



National Spatial Data Infrastructure

Spatial Data Transfer Standard (SDTS), Part 7:

CADD Profile – Final Draft

FGDC Facilities Working Group

May 1999

Federal Geographic Data Committee

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1 **1. Introduction**

2
3 An SDTS profile is defined as a limited subset of the Spatial Data Transfer Standard, designed for use
4 with a specific type of data. Specific choices are made for encoding possibilities that are not addressed,
5 left optional, or left with numerous choices within the SDTS Standard.

6 1.1 Objective

7 This SDTS Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CADD) Profile supports exchange of geospatial data
8 contained within CADD systems with other geoprocessing systems. CADD software makes up a large
9 portion of the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) marketplace. CADD software allows for several
10 types of elements, in particular, the use of three-dimensional elements and complex curves that are not
11 commonly used by GIS. This profile allows the representation of two- and three-dimensional geographic
12 vector data from CADD packages to be transferred via the SDTS standard.

13 1.2 Scope and Definition

14 The Computer Aided Design and Drafting Profile (CADD) contains specifications for an SDTS profile for
15 use with vector-based geographic data as represented in CADD software. The purpose of this profile is to
16 facilitate the translation of this data between CADD packages without loss of data, and support the
17 translation of this data between CADD and mainstream GIS packages.

18
19 This profile supports two-dimensional vector data and three-dimensional vector data, where the third
20 dimension is the “height” of the object. These data may or may not have topology. This profile does not
21 support raster data or two-dimensional transfers already represented by another profile.

22

23 1.3 Applicability

24 This SDTS CADD Profile is applicable for use of exchange of geospatial CADD data with other
25 geoprocessing systems (e.g. CADD and GIS). Software developers should use this standard to develop
26 encoders and decoders for CADD geographic data transfers. Data providers should use this standard to
27 create and verify valid SDTS CADD geographic data sets.

28 1.4 Related and Referenced Standards

29 The SDTS Part 4: Topological Vector Profile was used as a starting point for the SDTS CADD profile.
30 The following standards constitute provisions of the CADD Profile by specific reference within the text of
31 the CADD Profile:

- 32 SDTS Part 1: Logical Specifications
- 33 SDTS Part 2: Spatial Features
- 34 SDTS Part 3: ISO 8211 Encoding
- 35 SDTS Part 4: Topological Vector Profile
- 36 ANSI NCITS 320-1998: Spatial Data Transfer Standards (SDTS).
- 37 ISO 8211-1984 Data Descriptive File for Information Interchange

38 1.5 Standards development procedures

39 The participants directly involved in the development of this CADD Profile were: Applied Software
40 Technologies, Inc., members of the Tri-Service CADD/GIS Technology Center, and members of the
41 FGDC Facilities Working Group. Dave Horner, Tri-Services GIS/CADD Technology Center, coordinated
42 development of the SDTS CADD profile. Donald W. and Lori A. MacVittie, Application Software
43 Technologies, Inc. (AZTECH), compiled and drafted this Standard.

44

45 This standard was developed as a modification of the SDTS Topological Vector Profile in order to support
46 geospatial CADD data. The GIS Solutions Group at AZTECH, working with the Tri-Services CADD/GIS
47 Technology Center, merged the input contained in several reports that documented the interests of CADD

48 developers and software vendors (e.g., Intergraph, Bentley, and Autodesk) in CADD-related spatial data
49 exchange. That input was then integrated into this profile

50 1.6 Maintenance authority

51 The Department of Defense, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains the SDTS CADD Profile with
52 support from the Federal Geographic Data Committee and Tri-Service CADD/GIS Technology Center.

53 All general questions and comments concerning this standard should be addressed to:

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67 **2.0 Spatial Data Concepts**

68 2.1 Spatial Objects

69 Table 1 indicates which spatial objects are required, optional, or not permitted for this profile.

70

Object Representation Code	Required	Optional	Not Permitted
NP - Node		x	
NL - Label Node		x	
NE - Entity Node	x		
NA - Area Node		x	
NO - Planar Node		x	
NN - Network Node		x	
LQ - Link		x	
LS - String		x	
LE - Complete Chain	x		
LL - Area Chain		x	
LW, LY- Network Chain		x	
AC - Circular Arc		x	
AE - Elliptical Arc		x	
AU - Uniform B-Spline		x	
AB - Piecewise Bezier		x	
RM - Ring with Mixed Composition		x	
RS - Ring composed of Line Strings		x	
RU - Ring composed of Chains		x	
RA - Ring composed of Arcs		x	
PG - G-polygon		x	
PC - GT-polygon		x	
PR - GT-Polygon		x	
PU - Universe Polygon		x	
PW - Universe Polygon	x		
PV - Void Polygon		x	
PX - Void Polygon		x	
GI, GJ, GK, GM - Raster Objects			x
FF - Composite		x	

71

72

73

Table 1 Spatial Objects

2.1.1 Entities

This profile requires a minimum of two new entities to express infinite lines. They are described as extensions to the Line Module definition:Unbound

2.1.1.1 Line (LU) /Line Directed (LD) inTable 2.

FIELD NAME	SUBFIELD NAME	FIELD/SUB FIELD DESCRIPTION	TYPE	DOMAIN	DOMAIN DESCRIPTION	SDTS MNEMONIC
Line (P)						LINE
	Module Name	A unique identifier for the module.	A	Alphanum	Name shall begin with an alphabetic character other than SPACE.	MODN
	Record ID	Line object record identifier.	I	Integer	Unsigned integer. With Module Name shall form unique ID within the file set.	RCID
	Object Representation	Representation code for the object.	A	LU LD	Line, Unbound Line, Directed	OBRP

FIELD NAME	SUBFIELD NAME	FIELD/SUB FIELD DESCRIPTION	TYPE	DOMAIN	DOMAIN DESCRIPTION	SDTS MNEMONIC
Spatial Address		Spatial address of line point. The order of the instances of this field indicates the construction of the line in terms of vertices. The last point is the direction that goes to infinity for type LD.				SADR
Composite ID		Foreign identifier of Composite module record which includes this line				CPID

Table 2 Line (LU)/Line Directed

- 1 2.2 Layers and (or) Partitions
- 2 Data are represented as all of the elements necessary to transfer one or more two-dimensional or three-
- 3 dimensional manifold. More than one layer may be included in a single transfer.

4 **3 General Specification (The Transfer Model)**

5

6 3.1 Standard Module Names

7 SDTS Computer Aided Design and Drafting Profile module names (the unique module name of each
8 individual module) shall be standardized, and consist of four characters. For modules carrying spatial
9 objects, the module name shall begin with the same two characters as the object representation code for
10 the objects (use “PC” for modules with “PC”, “PX”, and “PW” objects and use “FF” for composite objects
11 (including block/cell modules). The two other valid character Object Representation codes “LU” and
12 “LD” are defined in Section 2.1. The last two characters of the module name may be defined to
13 distinguish different modules/files. Attribute Primary and Secondary modules shall be named “Axxx” and
14 “Bxxx” respectively (where x is any number 0-9 or any upper case letter A-Z).

15

16 Non-object modules shall have the same name as the primary module field mnemonic (ISO 8211 Tag):

17	IDEN	Identification
18	CATD	Catalog/Directory
19	CATX	Catalog/Cross Reference
20	CATS	Catalog/Spatial Domain
21	SCUR	Security
22	IREF	Internal Spatial Reference
23	XREF	External Spatial Reference
24	SPDM	Spatial Domain

25	DDDF	Data Dictionary/Definition
26	DDOM	Data Dictionary/Domain
27	DDSH	Data Dictionary/Schema
28	STAT	Statistics
29	DQHL	Data Quality/Lineage
30	DQPA	Data Quality/Positional Accuracy
31	DQAA	Data Quality/Attribute Accuracy
32	DQLC	Data Quality/Logical Consistency
33	DQCG	Data Quality/Completeness

34

35 More than one module of the following types may exist:

36	SCUR	Security
37	IREF	Internal Spatial Reference
38	SPDM	Spatial Domain
39	DDDF	Data Dictionary/Definition
40	DDOM	Data Dictionary/Domain
41	DDSH	Data Dictionary/Schema
42	DQHL	Data Quality/Lineage
43	DQPA	Data Quality/Positional Accuracy
44	DQAA	Data Quality/Attribute Accuracy
45	DQLC	Data Quality/Logical Consistency

46 DQCG Data Quality/Completeness

47 If more than one of any of these modules exists in a transfer, the last letter shall be changed to a digit to
48 differentiate the file names.

49 3.2 Order of Records, Fields, and Subfields within Modules

50 (a) Records within modules shall be ordered by Record ID in ascending order. Actual Record ID
51 values need not start at “1”, and may arbitrarily skip integers.

52 (b) The subfields within fields and fields within records shall be ordered as in the SDTS module
53 specification layout tables in Part 1, Section 5.

54 3.3 Spatial Address (Coordinate) Format

55 3.3.1 Internal Representation of Spatial Addresses

56 The internal representation of X, Y, and Z coordinates shall be 32-bit signed implicit fixed point binary
57 numbers (“BI32” SDTS type). Signed integers shall be represented in “two’s complement” big-endian
58 format. Note that use of the ISO 8211 library (public domain) will allow reading and writing of these
59 numbers in the correct format on a variety of platforms.

60 3.3.2 Restrictions on X, Y, and Z Subfields

61 The X subfield of spatial addresses shall only be used to transfer longitude or easting values. The Y
62 subfield shall only be used to transfer latitude or northing values. The Z subfield of spatial addresses shall
63 only be used to transfer altitude information, in inches above sea level.

64 3.4 Null, Unused, and Unknown Values

65 When a transfer has fixed length subfields (e.g. to carry attribute data linked to various objects), then
66 special consideration must be given to handling Null values. The SDTS default option for implementing
67 nulls is not feasible in this case. When appropriate, the following text shall be encoded in the comment
68 subfield of a Logical Consistency module record, and implemented:

69

70 When a subfield, either user-defined in Attribute Primary and Attribute Secondary module
71 records, or in other SDTS module records, is implemented as fixed-length, the following null
72 scheme is used: (a) when information to be encoded in the subfield is known to be undefined,
73 then the subfield is valued by the string "Undefined"; (b) when the information is known in the
74 source data set, but not used in the translation to SDTS, then the subfield is valued by the phrase
75 "Not Applied"; c) when the information to be encoded is relevant, but unknown or missing from
76 the source data, the subfield is valued by the string "Unknown".

77

78 The Logical Consistency module with the above text shall be associated to applicable modules through the
79 Catalog/Cross Reference module.

80 3.5 Attribute Usage

81 All agencies shall use established FIPS codes where applicable, such as FIPS PUB 6-4, Counties and
82 Equivalent Entities Codes or FIPS PUB 10-4, Countries, Dependencies, Areas of Special Sovereignty and
83 their Principal Administrative Division.

84 3.6 Minimum Transfer

85 (a) For objects particular to one “Layer”, there shall be:

86 exactly one Polygon module for simple object types PC, PW, and PX

87 exactly one Chain module for simple object type LE

88 exactly one Point-Node module for simple object type NE

89 zero or one of all other allowed modules.

90 **4 Transfer Module Specification**

91

92 This section addresses the module level restrictions as they apply to a transfer. Certain requirements of
93 Part 1 are repeated here for clarity. Restrictions on field/subfield values are noted for each module. The
94 order of coverage follows that of Part 1, Section 5, Transfer Module Specification, of SDTS.

95

96 Table 3 contains the inclusion/exclusion, and cardinality rules for each module. Standardized modules
97 names are included, along with the minimum number of occurrences of the module type. A lowercase “n”
98 indicates that the upper limit is user defined. The meaning of lowercase letters or dots in the module name
99 are explained in SDTS Part4, Section 4.1, Standard Module Names, of SDTS.

100

Module Type	Name	Min. No.	Max. No.
<i>Global Information</i>	<i>Modules (see also Part 1</i>	<i>Section 5.2, Global</i>	<i>Information Modules.</i>
Identification	IDEN	1	1
Catalog/Directory	CATD	1	1
Catalog/Cross-Reference	CATX	1	1
Catalog/Spatial Domain	CATS	0	0
Security	SCUr	0	n
Internal Spatial Reference	IREf	1	n
External Spatial Reference	XREF	1	1
Registration	..	0	0
Spatial Domain	SPDm	0	n
Data Dictionary/Domain	DDOm	1	n
Data Dictionary/Definition	DDDf	0	n
Data Dictionary/Schema	DDSh	1	n
Data Quality/Lineage	DQHL	1	1
Data Quality/Positional Accuracy	DQPA	1	1
Data Quality/Attribute Accuracy	DQAA	1	1
Data Quality/Logical Consistency	DQLC	1	1
Data Quality/Completeness	DQCG	1	1
Transfer Statistics	STAT	1	1

Composite Module	FF..	0	n
<i>Attribute Modules (see</i>	<i>also Part1, Section 5.4,</i>	<i>Attribute Modules)</i>	
Attribute Primary	A...	0	n
Module Type	Name	Min. No.	Max. No.
Attribute Secondary	B...	0	n
<i>Vector Modules (see also</i>	<i>Part 1, Section 5.6,</i>	<i>Vector Modules)</i>	
Point-Node	NE..	1	n
	NO.., NA..,NL..,NP..,		
	NN..	0	n
Line	LE..	1	n
	LQ..,LS..,LW..,LY..LD..,		
	LU..	0	n
Arc	AC..,AE..	0	n
Ring	RM..,RS..,RU..,RA..	0	n
Polygon	PW..	1	n
	PG..,PR..,PU.., PC..	0	n
<i>Raster Modules</i>	..	0	0
<i>Graphic Representation</i>	<i>Modules</i>		
Text Represenation	TEXT	0	n
Color	COLX	0	n

Font	FONT	0	n
Area Fill	AFIL	0	n
Symbol Representation	SYMB	0	n
Line Representation	LNRP	0	n

101

102

Table 3 Module Rules

103

104 4.1 Global Information Modules

105 (a) For each SDTS transfer data set that does not reference an external SDTS data dictionary,
106 there must be at least one data dictionary. It is recommended that there be only one of each
107 of the following global modules:

108 Data Dictionary/Domain (DDOM)

109 Data Dictionary/Schema (DDSH)

110

111 For each SDTS transfer data set that does not reference an external SDTS data dictionary
112 and that does not have level 1 feature conformance with Part 2, there must be at least one
113 data dictionary. It is recommended that there be only one of the following global modules:

114 Data Dictionary/Definition (DDDF)

115

116 (b) A common set of Data Dictionary/Definition and Data Dictionary/Domain modules may be
117 used for an entire series of files to be distributed. This Data Dictionary may be made
118 available separately; and it need not be duplicated within each SDTS transfer. If the SDTS
119 data dictionary is separate from the individual SDTS transfer data set, then it shall be
120 uniquely identified and referenced by the individual SDTS transfer data set.

121 4.2 Attribute Modules (see also SDTS Part 1, Section 5.4, Attribute Modules)

122 (a) There is no restriction on relationships between objects and Attribute Primary module
123 records: the relationship may be one-to-one, one-to-many, many-to-one or many-to-many. If
124 the relationship between objects and Attribute Primary module records is not one-to-one or
125 one-to-many, the encoder is required to identify the modules involved in the Catalog/Cross
126 Reference module record by placing the characters "JJ" into the first two characters of the
127 comment subfield.

128 4.3 Composite Module (see also SDTS Part 1, Section 5.5, Composite Module)

129 (a) Composite objects may optionally not have a list of component objects.
130 (b) Chains comprising a continuous linear composite object may be ordered. Each Chain ID in
131 the list of components may have an "F" (for forward) or "B" (for backward) in the Foreign
132 ID Usage Modifier subfield (see Part I, Section 5.1.2, Foreign Identifiers). The list of chain
133 Foreign Ids may be ordered so that the first point (start node of "F" chains and end node of
134 "B" chains) of each chain following the first chain in the list shall be equivalent to the last
135 point (end node of "F" chains and start node of "B" chains) of the previous chain in the list.
136 The ordering and forward/backward chain usage modifiers are included to allow the transfer
137 of directional information for composite objects representing features such as one-way roads
138 and drains.

139 4.4 Vector Modules (see also SDTS Part 1, Section 5.6, Vector Modules)

140 4.4.1 Universe Polygon (see SDTS Part 1, definition 2.3.3.3.1)

141 A universe polygon (object representation code “PW”) is mandatory. Its Record ID subfield shall be
142 encoded with “1.” Attributes of the universe polygon, if any, shall have null values (see below for
143 specifications for implementing null values)

144

145 The Ring ID field is not permitted for universe polygons with an object representation code of “PW”.

146

147 4.4.2 Void Polygons (see SDTS Part 1, definition 2.3.3.3.2)

148 Other GT-Polygons may be included with attribution similar to the universe polygon: these void polygons
149 shall be coded with a “PX” object representation.

150

151 The Ring ID field is not permitted for void polygons with an object representation code of “PX”.

152 4.4.3 Attribute Primary Reference

153 Object records may reference zero, one or more attribute primary records except for area points (“NA”
154 object representation code) which shall always reference zero attribute primary records. Attribute primary
155 references for area points should instead be contained in the surrounding GT-polygon spatial object
156 record.

157 4.4.4 Number of Object Types Within a Single Module

158 A single module shall contain only records of a single object type (indicated by appropriate object
159 representation code), with the technical exception that modules carrying “PC” (GT-polygon) records may
160 also contain a “PW” (universe polygon) and “PX” (void polygon) records.

161 4.4.5 Label Points

162 The Attribute Primary Foreign ID (PAID) field is mandatory for the “NL” object representation code.
163 This field references the record and the label of the attribute to be annotated. This field shall reference an
164 attribute record in either an Attribute Primary module or an Attribute Secondary module.

165 4.5 Graphic Representation Modules

166 These modules may be optionally included in a transfer. Encoders and decoders are required to support
167 graphic representation module that conform to this profile.

168 4.6 Module Restrictions/Requirements: Identification Module (see also Part 1, Section 5.2.1, Table 10
169 Identification)

170 4.6.1 Profile Identification

171 Each transfer encoded per these specifications shall have:
172 “SDTS COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN AND DRAFTING PROFILE”
173 as the value of the Profile Identification subfield of the Identification module primary field.

174

175 Each transfer shall have:

176 “VERSION 1 JANUARY 1, 2000”

177 as the value of the Profile Version subfield of the Identification module primary field.

178

179 Each transfer shall have:

180 “SDTS CADD Profile”

181 as the value of the Profile Document Reference subfield of the Identification module primary

182 field.

183 4.7 Module Restrictions/Requirements: Internal Spatial Reference

184 The spatial address X component label subfield is restricted to “LONGITUDE” when the spatial reference

185 system is geographic, “EASTING” when the external spatial reference system is UTM/UPS or SPCS, or

186 “OTHER” when the external spatial reference system is not geographically based. Similarly, the spatial

187 address Y component level subfield is restricted to “LATITUDE” when the spatial reference system is

188 geographic, “NORTHING” when the external spatial reference system is UTM/UPS or SPCS, or

189 “OTHER” when the external spatial reference system is not geographically based. The Z subfield shall be

190 used only for altitude measured in inches above sea level.

191 4.8 Module Restrictions/Requirements: External Spatial Reference

192 The Reference System Name subfield in the External Spatial Reference Module primary field shall have

193 the value “GEO”, “SPCS”, “UTM”, “UPS” or “OTHER” depending upon the external spatial reference

194 system being used.

195 4.9 Module Restrictions/Requirements: Catalog/Directory

196 The following restrictions are placed on the primary field of the Catalog/Directory module so that the
197 contents of a transfer are independent of the transfer media:

198 (a) the Volume subfield shall only be used to describe a Uniform Resource Locator (URL)
199 address.

200 (b) the File subfield shall include only a file name meeting the requirements of Section 6.5.

201 4.10 Module Restrictions/Requirements: Data Dictionary/ Schema

202 The Entity Authority and Attribute Authority subfields shall contain "SDTS-USA" when Part 2 of ANSI
203 NCITS 320-1998 is the authority for the definition. When a standard register of entities and attributes of a
204 country other than the United States is the authority, these subfields shall contain "SDTS-" followed by
205 the three-character ISO 3166 country code. Entity Authority and Attribute Authority may have a
206 maximum length of 8 graphic characters.

207 4.11 Module Restrictions/Requirements: Data Dictionary/ Domain

208 The Attribute Authority subfield may have a maximum length of 8 graphic characters

209 4.12 Module Restrictions/Requirements: Data Dictionary/ Definition

210 The Attribute Authority subfield may have a maximum length of 8 graphic characters

211

212 **5 Conformance**

213 5.1 Transfer Conformance

214 In order to conform to this CADD Profile, an SDTS transfer shall:

- 215 (a) consist of at least one universe polygon.
- 216 (b) contain all mandatory spatial objects, modules, fields, and subfields as specified in this
217 profile.
- 218 (c) conform to all requirements of Parts 1, 2, and 3 of SDTS unless they conflict with this
219 profile.
- 220 (d) conform to all restrictions of SDTS Parts 1, 2, and 3, as specified in this profile.
- 221 (e) be formatted in compliance with ANSI/ISO 8211.
- 222 (f) follow all module and file naming conventions of this profile.
- 223 (g) adhere to all other requirements of this profile.

224 5.2 Encoder Conformance

225 In order to conform to this CADD Profile, an SDTS encoder shall:

- 226 (a) be able to be directed to generate only SDTS CADD transfers which conform to this
227 specification.
- 228 (b) convert spatial objects in the input system (both CADD and GIS) to appropriate SDTS
229 spatial objects.

- 230 (c) convert attribute data stored in the input system (such as in a data base) to SDTS Attribute
231 Primary and Attribute Secondary modules (or provide a reasonable alternative for retrieving
232 these values).
- 233 d) correctly maintain linkages between spatial objects and attributes.

234 **5.3 Decoder Conformance**

- 235 (a) be able to interpret CADD Profile transfers which conform to section 1.2.1.
- 236 (b) be able to decode any module required or permitted by this profile.
- 237 (c) be able to decode any spatial object permitted by this transfer.
- 238 (d) be able to convert any Attribute Primary or Attribute Secondary module and convert it to a
239 format usable by the output system.
- 240 (e) correctly maintain linkages between spatial objects and Attribute Primary records.
- 241 (f) be able to ignore modules, fields, and subfields that are optional, or not currently defined.
- 242 (g) be able to recover if an error is encountered in a particular record, field, or subfield in the
243 SDTS transfer.
- 244 (h) report to a file or device all errors encountered during a transfer, along with severity.

245

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280

281 **Appendix A (Informative) Sample Mappings.**

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283 Attached is a summary of SDTS data type translations for two sample systems:

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<i>SDTS Type</i>	<i>AutoCAD Type</i>	<i>Intergraph Type</i>
FF (Composite Objects)	Block, Multi-Line, and Multiline Text	Cell, Shared Cell, Text Node, Complex Shape
LS (Line String)	Line, Open Polyline w/o Bulge	Line, Complex Chain
*LD (Line Directed)	Ray	Line with H-bit set in header
*LU (Line Unbound)	Xline	Line with H-bit set in header
PG (G-Polygon)	Closed Polyline	Shape
AC (Arc Circular)	Circle, Polyline w/Bulge, Arc	Ellipse, Arc (both where Major axis == Minor axis)
AE (Arc, Elliptical)	Ellipse	Ellipse
AU, AB	Pline with non-zero curve type Spline	B-Spline elements (Pole, Weight, etc.)
NP (Point Node)	Points	Point String, Points
NE (Entity Node)	Insert	Shared Cell <i>Instance</i>
NL (Label Node)	Attrib, Text	Text
RS (Surface)	3Dface, 3Dsolid	3D Surface
Line Representation	Line Style	All (Line Style Element of Record Header)
Text Representation	Text, M-Text	Text, Text Node
Color Representation	Color Table	Color Table
Font Representation	Text, M-Text	Text, Text Node

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286 **Notes:**

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1. Line Directed (LD) is a new SDTS line type with a start-point and a direction.

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2. Line Unbound (LU) is new SDTS line type with two points indicating an unbound line.

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