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ON THE LEBESGUE-NAGELL EQUATION

 $_{\rm BY}$

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Abstract. We completely solve the Diophantine equations $x^2 + 2^a q^b = y^n$ (for q = 17, 29, 41). We also determine all $C = p_1^{a_1} \cdots p_k^{a_k}$ and $C = 2^{a_0} p_1^{a_1} \cdots p_k^{a_k}$, where p_1, \ldots, p_k are fixed primes satisfying certain conditions. The corresponding Diophantine equations $x^2 + C = y^n$ may be studied by the method used by Abu Muriefah et al. (2008) and Luca and Togbé (2009).

1. Introduction. The Diophantine equation $x^2 + C = y^n$ ($x \ge 1, y \ge 1$, $n \ge 3$) has a rich history. Lebesgue [9] proved that this equation has no solution when C = 1. Cohn [7] solved the equation for several values of $1 \le C \le 100$. The remaining values of C in the above range were covered by Mignotte and de Weger [13] and by Bugeaud, Mignotte and Siksek [5]. Barros in his recent PhD thesis considered the range $-100 \le C \le -1$. Also, several authors (Abu Muriefah, Arif, Le, Luca, Pink, Togbé,...) became interested in the case where only the prime factors of C are specified (see, for instance, introductions to [2], [11] and [12]). Abu Muriefah, Luca, Siksek and Tengely [1] studied the more general equation $x^2 + C = 2y^n$.

Consider the Diophantine equation $x^2 + C = y^n$, where $C = p_1^{a_1} \cdots p_k^{a_k}$ or $2^{a_0} p_1^{a_1} \cdots p_k^{a_k}$, and p_1, \ldots, p_k are fixed primes satisfying the following three conditions:

(I) $p_i \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ for all $i = 1, \ldots, k$.

Write $C = dz^2$ with d squarefree. Let h(-d) denote the class number of the imaginary quadratic field $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-d})$. Let $\operatorname{rad}(n)$ denote the radical of the positive integer n (product of all prime divisors of n).

- (II) $\operatorname{rad}(h(-d)) \mid 6$ for any decomposition $C = dz^2$ as above.
- (III) $\operatorname{rad}(p_i \pm 1) | 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$ for all $i = 1, \dots, k$.

In such cases we can apply the method used in [2] and [12]. If we are able to determine all S-integral points (with S an explicit set of rational primes) on some associated elliptic curves, then we can completely solve

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such Diophantine equations. Conditions (I)–(III) above were suggested by Section 5 in [2].

In this paper, we determine all values of C satisfying conditions (I)–(III) (Lemma 2). Radicals of C take exactly 41 values. Some of the equations $x^2 + C = y^n$ with C listed in Lemma 2 were studied in the literature; these include $\operatorname{rad}(C) \in \{5, 13, 17, 29, 41, 97, 2 \cdot 5, 2 \cdot 13, 5 \cdot 13, 2 \cdot 5 \cdot 13\}.$

Consider C listed in Lemma 2, with $\operatorname{rad}(C) = 2q$. The cases $\operatorname{rad}(C) = 10, 26$ were studied in [11] and [12]. We consider the three remaining cases. We solve completely the Diophantine equations $x^2 + 2^a q^b = y^n$ for q = 17, 29, and 41. We apply the method used in [2] and [12]. For n = 3 and n = 4, the problem is reduced to finding all $\{2, q\}$ -integral points on some elliptic curves. For $n \ge 5$ we use the theory of primitive divisors for Lucas sequences [3] to deduce that, at most, the cases n = 5, n = 7 are possible. In these cases, we reduce again the problem to computation of all $\{2, q\}$ -integral points on some elliptic curves. The calculations were done using Magma [4].

THEOREM 1. The only solutions of the equation

(1)
$$x^2 + 2^a 17^b = y^n$$
, $x, y \ge 1$, $gcd(x, y) = 1$, $n \ge 3$, $a, b \ge 0$,

THEOREM 2. The only solutions of the equation

(2)
$$x^2 + 2^a 29^b = y^n$$
, $x, y \ge 1$, $gcd(x, y) = 1$, $n \ge 3$, $a, b \ge 0$,

are:

$$\begin{split} n = 3, \quad (x, y, a, b) \in \{(5, 3, 1, 0), (11, 5, 2, 0), (3, 5, 2, 1), (26661, 905, 20, 1), \\ & (14149, 585, 8, 1), (79, 33, 10, 1), (1465, 129, 4, 1), \\ & (95, 33, 5, 2), (73052815, 174753, 17, 2)\}; \\ n = 4, \quad (x, y, a, b) = (7, 3, 5, 0); \end{split}$$

 $n = 7, \quad (x, y, a, b) = (278, 5, 0, 2).$

THEOREM 3. The only solutions of the equation

(3)
$$x^2 + 2^a 41^b = y^n, \quad x, y \ge 1, \gcd(x, y) = 1, n \ge 3, a, b \ge 0,$$

are:

$$\begin{split} n &= 3, \quad (x,y,a,b) \in \{(5,3,1,0), (11,5,2,0)\}; \\ n &= 4, \quad (x,y,a,b) \in \{(840,29,0,2), (7,3,5,0), (87,13,9,1), (33,7,5,1)\}; \\ n &= 5, \quad (x,y,a,b) = (38,5,0,2). \end{split}$$

2. Some useful results. First, let us determine all the primes $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ satisfying condition (III).

LEMMA 1. There are exactly eight primes $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ satisfying condition (III): 5, 13, 17, 29, 41, 97, 449, 4801.

Proof. We have to find all primes $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ satisfying $p+1 = 2 \cdot 3^b 5^c 7^d$ and $p-1 = 2^{\alpha} 3^{\beta} 5^{\gamma} 7^{\delta}$. We consider two cases.

CASE (i): $b + \beta > 0$, $c + \gamma > 0$ and $d + \delta > 0$. Using [8] (or [10, Theorem 4]), we find that the equation $p^2 - 1 = 2^{\alpha+1}3^{b+\beta}5^{c+\gamma}7^{d+\delta}$ has exactly six solutions:

$$5^{2} - 1 = 2^{3} \cdot 3, \quad 17^{2} - 1 = 2^{5} \cdot 3^{2}, \quad 29^{2} - 1 = 2^{3} \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7, \quad 41^{2} - 1 = 2^{4} \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7, \\ 449^{2} - 1 = 2^{7} \cdot 3^{2} \cdot 5^{2} \cdot 7, \quad 4801^{2} - 1 = 2^{7} \cdot 3 \cdot 5^{2} \cdot 7^{4}.$$

CASE (ii): $b + \beta = 0$ or $c + \gamma = 0$ or $d + \delta = 0$. In this case, we obtain two additional primes 13 and 97. To check this statement, one can use, for instance, [6, Theorems 1 and 2]. We omit the details.

Now we are ready to determine all values of C satisfying (I)-(III).

Lemma 2.

- (i) The prime power p^a satisfies conditions (I)–(III) iff $p \in \{5, 13, 17, 29, 41, 97\}$.
- (ii) The number $C = 2^{a_0} p^a$ satisfies (I)–(III) iff $p \in \{5, 13, 17, 29, 41\}$.
- (iii) The odd number $C = p^a q^b$ (p, q different odd primes) satisfies (I)-(III) iff $pq \in \{5 \cdot 13, 5 \cdot 17, 5 \cdot 29, 5 \cdot 41, 13 \cdot 17, 13 \cdot 29, 13 \cdot 41, 17 \cdot 29, 17 \cdot 41, 17 \cdot 97, 29 \cdot 41\}.$
- (iv) The number $C = 2^{a_0}p^aq^b$ (p, q different odd primes) satisfies (I)-(III) iff $pq \in \{5 \cdot 13, 5 \cdot 17, 5 \cdot 41, 13 \cdot 17, 17 \cdot 41\}.$
- (v) The odd number $C = p_1^{a_1} p_2^{a_2} p_3^{a_3}$ (p_1 , p_2 , p_3 different odd primes) satisfies (I)–(III) iff $p_1 p_2 p_3 \in \{5 \cdot 13 \cdot 17, 5 \cdot 13 \cdot 29, 5 \cdot 13 \cdot 41, 5 \cdot 17 \cdot 29, 5 \cdot 17 \cdot 41, 5 \cdot 29 \cdot 41, 13 \cdot 17 \cdot 29, 13 \cdot 17 \cdot 41, 13 \cdot 29 \cdot 41\}.$
- (vi) The number $C = 2^{a_0} p_1^{a_1} p_2^{a_2} p_3^{a_3}$ (p_1, p_2, p_3 different odd primes) satisfies (I)-(III) iff $p_1 p_2 p_3 \in \{5 \cdot 13 \cdot 29, 5 \cdot 17 \cdot 29, 13 \cdot 17 \cdot 29, 13 \cdot 29 \cdot 41\}$.
- (vii) The number C with ≥ 4 different odd prime factors satisfies (I)–(III) iff $C = 5^a 13^b 17^c 41^d$.

Proof. Class number calculations, using Pari. For instance, (i) and (ii) follow from the following data:

$$\begin{split} h(-5) &= h(-10) = 2, \quad h(-13) = 2, \quad h(-26) = 6, \\ h(-17) &= h(-34) = 4, \quad h(-29) = 6, \quad h(-58) = 2, \\ h(-41) &= 8, \quad h(-82) = 4, \quad h(-97) = 4, \quad h(-194) = 20, \\ h(-449) &= 20, \quad h(-898) = 12, \quad h(-4801) = 56, \quad h(-9602) = 88. \end{split}$$

3. The case n = 3

LEMMA 3. Let n = 3.

(i) The only solutions to equation (1) are

 $(x, y, a, b) \in \{(5, 3, 1, 0), (11, 5, 2, 0)\}.$

(ii) The only solutions to equation (2) are

 $\begin{aligned} (x,y,a,b) \in \{(5,3,1,0), (11,5,2,0), (26661,905,20,1), \\ (14149,585,8,1), (79,33,10,1), (1465,129,4,1), \\ (95,33,5,2), (73052815,174753,17,2)\}. \end{aligned}$

(iii) The only solutions to equation (3) are

 $(x, y, a, b) \in \{(5, 3, 1, 0), (11, 5, 2, 0)\}.$

Proof. Let $q \in \{17, 29, 41\}$. Write the equation $x^2 + 2^a q^b = y^3$ as $(x/z^3)^2 + A = (y/z^2)^3$, where A is a 6th power free positive integer, defined by $2^a q^b = Az^6$ with some integer z. Of course, $A = 2^{\alpha}q^{\beta}$ with $\alpha, \beta \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$, and we obtain the equations

$$V^2 = U^3 - 2^\alpha q^\beta$$

with $U = y/z^2$, $V = x/z^3$. We have to determine $\{2, q\}$ -integral points on these 36 elliptic curves; this can be done using Magma. Note that we only need to consider "admissible" points (U, V) (see [12, p. 141]), i.e.

- we discard the solutions with $U \leq 0$ or V = 0;
- we do not consider the solutions having the numerators of U and V not coprime;
- if $U, V \in \mathbb{Z}$, then z = 1;
- if U and V are rationals which are not integers, then their numerators give x and y, and z is determined by their denominators. Therefore, a and b are determined from the formula $2^a q^b = Az^6$.

Here are the results of our Magma calculations.

(i) The only "admissible" $\{2, 17\}$ -integral points on $V^2 = U^3 - 2^{\alpha} 17^{\beta}$ are

$$(U, V, \alpha, \beta) \in \{(3, 5, 1, 0), (5, 11, 2, 0)\}.$$

(ii) The only "admissible" $\{2, 29\}$ -integral points on $V^2 = U^3 - 2^{\alpha} 29^{\beta}$ are

- $(U, V, \alpha, \beta) \in \{(3, 5, 1, 0), (5, 11, 2, 0), (5, 3, 2, 1), (905, 26661, 20, 1), (0,$
 - (585, 14149, 8, 1), (33, 79, 10, 1), (129, 1465, 4, 1),

(33, 95, 5, 2), (174753, 73052815, 17, 2).

(iii) The only "admissible" $\{2,41\}\text{-integral points on }V^2=U^3-2^\alpha 41^\beta$ are

$$(U, V, \alpha, \beta) \in \{(3, 5, 1, 0), (5, 11, 2, 0)\}.$$

4. The case n = 4

LEMMA 4. Let n = 4.

(i) The only solutions to equation (1) are

 $\begin{array}{l} (x,y,a,b) \in \{(47,9,8,1),(8,3,0,1),(1087,33,8,1),(7,3,5,0),\\ (9,5,5,1),(4785,71,9,3),(15,7,7,1),(495,23,11,1)\}. \end{array}$

- (ii) The only solution to equation (2) is (x, y, a, b) = (7, 3, 5, 0).
- (iii) The only solutions to equation (3) are

 $(x, y, a, b) \in \{(840, 29, 0, 2), (7, 3, 5, 0), (87, 13, 9, 1), (33, 7, 5, 1)\}.$

Proof. Let $q \in \{17, 29, 41\}$. Write the equation $x^2 + 2^a q^b = y^4$ as $(x/z^2)^2 + A = (y/z)^4$, where A is a 4th power free positive integer, defined by $2^a q^b = Az^4$ with some integer z. Of course, $A = 2^\alpha q^\beta$ with $\alpha, \beta \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$, and we obtain the equations

$$V^2 = U^4 - 2^\alpha q^\beta$$

with U = y/z, $V = x/z^2$. We have to determine $\{2, q\}$ -integral points on these 16 elliptic curves. As in the case n = 3, we only need to consider "admissible" points (U, V).

Here are the results of our Magma calculations.

- (i) The only "admissible" $\{2, 17\}$ -integral points on $V^2 = U^4 2^{\alpha} 17^{\beta}$ are $(U, V, \alpha, \beta) \in \{(9, 47, 8, 1), (3, 8, 0, 1), (33, 1087, 8, 1), (3, 7, 5, 0), (5, 9, 5, 1), (71, 4785, 9, 3), (7, 15, 7, 1), (23, 495, 11, 1)\}.$
- (ii) The only "admissible" $\{2, 29\}$ -integral point on $V^2 = U^4 2^{\alpha} 29^{\beta}$ is

$$(U, V, \alpha, \beta) = (3, 7, 5, 0).$$

(iii) The only "admissible" $\{2,41\}\text{-integral points on }V^2 = U^4 - 2^\alpha 41^\beta$ are

$$(U, V, \alpha, \beta) \in \{(29, 840, 0, 2), (3, 7, 5, 0), (13, 87, 9, 1), (7, 33, 5, 1)\}.$$

5. The case $n \geq 5$. Let $q \in \{17, 29, 41\}$. We rewrite the Diophantine equation $x^2 + 2^a q^b = y^n$ as $x^2 + dz^2 = y^n$, where d = 1, 2, q, 2q according to the parities of the exponents of a and b. Factoring the last equation in $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-d})$ we get $(x + z\sqrt{-d})(x - z\sqrt{-d}) = y^n$. Here $z = 2^{\alpha}q^{\beta}$ for some nonnegative integers α and β . Conditions (I) and (II) allow us to assume that $x + z\sqrt{-d} = \gamma^n$ with some algebraic integer $\gamma = u + v\sqrt{-d} \in \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-d}]$. As a consequence,

(4)
$$2^{\alpha+1}q^{\beta}\sqrt{-d} = \gamma^n - \overline{\gamma}^n.$$

Let $n \geq 5$ be a prime. The Lucas number $L_n := (\gamma^n - \overline{\gamma}^n)/(\gamma - \overline{\gamma})$ has a primitive prime factor (it cannot be defective, see Table 1 in [3]). A primitive prime factor r of L_n satisfies the congruence $r \equiv e \pmod{n}$, where $e = \left(\frac{-4d}{r}\right)$.

5.1. The Diophantine equation $x^2 + 2^a 17^b = y^n$. In this case r = 17, hence $n \mid 16$ or $n \mid 18$. Therefore (1) has no solution with prime $n \ge 5$. Note, using Lemma 4(i), that (1) has a solution (x, y, a, b) = (47, 3, 8, 1) for n = 8.

5.2. The Diophantine equation $x^2 + 2^a 29^b = y^n$. In this case r = 29, hence $n \mid 28$ or $n \mid 30$. Therefore, n = 7 and d = 1 or n = 5 and d = 2.

CASE
$$n = 7$$
. Using (4) with $n = 7$, $d = 1$, we obtain

5)
$$v(7u^6 - 35u^4v^2 + 21u^2v^4 - v^6) = 2^{\alpha}29^{\beta}$$

Since u and v are coprime, we have the following possibilities.

(a) $v = \pm 2^{\alpha} 29^{\beta}$, (b) $v = \pm 29^{\beta}$, (c) $v = \pm 2^{\alpha}$, (d) $v = \pm 1$.

We only need to look at the last two possibilities.

In case (c), $v = \pm 2^{\alpha}$, and the Diophantine equation (5) is

$$7u^6 - 35u^4v^2 + 21u^2v^4 - v^6 = \pm 29^\beta.$$

Dividing both sides by v^6 , we obtain

(6)
$$7X^3 - 35X^2 + 21X - 1 = D_1Y^2,$$

where $X = u^2/v^2$, $Y = 29^{\beta_1}/v^3$, $\beta_1 = \lfloor \beta/2 \rfloor$, $D_1 = \pm 1, \pm 29$.

In the case $D_1 = \pm 1$, we have to find $\{2\}$ -integral points on the elliptic curves

(7)
$$7X^3 - 35\eta X^2 + 21X - \eta = D_1 Y^2, \quad \eta = \pm 1.$$

We mutiply both sides of (7) by 7^2 to obtain

(8)
$$U^3 - 35\eta U^2 + 147U - 49\eta = V^2,$$

where $(U, V) = (7\eta X, 7Y)$ are $\{2\}$ -integral points on the above elliptic curves.

Using Magma, we find $(U, V) \in \{(1, 8), (58, -293)\}$ (hence, $(X, Y) \in \{(1/7, 8/7), (58/7, -293/7)\}$) for $\eta = 1$. These do not lead to solutions of (2).

If $\eta = -1$, we find $(U, V) \in \{(-21, 56), (-5, 8), (0, 7), (7, -56), (39, 344), (301/4, -6377/8)\}$ (and hence $(X, Y) \in \{(3, 8), (5/7, 8/7), (0, 1), (-1, -8), (-39/7, 344/7), (-43/4, -911/8)\}$). These do not lead to solutions of (2) either.

Consider the case $D_1 = \pm 29$. The unique $\{2\}$ -integral point (2349, -87464)on the elliptic curve $U^3 - 35 \cdot 29U^2 + 21 \cdot 7 \cdot 29^2U - 7^2 \cdot 29^3 = V^2$ does not lead to a solution of (2). Magma finds the $\{2\}$ -integral points (-812, 5887), (-377, 6728), (-5, -776), (91, 4648), (1015, 47096), (8365/4, -941297/8) on the elliptic curve $U^3 + 35 \cdot 29U^2 + 21 \cdot 7 \cdot 29^2U + 7^2 \cdot 29^3 = V^2$. The point (-812, 5887) leads to the solution (x, y, a, b) = (278, 5, 0, 2) of (2).

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Consider case (d), $v = \pm 1$. We have to find integral points on

(9)
$$7X^3 - 35X^2 + 21X - 1 = D_1Y^2,$$

where $D_1 = \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 29, \pm 58$.

The cases $D_1 = \pm 1, \pm 29$ were treated above.

Consider the case $D_1 = \pm 2$. There exists no integral point on the curve $U^3 - 35 \cdot 2U^2 + 21 \cdot 7 \cdot 2^2U - 7^2 \cdot 2^3 = V^2$, and there are two integral points (-14, 56), (7, 91) on the curve $U^3 + 35 \cdot 2U^2 + 21 \cdot 7 \cdot 2^2U + 7^2 \cdot 2^3 = V^2$. These do not lead to solutions of (2).

Consider the case $D_1 = \pm 58$. There exists no integral point on the curve $U^3 - 35 \cdot 2 \cdot 29U^2 + 21 \cdot 7 \cdot 2^2 \cdot 29^2U - 7^22^3 \cdot 29^3 = V^2$ and there are two integral points (58, 6728), (879, -51883) on the curve $U^3 + 35 \cdot 2 \cdot 29U^2 + 21 \cdot 7 \cdot 2^2 \cdot 29^2U + 7^22^3 \cdot 29^3 = V^2$. These do not lead to solutions of (2).

CASE n = 5. Using (4) with n = 5, d = 2, we obtain

(10)
$$v(5u^4 - 20u^2v^2 + 4v^4) = 2^{\alpha}29^{\beta}.$$

As in the case n = 7, we only need to check $v = \pm 2^{\alpha}$, $v = \pm 1$.

In the first case, the Diophantine equation (10) is $5u^4 - 20u^2v^2 + 4v^4 = \pm 29^{\beta}$. Dividing both sides by v^4 , we obtain

(11)
$$5X^4 - 20X^2 + 4 = D_1Y^2$$

where X = u/v, $Y = 29^{\beta_1}/v^2$, $\beta_1 = \lfloor \beta/2 \rfloor$, and $D_1 = \pm 1, \pm 29$. Using Magma we find three {2}-integral points (0, 2), (2, 2), (-2, 2) on (11) with $D_1 = 1$, and none in the remaining cases. These points do not lead to solutions of (2).

In the second case, the Diophantine equation (10) is $5u^4 - 20u^2 + 4 = \pm 2^{\alpha} 29^{\beta}$. We need to find integral points on the curves $5X^4 - 20X^2 + 4 = D_1Y^2$, $D_1 = \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 29, \pm 58$. Magma finds no solution.

5.3. The Diophantine equation $x^2 + 2^a 41^b = y^n$. We have $\left(\frac{-4}{41}\right) = \left(\frac{-8}{41}\right) = 1$, hence in this case n = 5, d = 1 or n = 5, d = 2.

Using (4) with n = 5, d = 2, we obtain

(12)
$$v(5u^4 - 20u^2v^2 + 4v^4) = 2^{\alpha}41^{\beta}.$$

We only need to check $v = \pm 2^{\alpha}$, $v = \pm 1$.

In the first case, the Diophantine equation (12) is $5u^4 - 20u^2v^2 + 4v^4 = \pm 41^{\beta}$. Dividing both sides by v^4 , we obtain

(13)
$$5X^4 - 20X^2 + 4 = D_1Y^2,$$

where X = u/v, $Y = 41^{\beta_1}/v^2$, $\beta_1 = \lfloor \beta/2 \rfloor$, and $D_1 = \pm 1, \pm 41$. Using Magma we find three $\{2\}$ -integral points (0, 2), (2, 2), (-2, 2) on (13) with $D_1 = 1$, and none in the remaining cases. These points do not lead to solutions of (3).

In the second case, the Diophantine equation (12) is $5u^4 - 20u^2 + 4 = \pm 2^{\alpha} 41^{\beta}$. We need to find integral points on the curves $5X^4 - 20X^2 + 4 = D_1Y^2$, $D_1 = \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 41, \pm 82$. Magma finds no solution.

Using (4) with n = 5, d = 1, we obtain $v(5u^4 - 10u^2v^2 + v^4) = 2^{\alpha}41^{\beta}$. In the case $v = \pm 2^a$ we obtain $5u^4 - 10u^2v^2 + v^4 = \pm 41^{\beta}$. Magma finds $\{2\}$ -integral points on

$$5X^4 - 10X^2 + 1 = \pm D_1Y^2, \quad D_1 = \pm 1, \pm 41,$$

namely, (1, 2) if $D_1 = -1$, and (2, 1) if $D_1 = 41$. The point (2, 1) gives the new solution (x, y) = (38, 5) of (3).

In the case $v = \pm 1$, we obtain $5u^4 - 10u^2v^2 + v^4 = \pm 2^{\alpha}41^{\beta}$. Magma finds no integral points on the curves

$$5X^4 - 10X^2 + 1 = \pm D_1Y^2$$
, $D_1 = \pm 1, \pm 41 \pm 2, \pm 82$.

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