

YANG-MILLS HOMOGENEOUS CONNECTIONS ON COMPACT SIMPLE LIE GROUPS

Dedicated to Tsunero Takahashi on his 60's birthday

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1. Introduction

Let M be a compact Riemannian manifold and P a principal G -bundle, where G is a compact Lie group. Fix a bi-invariant Riemannian metric on G . Let Ω_A denote the curvature form of a connection A on P . A critical point of the Yang-Mills functional

$$A \mapsto \frac{1}{2} \int_M \|\Omega_A\|^2$$

is called a Yang-Mills connection. A Yang-Mills connection A is said to be stable if the second variation of the Yang-Mills functional is non-negative. A flat connection is a stable Yang-Mills connection. H. T. Laquer [4] proved that (0)-connection on a compact Lie group is an unstable Yang-Mills connection. A compact Riemannian manifold M is called Yang-Mills unstable if, for every choice of G and every principal G -bundle P over M , stable Yang-Mills connection is always flat. S. Kobayashi, Y. Ohnita and M. Takeuchi [3] classified the compact simply connected irreducible symmetric spaces of type I which are Yang-Mills unstable. In their paper, they gave a following question:

Is every simply connected compact simple Lie group Yang-Mills unstable? In this paper, we consider an equivariant G -bundle P over a compact connected simple Lie group L . It is obtained by a Lie homomorphism $\rho: L \rightarrow G$. With respect to homogeneous connections on P , we get the following:

THEOREM 1. *Consider the following three conditions (1), (2), and (3):*

- (1) ρ is indecomposable (see §2 for definition),
- (2) Flat homogeneous connections are only (\pm) -connections,
- (3) (0)-connection is a unique non-flat Yang-Mills homogeneous connection.

Then (1) and (2) are equivalent. (3) implies (1).

Moreover if $\rho(\mathfrak{l})$ contains a regular element of \mathfrak{g} , then (1) implies (3). In general, (1) does not imply (3) (see §3).

THEOREM 2. *Assume $\rho(\mathfrak{l})$ contains a regular element of \mathfrak{g} . Then any non-flat Yang-Mills homogeneous connection is unstable.*

2. Proof of theorems

Let L be a compact connected simple Lie group with Lie algebra \mathfrak{l} . Take an $\text{Ad}(L)$ -invariant inner product \langle, \rangle on \mathfrak{l} . Let G be another compact connected Lie group with Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} . Take an $\text{Ad}(G)$ -invariant inner product \langle, \rangle on \mathfrak{g} . Let $\rho: L \rightarrow G$ be a Lie homomorphism. We denote the differential Lie homomorphism of ρ by the same symbol ρ . Put

$$K=L \times L \supset H = \{(l, l); l \in L\} \cong L \quad ((l, l) \leftrightarrow l) \text{ and } M=K/H.$$

We define an inner product \langle, \rangle on \mathfrak{k} by

$$\langle (X, Y), (Z, W) \rangle = 2(\langle X, Z \rangle + \langle Y, W \rangle) \quad \text{for } X, Y, Z, W \in \mathfrak{l}.$$

We define an $\text{Ad}(H)$ -invariant subspace \mathfrak{m} of \mathfrak{k} by

$$\mathfrak{m} = \{(X, -X); X \in \mathfrak{l}\}.$$

Then we have:

$$\mathfrak{k} = \mathfrak{h} + \mathfrak{m} \quad (\text{direct sum}).$$

The induced $\text{Ad}(H)$ -invariant inner product on \mathfrak{m} naturally induces a K -invariant Riemannian metric on M . The mapping

$$(a, b)H \mapsto ab^{-1}$$

is an isometry from M onto L . The mapping

$$\mathfrak{m} \rightarrow \mathfrak{l}; \quad \left(\frac{1}{2}X, -\frac{1}{2}X\right) \mapsto X$$

is a linear isometry from \mathfrak{m} onto \mathfrak{l} . In this correspondence, we have

$$(\text{Ad}(H), \mathfrak{m}) \cong (\text{Ad}(L), \mathfrak{l}).$$

We define a Lie homomorphism $\bar{\rho}$ from H into G by

$$\bar{\rho}: H \rightarrow G; \quad (l, l) \mapsto \rho(l).$$

Every Lie homomorphism from H into G is obtained in this way. The space of homogeneous connections on the principal G -bundle $P=K \times_{\bar{\rho}} G$ over M is identified with

$$\text{Hom}_L(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{g}) = \{A \in \text{Hom}(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{g}); [\rho(X), A(Y)] = A([X, Y]) \text{ for } X, Y \in \mathfrak{l}\}.$$

by Wang's theorem ([2, pp.106-107, Theorem 11.5]), where $\text{Hom}(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{g})$ is the space of linear mappings from the vector space \mathfrak{l} to the vector space \mathfrak{g} . Remark that $\mathbf{R}\rho$ is contained in $\text{Hom}_L(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{g})$. The curvature from Ω of a homogeneous connection $A \in \text{Hom}_L(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{g})$ is an alternative linear mapping from $\mathfrak{l} \times \mathfrak{l}$ to \mathfrak{g} which is given by

$$2\Omega(X, Y) = -\frac{1}{4}\rho([X, Y]) + [A(X), A(Y)].$$

In particular, the curvature form Ω_t of $t\rho \in \mathbf{R}\rho$ is

$$2\Omega_t(X, Y) = \left(t^2 - \frac{1}{4}\right)\rho([X, Y]).$$

Hence $A = (\pm 1/2)\rho$ are flat connections, which are called (\pm) -connection, respectively. A critical point of the Yang-Mills functional $A \mapsto \|\Omega\|^2$ is called a Yang-Mills connection. A homogeneous connection $A \in \text{Hom}_L(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{g})$ is Yang-Mills if and only if for each $X \in \mathfrak{l}$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n [A(E_i), \Omega(E_i, X)] = 0,$$

where $\{E_1, \dots, E_n\}$ is an orthonormal basis of \mathfrak{l} . In particular, $A=0$ is a Yang-Mills connection, which is called the (0)-connection.

DEFINITION 1. We say that ρ is indecomposable, if

$$\begin{aligned} \rho &= \rho_1 + \rho_2, \quad \rho_i : \mathfrak{l} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g} : \text{Lie homomorphism s. t. } [\text{Im } \rho_1, \text{Im } \rho_2] = 0 \quad (*) \\ &\Rightarrow \rho_1 = 0, \quad \rho_2 = \rho \quad \text{or} \quad \rho_2 = 0, \quad \rho_1 = \rho. \end{aligned}$$

We say that $(*)$ is a decomposition of ρ .

Since the kernel of ρ is an ideal of \mathfrak{l} , ρ is injective or $\rho=0$. If $\rho=0$, then $\text{Hom}_L(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{g}) = \{0\}$ and (0)-connection is flat. Therefore we may assume that ρ is injective.

THEOREM 1. Consider the following three conditions (1), (2), and (3):

- (1) ρ is indecomposable,
- (2) Flat homogeneous connections are only the (\pm) -connections,
- (3) The (0)-connection is a unique non-flat Yang-Mills homogeneous connection.

Then (1) and (2) are equivalent. The condition (3) implies (1). Moreover if $\rho(\mathfrak{l})$ contains a regular element of \mathfrak{g} , then (1) implies (3).

Remark 1. In general, (1) does not imply (3) (see § 3). ■

Proof of the first half of Theorem 1. If $\rho = \rho_1 + \rho_2$ is a non-trivial decomposition of ρ , then $1/2(\rho_1 - \rho_2)$ is a flat homogeneous connection except the (\pm) -connection and $(1/2)\rho_1$ is a non-flat Yang-Mills connection except the

(0)-connection. Hence (2) implies (1), and (3) implies (1). We show (1) implies (2). Let A be any flat homogeneous connection. Put

$$\rho_1 = \frac{1}{2}\rho + A, \quad \rho_2 = \frac{1}{2}\rho - A.$$

Then $\rho = \rho_1 + \rho_2$ is a decomposition of ρ . Since ρ is indecomposable, $\rho_1 = 0$ or $\rho_1 = \rho$. Hence $A = (\pm 1/2)\rho$. ■

THEOREM 2. *Assume $\rho(\mathfrak{l})$ contains a regular element of \mathfrak{g} . Then any non-flat Yang-Mills homogeneous connection is unstable.*

Proof of the second half of Theorem 1 and Theorem 2. It is sufficient to prove that for each non-flat Yang-Mills connection $A \in \text{Hom}_L(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{g})$, there exists $\alpha (= \alpha_A) \in \text{Hom}_L(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{g})$ such that

- (A1) $\alpha = 0$ implies $A = 0$,
- (A2) $\rho = \alpha + (\rho - \alpha)$ is a decomposition of ρ , and $\rho - \alpha \neq 0$,
- (A3) $d^2/dt^2 \|\mathcal{Q}_t\|_{t=0} < 0$, where \mathcal{Q}_t is the curvature form of $A + t(\rho - \alpha)$.

Applying Whitehead's vanishing theorem of cohomology group ([6, p. 95, Theorem 13]) for the representation $(\text{ad} \circ \rho, \mathfrak{g})$ of \mathfrak{l} , we have following:

If $A_1, A_2 \in \text{Hom}_L(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{g})$ satisfy

- (B1) $[A_1(X), A_2(Y)] = -[A_1(Y), A_2(X)]$,
- (B2) $\mathfrak{S}_{X,Y,Z}[A_1(X), [A_1(Y), A_2(Z)]] = 0$, where $\mathfrak{S}_{X,Y,Z}$ is the sum over the cyclic permutations of X, Y, Z ,

then there exists $A_3 \in \text{Hom}_L(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{g})$ such that

$$[A_1(X), A_2(Y)] = A_3([X, Y]).$$

Remark that under the condition (B1), the condition (B2) is equivalent to $\mathfrak{S}_{X,Y,Z}[A_1([X, Y]), A_2(Z)] = 0$. Since $\rho(\mathfrak{l})$ contains a regular element of \mathfrak{g} , $[A_1, A_2]$ is skew-symmetric automatically. In fact, take Cartan subalgebras \mathfrak{t} and \mathfrak{h} of \mathfrak{l} and \mathfrak{g} respectively such that $\rho(\mathfrak{t}) \subset \mathfrak{h}$. Then

$$[\rho(\mathfrak{t}), A_i(\mathfrak{t})] = A_i([\mathfrak{t}, \mathfrak{t}]) = 0.$$

This implies $A_i(\mathfrak{t}) \subset \mathfrak{h}$ by assumption. In particular, $[A_1(\mathfrak{t}), A_2(\mathfrak{t})] = 0$ and $[A_1(H), A_2(H)] = 0$ for $H \in \mathfrak{t}$. Since $\mathfrak{l} = \text{Ad}(L)\mathfrak{t}$ ([1, p. 248, Theorem 6.4]), we get $[A_1(X), A_2(X)] = 0$.

Let $A \in \text{Hom}_L(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{g})$ be any non-flat Yang-Mills homogeneous connection. First we prove $\mathfrak{S}_{X,Y,Z}[A(X), [A(Y), A(Z)]] = 0$ using the classification of compact simple Lie algebras. The vector space

$$V = \mathfrak{l} \wedge \mathfrak{l} = \text{span}\{X \wedge Y; X, Y \in \mathfrak{l}\}$$

is an \mathfrak{l} -module by the \mathfrak{l} -action:

$$(\text{ad } Z)(X \wedge Y) = [Z, X] \wedge Y + X \wedge [Z, Y].$$

The space

$$W = \text{span} \{ [A(X), A(Y)]; X, Y \in \mathfrak{l} \}$$

is an $\text{ad}(\rho(\mathfrak{l}))$ -invariant subspace of \mathfrak{g} . We consider the \mathfrak{l} -homomorphism Φ from V onto W which is defined by

$$\Phi : V = \mathfrak{l} \wedge \mathfrak{l} \rightarrow W; X \wedge Y \mapsto [A(X), A(Y)].$$

Since Φ is surjective, $V/V_0 \cong W$ as \mathfrak{l} -modules, where $V_0 = \text{Ker } \Phi$. On the other hand, we consider the \mathfrak{l} -homomorphism Ψ from V into \mathfrak{l} which is defined by

$$\Psi : V = \mathfrak{l} \wedge \mathfrak{l} \rightarrow \mathfrak{l}; X \wedge Y \mapsto [X, Y].$$

Since $[\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l}] = \mathfrak{l}$, Ψ is surjective. We show that the irreducibility of $V_1 = \text{Ker } \Psi$. We denote by \mathfrak{l}^c , \mathfrak{t}^c and ρ^c the complexifications of \mathfrak{l} , \mathfrak{t} and ρ respectively. The complex Lie algebra \mathfrak{l}^c is simple. We denote by Δ the set of nonzero roots of \mathfrak{l}^c with respect to \mathfrak{t}^c . For $\alpha \in \Delta$, there exists a non-zero vector $E_\alpha \in \mathfrak{l}^c$ such that

$$[H, E_\alpha] = \alpha(H)E_\alpha \quad \text{for all } H \in \mathfrak{t}^c.$$

We have a direct-sum decomposition :

$$\mathfrak{l}^c = \mathfrak{t}^c + \sum_{\alpha \in \Delta} \mathbb{C} E_\alpha.$$

Fix a lexicographic ordering on \mathfrak{l}^c . We denote by δ_0 the highest root of Δ and by $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r\}$ the set of simple roots of Δ . The set

$$\{\delta_0 - \alpha_i \in \Delta\} \neq \emptyset$$

is a single point set $\{\delta_1\}$ or two points set $\{\delta_1, \delta_2\}$, and the set consists two points if and only if $\mathfrak{l} = \mathfrak{su}(m)$.

In the case where $\{\delta_0 - \alpha_i \in \Delta\} = \{\delta_1\}$, we define an \mathfrak{l} -invariant subspace $V_1(\delta_0 + \delta_1)$ of V_1^c by

$$V_1(\delta_0 + \delta_1) = \text{ad}(U(\mathfrak{l}^c))(E_{\delta_0} \wedge E_{\delta_1}),$$

where $U(\mathfrak{l}^c)$ is the universal enveloping algebra of \mathfrak{l}^c . The highest weight of $V_1(\delta_0 + \delta_1)$ is $\delta_0 + \delta_1$ and the multiplicity of $\delta_0 + \delta_1$ is equal to 1. Hence $V_1(\delta_0 + \delta_1)$ is irreducible. By virtue of Weyl's dimensionality formula ([6, p. 257]), we get

$$\dim V_1(\delta_0 + \delta_1) = \frac{\dim \mathfrak{l}(\dim \mathfrak{l} - 3)}{2} = \dim V_1.$$

Hence $V_1^c = V_1(\delta_0 + \delta_1)$. In particular, V_1^c is irreducible so V_1 is.

In the case where $\{\delta_0 - \alpha_i \in \Delta\} = \{\delta_1, \delta_2\}$, we define \mathfrak{l} -invariant subspaces $V_1(\delta_0 + \delta_1)$ and $V_1(\delta_0 + \delta_2)$ of V_1^c by

$$V_1(\delta_0 + \delta_1) = \text{ad}(U(\mathfrak{l}^c))(E_{\delta_0} \wedge E_{\delta_1}),$$

$$V_1(\delta_0 + \delta_2) = \text{ad}(U(\mathfrak{l}^c))(E_{\delta_0} \wedge E_{\delta_2}).$$

For $i=1, 2$, the highest weight of $V_1(\delta_0 + \delta_i)$ is $\delta_0 + \delta_i$ and the multiplicity of $\delta_0 + \delta_i$ is equal to 1. Hence $V_1(\delta_0 + \delta_i)$ ($i=1, 2$) is irreducible. By virtue of Weyl's dimensionality formula, we get

$$\dim V_1(\delta_0 + \delta_1) = \dim V_1(\delta_0 + \delta_2) = \frac{1}{2} \dim V_1.$$

Hence we have

$$V_1^c = V_1(\delta_0 + \delta_1) + V_1(\delta_0 + \delta_2) \quad (\text{direct sum}).$$

We denote by $W(L)$ the Weyl group of L . Clearly, there exist $\sigma_1, \sigma_2 \in W(L)$ such that

$$\sigma_1(\delta_0 + \delta_1) = -(\delta_0 + \delta_2), \quad \sigma_2(\delta_0 + \delta_2) = -(\delta_0 + \delta_1).$$

Hence V_1 is real irreducible, whether $\{\delta_0 - \alpha_i \in \Delta\}$ is a single point set or two points set. So we get

$$V_1 = \text{ad}(U(\mathfrak{l}))(t \wedge t) \subset V_0.$$

Hence Φ naturally induces \mathfrak{l} -homomorphism φ from V/V_1 onto W defined by

$$\varphi : V/V_1 \rightarrow W; \quad \overline{X \wedge Y} \mapsto [A(X), A(Y)],$$

where $\overline{X \wedge Y}$ is the equivalence class of $X \wedge Y$. From Jacobi's identity, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{S}_{X,Y,Z} \text{ad}(Z) \overline{X \wedge Y} &= \mathfrak{S}_{X,Y,Z} \overline{[Z, X] \wedge Y + X \wedge [Z, Y]} \\ &= 2 \mathfrak{S}_{X,Y,Z} \overline{[Z, X] \wedge Y} \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence we have

$$0 = \varphi(\mathfrak{S}_{X,Y,Z} \text{ad}(Z) \overline{X \wedge Y}) = \mathfrak{S}_{X,Y,Z} [\rho(Z), [A(X), A(Y)]] .$$

By Whitehead's vanishing theorem of cohomology group, there exists $\alpha \in \text{Hom}_L(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{g})$ such that

$$\alpha([X, Y]) = 4[A(X), A(Y)].$$

By Jacobi's identity, we have

$$\mathfrak{S}_{X,Y,Z} [\alpha([X, Y]), A(Z)] = \frac{1}{4} \mathfrak{S}_{X,Y,Z} [[A(X), A(Y)], A(Z)] = 0.$$

By Whitehead's vanishing theorem of cohomology group, there exists $\Gamma \in \text{Hom}_L(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{g})$ such that

$$[A(X), A(Y)] = \Gamma([X, Y]).$$

Since A is Yang-Mills, we have

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{c}{4}\Gamma(X) &= \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=1}^n [A(E_i), \alpha([E_i, X])] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n [A(E_i), [A(E_i), A(X)]] \\ &= -\frac{c}{4}A(X), \end{aligned}$$

where c is the eigenvalue of the negative of the Casimir operator of $(\mathfrak{ad}, \mathfrak{l})$. Hence $\Gamma=A$, that is,

$$[\alpha(X), A(Y)] = A([X, Y]).$$

Hence we get (A1). We show α is a Lie homomorphism. From Jacobi's identity, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{4}[\alpha(X), \alpha([Z, W])] &= [\alpha(X), [A(Z), A(W)]] \\ &= [[\alpha(X), A(Z)], A(W)] + [A(Z), [\alpha(X), A(W)]] \\ &= [A([X, Z]), A(W)] + [A(Z), [A([X, W])]] \\ &= \frac{1}{4}\alpha([[X, Z], W] + [Z, [X, W]]) \\ &= \frac{1}{4}\alpha([X, [Z, W]]). \end{aligned}$$

Hence $\alpha \in \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{L}}(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{g})$ is a Lie homomorphism. So, if we put $\delta = \rho - \alpha$, then $\rho = \alpha + \delta$ is a decomposition of ρ . The curvature form Ω of A is given by $\Omega(X, Y) = (-1/4)\delta([X, Y])$. Since A is not flat, we have $\delta \neq 0$. Hence we have (A2). Since $[\delta(X), A(Y)] = 0$, the curvature form Ω_t of $A+t\delta$ is given by

$$\Omega_t(X, Y) = \frac{4t^2 - 1}{4}\delta([X, Y]).$$

Hence we have (A3).

3. An example

When $\rho(\mathfrak{l})$ does not contain any regular element of \mathfrak{g} , the (0)-connection is not necessarily a unique non-flat Yang-Mills homogeneous connection, even if ρ is indecomposable. We show such an example. Put $L = SU(m)$ for $m \geq 3$. We define an $\text{Ad}(L)$ -invariant inner product \langle, \rangle on \mathfrak{l} by

$$\langle X, Y \rangle = -\text{tr}(XY) \quad \text{for } X, Y \in \mathfrak{l}.$$

The inner product \langle, \rangle naturally induces a Hermitian inner product \langle, \rangle on $\mathfrak{l}^{\mathbb{C}}$. Put $G = SU(\mathfrak{l}^{\mathbb{C}})$ and $\rho = \text{Ad}: L \rightarrow G$. In this case, $\rho(\mathfrak{l})$ does not contain any

regular element of \mathfrak{g} . We define an $\text{Ad}(G)$ -invariant inner product \langle, \rangle on \mathfrak{g} by

$$\langle A, B \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^{m^2-1} \langle AE_i, BE_i \rangle \quad \text{for } A, B \in \mathfrak{g},$$

where $\{E_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq m^2-1}$ is an orthonormal basis of \mathfrak{l} . We define a homogeneous connection $A \in \text{Hom}_L(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{g})$ by

$$(A(X))(Y) = \frac{-m}{2\sqrt{m^2+4}} \left\{ (XY + YX) - \frac{2}{m} \text{tr}(XY) 1_m \right\},$$

where 1_m is the identity matrix (cf. [5]).

Remark 2. If $m=2$, then $A=0$. ■

- PROPOSITION 1.** (1) $\text{Hom}_L(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{g}) = \mathbf{R}\rho + \mathbf{R}A$ (orthogonal direct sum),
 (2) ρ is indecomposable,
 (3) $A (\neq 0)$ is a non-flat Yang-Mills homogeneous connection, which is a local minimum on the space of homogeneous connections $\text{Hom}_L(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{g})$.

Proof. (1) is obtained by simple calculation. (2) is obtained by (1) and Theorem 1.

(3) The equations

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m^2-1} [E_i, [E_i, X]] = -2mX, \quad \sum_{i=1}^{m^2-1} E_i^2 = -\frac{m^2-1}{m} 1_m$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & [A(X), [A(Y), A(Z)]](W) \\ &= \frac{m^2}{4(m^2+4)} A([X, [Y, Z]])(W) \\ &+ \frac{m}{m^2+4} \{ \text{tr}(YW)A(X)Z - \text{tr}(ZW)A(X)Y \\ &\quad - \text{tr}(YA(X)W)Z + \text{tr}(ZA(X)W)Y \} \end{aligned}$$

imply that A is a non-flat Yang-Mills homogeneous connection.

Put $A(x, y) = (x/2)\rho + yA$ and $f(x, y) = 4\|\Omega(x, y)\|^2$, where $\Omega(x, y)$ is the curvature form of $A(x, y)$. The equations

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i,j} \|\rho([E_i, E_j])\|^2 &= 4m^2(m^2-1), \\ \sum_{i,j} \|A([E_i, E_j])\|^2 &= \frac{m^2(m^2-1)(m^2-4)}{m^2+4}, \\ \sum_{i,j} \|A(E_i), A(E_j)\|^2 &= \frac{m^2(m^2-1)(m^2-4)}{4(m^2+4)} \end{aligned}$$

imply that

$$f(x, y) = m^2(m^2 - 1) \left\{ \frac{1}{4}(x^2 - 1)^2 + \frac{m^2 - 4}{4(m^2 + 4)} y^4 \right. \\ \left. + \frac{m^2 - 4}{m^2 + 4} x^2 y^2 + \frac{m^2 - 4}{2(m^2 + 4)} (x^2 - 1) y^2 \right\}.$$

Hence f is a local minimum at $(0, 1)$. ■

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