

# Deductive Program Verification with WHY3

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*Software is hard.* — DONALD KNUTH

# Ensure the absence of bugs

Several approaches exist: model checking, abstract interpretation, etc.

In this lecture: **deductive verification**

1. provide a program with a **specification**: a mathematical model
2. build a formal **proof** showing that the code respects the specification

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1. provide a program with a **specification**: a mathematical model
2. build a formal **proof** showing that the code respects the specification

First proof of a program: **Alan Turing**, 1949

```
u := 1
for r = 0 to n - 1 do
  v := u
  for s = 1 to r do
    u := u + v
```

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First grand success in practice: **metro line 14**, 1998

tool: **Atelier B**, proof by refinement

## Some other major success stories

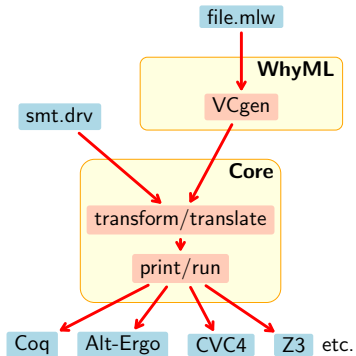
- **Flight control software in A380**, 2005
  - safety proof: the absence of execution errors
  - tool: **Astrée**, abstract interpretation
  - proof of functional properties
  - tool: **Caveat**, deductive verification
- **Hyper-V** — a native hypervisor, 2008
  - tools: **VCC** + automated prover **Z3**, deductive verification
- **CompCert** — verified C compiler, 2009
  - tool: **Coq**, generation of the correct-by-construction code
- **seL4** — an OS micro-kernel, 2009
  - tool: **Isabelle/HOL**, deductive verification
- **CakeML** — verified ML compiler, 2016
  - tool: **HOL4**, deductive verification, self-bootstrap

## 1. Tool of the day

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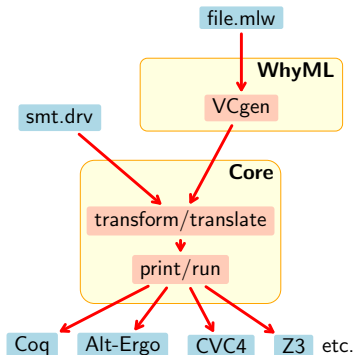
# WHY3 in a nutshell



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WHYML, a programming language

- type polymorphism
- variants
- limited support for higher order
- pattern matching
- exceptions
- `break`, `continue`, and `return`
- ghost code and ghost data (CAV 2014)
- mutable data with controlled aliasing
- contracts
- loop and type invariants



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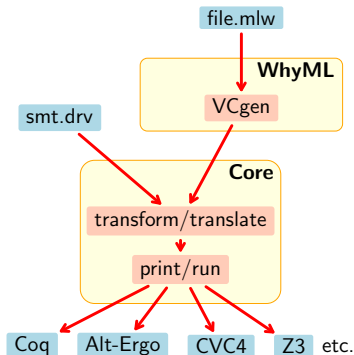
### WHYML, a programming language

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### WHYML, a specification language

- polymorphic & algebraic types
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- inductive predicates

(FroCos 2011) (CADE 2013)



## WHY3 in a nutshell

### WHYML, a programming language

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### WHY3, a program verification tool

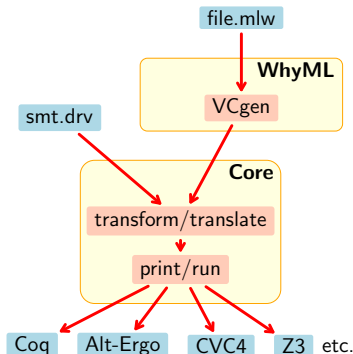
- VC generation using WP or fast WP
- 70+ VC transformations ( $\approx$  tactics)
- support for 25+ ATP and ITP systems

(Boogie 2011) (ESOP 2013) (VSTTE 2013)

### WHYML, a specification language

- polymorphic & algebraic types
- limited support for higher order
- inductive predicates

(FroCos 2011) (CADE 2013)



## Three different ways of using WHY3

- as a logical language
  - a convenient front-end to many theorem provers
- as a programming language to prove algorithms
  - see examples in our gallery  
<http://toccata.lri.fr/gallery/why3.en.html>
- as an intermediate verification language
  - Java programs: Krakatoa (Marché Paulin Urbain)
  - C programs: Frama-C (Marché Moy)
  - Ada programs: SPARK 2014 (Adacore)
  - probabilistic programs: EasyCrypt (Barthe et al.)

## Example: maximum subarray problem

```
let maximum_subarray (a: array int): int
  ensures { forall l h: int. 0 <= l <= h <= length a -> sum a l h <= result }
  ensures { exists l h: int. 0 <= l <= h <= length a /\ sum a l h = result }
```









# Why3 proof session

The screenshot displays the Why3 IDE interface. The top menu bar includes 'File', 'Tools', 'View', and 'Help'. The main window is divided into three panes:

- Left Pane (Theories/Goals):** Shows a tree structure of goals. The root is `./maxsum_solution.mlw`, which contains a folder `Kadane`. Under `Kadane`, there is a folder `VC maximum_subarray [VC for maxim`, which contains a folder `split_vc`. Under `split_vc`, there are 23 numbered goals (0-23). Goals 0-10 are marked with green checkmarks, indicating they are solved. Goals 11-23 are also marked with green checkmarks. The solver used is `CVC4 1.5` with a time of `0.03`. Below this, `Alt-Ergo 1.30` is shown with a time of `0.01 (steps: 31)`.
- Right Pane (Task):** Shows the Coq code for the `maximum_subarray` function. The code is as follows:

```
25
26 let maximum_subarray (a: array int): int
27   ensures { forall l h: int. 0 <= l <= h <= length a -> sum a l h <= result }
28   ensures { exists l h: int. 0 <= l <= h <= length a /\ sum a l h = result }
29 =
30   let maxsum = ref 0 in
31   let curmax = ref 0 in
32   let ghost lo = ref 0 in
33   let ghost hi = ref 0 in
34   let ghost cl = ref 0 in
35   for i = 0 to a.length - 1 do
36     invariant { forall l : int. 0 <= l <= i -> sum a l i <= !curmax }
37     invariant { 0 <= !cl <= i /\ sum a !cl i = !curmax }
38     invariant { forall l h: int. 0 <= l <= h <= i -> sum a l h <= !maxsum }
39     invariant { 0 <= !lo <= !hi <= i /\ sum a !lo !hi = !maxsum }
40     curmax += a[i];
41     if !curmax < 0 then begin curmax := 0; cl := i+; end;
42     if !curmax > !maxsum then begin maxsum := !curmax; lo := !cl; hi := i+; end
43   done;
44   !maxsum
45
46 end
47
```

Lines 36-42 are highlighted in green, corresponding to the proof goals shown in the left pane.
- Bottom Pane (Messages):** Shows the status of the proof session, including 'Messages', 'Log', 'Edited proof', 'Prover output', and 'Counterexample'.

## 2. Program correctness

---

$t ::=$	$\dots, -1, 0, 1, \dots, 42, \dots$	integer constants
	true   false	Boolean constants
	$u$   $v$   $w$	immutable variable
	$x$   $y$   $z$	dereferenced pointer
	$t \text{ op } t$	binary operation
	$\text{op } t$	unary operation
$\text{op} ::=$	$+$   $-$   $*$	arithmetic operations
	$=$   $\neq$   $<$   $>$   $\leq$   $\geq$	arithmetic comparisons
	$\wedge$   $\vee$   $\neg$	Boolean connectives

- two data types: mathematical integers and Booleans
- well-typed terms evaluate without errors (no division)
- evaluation of a term does not change the program memory

## Program expressions

$e ::=$	<code>skip</code>	do nothing
	<code>t</code>	pure term
	<code>x ← t</code>	assignment
	<code>e ; e</code>	sequence
	<code>let v = e in e</code>	binding
	<code>let ref x = e in e</code>	allocation
	<code>if t then e else e</code>	conditional
	<code>while t do e done</code>	loop

- three types: integers, Booleans, and `unit`
- references (pointers) are not first-class values
- expressions can allocate and modify memory
- well-typed expressions evaluate without errors

```

skip           : unit
tτ           : τ
xτ ← tτ     : unit
eunit ; eς   : ς
let vτ = eτ in eς : ς
let ref xτ = eτ in eς : ς
if tbool then eς else eς : ς
while tbool do eunit done : unit
    
```

- $\tau ::= \text{int} \mid \text{bool}$  and  $\varsigma ::= \tau \mid \text{unit}$
- references (pointers) are not first-class values
- expressions can allocate and modify memory
- well-typed expressions evaluate without errors

`x ← e` ≡ `let v = e in x ← v`

`if e then e1 else e2` ≡ `let v = e in if v then e1 else e2`

`if e1 then e2` ≡ `if e1 then e2 else skip`

`e1 && e2` ≡ `if e1 then e2 else false`

`e1 || e2` ≡ `if e1 then true else e2`

```
let ref sum = 1 in
let ref count = 0 in
while sum ≤ n do
  count ← count + 1;
  sum ← sum + 2 * count + 1
done;
count
```

What is the result of this expression for a given  $n$ ?



```
let ref sum = 1 in
let ref count = 0 in
while sum ≤ n do
  count ← count + 1;
  sum ← sum + 2 * count + 1
done;
count
```

What is the result of this expression for a given  $n$ ?

Informal specification:

- at the end, `count` contains the truncated square root of  $n$
- for instance, given  $n = 42$ , the returned value is 6

A statement about program correctness:

$$\{P\} e \{Q\}$$

$P$  precondition property

$e$  expression

$Q$  postcondition property

What is the meaning of a Hoare triple?

$\{P\} e \{Q\}$  if we execute  $e$  in a state that satisfies  $P$ ,  
then the computation either diverges  
or terminates in a state that satisfies  $Q$

This is **partial correctness**: we say nothing about termination.

Examples of valid Hoare triples for partial correctness:

- $\{x = 1\} x \leftarrow x + 2 \{x = 3\}$
- $\{x = y\} x + y \{\text{result} = 2y\}$
- $\{\exists v. x = 4v\} x + 42 \{\exists w. \text{result} = 2w\}$
- $\{\text{true}\} \text{while true do skip done } \{\boxed{\text{false}}\}$

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  - ergo: not proving termination can be fatal

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In our square root example:

$$\{?\} \text{ISQRT } \{?\}$$

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In our square root example:

$$\{n \geq 0\} \text{ISQRT } \{?\}$$

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In our square root example:

$$\{n \geq 0\} \text{ISQRT} \{\text{result}^2 \leq n < (\text{result} + 1)^2\}$$

### 3. Weakest precondition calculus

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How can we establish the correctness of a program?

One solution: Edsger Dijkstra, 1975

Predicate transformer  $WP(e, Q)$

$e$  expression

$Q$  postcondition

computes the **weakest precondition**  $P$  such that  $\{P\} e \{Q\}$

$x \leftarrow 3 * x * y$       {  $x$  is even }

$\{ 3xy \text{ is even} \} \quad x \leftarrow 3 * x * y \quad \{ x \text{ is even} \}$

$\{ 3xy \text{ is even} \} \quad x \leftarrow 3 * x * y \quad \{ x \text{ is even} \}$

$\{ Q[s] \} \quad x \leftarrow s \quad \{ Q[x] \}$

$\{ 3xy \text{ is even} \}$        $x \leftarrow 3 * x * y$        $\{ x \text{ is even} \}$

$\{ Q[s] \}$        $x \leftarrow s$        $\{ Q[x] \}$

**if**  $c$  **then**     $e_1$      $\{ Q \}$   
                  **else**     $e_2$

$$\{ 3xy \text{ is even} \} \quad x \leftarrow 3 * x * y \quad \{ x \text{ is even} \}$$
$$\{ Q[s] \} \quad x \leftarrow s \quad \{ Q[x] \}$$
$$\begin{array}{l} \text{if } c \text{ then } e_1 Q \\ \text{else } e_2 Q \end{array} \quad \{ Q \}$$

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$$\{ Q[s] \} \quad x \leftarrow s \quad \{ Q[x] \}$$
$$\begin{array}{l} \text{if } c \text{ then } P_1 e_1 Q \\ \text{else } P_2 e_2 Q \end{array} \quad \{ Q \}$$

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$\{ Q[s] \} \quad x \leftarrow s \quad \{ Q[x] \}$

$\{ \text{if } c \text{ then } P_1 \quad \text{if } c \text{ then } P_1 e_1 Q$   
 $\quad \text{else } P_2 \} \quad \text{else } P_2 e_2 Q \quad \{ Q \}$



$$\{ 3xy \text{ is even} \} \quad x \leftarrow 3 * x * y \quad \{ x \text{ is even} \}$$

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$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{if } c \text{ then } P_1 \\ \text{else } P_2 \end{array} \right\} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{if } c \text{ then } P_1 e_1 Q \\ \text{else } P_2 e_2 Q \end{array} \quad \{ Q \}$$

$$\text{if } c \text{ then } e \quad \{ Q \}$$

$$\{ 3xy \text{ is even} \} \quad x \leftarrow 3 * x * y \quad \{ x \text{ is even} \}$$

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$$\text{if } c \text{ then } P e Q \quad \{ Q \}$$

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 $\quad \text{else } P_2 \} \quad \quad \text{else } P_2 e_2 Q \quad \{ Q \}$

$\{ \text{if } c \text{ then } P \quad \text{if } c \text{ then } P e Q$   
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$\{ \text{if } c \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q \} \quad \text{if } c \text{ then } P e Q \quad \{ Q \}$

$\text{while } c \text{ do } e \text{ done} \quad \{ Q \}$

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$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{if } c \text{ then } P \\ \text{else } Q \end{array} \right\} \quad \text{if } c \text{ then } P e Q \quad \{ Q \}$$

$$? \quad \text{while } c \text{ do } e \text{ done} \quad \{ Q \}$$

$$\text{WP}(\text{skip}, Q) \equiv Q$$

$$\text{WP}(t, Q) \equiv Q[\text{result} \mapsto t]$$

$$\text{WP}(x \leftarrow t, Q) \equiv Q[x \mapsto t]$$

$$\text{WP}(e_1 ; e_2, Q) \equiv \text{WP}(e_1, \text{WP}(e_2, Q))$$

$$\text{WP}(\text{let } v = e_1 \text{ in } e_2, Q) \equiv \text{WP}(e_1, \text{WP}(e_2, Q)[v \mapsto \text{result}])$$

$$\text{WP}(\text{let ref } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2, Q) \equiv \text{WP}(e_1, \text{WP}(e_2, Q)[x \mapsto \text{result}])$$

$$\text{WP}(\text{if } t \text{ then } e_1 \text{ else } e_2, Q) \equiv (t \rightarrow \text{WP}(e_1, Q)) \wedge (\neg t \rightarrow \text{WP}(e_2, Q))$$

## Swimming up the waterfall

```
if odd  $q$  then  $r \leftarrow r + p$ ;  
 $p \leftarrow p + p$ ;  
 $q \leftarrow \text{half } q$ 
```

## Swimming up the waterfall

```
if odd  $q$  then
```

```
     $r \leftarrow r + p$ 
```

```
else
```

```
    skip;
```

```
 $p \leftarrow p + p;$ 
```

```
 $q \leftarrow \text{half } q$ 
```



## Swimming up the waterfall

if odd  $q$  then

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else

skip;

$p \leftarrow p + p;$

$q \leftarrow \text{half } q$

$Q[p, q, r]$

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## Swimming up the waterfall

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if odd  $q$  then
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   $r \leftarrow r + p$ 
   $Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r]$ 
else
   $Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r]$ 
  skip;
   $Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r]$ 
 $p \leftarrow p + p;$ 
 $Q[p, \text{half } q, r]$ 
 $q \leftarrow \text{half } q$ 
 $Q[p, q, r]$ 
```

## Swimming up the waterfall

$(\text{odd } q \rightarrow Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r + p]) \wedge$   
 $(\neg \text{odd } q \rightarrow Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r])$

**if** odd  $q$  **then**

$Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r + p]$

$r \leftarrow r + p$

$Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r]$

**else**

$Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r]$

**skip**;

$Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r]$

$p \leftarrow p + p$ ;

$Q[p, \text{half } q, r]$

$q \leftarrow \text{half } q$

$Q[p, q, r]$

## Definition of WP: loops

$\text{WP}(\text{while } t \text{ do } e \text{ done}, Q) \equiv$

$\exists J : \text{Prop.}$

$J \wedge$

$\forall x_1 \dots x_k.$

$(J \wedge t \rightarrow \text{WP}(e, J)) \wedge$

$(J \wedge \neg t \rightarrow Q)$

some *invariant property*  $J$

that holds at the loop entry

and is preserved

after a single iteration,

is strong enough to prove  $Q$

$x_1 \dots x_k$  references modified in  $e$

We cannot know the values of the modified references after  $n$  iterations

- therefore, we prove preservation and the post for arbitrary values
- the invariant must provide all the needed information about the state

## Definition of WP: annotated loops

Finding an appropriate invariant is **difficult** in the general case

- this is equivalent to constructing a proof of  $Q$  by induction

We can ease the task of automated tools by providing **annotations**:

$\text{WP}(\text{while } t \text{ invariant } J \text{ do } e \text{ done}, Q) \equiv$  the given invariant  $J$   
 $J \wedge$  holds at the loop entry,  
 $\forall x_1 \dots x_k.$  is preserved after  
 $(J \wedge t \rightarrow \text{WP}(e, J)) \wedge$  a single iteration,  
 $(J \wedge \neg t \rightarrow Q)$  and suffices to prove  $Q$

$x_1 \dots x_k$  references modified in  $e$



# Russian Peasant Multiplication

```
let ref p = a in
let ref q = b in
let ref r = 0 in
while q > 0 invariant J[p,q,r] do
  if odd q then r ← r + p;
  p ← p + p;
  q ← half q
done;
r
result = a * b
```

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done;
r = a * b
r
```

## Russian Peasant Multiplication

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let ref  $p = a$  in
let ref  $q = b$  in
let ref  $r = 0$  in
while  $q > 0$  invariant  $J[p, q, r]$  do
  if odd  $q$  then  $r \leftarrow r + p$ ;
   $p \leftarrow p + p$ ;
   $q \leftarrow \text{half } q$ 
   $J[p, q, r]$ 
done;
 $r = a * b$ 
 $r$ 
```

## Russian Peasant Multiplication

```
let ref p = a in
let ref q = b in
let ref r = 0 in
while q > 0 invariant J[p, q, r] do
  (odd q → J[p + p, half q, r + p]) ∧
  (¬ odd q → J[p + p, half q, r])
  if odd q then r ← r + p;
  p ← p + p;
  q ← half q
  J[p, q, r]
done;
r = a * b
r
```

## Russian Peasant Multiplication

```
let ref p = a in
let ref q = b in
let ref r = 0 in
J[p, q, r] ∧
∀pqr. J[p, q, r] →
  (q > 0 →
    (odd q → J[p + p, half q, r + p]) ∧
    (¬ odd q → J[p + p, half q, r])) ∧
  (q ≤ 0 →
    r = a * b)
while q > 0 invariant J[p, q, r] do
  if odd q then r ← r + p;
  p ← p + p;
  q ← half q
done;
r
```

## Russian Peasant Multiplication

$J[a, b, 0] \wedge$   
 $\forall pqr. J[p, q, r] \rightarrow$   
     $(q > 0 \rightarrow$   
         $(\text{odd } q \rightarrow J[p + p, \text{half } q, r + p]) \wedge$   
         $(\neg \text{odd } q \rightarrow J[p + p, \text{half } q, r])) \wedge$   
     $(q \leq 0 \rightarrow$   
         $r = a * b)$   
let ref  $p = a$  in  
let ref  $q = b$  in  
let ref  $r = 0$  in  
while  $q > 0$  invariant  $J[p, q, r]$  do  
    if odd  $q$  then  $r \leftarrow r + p;$   
     $p \leftarrow p + p;$   
     $q \leftarrow \text{half } q$   
done;  
 $r$

## Theorem

*For any  $e$  and  $Q$ , the triple  $\{\text{WP}(e, Q)\} e \{Q\}$  is valid.*

Can be proved by induction on the structure of the program  $e$   
w.r.t. some reasonable semantics (axiomatic, operational, etc.)

## Corollary

*To show that  $\{P\} e \{Q\}$  is valid, it suffices to prove  $P \rightarrow \text{WP}(e, Q)$ .*

This is what WHY3 does.

## 4. Run-time safety

---



Some operations can **fail** if their **safety preconditions** are not met:

- arithmetic operations: division par zero, overflows, etc.
- memory access: NULL pointers, buffer overruns, etc.
- assertions

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- assertions

A correct program must not fail:

$\{P\} e \{Q\}$  if we execute  $e$  in a state that satisfies  $P$ ,  
then there will be **no run-time errors**  
and the computation either diverges  
or **terminates normally** in a state that satisfies  $Q$

A new kind of expression:

$$e ::= \dots$$

$$| \text{assert } R \quad \text{fail if } R \text{ does not hold}$$

The corresponding weakest precondition rule:

$$\text{WP}(\text{assert } R, Q) \equiv R \wedge Q \equiv R \wedge (R \rightarrow Q)$$

The second version is useful in practical deductive verification.

We could add other partially defined operations to the language:

$e ::=$	$\dots$	
	$t \text{ div } t$	Euclidean division
	$a[t]$	array access
	$\dots$	

and define the WP rules for them:

$$\text{WP}(t_1 \text{ div } t_2, Q) \equiv t_2 \neq 0 \wedge Q[\text{result} \mapsto (t_1 \text{ div } t_2)]$$

$$\text{WP}(a[t], Q) \equiv 0 \leq t < |a| \wedge Q[\text{result} \mapsto a[t]]$$

$\dots$

But we would rather let the programmers do it themselves.

## 5. Functions and contracts

---

We may want to delegate some functionality to **functions**:

`let`  $f (v_1 : \tau_1) \dots (v_n : \tau_n) : \zeta \mathcal{C} = e$       defined function

`val`  $f (v_1 : \tau_1) \dots (v_n : \tau_n) : \zeta \mathcal{C}$       abstract function

Function behaviour is specified with a **contract**:

$\mathcal{C} ::=$     **requires**  $P$       precondition  
             **writes**  $x_1 \dots x_k$     modified global references  
             **ensures**  $Q$       postcondition

Postcondition  $Q$  may refer to the initial value of a global reference:  $x^\circ$

```
let incr_r (v: int): int writes r
  ensures result = r◦ ∧ r = r◦ + v
= let u = r in r ← u + v ; u
```

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Postcondition  $Q$  may refer to the initial value of a global reference:  $x^\circ$

Verification condition ( $\vec{x}$  are all global references mentioned in  $f$ ):

$$\text{VC}(\text{let } f \dots) \equiv \forall \vec{x} \vec{v}. P \rightarrow \text{WP}(e, Q)[\vec{x}^\circ \mapsto \vec{x}]$$

One more expression:

$$e ::= \dots$$

$$| f t \dots t \quad \text{function call}$$

and its weakest precondition rule:

$$\text{WP}(f t_1 \dots t_n, Q) \equiv P_f[\vec{v} \mapsto \vec{t}] \wedge$$

$$(\forall \vec{x} \forall \text{result}. Q_f[\vec{v} \mapsto \vec{t}, \vec{x}^\circ \mapsto \vec{w}] \rightarrow Q)[\vec{w} \mapsto \vec{x}]$$

$P_f$	precondition of $f$	$\vec{x}$	references modified in $f$
$Q_f$	postcondition of $f$	$\vec{x}$	references used in $f$
$\vec{v}$	formal parameters of $f$	$\vec{w}$	fresh variables

**Modular proof:** when verifying a function call,  
we only use the function's contract, not its code.



```
let max (x y: int) : int
  ensures { result >= x /\ result >= y }
  ensures { result = x \/ result = y }
= if x >= y then x else y
```

```
val ref r : int (* declare a global reference *)

let incr_r (v: int) : int
  requires { v > 0 }
  writes { r }
  ensures { result = old r /\ r = old r + v }
= let u = r in
  r <- u + v;
  u
```

## 6. Total correctness: termination

---

**Problem:** prove that the program terminates for every initial state that satisfies the precondition.

It suffices to show that

- every loop makes a finite number of iterations
- recursive function calls cannot go on indefinitely

**Solution:** prove that every loop iteration and every recursive call decreases a certain value, called **variant**, with respect to some well-founded order.

For example, for signed integers, a practical well-founded order is

$$i \prec j = i < j \wedge 0 \leq j$$

A new annotation:

$$e ::= \dots$$

$$| \text{ while } t \text{ invariant } J \text{ variant } t \cdot \prec \text{ do } e \text{ done}$$

The corresponding weakest precondition rule:

$$\text{WP}(\text{while } t \text{ invariant } J \text{ variant } s \cdot \prec \text{ do } e \text{ done}, Q) \equiv$$

$$J \wedge$$

$$\forall x_1 \dots x_k.$$

$$(J \wedge t \rightarrow \text{WP}(e, J \wedge s \prec w)[w \mapsto s]) \wedge$$

$$(J \wedge \neg t \rightarrow Q)$$

$x_1 \dots x_k$  references modified in  $e$

$w$  a fresh variable (the variant at the start of the iteration)

## Termination of recursive functions

A new contract clause:

```
let rec  $f$  ( $v_1 : \tau_1$ ) ... ( $v_n : \tau_n$ ) :  $\zeta$ 
  requires  $P_f$ 
  variant  $s \cdot \prec$ 
  writes  $\vec{x}$ 
  ensures  $Q_f$ 
=  $e$ 
```

For each recursive call of  $f$  in  $e$ :

$$\text{WP}(f\ t_1 \dots t_n, Q) \equiv P_f[\vec{v} \mapsto \vec{t}] \wedge s[\vec{v} \mapsto \vec{t}] \prec s[\vec{x} \mapsto \vec{x}^\circ] \wedge \\ (\forall \vec{x} \forall \text{result}. Q_f[\vec{v} \mapsto \vec{t}, \vec{x}^\circ \mapsto \vec{w}] \rightarrow Q)[\vec{w} \mapsto \vec{x}]$$

$s[\vec{v} \mapsto \vec{t}]$	variant at the call site	$\vec{x}$	references used in $f$
$s[\vec{x} \mapsto \vec{x}^\circ]$	variant at the start of $f$	$\vec{w}$	fresh variables

Mutually recursive functions must have

- their own variant terms
- a **common** well-founded order

Thus, if  $f$  calls  $g$   $t_1 \dots t_n$ , the variant decrease precondition is

$$s_g[\vec{v}_g \mapsto \vec{t}] \prec s_f[\vec{x} \mapsto \vec{x}^\circ]$$

$\vec{v}_g$

formal parameters of  $g$

$s_g[\vec{v}_g \mapsto \vec{t}]$

variant of  $g$  at the call site

$s_f[\vec{x} \mapsto \vec{x}^\circ]$

variant of  $f$  at the start of  $f$

## 7. Exceptions

---

## Exceptions as destinations

Execution of a program can lead to

- **divergence** — the computation never ends
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  - each potential exception  $E$  gets its own postcondition  $Q_E$
  - partial correctness: *if  $E$  is raised, then  $Q_E$  holds*

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```
exception Not_found
```

```
val binary_search (a: array int) (v: int) : int  
  requires { forall i j. 0 ≤ i ≤ j < length a → a[i] ≤ a[j] }  
  ensures { 0 ≤ result < length a ∧ a[result] = v }  
  raises { Not_found → forall i. 0 ≤ i < length a → a[i] ≠ v }
```

Our language keeps growing:

$e ::=$	...	
	raise E	raise an exception
	try e with E $\rightarrow$ e	catch an exception

WP handles two postconditions now:

$$\text{WP}(\text{skip}, Q, Q_E) \equiv Q$$



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$$\text{WP}(\text{try } e_1 \text{ with } E \rightarrow e_2, Q, Q_E) \equiv \text{WP}(e_1, Q, \text{WP}(e_2, Q, Q_E))$$

Exceptions can carry data:

$e ::= \dots$	
<code>raise E t</code>	raise an exception
<code>try e with E v → e</code>	catch an exception

Still, all needed mechanisms are already in WP:

$$\text{WP}(t, Q, Q_E) \equiv Q[\text{result} \mapsto t]$$

$$\text{WP}(\text{raise } E t, Q, Q_E) \equiv Q_E[\text{result} \mapsto t]$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{WP}(\text{let } v = e_1 \text{ in } e_2, Q, Q_E) &\equiv \\ &\text{WP}(e_1, \text{WP}(e_2, Q, Q_E)[v \mapsto \text{result}], Q_E) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{WP}(\text{try } e_1 \text{ with } E v \rightarrow e_2, Q, Q_E) &\equiv \\ &\text{WP}(e_1, Q, \text{WP}(e_2, Q, Q_E)[v \mapsto \text{result}]) \end{aligned}$$

A new contract clause:

```

let f (v1 : τ1) ... (vn : τn) : ζ
  requires Pf
  writes  $\vec{x}$ 
  ensures Qf
  raises E → QEf
= e
    
```

Verification condition for the function definition:

$$\text{VC}(\text{let } f \dots) \equiv \forall \vec{x} \vec{v}. P_f \rightarrow \text{WP}(e, Q_f, Q_{E_f})(\vec{x}^\circ \mapsto \vec{x})$$

Weakest precondition rule for the function call:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{WP}(f \ t_1 \dots t_n, Q, Q_E) &\equiv P_f[\vec{v} \mapsto \vec{t}] \wedge \\ &(\forall \vec{x} \forall \text{result}. Q_f[\vec{v} \mapsto \vec{t}, \vec{x}^\circ \mapsto \vec{w}] \rightarrow Q)[\vec{w} \mapsto \vec{x}] \wedge \\ &(\forall \vec{x} \forall \text{result}. Q_{E_f}[\vec{v} \mapsto \vec{t}, \vec{x}^\circ \mapsto \vec{w}] \rightarrow Q_E)[\vec{w} \mapsto \vec{x}] \end{aligned}$$

## 8. Ghost code

---

Compute a Fibonacci number using a recursive function in  $O(n)$ :

```
let rec aux (a b n: int): int
  requires { 0 <= n }
  requires {
  ensures {
  variant { n }
= if n = 0 then a else aux b (a+b) (n-1)
```

```
let fib_rec (n: int): int
  requires { 0 <= n }
  ensures { result = fib n }
= aux 0 1 n
```

```
(* fib_rec 5 = aux 0 1 5 = aux 1 1 4 = aux 1 2 3 =
   aux 2 3 2 = aux 3 5 1 = aux 5 8 0 = 5 *)
```

Compute a Fibonacci number using a recursive function in  $O(n)$ :

```
let rec aux (a b n: int): int
  requires { 0 <= n }
  requires { exists k. 0 <= k /\ a = fib k /\ b = fib (k+1) }
  ensures  { exists k. 0 <= k /\ a = fib k /\ b = fib (k+1) /\
                                                    result = fib (k+n) }

  variant  { n }
= if n = 0 then a else aux b (a+b) (n-1)
```

```
let fib_rec (n: int): int
  requires { 0 <= n }
  ensures  { result = fib n }
= aux 0 1 n
```

*(\* fib\_rec 5 = aux 0 1 5 = aux 1 1 4 = aux 1 2 3 =  
 aux 2 3 2 = aux 3 5 1 = aux 5 8 0 = 5 \*)*



Instead of an existential we can use a **ghost parameter**:

```
let rec aux (a b n: int) (ghost k: int): int
  requires { 0 <= n }
  requires { 0 <= k /\ a = fib k /\ b = fib (k+1) }
  ensures  { result = fib (k+n) }
  variant  { n }
= if n = 0 then a else aux b (a+b) (n-1) (k+1)
```

```
let fib_rec (n: int): int
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= aux 0 1 n 0
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## The spirit of ghost code

Ghost code is used to facilitate specification and proof

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  - if  $c$  is ghost, then `if  $c$  then ...` and `while  $c$  do ...` are ghost
- ghost code **cannot diverge**
  - we can prove `while true do skip done ; assert false`

Can be declared ghost:

- function parameters

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- record fields and variant fields

```
type queue 'a = { head: list 'a; (* get from head *)  
                 tail: list 'a; (* add to tail *)  
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- program expressions

```
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```

## How it works?

The material world and the ghost world are built from the same bricks.

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$m$  — is the expression's result material or ghost?

## Who's ghost and who's not?

Any variable or reference is considered ghost

- if explicitly declared ghost: `let ghost vg = 6 * 6 in ...`
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4. `raise E` is not ghost  
unless we pass a ghost value with `E`: `raise E vg`

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- if declared inside a `ghost` block: `ghost (let xg = 42 in ...)`

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2.  $r \leftarrow t$  is ghost  $\equiv r$  is a ghost reference (Q: what about  $t$ ?)
3. `skip` is not ghost
4. `raise E` is not ghost

unless we pass a ghost value with `E`: `raise E vg`

unless `E` is expected to carry ghost values: `exception E (ghost int)`

## Who's ghost and who's not?

An expression  $e$  has a **material effect** iff

- $e$  modifies a material reference
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6.  $\text{try } e_1 \text{ with } E \rightarrow e_2$  /  $\text{try } e_1 \text{ with } E v \rightarrow e_2$  is ghost  $\equiv$

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8. **while  $t$  do  $e$  done** is ghost  $\equiv t$  or  $e$  is ghost

## Who's ghost and who's not?

9. function call  $f\ t_1 \dots t_n$  is ghost  $\equiv$
- function  $f$  is ghost or some argument  $t_i$  is ghost  
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Erase  $[\cdot]$  erases ghost data and turns ghost code into **skip**.

**Theorem\***: Erasure preserves the material part of program semantics.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} e \cdot \mu & \xrightarrow{*} & c \cdot \mu' \\ \Downarrow & & \Downarrow \\ [e] \cdot [\mu] & \xrightarrow{*} & [c] \cdot [\mu'] \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{ccc} e \cdot \mu & \Longrightarrow & \infty \\ \Downarrow & & \Downarrow \\ [e] \cdot [\mu] & \Longrightarrow & \infty \end{array}$$

General idea: a function  $f \vec{x}$  requires  $P_f$  ensures  $Q_f$  that

- produces no results
- has no side effects
- terminates

provides a constructive proof of  $\forall \vec{x}. P_f \rightarrow Q_f$

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```
function rev_append (l r: list 'a): list 'a = match l with
  | Cons a ll -> rev_append ll (Cons a r) | Nil -> r end
```

```
let rec lemma length_rev_append (l r: list 'a) variant {l}
  ensures { length (rev_append l r) = length l + length r }
=
  match l with Cons a ll -> length_rev_append ll (Cons a r)
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- by the postcondition of the recursive call:

$$\text{length (rev\_append ll (Cons a r))} = \text{length ll} + \text{length (Cons a r)}$$

- by definition of `rev_append`:

$$\text{rev\_append (Cons a ll) r} = \text{rev\_append ll (Cons a r)}$$

- by definition of `length`:

$$\text{length (Cons a ll)} + \text{length r} = \text{length ll} + \text{length (Cons a r)}$$

## 9. Mutable data

---

## Records with mutable fields

```
module Ref
  type ref 'a = { mutable contents : 'a } (* as in OCaml *)
  function (!) (r: ref 'a) : 'a = r.contents
  let ref (v: 'a) = { contents = v }
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- can hold ghost data
  - `let ghost r = ref 42 in ... ghost (r := -!r) ...`
- cannot be stored in recursive structures: no `list (ref 'a)`
- cannot be stored under abstract types: no `set (ref 'a)`



## The problem of alias

```
let double_incr (s1 s2: ref int): unit writes {s1,s2}
  ensures { !s1 = 1 + old !s1 /\ !s2 = 2 + old !s2 }
= s1 := 1 + !s1; s2 := 2 + !s2
```

```
let wrong () =
  let s = ref 0 in
  double_incr s s;   (* write/write alias *)
  assert { !s = 1 /\ !s = 2 }   (* in fact, !s = 3 *)
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```
val g : ref int
```

```
let set_from_g (r: ref int): unit writes {r}
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= r := !g + 1
```

```
let wrong () =
  set_from_g g;   (* read/write alias *)
  assert { !g = !g + 1 }   (* contradiction *)
```

The standard WP rule for assignment:

$$\text{WP}(x \leftarrow 42, Q[x, y, z]) = Q[42, y, z]$$

But if  $x$  and  $z$  are two names for the same reference

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**Problem:** Know, *statically*, when two values are aliased.

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**Problem:** Know, *statically*, when two values are aliased.

**Solution:** Tweak the type system and use **inference** (of course!)

Every mutable type carries an *invisible identity token* — a **region**:

$x : \text{ref } \rho \text{ int}$        $y : \text{ref } \pi \text{ int}$        $z : \text{ref } \rho \text{ int}$

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- formal parameters and global references are assumed to be separated



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Revised WP rule for assignment:      **WP**( $x_\tau \leftarrow t$ ,  $Q$ ) =  $Q\sigma$

where  $\sigma$  replaces in  $Q$  each variable  $y : \pi[\tau]$  with an **updated value**

- an alias of  $x$  can be stored inside a reference inside a record inside a tuple

Poor man's resizable array:

```
let resa = ref (Array.make 10 0) in
(* resa : ref  $\rho$  (array  $\rho_1$  int) *)
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Change the type of **resa**? What about **if ... then** `resa := newa`?

Let everybody keep their type:

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`newa`, `olda` — the witnesses of the type system corruption

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*What do we do with undesirable witnesses?* — A.G. CAPONE

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Type-changing expressions have a special effect:

writes  $\rho$  · resets  $\rho_1, \rho_2$

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Thus: `resa` and its aliases survive, but `olda` and `newa` are invalidated.

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If we create a fresh mutable value and give it region  $\rho$ ,  
we invalidate all existing variables whose type contains  $\rho$ .

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**Effect union** (for sequence or branching):

$x_\tau$  survives  $\mathcal{E}_1 \sqcup \mathcal{E}_2 \iff x_\tau$  survives both  $\mathcal{E}_1$  and  $\mathcal{E}_2$ .

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Thus:

- the **reset** regions of  $\mathcal{E}_1$  and  $\mathcal{E}_2$  are added together,
- the **written** regions of  $\mathcal{E}_i$  **invalidated** by  $\mathcal{E}_{2-i}$  are ignored.

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- `val set_from_g (r: ref int): unit writes {r} reads {g}`
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For programs with arbitrary pointers we need more sophisticated tools:

- memory models (for example, “address-to-value” arrays)
- handle aliases in the VC: separation logic, dynamic frames, etc.



## Aliasing restrictions in WHYML

⇒ certain structures cannot be implemented

Still, we can specify them and verify the client code

```
type array 'a = private { mutable ghost elts: map int 'a;  
                           length: int }  
invariant { 0 <= length }
```

- all access is done via abstract functions (`private type`)
- the type invariant is expressed as an axiom
  - but can be temporarily broken inside a program function

## Abstract specification

```
type array 'a = private { mutable ghost elts: map int 'a;  
                           length: int }
```

```
  invariant { 0 <= length }
```

```
val ([]) (a: array 'a) (i: int): 'a  
  requires { 0 <= i < a.length }  
  ensures { result = a.elts[i] }
```

```
val ([]<-) (a: array 'a) (i: int) (v: 'a): unit  
  requires { 0 <= i < a.length }  
  writes { a }  
  ensures { a.elts = (old a.elts)[i <- v] }
```

```
function get (a: array 'a) (i: int): 'a = a.elts[i]
```

- the immutable fields are preserved — implicit postcondition
- the logical function `get` has no precondition
  - its result outside of the array bounds is undefined

## 10. Modular programming considered useful

---

- types
  - abstract: `type t`
  - synonym: `type t = list int`
  - variant: `type list 'a = Nil | Cons 'a (list 'a)`
- functions / predicates
  - uninterpreted: `function f int: int`
  - defined: `predicate non_empty (l: list 'a) = l <> Nil`
  - inductive: `inductive path t (list t) t = ...`
- axioms / lemmas / goals
  - `goal G: forall x: int, x >= 0 -> x*x >= 0`
- program functions
  - abstract: `val ([]) (a: array 'a) (i: int): 'a`
  - defined: `let mergesort (a: array elt): unit = ...`
- exceptions
  - `exception Found int`

## Specification language of WHYML

- programs and specifications use the same data types
- `match-with-end`, `if-then-else`, `let-in` are accepted both in terms and formulas
- functions et predicates can be defined recursively:

```
predicate mem (x: 'a) (l: list 'a) = match l with  
  Cons y r -> x = y \ / mem x r | Nil -> false end
```

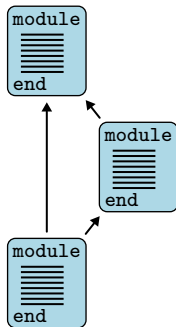
no `variants`, WHY3 requires structural decrease

- `inductive predicates` (useful for transitive closures):

```
inductive sorted (l: list int) =  
  | SortedNil: sorted Nil  
  | SortedOne: forall x: int. sorted (Cons x Nil)  
  | SortedTwo: forall x y: int, l: list int.  
    x <= y -> sorted (Cons y l) ->  
      sorted (Cons x (Cons y l))
```

Declarations are organized in **modules**

- purely logical modules are called **theories**

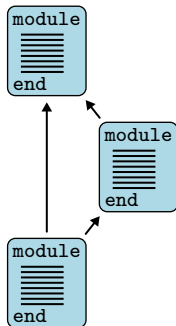


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A module  $M_1$  can be

- used (**use**) in a module  $M_2$ 
  - symbols of  $M_1$  are **shared**
  - axioms of  $M_1$  remain axioms
  - lemmas of  $M_1$  become axioms
  - goals of  $M_1$  are ignored

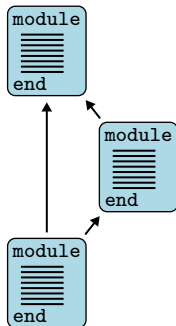


Declarations are organized in **modules**

- purely logical modules are called **theories**

A module  $M_1$  can be

- used (**use**) in a module  $M_2$
- cloned (**clone**) in a module  $M_2$ 
  - declarations of  $M_1$  are **copied** or **instantiated**
  - axioms of  $M_1$  remain axioms or become lemmas
  - lemmas of  $M_1$  become axioms
  - goals of  $M_1$  are ignored





Declarations are organized in **modules**

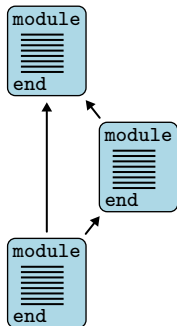
- purely logical modules are called **theories**

A module  $M_1$  can be

- used (**use**) in a module  $M_2$
- cloned (**clone**) in a module  $M_2$

Cloning can instantiate

- an abstract type with a defined type
- an uninterpreted function with a defined function
- a **val** with a **let**



Declarations are organized in **modules**

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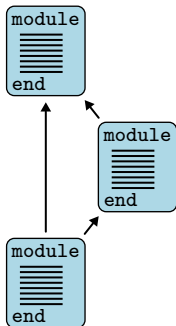
- used (**use**) in a module  $M_2$
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Cloning can instantiate

- an abstract type with a defined type
- an uninterpreted function with a defined function
- a **val** with a **let**

**One missing piece coming soon:**

- instantiate a used module with another module



## Exercises

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<http://why3.lri.fr/ejcp-2022>