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Etienne Blanchard. Continuous fields of properly infinite C\*-algebras. 2014. hal-00974653v4

# HAL Id: hal-00974653 https://hal.science/hal-00974653v4

Preprint submitted on 24 Jul 2014 (v4), last revised 22 Aug 2014 (v6)

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## CONTINUOUS FIELDS OF PROPERLY INFINITE C\*-ALGEBRAS

#### ETIENNE BLANCHARD

ABSTRACT. Any unital separable continuous C(X)-algebra with properly infinite fibres is properly infinite as soon as the compact Hausdorff space X has finite topological dimension. We study conditions under which this is still the case in the infinite dimensional case.

#### 1. Introduction

One of the basic C\*-algebras studied in the classification programme launched by G. Elliott ([Ell94]) of nuclear C\*-algebras through K-theoretical invariants is the Cuntz C\*-algebra  $\mathcal{O}_{\infty}$  generated by infinitely many isometries with pairwise orthogonal ranges ([Cun77]). This C\*-algebra is pretty rigid in so far as it is a strongly self-absorbing C\*-algebra ([TW07]): Any separable unital continuous C(X)-algebra A the fibres of which are isomorphic to the same strongly self-absorbing C\*-algebra D is a trivial C(X)-algebra provided the compact Hausdorff base space X has finite topological dimension. (Indeed, the strongly self-absorbing C\*-algebra D tensorially absorbs the Jiang-Su algebra  $\mathcal{Z}$  ([Win09]). Hence, this C\*-algebra D is  $K_1$ -injective ([Rør04]) and the C(X)-algebra A satisfies  $A \cong D \otimes C(X)$  ([DW08]).) But I. Hirshberg, M. Rørdam and W. Winter have built a non-trivial unital continuous C\*-bundle over the infinite dimensional compact product  $\Pi_{n=0}^{\infty} S^2$  such that all its fibres are isomorphic to the strongly self-absorbing UHF algebra of type  $2^{\infty}$  ([HRW07, Example 4.7]). More recently, M. Dădărlat has constructed in [Dăd09, §3] for all pair ( $\Gamma_0$ ,  $\Gamma_1$ ) of discrete countable torsion groups a unital separable continuous C(X)-algebra A such that:

- the base space X is the compact Hilbert cube  $X = \mathfrak{X}$  of infinite dimension,
- all the fibres  $A_x$  ( $x \in \mathfrak{X}$ ) are isomorphic to the strongly self-absorbing Cuntz C\*-algebra  $\mathcal{O}_2$  generated by two isometries  $s_1, s_2$  satisfying  $1_{\mathcal{O}_2} = s_1 s_1^* + s_2 s_2^*$ ,
- $-K_i(A) \cong C(Y_0, \Gamma_i)$  for i = 0, 1, where  $Y_0 \subset [0, 1]$  is the canonical Cantor set.

These K-theoretical conditions imply that the  $C(\mathfrak{X})$ -algebra A is not a trivial one. But these arguments does not anymore work when the strongly self-absorbing algebra D is the Cuntz algebra  $\mathcal{O}_{\infty}$  ([Cun77]), in so far as  $K_0(\mathcal{O}_{\infty}) = \mathbb{Z}$  is a torsion free group.

We study in this article whether the Pimsner-Toeplitz algebra ([Pim95]) of the nontrivial Dixmier-Douady Hilbert C(X)-module  $E_{DD}$  ([DD63]) is a nontrivial unital C(X)-algebra with fibres  $\mathcal{O}_{\infty}$ . This would imply that there exists a properly infinite C\*-algebra A which is not  $K_1$ -injective, *i.e.* the mapping  $\mathcal{U}(A)/\mathcal{U}_0(A) \to K_1(A)$  is not

<sup>2010</sup> Mathematics Subject Classification. Primary: 46L80; Secondary: 46L06, 46L35. Key words and phrases. C\*-algebra, Classification, Proper Infiniteness.

injective, and there exist separable unital continuous C([0,1])-algebras with properly infinite fibres which are not properly infinite C\*-algebras.

I especially thank E. Kirchberg and a referee for a few inspiring remarks.

#### 2. Notations

We present in this section the main notations which are used in this article. We denote by  $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \ldots\}$  the set of positive integers and we denote by [S] the closed linear span of any subset S in a Banach space.

**Definition 2.1.** ([Dix69], [Kas88], [Blan97]) Let X be a compact Hausdorff space and let C(X) be the  $C^*$ -algebra of continuous function on X.

- A unital C(X)-algebra is a unital  $C^*$ -algebra A endowed with a unital morphism of  $C^*$ -algebra from C(X) to the centre of A.
- For all closed subset  $F \subset X$  and all element  $a \in A$ , one denotes by  $a_{1F}$  the image of a in the quotient  $A_{|F} := A/C_0(X \setminus F) \cdot A$ . If  $x \in X$  is a point in X, one calls fibre at x the quotient  $A_x := A_{|\{x\}}$  and one write  $a_x$  for  $a_{|\{x\}}$ .
- The C(X)-algebra A is said to be continuous if the upper semicontinuous map  $x \in X \mapsto ||a_x|| \in \mathbb{R}_+$  is continuous for all  $a \in A$ .

Remarks 2.2. a) ([Cun81], [BRR08]) For all integer  $n \geq 2$ , the C\*-algebra  $\mathcal{T}_n := \mathcal{T}(\mathbb{C}^n)$ is the universal unital C\*-algebra generated by n isometries  $s_1, \ldots, s_n$  satisfying the relation

$$s_1 s_1^* + \ldots + s_n s_n^* \le 1$$
 (2.1)

- b) A unital C\*-algebra A is properly infinite if and only if one the following equivalent conditions holds ([Cun77], [Rør03, Proposition 2.1]):
  - the C\*-algebra A contains two isometries with mutually orthogonal range projections, i.e. A unitally contains a copy of  $\mathcal{T}_2$ ,
  - the C\*-algebra A contains a unital copy of the simple Cuntz C\*-algebra  $\mathcal{O}_{\infty}$ generated by infinitely many isometries with pairwise orthogonal ranges.

## 3. Global Proper infiniteness

Proposition 2.5 of [BRR08] and section 6 of [Blan13] entail the following stable proper infiniteness for continuous C(X)-algebras with properly infinite fibres.

**Proposition 3.1.** Let X be a second countable perfect compact Hausdorff space, i.e. without any isolated point, and let A be a separable unital continuous C(X)algebra with properly infinite fibres.

- 1) There exist:
  - (a) a finite integer  $n \geq 1$ ,
  - (b) a covering  $X = \overset{\circ}{F_1} \cup \ldots \cup \overset{\circ}{F_n}$  by the interiors of closed balls  $F_1, \ldots, F_n$ , (c) unital embeddings of  $C^*$ -algebra  $\sigma_k : \mathcal{O}_{\infty} \hookrightarrow A_{|F_k|}$   $(1 \leq k \leq n)$ .
- 2) The tensor product  $M_p(\mathbb{C}) \otimes A$  is properly infinite for all large enough integers p.

- *Proof.* 1) For all point  $x \in X$ , the semiprojectivity of the C\*-subalgebra  $\mathcal{O}_{\infty} \hookrightarrow A_x$  ([Blac04, Theorem 3.2]) entails that there are a closed neighbourhood  $F \subset X$  of the point x and a unital embedding  $\mathcal{O}_{\infty} \otimes C(F) \hookrightarrow A_{|F}$  of C(F)-algebra. The compactness of the topological space X enables to conclude.
- 2) Proposition [BRR08, Proposition 2.7] entails that  $M_{2^{n-1}}(A)$  is properly infinite and [Rør97, Proposition 2.1] implies that  $M_p(A)$  for all integer  $p \geq 2^{n-1}$ .

Remark 3.2. If X is an ordinary second countable compact Hausdorff space and A is a separable unital continuous C(X)-algebra, then  $\widetilde{X} := X \times [0,1]$  is a perfect compact space,  $\widetilde{A} := A \otimes C([0,1])$  is a unital continuous  $C(\widetilde{X})$ -algebra and any unital morphism  $\mathcal{O}_{\infty} \to \widetilde{A}$  induces a unital morphism  $\mathcal{O}_{\infty} \to A$  by composition with the projection map  $\widetilde{A} \to A$  coming from the injection  $x \in X \mapsto (x,0) \in \widetilde{X}$ .

The proper infiniteness of the tensor product  $M_p(\mathbb{C}) \otimes A$  does not always imply that the C\*-algebra A is properly infinite ([HR98]). Indeed, there exists a unital C\*-algebra A which is not properly infinite, but such that the tensor product  $M_2(\mathbb{C}) \otimes A$  is properly infinite ([Rør03, Proposition 4.5]). We nevertheless have the following corollary.

Corollary 3.3. Let  $j_0, j_1$  denote the two canonical unital embeddings of the Cuntz extension  $\mathcal{T}_2$  in the full unital free product  $\mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2$  and let  $\tilde{u} \in \mathcal{U}(\mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2)$  be a  $K_1$ -trivial unitary satisfying  $j_1(s_1) = \tilde{u} \cdot j_0(s_1)$  ([BRR08, Lemma 2.4]).

Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (a) The full unital free product  $\mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2$  is  $K_1$ -injective.
- (b) The unitary  $\tilde{u}$  belongs to the connected component  $\mathcal{U}_0(\mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2)$  of  $1_{\mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2}$ .
- (c) Every separable unital continuous C(X)-algebra A with properly infinite fibres is a properly infinite  $C^*$ -algebra.

*Proof.* (a) $\Rightarrow$ (b) A unital C\*-algebra A is called K<sub>1</sub>-injective if and only if all  $K_1$ -trivial unitaries  $v \in \mathcal{U}(A)$  are homotopic to the unit  $1_A$  in  $\mathcal{U}(A)$  (see e.g. [Roh09]). Thus, (b) is a special case of (a) since  $K_1(\mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2) = \{1\}$  (see e.g. [Blan10, Lemma 4.4].

- (b) $\Rightarrow$ (c) Let A be a separable unital continuous C(X)-algebra with properly infinite fibres. Take a finite covering  $X = \overset{\circ}{F_1} \cup \ldots \cup \overset{\circ}{F_n}$  such that there exist unital embeddings  $\sigma_k : \mathcal{T}_2 \to A_{|F_k} \ (1 \leq k \leq n)$ . Set  $G_k := F_1 \cup \ldots \cup F_k \subset X$  for all  $1 \leq k \leq n$  and let us construct by induction isometries  $w_k \in A_{|G_k}$  such that the two projections  $w_k w_k^*$  and  $1_{|G_k} w_k w_k^*$  are properly infinite and full in the restriction  $A_{|G_k}$ :
- If k = 1, the isometry  $w_1 := \sigma_1(s_1)$  has the requested properties.
- If  $k \in \{1, ..., n-1\}$  and the isometry  $w_k \in A_{|G_k}$  is already constructed, then Lemma 2.4 of [BRR08] implies that there exist an homomorphism of unital C\*-algebra  $\pi_k : \mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2 \to A_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}}$  and a K<sub>1</sub>-trivial unitary  $u_{k+1} \in \mathcal{U}(A_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}})$  satisfying:

$$- \pi_k(j_0(s_1)) = w_{k|G_k \cap F_{k+1}}, - \pi_k(j_1(s_1)) = \sigma_{k+1}(s_1)_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}} = u_{k+1} \cdot w_{k|G_k \cap F_{k+1}}.$$
 (3.1)

If the unitary  $\tilde{u}$  belongs to  $\mathcal{U}_0(\mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2)$ , then the unitary  $u_{k+1} = \pi_k(\tilde{u})$  is homotopic to  $1_{A_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}}} = \pi_k(1_{\mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2})$  in  $\mathcal{U}(A_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}})$ , so that  $u_{k+1}$  admits a unitary lifting  $z_{k+1}$ 

in  $\mathcal{U}_0(A_{|F_{k+1}})$  (see e.g. [LLR00, Lemma 2.1.7]). The only isometry  $w_{k+1} \in A_{|G_{k+1}}$ satisfying the two constraints:

$$w_{k+1|G_k} = w_k$$
 and  $w_{k+1|F_{k+1}} = (z_{k+1})^* \cdot \sigma_{k+1}(s_1)$  (3.2)

verifies that the two projections  $w_{k+1}w_{k+1}^*$  and  $1_{|G_{k+1}}-w_{k+1}w_{k+1}^*$  are properly infinite and full in  $A_{|G_{k+1}|}$ .

The proper infiniteness of the projection  $w_n w_n^* \in A_{|G_n} = A$  implies that the unit  $1_A = w_n^* w_n = w_n^* \cdot w_n w_n^* \cdot w_n$  is also a properly infinite projection in A, i.e. the C\*-algebra A is properly infinite.

(c) $\Rightarrow$ (a) The C\*-algebra  $\mathcal{D} := \{ f \in C([0,1], \mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2) ; f(0) \in j_0(\mathcal{T}_2) \text{ and } f(1) \in j_1(\mathcal{T}_2) \} \text{ is}$ a unital continuous C([0,1])-algebra the fibres of which are all properly infinite. Thus, condition (c) implies that the C\*-algebra  $\mathcal{D}$  is properly infinite, a statement which is equivalent to the K<sub>1</sub>-injectivity of  $\mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2$  ([Blan10, Proposition 4.2]).

# 4. The Pimsner-Toeplitz algebra of a Hilbert C(X)-module

We look in this section at the special case of unital continuous C(X)-algebras with fibres  $\mathcal{O}_{\infty}$  corresponding to the Pimsner-Toeplitz C(X)-algebras of Hilbert C(X)modules with infinite dimension fibres.

**Definition 4.1.** ([Pim95]) Let X be a compact Hausdorff space and E a full Hilbert C(X)-module E, i.e. without any zero fibre.

a) The full Fock Hilbert C(X)-module  $\mathcal{F}(E)$  of E is the direct sum of Hilbert C(X)module

$$\mathcal{F}(E) := \bigoplus_{m \in \mathbb{N}} E^{(\otimes_{C(\mathfrak{X})})m}, \qquad (4.1)$$

module 
$$\mathcal{F}(E) := \bigoplus_{m \in \mathbb{N}} E^{(\otimes_{C(\mathfrak{X})}) m},$$
 where  $E^{(\otimes_{C(\mathfrak{X})}) m} := \begin{cases} C(X) & \text{if } m = 0, \\ E \otimes_{C(X)} \dots \otimes_{C(X)} E \text{ ($m$ terms)} & \text{if } m \geq 1. \end{cases}$ 

b) The Pimsner-Toeplitz C(X)-algebra  $\mathcal{T}(E)$  of E is the unital subalgebra of the C(X)algebra  $\mathscr{L}_{C(\mathfrak{X})}(\mathcal{F}(E))$  of adjointable C(X)-linear operator acting on  $\mathcal{F}(E)$  generated by the creation operators  $\ell(\zeta)$  ( $\zeta \in E$ ), where:

$$\begin{array}{lll}
- & \ell(\zeta) \left( f \cdot \hat{1}_{C(X)} \right) & := f \cdot \zeta = \zeta \cdot f & \text{for } f \in C(X) & \text{and} \\
- & \ell(\zeta) \left( \zeta_1 \otimes \ldots \otimes \zeta_k \right) & := \zeta \otimes \zeta_1 \otimes \ldots \otimes \zeta_k & \text{for } \zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_k \in E & \text{if } k \ge 1 \,.
\end{array} \tag{4.2}$$

c) Let  $(C^*(\mathbb{Z}), \Delta)$  be the compact quantum group generated by a unitary **u** with spectrum the unit circle and with coproduct  $\Delta(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{u}$ . Then, there is a unique coaction  $\alpha$  of the Hopf C\*-algebra  $(C^*(\mathbb{Z}), \Delta)$  on the Pimsner-Toeplitz C(X)-algebra  $\mathcal{T}(E)$  such that  $\alpha(\ell(\zeta)) = \ell(\zeta) \otimes \mathbf{u} \text{ for all } \zeta \in E, i.e.$ 

$$\alpha: \ \mathcal{T}(E) \to \mathcal{T}(E) \otimes C^*(\mathbb{Z}) = C(\mathbb{T}, \mathcal{T}(E)) \ell(\zeta) \mapsto \ell(\zeta) \otimes \mathbf{u} = (z \mapsto \ell(z\zeta))$$

$$(4.3)$$

The fixed point C(X)-subalgebra  $\mathcal{T}(E)^{\alpha} = \{a \in \mathcal{T}(E); \alpha(a) = a \otimes 1\}$  under this coaction is the closed linear span

$$\mathcal{T}(E)^{\alpha} = \left[ C(X).1 + \sum_{k \ge 1} \ell(E)^k \cdot \left( \ell(E)^k \right)^* \right]. \tag{4.4}$$

Besides, the projection  $P \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F}(E))$  onto the submodule E induces a quotient morphism of C(X)-algebra  $a \in \mathcal{T}(E)^{\alpha} \mapsto \overline{\mathbf{q}}(a) := P \cdot a \cdot P \in \mathcal{K}(E) + C(x) \cdot 1 \subset \mathcal{L}(E)$ .

**Proposition 4.2.** Let X be a second countable compact Hausdorff perfect space and let E be a separable Hilbert C(X)-module with infinite dimensional fibres.

- 1) There exist a covering  $X = \overset{\circ}{F_1} \cup \ldots \cup \overset{\circ}{F_m}$  by the interiors of closed subsets  $F_1, \ldots, F_m$  and m sections  $\zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_m$  in E such that  $\mathcal{T}(E) = C^* < \mathcal{T}(E)^{\alpha}, \ell(\zeta_1), \ldots, \ell(\zeta_m) >$  and  $\|(\zeta_k)_x\| = 1$  for all  $k \in \{1, \ldots, m\}$  and  $x \in F_k$ .
- 2) If for all  $k \in \{1, ..., m-1\}$  and all norm 1 section  $\xi \in E$  with  $\|\xi_y\| = 1$  for all point y in a closed subset  $\bar{G}_k \subset F_{k+1}$ , there is a unitary  $z_{k+1} \in \mathcal{T}(E)^{\alpha}_{|F_{k+1}|}$  such that  $z_{k+1} \cdot \ell(\xi(k))_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}|} = \ell(\zeta_{k+1})_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}|}$ , then there exists a section  $\xi \in E$  satisfying  $\|\xi_x\| = 1$  for all  $x \in X$ , so that  $\mathcal{T}(E)$  is properly infinite by [Blan13, Lemma 6.1].
- Proof. 1) For all point  $x \in X$ , there exists a section  $\zeta \in E$  satisfying  $\|\zeta_x\| = 1$ , whence an isomorphism of C\*-algebra  $\mathcal{T}(E)_x \cong \mathcal{T}(E_x) = C^* < \mathcal{T}(E_x)^{\alpha}, \ell(\zeta_x) > .$  The semiprojectivity of the C\*-algebra  $\mathcal{O}_{\infty} \cong \mathcal{T}(E)_x$  and the compactness of the space X then imply that there exist a finite covering  $X = \overset{\circ}{F_1} \cup \ldots \cup \overset{\circ}{F_m}$  by the interiors of closed subsets  $F_1, \ldots, F_m$  and m contractions  $\zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_m$  in E such that  $\|(\zeta_k)_x\| = 1$  for all index  $k \in \{1, \ldots, m\}$  and all point  $x \in F_k$ .
- 2) Set  $G_k := F_1 \cup \ldots \cup F_k$  for all  $k \in \{1, \ldots, m\}$  (as in Corollary 3.3) and let us construct inductively sections  $\xi(k) \in E_{|G_k|}$  such that  $\|\xi(k)_x\| = 1$  for all  $x \in G_k$ .
- If k=1, the section  $\xi(1):=(\zeta_1)_{|F_1|}$  has the requested properties.
- If  $k \in \{1, \ldots, m-1\}$  and a convenient section  $\xi(k)$  in  $E_{|G_k}$  is already constructed, then there exists a unital \*-homomorphism  $\pi_k : \mathcal{T}_2 *_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{T}_2 \to \mathcal{T}(E)_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}}$  such that  $\pi_k(j_0(s_1)) = \ell(\xi(k))_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}}$  and  $\pi_k(j_1(s_1)) = \ell(\zeta_{k+1})_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}}$ . The partial isometry  $v_k := \ell(\zeta_{k+1})_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}} \cdot \ell(\xi(k))^*_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}}$  belongs to the subalgebra  $(\mathcal{T}(E)_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}})^{\alpha}$  and the two projections  $1 v_k^* v_k$ ,  $1 v_k v_k^*$  are properly infinite and full in  $\mathcal{T}(E)_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}}$ . Thus, there is by [BRR08, Lemma 2.4] a unitary  $u_k \in \mathcal{U}(\mathcal{T}(E)_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}})$  such that  $u_k \cdot \ell(\xi(k))_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}} = \ell(\zeta_{k+1})_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}}$  and  $[u_k] = [1]$  in  $K_1(\mathcal{T}(E)_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}})$ . There is also by assumption a unitary  $z_{k+1} \in \mathcal{T}(E)^{\alpha}_{|F_{k+1}}$  satisfying

 $z_{k+1|G_k \cap F_{k+1}} \cdot \ell(\xi(k))_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}} = \ell(\zeta_{k+1})_{|G_k \cap F_{k+1}}^{-1}.$  The only section  $\xi(k+1) \in E_{|G_{k+1}|}$  such that  $\xi(k+1)_{|G_k|} = \xi(k)$  and  $\xi(k+1)_{|F_{k+1}|} = \overline{q}(z_{k+1})^* \cdot (\xi_{k+1})_{|F_{k+1}|}$  satisfies  $\|\xi(k+1)_x\| = 1$  for all point  $x \in G_{k+1}$ .

Remark 4.3. The complex Hilbert cube  $\mathfrak{X} := \{x \in \mathbb{C}; |x| \leq 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$  is a compact space when equipped with the distance  $d((x_p), (y_p)) = \sum_p 2^{-p-2} |x_p - y_p|$ . The nontrivial separable Hilbert  $C(\mathfrak{X})$ -module  $E_{DD}$  constructed by J. Dixmier and A. Douady ([DD63], [BK04a, Proposition 3.6]) has infinite dimensional fibres and every section  $\zeta \in E_{DD}$  satisfies  $\zeta_x = 0$  for at least one point  $x = (x_p) \in \mathfrak{X}$ . Thus, it does not verify the assumptions for the assertion 2) of Proposition 4.2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The restriction  $z_{k+1|G_k\cap F_{k+1}}$  belongs to  $\mathcal{U}_0(\mathcal{T}(\underline{E})_{|G_k\cap F_{k+1}})\cdot u_k$  by [BRR08, Lemma 2.4].

Question 4.4. The Pimsner-Toeplitz algebra  $\mathcal{T}(E_{DD})$  is locally purely infinite ([BK04b, Definition 1.3]) since all its simple quotients are isomorphic to the Cuntz algebra  $\mathcal{O}_{\infty}$  ([BK04b, Proposition 5.1]). But is  $\mathcal{T}(E_{DD})$  properly infinite?

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