

SDS 383D: Exercises 1

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Problem 1

Bayesian inference in simple conjugate families

(A) $X_1, \dots, X_N | w \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Bernoulli}(w)$, $w \sim \text{Beta}(a, b)$. Define $Y := \sum_{i=1}^N X_i$, so $Y | w \sim \text{Binomial}(N, w)$.

$$p(y|w) = P(Y = y|w) = \binom{N}{y} w^y (1-w)^{N-y} \quad (1)$$

$$p(w) = \frac{\Gamma(a+b)}{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)} w^{a-1} (1-w)^{b-1} \quad (2)$$

By Bayes' Rule,

$$p(w|y) \propto p(w)p(y|w) \quad (3)$$

$$\propto \left(w^{a-1} (1-w)^{b-1} \right) \left(w^y (1-w)^{N-y} \right) \quad (4)$$

$$= w^{a+y-1} (1-w)^{b+N-y-1}, \quad (5)$$

so $w|y \sim \text{Beta}(a+y, b+N-y)$

(B) We have two independently distributed variables, $X_1 \sim \text{Gamma}(a_1, 1)$ and $X_2 \sim \text{Gamma}(a_2, 1)$. The joint distribution of X_1 and X_2 is

$$f_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) = \frac{b^{a_1+a_2}}{\Gamma(a_1)\Gamma(a_2)} x_1^{a_1-1} x_2^{a_2-1} \exp[-(x_1 + x_2)] \quad (6)$$

Then we define the transformation of variables $(X_1, X_2) \mapsto (Y_1, Y_2)$ as follows:

$$Y_1 = \frac{X_1}{X_1 + X_2} \quad (7)$$

$$Y_2 = X_1 + X_2. \quad (8)$$

We can find the joint distribution of Y_1 and Y_2 with

$$f_{Y_1, Y_2}(y_1, y_2) = f_{X_1, X_2}(g_1(y_1, y_2), g_2(y_1, y_2)) |J|, \quad (9)$$

where $x_1 = g_1(y_1, y_2) = y_1 y_2$, $x_2 = g_2(y_1, y_2) = y_2(1 - y_1)$, and J is the determinant of the Jacobian matrix,

$$J = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial y_1} & \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial y_2} \\ \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial y_1} & \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial y_2} \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} y_2 & y_1 \\ -y_2 & 1 - y_1 \end{vmatrix} = y_2(1 - y_1) + y_2 y_1 = y_2. \quad (10)$$

Y_2 is the ratio of two nonnegative variables, so $|J| = |y_2| = y_2$. Now we can write (9) as

$$f_{Y_1, Y_2}(y_1, y_2) = \frac{b^{a_1+a_2}}{\Gamma(a_1)\Gamma(a_2)} (y_1 y_2)^{a_1-1} [y_2(1 - y_1)]^{a_2-1} \exp[-(y_1 y_2 + y_2(1 - y_1))] y_2 \quad (11)$$

$$= \frac{b^{a_1+a_2}}{\Gamma(a_1)\Gamma(a_2)} y_1^{a_1-1} (1 - y_1)^{a_2-1} y_2^{a_1+a_2-1} \exp(-y_2). \quad (12)$$

Therefore, $Y_1 \sim \text{Beta}(a_1, a_2)$ independent of $Y_2 \sim \text{Gamma}(a_1 + a_2, 1)$.

(C) $X_i | \theta \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\theta, \sigma^2)$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$ where σ^2 is *known* and $\theta \sim \mathcal{N}(m, v)$ is *unknown*. The posterior distribution of θ given x_1, \dots, x_N is

$$f(\theta | x_1, \dots, x_N) \propto f(x_1, \dots, x_N | \theta) f(\theta) \quad (13)$$

$$\propto \left(\prod_{i=1}^N \exp \left[-\frac{(x_i - \theta)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right] \right) \exp \left[-\frac{(\theta - m)^2}{2v} \right] \quad (14)$$

$$= \exp \left[-\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \theta)^2}{2\sigma^2} - \frac{(\theta - m)^2}{2v} \right] \quad (15)$$

$$\propto \exp \left[-\frac{n\theta^2 - 2n\bar{x}\theta}{2\sigma^2} - \frac{\theta^2 - 2m\theta}{2v} \right] \quad (16)$$

$$= \exp \left[-\frac{\theta^2 - 2\bar{x}\theta}{\frac{2\sigma^2}{n}} - \frac{\theta^2 - 2m\theta}{2v} \right] \quad (17)$$

$$= \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2\frac{\sigma^2 v}{n}} \left(v\theta^2 - 2v\bar{x}\theta + \frac{\sigma^2}{n}\theta^2 - 2\frac{\sigma^2}{n}m\theta \right) \right] \quad (18)$$

$$= \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2\frac{\sigma^2 v}{n}} \left(\left[v + \frac{\sigma^2}{n} \right] \theta^2 - 2 \left[v\bar{x} + \frac{\sigma^2}{n}m \right] \theta \right) \right] \quad (19)$$

$$= \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2\frac{\sigma^2 v}{n} \left(\frac{1}{v + \frac{\sigma^2}{n}} \right)} \left(\theta^2 - 2 \frac{v\bar{x} + \frac{\sigma^2}{n}m}{v + \frac{\sigma^2}{n}} \theta \right) \right] \quad (20)$$

$$\propto \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2 \left(\frac{n}{\sigma^2} + \frac{1}{v} \right)^{-1}} \left(\theta - \frac{v\bar{x} + \frac{\sigma^2}{n}m}{v + \frac{\sigma^2}{n}} \right)^2 \right] \quad (21)$$

$$= \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2 \left(\frac{n}{\sigma^2} + \frac{1}{v} \right)^{-1}} \left(\theta - \frac{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N x_i}{\sigma^2} + \frac{m}{v}}{\frac{n}{\sigma^2} + \frac{1}{v}} \right)^2 \right] \quad (22)$$

$$= \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2 \left(\frac{1}{v} + \frac{n}{\sigma^2} \right)^{-1}} \left(\theta - \frac{\frac{m}{v} + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N x_i}{\sigma^2}}{\frac{1}{v} + \frac{n}{\sigma^2}} \right)^2 \right], \quad (23)$$

so

$$\theta | x_1, \dots, x_N \sim \mathcal{N} \left(\frac{\frac{m}{v} + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N x_i}{\sigma^2}}{\frac{1}{v} + \frac{n}{\sigma^2}}, \left[\frac{1}{v} + \frac{n}{\sigma^2} \right]^{-1} \right). \quad (24)$$

(D) $X_i | \sigma^2 \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\theta, \sigma^2)$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$ where θ is *known* and $\sigma^2 \sim \text{IG}(a, b)$ is *unknown*. Let $w = \sigma^{-2}$ so

$w \sim \text{Gamma}(a, b)$. The posterior distribution of w given x_1, \dots, x_N is

$$f(w|x_1, \dots, x_N) \propto f(x_1, \dots, x_N|w)f(w) \quad (25)$$

$$\propto \left(\prod_{i=1}^N w^{1/2} \exp \left[-\frac{w}{2} (x_i - \theta)^2 \right] \right) w^{a-1} \exp(-bw) \quad (26)$$

$$= w^{n/2} \exp \left[-\frac{w}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \theta)^2 \right] w^{a-1} \exp(-bw) \quad (27)$$

$$= w^{a+n/2-1} \exp \left[- \left(b + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \theta)^2}{2} \right) w \right], \quad (28)$$

so

$$w|x_1, \dots, x_N \sim \text{Gamma} \left(a + \frac{n}{2}, b + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \theta)^2}{2} \right) \quad (29)$$

$$\sigma^2|x_1, \dots, x_N \sim \text{IG} \left(a + \frac{n}{2}, b + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \theta)^2}{2} \right) \quad (30)$$

(E) $X_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\theta, \sigma_i^2)$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ where each $X_i \perp\!\!\!\perp X_j, i \neq j$ is observed once and has a *known* unique variance σ_i^2 and $\theta \sim \mathcal{N}(m, v)$ is *unknown*. The posterior distribution of θ is

$$f(\theta|x_1, \dots, x_N) \propto f(x_1, \dots, x_N|\theta)f(\theta) \quad (31)$$

$$\propto \left(\prod_{i=1}^N \exp \left[-\frac{(x_i - \theta)^2}{2\sigma_i^2} \right] \right) \exp \left[-\frac{(\theta - m)^2}{2v} \right] \quad (32)$$

$$= \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(\theta - x_i)^2}{\sigma_i^2} + \frac{(\theta - m)^2}{v} \right) \right] \quad (33)$$

$$\propto \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{\sigma_i^2} \cdot \theta^2 - 2 \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{x_i}{\sigma_i^2} \cdot \theta + \frac{1}{v} \theta^2 - 2 \frac{m}{v} \theta \right) \right] \quad (34)$$

$$= \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(\left[\frac{1}{v} + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{\sigma_i^2} \right] \theta^2 - 2 \left[\frac{m}{v} + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{x_i}{\sigma_i^2} \right] \theta \right) \right] \quad (35)$$

$$= \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2 \left(\frac{1}{v} + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{\sigma_i^2} \right)^{-1}} \left(\theta^2 - 2 \left[\frac{\frac{m}{v} + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{x_i}{\sigma_i^2}}{\frac{1}{v} + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{\sigma_i^2}} \right] \theta \right) \right] \quad (36)$$

$$\propto \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2 \left(\frac{1}{v} + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{\sigma_i^2} \right)^{-1}} \left(\theta - \frac{\frac{m}{v} + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{x_i}{\sigma_i^2}}{\frac{1}{v} + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{\sigma_i^2}} \right)^2 \right], \quad (37)$$

so,

$$\theta|x_1, \dots, x_N \sim \mathcal{N} \left(\frac{\frac{m}{v} + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{x_i}{\sigma_i^2}}{\frac{1}{v} + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{\sigma_i^2}}, \left(\frac{1}{v} + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{\sigma_i^2} \right)^{-1} \right). \quad (38)$$

(F) $X|\sigma^2 \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$, $w = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sim \text{Gamma}(a, b)$. The marginal distribution of X is

$$f(x) = \int_0^\infty f(x, w) dw \quad (39)$$

$$= \int_0^\infty f(x|w) f(w) dw \quad (40)$$

$$\propto \int_0^\infty w^{1/2} \exp\left(-\frac{w}{2}x^2\right) w^{a-1} \exp(-bw) dw \quad (41)$$

$$= \int_0^\infty w^{a-1/2} \exp\left[-\left(b + \frac{x^2}{2}\right)w\right] dw \quad * \text{kernel of Gamma}\left(a + \frac{1}{2}, b + \frac{x^2}{2}\right) \quad (42)$$

$$= \frac{\Gamma\left(a + \frac{1}{2}\right)}{\left(b + \frac{x^2}{2}\right)^{a+1/2}} \quad (43)$$

Problem 2

The multivariate normal distribution

Basics

(A) Here we prove two properties of the covariance of a vector of random variables. First, note that $E(Ax + b) = A\mu + b$.

1.

$$\text{cov}(x) = E\left((x - \mu)(x - \mu)^T\right) \quad (44)$$

$$= E\left((x - \mu)(x^T - \mu^T)\right) \quad (45)$$

$$= E\left(xx^T - x\mu^T - \mu x^T + \mu\mu^T\right) \quad (46)$$

$$= E(xx^T) - E(x)\mu^T - \mu E(x^T) + \mu\mu^T \quad (47)$$

$$= E(xx^T) - \mu\mu^T - \mu\mu^T + \mu\mu^T \quad (48)$$

$$= E(xx^T) - \mu\mu^T \quad (49)$$

2.

$$\text{cov}(Ax + b) = E\left((Ax + b - (A\mu + b))(Ax + b - (A\mu + b))^T\right) \quad (50)$$

$$= E\left((Ax - A\mu)(Ax - A\mu)^T\right) \quad (51)$$

$$= E\left((Ax - A\mu)\left(x^T A^T - \mu^T A^T\right)\right) \quad (52)$$

$$= E\left(Axx^T A - Ax\mu^T A^T - A\mu x^T A^T + A\mu\mu^T A^T\right) \quad (53)$$

$$= E\left(Axx^T A^T\right) - E\left(Ax\mu^T A^T\right) - E\left(A\mu x^T A^T\right) + \left(A\mu\mu^T A^T\right) \quad (54)$$

$$= AE\left(xx^T\right) A^T - A\mu\mu^T A^T - A\mu\mu^T A^T + A\mu\mu^T A^T \quad (55)$$

$$= AE\left(xx^T\right) A^T - A\mu\mu^T A^T \quad (56)$$

$$= A\left(E\left(xx^T\right) - \mu\mu^T\right) A^T \quad (57)$$

$$= A\text{cov}(x)A^T \quad (58)$$

- (B) Define the vector $z = (z_1, \dots, z_p)$ where $z_i \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, 1), i = 1, 2, \dots, p$. Because each component is iid, the joint probability density function (PDF) for z is

$$f(z) = \prod_{i=1}^p (2\pi)^{-1/2} \exp(-z_i^2/2) \quad (59)$$

$$= (2\pi)^{-p/2} \exp(-z^T z/2). \quad (60)$$

For each component z_i , the moment generating function (MGF) is

$$M_{z_i}(t_i) = E(\exp(t_i z_i)) \quad (61)$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \exp(t_i z_i) \cdot f(z_i) dz_i \quad (62)$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \exp(t_i z_i) \cdot (2\pi)^{-1/2} \exp(-z_i^2/2) dz_i \quad (63)$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (2\pi)^{-1/2} \exp(-z_i^2/2 + t_i z_i) dz_i \quad (64)$$

$$= \exp(t_i^2/2) \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (2\pi)^{-1/2} \exp(-[z_i - t_i]^2/2) dz_i \quad (65)$$

$$= \exp(t_i^2/2). \quad (66)$$

The MGF for the full vector z is

$$M_z(t) = E(\exp(t^T z)) \quad (67)$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^p E(\exp(t_i z_i)) \quad (68)$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^p \exp(t_i^2/2) \quad (69)$$

$$= \exp\left(\sum_{i=1}^p t_i^2/2\right) \quad (70)$$

$$= \exp(t^T t/2) \quad (71)$$

- (C) We are trying to show that $x = (x_1, \dots, x_p)$ is a multivariate normal distribution with mean vector μ and covariance matrix Σ . Let $a^T x = z \sim \mathcal{N}(m, v)$ (z is now a scalar random variable). Let t be a scalar, a is a vector of length p , and $b = ta$ is also a vector of length p . The MGF of z is

$$M_z(t) = E(\exp(tz)) \quad (72)$$

$$= E(\exp(ta^T x)) \quad (73)$$

$$= E(\exp(bx)) \quad (74)$$

$$= M_x(b) = \exp(mt + vt^2/2), \quad (75)$$

by the MGF definition of the univariate normal distribution. We can solve for m and v in terms of μ and Σ by using the first and second moments of z . The first moment of z is equal to $E(z) = m$, and can also be expressed as

$$E(z) = E(a^T x) \quad (76)$$

$$= a^T E(x) \quad (77)$$

$$= a^T \mu = m. \quad (78)$$

Note that $m^2 = (a^T \mu)^2 = a^T \mu \mu^T a$. Next, the second moment of z is equal to $E(z^2) = \text{var}(z) + E(z)^2 = v + m^2$, which can also be expressed as

$$E(z^2) = E(z \cdot z) \quad (79)$$

$$= E(a^T x x^T a) \quad (80)$$

$$= a^T E(x x^T) a \quad (81)$$

$$= a^T (\text{cov}(x) + \mu^T \mu) a \quad (82)$$

$$= a^T (\Sigma + \mu^T \mu) a \quad (83)$$

$$= a^T \Sigma a + a^T \mu^T \mu a = v + m^2 = v + a^T \mu \mu^T a \quad (84)$$

$$\Rightarrow v = a^T \Sigma a \quad (85)$$

Now we return to the (75) to write the MGF of x as

$$M_x(b) = \exp(mt + vt^2/2) \quad (86)$$

$$= \exp(ta^T \mu + t^2 a^T \Sigma a^T / 2) \quad (87)$$

$$= \exp(ta^T \mu + (ta^T) \Sigma (ta) / 2) \quad (88)$$

$$= \exp(b^T \mu + b^T \Sigma b / 2) \quad (89)$$

$$\text{Q.E.D.} \quad (90)$$

- (D) The p -length vector $z \sim \mathcal{N}_p(0, I_p)$ follows the standard multivariate normal distribution. We will prove that the vector $x = Lz + \mu$, where L is a $p \times p$ matrix of full column rank, is multivariate normal. The MGF of x is,

$$M_x(t) = E(\exp(t^T x)) \quad (91)$$

$$= E(\exp(t^T (Lz + \mu))) \quad (92)$$

$$= E(\exp(t^T Lz + t^T \mu)) \quad (93)$$

$$= \exp(t^T \mu) E(\exp(t^T Lz)) \quad (94)$$

$$= \exp(t^T \mu) M_z(t^T L) \quad (95)$$

$$= \exp(t^T \mu) \exp\left[\frac{1}{2} (t^T L) I_p (t^T L)^T\right] \quad (96)$$

$$= \exp(t^T \mu + t^T L L^T t / 2). \quad (97)$$

Therefore x follows a multivariate normal distribution with mean vector μ and covariance matrix LL^T , $x \sim \mathcal{N}_p(\mu, LL^T)$.

- (E) By definition, $x = Lz + \mu$ is an affine transformation of a vector of standard normal random variables, z . To generate random numbers from $x \sim \mathcal{N}_p(\mu, \Sigma)$, first perform the Cholesky decomposition of Σ to obtain a lower triangle matrix L such that $\Sigma = LL^T$, generate p iid scalar normal random numbers to make the z vector, and finally compute $x = Lz + \mu$.

- (F) Before we begin, let us first show that

$$\det(L^{-1}) = [\det(\Sigma)]^{-1/2}.$$

This may be shown by

$$\begin{aligned}
 L^{-1}L &= I \\
 \det(L^{-1}L) &= \det(I) \\
 \det(L^{-1})\det(L) &= 1 \\
 \det(L^{-1}) &= [\det(L)]^{-1}
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Sigma &= LL^T \\
 \det(\Sigma) &= \det(LL^T) \\
 \det(\Sigma) &= \det(L)\det(L^T) \\
 \det(\Sigma) &= \det(L)^2 \\
 [\det(\Sigma)]^{1/2} &= \det(L) \\
 [\det(\Sigma)]^{-1/2} &= [\det(L)]^{-1} \\
 [\det(\Sigma)]^{-1/2} &= \det(L^{-1}).
 \end{aligned}$$

Now we can derive the PDF of the multivariate normal $x \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$. Define the transformation $f : z \mapsto x$, $x = f(z) = Lz + \mu$, and its inverse transformation, $f^{-1} = g : x \mapsto z$, $z = g(x) = L^{-1}(x - \mu)$, where z follows the standard multivariate distribution. The PDF of x is

$$f_x(x) = f_z(g(x)) \cdot |J(y)|, \quad (98)$$

where $J(y)$ is the Jacobian determinant of the transformation g , which in this case is just $\det(L^{-1/2})$,

$$f_x(x) = (2\pi)^{-p/2} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} [L^{-1}(x - \mu)]^T [L^{-1}(x - \mu)]\right) |\det(L^{-1})| \quad (99)$$

$$= (2\pi)^{-p/2} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} (x - \mu)^T (L^{-1})^T L^{-1} (x - \mu)\right) [\det(\Sigma)]^{-1/2} \quad (100)$$

$$= (2\pi)^{-p/2} [\det(\Sigma)]^{-1/2} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} (x - \mu)^T (L^T)^{-1} L^{-1} (x - \mu)\right) \quad (101)$$

$$= (2\pi)^{-p/2} [\det(\Sigma)]^{-1/2} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} (x - \mu)^T (LL^T)^{-1} (x - \mu)\right) \quad (102)$$

$$= (2\pi)^{-p/2} [\det(\Sigma)]^{-1/2} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} (x - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (x - \mu)\right) \quad (103)$$

(G) Let $x_1 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_1, \Sigma_1)$ independent of $x_2 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_2, \Sigma_2)$, and define $y = Ax_1 + Bx_2$. The MGFs of x_1 and x_2 are, respectively,

$$M_{x_1}(s) = E\left(\exp[s^T x_1]\right) = \exp\left(s^T \mu_1 + s^T \Sigma_1 s / 2\right) \quad (104)$$

$$M_{x_2}(s) = E\left(\exp[s^T x_2]\right) = \exp\left(s^T \mu_2 + s^T \Sigma_2 s / 2\right). \quad (105)$$

We will characterize y by its MGF,

$$M_y(t) = E \left(\exp \left[t^T y \right] \right) \quad (106)$$

$$= E \left(\exp \left[t^T (Ax_1 + Bx_2) \right] \right) \quad (107)$$

$$= E \left(\exp \left[t^T Ax_1 + t^T Bx_2 \right] \right) \quad (108)$$

$$= E \left(\exp \left[t^T Ax_1 \right] \exp \left[t^T Bx_2 \right] \right) \quad (109)$$

$$= E \left(\exp \left[t^T Ax_1 \right] \right) E \left(\exp \left[t^T Bx_2 \right] \right) \Leftarrow x_1 \perp x_2 \quad (110)$$

$$= M_{x_1}(A^T t) M_{x_2}(B^T t) \quad (111)$$

$$= \exp \left(t^T A \mu_1 + t^T A \Sigma_1 A^T t / 2 \right) \exp \left(t^T B \mu_2 + t^T B \Sigma_2 B^T t / 2 \right) \quad (112)$$

$$= \exp \left(t^T A \mu_1 + t^T A \Sigma_1 A^T t / 2 + t^T B \mu_2 + t^T B \Sigma_2 B^T t / 2 \right) \quad (113)$$

$$= \exp \left(t^T (A \mu_1 + B \mu_2) + t^T (A \Sigma_1 A^T + B \Sigma_2 B^T) t / 2 \right). \quad (114)$$

Therefore, $y \sim \mathcal{N}(A \mu_1 + B \mu_2, A \Sigma_1 A^T + B \Sigma_2 B^T)$.

R code is shown on the following page.

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#####  
##### Created by Spencer Woody on 22 Jan 2017 #####  
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