Automating Separation Logic using SMT

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Motivation

Separation logic (SL) succinctly express invariants of heap configurations.

Good features:

Spatial conjunction (*),

Inductive spatial predicates (list, tree, etc.),

Frame rule.

Not so good features:

Specialized provers for decidable fragments means that extension and combination with other solvers/theories is not straightforward.

```
procedure concat(a: Node, b: Node) returns (res: Node)
  requires lseg(a, null) * lseg(b, null);
  ensures lseg(res, null);
  if (a == null) {
    return b:
  } else {
    var curr: Node;
    curr := a:
    while (curr.next != null)
      invariant curr != null * lseg(a, curr) * lseg(curr, null);
      curr := curr.next;
    curr.next := b:
    return a:
```

```
Specification
procedure concat(a: Node, b: Node) returns (res: Node)
requires_lseg(a, null) * lseg(b, null);
                                                     - me/nost
  ensures lseg(res, null);
  if (a == null) {
    return b:
  } else {
                                           loop invariant
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    curr := a;
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    return a:
```

```
* and inductive predicates
```

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```
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    return a;
```

Our work

- Reduce a decidable fragment of SL to a decidable FO theory.
- Fits into the SMT framework.
- Satisfiability, entailment, frame inference, and abduction problems for SL using SMT solvers.
- Combining SL with other theories.
- Implemented in the GRASShopper tool.

Outline

- Theoretical results
 - SLL® to GRASS
 - And back
- 2 Implementation

Decidable SL fragment: SLLB

SLL (separation logic formulas for linked lists) introduced in [Berdine ${\rm et\ al.,\ 2004}$].

SLL

$$\Sigma ::= x = y \mid x \neq y \mid x \mapsto y \mid \mathsf{ls}(x,y) \mid \Sigma * \Sigma$$

With extend SLL to SLL by adding boolean connective on top:

$$H ::= \Sigma \mid \neg H \mid H \wedge H$$

Semantics of $SLL\mathbb{B}$ (1)

$$A, X \models_{\mathsf{SL}} H$$

A: heap interpretation (total)

X: subset of A over which the formula is interpreted (footprint)

$$A, X \models_{\mathsf{SL}} x = y$$
 iff $x^{A} = y^{A}$ and $X^{A} = \emptyset$
 $A, X \models_{\mathsf{SL}} x \neq y$ iff $x^{A} \neq y^{A}$ and $X^{A} = \emptyset$
 $A, X \models_{\mathsf{SL}} x \mapsto y$ iff $h^{A}(x^{A}) = y^{A}$ and $X^{A} = \{x^{A}\}$

$$A, X \models_{\mathsf{SL}} H_{1} * H_{2} \text{ iff } \exists U_{1}, U_{2}. U_{1} \cup U_{2} = X^{A} \text{ and } U_{1} \cap U_{2} = \emptyset \text{ and } A[X \mapsto U_{1}], X \models_{\mathsf{SL}} H_{1} \text{ and } A[X \mapsto U_{2}], X \models_{\mathsf{SL}} H_{2}$$

Semantics of $SLL\mathbb{B}$ (2)

$$\begin{array}{lll} \mathcal{A}, X \models_{\mathsf{SL}} \mathsf{ls}(x,y) & \text{iff } \exists n \geq 0. \ \mathcal{A}, X \models_{\mathsf{SL}} \mathsf{ls}^n(x,y) \\ \mathcal{A}, X \models_{\mathsf{SL}} \mathsf{ls}^0(x,y) & \text{iff } x^{\mathcal{A}} = y^{\mathcal{A}} \text{ and } X^{\mathcal{A}} = \emptyset \\ \mathcal{A}, X \models_{\mathsf{SL}} \mathsf{ls}^{n+1}(x,y) & \text{iff } \exists u \in \mathsf{node}^{\mathcal{A}}. \ \mathcal{A}[z \mapsto u], X \models_{\mathsf{SL}} x \mapsto z * \mathsf{ls}^n(z,y) \\ & & \mathsf{and} \ x^{\mathcal{A}} \neq y^{\mathcal{A}} \text{ and } z \neq x \text{ and } z \neq y \\ \\ \mathcal{A}, X \models_{\mathsf{SL}} H_1 \wedge H_2 & \text{iff } \mathcal{A}, X \models_{\mathsf{SL}} H_1 \text{ and } \mathcal{A}, X \models_{\mathsf{SL}} H_2 \\ \mathcal{A}, X \models_{\mathsf{SL}} \neg H & \text{iff not } \mathcal{A}, X \models_{\mathsf{SL}} H \end{array}$$

GRASS: graph reachability and stratified sets

graph reachability

$$T ::= x \mid h(T)$$

$$A ::= T = T \mid T \xrightarrow{h \setminus T} T$$

$$R ::= A \mid \neg R \mid R \wedge R \mid R \vee R$$

stratified sets

$$S ::= X \mid \emptyset \mid S \setminus S \mid S \cap S \mid S \cup S \mid \{x.R\} \mid x \text{ not below } h \text{ in } R$$

$$B ::= S = S \mid T \in S$$

top level boolean combination

$$F ::= A \mid B \mid \neg F \mid F \land F \mid F \lor F$$

GRASS

The theory \mathcal{T}_{GS} is the disjoint combination of:

- \bullet a theory of reachability in function graphs \mathcal{T}_{G}
 - types: {node}
 - function symbols {h}
 - predicate symbols $\{ \xrightarrow{h \setminus} \}$
- a theory of stratified sets \mathcal{T}_S [Zarba, 2004]
 - types: {node, set}
 - function symbols $\{\emptyset, \cap, \cup, \setminus\}$
 - $\bullet \ \ \mathsf{predicate} \ \mathsf{symbols} \ \{\in\}$

\mathcal{T}_{G} : theory of function graphs

What is a function graph?

A graph where each node has one outgoing edge (per function).

Why a graph and not just functions?

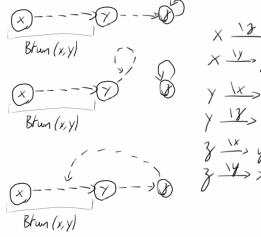
Rather than just the successors we are interested of in paths (transitive closure of the functions).

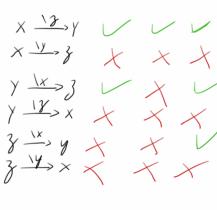
 $t_1 \xrightarrow{h \setminus t_3} t_2$ is true if there exists a path in the graph of h that connects t_1 and t_2 without going through t_3 .

$$ls(x, y)$$
 is a shortcut for $x \xrightarrow{h \setminus y} y$

$$Btwn(x, y)$$
 is a shortcut for $\{z.x \xrightarrow{h \setminus y} z \land z \neq y\}$

\mathcal{T}_{G} : examples





$\mathsf{SLL}\mathbb{B} \quad o \quad \mathsf{GRASS} \ (1)$

Usual way of translating SL to FO:

- structure: uses \mathcal{T}_G to encode the shape of the heap (pointers)
- ullet footprint: uses \mathcal{T}_{S} to encode the part of the heap used by a formula

Negation ⇒ things get more complicated

- structure: uses \mathcal{T}_G and \mathcal{T}_S to encode the shape of the heap (pointers) and disjointness
- set definition: uses T_S for keep track of the sets that will make the footprint

$SLL\mathbb{B} \rightarrow GRASS: * or below$

$$str_{Y}(x = y) = (x = y, Y = \emptyset)$$

$$str_{Y}(x \neq y) = (x \neq y, Y = \emptyset)$$

$$str_{Y}(x \mapsto y) = (h(x) = y, Y = \{x\})$$

$$str_{Y}(\text{ls}(x,y)) = (x \xrightarrow{h} y, Y = Btwn(x,y))$$

$$str_{Y}(\Sigma_{1} * \Sigma_{2}) = \text{let } Y_{1}, Y_{2} \in \mathcal{X} \text{ fresh}$$

$$\text{and } (F_{1}, G_{1}) = tr_{Y_{1}}(\Sigma_{1})$$

$$\text{and } (F_{2}, G_{2}) = tr_{Y_{2}}(\Sigma_{2})$$

$$\text{in } (F_{1} \land F_{2} \land Y_{1} \cap Y_{2} = \emptyset, Y = Y_{1} \cup Y_{2} \land G_{1} \land G_{2})$$

$SLL\mathbb{B} \rightarrow GRASS$: boolean structure

$$tr_X(\Sigma) = \text{let } Y \in \mathcal{X} \text{ fresh and } (F,G) = str_Y(\Sigma)$$
 $\text{in } (F \wedge X = Y, G)$
 $tr_X(\neg H) = \text{let } (F,G) = tr_X(H) \text{ in } (\neg F, G)$
 $tr_X(H_1 \wedge H_2) = \text{let } (F_1,G_1) = tr_X(H_1) \text{ and } (F_2,G_2) = tr_X(H_2)$
 $\text{in } (F_1 \wedge F_2, G_1 \wedge G_2)$
 $Tr_X(H) = \text{let } (F,G) = tr_X(H) \text{ in } F \wedge G$

a non-empty acyclic list segment from x to z

$$x \neq z * x \mapsto y * \mathsf{ls}(y, z)$$

$$x \neq z \land h(x) = y \land y \xrightarrow{h} z \land Y_2 \cap Y_3 = \emptyset \land Y_4 \cap Y_5 = \emptyset \land X = Y_1 \land Y_1 = Y_2 \cup Y_3 \land Y_2 = \emptyset \land Y_3 = Y_4 \cup Y_5 \land Y_4 = \{x\} \land Y_5 = Btwn(y, z)$$

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a non-empty acyclic list segment from x to z

$$\neg(x \neq z * x \mapsto y * \mathsf{ls}(y, z))$$

ignoring the negation (same as before):

structure

$$x \neq z \land h(x) = y \land y \xrightarrow{h} z \land Y_2 \cap Y_3 = \emptyset \land Y_4 \cap Y_5 = \emptyset \land X = Y_1$$

set definitions

$$Y_1 \! = \! Y_2 \! \cup \! Y_3 \wedge Y_2 \! = \! \emptyset \wedge Y_3 \! = \! Y_4 \! \cup \! Y_5 \wedge Y_4 \! = \! \{x\} \wedge Y_5 \! = \! \textit{Btwn}(y,z)$$

a non-empty acyclic list segment from x to z

$$\neg(x \neq z * x \mapsto y * \mathsf{ls}(y, z))$$

with negation (only the structure part is changed)

structure

$$x = z \lor h(x) \neq y \lor \neg y \xrightarrow{h} z \lor Y_2 \cap Y_3 \neq \emptyset \lor Y_4 \cap Y_5 \neq \emptyset \lor X \neq Y_1$$

set definitions

$$Y_1 = Y_2 \cup Y_3 \land Y_2 = \emptyset \land Y_3 = Y_4 \cup Y_5 \land Y_4 = \{x\} \land Y_5 = Btwn(y, z)$$

Translation: $Tr_X(H) = \text{let } (F,G) = tr_X(H) \text{ in } F \wedge G$ the auxiliary variables Y_i (in G) are existentially quantified below negation, the existential quantifiers should become universal

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 $\forall Y_1, \dots, Y_n, G \Rightarrow F$ are equivalent.

Decision procedure for GRASS: T_S

1 Transform F in nnf and eliminate all $S_1 \neq S_2$:

$$S_1 \neq S_2 \ \leadsto \ x \in S_1 \setminus S_2 \cup S_2 \setminus S_1 \qquad \text{where } x \in \mathcal{X} \text{ fresh}$$

Eliminate all set comprehensions by applying:

$$C[\{x.R\}] \rightsquigarrow C[X] \land (\forall x.x \in X \Leftrightarrow R)$$
 where $X \in \mathcal{X}$ fresh

3 Instantiate all universal quantifiers as follows. Let t_1, \ldots, t_n be the terms of sort node that do not contain quantified variables. Then apply:

$$(\forall x. \, x \in X \Leftrightarrow R) \rightsquigarrow (t_1 \in X \Leftrightarrow R[t_1/x]) \land \ldots \land (t_n \in X \Leftrightarrow R[t_n/x])$$

This result is a quantifier-free Σ_{GS} -formula.

Decision procedure for GRASS: set reduction example (1)

Consider the GRASS formula (unsat):

$$F \equiv \{x. \, x \xrightarrow{h} y\} = \mathcal{U} \land y \xrightarrow{h} z \land \neg (w \xrightarrow{h} z)$$

After rewriting set operation:

$$F_2 \equiv S = U \land y \xrightarrow{h} z \land \neg (w \xrightarrow{h} z) \land (\forall x. \, x \in S \Leftrightarrow x \xrightarrow{h} y) \land (\forall x. \, x \in U \Leftrightarrow x = x)$$

After instantiating the quantifiers:

$$G \equiv S = U \land y \xrightarrow{h} z \land \neg(w \xrightarrow{h} z) \land$$

$$(y \in S \Leftrightarrow y \xrightarrow{h} y) \land (z \in S \Leftrightarrow z \xrightarrow{h} y) \land (w \in S \Leftrightarrow w \xrightarrow{h} y) \land$$

$$(y \in U \Leftrightarrow y = y) \land (z \in U \Leftrightarrow z = z) \land (w \in U \Leftrightarrow w = w)$$

Decision procedure for GRASS: set reduction example (2)

After instantiating the quantifiers:

$$G \equiv S = U \land y \xrightarrow{h} z \land \neg (w \xrightarrow{h} z) \land$$

$$(y \in S \Leftrightarrow y \xrightarrow{h} y) \land (z \in S \Leftrightarrow z \xrightarrow{h} y) \land (w \in S \Leftrightarrow w \xrightarrow{h} y) \land$$

$$(y \in U \Leftrightarrow y = y) \land (z \in U \Leftrightarrow z = z) \land (w \in U \Leftrightarrow w = w)$$

To see that this formula is unsatisfiable in \mathcal{T}_{GS} , we simplify G to the equivalent formula:

$$G' \equiv S = U \land y \xrightarrow{h} z \land \neg (w \xrightarrow{h} z) \land y \in U \land z \in U \land w \in U \land (y \in S \Leftrightarrow y \xrightarrow{h} y) \land (z \in S \Leftrightarrow z \xrightarrow{h} y) \land (w \in S \Leftrightarrow w \xrightarrow{h} y)$$

Decision procedure for GRASS: \mathcal{T}_G

By [Totla and Wies, 2013] we know \mathcal{T}_G is a local theory extensions [Sofronie-Stokkermans, 2005]. We just need to instantiate a set of axioms on the ground terms in the formula.

Reflexive
$$x \xrightarrow{h \setminus u} x$$

$$\text{Step } x \xrightarrow{h \setminus u} h(x) \lor x = u$$

$$\text{SelfLoop } h(x) = x \land x \xrightarrow{h} y \Rightarrow x = y$$

$$\text{Sandwich } x \xrightarrow{h \setminus x} y \Rightarrow x = y$$

$$\text{Reach } x \xrightarrow{h \setminus u} y \Rightarrow x \xrightarrow{h} y$$

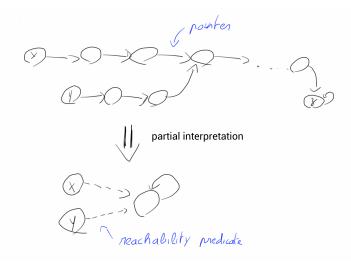
$$\text{Linear1 } x \xrightarrow{h} y \Rightarrow x \xrightarrow{h \setminus y} u \lor x \xrightarrow{h \setminus u} y$$

$$\text{Linear2 } x \xrightarrow{h \setminus u} y \land x \xrightarrow{h \setminus v} z \Rightarrow x \xrightarrow{h \setminus u} z \land z \xrightarrow{h \setminus u} y \lor x \xrightarrow{h \setminus v} y \land y \xrightarrow{h \setminus v} z$$

$$\text{Transitive1 } x \xrightarrow{h \setminus u} y \land y \xrightarrow{h \setminus z} u \land y \xrightarrow{h} z \Rightarrow x \xrightarrow{h \setminus u} y$$

$$\text{Transitive2 } x \xrightarrow{h \setminus z} y \land y \xrightarrow{h \setminus z} u \land y \xrightarrow{h} z \Rightarrow x \xrightarrow{h \setminus u} y$$

Decision procedure for GRASS: \mathcal{T}_{G}



Where are we now?

With the SLLB to GRASS translation we can

- Check for satisfiability
- Check entailment (reduces to satisfiability of $H_1 \wedge \neg H_2$)

For the (anti-)frame inference: finding F in $A \models_{\mathsf{SL}} B * F$ (frame) or $A * F \models_{\mathsf{SL}} B$ (antiframe) we need the inverse translation

$\mathsf{GRASS} \to \mathsf{SLL}\mathbb{B}$

Requirements:

- a GRASS formula F obtained from a SLL® formula (for the sake of simplicity)
- a model generating SMT solver (e.g. Z3),

Steps:

- get for all the partial interpretations that satisfy F
- for all a partial interpretation:
 - construct succ : node → node
 - extract the pure part from the interpretation
 - lift the interpretation to SL using *h* and *succ*.

where *succ* is the closest successor node in the partial interpretation

$\mathsf{GRASS} \to \mathsf{SLL}\mathbb{B}$: example

```
assume(ls(x, z)); if (x \neq z) free_head(x); //frame with precondition x \mapsto y ...

GRASS: x \neq z \land x \xrightarrow{h} z \land h(x) = y \land X = Btwn(x, z) \land Y = \{x\} \land Z = X \setminus Y
```

$\mathsf{GRASS} \to \mathsf{SLL}\mathbb{B}$: example

```
assume(ls(x, z)); if (x \neq z) free_head(x); //frame with precondition x \mapsto y ...

GRASS: x \neq z \land x \xrightarrow{h} z \land h(x) = y \land X = Btwn(x, z) \land Y = \{x\} \land Z = X \setminus Y

Partial interpretations: \mathcal{B}_1 : (x) \longrightarrow (y, z), Z = \emptyset
```

$\mathsf{GRASS} \to \mathsf{SLL}\mathbb{B}$: example

```
assume(ls(x, z));
if (x \neq z)
        free_head(x); //frame with precondition x \mapsto y
GRASS:
x \neq z \land x \xrightarrow{h} z \land h(x) = y \land X = Btwn(x, z) \land Y = \{x\} \land Z = X \setminus Y
                                                              \rightarrow (y,z), Z=\emptyset
Partial interpretations:
                                                              \rightarrow (y) - - \rightarrow (z), Z = \{y\}
tr_z^{-1}(\mathcal{B}_1) = x \neq z * x \neq y * y = z
tr_{\overline{z}}^{-1}(\mathcal{B}_2) = x \neq z * x \neq y * y \neq z * \mathsf{ls}(y, z)
Tr_{z}^{-1}(F) = tr_{z}^{-1}(\mathcal{B}_{1}) \vee tr_{z}^{-1}(\mathcal{B}_{2}) \equiv x \neq z * x \neq y * ls(y, z).
```

Combination with other theories and extensions

- The theories T_G and T_S are stably infinite with respect to sort node. (Nelson-Oppen)
- More pointers: we can extend the signature with field and uses

 with different fields. We can the also do read and write on the fields (array theory).
- Data: we can add data and constraints if it is local. $str_Y(sls(x,y)) = (x \xrightarrow{h} y \land \forall z, w \in Y. z \xrightarrow{h} w \Rightarrow d(z) \leq d(w), Y = Btwn(x,y))$
- More complex data structures, e.g. doubly linked lists $str_Y(dlls(x, a, y, b)) = (x \xrightarrow{n} y \land (x = y \land a = b \lor p(x) = a \land n(b) = y \land b \in Y) \land \forall z \in Y. n(z) \in Y \Rightarrow p(n(z)) = z, Y = Btwn(x, y))$

We are also considering implementing a decision procedure for trees.

Outline

- Theoretical results
- 2 Implementation
 - GRASShopper
 - Implicit frame inference
 - Experimental results

Reduction steps

We have implemented the translation is GRASSHOPPER.

Takes as input a program with SLLB specification and reduces it to a program with FO specification (Boogie-like)

The reduction is as follows:

- if as choose + assume
- 2 replace loops by tail-recursive method
- \odot SLL $\mathbb{B} \to \mathsf{GRASS}$, adding the heap (frame, memory accesses)
- SSA, add assert/assume at call site

Let's look at a concrete example: merge sort.

Frame inference

Reconstructing the frame from the partial interpretations does not work (exponential in the works case).

```
Can we avoid the explicit computation of the frame? (e.g. have an axiomatic definition of the frame rule) In previous example we had:
```

```
assume Frame(Alloc_1, Alloc_2, next, next_1);
```

assume Frame(Alloc_1, Alloc_2, next, next_1);

Meaning: a path which doesn't go through the frame is unchanged.

For this we need the entry point of x in the set X by following h, denoted by $ep_{X,h}(x)$

$$Frame(X, A, h, h') =$$

$$\forall x. \, x \in A \setminus X \Rightarrow \operatorname{sel}(h', x) = \operatorname{sel}(h, x) \land \\ \forall x \, y \, z. \, x \xrightarrow{h \setminus ep_{X,h}(x)} y \Rightarrow \left(x \xrightarrow{h \setminus z} y \Leftrightarrow x \xrightarrow{h' \setminus z} y\right) \land \\ \forall x \, y \, z. \, x \in A \setminus X \land ep_{X,h}(x) = x \Rightarrow \left(x \xrightarrow{h \setminus z} y \Leftrightarrow x \xrightarrow{h' \setminus z} y\right)$$

$ep_{X,h}(x)$

Axioms defining the entry point function:

$$\forall x. x \xrightarrow{h} ep_{X,h}(x)$$

$$\forall x. ep_{X,h}(x) \in X \lor ep_{X,h}(x) = x$$

$$\forall x y. x \xrightarrow{h} y \land y \in X \Rightarrow ep_{X,h}(x) \in X \land x \xrightarrow{h \backslash y} ep_{X,h}(x)$$

epX,h is local (idempotent), we can use the same approach as \mathcal{T}_G .

$$\frac{\operatorname{er}(x)}{(x)} = \frac{1}{x}$$

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$$\frac{\operatorname{er}(x)}{(x)} = \frac{1}{x}$$

experiments

program	sl		dl		rec sl		sls		program	sl		dl		rec sl		sls	
	#	t	#	t	#	t	#	t	1	#	t	#	t	#	t	#	t
concat	4	0.1	5	1.3	6	0.6	5	0.2	insert	6	0.2	5	1.5	5	0.2	6	0.4
сору	4	0.2	4	3.9	6	0.8	7	3.5	reverse	4	0.1	4	0.5	6	0.2	4	0.2
filter	7	0.6	5	1.1	8	0.4	5	1.1	remove	8	0.2	8	0.8	7	0.2	7	0.5
free	5	0.1	5	0.3	4	0.1	5	0.1	traverse	4	0.1	5	0.3	3	0.1	4	0.2
insertion sort						10	0.7	double all							7	2.2	
merge sort						25	24	pairwise sum							10	20	

- sl singly-linked list (loop or recursion)
- dl doubly-linked list
- sls sorted lists
- # number of VCs
 - t total time in second

Related work

- Most prominent decidable fragments of SL: linked lists [Berdine et al., 2004], decidable in polynomial time [Cook et al., 2011] (graph-based).
- SL → FO: [Calcagno and Hague, 2005] (no inductive predicate) and [Bobot and Filliâtre, 2012] (not a decidable fragment).
- Alternatives to SL: (implicit) dynamic frames [Kassios, 2011] and region logic [Banerjee et al., 2008, Rosenberg et al., 2012].
- The connection between SL and implicit dynamic frames has been studied in [Parkinson and Summers, 2012].
- SMT-based decision procedures for theories of reachability in graphs [Lahiri and Qadeer, 2008, Wies et al., 2011, Totla and Wies, 2013], decision procedures for theories of stratified sets [Zarba, 2004].

Work in progress, future work

- dealing with the frame (still work in progress)
- more example using other theories (arrays, integers, ...)
- inferring GRASS predicate definition from SLLB definition
- decision procedure for trees
- abstraction/modularity (generic list)
- etc.

heoretical results Implementation Conclusion

Questions?

Theoretical results Implementation Conclusion



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