

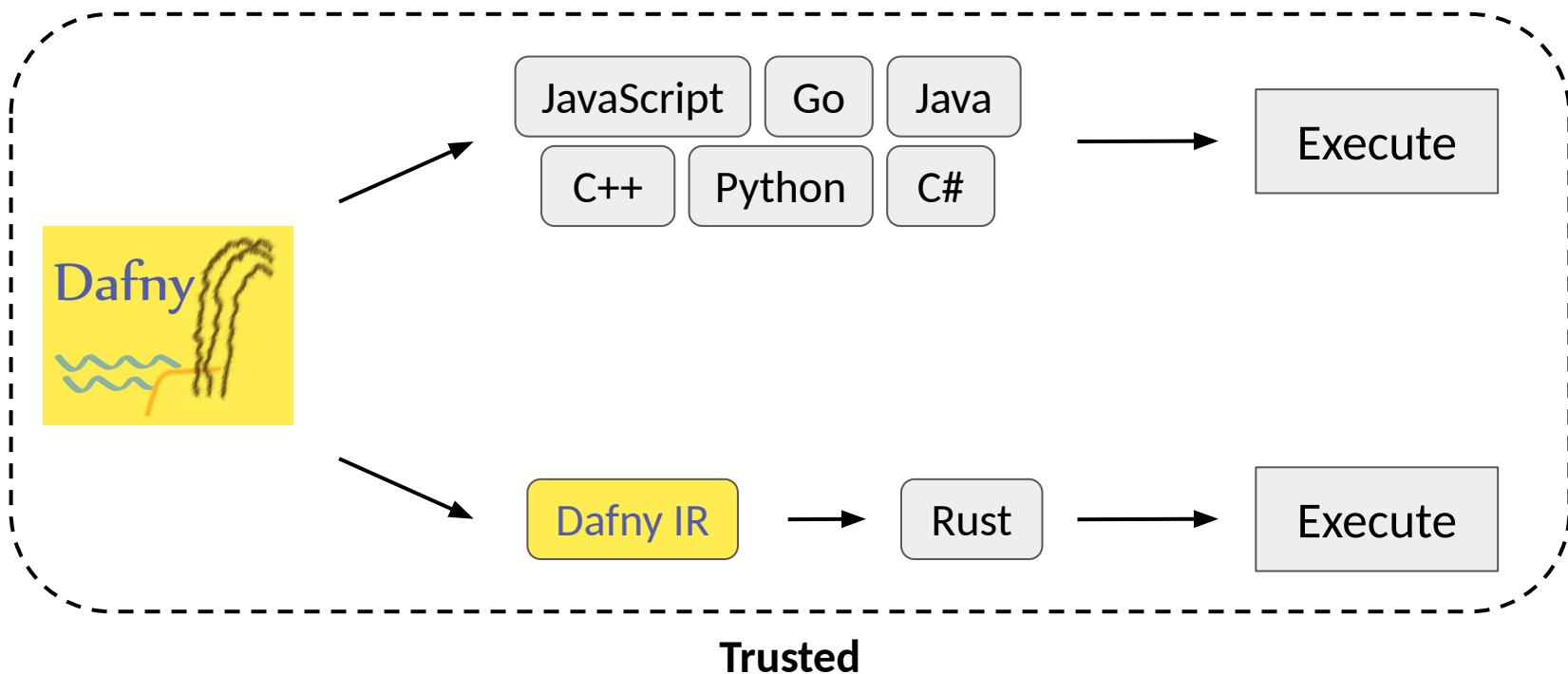
# Baking for Dafny: A CakeML Backend for Dafny

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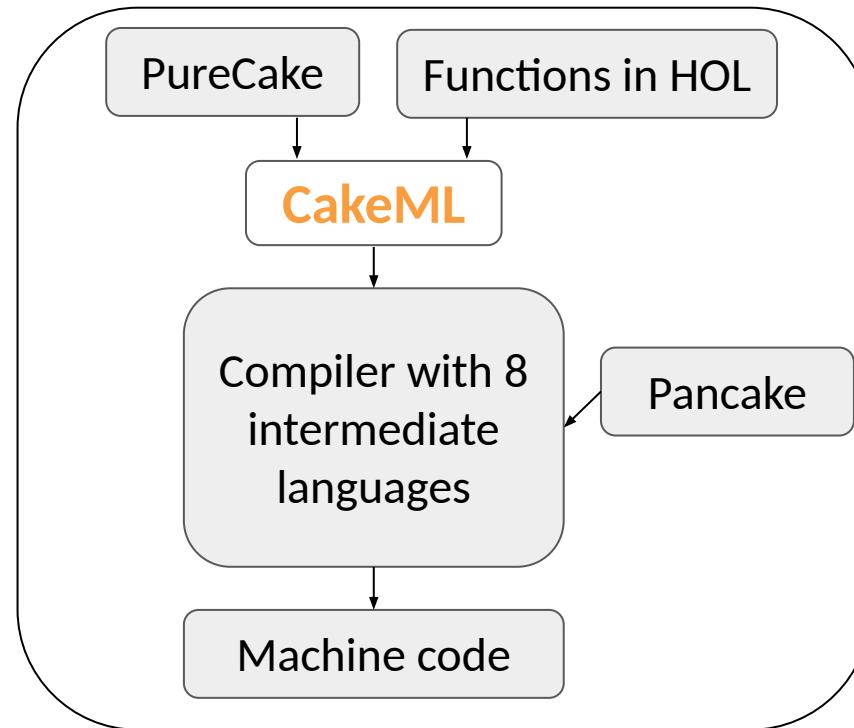
Dafny Workshop @ POPL 2025  
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# Running Dafny Code



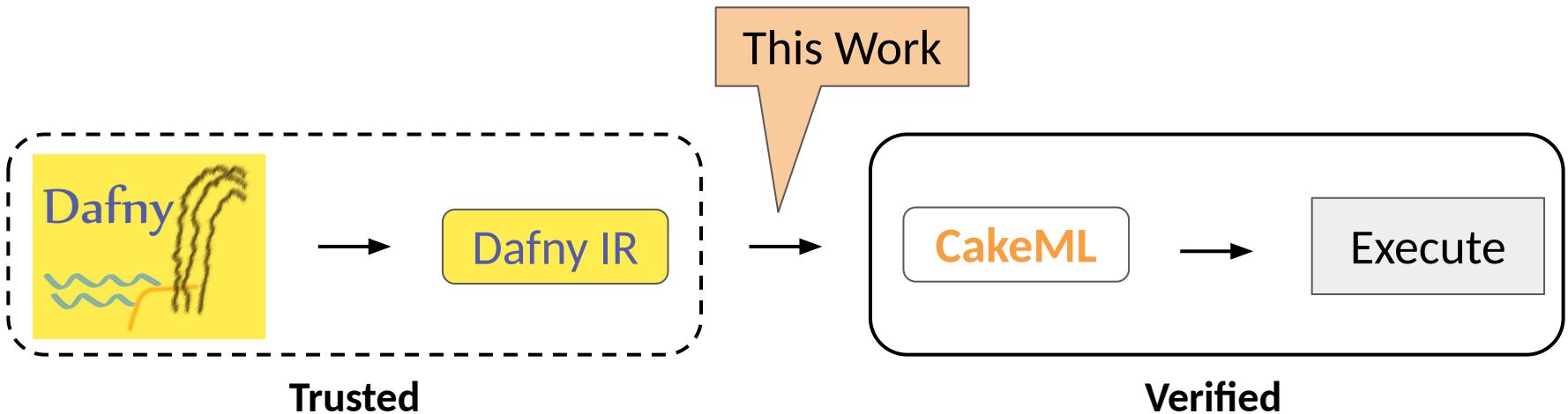


# CakeML Project

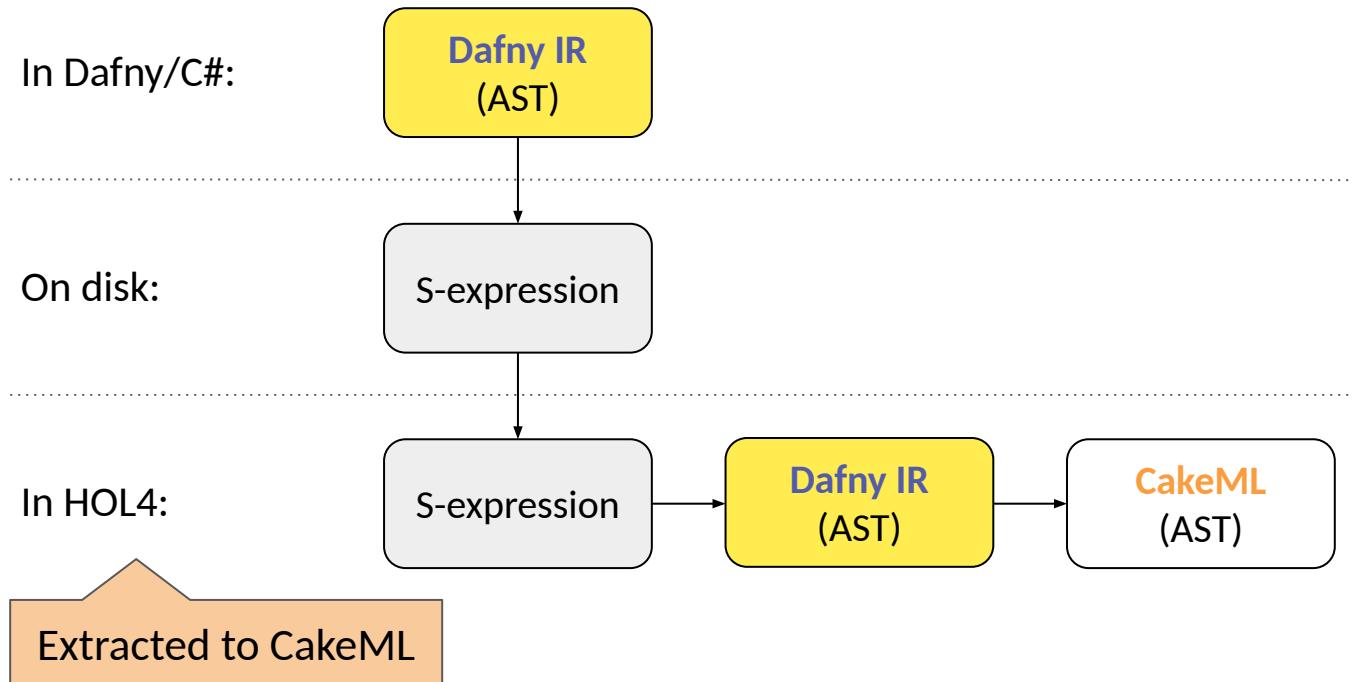


**Verified in HOL4**

# Dafny to CakeML Compiler



# Dafny to CakeML Compiler (Zoomed In)



# Compiling “Hello, Cake”

```
method Main() {  
    print "Hello, Cake\n";  
}  
    
```

Dafny

Return is modeled  
using exceptions

```
[Module (Name "_module") [] F  
(SOME  
[ModuleItem_Class  
  (Class (Name "__default") (Ident (Name "_module")) [] [] []  
  [ClassItem_Method  
    (Method T T F F NONE (Name "Main") [] []  
      [Print (Literal (StringLiteral "Hello, Cake\\n" F));  
       EarlyReturn]  
      [] (SOME [])]) []])])]
```

```
structure _module = struct  
fun Main =  
  (print (String.implode ("Hello, Cake\\n"));  
   raise Dafny.Return)  
handle Dafny.Return => ();  
end
```

Module for helpers

CakeML

Dafny IR\*

\* details may have changed

# Compiling Variables

```
method Factorial(n: int)
  returns (result: int) {
    result := 1;
    var i := 1;
    while i <= n {
      result := result * i;
      i := i + 1;
    }
}
```

Dafny

Declaration and  
initialization broken up

```
...
DeclareVar (VarName "_0_i") (Primitive Int) NONE;
Assign (AssignLhs_Ident (VarName "_0_i"))
  (Literal (IntLiteral "1" (Primitive Int)));

```

Dafny IR

Variables modeled  
as references

Need to generate  
initial value!

```
...
let val _0_i = ref 0 in
  _0_i := 1;
...
```

CakeML

# Compiling Loops

```
method Factorial(n: int)
returns (result: int) {
    result := 1;
    var i := 1;
    while i <= n {
        result := result * i;
        i := i + 1;
    }
}
```

Dafny

While cond body

Dafny IR

Encode as  
recursive function

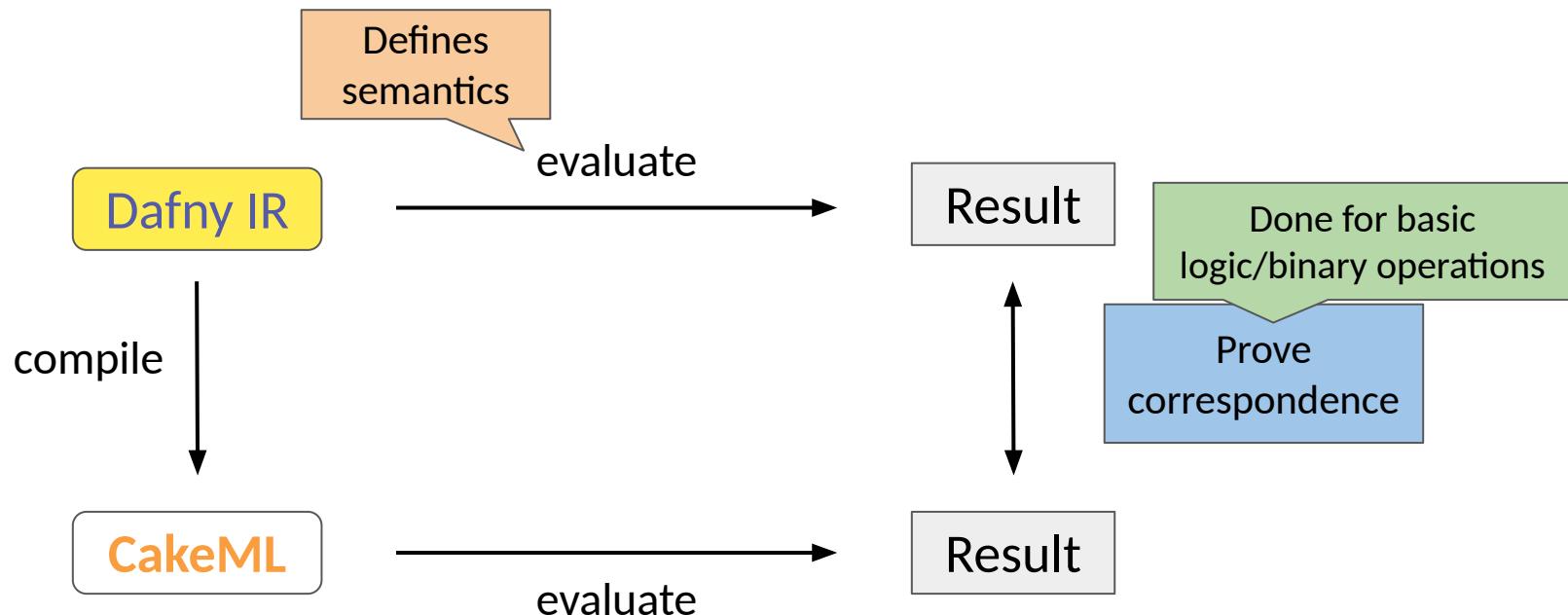
```
...
let fun CML_while_0 =
    if not ((! n) < (! _0_i)) then
        (result := (! result) * (! _0_i);
        _0_i := !( _0_i) + 1;
        CML_while_0 ())
    else ()
in
    (CML_while_0 ()) handle Dafny.Break => ()
```

CakeML

Support for  
break statements\*

\* this one should not be generated or optimized away

# Proving Correctness (Ongoing Work)



# Limitations, Challenges and Future Work

## Missing support for

- Synonym types
- Data types
- Type arguments
- Traits/Classes
- (Multi)Sets, Maps
- Tail recursion
- Foreach/Range
- Bitwise operations
- Quantifiers
- Extern
- Unicode

...

How to initialize variables?

May need something like vtables

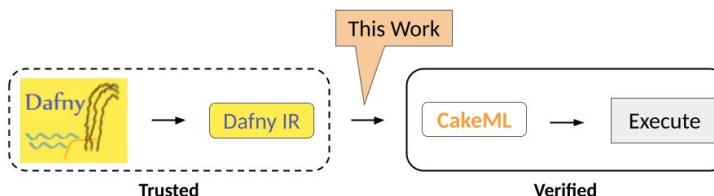
## Future Work

Improve feature support

Prove correctness of compiler

Verify translation to Dafny IR

## Dafny to CakeML Compiler



## Compiling “Hello, Cake”

The screenshot shows the CakeML compiler interface with two panes. The left pane displays the Dafny source code:

```

method Main() {
    print "Hello, Cake\n";
}
  
```

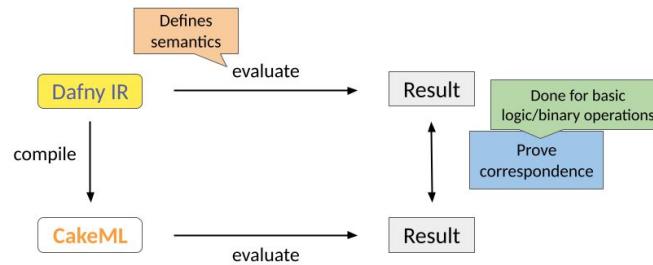
The right pane shows the generated CakeML code, which includes a module for helpers:

```

structure _module = struct
  fun Main =
    (print (String.implode ("Hello, Cake\n"));
     raise Dafny.Return)
  handle Dafny.Return => ();
end
  
```

A callout box highlights the "Return is modeled using exceptions" feature. A note at the bottom right indicates: "\* details may have changed".

## Proving Correctness



## Limitations, Challenges and Future Work

### Missing support for

- Synonym types
- Data types
- Type arguments
- Traits/Classes
- (Multi)Sets, Maps
- Tail recursion
- Foreach/Range
- Bitwise operations
- Quantifiers
- Extern
- Unicode
- ...

### Future Work

- Improve feature support
- Prove correctness of compiler
- Verify translation to Dafny IR
- ...