# (m,n)-purity for modules

by

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To Professor Ion D. Ion on the occasion of his 70th Birthday

#### Abstract

We consider (m, n)-purity for modules and show that the main properties of purity may be refined for (m, n)-purity. We give connections with (m, n)-injectivity and (n, m)-flatness of modules.

**Key Words**: (m, n)-purity, (m, n)-injective module, (n, m)-flat module.

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## 1 Introduction

Purity in module categories and its generalizations is a topic present in the literature since the 1960s, with early work by P.M. Cohn [2], B. Maddox [7], A.P. Mishina and L.A. Skornjakov [8], B. Stenström [10] and R.B. Warfield Jr. [12], to mention just few of them. Its importance became clear in the years to come, not only in module theory, but also in related fields such as model theory [9] or the theory of locally finitely presented categories [3].

In this note we consider a generalization of the purity in the sense of P.M. Cohn [2] for a short exact sequence of modules by asking for its exactness when tensored by any (n, m)-presented module. We give some basic properties and see that (m, n)-purity coincides with  $\mathcal{P}$ -purity in the sense of R. Wisbauer [13, p.274], where  $\mathcal{P}$  is the class consisting of all (m, n)-presented modules. We characterize (m, n)-injectivity and (n, m)-flatness, introduced and studied in [1] and [14], in terms of (m, n)-purity.

Throughout m and n are non-zero natural numbers, R is an associative ring with non-zero identity and R-Mod is the category of left R-modules. By a homomorphism we mean an R-homomorphism. The injective hull of a left R-module A is denoted by E(A). A right R-module M is called (n,m)-presented if there exists an exact sequence  $R^m \to R^n \to M \to 0$  of right R-modules, or equivalently, there exists an exact sequence  $0 \to K \to R^n \to M \to 0$  of right R-modules

with K m-generated. Clearly, every (n, m)-presented right R-module is finitely presented.

# 2 (m, n)-purity

## **Definition 2.1.** An exact sequence

$$0 \to A \xrightarrow{f} B \xrightarrow{g} C \to 0 \tag{1}$$

of left R-modules is called (m,n)-pure if the functor  $M \otimes_R$  — is left exact with respect to (1) for every (n,m)-presented right R-module M.

That is, (1) induces an exact sequence

$$0 \to M \otimes_B A \to M \otimes_B B \to M \otimes_B C \to 0$$

for every (n, m)-presented right R-module M.

In this case, f is called an (m, n)-pure monomorphism, g an (m, n)-pure epimorphism and Im f an (m, n)-pure submodule of B.

*Remarks.* Let  $f: A \to B$  be a monomorphism.

- (a) f is pure if and only if f is (m, n)-pure for every  $m, n \ge 1$ .
- (b) f is RD-pure if and only if f is (1, 1)-pure.
- (c) A monomorphism which is (m,1)-pure for every  $m \geq 1$  was called c-pure in [4], whereas a monomorphism which is (1,n)-pure for every  $n \geq 1$  was called F/U-pure in [5].
- (d) Let  $m' \geq m$ ,  $n' \geq n$ . If f is (m',n)-pure, then it is (m,n)-pure. Also, if f is (m,n')-pure, then it is (m,n)-pure. In particular, (m,n)-purity implies RD-purity.
- (e) (m,n)-purity and purity are the same over Prüfer domains. This follows by the above remarks and by the fact that RD-purity and purity are the same over Prüfer domains [12].

For a left R-module M, denote by  $M^*$  its character module, that is,  $M^* = \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(M, \bar{\mathbb{Q}})$ , where  $\bar{\mathbb{Q}} = \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$ . Then the exact sequence (1) induces the exact sequence  $0 \to C^* \to B^* \to A^* \to 0$  of right R-modules.

The main characterizations of (m, n)-purity are given in the following theorem. The proof is adapted after [11, Chapter I, Proposition 11.2] and [13, 34.5].

**Theorem 2.2.** Consider the exact sequence (1). The following are equivalent:

- (i) The sequence (1) is (m,n)-pure.
- (ii) The sequence  $0 \to C^* \to B^* \to A^* \to 0$  is (n, m)-pure.
- (iii) The functor  $\operatorname{Hom}_R(M,-)$  is exact with respect to (1) for every (m,n)-presented left R-module M.

(iv) For every commutative diagram of left R-modules

there exists a homomorphism  $h: \mathbb{R}^m \to A$  such that p = hq.

(v) Every system

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m} r_{ij} x_j = a_i$$

with  $r_{ij} \in R$ ,  $a_i \in A$ , i = 1, ..., n, j = 1, ..., m, with n equations and m unknowns which is solvable in B is already solvable in A.

**Proof**:  $(v) \Longrightarrow (i)$  Let M be an (n,m)-presented left R-module, so that there is an exact sequence  $R^m \stackrel{\alpha}{\to} R^n \to M \to 0$ . We get the following commutative diagram with exact rows

where u, v are monomorphisms.

By [11, Chapter I, Lemma 11.3], w is a monomorphism if and only if

$$\operatorname{Im} (\alpha \otimes 1_B) \cap \operatorname{Im} v = \operatorname{Im} (v(\alpha \otimes 1_A)).$$

We prove this last equality. The homomorphism  $\alpha$  is given by an  $n \times m$ -matrix  $(r_{ij})$  with entries in R. Then  $z \in \operatorname{Im}(\alpha \otimes 1_B) \cap \operatorname{Im} v$  if and only if  $z = \sum_{j=1}^m (r_{ij}) \otimes x_j \in R^n \otimes A$  is the image of an element  $(x_1, \ldots, x_m) \in B^m \cong R^m \otimes_R B$  and the image of an element  $(a_1, \ldots, a_n) \in A^n \cong R^n \otimes_R A$ . This happens when  $\sum_{j=1}^m r_{ij}x_j = a_i$  for  $i = 1, \ldots, n$ , that is, the system has a solution in B. By hypothesis, this is equivalent to the existence of a solution of the system in A, that is, z is the image of an element from  $A^m \cong R^m \otimes_R A$ , hence  $z \in \operatorname{Im}(v(\alpha \otimes 1_A))$ .

Now w is a monomorphism, showing that the sequence (1) is (m, n)-pure.

- $(i) \Longrightarrow (v)$  The  $n \times m$ -matrix  $(r_{ij})$  determines a homomorphism  $\alpha : \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R}^n$ . Take  $M = \mathbb{R}^n / \text{Im } \alpha$  and reverse the proof for  $(v) \Longrightarrow (i)$ .
- $(ii) \iff (iii)$  Let M be an (m,n)-presented left R-module. Since M is finitely presented and  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$  is injective, we have the isomorphism

$$\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(D, \overline{\mathbb{Q}}) \otimes_R M \cong \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\operatorname{Hom}_R(M, D), \overline{\mathbb{Q}})$$

for every left R-module D [13, 25.5]. Then the sequence

$$0 \to C^* \otimes_R M \to B^* \otimes_R M \to A^* \otimes_R M \to 0$$

is exact if and only if the sequence

$$0 \to (\operatorname{Hom}_R(M,C))^* \to (\operatorname{Hom}_R(M,B))^* \to (\operatorname{Hom}_R(M,A))^* \to 0$$

is exact if and only if the sequence

$$0 \to \operatorname{Hom}_R(M,A) \to \operatorname{Hom}_R(M,B) \to \operatorname{Hom}_R(M,C) \to 0$$

is exact, because  $\bar{\mathbb{Q}}$  is an injective cogenerator. This shows the equivalence.

- $(iii) \iff (iv)$  By Homotopy Lemma [13, Lemma 7.16].
- $(iv) \iff (v)$  The homomorphisms p and q from (iv) are determined by the  $a_i \in A$  and by an  $n \times m$ -matrix  $(r_{ij})$  with entries in R respectively. Any solution of the system in R yields a homomorphism R is R. Now the conclusion is immediate.

**Theorem 2.3.** Let R be commutative, Q be an R-module and consider the exact sequences

$$0 \to A \to B \to C \to 0 \tag{1}$$

$$0 \to \operatorname{Hom}_{R}(C, Q) \to \operatorname{Hom}_{R}(B, Q) \to \operatorname{Hom}_{R}(A, Q) \to 0 \tag{2}$$

- (i) If Q is injective and (1) is (m, n)-pure, then (2) is (n, m)-pure.
- (ii) If Q is a cogenerator of R-Mod and (2) is (n,m)-pure, then (1) is (m,n)-pure.

**Proof**: Follow the proof of Theorem 2.2.

Recall that for a non-empty class  $\mathcal{P}$  of left R-modules, an exact sequence (1) is called  $\mathcal{P}$ -pure if the functor  $\operatorname{Hom}_R(P,-)$  is exact with respect to (1) for every  $P \in \mathcal{P}$  [13, p.274]. By Theorem 2.2, we see that (m,n)-purity means  $\mathcal{P}$ -purity, where the class  $\mathcal{P}$  consists of all (m,n)-presented left R-modules. Hence all the general properties of  $\mathcal{P}$ -purity hold in our case. In what follows we discuss some specific ones.

Let us characterize (m, n)-pure sequences of modules in the case of a commutative ring R.

**Theorem 2.4.** Let R be commutative. The following are equivalent:

- (i) The sequence (1) is (m, n)-pure.
- (ii) The exact sequence

$$0 \to \operatorname{Hom}_R(C, E(S)) \to \operatorname{Hom}_R(B, E(S)) \to \operatorname{Hom}_R(A, E(S)) \to 0$$

is (n, m)-pure for every simple R-module S.

**Proof**:  $(i) \Longrightarrow (ii)$  By Theorem 2.3.

 $(ii) \Longrightarrow (i)$  Let  $(S_i)_{i \in I}$  be a representative set of isomorphism classes of simple R-modules. Let M be an (m,n)-presented R-module. For an R-module X, denote  $X_i = \operatorname{Hom}_R(X, E(S_i))$ . Now apply the functor  $M \otimes_R -$  to each exact sequence  $0 \to C_i \to B_i \to A_i \to 0$ , take the direct product of the obtained sequences and use the isomorphism

$$M \otimes_R (\prod_{j \in J} D_j) \cong \prod_{j \in J} (M \otimes_R D_j),$$

which holds for any finitely presented R-module M and any family  $(D_j)_{j\in J}$  of R-modules [11, Chapter I, Lemma 13.2], to get the exact sequence

$$0 \to M \otimes_R (\prod_{i \in I} C_i) \to M \otimes_R (\prod_{i \in I} B_i) \to M \otimes_R (\prod_{i \in I} A_i) \to 0$$

which shows that the exact sequence

$$0 \to \prod_{i \in I} \operatorname{Hom}_R(C, E(S_i)) \to \prod_{i \in I} \operatorname{Hom}_R(B, E(S_i)) \to \prod_{i \in I} \operatorname{Hom}_R(A, E(S_i)) \to 0$$

is (n, m)-pure. Then the exact sequence

$$0 \to \operatorname{Hom}_R(C, D) \to \operatorname{Hom}_R(B, D) \to \operatorname{Hom}_R(A, D) \to 0$$

is (n,m)-pure, where  $D=\prod_{i\in I}E(S_i)$  is a cogenerator of R-Mod. Now by Theorem 2.3, the exact sequence  $0\to A\to B\to C\to 0$  is (m,n)-pure.

Recall that a monomorphism  $f: A \to B$  is called *locally split* if for every  $a \in A$ , there exists a homomorphism  $g: B \to A$  such that g(f(a)) = a. It is known that every locally split monomorphism is pure [6, p.163].

**Theorem 2.5.** Let A be a submodule of the left R-module  $R^m$ . Then the following are equivalent:

- (i) A is (m, n)-pure in  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .
- (ii) The inclusion  $i: A \to R^m$  is locally split.
- (iii) A is pure in  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .

**Proof**:  $(i) \Longrightarrow (ii)$  Let  $a_1 \in A$ . Also, let  $a_2, \ldots, a_n \in A$  and let  $\{e_1, \ldots, e_n\}$  be a basis of  $R^n$ . Define the homomorphisms  $p: R^n \to A$  by  $p(e_k) = a_k$  for  $k = 1, \ldots, n$  and  $q: R^n \to R^m$  by  $q(e_k) = a_k$  for  $k = 1, \ldots, n$ . Now by Theorem 2.2, there exists a homomorphism  $h: R^m \to A$  such that hq = p. Then  $h(a_1) = h(q(e_1)) = p(e_1) = a_1$ . Thus i is locally split.

 $(ii) \Longrightarrow (iii)$  By [6, p.163].

$$(iii) \Longrightarrow (i)$$
 Clear.

## 3 (m, n)-pure-injectivity

**Definition 3.1.** A left R-module M is called (m,n)-pure-injective (respectively (m,n)-pure-projective) if is injective (respectively projective) with respect to every (m,n)-pure exact sequence of left R-modules.

Clearly, every (m, n)-pure-injective (respectively (m, n)-pure-projective) left R-module is pure-injective (respectively pure-projective).

**Theorem 3.2.**  $\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(M, \overline{\mathbb{Q}})$  is an (m, n)-pure-injective left R-module for every (n, m)-presented right R-module M.

**Proof**: Let M be an (n, m)-presented right R-module and denote

$$X = \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(M, \overline{\mathbb{Q}}).$$

Considering an (m, n)-pure exact sequence (1), we have the exact sequence

$$0 \to M \otimes_R A \to M \otimes_R B \to M \otimes_R C \to 0$$

Since D is injective, we have the exact sequence

$$0 \to \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(M \otimes_R A, \bar{\mathbb{Q}}) \to \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(M \otimes_R B, \bar{\mathbb{Q}}) \to \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(M \otimes_R C, \bar{\mathbb{Q}}) \to 0$$

By the adjunction we get the exact sequence

$$0 \to \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(C, X) \to \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(B, X) \to \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(A, X) \to 0$$

Thus 
$$X = \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(M, \overline{\mathbb{Q}})$$
 is  $(m, n)$ -pure-injective.

**Theorem 3.3.** The following are equivalent:

- (i) The sequence (1) is (m, n)-pure.
- (ii) Every (m,n)-pure-injective left R-module is injective with respect to the sequence (1).
- (iii)  $\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(M, \overline{\mathbb{Q}})$  is injective with respect to the sequence (1) for every (n, m)-presented right R-module M.

**Proof**:  $(i) \Longrightarrow (ii)$  Clear.

- $(ii) \Longrightarrow (iii)$  By Theorem 3.2.
- $(iii) \Longrightarrow (i)$  Let M be an (n,m)-presented right R-module and denote  $X = \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(M, \overline{\mathbb{Q}})$ . By hypothesis, we have the exact sequence

$$0 \to \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(C, X) \to \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(B, X) \to \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(A, X) \to 0$$

By the adjunction we get the exact sequence

$$0 \to \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(M \otimes_R A, \bar{\mathbb{Q}}) \to \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(M \otimes_R B, \bar{\mathbb{Q}}) \to \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(M \otimes_R C, \bar{\mathbb{Q}}) \to 0$$

whence we get the exact sequence

$$0 \to M \otimes_R A \to M \otimes_R B \to M \otimes_R C \to 0$$

because  $\bar{\mathbb{Q}}$  is a cogenerator. Thus the sequence (1) is (m,n)-pure.

*Remark.* Theorem 3.3 still holds if one replaces  $\mathbb{Z}$  by a commutative ring R and  $\mathbb{Q}$  by an injective cogenerator Q of R-Mod.

**Theorem 3.4.** Every left R-module is an (m, n)-pure submodule of an (m, n)-pure-injective left R-module.

**Proof**: By Theorem 3.3 and the dual of [10, Proposition 2.3].

For a left R-module N we denote by  $M_{kl}(N)$  the set of formal  $k \times l$ -matrices with entries in N. Also, for  $K \subseteq M_{hk}(N)$ , denote by  $\mathbf{r}_{M_{kl}(N)}(K)$  the right annihilator of K in  $M_{kl}(N)$ . If N is a left R-module and K is an m-generated submodule of the left R-module  $R^n$ , then there is an isomorphism

$$\varphi: \mathrm{r}_{M_{n,1}(N)}(K) \to \mathrm{Hom}_R(R^n/K, N)$$

given by  $\varphi(u)(r+K) = ru$  for  $u \in r_{M_{n,1}(N)}(K)$  and  $r \in \mathbb{R}^n$  [14, p.151].

**Theorem 3.5.** Let R be commutative. The following are equivalent:

- (i) The sequence (1) is (m, n)-pure.
- (ii) For every m-generated submodule K of the R-module  $R^n$  and for every simple R-module S,  $r_{M_{n,1}(E(S))}(K)$  is injective with respect to (1).

**Proof**: Consider the cogenerator  $Q = \prod_{i \in I} E(S_i)$  of R-Mod, where  $(S_i)_{i \in I}$  is a representative set of isomorphism classes of simple R-modules. By the remark following Theorem 3.3, the sequence (1) is (m,n)-pure if and only if  $\prod_{i \in I} \operatorname{Hom}_R(R^n/K, E(S_i)) \cong \operatorname{Hom}_R(R^n/K, Q)$  is injective with respect to (1) for every m-generated submodule K of the R-module  $R^n$ . But this holds if and only if  $\operatorname{r}_{M_{n_1}(E(S))}(K) \cong \operatorname{Hom}_R(R^n/K, E(S))$  is injective with respect to (1) for every simple R-module S.

### 4 On (m, n)-injective and (m, n)-flat modules

Now let us give characterizations of (m, n)-injectivity and (m, n)-flatness in terms of (m, n)-purity.

**Definition 4.1.** [1] A left R-module A is called (m,n)-injective if every homomorphism from an n-generated submodule I of the left R-module  $R^m$  to A extends to a homomorphism from  $R^m$  to A.

**Theorem 4.2.** The following are equivalent for a left R-module A:

- (i) A is (m, n)-injective.
- (ii) Every exact sequence of left R-modules  $0 \to A \to B \to C \to 0$  is (m,n)-pure.
- (iii) There exists an (m,n)-pure exact sequence of left R-modules  $0 \to A \to B \to C \to 0$  with B (m,n)-injective (injective).

**Proof**: By [14, Proposition 2.3], A is (m, n)-injective if and only if every exact sequence  $0 \to A \to B \to C \to 0$  of left R-modules with C (m, n)-presented splits. But this condition is equivalent to (ii) and (iii) by [13, 35.1].

**Corollary 4.3.** Let  $0 \to A \to B \to C \to 0$  be an exact sequence of left R-modules with B(m,n)-injective. Then the sequence is (m,n)-pure if and only if A is (m,n)-injective.

By Theorem 4.2, we see that (m, n)-injectivity means absolute  $\mathcal{P}$ -purity in the sense of R. Wisbauer [13, p.297], where the class  $\mathcal{P}$  consists of all (m, n)-presented left R-modules.

**Definition 4.4.** [14] A left R-module C is called (n,m)-flat if  $i \otimes_R 1_C : I \otimes_R C \to R^n \otimes_R C$  is a monomorphism for every m-generated submodule I of the right R-module  $R^n$ .

Note that a left R-module C is (n, m)-flat if and only if the right R-module  $C^*$  is (n, m)-injective by [14, Theorem 4.3]. We use this property for giving a direct proof of the following result.

**Theorem 4.5.** The following are equivalent for a left R-module C:

- (i) C is (n,m)-flat.
- (ii) Every exact sequence of left R-modules  $0 \to A \to B \to C \to 0$  is (m,n)-pure.
- (iii) There exists an (m,n)-pure exact sequence of left R-modules  $0 \to A \to B \to C \to 0$  with B(n,m)-flat (projective, free).
- **Proof**: (i)  $\Longrightarrow$  (ii) Since C is (n,m)-flat,  $C^*$  is (n,m)-injective. By Theorem 4.2, the exact sequence  $0 \to C^* \to B^* \to A^* \to 0$  is (n,m)-pure. Now by Theorem 2.2 the exact sequence  $0 \to A \to B \to C \to 0$  is (m,n)-pure.
  - $(ii) \Longrightarrow (iii)$  Clear.
- $(iii) \Longrightarrow (i)$  Since the sequence  $0 \to A \to B \to C \to 0$  is (m,n)-pure, the exact sequence  $0 \to C^* \to B^* \to A^* \to 0$  is (n,m)-pure by Theorem 2.2. But B is (n,m)-flat, hence  $B^*$  is (n,m)-injective. Now by Corollary 4.3, it follows that  $C^*$  is (n,m)-injective, so that C is (n,m)-flat.

**Corollary 4.6.** Let  $0 \to A \to B \to C \to 0$  be an exact sequence of left R-modules with B(n,m)-flat. Then the sequence is (m,n)-pure if and only if C is (n,m)-flat.

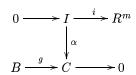
By Theorem 4.5, we see that (n,m)-flatness means  $\mathcal{P}$ -flatness in the sense of R. Wisbauer [13, p.304], where the class  $\mathcal{P}$  consists of all (m,n)-presented left R-modules.

Now let us give a couple of results related to some coherence properties. Recall that a ring R is called left (n,m)-coherent if every m-generated submodule of the left R-module  $R^n$  is finitely presented [14, p.156].

**Theorem 4.7.** (i) Suppose that every n-generated submodule of  $R^m$  is (m, n)-presented. Then for every (m, n)-pure exact sequence  $0 \to A \to B \to C \to 0$  of left R-modules with B (m, n)-injective, also C is (m, n)-injective.

(ii) Suppose that for every (m,n)-pure exact sequence  $0 \to A \to B \to C \to 0$  of left R-modules with B (m,n)-injective, also C is (m,n)-injective. Then R is left (n,m)-coherent.

**Proof**: (i) Let  $0 \to A \xrightarrow{f} B \xrightarrow{g} C \to 0$  be an (m,n)-pure exact sequence of left R-modules with B (m,n)-injective. Let I be an n-generated submodule of  $R^m$  and let  $\alpha:I\to C$  be a homomorphism. We have the diagram



where i is the inclusion. Since I is (m,n)-presented by hypothesis and the epimorphism g is (m,n)-pure, by Theorem 2.2 there exists a homomorphism  $\beta:I\to B$  such that  $g\beta=\alpha$ . Now by the (m,n)-injectivity of B, there exists a homomorphism  $\gamma:R^m\to B$  such that  $\gamma i=\beta$ . Then  $g\gamma i=\alpha$ , showing that C is (m,n)-injective.

(ii) In order to prove that R is left (n,m)-coherent, by [14, Theorem 5.7] it is enough to show that every direct limit of (n,m)-injective modules is (n,m)-injective. Let  $(L_i, f_{ij})_I$  be a direct system of (n,m)-injective modules and denote by L its direct limit. Then  $\bigoplus_I L_i$  is (n,m)-injective. Since the canonical epimorphism  $\bigoplus_I L_i \to L$  is pure, hence (n,m)-pure, we deduce that L is (n,m)-injective by hypothesis.

**Theorem 4.8.** (i) Suppose that every m-generated submodule of  $R^n$  is (m, n)-presented. Then for every (m, n)-pure exact sequence  $0 \to A \to B \to C \to 0$  of left R-modules with B (n, m)-injective, also C is (n, m)-injective.

(ii) Suppose that for every (m,n)-pure exact sequence  $0 \to A \to B \to C \to 0$  of left R-modules with B (n,m)-injective, also C is (n,m)-injective. Then R is left (n,m)-coherent.

**Proof**: Similar to the proof of Theorem 4.7.

Note added in proof. It may be possible that some of the present results have been established in: Z. Zhu, J. Chen, X. Zhang,  $On\ (m,n)$ -purity of modules, East-West J. Math. 5 (2003), No. 1, 35–44, paper unaccessible to the authors.

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