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**DESCRIPTION**

The *Journal of Human Evolution* concentrates on publishing the highest quality papers covering all aspects of human evolution. The central focus is aimed jointly at paleoanthropological work, covering human and primate fossils, and at comparative studies of living species, including both morphological and molecular evidence. These include descriptions of new discoveries, interpretative analyses of new and previously described material, and assessments of the phylogeny and paleobiology of primate species. Submissions should address issues and questions of broad interest in paleoanthropology.

In addition to original research papers, space is allocated for the rapid publication of short communications on new discoveries, such as exciting new fossils, as well as to lead book reviews and obituaries. All manuscripts are subjected to review by three referees.

Research Areas Include:
- Paleoanthropological work, covering human and primate fossils
- Comparative studies of living species, including both morphological and molecular evidence
- Primate systematics and phylogeny, behavior
- Functional studies, particularly relating to diet and locomotion
- Body size and allometric studies
- Studies in Paleolithic archaeology
- Taphonomic and stratigraphical studies supporting fossil evidence for primate and human evolution
- Paleoecological and paleogeographical models for primate and human evolution

Please see the Guide for Authors for further information.

**AUDIENCE**

Biologists, palaeontologists, anthropologists, archaeologists and geologists interested in all aspects of the evolution of humans and other primates.
ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

Scopus
Science Citation Index Expanded
Social Sciences Citation Index
Current Contents - Life Sciences
Zoological Record
Biological Abstracts
BIOSIS Previews
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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

YPYW (Your Paper Your Way)

We now differentiate between the requirements for new and revised submissions. Only when your paper is at the revision stage, will you be requested to put your paper in to a 'correct format' for acceptance and provide the items required for the publication of your article (you can view templates demonstrating the final layout of the title page, main text, tables and supplementary online material). However, please note that submissions should not include any information in the main text, tables and figures that could lead to the author(s) being identified by reviewers, given the double-anonymized peer review process adopted by the journal.

To find out more, please visit the Preparation section below.

Description
The Journal of Human Evolution concentrates on publishing the highest quality papers covering all aspects of human evolution. The central focus is aimed jointly at paleoanthropological work, covering human and primate fossils, and at comparative studies of living species, including both morphological and molecular evidence. These include descriptions of new discoveries, interpretative analyses of new and previously described material, and assessments of the phylogeny and paleobiology of primate species. All submissions should clearly address issues and questions of broad interest in paleoanthropology. In addition to original, full length research papers, space is allocated for the rapid publication of short communications on new discoveries, such as exciting new fossils, as well as to commentaries, lead book reviews and obituaries. All manuscripts are subjected to review by three referees (more details are provided below).

Research Areas Include: Paleoanthropological work, covering human and primate fossilsComparative studies of living species, including morphological and molecular evidencePrimate systematics, phylogeny and behaviorFunctional studies, particularly relating to diet and locomotionBody size and allometric studiesStudies in Paleolithic archaeologyTaphonomic and stratigraphical studies supporting fossil evidence for primate and human evolutionPaleoecological and paleogeographical models for primate and human evolution

INTRODUCTION
The Journal of Human Evolution (JHE) is the premier forum in physical anthropology and paleontology for publishing high quality, peer-reviewed research papers on all aspects relating to human and primate evolution. The central focus is aimed jointly at paleoanthropological work, covering human and nonhuman primate fossils, and at comparative studies of living species, including both morphological and molecular evidence. These include descriptions of new discoveries, interpretative analyses of new and previously described material, and assessments of the phylogeny and paleobiology of primate species. Submissions should address issues and questions of broad interest in paleoanthropology.

Types of articles
Except for Editorials, all articles regardless of type are subject to peer review.

Research articles. Research articles can be any length up to 150 pages/45,000 words (including tables and references), subject to limitations on space. Monographs on a particular site or fossil assemblage may be longer than 150 pages, pending approval of the Editors and publisher prior to submission. Original research articles, regardless of length, should be submitted as regular research submissions under the category Full Length Article. Research articles can include Supplementary Online Material of any length.

Synthetic reviews. Synthetic review papers can be any length (up to 150 pages/45,000 words, including tables and references). A presubmission inquiry to the Editors-in-Chief is mandatory for review submissions and should include the author names and affiliations and proposed title, and address the aim and scope of the review and why the review is of timely relevance to the journal and the field. JHE will publish a maximum of one review paper per issue. Thus, reviews are highly competitive and acceptance of a review proposal is at the discretion of the Editors-in-Chief. Please note that acceptance of a review submission is not a guarantee of acceptance for publication. Synthetic reviews can include Supplementary Online Material of any length.
Short Communications. Short Communications are normally less than 3000 words (excluding title page, acknowledgments, references and captions) and include up to 4 figures or tables and no abstract. Short Communications can include Supplementary Online Material.

Commentaries. Commentaries may be on recently published papers, whether in JHE or elsewhere. These are normally less than 3000 words (excluding title page, acknowledgments, references and captions) and can include up to 4 figures or tables but do not include an abstract. A Commentary can include Supplementary Online Material. Authors should be aware that upon provisional acceptance of a Commentary by the Editors, the author of the previously published paper will be asked to fact check the Commentary and will be invited to submit a Commentary in the form of a counter-reply. All commentaries, including counter-replies, are subject to peer review.

Lead book reviews and obituaries. Normally less than 4000 words (excluding title page, acknowledgments, references and captions). Presubmission inquiries to the Editors-in-Chief are mandatory for these types of submission and all submissions are subject to peer review.

Virtual special issues

Virtual special issues (VSIs). VSIs are devoted to particular topics or themes that fall within the purview of the journal. For VSIs, presubmission inquiries to the Editors, including detailed special issue proposals, are mandatory. JHE publishes a maximum of one VSI per year. The proposal should include the following: names and affiliations of all proposed Guest Editors (GE) and their CVs, VSI title, aim and scope of the VSI and its current relevance to JHE readership, and number of anticipated submissions including title and author(s) of each submission, and abstracts (please keep in mind the 300-word limit for abstracts). The proposal should indicate the papers that will be handled by each GE. Each VSI should have an Editorial that places the papers in collective context and may have a closing article though this is not mandatory. Please note that acceptance of a VSI is not a guarantee that all submissions for that VSI will be accepted for publication. The manuscripts should be submitted under the category with the title of the VSI. All submissions are subject to the normal peer-review process with the exception of the Editorial, which should be submitted directly to the Editor-in-Chief handling the VSI.

Peer review

JHE uses double-anonymized review, which means that both the author identities are concealed from the reviewers, and vice versa, throughout the review process. While reviewers are allowed to disclose their identity to authors if they so choose, it is mandatory that authors remain anonymous unless explicitly allowed by the editors under specific circumstances. Thus, authors need to ensure that their manuscripts are prepared in a way that does not reveal their identity. To help with this preparation please ensure the following when submitting to Journal of Human Evolution:

Submit the Title Page containing the author details (including the title, authors' names and affiliations, and e-mail address of the corresponding author) and Acknowledgments (including funding sources), and the Anonymized Manuscript with no author details, as two separate editable files. You can view templates demonstrating the final layout of the title page, main text, tables and supplementary online material.

In the Anonymized Manuscript, make sure that no author names and/or affiliations are provided. Use the third person to refer to work the authors have previously undertaken, e.g., replace phrases such as "we have shown before (citation)" with "it has been shown before [citation]" or "we have shown before (author 1, author 2, etc.)" until such time as the publication has been provisionally accepted. Upon provisional acceptance, these expressions must be replaced by either the full in-text citation (e.g., author, date) or, if referencing unpublished work, with the authors' initials with periods, e.g., C.Z., A.B.T, etc. Ensure that figures do not contain any affiliation related identifier(s). Remove any identifying information, including author names, from file names and ensure document properties are also anonymized. Do not eliminate essential self-citations or other citations, but limit self-citations only to papers that are relevant for academic reasons.

Submission checklist

You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.
Ensure that the following items are present:

Title page with all author names, affiliations, and full postal addresses; one author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details, including e-mail address and author's first initial and last name. Up to two authors may be designated as corresponding author, in which case contact details should be provided for both corresponding authors.

All necessary files have been uploaded:
Abstract (if required)
Manuscript:
The manuscript should be in editable Word format and should include headings in proper format for 1. Introduction, 2. Materials and methods, 3. Results, 4. Discussion, and 5. Conclusions; Discussion and conclusions may be combined into a single section. Include a maximum of six (6) keywords. All figures should be numbered and uploaded consecutively as separate files; relevant figure legends should be placed at the end of the manuscript after References. All tables should be uploaded as a single, editable Word file and include table title with description and footnotes (using superscript lowercase letters). Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided. Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files (where applicable)

Supplemental Online Material (SOM), where applicable, should be uploaded as e-component(s). For SOM text, figures and tables, these should be uploaded into a single SOM file with text first, followed by figures and then tables. Each SOM table should include table title with description and footnotes using superscript lowercase letters. Each figure should be accompanied by a figure legend, place below the figure. Each SOM figure should be indicated as SOM Figure S# and each table as SOM Table S#.

For further information, visit our Support Center.
Please note the Cover letter for the Editor is not sent to reviewers.

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The below guidance only refers to the writing process, and not to the use of AI tools to analyse and draw insights from data as part of the research process.

Where authors use generative artificial intelligence (AI) and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process, authors should only use these technologies to improve readability and language. Applying the technology should be done with human oversight and control, and authors should carefully review and edit the result, as AI can generate authoritative-sounding output that can be incorrect, incomplete or biased. AI and AI-assisted technologies should not be listed as an author or co-author, or be cited as an author. Authorship implies responsibilities and tasks that can only be attributed to and performed by humans, as outlined in Elsevier's AI policy for authors.

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Disclosure instructions
Authors must disclose the use of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process by adding a statement at the end of their manuscript in the core manuscript file, before the References list. The statement should be placed in a new section entitled ‘Declaration of Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process’.

Statement: During the preparation of this work the author(s) used [NAME TOOL / SERVICE] in order to [REASON]. After using this tool/service, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take(s) full responsibility for the content of the publication.

This declaration does not apply to the use of basic tools for checking grammar, spelling, references etc. If there is nothing to disclose, there is no need to add a statement.

Reporting sex- and gender-based analyses
Reporting guidance
For research involving or pertaining to humans, animals or eukaryotic cells, investigators should integrate sex and gender-based analyses (SGBA) into their research design according to funder/sponsor requirements and best practices within a field. Authors should address the sex and/or gender
dimensions of their research in their article. In cases where they cannot, they should discuss this as a limitation to their research's generalizability. Importantly, authors should explicitly state what definitions of sex and/or gender they are applying to enhance the precision, rigor and reproducibility of their research and to avoid ambiguity or conflation of terms and the constructs to which they refer (see Definitions section below). Authors can refer to the Sex and Gender Equity in Research (SAGER) guidelines and the SAGER guidelines checklist. These offer systematic approaches to the use and editorial review of sex and gender information in study design, data analysis, outcome reporting and research interpretation - however, please note there is no single, universally agreed-upon set of guidelines for defining sex and gender.

Definitions

Sex generally refers to a set of biological attributes that are associated with physical and physiological features (e.g., chromosomal genotype, hormonal levels, internal and external anatomy). A binary sex categorization (male/female) is usually designated at birth (“sex assigned at birth”), most often based solely on the visible external anatomy of a newborn. Gender generally refers to socially constructed roles, behaviors, and identities of women, men and gender-diverse people that occur in a historical and cultural context and may vary across societies and over time. Gender influences how people view themselves and each other, how they behave and interact and how power is distributed in society. Sex and gender are often incorrectly portrayed as binary (female/male or woman/man) and unchanging whereas these constructs actually exist along a spectrum and include additional sex categorizations and gender identities such as people who are intersex/have differences of sex development (DSD) or identify as non-binary. Moreover, the terms "sex" and "gender" can be ambiguous—thus it is important for authors to define the manner in which they are used. In addition to this definition guidance and the SAGER guidelines, the resources on this page offer further insight around sex and gender in research studies.

PREPARATION

General information for all article types

Including a cover letter to the Editors-in-Chief is mandatory and should include the manuscript title and a brief overview of the topic, main findings and significance to the journal. Please note the Cover letter for the Editor is not sent to reviewers. Manuscripts in the revision stage must be submitted in a complete and finished form. The Title page (including the Acknowledgments section), Highlights, Main text (including title, abstract, keywords, main text, references and figure captions), Tables and Supplementary Online Material (SOM) files should be submitted as separate, editable Word documents. Include page numbers and continuous line numbers throughout the manuscript. American spelling is mandatory (except for actual titles of articles/books or names of journals or organizations). The institution where the primary material studied is curated (when applicable) is stated in the Materials and methods section. In cases where large extant comparative samples are involved, this information should be provided in Supplementary Online Material. All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text, and vice versa. Permission has been granted by CC-BY user license or allowed by the copyright owner for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet; see https://www.elsevier.com/about/policies/copyright/permissions). A competing interests statement is provided, even if the authors have no competing interests to declare. Please be sure that the competing interest statement does not contain information that can identify the authors.

Use of word processing software

It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. The text should be in single-column format. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the word processor's options to justify text or to hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. When preparing tables, if you are using a table grid, use only one grid for each individual table and not a grid for each row. If no grid is used, use tabs, not spaces, to align columns. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier). Note that source files of figures, tables and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed your figures in the text. See also the section on Electronic artwork.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

Title page
This section should include an informative title that clearly and concisely summarizes the specific findings. The title of the manuscript should avoid the use of non-standard abbreviations, formulae and literature citations.

Include author names (first followed by last) in the first paragraph, with a lowercase superscript letter immediately following the author's name to indicate author affiliation; include a star (*) following the corresponding author's name as well. The JHE allows for more than one corresponding author. Please use a single asterisk after the last name and affiliations of each corresponding author (e.g., First Name Last Name1a,(*) First Name Last Name2b,(*) Following the author names, present the authors' affiliation addresses (where the actual work was done) below the names of the authors. Indicate each author affiliation with a lowercase superscript letter immediately in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and affiliations of all authors, including current addresses for authors who have moved. If an author has moved since the work described in the article was done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address'(or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author actually did the work must be retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes. Below the list of author affiliations, indicate the corresponding author(s), who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing, publication, and post-publication. This responsibility includes answering any future queries about Materials and methods. Ensure that the e-mail address is given and that contact details are kept up to date by the corresponding author. If there are two corresponding authors (e.g., first author and senior author) be sure to provide the emails for both.

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* Corresponding author.

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This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health (grant numbers xxxx, yyyy); the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA (grant number zzzz); and the United States Institutes of Peace (grant number aaaa).
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If no funding has been provided for the research, please include the following sentence: This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.
Please list funding sources within the Acknowledgments.

Author contributions
Specifying author contributions is not mandatory, but if such statement is used, then it must be placed immediately after the Acknowledgments, using authors' initials with periods e.g., C.Z. and A.B.T.

Highlights
Highlights are optional yet highly encouraged for this journal, as they increase the discoverability of your article via search engines. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that capture the novel results of your research as well as new methods that were used during the study (if any). Please have a look at the examples here: example Highlights.
Highlights should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point). Each bullet point should be a complete sentence and end in a period.

Main Text

Abstract

Provide an abstract of no more than 300 words (Short Communications, Commentaries, Lead book reviews, Editorials and Obituaries do not include abstracts) that includes a clear and concise introduction of the topic of the manuscript, briefly addresses the materials and methods, and summarizes the main findings, significance of the result and main conclusions. The abstract should be intelligible to the general reader without reference to the main text. Non-standard abbreviations, formulae and literature citations should be avoided in the abstract.

Keywords

Immediately below the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords, using American spelling and avoiding general terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, 'and', 'of'). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.

Body of the manuscript

The body of the manuscript of a Research Article should be submitted in editable Word format. JHE allows for primary, secondary and tertiary headers. The format of these headers is as follows:

1. Primary section header (capitalize only the first word of the primary header and use bold)
   Text begins here.

1.1. Secondary section header (italics, no bold or underline, but please do not italicize genera/species names)
   Text begins here.

Tertiary section header Text begins here.

The manuscript should thus adhere to the following formatting:

Introduction
Materials and methods
Provide sufficient detail to allow the work to be reproduced. Methods already published should be indicated by a reference, but sufficient detail must be provided so that readers can understand the methods without referring to separate papers. Authors must supply complete and accurate information about the location and accession of material, both at the time it was studied and, if different, at the time of publication (for example, if the material was on loan or not fully accessioned in a single institution at the time of study). In line with the journal's commitment to open access and transparency, specimen numbers of material (both fossil and modern comparative) analyzed as part of the submitted work should be included either in the main manuscript or, in cases where a large sample is used, as supplementary online material. The institution where the studied specimens are curated should be indicated in the Materials section.

Data statement

To foster transparency, we encourage you to state the availability of your data in your submission. This may be a requirement of your funding body or institution. If your data is unavailable to access or unsuitable to post, you will have the opportunity to indicate why during the submission process, for example by stating that the research data is confidential. The statement will appear with your published article on ScienceDirect. For more information, visit the Data Statement page.

3. Systematics/Systematic paleontology

In taxonomic papers, a section of Systematics (for extant taxa) or Systematic paleontology (for extinct taxa) is required, either before or in substitution for the Results section (see specific guidelines for taxonomic papers below).

4. Results

Results should be clear and concise. For papers without Systematics/Systematic Paleontology, it should be the section number 3.

5. Discussion

This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion or Discussion and Conclusions section is sometimes appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature. For papers without Systematics/Systematic Paleontology, it should be the section number 4.
6. Conclusions
The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of the Discussion section.

References
All references cited in the text, tables and figure legends should be included in a single reference list after Acknowledgments (or after Author contributions if provided). All literature codes for both in text citations and references listed must be removed before submission. References can be in any style or format as long as the style is consistent. Where applicable, author(s) name(s), journal title/book title, chapter title/article title, year of publication, volume number/book chapter and the article number or pagination must be present. Use of DOI is highly encouraged. The reference style used by the journal will be applied to the accepted article by Elsevier at the proof stage. Please see examples of the journal’s reference style here. Note that missing data will be highlighted at proof stage for the author to correct.

Citation in text
Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). References are not allowed in the abstract. Unpublished results, manuscripts in preparation, and personal communications should not be included in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text using 'author's unpublished results', 'in prep.', 'pers. comm.', or similar expressions within parentheses. If citing a personal communication, please ensure that you supply verification from the person providing the communication that they agree to it being included in your submission. If gray literature documents (unpublished reports, submitted manuscripts, etc.) are cited, they must be included as such in the reference list. Citation of a reference as 'in press' implies that the item has been accepted for publication. Submitted manuscripts should not be included in the reference list. For journal articles pre-published online, the volume number and page range should be substituted by the full URL of the DOI. For online only articles, page range should be substituted by article number (DOI is not required). Issue number within volume should only be included (within parentheses, between volume number and page range) when page numbering is not consecutive throughout successive issues of the same volume.

In taxonomic papers, taxonomic authorities (i.e., authorships) should be provided after taxon names, and the corresponding references included in the reference list (see specific guidelines for taxonomic papers below).

Reference Links
Increased discoverability of research and high quality peer review are ensured by online links to the sources cited. In order to allow us to create links to abstracting and indexing services, such as Scopus, CrossRef and PubMed, please ensure that data provided in the references are correct. Please note that incorrect surnames, journal/book titles, publication year and pagination may prevent link creation. When copying references, please be careful as they may already contain errors. Use of the DOI is highly encouraged.

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Citations in text: All citations in text should refer to:
Single author: the author's name (without initials, unless there is ambiguity) and the year of publication; Two authors: both authors' names and the year of publication; Three or more authors: first author's name followed by 'et al.,' and the year of publication.

When citing the use of software, the version should be specified (e.g., R v.3.2.1). For software, please provide a literature citation. If no literature citation is available, then cite the company name and the city where the head office is located between parentheses. For example: MATLAB v. 2019b (Mathworks, Natick). For freeware, please cite the authors’ website or the publication where the software was announced.
Citations may be made directly (or parenthetically). Groups of references should be listed first chronologically, then alphabetically.

List: References should be arranged first alphabetically, based on the last name of the first author, and then further sorted chronologically if necessary. More than one reference from the same author(s) in the same year must be identified by the letters "a", "b", "c", etc., placed after the year of publication.

Web references
As a minimum, the full URL should be given and the date when the reference was last accessed. Any further information, if known (DOI, author names, dates, reference to a source publication, etc.), should also be given. Web references must be included in the reference list.

Data references
This journal encourages you to cite underlying or relevant datasets in your manuscript by citing them in your text and including a data reference in your Reference List. Data references should include the following elements: author name(s), dataset title, data repository, version (where available), year, and global persistent identifier. Add [dataset] immediately before the reference so we can properly identify it as a data reference. The [dataset] identifier will not appear in your published article.

References in a special issue
Do not cite a paper as in "this issue", even if it is part of a "Special Issue"; always provide the year in the text and the full citation in the reference list.

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A separate primary section, numbered and entitled Systematics (for extant taxa) or Systematic paleontology (for extinct taxa) is mandatory. This section may substitute the standard Results section; if not, then the latter must be placed immediately after the systematic section. This section primary heading should be followed by successive taxonomic subheadings in round type that do not adhere to the style of secondary or tertiary headings of the journal, and which must include rank (but see below), taxon name, and taxonomic authorships and/or specifications about the novelty of taxa (see abbreviations below), without dot at the end. For example:

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Order Primates Linnaeus, 1758
Infraorder Catarrhini E. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1812
Superfamily Cercopithecoidea Gray, 1821
Family Cercopithecidae Gray, 1821
Subfamily Colobinae Blyth, 1863
Genus Mesopithecus Wagner, 1839
Mesopithecus pentelicus Wagner, 1839
Studied specimens Text follows here in the same line, with the heading underlined and not followed by a dot. When necessary, such as when describing new taxa, tertiary headings of Holotype, Type locality, Diagnosis, Distribution, Etymology, etc., can be provided here.

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