

Send and Sync

Not everything obeys inherited mutability, though. Some types allow you to access a location in memory while mutating it. Unless these types use synchronization access, they are absolutely not thread-safe. Rust captures this through the

- A type is `Send` if it is safe to send it to another thread.
- A type is `Sync` if it is safe to share between threads (`&T` is `Send`).

`Send` and `Sync` are fundamental to Rust's concurrency story. As such, a subtooling exists to make them work right. First and foremost, they're `unsafe` to implement, and other unsafe code can assume that they are implemented. Since they're *marker traits* (they have no associated items like `Drop`), they are implemented simply means that they have the intrinsic properties an implementation of `Send` or `Sync` can cause Undefined Behavior.

`Send` and `Sync` are also automatically derived traits. This means that, unlike `Drop`, a type is composed entirely of `Send` or `Sync` types, then it is `Send` or `Sync`. All `Send` and `Sync`, and as a consequence pretty much all types you'll ever encounter are `Send` or `Sync`.

Major exceptions include:

- raw pointers are neither `Send` nor `Sync` (because they have no safety guarantees)
- `UnsafeCell` isn't `Sync` (and therefore `Cell` and `RefCell` aren't).
- `Rc` isn't `Send` or `Sync` (because the refcount is shared and unsynchronized)

`Rc` and `UnsafeCell` are very fundamentally not thread-safe: they enable mutable state. However raw pointers are, strictly speaking, marked as `!Send` and `!Sync`. Doing anything useful with a raw pointer requires dereferencing it, which is `unsafe`. In that sense, one could argue that it would be "fine" for them to be marked as `Send` and `Sync`.

However it's important that they aren't thread-safe to prevent types that can't be `Send` or `Sync` from being automatically marked as thread-safe. These types have non-trivial untrackable state, and it's unlikely that their author was necessarily thinking hard about thread safety. For example, `Cell` and `RefCell` have a nice example of a type that contains a `*mut T` that is definitely not thread-safe.

Types that aren't automatically derived can simply implement them if desired.

```
struct MyBox(*mut u8);

unsafe impl Send for MyBox {}
unsafe impl Sync for MyBox {}
```

In the *incredibly rare* case that a type is inappropriately automatically derived, then one can also unimplement `Send` and `Sync`:

```
#![feature(optin_builtin_traits)]

// I have some magic semantics for some synchronization primitive
struct SpecialThreadToken(u8);

impl !Send for SpecialThreadToken {}
impl !Sync for SpecialThreadToken {}
```

Note that *in and of itself* it is impossible to incorrectly derive `Send` and `Sync` for a type. Ascribed special meaning by other unsafe code can possibly cause trouble, but `Send` and `Sync` are not special.

Most uses of raw pointers should be encapsulated behind a sufficient abstraction. `Send` and `Sync` can be derived. For instance all of Rust's standard collections are `Send` and `Sync` (and contain `Send` and `Sync` types) in spite of their pervasive use of raw pointers.

and complex ownership. Similarly, most iterators into these collections are they largely behave like an `&` or `&mut` into the collection.

TODO: better explain what can or can't be Send or Sync. Sufficient to appe: