Enigmatic Gravity Effects Observed during Solar Eclipses.

Their Analyse by Quantum Model of Inertia and Gravitation

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Abstract

Foucault long pendulums, with spherical suspended mass, show Earth rotation by the constant velocity drift of their oscillation plane. Maurice Allais used a short, 84 centimeters pendulum, with a suspended bronze disc mass. He recorded its oscillation plane drift velocity, during solar eclipses, in 1954 and 1959. Both times, he noticed an anomalous drift of the oscillation plane. Several authors confirmed the effect, during next solar eclipses, with other types of pendulums. Then a group of Geophysicists, from the Science Academy of China, used an accurate digital gravimeter to measure Earth Gravity acceleration during March 09, 1997 solar eclipse. Their gravimeter recorded two drops of Earth Gravity acceleration (respectively 5.02 and 7.7 µ Gals) before and during first and last contacts of the Moon disc. However there was no acceleration drop during eclipse totality. Same phenomena were confirmed later, during next solar eclipses, with the same gravimeter. No classical causes for these facts were found, since modern gravimeters take care of temperature and atmospheric pressure variations. We analyse the effect of Moon rotation, and of solar Corona mass, in the frame of our Quantum model of Inertia and of Gravitation. The model predicts that Moon / Earth Gravity acceleration changes, when the Moon direction is close to the Sun one, as observed from the gravimeter place. That phenomenon should be tied to Quantum fluctuations dispersion by matter. Recorded measurements confirm that interpretation.

Keywords: Gravitation, Solar Eclipses, Allais Effect, Gravity Drop during Solar Eclipses

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

First known from Toricelli in 1647, then better from Huygens in 1659, small amplitude oscillations periods $T$ of pendulums of length $L$ are isochronous, and tied to Earth Gravity acceleration $g$: $T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{L}{g}}$. That was the first instrument used to measure Earth Gravity acceleration $g$.

Leon Foucault demonstrated that a pendulum, made of a spherical mass, suspended by a long length $L$ wire, oscillates with a constant drift velocity of the pendulum oscillation plane. The plane rotates clockwise in the North Earth hemisphere. A full turn is observed in 23 hours, 56 minutes and 4 seconds at North Pole. No plane rotation is observed at Earth equator, and anti-clockwise rotation is seen in the South Earth hemisphere. Foucault installed a 64 meters long demonstration pendulum, into the Pantheon monument in Paris, (Foucault, 1851), where the oscillation plane rotates a full turn in about 1.4 days.

Figure 1. Leon Foucault and the Pantheon pendulum demonstration
Similar “pedagogical” pendulums were installed in Belgium, Burundi, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Kingdom, and USA. Such long and slow pendulums were however not used for observations during solar eclipses.

1.2 Maurice ALLAIS Observations

Maurice Allais (1911 - 2010), engineer and contemporary physicist, Nobel economy laureate in 1988, was interested by Gravitation during his career. He observed the behaviour of a “paraconical” pendulum during solar eclipses of 1954 and 1959.

Figure 2. Maurice Allais and his 84 cm long pendulum

Maurice Allais experiments consisted to leave the pendulum disc oscillating, while recording carefully its clockwise azimuth drift, versus time. Oscillations were damped by air drag, so the pendulum oscillation had to be reset every 20 minutes approximately. Allais took great care not to perturb the pendulum from wind or personal movements. During 1954 and 1959 solar eclipses, visible from France, Allais observed strong modifications of the pendulum oscillation plane drift velocity.

The anomalous effects were intense (10 Grads azimuth change during short time eclipses), so Allais informed the French Science Academy (Allais 1954 & 1959).

Figure 3. Allais pendulum oscillation plane drift, (Grades, Hours), during 1954 solar eclipse

Figure 4. Allais pendulum oscillation plane drift (Grades, Hours), during 1959 solar eclipse
1.3 Other Similar Allais’ Observations during Subsequent Eclipses

Maurice Allais was not the only observer of these enigmatic phenomena during solar eclipses. For example, Mishra & al (Mishra, 1995) observed the behaviour of a gravimeter with ± 0.01 μ Gal resolution at slow time scale, during October 24, 1995 solar eclipse in India. (One μ Gal = 10^-8 m/s^2).

![Mishra et al., gravimeter signal, during October 24, 1995 solar eclipse. Top, signal without Earth tidal correction. Bottom, with Earth tidal correction.](image)

Several authors replicated Maurice Allais’ work, and observed similar facts, with different kinds of pendulums or gravimeters (Saxl et al., 1964, 1965, 1970, 1971), (Latham et al., 1980), (Jun et al., 1991), (Kuusela, 1991, 1992), (Brenes & al; 1993), (Savrov, 1997), (Mihaila et al., 2003).

Observations with pendulums had a too low time resolution, for being exploited with our quantum model. There were similar attempts, with superconducting gravimeters, during the 1999 total solar eclipse, visible from the north of France, but with not enough gravity sensitivity, and too much noise, for our exploitation.

![Gravity accelerations during 1999 total solar eclipse with ± 10 — 3 m/s^2 sensitivity](image)

These attempts were a pity, because of inadequate choice of gravimeters sensitivity, and inadequate time resolution, despite the fact that 1999 eclipse was ideally situated.
Figure 8. Personal picture of the 1999 solar eclipse with hot gas Corona.
See that angular thickness of solar corona was about 25% the Moon angular diameter in 1999.

1.4 Observations with a High Resolution LaCoste-Romberg Gravimeter
Fortunately a group of Geophysicists from Sciences Academy of Beijing (China), used the best available digital gravimeter, to measure Earth Gravity acceleration during several solar eclipses, for example the one of March 09, 1997 (Wang & al, 2000, 2002, 2003). Their gravimeter had a sensitivity of about one µ Gal, and could record acceleration values at one sample per second rate. The gravimeter output signal was recorded on a portable computer and corrected automatically from Earth tidal effects.

Figure 9. LaCoste-Romberg Gravimeter, the kind used by Wang et al., during solar eclipse of 1997

Figure 10. Gravity acceleration measured along seven days (1997 Solar eclipse in the middle).
Random output noise of instrument = ± 0.5 µ Gal, Eclipse signal > — 5 µGal.
Figure 11. The two gravity drops, during the 1997 solar eclipse. We added Moon shadow displacements onto Earth surface, during that eclipse. Acceleration drops observed before and after first and last contacts.

Figure 12. The gravimeter measures the relative length of a spring charged by a known mass. Therefore only the vertical component of Gravity is measured this way.

LaCoste-Romberg gravimeters are based on the displacement of a mass suspended by a spring. In order to avoid effects of temperature change and of atmospheric pressure change, LaCoste-Romberg gravimeters sensors are enclosed into a vacuum chamber, with accurately piloted temperature.

Figure 13. Part of the patented internal diagram of a LaCoste-Romberg type gravimeter. On the left side is the temperature controlled vacuum chamber with acceleration sensor.
Such precautions are required, as atmospheric pressure and external temperature change during a solar eclipse.

Figure 14. Example of atmospheric pressure change during the 1999 Solar Eclipse

Professional gravimeters make automatic corrections for the modelled Earth tides, Figures 10 & 11 were corrected automatically this way.

Figure 15. Example of tidal corrections from a LaCoste-Romberg gravimeter. These tidal accelerations are quite slow as compared to the eclipse anomaly.

The Wang et al., group of Geophysicists measured Gravity, during several other eclipses, with similar results. Let us quote what they published about that:

“To further study the gravity effects related to solar eclipses, our scientific team took more observations during Zambia total solar eclipse of June 2001 and Australia total solar eclipse of December 2002. After data corrections, we found respectively two gravity anomalies, with 3 to 4 μ Gal for Zambia eclipse and 1.5 μ Gal for Australia eclipse”.

The effect of external temperature change, onto gravimeter signal, is known from manufacturer calibration:

Figure 16. Upper curve is the gravimeter vacuum chamber temperature change (right scale) when external air temperature varies from + 45 ° C to + 22 ° C. Time scale in hours, along a full day.

Lower curve is the gravimeter output signal, with tidal effect (left scale, with noise = ± 0.5 μGal).
2. Discussion

2.1 There Was No Gravitation Absorption by the Moon Mass during the Solar Eclipse

Several authors expressed their intention to verify if there is gravitation absorption by the Moon mass. For example, Wang et al., (2000) wrote: “The present work was thus motivated to test the possible effect of gravitational shielding during a total solar eclipse”. Or Ruymbake et al., (2003): “Search for the gravitation absorption effect”. However, real gravimeter signal shows (Figures 10 & 11) that Earth Gravity acceleration value is the same, long before, during, and long after, the eclipse totality. The two Gravity acceleration drops are only momentary phenomena, occurring before first contact and after last contact, not during eclipse totality.

2.2 There Were No Instrumental or Environmental Artefacts

A physicist (Van Flanders, 2003), among others, suspected a Gravity drop caused by action, on the gravimeter, of local atmospheric pressure variation, or temperature variation, during solar eclipse. This hypothesis ignores the fact that LaCoste-Romberg gravimeters sensors are enclosed into a thermally controlled vacuum chamber. Therefore such instrumental or environmental causes are ruled out, particularly when looking at time scale of atmospheric pressure, and of local temperature, during an eclipse, versus the fast signal variation of Figure 11. The Wang group refutes such possible causes itself: “As many scientists have pointed out that pressure-gravity factor is lower than 0.3 μ Gal / hPa, it means that any gravity anomaly greater than 0.5 μ Gal could not be inferred as the results of atmospheric pressure change. The two more gravity anomalies recorded during the solar eclipses provided us strong evidence that some gravity anomalies could not simply be inferred as atmospheric pressure change.” Therefore, clearly, there was not any artefact, into that enigmatic phenomenon. Figure 10 is particularly clear.

2.3 The Anomaly Amplitude Is Tied to the Moon Height Over the Horizon

According to Figure 11 time scale, in minutes, first contact of Moon disc occurred at time 483.7 minutes, and last contact occurred at time 622.9 minutes.

However, the two minima of Gravity acceleration drops occurred respectively at 458.33 minutes and 633.33 minutes, this means 25.37 minutes before first contact, and 10.43 minutes after last contact.

From the latitude, and from eclipse timing, we calculate the Moon height over the local horizon at different instants. It was 7.725 ° during the minimum of first acceleration drop, of 5.02 ± 1.64 μ Gal. And it was 30.251 ° during the minimum of second acceleration drop, of 7.7 ± 1.77 μ Gal.

Therefore the largest acceleration drop occurred while the Moon was much higher into the sky.

So we propose the hypothesis that the gravimeter measured the vertical component of an acceleration, tied to the Moon position in the sky. In this case, there should be more acceleration drop when the moon direction is closer to the zenith direction. This is effectively what was measured.

However, the gravimeter did not measured an acceleration drop proportional to a constant value, times the sinus of the Moon height, over the horizon. Effectively, Ratio [sin(30.251 °) / sin(7.725 °)] = 0.267, and Ratio (5.02 μ Gal / 7.7 μ Gal) = 0.652, this means the acceleration drops were relatively smaller by a factor 2.44 times, than the Moon relative height change. This means that the acceleration drop real cause was not constant along the full eclipse. Nevertheless, there is apparently an effect of the acceleration drop projection along the vertical axis.

2.4 The Two Gravity Drop Durations Were Tied to the Moon Diameter

Onto Figure 11, we added the displacement of Moon shadow, on Earth surface, during the eclipse, from the eclipse timing and Astronomical movements. We see that the first Gravity acceleration drop corresponds to a Moon shadow displacement of 3517 km (from timing measured along the horizontal dotted line, which is the average acceleration value before eclipse). And the second Gravity acceleration drop corresponds to a Moon shadow displacement of 3297 km. We know that the Moon diameter is 3476 km. Therefore the two Gravity drops durations corresponded respectively to 101.17 % and 94.85 % the Moon diameter displacement. So when taking into account errors margins, into evaluation of these durations, from noisy Figure 11 gravimeter signal, we can really consider that the two drops were exactly caused by Moon direction change, relative to the Sun direction.

2.5 There Are Three Accelerations Involved during a Solar Eclipse

Three astronomical masses are acting onto the gravimeter sensor mass: The Earth mass, the Moon mass, and the Sun mass. We can calculate the three Gravitational accelerations, according to Newton’s Law:
\[ \text{Acceleration} = \frac{G M*}{D^2} \quad (1) \]

Where \( G = 6.6725985 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^3 \text{ kg}^{-1} \text{ s}^2 \), \( M* \) is the distant mass, and \( D \) is the distance expressed in meters.

We need:

- Mass of Sun: \( 1.9891 \times 10^{30} \text{ Kg} \)
- Average distance Earth / Sun: \( 1.49597870 \times 10^{11} \text{ m} \)
- Mass of Earth: \( 5.977 \times 10^{24} \text{ Kg} \)
- Average Earth radius: \( 6.378 \times 10^6 \text{ m} \)
- Mass of Moon: \( 7.3 \times 10^{22} \text{ Kg} \)
- Average diameter of Moon: \( 3.476 \times 10^6 \text{ m} \)
- Average Distance Earth - Moon: \( 3.84400 \times 10^8 \text{ m} \)

Here are the three gravitational accelerations “seen” from the gravimeter position:

- Acceleration from Earth: \( 9.8 \times 10^8 \mu \text{Gals} \)
- Acceleration from Moon: \( 3.297 \times 10^3 \mu \text{Gals} \)
- Acceleration from Sun: \( 5.93 \times 10^5 \mu \text{Gals} \)

These accelerations are not oriented in the same space direction. The gravimeter measures only their vertical component, which varies with the \( \sin \) of Moon height, and with the \( \sin \) of Sun height, over the local horizon:

- Acceleration measured by gravimeter from Earth: \( 9.8 \times 10^8 \mu \text{Gals} \)
- Acceleration measured by gravimeter from Moon: \( 3.297 \times 10^3 \mu \text{Gals} \) times \( \sin (\text{Moon height}) \)
- Acceleration measured by gravimeter from Sun: \( 5.93 \times 10^5 \mu \text{Gals} \) times \( \sin (\text{Sun height}) \)

During eclipse, height of Sun, and height of Moon, are almost equal, but both vary along the eclipse, from \( 7.725 \degree \) to \( 30.251 \degree \), with \( 21 \degree \) common height at totality.

Therefore \textit{at totality only} the gravimeter “sees”:

- Vertical Acceleration from Earth: \( 9.8 \times 10^8 \mu \text{Gals} \)
- Vertical Acceleration from Moon: \( 1.1815 \times 10^3 \mu \text{Gals} \)
- Vertical Acceleration from Sun: \( 2.125 \times 10^5 \mu \text{Gals} \)

Therefore if we make the hypothesis of a variation of the Moon Gravity acceleration, we see that 5.02 \( \mu \) Gal drop corresponds to 1.13 \% of the Moon Gravity acceleration before first contact, and that 7.7 \( \mu \) Gal drop corresponds to 0.46 \% of the Moon Gravity acceleration after last contact.

\subsection*{2.6 What Is Gravitation Cause into Our Quantum Model?}

In order to be able to analyse gravimeter observations during solar eclipses in the frame of our Quantum model of Gravitation (Poher, 2020), we must first recall what is Gravitation cause into that model.

The model predicts that Gravitation is an effect of \textit{Quantum Fluctuations} of a general Quantum flux. This flux, (confirmed by laboratory experiments, Poher, 2011), is made of Quanta (Universons), propagating at light speed, and bearing each a same momentum \( (2.83 \times 10^{-29} \text{ kg.m/s}) \). That natural Universons flux is isotropic, with a tremendous intensity \( (6.3 \times 10^{80} \text{ Universons / s . m}^2 \text{ into the 4\( \pi \) steradians}) \).

There is a permanent interaction of these Quanta with elementary matter particles. Each interaction develops during constant time \( (7.8 \times 10^{-14} \text{ second}) \), and is made without final energy exchange.

However, when the matter particle is accelerated, Universons quit the interaction with a trajectory direction change, proportional to the matter particle acceleration value. There is however no absorption of Universons by matter.

The main natural isotropic flux of these Quanta contains permanent random fluctuations, of its intensity and of its flow direction. These fluctuations have an average very large intensity \( (2.5 \times 10^{40} \text{ Universons / s . m}^2 \text{ into the } 4\pi \text{ steradians}) \). They are quite brief (average duration each of \( 4 \times 10^{-41} \text{ second} \)) and each of their own variable direction of propagation is fully random, but with a global average isotropy.

An isolated matter particle, situated far away, in Space, is not perturbed by these fluctuations for two reasons:

- They are isotropically distributed on average, even if their occurrence is fully random.
- They are much too brief as compared to relatively slow interactions of matter with Universons.

Effectively, the interaction duration is \( 2 \times 10^{-27} \text{ times longer} \) than an average fluctuation duration.

\subsubsection*{2.6.1 Let Us Take an Example to Illustrate This}

\textit{Let us consider a Neutron of mass \( 1.67 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg} \), interacting with the main Universons flux. The average number of Universons into the permanent process of interaction with that Neutron is quite large \( (1.7735 \times 10^{10} \text{ Universons}) \). Among these 17.7 billions of Universons, the vast majority comes...}
from the isotropic main flux. Only one Universon over 133000 comes from a fluctuation. So there are, on average, only \(7.5 \times 10^{-6}\) of the interacting Universons, that are coming from fluctuations of the main flux. These are really a minority.

Therefore, when the interaction of each of these 17.7 billions of Universons is finished, after \(7.8 \times 10^{-14}\) second has elapsed, the direction of re-emission of the minority of Universons, coming from fluctuations, is governed by the average acceleration of the matter particle, not by the initial direction of the incoming fluctuation.

This means that matter is a kind of "filter" for fluctuations. The incident interacting flux contains fluctuations, but the emergent flux contains much less fluctuations (there remains only Universons from fluctuation that have not interacted). This is also true for macroscopic matter of course.

End of Neutron example.

This phenomenon of "partial transmission of fluctuations" occurs also of course for masses of matter of the Sun, of the Moon and of the Earth.

For the gravimeter, installed onto the Earth surface, there are incoming Universons (Gravitational Quanta) from all directions of Space. However, the Earth mass disperses a part of the Universons from fluctuations, coming from the NADIR direction. And there is no such dispersion from the Zenith direction.

This is the reason why the sensor mass of the gravimeter is accelerated towards the Nadir direction, as the Universons average flux intensity is larger from the Zenith than from the Nadir. This is Gravity acceleration from Earth mass.

The same phenomena apply for the Moon mass and for the Sun mass. There are LESS Universons, going towards the accelerometer, from the directions of the mass center of these astronomical bodies, exactly as it is the case for Earth mass.

3. Solar Eclipse Interpretation from Universons Model

During solar eclipse, the Sun mass and the Moon mass get progressively aligned, as seen from the gravimeter installed on Earth surface. So there are FIVE Universons fluxes to consider for the gravimeter sensor. The sensor reacts proportionally to the sum of these five fluxes.

![Figure 17](https://example.com/figure17.png)

**Figure 17.** Instant of first contact during a solar eclipse. On Earth surface two Universons fluxes are flowing. The main flux comes from deep space through the Sun mass. The secondary flux comes from deep space through the Moon mass. But before the first contact, part of the secondary flux comes also through the sun Mass.

**Flux #1** is coming from deep space, though Earth mass, in the nadir direction (really from \(2\pi\) steradians under the gravimeter). This flux is "amputated" of a part of its fluctuations (proportionally to Earth mass). This flux is not illustrated onto Figure 17, it would come from the right side of Figure 17.

**Flux #2** is coming from deep space, all around the Sun and Moon directions, (from \(2\pi\) steradians minus the Sun and Moon solid angles directions). This flux contains ALL fluctuations coming from these directions. This flux is not illustrated onto Figure 17.

**Flux #3** is coming from deep space, through the SUN mass. This flux is “amputated” of a part of its fluctuations (proportionally to Sun mass). This flux is shown as deep grey onto Figure 17.

**Flux #4** is coming from deep space, through the MOON mass. This flux is “amputated” of a part of its...
fluctuations (proportionally to MOON mass). This flux is not illustrated onto Figure 17.

**Flux #5** is part of Flux #4, but is coming also through the surrounding SUN mass (Corona) before going through the MOON mass. This flux is illustrated in pale grey onto Figure 17. This flux is more “amputated” of a part of its fluctuations (proportionally to SOLAR CORONA plus MOON masses).

We should effectively not forget that there is a lot of matter mass, around the Sun disc, as seen from the gravimeter (see solar Corona on Figure 8 for example). Therefore Flux #5 “shape and thickness” are tied to solar Corona shape and dimension behind the Moon direction, as seen from the gravimeter position.

The Moon rotates (one turn in 29.53 days), so its matter particles are all accelerated. If they were not accelerated they would propagate in straight trajectories instead of following the Moon rotation.

Therefore according to Universons Inertia model, the moon particles deviate Universons trajectories interacting with them. The deviation angle $\phi$ is small, because matter Moon particles acceleration $A$ is small:

$$\phi = \frac{2\pi A}{c}$$  \hspace{1cm} (2)

Moreover ratio $\phi/c$ (interaction duration / speed of light) is equal to $2.6 \cdot 10^{-22}$, but the number of matter particles involved, as well as the number of Universons involved, each second, are huge numbers. So the Universons trajectory deviation, into Flux # 5, can be measured by the Gravimeter. This is equivalent to a momentary change of the Moon-Earth Gravitation acceleration of a few $\mu$ Gals when projected onto the vertical direction of gravimeter sensitivity.

When the Moon is far away from the Sun direction, there is no Flux #5 at all. There is of course Moon rotation, but Flux # 4 is deviated symmetrically, by Moon rotation. (Universons coming from the left side of Moon are deviated in one direction, and Universons coming from the right side of Moon are deviated in the opposed direction, therefore the global effect is nil), so that the gravimeter does not receive a modified total Flux # 4 from the moon direction when the Moon is not eclipsing the sun.

Therefore it is only close to the Sun direction, during an eclipse, that Flux #5 exists, acting more on one half of the Moon, than on the other half, because of solar Corona “thickness”. And in this case the Moon rotation decreases the Moon Universons flux # 5, towards the gravimeter, causing acceleration drop measurement.

This means that there are less Universons (Flux # 4 + Flux #5) coming from Moon direction towards the gravimeter. This is the cause of a reduction of Earth Gravity acceleration (less Universons coming from the $2\pi$ steradians of sky).

When the Moon and the Sun are aligned during totality, there is no more dissymmetric Flux #5, so there is no more Gravity anomaly.

And Flux #5 exists again after totality, away from last contact, for the same reasons, with the same results.

**4. Only a PUSHING Gravitational Quanta Model Can Explain Gravimeter Behaviour**

Gravimeter sensor mass is pushed down, towards Earth center, because it is pushed by temporary interactions of Gravitational Quanta (Universons) bearing each a momentum. The incident flux onto that mass is not isotropically distributed. The flux of these quanta, coming from the upper $2\pi$ steradians is larger than the flux coming from the lower $2\pi$ steradians.

During the two drops of Gravity acceleration, before and after the eclipse, there is less push onto the sensor mass, from the upper $2\pi$ steradians, not because there is absorption (there is no acceleration drop during totality), but because Quanta (Flux #5) coming through the Moon mass are deviated (dispersed). That deviation occurs only when the Moon comes close to the sun direction, and receives a modified dissymmetric Universons flux by solar Corona and Moon rotation.

That effect could not be explained by a reduction of Earth mass, or an increase of MOON mass, at these instants. So it cannot be explained by an “Attractive” model of Gravitation (such as Newton’s model). Nor could it be explained by a General Relativity distortion of Space-time, caused by masses, which are constant.

Only a Quantum Model, with pushing Quanta, and no absorption, can explain the observed facts, into their details. Our Universons model of Gravitation has these properties (Poher, 2020).

**5. Conclusion**

These gravitational phenomena are quite difficult to calculate exactly. Effectively, solar Corona mass density, and total thickness, are changing, from one eclipse to the next one. And also because the effect of Moon rotation depends on the density of matter inside the Moon, which is not well known.
Nevertheless, finally, it appears that our Quantum model of Gravitation gives a plausible explanation, for this enigmatic behaviour of gravimeters, or of pendulums, during solar eclipses. To our knowledge, there is not any other pushing model considering Moon rotation and solar Corona effects.

And gravimeters bring, this way, a new experimental confirmation of our Quantum model.

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Conflict of interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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