

ON TWO PROBLEMS CONCERNING BAIRE SETS IN NORMAL SPACES

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ABSTRACT. Two problems will be dealt with. The first problem, due to Katetov, asks whether there is a normal, nonperfect T_2 space X such that the Baire and Borel algebras in X coincide. The second problem, due to Ross and Stromberg, asks whether each closed Baire set has to be zero set in a normal, locally compact T_2 space. Several consistent examples of spaces satisfying the requirements of the first problem will be constructed. A counterexample to the second problem is given in ZFC.

Introduction. If X is a topological space, and A is a subset of X , then A is said to be a *Borel* (resp. *Baire*) subset of X , if A belongs to the σ -algebra generated by the closed sets (resp. the zero sets) of X . Note that in perfectly normal spaces the Borel and Baire σ -algebras coincide. Let us call a Hausdorff space X *Baire-ly perfect* if the Borel and the Baire σ -algebras of X coincide. Note that this is equivalent to the condition that each closed subset of X is a Baire set. Let us say that a Hausdorff space X is *Baire-ly perfectly normal* if X is Baire-ly perfect and normal. The following problem is due to M. Katetov [Ka, p. 74].

PROBLEM 1. Is there a Baire-ly perfectly normal, nonperfect space?

A related problem is the following question of Ross and Stromberg [RS, p. 152].

PROBLEM 2. If X is a normal, locally compact Hausdorff space and A is a closed Baire set in X , is A a zero set?

There have been several partial results concerning these problems as summarized in the following:

THEOREM. *Let X be a normal T_1 space, and let A be a closed Baire subset of X . Then A is a zero set in X if one of the following conditions hold.*

- (1) X is compact [H, 51.D],
- (2) X is a paracompact, locally compact space [C],
- (3) X is a submetacompact, locally compact space [Bu],
- (4) X is Lindelöf and Čech-complete [C],
- (5) X is a subparacompact $P(\omega)$ -space [Ha].

Thus, in the above five classes of spaces, the answer to Problem 1 is no. In the first three classes of spaces, the answer to Problem 2 is yes.

The aim of this paper is to give answers to these problems in general.

In §1, a Baire-ly perfectly normal, locally compact, locally countable, hereditarily separable, nonperfect space is constructed assuming the continuum hypothesis.

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Thus the answer to Problem 1 is consistently yes. Since our example is hereditarily separable and non-Lindelöf, some set-theoretic hypothesis is needed for its construction [Sz, T]. It is unknown to the author whether the answer to Problem 1 is yes in ZFC. Two more consistent examples of Baire-ly perfectly normal, nonperfect spaces are also given in §1. These spaces are easier to construct, but they are not locally compact.

In §2, a counterexample to Problem 2 is constructed in ZFC.

Our terminology and notation follows the standards of set theory and set-theoretic topology as is used in [K] and [KV], respectively. *Throughout the paper all spaces are assumed to be Hausdorff topological spaces.* Given a space X with topology τ , $\text{cl}_X(A)$ or $\text{cl}_\tau(A)$ will denote the closure of a subset A of X in (X, τ) .

1. Baire-ly perfectly normal, nonperfect spaces.

PROPOSITION 1.1. *Let X be a Baire-ly perfect space, A be a Baire set in X , Y be a Baire subset of the subspace A . Then Y is a Baire subset of the space X , too.*

PROOF. It is enough to prove this for all closed Baire subsets Y of the subspace A . However, if Y is closed in A , then $Y = \text{cl}_X(Y) \cap A$ is the intersection of two Baire subsets of X . Thus Y is a Baire subset of X .

PROPOSITION 1.2. *Let (X, τ) be a Baire-ly perfect space, A be a Baire set in (X, τ) . Further, suppose that ρ is a topology on X satisfying the following properties:*

- (a) ρ is finer than τ and A is ρ -closed;
- (b) each Borel subset of $(A, \rho | A)$ is a Baire set in $\tau | A$;
- (c) each Borel subset of $(X - A, \rho | (X - A))$ is a Baire set in $\tau | (X - A)$.

Then (X, ρ) is Baire-ly perfect.

PROOF. Let F be a ρ -closed subset of X . Then $F \cap A$ is a Borel subset of $(A, \rho | A)$. By (b), $F \cap A$ is a Baire subset of $(A, \tau | A)$. By Proposition 1.1, $F \cap A$ is a Baire subset of (X, τ) , too.

A similar argument shows that $F \cap (X - A)$ is a Baire subset of (X, τ) . Thus $F = (F \cap A) \cup (F \cap (X - A))$ is a Baire set in τ , and, a fortiori, it is a Baire set in ρ .

The following result is a modification of the "Kunen line" [JKR] for spaces X with a distinguished set A .

THEOREM 1.3 (CH). *Let (X, τ) be a hereditarily separable, first countable T_2 space of cardinality 2^ω , and let A be a nonvoid subset of X . Then there is a topology ρ on X with the following properties:*

- (1) ρ is finer than τ and A is ρ -closed;
- (2) (X, ρ) is locally compact and locally countable;
- (3) for every subset E of $X - A$, $\text{cl}_\tau(E) - \text{cl}_\rho(E)$ is countable;
- (4) for every subset D of A , $(\text{cl}_\tau(D) - \text{cl}_\rho(D)) \cap A$ is countable.

PROOF. By CH, let $X = \{x_\alpha : \alpha \in \omega_1\}$, $[A]^\omega = \{D_\alpha : \alpha \in \omega_1\}$, $[X - A]^\omega = \{E_\alpha : \alpha \in \omega_1\}$. For each $\alpha \in \omega_1$, let $X_\alpha = \{x_\beta : \beta \in \alpha\}$. Without loss of generality we may assume that $D_\alpha \cup E_\alpha \subset X_\alpha$ for every $\alpha \in \omega_1$.

Let $\mathcal{D}_\alpha = \{D_\beta : \beta \in \alpha \text{ and } x_\alpha \in \text{cl}_\tau(D_\beta)\}$, $\mathcal{E}_\alpha = \{E_\beta : \beta \in \alpha \text{ and } x_\alpha \in \text{cl}_\tau(E_\beta)\}$ ($\alpha \in \omega_1$).

Inductively, for each $\alpha \in \omega_1$, we shall construct a topology ρ_α on X_α such that the following conditions are satisfied.

- (1 α) ρ_α is finer than $\tau \upharpoonright X_\alpha$ and $A \cap X_\alpha$ is ρ_α -closed.
- (2 α) ρ_α is locally compact.
- (3 α) For every $\beta \in \alpha$, (X_β, ρ_β) is an open subspace of (X_α, ρ_α) .
- (4 α) If $\alpha = \beta + 1$ and $x_\beta \in X - A$, then $x_\beta \in \text{cl}_{\rho_\alpha}(E)$ for every $E \in \mathcal{E}_\beta$.
- (5 α) If $\alpha = \beta + 1$ and $x_\beta \in A$, then $x_\beta \in \text{cl}_{\rho_\alpha}(E)$ and $x_\beta \in \text{cl}_{\rho_\alpha}(D)$ for every $E \in \mathcal{E}_\beta$ and $D \in \mathcal{D}_\beta$.

Indeed, let $\rho_0 = \phi$. Next, suppose that $\alpha \in \omega_1 - \{\phi\}$, and for every $\gamma < \alpha$ we have already defined ρ_γ in such a way that (1 γ)–(5 γ) are satisfied. If α is a limit ordinal, then let ρ_α be the inductive limit topology of the spaces $\{(X_\gamma, \rho_\gamma) : \gamma \in \alpha\}$.

If $\alpha = \beta + 1$, then let $\mathcal{D}_\beta = \{D_n : n \in \omega\}$ and $\mathcal{E}_\beta = \{E_n : n \in \omega\}$ be enumerations of \mathcal{D}_β and \mathcal{E}_β , respectively, in such a way that each member is listed infinitely many times. If \mathcal{D}_β and \mathcal{E}_β are both empty, then make x_β isolated in ρ_α . If not, then, since (X, τ) is first countable, there is a sequence $\{y_n : n \in \omega\} \subset X_\beta$ such that

- (a) $\{y_n : n \in \omega\}$ converges to x_β in $\tau \upharpoonright X_\alpha$;
- (b) if $x_\beta \in X - A$, then $y_n \in E_n$ for every $n \in \omega$;
- (c) if $x_\beta \in A$, then $y_{2n} \in E_n$ and $y_{2n+1} \in D_n$ for each $n \in \omega$.

Since ρ_β refines $\tau \upharpoonright X_\beta$, $\{y_n : n \in \omega\}$ is closed discrete in (X_β, ρ_β) . Since (X_β, ρ_β) is locally compact, countable and metrizable, there is a discrete family $\{C_n : n \in \omega\}$ of clopen compact subsets of X_β such that each τ -neighborhood of x_β contains all but finitely many of the C_n 's, $y_n \in C_n$ for every $n \in \omega$, and, if $x_\beta \in X - A$, then $C_n \subset X - A$ for every $n \in \omega$. Let $\{G_n : n \in \omega\}$, where $G_n = \{x_\beta\} \cup \bigcup \{C_i : i \geq n\}$ ($n \in \omega$) be a neighborhood base for x_β in ρ_α . Neighborhood bases in ρ_α for points of X_β are the same as their neighborhood bases in ρ_β . It is easy to show that ρ_α satisfies conditions (1 α)–(5 α).

Finally, let ρ be the inductive limit of the topologies $\{\rho_\alpha : \alpha \in \omega_1\}$. We leave the routine verification that (X, ρ) satisfies the conditions of Theorem 1.3 to the reader.

REMARK. If in Theorem 1.3, we start with a second countable regular space (X, τ) , and we let A be a Baire subset of X , then by Proposition 1.2, (X, ρ) will be a Baire-ly perfect space. If A is “complicated enough”, then it will not be a G_δ set in (X, ρ) , so (X, ρ) will not be perfect. The problem is, how to make (X, ρ) normal. To make sure the normality of (X, ρ) , we shall make another use of CH to prepare the right input space (X, τ) .

PROPOSITION 1.4 (CH). *If A is not an $F_{\sigma\delta}$ subset of the real line \mathbf{R} , then there is a subset P of $\mathbf{R} - A$ of cardinality 2^ω such that $P \cap \iota'$ is countable for all subsets Y of $\mathbf{R} - A$ which are G_δ sets in \mathbf{R} .*

PROOF. By CH, let $\{Y_\alpha : \alpha \in \omega_1\}$ enumerate all subsets of $\mathbf{R} - A$ which are G_δ sets in \mathbf{R} . Using transfinite induction, for each $\alpha \in \omega_1$ pick a point $x_\alpha \in (\mathbf{R} - A) - (\bigcup \{Y_\beta : \beta \in \alpha\} \cup \{x_\beta : \beta \in \alpha\})$. This is possible, since $\mathbf{R} - A$ is not a $G_{\delta\sigma}$ set in \mathbf{R} . Then $P = \{x_\alpha : \alpha \in \omega_1\}$ is as required.

THEOREM 1.5 (CH). *There is a Baire-ly perfectly normal, locally compact, locally countable space which is not perfectly normal.*

PROOF. Let A be a Baire, but not $F_{\sigma\delta}$ subset of \mathbf{R} , and let P be as in Proposition 1.4. Let $X = A \cup P$ and τ be the subspace topology on X inherited from \mathbf{R} . Finally,

let ρ be the topology on X satisfying (1)–(4) of Theorem 1.3. We shall prove that (X, ρ) is a space the existence of which was claimed in our theorem.

First of all, by (1) and (2), (X, ρ) is a locally compact, locally countable T_2 space.

CLAIM. Every ρ -closed subset F of P is countable.

Indeed, let $\Delta = \text{cl}_\tau(F) - F$ and $Y = \text{cl}_\mathbf{R}(F) - \Delta$. By (3), Δ is countable, so Y is a G_δ set in \mathbf{R} . Thus $F = X \cap Y = P \cap Y$ is countable.

By the Claim, (X, ρ) is not perfect(ly normal).

By (3), each closed subset in $(P, \rho \mid P)$ is G_δ in $(P, \tau \mid P)$. Thus each Borel subset of $(P, \rho \mid P)$ is a Baire subset of $(P, \tau \mid P)$ so condition (c) of Proposition 1.2 is satisfied. By (4), condition (b) of Proposition 1.2 is satisfied. By Proposition 1.2, (X, ρ) is Baire-ly perfect.

In order to show that (X, ρ) is normal, it is enough to show that given two distinct ρ -closed subsets F_1 and F_2 of X , there is a countable family \mathcal{G} of ρ -open sets such that

- (i) $\bigcup \mathcal{G} \supset F_1$;
- (ii) for every $G \in \mathcal{G}$, $\text{cl}_\rho(G) \cap F_2 = \emptyset$.

To see this, let $A_1 = F_1 \cap A$, $P_1 = F_1 \cap P$, $\Delta_1 = \text{cl}_\tau(F_2) \cap A_1$. Since $(A_1 - \Delta_1) \cap \text{cl}_\mathbf{R}(F_2) = \emptyset$ and the natural topology of \mathbf{R} is second countable, there is a countable family \mathcal{U} of open subsets of \mathbf{R} such that

- (i') $\bigcup \mathcal{U} \supset A_1 - \Delta_1$;
- (ii') For every $U \in \mathcal{U}$, $\text{cl}_\mathbf{R}(U) \cap F_2 = \emptyset$.

Now, let $P'_1 = P_1 - \bigcup \mathcal{U}$, $\Delta'_1 = \text{cl}_\tau(P'_1) - F_1$, $Y = \text{cl}_\mathbf{R}(P'_1) - (\bigcup \mathcal{U} \cup \Delta_1 \cup \Delta'_1)$. Since $\Delta'_1 \subset \text{cl}_\tau(P'_1) - \text{cl}_\rho(P'_1)$, Δ'_1 is countable. Thus Y is G_δ set in \mathbf{R} . Therefore $P'_1 = Y \cap P$ is countable. Let $\Delta = \Delta_1 \cup P'_1$. For each $x \in \Delta$, let $G(x) \ni x$ be a ρ -open set such that $\text{cl}_\rho(G(x)) \cap F_2 = \emptyset$. Then $\mathcal{G} = \{G(x) : x \in \Delta\} \cup \{U \cap X : U \in \mathcal{U}\}$ satisfies (i) and (ii).

If we drop “locally compact”, then consistent counterexamples to Katetov’s question are easier to construct. Two such examples are given below.

THEOREM 1.6 (CH). *There is a Lindelöf, Baire-ly perfectly normal, hereditarily separable, nonperfect space.*

PROOF. Let Q denote the set of all rationals in \mathbf{R} . Since CH holds, there is an uncountable subset P of $\mathbf{R} - Q$ in such a way that $P \cap Y$ is countable for all subsets Y of $\mathbf{R} - Q$ which are closed sets in \mathbf{R} . (Cf. the proof of Proposition 1.4.) Let τ denote the subspace topology on P inherited from the natural topology of \mathbf{R} . Apply the machine of Theorem 1.3 with $X = P$ and $A = \emptyset$ to get a refinement ρ of τ on P . Let σ denote the topology on $X = Q \cup P$ determined by the following two conditions:

- (1) if $x \in Q$, then $\{G_n : n \in \omega\}$, where $G_n = (x - 1/(n + 1), x + 1/(n + 1)) \cap X$ ($n \in \omega$), is an open σ -neighborhood base for X ,
- (2) (P, ρ) is an open subspace of (X, σ) .

Since ρ is locally compact and zero-dimensional, it follows that (X, σ) is a regular T_1 space. By the construction of P , (X, σ) also is Lindelöf and thus it is normal. By Proposition 1.2, it is Baire-ly perfect. However, Q is not a G_δ set in (X, σ) , so (X, σ) is not perfect.

The last example makes use of the following result of A. Miller.

THEOREM 1.7 [Mi]. *There is a model of set theory in which there is a subspace M of the real line with the following properties.*

- (a) *Every subset of M is a Baire set in the subspace topology of M .*
- (b) *There is a subset $A \subset M$ such that A is not a G_δ set in M .*

EXAMPLE 1.8. In Miller's model, consider his space M with a subset A as above. Define a new topology ρ on M by the following two conditions.

- (1) For every $x \in A$, $\{G_n : n \in \omega\}$, where $G_n = (x - 1/(n+1), x + 1/(n+1)) \cap M$ is a neighborhood base for x .
- (2) All points of $M - A$ are isolated in ρ .

The space (M, ρ) obtained in this way could be called the Miller-Michael Line [M]. As the original space of Michael [M], it is hereditarily paracompact, and thus normal. Since ρ refines the natural topology of M , every subset in (M, ρ) is Baire and Borel. Thus (M, ρ) is Baire-ly perfectly normal. Since we left intact the natural neighborhoods of points in A , A is not a G_δ subset in (M, ρ) . Thus (M, ρ) is not perfect.

2. On closed Baire sets in locally compact, normal spaces. The following construction makes use of the technique of [vDW] and [W].

THEOREM 2.1. *Let A be a nonvoid Baire subset of the real line \mathbf{R} . Then there is a topology ρ on \mathbf{R} with the following properties.*

- (1) ρ is finer than the natural topology τ on \mathbf{R} ;
- (2) each point of $\mathbf{R} - A$ is isolated in ρ ;
- (3) ρ is locally compact and locally countable;
- (4) if $D \subset A$ and $E \subset \mathbf{R}$ are disjoint ρ -closed sets then $\text{cl}_\tau(E) \cap D$ is countable;
- (5) ρ is normal.

PROOF. Let $\{\langle D_\alpha, E_\alpha \rangle : \alpha \in 2^\omega\}$ enumerate all pairs of countable subsets of \mathbf{R} such that

- (a) $D_\alpha \subset A$,
- (b) $\Delta_\alpha = \text{cl}_\tau(E_\alpha) \cap \text{cl}_\tau(D_\alpha) \cap A$ is uncountable.

Without loss of generality we may assume that each pair was repeated 2^ω times. Inductively, for each $\alpha < 2^\omega$, we shall construct a space (X_α, ρ_α) such that the following conditions are satisfied:

- (1 α) ρ_α is finer than $\tau \upharpoonright X_\alpha$;
- (2 α) $A \cap X_\alpha$ is closed in ρ_α ;
- (3 α) ρ_α is locally compact and locally countable;
- (4 α) for every $\beta \in \alpha$, (X_β, ρ_β) is an open subspace of (X_α, ρ_α) ;
- (5 α) if $\alpha = \beta + 1$, and there is a $\gamma \in \beta$ with $(D_\beta, E_\beta) = (D_\gamma, E_\gamma)$, then $X_{\beta+1} - X_\beta$ contains a point $x_\beta \in \Delta_\beta$ such that $x_\beta \in \text{cl}_{\rho_\alpha}(E_\beta) \cap \text{cl}_{\rho_\alpha}(D_\beta) \cap A$.

Indeed, let X_0 be the set of rationals \mathbf{Q} and ρ_0 be the discrete topology on X_0 . Next, suppose that $0 \neq \alpha < 2^\omega$, and for every $\gamma \in \alpha$ we have already defined (X_γ, ρ_γ) in such a way that (1 γ)-(5 γ) are satisfied. If α is a limit ordinal, then let ρ_α be the inductive limit of the spaces $\{(X_\gamma, \rho_\gamma) : \gamma \in \alpha\}$.

If $\alpha = \beta + 1$, then let us choose x_β to be an arbitrary point from $\Delta_\beta - X_\beta$. Note that $\Delta_\beta - X_\beta$ is nonvoid. Indeed, since Δ_β is an uncountable Borel subset in τ , it has cardinality 2^ω , whereas X_β has cardinality $< 2^\omega$. There are two cases to consider.

Case 1. Assume that $D_\beta \cup E_\beta \subset X_\beta$. Then choose a sequence $\{y_n : n \in \omega\} \subset X_\beta$ such that

- (a) $\{y_n : n \in \omega\}$ converges to x_β in τ ,
- (b) $y_n \in D_\beta$ for each even $n \in \omega$,
- (c) $y_n \in E_\beta$ for each odd $n \in \omega$.

Since ρ_β refines $\tau \upharpoonright X_\beta$, $\{y_n : n \in \omega\}$ is closed discrete in (X_β, ρ_β) . Since (X_β, ρ_β) is locally compact and locally countable (and thus, zero-dimensional), there is a discrete family $\{C_n : n \in \omega\}$ of countable clopen compact subsets of (X_β, ρ_β) converging to x_β in τ such that $y_n \in C_n$ for every $n \in \omega$.

Let $X_\alpha = X_{\beta+1} = X_\beta \cup \{x_\beta\}$. Let $\{G_n : n \in \omega\}$, where

$$G_n = \{x_\beta\} \cup \bigcup \{C_i : i \geq n\} \quad (n \in \omega),$$

be a neighborhood base for x_β in ρ_α . Neighborhood bases in ρ_α for points of X_β are the same as their neighborhood bases in ρ_β .

Case 2. Assume that $D_\beta \cup E_\beta \not\subset X_\beta$. Then let $X_{\beta+1} = X_\beta \cup D_\beta \cup E_\beta$, and let $\rho_{\beta+1}$ be the topology on $X_{\beta+1}$ determined by the following two conditions.

- (i) (X_β, ρ_β) is a clopen subspace of $(X_{\beta+1}, \rho_{\beta+1})$;
- (ii) each point of $X_{\beta+1} - X_\beta$ is isolated in $\rho_{\beta+1}$.

It is easy to see that the space (X_α, ρ_α) defined above satisfies (1 α)–(5 α) in each case.

Finally, let ρ be the topology on \mathbf{R} defined by the following two conditions.

(A) If $x \in X_\alpha$ for some ordinal $\alpha < 2^\omega$, then let a neighborhood base for x in ρ be the same as that in ρ_α ,

(B) If $x \notin \bigcup \{X_\alpha : \alpha < 2^\omega\}$, then let x be isolated in ρ .

ρ clearly satisfies (1), (2) and (3). To see that it also satisfies (4), let $D \subset A$, $E \subset \mathbf{R}$ be disjoint ρ -closed sets. Assume indirectly that $\Delta = \text{cl}_\tau(E) \cap D$ is uncountable. Then there is a pair $\langle D', E' \rangle$ of countable sets such that D' is τ -dense in D , and E' is τ -dense in E . Since $\text{cl}_\tau(E') \cap (\text{cl}_\tau(D') \cap A) \supset \Delta$, $\langle D', E' \rangle = \langle D_\alpha, E_\alpha \rangle$ for 2^ω many $\alpha < 2^\omega$. By (5 α) this implies that $|\text{cl}_\rho(E_\alpha) \cap (\text{cl}_\rho(D_\alpha) \cap A)| = 2^\omega$, in contradiction with $\text{cl}_\rho(E_\alpha) \cap (\text{cl}_\rho(D_\alpha) \cap A) \subset E \cap D = \emptyset$.

To see that (\mathbf{R}, ρ) is normal, it is enough to prove that for any pair F_1, F_2 of disjoint ρ -closed sets, there is a countable ρ -open cover \mathcal{G} of F_1 such that for each $G \in \mathcal{G}$, $\text{cl}_\rho(G) \cap F_2 = \emptyset$. To see this, let $A_1 = F_1 \cap A$ and $\Delta_1 = \text{cl}_\tau(F_2) \cap A_1$. Since τ has a countable base there is a countable family of \mathcal{U} of τ -open subsets of \mathbf{R} such that

(*) $\bigcup \mathcal{U} \supset A_1 - \Delta_1$;

(**) for every $U \in \mathcal{U}$, $\text{cl}_\tau(U) \cap F_2 = \emptyset$.

By (4), Δ_1 is countable. For each $x \in \Delta_1$, let $G(x) \ni x$ be a ρ -open set such that $\text{cl}_\rho(G(x)) \cap F_2 = \emptyset$. Then $\mathcal{G} = \{G(x) : x \in \Delta\} \cup \mathcal{U} \cup \{F_1 - A\}$ is as required.

COROLLARY 2.2. *There is normal, locally compact, locally countable space with a closed Baire subset which is not a zero-set.*

PROOF. Let A be a Baire but not $G_{\delta\sigma}$ subset A of \mathbf{R} . Apply Theorem 2.1 to obtain a new topology on \mathbf{R} such as described there. Then the space (\mathbf{R}, ρ) is normal, locally compact and locally countable. Since ρ refines τ , A is Baire set in (\mathbf{R}, ρ) , too. However, A is not a G_δ set in (\mathbf{R}, ρ) . Indeed, making use of (4) of Theorem 2.1 with $D = A$, it follows that if A was a G_δ subset in (\mathbf{R}, ρ) , then A would be a $G_{\delta\sigma}$ subset in the natural topology τ of \mathbf{R} .

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