the target name.
When there are multiple targets for a rule, the commands will be run for each target.

```
all: f1.o f2.o

f1.o f2.o:
    echo $@

# Equivalent to:
# f1.o:
#     echo f1.o
# f2.o:
#     echo f2.o
```

$< , $^ and $?

$<: Represents the first prerequisite (dependency) of the rule.

$^: Represents all prerequisites (dependencies) of the rule

$?: Outputs all prerequisites newer than the target

$? And $^ and $<

```
hey: one two
    # Outputs "hey", since this is the target name
    @echo $@

     # Outputs the first prerequisite using $< (it will print "one")
    @echo "The first prerequisite is: $<"

   # Outputs all prerequisites newer than the target
    @echo $?

    # Outputs all prerequisites
    @echo $^

    @touch hey

one:
    @touch one

two:
    @touch two

clean:
    rm -f hey one two
```

Command Substitution

$(): variable substitution

$$(): command substitution to execute shell commands

```
date:
    @echo $$(date)
```

Wildcard: *

- * searches your filesystem for matching filenames
- Good practice to wrap it in the wildcard function (Make function)
- # Print out file information about every .c file

```
print: $(wildcard *.c)
	ls -la  $?
```

Wildcard %: Static Pattern Rule

Helps write less in a Makefile

Targets… : target-pattern: prereq-patterns ...

    commands

```
objects = foo.o bar.o all.o
all: $(objects)

# These files compile via implicit rules
# Syntax - targets ...: target-pattern: prereq-patterns ...
# In the case of the first target, foo.o, the target-pattern matches foo.o and sets the "stem" to be "foo".
# It then replaces the '%' in prereq-patterns with that stem
$(objects): %.o: %.c

#Same as
#foo.o: foo.c
#bar.o: bar.c
#all.o: all.c

all.c:
	echo "int main() { return 0; }" > all.c

%.c:
	touch $@

clean:
	rm -f *.c *.o all
```

Simplified Pattern Rule

```
# Define a pattern rule that compiles every .c file into a .o file
%.o : %.c
        $(CC) -c $(CFLAGS) $(CPPFLAGS) $< -o $@
```

(Pattern rules contain a '%' in the target. This '%' matches any nonempty string, and the other characters match themselves. ‘%’ in a prerequisite of a pattern rule stands for the same stem that was matched by the ‘%’ in the target)

Another example:

```
# Define a pattern rule that has no pattern in the prerequisites.
# This just creates empty .c files when needed.
%.c:
  touch $@
```

Complex make

```
#Define compiler
CXX := g++

# Define compiler flags
CXXFLAGS := -Wall -Wextra -std=c++11

# Define source files
SRCS := main.cpp foo.cpp bar.cpp

# Define object files
OBJS := $(SRCS:.cpp=.o)

# Define executable
TARGET := myprogram

# Default target
all: $(TARGET)
```

```
# Rule to compile object files
%.o: %.cpp
	$(CXX) $(CXXFLAGS) -c $< -o $@

# Rule to link object files into executable
$(TARGET): $(OBJS)
	$(CXX) $(CXXFLAGS) $^ -o $@

# Clean target
clean:
	rm -f $(OBJS) $(TARGET)
```

Cmake (not in syllabus)

- Makefile helps in some automation. Can we do better?
  - Can we have a tool that writes makefiles itself ?
  - Also, in the process make it compiler independent
    - C++ needs different compilers (and options) for different platforms
- CMake: open-source, cross-platform family of tools designed to build, test and package software
  - Supports compiler independent configuration files and generate native makefiles

References

https://makefiletutorial.com/#getting-started

https://makefiletutorial.com/ (more details)

https://www.gnu.org/software/make/manual/make.html (in depth)