



A novel and efficient method for the synthesis of polyfluoroarenesulfonyl bromides from polyfluoroarenethiols

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 3 July 2009

Received in revised form 16 September 2009

Accepted 19 September 2009

Available online 28 September 2009

Dedicated to Prof. Dr. H. C. Hermann-Josef Frohn on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

Keywords:

Polyfluoroarenesulfonyl bromide

Polyfluoroarenethiol

Oxidation

Bromine

Nitric acid

ABSTRACT

The first general methodology has been developed for the synthesis of polyfluoroarenesulfonyl bromides from polyfluoroarenethiols. At heating of polyfluoroarenethiols with a mixture of Br₂ and fuming HNO₃ or Br₂, HNO₃ and H₂SO₄ polyfluoroarenesulfonyl bromides were obtained in good yields.

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1. Introduction

Among the chemical properties of polyfluoroaromatic compounds, the reactions of polyfluoroarenes with electrophilic reagents, which consist in interaction of the latter with a functional group of polyfluoroarenes, are of interest. These reactions can transform simple readily installed substituents in perfluoroaromatic ring to more complicated and otherwise inaccessible functional group. Some examples of these reactions are considered in [1,2]. In this connection it seemed reasonable to study the transformation of polyfluoroarenethiols under the action of electrophilic reagents into practically inaccessible sulfonyl bromide derivatives of polyfluoroarenes.

Previously, pentafluorobenzenesulfonyl bromide (**1**) was described as the only representative of polyfluoroaromatic sulfonyl bromides. For the synthesis of compound **1**, the reaction of pentafluorophenylmagnesium chloride with sulfur dioxide and bromine was performed; this also produces a significant quantity of bis(pentafluorophenyl)sulfone. The chemistry of pentafluorobenzenesulfonyl bromide obtained was poor [3].

Polyfluoroarenesulfonyl bromides could be of considerable interest as sources of polyfluoroarenesulfonyl radicals (cf. [4]). In

this connection polyfluoroarenesulfonyl bromides could be used for introduction of polyfluoroarenesulfonyl group in olefins.

It has been shown that N-substituted polyfluorobenzenesulfonylamides inhibited the growth of cancer cells in vitro [5].

Therefore, the relative reactivities of polyfluoroarenesulfonyl chlorides and bromides with amines could be of interest for polyfluoroarenesulfonamide synthesis. It is known that polyfluoroarenesulfonyl chlorides are used for preparation of the corresponding sulfonamides [6].

In order to expand knowledge of the properties of polyfluoroarenesulfonyl halides it seems interesting to study the reactivities of Ar_fSO₂X (X = F, Cl, Br) to a more complete extent for a broader understanding of the synthetic aspects of these compounds.

In the present paper, the results of investigation of the reactions of polyfluoroarenethiols with Br₂ and fuming HNO₃ or other bromine-containing oxidative systems are considered, the objective being to determine the possibility of forming polyfluoroarenesulfonyl bromides.

2. Results and discussion

We have found that the action of mixture of bromine and fuming nitric acid on pentafluorobenzenethiol (**2**) affords pentafluorobenzenesulfonyl bromide **1** in good yield (Scheme 1).

The formation of compound **1** can also take place in the reactions of thiol **2** with Br₂, HBr, NaBr and acids (HNO₃, H₂SO₄,

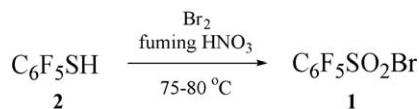
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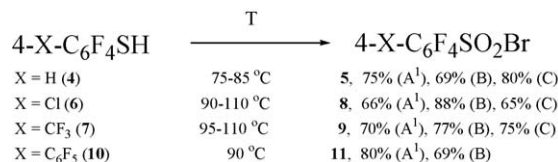
Table 1
Methods of synthesis of compound **1**.

Method	A ¹	A ²	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Reagents	Fuming HNO ₃ + Br ₂	HNO ₃ + Br ₂	HNO ₃ + H ₂ SO ₄ + Br ₂	HNO ₃ + H ₂ SO ₄ + HBr	Br ₂ + H ₂ SO ₄	Br ₂ + CH ₃ COOH	Br ₂ + H ₂ O	NaBr + fuming HNO ₃	NaBr + HNO ₃ + H ₂ SO ₄
Temp. (°C)	80	80	80	75–80	80–90	75–80	80–90	85–95	75–85
Yield of 1	87	47	84	83	^a	^a	44 ^a	76	67

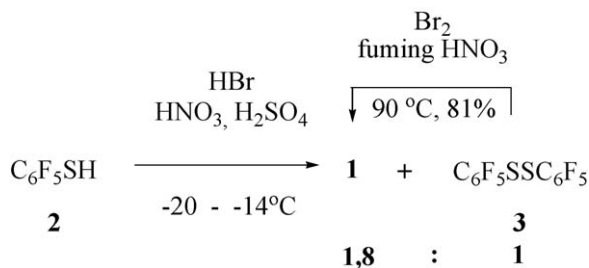
^a The reaction mixtures obtained by methods D, E and F contained **1** alongside bis(pentafluorophenyl)disulfide **3** in the ratio (**1**:**3**, according to ¹⁹F NMR): ~10:1 (method D), ~8:1 (method E), 8.3:1 (method F).



Scheme 1.



Scheme 3.



Scheme 2.

CH₃COOH) or with Br₂ and H₂O. The results are presented in Table 1.

These data permit us to conclude that the best result was obtained by the reaction of compound **2** with the Br₂ and fuming nitric acid (d 1.52) (method A¹). In the reactions of thiol **2** with mixtures of concentrated nitric (d 1.36) and sulfuric (d 1.83) acids and Br₂ (method B), or concentrated nitric, sulfuric and hydrobromic (d 1.49) acids (method C) or suspension of sodium bromide in fuming nitric acid (method G), the compound **1** was obtained in good yields. The other methods mentioned in Table 1 resulted in difficultly separable mixtures of sulfonyl bromide **1** and disulfide **3**.

When thiol **2** reacted with HBr, HNO₃ and H₂SO₄ at –20 °C, disulfide **3** was obtained alongside sulfonyl bromide **1**. Disulfide **3** was converted to sulfonyl bromide **1** (81% yield) when heated with a mixture of Br₂ and fuming HNO₃ (Scheme 2).

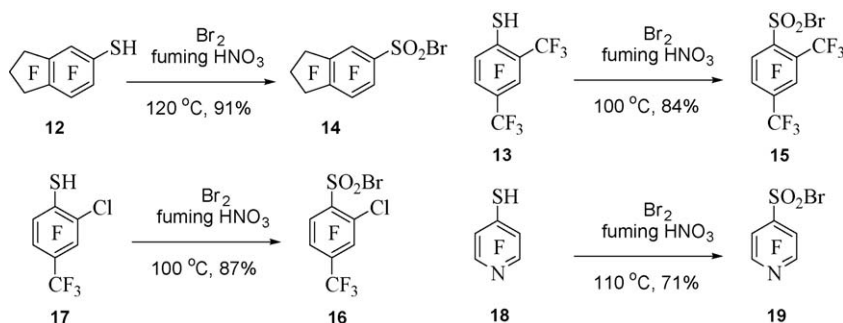
The methods A¹, B and C previously mentioned as affording good results were used for the synthesis of new polyfluoroarenesulfonyl bromides. Thus, 2,3,5,6-tetrafluorobenzenethiol (**4**) was converted to 2,3,5,6-tetrafluorobenzenesulfonyl bromide (**5**) in 80% yield (method C). The transformation of 4-chloro-2,3,5,6-tetrafluorobenzenethiol (**6**) and 4-trifluoromethyl-2,3,5,6-tetrafluorobenzenethiol (**7**) to the corresponding sulfonyl bromides (**8**)

and (**9**) proceeded at higher temperatures. The best yields of (**8**) and (**9**) were obtained by method B (Scheme 3).

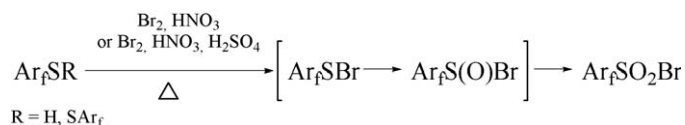
It has been shown that the use of method C resulted in the synthesis of polyfluoroarenesulfonyl bromides containing strong electron-acceptor group in the ring from the corresponding polyfluoroarene thiols in significantly low yields. For example, nonafluoro-5-indanethiol **12** and 2,4-bis(trifluoromethyl)-3,5,6-trifluorobenzenethiol **13** were converted to nonafluoro-5-indane-sulfonyl bromide **14** and 2,4-bis(trifluoromethyl)-3,5,6-trifluorobenzenesulfonyl bromide **15** to a little extent. At the same time methods A¹ and B were used for the preparation of sulfonyl bromide **14** in 91% yield and 69% yield respectively. Method A¹ was the most suitable one for the synthesis of 2,4-bis(trifluoromethyl)-3,5,6-trifluorobenzenesulfonyl bromide (**15**) from thiol (**13**) and 2-chloro-4-trifluoromethyl-3,5,6-trifluorobenzenesulfonyl bromide (**16**) from thiol (**17**). An important application of the method A¹ is the transformation of 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoropyridinethiol (**18**) into the corresponding sulfonyl bromide (**19**) (Scheme 4).

Electrophilic brominating agents [7] and nitronium cation [8] take probably part in the formation of polyfluoroarenesulfonyl bromides. The intermediates Ar₇SBr [9] could be formed from polyfluoroarene thiols under action of electrophilic species. It is possible that formation of polyfluorinated diaryl disulfides proceeds with participation of Ar₇SBr (cf. [10]). Conversion of Ar₇SR (R = Br, SA_rF) under the action of, for example, nitronium cation or Br₂ and ONO₂[–] to Ar₇SO₂Br could include intermediate formation of Ar₇S(O)Br. The proposed route of the formation of polyfluoroarenesulfonyl bromides from polyfluoroarene thiols and the corresponding disulfides could be illustrated in the following scheme (Scheme 5).

This way is in agreement with the data of oxidative chlorination of polyfluoroarene thiols into polyfluoroarenesulfonyl chlorides [6]



Scheme 4.



Scheme 5.

Table 2
Molar ratios of Ar_rSX (X=H, SAR_r, 1.0 mol) to electrophilic reagents.

Compound	Method	Br ₂	HNO ₃	H ₂ SO ₄	Product	Yield (%)
3	A ¹	8.0	9.7		1	81
4	C	2.2 ^a	4.2	9.8	5	80
6	B	2.7	5.2	11.2	8	88
7	B	2.5	4.6	8.5	9	77
10	A ¹	5.3	9.9		11	80
12	A ¹	2.7	7.9		14	91
13	A ¹	3.4	8.0		15	84
17	A ¹	2.4	5.8		16	87
18	A ¹	4.0	11.8		19	71

^a Molar ratio of HBr.

and the conversion of sulfenyl chloride groups containing in polyfluorinated aliphatic polymers and alkane derivative to the sulfonyl chlorides by reaction in CFC-113 with Cl₂ in trifluoroacetic acid and water at about 100 °C or with aqueous sodium hypochlorite. Treatment of sulfenyl chloride derivatives of the polymers with HOF-acetonitrile reagent afforded mixtures of the corresponding sulfonyl chloride and sulfonyl fluoride derivatives [11].

However, many details of the mechanism of the formation of polyfluoroarenesulfonyl bromides including also the question of participation of Ar_rSO₂H in the formation of Ar_rSO₂Br still remain to be clarified.

3. Conclusion

Investigations of the reactions of polyfluoroareneithiols with mixture of Br₂ and fuming HNO₃, Br₂, HNO₃ and H₂SO₄ along with other electrophilic brominating agents expand the knowledge of transformation of substituent groups of polyfluoroarenes under the action of electrophilic reagents. And, although the questions of the mechanism of these reactions are quite complex, we can hope that a further investigation of processes of this type will promote a solution of these problems to a more complete extent. The appearance of available polyfluoroarenesulfonyl bromides as a result of the investigations carried out opens up the possibilities in the investigation of the chemistry of these compounds in different reactions.

4. Experimental

¹⁹F and ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV-300 instrument at 282 and 300 MHz respectively for solutions in CCl₄. Chemical shifts are given in δ (ppm); the internal standards were C₆F₆ (−162.9 ppm from CCl₃F) and HMS (0.04 ppm from TMS). The ¹⁹F and ¹H chemical shifts are reported vs. CCl₃F and TMS. Coupling constants (*J*) are given in Hz. IR spectra were measured on a Bruker Vector 22 IR spectrophotometer. UV spectra were recorded on a Hewlett Packard 8453 UV spectrophotometer for solutions in hexane. High resolution mass spectra were recorded on the Finnigan MAT 8200 (EI mode, 70 eV). Polyfluoroareneithiols and disulfide **3** were synthesized according to [12,13].

General synthetic procedure: polyfluoroareneithiol (5–10 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred mixture of Br₂ and fuming HNO₃ (d 1.52) (method A¹), Br₂, HNO₃ (d 1.36) and H₂SO₄ (d 1.83) (method B) or HBr (d 1.49), HNO₃ and H₂SO₄ (method C) (Table 2). The

temperature rose to ~56 °C (methods A¹ and B), 30–35 °C (method C) as a result of the exothermic reactions which ensued. Vigorous evaluation of gas of brown color (probably nitrogen dioxide) ensued with changing of color of mixture. After complete addition of polyfluoroareneithiol, the resulting reaction mixture was heated for several hours (2–5 h) and then allowed to cool to room temperature. The mixture was poured into CH₂Cl₂ (25–50 mL), the organic layer was washed with 10% aqueous solution of Na₂CO₃ (2 × 25 mL) and dried over CaCl₂. The solvent was distilled off to give pure polyfluoroarenesulfonyl bromide.

4.1. Pentafluorobenzenesulfonyl bromide (1)

Compound **1** was obtained following the general synthetic procedure and using also other methods. Molar ratio (temperature, time of reaction): **2**:Br₂:HNO₃ (d 1.52) = 1.0:2.7:4.8 (80 °C, 2 h, 87% yield, method A¹); **2**:Br₂:HNO₃ (d 1.36) = 1.0:2.8:4.6 (80 °C, 2 h, 47% yield, method A²); **2**:Br₂:HNO₃:H₂SO₄ = 1.0:3.2:5.3:10.4 (80 °C, 2 h, 84% yield, method B); **2**:HBr:HNO₃:H₂SO₄ = 1.0:2.0:4.1:8.1 (80 °C, 2 h, 83% yield, method C); **2**:Br₂:H₂SO₄ (d 1.83) = 1.0:3.7:8.0 (80–90 °C, 6 h, method D); **2**:Br₂:CH₃COOH = 1.0:4.1:16.4 (75–80 °C, 2 h, method E); **2**:Br₂:H₂O = 1.0:4.6:8.4 (80–90 °C, 2 h, method F); **2**:NaBr:HNO₃ = 1.0:2.9:8.5 (85–95 °C, 2 h, 76% yield, method G); **2**:NaBr:HNO₃:H₂SO₄ = 1.0:2.1:4.2:8.3 (75–85 °C, 2 h, 67% yield, method H). Following the general synthetic procedure the methods D, E and F afforded reaction mixtures which contained **1** alongside disulfide **3** in the ratio (**1**:**3** according to ¹⁹F NMR): ~10:1 (method D), ~8:1 (method E), 8.3:1 (44% yield of **1**, method F). When NaBr is used (methods G and H) the reaction mixture is poured into CH₂Cl₂ and the solid residue is washed with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 5 mL). The CH₂Cl₂ solutions are combined and treated as described above.

Light-yellow oil. UV λ_{max}, nm (lg ε): 219 (3.95), 278 (3.36). IR (neat): ν 1644, 1503, 1389, 1306, 1269, 1175, 1103, 1025, 997, 728, 645, 592, 558, 538, 484 cm⁻¹. ¹⁹F NMR: δ −135.6 (m, 2F^{2,6}), −140.5 (tt, 1F⁴, J_{F⁴-F^{3,5}} = 21, J_{F⁴-F^{2,6}} = 9), −157.7 (m, 2F^{3,5}) [3]. Calcd for C₆BrF₅O₂S: 309.8723, found 309.8713. Anal. Calcd for C₆BrF₅O₂S: C 23.2; F 30.5; Br 25.7; S 10.3. Found: C 23.1; F 30.4; Br 25.5; S 10.3.

4.2. 2,3,5,6-Tetrafluorobenzenesulfonyl bromide (5)

Mp 51–52 °C, white crystals. UV λ_{max}, nm (lg ε): 215 (4.04), 291 (3.43). IR (KBr): ν 3075, 1504, 1386, 1374, 1249, 1189, 1159, 939, 877, 715, 589, 555, 501, 488 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR: δ 7.4 (tt, J_{H-F^{3,5}} = 9.5, J_{H-F^{2,6}} = 7.0). ¹⁹F NMR: δ −134.7 (m, 2F^{3,5}), −136.6 (m, 2F^{2,6}). Calcd for C₆HBrF₄O₂S: 291.8817, found 291.8824. Anal. Calcd for C₆HBrF₄O₂S: C 24.6; H 0.3; Br 27.3; F 25.9; S 10.9. Found: C 24.6; H 0.4; Br 27.2; F 25.7; S 10.8.

4.3. 4-Chloro-2,3,5,6-tetrafluorobenzenesulfonyl bromide (8)

Mp 41–42 °C, white crystals. UV λ_{max}, nm (lg ε): 229 (4.12), 287 (3.44). IR (KBr): ν 1631, 1493, 1459, 1395, 1373, 1270, 1170, 983, 963, 627, 567, 537 cm⁻¹. ¹⁹F NMR: δ −136.2 (m, 2F), −136.7 (m, 2F). Calcd for C₆BrClF₄O₂S: 325.8428. Found 325.8427. Anal. Calcd for C₆BrClF₄O₂S: C 22.0; Cl 10.8; F 23.2; S 9.8. Found: C 22.3; Cl 10.9; F 23.6; S 9.6.

4.4. 4-Trifluoromethyl-2,3,5,6-tetrafluorobenzenesulfonyl bromide (9)

Mp 51–52 °C, white crystals. UV λ_{max}, nm (lg ε): 218 (4.05), 298 (3.45). IR (KBr): ν 1504, 1385, 1326, 1169, 996, 945, 717, 670, 578, 556, 525 cm⁻¹. ¹⁹F NMR: δ −57.5 (t, 3F^{CF₃}, J_{CF₃-F^{3,5}} = 22), −134.1 (m, 2F^{2,6}), −135.6 (m, 2F^{3,5}). Calcd for C₇BrF₇O₂S: 359.8691. Found 359.8698. Anal. Calcd for C₇BrF₇O₂S: C 23.3; Br 22.1; F 36.8; S 8.9. Found: C 23.3; Br 22.0; F 36.6; S 9.0.

4.5. Nonafluorobiphenyl-4-sulfonyl bromide (11)

Mp 61–62 °C. UV λ_{\max} , nm (lg ϵ): 203 (4.36), 252 (4.15). IR (KBr): ν 1530, 1510, 1477, 1391, 1272, 1172, 1133, 1003, 975, 726, 618, 563, 539 cm^{-1} . ^{19}F NMR: δ –133.6 (m, $2\text{F}^{3,5}$), –135.6 (m, $2\text{F}^{2,6}$), –137.1 (m, $2\text{F}^{2,6'}$), –148.6 (tt, 1F^4 , $J_{\text{F}^4-\text{F}^{3,5}} = 21$, $J_{\text{F}^4-\text{F}^{2,6}} = 4$), –160.4 (m, $2\text{F}^{3,5'}$). Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{BrF}_9\text{O}_2\text{S}$: 457.8659, found 457.8669. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{BrF}_9\text{O}_2\text{S}$: C 31.4; Br 17.4; F 37.2; S 7.0. Found: C 31.5; Br 17.5; F 37.2; S 6.7.

4.6. Nonafluoroindane-5-sulfonyl bromide (14)

Mp 40.5–42.5 °C, white crystals. UV λ_{\max} , nm (lg ϵ): 211 (4.17), 286 (3.49). IR (KBr): ν 1501, 1395, 1328, 1311, 1250, 1207, 1177, 1091, 957, 914, 675, 586, 535 cm^{-1} . ^{19}F NMR: δ –107.6 (m, 2F^1 or 2F^3), –109.0 (m, 2F^3 or 2F^1), –110.0 (dt, 1F^4 , $J_{\text{F}^4-\text{F}^7} = 21$, $J_{\text{F}^4-\text{F}^3} = 8$), –116.3 (d, 1F^6 , $J_{\text{F}^6-\text{F}^7} = 21$), –130.5 (quintet, 2F^2 , $J_{\text{F}^2-\text{F}^1} = J_{\text{F}^2-\text{F}^3} = 3$), –135.9 (tt, 1F^7 , $J_{\text{F}^7-\text{F}^1} = 8$). Calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{BrF}_9\text{O}_2\text{S}$: 421.8656. Found 421.8659. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{BrF}_9\text{O}_2\text{S}$: C 25.6; Br 18.9; F 40.4; S 7.6. Found: C 25.6; Br 18.9; F 40.8; S 7.5.

4.7. 2,4-Bis(trifluoromethyl)-3,5,6-trifluorobenzenesulfonyl bromide (15)

Yellow oil. UV λ_{\max} , nm (lg ϵ): 307 (3.91). IR (neat): ν 1604, 1489, 1441, 1395, 1363, 1329, 1229, 1172, 952, 878, 738, 678, 655, 581, 561, 526 cm^{-1} . ^{19}F NMR: δ –50.9 (d, 3F, $2-\text{CF}_3$, $J_{\text{CF}_3-\text{F}^3} = 38$), –57.8 (dd, 3F, $4-\text{CF}_3$, $J_{\text{CF}_3-\text{F}^5} = 25$, $J_{\text{CF}_3-\text{F}^3} = 22$), –108.6 (m, 1F^3), –119.3 (m, 1F^5), –125.6 (dd, 1F^6 , $J_{\text{F}^5-\text{F}^6} = 22$, $J_{\text{F}^3-\text{F}^6} = 12.5$). Calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{BrF}_9\text{O}_2\text{S}$: 409.8655. Found 409.8653.

4.8. 2-Chloro-4-trifluoromethyl-3,5,6-trifluorobenzenesulfonyl bromide (16)

Yellow oil. UV λ_{\max} , nm (lg ϵ): 221 (3.96), 307 (3.61). IR (neat): ν 1471, 1390, 1336, 1312, 1244, 1165, 1090, 954, 883, 689, 670, 574,

557, 521 cm^{-1} . ^{19}F NMR: δ –57.8 (t, 3F, CF_3 , $J_{\text{CF}_3-\text{F}^3} = J_{\text{CF}_3-\text{F}^5} = 22$), –109.9 (qd, 1F^3 , $J_{\text{F}^3-\text{F}^6} = 13$), –130.3 (quintet, 1F^5 , $J_{\text{F}^5-\text{F}^6} = 21$), –131.3 (dd, 1F^6). Calcd for $\text{C}_7\text{BrClF}_6\text{O}_2\text{S}$: 375.8390. Found 375.8393. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_7\text{BrClF}_6\text{O}_2\text{S}$: C 22.3; Br 21.2; F 30.2; S 8.5. Found: C 22.5; Br 21.4; F 30.4; S 8.2.

4.9. 2,3,5,6-Tetrafluoropyridine-4-sulfonyl bromide (19)

Light-yellow oil. UV λ_{\max} , nm (lg ϵ): 203 (4.04), 298 (3.37). IR (neat): ν 1483, 1392, 1265, 1246, 1169, 968, 611, 564, 503, 434 cm^{-1} . ^{19}F NMR: δ –84.3 (m, $2\text{F}^{2,6}$), –137.0 (m, $2\text{F}^{3,5}$). Calcd for $\text{C}_5\text{BrF}_4\text{NO}_2\text{S}$: 292.8770. Found 292.8762. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_5\text{BrF}_4\text{NO}_2\text{S}$: C 20.4; Br 27.2; F 25.9; N 4.8; S 10.9. Found: C 20.7; Br 27.2; F 25.7; N 5.0; S 10.9.

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