

Study of Flow Characteristics of Contracted Sharp Crested Rectangular Weir

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ABSTRACT

Sharp crested rectangular weirs are widely used as discharge measuring device in laboratories, industries and irrigation channels. Analysis of water surface profile and measurement of head over the weir crest are the important aspects in discharge analysis. Width of the weir opening (b) and the weir height (P) affect the coefficient of discharge and thereby the discharge also.

In the present work, an experimental study has been carried out in a rectangular channel of dimensions (9.4 m x 0.6 m x 0.6 m) with contracted sharp crested rectangular weir, by varying the weir width (b) and the weir height (P). The experiment has been conducted in a horizontal channel of width (B). For each weir width, readings are taken for four different weir heights (100 mm, 200 mm, 300 mm and 400 mm.). By varying the discharge for every weir plate, the effect of weir width (b) and weir height (P), has been analyzed in the present study. Variation of coefficient of discharge (Cd) has been analyzed in terms of Reynolds Number (Re) by plotting graphs.

A unique relationship has been developed for estimation of a coefficient K (=0.943 Cd) in terms of modified Reynolds number, $[[Re]]^{*} = \{ (Re / [10])^{4} \} [C_1]^{2.6}$ and the discharge obtained by that equation lies in the range of $\pm 5\%$. A procedure has also been developed for the estimation of discharge (Q), if head (H) over the weir crest and b/B ratio is known.

Key words: Open Channel Flow, Sharp Crested Weir, Reynolds number, Coefficient of Discharge,

1. INTRODUCTION

Measurement of discharge in open channels plays a vital role in the equal distribution of water among the users in field and accordingly charging correct amount from them by metering the flow. The measurement of flow in open channels is generally made by means of weirs or sluice gates. Various methods are available for the determination of discharge in open channel and can be broadly classified into two groups:

- (i) Direct determination
- (ii) Indirect Determination

The direct determination of discharge includes various methods like area velocity method, dilution techniques, electromagnetic method and ultrasonic method. The indirect determination of discharge includes hydraulic structures like weirs, flumes, gated structure, end depth ratio method and

slope area method.

Weirs are used to measure discharge in open channels by using the principle of rapidly varied flow. They are extensively used in open channels in irrigation canals, laboratories, industries, and also used as dam instrumentation device. Weirs are most commonly used due to their simplicity and ease in construction, durability and accuracy in measurement.

2. WEIR

Weir is a standard device for the measurement of flow in open channel since last two centuries. It is an obstruction in the path of flow that causes the flow to rise behind the weir and then flows over it. By measuring the head of water over the weir the quantity of discharge can be estimated by using well established head-discharge relationship.

If the jet of liquid passing over the weir springs free as it leaves the upstream face, the weir is known as sharp crested weir, while broad crested weirs are those which support the falling nappe over its crest, in the longitudinal direction and critical depth occurs over the weir.

On the basis of shape, the weirs can be classified as the rectangular, triangular, trapezoidal, parabolic, etc. and are given below:

- Sharp crested rectangular weir
- Broad crested weir
- V-notch weir
- Labyrinth weir
- Compound weir
- Minimum energy loss weir
- Sutro weir

Amongst the above mentioned weirs, sharp crested rectangular weir, v-notch and broad crested weir are the most common.

3. SHARP CRESTED RECTANGULAR WEIR

Sharp crested rectangular weir is a thin vertical plate provided in an open channel to estimate the discharge. The edge of the sharp crested weir is bevelled on the downstream side to give a minimum contact with the flowing water. The thickness of weir at the crest is about 0.2 times the thickness of the weir plate and overall thickness of plate is taken about 2 mm. In the downstream side the bevelled surfaces should make an angle between 45° to 60° .

The rate of flow is determined by measuring the head (H) over the weir crest at a distance sufficiently upstream at least three to four times the head to be used[2].

The pattern of flow over thin plate weir is very complex and cannot be analyzed theoretically alone. This is due to the non hydrostatic pressure distribution, turbulence, and frictional effects, and the approach flow conditions. The effect of viscosity and surface tension also becomes important at low heads. Therefore the analytical relation between Q and H is obtained after some simplifying assumptions and suitably modifying by experimentally determined coefficients (C_d).

4. Contracted Rectangular Weir: When the width of the crest (b) of a rectangular weir is less than the width of the channel (B), then there will be contraction of the nappe in lateral direction also so that the length of the nappe is less than the channel width. Such types of weirs having end contractions are called as contracted weirs.

TYPES OF SHARP CRESTED RECTANGULAR WEIRS

Full width weirs: It is a weir which extends across the full width of the rectangular approach channel ($B/b=1.0$). In literature this weir is frequently referred to as a rectangular suppressed weir or Rehbock weir. For suppressed rectangular weir, discharge equation can be derived and is given below[22]:

$$Q = \frac{2}{3} C_d \sqrt{2g} B H^{3/2} \quad (1)$$

Where, Q is discharge through weir in m^3/s , g is acceleration due to gravity in m/s^2 , B is width of weir in m, H is the head over weir crest in m and C_d is coefficient of discharge. However for contracted weir, B is replaced by b.

Partially contracted weir: It is a weir in which the contraction of weir is not fully developed due to the proximity of the walls and the bottom of the approach channel, is called as partially contracted weir.

Fully contracted weirs: A sharp crested weir which has an approach channel whose bed and walls are sufficiently remote from the weir crest and sides for the channel boundaries to have no significant influence on the contraction of the nappe. For fully contracted rectangular weir discharge is given as [22 pp. 756]:

$$Q = \frac{2}{3} C_d \sqrt{2g} (b - 0.1nH) H^{3/2} \quad (2)$$

Where, b is contracted width of the weir and n is number of end contractions and in present case it (n) is taken as 2.0.

5. BRIEF LITERATURE REVIEW

Till now a lot of works have been carried out by various investigators on sharp crested weirs with different shapes. In case of rectangular sharp crested weirs, many experimental and theoretical works have been carried out and these are summarized in brief as follow:

Rehbock [32] in 1929 carried out experimental work with full width sharp crested rectangular weirs. He concluded that

the discharge coefficient C_d depends upon the head over the weir crest (H) and the weir height (P), while neglecting the viscous and surface tension effects. The empirical equation for discharge coefficient (C_d) is given below:

$$C_d = 0.611 + 0.08 \frac{H}{P} + \frac{H}{1000} \quad (3)$$

Kandaswamy et al.[23] in 1936 obtained discharge coefficients on the basis of their experimental results. The results of their study was based on three different ranges of H/P, i.e. $H/P \leq 5$, $5 < H/P < 15$ and $H/P \geq 15$. They proposed the following equation for discharge coefficient in the range of $H/P \geq 15$:

$$C_d = 1.06 \left(1 + \frac{H}{P} \right)^{1.5} \quad (4)$$

Kindsvater and Carter [24] in 1957 made extensive study about rectangular sharp crested weirs. They introduced number of equations for discharge coefficient as a function of H/P and b/B ratios. They introduced a parameter C_e (effective discharge coefficient) which is free from the effect of surface tension and viscosity due to the contraction of water at the weir. According to them the discharge equation is given as follows:

$$Q = C_e \frac{2}{3} \sqrt{2g} b_e H_e^{\frac{3}{2}} \quad (5)$$

In equation (2.4), effective discharge coefficient (C_e) is given by:

$$C_e = 0.602 + 0.075 \frac{H_1}{P_1} \quad (\text{For full width weirs})$$

The effective width (b_e) is given as:

$$b_e = b_c + K_b \quad (6)$$

And the effective head (H_e) is:

$$H_e = H_1 + K_h \quad (7)$$

Where, K_b and K_h represent the combined effects of the several phenomena attributed to viscosity and surface tension. The value of K_b is recommended as 0.001 m for all the values of b_0/B_1 and H_1/B_1 . Where b_0 and B_1 are the weir width and the channel width respectively.

Ranga Raju and Asawa, [31] carried out experimental studies and they in 1977 found that the pattern of flow over a thin plate weir is very complex and cannot be analysed theoretically alone. This is due to the non-hydrostatic pressure variation, turbulence, frictional effects and the approach flow conditions. The effect of surface tension and viscosity become important at low heads. Following this approach, they obtained the following discharge equation for suppressed thin plate rectangular weir

$$Q = \left[\frac{2}{3} \left(0.611 + 0.075 \frac{H}{W_1} \right) b \sqrt{2g} H^{3/2} \right] K_1 \quad (8)$$

Where W_1 is the Weber number and K_1 is the Correction factor to account for the effects of viscosity and surface tension.

Ramamurthy et al. [28] in 1987 through their experimental studies concluded that the discharge coefficient C_d for flow

over a rectangular sharp crested weir in the weir range of $(0 < \frac{H}{P} < 10)$ and the sill range of $(10 \leq \frac{P}{H} \leq \infty)$ can be related to the weir parameter H/P semi empirically. They proposed following expression for C_d as follows:

$$C_d = \frac{3}{4} \left\{ \frac{\left(\frac{1+\frac{H}{P}}{\frac{H}{P}} \right)^2 (1-Kf) - Kb \left(\frac{Yb}{H} \right)^2}{\frac{\beta}{\left(\frac{Yb}{H} \right)} - \left[\frac{H}{1+\frac{H}{P}} \right]} \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (9)$$

Swamee P.K.[39] in 1988 made extensive experimental studies on rectangular sharp crested weir and proposed a full range expression for C_d in terms of B/b and H/P ratios as follows:

$$C_d = \frac{0.611+2.23(B/b-1)^{0.7}}{1+3.8(B/b-1)^{0.7}} + \frac{0.075-0.011(B/b-1)^{1.46}}{1+4.8(B/b-1)^{1.46}} \frac{H}{P} \quad (10)$$

Aydin et al [2] in 2002 proposed the concept of slit weir ($b/B \leq 0.25$) generally used for measuring the low discharges (up to 0.005 m³/s). They found that the coefficient of discharge (C_d) is a function of Reynolds number (Re) and proposed following equation :

$$C_d = 0.562 + \frac{11.354}{\sqrt{Re}} \quad (11)$$

But his equation has certain limitations i.e. $b \leq 0.005$ m and $b/B \leq 0.25$.

Aydin et al. (2006) [3] modified their above equation (11) to increase the working range of slit weirs for small values of H/b ratio. They carried out experiments for b ranging from 0.005 to 0.075 m in a channel of width 0.30 m with different values of P . The experimental data covers the range of $0.28 \leq H/b \leq 55.80$. They proposed an equation for C_d as follows:

$$C_d = 0.562 + \frac{10 \left\{ 1 - \exp \left[- \left(\frac{2H}{b} \right)^2 \right] \right\}^{-1}}{Re^{0.45}} \quad (12)$$

For $H/b \geq 2$, a simplified form for C_d is:

$$C_d = 0.562 + \frac{10}{Re^{0.45}} \quad (13)$$

Ramamurthy et al.[30] in 2007 proposed the multi-slit concept to remove the limitation on the measuring range of slit weir. The idea was to construct a number (n) of slit weirs side by side so that the discharge of any magnitude can be measured with sufficient accuracy of a slit weir by operating only enough number of slits and closing the others. The minimum spacing required between each slit to prevent any interaction was investigated. They concluded that discharge coefficient depends on Reynolds number for smaller values of R . But for large values of Reynolds number inertia forces are high and viscous forces are negligible, which means that C_d does not depend on Reynolds number. They also showed that the multislit weir can be used to measure wide range of discharge rates. They proposed a functional relation for C_d and discharge equation as follows:

$$C_d = f\left(\frac{nb}{B}, \frac{b}{H}, \frac{H}{P}, R, W, n\right) \quad (14)$$

$$Q = \frac{2}{3} C_d n b \sqrt{2gH^3} \quad (15)$$

PRESENT STUDY

A lot of work has been carried out in the field of contracted rectangular sharp crested weir till now, However, further an attempt has been made in the present study to analyze the flow characteristics of contracted rectangular weir.

In the present work, an experimental analysis has been carried out in rectangular open channel for contracted sharp crested weir.

A very wide range of data has been collected in present study by carrying out experiment. Initially, experiments is conducted for constant width (b) and varying weir heights (P) in order to determine a correlation between discharge coefficient (C_d) and H/P ratio. Then keeping weir height as constant, different weir openings are investigated for weir width ranging from 250 mm to 550 mm. Total sixteen weir plates of different dimensions are investigated.

EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMME

The experiment was carried out in a rectangular open channel present in the Hydraulics Laboratory of MANIT Bhopal. The rectangular channel was 9.45 m long with a cross section of 60cm x 60 cm as shown in the Fig 1. The side walls of the channel were made of plexi-glass with whole unit resting on three points. A gear mechanism was provided with the channel to change the slope by rotating the gear arrangement. However, in the present case, the slope was kept as horizontal. Three perforated steel sieves were welded just after the entrance of water to the channel to achieve a relatively turbulence free flow. Water was supplied through a centrifugal pump (20HP motor) and a Venturimeter of dimension 6" x 3" was connected to measure the actual discharge. A rolling pointer gauge was provided at the top of railing of the open channel to measure the depth of flow at any section of the channel.

First of all, experiment was carried out with a weir plates of particular width (b) and varying weir heights (P). For each weir plate, further discharge was varied about twelve times by adjusting the inlet valve opening. Then the experiment was repeated with other widths and heights of weir plates. The measurement were taken in terms of head over the weir plate (H) and corresponding reading (h) in U-tube manometer connected to Venturimeter to obtain the actual discharge.



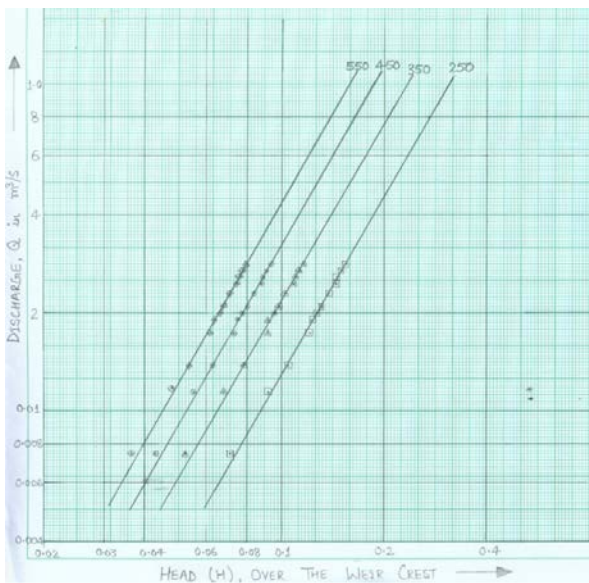
Fig 1 - Experimental set up in the Hydraulics Laboratory of the Civil Engineering Department

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

CALIBRATION CURVE FOR DISCHARGE

A calibration curve is drawn on log-log scale for discharge (Q) versus head (H) over the weir crest and is shown in Fig.2.

It shows four different straight lines parallel to each other corresponding to weir widths (b) 250 mm, 350 mm, 450 mm, and 550. It seems that the effect of weir height (P) and coefficient of discharge (C_d) is absorbed, herein.



HEAD OVER THE WEIR CREST (H) →

FIG.2 CALIBRATION CURVE: DISCHARGE (Q) VERSUS HEAD (H) OVER THE RECTANGULAR WEIR

different parallel lines corresponding to different values of weir widths. Another figure is prepared to include the weir width (b) with head over the weir (H) because discharge is proportional to $bH^{3/2}$ and is shown in Fig.3. All the discharge data falls in a narrow band and it may be due to the inclusion of 'b' with $H^{3/2}$ which is clear from the discharge equation (1).

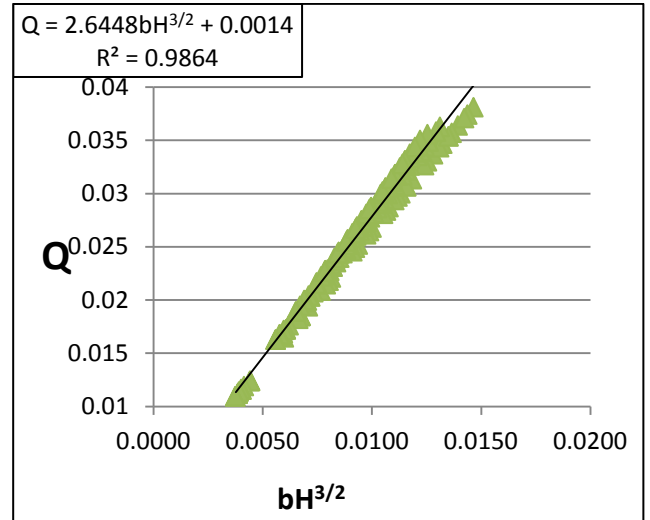


Fig.3 Discharge (Q) versus $bH^{3/2}$ for all value of b and P

It also appears from Fig.3, that the discharge (Q) versus $bH^{3/2}$ data falling on two different straight lines. It is further clear from Fig.4, in which Q versus $bH^{3/2}$ data were plotted for weir width, $b=250$ mm, and Fig.5, in which data were plotted for weir widths, $b=350$ mm, 450 mm, and 550 mm. This phenomenon may be due to very large lateral curvature of streamlines for weirs with very narrow width $b \leq 250$ mm. The corresponding best fit equation for $b=250$ mm is:

$$Q = 2.5099bH^{3/2} + 0.0015 \tag{16}$$

With coefficient of correlation $R^2 = 0.9997$

And for $b=350$ mm, 450 mm and 550 mm, the best fit equation (Fig.5) is:

$$Q = 2.7743bH^{3/2} + 0.0006 \tag{17}$$

With $R^2=0.9975$

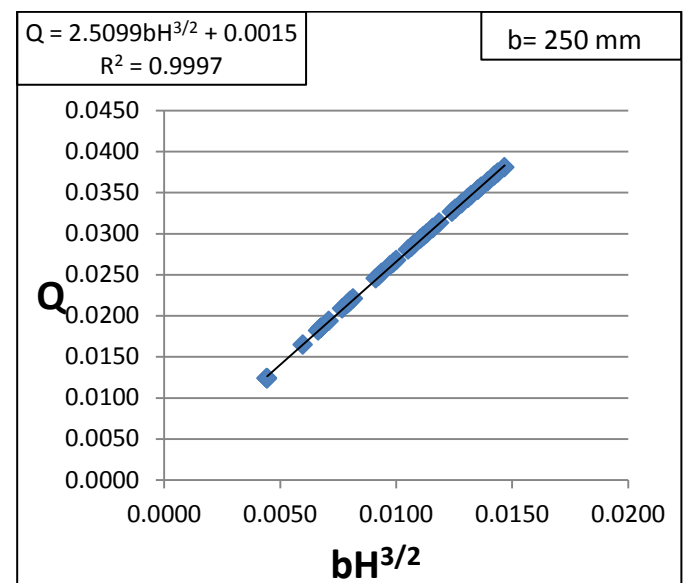


Fig. 4 Discharge (Q) versus $bH^{3/2}$ for all P and $b=250$ mm

The fitted equation (7) and equation (8) shows an excellent matching as R^2 is very near to unity. However, a best fit equation for all widths ($b=250$ mm, 350 mm, 450 mm and 550 mm) has been shown in Fig.3 and is given below:

$$Q = 2.6448bH^{3/2} + 0.0014 \quad (18)$$

With $R^2 = 0.9864$, which shows a very good matching of data.

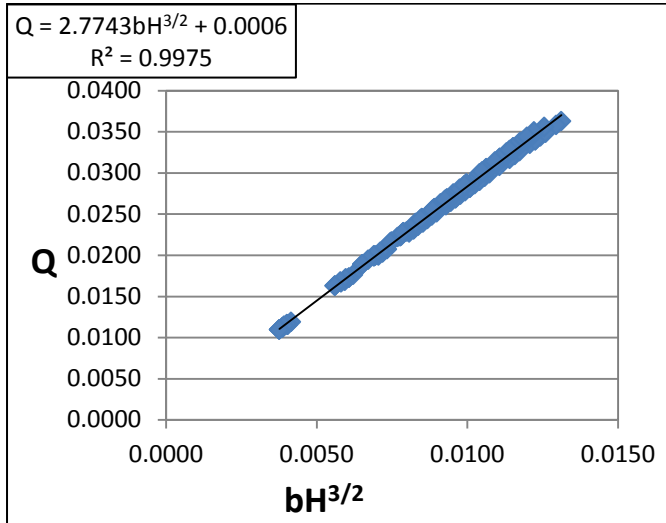


Fig.5 Q versus $bH^{3/2}$ for $b = 350$ mm, 450 mm and 550 mm and for all values of P.

VARIATION OF K (AS A FUNCTION OF DISCHARGE COEFFICIENT, C_d)

Define a new coefficient K, as a function of coefficient of discharge C_d and is given below:

$$k = \frac{2}{3} \sqrt{2} C_d = 0.9428 C_d \quad (19)$$

Define also Reynolds number (Re) for open channel flow as follows:

$$Re = \frac{g^{1/3} H^{3/2}}{\nu} \quad (20)$$

The Reynolds number (Re) is further modified to:

$$Re^* = \frac{Re}{10^4} C_1 \quad (21)$$

Where C_1 is based on b/B ratio and is given in Table 1 [32 pp. 162].

Table 1 Variation of constant C_1

S.No.	b/B	C_1
1.	0.4166	0.035
2.	0.5833	0.046
3.	0.7500	0.055
4.	0.9166	0.068

A graph between coefficient K versus Reynolds number Re^* has been plotted in Fig.6 for all values of b/B and H/P ratios. In this Fig.6, a line of $\pm 5\%$ is also drawn.

The best fit curve equation of K versus Re^* is given below:

$$K = 44.322Re^* + 0.5434 \quad (22)$$

With a coefficient of correlation $R^2=0.8075$. This fitted equation (13) shows a good correlation.

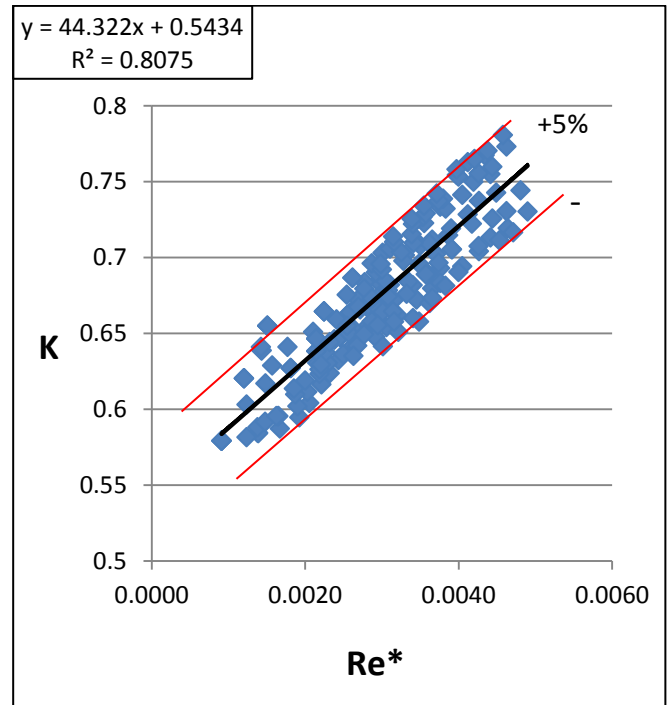


Fig.6 K versus Re^* for all b and all P

PROCEDURE TO ESTIMATE DISCHARGE

The discharge over the sharp crested contracted rectangular weir can be estimated by measuring the head over the crest of the weir. The procedure for the estimation of the discharge is as follows:

1. Measure the head (H) over the crest of the weir.
2. Determine the constant C_1 from the Table 1 corresponding to b/B ratio.
3. Calculate the Reynolds number ($Re = \frac{H\sqrt{gH}}{\nu}$).
4. Calculate the $Re^* = \left(\frac{Re}{10^4}\right) C_1^{2.6}$
5. Find the value of constant K using the equation (22).
6. Find $C_d = \frac{K}{0.9428}$
7. Estimate the discharge from the equation (2).

CONCLUSIONS

From the present work following conclusions can be drawn:

1. Calibration curves (Q versus H) have been developed corresponding to $b/B = 0.416, 0.583, 0.750$ and 0.916 .
2. A single curve between Q and $bH^{3/2}$ has been prepared with correlation coefficient ($R^2=0.9864$) near to unity, which shows that the relationship is independent of b/B and H/P ratios.
3. A unique expression for Coefficient K a function of coefficient of discharge (C_d) versus Reynolds Number ($Re^* = \frac{Re}{10^4} C_1^{2.6}$) is developed for all values of b/B and H/P ratios.
4. A procedure has been developed to estimate the discharge (Q). The accuracy of the estimated discharges is within $\pm 5\%$ for the range of present experimental data.

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