

Transparent References and Garbage Collection for Project Darkstar

*– making it easier to write applications
on Project Darkstar Server*

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A dark blue sphere with a lighter blue gradient, resembling a planet or a stylized sun, positioned above the text "PROJECT DARKSTAR".

PROJECT DARKSTAR

Agenda

- How Darkstar's persistence model is currently?
- How transparent references and garbage collection change the persistence model?
- Future directions

Agenda

- **How Darkstar's persistence model is currently?**
- How transparent references and garbage collection change the persistence model?
- Future directions

```

public class Person implements ManagedObject, Serializable {
    private String name;
    private Address address;
    private ManagedReference<Person> roommate;

    public Person(String name) {
        this.name = name;
    }

    public String getName() {
        return name;
    }

    public Address getAddress() {
        return address;
    }

    public void setAddress(Address address) {
        this.address = address;
    }

    public Person getRoommate() {
        if (roommate == null) {
            return null;
        } else {
            return roommate.get();
        }
    }

    public void setRoommate(Person roommate) {
        if (roommate == null) {
            this.roommate = null;
        } else {
            this.roommate = AppContext.getDataManager().createReference(roommate);
        }
    }
}

```

```

public class Address implements Serializable {
    private String city;
    private String street;

    public Address(String city, String street) {
        this.city = city;
        this.street = street;
    }

    public String getCity() {
        return city;
    }

    public String getStreet() {
        return street;
    }
}

```

Darkstar requires special handling for ManagedObjects

What happens under the hood when the following is executed?

```
Person donald = new Person("Donald Duck");  
donald.setAddress(new Address("Duckburg", "Duck Street 313"));
```

```
Person mickey = new Person("Mickey Mouse");  
mickey.setAddress(donald.getAddress());  
mickey.setRoommate(donald);  
donald.setRoommate(mickey);
```

```
AppContext.getDataManager().setBinding("donald", donald);
```

Memory

Database

BEGIN TRANSACTION

Memory

Transaction

Database

Person donald = new Person("Donald Duck");

Memory

Transaction

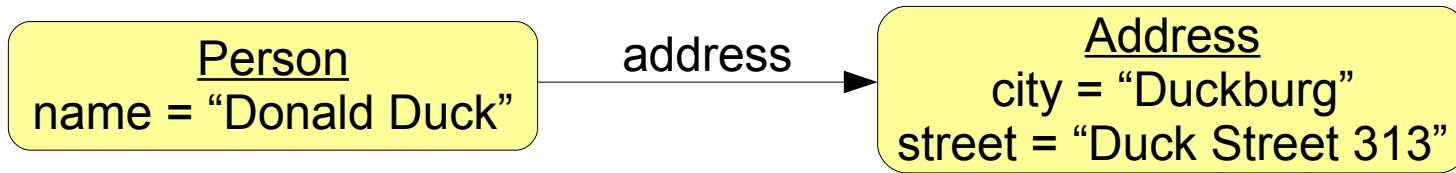
Person
name = "Donald Duck"

Database


```
donald.setAddress(new Address("Duckburg", "Duck Street 313"));
```

Memory

Transaction

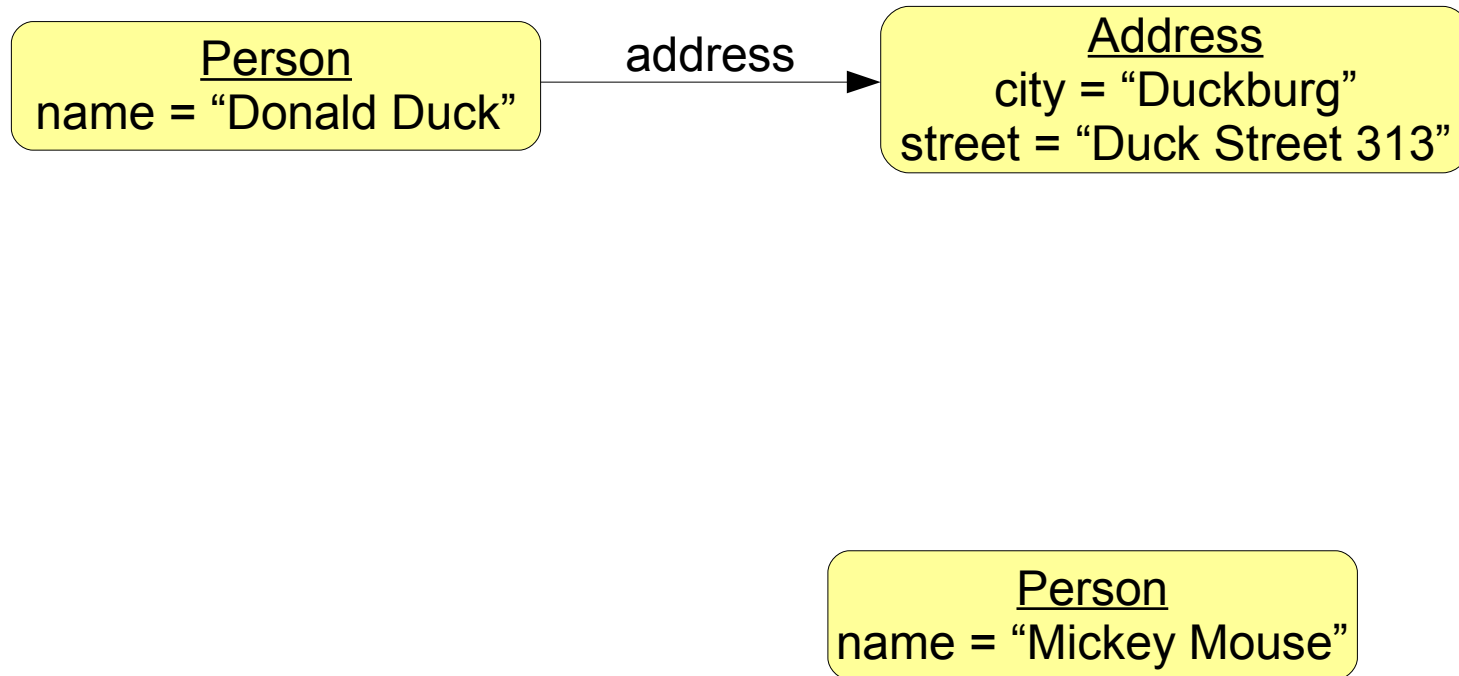


Database

Person mickey = new Person("Mickey Mouse");

Memory

Transaction

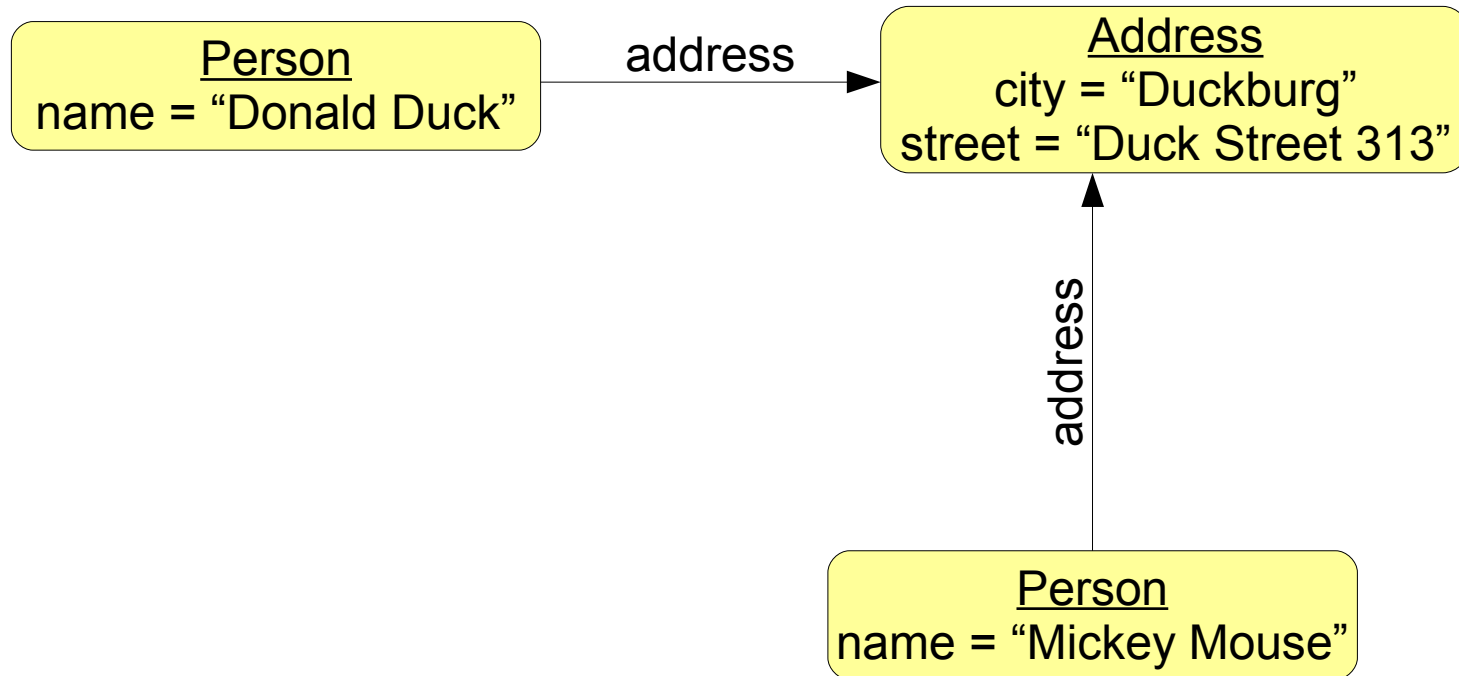


Database

```
mickey.setAddress(donald.getAddress());
```

Memory

Transaction



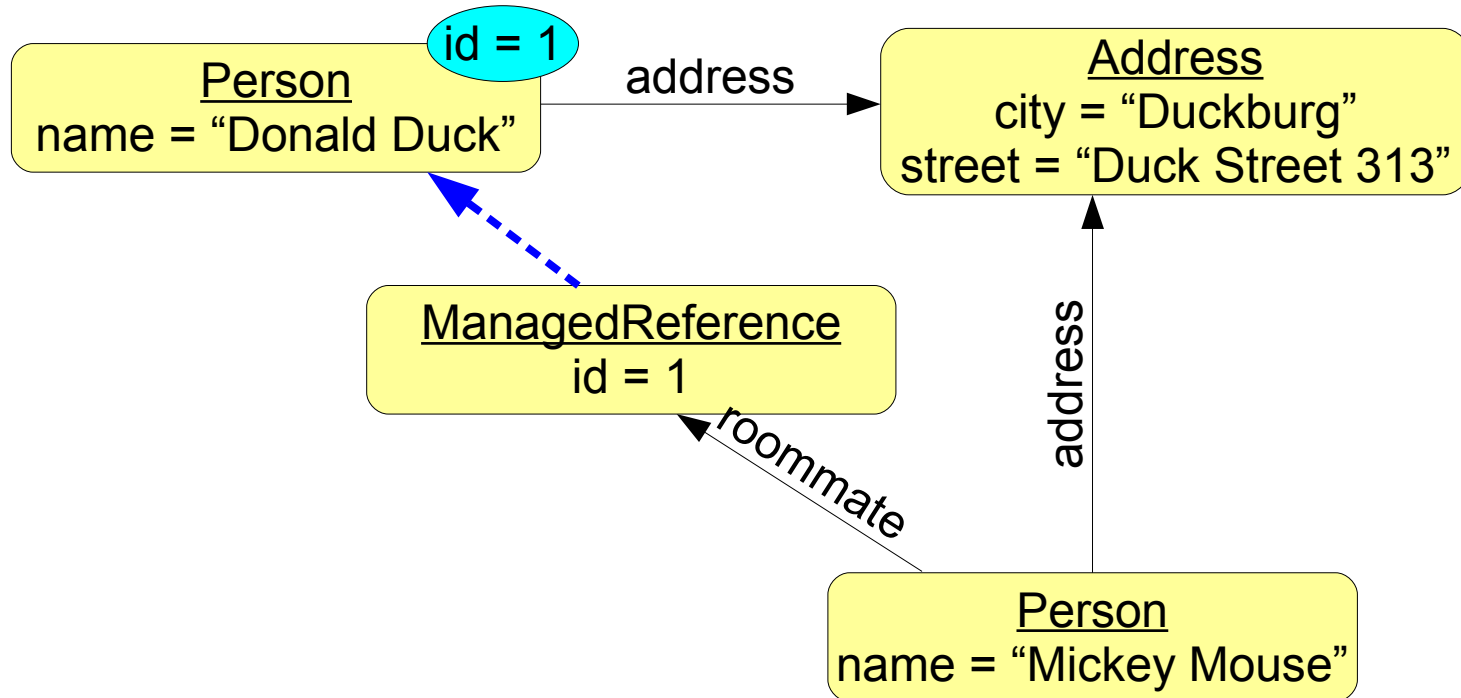
Database

```
mickey.setRoommate(donald);
```

Memory

```
mickey.roommate = AppContext.getDataManager().createReference(donald);
```

Transaction



Database

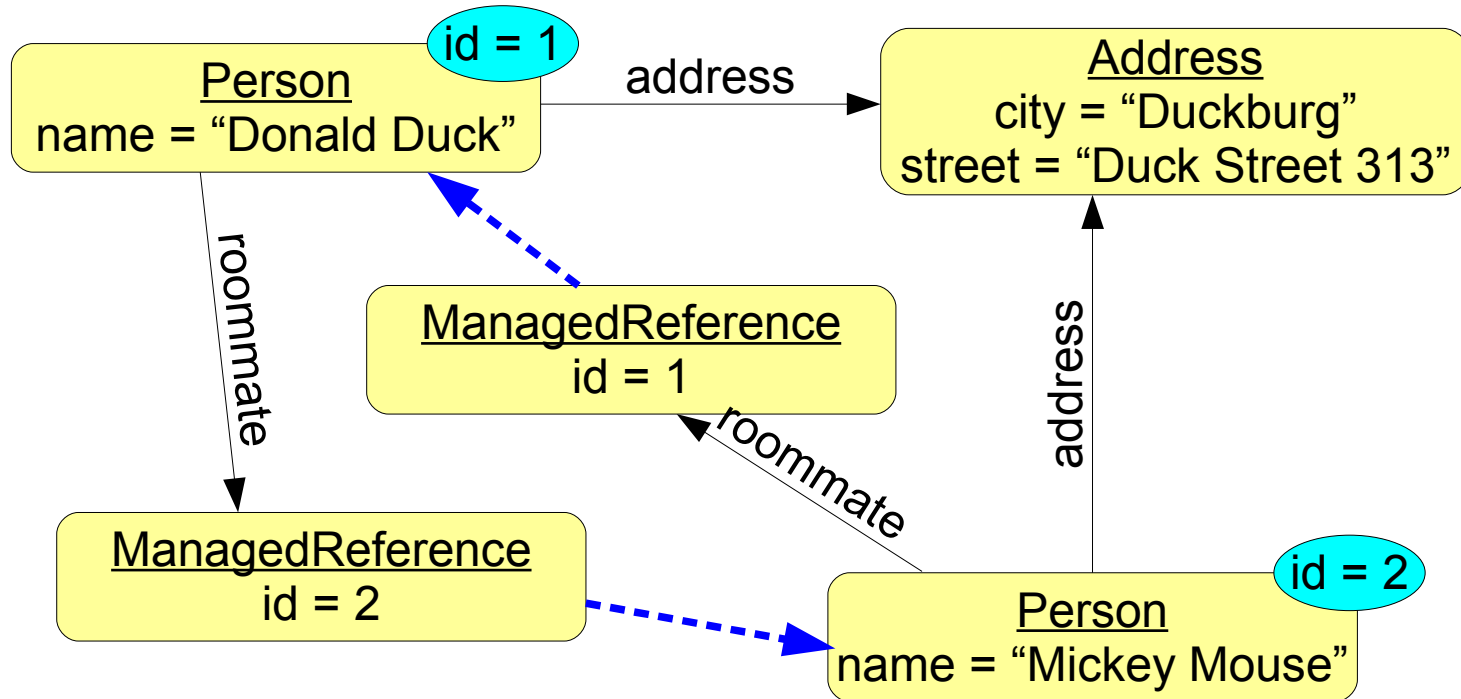
`id = 1`

```
donald.setRoommate(mickey);
```

Memory

```
donald.roommate = AppContext.getDataManager().createReference(mickey);
```

Transaction



Database

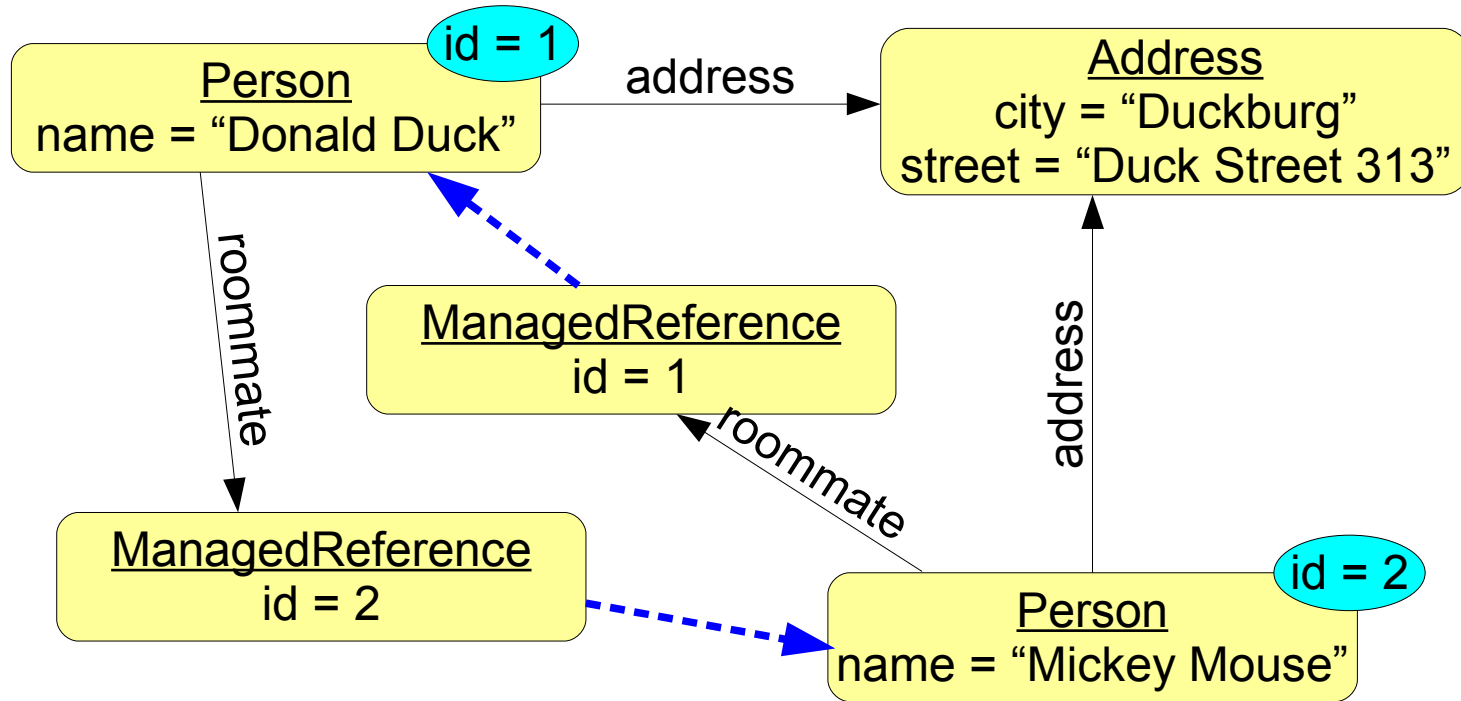
id = 1

id = 2

AppContext.getDataManager().setBinding("donald", donald);

Memory

Transaction



Database

id = 1

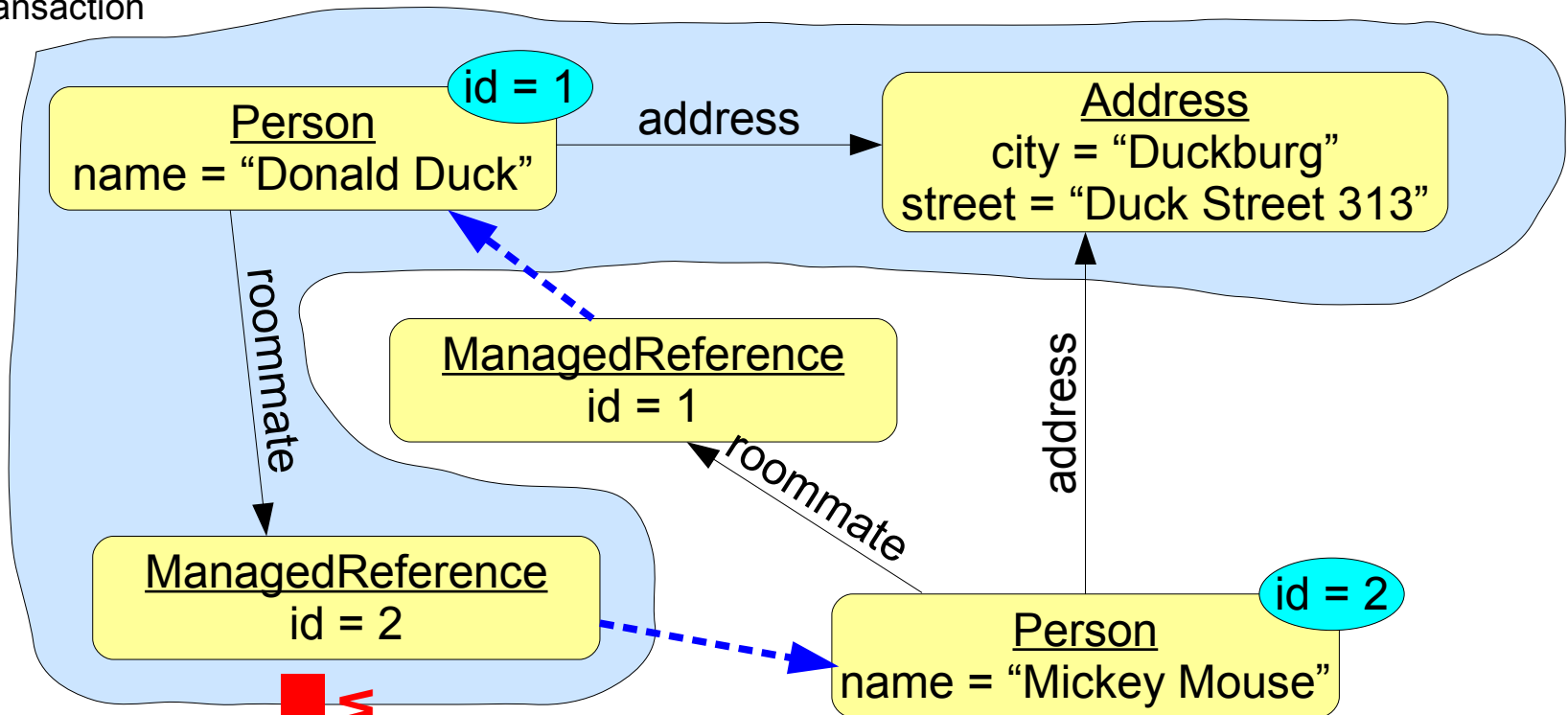
id = 2

"donald" = 1

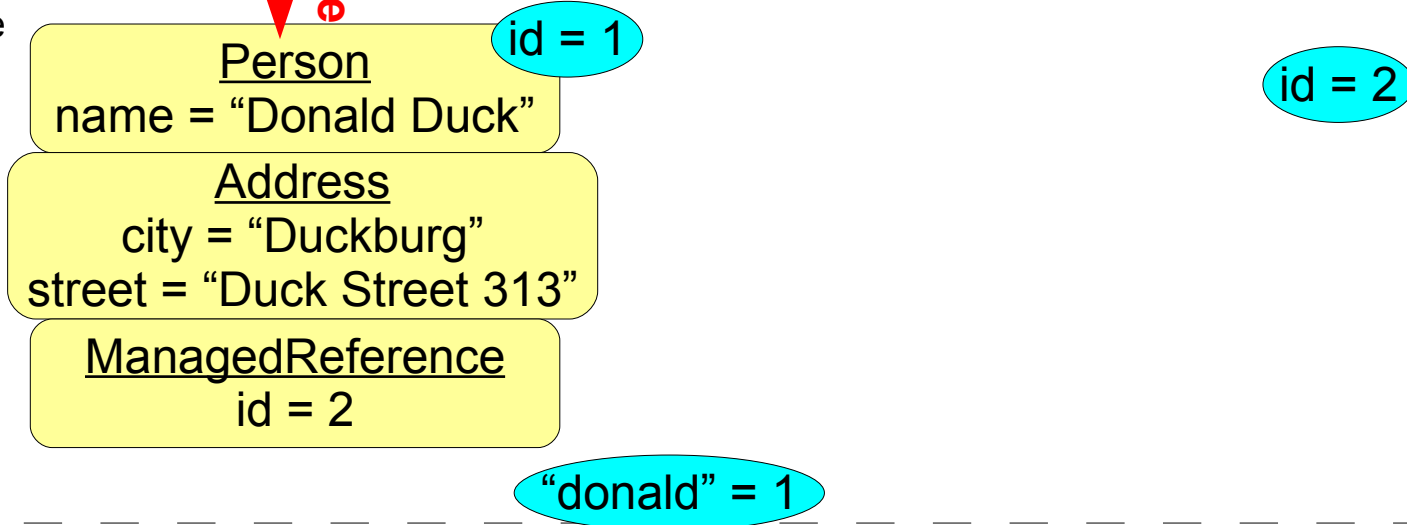
COMMIT TRANSACTION

Memory

Transaction



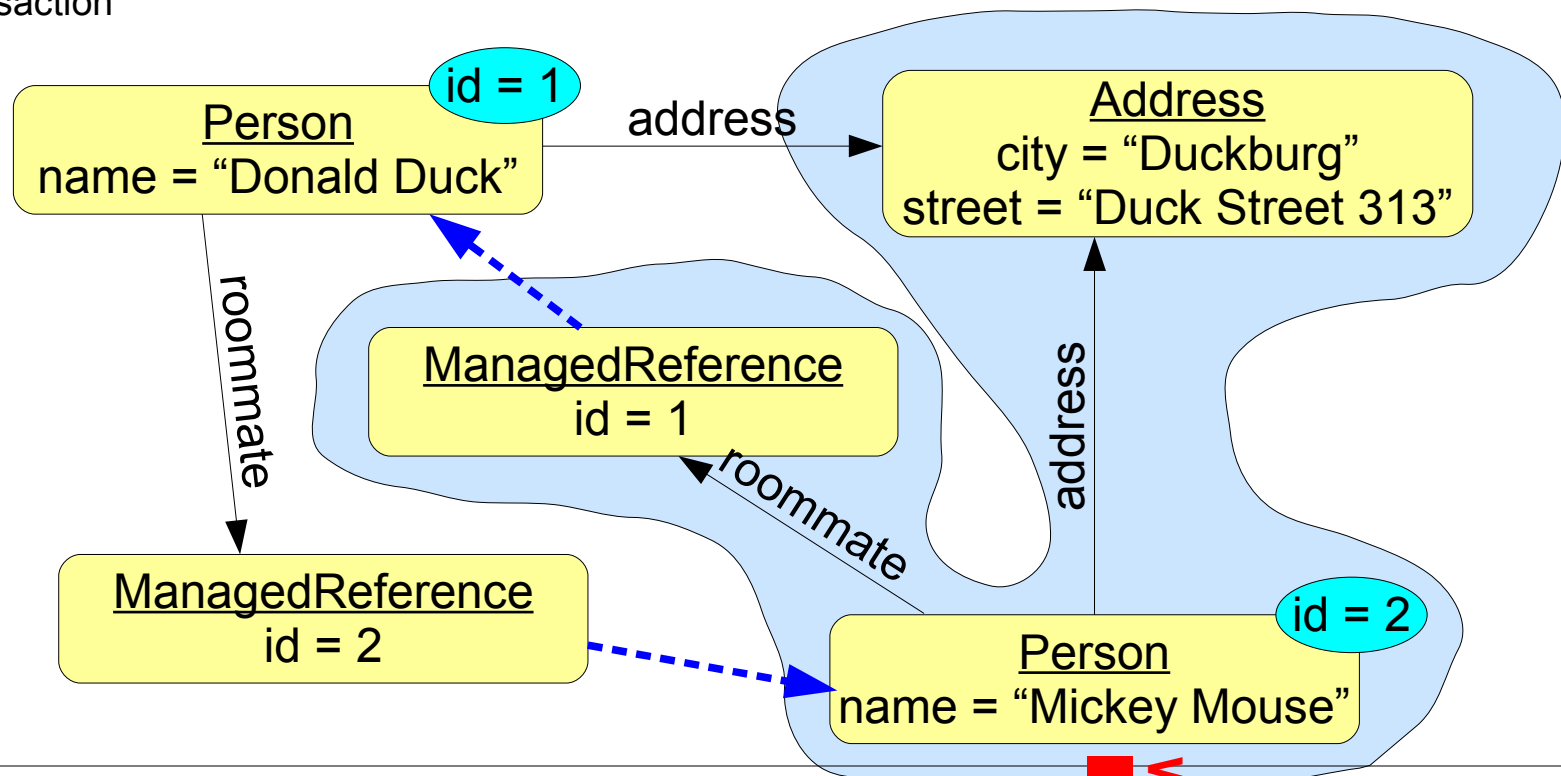
Database



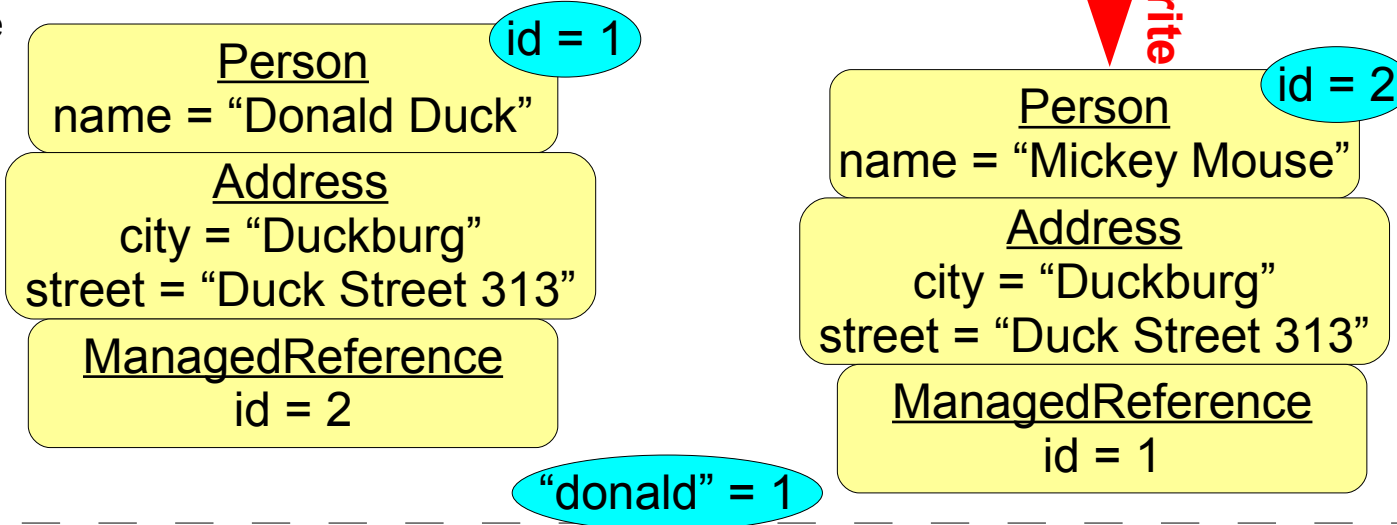
COMMIT TRANSACTION

Memory

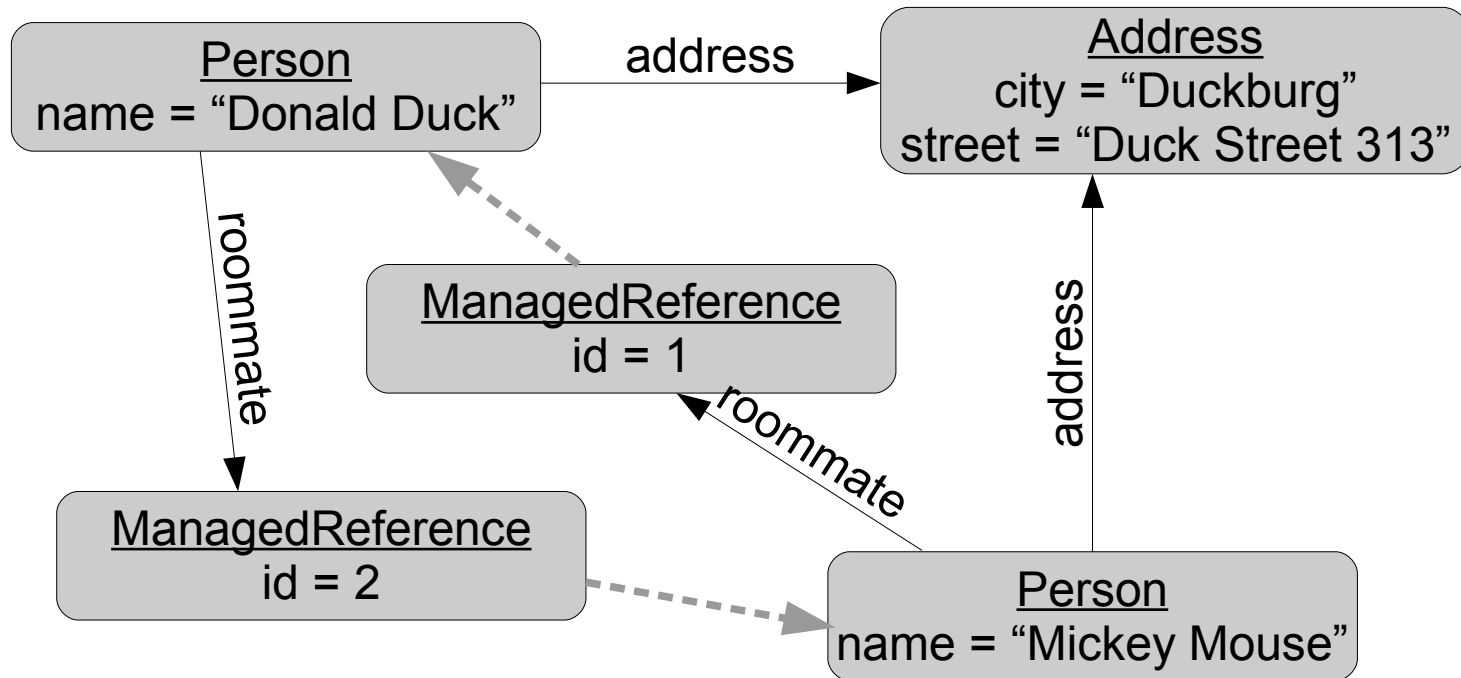
Transaction



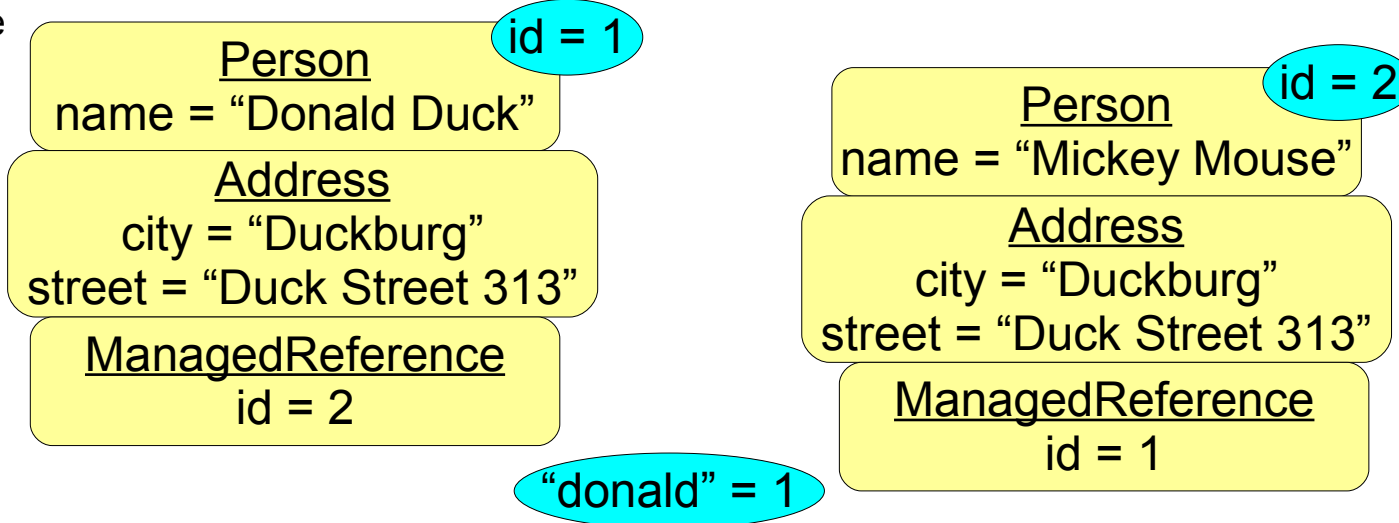
Database



Memory



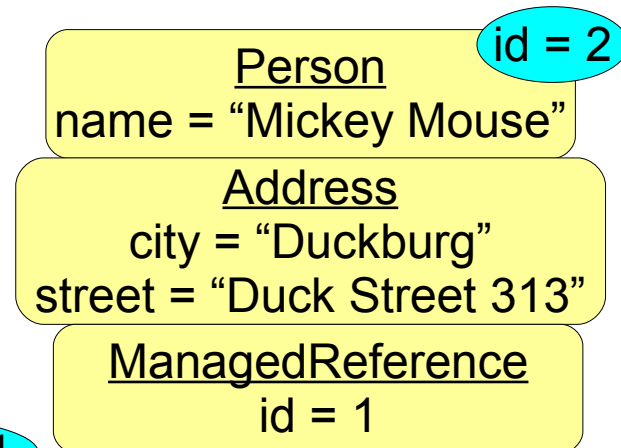
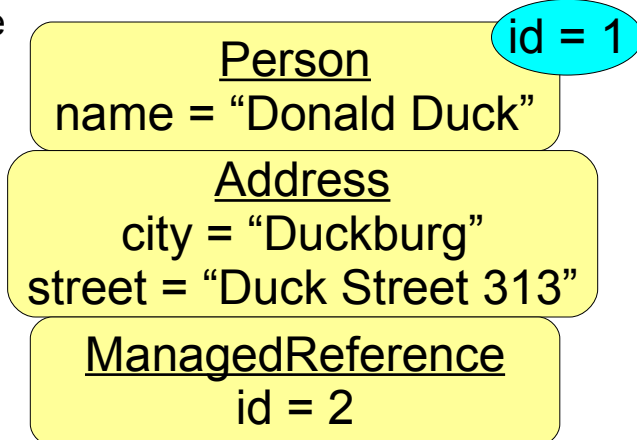
Database



Memory



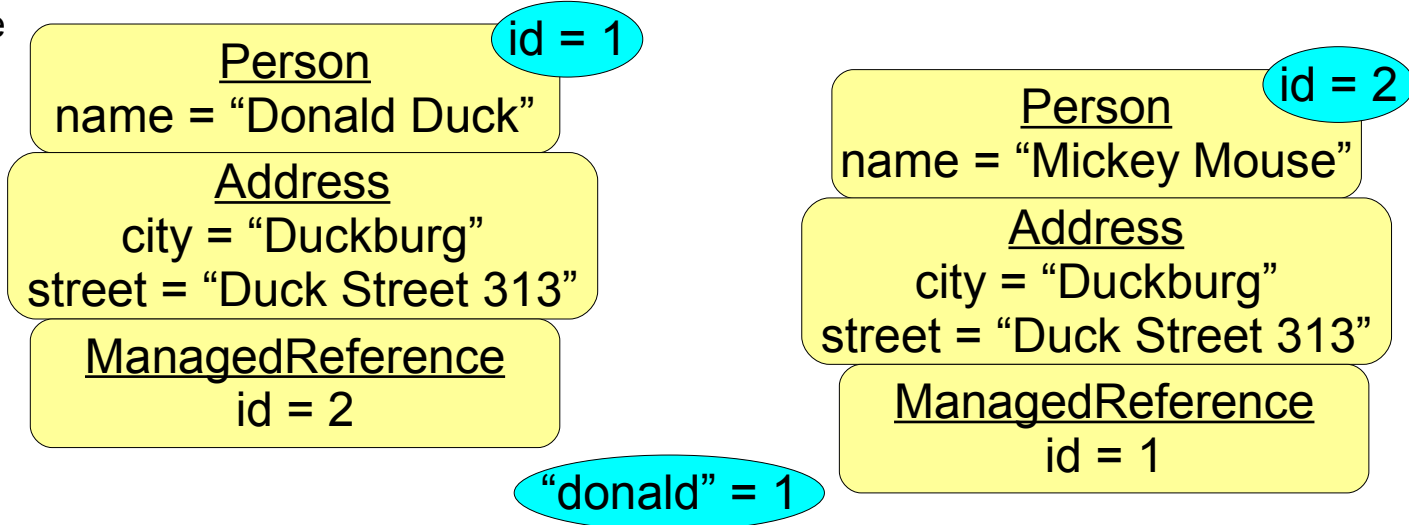
Database



"donald" = 1

Memory

Database



What happens under the hood when the following is executed?

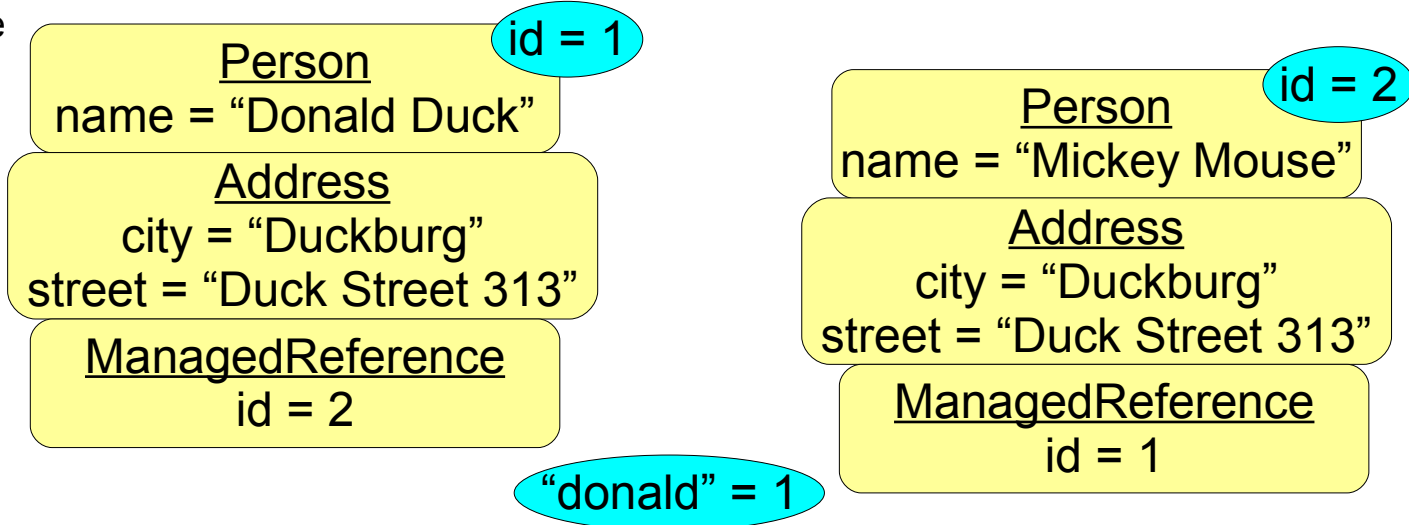
```
Person donald = (Person) ApplicationContext.getDataManager().getBinding("donald");

Person mickey = donald.getRoommate();
System.out.println(mickey.getName() + " lives in " +
                   mickey.getAddress().getCity());

donald.setRoommate(null);
ApplicationContext.getDataManager().removeObject(mickey);
```

Memory

Database

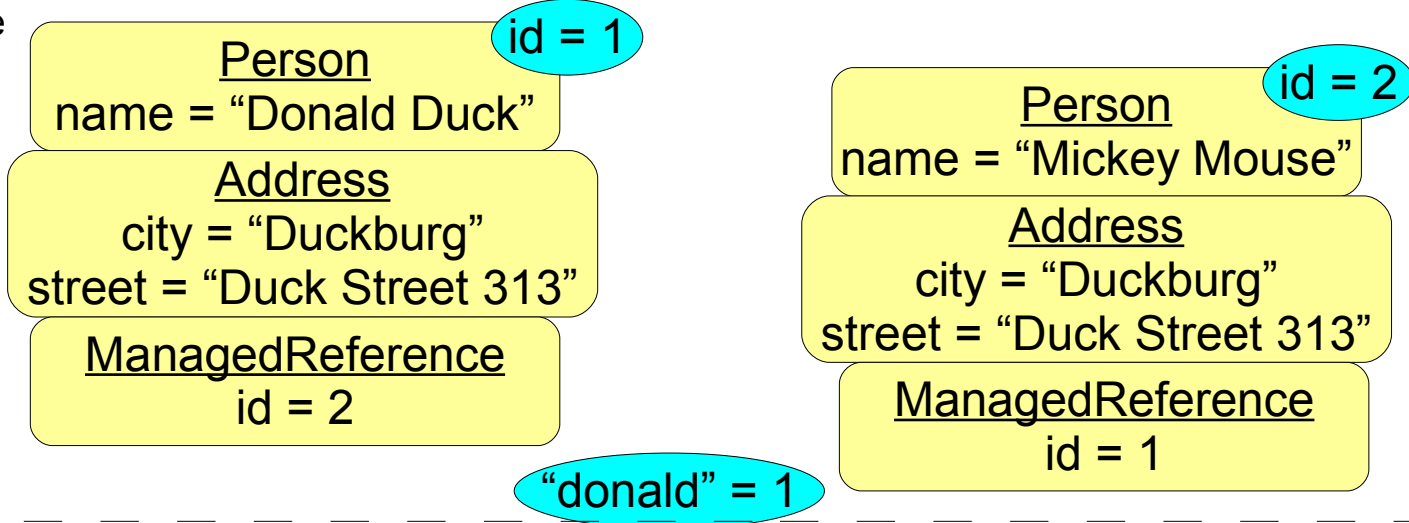


BEGIN TRANSACTION

Memory

Transaction

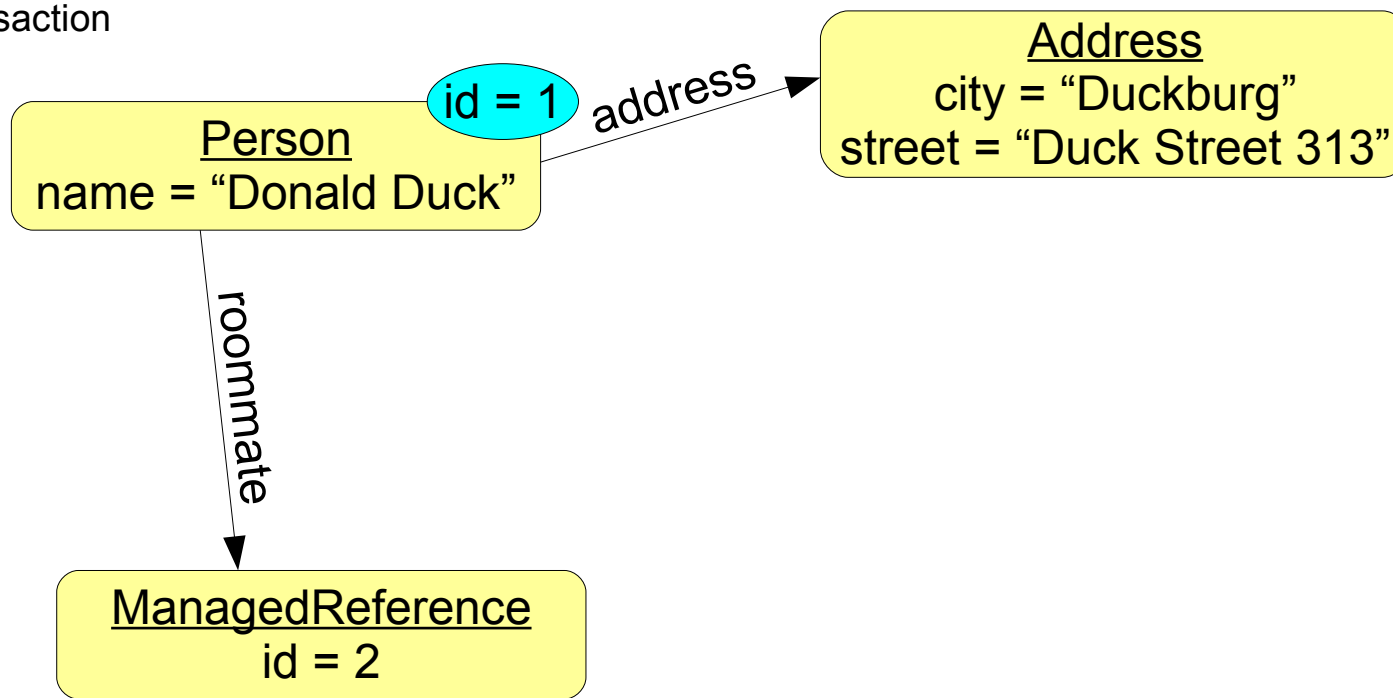
Database



Person donald = (Person) AppContext.getDataManager().getBinding("donald");

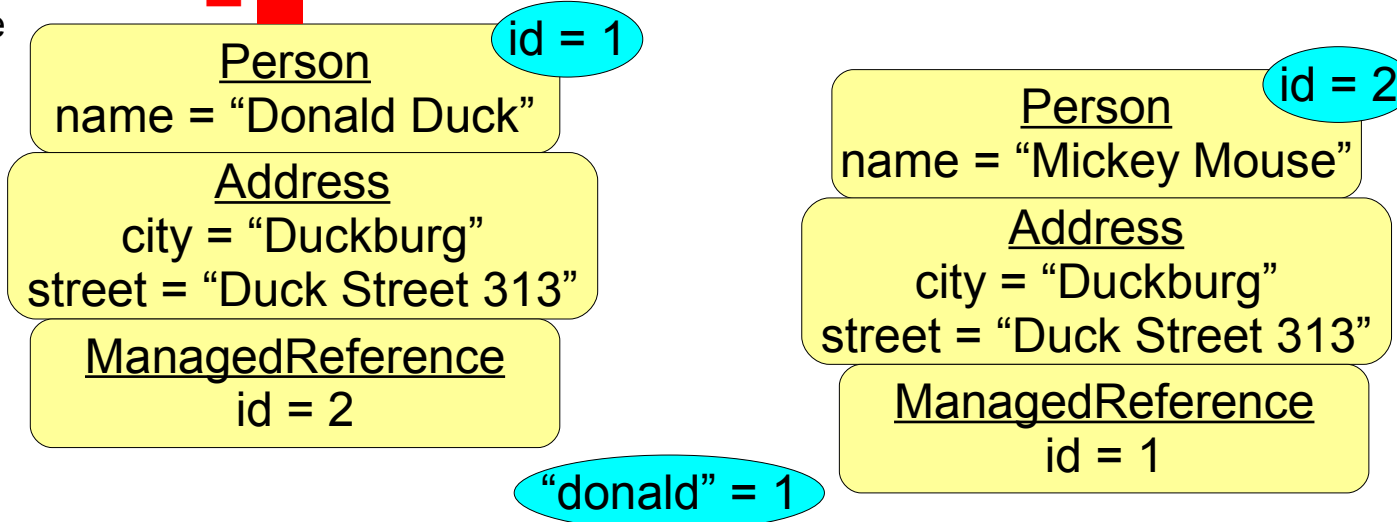
Memory

Transaction



Load

Database

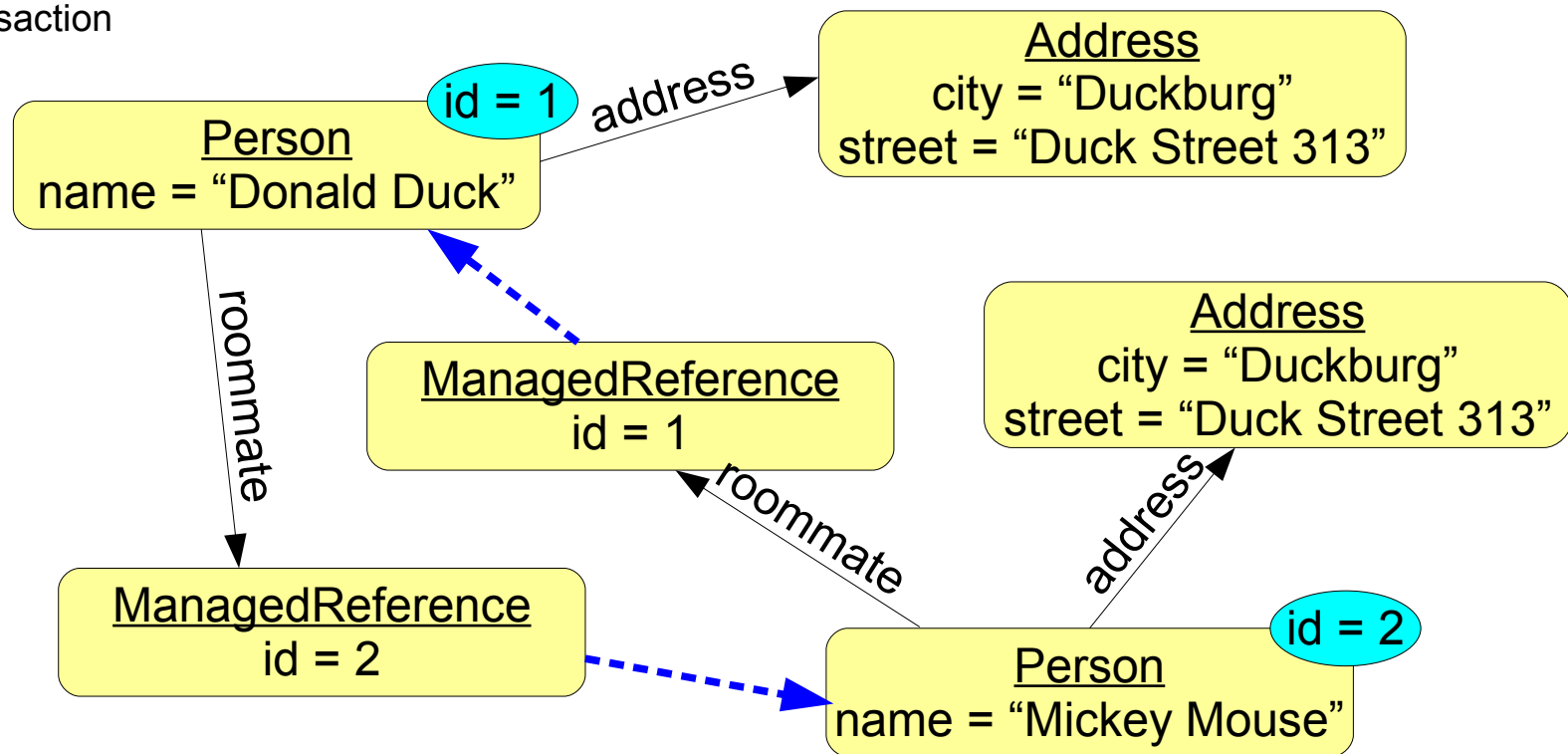


Person mickey = donald.getRoommate();

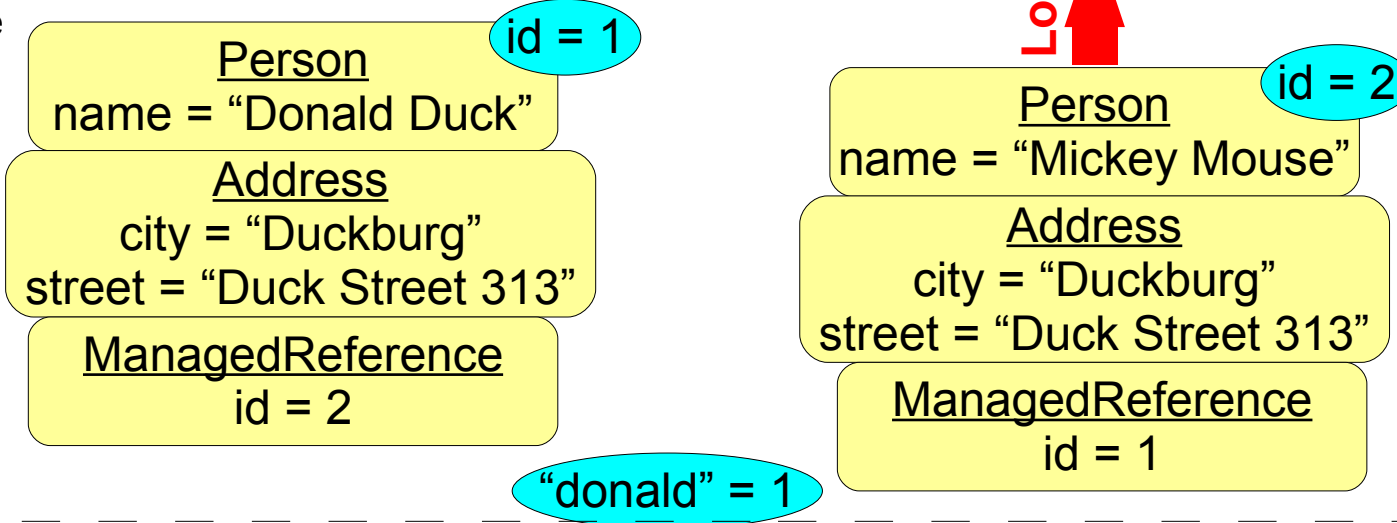
Person mickey = donald.roommate.get();

Memory

Transaction



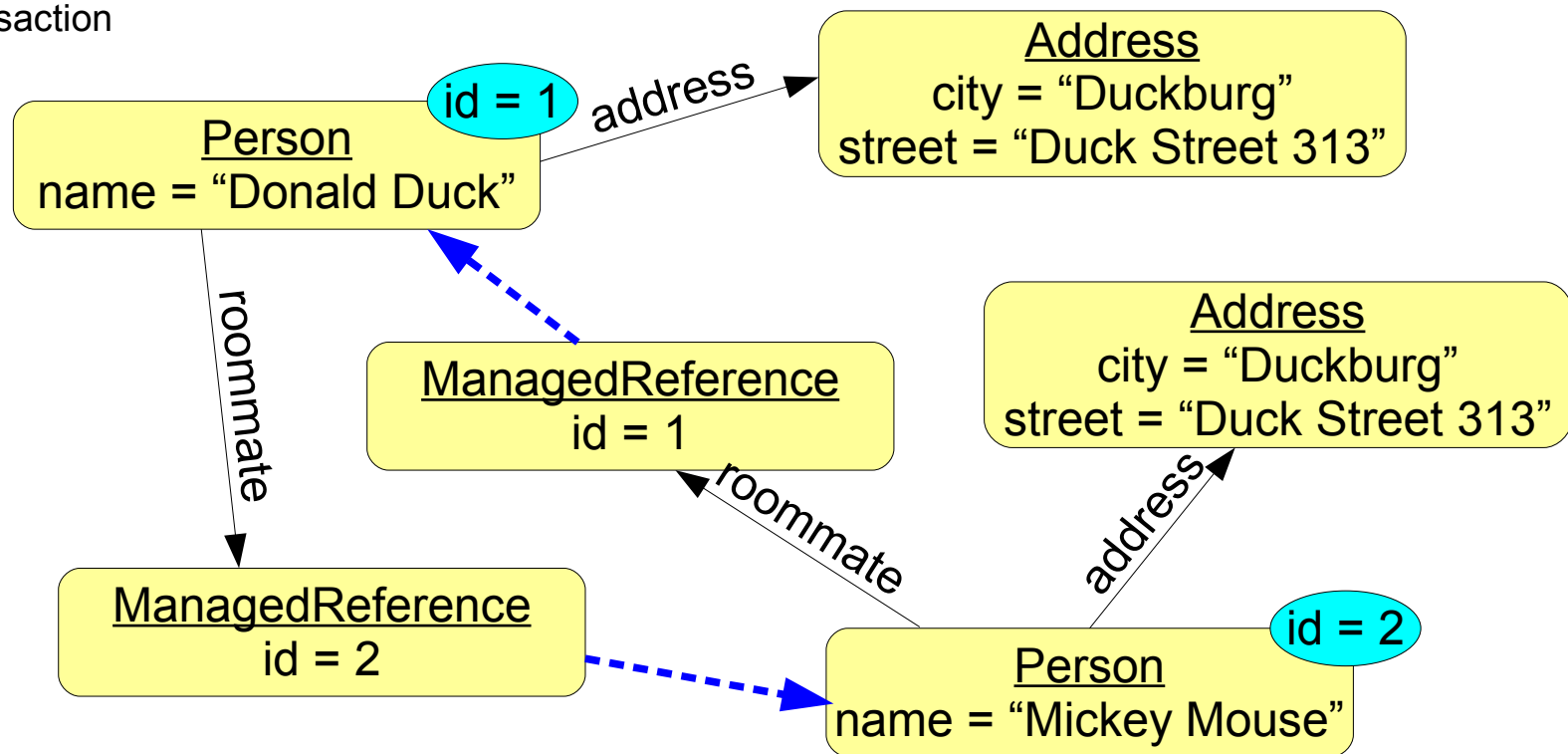
Database



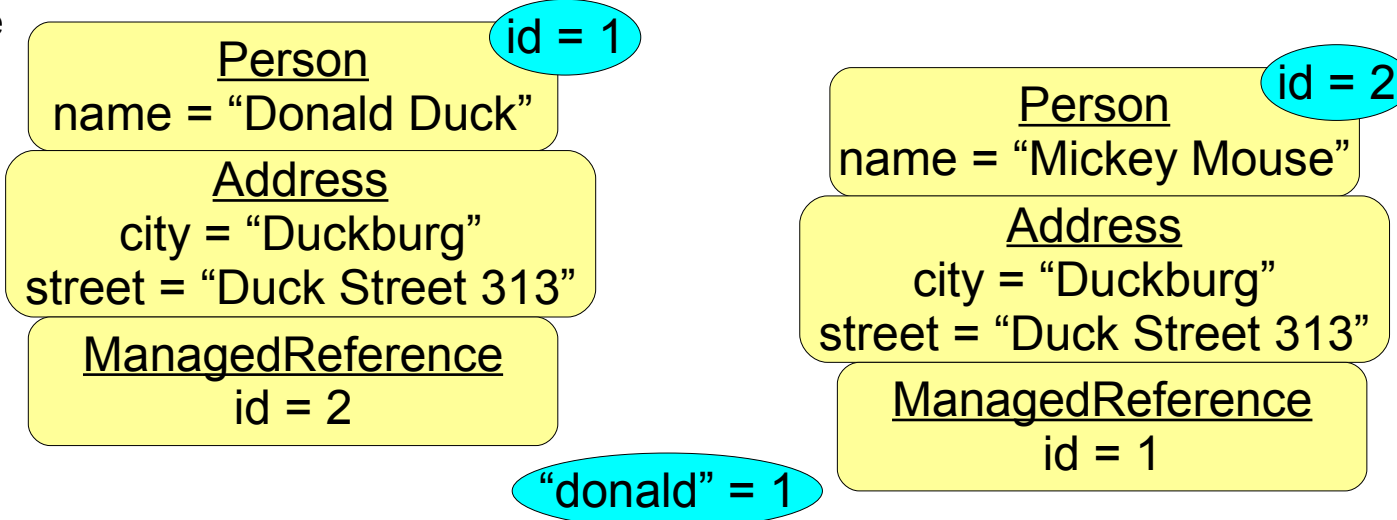

```
System.out.println(mickey.getName() + " lives in " +  
mickey.getAddress().getCity());
```

Memory

Transaction



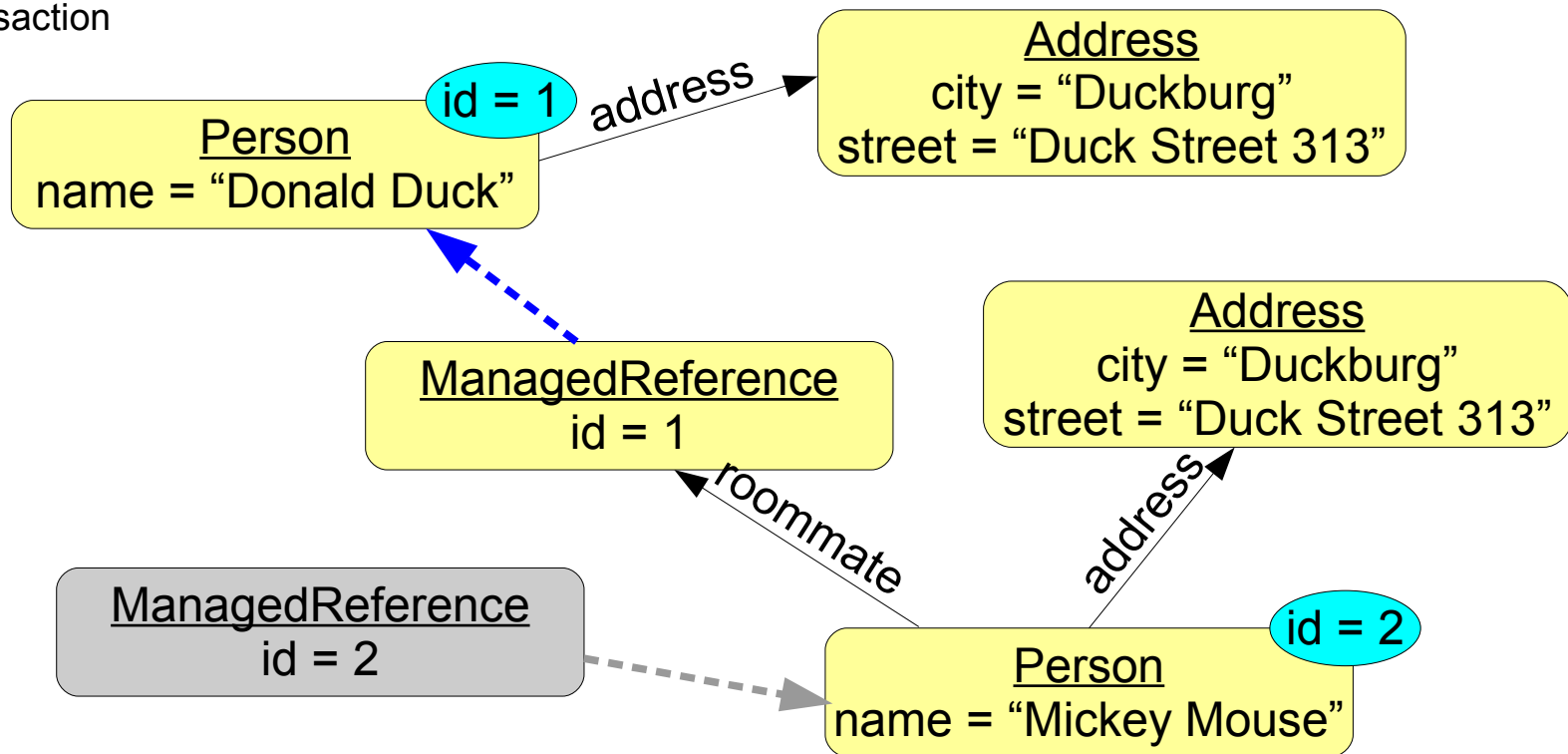
Database



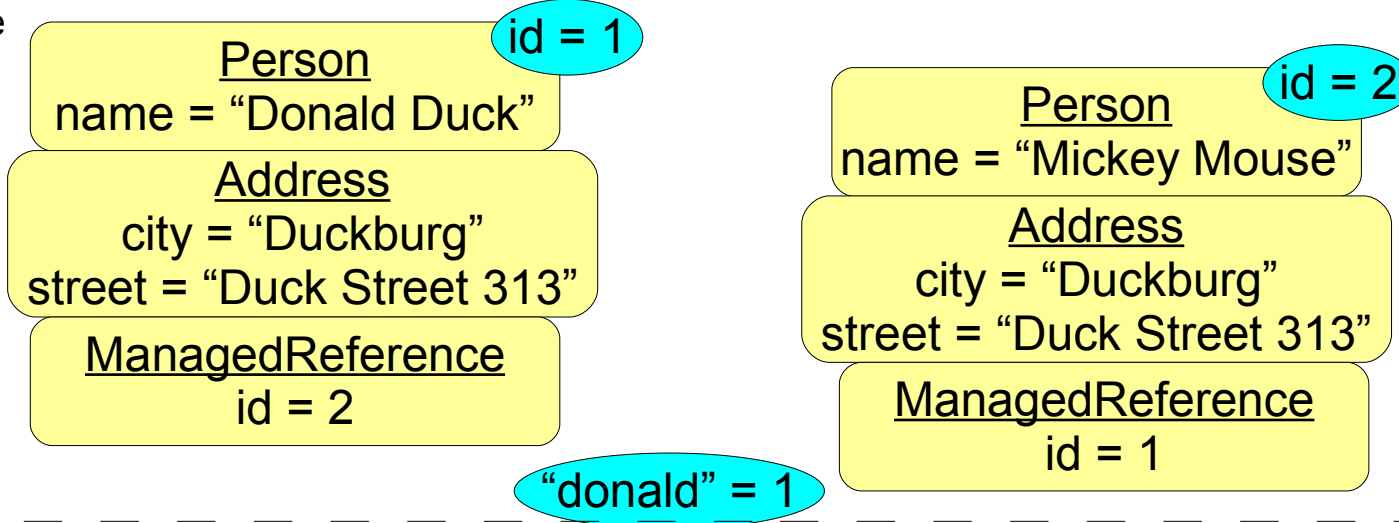
donald.setRoommate(null);

Memory

Transaction



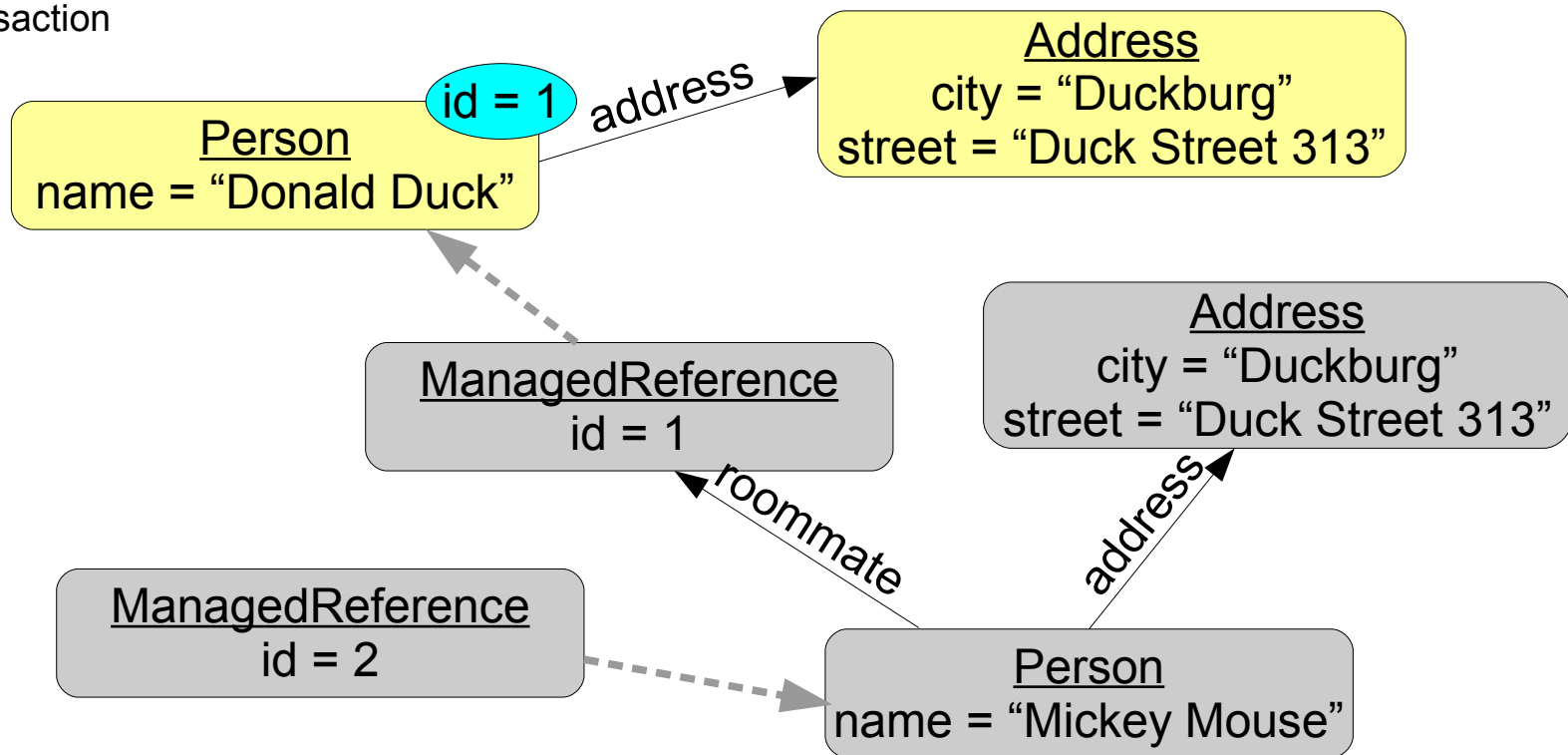
Database



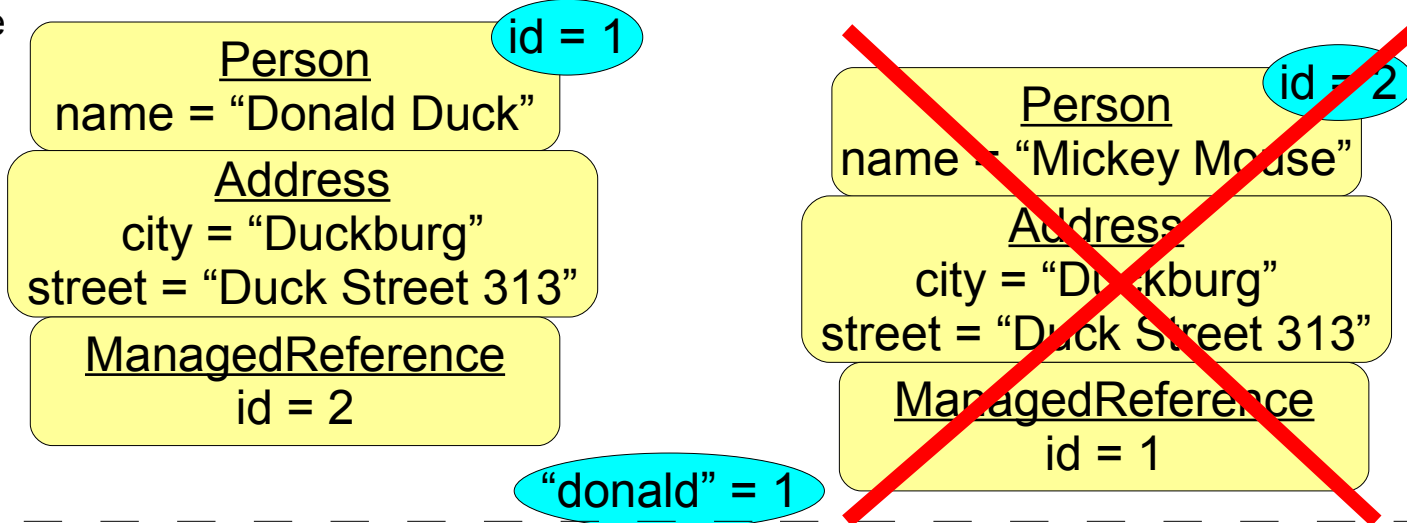
AppContext.getDataManager().removeObject(mickey);

Memory

Transaction



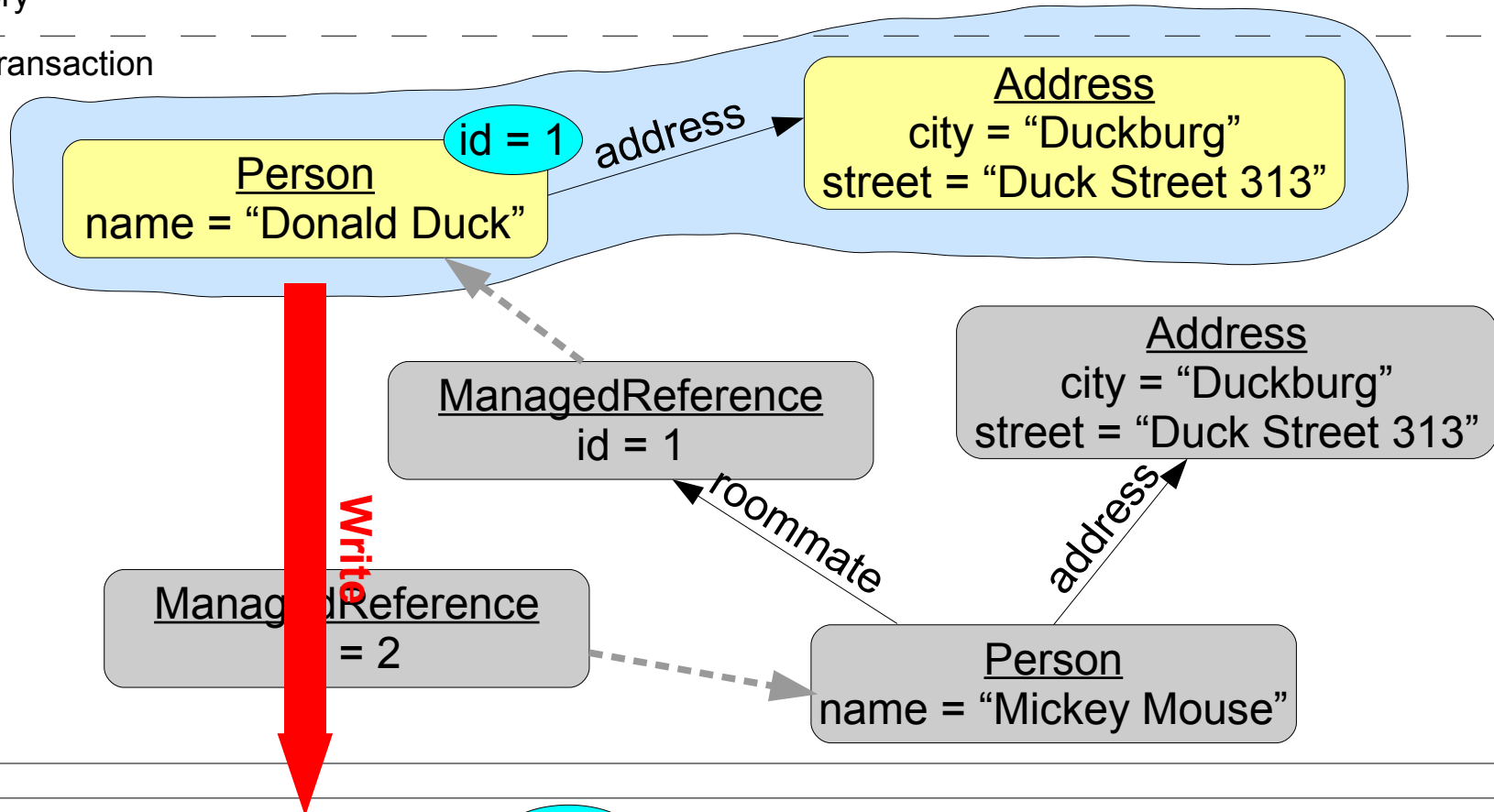
Database



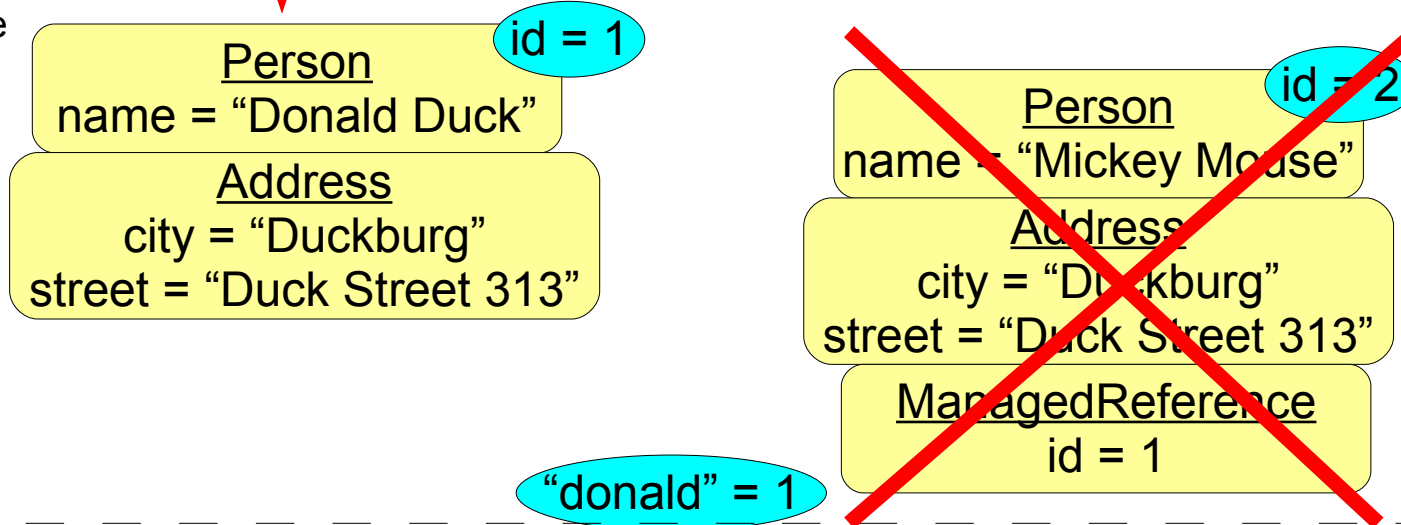
COMMIT TRANSACTION

Memory

Transaction



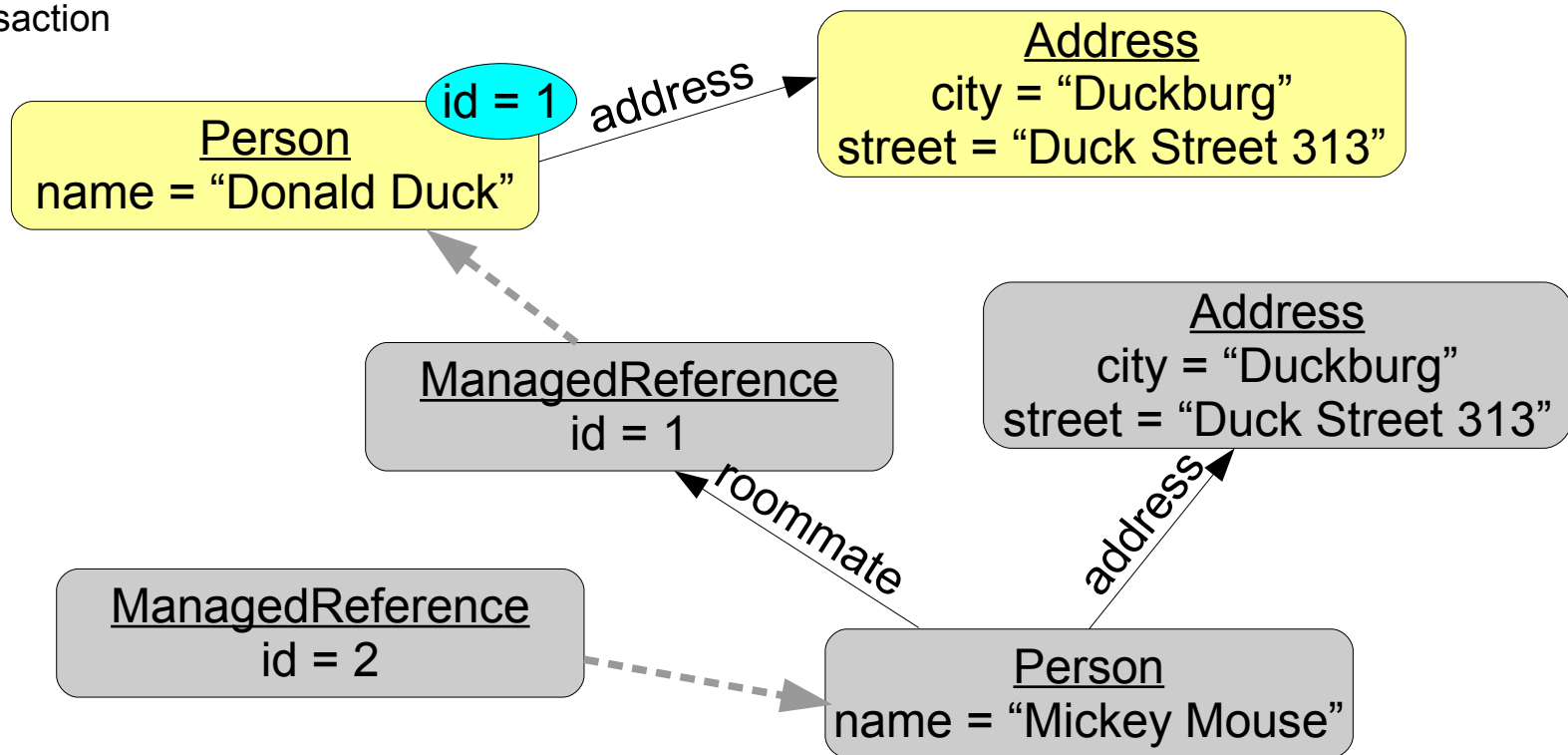
Database



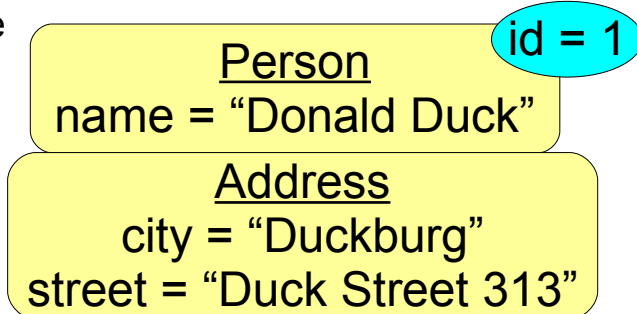
COMMIT TRANSACTION

Memory

Transaction



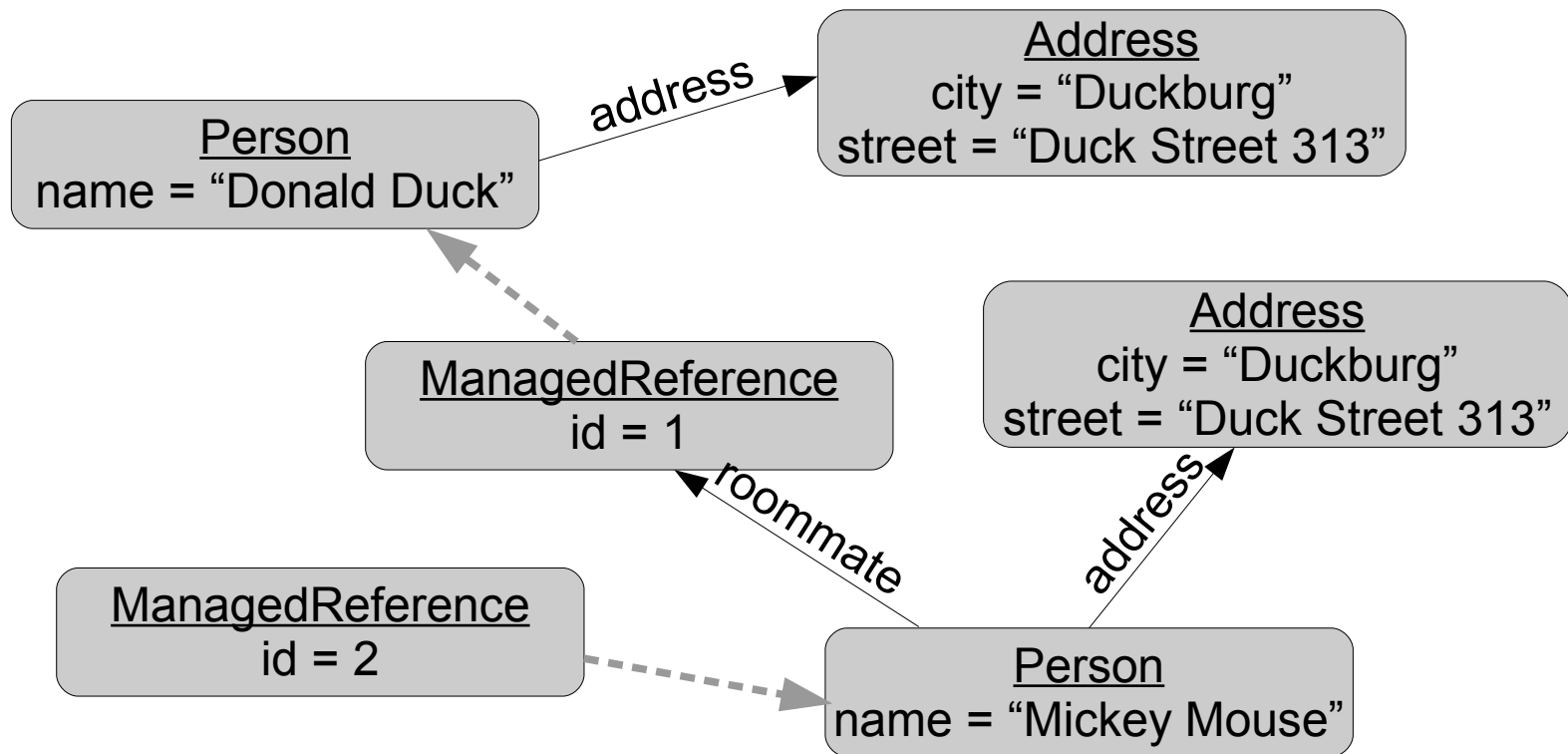
Database



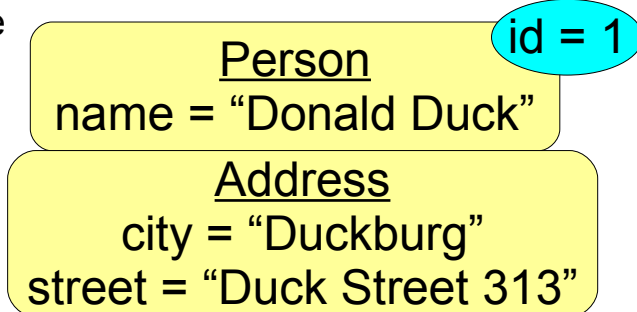
Delete

"donald" = 1

Memory



Database



"donald" = 1

Memory



Database

Person id = 1
name = "Donald Duck"

Address
city = "Duckburg"
street = "Duck Street 313"

"donald" = 1

Memory

Database

Person

name = "Donald Duck"

id = 1

Address

city = "Duckburg"

street = "Duck Street 313"

"donald" = 1

What is the problem?

Too much work for the programmer!

Mixed responsibilities! Leaking abstractions! Tight coupling!

```
public class Person implements ManagedObject, Serializable {  
    private String name;  
    private Address address;  
    private ManagedReference<Person> roommate;  
    ...  
    public Person getRoommate() {  
        if (roommate == null) {  
            return null;  
        } else {  
            return roommate.get();  
        }  
    }  
  
    public void setRoommate(Person roommate) {  
        if (roommate == null) {  
            this.roommate = null;  
        } else {  
            this.roommate = AppContext.getDataManager().createReference(roommate);  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Solution

- Make Darkstar itself responsible for taking care of the technical details of ManagedObjects referring to each other
- Code using an object should not know the implementation details of that object – whether it is a ManagedObject or not
- Refer to ManagedObjects through proxies
 - > Allows lazy loading
 - > Separates object graphs during serialization
 - > And the code using the object will never know it!

Agenda

- How Darkstar's persistence model is currently?
- **How transparent references and garbage collection change the persistence model?**
- Future directions

```
@Entity(proxyType = CLASS)
```

```
public class Person implements Serializable {  
    private String name;  
    private Address address;  
    private Person roommate;  
  
    public Person(String name) {  
        this.name = name;  
    }  
  
    public String getName() {  
        return name;  
    }  
  
    public Address getAddress() {  
        return address;  
    }  
  
    public void setAddress(Address address) {  
        this.address = address;  
    }  
  
    public Person getRoommate() {  
        return roommate;  
    }  
  
    public void setRoommate(Person roommate) {  
        this.roommate = roommate;  
    }  
}
```

```
public class Address implements Serializable {  
    private String city;  
    private String street;  
  
    public Address(String city, String street) {  
        this.city = city;  
        this.street = street;  
    }  
  
    public String getCity() {  
        return city;  
    }  
  
    public String getStreet() {  
        return street;  
    }  
}
```

ProxyType.CLASS

- generated proxy extends target class
- all fields must be private
- all methods must be non-final
- the class must be non-final
- (- an accessible default constructor is not needed, as the constructor will not be called)

ProxyType.INTERFACE

- generated proxy implements the same interfaces as the target class
- instances of the class must always be used through their interfaces

What happens under the hood when the following is executed?

– *with transparent references and garbage collection*

```
Person donald = new Person("Donald Duck");  
donald.setAddress(new Address("Duckburg", "Duck Street 313"));
```

```
Person mickey = new Person("Mickey Mouse");  
mickey.setAddress(donald.getAddress());  
mickey.setRoommate(donald);  
donald.setRoommate(mickey);
```

```
AppContext.getDataManager().setBinding("donald", donald);
```

Memory

Database

BEGIN TRANSACTION

Memory

Transaction

Database

Person donald = new Person("Donald Duck");

Memory

Transaction

Person
name = "Donald Duck"

Database

```
donald.setAddress(new Address("Duckburg", "Duck Street 313"));
```

Memory

Transaction

Person
name = "Donald Duck"

address

Address
city = "Duckburg"
street = "Duck Street 313"

Database

Person mickey = new Person("Mickey Mouse");

Memory

Transaction

Person
name = "Donald Duck"

address

Address
city = "Duckburg"
street = "Duck Street 313"

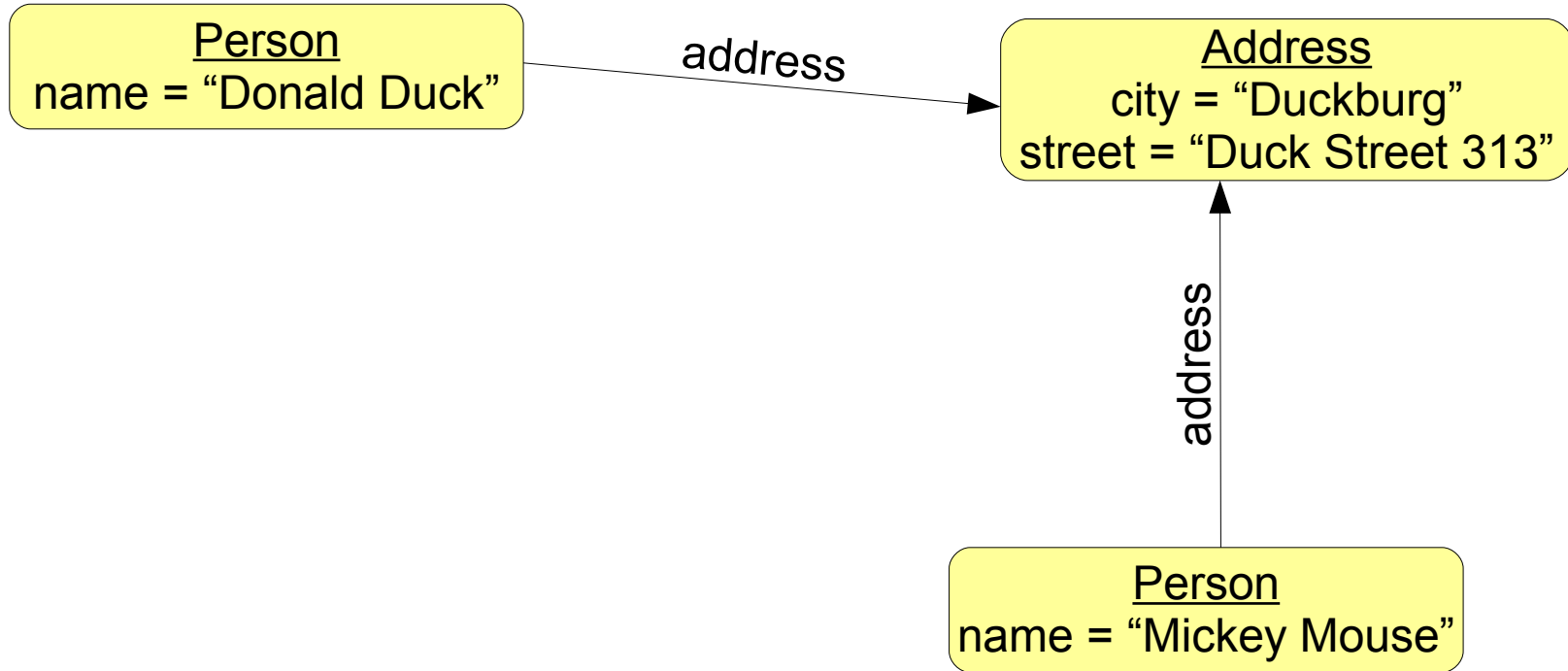
Person
name = "Mickey Mouse"

Database

```
mickey.setAddress(donald.getAddress());
```

Memory

Transaction

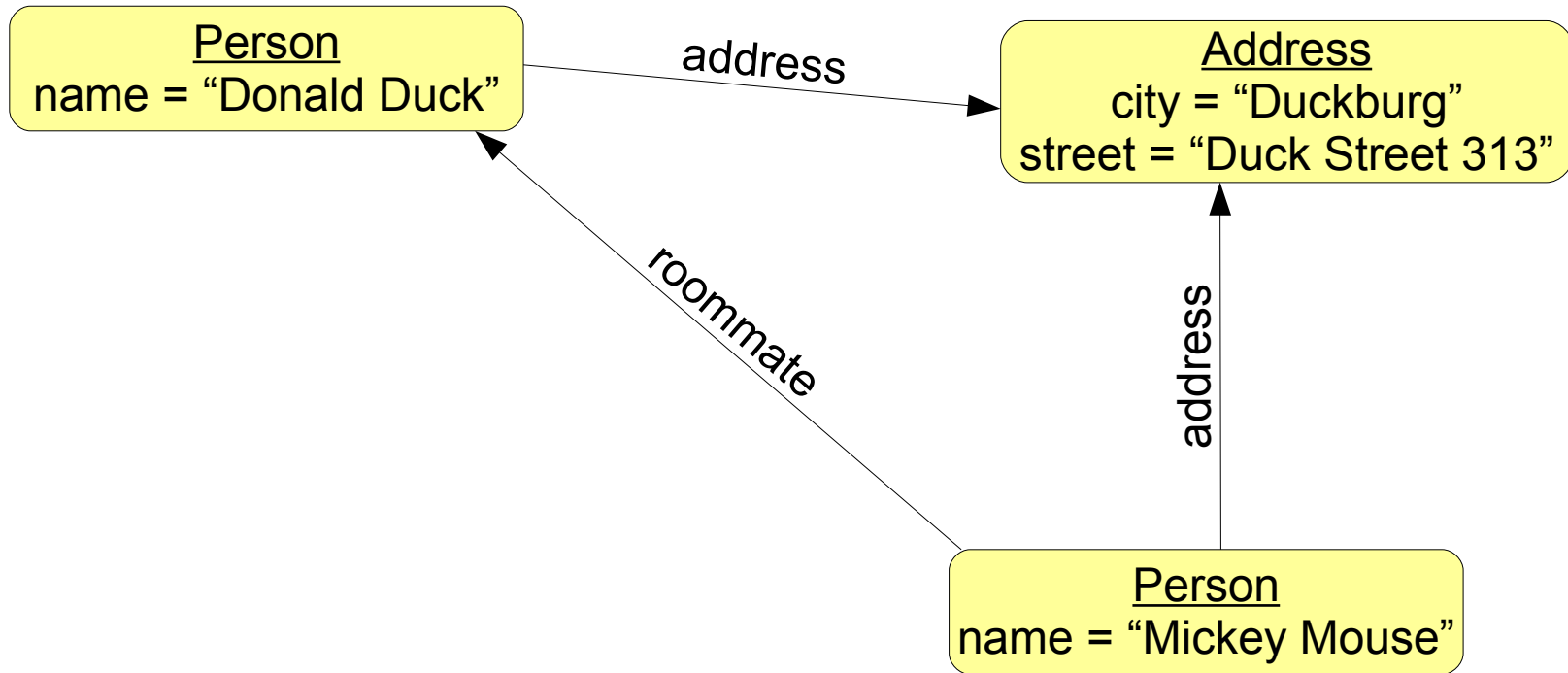


Database

`mickey.setRoommate(donald);`

Memory

Transaction

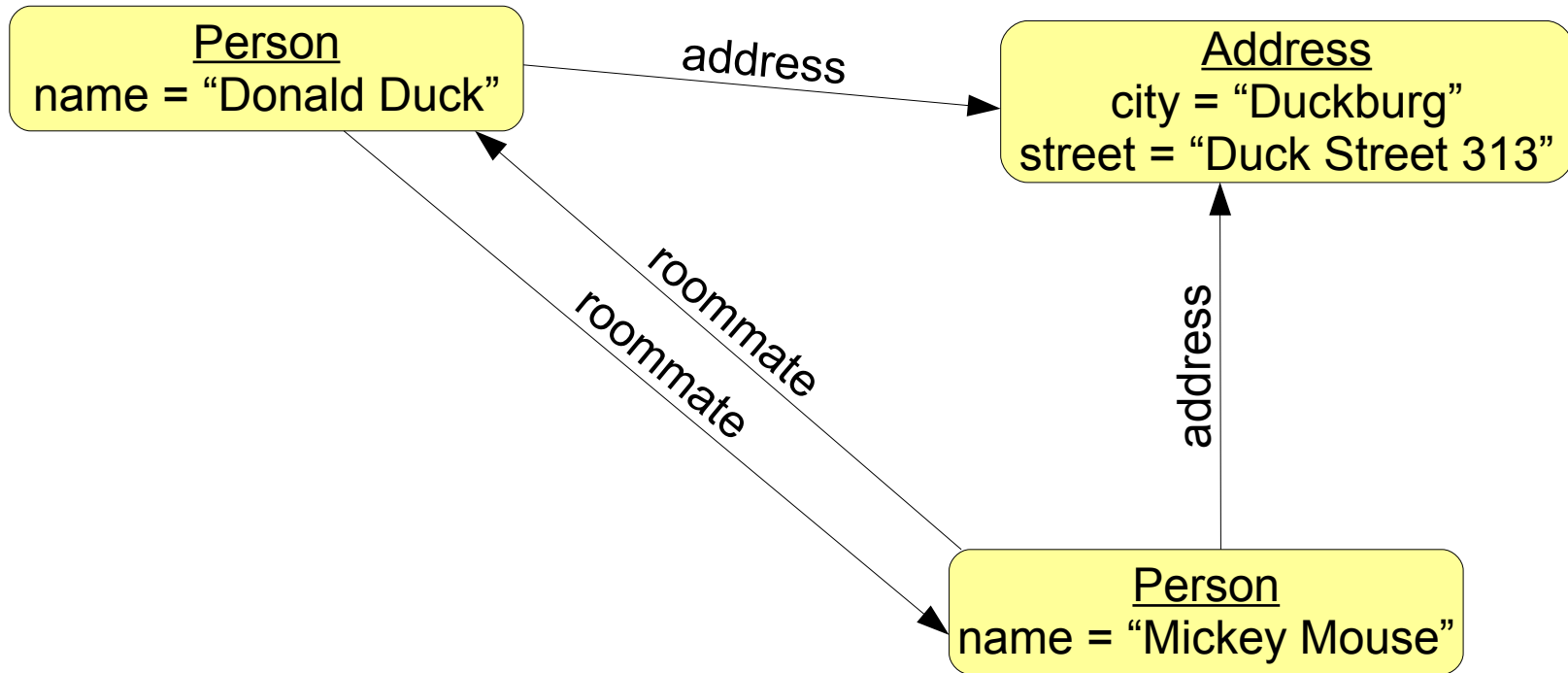


Database

donald.setRoommate(mickey);

Memory

Transaction

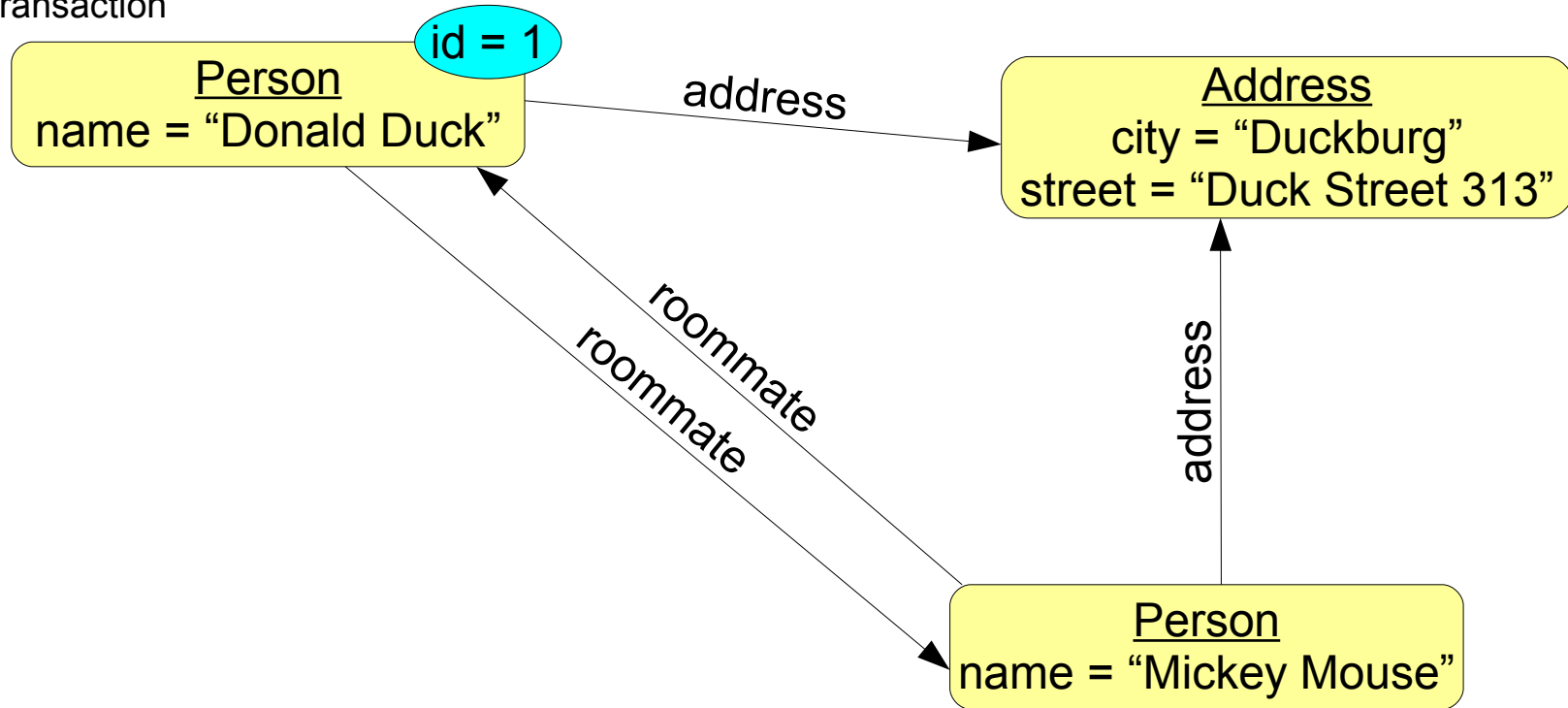


Database

`AppContext.getDataManager().setBinding("donald", donald);`

Memory

Transaction



Database

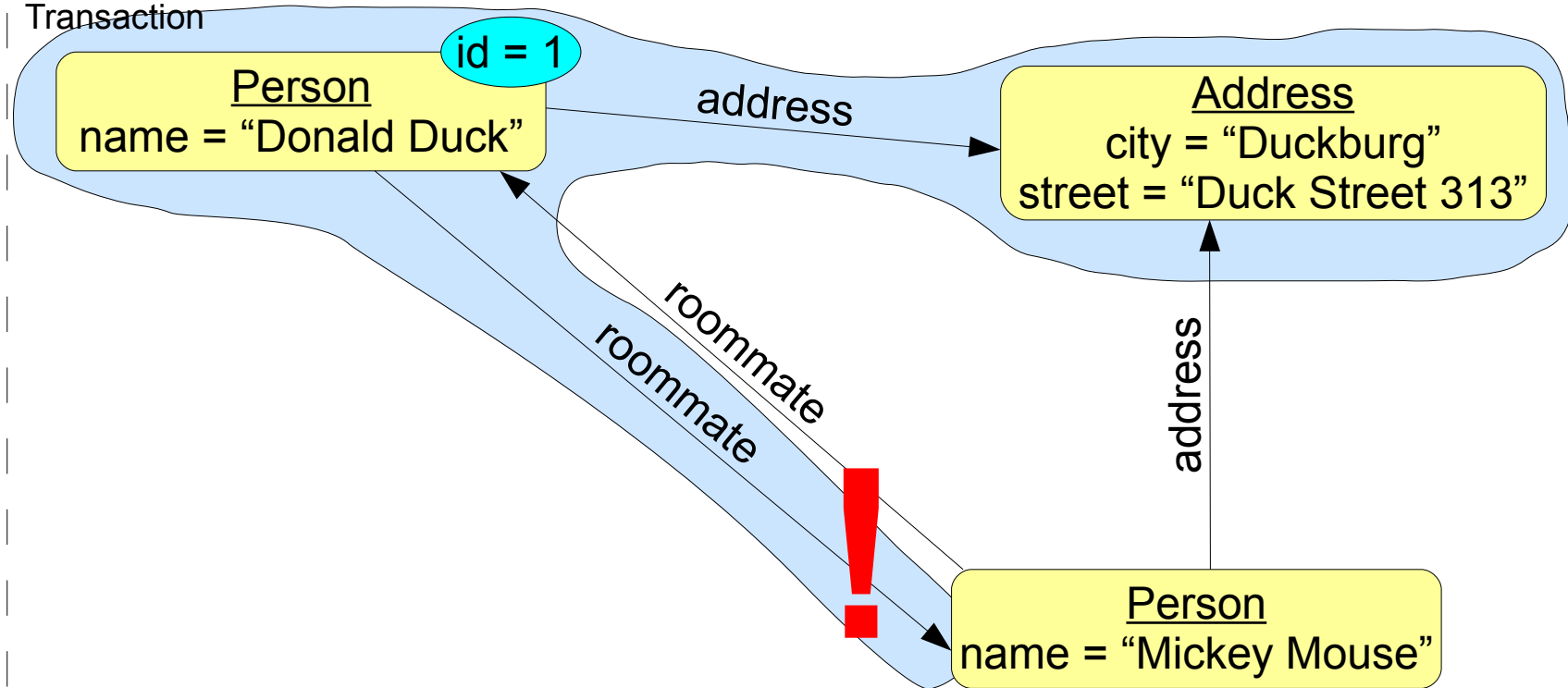
id = 1

"donald" = 1

COMMIT TRANSACTION

Memory

Transaction



Database

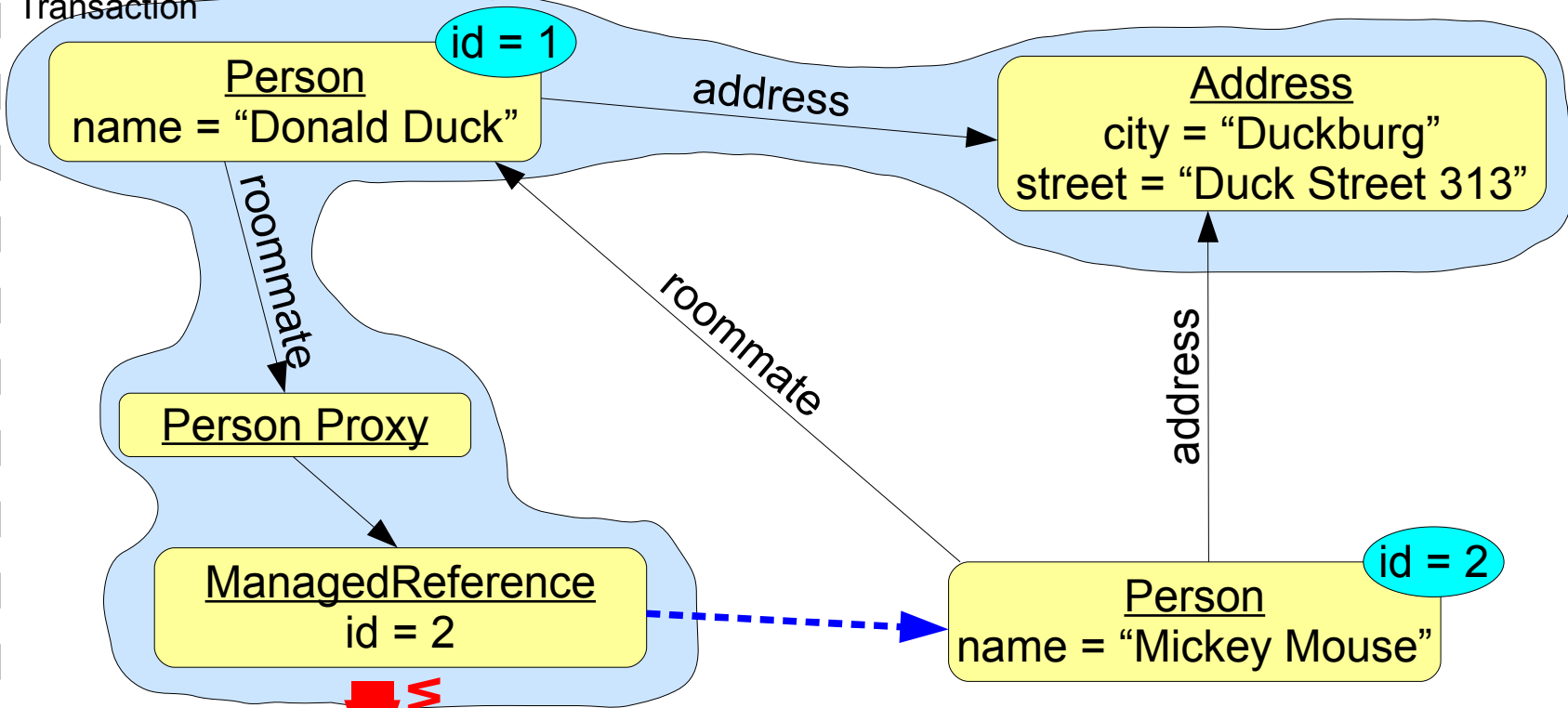
id = 1

"donald" = 1

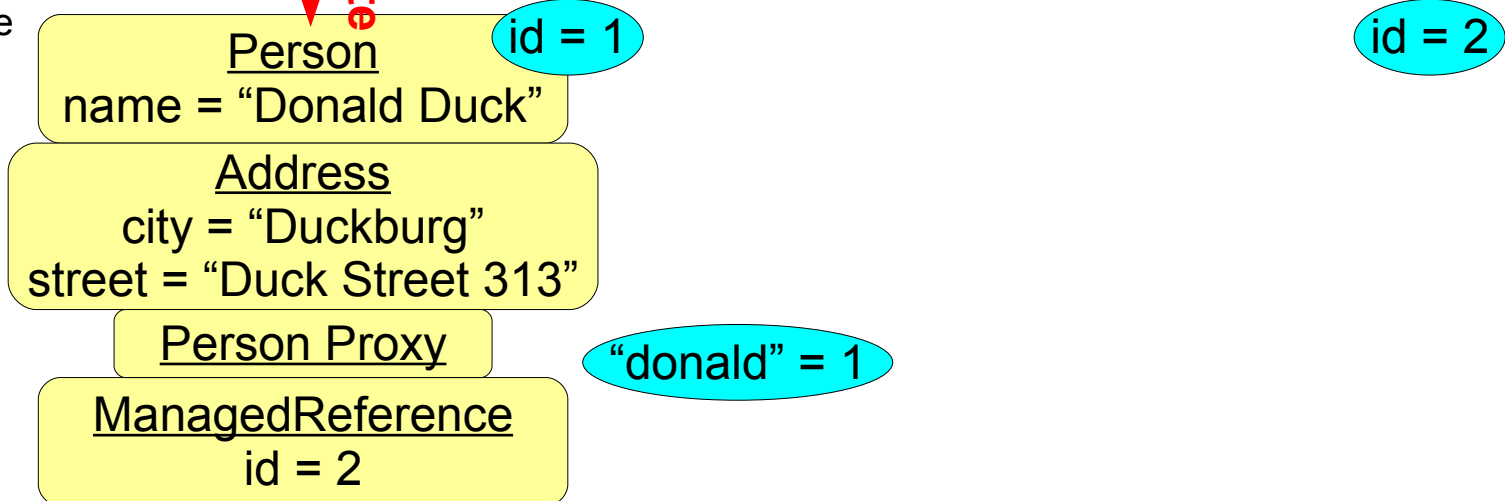
COMMIT TRANSACTION

Memory

Transaction



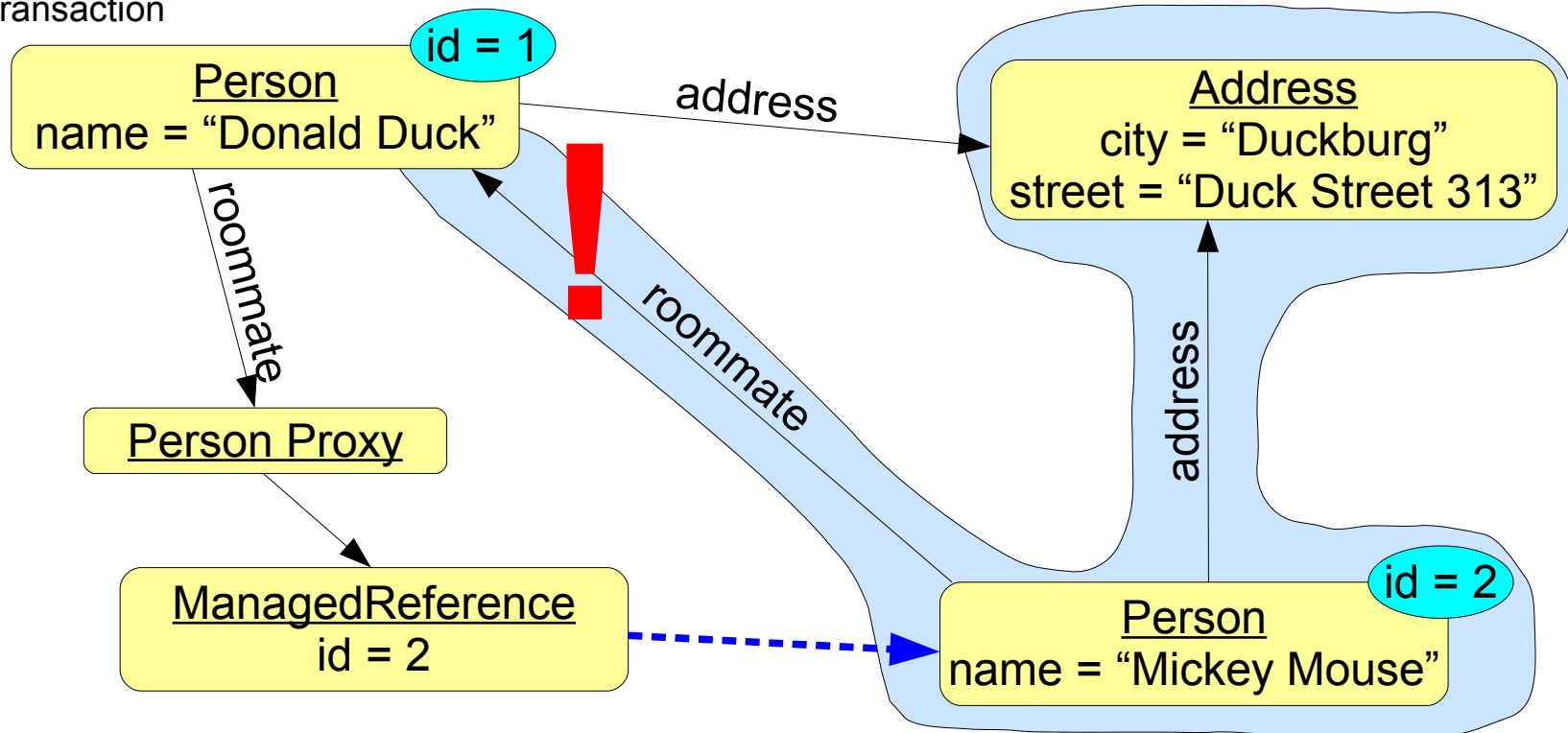
Database



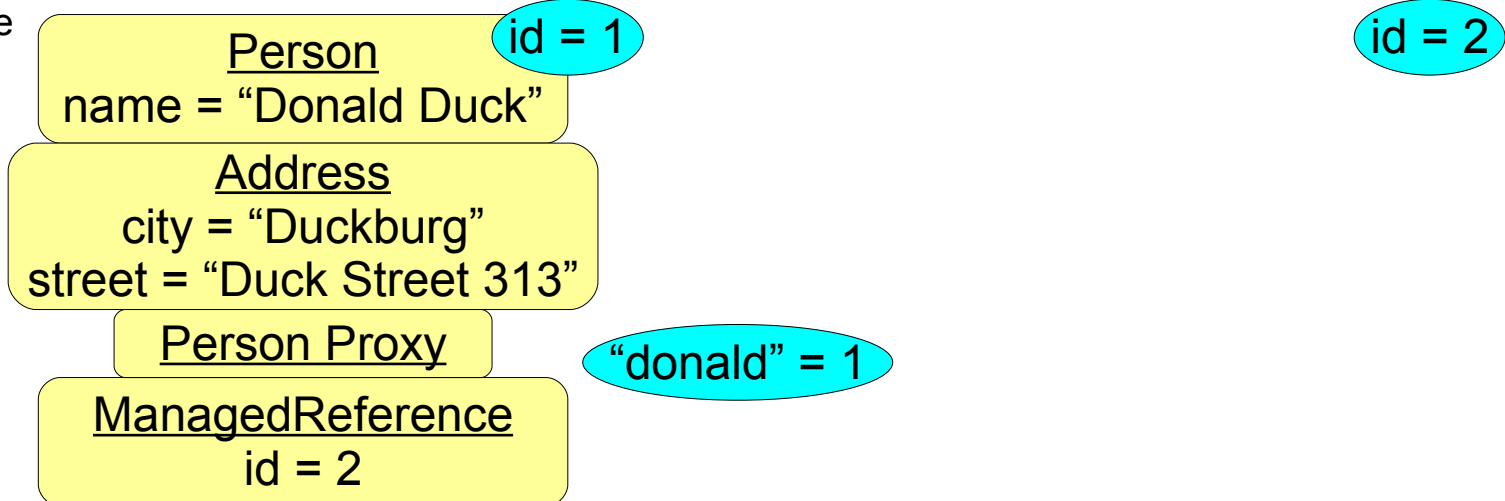
COMMIT TRANSACTION

Memory

Transaction



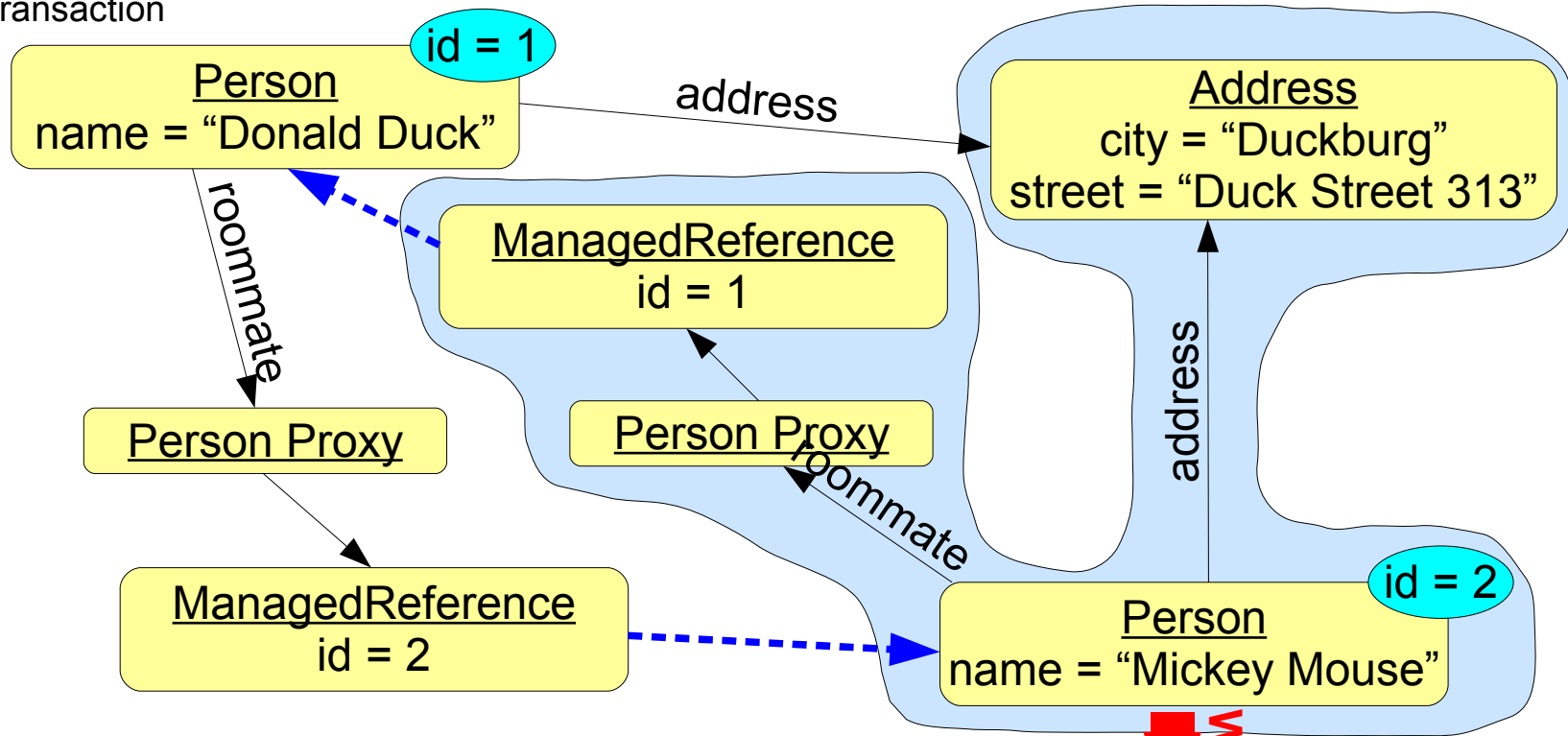
Database



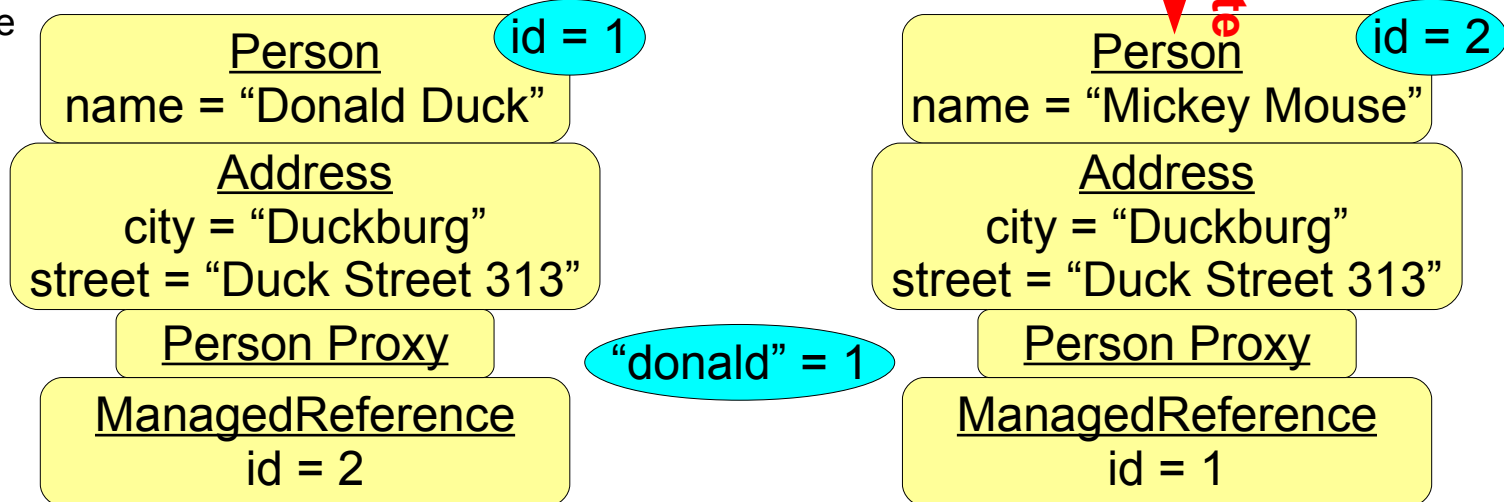
COMMIT TRANSACTION

Memory

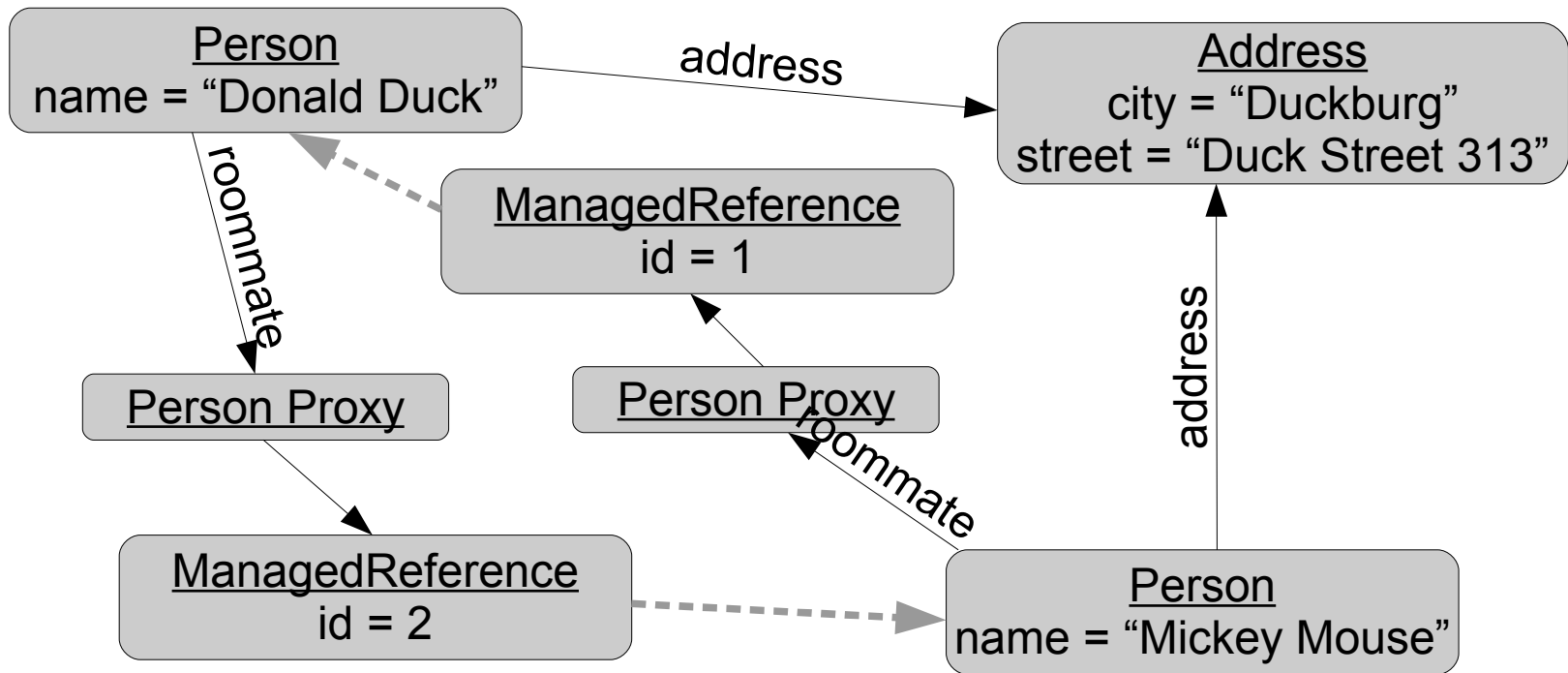
Transaction



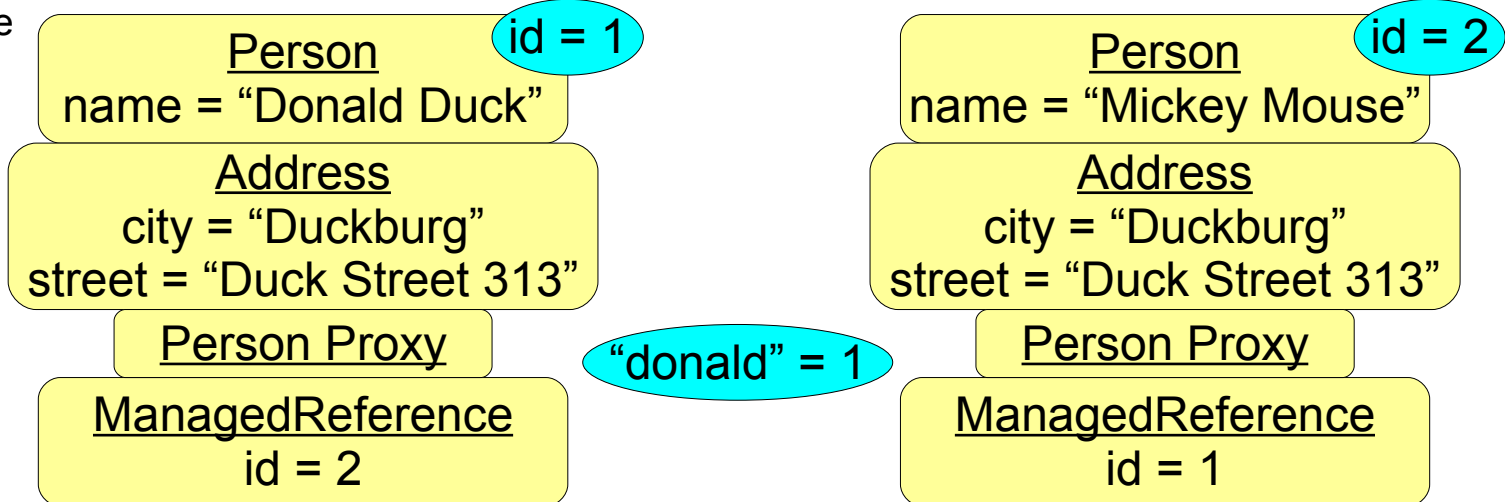
Database



Memory



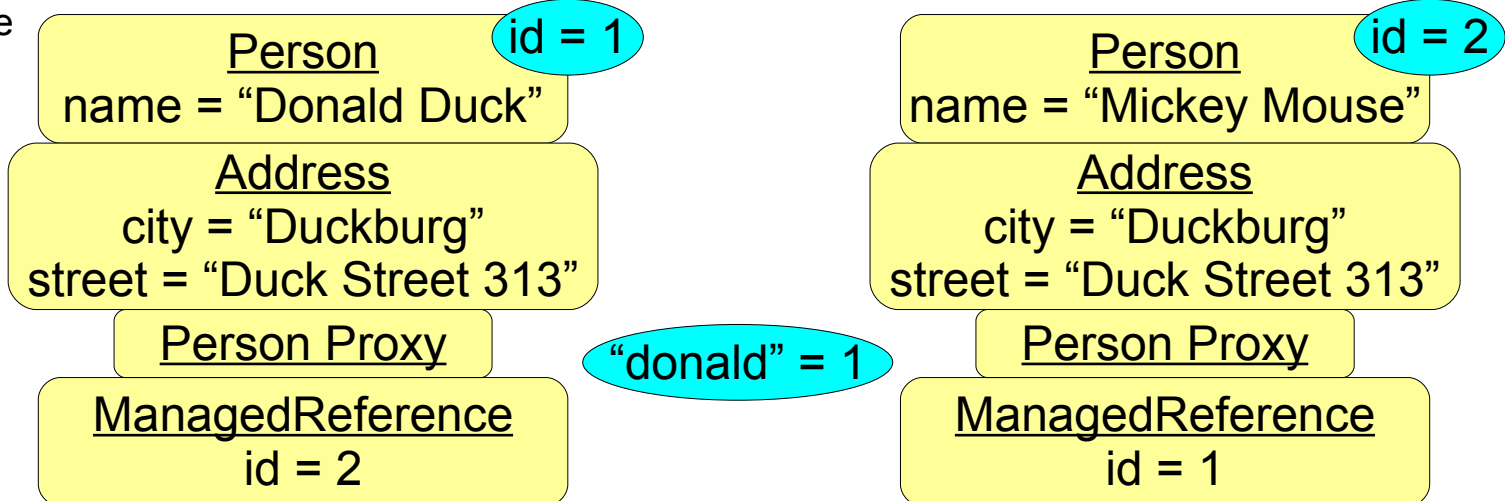
Database



Memory

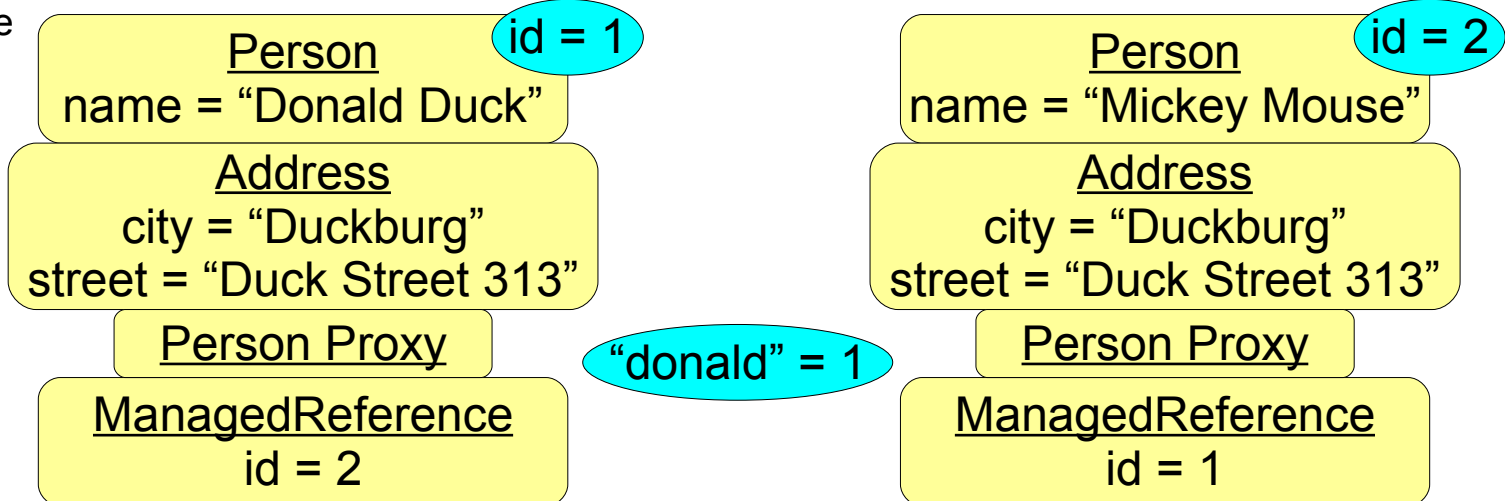


Database



Memory

Database



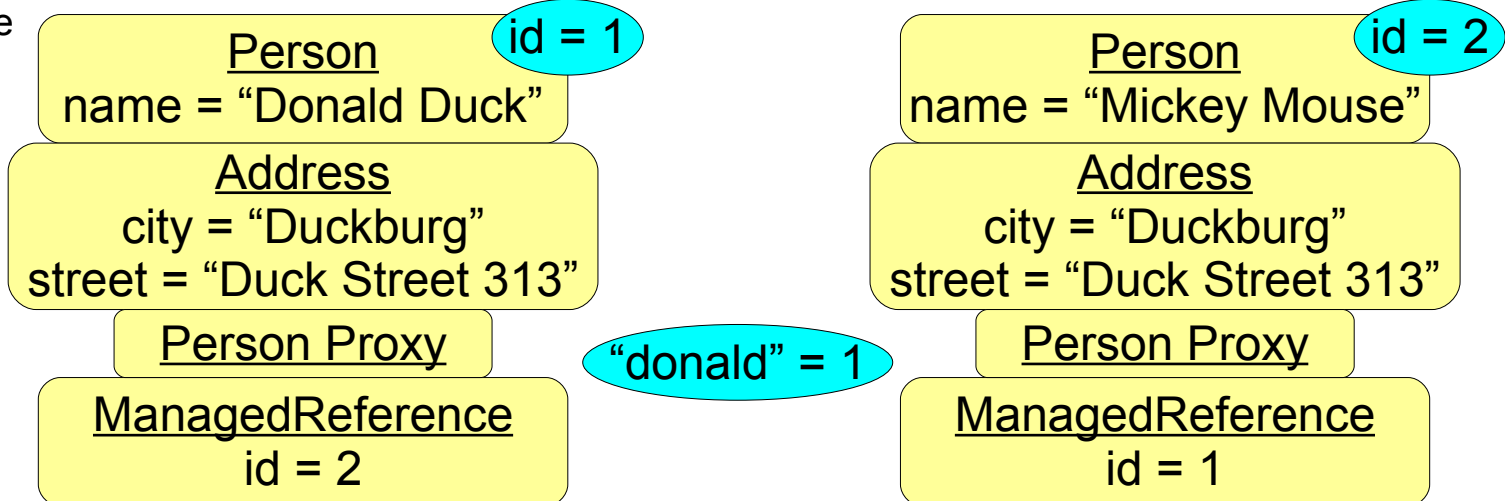
What happens under the hood when the following is executed?

– *with transparent references and garbage collection*

```
Person donald = (Person) ApplicationContext.getDataManager().getBinding("donald");  
  
Person mickey = donald.getRoommate();  
System.out.println(mickey.getName() + " lives in " +  
                    mickey.getAddress().getCity());  
  
donald.setRoommate(null);
```

Memory

Database

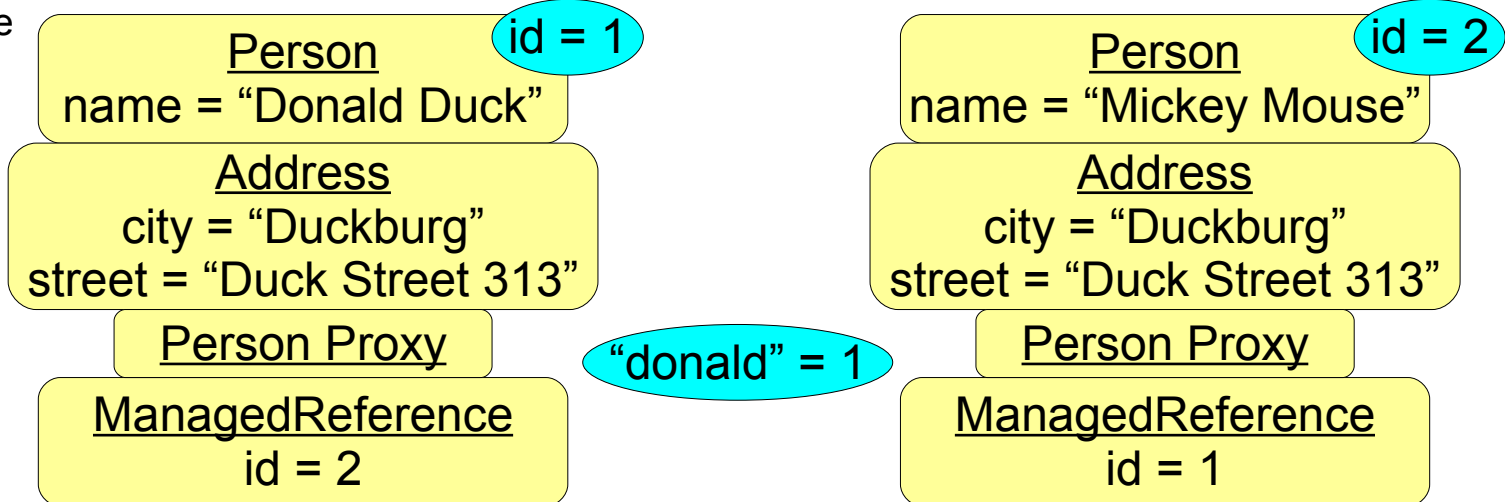


BEGIN TRANSACTION

Memory

Transaction

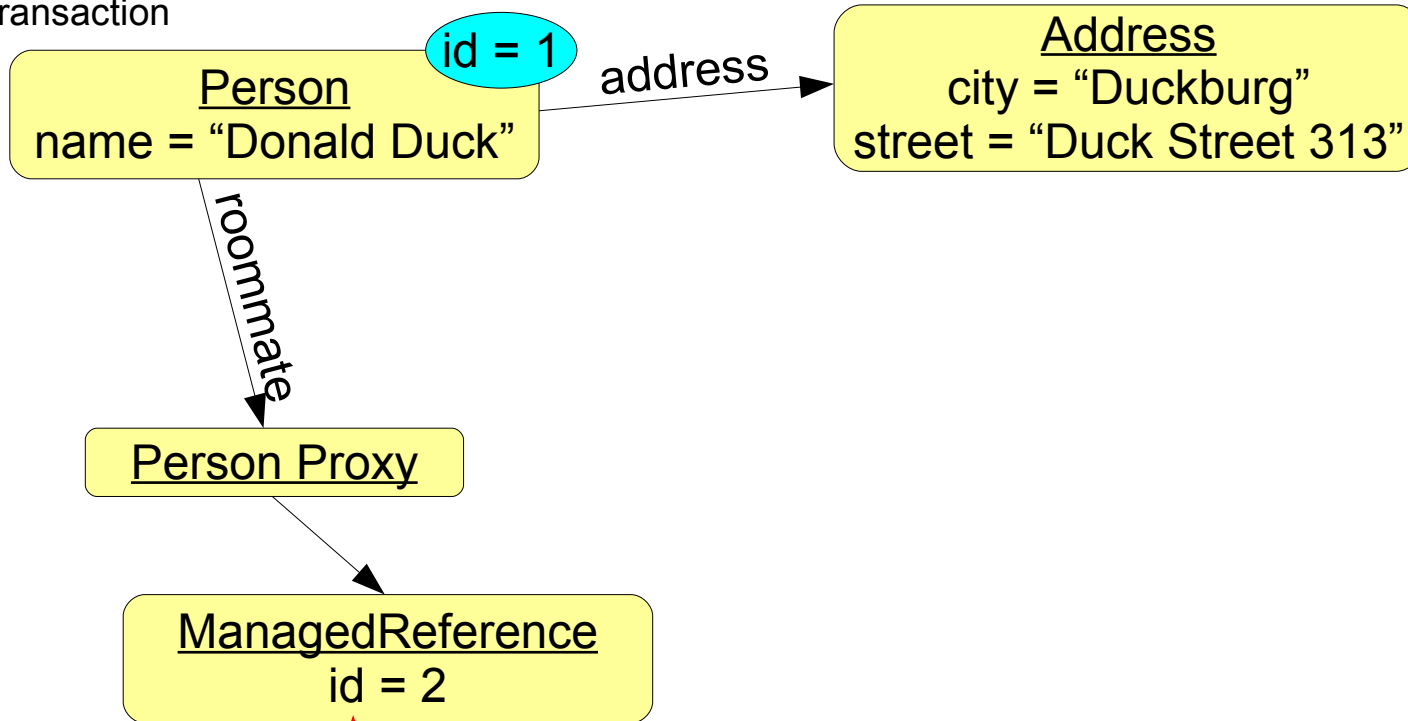
Database



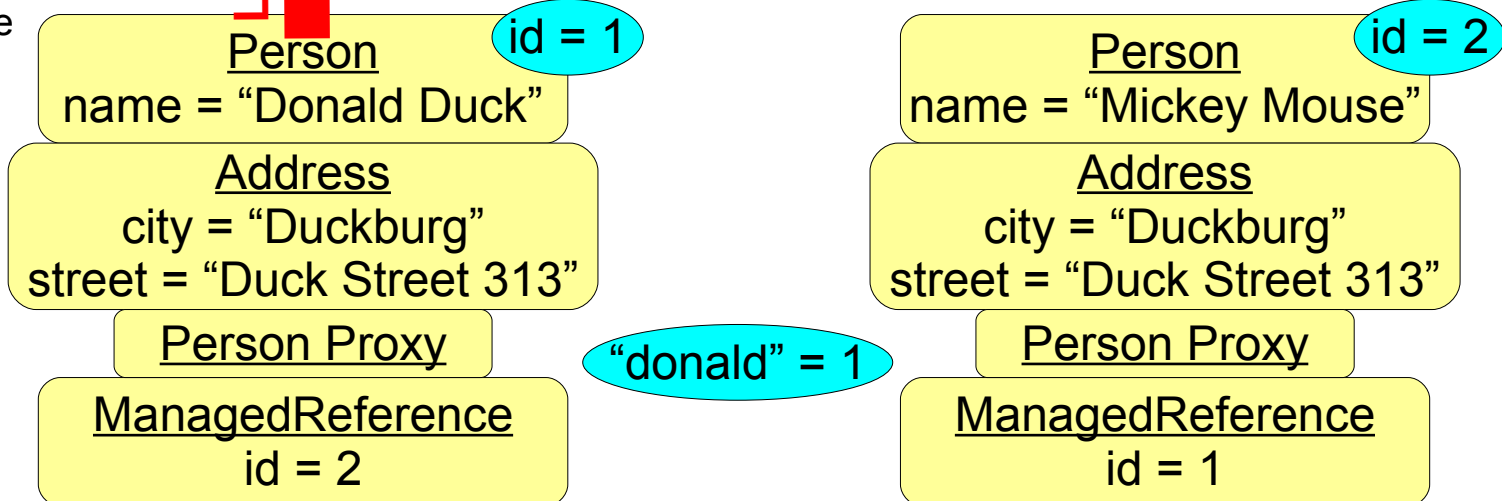
Person donald = (Person) AppContext.getDataManager().getBinding("donald");

Memory

Transaction



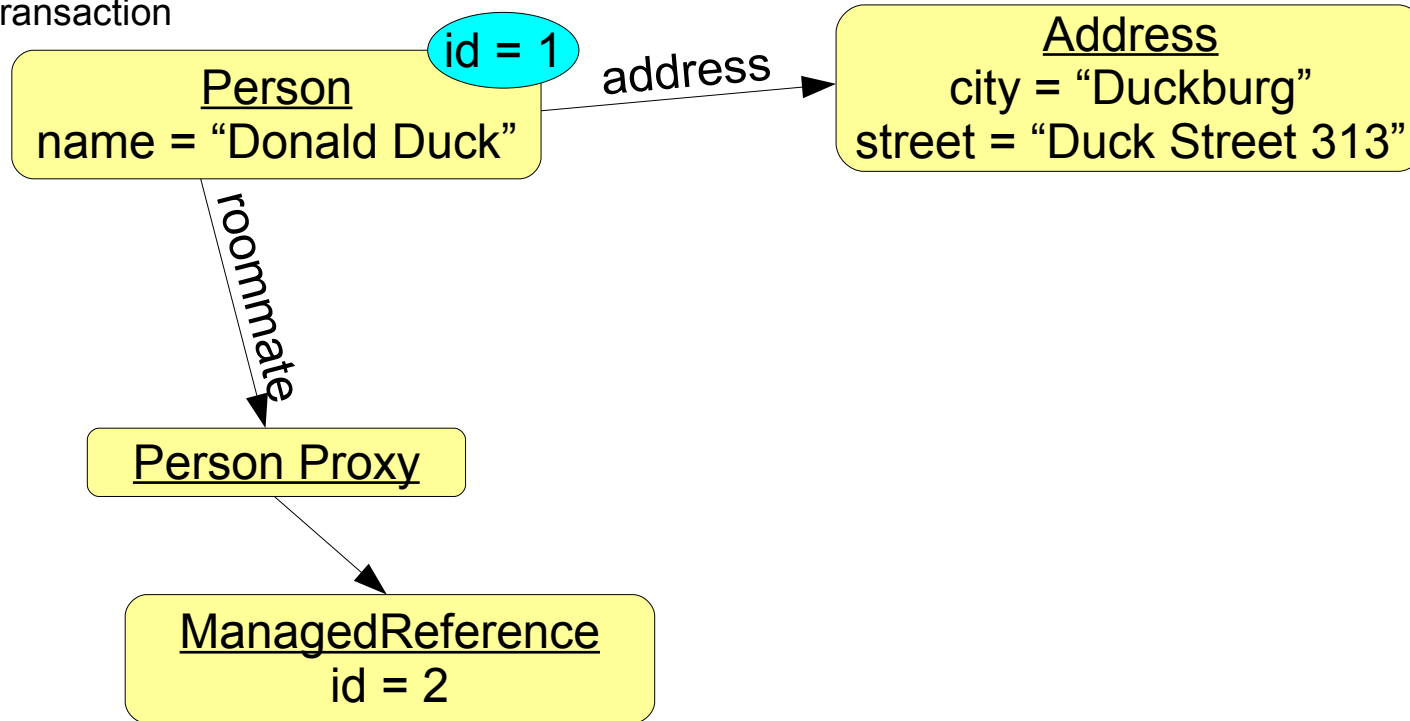
Database



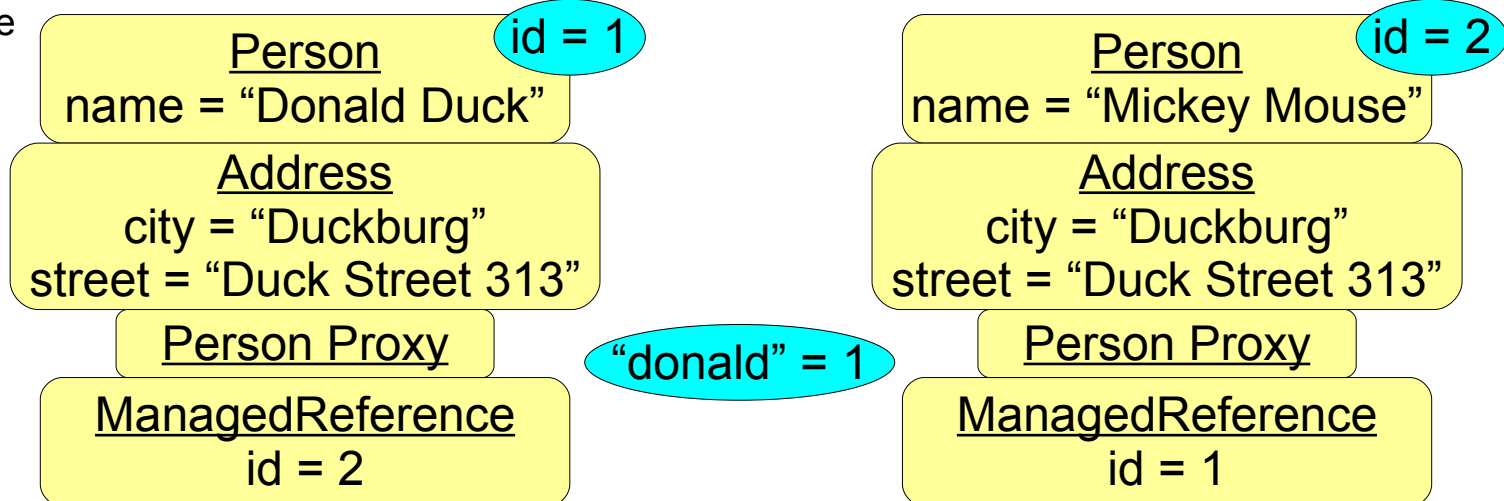
Person mickey = donald.getRoommate();

Memory

Transaction



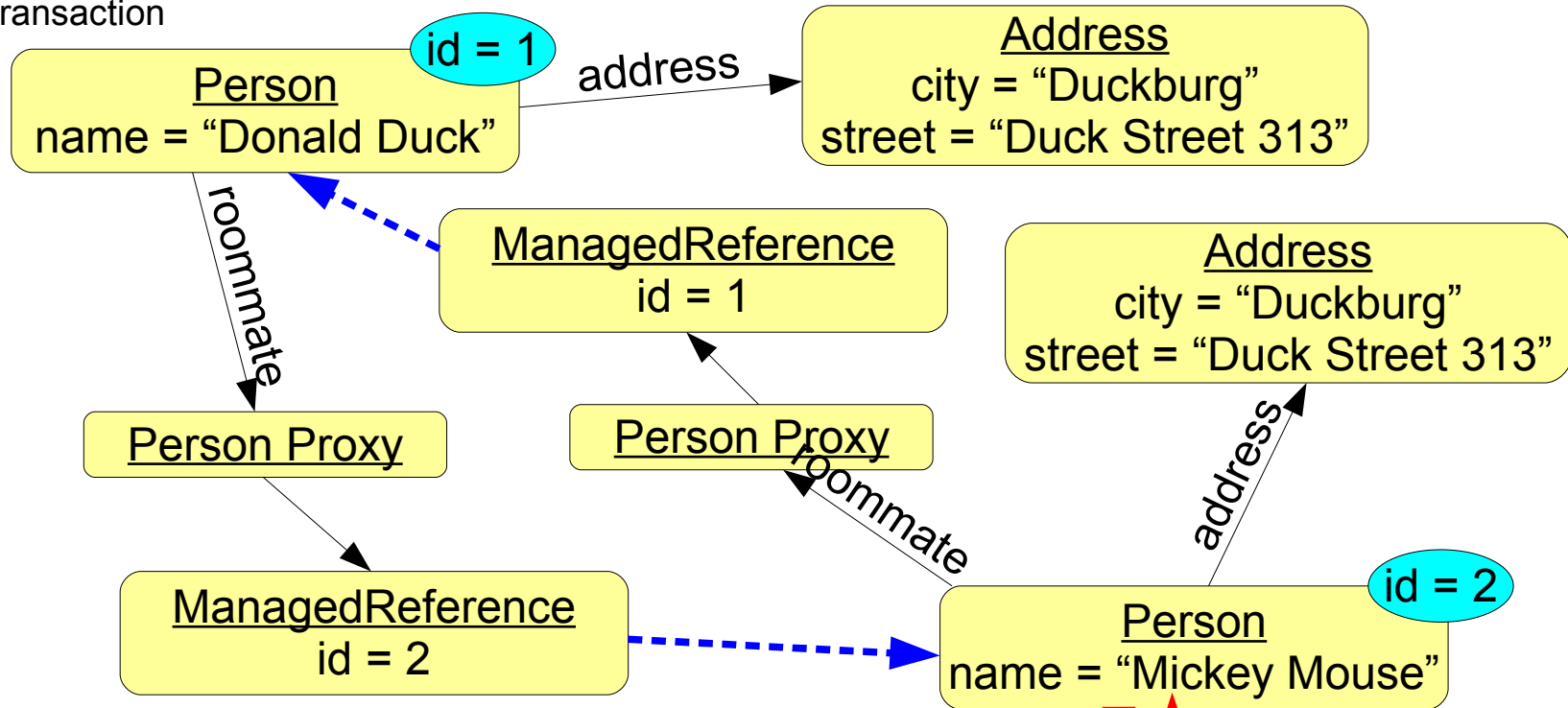
Database



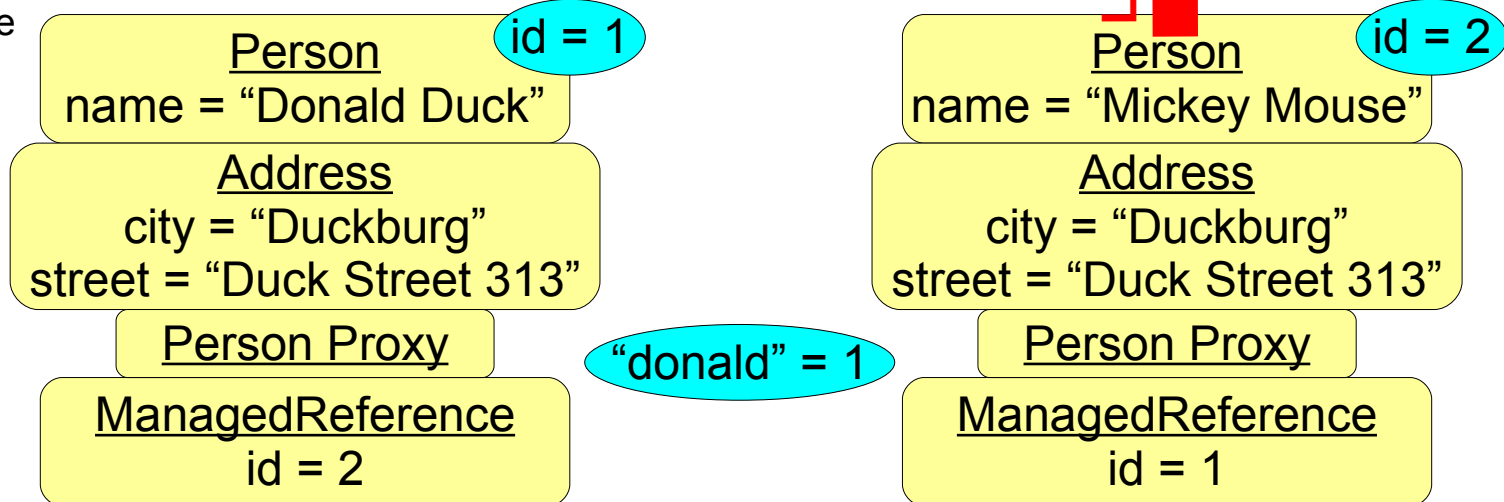
System.out.println(mickey.getName() + " lives in " +
mickey.getAddress().getCity());

Memory

Transaction



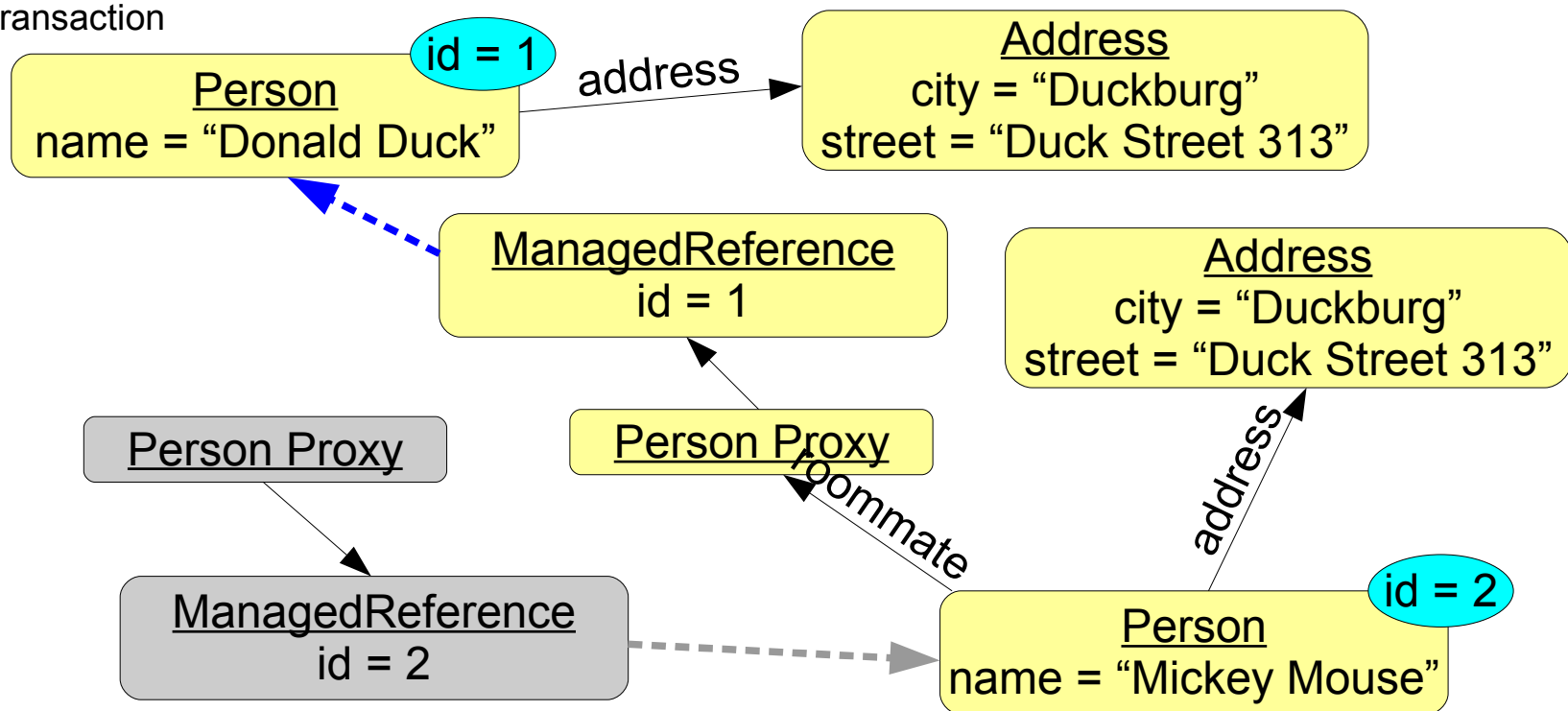
Database



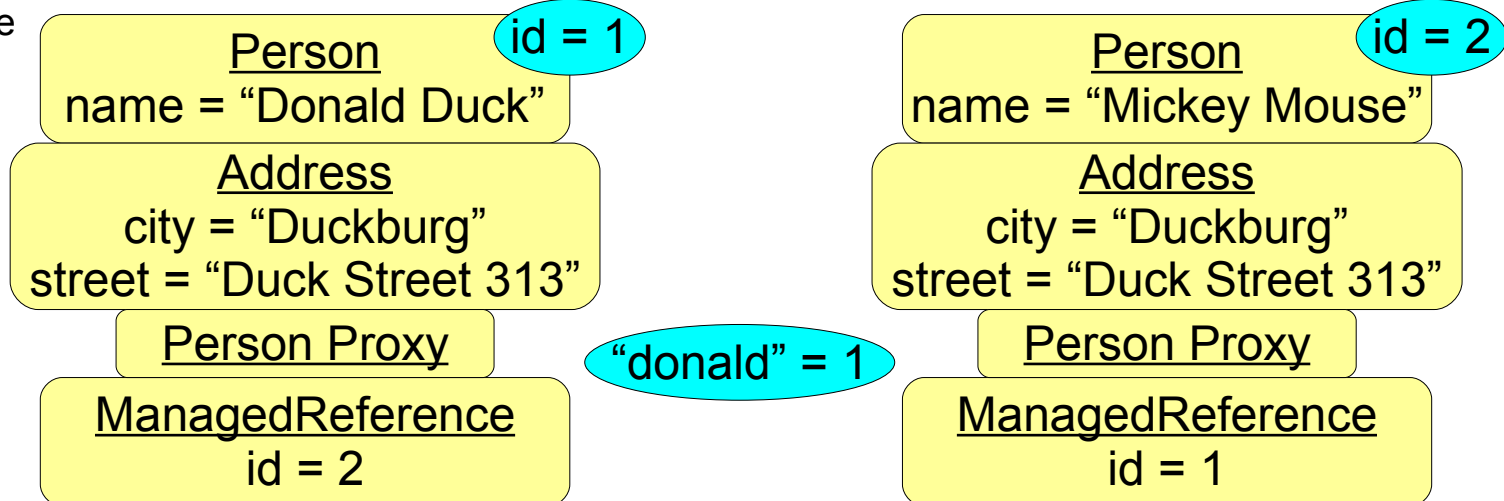
donald.setRoommate(null);

Memory

Transaction



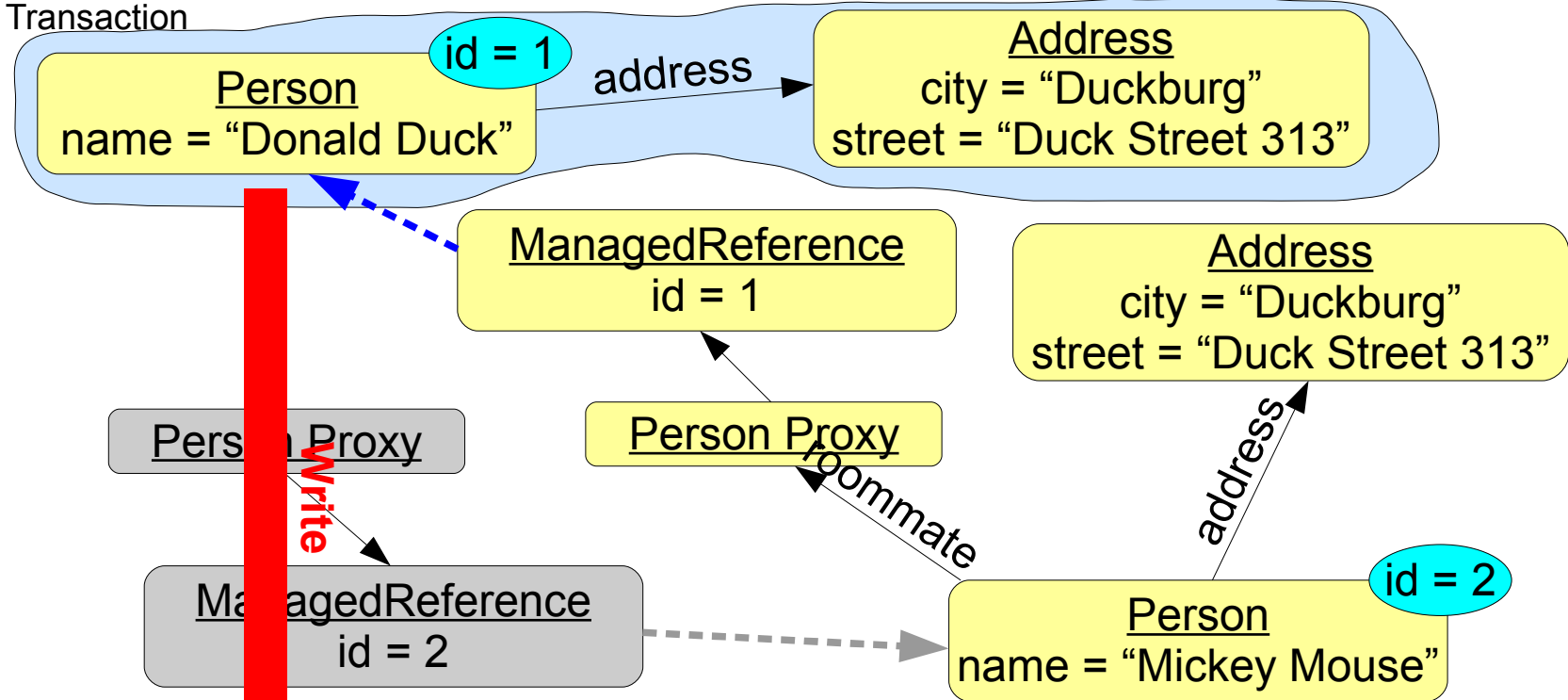
Database



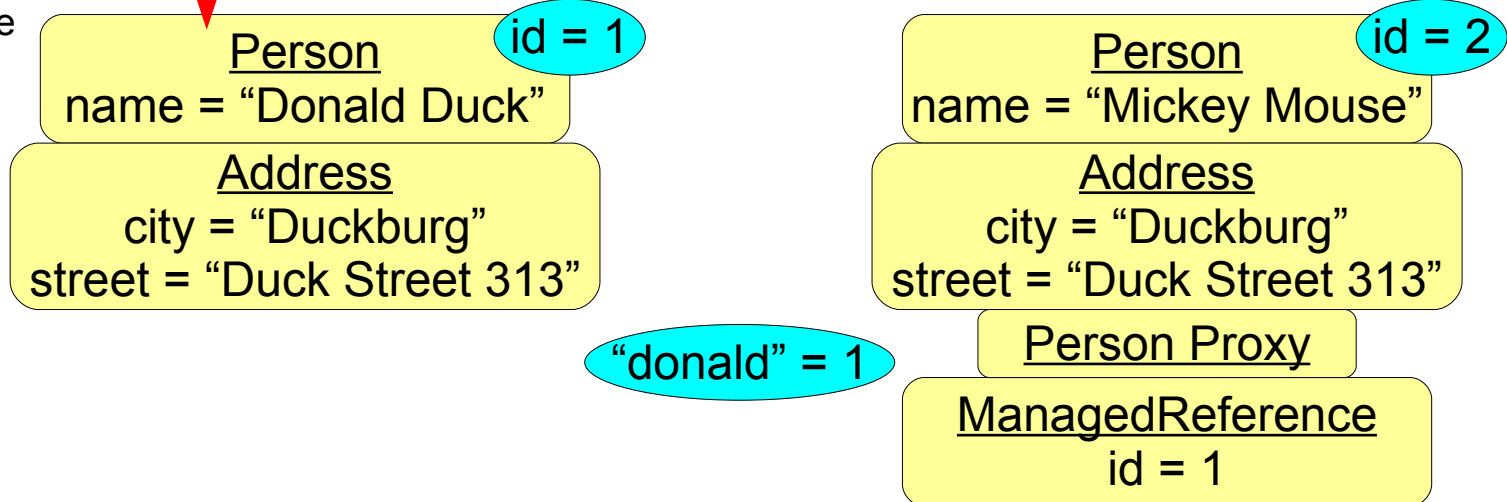
COMMIT TRANSACTION

Memory

Transaction



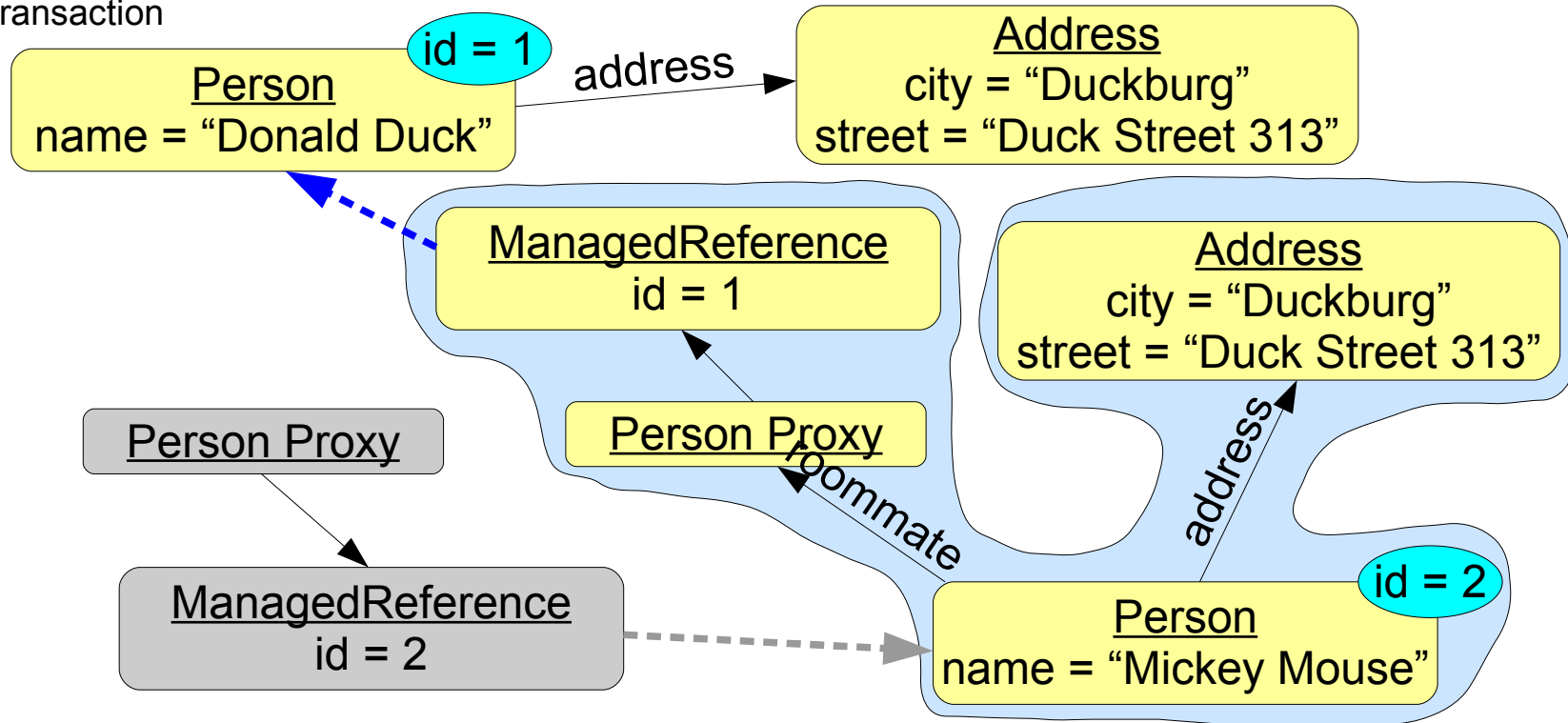
Database



COMMIT TRANSACTION

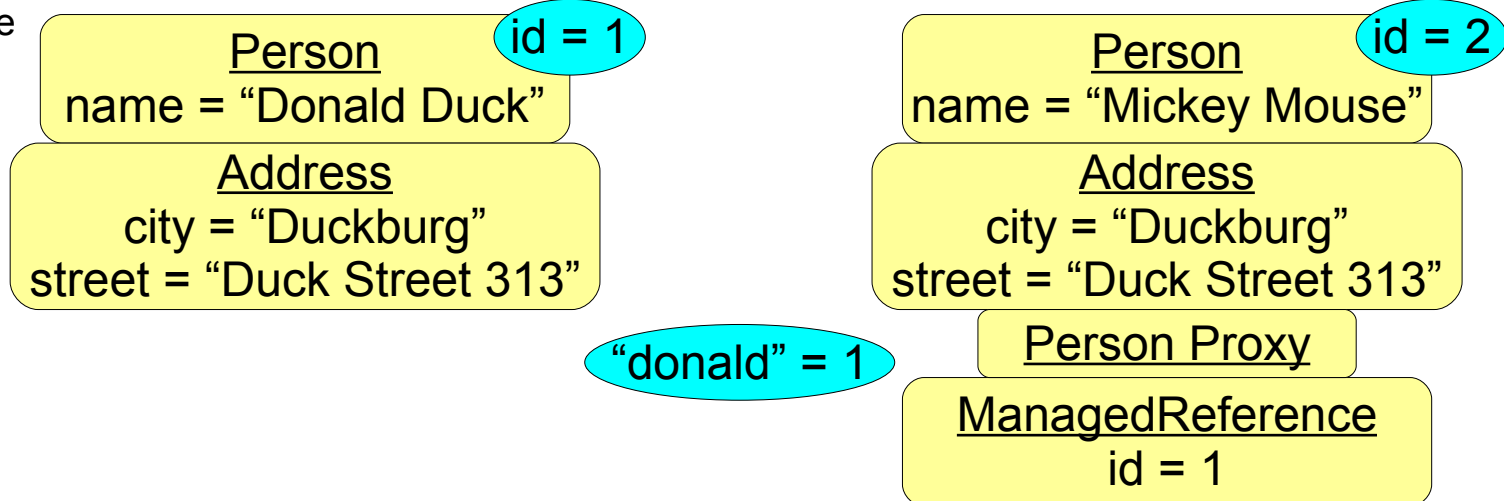
Memory

Transaction

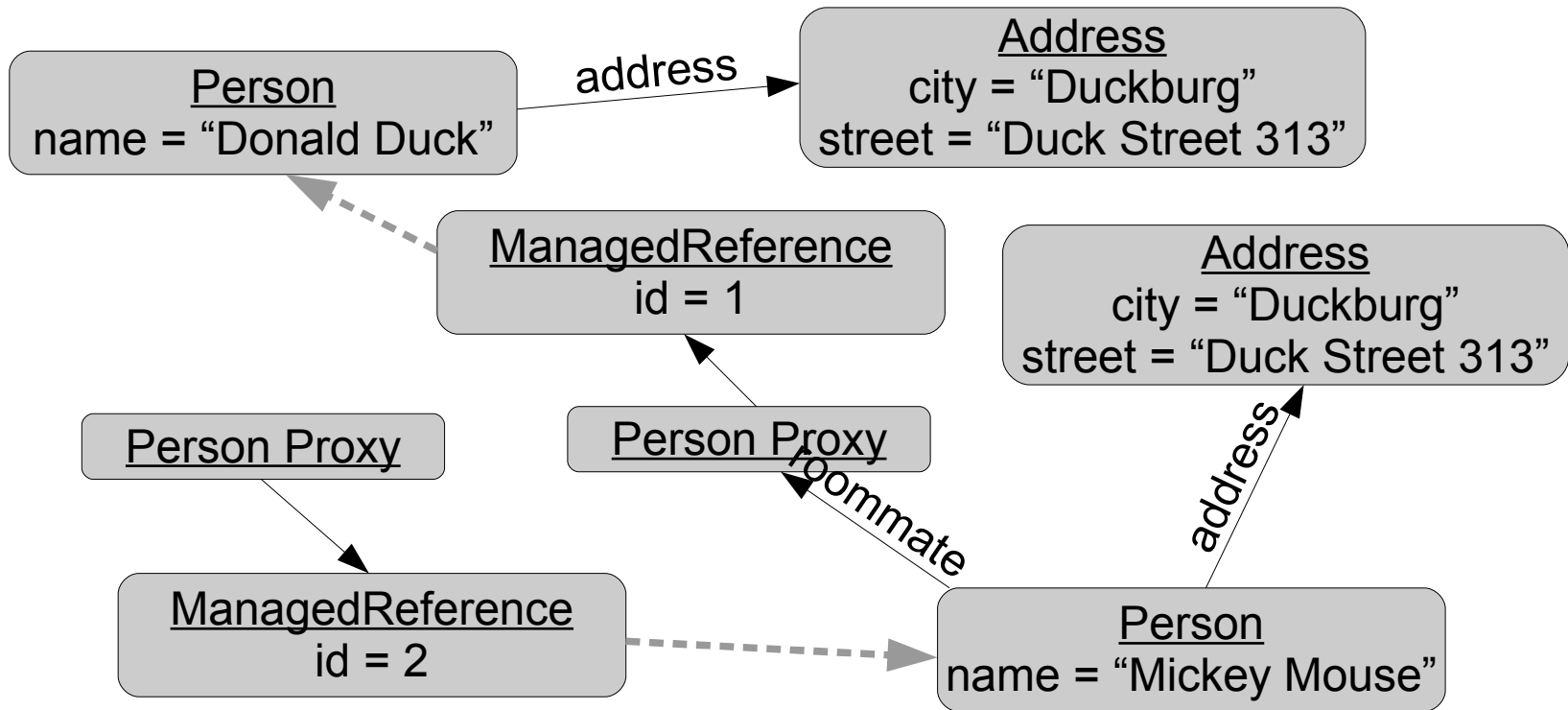


Not Modified

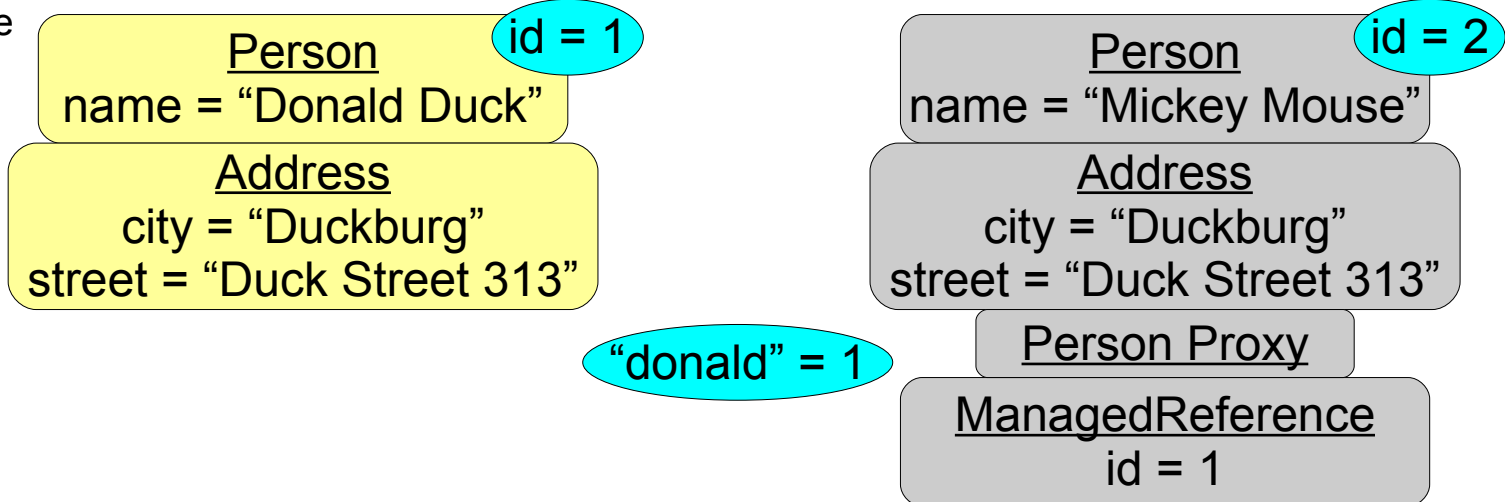
Database



Memory



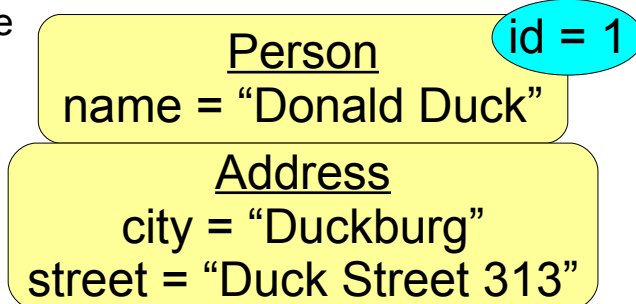
Database



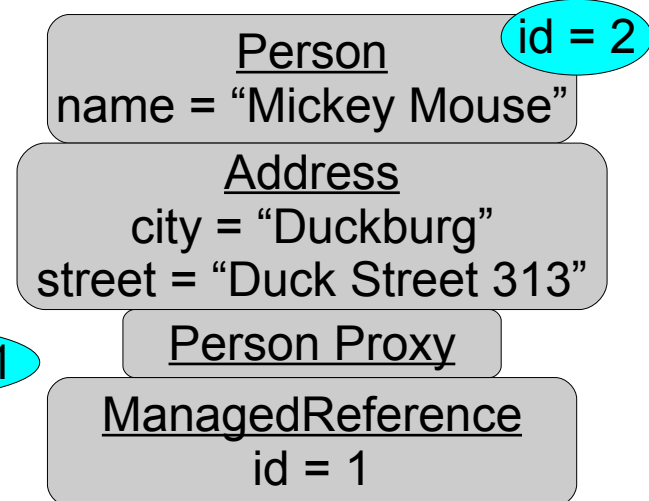
Memory



Database

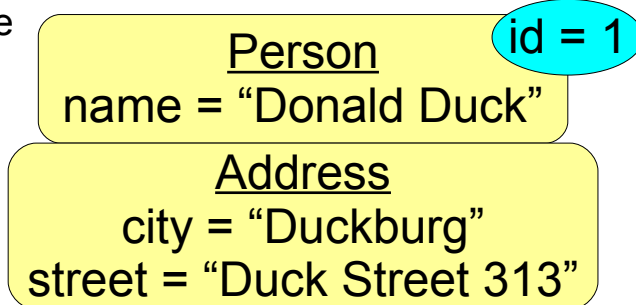


"donald" = 1

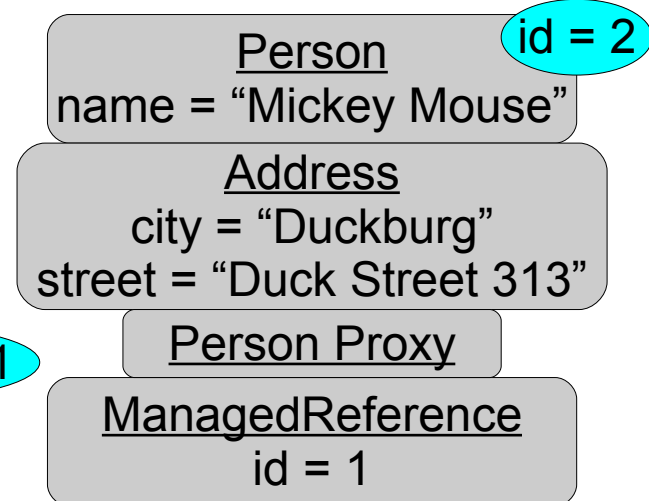


Memory

Database



"donald" = 1



Memory

Database

Person id = 1
name = "Donald Duck"

Address
city = "Duckburg"
street = "Duck Street 313"

Person id = 2
name = "Mickey Mouse"

Address
city = "Duckburg"
street = "Duck Street 313"

Person Proxy

ManagedReference
id = 1

"donald" = 1



Memory

Database

Person

id = 1

name = "Donald Duck"

Address

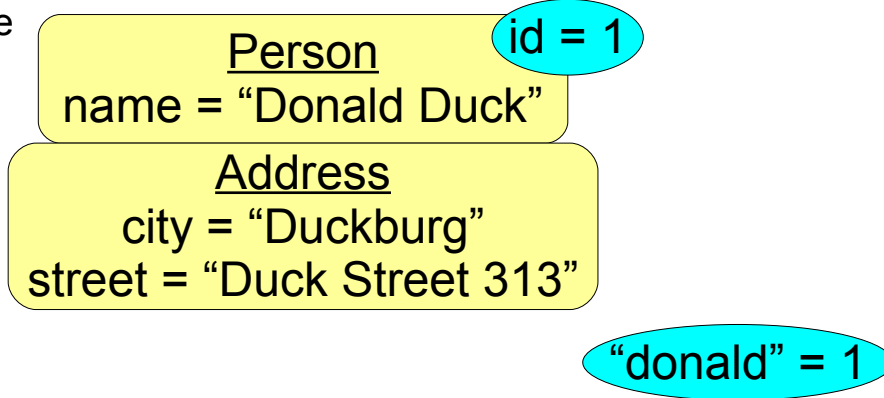
city = "Duckburg"
street = "Duck Street 313"

"donald" = 1



Memory

Database



Agenda

- How Darkstar's persistence model is currently?
- How transparent references and garbage collection change the persistence model?
- **Future directions**

Future directions

- Include transparent references in the official Project Darkstar Server distribution
- Areas which need more work
 - > Scalability of the multi-node version
 - > Improved garbage collector, multi-node support, alternative algorithms, reference counting vs. tracing collectors
 - > Refactoring serialized data, rolling upgrades
 - > Indexing and querying the database
 - > ...
- It's all open source!

Questions?

Project Darkstar Community

– official web site, discussion forums

<http://www.projectdarkstar.com/>

Darkstar EXP

– unofficial distribution of Darkstar Server with experimental features, includes transparent references and garbage collector

<http://code.google.com/p/darkstar-exp/>

Dimdwarf Application Server

– same transparent reference implementation, alternative server implementation, primarily designed for embedded standalone mode

<http://dimdwarf.sourceforge.net/>