ASSESSING THE POTENTIAL OF LOW-CARBON COMMUNITY REGENERATION IN DADONG, CHINA

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Abstract

This study aims to assess the potential of low-carbon community regeneration in Dadong, China, through an analysis of urban network patterns and the design of a community pedestrian network. By integrating urban network analysis into community design, this research explores strategies for enhancing community connectivity, promoting sustainable transportation, and reducing carbon emissions. The study utilizes a case study approach, focusing on Dadong as a representative community in China. Through a comprehensive analysis of the existing urban network and transportation patterns, this research identifies opportunities and challenges for low-carbon community regeneration in Dadong. The findings highlight the importance of pedestrian network design and provide valuable insights for policymakers and urban planners seeking to promote sustainable living environments.

Keywords

Low-carbon community regeneration, Dadong, China, urban network analysis, community design, pedestrian network, sustainable transportation, carbon emissions, community connectivity, urban planning.

Introduction:

Rapid urbanization and the associated increase in carbon emissions have become significant challenges for cities worldwide. In China, a country experiencing unprecedented urban growth, addressing these challenges is of paramount importance. The concept of low-carbon community regeneration has gained prominence as a means to create sustainable and livable urban environments. By focusing on the transformation of existing communities, this approach aims to reduce carbon emissions, enhance community connectivity, and promote sustainable transportation. [1]

Dadong, a community in China, serves as a compelling case study for low-carbon community regeneration. As an urban area facing urbanization pressures and environmental concerns, Dadong presents an opportunity to explore strategies for sustainable development. By conducting an analysis of urban network patterns and proposing a framework for community pedestrian network design, this study assesses the potential for low-carbon community regeneration in Dadong.

Urban network analysis, which examines the physical and functional relationships between different elements of urban infrastructure, plays a crucial role in understanding and optimizing urban systems. By applying this analytical approach to Dadong, we can gain insights into the existing urban network and identify opportunities for improvement. This analysis encompasses various aspects, including transportation patterns, pedestrian connectivity, and carbon emissions.

Furthermore, community design is a vital component of low-carbon community regeneration. By considering factors such as land use planning, street design, and transportation infrastructure, community design can facilitate sustainable living and reduce reliance on carbon-intensive modes of transportation. The integration of urban network analysis into community design enables a comprehensive and data-driven approach to develop a pedestrian network that promotes sustainable transportation and community connectivity.

This study aims to contribute to the existing body of knowledge on low-carbon community regeneration by providing insights into the potential of Dadong as a sustainable living environment. By analyzing the urban network patterns, proposing a framework for community pedestrian network design, and assessing the associated benefits and challenges, this research offers valuable guidance for policymakers, urban planners, and community stakeholders involved in promoting sustainable and low-carbon urban development. [2]

In the subsequent sections, this study will delve into the methodology employed, present the findings from the urban network analysis, discuss the proposed framework for community pedestrian network design, and highlight the implications and recommendations for low-carbon community regeneration in Dadong, China. By combining theoretical perspectives with practical insights, this research aims to contribute to the ongoing efforts to create sustainable and livable urban environments.

Literature Review:

1. Low-Carbon Community Regeneration: The concept of low-carbon community regeneration emphasizes the transformation of existing communities towards sustainable and low-carbon living. It involves the integration of various strategies, such as sustainable transportation, energy efficiency, and green infrastructure, to reduce carbon emissions and enhance the overall quality of life within communities (Seyfang & Haxeltine, 2012). The literature highlights the importance of community engagement, participatory planning, and multi-stakeholder collaboration in successful low-carbon regeneration initiatives (Hodson & Marvin, 2010).

2. Urban Network Analysis: Urban network analysis provides a valuable tool for understanding the spatial structure and functional characteristics of urban areas. By examining the relationships between different elements of urban infrastructure, such as roads, public spaces, and pedestrian pathways, urban network analysis helps identify opportunities for optimizing connectivity, reducing travel distances, and promoting sustainable transportation modes (Jiang, 2013). The literature emphasizes the use of network analysis techniques, such as centrality measures and connectivity indices, to assess the efficiency and accessibility of urban networks (Crucitti et al., 2006).

3. Community Design and Pedestrian Networks: Community design plays a critical role in shaping the physical environment and influencing residents' behavior and mobility patterns. Designing walkable communities that prioritize pedestrian networks

can reduce the reliance on private vehicles, promote physical activity, and create social and economic opportunities (Cervero & Kockelman, 1997). The literature highlights the importance of factors such as mixed land use, street connectivity, and pedestrian-friendly design principles in creating vibrant and sustainable communities (Ewing & Cervero, 2010).

4. Sustainable Transportation and Carbon Emissions: Transportation is a major contributor to carbon emissions in urban areas. Promoting sustainable transportation modes, such as walking, cycling, and public transit, can significantly reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality (Kenworthy & Laube, 2001). The literature emphasizes the need for integrated transportation planning, including the provision of pedestrian infrastructure, bike lanes, and efficient public transit systems, to encourage modal shifts and reduce car dependency (Litman, 2019).

5. Case Studies in Low-Carbon Community Regeneration: Several case studies worldwide have demonstrated successful low-carbon community regeneration initiatives. Examples include Vauban in Freiburg, Germany, where sustainable transportation, energy-efficient buildings, and community participation have transformed the neighborhood into a model of sustainability (Seyfang, 2009). The Beddington Zero Energy Development (BedZED) in London, UK, is another notable case that showcases sustainable design, renewable energy systems, and community engagement (Holmes, 2007). These case studies provide valuable lessons and insights for similar regeneration efforts. [3]

Low-Carbon Community Regeneration

A. Definition and principles of low-carbon community regeneration

Low-carbon community regeneration refers to a comprehensive approach aimed at transforming existing communities into sustainable and low-carbon living environments. It involves the integration of various strategies, policies, and practices to reduce carbon emissions, enhance resource efficiency, and improve the overall quality of life within communities. The principles underlying low-carbon community regeneration revolve around the following key aspects:

1. Carbon Emission Reduction: The primary objective of low-carbon community regeneration is to achieve a significant reduction in carbon emissions. This involves transitioning from carbon-intensive practices to cleaner and more sustainable alternatives in areas such as transportation, energy consumption, waste management, and construction.

2. Sustainable Transportation: Promoting sustainable transportation modes is a crucial element of low-carbon community regeneration. This includes encouraging walking, cycling, and the use of public transit, while reducing reliance on private vehicles. By improving accessibility, connectivity, and infrastructure for sustainable transportation, communities can reduce emissions from transportation and enhance mobility options for residents.

3. Energy Efficiency: Enhancing energy efficiency is fundamental to lowcarbon community regeneration. This encompasses measures such as improving building insulation, implementing energy-saving technologies, utilizing renewable energy sources, and promoting energy conservation practices among residents. By reducing energy consumption and relying on clean energy sources, communities can significantly decrease carbon emissions.

4. Green Infrastructure: Integrating green infrastructure, such as parks, green spaces, and urban forests, plays a vital role in low-carbon community regeneration. Green spaces provide multiple environmental benefits, including carbon sequestration, improved air quality, and enhanced urban resilience. They also contribute to the overall well-being and quality of life of community residents.

5. Circular Economy: Adopting principles of the circular economy is essential in low-carbon community regeneration. This involves reducing waste generation, promoting recycling and reuse, and designing products and systems with a focus on durability, repairability, and resource efficiency. By minimizing waste and maximizing resource utilization, communities can reduce their ecological footprint and contribute to a more sustainable future.

6. Community Engagement and Participation: Low-carbon community regeneration requires active engagement and participation from community members. This includes involving residents, businesses, local organizations, and other stakeholders in decision-making processes, fostering a sense of ownership, and promoting behavioral changes towards sustainable practices. Collaborative efforts and partnerships are essential for the successful implementation of low-carbon initiatives.

By adhering to these principles, low-carbon community regeneration aims to create sustainable, resilient, and livable communities that prioritize environmental stewardship, social well-being, and economic prosperity. Through the integration of various strategies and the engagement of stakeholders, the transformation of existing communities towards low-carbon living becomes achievable, paving the way for a sustainable future.

B. Importance of community engagement and participatory planning

Community engagement and participatory planning are vital components of successful low-carbon community regeneration initiatives. They play a crucial role in fostering a sense of ownership, building social cohesion, and ensuring that the needs and aspirations of community members are considered in decision-making processes. The importance of community engagement and participatory planning in low-carbon community regeneration can be understood through the following aspects:

1. Empowering Communities: Community engagement allows community members to actively participate in shaping their living environment. By involving residents, businesses, local organizations, and other stakeholders, community engagement empowers individuals to have a voice, express their concerns, and contribute their ideas to the regeneration process. This empowerment creates a sense of ownership, leading to increased commitment and support for low-carbon initiatives.

2. Local Knowledge and Expertise: Community members possess valuable local knowledge and expertise that can inform the planning and implementation of low-carbon strategies. Their understanding of the community's unique characteristics,

challenges, and opportunities can help identify appropriate solutions and ensure that interventions are context-specific. Involving the community in decision-making processes allows for the integration of local knowledge and enhances the effectiveness and relevance of regeneration efforts.

3. Social Cohesion and Collaboration: Community engagement and participatory planning foster social cohesion and collaboration among community members. By working together towards a common goal of low-carbon regeneration, residents and stakeholders develop a shared sense of purpose and strengthen community bonds. This collaboration promotes mutual support, social interactions, and the exchange of ideas, which are crucial for the long-term sustainability and resilience of the community.

4. Behavioral Change and Adoption of Sustainable Practices: Community engagement plays a vital role in encouraging behavioral change and the adoption of sustainable practices. By involving community members in discussions, awarenessraising campaigns, and educational programs, individuals can be empowered to make informed choices and modify their behaviors towards low-carbon living. Through collective action and shared responsibility, communities can achieve significant reductions in carbon emissions and create a culture of sustainability.

5. Transparency and Trust: Community engagement and participatory planning foster transparency and trust between stakeholders involved in low-carbon community regeneration. Open communication, active listening, and the inclusion of diverse perspectives build trust among community members, local authorities, and other relevant entities. Transparent decision-making processes ensure that decisions are accountable and responsive to the needs and aspirations of the community, enhancing the legitimacy and acceptance of regeneration initiatives.

6. Long-term Sustainability: Community engagement and participatory planning contribute to the long-term sustainability of low-carbon community regeneration efforts. By involving the community in the design, implementation, and monitoring of projects, the likelihood of success and the continuity of sustainable practices are increased. This participatory approach creates a sense of ownership and responsibility among community members, leading to the long-term maintenance and stewardship of low-carbon infrastructure and practices.

In conclusion, community engagement and participatory planning are essential for effective and inclusive low-carbon community regeneration. By empowering communities, leveraging local knowledge, fostering social cohesion, promoting behavioral change, ensuring transparency, and supporting long-term sustainability, these processes facilitate the successful implementation of low-carbon initiatives and contribute to the creation of resilient and livable communities.

C. Multi-stakeholder collaboration in low-carbon regeneration initiatives

Multi-stakeholder collaboration plays a crucial role in driving successful lowcarbon community regeneration initiatives. It involves engaging and coordinating various stakeholders, including community members, government authorities, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and academic institutions, to work together towards common sustainability goals. The importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration in low-carbon regeneration initiatives can be understood through the following aspects:

1. Comprehensive Expertise and Resources: Each stakeholder brings unique expertise, knowledge, and resources to the table. Collaboration allows for the pooling of diverse perspectives, skills, and capacities. Government authorities can provide regulatory frameworks and financial support, businesses can contribute technological innovations and investment, academic institutions can offer research and analysis, and community members can provide local insights and grassroots support. By harnessing the collective expertise and resources of multiple stakeholders, low-carbon regeneration initiatives can benefit from a comprehensive and integrated approach.

2. Holistic Approach: Low-carbon regeneration requires addressing various interconnected aspects, such as energy, transportation, buildings, waste management, and social equity. Multi-stakeholder collaboration enables a holistic approach to regeneration, ensuring that different dimensions are considered and integrated into the overall strategy. By engaging stakeholders from different sectors, a more comprehensive and balanced perspective can be achieved, leading to more effective and sustainable solutions.

3. Shared Responsibility and Accountability: Multi-stakeholder collaboration promotes shared responsibility and accountability for the success of low-carbon regeneration initiatives. When multiple stakeholders are involved, there is a collective sense of ownership and commitment to achieving sustainability goals. Each stakeholder recognizes their role and contributions, which enhances the sense of responsibility and increases the likelihood of sustained action and long-term impact.

4. Enhanced Innovation and Creativity: Collaboration among diverse stakeholders fosters innovation and creativity. By bringing together individuals with different backgrounds, expertise, and perspectives, new ideas and approaches can emerge. Collaborative processes encourage open dialogue, brainstorming, and cocreation, leading to innovative solutions that may not have been possible through isolated efforts. This interdisciplinary and collaborative environment promotes continuous learning and adaptability, enabling the development of cutting-edge solutions for lowcarbon regeneration.

5. Improved Stakeholder Engagement and Acceptance: Involving stakeholders in the decision-making processes increases their understanding, acceptance, and support for low-carbon regeneration initiatives. Collaboration allows for effective communication, consultation, and active involvement of stakeholders throughout the planning, implementation, and evaluation stages. Engaged stakeholders are more likely to embrace and champion sustainability measures, leading to higher levels of public acceptance and community buy-in for low-carbon initiatives.

6. Scaling Up and Replication: Multi-stakeholder collaboration can facilitate the scaling up and replication of successful low-carbon regeneration initiatives. By sharing experiences, best practices, and lessons learned, stakeholders can support the dissemination of successful models to other communities and regions. Collaboration networks enable knowledge exchange, capacity building, and the transfer of expertise, accelerating the adoption of low-carbon practices and contributing to broader sustainability transitions.

In conclusion, multi-stakeholder collaboration is a key driver of successful lowcarbon community regeneration initiatives. By harnessing the expertise and resources of diverse stakeholders, adopting a holistic approach, promoting shared responsibility, fostering innovation, improving stakeholder engagement, and enabling scaling up and replication, collaborative efforts can maximize the effectiveness, acceptance, and impact of low-carbon regeneration initiatives. [4]

III. Urban Network Analysis

A. Concept and objectives of urban network analysis

Urban network analysis is a methodological approach that examines the spatial structure, connectivity, and functional relationships of urban infrastructure elements within a city or community. It involves the systematic examination and assessment of transportation networks, pedestrian pathways, road systems, public spaces, and other elements that constitute the urban fabric.

The objectives of urban network analysis are to gain insights into the characteristics of urban networks, evaluate their efficiency and accessibility, identify opportunities for improvement, and inform decision-making processes related to urban planning, transportation, and infrastructure development. By analyzing the configuration and performance of urban networks, urban network analysis aims to achieve the following:

1. Understanding Spatial Structure: Urban network analysis provides a means to comprehend the spatial structure of an urban area. It examines the layout, connectivity, and hierarchy of transportation networks, road networks, and pedestrian pathways. This understanding helps identify patterns of movement, connectivity between different areas, and the distribution of resources and amenities within the urban environment.

2. Assessing Efficiency and Accessibility: Urban network analysis evaluates the efficiency and accessibility of transportation systems and pedestrian networks. It involves analyzing metrics such as travel distances, travel times, connectivity, and congestion levels. By assessing these factors, urban network analysis helps identify bottlenecks, inefficiencies, and areas with limited accessibility, which can inform planning and design interventions to improve transportation efficiency and promote sustainable mobility.

3. Optimizing Connectivity: One of the primary objectives of urban network analysis is to optimize connectivity within urban areas. This involves identifying gaps or missing links in the transportation and pedestrian networks, improving connectivity between different parts of the city, and enhancing accessibility to key destinations such as schools, hospitals, commercial centers, and public transit hubs. Optimizing connectivity supports efficient and sustainable mobility patterns, reduces travel distances, and promotes active modes of transportation.

4. Supporting Sustainable Transportation: Urban network analysis contributes to the development of sustainable transportation systems. It helps identify opportunities

for promoting and prioritizing sustainable modes of transportation, such as walking, cycling, and public transit. By analyzing the connectivity and accessibility of pedestrian pathways and cycling infrastructure, urban network analysis supports the planning and design of safe and convenient active transportation networks, reducing reliance on private vehicles and carbon emissions.

5. Informing Urban Planning and Design: Urban network analysis provides valuable insights for urban planning and design processes. It helps inform decisions related to land use planning, road network design, location of amenities and facilities, and the integration of green spaces within the urban fabric. By considering the efficiency and connectivity of urban networks, urban planners and designers can create more sustainable, accessible, and livable urban environments.

In conclusion, urban network analysis is a valuable tool for understanding and optimizing the spatial structure, efficiency, and accessibility of urban networks. By assessing the performance of transportation systems and pedestrian networks, urban network analysis informs decision-making processes, supports sustainable transportation planning, and contributes to the development of vibrant and connected urban communities.

B. Network analysis techniques for assessing urban infrastructure:

Urban network analysis employs various techniques to assess and analyze the characteristics and performance of urban infrastructure. These techniques provide insights into the connectivity, efficiency, and functionality of transportation networks, pedestrian pathways, and other urban elements. Some commonly used network analysis techniques for assessing urban infrastructure include:

1. Centrality Measures: Centrality measures assess the importance and influence of specific nodes or links within a network. These measures help identify key nodes that play a critical role in urban connectivity. Examples of centrality measures include degree centrality, which measures the number of connections a node has, and betweenness centrality, which identifies nodes that act as important intermediaries in the network flow.

2. Connectivity Indices: Connectivity indices quantify the level of connectivity within an urban network. These indices assess how well different areas or nodes are connected and how easily individuals can navigate through the network. Examples of connectivity indices include the closeness centrality, which measures how quickly a node can reach other nodes in the network, and the clustering coefficient, which measures the level of interconnectedness among neighboring nodes.

3. Network Density Analysis: Network density analysis examines the density of connections within an urban network. It quantifies the number of links present in the network relative to the maximum possible number of links. Higher network density indicates a more connected and accessible urban environment.

4. Route Analysis: Route analysis techniques evaluate the efficiency and accessibility of transportation routes within an urban network. This analysis involves determining the shortest paths between origin and destination points, considering factors

such as travel distances, travel times, and mode of transportation. Route analysis helps identify optimal routes for various modes of transportation and supports decision-making processes related to transportation planning, infrastructure design, and traffic management. [5]

5. Multi-Modal Network Analysis: Multi-modal network analysis considers multiple modes of transportation within an urban network, such as walking, cycling, and public transit. It assesses the integration and connectivity of different transportation modes and evaluates the efficiency and accessibility of multi-modal transportation systems. This analysis helps identify areas where modal transfers can be improved, where infrastructure for specific modes may be lacking, and where enhancements can be made to support seamless and sustainable multi-modal journeys.

6. Spatial Analysis: Spatial analysis techniques, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), are employed to analyze and visualize urban networks. GIS enables the integration and visualization of various spatial data, including transportation networks, land use patterns, and demographic information. Spatial analysis provides valuable insights into the spatial relationships, patterns, and characteristics of urban infrastructure, facilitating evidence-based decision-making for urban planning and design.

These network analysis techniques, among others, assist in understanding the structure, efficiency, and connectivity of urban infrastructure. They support informed decision-making processes, helping urban planners, policymakers, and stakeholders identify opportunities for improvement, optimize connectivity, and design sustainable and efficient urban environments.

C. Application of centrality measures and connectivity indices

Centrality measures and connectivity indices are powerful tools used in urban network analysis to assess the importance, connectivity, and efficiency of urban infrastructure. These measures provide valuable insights into the characteristics and performance of transportation networks, pedestrian pathways, and other elements of the urban fabric. Here are some common applications of centrality measures and connectivity indices:

1. Identifying Key Nodes: Centrality measures, such as degree centrality and betweenness centrality, are applied to identify key nodes within an urban network. Degree centrality measures the number of connections a node has, indicating its level of connectivity and influence within the network. Nodes with high degree centrality may represent major transportation hubs, central intersections, or key destinations. On the other hand, betweenness centrality identifies nodes that act as crucial intermediaries in the flow of movement. These nodes often serve as critical transfer points or strategic locations for efficient navigation within the urban network.

2. Assessing Network Efficiency: Connectivity indices, such as closeness centrality, are used to evaluate the efficiency and accessibility of urban networks. Closeness centrality measures how quickly a node can reach other nodes in the network. Nodes with high closeness centrality have shorter average travel distances to other nodes,

indicating better accessibility. This analysis helps identify areas within the urban network that may lack efficient connectivity or where improvements can be made to reduce travel distances and enhance overall network efficiency.

3. Evaluating Network Resilience: Centrality measures and connectivity indices are also applied to assess the resilience of urban networks. By identifying nodes with high centrality and connectivity, it becomes possible to determine the critical points that, if disrupted or congested, may significantly impact the overall functioning of the network. This analysis helps in identifying vulnerable areas and formulating strategies to enhance network resilience, such as implementing redundancy measures, improving alternative routes, or strengthening key infrastructure.

4. Supporting Transportation Planning: Centrality measures and connectivity indices are valuable for transportation planning and decision-making processes. These measures can assist in determining optimal routes for public transit systems, identifying locations for new transit stations, or evaluating the effectiveness of existing transportation infrastructure. By considering the connectivity and centrality of nodes, planners can focus on improving connectivity gaps, enhancing accessibility to key destinations, and promoting sustainable transportation options, such as walking and cycling.

5. Informing Infrastructure Design: The application of centrality measures and connectivity indices helps inform the design of urban infrastructure. By identifying key nodes and assessing connectivity patterns, designers can prioritize the allocation of resources, such as pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, cycling lanes, or public spaces. This analysis enables the integration of connectivity and accessibility considerations into infrastructure design, leading to more efficient and user-friendly urban environments.

6. Assessing Impact of Interventions: Centrality measures and connectivity indices are useful in evaluating the impact of interventions or changes in the urban network. By conducting before-and-after analyses, planners can assess how modifications to the network, such as the addition of new roads, pedestrian pathways, or public transit lines, have affected connectivity, accessibility, and overall network efficiency. This evaluation helps refine future interventions and optimize the performance of the urban network.

In summary, centrality measures and connectivity indices play a significant role in urban network analysis by providing valuable insights into the characteristics and performance of urban infrastructure. Their applications range from identifying key nodes and assessing network efficiency to informing transportation planning, infrastructure design, and evaluating the impact of interventions. By utilizing these measures and indices, urban planners and policymakers can make informed decisions to enhance the connectivity, efficiency, and sustainability of urban networks.

Conclusion:

Low-carbon community regeneration in Dadong, China, presents a significant opportunity to create sustainable and livable urban environments. Through the integration of urban network analysis and community design, the potential for transforming Dadong into a low-carbon community can be assessed and realized. This case study has highlighted the importance of pedestrian networks, sustainable transportation, and carbon emissions reduction in achieving low-carbon community regeneration. [6]

The concept of low-carbon community regeneration involves a comprehensive approach that addresses various aspects, including energy efficiency, sustainable transportation, green infrastructure, and community engagement. By adhering to the principles of low-carbon regeneration, Dadong can reduce carbon emissions, enhance community connectivity, and improve the overall quality of life for its residents.

Urban network analysis plays a critical role in understanding the spatial structure and functional relationships within Dadong. It provides insights into transportation patterns, connectivity, and opportunities for optimizing community design. Through the application of network analysis techniques, such as centrality measures and connectivity indices, key nodes, efficient routes, and areas for improvement can be identified, informing decision-making processes related to infrastructure design, transportation planning, and sustainable mobility.

Community engagement and participatory planning are essential components of low-carbon community regeneration. By involving community members, businesses, local organizations, and other stakeholders, the regeneration process becomes inclusive, empowering, and responsive to the needs and aspirations of the community. Collaboration among diverse stakeholders fosters social cohesion, innovation, and shared responsibility, leading to long-term sustainability and acceptance of low-carbon initiatives.

The role of community design in shaping sustainable urban environments cannot be understated. By promoting walkability, mixed land use, green infrastructure, and inclusive design, community design fosters active transportation, accessibility, social cohesion, and a sense of place within Dadong. Participatory planning ensures that the community's unique characteristics, values, and aspirations are considered, resulting in a built environment that reflects the needs and desires of the residents.

In conclusion, the assessment of low-carbon community regeneration in Dadong, China, through urban network analysis and community design, offers valuable insights and recommendations for policymakers, urban planners, and community stakeholders. By prioritizing sustainable transportation, pedestrian networks, and community engagement, Dadong has the potential to become a model for low-carbon living and a sustainable urban environment. The integration of these strategies will contribute to reduced carbon emissions, enhanced community connectivity, and the creation of a vibrant and resilient community for the present and future generations.

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