

An Experimental Study of Memory Management in Rust Programming for Big Data Processing

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Master Thesis Defense

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Motivation

Many of existing data-flow based Big Data Processing systems like Apache Spark and Flink are using:

- ▷ **Java Virtual Machine (JVM)**
 - ▷ Abstracting hardware usage sacrificing additional computation
- ▷ **Automated Memory Management**
 - ▷ Generative Garbage Collection

Rust Programing Language is a promising candidate for development of Big Data analysis tools and libraries.

Rust

Rust is a "**system language**" which has unique memory management concept.

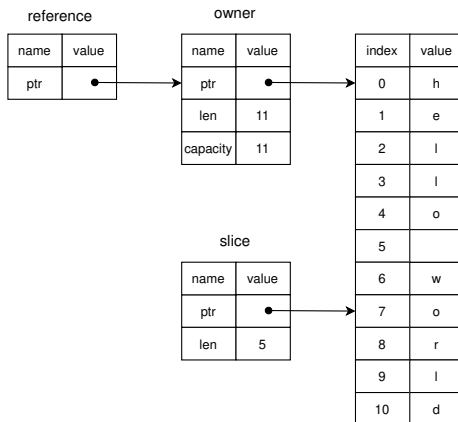
- ▷ A system language does not have Garbage Collection.
- ▷ Rust ensures memory safety.
- ▷ It is easier to write safe threaded code in Rust.
- ▷ Rust is a relatively new language (first appeared 2010).
- ▷ Rust uses LLVM compiler infrastructure and provides high performance.
- ▷ It is safer and easier to write code in Rust than C++

Different Rust Memory Management Strategies

Each one has different memory representation.

- ▷ Owner
- ▷ Reference
- ▷ Slice

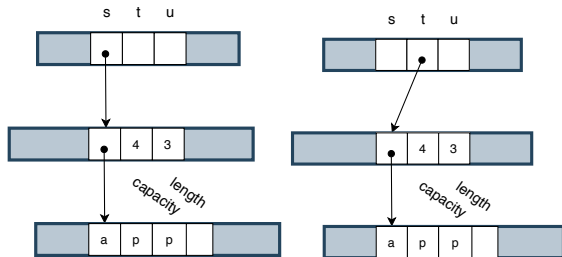
```
1 let owner = String::from("hello_world");  
2 let slice = owner[7:10];  
3 let reference = &owner;
```



Each one may have different memory access time.

Ownership

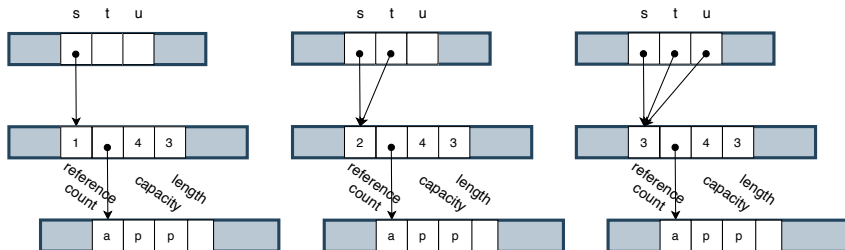
```
1 let s = "app".to_string();  
2 let t = s;  
3 let u = s;  
4
```



- ▷ Each value is owned by single owner variable in Rust.
- ▷ Compiler error: **value "s" is dropped already.**

Advantage of Reference Counting

```
1 let s = Rc::new("app".to_string());  
2 let t = Rc::clone(&s);  
3 let u = Rc::clone(&s);
```

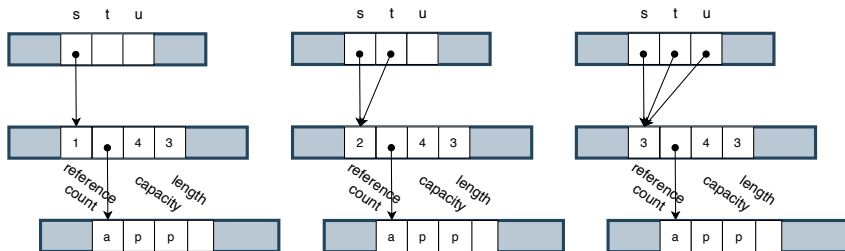


Advantage

- ▷ **Sharing ownership**
 - ▷ Each value is owned by single owner variable in Rust.
- ▷ **Dynamic memory de/allocation**
 - ▷ Rust usually determine lifetime of variable at compile time.

Disadvantage of Reference Counting

```
1 let s = Rc::new("app".to_string());  
2 let t = Rc::clone(&s);  
3 let u = Rc::clone(&s);
```



Disadvantage

- ▷ Need to check reference count
- ▷ Heap allocation

Problem Description

In this thesis, our goal is to determine the magnitude of performance change regarding the following aspects on overall performance of Big Data processing.

- ▷ High Complex Nested Objects vs. Simple Objects/Primitive Types using different memory strategies: Ownership vs. Borrowing vs. Slicing vs. Reference Counting
- ▷ Automated Reference Counting (Rc) vs. Normal Reference
- ▷ Multithreading using Atomic Reference Counting (Arc) vs. Normal Reference
- ▷ Arc vs. Deep Copy

We have specified 5 different experiments.

Complex Object - Memory Ownership and Borrowing

A Complex Object like a nested Customer Object like those defined in the complete Web-based shop.

```
1 struct CustomerOwned {  
2     key: i32,  
3     total_purchase: f64,  
4     zip_code: String,  
5     order: OrderOwned,  
6     ... 10 more  
7 }
```

▷ All fields are owners.

```
1 struct CustomerBorrowed<'a> {  
2     key: &'a i32,  
3     total_purchase: &'a f64,  
4     zip_code: &'a String,  
5     order: &'a OrderBorrowed<'a>,  
6     ... 10 more  
7 }
```

▷ All fields are references.

▷ 'a is lifetime specifier.

▷ Rust compiler cannot determine *lifetime* automatically.

Complex Object - Slicing and Reference Counting

```
1 struct CustomerSlice<'a> {  
2     key: &'a i32,  
3     total_purchase: &'a f64,  
4     zip_code: &'a str,  
5     order: &'a OrderSlice<'a>  
6     ... 10 more  
7 }
```

- ▷ Fields are mix of references and slices.
- ▷ Slice is obtained only for **contiguously allocated data structure**, such as String and Vec.

```
1 struct CustomerRc {  
2     key: Rc<i32>,  
3     total_purchase: Rc<f64>,  
4     zip_code: Rc<String>,  
5     order: Rc<OrderRc>  
6     ... 10 more  
7 }
```

- ▷ All fields are Reference Counting

Multithreading with Atomic Reference Counting

Atomic Reference Counting

Advantage

- ▷ Sharing ownership
- ▷ Dynamic memory de/allocation
- ▷ Sharing among multithreads

Disadvantage

- ▷ Need to check reference count
- ▷ Heap allocation
- ▷ Atomic operation

Impact of Memory Management on performance of Big Data Processing

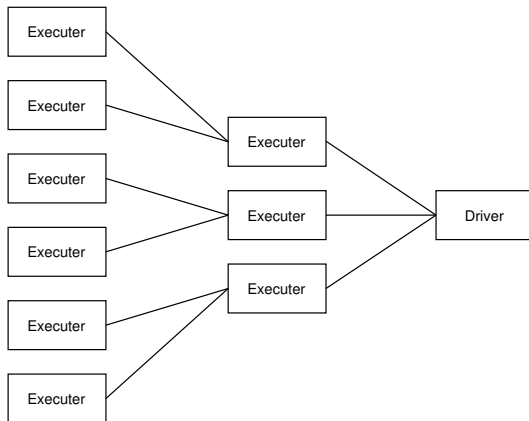
Merge-sort

- ▷ Many contiguous memory de/allocations
- ▷ Common memory usage pattern in sorting algorithms for Big Data Processing.
 - ▷ ex. External-sort

Impact of Memory Management on performance of Big Data Processing

Tree-aggregate

- ▷ Many intermediate HashMap like data structures
- ▷ Many de/allocation of intermediate data
- ▷ Common memory and network usage pattern in Big Data Processing



K-Nearest-Neighbors (KNN)

- ▷ An example of Machine Learning algorithm that requires Big Data processing.
- ▷ Text document classification
- ▷ We are interested only in preprocessing phase.
- ▷ String manipulations
- ▷ It is just matrix read operation after preprocessing phase.

Experimental Setting

Machine Specification

- ▷ Google Cloud Platform: n1-standard-8
- ▷ CPU : 8 cores
- ▷ RAM: 30 GB
- ▷ Standard persistent disk: 10 GB

Data Set

- ▷ Randomized generated data of **Customer objects** (Synthetic Data)
 - ▷ CustomerOwned
 - ▷ CustomerBorrowed
 - ▷ CustomerSlice
 - ▷ CustomerRc
- ▷ **Wikipedia Text data** set (Real-World Data)
 - ▷ Training set: 100×10^3 wiki pages
 - ▷ Testing set: 18×10^3 wiki pages

Execution

- ▷ Run each experiment 5 time
- ▷ Take average of the 5 runs

Experiment 1: Accessing Object with Different Variable Type

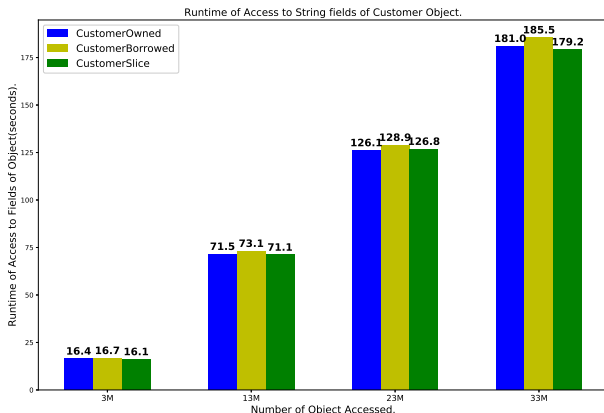
Question

- ▷ What is the performance differences among different memory management strategies?

Evaluation

- ▷ **Construct Complex objects**
- ▷ With different memory management strategies like **Owner, Reference, Slice**
- ▷ **CustomerOwned** vs. **CustomerBorrowed** vs. **CustomerSlice**
- ▷ Measure access time of different **fields of complex objects**

Experiment 1: Accessing Object with Different Variable Type



Result

- ▷ No differences of memory access time among Customer objects using different memory management strategies.

Discussion

- ▷ Selection of different memory management strategies does not have impact on memory access time.

Experiment 2: Assessment of different reference methods in Rust

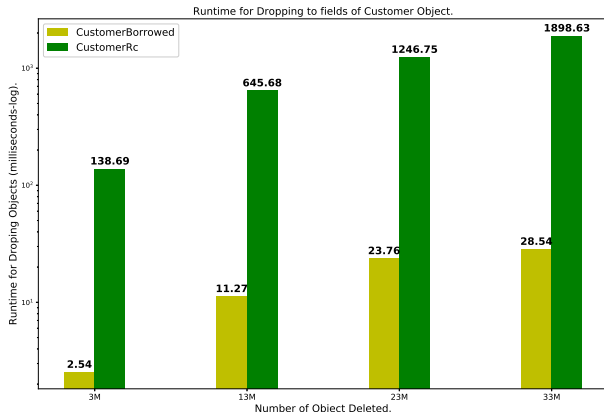
Question

- ▷ How much does Reference Counting hits performance?

Evaluation

- ▷ **Construct complex objects**
- ▷ **Reference Counting** vs **reference**
- ▷ CustomerRc vs. CustomerBorrowed
- ▷ Measure time to **drop variables of complex objects**

Experiment 2: Assessment of different reference methods in Rust



Result

- ▷ Dropping Reference Counting is about **60 times slower** than normal reference.

Discussion

- ▷ Reference Counting needs some CPU cycles to check reference count.
- ▷ In complex objects, overhead is significant.

Experiment 3: Merge-Sort

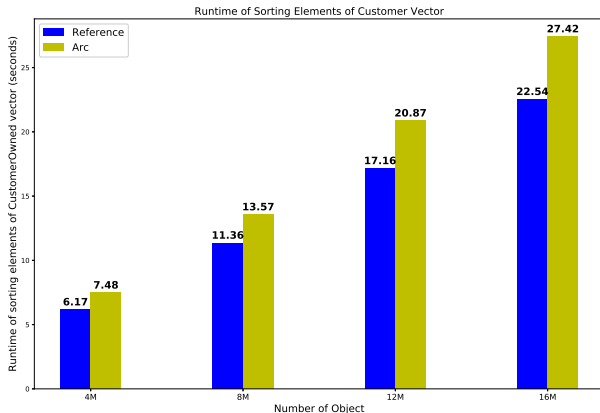
Question

- ▷ What is performance hit of Merge-Sort algorithm using Arc vs, normal reference?

Evaluation

- ▷ Share **vector** of complex objects in multithreads
- ▷ **Atomic Reference Counting (Arc)** vs. **normal reference**
- ▷ Measure **runtime of merge-sort algorithms**

Experiment 3: Merge-sort



Result

- ▷ Arc are about **21% slower** than normal reference.

Discussion

- ▷ Atomic Reference Counting needs to check reference count.
- ▷ Atomic operations are more expensive than ordinal operations.

Experiment 4: Tree-aggregate

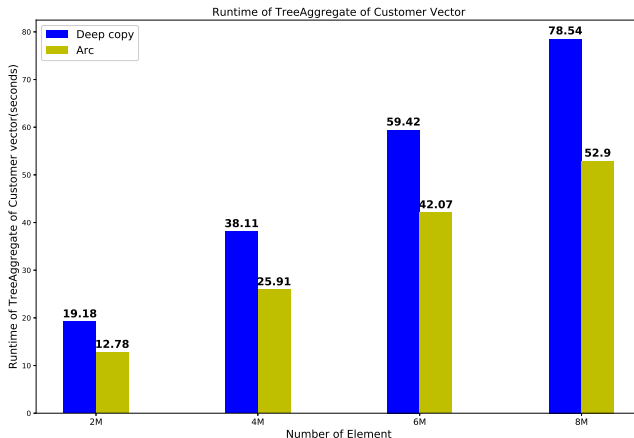
Question

- ▷ - What is performance hit of Tree-aggregate using Arc vs. deep-copy?

Evaluation

- ▷ Share **elements** of complex object in multithreads
- ▷ **Atomic Reference Counting (Arc)** vs. **Deep copy**
- ▷ Measure **runtime of Tree-aggregate algorithm**

Experiment 4: Tree-aggregate



Result

- ▷ Deep-copies are from **40% to 50% slower** than Arc.

Discussion

- ▷ Deep-copy of complex object is expensive.
- ▷ Performing deep-copy many times may lead to significant overhead.

Experiment 5: K-Nearest-Neighbors (KNN)

Question

- ▷ - What is performance hit of Machine learning algorithms using Arc vs. deep-copy?

Evaluation

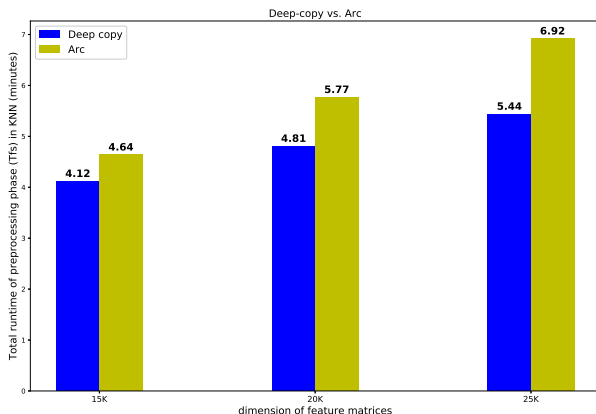
- ▷ Document classification on Wikipedia page dataset
 - ▷ Training set: 100×10^3 wiki pages
 - ▷ Testing set: 18×10^3 wiki pages
- ▷ Preprocessing phase: calculating **Term-Frequencies (TFs)**
- ▷ String manipulation
- ▷ Measure runtime of **preprocessing time of KNN algorithms**

Experiment 5: K-Nearest-Neighbors (KNN)

Parameters

- ▷ Data Acquisition
 - ▷ **Atomic Reference Counting** (Arc)
 - ▷ **Deep-copy**
- ▷ Dimensions of feature matrices
 - ▷ 15K
 - ▷ 20K
 - ▷ 25K

Experiment 5: K-Nearest-Neighbors - Preprocessing Time



Result

- ▷ Arc is at most 27% slower than deep-copy.

Discussion

- ▷ Deep-copying String is cheaper operation than Arc:
 - ▷ Relatively simple object
 - ▷ Contiguously allocated
- ▷ Overhead using Arc may become more significant as size of data increases

Findings

Arc vs. Deep-Copy

- ▷ Use Arc instead of deep-copy when **complexity of objects is large**.
- ▷ Use deep-copy when dealing with **low complex objects/primitive types** like String.

Arc vs. Normal Reference

- ▷ Use normal reference rather than Reference Counting whenever it is possible.
- ▷ **Avoid using Arc** when we can use reference.

Conclusion

- ▶ We have seen that impact of memory memory Management is very large, especially when working on High Complex Object structures and large volume of data set.
- ▶ Using a System Language like Rust is very promising to avoid using large CPU computation for memory management.
- ▶ When using Rust, writing memory-safe multithreaded code is fairly easy.