

C functional correctness verification comparison (C-verif-mark?)

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Crucial – especially for security-critical systems code

Still a major research problem – despite many impressive projects, it's still much harder and more limited than we would like

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- ▶ there are almost as many approaches as there are verification projects
- ▶ the papers don't always give a clear view of their current strengths, limitations, and future plans,
- ▶ ...or an overview of the design challenges and best solutions.

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So, can we establish a better comparison, and shared understanding of the verification-tool design space and alternatives?

Previous comparisons

Automated tools: many very successful (SV-COMP,...)

Interactive tools:

- ▶ A benchmark for C program verification
- ▶ [lets-prove-leftpad](#).
- ▶ [VerifyThis](#), 2011-2021.
- ▶ [The 2nd Verified Software Competition: Experience Report](#), 2011.
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Not quite hitting the spot?

Goals

- ▶ lightweight (shared github repo, no separate assessment)
- ▶ aiming to expose a clear comparison in this multidimensional space (not a “competition” – no judging, scores, or winners)
- ▶ aiming for better understanding of how the different approaches vary
- ▶ aiming to stimulate future research

Mechanisms

- ▶ these talks
- ▶ smallish collection of smallish examples
 - ▶ exercising various C language features and programming idioms
 - ▶ small enough for solutions to not be too much work
 - ▶ ask (for at least some) for the most *instructive* solution, not the shortest, and for detailed explanations of what's going on under the hood
- ▶ larger list of C language features and programming idioms
- ▶ one or two large examples to focus on scaling
- ▶ (ideally, ultimately) consensus list of main design challenges and options