

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The supporting information consists of 5 pages, including cover page, containing 3 figures and 7 tables.

Environmental and Cost Evaluation of Lignocellulosic Path to Sustainable Aviation Fuel

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SUPPORTING FIGURES

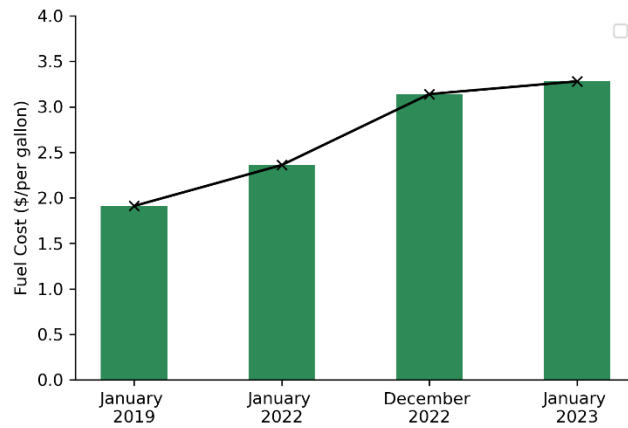


Figure S1. Petroleum Jet Fuel price January 2019-2023 [1]

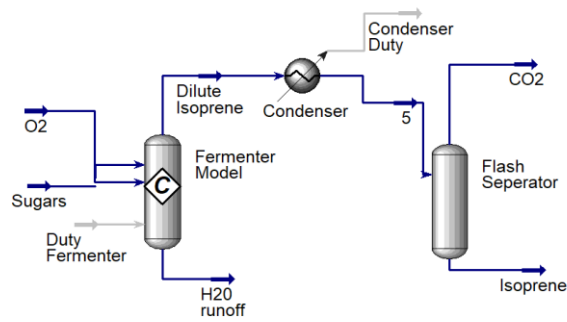


Figure S2. PFD of UniSim Fermentation Modeling Area*

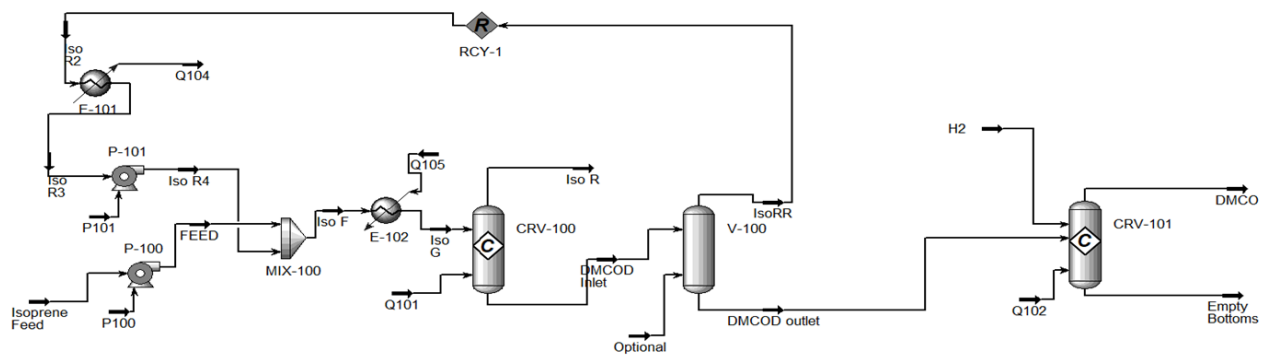


Figure S3. PFD of Catalytic Upgrading and Hydrogenation Modeling Area*

*The UniSim files can be made available on request

SUPPORTING TABLES

Table S1. Energy requirements for conversion of fermentable sugars in biomass to DMCO

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Fermentation Heat Duty | 1708 | kJ/kg of isoprene produced |
| Condenser Duty | 87.3 | kJ/kg of isoprene recovered |
| Recirculation pumps | 0.001 | kJ/s per pump |
| Dimerization | -3413.9 | kJ/kg isoprene |
| Dehydration reactor duty | 1.5 | kJ/kg of MBE fed |
| Hydrogenation pre-heat | 0.4 | kJ/kg isoprene |
| Hydrogenation Duty | 385.5 | kJ/kg isoprene |

Table S2. Life cycle inventory input data for corn stover based DMCO (per 1 kg isoprene)

| Item | Amount | Unit | Source and assumptions |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| <i>Upstream</i> | | | |
| | | | Emissions due to corn stover harvest and replacement of nutrients are allocated to the corn stover and emissions from nutrient inputs for crop production are allocated to the corn crop |
| Feedstock input | 6.5 | kg | Calculated based on our model and conversions of different stages |
| Feedstock yield | 9.7 | ton/ha/yr | Spatari et al.[2] |
| Collection | 1.7 | MJ | Using data from Spatari et al.[2] and Pourhashem et al.[3] |
| Nutrient replacement | N 33 P 11.9 K 60.7 | g | Based on GREET results from Spatari et al.[2] for nutrient replacement due to corn stover removal |
| N ₂ O emissions | Direct: 0.3 Indirect: 0.4 | g | Based on DayCent model[4] results from Adler et al.[5] and Pourhashem et al.[3] |
| Change in soil carbon | 1.2 | kg CO ₂ | Based on DayCent model[4] results from Adler et al.[5] and Pourhashem et al.[3] |
| Diesel for transportation | 30.7 | ml | Assuming 80 km transportation distance including the return trip and using diesel powered truck from the USLCI database in SimaPro[6] software |
| <i>Biorefinery</i> | | | |
| Fermentation energy | 898.9 | KJ | Calculated required amount of energy and chemicals using UniSim[7] simulation and using Ecoinvent database[8] for life cycle impact assessment |
| Heat Duty Fermenter | 7.88 | KJ | Energy needed to raise the Temperature of reactor, including 1L of water. 2.67g isoprene/ 3.74 g of sugars –UniSim Simulation Model |
| Recirculation Pumps | 0.001 | kJ/s | Fermenter recirculation pumps per pump [9] |
| Air Compressor | 0.004 | kWh | UniSim Simulation Model 1.247 kJ/hr /3600 to convert to kW then * 2.86hrs for 1kg isoprene |
| Separation cooling energy | -1938.8 | KJ | UniSim Simulation Model |
| Separation heating energy | 2068.9 | KJ | UniSim Simulation Model |
| Dimerization energy | -3413.9 | KJ | UniSim Simulation Model |
| Hydrogenation energy | 385.5 | KJ | UniSim Simulation Model |
| Surplus electricity | 8742 | KJ | Difference between the total electricity generated onsite from lignin combustion in the boiler and the electricity required by the bioplant; assumed to replace from the MRO electricity grid |

Table S3. Cost contribution of various sections to the Minimum Fuel selling price (MFSP) for the DMCO and electricity. All cost in \$/L DMCO.

| AREA | Capital Recovery Charge | Raw Materials & Waste | Process Electricity | Grid Electricity | Total Plant Electricity | Fixed Costs | Area Totals |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Feedstock and Handling | \$0.000 | \$0.364 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 | \$0.364 |
| Pretreatment and Conditioning | \$0.055 | \$0.048 | \$0.014 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 | \$0.012 | \$0.129 |
| Enzymatic Hydrolysis and Fermentation | \$0.035 | \$0.008 | \$0.007 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 | \$0.007 | \$0.057 |
| Cellulase Enzyme Production | \$0.021 | \$0.306 | \$0.013 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 | \$0.004 | \$0.345 |
| Distillation and Solids Recovery | \$0.020 | \$0.000 | \$0.005 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 | \$0.004 | \$0.030 |
| Wastewater Treatment | \$0.075 | \$0.027 | \$0.018 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 | \$0.016 | \$0.136 |
| Storage | \$0.008 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 | \$0.002 | \$0.010 |
| Boiler and Turbogenerator | \$0.110 | \$0.029 | \$0.003 | -\$0.034 | -\$0.069 | \$0.023 | \$0.063 |
| Utilities | \$0.012 | \$0.004 | \$0.008 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 | \$0.002 | \$0.025 |
| NET SUMMATION | \$0.336 | \$0.786 | \$0.069 | -\$0.034 | -\$0.069 | \$0.070 | \$1.159 |

Table S4. CAPEX in year 2018 with changes to NREL's Model 2015 according to process steps. All cost in USD\$.

| Area | EQUIPMENT TITLE | DESCRIPTION | \$ | Year of Quote | Purch Cost in Base Yr | Scaling Val | Units | Scaling Exp | Inst Factor | Scaled Purch Cost | Purch Cost in Proj year | Inst Cost in Proj year | Remarks |
|---------------|--|--|-------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Fermentation | ISOPRENE FERMENTER (Bioconversion reactor) | Total Vessel Volume: 3785 m ³ | \$7,792,000 | 2017 | \$7,792,000 | 1 | ea | 1.00 | 0.5 | \$7,792,000 | \$8,280,802 | \$4,140,401 | UniSim Model and Humbird et al. 2017[11] |
| | ISOPRENE CONDENSER | Shell and tube | \$718,084 | 2017 | \$718,084 | 1 | ea | 1.00 | 1.5 | \$718,084 | \$763,131 | \$1,144,696 | UniSim model and Excel costing [10] |
| | Isoprene Transfer Pump | 2153 GPM, 171 FT TDH | \$214,400 | 2010 | \$214,400 | 18833 | kg/hr | 0.80 | 2.3 | \$417,452 | \$457,091 | \$1,051,309 | Goulds [12] |
| | Fermenter Air Compressor Package | 8000 SCFM @ 16 psig | \$350,000 | 2009 | \$350,000 | 33168 | kg/hr | 0.60 | 1.6 | \$346,282 | \$400,158 | \$640,253 | Dresser Roots [12] |
| Dimerization | Dimerization Reactor | | \$3,485,301 | 2017 | | | kg/hr | 1.00 | 1.5 | \$3,485,301 | \$3,703,939 | \$5,555,908 | UniSim model and Excel costing [10] |
| | Hydrogen recovery unit | | \$993,634 | 2018 | | | kg/hr | 1.00 | 1.5 | \$993,634 | \$993,634 | \$1,490,451 | Baral et al. 2021[13] |
| | Catalyst recovery unit | | | | | | kg/hr | 1.00 | 1.5 | \$0 | | \$0 | Assumed in OPEX costs |
| | Flash separator | | \$43,129 | 2018 | | | kg/hr | 1.00 | 1.5 | \$43,129 | \$43,129 | \$64,693 | Excel costing[10] |
| Hydrogenation | Hydrogenation reactor | (Q3 FY17 milestone), base PF=2.5, 208 BBL/hr | \$4,168,568 | 2011 | \$4,168,568 | 32895 | L/hr | 0.70 | 2.0 | \$2,194,971 | \$2,194,971 | \$4,389,943 | UniSim model and Excel costing [10] |
| | Hydrogen compressor | 25.3 kW | \$87,283 | 2018 | | | kg/hr | 1.00 | 1.5 | \$87,283 | \$87,283 | \$130,924 | Excel Costing [10] |

Table S5. Variable OPEX year 2018 USD (indexed) with changes to NREL's Model 2015 according to process steps.

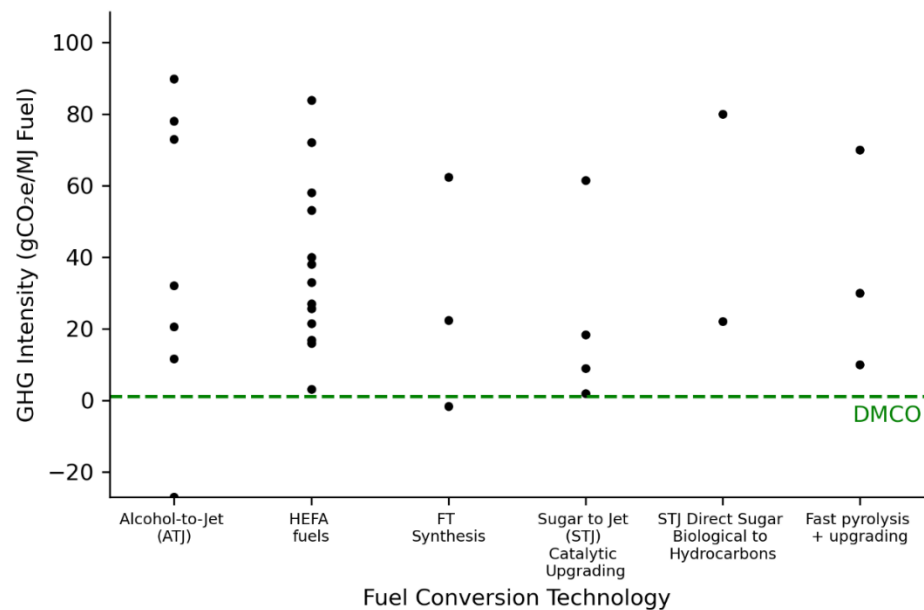
| Area | Raw Material | kg/hr | lb/hr | Quoted Price (cents / ton) | Year of Price Quote | 2018 Cost (\$ / ton) | 2018 Cost (\$/lb) | \$/hour | MMS/yr (2018) | Cents/Gallon DMCO (2018) | Remarks - Cost reference |
|--|--------------------------------|---------|---------|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------|---------------|--------------------------|--|
| Feedstock and Handling | Feedstock | 104,167 | 229,688 | 5701 | 2018 | 57.01 | 0.03 | 6,547.01 | 55.06 | 134.77 | |
| | Sulfuric Acid, 93% | 1,500 | 3,308 | 9000 | 2009 | 116.18 | 0.06 | 192.14 | 1.62 | 3.96 | Basic Chemical, Omaha via HGI |
| Pretreatment and Conditioning | Ammonia | 1,051 | 2,317 | 45000 | 2009 | 580.92 | 0.29 | 673.01 | 5.66 | 13.85 | Terra Industries via HGI, anhydrous, delivery to Iowa |
| | CSL | 580 | 1,278 | 5700 | 2009 | 73.58 | 0.04 | 47.02 | 0.40 | 0.97 | Corn Products via HGI |
| Enzymatic Hydrolysis and Fermentation | DAP | 19 | 42 | 99000 | 2009 | 1278.02 | 0.64 | 26.86 | 0.23 | 0.55 | Ronas Chemicals via HGI |
| | Sorbitol | 44 | 98 | 113000 | 2009 | 1458.75 | 0.73 | 71.36 | 0.60 | 1.47 | Coast Southwest via HGI |
| | Purchased Enzyme | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2018 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Not considered in NREL Davis et al. 2015 |
| Cellulase Enzyme Production | Glucose | 2,418 | 5,332 | 58220 | 2009 | 751.58 | 0.38 | 2,003.56 | 16.85 | 41.24 | USDA |
| | Tryptone | 164 | 363 | 5700 | 2009 | 73.58 | 0.04 | 13.34 | 0.11 | 0.27 | Corn Products via HGI |
| | Ammonia | 115 | 254 | 45000 | 2009 | 580.92 | 0.29 | 73.64 | 0.62 | 1.52 | Terra Industries via HGI, anhydrous, delivery to Iowa |
| | Host nutrients | 67 | 149 | 74530 | 2007 | 1063.88 | 0.53 | 79.00 | 0.66 | 1.63 | SRI CEH |
| | Dimerization catalyst | 24 | 54 | 930582 | CatCost NREL | 9305.82 | 4.65 | 251.19 | 2.11 | 5.17 | Baral et al 2021 (\$10.26 \$/kg - 0.13%wt) and Isoprene feed (18833kg/hr) dual pathway |
| Catalytic conversion, upgrading and storage | Hydrogenation catalyst | 81 | 179 | 1315150 | CatCost NREL | 13151.50 | 6.58 | 1,174.20 | 9.88 | 24.17 | Baral et al 2021 (\$14.5 \$/kg - 0.43%wt) and DMCOD feed (18833kg/hr) dual pathway |
| | Hydrogen production | 417 | kg/h | 4.49 | \$/kg | | | 1,870.83 | 15.73 | 38.51 | Title: Hydrogen Production Cost Using Low-Cost Natural Gas Originator: Sara Dillich, Todd Ramsden & Marc Melaina |
| | Hydrogen recovery cost | 69 | kmol/h | 0.50 | \$/kmol | | | 34.43 | 0.29 | 0.71 | Minimum H2 req for dry feed |
| Wastewater Treatment | Sulfur Dioxide | 16 | 36 | 25400 | 2005 | 393.54 | 0.20 | 7.12 | 0.06 | 0.15 | Hydrogen management in refineries Rabie and excel Hydrogen calculation |
| | Caustic (as pure) | 2,252 | 4,966 | 15000 | 2009 | 193.64 | 0.10 | 480.77 | 4.04 | 9.90 | SRI CEH |
| | Boiler Chems | 0 | 1 | 280000 | 1991 | 6469.43 | 3.23 | 1.76 | 0.01 | 0.04 | |
| Combustor, boiler, and turbo-generator | FGD Lime | 894 | 1,972 | 20000 | 2009 | 258.19 | 0.13 | 254.60 | 2.14 | 5.24 | |
| | Feedstock | 0 | 0 | 5701 | 2018 | 57.01 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Set in Cell I20 |
| Utilities | Cooling Tower Chems | 2 | 5 | 200000 | 1999 | 3877.09 | 1.94 | 10.19 | 0.09 | 0.21 | |
| | Makeup Water | 147,136 | 324,435 | 20 | 2004 | 0.34 | 0.00 | 54.40 | 0.46 | 1.12 | Peters & Timmerhaus |
| Waste Streams | Disposal of Ash | 5,724 | 12,622 | 1820 | 1993 | 41.20 | 0.02 | 259.99 | 2.19 | 5.35 | |
| By-Products and Credits | Grid Electricity | 12,814 | kW | by year | 2018 | \$/kWh | 0.04 | 572.02 | 4.81 | 11.77 | |
| | Area 100 Electricity | 859 | kW | by year | 2018 | \$/kWh | 0.04 | 38.37 | 0.32 | 0.79 | |
| | Lubricant | 0 | kg/h | 1.2000 | \$/kg | | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| | Total Variable Operating Costs | | | | | | | 13,461.65 | 113.67 | 278.22 | |

Table S6. Fixed OPEX in year 2018 with changes to NREL's Model 2015 according to process steps. All cost in USD\$.

| | Position | Salary | Year of salary quote | 2018 Salary | # Required | Total | 2018 Cost USD\$ | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|----------------------|-------------|------------|---------|-----------------|-----------|
| Labor & Supervision | Plant Manager | 147000 | 2009 | 184,366 | 1 | 147,000 | 184,366 | |
| | Plant Engineer | 70000 | 2009 | 87,793 | 2 | 140,000 | 175,586 | |
| | Maintenance Supervisor | 57000 | 2009 | 71,489 | 1 | 57,000 | 71,489 | |
| | Maintenance Tech | 40000 | 2009 | 50,167 | 12 | 480,000 | 602,010 | |
| | Lab Manager | 56000 | 2009 | 70,234 | 1 | 56,000 | 70,234 | |
| | Lab Technician | 40000 | 2009 | 50,167 | 2 | 80,000 | 100,335 | |
| | Lab Tech-Enzyme | 40000 | 2009 | 50,167 | 2 | 80,000 | 100,335 | |
| | Shift Supervisor | 48000 | 2009 | 60,201 | 4 | 192,000 | 240,804 | |
| | Shift Operators | 40000 | 2009 | 50,167 | 20 | 800,000 | 1,003,350 | |
| | Shift Oper-Enzyme | 40000 | 2009 | 50,167 | 8 | 320,000 | 401,340 | |
| | Yard Employees | 28000 | 2009 | 35,117 | 4 | 112,000 | 140,469 | |
| | Clerks & Secretaries | 36000 | 2009 | 45,151 | 3 | 108,000 | 135,452 | |
| | Total Salaries | | | | | | 2,572,000 | 3,225,769 |
| | Labor Burden (90%) | | | | | | 2,314,800 | 2,903,193 |
| Other Overhead | Maintenance | 3.0% | of ISBL | | | | 2,699,254 | |
| | Property Insur. & Tax | 0.7% | of FCI | | | | 3,067,839 | |
| | Total Fixed Operating Costs | | | | | | 11,896,055 | |

Table S7. GHG intensity of DMCO as compared to Fuel Conversion Technology pathways: ATJ, HEFA Fuels, FT Synthesis, STJ Catalytic Upgrading, STJ Direct Sugar Biological to Hydrocarbons and Fast Pyrolysis.

| # | Fuel Conversion Technology | Feedstocks | Fuel Density (g/ml) | GHG Intensity (gCO ₂ /MJ) | References |
|---|---|---|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Alcohol-to-Jet (ATJ) | Starch crops | 0.59 to 0.79 | -27 to 78 | Han (2017) [14], Gollakota (2021)[15] |
| | | Switchgrass | 0.59 to 0.79 | 12 to 90 | Staples (2014)[16] |
| | | Poplar | 0.59 to 0.79 | 32 to 73 | Budsberg(2016)[17] |
| | | Sugarcane, molasses | 0.59 to 0.79 | -27 to 21 | Tanzil (2022)[18] Staples et al (2014)[16] |
| 2 | HEFA fuels | Microalgae oil | 0.77 to 0.84 | 27 to 38 | Cox (2014)[19] |
| | | Camelina oil | 0.77 to 0.84 | 3 to 53 | Stratton (2011)[20] Jong (2017)[21] |
| | | Jatropha oil | 0.77 to 0.84 | 33 to 40 | Bailis (2010)[22] |
| | | Waste oils | 0.77 to 0.84 | 17 to 21 | Seber (2014)[23] |
| | | Animal fats | 0.77 to 0.84 | 26 to 84 | Seber (2014)[23] |
| 3 | FT Synthesis | Camelina oil | 0.79 to 0.81 | 22 | Shonnard (2010)[24] |
| | | Lignocellulose biomass, municipal waste | 0.79 to 0.81 | -2 to 62 | Jong (2017)[21] Suresh (2018)[25] |
| 4 | Sugar to Jet (STJ) Catalytic Upgrading | Lignocellulose biomass | 0.77 to 0.84 | 18 to 61 | Riazi (2018)[26] Baral (2021)[13] |
| 5 | STJ Direct Sugar Biological to Hydrocarbons | Sugarcane, starch crops, lignocellulose biomass | 0.77 to 0.84 | 22 to 80 | Han (2017)[14] Cox (2014)[19] |
| 6 | Fast pyrolysis + upgrading | Equine waste | Up to 0.91 | 10 to 70 | Sorunmu (2017)[27] Elkasabi (2020)[28] Fitriasari (2023)[29] |



Sample calculation for jet-fuel credit

Calculate the GHG emissions per liter of fuel for jet A fuel:

GHG emissions per liter of jet fuel = $89 \text{ gCO}_2/\text{MJ} \times 33 \text{ MJ/L} \approx 2950 \text{ gCO}_2/\text{L}$

Equivalent GHG emissions per liter of DMCO = $89 \text{ gCO}_2/\text{MJ} \times 36.3 \text{ MJ/L} \approx 3230 \text{ gCO}_2/\text{L}$

Savings in GHG emissions per liter = $2945.9 \text{ gCO}_2/\text{L} - 3230.7 \text{ gCO}_2/\text{L} \approx -284.8 \text{ gCO}_2/\text{L}$

Savings in GHG emissions per MJ DMCO = $\frac{-284.8 \text{ gCO}_2/\text{L}}{36.2 \text{ MJ/L}} = 7.9$

| Fuel Type | Net Heat of Combustion (MJ/L) | GHG Emissions (gCO₂/L) | Difference in GHG Emissions (gCO₂/L) | Savings per MJ (gCO₂/MJ) |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Conventional Jet Fuel (89 gCO ₂ /MJ) | 33.1 | 2945.9 | - | - |
| DMCO (eq.) | 36.2 | 3230.7 | 284.8 | 7.9 |

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