

```
outfile.pdf
```

Note that we had to specify the password all three times because giving a password as **--encryption-file-password** doesn't count for page selection, and as far as qpdf is concerned, *encrypted.pdf* and *./encrypted.pdf* are separated files. These are all corner cases that most users should hopefully never have to be bothered with.

Prior to version 8.4, it was not possible to specify the same page from the same file directly more than once, and the workaround of specifying the same file in more than one way was required. Version 8.4 removes this limitation.

3.6. Overlay and Underlay Options

Starting with qpdf 8.4, it is possible to overlay or underlay pages from other files onto the output generated by qpdf. Specify overlay or underlay as follows:

```
{ --overlay | --underlay } file [ options ] --
```

Overlay and underlay options are processed late, so they can be combined with other like merging and will apply to the final output. The **--overlay** and **--underlay** options work the same way, except underlay pages are drawn underneath the page to which they are applied, possibly obscured by the original page, and overlay files are drawn on top of the page to which they are applied, possibly obscuring the page. You can combine overlay and underlay.

The default behavior of overlay and underlay is that pages are taken from the overlay/underlay file in sequence and applied to corresponding pages in the output until there are no more output pages. If the overlay or underlay file runs out of pages, remaining output pages are left alone. This behavior can be modified by options, which are provided between the **--overlay** or **--underlay** flag and the **--** option. The following options are supported:

- **--password=password**: supply a password if the overlay/underlay file is encrypted.
- **--to=page-range**: a range of pages in the same form as described in [Section 3.5, “Page Selection Options”](#), [page 10](#) indicates which pages in the output should have the overlay/underlay applied. If not specified, overlay/underlay are applied to all pages.
- **--from=[page-range]**: a range of pages that specifies which pages in the overlay/underlay file will be used for overlay or underlay. If not specified, all pages will be used. This can be explicitly specified to be empty if **--repeat** is used.
- **--repeat=page-range**: an optional range of pages that specifies which pages in the overlay/underlay file will be repeated after the “from” pages are used up. If you want to repeat a range of pages starting at the beginning, you can explicitly use **--from=**.

Here are some examples.

- **--overlay o.pdf --to=1-5 --from=1-3 --repeat=4 --**: overlay the first three pages from file *o.pdf* onto the first three pages of the output, then overlay page 4 from *o.pdf* onto pages 4 and 5 of the output. Leave remaining output pages untouched.
- **--underlay footer.pdf --from= --repeat=1,2 --**: Underlay page 1 of *footer.pdf* on all odd output pages, and underlay page 2 of *footer.pdf* on all even output pages.

3.7. Advanced Parsing Options

These options control aspects of how qpdf reads PDF files. Mostly these are of use to people who are working with damaged files. There is little reason to use these options unless you are trying to solve specific problems. The following options are available: