Domination analysis for minimum multiprocessor scheduling

Gregory Gutin, Tommy Jensen and Anders Yeo*
Department of Computer Science
Royal Holloway, University of London
Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX, UK
gutin(tommy,anders)@cs.rhul.ac.uk

Abstract

Let P be a combinatorial optimization problem, and let A be an approximation algorithm for P. The domination ratio $\operatorname{domr}(A,s)$ is the maximal real q such that the solution x(I) obtained by A for any instance I of P of size s is not worse than at least the fraction q of the feasible solutions of I. We say that P admits an Asymptotic Domination Ratio One (ADRO) algorithm if there is a polynomial time approximation algorithm A for P such that $\lim_{s\to\infty}\operatorname{domr}(A,s)=1$. Recently, Alon, Gutin and Krivelevich proved that the partition problem admits an ADRO algorithm. We extend their result to the minimum multiprocessor scheduling problem.

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1 Introduction, Terminology and Notation

Let \mathcal{P} be a combinatorial optimization problem, I an instance of \mathcal{P} , A an approximation algorithm for \mathcal{P} and x(I) the solution of I obtained by A. The domination ratio $\mathrm{domr}(A,I)$ of A for I is the number of solutions of I that are no better than x(I) divided by the total number of feasible solutions of I. The domination ratio $\mathrm{domr}(A,s)$ of A for \mathcal{P} is the minimum of $\mathrm{domr}(A,I)$ taken over all instances I of \mathcal{P} of size s. We say that A is an asymptotic domination ratio one (ADRO) algorithm for \mathcal{P} if A runs in polynomial time and $\lim_{s\to\infty}\mathrm{domr}(A,s)=1$.

Domination analysis, whose aim is to evaluate the domination ratios of various combinatorial optimization heuristics, allows one to understand the worst case behavior of heuristics. Thus, domination analysis complements the results of the classical approximation analysis. Notice that the domination ratio avoids some drawbacks of the approximation ratio [17]. In particular, the domination ratio does not change on equivalent instances of the same problem. For example, by adding a positive constant to the weight of every arc of a weighted complete digraph, we obtain an equivalent instance of the traveling salesman problem (TSP). While the domination ratio of a TSP heuristics remains the same for both instances, the approximation ratio changes its value. For more details, see [8].

Sometimes, domination analysis provides us with a deep insight into the behavior of heuristics. For example, it is proved in [9] that the greedy algorithm is of the minimum possible domination ratio (i.e., 1/f(s), where f(s) is the number of feasible solutions in instances of size s) for a number of optimization problems including TSP and the assignment

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problem. In order words, the greedy algorithm may find the unique worst possible solution. (This theoretical result is in line with computational experiments with the greedy algorithm for TSP, e.g. see [12], where the authors came to the conclusion that the greedy algorithm 'might be said to self-destruct', and that it should not be used even as 'a general-purpose starting tour generator'.) Notice that this result cannot be formulated in the terms of approximation analysis (AA) since AA does not distinguish between solutions with the same objective function value.

Initially, domination analysis was used only for analysis of TSP heuristics (for a survey, see [10]). Recently, the domination ratios of algorithms for some other combinatorial optimization problems have also been investigated [2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 13]. In [5], two heuristics for Generalized TSP have been compared. Their performances in computational experiments are very similar. Nevertheless, bounds for domination ratios show that one of the heuristics is much better than the other one in the worst case. Two greedy-type heuristics for the frequency assignment problem were compared in [13]. Again, bounds for the domination ratios allowed the authors of [13] to find out which of the two heuristics behaves better in the worst case.

Let $p \geq 2$ be an integer and let S be a finite set. A p-partition of S is a p-tuple (A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_p) of subsets of S such that $A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \ldots \cup A_p = S$ and $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$ for all $1 \leq i < j \leq p$.

In what follows, N always denotes the set $\{1, 2, ..., n\}$ and each $i \in N$ is assigned a positive integral weight $\sigma(i)$. For a subset A of N, $\sigma(A) = \sum_{i \in A} \sigma(i)$. The minimum multiprocessor scheduling problem (MMSP) [3] can be stated as follows. We are given a triple (N, σ, p) , where p is an integer, $p \geq 2$. We are required to find a p-partition \mathcal{C} of N that minimizes $\sigma(\mathcal{A}) = \max_{1 \leq i \leq p} \sigma(A_i)$ over all p-partitions $\mathcal{A} = (A_1, A_2, ..., A_p)$ of N.

Clearly, if $p \ge n$, then MMSP becomes trivial. Thus, in what follows, p < n. The size s of MMSP is $\Theta(n + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \log \sigma(i))$.

Hochbaum and Shmoys [11] proved that MMSP admits a polynomial time approximation scheme. Alon, Gutin and Krivelevich [2] proved that the partition problem, which coincides with MMSP for the special case of p=2, admits an ADRO algorithm. We extend their result to MMPS with unrestricted p. While using some of the ideas from [2], our proof is based on a number of new ideas and is much more complicated.

Let (a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_p) be a *p*-tuple of *p* non-negative integers such that $\sum_{i=1}^p a_i = n$. The number of *p*-partitions (A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_p) of *N* in which $a_i = |A_i|$ equals

$$\binom{n}{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_p} = \frac{n!}{a_1! a_2! \cdots a_p!}.$$
 (1)

Given $n, p \ (p \le n)$, let mc(n, p) denote the maximum value of the multinomial coefficient $\binom{n}{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_p}$.

2 Preliminary Results

Lemma 2.1 *Let* $n \ge p$. *Then the following holds:*

$$mc(n,p) < p^{n+1/2} \times \left(\sqrt{\frac{p}{2\pi n}}\right)^{p-1}$$
.

Proof: Suppose that (a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_p) is chosen in such a way as to maximize $\binom{n}{a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_p}$ for given n and p. It is not difficult to see that all $a_i \geq 1$. By (1), using the Robbins formulation of Stirling's formula [16] we get the following:

By differentiating $g(x)=(x+1/2)\ln x$ twice we get $g''(x)=\frac{1}{x}-\frac{1}{2x^2}$. Since $g''(x)\geq 0$ for $x\geq 1/2$ we conclude that g(x) is convex for $x\geq 1/2$. Thus, by Jensen's Inequality, $\sum_{i=1}^p g(a_i)/p\geq g(\sum_{i=1}^p a_i/p)$ as $a_1,a_2,\ldots,a_p>1/2$. However, this is equivalent to $\prod_{i=1}^p a_i^{a_i+1/2}\geq (n/p)^{(n/p+1/2)p}$, which together with the inequality above implies the following:

$$mc(n,p) < (\sqrt{2\pi})^{1-p} \times \frac{n^{n+1/2}}{(n/p)^{(n/p+1/2)p}} = p^{n+1/2} \left(\sqrt{\frac{p}{2\pi n}}\right)^{p-1}.$$

This completes the proof.

Corollary 2.2 For even n, $\frac{n!}{(n/2)!^2} < 2^n \times \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi n}}$.

Recall that $N = \{1, 2, ..., n\}$. A set \mathcal{F} of subsets of N is called an antichain if no element of \mathcal{F} is contained in another element of \mathcal{F} . By the famous Sperner's Lemma, $|\mathcal{F}| \leq {n \choose \lfloor n/2 \rfloor}$. Consider a set \mathcal{P} of p-partitions of N. We call \mathcal{P} a p-antichain if it has no pair $(A_1, A_2, ..., A_p)$, $(B_1, B_2, ..., B_p)$ such that $A_i \subset B_i$ and $A_i \neq B_i$ for some $i \in \{1, 2, ..., p\}$.

The following generalization of Sperner's Lemma is due to Meshalkin [15] (its further extensions are given in [4]).

Lemma 2.3 The number of elements in a p-antichain of N is at most mc(n, p).

The next two lemmas are well known. Nevertheless, since they have short proofs, we provide such proofs.

Lemma 2.4 The number of p-tuples $(x_1, x_2, ..., x_p)$ of non-negative integers satisfying $x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_p \leq q$ equals $\binom{q+p}{q}$.

Proof: Consider the set $S = \{1, 2, ..., p+q\}$. Choose a p-element subset $T = \{t_1, t_2, ..., t_p\}$ of S, $t_1 < t_2 < \cdots < t_p$. Observe that every T corresponds to a p-tuple $(t_1 - t_0 - 1, t_2 - t_1 - 1, ..., t_p - t_{p-1} - 1)$, where $t_0 = 0$, satisfying the conditions of the lemma and vice versa. The well-known fact that there are $\binom{q+p}{p} = \binom{q+p}{q}$ p-element subsets in a (p+q)-element set completes the proof.

Lemma 2.5 For every integer $k \geq 2$, $(1 - \frac{1}{k})^{k-1} > e^{-1}$ and $(1 - \frac{1}{k})^k < e^{-1}$.

Proof: By differentiating $\ln x$ we see that $\frac{1}{k} < \ln(k) - \ln(k-1) < \frac{1}{k-1}$ for $k \ge 2$, which implies that $\frac{-1}{k} > \ln(\frac{k-1}{k}) > \frac{-1}{k-1}$. Thus, $-1 > k \ln(1-\frac{1}{k})$ and $(k-1) \ln(1-\frac{1}{k}) > -1$. Exponentiating each side in the above inequalities, we obtain the desired results.

Lemma 2.6 Let (N, σ, p) be a triple defining an instance of MMSP $(p \geq 2)$ and let $\sigma(1) \geq \sigma(2) \geq \ldots \geq \sigma(n) = 1$. Let $\tilde{\sigma} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sigma(i)/p$. The number g_p of p-partitions $\mathcal{A} = (A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_p)$ of N for which the objective function of MMSP satisfies

$$\sigma(\mathcal{A}) = \max_{1 \le i \le p} \sigma(A_i) < \tilde{\sigma} + 1$$

is less than $p^n \left(\sqrt{\frac{8p}{\pi n}}\right)^{p-1} \sqrt{\frac{4}{\pi}}$.

Proof: Let $\mathcal{A} = (A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_p)$ be a p-partition of N such that $\sigma(\mathcal{A}) < \tilde{\sigma} + 1$. Then, for each $j \in \{1, 2, ..., p\}$, we may write

$$\sigma(A_j) = \tilde{\sigma} - i_j + \alpha_j, \tag{2}$$

where i_j is a non-negative integer and $0 \le \alpha_j < 1$. For a p-tuple (i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_p) of non-negative integers, we denote by $Q'(i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_p)$ the set of all p-partitions \mathcal{A} satisfying

$$0 \le i_j - (\tilde{\sigma} - \sigma(A_j)) < 1$$

for each $j=1,2,\ldots,p$ (see (2)). It is not difficult to see that $Q'(i_1,i_2,\ldots,i_p)$ forms a p-antichain of S. Thus, by Lemma 2.3 and Lemma 2.1,

$$|Q'(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_p)| \le p^{n+1/2} \times \left(\sqrt{\frac{p}{2\pi n}}\right)^{p-1}.$$

By (2) and the definitions of $\tilde{\sigma}$, i_j and α_j , $\sum_{j=1}^p i_j = \sum_{j=1}^p \alpha_j < p$. Since $\sum_{j=1}^p i_j$ is integral, $\sum_{j=1}^p i_j \leq p-1$. Thus, the sum of $|Q'(i_1,i_2,\ldots,i_p)|$ over all p-tuples (i_1,i_2,\ldots,i_p) of non-negative integers with $\sum_{j=1}^{p} i_j \leq p-1$ equals the number g_p . By the arguments above, Lemma 2.4 and Corollary 2.2, we have

$$g_{p} = \sum_{i_{1}+i_{2}+...+i_{p} \leq p-1} |Q'(i_{1}, i_{2}, ..., i_{p})| \leq {\binom{2p-1}{p}} p^{n+1/2} \left(\sqrt{\frac{p}{2\pi n}}\right)^{p-1}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} {\binom{2p}{p}} p^{n+1/2} \left(\sqrt{\frac{p}{2\pi n}}\right)^{p-1}$$

$$< \frac{1}{2} 2^{2p} \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi 2p}} \times p^{n+1/2} \left(\sqrt{\frac{p}{2\pi n}}\right)^{p-1}$$

$$= p^{n} \left(\sqrt{\frac{8p}{\pi n}}\right)^{p-1} \sqrt{\frac{4}{\pi}}.$$

Lemma 2.7 Let p > 2 and x be integers, and let a be a rational number such that x > a > 0and ap is an integer. If $(1-\frac{x-1}{ap})^x > \epsilon$, then $\binom{ap}{x}(\frac{1}{p})^x(1-\frac{1}{p})^{ap-x} > \epsilon \times \frac{a^x}{\epsilon^a x!}$.

Proof: By Lemma 2.5 we get the following:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \binom{ap}{x} (\frac{1}{p})^x (1-\frac{1}{p})^{ap-x} &> \frac{(ap-x+1)^x}{x!} (\frac{1}{p})^x ((1-\frac{1}{p})^{p-1})^a (1-\frac{1}{p})^{a-x} \\ &> (1-\frac{x-1}{ap})^x \frac{(ap)^x}{p^x x!} (e^{-1})^a (\frac{p}{p-1})^{x-a} \\ &> \epsilon \times \frac{a^x}{x!} \times e^{-a}. \end{array}$$

Consider the following simple procedure for obtaining a random p-partition of a finite set S. Start from the p-partition $\mathcal{A}=(A_1,A_2,\ldots,A_p)$, where each A_i is empty, and assign each element of S independently at random to one of A_i 's. (In particular for each $j \in S$ and $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, p\}, Prob(j \in A_i) = 1/p.$

Lemma 2.8 Let $p,b \geq 2$ be integers and let a be a positive rational number such that ap is an integer and b>a. Assume that p is large enough that $(1-\frac{b-1}{ap})^b>\frac{1}{2}$ holds. Let $\mathcal{A} = (A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_p)$ be a random p-partition of $\{1, 2, \ldots, ap\}$. Then the probability that $|A_i| < b$ for all $i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, p\}$ is at most $(1 - \frac{a^b}{2e^ab!})^p$.

Proof: Let B_i be the event that $|A_i| < b$. Mallows [14] proved that the probability that all B_i hold is bounded above by $\prod_{i=1}^p Prob(B_i)$ (various more general results can be found in

[7]). We will now give an upper bound for $Prob(B_i)$. Using $\epsilon = 1/2$ in Lemma 2.7, we obtain the following:

$$Prob(B_i) < 1 - {ap \choose b} (\frac{1}{p})^b (1 - \frac{1}{p})^{ap-b} < 1 - \frac{a^b}{2e^a b!}$$

This implies that $\prod_{i=1}^p Prob(B_i) < (1 - \frac{a^b}{2e^ab!})^p$.

Lemma 2.9 Let (N, σ, p) be a triple defining an instance of MMSP $(p \geq 2)$ and let $\sigma(1) \geq \sigma(2) \geq \ldots \geq \sigma(n) = 1$. Assume that there is a rational number q such that 0 < q < 3 and n = qp. Let $\tilde{\sigma} = \sum_{i=1}^{qp} \sigma(i)/p$. Let $\mathcal{A} = (A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_p)$ be a random p-partition of $N = \{1, 2, \ldots, qp\}$ and let E be the event that $\sum_{j \in A_i} \sigma(j) \leq \tilde{\sigma} + 1$ for all $i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, p\}$. Let $a = \lceil \frac{qp}{2q+1} \rceil/p$ and $b = \lceil 2q+1 \rceil$. If $(1 - \frac{b-1}{pa})^b > \frac{1}{2}$ holds then $Prob(E) \leq (1 - \frac{a^b}{2e^ab!})^p$.

Proof: If $\sigma(1) > \tilde{\sigma} + 1$, then clearly Prob(E) = 0. Thus, we may assume that $1 + \tilde{\sigma} \geq \sigma(1) \geq \sigma(2) \geq \ldots \geq \sigma(qp) = 1$. Since $\tilde{\sigma}/q \geq 1$, we have $\frac{(q+1)\tilde{\sigma}}{q} \geq 1 + \tilde{\sigma}$. Thus,

$$\frac{(q+1)\tilde{\sigma}}{q} \ge 1 + \tilde{\sigma} \ge \sigma(1) \ge \sigma(2) \ge \ldots \ge \sigma(qp) = 1.$$

Let m be the maximal integer for which $\sigma(m) \geq \tilde{\sigma}/(2q)$. Thus, $m\frac{(q+1)\tilde{\sigma}}{q} + (qp-m)\frac{\tilde{\sigma}}{2q} \geq p\tilde{\sigma}$. This implies that $m \geq \frac{qp}{2q+1}$. Let $S = \{1,2,\ldots,ap\}$. By Lemma 2.8, the probability that at least b elements of S are assigned to the same set A_i is at least $1 - (1 - \frac{a^b}{2e^ab!})^p$. Observe that, by the definitions of m,b and a, the sum of weights σ of at least b elements of S exceeds $\tilde{\sigma}+1$. The last two facts imply that $Prob(E) \leq (1-\frac{a^b}{2e^ab!})^p$.

3 Main Result

Recall that the size s of MMSP is $\Theta(n + \sum_{i=1}^n \log \sigma(i))$. Consider the following approximation algorithm H for MMSP. If $s \geq p^n$, then we simply solve the problem optimally. This takes $O(s^2)$ time, as there are at most O(s) solutions, and each one can be evaluated and compared to the current best in O(s) time. If $s < p^n$, then sort the elements of the sequence $\sigma(1), \sigma(2), \ldots, \sigma(n)$. For simplicity of notation, assume that $\sigma(1) \geq \sigma(2) \geq \cdots \geq \sigma(n)$. Compute $r = \lceil \log n / \log p \rceil$ and solve MMSP for $(\{1, 2, \ldots, r\}, \sigma, p)$ to optimality. Suppose we have obtained a p-partition \mathcal{A} of $\{1, 2, \ldots, r\}$. Now for i from r + 1 to n add i to the set A_j of the current p-partition \mathcal{A} with smallest $\sigma(A_j)$.

Theorem 3.1 The algorithm H runs in time $O(s^2 \log s)$. We have $\lim_{s\to\infty} \operatorname{domr}(H,s) = 1$.

Proof: We may assume that every operation of addition and comparison takes O(s) time (see, e.g., [1]). As we observed above, the case $s \geq p^n$ takes $O(s^2)$ time. Let $s < p^n$. The sorting part of H takes time $O(sn \log n)$. The 'optimality' part can be executed in time $O(sp^{\lceil \log n/\log p \rceil}) = O(sn)$. Using an appropriate data structure, one can find out where to add each element i for $i \geq r$ in $O(s \log p)$ time. Thus, the time complexity of H is $O(s^2 \log s)$.

In what follows, we assume that $s < p^n$. Observe that to prove that $\lim_{s \to \infty} \operatorname{domr}(H, s) = 1$ it suffices to show that $\lim_{n \to \infty} \operatorname{domr}(H, s) = 1$. Indeed, by p < n and $s < p^n < n^n$, $\lim_{s \to \infty} n = \infty$.

Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be arbitrary. We will show that there exists an integer n_{ε} such that domr $(H, s) > 1 - \varepsilon$ for all $n > n_{\varepsilon}$. Let $n_{\varepsilon} = \max\{n_0, n_1, n_2, n_3\}$, where n_0, n_1, n_2 and n_3 are any integers satisfying the following inequalities for all $1/3 < a \le 1$ and $3 < b \le 7$.

$$(1 - \frac{b-1}{a\sqrt{\log n_0/3}})^b > \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\varepsilon > \left(1 - \frac{a^b}{2e^ab!}\right)^{\sqrt{\log n_1/3}}$$

$$\varepsilon > \sqrt{\frac{4}{\pi}}\sqrt{\frac{8\log\log n_2\log\log\log n_2}{\pi\log n_2}}$$

$$\varepsilon > \sqrt{\frac{4}{\pi}} \times 0.95^{\log\log n_3 - 1}$$

Let \mathcal{I} be an instance (N, σ, p) , where $n > n_{\varepsilon}$, and let $\mathcal{A} = (A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_p)$ be a p-partition of N obtained by H for \mathcal{I} .

Let A_j be the set of maximal weight in \mathcal{A} and let m be the maximum element of A_j . Clearly, $\sigma(\mathcal{A}) = \sigma(A_j)$. Note that if $m \leq r$ or $m \leq p$, then \mathcal{A} is an optimal solution, so we may assume that

$$m > r \text{ and } m > p$$
 (3)

Since m > r, m is the last element added to A_j . If we divide every $\sigma(i)$, i = 1, 2, ..., n, by $\sigma(m)$ we do not change the solution \mathcal{A} of H. Thus, we may assume that $\sigma(m) = 1$.

At the time just before m was appended to A_j , $\sigma(A_i) \geq \sigma(A_j)$ for every $i \neq j$. Hence, $\sigma(A_j) \leq \sigma(m) + \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \sigma(i)/p < \tilde{\sigma} + 1$, where $\tilde{\sigma} = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sigma(i)/p$. Thus,

$$\sigma(\mathcal{A}) < \tilde{\sigma} + 1. \tag{4}$$

We now consider the following cases.

Case 1: $m \geq 3p$. There are p^m possible ways of putting 1, 2, ..., m into p sets of a p-partition. By (4) and Lemma 2.6, the number of p-partitions of $\{1, 2, ..., m\}$ that are worse than \mathcal{A} is more than

$$p^m - p^m \sqrt{\frac{4}{\pi}} \left(\sqrt{\frac{8p}{\pi m}} \right)^{p-1}.$$

Clearly, no matter how we place the elements $m+1, m+2, \ldots, n$ into the sets of a p-partition \mathcal{B} worse than \mathcal{A} (i.e., $\sigma(\mathcal{A}) < \sigma(\mathcal{B})$), we will end up with a solution worse than \mathcal{A} . Thus, the number of solutions worse than \mathcal{A} is more than

$$p^{n-m}\left(p^m - p^m\sqrt{\frac{4}{\pi}}\left(\sqrt{\frac{8p}{\pi m}}\right)^{p-1}\right) = p^n\left(1 - \sqrt{\frac{4}{\pi}}\left(\sqrt{\frac{8p}{\pi m}}\right)^{p-1}\right).$$

Thus,

$$\operatorname{domr}(H,\mathcal{I}) > 1 - \sqrt{\frac{4}{\pi}} \left(\sqrt{\frac{8p}{\pi m}} \right)^{p-1} \tag{5}$$

Since $m \ge 3p$, we have $\sqrt{8p/(\pi m)} < 0.95$. So if $p \ge \log \log n$, then we are done as $n \ge n_3$. If $p < \log \log n$, then by (3) and the definition of n_2 we obtain the following:

$$\operatorname{domr}(H,\mathcal{I}) > 1 - \sqrt{\frac{4}{\pi}} \left(\sqrt{\frac{8p}{\pi \log n / \log p}} \right)^{p-1} > 1 - \sqrt{\frac{4}{\pi}} \left(\sqrt{\frac{8 \log \log n \log \log \log n}{\pi \log n}} \right) > 1 - \varepsilon.$$

Case 2: m < 3p. We define $q = \frac{m}{p} < 3$, and note that (by (3)), q > 1 and $p > m/3 > \log n/(3\log p)$. This implies that $p > \sqrt{\log n/3}$. Let $a = \lceil \frac{qp}{2q+1} \rceil/p$ and $b = \lceil 2q+1 \rceil$, and note that $\frac{1}{3} < a \le 1$ and $3 < b \le 7$. By the definitions of n_0, n_1 and Lemma 2.9, we have the following:

$$\operatorname{domr}(H,\mathcal{I}) > 1 - \left(1 - \frac{a^b}{2e^ab!}\right)^p > 1 - \left(1 - \frac{a^b}{2e^ab!}\right)^{\sqrt{\log n/3}} > 1 - \varepsilon. \tag{6}$$

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