

Link 4. Search Libraries

Young W. Lim

2023-04-22 Sat

1 Based on

2 Search libraries

- Compile time and run time
- Specifying library paths in gcc
- -L and -l
- LD_LIBRARY_PATH and -L
- rpath
- -rpath-link
- -L and -l examples
- -Wl,-rpath,. examples
- -rpath-link examples
- LD_LIBRARY_PATH and LD_RUN_PATH

"Study of ELF loading and relocs", 1999

http://netwinder.osuosl.org/users/p/patb/public_html/elf_relocs.html

I, the copyright holder of this work, hereby publish it under the following licenses: GNU head Permission is granted to copy, distribute and/or modify this document under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later version published by the Free Software Foundation; with no Invariant Sections, no Front-Cover Texts, and no Back-Cover Texts. A copy of the license is included in the section entitled GNU Free Documentation License.

CC BY SA This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License. In short: you are free to share and make derivative works of the file under the conditions that you appropriately attribute it, and that you distribute it only under a license compatible with this one.

Compiling 32-bit program on 64-bit gcc

- `gcc -v`
- `gcc -m32 t.c`
- `sudo apt-get install gcc-multilib`
- `sudo apt-get install g++-multilib`
- `gcc-multilib`
- `g++-multilib`
- `gcc -m32`
- `objdump -m i386`

Compile time and run time (1)

- 1 the compile-time linking
gcc and ld
- 1 run-time linker lookups
generally ld.so (/lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so)

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/1904990/what-is-the-difference-between-ld-lib>

Compile time and run time (2)

- when you **compile** your program, the compiler checks syntax, and then the linker ensures that the symbols required for execution *exist* (i.e *variables*, *methods* etc)
- when you **run** your program, the run-time linker
 - actually fetches the shared libraries
 - loads in the shared symbols / code / etc.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/1904990/what-is-the-difference-between-ld-lib>

(1) Linking

- for linking, make sure you specify
 - object files (or source files) **before** libraries (-lxxx options)
 - -L option for a given library **before** the -l option
- the order of libraries can matter
 - libraries listed earlier can be referenced in those listed later
 - avoid circular references between libraries

```
$ gcc imagefilter.c -o imagefilter -I/home/savio/opencv-3.0.0/include/opencv \  
> -L/home/savio/opencv-3.0.0/cmake_binary_dir/lib \  
> -lopencv_imgcodecs -lopencv_imgproc -lopencv_highgui -lopencv_core
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/31455979/how-to-specify-libraries-paths-in-gcc>

(2) Running

- both the compiler / linker and the runtime system need to be able to *find* the shared objects
- the `-L` option is used to tell the **linker** where to find the libraries (shared objects)
- lots of ways of telling the **runtime** (dynamic loader) where to find the libraries (shared objects)
`-R, LD_LIBRARY_PATH, LD_RUN_PATH`

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/31455979/how-to-specify-libraries-paths-in-gc>

Specifying library paths (3) -R

- On some systems, a **-R** option can be added to the command line to specify where libraries (shared objects) may be found at **runtime** :
- not all systems support this option.

```
$ gcc imagefilter.c -o imagefilter -I/home/savio/opencv-3.0.0/include/opencv \  
> -L/home/savio/opencv-3.0.0/cmake_binary_dir/lib \  
> -R/home/savio/opencv-3.0.0/cmake_binary_dir/lib \  
> -lopencv_imgcodecs -lopencv_imgproc -lopencv_highgui -lopencv_core
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/31455979/how-to-specify-libraries-paths-in-gcc>

Specifying library paths (4) -R

- the disadvantage of this **-R** option is that the location you specify is embedded in the binary.
 - If the libraries on the customers' machines is not in the same place, the library won't be found.
 - Consequently, a path under someone's home directory is only appropriate for that user on their machines
 - not general
if the software is installed by default
in, say, /opt/package/lib,
then specifying that with -R is probably appropriate.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/31455979/how-to-specify-libraries-paths-in-gcc>

Specifying library paths (5) LD_LIBRARY_PATH

- Add the directory to `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` environment variable or its equivalent

```
LD_LIBRARY_PATH=/home/savio/opencv-3.0.0/cmake_binary_dir/lib\  
:$LD_LIBRARY_PATH ./imagefilter
```

Or:

```
export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=/home/savio/opencv-3.0.0/cmake_binary_dir/lib\  
:$LD_LIBRARY_PATH ./imagefilter
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/31455979/how-to-specify-libraries-paths-in-gcc>

Specifying library paths (6) LD_LIBRARY_PATH

- The first notation sets the environment variable just for as long as *the program is running*
 - useful if you need to compare the behaviour of two versions of a library, for example.

```
LD_LIBRARY_PATH=/home/savio/.../lib:$LD_LIBRARY_PATH ./imagefilter
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/31455979/how-to-specify-libraries-paths-in-gc>

Specifying library paths (7) LD_LIBRARY_PATH

- The second notation sets the environment variable for *the session*.
 - might include that in your `.profile` or equivalent so it applies to every session.

```
export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=/home/savio/.../lib:$LD_LIBRARY_PATH ./imagefilter
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/31455979/how-to-specify-libraries-paths-in-gc>

Specifying library paths (8) LD_RUN_PATH

- Some systems have an `LD_RUN_PATH` environment variable too.
 - some have 32-bit and 64-bit variants
 - fiddly for users and installers alike;
 - how do you *ensure* the environment variable is set for everyone that uses your code?
 - an environment-setting shell script that then runs the real program can help here.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/31455979/how-to-specify-libraries-paths-in-gcc>

Specifying library paths (9) LD_RUN_PATH

- add the directory to the configuration file that specifies the list of known directories for the dynamic loader to search.
- platform specific
 - file name, format, location (usually under /etc somewhere) and mechanism used to edit it.
 - the file might be /etc/ld.so.conf.
 - there might well be a program to edit the config file correctly.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/31455979/how-to-specify-libraries-paths-in-gc>

Specifying library paths (10)

- install the libraries in a location that will be searched anyway (without reconfiguring the dynamic loader).
- this might be `/usr/lib`, or maybe `/usr/local/lib` or some other related directory.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/31455979/how-to-specify-libraries-paths-in-gc>

Specifying library paths (11)

- The way my IDE handles the process is to put the `-L` tag up front and the `-l` tag at the end
- all of the `-l` tags need to come after your target so that the compiler knows which symbols need to be resolved before searching.

```
gcc -L/path/to/library -o target_here -lfirst -lsecond -lthird ...
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/31455979/how-to-specify-libraries-paths-in-gcc>

- linking is done by two different instances of *linker*
 - when you compile and link your program
`linker /usr/bin/ld`
 - checks external references
 - builds your executable
by adding external reference `libdemo.so`
 - when you run your program
`run-time linker ld.so`
`(/lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2)`
 - loads all needed *shared objects*

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/28230983/gcc-l-command-confusion>

-l and -L (2)

- assume
 - `libdemo.so` : a shared library file
 - `ld.so` : the final linker
- the reasons why `-L path` is not saved
 - `libdemo.so` is not necessarily located at the same path where it was compiled
 - you could copy your binary unto another host
 - that path was internal build path, etc
 - it may be unsafe to save `-L path`
 - `ld.so` ususally seeks over list of trusted paths where non-root users cannot write

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/28230983/gcc-l-command-confusion>

- since the executable file does not *contains* copies of the shared object files, it needs some way to *identify* the necessary shared library
 - during the link, only the name of the shared library is embedded in the executable but the specific location is not yet specified.
 - So the `-L. -ldemo` is really just to provide the name of the library file and the location `libdemo.so` and `.`

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/28230983/gcc-l-command-confusion>

-l and -L (4)

- -Ldir adds directory dir to the list of directories to be searched for -l
- -ldemo is only to provide the name of the library file

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/28230983/gcc-l-command-confusion>

- -L. -ldemo is not required when using the -rpath
 - because in -rpath dir command, the name of the library libdemo.so is passed directly
 - otherwise specifying it with -L. -ldemo was necessary.
- The **run-time library path** is subsequently provided to specify the exact location at the time of execution

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/28230983/gcc-l-command-confusion>

-l and -L (6)

- in some cases, saving -L is useful when software installed into /opt
- therefore RPATH was introduced

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/28230983/gcc-l-command-confusion>

-l and -L (7)

- if `-rpath` is used, `-L` is not needed
- `rpath=dir` adds a directory to the **runtime library search path**
- used when linking an ELF executable with shared objects.
- all arguments are concatenated and passed to the **runtime linker**, which uses them to locate shared objects at **runtime**

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/28230983/gcc-l-command-confusion>

LD_LIBRARY_PATH (1)

- the predefined environmental variable
- contains the paths
which the linker should look into
- in order to link
shared / dynamic libraries
- a **colon** separated list of paths
- which the **dynamic loader**
should look for **shared libraries**

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/7148036/what-is-ld-library-path-and-how-to-use-it>

LD_LIBRARY_PATH (2)

- the standard library paths
/lib and /usr/lib
- the paths in LD_LIBRARY_PATH have higher priority than the standard library paths
 - the standard paths will still be searched, but *only after* the paths in LD_LIBRARY_PATH have been searched

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/7148036/what-is-ld-library-path-and-how-to-use-it>

LD_LIBRARY_PATH (3)

- The best way to use LD_LIBRARY_PATH is to set it on the command line or script immediately before executing the program.
- this way the new LD_LIBRARY_PATH isolated from the rest of your system.
- Example:

```
$ export LD_LIBRARY_PATH="/list/of/library/paths:/another/path"  
$ ./program
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/7148036/what-is-ld-library-path-and-how-to-use-it>

LD_LIBRARY_PATH and -L (3)

- LD_LIBRARY_PATH has the side-effect of *altering*
 - the way gcc and ld behave
 - the way the the run-time linker behavesby modifying the search path.
- LD_LIBRARY_PATH *affects* this search path implicitly (sometimes not a good thing)

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/1904990/what-is-the-difference-between-ld-lib>

LD_LIBRARY_PATH and -L (4)

- without using LD_LIBRARY_PATH on most Linux systems
 - to *add* the path that contains your shared libraries in /etc/ld.so.conf file
 - create a file in /etc/ld.so.conf.d/ with the path in it
 - run ldconfig (/sbin/ldconfig as root) to update the runtime linker bindings cache.

```
$ cat ld.so.conf
include /etc/ld.so.conf.d/*.conf
```

```
$ ls
fakeroot-x86_64-linux-gnu.conf  libc.conf
i386-linux-gnu.conf             x86_64-linux-gnu.conf
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/1904990/what-is-the-difference-between-ld-lib>

LD_LIBRARY_PATH and -L (5)

```
$ cat fakeroot-x86_64-linux-gnu.conf  
/usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libfakeroot
```

```
$ cat libc.conf  
# libc default configuration  
/usr/local/lib
```

```
$ cat i386-linux-gnu.conf  
# Multiarch support  
/usr/local/lib/i386-linux-gnu  
/lib/i386-linux-gnu  
/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu  
/usr/local/lib/i686-linux-gnu  
/lib/i686-linux-gnu  
/usr/lib/i686-linux-gnu
```

```
$ cat x86_64-linux-gnu.conf  
# Multiarch support  
/usr/local/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu  
/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu  
/usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/1904990/what-is-the-difference-between-ld-lib>

LD_LIBRARY_PATH and -L (6)

- when the program is executed, the **run-time linker** will look in those directories for libraries that your binary has been linked against.

Example on Debian:

```
jewart@dorfl:~$ cat /etc/ld.so.conf.d/usrlocal.conf  
/usr/local/lib
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/1904990/what-is-the-difference-between-ld-lib>

LD_LIBRARY_PATH and -L (7)

- If you want to know what libraries the run-time linker knows about, you can use:

```
$ ldconfig -v
```

```
/usr/lib:
```

```
libbfd-2.18.0.20080103.so -> libbfd-2.18.0.20080103.so
```

```
libkdb5.so.4 -> libkdb5.so.4.0
```

```
libXext.so.6 -> libXext.so.6.4.0
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/1904990/what-is-the-difference-between-ld-lib>

LD_LIBRARY_PATH and -L (8)

- And, if you want to know what libraries a binary is linked against, you can use `ldd` like such, which will tell you which library your **runtime linker** is going to choose:

```
$ ldd /bin/ls
linux-vdso.so.1 => (0x00007ffffda1ff000)
librt.so.1 => /lib/librt.so.1 (0x00007f5d2149b000)
libselinux.so.1 => /lib/libselinux.so.1 (0x00007f5d2127f000)
libacl.so.1 => /lib/libacl.so.1 (0x00007f5d21077000)
libc.so.6 => /lib/libc.so.6 (0x00007f5d20d23000)
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/1904990/what-is-the-difference-between-ld-lib>

- **rpath** designates the **run-time** search path *hard-coded* in an executable file or library
- **dynamic linking loaders** use the **rpath** to find required libraries.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rpath#+end_src

- Specifically, it *encodes* a path to shared libraries into the header of an executable (or another shared library).
- this **RPATH header** value (so named in the ELF header standards) may either *override* or *supplement* the system default dynamic linking search paths.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rpath#+end_src

-rpath (3)

- The **rpath** of an executable or shared library is an optional entry in the **.dynamic** section of the **ELF** executable or shared libraries, with the type **DT_RPATH**, called the **DT_RPATH** attribute.
- It can be *stored there* at **link** time by the **linker**
- Tools such as `chrpath` and `patchelf` can create or modify the entry later.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rpath#end_src

- The **dynamic linker** of the GNU C Library searches for **shared libraries** in the following locations in order:[1]
 - 1 The (colon-separated) paths in the **DT_RPATH dynamic section** attribute of the binary if *present* and the **DT_RUNPATH** attribute does not exist

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rpath#+end_src

- ② the (colon-separated) paths in the environment variable `LD_LIBRARY_PATH`, if the executable is a `setuid` / `setgid` binary, then `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` is ignored.

`LD_LIBRARY_PATH` can be overridden by calling the `dynamic linker` with the option `--library-path`

```
/lib/ld-linux.so.2 --library-path $HOME/mylibs myprogram
```

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rpath#+end_src

- ③ The (colon-separated) paths in the DT_RUNPATH dynamic section attribute of the binary if present.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rpath#end_src

- 1 Lookup based on the ldconfig cache file (often located at `/etc/ld.so.cache`) which contains a compiled list of candidate libraries previously found in the augmented library path (set by `/etc/ld.so.conf`). If, however, the binary was linked with the `-z nodefaultlib` linker option, libraries in the default library paths are skipped.
- 2 In the trusted default path `/lib`, and then `/usr/lib`. If the binary was linked with the `-z nodefaultlib` linker option, this step is skipped.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rpath#end_src

- The GNU Linker (GNU ld) implements a feature which it calls "new-dtags", which can be used to insert an rpath that has lower precedence than the LD_LIBRARY_PATH environment variable. [2]
- If the new-dtags feature is enabled in the linker (`-enable-new-dtags`), GNU ld, besides setting the DT_RPATH attribute, also sets the DT_RUNPATH attribute to the same string. At run time, if the dynamic linker finds a DT_RUNPATH attribute, it ignores the value of the DT_RPATH attribute, with the effect that LD_LIBRARY_PATH is checked first and the paths in the DT_RUNPATH attribute are only searched afterwards.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rpath#end_src

- The ld dynamic linker does not search DT_RUNPATH locations for transitive dependencies, unlike DT_RPATH. [3]
- Instead of specifying the -rpath to the linker, the environment variable LD_RUN_PATH can be set to the same effect.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rpath#end_src

- `-rpath dir`
 - add a directory to the runtime library search path
 - used when linking an ELF executable with shared objects
 - also used when locating shared objects which are *needed* by shared objects explicitly included in the link see the description of the `-rpath-link` option.
 - all `-rpath` arguments are concatenated and passed to the **runtime linker**
 - the **runtime linker** uses them to locate shared objects at runtime

https://ftp.gnu.org/old-gnu/Manuals/ld-2.9.1/html_node/ld_3.html

- `-rpath dir`
 - if `-rpath` is not used when linking an ELF executable, the contents of the environment variable `LD_RUN_PATH` will be used if it is defined.
 - if a `-rpath` option is used, the runtime search path will be formed exclusively using the `-rpath` options, ignoring the `-L` options.
 - this can be useful when using `gcc`, which adds many `-L` options which may be on NFS mounted filesystems.

https://ftp.gnu.org/old-gnu/Manuals/ld-2.9.1/html_node/ld_3.html

- `-rpath dir`
 - for compatibility with other ELF linkers, if the `-R` option is followed by a directory name, rather than a file name, it is treated as the `-rpath` option.

https://ftp.gnu.org/old-gnu/Manuals/ld-2.9.1/html_node/ld_3.html

- `rpath-link` DIR
 - when using ELF or SunOS, one shared library may require *another*
 - this happens when an `ld -shared` link includes a shared library as one of the input files.
 - may specify a sequence of directory names
 - by specifying a list of names separated by colons, or
 - by appearing multiple times

https://ftp.gnu.org/old-gnu/Manuals/ld-2.9.1/html_node/ld_3.html

- `rpath-link` DIR
 - when the linker encounters such a dependency when doing a non-shared, non-relocateable link, it will automatically try to locate the required shared library and include it in the link, if it is not included explicitly.
 - in such a case, the `-rpath-link` option specifies the first set of directories to search.

https://ftp.gnu.org/old-gnu/Manuals/ld-2.9.1/html_node/ld_3.html

- the linker uses the following search paths to locate required shared libraries.
 - ① Any directories specified by `-rpath-link` options.
 - ② Any directories specified by `-rpath` options.

The difference between `-rpath` and `-rpath-link` is that directories specified by `-rpath` options are included in the executable and used at runtime, whereas the `-rpath-link` option is only effective at link time.
 - ③ On an ELF system, if the `-rpath` and `-rpath-link` options were not used, search the contents of the environment variable `LD_RUN_PATH`

https://ftp.gnu.org/old-gnu/Manuals/ld-2.9.1/html_node/ld_3.html

- the linker uses the following search paths to locate required shared libraries.
 - ① On SunOS, if the `-rpath` option was not used, search any directories specified using `-L` options.
 - ② For a native linker, the contents of the environment variable `LD_LIBRARY_PATH`
 - ③ The default directories, normally `/lib` and `/usr/lib`
- If the required shared library is not found, the linker will issue a warning and continue with the link.

https://ftp.gnu.org/old-gnu/Manuals/ld-2.9.1/html_node/ld_3.html

Example source codes of foo(), bar(), foobar()

1. foo.c

```
#include <stdio.h>

void foo(void)
{
    puts(__func__);
    // puts("foo");
}
```

2. bar.c

```
#include <stdio.h>

void bar(void)
{
    puts(__func__);
    // puts("bar");
}
```

3. foobar.c

```
extern void foo(void);
extern void bar(void);

void foobar(void)
{
    foo();
    bar();
}
```

4. main.c

```
extern void foobar(void);

int main(void)
{
    foobar();
    return 0;
}
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/49138195/whats-the-difference-between-rpath-1>

Function dependencies of `foo()`, `bar()`, `foobar()`

```
main()    → foobar()
foobar()  → foo(), bar()
```

```
foobar()  in libfoobar.so
foo()     in libfoo.so
bar()     in libbar.so
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/49138195/whats-the-difference-between-rpath-1>

Making libfoo.so, libbar.so, libfoobar.so

- 1 Make two shared libraries, libfoo.so and libbar.so:

```
$ gcc -c -Wall -fPIC foo.c bar.c
$ gcc -shared -o libfoo.so foo.o
$ gcc -shared -o libbar.so bar.o
```

- 2 Make a third shared library, libfoobar.so that depends on the first two;

```
$ gcc -c -Wall -fPIC foobar.c
$ gcc -shared -o libfoobar.so foobar.o -lfoo -lbar
/usr/bin/ld: cannot find -lfoo
/usr/bin/ld: cannot find -lbar
collect2: error: ld returned 1 exit status
```

- The linker doesn't know where to look to resolve `-lfoo` or `-lbar`

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/49138195/whats-the-difference-between-rpath-1>

Using `-L. -lfoo -lbar` to make `libfoobar.so`

- The `-L.` informs where to look to resolve `-lfoo` and `-lbar`

```
$ gcc -shared -o libfoobar.so foobar.o -L. -lfoo -lbar
```

- The `-L` option (`-Ldir`) tells the linker that `dir` is one of the directories to search for libraries that resolve the `-l` option (`-lfile`) it is given.
 - the linker searches the `-L` directories first, in their command line order;
 - then it searches its configured default directories, in their configured order.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/49138195/whats-the-difference-between-rpath-l>

Making an application that use libfooba.so

- assume a program that depends on libfoobar.so:

```
$ gcc -c -Wall main.c
$ gcc -o prog main.o -L. -lfoobar
/usr/bin/ld: warning: libfoo.so, needed by ./libfoobar.so, not found
(trial using -rpath or -rpath-link)
/usr/bin/ld: warning: libbar.so, needed by ./libfoobar.so, not found
(trial using -rpath or -rpath-link)
./libfoobar.so: undefined reference to 'bar'
./libfoobar.so: undefined reference to 'foo'
collect2: error: ld returned 1 exit status
```

- the linker detects the **dynamic dependencies** requested by libfoobar.so but can't satisfy them.
 - bar() in libbar.so
 - foo() in libfoo.so

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/49138195/whats-the-difference-between-rpath-1>

Using `-L. -lfoobar -lfoo -lbar` to make an application

- the first method using `-L` and `l`, ignoring the advice

try using `-rpath` or `-rpath-link`

```
$ gcc -o prog main.o -L. -lfoobar -lfoo -lbar
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/49138195/whats-the-difference-between-rpath-l>

Example summary using `-L` and `-l`

- 1 Make two shared libraries, `libfoo.so` and `libbar.so`:

```
$ gcc -c -Wall -fPIC foo.c bar.c  
$ gcc -shared -o libfoo.so foo.o  
$ gcc -shared -o libbar.so bar.o
```

- 2 Make a third shared library, `libfoobar.so`

```
$ gcc -c -Wall -fPIC foobar.c  
$ gcc -shared -o libfoobar.so foobar.o -L. -lfoo -lbar
```

- 3 Make a program that depends on `libfoobar.so`:

```
$ gcc -c -Wall main.c  
$ gcc -o prog main.o -L. -lfoobar -lfoo -lbar
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/49138195/whats-the-difference-between-rpath-L>

Using `-Wl, rpath .` (1)

- The man page makes it pretty clear. If you want
- in order to pass `-rpath .` to the linker considerING them as two arguments (`-rpath` and `.`) to the `-Wl` you can write
 - `-Wl,-rpath,.`
 - `-Wl,-rpath -Wl,.`

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/6562403/i-dont-understand-wl-rpath-wl>

Using `-Wl,-rpath,.` (2)

- The `-Wl,xxx` option for `gcc` passes a **comma**-separated list of tokens as a **space**-separated list of arguments to the linker
- `ld aaa bbb ccc`
- `gcc -Wl,aaa,bbb,ccc`
- `ld -rpath .`
- `gcc -Wl,-rpath,.`

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/6562403/i-dont-understand-wl-rpath-wl>

Using `-Wl,-rpath,.` (3)

- Alternatively, you can specify **repeat instances** of `-Wl`
`gcc -Wl,aaa -Wl,bbb -Wl,ccc`
 - there is no comma between `aaa` and the second `-Wl`
- `ld -rpath .`
- `gcc -Wl,-rpath,.`
- `gcc -Wl,-rpath -Wl,.`

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/6562403/i-dont-understand-wl-rpath-wl>

Using `-Wl,-rpath,.` (4)

- can remove the space
 - `gcc -Wl,-rpath=.`
 - arguably more readable than adding extra commas
 - exactly what gets passed to `ld`
- `ld -rpath .`
- `gcc -Wl,-rpath,.`
- `gcc -Wl,-rpath -Wl,.`
- `gcc -Wl,-rpath=.`

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/6562403/i-dont-understand-wl-rpath-wl>

Using `-Wl,-rpath, .` (5)

- You may need to specify the `-L` option as well

```
-Wl,-rpath,/path/to/foo -L/path/to/foo -lbaz
```

or you may end up with an error like

```
ld: cannot find -lbaz
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/6562403/i-dont-understand-wl-rpath-wl>

-rpath-link (1)

- The `-rpath-link=dir` option tells the linker that when it encounters an input file that requests **dynamic dependencies** it should search `dir` to resolve them.
- `libfoobar.so` needs `libfoo.so` and `libbar.so`
 - if `rpath-link` is used,
 - no need to specify **dynamic dependencies**
 - no need to know what they are
 - no need `-lfoo -lbar`

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/49138195/whats-the-difference-between-rpath-1>

-rpath-link (2)

- the **dynamic dependencies** is defined in the **dynamic section** of `libfoobar.so`
 - therefore, just need to provide a directory where the required shared libraries can be found

```
$ readelf -d libfoobar.so
```

```
Dynamic section at offset 0xdf8 contains 26 entries:
```

Tag	Type	Name/Value
0x0000000000000001	(NEEDED)	Shared library: [libfoo.so]
0x0000000000000001	(NEEDED)	Shared library: [libbar.so]
0x0000000000000001	(NEEDED)	Shared library: [libc.so.6]
...		
...		

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/49138195/whats-the-difference-between-rpath-l>

-rpath-link (3)

- But does `-rpath-link=dir` give us a executable prog?
No. Same as story as before.

```
$ ./prog
```

```
./prog: error while loading shared libraries: libfoobar.so: cannot open shared
```

- at runtime, `libfoo.so`, `libbar.so`, and `libfoobar.so` might not be where they were linked
- but the loader might be able to locate them by other means:
 - through the `ldconfig` cache
 - by setting the `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` environment variable

```
$ export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=.; ./prog  
foo  
bar
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/49138195/whats-the-difference-between-rpath-l>

-rpath-link (4)

- `-rpath-link=dir` gives the linker the information that the loader would need to resolve some of the **dynamic dependencies** of `prog` at runtime
 - assuming the **dynamic dependencies** *remained* true at runtime
 - but it doesn't write that information into the **dynamic section** of `prog`
 - it just lets the linkage succeed, without our needing to spell out all the recursive **dynamic dependencies** of the linkage with `-l` options.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/49138195/whats-the-difference-between-rpath-l>

-rpath-link (5)

- `rpath=dir` provides the linker with the same information as `rpath-link=dir` does and instructs the linker to bake that information into the **dynamic section** of the output file

```
$ export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=  
$ gcc -o prog main.o -L. -lfoobar -Wl,-rpath=$(pwd)  
$ ./prog  
foo  
bar
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/49138195/whats-the-difference-between-rpath-l>

-rpath-link (6)

- Now all good. Because this time, prog contains the information that \$(pwd) is a runtime search path for shared libraries that it depends on, as we can see:

```
$ readelf -d prog
```

```
Dynamic section at offset 0xe08 contains 26 entries:
```

Tag	Type	Name/Value
0x0000000000000001	(NEEDED)	Shared library: [libfoobar.so]
0x0000000000000001	(NEEDED)	Shared library: [libc.so.6]
0x000000000000000f	(RPATH)	Library rpath: [/home/imk/develop/so/]
...		
...		

- That search path will be tried after the directories listed in LD_LIBRARY_PATH, if any are set, and before the system defaults- the ldconfig-ed directories, plus /lib and /usr/lib

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/49138195/whats-the-difference-between-rpath-l>

rpath and -rpath-link

LD_LIBRARY_PATH and LD_RUN_PATH (0)

LD_RUN_PATH	LD_LIBRARY_PATH
link time resolution	run time resolution
linker	dynamic loader

https://ftp.gnu.org/old-gnu/Manuals/ld-2.9.1/html_node/ld_3.html

LD_LIBRARY_PATH and LD_RUN_PATH (1)

LD_RUN_PATH is used for the *link time* resolution of libraries
LD_LIBRARY_PATH is used for *run time* resolution of libraries.

LD_RUN_PATH is used by the *linker* to specify
where to search libraries only at *run time*

LD_LIBRARY_PATH is used by the *dynamic loader* to specify
where to search the libraries required to *execute* the binary
(at the *run time* of the binary)

LD_RUN_PATH is the *runtime* library search path

LD_LIBRARY_PATH paths are *not* searched during *link time*

https://www.quora.com/What-is-the-difference-between-LD_LIBRARY_PATH-and-LD_RUN_PATH

LD_LIBRARY_PATH and LD_RUN_PATH (2)

- `LD_RUN_PATH` variable is used by the linker (`ld`) the same way as `-rpath` argument to `ld` is used
- `LD_RUN_PATH` is used if `-rpath` is not specified
- However, if some binary is linked `LD_RUN_PATH` is not used and `-rpath` is specified on `ld` command line and you want to change the paths used to look for libraries at run time, `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` variable must be specified which is used by the dynamic linker (`/lib/ld-linux.so.*`)

https://bugzilla.redhat.com/show_bug.cgi?id=20218

LD_LIBRARY_PATH and LD_RUN_PATH (3)

- When you use the `-l` option, you must inform the dynamic linker about the directories of the dynamically linked libraries that are to be linked with your program at execution
- The environment variable `LD_RUN_PATH` lets you do this at link time
- to set `LD_RUN_PATH`, list the colon separated absolute pathnames of the directories in the order you want them searched

```
LD_RUN_PATH=/home/mylibs  
export LD_RUN_PATH
```

http://osr507doc.sco.com/en/tools/ccs_linkedit_dynamic_dirsearch.html

LD_LIBRARY_PATH and LD_RUN_PATH (4)

- the command:
`cc -static -fpic -o prog file1.c file2.c -L/home/mylibs -lfoo`
directs the dynamic linker to search for `libfoo.so` in `/home/mylibs` when you execute your program `prog`
- the dynamic linker searches the standard place by default, after the directories you have assigned to **LD_RUN_PATH**
- Note that as far as the dynamic linker is concerned, the standard place for libraries is `/usr/lib`.
- Any executable versions of libraries supplied by the compilation system kept in `/usr/lib`

http://osr507doc.sco.com/en/tools/ccs_linkedit_dynamic_dirsearch.html

LD_LIBRARY_PATH and LD_RUN_PATH (5)

- The environment variable `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` lets you do the same thing at run time.
- Suppose you have moved `libfoo.so` to `/home/sharedobs` `/home/mylibs` → `/home/sharedobs`
- It is too late to change `LD_RUN_PATH`, at least without link editing your program again

```
LD_RUN_PATH=/home/sharedobs
export LD_RUN_PATH    (--> not woking)
```

- however, you can change `LD_LIBRARY_PATH`

```
LD_LIBRARY_PATH=/home/sharedobs
export LD_LIBRARY_PATH
```

http://osr507doc.sco.com/en/tools/ccs_linkedit_dynamic_dirsearch.html

LD_LIBRARY_PATH and LD_RUN_PATH (6)

- compile command

```
cc -static -fpic -o prog file1.c file2.c -L/home/mylibs -lfoo
```

- now when you execute your program prog

- the dynamic linker

searches for `libfoo.so` first in `/home/mylibs`
and, not finding it there, in `/home/sharedobs`.

```
LD_RUN_PATH=/home/mylibs
```

```
LD_LIBRARY_PATH=/home/sharedobs
```

- the directory assigned to `LD_RUN_PATH` is searched before the directory assigned to `LD_LIBRARY_PATH`.

http://osr507doc.sco.com/en/tools/ccs_linkedit_dynamic_dirsearch.html

LD_LIBRARY_PATH and LD_RUN_PATH (7)

- because the pathname of `libfoo.so` is not hard-coded in `prog`,
you can *direct* the dynamic linker to *search* a different directory when you execute your program. (`LD_LIBRARY_PATH`)
- You can move a dynamically linked library without breaking your application.

```
LD_RUN_PATH=/home/mylibs  
LD_LIBRARY_PATH=/home/sharedobs
```

http://osr507doc.sco.com/en/tools/ccs_linkedit_dynamic_dirsearch.html

LD_LIBRARY_PATH and LD_RUN_PATH (8)

- You can set `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` *without* first having set `LD_RUN_PATH`
- once you have used `LD_RUN_PATH` for an application, the dynamic linker searches the specified directories whenever the application is executed
unless you have relinked the application in a different environment
 - first `LD_RUN_PATH`, then `LD_LIBRARY_PATH`
 - `LD_RUN_PATH` overrides `LD_LIBRARY_PATH`

http://osr507doc.sco.com/en/tools/ccs_linkedit_dynamic_dirsearch.html

LD_LIBRARY_PATH and LD_RUN_PATH (9)

- can assign different directories to **LD_LIBRARY_PATH** whenever you execute the application.
- **LD_LIBRARY_PATH** directs the dynamic linker to search the assigned directories before it searches the standard place.
- directories, including those in the optional second list, are searched in the order listed.

http://osr507doc.sco.com/en/tools/ccs_linkedit_dynamic_dirsearch.html

LD_LIBRARY_PATH and LD_RUN_PATH (10)

- when linking a set-user or set-group program, the dynamic linker ignores any directories that are not built into the dynamic linker.
- Currently, the only built-in directory is /usr/lib

http://osr507doc.sco.com/en/tools/ccs_linkedit_dynamic_dirsearch.html

LD_LIBRARY_PATH and LD_RUN_PATH (11)

- can use the environment variable `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` which takes a colon(:) separated list of directories, to add to the `link-editor's` library search path.
- In its most general form, `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` takes two directory lists separated by a semicolon(;)
 - The first list is searched before the list(s) supplied on the command-line
 - the second list is searched after

<https://docs.oracle.com/cd/E19455-01/816-0559/chapter2-48927/index.html>

LD_LIBRARY_PATH and LD_RUN_PATH (12)

- Here is the combined effect of setting `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` and calling the `link-editor` with several `-L` occurrences:

```
$ LD_LIBRARY_PATH=dir1:dir2;dir3
$ export LD_LIBRARY_PATH
$ cc -o prog main.c -Lpath1 ... -Lpath2 ... -Lpathn -lfoo
```

- the first path list `dir1:dir2`
 - the second path list `dir3`
- The effective search path will be

```
dir1:dir2:path1:path2... pathn:dir3:/usr/ccs/lib:/usr/lib.
```

<https://docs.oracle.com/cd/E19455-01/816-0559/chapter2-48927/index.html>

LD_LIBRARY_PATH and LD_RUN_PATH (13)

- If no semicolon(;) is specified as part of the **LD_LIBRARY_PATH** definition, the specified directory list is interpreted after any -L options (the second list)

```
$ LD_LIBRARY_PATH=dir1:dir2
$ export LD_LIBRARY_PATH
$ cc -o prog main.c -Lpath1 ... -Lpath2 ... -Lpathn -lfoo
```

- Here the effective search path will be

```
path1:path2... pathn:dir1:dir2:/usr/ccs/lib:/usr/lib.
```

<https://docs.oracle.com/cd/E19455-01/816-0559/chapter2-48927/index.html>

LD_LIBRARY_PATH and LD_RUN_PATH (14)

- This environment variable can also be used to augment the search path of the runtime linker (see "Directories Searched by the Runtime Linker" for more details).
- To prevent this environment variable from influencing the **link-editor**, use the **-i** option.

<https://docs.oracle.com/cd/E19455-01/816-0559/chapter2-48927/index.html>