

Can Persistence Become a Primary Programming Issue?

Luc Bläser, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich

ETH *Eidgenössische
Technische Hochschule
Zürich*

*Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Zurich
Politecnico federale di Zurigo
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich*

Vision of Persistent Programming

Open Challenges

No Persistence-specific artifacts

Language with Seamless Persistence Integration

Runtime System with Efficient Persistence Support

Interoperability with transient programs

Complete cache-aware garbage collection

Persistent Active Oberon

Programming Language with Intrinsic Persistence

Module as persistence root

```
MODULE Bank;  
  Account = OBJECT  
    VAR customer: Customer; balance: REAL;  
  END Account;
```

Persistent reference

```
VAR accounts: AccountList;
```

```
PROCEDURE Transfer(from, to: Account; amount: REAL);  
  BEGIN from := from - amount; to := to + amount  
  END Transfer;
```

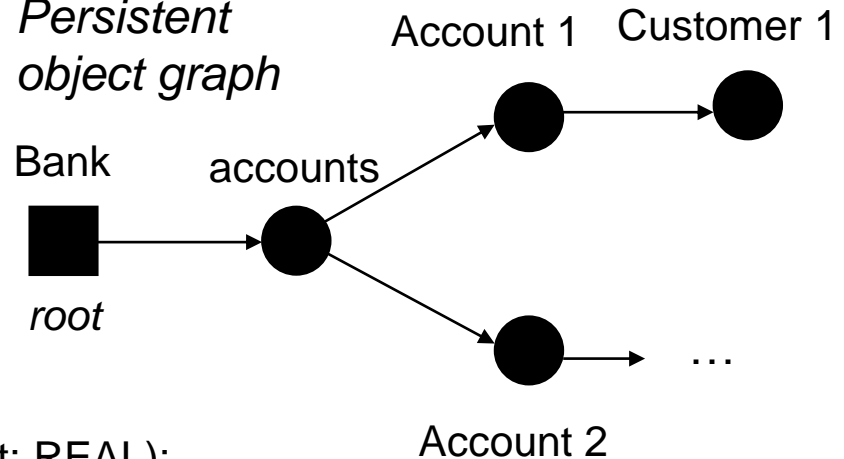
Procedure as atomic transaction

```
AccountManager = OBJECT  
  BEGIN {ACTIVE}  
    WHILE (* ... *) DO  
      Transfer(a, b, c)  
    END  
  END AccountManager;  
END Bank.
```

Activity implements transaction sequence

Persistent program code \equiv transient program

Persistent object graph



Persistent Active Oberon

Operating System with Inbuilt Persistence Support

Memory Safety with complete incremental garbage collection and simultaneous caching

Interoperability between persistent and transient modules (via implicit transient references)

Performance and scalability is well competitive to classical implementations (using databases)

Project webpage for system download:
<http://www.bluebottle.ethz.ch/Persistent>