### A New Methodological Approach to Analyze Human Roles in Human-Robot Interaction Scenarios

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Abstract—The influence of robotics in the job market has socio-economic consequences and the inevitable loss of job positions, but in the Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) scenarios, where humans and robots work together, new jobs and business models will be created. These HRI scenarios can be seen in manufacturing, medicine, maintenance, education, etc. and in the future, in most of the daily tasks. The purpose of this article is to analyze from the perspective of Human-Robot Interaction scenarios, which new HRI human roles and HRI tasks categories has to be taken into account. The new HRI human roles will serve to define and homogenize the transverse skills needed for workers working in HRI scenarios and for analyzing the human roles in HRI experiments. We introduce a methodological approach using the TERRINet HRI Template, which facilitates the analysis of tasks that in the near future will be done by humans working with robots. The Template has been used and tested in 20 study cases of HRI scenarios, validating the methodology and looking for homogenization in human roles.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Robotic technology will be part of our economic activity, improving the tasks that humans perform now and increasing the quality of human life and work. Robots are here to help and collaborate with humans creating a new system that will link the best of both. In this article we will refer to Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) scenarios, where humans and robots work together, although there could be a balance between full autonomy and pure tele-operation.

The human robot interaction literature points the consequences of the introduction of robotic technologies in the labor market and the consequences for human roles, which will lose part of the interesting tasks that they perform, for example, contact with customers [1], social acceptance or work comfort [2]. The reason could be that the employees often do not have the right skills to learn new technologies and fail to understand the benefits of robotics, leading to confusion, resistance and decreasing trust on robots [3]. In the other hand, some literature defends that the introduction of a disruptive technology as the robotic and artificial intelligence (AI) one, could be a good opportunity to employers

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up skills, not only in soft skills [4], but in technological and digital knowledge.

From these perspectives, it seems interesting to investigate the influence of robotics in the job market where human and robots work together, and analyzing the HRI tasks categories and roles that human will perform in specific robotic scenarios.

Coordinating social and technological analysis is not easy. The objectives are different, sometime complementary, the researchers belong to different knowledge areas and the conclusions pointed different audiences. These sociotechnological studies need specific methodology, including new procedures and a coordinated participation of different stakeholders [5]. In this article, a qualitative procedure inspired in Delphi methodology [6] is used to study and systematically approach the analysis of the human roles and tasks categories in future HRI scenarios, which will be used to validate the new proposed human roles and tasks and to look for the homogenization of them in different scenarios.

In order to do this work, this article is structured in several sections. Section II makes a short state of the art. Section III presents the new methodological approach using the TERRINet HRI Template for analyzing human roles in HRI scenarios. Section IV analyzes two study cases in Healthcare and Urban scenarios - using this Template. Section V extends this study to 20 study cases and presents some discussion of the analysis, and finally, section VI presents the conclusions.

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### II. STATE OF THE ART

Experts estimate that around half of today's work activities could be automated by 2055 [3]. The reason is that robotics and AI offer a wide range of potential benefits to organizations and can include cost reduction, productivity gains, enhanced reliability, scalability, improved compliance and security [7]. These wide range of benefits has a counterpart in human workers and employers well-being. Along with other factors such as globalization, the introduction of new technologies has been found to change the jobs that are available and the skills those jobs require. Empirical studies demonstrate that digital technology – not robotic - has led to a decline in the relative demand for routine jobs in advanced economies [8].

A huge part of the literature reviewed on robotics and work forces is principally addressed to healthcare and hospitality services scenarios and mostly in social science publications, examining the impact of robots on services employers [3]; offering a huge analysis about the current state of Artificial Intelligence and Robots in technological trends, ethical questions and regulatory issues [9]; analyzing customers' acceptance and end user responses [10] or establishing the design of robots for good human acceptance [11].

With respect to the human roles and tasks in HRI scenarios several interesting articles addresses these issues.

Steinfeld [12] introduced five task categories oriented to the work of humans with mobile robots. The tasks were selected because they can be performed with a high-level of human direction (pure tele-operation), a high-level of robot independence (full autonomy), or at any point on the interaction spectrum. Using these tasks they were able to define generic metrics that can be applied to a wide range of HRI scenarios and can be used to assess the impact of different levels or types of the HRI performance.

Another important work was published by Scholtz [13] who described the human roles in HRI scenarios. He made a precise description of each role, which allow to understand the interaction and collaboration between human and robot and open new possibilities about how to integrate the best of both capabilities.

Finally, from the perspective of evaluating HRI scenarios, the work of [14] presents an analysis of the team performances in the field and control room at the DARPA robotic challenge trials.

### III. THE TERRINET HRI TEMPLATE FOR ANALYZING HUMAN ROLES IN HRI SCENARIOS

As we have mentioned before, the aim of this article is to define a methodology to analyze the human roles and tasks categories in diverse robotic scenarios in order to understand which are the required human and robotic activities and also to look for the homogenization of roles among the scenarios. We have created a specific template, which is denominated TERRINet HRI template, that incorporates the basic information of the robotic tasks and the specific tasks obtained in real trials, that has to be done by each one of the involved human roles.

The TERRINet HRI template was elaborated through a set of rounds with robotic teams and end users, using a research methodology characterized by the analysis of the problem in its own context [15], where the concepts are at the same time, the inputs and outputs of the research, and they are refined during the field work.

The first Template was structured in the following 4 sections:

- Current scenario description;
- Robotic scenario description and new operational procedure and activities;
- HRI Tasks performed in each activity: navigation, perception, management, manipulation and social

		ERRINet JOBs T				
		USE CASE - SC	ENARIO			
Current Operational Procedure						
	ROBO	OTIC USE CASE	DESCRIPTION			
Type of Robot						
Navigation			Images			
Transporting						
Communication						
Interfaces						
Cloud Services						
Robotic Operational Procedure and Activities						
	Human Robot I	nteraction TASK	S in Robotized Sc	enario		
current capacities, based on what scenario, we will describe the spec manipulation, teleoperation, data i make up the robotized scenario. D	ific activities of the operat management and social	ional procedure throug tasks. Each task inclu security measures and	nh a group of shared HAF ides general issues, that d risk prevention are con-	RITASKS: navigation, perce could be standardized, ar	ption, managemen nd specific ones th	
HRI TASKS	Activity 1	Activity 2	Activity 3	Activity 4	Activity n	
NAVIGATION						
PERCEPTION						
MANAGEMENT						
MANIPULATION						
SOCIAL						
DATA MANAGEMENT						
	Human Robot I	nteraction ROLE	S in Robotized Sc	enario		
In the previous section we have do we will describe the HUMAN ROB		ES that will participate	in the development of th			
HRI ROLES	Activity 1	Activity 2	Activity 3	Activity 4	Activity n	
EXPERT SUPERVISOR						
TECHNICAL SUPERVISOR						
OPERATOR						
MECHANIC						
PEER TEAMMATE						
PEER END USER						
BYSTANDER						
TRAINER						
MENTOR						

Fig. 1: The final version of the TERRINET HRI Template.

 HRI Roles: Supervisor, operator, mechanic, peer and bystander,

In the first Template we used the same HRI tasks categories defined by Steinfeld [12] and the same human roles defined by Scholtz [13].

We used this Template to analyze two different robotic scenarios: Robotic Geriatric Assessment [16], in the healthcare assistance scenario and Robotized Sewer Inspection [17], in the urban surveillance and inspection scenario. After the first rounds with this Template in the two robotic scenarios working with the robotic team and the end users, we realized that these tasks and human roles where not enough. Then, we incorporated new tasks categories and human roles and we modified the Template. We used the new Template in 18 new scenarios, and again we introduced new modifications and finally we obtained the final version of the TERRINet HRI template that can be seen in Fig. 1.

The final Template expands the task categories in 6 categories: navigation, perception, management, manipulation, social and data management. The new task category is Data management, which includes all the treatment of the data collected in the activity and treated in the Cloud Services.

With respect to the human roles, the final Template expand them in 9 categories: expert supervisor, technical supervisor, operator, mechanic, peer teammate, peer end user, bystander, trainer and mentor. These new human role categories allow us to incorporate important new ones that were not considered previously.

As a suggestion, when robotic researchers make HRI experiments, they should include the different types of human roles, because in this way, they would be able to improve the analysis of the HRI tasks.

## IV. ANALYSIS OF TWO STUDY CASES USING THE TERRINET HRI TEMPLATE

In this section we analyzed two HRI scenarios: Robotic Geriatric Assessment [16], in the healthcare assistance scenario and Robotized Sewer Inspection [17], in the urban surveillance and inspection.

In both study cases, the analysis was done through a set of rounds by robotic teams and end users [18].

A. HRI Tasks and Roles in Robotic Geriatric Assessment study case

The mission in this HRI scenario is to perform a Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGA) test to the patients in a geriatric center. The project focuses on the development of a mobile robot able to receive the patient and its family, accompany them to the waiting room and then to the medical consulting room. At the waiting room, some robotic activities are performed, for example the registration data and tests and, once at the medical consulting room, the robot helps the physician to capture and manage the data of the Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGA) procedures.

The activities of the new operational procedure using HRI tasks are (Fig. 2):

- Semi-autonomous tele-operated guiding and accompanying
- Semi-autonomous tele-operated on line data acquisition
- Off line clinician analysis, care planning and management. Not included in HRI tasks.
- Operational procedure supervision
- Robot maintenance, hardware and software updates

The activities mentioned before were described through the group of *HRI tasks categories* defined in the Template.

In the rest of this section, we will describe the activities of each one of the *HRI human roles* for this specific study case, including the new human roles categories described before.

**Supervisor.** The analysis of this study case offers two different supervisor roles: expert and technical supervisor.

Expert supervisor: The current legislation in medical services, imposes to have a medical professional as the responsible of any medical action with patients and every procedure and task has to follow a specific protocol. This expert supervisor has a general information about the HRI robotic tasks: management, social and data management. The medical supervisor leads the preparation of all the procedures and checks the feedbacks of the human robot interaction (the relation between human and robot), and looks for improving or changing the current procedure and protocols. In this study case, the expert supervisor is a doctor or medical professional.

The *Technical supervisor* assists the medical supervisor, control the missions and proposes changes and improvements in the procedure. Moreover, he/she overview the situation, including progress of the multiple platforms - the mission or task plan - and the current behaviors of any of the robots including deviations that may require intervention.



Fig. 2: Images of the Robotic Geriatric Assessment study case [16].

The technical supervisor should have deep knowledge about navigation, perception, management and data management HRI tasks and about the robots' characteristics, functionalities and specificity. A pilot license to control the robot is not mandatory if the supervisor won't tele-operate the robot. The technical supervisor could be a technician (that can include the operator role) or a healthcare professional with technical robotic knowledge.

**Operator.** In this case study the operator role must be a skilled user, having knowledge about navigation, perception, tele-operation, management, data management and social HRI tasks. Also the operator should have knowledge of the robot architecture and characteristics and the robot programming. A pilot license should be considered. The operator could tele-operate the robot or a group of robots in complex situations. The robot should be programmed before the execution of the task. A general overview of the state of robot could be done by the operator before the task starts, but normally the operator explains the problems to the technician that will do the periodic maintenance or repair.

**Mechanic.** This role includes hardware and software maintenance. It could be done by internal maintenance service or external one (a maintenance contract should be mandatory). It includes the mechanical, electronic and software settings of the robot. The mechanic should know the robots' characteristics, functionalities and specificity.

**Peer.** The analysis offers two different peer roles: peer teammate and peer end user.

In this specific study case, the *Peer teammate* is a health-care professional (clinician-nurse) that will introduce the robot to the patient and his family. The peer teammate contributes to the team human-robot according to his ability, exhibiting social competences as interaction characteristics, persuasiveness, trust, engagement, including basic information about navigation, social and management. Any question or problem between robot and patient could be solved by him/her in short term.

The *Peer end user* is the patient. The patient and her/his family will establish a new relationship with the robot. This HRI human role should have information about the robotic scenario, the data management, the basic characteristics of the robot that will attend him/her and the social HRI tasks that the robot offers. The understanding of social communication and the designed interface are the key characteristics for a successful HRI.

**Bystander.** Along the guiding and accompanying activity, the robot will contact with diverse people at the corridors and



Fig. 3: Images of the Sewer Inspection study case [17].

waiting rooms. The bystander should know that the scenario includes robots and AI, the characteristics and behaviors of robots including the social HRI tasks. The creation of information tools as videos, posters and flyers could be advisable solutions for this human robot interaction stating.

Two new HRI roles – Expert supervisor and Peer end user - and a new HRI task – Data Management - have been detected in this scenario and included in the Template for the following analysis.

# B. HRI Tasks and HRI Roles in Robotized Sewer Inspection study case

The mission in this HRI scenario is to inspect the sewer infrastructure using robots and a team workers. The current activities are performed by brigades that do inspection tasks 8 hours a day in the accessible sewer infrastructure (Fig. 3). The new operational procedure is a collaborative job between humans and robots to determine the state of the sewer by identifying the sewer segments where their functionalities have been reduced due to sediments or structural defects. The robot has to register images, videos and has to do geometric analysis (scanning). Additionally, the robot has to take samples of the water, air and sediments for monitoring them and to do structural defect inspection. GIS cartography could be another functionality for those networks which do not have [19].

The robotized sewer inspection' operational procedure includes: logistics; programming trials; inspection (video and images analysis); off line data analysis and management; operational procedure supervision; and robot maintenance. As we have done before, once we have described the HRI tasks to be performed in this new robotic scenario, we will analyze the human roles and the tasks involved in this scenario.

**Supervisor.** This role could join expert and technical supervision. In this activity is mandatory to have a procedure overview, to know the robot capacities, the tele-operation performance and the results of the full process aligned to the inspection requirements. The supervisor should know navigation, perception, management and data management HRI tasks in order to participate in the trials program and could do the off line data analysis and management. In Human-Robot Interactions the physical capabilities of the system change and the supervisor needs to know the "normal" status of the robot at any given time. The supervision operation will organize the process and check it in a continuous improving plan.

**Operator.** During the trials, the robot could go in autonomous mode or in tele-operated mode with remote in-

ROBOTIC SCENARIO	STUDY CASES	SUPERVISOR	TECHNICAL	OPERATOR	MECHANIC	PEER	PEER END USER	BYSTANDER	MENTOR	TRAINER
HEALTHCARE	Robotized Geriatric Assessment									
ASSISTENCIAL	Robot-mediated rehabilitation									
HEALTHCARE	Robot assisted minimally invasive surgery									
TELEOPERATED INTERVENTIONS	Micro Robots for liquid biopsy									
	Cathbot									
INFRASTRUCTURE	Robotized Sewer Inspection									
MAINTENANCE	Work at height in industrial facilities									
AND INSPECTION	Inspection & maintenance of power lines									
URBAN SURVEILLANCE AND LOGISTICS	Human-Friendly Drone Delivery System									
	Drone assistance for police in burglaries									
DRONE TELEOPERATION	FlyJacket for drone control									
AGRICULTURAL	Building a vine pruning unit									
EDUCATION	Middle school teachers computer sciene									
MILITARY MANIPULATION	Explosive ordinance disposal in military									
INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS	Adaptive robotic cell for SPC									
	Safe screwing with a collaborative robot									
INDUSTRIAL	Augment reality projected on workpieces									
	Manipulation of heavy parts									
COWORKERS	Manipulation of the deformable objects									
	Robots in assembly tasks in aircraft fact.									
	Cognitive - Interactive Robot co-worker									

Fig. 4: Analysis of human roles in the study cases

teraction. In this case the operator will do tele-operation with knowledge in navigation, perception, manipulation, management and data management HRI tasks. This activity includes knowledge about the robot, sensors, and the robot plans. The management could include a team of robots that collaborate between them. The operator must be a skilled user, having knowledge of the robotic architecture and robotic programming. The operator should pilot the robot or robots and should be capable of supporting interaction in a complex situation. The pilot license could be mandatory. This role shares information with the supervisor and vice versa.

**Mechanic.** This activity includes hardware and software maintenance. In these inspection scenarios were the trials could damage the robots, a technician, with robotic knowledge, could help the development of the operational procedure. As we have seen before, usually the robot will be sent to the manufacturer for any update or big repair.

**Peer Teammate.** This role includes knowledge about the robot navigation, operation and maintenance. It could be assumed by the operator. The current brigades could develop this role and could up skill their competences to perform the operator role.

As we have seen before, the robot maintenance includes hardware and software maintenance and could be done by an internal or external team.

# V. HRI Human roles in robotized scenarios. 20 Study cases

We have analyzed 20 study cases that where prepared by the TERRINet partners. These study cases arranged by scenarios, can be seen in the table of Fig. 4.

For each one of these study cases we analyzed the HRI human roles and tasks. Fig. 4 shows the human roles

TASKS AND HUMAN ROLES IN HRI SCENARIOS	ROBOTIZED GERIATRIC ASSESMENT	ROBOT MEDIATED REHABILITATION
EXPERT SUPERVISOR	MANAGEMENT SOCIAL DATA Management	NAVIGATION PERCEPTION SOCIAL MANIPULATION
TECHNICAL SUPERVISOR	MANAGEMENT DATA Management	PERCEPTION MANIPULATION SOCIAL MANAGEMENT DATA Management
OPERATOR	NAVIGATION PERCEPTION MANAGEMENT SOCIAL DATA Management	NAVIGATION PERCEPTION SOCIAL MANIPULATION MANAGEMENT DATA Management
TECHNICIAN MAINTAINER	ROBOT MAINTENANCE	ROBOT MAINTENANCE
PEER TEAMMATE	NAVIGATION SOCIAL MANAGEMENT	NAVIGATION PERCEPTION DATA Management
PEER END USER	ROBOT INFORMATION	ROBOT INFORMATION
BYSTANDER	SCENARIO INFORMATION	SCENARIO INFORMATION
TRAINER		TEACHING
MENTOR	Ži.	TEACHING

Fig. 5: Analysis of tasks categories and human roles in healthcare assistance scenarios

for the diverse study cases. The human roles, expert and technical supervisor, operator, mechanic and peer teammate appear in almost all the cases, while the other roles appear occasionally. However, we have to take into account, that the effect of time could change the roles of the humans in the future, because for example, the robots could be different or the working task could be modified over the time.

We also analyzed what type of HRI task categories are required for each one of the human roles in all the study cases. Fig. 5 shows the analysis for healthcare assistance scenarios and Fig. 6 shows the analysis for the healthcare teleoperated interventions.

One of the important issues in the analysis of human roles, it is the study of which of the human roles can be homogenized among diverse scenarios or missions. In this research, we realized that this is a very difficult topic, but in some cases we found that exist some type of homogenization. Fig. 7 shows that in the case of urban infrastructures inspection and maintenance scenarios, we can find homogenization of human roles trough common task categories.

In the analysis of the study cases, we discovered new HRI human roles, specifically in Healthcare Tele-operated Interventions scenario where the robot is fully operated by the medical or surgical professional, two new human roles were required: Mentor and Trainer.

Mentor is a counselor or guide expert that establishes a

HEA	LTHCARE TELEOP	ITERACTION ROLES ERATED INTERVE	
TASKS	ROBOTIC MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY	RADIATION -FREE ROBOTIC ENDOVASCULAR INTERVENTIONS	MICRO-ROBOTI ASISTED ANALYSIS
AND HUMAN ROLES IN HRI SCENARIOS			
EXPERT SUPERVISOR	NAVIGATION SOCIAL PERCEPTION MANAGEMENT MANIPULATION DATA Management	MANAGEMENT MANIPULATION MANAGEMENT	NAVIGATION PERCEPTION MANIPULATION
TECHNICAL SUPERVISOR	-	ROBOT MAINTENANCE	NAVIGATION PERCEPTION MANIPULATION DATA MANAGEMENT
OPERATOR	NAVIGATION MANIPULATION PERCEPTION MANAGEMENT DATA Management	PERCEPTION SOCIAL MANAGEMENT MANIPULATION DATA Management	NAVIGATION PERCEPTION MANIPULATION
TECHNICIAN MAINTAINER	ROBOT MAINTENANCE	= TECHNICAL SUPERVISOR	ROBOT MAINTENANCE
PEER TEAMMATE	NAVIGATION SOCIAL PERCEPTION MANAGEMENT MANIPULATION DATA Management	PERCEPTION MANAGEMENT MANIPULATION SOCIAL DATA Management	
PEER END USER	DATA Management	ROBOT & ROBOTIC SCENARIO INFORMATION	
BYSTANDER			
TRAINER	NAVIGATION PERCEPTION MANAGEMENT MANIPULATION SOCIAL ROBOTMaintenance	TEACHING	
MENTOR	NAVIGATION PERCEPTION MANAGEMENT SOCIAL MANIPULATION DATA Management	TEACHING	

Fig. 6: Analysis of tasks categories and human roles in healthcare teleoperated interventions

personal development relationship that helps a less experienced or less knowledgeable person. The mentor could be assimilated as an expert supervisor, but including tasks of training and teaching for a period of time.

*Trainer* is a person that prepares or trains people for the practice of a specific task. The robot manufacturer is who usually prepare this human role.

Other human roles appear besides the ones related with the HRI ones: robot designers (hardware and software); interface and communication designers; HRI trainers specifically for social tasks; and robotic set designers for each scenario where human and robots will interact and collaborate.

New business models will also appear linked to the robotic scenarios. For example, in last mile delivery use case, Small and Medium Companies (SMEs) could develop commercial solutions.

In all the HRI human roles, including the bystander, all people have to be prepared to work with robots or at least

100000000	SCI	ENARIOS			
TASKS AND HUMAN ROLES IN HRI SCENARIOS	ROBOTIC SEWER INSPECTION	INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF POWER LINES	WORK AT HEIGHT IN INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES		
		ALL THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER	*.		
EXPERT SUPERVISOR & TECHNICAL SUPERVISOR	MANAGEMENT NAVIGATION MANIPULATION PERCEPTION	MANAGEMENT NAVIGATION MANIPULATION PERCEPTION	MANAGEMENT NAVIGATION MANIPULATION PERCEPTION		
OPERATOR	NAVIGATION MANAGEMENT PERCEPTION MANIPULATION DATA Management	NAVIGATION PERCEPTION MANIPULATION MANAGEMENT DATA Management	NAVIGATION MANAGEMENT PERCEPTION MANIPULATION DATA Management		
TECHNICIAN MAINTAINER	MAINTENANCE	MAINTENANCE	MAINTENANCE		
PEER TEAMMATE	ROBOT MAINTENANCE NAVIGATION	LOGISTICS NAVIGATION MANAGEMENT	LOGISTICS NAVIGATION MANAGEMENT		

Fig. 7: Scenarios where the homogenization of human roles among different missions can be done through common task categories

to know their characteristics and functionalities. Information and dissemination actions have to be prepared to educate the people about this new robotic technology revolution and prepare people for the new Human Robot Interaction scenarios.

Although we obtained a deep description of the human roles for each scenario, we have not included the analysis in this article, which will be included in a future one.

#### VI. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH PROPOSALS

In this article we have explained a new methodological approach to analyze Human-Robot Interaction scenarios. We have created a document that can help to do this process, which is denominated TERRINet HRI Template. This Template includes the description of the HRI task, the human roles and task categories. The Template uses 9 human roles to describe the activities: expert supervisor, technical supervisor, operator, mechanic (hardware and software), peer teammate, peer end user, bystander, mentor and trainer. The Template also uses 6 HRI task categories: navigation, perception, manipulation, management, social and data management. In each one of the template sections it is expected that the end users explain deeply the activities, HRI tasks, HRI roles and the difficulties of the different roles.

Using this template as a methodological procedure, we have analyzed 20 study cases in diverse fields: health-care assistance and teleoperated interventions; infrastructures maintenance and inspection; urban surveillance and logistics; drone teleoperation; education; agriculture vine branch pruning; military manipulation; and industrial co-workers.

For these study cases we could determine the human roles and their corresponding task categories. For the urban infrastructure maintenance and inspection, we have been able to find homogenization of the human roles. Finally, this new methodologically approach can be extended to new HRI scenarios, where new human roles and task categories can be found. These new roles will imply new human abilities, new jobs, and new education and training for these jobs. It is important to emphasize that in the HRI experimentation, the researchers should include the human roles to improve the analysis of the HRI tasks.

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