

Eric R. Eaton
Visiting Assistant Professor

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

My primary research interests are in artificial intelligence and machine learning, focusing on lifelong learning, knowledge transfer and interactive AI. My secondary interests include applications of AI and ML to medicine, search and rescue, space exploration, and environmental sustainability.

EDUCATION

- May 2009 **Ph.D. in computer science**
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Thesis: *Selective Knowledge Transfer for Machine Learning*
Committee: Marie desJardins (chair), Tim Finin, Terran Lane, Tim Oates, and Yun Peng. GPA: 4.00
- Dec. 2005 **M.S. in computer science**
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Thesis: *Clustering with Propagated Constraints*
Committee: Marie desJardins (chair), Timothy Finin, and Tim Oates. GPA: 4.00
- May 2003 **B.S. *summa cum laude* in computer science**
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Certificate of General Honors. Minor: psychology. GPA: 4.00

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2010 – present **Visiting Assistant Professor**
Bryn Mawr College, Computer Science Department, Bryn Mawr, PA
Led multiple research projects, taught undergraduate courses and labs, advised students, mentored research assistants, and authored grant proposals for a variety of organizations.
- 2008 – 2010 **Senior Research Scientist**
Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Labs, Artificial Intelligence Group, Cherry Hill, NJ
Led multiple basic and applied research projects under both internal and external funding; authored grant proposals for a variety of DoD research institutions and service laboratories.
- 2009 – 2010 **Visiting Assistant Professor (Part-time)**
Swarthmore College, Computer Science Department, Swarthmore, PA
Taught undergraduate Artificial Intelligence (CPSC 063) under contract as a leave replacement.
- 2003 – 2008 **Research Assistant**
University of Maryland, Baltimore County, MAPLE Research Group, Baltimore, MD
Primary Investigator: Dr. Marie desJardins. Conducted research on knowledge transfer, preference learning, constrained clustering, and incremental learning under context changes.
- 2005 – 2008 **Instructor (Part-time)**
University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Computer Science Department, Baltimore, MD
Taught five undergraduate courses, including one upper-level elective on AI (CMSC 471), and a required course on discrete mathematics (CMSC 203).

Internships

- 2002 – 2003 **Undergraduate Research Assistant, CS Dept, University of Maryland, Baltimore County**
- Summer 2002 **Computer Science Intern, Millennium Chemicals, Baltimore Research Center, MD**
- Summer 2001 **Computer Science Intern, Cingular Wireless, Network Operations Center, Hanover, MD**
- Summer 2000 **Computer Science Intern, Millennium Inorganic Chemicals, Baltimore Research Center, MD**

FUNDING

Grants and Contracts

Eric Eaton (PI) and Terran Lane (Co-PI). *Interactive Transfer for Continuous Lifelong Learning*. Office of Naval Research, Grant #N00014-11-1-0139. Total award: \$924,631; Eaton lab portion: **\$590,107**. Duration: Jan. 2011 – Sept. 2015.

Eric Eaton (Sole PI on the Contract). *Analysis of Complex Data Using Heterogeneous Relational Models*. Office of Naval Research, Contract #N00014-10-C-0192. Total award: \$300,000; Eaton lab portion: **\$185,857** subcontracted from Lockheed Martin. Duration: Apr. 2010 – Mar. 2013.

Proposals Under Review

Eric Eaton (Sole PI). *Lifelong Machine Learning of Diverse Sequential Tasks*. Under review for the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) Young Investigator Program. **\$373,070**. Proposed duration: Jan. 2013 – Dec. 2015.

PUBLICATIONS

Theses

Eric Eaton. (2009). *Selective Knowledge Transfer for Machine Learning*. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Eric Eaton. (2005). *Clustering with Propagated Constraints*. Master's Thesis, University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Journals and Highly Selective Refereed Conferences

Eric Eaton, Marie desJardins, and Sara Jacob. (2012) “Multi-view constrained clustering with an incomplete mapping between views.” To appear in *Knowledge and Information Systems*. DOI 10.1007/s10115-012-0577-7.

Eric Eaton and Rachael Mansbach. (2012) “A spin-glass model for semi-supervised community detection.” In *Proceedings of the 26th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-12)*, Toronto, Canada, AAAI Press. [Acceptance rate: 26%]

Eric Eaton and Marie desJardins. (2011). “Selective transfer between learning tasks using task-based boosting.” In *Proceedings of the 25th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-11)*, pp. 337–342, August 7–11, San Francisco, CA, AAAI Press. [Acceptance rate: 24.8%]

Eric Eaton, Marie desJardins, and Sara Jacob. (2010). “Multi-view clustering with constraint propagation for learning with an incomplete mapping between views.” In *Proceedings of the 2010 Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM-10)*, pp. 389–398, October 26–30, Toronto, Canada. [Acceptance rate: 13.4%]

Eric Eaton, Gary Holness, and Daniel McFarlane. (2010). “Interactive learning using manifold geometry.” In *Proceedings of the 24th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-10)*, pp. 437–443, July 11–15, Atlanta, GA. [Acceptance rate: 26.9%]

Kiri Wagstaff, Marie desJardins, and Eric Eaton. (2010). “Modeling and learning user preferences over sets.” *Journal of Experimental & Theoretical Artificial Intelligence* 22(3): 237–268.

Eric Eaton, Marie desJardins, and Terran Lane. (2008). “Modeling transfer relationships between learning tasks for improved inductive transfer.” In *Proceedings of the 2008 European Conference on Machine Learning (ECML-08)*, pp. 317–332, September 15–19, Antwerp, Belgium, Springer-Verlag. [Acceptance rate: 20%]

Marie desJardins, Eric Eaton, and Kiri Wagstaff. (2006). “Learning user preferences for sets of objects.” In *Proceedings of the 23rd International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML-06)*, June 25–29, Pittsburgh, PA, ACM Press. [Acceptance rate: 20%; Awarded recognition as a NASA Tech Brief in 2008.]

Refereed Workshops, Symposia, and Less-Selective Conferences

Paul Ruvolo and Eric Eaton. (2013). “Scalable Lifelong Learning with Active Task Selection.” To appear in the AAAI 2013 Spring Symposium on Lifelong Machine Learning, Stanford, CA, March 25–27.

Douglas Fisher, Bistra Dilkina, Eric Eaton, and Carla Gomes. (2012) “Incorporating Computational Sustainability into AI Education through a Freely-Available, Collectively-Composed Supplementary Lab Text.” In *Proceedings of the Third AAAI Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (EAAI-12)*, Toronto, Canada, July.

Douglas Fisher, Bistra Dilkina, Eric Eaton, and Carla Gomes. (2012) “Incorporating Computational Sustainability into AI Education through a Freely-Available, Collectively-Composed Supplementary Lab Text.” [Oral and Poster Presentation] In the 3rd International Conference on Computational Sustainability (CompSust’12), July 5–6, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Diane Oyen, Eric Eaton, and Terran Lane. (2012) “Inferring tasks for improved network structure discovery.” [Poster Presentation] In *the Snowbird Learning Workshop*, Snowbird, Utah, April 3–6.

Eric Eaton and Terran Lane. (2011). “The importance of selective knowledge transfer for lifelong learning.” In *Working Notes of the AAAI-11 Workshop on Lifelong Learning from Sensorimotor Experience*.

Samantha Wood, Michelle Mills Strout, David G. Wonnacott, and Eric Eaton. (2011) “SMOREs: Sparse Matrix Omens of Reordering Success.” [Poster Presentation] In *Proceedings of the 32nd ACM SIGPLAN Conference on Programming Language Design and Implementation (PLDI-11)*, June 4–8, San Jose, CA, ACM Press. [Awarded 1st place in the PLDI Student Research Competition, Undergraduate Category.]

Eric Eaton and Marie desJardins. (2009). “Set-based boosting for instance-level transfer.” In *Proc. of the IEEE International Conference on Data Mining Workshop on Transfer Mining*, December 6, Miami, FL, IEEE Press.

Eric Eaton, Gary Holness, and Daniel McFarlane. (2009). “Interactive learning using manifold geometry.” In *Proceedings of the AAAI Fall Symposium on Manifold Learning and Its Applications*, November 5–7, Arlington, VA. AAAI Technical Report FS-09-04, AAAI Press.

Eric Eaton. (2008). “Gridworld search and rescue: A project framework for a course in artificial intelligence.” In *Proceedings of the AAAI-08 AI Education workshop*, pp. 34–39, July 13–14, Chicago, IL, AAAI Press.

Eric Eaton, Marie desJardins, and Terran Lane. (2008). “Using functions on a model graph for inductive transfer.” In *the Northeast Student Colloquium on Artificial Intelligence (NESCAI-08)*, May 2–4, Ithaca, NY.

Eric Eaton, Marie desJardins, and John Stevenson. (2007). “Using multiresolution learning for transfer in image classification.” In *Proceedings of the 22nd AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-07)* [Student Abstract], July 22–26, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, AAAI Press.

Eric Eaton. (2006). “Multi-resolution learning for knowledge transfer.” In *Proceedings of the 21st AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-06)* [Doctoral Consortium], July 16–20, Boston, MA, AAAI Press.

Eric Eaton and Marie desJardins. (2006). “Knowledge transfer with a multiresolution ensemble of classifiers.” In *Proc. of the ICML-06 Workshop on Structural Knowledge Transfer for Machine Learning*, June 29, Pittsburgh, PA.

Marie desJardins, Eric Eaton, and Kiri Wagstaff. (2005). “A context-sensitive and user-centric approach to developing personal assistants.” In *Proceedings of the AAAI Spring Symposium on Persistent Assistants*, March 21–23, Stanford, CA, AAAI Press.

Technical Reports and Non-Refereed Publications

Karen Heigh, Fusun Yaman, and Eric Eaton. (2012). “Self-improving automatic machine learning.” Raytheon/BBN Technologies Technical Report #W12006-BBN, 9 pgs, January.

Martin Hofmann, Honglak Lee, Eric Eaton, Brian Kettler, Katherine Guo, and Sergey Malinchik. (2012). “An automatic interactive machine learning tool.” Lockheed Martin ATL Technical Report #DS-105-421-1798RFI, 10 pgs, January.

Eric Eaton, Dan McFarlane, and Martin Hofmann. (2009). “Analysis of complex data using heterogeneous relational models.” Lockheed Martin ATL Technical Report #DS-104-421-1610WP, 6 pgs, March.

Eric Eaton, Gary Holness, and Dan McFarlane. (2009). “Situational awareness through interactive learning.” Lockheed Martin ATL Technical Report #DS-104-421-1607WP, 4 pgs, March.

Meghann Lomas, Daniel McFarlane, Eric Eaton, Robert Szczerba, and Jerry Franke. (2009). “Dynamic ensemble planning for tactical hierarchies.” Lockheed Martin ATL Technical Report #DS-104-421-1604WP, 4 pgs, March.

Eric Eaton, Katherine Guo, and Martin Hofmann. (2009). “Predicting and verifying effects of cyber operations from indirect observations.” Lockheed Martin ATL Technical Report #DS-105-421-1598WP, 5 pgs, January.

Eric Eaton, Katherine Guo, and Martin Hofmann. (2008). “Multimodal and temporal learning using relational networks.” Lockheed Martin ATL Technical Report #DS-105-421-1583RFI, 7 pgs, November.

Online Textbooks

Douglas H. Fisher, Eric Eaton, Bistra Dilkina, and Carla Gomes (eds.) *Artificial Intelligence for Computational Sustainability: A Lab Companion*. Available online at http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Artificial_Intelligence_for_Computational_Sustainability:_A_Lab_Companion. [This is an ongoing experiment in crowd-sourced creation of open educational materials. The wikibook is designed to supplement an existing AI course with sustainability-related exercises, and was featured at EAAI’12 and CompSust’12.]

Software

Eric Eaton. (2008). *Gridworld search and rescue: A project framework for a course in artificial intelligence*.

This educational software allows students to develop an intelligent agent for a Search and Rescue application in a partially observable gridworld. It allows students to focus on high-level AI issues for solving the problem rather than low-level robotic navigation. It was used as the AI semester project at UMBC (CMSC 471, Fall 2007) and Swarthmore College (CPSC 063, Fall 2009), and has since been used at several other universities. The simulation framework is freely available for educational and not-for-profit research purposes at <http://cs.brynmawr.edu/~eeaton/searchandrescue/>.

Eric Eaton, Marie desJardins, and Kiri Wagstaff. (2006). *DDPref: Learning preferences for sets of objects*.

A Java implementation of the DDPref language for expressing preferences over sets of objects, and an algorithm for learning those preferences from example sets. The DDPref language and learning algorithm are described in the ICML-06 paper “Learning user preferences for sets of objects.” The library is available under the GPL at <http://cs.brynmawr.edu/~eeaton/software/DDPref.zip>.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSION PANELS [Excludes publication presentations]

Panelist for *AI and Sustainability* discussion panel, Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (EAAI-12) Symposium at AAAI-12, July 2012.

Continual Learning Agents: From transfer learning to lifelong machine learning

- Presented at the Naval Research Lab, Artificial Intelligence Seminar Series (Host: David Aha), March 2012.
- Presented at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, February 2012.
- Presented at Towson University, March 2011.

Panelist for *Teaching challenges in the classroom* discussion panel, Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (EAAI) Symposium at AAAI-11, August 2011.

Spectral clustering: Identifying groups in relational networks. Presented at Bryn Mawr College, July 2010.

Interactive learning using manifold geometry. Presented at Villanova University, April 2010.

Improving machine learning through knowledge transfer.

- Presented at Rutgers University, CS Colloquium Series (Host: Michael Littman), February 2009.
- Presented at Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Laboratories, Cherry Hill, NJ, April 2008.

STUDENT RESEARCH ADVISEMENT

Postdoctoral Research Assistants (primary advisor)

- Paul Ruvolo, Ph.D. (Postdoc at Bryn Mawr College, 2012–present): lifelong learning, community detection.
- Steven Gutstein, Ph.D. (Postdoc at Bryn Mawr College, 2011–2012): lifelong learning.

Committee Member (in progress)

- Ph.D. dissertation committee member, Diane Oyen (University of New Mexico; Dr. Lane, advisor): active multi-task learning for fMRI data

Graduate Research Completed (primary advisor)

- Tyler Rush (Summer 2011 R.A. at Bryn Mawr): Gaussian process models for community detection.
- David Cooper (LM Summer Intern 2009; UMass Ph.D. prgm): multivariate motif discovery in time series.

Undergraduate Theses (primary advisor)

- Caitlyn Clabaugh. (2013) Topic: Learning to create automatic A vs B music mashups.
- Rose Abernathy. (2013) Topic: Intuitive macro-level control of crowd interactions for video games.
- Meagan Neal. (2013) Topic: Theoretical bounds for multi-task learning (Co-advised by Leslie Cheng, Bryn Mawr Math Dept.)
- Leila Zilles. (2012). *A Framework for Improving Statistical Machine Translation Between Languages with Scarce Bilingual Resources*. Undergraduate Thesis with Honors, Bryn Mawr College.
 - Continued to PhD studies at the University of Washington
 - Awards: NSF Graduate Research Fellowship; BMC Gertrude Slaughter Fellowship
 - Additional summer research on active transfer learning
- Emily Levine. (2012). *Learning Models to Detect Early Onset Parkinson Disease*. Undergraduate Thesis with Honors, Bryn Mawr College.
- Benjamin Cutilli. (2012). *Computer Vision and its Application in Self-Driving Cars*. Undergraduate Thesis, Haverford College. (Co-advised by David Wonnacott, Haverford College.)

Undergraduate Research (in addition to undergraduate theses listed above)

- Jacy Li (Bryn Mawr '14): online multitask learning
- Yinxuan Rachel Li (Bryn Mawr '14): semi-supervised community detection
- Meagan Neal (Bryn Mawr '13): incorporating interaction into lifelong learning
- David Wilikofsky (Swarthmore '12): human-agent transfer for reinforcement learning
- Leila Zilles (Bryn Mawr '12): active transfer learning (also sr. thesis, as described above)
- Kerstin Baer (Bryn Mawr '11): continual knowledge transfer using sparse coding
 - Continued to PhD studies in theoretical mathematics at Stanford
 - Awards: NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
- Samantha Wood (Bryn Mawr '11): machine learning for a priori matrix reordering algorithm selection
 - Continued to PhD studies in computer science at UC San Diego
 - Awards: NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
 - Secondary advisor for honors thesis (primary advisors: David Wonnacott, Michelle Mills Strout).
- Alexandra Lee (Bryn Mawr '11): constrained community detection
 - Continued to graduate studies in applied math at the University of Washington
- Stephanie Tran (Bryn Mawr '13): learning for search and rescue in USARsim
- Rachael Mansbach (Swarthmore '11): community discovery in relational networks
 - Continued to PhD studies in physics at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign
- John Stevenson (UMBC '08): multiresolution learning
- Eric Hamilton (UMBC '07): multiscale image processing
- Craig Cambias (UMBC '05): annotated constrained clustering
 - Continued to graduate studies at Georgia Tech

TEACHING

Courses Taught (* denotes new courses I developed)

Fall 2012	CMSC 206: Data Structures (lecture & lab), Bryn Mawr College. CMSC 110: Intro. to Computing (lecture & lab; co-taught w/ postdoc Paul Ruvolo), Bryn Mawr College.
Spring 2012	CMSC 372: Artificial Intelligence (lecture & lab), Bryn Mawr College. CMSC 206: Data Structures (lecture & lab), Bryn Mawr College.
Fall 2011	CMSC 206: Data Structures (lecture & lab), Bryn Mawr College. CMSC 110: Intro. to Computing (lecture & lab), Bryn Mawr College.
Spring 2011	CMSC 380: Machine Learning* (lecture & discussion), Bryn Mawr College. CMSC 110: Intro. to Computing (lecture & lab), Bryn Mawr College.
Fall 2010	CMSC 312: Computer Graphics (lecture & lab), Bryn Mawr College. CMSC 380: Computational Sustainability & Assistive Computing* (lecture), Bryn Mawr College.
Fall 2009	CPSC 063: Artificial Intelligence (lecture & lab), Swarthmore College.
Fall 2007	CMSC 471: Artificial Intelligence, UMBC.
Fall 2006	CMSC 121: Introduction to UNIX (2 sections), UMBC.
Fall 2005	CMSC 121: Introduction to UNIX, UMBC.
Spring 2005	CMSC 203: Discrete Mathematics, UMBC.

Guest Lectures

Spring 2010	<i>Supervised Machine Learning</i> , CSC 8520: Graduate Artificial Intelligence, Villanova University.
Fall 2008	<i>Knowledge Representation and AI in Games</i> , CSC 8520: Graduate AI, Villanova University.
Fall 2007	<i>Counting and Probability</i> , CMSC 203: Discrete Structures, UMBC.
Fall 2005	<i>Proof by Induction</i> , CMSC 203: Discrete Structures, UMBC. <i>First-Order Logic and Logical Inference</i> , CMSC 671: Artificial Intelligence, UMBC.
Fall 2004	<i>Mathematics in L^AT_EX</i> , CMSC 203: Discrete Structures, UMBC.

Other Teaching and Mentoring Activities

- Secondary faculty advisor for Bryn Mawr College RoboCup Soccer Team (2012–2013).
- Lecture on AI to middle-school students as part of the Summer Institute for the Gifted @ Bryn Mawr (2011).
- “Customer” for software development teams, CMSC 345: Software Design and Development, UMBC (Spring 2007, Spring 2006, Spring 2005, Fall 2004, Spring 2004).
- Academic adviser for incoming UMBC undergraduates and transfer students (2004–2005).
- Graduate student mentor for the UMBC CSEE Department (2004–2005).

HONORS AND AWARDS

- First place in PLDI-11 Student Research Competition, Undergraduate Category for poster by Samantha Wood. June 2011.
- Lockheed Martin SPOT Awards (2): for research and proposal leadership. December 2009, May 2010.
- NASA Tech Brief Award for “Learning user preferences for sets of objects.” February 2008.
- Verizon Graduate Fellowship. Duration: August 2005 – January 2006.
- Goddard Earth Sciences and Technology Graduate Fellowship, \$60,000 plus tuition and benefits. Duration: August 2003 – August 2005.
- UMBC Honors College Certificate of General Honors (2003).
- UMBC Outstanding Achievement in Computer Science Award (2003).
- Lockheed Martin Scholar (2001–2002).
- UMBC Presidential Fellow (1999–2003).
- UMBC Honors College Scholar (1999–2003).
- Maryland Science and Technology Scholar (1999–2003).

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Professional Service

Conference and Symposium Organization

- Chair, AAAI Spring Symposium on Lifelong Machine Learning (2013).
- Co-chair, AAAI-13 Workshops Program, the 27th Conference on Artificial Intelligence (2013).
- Organizing Committee, EAAI Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (2013).

Journal Reviewing

- Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research: 2012, 2011
- Autonomous Agents and Multi-Agent Systems: 2012
- IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems: 2012
- Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery: 2009
- IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering: 2009, 2008

Senior Program Committees

- AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence: 2013

Program Committees

- AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence:
 - Main technical program: 2012
 - Computational Sustainability track: 2012, 2011
 - Integrated Intelligence track: 2011, 2010
- EAAI Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence: 2012
- IJCAI International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence: 2011
- ICML International Conference on Machine Learning: 2009

Other Activities

- Judge, Indoor Aerial Robotics Competition, Drexel University (2012).
- Conference paper co-reviewing:
 - AAAI-05, the 20th Conference on Artificial Intelligence (2005)
 - ICML-05, the 22nd International Conference on Machine Learning (2005).
 - IJCAI-05, the International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (2005).
 - ICML-04, the 21st International Conference on Machine Learning (2004).
- Judge, the 26th Annual UMB/UMBC Graduate Research Conference (2004).
- Registration Asst. and Session Chair, ICML-03, the 20th Int. Conf. on Machine Learning (2003).

Bryn Mawr College Service

- Primary “Major Advisor” for computer science majors (2012–2013).
- Member, Computer Science System Administrator / Lab Coordinator search committee (2012).
- Coordinator of guest speakers for FLICS Fantastic Lectures in Computer Science series (2011–2012).
- Organized showcase and discussion of SIGGRAPH videos (2010).
- Bryn Mawr organizer for student research showcase at Haverford College (2010).

UMBC Service

- Revised CS Graduate Student Handbook and Progress Checklists (2007).
- Member, Provost’s Student Advisory Committee (2004–2005).
- Student Member, CSEE Department Promotion and Tenure Committee (2004, 2003).
- Co-Organizer, CSEE Department “Hi-Tea” Weekly Social Forum (S’2007, F’2006, F’2004, S’2004).
- CSEE Representative, Graduate School Horizons program (Summer 2004, Summer 2003).
- Panelist, College of Engineering and Information Technology Summer Preview Days (Summer 2004).
- Sole Student Member, CSEE Department Chair Search Committee (Fall 2003).

REFERENCES

Primary References

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Dr. Terran Lane, Senior Engineer
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(Dr. Lane was formerly a tenured Associate
Professor at the University of New Mexico)

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Secondary References

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