"BREAKING" POINTS OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH PROCESS: FREEDOM, COINCIDENCE, OPPORTUNITY AND PROBABILITY

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Abstract

Economic freedom in the sphere of methodological provision of economic researches and a number of related concepts are still causing problematic situations.

Difficulty of both unanimous and conceptual evaluation of appearances of economic freedom in the research process exists. The key moment complicating the problem is to carry out the process in two various planes. On one hand the appearances of economic freedom in reality and unanimous interpretation of essence disclosure of its caused occurrences, on the other hand the problems of existence of "freedom" of the researcher make the status of reality of the obtained conclusions doubtful.

Our aim in this Article is to provide interpretation of appearance of the economic freedom problem not wholly, but only in our mentioned context and its less or more related concepts from methodological point.

Key words: freedom, choice, coincidence, possibility, probability.
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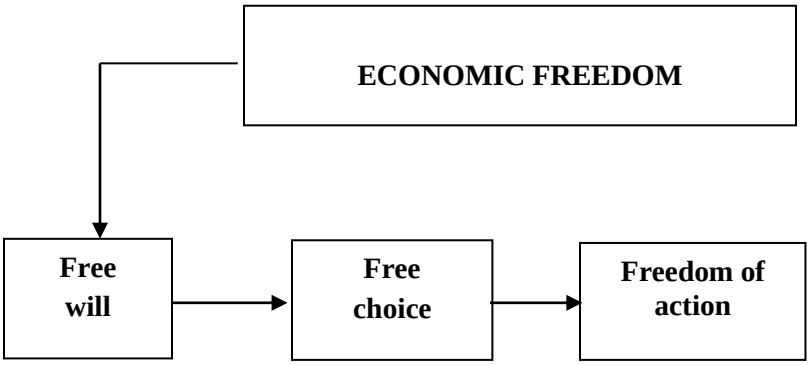
Freedom = economic growth identity…

Modern scientific opinion (excluding neoliberalism) is not unanimous in close determining connection between economic development and economic freedom, growth rate and conclusion conditioning of rising of people's life level with "deepening" degree of freedom. Objections are mainly addressed to "absolutely", unconditional use of "freedom" definition in scientific-researches. In other word, acceptance of economic freedom as a satisfactory and important condition for economic development from the point of the principle of causality means extreme simplification of the economic reality. For example, M.Altman, Professor of Victoria University, New Zealand, notes that as a traditional indicator, economic freedom does not have a satisfactory conditional quality of economic growth. Therefore accountability and transparency are important

in the management structure [Altman M. 2010]. Kaufman [Kaufmann D. 2005] thinks that even stabilization of economic freedom in high level can not affect the economic development positively in poor management.

Economic freedom is able to fulfill its function where it acts as an element of the functional relations system at least or is determined by other components (for example: management principles).

In the research process, economic freedom appears in different forms with level variety. This is the variety caused by the trajectory moving on economic plane of just freedom.



Picture 1. Level variety of economic freedom

At the same time, study of economic freedom by a researcher in major appearances from complex to simple in scientific researches does not mean way out from a problematic situation in it self (though the mentioned research process faces with a number of problems). From this aspect, the problem called “research freedom” of a researcher is of decisive importance in many cases. Of course, the point is not the personal or speech freedom of a researcher. The logical roots of the problem feed from its thinking mode. Major researchers carrying out scientific research in the economic plane are obliged to act from a certain theory or a certain provisions of such theory. So, the determined thinking tries to disclose the essence of freedom in the economic plane and to find out its moving features. Thus if holder of such thinking acts on wrong provisions (purposefully or unawares), then in the best case, incorrectness of his/her made conclusions is unavoidable. Just from this aspect, correct description of the appearances of economic freedom directly depends on correctness of the selected provisions. And our aim is to find out those moments that may provide correctness quality to such provisions.

Maximum of economic freedom: freedom of will

There are 4 main approach forms to freedom of will (in philosophical view):

1. Dialectic approach: freedom is an understandable necessity. The more we understand our connection to causality, the more we are free.

2. Intuitionism: the freedom of will may be understood where "Me" is not under influence of the past, in other word, acts as an extraordinary [Lasskiy N.O. 1991: 550.]. Human "Me" may rule on the occurrences that happen "now" by reference to its extraordinariness.

3. Antinomism: Causality according to the laws of nature is not only causality standing on the root of all occurrences in the world (Third antinomy of "pure intellect" of by I.Kant [Kant I. 1998: 380; 445]). The saying "any causality is possible only within the laws of nature" (in its general form) is internally conflicting. Therefore we can not agree that causality according to the laws of nature is only causality etc. According to Kant, freedom and natural necessity may exist independently not depending on each other and without damage to each other. To express shortly, I.Kant showed that thesis and antithesis of freedom – necessity antinomy is provable at the same degree. But the concept of absolute determinism [Laplas P.S. 1908] specifies that it is not provable at the same degree.

4. Existentialism: Existence is before essence [M.Khaydegger. 1997]. So, a man is free and creates his / her creature. There is no "essence" determining his/her will and freedom (existence). J.Sartr [Sartr J.P. 2000] called a man "creature for himself/herself", and facts and things "creature in themselves". "People should and will be free"

In other word, "creature for itself" (man) is free, but "creature in itself" (thing, fact) is a seriously determined creature.

L.Vitgenstein wrote that "….freedom of will is that it is impossible to cognize the actions to be done at the end" [Vithenstein L. 1994].

Freedom of will from mere economic point has a great importance from two aspects at least:

1) from the point of content disclosing of economic process (historical context);
2) from the point of selection of alternate development way;

Logic connection between the development trajectory of the economy and freedom of will or its level appears more distinct in comparison with other spheres of public life. Freedom of

will does not only play an important role in selecting development way, but also is able to expose economic existence to change.

Choice problem of economic subject: freedom to choice

"Practical syllogism" by G.Kh.fon Vrigtin towards substantiating selection of economic subject from the existing alternates from methodological point (included to the scientific circulation from 1970s) claims for the alternate role of the interpretation model carried out within the general laws. He writes that "…. intends to carry out A p. A considers that it can not carry out p without fulfilling a. So, A fulfills a"[Vrigt G.Kh. 1986:127]. Similarity between the mentioned syllogism and M.Veber's "ideal type" is great enough.

K.Gempel's [Gempel K. 1977:86] rational behavior model specifies the followings: A subject is C situation; at the same time, it operates rationally; any rational person carries out X in C-type situation absolutely (or high supposedly) and A carries out C.

Gempel's interpretation model is not of so importance in economic context absolutely. Because first, unilaterally interpretation of "rationality" definition is impossible; second, not majority of subjects behaves "rational" as specified by Gempel. Therefore there should be provided non-rational or "irrational" definition in Gempel's scheme in addition to rational. And in this case, real content of the model changes and goes to the plane of uncertainty; third, behavior of economic may not be considered outside the time-space continuum. That is, the expression "any subject" should take more correct shape in relation to behavior. Fix time frame and behavior of certain subject in concrete space. Gempel's expressing style and its importance is nonsense other than nude abstraction.

Freedom to choice has more complex content in comparison with the freedom of action. First, the expression is in conflict in itself. If there is an possibility to select, then it is natural that this possibility stands on existence of freedom (regardless of its level); second, the criteria of selection of existing alternates is free of the possibility of unilateral evaluation. Absolute equality is impossible in "concreteness" majority. In this case, it is necessary to pay attention to some moments:

1) Prevention of bankruptcy: Certainly self-protection instinct may act as the strongest motif in each certain situation. However … if choice variants are not the same or in the similar "strength", have seriously different strength, then the possibility of incorrectness of a choice becomes greater. At the same

time, the formed "same rules" are not in the normal level, then it is not worthy to stand on the variants "bad → worst" of the choice. That is, bankruptcy is inevitable in any case.

2) Extreme majority of the choice variants does not mean freedom to be maximum at all. The potential capacities of an economic existence can not be the same with the mentioned "majority" and this is completely impossible. Choice "majority" arises from the chaotic content of the economic development trajectory. And in this case, the desire to be free of "choice freedom" appears.

3) There is a problem of real content of free choice in the determined concrete content economic situation. In major cases, this simply acts as a partial appearance of the feeling of freedom in choice. In other word, the put choice variants does not like real variants that a subject strives to reach, in the situation within the certain limitation conditions. In this context, an item that called freedom of choice is seen very dull.

4) Finally, there is a reality of the type of free choice → choice of effective one in the economic situation. For example, the global financial oligarchy forms the architecture of the world economy within its interests and carries out certain changes when need. Those who determine the global development way, allow carrying out the choice variants in this frame. No need to prove that there is a variant that a choice carried out within the mentioned may be useful in the national context (even it is in absolute freedom).

"Measured" part of economic freedom:

Freedom of action

The freedom of action does not only cover the problem of freedom of will, also not approach it at all!

Freedom of action as an aspect of appearance of freedom may not be confused with the problem of freedom in total. Action problem is a practical, "technical" problem [Levichkiy S.A. 1984:12].

Freedom of action draws the border of the appearing practical opportunities of freedom.

The borders of freedom of action of a certain subject are framed by the majority of factors ranging from institutional norms to the borders of freedom of action of other subject. Without going into details, we may note that the freedom of action (in economy) is always relative and exists always. Otherwise, modern economic system might not exist. At the same time, the definition of borders of freedom of action is not attributable to the terms of a certain frame type in fact. So that,

these borders may extend or narrow in any "distance". That is, it is dynamic characterized, changing and directly depends on the level of content reality of the institutional norms formed in the society. For example, freedom of action may turn to its antipode under the description of creatures of the type of monopolization of market, existence of unjust competition environment etc.

The freedom of will = coincidence reality?

This is one of the conclusions widely spread in the scientific view. In economic context, "coincidence" may appear only in the sphere of relations. It is not met in the process of decay of main funds. This process is a regular process. On the other side, "coincidence" met in the non-material sphere comes after the freedom of will for both its appearance form and content. That is, it is secondary, derivative. However, there is no universal answer to the question "Is this a direct derivative of the freedom of will?". In fact, the economic relations system does not accept such "delivery" as a real creature excluding mere theoretical plane or selecting or finding a permissible substantiating type for this is seemed impossible. Or we can not agree with the opinion to consider occurrence of essentially different and even oppositely standing coincidence by chance. The same contented changes in various social-economic and social-cultural types may cause coincidence of various essential. In this case, which occurrence will be considered coincidence? Or in the mentioned variations (in relation to the coincidence of different content), by whom or how may be determined that which is real, may be interpreted within the causality and which is of opposite pole. Because the point is about the different planes – coincidence caused by a change initiated for the same purpose in various social-cultural types. Our studies show that in the mentioned environment a researcher tries to provide interpreting view of an coincidence or to bypass interpretation by the conclusion "this is an coincidence". Another moment related to economic "coincidence" appears in mutual connection between coincidence and alternativeness. In some researches [Veretennikov V.I. 1913. V. 48. No. 11: 19-44], content volume of an coincidence are tried to be formed in coincidence → alternate cross by promoting putting a problem in historical pint. Or an coincidence is not a result coming from the cross of causality rows, but "our selected reference point in studying the past …." [Karayev N.I. 1913. No.2.:154-155]. Economically it is principally impossible to benefit of simplification of "reference point" (also in relation to the past) in finding out "coincidence". Economic process is a collection of various determining characteristic processes. That is, causality in economic process is not only causality. Approaching from this point, we may clearly see that "existence"

of coincidence in relation to an economic occurrence may have real context only from two aspects:

1) Conflict of "independent" causality chains;

2) Relation of economic space or spaces where such "conflict" occurs, to various social-economic and social-cultural types;

In other word, nothing more or less related to an economic process may actually be considered to be an coincidence. However, if those created by an economic process in other spheres (political, social, cultural etc.) act as the coincidence attributable to such spheres, they may provide certain moments in relation to the future of the economic process in opposite-connection context and this is called an coincidence in many cases (without paying attention to the dynamics of process). The mentioned aspect is one where a subjective factor rules. From this point, an occurrence sourcing from the subjective will (no difference – free or non-free) acts as an coincidental occurrence.

Coincidence of an occurrence is found out by its unconformity to the inner logic of an economic process. But when it acts from the dualism of economic process, it allows describing clear borders of view regarding coincidence: Occurrences that do not serve as planned, or outside the conceptual content of the selected development way or of which interpretation is impossible within the development concept, first off all, appear as an coincidence. Unlike history, etc., economic process has a certain content volume and fixed aim. From this point, our applied logical substantiation acts as a mere economic contented concept.

Existence of freedom of will (in economic activity) extends the possibility of realization of various mistakes and incorrectness substantially. And as a result, it is tries to evaluate appeared occurrence as an coincidence. In fact, our mentioned aspect does not have any relation to an coincidence. Simply, preferring incorrect choices creates only "wrong" causality chain. But it would not be correct to call this as coincidence.

Subjective approach plays main role in assessing that an occurrence is an coincidence or not. even it is evaluated unilaterally "depending on the view-point selected by an observer …" [Aron P. 2000:225].

Explanation of the coincidence of an occurrence in economy by only one factor: impossibility of unilateral determination of the reasons of happening of an occurrence provides a description of perfunctory approach to a problem. Because, first, no occurrence (in economy)

happens without reason. Social-economic nature and inner logic of the economic process take no heed of this aspect at all.

Second, also even existence of multi-numbered “small reasons” (which could not be considered or “seen”) and a consolatory approach of type committed by just such “small reasons” of an occurrence are not acceptable. In this case, we meet simply with the desire to “avoid” a problem of a researcher. Third, also interpretation of an coincidence as a result of the act of freedom of will of any subject may not be considered correct. As we mentioned before, freedom of will is not coincidental occurrence on the economic plane, may cause incorrect and mistakes.

According to us, the real essence of coincidence of an economic occurrence is its staying outside the system of repeated relations. Only in the event this condition is met (considering other moments), it is possible to forward a correct opinion that an economic occurrence is coincidence or not.

Thus:

1.Economic coincidence does not negate causality. A certain reason stands on the root of each coincidental occurrence.

2.Economic coincidence is a stable occurrence standing outside the frame of repeated relations. Though it is sounded paradoxical in initial sight, that is, there is not “continuance” of an occurrence caused by causality, real putting of a problem may be taken to a case understandable in this aspect. In other word, coincidence is only in an economic process, happens in a certain time. In that meaning, that occurrence has neither past, nor future. But its “present” covers an extreme short time.

3.Real contented economic coincidence is a phenomenon derived of the cross of “independently” operating causality “chains” (not depending on coincidental or regular occurrence of “cross”). A reason making an coincidence in “cross” may take its source from various resources. In this meaning, existence of logic conflicts between whole and parts within the economic creature stands on the front row and covers very large diapason. For example, conflict between the monopolization process running in micro level and national interests on macro level. coincidence (reading: disturbance) appears from “cross” of different contented causality chains that belong to each of them, anytime, etc.

4.Economic coincidence always appears as "micro" occurrence. Extreme majority of these occurrences may rise to "macro" level only when a certain conceptual volume development strategy is not applied in such economic space or "selected way" is wrong etc. That is, from coincidence point, micro → macro passage occurs by taking its source from caps existing in the whole.

"freedom" appearances in causality chain: possibility and probability

Possibility and probability act as an important characteristic aspect in relation to any economic coincidence. Because first, explanation of reason-result connection and understanding of the logic of interpretation model; second, both definitions play an important role from the point of substantiation of forecasting addressed to future.

Even the ancient Greek thinkers stated their attitudes on the definition of possibility. For example, according to Aristotle, "it is possible to consider real something in the level that it exists" [Aristotle. 1009a: 35].

In fact, the reality of being of "possible" of possibility is in causality connection with economic potential. Economic potential is a non-realized economic reality that is "secret". Besides, the definition of potential appears as a collection of alternates as parallel. And the case that just which alternate has a real content in the majority of alternates, is determined by a complex of the conditions of such environment that formed in the mentioned time frame. Alternativeness is a main factor preventing wholly actualization of the potential. In other word, just existence of alternates stands on the base of potential → actual division. Leibniz writes that "… all possibilities require existence, any existence could exist, if it is prevented by other possibility (its opposite)" [Leibniz G.B. 1984, T.3: 123.].

Functional content of a definition may be disclosed from various aspects. As for us, evaluation of possibility, of which occurring probability exists in relation to an economic situation from the point of reason-result connection of existing possibility, would be more correct and logically more understandable. That is, possibility is localization of such a situation in an economic situation that an occurrence that will happen has only partial causality connection. In

other word, only a part of the system of relation that may cause an occurrence has determined, and the rest part formed "coincidentally" (freely).

Evaluation on the line of probability → possibility → reality in the transformation process from the potential situation to reality in relation to economic occurrence is conducted. Probability is a measure of possibility, and possibility is a measure of reason-result relations. Some authors keep gradation of possibility (read: possibility) [The newest philosophical dictionary. 1999, No. 4.: 216-218.]. We may consider differing of the followings from economic point (by referring to the priority of its empiric – functional essence):

1. Real possibility: Realization conditions of an economic occurrence are possible in general: in this case, the point is about abstract possibility. That is, let's say that by putting one or more of certain causality chains in action, we may consider the probability of happening of occurrence possible. As seen, abstraction is not "possibility", but forwards the opinion on probability that makes it possible.

But in a certain possibility, the possibility of realization of an occurrence appears within the real conditions concretely. At the same time, it is necessary to show that real possibility does not only go in a formal logic, but also keeps its actuality level in comparison with other opportunities.

2. Formal possibility is "everything" existing within the development regularity of an economic situation. The process of getting possible of a formal possibility acts as a non-conflict and independence (regardless of the actualization factors of the development version) of an occurrence as a development version.

In general, the possibility specter and degree of economic possibility may be determined by analysis of a certain situation. In this context, logical possibility is not a real possibility yet. On the other hand, abundance of choices and its coverage do not have so importance. So that real choice and real action (activity) always occur within the exactly drawn borders.

In relation to an economic situation, both real and formal possibility may lead different results from the point of realization. It means that realization of an possibility may cause re-production of the existing system in one case, and impossibility of re-occurrence of the previous status in the other case.

At the same time, there are some moments of which specification is important in transition of possibility – reality. Possibility is not the synonym of possibility, that is, these terms do not have identical content in a full mean of a word. Possibility is an possibility that turns to

“moving”, dynamic process. Possibility is a part of the existing potential that may become urgent from possibility point. Possibility is an updating possibility that occurs according to the internal logic of the process only, that is, possibility transfers moving.

In the economic context, possibility reflects forming possibility, possibility the process in the possibility of realization, reality the determined fact.

There are a lot of confused moments in relation to probability acting as a measure of possibility.

Neoporitivism that still keeps a certain position in methodology of economic science, uses of logical construction that close to the statistic meaning of the probability in explanation in the historical context of economic coincidence. Attitude to the conception of inductive probability is not unanimous. K.Popper accepts the indicative probability of hypothesis or its proving degree as a confirming level [Popper K. 1993:140]. J.Keins [Pyatnicin B.N. 1976: 314-316] understood the probability in quality of subjective category. Adding the term of relevance, he connected increase or reduction of probability with the positive or negative sign of it (relevance).

Confirming the relation of a term with others by benefiting of relevance allows determining the same probability of some hypothesis in relation to a certain knowledge. The brief point of Keins’ approach is as follows: There is a H hypothesis and it stands on an certain probability in relation to any knowledge (A). Then the offer (saying, provision etc.) T is relevance in relation to A when its (offer’s – T’s) conjunctive connection changes H probability.

Refusing the conception of inductive probability of Karnap, K.Gempel [Gempel K. 1977:73] based more correctness of explanation by “covering laws”. At the same time, he showed that we can interpret only a certain characteristics (partial) of an occurrence by means of “covering laws”: this is such a part that connects an occurrence to other occurrences typical in relation to such occurrence. But M.Skrayven [Drey U. 1977:54-57] noted possibility of benefiting of inductive probability. He wrote that the statistic laws do not only find out the necessity of appearance of an explained or interpreted occurrence, but also not able to clear up the question “why not other occurrence, but this happened”. Therefore “normative” laws should be used in explanation of an occurrence: unlike the statistic laws, it allows to deduct the logic of arising of the interpreted occurrence.

The interpretation of an occurrence (in economic-historic process) within "normative", "statistic" and other laws of the approach ways that we spoke about above briefly, causes a problem of adequacy to reality in relation to an economic existence. Because:

1. A prior character of "normative", "covering" or "statistic" laws in the economic process does not allow reasonably interpreting what the real view is;

2. Inductive-statistic "regularities", as a rule, have concrete time and concrete space character, that is, cover appearance of the single within the concrete frame, not the general one.

3. Inductive-statistic "regularities" refers to the possibility of endless range of repeating occurrences. In fact, economic cycle always occurs within the time-space continuum and has a concrete borders from chronological point. At the same time, in relation to the economic occurrence, there is no cycle=repetition identity.

The probability of happening of an economic occurrence is mainly referred to the theory of mathematical probability for some reason And natural that the research conducted under the mentioned base very rarely provides results adequate to the reality Because, first, the theory of mathematical probability does not answer the question "how has the probability of happening of main occurrences that are taken as reference point been determined?" - the main problem that is important for economy. That is, probabilities causing situations on the output have no importance; second, the theory of mathematical probability is "collection" of rules in content. And it finds out the probability of happening of other occurrences (those depending on main occurrences) referring to main probability under these rules. The mentioned procedure is mostly invalid in relation of the reality. It means that it is principally impossible to find out the probability of happening of an occurrence in economic plane under axioms. Simply there is no place for "axioms" in the economic plane. In this case, the only way out is the approach of probable logic. In any case, an economist has to apply to the probable logic conception when evaluating the probability of an occurrence that may happen in future.

The mathematical logic acts within the narrow frame when evaluating the probability of "existence" of a probability in the economic context. That is, not the probability of happening of any economic occurrence in general, the probability that a concrete occurrence may happen within concrete conditions is assessed. At the same time, indeterminacy from the point of such time keeps its existence as a main attributive nature in the mentioned meaning. In other word, the mathematical logic does not answer the question "which occurrence will happen within concrete condition and

when" (for example, let's say 2 years). The mathematical logic may provide results adequate to the reality (economic) only where: 1) The complex of the selected conditions is adequate to the reality and its verification (mathematically) may be conducted; 2) The selected conditions should be systemized within concrete frame and be homogeneous in quality; that is, unilaterally evaluating the probability of happening of an occurrence is allowed. As seen, the mathematical logic have "working" mechanism when happening of an occurrence or its happening probability has 100% real content: probability should be equal to zero or one in the mathematical language.

No need to prove that the mentioned extreme exactness is impossible in relation to the economic occurrence.

Another important point regarding the probability is connected to repetition of a process or occurrence by time or space. Repetition of an economic occurrence (on both plane) and conformation of it just as "repetition" are problematic well enough.

Conclusion

Repetition of an occurrence in the mere economic context has direct causality connection with reality of our below-mentioned conditions at least:

I. Repetition by time:

1) Stability of intra-system relations for long-term, repetition in the same context;

2) Carrying out of epochal changes (for example, postmodernism type) through the rules with clear borders in the intra-system plane (opposite pole: chaos);

3) absence of cardinal changes in the development trajectory of a system;

4) expressing of the intra-system mutation by probable logic terms;

5) existence of possibility of explanation of probability characterized confirmations in the principles of causality etc.

Modern economic reality is not determined by any of these conditions. And the challenge of the problem is that it is impossible to conduct verification (even by computer simulation) of those conditions in non of "stops" of past → present → future time axis. At the same time, appearance of repetition connected with economic zone only in cycles form obviously provides emptiness of our listed conditions from real context. Cycle is not a repetition of an economic process. Or repetition – but in different context and different essence! Cycle is a time covering beginning and end borders of

a process. So, the probability of repetition of an economic occurrence by time is generally and principally impossible.

II. The main condition in repetition by space is the presence of essence accordance between social-economic systems. That is, area of spread of an economic occurrence and its coverage (from the point of repetition of an occurrence as it be) may have real content only in system accordance.

From this aspect, economic process and economic occurrence do not demonstrate the same behaving style from repetition point. So that, an occurrence acts as one of the line elements of a process. Or a process includes "collection" of a lot of occurrences. Repetition of an economic process may cause repetition of similar occurrences in partial similar social-economic systems, if no epochal change occurs. However, in no case, repeating occurrence will be in succession with its initial variant.

True that modern globalization process has improved the inter-country mutual effect substantially by referring spread of liberal values in planetary level. Nevertheless, the speed of spread of the global crisis of 2008 format, as well as the difference of its results in various countries prove once again that repetition (in relation to economic process and economic occurrence) is not re-production of a process or occurrence as in the initial essence.

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