



# On a Local Darlington Synthesis Problem

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**Abstract** The Darlington synthesis problem (in the scalar case) is a problem of embedding a given contractive analytic function to an inner  $2 \times 2$  matrix function as an entry. A fundamental result of Arov–Douglas–Helton relates this algebraic property to a purely analytic one known as a pseudocontinuation of bounded type. We suggest a local version of the Darlington synthesis problem and prove a local analog of the ADH theorem.

**Keywords** Darlington synthesis · Pseudocontinuation · Inner matrix function · Unitary matrix · Nevanlinna, Schur and Smirnov classes

**Mathematics Subject Classification** 30H05 · 30H15 · 30C80

## 1 Introduction

The Darlington synthesis with its origin in electrical engineering has a long history. The synthesis of non-lossless circuits was a hard problem at the time when computers were unavailable. The idea of the Darlington synthesis was to reduce any such problem to a lossless one.

A mathematical setup in the simplest scalar case looks as follows, see [1–3, 5], [6, Section 8.6] and [7, Section 6.7].

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An analytic function  $s$  on the unit disk  $\mathbb{D}$  is called a *Schur (contractive) function*,  $s \in \mathcal{S}$ , if  $|s| \leq 1$  in  $\mathbb{D}$ . Similarly, an analytic on  $\mathbb{D}$   $2 \times 2$  matrix function  $S$  (throughout this note we deal only with matrices of order 2) is a *Schur (contractive) matrix function*,  $S \in \mathcal{S}^{(m)}$ , if

$$I - S^*(z)S(z) \geq 0, \quad z \in \mathbb{D},$$

$I$  is a unity matrix. A function  $s \in \mathcal{S}$  (a matrix function  $S \in \mathcal{S}^{(m)}$ ) is said to be *inner (matrix) function* if its boundary values, which exist almost everywhere on the unit circle  $\mathbb{T}$ , are unimodular (unitary). Given  $s \in \mathcal{S}$ , the Darlington synthesis problem asks whether there exists an inner matrix function  $S \in \mathcal{S}^{(m)}$  so that

$$S(z) = \|s_{ij}(z)\|_{i,j=1}^2 : \quad s_{22}(z) = s(z). \tag{1.1}$$

A seminal result of Arov [1] and Douglas–Helton [3] states that a Schur function admits the Darlington synthesis if and only if it possesses a pseudocontinuation of bounded type across  $\mathbb{T}$ . Recall that a meromorphic function of bounded type on a region  $\Omega$  is the quotient of two bounded (or contractive) analytic on  $\Omega$  functions

$$f(z) = \frac{f_1(z)}{f_2(z)}, \quad f_j \in \mathcal{S}(\Omega). \tag{1.2}$$

Such functions constitute the Nevanlinna class  $N(\Omega)$ .

The goal of this note is to suggest a local version of the Darlington synthesis problem and to prove a local analog of the Arov–Douglas–Helton theorem. As usual,  $\mathbb{D}_e$  stands for the exterior of the unit disk with respect to the extended complex plane  $\bar{\mathbb{C}}$ .

**Definition 1.1** Let  $\gamma$  be an arc of the unit circle (the case  $\gamma = \mathbb{T}$  is not excluded). A function  $f \in N(\mathbb{D})$  admits a *pseudocontinuation of bounded type across  $\gamma$*  if there is a function  $\tilde{f} \in N(\mathbb{D}_e)$  so that their boundary values agree

$$f(t) = \tilde{f}(t) \quad \text{a.e. on } \gamma. \tag{1.3}$$

We write  $f \in PC_\gamma$  for such functions. The class  $PC_\gamma$  is nontrivial, see Example 2.1 in Sect. 2.

**Theorem 1.2** *Let  $s \in \mathcal{S}$ . The following conditions are equivalent.*

- (1) *There is a matrix function  $S = \|s_{ij}\|_{i,j=1}^2$  so that  $s_{ij} \in \mathcal{S}$ ,  $s_{22} = s$ , and  $S$  is unitary a.e. on the arc  $\gamma$ ;*
- (2)  $s \in PC_\gamma$ .

In the case  $\gamma = \mathbb{T}$ , the above matrix function  $S$  is inner due to the Maximum Norm Principle, and we come to the Arov–Douglas–Helton theorem.

Given an arc  $\gamma$ , we denote by  $\mathcal{S}_\gamma$  ( $N_\gamma$ ) the class of the Schur (Nevanlinna) functions, unimodular a.e. on  $\gamma$ . Similarly,  $\mathcal{S}_\gamma^{(m)}$  stands for the class of the Schur matrix functions unitary a.e. on  $\gamma$ .

It is clear that a matrix function with contractive entries does not necessarily belong to  $\mathcal{S}^{(m)}$ . So the question arises naturally whether the matrix  $S$  in Theorem 1.2 can be taken from  $\mathcal{S}_\gamma^{(m)}$ . If  $s \in \mathcal{S}_\gamma$ , the answer is affirmative: the matrix function

$$S(z) = \begin{bmatrix} s_{11}(z) & 0 \\ 0 & s(z) \end{bmatrix} \tag{1.4}$$

with an arbitrary inner function  $s_{11}$  belongs to  $\mathcal{S}_\gamma^{(m)}$ . But, in general, the answer is negative. The reason is that  $s$  being an entry of a contractive, nondiagonal matrix function is supposed to obey a *global* condition

$$\int_{\mathbb{T}} \log(1 - |s(t)|^2) m(dt) > -\infty, \tag{1.5}$$

$m$  is the normalized Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{T}$ . As it turns out, this condition is also sufficient.

**Theorem 1.3** *Let  $s \in \mathcal{S}'_\gamma = \mathcal{S} \setminus \mathcal{S}_\gamma$ . The following conditions are equivalent.*

- (1) *There is a matrix function  $V = \|v_{ij}\|_{i,j=1}^2 \in \mathcal{S}_\gamma^{(m)}$  so that  $v_{22} = s$ ;*
- (2)  *$s \in PC_\gamma$  and (1.5) holds.*

In contrast to the case  $\gamma = \mathbb{T}$  of the whole unit circle, we have neither the model spaces theory nor the Douglas–Shapiro–Shields theorem at hand. So the argument is by and large straightforward and relies upon explicit (in a sense) expressions for the matrix entries of the matrices in question.

## 2 Local Pseudocontinuation and Darlington Synthesis

Let us begin with the classes  $\mathcal{S}_\gamma$  and  $N_\gamma$ , which play the same role as the class of inner functions does in the classical setting of the Darlington synthesis problem.

*Example 2.1* Let  $a \in N_\gamma$ . Write

$$\tilde{a}(\zeta) := \frac{1}{a(1/\bar{\zeta})}, \quad \zeta \in \mathbb{D}_e. \tag{2.1}$$

Then  $\tilde{a} \in N(\mathbb{D}_e)$  and  $\tilde{a} = a$  a.e. on  $\gamma$ , so  $N_\gamma \subset PC_\gamma$ . In particular,  $s \in \mathcal{S}_\gamma$  implies  $s \in PC_\gamma \setminus PC_{\mathbb{T}}$ , as soon as  $s$  is not an inner function.

*Proof of Theorem 1.2* (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2). The argument here is standard. By the hypothesis,  $\det S \neq 0$ , so we write

$$\begin{aligned} U(\zeta) &:= (S^{-1})^*(1/\bar{\zeta}) \\ &= \frac{1}{\det S(1/\bar{\zeta})} \begin{bmatrix} s(1/\bar{\zeta}) & -s_{21}(1/\bar{\zeta}) \\ -s_{12}(1/\bar{\zeta}) & s_{11}(1/\bar{\zeta}) \end{bmatrix}, \quad \zeta \in \mathbb{D}_e. \end{aligned} \tag{2.2}$$

It is clear that all entries of  $U$  belong to  $N(\mathbb{D}_e)$ , and  $U = S$  a.e. on  $\gamma$ . Hence,  $s$  admits the pseudocontinuation of bounded type across  $\gamma$ ,  $s \in PC_\gamma$ , with

$$\tilde{s}(\zeta) = \frac{\overline{s_{11}(1/\bar{\zeta})}}{\det S(1/\bar{\zeta})}.$$

Note that in fact each entry of the bounded matrix function  $S$ , unitary a.e. on  $\gamma$ , is in the class  $PC_\gamma$ .

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1). If  $s \in \mathcal{S}_\gamma$ , the result follows immediately from (1.4). So we assume further that  $s \in \mathcal{S}'_\gamma = \mathcal{S} \setminus \mathcal{S}_\gamma$ .

Define a pair of functions on  $\mathbb{D}$

$$g(z) := \overline{\tilde{s}(1/\bar{z})} \in N(\mathbb{D}), \quad h(z) := 1 - g(z)s(z) \in N(\mathbb{D}), \tag{2.3}$$

where  $\tilde{s}$  is the pseudocontinuation of bounded type of  $s$  across  $\gamma$ . Now,  $s \notin \mathcal{S}_\gamma$  implies  $h \not\equiv 0$ , so  $\log |h| \in L^1(\mathbb{T})$ , see [4, Theorem 2.2], and

$$\int_\gamma \log |h(t)| m(dt) = \int_\gamma \log(1 - |s(t)|^2) m(dt) > -\infty. \tag{2.4}$$

We see that  $\log(1 - |s|^2) \in L^1(\gamma)$  as long as  $s \in PC_\gamma \setminus \mathcal{S}_\gamma$ , which is a local counterpart of the relation (1.5).

In view of (2.4), the function

$$\sigma_\gamma(z) := \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \int_\gamma \frac{t+z}{t-z} \log(1 - |s(t)|^2) m(dt) \right\} \tag{2.5}$$

is a well-defined, outer Schur function,  $\sigma_\gamma \in \mathcal{S}_{out}$ , with the boundary values

$$|\sigma_\gamma(t)|^2 = 1 - |s(t)|^2 \text{ a.e. on } \gamma, \quad |\sigma_\gamma(t)| = 1 \text{ a.e. on } \gamma' := \mathbb{T} \setminus \gamma. \tag{2.6}$$

We choose  $s_{12} := \sigma_\gamma$ .

Going back to the Nevanlinna functions  $g, h$  in (2.3), we write

$$\begin{aligned} g(z) &= \frac{g_1(z)}{g_2(z)} = \frac{I_{g_1}(z)O_{g_1}(z)}{I_{g_2}(z)O_{g_2}(z)}, \quad g_j \in \mathcal{S}, \\ h(z) &= \frac{h_1(z)}{h_2(z)} = \frac{I_{h_1}(z)O_{h_1}(z)}{I_{h_2}(z)O_{h_2}(z)}, \quad h_j \in \mathcal{S}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $f = I_f O_f$  is the standard inner-outer factorization of a Schur function  $f$ . We proceed with the further factorization of the outer factors with respect to  $\gamma$ , precisely,

$$\begin{aligned} O(z) &= O(z, \gamma)O(z, \gamma'), \\ O(z, \Gamma) &:= \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \int_\Gamma \frac{t+z}{t-z} \log |O(t)| m(dt) \right\} \end{aligned} \tag{2.7}$$

for the arc  $\Gamma = \gamma, \gamma'$ . We have  $O(\cdot, \Gamma) \in \mathcal{S}_{out}$  and

$$|O(t, \gamma)| = 1 \text{ a.e. on } \gamma', \quad |O(t, \gamma')| = 1 \text{ a.e. on } \gamma. \tag{2.8}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} g(z) &= \frac{I_{g_1}(z)O_{g_1}(z, \gamma)O_{g_1}(z, \gamma')}{I_{g_2}(z)O_{g_2}(z, \gamma)O_{g_2}(z, \gamma')}, \\ h(z) &= \frac{I_{h_1}(z)O_{h_1}(z, \gamma)O_{h_1}(z, \gamma')}{I_{h_2}(z)O_{h_2}(z, \gamma)O_{h_2}(z, \gamma')}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.9}$$

Put

$$p(z) := I_{g_2}(z)I_{h_2}(z) O_{g_2}(z, \gamma')O_{h_2}(z, \gamma'), \tag{2.10}$$

so  $|p| = 1$  a.e. on  $\gamma$ . Our choice of  $s_{11}$  and  $s_{21}$  is

$$\begin{aligned} s_{11}(z) &:= -p(z)g(z) = -I_{g_1}(z)I_{h_2}(z) O_{g_1}(z, \gamma')O_{h_2}(z, \gamma') \frac{O_{g_1}(z, \gamma)}{O_{g_2}(z, \gamma)}, \\ s_{21}(z) &:= p(z) \frac{h(z)}{\sigma_\gamma(z)} = I_{g_2}(z)I_{h_1}(z) O_{g_2}(z, \gamma')O_{h_1}(z, \gamma') \frac{O_{h_1}(z, \gamma)}{O_{h_2}(z, \gamma)\sigma_\gamma(z)}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.11}$$

It is clear that  $s_{22} = s$  and  $s_{12} = \sigma_\gamma$  in (2.5) are contractive functions. As for  $s_{11}$  and  $s_{21}$  (2.11), we note that they belong to an important subclass  $N^+(\mathbb{D}) \subset N(\mathbb{D})$  of the Nevanlinna class, which is usually referred to as the Smirnov class, see [4, Section 2.5]. It is characterized by the denominator in (1.2) being an outer Schur function, which is exactly the case in (2.11). The main feature of this class is the Smirnov maximum modulus principle, [4, Theorem 2.11], which states that

$$f \in N^+(\mathbb{D}), \quad |f(t)| \leq 1 \text{ a.e. on } \mathbb{T} \Rightarrow f \in \mathcal{S}. \tag{2.12}$$

In view of (2.8), we obtain  $|s_{11}| \leq 1, |s_{21}| \leq 1$  a.e. on  $\gamma'$ . Next, as we have already mentioned,  $|p| = 1$  a.e. on  $\gamma$ , so

$$|s_{11}(t)| \leq |g(t)| = |s(t)| \leq 1, \quad |s_{21}(t)| \leq \frac{|h(t)|}{|\sigma_\gamma(t)|} = (1 - |s(t)|^2)^{1/2} \leq 1$$

a.e. on  $\gamma$ , and the first claim of the Theorem follows from (2.12).

To show that  $S$  is unitary a.e. on  $\gamma$ , we put

$$S^*(t)S(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{|s_{11}(t)|^2 + |s_{21}(t)|^2}{s_{11}(t)\overline{s_{12}(t)} + s_{21}(t)\overline{s(t)}} & \frac{\overline{s_{11}(t)}s_{12}(t) + \overline{s_{21}(t)}s(t)}{|s_{12}(t)|^2 + |s(t)|^2} \end{bmatrix}.$$

By (2.6),

$$|s_{12}(t)|^2 + |s(t)|^2 = |\sigma_\gamma(t)|^2 + |s(t)|^2 = 1 - |s(t)|^2 + |s(t)|^2 = 1$$

a.e. on  $\gamma$ . Next,  $|p| = 1$  a.e. on  $\gamma$  implies

$$|s_{11}(t)|^2 + |s_{21}(t)|^2 = |g(t)|^2 + \frac{|h(t)|^2}{|\sigma_\gamma(t)|^2} = |s(t)|^2 + 1 - |s(t)|^2 = 1.$$

Finally, by (2.6) and the definition of  $h$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} s_{11}(t)\overline{s_{12}(t)} + s_{21}(t)\overline{s(t)} &= p(t)\left(-g(t)\overline{\sigma_\gamma(t)} + \frac{h(t)}{\sigma_\gamma(t)}\overline{s(t)}\right) \\ &= p(t)\overline{s(t)}\left(-\overline{\sigma_\gamma(t)} + \frac{h(t)}{\sigma_\gamma(t)}\right) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

a.e. on  $\gamma$ . So,  $S^*S = I$ , as claimed. The proof is complete.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 1.3* (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2). By Theorem 1.2,  $s \in PC_\gamma$ , so we should verify condition (1.5). Note that at least one of the functions  $v_{12}$ ,  $v_{21}$  is not identically zero (otherwise,  $s \in \mathcal{S}_\gamma$ ). Assume that  $v_{12} \not\equiv 0$  and write

$$I - V^*(t)V(t) = \begin{bmatrix} * & * \\ * & 1 - |v_{12}(t)|^2 - |s(t)|^2 \end{bmatrix} \geq 0, \quad t \in \mathbb{T},$$

so  $1 - |s(t)|^2 \geq |v_{12}(t)|^2$ . Since  $\log |v_{12}| \in L^1(\mathbb{T})$ , the condition (1.5) follows.

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1). The matrix  $V$  arises as an appropriate modification of the matrix  $S$  from Theorem 1.2. By (1.5), the function

$$\sigma_{\gamma'}(z) := \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \int_{\gamma'} \frac{t+z}{t-z} \log(1 - |s(t)|^2) m(dt) \right\}$$

is well-defined and lies in  $\mathcal{S}_{out}$ . Denote by  $e$  the outer Schur function with

$$|e(t)| = 1 \quad \text{a.e. on } \gamma, \quad |e(t)| = \varepsilon \quad \text{a.e. on } \gamma',$$

where  $0 < \varepsilon < 1/3$  is a small enough positive constant, and put  $r := e\sigma_{\gamma'}$ . Take the matrix  $V$  in question as

$$V(z) = \begin{bmatrix} r(z) & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} S(z) \begin{bmatrix} r(z) & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} r^2(z)s_{11}(z) & r(z)s_{12}(z) \\ r(z)s_{21}(z) & s(z) \end{bmatrix},$$

As both  $e$  and  $\sigma_{\gamma'}$  are unimodular on  $\gamma$ , then so is  $r$ , and thereby  $V$  is unitary a.e. on  $\gamma$ .

It remains to check that  $V \in \mathcal{S}^{(m)}$ . To this end we put for  $t \in \gamma'$

$$\begin{aligned} W(t) &= \begin{bmatrix} w_{11}(t) & w_{12}(t) \\ w_{21}(t) & w_{22}(t) \end{bmatrix} := I - V^*(t)V(t) \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 - |r^2s_{11}|^2 - |rs_{21}|^2 & -\bar{r}|r|^2s_{12}\overline{s_{11}} - \overline{rs_{21}}s \\ -r|r|^2s_{11}\overline{s_{12}} - rs_{21}\bar{s} & 1 - |rs_{12}|^2 - |s|^2 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Since

$$r(z)s_{12}(z) = e(z)\sigma_{\gamma'}(z)\sigma_{\gamma}(z) = e(z) \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{T}} \frac{t+z}{t-z} \log(1 - |s(t)|^2) m(dt) \right\},$$

then  $|rs_{12}|^2 = \varepsilon^2(1 - |s|^2)$ , and so

$$w_{22}(t) = 1 - |r(t)s_{12}(t)|^2 - |s(t)|^2 = (1 - \varepsilon^2)(1 - |s(t)|^2) \geq 0 \tag{2.13}$$

a.e. on  $\gamma'$ . Next, the functions  $r, s_{11}, s_{21}$  are contractive, hence,

$$\begin{aligned} w_{11}(t) &= 1 - |r^2(t)s_{11}(t)|^2 - |r(t)s_{21}(t)|^2 = 1 - |r(t)|^2(|r(t)s_{11}(t)|^2 + |s_{21}(t)|^2) \\ &= 1 - \varepsilon^2(1 - |s(t)|^2)(|r(t)s_{11}(t)|^2 + |s_{21}(t)|^2) \geq 1 - 2\varepsilon^2(1 - |s(t)|^2) \end{aligned}$$

and for  $0 < \varepsilon < 1/3$

$$w_{11}(t) \geq 1 - 2\varepsilon^2(1 - |s(t)|^2) > \frac{7}{9} \tag{2.14}$$

a.e. on  $\gamma'$ . Finally,

$$-w_{21}(t) = r(t)(s_{21}(t)\overline{s(t)} + |r(t)|^2s_{11}(t)\overline{s_{12}(t)}) = r(t)v(t), \quad |v(t)| \leq 2,$$

and thereby,

$$W(t) \geq \begin{bmatrix} \frac{7}{9} & -\overline{r(t)v(t)} \\ -r(t)v(t) & (1 - \varepsilon^2)(1 - |s(t)|^2) \end{bmatrix} = \tilde{W}(t) = \|\tilde{w}_{ij}(t)\|_{i,j=1}^2.$$

To show that  $\tilde{W} \geq 0$  a.e. on  $\gamma'$ , given  $\tilde{w}_{11} \geq 0, \tilde{w}_{22} \geq 0$ , we compute the determinant of  $\tilde{W}$ , keeping in mind  $0 < \varepsilon < 1/3$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{w}_{11}(t)\tilde{w}_{22}(t) - |\tilde{w}_{12}(t)|^2 &= \frac{7}{9} (1 - \varepsilon^2)(1 - |s(t)|^2) - |\varepsilon v(t)|^2(1 - |s(t)|^2) \\ &\geq \left(\frac{7}{9} (1 - \varepsilon^2) - 4\varepsilon^2\right)(1 - |s(t)|^2) \geq \frac{2}{9} (1 - |s(t)|^2) \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

a.e. on  $\gamma'$ . So,  $V \in \mathcal{S}_{\gamma}^{(m)}$ , and the proof is complete. □

We complete this note with some properties of the pseudocontinuation of bounded type across an arc.

**Proposition 2.2** *Let  $s_1, s_2 \in \mathcal{S}$  and  $|s_1| = |s_2|$  a.e. on an arc  $\gamma$ . Then  $s_1$  and  $s_2$  belong to  $PC_{\gamma}$  simultaneously.*

*Proof* Let  $s_1 \in PC_{\gamma}$ . We have the canonical factorization

$$s_k(z) = I_k(z)O_k(z, \gamma)O_k(z, \gamma'), \quad k = 1, 2,$$

and, by the assumption,  $O_1(\cdot, \gamma) = O_2(\cdot, \gamma)$ . Hence,

$$s_2(z) = a(z)s_1(z), \quad a(z) := \frac{I_2(z)O_2(z, \gamma')}{I_1(z)O_1(z, \gamma')}.$$

The function  $a \in N_\gamma$ , so, see Example 2.1,  $a \in PC_\gamma$ . The later class is closed under multiplication, so  $s_2 \in PC_\gamma$ , which is our claim.  $\square$

Recall that  $\sigma_\gamma$  is defined in (2.5) under the condition (2.4).

**Proposition 2.3** *Let  $s \in \mathcal{S}$  and  $\log(1 - |s|^2) \in L^1(\gamma)$ . Then*

$$s \in PC_\gamma \Leftrightarrow \sigma_\gamma \in PC_\gamma.$$

*Proof* As we mentioned earlier in the proof of Theorem 1.2, each entry of the bounded matrix function  $S$ , unitary a.e. on  $\gamma$ , is in the class  $PC_\gamma$ . If  $s \in PC_\gamma$ , the matrix function  $S$  in Theorem 1.2 contains both  $s$  and  $\sigma_\gamma$  as its entries, and we are done.

Conversely, let  $\sigma_\gamma \in PC_\gamma$ . By Theorem 1.2, there is a matrix function  $\Sigma$  with contractive entries, unitary a.e. on  $\gamma$ , and

$$\Sigma(z) = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{11}(z) & \sigma_{12}(z) \\ \sigma_{21}(z) & \sigma_\gamma(z) \end{bmatrix}.$$

In particular,  $|\sigma_{12}|^2 + |\sigma_\gamma|^2 = 1$ , and so  $|\sigma_{12}| = |s|$  a.e. on  $\gamma$ . The function  $\sigma_{12}$ , being the entry of  $\Sigma$ , belongs to the class  $PC_\gamma$ . By Proposition 2.2, so does  $s$ , as claimed.  $\square$

*Remark 2.4* The fact that  $\gamma$  is the arc of the unit circle is obviously immaterial. The argument works for an arbitrary Borel set  $\gamma \subset \mathbb{T}$  of positive Lebesgue measure.

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