

Research Article

# Interval-Valued Product Fuzzy Soft Matrices and its Application in Decision Making

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## Abstract

Matrix theory plays a significant role in decision making situation. The study of matrices in fuzzy setting has always attracted researchers to a greater extend. Fuzzy matrix is a matrix over fuzzy algebra. Soft set is another interesting theory on uncertainty. Cagman made effort in defining soft matrices and fuzzy soft matrices. Interval-valued fuzzy set is another generalization of fuzzy sets that was introduced by Zadeh. Motivated by the theory of soft sets, soft matrices and product fuzzy soft matrices our aim in this paper is to introduce the notion of interval-valued product fuzzy soft matrices as a generalization of product fuzzy soft matrices. We also provide an interesting decision theory on it.

**Keywords:** Fuzzy matrix; Soft set; Soft matrix; Fuzzy soft set; Fuzzy soft matrix.

## Introduction

Zadeh [1,2] introduced the concept of fuzzy sets and the idea of soft computing to deal with impreciseness and uncertainty involved in all decision-making problems. In 1999, Molodstov [3] initiated a novel concept known as soft sets, a new mathematical tool to deal with uncertainties. He pointed out that the important existing theories namely fuzzy sets, intuitionistic fuzzy sets and rough sets, which can be considered as mathematical tools for dealing with uncertainties have their own difficulties. Maji and Roy [4-6] made a significant contribution in developing soft sets.

Cagman and Enginoglu [7] defined various operations on soft sets and constructed the unit decision making method. In [8] Cagman and Enginoglu provided a decision making algorithm using soft matrices. Aktas and Cagman [9] introduced the notion of soft groups. Ali et al [10] discussed about various operations on soft sets. Cagman et al [11] took effort in re-defining fuzzy soft sets. Jon Arockiaraj and Sathiyaseelan [12] provided an application of fuzzy soft sets for students ranking system. Thomason [13] was the first person to initiate the concept of fuzzy matrices. Vijayabalaji and Ramesh [14] introduced the notion of product soft matrices and provided a decision theory on it. Recently Vijayabalaji et al [15] generalized the product soft matrices in fuzzy setting. They also

provided an example for multi-decision making using max-min decision matrix on interval-valued product fuzzy soft matrices.

Motivated by the above theories our aim in this paper introduce the notion of interval-valued product fuzzy sot matrices and to provide an algorithm for multi-decision making using min-min decision matrices on interval-valued product fuzzy soft matrices. We justify the above algorithm by means on an example.

## Preliminaries

**Definition 1** [14] A soft set  $F_A$  over  $U$  is a set defined by a function  $f_A$  representing a mapping  $f_A: E \rightarrow P(U)$  such that  $f_A = \phi$  if  $x \notin A$ . Here,  $f_A$  is called approximate function of the soft set  $F_A$  and the value  $f_A(x)$  is a set called  $x$ - element of the soft set for all  $x \in E$ . A soft set over  $U$  is represented by a set of ordered pairs  $F_A = \{(x, f_A(x)): x \in E, f_A(x) \in P(U)\}$ .

**Definition 2** [11] A fuzzy soft set (fs- set)  $\Gamma_A$  over  $U$  is a set defined by a function  $\gamma_A$  representing a mapping  $\gamma_A: E \rightarrow F(U)$  such that  $\gamma_A(x) = \phi$  if  $x \notin A$ . Here  $\gamma_A$  is called fuzzy approximation function of the  $f_s$  set  $\Gamma_A$ , the value  $\gamma_A(x)$  is a fuzzy set called  $x$ -element of the  $f_s$  set for all  $x \in E$ , and  $\phi$  is the null fuzzy set. Thus  $\Gamma_A = \{(x, \gamma_A(x)): x \in E, \gamma_A(x) \in F(U)\}$ . The set of all fs-set over  $U$  is denoted by  $F_s(U)$ .

**Definition 3**[16] For two fuzzy soft set (F, A) and (G, B) in a fuzzy soft class (U, E), We say that (F, A) is a fuzzy soft subset of (G, B) if

- (i)  $A \subseteq B$
- (ii) for all  $\varepsilon \in A$ ,  $F(\varepsilon) \subseteq G(\varepsilon)$  and is written as  $(F, A) \subseteq (G, B)$

**Definition 4** [16] Union of two fuzzy soft sets (F, A) and (G, B) in a soft class is a fuzzy soft set (H, C) where  $C=A \cup B$  and  $\varepsilon \in C$

$$H(\varepsilon) = \begin{cases} F(\varepsilon) & \text{if } \varepsilon \in A - B \\ G(\varepsilon) & \text{if } \varepsilon \in B - A \\ F(\varepsilon) \cup G(\varepsilon) & \text{if } \varepsilon \in A \cap B \end{cases}$$

and is written as  $(F, A) \tilde{\cup} (G, B) = (H, C)$

**Definition 5** [16] Intersection of two fuzzy soft sets (F, A) and (G, B) in a soft class is a fuzzy soft set (H, C) where  $C=A \cap B$  and  $\varepsilon \in C$ ,  $H(\varepsilon) = F(\varepsilon) \cap G(\varepsilon)$  and is written as  $(F, A) \tilde{\cap} (G, B) = (H, C)$

**Definition 6** [11] Let  $\Gamma_A \in F_S(U)$ . Then a fuzzy relation form of  $\Gamma_A$  is defined by

$\gamma_A = \{(\mu_{R_A}(a, x) / (a, x) : (m, x) \in U \times E)\}$ , where the membership functions of  $\mu_{R_A}$  is written by  $\mu_{\gamma_A} : U \times E \rightarrow [0,1]$ . Assume that  $U = \{u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4, \dots, u_n\}$  and  $E = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_p\}$  and  $A \subseteq E$ , then the  $\Gamma_A$  can be represented by the following table.

$\Gamma_A$	$x_1$	$x_2$	...	$x_p$
$u_1$	$\mu_{\gamma_A}(u_1, x_1)$	$\mu_{\gamma_A}(u_1, x_2)$	...	$\mu_{\gamma_A}(u_1, x_p)$
$u_2$	$\mu_{\gamma_A}(u_2, x_1)$	$\mu_{\gamma_A}(u_2, x_2)$	...	$\mu_{\gamma_A}(u_2, x_p)$
...	.	.	.	.
$u_n$	$\mu_{\gamma_A}(u_n, x_1)$	$\mu_{\gamma_A}(u_n, x_2)$	...	$\mu_{\gamma_A}(u_n, x_p)$

Where  $\mu_{\gamma_A}(u_i, x_i)$  is the membership function of  $\gamma_A$ .

If  $a_{ij} = \mu_{\gamma_A}(u_i, x_j)$ , then the  $f_s$ -set  $\Gamma_A$  is uniquely characterized by a matrix

$$[a_{ij}]_{n \times p} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1p} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2p} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \dots & a_{np} \end{pmatrix}$$

called as  $n \times p$  fuzzy soft matrix ( $f_s$ ) of the fuzzy soft set  $\Gamma_A$  over U.

**Definition 7** [3] Let (F, A) and (G, B) be two fuzzy soft sets over a common universe U, Then the Cartesian product of these two fuzzy soft sets is denoted by  $(F, A) \times (G, B)$  and is defined by  $(F, A) \times (G, B) = (H, A \times B)$ , where  $H(\alpha, \beta) = F(\alpha) \times G(\beta)$ .

**Example 8** [3] Let us consider two subsets A and B as

$A = \{x_1 = \text{expensive}; x_2 = \text{beautiful}\} \in E$  and  $B = \{x_3 = \text{branded}; x_4 = \text{cheapest}\} \in E$ .

Then (F,A) describes the “ attractiveness of the dress” and (G, B) describes the “cost of the dress”.

Let  $U = \{d_1, d_2, d_3, d_4, d_5\}$

$F(x_1) = \{0.5/d_1, 0.7/d_3, 0.4/d_4, 0.9/d_5\}$

$F(x_2) = \{0.7/d_2, 0.8/d_3, 0.9/d_5\}$

$G(x_3) = \{0.8/d_2, 0.7/d_3\}$  and

$G(x_4) = \{1/d_2\}$ .

Then we can view the fuzzy soft sets  $F_A$  and  $G_B$  as consists of the following collection of approximation:

$F_A = \{(x_1, \{0.5/d_1, 0.7/d_3, 0.4/d_4, 0.9/d_5\}), (x_2, \{0.7/d_2, 0.8/d_3, 0.9/d_5\})\}$

and

$G_B = \{(x_3, \{0.8/d_2, 0.7/d_3\}), (x_4, \{1/d_2\})\}$ .

The relation form is

$R_{(H,A \times B)} = \{((x_1, x_3) \{ (0.5/d_1, 0.8/d_2), (0.5/d_1, 0.7/d_3), (0.7/d_3, 0.8/d_2), (0.7/d_3, 0.7/d_3), (0.4/d_4, 0.8/d_2), (0.4/d_4, 0.7/d_3), (0.9/d_5, 0.8/d_2), (0.9/d_5, 0.7/d_3) \}), ((x_1, x_4) \{ (0.5/d_1, 1/d_2), (0.7/d_2, 1/d_2), (0.4/d_4, 1/d_2), (0.9/d_5, 1/d_2) \}), ((x_2, x_3) \{ (0.7/d_2, 0.8/d_2), (0.7/d_2, 0.7/d_3), (0.8/d_3, 0.8/d_2), (0.8/d_3, 0.7/d_3), (0.9/d_5, 0.8/d_2), (0.9/d_5, 0.7/d_3) \}), ((x_2, x_4) \{ (0.7/d_2, 1/d_2), (0.8/d_3, 1/d_2), (0.9/d_5, 1/d_2) \})\}$ .

**Definition 9** [17] Let X be a set. A mapping  $\bar{A} : X \rightarrow D [0, 1]$  is called as interval-valued fuzzy subset of X, where  $\bar{A}(x) = [A^-(x), A^+(x)]$  are fuzzy subsets in X such that  $A^-(x) \leq A^+(x)$  for all  $x \in X$ .

**Definition 10** [17] Let U be an initial universe, E be a set of parameters and  $A \subseteq E$ . Then a pair  $(\bar{F}_A, E)$  is called an interval-valued fuzzy soft set

over P(U) where  $\overline{F_A}$  is a mapping given by  $\overline{F_A} : A \rightarrow P(U)$ .

**Definition 11**[18] An intuitionistic fuzzy matrix (IFM) A of order  $n \times n$  is defined as  $A = [x_{ij}, \langle a_{\mu_{ij}}, a_{\gamma_{ij}} \rangle]_{n \times n}$  where  $a_{\mu_{ij}}$  and  $a_{\gamma_{ij}}$  are called membership and non- membership values of  $x_{ij}$  in A, which maintaining the condition  $0 \leq a_{\mu_{ij}} + a_{\gamma_{ij}} \leq 1$ .

For simplicity, we write  $A = [x_{ij}, a_{ij}]_{n \times n}$  or simply  $[a_{ij}]_{n \times n}$  where  $a_{ij} = \langle a_{\mu_{ij}}, a_{\gamma_{ij}} \rangle$ .

**Definition 12** [19] An interval valued intuitionistic fuzzy matrix (IVIFM) A of order  $n \times n$  is defined as

$A = [x_{ij}, \langle a_{\mu_{ij}}, a_{\gamma_{ij}} \rangle]_{n \times n}$  where  $a_{\mu_{ij}}$  and  $a_{\gamma_{ij}}$  are both the subsets of  $[0, 1]$  which are denoted by  $a_{\mu_{ij}} = [a_{\mu_{ij}^L}, a_{\mu_{ij}^U}]$  and  $a_{\gamma_{ij}} = [a_{\gamma_{ij}^L}, a_{\gamma_{ij}^U}]$  which maintaining the condition  $[a_{\mu_{ij}^U} + a_{\gamma_{ij}^U}] \leq 1$  for  $i, j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n$ .

**Definition 13** [18] Let U be the universal set. Let (F, A) and (G, B) be a two fuzzy soft sets over common universe. Then the product of fuzzy soft sets is  $(F, A) \times (G, B) = (H, A \times B)$ . We define a relation on  $(H, A \times B)$  as  $R_{(H, A \times B)} = \{(h, e) : h \in H(\alpha, \beta) e \in A \times B\}$ . Now we define a function  $\mu_{R_{(H, A \times B)}} : U \times E \rightarrow D[0, 1]$  by

$$\mu_{R_{(H, A \times B)}} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } (h, e) \in A \cap B \\ \alpha, & \text{if } (h, e) \in A \Delta B \\ 0, & \text{if } (h, e) \notin A \cup B \end{cases}$$

called as product fuzzy soft matrix.

**Scope of the present investigation**

Vijayabalaji et al, [14] took effort in generalizing fuzzy soft matrices to product fuzzy soft matrices. They also provided an algorithm for decision making using max-max decision matrix. Inspired by the interval- valued fuzzy sets and product fuzzy soft matrices, we intend to introduce the notion of interval-valued product fuzzy soft matrices as a generalization of product fuzzy soft matrices. An attempt is made to provide an algorithm for interval-valued product fuzzy soft matrices using min-min decision matrices.

**Interval-valued product fuzzy soft matrices**

We now introduce the notion of interval-valued product fuzzy soft matrices as follows.

**Definition 14** Let  $(F, A) = (a_{ij})$  and  $(G, B) = (b_{ij})$  are two interval valued fuzzy soft matrices. Then  $(F, A) \wedge (G, B)$  is denoted by  $[(F, A) \wedge (G, B)] = [H, A \times B] = (d_{ij})$  is an interval-valued fuzzy soft matrix and defined by  $(f_{ij}) = \min\{(a_{ij}) \cap (b_{ij})\}$ , where  $a_{ij}$  and  $b_{ij} \in D[0, 1]$ .

**Remark 15** In the above definition  $a_{ij} = [a_{ij}^-, a_{ij}^+]$  and  $b_{ij} = [b_{ij}^-, b_{ij}^+]$  such that  $0 \leq a_{ij}^- \leq a_{ij}^+ \leq 1$  and  $0 \leq b_{ij}^- \leq b_{ij}^+ \leq 1$ .

**Example 16** Let  $U = \{p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4, p_5\}$  and  $E = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$ . Assume that  $A = \{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$  and  $B = \{x_2, x_3, x_4\} \subseteq E$ .

Let  $(F, A) = \{(x_1), \{[0.5, 0.8]/p_1, [0.3, 0.7]/p_3, [0.3, 0.4]/p_4, [0.2, 0.6]/p_5\}\}$ ,  $((x_2), \{[0.7, 0.8]/[0.5, 0.9] p_3, [0.4, 0.7]/p_5\})$ ,  $((x_3), \{[0.2, 0.9]/p_4\})$   
 $(G, B) = \{(x_2), \{[0.8, 0.9]/p_1, [0.3, 0.5]/p_3, [0.6, 0.8]/p_5\}\}$ ,  $((x_3), \{[0.2, 0.6]/p_2, [0.3, 0.8]/p_3\})$ ,  $((x_4), \{[0.1, 0.7]/p_2\})$ .

Hence  $(F, A) \wedge (G, B) = \{(x_1, x_2), \{[0.5, 0.8]/p_1, [0.3, 0.5]/p_3, [0.2, 0.6]/p_5\}\}$ ,  $((x_1, x_3), \{[0.3, 0.5]/p_3\})$ ,  $((x_1, x_4), \{\phi\})$ ,  $((x_2, x_2), \{[0.3, 0.5]/p_3, [0.4, 0.7]/p_5\})$ ,  $((x_2, x_3), \{[0.2, 0.6]/p_2, [0.3, 0.8]/p_3\})$ ,  $((x_2, x_4), \{[0.1, 0.7]/p_2\})$ ,  $((x_3, x_2), \{\phi\})$ ,  $((x_3, x_3), \{\phi\})$ ,  $((x_3, x_4), \{\phi\})$ .

Hence the interval-valued fuzzy soft matrix is

$$(f_{ij}) = \begin{pmatrix} [0.5, 0.8] & \bar{0} & \bar{0} & \bar{0} & \bar{0} & \bar{0} & \bar{0} & \bar{0} & \bar{0} \\ \bar{0} & \bar{0} & \bar{0} & \bar{0} & [0.2, 0.6] & [0.1, 0.7] & \bar{0} & \bar{0} & \bar{0} \\ [0.3, 0.8] & [0.3, 0.5] & \bar{0} & [0.3, 0.5] & [0.3, 0.8] & \bar{0} & \bar{0} & \bar{0} & \bar{0} \\ \bar{0} & \bar{0} & \bar{0} & \bar{0} & \bar{0} & \bar{0} & \bar{0} & \bar{0} & \bar{0} \\ [0.2, 0.6] & \bar{0} & \bar{0} & [0.4, 0.7] & \bar{0} & \bar{0} & \bar{0} & \bar{0} & \bar{0} \end{pmatrix}$$

**Definition 17** Let U be the universal set. Let (F, A) and (G, B) be a two interval-valued fuzzy soft sets over common universe. Then the product of interval-valued fuzzy soft sets is  $(F, A) \times (G, B) = (H, A \times B)$ . We define a relation on  $(H, A \times B)$  as  $R_{(H, A \times B)} = \{(h, e) : h \in H(\alpha, \beta) e \in A \times B\}$ . Now we define a function  $\mu_{R_{(H, A \times B)}} : U \times E$

$\rightarrow D[0, 1]$  by

$$\overline{\mu}_{F(A \times B)} = \begin{cases} \overline{1} & , \text{if } (h, e) \in A \cap B \\ \overline{\alpha} & , \text{if } (h, e) \in A \Delta B, \overline{\alpha} \in (\alpha^+ \alpha^-) \\ \overline{0} & , \text{if } (h, e) \notin A \cup B \end{cases}$$

called an interval-valued product fuzzy soft matrix.

**Example 18** We justify above definition by means of the following example.

Consider the example 16

$$(F, A) \wedge (F, B) = \{((x_1, x_2), \{p_1, p_3, p_5\}), ((x_1, x_3), \{p_3\}), ((x_1, x_4), \{\phi\}), ((x_2, x_2), \{p_3, p_5\})$$

$$((x_2, x_3), \{p_2, p_3\}), ((x_2, x_4), \{p_2\}), ((x_3, x_2), \{\phi\}),$$

$$((x_3, x_3), \{\phi\}), ((x_3, x_4), \{\phi\})\}.$$

Then, the interval-valued product fuzzy soft matrices is  $(d_{ij})_{(5 \times 9)} =$

$$\begin{pmatrix} [1,1] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] \\ [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [1,1] & [1,1] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] \\ [1,1] & [1,1] & [0,0] & [1,1] & [1,1] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] \\ [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] \\ [1,1] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [1,1] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] \end{pmatrix}$$

**Definition 19** The choice value of an object  $d_j \in U$  is defined by  $d_j = \min \{ \min (d(h, e)) \}$ , where  $d(h, e)$  are the entries of  $d_{ij}$ .

**Definition 20** Let  $U = \{d_1, d_2, d_3, \dots, d_n\}$  be an initial universe and  $\min \{ \min (d(h, e)) \} = [u_{i1}]$ . Then a subset of  $U$  can be obtained using  $[u_{i1}]$  in the following way.  $\text{Opt}_{[u_{i1}]} = \{u_i : u \in U, u_{i1} = \min(0 \text{ or } 1)\}$ , called an optimum set of  $U$ .

**Algorithm**

Assume that a set of alternative and a set of parameters are given. Now we construct a soft Min-min decision algorithm on interval-valued product fuzzy soft matrices.

- Step 1: Choose feasible subsets of the set of parameters.
- Step 2: Construct the interval-valued product fuzzy soft set.
- Step 3: Find a interval-valued product of the product fuzzy soft matrices.
- Step 4: Compute the min – min decision matrix of product.
- Step 5: Conclusion.

**Example 18** Consider a ball-badminton game with five players namely  $p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4, p_5$ . Let  $U = \{p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4, p_5\}$  be the universal set and  $E = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$  be the set of parameters related to the universal set. Here  $x_i (i=1,2,3,4)$  stands for front

and centre position, back position only, both front and back position only, all rounder.

Now an expert X has been invited to choose a best player in that team to lead them.

Step 1. Assume that  $A = \{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$  and  $B = \{x_2, x_3, x_4\} \subseteq E$ .

Step 2. Interval-valued product fuzzy soft set are

$$\text{Let } (F, A) = \{((x_1), \{[0.5, 0.8]/p_1, [0.3, 0.7]/p_3, [0.3, 0.4]/p_4, [0.2, 0.6]/p_5\}), ((x_2), \{[0.7, 0.8]/p_2, [0.5, 0.9]/p_3, [0.4, 0.7]/p_5\}), ((x_3), \{[0.2, 0.9]/p_4\})\}$$

$$(G, B) = \{((x_2), \{[0.8, 0.9]/p_1, [0.3, 0.5]/p_3, [0.6, 0.8]/p_5\}), ((x_3), \{[0.2, 0.6]/p_2, [0.3, 0.8]/p_3\}), ((x_4), \{[0.1, 0.7]/p_2\})\}.$$

The AND product of interval-valued fuzzy soft set is defined as

$$(F, A) \wedge (G, B) = \{((x_1, x_2), \{[0.5, 0.8]/p_1, [0.3, 0.5]/p_3, [0.2, 0.6]/p_5\}), ((x_1, x_3), \{[0.3, 0.5]/p_3, [0.4, 0.7]/p_5\}), ((x_1, x_4), \{\phi\}), ((x_2, x_2), \{[0.3, 0.5]/p_3, [0.4, 0.7]/p_5\}), ((x_2, x_3), \{[0.2, 0.6]/p_2, [0.3, 0.8]/p_3\}), ((x_2, x_4), \{[0.1, 0.7]/p_2\}), ((x_3, x_2), \{\phi\}), ((x_3, x_3), \{\phi\}), ((x_3, x_4), \{\phi\})\}.$$

Step 3. Hence, the interval-valued product fuzzy soft matrix is,

$$(f_{ij}) = \begin{pmatrix} [1,1] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] \\ [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [1,1] & [1,1] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] \\ [1,1] & [1,1] & [0,0] & [1,1] & [1,1] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] \\ [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] \\ [1,1] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [1,1] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] & [0,0] \end{pmatrix}$$

Step 4. min-min decision soft matrix is,  $\min \{ \min \text{ values in every column} \} = \text{Min} \{ \{p_2, p_4\}, \{p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4\}, \{p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4, p_5\}, \{p_1, p_2, p_3\}, \{p_1, p_4, p_5\}, \{p_1, p_3, p_4, p_5\}, \{p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4, p_5\}, \{p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4, p_5\}, \{p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4, p_5\} \} = p_4$ .

Step 5. We find an optimum set of  $U$  according to  $\min \{ \min (d(h, e)) \} = p_4$ . Hence the expert chooses the optimum player as  $p_4$ .

**Conclusion**

A new algorithm is presented for interval-valued product fuzzy soft matrix using min-min operation. We have considered an example to choose a best player in ball badminton game by employing the above algorithm. As a future plan we try to extend this concept to cubic soft matrices and to provide a decision theory on it.

### Conflict Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of our paper.

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