Lecture 15 – Continuations (2)

COSE212: Programming Languages

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2024 Fall





- We will learn about continuations with the following topics:
 - Continuations (Lecture 14 & 15)
 - First-Class Continuations (Lecture 16)
 - Compiling with continuations (Lecture 17)
- A **continuation** represents the **rest of the computation**.
 - Continuation Passing Style (CPS)
 - Interpreter of FAE in CPS

Recall



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 - First-Class Continuations (Lecture 16)
 - Compiling with continuations (Lecture 17)
- A continuation represents the rest of the computation.
 - Continuation Passing Style (CPS)
 - Interpreter of FAE in CPS
- So far, we have defined bit-step operational (natural) semantics for our languages.

Recall



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- A continuation represents the rest of the computation.
 - Continuation Passing Style (CPS)
 - Interpreter of FAE in CPS
- So far, we have defined bit-step operational (natural) semantics for our languages.
- In this lecture, we define small-step operational (reduction) semantics of FAE using continuations before moving on to first-class continuations.

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Recall: Big-Step vs. Small-Step Semantics

2. Reduction Semantics of FAE

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Semantic Equivalence

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3. First-Order Representations of Continuations

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3. First-Order Representations of Continuations





In the previous lecture, we represented the **continuation** of each expression in the interpreter of FAE as a **function** and implemented the interpreter in **continuation passing style** (CPS):

```
enum Value:
    case NumV(number: BigInt)
    case CloV(param: String, body: Expr, env: Env)

type Env = Map[String, Value]

type Cont = Value => Value

def interpCPS(expr: Expr, env: Env, k: Cont): Value = ...
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In the previous lecture, we represented the **continuation** of each expression in the interpreter of FAE as a **function** and implemented the interpreter in **continuation passing style** (CPS):

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enum Value:
    case NumV(number: BigInt)
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type Env = Map[String, Value]

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def interpCPS(expr: Expr, env: Env, k: Cont): Value = ...
```

Then, how can we define the **continuations** for the semantics of FAE?

Recall: Big-Step vs. Small-Step Semantics



The derivation of **big-step operational (natural) semantics** has a **tree** structure, where each derivation describes the **whole evaluation** of an expression:

$$\underset{\text{MUL}}{\text{Num}} \frac{\underset{\varnothing \vdash 5 \Rightarrow 5}{\text{Num}} \frac{}{ \frac{}{\varnothing \vdash 1 \Rightarrow 1} \frac{}{} \underset{\varnothing \vdash 2 \Rightarrow 2}{\text{Num}} \frac{}{ \frac{}{\varnothing \vdash 2 \Rightarrow 2}}{}{\underset{\varnothing \vdash 5 * (1 + 2) \Rightarrow 15}{}}$$

but the derivation of **small-step operational (reduction) semantics** is **linear** and describes **each reduction step** of an expression:

$$5*(1+2) \rightarrow 5*3 \rightarrow 15$$

Recall: Big-Step vs. Small-Step Semantics



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It is possible but non-trivial to represent **continuations** in the **big-step operational (natural) semantics**.

Recall: Big-Step vs. Small-Step Semantics



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It is possible but non-trivial to represent **continuations** in the **big-step operational (natural) semantics**.

Let's define the **small-step operational (reduction) semantics** of FAE to represent **continuations**.

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3. First-Order Representations of Continuations

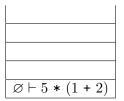


Let's describe what happens each step of the evaluation of the expression 5*(1+2) using continuation and a value stack:



$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Num} \\ \text{Mul} \\ \hline \\ \text{Mul} \\ \hline \\ & & & \\ \hline \\ \varnothing \vdash 5 \Rightarrow 5 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{Num} \\ \hline \\ \varnothing \vdash 1 \Rightarrow 1 \\ \hline \\ \varnothing \vdash 1 + 2 \Rightarrow 3 \\ \hline \\ \varnothing \vdash 5 * (1 + 2) \Rightarrow 15 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Let's describe what happens **each step** of the evaluation of the expression 5*(1+2) using **continuation** and a **value stack**:



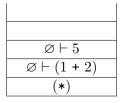
Continuation





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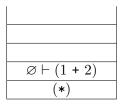
Continuation





$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Num} \\ \text{Mul} \\ \hline \\ \text{Mul} \\ \hline \\ & & & \\ \hline & & \\ \hline & & \\ & & \\ \hline & & \\ & & \\ \hline & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ \hline & & \\ & & \\ \hline & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ \hline & & \\ \hline & & \\ & & \\ \hline & &$$

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Continuation





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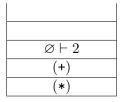
$\varnothing \vdash 1$
$\varnothing \vdash 2$
(+)
(*)

Continuation

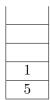




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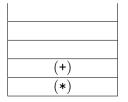


Continuation

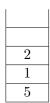




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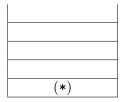
Continuation





$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Num} \\ \text{Mul} \\ \hline \\ \text{Mul} \\ \hline \\ & & & \\ \hline & & \\ \hline & & \\ & & \\ \hline & & \\ & & \\ \hline & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ \hline & & \\ & & \\ \hline & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ \hline & & \\ \hline & & \\ & & \\ \hline & &$$

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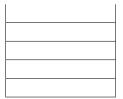
Continuation





$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Num} \\ \text{Mul} \\ \hline \\ \text{Mul} \\ \hline \\ & & & \\ \hline & & \\ \hline & & \\ & & \\ \hline & & \\ & & \\ \hline & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ \hline & & \\ & & \\ \hline & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ \hline & & \\ \hline & & \\ & & \\ \hline & &$$

Let's describe what happens **each step** of the evaluation of the expression 5*(1+2) using **continuation** and a **value stack**:



Continuation





• Big-step operational (natural) semantics:

$$\sigma \vdash e \Rightarrow v$$

• Small-step operational (reduction) semantics:

$$\boxed{\langle\kappa\mid\mid s\rangle\rightarrow\langle\kappa\mid\mid s\rangle}$$

where $\rightarrow \in (\mathbb{K} \times \mathbb{S}) \times (\mathbb{K} \times \mathbb{S})$ is a **reduction relation** between **states**.

$$\begin{tabular}{ll} {\sf Continuations} & \mathbb{K}\ni\kappa::=\square\\ & \mid (\sigma\vdash e)::\kappa\\ & \mid (+)::\kappa\\ & \mid (*)::\kappa\\ & \mid (@)::\kappa \end{tabular}$$

Value Stacks $\mathbb{S} \ni s ::= \blacksquare \mid v :: s$

Numbers



```
def interpCPS(expr: Expr, env: Env, k: Cont): Value = expr match
    ...
    case Num(n) => k(NumV(n))
```

$$\boxed{\langle \kappa \mid\mid s \rangle \to \langle \kappa \mid\mid s \rangle}$$

 $\text{Num} \quad \langle (\sigma \vdash n) :: \kappa \mid\mid s \rangle \quad \rightarrow \quad \langle \kappa \mid\mid n :: s \rangle$

Addition



$$\langle \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle \to \langle \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle$$

$$\begin{array}{lll} \operatorname{Add}_1 & \langle (\sigma \vdash e_1 + e_2) :: \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle & \rightarrow & \langle (\sigma \vdash e_1) :: (\sigma \vdash e_2) :: (+) :: \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle \\ \\ \operatorname{Add}_2 & \langle (+) :: \kappa \mid \mid n_2 :: n_1 :: s \rangle & \rightarrow & \langle \kappa \mid \mid (n_1 + n_2) :: s \rangle \end{array}$$

Multiplication



$$\langle \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle \to \langle \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle$$

$$\begin{array}{llll} \mathtt{Mul}_1 & \langle (\sigma \vdash e_1 \times e_2) :: \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle & \rightarrow & \langle (\sigma \vdash e_1) :: (\sigma \vdash e_2) :: (*) :: \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle \\ \\ \mathtt{Mul}_2 & \langle (*) :: \kappa \mid \mid n_2 :: n_1 :: s \rangle & \rightarrow & \langle \kappa \mid \mid (n_1 \times n_2) :: s \rangle \end{array}$$

Identifier Lookup



```
def interpCPS(expr: Expr, env: Env, k: Cont): Value = expr match
    ...
    case Id(x) => k(lookupId(x, env))
```

$$\boxed{\langle \kappa \mid\mid s \rangle \to \langle \kappa \mid\mid s \rangle}$$

$$\text{Id} \ \langle (\sigma \vdash x) :: \kappa \mid\mid s \rangle \ \rightarrow \ \langle \kappa \mid\mid \sigma(x) :: s \rangle$$

Function Definition



```
def interpCPS(expr: Expr, env: Env, k: Cont): Value = expr match
    ...
    case Fun(p, b) => k(CloV(p, b, env))
```

$$\langle \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle \to \langle \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle$$

$$\mathtt{Fun} \quad \langle (\sigma \vdash \lambda x.e) :: \kappa \mid\mid s \rangle \quad \rightarrow \quad \langle \kappa \mid\mid \langle \lambda x.e, \sigma \rangle :: s \rangle$$

Function Application



```
def interpCPS(expr: Expr, env: Env, k: Cont): Value = expr match
    ...
    case App(f, e) => interpCPS(f, env, v => v match
        case CloV(p, b, fenv) =>
        interpCPS(e, env, v => {
            interpCPS(b, fenv + (p -> v), k)
            })
        case v => error(s"not a function: ${v.str}")
        )
```

$$\langle \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle \to \langle \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle$$

$$\operatorname{App}_1\langle (\sigma \vdash e_1(e_2)) :: \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle \to \langle (\sigma \vdash e_1) :: (\sigma \vdash e_2) :: (\mathbf{0}) :: \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle$$

$$\operatorname{App}_2\langle(\mathtt{0}) :: \kappa \mid\mid v_2 :: \langle \lambda x.e, \sigma \rangle :: s \rangle \to \langle(\sigma[x \mapsto v_2] \vdash e) :: \kappa \mid\mid s \rangle$$

Semantic Equivalence



• The reflexive transitive closure (\rightarrow^*) of (\rightarrow) :

$$\frac{\langle \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle \to^* \langle \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle}{\langle \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle \to^* \langle \kappa' \mid \mid s' \rangle \qquad \langle \kappa' \mid \mid s' \rangle \to \langle \kappa'' \mid \mid s'' \rangle}{\langle \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle \to^* \langle \kappa'' \mid \mid s'' \rangle}$$

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The semantic equivalence between natural and reduction semantics:

$$\varnothing \vdash e \Rightarrow v \iff \langle (\varnothing \vdash e) :: \Box \mid | \blacksquare \rangle \rightarrow^* \langle \Box \mid | v :: \blacksquare \rangle$$

More generally, the following are equivalent:

$$\sigma \vdash e \Rightarrow v \qquad \iff \qquad \langle (\sigma \vdash e) :: \kappa \mid\mid s \rangle \to^* \langle \kappa \mid\mid v :: s \rangle$$

for all $\sigma \in \mathbb{X} \xrightarrow{\text{fin}} \mathbb{V}$, $e \in \mathbb{E}$, $v \in \mathbb{V}$, $\kappa \in \mathbb{K}$, and $s \in \mathbb{S}$.





$$\langle (\varnothing \vdash (\lambda x.(1 + \mathbf{x}))(2)) :: \Box$$





$$\begin{array}{c} \left\langle \left(\varnothing \vdash (\lambda x.(1+\mathtt{x}))(2) \right) :: \square & || \blacksquare \\ \to & \left\langle \left(\varnothing \vdash \lambda x.(1+\mathtt{x}) \right) :: (\varnothing \vdash 2) :: (@) :: \square & || \blacksquare \\ \end{array} \right. \end{array}$$



$$\begin{array}{c} (\mathsf{App}_1) \; \langle \; (\varnothing \vdash (\lambda x.(1+\mathtt{x}))(2)) :: \square \qquad \qquad || \; \blacksquare \qquad \qquad \rangle \\ \to \; \langle \; (\varnothing \vdash \lambda x.(1+\mathtt{x})) :: (\varnothing \vdash 2) :: (@) :: \square \qquad || \; \blacksquare \qquad \qquad \rangle \\ (\mathsf{Fun}) \; \to \; \langle \; (\varnothing \vdash 2) :: (@) :: \square \qquad \qquad || \; \langle \lambda x.(1+\mathtt{x}), \varnothing \rangle :: \blacksquare \qquad \rangle \\ \end{array}$$



$$\begin{array}{c} (\mathsf{App}_1) \\ \to \\ (\mathsf{Fun}) \\ \to \\ (\mathsf{Num}) \\ \to \end{array} \left\langle \begin{array}{cccc} (\varnothing \vdash (\lambda x.(1+\mathtt{x}))(2)) :: \Box & & || \blacksquare & \rangle \\ (\varnothing \vdash \lambda x.(1+\mathtt{x})) :: (\varnothing \vdash 2) :: (@) :: \Box & & || \blacksquare \\ & & & \rangle \\ (\mathsf{Num}) \\ \to & & & & & || \langle \lambda x.(1+\mathtt{x}), \varnothing \rangle :: \blacksquare \\ & & & & & \rangle \\ \end{array} \right.$$



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$$\begin{array}{c} (\operatorname{App}_1) \\ (\operatorname{App}_1) \\ \to \\ (\operatorname{Fun}) \\ \to \\ (\operatorname{Num}) \\ \to \\ (\operatorname{App}_2) \\ (\operatorname{App}_2) \\ (\operatorname{Add}_1) \\ \to \\ ((\operatorname{Im}) \\ \to \\ (\operatorname{App}_2) \\ (\operatorname{Add}_1) \\ \to \\ ((\operatorname{Im}) \\ (\operatorname{App}_2) \\ (\operatorname{Im}) \\ (\operatorname{Im}$$



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$$\begin{array}{c} (\mathsf{App}_1) \\ (\mathsf{App}_1) \\ (\mathsf{Fun}) \\ \to \\ (\mathsf{Num}) \\ \to \\ (\mathsf{App}_2) \\ \to \\ (\mathsf{Add1}) \\ \to \\ (\mathsf{Num}) \\ \to \\ (\mathsf{Num}) \\ \to \\ (\mathsf{Idd}) \\ \to \\ (\mathsf{Ifd}) \\ \to \\ (\mathsf{Ifd}) \\ \to \\ (\mathsf{Ifd}) \\ \to \\ (\mathsf{Inm}) \\ (\mathsf{Inm}) \\ \to \\ (\mathsf{Inm}) \\ (\mathsf{Inm}) \\ \to \\ (\mathsf{Inm}) \\ (\mathsf{Inm}) \\ (\mathsf{Inm}) \\ \to \\ (\mathsf{Inm}) \\ (\mathsf{Inm}) \\ (\mathsf{Inm}) \\ \to \\ (\mathsf{Inm}) \\ (\mathsf{Inm}) \\ (\mathsf{Inm}) \\ (\mathsf{Inm}) \\ \to \\ (\mathsf{Inm}) \\ (\mathsf{Inm}) \\ (\mathsf{Inm}) \\ (\mathsf{Inm}) \\ \to \\ (\mathsf{Inm}) \\ (\mathsf{Inm})$$



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Let's interpret the expression $(\lambda x.(1 + x))(2)$:

$$\begin{array}{c} (\operatorname{App}_1) & \langle \ (\varnothing \vdash (\lambda x.(1+\mathtt{x}))(2)) :: \square & || \ \blacksquare & \rangle \\ (\operatorname{Fun}) & \langle \ (\varnothing \vdash \lambda x.(1+\mathtt{x})) :: (\varnothing \vdash 2) :: (\textcircled{0}) :: \square & || \ \blacksquare & \rangle \\ (\operatorname{Num}) & \rightarrow & \langle \ (\varnothing \vdash 2) :: (\textcircled{0}) :: \square & || \ \langle \lambda x.(1+\mathtt{x}), \varnothing \rangle :: \blacksquare & \rangle \\ (\operatorname{App}_2) & \rightarrow & \langle \ ([x \mapsto 2] \vdash (1+\mathtt{x})) :: \square & || \ \blacksquare & \rangle \\ (\operatorname{Add}_1) & \rightarrow & \langle \ ([x \mapsto 2] \vdash 1) :: ([x \mapsto 2] \vdash x) :: (+) :: \square & || \ \blacksquare & \rangle \\ (\operatorname{Num}) & \rightarrow & \langle \ ([x \mapsto 2] \vdash x) :: (+) :: \square & || \ 1 :: \blacksquare & \rangle \\ (\operatorname{Idd}_2) & \rightarrow & \langle \ (\vdash) :: \square & || \ 2 :: 1 :: \blacksquare & \rangle \\ (\operatorname{Add}_2) & \rightarrow & \langle \ (\square & \square & \square & \square & \square & \rangle \\ \end{array}$$

Thus, $\langle (\varnothing \vdash (\lambda x.(1 + \mathbf{x}))(2)) :: \Box \mid | \blacksquare \rangle \rightarrow^* \langle \Box \mid | 3 :: \blacksquare \rangle$.



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$$\begin{array}{c} (\operatorname{App}_1) \\ (\operatorname{App}_1) \\ (\operatorname{CP}(x)) \\ (\operatorname{CP}(x))$$

Thus,
$$\langle (\varnothing \vdash (\lambda x.(1 + \mathbf{x}))(2)) :: \Box \mid | \blacksquare \rangle \rightarrow^* \langle \Box \mid | \ 3 :: \blacksquare \rangle$$
.

It means that the evaluation result of $(\lambda x.(1 + x))(2)$ is 3.

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3. First-Order Representations of Continuations





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enum Value:
    case NumV(number: BigInt)
    case CloV(param: String, body: Expr, env: Env)
type Env = Map[String, Value]
type Cont = Value => Value

def interpCPS(expr: Expr, env: Env, k: Cont): Value = ...
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Let's define the continuations as **data structures** (e.g., algebraic data types) in such languages.





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How can we define continuations if we want to implement the interpreter for FAE in CPS using a **non-functional** language (e.g., C)?

Let's define the continuations as **data structures** (e.g., algebraic data types) in such languages.

We call them the **first-order representations of continuations**.





```
enum Cont:
   case EmptyK
   case EvalK(env: Env, expr: Expr, k: Cont)
   case AddK(k: Cont)
   case MulK(k: Cont)
   case AppK(k: Cont)

type Stack = List[Value]
```

First-Order Representations of Continuations



We define a reduce function that takes a state $\langle \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle$ and **reduces** it to another state $\langle \kappa' \mid \mid s' \rangle$ using the reduction relation \rightarrow we defined before:

$$\langle \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle \to \langle \kappa' \mid \mid s' \rangle$$

def reduce(k: Cont, s: Stack): (Cont, Stack) = ???





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$$\langle \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle \to \langle \kappa' \mid \mid s' \rangle$$

```
def reduce(k: Cont, s: Stack): (Cont, Stack) = ???
```

And the evalK function **iteratively reduces** the state until it reaches the empty continuation \square and returns the single value in the value stack:

```
def evalK(str: String): String =
  import Cont.*
  def aux(k: Cont, s: Stack): Value = reduce(k, s) match
    case (EmptyK, List(v)) => v
    case (k, s) => aux(k, s)
  aux(EvalK(Map.empty, Expr(str), EmptyK), List.empty).str
```

$$\langle (\varnothing \vdash e) :: \Box \mid \mid \blacksquare \rangle \rightarrow^* \langle \Box \mid \mid v :: \blacksquare \rangle$$

First-Order Representations of Continuations



```
def reduce(k: Cont, s: Stack): (Cont, Stack) = (k, s) match
   case (EvalK(env, expr, k), s) => expr match
   ...
   case Add(1, r) => (EvalK(env, 1, EvalK(env, r, AddK(k))), s)
   ...
   case (AddK(k), r :: 1 :: s) => (k, numAdd(1, r) :: s)
   ...
```

$$\langle \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle \to \langle \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle$$

$$\begin{array}{lll} \operatorname{Add}_1 & \langle (\sigma \vdash e_1 + e_2) :: \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle & \rightarrow & \langle (\sigma \vdash e_1) :: (\sigma \vdash e_2) :: (+) :: \kappa \mid \mid s \rangle \\ \\ \operatorname{Add}_2 & \langle (+) :: \kappa \mid \mid n_2 :: n_1 :: s \rangle & \rightarrow & \langle \kappa \mid \mid (n_1 + n_2) :: s \rangle \end{array}$$

Similarly, we can define the reduce function for the other cases.

Summary



1. Recall

Recall: Interpreter of FAE in CPS

Recall: Big-Step vs. Small-Step Semantics

2. Reduction Semantics of FAE

Number

Addition

Multiplication

Identifier Lookup

Function Definition

Function Application

Semantic Equivalence

Example

3. First-Order Representations of Continuations

Exercise #9



https://github.com/ku-plrg-classroom/docs/tree/main/cose212/fae-cps

- Please see above document on GitHub:
 - Implement interpCPS function.
 - Implement reduce function.
- It is just an exercise, and you don't need to submit anything.
- However, some exam questions might be related to this exercise.

Next Lecture



First-Class Continuations

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