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# Consensus Building Via Cooperative Game Theory In The Process Of Urban Redevelopment

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# CONSENSUS BUILDING VIA COOPERATIVE GAME THEORY IN THE PROCESS OF URBAN REDEVELOPMENT

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#### **ABSTRACT**

In Turkey, after the 1999 Gölcük Earthquake, urban redevelopment has been seen as a major solution for removal or rehabilitation of low quality urban settlements. Several laws and bylaws have been passed to this end. One of the major tasks of this transformation and/or redevelopment is to convince relevant parties to participate in the process. This process always needs either significant side-payments from the government, or land use change and/or density bonuses as much as to cover redevelopment costs in high-rent zones of urban land. This research utilizes the cooperative game theory concepts to achieve voluntary participation of property owners by satisfying their rational and reasonable requests from any forms of coalition. In this process, government as an outside institution is included as a central facilitator who has major public interest in solving low quality urban fabric problem with minimal/low-cost involvement of public funds. There are two types of government involvement: i) If the measurable benefits of coalition satisfy the parties, government may function only as a facilitator or coordinator, and may retain the extra benefits of coalition as a tax; ii) If the measurable benefits of coalition do not satisfy the parties, government may function as an external resource supplier to form a coalition. The obtained taxes, later, may be used in the necessary areas as subsidies to build stable coalitions. In the study, the cooperative game theory model utilizes the local governments' rezoning and density modification decisions favoring the financing of urban redevelopment, and sorts the involved parties' strategies. Game theory application results over a hypothetical case have shown that cooperative game theory is an efficient, effective, and rational tool to convince involved parties who may demand illogical and uneducated benefits from any form of coalition. The developed approach can be easily modified, improved, and used in any redevelopment projects.

# **Keywords:**

C71 - Game Theory and Bargaining Theory

R30 - Real Estate Markets, Production Analysis, and Firm Location - General

R38 - Government Policy; Regulatory Policy

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Since the Second World War, Turkey has been facing a trend of rapid urbanization. Especially, during 1960-2000 period, this trend was overwhelming and has resulted in mostly informal and low quality housing and building stocks at the outskirts of major cities. After the 1999 Gölcük Earthquake, urban redevelopment has been seen as a major solution for the removal or rehabilitation of low quality urban settlements. Several laws and bylaws have been passed to this end. One of the major tasks of this transformation and/or redevelopment is to convince relevant parties to participate into the process of change. This process always needs either significant side-payments from the government, or land use change and/or density bonuses as much as to cover redevelopment costs in high-rent zones of urban land.

Many public projects require coalition among many parties to gain the benefits of economies of scale and common uses of infrastructure and public spaces. These gains are either from reducing costs or from deriving extra benefits. In the coalition building processes, some parties hold a more critical position than the others. If these parties are reluctant to join, they needs to be encouraged by means of rational evaluation of their standings and if necessary rational side-payments. The cooperative game theory model used in this research proves to be useful tool presenting such calculated information.

Urban redevelopment projects are very political and very complex in measuring the associated parties' desires and expectations. Almost always, it is highly probable that involved parties' benefit expectations i.e. allocation of values after redevelopment are far beyond the rational limits. This over expectation makes redevelopment projects infeasible and unrealistic. By using the cooperative game theoretic approach, the limits of parties' reasonable expectations can be methodologically presented.

#### II. LITERATURE

In the literature, Heaney & Dickinson (1982), Rogers (1993), Kucukmehmetoglu (2002 & 2009), Kucukmehmetoglu et al. (2010), Kucukmehmetoglu & Guldmann (2004), Wu & Whittington (2006), Tsang & Jim (2011) are the users of the cooperative game theory concepts in various allocation problems. Heaney & Dickinson (1982) focus on the cost apportionment techniques one of which is the core game. Rogers (1993) presents that core game can be used for various water resources allocation. Later, Kucukmehmetoglu (2002 & 2009), Kucukmehmetoglu et al. (2010), Kucukmehmetoglu & Guldmann (2004), and Wu & Whittington (2006) are the users of core game technique in the transboundary water resources allocation problems. Tsang & Jim (2011) are the users of the same methodology for the allocation of green-roof benefits among residents.

Heaney & Dickinson (1982) lists three types of cooperative games with respect to the characteristics of cooperation:

- 1. The value game, which maximizes the profit or revenue functions;
- 2. The cost game, which aims at minimizing the costs;
- 3. The saving game, which aims at reducing costs.

Cost games can be easily converted into value games by modifying inequalities. In this research Heaney & Dickinson's (1982) cost game is converted into a value game.

In details; let x(i) be the benefit allocated to player i when all players cooperate, i.e., join the grand coalition, b(i) be the benefit incurred by player i when he acts independently, i.e., out of the coalition, and b(N) be the benefit incurred by the grand coalition. In order to make participation in the grand coalition advantageous to all players, the benefit of the participants' independent behaviors must not be greater than the benefit of their cooperative behaviors. The inequality (1), represents this condition, and Equation (2) states that the total benefit of the grand coalition is fully allocated among all the participants. These two relationships define all the feasible *imputations*.

$$x(i) \ge b(i) \quad \forall i \in N \text{ (individual rationality)}$$
 (1)

$$\sum_{i=N} x(i) = b(N)$$
 (allocation of benefit in the grand coalition) (2)

Next, consider a subset S of at least two players ( $S \subset N$ ). Let b(S) be the benefit of the subset S if it acts independently. Equation (3) states that the aggregate benefit of subset S when all its participants are in the grand coalition is greater than the benefit that the subset would incur when acting independently:

$$\sum_{i \in S} x(i) \ge b(S) \quad \forall S \subset N \text{ (sub-group rationality)}$$
 (3)

All these equations define a solution set, named the core, over which all rational players agree to join the grand coalition. The higher the benefit of the grand coalition, the higher the probability of obtaining a non-empty core and achieving the grand coalition Kucukmehmetoglu (2002).

$$\sum_{i \in N} x(i) + Z = b(N)$$
 (allocation of benefit in the grand coalition with tax) (4)

Kucukmehmetoglu (2002 & 2009), Kucukmehmetoglu et al. (2010), Kucukmehmetoglu & Guldmann (2004) introduced Z variable to these constraints. When it is maximized, the value and sign of Z presents three outcomes:

- 1. If Z has positive value, Z is the amount of tax can be derived from the grand coalition.
- 2. If Z has zero value, there exist a unique allocation vector in which all grand coalition participants have single allocation value.
- 3. If Z has negative value, Z is the amount of side payment (-tax) required to attain a unique grand coalition solution.

# III. METHODOLOGY

In order to attain a high quality urban space by redeveloping the low quality urban fabric, the means of change is *the density bonuses approach* which provides space specific extra benefits to land lords. These extra befits sometimes covers most of the development costs due to high rent value. While city government approving incremental density bonuses (extra floor area ratios for those who cooperating), it encourages the relevant parties act together for the success of redevelopment projects. It could be a small project affecting only a city block, but still involves many stakeholders depending on the size of the block and characteristics of the study area. The success of projects is based on how bonuses are derived and how the benefits are peacefully allocated to the relevant stakeholders. This research utilizes cooperative game theory concepts in order to i) evaluate the participants' reasonable level of requests, ii) to discover the critical players, iii) determine reasonable level of allocations and side payments, iv) to achieve voluntary participation of all parties. In this process, as an outside institution government is included as a central facilitator who has major *public interest* in solving low quality urban fabric problem with minimal/low-cost involvement of public funds. Even government may raise taxes to finance other projects requiring side payments.

In practice, *density and zoning bonuses* can be easily used to encourage the land/property owners especially in high rent segments of the urban land. In many instances, in high rent zones, the density bonuses are actualized by changes in floor area ratios (FAR). The higher density brings extra building spaces for land lords/owners and developers.

The developed approach evaluates the status of lot owners in the process of forming coalition in order to amalgamate their lots to reach higher property value, higher quality living environment (larger open spaces and public facilities), and larger building areas (FAR). Cooperative game theory is the tool used measuring the parties' possible strategies in various coalition formations.

There are three types of government involvement: i) Government may function only as a facilitator or coordinator without tax or subsidy involvement; ii) If the measurable benefits of

coalition satisfy the parties, government may function as a facilitator or coordinator, and may retain the extra benefits of coalition as a tax; iii) If the measurable benefits of coalition do not satisfy the parties, government may function as an external resource supplier to form a coalition. The obtained taxes, later, may be used in the necessary areas as subsidies to build stable coalitions. Besides city governments' rezoning and density modification capability and its use is another external involvement needs to be mentioned.

Tax Z and payments x(i) to the grand coalition parties are estimated by the use of *Linear Programming Optimization Model* presented in Equations (5) and (6). The constraints of model are explicitly presented in Tables 2 and 3. It should be noted that, in all models, payoffs are measured in square meter floor area which could be converted into monetary value.

Maximize F = ZSubject to Equation (1), (2), and (4)(6)

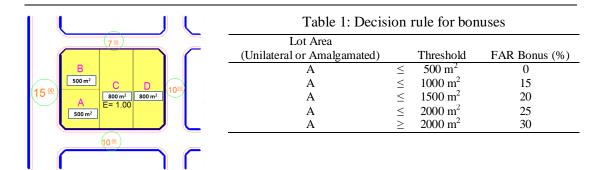


Figure 1: Hypothetic study area (Floor Area Ratio: FAR=1.00)

Figure 1 illustrates a hypothetical building block and 4 lots (A, B, C, D) owned by 4 different land owners. We assume that all landlords behave rational. Current Floor Area Ratio (FAR) is 1.00 for this block. We assume that government has public interest in having this block developed in an integrated fashion, like a single lot, as opposed to each owner building in his/her lot. The government's gain will be increased quality and quantity of carpark and open spaces, therefore improved environmental quality. In order to achieve that, the government provides density bonuses with respect to the rules presented in Table 1. Density bonus means extra building space for use, rent, or sell in the high rent regions. To attain a density bonus at least two lots should have integrated development project. Integrated projects can be actualized only with adjacent lot(s). In other words, A and D cannot get into a common project unless C joins them. In the same way B and D cannot make a productive bilateral coalition. Here, the critical player is C and his participation generates productive results.

Table 2: Explicit presentation of Individual, Subgroup and Grand Coalition Strategies

Coalitions Strategies	Variables for Allocations					Payoff (m <sup>2</sup> )	Behavior	Equation	
	$X_A$				$\geq$	b(A)			
<b>Individual Behaviors</b>		$X_B$			$\geq$	b(B)		E- (1)	
Alone			$X_C$		$\geq$	<i>b</i> ( <i>C</i> )		Eq. (1)	
				$X_D$	$\geq$	b(D)			
	$X_A$	$+X_{B}$			≥	b(AB)			
	$X_A$		$+ X_C$		$\geq$	b(AC)			
Subgroup Behaviors	$X_A$			$+ X_D$	$\geq$	b(AD)		- 4	
Bilateral		$X_{B}$	$+ X_C$		$\geq$	b(BC)		Eq. (2)	
		$X_B$		$+ X_D$	$\geq$	b(BD)			
			$X_C$	$+ X_D$	$\geq$	b(CD)			
	$X_A$	$+X_{B}$	$+X_C$		≥	b(ABC)			
Subgroup Behaviors	$X_A$		$+ X_C$	$+ X_D$	$\geq$	b(ACD)		F (2)	
Trilateral	$X_A$	$+X_{B}$		$+ X_D$	$\geq$	b(ABD)		Eq. (2)	
		$X_B$	$+ X_C$	$+ X_D$	$\geq$	b(BCD)			
Grand Coalition	$X_A$	$+ X_B$	$+X_C$	$+ X_D$	=	b(ABCD)		Eq. (3)	

Table 3: Explicit presentation of Grand Coalition and tax variable (Z)

Table 5: Explicit presentation	OI GI	ana C	oanuc	n and	tax v	aria	Die (Z)	
<b>Grand Coalition</b>	$X_A$	$+X_B$	$+ X_C$	$+ X_D$	+ Z	=	b(ABCD)	Eq. (4)

## IV. MODEL APPLICATION AND RESULTS

Model application section consists of two subsections: In the *first* part, there is a benchmark model application. In the *second* part there are a series of sensitivity analysis.

# **Benchmark Model Application**

Table 4 presents all forms of coalitions and their payoffs to the individuals, subgroups and grand coalition. These values later used in an optimization model (Equation 5-6) and the results are presented in the 6<sup>th</sup> scenario in Table 5b (*Core and Maximum Z Based Allocation*).

Preliminary results evaluating the various unilateral, bilateral, trilateral, and grand coalition strategies including the level of triggering thresholds and associated calculated bonuses are listed as follows:

- Unilateral A (500 m<sup>2</sup>) and B (500 m<sup>2</sup>) do not have any density bonus;
- Unilateral C (800 m<sup>2</sup> $\rightarrow$ 800) and D (800 m<sup>2</sup> $\rightarrow$ ) have 15% density bonuses (800x1.15 m<sup>2</sup> =920 m<sup>2</sup>);
- Bilateral AB  $(500+500=1000 \text{ m}^2)$  has only 15% density bonus  $(1000 \times 1.15 \text{ m}^2 = 1150 \text{ m}^2)$ ;
- Bilateral AC  $(500+800=1300 \text{ m}^2)$  has only 20% density bonus  $(1300 \times 1.20 \text{ m}^2 = 1560 \text{ m}^2)$ ;
- Bilateral BC  $(500+800=1300 \text{ m}^2)$  has only 20% density bonus  $(1300 \times 1.20 \text{ m}^2 = 1560 \text{ m}^2)$ ;
- Bilateral AD (500+800=1300 m<sup>2</sup>) has only 15% density bonus only for D. Since lots are not contiguous there is no extra benefit of being in coalition (500 +  $800x1.15 \text{ m}^2 = 1420 \text{ m}^2$ );
- Bilateral BD (500+800=1300 m<sup>2</sup>) has only 15% density bonus only for D. Since lots are not contiguous there is no extra benefit of being in coalition (500 + 800x1.15=1420 m<sup>2</sup>);
- Trilateral ABC (500+500+800=1800 m<sup>2</sup>) has 25% density bonus (1800x1.25=2250 m<sup>2</sup>);
- Trilateral ACD  $(500+800+800=2100 \text{ m}^2)$  has 25% density bonus  $(2100x1.30=2730 \text{ m}^2)$ ;
- Trilateral BCD (500+800+800=2100 m<sup>2</sup>) has 25% density bonus (2100x1.30=2730 m<sup>2</sup>);

- Trilateral ABD (500+500+800=1800 m²) has two separate 15% density bonuses (1000x1.15 + 800x1.15 = 1150 + 920 = 2070 m²) due to spatial separation of lot D from lots AB;
- Grand coalition ABCD (500+500+800+800=2600 m<sup>2</sup>) triggers 30% bonus (2600x1.30=3380 m<sup>2</sup>).

In these analyses, it is clear that C is the critical partner, and his existence enables coalitions use higher multipliers. The red colored strategies in Table 4 presents that an exclusion of player C results in lowest payoffs in all forms of strategies regarding the block-wise total return. The *lowest* total payoff is being derived from the *sum of individual payoffs* (2840 m² floor area in Table 4), and the *highest* payoff is derived from *grand coalition* (3380 m² floor area in Table 4). The other two lowest payoffs are derived from the scenarios excluding player C from the coalitions. This also illustrates the critical importance of player C. Benchmark case is also presented in the 6<sup>th</sup> scenarios in bold in Table 5a-d. Optimization results for benchmark case also present the importance of player C that the highest square meter allocation (1100 m²) is for this player. Positive Z value (75 m²) shows the extra benefit derived out from the Grand Coalition.

Table 4: Benchmark case payoffs (m<sup>2</sup> floor area) to the all forms of strategies\*

Strategies \ Coalitions	b(a)	<b>b</b> ( <b>b</b> )	<b>b</b> ( <b>c</b> )	b(d)	b(ab)	b(ac)	b(ad)	b(bc)	b(bd)	b(cd)	b(abc)	b(acd)	b(abd)	b(bcd)	b(abcd)	Total
Individual	500	500	920	920												2840
			920	920	1150											2990
T 12 - 1 1		500		920		1560										2980
Individual		500	920				1420									2840
& D:l-t1	500			920				1560								2980
Bilateral	500		920						1420							2840
	500	500								2000						3000
Bilateral					1150					2000						3150
&						1560			1420							2980
Bilateral							1420	1560								2980
Individual				920							2250					3170
		500										2730				3230
& Trilateral			920										2070			2990
materal	500													2730		3230
Grand (All)															3380	3380

<sup>\*</sup> Triggering thresholds values comes from Table 2

## **Sensitivity Analyses**

In the previous section, it has been seen that strategic location plays an important role. In order to illuminate the strategic site specific importance of C, a series of sensitivity analyses have been pursued. For the 1<sup>st</sup> scenario, though C's size is zero, its strategic location results in extra benefits (155 m²) not because of lot size, but because of strategic location between A and D or B and D.

A series of scenarios designed regarding the following sets of rules:

- In all scenarios the total block area is held constant (2600 m<sup>2</sup>);
- The size of lot C and D mutually altered that while the lot size of C increases, the size of lot D decreases. In this process, the sum of lot size C and D is always kept constant (1600 m<sup>2</sup>);
- A 20% increment is selected to derive 11 different scenarios.

Table 5a identified as *Base Lot Size Scenarios* is prepared to show size scenarios; Table 5b identified as *Minimum Benefit Allocation* shows the least required party benefits from designed scenarios; Table 5c identified as *Core and Maximum Z Based Allocation* presents the existence of a core, and whether beneficial to establish a grand coalition, and the extra benefits (tax: *Z*) can be derived from that coalition; Table 5d identified as *Difference between Core and Minimum* displays the difference between minimal benefit and grand coalition benefits to show how beneficial to be in grand coalition after deriving tax benefits (*Z*) from grand coalition.

In all 11 scenarios, Z has positive value except one zero. This shows that parties may have more benefit as compared to their unilateral actions. Z is considered as tax, but use of Z is left to the government, which may choose to allocate this value to all participants with respect to a predefined rules. Shapley value can be a tool for that, also Heaney & Dickinson (1982) and Giglio & Wrightington (1972) proposes a series of allocation techniques in their researches.

Finally, Figures 2 and 3 is prepared to presents the strategic importance of location of C. In these figures Player C's returns are compared with the same size player D's returns. While preparing graphs the lot sizes are held the same for C and D, and returns with bonuses are comparatively observed.

Figure 3 presents the core game allocation (with maximized city tax: Z) to player C and D. The horizontal axis of the figure presents the square meter base lot area of C and D. Although the lot sizes of C and D are the same, their returns from core game are not the same. C always obtains higher returns. The difference comes from the intermediate locational position of the lot C as compared to lot D. The similar results are seen in Figure 4 which shows the difference between core allocation and minimum benefits. Again line for C shows that strategic location of C brings more core allocation as compared to the same size D lot.

Table 5: Sensitivity analyses considering the size of the lots (m<sup>2</sup> floor area)

	ie 5: Sens	itivity analyses co	iisidei ii			Lot C		Total
a)		Scenario		Lot A 500	<b>Lot B</b> 500		Lot D 1600	<b>Total</b> 2600
	so	1		500	500	0 160	1440	2600
	Base Lot Size Scenarios	2 3 4		500	500	320	1280	2600
	<b>E</b>	3 1		500	500	480	1120	2600
	Şc	5		500	500	640	960	2600
	Se Se	6		500	500	800	800	2600 2600
	<b>3</b> 5	7		500	500	960	640	2600
	ρt	8		500	500	1120	480	2600
	e I	9		500	500	1280	320	2600
	9as	10		500	500	1440	160	2600
		11		500	500	1600	0	2600
b)		Scenario		b(A)	<b>b</b> ( <b>B</b> )	<i>b(C)</i>	<i>b(D)</i>	Total 1
	u	1		500	500	0	2000	3000
	atić	2		500	500	160	1728	2888
	<u> </u>	2 3		500	500	320	1536	2856
	₽	4		500	500	480	1344	2824
	Ħ	5		500	500	736	1104	2840
	Minimum Benefit Allocation	6		500	500	920	920	2840
	B	7		500	500	1104	736	2840
	Ħ	8		500	500	1344	480	2824
	Ē	9		500	500	1536	320	2856
	<u>;</u>	10		500	500	1728	160	2888
	Σ	11		500	500	2000	0	3000
c)		Scenario	Z	x(A)	x(B)	<i>x</i> ( <i>C</i> )	x(D)	Total 2
	sed	1	75	575	575	155	2000	3380
	Ba	2 3	75	575	575	242	1913	3380
	Z	3	75	575	575	434	1721	3380
	H C	4	75 75	575	575	626	1529	3380
	Maximum Allocation	5	75 75	575	575	900	1255	3380
	2C 2X	6	<b>75</b>	575 575	575 575	1100	1055	3380
	ΣÆ	7	75 75	575	575	1300	855	3380
	pu	8 9	75 75	575 575	575 575	1606	549	3380
	e e	9 10	75 48	575 548	575 602	1814 2022	341 160	3380 3380
	Core and Maximum Z Based Allocation	10	0	500	650	2022	0	3380
d)		Scenario	0	x(A)- $b(A)$	x(B)- $b(B)$	x(C)- $b(C)$	x(D)- $b(D)$	Total 1-Total 2
u)	<b>D</b>	1		75	75	155	0	380
	E	2		75	75	82	185	492
	ore	3		75	75	114	185	524
	<b>ర</b> ై	2 3 4		75 75	75	146	185	556
				7.5	75	164	151	540
	an a	5		/5	13	107	101	
	tween	5 <b>6</b>		75 <b>75</b>	75	180	135	540
	between finimum	5 <b>6</b> 7		75 <b>75</b> 75	<b>75</b> 75	180 196	<b>135</b> 119	<b>540</b> 540
	ice between Minimum	7		75 <b>75</b> 75 75	<b>75</b> 75 75	<b>180</b> 196	<b>135</b> 119	<b>540</b> 540
	rence between Minimum	7 8 9		75 75	<b>75</b> 75 75 75	180 196 262 278	135	540
	Difference between Core and Minimum	7		75	<b>75</b> 75	180 196 262	135 119 69	<b>540</b> 540 556

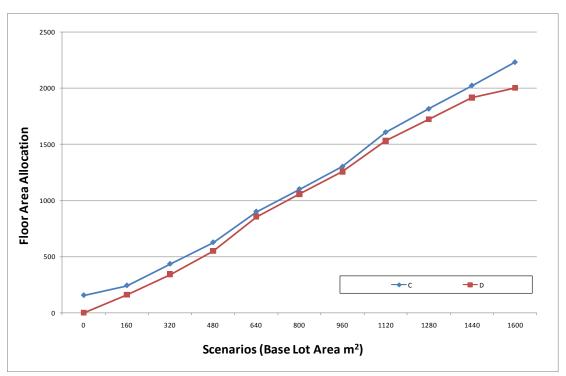


Figure 3: Core game allocation (m<sup>2</sup>) to the same size player C and D (Derived from Table 5c)

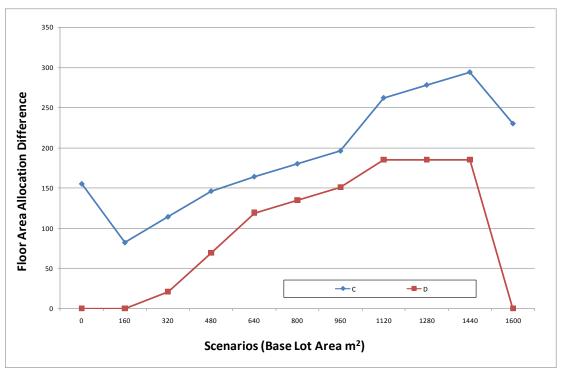


Figure 4: Difference between core game allocation and minimum benefit allocation  $(m^2)$  to the same size player C and D (Derived from Table 5d)

#### V. CONCLUSION

Game theory application results over a hypothetical case have shown that cooperative game theory is an efficient, effective, and rational tool to convince involved parties who may demand illogical and uneducated gains from any form of coalition. The developed approach can be easily modified, improved, and used in any redevelopment projects.

Though a hypothetical case, scenarios clearly illustrates the significance of party strategies and their locational advantages. Strategic locations make difference and enables the parties extract additional benefits beyond their unilateral benefits.

The +Z shows that government may derive tax revenue to subsidize (-Z) some other projects requiring side payments. This empowers governments to improve urban public land by stimulating the parties with various bonuses. Because bonus rules are determined by city government and approved by city councils, they can be an efficient and effective tool for urban redevelopment policies especially for high rent zones.

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