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Road Signs for small vehicles motorized and non-Motorized

Submitted by M. Pronin (IROSI) and B. Kollmus (BASt)

This document, which revises Informal document No. 3 (4 April 2022), examines road signs for commercial cycles and other small vehicles that transport passengers and goods.

Submitted by M. Pronin (IROSI) and B. Kollmus (BASt) This document was prepared and submitted by Ms. M. Pronin (IROSI) and Mr. B. Kollmus (BASt) as per paragraph 5 of the report of the informal session of the Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals that took place on 4 February 2022. The document examines road signs for commercial cycles and other small vehicles that transport passengers and goods.

ROAD SIGNS FOR SMALL VEHICLES MOTORIZED AND NON-MOTORIZED

Vehicle Categories Examined

	MOTORIZED		NON-MOTORIZED	
For passenger transport	Tricycle Taxis	Motorcycles	Pedal Cycles	Human- powered vehicles
For goods transport	Motorcycles / Quadricycles	Tricycles /	Pedal Cycles	

All images are from national sign codes unless otherwise noted.

Both types of pedal cycles examined may be 2-, 3-, or 4-wheeled.

CP = Contracting Party to the Convention on Road Signs and Signals

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Introduction

The task of elaborating on road signs for small vehicles was done by collecting and analyzing road sign images in each of the six categories shown in the table above. At the end of the document, sign symbols for addition to the Convention are proposed by presenting a preferred design and explaining why the design should look that way.

We found that elaborating on road signs for small vehicles led to two main categories: "motorized" and "non-motorized." These were split into subcategories according to four modes of transporting passengers and two modes of transporting goods.

It is strongly recommended to include a representation of all six categories in the Convention as each one addresses a different issue. For instance, tricycle vehicles (whether motorized or non-motorized) are generally wider than bicycles (motorized or non-motorized). Therefore, the issues to be addressed when posting a sign in a public space will differ, among other things, for assignment of parking spaces or use of specific parts of the road. This also applies to "motorized vs. non-motorized" vehicles, to "passenger vs. goods" vehicles, and to vehicles for "personal vs. commercial" use. Public spaces may be open to non-motorized, but not to motorized, vehicle traffic as in pedestrian zones that may permit access only to pedal cycles or that may prohibit pedal cycles except for some or all types of vehicles used for deliveries. Motorcycles may be permitted on certain high-speed roads, but not motorcycles that carry passengers. To inform road users of such requirements with inscriptions only or with non-harmonized symbols is a recipe for confusion.

These examples illustrate the need for symbols from the six categories to be in the Convention. Their inclusion will enable each Contracting Party and the many Non-Contracting Parties that follow the Convention to use the symbols to meet their specific roadway requirements, such as prohibitions on high-speed roads, on particular streets, in particular zones, or in particular lanes; speed limits; mandatory and non-mandatory lane use; special regulations for parking and shared lanes; designated areas for taxi stations; and advised route of travel. Their adoption by countries should increase comprehension and compliance on the part of cross-border riders and drivers.

Additionally, it seems not so long ago that many of the small vehicles on the signs studied here were destined to be replaced by larger, more modern means of transport. Instead, due to economic pressures and to the growing awareness of the necessity for motor vehicle emission control, the 21st century has witnessed a resurgence of traditional vehicles either in their original form or in a reinvented modified form that blends the old with the new. This resurgence of low-cost, low-emission (or no-emission) vehicles is to be seen worldwide, including in cities in Europe and North America where they were totally absent a mere few decades ago.

The table below contains 110 images of government signs found in national codes around the globe plus 58 images of signs posted by the governments of states, capital cities, and other major cities. The document concludes by proposing symbols that offer, we believe, a high level of comprehension and discriminability. These symbols may be applied to the various relevant sign sections of the Convention.

	MOTORIZED VEHICLES						
ш	C' I	Tricycle		Community			
1	Sign Image	Description C: Prohibition	Country Burundi	Used to prevent 2- and 3- wheeled vehicles from entering the capital city; the country does not have a national registry of signs; the symbol:			
2			Cambodia	Used in Phnom Penh; not in the national code			
3			Colombia	The sign is also for goods transport			
4	ممنوع التوكتوك سير التوكتوك		Egypt	Posted in a district of Cairo; not in the national code			
5			Indonesia	A side view of a tricycle has superior discriminability and should be more legible and comprehensible			
6			Indonesia	The only country with a VMS for any of the sign categories that we examined			
7			Italy CP	The motor vehicle prohibition includes tricycle taxis			
8	ທາງດ່ວນ EXPRESSWAY (55ர 5 m 🛎		Laos	The motorized tricycle symbol is the same as Thailand's; the symbol:			

	MOTORIZED VEHICLES					
ш	Cian Imaga		ricycle Taxis	Comments		
9	Sign Image COMMERCIAL TRICYCLES (KEKE) PROHIBITED	Description C: Prohibition	Country Nigeria CP	Used in Lagos State; not in the national code		
10	NO ENTRY MOTORCYCLES TRICYCKES BUSES TRUCKS/ TRAILERS EXCEPT TAXI		Nigeria CP	Used in the Alausa district of the city of Lagos; not in the national code		
11	NO MOTOTAXI		Peru	The national sign prohibits small vehicles, such as motorized tricycle taxis, with text and a symbol exemplifying "mototaxis"; despite the national sign's long-term existence, cities El Agustino, Pisco, and Rimac and Lima district display other new signs and symbols PROHIBIDO ESTACIONAR MOTOTAXI		
12			Philippines CP			
13			Sri Lanka			
14			Sudan	Used in Khartoum; not in the national code		

	MOTORIZED VEHICLES Tricycle Taxis						
#	Sign Image	Description	Country	Comments			
15		C: Prohibition	Thailand	The former symbol may still be seen on the road			
16	## F		Thailand				
17	ห้ามใช้ทางลอด underpass prohibitions inussmalangingsin vehicles conveying dangerous goods		Thailand	Prohibited in tunnels			
18	ห้าม ใช้ทางหลวงพิเศษ ณ ผู้แล้ยนากเช่น กอไกรบาน กอไกรบานแน่น กอเมน์สามเสื้อ กอลากเลื้อ		Thailand	Prohibited on motorways			
19	ห้ามใช้ทางพิเศษ PHOHIBITED ON EXPRESSWAY A CONTROL A CONTROL A CONTROL A CONTROL BAHT		Thailand	Prohibited on expressways			
20			Vietnam CP				

	MOTORIZED VEHICLES Tricycle Taxis						
#	Sign Image	Description	Country	Comments			
21		E: Speed limit and lanes for road users	Vietnam CP				
22		End of speed	Vietnam				
	(60)±(50)±(50)	limit					
			СР				
23		F: Taxi stand	India	The sign is in the national			
		for passenger		code, but sign model and			
		loading	СР	symbol vary by state AUTO BAY STER REPRESENTATION AUTO STAND AUTO STAND AUTO STAND AUTO STAND			
24			India	Parking signs often indicate			
			СР	taxi stand in many state codes			
25			Indonesia	Defined as stand for public transit other than buses or [car] taxis; an H panel confirms the specific type of vehicle			
26			Pakistan	The symbol is in the sign code of Sindh, one of Pakistan's 4			
	آثو رکشہ سٹینڈ AUTO-RICKSHAW STAND		СР	provinces with the major city of Islamabad; not in the national code			

		MOTORIZE		ES
ш	Cian Imaga		cle Taxis	Commonts
#	Sign Image	Description G : General	Country Thailand	Comments
27	จำกัดความเร็ว	speed limits	I natiand	
	2 45			
	3 ♣ ♣ ♣ ♠ €0)			
•	₩ ₩ 80			
28	จำกัดความเร็ว speed limit		Thailand	
	₽ ₩ ₩ ₩ 60			
	80)			
•	₩ 90			
29		H: Additional panel	Bangladesh	
30			Nepal	Tricycles are small buses for 12 persons; the current sign is the same as Bangladesh's; the former symbol
				was more exact
31			Sierra Leone	
32			Sri Lanka	Used with speed limit signs; usually 40 km/h
33	たためか いる ************************************		Sri Lanka	Used with no entry prohibition sign at start of a motorway
34		Other	UNECE	Symbol for tricycle/quadricycle in the Convention on Road Traffic of 1968

	MOTORIZED VEHICLES Motorcycle Taxis						
#	Sign Image	Description	Country	Comments			
35		C: Prohibition	Cambodia	Another symbol is also used on prohibition signs in Phnom Penh			
36			China	Defined as no motorized tricycles			
37	والمنافع المنافع المنا		China				
38			Italy CP	The motor vehicle prohibition includes 3-wheeled motorcycle taxis			
39			Italy CP	Used only with other prohibitions on expressway and motorway signs; see #41 and #42			
40			Japan	Pertains to mopeds and motorcycles			
41	NO ENTRY FOR BODA BODA		Kenya	Used in districts of various cities; not in the national code			
42	COMMERCIAL MOTORCYCLES (OKADA) PROHIBITED		Nigeria CP	Used in Lagos State; not in the national code; original sign			
43			Philippines CP	This symbol differs from the national symbol by depicting a popular taxi – motorcycle with sidecar and divided enclosures for driver and passengers; a variant in shades of blue is used in Manila; not in the national code			

	MOTORIZED VEHICLES							
	# Sign Image Description Country Comments							
44	No Entry For Bodaboda	C: Prohibition	Uganda	Used in Kampala's central district; not in the national code				
45			Vietnam CP	Includes motorcycles with sidecars				
46	fino a 249 cc fino a 149 cc	E: Special regulation	Italy CP	Expressway prohibitions include motorcycles and passenger motorcycles up to 249 cc; the sign for the latter is at #37				
47	fino a 249 cc fino a 149 cc		CP CP	Motorway prohibitions include motorcycles and passenger motorcycles up to 249 ccl the sign for the latter is at #37				
48	MOTORCYCLE TAXI STAND	F: Taxi stand for passenger loading	India CP	One of various signs used in Goa State				
48		H: Additional panel	Albania CP					
50	6 € € €		Cambodia	Used for both passengers and goods				
51			Italy CP	The vehicle may hold up to 3 passengers; it is known for providing sightseeing tours				

	MOTORIZED VEHICLES Goods Motorcycles, Tricycles, or Quadricycles					
#	Sign Image	Description	Country	Comments		
52		C: Prohibition	Cambodia	Used for both passengers and goods		
53			China	Defined as no 3-wheelers; in India, these vehicles are electrified and are replacing larger goods cycles		
54	dug de		China			
55			Italy CP	The motor vehicle prohibition includes goods tricycles and quadricycles		
56			Colombia	The sign is also for passenger transport		
57	NO MOTOCARGA		Peru			
58		H: Additional panel	Albania CP			
59	₹		Cambodia	Used for both passengers and goods		
60			Italy CP			
61		Other	UNECE	Symbol for tricycle/quadricycle in the Convention on Road Traffic of 1968		

	NON-MOTORIZED VEHICLES Passenger Cycles						
#	Sign Image	Description	Country	Comments			
62		A: Warning	Bangladesh	This is the only country with a warning sign for the sign categories that we examined; the warning is for personal single-rider cycles and commercial cycles; there is no warning sign only for cycles; the C category has separate signs because prohibitions for personal and commercial cycles differ			
63	Se S	C: Prohibition	Bangladesh	Pertains only to commercial cycles; a survey of 202 Dhaka drivers found that 74% understood the sign			
64	AND		Cambodia	The symbol:			
65			China				
66			China				
67			Cuba	Used in Havana; as seen on the sign,			
			СР	thin lines may may be illegible until drivers are too near to re-route; not in the national code; the symbol:			
68	(A)		Hungary CP	Used in Budapest; not in the national code; the symbol is also seen in Berlin on H panels			
69	96		Indonesia				
70	040		Indonesia				

	NON-MOTORIZED VEHICLES Passenger Cycles							
#	Sign Image	Description	Country	Comments				
71	(STATE)	C: Prohibition	Laos					
72	ທາງດ່ວນ EXPRESSWAY		Laos	The passenger cycle symbol is the same as the symbol directly above				
	557 5 m							
73	(\$\forall \)		Malaysia	Defined as no slow vehicles: the symbol:				
74			Peru					
75			Singapore	Prohibits slow vehicles on expressways and in tunnels; the symbol:				
76			Taiwan					
77	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH		Taiwan					
78	67.65 67.65		Taiwan					

	N	ON-MOTOR Passen	IZED VEHIO ger Cycles	CLES
#	Sign Image	Description	Country	Comments
79		C: Prohibition	Thailand	
80	\$40 \$100 B		Thailand	
81	ห้าม ใช้ทางหลวงพิเศษ เล ผิงส่อนภายใน วอร์กรรมมน์ วอร์กรรมมน์ วอร์กรรมมน์		Thailand	Prohibited on motorways
82	ห้ามใช้ทางพิเศษ PHOHIBITED ON EXPRESSWAY (พี) (พี) (พี) (พี) ผ้าฝืนปรับ 1,000 บาท FINE 1,000 และเ		Thailand	Prohibited on expressways
83	NO PEDICABS ALLOWED		USA	Used in Denver; not in the national code
84			Vietnam CP	Passengers face the rear

	NON-MOTORIZED VEHICLES Passenger Cycles					
#	Sign Image	Description	Country	Comments		
85	64A	D: Mandatory lane	Bangladesh	Pertains only to commercial cycles		
86	BICITAXI		Colombia	Used in Bogotá; the red-bordered roundel is the mandatory sign model in most of Latin America; not in the national code		
87			Cuba CP	Used in Havana; the symbol has 2 versions, with and without a passenger seat; not in the national code		
88	934P		Hong Kong (China)	Unlike tricycle taxis in other countries, Hong Kong's vehicle is a quadricycle		
89	\$		Hong Kong (China)	Road marking for passenger cycle lane		
90	\(\hat{\psi}\)	Divided shared lane	Hong Kong (China)			
91	\$ \$\frac{1}{2} \$\	Divided shared lane	Hong Kong (China)			
92	1 4	Shared lane	India CP			

	NON-MOTORIZED VEHICLES Passenger Cycles				
#	Sign Image	Description	Country	Comments	
93	O do	D: Mandatory lane	Indonesia	Comments	
94		Shared lane	Indonesia	Defined as lane for non-motorized vehicles only	
95			Laos		
96			Malaysia		
97	Solo Mototaxis		Peru		
98	€	E: Non- mandatory lane	Bangladesh	Pertains to both personal single- rider cycles and commercial cycles	
99	Moss	Shared lane	Bangladesh	Pertains to both personal single- rider cycles and commercial cycles; a survey of 202 Dhaka drivers found that 22% understood the sign	
100	640	Start of lane	Bangladesh	Pertains to both personal single- rider cycles and commercial cycles	
101			Cuba CP	Used in Havana; defined as "reserved lane"; not in the national code	

	NON-MOTORIZED VEHICLES Passenger Cycles					
#	Sign Image	Description	Country	Comments		
102	PARKIR KHUSUS BECAK OSAKA	E: Parking	Indonesia	Used in Yogyakarta; reserved for passenger cycles only; not in the national code		
103	P		Laos			
104	P Beca sahaja		Malaysia	Used in George Town and, with variations, in other cities; reserved for passenger cycles only; not in the national code		
105		F: Informing potential passengers	Estonia CP	Used in Tallinn; ban on cycle taxis in the city's Old Town; not in the national code		
106			Estonia CP	Used in Tallinn; ban on cycle taxis in the city's Old Town; not in the national code		
107	%	Taxi stand for passenger loading	India CP	This sign is in the national code, but the symbol and sign model vary by state; for example:		
108	P		India CP	Parking signs usually indicate taxi stand in many state codes		
109			Mexico	Defined as tourist cycle [stand] in the Mexico City sign code; the symbol below replaced this sign in 2019 with a new definition		
110			Mexico	Defined as cycle taxi stand in the Mexico City sign code; not in the national code		

	NON-MOTORIZED VEHICLES				
		Pass	enger Cycle	S	
#	Sign Image	Description	Country	Comments	
111		G: Direction	UK	Used in a district in London; not in the national code	
112	F	H: Additional panel	Bangladesh	Pertains only to commercial cycles	
113	65		Nepal	Bangladesh and Nepal share the same exact sign design and sign definition	

	NON-MOTORIZED VEHICLES					
	Human-powered Passenger Vehicles					
#	Sign Image	Description	Country	Comments		
114	101	C: Prohibition	China	Defined as no pulled platforms or no rickshaws		
115	**		Hong Kong (China)			
116			Japan	Includes all light vehicles (animal- drawn carts, human-powered passenger vehicles, and handcarts except pedal cycles)		
117			Japan			
118			SADC	Southern African Development Community members: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, DR Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, S Africa, UR Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe		
119			SADC	Yellow ground = temporary sign		

	NON-MOTORIZED VEHICLES Human-powered Passenger Vehicles				
#	Sign Image	Description	Country	Comments	
120		D: Mandatory lane	SADC		
121			SADC	Yellow ground = temporary sign	
122	P	E: Parking	SADC		
123	P		SADC	Yellow ground = temporary sign	
124	R	E: Exclusive lane reserved	SADC		
125	R		SADC	Yellow ground = temporary sign	
126		H: Additional panel	Japan	Includes all light vehicles (animal- drawn carts, human-powered passenger vehicles, and handcarts except pedal cycles)	
127			SADC	H panel colors vary to coordinate with sign colors	
128			SADC		
129	À		SADC		

	NON-MOTORIZED VEHICLES					
	Goods Cycles					
#	Sign Image	Description	Country	Comments		
130		C: Prohibition	China	Cargo is mainly in back in Africa and Asia and mainly in front in Europe and the Western Hemisphere		
131			Italy CP	Used in Italy under the auspices of the Touring Club Italiano from the end of WWI through the late 1950s, an indication that some sign concepts are experiencing a comeback		
132	## (##) ##		Malaysia			
133	640 523 mm		Malaysia	Defined as no slow vehicles		
134			Poland CP			
135	(A)		Taiwan	The sign appears in the national code, but some sources state that it was removed in 2008		
136			Vietnam CP			

	NON-MOTORIZED VEHICLES						
	Goods Cycles						
#	Sign Image	Description	Country	Comments			
137		D: Mandatory lane	Malaysia				
138	E DA	E: Parking	Mexico	In the Mexico City sign code; not in the national code			
139	D		Netherlands	Used in Haarlem; proliferation of goods cycles has caused traffic jams,			
	Bakfiets		СР	dangerous scenes, and crashes; a prohibition has been considered in certain areas; not in the national code			
140	P		USA	Used in Minneapolis; not in the national code			

	NON-MOTORIZED VEHICLES Goods Cycles				
#	Sign Image	Description	Country	Comments	
141		H: Additional	Belgium	Used in Ostend;	
		panel	СР	not in the national code	
142			Belgium	Used in Sint-Niklaas; P stands for	
	8		СР	parking; the news media credits the sign with ending "chaos"; not in the national code	
143			Belgium	Used in Sint-Niklaas to complement	
	By P		СР	the vertical sign and designate reserved parking space; road marking; not in the national code	
144			France	Used in Strasbourg in secure	
	O O		СР	parking areas for theft reduction; road marking; not in the national code	
145			Germany		
			СР		
146			Germany	Used in various municipalities alone	
	0		СР	or to complement the vertical sign for reserved parking; road marking; not in the national code	
147			Guyana	Used in Georgetown;	
			СР	not in the national code	
148			Ireland	Adopted by Dublin's City Council; road marking for reserved parking; not in the national code	
149	[T		Sweden	Used in Malmo; road marking for	
			СР	reserved parking; not in the national code	

Conclusions and recommendations

The proposal for the Amendments to Annexes 1 and 3 contains contemporary designs of road signs to be brought into the Convention.

The guiding principle of those designs may be summarized with the phrase "as simple as possible," which means no "overdesigning" must occur. Overdesigning results in a profusion of details that may distract drivers and require viewing for legibility at a too-near distance. This must of course be avoided. Very many sign images in the table above exemplify overdesigning, our reason for excluding these signs from consideration for the Convention. Specifically, these signs have lines that are too fine or too wide, unnecessary inclusion of human figures, overly precise rendering of human figures, and such unnecessary details as wheel spokes, a cushion, bicycle chains, etc., that interfere with fast detection most particularly on signs with multiple images as on Convention signs C4a and C4b.

Other design flaws noted are symbols that are too small for the ground space, too large for the ground space (that is, too close to or in contact with the sign border), are not centered in the ground space, lack good proportion, or exhibit a degree of awkwardness due to addition of a new concept, without modification, to an existing symbol. By contrast, symbols should deliver a message to road users that is clear, strong, respectful, and appealing – ideally with a certain degree of artistry and elegance.

Simple designs almost automatically lead also to good results regarding the aspect of contrast in general. High contrasts are – together with a simple design – essential in ensuring a fast and easy visual detection of road signs when driving.

Beyond that, most symbols regarding different categories of vehicles in the proposal for the Amendments to Annexes 1 and 3 have vehicle side views, so symbols for small vehicles should also be drawn that way. Further, this takes into account that side views have in most cases better discriminability and should be more comprehensible and legible compared with front views.

We also discovered several symbols that did not fulfill the need to clearly reveal the purpose for which they had been designed. For example, some symbols do not have an appearance unique to their purpose and too closely resemble golf carts, trucks, or other types of vehicles.

Regarding the design principles stated above, these seven symbols are proposed:

Sign Image	Definition	Comments
1 TAXI	NO ENTRY FOR TRICYCLE TAXIS C, 30 (C-03.15) notifies that entry is prohibited for fully motorized tricycle taxis.	Designed by S. Egger; not in a national code yet

Regardless of national language, many countries use the English word "TAXI" on road signs for car taxis. This should favor comprehensibility of our proposed sign in those countries. Also, many other languages possess a cognate for this word, e.g., "TAKSI" and "TEKSI".

Sign Image	Definition	Comments
	NO ENTRY FOR PASSENGER MOTORCYCLES C, 3p (C-03.16) notifies that entry is prohibited for passenger motorcycles and mopeds transporting one or more passengers on the vehicle, in a side car, or in a tow.	Designed by BASt; not in a national code yet

The symbol shows a "classic" motorcycle plus two riders to accentuate the "passenger" aspect. Regarding the aspect of safety, both riders wear helmets.

Sign Image	Definition	Comments
3	NO ENTRY FOR GOODS TRICYCLES C, 3q (C-03.17) notifies that entry is prohibited for goods tricycles, quadricycles, or motorcycles that are fully motorized or that are hybrid vehicles propelled by human power plus electric batteries.	Designed by S. Egger; not in a national code yet

The symbol clearly depicts "goods" by its suggestion of cargo, which also differentiates the symbol from "tricycle taxi."

Sign Image	Definition	Comments
4	NO ENTRY FOR PASSENGER CYCLES C, 3r (C-03.18) notifies that entry is prohibited for commercial pedal cycles transporting passengers behind or in front of the driver and that are human-powered, electric-powered, or hybrid.	Designed by BASt; not in a national code yet

The symbol has been derived from a "classic" cycle. The seat in the back shows the "passenger" aspect.

\$	Sign Image	Definition	Comments
5	Ž.	NO ENTRY FOR HUMAN-POWERED RICKSHAWS C, 3s (C-03.19) notifies that entry is prohibited for human-powered rickshaws.	Designed by South Africa; national codes of the SADC countries

The design fulfills almost all aspects regarding a simple, contemporary design. The spokes of the wheel may be removed to enhance simplicity.

	Sign Image	Definition	Comments
6		NO ENTRY FOR GOODS CYCLES C, 3t (C-03.20) notifies that entry is prohibited for pedal cycles which transport goods, kiosks (vendor carts), or children in front or in back of the driver and which are human-powered, electric-powered, or hybrid.	Designed by BASt; national code of Germany
7		Image of a permitted variant of C, 3t (C-03.20).	Designed by BASt; not in a national code yet
	6 TA	Alternative to sign above	Designed by S. Egger; not in a national code yet

The symbols have been derived from a "classic" cycle. The "box" shows the "goods" aspect. Both "cargo in front" symbols fully exemplify a simple design suitable for the Convention.

One sign plus an alternative to encompass cycles with goods carried in front or in back are recommended for regional comprehension. In Europe and the Western Hemisphere, goods are mostly carried in front; in Africa and Asia, goods are mostly carried in back.

Further consideration is being given to modification of the "cargo in back" symbol to incorporate the concept of "cycle billboard," which is a cycle used for advertising.

All symbols on the prohibition signs above are highly applicable for other types of signs as noted in paragraph 4 of the Introduction.

