A Modulated Model Predictive Control Scheme for the Brushless Doubly-Fed Induction Machine

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Abstract—Brushless doubly-fed induction machines feature some important advantages, such as high reliability and low maintenance cost, over alternative solutions for brushless machine applications. This paper proposes a modulated model predictive control algorithm for brushless doubly-fed induction machines, which achieves a fixed switching frequency and superior system performance. An improvement of power quality is shown in this paper when compared to the conventional finite control set-model predictive control. The paper examines the design and implementation of the modulation technique as well as presenting simulation and experimental results to verify the technique’s operation.

Index Terms—Brushless doubly-fed induction machine, modulated model predictive control.

I. INTRODUCTION

With the current concern about climate change, the world is paying more attention to the power sector. To reduce the emissions of carbon dioxide and minimize reliance on fossil fuels, wind power has turned into one of the best options for electrical grid power generation. In the report of ‘the 2016 edition of the Global Wind Energy Outlook,’ it was shown that wind power could reach 2,110 GW and supply up to 20% of global electricity by 2030 [1-2]. The generators used in these wind power applications, therefore, need to supply high-quality and efficient electrical power to the grid [3-7].

The permanent magnet synchronous machine (PMSM) [3-5] and the doubly-fed induction machine (DFIM) [6-7] are the most common machines used in these applications. In a PMSM, the gearbox is not needed, which leads to high reliability and longevity, but the price is increased as the power converter must process all the electrical energy generated. The DFIM often has a high performance-price ratio when adopted in wind generation applications, partly due to the fact that the power converter only processes a fraction of the electrical energy generated. Other advantage of the DFIM include wide operational speed range, variable speed operation, and full power control capability. However, the gearbox and brushes of DFIM can lead to low reliability and higher maintenance costs [6].

To obtain improved performance, the dual stator winding induction machine (DSWIM) and brushless doubly-fed induction machine (BDFIM) have been used as alternatives to the DFIM. The DSWIM is suitable for electric aircraft applications [8-11]. In this paper, due to the absence of brushes, the maintenance costs of a BDFIM are lower than a traditional doubly-fed machine. The BDFIM is, therefore, suitable for drive systems in applications requiring minimal maintenance, such as Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS) [12-13]. The BDFIM, which is shown in Fig. 1, consists of two stator windings and one rotor winding [14-16]. The pair of stator windings includes a power winding (PW) and a control winding (CW). These windings have a different number of pole pairs so that they can produce the magnetic field and transfer energy through indirect interaction using the rotor winding.

To obtain high dynamic performance, vector control (VC) [17-23] and direct torque control (DTC) [24-27] have been proposed for this machine configuration. VC is a popular control method which uses a dynamic model within a unified reference frame. A VC usually includes two control loops, one fast inner current control loop, and one outer flux/speed control loop. In general, its linear nature does not consider the discrete operation of voltage source converter, and a vector conversion needed in the implementation, which may be complex and time-consuming. Furthermore, VC is sensitive to parameter detuning, so the machine parameters should be chosen and monitored carefully to satisfy the system stability and performance [22]. In applications where a DTC is applied, coordinate transformation and pulse-width modulation (PWM) are not required, the variables are controlled through torque and flux control in both steady and transient operating conditions. However, low-frequency current fluctuation, which is a feature of this technique, is often a serious disadvantage.

With the rapid development of digital signal processors and
power devices, the finite control set-model predictive control (FCS-MPC) is now being considered as an alternative control method of power converters due to its advantages such as fast dynamic response, easy inclusion of nonlinearities and constraints of the system, and the flexibility to include other system requirements in the controller [28-30]. However, the switching frequency is variable, which decreases the system performance. To achieve a fixed switching frequency, modulated model predictive control (MMPC) has been proposed [31-35].

This paper presents the application of an MMPC strategy for the BDFIM. MMPC incorporates a modulation technique inside the FCS-MPC algorithm. The modulation uses a cost function to minimize the predictive algorithm by choosing two active vectors and one zero vector. Compared with FCS-MPC, MMPC achieves a fixed switching frequency, higher reactive power control accuracy, and lower torque ripple. Simulation and experimental results are presented to show the feasibility and effectiveness of the proposed approach as well as to allow an analysis of the performance. The presented MMPC strategy in this paper has been described in [36], more principle details, simulation and experimental results are added in this paper.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section II, the MMPC scheme for BDFIM is described, which includes the model of BDFIM and the theoretical comparison of MMPC and FCS-MPC. Then in section III and IV, simulation results of FCS-MPC and MMPC are presented to demonstrate the feasibility of the proposed methods, and experimental results verify the correctness of the simulation.

Fig. 1. The basic structure of a BDFIM.

II. MMPC SCHEME FOR THE BDFIM

A. Model of the BDFIM

The BDFIM is composed of two three-phase stator windings and a special three-phase rotor winding. One of the stator windings is denoted as power winding (PW) and the other one is called control winding (CW).

Assume that the PW is directly connected to the grid in positive phase sequence, and the CW is connected to the grid via a voltage source inverter in reverse phase sequence connection. To simplify the model of BDFIM, the harmonic magnetic fields and their coupling effects are ignored. PW, CW, and rotor are described in dq reference frames which based on PW flux orientation with $p_1$-type pole-pair. The voltages and currents vectors of PW, CW, and rotor, which are represented as $x_1, x_2$, and $x_r$, should be transformed from their reference frames to the dq reference frame.

$$x_1^{dq} = e^{-j\omega_1 t} x_1^{*q1}$$

$$x_2^{dq} = e^{-j(\omega_1 - \omega_2) t} x_2^{*q2}$$

$$x_r^{dq} = e^{-j(\omega_1 - \omega_3) t} x_r^{*q3}$$

where $\omega_1, \omega_2$ are the angular frequencies of PW and CW; $p_1$ and $p_2$ are pole pairs of PW and CW; $\omega_3$ is the angular speed of the rotor. To simplify the expressions, the vector superscripts $dq$ are removed.

The model of the BDFIM with the voltage and flux equations in dq reference frame can be shown as follows.

$$u_1 = R_1 i_1 + \frac{d\phi_1}{dt} + j\omega_1 \phi_1$$

$$u_2 = R_1 i_2 + \frac{d\phi_2}{dt} + j(\omega_1 - (p_1 + p_2) \omega_2) \phi_2$$

$$0 = R_1 i_r + \frac{d\phi_r}{dt} + j(\omega_1 - p_1 \omega_2) \phi_r$$

$$\phi_1 = L_1 i_1 + M_1 i_r$$

$$\phi_2 = L_1 i_2 + M_1 i_r + M_2 i_2$$

$$T_r = \frac{3}{2} p_1 \text{Im}[(\phi_1)\star i_1] + \frac{3}{2} p_2 \text{Im}[(\phi_2)\star i_2]$$

$$Q = \frac{3}{2} \text{Im}[(\phi_1)\star (i_1)\star]$$

$$\omega_1 - \omega_2 = (p_1 + p_2) \omega_2$$

$$\frac{d\omega_r}{dt} = T_r - \mu \omega_r - T_e$$

where $u_1, u_2, i_1, i_2, i_r, \phi_1, \phi_2$ and $\phi_r$ are the PW stator voltage vector, CW stator voltage vector, PW stator current vector, CW stator current vector, rotor current vector, PW stator flux vector, CW stator flux vector and rotor flux vector; $R_1, R_2, R_r, L_1, L_2$ and $L_r$ are the PW stator resistance, CW stator resistance, rotor resistance, PW stator inductance, CW stator inductance and rotor inductance; $M_{1r}$ is the coupling inductance between the PW stator and rotor winding; $M_{2r}$ is the coupling inductance between the CW stator and rotor winding; $T_e, T_l$ and $Q$ are the electromagnetic torque, load torque and reactive power; $J$ and $\mu$ are the moments of inertia and friction coefficient; $\star$ is the conjugate symbol; $\text{Im}$ is a symbol to obtain the imaginary part of vector.

Since the rotor resistance is much lower than its reactance, reference [37] ignores the rotor resistance and verifies the feasibility of the simplified model. When the BDFIM is running at steady state, $\frac{d\omega_r}{dt} = 0$, equation (6) can be simplified as:

$$0 = R_1 i_r + j(\omega_1 - p_1 \omega_2) \phi_r$$

Since the rotor resistance has been ignored in this simplified model, the rotor flux $\phi_r = 0$. The simplified model is derived as follows:
\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{di_1}{dt} &= A \begin{bmatrix} i_1 \\
i_2 \end{bmatrix} + B \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\
u_2 \end{bmatrix} \\
Q &= \frac{v_{id} (\varphi_{ld} - M_{12} i_{2d})}{\sigma_i L_r} \\
T_e &= \frac{3M_{12} N_r \left( M_{12}^2 - \sigma_2 L_2 \sigma_1 L_r \right)}{2\sigma_1 L_r^2 L_2} \varphi_{id} i_{2q}
\end{align*}
\]

where
\[
A = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_i L_r & M_{12} \\ M_{12} & \sigma_2 L_2 \end{bmatrix}^{-1}
\]
\[
B = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1 L_1 & M_{12} \\ M_{12} & \sigma_2 L_2 \end{bmatrix},
\]
\[
\sigma_1 = 1 - \frac{M_{2r}^2}{L_r L_i}, \quad \sigma_2 = 1 - \frac{M_{2r}^2}{L_2 L_i}, \quad \sigma = 1 - \frac{M_{2r}^2}{L_1 L_2} - \frac{M_{2r}^2}{L_2 L_1},
\]
\[
M_{12} = -\frac{M_{1r} M_{2r}}{L_i}, \quad N_r = p_1 + p_2
\]

A discrete BDFIM model can be derived from (15) by using a forward Euler approximation and the relation between the discrete-time variables can be described as:
\[
\begin{bmatrix} i_{1k+1} \\
i_{2k+1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} G & H \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_1^k \\
i_2^k \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} u_1^k \\
u_2^k \end{bmatrix}
\]

where
\[
G = T_s (A^{-1} B) + I, \quad H = T_s A^{-3}, \quad I \text{ is a 2x2 unit matrix, } T_s \text{ is the sample period.}
\]

B. Current control of the BDFIM

a) Model of the converter

Fig. 2 shows the topology of a back-to-back bidirectional power converter and its valid switching states. This converter prohibits the state that two switches in each leg are turned on at the same time, therefore the short-circuit switch states should be precluded. Six active vectors are represented by switching states 1-6 and the zero vectors are represented by switching states 7-8. \( S_j (j \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}) \) equals to ‘1’ when switch \( S_j \) is turned on and equals to ‘0’ when switch \( S_j \) is turned off, respectively. Assume the value of dc-link voltage is \( u_{dc} \). A constant dc-link voltage is achieved from the three-phase voltage source rectifier which adopts a Space Vector Pulse Width Modulation (SVPWM) strategy [38]. The output voltage \( u_{dq} \) in \( dq \) reference frame is expressed as:
\[
u_q = \frac{2}{3} e^{-j(\varphi_{ld} - p_1 + p_2) \omega_r} \left( -S_1 - S_q e^{j/3} \varphi - S_q e^{j/3} \right) u_{dc}
\]
Fig. 3. PI-MMPC control scheme of a MMPC strategy for the BDFIM.

1) FCS-MPC

The FCS-MPC is a well-known technique which uses the finite number of all possible switching states generated by the power converter to realize the optimal control. In this paper, the possible switching states are generated by the bidirectional power converter shown in Fig. 2. Eight predictive values are evaluated with the reference in the cost function \( g \). Then, the first optimum vector switching state with the least value of the evaluation is chosen in the next sampling time. Fig. 4 shows the diagram of an FCS-MPC for the BDFIM.

Fig. 4. Diagram of an FCS-MPC for the BDFIM.

2) MMPC

The proposed MMPC strategy shown in Fig. 3 evaluates an extra cost function based on the FCS-MPC. To obtain a fixed switching frequency, two adjacent active vectors \( \mathbf{v}_j \) and \( \mathbf{v}_k \), and a zero vector \( \mathbf{v}_0 \) will be chosen in each sampling period. It is assumed that the cost functions \( g \) of these vectors are \( g_j, g_k \) and \( g_0 \) respectively. \( d_j, d_k \) and \( d_0 \) are the duty cycles of these vectors. \( T_s \) is the sampling period. \( K \) is a positive constant. The duty cycles for the two active vectors are calculated by solving:

\[
\begin{align*}
    d_j &= K \cdot g_j \\
    d_k &= K \cdot g_k \\
    d_0 &= K \cdot g_0 \\
    d_j + d_k + d_0 &= 1
\end{align*}
\]

Then the new cost function \( \text{Cost} \) can be defined as:

\[
\text{Cost} = d_j \cdot g_j + d_k \cdot g_k + d_0 \cdot g_0
\]

At last, the two active vectors of the minimum cost function value are the optimal solutions and are used to the bidirectional power converter at the next sampling time. Thereafter, the appropriate ratio which is determined by the duty cycles \( (d_j, d_k, d_0) \) is shown in Fig. 5 within each sampling period.

Fig. 5. Switching pattern.

C. Proposed PI-MMPC control scheme

Fig. 3 shows the diagram of the proposed hybrid PI-MMPC scheme, which can be divided into two parts: outer speed loop and inner current loop.

The outer speed loop consists of a rotor speed regulator and a torque transfer function. The rotor speed regulator is used to adjust the rotor speed to the set value. PI-based controllers will be used for the outer loop. The inner current loop consists of a reactive power transfer function, an MMPC controller of \( \mathbf{v}_q \) current and a phase-locked loop (PLL). The reference current value \( i_{2dq} \) is obtained according to the torque transfer function. The reference current value \( i_{2dq} \) is obtained according to the
reactive power transfer function. The MMPC controller generates two active vectors and a zero vector according to the cost function, which are used to the converter at the next sampling time. Fig. 6 shows the calculation of $\omega_2$ and the PLL is used to track the phase angle of the three-phase grid voltage accurately.

![Fig. 6. Calculation of $\omega_2$.](image)

### III. SIMULATION RESULTS

The operation and implementation of an MMPC for the BDFIM are verified using a simulation in MATLAB/Simulink. Table I shows simulation parameters of the system. According to equation (12), when PW and CW rated frequency are respectively 50 Hz and 0 Hz, the natural rotor speed is 750 r/min. The PW stator is directly connected to the grid. And the CW stator is fed by the back-to-back bidirectional power converter.

| Parameters                        | Value         |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Pole pairs of PW ($p_n$)          | 1             |
| Pole pairs of CW ($p_n$)          | 3             |
| PW rated voltage and frequency    | 380V/50HZ     |
| CW rated voltage and frequency    | 380V/50HZ     |
| Shaft power rating                | 30kW          |
| Sampling period                   | 250μs         |
| moments of inertia ($J$)          | 0.95          |
| Self-inductance of the PW stator ($L_s$) | 0.4749H     |
| Self-inductance of the CW stator ($L_s$) | 0.0656H     |
| Self-inductance of the rotor ($L_r$) | 0.5499H     |
| Resistance of the PW stator ($R_s$) | 0.4035Ω     |
| Resistance of the CW stator ($R_s$) | 0.5470Ω     |
| Resistance of rotor ($R_r$)       | 0.7852Ω       |
| Mutual inductance of the PW stator ($M_{st}$) | 0.4706H     |
| Mutual inductance of the CW stator ($M_{st}$) | 0.0629H     |

To confirm the effectiveness and superiority of the MMPC, the results of the MMPC are compared with the results obtained by the conventional FCS-MPC at sub-synchronous and super-synchronous speeds. Two tests have been carried out to verify the responses both in FCS-MPC and MMPC.

**Test 1:** the expected reactive power is 0 Var, the reference rotor speed increases from 600 r/min to 800 r/min during the period 3-5 seconds when the load torque is 50 N·m.

**Test 2:** at $t = 3$ s, the load torque changes from 50 N·m to 25 N·m, and the reference of rotor speed is 600 r/min.

Fig. 7 shows simulation results of the conventional FCS-MPC and Fig. 8 shows the results of the proposed MMPC. Both results show the waveforms of the rotor speed, the $dq$-axis CW stator current and the reactive power. It is obvious that the $dq$-axis CW stator current ripple of the MMPC scheme is lower than the conventional FCS-MPC scheme. And the MMPC scheme features higher control accuracy. Since the reactive power is indirectly controlled by the $dq$-axis CW stator current, results with a higher accuracy will be produced in power tracking due to lower CW stator current ripple. In both cases, satisfying dynamic responses are observed in the $dq$-axis CW stator currents.

The conventional FCS-MPC predicts the behavior of all possible switching states according to its mathematical model at each sampling period. The output voltage vector which is represented by the chosen switching states is different, which means the switching frequency is variable. For this reason, it may cause a high current ripple in some cases.
Fig. 8. Simulation results of MMPC:
Test 1: the reference rotor speed is changed from 600 r/min to 800 r/min within 3-5 s. (a) the rotor speed (b) $d$-axis CW stator current (c) $q$-axis CW stator current (d) the reactive power.
Test 2: the load torque is changed from 50 N·m to 25 N·m at $t = 3$ s. (e) the rotor speed (f) $d$-axis CW stator current (g) $q$-axis CW stator current (h) the reactive power.

In the proposed MMPC, a modulation technique which is similar to the space vector modulation (SVM) is added in the conventional FCS-MPC. Two active vectors and one zero vector are selected for the next sampling period, and the duty cycles for the chosen vectors are calculated by the cost function during the sampling period. Then, a switching pattern procedure is adopted to choose two active vectors and one zero vector. A higher and fixed switching frequency is obtained by using this modulation. The current ripple does not have much impact on the mechanical robustness of the system, and speed dynamics are smooth for both FCS-MPC and MMPC. However, the reactive power under the MMPC scheme is closer to zero than the reactive power under FCS-MPC scheme, which will improve the power quality.

To obtain a good comparison and show the effectiveness of the proposed control strategy, the harmonic spectra for the CW current based on CW static $\alpha\beta\gamma$ reference frame are shown in Fig. 9 and 10. The harmonic components for MMPC in Fig. 10 are shown to be lower throughout the frequency range compared to FCS-MPC in Fig. 9. These results show that superior system performance in terms of current harmonics can be obtained when using the proposed MMPC scheme in comparison to the FCS-MPC scheme.

Fig. 9. Spectrum graphics of (a) $i_d$ and (b) $i_q$ for FCS-MPC when the reference rotor speed is 600 r/min and the load is 50 N·m / 3 kW.

Fig. 10. Spectrum graphics of (a) $i_d$ and (b) $i_q$ for MMPC when the reference rotor speed is 600 r/min and the load is 50 N·m / 3 kW.
IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

In order to further investigate the proposed MMPC strategy, a prototype of the BDFIM shown in Fig. 1 is implemented, and the experimental parameters are same with the simulation parameters shown in Table 1. The experimental system arrangement is shown in Fig. 11. To test the performance of the proposed control method with different loads, a 30 kW induction motor which is coupled with the BDFIM is worked as a load machine. The PW stator of BDFIM is directly connected to the power grid (380 V/50 Hz), the CW stator is fed by a back-to-back voltage source converter. The constant dc-link voltage which is achieved from the three-phase voltage source rectifier is 650V. The proposed control structure is implemented in a combination of a digital signal processor (DSP) TM320F28335 and a field-programmable gate array (FPGA) EP2C8T144C8N.

The maximum current limit $i_{\text{max}}$ is selected as 40A to sufficiently supply the CW current of 20 A. This is chosen within the actual maximum limits for control design verification. And a sampling frequency of 4 kHz (250 μs sampling period) is chosen for the MMPC scheme.

Case 1: In Fig. 12 and Fig. 13, the expected reactive power is 0 Var, and the reference rotor speed is set to 600 r/min and 800 r/min which means that the BDFIM works in the sub-synchronous mode and super-synchronous mode, respectively.

It can be seen that the rotor speed tracks its reference value well, the error between them is controlled at about 2 r/min. The reactive power fluctuates round ±400 Var at 600 r/min and 800 r/min. If the BDFIM is operating at a rated power of 30 kW, the input power factor is still nearly unity even if the reactive power fluctuation is ±400 Var. The CW stator currents are also stable with small fluctuates. Decoupled from the model calculation in (20) and (21), $i_{2d}$ corresponds to the reactive power of PW stator and $i_{2q}$ corresponds to the electromagnetic torque $T_e$.

Although there are some oscillations in these four variables, the results are acceptable in practical applications.
Case 2: To synchronize the output frequency of the BDFIM with the grid, it is apparent that the rotor speed must track the rotor’s speed reference value. In this case, the reference rotor speed is increased from 600 r/min to 800 r/min during the 3-5 seconds. And the load torque and its power value are set to 50 N·m and 3 kW. The conditions of the experiment in Case 2 are the same as those of Test 1 in the simulation.

Fig. 14 shows the waveforms of the PW line voltage $u_{abc}$, PW phase current $i_{1a}$ and CW phase current $i_{2a}$ in an oscilloscope. The reference rotor speed is changed from 600 r/min to 800 r/min when the load is 50 N·m/3 kW.

Fig. 14. The waveforms of PW line voltage $u_{abc}$, PW phase current $i_{1a}$ and CW phase current $i_{2a}$ in oscilloscope. The reference rotor speed is changed from 600 r/min to 800 r/min when the load is 50 N·m/3 kW.

Fig. 15. Experimental results of MMPC: the reference rotor speed is changed from 600 r/min to 800 r/min at $t = 3$ s. (a) the rotor speed (b) $d$-axis CW stator current (c) $q$-axis CW stator current (d) the reactive power.

Although the CW current and the reactive power have some oscillations in Fig. 15(b)-(c), the results are acceptable in practical applications.
Fig. 16. The waveforms of PW line voltage $u_{ab}$, PW phase current $i_{t_a}$ and CW phase current $i_{t_{2a}}$ in oscilloscope. The load is changed from 50 N·m/3 kW to 25 N·m/1.5 kW when the reference rotor speed is 600 r/min.

Case 3: Load change may be required during the operation of the BDFIM. To evaluate the load impact on the proposed control method, in this case, the load is reduced from 50 N·m/3 kW to 25 N·m/1.5 kW. The rotor speed is set at 600 r/min and remains constant. The conditions of the experiment in Case 3 are the same as those of Test 2 in the simulation.

Like case 2, we recorded waveforms of $u_{t_{1ab}}$, $i_{t_{1a}}$, and $i_{t_{2a}}$ in the oscilloscope in Fig. 16. And in Fig. 17, as the load changes, a few adjustments take place in the rotor speed, CW current, and the reactive power. Moreover, the rotor speed increases because the electromagnetic torque is larger than the load torque at the change moment, then the rotor speed recovers to its original state when the electromagnetic torque decreases due to the decrease of $i_{2g}$. After about 0.2 seconds, these four variables tend to reach a steady state and $i_{2g}$ decreases to a lower value in the steady state. This experiment confirms the designed MMPC-based controller is capable of maintaining stable operation of the drive system when the load changes and it can also achieve an excellent dynamic control performance.

Fig. 17. Experimental results of MMPC: the load is changed from 50 N·m/3 kW to 25 N·m/1.5 kW when the rotor speed is 600 r/min. (a) the rotor speed (b) d-axis CW stator current (c) q-axis CW stator current (d) the reactive power.

Compared with the simulation results, the tracking error of the CW current and the reactive power are larger in experiments, which are mainly caused by the non-ideal power sources, inaccurate motor parameters, and the converter losses.
However, the results are acceptable in practical applications. In sum, the correctness and merits of the MMPC used in a BDFIM are verified. Through the proposed method, excellent dynamic response and low ripple current are obtained.

V. CONCLUSION

An MMPC scheme with a fixed switching frequency for the BDFIM has been proposed in this paper. The modulation technique incorporates the SVM to the FCS-MPC. With a simple implementation structure, a satisfying tracking performance of the reactive power and rotor speed are achieved by a cost function. Compared with the results of the FCS-MPC, low current ripple and higher control accuracy are obtained. An outstanding system performance has been achieved and simulation results show the feasibility and effectiveness of the proposed method. The steady-state performance and fast dynamic performance of MMPC are verified by experimental results.

The MMPC retains the desirable advantage over the FCS-MPC, such as fast dynamic performance. Moreover, a fixed switching frequency is obtained by using a PWM scheme in this technique. The MMPC strategy is also dependent on the machine parameters, the evaluation on parameter sensitivity of the MMPC strategy is worthy of study in the future work.

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