

## Link 6. Library Search Examples

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2024-06-17 Mon

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"Study of ELF loading and relocs", 1999

[http://netwinder.osuosl.org/users/p/patb/public\\_html/elf\\_relocs.html](http://netwinder.osuosl.org/users/p/patb/public_html/elf_relocs.html)

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# 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`

# TOC: Examples of search libraries

- 1 Example source code and dependencies
- 2 `-L` and `-l` examples
- 3 `-rpath-link` examples
- 4 `-rpath` examples
- 5 `-Wl,-rpath,.` examples

# TOC: 1. Example source code and dependencies

- Example source codes of `foo()`, `bar()`, `foobar()`
- Function dependencies of `foo()`, `bar()`, `foobar()`

# 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()
```

---

---

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

---

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



# direct and nested dependencies of a binary

| binary                    | direct dependencies                                   | nested dependencies                                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>libfoobar.so</code> | <code>→ libfoo.so,</code><br><code>→ libbar.so</code> |                                                       |
| <code>prog</code>         | <code>→ libfoobar.so</code>                           | <code>→ libfoo.so,</code><br><code>→ libbar.so</code> |

# Specifying dependencies and search paths (1)

|                          | dependencies          | link time<br>search paths | runtime<br>search paths |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <code>-l</code>          | <input type="radio"/> |                           |                         |
| <code>-L</code>          |                       | <input type="radio"/>     |                         |
| <code>-rpath-link</code> |                       | <input type="radio"/>     |                         |
| <code>-rpath</code>      |                       | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/>   |

## Specifying dependencies and search paths (2)

|          | for direct dependencies            | for nested dependencies         |
|----------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Method 1 | <code>-L d_direct -l direct</code> | <code>-L d_nest -l nest</code>  |
| Method 2 | <code>-L d_direct -l direct</code> | <code>-rpath-link d_nest</code> |
| Method 3 | <code>-L d_direct -l direct</code> | <code>-rpath d_nest</code>      |
| Method 4 | <code>-L d_direct -l direct</code> | <code>-rpath d_direct</code>    |

## Specifying dependencies and search paths (3)

---

|          |                                                       |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Method 1 | <code>-L d_direct -l direct -L d_nest -l nest</code>  |
| Method 2 | <code>-L d_direct -l direct -rpath-link d_nest</code> |
| Method 3 | <code>-L d_direct -l direct -rpath d_nest</code>      |

---

need to specify *runtime* search paths, e.g.,  
export LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH=dir1:dir2

---

|          |                                                    |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Method 4 | <code>-L d_direct -l direct -rpath d_direct</code> |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------|

---

no need to specify *runtime* search paths  
`-rpath` enables each binary to *record*  
its *direct* search paths in the `RUNPATH` entry  
of its `.dynamic` section

## TOC: 2. -L and -l examples

- Example summary using -L and -l
- Making `libfoo.so`, `+libbar.so=`
- Making `libfoobar.so`
  - Using -L. `-lfoo -lbar` to make `libfoobar.so`
- Making an application prog that uses `libfooba.so`
  - Not specifying nested dependencies
  - Warning and error messages
  - Using -L and -l to make an application
  - Need to specify runtime search paths
  - More experiment with nested dependencies
- Specifying the runtime shared library paths
  - Using `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` to run an application

# 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 `prog` that depends on `libfoobar.so`:

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

- 4 Execute using `LD_LIBRARY_PATH`

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

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

# Making libfoo.so and libbar.so

- 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
```

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

# Making libfoobar.so

- Make a third shared library, `libfoobar.so` that depends on the first two (`libfoo.so`, `libbar.so`)

```
$ 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
```

- *direct dependencies* (`libfoo.so` and `libbar.so`) were specified by `-lfoo` and `-lbar`
- but could not find the libraries (`libfoo.so` and `-libbar.so`)  
`/usr/bin/ld: cannot find -lfoo`  
`/usr/bin/ld: cannot find -lbar`
- because the linker (`ld`) didn't know where to look to *resolve* `-lfoo` or `-lbar` thus were not able to *resolve* them

<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 (`ld`) to search `dir` for libraries to resolve **dependencies** that are specified by the `-l` option
  - the linker (`ld`) searches the `-L` directories, in their command line order;  
eg. when multiple `-L` options are used like `-Ldir1 -Ldir2` `dir1` is searched first, then `dir2`
- 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 prog that uses libfoobar.so

- make a program `prog` that depends on `libfoobar.so`:

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

- `libfoo.so` and `libbar.so` are the *direct* dependencies of `libfoobar.so`, and thus the *nested* dependencies of `prog`
- only *direct* dependency is specified (`-lfoobar`) with the correct search path (`-L.`)
- *nested* dependencies are not specified (`-lfoo -lbar`) but `libfoo.so` and `libbar.so` can be found in the specified search path (`-L.`)

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

# Not specifying *nested* dependencies

- although `-lfoo` and `-lbar` are not specified,

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

- by looking into `NEEDED` entry of the `.dynamic` section of `libfoobar.so`,
- the linker (`ld`) detects the *nested dynamic dependencies* but they were not specified with `-lfoo -lbar`  
warning : not found libfoo.so, not found libbar.so
- the linker (`ld`) did not resolve the *nested* dependencies because they were not specified  
error: undefined reference to foo, undefined reference to bar

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

# Warning and error messages

- make a program `prog` that depends on `libfoobar.so`:
  - the *nested* dependencies are not specified (`-lfoo -lbar`) though with the correct search path (`-L.`)
  - not found `libfoo.so` ← `-lfoo` not specified
  - not found `libbar.so` ← `-lbar` not specified
  - undefined reference to `bar` ← `-lbar` not resolved
  - undefined reference to `foo` ← `-lfoo` not resolved

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

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

# Using only `-L` and `-l` to make an application

- to resolve the *nested dependencies*, we will consider the following ways
  - 1 `-L` and `-l`
  - 2 `-rpath-link`
  - 3 `-rpath`
- let us first ignore the gcc compiler's advice  
try using `-rpath` or `-rpath-link`
- to handle *nested dependencies*, try first using `-L` and `-l`
  - search path for *nested dependencies* : `-L.`  
(the same directory specified for `libfoobar.so`)
  - *nested dependencies* : `-lfoo -lbar`

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

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

# Need to specify runtime search paths

- now, the application `prog` can be made, but cannot be made to run:

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

```
$ ./prog
```

```
./prog: error while loading shared libraries: libfoobar.so:\ncannot open shared object file: No such file or directory
```

- at the `runtime`, the loader (`ld.so`) could not find `libfoobar.so` nor `libfoo.so` nor `libbar.so`
- need to specify the `runtime` search paths

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

# More experiment with nested dependencies

- before specifying runtime search paths, let's experiment more with *nested dependencies*
- move `libfoo.so` and `libbar.so` libraries to `lib2`

```
$ mkdir lib2
$ mv libfoo.so libbar.so lib2
```

- then, make `prog` as before

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

- the *nested dependencies* were specified (`-lfoo -lbar`)
- but the linker (`ld`) could not find `libfoo.so` and `libbar.so` at the specified directory (`-L.`)

```
/usr/bin/ld: cannot find -lfoo
/usr/bin/ld: cannot find -lbar
collect2: error: ld returned 1 exit status
```

- the correct search path `-Llib2` must also be specified

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

# Specifying the runtime shared library paths

- now move `libfoo.so`, `libbar.so` back to the current directory . and make `prog` again

```
mv lib2/libfoo.so lib2/libbar.so .  
$ gcc -o prog main.o -L. -lfoobar -lfoo -lbar
```

- the `-L` option is used to tell the linker (`ld`) where to *find the libraries* (shared objects) at the compile, and link time
- lots of ways to tell the runtime linker (dynamic loader `ld.so`) where to *find the libraries* (shared objects) at the runtime
  - `-R`
  - `LD_LIBRARY_PATH`
  - `LD_RUN_PATH`

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



# Using LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH to run an application

- `prog` is made by using `-L` and `-l` only  
not by using `-rpath` nor `-rpath-link`

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

- `prog` is made run by us `LD_LIBRARY_PATH`

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

- at the runtime, `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` enables the loader (`ld.so`)  
to find `libfoobar.so`, `libfoo.so`, and `libbar.so`  
in the current directory .

```
export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=.
```

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

# TOC: 3. -rpath-link

# Dependency related entries of the `.dynamic` section

- in the `.dynamic` section of an binary

---

`DT_NEEDED`

- created by `-L -l` options of `gcc` compiler
- specifies direct dependencies
- can be used to find nested dependencies

---

`DT_RPATH` /  
`DT_RUNPATH`

- created by `-rpath` option of `ld` linker
- specifies runtime search path
- `DT_RPATH` is deprecated
- searches direct and nested dependency paths
- `DT_RUNPATH` is not supported by all systems
- searches only direct dependency paths

---

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

# What is RPATH (1-1)

- If an executable `foo` links to the shared library `bar`, the library `bar` has to be *found* and *loaded* when the executable `foo` is *executed*.
- This job is done by the linker, under Linux this is usually `ld.so`.
- the linker *searches* a set of directories for the library `bar`, which will under most UNIXes have the name `libbar.so`.

<https://gitlab.kitware.com/cmake/community/-/wikis/doc/cmake/RPATH-handling>

# What is RPATH (1-2)

- The linker will search the libraries in the following directories in the given order:

- 1 RPATH
- 2 LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH
- 3 RUNPATH
- 4 `/etc/ld.so.conf`

<https://gitlab.kitware.com/cmake/community/-/wikis/doc/cmake/RPATH-handling>

## What is RPATH (2)

- RPATH - a list of directories which is linked into the executable, supported on most UNIX systems. It is ignored if RUNPATH is present.
- LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH - an environment variable which holds a list of directories
- RUNPATH - same as RPATH, but searched after LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH, supported only on most current Linux systems
- /etc/ld.so.conf - configuration file for ld.so which lists additional library directories builtin directories - basically /lib and /usr/lib

<https://gitlab.kitware.com/cmake/community/-/wikis/doc/cmake/RPATH-handling>

# What is RPATH (3)

- here are different reasons why search directories additional to the builtin ones can be needed
  - a user may install a library privately into his home directory, e.g. `~/lib/`, or
  - there may be two or more versions of the same library installed, e.g. `/opt/kde3/lib/libkdecore.so` and `/opt/kde4/lib/libkdecore.so`.
  - For the first case it would work if the user would set `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` accordingly:  
`export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=$HOME/lib:$LD_LIBRARY_PATH`

<https://gitlab.kitware.com/cmake/community/-/wikis/doc/cmake/RPATH-handling>

# What is RPATH (4)

- This will break for the second case, where for some programs `/opt/kde3/lib` has to be searched and for other applications `/opt/kde4/lib` has to be searched, but in no case both.
- The only way to have an executable-dependent library search path is by using RPATH (or RUNPATH, but this isn't supported everywhere).

<https://gitlab.kitware.com/cmake/community/-/wikis/doc/cmake/RPATH-handling>



# Handling *direct* and *nested* dependencies

- *direct* **dependency** must be handled by specifying **-L** and **-l**
- *nested* **dependencies** can be handled by specifying **-rpath-link** or **-rpath**

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

# Specifying `-L` and `-l` handles *direct* dependencies

- the *direct* **dependencies** of the current binary must be handled by `-L` and `-l`
  - specifying `-L` and `-l` creates **NEEDED** entries in `.dynamic` section of the current binary
  - by specifying `-rpath-link` or `-rpath`
    - the **NEEDED** entries are not created, but
    - the **NEEDED** entries of each binary can be utilized to find the *nested* **dependencies** of a given binary

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

# Specifying `-rpath-link` handles *nested* dependencies

- the `-rpath-link=dir` option tells the linker (`ld`) that when *dynamic nested dependencies* are requested, directory `dir` is searched to *resolve* them.
- only for a successful linkage, `-rpath-link` specifies the *directories* where the nested dependencies of the current binary can be found

```
$ gcc -o prog main.o -L. -lfoo -Wl,-rpath-link=$(pwd)
```

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

# -rpath-link v.s. -rpath

- `-rpath-link=dir`
  - provides the linker with `runtime search path` information
  - but does not instruct the linker to write that information into `RUNPATH` or `RPATH` entries in the `.dynamic` section
- `-rpath=dir`
  - also provides the linker with `runtime search path` information
  - and instructs the linker to write that information into `RUNPATH` or `RPATH` entries in the `.dynamic` section

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

# `-rpath-link` does not create `RUNPATH` / `RPATH` entries

- `-rpath-link=dir`

- does not guarantee us a *runnable prog*  
but only a *successful linkage*

```
$ gcc -o prog main.o -L. -lfoobar -Wl,-rpath-link=$(pwd)
$ ./prog
./prog: error while loading shared libraries: libfoobar.so
cannot open shared object file: No such file or directory
```

- creates neither `RUNPATH` nor `RPATH`
- therefore, in order to *execute prog*,  
*runtime search path* must be specified explicitly

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

## `-rpath` creates `RUNPATH` / `RPATH` entries

- `-rpath=dir`
  - creates `RUNPATH` or `RPATH` entries in the `.dynamic` section to specify `runtime search path`
    - `RUNPATH` (for modern gcc)
    - `RPATH` (for older gcc)
  - guarantees us a *runnable prog*
  - no need to specify `runtime search path` explicitly

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

# RPATH v.s. RUNPATH (1)

- in the `.dynamic` section of a binary (*executable* or *shared library*)
  - the `RPATH` entry is used by default in the older versions of gcc
    - `RPATH` allows nested dependencies to inherit the specified search path
  - the `RUNPATH` entry is used by default in modern versions of gcc
    - `RUNPATH` applies the search path only to the direct dependencies of the *current binary* (no recursive application)

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

## RPATH v.s. RUNPATH (2)

---

older gcc     **RPATH**     all dependencies ( direct, nested )  
utilize the specified path

modern gcc   **RUNPATH**   only direct dependencies  
utilize the specified path

---

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



# Runtime search path precedence (1)

- at the **runtime**, to locate a **dynamic library** (**.so** file), the loader (dynamic linker) will try the followings
  - search **RPATH** (older versions of gcc)
  - search **LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH**
  - search **RUNPATH** (modern versions of gcc)
  - directories on the **system search path**, which consists of the entries in **/etc/ld.so.conf** plus **/lib** and **/usr/lib**

<https://unix.stackexchange.com/questions/22926/where-do-executables-look-for-shared-libraries>

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

## Runtime search path precedence (2)

- there are many other ways to specify the **runtime search path**
- **-rpath-link=dir** does not give any information of **runtime search path**

<https://unix.stackexchange.com/questions/22926/where-do-executables-look-for-shared-libraries>  
<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/49138195/whats-the-difference-between-rpath-link-and-rpath>

## `-rpath-link` in `bfd` and `gold` linkers

---

|                          | <code>bfd ld</code> | <code>gold ld</code> |
|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| <code>-rpath-link</code> | (0)                 | (X) ignored          |
| <code>DT_NEEDED</code>   | (0)                 | (X) not used         |

---

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

## bfd ld and -rpath-link (1)

- The `--rpath-link` option is used by `bfd ld` to add to the search path used for finding `DT_NEEDED` shared libraries  
(direct dependencies of a given binary)  
when doing link-time symbol resolution
  - by following `DT_NEEDED` entries recursively indirect (nested) dependencies can be found

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

## bfd ld and -rpath-link (2)

- It's basically telling the linker what to use as the **runtime search path** when attempting to mimic what the dynamic linker would do when **resolving symbols**
- as the **runtime search path** set by **--rpath** options or the **LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH** environment variable

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

## gold ld and -rpath-link

- **gold linker** does not follow **DT\_NEEDED** entries when resolving symbols in shared libraries,
- so the **--rpath-link** option is ignored when **gold linker** is used
- this was a deliberate design decision; **indirect (nested) dependencies** do not need to be present or in their runtime locations during the link process.

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

# Example summary using `-rpath-link`

- 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 `prog` that depends on `libfoobar.so`

```
$ gcc -c -Wall main.c
$ gcc -o prog main.o -L. -lfoobar -Wl,-rpath-link=$(pwd)
```

- 4 Execute using `LD_LIBRARY_PATH`

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

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

# Making libfoo.so and libbar.so

- 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
```

- no *direct* dependencies
- no specification with `-l`
- no **NEEDED** entries for *direct* dependencies that are specified by a user

```
$ readelf -d libfoo.so | grep NEEDED
Tag                Type                Name/Value
0x0000000000000001 (NEEDED)    Shared library: [libc.so.6]
```

```
$ readelf -d libbar.so | grep NEEDED
Tag                Type                Name/Value
0x0000000000000001 (NEEDED)    Shared library: [libc.so.6]
```

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



# Making libfoobar.so

- Make a third shared library, `libfoobar.so` that depends on the first two (`libfoo.so`, `libbar.so`)

```
$ gcc -c -Wall -fPIC foobar.c
```

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

- *direct dependencies* were specified by `-lfoo -lbar`
- these *dependencies* were recorded as the **NEEDED** entries in the `.dynamic` section of `libfoobar.so`

```
$ readelf -d libfoobar.so | grep NEEDED
```

| Tag                | Type     | Name/Value                       |
|--------------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| 0x0000000000000001 | (NEEDED) | Shared library: [libfoo.so] <--- |
| 0x0000000000000001 | (NEEDED) | Shared library: [libbar.so] <--- |

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

# Making an application prog that uses libfooar.so

- make a program `prog` that depends on `libfooar.so`:

```
$ gcc -c -Wall main.c
```

```
$ gcc -o prog main.o -L. -lfooar -Wl,-rpath-link=$(pwd)
```

- only *direct* dependency was specified (`-lfooar`) with the correct search path (`-L.`)
- *nested* dependencies were not specified (`-lfoo -lbar`) but can be handled by `-rpath-link=$(pwd)`
  - `libfoo.so` and `libbar.so` are the *direct* dependencies of `libfooar.so`, and thus the *nested* dependencies of `prog`

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

# Creating **NEEDED** entries

- make a program **prog** that depends on **libfoobar.so**:

```
$ gcc -c -Wall main.c
```

```
$ gcc -o prog main.o -L. -lfoobar -Wl,-rpath-link=$(pwd)
```

- in the **.dynamic** section of **prog**
  - *direct dependency* specified by **-lfoobar** was recorded as **NEEDED** entries
  - *nested dependency*, even though specified by **-lfoo -lbar**, are not recorded as **NEEDED** entries

```
$ readelf -d prog | grep NEEDED
```

| Tag                | Type     | Name/Value                          |
|--------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| 0x0000000000000001 | (NEEDED) | Shared library: [libfoobar.so] <--- |
| 0x0000000000000001 | (NEEDED) | Shared library: [libc.so.6]         |

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

# NEEDED entries and nested dependencies (1)

- `libfoo.so`, `libbar.so` :
  - these are the *direct dependencies* of `libfoobar.so`
  - thus, these are the *nested dependencies* of `prog`
  - when `libfoobar.so` was made, its *direct dependencies* were specified with `-lfoo -lbar`
  - this allows the *direct dependencies* of `libfoobar.so` to be recorded as **NEEDED** entries in the `.dynamic` section of `libfoobar.so`

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

## NEEDED entries and nested dependencies (2)

- `-rpath-link=dir`
  - the *nested dependencies* of `prog` can be found through the **NEEDED** entries in the `.dynamic` section of the *direct dependency* of `prog`
    - when `prog` was made, its *direct dependency* were specified with `-lfoobar`
    - the *direct dependencies* of `libfoobar.so` can be found by looking the **NEEDED** entries in the `.dynamic` section of `libfoobar.so`
  - the directory `dir` will be searched for these *nested dependencies* of `prog`

```
$ gcc -o prog main.o -L. -lfoobar -Wl,-rpath-link=$(pwd)
```

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

# NEEDED entries of each binary

| binary                    | dependencies                                      | entry  | section               |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| <code>prog</code>         | <code>libfoobar.so</code>                         | NEEDED | <code>.dynamic</code> |
| <code>libfoobar.so</code> | <code>libfoo.so,</code><br><code>libbar.so</code> | NEEDED | <code>.dynamic</code> |

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

# Using LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH to specify a runtime search path

- but the **loader** might be able to locate them
  - through the **ldconfig** cache or
  - a setting of the **LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH** environment variable, e.g:

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

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

## -rpath-link example (6)

- `-rpath-link=dir`
  - gives the linker (`ld`) the directory information that the loader (`ld.so`) *would* need to resolve some of the **dynamic dependencies** of `prog` at **runtime**
    - assuming that the directory information remained true at **runtime**
  - but does not write that directory information into the **.dynamic** section of `prog`
    - only the *direct* dependency (`libfoobar.so`) is written in the **.dynamic** section of `prog`

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



# TOC: 5. -rpath examples

# Example summary using `-rpath` (1)

- 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 -L. -lfoo -lbar -Wl,-rpath=$(pwd)
```

- 3 Make an application, `prog` that depends on `libfoobar.so`

```
$ gcc -c -Wall main.c
$ gcc -o prog main.o -L. -lfoobar -Wl,-rpath=$(pwd)
```

- 4 Make `prog` run

```
# to show that this environment variable is not used
export LD_LIBRARY_PATH= # clear the env variable
$ ./prog
```

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

## -rpath example (4)

- **prog** contains the **runtime search path** information for shared libraries that **prog** depends on

```
$ gcc -c -Wall main.c
gcc -o prog main.o -L. -lfoobar -Wl,-rpath=$(pwd)
```

```
# $(pwd) --> /home/imk/develop/so/scrap
```

```
$ 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 | (RUNPATH) | Library rpath: [/home/imk/develop/so/scrap] |
| ...                |           | .....                                       |
| ...                |           | .....                                       |

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

## -rpath example (5)

- `libfoobar.so` (direct dependency) will be found at **runtime**, but `libfoo.so` and `libbar.so` (nested dependencies) won't,
  - because `libfoobar.so` does not inherit **RUNPATH** information of `prog`
- `-rpath=$(pwd)` must be specified also for `libfoobar.so` to write *runtime search path* information into **RUNPATH** entry of the **.dynamic** section of `libfoobar.so`

```
$ gcc -c -Wall -fPIC foobar.c
```

```
$ gcc -shared -o libfoobar.so foobar.o -L. -lfoo -lbar -Wl,-rpath=$(pwd)
```

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

## -rpath example (6)

- check what libraries are needed by `libfoobar.so` could be:

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

```
Dynamic section at offset 0xe38 contains 22 entries:
```

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

<https://unix.stackexchange.com/questions/571861/is-there-an-rpath-for-dynamic-linking>

## -rpath example (7)

- `prog` executable depends on `libfoobar.so` shared object  
`RUNPATH` entry of `.dynamic` section of `prog` set by

```
$ gcc -o prog main.o -L. -lfoobar -Wl,-rpath=$(pwd)
```

- `libfoobar.so` shared object depends on  
`libfoo.so` and `libbar.so` shared objects  
`RUNPATH` entry of `.dynamic` section of `libfoobar.so` set by

```
$ gcc -shared -o libfoobar.so foobar.o -L. -lfoo -lbar -Wl,-rpath=$(pwd)
```

- to run `prog` does not need to set `LD_LIBRARY_PATH`

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

<https://unix.stackexchange.com/questions/571861/is-there-an-rpath-for-dynamic-linking>

## -rpath example (8\*)

- **RPATH** is searched in before **LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH**
- **RUNPATH** is searched in after **LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH**
  - ① search **RPATH** (older versions of gcc)
  - ② search **LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH**
  - ③ search **RUNPATH** (modern versions of gcc)
  - ④ search **ldconfig**-ed directories

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

<https://refspecs.linuxbase.org/elf/gabi4+/ch5.dynamic.html>

## -rpath example (9\*)

- if `-Wl,--disable-new-dtags` is specified `RPATH` is used as if 'older versions' of gcc were used, instead of `RUNPATH`
  - makes *nested* dependencies inherit the specified search path
  - thus, `-rpath=$(pwd)` need not be specified for `libfoobar.so`

```
$ export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=
```

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

```
$ gcc -o prog main.o -L. -lfoobar -Wl,-rpath=$(pwd) -Wl,--disable-new-dtags
```

```
$ ./prog
```

```
foo
```

```
bar
```

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



# TOC: 5. Summary and more examples

# Directories for example shared libraries

- 1 using `-L` and `-l`
- 2 using `-rpath-link`
- 3 using `-rpath` (like `-rpath-link`)
- 4 using `-rpath` (using `RUNPATH`)

| binaries                  | compile time        | run time 1,2,3        | run time 4            |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <code>libfoo.so</code>    | <code>./lib2</code> | <code>./lib2</code>   | <code>./librun</code> |
| <code>libbar.so</code>    | <code>./lib2</code> | <code>./lib2</code>   | <code>./librun</code> |
| <code>libfoobar.so</code> | <code>./lib</code>  | <code>./librun</code> | <code>./librun</code> |
| <code>prog</code>         | <code>.</code>      | <code>.</code>        | <code>.</code>        |

# Specifying dependencies and search paths (1)

---

|          |                          |                        |                                 |                      |
|----------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Method 1 | <code>-L d_direct</code> | <code>-l direct</code> | <code>-L d_nest</code>          | <code>-l nest</code> |
| Method 2 | <code>-L d_direct</code> | <code>-l direct</code> | <code>-rpath-link d_nest</code> |                      |
| Method 3 | <code>-L d_direct</code> | <code>-l direct</code> | <code>-rpath d_nest</code>      |                      |
| Method 4 | <code>-L d_direct</code> | <code>-l direct</code> | <code>-rpath d_direct</code>    |                      |

---

---

|                           |                     |                                       |                       |                                         |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <code>libfoobar.so</code> | <code>direct</code> | <code>foo</code> and <code>bar</code> | <code>d_direct</code> | <code>lib2</code>                       |
|                           | <code>nested</code> | <code>-</code>                        | <code>d_nest</code>   | <code>-</code>                          |
| <code>prog</code>         | <code>direct</code> | <code>libfoobar</code>                | <code>d_direct</code> | <code>lib</code> or <code>librun</code> |
|                           | <code>nested</code> | <code>foo</code> and <code>bar</code> | <code>d_nest</code>   | <code>lib2</code>                       |

---

## Specifying dependencies and search paths (2)

- for `libfoobar.so`

- ① `-Llib2 -lfoo -lbar`
- ② `-Llib2 -lfoo -lbar`
- ③ `-Llib2 -lfoo -lbar`
- ④ `-Llib2 -lfoo -lbar -Wl,-rpath=lib:librun`

- for `prog`

- ① `-Llib -lfoobar -Llib2 -lfoo -lbar`
- ② `-Llib -lfoobar -Wl,-rpath-link=lib2`
- ③ `-Llib -lfoobar -Wl,-rpath=lib2`
- ④ `-Llib -lfoobar -Wl,-rpath=lib:librun`

# Example2 summary using -L and -l

## 1 Make `libfoo.so` and `libbar.so` in `./lib2`

```
$ gcc -c -Wall -fPIC foo.c bar.c
$ gcc -shared -o libfoo.so foo.o
$ gcc -shared -o libbar.so bar.o
$ mv libfoo.so libbar.so lib2
```

## 2 Make `libfoobar.so` in `./lib`

```
$ gcc -c -Wall -fPIC foobar.c
$ gcc -shared -o libfoobar.so foobar.o -Llib2 -lfoo -lbar
$ mv libfoobar.so lib
```

## 3 Make `prog` in `.`

```
$ gcc -c -Wall main.c
$ gcc -o prog main.o -Llib -lfoobar -Llib2 -lfoo -lbar
```

## 4 Execute using `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` (libraries in `librun`, `lib2`)

```
$ mv lib/libfoobar.so librun
$ export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=librun:lib2
$ ./prog
```

# Specifying *dependencies* using `-l` only

- unless `rpath-link` or `rpath` is used
    - *all dependencies* must be specified with `-l` (*direct* and *nested dependencies*)
    - specify `-lfoo` (*direct dependency* of `prog`)
    - specify `-lfoo -lbar` (*nested dependencies* of `prog`)
- ```
$ gcc -o prog main.o -L. -lfoo -lbar
```
- the *direct dependency* of `prog` : `libfoo.so`
  - the *nested dependencies* of `prog` : `libfoo.so`, `libbar.so`  
(the *direct dependencies* of `libfoo.so`)

# Specifying *link time* search paths using `-L` only

- `-Ldir1 -Ldir2 ...`
  - when an input file *requests* **dynamic dependencies** the linker *searches* the specified directories to *resolve* them.
  - specify all the search paths for *direct* and *nested* **dependencies**
  - since *nested* dependencies does *inherit* the search path
  - the linker *searches* **dir1**, **dir2**, etc., only to *resolve* references
  - only for a successful linkage, not for a successful execution
  - in this example, to link successfully, `$(pwd)` is searched
    - for **libfoobar.so** (the *direct* **dependency**)
    - for **libfoo.so** and **libbar.so** (the *nested* **dependencies**)

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

## Example2 summary using `-rpath-link`

- 1 Make `libfoo.so` and `libbar.so` in `./lib2`

```
gcc -c -Wall -fPIC foo.c bar.c
gcc -shared -o libfoo.so foo.o
gcc -shared -o libbar.so bar.o
mv libfoo.so libbar.so lib2
```

- 2 Make `y`, `libfoobar.so` in `./lib`

```
gcc -c -Wall -fPIC foobar.c
gcc -shared -o libfoobar.so foobar.o -Llib2 -lfoo -lbar
mv libfoobar.so lib
```

- 3 Make `prog` in `.`

```
gcc -c -Wall main.c
gcc -o prog main.o -Llib -lfoobar -Wl,-rpath-link=lib2
```

- 4 Execute using `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` (libraries in `librun`, `lib2`)

```
mv lib/libfoobar.so librun
export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=librun:lib
./prog
```



# Specifying *dependencies* using `-rpath-link=dir`

- when `rpath-link` or `rpath` is used
    - specify only *direct dependencies* using `-l` and their search paths with `-L`
    - no need to specify *nested dependencies*
      - *nested dependencies* can be found by the `NEEDED` entry in the `.dynamic` section of a given *direct dependency*
    - `-lfoobar` necessary
    - `-lfoo -lbar` unnecessary
- ```
$ gcc -o prog main.o -L. -lfoobar -Wl,-rpath-link=$(pwd)
```
- the *direct dependency* of `prog : libfoobar.so`
  - the *nested dependencies* of `prog : libfoo.so, libbar.so` (the *direct dependencies* of `libfoobar.so`)

# Specifying *link time* search paths using `-rpath-link=dir`

- when `-rpath-link=dir` is used
  - since *nested* dependencies do inherit the search path
  - specify all the search paths for *direct* and *nested* dependencies using `rpath-link=dir1:dir2` or multiple `rpath-link` options
  - only for a successful linkage, not for a successful execution
  - in this example, to link successfully, `$(pwd)` is searched
    - for `libfoobar.so` (the *direct* dependency)
    - for `libfoo.so` and `libbar.so` (the *nested* dependencies)

```
$ gcc -o prog main.o -L. -lfoobar -Wl,-rpath-link=$(pwd)
```

# Example2 summary using `-rpath` (like `-rpath-link`)

- 1 Make `libfoo.so` and `libbar.so` in `./lib2`

```
gcc -c -Wall -fPIC foo.c bar.c
gcc -shared -o libfoo.so foo.o
gcc -shared -o libbar.so bar.o
mv libfoo.so libbar.so lib2
```

- 2 Make `libfoobar.so` in `./lib`

```
gcc -c -Wall -fPIC foobar.c
gcc -shared -o libfoobar.so foobar.o -Llib2 -lfoo -lbar
mv libfoobar.so lib
```

- 3 Make `prog` in `.`

```
gcc -c -Wall main.c
gcc -o prog main.o -Llib -lfoobar -Wl,-rpath=lib2
```

- 4 Execute using `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` (libraries in `librun`, `lib2`)

```
mv lib/libfoobar.so librun
export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=librun:lib
./prog
```

## Example2 summary using `-rpath` (using `RUNPATH`)

- 1 Make `libfoo.so` and `libbar.so` in `./lib2`

```
gcc -c -Wall -fPIC foo.c bar.c
gcc -shared -o libfoo.so foo.o
gcc -shared -o libbar.so bar.o
mv libfoo.so libbar.so lib2
```

- 2 Make `libfoobar.so` in `./lib`

```
gcc -c -Wall -fPIC foobar.c
gcc -shared -o libfoobar.so foobar.o -Llib2 -lfoo -lbar -Wl,-rpath=lib:librun
mv libfoobar.so lib
```

- 3 Make `prog` in `.`

```
gcc -c -Wall main.c
gcc -o prog main.o -Llib -lfoobar -Wl,-rpath=lib2:librun
```

- 4 Execute without `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` (now all libraries in `librun`)

```
mv lib/libfoobar.so lib2/libfoo.so lib2/libbar.so librun
export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=
./prog
```

# Specifying *dependencies* using `-rpath=dir`

- when `rpath-link` or `rpath` is used
  - specify only *direct dependencies* using `-l` and their search paths with `-L`
  - no need to specify *nested dependencies*
    - *nested dependencies* can be found by the **NEEDED** entry in the `.dynamic` section of a given *direct dependency*

- `-lfoobar` necessary
- `-lfoo -lbar` unnecessary

```
$ gcc -o prog main.o -L. -lfoobar -Wl,-rpath=$(pwd)
```

- the *direct dependency* of `prog` : `libfoobar.so`
- the *nested dependencies* of `prog` : `libfoo.so`, `libbar.so` (the *direct dependencies* of `libfoobar.so`)

# Specifying *link time* search paths using `-rpath=dir`

- when `-rpath` is used, there are two approaches for specifying the *link time* search paths
  - 1 specify *all* the search paths for *direct* and *nested dependencies* of a given binary using `-rpath`
    - for a successful linkage only, not for a successful execution
    - since *nested dependencies inherit* the search path
    - as long as specifying *link time* search paths are concerned, the `rpath` option is the same as the `rpath-link` option
  - 2 let each binary be specified with search paths using `-rpath` for its *direct dependencies* only
    - those paths are recorded as *runtime* search paths in the `RUNPATH` entry of `.dynamic` section of a binary

# Specifying *run time* search paths using `-rpath=dir`

- `-rpath=dir`
  - the `ld` searches directory `dir` to *resolve* references
  - the `ld.so` searches directory `dir` to *load* shared libraries
  - to load shared libraries, *nested* dependencies may not inherit the search path
  - for modern versions of `gcc` that use `RUNPATH` instead `RPATH` do not allow the search path to be *inherited*
    - thus, each binary should be specified with search paths for its *direct dependencies*, using `-rpath`
    - that those paths may be recorded as *runtime* search path in the `RUNPATH` entry of `.dynamic` section of the binary

```
$ gcc -shared -o libfoobar.so foobar.o -L. -lfoo -lbar -Wl,-rpath=$(pwd)
$ gcc -o prog main.o -L. -lfoobar -Wl,-rpath=$(pwd)
```

# TOC: 5. -Wl,-rpath, . examples



## Using `-Wl, rpath .` (1)

- in order to pass `-rpath .` to the linker, consider them as two arguments (`-rpath` and `.`) to the `-Wl`
- you can write `(-Wl, arg1, arg2)` or `(-Wl, arg1, -Wl, arg2)`
  - `-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`)
- to pass `ld aaa bbb ccc` (space separated)  
`gcc -Wl,aaa,bbb,ccc` (comma separated)
- to pass `ld -rpath .` (space separated)  
`gcc -Wl,-rpath, .` (comma separated)

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

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

- alternatively, **repeat instances** of `-Wl` can be specified
- to pass `ld aaa bbb ccc` (space separated)  
`gcc -Wl,aaa -Wl,bbb -Wl,ccc` (repeated instances)
  - there is no comma between `-Wl,aaa` and the second `-Wl,bbb`  
but there is space
- thus, to pass `ld -rpath .`
  - `gcc -Wl,-rpath,.` (comma separated)
  - `gcc -Wl,-rpath -Wl,.` (repeated instances)

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

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

- can remove the comma by using `=`  
`gcc -Wl,-rpath=.`
  - arguably more readable than adding extra commas
  - exactly what gets passed to `ld`
- thus, to pass `ld -rpath .`
  - `gcc -Wl,-rpath, .` (comma separated)
  - `gcc -Wl,-rpath -Wl, .` (repeated instances)
  - `gcc -Wl,-rpath=.` (using `=` instead of `,`)

<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>