Verus: program verification for practical engineering





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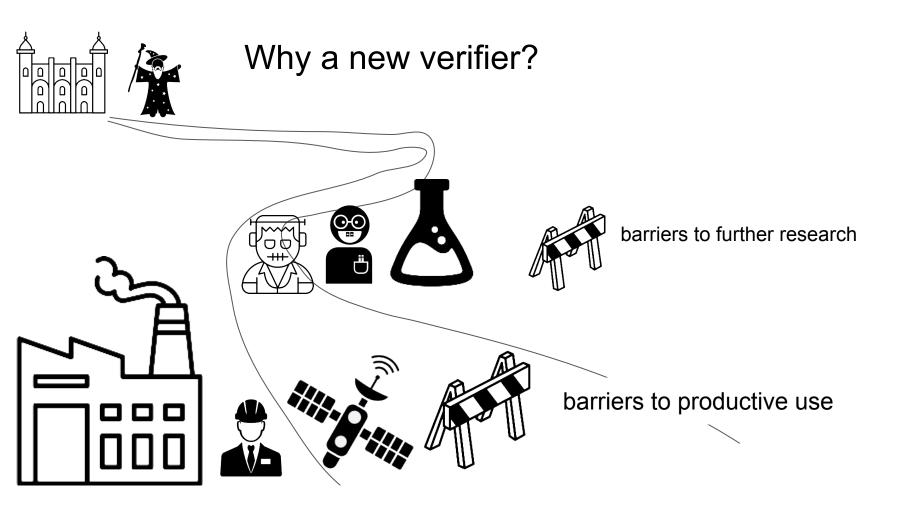
LeBlanc





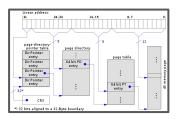
Bryan Parno





Design choices driven by observed burdens

OS Page Table



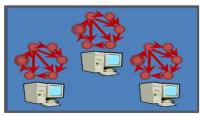
Write-Optimized Key-Value Store



Persistent-Memory Log



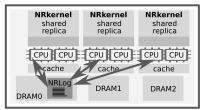
Distributed Key-Value Store



Concurrent Memory Allocator



NUMA-aware Replica Library



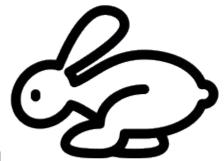
Automation: faster proofs

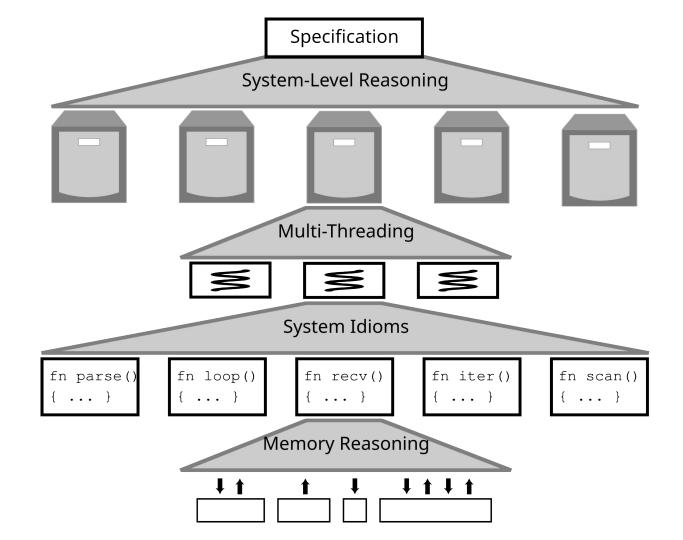
context: general SMT-based automation by default

problem: sluggish SMT queries

solution: efficiency-optimized verification condition generation

- easy wins: Rust ownership, aggressive context pruning
- tradeoffs: conservative triggers, total spec fn





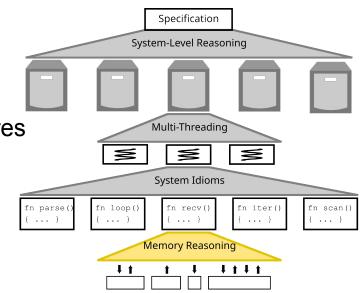
Memory reasoning

context: performant code mutates rich data structures

problem: framing-based reasoning is objectively awful [OOPSLA22]

solution:

- Rust ownership by default
- Sophisticated borrow checker: elegant syntax for common patterns



Systems-specific proof automation

context: performant systems code relies on %, >>, constants

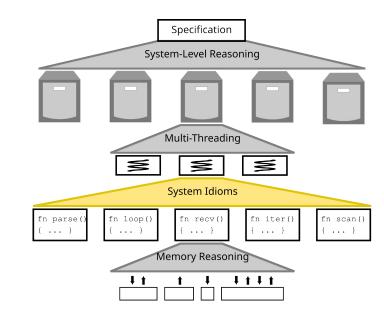
problem: mixed theories grieve Z3

solution: Local assert_by modes for

nonlinear (%),

bitvector (>>), and

assert-by-computation

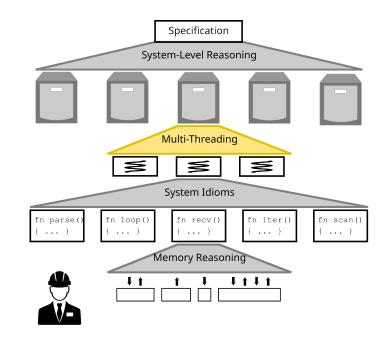


Thread concurrency

context: performant code exploits shared-memory threading

problem: separation logic is low-level

solution: VerusSync high-level "sharded state machine" expresses concurrency discipline

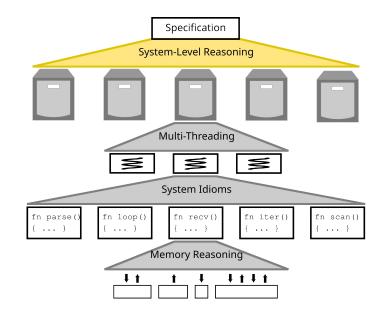


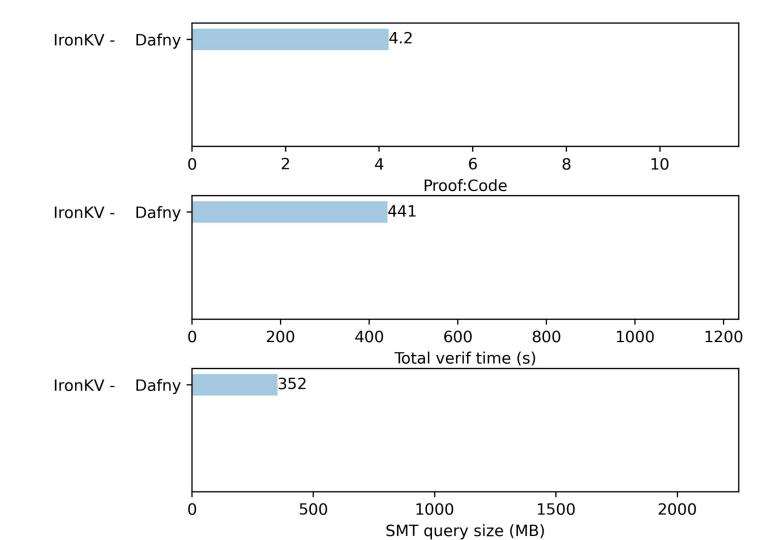
Systems-level reasoning

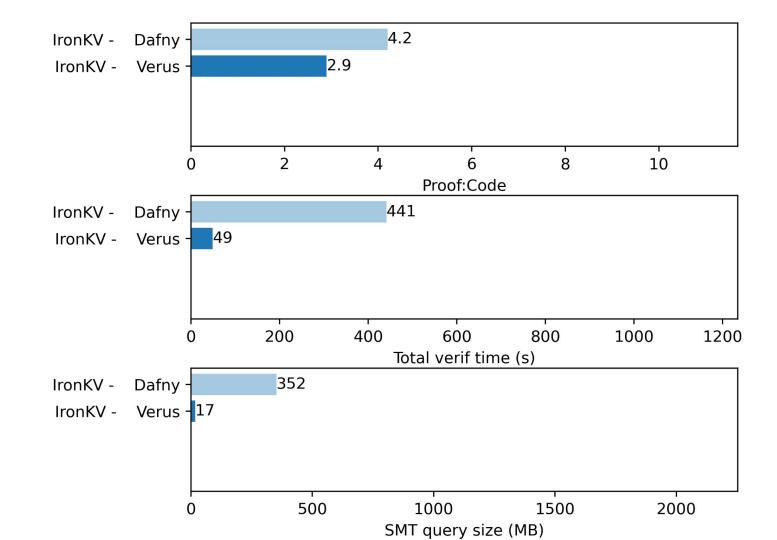
context: IronFleet style models *systems* as atomic state machines

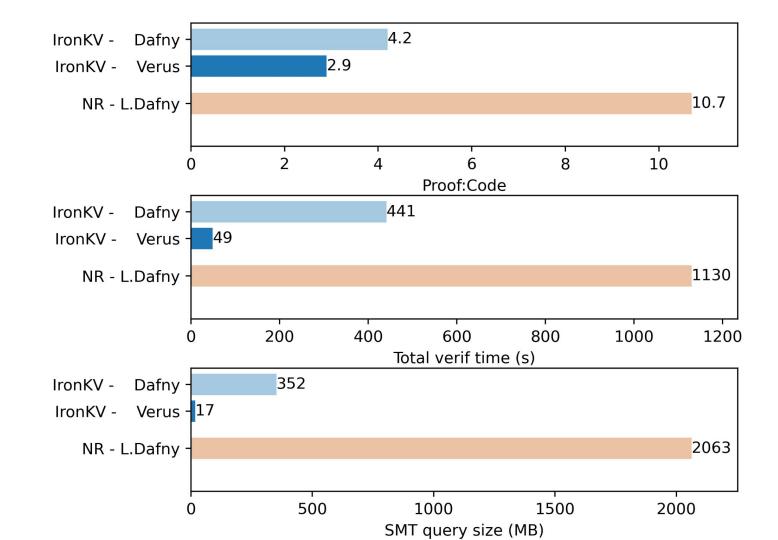
problem: embedded TLA+ makes ugly boilerplate

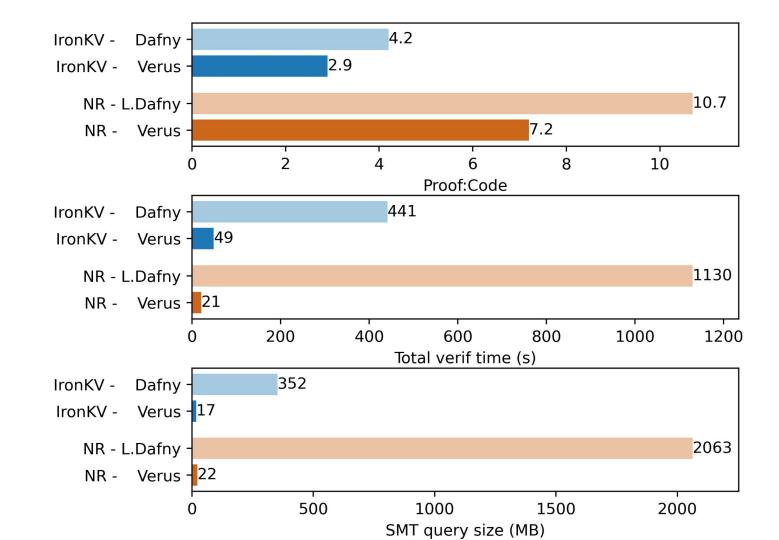
solution: native atomic state machine syntax











Conclusion

Verus is a new verifier aimed at practical use + new research.

- Try it out: play.verus-lang.org
- Install it: github.com/verus-lang/verus
- Ask users: verus-lang.zulipchat.com

backup

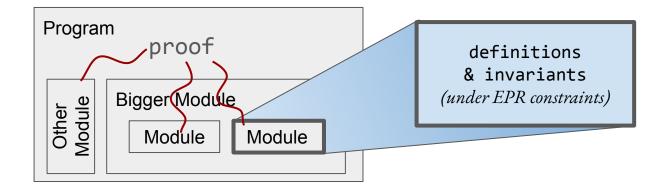
Automation: *fully automatic* proofs

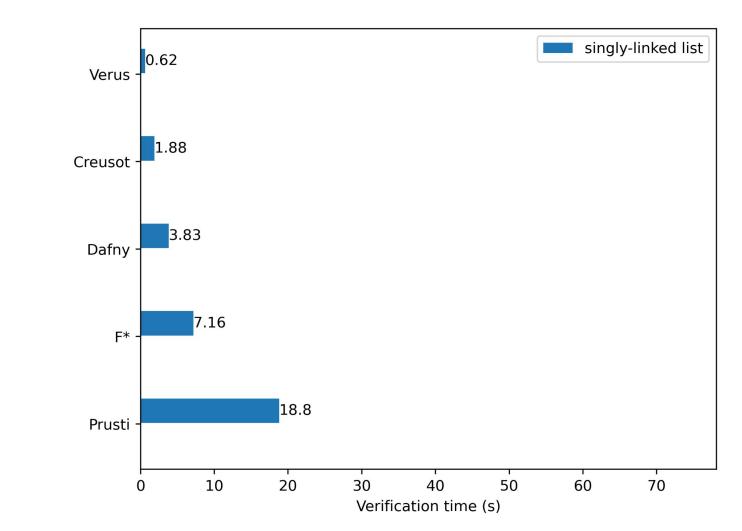
context: exploit full automation (ivy, mypyvy, pushbutton)

problem: all-or-nothing

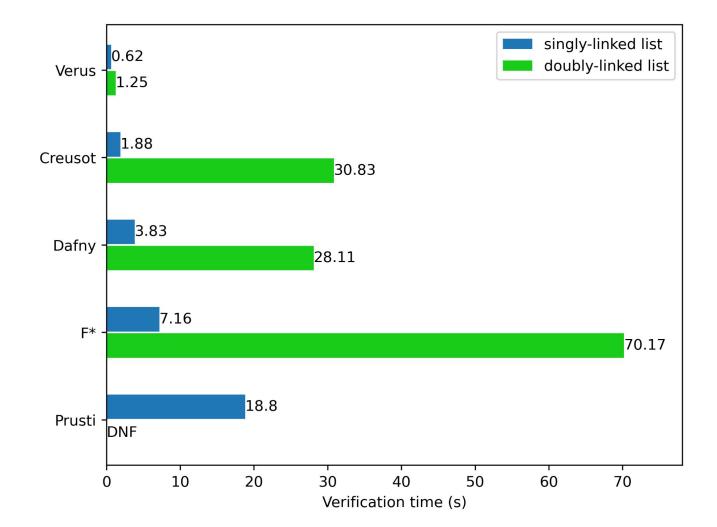
solution: opt-in integration





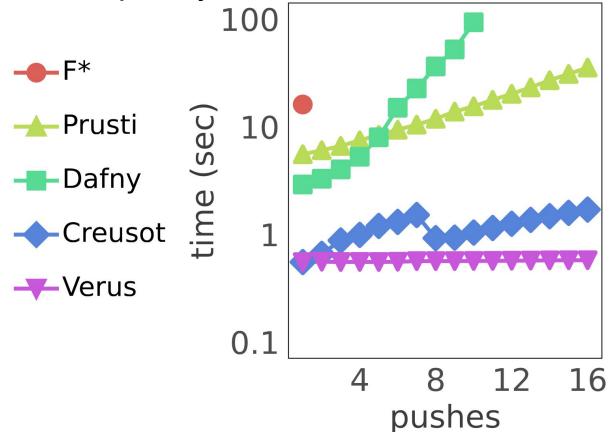




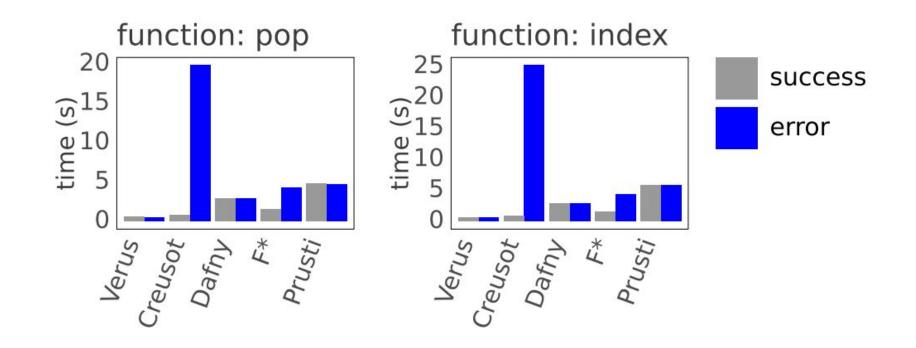


Millibenchmarks

Verus scales with fn complexity



Verifier is fast on failures



Future Directions

Improving Rust compatibility / feature coverage => more practically usable

Verify Rust standard library

Proof stability improvements

Experiments with other backends