

Generics or Traits? How about Both?

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Types

So far:

Struct: this *and* that.

Enum: this *or* that (with help from **Pattern Matching**).

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Enum: this *or* that (with help from **Pattern Matching**).

Today:

Generics: *shared code* for many kinds of types.

Traits: *contract obligation* (interface).

Type Bounds: generics constrained by traits.

Errors: a use case using all of the above.

Generics

A simple example: in-place reversal of an array

```
1 fn reverse(slice: &mut [i32]) {  
2     if slice.len() > 0 {  
3         let mut i = 0;  
4         let mut j = slice.len() - 1;  
5         while i < j {  
6             slice.swap(i, j);  
7             i += 1;  
8             j -= 1;  
9         } } }
```

Rust

A simple example: in-place reversal of an array

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Rust

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5         while i < j {  
6             slice.swap(i, j);  
7             i += 1;  
8             j -= 1;  
9         } } */ }
```

Rust

What if we also want a reverse for `&mut [char]`?

A simple example: in-place reversal of an array

```
1 fn reverse_char(slice: &mut [char]) {  
2     /* if slice.len() > 0 {  
3         let mut i = 0;  
4         let mut j = slice.len() - 1;  
5         while i < j {  
6             slice.swap(i, j);  
7             i += 1;  
8             j -= 1;  
9         } } */ }
```

Rust

A simple example: in-place reversal of an array

```
1 fn reverse_i32(slice: &mut [i32]) {  
2     /* some lengthy code */  
3 }  
4  
5 fn reverse_char(slice: &mut [char]) {  
6     /* the same lengthy code as above */  
7 }
```

Rust

A simple example: in-place reversal of an array

```
1 fn reverse_i32(slice: &mut [i32]) {  
2     /* some lengthy code */  
3 }  
4  
5 fn reverse_char(slice: &mut [char]) {  
6     /* the same lengthy code as above */  
7 }
```

Rust

That's a lot of duplicated code already!

Can we do better?

Solution: **generic** in-place reversal of an array

```
1  //          v--- for any type T
2  fn reverse<T>(slice: &mut [T]) {
3  //          ^--- a mut ref to an array of that type T
4  /*  if slice.len() > 0 {
5      let mut i = 0;
6      let mut j = slice.len() - 1;
7      while i < j {
8          slice.swap(i, j);
9          i += 1;
10         j -= 1;
11     } } */ }
```

Rust

A simple example: client code

```
1  fn reverse<T>(slice: &mut [T]) { /* some lengthy code */ }
2
3  let mut numbers = [1, 2, 3, 4];
4  let mut letters = ['a', 'b', 'c'];
5  /*
6   reverse(&mut numbers);           // results in: [4, 3, 2, 1];
7   reverse(&mut letters);           // ['c', 'b', 'a'];
8   reverse(&mut [1.0, 1.5, 2.0]);    // [2.0, 1.5, 1.0]. */
```

Rust

A simple example: client code

```
1 fn reverse<T>(slice: &mut [T]) { /* some lengthy code */ }Rust
2
3 let mut numbers = [1, 2, 3, 4];
4 let mut letters = ['a', 'b', 'c'];
5
6 reverse(&mut numbers);           // results in: [4, 3, 2, 1];
7 reverse(&mut letters);           // ['c', 'b', 'a'];
8 reverse(&mut [1.0, 1.5, 2.0]);   // [2.0, 1.5, 1.0]
```

In C++ this is often called a “template”.

Generics

- A generic is a placeholder for a type.
- Functions with a *generic type parameter* are *polymorphic*.
- **Monomorphization**: at compile time, each concrete type generates its own concrete function.

<https://godbolt.org/z/Mz71shEr4>

<https://godbolt.org/z/e1fK3a3hf>

```
1 fn reverse<T>(slice: &mut [T]) { /* some lengthy code */ }
2
3 // monomorphizes once for `&mut [i32]`
4 reverse(&mut numbers);
5 // and once for `&mut [char]`
6 reverse(&mut letters);
```

Rust

Is this how we design our types in real-world code?

```
1 fn reverse<T>(slice: &mut [T]) { /* some lengthy code */ }
```

Rust

```
2
```

```
3 let mut numbers = [1, 2, 3, 4];
```

```
4 let mut letters = ['a', 'b', 'c'];
```

```
5
```

```
6 reverse(&mut numbers);
```

```
7 reverse(&mut letters);
```

Is this how we design our types in real-world code?

```
1 fn reverse<T>(slice: &mut [T]) { /* some lengthy code */ }
```

Rust

```
2
```

```
3 let mut numbers = [1, 2, 3, 4];
```

```
4 let mut letters = ['a', 'b', 'c'];
```

```
5
```

```
6 reverse(&mut numbers);
```

```
7 reverse(&mut letters);
```

In real-world code these simple arrays are generally part of more complex types.

Is this how we design our types in real-world code?

We normally wrap our simple types in **structs**:

```
1 struct Packet{  
2     /* other fields */  
3     data: [i32; 4],  
4 }
```

Rust

Is this how we design our types in real-world code?

We normally wrap our simple types in **structs**:

```
1 struct Packet{
2     /* other fields */
3     data: [i32; 4],
4 }
```

Rust

Generic types work for structs too:

```
1 struct Packet<T>{
2     /* other fields */
3     data: [T; 4],          /* The struct holds a data array of type T */
4 }
```

Rust

Is this how we design our types in real-world code?

We normally wrap our simple types in **structs**:

```
1 struct Packet{
2     /* other fields */
3     data: [i32; 4],
4 }
```

Rust

Generic types and **generic consts** work for structs too:

```
1 struct Packet<T, const N: usize>{
2     /* other fields */
3     data: [T; N],                /* Struct holds N elements of type T. */
4 }
```

Rust

Generic types and consts

```
1 struct Packet<T, const N: usize>{  
2     /* other fields */  
3     data: [T; N],  
4 }
```

Rust

Create type aliases for the kind of Packet structs I may need:

```
1 type NumPacket = Packet<i32, 4>;  
2 type CharPacket = Packet<char, 3>;  
3  
4 let mut numbers = NumPacket::new([1, 2, 3, 4]);  
5 let mut letters = CharPacket::new(['a', 'b', 'c']);
```

Rust

Generic types and consts

```
1 struct Packet<T, const N: usize>{  
2     /* other fields */  
3     data: [T; N],  
4 }
```

Rust

Implement reverse for all Packet structs:

```
1 impl <T, const N: usize> Packet<T,N> {  
2  
3     fn reverse(slice: &mut Self) { /* some lengthy code */ }  
4 }
```

Rust

Generic types and consts

Implement reverse for all Packet structs:

```
1  impl <T, const N: usize> Packet<T,N> {  
2  
3      fn reverse(slice: &mut Self) {  
4          if slice.data.len() > 0 {  
5              /* some lengthy code */  
6          } } }
```

Rust

Generic types and consts

Implement reverse for all Packet structs:

```
1  impl <T, const N: usize> Packet<T,N> {  
2  
3      fn reverse(slice: &mut Self) {  
4          if N > 0 { // the length is actually a const  
5              /* some lengthy code */  
6              } } }
```

Rust

Generic types and consts

Implement reverse for all Packet structs:

```
1  impl <T, const N: usize> Packet<T,N> {
2
3      fn reverse(slice: &mut Self) {
4          if N > 0 {                                // the length is actually a const
5              /* some lengthy code */
6          } } }
```

Rust

Delegate part of your program logic to the type system (**zero cost abstraction**):

- during monomorphization N will be replaced by an actual constant, thus
- the if statement disappears completely in the concrete reverse functions.

Generic types and consts

Use a **const generic** when:

- The value is known at compile time.
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```
1 struct Packet<T, const N: usize, const DEDUPLICATE: bool>{  
2     /* other fields */  
3     data: [T; N],  
4 }
```

Rust

Generic types and consts

Use a **const generic** when:

- The value is known at compile time.
- You want zero runtime overhead (the value affects the type itself).

```
1 struct Packet<T, const N: usize, const DEDUPLICATE: bool>{  
2     /* other fields */  
3     data: [T; N],  
4 }
```

Rust

```
1 struct Packet<T, const N: usize, const MAX_SIZE: usize>{  
2     /* other fields */  
3     data: [T; N],  
4 }
```

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Generic types and consts

Use a **const generic** when:

- The value is known at compile time.
- You want zero runtime overhead (the value affects the type itself).

Use struct **fields as flags** when:

- The value may vary at runtime between instances.
- You want dynamic flexibility without making the type dependent on it.

Generics

- **Polymorphic functions:** make a function work for any type.

```
1 fn reverse<T>(slice: &mut [T]);
```

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```
1 fn get_first<'a>(v: &'a Vec<i32>, x: &'a i32) -> &'a i32
```

Rust

Generics

- **Polymorphic functions:** make a function work for any type.
- **Generic structs:** parameterize the type of fields.

```
1 struct Packet<T, const N: usize>{  
2     /* other fields */  
3     data: [T; N],  
4 }
```

Rust

Generics

- **Polymorphic functions:** make a function work for any type.
- **Generic structs:** parameterize the type of fields.
- **Generic enums:** can hold different types generically.

```
1 enum Option<T> {  
2     Some(T),  
3     None,  
4 }
```

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Generics

- **Polymorphic functions:** make a function work for any type.
- **Generic structs:** parameterize the type of fields.
- **Generic enums:** can hold different types generically.
- **Impl blocks:** implement methods for a generic struct or enum.

```
1  impl <T, const N: usize> Packet<T,N> { /* */ }
```

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Traits

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A trait defines a behavior that selected types must implement (like interfaces).

- *type contracts*—obligation to implement a behaviour (properties of types).

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- A trait is a behavior that a group of types *share*:
 - Copy: for scalar types;
 - Clone: deep copy;
 - Drop: to free memory.
- ...

Traits

A trait defines a behavior that selected types must implement (like interfaces).

- *type contracts*—obligation to implement a behaviour (properties of types).
- A trait is a behavior that a group of types *share*:
 - Copy: for scalar types;
 - Clone: deep copy;
 - Drop: to free memory.

...

```
1 trait Clone {
2     fn clone(&self) -> Self; /* a type will implement this behaviour */
3 }
```

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A Simple Trait Example

```
1 struct Id(u32);  
2 struct Point { x: f64, y: f64, }
```

Rust

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

A Simple Trait Example

```
1  struct Id(u32);
2  struct Point { x: f64, y: f64, }
3
4
5
6
7  // a function that prints any data structure in my project
8  fn print_string(item: & ???) {
9
10     println!("Item: {}", item ??? );
11
12 }
```

Rust

A Simple Trait Example: add a "stringable" behaviour

```
1  struct Id(u32);
2  struct Point { x: f64, y: f64, }
3
4  // A trait the imposes the `to_string` behavior
5  trait ToString { fn to_string(&self) -> String; }
6
7  // a function that prints any data structure in my project
8  fn print_string(item: & ???) {
9
10     println!("Item: {}", item ??? );
11
12 }
```

Rust

Solution: add a "stringable" behaviour (part-1)

```
1  struct Id(u32);
2  struct Point { x: f64, y: f64, }
3
4  // A trait the imposes the `to_string` behavior
5  trait ToString { fn to_string(&self) -> String; }
6
7  // a function that prints any data structure in my project
8  fn print_string(item: &impl ToString) {
9      //          ^--- a type implementing the ToString trait
10     println!("Item: {}", item.to_string() );
11     //          ^--- invoking the method on any item
12 }
```

Rust

Solution: implement the trait (part-2)

```
1  // A trait the imposes the `to_string` behavior
2  trait ToString { fn to_string(&self) -> String; }
3
4  // Implement the trait
5  impl ToString for ID {
6      fn to_string(&self) -> String {
7          format!("id_x{}", self.0)           // id_x0
8      } }
9  impl ToString for Point {
10     fn to_string(&self) -> String {
11         format!("Point({}, {})", self.x, self.y) // Point(1.0, 2.0)
12     } }
```

Rust

A Simple Trait Example: client code

```
1 fn print_string(item: &impl ToString) {  
2     println!("Item: {}", item.to_string());  
3 }  
4  
5 let n = ID(0);  
6 let p = Point { x: 1.0, y: 2.0 };  
7  
8 print_string(&n);           // prints: id_x0  
9 print_string(&p);           // prints: Point(1.0, 2.0)
```

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Traits vs Generics

- think of **traits** as an *obligation to implement a type behaviour*:
 - you know that any type implementing a certain trait will have this behaviour,
 - but, the developer implements the behaviour for each type (**specialisation**).
 - the behaviour could implement a *different logic* for each type.
- think of **generics** as types sharing the *same behaviour implementation*:
 - implemented behaviour shared across multiple similar types.
 - specialisation happens at compile time (monomorphization).
 - the behaviour implements *the same logic* for each type.

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 - implemented behaviour shared across multiple similar types.
 - specialisation happens at compile time (monomorphization).
 - the behaviour implements *the same logic* for each type.

Type Bounds

```
1 struct Packet<T, const N: usize>{  
2     data: [T; N],  
3 }
```

Rust

```
1 struct Packet<T, const N: usize>{
2     data: [T; N],
3 }
4
5 //      v--- the generic type T must implement ToString
6 impl <T: ToString, const N: usize> Packet<T,N> {...}
```

Rust


```
1  struct Packet<T, const N: usize>{
2      data: [T; N],
3  }
4
5  //      v--- the generic type T must implement ToString
6  impl <T: ToString, const N: usize> Packet<T,N> {
7
8      fn print(&self) {
9          for item in &self.data {
10              print!("{}", item.to_string());
11              //      ^--- rely on the fact that T implements it
12          }
13      }
14 }
```

```
1 struct Packet<T, const N: usize>{
2     data: [T; N],
3 }
4
5 impl <T: ToString, const N: usize> Packet<T,N> {
6     fn print(&self) { /* ... */ }
7 }
8
9 let mut numbers = NumPacket::new([1, 2, 3, 4]);
10 let mut letters = CharPacket::new(['a', 'b', 'c']);
11
12 numbers.print();
13 letters.print();
```

Type Bounds

So far, it feels like all we've done is find another way to do something we already knew: print!

Well, yes, because whenever we did print there was a combo of pre-defined generics and traits working out the print for us.

Type Bounds

So far, it feels like all we've done is find another way to do something we already knew: `print!`

Well, yes, because whenever we did `print` there was a combo of pre-defined generics and traits working out the `print` for us.

```
1 println!("{}", 3) (generic macro)
2   └─ format_args!("{}", 3)
3       └─ trait bound : Display (implements ToString trait)
4           └─ <i32 as Display>::fmt(&3, f)
5               └─ write!(f, "3") (monomorphized)
```

Type Bounds

So far, it feels like all we've done is find another way to do something we already knew: print!

Well, yes, because whenever we did print there was a combo of pre-defined generics and traits working out the print for us.

```
1 println!("{?:}", [1,2,3]);
```

Courtesy of `#[derive(Debug)]`

- automatically implements the `Debug` trait—similar to `ToString`.

Deriving

```
1  #[derive(Rust
2      PartialEq, Eq,      // equality checking
3      PartialOrd, Ord,    // ordering (a > b)
4      Copy, Clone,        // copying, cloning
5      Hash,                // hashing for `HashMap`
6      Debug,              // debug printing
7      Default              // automatically provides a "default value"
8  )]
9  pub struct Vector {
10     x: f64,
11     y: f64,
12 }
```

Survey

Rust Topics

So far:

- **Struct:** this *and* that.
- **Enum:** this *or* that (with help from **Pattern Matching**).
- **Generics:** *shared code* for many kinds of types.
- **Traits:** *shared contract obligation* (interface).
- **Type Bounds:** generics constrained by traits.
- *(today)* **Errors:** a use case using all of the above.

Rust Topics

So far:

- **Struct:** this *and* that.
- **Enum:** this *or* that (with help from **Pattern Matching**).
- **Generics:** *shared code* for many kinds of types.
- **Traits:** *shared contract obligation* (interface).
- **Type Bounds:** generics constrained by traits.
- *(today)* **Errors:** a use case using all of the above.

Next Lectures:

- **Iterators:** tools for processing sequences of values.
- **Box:** smart pointer for heap-allocating data.
- **Testing:** how to check that your code behaves as expected?
- **Crate Engineering:** how to think about and design your software.

Is there any Rust topic you would like us to revisit or is there a topic we do not cover but you are interested in?



Important Traits: Conversion

```
1 pub trait Into<T>: Sized {  
2     fn into(self) -> T;  
3 }  
4  
5 pub trait From<T>: Sized {  
6     fn from(value: T) -> Self;  
7 }
```

Rust

The Sized trait indicates that the size of a type is known at compile time.

<https://doc.rust-lang.org/stable/std/convert/trait.From.html>

Important Traits: Dereferencing

```
1 pub trait Deref {  
2     type Target: ?Sized;  
3  
4     fn deref(&self) -> &Self::Target;  
5 }
```

Rust

- Box is just a struct.
- But because it implements Deref it can be used like a pointer!

<https://doc.rust-lang.org/stable/std/ops/trait.Deref.html>

Important Traits: Drop

- Determines what to do when a value goes out of scope.
- Recursively called.
- This is how Vec frees its elements.

```
1 pub trait Drop {  
2     fn drop(&mut self);  
3 }
```

Rust

<https://doc.rust-lang.org/stable/std/ops/trait.Drop.html>

Vec:

- <https://doc.rust-lang.org/1.81.0/src/alloc/vec/mod.rs.html#398>
- https://doc.rust-lang.org/1.81.0/src/alloc/raw_vec.rs.html#596
- <https://doc.rust-lang.org/1.81.0/src/alloc/vec/mod.rs.html#3302>

Important Traits: Formatting

```
1 pub trait Display {  
2     fn fmt(&self, f: &mut Formatter<'_>) -> Result<(), Error>;  
3 }
```

Rust

<https://doc.rust-lang.org/stable/std/fmt/trait.Display.html>

Errors

Error Handling

Another enum in the standard library:

```
1 enum Result<T, E> {  
2     Ok(T),  
3     Err(E),  
4 }
```

Rust

It's a bit like Option if None were to wrap a value.

Error Handling

Another enum in the standard library:

```
1 enum Result<T, E> {  
2     Ok(T),  
3     Err(E),  
4 }
```

Rust

You'll often see functions like this:

```
1 fn do_thing(some_input: X) -> Result<Y, Error> {  
2     // if it goes well: Ok  
3     // if it goes bad: Err  
4 }
```

Rust

Common Error Handling Pattern

```
1  fn do_big_thing() -> Result<Output, Error> {  
2      let outcome1 = match do_small_thing1() {  
3          Ok(i) => i,  
4          Err(e) => return Err(e),  
5      };  
6      let outcome2 = match do_small_thing2(outcome1) {  
7          Ok(i) => i,  
8          Err(e) => return Err(e),  
9      };  
10     Ok(outcome2)  
11 }
```

Rust

Common Error Handling Pattern

```
1 fn do_big_thing() -> Result<Output, Error> { Rust
2     let outcome1 = match do_small_thing1() { Ok(i) => i, Err(e) =>
3         return Err(e)};
4     let outcome2 = match do_small_thing2(outcome1) { Ok(i) => i, Err(e)
5         => return Err(e)};
6     let outcome3 = match do_small_thing3(outcome2) { Ok(i) => i, Err(e)
7         => return Err(e)};
8     let outcome4 = match do_small_thing4(outcome3) { Ok(i) => i, Err(e)
9         => return Err(e)};
10    let outcome5 = match do_small_thing5(outcome4) { Ok(i) => i, Err(e)
11        => return Err(e)};
12    Ok(outcome5) }
```

Common Error Handling Pattern

So much boilerplate!

Common Error Handling Pattern

Use the `?` macro to do exactly the same:

```
1  let outcome1 = do_small_thing1()?;
```

Rust

means

```
1  let outcome1 = match do_small_thing1() {  
2      Ok(i) => i,  
3      Err(e) => return Err(e)  
4  };
```

Rust

Common Error Handling Pattern

So the big example from before becomes:

```
1 fn do_big_thing() -> Result<Output, Error> {  
2     let outcome1 = do_small_thing1()?;  
3     let outcome2 = do_small_thing2(outcome1)?;  
4     let outcome3 = do_small_thing3(outcome2)?;  
5     let outcome4 = do_small_thing4(outcome3)?;  
6     let outcome5 = do_small_thing5(outcome4)?;  
7  
8     Ok(outcome5)  
9 }
```

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Assignment: 10 minutes

Implement a function with the following signature:

Template:

```
1 fn from_file(filename: &Path) -> Result<i32, MyError>;
```

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Define MyError to account for at least 2 possible errors that from_file should handle.

Use std::path::Path for access to Path.

Error handling in real life:

```
1 pub enum MyError {
2     Io(io::Error),
3     Json(serde_json::Error),
4     Yaml(serde_yaml::Error),
5     Plist(plist::Error),
6 }
7
8 fn from_file(path: &Path) -> Result<Something, MyError>;
```

Rust

- This is an error for a single function `from_file`.
- It can fail in 4 different major ways.
- A different function might have different ways to fail.

Error handling in real life:

```
1 use thiserror::Error;  
2  
3 #[derive(Error, Debug)]  
4 pub enum MyError {  
5     Io(io::Error), // ...  
6 }
```

Rust

Error handling in real life:

```
1 use thiserror::Error;
2
3 #[derive(Error, Debug)]
4 pub enum MyError {
5     Io(io::Error), // ...
6 }
```

Rust

`#[derive(Error, Debug)]`

- `Error`: generates an implementation of `std::error::Error` for your enum.
- `Debug`: lets you print the enum with the `{:?}` formatter for debugging.

Together, these two macros save you from manually implementing the boilerplate needed to make your enum a proper error type.

Error handling in real life: (cont.)

```
1  fn read_file() -> Result<String, io::Error> { /* ... */ }
2
3  fn from_file() -> Result<String, MyError> {
4      let contents = read_file()?; // does this work? No!
5
6
7
8
9
10 }
```

Rust

Error handling in real life:

```
1 fn read_file() -> Result<String, io::Error> { /* ... */ }
```

Rust

```
2
```

```
3 fn from_file() -> Result<String, MyError> {
```

```
4     let contents = match read_file() {
```

```
5         Ok(i) => i,
```

```
6         // v--- io::Error
```

```
7         Err(e) => return Err(e),
```

```
8         //             ^--- expects MyError
```

```
9     }
```

```
10 }
```

Error handling in real life:

```
1  fn read_file() -> Result<String, io::Error> { /* ... */}
2
3  fn from_file() -> Result<String, MyError> {
4      let contents = match read_file() {
5          Ok(i) => i,
6          // v-- io::Error
7          Err(e) => return Err(MyError::Io(e));    // wrap it into MyError
8          // but then we cannot use the `?` macro!
9      }
10 }
```

Rust

Error handling in real life:

```
1  fn read_file() -> Result<String, io::Error> { /* ... */}
2
3  fn from_file() -> Result<String, MyError> {
4      let contents = match read_file() {
5          Ok(i) => i,
6          //  v-- io::Error      vvvv-- convert io::Error to MyError
7          Err(e) => return Err(e.into()),      // Implement `From` trait!
8          //      MyError--^^^^^^^^
9      }
10 }
```

Rust

Error handling in real life:

```
1  #[derive(Error, Debug)]  
2  pub enum MyError {  
3      Io(io::Error), // ...  
4  }  
5  
6  impl From<io::Error> for MyError {  
7      fn from(e: io::Error) -> Self { MyError::Io(e) }  
8  }
```

Rust

Implement the From trait (the Into trait is derived from the implementation of the From trait).

Error handling in real life:

```
1 use thiserror::Error;  
2  
3 #[derive(Error, Debug)]  
4 pub enum MyError {  
5     Io(#[from] io::Error), // ...  
6 }
```

Rust

Or, use the macro `#[from]` to automatically implement `From <io::Error>` for `MyError`.

Error handling in real life:

```
1 fn read_file() -> Result<String, io::Error> { /* ... */ }
```

Rust

```
2
```

```
3 fn from_file() -> Result<String, MyError> {
```

```
4     // this works! automatic conversion from io::Error to MyError
```

```
5     let contents = read_file()?;
```

```
6
```

```
7
```

```
8
```

```
9
```

```
10 }
```

Assignment: 10 minutes

Modify your earlier code such that it makes at least one call to a pre-defined method which returns `Result` with a pre-defined error type.

For example, you could use `read_to_string` from `std::fs`, and the `io::Error`:

Template:

```
1 use std::fs;
2 /* signature */
3 fn read_to_string<P: AsRef<Path>>(path:P) -> Result<String, io::Error>;
4 /* function invocation example ( filename has type `Path` ): */
5 let res = fs::read_to_string(&filename);
```

Rust

Dynamic Dispatch

What if we could pass a function pointer that we just call at the right time?

```
1  fn print_thing(print_fn: fn()) {  
2      print!("the thing is");  
3      print_fn(); println!()  
4  }  
5  fn print_3() { print!("3") }  
6  // ...  
7  print_thing(print_3);  
8  print_thing(print_3u64);  
9  print_thing(print_3f64);  
10 print_thing(print_hi);
```

Rust

Dynamic Dispatch

Uses a vtable (runtime type description) to create a “trait object”

```
1 fn print_thing(x: &dyn Display) {  
2     println!("the thing is {i}");  
3 }  
4  
5 print_thing(&3);  
6 print_thing(&3u64);  
7 print_thing(&3.0);  
8 print_thing(&"hi");
```

Rust

<https://godbolt.org/z/hcqGdW8z8>

Dynamic Dispatch

Advantages

- *Reduced compiled code size*: One vtable per trait object type, instead of generating a copy of the function for every concrete type (no code bloat).
- *Runtime flexibility*: can store heterogeneous types that implement the same trait (e.g. `dyn Display`).

Disadvantages

- *Runtime overhead*: each method call goes through a vtable lookup (extra indirection).
- *No inlining across the boundary*: The compiler can't inline or optimize based on the concrete type, losing some performance opportunities.

Monomorphization vs Dynamic Dispatch

Monomorphization:

- faster, more optimized, but bigger binaries.

Dynamic dispatch:

- smaller binaries, more flexible, but slower calls.

Casting - revisit

- No numeric conversions;
- No user-defined implicit casts: traits like `From` and `Into` exist, but they are explicit (`.into()`, `T::from(x)`), not automatic.

Casting - revisit

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Automatic casting:

- Reference adjustments:
 - `&mut T` $\rightarrow$ `&T`
 - `&T` $\rightarrow$ `*const T`
 - `&mut T` $\rightarrow$ `*mut T`

Casting - revisit

- No numeric conversions;
- No user-defined implicit casts: traits like `From` and `Into` exist, but they are explicit (`.into()`, `T::from(x)`), not automatic.

Automatic casting:

- Reference adjustments:
- Unsized coercions:
 - `&[T; N]` $\rightarrow$ `&[T]` (array to slice)
 - `&str` $\rightarrow$ `&dyn AsRef<str>`
 - `Box<[T; N]>` $\rightarrow$ `Box<[T]`

Casting - revisit

- No numeric conversions;
- No user-defined implicit casts: traits like `From` and `Into` exist, but they are explicit (`.into()`, `T::from(x)`), not automatic.

Automatic casting:

- Reference adjustments:
- Unsized coercions:
- Trait object coercions
 - `&T` `->` `&dyn Trait` if `T: Trait`
 - `Box<T>` `->` `Box<dyn Trait>`
 - `Rc<T>` `->` `Rc<dyn Trait>`

Casting - revisit

- No numeric conversions;
- No user-defined implicit casts: traits like `From` and `Into` exist, but they are explicit (`.into()`, `T::from(x)`), not automatic.

Automatic casting:

- Reference adjustments
- Unsized coercions
- Trait object coercions
- Function pointer adjustments
 - ``fn(T) -> U` -> `fn(T) -> U with fewer lifetime or mutability requirements`.`
 - Example: `&'static str` can be coerced to `&str` in some contexts.

Casting - revisit

- No numeric conversions;
- No user-defined implicit casts: traits like `From` and `Into` exist, but they are explicit (`.into()`, `T::from(x)`), not automatic.

Automatic casting:

- Reference adjustments
- Unsized coercions
- Trait object coercions
- Function pointer adjustments
- Closure to function pointer
 - A non-capturing closure like `|x| x + 1` can be coerced to a function pointer `fn(i32) -> i32`.

Summary

- Generics create patterns/templates of items.
- They can be instantiated with concrete types.
- (Generic) Types used can be constrained by traits.

Next week: the Iterator trait!

Repo with the exercises we tried in the class

Clone this repo for access to the exercises in this slide:

[git@github.com:andrecostea/CESE4000.git](https://github.com/andrecostea/CESE4000)