

Oxidation Kinetics of Some Aliphatic Aldehydes by Morpholinium Fluorochromate: A Mechanistic Study

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Abstract The Oxidation of six aliphatic aldehydes by morpholinium fluorochromate (MFC) in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) leads to the formation of corresponding carboxylic acids. The reaction is first order each in MFC. A Michaelis-Menten type of kinetics is observed with respect to the aldehydes. The reaction is catalysed by hydrogen ions, the hydrogen-ion dependence has the form: $k_{\text{obs}} = a + b[\text{H}^+]$. The oxidation of deuteriated acetaldehyde, MeCDO, exhibited a substantial primary kinetic isotope effect ($k_{\text{H}}/k_{\text{D}} = 5.73$ at 298 K). The oxidation of acetaldehyde has been studied in nineteen different organic solvents. The solvent effect has been analysed using Taft's and Swain's multiparametric equations. The rate constants correlate well with Taft's σ^* values; reaction constants being negative. A mechanism involving transfer of hydride ion has been suggested.

Keywords: Aldehydes, correlation analysis, halochromate, kinetics, mechanism, oxidation.

1. INTRODUCTION

Various halochromates have been used as mild and selective oxidizing reagents in synthetic organic chemistry[1-5]. Morpholinium fluorochromate (MFC) is also one of such compounds used for the oxidation of benzylic alcohols[6]. We have been interested in the kinetic and mechanistic aspects of the oxidation by complexed Cr(VI) species and several reports on halochromates have already reported from our laboratory[7-10]. There seems to be a few reports on the oxidation aspects of MFC[11, 12] available in the literature. In continuation of our earlier work, we report here the kinetics and mechanism of oxidation of six aliphatic aldehydes by MFC in dimethylsulphoxide (DMSO) as solvent. The mechanistic aspects are discussed.

The plans of the present work to be taken for studies are to (i) determine kinetic parameters and to evaluate the rate laws, (ii) to study the correlation analysis of effect of structure on (iii) and to postulate a suitable mechanism for the oxidation process.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Materials

MFC was prepared by the reported method[5] and its purity checked by an iodometric determinations. Solutions of formaldehyde were prepared by heating para-formaldehyde and passing its vapours in DMSO. The amount of HCHO in DMSO was determined by chromotropic acid method[13]. Other aldehydes were commercial products and were used as such. p-Toluenesulphonic acid (TsOH) was used as a source of hydrogen ions. Deuteriated acetaldehyde (MeCDO) was obtained from Sigma Chemicals. Solvents were purified by their usual methods[14].

2.2 Product analysis

The product analysis was carried out under kinetic conditions. In a typical experiment, acetaldehyde (4.4 g, 0.1mol) and MFC (1.58 g, 0.01mol) were dissolved in DMSO (100 ml) and the reaction mixture was allowed to stand for *ca.* ≈ 24 to ensure completion of the reaction. It was then rendered alkaline with NaOH, filtered and the filtrate was reduced to dryness under pressure. The residue was acidified with perchloric acid and extracted with diethyl ether (5%, 50 ml). The ether extract was dried (MgSO_4) and treated with 10 ml of thionyl chloride. The solvent was allowed to evaporate. Dry methanol (7 ml) was added and the HCl formed was removed in a current of dry air. The residue was dissolved in diethyl ether (200 ml) and the ester content was determined colorimetrically as Fe (III) hydroxamate by the procedure of Hall and Schaefer[15]. Several determinations indicated a 1:1 stoichiometry. The oxidation state of chromium in a completely reduced reaction mixture, determined by iodometric titrations was 3.95 ± 0.1 .

2.3 Kinetic Measurements

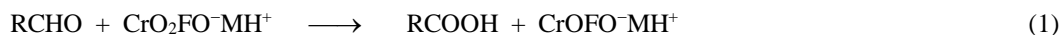
Pseudo-first-order conditions were attained by keeping an excess ($\times 15$ or greater) of the [aldehyde] over [MFC]. The solvent was DMSO, unless mentioned otherwise. All reactions were carried out in flasks blackened from the outside to prevent any photochemical reactions. The reactions were carried out at constant temperature (± 0.1 K) and were followed up to 80% of the extent of reaction, by monitoring the decrease in [MFC] at 352 nm. The pseudo-first-order rate constant, k_{obs} , was computed from the linear least-squares plot of $\log [\text{MFC}]$ versus time. Duplicate runs showed that the rate constants were reproducible to within $\pm 3\%$. The second order rate constant, k_2 , was calculated from the relation: $k_2 = k_{\text{obs}}/[\text{aldehyde}]$.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The rate and other experimental data were obtained for all the aldehydes. Since the results are similar, only representative data are reproduced here.

3.1 Stoichiometry

The oxidation of aliphatic aldehydes by MFC leads to the formation of corresponding carboxylic acids. The overall reaction may be written as:



MFC undergoes two-electron change. This is in accordance with the earlier observations with structurally similar other halochromates also. It has already been shown that both pyridinium chlorochromate (PCC)[16] and pyridinium fluorochromate (PFC)[17] act as two electron oxidants and are reduced to chromium (IV) species by determining the oxidation state of chromium by magnetic susceptibility, ESR and IR studies.

3.2 Rate-laws

The reactions are of first order with respect to MFC. Further, the pseudo-first order rate constant, k_{obs} is independent of the initial concentration of MFC. The reaction rate increases with increase in the concentration of the aldehydes but not linearly (Table 1). The figure 1 depicts a typical kinetic run. A plot of $1/k_{\text{obs}}$ against $1/[\text{aldehyde}]$ is linear ($r > 0.995$) with an intercept on the rate-ordinate. Thus, Michaelis-Menten type kinetics is observed with respect to the aldehydes. This leads to the postulation of following overall mechanism (2) and (3) and rate law (4).



$$\text{Rate} = k_2 K [\text{Aldehyde}] [\text{MFC}] / (1 + K [\text{Aldehyde}]) \quad (4)$$

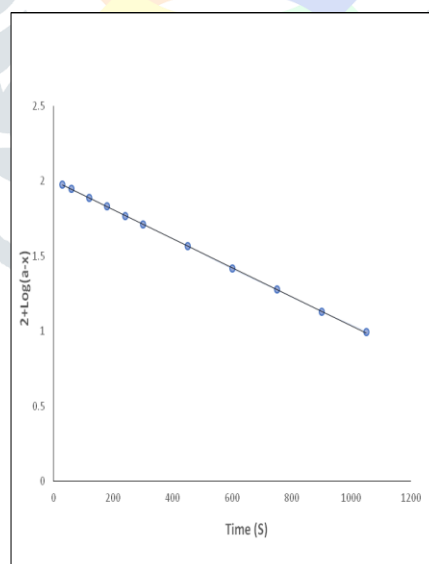


Figure 1. – Oxidation of Acetaldehyde by MFC: A typical Kinetic Run

Table 1: Rate constants for the oxidation of acetaldehyde by MFC at 288 K

10^3 [QDC] ----- mol dm ⁻³	[Aldehyde] ----- mol dm ⁻³	$10^4 k_{\text{obs}}$ ----- s ⁻¹
1.00	0.10	8.38
1.00	0.20	12.2
1.00	0.40	15.8
1.00	0.60	17.6
1.00	0.80	18.6
1.00	1.00	19.3
1.00	1.50	20.2
1.00	3.00	21.3
2.00	0.20	12.6
4.00	0.20	11.7
6.00	0.20	13.0
8.00	0.20	12.1
1.00	0.40	16.2*
^a contained 0.001 M acrylonitrile		

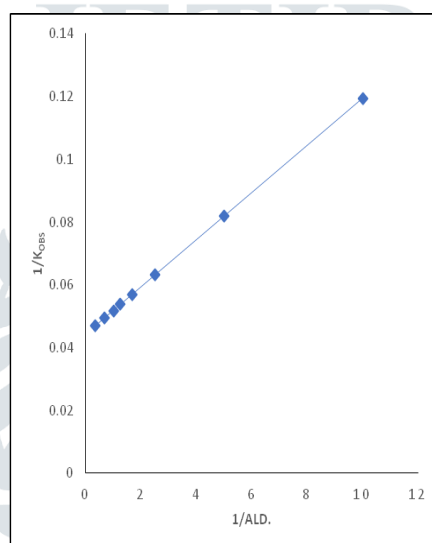
The dependence of reaction rate on the reductant concentration was studied at different temperatures and the values of K and k_2 were evaluated from the double reciprocal plots (Figure 2). The thermodynamic parameters of the complex formation and activation parameters of the decomposition of the complexes were calculated from the values of K and k_2 respectively at different temperatures (Tables 2 and 3).

Table 2: Rate constants and activation parameters of the oxidation of aliphatic aldehydes – MFC complexes.

$10^4 k_2 / (\text{dm}^3 \text{mol}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1})$					ΔH^\ddagger	$-\Delta S^\ddagger$	ΔG^\ddagger
Aldehyde	288 K	298 K	308 K	318 K	(kJ mol ⁻¹)	(J mol ⁻¹ K ⁻¹)	(kJ mol ⁻¹)
H	2.16	5.31	12.6	28.8	63.2±0.3	096±1	91.7±0.2
Me	22.5	49.5	108	225	55.9±0.4	102±1	86.1±0.3
Et	36.0	78.3	171	333	54.2±0.4	104±1	85.0±0.3
Pr	38.7	83.7	180	351	53.7±0.4	105±1	84.8±0.3
Pr ⁱ	55.8	117	243	495	52.9±0.5	105±2	84.0±0.4
ClCH ₂	0.16	0.45	1.08	2.70	68.7±0.7	098±2	97.9±0.5
MeCDO	3.73	8.64	19.8	43.2	59.7±0.4	104±1	90.4±0.3
k _H /k _D	6.03	5.73	5.45	5.21			

Table 3: Formation constants and thermodynamic parameters of the oxidation of aliphatic aldehydes – MFC complexes.

Aldehyde	K (dm ³ mol ⁻¹)				$-\Delta H^*$	$-\Delta S^*$	$-\Delta G^*$
	288 K	298 K	308 K	318 K	(kJ mol ⁻¹)	(J mol ⁻¹ K ⁻¹)	(kJ mol ⁻¹)
H	6.12	5.50	4.88	4.23	11.8±0.4	18±1	6.69±0.3
Me	5.94	5.35	4.68	4.07	12.1±0.4	19±1	6.61±0.3
Et	5.88	5.27	4.60	3.97	12.5±0.4	21±1	6.57±0.4
Pr	5.58	4.92	4.30	3.70	12.9±0.3	22±1	6.42±0.3
Pr ⁱ	5.80	5.19	4.55	3.90	12.5±0.5	21±2	6.54±0.4
ClCH ₂	6.03	5.41	4.78	4.15	11.9±0.4	18±1	6.65±0.3
MeCDO	5.76	5.15	4.51	3.87	12.5±0.5	21±2	6.52±0.4

**Figure 2.** – Oxidation of Aldehyde by MFC: A double reciprocal plot

3.3 Induced Polymerization of Acrylonitrile/ test for free radicals

The oxidation of aldehydes, in an atmosphere of nitrogen, failed to induce polymerisation of acrylonitrile. Further, the addition of acrylonitrile did not affect the rate. This indicates that a one-electron oxidation, giving rise to free radicals, is unlikely in the present reaction (Table 1). To further confirm the absence of free radicals in the reaction pathway, the reaction was carried out in the presence of 0.05 mol dm⁻³ of 2,6-di-t-butyl-4-methylphenol (butylated hydroxytoluene or BHT). It was observed that BHT was recovered unchanged, almost quantitatively.

3.4 Kinetic isotope effect

To ascertain the importance of the cleavage of the aldehydic C–H bond in the rate-determining step, the oxidation of deuteriated acetaldehyde (MeCDO) was studied. The oxidation of deuteriated acetaldehyde exhibited a substantial primary kinetic isotope effect (Table 3).

3.5 Effect of acidity

The reaction is catalysed by hydrogen ions (Table 2). The hydrogen-ion dependence has the following form $k_{\text{obs}} = a + b[\text{H}^+]$. The values of a and b , for acetaldehyde, are $8.29 \pm 0.24 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ and $15.2 \pm 0.39 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ dm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ respectively ($r^2 = 0.9973$).

$$\text{Rate} = k_2 [\text{MFC}] [\text{Aldehyde}] + k_3 [\text{MFC}] [\text{Aldehyde}] [\text{TsOH}] \quad (5)$$

Table 4: Dependence of the reaction rate on hydrogen-ion concentration

[QDC] = 0.001 mol dm ⁻³ ;		[Aldehyde] = 1.0 mol dm ⁻³ ;			Temp. = 288 K	
[H ⁺]/mol dm ⁻³	0.10	0.20	0.40	0.60	0.80	1.00
10 ⁴ k _{obs} /s ⁻¹	9.54	11.7	14.4	17.1	20.7	23.4

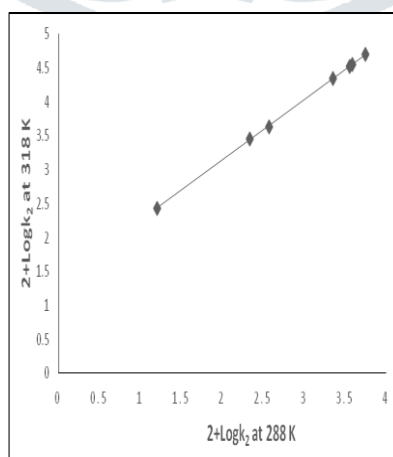
3.6 Effect of solvents

The oxidation of acetaldehyde was studied in 19 different organic solvents. The choice of solvents was limited due to the solubility of MFC and its reaction with primary and secondary alcohols. There was no reaction with the solvents chosen. The kinetics was similar in all the solvents. The values k₂ are recorded in Table 5.

Table 5: Effect of solvents on the oxidation of acetaldehyde-MFC complex at 298 K

Solvents	K (dm ⁻³ mol ⁻¹)	10 ⁴ k ₂ (s ⁻¹)	Solvents	K (dm ⁻³ mol ⁻¹)	10 ⁴ k ₂ (s ⁻¹)
Chloroform	5.58	14.4	Toluene	5.15	4.27
1,2-Dichloroethane	5.67	17.8	Acetophenone	5.80	22.4
Dichloromethane	6.03	13.5	THF	4.99	6.46
DMSO	5.35	49.5	t-Butylalcohol	5.67	5.62
Acetone	6.12	12.9	1,4-Dioxane	5.57	6.92
DMF	5.94	27.5	1,2-Dimethoxyethane	5.80	3.98
Butanone	5.22	9.77	CS ₂	6.01	1.86
Nitrobenzene	5.87	20.9	Acetic Acid	5.87	2.19
Benzene	5.66	5.25	Ethyl Acetate	5.50	5.01
Cyclohexane	6.22	0.44			

A satisfactory correlation (r = 0.8782) between the entropy and enthalpy of activation of the oxidation of six aldehydes indicate the operation of compensation effect in this reaction[18]. The value of isokinetic temperature evaluated[19,20] from this plot is 1544±420 K. The correlation was tested and found genuine by Exners' criterion[21]. A correlation between the calculated values of enthalpies and entropies is often vitiated by the experimental errors associated with them. The isokinetic temperature, calculated from Exner's plot of log k₂ at 288 K *versus* log k₂ at 318 K (r² = 0.9998) is 1799±414 K (Figure 3). The linear isokinetic correlation suggests that all the aldehydes are oxidized by the same mechanism.

**Figure 3.** – Exner's Isokinetic Relationship in the oxidation of Aldehydes by MFC

3.7 Solvent effect

The oxidation of acetaldehyde was studied in 19 different organic solvents. The choice of solvents was limited due to the solubility of MFC and its reaction with primary and secondary alcohols. There was no reaction with the solvents chosen. The kinetics were similar in all the solvents. The values k₂ at 298 K are recorded in Table 5.

The rate constants, k_2 , in eighteen solvents (CS_2 was not considered, as the complete range of solvent parameters was not available) were correlated in terms of the linear solvation energy relationship (6) of Kamlet et al.[22].

$$\log k_2 = A_0 + \rho\pi^* + b\beta + a\alpha \quad (6)$$

In this equation, π^* represents the solvent polarity, β the hydrogen bond acceptor basicities and α is the hydrogen bond donor acidity. A_0 is the intercept term. It may be mentioned here that out of the 18 solvents, 12 have a value of zero for α . The results of correlation analyses in terms of (6), a biparametric equation involving π^* and β , and separately with π^* and β are given below as equation (7) - (10).

$$\log k_2 = -4.25 + 1.72 (\pm 0.21) \pi^* + 0.18 (\pm 0.17) \beta + 0.15 (\pm 0.16) \alpha \quad (7)$$

$$R^2 = 0.8626; \text{ sd} = 0.19; n = 18; \psi = 0.41$$

$$\log k_2 = -4.29 + 1.78 (\pm 0.20) \pi^* + 0.13 (\pm 0.16) \beta \quad (8)$$

$$R^2 = 0.8544; \text{ sd} = 0.19; n = 18; \psi = 0.40$$

$$\log k_2 = -4.26 + 1.81 (\pm 0.19) \pi^* \quad (9)$$

$$r^2 = 0.8482; \text{ sd} = 0.19; n = 18; \psi = 0.40$$

$$\log k_2 = -3.25 + 0.45 (\pm 0.39) \beta \quad (10)$$

$$r^2 = 0.0774; \text{ sd} = 0.46; n = 18; \psi = 0.99$$

Here n is the number of data points and ψ is the Exner's statistical parameter[23].

Kamlet's[22] triparametric equation explains *ca.* 86% of the effect of solvent on the oxidation. However, by Exner's criterion[23] the correlation is not even satisfactory (cf. 7). The major contribution is of solvent polarity. It alone accounted for *ca.* 85% of the data. Both β and α play relatively minor roles.

The data on the solvent effect were analysed in terms of Swain's equation[24] of cation- and anion-solvating concept of the solvents also as equation (11).

$$\log k_2 = aA + bB + C \quad (11)$$

Here A represents the anion-solvating power of the solvent and B the cation-solvating power. C is the intercept term. ($A + B$) is postulated to represent the solvent polarity. The rates in different solvents were analysed in terms of equation (8), separately with A and B and with ($A + B$).

$$\log k_2 = 0.64 (\pm 0.05) A + 1.83 (\pm 0.03) B - 4.48 \quad (12)$$

$$R^2 = 0.9946; \text{ sd} = 0.04; n = 19; \psi = 0.08$$

$$\log k_2 = 0.38 (\pm 0.60) A - 3.22 \quad (13)$$

$$r^2 = 0.0227; \text{ sd} = 0.49; n = 19; \psi = 1.01$$

$$\log k_2 = 1.78 (\pm 0.12) B - 4.27 \quad (14)$$

$$r^2 = 0.9309; \text{ sd} = 0.13; n = 19; \psi = 0.27$$

$$\log k_2 = 1.43 \pm 0.15 (A + B) - 4.44 \quad (15)$$

$$r^2 = 0.8353; \text{ sd} = 0.20; n = 19; \psi = 0.42$$

The rates of oxidation of acetaldehyde in different solvents showed an excellent correlation in Swain's equation [cf. (12)] with the cation-solvating power playing the major role. In fact, the cation-solvation alone accounts for *ca.* 93% of the data. The correlation with the anion-solvating power was very poor. The solvent polarity, represented by ($A + B$), also accounted for *ca.* 83% of the data. In view of the fact that solvent polarity is able to account for *ca.* 83% of the data, an attempt was made to correlate the rate with the relative permittivity of the solvent. However, a plot of $\log k_2$ against the inverse of the relative permittivity is not linear ($r^2 = 0.5277$; $\text{sd} = 0.34$; $\psi = 0.71$).

4. MECHANISM

The observed hydrogen-ion dependence suggests that the reaction follows the two mechanistic pathways, one is acid-independent and the other is acid dependent. The acid-catalysis may well be attributed to a protonation of MFC to give a stronger oxidant and electrophile (16). Both MFC and MFCH^+ are reactive species with the protonated form being more reactive.



Formation of a protonated Cr(VI) species has earlier been reported in the reactions of structurally similar QFC[25] and imidazolium fluorochromate (IFC)[26].

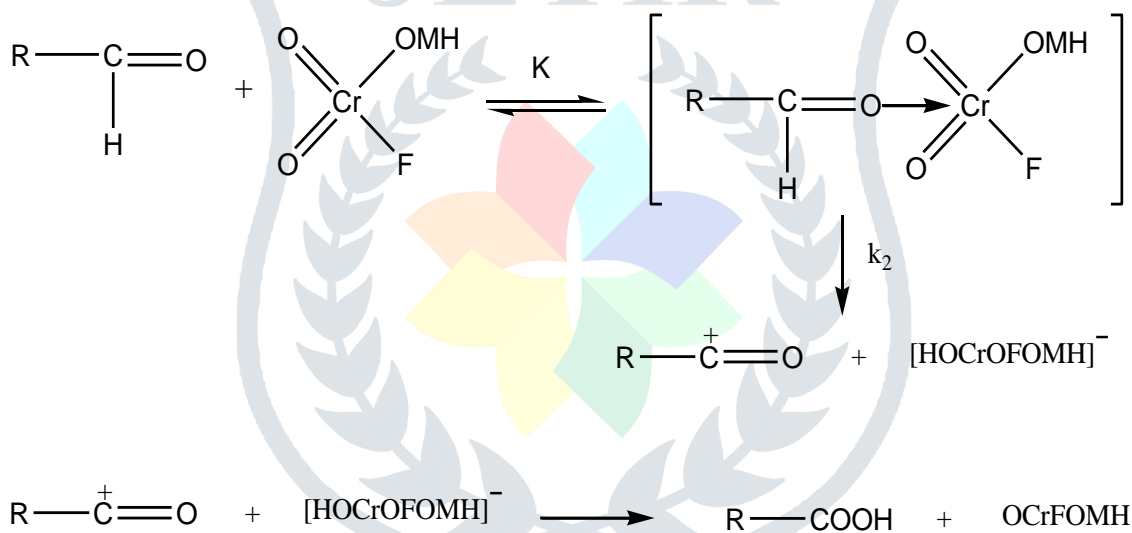
In aqueous solutions most aliphatic aldehydes exist predominantly in the hydrate form[27] and in many oxidations, in aqueous solutions, it has been postulated that the hydrate is the reactive species. However, owing to the non-aqueous nature of the solvent in the present reaction, only the free carbonyl form can be the reactive species.

The rates of the oxidation of six aldehydes show an excellent correlation with Taft's σ^* substituent constants[28], the reaction constant being negative (Table 6). The negative polar reaction constant indicates an electron-deficient carbon centre in the transition state of the rate-determining step.

Table 6: Temperature dependence of the reaction constant

Temp./ K	$-\rho^*$	r^2	Sd	ψ
288	2.05±0.01	0.9998	0.007	0.02
298	1.95±0.01	0.9999	0.008	0.01
308	1.90±0.02	0.9989	0.016	0.01
318	1.82±0.01	0.9999	0.017	0.02

There is no kinetic evidence for the formation of an intermediate in the present reaction, however, its formation in small amounts can not be ruled out. The presence of a substantial primary kinetic isotope effect ($k_H/k_D = 5.73$ at 298 K), confirms that the aldehydic C-H bond is cleaved in the rate-determining step. The large negative value of the polar reaction constant together with the substantial deuterium isotope effect indicates that the transition state approaches a carbocation in character. Hence, transfer of a hydride ion from the aldehyde to the oxidant is suggested. The hydride ion transfer mechanism is also supported by major role of cation-solvating power of the solvents.



Scheme - 1

It is of interest to compare here the mode of oxidation of aliphatic aldehydes by PFC[29], PBC[30], QFC[31] and MFC. The oxidation by QFC, PFC and MFC presented a similar kinetic picture, i.e. Michaelis-Menten type kinetics, with respect to the reductants, while, by the PBC[30] reactions are of first order with respect to the reductants. It seems that the values of the formation constants for the intermediates are very small in case of PBC. This resulted in the favour of second-order kinetics. Kinetic isotope effects, solvent effects and the dependence of the hydrogen ions are of similar nature in all these reactions, for which essentially similar mechanisms have been proposed.

5. CONCLUSION

The reaction is proposed to proceed through a hydride-ion transfer from aldehyde to the oxidant. The hydride ion transfer mechanism is also supported by major role of cation-solvating power of the solvents. Both deprotonated and protonated forms of MFC are the reactive oxidising species. An aldehydic C-H bond is cleaved in the rate-determining step.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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