

2.1 What a Rule Looks Like

A simple makefile consists of “rules” with the following shape:

```
target ... : prerequisites ...
    recipe
    ...
    ...
```

一个简单的makefile由规则组成，例如下面的结构：

```
目标 ... : 先决条件（前提）...
    方法
    ...
    ...
```

A target is usually the name of a file that is generated by a program; examples of targets are executable or object files. A target can also be the name of an action to carry out, such as ‘clean’ (see Phony Targets).

一个目标通常是程序产生的文件名字，例如目标可以是可执行文件或者目标文件。一个目标也可以是一个可执行动作的名字，就像 `clean`（参考Phony Targets）。

A prerequisite is a file that is used as input to create the target. A target often depends on several files.

先决条件是一个被用来作为输入去创建目标的文件。目标通常依赖于多个文件。

A recipe is an action that make carries out. A recipe may have more than one command, either on the same line or each on its own line. Please note: you need to put a tab character at the beginning of every recipe line! This is an obscurity that catches the unwary. If you prefer to prefix your recipes with a character other than tab, you can set the `.RECIPEPREFIX` variable to an alternate character (see Special Variables).

方法是一个make执行的动作。一个方法可能由不止一个命令，在一行或则在各自行。请注意：你需要放一个 `tab` 字符在每一个方法行之前！这是一个容易忘记的隐晦事物。如果你更喜欢其他的字符而不是 `tab`，你可以为变量 `.RECIPEPREFIX` 设置一个可选值（参考 Special Variables）。

Usually a recipe is in a rule with prerequisites and serves to create a target file if any of the prerequisites change. However, the rule that specifies a recipe for the target need not have prerequisites. For example, the rule containing the delete command associated with the target 'clean' does not have prerequisites.

通常一个方法是对先决条件的约束，如果任何先决条件发生改变，就会创建目标文件。然而，有些规则指定的方法不需要先决条件。例如，包含删除命令的规则相关的目标 `clean` 就没有先决条件。

A rule, then, explains how and when to remake certain files which are the targets of the particular rule. `make` carries out the recipe on the prerequisites to create or update the target. A rule can also explain how and when to carry out an action. See Writing Rules.

然后，一条规则解释了如何以及何时重新制作作为特定规则目标的某些文件。`make` 基于先决条件执行方法去创造或更新目标。一条规则也可以解释如何以及何时去执行一个动作。参考 [Writing Rules](#)。

A makefile may contain other text besides rules, but a simple makefile need only contain rules. Rules may look somewhat more complicated than shown in this template, but all fit the pattern more or less.

一个 makefile 可能包含除规则之外的其他文本，但是一个简单的 makefile 只需要包含规则。规则可能看起来比模板中显示的要复杂一些，但都或多或少符合模式。
