

Reactive Method Dispatch for Context-Oriented Programming

Engineer Bainomugisha

Ph.D. Public Defence
12th December 2012

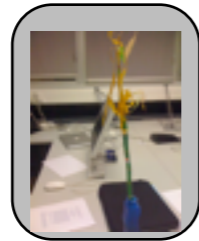
Promoter: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang De Meuter



Software Languages Lab.
Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Roadmap

Motivation



Reactive context-aware applications

Characteristics

Issues

Programming Language Approach

Language Requirements

State of the Art

The ICoDE Model

The Flute Language

Semantics and Validation



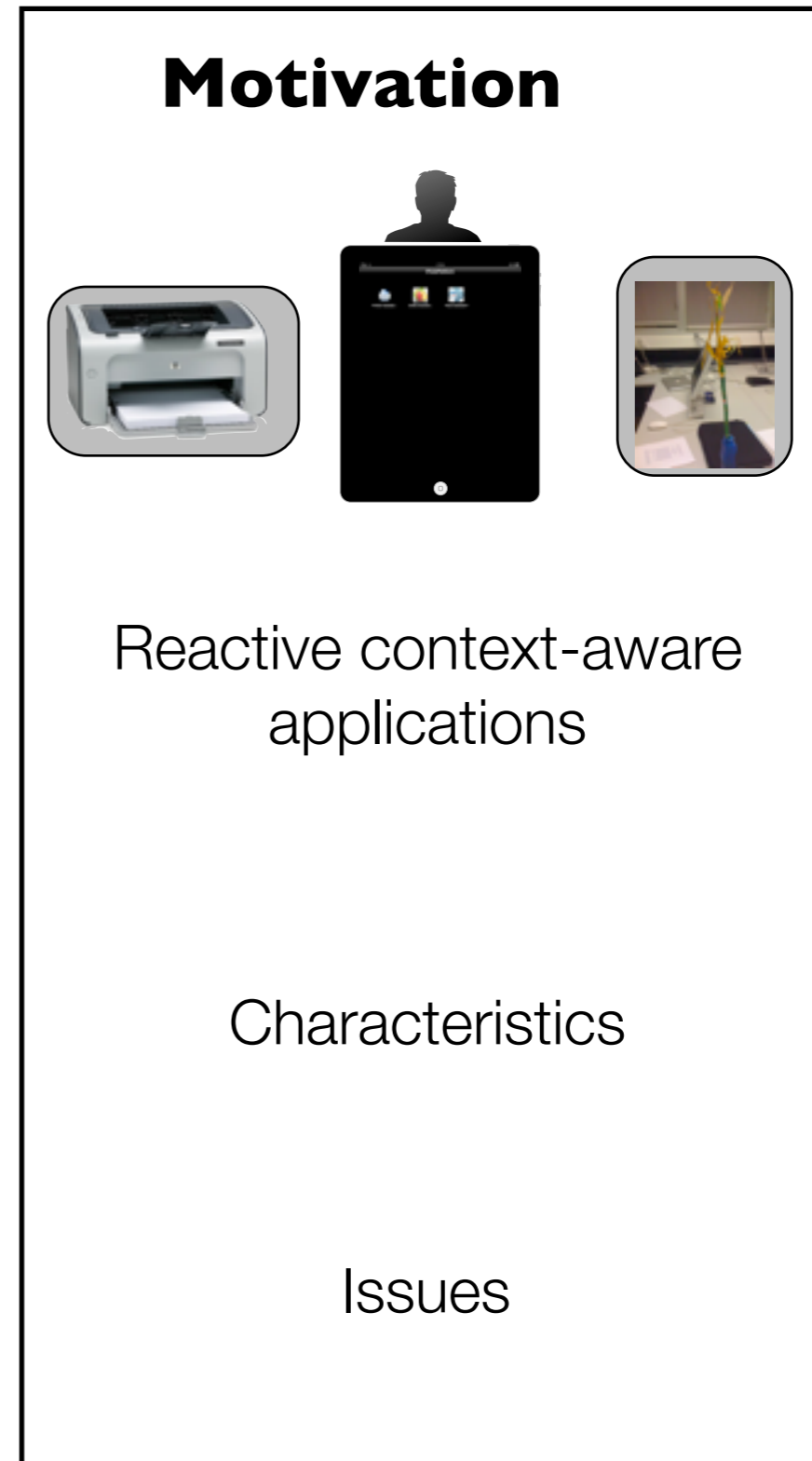
iScheme

An Executable Semantics for Flute



Validation

Motivation



Sensor Equipment Mobile Devices



GPS



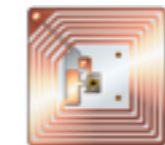
Camera



Compass



Accelerometer



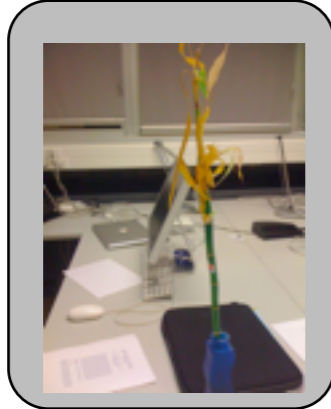
RFID

Sensor Equipment Mobile Devices

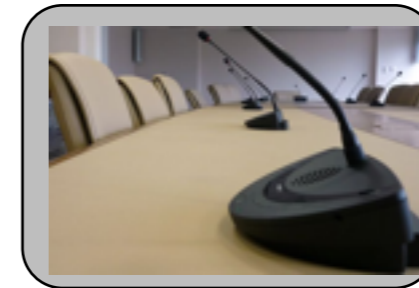


Reactive Context-aware Applications

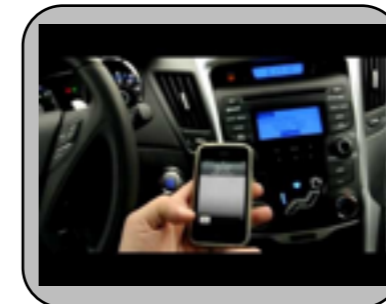
@Office



@Conference room



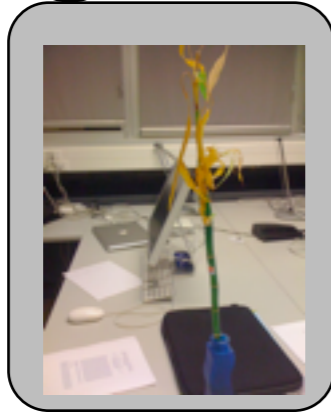
@Printer room



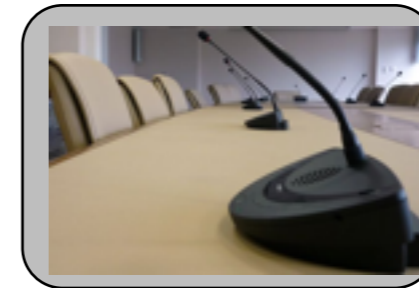
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Reactive Context-aware Applications

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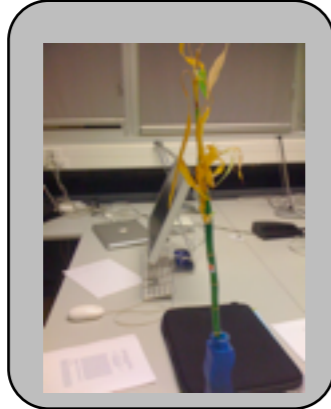
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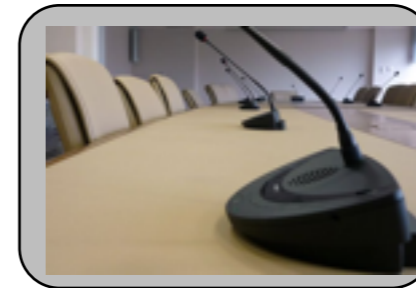
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Reactive Context-aware Applications

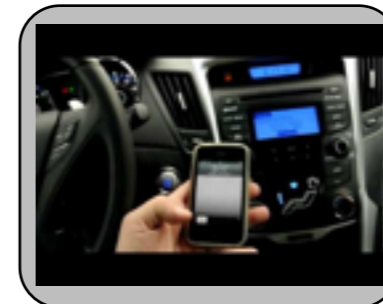
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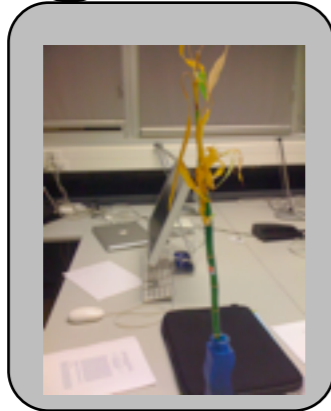
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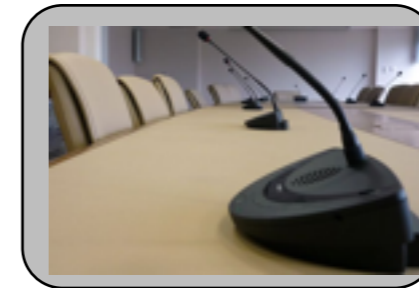
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Reactive Context-aware Applications

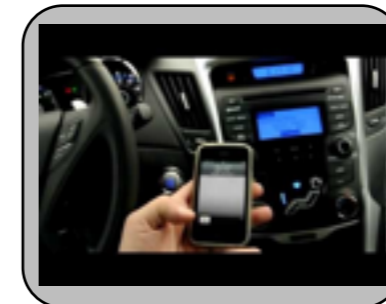
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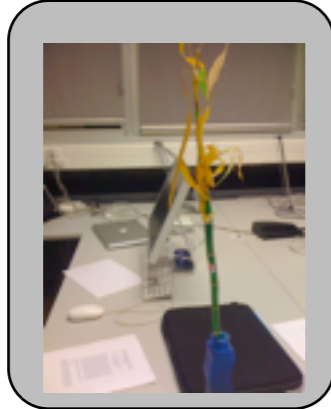
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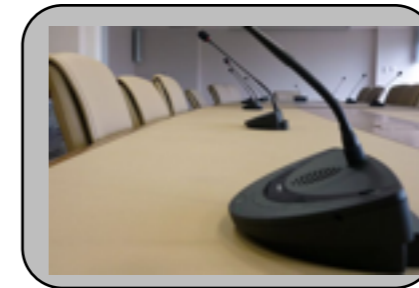
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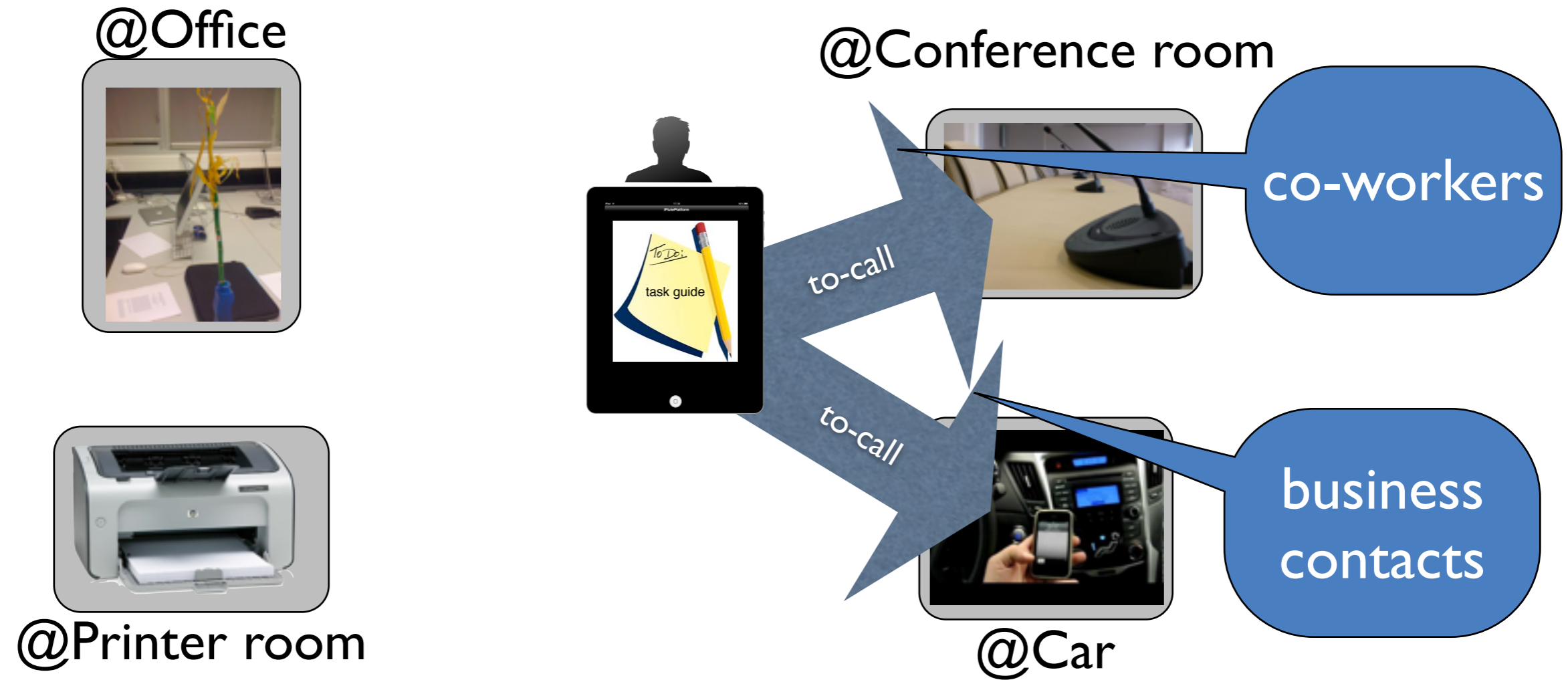


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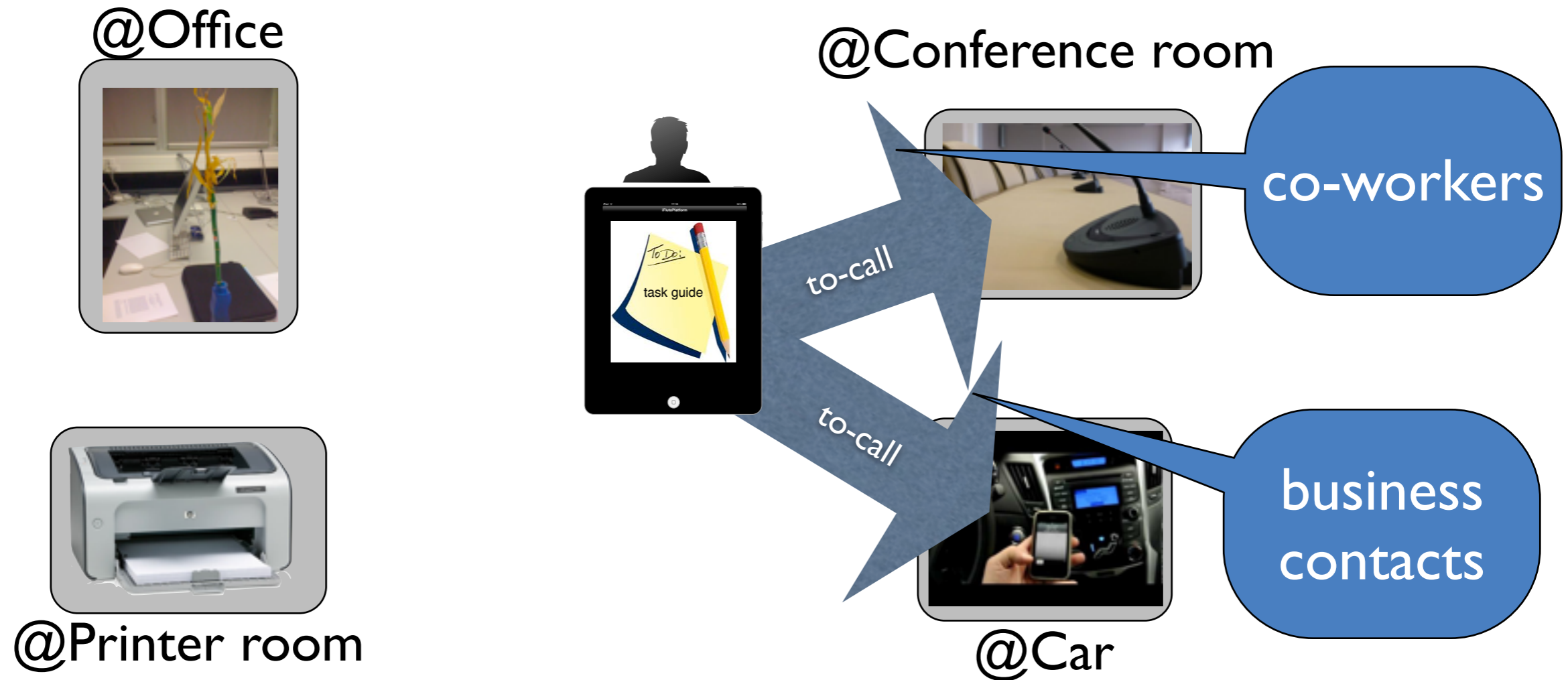


@Car

Reactive Context-aware Applications



Reactive Context-aware Applications



Fundamental Characteristics:

1. **Context-constrained** executions.
2. **Sudden** interruptions.
3. **Prompt** adaptability.

Programming Reactive Context-aware Applications

```
1 (define call-from-car
2   (lambda (contacts-list)
3     (show "calling business contacts")
4     (if (null? contacts-list)
5       (show "business contacts list empty")
6       (let ((contact (car contacts-list)))
7         (show (contact-name contact))
8         (dial (phone-number contact))
9         (turn-on-phone-speaker)
10        (connect-to-car-speakers)
11        (if (dial-next-contact? (user-response))
12            (call-from-car (cdr contacts-list))))))))
```

Programming Reactive Context-aware Applications

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1 (define call-from-car
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9         (turn-on-phone-speaker)
10        (connect-to-car-speakers)
11        (if (dial-next-contact? (user-response))
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10        (connect-to-car-speakers)
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9         (turn-on-phone-speaker)
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Programming Reactive Context-aware Applications

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8         (dial (phone-number contact))
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10        (connect-to-car-speakers)
11        (if (dial-next-contact? (user-response))
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Programming Reactive Context-aware Applications

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6       (let ((contact (car contacts-list)))
7         (show (contact-name contact))
8         (dial (phone-number contact))
9         (turn-on-phone-speaker)
10        (connect-to-car-speakers)
11        (if (dial-next-contact? (user-response))
12            (call-from-car (cdr contacts-list))))))))
```

Context-
independent

Programming Reactive Context-aware Applications

```
(if (is-in-car? location)  
    (call-from-car business-contacts))
```

Programming Reactive Context-aware Applications

```
(if (is-in-car? location)  
    (call-from-car business-contacts))
```

Not enough!

call-from-car

(call-from-car business-contacts)

A context change can occur at **any moment** during a procedure execution

X Incorrect!

Programming Reactive Context-aware Applications

```
1 (define call-from-car
2   (lambda (contacts-list)
3     (show "calling business contacts")
4     (if (null? contacts-list)
5       (show "business contacts list is empty")
6       (let ((contact (car contacts-list)))
7         (show (contact-name contact))
8         (dial (phone-number contact))
9         (turn-on-phone-speaker)
10        (connect-to-car-speakers)
11        (if (dial-next-contact? (user-response))
12            (call-from-car (cdr contacts-list))))))))
```



Fundamental Research Questions:

1. How to **constrain an entire procedure execution** to the right context?
2. What to do when a **context change occurs** in the **middle of an ongoing execution**?

Manual Checks, Coroutines, Continuations, ...

```
1 (define call-from-car
2   (lambda (contacts-list)
3     (if (is-in-car? location)
4       (show "calling business contacts")
5       (save/suspend))
6     (if (null? contacts-list)
7       (show "business contacts list is empty")
8       (let ((contact (car contacts-list)))
9         (if (is-in-car? location)
10            (show (contact-name contact))
11            (save/suspend))
12          (if (is-in-car? location)
13              (dial (phone-number contact))
14              (save/suspend))
15          (if (is-in-car? location)
16              (turn-on-phone-speaker)
17              (save/suspend))
18          (if (is-in-car? location)
19              (connect-to-car-speakers)
20              (save/suspend))
21          (if (dial-next-contact? (user-response))
22              (call-from-car (cdr contacts-list))))))))
```



Repetitive
context checks

Resumptions?

Context management?

Manual Checks, Coroutines, Continuations, ...

```
1 (define call-from-car
2   (lambda (contacts-list)
3     (if (is-in-car? location)
4       (show "calling business contacts")
5       (save/suspend))
6     (if (null? contacts-list)
7       (show "business contacts are empty")
8       (let ((contact (car contacts-list)))
9         (if (is-in-car? location)
10            (show (format "calling ~a" contact))
11            (save/suspend))
12          (if (is-in-car? location)
13              (dial-number contact))
14            (if (is-in-car? location)
15                (show "connecting to car-speakers")
16                (show "no car-speaker"))
17            (save/suspend))
18          (if (is-in-car? location)
19              (connect-to-car-speakers)
20              (save/suspend))
21          (if (dial-next-contact? (user-response))
22              (call-from-car (cdr contacts-list))))))
```

Need for a dedicated software technology



Repetitive
context checks

Resumptions?

Context management?

Reactive Method Dispatch for Context-Oriented Programming

Programming Language Approach

Language
Requirements

State of the Art

The ICoDE Model

The Flute Language

Programming Language Requirements

```
(is-in-car? location)
```

```
1 (define to-call
2   (lambda (contacts-list)
3     (show "calling business contacts")
4     (if (null? contacts-list)
5       (show "business contacts list is empty")
6       (let ((contact (car contacts-list)))
7         (show (contact-name contact))
8         (dial (phone-number contact))
9         (turn-on-phone-speaker)
10        (connect-to-car-speakers)
11        (if (dial-next-contact? (user-response))
12            (to-call (cdr contacts-list))))))))
```

```
(is-in-conference-room? location)
```

```
1 (define to-call
2   (lambda (contacts-list)
3     (show "calling co-workers contacts")
4     (if (null? contacts-list)
5       (show "co-workers contacts list is empty")
6       (let ((contact (car contacts-list)))
7         (show (contact-name contact))
8         (dial (phone-number contact))
9         (turn-on-phone-speaker)
10        (connect-to-conference-equipment)
11        (if (dial-next-contact? (user-response))
12            (to-call (cdr contacts-list))))))))
```

Requirements:

R.1 Chained Context Reactions

R.2 Contextual Dispatch

R.3 Reactive Dispatch

R.4 Context-dependent Interruptions

R.5 Context-dependent Resumptions

R.6 Reactive Scope Management

Language

A Survey of the State of the Art

	Chained Context Reactions	Context-dependent Interruptions	Context-dependent Resumptions	Contextual Dispatch	Reactive Dispatch	Reactive Scope Management
Context-Oriented Programming (COP) Languages						
ContextL and other Layer-based Languages	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Lambic	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Ambience	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Contextual Values	✗	✗	✗	✓ variable	✗	✓ scoped construct
Functional Reactive Programming (FRP) Languages						
FrTime and its Siblings	✓ behaviours and events	✗	✗	✗	✓ same function re-evaluation	✗
Reactive SML	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
Advanced Control Flow Constructs						
Coroutines	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
First-class Continuations	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
Threads (Cooperative)	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
Other Programming Language Facilities						
Guards	✗	✓ blocking at the beginning	✓ from the beginning	✗	✗	✗
Assertions	✗	✓ explicit abort	✗	✗	✗	✗
Invariants	✗	✓ only at the beginning and the end	✗	✗	✗	✗

A Survey of the State of the Art

	Chained Context Reactions	Context-dependent Interruptions	Context-dependent Resumptions	Contextual Dispatch	Reactive Dispatch	Reactive Scope Management
Context-Oriented Programming (COP) Languages						
ContextL and other Layer-based Languages	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Lambic	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Ambience	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Contextual Values	✗	✗	✗	✓ variable	✗	✓ scoped construct
Functional Reactive Programming (FRP) Languages						
FrTime and its Siblings	✓ behaviours and events	✗	✗	✗	✓ same function re-evaluation	✗
Reactive SML	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
Advanced Control Flow Constructs						
Coroutines	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
First-class Continuations	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
Threads (Cooperative)	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
Other Programming Language Facilities						
Guards	✗	✓ blocking at the beginning	✓ from the beginning	✗	✗	✗
Assertions	✗	✓ explicit abort	✗	✗	✗	✗
Invariants	✗	✓ only at the beginning and the end	✗	✗	✗	✗

A Survey of the State of the Art

	Chained Context Reactions	Context-dependent Interruptions	Context-dependent Resumptions	Contextual Dispatch	Reactive Dispatch	Reactive Marshalling
Context-Oriented Programming (COP) Languages						
ContextL and other Layer-based Languages	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Lambic	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Ambience	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Contextual Values	✗	✗	✗	✓	variable	✓ scoped construct
Functional Reactive Programming (FRP) Languages						
FrTime and its Siblings	✓ behaviours and events	✗	✗	✗	✓ same function re-evaluation	✗
Reactive SML	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
Advanced Control Flow Constructs						
Coroutines	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
First-class Continuations	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
Threads (Cooperative)	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
Other Programming Language Facilities						
Guards	✗	✓ blocking at the beginning	✓ from the beginning	✗	✗	✗
Assertions	✗	✓ explicit abort	✗	✗	✗	✗
Invariants	✗	✓ only at the beginning and the end	✗	✗	✗	✗

Explicit Layer and Context Activation, ...

A Survey of the State of the Art

Bainomugisha, E. et.al. (2012). A Survey on Reactive Programming.
ACM Computing Surveys (to appear).



	Chained Context Reactions	Context-dependent Interruptions	Context-dependent Resumptions	Contextual Dispatch	Reactive Dispatch	Reactive Scope Management
Context-Oriented Programming (COP) Languages						
ContextL and other Layer-based Languages	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Lambic	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Ambience	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Contextual Values	✗	✗	✗	✓ variable	✗	✓ scoped construct
Functional Reactive Programming (FRP) Languages						
FrTime and its Siblings	✓ behaviours and events	✗	✗	✗	✓ same function re-evaluation	✗
Reactive SML	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
Advanced Control Flow Constructs						
Coroutines	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
First-class Continuations	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
Threads (Cooperative)	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
Other Programming Language Facilities						
Guards	✗	✓ blocking at the beginning	✓ from the beginning	✗	✗	✗
Assertions	✗	✓ explicit abort	✗	✗	✗	✗
Invariants	✗	✓ only at the beginning and the end	✗	✗	✗	✗

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Lambic	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Ambience	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	
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FrTime and its Siblings	✓ behaviours and events	✗	✗	✗	✓ same for ev.	
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Coroutines	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
First-class Continuations	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
Threads (Cooperative)	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
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Invariants	✗	✓ only at the beginning and the end	✗	✗	✗	✗

No Contextual Dispatch, ...

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Bainomugisha, E. et.al. (2012). A Survey on Reactive Programming.
ACM Computing Surveys (to appear).



	Chained Context Reactions	Context-dependent Interruptions	Context-dependent Resumptions	Contextual Dispatch	Reactive Dispatch	Reactive Scope Management
Context-Oriented Programming (COP) Languages						
ContextL and other Layer-based Languages	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Lambic	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Ambience	✗	✗	✗	✓		✗
Contextual Values	✗	✗	✗	✓ variab		✓ scoped construct
Functional Reactive Programming (FRP) Languages						
FrTime and its Siblings	✓ behaviours and events	✗	✗			✗
Reactive SML	✗	✓ explicit	✓ exp			✗
Advanced Control Flow Constructs						
Coroutines	✗	✓ explicit	✓ exp		✗	✗
First-class Continuations	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit		✗	✗
Threads (Cooperative)	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
Other Programming Language Facilities						
Guards	✗	✓ blocking at the beginning	✓ from the beginning	✗	✗	✗
Assertions	✗	✓ explicit abort	✗	✗	✗	✗
Invariants	✗	✓ only at the beginning and the end	✗	✗	✗	✗

Repetitive Context Checks, Manual Resumptions, ...

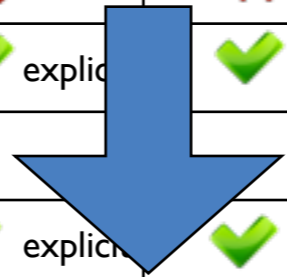
There is a Need for a New COP Paradigm

Bainomugisha, E. et.al. (2012). A Survey on Reactive Programming. ACM Computing Surveys (to appear).



	Chained Context Reactions	Context-dependent Interruptions	Context-dependent Resumptions	Contextual Dispatch	Reactive Dispatch	Reactive Scope Management
Context-Oriented Programming Languages						
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Lambic						✗
Ambience						✗
Contextual Values						✓ scoped construct
Functional Reactive Programming						
FrTime and its Siblings	✓ events	✗	✗	✗	✓ evaluation	✗
Reactive SML	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
Advanced Control Flow Constructs						
Coroutines	✗	✓ explicit	✓ explicit	✗	✗	✗
First-class Continuation						✗
Threads (Cooperative)						✗
Other Programming Constructs						
Guards	✗	✓ beginning	✓ beginning	✗	✗	✗
Assertions	✗	✓ explicit abort	✗	✗	✗	✗
Invariants	✗	✓ only at the beginning and the end	✗	✗	✗	✗

Reactive Programming
+
Context-Oriented Programming
+
Implicit Interruptions



Reactive Method Dispatch for
Context-Oriented Programming

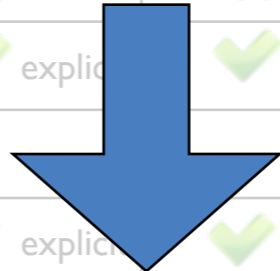
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Bainomugisha, E. et.al. (2012). A Survey on Reactive Programming. ACM Computing Surveys (to appear).



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Invariants	✗	✓ only at the beginning and the end	✗	✗	✗	✗

Reactive Programming
+
Context-Oriented Programming
+
Implicit Interruptions



Reactive Method Dispatch for
Context-Oriented Programming

Reactive Method Dispatch for Context-Oriented Programming

Programming Language Approach

Language
Requirements

State of the Art

The ICoDE Model

The Flute Language

The ICoDE Model: Design Space

Language Property	Design Considerations
Property #1 Predicated procedures	D.C #1.1 Associating a context predicate with a procedure - As part of procedure definition - Outside the procedure definition
	D.C #1.2 Propagation of context predicates - Dynamic context predicate propagation - Lexical context predicate propagation - No propagation of context predicates
	D.C #1.3 Grouping of related predicated procedures
Property #2 Representation of context as reactive values	
Property #3 Reactive dispatching	D.C #3.1 Dealing with ambiguous context predicates
	D.C #3.2 Handling return values
Property #4 Interruptible executions	D.C #4.1 Implicit interruptions
	D.C #4.2 Explicit interruptions
Property #5 Resumable executions	D.C #5.1 Proactive resumptions
	D.C #5.2 Event-driven resumptions
Property #6 Scoped state changes	



Bainomugisha, E. *et.al.* (2012). Interruptible Context-dependent Executions: A Fresh Look at Programming Context-aware Applications. *SPLASH/OnWard! 2012*

Reactive Method Dispatch for Context-Oriented Programming

Programming Language Approach

Language
Requirements

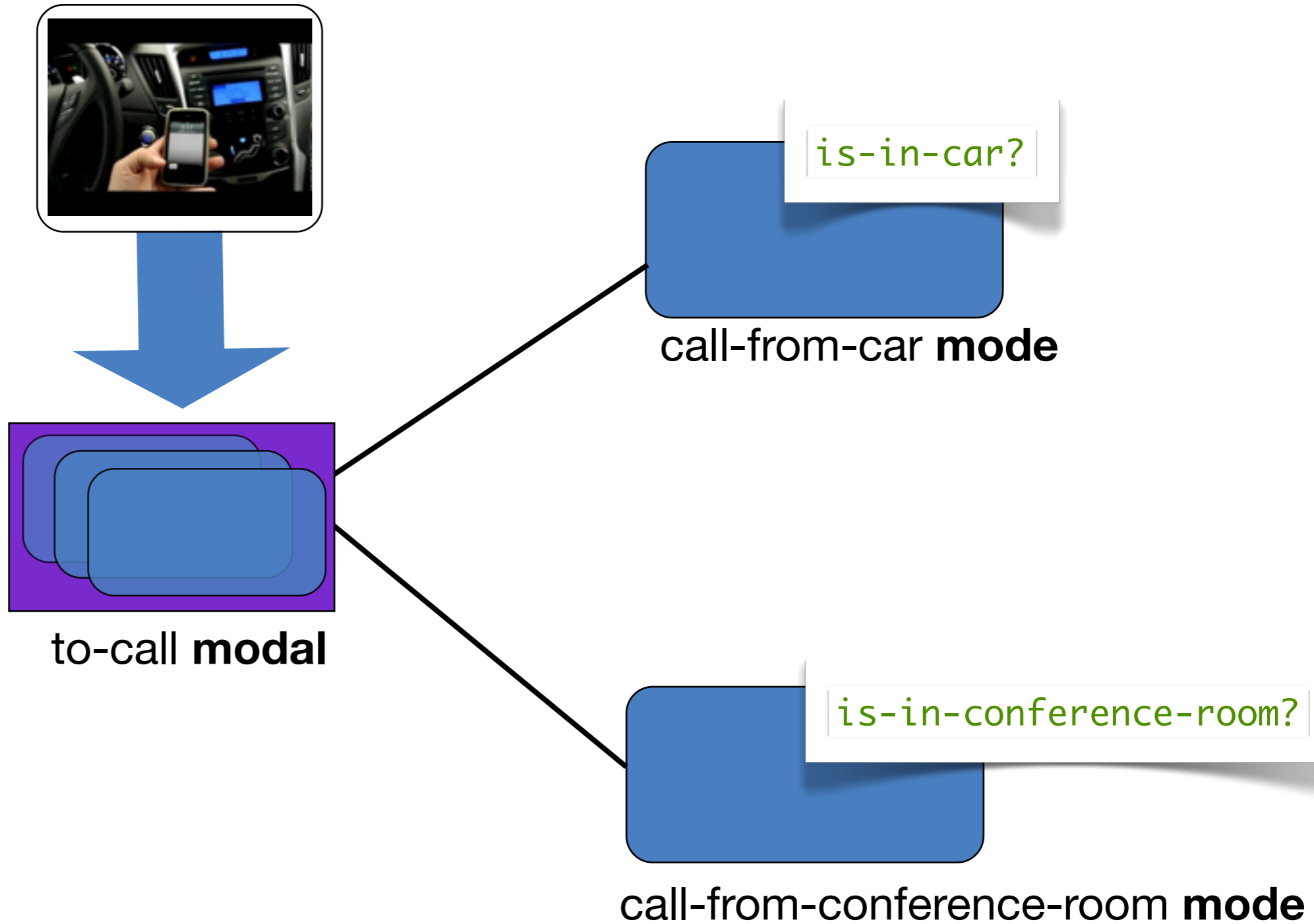
State of the Art

The ICoDE Model

The Flute Language

The ICoDE Model in Flute

Context sources
as reactive values



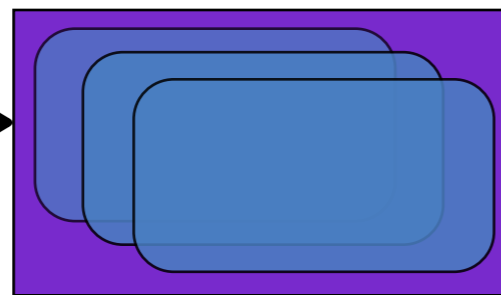
Bainomugisha, E. *et.al.* (2012). Interruptible Context-dependent Executions: A Fresh Look at Programming Context-aware Applications. SPLASH/OnWard! 2012

Contextual and Reactive Dispatching

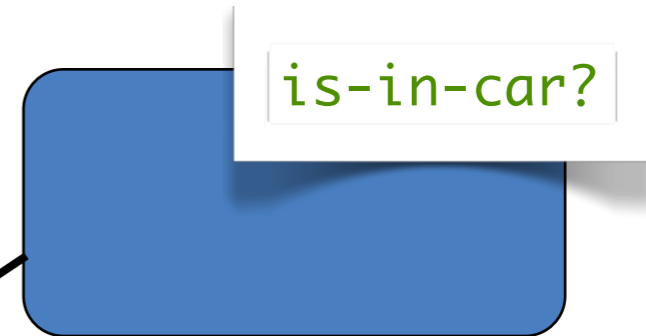
Context sources
as reactive values



`(to-call)`



to-call modal



call-from-car mode



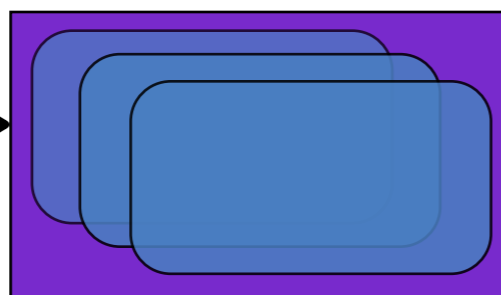
call-from-conference-room mode

Contextual and Reactive Dispatching

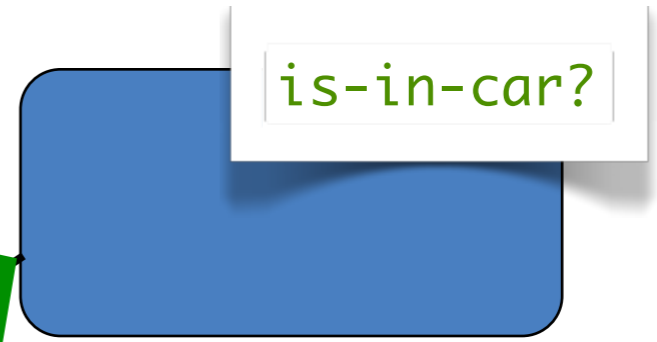
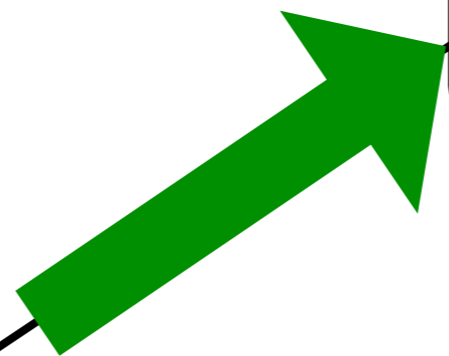
Context sources
as reactive values



(to-call)



to-call modal



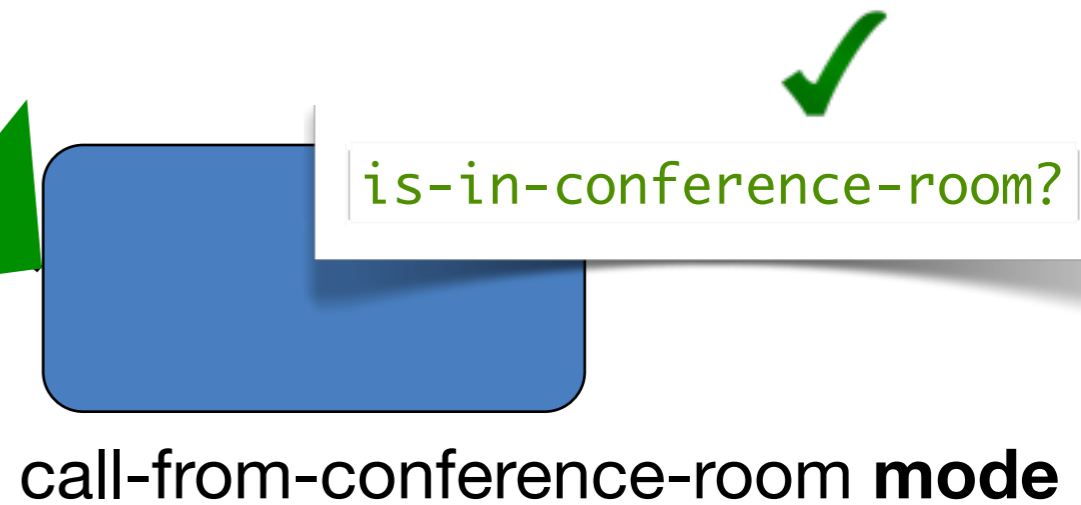
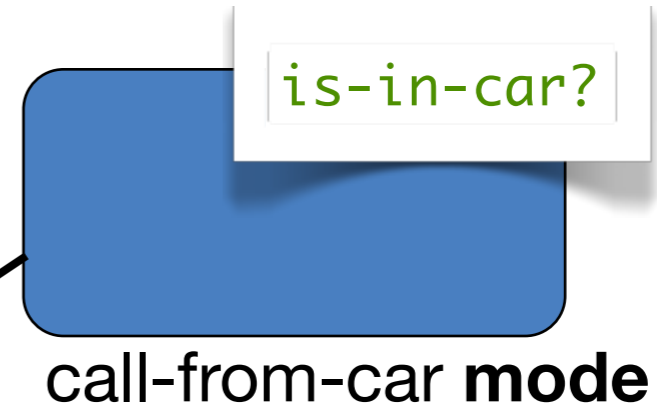
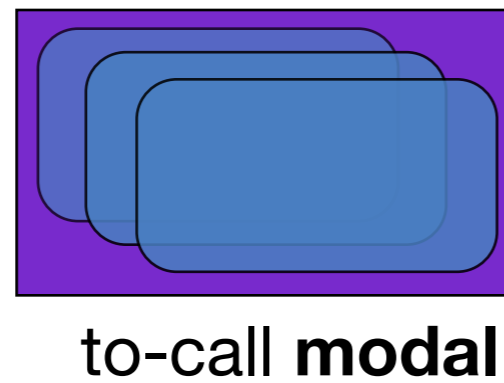
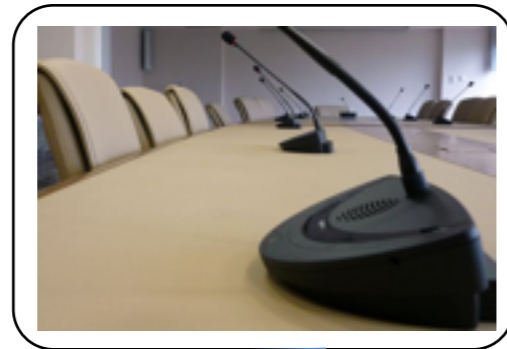
call-from-car mode



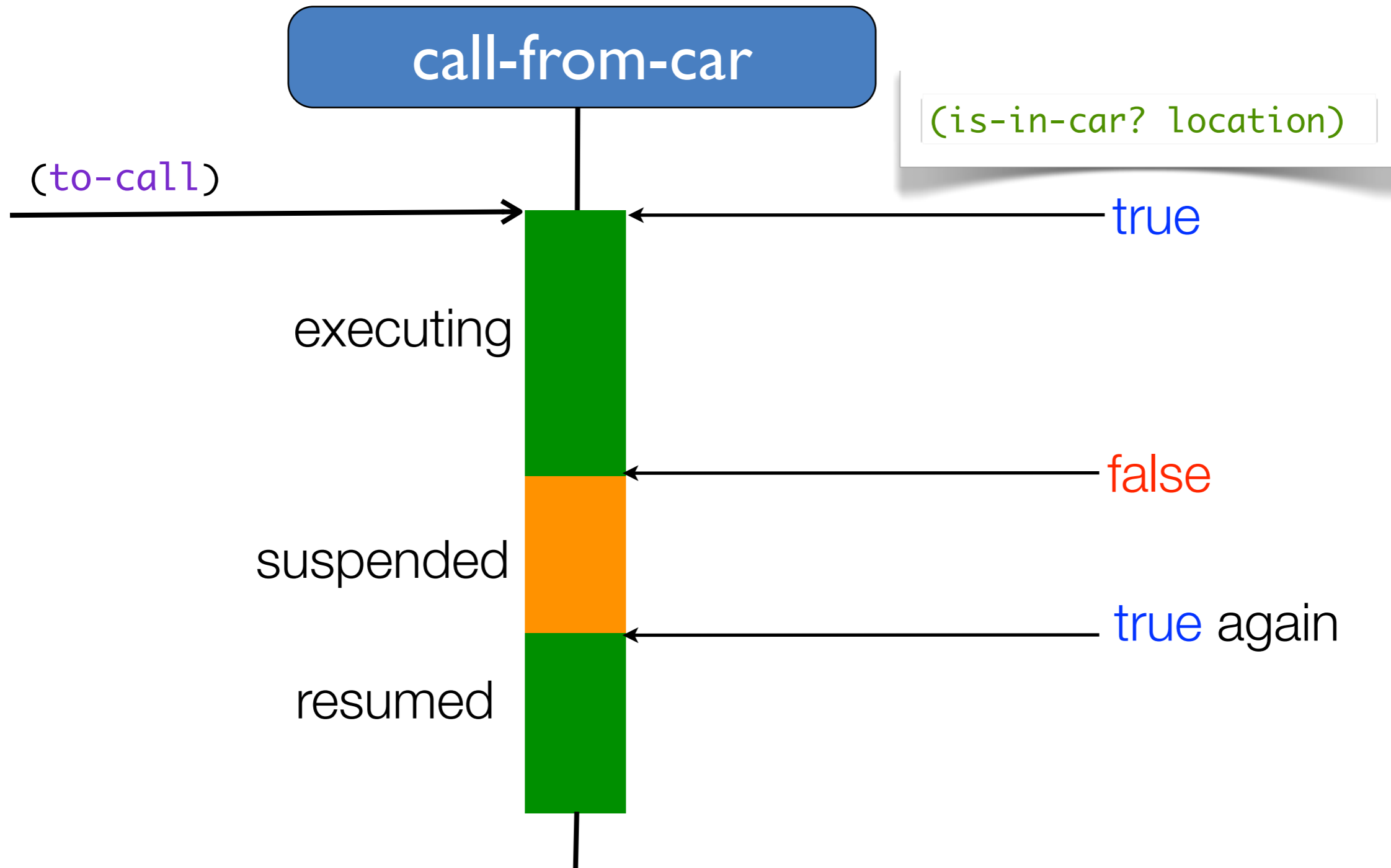
call-from-conference-room mode

Contextual and **Reactive** Dispatching

Context sources
as reactive values



Interruptible and Resumable Executions



Reactive Programming in Flute

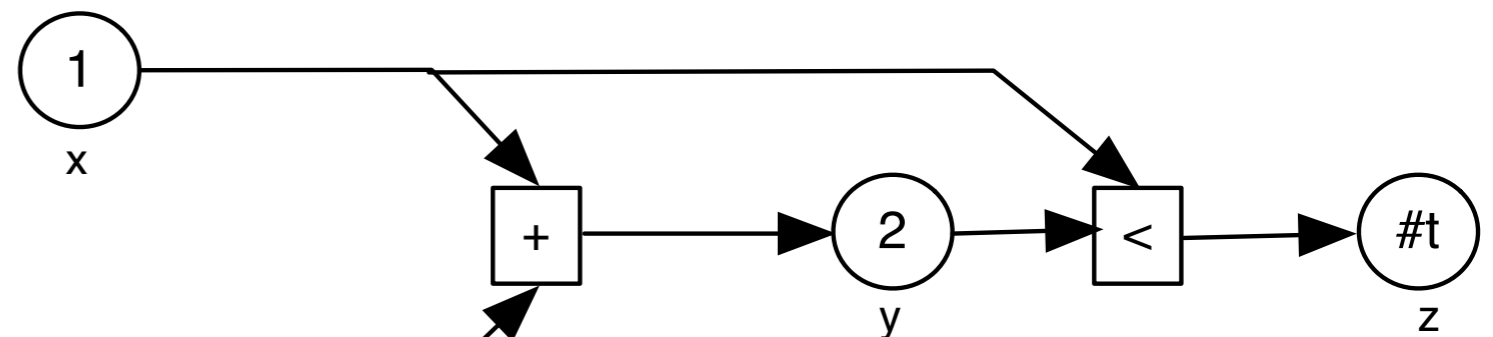
Reactive programming:

- Eliminates the use of explicit callbacks.
- Automatic propagation of changes among dependent values.

```
(define x (ctx-event 1))  
(define y (+ x 1))  
(define z (< x y))
```



Procedures are implicitly lifted.



Dependency graph



Reactive Programming in Flute

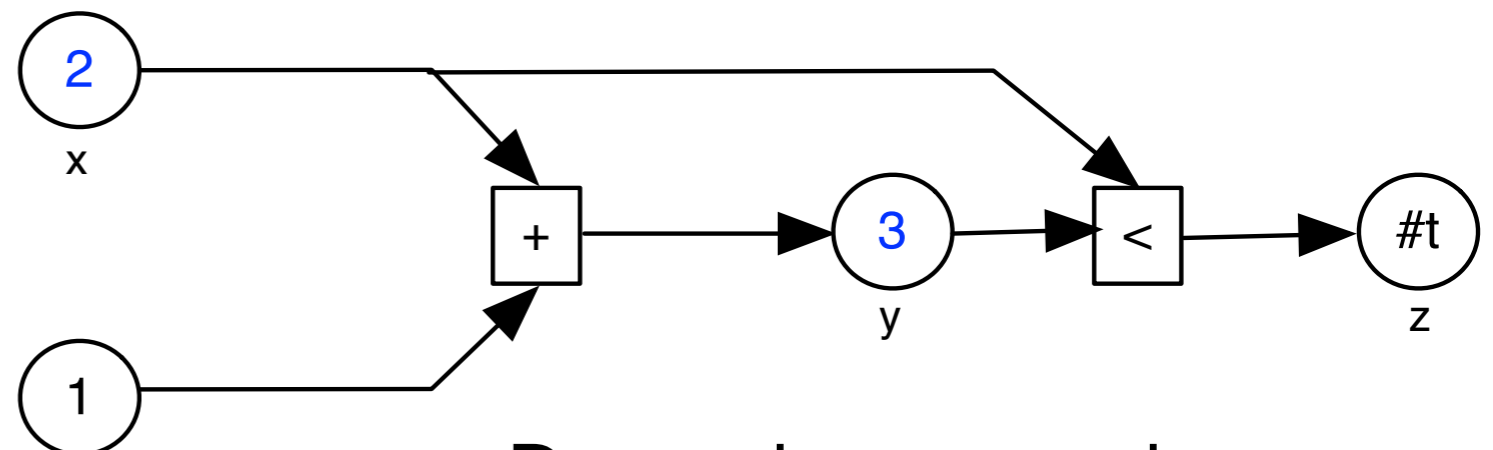
Reactive programming:

- Eliminates the use of explicit callbacks.
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```
(define x (ctx-event 1))  
(define y (+ x 1))  
(define z (< x y))
```



Procedures are implicitly lifted.



Dependency graph



Reactive Context Sources in Flute

Reactive
context sources

```
(define gps-coordinates (ctx-event))  
(define location (gps->location gps-coordinates))  
  
(CURRENT-LOCATION  
 (lambda (latitude longitude)  
   (update-value! gps-coordinates  
                 (cons latitude longitude))))
```

Acquiring non-reactive values
from sensors.

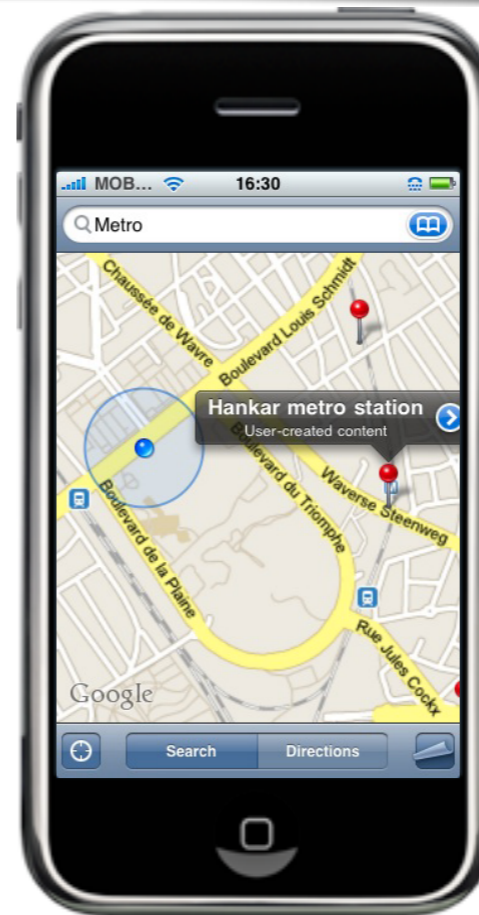


Reactive Context Sources in Flute

Reactive
context sources

```
(define gps-coordinates (ctx-event))  
(define location (gps->location gps-coordinates))  
(define nearby-metro-station (get-metro-station location))
```

(show-map nearby-metro-station)



Bainomugisha, E. *et.al.* (2012). A Survey on Reactive Programming. *ACM Computing Surveys (to appear)*.

Procedure Modals and Modes in Flute

Procedure Modal: `(define to-call (modal (location)
 (define num-of-calls 0)))`

Reactive
context source

Procedure Mode:

```
(define call-from-car  
  (mode (to-call)  
    (is-in-car? location)  
    (suspend resume deferred)  
    (lambda ()  
      (show "calling business contacts")  
      (if (null? contacts-list)  
          (show "business contacts list is empty")  
          (let ((contact (car contacts-list)))  
            (set! contacts-list (cdr contacts-list))  
            (show (contact-name contact))  
            (dial (phone-number contact))  
            (turn-on-phonespeaker)  
            (connect-to-car-speakers)  
            (if (dial-next-contact? (user-response))  
                (to-call))))))))
```

Shared
variable

Modal

Context predicate

Interruption,
resumption, and
scoping strategies

Procedure Modals and Modes in Flute

Procedure Modal: `(define to-call (modal (location)
(define num-of-calls 0)))`

Reactive
context source

Shared
variable

Procedure Mode:

```
(define call-from-car  
  (mode (to-call)  
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    (suspend resume deferred)  
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      (show "calling business contacts")  
      (if (null? contacts-list)  
          (show "business contacts list is empty")  
          (let ((contact (car contacts-list)))  
              (set! contacts-list (cdr contacts-list))  
              (show (contact-name contact))  
              (dial (phone-number contact))  
              (turn-on-phonespeaker)  
              (connect-to-car-speaker)  
              (if (dial-next-contact? (user-response))  
                  (to-call))))))))
```

```
(define call-from-conference-room  
  (mode (to-call)  
    (is-in-conference-room? location)  
    (suspend resume deferred)  
    (lambda ()  
      (show "calling co-workers contacts")  
      (if (null? contacts-list)  
          (show "co-workers contacts list is empty")  
          (let ((contact (car contacts-list)))  
              (set! contacts-list (cdr contacts-list))  
              (show (contact-name contact))  
              (dial (phone-number contact))  
              (turn-on-phonespeaker)  
              (connect-to-conference-equipment)  
              (if (dial-next-contact? (user-response))  
                  (to-call))))))))
```

Variable Modals and Modes in Flute

Variable Modal:

```
(define contacts-list (modal (location)))
```

Variable Modes:

```
(mode (contacts-list)  
      (is-in-car? location)  
      (biz-contacts))
```

```
(mode (contacts-list)  
      (is-in-conference-room? location)  
      (co-workers-contacts))
```

Modal

Context predicate

Value

Variable Modals and Modes in Flute

```
(define call-from-conference-room  
  (mode (to-call)  
        (is-in-conference-room? location)  
        resume deferred)
```

```
(define call-from-car  
  (mode (to-call)  
        (is-in-car? location)  
        (suspend resume deferred)  
        (lambda ()  
          (show "calling business contacts")  
          (if (null? contacts-list)  
              (show "business contacts list is empty")  
              (let ((contact (car contacts-list)))  
                (set! contacts-list (car contacts-list))  
                (show (contact-name contact))  
                (dial (phone-number contact))  
                (turn-on-phonespeaker)  
                (connect-to-car-speakers)  
                (if (dial-next-contact? (user-response))  
                    (to-call))))))))
```

```
    (show "calling co-workers contacts")  
    (if (null? contacts-list)  
        (show "co-workers contacts list is empty")  
        ((contact (car contacts-list))  
         (set! contacts-list (car contacts-list))  
         (show (contact-name contact))  
         (dial (phone-number contact))  
         (turn-on-phonespeaker)  
         (connect-to-conference-equipment)  
         (to-call))))))
```

Different value depending on the current context.

Context-dependent Scoping for Modal Variables

```
(define call-from-car
  (mode (to-call)
    (is-in-car? location)
    (suspend resume deferred)
    (lambda ()
      (show "calling business contacts")
      (if (null? contacts-list)
          (show "business contacts list is empty")
          (let ((contact (car contacts-list)))
              (set! contacts-list (cdr contacts-list))
              (show (contact-name contact))
              (dial (phone-number contact))
              (turn-on-phonespeaker)
              (connect-to-car-speakers)
              (if (dial-next-contact? (user-response))
                  (to-call))))))))
```

```
(define call-from-conference-room
  (mode (to-call)
    (is-in-conference-room? location)
    (suspend resume deferred)
    )
  (show "calling co-workers contacts")
  (if (null? contacts-list)
      (show "co-workers contacts list is empty")
      (let ((contact (car contacts-list)))
          (set! contacts-list (cdr contacts-list))
          (show (contact-name contact))
          (dial (phone-number contact))
          (turn-on-phonespeaker)
          (connect-to-conference-equipment)
          (if (dial-next-contact? (user-response))
              (to-call))))))
```

Scoped assignments

Interruption and Resumption Strategies in Flute

Interruption Strategies

abort

The execution is aborted when its context predicate is no longer satisfied.

suspend

The execution is suspended and its execution state is saved.

Resumption Strategies

restart

The execution is restarted from the beginning.

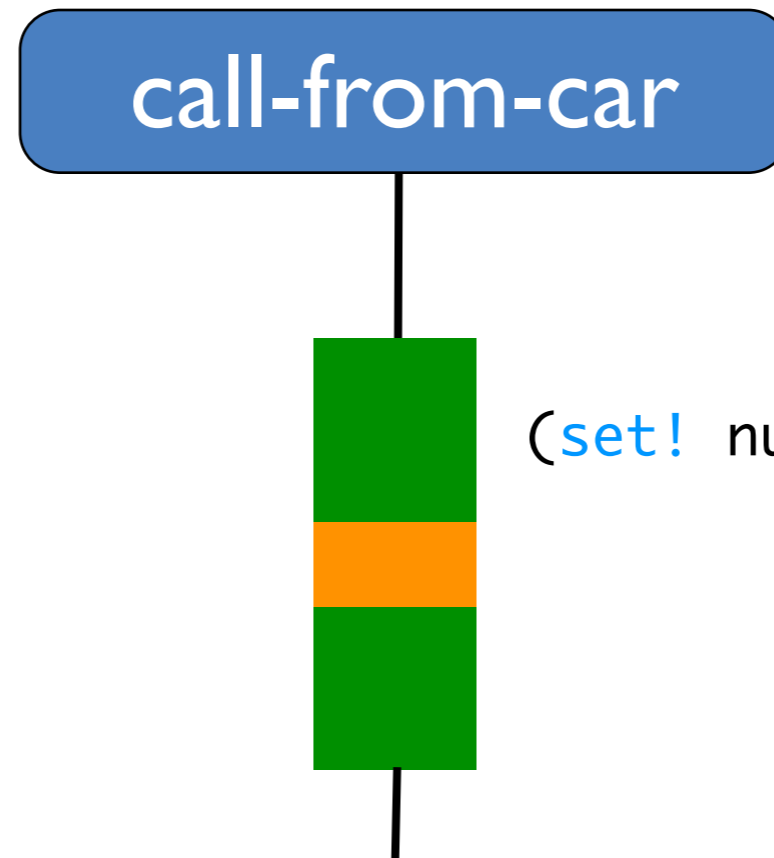
resume

The execution is resumed from where it left off.

Interruption and Resumption Strategies in Flute

		Resumption Strategies	
Interruption Strategies		restart	resume
	abort	✓	✗
	suspend	✓	✓

Scoping of State Changes to Ordinary Variables in Flute



`(set! num-of-calls (+ num-of-calls 1))`

- immediate** Changes are immediately visible to other executions.
- deferred** Changes become visible to other executions on completion.
- isolated** Changes remain locally visible to the execution.

Semantics and Validation

Semantics and Validation



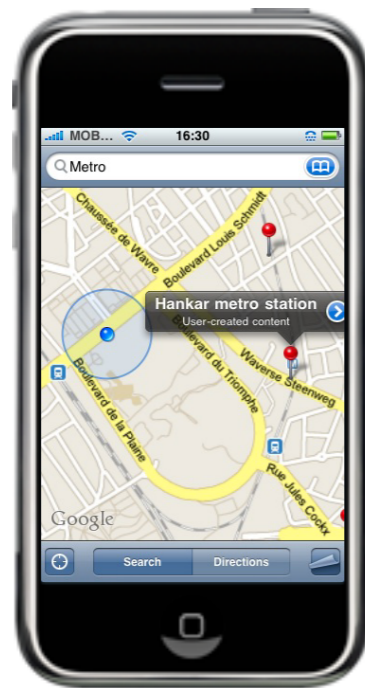
iScheme

An Executable
Semantics for Flute



Validation

iScheme: A Mobile Language Laboratory



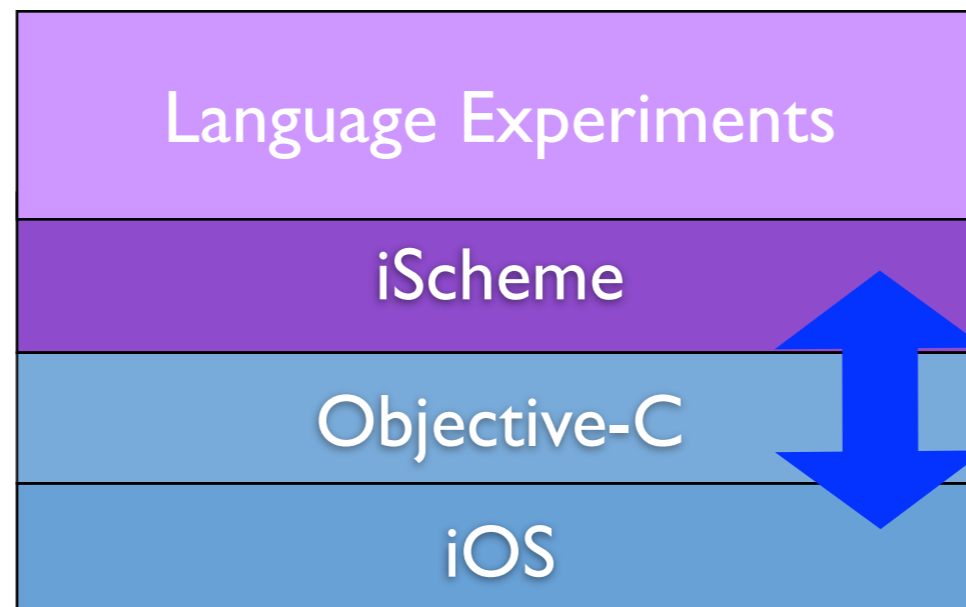
Access to iOS APIs
(Sensors, GUI, ...)



Ambient-Oriented
Programming



iScheme



Linguistic Symbiosis



Bainomugisha, E. *et.al.* (2012). Bringing Scheme Programming to the iPhone - Experience. *Software: Practice and Experience*, 42(3):331–356.

iScheme: A Mobile Language Laboratory

Language construct	Description
OBJC-INSTANCE	For instantiating an Objective-C class from within Scheme.
OBJC-SEND	Performing message sends to Objective-C instances.
OBJC-CLASS	Getting a reference to an Objective-C class.
OBJC_TYPE	A generic representation of Objective-C values in Scheme.
SCHEME_CALL	Calling Scheme procedures from Objective-C.
service-type	For creating a topic to publish or discover a procedure.
export-service	For exporting a procedure as a service.
cancel-publication	For cancelling a publication.
when-discovered	For discovering a procedure under a specified service type.
cancel-subscription	For cancelling a subscription..
remote-send!	For performing an asynchronous remote invocation without a return value.
remote-send	An asynchronous invocation with a return value.
when-resolved	For handling return values of remote invocations.
due-in	For specifying a maximum time to wait for a return value.
catch	For handling exceptions raised during an asynchronous invocation.

iScheme: A Mobile Language Laboratory

Language construct	Description
OBJC-INSTANCE	For instantiating an Object of a Scheme.
OBJC-SEND	Performing message send.
OBJC-CLASS	Getting a reference to a class.
OBJC_TYPE	A generic representation of a Scheme.
SCHEME_CALL	Calling Scheme procedure.
service-type	For creating a topic to publish or discover a procedure.
export-service	For exporting a procedure as a service.
cancel-publication	For cancelling a publication.
when-discovered	For discovering a procedure under a specified service type.
cancel-subscription	For cancelling a subscription..
remote-send!	For performing an asynchronous remote invocation without a return value.
remote-send	An asynchronous invocation with a return value.
when-resolved	For handling return values of remote invocations.
due-in	For specifying a maximum time to wait for a return value.
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Linguistic symbiosis constructs

iScheme: A Mobile Language Laboratory

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OBJC-SEND	Performing message sends to Objective-C instances.
OBJC-CLASS	Getting a reference to an Objective-C class.
OBJC_TYPE	A generic representation of Objective-C values in Scheme.
SCHEME_CALL	Calling Scheme procedures from Objective-C.
service-type	For creating a topic to publish or discover a procedure.
export-service	For exporting a procedure as a service.
cancel-publication	For cancelling a publication.
when-discovered	For discovering a procedure of a specific type.
cancel-subscription	For cancelling a subscription.
remote-send!	For performing an asynchronous invocation without a return value.
remote-send	An asynchronous invocation with a return value.
when-resolved	For handling return values of remote invocations.
due-in	For specifying a maximum time to wait for a return value.
catch	For handling exceptions raised during an asynchronous invocation.

Distribution constructs



Semantics and Validation

Semantics and Validation



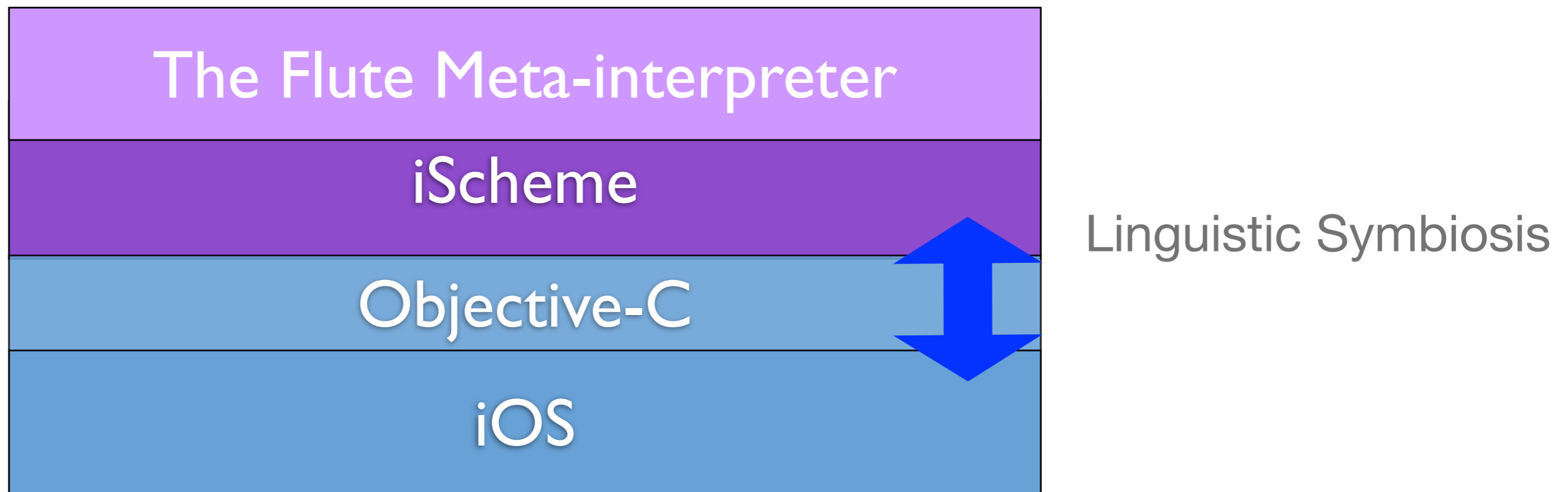
An Executable
Semantics for Flute



Validation

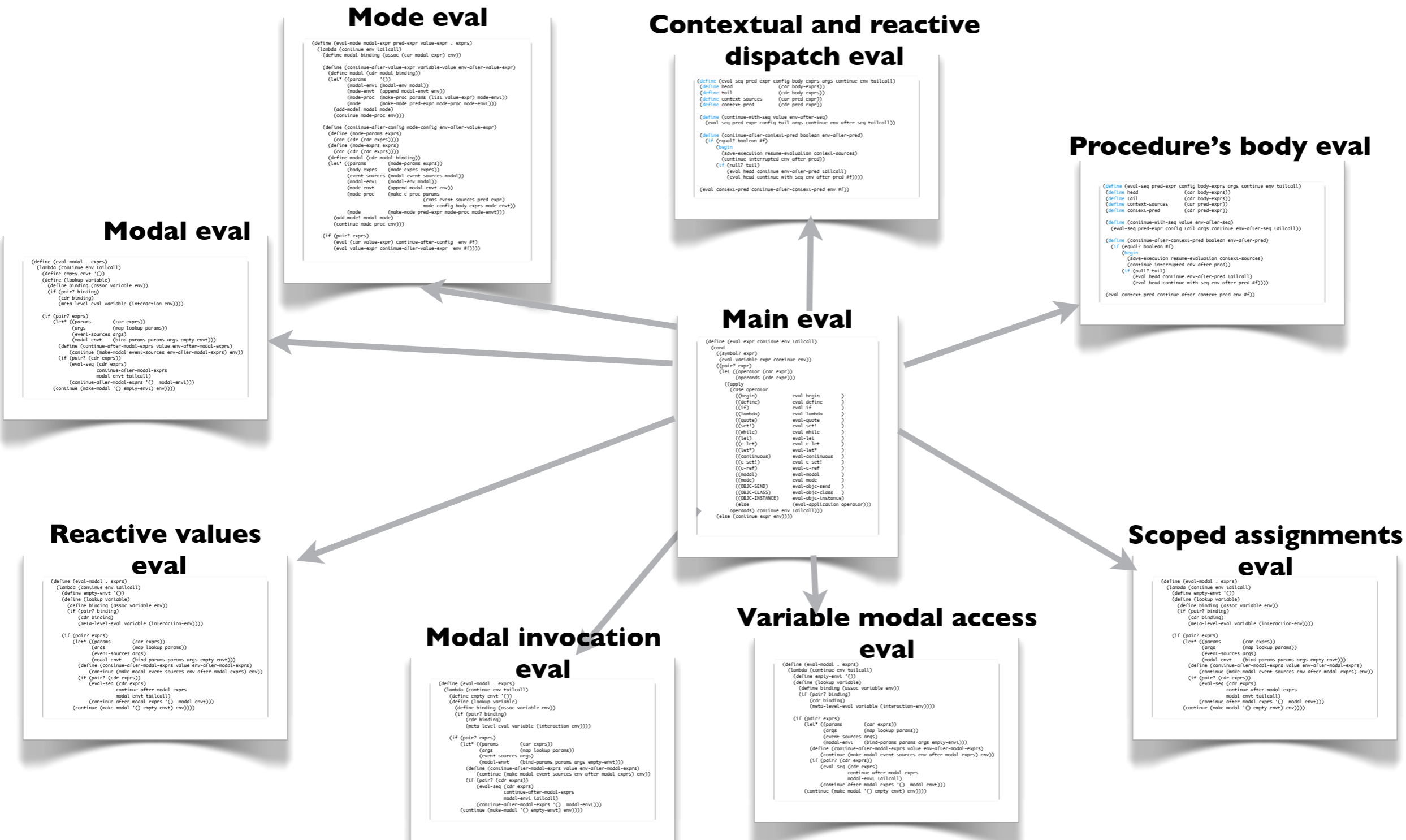
An Executable Semantics for Flute

- Flute is implemented as a meta-interpreter on top of iScheme.
- Context sources: GPS, proximity sensor, accelerometer on the iOS.

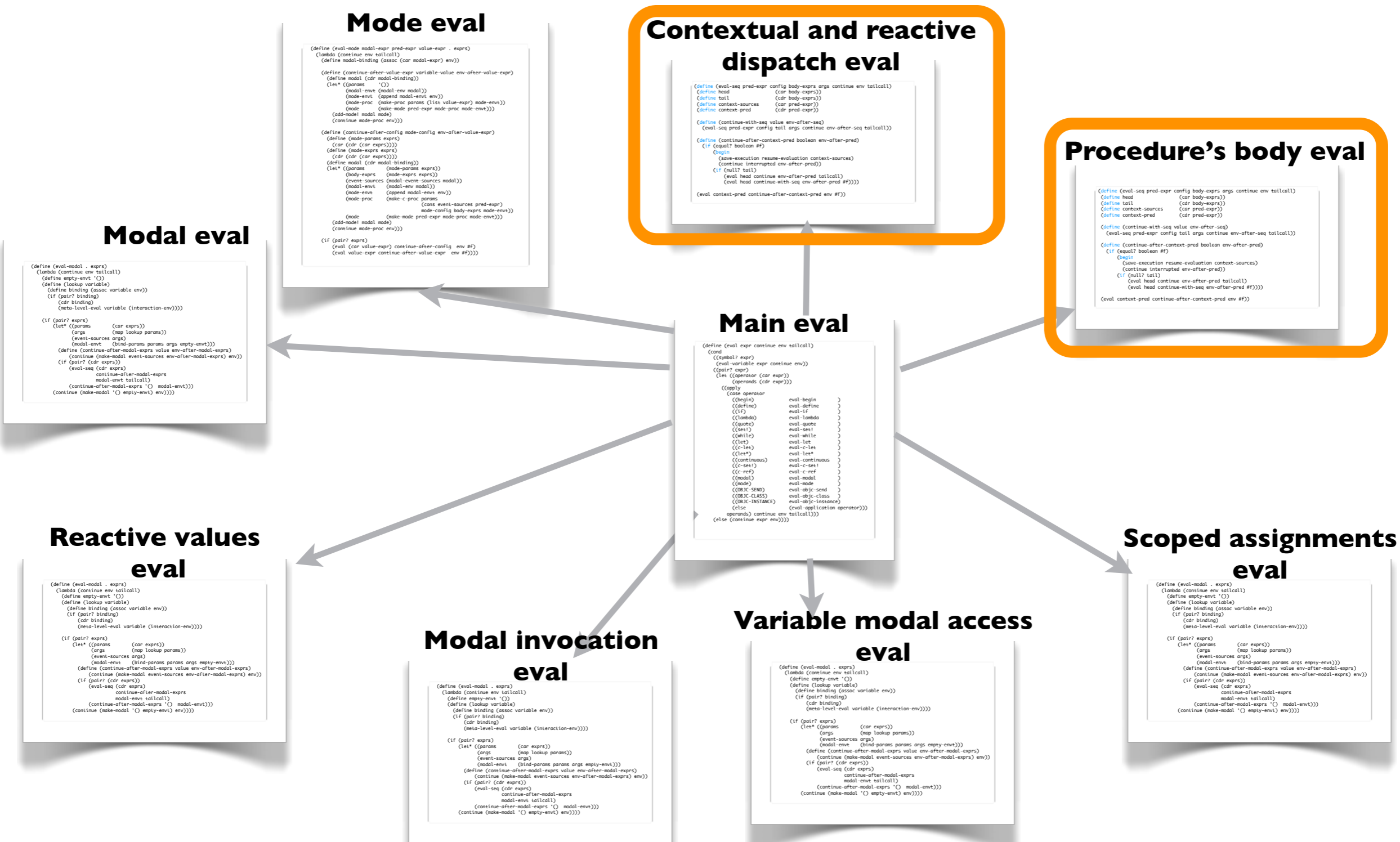


Bainomugisha, E. *et.al.* (2012). Bringing Scheme Programming to the iPhone - Experience. *Software: Practice and Experience*, 42(3):331–356.

An Executable Semantics for Flute



An Executable Semantics for Flute



Contextual and Reactive Dispatch Evaluation

```
(define (eval-modal-dispatch modal continue env)
  (define modes      (modal-modes modal))
  (define preds      (modal-preds modal))
  (define true-count-end 1)
  (define true-count-start 0)

  (define (iterate preds modes true-count mode-proc modes-after-dispatch)
    (if (null? preds)
        (if (= true-count true-count-end)
            (continue mode-proc env)
            (if (< true-count true-count-end)
                (continue #f env)
                (error "Ambiguous predicates for procedure modal" true-count))))
    (let* ((head-pred      (car preds))
           (tail-preds     (cdr preds))
           (head-mode      (car modes))
           (tail-modes     (cdr modes))
           (mode-envt      (mode-env head-mode))
           (remaining-modes (cons head-mode modes-after-dispatch))
           (head-mode-proc (mode-proc head-mode)))
      (define (continue-after-pred value env)
        (if value
            (iterate tail-preds tail-modes (+ true-count 1) head-mode-proc modes-after-dispatch)
            (iterate tail-preds tail-modes true-count mode-proc remaining-modes)))
      (eval head-pred continue-after-pred mode-envt #f))))
  (iterate preds modes true-count-start #f '()))
```

Contextual and Reactive Dispatch Evaluation

```
(define (eval-modal-dispatch modal continue env)
  (define modes      (modal-modes modal))
  (define preds      (modal-preds modal))
  (define true-count-end 1)
  (define true-count-start 0)

  (define (iterate preds modes true-count mode-proc modes-after-dispatch)
    (if (null? preds)
        (if (= true-count true-count-end)
            (continue mode-proc env)
            (if (< true-count true-count-end)
                (continue #f env)
                (error "Ambiguous predicates for procedure modal" true-count)))
        (let* ((head-pred      (car preds))
               (tail-preds    (cdr preds))
               (head-mode     (car modes))
               (tail-modes    (cdr modes))
               (mode-envt     (mode-env head-mode))
               (remaining-modes (cons head-mode modes-after-dispatch))
               (head-mode-proc (mode-proc head-mode)))
              (define (continue-after-pred value env)
                (if value
                    (iterate tail-preds tail-modes (+ true-count 1) head-mode-proc modes-after-dispatch)
                    (iterate tail-preds tail-modes true-count mode-proc remaining-modes)))
                (eval head-pred continue-after-pred mode-envt #f))))
    (iterate preds modes true-count-start #f '()))
```

Contextual and Reactive Dispatch Evaluation

```
(define (eval-modal-dispatch modal continue env)
  (define modes      (modal-modes modal))
  (define preds      (modal-preds modal))
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  (define (iterate preds modes true-count mode-proc modes-after-dispatch)
    (if (null? preds)
        (if (= true-count true-count-end)
            (continue mode-proc env)
            (if (< true-count true-count-end)
                (continue #f env)
                (error "Ambiguous predicates for procedure modal" true-count)))
        (let* ((head-pred      (car preds))
               (tail-preds    (cdr preds))
               (head-mode     (car modes))
               (tail-modes    (cdr modes))
               (mode-envt     (mode-env head-mode))
               (remaining-modes (cons head-mode modes-after-dispatch))
               (head-mode-proc (mode-proc head-mode)))
              (define (continue-after-pred value env)
                (if value
                    (iterate tail-preds tail-modes (+ true-count 1) head-mode-proc modes-after-dispatch)
                    (iterate tail-preds tail-modes true-count mode-proc remaining-modes)))
                (eval head-pred continue-after-pred mode-envt #f))))
    (iterate preds modes true-count-start #f '()))
```

Contextual and Reactive Dispatch Evaluation

```
(define (eval-modal-dispatch modal continue env)
  (define modes      (modal-modes modal))
  (define preds      (modal-preds modal))
  (define true-count-end 1)
  (define true-count-start 0)

  (define (iterate preds modes true-count mode-proc modes-after-dispatch)
    (if (null? preds)
        (if (= true-count true-count-end)
            (continue mode-proc env)
            (if (< true-count true-count-end)
                (continue #f env)
                (error "Ambiguous predicates for procedure modal" true-count)))
        (let* ((head-pred      (car preds))
               (tail-preds    (cdr preds))
               (head-mode     (car modes))
               (tail-modes    (cdr modes))
               (mode-envt     (mode-env head-mode))
               (remaining-modes (cons head-mode modes-after-dispatch))
               (head-mode-proc (mode-proc head-mode)))
              (define (continue-after-pred value env)
                (if value
                    (iterate tail-preds tail-modes (+ true-count 1) head-mode-proc modes-after-dispatch)
                    (iterate tail-preds tail-modes true-count mode-proc remaining-modes)))
                (eval head-pred continue-after-pred mode-envt #f))))
    (iterate preds modes true-count-start #f '()))
```

Contextual and Reactive Dispatch Evaluation

```
(define (eval-modal-dispatch modal continue env)
  (define modes      (modal-modes modal))
  (define preds      (modal-preds modal))
  (define true-count-end 1)
  (define true-count-start 0)

  (define (iterate preds modes true-count mode-proc modes-after-dispatch)
    (if (null? preds)
        (if (= true-count true-count-end)
            (continue mode-proc env)
            (if (< true-count true-count-end)
                (continue #f env)
                (error "Ambiguous predicates for procedure modal" true-count)))
        (let* ((head-pred      (car preds))
               (tail-preds    (cdr preds))
               (head-mode     (car modes))
               (tail-modes    (cdr modes))
               (mode-envt     (mode-env head-mode))
               (remaining-modes (cons head-mode modes-after-dispatch))
               (head-mode-proc (mode-proc head-mode)))
              (define (continue-after-pred value env)
                (if value
                    (iterate tail-preds tail-modes (+ true-count 1) head-mode-proc modes-after-dispatch)
                    (iterate tail-preds tail-modes true-count mode-proc remaining-modes)))
              (eval head-pred continue-after-pred mode-envt #f))))
    (iterate preds modes true-count-start #f ()))
```


Contextual and Reactive Dispatch Evaluation

```
(define (eval-modal-dispatch modal continue env)
  (define modes      (modal-modes modal))
  (define preds      (modal-preds modal))
  (define true-count-end 1)
  (define true-count-start 0)

  (define (iterate preds modes true-count mode-proc modes-after-dispatch)
    (if (null? preds)
        (if (= true-count true-count-end)
            (continue mode-proc env)
            (if (< true-count true-count-end)
                (continue #f env)
                (error "Ambiguous predicates for procedure modal" true-count)))
        (let* ((head-pred      (car preds))
               (tail-preds    (cdr preds))
               (head-mode     (car modes))
               (tail-modes    (cdr modes))
               (mode-envt     (mode-env head-mode))
               (remaining-modes (cons head-mode modes-after-dispatch))
               (head-mode-proc (mode-proc head-mode)))
              (define (continue-after-pred value env)
                (if value
                    (iterate tail-preds tail-modes (+ true-count 1) head-mode-proc modes-after-dispatch)
                    (iterate tail-preds tail-modes true-count mode-proc remaining-modes)))
              (eval head-pred continue-after-pred mode-envt #t))))
    (iterate preds modes true-count-start #f '()))
```

Contextual and Reactive Dispatch Evaluation

```
(define (eval-modal-dispatch modal continue env)
  (define modes      (modal-modes modal))
  (define preds      (modal-preds modal))
  (define true-count-end 1)
  (define true-count-start 0)

  (define (iterate preds modes true-count mode-proc modes-after-dispatch)
    (if (null? preds)
        (if (= true-count true-count-end)
            (continue mode-proc env)
            (if (< true-count true-count-end)
                (continue #f env)
                (error "Ambiguous predicates for procedure modal" true-count)))
        (let* ((head-pred      (car preds))
               (tail-preds    (cdr preds))
               (head-mode     (car modes))
               (tail-modes    (cdr modes))
               (mode-envt     (mode-env head-mode))
               (remaining-modes (cons head-mode modes-after-dispatch))
               (head-mode-proc (mode-proc head-mode)))
              (define (continue-after-pred value env)
                (iterate tail-preds tail-modes (+ true-count 1) head-mode-proc modes-after-dispatch)
                (iterate tail-preds tail-modes true-count mode-proc remaining-modes)))
            (eval head-pred continue-after-pred mode-envt #f))))
    (iterate preds modes true-count-start #f '()))
```

Contextual and Reactive Dispatch Evaluation

```
(define (eval-modal-dispatch modal continue env)
  (define modes      (modal-modes modal))
  (define preds      (modal-preds modal))
  (define true-count-end 1)
  (define true-count-start 0)

  (define (iterate preds modes true-count mode-proc modes-after-dispatch)
    (if (null? preds)
        (if (= true-count true-count-end)
            (continue mode-proc env)
            (if (< true-count true-count-end)
                (continue #f env)
                (error "Ambiguous predicates for procedure modal" true-count)))
        (let* ((head-pred      (car preds))
               (tail-preds    (cdr preds))
               (head-mode     (car modes))
               (tail-modes    (cdr modes))
               (mode-envt     (mode-env head-mode))
               (remaining-modes (cons head-mode modes-after-dispatch))
               (head-mode-proc (mode-proc head-mode)))
              (define (continue-after-pred value env)
                (if value
                    (iterate tail-preds tail-modes (+ true-count 1) head-mode-proc modes-after-dispatch)
                    (iterate tail-preds tail-modes true-count mode-proc remaining-modes)))
                (eval head-pred continue-after-pred mode-envt #f))))
    (iterate preds modes true-count-start #f '()))
```

Contextual and Reactive Dispatch Evaluation

```
(define (eval-modal-dispatch modal continue env)
  (define modes      (modal-modes modal))
  (define preds      (modal-preds modal))
  (define true-count-end 1)
  (define true-count-start 0)

  (define (if (ormap event? context-sources)
    (let* ((dispatcher (ctx-event))
           (resumption-point
            (lambda ()
              (eval-modal-dispatch modal continue-after-dispatch env))))
      (set-thunk! dispatcher resumption-point)
      (for-each
       (lambda (context-source)
         (if (event? context-source)
             (register dispatcher context-source)))
        (listify context-sources))))
    (head-mode-proc (mode-proc head-mode)))
  (define (continue-after-pred value env)
    (if value
        (iterate tail-preds tail-modes (+ true-count 1) head-mode-proc modes-after-dispatch)
        (iterate tail-preds tail-modes true-count mode-proc remaining-modes)))
  (eval head-pred continue-after-pred mode-envt #f)))
(iterate preds modes true-count-start #f '())
```

Contextual and Reactive Dispatch Evaluation

```
(define (eval-modal-dispatch modal continue env)
  (define modes      (modal-modes modal))
  (define preds      (modal-preds modal))
  (define true-count-end 1)
  (define true-count-start 0)

  (define (if (ormap event? context-sources)
    (let* ((dispatcher (ctx-event))
           (resumption-point
            (lambda ()
              (eval-modal-dispatch modal continue-after-dispatch env))))
      (set! thunk! dispatcher resumption-point)
      (for-each
        (lambda (context-source)
          (if (event? context-source)
              (register dispatcher context-source)))
        (listify context-sources))))
    (head-mode-proc (mode-proc head-mode)))
  (define (continue-after-pred value env)
    (if value
        (iterate tail-preds tail-modes (+ true-count 1) head-mode-proc modes-after-dispatch)
        (iterate tail-preds tail-modes true-count mode-proc remaining-modes)))
  (eval head-pred continue-after-pred mode-envt #f)))
(iterate preds modes true-count-start #f '())
```

Contextual and Reactive Dispatch Evaluation

```
(define (eval-modal-dispatch modal continue env)
  (define modes      (modal-modes modal))
  (define preds      (modal-preds modal))
  (define true-count-end 1)
  (define true-count-start 0)

  (define (if-true-count value)
    (if (= true-count-start true-count-end)
        value
        (eval-modal-dispatch modal continue env)))

  (if (ormap event? context-sources)
      (let* ((dispatcher (ctx-event))
             (resumption-point
              (lambda ()
                (eval-modal-dispatch modal continue-after-dispatch env))))
        (set-thunk! dispatcher resumption-point)
        (for-each
         (lambda (context-source)
           (if (event? context-source)
               (register dispatcher context-source)))
         (listify context-sources)))
      (head-mode-proc (mode-proc head-mode)))

  (define (continue-after-pred value env)
    (if value
        (iterate tail-preds tail-modes (+ true-count 1) head-mode-proc modes-after-dispatch)
        (iterate tail-preds tail-modes true-count mode-proc remaining-modes)))

  (eval head-pred continue-after-pred mode-envt #f)))

(iterate preds modes true-count-start #f '())
```

Contextual and Reactive Dispatch Evaluation

```
(define (eval-modal-dispatch modal continue env)
  (define modes      (modal-modes modal))
  (define preds      (modal-preds modal))
  (define true-count-end 1)
  (define true-count-start 0)

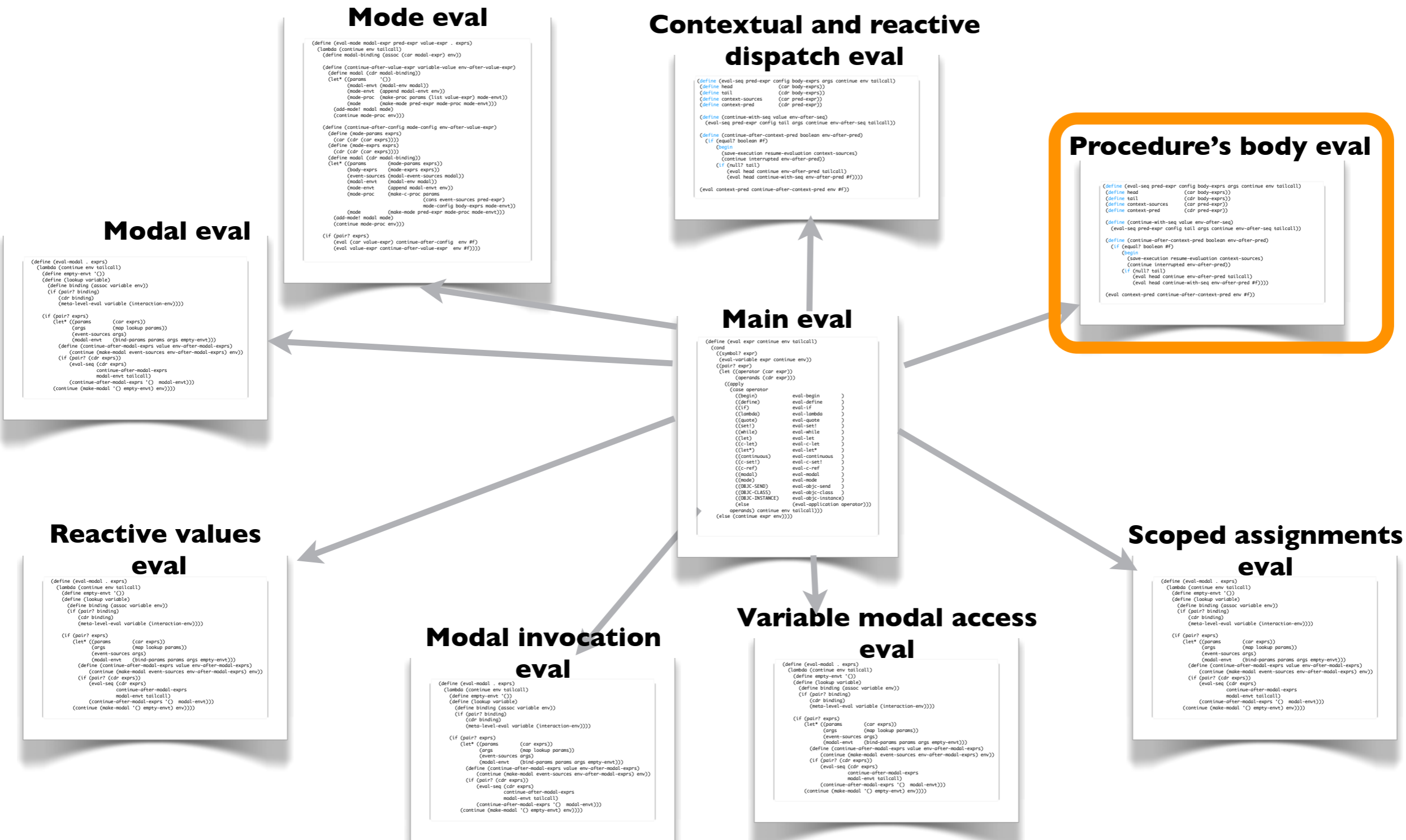
  (define (if-ormap event? context-sources)
    (if (ormap event? context-sources)
        (let* ((dispatcher (ctx-event))
               (resumption-point
                (lambda ()
                  (eval-modal-dispatch modal continue-after-dispatch env))))
          (set-thunk! dispatcher resumption-point)
          (for-each
            (lambda (context-source)
              (if (event? context-source)
                  (register dispatcher context-source)))
            (listify context-sources))))
        (head-mode-proc (mode-proc head-mode)))

  (define (continue-after-pred value env)
    (if value
        (iterate tail-preds tail-modes (+ true-count 1) head-mode-proc modes-after-dispatch)
        (iterate tail-preds tail-modes true-count mode-proc remaining-modes)))

  (eval head-pred continue-after-pred mode-envt #f)))

(iterate preds modes true-count-start #f '())
```

An Executable Semantics for Flute



Interruptible Evaluation of a Procedure's Body

```
(define (eval-seq pred-expr config body-exprs args continue env tailcall)
  (define context-sources      (car pred-expr))
  (define context-pred        (cdr pred-expr))
  (define head                (car body-exprs))
  (define tail                (cdr body-exprs))

  (define (continue-with-seq value env-after-seq)
    (eval-seq pred-expr config tail args continue env-after-seq tailcall))

  (define (continue-after-context-pred boolean env-after-pred)
    (if (equal? boolean #f)
        (begin
          (save-execution resume-evaluation context-sources)
          (continue interrupted env-after-pred))
        (if (null? tail)
            (eval head continue env-after-pred tailcall)
            (eval head continue-with-seq env-after-pred #f))))))

(eval context-pred continue-after-context-pred env #f))
```

Interruptible Evaluation of a Procedure's Body

```
(define (eval-seq pred-expr config body-exprs args continue env tailcall)
  (define context-sources (car pred-expr))
  (define context-pred (cdr pred-expr))
  (define head (car body-exprs))
  (define tail (cdr body-exprs))

  (define (continue-with-seq value env-after-seq)
    (eval-seq pred-expr config tail args continue env-after-seq tailcall))

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        (begin
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        (if (null? tail)
            (eval head continue env-after-pred tailcall)
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```

Interruptible Evaluation of a Procedure's Body

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(define (eval-seq pred-expr config body-exprs args continue env tailcall)
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  (define context-pred (cdr pred-expr))
  (define head (car body-exprs))
  (define tail (cdr body-exprs))

  (define (continue-with-seq value env-after-seq)
    (eval-seq pred-expr config tail args continue env-after-seq tailcall))

  (define (continue-after-context-pred boolean env-after-pred)
    (if (equal? boolean #f)
        (begin
          (save-execution resume-evaluation context-sources)
          (continue interrupted env-after-pred))
        (if (null? tail)
            (eval head continue env-after-pred tailcall)
            (eval head continue-with-seq env-after-pred #f))))

  (eval context-pred continue-after-context-pred env #f))
```

Interruptible Evaluation of a Procedure's Body

```
(define (eval-seq pred-expr config body-exprs args continue env tailcall)
  (define context-sources (car pred-expr))
  (define context-pred (cdr pred-expr))
  (define head (car body-exprs))
  (define tail (cdr body-exprs))

  (define (continue-with-seq value env-after-seq)
    (eval-seq pred-expr config tail args continue env-after-seq tailcall))

  (define (continue-after-context-pred boolean env-after-pred)
    (if (equal? boolean #f)
        (begin
          (save-execution resume-evaluation context-sources)
          (continue interrupted env-after-pred))
        (if (null? tail)
            (eval head continue env-after-pred tailcall)
            (eval head continue-with-seq env-after-pred #f))))))

(eval context-pred continue-after-context-pred env #f))
```

Semantics and Validation

Semantics and Validation

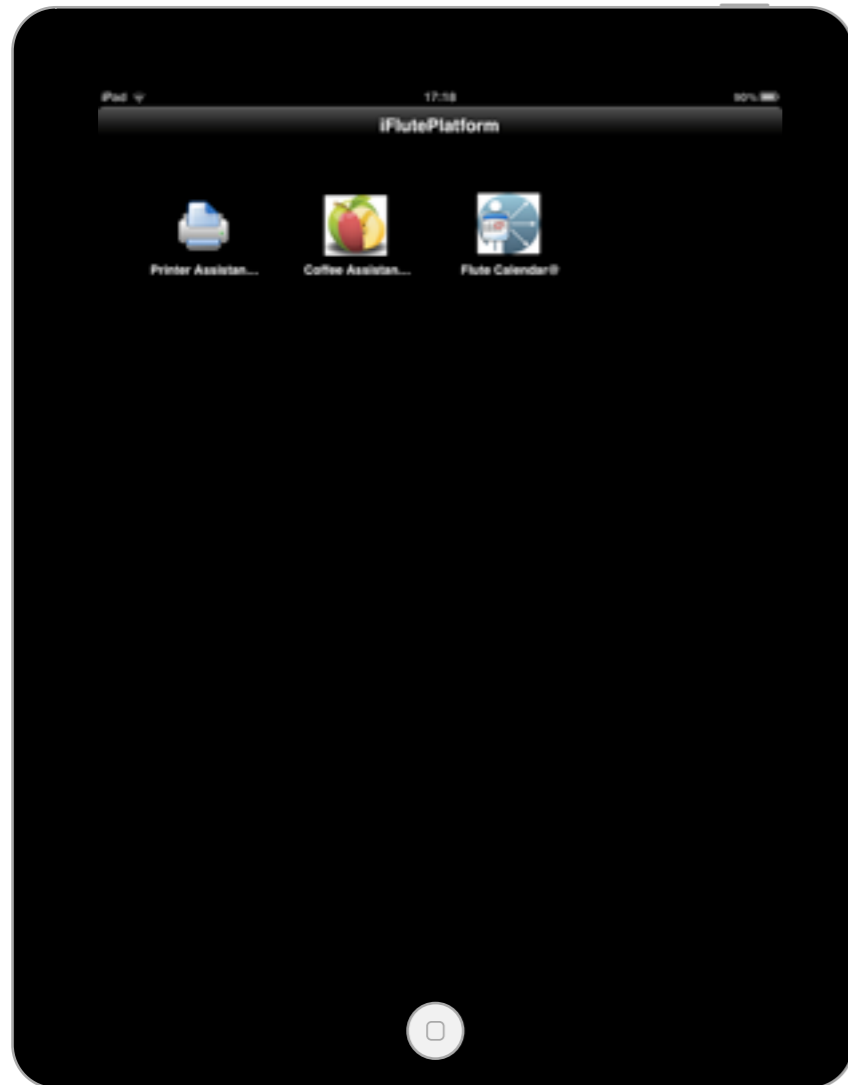


An Executable
Semantics for Flute



Validation

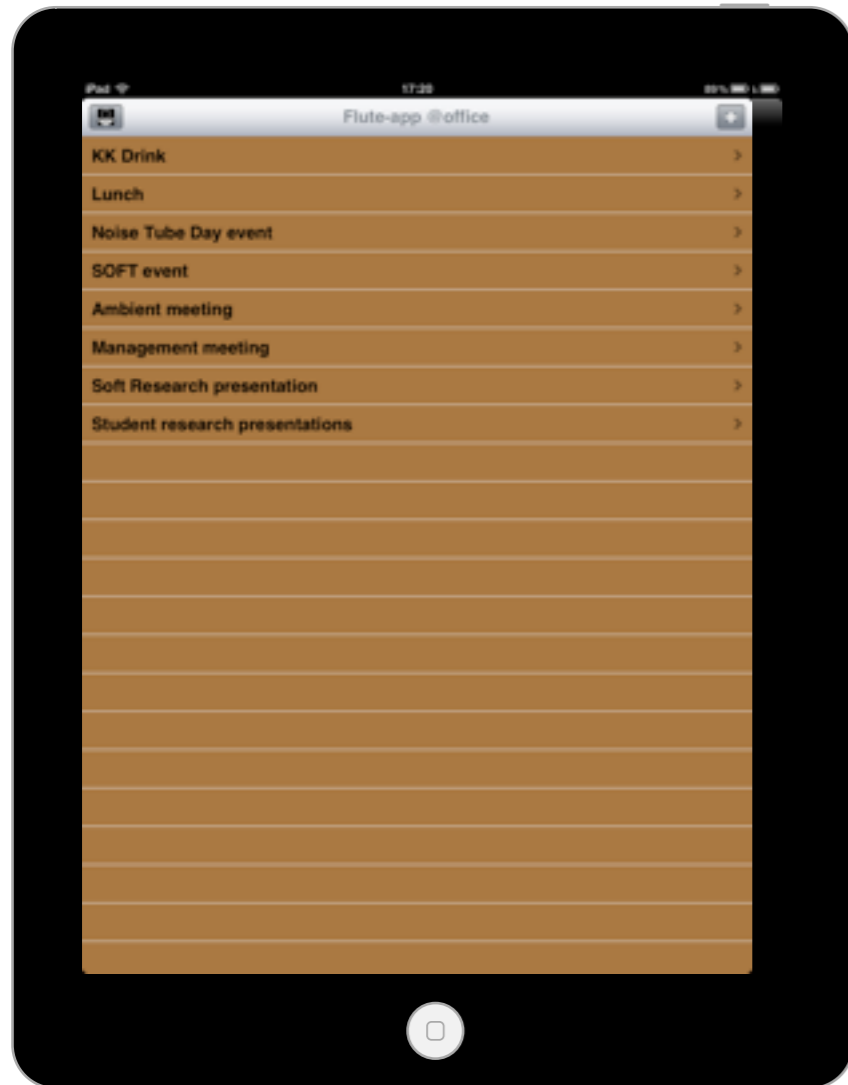
Validation: The iFlute Mobile Platform



Example apps on the iFlute mobile platform

- 1 *Kalenda*: a context-aware calendar assistant.
- 2 *Pulinta*: a context-aware printer assistant.
- 3 *Tasiki*: a context-aware task assistant.

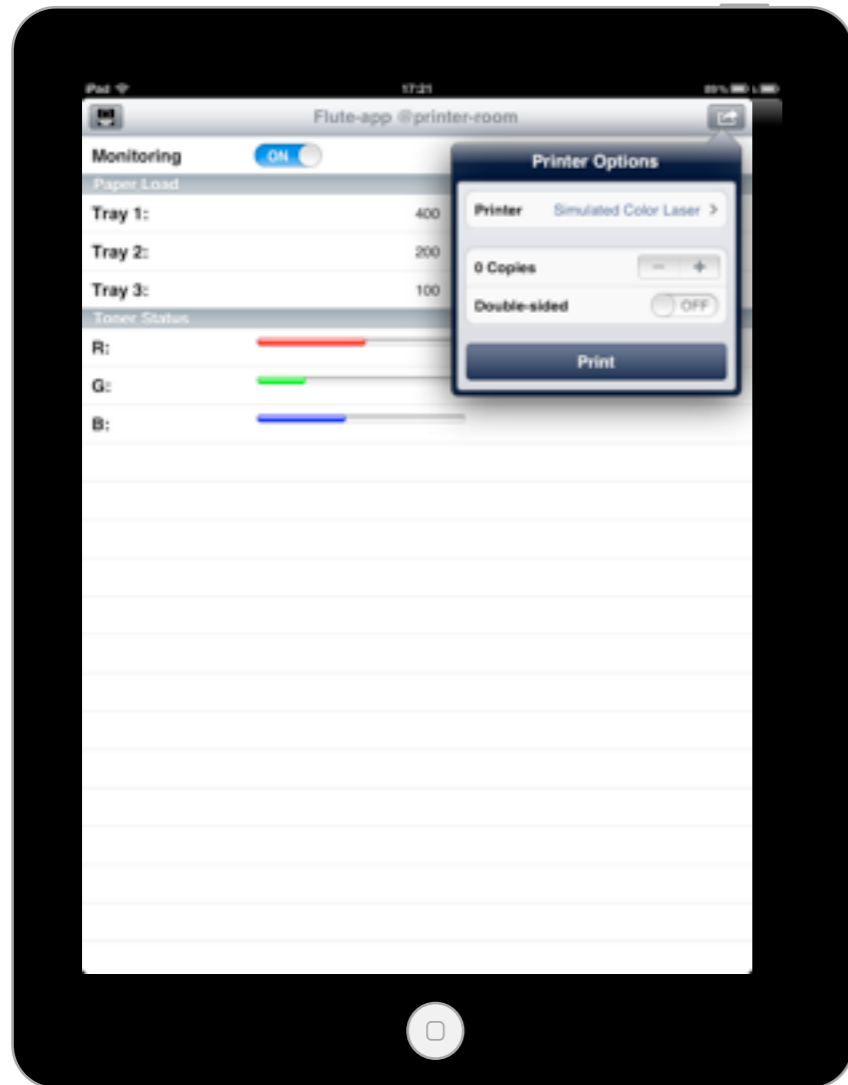
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- 1 *Kalenda*: a context-aware calendar assistant.
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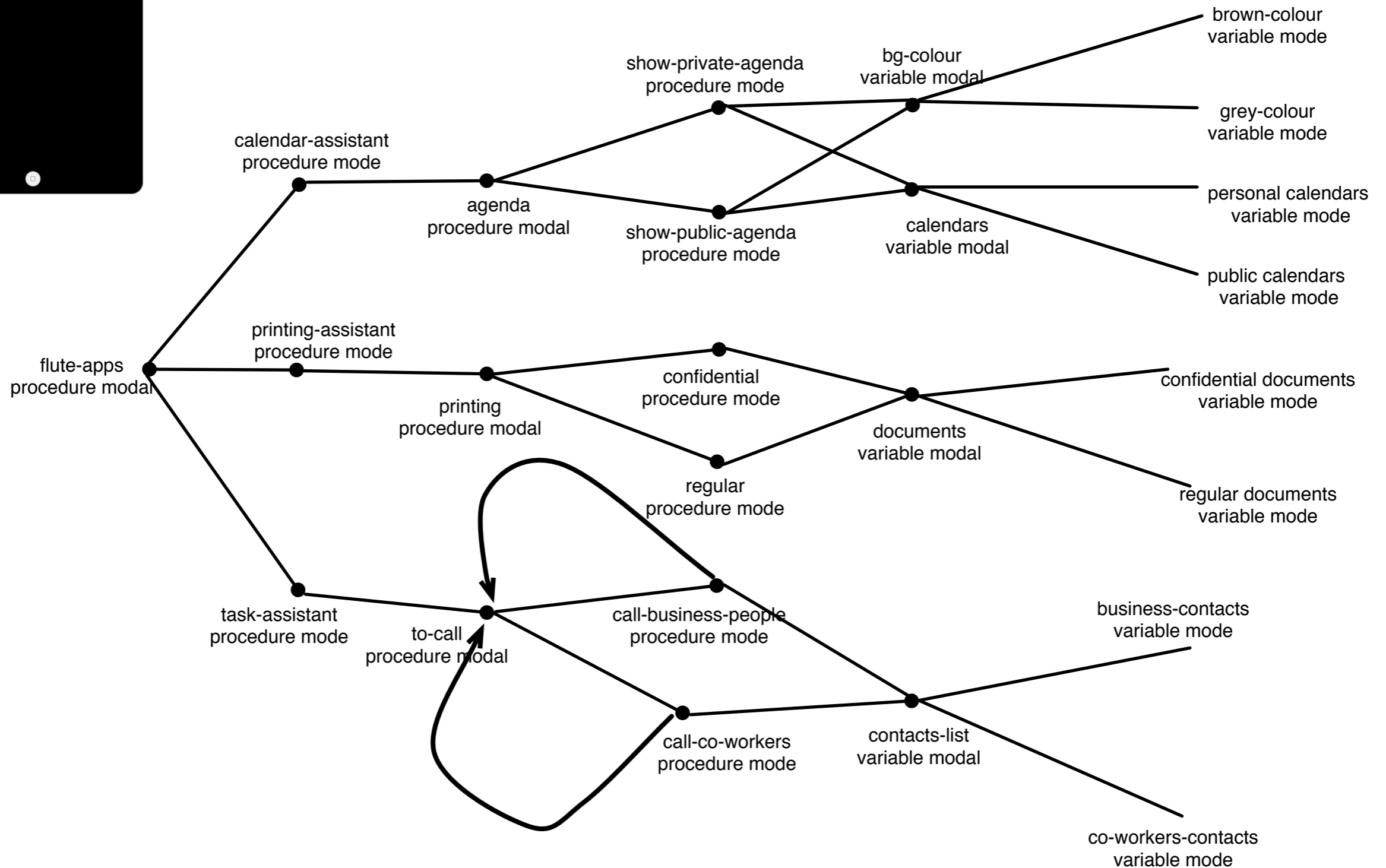
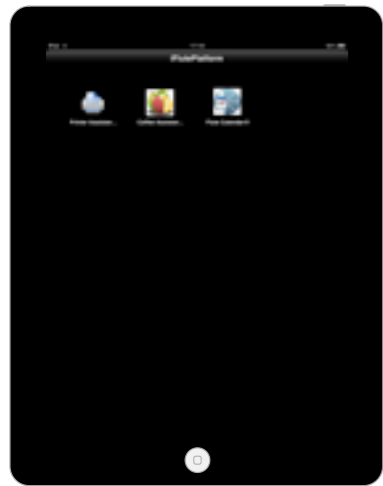
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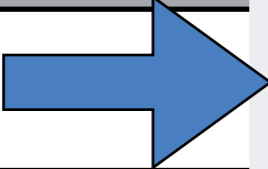
Validation: The iFlute Mobile Platform



Evaluation

Language Construct	Satisfied Requirement
ctx-event	✓ Chained context reactions
mode	✓ Contextual dispatch
modal	✓ Reactive dispatch
suspend abort resume restart	✓ Context-dependent interruptions
deferred immediate isolated	✓ Context-dependent resumptions
	✓ Reactive scope management

Evaluation

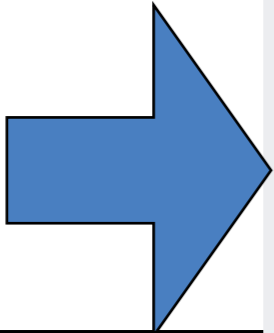
Language Construct	Satisfied Requirement
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Evaluation

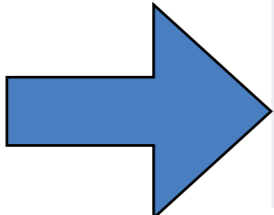
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Language Construct	Satisfied Requirement
ctx-event	✓ Chained context reactions
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Language Construct	Satisfied Requirement
ctx-event	✓ Chained context reactions
mode	✓ Contextual dispatch
modal	✓ Reactive dispatch
suspend abort resume restart	✓ Context-dependent interruptions ✓ Context-dependent resumptions
deferred immediate isolated 	✓ Reactive scope management

Limitations and Future Research Directions

- **Garbage collection of suspended executions.**
- **Flute programming language for the real world.**
- Ambiguous context predicates.
- Evaluation overhead.
- Data structure mutations for variable modals.
- Distributed interruptions.

Summarising the Contributions

1. The ICoDE model:

- **Interruptible** and **resumable** executions.
- Representation of context as **reactive** values.
- **Contextual** and **reactive** dispatch.
- **Reactive scope** management.

2. iScheme: a mobile language experimentation laboratory.

3. The Flute programming language and its executable semantics.

4. The iFlute Platform: a proof-of-concept mobile application platform for reactive context-aware applications.

Summarising the Contributions

1. The ICoDE model:

- **Interruptible** and **resumable** executions.
- Representation of context as **reactive**.
- **Contextual** and **reactive** dispatching.
- **Reactive scope** mapping.

2. iScheme:

an experimentation laboratory.

3. iScheme

language and its executable

Platform: a proof-of-concept mobile application
platform for reactive context-aware applications.

Supporting Publications

1. **Journal:** E. Bainomugisha, A. Lombide Carreton, T. Van Cutsem, S. Mostinckx, W. De Meuter. A Survey on Reactive Programming. To appear in *ACM Computing Surveys*, 2012.
2. **Conference:** E. Bainomugisha, J. Vallejos, C. De Roover, A. Lombide Carreton, W. De Meuter. Interruptible Context-dependent Executions: A Fresh Look at Programming Context-aware Applications. In *Proceedings of the ACM SPLASH/Onward! '12*, 2012.
3. **Journal:** E. Bainomugisha, J. Vallejos, E. Gonzalez Boix, P. Costanza, T. D'Hondt, W. De Meuter. Bringing Scheme Programming to the iPhone - Experience. In *Software: Practice and Experience*, 2012.
4. **Conference:** E. Bainomugisha, P. Koosha, J. Vallejos, Y. Berbers, W. De Meuter. Flexub: Dynamic Subscriptions for Publish/Subscribe Systems in MANETs. In *12th IFIP International Conference on Distributed Applications and Interoperable Systems*, Lecture Notes in Computer Science, 2012.
5. **Book chapter:** E. Bainomugisha, A. Cádiz, P. Costanza, W. De Meuter, S. Gonzalez, K. Mens, J. Vallejos, T. Van Cutsem. Language Engineering for Mobile Software. In *Handbook of Research on Mobile Software Engineering: Design Implementation and Emergent Applications*, IGI Global, 2011.