# **Bayes correlated equilibria and no-regret dynamics**

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# **Goals of algorithmic game theory 2/39**

### **Goal 1 Computing equilibria efficiently**

- $\bullet$  Is it possible to compute equilibria of a given game in reasonable time?
- $\bullet$  If it is difficult, is it possible to find an evidence for difficulty?

### **Goal 2 Guaranteeing quality of equilibria** (price of anarchy)

In the worst equilibria, how much does social welfare deteriorate?

#### **This study aims to achieve these two goals for Bayesian games**

There are various other goals (e.g., computing auctions, cooperative games)

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### **Background 1: Equilibrium computation**

**Background 2: Price of anarchy**

**Our results on Bayesian games**

**Details of the proposed dynamics**

A game is zero-sum *△ ⇔* the total payoff is always zero



Example:

rock paper scissors

**Nash equilibria**: both players choose every action with prob. 1*/*3 (unique)

#### **and at an intersection decide whether to go or to stop**



### **Nash equilibria**:

- **1.** (Go*,* Stop)
- **2.** (Stop*,* Go)
- **3.** Both choose Go and Stop with prob. 1*/*2

### **Problem** Compute any Nash equilibrium given a payoff table

#### **Is there an algorithm that runs in time polynomial in #actions?**

**Two-player zero-sum games**: Yes

Linear-programming-based algorithm [von Neumann 1928, Khachiyan'79]

**Two-player non-zero-sum games**: No (probably)

This problem is PPAD-complete [Chen–Deng–Teng'09]

Computer scientists "believe" that solving it in poly-time is impossible

**Question** Is there any equilibrium concept easy to compute?

#### **Players' actions can be correlated via a traffic signal**



#### **Correlated equilibria**:

infinitely many including Nash eq.

e.g.) (Go*,* Stop) with prob. 1*/*2 e.g.) (Stop*,* Go) with prob. 1*/*2

# **Correlated equilibria Biography Biogr**

 $N = \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$  players  $N = \{$  ,  $\}$  $A_i$  finite set of actions for player  $i \in N$  *A<sub>i</sub>* = {Go, Stop}  $A = A_1 \times A_2 \times \cdots \times A_n$  set of action profiles  $v_i \colon A \to [0,1]$  utility function for player  $i \in N$  and  $u_{\bigoplus}(\mathsf{Go},\mathsf{Stop}) = 4$ 

#### **Definition**

A distribution over action profiles  $\pi \in \Delta(A)$  is a correlated equilibrium  $\not\iff$  For any player  $i \in N$  and deviation  $\phi \colon A_i \to A_i$ ,  $\mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi} \left[ v_i(\phi(a_i), a_{-i}) \right] \leq \mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi} \left[ v_i(a) \right].$ 

If  $\pi$  is a product distribution, this definition coincides with Nash equilibria

# **Correlated equilibria Correlated equilibria**

#### **Definition**

A distribution over action profiles  $\pi \in \Delta(A)$  is a correlated equilibrium

 $\not\iff$  For any player  $i \in N$  and deviation  $\phi \colon A_i \to A_i$ ,

$$
\mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{a\sim\pi}\left[v_i(\phi(a_i),a_{-i})\right]\leq \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{a\sim\pi}\left[v_i(a)\right].
$$



We can define a CE  $\pi \in \Delta(A)$  as follows:

 $\pi(Go, Stop) = 1/2$ ,  $\pi(Stop, Go) = 1/2$ 

Each player cannot increase the payoff by any *ϕ* e.g.,  $\phi$ (Go) = Stop,  $\phi$ (Stop) = Stop decreases it

#### **The set of CEs is expressed by linear constraints with** *|A|* **variables**

$$
\mathsf{CE} = \left\{ \pi \in [0,1]^A \, \middle| \, \begin{array}{l} \sum_{a \in A: \\ a_i = a'_i \\ \sum_{a \in A} \pi(a) = 1 \end{array} \pi(a)[v_i(a) - v_i(a''_i, a_{-i})] \le 0 \, (\forall i \in N, \forall a'_i, a''_i \in A_i) \\ \sum_{a \in A} \pi(a) = 1 \end{array} \right\}
$$

If the number of players is a constant, the size of this LP is polynomial

*→* The problem of finding (also optimizing) a CE is tractable [Khachiyan'79]

**Question** How about cases where the number of players is large?

# **Computing correlated equilibria 11/39**

**Theorem [Foster–Vohra'97, Hart–Mas-Collel'00, Blum–Mansour'07]**

There exists a poly-time algo. for computing a CE of *n*-player games

 $\cdot$  Since  $v_i$  requires space exponential in  $n_i$ , we assume oracle access to  $v_i$ 

 $\epsilon$ -approximate CE is obtained in time polynomial in  $n$ ,  $\max_{i \in N} |A_i|$ , and  $1/\epsilon$ 

cf. Computing Nash equilibria is PPAD-complete even for two-player games



The problem of computing **any** CE is easier than computing **any** NE

# **No-regret dynamics 12/ 39**



**for**  $t = 1, 2, ..., T$  **do** 

Each player  $i \in N$  decides a (mixed) strategy  $\pi^t_i \in \Delta(A_i)$ All players' strategies  $(\pi^t_i)_{i \in N}$  are revealed to each other Each player  $i$  obtains reward  $\mathop{\mathbb{E}}[v_i(a^t)]$ , where  $a_i^t \thicksim \pi_i^t$  independently (∀ $i$ )

### **Swap regret [Blum–Mansour'07] 13/ 39**

$$
\text{SwapRegret}_{i}^{T} \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \max_{\phi: A_{i} \to A_{i}} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \underbrace{\mathbb{E}\left[v_{i}^{t}(\phi(a_{i}^{t}), a_{-i}^{t})\right]}_{\text{reward in round } t \text{ if}} - \sum_{t=1}^{T} \underbrace{\mathbb{E}\left[v_{i}^{t}(a^{t})\right]}_{\text{reward in round } t \text{ the actions are replaced}} + \underbrace{\mathbb{E}\left[v_{i}^{t}(a^{t})\right]}_{\text{according to }\phi}
$$

#### **Theorem [Blum–Mansour'07]**

If swap regret of every player grows sublinearly in *T*,

the empirical distribution converges to a correlated equilibrium The uniform mixture of action profiles of *T* rounds

Another variant called *internal regret* does not work for Bayes correlated equilibria

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**Background 1: Equilibrium computation**

### **Background 2: Price of anarchy**

**Our results on Bayesian games**

**Details of the proposed dynamics**

# **Price of anarchy (PoA)**

$$
15/39
$$



 $v_{\text{SW}}: A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  social welfare usually  $v_{\text{SW}}(a) \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \sum v_i(a)$ *i∈N*

**<sup>\*</sup>** PoA depends on the equilibrium concept (PoA for NE, etc.)



In some game,

the PoA can be close to 0

the worst equilibrium: 2 at (D*,* D)

the optimal: 20 at (C*,* C)

# **Smoothness framework (1/2) [Roughgarden'15] 16/ 39**

*a*

#### **Question For what class of games is the PoA lower-bounded? Definition [Roughgarden'15]** An *n*-player game is (*λ, µ*)-smooth  $\Leftrightarrow$   $\forall a, a^* \in A: \sum^n v_i(a_i^*, a_{-i}) \geq \lambda \quad v_{\text{SW}}(a^*)$ *i*=1 Player *i* switches from  $a_i$  to  $a_i^*$ social welfare achieved by *a ∗ −μ v*<sub>SW</sub>(*a*) social welfare achieved by *a a ∗* social optimal  $(a_1^*, a_{-1}) \ (a_2^*, a_{-1}) \ \cdots \cdots \ (a_n^*, a_{-n})$ The deviations significantly increase social welfare towards the optimal

### **Smooth games are a broad class of games with bounded PoA**



#### **Examples of smooth games**

Congestion games, various auctions, competitive facility location,

effort market games, competitive information spread, ...

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**Background 1: Equilibrium computation**

**Background 2: Price of anarchy**

### **Our results on Bayesian games**

**Details of the proposed dynamics**

**and independently decide where to go** prefers sea  $\mathsf{C}$ , while  $\mathbb{C}$  prefers mountain  $\mathbb{A}$ 



**Players' types are generated from a common prior distribution**

Each of **p** and **p** prefers **C** and **A** with prob. 1/2 for each

(Each player knows the prior distribution only, not the others' types)



 $N = \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$  players  $N = \{0, 1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ *A*<sub>i</sub> finite set of actions for player  $i \in N$   $A_1 = A_2 = \{ \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{a} \}$  $\Theta_i$  finite set of types for player  $i \in N$   $\Theta_1 = \Theta_2 = \{$ type:  $\mathbb{C},$  type:  $\mathbb{Z}$ }  $A = \prod_{i \in N} A_i$  action profiles,  $\Theta = \prod_{i \in N} \Theta_i$  type profiles  $\rho \in \Delta(\Theta)$  prior distribution over type profiles  $\rho(\text{type: } \mathbb{C}, \text{type: } \mathbb{C}) = 1/4$ *vi* : Θ *× A →* [0*,* 1] utility function for player *i ∈ N v*1(type: *,* type: ; *,* ) = 1

# **Computational studies on Bayesian games 22/ 39**

### **Equilibrium computation**:

Computing Bayes Nash equilibria (BNE) is PPAD-complete Existing algorithms can compute weak equilibria (Bayes coarse CE) [Hartline–Syrgkanis–Tardos'15]

### **• Price of anarchy**

Smoothness framework provides PoA bounds only for BNE

[Roughgarden'15b, Syrgkanis–Tardos'13]

**Q Is there any equilibrium concept that has both merits?**

# **Various Bayes correlated equilibria [Forges'93] 23/ 39**



# **Various Bayes correlated equilibria [Forges'93] 23/ 39**



# **Communication equilibria [Myerson'82, Forges'86] 24/ 39**



#### **Definition**

A distribution  $\pi \in \Delta(A)^{\Theta}$  is a communication equilibrium  $\Leftrightarrow$  For any player  $i\in N$ ,  $\psi\colon \Theta_i\to \Theta_i$ , and  $\phi\colon \Theta_i\times A_i\to A_i$ , E *θ∼ρ*  $\sqrt{ }$ E *a∼π*(*ψ*(*θi*)*,θ−i*)  $\left[v_i(\theta;\phi(\theta_i,a_i),a_{-i})\right] \leq \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{\theta \sim \rho}$  $\sqrt{ }$ E *a∼π*(*θ*)  $[v_i(\theta; a)]$ .

### **Two incentive constraints**

**1** No incentive to **tell an untrue type** (represented by *ψ*)

**2** No incentive to **disobey the recommendation** (represented by *ϕ*)

# **Agent-normal-form correlated equilibria 26/ 39**

#### **ANFCE is defined as CE of the agent normal form**

#### **Agent normal form of Bayesian games**

The same player with different types are regarded as different players

Only (hypothetical) players with realized types play the game

In our example, randomly selected two out of  $(\hat{\mathbf{z}}, \hat{\mathbf{c}}), (\hat{\mathbf{z}}, \hat{\mathbf{a}}), (\hat{\bullet}, \hat{\mathbf{c}}), (\hat{\bullet}, \hat{\mathbf{a}})$  play the game

#### **Difference from communication equilibria**:

- No incentive constraint for truthful type telling
- The distribution must satisfy some technical condition

called **strategy representability**

# **Our contribution 1: dynamics 27/ 39**

**We propose no-regret dynamics converging to ANFCE** *∩* **Com.Eq.**



In repeated play, players aim to minimize **untruthful swap regret** defined later

#### **Theorem (informal)**

Dynamics with *o*(*T*) untruthful swap regret converge to ANFCE *∩* Com.Eq. and can be simulated by the proposed algorithm in polynomial time

### **PoA bounds for ANFCE** *∩* **Com.Eq. via smoothness arguments**

**Previous results** PoA bounds for **BNE** via smoothness

*↓* extend [Roughgarden'15b, Syrgkanis–Tardos'13]

**Our results** PoA bounds for **ANFCE** *∩* **Com.Eq.** via smoothness

PoA decreases as equilibria get broader (the worst equilibrium considered)

#### **Theorem (informal)**

PoA for ANFCE  $\cap$  Com.Eq. is at least  $\lambda/(1 + \mu)$ 

if a game for each fixed  $\theta \in \Theta$  is  $(\lambda, \mu)$ -smooth

#### **Applications**:

$$
v_{\rm SW} = \sum_i v_i
$$
 case,

various auctions, ...

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**Our results on Bayesian games**

### **Details of the proposed dynamics**

# **No-regret dynamics in Bayesian games 30/** 39

**For**  $t = 1, 2, ..., T$ **:** 

Each player  $i \in N$  decides a (mixed) strategy  $\pi_i^t \in \Delta(A_i)^{\Theta_i}$ All players' strategies  $(\pi_i^t)_{i \in N}$  are revealed to each other Each player *i* obtains reward  $\mathbb{E}[v_i(\theta; a^t)],$ 

where  $\theta \sim \rho$  and then  $a_i^t \sim \pi_i^t(\theta_i)$  independently for each  $i$ 



We consider the expected value w.r.t. *θ* and *a* in each round

# **Untruthful swap regret 31/39**

#### **Untruthful swap regret for player** *i ∈ N*

$$
R_{\text{US},i}^T = \max_{\substack{\psi : \Theta_i \to \Theta_i \\ \phi : \Theta_i \times A_i \to A_i}} \sum_{t=1}^T \max_{\theta_i \sim \rho_i} \left[ \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{a_i \sim \pi_i^t(\psi(\theta_i))} \left[ u_i^t(\theta_i, \phi(\theta_i, a_i)) \right] \right] - \sum_{t=1}^T \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{\theta_i \sim \rho_i} \left[ \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{a_i \sim \pi_i^t(\theta_i)} \left[ u_i^t(\theta_i, a_i) \right] \right],
$$
\nwhere  $u_i^t(\theta_i, a_i) \triangleq \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{\theta_{-i} \sim \rho_{-i}|\theta_i} \left[ \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{a_{-i} \sim \pi_{-i}^t(\theta_{-i})} \left[ v_i(\theta; a) \right] \right]$  is the reward vector at round  $t$   
\n( $\rho_i$  the marginal distribution,  $\rho_{-i}|\theta_i$  the conditional distribution)

#### **Two incentive constraints for communication equilibria**

- 1. No incentive to **tell an untrue type** (represented by *ψ*)
- 2. No incentive to **disobey the recommendation** (represented by *ϕ*)

**Suppose each player minimizes USR against adversarial players**

**Upper bound**  $\Phi$ -regret minimization framework + decomposition

#### **Theorem**

The proposed algo. achieves 
$$
R_{US,i} = O\left(\sqrt{T \max\{|A_i| \log |A_i|, \log |\Theta_i|\}}\right)
$$

Lower bound	Analyze a hard instance with optimal stopping theory
Theory	
Any algorithm satisfies $R_{US,i} = \Omega\left(\sqrt{T \max\{ A_i  \log  A_i , \log  \Theta_i \}}\right)$	

# **External regret minimization algo.** 33/ 39

 $u^t \in [0,1]^A$  reward vector in round  $t \in [T]$ 

 $\pi^t \in \Delta(A)$  mixed strategy in round  $t \in [T] \quad \**^{\mathsf{w}}**$  Subscript  $i$  is omitted from now on

$$
\text{ExternalRegret}^T \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \max_{a^* \in A} \sum_{t=1}^T u^t(a^*) - \sum_{t=1}^T \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{a^t \sim \pi^t} \left[ u^t(a^t) \right]
$$

**Multiplicative Weights Update method**: Initialize  $\pi^1(a) = 1/|A|$  ( $\forall a \in A$ ),

For each  $t \in [T]$ : Update  $\pi^{t+1}(a) \propto \pi^t(a) \exp(\eta u^t(a))$  ( $\forall a \in A$ )

#### **Theorem [Cesa-Bianchi–Lugosi'07]**

If 
$$
\eta = \sqrt{\frac{\log |A|}{T}}
$$
, MWU achieves ExternalRegret<sup>T</sup> =  $O\left(\sqrt{T \log |A|}\right)$ 

# **Swap regret minimization algo. [Blum–Mansour'07] 34/ 39**

$$
\text{SwapRegret}^T \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \max_{\phi: A_i \to A_i} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{a^t \sim \pi^t} \left[ u^t(\phi(a^t)) \right] - \sum_{t=1}^T \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{a^t \sim \pi^t} \left[ u^t(a^t) \right]
$$
\n
$$
\text{SwapRegret}^T \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \max_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}} \sum_{t=1}^T \langle Q \pi^t, u^t \rangle - \sum_{t=1}^T \langle \pi^t, u^t \rangle,
$$
\n
$$
\text{where } \mathcal{Q} = \left\{ Q \in [0, 1]^{A \times A} \mid \mathbf{1}Q = \mathbf{1} \right\}
$$
\n
$$
\text{SwapRegret}^T \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \max_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}} \sum_{t=1}^T \langle Q, \pi^t \otimes u^t \rangle - \sum_{t=1}^T \langle Q^t, \pi^t \otimes u^t \rangle \text{ if } Q^t \pi^t = \pi^t \text{ for all } t \in [T]
$$

# **Swap regret minimization algo. [Blum–Mansour'07] 35/ 39**

$$
\text{SwapRegret}^T \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \max_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}} \sum_{t=1}^T \langle Q, \pi^t \otimes u^t \rangle - \sum_{t=1}^T \langle Q^t, \pi^t \otimes u^t \rangle \text{ if } Q^t \pi^t = \pi^t \text{ for all } t \in [T]
$$

- 1: Initialize subroutines (*Ea*)*<sup>a</sup>∈<sup>A</sup>* for external regret minimization with actions *A*
- 2: **for**  $t = 1, 2, ..., T$  **do**
- 3: Let  $q_a^t \in \Delta(A)$  be the output of subroutine  $\mathcal{E}_a$  for each  $a \in A$
- 4: Let  $Q^t$  be an  $|A| \times |A|$  matrix with each column  $q^t_a$
- 5: Find  $\pi^t \in \Delta(A)$  such that  $\pi^t = Q^t \pi^t$
- 6: Observe  $u^t$  and feed  $\pi^t(a)u^t$  to subroutine  $\mathcal{E}_a$



# **Untruthful swap regret minimization algo.** 36/39

$$
R_{\text{US},i}^T = \max_{\phi: \Theta \to \Theta} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}_{\theta \sim \rho} \left[ \mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi^t(\psi(\theta))} \left[ u^t(\theta, \phi(\theta, a)) \right] \right] - \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}_{\theta \sim \rho} \left[ \mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi^t(\theta)} \left[ u^t(\theta, a) \right] \right]
$$
  
SwapRegret<sup>T</sup>  $\stackrel{\triangle}{=} \max_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}} \sum_{t=1}^T \langle Q \pi^t, u^t \rangle - \sum_{t=1}^T \langle \pi^t, u^t \rangle$ , where  

$$
\mathcal{Q} = \left\{ Q \in [0, 1]^{(\Theta \times A) \times (\Theta \times A)} \; \middle| \; \begin{array}{l} \text{there exists some } W \in [0, 1]^{\Theta \times \Theta} \text{ such that} \\ \sum_{\theta' \in \Theta} W(\theta, \theta') = 1 \; (\forall \theta \in \Theta) \text{ and} \\ \sum_{a \in A} Q((\theta, a), (\theta', a')) = W(\theta, \theta') \; (\forall \theta, \theta' \in \Theta, a' \in A) \end{array} \right\}
$$

*π <sup>t</sup>* and *u <sup>t</sup>* are flattened to be a *|*Θ*| × |A|* dimensional vector

# **Untruthful swap regret minimization algo. 37/ 39**



# **Full description of the algorithm 38/ 39**

The set of types  $\Theta_i$  and the set of actions  $A_i$  are specified in advance. The reward vector  $u_i^t \in [0,1]^{\Theta_i \times A_i}$  is given at the end of each round  $t \in [T]$ . Initialize subroutines as follows:

- $\epsilon$  let  ${\mathcal{E}_\theta}_i$  be a multiplicative weights algorithm with decision space  $\Theta_i$  for each  $\theta_i \in \Theta_i$
- $\;$  let  ${\cal E}_{\theta_i, \theta'_i, a'_i}$  be AdaHedge with decision space  $A_i$  for each  $\theta_i, \theta'_i \in \Theta_i$  and  $a'_i \in A_i$ *i i*

**for** each round  $t = 1, \ldots, T$  **do** 

Let 
$$
w_{\theta_i}^t \in \Delta(\Theta_i)
$$
 be the output of  $\mathcal{E}_{\theta_i}$  in round  $t$  for each  $\theta_i \in \Theta_i$ .\n\nLet  $y_{\theta_i, \theta'_i, a'_i}^t \in \Delta(A_i)$  be the output of  $\mathcal{E}_{\theta_i, \theta'_i, a'_i}$  in round  $t$  for each  $\theta_i, \theta'_i \in \Theta_i$  and  $a'_i \in A_i$ .\n\nDefine  $Q^t \in [0, 1]^{(\Theta_i \times A_i) \times (\Theta_i \times A_i)}$  by  $Q^t((\theta_i, a_i), (\theta'_i, a'_i)) = w_{\theta_i}^t(\theta'_i) y_{\theta_i, \theta'_i, a'_i}^t(a_i)$  for each  $\theta_i, \theta'_i \in \Theta_i$  and  $a_i, a'_i \in A_i$ .\n\nCompute an eigenvector  $x^t \in \mathbb{R}^{\Theta_i \times A_i}$  of  $Q^t$  such that  $Q^t x^t = x^t$  and  $(x^t)^\top \mathbf{1} = |\Theta_i|$ .\n\nDecide the output  $\pi_i^t \in \Delta(A_i)^{\Theta_i}$  by  $\pi_i^t(\theta_i; a_i) = x^t(\theta_i, a_i)$  for each  $\theta_i \in \Theta_i$  and  $a_i \in A_i$ . Observe reward vector  $u_i^t \in [0, 1]^{\Theta_i \times A_i}$  and feed reward vectors to subroutines as follows:\n\n
$$
\mathbf{f} = \sum_{i=1}^t w_{\theta_i, \theta'_i, a'_i}^t(a_i) \pi_i^t(\theta'_i; a'_i) \rho_i(\theta_i) u_i^t(\theta_i, a_i)
$$
 as the reward for decision  $\theta'_i \in \Theta_i$ .

$$
a_i, a_i' \in A_i
$$

 $\sum_{i}^{n} \sum_{i}^{n} f(x_i)$ <br>to subroutine  $\mathcal{E}_{\theta_i}$  for each  $\theta_i \in \Theta_i$ 

- feed  $\pi_i^t(\theta_i',a_i')\rho_i(\theta_i)u_i^t(\theta_i,a_i)$  as the reward for decision  $a_i \in A_i$  to subroutine  $\mathcal{E}_{\theta_i,\theta_i',a_i'}$  $\theta_i, \theta'_i \in \Theta_i$  and  $a'_i \in A_i$ 



### **ANFCE** *∩* **Com.Eq. in Bayesian games satisfies the following goals**

### **Goal 1 Efficient computation**

- No-regret dynamics converging to ANFCE *∩* Com.Eq.
- Algorithm for simulating the dynamics with the optimal convergence rate

### **Goal 2 PoA bounds**

Extension of the smoothness framework from BNE to ANFCE *∩* Com.Eq.

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