

Cool Things in Perl 6

brian d foy
brian@stonehenge.com
May 3, 2008

- **I'm not a Perl 6 contributor**
- **Not about the implementations**
- **Not about new syntax for old things**
- **About new features not in Perl 5**
- **Stuff that makes me want Perl 6**

Caveats

- **Cribbed from the Synopses**

<http://feather.perl6.nl/syn/>

- **Some of this might not work yet**

Stuff I want

- **Most languages can do the job**
- **But how much code does it take?**
- **And where does that code live?**
- **What's a primitive and what's built-in?**

In this talk

- **Junctions**
- **New list techniques**
- **Meta operators**

Junctions

- **A junction is a single value that is equivalent to multiple values**
- **Useful with comparisons**
- **Parallelizable**
- **Short circuitable**

Any

- **l or any()**

```
if $x == 1 | 2 | 3 { ... }
```

```
if $x eq any( q:w( a b c ) )  
  { ... }
```

- **Mutable**

```
(1 | 2 | 3 ) + 1; # 2 | 3 | 4
```


All or one

- **& or all()**

```
if $x > ( $i & $j & $k ) { ... }
```

```
if $x > all( $i, $j, $k ) { ... }
```

- **^ or one()**

```
if $x == ( $i ^ $j ^ $k ) { ... }
```

```
if $x == one( $i, $j, $k ) { ... }
```

none

- none()

```
if $x eq none( $s, $t, $u )  
    { ... }
```

Easy lists

Fancy ranges

- Lists can be unbounded

```
0 .. *
```

- Not consecutive

```
0 .. 100 :by(3)
```

Exclusive ranges

- **Exclusive lists**

$1 \dots 10$ # 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

- **0 up to one less**

5 # 0, 1, 2, 3, 4

Multiple lists

- Zip lists to iterate over them together

```
for zip(@a, @b) -> $a, $b {  
    say "Got $a and $b" }  
}
```

- Stops at shortest list

Feed operators

- Directs output to a "sink"

```
@in ==> map {...} ==> @out
```

```
@out <== map {...} <== @in
```

- Source is lazy
- Allows parallelization

Multiple sources

- Stack multiple sources with ==>>
- Looks ahead for sink

```
source1 () ==>>  
source2 () ==>>  
source3 () ==>>  
sink () ;
```

Meta operators

Superpowers

- **Give normal operators super powers**
- **Make common operations even easier**
- **Remove messy looping monkey code**

Five types

- **Assignment**
- **Negated relational**
- **Hyper**
- **Reduction**
- **Cross**

Assignment

- Binary assignment like C and Perl 5
- Normal assignment

```
$count = 5;
```

```
$count = $count + 1;
```

```
$count += 1;
```

- Mostly with scalar operators in Perl 5

More operators

- More operators (instead of builtins)
- The `,` operator to make a list

```
@array = 1, 2, 3;
```

- Binary assignment is a push

```
@array ,= 4, 5, 6
```

Negated relational

- Put a ! in front of a comparator

```
if $version !== 6 { # or !=  
    say "How are we here?" }
```

```
if $version !> 5 {  
    say "Here again?!" }
```

- Think "*isn't* greater than"

Hyperoperators

- Obviates looping for single operations
- Applies operation to each element

```
@numbers >>++;
```

```
@negatives >>-;
```

- Can do either way

```
@negatives = -<<@positives;
```

List on list

- Surround an operator with angle brackets (no extra spaces)

>>op<< <<op>>

>>op>> <<op<<

- Makes new list
- Also with french quotes

»op« «op» »op» «op«

>>op<<

- List on the left and right
- One element from each for result

(1, 2, 3) >>+<< (4, 5, 6) # 5, 7, 9

- Intersection of hash

%foo >>+<< %bar

Hypergwimmetry

- Guess What I Mean (GWIM)
- Pointing one way GWIMs on that side
- One side is "shaped" differently

`(1,2,3) >>**>> 2 # 1,4,9`

- Doesn't matter which side

`' .jpg' <<~<< q:w(a b) # a.jpg b.jpg`

`@numbers >>max>> 2`

Doublelegwimmery

- Which side needs shaping?
- Point all arrows outward
- Perl guesses

@a <<+>> @b

Reduction

- Finally, a built-in reduce

```
my $summerial = [+] @numbers;
```

```
my $factorial = [*] @numbers;
```

```
my $ascends = [<] @numbers;
```


Pseudo reduction

- Keep the intermediate results with `\op`

```
[ \+ ] ^4 ; # ( 0 , 1 , 3 , 6 ) ;
```

- Produce a triangle list

```
[ \, ] ^4
```

```
# ( [ 0 ] , [ 0 , 1 ] , [ 0 , 1 , 2 ] , [ 0 , 1 , 2 , 3 ] ) ;
```


Cross operator

- Make tuples with X

```
q:w( a b ) x ( 1, 2 )
```

```
# (a, 1) , (a, 2) , (b, 1) , (b, 2)
```

Hypercross

- Perform the operation on all tuples

`(1,2) X~X q:w (a b)`

`# 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b`

Questions