

# Formalizing Coq Modules in the MetaCoq Project

XFC4101 Final Report

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# Outline

Introduction

Summary

The MetaCoq Project

Syntax and Semantics of Coq Modules

Implementation

First Implementation

Second Implementation - Modular Environment

Formal Proof Techniques

Conclusion

# Introduction

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Implementation of Coq has consistency-threatening bugs!  
Who watches the watchers?

Or can Coq verify itself?



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However, a few features such as Modules are missing from the project. Modules are important for almost all large Coq projects!

Therefore we are here!

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**Proof erasure** to untyped calculus, ready for translation into "usual" programming languages.

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## Where is the implementation?

- (Coq) – TemplateCoq – PCUIC – Checker – Erasure – (Machine Code)
- Actual data structure of modules live in **TemplateCoq**.
- Verification of properties of modules live in **TemplateCoq**.
- Translation from **TemplateCoq** to **PCUIC**.
- Difference? PCUIC is easier to prove (semantical) theorems.

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## Example - Definitions

Modules as “collections of definitions”.

```
Inductive nat :=  
| 0  
| S : nat -> nat.
```

```
Fixpoint plus (n m: nat) :=  
  match n with  
  | S n' => S (plus n' m)  
  | 0 => m  
  end.
```

## Example - Modules

“Packaging” definitions into a Module (Type).

*(\* A magma is a set with a binary (closed) operation. \*)*

```
Module Type Magma.
```

```
  Parameter T: Set.
```

```
  Parameter op: T -> T -> T.
```

```
End Magma.
```

```
Module Nat: Magma.
```

```
  Definition T := nat.
```

```
  Definition op := plus.
```

```
End Nat.
```

## Example - Aliasing

Modules can be aliased for ease of reference.

```
Module Type M := Magma.
```

```
Module MyNat: M := Nat.
```

## Example - Functors

Higher-order modules - Functors.

*(\* A functor transforming a magma into another magma. \*)*

**Module** DoubleMagma (M: Magma): Magma.

**Definition** T := M.T.

**Definition** op x y := M.op (M.op x y) (M.op x y).

**End** DoubleMagma.

**Module** NatWithDoublePlus := DoubleMagma Nat.

# Abstract Syntax of Coq Modules

A **structure** is an ordered list of declarations of the following kinds:

- A **constant** declaration.
- An **inductive** declaration.
- A **module** declaration.
- A **module type** declaration.

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- A **constant** declaration.
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- A **module** declaration.
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A **module** is a **structure** with a name and possibly a **module type**, where all definitions are concrete.

A **module type** is a **structure** with a name.

A **functor** is a parametrized module, by another module or functor.

Modules are declarations, and they live in an **environment**. An environment is an ordered list of declarations:

- A **constant** declaration.
- An **inductive** declaration.
- A **module** declaration.
- A **module type** declaration.

## Semantics of Coq Modules

Coq Modules are second-class objects and have separate semantics from that of terms. Lives on another plane and have limited interactions.

Semantics are given by typing rules. Formation rules and access rules.

$$\frac{\text{WF}(E, E') []}{E [] \vdash \text{WF}(\text{Struct } E' \text{ End})}$$
$$\frac{E [] \vdash p \rightarrow \text{Struct } e_1; \dots; e_i; \text{Mod}(X : S[:= S_1]); e_{i+2}; \dots; e_n \text{ End} \quad E; e_1; \dots; e_i [] \vdash S \rightarrow \bar{S}}{E [] \vdash p.X \rightarrow \bar{S}}$$

# Implementation

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Implementation	Verification
1. Definition of Modules	2. Lookup of definitions
3. Typing rules for Modules ( <i>Term typing rules</i> )	4. Functoriality of Typing Rules
6. Translation to PCUIC	5. Typing of terms (Correctness of translation)
7. Modular Environment	(Correctness of implementation)

## 8. Three Formal Proof Techniques

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# 1. Definition of Modules

Definition of Structures.

```
324   Inductive structure_field :=
325   | sfconst : constant_body -> structure_field
326   | sfmind  : mutual_inductive_body -> structure_field
327   | sfmod   : module_implementation -> structure_body -> structure_field
328   | sfmodtype : structure_body -> structure_field
329   with module_implementation :=
330   | mi_abstract : module_implementation
331   | mi_algebraic : kername -> module_implementation
332   | mi_struct   : structure_body -> module_implementation
333   | mi_fullstruct : module_implementation
334   with structure_body :=
335   | sb_nil
336   | sb_cons : ident -> structure_field -> structure_body -> structure_body.
```

Listing 1: TemplateCoq/theories/Environment.v

# 1. Definition of Modules

Now, we can define proper Modules and Module Types as follows:

```
344 Definition module_type_decl := structure_body.  
345 Definition module_decl := module_implementation × module_type_decl.  
347 Inductive global_decl :=  
348 | ConstantDecl : constant_body -> global_decl  
349 | InductiveDecl : mutual_inductive_body -> global_decl  
350 | ModuleDecl : module_decl -> global_decl  
351 | ModuleTypeDecl : module_type_decl -> global_decl.
```

Listing 2: TemplateCoq/theories/Environment.v

## 2. Lookup of Modules

### Theorem (Lookup)

*Looking up  $kn$  yields  $mdecl$  iff  $mdecl$  is declared with  $kn$ .*

```
202 Lemma declared_module_lookup { $\Sigma$  mp mdecl} :
203   declared_module  $\Sigma$  mp mdecl ->
204   lookup_module  $\Sigma$  mp = Some mdecl.
205 Proof.
206   unfold declared_module, lookup_module. now intros ->.
207 Qed.
208
209 Lemma lookup_module_declared { $\Sigma$  kn mdecl} :
210   lookup_module  $\Sigma$  kn = Some mdecl ->
211   declared_module  $\Sigma$  kn mdecl.
212 Proof.
213   unfold declared_module, lookup_module.
214   destruct lookup_env as [[ $\_$ ]|]  $\Rightarrow$  //. congruence.
215 Qed.
```

Listing 3: TemplateCoq/theories/EnvironmentTyping.v

### 3. Typing rules for modules

The core is the structure fields.

```
1223 Inductive on_structure_field  $\Sigma$  : structure_field -> Type :=
1224   | on_sfconst c      : on_constant_decl  $\Sigma$  c
1225                       -> on_structure_field  $\Sigma$  (sfconst c)
1226   | on_sfmind kn inds : on_inductive  $\Sigma$  kn inds
1227                       -> on_structure_field  $\Sigma$  (sfmind inds)
1228   | on_sfmod mi sb    : on_module_impl  $\Sigma$  mi
1229                       -> on_structure_body  $\Sigma$  sb
1230                       -> on_structure_field  $\Sigma$  (sfmod mi sb)
1231   | on_sfmodtype mtd  : on_structure_body  $\Sigma$  mtd
1232                       -> on_structure_field  $\Sigma$  (sfmodtype mtd)
```

Listing 4: Typing rules for structure fields.

### 3. Typing rules for modules

Subsequently, the typing rule for structures, and modules.

```
1233 with on_structure_body  $\Sigma$  : structure_body  $\rightarrow$  Type :=
1234   | on_sb_nil : on_structure_body  $\Sigma$  sb_nil
1235   | on_sb_cons kn sf sb : on_structure_field  $\Sigma$  sf
1236                            $\rightarrow$  on_structure_body  $\Sigma$  sb
1237                            $\rightarrow$  on_structure_body  $\Sigma$  (sb_cons kn sf sb)
1238 with on_module_impl  $\Sigma$  : module_implementation  $\rightarrow$  Type :=
1239   | on_mi_abstract : on_module_impl  $\Sigma$  mi_abstract
1240   | on_mi_algebraic kn : on_module_impl  $\Sigma$  (mi_algebraic kn)
1241   | on_mi_struct sb : on_structure_body  $\Sigma$  sb
1242                        $\rightarrow$  on_module_impl  $\Sigma$  (mi_struct sb)
1243   | on_mi_fullstruct : on_module_impl  $\Sigma$  mi_fullstruct.
1250 Definition on_module_type_decl := on_structure_body.
1251 Definition on_module_decl  $\Sigma$  m := on_module_impl  $\Sigma$  m.1
1252                                $\times$  on_module_type_decl  $\Sigma$  m.2.
```

Listing 5: Typing rules for structure, and modules.

## 4. Functoriality of Typing Rules

### Lemma (Global declaration)

Fix term typing rules  $P, Q$  such that if the environment is  $P$ -well-formed if  $P$  types term  $t$  with type  $T$ , then  $Q$  types term  $t$  with type  $T$  as well.

Let  $\Sigma$  be a  $P$ -well-formed environment. If the definition  $(kn, d)$  is well-formed, then  $(kn, d)$  is  $Q$ -well-formed.

```
1431 Lemma on_global_decl_impl {cf : checker_flags} Pcmp P Q  $\Sigma$  kn d :  
1432   (forall  $\Gamma$  t T,  
1433     on_global_env Pcmp P  $\Sigma$ .1 ->  
1434     P  $\Sigma$   $\Gamma$  t T -> Q  $\Sigma$   $\Gamma$  t T) ->  
1435   on_global_env Pcmp P  $\Sigma$ .1 ->  
1436   on_global_decl Pcmp P  $\Sigma$  kn d -> on_global_decl Pcmp Q  $\Sigma$  kn d.
```

Listing 6: Functoriality of typing of a global declaration.

## 4. Functoriality of Typing Rules

### Theorem (Global Environment)

Fix term typing rules  $P, Q$  such that they type terms in the same way for all terms  $t : T$ .

Let  $\Sigma$  be a  $P$ -well-formed environment. Then  $\Sigma$  is  $Q$ -well-formed.

```
1459 Lemma on_global_env_impl {cf : checker_flags} Pcmp P Q :
1460   (forall  $\Sigma \Gamma t T$ ,
1461     on_global_env Pcmp P  $\Sigma.1 \rightarrow$ 
1462     on_global_env Pcmp Q  $\Sigma.1 \rightarrow$ 
1463      $P \Sigma \Gamma t T \rightarrow Q \Sigma \Gamma t T$ )  $\rightarrow$ 
1464   forall  $\Sigma$ , on_global_env Pcmp P  $\Sigma \rightarrow$  on_global_env Pcmp Q  $\Sigma$ .
```

Listing 7: Functoriality of the typing of global environments.

## 5. Typing of terms

### Theorem

Fix any two predicates  $P$  and  $P_\Gamma$  that about a term  $t$  and a type  $T$ . Suppose we are given global environment  $\Sigma$  and local context  $\Gamma$  which are well-formed, and that the following typing relation holds:  $\Sigma; ; \Gamma \vdash t : T$ , then  $P$  holds on the global environment  $\Sigma$ , and  $P_\Gamma$  holds on the local context.

```
1020 Definition env_prop `{checker_flags} (P : forall  $\Sigma$   $\Gamma$  t T, Type)
1021 (P $\Gamma$  : forall  $\Sigma$   $\Gamma$  (wf $\Gamma$  : wf_local  $\Sigma$   $\Gamma$ ), Type) :=
1022   forall ( $\Sigma$  : global_env_ext) (wf $\Sigma$  : wf  $\Sigma$ )  $\Gamma$  (wf $\Gamma$  : wf_local  $\Sigma$   $\Gamma$ ) t T
1023   (ty :  $\Sigma$  ;;;  $\Gamma$  |- t : T),
1024   on_global_env cumul_gen (lift_typing P)  $\Sigma$ 
1025   * (P $\Gamma$   $\Sigma$   $\Gamma$  (typing_wf_local ty) * P  $\Sigma$   $\Gamma$  t T).
```

Listing 8: Definition of key lemma in typing.



# Checkpoint 1!

This marks the end of the TemplateCoq part of the First Implementation. We have seen

1. The definition of Modules.
2. Proof of lookup iff declared.
3. The definition of Typing Rules.
4. Functoriality.
5. Typing properties of terms.

We will show the translation to PCUIC and motivate the Second Implementation.

## 6. Translation to PCUIC

The global environment for PCUIC is without modules:

```
278 Inductive global_decl :=
279   | ConstantDecl : constant_body -> global_decl
280   | InductiveDecl : mutual_inductive_body -> global_decl.
281   Derive NoConfusion for global_decl.
282
283 Definition global_declarations := list (kername * global_decl).
284
285 Record global_env := mk_global_env
286   { universes : ContextSet.t;
287     declarations : global_declarations;
288     retroknowledge : Retroknowledge.t }.
```

Listing 9: Definition of the global environment for PCUIC.

So we translate by ... removing modules!

## 6. Translation to PCUIC

The engine of the translation of modules.

```
314 Fixpoint trans_structure_field kn id (sf : Ast.Env.structure_field) :=
315   let kn' := kn_append kn id in
316   match sf with
317   | Ast.Env.sfconst c ⇒ [(kn', ConstantDecl (trans_constant_body c))]
318   | Ast.Env.sfmind m ⇒ [(kn', InductiveDecl (trans_minductive_body m))]
319   | Ast.Env.sfmod mi sb ⇒ match mi with
320   | Ast.Env.mi_fullstruct ⇒ trans_structure_body kn' sb
321   | Ast.Env.mi_struct s ⇒ trans_structure_body kn' s
322   | _ ⇒ trans_module_impl kn' mi
323   end
324   | Ast.Env.sfmodtype _ ⇒ []
325 end
```

Listing 10: Translation of structure fields to PCUIC.

## 6. Translation to PCUIC

Run the field-by-field translation over the body.

```
334   with trans_structure_body kn (sb: Ast.Env.structure_body) :=
335     match sb with
336     | Ast.Env.sb_nil => []
337     | Ast.Env.sb_cons id sf tl =>
338       trans_structure_field kn id sf ++ trans_structure_body kn tl
339   end.
```

Listing 11: Translating structure body.

## 6. Translation to PCUIC

Now we can translate a global declaration...

```
508 Definition trans_global_decl (d : kname × Ast.Env.global_decl) :=
509   let (kn, decl) := d in match decl with
510     | Ast.Env.ConstantDecl bd ⇒
511       [(kn, ConstantDecl (trans_constant_body bd))]
512     | Ast.Env.InductiveDecl bd ⇒
513       [(kn, InductiveDecl (trans_minductive_body bd))]
514     | Ast.Env.ModuleDecl bd ⇒ trans_module_decl kn bd
515     | Ast.Env.ModuleTypeDecl _ ⇒ []
516   end.
```

Listing 12: Translating a global declaration.

## 6. Translation to PCUIC

And finally global declarations!

```
527 Definition trans_global_decls env (d : Ast.Env.global_declarations)
528   : global_env_map
529   := fold_right
530   (fun decl  $\Sigma \Rightarrow$  fold_right add_global_decl  $\Sigma$  (trans_global_decl  $\Sigma$  decl))
531   env d.
```

Listing 13: Translating global declarations.

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And finally global declarations!

```
527 Definition trans_global_decls env (d : Ast.Env.global_declarations)
528   : global_env_map
529   := fold_right
530   (fun decl  $\Sigma$   $\Rightarrow$  fold_right add_global_decl  $\Sigma$  (trans_global_decl  $\Sigma$  decl))
531   env d.
```

Listing 14: Translating global declarations.

Uh-oh... notice the double fold.

## 6.5. Verification of translation

### **Theorem (Translated iff Exists)**

*"Translation preserves non-existence", that is, the translated environment should only contain the intended translation and nothing more; and its dual, "Translation preserves existence", that is, nothing is lost in translation.*



## 6.5. Verification of translation

## 6.9. Motivation for Second Implementation

```
239 Proof.
240   destruct  $\Sigma$  as [univs  $\Sigma$  retro]. induction  $\Sigma$ .
241   - cbn; auto.
307     --- (** a.2 is a *)
308     unfold trans_global_env. subst  $\Sigma$ map'; simpl.
316     (** proving assertion by mutual induction *)
317     * subst P P0 P1. apply Ast.Env.sf_mi_sb_mutind  $\Rightarrow$  //=.
318     ** cbn. intros c id.
326     *** simpl in *. subst.
```

...

Listing 15: Tedious nested proofs.

The first case takes 200 lines and counting!

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318     ** cbn. intros c id.
326     *** simpl in *. subst.
```

...

Listing 16: Tedious nested proofs.

The first case takes 200 lines and counting! Too many repeated proofs.

## 6.9. Motivation for Second Implementation

Culprit!

```
324   Inductive structure_field :=
325   | sfconst : constant_body -> structure_field
326   | sfmind  : mutual_inductive_body -> structure_field
327   | sfmod   : module_implementation -> structure_body -> structure_field
328   | sfmodtype : structure_body -> structure_field
347   Inductive global_decl :=
348   | ConstantDecl : constant_body -> global_decl
349   | InductiveDecl : mutual_inductive_body -> global_decl
350   | ModuleDecl   : module_decl -> global_decl
351   | ModuleTypeDecl : module_type_decl -> global_decl.
```

Listing 17: An opportunity for abstraction!

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An environment is just a module named by its directory path (eg. `/metacoq/template-coq/theories/Environment.v`).

All theorems on the typing of environment follow from that of modules!

## 7. The Modular Environment

Let us define modules, then specialize into environments.

```
325 Inductive structure_field :=
326   | ConstantDecl : constant_body -> structure_field
327   | InductiveDecl : mutual_inductive_body -> structure_field
328   | ModuleDecl :
329     module_implementation
330     -> list (ident × structure_field)
331     -> structure_field
332   | ModuleTypeDecl : list (ident × structure_field) -> structure_field
```

Listing 18: Definition of structure fields.

## 7. The Modular Environment

“Globalization”!

```
409 Definition module_type_decl := structure_body.  
410 Definition module_decl := module_implementation × module_type_decl.  
411 Notation global_decl := structure_field.  
412 Notation global_declarations := structure_body.
```

Listing 19: Definition of global declarations.

## 7.5. Typing Rules

Implemented but unverified typing rules. The interesting part follows...

```
1271 Inductive on_structure_field  $\Sigma$  : structure_field -> Type :=
1272   | on_ConstantDecl c :
1273     on_constant_body  $\Sigma$  c -> on_structure_field  $\Sigma$  (ConstantDecl c)
1274   | on_InductiveDecl kn inds :
1275     on_inductive  $\Sigma$  kn inds -> on_structure_field  $\Sigma$  (InductiveDecl inds)
1276   | on_ModuleDecl mi mt :
1277     on_module_impl  $\Sigma$  mi ->
1278     on_structure_body on_structure_field mt ->
1279     on_structure_field  $\Sigma$  (ModuleDecl mi mt)
1280   | on_ModuleTypeDecl mtd :
1281     on_structure_body  $\Sigma$  mtd ->
1282     on_structure_field  $\Sigma$  (ModuleTypeDecl mtd)
```

Listing 20: Typing rules for structure fields.

## 7.5. Typing Rules

Now structure bodies encompass the typing of environments, such as the freshness of names.

```
1284 with on_structure_body ( $\Sigma$ : global_env_ext) : structure_body -> Type :=
1285   | on_sb_nil : on_structure_body  $\Sigma$  nil
1286   | on_sb_cons  $\Sigma$  sb i sf :
1287     on_structure_body  $\Sigma$  sb ->
1288     fresh_structure_body  $\Sigma$  i sb ->
1289     on_udecl  $\Sigma$  (universes_decl_of_decl sf) ->
1290     on_structure_field  $\Sigma$  sf ->
1291     on_structure_body  $\Sigma$  (sb ,, (i, sf))
```

Listing 21: Typing rules of structure body.

# Contents

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Summary

The MetaCoq Project

Syntax and Semantics of Coq Modules

Implementation

First Implementation

Second Implementation - Modular Environment

Formal Proof Techniques

Conclusion

All three techniques are related to recursion and were investigated during the modular environment rewrite.

1. Stronger Induction Principle for Nested Inductive Types
2. Well-formed Recursion
3. Strengthening of Induction Hypothesis (omitted)

## 8.1. Nested Inductive Types

Inductive type within an inductive type.

Rose tree (Meertens 1998):

```
Inductive roseTree :=  
| node (xs: list roseTree).
```

Listing 22: Definition of a rose tree.



## 8.1. Nested Inductive Types

Unfortunately, Coq does not generate a strong enough induction principle for nested inductive types, only the below:

$$\forall P, (\forall xs, P(\text{node } xs)) \implies \forall rt, (P \text{ rt})$$

We need to check each rose tree within the list with predicate  $P$  first.

## 8.1. Nested Inductive Types

Unfortunately, Coq does not generate a strong enough induction principle for nested inductive types, only the below:

$$\forall P, (\forall xs, P(\text{node } xs)) \implies \forall rt, (P \text{ rt})$$

We need to check each rose tree within the list with predicate  $P$  first. Here is a stronger induction principle that is generally used:

$$\forall P, (\forall xs, (\forall x \in xs, P x) \implies P(\text{node } xs)) \implies \forall rt, (P \text{ rt})$$

The induction hypothesis is weakened, and the induction principle is strengthened!

## 8.1. Where is this used?

In the modular rewrite - definition of structures!

```
325 Inductive structure_field :=
326   | ConstantDecl : constant_body -> structure_field
327   | InductiveDecl : mutual_inductive_body -> structure_field
328   | ModuleDecl :
329     module_implementation
330     -> list (ident × structure_field)
331     -> structure_field
332   | ModuleTypeDecl : list (ident × structure_field) -> structure_field
```

Listing 23: Definition of structure fields.

## 8.2. Well-founded recursion

Typical recursion: predecessor. What if this is not obvious?

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Define a measure, and show that it is

- bounded below, and
- strictly decreasing at every recursive step.

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Typical recursion: predecessor. What if this is not obvious?

Define a measure, and show that it is

- bounded below, and
- strictly decreasing at every recursive step.

## 8.2. Where is this used?

To recurse through the nested inductive structure body! Here is a measure:

```
415   Equations alt_size_sf (sf: structure_field) : nat :=
416     | ConstantDecl _ := 1;
417     | InductiveDecl _ := 1;
418     | ModuleDecl mi mt := 1 + (max (alt_size_mi mi) (alt_size_sb mt));
419     | ModuleTypeDecl mt := 1 + (alt_size_sb mt);
420   where alt_size_sb (sb: structure_body) : nat :=
421     | nil := 0;
422     | (hd::tl) := alt_size_sf hd.2 + alt_size_sb tl;
423   where alt_size_mi (mi: module_implementation) : nat :=
424     | mi_struct s := alt_size_sb s;
425     | _ := 0.
```

Listing 24: Height defined on structure body.

## 8.2. Where is this used?

```
427 Lemma alt_size_sf_ge_one: (forall sf: structure_field, 0 < alt_size_sf
428 Proof.
429   destruct sf; simp alt_size_sf; lia.
430 Qed.
```

Listing 25: Proof of lower bound of the height measure.



# Conclusion

---

## We have seen...

1. Implementation of modules, typing rules, translation/elaboration.

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1. Implementation of modules, typing rules, translation/elaboration.
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1. Complete the modular environment rewrite.
2. Functors (and higher-order functors)
3. Document typing rules.

Previous implementations of Coq Modules: Courant, Chruścicz, and Soubrian:

1. Courant added (second-class) modules, signature, and functors to Pure Type System (PTS).
2. Chruścicz implemented modules, signature, and functors in mainline Coq, and proved the conservativity of his extension.
3. Soubrian implemented higher-order functions and unified modules and signatures with structures, and proposed dynamic naming scopes for modules.



1. SML by Lillibridge, Harper et. al..
2. OCaml by Leroy: applicative functors.
3. CakeML came closest in verifying modules.

Thank you!

Questions?