Cool Things in Perl 6

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



- I'm not a Perl 6 contributor
- Not about the implementions
- 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

I or any()

```
if $x == 1 | 2 | 3 { ... }
if $x eq any(q:w(abc))
{...}
```

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^..^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</pre>
```

- 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;</pre>
```



List on list

 Surround an operator with angle brackets (no extra spaces)

- Makes new list
- Also with french quotes



>>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



Hypergwimmery

- 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



Doublegwimmery

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



Reduction

Finally, a built-in reduce

```
my $summerial = [+] @numbers;
my $factorial = [*] @numbers;
my $ascends = [<] @numbers;</pre>
```



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(ab) 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

