OAK RIDGE National Laboratory

Automated Fortran–C++ Bindings for Scientific Applications

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ORNL is managed by UT–Battelle, LLC for the US Department of Energy

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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github.com/swig-fortran

Motivation

- C++ library developers: expand user base, more opportunities for development and follow-on funding
- Fortran scientific app developers: use newly exposed algorithms and tools for your code
- Multiphysics project integration: in-memory coupling of C++ physics code to Fortran physics code
- Transitioning application teams: bite-size migration from Fortran to C++

Background

- Exascale Computing Project: many petascale scientific app codes still are primarily Fortran
- Numerical/scientific libraries are primarily C/C++
- Expose Trilinos solver library to Fortran app developers: ForTrilinos product

SWIG: *Simplified Wrapper and Interface Generator*

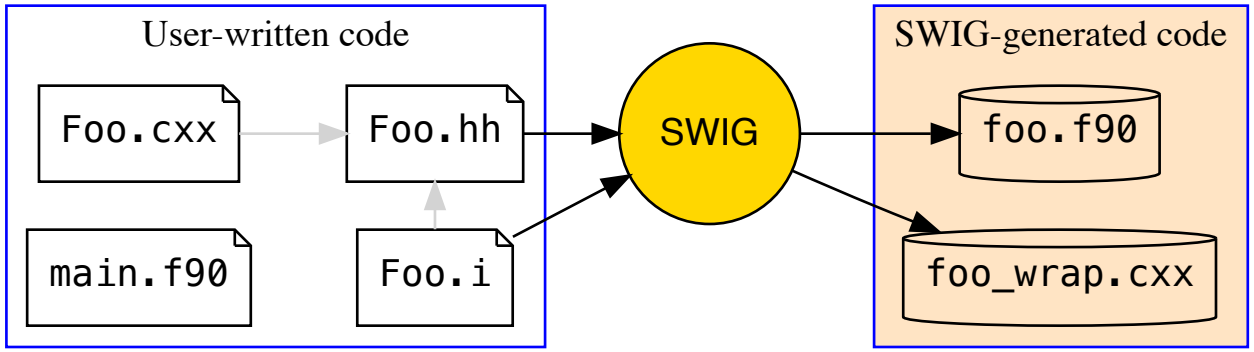
- Generate *interfaces* to existing C and C++ code and data types so that a *target language* can invoke functions and use the data
- "Glue" code: flat C-linkage wrappers to C++ functions, corresponding interfaces in target language
- Does *not* couple target languages to other target languages
- Does *not* parse target languages or create C++ proxy wrappers

Supported Languages

- Allegro CL
- C#
- CFFI
- CLISP
- Chicken
- D
- Go
- Guile
- Java
- Javascript
- Lua
- Modula-3
- Mzscheme
- OCAML
- Octave
- Perl
- PHP
- Python
- R
- Ruby
- Scilab
- Tcl
- UFFI

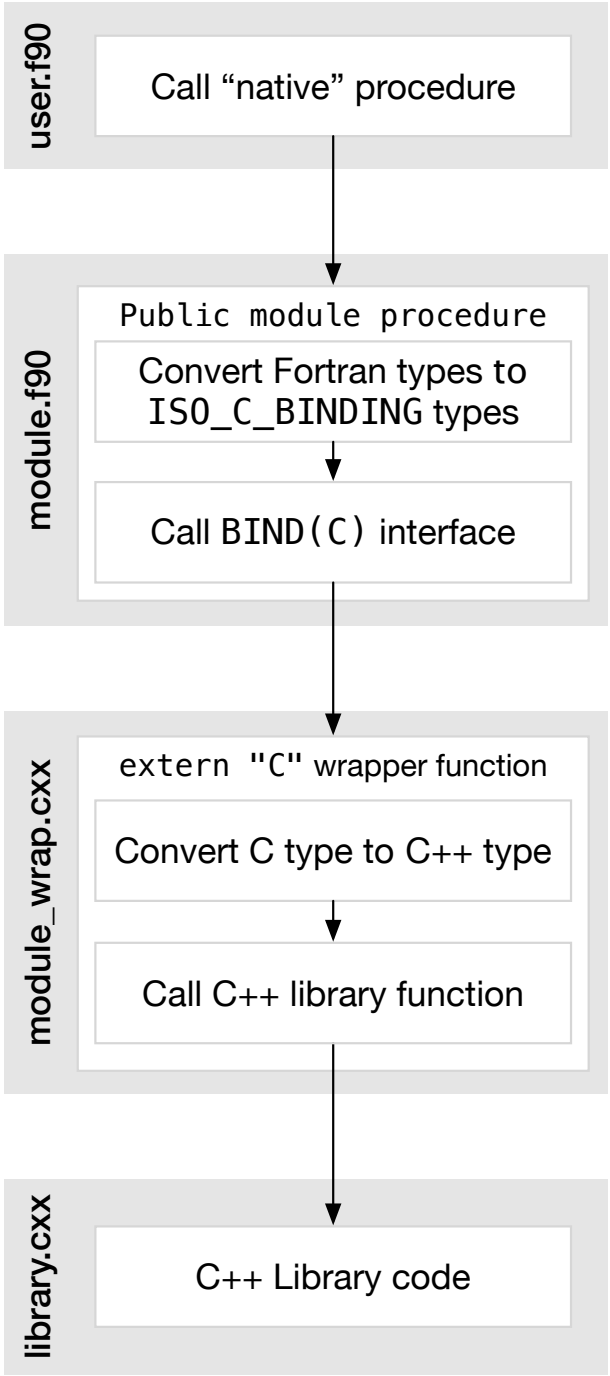
SWIG execution sequence

- SWIG reads `.i` interface file which may `%include` other C/C++ headers to parse them
  - Interface file can be as little as a couple of lines for simple interfaces
  - More difficult C++/Fortran conversions require more interface code
- SWIG *generates source code files*: `.cxx` and `.f90`
  - This wrapper code can be distributed like regular source files
  - Library users *don't need to know SWIG*



Control flow and data conversion

- Fortran 2003 standard defines C-compatible datatypes
- Use only Fortran-compatible ISO C datatypes
- Minimize data movement of numerical arrays



Features

- **Primitive types**
- Enumerations
- **Classes** (with inheritance)
- C strings and std::string
- Function pointers
- **Arrays** and `std::vector`

- **Function overloading**
- **Template instantiation**
- Compile-time constants
- **Exception handling**
- **OpenACC and Thrust**

Simple addition function: input and generated C code

```c
#ifndef simplest_h
#define simplest_h
int add(int a, int b);
#endif
```

simplest.h

```
%module simplest

%include "simplest.h"
```

simplest.i

```c
SWIGEXPORT int _wrap_add(
    int const *farg1,
    int const *farg2) {
  int fresult ;
  int arg1 ;
  int arg2 ;
  int result;
  arg1 = (int)(*farg1);
  arg2 = (int)(*farg2);
  result = (int)add(arg1,arg2);
  fresult = (int)(result);
  return fresult;
}
```

simplest_wrap.c

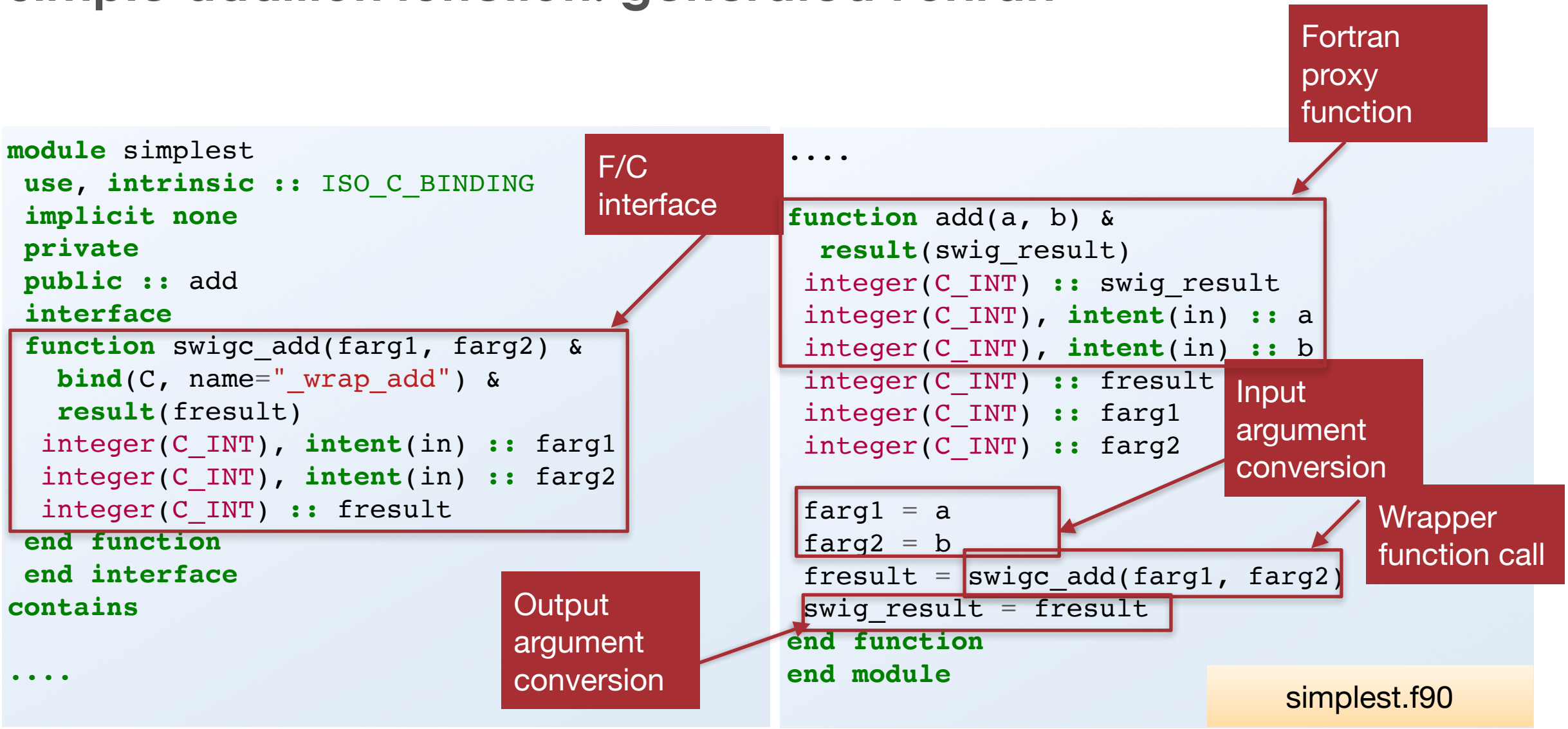
F/C interface

Input argument conversion

Wrapped function call

Output argument conversion

Simple addition function: generated Fortran



Simple addition function: the part app devs care about

```
SWIGEXPORT int swigc_add(int const *farg1,
int const *farg2);
```

simplest_wrap.c

```
module simplest
 use, intrinsic :: ISO_C_BINDING
 …
contains
function add(a, b) &
  result(swigf_result)
 integer(C_INT) :: swigf_result
 integer(C_INT), intent(in) :: a
 integer(C_INT), intent(in) :: b
 …
end function
end module
```

simplest.f90

```
program main
  use simplest, only : add
  write (0,*) add(10,20)
end program
```

main.f90

```
$ ./main.exe
          30
```

Templated class

```cpp
template<typename T>
class Thing {
    T val_;
  public:
    Thing(T val);
    T get() const;
};

template<typename T>
void print_thing(const Thing<T>& t);
```

Insert raw C++ code into generated wrapper file

Instantiate templates at SWIG time

Tell SWIG to parse the header file

```
%module "templated"

%{
#include "templated.hpp"
%}
%include "templated.hpp"

// Instantiate templated classes
%template(Thing_Int)  Thing<int>;
%template(Thing_Dbl)  Thing<double>;

// Instantiate and overload a function
%template(print_thing)  print_thing<int>;
%template(print_thing)  print_thing<double>;
```

templated.i

Templated class: generated Fortran wrapper code

```
module templated
…
integer, parameter, public :: swig_cmem_own_bit = 0
integer, parameter, public :: swig_cmem_rvalue_bit = 1
integer, parameter, public :: swig_cmem_const_bit = 2
type, bind(C) :: SwigClassWrapper
 type(C_PTR), public :: cptr = C_NULL_PTR
 integer(C_INT), public :: cmemflags = 0
end type
! class Thing< int >
type, public :: Thing_Int
 type(SwigClassWrapper), public :: swigdata
contains
 procedure :: get => swigf_Thing_Int_get
 procedure :: release => swigf_release_Thing_Int
 procedure, private :: swigf_Thing_Int_op_assign__
 generic :: assignment(=) => swigf_Thing_Int_op_assign__
end type Thing_Int
interface Thing_Int
 module procedure swigf_create_Thing_Int
end interface
! class Thing< double >
type, public :: Thing_Dbl
 …
end type Thing_Dbl
…
```

Memory ownership

Opaque class wrapper

Fortran proxy class

Second template instantiation

```
interface print_thing
  module procedure swigf_print_thing__SWIG_1,
swigf_print_thing__SWIG_2
 end interface
 public :: print_thing
interface
  subroutine swigc_delete_Thing_Int(farg1)
    bind(C, name="_wrap_delete_Thing_Int")
…
contains
subroutine swigf_release_Thing_Int(self)
  use, intrinsic :: ISO_C_BINDING
  class(Thing_Int), intent(inout) :: self
  type(SwigClassWrapper) :: farg1
  farg1 = self%swigdata
  if (btest(farg1%cmemflags, swig_cmem_own_bit)) then
    call swigc_delete_Thing_Int(farg1)
  endif
  farg1%cptr = C_NULL_PTR
  farg1%cmemflags = 0
  self%swigdata = farg1
end subroutine
…
end module
```

Overloaded function

Call delete if we “own” the memory

templated.f90 (2/2)

Exception handling

```
%module except
%include <std_except.i>
%exception {
  SWIG_check_unhandled_exception();
  try {
    $action
  }
  catch (const std::exception& e) {
    SWIG_exception(SWIG_RuntimeError, e.what());
  }
}
%{
#include <stdexcept>
#include <iostream>
%}
%inline {
void do_it(int i) {
  if (i < 0)
    throw std::logic_error("NOOOOO");
  std::cout << "Yes! I got " << i
    << std::endl;
}
void do_it_again(int i) { do_it(i); }
}
```

Replaced with wrapper call

```
program main
  use except, only : do_it, do_it_again, ierr, get_serr
  call do_it(-3)
  if (ierr /= 0) then
    write(0,*) "Got error ", ierr, ": ", get_serr()
    ierr = 0
  endif
  call do_it(2)
  call do_it(-2)
  call do_it_again(321)
end program
```

main.f90

```
Got error          -3 : In do_it(int):
N00000
Yes! I got 2
terminate called after throwing an
instance of 'std::runtime_error'
  what():  An unhandled exception
occurred before a call to
do_it_again(int); in do_it(int): N00000
```

Array views

```
%module algorithm

%{
#include <algorithm>
%}

%include <typemaps.i>
%apply (SWIGTYPE *DATA, size_t SIZE) {
    (int* data, std::size_t size) };

%inline {
void sort(int* data, std::size_t size)
{
  std::sort(data, data + size);
}
}
```

Treat as native Fortran array

```
subroutine sort(data)
 use, intrinsic :: ISO_C_BINDING
 integer(C_INT), dimension(:), target :: data
 integer(C_INT), pointer :: farg1_view
 type(SwigArrayWrapper) :: farg1
 if (size(data) > 0) then
  farg1_view => data(1)
  farg1%data = c_loc(farg1_view)
  farg1%size = size(data)
 else
  farg1%data = c_null_ptr
  farg1%size = 0
 end if
 call swigc_sort(farg1)
end subroutine
```

```
program main
  use, intrinsic :: ISO_C_BINDING
  use algorithm, only : sort
  implicit none
  integer(C_INT), dimension(6) &
    :: test_int  = (/ 3, -1, 7, 3, 1, 5 /)

  call sort(test_int)
  write (*,*) test_int
end program
```

Thrust + OpenACC

```
%module thrustacc;

%include <openacc.i>
%include <thrust.i>

%{
#include <thrust/sort.h>
%}
%inline %{
template<typename T>
void swig_thrust_sort(thrust::device_ptr<T>
DATA, size_t SIZE) {
    thrust::sort(DATA, DATA + SIZE);
}
%}

%template(sort) swig_thrust_sort<int>;
%template(sort) swig_thrust_sort<float>;
%template(sort) swig_thrust_sort<double>;
```

```
program test_thrustacc
  use thrustacc
  implicit none
  integer, parameter :: n = 32768
  integer :: i
  real, dimension(:), allocatable :: a

  ! Generate N uniform numbers on [0,1)
  allocate(a(n))
  call random_number(a)

  !$acc data copy(a)
    !$acc kernels
      do i = 1,n
        a(i) = a(i) * 10 + i
      end do
    !$acc end kernels
    call sort(a)
  !$acc end data
  write(*,*) sum(a)
end program
```

Automatic `BIND(C)` wrapping

```
%module bindc

%fortranbindc;
%fortran_struct(Point)

%inline {
typedef struct { float x, y, z; } Point;
void print_point(const Point* p);
void make_point(Point* pt,
                const float xyz[3]);
}
```

Only generate interface code

Don't create proxy class

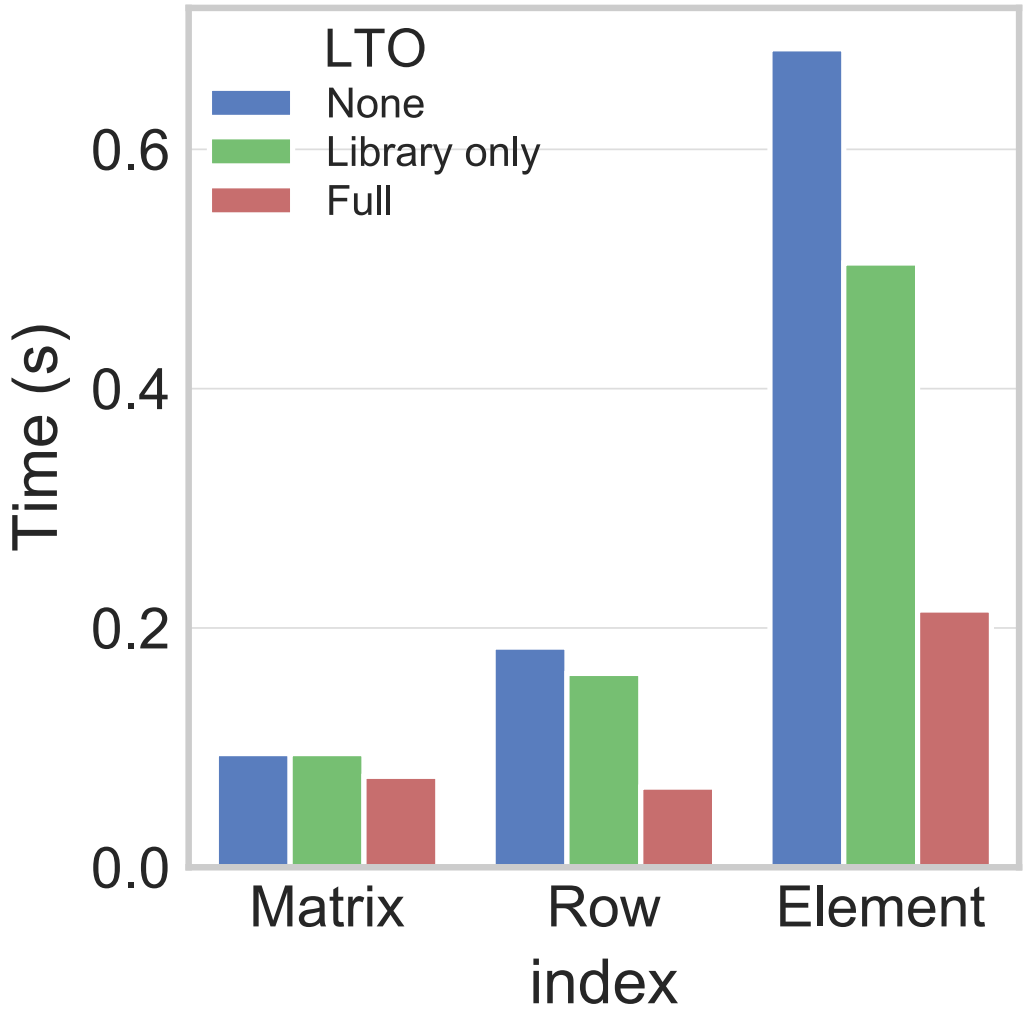
bindc.i

```
module bindc
…
 type, bind(C), public :: Point
  real(C_FLOAT), public :: x
  real(C_FLOAT), public :: y
  real(C_FLOAT), public :: z
 end type Point
…
interface
 subroutine print_point(p) &
   bind(C, name="print_point")
  use, intrinsic :: ISO_C_BINDING
  import :: point
  type(Point), intent(in) :: p
 end subroutine
 subroutine make_point(pt, xyz) &
   bind(C, name="make_point")
  use, intrinsic :: ISO_C_BINDING
  import :: point
  type(Point) :: pt
  real(C_FLOAT), dimension(3), intent(in) :: xyz
 end subroutine
end interface
end module
```

bindc.f90

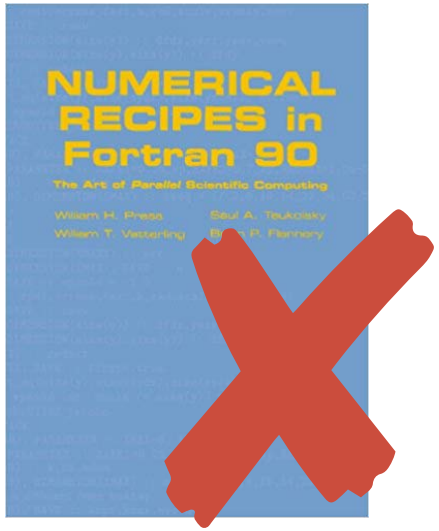
Performance considerations

- Small overhead for each wrapped function call
- Link-time optimization can mitigate
- Test problem: toy numerical library with CRS matrix class
- Results: sparse matrix–vector multiply for 3000×3000 Laplacian (average of 40 runs)



Preview: Fortran bindings for C++ standard library

- Speed and reliability of C++ standard library
- Trivial installation
- App development requires only idiomatic Fortran




```fortran
use flc_algorithm, only : argsort
implicit none
integer, dimension(5) :: iarr = [ 2, 5, -2, 3, -10000]
integer(C_INT), dimension(5) :: idx

call argsort(iarr, idx)
! This line prints a sorted array:
write(*,*) iarr(idx)
```

```fortran
use flc_random, only : Engine, normal_distribution
real(C_DOUBLE), dimension(20) :: arr
type(Engine) :: rng

rng = Engine()
call normal_distribution(8.0d0, 2.0d0, rng, arr)
```

https://github.com/swig-fortran/flibcpp

Conclusions

- Implemented automatic generation of native Fortran 2003 interfaces to C++ APIs
- Supports many C++ features critical to contemporary scientific software
- Successfully generated Fortran interfaces to Trilinos numerical solvers, Sundials solvers, and C++ standard library algorithms
- High performance in typical use cases

https://github.com/swig-fortran

This research was supported by the Exascale Computing Project (17-SC-20-SC), a joint project of the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science and National Nuclear Security Administration, responsible for delivering a capable exascale ecosystem, including software, applications, and hardware technology, to support the nation's exascale computing imperative.

This research used resources of the Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, which is supported by the Office of Science of the U.S. Department of Energy under Contract No. DE-AC05-00OR22725.