

ON THE ABSOLUTE SUMMABILITY OF STIELTJES INTEGRALS

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[*Extracted from the Journal of the London Mathematical Society, Vol. 29, 1954.*]

1. It is supposed throughout that $\lambda \geq 0$ and that $x(t)$ is a real function having bounded variation in every finite sub-interval of $[1, \infty)$.

Bosanquet has shown ‡ that, when λ is an integer, the conditions

(i) $k(t)$ is continuous for $t \geq 1$,

(ii) $\int_1^\infty t^{-1} |k(t)| dt < \infty$,

(iii) $\int_1^\infty t^\lambda |dk^{(\lambda)}(t)| < \infty$,

† Received 2 February, 1954; read 18 February, 1954.

‡ Bosanquet [3], Theorem B.

are sufficient to ensure the truth of the proposition:

$\int_1^\infty k(t) dx(t)$ is summable $|C, \lambda+1|$ whenever $\int_1^w dx(t)$ is bounded (C, λ) in $(1, \infty)$.

My object in this paper is to prove that, for any λ , conditions (i), (ii) and the condition

(iii) there is a number $c (\geq 1)$ and a function $h(u)$ such that

$$k(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda+1)} \int_t^\infty (u-t)^\lambda dh(u)$$

for $t \geq c$, and $\int_c^\infty u^\lambda |dh(u)| < \infty$,

are both necessary and sufficient for the above proposition to be true.

Series analogues involving integral orders of summability have been established by Fekete and Bosanquet*.

Given any function $g(t)$ integrable L in every finite sub-interval of $(1, \infty)$, we shall write

$$g_0(t) = g(t), \quad g_\mu(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\mu)} \int_1^t (t-u)^{\mu-1} g(u) du \quad (t \geq 1, \mu > 0);$$

we shall also use this notation with x in place of g .

It is well known† that if

$$g(t) = \int_1^t k(u) dx(u) \quad (t \geq 1),$$

where $k(u)$ is continuous for $u \geq 1$ and $x(1) = 0$, then, for $\mu \geq 0, t \geq 1$,

$$g_\mu(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\mu+1)} \int_1^t (t-u)^\mu k(u) dx(u).$$

2. LEMMA‡. If $p \geq 0, q \geq 0, r \geq -p$ and $\int_1^w dx(t) = O(w^r) (C, p)$ in

* Fekete [5]; Bosanquet [2], Theorem 3. I have been informed by Dr. Bosanquet that H. C. Chow has recently obtained results of a similar character for series involving fractional orders of summability. (See preceding paper.)

† For this result and for the meaning of the summability notation used see Bosanquet [3].

‡ Cf. Sargent [7], Lemma 6.

$(1, \infty)$, then there are numbers H and K , independent of v and w , such that

$$\left| \int_1^w (w-t)^p (v-t)^q dx(t) \right| < H w^{p+r} v^q,$$

$$\left| \int_1^w (w-t)^p \{(v-t)^q - (v-w)^q\} dx(t) \right| < K w^{p+r+1} (w^{q-1} + v^{q-1}),$$

whenever $v \geq w \geq 1$.

Suppose, without loss in generality, that $x(1) = 0$, and let

$$M = \overline{\text{bound}}_{w \geq 1} w^{-p-r} |x_p(w)|.$$

Note that, for $v \geq w \geq 1$,

$$0 \leq v^q - (v-w)^q \leq \begin{cases} w^q & \text{when } 0 \leq q \leq 1, \\ q w v^{q-1} & \text{when } q > 1. \end{cases}$$

When $p = 0^*$, we have, for $v \geq w \geq 1$,

$$\left| \int_1^w (v-t)^q dx(t) \right| \leq v^q \overline{\text{bound}}_{1 \leq t \leq w} \left| \int_1^t dx(t) \right| \leq M v^q w^r,$$

$$\left| \int_1^w \{(v-t)^q - (v-w)^q\} dx(t) \right| \leq \{v^q - (v-w)^q\} \overline{\text{bound}}_{1 \leq t \leq w} \left| \int_1^t dx(t) \right| \leq M (w^q + q w v^{q-1}) w^r,$$

from which the required results follow.

Suppose now that $p = n + \delta$, where n is a positive integer or zero and $0 < \delta \leq 1$, and that $v \geq w > 1$. Integration by parts yields:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_1^w (w-t)^p (v-t)^q dx(t) &= (-1)^{n+1} \int_1^w x_n(t) \frac{d^{n+1}}{dt^{n+1}} \{(w-t)^p (v-t)^q\} dt \\ &= \sum_{s=0}^{n+1} c_s J_s, \end{aligned}$$

where c_s is independent of v and w and

$$J_s = \int_1^w (w-t)^{p+s-1} (v-t)^{q-s} x_n(t) dt;$$

$$\int_1^w (w-t)^p \{(v-t)^q - (v-w)^q\} dx(t) = c_0 I + \sum_{s=1}^{n+1} c_s J_s,$$

where c_s and J_s are as above and

$$I = \int_1^w (w-t)^{\delta-1} \{(v-t)^q - (v-w)^q\} x_n(t) dt.$$

* See Widder [8], 18.

Applying the second mean value theorem and Riesz's mean value theorem, we find that*

$$|J_s| = \left(\frac{w}{v}\right)^s v^a \left| \int_1^{\xi_s} (w-t)^{s-1} x_n(t) dt \right| \quad (1 < \xi_s < w)$$

$$\leq \left(\frac{w}{v}\right)^s v^a \overline{\text{bound}}_{1 \leq \xi \leq w} \left| \int_1^{\xi} (\xi-t)^{s-1} x_n(t) dt \right|$$

$$\leq M\Gamma(\delta) \left(\frac{w}{v}\right)^s v^a w^{p+r};$$

$$|I| = \{v^a - (v-w)^a\} \left| \int_1^{\xi} (w-t)^{s-1} x_n(t) dt \right| \quad (1 < \xi < w)$$

$$\leq M\Gamma(\delta)(w^a + qvw^{a-1}) w^{p+r}.$$

The truth of the lemma is now evident.

3. THEOREM 1. *If*

- (i) $k(t)$ is continuous for $t \geq 1$,
- (ii) $\int_1^\infty t^{-1} |k(t)| dt < \infty$,
- (iii) for some number $c (\geq 1)$,

$$k(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda+1)} \int_t^\infty (u-t)^\lambda dh(u)$$

whenever $t \geq c$, where

$$\int_c^\infty u^\lambda |dh(u)| < \infty,$$

(iv) $\int_1^w dx(t) = O(1) (C, \lambda)$ in $(1, \infty)$,

then $\int_1^\infty k(t) dx(t)$ is summable $|C, \lambda+1|$.

Suppose, without real loss in generality, that $c = 1$ and $x(1) = 0$, and write, for $v \leq 1$,

$$P(v) = \int_1^v (v-t)^\lambda tk(t) dx(t), \quad Q(v) = k(v) \int_1^v (v-t)^\lambda t dx(t).$$

For $w > 1$,

$$\int_1^w \left(1 - \frac{t}{w}\right)^{\lambda+1} k(t) dx(t) = (\lambda+1) \int_1^w k(t) dx(t) \int_t^w \left(1 - \frac{t}{v}\right)^\lambda t v^{-2} dv$$

$$= (\lambda+1) \int_1^w v^{-\lambda-2} P(v) dv;$$

* Cf. Borwein [1], 312.

from which it follows that the summability $|C, \lambda+1|$ of $\int_1^\infty k(t) dx(t)$ is equivalent to the convergence of

$$\int_1^\infty v^{-\lambda-2} |P(v)| dv.$$

We shall consider two cases.

A. Suppose that $\lambda = 0$. Then, for $v > 1$,

$$P(v) - Q(v) = - \int_1^v dk(t) \int_1^t u dx(u).$$

In view of (iv) there is a number M such that, for $t \geq 1$,

$$\left| \int_1^t u dx(u) \right| = \left| tx(t) - \int_1^t x(u) du \right| \leq Mt.$$

Consequently

$$\int_1^\infty v^{-2} |P(v) - Q(v)| dv \leq M \int_1^\infty v^{-2} dv \int_1^v u |dk(u)|$$

$$= M \int_1^\infty |dk(u)| = M \int_1^\infty |dh(u)| < \infty.$$

Further, $\int_1^\infty v^{-2} |Q(v)| dv \leq M \int_1^\infty v^{-1} |k(v)| dv < \infty$.

Hence $\int_1^\infty v^{-2} |P(v)| dv < \infty$,

and this is the required result.

B. Suppose that $\lambda > 0$. It follows from (iii) that

$$\int_t^\infty (u-t)^\lambda |dh(u)| < \infty \quad (t \geq 1),$$

and hence, by Fubini's theorem for Lebesgue-Stieltjes integrals, that

$$k(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda)} \int_t^\infty dv \int_v^\infty (w-v)^{\lambda-1} dh(w) \quad (t \geq 1).$$

Consequently $k(t)$ is absolutely continuous in every finite sub-interval of $[1, \infty)$, $k(t) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$, and, for almost all t in $(1, \infty)$,

$$k'(t) = - \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda)} \int_t^\infty (w-t)^{\lambda-1} dh(w).$$

Now, for $v > 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} P(v) - Q(v) &= - \int_1^v k'(t) dt \int_1^t (v-u)^\lambda u dx(u) \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda)} \int_1^v dt \int_t^v (w-t)^{\lambda-1} dh(w) \int_1^t (v-u)^\lambda u dx(u) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda)} \int_1^v dt \int_v^\infty (w-t)^{\lambda-1} dh(w) \int_1^t (v-u)^\lambda u dx(u) \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda+1)} \int_1^v dh(w) \int_1^w (w-u)^\lambda (v-u)^\lambda u dx(u) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda+1)} \int_v^\infty dh(w) \int_1^v (v-u)^\lambda \{ (w-u)^\lambda - (w-v)^\lambda \} u dx(u); \end{aligned}$$

the changes in order of integration being easily justified by Fubini's theorem and, where infinite ranges are involved, by the convergence of $\int_1^\infty w^\lambda |dh(w)|$.

Since $\int_1^w dx(t)$ is $O(1)$ (C, λ) and, *a fortiori*, $O(1)$ $(C, \lambda+1)$ in $(1, \infty)$, it follows from the Lemma that there is a number H such that, for $v \geq w \geq 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_1^w (w-u)^\lambda (v-u)^\lambda u dx(u) \right| \\ = \left| w \int_1^w (w-u)^\lambda (v-u)^\lambda dx(u) - \int_1^w (w-u)^{\lambda+1} (v-u)^\lambda dx(u) \right| \\ \leq H\Gamma(\lambda+1)w^{\lambda+1}v^\lambda. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, there is a number K such that, for $w \geq v \geq 1$,

$$\left| \int_1^v (v-u)^\lambda \{ (w-u)^\lambda - (w-v)^\lambda \} u dx(u) \right| \leq K\Gamma(\lambda+1)v^{\lambda+2}(v^{\lambda-1} + w^{\lambda-1}).$$

Consequently

$$\begin{aligned} \int_1^\infty v^{-\lambda-2} |P(v) - Q(v)| dv \\ \leq H \int_1^\infty v^{-2} dv \int_1^v w^{\lambda+1} |dh(w)| + K \int_1^\infty v^{\lambda-1} dv \int_v^\infty |dh(w)| \\ + K \int_1^\infty dv \int_v^\infty w^{\lambda-1} |dh(w)| \\ \leq \{H + K(\lambda^{-1} + 1)\} \int_1^\infty w^\lambda |dh(w)| < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Further, in view of (iv), there is a number M such that, for $v \geq 1$,

$$|Q(v)| = \left| v k(v) \int_1^v (v-t)^\lambda dx(t) - k(v) \int_1^v (v-t)^{\lambda+1} dx(t) \right| \leq Mv^{\lambda+1} |k(v)|;$$

and so
$$\int_1^\infty v^{-\lambda-2} |Q(v)| dv \leq M \int_1^\infty v^{-1} |k(v)| dv < \infty.$$

It follows that
$$\int_1^\infty v^{-\lambda-2} |P(v)| dv < \infty,$$

and the proof of the theorem is thus completed.

4. THEOREM 2. If $\int_1^\infty k(t) dx(t)$ is summable $|C, \lambda+1|$ whenever $\int_1^\infty dx(t)$ is summable (C, λ) , then*

(i) $k(t)$ is continuous for $t \geq 1$,

(ii) $\int_1^\infty t^{-1} |k(t)| dt < \infty$,

(iii) there is a number $c (\geq 1)$ and a function $h(u)$ such that

$$k(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda+1)} \int_t^\infty (u-t)^\lambda dh(u)$$

for $t \geq c$, and
$$\int_c^\infty u^\lambda |dh(u)| < \infty.$$

Since, for any $w > 1$, $\int_1^w k(t) dx(t)$ exists in the Riemann-Stieltjes sense whenever $x(t)$ is of bounded variation in $[1, w]$, we immediately deduce (i).

It follows from the hypothesis, on putting $x(t) = \int_1^t f(u) du$, that $\int_1^\infty k(t) f(t) dt$ is summable $|C, \lambda+1|$ whenever $\int_1^\infty f(t) dt$ is summable (C, λ) . Sargent has shown† that in consequence of this there are numbers c, l and a function $h(u)$ such that $c \geq 1$, $\int_c^\infty u^\lambda |dh(u)| < \infty$ and

$$\theta(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda+1)} \int_t^\infty (u-t)^\lambda dh(u)$$

is equivalent, for $t \geq c$, to $k(t) - l$.

* It is to be understood that $\int_1^x k(t) dx(t)$ exists as a Riemann-Stieltjes integral for every $X > 1$.

† Sargent [7], Theorem 1.

When $\lambda = 0$, $\theta(t)$ is of bounded variation in $[c, \infty)$ and tends to zero as $t \rightarrow \infty$; and, since $k(t)$ is continuous for $t \geq c$, it follows easily that*

$$\int_c^\infty |dk(u)| < \infty \quad \text{and} \quad k(t) - l = -\int_t^\infty dk(u) \quad (t \geq c).$$

When $\lambda > 0$, $\theta(t)$ is continuous for $t \geq c$ and so in this case

$$k(t) - l = \theta(t) \quad (t \geq c).$$

We have thus established (iii) with $k(t) - l$ in place of $k(t)$. Since it follows that $k(t) \rightarrow l$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$, it remains only to prove $\int_t^\infty t^{-1} |k(t)| dt$ convergent, for this will ensure that $l = 0$.

Note that in the proof of Theorem 1 no use was made of the convergence of $\int_1^\infty t^{-1} |k(t)| dt$ in establishing the convergence of

$$\int_1^\infty v^{-\lambda-2} |P(v) - Q(v)| dv.$$

Consequently, we can now deduce that $\int_1^\infty v^{-\lambda-2} dv \left| k(v) \int_1^v (v-t)^\lambda t dx(t) \right|$ is convergent whenever $\int_1^\infty dx(t)$ is summable (C, λ) .

It follows, on putting $x(t) = \int_1^t u^{-1} g(u) du$, that $\int_1^\infty v^{-\lambda-2} |k(v) g_{\lambda+1}(v)| dv$ is convergent whenever $\int_1^\infty u^{-1} g(u) du$ is summable (C, λ) .

Let (α_n) be a sequence of positive numbers decreasing to zero with $\alpha_1 \leq 1$, and let s be the integer such that $\lambda < s \leq \lambda + 1$. Then there is a function $\phi(t)$ such that $\phi^{(s)}(t)$ is absolutely continuous in every finite sub-interval of $[1, \infty)$,

$$\phi(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } 1 \leq t \leq 2, \\ (-1)^n \alpha_n t^{\lambda+1} & \text{for } n+1/n < t < n+1-1/(n+1) \quad (n = 2, 3, \dots), \end{cases}$$

$|\phi(t)| \leq t^{\lambda+1}$ for $t \geq 1$ and $t^{-\lambda-1} \phi(t) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

$$\text{Let } g(v) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(s-\lambda)} \int_1^v (v-t)^{s-\lambda-1} \phi^{(s+1)}(t) dt \quad (v \geq 1).$$

Then, for $v \geq 1$,

$$g_{\lambda+1}(v) = \frac{1}{s!} \int_1^v (v-t)^s \phi^{(s+1)}(t) dt = \phi(v).$$

Now suppose that $w > v > 2$ and that p, q are the integers such that $p \leq v < p+1, q \leq w < q+1$. Then

$$\left| \int_v^w t^{-\lambda-2} g_{\lambda+1}(t) dt \right| \leq \left| \sum_{n=p}^q (-1)^n \alpha_n \int_n^{n+1} t^{-1} dt \right| + 2 \sum_{n=p}^{q+1} \int_{n-1/n}^{n+1/n} t^{-1} dt + \int_p^{p+1} t^{-1} dt + \int_q^{q+1} t^{-1} dt,$$

* Cf. Sargent [6], Lemma 2.

which tends to zero as w and v tend to infinity. Hence

$$\int_1^w t^{-\lambda-2} g_{\lambda+1}(t) dt$$

tends to a finite limit as $w \rightarrow \infty$. Since $w^{-\lambda-1} g_{\lambda+1}(w) \rightarrow 0$ as $w \rightarrow \infty$, it follows that

$$\int_1^w t^{-\lambda-1} g_\lambda(t) dt = w^{-\lambda-1} g_{\lambda+1}(w) + (\lambda+1) \int_1^w t^{-\lambda-2} g_{\lambda+1}(t) dt$$

tends to a finite limit as $w \rightarrow \infty$.

Further, when $\lambda > 0, w > 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(\lambda) \int_1^w t^{-\lambda-1} g_\lambda(t) dt &= \int_1^w t^{-\lambda-1} dt \int_1^t (t-u)^{\lambda-1} g(u) du \\ &= \int_1^w g(u) du \int_u^w \left(1 - \frac{u}{t}\right)^{\lambda-1} t^{-2} dt = \frac{1}{\lambda} \int_1^w \left(1 - \frac{u}{w}\right)^\lambda u^{-1} g(u) du. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, for $\lambda \geq 0, \int_1^\infty u^{-1} g(u) du$ is summable (C, λ) and consequently

$$\int_1^\infty v^{-\lambda-2} |k(v) g_{\lambda+1}(v)| dv < \infty.$$

Since $k(v)$ is bounded in $(1, \infty)$, we now deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^\infty \alpha_n \int_n^{n+1} v^{-1} |k(v)| dv &\leq \int_1^\infty v^{-\lambda-2} |k(v) g_{\lambda+1}(v)| dv \\ &\quad + \sum_{n=2}^\infty \int_{n-1/n}^{n+1/n} v^{-1} |k(v)| dv + \int_1^2 v^{-1} |k(v)| dv < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\int_1^\infty v^{-1} |k(v)| dv = \sum_{n=1}^\infty \int_n^{n+1} v^{-1} |k(v)| dv$$

is finite, for if not we could make

$$\sum_{n=1}^\infty \alpha_n \int_n^{n+1} v^{-1} |k(v)| dv$$

infinite by putting

$$\alpha_n = 1 / \left\{ 1 + \int_1^{n+1} v^{-1} |k(v)| dv \right\}.$$

This completes the proof of the theorem.

5. The object of this section is to show that *Theorem 1 remains valid if condition (iii) is replaced by*

(iii)' *there is an integer $n (\geq \lambda)$ and a number $c (\geq 1)$ such that*

$$\int_c^\infty t^n |dk^{(n)}(t)| < \infty.$$

Suppose that (iii)' is satisfied and that $\int_1^\infty t^{-1}|k(t)|dt < \infty$. Since $\int_c^\infty dk^{(n)}(u)$ is convergent, there is a number l such that, for $t \geq c$,

$$k^{(n)}(t) - l = -\int_t^\infty dk^{(n)}(u) = o(1) \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty.$$

If $n = 0$, we have $l = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} k(t)$; and if $n \geq 1$,

$$l = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} nt^{-n} \int_1^t (t-u)^{n-1} k^{(n)}(u) du = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} n! t^{-n} k(t).$$

In either case we deduce from the convergence of $\int_1^\infty t^{-1}|k(t)|dt$ that $l = 0$.

Since the result is now evident if $n = \lambda = 0$, we shall suppose that $n \geq 1$. We have, for $t \geq c$,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_t^\infty (u-t)^n dk^{(n)}(u) &= -n \int_t^\infty dk^{(n)}(u) \int_t^u (v-t)^{n-1} dv \\ &= -n \int_t^\infty (v-t)^{n-1} dv \int_v^\infty dk^{(n)}(u) = n \int_t^\infty (v-t)^{n-1} dk^{(n-1)}(v); \end{aligned}$$

the change in order of integration being justified because of the absolute convergence of the first integral.

Further,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_c^\infty t^{n-1} |dk^{(n-1)}(t)| &= \int_c^\infty t^{n-1} |k^{(n)}(t)| dt \\ &\leq \int_c^\infty t^{n-1} dt \int_t^\infty |dk^{(n)}(u)| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{n} \int_c^\infty u^n |dk^{(n)}(u)| < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

The above argument yields, after repetition if necessary,

$$\frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n!} \int_t^\infty (u-t)^n dk^{(n)}(u) = -\int_t^\infty dk(u) = k(t) \quad (t \geq c).$$

The required result is now a consequence of the proposition:

Theorem 1 remains valid if in condition (iii) λ is replaced by $\mu (\geq \lambda)$.

That this is a true proposition is evident from the following argument.

Suppose that $\mu > \lambda$, $c \geq 1$, and that $\int_c^\infty u^\mu |dh(u)| < \infty$. Let

$$g(t) = -\frac{1}{\Gamma(\mu-\lambda+1)} \int_t^\infty (u-t)^{\mu-\lambda} dh(u) \quad (t \geq c).$$

Then, as in the proof of Theorem 1,

$$g(t) = -\frac{1}{\Gamma(\mu-\lambda)} \int_t^\infty du \int_u^\infty (v-u)^{\mu-\lambda-1} dh(v) \quad (t \geq c).$$

Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_c^\infty t^\lambda |dg(t)| &= \int_c^\infty t^\lambda |g'(t)| dt \leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\mu-\lambda)} \int_c^\infty t^\lambda dt \int_t^\infty (v-t)^{\mu-\lambda-1} |dh(v)| \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(\mu-\lambda)} \int_c^\infty |dh(v)| \int_c^v (v-t)^{\mu-\lambda-1} t^\lambda dt \leq \frac{\Gamma(\lambda+1)}{\Gamma(\mu+1)} \int_c^\infty v^\mu |dh(v)| < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Further, for $t \geq c$,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda+1)} \int_t^\infty (u-t)^\lambda dg(u) &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda+1)\Gamma(\mu-\lambda)} \int_t^\infty (u-t)^\lambda du \int_u^\infty (v-u)^{\mu-\lambda-1} dh(v) \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda+1)\Gamma(\mu-\lambda)} \int_t^\infty dh(v) \int_t^v (v-u)^{\mu-\lambda-1} (u-t)^\lambda du \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(\mu+1)} \int_t^\infty (v-t)^\mu dh(v); \end{aligned}$$

the change in order of integration being justified because of the absolute convergence of the final integral.

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