

Baking for Dafny:

A CakeML Backend for Dafny

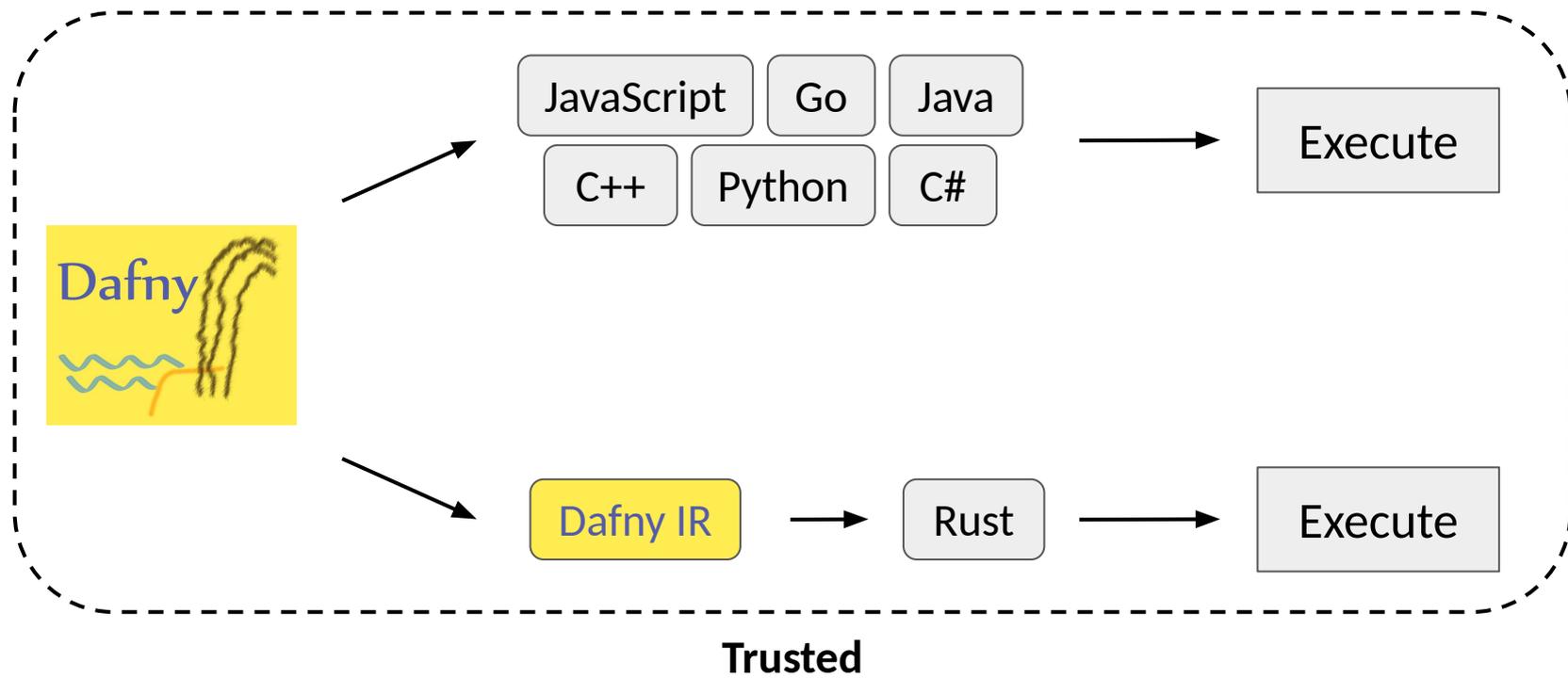
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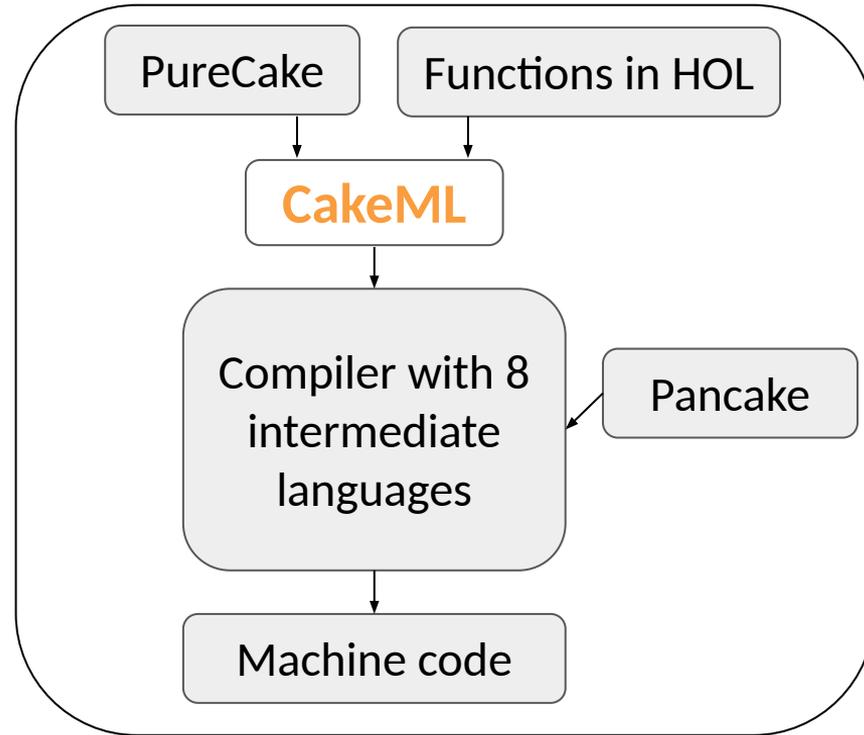
Dafny Workshop @ POPL 2025

January 19, 2025

Running Dafny Code

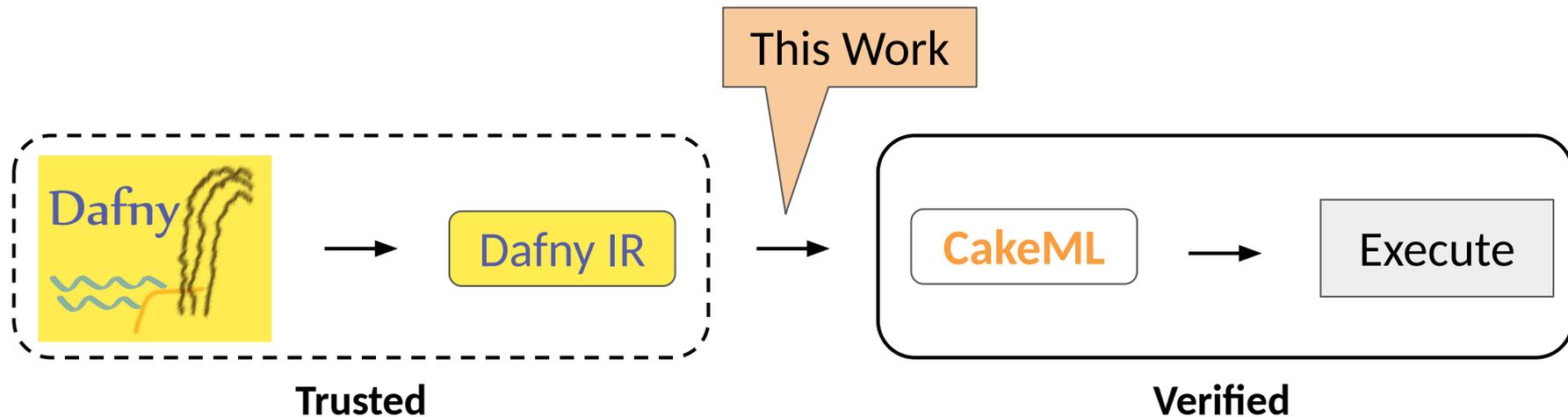


CakeML Project

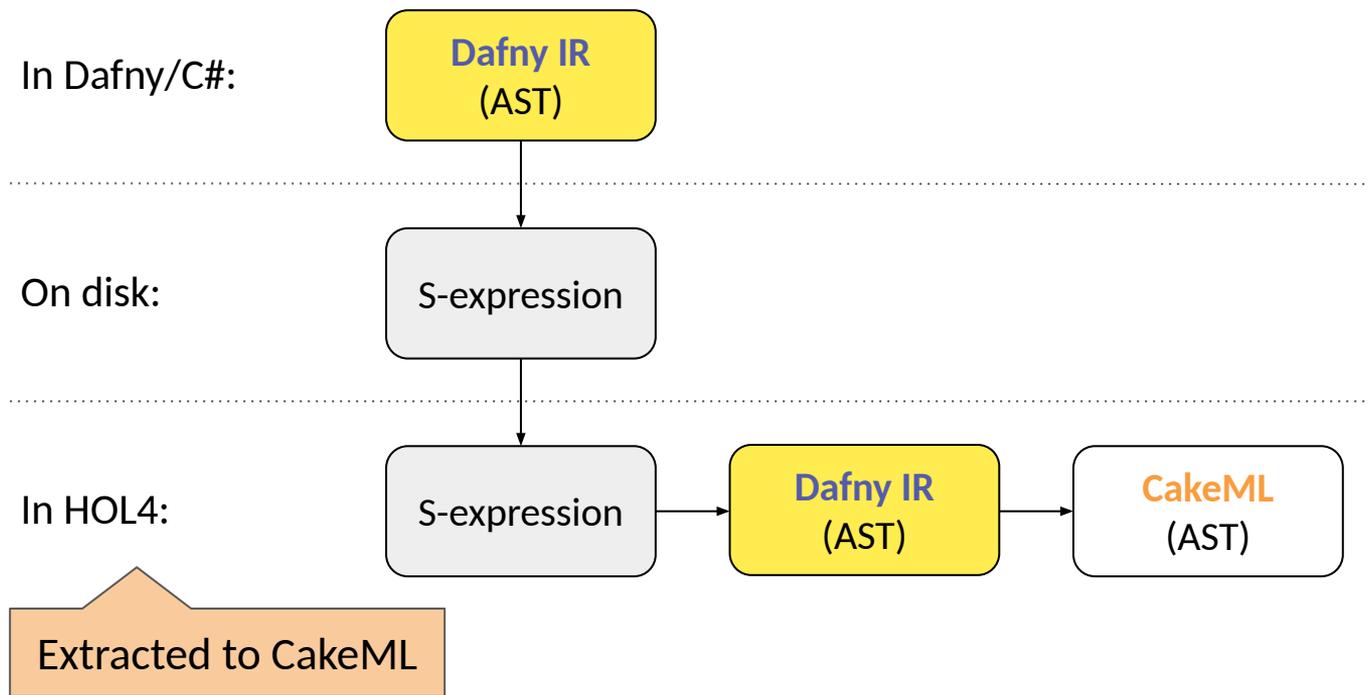


Verified in HOL4

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*

* details may have changed 6

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;
...
```

CakeML

Need to generate initial value!

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 => ()
...

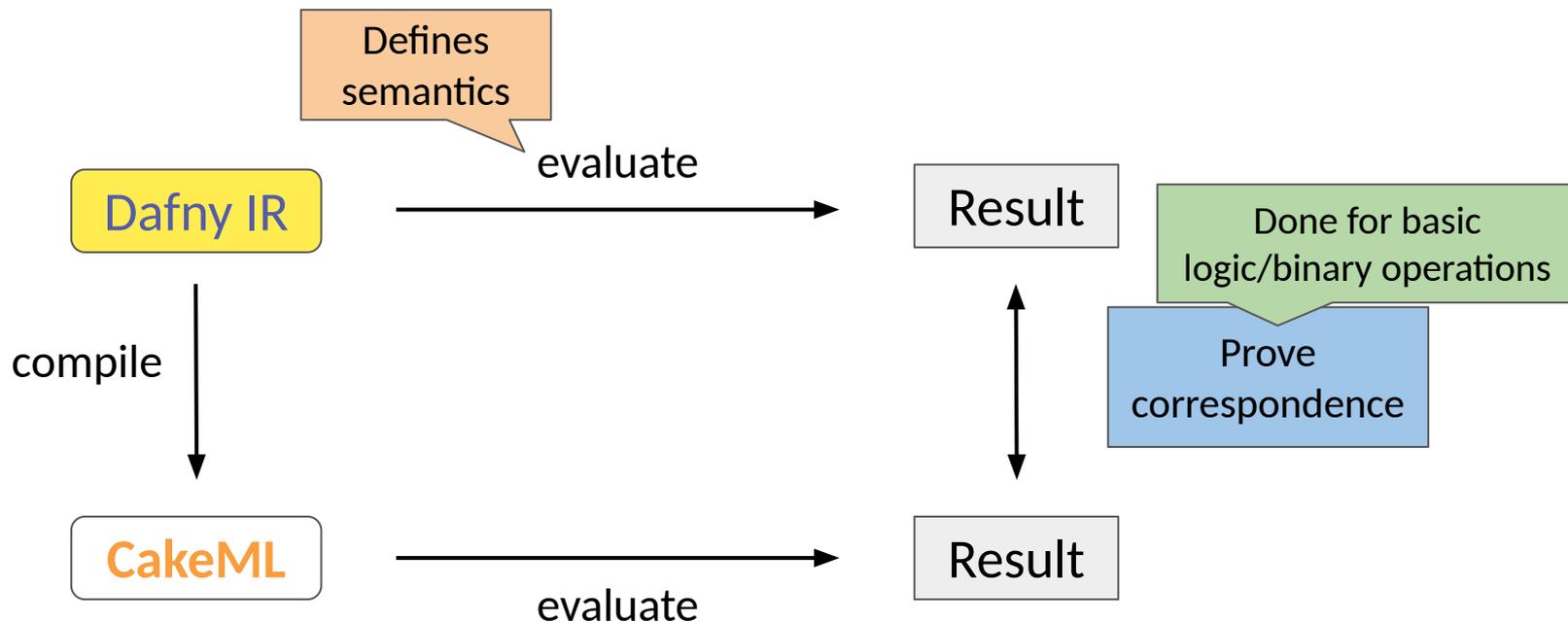
```

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

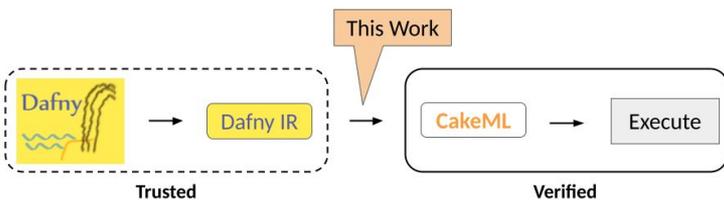
Future Work

Improve feature support

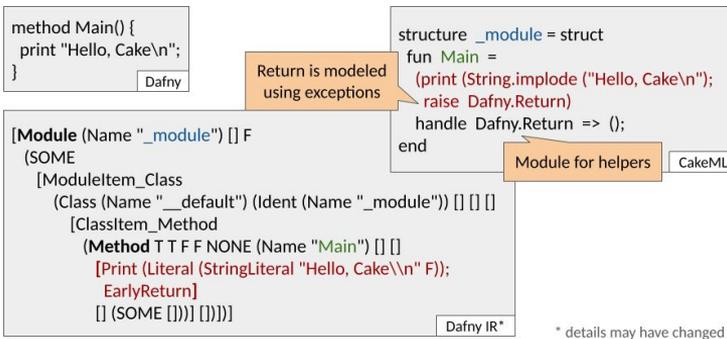
Prove correctness of compiler

Verify translation to Dafny IR

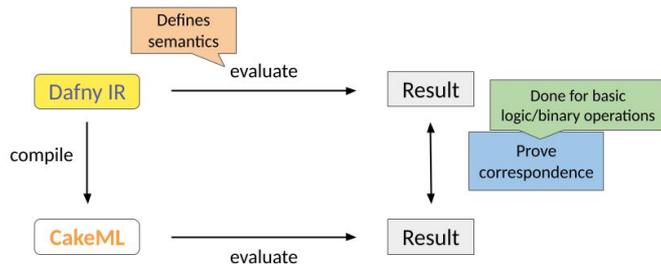
Dafny to CakeML Compiler



Compiling "Hello, Cake"



Proving Correctness



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Future Work

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