# Ivan Chajda; Jaromír Duda Varieties satisfying ideal equalities

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## VARIETIES SATISFYING IDEAL EQUALITIES

IVAN CHAJDA, JAROMÍR, DUDA

Congruence permutability  $(\Phi \cdot \Theta = \Theta \cdot \Phi)$  as well as congruence distributivity  $(\Psi \land (\Theta \lor \Phi) = (\Psi \land \Theta) \lor (\Psi \land \Phi))$  belong to the fundamental congruence equalities in universal algebra. Varieties of algebras with permutable congruences were described by A. I. Malcev in his pioneering paper [8], varieties satisfying the second equality were characterized by B. Jónsson, see [6, 7]. Weaker modifications of congruence permutability and/or distributivity were introduced for varieties with constant 0 as follows:

The equality  $[0] \Psi \cdot \Theta = [0] \Theta \cdot \Psi$  is called *congruence permutability at* 0, see [3] and [5]; the equality  $[0] \Psi \wedge (\Theta \vee \Phi) = [0] (\Psi \wedge \Theta) \vee (\Psi \wedge \Phi)$  is named *distributivity* at 0, see [2].

Malcev's conditions for varieties permutable at 0 (distributive at 0) were already given in [5] ([2], respectively). Using the concept of an ideal in universal algebra, see [1], [5], [9], we can consider the following ideal equalities:

Let **K** be a class of algebras of the same type having a constant 0. Let *I* be an ideal in  $A \in \mathbf{K}$  and  $\Psi, \Theta, \Theta_1, \Theta_2$  be congruences on *A*. The equality  $[I] \Psi \cdot \Theta =$ =  $[I] \Theta \cdot \Psi$  is called *ideal permutability* and the equality

$$[I] \Psi \land (\Theta_1 \lor \Theta_2) = [I] (\Psi \land \Theta_1) \lor (\Psi \land \Theta_2)$$

is called *ideal distributivity* in the sequel.

The aim of this paper is to describe varieties satisfying the last two ideal equalities. For this reason let us recall from [1], [5] and [9]:

**Definition 0.** Let K be a class of algebras of the same type with constant 0.

- (i) A term  $\mathbf{t}(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = \mathbf{t}(x_1, ..., x_m, y_1, ..., y_n)$  is called an *ideal term* in  $\vec{y}$  if  $\mathbf{t}(\vec{x}, \vec{0}) = 0$  is an identity in  $\mathbf{K}$ .
- (ii) A nonempty subset I of  $A \in K$  is called an *ideal* if for every ideal term  $\mathbf{t}(\vec{x}, \vec{y})$  in  $\vec{y}, \vec{a} \in A^m, \vec{i} \in I^n$  it holds  $\mathbf{t}(\vec{a}, \vec{i}) \in I$ .

The following easy lemma justifies the title of the present paper:

**Lemma 1.** Let K be a class of algebras of the same type with constant 0. For every ideal I of  $A \in K$  and each congruence  $\Theta \in Con A$ , the subset

$$[I]\Theta = \cup \{[i]\Theta; i \in I\}$$

of A is again an ideal of A.

Proof. Let  $\mathbf{t}(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = \mathbf{t}(x_1, ..., x_m, y_1, ..., y_n)$  be an ideal term in  $\vec{y}$ . Take  $\vec{a} = \langle a_1, ..., a_m \rangle \in A^m$  and  $\vec{b} = \langle b_1, ..., b_n \rangle \in ([I] \Theta)^n$ . Evidently,  $b_j \in [I] \Theta$  means that  $b_j \Theta i_j$  for some element  $i_j \in I$ , j = 1, ..., n. Denote  $\vec{i} = \langle i_1, ..., i_n \rangle \in I^n$ . Then  $\mathbf{t}(\vec{a}, \vec{b}) \Theta \mathbf{t}(\vec{a}, \vec{i}) \in I$  or equivalently,  $\mathbf{t}(\vec{a}, \vec{b}) \in [I] \Theta$ , which was to be proved.  $\Box$ 

**Definition 1.** Let K be a class of algebras of the same type with constant 0. An algebra  $A \in K$  is *ideal permutable* whenever  $[I] \Theta \cdot \Psi = [I] \Psi \cdot \Theta$  holds for each ideal I of A and each  $\Theta$ ,  $\Psi \in Con A$ . K is *ideal permutable* if each  $A \in K$  has this property.

**Lemma 2.** Let A be an algebra with constant 0 and R, S, T be subalgebras of the direct product  $A \times A$  (i.e. they are the compatible relations on A). Then

(a)  $[0]R \cdot S = [[0]R]S;$ 

(b)  $[0]R \cdot S \cdot T = [0]S \cdot R \cdot T$  whenever  $[0]R \cdot S = [0]S \cdot R$ ;

(c)  $[0]R \cdot S = [0]R \vee S$  whenever R, S are congruences and

$$[0]R \cdot S = [0]S \cdot R$$

For the proof, see Lemma 1 and Theorem 2 in [3]. Now, we are ready to prove

**Theorem 1.** Let V be a variety with constant 0. The following conditions are equivalent:

- (1) V is ideal permutable;
- (2) V is permutable at 0;
- (3) there is a binary term  $\mathbf{s}$  such that

$$s(x, x) = 0$$
 and  $s(x, 0) = x$ 

are identities in **V**.

Proof. (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2) is trivial. (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (3) can be found in the proof of Corollary 1.9 in [5], see also [3]. It remains to prove (3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1). Let *I* be an arbitrary ideal of an algebra  $A \in V$  and  $\Theta$ ,  $\Psi \in Con A$ . The proof of Corollary 1.9 in [5] yields that  $I = [0] \Phi$  for some  $\Phi \in Con A$ . By Theorem 1 in [3], (3) implies permutability at 0, hence

$$\begin{split} [I] \Theta \cdot \Psi &= [[0] \Phi] \Theta \cdot \Psi = [0] \Phi \cdot \Theta \cdot \Psi = [[0] \Phi \cdot \Theta] \Psi = \\ &= [[0] \Phi \vee \Theta] \Psi = [[0] \Psi] \Phi \vee \Theta \supseteq [[0] \Psi] \Phi \cdot \Theta = \\ &= [0] \Psi \cdot \Phi \cdot \Theta = [[0] \Psi \cdot \Phi] \cdot \Theta = [[0] \Phi \cdot \Psi] \Theta = \\ &= [[0] \Phi] \Psi \cdot \Theta = [I] \Psi \cdot \Theta. \end{split}$$

By symmetry the converse inclusion  $[I] \Theta \cdot \Psi \subseteq [I] \Psi \cdot \Theta$  follows.  $\Box$ 

**Definition 2.** Let K be a class of algebras of the same type with constant 0. An algebra  $A \in K$  is *ideal distributive* whenever

$$[I] \Psi \land (\Theta_1 \lor \Theta_2) = [I] (\Psi \land \Theta_1) \lor (\Psi \land \Theta_2)$$

holds for each ideal I of A and every congruence  $\Psi$ ,  $\Theta_1$ ,  $\Theta_2 \in Con A$ . K is ideal distributive if each  $A \in K$  has this property.

**Theorem 2.** Let V be a variety of algebras with constant 0. The following conditions are equivalent:

(1) V is ideal distributive;

- (2) there exist an integer n > 1 and ternary terms  $d_0, ..., d_n$  such that
  - $d_{0}^{(i)}(x, y, z) = x, d_{n}(x, y, 0) = 0$   $d_{i}^{(i)}(x, y, z) = x \text{ for } 0 \le i \le n$   $d_{i}^{(i)}(x, z, z) = d_{i+1}^{(i)}(x, z, z) \text{ for } i < n \text{ even}$  $d_{i}^{(i)}(x, z, z) = d_{i+1}^{(i)}(x, z, z) \text{ for } i < n \text{ odd.}$

Proof. (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2): Let  $A = F_V(x, y, z)$  be the free algebra in V with free generators x, y, z. Let I = I(z) be the principal ideal in A generated by z and put  $\Psi = \Theta(x, z), \ \Theta_1 = \Theta(x, y), \ \Theta_2 = \Theta(y, z)$ . Then  $x \in [I] \Psi \land (\Theta_1 \lor \Theta_2)$  and so  $x \in [I] (\Psi \land \Theta_1) \lor (\Psi \land \Theta_2)$ , by the hypothesis. Hence, there exist elements  $d_0, \ldots, d_n \in A$  such that  $x = d_0, d_n \in I(z)$  and

$$\langle d_i, d_{i+1} \rangle \in \Theta(x, z)$$
 for  $0 \leq i < n$   
 $\langle d_i, d_{i+1} \rangle \in \Theta(x, y)$  for  $i < n$  even  
 $\langle d_i, d_{i+1} \rangle \in \Theta(y, z)$  for  $i < n$  odd.

The fact  $d_n(x, y, z) \in I(z)$  implies  $d_n(x, y, 0) = 0$ . Other indentities of (2) can be proved by a standard procedure.

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1): Let  $\Psi$ ,  $\Theta_1$ ,  $\Theta_2 \in Con A$  for some  $A \in V$ . Suppose I is an ideal of A and  $a \in [I] \Psi \land (\Theta_1 \lor \Theta_2)$ . Then

$$\langle a, i \rangle \in \Psi \land (\Theta_1 \lor \Theta_2)$$

for some  $i \in I$ . From  $\langle a, i \rangle \in \Theta_1 \lor \Theta_2$  we obtain elements  $c_0, \ldots, c_k \in A$  such that

$$a = c_0 \Theta_1 c_1 \dots c_{k-1} \Theta_2 c_k = i.$$

Consequently

$$\boldsymbol{d}_{i}(a, a, i)\boldsymbol{\Theta}_{1}\boldsymbol{d}_{i}(a, c_{1}, i) \dots \boldsymbol{d}_{i}(a, c_{k-1}, i)\boldsymbol{\Theta}_{2}\boldsymbol{d}_{i}(a, i, i), \quad 0 \leq j \leq n.$$

Combine this with  $\langle a, i \rangle \in \Psi$  and with identities  $d_j(x, y, x) = x$  from (2), we obtain

$$\boldsymbol{d}_i(a, a, i) (\Psi \wedge \Theta_1) \, \boldsymbol{d}_i(a, c_1, i) \dots \, \boldsymbol{d}_i(a, c_{k-1}, i) (\Psi \wedge \Theta_2) \, \boldsymbol{d}_i(a, i, i)$$

for  $0 \le j \le n$ . Applying other identities from (2), we have

$$a(\Psi \land \Theta_1) \lor (\Psi \land \Theta_2) \mathbf{d}_n(a, i, i)$$

by transitivity. Since  $d_n$  is an ideal term in the third variable,  $d_n(a, i, i) \in I$  holds.

Thus

$$a \in [I](\Psi \land \Theta_1) \lor (\Psi \land \Theta_2). \square$$

**Remark 1.** Contrary to Theorem 1, ideal distributive varieties do not coincide with varieties distributive at 0. The mentioned classes are separated by the following

**Example.** It is already known (see [2]) that  $\land$ -semilattices with 0 are distributive at 0. Now suppose the identities (2) of Theorem 2 are satisfied in a variety of  $\land$ -semilattices with 0. Then we state that  $d_i(x, y, z) = x$  for  $0 \le i \le n$ .

(a) For i = 0 the assertion holds trivial.

(b) Let  $d_k(x, y, z) = x$  for some  $k, 0 \le k < n$ .

Then  $d_{k+1}(x, x, z) = d_k(x, x, z) = x$  if k is even, or

 $d_{k+1}(x, z, z) = d_k(x, z, z) = x$  if k is odd.

In both cases  $d_{k+1}$  does not depend on the third variable. Further, the identity  $d_{k+1}(x, y, x) = x$  implies that  $d_{k+1}$  does not depend on the second variable, too. Hence  $d_{k+1}(x, y, z) = x$  (since there are no other unary terms in semilattices). Consequently,  $d_n(x, y, z) = x$ . Combining this fact with  $d_n(x, y, 0) = 0$ , we find x = 0, which is a contradiction.  $\Box$ 

**Corollary 1.** Let V be a variety permutable at 0. The following conditions are equivalent:

(1) V is ideal distributive;

(2) V is distributive at 0.

Proof. Only  $(2) \Rightarrow (1)$  is needed: let *I* be an ideal of  $A \in V$  and  $\Psi$ ,  $\Theta_1$ ,  $\Theta_2 \in Con A$ . The permutability at 0 yields a congruence  $\Phi$  on *A* such that  $I = [0] \Phi$ , see [5]. Then

$$\begin{split} & [I] \Psi \land (\Theta_1 \lor \Theta_2) = [[0] \Phi] \Psi \land (\Theta_1 \lor \Theta_2) = [[0] \Psi \land (\Theta_1 \lor \Theta_2)] \Phi = \\ & = [[0] (\Psi \land \Theta_1) \lor (\Psi \land \Theta_2)] \Phi = [[0] \Phi] (\Psi \land \Theta_1) \lor (\Psi \land \Theta_2) = \\ & = [I] (\Psi \land \Theta_1) \lor (\Psi \land \Theta_2), \end{split}$$

by Lemma 2.

One can easily verify that the ideal equality  $[I]\Theta_1 \wedge \Theta_2 = [I]\Theta_1 \wedge [I]\Theta_2$  does not hold in every variety of algebras, see, e.g., the variety of  $\wedge$ -semilattices with 0.

**Definition 3.** Let K be a class of algebras of the same type with constant 0 and u be an *n*-ary ( $n \ge 3$ ) term in K. u is called an *ideal near unanimity term* whenever it satisfies the following identities:

$$u(x, 0, ..., 0) = 0$$
  

$$u(x, y, x, ..., x) = x$$
  

$$u(x, x, y, x, ..., x) = x$$
  

$$\vdots$$
  

$$u(x, x, ..., x, y) = x.$$

**Theorem 3.** Let V be a variety with constant 0. The following conditions are equivalent:

(1) for each ideal I of every  $A \in \mathbf{V}$  and each  $\Theta_1, \ldots, \Theta_n \in Con A$ ,

$$[I]\bigwedge_{i\leq n}\Theta_i=\bigwedge_{i\leq n}[I]\Theta_i;$$

(2) there is an (n + 1)-ary ideal near unanimity term **u** in **V**.

Proof. The equivalence  $(1) \Leftrightarrow (2)$  will be shown for n = 2 only. For n > 2 the argumentation can be modified in an evident way.

(1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2): Take  $A = F_{\nu}(x, y, z) \in V$ , I = I(x, y) and  $\Theta_1 = \Theta(x, z)$ ,  $\Theta_2 = \Theta(y, z)$ . Then  $z \in [I] \Theta_1 \land [I] \Theta_2$  and so

$$z \in [I] \Theta_1 \land [I] \Theta_2 = [I(x, y)] \Theta(x, z) \land \Theta(x, z)$$

By Lemma 1.2 in [5], we have a 5-ary term p such that p(x, y, z, 0, 0) = 0 and

$$\langle z, \boldsymbol{p}(x, y, z, x, y) \rangle \in \Theta(x, z) \land \Theta(y, z).$$

This statement implies

$$p(x, y, x, x, y) = x, \quad p(x, y, y, x, y) = y.$$

Introduce the ternary term **u** by

$$\boldsymbol{u}(a, b, c) = \boldsymbol{p}(b, c, a, b, c).$$

Then clearly

$$u(x, 0, 0) = p(0, 0, x, 0, 0) = 0$$
  
$$u(x, y, x) = p(y, x, x, y, x) = x$$
  
$$u(x, x, y) = p(x, y, x, x, y) = x$$

as required.

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1): Let *I* be an ideal of  $A \in V$  and  $\Theta_1, \Theta_2 \in Con A$ . We have to prove the inclusion

 $[I] \Theta_1 \wedge [I] \Theta_2 \subseteq [I] \Theta_1 \wedge \Theta_2.$ 

Suppose  $a \in [I]\Theta_1 \land [I]\Theta_2$ . Then  $\langle i_1, a \rangle \in \Theta_1$  and  $\langle i_2, a \rangle \in \Theta_2$  for some  $i_1, i_2 \in I$ . Consider the element  $u(a, i_1, i_2)$ . Using (2), we find that  $u(a, i_1, i_2) \in I$  and

$$a = \mathbf{u}(a, a, i_2)\Theta_1 \mathbf{u}(a, i_1, i_2)$$
  
$$a = \mathbf{u}(a, i_1, a)\Theta_2 \mathbf{u}(a, i_1, i_2).$$

Hence  $\langle a, \mathbf{u}(a, i_1, i_2) \rangle \in \Theta_1 \land \Theta_2$ , i.e.  $a \in [I] \Theta_1 \in \Theta_2$ .  $\Box$ 

**Theorem 4.** Let V be a variety with constant 0 and u be an n-ary near unanimity term in V. Then V is ideal distributive with 2n - 1 characterizing ternary terms  $d_0, ..., d_{2n-2}$ .

Proof. Put  $d_0(x, y, z) = x$  $d_1(x, y, z) = u(x, y, z, x, ..., x)$ 

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and for  $0 < k \le n - 1$  put

$$d_{2k}(x, y, z) = u(u(x, y, z, x, ..., x), ..., u(x, y, z, x, ..., x), z, ..., z)$$

$$k \text{ times}$$

$$d_{2k+1}(x, y, z) = u(u(x, y, z, x, ..., x), ..., u(x, y, z, x, ..., x), u(y, ..., y, z), z, ..., z)$$

$$k \text{ times}$$

Then

(a) 
$$d_0(x, y, z) = x$$
 and  
 $d_{2n-2}(x, y, 0) = u(u(x, y, 0, x, ..., x), 0, ..., 0) = 0.$   
(b)  $d_0(x, y, x) = x$   
 $d_1(x, y, x) = u(x, y, x, ..., x) = x$   
 $d_{2k}(x, y, x) = u(u(x, y, x, ..., x), ..., u(x, y, x, ..., x), x, ..., x) = u(x, ..., x) = x$   
 $d_{2k+1}(x, y, x) = u(u(x, y, x, ..., x), ..., u(x, y, x, ..., x), x, ..., x) = u(x, ..., x) = u(u(x, y, x, ..., x), ..., u(x, y, x, ..., x), u(y, ..., y, x), x, ..., x) = u(x, ..., x, u(y, ..., y, x), x, ..., x) = x,$ 

thus  $d_i(x, y, x) = x$  for all i = 0, ..., 2n - 2.

(c) Let *i* be even. If i = 0, then

$$d_0(x, x, z) = x = u(x, x, z, x, ..., x) = d_1(x, x, z).$$

If i > 0, then i = 2k for k > 0 and

$$d_{2k}(x, x, z) = u(u(x, x, z, x, ..., x), ..., u(x, x, z, x, ..., x), z, ..., z) =$$

$$= u(x, ..., x, z, ..., z);$$
*k* times
*k* times

$$d_{2k+1}(x, x, z) =$$

$$= u(u(x, x, z, x, ..., x), ..., u(x, x, z, x, ..., x), u(x, ..., x, z), z, ..., z) =$$

$$= u(x, ..., x, z, ..., z),$$

$$\overbrace{k \text{ times}}$$

thus  $\boldsymbol{d}_i(x, x, z) = \boldsymbol{d}_{i+1}(x, x, z)$  for *i* even.

(d) Let *i* be odd. If i = 1, then

$$d_{1}(x, z, z) = u(x, z, z, x, ..., x) d_{2}(x, z, z) = u(u(x, z, z, x, ..., x), ..., u(x, z, z, x, ..., x), z) = = u(x, z, z, x, ..., x),$$

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i.e. 
$$d_1(x, z, z) = d_2(x, z, z)$$
.  
If  $i > 1$ , then  $i = 2k + 1$  for  $k > 0$  and  
 $d_{2k+1}(x, z, z) =$   
 $= u(u(x, z, z, x, ..., x), ..., u(x, z, z, x, ..., x), u(z, ..., z), z, ..., z) =$   
 $k$  times  
 $= u(u(x, z, z, x, ..., x), ..., u(x, z, z, x, ..., x), z, ..., z) =$   
 $= d_{2k+2}(x, z, z).$ 

Hence

$$d_i(x, z, z) = d_{i+1}(x, z, z)$$
 for all *i* odd.

The proof is complete.  $\Box$ 

It is evident that the existence of some *n*-ary ideal near unanimity term follows from the existence of a ternary ideal near unanimity term. Moreover, for varieties with a ternary ideal near unanimity term there holds the following

**Theorem 5.** Let V be a variety with constant 0. The following conditions are equivalent:

(1) **V** is ideal distributive with three characterizing ternary terms  $d_0$ ,  $d_1$ ,  $d_2$ .

(2) **V** has a ternary ideal near unanimity term.

Proof. (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2): By hypothesis, we have ternary terms  $d_0$ ,  $d_1$ ,  $d_2$  such that

$$d_0(x, y, z) = x, \quad d_2(x, y, 0) = 0, d_1(x, y, x) = d_2(x, y, x) = x d_1(x, x, z) = x d_1(x, z, z) = d_2(x, z, z).$$

Apparently,  $d_1(x, y, z)$  is a ternary ideal near unanimity term in V. (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1): Let u be a ternary ideal near unanimity term in V. Put

$$d_0(x, y, z) = x, d_1(x, y, z) = u(x, y, z), d_2(x, y, z) = u(u(x, z, z), z, u(x, y, y)).$$

Then

(a) 
$$d_0(x, y, z) = x$$
  
 $d_2(x, y, 0) = u(u(x, 0, 0), 0, u(x, y, y)) = u(0, 0, u(x, y, y)) = 0.$   
(b)  $d_1(x, y, x) = u(x, y, x) = x$   
 $d_2(x, y, x) = u(u(x, x, x), x, u(x, y, y)) = u(x, x, u(x, y, y)) = x.$   
(c) for i even we have only

(c) for *i* even, we have only  $\boldsymbol{d}_0(x, x, z) = x = \boldsymbol{u}(x, x, z) = \boldsymbol{d}_1(x, x, z).$ 

(d) for *i* odd, we have only  
$$d_1(x, z, z) = u(x, z, z) = u(u(x, z, z), z, u(x, z, z)) = d_2(x, z, z).$$

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Assuming the permutability at 0, the foregoing theorem yields immediately: Corollary 2. Let V be a variety permutable at 0. The following conditions are equivalent:

(1) V has an ideal near unanimity term;

(2) V is distributive at 0.

Proof. (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2) follows directly from Theorem 5. Prove (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1): Let *I* be an ideal of  $A \in V$  and  $\Theta_1$ ,  $\Theta_2 \in Con A$ . By the permutability at 0,  $I = [0] \Phi$  for some congruence  $\Phi \in Con A$ . Then

 $[I]\Theta_1 \land \Theta_2 = [[0]\Phi]\Theta_1 \land \Theta_2 = [0]\Phi \lor (\Theta_1 \land \Theta_2).$ 

Using Lemma 2 of [3], we have

$$[0] \boldsymbol{\Phi} \lor (\boldsymbol{\Theta}_1 \land \boldsymbol{\Theta}_2) = [0] (\boldsymbol{\Phi} \lor \boldsymbol{\Theta}_1) \land (\boldsymbol{\Phi} \lor \boldsymbol{\Theta}_2),$$

so

$$[I]\Theta_1 \wedge \Theta_2 = [0](\Phi \vee \Theta_1) \wedge [0](\Phi \vee \Theta_2) =$$
  
= [[0]\Phi]\Phi\_1 \lambda, [[0]\Phi]\Phi\_2 = [I]\Phi\_1 \lambda [I]\Phi\_2.

Theorem 3 completes the proof.  $\Box$ 

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### МНОГООБРАЗИЯ, ВЫПОЛНЯЮЩИЕ ИДЕАЛНЫЕ ЭКВИВАЛЕНТНОСТИ

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### Резюме

Гумм и Урсини ввели концепт идеала универзальной алгебры. Мы даем концепт идеално перестановочных и идеално дистрибутивных конгруэнций и характеризируем многообразия таких алгебер условиями Мальцева.

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