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Generation of four-photon hyperentangled state using spontaneous parametric down-conversion source with the second-order term

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基于自发参量下转换源二阶激发过程产生四光子超纠缠态*

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目前, 多光子纠缠态的制备大多通过线性光学器件演化自发参量下转换一阶激发过程产生的纠缠光子对得到. 本文考虑由自发参量下转换源二阶激发产生四个不可区分的纠缠光子制备四光子超纠缠态的情况. 通过几组分束器、半波片和偏振分束器等线性光学器件设计量子线路演化四光子系统, 结合四模符合探测, 可得到同时具有偏振纠缠和空间纠缠的四光子超纠缠态.

关键词: 多光子纠缠, 自发参量下转换, 超纠缠态

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1 引言

在光子量子信息处理中, 量子比特对应的实际物理系统是由光子构成的光学系统^[1,2], 其中最简单、最重要的纠缠资源是成对的纠缠光子. 作为一种非线性光学过程, 自发参量下转换是指一束短脉冲紫外光子入射到非线性晶体BBO (β -barium-borate) 上产生两个纠缠光子的现象^[3-5], 对应的这两个光子分别称为信号光子和闲光子. 自发参量下转换过程分为两类, 在第一类中产生的信号光子和闲光子的偏振方向相同, 在第二类中产生的信号光子和闲光子的偏振方向相互垂直. 这里, 以第二类自发参量下转换过程为例, 其相互作用过程中的哈密顿量为^[6,7]

$$H = i\kappa(\hat{a}_H^\dagger \hat{b}_V^\dagger - \hat{a}_V^\dagger \hat{b}_H^\dagger) + \text{H.c.}, \quad (1)$$

其中, \hat{a}_x^\dagger 和 \hat{b}_x^\dagger ($x = H, V$) 分别表示空间模 a 和 b 的产生算符, H 或 V 表示光子处于水平或垂直偏振状态, κ 是相互作用过程中的耦合系数. 实验上, 作为一个标准的制备多光子偏振纠缠资源的方法, 人们通常利用自发参量下转换源产生成对的纠缠光子, 再利用光学器件设计可行的量子线路演化这些纠缠光子, 进而实现多光子纠缠态的制备^[1,2,8-10]. 然而, 随着光子数的增多, 基于这些独立的纠缠光子对制备较大数目的多光子纠缠态变得越来越困难. 比如, 最近的研究结果表明^[9,10], 实验上制备八光子 Greenberger-Horne-Zeilinger (GHZ) 态的符合计数率约为每小时 9 组, 同样的技术推广到十光子 GHZ 态的制备, 其符合计数率会降低大

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约三个数量级.

对于自发参量下转换源,除了应用一阶激发过程产生成对的纠缠光子外,其高阶激发同样具有重要的研究意义.一般地,自发参量下转换源高阶激发过程^[11-16]对应产生的多光子纠缠态可表示为

$$|\Psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\cosh^2\tau} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sqrt{n+1} \tanh^n\tau |\psi_n^-\rangle, \quad (2)$$

$$|\psi_n^-\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1}} \sum_{m=0}^n (-1)^m |n-m\rangle_{a_H} \otimes |m\rangle_{a_V} |m\rangle_{b_H} |n-m\rangle_{b_V}, \quad (3)$$

其中, $|n-m\rangle_{a_H}$ 表示在空间模 a 中有 $n-m$ 个 H 偏振光子,其他项具有类似的意义; $\tau = \kappa t/\hbar$ 是相互作用参数, t 是相互作用时间.值得注意的是这里的态 $|\psi_n^-\rangle$ 表示的是 n 对不可区分的光子态,不同于 n 对相互独立的光子对.

一般地,光子可以在偏振、空间和频率等自由度上纠缠.当一个光学系统同时在两个以上自由度上具有纠缠时,通常称之为超纠缠态^[17-22].相对于单一自由度上的纠缠态而言,超纠缠态是一种应用更为广泛的纠缠资源,比如可应用于纠缠态分析^[23-28]、纠缠纯化和浓缩^[29-35]、超并行量子计算^[36-38]及超纠缠量子通信^[39-42]等.本文研究基于自发参量下转换源二阶激发过程产生四光子超纠缠态方案.方案中,应用线性光学器件设计可行的量子线路,演化参量下转换源激发的四个不可区分的纠缠光子态.最后,基于四光子符合探测,可

制备一个同时包含偏振纠缠和空间纠缠的四光子超纠缠态.

2 四光子超纠缠态的制备

这里研究基于二阶自发参量下转换过程制备四光子超纠缠态方案.如图1所示,考虑一个短脉冲紫外光通过BBO晶体,在空间模 a_1 和 b_1 (或空间模 a_2 和 b_2) 激发四个不可区分的纠缠光子,即态

$$\begin{aligned} |\psi_2^-\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} (|2\rangle_{a_{iH}} |0\rangle_{a_{iV}} |0\rangle_{b_{iH}} |2\rangle_{b_{iV}} \\ &\quad - |1\rangle_{a_{iH}} |1\rangle_{a_{iV}} |1\rangle_{b_{iH}} |1\rangle_{b_{iV}} \\ &\quad + |0\rangle_{a_{iH}} |2\rangle_{a_{iV}} |2\rangle_{b_{iH}} |0\rangle_{b_{iV}}) \\ &= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}} (\hat{a}_{iH}^\dagger \hat{b}_{iV}^\dagger - \hat{a}_{iV}^\dagger \hat{b}_{iH}^\dagger)^2 |0\rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

其中, $|0\rangle$ 表示真空态, $i = 1, 2$.图1中,分束器的作用是当一个光子通过分束器时其通过和被反射的概率各占50%;半波片的作用是演化光子的偏振状态|H>到|V>,或演化状态|V>到|H>;偏振分束器的作用是使水平偏振光通过而垂直偏振光被反射.

很明显,二阶自发参量下转换过程激发的四光子纠缠态可能处于空间模 a_1 和 b_1 ,当然也可能激发于空间模 a_2 和 b_2 .首先考虑四光子处于空间模 a_1 和 b_1 的情况.由空间模 a_1, b_1 到空间模 C_1, C_2, D_1 和 D_4 ,经过两个分束器的作用,光子的演化过程满足

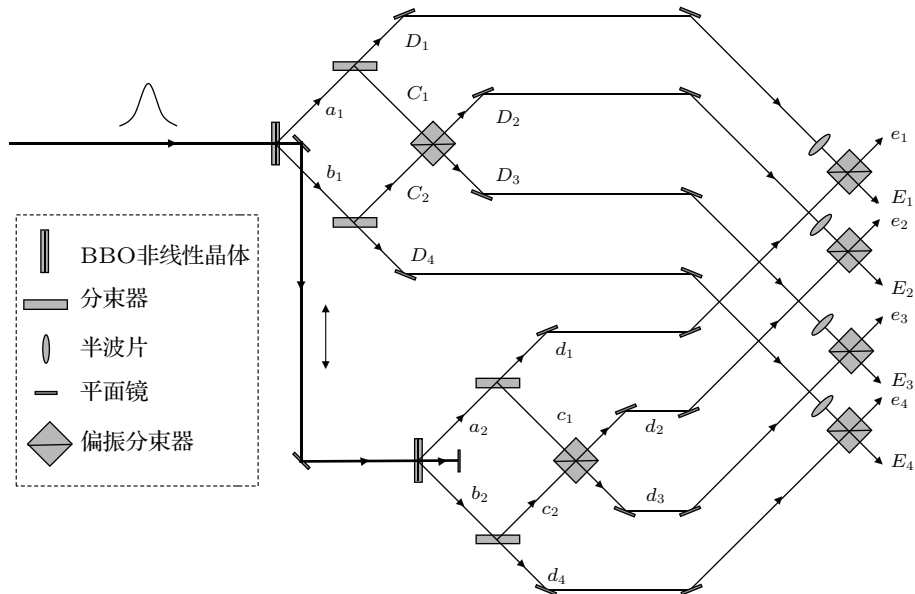


图1 四光子超纠缠态制备原理图

Fig. 1. The schematic diagram of generating four-photon hyperentangled state.

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{a}_{1\text{H}}^\dagger &\rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\hat{C}_{1\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{D}_{1\text{H}}^\dagger), \\ \hat{a}_{1\text{V}}^\dagger &\rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\hat{C}_{1\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{D}_{1\text{V}}^\dagger),\end{aligned}\quad (5)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{b}_{1\text{H}}^\dagger &\rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\hat{C}_{2\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{D}_{4\text{H}}^\dagger), \\ \hat{b}_{1\text{V}}^\dagger &\rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\hat{C}_{2\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{D}_{4\text{V}}^\dagger).\end{aligned}\quad (6)$$

于是, 四光子纠缠态演化为

$$\begin{aligned}&\frac{1}{8\sqrt{3}}[(\hat{C}_{1\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{D}_{1\text{H}}^\dagger)^2(\hat{C}_{2\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{D}_{4\text{V}}^\dagger)^2 \\ &+ (\hat{C}_{1\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{D}_{1\text{V}}^\dagger)^2(\hat{C}_{2\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{D}_{4\text{H}}^\dagger)^2 \\ &- 2(\hat{C}_{1\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{D}_{1\text{H}}^\dagger)(\hat{C}_{2\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{D}_{4\text{V}}^\dagger) \\ &\times (\hat{C}_{1\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{D}_{1\text{V}}^\dagger)(\hat{C}_{2\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{D}_{4\text{H}}^\dagger)]|0\rangle.\end{aligned}\quad (7)$$

接着, 空间模 C_1 和 C_2 中的光子经偏振分束器干涉, 满足

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{C}_{1\text{H}}^\dagger &\rightarrow \hat{D}_{3\text{H}}^\dagger, & \hat{C}_{1\text{V}}^\dagger &\rightarrow \hat{D}_{2\text{V}}^\dagger, \\ \hat{C}_{2\text{H}}^\dagger &\rightarrow \hat{D}_{2\text{H}}^\dagger, & \hat{C}_{2\text{V}}^\dagger &\rightarrow \hat{D}_{3\text{V}}^\dagger.\end{aligned}\quad (8)$$

此时, 空间模 D_1, D_2, D_3 和 D_4 中的四光子纠缠态可表示为

$$\begin{aligned}&\frac{1}{8\sqrt{3}}[(\hat{D}_{1\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{D}_{3\text{H}}^\dagger)^2(\hat{D}_{3\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{D}_{4\text{V}}^\dagger)^2 \\ &+ (\hat{D}_{1\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{D}_{2\text{V}}^\dagger)^2(\hat{D}_{2\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{D}_{4\text{H}}^\dagger)^2 \\ &- 2(\hat{D}_{1\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{D}_{3\text{H}}^\dagger)(\hat{D}_{3\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{D}_{4\text{V}}^\dagger) \\ &\times (\hat{D}_{1\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{D}_{2\text{V}}^\dagger)(\hat{D}_{2\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{D}_{4\text{H}}^\dagger)]|0\rangle.\end{aligned}\quad (9)$$

随后, 光子经过半波片和偏振分束器作用, 即

$$\hat{D}_{i\text{H}}^\dagger \rightarrow \hat{e}_{i\text{V}}^\dagger, \quad \hat{D}_{i\text{V}}^\dagger \rightarrow \hat{E}_{i\text{H}}^\dagger \quad (i = 1, 2, 3, 4).\quad (10)$$

从空间模 D_i 到空间模 e_i, E_i , 其中 $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$, 四光子纠缠态演化为

$$\begin{aligned}&\frac{1}{8\sqrt{3}}[(\hat{e}_{1\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{e}_{3\text{V}}^\dagger)^2(\hat{E}_{3\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{E}_{4\text{H}}^\dagger)^2 \\ &+ (\hat{E}_{1\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{E}_{2\text{H}}^\dagger)^2(\hat{e}_{2\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{e}_{4\text{V}}^\dagger)^2 \\ &- 2(\hat{e}_{1\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{e}_{3\text{V}}^\dagger)(\hat{E}_{3\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{E}_{4\text{H}}^\dagger) \\ &\times (\hat{E}_{1\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{E}_{2\text{H}}^\dagger)(\hat{e}_{2\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{e}_{4\text{V}}^\dagger)]|0\rangle.\end{aligned}\quad (11)$$

另一方面, 考虑自发参量下转换源激发的四光子处于空间模 a_2 和 b_2 的情况. 同理, 由于空间模 a_2 和 b_2 中两个分束器和空间模 c_1, c_2 中偏振分束器的作用, 最初激发的四光子纠缠态演化为

$$\begin{aligned}&\frac{1}{8\sqrt{3}}[(\hat{d}_{1\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{d}_{3\text{H}}^\dagger)^2(\hat{d}_{3\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{d}_{4\text{V}}^\dagger)^2 \\ &+ (\hat{d}_{1\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{d}_{2\text{V}}^\dagger)^2(\hat{d}_{2\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{d}_{4\text{H}}^\dagger)^2 \\ &- 2(\hat{d}_{1\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{d}_{3\text{H}}^\dagger)(\hat{d}_{3\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{d}_{4\text{V}}^\dagger) \\ &\times (\hat{d}_{1\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{d}_{2\text{V}}^\dagger)(\hat{d}_{2\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{d}_{4\text{H}}^\dagger)]|0\rangle.\end{aligned}\quad (12)$$

接下来, 经过最后这组偏振分束器作用, 空间模 e_i, E_i ($i = 1, 2, 3, 4$) 中的四光子纠缠态演化为

$$\begin{aligned}&\frac{1}{8\sqrt{3}}[(\hat{e}_{1\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{e}_{3\text{H}}^\dagger)^2(\hat{E}_{3\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{E}_{4\text{V}}^\dagger)^2 \\ &+ (\hat{E}_{1\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{E}_{2\text{V}}^\dagger)^2(\hat{e}_{2\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{e}_{4\text{H}}^\dagger)^2 \\ &- 2(\hat{e}_{1\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{e}_{3\text{H}}^\dagger)(\hat{E}_{3\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{E}_{4\text{V}}^\dagger) \\ &\times (\hat{E}_{1\text{V}}^\dagger + \hat{E}_{2\text{V}}^\dagger)(\hat{e}_{2\text{H}}^\dagger + \hat{e}_{4\text{H}}^\dagger)]|0\rangle.\end{aligned}\quad (13)$$

表1 四光子 GHZ 态的符合探测结果及其对应的概率

Table 1. The results of fourfold coincidence detections and the corresponding probabilities for the four-photon GHZ states.

| 四光子 GHZ 态 | 符合探测 | 探测概率 | 符合探测 | 探测概率 |
|--|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| $(HV\text{VH}\rangle + V\text{H}\text{H}\text{V}\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$ | $E_1 e_1 e_2 E_3$ | 1/48 | $E_2 e_3 e_4 E_4$ | 1/48 |
| $(HV\text{VH}\rangle + V\text{H}\text{H}\text{V}\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$ | $E_1 e_1 e_2 E_4$ | 1/48 | $E_1 e_1 e_4 E_4$ | 1/48 |
| $(HV\text{VH}\rangle + V\text{H}\text{H}\text{V}\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$ | $E_1 e_2 e_3 E_3$ | 1/48 | $E_1 e_2 e_3 E_4$ | 1/48 |
| $(HV\text{VH}\rangle + V\text{H}\text{H}\text{V}\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$ | $E_1 e_3 e_4 E_4$ | 1/48 | $E_2 e_2 e_3 E_4$ | 1/48 |
| $(HV\text{VH}\rangle + V\text{H}\text{H}\text{V}\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$ | $e_1 E_2 E_3 e_4$ | 1/48 | $e_1 E_1 E_3 e_4$ | 1/48 |
| $(HV\text{VH}\rangle + V\text{H}\text{H}\text{V}\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$ | $e_1 E_2 E_4 e_4$ | 1/48 | $e_2 E_2 E_3 e_3$ | 1/48 |
| $(H\text{H}\text{V}\text{V}\rangle + V\text{V}\text{H}\text{H}\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$ | $e_1 e_2 E_2 E_3$ | 1/48 | $E_1 E_3 e_3 e_4$ | 1/48 |
| $(H\text{H}\text{V}\text{V}\rangle + V\text{V}\text{H}\text{H}\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$ | $e_1 e_2 E_2 E_4$ | 1/48 | $E_2 E_3 e_3 e_4$ | 1/48 |
| $(H\text{H}\text{V}\text{V}\rangle + V\text{V}\text{H}\text{H}\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$ | $e_1 e_3 E_3 E_4$ | 1/12 | $E_1 E_2 e_2 e_4$ | 1/12 |

注: 不区分空间模 e_i 和 E_i ($i = 1, 2, 3, 4$) 的四模符合探测产生超纠缠态.

这里, 我们假定四个光子处于空间模 a_1 和 b_1 与空间模 a_2 和 b_2 这两种激发状态的概率相同、相对相位为零并且对光子的两种激发状态不进行区分. 于是, 可以通过选择适当的四模光子符合探测投影四光子态到不同的子空间. 考虑四个光子同时出现在不同空间模的情况, 此时可以得到人们熟知的四光子 GHZ 态. 具体地, 对应于不同的符合探测结果, 得到的四光子 GHZ 态及其对应的概率如表 1 所列. 根据表 1 中的结果, 不难发现基于参量下转换源二阶激发过程得到偏振纠缠四光子 GHZ 态的总概率为 $1/2$.

另一方面, 如果选择不区分空间模 e_i 和 E_i ($i = 1, 2, 3, 4$) 的四模符合事件, 即考虑空间模 e_1 (或 E_1), e_2 (或 E_2), e_3 (或 E_3) 和 e_4 (或 E_4) 中有且仅有一个光子的情况, 得到态

$$|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{2}(|\text{HVVH}\rangle + |\text{VHHV}\rangle) \otimes (|e_1 E_2 E_3 e_4\rangle + |E_1 e_2 e_3 E_4\rangle). \quad (14)$$

显然, 该四光子纠缠态既具有偏振纠缠又有空间纠缠, 是超纠缠态. 由表 1 中的结果可知, 获得该超纠缠态的概率为 $1/24$.

3 讨论

基于自发参量下转换源二阶激发过程, 我们给出了一个四光子超纠缠态的制备方案. 在基于自发参量下转换源一阶激发过程制备四光子超纠缠态方案 [31] 中, 需要引入量子非破坏性测量 [43–51] 来区分参量下转换源激发的两对纠缠光子所处的状态. 而对于仅包含二阶激发过程的自发参量下转换源而言, 这里不需要区分四个纠缠光子所处的状态, 因此当前方案更具可行性. 对于自发参量下转换源同时包含一阶激发和二阶激发过程的情况, 因为用于演化四光子系统的量子线路及随后的四光子符合探测选择性地遗弃了一个空间模同时包含两个处于相同偏振状态的光子对应的项, 于是, 这里得到的态与一阶激发过程中的两对纠缠光子激发于同一空间模的情况相同, 所以本文的方案可以提高超纠缠态的制备效率. 当前实验上, 人们主要通过抑制参量下转换源高阶激发过程, 以确保仅产生成对的纠缠光子并进一步实现多光子纠缠态的制备. 而实际上, 本文的研究表明, 对于四光子超纠缠态的制备, 自发参量下转换源二阶激发过程不

必刻意抑制, 而恰恰是可以灵活应用的. 同时, 我们也注意到自发参量下转换源二阶激发过程的实验观测 [12,13,15]、一阶激发与二阶激发间的参数控制 [14] 以及高阶激发光子的区分 [52] 等. 随着人们对自发参量下转换源高阶激发过程的深入研究, 相信其在多光子纠缠态的产生、制备及应用等方面一定有其独特的实际应用价值.

4 结论

基于自发参量下转换源二阶激发过程, 提出了一个简单可行的四光子超纠缠态制备方案. 方案中, 应用分束器、半波片和偏振分束器等线性光学器件设计量子线路演化参量下转换过程激发的四个不可区分光子. 通过四模光子符合探测, 四光子态可演化为同时具有偏振纠缠和空间纠缠的超纠缠态. 本方案的提出可为应用自发参量下转换源高阶激发过程提供新的思路和方法.

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Generation of four-photon hyperentangled state using spontaneous parametric down-conversion source with the second-order term*

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Abstract

Nowadays, the generation of multiphoton entangled states is almost realized by combining the coupled entangled photons emitted from spontaneous parametric down-conversion (SPDC) with the first-order term. In this case, one may focus mainly on the first-order term, and then avoid multipair emission events by restricting experimental parameters. On the other hand, for the higher-order terms in SPDC source, these emitted entangled photons have interesting features. For example, they are entangled maximally not only in photon number for the spatial modes, but also in polarization degree of freedom. In general, two photons, which are entangled in two or more degrees of freedom, are called hyperentangled pair of photons or hyperentangled state. We present a scheme to generate the four-photon hyperentangled state based on four indistinguishable photons emitted from SPDC source with the second-order term. Consider two SPDC sources with equal probability of emission of photons in respective spatial modes. With the passive linear optical devices, i.e., beam splitters, half wave plates, polarizing beam splitters, etc., under the condition of registering a specified four-photon coincidence, we can obtain the four-photon hyperentangled state in which the photons are entangled in both polarization and spatial-mode degrees of freedom. Here, of course, for an arbitrary fourfold coincidence detection, one obtains a canonical four-photon Greenberger-Horne-Zeilinger (GHZ) state. Then we show the results of fourfold coincidence detections and the corresponding probabilities for the four-photon GHZ states, where the generation of the four-photon hyperentangled state is included as long as we are not to distinguish the two detectors located at the same locations. As a result, our scheme has two notable features. When we only consider the second-order emission, since it is not needed for us to distinguish between the two SPDC sources, the present scheme is simple and feasible. Also, based on the postselection with fourfold coincidence detection, our scheme is suitable for the normal first-order emission where we restrict the four photons emitted from the same source. In this sense, our scheme is efficient. In a word, we describe a method to generate the four-photon hyperentangled state with the second-order emission in SPDC source, which may contribute to the exploration of multipair entanglement with higher-order emissions from the SPDC source.

Keywords: multiphoton entanglement, spontaneous parametric down-conversion, hyperentangled state

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