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Nature Inspired Computation Techniques and Its Applications in Soft Computing: Survey

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Abstract: *Soft Computing is efficient to solve system solutions based on technique in the area of computation. Soft computing is designed to develop intelligence computation techniques to provide solutions to real world problems. These techniques are inspired by nature such as Artificial Neural computation, Evolutionary Algorithms, Swarm Intelligence, Artificial Immune Systems based algorithms gained much attention and shown success. In this a few algorithms have proved to be very efficient and become more popular tools for solving real world optimization problems. This paper presents the working procedures and provides list of applications by using nature inspired algorithms. The desirable advantages of the intelligent computational algorithms and initial success in many domains have encouraged researchers to work towards the advancements of these techniques.*

Keywords: *Soft Computing, Natural Inspired computation techniques, Evolutionary Computation, Swarm intelligence, artificial neural networks, artificial immune system, Applications.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Soft computing(SC) techniques are the combination of Swarm intelligence, artificial immune system based algorithms, Evolutionary Computation (EC) techniques and Artificial Neural computation. Nature proved to be one of the greatest sources of inspiration for these intelligent algorithms. In this paper deals Soft Computing techniques inspired by nature. These techniques make use of the skills of intelligent agent by simulating insect behavior suitable for the required problem.

Natural computing [1] also called natural computation, is a terminology introduced to encompass three classes of methods:

- 1) those that take inspiration from nature for the development of novel problem-solving techniques;
- 2) those that are based on the use of computers to synthesize natural phenomena; and
- 3) those that employ natural materials to compute. The main fields of nature inspired models of research that compose many techniques like artificial neural networks, evolutionary algorithms, swarm intelligence, artificial immune systems among others. These computational paradigms studied by natural computing are abstracted from natural phenomena as diverse as functioning of the brain, flock of birds behavior, and the immune system. Dually, one can view processes occurring in nature as information processing. Such processes include self-assembly and developmental processes.

II. NATURE INSPIRED COMPUTATION MODELS

Nature is a large part of science, it solve problems in an efficient and effective manner. This may be achieved by transferring knowledge from natural systems to computational systems. Nature inspired computing techniques such as Artificial Neural Computation, Evolutionary Algorithms, Swarm Intelligence, and Artificial Immune System have helped in solving complex problems and provide optimum solution.

Parallel, dynamic, decentralized, asynchronous and self organizing behaviour of nature inspired algorithms are best suited for soft computing applications. This paper presents survey of existing nature inspired computation techniques and their applications. Natural computing can be defined as the computational version of the process of extracting ideas from nature to develop computational systems, to perform computation and design of novel computing systems that use natural media to compute [2][3]. Nature Inspired Computation Techniques as shown in fig. 1.

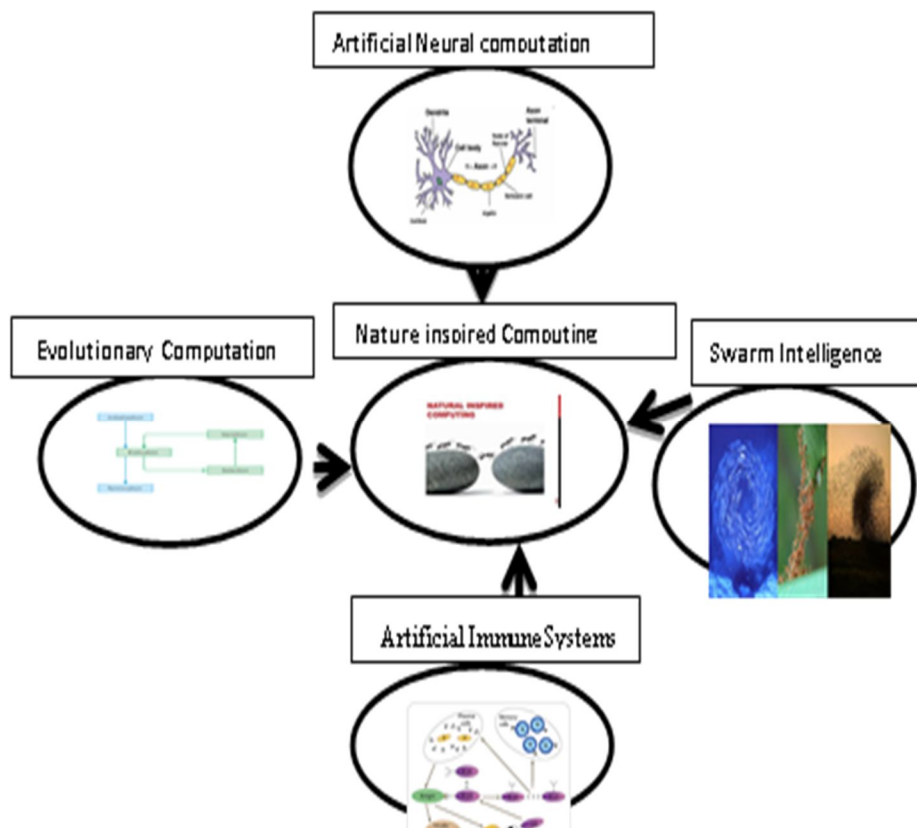


Fig 1: Nature Inspired Computation Techniques

A. Artificial Neural Computation

The comparison of computing machines and human nervous system is presents the Neural computation. This field aims both to understand how the brain of living organisms works (brain theory or computational neuroscience), and to design efficient algorithms based on the principles of how the human brain processes information (Artificial Neural Networks, ANN). Many terms used to describe neural networks are synonymous to common statistical terminology [4].

B. Neural Network Models

- 1) The Perceptron
- 2) Multilayered feed forward ANN models
- 3) Recurrent ANN models
- 4) Radial basis function ANN Models

C. Neural Network Applications

Today, neural networks are used to solve a wide variety of problems. These applications fall into one of the following categories [5]:

- 1) Fraud Detection [6]
- 2) Pattern Recognition using Neural Networks[7]
- 3) Neural Networks for Classification[8]
- 4) Medical Diagnosis[9]

D. Evolutionary Computation

Evolution means Creative, Mainly Evolutionary computation addressing many problems such as reproduction and selection by alter and moving data within a computer, rapid design of medicines. Process of Evolutionary Computation shown in Fig.2. Steps of evolutionary computation is as follows[10][11]. Evolutionary computation paradigms as follows :

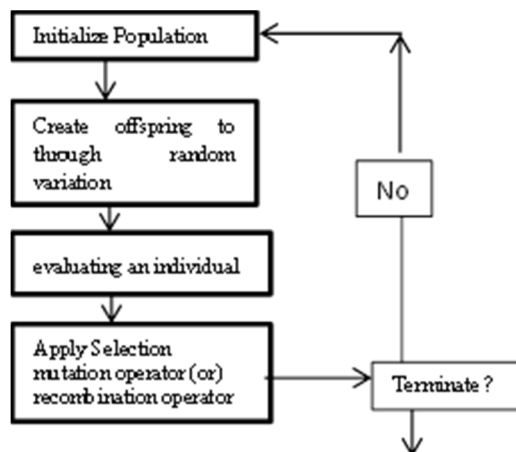


Fig. 2: Process of Evolutionary Computation

- 1) *Genetic Algorithms*: Genetic Algorithms (GAs) are heuristic search based optimization technique based on the evolutionary principles of natural selection and genetics. As such type of an intelligent exploitation of a random search used to solve optimization problems. The basic techniques of the GAs select individuals at random are designed to simulate processes in natural systems necessary for evolution.

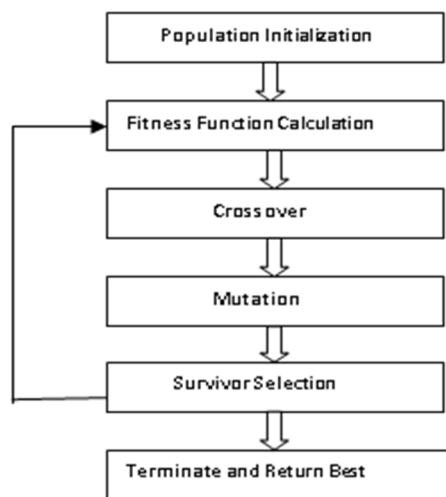


Fig. 3: Procedure of Genetic Algorithm

General Procedure for Implementing GA

- a) Initialize the population (usually randomized binary strings)
- b) Calculate the fitness for each individual in the population
- c) Reproduce selected individuals to form new population
- d) Perform crossover and mutation (or other operations)
- e) Loop to step 2 until some condition is met

f) Applications:

- i) Economic Evolution[12]
- ii) Agriculture [13]
- iii) Image Processing [14]
- iv) Vehicle routing problems[15]
- v) DNA Analysis [16]

- 2) *Evolutionary Programming*: Evolutionary programming is similar to genetic programming, the difference between these two is structure of the program is fixed and its numerical parameters are allowed to evolve, and also mutation operator is main difference. However, that while evolution can be considered to approach an optimum in computer science terms, actual biological evolution does not seek an optimum. The representation of Evolutionary Programming used is a fixed-length real-

valued vector. Evolutionary programming is same as evolutionary strategies without use of recombination for the representation of real valued vector [17].

a) *Applications:*

- i) Traffic routing and planning[18]
- ii) Pharmaceutical design[19]
- iii) Cancer detection[20][21]
- iv) Military planning[22]
- v) System identification[23]
- vi) Power engineering [24]

3) *Evolution Strategies:* In evolutionary strategies fixed-length real-valued vector is used for that representation. Works with vectors of real numbers as representations of solutions, and typically uses self-adaptive mutation rates, as well as recombination. Evolution Strategies reproduction operators are two types that is Gaussian mutation and Intermediate recombination. In Gaussian mutation a random value from a Gaussian distribution is added to each element of an individual's vector to create a new offspring and in Intermediate recombination which the vectors of two parents are mingle element by element, to form up a new offspring. These type of operators replicate the behavioral as opposed to structural interpretation of the representation [25].

4) *Genetic programming:* The difference between genetic programming and genetic algorithm is genetic programming represented as a tree structure of actions and values, usually a nested data structure and genetic algorithm represented as a list of actions and their values, often a string. Genetic programming, the result function have more flexible, but often grow in complexity because of it have a variable length and it rarely provide invalid states. But in Genetic algorithms, the result function has bounded complexity because of it have a fixed length and it produces invalid states [26].

a) *Applications:*

- i) traffic routing and planning[27]
- ii) pharmaceutical design[28]
- iii) cancer detection[29]
- iv) military planning[30]
- v) system identification[31]

E. Swarm Intelligence

The study of computational systems inspired by the collective behavior that is call it as Swarm intelligence and also one of the important concept in artificial intelligence. Collective Intelligence is coordination of large numbers of homogeneous agents in the environment. flocks of birds, Schools of fish and colonies of ants are the instances of Swarm Intelligence. This type of intelligence is self-organizing, decentralized, and distributed throughout an environment[32]. In nature such type of systems are used to solve problems like, prey evading or effective foraging for food and colony re-location[33].

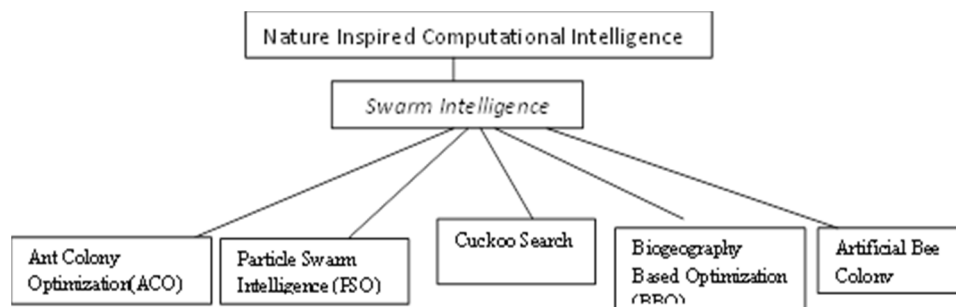


Fig.4: Categorization of Swarm Intelligence

There are some general principles raised from Swarm Intelligence, that is Proximity principle, Quality principle, principle of diverse and principle of stability. In Proximity principle, the basic units of a swarm should be capable of simple computation according to its surrounding environment. Computation is viewed as a direct behavioral response to environmental variance, such as those generated by interactions among those agents. However, some fundamental behaviors are shared by agents such as living nest building and resource searching. In Quality principle, apart from computation ability it should be able to response to quality factors

like food and safety. Principle of diverse, response resources should not be concentrated in narrow region. Principle of stability and adaptability Swarms are expected to adapt environmental fluctuations without rapidly changing modes since mode changing costs energy. Roots in models of social insects behavior is [34][35].

- 1) Foraging behavior
- 2) Division of labor and task allocation
- 3) Cemetery organization
- 4) Nest building
- 5) Collaborative transport Properties of collective intelligence systems
- 6) Distributed computation
- 7) Direct and indirect interactions
- 8) Agents equipped with simple computational capabilities
- 9) Robustness
- 10) Adaptiveness

- a) *Ant Colony Optimization:* Ant Colony Optimization (ACO) is a model for designing metaheuristic algorithms and solving hard combinatorial optimization problems inspired by the indirect communication of real ants. And ACO initially proposed by Coloni, Dorigo and Maniezzo. In ACO algorithms, ants construct candidate solutions to the problem being tackled, making decisions that are stochastically biased by numerical information based on (artificial) pheromone trails and available heuristic information. The pheromone trails are updated during algorithm execution to bias the ants search toward promising decisions previously found[36][37]. Notable examples of ant behaviors:



Fig 5: (a) Foraging (b) Division of labour (c) Collective transport (d) Cluster formation

Foraging: In foraging Individual ants deposits a chemical on the ground which increases the probability that other ants will follow the same path. Biologists have shown that many colony-level behaviors observed in social insects can be explained via rather simple models in which only stigmergic communication is present. Different phases of the behavior of ant colonies have inspired different types of ant colony algorithms. Division of labor, brood sorting, and cooperative transport are the best examples of foraging.

Division of labour: Division of labor is an important and widespread feature of life in ant colonies. Social insects are all categorized into two types i.e., fundamental type of division of labor & reproductive division of labor [38]. There are different kinds of division of labor i.e., reproductive, castes, tasks accomplished in the colony.

Collective transport : Collective behavior takes many forms, such as emergence, self-organization, super organism, quorum sensing, artificial intelligence and dynamic networks.

Cluster formation: Clustering problems that is mainly inspired by the behavior of ant colonies and this behavior based upon the brood sorting. In Brood sorting mainly ant colonies sort their brood in the process of smallest items in the middle and largest items in the periphery. The best example of brood sorting is collective structure formation by social insects. By the behavior of ant colonies that cluster their corpses and sort their larvae. Larval sorting and corpse cleaning by ant was first modeled by Deneu bourg et al. for accomplishing certain tasks. The ant colony clustering algorithm is used to develop cluster benchmark problems [39][40].

b) Applications

- i) Routing[41]
 - i) Traveling salesman[42]
 - ii) Tele communication[43]
 - iii) Discounted cash flows in project scheduling [44]
 - iv) Classification[45]
 - v) Protein folding [46][47][48].
- c) *Particle Swarm Optimization:* A Particle Swarm Optimizer (PSO) is a computation method and population-based optimization algorithm modeled after the simulation of the social behavior of bird flocks. PSO is easy to implement and has been

successfully applied to solve a wide range of optimization problems such as continuous nonlinear and discrete optimization problems [49]. PSO was developed from swarm intelligence and this is based on the behavior of birds and fish. While searching for food the birds get scattered or they go together in search of food while searching for food source from one place to another, there is always a bird that can smell the best food source easily and go in search of that source i.e., the bird is perceptible of the food source and supply the information to all other birds. Birds have good communication, co operation and positive thinkers. The particle without quality and volume will serve as individuals and their behaviors are controlled by each particle to show their complexity. The Anatomy of particle : A particle (individual) is composed of three vectors that is x-vector, p-vector and v-vector. The x-vector notify the current position or location of the particle in the search space, The p-vector records the location of the best solution found so far by the particle and the v-vector gives the direction for which particle will travel at if it is undisturbed.

Two fitness values are

- i) The x-fitness records the fitness of the x-vector, and
- ii) The p-fitness records the fitness of the p-vector.

There are 4 types of PSO based on ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 .

- iii) Full Model ($\phi_1, \phi_2 > 0$)
- iv) Cognition Only ($\phi_1 > 0$ and $\phi_2 = 0$),
- v) Social Only ($\phi_1 = 0$ and $\phi_2 > 0$)
- vi) Selfless ($\phi_1 = 0$, $\phi_2 > 0$, and $g \neq i$)

Where ϕ_1, ϕ_2 are learning rates leading the cognition and social components and Where g indicates the index of the particle with the best p-fitness[50].

Applications

- vii) Face detection[51]
- viii) Heart beat classification [52]
- ix) Object detection[53]
- x) Image Classification[54]
- xi) Railway vehicle design [55]

d) *Cuckoo Search*: Cuckoo search (CS) is developed in 2009 by Xin-She Yang and Suash Deb. CS is one of the nature-inspired metaheuristic algorithm. For describing the standard Cuckoo Search, we use the following three idealized rules:–

- i) Each Cuckoo lays one egg and dumps its one egg in a randomly chosen nest
- ii) The chosen and best nests with high quality of eggs will carry over to the next generation.
- iii) The number of available hosts nests is fixed and the egg laid by a cuckoo is discovered by the host bird with a probability $(0,1)$. [56][57].

Applications

- iv) Automatic detection of diabetes[58]
- v) Breast Cancer Classification in Mammogram Image[59]
- vi) Capacity of wind power plants [60]
- vii) Wireless sensor networks[61].

e) *Biogeography Based Optimization*: Biogeography presents the study of biological organisms in geographical distribution. The idea of this optimization developed from the way of how species are distributed in various graphical areas. Mathematical equations that govern the distribution of organisms were first discovered and developed during the 2008. Species like fish, birds and animals migrate between islands through wind, flying, flotsam, swimming as shown in below fig.6.



Fig. 6: Bio Geography: Species migrate between islands

Biogeography-based optimization (BBO) is a recently developed heuristic algorithm and population based evolutionary algorithm which has shown impressive performance on many well known benchmarks. For an optimization problem with a certain number of candidate solutions are used. But one good solution is analogous to a habitat with a high Habitat Suitability Index (HSI). This HSI corresponds to a geographical area that is well suited for hosting biological species in biogeography. In optimization problems, HSI corresponds to a measure of the goodness of a BBO solution, which is also called fitness[62][63]. There are two types of fitness functions are there that is high fitness solutions and low fitness solutions. High fitness solutions match with the large number of species, and low fitness solutions match with the a small number of species. High fitness solutions are share their features with other solutions, and low fitness solutions are accept shared features from other solutions. This approach to solve general optimization problems is called biogeography-based optimization (BBO). The algorithm of BBO consists of two main stages i.e., migration (information sharing) and mutation[64].

Migration: Migration is a probabilistic operator that may cause to improve a candidate solution. Each solution in migration are used to probabilistically share features between solutions. For each solution y_k , the immigration rate λ_k is used to probabilistically decide whether it is immigrate or not. If we select the immigration, then we select the emigrating solution y_j , the probabilistic emigration rate is m_j [65]. Migration is represented by

$$y_k(s) \leftarrow y_j(s) \text{ ----- (1)}$$

where s represents solution feature, equivalent to a gene in GAs. Here, immigration rate λ and emigration rate μ of each habitat are based on a particular migration model. In the early stages of introducing BBO, Dan Simon proposed four different types of migration process, these types can be sorted as :

- i) Partial Migration Based BBO “PMBBBO”
- ii) Single Migration Based BBO “SMB-BBO”
- iii) Simplified Partial Migration Based BBO “SPMB-BBO”
- iv) Simplified Single Migration Based BBO “SSMB-BBO”

Mutation: Mutation is a probabilistic operator and that randomly modifies a solution feature. The purpose of mutation is to increase diversity between the population. For low fitness solutions, mutation provides them a chance of improving the quality of solutions, and for high fitness solutions, mutation is improve them even more than they already have.

Applications

- v) Image Classification
- vi) Emotion and stress recognition from speech signal
- vii) Object detection
- f) *Artificial Bee Colony*: Artificial Bee Colony algorithm proposed by Karboga. It is an optimization algorithm and this algorithm totally based on a particular intelligent foraging behavior of honeybee swarms. ABC algorithm is efficiently solved engineering problems with high dimensionality. In ABC algorithm, the artificial bees colony swarm consists of three groups of bees that is employed bees, onlookers and scouts.
 - i) *Employed Bees*: Employed bees go to their food source and come back to hive and dance on this area. The employed bee whose food source has been abandoned becomes a scout and starts to search for finding a new food source .
 - ii) *Onlookers*: Onlookers choose a food source within the neighborhood of the food sources and also selected by themselves. By using probability based selection process onlookers are placed on the food sources.
 - iii) *Scouts*: The employed bee whose food source has been exhausted by the bees becomes a scout and its is searching the environment surrounding the nest for new food sources. The scouts are categorize by low search costs and a low average in food source quality. If a solution express a food source is not improved by a predetermined number of trials, then that food source is uncontrolled and the employed bee is converted to a scout [66][67][68]. The behavioral characteristics of honey bees : Foraging behaviours, Marriage behaviours, Queen bee concept.

Applications

- i) Bioinformatics [69]
- ii) solve complex transportation problem [70]
- iii) Accident Diagnosis[71]
- iv) Constrained Problem Optimization [72]

D. Artificial Immune System

Nature gives protective measure to each species called immune system. Artificial Immune System (AIS) is a bio inspired model and rule based machine learning systems inspired by principles of immune system, which is used for solving different problems like genetic algorithms, neural networks and swarm intelligence in the area of information security. The computer immunology describes in two ways that is intrusion detection method and distributable change detection algorithm[73]. Artificial Immune System inspired from human immune system. The most significant feature of AIS is self and non self discrimination. These techniques used for anomaly detection in intrusion detection systems. Human immune system protects the human body from the foreign pathogens like AIS used a multilayered protection structure for protecting the computer networks from the attacks. Modern Artificial Immune systems are inspired by three sub components: Clonal selection, immune network, negative selection and Danger theory.

- 1) *Immune Network*: The immune Network theory has been proposed by Jerne (1974). It was defined as complex network of paratopes that used to recognize set of idiotopes and also as well as these idiotopes used to recognize paratopes. For the process of recognizing signals Antigen-sensitive lymphocytes can respond either positively or negatively. A positive response gives the result into cell activation, cell proliferation and antibody secretion and negative response would result into suppression and tolerance [74]. Artificial immune Network as shown in figure 7.

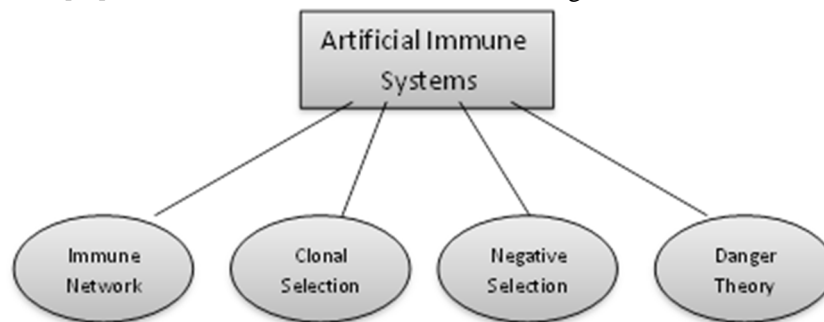


Fig. 7: Artificial Immune Network

- 2) *Clonal Selection*: The principles are repertoire diversity, genetic variation and natural selection. The role of repertoire diversity is can be maintains if immune system produces more antibodies than what effectively used in binding with an antigen. Because of whenever the immune system responded majority of antibodies did not play any active role. And Natural variation is produced by the variable gene regions , the responsibility of these is production of highly diverse population of antibodies and selection occurs [75].
- 3) *Negative Selection*: The motive of negative selection is to provide tolerance for self cells. While the immune system's identify the unknown antigens when not reacting to the self cells. And also it deals with the immune system's ability to detect unknown antigens while not reacting to the self cells. When the generation of T-cells, receptors are made through a pseudo-random genetic rearrangement process. Then after it undertake a censoring process in the thymus, called the negative selection [76].

Applications

- a) Fault diagnosis[77]
- b) Computer Security[78]
- c) Robotics[79]
- d) pattern recognition [80]

III. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper nature-inspired computation techniques and its applications are discussed. Typical illustrations are addressed for Artificial Neural computation, Evolutionary Algorithms, Swarm Intelligence, Artificial Immune Systems based algorithms and their applications.

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