

# Creating CPAN Modules with SWIG

Philosophy

Basics

Intro to XS

Intro to SWIG

Intro to Math::GSL

Module::Build and  
SWIG


Going Forward

Acknowledgements

Jonathan Leto

```
%typemap(in) double const [] {
    AV *tempav;
    I32 len;
    int i;
    SV **tv;
    if (!SvROK($input))
        croak("Math::GSL : $input is not a reference");
    if (SvTYPE(SvRV($input)) != SVt_PVAV)
        croak("Math::GSL : $input is not an array reference");

    tempav = (AV*)SvRV($input);
    len = av_len(tempav);
    $1 = (double *) malloc((len+1)*sizeof(double));
    for (i = 0; i <= len; i++) {
        tv = av_fetch(tempav, i, 0);
        $1[i] = (double) SvNV(*tv);
    }
}
```



Philosophy

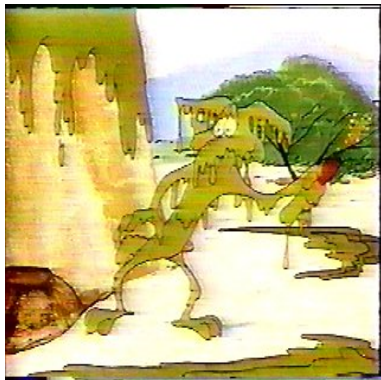
Basics

Intro to XS  
Intro to SWIG  
Intro to Math::GSL  
Module::Build and  
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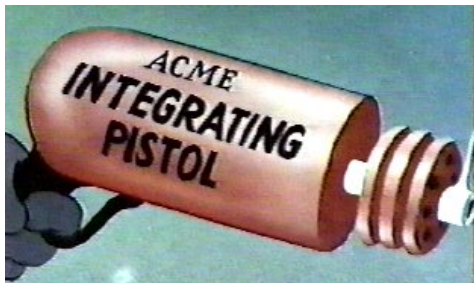
Going Forward

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# Don't Write Glue



# Use an Integrating Pistol



Need to integrate totally separate entities??  
Integrate it instantly with the ACME Integrating Pistol!!

# What is XS?

- eXternal Subroutine
- Large collection of macros which allow C/C++ method calls
- Extremely verbose
  - Math::GSL 0.10 has  $\approx 274,000$  lines of XS
- perldoc perlxs

# What is SWIG?

- Simplified Wrapper Interface Generator
- Creates a scripting language API to a C/C++ library
- 18 target languages supported
- Reads header files and transforms datatypes between languages
- Automatic argument type checking
- Concise
  - Math::GSL 0.10 has  $\approx 500$  lines of SWIG which generates  $\approx 274,000$  lines of XS

# What is Math::GSL?

- Perl Interface to the GNU Scientific Library (GSL), which is written in C
- Provides low-level access that emulates C calling style
- Also provides higher-level OO interface to some subsystems
- Broken into 48 subsystems like Vector, Matrix, RNG, Complex, Histogram, ...
- Extensive tests (3279 as of 0.10)

# Module::Build and SWIG

- Module::Build does **not** support SWIG directly
- Subclassing to the rescue!

```
my $builder = $class->new(  
  module_name      => 'Math::GSL',  
  add_to_cleanup   => [ $cleanup ],  
  create_makefile_pl => 'passthrough',  
  dist_abstract    => 'Interface to the GNU Scientific Library using SWIG',  
  dist_author      => 'Jonathan Leto <jonathap@leto.net>',  
  dist_version_from => 'Lib/Math/GSL.pm',  
  include_dirs     => q(),  
  extra_linker_flags => '-shared -I./lib -I../lib' . $ldflags,  
  extra_compiler_flags => q{-shared -fpic} . $ccflags,  
  swig_flags       => $swig_flags,  
  license          => 'gpl',  
  requires => {  
    'ExtUtils::PkgConfig' => '1.03',  
    'Scalar::Util'        => 0,  
    'Test::More'         => 0,  
    'Test::Exception'    => 0.21,  
    'Test::Class'        => 0.12,  
    version              => 0,  
    perl                 => '5.8.8',  
  },  
  sign             => 0,  
  swig_source      => [  
    ],  
  map { [ "$_i" ] } @Subsystems  
);  
$builder->add_build_element('swig');  
$builder->create_build_script();  
print "Have a great day!\n";  
Build.PL
```

# SWIG Example Code

::begin vim hack session::

```
stypemap(in) double const [] {
    AV *tempav;
    I32 len;
    int i;
    SV **tv;
    if (!SvROK($input))
        croak("Math::GSL : $input is not a reference!");
    if (SvTYPE(SvRV($input)) != SVt_PVAV)
        croak("Math::GSL : $input is not an array ref!");

    tempav = (AV*)SvRV($input);
    len = av_len(tempav);
    $1 = (double *) malloc((len+1)*sizeof(double));
    for (i = 0; i <= len; i++) {
        tv = av_fetch(tempav, i, 0);
        $1[i] = (double) SvNV(*tv);
    }
}

%apply double const [] { double *data, double *dest, double *f_in, double *f_out, double data[] };
%apply double const [] { double x[], double a[], double b[] };
%apply double const [] { const double * x, const double * y, const double * w };
%apply double const [] { const double x_array[], const double xrange[], const double yrange[] };
%apply double const [] { double * base, const double * base };
%apply double const [] { const double xrange[], const double yrange[] };
%apply double const [] { const double * array };
%apply double const [] { const double data2[], const double w[] };
```

::end vim hack session::



# Active Development Continues

- Scientific Computing applications built on top of Math::GSL
- Full `gsl_function` callback support
- Static libraries and error handlers
- Porting to Darwin and Solaris
- Threads

# Thanks

- Device::Cdio
- Thierry Moisan
- Eric Wilhelm
- #pdx.pm
- Leslie Hawthorn
- The entire Google Summer of Code crew

## More Info

- <http://www.swig.org>
- <http://leto.net/gitweb/>
- <http://leto.net/code/Math-GSL/>
- <http://groups.google.com/group/math-gsl-dev>
- <http://groups.google.com/group/perl-scientific-computing>