Faster Single Model Vigilance Detection Based on Deep Learning

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Abstract—Various reports have shown that the rate of road traffic accidents has increased due to reduced driver vigilance. Therefore, an accurate estimation of the driver’s alertness status plays an important part. To estimate vigilance, we adopt a novel strategy that is a deep autoencoder with subnetwork nodes (DAE Sn). The proposed network model is designed not only for sparse representation but also for dimension reduction. Some hidden layers are not calculated by randomly acquired, but by replacement technologies. Unlike the traditional electrooculogram (EOG) signals, the forehead EOG (EOGF) signals are collected through forehead electrodes that do not have to surround the eyes, which has a convenient and effective practical application. The root-mean-square error (RMSE) and correlation coefficient (COR) while separately using three EOGF features improved to 0.11/0.79, 0.10/0.83, and 0.11/0.80, respectively. Implemented in an experimental environment, percentage of eye closure over time is calculated in real time through SMI eye-tracking-glasses, up to 120 frames/s. In addition, the time to extract features from the raw signal and display the prediction is only 34 ms, that is the level of the driver’s fatigue can be detected quickly. The experimental study shows that the proposed model for vigilance analysis has better robustness and learning capability.

Index Terms—Deep learning (DL), dimension reduction, single model, vigilance detection.

I. INTRODUCTION

SCIENTISTS pointed out that machines can learn and write code like a human. This probably was the embryonic definition of machine learning (ML) in the mid-twentieth century. The term ML was coined by Samuel [1] who indicated that ML gives computers the ability to “learn” from the data based on statistical techniques and progressively improve the performance for a specific task. The perception was perhaps the first computer neural network model based on neuroscience science [2] and simulated the way the human brain thinks. Since the neural network learning machine has a technical defect that can learn only a single concept, and as the limited memory and processing speed of the computer is not enough to solve any actual artificial intelligence problem, the development of ML has been slow.

Generally, an object’s current behavior performance (e.g., service quality) is often correlated with its past performance records [3]–[5]. Based on this observation, more predictive methods based on deep learning (DL) algorithms are introduced to improve many practical applications. Gradually they entered into all kinds of commercial areas [6]–[11], i.e., image recognition, computer vision, robotics, etc. For example, Levine et al. [10] built a larger data set of more than 800 000 grasp attempts, which was collected by almost 14 robotic manipulators for two months. He then trained then grasp prediction models based on a deep convolutional neural network and the average grasp success rate was 84%. These deep networks increase the computational complexity and even lead to the curse of dimensionality [12] because the linear learning machines in the high-dimensional feature space and sparse data [13] need to obtain the explicit expression of the nonlinear mapping, which does not exist in a linear model. The strong generalization capability of ML arises from the optimal features of the data set, which is generated by human ingenuity and domain knowledge. The workloads that are significantly increased by processing high-dimensional data sets which should be reduced to extract the high-quality features required for ML algorithms [14]. Combining the dimension reduction [15] and feature extraction [16], [17] can be considered as a fast and effective way in emotion recognition.
According to Canadian police reports [18], reduced vigilance while driving is mainly a contribute factor for almost over 60 fatal transport accidents per month. In public transportation safety (PTS), therefore, vigilance state estimation of drivers’ state has become a vital task. Typically, electroencephalogram (EEG) [19], [20], and EOG [21]–[23] are mainly used to estimate the level of vigilance. Compared to EEG with a lower signal-to-noise ratio [24], EOG makes more robust to noise since the amplitude of which has significantly increased. Unlike traditional EOG signals, which are collected by two pairs of electrodes channel and one reference channel and have no practical application [25], we now present the forehead EOG (EOGF) is recorded by the new electrode placement with a suitable wearable device. It has been proven that the percentage of eye closure over time (PERCLOS) index can be considered as a good measure to estimate alertness in several variables of indicators [26]. Unlike traditional facial video technology [27], the PERCLOS is automatically calculated by SMI eye-tracking glasses with a high resolution of 120 Hz, which makes it suitable for real-time fatigue detection. As our previously reported [28], the EOGF has two characteristics of high signal-to-noise ratio and easy setup. In general, the methods, using EOGF that can be an objective and comprehensive reflection of the real physical state of the human, which gradually played a vital role to estimate vigilance. In this article, we adopt a novel strategy that is a deep autoencoder with subnetwork nodes (DAE SN). In particular, the contributions of this article are as follows.

1) Unlike traditional multilayer extreme learning machine (M-ELM) networks, where hidden nodes are calculated by randomly acquiring an encoding layer, the current features of DAE SN are obtained by replacing the previous decoding layer and simplifying more useful features for pattern recognition.

2) Unlike traditional multilayer autoencoder (MAE) approaches that only work for classification, DAE SN is adopted for data reconstruction, sparse representation, and dimension reduction. Meanwhile, our training speed can be several times or even dozens of times faster than other related methods.

3) Unlike traditional EOG signals collected through electrodes that surround the eyes, the EOGF collected by a convenient and practical way. Meanwhile, EOGF contains more important information in eye movements, including saccade, blink, and fixation component. Furthermore, PERCLOS is calculated by SMI eye-tracking glasses that have 120 frames/s, which can reflect eye movement in real time.

II. METHODOLOGY

A. Proposed Method

The proposed multilayered model with subnetwork nodes that subsumes autoencoder and regression networks. Fig. 1 depicts the entire process flow of the proposed model from the data preprocessing stage to the final regression stage where the blue circles represent the hidden nodes of the regression network, while the green circles denote the subnetwork nodes.

Algorithm 1 Proposed Algorithm

Part A: Subspace feature dimension reduction and extraction

Step (1) Original input data are transformed into a feature subspace through the random weight initialized first encoding layer.

Step (2) In the first decoding layer, the representational features are extracted from the hidden nodes in the subnetwork node. Thus, at this stage the feature dimension is equal to the total number of the hidden nodes in the subnetwork node. The optimal number of nodes is selected through empirical analysis.

Step (3) The output of the first decoding layer becomes the input to the second encoding layer. Sequentially, the feature $H_{1}^{d}$ of the 1st subnetwork node is obtained.

Step (4) Through parameter updating and adjustments based on reversible functions, the feature $H_{2}^{d}$ of the 2nd subnetwork node is computed.

Step (5) Finally, the features $H_{c}$ of the subnetwork nodes are obtained by repeating the above steps several times. Thus, the high-dimensional input data is mapped into random subspace, and then converted to the low-dimensional feature.

Part B: Regression for vigilance estimation

Regression analysis was performed on the extracted low-dimensional feature set. The output is a continuous value between 0 and 1. By setting a double threshold of ‘0.35’ and ‘0.70’, three states can be derived, such as “drowsy state,” “tired state,” and “awake state.” For example, the level between 0 to 0.35 represents the awake state. Here, X is the EOGF. The input data can reduce dimensionality and extract subspace features by the proposed model. The proposed algorithm shows the details.

In short, the accuracy of regression has a promising result with the above multilayered process instead of iterative backpropagation (BP)-based network training. Thus, it reduces a lot of computational overheads. Besides, the proposed approach utilizes two or three subnetwork nodes, only. It means that the training time is greatly reduced.

B. Autoencoders

Autoencoders that are special neural networks more and more widely used in the unsupervised learning. We set the initial input $x = (x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n)^T$ and the rebuilt output $H(x) = (\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2, \ldots, \hat{x}_n)^T$. It uses the BP algorithm in unsupervised learning for training and the formula is

$$H(x) = S(a, b, x)$$

$$J = \frac{1}{2} ||H(x) - x||$$

(1)

where $J$ is the reconstruction error. The training goal of this model is to minimize the error $J$ so that $H(x)$ is close to $x$.

According to our previous study, Yang et al. [16] proposed a double-layer autoencoder structure for image reconstruction. The formula of rebuilt output is

$$H(x) = S(a, b, H(x_{i-1}))$$

(2)

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Since its hidden nodes are calculated, the rebuilt output for image reconstruction is more closely related to the input data.

Most autoencoders [29], [30] have shown their benefits in 2-D images or 3-D space. We tried to use it for 1-D EOG signals and hope gets a good performance. The rebuilt output can be expressed as

\[ H_j = S(a_j^1, \ldots, a_j^d, b_j, x) \]

\[ H(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{n} H_j \] (3)

where \( j \) represents the \( j \)th subnetwork nodes, and \( n \) represents total subnetwork nodes. \( d \) represents the number of hidden nodes.

Each subnetwork node is independent, and it contains hidden nodes as a separate system, and the connection is only between adjacent subnetwork nodes. Our network is more like a complete system (refer to the steps are shown in the next section). Thus, the proposed method can really shorten the training time and improve learning efficiency when compared to the iterative BP-based training procedures.

C. Dimensionality Reduction

Given \( M \) arbitrary distinct samples \( \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^{M} \) (\( x_i \in \mathbb{R}^n, y_i \in \mathbb{R}^m \)). \( \mathbb{R} \) represents sets of real numbers. \( x \) and \( y \) are the input data and output data, respectively. Table I defined all notations we used.

The autoencoder performs an unsupervised manner of feature extraction from the raw data. In the following, the raw input data would be converted to low-dimensional features, and several processes can be described as follows.

Step 1: Given any arbitrary different training samples from continuous systems \( \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^{M} \) (\( x_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n_a} \)). Output data were reconstructed by autoencoder, which similar to the input data, here \( x = y \). Then for the encoding layer of autoencoder, randomly generated input initial weights and bias can be expressed as

\[ H_e = S_{d}(a_e \cdot x + b_e) \]

\[ (a_e)^T \cdot a_e = 1, (b_e)^T \cdot b_e = 1 \] (4)

where \( a_e \in \mathbb{R}^{d_a \times n_a} \) and \( b_e \in \mathbb{R} \) indicate orthogonal random weight and bias, respectively. \( H_e \) indicates current feature data.

Step 2: Given any continuous desired outputs \( y \) and the function \( S_d = \sin(\cdot) \), the best parameters of the hidden layer
where \(H\) represents the weight extracting features. The steps were described as follows.

**D. Regression Model**

According to our previous study [31], the proposed bidirectional extreme learning machine (B-ELM) with the two-layer network has less computational workloads than other deep networks and it excels other models in terms of processing time and accuracy in regression problems. However, the two-layer network has hundreds of hidden nodes, and these hidden nodes are connected to each other, greatly affecting the speed of the network model. It is because the proposed subnetwork node has a direct connection between adjacent subnetwork nodes, only. Thus, the test accuracy and learning efficiency are improved by selecting a small number of nodes and further extracting features. The steps were described as follows.

**Step 1:** Given \(\{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^{n}\), \(x_i \in \mathbb{R}^{m_i}\) arbitrary distinct training samples in the entrance layer from a continuous system, the weight \(\{\hat{a}_i^k\}\), and the bias \(\{\hat{b}_i^k\}\) obtained by orthogonal random. The initial subspace features of subnetwork neuron \(H_p^k\) are

\[
H_p^k = S_r\left(\hat{a}_p^k, \hat{b}_p^k, x\right)
\]

\[
\left(\hat{a}_p^k\right)^T \cdot \hat{b}_p^k = 1
\]

\[
\left(\hat{b}_p^k\right)^T \cdot \hat{b}_p^k = 1
\]

where the initial value \(k = 1\).

**Step 2:** Given the \(S_r\) activation function of the exit layer for any continuous desired outputs \(y\), the subspace features \(\{\hat{a}_q^k, \hat{b}_q^k\}\) are obtained by

\[
\hat{a}_q^k = S_{r^{-1}}(L_r(y)) \cdot \left(S_r\left(\hat{a}_p^k, \hat{b}_p^k, x\right)\right)^{-1}
\]

\[
\hat{b}_q^k = \sqrt{\text{MSE}\left(\hat{a}_q \cdot S_r\left(\hat{a}_p^k, \hat{b}_p^k, x\right), -S_r^{-1}(L_r(y))\right)}
\]

where \(H^{-1} = H^T((C[I] + HH^T)^{-1}, U\) represents a regularization value \((U > 0), \hat{a}_q^k \in \mathbb{R}^{d_x \times n}, \) and \(\hat{b}_m \in \mathbb{R}, L()\) represents the normalized function.

**Step 3:** Update \(e_k, \hat{a}_p^k, \hat{b}_p^k\) as

\[
e_k = y - L_r^{-1}S_r\left(H_p^k, \hat{a}_p^k, \hat{b}_p^k\right)
\]

\[
\hat{a}_p^k = S_{r^{-1}}(L_r\left(P_{k-1} + H_p^k\right)) \cdot x^{-1}
\]

\[
\hat{b}_p^k = \sqrt{\text{MSE}\left(\hat{a}_p^k \cdot x - P_{k-1}\right)}
\]

and update the feature data \(H_r = S_r(x, \hat{a}_p, \hat{b}_p)\).

**Step 4:** Repeat steps 2 and 3 \(l - 1\) times. The feature data \(H_r = S_r(x, \hat{a}_p, \hat{b}_p)\).

**E. Vigilance Estimation**

The autoencoder mixed neurons encode essential brain signals and generate a stable feature representation of complex driver vigilance status. The specific content of vigilance estimation described as follows.

For the training samples, Moore–Penrose generalized inverse can be described as \(X^T((V[I] + XX^T)^{-1} = X^{-1}\), the equation \(\lim_{k \to \infty} ||x - L_r^{-1}\left(S_r\left(\hat{a}_i^k, X + \hat{b}_i^k\right)\right)\cdot \hat{b}_i^k + \cdots + L_r^{-1}\left(S_r\left(\hat{a}_i^k, X + \hat{b}_i^k\right)\right)\cdot \hat{b}_i^k|| = 0\) holds when

\[
\hat{a}_i^k = S_r^{-1}(L_r(e_m-1)) \cdot X^T \left(V + XX^T\right)^{-1}, \hat{a}_i^k \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m},
\]

\[
\hat{b}_i^k = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left(\hat{a}_i^k \cdot X - S^{-1}(L_r(e_m-1))\right) \hat{b}_i^k \in \mathbb{R}
\]

\[
S^{-1} = -\log\left(\frac{1}{x} - 1\right)
\]

\[
\beta_p^k = \frac{\left(e_m-1, L_1^{-1}\left(q\left(\hat{a}_m^k \cdot X + \hat{b}_m^k\right)\right)\right)}{||L^{-1}\left(q\left(\hat{a}_m^k \cdot X + \hat{b}_m^k\right)\right)||^2}
\]

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where $\beta_k^p$ represents the output weight, and $N$ represents the total number of the samples.

The output data are obtained by subspace feature extraction. The ranges of the continuous output data $y$ “0–0.35,” “0.36–0.70,” and “0.71–1” indicate awake state, tired state, and drowsy state, respectively.

Then, the final quantitative analysis of the vigilance level is computed based on the root-mean-square error (RMSE) and the mean Pearson product moment correlation coefficient (COR). Generally, RMSE indicates the standard deviation between the observed values and predicted values, the formula of which is

$$\text{RMSE}(x, y) = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{t=1}^{n}(x_t - y_t)^2}{n}} \quad (11)$$

where $x = (x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n)^T$ and $y = (y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n)^T$ represent observed values and predicted values, respectively.

The parameter of COR can reach the relationship between the observed values and predicted values, the formula of which is

$$\text{COR}(x, y) = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^{n}(x_t - \bar{x})(y_t - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{\sum_{t=1}^{n}(x_t - \bar{x})^2 \sum_{t=1}^{n}(y_t - \bar{y})^2}} \quad (12)$$

where $\bar{x}$ and $\bar{y}$ indicate the mean of $x$ and the mean of $y$, respectively. In general, the accuracy of the regression algorithm increases for lower values of the RMSE and higher values of the COR.

### III. Experiments

#### A. Experimental Environment Setting

We used two different data sets from SEED-VIG. 23 subjects participated without the influence of all kinds of drugs, whose average age is almost 23 years. As we can see Fig. 2, there is an experimental vehicle without an engine system, the movement of which is controlled by software. Meanwhile, we use a large LCD screen contain a four-lane highway scene to simulate the real environment that is updated in real time. All participants did not receive any type of feedback while driving, even if they were asleep.

#### B. Alertness Annotations

So far, among the various ways to obtain alertness annotations, lane-departure is a popular method [32], [33]. Lin et al. [32] proposed the lane-departure events task that was introduced by an 8–12 s interval time, recording vehicle trajectory and the time of the lane-departure event, and defined the response time (RT) to reflect subjects’ vigilance and arousal state. However, because it is based on the behavior of the subject, it cannot be considered feasible for dual tasks in the real world.

There is a most widely accepted way to get alertness annotations named the PERCLOS in [27], [28], and [34]. It is also proven that the PERCLOS index calculated by the eye-tracking-glasses-based approach [28] is more accurate than the facial video-based approach [27]. Thus, we use the SensoMotoric Instruments eye-tracking-glasses (SMI-ETG) with a window up to 120-Hz sampling rate, which provides a more accurate real-time reflection of eye movements, including blinks, glances, and fixed components. The formula is

$$\text{PERCLOS} = \frac{\text{blink} + \text{CLOS}}{\text{blink} + \text{saccade} + \text{fixation} + \text{CLOS}} \quad (13)$$

where “CLOS” indicates the duration of the closed eye.

#### C. EOG Processing and Extraction

There are sufficient EOG signal extraction methods that have been comprehensively researched. The noise-free EOG signals can be obtained directly through placing electrodes near our eyes, but there are plenty of limitations in practical applications that do exist, notably, including the interferences with the subject’s sight, other artifacts, intentional behavior of the individual, etc. Compared to the traditional method [25] that is difficultly extracted forehead vertical-EOG $\text{EOG}_F$ and
forehead horizontal-EOG (EOG\textsubscript{FH}) features from EOG difficulty, we designed a novel electrode placement to obtain the EOG\textsubscript{F} signals. The EOG\textsubscript{FH} and EOG\textsubscript{FV} can be separated effectively from the mixed EOG\textsubscript{F} signals [22]. Simultaneously, EOG\textsubscript{FH} and EOG\textsubscript{FV} contain eye movements, such as saccade, fixation, and blink. There are some differences in the way EOG\textsubscript{F} and traditional EOG are obtained by the electrode placements. As we can see Fig. 3(b), the blue dots (1, 2, 3, and 4) and the yellow dots (3, 5, 6, and 7) represent the forehead and traditional electrode positions, respectively.

We used two different approaches of fast independent component analysis (FASTICA) [35] and the minus (MIN) rule [36] to extract EOG\textsubscript{FV} and EOG\textsubscript{FH}. For the ICA method, the approximation of EOG\textsubscript{FV} and EOG\textsubscript{FH} can be obtained from the electrodes No. 3 and No. 4 and No. 1 and No. 2, respectively. For the minus rule, the approximation of EOG\textsubscript{FV} and EOG\textsubscript{FH} can be obtained from the subtractions of electrodes No. 2 and No. 4 and No. 1 and No. 3, respectively.

After preprocessing, eye movements include saccade and blink components can be detected for EOG\textsubscript{F} by the wavelet transform algorithm. The wavelet coefficients with a scale of 8 are computed by the Mexican hat wavelet [37], which defined as follows:

$$\psi(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \pi^{-1/4} \left(1 - x^2\right) e^{-x^2/2}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (14)

D. Compared Methods and Experimental Results

The eye movements can be detected by the peak detection method on the wavelet coefficients. We encoded the peaks, such as negative peaks and positive peaks after using the thresholds to the continuous wavelet coefficients. For example, a blink has three successive peaks of negative, positive, and negative. Thus, a blinking movement can be encoded as “010.” All eye movements of the statistical parameters are listed in Table II.

ICA\textsubscript{FH}, ICA\textsubscript{FV}, MINUS\textsubscript{FH}, and MINUS\textsubscript{FV} features are extracted from the EOG\textsubscript{F} signal using ICA and MIN separation approaches. Besides that, we compare the proposed study to several recent state-of-the-art signal recognition methods, such as extreme learning machine (ELM), B-ELM, and double-layered neural network with subnetwork nodes (DNN\textsubscript{SN}). We will then introduce the above-mentioned methods shortly and the parameter settings are listed in Table III.
Fig. 5. Performance of single modality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SYMBOLS USED FOR THE PROPOSED METHOD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Methods</th>
<th>Parameters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELM</td>
<td>Grid search in $2^{10-10}$; 1000 hidden neurons are used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-ELM</td>
<td>Grid search in $2^{10-10}$; 1000 hidden neurons are used. $C_1 = 2^{10-10}$, and $C_2 = 2^{10-10}$; Three subnetwork neurons are used, each of which contains 500 hidden neurons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNN</td>
<td>$C = 2^{3-5}$, and $U = 2^{3-5}$, $V = 2^{3-5}$; $l = 3$, and each subnetwork node contains 400 hidden neurons.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed study</td>
<td></td>
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1) **ELM**: Huang et al. [38] proposed ELM which not only achieves smaller training error but also has a smaller output weight norm. Meanwhile, ELM works with an extensive feature mapping without iterative tuning, which only requires lower computational complexity and it can be applied in classification and regression applications directly.

2) **B-ELM**: Compared to ELM, Yang et al. [31] proposed that B-ELM can select the optimal size of the single-hidden layer feedforward network (SLFN) to set the optimum number of hidden nodes, thereby reducing training time and improving learning efficiency greatly.

3) **DNN**: According to our previous study [39], the proposed DNN model can be directly applied to all physiological signals of single modality and multimodality, and each subnetwork neuron has the ability to feature learning and feature selection. As a result, the accuracy of the regression prediction is significantly improved.

All experimental results are listed in Table IV. ELM was originally proposed for “generalized” SLFN, which provides good generalization ability. The ELM-based method works reasonably and achieves a good RMSE/COR of 0.13/0.67, 0.13/0.72, and 0.13/0.73, respectively. Through its features extracted and combined from hierarchical network layers, the DNN-based method showed good results of 0.13/0.68, 0.11/0.78, and 0.12/0.74, respectively, which can be also
considered as an effective way. In the autoencoder model, using the reduced feature dimension and extracted feature, the time taken from the original signal to the display detection is approximately 34 ms, which is far lower than other comparison methods (see Fig. 4), and the driver’s alert level can be monitored fast. Furthermore, due to the subspace feature further extracted by subnetwork nodes, the performance of the proposed method improved to 0.11/0.79, 0.10/0.83, and approximately 34 ms, which is far lower than other comparison methods. The driver’s alert level can be detected easily and accurately.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

This article proposed a novel multilayer network structure that includes an autoencoder layer for dimension reduction and regression for single-model vigilance estimation. Compared with other single model methods, the proposed method achieves higher learning accuracy. It demonstrated that our experimental algorithm has a better performance in detecting important eye components from EOG, including saccade, blink, and fixation. In addition, the total training and test time is much lower than other comparison methods. The driver’s alertness can be monitored fast by the proposed method, which also surmounts other state-of-the-art single model techniques.

Because of research funding and time constraints, all subjects are recruited from undergraduate and postgraduate students of college campuses, thus the average age is about 23 years old. It is noticed that the EEG signal differs from person to person. Therefore, the experimental results may change if the age of the subject increases. As for how much age will impact on this model should be concluded from actual experimental data. We planned to address this issue in our future works. We should consider a larger age range to arrive at more reliable conclusion. Simultaneously, EEG is one of the commonly used physiological signals in the field of affective computing. We should combine EEG and EOG in our future research and apply the multimodal emotion recognition applications based on DL algorithms.

All subjects signed written informed consent. All subjects gave written informed consent before participation. The study was approved by the local ethics committee.

**REFERENCES**


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