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BANKRUPTCY DYNAMICS OF COMPANIES IN RUSSIA

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Article history: Received 06 April 2020 Received in revised form 19 June 2020Economic instability is embodied in the dynamics of cor bankruptcies. This process is gaining theoretical and pra- importance. The paper performs a structural analysis of Ru
 Accepted 28 June 2020 Available online 10 July 2020 Keywords: Company bankruptcy; Type of ownership; State-owned company; Private company; State-owned company; Private company; Structural analysis; Russian bankruptcy court judgment; Demography of organizations; Bankruptcy cases; Business dynamics. Company bankruptcies in the public commercial sector falls on company aged 25-30, and the lifespan of private companies is 10-15 years findings conclude that the effect of the type of ownership o dynamics of company bankruptcies in Russia is statist insignificant. At the same time, there are notable disproportions threshold of the economic viability of state-owned companies private ones. Disciplinary: Enterprises Economics and Management. 2020 INT TRANS J ENG MANAG SCI TECH.

1. INTRODUCTION

Aggravating global uncertainty makes the problem of bankruptcies especially urgent. Crises, price shocks, and a general deterioration in market conditions in foreign markets resulted in a situation where less diversified export-oriented economies quickly lost their sustainability

(Garškaite-Milvydiene, 2012; Ali & Ur Rehman, 2018). In this context, the issue of company bankruptcies has become one of the most acute problems in Russia. According to the statistical bulletin of the Russian Unified Federal Register of Bankruptcy Information (EFRSB, 2019), there were 12,401 bankruptcies in the country in 2019, which is 5.5% less than in 2018, but almost twice the level of 2011. The rapid growth in the number of insolvent and liquidated enterprises in Russia stimulates the search for causes and factors contributing to such trends (Zakirova et al., 2018).

A wide array of studies on the problem of company bankruptcies indicates the magnitude of the problem and the need for finding solutions to it as early as possible. At the same time, not enough research is being undertaken on the statistical assessment and determination of the level of company bankruptcy by the type of ownership. This issue has been beyond the scope of the research interest. For a long time, state-owned enterprises managed to stay afloat and kept functioning despite their negative performance indicators. Subsequently, public funding cutbacks caused some state enterprises to go bust. The nature of these bankruptcies leaves open the question of the ultimate sustainability threshold for companies partly or fully owned by the state. The current research is designed to clarify the threshold of the economic viability of state-owned companies over private ones and establish to which extent the type of ownership affects the bankruptcies dynamics. This fact determines the applied nature of the topic under discussion.

This study's purpose is to analyze the scale and dynamics of bankruptcies taking into account the types of ownership. We aim to accomplish the following objectives: To assess the share of bankruptcies among state-owned enterprises; to investigate how the lifespan of enterprises affects the frequency of bankruptcies, and to establish if there is a correlation between the number of bankruptcies and the size of authorized capital by the types of ownership.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Examining the problems associated with the dynamism and variability of the economic environment revealed a plethora of unresolved issues in the field of sustainable development of entrepreneurship in Russia (Smirnov, 2017; Litau, 2019; Ponomarev & Petrov, 2019). One of them is the task of preventing insolvency (bankruptcy).

Azizov and Dzhumaniyazova (2016) explore the changes in the number of bankruptcies in Russia in 2005-2015. They identify the positive dynamics of bankruptcies of legal entities, which takes place since 2007 and pinpoint the regions, where the growth of bankruptcies is above the national average. Karzaeva (2017) presents the analysis of insolvency dynamics for a shorter period of 2010-2016. The data obtained indicate that the number of bankruptcies in Russia has doubled over 7 years, and, given the decrease in the number of registered enterprises, this can result in an economic recession.

Many authors (Kovalev & Mnatsakanyan, 2016; Poleshchuk & Markova, 2016) perform a statistical analysis of bankruptcies by the industries and regions of the Russian Federation. The researchers conclude that more than half of all bankrupt enterprises operate in trade, construction, and real estate. As Marina (2018) puts it, among the industries that are most disposed to go bust are wholesale and retail trade, construction, commercial services, agriculture and forestry, transport and

communications, electric power industry, financial services, food production, mechanical engineering, and metallurgy. Other studies (Stroganova, 2016; Melay & Ustinkova, 2017; Kuzmin & Guseva, 2016; Kuzmin, 2018) support these conclusions.

As practice demonstrates, there are principal differences in the bankruptcy of state-owned and private companies. The advantages of companies with state participation over private ones can take the form of direct subsidies, concession financing, guarantees, preferential regulation, exemptions from antitrust laws or bankruptcy laws, etc. (Kowalski et al., 2013; OECD, 2004). In many scenarios, state-owned enterprises enjoy soft budget constraints and use direct or indirect state funding (Bai & Wang, 1998; MacCarthaigh, 2011; Liu, Tian & Wang, 2011). Specific features of state participation in the corporate segment may reduce management efficiency and impair the economic performance of companies (Batkovskiy et al., 2016; 2018). In this regard, it is relevant to study the scale and dynamics of the bankruptcies of state-owned enterprises in comparison with private ones.

The public sector remains an important part of the Russian economic system. According to various estimates, its share equals 60-70% (CDB, 2019). Enterprises and associations are termed state-owned when 50% or more of their capital is owned by the state, regional or local authorities (Kozlova, Bratchenko & Zvyagintsev, 2019).

There is research (Panfilova, 2013; Mogilat, 2015; Tantsarin, 2018) dedicated to the analysis of bankruptcies of state-owned and private companies in Russia. Based on a statistical examination of bankruptcies in 2010-2017, Tantsarin (2018) states that the share of unitary enterprises declared insolvent demonstrates an upward trend. Mogilat (2015) highlights that bankruptcies among private companies and those with foreign ownership are less intense if compared with the public sector.

Panfilova (2013) emphasizes that bankruptcies of state-owned enterprises exhibit the following peculiarities: the majority of state-owned enterprise bankruptcies are initiated by the creditor; in state-owned companies, accounts payable are many times greater than accounts receivable; in contrast to the private sector, in the bankruptcy proceedings of a state-owned enterprise, reorganization procedures prevail over liquidation ones.

According to Bazunova (2016), the disproportionality of the functions of the institution of bankruptcy is manifested in the uneven use of procedures and the dominance of liquidation procedures (bankruptcy proceedings) over recovery ones (financial rehabilitation and receivership). The main trend in bankruptcies in Russia was revealed: in most insolvency cases, where the debtor was a state-owned and municipal unitary enterprise, the procedure of bankruptcy proceedings was not initiated, while the cases were closed at the stage of supervision or going into receivership was considered, even if the chances for the debtor's solvency recovery were minimal. In bankruptcy cases of state-owned enterprises, accounts payable usually many times exceed both accounts receivable and the book value of the property. Such selectivity is largely explained by the fact that the state, as the owner of organizations in which public funds are invested, is interested in them to work efficiently and not be at risk of alienation of property in bankruptcy proceedings (Kovan, 2009).

The literature review indicates that no comprehensive research is being undertaken on identifying the factors and establishing the scale, major trends, and particularities of bankruptcies of

state-owned and private enterprises in Russia. The issues that have not been debated in detail are the following: the analysis of the share of bankruptcies among state-owned enterprises, the analysis of the effect of enterprises' age on the frequency of bankruptcies, and the analysis of how the size of companies' authorized capital affects the frequency of bankruptcies.

3. METHOD

The purpose and objectives of the present research imply conducting a multi-stage analysis which includes the following operations:

- a) analyzing statistical data on Russian company bankruptcies in 2011-2019;
- b) analyzing summary statistical data on the activities of arbitration courts in 2014-2019 on the insolvency (bankruptcy) of legal entities (companies);
- c) evaluating the distribution of company bankruptcies by the types of ownership.

Based on data from the SPARK-Interfax, we obtain a statistical sample of 1,432 bankrupt enterprises of all types of ownership. The data demonstrate that 37.6% of the enterprises were owned by regional authorities (subjects of the Russian Federation (RF), 27.9% were under the joint ownership of the RF subjects and foreign partners, 27.7% were owned by federal authorities, 5.87% were private companies, and the share of companies with other types of ownership was under 1%.

Statistics of the arbitration practice in Russia on insolvency (bankruptcy) of companies for the period of 2014-2019 allows one to arrange bankruptcy applications received and bankruptcy decisions made (Table 1).

Table 1: Number of bankruptcy applications received and bankruptcy decisions made by art	oitration
courts in Russia according to the types of ownership (SCRF, 2019).	

Type of our or high	Bankruptcy applications received/bankruptcy decisions made					
Type of ownership	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*
1. Private enterprises	41,905	44,697	42,833	42,676	40,964	46,950
	15,081	14,846	12,822	16,241	15,542	14,690
2. State-owned enterprises,	702	605	530	652	575	426
including	236	186	186	161	160	160
State unitary enterprises	186	108	132	198	134	76
	37	25	39	31	17	30
Municipal unitary enterprises	516	497	398	454	441	350
	199	161	147	130	143	130
Total	42,607	45,302	43,363	43,328	41,539	47,376
	15,317	15,032	13,008	16,402	15,702	14,850

Note: (*) is a projection based on data for the 1^{st} half of 2019.

The statistical data obtained allow us to test the following hypotheses for each research stage:

H1: due to the relatively low efficiency of state-owned enterprises, the share of bankruptcies among such companies will be higher than among private enterprises.

H2: the number of insolvencies decreases as the lifespan of enterprises grows. At that, the largest share of bankruptcies should occur among relatively "young" companies (with a lifespan under 10 years).

H3: the number of insolvencies decreases as the size of companies' authorized capital grows. At that, the largest share of bankruptcies should occur among companies with small authorized capital.

To test the hypotheses, the following methods are applied: statistical analysis of the dynamics and structure; structural-dynamic analysis, which consists in determining individual and generalizing indicators of structural changes (coefficients of absolute and relative structural shifts with a variable and constant comparative base (Sivelkin & Kuznetsova, 2002)).

The structural indicator is calculated from

$$d_i = \frac{x_i}{s} \times 100 \tag{1},$$

where d_i denotes the share of the *i*-th structural element; i = N,1; x_i denotes absolute value by the i-th element; *s* denotes a total of absolute values of the i-th structural elements.

The individual indicator of absolute structural shifts with a variable comparative base is determined by

$$\Delta = d_j - d_{j-1} \tag{2},$$

where d_j is the proportion of the group in the *j*-th period; d_{j-1} is the proportion of the group in the period j - 1.

The individual indicator of absolute structural shifts with a constant comparative base is calculated by

$$\Delta = d_j - d_0 \tag{3},$$

where d_0 is the proportion of the group in the basis period.

The individual indicator of relative structural shifts with a variable comparative base is determined by

$$J_d = \frac{d_j}{d_{j-1}} \tag{4}.$$

The individual indicator of relative structural shifts with a constant comparative base is calculated by

$$J_d = \frac{d_j}{d_0} \tag{5},$$

where d_j refers to the proportion of the group in the *j*-th period; d_0 refers to the proportion of the group (element) in the basis period.

The linear coefficient of absolute structural shifts with a variable comparative base (chain-weighted) is calculated in percent using

$$L_{Z}^{Ab} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} |d_{j} - d_{j-1}|}{n}$$
(6),

where L_z^{Ab} is the linear coefficient of absolute structural shifts (chain-weighted or with a variable comparative base); *d* is the proportions of attributes; *n* is the number of gradations in the structures; *j* is the periods compared.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In 2011-2019, the number of Russian company bankruptcies increased by 86.48% (Figure 1). The basis growth rates of bankruptcies exceeded the chain-weighted ones, which was attributed to the financial and economic instability in 2013-2014. The progressive increase in the number of insolvencies in 2011-2017 was due to the low efficiency of the institution of subsidiary liability. The reforms enacted improved the situation. As a result, controlling entities were more often held liable for the company debts, and the number of bankruptcies reduced.



Figure 1: Dynamics of Russian company bankruptcies in 2011-2019, (number of bankruptcies) (Source: EFRSB (2019)).



Figure 2: Dynamics of the number of legal entities in Russia in 2011-2019, thousands Source: (Rosstat, 2016; 2018; 2019)

Figure 2 presents the dynamics of changes in the number of legal entities (companies and associations) in Russia in 2011-2019. There is a steady downward trend in the number of organizations amounting to 1,151.3 thousand entities, or 31%, during the same period. Lately, the

international audit and consulting network FinExpertiza has detected a tendency towards the number of liquidated companies to prevail over the number of newly established ones. In 2019, the number of dissolved companies exceeded the number of start-ups 2.3 times. As a whole in Russia in 2019, every fifth company closed (FinExpertiza, 2020).

When assessing the scale of bankruptcies, it can be noted that their share increased from 0.14% in 2011 to 0.33% in 2019, or 2.4 times (EFRSB, 2019; Rosstat, 2016; 2018; 2019). A growing number of insolvencies is an extremely adverse trend indicating an unfavorable business climate and declining entrepreneurial activity. Every second bankruptcy in Russia occurs in trade, construction, and real estate, which is caused by the high base effect: these industries are leaders in the number of companies operating in them. If one juxtaposes the number of bankruptcies and the number of enterprises working in the sector, then the cases of insolvency will be under 2% (Almakunova, 2019).

Table 1 presents an analysis of summary statistical data on activities of federal arbitration courts in Russia in 2014-2019. The data show that the number of private and state-owned companies filing for bankruptcy in 2014 equaled 41,905 and 702, respectively. Of these, 15,081 (35.98%) and 236 (33.61%) cases were closed declaring the companies to be insolvent. In 2014, the share of bankruptcies among state unitary enterprises (SUEs) was 19.89%, and among municipal unitary enterprises (MUEs) - 38.56%. In 2019, the number of applications for declaring companies insolvent amounted to 47,376, and 14,850 (31.34%) of them were approved. At that, the share of private enterprises was equal to 31.29%, and the share of state-owned enterprises declared bankrupt - 37.56% (including SUEs (39.47%) and MUEs (37.14%)).

Figure 3 provides a summary of the data from Table 1. We can conclude that the share of bankruptcies among state-owned enterprises in 2016 and 2019 was higher than among private enterprises. The opposite situation was observed in the rest of the periods.



Private enterprises State unitary enterprises Municipal unitary enterprises

Figure 3: Percentage of arbitrage court judgments with respect to state-owned and private enterprise bankruptcies, % (Source: SCRF (2019)).

Under Russia's laws, the following procedures can be used when considering a bankruptcy case (Federal Law No. 127-FZ): supervision; financial rehabilitation; receivership; bankruptcy

proceedings; and settlement. Almost half of all judgments made by courts were about declaring enterprise bankruptcy and starting bankruptcy proceedings. At that, in 2015 this indicator amounted to 50.84%, and by 2019 it decreased to 46.66%. The proportion of judgments to introduce supervision decreased to 38.13% by 2019 from 39.75% in 2015. The greatest change occurred in the number of judgments to terminate proceedings: the share of such judgments grew from 7.57% in 2015 to 14.36% in 2019 (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Structure of court judgments with respect to Russian companies' insolvency (%) (Source: EFRSB, (2019))

In 2019, the main claimants in bankruptcy cases were creditors in insolvency proceedings (78.1% of claims), debtors (companies) themselves (12.6%), and the Russian Federal Tax Service (8.7%). The share of employees' claims amounted to 0.6%.

To analyze the structure of bankruptcies by the type of ownership, we calculate the number of court-approved bankruptcies in relative terms. The share of approved bankruptcies of private enterprises was more than 98%, and for state-owned companies, this share was under 2%. Bankruptcy cases of other organizations took the largest share of approved insolvencies - 85.15% in 2014, and 82.41% in 2019. The share of SUEs bankruptcies was 0.24% in 2014, and it declined to 0.20% by the end of 2019. The share of MUEs bankruptcies accounted for 1.30% in 2014, and it dropped to 0.88% by the end of 2019.

Using the statistical data, we determine the linear coefficient of absolute structural shifts in the dynamics of bankruptcy judgments ($L_{2015/2014}=0.105$; $L_{2016/2015}=2.05$; $L_{2017/2016}=2.05$; $L_{2018/2017}=0.35$; $L_{2019/2018}=0.53$). The largest amount of shifts in the structure of Russian enterprise bankruptcies was observed in 2015-2017. During 2018-2019, subtle structural shifts were noted. During the entire period under consideration, the coefficient of absolute structural shifts was 8.18. The major structural shifts were noticed in such types of enterprises as peasant farms, agricultural organizations, city-forming enterprises, and other organizations.

Table 2 shows the results of the distribution of bankruptcies by the types of ownership in 2019

based on the sample from the SPARK-Interfax information system.

Type of cymerchin	Enterprise Status				Total
Type of ownership	In bankruptcy	Active	Under liquidation	Inactive	Total
Private ownership	23	1	42	18	84
Federal ownership	109	0	274	14	397
Joint ownership of Russia's subjects and foreign ownership	110	0	275	14	399
Ownership of Russia's subjects	94	0	416	29	539
Mixed Russian ownership with a share of federal ownership	0	0	0	6	6
Mixed Russian ownership with the share of federal	0	0	0	6	6
ownership and ownership of Russia's subjects	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2: Distribution of bankruptcies of Russian companies by the types of ownership in 2019,
Source: (EFRSB, 2019).

Of the sample presented, 23 private enterprises were in bankruptcy, which was 27.38% of their total and 1.6% of the entire sample. As for enterprises owned by the federal government, 109 of them were in bankruptcy, which made up 27.45% of their total and 27.72% of the sample. 110 enterprises jointly owned by Russia's subjects and foreign countries were in bankruptcy, which amounted to 27.56% of all enterprises of this type of ownership or 27.86% of the total sample. 94 enterprises owned by Russia's subjects (constituent territories) were in bankruptcy, which equaled 17.39% of their total or 37.64% of the sample. As a whole, 313 state-owned enterprises of the sample presented were in the state of bankruptcy. The distribution of the frequency of companies' bankruptcies according to their lifespan (age) is given in Table 3.

The majority (45%) of state-owned enterprises at the stage of bankruptcy were at the age of 25-30 years; 18% were between 20-25 years, and 15% were between 10-15 years. Private enterprises going bust demonstrated the opposite trend. Most of them (35%) were between 10-15 years; 22% - 25-30 years; and 17% - 5-10 years.

Lifespan (age (years))	State-owned enterprises, %*	Private enterprises, %
Under 5	3.2	4.3
5 to 10	5.3	17.4
10 to 15	14.6	34.8
15 to 20	10.5	8.7
20 to 25	18.2	13.0
25 to 30	44.9	21.7
30 to 35	1.6	-
35 to 40	0.0	-
40 to 45	0.4	-
45 to 50	0.4	-
50 to 55	0.4	-
55 to 60	0.0	-
Over 60	0.4	-

Table 3: Distribution of the frequency of bankruptcies of state-owned and private enterprises inRussia according to their lifespan (age) in 2019 (Source: (EFRSB (2019); SPARK-Interfax (2019)).

Note: (*) denotes enterprises of the types of ownership, such as federal ownership; joint ownership of Russia's subjects and foreign countries; ownership of Russia's subjects; mixed Russian ownership with a share of federal ownership; mixed Russian ownership with shares of federal ownership and ownership of Russia's subjects.

At the following stage, the frequency of bankruptcies was analyzed depending on the size of

authorized capital (Table 4).

Size of authorized capital, rubles	State-owned enterprises, %*	Private enterprises, %
Up to 100,000	10.3	34.8
100,000 to 1,000,000	21.4	8.7
1,000,000 to 5,000,000	13.2	0.0
5,000,000 to 10,000,000	7.0	0.0
10,000,000 to 15,000,000	5.3	8.7
15,000,000 to 20,000,000	3.3	0.0
20,000,000 to 25,000,000	2.1	0.0
25,000,000 to 30,000,000	4.1	8.7
30,000,000 to 35,000,000	1.6	0.0
35,000,000 to 40,000,000	0.8	0.0
40,000,000 to 45,000,000	1.2	0.0
45,000,000 to 50,000,000	1.2	0.0
Over 50,000,000	28.4	39.1

Table 4: Distribution of the frequency of bankruptcies in Russia by the size of enterprises' authorized capital in 2019 (Source: SPARK-Interfax, 2019).

Table 4 indicates that the largest share of state-owned enterprise bankruptcies (28.4%) was recorded among those with an authorized capital of more than 50 million rubles, followed by state-owned enterprises with an authorized capital of between RUR 100,000 to RUR 1,000,000 (21.4%). 39.1% of bankruptcies were recorded among private companies with an authorized capital of more than 50 million rubles. The second-largest share of insolvencies (34.8%) was registered among private companies with an authorized capital of fewer than 100,000 rubles.

Having analyzed the statistical data on bankruptcies of state-owned and private enterprises, we can conclude that the scale of insolvencies is modest, which is evidenced by the low share of bankruptcies in the total number of registered enterprises. At the same time, over the last 6 years, there has been a negative upward trend in the number and the share of bankruptcies, which indicates an unfavorable business environment. Its deterioration is due to both an increase in the tax burden and an objective worsening of macroeconomic conditions caused by the sanctions policy and the chaotic situation in commodity markets.

Index	Hypothesis 1	Hypothesis 2	Hypothesis 3
F	10.401	11.404	0.242
Significance F	0.0145	0.0118	0.637
p value (Y)	0.151	0.106	0.668
p value (X1)	0.145	0.117	0.637
Standard error (Y)	389642.343	72635.014	75845.310
Standard error (X)	193.3707	36.047	37.640
t-statistics (Y)	-3.195	3.440	-0.447
t-statistics (X)	3.225	-3.377	0.492
alpha	0.05	0.05	0.05

Table	5.	Regression	statistics
I adic	J.	Regression	statistics

For hypothesis testing data, Table 5 gives regression statistics. The share of bankruptcies among state-owned and private companies is somewhat equal. Hypothesis H1 was not confirmed (confidence level 95%). Private and municipal unitary enterprises exhibit a downward trend in the

proportion of bankruptcies in the total number of applications filed; however, for state unitary enterprises, this share demonstrates a significant growth. The majority of enterprises at the state of liquidation are recorded among those owned by Russia's constituent territories (regional authorities). There are approximately equal numbers of enterprises under liquidation with a mixed type of ownership of Russia's constituent territories and foreign countries, as well as federal ownership.

The frequency of bankruptcies in the sample shows that the largest share of insolvencies is registered among state-owned enterprises with a lifespan of 25-30 years, followed by enterprises aged 20-25 and 10-15. Private companies going bankrupt are significantly younger: about a third of private companies included in the sample is at the age of 10-15, almost a quarter - from 25 to 30, and nearly a fifth - from 5-10 years old. The hypothesis *H2* was not confirmed (confidence level 95%).

Hypothesis H3 about the correlation between the number of bankruptcies and the small size of authorized capital was not confirmed (confidence level 95%). The largest proportion of state-owned enterprise bankruptcies was recorded among those with an authorized capital of more than 50 million rubles. This conclusion is true for private companies as well. However, they also have a large share of bankrupt enterprises with a small size of authorized capital (less than 100,000 rubles).

5. CONCLUSION

The scale of the Russian company bankruptcies is relatively modest. Nevertheless, there is an alarming tendency towards an increase in the number of insolvencies against the background of a general decrease in the number of legal entities (enterprises and associations) in Russia. Negative shifts in the dynamics can be traced for 2013-2014. The analysis of the general structure of bankruptcies by ownership types indicates that the vast majority (over 98%) of court-approved insolvencies is recorded among private enterprises. For state-owned companies, this share was under 2%. From the structural and dynamic analysis of bankruptcy cases, the fundamental structural shifts were observed for 2015-2017; no significant changes occurred before and after this period.

All the hypotheses were not confirmed. The research results prove that the relative number of bankruptcies among state-owned enterprises does not exceed the same indicator for private companies. However, there are dissimilarities within the group of state-owned enterprises: the share of MUEs declared bankrupt is significantly greater than that of SUEs. With the extension of the lifespan of state-owned enterprises, the number of bankruptcies grows. The largest share of bankruptcies falls on companies aged 25-30. In contrast to state-owned enterprises, most private bankrupt companies were at the age of 10-15. Depending on the increase in the size of authorized capital, the number of bankruptcies does not decrease but grows. The largest share of bankruptcies was recorded among enterprises with an authorized capital of over 50 million rubles.

Thus, the study of the dynamics and the nature of enterprise bankruptcies by the types of ownership (state-owned and private) did not reveal significant differences between them.

6. AVAILABILITY OF DATA AND MATERIAL

Information can be made available by contacting the corresponding author.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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