



Absorptance of Different Local Coated Surfaces to Global Solar Radiation in Egypt

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A B S T R A C T

The absorptance of different oil painted surfaces to total solar radiation depends mainly on their color. The surface coating color of buildings, greenhouses, mulchs and absorbers (solar collectors) affect the amount of absorbed total solar radiation. The surface is heated much when its absorptance has a higher value and vice versa. To test the absorptance of 11 coated surfaces and one sheet without color, an experimental setup to measure the surface temperature is designed and installed at Mansoura University, Egypt. The absorptance of these locally coated surfaces is calculated. Results have shown that, (GI) sheets coated with black bored (Bb), polish black (Pb), brown (Br), red (R), violet (V), green (G), blue (Blu), G.I. sheet without color, dark yellow (Yd), yellow (Y), silver (S) and white (W), are 0.92, 0.886, 0.881, 0.852, 0.844, 0.824, 0.823, 0.794, 0.782, 0.777, 0.716 and 0.661 respectively.

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1. Introduction

In the present electric energy crisis, many engineers and researches are concentrated on the ways of energy saving. The influence of painting color on the absorptance of building surfaces to solar radiation plays an important role in space warming and energy savings. The effect of color on the thermal performance of building integrated solar collectors is reported by Anderson et al [1]. Although white color is the most common used in hot countries, other mineral based coatings for buildings and urban structures have developed and analyze Kolokotsa et al [2].

On the other hand, the temperatures below and above the mulch through the absorption, transmission and reflection of solar energy are affected by its color. Black plastic mulch is the most popular color used in commercial vegetable production especially for weed control. As a blackbody absorber, this plastic absorbs most incident solar radiation, including visible, infrared and ultraviolet light. Black paint is the most common used coating to absorb solar radiation in solar collectors and buildings [3-4]. White plastic mulches

can be used to establish crops in the summer, when a reduced soil temperature might be beneficial. Co extruded white on black plastic mulch helps cool the soil (white) while controlling ling weeds (black). Red plastic mulch has been shown to increase tomato yields and quality in some trials and reduce the severity of early blight in others. It also increases yields of honeydews, muskmelons and zucchini. In addition, it significantly increases soil temperatures. Yellow, orange, blue and gray plastic mulches also have been evaluated. The different radiation patterns that are reflected back into the canopies of various crops from these mulches affect plant growth and development in different ways. Some colors like yellow attract certain insects like green pea , aphids and cucumber beetles as reported by Lamont [5]. Such mulches might be used in a field to grow "catch crops" to pull insects away from other crops. Solar absorber coatings have attracted a great deal of interest because the efficiency of any solar collector system is strongly dependent on the ability of its absorber to convert solar radiation into heat. Performance of solar systems

employing collectors with different colored absorber is studied by Kalogirou et al [6]. They concluded that black board coating is the best for solar absorber. Also, Nwosu and Wilfred [7] studied the effect of an absorptive coating on solar energy storage in a Trombe wall system.

A novel and affordable solar selective coating exhibiting higher solar absorption efficiency compared to the commercial black paint coating used in most ordinary solar water heating systems has been developed. These coatings have high absorptance to short wave solar radiation and low remittance to long wave radiation from hot absorbers. As an example, a coating is fabricated by embedding a metallic particle composed of a nickel–aluminum alloy into the black paint as mentions by Ehab [8]. Many other selective coatings are developed, studied [9-10]. Nano technology has also come to the research line, to produce new coatings that enhance total solar radiation absorptance. Different colored are also developed and examined. Fabrication and optimization of highly efficient cermet-based spectrally selective have been studied by Esposito et al [11]. Measurement of the solar absorptance and thermal emittance are measured by James et al [12]. In many cases, the need for low price local production coatings is essential to absorb more solar radiation for buildings, greenhouses and solar collectors. On the other hand, some buildings need to reduce their absorptance for solar radiation. In the present work, an experimental setup is designed and installed to test the absorptance of 12 locally oil coated surfaces by measuring the surface temperature.

2. Materials and Methods

EXPERIMENTAL SETUP AND PROCEDURE

The setup consists of a wooden box 80 cm length, 60 cm width and a depth of 15 cm from inside. The box wall is 2.4 cm thickness and is painted white from inside and black color from outside to decrease the heat loss. The box is covered with 3 mm thickness glass cover and fixed on an iron frame with a tilt angle of 30° to horizontal and facing south. A foam insulation layer (3 cm thickness) is fixed inside on the box bottom and 2 cm on sides. Twelve (10x10) cm. galvanized iron (GI) sheets of 0.8 mm. thickness are fixed in the middle area of the back insulation as shown in Fig. 1. The sheets are coated black bored (Bb), polish black (Pb), brown (Br), red (R), violet (V), green (G), blue (Blu), dark yellow (Yd), yellow (Y), silver (S) and white (W). One sheet is kept without coating (GI). All sheets are fixed in 2 mm. depression in the back insulation.

The setup is suitably instrumented to measure the temperature at the twelve sheet centers, inner glass surface, outside box bottom temperatures and the ambient air temperature. The total solar radiation data are measured at the upper face of the apparatus and recorded at 30 minutes intervals by a solar power meter TES1333 with a measuring range of 2000 W/m², accuracy ± 5% and resolution 1 W/ m².

The experimental work is carried out on the roof of the Thermal engineering laboratory, Mechanical power department, Faculty of Engineering, Mansoura University, at latitude of 31.0408 ° N and longitude of 31.486° E. The experiments were performed during selected clear days of April and one clear day of May, 2013 from 6 am to 18 pm hours. The coatings are produced according to the Egyptian standard specifications No. 793 class 2. Factory: New Borg El Arab city second industrial zone, Alex. Film thickness: 50-60 μm dry film per single coat.

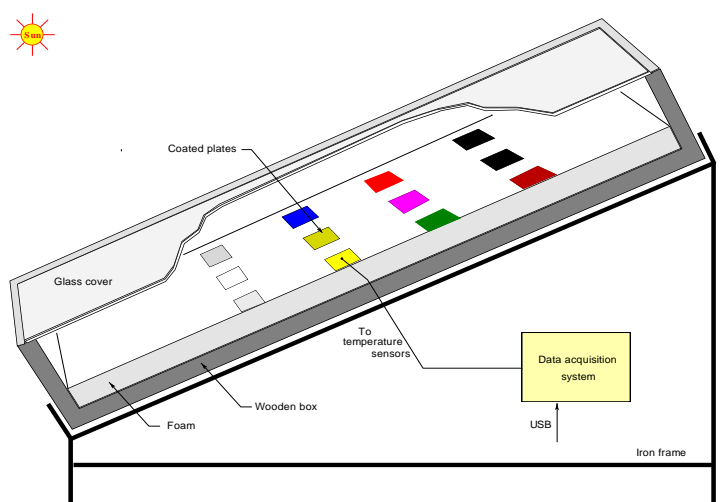


Figure1. The experimental setup

The temperatures are measured by sensors and recorded by a data acquisition system with a sampling rate that is adjusted to be 10 minutes. The 12 sheets are fixed in the insulation as seen in Fig. 2.



Figure 2. A photograph of the used coated GI sheets.

Figure 3 shows a photograph of the data acquisition system which consists of; master control board, Arduino board, power supply unit and sensors terminals unit, Gad et al [13]. The master control board is used for controlling the system by 4 press buttons and LCD screen. The Arduino board is used to measure sensors voltages and store their values in a secure digital (SD) card. The power supply unit is used to provide the appropriate voltages to the whole system. The sensors terminal unit is employed to ease the connection between sensors the system. A block diagram of the system is shown in Fig. 4. The main component of the master control board is the microcontroller PIC18F46K20 from Microchip Company with a memory size of (64 KB program and 3 KB data memory), making it the most suitable for the data acquisition systems [14]. In order to keep tracking the current time and the date, a dedicated Real Time Clock (RTC) chip DS1302 has been used and is connected to the PIC18F46K20 microcontroller via Serial Peripheral Interface (SPI) protocol system [15]. The most important feature of the DS1302 is that, it has the ability to keep tracking of the current time and date even when the power supply is off by using a 3.3V backup battery as shown also in Fig. 3. The Arduino board has been utilized to measure and store the sensors data on the SD card in CSV file formats. The main component of the board is ATmega2560, which it is a powerful microcontroller from ATMEL Company [16]. This microcontroller has a large memory size (256 KB program and 8 KB data memory) making it the most suitable for the filing system and the SD cards applications. The microcontroller ATmega2560 is connected to the SD card via the SPI protocol as shown in Fig. 3. Moreover, the ATmega2560 microcontroller can measure up to 16 analog sensors and up to 53 digital sensors because it has a huge number of Input/Outputs (86 pins) [17]. The USB connection is used to monitor

the sensors data in real time as an option to the user. In order to connect the Arduino board, to the master control circuit a serial communication interface as shown in the same figure.

In this work, an analogue temperature sensor LM35DZ from National Semiconductor has been utilized. The output voltage of this high precision integrated circuit temperature sensor is linearly proportional to the temperature and it does not require any external calibration. Also, it provides typical accuracies of $\pm 0.25\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ at room temperature and $\pm 0.75\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ over a full $-55\text{ to }+150\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ temperature range. Moreover, this sensor has a very low self-heating, which it is less than $0.1\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ in stagnant air [18]. For a stable operation, the microcontroller must work in a moderate ambient temperature.

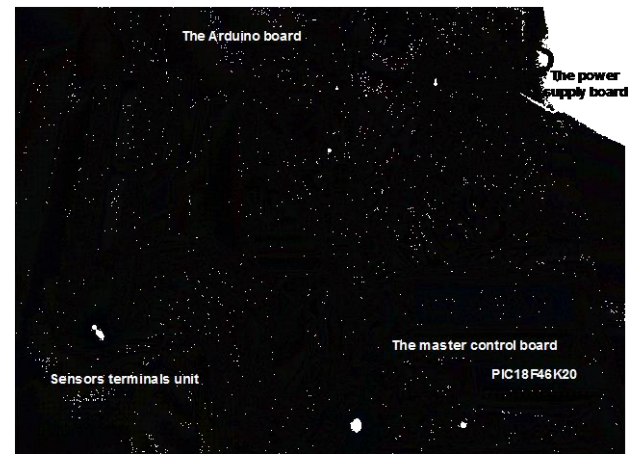


Figure 3. A photograph of the data acquisition system

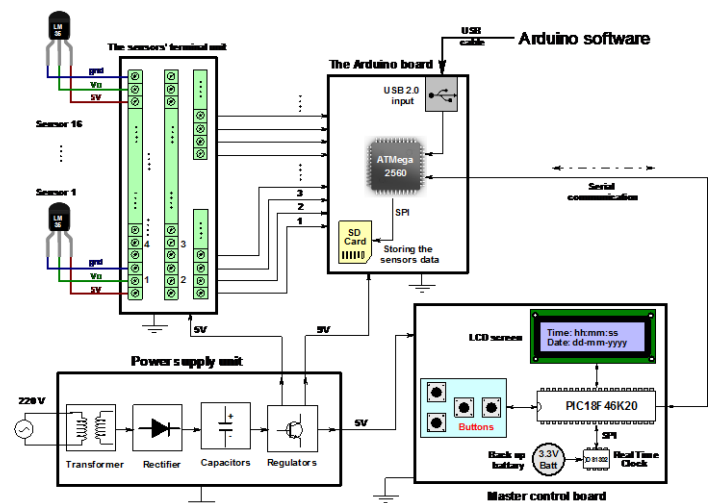


Figure4. Block diagram of the data acquisition system

3. Results and Discussions

The transmittance of glass cover is calculated by measuring the normal solar radiation with and without the glass sheet. The test is carried out several times and yields an average transmittance ($\tau=0.88$). If a solar radiation with intensity (I) hits the glass cover with, a part of the beam (I) will be transmitted through it. If this part hits a coated plate with absorptance (α), the

absorbed part will be $(\alpha\tau) I$ as shown in Fig. 5, is absorbed and consumed to heat up the sheet.

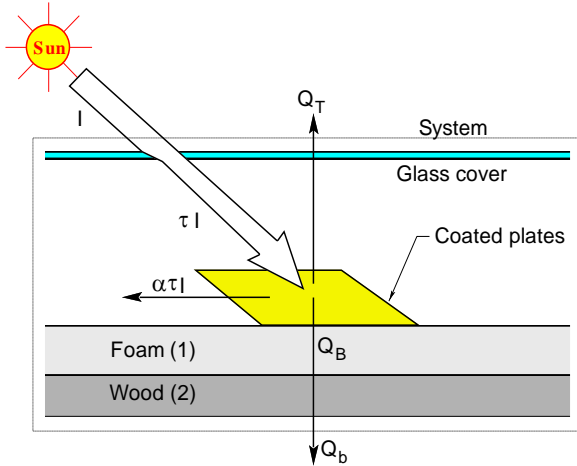


Figure 5. Solar radiation beam hitting a coated plate.

If the top losses Q_T and the bottom losses Q_b , the heat balance on the system with an area of one sheet ($A=0.01 \text{ m}^2$) and height of the box shown in Fig. 5,

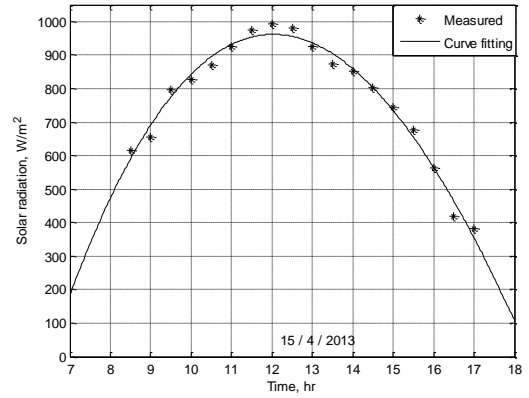
$$I = (\alpha \tau) I + \left(\frac{Q_T}{A} \right) + \left(\frac{Q_b}{A} \right) \quad (1)$$

Top losses are convection and radiation heat transfer from the glass cover to atmosphere. Bottom losses are due thermal conduction from the back and sides and convection to ambient air. The present system cannot be dealt as a flat plate collector or an air heater. Therefore, each plate will be considered alone, and absorbs solar radiation which increases with temperature. The absorbed solar radiation can be expressed as,

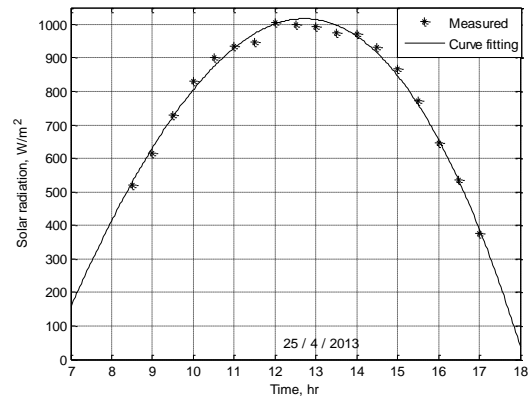
$$(\alpha \tau) I = m c T \quad (2)$$

Where, m , c and T are the mass and specific heat of iron, and sheet temperature respectively.

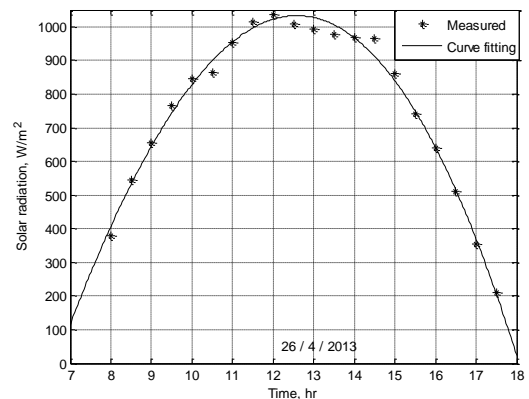
The experimental work is carried out in several days during April and May, but only four selected clear sky days are chosen to represent the results. The total solar radiation data measured on a tilted surface in these selected days are shown in Fig. 6 (a-d). It was noticed that, the peak intensity of the global solar radiation intensity was achieved at med-day (at 12 noon) as cleared in this figure. The temperature of each sheet as a function of time in the same clear days is shown in Fig. 7 (a-d). All temperatures increase with time to a maximum value around noon and then decrease again. The ambient air temperature is shown to be the lowest temperature with a maximum value between 15 and 16 hours as shown in the figure. The box bottom temperature is higher than that of ambient in the order of 2-3oC approximately. The highest recorded temperature, as expected, is that of the sheet with blackboard paint. The lowest temperature recorded, as also expected, is that of the sheet with white paint as shown in the figure.



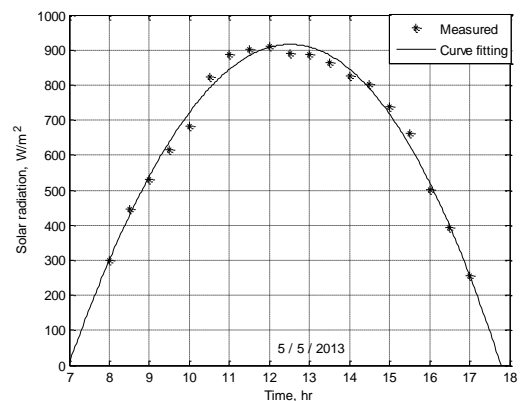
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d) Figure 6 (a-d): Total solar radiation in selected experimental days

Since the sheet temperature increases with increasing its absorptance, it is necessary focus on each sheet temperature near 12 noon (from 11 to 13 hours). This is to avoid the effect of thermal capacity of the system. Table (1) shows the average sheet temperatures and solar radiation in the selected days for different painted sheets and one sheet without painted from 11 to 13 hours. Many researchers such as **Zhu** and **Zhao [3]** concluded that the absorptance of blackboard (Bb) paint surfaces has an average value of 0.92. On this base, results have also shown that, the G.I. sheets

coated with black bored (Bb), polish black (Pb), brown (Br), red (R), violet (V), green (G), blue (Blu), G.I. sheet without color, dark yellow (Yd), yellow (Y), silver (S) and white (W), are 0.92, 0.886, 0.888, 0.855, 0.852, 0.843, 0.830, 0.802, 0.788, 0.746, and 0.666 respectively. These results can be correlated with a straight line as shown in Fig. 8, with the following simple equation,

$$\alpha = 0.008667 T + 0.058333 \quad (3)$$

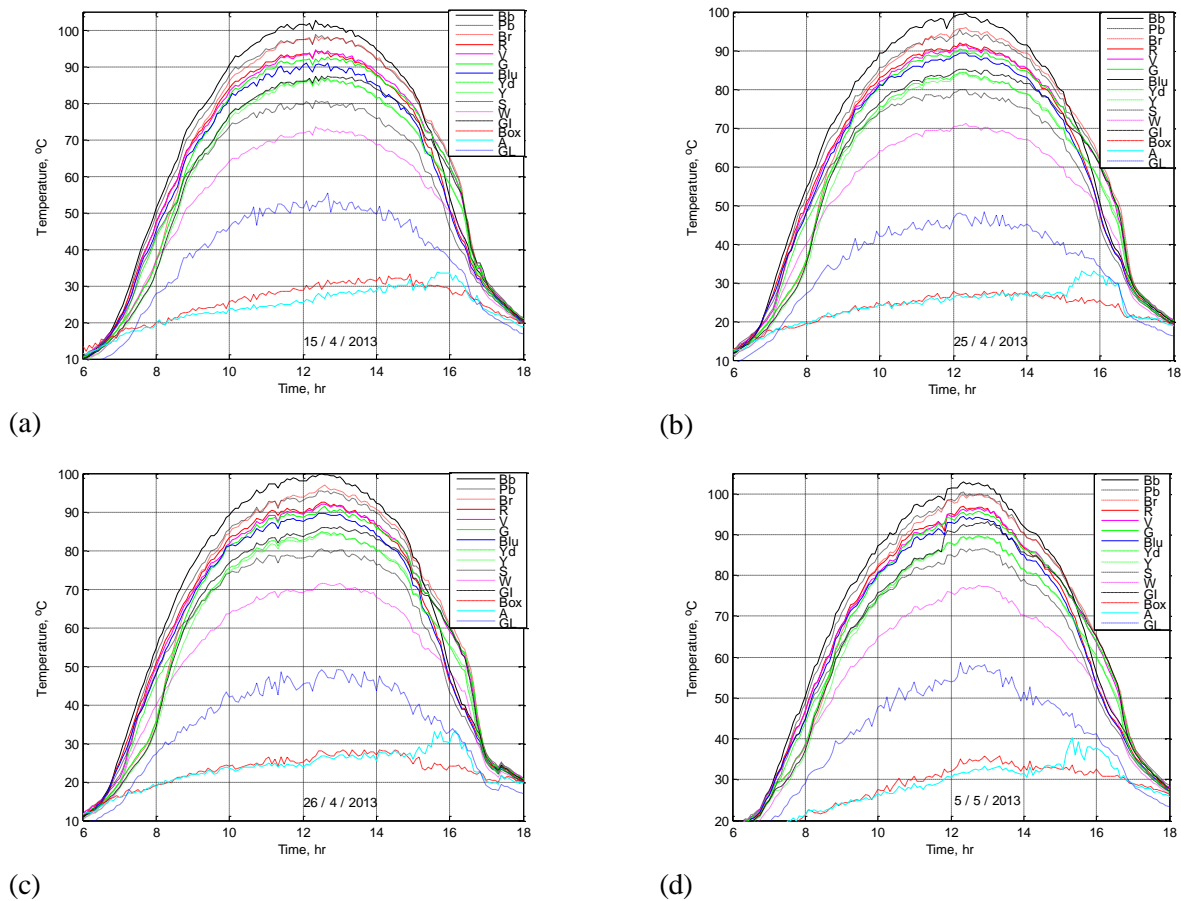


Figure 7 (a-d): Temperatures of different points in the system.

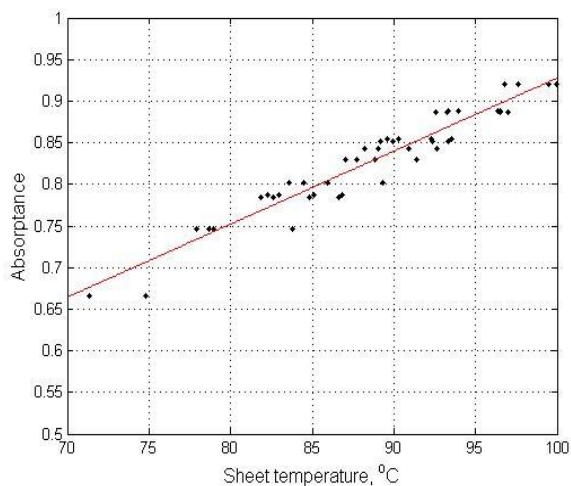


Figure 8. Experimental evaluation of absorptance variation with sheet temperature

Table 1. Average results from 11 to 13 hours.						
Date	15/4/2013	25/4/2013	26/4/2013	5/5/2013	I_{av} , W/m ²	
I, W/m ²	959.52	976.3	1001.74	896.38	958.485	
Color	T, °C	T, °C	T, °C	T, °C	T _{av} , °C	α
Bb	99.95	96.78	97.61	99.45	98.45	0.920
Pb	96.51	92.55	93.23	97.01	94.83	0.886
Br	96.39	93.34	93.97	96.49	95.05	0.888
R	92.31	89.59	90.29	93.55	91.44	0.855
V	92.33	89.20	89.93	93.30	91.19	0.852
G	90.91	88.19	89.01	92.64	90.19	0.843
Blu	88.82	87.02	87.72	91.37	88.73	0.830
GI	85.94	83.58	84.48	89.29	85.82	0.802
Yd	85.12	82.28	82.97	86.82	84.30	0.788
Y	84.81	81.88	82.62	86.64	83.99	0.785
S	78.97	77.89	78.70	83.82	79.85	0.746
W	71.33	69.27	69.82	74.79	71.30	0.666

4. Conclusions

The absorptance of different surfaces to the total solar radiation depends mainly on its color. A surface with high absorptance absorbs more solar radiation and vice versa. To test the absorptance of 11 oil painted surfaces and the GI sheet an experimental setup is designed and installed at Mansoura University. Local paints are used for surface coatings such as blackboard, polish black, brown, red, violet, green, blue, GI. sheet without color, dark yellow, yellow, silver and white color. Results have shown that the absorptance of these sheets are 0.92, 0.886, 0.888, 0.855, 0.852, 0.843, 0.830, 0.802, 0.788, 0.746 and 0.666 respectively. A simple straight line correlation can be used to predict the absorptance of these colored oil painted surfaces.

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