



# J-NVM: Off-Heap Persistent Objects in Java

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# Non-volatile main memory

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*new* persistent medium (in-between **SSD** and **DRAM**)

## **Durable**

resists reboots, power loss

## **High-density**

smallest DIMM = 128 GB

## **Byte addressable**

persistent memory abstraction

## **High-performance**

low latency (seq. read/write ~ 160/90ns)  
high bandwidth (up to 8.10GB/s, *2nd gen*)



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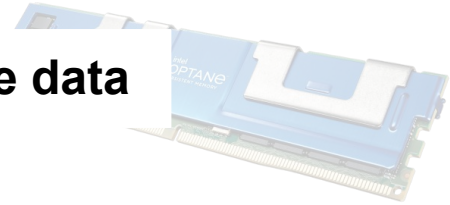
## Direct byte-addressability of durable data

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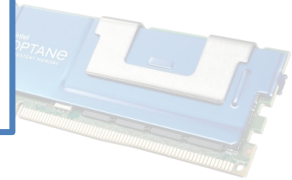
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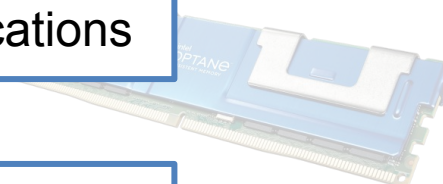
**Byte addressable**

persistent memory abstraction

2- Simpler **code** bases with **single data representation** and **no file I/Os**

**High-performance**

low latency (seq. read/write ~ 100/90ns)  
high bandwidth (up to 8.10GB/s, 2nd gen)



# Why Java?

Many data stores & processing frameworks

- Spark, Hadoop, Kafka, Flink, Cassandra, HBase, Elasticsearch, etc.

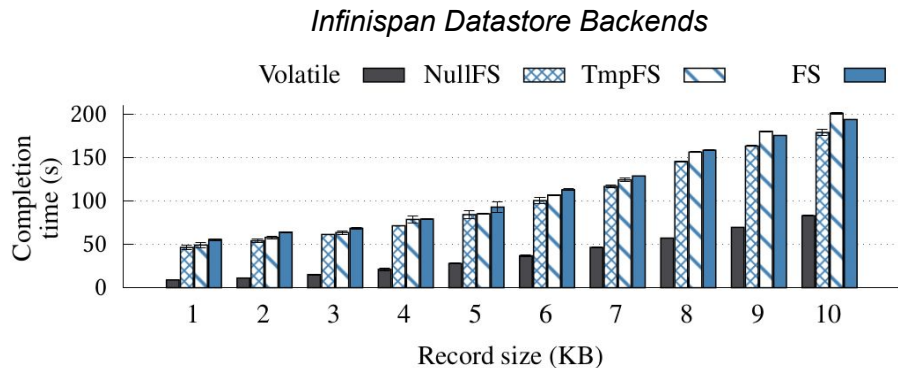
Lack of *efficient* interfaces

- **FS/ext4-dax**

- almost as slow as tmpfs
- dual representation (consistency)
- cost of marshalling

- **PCJ (JNI+PMDK)**

- slower than FS on YCSB benchmark



*Varying record size in YCSB-F.*

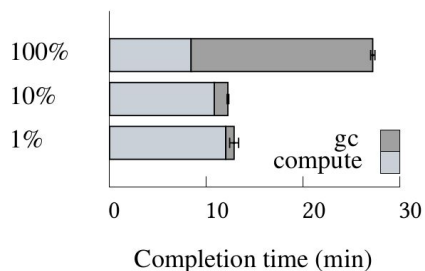
**Problematic:** Java-native NVMM interface

# Prior works: *internal design*

= [Espresso, AutoPersist, go-pmem]

## Managed Persistent Objects

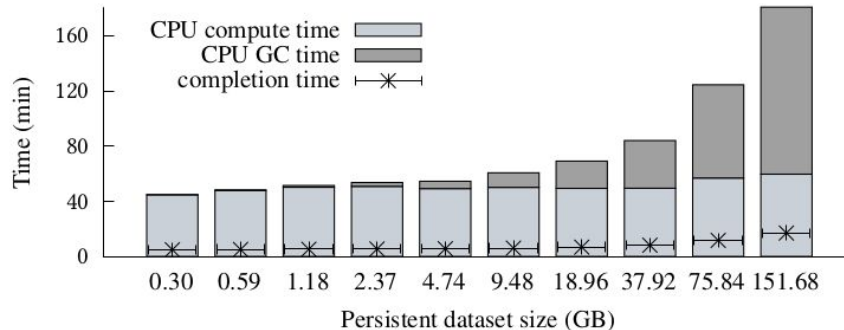
Infinispan datastore in-memory cache ratio



Fixed dataset size - 80GB on heap for 100% cache

Varying cache ratio (YCSB-F)

go-redis-pmem with increasing dataset size



Increasing dataset (YCSB-F, go-pmem)

## Features

**managed** persistent objects

orthogonal persistence  
(pnew, @persistentRoot)

heavily-modified runtime

failure-atomic blocks

**non-scalable**

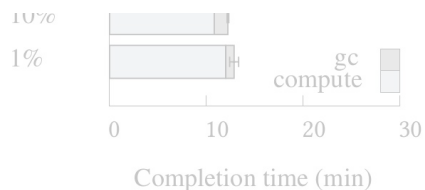
Garbage collectors can not scale to large persistent datasets

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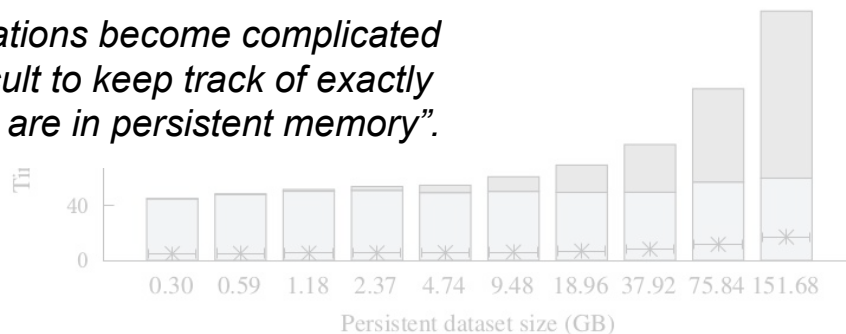
*In [go-pmem]: “as the applications become complicated it becomes increasingly difficult to keep track of exactly which variables and pointers are in persistent memory”.*



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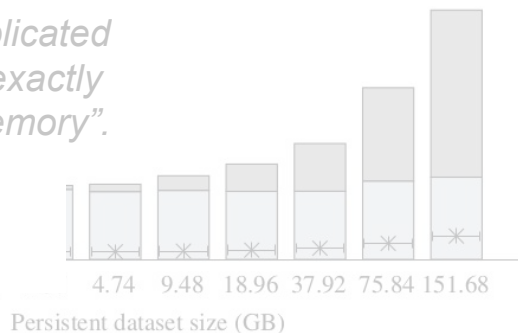
code instrumentation = made whole JVM 51% slower in [Autopersist]

Completion time (min)

Fixed dataset size - 80GB on heap for 100% cache

Varying cache ratio (YCSB-F)

*go-redis-pmem with increasing dataset size*



Increasing dataset (YCSB-F, go-pmem)

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**non-scalable**

Garbage collectors can not scale to large persistent datasets

# Overview

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## J-NVM = Off-Heap Persistent Objects

### Challenges

single data representation

programming model

direct access to NVMM

durability abstraction

scalability (large persistent dataset)



### Features

*off-heap* persistent objects

class-centric model  
(code generator + PDT library)

`sun.misc.Unsafe`

failure-atomic blocks + fine-grained

see evaluation

# Outline

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## Introduction

- NVMM
- why Java?
- prior works
- overview

## System Design

- programming model
  - persistent objects
  - code generator
- JPFA
- JPDT

## Evaluation

- YCSB benchmark
- recovery

## Conclusion

# Overview

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J-NVM = Off-Heap Persistent Objects

## Key idea

each persistent object is decoupled into

- *a persistent data structure*: unmanaged, allocated off-heap (NVMM)
- *a proxy*: managed, allocated on-heap (DRAM)

# Programming model - *persistent objects*

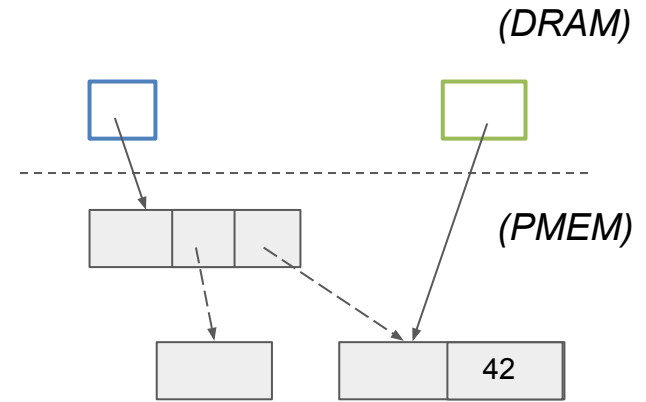
Persistent object is

- a persistent data structure
  - holds object fields
- a proxy
  - holds object methods
  - implement PObject interface
  - intermediate access to pers. data structure
  - instantiated lazily (low GC pressure)

Alive when reachable (from persistent root)

Class-centric model

- safe references thanks to the type system



```
Map root = JNVM.root();  
Simple s = root.get("Simple");  
s.setX(42);
```

# Programming model - *life cycle*

---

## Constructor

- allocate NVMM
- attach persistent data structure

## Re-Constructor

- re-attach proxy
- re-build soft state via resurrect()

## Destructor

- explicit **JNVM**.free() to reclaim NVMM
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- ready to be GCed

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Simple s = new Simple(42);
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(DRAM)

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(PMEM)

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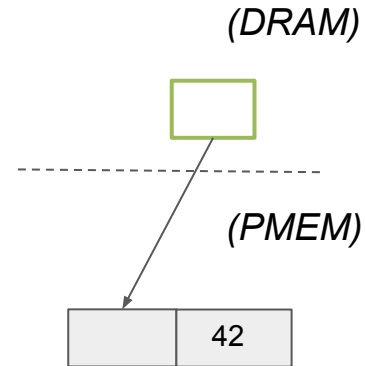
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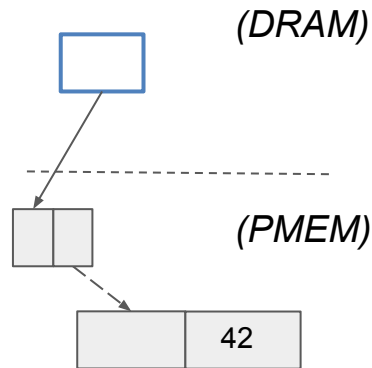
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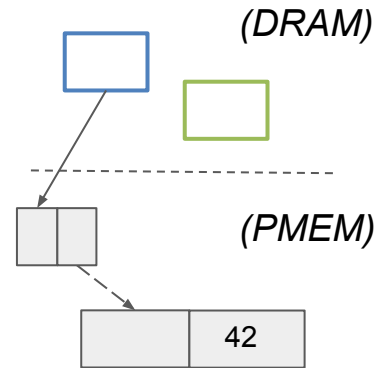
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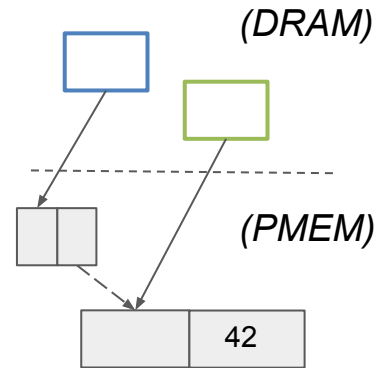
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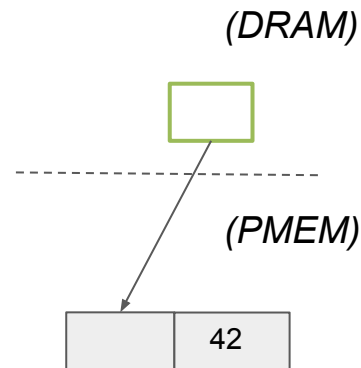
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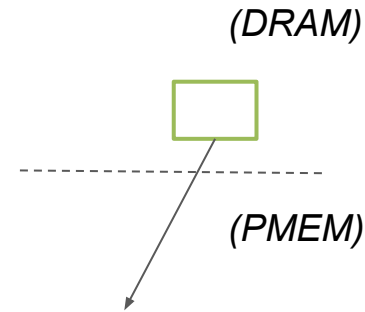
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# Overview

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J-NVM = Off-Heap Persistent Objects

## Tooling

- built-in off-heap memory management for NVMM
- **code generator**: automatic decoupling for POJOs
- **J-PFA**: automatic failure-atomic code
- **J-PDT**: data types + collections for persistent memory
- low-level API (for experts)
- recovery-time GC

# Programming model - *code generator*

```
@Persistent(fa="non-private")
class Simple {
    PString msg;
    int x;
    transient int y;

    Simple(int x) {
        this.x = x;
        this.msg = new PString("Hello, NVMM!");
    }

    void inc() { x++; }
}
```

## Goals

- class-wide off-heap layout
- generate constructor, re-constructor
- replace (non-transient) field accesses
- wrap non-private methods

```
// transformed code
class Simple implements PObject {
    transient int y;
    long addr; // persistent data structure

    Simple(int x) {
        JNVM.faStart();
        this.addr = JNVM.alloc(getClass(), size());
        setX(x);
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        JNVM.faEnd();
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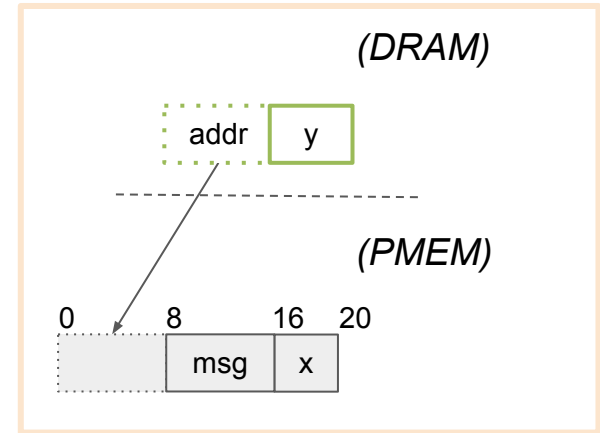
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```
// transformed code (continued)
long addr; // the persistent data structure
long size() { return 12; }
```

```
PString getMsg() { return (PString)
    JVM.readPObject(addr, 0); }
```

```
void setMsg(PString v) {
    JVM.writePObject(addr, 0, v); }
```

```
int getX() {return JVM.readInt(addr, 8);} }
```

```
void setX(int v) {JVM.writeInt(addr, 8, v);} }
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## Goals

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- generate constructor, re-constructor
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- wrap non-private methods
- generate or transform field accessors

# J-PFA

---

Automatic crash-consistent update

usage = **JNVM**.faStart() *some code* **JNVM**.faEnd()

Per-thread persistent redo-log (inspired by Romulus)

Log new, free and updates

granularity = a block of PMEM

Do *not* log updates to “new” persistent objects  
(e.g. allocated within the FA-block)



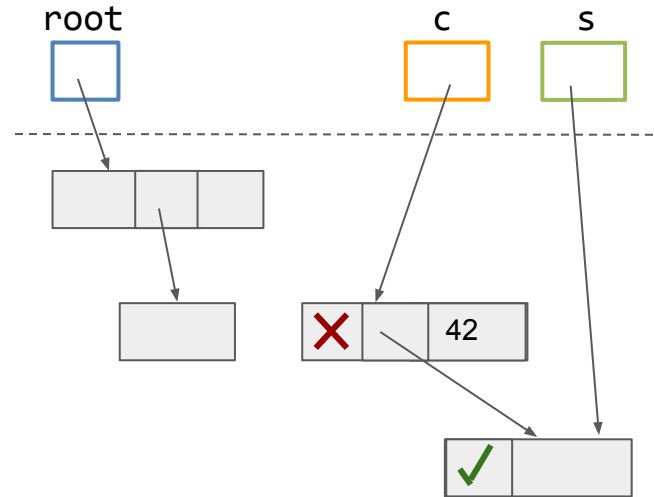
# J-PDT + Low-level interface

## J-PDT

- drop-in replacement for (part of) JDK e.g., string, native array, map.

## Low-level interface

- `unsafe.{pwb,pfence,psync}`
- NVMM block allocator
- recovery time GC (à la Makalu)
- validation = 1 bit in object header
  - makes atomic reclamation easier
  - allows deferring object liveness
  - interpreted on recovery to reclaim reachable invalid objects



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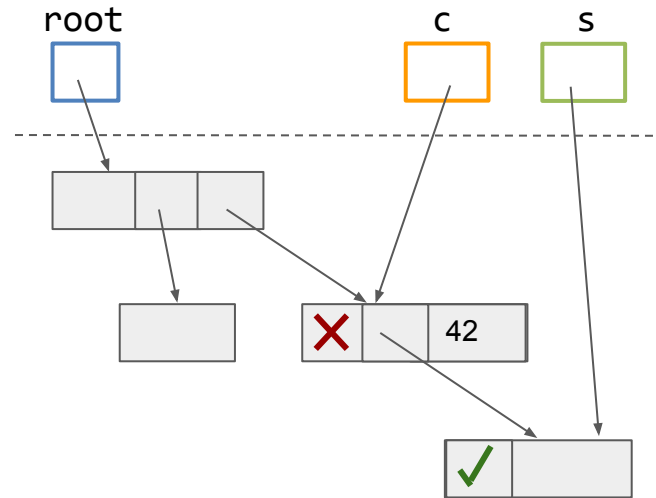
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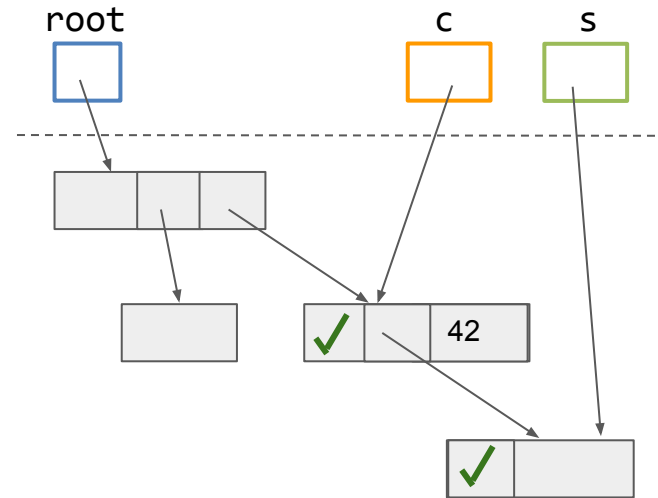
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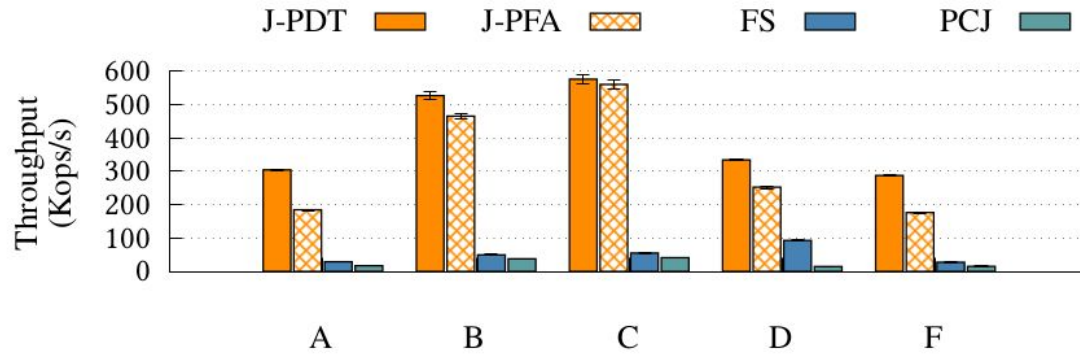
- programming model
  - persistent objects
  - code generator
- JPFA
- JPDT

## Evaluation

- YCSB benchmark
- recovery

## Conclusion

# YCSB Benchmark



Durable backends for Infinispan:

- PCJ = HashMap from Persistent Collections Java (JNI + PMDK)
- FS: ext4-dax

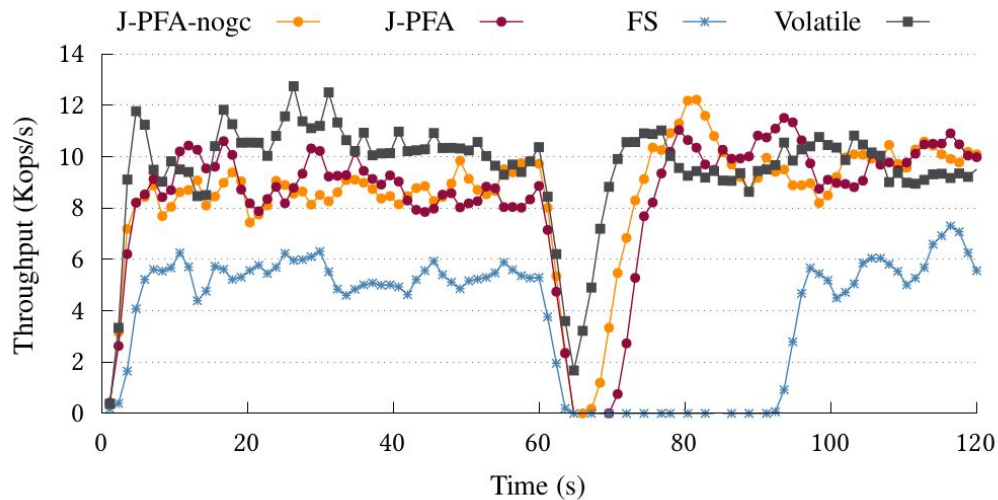
Hardware used:

4 Intel CLX 6230 HT 80-core  
128GB DDR4,  
4x128GB Optane (gen1)

## Takeaways:

- J-NVM up to 10.5x (resp. 22.7x) than FS (resp. PCJ)
- no need for volatile cache

# Recovery



TPC-B like benchmark  
10M accounts (140 B each)  
client-server setting  
SIGKILL after 1 min

## Takeaways:

- J-NVM is more than 5x faster to recover than FS
- no-need for graph traversal in some cases (e.g., only FA blocks)

# Conclusion

---

J-NVM = off-heap persistent objects

Each persistent object is composed of

- *a persistent data structure*: unmanaged, allocated off-heap (NVMM)
- *a proxy*: managed, allocated on-heap (DRAM)

## Pros:

- unique data representation (no data marshalling)
- recovery-time GC (not at runtime, does not scale)
- consistently faster than external designs (JNI, FS)

## Cons:

- explicit free but common for durable data
- limited code re-use but safer programming model