Presentation by Dion Dokter

What's Rust all about?

Introduction

Who am I?

- Dion Dokter
- Bachelor’s Applied Computer Science at Saxion Enschede
- (Embedded) Rust since 2019
- Joined TG in late-2021
- @Geoxion on Twitter

- LoRaWAN IoT
- UWB Real Time Localization System
- Async IoT with LTE

What to expect today?

Topics:

- Rust language
- Rust embedded
- Rust, FFI & C

The language

Origins

- Announced in 2010 by Mozilla & creator Graydon Hoare
- Aimed to replace C & C++ in Firefox
  - Initially with GC & green threads
- 1.0 version released in 2015
- Major edition upgrade in 2018 & 2021
  - Stable: Old code still compiles
- Now a foundation
- The project is on github
  - 74K stars
  - 4K+ contributors

Why Rust?

According to the website rust-lang.org:

- Performance -> Systems software
  - No runtime
  - No garbage collector
- Reliability -> Safe software
  - Memory safety
  - Thread safety
- Productivity -> Happy developers
  - Friendly compiler
  - Tooling & docs

Technical overview

- Compiled language (machine code, not bytecode)
- Strongly statically typed
  - Elaborate type system
- Imperative with functional aspects
- No GC or runtime

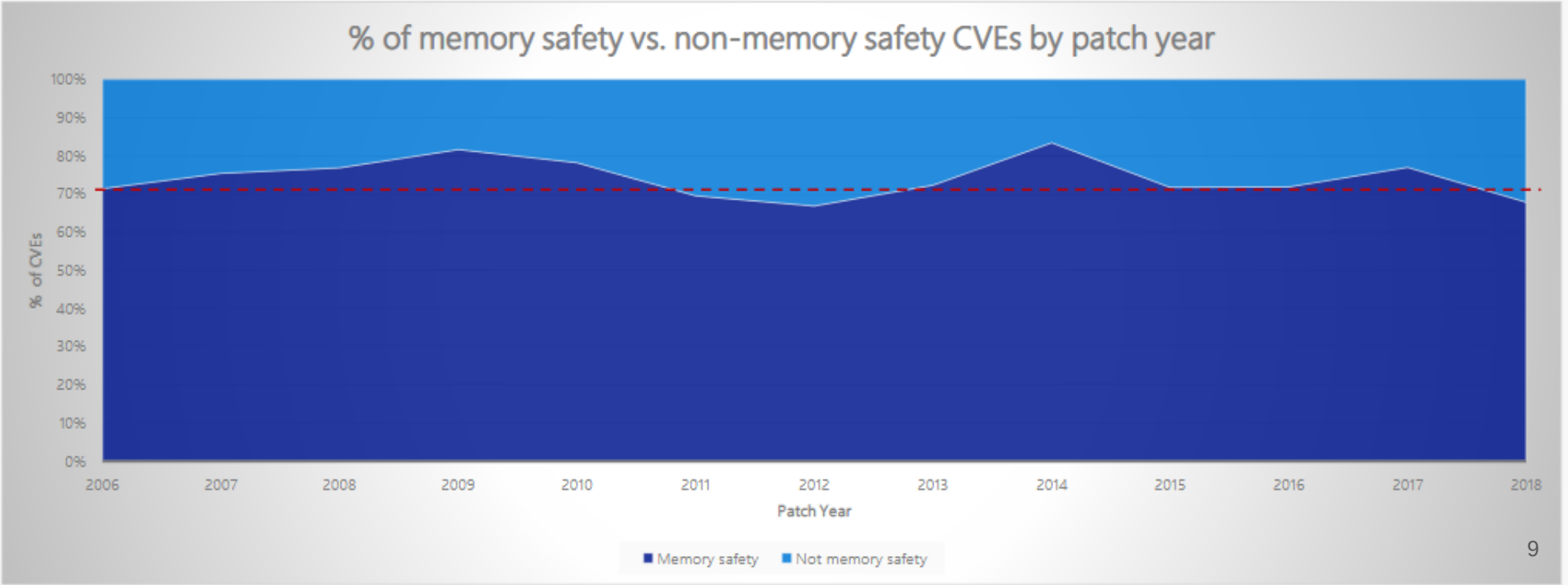
Compared to C & C++

- No segfaults*
- No buffer overflows*
- No null pointers*
- No data races*
- Powerful type system
- Unified build system
- Dependency management

* In safe Rust (which is 99% of Rust)

Compared to C & C++

We closely study the root cause trends of vulnerabilities & search for patterns



Why not Rust?

- Compile times
- Learning curve
- No certifications yet
  - Ferrocene
  - AUTOSAR
- Library maturity

Syntax

- C origins
- Curly bracket style
- ML & Haskell infused
- Expression oriented

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

fn is_prime(n: u32) -> bool {
    let limit = (n as f32).sqrt() as u32;

    for i in 2..=limit {
        if n % i == 0 {
            return false;
        }
    }

    true
}
```

Syntax

- C origins
- Curly bracket style
- ML & Haskell infused
- Expression oriented

```
fn is_prime(n: u32) -> bool {
    let limit = (n as f32).sqrt() as u32;

    (2..=limit).map(|i| n % i).all(|p| p != 0)
}
```

Generates (almost) the same assembly!

Ownership, moving & borrowing

All references (pointers) are checked at compile time:

- Every value has an owner, the variable
- Access can be borrowed by other variables
  - At most 1 mutable borrow OR infinite immutable borrows
- Ownership can be transferred by moving
- Owner out of scope = value dropped
  - Similar to C++ RAII
  - No GC required

Good compiler feedback

```rust
let x = Vec::<u8>::new();
let y = x;
drop(x);
```

```
error[E0382]: use of moved value: `x`
 --> src/main.rs:4:10
  |
2 |     let x = Vec::<u8>::new();
  |         - move occurs because `x` has type `Vec<u8>`, which does not implement the `Copy` trait
3 |     let y = x;
  |             - value moved here
4 |     drop(x);
  |          ^ value used here after move

For more information about this error, try `rustc --explain E0382`.
```

Good compiler feedback

```
let mut x = Vec::<u8>::new();
let y = &mut x;
let z = &mut x;
drop(y);
```

```
error[E0499]: cannot borrow `x` as mutable more than once at a time
 --> src/main.rs:4:13
  |
3 |     let y = &mut x;
  |             ------ first mutable borrow occurs here
4 |     let z = &mut x;
  |             ^^^^^^ second mutable borrow occurs here
...
7 |     drop(y);
  |          - first borrow later used here
```

Traits & generics

- Structs implement traits
- Traits are like interfaces in Java
- Generic bounds using traits (not unlike C++ concepts)
- Monomorphization (not unlike C++ templates)

- No classic OOP, so traits are the main abstraction mechanic

Traits & generics

Use #[derive()] to automatically implement traits

Serde is really cool btw

```rust
use serde::{Serialize, Deserialize};

#[derive(Serialize, Deserialize, Debug)]
struct Point {
    x: i32,
    y: i32,
}

fn main() {
    let point = Point { x: 1, y: 2 };

    // Convert the Point to a JSON string.
    let serialized = serde_json::to_string(&point).unwrap();

    // Prints serialized = {"x":1,"y":2}
    println!("serialized = {}", serialized);

    // Convert the JSON string back to a Point.
    let deserialized: Point = serde_json::from_str(&serialized).unwrap();

    // Prints deserialized = Point { x: 1, y: 2 }
    println!("deserialized = {:?}", deserialized);
}
```

Enums

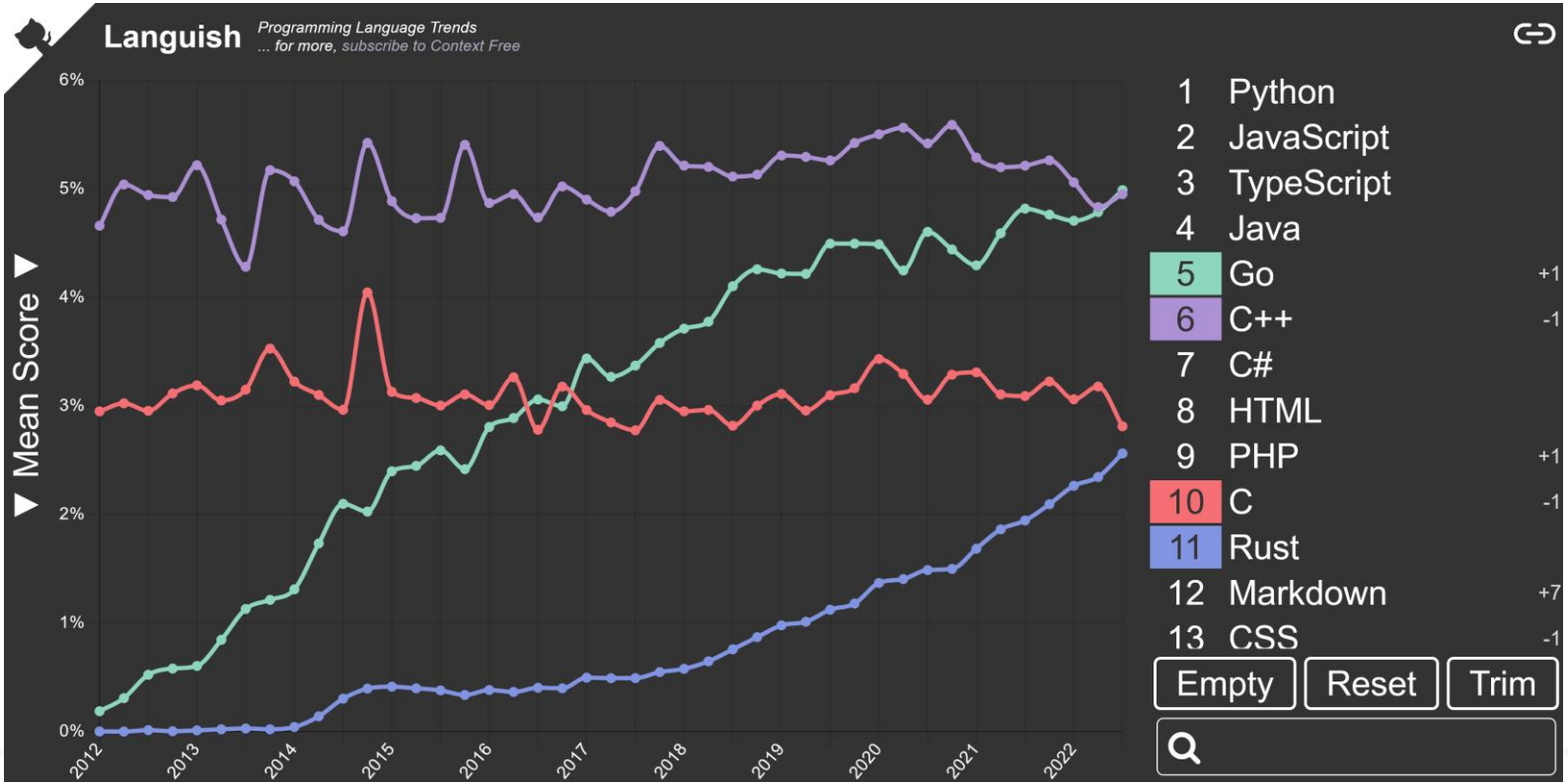
Enum variants can contain data.

Enums can implement functions & traits.

Pattern matching on enums and much more.

```
enum WebEvent {
    // An `enum` may either be `unit-like`,
    PageLoad,
    PageUnload,
    // like tuple structs,
    KeyPress(char),
    Paste(String),
    // or c-like structures.
    Click { x: i64, y: i64 },
}

// A function which takes a `WebEvent` enum as an argument and
// returns nothing.
fn inspect(event: WebEvent) {
    match event {
        WebEvent::PageLoad => println!("page loaded"),
        WebEvent::PageUnload => println!("page unloaded"),
        // Destructure `c` from inside the `enum`.
        WebEvent::KeyPress(c) => println!("pressed '{}'.", c),
        WebEvent::Paste(s) => println!("pasted \"{}\".", s),
        // Destructure `Click` into `x` and `y`.
        WebEvent::Click { x, y } => {
            println!("clicked at x={}, y={}.", x, y);
        },
    }
}
```

Increasingly popular

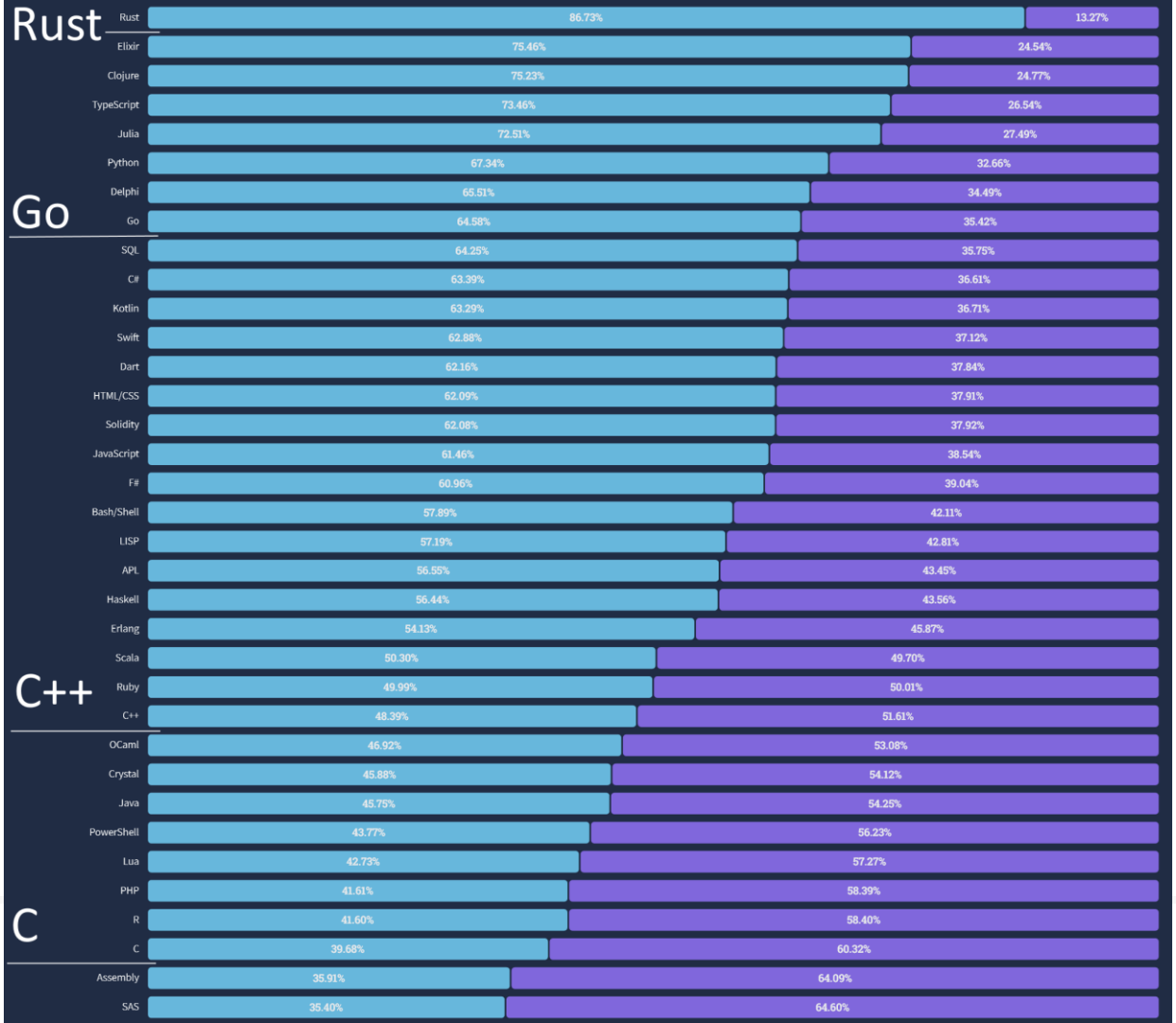


https://tjpalmer.github.io/languish/

Very well liked

7 years in a row, Rust is the most loved language.

https://survey.stackoverflow.co/2022/#technology-most-loved-dreaded-and-wanted



Lots of big players are investing

Platinum

Silver

https://foundation.rust-lang.org/members/

Embedded

Rust embedded ecosystem

- core, alloc, std
- cargo, crates, rustc
- probe-rs & more

arm

RISC-V®

Peripheral Access Crates

C

```c
#include "samd21e17l.h"

// Raw
bool is_8_cycles = ((WDT->CONFIG.reg & WDT_CONFIG_PER_Msk) << WDT_CONFIG_PER_Pos) == WDT_CONFIG_PER_8_val;
WDT->CONFIG.reg = (WDT->CONFIG.reg & ~WDT_CONFIG_PER_Msk) | WDT_CONFIG_PER_16;

// Bitfield
bool is_8_cycles = WDT->CONFIG.bit.PER == WDT_CONFIG_PER_8_val;
WDT->CONFIG.bit.PER = WDT_CONFIG_PER_16;
```

Rust

```rust
// Take ownership of the peripherals
let dp = atsamd21e::Peripherals::take().unwrap();

let is_8_cycles = dp.WDT.CONFIG.read().per().is_8();
dp.WDT.CONFIG.modify(|_, w| w.per()._8());
```

Overview


PAC
SAMD21E
PAC
nRF9160
PAC
nRF52840
PAC
STM32H743
PAC
STM32H753
PAC
STM32L476
PAC
STM32L496

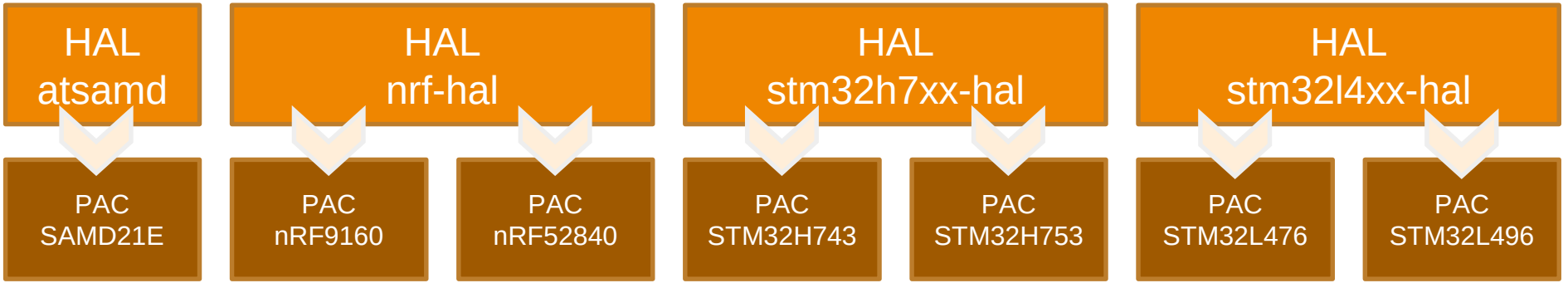
Device HALs

- Many open source HALs
  - Vendor HAL for RiscV ESP chips
  - Also async support (embassy)
- Implementation of high level chip features
- Built on top of PACs

Device HALs

```rust
#[entry]
fn main() -> ! {
    // Take the device's peripherals
    let dp = Peripherals::take().unwrap();

    // Create the timer and give it access to the peripheral
    let mut timer = Timer::periodic(dp.TIMER0);
    timer.enable_interrupt();
    timer.start(1000000u32); // Timer runs at 1 Mhz, so it will interrupt every second
    drop(timer);

    // Unmask the timer interrupt in the NVIC, this can be unsafe in some situations,
    // so we have to put it in an unsafe block
    unsafe { NVIC::unmask(Interrupt::TIMER0); }

    loop {}
}

#[interrupt]
fn TIMER0() {
    // Get a reference to the peripheral.
    // This is unsafe because only one instance may exist at a time or we'll trigger UB.
    // In this case it's fine because we dropped the timer in main.
    // Normally we wouldn't do this.
    // We'd have to use a mutex to share the timer peripheral between contexts.
    let timer = unsafe { &*TIMER0::ptr() };
    // Stop the interrupt
    timer.events_compare[0].write(|w| w);
}
```

Overview


HAL
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Cooperation

`Embedded-hal` is the glue of the entire ecosystem

- Contains abstractions for many common operations
- SPI example trait:

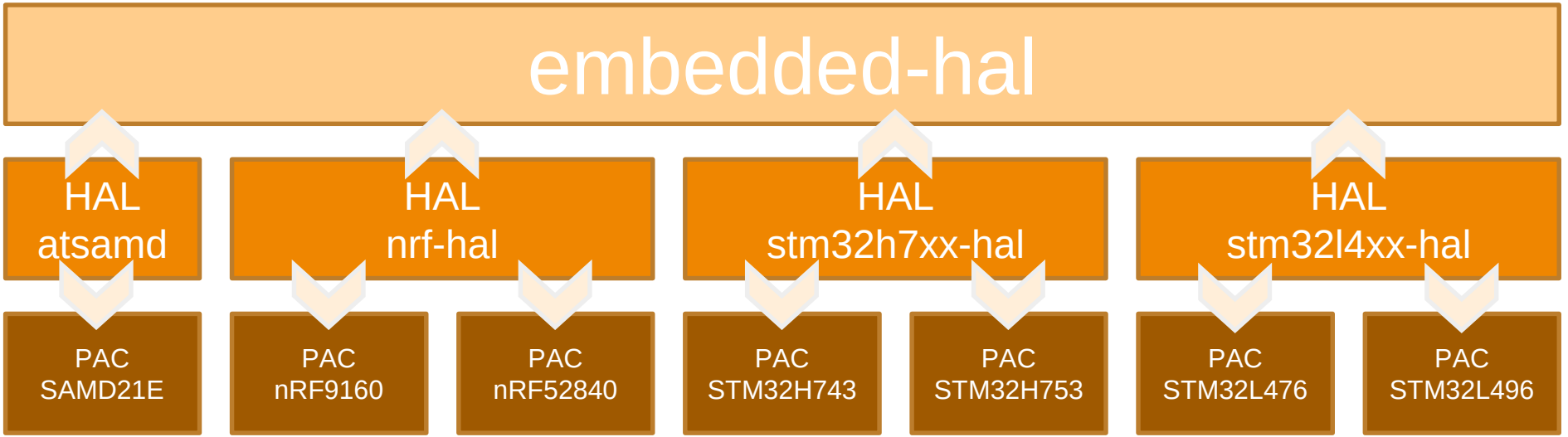
```rust
pub trait Transfer<W> {

    type Error;

    fn transfer<'w>(
        &mut self,
        words: &'w mut [W]
    ) → Result<&'w [W], Self::Error>;
}
```

FYI: SPI (Serial Peripheral Interface) is a common communication protocol to talk with other devices

Overview


embedded-hal
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Device drivers

Traits + generics

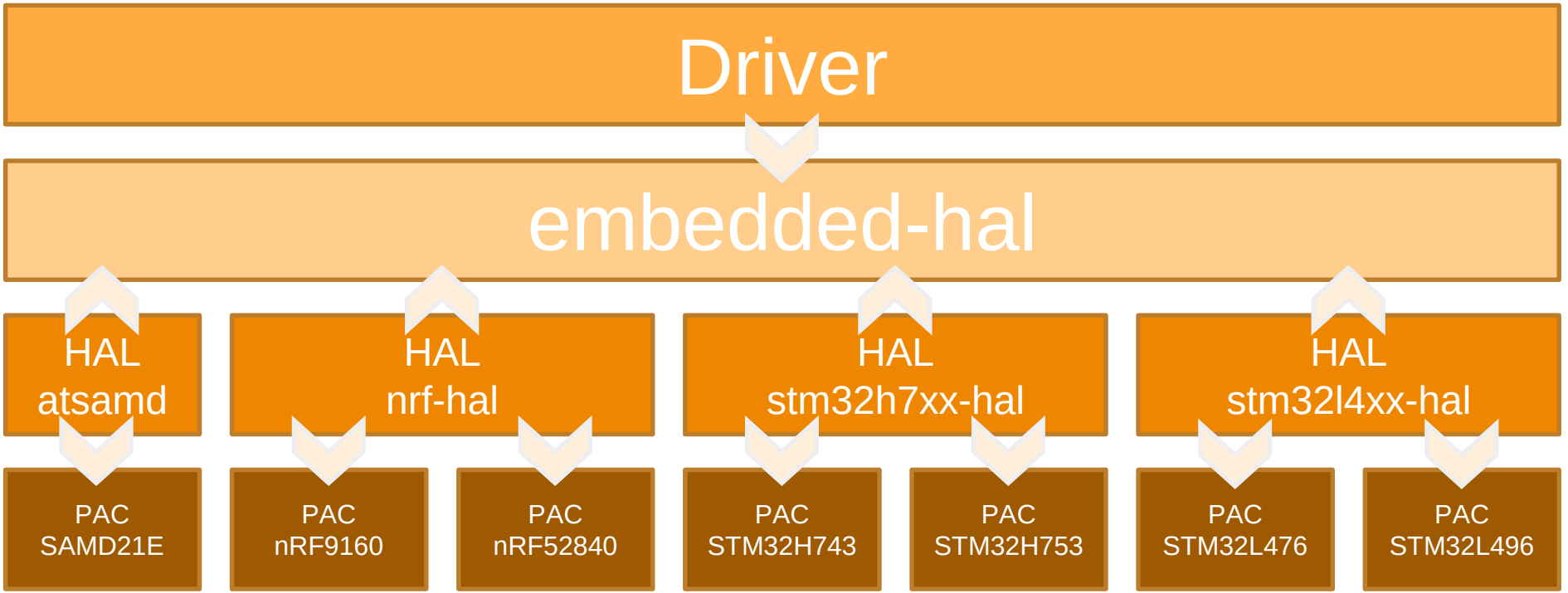
- Reuse traits from embedded-hal
- Efficient
- Convenient

Frustrating in C

- No standards
- No abstractions
  - Function pointers?
  - Extern functions?
  - Fork & implement in library?

```rust
use embedded_hal::blocking::spi;
use embedded_hal::digital::v2::OutputPin;

pub struct Device<SPI, CS>
where
    SPI: spi::Transfer<u8>,
    CS: OutputPin,
{
    bus: SPI,
    chipselect: CS,
}

impl<SPI, CS> Device<SPI, CS>
where
    SPI: spi::Transfer<u8>,
    CS: OutputPin,
{
    pub fn new(bus: SPI, chipselect: CS) -> Self {
        Self { bus, chipselect }
    }

    pub fn example(&mut self) -> u8 {
        self.chipselect.set_low().ok();
        self.bus.transfer(&mut [0xDE]).ok();
        let result = self.bus.transfer(&mut [0xAD]).ok().unwrap()[0];
        self.chipselect.set_high().ok();

        result
    }
}
```

Overview


Driver
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PAC
STM32H753
PAC
STM32L476
PAC
STM32L496

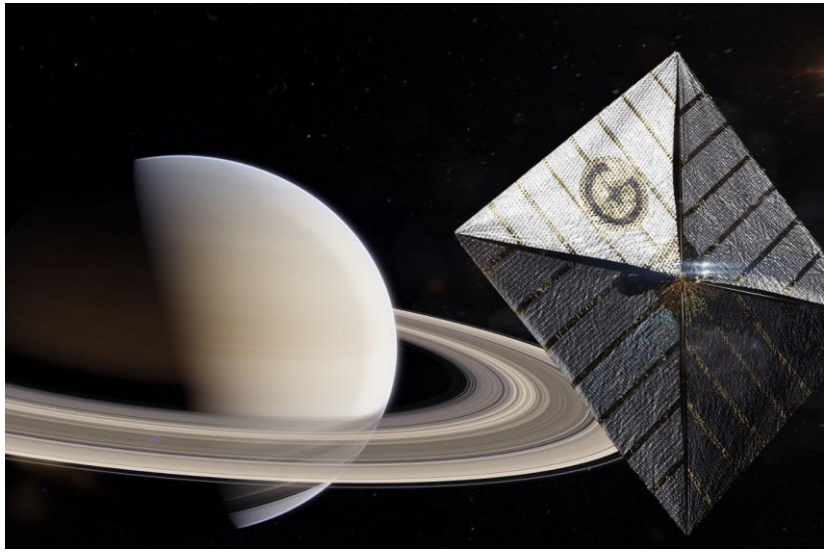
Runtimes

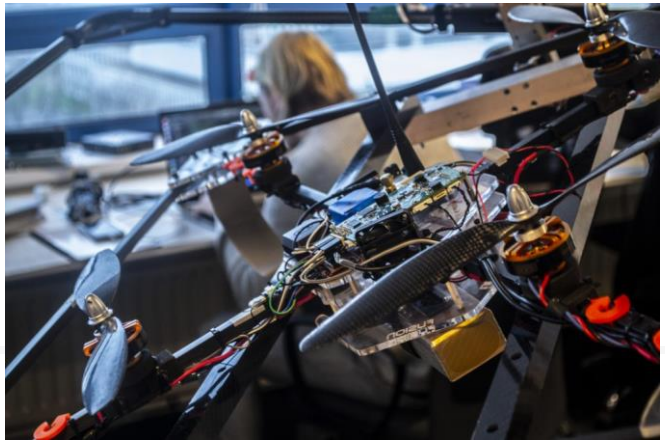
- Bare metal + interrupts
- RTIC
- RTOS
- Async

  (blog posts)

So why embedded Rust?

- Program low level devices in a high level language
  - More productive
  - Fewer bugs
  - We can still do the same cool things





Extra tools

Tools

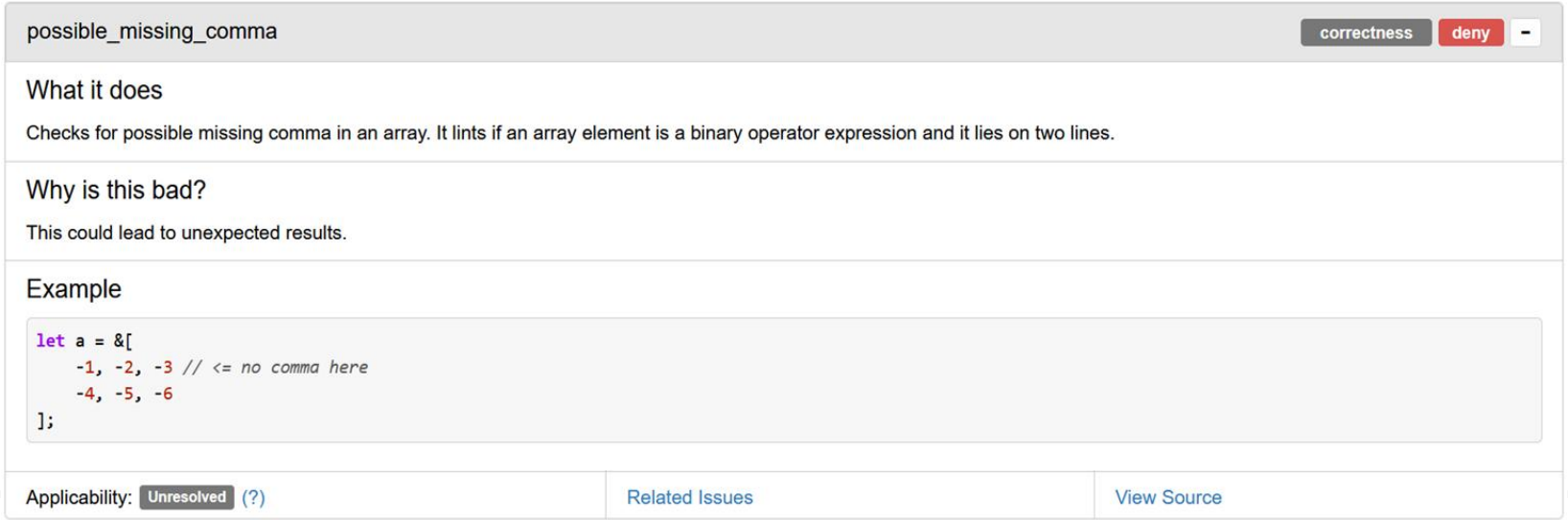
Built-in unit testing

```rust
pub fn add(a: i32, b: i32) -> i32 {
    a + b
}

// This is a really bad adding function, its purpose is to fail in this
// example.
#[allow(dead_code)]
fn bad_add(a: i32, b: i32) -> i32 {
    a - b
}

#[cfg(test)]
mod tests {
    // Note this useful idiom: importing names from outer (for mod tests) scope.
    use super::*;

    #[test]
    fn test_add() {
        assert_eq!(add(1, 2), 3);
    }

    #[test]
    fn test_bad_add() {
        // This assert would fire and test will fail.
        // Please note, that private functions can be tested too!
        assert_eq!(bad_add(1, 2), 3);
    }
}
```

Tools

Clippy:

- Prevent common mistakes
- Small efficiency improvements



possible_missing_comma

correctness deny -

What it does

Checks for possible missing comma in an array. It lints if an array element is a binary operator expression and it lies on two lines.

Why is this bad?

This could lead to unexpected results.

Example

```
let a = &[
    -1, -2, -3 // <= no comma here
    -4, -5, -6
];
```

Applicability: Unresolved (?) | Related Issues | View Source

Tools

Docs:

Markdown

Generated to html (like doxygen)

docs.rs

```rust
/// A human being is represented here
pub struct Person {
    /// A person must have a name, no matter how much Juliet may hate it
    name: String,
}

impl Person {
    /// Returns a person with the name given them
    ///
    /// # Arguments
    ///
    /// * `name` - A string slice that holds the name of the person
    ///
    /// # Examples
    ///
    /// ```
    /// // You can have rust code between fences inside the comments
    /// // If you pass --test to `rustdoc`, it will even test it for you!
    /// use doc::Person;
    /// let person = Person::new("name");
    /// ```
    pub fn new(name: &str) -> Person {
        Person {
            name: name.to_string(),
        }
    }

    /// Gives a friendly hello!
    ///
    /// Says "Hello, [name]" to the `Person` it is called on.
    pub fn hello(& self) {
        println!("Hello, {}!", self.name);
    }
}

fn main() {
    let john = Person::new("John");

    john.hello();
}
```

Tools

Docs:

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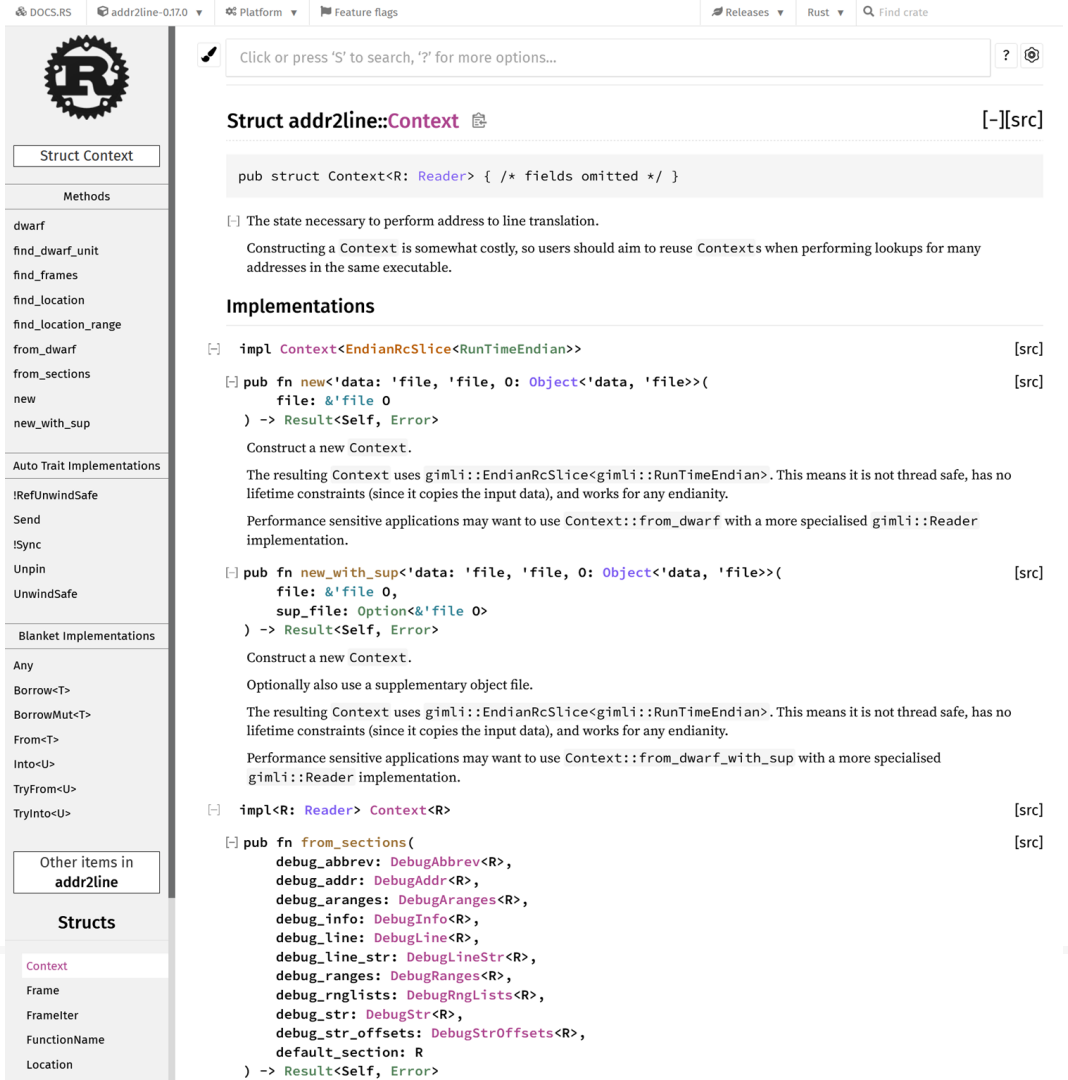
docs.rs



Many more tools

- Cargo: Package manager & build system
- rustfmt: Code formatting
- Knurling-rs (embedded)
  - Probe-run
  - Defmt
- Criterion: Microbenchmarking
- Bindings
  - rust-bindgen
  - cxx
- Any text editor using LSP (for Rust Analyzer plugin)
- Any IntelliJ IDE (for IntelliJ Rust plugin)

FFI & C

Why FFI

We cannot rewrite everything in Rust.

Sometimes we want to use a C library.

FFI

We can call C function. We need to define it and link with the C binary.

```
use libc::size_t;

#[link(name = "snappy")]
extern {
    fn snappy_max_compressed_length(source_length: size_t) -> size_t;
}

fn main() {
    let x = unsafe { snappy_max_compressed_length(100) };
    println!("max compressed length of a 100 byte buffer: {}", x);
}
```

https://doc.rust-lang.org/nomicon/ffi.html

Let's automate

We can generate the functions using bindgen

```rust
// The bindgen::Builder is the main entry point
// to bindgen, and lets you build up options for
// the resulting bindings.
let bindings: Bindings = bindgen::Builder::default() Builder
    // The input header we would like to generate
    // bindings for.
    .header("wrapper.h") Builder
    // Point to Nordic headers
    .clang_arg(format!("-I{}", nrfxlib_path)) Builder
    // Point to our special local headers
    .clang_arg("-I./include") Builder
    // Add extra paths that the C files assume are searched
    .clang_arg("-I./third_party/nordic/nrfxlib/crypto/nrf_cc310_platform/include") Builder
    .clang_arg("-I./third_party/nordic/nrfxlib/crypto/nrf_oberon") Builder
    // Disable standard includes (they belong to the host)
    .clang_arg("-nostdinc") Builder
    // Set the target
    .clang_arg("-target") Builder
    .clang_arg("arm") Builder
    .clang_arg("-mcpu=cortex-m33") Builder
    // Use softfp
    .clang_arg("-mfloat-abi=soft") Builder
    // We're no_std
    .use_core() Builder
    // Use our own ctypes to save using libc
    .ctypes_prefix("ctypes") Builder
    // Include only the useful stuff
    .allowlist_function(arg: "nrf_.*") Builder
    .allowlist_function(arg: "ocrypto_.*") Builder
    .allowlist_function(arg: "bsd_.*") Builder
    .allowlist_type(arg: "nrf_.*") Builder
    .allowlist_type(arg: "ocrypto_.*") Builder
    .allowlist_var(arg: "NRF_.*") Builder
    .allowlist_var(arg: "BSD_.*") Builder
    .allowlist_var(arg: "OCRYPTO_.*") Builder
    // Format the output
    .rustfmt_bindings(doit: true) Builder
    // Finish the builder and generate the bindings.
    .generate() Result<Bindings, BindgenError>
    // Unwrap the Result and panic on failure.
    .expect(msg: "Unable to generate bindings");
```

Let's automate

Output the file and let the compiler link with the C binary

```rust
// Write the bindings to the $OUT_DIR/bindings.rs file.
let rust_source: String = bindings.to_string();

let out_path: PathBuf = PathBuf::from(env::var(key: "OUT_DIR").unwrap()).join(path: "bindings.rs");
std::fs::write(out_path, contents: rust_source).expect(msg: "Couldn't write updated bindgen output");

// Make sure we link against the libraries
println!(
    "cargo:rustc-link-search={}",
    Path::new(&nrfxlib_path)
        .join("nrf_modem/lib/cortex-m33/hard-float")
        .display()
);
println!(
    "cargo:rustc-link-search={}",
    Path::new(&nrfxlib_path)
        .join("crypto/nrf_oberon/lib/cortex-m33/hard-float")
        .display()
);
println!("cargo:rustc-link-lib=static=modem_decompressed");
println!("cargo:rustc-link-lib=static=oberon_3.0.12");
```

```
▶ Run bindgen_test_layout_nrf_modem_shmem_cfg__bindgen_ty_1 Test | Debug | ▶ Run bindgen_test_layout_nr
include!(concat!(env!("OUT_DIR"), "/bindings.rs"));
```

Now we can use it

Function nrfxlib_sys::nrf_accept

source · [-]

```
pub unsafe extern "C" fn nrf_accept(
    socket: c_int,
    address: *mut nrf_sockaddr,
    address_len: *mut nrf_socklen_t
) -> c_int
```

[-] Accept a new connection a socket.

s See POSIX.1-2017 article for normative description.

In addition, the function shall return -1 and set the following errno: NRF_ESHUTDOWN Modem was shut down.

https://github.com/nrf-rs/nrfxlib-sys

High level wrapper

Use the low level C function to create a proper Rust wrapper

```rust
pub async fn receive<'self, 'buffer>(&'self self, buffer: &'buffer mut [u8]) -> Result<usize, Error> {
    SocketFuture::new(runner: || {
        #[cfg(feature = "defmt")]
        defmt::trace!("Receiving with socket {}", self.fd);

        let mut receive_result: i32 = unsafe {
            nrfxlib_sys::nrf_recv(self.fd, buffer.as_ptr() as *mut _, buffer.len() as u32, 0)
        };

        if receive_result == -1 {
            receive_result = get_last_error().abs().neg();
        }

        #[cfg(feature = "defmt")]
        defmt::trace!("Receive result {}", receive_result);

        const NRF_EWOULDBLOCK: i32 = -(nrfxlib_sys::NRF_EWOULDBLOCK as i32);

        match receive_result {
            bytes_received: i32 @ 0.. => Poll::Ready(Ok(bytes_received as usize)),
            NRF_EWOULDBLOCK: i32 => Poll::Pending,
            error: i32 => Poll::Ready(Err(Error::NrfError(error))),
        }
    }) SocketFuture<|  -> Poll<Result<…>>, …>
    .await
} fn receive
```

Very nice interface

Easy to use, hard to misuse

Struct nrf_modem::TcpStream

source · [-]

```
pub struct TcpStream { /* private fields */ }
```

A TCP stream that is connected to another endpoint

Implementations

impl TcpStream — source

pub async fn connect(addr: impl ToSocketAddrs) -> Result<Self, Error> — source

Connect a TCP stream to the given address

pub fn as_raw_fd(&self) -> i32 — source

Get the raw underlying file descriptor for when you need to interact with the nrf libraries directly

pub fn split_owned(self) -> (OwnedTcpReadStream, OwnedTcpWriteStream) — source

Split the stream into an owned read and write half

pub fn split(&self) -> (TcpReadStream<'_>, TcpWriteStream<'_>) — source

Split the stream into a borrowed read and write half

```
pub async fn receive<'buf>(
    &self,
    buf: &'buf mut [u8]
) -> Result<&'buf mut [u8], Error>
```
source

Try fill the given buffer with the data that has been received. The written part of the buffer is returned.

pub async fn receive_exact(&self, buf: &mut [u8]) -> Result<(), Error> — source

Fill the entire buffer with data that has been received. This will wait as long as necessary to fill up the buffer.

pub async fn write(&self, buf: &[u8]) -> Result<(), Error> — source

Write the entire buffer to the stream

pub async fn deactivate(self) -> Result<(), Error> — source

Deactivates the socket and the LTE link. A normal drop will do the same thing, but blocking.

Now we can use it

```
let google_ip: IpAddr = nrf_modem::get_host_by_name(hostname: "google.com").await.unwrap();
defmt::println!("Google ip: {:?}", defmt::Debug2Format(&google_ip));

let stream: TcpStream = embassy::time::with_timeout(
    timeout: Duration::from_millis(2000),
    fut: TcpStream::connect(addr: SocketAddr::from((google_ip, 80))),
) impl Future<Output = Result<…>>
.await Result<Result<TcpStream, …>, …>
.unwrap() Result<TcpStream, Error>
.unwrap();

stream TcpStream
    .write(buf: "GET / HTTP/1.0\nHost: google.com\r\n\r\n".as_bytes()) impl Future<Output = Result<…>>
    .await Result<(), Error>
    .unwrap();
let mut buffer: [u8; 1024] = [0; 1024];
let used: &mut [u8] = stream.receive(buf: &mut buffer).await.unwrap();

defmt::println!("Google page: {}", core::str::from_utf8(used).unwrap());
```

tweede golf

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