# Introduction to rust and its memory safety

Lukas Prokop

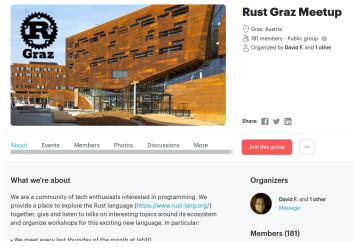
2020-09-18

for IAIK





- Software developer
- PhD student in post-quantum cryptography at IAIK
- Speaker at RustGraz (twitter @RustGraz)



# What is rust?

#### What is rust?

- multi-paradigmatic (imperative, functional)
- systems programming language (easy interop with C, no GC)
- focus on memory safety and concurrency
- · uses the LLVM infrastructure
- syntax similar to C++
- zero-cost abstractions like C++
- Modern competitors: Nim, Crystal, D, Zig



<sup>&</sup>quot;Most loved programming language" (Stack Overflow Developer Survey, 2016–2020)

#### Rust in academia

RustBelt<sup>1</sup>: 32 publications, 4 related projects.

August 2020: Ralf Jung's PhD dissertation.

# ERC Project "RustBelt"

#### Announcement

We are very pleased to announce the awarding of a 2015 ERC Consolidator Grant for the project "RustBelt: Logical Foundations for the Future of Safe Systems Programming". The project concerns the development of rigorous formal foundations for the Rust programming language (see project summary below).

The project is 5 years long and will include funding for several postdoc and PhD student positions supervised by

Derek Dreyer at the Max Planck Institute for Software Systems (MPI-SWS) in Saarbruecken, Germany.



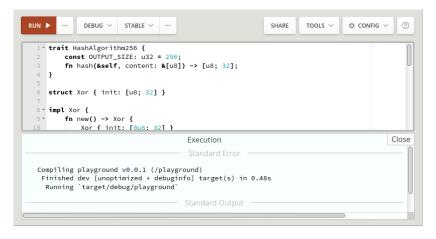
http://plv.mpi-sws.org/rustbelt/





# **Try it! Rust Playground**

#### Rust Playground on play.rust-lang.org



Also: rust on godbolt.org

# Toolchain

```
curl https://sh.rustup.rs -sSf | sh
```

**First release:** 1.0 2015-05-16 **Current release:** 1.46 2020-08-27

Stable rust releases every 6 weeks. Beta and Nightly releases exist. Editions are done every 3 years (2015 1.0 'stability', 2018 1.31 'productivity', 2021 'maturity'?)

```
rustup install {stable,beta,nightly}
```

rustup default {stable,beta,nightly}

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# **Rust compiler**

rustup doc --book

rustup update

rustup self uninstall

#### Rust compiler:

rustc --help

rustc --explain E0382

**compilation multi-passes:** HIR → MIR → LLVM-IR

## Rust compiler

# cargo new [--bin | --lib] NAME

```
$ cargo new --bin iaik
     Created binary (application) 'iaik' package
$ tree iaik
iaik
 — Cargo.toml

    git

    gitignore

 - src
    L_ main.rs
10 directories, 18 files
$ cat iaik/Cargo.toml
[package]
name = "iaik"
version = "0.1.0"
authors = ["GIT COMMITTER NAME <GIT COMMITTER EMAIL>"]
edition = "2018"
# See more keys and their definitions
# at https://doc.rust-lang.org/cargo/reference/manifest.html
[dependencies]
```

# Hello World

```
fn main() {
  println!("Hello, world!");
}
```

```
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```

```
fn main() {
    println!("Hello, world!");
}

$ cargo run
    Compiling iaik v0.1.0 (/tmp/iaik)
    Finished dev [unoptimized + debuginfo] target(s) in 0.29s
    Running `target/debug/iaik`
Hello, world!
```

```
88
```

```
fn main() {
   println!("Hello, world!");
}

$ cargo run
   Compiling iaik v0.1.0 (/tmp/iaik)
    Finished dev [unoptimized + debuginfo] target(s) in 0.29s
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### crates.io is rust's package index

- --release for optimized build
- --target TRIPLE to specify architecture

```
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```

```
fn main() {
    println!("Hello, world!");
}

$ cargo run
    Compiling iaik v0.1.0 (/tmp/iaik)
    Finished dev [unoptimized + debuginfo] target(s) in 0.29s
    Running `target/debug/iaik`
Hello, world!
```

### crates.io is rust's package index

- --release for optimized build
- --target TRIPLE to specify architecture

rustc -C opt-level=3 src/main.rs

rustup component add clippy cargo clippy

# **Normalized code formatting**

rustup component add rustfmt cargo fmt

```
% grep -C1 "dst.clone()" main.rs
    let dst_encoding = lookup_encoding(
       dst.clone()
    )?:
% cargo fmt --message-format ison
[{"name":"/home/meisterluk/dev/rust/encconv/src/main.rs","mism
   atches":[{"original_begin_line":120,"original_end_line":12|
   2, "expected_begin_line":120, "expected_end_line":120, "origi
          let dst encoding = lookup encoding(\n

    dst.clone()\n )?;","expected":" let dst_encoding =

→ lookup_encoding(dst.clone())?;"}]}]
```

#### Also Rust Language Server:

rustup component add rls rust-src rust-analysis



#### cargo doc





#### cargo test

```
test new_hope_512::tests::test_encode_pk_decode_pk_42 ... ok
test ntt_512::tests::test_ntt_1 ... FAILED

failures:
    ntt_512::tests::test_ntt_1

test result: FAILED. 34 passed; 1 failed; 0 ignored; 0 measured; 0 filtered out

error: test failed, to rerun pass '--lib' _
```

#### cargo bench



```
8
```

## Immutability by default

```
let a: u32 = 0;
a += 1;
error[E0384]: cannot assign twice to immutable variable `a`
 --> src/main.rs:3:5
2
       let a: u32 = 0;
            first assignment to `a`
            help: make this binding mutable: `mut a`
3
       a += 1;
       ^^^^^ cannot assign twice to immutable variable
```

# **Immutability by default**

```
let mut a: u32 = 0; a += 1;
```

```
dbg!(&a);
a = dbg!(&a) + 3;
```

```
[example.rs:4] &a = 1
[example.rs:5] &a = 1
```

```
u8 u16 u32 u64 u128
i8 i16 i32 i64 i128
isize usize f32 f64
bool char
```

- → type suffix notation: 42**u8**
- → data type boundary value: in stdlib, e.g. std::u32::MAX

```
42 42_000 0xFF 0o777 0b0010_1010
1. 1e6 -4e-4f64 std::f64::INFINITY
std::f64::NAN 1usize true false 'c'
```

- → type inference to determine data type
- → default integer type is i32

```
"C escape sequences\n, Unicode scalars\u{0042}"
r"skip \backslash interpretation"
b"byte array from ASCII chars"
"multiline
 string"
"eat all \
      leading whitespace"
r#"number of balanced hashes
is arbitrary
"#
Two types: &str and String
```



- overflow-checks: true in debug mode, false in release mode
- integer types have method checked\_add, overflowing\_add, saturating\_add, and wrapping\_add
- u16 as u32 for coercion
- Logical left shift. Logical right shift on unsigned integer types.
   Arithmetic shift on signed integer types.
- assert\_eq!(-4 % 7, -4);

# **Composite types: tuples**

```
fn create_tuple() -> (u32, u64) {
  (4, 2)
fn main() {
 let (a, b) = (4, 2);
 // comparison by equality
  assert_eq!((4, 2), create_tuple());
  let pair = create tuple();
  // access by tuple.{zero-based index}
 assert_eq!(a, pair.0);
}
```

# Composite types: array

```
let all_zero = [0u8; 32]; // type: [u8; 32]
let mut init = [9, 2, 3]; // type: [{integer}; 3]
let initial = [1u8, 2, 3];// type: [u8; 3]
init[0] = 1;
//init[4] = 1; // compile or runtime error
assert_eq!(initial, init);
assert_eq!(initial, initial.clone());
let first_5: &[u8] = &all_zero[0..5];
let first_5: &[u8] = &all_zero[ ..5];
let first_6: &[u8] = &all_zero[0..=5];
   arrays: [u8; 32], [f64; 8],...
    slices: [u8], [f64], ...
```

```
std::vec::Vec<T> is part of the standard library.
```

```
let mut vec: Vec<u8> = Vec::new();
```

```
std::vec::Vec<T> is part of the standard library.
let mut vec = vec![];
```

std::vec::Vec<T> is part of the standard library.

let mut vec = vec![];
vec[0];
// thread 'main' panicked at
// 'index out of bounds: the len is 0 but the index is 0',

```
std::vec::Vec<T> is part of the standard library.
let mut vec = vec![];
```

 $\verb|std::vec::Vec<T>| is part of the standard library.$ 

```
let mut vec = vec![];
vec.push(5);
vec.extend(vec![3, 4]);
vec[0] = 7;
```

std::vec::Vec<T> is part of the standard library.

```
let mut vec = vec![];
vec.push(5);
vec.extend(vec![3, 4]);
vec[0] = 7;
assert_eq!(vec[0], 7);
assert_eq!(vec.len(), 3);
assert_eq!(vec.pop(), Some(4));
```



std::vec::Vec<T> is part of the standard library.

```
let mut vec = vec![];
vec.push(5);
vec.extend(vec![3, 4]);
vec[0] = 7;
assert_eq!(vec[0], 7);
assert_eq!(vec.len(), 3);
assert_eq!(vec.pop(), Some(4));
vec.sort();
vec.sort_unstable();
```



std::vec::Vec<T> is part of the standard library.

```
let mut vec = vec![];
vec.push(5);
vec.extend(vec![3, 4]);
vec[0] = 7;
assert_eq!(vec[0], 7);
assert_eq!(vec.len(), 3);
assert_eq!(vec.pop(), Some(4));
vec.sort();
vec.sort_unstable();
let elements: &[u8] = &vec[0..2];
```



# **Composite types: struct**

```
struct HashAlgorithm {
  state: [u8; 32],
  security_margin: u32,
  names: Vec<String>,
```

# Composite types: struct

```
struct HashAlgorithm {
  state: [u8; 32],
  security_margin: u32,
  names: Vec<String>,
fn main() {
  let h = HashAlgorithm{
    state: [0u8; 32],
    security_margin: 128,
    names: vec!["SHA-2".to_string(),
                "SHA-256".to_string()],
 };
  println!("aliases → {}", h.names.join(", "))
Output: aliases → SHA-2, SHA-256
```

# Composite types: struct must be sized

```
struct HashAlgorithm {
    state: [u8; 32],
    security_margin: u32,
    names: Vec<String>,
    input_bytes: [u8],
}
```

#### Structs must be sized:

# Composite types: struct: alignment

```
use std::mem::{size_of, align_of};
struct HashAlgo {
 security_margin: u32, // 4 bytes
  names: Vec<String>, // 24 bytes
 state: [u8; 9], // 9 bvtes
fn main() {
  assert_eq!(size_of::<HashAlgo>(), 40);
  assert eq!(align of::<HashAlgo>(), 8);
}
```

# Composite types: struct: alignment

```
use std::mem::{size_of, align_of};
#[repr(C)]
struct HashAlgo {
 security_margin: u32, // 4 bytes
 names: Vec<String>, // 24 bytes
 state: [u8; 9], // 9 bvtes
fn main() {
  assert_eq!(size_of::<HashAlgo>(), 48);
  assert eq!(align of::<HashAlgo>(), 8);
}
```

# Composite types: struct

```
#[derive(Debug)] // HashAlgo { security_margin: 32,
                  // names: [], state: [0, 0 ... ] }
struct HashAlgo {
  security_margin: u32, // 4 bytes
  names: Vec<String>, // 24 bytes
  state: [u8; 9], // 9 bytes
fn main() {
 let h = HashAlgo{ security_margin: 32,
     names: vec![], state: [0u8; 9] };
 println!("{:?}", h);
```

derive (Debug) is an attribute macro implementing Debug automatically.

- {:?} asks for Debug representation.
- {} asks for *Display* representation.

```
type Digest = [u8; 32]; // type alias: one type, 2 names
```

```
type Digest = [u8; 32]; // type alias: one type, 2 names
enum Result {
                         // enumerable
 Okay(Digest),
  Error(String),
fn generate_digest() -> Result {
  Result::0kay([42u8; 32])
fn main() {
  match generate_digest() {
    Result::Okay(d) => {
      for byte in d.iter() {
        print!("{:02X}", byte);
      println!("");
    },
    Result::Error(msg) => eprintln!("error: {}", msg),
```

# Error handling in rust

std::result<T, E>

- 0k(T)
- Err(E)

No exceptions, no error codes.

# **Error handling in rust**

std::result<T, E>

- 0k(T)
- Err(E)

No exceptions, no error codes.

std::option::Option<T>

- None
- Some(T)

# **Error handling in rust**

0k(T)Err(E)

std::result::Result<T, E>

result.unwrap\_or(default\_value); // ... or default



The question mark operator exits early in case of Err or returns the value otherwise.

```
fn compile(src: &str) -> Result<(), Error> {
  let tokens = tokenize(&src)?;
  let ast = parse(&tokens)?;
  // ...
  Ok(())
}
```

Return type of function must be a corresponding Result.



It is can be rewritten with a match expression:

```
fn compile(src: &str) -> Result<(), Error> {
  let tokens = match tokenize(&src) {
    Err(E) => return Err(E),
    0k(ts) \Rightarrow ts
 };
  let ast = parse(&tokens)?;
 // ...
  0k(())
```

```
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```

```
if cond { ... } else { ... }
if let Some(val) = result { ... }
loop { ... }
while cond { ... }
while let Some(val) = result { ... }
for i in 0..1024 { ... }
for elem in &vec { ... }
let pair = (2, -2);
let kind = match pair {
  (0, 0)
                                 => "invalid",
  (x @ 1..=5, y) if x + y == 0 \Rightarrow "opposites",
  (x, _{})
               if x % 2 == 1 => "odd and something",
                                 => "whatever",
};
println!("{:?} are {}", pair, kind);
```

# Functions, ownership and borrowing

# **Function syntax**

```
fn named(name1: T1, name2: T2) -> T_RETURN {}
let unnamed = |name1: T1, name2: T2| -> T_RETURN { };
{ };
```

# Function syntax

```
fn named(name1: T1, name2: T2) -> T_RETURN {}
let unnamed = |name1: T1, name2: T2| -> T_RETURN { };
{ };
Example of anonymous function usage:
use std::thread;
let handler = thread::spawn(|| {
   println!("Hello World!");
});
handler.join().unwrap();
```

# **Function syntax**

```
fn named(name1: T1, name2: T2) -> T_RETURN {}
let unnamed = |name1: T1, name2: T2| -> T_RETURN { };
{ };
Example of anonymous function usage:
use std::thread;
let handler = thread::spawn(|| {
    println!("Hello World!");
});
handler.join().unwrap();
Last expression is return value (return keyword only for early exit):
const fn get_42() -> u32 {
    42
} // const fn = C++ constexpr
```

## **Function semantics**

- No variadic arguments → slices
- Multiple return values → tuples
- · Functions can be nested
- · Definitions order in rust does not matter
- Blocks {} define scopes
- inlining via #[inline], #[inline(always)], or #[inline(never)]

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#### **Function semantics**

- No variadic arguments → slices
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#### Memory management notes:

- Stack allocation for local variables
- · Call by value or call by reference
- Arguments and return types must have known size at compilation time



- Each value in Rust has a variable that's called its owner
- There can only be one owner at a time
- Ownership can *move* from one variable to another
- When the owner goes out of scope, the value will be "dropped"



```
#[derive(Debug)]
struct Stats { score: u32 }
fn sub(mut s: Stats) {
  s.score += 1;
fn main() {
  let a = Stats { score: 8 };
  sub(a);
```



```
#[derive(Debug)]
struct Stats { score: u32 }
fn sub(mut s: Stats) {
  s.score += 1;
fn main() {
  let a = Stats { score: 8 };
  sub(a);
  println!("{:?}", a);
```

```
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```

```
error[E0382]: borrow of moved value: `a`
  --> src/main.rs:10:20
8
         let a = Stats { score: 8 };
             - move occurs because `a` has type `Stats`,
               which does not implement the `Copy` trait
         sub(a);
             - value moved here
10
         println!("{}", a);
             value borrowed here after move
```



```
#[derive(Debug)]
struct Stats { score: u32 }
fn sub(mut s: Stats) {
 // owner of Stats instance = `s`
 s.score += 1;
 // `s` goes out of scope → Stats instance is dropped
fn main() {
 let a = Stats { score: 8 };
 // owner of Stats instance = `a`
 sub(a); // move Stats instance: `a` → `s`
 println!("{:?}", a); // has been dropped already
```



#### Solutions:

- Use #[derive(Debug, Copy, Clone)]. Then sub uses copied instance. Results in Stats { score: 8 }
- Return Stats instance and assign it again in main.
- Use references (borrowing ownership)

#### Benefits of ownership for memory safety:

• we can pin-point when a variable is dropped (across threads!)



```
let mut a = Stats { score: 8 };
let shared_ref = &a;
println!("{:?}", *shared_ref);
let mutable_ref = &mut a;
println!("{:?}", *mutable_ref);
Reference a value with &.
```

Dereference a reference with \*.

auto-dereferencing: e.g. &u32 given, u32 required? Dereference automatically. Best practice: Dereference explicitly.



#### Rules:

- one or more shared references (&T) to a resource
- exactly one mutable reference (&mut T)
- either or, not both! ("aliasing xor mutation")

Benefits of reference limitations for memory safety:

- one writer XOR n readers in concurrent context
- prevents data races

# Ownership example with borrowing

```
#[derive(Debug)]
struct Stats { score: u32 }
fn sub(s: &mut Stats) {
  s.score += 1;
fn main() {
  let mut a = Stats { score: 8 };
  // ownership of `a` is borrowed to `s`
  sub(&mut a);
  // ownership of `s` is returned back to `a`
  println!("{:?}", a);
```

#### Basic idea:

- How long does the referenced value live?
- · Where do values live?
  - scopes
  - 'static (i.e. "lives as long as the program")
  - ...
- A lifetime is denoted 'a, 'b or 'c
- Lifetime elision: compiler has automatic rules which derive lifetimes
- In function signatures and struct members, we sometimes need to declare the lifetime explicitly.

#### Benefits of lifetimes for memory safety:

• Solves the use-after-free problem



```
struct Stats {
  score: &mut u32,
...with lifetimes becomes ...
struct Stats<'a> {
  score: &'a mut u32,
```



- methods can be associated with a struct
- does not depend on self → static methods
- let op = Xor::new();
   op.name() is syntactic sugar for Xor::name(op)

```
struct Xor { init: [u8; 32] }
impl Xor {
    fn new() -> Xor {
        Xor { init: [0u8; 32] }
    }
    fn name(&self) -> &'static str { "xor" }
}
```



- Nominal type system, based on Hindley-Milner
- traits like contracts, default method implementations possible
- trait must be in scope to be used (use keyword)
- no subtyping, no inheritance, but method overloading
- · marker traits: no methods to implement, but **impl** Trait **for** Type {} to declare some property e.g. std::marker::Send: Types that can be transferred across thread boundaries.
- extension traits: Add functionality to primitive/stdlib types

#### Trait coherence:

"... we can implement a trait on a type only if either the trait or the type is local to our crate"

```
trait HashAlgorithm256 {
  const OUTPUT_SIZE: u32 = 256;
  fn hash(&self, content: &[u8]) -> [u8; 32];
}
impl HashAlgorithm256 for Xor {
  fn hash(&self, content: &[u8]) -> [u8; 32] {
    let mut digest = self.init;
    for (i, byte) in content.iter().enumerate() {
      digest[i % 32] ^= byte;
    digest
```

#### **Generics**

- T is an abstract type
- rust allows to be generic over types (but not values)
- implementation by monomorphization: optimized code for each type in executable (like C++ templates)

```
fn add<T>(a: T, b: T) -> T
  where T: std::ops::Add<Output = T>
{
    a + b
}

fn main() {
    println!("{}", add(3u8, 5));
    println!("{}", add(3f32, 5.));
}
```

## unsafe

```
\#\lceil cfg(any(target\ arch = "x86",\ target\ arch = "x86\ 64"))\rceil
fn rdtsc {
    let (mut eax, mut ebx, mut ecx) = (0, 0, 0);
    unsafe {
         asm! ("rdtscp",
              out("eax") eax,
              out("ecx") ecx,
              out("edx") edx);
```

- 1. Dereference a raw pointer (const \*)
- 2. Call an **unsafe** function or method
- 3. Access or modify a mutable static variable
- 4. Implement an unsafe trait
- 5. Access fields of unions

#### Macros

 Three kinds of macros function-like macros (println! ("hi")) derive macros (derive (Debug)) 3. attribute-like macros (cfg(target\_arch = "x86")) macro\_rules! shake { (update \$base:ident with \$(\$elem:expr, )\*) => { \$( \$base.update(\$elem); )\* }; Input: shake!(update h with &data, &[b' '], &data2,);

#### Output:

}

```
h.update(&data);
h.update(&[b' ']);
h.update(&data2);
```



- Stack requires Sized, opposite is ?Sized
- Heap allocations via special types
- e.g. Box, Rc, Arc

```
fn main() {
   let a = Box::new(5);
   let b = Box::new(6);
   assert_eq!(11, *a + *b);
}
```





```
Assume fn store(toml: TomlTree).
let input: &str = r#"[package]\nkey = "value" "#;
match input.parse() {
  Ok(toml) => store(toml),
  Err(error) => panic!("failed to parse TOML"),
};
Implementation of str.parse:
pub fn parse<F: FromStr>(&self)
    -> Result<F, <F as FromStr>::Err>
{
    FromStr::from_str(self)
```

# WebAssembly

#### rustup target add wasm32-unknown-unknown

```
[dependencies] # in Cargo.toml
wasm-bindgen = "0.2"
#[wasm_bindgen] // in lib.rs
pub fn add(a: i32, b: i32) -> i32 { a + b }
  wasm-pack build --target web
const wasm = await init("./pkg/webassembly_example_bg.wasm");
const sum = wasm.add(20, 22);
document.body.textContent = `computed in WASM: ${sum}`;
                    Hello World - Rust - Mozilla Firefox
            Hello World - Rust
```

computed in WASM: 42

# Critical parts

- Long compilation times
  - compare with golang
  - see also perf.rust-lang.org
- Multi-pass compiler
  - 1. fix lexical errors
  - 2. fix types
  - 3. fix borrows
  - 4. fix lifetimes
  - 5. ...
- "Vec<Rc<RefCell<Box<Trait>>>>? Is there a better way?"

#### Resources

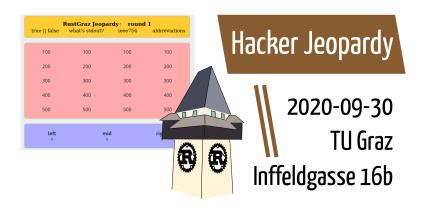
#### Official documentation:

- Rust book
- Rust by example
- Rust website: learn page

#### Event-based:

- RustFest conference (talks on youtube)
- RustGraz local meetup

**Book: Rust in Action** 



# https://github.com/prokls/iaikrust

Thank you! Q/A?





- SIMD, atomic ops, Mutex/CondVar, Once, RwLock, Barrier
- crossbeam-channel
- OS threads
- async & await since rust 1.39 requires executor/reactor/waiter like tokio/smol/async-std uses Futures
- shared memory

# Concurrency

#### Are we ...yet?

- GUI
- (Machine) learning
- Web
- game
- audio

via Mozilla: Areweyet