

CSE306

SOFTWARE QUALITY IN PRACTICE

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LATE JOINERS

- I update the rosters in Piazza and AutoLab regularly from the UBLearns classlist (next update will be before labs tomorrow).
- If you joined the recently it may take a day (possibly two) for the changes to propagate through all the systems.
- We will NOT be strict on the deadlines for LEX01 and LEX02 (to accommodate students registering through end of add/drop): we will allow submissions until 11:59 PM Friday. (15 students have not yet submitted LEX01).
- If you missed your lab session, do the LEX as soon as you can on your own time: post questions and requests for assistance in Piazza.

REMINDERS

- Syllabus: posted on website
- Academic Integrity
- Team formation - make sure to form teams and give composition in a private Piazza message.
- PRE will be posted once teams are formed.
- If necessary I will step in and assign students to teams.

COMPILER

- On cerf use `/usr/bin/gcc` compiler (this is 9.4.0, and should be your default)
- use `-std=c11` (you can use other options too)
- test on cerf.cse.buffalo.edu (that's our reference system)

STATIC VS DYNAMIC PROGRAM ANALYSIS

- static analysis - done on program without executing it
- dynamic analysis - done on program by executing it

THE COMPILER: A STATIC ANALYSIS TOOL

- We will explore what a compiler can and can't tell us about our code.

COMPILING AND RUNNING CODE

6

2 A Systematic Approach to Debugging

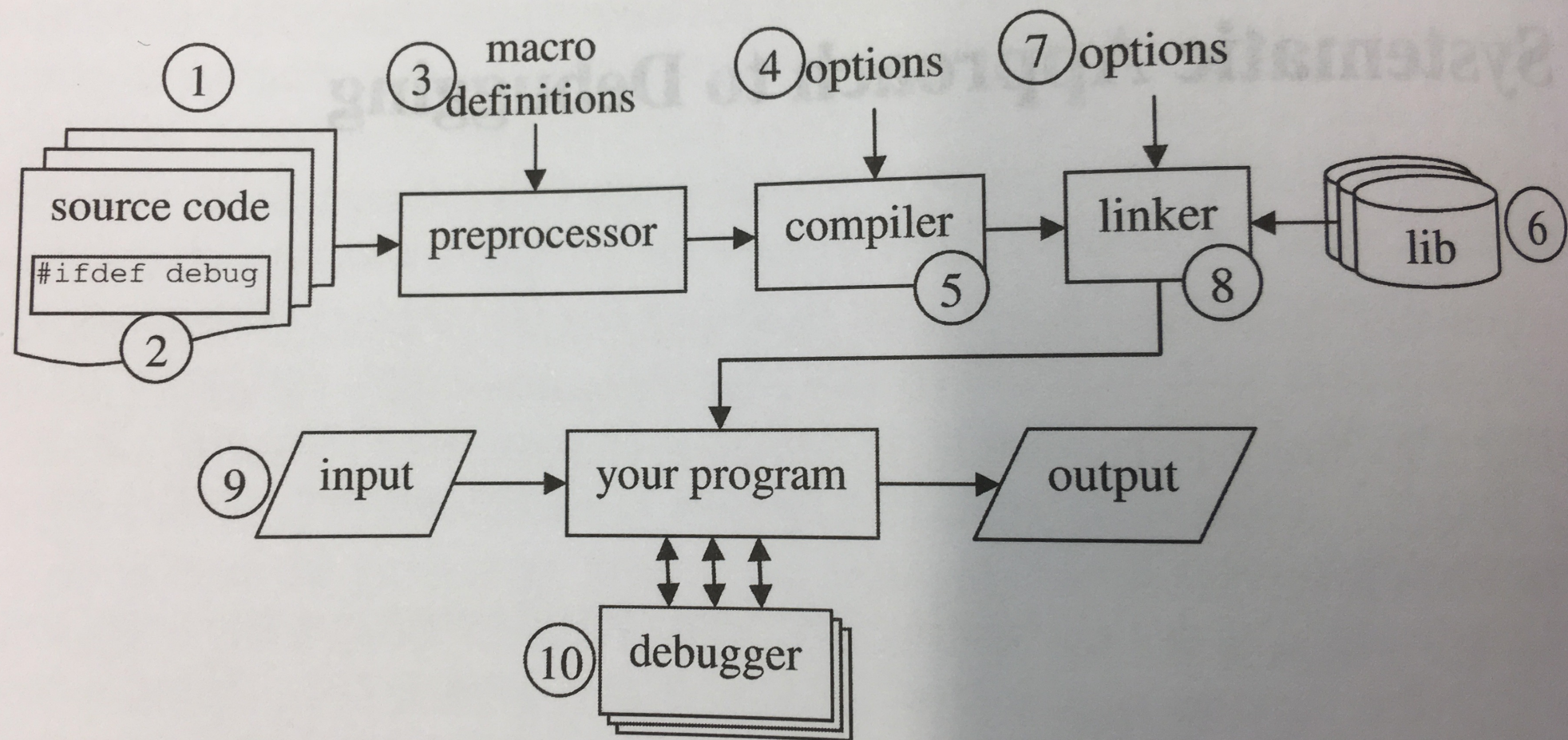


Fig. 2.1 Simplified build and test flow

COMPILING AND RUNNING CODE

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STATIC

2 A Systematic Approach to Debugging

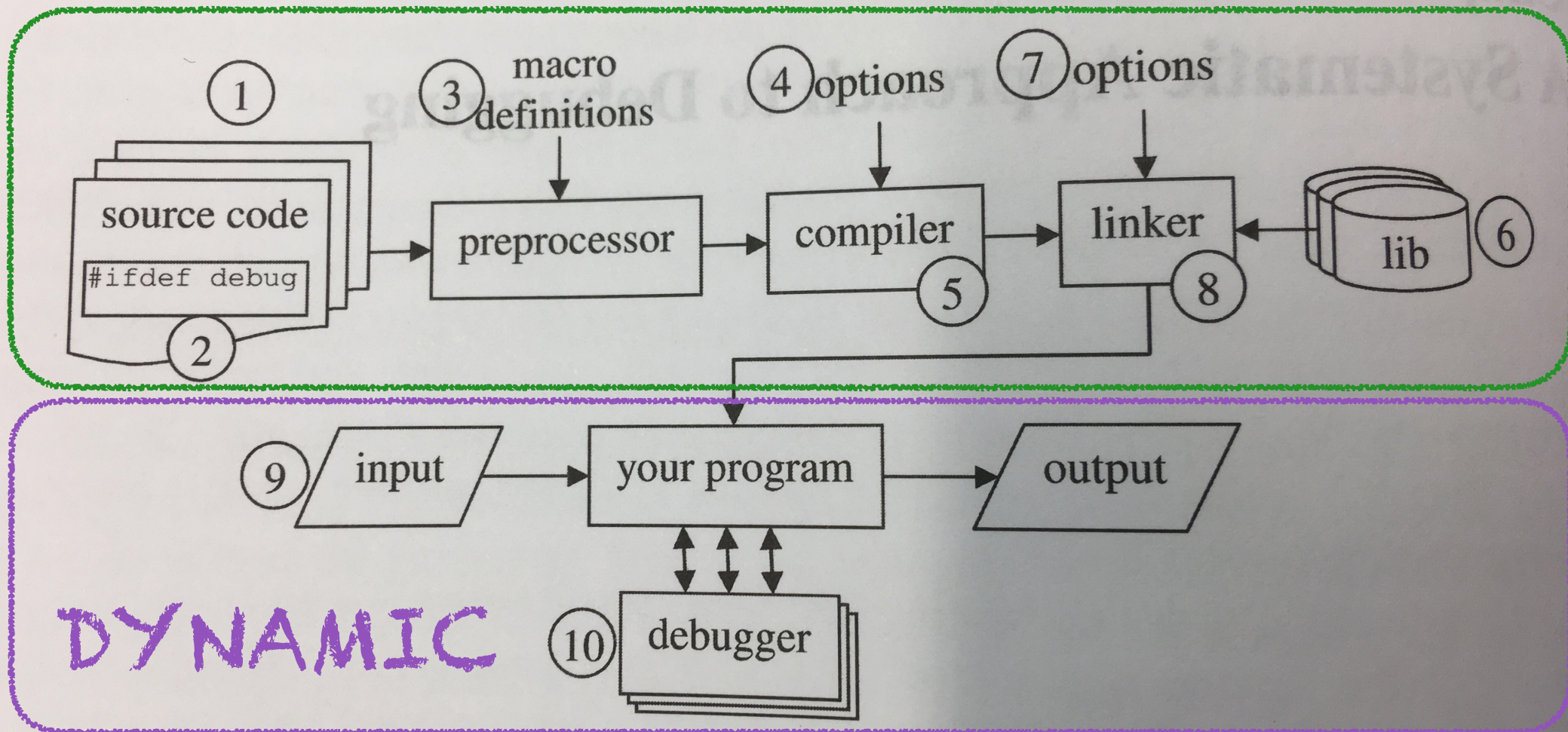


Fig. 2.1 Simplified build and test flow

The 13 Golden Rules of Debugging

1. Understand the requirements
2. Make it fail
3. Simplify the test case
4. Read the right error message
5. Check the plug
6. Separate facts from interpretation
7. Divide and conquer
8. Match the tool to the bug
9. One change at a time
10. Keep an audit trail
11. Get a fresh view
12. If you didn't fix it, it ain't fixed
13. Cover your bugfix with a regression test

TOPHAT (PRACTICE) QUESTIONS

1. UNDERSTAND THE REQUIREMENTS

- Is it a bug or a misunderstanding of expected behavior?
- Requirements will tell you.

2. MAKE IT FAIL

- Write test cases to isolate bug and make it reproducible.
- This will increase confidence that bug is fixed later.
- These tests will be added to the suite of regression tests ("does today's code pass yesterday's tests?")

3. SIMPLIFY THE TEST CASE

- Ensure there is nothing extraneous in the test case.
- Keep it simple! Whittle it down until you get at the essence of the failure.

4. READ THE RIGHT ERROR MESSAGE

- “Everything that happened after the first thing went wrong should be eyed with suspicion. The first problem may have left the program in a corrupt state.”
[p. 9]

5. CHECK THE PLUG

- Don't overlook the obvious - things like permissions, file system status, available memory.
- "Think of ten common mistakes, and ensure nobody made them." [p. 9]

6. SEPARATE FACT FROM FICTION

- "Don't assume!"
- Can you prove what you believe to be true?

7. DIVIDE AND CONQUER

- Beware bugs caused by interactions amongst components.
- Develop a list of suspects (source code, compiler, environment, libraries, machine, etc)
- Each component alone may work correctly, but in combination bad things happen
- Can be especially tricky with multithreaded programs

8. MATCH THE TOOL TO THE BUG

- If all you have is a hammer ... you'll end up with a very sore thumb.
- Build a solid toolkit to give you choices.
- Use multiple tools/approaches (e.g. testing and debugging work better together than either alone)

9. ONE CHANGE AT A TIME

- Be methodical. If you make multiple changes at one you can't tease apart which change had which effect.
- With your list of suspects, document what you predict the outcome of a change will be.
- Document the changes you make, and the results.
- Did results match predictions?