

## NONDEGENERATE MULTIDIMENSIONAL MATRICES AND INSTANTON BUNDLES

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**ABSTRACT.** In this paper we prove that the moduli space of rank  $2n$  symplectic instanton bundles on  $\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}$ , defined from the well-known monad condition, is affine. This result was not known even in the case  $n = 1$ , where by Atiyah, Drinfeld, Hitchin, and Manin in 1978 the real instanton bundles correspond to self-dual Yang Mills  $Sp(1)$ -connections over the 4-dimensional sphere. The result is proved as a consequence of the existence of an invariant of the multidimensional matrices representing the instanton bundles.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

A symplectic instanton bundle on  $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^{2n+1}$  is a bundle of rank  $2n$  defined as the cohomology bundle of a well-known monad (see Definition 2.2).

In [ADHM78] it was shown that instanton bundles on  $\mathbb{P}^3$  satisfying a reality condition correspond to self-dual Yang Mills  $Sp(1)$ -connections over the 4-dimensional sphere  $S^4 = \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{H}}^1$ . This correspondence was generalized by Salamon ([Sal84]) who showed that instanton bundles on  $\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}$  which are trivial on the fiber of the twistor map  $\mathbb{P}^{2n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{H}}^n$  correspond to  $Sp(n)$ -connections which minimize a certain Yang Mills functional over  $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{H}}^n$ . We denote by  $MI_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  the moduli space of symplectic instanton bundles on  $\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}$  with  $c_2 = k$  (see Definition 2.4) and we denote by  $I_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  the moduli space of  $k$ -instanton bundles on  $\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}$  (see Definition 4.1).

Up to now, very little is known concerning the geometry of the moduli spaces  $I_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  and a few results have been proved regarding  $MI_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$ . For instance, up to the authors' knowledge, the only results concerning  $MI_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  deal with small values of  $n$  and  $k$ . Indeed, it is known ([ADHM78]) that  $MI_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  has a component of dimension  $8k - 3$  for  $n = 1$ , that it is smooth for  $n = 1$  and  $k \leq 5$  ([KO99]) but, it is conjectured that it is singular and reducible for  $n \geq 2$  and  $k \geq 4$  (see [AO00]).

The goal of this paper is to show that all the moduli spaces  $MI_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$ , for any  $n \geq 1$  and any  $k \geq 1$ , share the following surprising property:

**Theorem 1.1.**  $MI_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  is affine.

In addition, we will see that the same holds for all moduli spaces parametrizing  $k$ -instanton bundles on  $\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}$ . Indeed, we will prove

**Theorem 1.2.**  $I_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  is affine.

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As a by-product of Theorems 1.1 and 1.2, we will contribute to the study of a problem posed in the 80's (see for instance [HH86]) that, in the context of instanton bundles on  $\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}$ , reads as follows:

**Problem.** Determine the maximal dimension of complete subvarieties lying on  $MI_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  (resp.  $I_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$ ).

More precisely, in this case, we will completely solve the problem and in Corollaries 3.5 and 4.6 we will see that  $MI_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  (resp.  $I_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$ ) does not contain any complete subvariety of positive dimension.

The technique we use to prove our main results is to exhibit  $MI_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  (resp.  $I_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$ ) as the GIT-quotient of an affine variety  $\mathcal{Q}^0$  (resp.  $\mathcal{P}^0$ ) and then use standard results in invariant theory. The fact that  $\mathcal{Q}^0$  (resp.  $\mathcal{P}^0$ ) is affine is a consequence of the existence of an invariant of multidimensional matrices representing the instanton bundles, which generalizes the hyperdeterminant (see [GKZ94] and [AO99]).

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## 2. NOTATION AND PRELIMINARIES

We will start by fixing some notation and recalling some facts about  $k$ -instanton bundles on  $\mathbb{P}^{2n+1} = \mathbb{P}(V)$ , where  $V$  is a complex vector space of dimension  $2n + 2$ . (See, for instance, [OS86] and [AO94].)

*Notation 2.1.*  $\mathcal{O}(d) = \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(d)$  denotes the invertible sheaf of degree  $d$  on  $\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}$  and for any coherent sheaf  $E$  on  $\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}$  we denote  $E(d) = E \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(d)$ .

**Definition 2.2.** A symplectic instanton bundle  $E$  over  $\mathbb{P}^{2n+1} = \mathbb{P}(V)$  is a bundle of rank  $2n$  which appears as a cohomology bundle of a monad,

$$(1) \quad I^* \otimes \mathcal{O}(-1) \xrightarrow{A} W \otimes \mathcal{O} \xrightarrow{A^t} I \otimes \mathcal{O}(1),$$

where  $(W, J)$  is a symplectic complex vector space of dimension  $2n + 2k$  and  $I$  is a complex vector space of dimension  $k$ .

We do not assume in the definition that  $E$  is stable, so we have to recall some results.

The monad condition means that  $A$  is injective (as a bundle morphism),  $A^t$  is surjective and  $\text{im } A \subset \ker A^t$  so that  $E \simeq \ker A^t / \text{im } A$ . The fact that the map  $W \otimes \mathcal{O} \xrightarrow{A^t} I \otimes \mathcal{O}(1)$  is surjective, is equivalent to the fact that the matrix  $A \in \text{Hom}(V^* \otimes I^*, W)$  representing  $E$  is nondegenerate according to [GKZ94] (see Definition 2.3 for the precise definition).

$\text{Hom}(V^* \otimes I^*, W)$  contains the subvariety  $\mathcal{Q}$  given by matrices  $A$  for which the sequence (1) is a complex, that is, such that  $A^t JA = 0$ .  $GL(I) \times Sp(W)$  acts on  $\mathcal{Q}$  by  $(g, s) \cdot A = sAg$ .

**Definition 2.3.** A matrix  $A \in \text{Hom}(V^* \otimes I^*, W)$  is called degenerate if the multilinear system  $A(v \otimes i) = 0$  has a solution such that  $0 \neq v \in V^*$  and  $0 \neq i \in I^*$ .

By [GKZ94], Theorem 14.3.1, this is equivalent to the standard definition of degeneracy given in chapter 14.1 of [GKZ94]. It is easy to check that degenerate matrices fill an irreducible subvariety  $N$  of  $\text{Hom}(V^* \otimes I^*, W)$  of codimension  $k$  (see [WZ96]). Hence, only in the case  $k = 1$  is it well-defined as a hyperdeterminant

according to [GKZ94]. In the next section we will define an  $SL(I) \times Sp(W)$ -invariant on  $\text{Hom}(V^* \otimes I^*, W)$ , called  $D$ , which generalizes the hyperdeterminant and is suitable for our purposes.

It was shown in [AO94] that all instanton bundles are simple, so that they carry a unique symplectic form. Moreover, for  $n = 1, 2$  it was proved in [AO94] that all instanton bundles are stable, and it is expected that the same result is true for  $n \geq 3$ .

Recall that given  $X = \text{Spec}(A)$ , an affine scheme, and a reductive group  $G$  acting on  $X$ , then a theorem of Hilbert and Nagata shows that the ring of invariants  $A^G$  is finitely generated and  $X/G := \text{Spec}(A^G)$  is what is called the affine algebro-geometric quotient of  $X$  by  $G$ . In addition,  $X/G$  is a good quotient and it is a geometric quotient if and only if all orbits are closed. In this setting, every orbit contains a unique closed orbit in its closure and a point in  $X$  is called stable if its orbit is closed and has the maximal dimension (see [PV89]).

In [BH78] it was essentially proved that there is a natural one-to-one correspondence between

- i) isomorphism classes of symplectic instanton bundles, and
- ii) orbits of  $GL(I) \times Sp(W)$  on the open subvariety  $\mathcal{Q}^0$  of  $\mathcal{Q}$  given by nondegenerate matrices.

In fact, using the quoted results of [AO94], one can see that [BH78], Section 4 and the Theorem on page 19, adapt literally to our situation.

Moreover, in Theorem 3.3 we will see that  $\mathcal{Q}^0$  is affine. Hence, if we denote by  $G$  the quotient of  $GL(I) \times Sp(W)$  by  $\pm(id, id)$ , Barth and Hulek proved in [BH78] that  $G$  acts freely on  $\mathcal{Q}^0$  and, in particular, all orbits are closed (in fact, any orbit contains in the closure orbits of smaller dimension). Therefore, all points of  $\mathcal{Q}^0$  are stable for the action of  $GL(I) \times Sp(W)$  and  $\mathcal{Q}^0 \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}^0/G$  is a geometric quotient.

**Definition 2.4.** The GIT-quotient  $\mathcal{Q}^0/GL(I) \times Sp(W)$  is denoted by  $MI_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  and is called the moduli space of symplectic  $k$ -instanton bundles on  $\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}$ . It is a geometric quotient.

The above discussion shows that  $MI_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  coincides for  $n = 1, 2$  with the open subset  $\mathcal{M}\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  of the Maruyama scheme of symplectic stable bundles on  $\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}$  of rank  $2n$  and Chern polynomial  $\frac{1}{(1-t^2)^k}$  which are instanton bundles (this is an open condition because by Beilinson's theorem, it is equivalent to certain vanishing in cohomology; see [OS86]). In particular, our notation for  $MI_{\mathbb{P}^3}(k)$  is consistent with the usual one. For  $n \geq 3$  it is expected that the same result is true, but at present we can only say that  $\mathcal{M}\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  is an open subset of  $MI_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$ .

### 3. THE INVARIANT $D$ AND THE PROOF OF THE MAIN RESULT

First, we remark that the vector spaces  $W \otimes S^n I$  and  $V \otimes S^{n+1} I$  have the same dimension  $(2n + 2k)\binom{k+n-1}{n} = (2n + 2)\binom{k+n}{n+1}$ . We can construct from

$$W \xrightarrow{A^t} V \otimes I$$

the morphisms

$$\begin{aligned} A^t \otimes id_{S^n I} : W \otimes S^n I &\rightarrow V \otimes I \otimes S^n I, \\ id_V \otimes \pi : V \otimes I \otimes S^n I &\rightarrow V \otimes S^{n+1} I, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\pi$  is the natural projection, and we consider the composition

$$(2) \quad \Delta_A = (id_V \otimes \pi) \cdot (A^t \otimes id_{S^n I}) : W \otimes S^n I \rightarrow V \otimes S^{n+1} I.$$

**Definition 3.1.** Let  $A \in \text{Hom}(V^* \otimes I^*, W)$ . We define  $D(A)$  to be the usual determinant of the morphism  $\Delta_A$  in (2) induced by  $A$ .

Notice that

$$D: \text{Hom}(V^* \otimes I^*, W) \rightarrow (\det W)^\alpha \otimes (\det V)^\beta$$

where  $\alpha = -\binom{k+n-1}{n}$  and  $\beta = \binom{k+n}{n+1}$  is a  $GL(V) \times GL(I) \times Sp(W)$ -equivariant map and  $D(A) = 0$  defines a homogeneous hypersurface of degree  $(2n+2k)\binom{k+n-1}{n} = (2n+2)\binom{k+n}{n+1}$ . After a basis has been fixed in each of the vector spaces  $V$ ,  $I$  and  $W$ , the map  $D$  can be seen as an  $SL(V) \times SL(I) \times Sp(W)$ -invariant.

In fact, this definition generalizes the hyperdeterminant of boundary format as introduced in Theorem 14.3.3 of [GKZ94].

**Lemma 3.2.** *If  $A$  is degenerate, then  $D(A) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* There are  $0 \neq v \in V^*$  and  $0 \neq i \in I^*$  such that  $A(v \otimes i) = 0$ . Hence,  $v \otimes S^{n+1}i \in V^* \otimes S^{n+1}I^*$  goes to zero under the dual of (2).  $\square$

If  $A$  is nondegenerate, we get  $D(A) \neq 0$  only in the case  $k = 1$  and, in general, it can happen that  $D(A) = 0$ , because the codimension of  $N$  is  $k$ . Our main technical result is the following.

**Theorem 3.3.** *If  $A$  defines an instanton (that is,  $A$  belongs to  $\mathcal{Q}^0$ ), then  $D(A) \neq 0$ .*

*Proof.* From (1) we get the exact sequence

$$(3) \quad 0 \rightarrow K \rightarrow W \otimes \mathcal{O} \rightarrow I \otimes \mathcal{O}(1) \rightarrow 0.$$

The  $(n+1)$ -th wedge power twisted by  $\mathcal{O}(-n)$  gives the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \wedge^{n+1} K(-n) \rightarrow \wedge^{n+1} W(-n) \rightarrow \dots$$

$$\dots \rightarrow \wedge^2 W \otimes S^{n-1} I(-1) \rightarrow W \otimes S^n I \rightarrow S^{n+1} I(1) \rightarrow 0$$

where the  $H^0$  of the last morphism corresponds to  $\Delta_A$  in (2). Taking cohomology, it is enough to prove

$$(4) \quad H^n(\wedge^{n+1} K(-n)) = 0.$$

The  $(n+1)$ -th wedge power twisted by  $\mathcal{O}(-n)$  of the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow I^* \otimes \mathcal{O}(-1) \rightarrow K \rightarrow E \rightarrow 0$$

gives the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow S^{n+1} I^* \otimes K(-2n-1) \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \wedge^{n-1} K \otimes S^2 I^*(-n-2) \rightarrow \dots$$

$$\dots \rightarrow \wedge^n K \otimes I^*(-n-1) \rightarrow \wedge^{n+1} K(-n) \rightarrow \wedge^{n+1} E(-n) \rightarrow 0.$$

In order to prove (4), taking cohomology, we need  $H^{n+i}(\wedge^{n-i} K(-n-i-1)) = 0$  for  $i = 0, \dots, n$  and  $H^n(\wedge^{n+1} E(-n)) = 0$ . The first group of vanishing is easily obtained by taking suitable wedge powers of (3). The crucial point used to get the last vanishing is the isomorphism  $\wedge^{n+1} E \simeq \wedge^{n-1} E$ ; it is true because  $E$  is a rank  $2n$  vector bundle with  $c_1 = 0$ . From the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow S^{n-1} I^*(-2n-1) \rightarrow S^{n-2} I^* \otimes K(-2n) \rightarrow \dots$$

$$\dots \rightarrow \wedge^{n-1} K(-n) \rightarrow \wedge^{n-1} E(-n) \rightarrow 0,$$

in order to prove  $H^n(\wedge^{n-1} E(-n)) = 0$ , we only need to see that

$$H^{n+i}(\wedge^{n-1-i} K(-n-i)) = 0 \quad \text{for } i = 0, \dots, n,$$

which follows by using the exact sequence (3) exactly as above.  $\square$

Now, we can state and prove the main result of this section.

**Theorem 3.4.**  *$MI_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  is affine.*

*Proof.* By Theorem 3.3, we get that  $\mathcal{Q} \setminus N = \mathcal{Q}^0 = \mathcal{Q} \setminus \{D = 0\}$  is affine. It follows that  $MI_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  is affine too, because it is the quotient of an affine variety by a reductive group; see, e.g., [PV89], section 4.4.  $\square$

As a consequence we deduce

**Corollary 3.5.**  *$MI_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  does not contain any complete subvariety of positive dimension.*

*Proof.* This follows from the fact that a quasi-affine complete variety is a finite set.  $\square$

*Remark 3.6.* The invariant  $D$  is meaningful even in the case  $n = 0$ . In this case it corresponds to the usual determinant of the map  $\mathbb{C}^{2k} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^k$ . For example, for  $n = 0$  and  $k = 2$  the degenerate  $2 \times 2 \times 4$  matrices fill a variety of codimension 2 and degree 12 ([BS]) in  $\mathbb{P}^{15}$  whose ideal is generated by one quartic (which is our invariant  $D$ ), 10 sextics and one octic. We remark that the case  $2 \times 2 \times 3$  is of boundary format. The case  $2 \times 2 \times 5$  is interesting. Here degenerate matrices fill a variety of codimension 3 and degree 20, and its ideal is generated (at least) by 5 quartics, 50 sextics and 12 octics. The 5 quartics define a variety of codimension 2 and degree 10. Hence, in this case no analog of the invariant  $D$  can exist.

#### 4. INSTANTON BUNDLES WITH STRUCTURE GROUP $GL(2n)$

**Definition 4.1.** A  $k$ -instanton bundle  $E$  on  $\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}$  is the cohomology bundle of a monad

$$(5) \quad K \otimes \mathcal{O}(-1) \xrightarrow{A} W \otimes \mathcal{O} \xrightarrow{B} I \otimes \mathcal{O}(1)$$

where  $W$  is a complex vector space of dimension  $2n + 2k$  and  $I, K$  are complex vector spaces of dimension  $k$ .

Notice that  $E$  is not necessarily symplectic and that this notion is a true generalization of the one above only for  $n \geq 2$ , because all rank 2 bundles on  $\mathbb{P}^3$  with  $c_1 = 0$  are symplectic.

Let  $(A, B) \in Hom(K \otimes V^*, W) \times Hom(W, I \otimes V)$  defining  $E$ . The monad condition is now equivalent to the fact that the matrices  $A$  and  $B$  are both nondegenerate and  $B \cdot A = 0$ .

$Hom(K \otimes V^*, W) \times Hom(W, I \otimes V)$  contains the subvariety  $\mathcal{P}$  given by pairs of matrices  $(A, B)$  for which the sequence (5) is a complex, that is, such that  $B \cdot A = 0$ .  $GL(I) \times GL(K) \times GL(W)$  acts on  $\mathcal{P}$  by  $(a, b, c) \cdot (A, B) = (cAb, aBc^{-1})$ .

Arguing, as in the previous section, we can see that there is a natural one-to-one correspondence between

- i) isomorphism classes of instanton bundles, and
- ii) orbits of  $GL(I) \times GL(K) \times GL(W)$  on the open subvariety  $\mathcal{P}^0$  of  $\mathcal{P}$  given by pairs of nondegenerate matrices.

Moreover, as in the second section and using Theorem 4.4, if we denote by  $H$  the quotient of  $GL(I) \times GL(K) \times GL(W)$  by  $(\lambda \cdot id, \lambda^{-1} \cdot id, \lambda \cdot id)$ , then  $H$  acts

freely on  $\mathcal{P}^0$ . In particular, all points of  $\mathcal{P}^0$  are stable for the action of  $GL(I) \times GL(K) \times GL(W)$ .

**Definition 4.2.** The GIT-quotient  $\mathcal{P}^0/GL(I) \times GL(K) \times GL(W)$  is denoted by  $I_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  and is called the moduli space of  $k$ -instanton bundles on  $\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}$ . It is a geometric quotient.

$I_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  coincides for  $n = 1, 2$  with the open subset  $\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  of the Maruyama scheme of stable bundles on  $\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}$  of rank  $2n$  and Chern polynomial  $\frac{1}{(1-t^2)^k}$ , which are instanton bundles. For  $n \geq 3$  we can say that  $\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  is an open subset of  $I_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$ . We remark that  $MI_{\mathbb{P}^3}(k) = I_{\mathbb{P}^3}(k)$ .  $\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  is known to be singular for  $n \geq 2$  and  $k \geq 3$  (see [MO97]) and reducible for  $n \geq 4$  (see [AO00]).

**Definition 4.3.** Let  $(A, B) \in Hom(K \otimes V^*, W) \times Hom(W, I \otimes V)$ . We define

$$\tilde{D}(A, B) := \det S(A) \cdot \det R(B)$$

where  $\det$  denotes the usual determinant and  $S(A), R(B)$  are the morphisms

$$\begin{aligned} S(A) : S^{n+1}K \otimes V^* &\rightarrow S^nK \otimes W, \\ R(B) : S^nI \otimes W &\rightarrow S^{n+1}I \otimes V, \end{aligned}$$

induced by  $A$  and  $B$  respectively, as in Definition 3.1.

**Theorem 4.4.** If  $(A, B)$  defines an instanton (that is,  $(A, B)$  belongs to  $\mathcal{P}^0$ ), then  $\tilde{D}(A, B) \neq 0$ .

*Proof.* First, we will see that  $\det S(A) \neq 0$ . From (5) we get the exact sequence

$$(6) \quad 0 \rightarrow K \otimes \mathcal{O}(-1) \rightarrow W \otimes \mathcal{O} \rightarrow Q \rightarrow 0.$$

The  $(n+1)$ -th wedge power twisted by  $\mathcal{O}(-n-2)$  gives the exact sequence

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow S^{n+1}K \otimes \mathcal{O}(-2n-3) &\rightarrow S^nK \otimes W \otimes \mathcal{O}(-2n-2) \rightarrow \dots \\ \dots &\rightarrow \wedge^{n+1}W \otimes \mathcal{O}(-n-2) \rightarrow \wedge^{n+1}Q(-n-2) \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

where the  $H^{2n+1}$  of the first morphism corresponds to  $S(A)$ . Hence, taking cohomology, it is enough to prove

$$H^n(\wedge^{n+1}Q(-n-2)) = 0.$$

This is shown by considering the  $(n+1)$ -wedge sequence of the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow E \rightarrow Q \rightarrow I \otimes \mathcal{O}(1) \rightarrow 0$$

and arguing as in the proof of Theorem 3.3.

In order to prove  $\det R(B) \neq 0$ , we proceed exactly as in Theorem 3.3 and we leave the details to the reader.  $\square$

**Theorem 4.5.**  $I_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  is affine.

*Proof.* First, notice that given  $(A, B) \in \mathcal{P}$ , if  $A$  or  $B$  is degenerate, then  $\det S(A) \cdot \det R(B) = 0$ . Hence, by Theorem 4.4 we get that  $\mathcal{P}^0 = \mathcal{P} \setminus \{\tilde{D} = 0\}$  is affine. Therefore, by [PV89] section 4.4,  $I_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  is affine also.  $\square$

As a by-product of Theorem 4.5, we deduce

**Corollary 4.6.**  $I_{\mathbb{P}^{2n+1}}(k)$  does not contain any complete subvariety of positive dimension.

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