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The Influence of Stator Winding Turns on the Steady-State Performances of Line-Start Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motors

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Abstract: The variation of stator winding turns will directly affect the key parameters of a motor, such as winding resistance and winding reactance, which further affect the steady-state performance of the motor. In order to get excellent steady-state performance from line-start permanent magnet synchronous motors (LSPMSMs) under different load powers, taking an 11 kW LSPMSM as an example, the finite element method (FEM), combined with the steady-state phasor diagram and torque angle characteristic, are used in this paper for the optimal design of the stator winding turns of the prototype. The correctness of the model is verified by comparing the experimental data with the calculated data. First, the influences of different stator winding turns on the no-load, back-induced electromotive force (EMF), as well as on inductance and overload ability are studied, and the variation mechanism is obtained. In addition, from the perspective of the torque angle characteristic, the influence of the change in synchronous inductance caused by the number of turns on the steady-state power angle is studied. Second, the variation of the current and power factors with turn number is obtained by studying the steady-state power angle and end voltage. Based on the coupling relationship between the no-load back EMF and the power angle, the mechanism of non-linear variation of current and power factor is revealed. Finally, the variation of the number of turns on the core loss and eddy current loss is analyzed under various operating conditions, and the variation mechanism is revealed, based on the armature reaction theory.

Keywords: LSPMSM; steady-state performances; stator winding turns; FEM; loss

1. Introduction

Line-start permanent magnet synchronous motors (LSPMSMs) have the advantage of a high power factor, high efficiency, wide economic operation range, and high power density by using a permanent magnet (PM) to generate a strong magnetic field [1–5]. At the time, brake torque occurs and causes a major drawback for the starting period by decreasing the start torque [6–8]. In addition, the LSPMSM keeps synchronous speed in a steady state, and the ability of the rotor to pull in synchronization is also a key point for LSPMSMs [9–11]. Therefore, more attention has been focused on the above issues, and the steady-state performances of LSPMSMs is easily neglected. The LSPMSM is different from a permanent magnet synchronous motor (PMSM) or an induction motor (IM), because of its special rotor structure. The rotor has both permanent magnets and cages; thus, the motor parameters have different influences on the steady-state performance, to some extent. There has been some literature on the study of steady-state performance, such as the influence of rotor bar depth, the frames of rotor, the stator winding connection mode, the winding structure, and the capacitor for the steady-state performances,

invested respectively in [12–15], and so on. However, most studies have been exclusively concentrated on rated load power and neglected the influence on another load power. In fact, the motors not only work on rated load power, but have a range for different operational conditions. Therefore, the study of steady-state performance of line-start permanent magnet synchronous motors under different load powers is significant.

In this paper, the influence of the stator winding turns on the steady-state performance of LSPMSMs is studied. The winding turns have a direct effect on the induced electromotive force (EMF), stator resistance, end leakage reactance, synchronous reactance, etc. The performance of the motors will then be changed to some extent. It is convenient to change the performance by changing the stator winding turn value. Under normal conditions, the initial stator winding turn value is designed by the conventional calculation of the electromagnetic and thermal loads—besides, some experience is needed. This is not an accurate value. Changing the stator winding turns to some extent under the initial value is feasible.

The prototype is single-layer winding and the number of parallel branches is one. In order to simplify the analysis, the stator winding turns in particular represent the numbers of winding turns at a pitch called *Ns* throughout this study. The prototype operates in three-phase power of 380 V and 50 Hz. Based on the two-dimensional (2-D) finite element method (FEM), combined with the steady-state phasor diagram and torque angle characteristic, variation in the current, power factor, and maximum torque with the different stator winding turns is studied under different load powers for a 11 kW, LSPMSM-adopted, V-shape PM.

2. Two-Dimensional Finite Element Analysis Model and Parameters

The two-dimensional (2-D) finite element analysis (FEA) model was built, and the 2-D cross-section of the motor perpendicular to the axial direction was selected as the analysis model, as shown in Figure 1. In this paper, the electromagnetic field of the motor does not take into account the influence of displacement current, and belongs to a quasi-steady field. In the process of finite element calculation, we consider the linear B–H curve. The vector magnetic potential **A** and current density **J** only has the *z*-component. The transient 2-D electromagnetic field calculation equation could be described as

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{1}{\mu} \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{1}{\mu} \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial y} \right) = - \left(\mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{z}} - \sigma \frac{dA}{dt} \right) \\ \Gamma_1 : \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}_0 , , \\ \Gamma_2 : \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial n} \Big|_{l^-} - \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial x} \Big|_{l^+} = \mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{s}} \end{cases}$$
(1)

where μ is the permeability, **A** is the magnet vector potential, J_z is the source current density, *n* is the normal unit vector of the external permanent magnet, J_s is the equivalent current density of the permanent magnets, σ is conductivity, *t* is time, *l* is the boundary between the equivalent surface current layer of permanent magnet material and other materials, Γ_1 is the first-type boundary, and Γ_2 is the second-type boundary.



Figure 1. The two-dimensional (2-D) model.

In the numerical calculation of the 2-D electromagnetic field of an LSPMSM, the equivalent surface current is used to simulate the permanent magnet, and the equivalent surface current can be represented by surface current density J_s :

$$J_s = \frac{M_r \times n}{\mu_r}.$$
 (2)

Here, where *n* is the normal unit vector of permanent magnet, J_s is the equivalent current density of the permanent magnets, M_r is the remanent magnetization, μ_r is the relative recovery permeability.

When the magnetic vector potential is used to describe the field, at the boundary line between the equivalent surface current layer of the simulated permanent magnet and other media, the following boundary conditions are used:

$$\left(v_1\frac{\partial A}{\partial n}\right)|_{l^-} - \left(v_2\frac{\partial A}{\partial n}\right)|_{l^+} = J_s \tag{3}$$

where *l* is the boundary between the equivalent surface current layer of permanent magnet material and other materials, the v is the reluctivity, *A* is the magnet vector potential, *n* is the normal unit vector of the external permanent magnet, *J*_s is the equivalent current density of the permanent magnets.

When the FEM is used to solve the motor electromagnetic field, the range of solution areas should be minimized as much as possible. Because the permeability of ferromagnetic materials is far greater than the air permeability, the outer surface of the motor is used as the boundary surface. In other words, the magnetic force lines are closed along the outer surface of the motor, which belongs to the first-type boundary condition (Γ_1). The second-type boundary condition (Γ_2) is mainly applied to the interface of different materials in the motor, such as the interface between the motor cores and the air. It can be considered that the magnetic force lines are vertically crossed, and the variation of the magnetic potential along the geometric neutral line of the magnetic poles is 0—that is, $\frac{\partial A}{\partial n}|_{1} = 0$.

The fundamental parameters of the prototype are shown in Table 1. Based on the FEM, the numerical simulation of the model was obtained, and the result was verified by comparing it with the experimental data, as shown in Table 2. The testing platform of the prototype is shown in Figure 2. The masses of prototype materials are shown in Table 3. Considering the losses of stator-core and rotor-eddy current in this study, the space harmonics should be calculated more carefully, so that the precise numerical simulation of the losses can be obtained. The *Ns* is the number of turns. Some measures are needed, as follows.

Parameters	Value		
N_S	29		
Rated power (kW)	11		
Connection	Δ		
Pole pairs	2		
Number of stator slots	36		
Air-length (mm)	0.5		
Stator outer diameter (mm)	130		
Stator inner diameter (mm)	85		
Rotor outer diameter (mm)	84.5		

Table 1. Basic parameters of the prototype.

Tab	ole 2.	Simu	lation	and	expe	rime	ntal	data.
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Dowor (1/M/)	Simulatio	on Data	Experimental Data		
rower (kw)	Line-Current (A)	Power Factor	Line Current (A)	Power Factor	
4	7.56	0.878	7.20	0.911	
9	14.8	0.971	14.56	0.984	
11	18.23	0.976	17.82	0.986	
16	26.53	0.965	26.44	0.979	



Figure 2. The platform for motor testing.

Table 3. Material masses of each component of the motor.

Motor Structure	Stator Core	Rotor Core	Permanent Magnet	Squirrel Cage	Winding
Mass (Kg)	23.7	18.2	1.9	1.5	9.5

The parts of the stator tooth, the edge between stator tooth and yoke, and the cages and permanent magnets of the model are more refined during triangulation, as shown in Figure 1.

The time step is equal to one-eighth of the time when the rotor moves a slot pitch, and it can be described as the equation [16]

$$\Delta_t = \frac{1/f}{8(N/P)} \tag{4}$$

where *f* is the line frequency, *P* is the number of pole pairs, and *N* is the number of stator slots. Using the equation, the time step Δ_t is 1.38×10^{-4} s.

It can be seen from Table 3 that the number of turns has no effect on the masses of the stator rotor core, permanent magnet, or the squirrel cage. When the number of turns is changed, the wire diameter of winding should also be changed, so as to keep the copper filling factor constant.

3. The Influence of N_S on the Current, the Power Factor, and Maximum Torque

It is obvious that the winding turns have a direct effect on the induced EMF, as well as on the no-load, back-induced EMF (called E_0 in next analysis); stator resistance; end leakage reactance; and synchronous reactance. Then the performance of the motors will be changed, to some extent. In this paper, the process used for the study of the stator winding turns can be presented in Figure 3.



Figure 3. Program of the stator winding turns study.

The initial N_S value is designed by the conventional calculation of the electromagnetics load, the thermal load, and some experience. As determined through the procedure shown in Figure 3, the range of the N_S is from 27 to 33. Considering that the range is not large, and the initial stator resistance and end leakage values are little, they could therefore be ignored to simplify the calculation and analysis.

In the study, the steady-state phasor diagram under different loads can be utilized. Two factors are needed for this method. One is E_0 , which can be obtained precisely by FEM. The E_0 with a different N_S , obtained through FEM, is shown in Table 4.

Table 4. No-load, back-induced EMF (E_0) with different N_S values.

N_S	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
$E_0(V)$	334.8	347.0	359.5	372.1	384.5	396.6	409.3
	0.88	0.91	0.95	0.98	1.01	1.04	1.08

A combination of the finite element method and the analytical calculation method is used to solve X_d and X_q . X_d and X_q are the quadrature axis reactance and direct axis reactance. The finite element method is used to calculate the voltage; power angle; power factor angle; no-load, back-induced EMF; resistance; and other parameters. The motor vector diagram is used to solve for I_d and I_q . Finally, X_d and X_q are obtained by the analytical method. The calculation formula is as follows:

$$X_{d} = \frac{R_{1}U\sin\theta - I_{d}R_{1}^{2}}{X_{q}I_{d}} + \frac{E_{0} - U\cos\theta}{I_{d}},$$
(5)

$$X_{q} = \frac{U(X_{d}\sin\theta + R_{1}\cos\theta)}{I_{q}X_{d}} - \frac{R_{1}(E_{0} + I_{q}R_{1})}{I_{q}X_{d}},$$
(6)

where E_0 is the no-load, back-induced EMF; I_d and I_q are the quadrature axis current and direct axis current, respectively; R_1 is the resistance; θ is the power angle; and U is the voltage.

The other factor when using this method is the torque angle under different load powers, which can be estimated by the torque angle characteristic and the equation for the torque (neglecting the stator resistance), stated below as [3]

$$T_{em} = \frac{mpE_0U}{\omega X_d}\sin\theta + \frac{mpU^2}{2\omega} \left(\frac{1}{X_q} - \frac{1}{X_d}\right)\sin 2\theta,\tag{7}$$

where T_{em} is electromagnetic torque; *m* is the number of voltage phase; *U* is the line voltage; ω is the angular velocity of the rotor; X_q and X_d are the quadrature and direct axis reactance, respectively; *p* is the number of pole pairs, and θ is the torque-angle. Generally speaking, E_0 is directly proportional to N_S . In addition, the reactance is directly proportional to the winding turns squared. Assume that *k* is equal to the ratio of N_2 to N_1 , where N_1 and N_2 represent different values of N_S . When the value of the N_S is N_1 , the T_{em} is as shown in Formula 3. Then, when the value of N_S is N_2 , the formula can be described as

$$T_{em}^{*} = \frac{mpE_{0}U}{k\omega X_{d}}\sin\theta + \frac{mpU^{2}}{2k^{2}\omega}\left(\frac{1}{X_{q}} - \frac{1}{X_{d}}\right)\sin 2\theta$$
(8)

When N_2 is less than N_1 , then k is less than 1. It is clear that the maximum value of T_{em} is less than the maximum value of T^*_{em} , and the conclusion can be gained that the maximum electromagnetic torque decreases as the value of N_S increases. However, estimating X_q and X_d involves saturation and the cross-coupling effect [17]. The accurate values are difficult to obtain. By 2-D FEM, the clear results are obtained, as shown in Figure 4. The T_{em} is approximately consistent when the θ changes within the range of 0° to 40° , and with the increase of θ , the change of T_{em} gradually become distinct. The maximum is reached near 100° , and the result is consistent with the above analysis.



Figure 4. Torque angle characteristic curve with different N_S values.

The average torque of the LSPMSM is an important index to measure the performance of the motor in steady-state operation, which directly determines the ability of the motor to drag its load. The torque waveform and its Fourier decomposition is shown in Figure 5.



(b) Torque ripple wave forms and their Fourier decomposition at rated-load operation

Figure 5. Torque ripple wave forms and their Fourier decomposition.

When the number of turns is 29, the torque waveform and Fourier decomposition at no-load and rated-load operation are as shown in Figure 5. The torque ripple of the motor at no-load is smaller than that at rated-load. The third, fifth, and seventh harmonic content of the torque is larger at a rated load than in the no-load state. With the increase of motor load torque, the motor harmonic content also increases. In addition, the cogging torque of the motor also causes the torque ripple of the motor. The LSPMSM torque ripple at rated-load operation is not more than 4% [18]. However, the prototype is a first-generation motor. The torque ripple of the LSPMSM will be optimized in the follow-up work. The influence of stator winding turns on the steady-state performance of an LSPMSM is studied emphatically in this paper.

Neglecting the stator resistance and end leakage, the steady-state phasor diagram can now be depicted by

$$\dot{U} = \dot{E}_0 + j \dot{X}_s i_s, \tag{9}$$

where U is the phase voltage, which is equal to the line voltage, due to the delta connection; and i_s is the phase current. The steady-state phasor diagram under different loads is shown in Figure 6.



Figure 6. Phasor diagram with different N_S values under different loads.

In Figure 6, the A, B, and C represent the phasor diagram under different loads, which can be described as three states of light load, near-rated load, and overload, respectively. Under a light load, the E_0 has a key effect on the stator current and PF change, and the effect is nonlinear. The PF is the power factor. Whether or not E_0 is high or low enough, the *d*-axis current component will get larger, which causes the stator current to increase and PF to decrease.

With the load torque from A to B, the torque angle gradually increases, and the influence of E_0 gradually decreases. The stator current and PF with different N_S values are approximately consistent. When the load torque continues to go up, as shown in Figure 4, the torque angle with different N_S values become distinct, and its influence on the stator current and PF is gradually getting stronger, corresponding to the Figure 6C.

The specific changes of the line current and PF, calculated by FEM, are shown in Figures 7 and 8, respectively.



Figure 7. The current varies with the stator winding turns.



Figure 8. The PF varies with the N_S .

As is shown in Figures 7 and 8, the variation of the current and PF with N_S are consistent with the above analysis. In Figure 6, A, B, and C approximately correspond to the area of A, B, and C in Figure 7. When N_S is 31, the value of E_0/U is 1.01, and the current is at its minimum of 2.07 A at no-load operation. Then the current increases or decreases with the value of N_S , as it goes up or down. Defining the load rate is a ratio of the fact load and the rated load. When the load rate is from 0 to 0.7, the current and PF difference with a different N_S is clear, and tends to be small. When the load rate is from 0.7 to 1.8, the differences between the stator currents and PF with different N_S are almost consistent. With the load rate continues to go up, the clear difference occurs again, and the value of the current increases as the value of N_S decreases. Take N_S equaling 27 and 33 as an example—the variation can be seen clearly in Figure 9.



Figure 9. The current difference between N_S being 27 and 33 under three different states.

According to the demands of the prototype, the PF value of 0.94 was chosen was an index, so the influence of different N_S values on the current, the power factor, and maximum torque can be described in Figure 10.



Figure 10. PF and maximum power versus load power.

As is shown in Figure 10, the range of the PF value, which is greater than or equal to 0.94, increases first, and then decreases with as the N_S value increases; the range is at its maximum when N_S equals 30 or 31. The change of range mainly appears at the light load, indicating that the change of E_0 value with N_S dominates the variation of stator current and PF. Besides, the maximum load decreases as the N_S value increases nearly 1 kW per turn. This can be seen from Figure 4. This is because the synchronous reactance decreases as the N_S value increases, causing the load angle to be smaller than in a fixed load.

4. The Effect of Turn Number on the Moment of Inertia, Starting Torque, and Starting Current

4.1. The Analysis about Moment of Inertia

The moment of inertia is an important parameter of the LSPMSM, which directly affects the starting ability of the LSPMSM. The maximum moment of inertia of the LSPMSM is calculated based on the finite element method, as shown in Figure 11.



Figure 11. Relationship between maximum moment of inertia and number of turns.

It can be seen from Figure 11 that when the number of turns increases, the maximum moment of inertia of the motor decreases, and the pulling-in-synchronization capability is greatly reduced. With the increase of the number of turns, although the no-load, back-induced EMF is increased, the direct-axis synchronous reactance increases more (because it is proportional to the square of the number of turns). The ratio of the no-load, back-induced EMF to the direct-axis synchronous reactance is reduced, and the permanent magnet torque is reduced. In the pulling process, the maximum kinetic energy provided by permanent magnet torque is reduced. In addition, the increase of the no-load, back-induced EMF causes the increase of the braking torque. Therefore, the pulling-in-synchronization capability is reduced.

4.2. The Influence of the Number of Turns on the Starting Current and Starting Torque

The starting torque and starting current of the LSPMSM is another important parameter, which is an important index of whether the motor can start smoothly. Therefore, it is important to study the starting torque and the current of the motor. The starting torque and starting current of the LSPMSM are calculated based on the finite element method, as shown in Figure 12.



Figure 12. The starting current and starting torque of LSPMSM.

It can be seen from Figure 12 that with the increase of the number of turns, the starting current and starting torque of the LSPMSM is reduced. When the number of turns is 27, the starting current is 332.5 A. When the number of turns is 33, the starting current of the motor is 230.6 A. When the number of turns of increases by six turns, the starting current decreases by 30.6%. When the number of turns is 27, the starting torque is 436.5 N·m. When the number of turns is 33, the starting current decreases by 27%.

5. The Analysis of Losses

In this paper, the parameters of the prototype are constant except for the N_S , and the current and load angle in a fixed load torque are different with changes in the N_S value. This will cause the armature reactions to be different, and then the motor magnetic field is changed. The losses of stator core and rotor eddy current are closely related to the magnetic field. Therefore, the losses change with the N_S value. The stator core losses and rotor-eddy current losses with the different N_S values can be studied by FEM.

5.1. Stator Core Losses

The iron loss can be separated into the hysteresis loss and eddy current loss. The stator core is made of thin lamination made by a silicon steel sheet, so the eddy current losses in the stator core losses are neglected. Therefore, the stator core losses per electrical cycle can be obtained by [19].

$$P_{hyst} = K_h B_{peak}^{(a+bB_{peak})} \begin{vmatrix} B_{peak} \\ -B_{peak} \end{vmatrix} \times \left(1 + k \frac{1}{B_{peak}} \sum_{i=1}^N \Delta B_i\right)$$
(10)

where *N* is the number of loops, K_h is the hysteresis coefficient, B_{peak} is the peak flux density, *k* is a constant between 0.6 and 0.7, *a* and *b* can be fixed by the curve fitting of the measured loss data, and ΔB_i is the flux reversal associated with a given minor loop. The stator core loss with different N_S values versus load power is shown in Figure 13.



Figure 13. Stator core losses versus load power.

As shown in Figure 13, there are approximately two states under all load power. In the first state, when the value of load rate is from 0 to 1 and N_s is constant, the changes of the stator core losses are small. In the second state, the rate of stator core loss increase becomes increasingly large, and the stator core losses increase distinctly. With the N_S value increase, the increase rate of the stator core losses rises. In the steady state, the induced EMF is approximately equal to phase voltage U, which is a constant value. With the N_S value increase, the mutual flux decreases, which can be obtained by

$$E = 4.44 f N K_{\omega} \Phi \tag{11}$$

where the *E* is the induced EMF, *f* is the line frequency, *N* is the turns-in-series per phase, K_{ω} is the winding coefficient, and Φ is the mutual flux. The flux density of the stator field decreases. Therefore, the stator core losses decrease when the stator winding turns increase. In the first state, the influence of armature reactions is not enough to change the stator core losses distinctly. With the load power increase, this influence becomes increasingly stronger, so that the stator core loss increase distinctly corresponds to the second state.

5.2. Eddy Current Losses

In a steady state, the LSPMSM works as a synchronous machine, and rotor losses are caused by the harmonic magnetic field, which rotates asynchronously. In addition, the rotor losses are mainly eddy current losses concentrated on the permanent magnets and cages. The eddy current losses can be estimated by [20]

$$P_{eddy} = \frac{1}{T_e} \int_{T_e} \sum_{i=1}^k J_e^2 \Delta_e \sigma_r^{-1} l_t dt$$
(12)

where P_{eddy} is the eddy current loss, T_e is the period of time, J_e is the current density in per element, l_t is the axial length of rotor, σ_r is conductivity of the eddy current area, and Δe is the element area. The change in eddy-current loss with N_S under different load powers is shown in Figure 14.



Figure 14. Eddy current loss with different N_S values versus load power.

As is shown in Figure 14, the change of eddy current loss is obvious. At the beginning, with the N_S value increasing, the eddy current losses decrease until the N_S value is 32; the value of the eddy current loss is minimal. As the N_S continues to improve, the eddy current loss increases as well. However, with the N_S value increasing, the increase rate of eddy current loss also increases. Therefore, when the load power reaches a certain level of approximately rated load power, the N_S value is bigger, and the eddy current loss is larger. With the load power increase, the armature reaction increases constantly. This makes the air-gap distortion degree of the magnetic field and the harmonic magnetic field increase. Therefore, the eddy current losses increase, and with the N_S value increasing, the influences of the armature reaction strengthen.

The stator core loss and rotor eddy current loss of the motor with different turns are analyzed. In order to more directly compare the influence of turns on the motor loss, the variation of motor efficiency with different turns is given in Figure 15.



Figure 15. Efficiency with different Ns values versus load power.

It can be seen from Figure 15 that with the increase of the number of turns, the motor efficiency increases under low load power. With an increase in the number of turns, the motor efficiency gradually decreases under high load power. At 4 kW of load power, when the number of turns increases from 27 to 32, the efficiency increases by 2.45%. At 20 kW load power, when the number of turns increases from 27 to 32, the efficiency decreases by 2.7%.

6. Conclusions

In this paper, the influence of N_S on the steady-state performance of LSPMSMs, including stator current, power factor, stator core loss, and eddy current loss were obtained. It is noticeable that the analysis about the losses is not embedded, and in the next work these will be specially studied in-depth. The conclusions can be summarized as follows:

1. The influence of the stator winding turns for the current and PF can mainly be illustrated by two aspects. At light load, the approximate load rate is less than 0.7; in this paper, the main effect of the change of current and PF is the change of E_0 due to the change of N_S . However, with the load power increasing, the effect of E_0 gradually weakens, and the effect of the change of synchronous reactance becomes stronger, so the stator current and PF tend to be consistent. Even when the load is large enough, the stator winding turns is higher, and the stator current is smaller. Finally, the capacity of overload improves as the N_S value decreases.

2. For the stator core losses, when the armature reaction is not taken into account, the stator core losses will decrease with an increasing N_S value. In contrast, as the load power increases, the rate of the stator core losses increase rises as N_S value increases. What is more, this phenomenon is clear when the load power reaches the overload state.

3. The change of eddy current losses caused by an armature reaction at different N_S values. In addition, the rate of the eddy current losses rise as the N_S value increases.

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