### Nuclear Astrophysics

- Observing Nuclei in Cosmic Sites -

by Roland Diehl MPE Garching

Astroparticle School, Bärnfels (D), 06 Oct 2010

### Outline

- \* Theme of my lecture, the context, the role of astronomy
- \* How cosmic messengers of nuclear-physics impacts are obtained
- \* What we learned from "astronomical constraints"

### Nuclear Physics in Cosmic Sources



• Nuclear Physics in Cosmic Environments - where is it relevant?

### ☆ Nuclear Energy Release

- Structure of Stars
- Dynamics of Explosions

### ☆ Nucleosynthesis

- Elemental Abundances in Stars and in ISM (SNR), IGM
- Radioactive Isotopes

### ☆ Characteristic Nuclear Radiation

- Nuclear Excitation (Emission/Absorption Lines)
- Radioactive Decay

#### =>

# Nature of Cosmic Sources, Cosmic Processes Search for New Phenomena





Energy (MeV

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### What is a massive star?



### Stars are gravitationally confined thermonuclear reactors

Each time one runs out of one kind of fuel, contraction and heating ensue, unless degeneracy is encountered.

For a star over 8 M<sub>©</sub> contraction and heating continue until a Fe core is made

Gravitational collapse ensues, after no energy-providing fuel is left

ourtesy SEWoosley

• Nuclear Physics in Cosmic Environments - where is it relevant?

### ☆ Nuclear Energy Release

- Structure of Stars



- Nuclear Physics in Cosmic Environments where is it relevant?
  - Structure of Neutron Stars

 $\rightarrow$  Mass-Radius Relation  $\leftarrow \rightarrow$  Composition & State of High-Density Matter



• Nuclear Physics in Cosmic Environments - where is it relevant?



# Example: C Fusion (12C+12C)

### ☆ The Importance of Low-Energy Nuclear Resonances



<sup>C</sup>multi-point ignition towards runaway after 10<sup>4</sup>y 'smoldering'
Creaction rate vs. T,ρ



(a) 800 s; (b) 3200 s; (c) 3420 s; (d) 7131.79 s

• Nuclear Physics in Cosmic Environments - where is it relevant?



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# The Quest: Origin of the Elements

### ☆ What is the Origin of the Variety of Cosmic Elements...

- @ at its presently-observed
   variety (here: solar)
- with abundances spanning 12 orders of magnitude,
- ... and revealing remarkable sub-structure





### Abundances: An Astronomical Measurement



### ☆ Relevance of Knowledge about Cosmic Abundances:

#### Constraints for Nucleosynthesis

- Nuclear Reactions in Cosmic Environments
- Astrophysical Conditions in Nuclear-Burning Sites

#### Constraints for Evolutionary Processes in the Universe

- Formation of Stars and Stellar Assemblies...Galaxies
- Enrichment of Cosmic Gas Supplies with Nucleosynthesis Products

### **Cosmic Chemical Evolution**



# **Cosmic** Nucleosynthesis

- Big Bang Nucleosynthesis
  - \* Extrapolations of Metallicity Evolution Data
  - ☆ Cosmological-Model Consistency Validation z~1000
- First Stars:

z~20

- ☆ Gamma-Ray Bursts
- ☆ Quasar Absorption Lines
- 🖈 Abnormal Metal-Poor Stars
- Early Stellar Generations z~3...0.1
  - ☆ High-Redshift Galaxies' Metallicities
  - ☆ Metal-Poor Stars
  - ☆ Intergalactic Gas (WHIM, Clusters)
  - ☆ SNIa, GRBs
- Current Nucleosynthesis
  - Nucleosynthesis Sources
     (Massive Stars, Supernovae, Novae)
  - ☆ Recent Stellar Generations, ISM





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One of the Key Tools of Astrophysics:

Where do specific atomic nuclei and their abundance originate?



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☆ Nuclear Energy Release

- Structure of Stars
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### ☆ Nucleosynthesis

- Elemental Abundances in Stars and Gas
- Radioactive Isotopes



- Nuclear Physics in Cosmic Environments where is it relevant?
  - \* Characteristic Nuclear Radiation
    - Nuclear Excitation Lines
    - Radioactive Decay
    - <sup>Selativistic</sup> Particle Acceleration → CRs
      - Solar Flares
      - Interstellar Shocks
      - AGN



#### © Current Nucleosynthesis Source Locations











• Nuclear Physics in Cosmic Environments - where is it relevant?

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Energy (MeV



# Nuclear Reactions in Cosmic Environments

### \* Tunneling Reactions of Thermal-Particle Populations



### Example: Measuring H-Burning Reactions



Extrapolations for Solar Energies -> Solar v's

## **Key Nuclear-Physics Questions**

- ☆ What is the Nature of the Nuclear Force, as it Binds Known Nuclei?
- ☆ What is the Origin of Simple Patterns found in Nuclear Structure?
- ☆ What is the Composition and Structure of Neutron Stars?
- ☆ What is the Origin of Cosmic Elements?
- ☆ What are the Nuclear Reactions that Drive the Evolution of Stars and Stellar Explosions?

adapted from Dean, PT 2007

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Energy (MeV

# Messengers from Cosmic Objects & Processes

★ Material Samples
 ☆ Meteorites
 ☆ Cosmic Rays
 ☆ Neutrinos







# $\star$ Electromagnetic Radiation

☆ Radio / sum-mm / IR / optical / UV / X-rays / Gamma-Rays



\* Gravitational Waves

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### Astronomical Observations throughout the e.m. Spectrum



### Astronomy across the Electromagnetic Spectrum



#### ☆ "Nuclear" Astronomy:

- Diagnostics of high-energy processes MeV...100 MeV
- Nucleosynthesis Probe
- Unique / Direct / Complementary
  - Intensity not dependent on ionization states, temperature
  - No attenuation/occultation issues

## Gamma-Rays for Cosmic-Isotope Measurements Special Characteristics:



## Gamma-Rays for Cosmic-Isotope Measurements Special Characteristics:





## Nucleosynthesis Study with Gamma-Rays -> Physics / Processes at/inside the Nucleosynthesis Site

Isotope	Mean Lifetime	Decay Chain	$^{\gamma}$ -Ray Energy (keV)
<sup>7</sup> Be	77 d	<sup>7</sup> Be → <sup>7</sup> Li*	478
<sup>56</sup> Ni	111 d	$^{56}\text{Ni} \rightarrow ^{56}\text{Co}^* \rightarrow ^{56}\text{Fe}^* + e^+$	158, 812; 847, 1238
<sup>57</sup> Ni	390 d	<sup>57</sup> Co→ <sup>57</sup> Fe*	122
<sup>22</sup> Na	3.8 у	$^{22}$ Na $\rightarrow$ $^{22}$ Ne* + e <sup>+</sup>	1275
<sup>44</sup> Ti	89 y	<sup>44</sup> Ti→ <sup>44</sup> Sc*→ <sup>44</sup> Ca*+e <sup>+</sup>	78, 68; 1157
<sup>26</sup> Al	1.04 10 <sup>6</sup> y	$^{26}\text{Al} \xrightarrow{26}\text{Mg}^* + e^+$	1809
<sup>60</sup> Fe	2.0 10 <sup>6</sup> y	${}^{60}\mathrm{Fe} \rightarrow {}^{60}\mathrm{Co}^* \rightarrow {}^{60}\mathrm{Ni}^*$	59, 1173, 1332
e*	10 <sup>5</sup> y	$e^++e^- \rightarrow Ps \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$	511, 511



511 keV, <sup>7</sup>Be -> Novae
 -> p-Captures, β<sup>+</sup> Decays
 -> <sup>19</sup>F Production...

<sup>26</sup>Al -> Reaction Path Details in Stars/ SNe, v-Process
-> Metal/Fe Ratio, Si/Fe

<sup>44</sup>Ti, <sup>56</sup>Ni -> Most Stable Isotopes <sup>56</sup>Ni/
<sup>4</sup>He, Freeze-Out of NSE
-> Metal/Fe Ratio, Heavies/Fe

# Gamma-Ray Astronomy: Instruments

Photon Counters and Telescopes



Achieved Sensitivity: ~10<sup>-5</sup> ph cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, Angular Resolution ≥ deg Limitation: Overwhelming Instrumental Background → Need Discriminating (& Imaging) Information per Event Astroparticle School, Bärnfels (D), 06 Oct 2010

### Gamma-Ray Astronomical Telescopes: Interaction of HE photons with matter



### Gamma-Ray Astronomical Telescopes: Interaction of HE photons with matter



# The Imaging Compton Telescope

## Compton Scattering: A Coincidence Technique

![](_page_33_Figure_2.jpeg)

# INTEGRAL: Ge $\gamma$ -Spectrometry in Space!

![](_page_34_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_2.jpeg)

17 October 2002: 06:41 Launch from Baikonur / Kasachstan

### Summer 2008:

Healthy Spacecraft & Instruments Mission Operations till 2012+ SPI: Coded-Mask Telescope 15-8000 keV Energy Resolution ~2.2 keV @ 662 keV Spatial Precision 2.6° / ~2 arcmin Field-of-View 16×16°

![](_page_34_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_12.jpeg)

Achievements:

# <sup>26</sup>Al in our Galaxy: Image and Spectrum

![](_page_35_Picture_2.jpeg)
## **Capabilities for Nuclear Astronomy**



## What Did We Achieve?

#### \* Comments on Science Results, and How They Have Been Obtained

## Astrophysics and Nuclear Physics

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<sup>©</sup>Nature of Cosmic Sources, Cosmic Processes <sup>10-6</sup> <sup>©</sup>Search for New Phenomena





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## Following Stellar Evolution

Rauscher; Heger 2003

#### ☆ The "Kippenhahn" Diagram: Could be Very Different!



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## **Stellar Structure Complexities**

#### \* Stellar Rotation Incurs Structural Changes!



## Massive-Star Structure: Issues



## Synthesis of <sup>26</sup>Al in Stars and Supernovae

#### ☆ Massive Star Burning

#### Physics:

- Stellar Evolution Phases
- Mass Loss
- Convection & Mixing
- Intermittent Nuclear-Burning Phases





#### ☆ Supernova Explosive Nucleosynthesis

☆ Physics:

Explosion Trigger

#### Shock Structure and Mixing

## <sup>26</sup>Al in our Galaxy: Ejecta from Massive Stars



## Using the <sup>26</sup>Al Line to Characterize the Galaxy

-> Diehl et al., Nature 2006

☆ Measured Gamma-Ray Flux
 ☆ Galaxy Geometry



☆ <sup>26</sup>Al Yields per Star
 ☆ Stellar Mass Distribution



☆ Gas Mass in Galaxy



**Isotopic** 

= 8.4 10<sup>-6</sup>

Ratio



## > <sup>26</sup>Al Mass in Galaxy = 2.8 (±0.8) $M_{\odot}$



## <sup>60</sup>Fe Emission is Seen from the Galaxy



☆ Gamma-ray Signal Now Beyond 'Hints'/'Limits' (5σ)
<sup>G™</sup><sup>60</sup>Fe/<sup>26</sup>Al Emission Ratio ~15%

## <sup>60</sup>Fe: Why is it Interesting?

**3.8**  $10^{6}$  y  $^{60}$  Fe  $\rightarrow ^{60}$  Co\*  $\rightarrow ^{60}$  Ni\* **59**, 1173, 1332

#### <sup>60</sup>Fe is Produced through Successive Neutron Captures

n Capture Astrophysics...(->s-Process...)

#### ☆ Massive Stars are Likely Sources of <sup>60</sup>Fe

… the MAIN Agents of Cosmic Evolution

# ☆ <sup>60</sup>Fe has been Detected in ☞ a Pacific-Ocean Crust ☞ Solar-System Meteorites ☞ the Interstellar Medium

Radioactive Dating of Different Astrophysical Events!





## <sup>60</sup>Fe Production in (<sup>26</sup>Al-producing) Stars

## ☆ No Production during ANY Central-Burning Phase ☆ Need Convection plus n Source





## ☆ Explosive-Burning Contributions Negligable ☆ Ejection by Supernova Explosion

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<sup>60</sup>Fe Production in Stars: Issues for Nucleosynthesis Environment



☆ ...and: How Do Other Reactions Shape the Structure of the Star  $(3\alpha, {}^{12}C(\alpha, \gamma))$ 

## Production of <sup>60</sup>Fe and <sup>26</sup>Al in Massive-Stars

-2.7

☆ Ratio Differs with Progenitor Mass!





-3.0 Fe -3.3 -3.6 -3.9 Log<sub>10</sub>(Yield(M<sub>o</sub>)) 4.2 4.5 Total (Schwarz.) 4.8 O-Total (Ledoux) -5.1 Explosive A-C conv. shell -5.4 He conv.shell (Schwarz.) -5.7 He conv.shell (Ledoux) -6.0 10 20 30 40 50 70 80 90 100 110 120 60 M(M\_) -2.7 -3.0 26 ΆΙ -3.3 -3.6 -3.9 Log<sub>10</sub>(Yield(M<sub>o</sub>)) 4.5 -4.8 - Total -5.1 --- Explosive -5.4 -A-C/Ne conv. shell Wind -5.7 -6.0 10 20 90 100 110 120 30 40 50 70 80 60 M(M\_)

Limongi & Chieffi (2006)

Timmes et al. (1995) Astroparticle School, Bärnfels (D), 06 Oct 2010

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#### Revised/Updated/New Massive-Star Nucleosynthesis



#### <sup>60</sup>Fe from Massive Stars: Observations vs. Theory



#### ☆ How Do Models Agree with Data on <sup>60</sup>Fe/<sup>26</sup>Al y-Ray Intensity Ratio?



#### $\Rightarrow$ Issues:

Stellar Models Nuclear Physics Gamma-Ray <sup>60</sup>Fe Signal (Intensity; Galaxy Regions)

## <sup>60</sup>Fe/<sup>26</sup>Al Line Ratio Diagnostics





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## **Neutron Stars**

#### ☆ Birth at T~10 MeV, Rapid Cooling to < MeV -> "cold" nucleons



## Neutron Stars and Properties of Nuclear Matter

• Key Issue:

## How Densely-Packed are Nucleons inside Neutron Stars?

- Sizes of NS (M-R)
- Thermal Properties (Cooling)
- Moments of Inertia (Spin, Glitches, Braking, QPOs)



## Neutron Star Observables

- Magnetospheric Emission
  - ☆ Non-thermal; magnetosphere as particle accelerator
- Thermal Emission
  - ☆ Radiative Cooling, T~X-rays
  - ☆ Heating from Internal Energy
  - \* Heating from Matter Accretion
  - ☆ Heating from Nuclear Burning
- Temporal Modulations
  - ☆ NS Spin
  - \* Accretion Flow Irregularities
  - ☆ Nuclear Ignition
  - ☆ Structural Rearrangements
  - ☆ Relativistic Distortions





## **Astrophysics and Nuclear Physics**

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 $\equiv >$ 

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## Latest Stage of Stellar Evolution: Supernovae



☆ Nuclear Fuel Exhausted
☆ Gravitation Leads to 'Extreme' Stars
☆ The "Remains" are Spread





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## Core Collapse-Supernovae: The Model



Empirical / Parametrized Models for Explosion (Explosion Energy, Mass Cut)

Nuclear Physics: • v Luminosities • PNS EoS, Pasta Phases • Nucleosynthesis • Shock Region • Explosive

Explosion Mechanism = Competition Between Infall and Neutrino Heating
 3D-Effects Important for Energy Budget AND Nucleosynthesis

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## Nucleosynthesis in CC-Supernova Models



- Location of Ejecta/Remnant Separation
- 44 Ti Produced at r < 10<sup>3</sup> km from  $\alpha$ -rich Freeze-Out, => Unique Probe (+Ni Isotopes)

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## Core-Collapse SN Nuclear Reactions -> 44Ti

• Why are <sup>44</sup>Ti Gamma-Rays Interesting?



#### Complex Nuclear-Reaction Dynamics

A Specific Isotopic Abundance as "Calibration Point"

## <sup>44</sup>Ti Decay in a Young SNR

- ☆ <sup>44</sup>Ti Decay: e Capture -> Ionization!?!
  - E<sub>ion,K</sub>=6.6 keV, E<sub>ion,L</sub>=1.6 keV
- ☆ SN Composition Profile: Fe & Ti Similar
- ☆ Fe/Ti Clump Ionization by Reverse Shock
- ☆ <sup>44</sup>Ti Decay Rate Modifications:
  - Inhibit Early, -> Enhance Later (wrt <sup>44</sup>Ti Mass / Exponential Decay)
    - ~0.5 @ Days 50...200
    - ~1.5-2.5 @ Days 250...400
- ☆ Cas A <sup>44</sup>Ti Mass ~ as Predicted by Theory?



## <sup>44</sup>Ti $\gamma$ -rays from Cas A



## Velocity Distributions of Inner cc-SN Ejecta

Inner Explosions' Convection Seeds Rayleigh-Taylor Instabilities at Interfaces to O and He Shells

Macrosopic Matter Clumps in Ejecta at a Range of Velocities

Steep He/H Shell Transition Homogenizes this in case of SNII







Hammer, Janka, & Müller (2010)

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## <sup>44</sup>Ti Ejecta Velocities



Fig. 4. Cassiopeia A spectrum at 1157.0 keV combining SE and ME2; red solid curve is the fit of a Gaussian shape.



Fig. 5.  $\chi^2$ -curve for the total line width (including intrinsic and instrumental broadening), assuming a line flux of 2.5 ×10<sup>-5</sup> ph cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> and no position shift.

☆ High-Energy Line Not Seen with SPI
☞ Broadened, so Dissappearing in Bgd

\* Estimate Doppler Broadening:

Astrophysical Line Width >3.2 keV
-> 500 km s<sup>-1</sup> (lower v limit)
Martin et al. 2009

☆ <sup>44</sup>Ti Ejecta from Turbulent Zones Well <u>Outside</u> Mass Cut



☆ NuStar Mission 2011+: X-ray Imaging

C/O/Ni surfa

## The Sky in <sup>44</sup>Ti Gamma-Rays

The et al. 2006



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## "Normal" Core Collapse Supernovae (?)



Sky Regions with Most Massive Stars are <sup>44</sup>Ti Source-Free (COMPTEL, INTEGRAL)







Need Event Statistics, <sup>44</sup>Ti Spectra

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## Current Galactic Nucleosynthesis



## Evolving Abundances of Massive-Star Groups: Cygnus



Time [Myr] Astroparticle School, Bärnfels (D), 06 Oct 2010

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1 107

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1 102

## The Complex Interstellar Medium

rion

#### ☆ The ISM is a Highly-Dynamic Non-Equilibrium<sup>®</sup> Medium

- 2(3)-Phase Equilibrium Model is Obsolete (even NEI!)
- Need Multi-Band & Messenger Observations (not only simulations!)

#### ☆ How do Massive Stars and SNe feed the ISM<sup>®</sup> with

- Turbulent Energy?
- Seed Matter for Subsequent Star Formation?

s<sup>-1</sup> MeV)

Flux  $(10^{-4} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ 

×

°⊊1

emissio

~3×10"cm-2

🔊 X-ray bubble

Eridion Bubble

COMPTEL

O EGRET (disk)

□ COMPTEL (disk)

1000

10000

EGRET

COS-B

100

Energy (MeV)

10

IN THE A

T= 2.1 x 10<sup>6</sup> K

- What is the Role (and Morphology) of Magnetic Fields?
- ★ Exploit γ-rays from
  Cong-lived ISM
  Radioactivities
  - Nuclear Excitation Lines
  - CR Interactions, e+







## Astronomy with <sup>26</sup>Al: The Inner Galaxy



## How Wide is the Celestial <sup>26</sup>Al Line?

#### ☆ SPI Response \* Celestial Line -> Actually-Observed Line Feature

- ☆ Fit Expected Spectral Signature to the Sky&Bgd-Fitted Spectral Signal
- ☆ Perform Statistical Uncertainty Analysis (Monte Carlo Markov Chain)



-> Data up to mid 2006; W.Wang et al., 2009 Line Width Probability Distribution by K.Kretschmer

### **INTEGRAL/SPI & Annihilation of Positrons in the Galaxy**

## INTEGRAL / SPI:

- Extended Emission (~8-10°) at 1.01 (±0.02) 10<sup>-3</sup> ph cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>
- Ps Cont.: 4.3 (±0.3) 10<sup>-3</sup> ph cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>  $f_{Ps}$  0.967 ±0.022
- . Corresponds to ~ 2  $10^{43}$  e<sup>+</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>







## The High-Energy Sky (hard-X to HE y-rays)



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## What are the Positron Sources??

#### \* Identify Each of the KNOWN Types of Sources

- Individual Sources?
- Comphology of Galactic-Disk Emission

Assemble a Sky Model for the Known Integrated Emission, e.g.:



(P

Include Propagation Physics in Models and in Analysis

- Positron Annihilation
- <sup>26</sup>Al Radioactivity





☆ See if Significant Residual (bulge) Emission Remains
 ☆ An Unexpected / New Type of Sources? (e.g. DM?)



courtesy I. Moskalenko

### Summary: Gamma-Rays from Cosmic Radio-Isotopes

Key Radio-Isotope Data from Novae & SNIa Need Luck
Novae <kpc, SNIa < 5 Mpc</p>

Inner Ejecta from a CC-SN (Cas A) -> Velocity Constraint Cas A a Rare CC-SN?

- ☆ The Present-Day Massive-Star Population of the Galaxy is Studied through <sup>26</sup>Al and <sup>60</sup>Fe
  - Isotopic Ratio as a Stellar-Structure Diagnostic
  - Gamma-Ray Spectroscopy -> Hot ISM around Massive-Star Groups
  - Galactic Structure & Nucleosynthesis Regions





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# Astronomy, Astrophysics and Nuclear Physics

• Nuclear Physics Applications in Cosmic Environments:

#### ☆ Nuclear Energy Release

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