

Specification and Verification of MAS for Local Communities

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Clausthal University of Technology
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Outline

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Modular Interpreted System
- 3 Specification Logic: ATL
- 4 Abstraction for MIS
- 5 The Model Checking Algorithm
- 6 Conclusion

Motivation



IT Ecosystems

- **Classical approaches** do not scale well for today's **large and complex software-intensive systems**.
- Software systems are **connected** among each other and **interact** massively.

~> IT Ecosystem:

- analog to **biological ecosystems**
- based on the **balance between individuals** (autonomy) and **sets of rules** (control) defining **equilibria** within an **IT Ecosystem**
- **Maintaining** and continuously evolving IT Ecosystems requires deep understanding of this balance.



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Application

In **Smart Cities** are the following **IT Ecosystems**:

- Smart-Living-Systems
- Smart-Working-Systems
- Smart-Transport-Systems
- Smart-Energy-Systems
- etc.



IT Ecosystems Project

NTH focused Research School for IT Ecosystems:

- Technische Universität Braunschweig,
- Technische Universität Clausthal,
- Leibniz Universität Hannover.

Three main projects:

- **AIM**: Bottom-Up Approach
Adaptive Information methods.
- **RuleIT**: Top-Down Approach
Rules are inferred from the design phase and verified at runtime.
- **Loccom**: Combination of both: Bottom-Up and Top-Down approaches.



Local Communities

Nowadays **Social Networks**:

- exchange of information,
- groups of interests, and
- explicit use of a computer or smartphone.

Local Communities: social networks + real social networks

- exchange of information works automatically,
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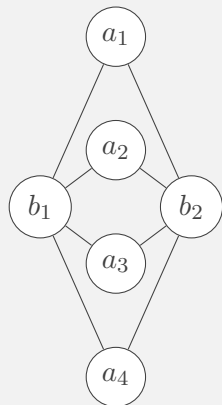
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Communication between Agents

Example 1 (Communicating Agents)

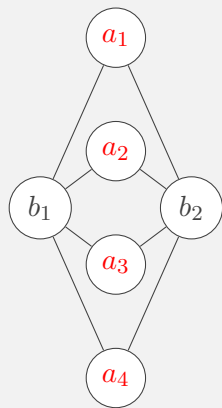


- Agents of team B are not allowed to send a message back.
- If an agent b_j has received a message from a_i then it has to send it to some agent a_k in the following round, $k > i$.

Is it possible for team A to ensure that a_4 will know the message eventually?

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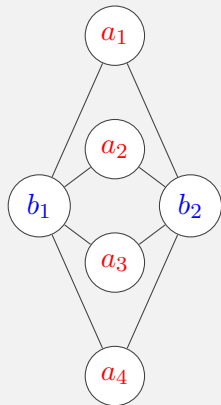


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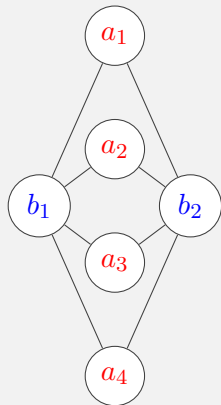


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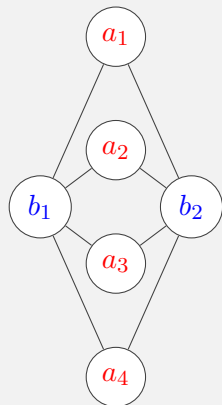


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How can we

- formalize such a system?
- deal with big systems?
- formulate minimal properties (fairness, liveness, safety)?
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Model Checking

Model Checking

Advantages:

- Faster than **Theorem Proving**

Disadvantages:

- Explicit representation: a lot of states, in practise not usable
- Compact representation: model checking complexity increases

Idea:

- Reduce the state space before model checking

Modular Interpreted System



Modular Interpreted System

Idea:

- Several **loosely** connected components.
- Work is done in the components.
- Little **interaction** between the components.

Modular Interpreted System

Definition 2 (Modular Interpreted System (MIS))

A MIS is a tuple $S = (\mathbb{A}gt, Act, \mathcal{I}n)$ where:

- $\mathbb{A}gt = \{a_1, \dots, a_k\}$ agents,
- Act actions,
- $\mathcal{I}n$ interaction alphabet.

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Example 3

- $\mathbb{A}gt = \{a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, b_1, b_2\}$,
- $Act = \{\text{send}_x \mid x \in \mathbb{A}gt\} \cup \{\text{noop}\}$
- $\mathcal{I}n = \{\text{nothing}, m_{a_1}, m_{a_2}, m_{a_3}, m_{a_4}\} \cup P(\{m_{a_i b_j} \mid i \in \{1, \dots, 4\}, j \in \{1, 2\}\})$

MIS Agent I

Definition 4 (MIS Agent)

Each agent has the following **internal structure**:

$$a_i = (St_i, \quad , \quad , \quad , \quad)$$

The global state space is defined as $St := St_1 \times \cdots \times St_k$.

Example 5 (Agent a_1)



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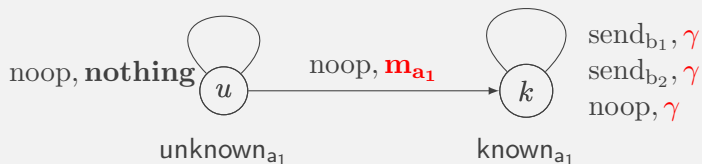
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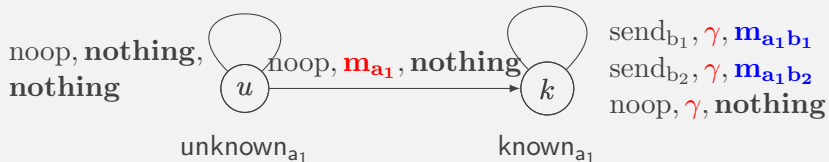
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MIS Agent II

Example 6 (Agents b_j)

- 256 states
- Every state is labeled with known_{b_j} if the agent received some time ago the message from a_i .
- Others are labeled with unknown_{b_j} .
- While the agent is waiting for a message it does nothing.
- When it receives a message it has to send the message to one of the opponents with a higher number than i .
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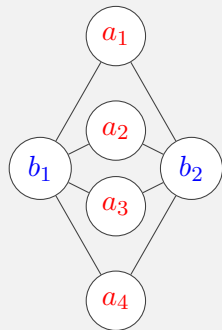
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- **Modular** (removing, replacing of agents)
- **Interaction** reduced to an abstract **interaction symbol**
- **Computational ground**

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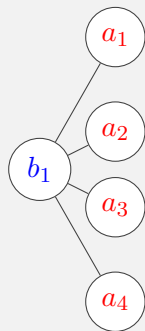


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Advantages of Modular Interpreted Systems II

Example 8 (Communicating Agents)

- Simple example
- $256 + 256 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 = 520$ states
- Remove agent b_2 : 264 states



Specification Logic: ATL

Alternating-time Temporal Logic

Definition 9 (Alternating-time temporal Logic (ATL))

The language of plain ATL is defined over the non-empty sets:

- Π of **Propositions** $p \in \Pi$
- Agt of **Agents** $A \subseteq \text{Agt}$

$$\varphi ::= p \mid \neg\varphi \mid \varphi \vee \varphi \mid \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \mathbf{X}\varphi \mid \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \mathbf{G}\varphi \mid \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \varphi \mathbf{U}\varphi.$$

Main Idea: cooperation modalities

- $\langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \mathbf{X}\varphi$ “coalition A has a collective strategy to enforce that φ holds after the next step”

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Example 10

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$$S, q \models \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle(\text{TUknown}_{a_4})$$

Abstraction for MIS



Basic Idea I

Partitioning the **local state space** by using **handcrafted equivalence relation**:

- Reducing all equivalent states to just one
- Agents get **fewer choices** and the **opponents more choices**
- **Influence symbols** of the abstract states:
 - all influence symbols that are an outcome of executing an action in each concrete state
- **Local transition function**:
Input: **abstract state, action, influence symbol**
Output: **abstract state**
 - unfold both equivalence classes
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Abstraction Relation

Definition 11 (Abstraction Relation)

An **abstraction relation** for a MIS is a product $\equiv = \equiv_1 \times \cdots \times \equiv_k$ where each $\equiv_i \subseteq St_i \times St_i$ is an equivalence relation for the states St_i of agent a_i .

For $q \in St_i$, we write $[q]_{\equiv_i}$ for the equivalence class of the local state q with respect to \equiv_i . And for $q \in St = St_1 \times \cdots \times St_k$, we write $[q]_{\equiv}$ for the equivalence class of the global state q .

Definition 12 (Abstraction for MIS)

For a MIS $S = (\mathbb{A}gt, Act, \mathcal{I}n)$, an abstraction relation \equiv for S and a set of **favored** agents $A \subseteq \mathbb{A}gt$ we define the **abstraction** of S with respect to \equiv and A as the MIS

$$S_{\equiv}^A := (\mathbb{A}gt', Act, \mathcal{I}n)$$

where $\mathbb{A}gt' := \{a'_1, \dots, a'_k\}$ and $a'_i = (St'_i, d'_i, out'_i, in'_i, o'_i, \Pi'_i, \pi'_i)$ with

- $St'_i := \{[q]_{\equiv_i} \mid q \in St_i\}$
- $d'_i([q]_{\equiv_i}) := \begin{cases} \bigcap_{q' \in [q]_{\equiv_i}} d_i(q') & \text{for } a_i \in A \\ \bigcup_{q' \in [q]_{\equiv_i}} d_i(q') & \text{for } a_i \notin A \end{cases}$
- $out'_i([q]_{\equiv_i}, \alpha) := \bigcup_{q' \in [q]_{\equiv_i}} out_i(q', \alpha)$

for all $q \in St_i$, $\alpha \in Act$, $\gamma, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_k \in \mathcal{I}n$ and $p_i \in \Pi'_i$.

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for all $q \in St_i$, $\alpha \in Act$, $\gamma, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_k \in \mathcal{I}n$ and $p_i \in \Pi'_i$.

Definition 13 (Abstraction for MIS)

For a MIS $S = (\mathbb{A}gt, Act, \mathcal{I}n)$, an abstraction relation \equiv for S and a set of **favored** agents $A \subseteq \mathbb{A}gt$ we define the **abstraction** of S with respect to \equiv and A as the MIS

$$S_{\equiv}^A := (\mathbb{A}gt', Act, \mathcal{I}n)$$

where $\mathbb{A}gt' := \{a'_1, \dots, a'_k\}$ and $a'_i = (St'_i, d'_i, out'_i, in'_i, o'_i, \Pi'_i, \pi'_i)$ with

- $in'_i([q]_{\equiv_i}, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{k-1}) := \bigcup_{q' \in [q]_{\equiv_i}} in_i(q', \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{k-1})$
- $o'_i([q]_{\equiv_i}, \alpha, \gamma) := \bigcup_{q' \in [q]_{\equiv_i}} \{[q'']_{\equiv_i} \mid q'' \in o_i(q', \alpha, \gamma)\}$
- $\Pi'_i := \Pi_i \cap \{p_i \mid \forall q \in \pi_i(p_i) : \forall q' \in [q]_{\equiv_i} : q' \in \pi_i(p_i)\}$
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Example for Abstraction

Example 14 (Agents b_j)

- 256 states

$$S_i := \{(R, N) \mid \emptyset \neq R \subseteq \{r_1, \dots, r_i\}, n_i \in N\} \setminus \bigcup_{j=1}^{i-1} S_j$$

for $i = 1, \dots, 3$

$$S_{\text{rest}} := \{(R, N) \mid (R, N) \notin S_1 \cup \dots \cup S_3\}$$

Result: **4 states**

Agent b_1

Example 15 (Communicating Agents I)

$$b'_1 = (St'_{b_1}, d'_{b_1}, out'_{b_1}, in_{b_1}, o'_{b_1}, \Pi_{b_1}, \pi'_{b_1})$$

where

- $St'_{b_1} = \{S_1, S_2, S_3, S_{rest}\}$
- $\pi'_{b_1} : \begin{array}{l} S_i \quad \mapsto \{\text{known}_{b_1}\} \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, 3 \\ S_{rest} \mapsto \{\text{known}_{b_1}, \text{unknown}_{b_1}\} \end{array}$
- $\begin{array}{l} d'_{b_1}(S_i) = \{\text{send}_x \mid x \in \{a_{i+1}, \dots, a_4\}\} \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, 3 \\ d'_{b_1}(S_{rest}) = \{\text{send}_x \mid x \in \{a_1, \dots, a_4\}\} \cup \{\text{noop}\} \end{array}$

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Agent b_1

Example 16 (Communicating Agents II)

- $out'_{b_1} : (S_{rest}, noop) \mapsto \{\mathbf{nothing}\}$
 $(s, send_{a_1}) \mapsto \{\mathbf{m}_{b_1 a_1}\}$
 $(s, send_{a_2}) \mapsto \{\mathbf{m}_{b_1 a_2}\}$
 $(s, send_{a_3}) \mapsto \{\mathbf{m}_{b_1 a_3}\}$
 $(s, send_{a_4}) \mapsto \{\mathbf{m}_{b_1 a_4}\}$

for all $s \in St'_{b_1}$,

- $o'_{b_1} : (S_{rest}, \alpha, \mathbf{nothing}) \mapsto \{S_{rest}\}$
 $(S_{rest}, \alpha, \{\mathbf{m}_{a_j b_1}\}) \mapsto \{S_{rest}, S_j\}$
 $(S_i, send_{a_j}, \mathbf{nothing}) \mapsto \{S_{rest}\}$
 $(S_i, send_{a_j}, \{\mathbf{m}_{a_j b_1}\}) \mapsto \{S_{j'}\}$
 $(S_i, send_{a_j}, \{\mathbf{m}_{a_4 b_1}\}) \mapsto \{S_{rest}\}$

for all $\alpha \in Act$, $\gamma \in In$, $i, j' \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ and $j \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$.

Agent b_1

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 $(S_{rest}, \alpha, \{\mathbf{m}_{a_j b_1}\}) \mapsto \{S_{rest}, S_j\}$
 $(S_i, send_{a_j}, \mathbf{nothing}) \mapsto \{S_{rest}\}$
 $(S_i, send_{a_j}, \{\mathbf{m}_{a_j' b_1}\}) \mapsto \{S_{j'}\}$
 $(S_i, send_{a_j}, \{\mathbf{m}_{a_4 b_1}\}) \mapsto \{S_{rest}\}$

for all $\alpha \in Act$, $\gamma \in In$, $i, j' \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ and $j \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$.



Advantages of Abstraction of Modular Interpreted Systems

Example 17 (Communicating Agents III)

- $256 + 256 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 = 520$ states
- Remove agent b_2 : 264 states
- Abstraction of b_1 : 12 states



The Model Checking Algorithm

Idea

■ Input:

- MIS S
- *init* of global states of S
- ATL formula φ
- for each quantifier subformulae an abstraction relation

■ Output:

- **true** : if $S, q \models \varphi$ for all $q \in \text{init}$
- **unknown** : we do not know whether S satisfies φ or not

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- MIS S
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■ Output:

- **true** : if $S, q \models \varphi$ for all $q \in init$
- **unknown** : we do not know whether S satisfies φ or not

Algorithm: modelcheck

Algorithm *modelcheck*($S, init, \varphi, (\equiv_\psi)_{\psi \in \text{qsf}(\varphi)}$):

Let $\varphi = \lambda(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_n, \ell_1, \dots, \ell_m)$ where

- λ Boolean formula (conjunctions and disjunctions only),
- $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_n$ are arbitrary ATL formulae each beginning with a quantifier, i.e. each θ_i is of the form $\langle\langle B \rangle\rangle \theta'_i$, and
- ℓ_1, \dots, ℓ_m are literals.
- For all $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ do:
 - $\psi_i = \text{qsf}(\theta_i)$
 - $\psi_i \in \text{qsf}(\varphi)$, a new global proposition symbol is introduced in ψ_i and ψ_i is added to the set of ψ 's.
- If $S, s \models \lambda(w_1, \dots, w_n, \ell_1, \dots, \ell_m)$ for all $s \in init$ then return true. Otherwise return unknown.

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■ For all $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ do:

$\psi_i = \text{qsf}(\theta_i)$
 $\varphi_i = \lambda(\theta_i, \ell_1, \dots, \ell_m)$
 $\varphi_i = \text{modelcheck}(S, init, \varphi_i, (\equiv_{\psi_i})_{\psi_i \in \text{qsf}(\varphi_i)})$

■ If $S, s \models \lambda(w_1, \dots, w_n, \ell_1, \dots, \ell_m)$ for all $s \in init$ then return true. Otherwise return unknown.

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- ℓ_1, \dots, ℓ_m are literals.

■ For all $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ do:

$\psi_i = \langle\langle B \rangle\rangle\theta'_i$
 $\psi = \psi_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \psi_n$
 $\psi' = \psi \wedge \varphi$
 $\psi'' = \psi \wedge \psi'$

■ If $S, s \models \lambda(w_1, \dots, w_n, \ell_1, \dots, \ell_m)$ for all $s \in init$ then return true. Otherwise return unknown.

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 - Set $S := S(w_i, W_i)$, a new global proposition w_i is introduced in S and it is labeled exactly in the states in W_i .
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- If $S, s \models \lambda(w_1, \dots, w_n, \ell_1, \dots, \ell_m)$ for all $s \in init$ then return true. Otherwise return unknown.

Algorithm: label

Algorithm *label*(ψ, \equiv):

Let $\psi = \neg^\psi \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \mathbf{Y} \lambda(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_n, \ell_1, \dots, \ell_m)$ where

- \neg^ψ is \neg if ψ begins with a negation and it is the empty string otherwise,
- $\mathbf{Y} \in \{\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{G}, \mathbf{U}\}$,
- λ is a monotone Boolean formula,
- $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_n$ are arbitrary ATL formulae each beginning with a quantifier or a negation directly followed by a quantifier, and
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Algorithm: label II

- Construct the abstraction

$$S' := \begin{cases} S_{\equiv}^{\llbracket \psi \rrbracket} & \text{if } \psi \text{ does not begin with a negation} \\ S_{\equiv}^{\text{Agt} \setminus \llbracket \psi \rrbracket} & \text{if } \psi \text{ does begin with a negation} \end{cases}$$

- For all $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ do:

- Set $W_i := \{[q]_{\equiv} \mid \forall q' \in [q]_{\equiv} : q' \in \text{label}(\theta_i, \equiv_{\theta_i})\}$.
- Set $S'_i := S'(w_i, W_i)$.

- Compute the set W' of global states of S' (note that these are global states of the system abstracted with \equiv) satisfying ψ , i.e. $W' :=$

$$\{[q]_{\equiv} \mid S'_i, [q]_{\equiv} \models \neg^{\psi} \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \mathbf{Y} \lambda(w_1, \dots, w_n, \ell_1, \dots, \ell_m)\},$$

by translating S'_i to a non-deterministic CGS and then using the ATL model checking algorithm.

- Return $W := \{q \in St \mid [q]_{\equiv} \in W'\}$.

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 - Set $S'_i := S'(w_i, W_i)$.
- Compute the set W' of global states of S' (note that these are global states of the system abstracted with \equiv) satisfying ψ , i.e. $W' :=$

$$\{[q]_{\equiv} \mid S'_i, [q]_{\equiv} \models \neg^{\psi} \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \mathbf{Y} \lambda(w_1, \dots, w_n, \ell_1, \dots, \ell_m)\},$$

by translating S'_i to a non-deterministic CGS and then using the ATL model checking algorithm.

- Return $W := \{q \in St \mid [q]_{\equiv} \in W'\}$.

Complexity and Soundness

Theorem 18

Algorithm `modelcheck`($S, init, \varphi, (\equiv_{\psi})_{\psi \in \text{qsf}(\varphi)}$) runs in time

$$O(|init| + |S| \cdot |\varphi|) \cdot 2^{O\left(\sum_{\psi \in \text{qsf}(\varphi)} |S^{\llbracket \psi \rrbracket}| \right)}$$

where $|S|$ denotes the size of the MIS S in a compact representation. The cardinality of the global state space of S may then be upto $2^{\Theta(|S|)}$.

Theorem 19

Algorithm `modelcheck` is sound, i.e. if `modelcheck`($S, init, \varphi, (\equiv_{\psi})_{\psi \in \text{qsf}(\varphi)}$) outputs true then $S, q \models \varphi$ for all $q \in init$.

Conclusion



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 - allows to deal with bigger Systems
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Thank you for your attention!

Questions?



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Questions?

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