

Rust: PyO3

The following are simplified, abridged notes taken from the PyO3 user guide and other sources. The full user guide can be found here: [PyO3 User Guide](#)

Introduction

PyO3 is a Rust library that allows Rust code to be written in a way that can be compiled into Python modules. PyO3 is specified as a Rust dependency in `Cargo.toml`:

```
[lib]
name = "my_rust_python_library"

[dependencies]
pyo3 = { version = "0.20.2", features = ["extension-module"] }
```

Maturin is then used as a build system to package the Rust code to Python. Maturin is installed as a Python package using `pip` and then initialized in the target folder:

```
$ pip install maturin
$ cd string_sum
$ maturin init
# Then choose pyo3 bindings
```

Once the Rust code is ready to be pushed to a Python package, it can be developed and then imported in the same Python environment:

```
$ maturin develop
$ python3
>>> import my_rust_python_library
```

Writing Rust-Python Functions

Python functions are defined with the `#[pyfunction]` attribute:

```
#[pyfunction]
fn double_py(x: usize) -> usize {
    return x*2;
}
```

An additional `#[pyo3]` attribute can be applied underneath to modify the properties of the function. Below is an example of how the function's Python name can be manually specified:

```
#[pyfunction]
#[pyo3(name = "double")]
fn double_py(x: usize) -> usize {
    return x*2;
}
```

The result is a Python function named `double()`.

PyO3 signatures can specify Python function properties and their usage is explained in the sections below.

Specifying Default Arguments

Default values are simply specified by the argument names followed by their default Rust-code values:

```
#[pyfunction]
#[pyo3(signature = (name="John Doe", age=0))]
fn print_age_and_name(name: &str, age: u8) {
    println!("My name is {}, and I am {} years old", name, age);
}
```

To give an optional argument a `None` default argument, the `Option<...>` enum can be used:

```
#[pyfunction]
fn increment(x: u64, amount: Option<u64>) -> u64 {
    return x + amount.unwrap_or(1);
}
// Only `x` is required and `amount` defaults to `None` if not provided
```

If the argument should be required but accept `None` as an input, the PyO3 signature annotation must be provided:

```
#[pyfunction]
#[pyo3(signature = (x, amount))] // <-- added this line
fn increment(x: u64, amount: Option<u64>) -> u64 {
    return x + amount.unwrap_or(1);
}
// Now, both arguments are required but `amount=None` is acceptable
```

Positional & Keyword Arguments

To allow Python `*args` or `**kwargs` to be passed into a function, they can be specified in the PyO3 signature. Positional arguments must be of type `&PyTuple` and keyword arguments of type `Option<&PyDict>`. These can be unpacked with iterators:

```
use pyo3::types::{PyTuple, PyDict};

#[pyfunction]
```

```
#[py3(signature = (*args, **kwargs))]
fn my_args(args: &PyTuple, kwargs: Option<&PyDict>) {
    // Unpack *args
    for arg in args.iter() {
        println!("arg: {:?}", arg);
    }

    // Unpack **kwargs
    if let Some(kw) = kwargs {
        for (key, value) in kw.iter() {
            println!("{}", key, value);
        }
    }
}
```

Rust-to-Python Error Handling

Rust code uses the generic `Result<T, E>` enum to propagate errors, in which the error type `E` describes the possible errors that can happen. However, PyO3 has the `PyErr` type which represents a Python exception. If a Python exception could be raised, the type can be specified with `PyResult<T>`, which is simply an alias for `Result<T, PyErr>`.

Default Python exceptions, such as `ValueError`, can be implemented: [List of Supported PyO3 Exceptions](#)

```
use pyo3::exceptions::PyValueError;

#[pyfunction]
fn check_positive(x: i32) -> PyResult<()> {
    if x < 0 {
        return Err(PyValueError::new_err("x is negative"));
    } else {
        return Ok(());
    }
}
```

Writing Rust-Python Classes

Python classes are defined with the `#[pyclass]` attribute over structs or fieldless enums. These Rust types cannot have lifetime parameters, generic parameters, and must implement `Send` regarding threading:

```
#[pyclass]
struct Animal {
    name: String,
}
```

```
#[pyclass]
enum HttpResponse {
    Ok = 200,
    NotFound = 404,
    Teapot = 418,
}
```

Methods can be specified by placing the `#[pymethods]` over implementation blocks. Constructors can be implemented with the `#[new]` attribute, which replicates Python's `__new__` method (an `__init__` equivalent is not available):

```
#[pymethods]
impl Animal {
    #[new]
    fn new(name: String) -> Self {
        return Animal { name };
    }

    fn speak(&self) -> String {
        return format!("{}", spoke!, self.name);
    }
}
```

Class attributes/variables can be set on a constant or a method without any arguments, annotated with the `#[classattr]` attribute. Class variables and methods can be accessed by setting `cls` to `&PyType` and then writing `cls.getattr("...")?;`. Then result is a `PyObject` where it can then be converted to a Rust value with `.extract()`.

Class methods can be specified with the `#[classmethod]` annotation and static methods with the `#[staticmethod]` annotation:

```
use pyo3::types::PyType;

#[pymethods]
impl MyClass {
    #[classattr]
    const MY_CONST_ATTRIBUTE: &'static str = "foobar";

    #[classattr]
    fn my_attribute() -> String { // MyClass.my_attribute = "hello"
        return "hello".to_string();
    }

    #[classmethod]
    fn cls_method(cls: &PyType) -> PyResult<String> {
```

```

        // This gets the class variable `MY_CONST_ATTRIBUTE` as a PyObject
        // then, converts it to a String
        let local_attribute = cls.getattr("MY_CONST_ATTRIBUTE)?.extract::
<String>()?;
        return Ok(local_attribute);
    }

    #[staticmethod]
    fn static_method() {
        println!("Hello!");
    }
}

```

For detailed instructions on modifying class magic methods, please refer to the [PyO3 User Guide](#).

Data Type Conversion

PyO3 provides tools to convert between Python and Rust types. The PyO3 User Guide provides a conversion table for simple, native data types: [PyO3 Type Conversions](#)

For example, a Python list object can be represented in PyO3 as `&PyList` and the conversion results in a Rust Vector:

```

use pyo3::types::PyList;

#[pyfunction]
fn print_pylist_values(my_list: &PyList) {
    for item in my_list.iter() {
        println!("My Vector: {:?}", item);
    }
}

```

The resulting function takes in a Python List and PyO3 converts it to a Rust Vector.

To convert Python objects to Rust structs or enums, see the sections below.

Python Dictionaries to Rust Structs

Python dictionaries can be converted to Rust structs using the `#[derive(FromPyObject)]` attribute, specifying the fields of the dictionary to include with `#[pyo3(item)]`:

```

#[derive(Debug, FromPyObject)]
struct MyDictionary {
    #[pyo3(item)]
    A: String,
    #[pyo3(item)]

```

```

    B: String,
    #[pyo3(item)]
    C: String
}

#[pyfunction]
fn print_struct(my_dict: MyDictionary) {
    println!("{:?}", my_dict);
}

```

The resulting Python function requires a dictionary with keys 'A', 'B', 'C' to be passed in.

A short-cut to placing the `#[pyo3(item)]` over every field is to apply the `#[pyo3(from_item_all)]` attribute on the struct:

```

#[derive(Debug, FromPyObject)]
#[pyo3(from_item_all)]
struct MyDictionary {
    A: String,
    B: String,
    C: String
}

```

If the struct fields and dictionary keys are different, they can be mapped by specifying the Python key name in the PyO3 annotation:

```

#[derive(FromPyObject)]
struct MyDictionary {
    #[pyo3(item("A_in_dict"))]
    A_in_struct: String,
    #[pyo3(item("B_in_dict"))]
    B_in_struct: String,
    #[pyo3(item("C_in_dict"))]
    C_in_struct: String
}

```

Now, the resulting Python function requires a dictionary with keys 'A_in_dict', 'B_in_dict', 'C_in_dict' to be passed in and will be mapped to the corresponding Rust struct fields. This can still be used with and overrides the `#[pyo3(from_item_all)]` attribute.

Python Objects to Rust Structs

Similar to dictionaries, Python objects with attributes can be converted to Rust structs using the `#[derive(FromPyObject)]` attribute, specifying the corresponding object's attribute name with `#[pyo3(attribute("..."))]`:

```
#[derive(Debug, FromPyObject)]
struct MyPythonObject {
    #[pyo3(attribute("A"))]
    A: String,
    #[pyo3(attribute("B"))]
    B: String,
    #[pyo3(attribute("C"))]
    C: String
}

#[pyfunction]
fn print_object(my_object: MyPythonObject) {
    println!("{}", my_object);
}
```

The resulting Python function requires an object with attributes 'A', 'B', 'C' to be passed in.

Python Data Types to Rust Enums

For fieldless enums, PyO3 can automatically match to Rust variants:

```
#[derive(FromPyObject)]
enum MyEnum {
    VariantOne,
    VariantTwo,
}

#[pyfunction]
fn take_enum(value: MyEnum) -> String {
    match value {
        MyEnum::VariantOne => "Variant One".to_string(),
        MyEnum::VariantTwo => "Variant Two".to_string(),
    }
}
```

The resulting function can now take in the string argument `take_enum("VariantOne")`.

If a Python object is provided, enum fields can be mapped to the Python object's attribute names:

```
#[derive(FromPyObject)]
enum MyEnum {
    #[pyo3(attribute("attr_one"))]
    VariantOne,
    #[pyo3(attribute("attr_two"))]
```

```
VariantTwo,
}
```

The resulting function can now take in a Python object with attributes 'attr_one' and 'attr_two', which will be mapped to the corresponding Rust enum variants.

PyO3 will also attempt match to variants based on the provided data type:

```
#[derive(FromPyObject)]
enum MyEnum {
    Int(usize),           // Input is a positive int
    String(String),       // Input is a string
    IntTuple(usize, usize), // Input is a 2-tuple with positive ints
    StringIntTuple(String, usize), // Input is a 2-tuple with string and int
}
```

Setting Python Modules

Python functions and classes written in Rust can be added to a module using the `#[pymodule]` attribute. The `add_function()` and `add_class()` methods are then used to add classes and methods. If desired, the module can take a custom name with an additional `#[pyo3(name = "...")]` attribute:

```
#[pymodule]
#[pyo3(name = "custom_module_name")]
fn pyo3_example(_py: Python<'>, m: &PyModule) -> PyResult<()> {
    m.add_function(wrap_pyfunction!(my_function, m)?);
    m.add_class::<MyClass>()?;
    Ok(())
}
```

A hierarchy of modules can be created by adding sub-modules to the parent module. The pattern below can serve as a model in how to do so:

```
#[pymodule]
fn parent_module(py: Python<'>, m: &PyModule) -> PyResult<()> {
    register_child_module(py, m)?;
    Ok(())
}

fn register_child_module(py: Python<'>, parent_module: &PyModule) ->
PyResult<()> {
    let child_module = PyModule::new(py, "child_module");
    child_module.add_function(wrap_pyfunction!(my_function,
child_module)?);
}
```



```
parent_module.add_submodule(child_module)?;  
Ok()  
}
```