ISOLDE Nuclear Reaction and Nuclear Structure Course

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April 25, 2014

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Reactions with exotic nuclei

- The CDCC method
- Resonant breakup
- Coulomb dissociation experiments
- Radiative capture from Coulomb dissociation
- Knock-out reactions
- Transfer with exotic nuclei

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Evidences of the importance of coupling to breakup channels



• ${}^{4}\text{He}+{}^{208}\text{Pb}$ shows typical Fresnel pattern \rightarrow *strong absorption*

- ⁶He+²⁰⁸Pb shows a prominent reduction in the elastic cross section due to the flux going to other channels (mainly break-up)
- ${}^{6}\text{He}+{}^{208}\text{Pb}$ requires a large imaginary diffuseness $\rightarrow long$ -range absorption

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Exotic nuclei, halo nuclei, and Borromean systems



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Light exotic nuclei: halo nuclei and Borromean systems

- Radioactive nuclei: they typically decay by β emission. **E.g.:** ⁶He $\xrightarrow{\beta^{-}}$ ⁶Li ($\tau_{1/2} \simeq 807 \text{ ms}$)
- Weakly bound: typical separation energies are around 1 MeV or less.
- Spatially extended
- Halo structure: one or two weakly bound nucleons (typically neutrons) with a large probability of presence beyond the range of the potential.
- Borromean nuclei: Three-body systems with no bound binary sub-systems.





Challenges found in the study of reactions with exotic beams

Experimentally:

• Exotic nuclei are short-lived and difficult to produce. Beam intensities are typically small.

Theoretically:

- Exotic nuclei are easily broken up in nuclear collisions ⇒ coupling to the unbound states (continuum) plays an important role.
- Effective NN interactions, level schemes, etc are different from stable nuclei.
- Many exotic nuclei exhibit complicated cluster (few-body) structure.

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Inelastic scattering of weakly bound nuclei

- Single-particle (or cluster) excitations become dominant.
- Excitation to continuum states important.



 \ll Halo nuclei are weakly bound \Rightarrow coupling to continuum states becomes an important reaction channel

Image: A marked and A marked

Inclusion of breakup channels: the CDCC method

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DWBA modelspace



The want to include explicitly in the modelspace the breakup channels of the projectile or target, using a cluster model description of the projectile.

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Reminder of the CC method (bound states)

We need to incorporate explicitly in the Hamiltonian the internal structure of the nucleus being excited (eg. target).

$$H = T_R + h(\xi) + V(\mathbf{R}, \xi)$$

- T_R : Kinetic energy for projectile-target relative motion.
- $\{\xi\}$: Internal degrees of freedom of the target (depend on the model).
- $h(\xi)$: Internal Hamiltonian of the target.

$$h(\xi)\phi_n(\xi)=\varepsilon_n\phi_n(\xi)$$

• $V(\mathbf{R}, \xi)$: Projectile-target interaction

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CC model wavefunction

We expand the total wave function in a subset of internal states (the P space):

$$\Psi_{\text{model}}^{(+)}(\mathbf{R},\xi) = \phi_0(\xi)\chi_0(\mathbf{R}) + \sum_{n>0} \phi_n(\xi)\chi_n(\mathbf{R})$$

Boundary conditions for the $\chi_n(\mathbf{R})$ (unknowns):

$$\chi_0^{(+)}(\mathbf{R}) \to e^{i\mathbf{K}_0 \cdot \mathbf{R}} + f_{0,0}(\theta) \frac{e^{iK_0 R}}{R} \quad \text{for n=0 (elastic)}$$
$$\chi_n^{(+)}(\mathbf{R}) \to f_{n,0}(\theta) \frac{e^{iK_n R}}{R} \quad \text{for n>0 (non-elastic)}$$

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Calculation of $\chi_n^{(+)}(\mathbf{R})$: the coupled equations

• The model wavefunction must satisfy the Schrödinger equation:

$$[H - E]\Psi_{\text{model}}^{(+)}(\mathbf{R}, \xi) = 0$$

Projecting onto the internal states one gets a system of coupled-equations for the functions {χ_n(**R**)}:

$$[E - \varepsilon_n - T_R - V_{n,n}(\mathbf{R})]\chi_n(\mathbf{R}) = \sum_{n' \neq n} V_{n,n'}(\mathbf{R})\chi_{n'}(\mathbf{R})$$

• Coupling potentials:

$$V_{n,n'}(\mathbf{R}) = \int d\xi \phi_{n'}(\xi)^* V(\mathbf{R},\xi) \phi_n(\xi)$$

 $\mathfrak{P}(\xi)$ will depend on the structure model (collective, single-particle, etc).

Extension of the CC method to include breakup channels

- Light exotic nuclei usually present a cluster structure (recall talk by B.Jonson in this course)
- To use the CC formalism, one needs to extend the method in order to:
 - Describe the cluster (or single-particle) structure of light exotic nuclei
 - Permit the inclusion of unbound (continuum) states (breakup channels)

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CC method with a cluster model

Microscopic approach



- ⇒ Start from (effective) NN interaction.
- ⇒ Complicated many-body scattering problem

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CC method with a cluster model

Microscopic approach



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Few-body approach



- Inert target approximation
- ⇒ Projectile described with few-body model

Phenomenological NA interactions

Inelastic scattering in a few-body model

- Some nuclei allow a description in terms of two or more clusters: d=p+n, ${}^{6}Li=\alpha+d$, ${}^{7}Li=\alpha+{}^{3}H$.
- Projectile-target interaction:

Example: ⁷Li=
$$\alpha$$
+t
 $\mathbf{r}_{\alpha} = \mathbf{R} - \frac{m_t}{m_{\alpha} + m_t}\mathbf{r}; \quad \mathbf{r}_t = \mathbf{R} + \frac{m_{\alpha}}{m_{\alpha} + m_t}\mathbf{r}$
Internal states:
 $[T_{\mathbf{r}} + V_{\alpha-t}(\mathbf{r}) - \varepsilon_n]\phi_n(\mathbf{r}) = 0$

 $V(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}) = U_1(\mathbf{r}_1) + U_2(\mathbf{r}_2)$

• Transition potentials:

$$V_{n,n'}(\mathbf{R}) = \int d\mathbf{r} \phi_n^*(\mathbf{r}) \left[U_1(\mathbf{r}_1) + U_2(\mathbf{r}_2) \right] \phi_{n'}(\mathbf{r})$$

$$(\Box \triangleright \langle \Box \rangle \land \langle \Box \rangle \land \langle \Box \rangle \rangle \land \langle \Box \rangle \land \langle \Box \rangle \land \langle \Box \rangle \rangle$$
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Inelastic scattering: cluster model

Example: ⁷Li(α +t) +²⁰⁸Pb at 68 MeV (Phys. Lett. 139B (1984) 150): \Rightarrow CC calculation with 2 channels (3/2⁻, 1/2⁻)



Application of the CC method to weakly-bound systems

Example: Three-body calculation $(p+n+{}^{58}Ni)$ with Watanabe potential:

$$V_{dt}(\mathbf{R}) = \int d\mathbf{r} \phi_{gs}(\mathbf{r}) \left\{ V_{pt}(\mathbf{r}_{pt}) + V_{nt}(\mathbf{r}_{nt}) \right\} \phi_{gs}(\mathbf{r})$$



Three-body calculations omitting breakup channels fail to describe the experimental data.

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Bound versus scattering states



Continuum wavefunctions:

$$\varphi_{k,\ell jm}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{u_{k,\ell j}(r)}{r} [Y_{\ell}(\hat{r}) \otimes \chi_s]_{jm}$$
$$\varepsilon = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2\mu}$$

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Bound versus scattering states



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$$\varepsilon = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2\mu}$$

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Unbound states are not suitable for CC calculations:

- They have a continuous (infinite) distribution in energy.
- Non-normalizable: $\langle u_{k,\ell sj}(r)|u_{k',\ell sj}(r)\rangle \propto \delta(k-k')$

SOLUTION \Rightarrow continuum discretization

The role of the continuum in the scattering of weakly bound nuclei

• Continuum discretization method proposed by G.H. Rawitscher [PRC9, 2210 (1974)] and Farrell, Vincent and Austern [Ann.Phys.(New York) 96, 333 (1976)].

PHYSICAL REVIEW C

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JUNE 1974

Effect of deuteron breakup on elastic deuteron-nucleus scattering

George H. Rawitscher*

Center for Theoretical Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139[†] and Department of Physics, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, England (Received 1 October 1973; revised manuscript received 4 March 1974)

The properties of the transition matrix elements $V_{4,0}(R)$ of the breakup potential V_N taken between states $\phi_a(\hat{r})$ and $\phi_b(r)$ are examined. Here $\phi_a(\hat{r})$ are eigenstates of the neutron-proton relative-motion Hamiltonian, and the eigenvalues of the energy ϵ_a are positive (continuum states) or negative (bound deuteron); $V_N(\hat{r}, \hat{R})$ is the sum of the phenomenological proton mucleus $V_{b-A}(|\hat{R} - \frac{1}{2}\hat{r}|)$ and neutron nucleus $V_{m-A}(|\hat{R} + \frac{1}{2}\hat{r}|)$ optical potentials evaluated for mucleon energies equal to half the incident deuteron energy. The bound-to-continuum transi-

• Full numerical implementation by Kyushu group (Sakuragi, Yahiro, Kamimura, and co.): Prog. Theor. Phys.(Kyoto) 68, 322 (1982)

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Continuum discretization for deuteron scattering



- ⇒ Select a number of partial waves ($\ell = 0, ..., \ell_{max}$).
- \Rightarrow For each ℓ , set a maximum excitation energy ε_{\max} .
- \Rightarrow Divide the interval $\varepsilon = 0 \varepsilon_{\text{max}}$ in a set of sub-intervals (*bins*).
- ⇒ For each bin, calculate a representative wavefunction.

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CDCC formalism: construction of the bin wavefunctions

Bin wavefunction:

$$\varphi_{\ell j m}^{[k_1, k_2]}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{u_{\ell j}^{[k_1, k_2]}(r)}{r} [Y_{\ell}(\hat{r}) \otimes \chi_s]_{j m} \qquad [k_1, k_2] = \text{bin interval}$$

$$u_{\ell sjm}^{[k_1,k_2]}(r) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi N}} \int_{k_1}^{k_2} w(k) u_{k,\ell sj}(r) dk$$

- *k*: linear momentum
- $u_{k,\ell sj}(r)$: scattering states (radial part)
- w(k): weight function



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CDCC formalism for deuteron scattering

- Hamiltonian: $H = T_{\mathbf{R}} + h_r(\mathbf{r}) + V_{pt}(\mathbf{r}_{pt}) + V_{nt}(\mathbf{r}_{nt})$
- Model wavefunction:

$$\Psi^{(+)}(\mathbf{R},\mathbf{r}) = \phi_{gs}(\mathbf{r})\chi_0(\mathbf{R}) + \sum_{n>0}^N \phi_n(\mathbf{r})\chi_n(\mathbf{R})$$



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$$[E - \varepsilon_n - T_R - V_{n,n}(\mathbf{R})]\chi_n(\mathbf{R}) = \sum_{n' \neq n} V_{n,n'}(\mathbf{R})\chi_{n'}(\mathbf{R})$$

• Transition potentials:

$$V_{n;n'}(\mathbf{R}) = \int d\mathbf{r} \phi_n(\mathbf{r})^* \left[V_{pt}(\mathbf{R} + \frac{\mathbf{r}}{2}) + V_{nt}(\mathbf{R} - \frac{\mathbf{r}}{2}) \right] \phi_{n'}(\mathbf{r})$$

Application of the CDCC formalism: d+ ⁵⁸Ni



Coupling to breakup channels has a important effect on the reaction dynamics, =, =

Application of the CDCC method: 6Li and 6He scattering

- The CDCC has been also applied to nuclei with a cluster structure:
 - ${}^{6}\text{Li}=\alpha + d$
 - ${}^{11}\text{Be} = {}^{10}\text{Be} + n$



Extension to 3-body projectiles

Eg: ${}^{6}\text{He}=\alpha + n + n$



M.Rodríguez-Gallardo et al, PRC 77, 064609 (2008)

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Exploring structures in the continuum

The continuum spectrum is not "homogeneus"; it contains in general energy regions with special structures:

- Resonances
- Virtual states



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Exploring structures in the continuum

The continuum spectrum is not "homogeneus"; it contains in general energy regions with special structures:

- Resonances
- Virtual states



These structures may (or may not!) show up in reaction observables

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What is a resonance?

- It is a structure on the continuum which may, or may not, produce a maximum in the cross section, depending on the reaction mechanism and the phase space available.
- The resonance occurs in the range of energies for which the phase shift is close to $\pi/2$.
- In this range of energies, the continuum wavefunctions have a large probability of being in the radial range of the potential.
- The continuum wavefunctions are not square normalizable. However, a normalized "bin" of wavefunctions can be constructed to represent the resonance.

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Distinctive features of a resonance

In the energy range of the resonance, the continuum wavefunctions have a large probability of being within the range of the potential.



(Courtesy of C. Dasso)



Distinctive features of a resonance

The decay of the resonance is also behind the α decay phenomenon:



Resonances and phase-shifts



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Resonances and phase-shifts



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Populating resonances by "inelastic scattering": ¹¹Be+¹²C

 ${}^{11}\text{Be} + {}^{12}\text{C} \rightarrow ({}^{10}\text{Be} + n) + {}^{12}\text{C}$ Fukuda et al, Phys. Rev. C70 (2004) 054606)



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Populating resonances via transfer reactions ⁹Li(d,p)¹⁰Li*



HP.Jeppesen et al, PLB642 (2006) 449



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Shell evolution with neutron/proton asymmetry







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Appearance of a virtual state in ${}^{10}Li={}^{9}Li+n$:



Virtual state in ¹⁰Li





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Coulomb dissociation

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Strong response to electric fields



Application to Coulomb dissociation of halo nuclei

• First-order semiclassical cross section for a $0 \rightarrow n$ excitation:

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{0\to n} = \left(\frac{Z_t e^2}{\hbar v}\right)^2 \frac{B(E\lambda, 0 \to n)}{e^2 a_0^{2\lambda-2}} f_{\lambda}(\theta, \xi)$$

Halo nuclei are weakly bound ⇒ excitation occurs to unbound (continuum) states

$$\frac{d\sigma(E\lambda)}{d\Omega dE} = \left(\frac{Z_t e^2}{\hbar v}\right)^2 \frac{1}{e^2 a_0^{2\lambda-2}} \frac{dB(E\lambda)}{dE} \frac{df_\lambda(\theta,\xi)}{d\Omega}$$

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Application a CD of 1n-halo nuclei

- Halo nuclei are weakly bound ⇒ the systems are easily polarized in strong electric field (large E1 response)
- Large Coulomb dissociation probability with heavy targets
- At small-angles (large impact parameters) the dissociation is Coulomb dominated and hence can be used to extract the *E*1 transition probability using:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dE_x}(\theta \ll) \propto \frac{dB(E1)}{dE_x}$$

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Example: ¹¹Be dissociation





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Core excitation in Coulomb breakup: B(E1) response of ¹¹Be

B(E1) extracted in a model-dependent way \Rightarrow compare directly cross sections

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{0\to n} = \left(\frac{Z_t e^2}{\hbar v}\right)^2 \frac{B(E\lambda, 0 \to n)}{e^2 a_0^{2\lambda - 2}} f_{\lambda}(\theta, \xi)$$

(Semiclassical 1st order)

Eg: ¹¹Be+²⁰⁸Pb at RIKEN Fukuda et al, PRC70, 054606 (2004))



¹¹Be+²⁰⁸Pb at RIKEN



Nakamura et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. 83 1112 (1999)

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Comparison of 1st order with full quantum-mechanical calculation

Eg: ¹¹Li+²⁰⁸Pb at Coulomb barrier energies



- $\Rightarrow E_{lab} \sim V_b \Rightarrow \text{Coulomb important}$
- At small angles, breakup dominated by E1 Coulomb

J.P. Fernandez-Garcia et al, PRL110, 142701(2013)

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Radiative capture

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Relation to radiative capture

Radiative capture: $b + c \rightarrow a + \gamma$



Photo-absorption: $a + \gamma \rightarrow b + c$



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Related by detailed balance:

$$\sigma_{E\lambda}^{(rc)} = \frac{2(2J_a + 1)}{(2J_b + 1)(2J_c + 1)} \frac{k_{\gamma}^2}{k^2} \sigma_{E\lambda}^{(phot)} \qquad (\hbar k_{\gamma} = E_{\gamma}/c)$$

⇒ Astrophysical S-factor:

$$S(E_{\rm c.m.}) = E_{\rm c.m.}\sigma_{E\lambda}^{(rc)} \exp[2\pi\eta(E_{\rm c.m.})]$$

Photo-absorption cross section: virtual photon description

 \Rightarrow Photo-absorption (not proven here): $\gamma + a \rightarrow b + c$

$$\sigma_{E\lambda}^{\text{photo}} = \frac{(2\pi)^3 (\lambda+1)}{\lambda [(2\lambda+1)!!]^2} \left(\frac{E_{\gamma}}{\hbar c}\right)^{2\lambda-1} \frac{dB(E\lambda)}{dE}$$

 \Rightarrow 1st order Coulomb breakup cross section in terms of photo-absorption:

$$\frac{d\sigma(E\lambda)}{d\Omega dE_{\gamma}} = \frac{1}{E_{\gamma}} \frac{dn_{E\lambda}}{d\Omega} \sigma_{E\lambda}^{\text{photo}}$$

(Equivalent Photon Method)

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with the virtual photon number

$$\frac{dn_{E\lambda}}{d\Omega} = Z_t^2 \alpha \frac{\lambda [(2\lambda+1)!!]^2}{(2\pi)^3 (\lambda+1)} \xi^{2(1-\lambda)} \left(\frac{c}{\nu}\right)^{2\lambda} \frac{df_{E\lambda}}{d\Omega}$$

Radiative capture from Coulomb dissociation experiments

- Capture reactions have typically small cross sections
- Use breakup (Coulomb dissociation) reactions:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega dE_{c.m.}} \to \sigma_{E\lambda}^{(\text{phot})} \to \sigma_{E\lambda}^{(rc)} \to S(E_{c.m.})$$

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Example: $p + {}^{16}O \rightarrow {}^{17}F + \gamma$

Morlock, PRL79, 3837 (1997)







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Knock-out reactions

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Spectroscopic from momentum distributions

- Fast-moving projectile on a (typically) light target.
- One nucleon suddently removed (absorbed) due to its interaction with the target.
- The remaining nucleons remain unchanged and is detected.
- The momentum of the core is traced back to that of the removed nucleon because in the rest frame of the projectile $\vec{P} = 0$



$$\vec{P} = \vec{p}_c + \vec{p}_1 = 0$$

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Angular momentum sensitivity of momentum distributions

- The shape is determined by the orbital angular momentum ℓ .
- The magnitude is determined by the amount of $s_{1/2}$ (spectroscopic factor)



Stripping cross section within a semiclassical (eikonal) theory



- $|S_c(b_c)|^2$ =probability of survival of the core.
- $1 |S_1(b_1)|^2$ =probability of absorption of the neutron.

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Transfer reactions with exotic nuclei

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¹H(¹¹Be,¹⁰Be)²H example

$$|^{11}\text{Be}\rangle = a |^{10} \text{Be}(0^+) \otimes v2s_{1/2}\rangle + b |^{10} \text{Be}(2^+) \otimes v1d_{5/2}\rangle + \dots$$

⊐ In DWBA:

 $\sigma(0^+) \propto |\boldsymbol{a}|^2; \quad \sigma(2^+) \propto |\boldsymbol{b}|^2$

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Fortier et al, PLB461, 22 (1999)



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