Uninformed Search

Chapter 3

(Based on slides by Stuart Russell, Subbarao Kambhampati, Dan Weld, Oren Etzioni, Henry Kautz, and other UW-AI faculty)

Agent’s Knowledge Representation

Type	State representation	Focus
Atomic	States are indivisible; No internal structure	Search on atomic states;
Propositional (aka Factored)	States are made of state variables that take values (Propositional or Multi-valued or Continuous)	Search+inference in logical (prop logic) and probabilistic (bayes nets) representations
Relational	States describe the objects in the world and their inter-relations	Search+Inference in predicate logic (or relational prob. Models)
First-order	+functions over objects	Search+Inference in first order logic (or first order probabilistic models)

Illustration with Vacuum World

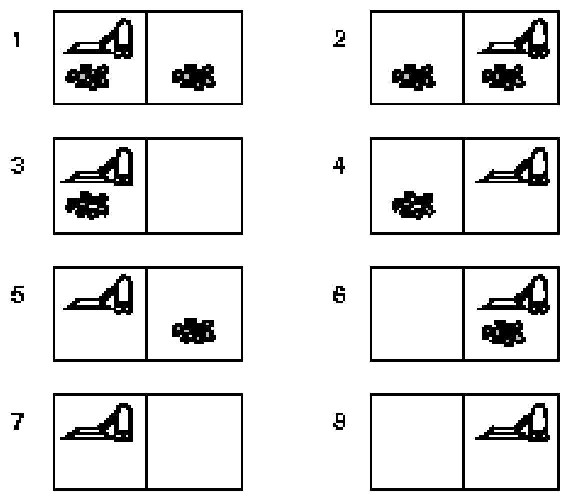
Atomic:

S1, S2…. S8

state is seen as an indivisible snapshot

All Actions are SXS matrices..

If you add a second roomba the state space *doubles*



Propositional/Factored:

States made up of 3 state variables

Dirt-in-left-room T/F

Dirt-in-right-room T/F

Roomba-in-room L/R

Each state is an assignment of Values to state variables

2^3 Different states

Actions can just mention the variables they affect

Note that the representation is compact (logarithmic in the size of the state space)

If you add a second roomba, the Representation increases by just one More state variable.

If you want to consider "noisiness" of rooms, we need *two* variables, one for Each room

Relational:

World made of objects: Roomba; L-room, R-room, dirt

Relations: In (<robot>, <room>); dirty(<room>)

If you add a second roomba, or more rooms, only the objects increase.

If you want to consider noisiness, you just need to add one other relation

Atomic Agent

Input:

- Set of states
- Operators [and costs]
- Start state
- Goal state [test]

Output:

- Path: start $\Rightarrow$ a state satisfying goal test
- [May require shortest path]

What is Search?

- Search is a class of techniques for systematically finding or constructing solutions to problems.

- Example technique: generate-and-test.
- Example problem: Combination lock.

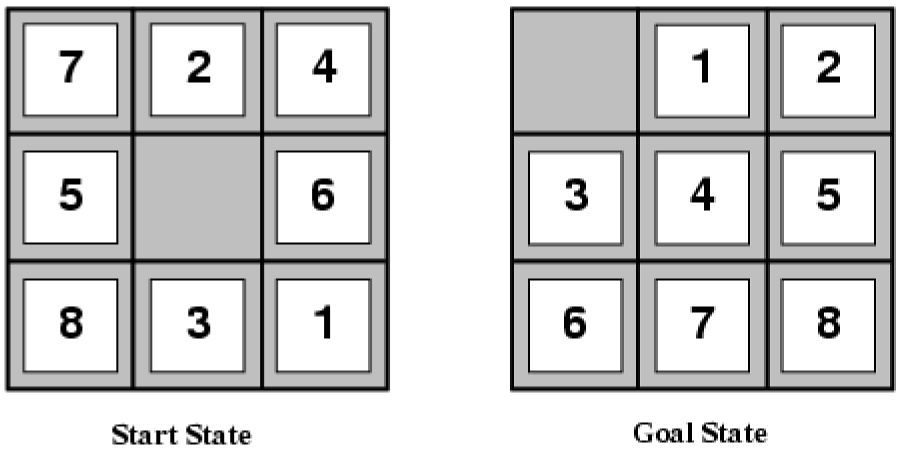
1. Generate a possible solution.
2. Test the solution.
3. If solution found THEN done ELSE return to step 1.

Why is search interesting?

- Many (all?) AI problems can be formulated as search problems!

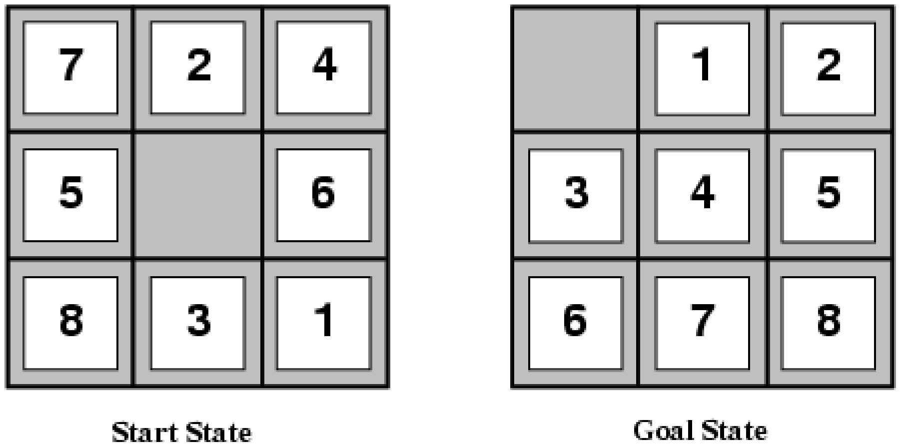
- Examples:
  - Path planning
  - Games
  - Natural Language Processing
  - Machine learning
  - …

Example: The 8-puzzle



- states?
- actions?
- goal test?
- path cost?

Example: The 8-puzzle



- states? locations of tiles
- actions? move blank left, right, up, down
- goal test? = goal state (given)
- path cost? 1 per move
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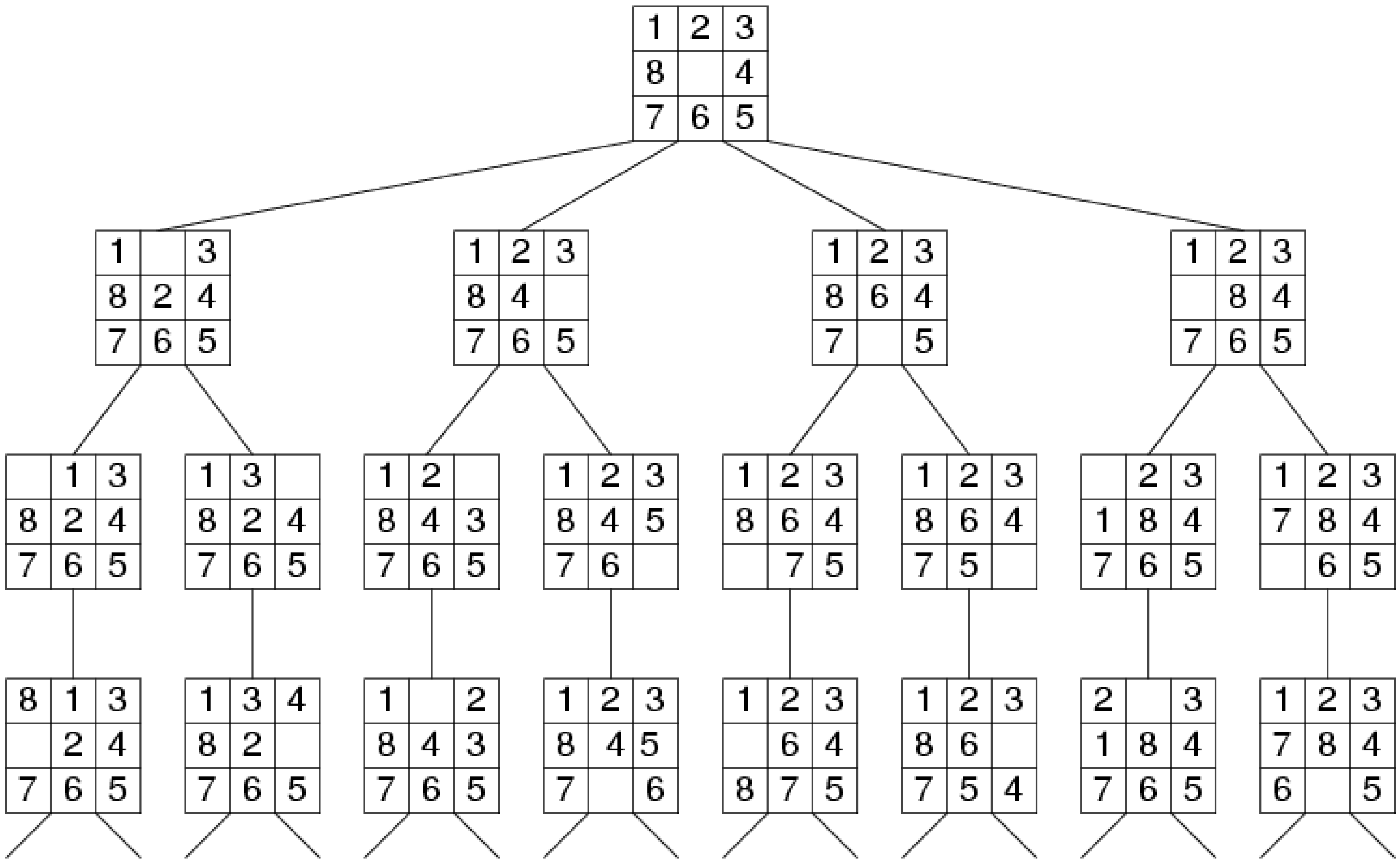
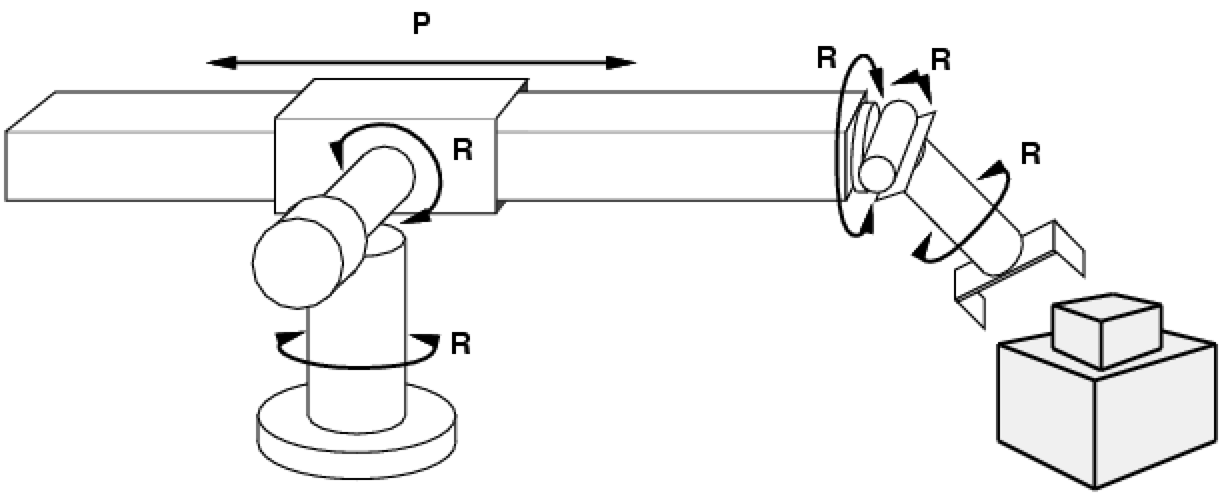
- [Note: optimal solution of *n*-Puzzle family is NP-hard]

Search Tree Example:
Fragment of 8-Puzzle Problem Space



Example: robotic assembly



- states?: real-valued coordinates of robot joint angles parts of the object to be assembled
-
- actions?: continuous motions of robot joints
-
- goal test?: complete assembly
-
- path cost?: time to execute
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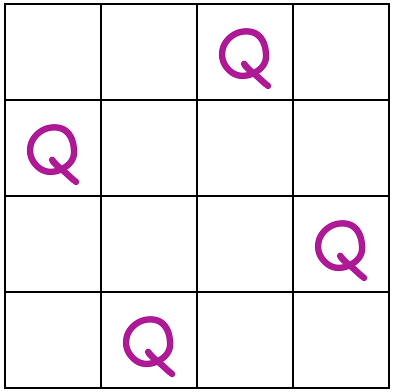
Example: Romania

- On holiday in Romania; currently in Arad.
- Flight leaves tomorrow from Bucharest
-
- Formulate goal:
  - be in Bucharest
  -
- Formulate problem:
  - states: various cities
  - actions: drive between cities
  -
- Find solution:
  - sequence of cities, e.g., Arad, Sibiu, Fagaras, Bucharest
  -

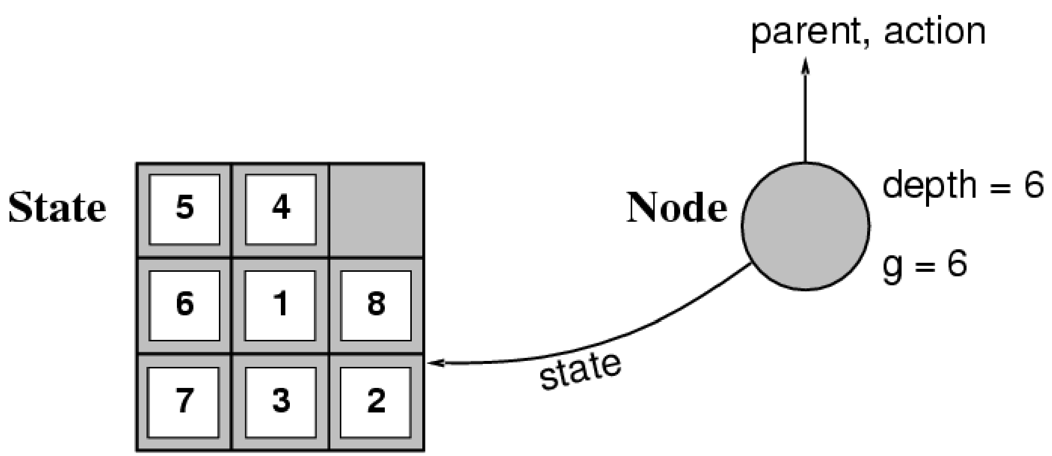
Example: N Queens



- Input:
  - Set of states
  - Operators [and costs]
  - Start state
  - Goal state (test)
- Output

Implementation: states vs. nodes

- A state is a (representation of) a physical configuration
- A node is a data structure constituting part of a search tree includes state, parent node, action, path cost *g(x)*, depth



- The `Expand` function creates new nodes, filling in the various fields and using the `SuccessorFn` of the problem to create the corresponding states.
-

Search strategies

- A search strategy is defined by picking the order of node expansion
- Strategies are evaluated along the following dimensions:
  - completeness: does it always find a solution if one exists?
  - time complexity: number of nodes generated
  - space complexity: maximum number of nodes in memory
  - optimality: does it always find a least-cost solution?
  - systematicity: does it visit each state at most once?

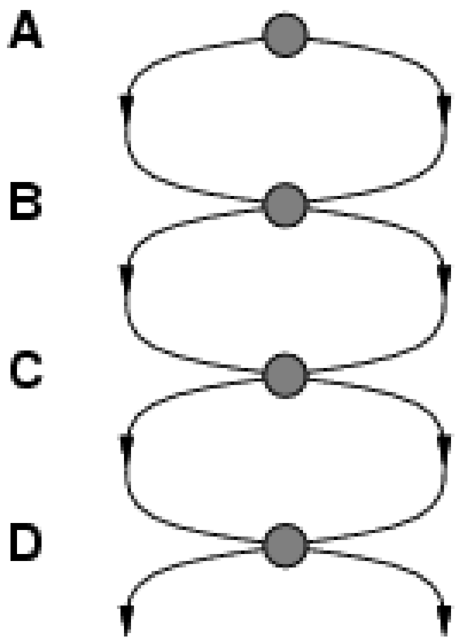
- Time and space complexity are measured in terms of
  - *b:* maximum branching factor of the search tree
  - *d:* depth of the least-cost solution
  - *m*: maximum depth of the state space (may be ∞)

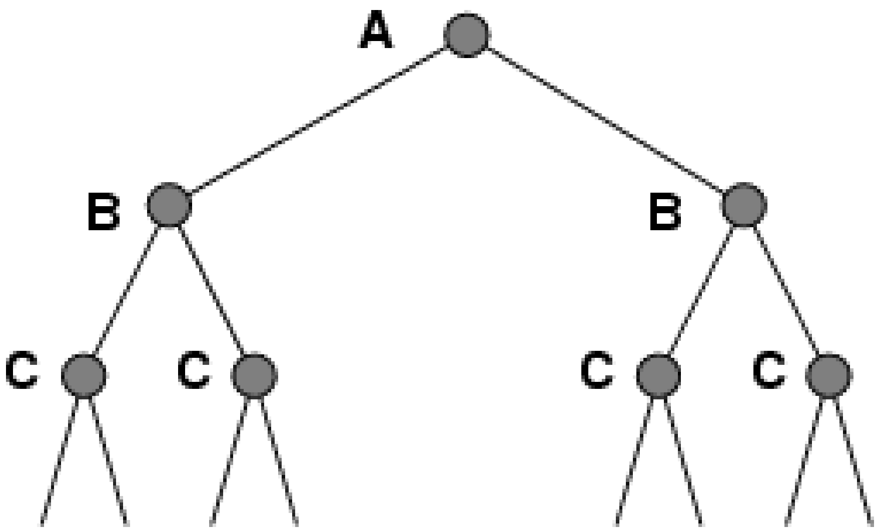
Uninformed search strategies

- Uninformed search strategies use only the information available in the problem definition
- Breadth-first search
- Depth-first search
- Depth-limited search
- Iterative deepening search

Repeated states

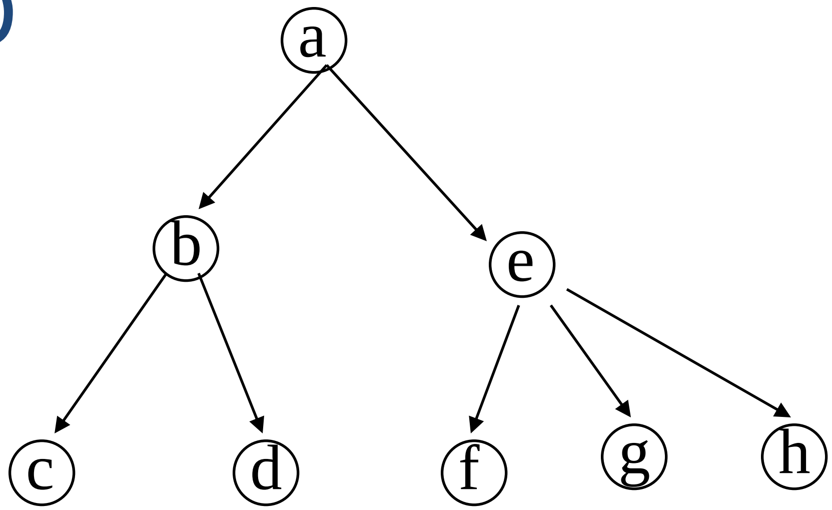
- Failure to detect repeated states can turn a linear problem into an exponential one!





Depth First Search

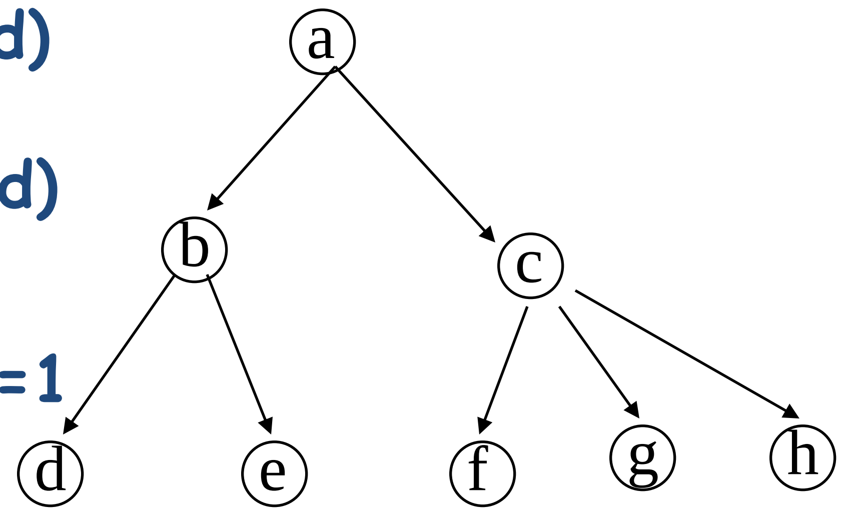
- Maintain stack of nodes to visit
- Evaluation
  - Complete? No
  - Time Complexity? O(b^m)
  - Space Complexity? O(bm)



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtoFAvtVE4U

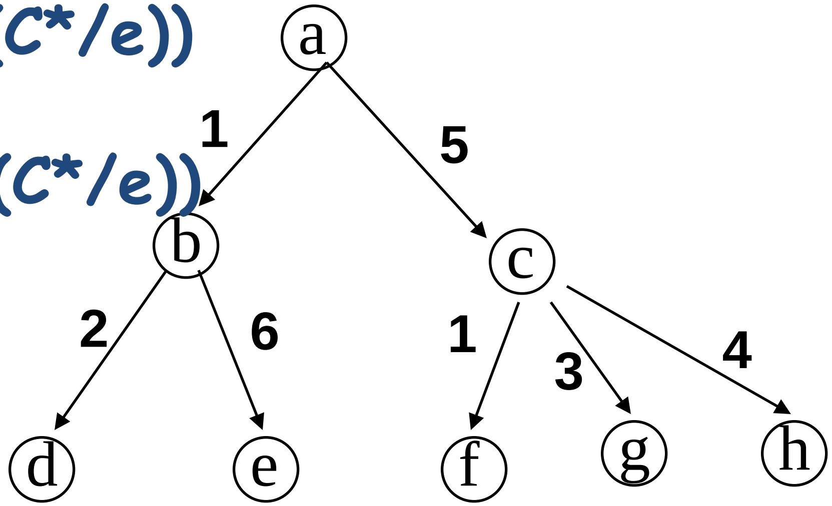
Breadth First Search: shortest first

- Maintain queue of nodes to visit
- Evaluation
  - Complete? Yes (b is finite)
  - Time Complexity? O(b^d)
  - Space Complexity? O(b^d)
  - Optimal?
    Yes, if stepcost=1



Uniform Cost Search: cheapest first

- Maintain queue of nodes to visit
- Evaluation
  - Complete? Yes (b is finite)
  - Time Complexity? $O(b^{(C^*/e)})$
  - Space Complexity? $O(b^{(C^*/e)})$
  - Optimal? Yes



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