

Velvet: A Multi-Modal Verifier for Imperative Programs in Lean

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Get Velvet Now

github.com/verse-lab/velvet

branch leanlang-demo

lake exe cache get; lake build

Floyd-Hoare Logic

For predicates P and Q and program S , the *Hoare triple*

$$\{ P \} S \{ Q \}$$

states the following:

If S is started in any state that satisfies P ,
then S will not crash,
and, if it terminates, it finishes in some state satisfying Q

Examples: $\{ x = 1 \} x := 20 \quad \{ x = 20 \}$
 $\{ x < 18 \} y := 18 - x \quad \{ y \geq 0 \}$
 $\{ x < 18 \} y := 5 \quad \{ y \geq 0 \}$

Non-example: $\{ x < 18 \} x := y \quad \{ y \geq 0 \}$

Reducing an Imperative Program to a Formula

Programming
Languages

T.A. Standish
Editor

Guarded Commands, Nondeterminacy and Formal Derivation of Programs

Edsger W. Dijkstra
Burroughs Corporation

So-called “guarded commands” are introduced as a building block for alternative and repetitive constructs that allow nondeterministic program components for which at least the activity evoked, but possibly even the final state, is not necessarily uniquely determined by the initial state. For the formal derivation of programs expressed in terms of these constructs, a calculus will be shown.

Key Words and Phrases: programming languages, sequencing primitives, program semantics, programming language semantics, nondeterminacy, case-construction, repetition, termination, correctness proof, derivation of programs, programming methodology

CR Categories: 4.20, 4.22

1. Introduction

In Section 2, two statements, an alternative construct and a repetitive construct, are introduced, together with an intuitive (mechanistic) definition of their semantics. The basic building block for both of them is the so-called “guarded command,” a statement list prefixed by a boolean expression: only when this boolean expression is initially true, is the statement list eligible for execution. The potential nondeterminacy allows us to map otherwise (trivially) different programs on the same program text, a circumstance that seems largely responsible for the fact that programs can now be derived in a manner more systematic than before.

In Section 3, after a prelude defining the notation, a formal definition of the semantics of the two constructs is given, together with two theorems for each of the constructs (without proof).

In Section 4, it is shown how, based upon the above, a formal calculus for the derivation of programs can be founded. We would like to stress that we do not present “an algorithm” for the derivation of programs: we have used the term “a calculus” for a formal discipline—a set of rules—such that, if applied successfully: (1) it will have derived a correct program; and (2) it will tell us that we have reached such a goal. (We use the term as in “integral calculus.”)

2. Two Statements Made from Guarded Commands

Reducing an Imperative Program to a Formula

```
{ true }  
// Check that this implication is valid (negation is unsatisfiable)  
  
if (a) {  
    if (b) {  
        res := true  
    } else {  
        res := false  
    }  
} else {  
    res := true  
}  
{ res  $\Leftrightarrow$  (a  $\Rightarrow$  b) }
```

Reducing an Imperative Program to a Formula

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} else {  
    { true  $\Leftrightarrow$  (a  $\Rightarrow$  b) }  
    res := true  
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} else {  
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  if (b) {  
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```

Automated Program Verifiers

gobra VIPER

P*rust→*i



LiquidHaskell





```
bdef withdrawSession (amounts : List Nat) returns (u: Unit)
let mut tmp := amounts
while tmp.nonEmpty do
  let amount := tmp.head!
  balance := balance - amount
  tmp := tmp.tail
return
```

```
require balance >= 0
ensures balance >= 0
ensures balance + amounts.sum = balanceOld
```

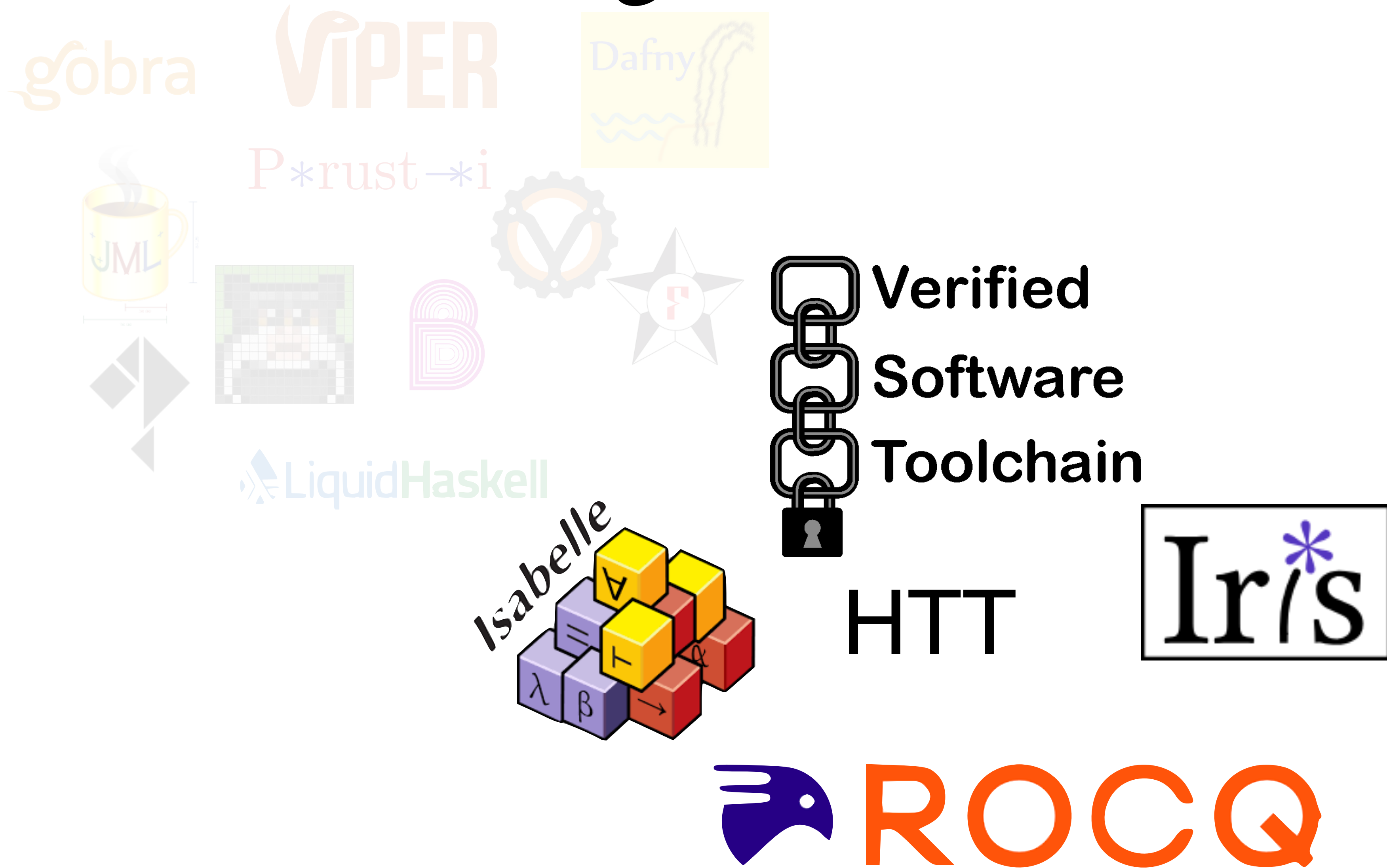
CVC5

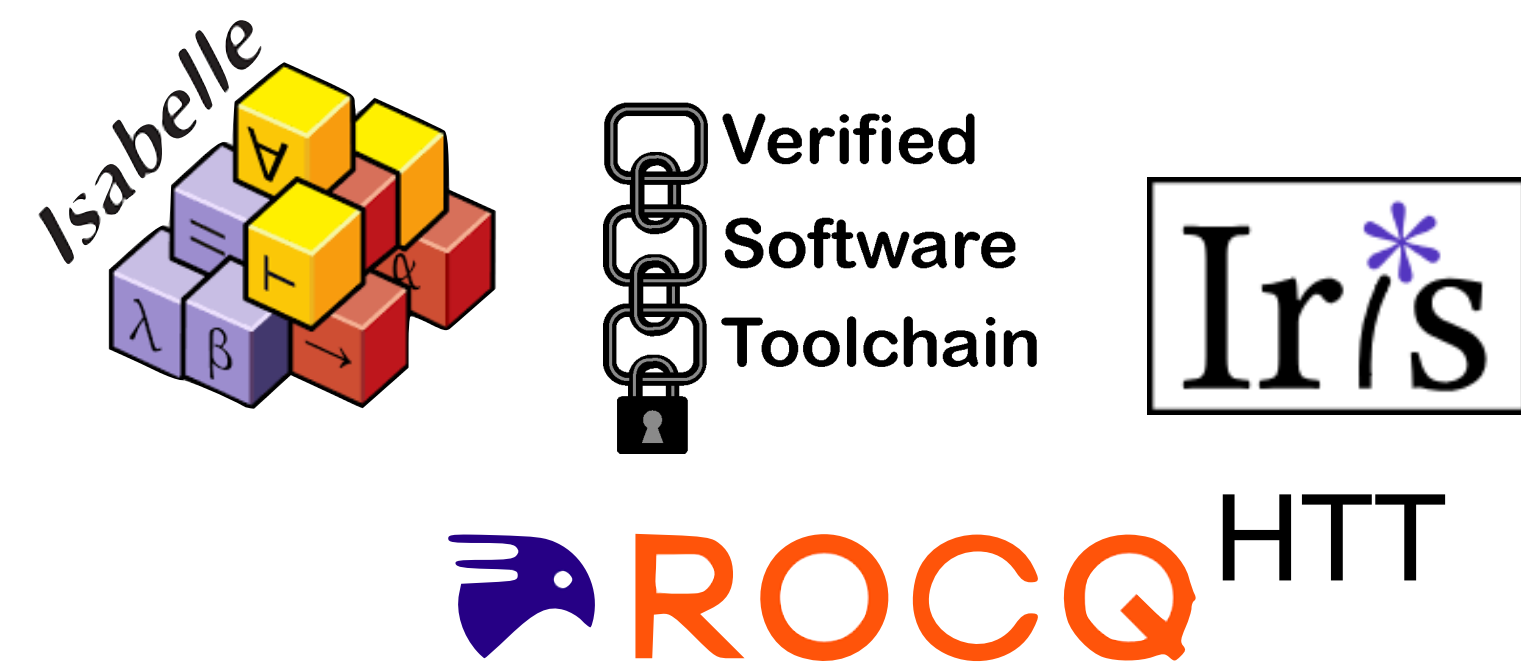
Z3



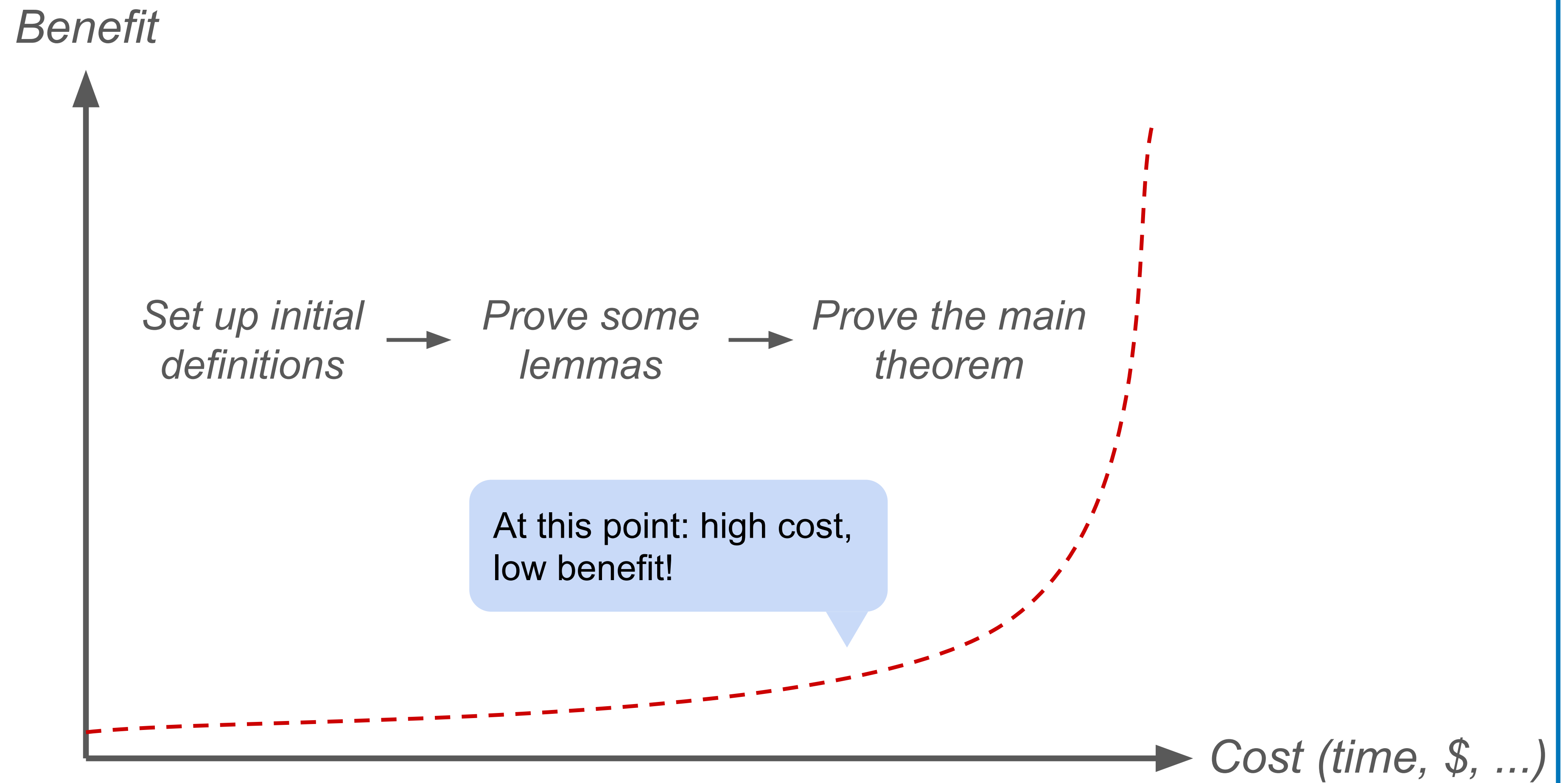
✗ + counterexample

Interactive Program Verifiers



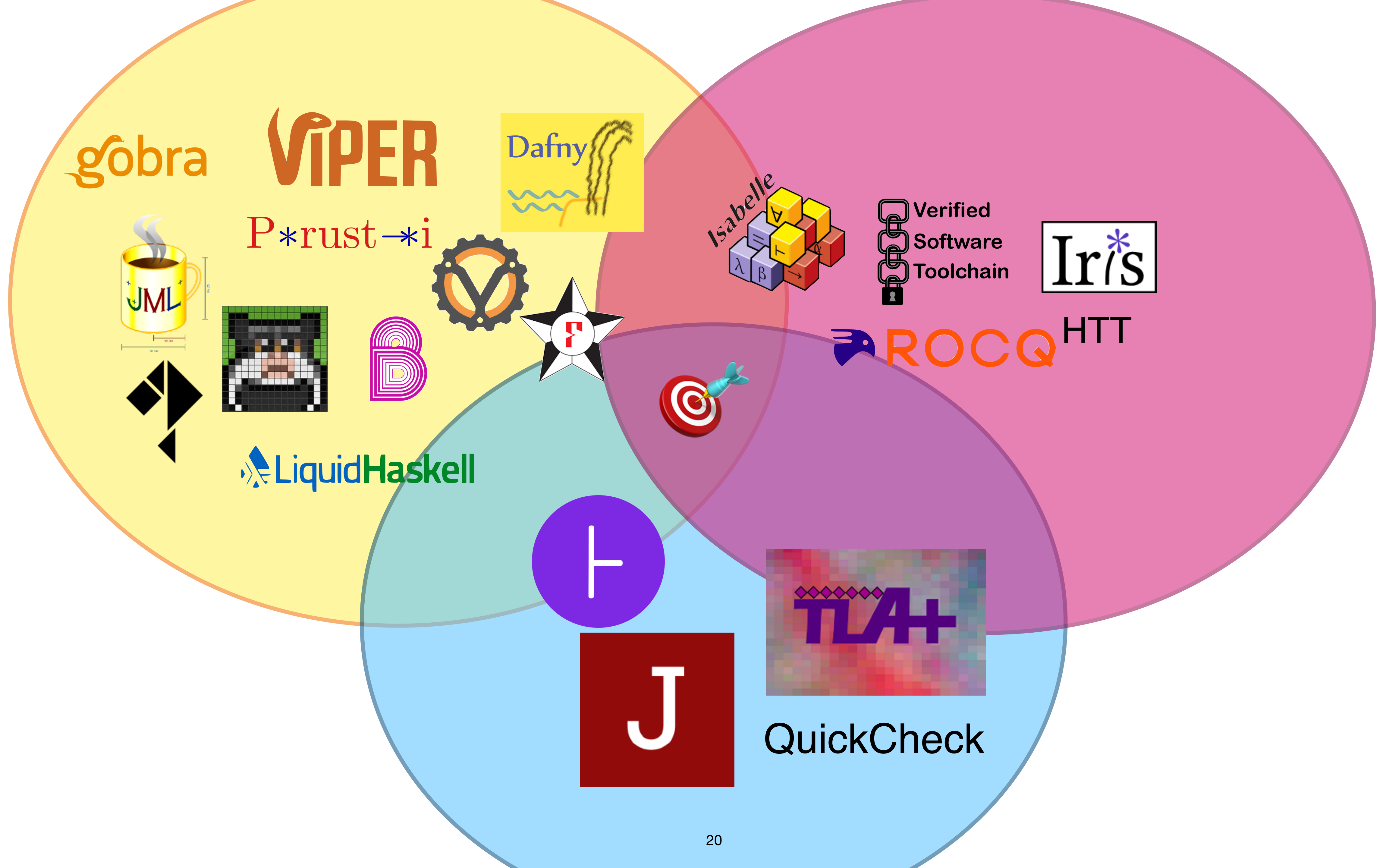


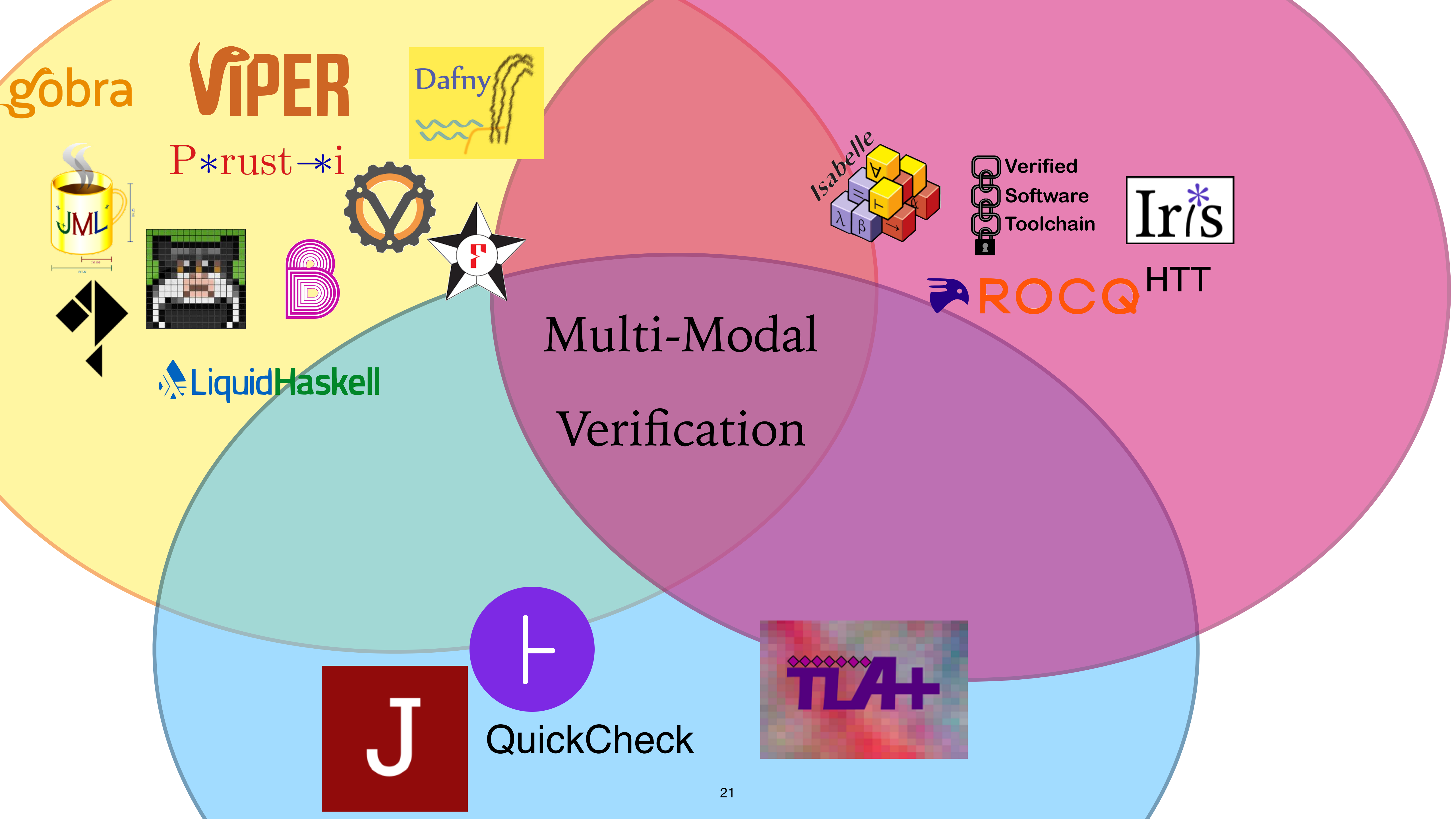
A bad cost/benefit curve



Bug Finding Tools







Verification Framework Design Aspects

- State
- Termination
- Bugs
- Non-determinism

Verification Framework Design Aspects

- State: Symbolic
- Termination: Total
- Bugs: Absence
- Non-determinism: $\forall$



Verification Framework Design Aspects

- State: **Symbolic**
- Termination: Total vs **Partial**
- Bugs: **Absence**
- Non-determinism: **$\forall$**



Verification Framework Design Aspects

- State: Symbolic
- Termination: Total vs Partial
- Bugs: Absence vs Presence
- Non-determinism: $\forall$ vs $\exists$



Verification Framework Design Aspects

- State: Symbolic vs Concrete
- Termination: Total vs Partial
- Bugs: Absence vs Presence
- Non-determinism: $\forall$ vs $\exists$

QuickCheck

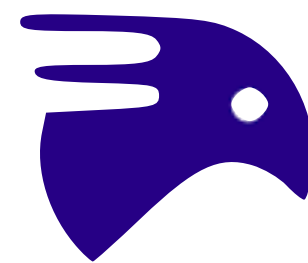
We present Velvet

We present Velvet

Verification framework combining



+



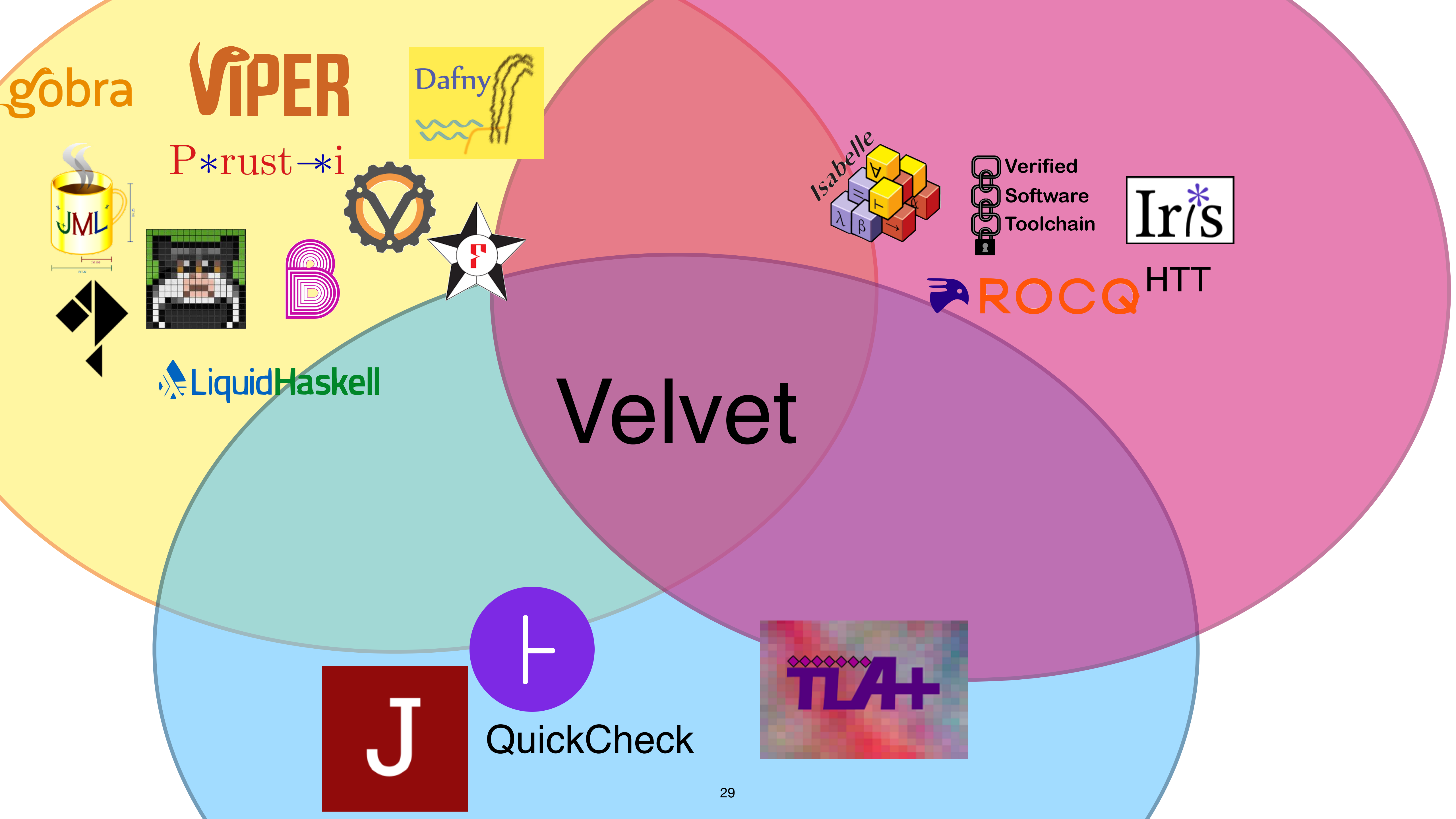
ROCCQ

+



+

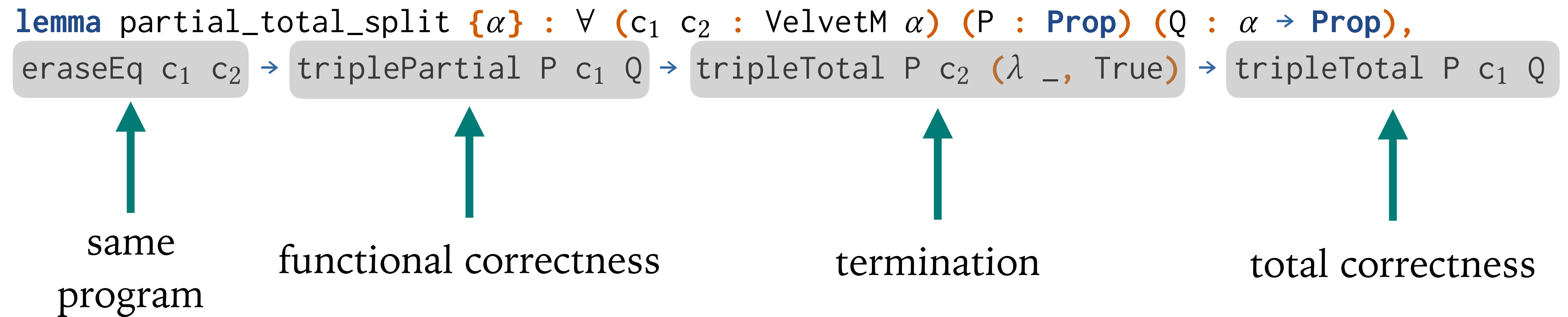
QuickCheck



Velvet Demo

- Stateful Programs
- Handling Termination
- Absence and Presence of Bugs
- Non-deterministic choice

Combining Correctness Proofs



Demo

(Functional and Total correctness of InsertSort)

Combining program verification and math proofs

$\{P\} \ c(args) \ \{\lambda \ res. \ \varphi(args, res)\}$

Combining program verification and math proofs

$$\{P\} c(args) \{\lambda res. \varphi(args, res)\}$$

Two-layer verification:

1. Prove the Hoare triple for a program c

$$\{P\} c(args) \{\lambda res. res = f(args)\}$$

for some mathematical function f

2. Prove that the result of $f(x)$ satisfies the property $\varphi(x, f(x))$

3. Specification weakening gets us:

$$\{P\} c(args) \{\lambda res. \varphi(args, res)\}$$

Combining program verification and math proofs

$\{P\} c(args) \{\lambda res. \varphi(args, res)\}$

Two-layer verification:

1. Prove the Hoare triple for a program c

$\{P\} c(args) \{\lambda res. res = f(args)\}$

for some mathematical function f

Often can be done
via SMT

2. Prove that the result of $f(x)$ satisfies the property $\varphi(x, f(x))$

interactive
via **mathlib**

3. Specification weakening gets us:

$\{P\} c(args) \{\lambda res. \varphi(args, res)\}$

for free

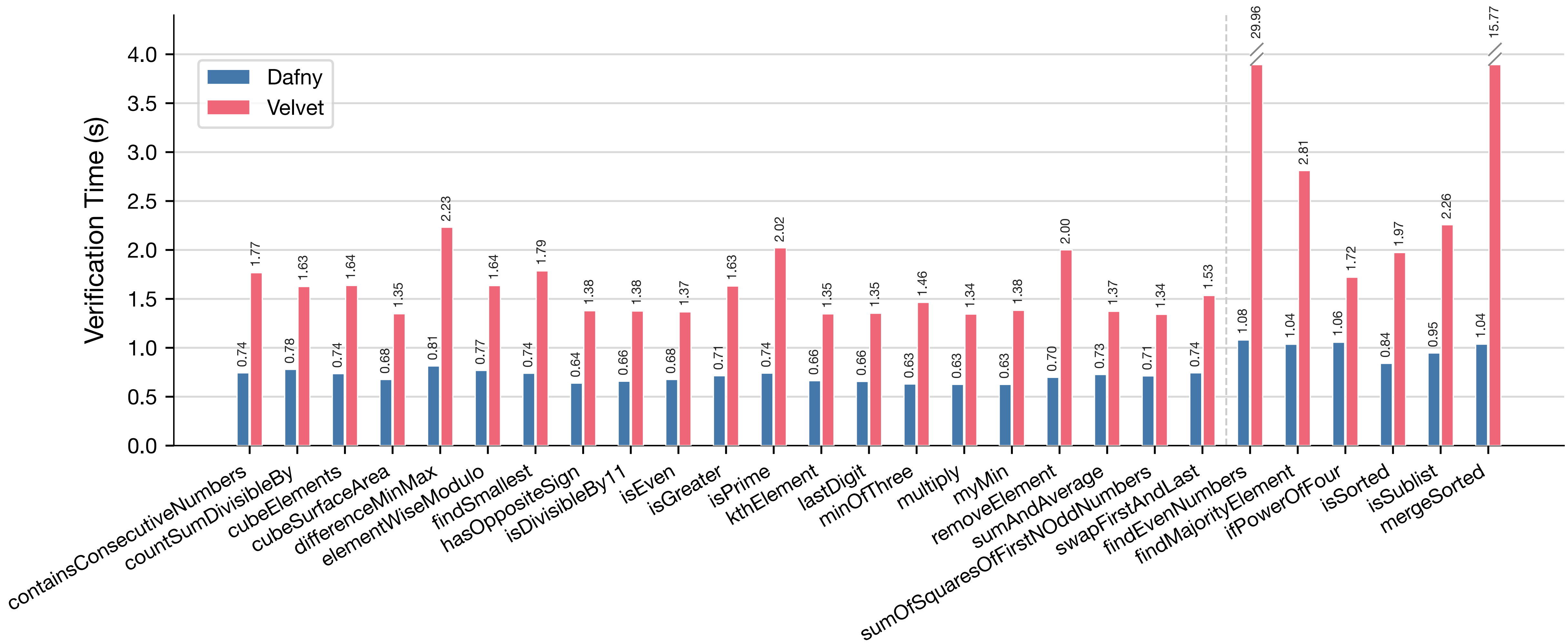
Case Study: Sparse Matrix/Vector Multiplication

- Efficient multiplication of two compressed tensor representations
- Both **spm** and **spv** are collections of arrays compressing the tensors

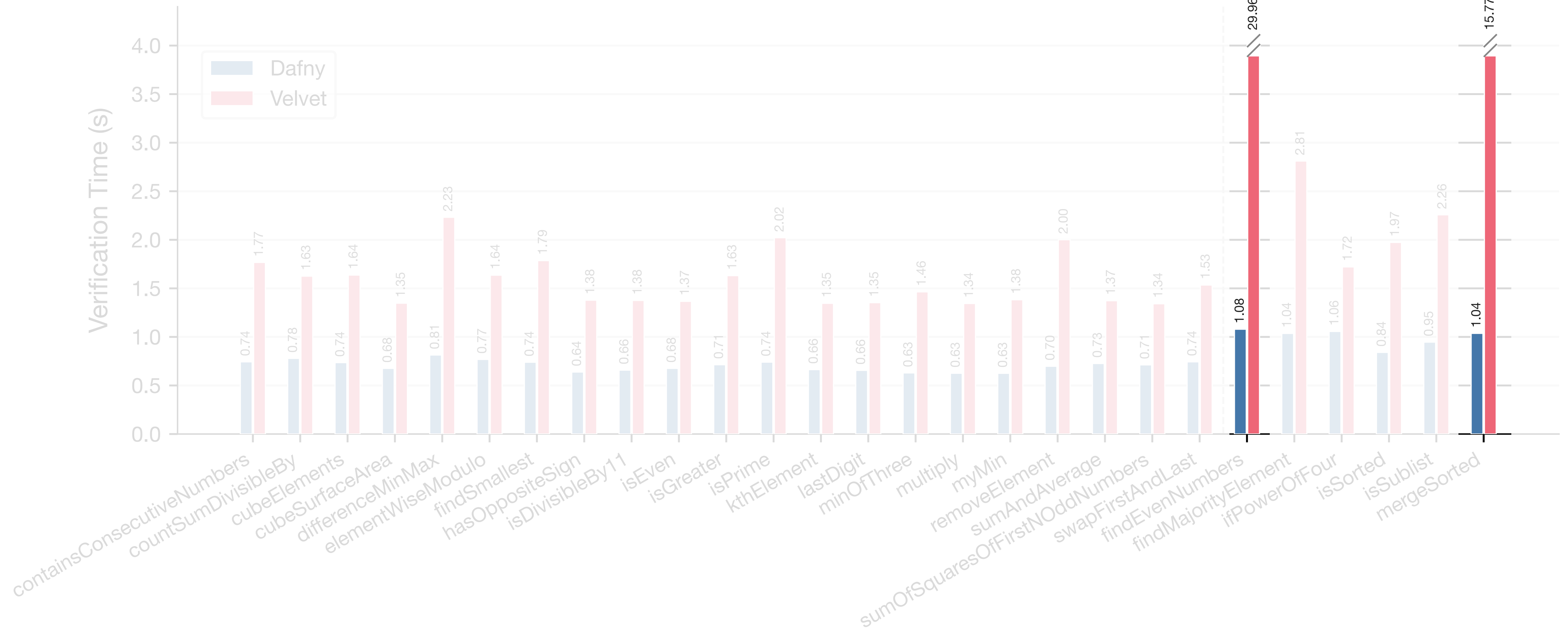
```
method SpMSpV
  (mut out: arrVal)
  (spm: arrSpV)
  (spv: SpVAbs) return (u: Unit)
ensures size outNew = size spm
ensures  $\forall i < \text{size } \text{spm}, \text{outNew}[i] = \text{spv\_dot } \text{spm}[i] \text{ spv}$  0 0
do
  out := val_inst.replicate (size spm) 0
  let mut spmInd := ind_inst.replicate (size spm) 0
  let mut spvInd := ind_inst.replicate (size spm) 0
  while_some i :| i < (size spm)  $\wedge$  TArray.get i spmInd < SpVT.size (TArray.get i spm)  $\wedge$ 
  | | | | TArray.get i spvInd < SpVT.size spv
  do
    let ind_m := spmInd[i]
    let ind_v := spvInd[i]
    if TArray.get ind_m (SpVT.ind spm[i]) = TArray.get ind_v (SpVT.ind spv) then
      out[i] += TArray.get ind_m (SpVT.val spm[i]) * TArray.get ind_v (SpVT.val spv)
      spmInd[i] += 1
      spvInd[i] += 1
    else
      if (SpVT.ind spm[i])[ind_m] < (SpVT.ind spv)[ind_v] then
        spmInd[i] += 1
      else
        spvInd[i] += 1
  return
```

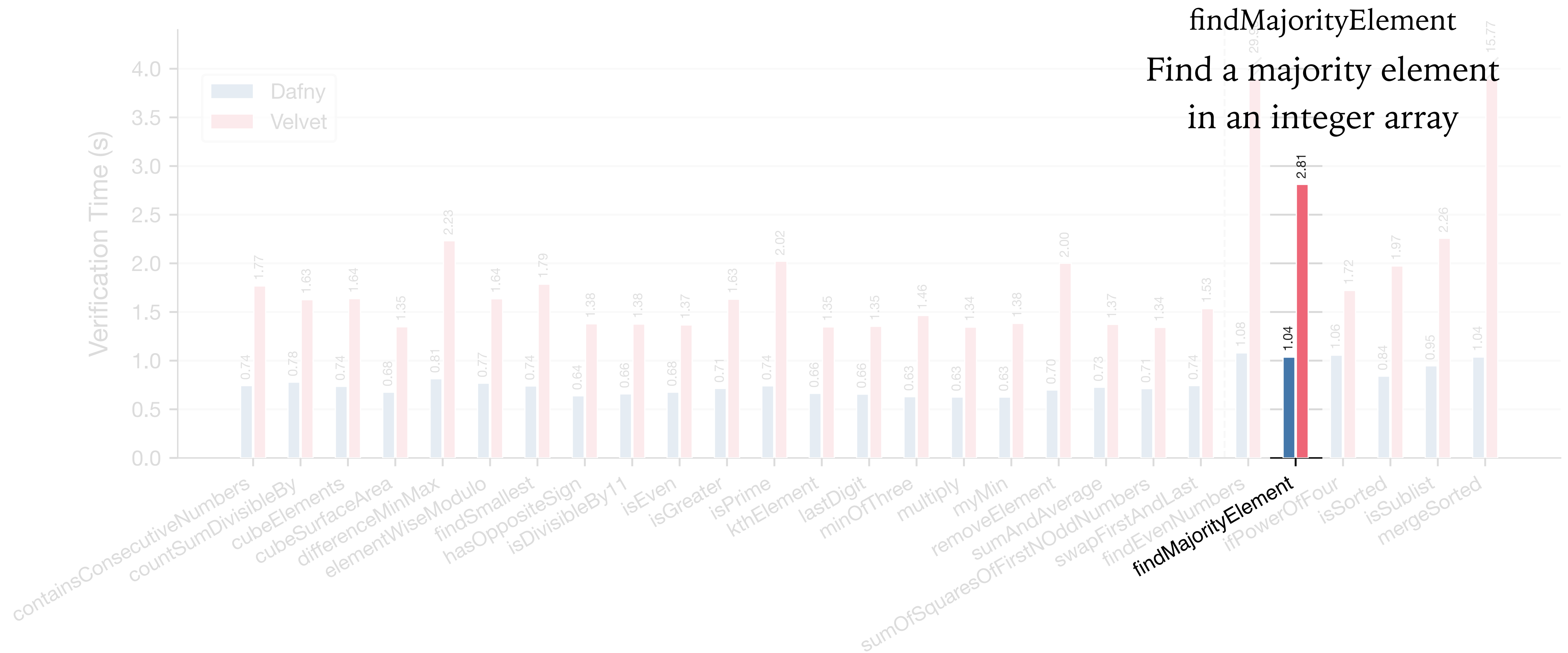
How does Velvet compare to state-of-the-art?

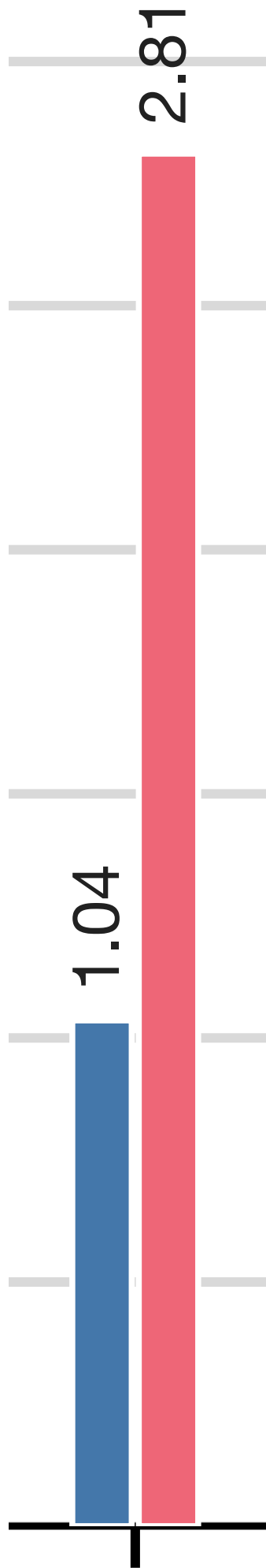




grind problems







findMajorityElement

```
import CaseStudies.Velvet.Std

set_option loom.semantics.termination "partial"
set_option loom.semantics.choice "demonic"

...

method findMajorityElement (lst : List Int)
  return (result : Int)
  ensures lst.hasMajorityElement → (result ∈ lst ∧ lst.isMajorityElement result)
  ensures ¬lst.hasMajorityElement → result = -1
  do
    let n := lst.length
    let threshold := n / 2
    let mut i := 0
    let mut found := false
    let mut candidate : Int := -1

    while i < n
      invariant "i_bounds" 0 ≤ i ∧ i ≤ n
      invariant "found_implies_majority" found = true → (candidate ∈ lst ∧ lst.isMajorityElement candidate)
      invariant "not_found_checked" found = false → (∀ k : Nat, k < i → ¬lst.isMajorityElement lst[k]!)
      do
        let elem := lst[i]!
        let mut count := 0
        let mut j := 0

        while j < n
          invariant "j_bounds" 0 ≤ j ∧ j ≤ n
          invariant "count_correct" count = (lst.take j).count elem
          invariant "found_preserved" found = true → (candidate ∈ lst ∧ lst.isMajorityElement candidate)
          invariant "i_preserved" 0 ≤ i ∧ i < n
          invariant "elem_in_list" i < lst.length → elem = lst[i]!
          invariant "not_found_checked_inner" found = false → (∀ k : Nat, k < i → ¬lst.isMajorityElement lst[k]!)
          do
            if lst[j]! = elem then
              count := count + 1
              j := j + 1

          if count > threshold then
            found := true
            candidate := elem

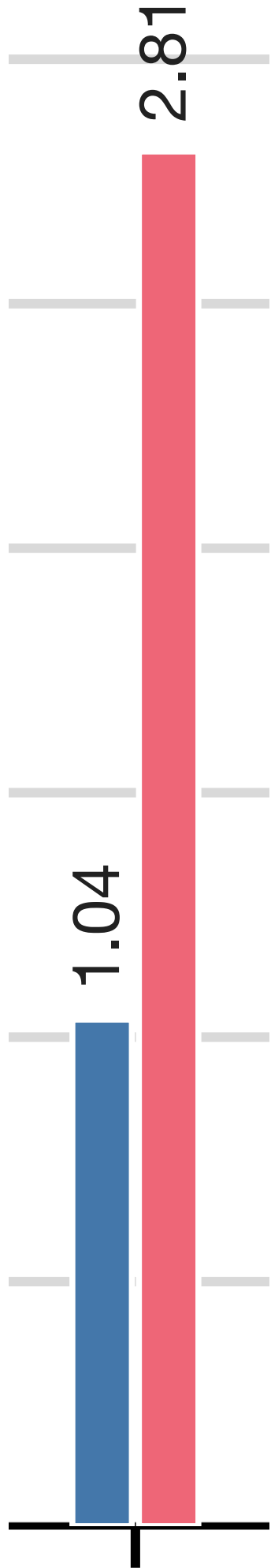
        i := i + 1

      if found then
        return candidate
      else
        return -1
```

attribute [grind] List.take_succ_eq_append_getElem

prove_correct findMajorityElement by
loom_vc_gen <;>

loom_solver



findMajorityElement

```
// Lemma: count in prefix increases by 1 when element matches
lemma CountPrefixIncrement(lst: seq<int>, x: int, j: nat)
  requires 0 <= j < |lst|
  requires lst[j] == x
  ensures countPrefix(lst, x, j + 1) == countPrefix(lst, x, j) + 1

// Lemma: count in prefix stays same when element doesn't match
lemma CountPrefixSame(lst: seq<int>, x: int, j: nat)
  requires 0 <= j < |lst|
  requires lst[j] != x
  ensures countPrefix(lst, x, j + 1) == countPrefix(lst, x, j)

// Lemma: full prefix equals the whole list
lemma CountPrefixFull(lst: seq<int>, x: int)
  ensures countPrefix(lst, x, |lst|) == count(lst, x)

{
  assert lst[..j+1] == lst[..j] ++ [lst[j]]
  CountConcat(lst[..j], [lst[j]])
}

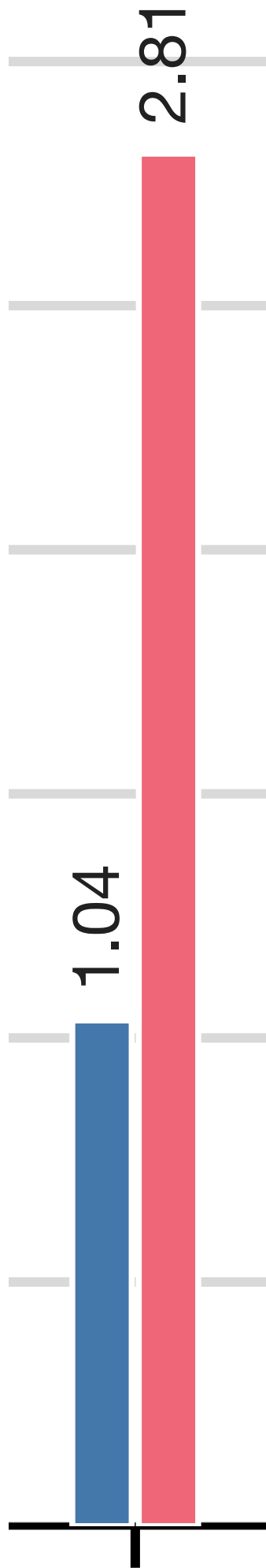
{
  assert lst[..|lst|] == lst
}

var cnt := 0;
var j := 0;

while j < n
  invariant 0 <= j <= n
  invariant cnt == countPrefix(lst, elem, j)
  invariant found == true ==> (candidate in lst && isMajorityElement(lst, candidate))
  invariant 0 <= i < n
  invariant elem == lst[i]
  invariant found == false ==> (forall k :: 0 <= k < i ==> !isMajorityElement(lst, lst[k]))
  decreases n - j
  {
    if lst[j] == elem {
      CountPrefixIncrement(lst, elem, j);
      cnt := cnt + 1;
    } else {
      CountPrefixSame(lst, elem, j);
    }
  }
  j := j + 1;
}

CountPrefixFull(lst, elem);

if cnt > threshold {
```



findMajorityElement

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set_option loom.semantics.termination "partial"
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...

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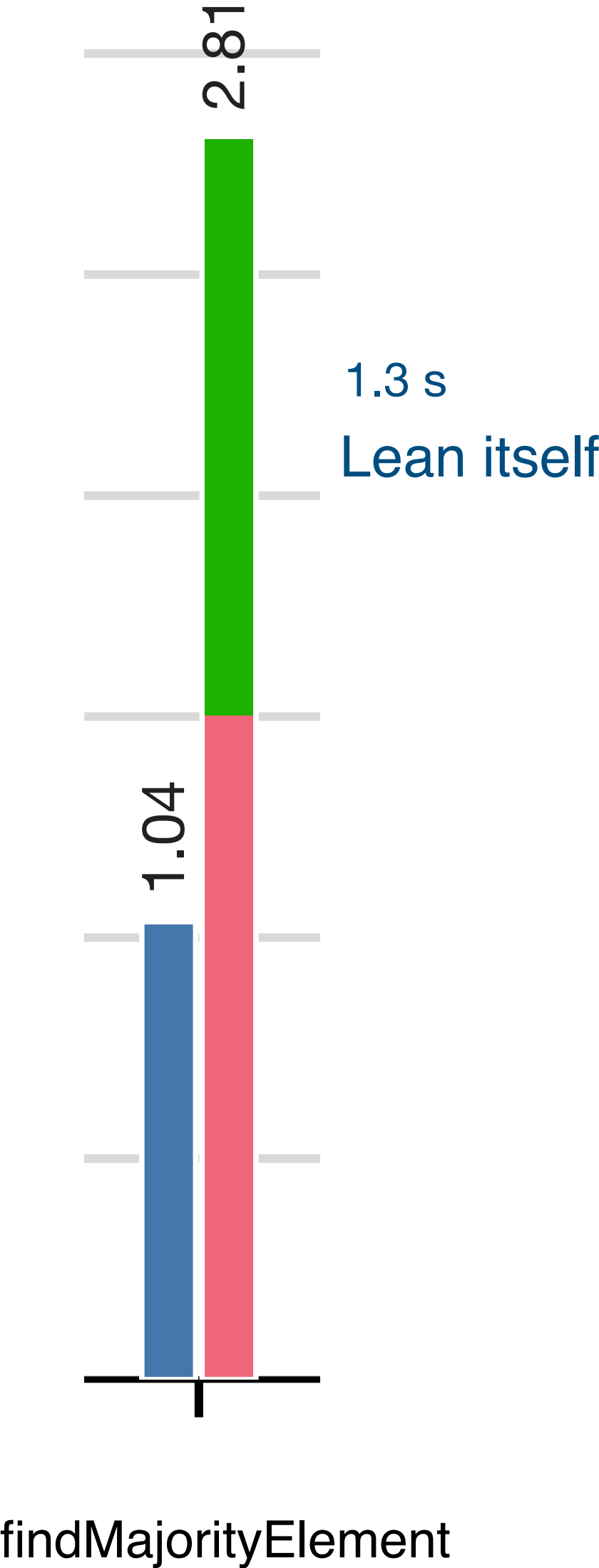
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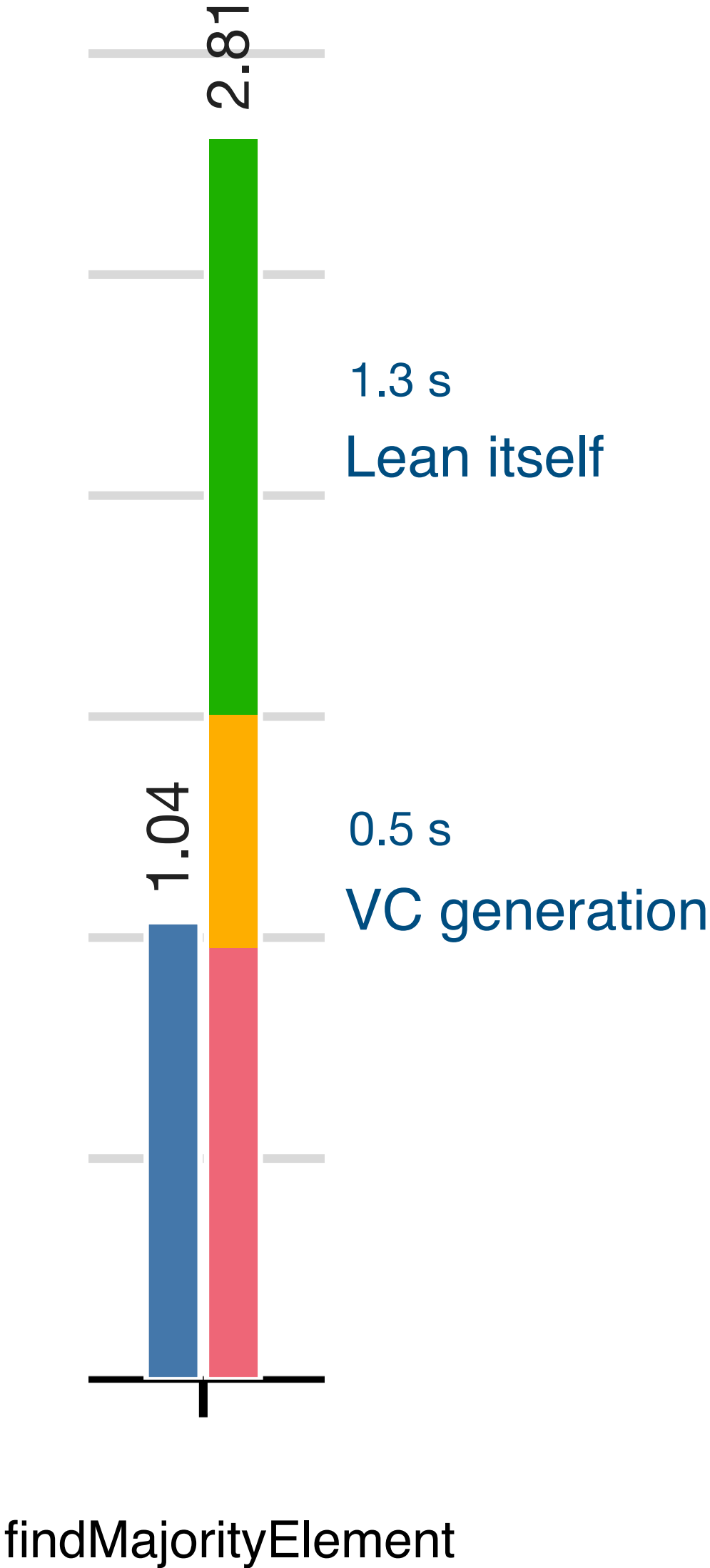
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          invariant "found_preserved" found = true → (candidate ∈ lst ∧ lst.isMajorityElement candidate)
          invariant "i_preserved" 0 ≤ i ∧ i < n
          invariant "elem_in_list" i < lst.length → elem = lst[j]!
          invariant "not_found_checked_inner" found = false → (∀ k : Nat, k < i → ¬lst.isMajorityElement lst[k]!)
          do
            if lst[j]! = elem then
              count := count + 1
              j := j + 1
            else
              j := j + 1

          if count > threshold then
            found := true
            candidate := elem

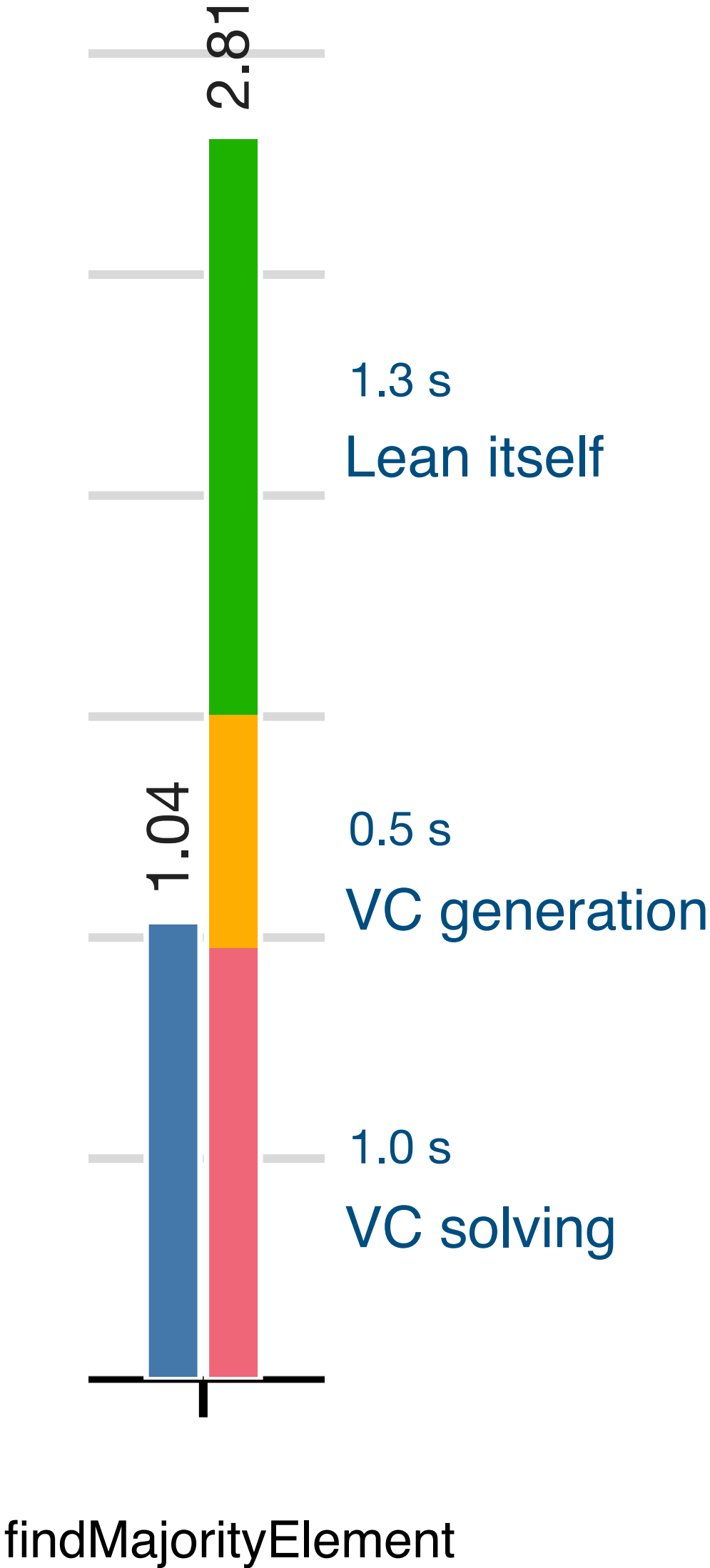
        i := i + 1

      if found then
        return candidate
      else
        return -1
```

attribute [grind] List.take_succ_eq_append_getElem

prove_correct findMajorityElement by
loom_vc_gen <;>

loom_solver



```
import CaseStudies.Velvet.Std

set_option loom.semantics.termination "partial"
set_option loom.semantics.choice "demonic"

...

method findMajorityElement (lst : List Int)
  return (result : Int)
  ensures lst.hasMajorityElement → (result ∈ lst ∧ lst.isMajorityElement result)
  ensures ¬lst.hasMajorityElement → result = -1
  do
    let n := lst.length
    let threshold := n / 2
    let mut i := 0
    let mut found := false
    let mut candidate : Int := -1

    while i < n
      invariant "i_bounds" 0 ≤ i ∧ i ≤ n
      invariant "found_implies_majority" found = true → (candidate ∈ lst ∧ lst.isMajorityElement candidate)
      invariant "not_found_checked" found = false → (∀ k : Nat, k < i → ¬lst.isMajorityElement lst[k]!)
      do
        let elem := lst[i]!
        let mut count := 0
        let mut j := 0

        while j < n
          invariant "j_bounds" 0 ≤ j ∧ j ≤ n
          invariant "count_correct" count = (lst.take j).count elem
          invariant "found_preserved" found = true → (candidate ∈ lst ∧ lst.isMajorityElement candidate)
          invariant "i_preserved" 0 ≤ i ∧ i < n
          invariant "elem_in_list" i < lst.length → elem = lst[i]!
          invariant "not_found_checked_inner" found = false → (∀ k : Nat, k < i → ¬lst.isMajorityElement lst[k]!)
          do
            if lst[j]! = elem then
              count := count + 1
              j := j + 1

          if count > threshold then
            found := true
            candidate := elem

        i := i + 1

      if found then
        return candidate
      else
        return -1
```

attribute [grind] List.take_succ_eq_append_getElem

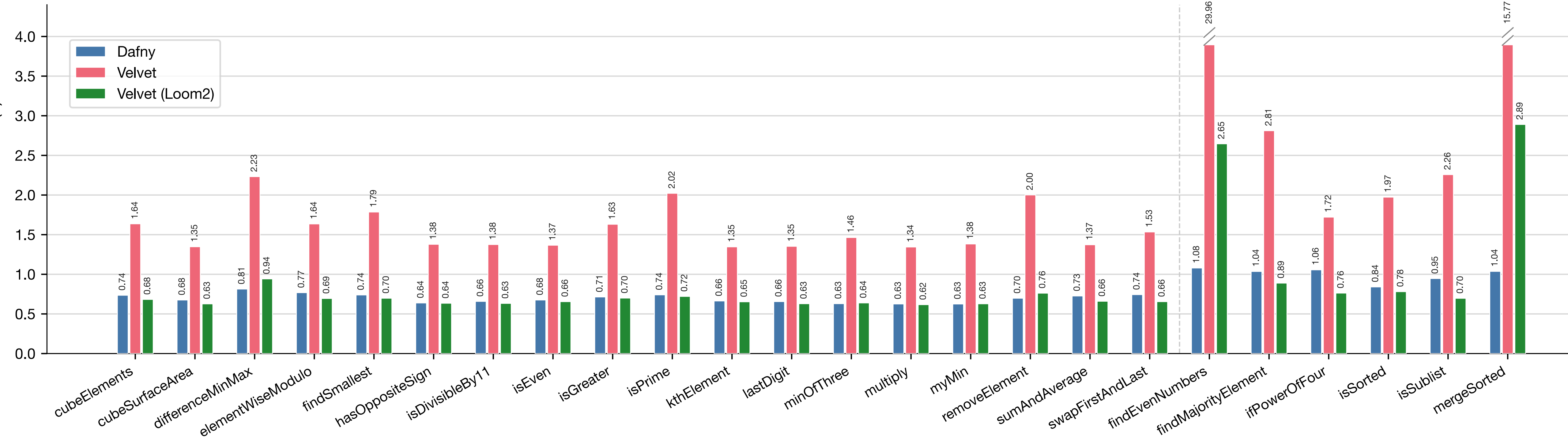
prove_correct findMajorityElement by
loom_vc_gen <;>

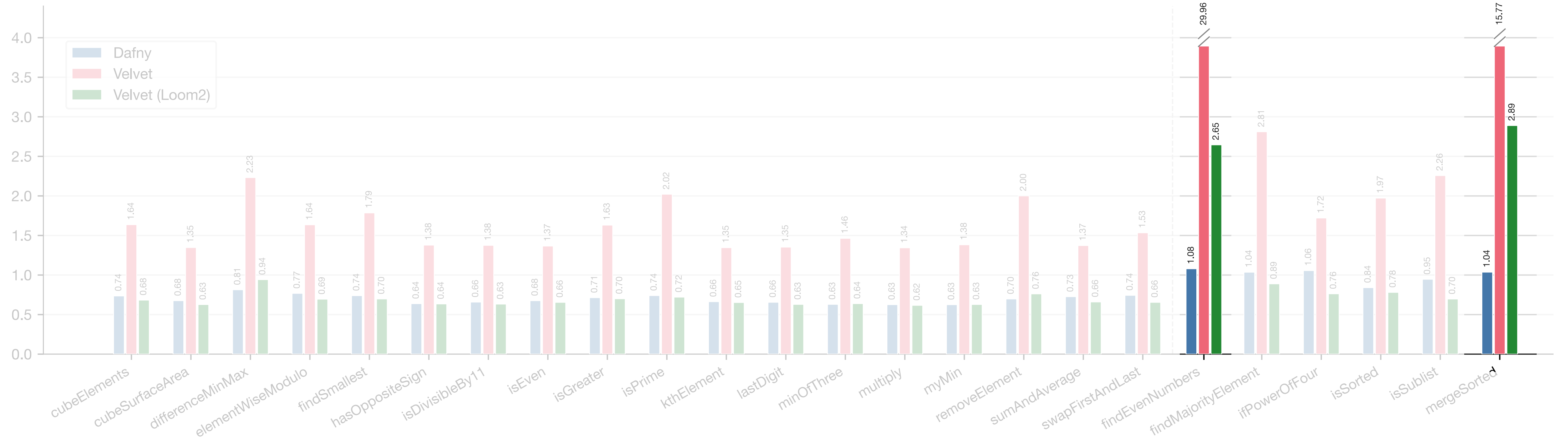
loom_solver

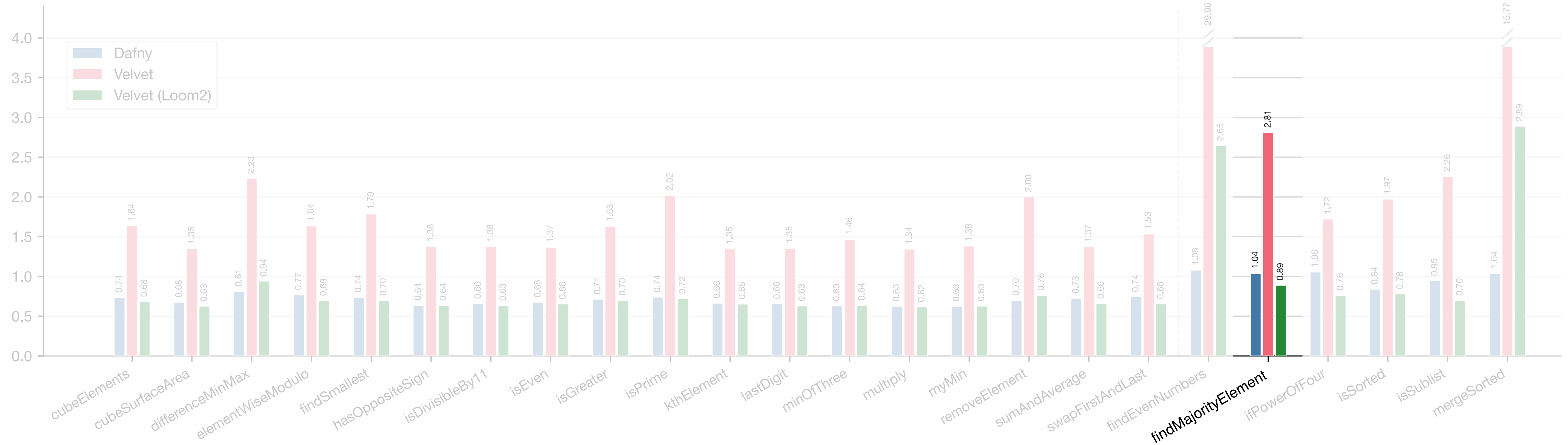
Velvet 2.0 Announce

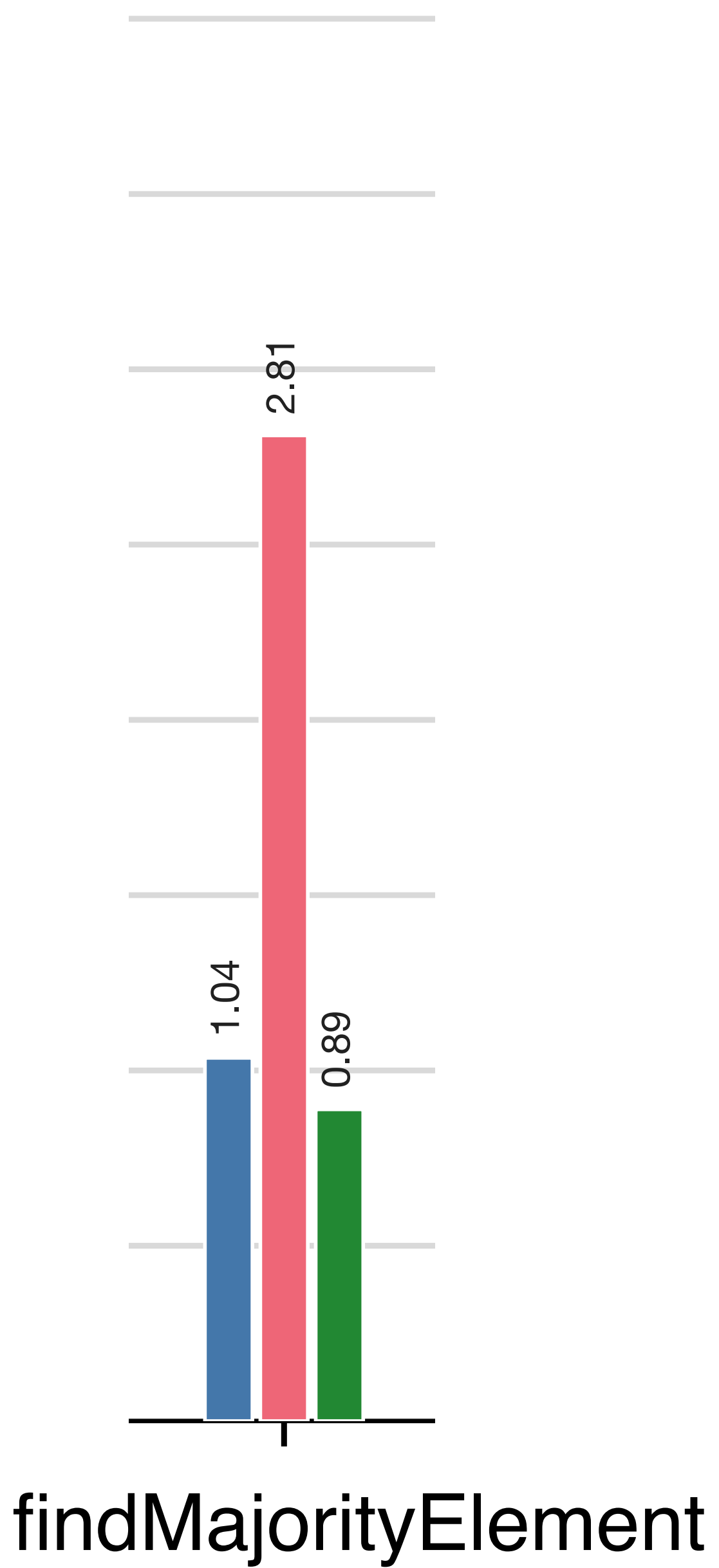
Velvet 2.0

- Lean got much faster itself!
 - New compiler, new `do`-notation...
- `SymM` framework for efficient metaprogramming
 - Canonising terms, hash-consing, caching...
- Incremental `grind` and `simp` context
 - `grind` and `simp` do not have to re-process context every time for each VCs from scratch









Lean itself

1.3 s

$\sim 2x$

0.60s

VC generation

0.5 s

$\sim 6x$

0.08 s

VC solving

1.0 s

$\sim 6x$

0.17 s

To Take Away

- **Velvet** is a *multi-modal* program verifier written in Lean
- Velvet is *foundational*: each Velvet proof is checked with Lean kernel
- Velvet is *fast*: its performance is comparable to Dafny
- Velvet connects AI4Math progress to program verification

github.com/verse-lab/velvet

Velvet: A Foundational Multi-Modal Verifier for Imperative Programs in Lean, CAV'26

Foundational Multi-Modal Program Verifiers, POPL'26

Certified Program Synthesis with a Multi-Modal Verifier, ASE'26

Thanks!