

Baking for Dafny:

A CakeML Backend for Dafny

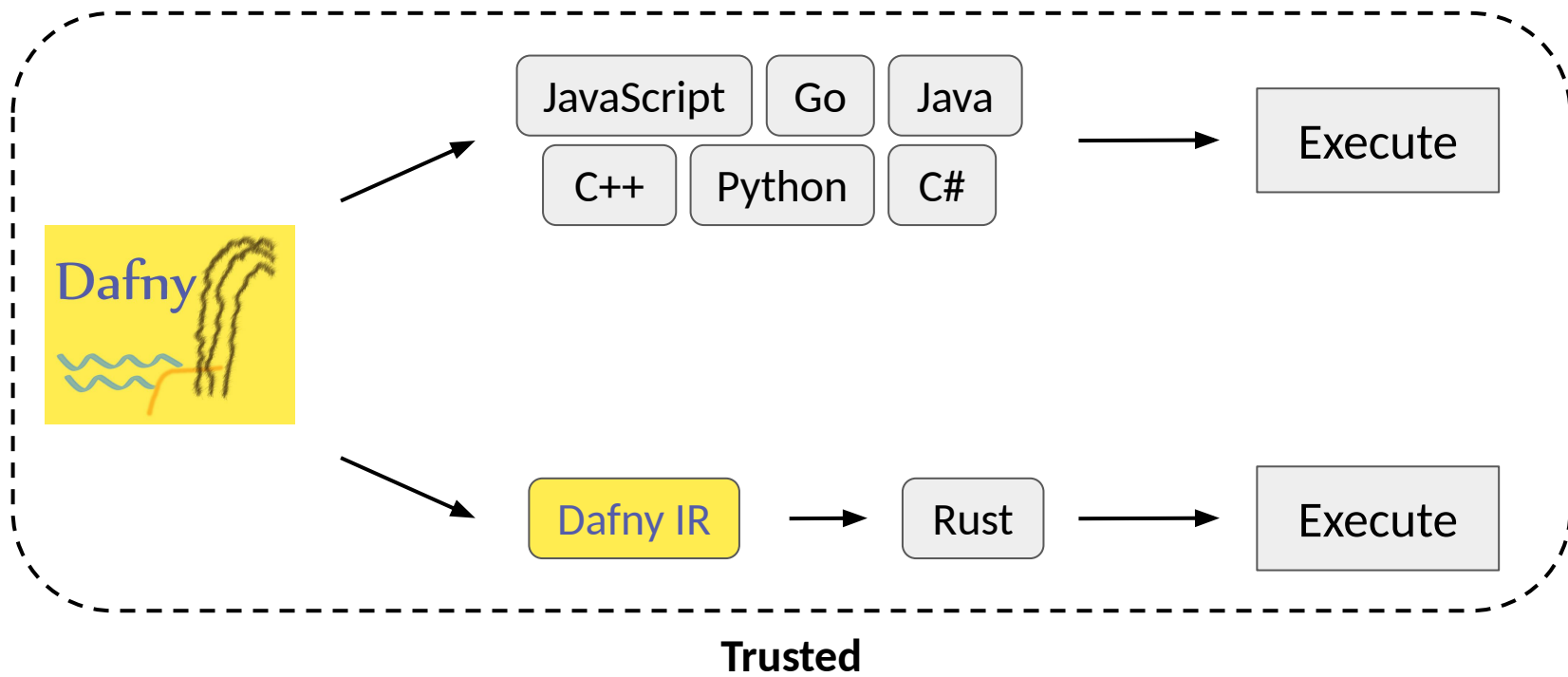
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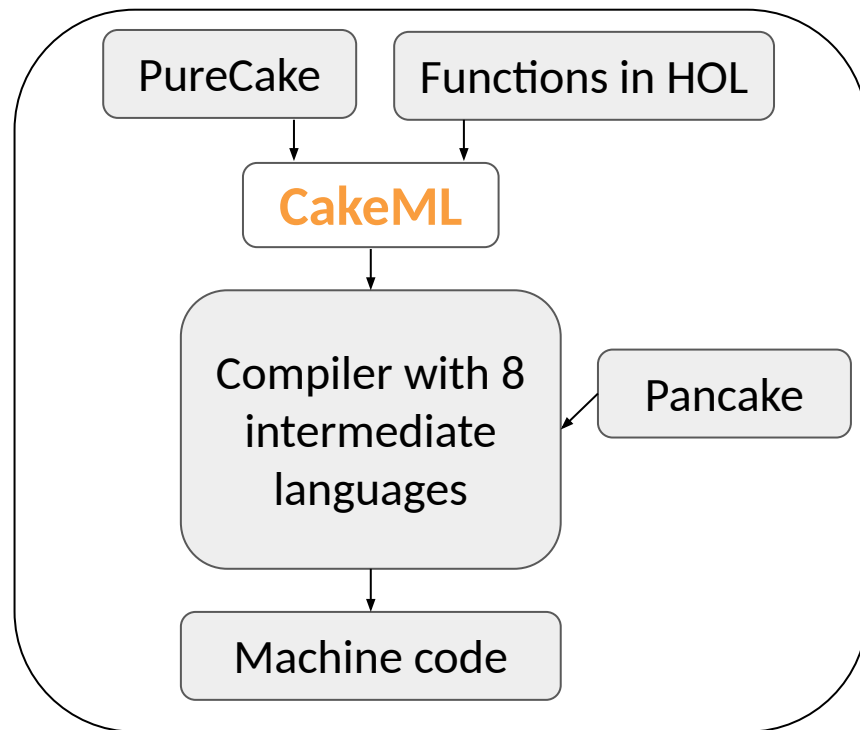
Dafny Workshop @ POPL 2025

January 19, 2025

Running Dafny Code

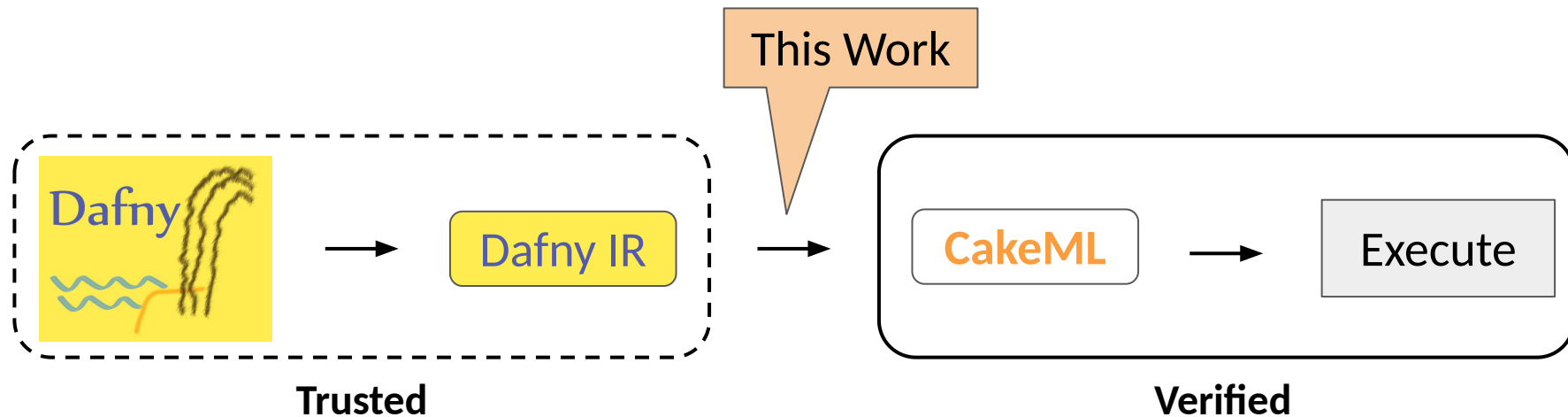


CakeML Project

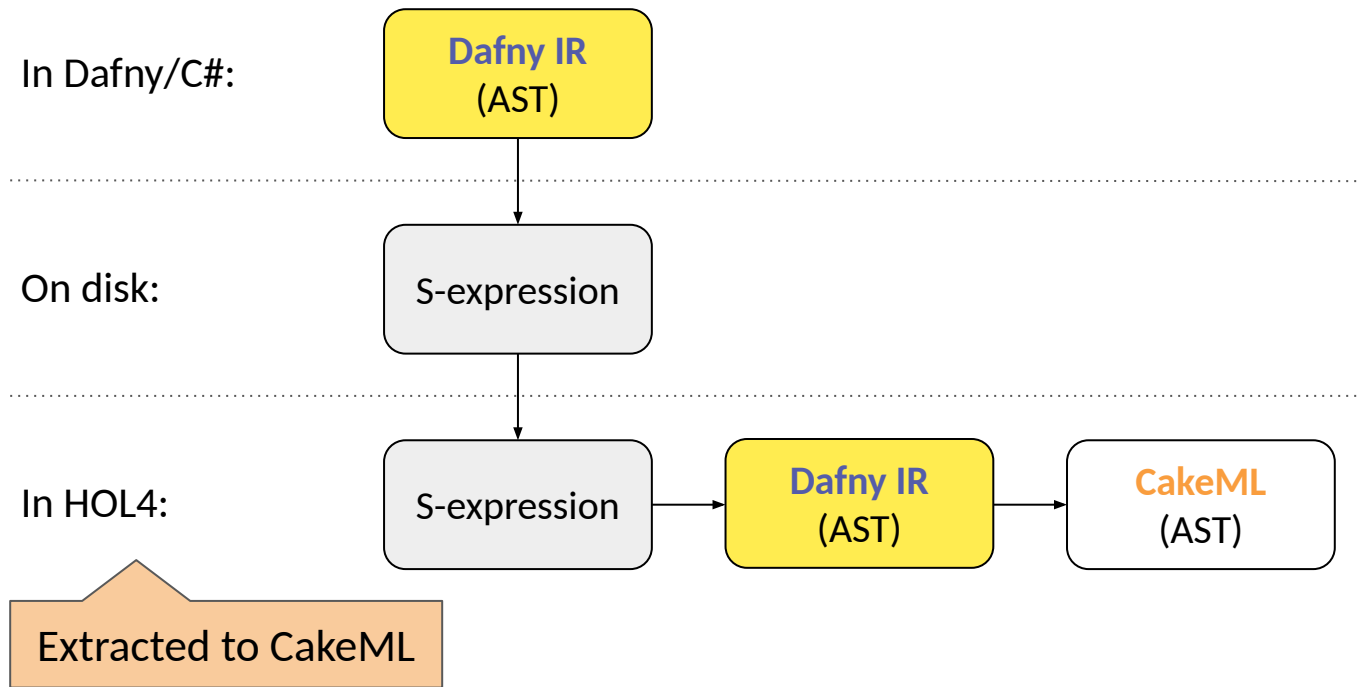


Verified in HOL4

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

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

Module for helpers

CakeML

```
[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 [])) []))])])]
```

Dafny IR*

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

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

Need to generate
initial value!

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

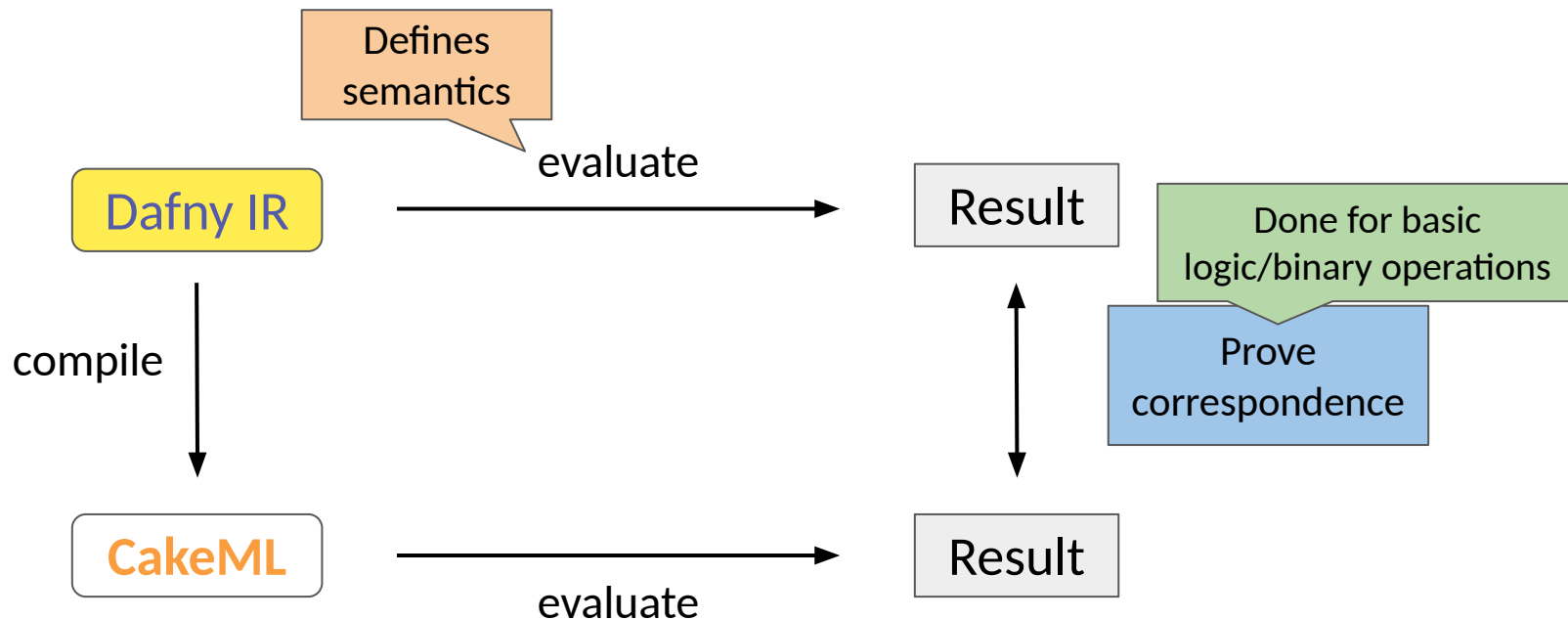
```
...
let fun CML_while_0 =
  if not ((! n) < (! _0_i)) then
    (result := (! result) * (! _0_i);
     _0_i := !( _0_i) + 1;
     CML_while_0 ())
  else ()
in
  (CML_while_0 ()) handle Dafny.Break => ()
...
```

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

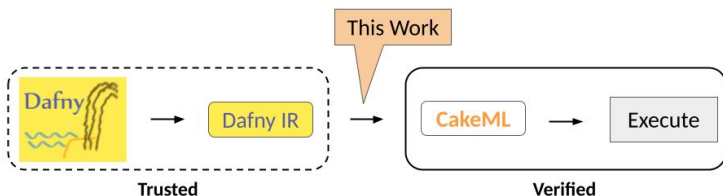
Future Work

Improve feature
support

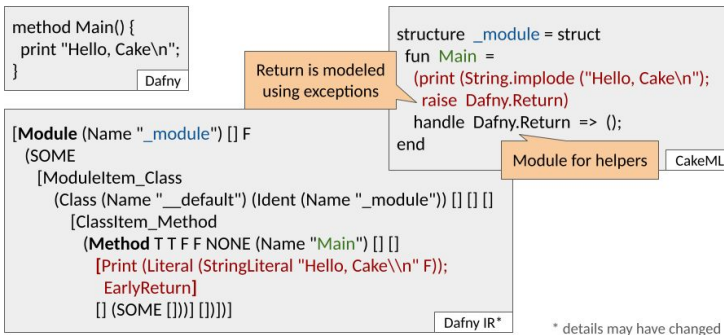
Prove correctness
of compiler

Verify translation
to Dafny IR

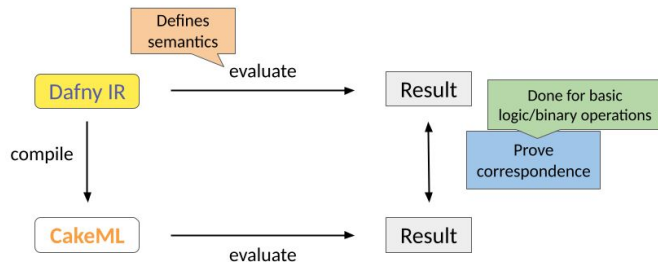
Dafny to CakeML Compiler



Compiling “Hello, Cake”



Proving Correctness



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- ...

How to initialize variables?

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Future Work

Improve feature support

Prove correctness of compiler

Verify translation to Dafny IR