

# Flexion update 1.

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This first *Flexion Update* and those soon to follow are meant to flesh out, justify, expand or complement various items in the general Survey titled

*The Flexion Structure and Dimorphy: Flexion Units, Singulators, Generators, and the Enumeration of Multizeta Irreducibles.*

The Survey<sup>1</sup> in question is systematically referred to as [FLEX].

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<sup>1</sup>In Ann. Scuola Norm. Sup Pisa, 2011, pp 27-211.

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## 1 Essential parity of bialternals.

This section is devoted to establishing the decomposition<sup>2</sup>

$$ARI^{al/al} = ARI^{\acute{a}l/\acute{a}l} \oplus ARI^{al/al} \tag{1.1}$$

of the space  $ARI^{al/al}$  of all bialternals into:

- (i) a large, regular part  $ARI^{al/al}$ , consisting of *even* bimoulds and stable under the *ari*-bracket.
- (ii) a small, exceptional part  $ARI^{\acute{a}l/\acute{a}l} := BIMU_{1,odd}$ , consisting of *odd* bimoulds of length one and endowed with a bilinear mapping *oddari* into  $ARI^{al/al}$ .

Everything rests on the following statement.

**Proposition 1.1 (Parity of bialternals).**

*Any bialternal bimould  $A^\bullet$  purely of length  $r > 1$  is an even function of its double index sequence, i.e.  $A^w \equiv A^{-w}$ .*

**Proof:** Alternality implies invariance under *mantar* := *-anti.pari*. Bialternality, therefore, implies invariance under *neg.push*, with:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{neg.push} &:= \text{mantar.swap.mantar.swap} \\ &= \text{anti.swap.anti.swap} \end{aligned}$$

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<sup>2</sup>See [FLEX] §2.7

The *push* operator, we recall, is idempotent of order  $r + 1$  when acting on  $BIMU_r$ , i.e. on bimoulds of length  $r$ .

Let us assume that  $A^{\mathbf{w}}$  is odd in  $\mathbf{w}$ , and show that this implies  $A^{\mathbf{w}} \equiv 0$ . For an *even* length  $r$ , this follows at once from the *neg.push*-invariance:

$$A^{\mathbf{w}} = (\text{neg.push})^{r+1}.A^{\mathbf{w}} = \text{neg}^{r+1}.\text{push}^{r+1}.A^{\mathbf{w}} = \text{neg}.A^{\mathbf{w}} = -A^{\mathbf{w}} \quad (1.2)$$

For an *odd* length, the argument is more roundabout. Note first that for  $A^{\mathbf{w}}$ , which we assumed to be odd in  $\mathbf{w}$ , invariance under *neg.push* amounts to invariance under *-push*. Here again, it turns out that the absence of non-trivial solution does not require the full bialternality of  $A^\bullet$ , but only its alternality and invariance under *-push*. So let us prove this stronger statement:

**Lemma 1.1 (Alternality and push-invariance).**

*No non-vanishing bimould  $A^\bullet$  purely of length  $r > 1$  can be simultaneously alternal and invariant under  $-push$ .*

**Proof:** Here again, the statement is obvious for  $r$  even. So let us consider an odd length of the form  $r = 2t + 1 \geq 3$ .

Since we shall subject  $A^{\mathbf{w}}$  to two linear operators, *pus* and *push*, respectively of order  $r$  and  $r + 1$  when restricted to  $BIMU_r$ , and since *pus* (resp. *push*) reduces to a circular permutation in the ‘*short*’ (resp ‘*long*’) bimould notation, we shall make use of both. Let us recall the conversion rule:

$$A^{[w_0^*, w_1^*, \dots, w_r^*]} \text{ (long)} \longleftrightarrow A^{w_1, \dots, w_r} \text{ (short)} \quad (1.3)$$

with the dual conditions on upper and lower indices:

$$\begin{aligned} u_0^* &= -(u_1 + \dots + u_r) & , & & u_i^* &= u_i & \forall i \geq 1 \\ v_0^* &\text{arbitrary} & , & & v_i^* - v_0^* &= v_j & \forall i \geq 1 \end{aligned}$$

To show that  $A^\bullet = 0$ , we start with the elementary alternality relation:

$$0 = \sum_{\mathbf{w} \in \text{sha}(\mathbf{w}', \mathbf{w}'')} A^{\mathbf{w}} \quad \text{with } \mathbf{w}' = (w_1, \dots, w_{2t}) \text{ and } \mathbf{w}'' = (w_{2t+1}) \quad (1.4)$$

which reads:

$$0 = \sum_{1 \leq j \leq 2t+1} A^{\overline{w_1, \dots, w_{j-1}, w_{2t+1}, w_j, \dots, w_{2t}}} \quad (1.5)$$

Due to the invariance of  $A^\bullet$  under *-push*, this may be rewritten as:

$$0 = \sum_{1 \leq j \leq 2t+1} (-1)^j (\text{push}^j.A)^{\overline{w_1, \dots, w_{j-1}, w_{2t+1}, w_j, \dots, w_{2t}}} \quad (1.6)$$

In the ‘long’ notation (of greater relevance here) this becomes:

$$0 = \sum_{1 \leq j \leq 2t+1} (-1)^j (\text{push}^j . A)^{[w_0], \overline{w_1, \dots, w_{j-1}}, w_{2t+1}, \overline{w_j, \dots, w_{2t}}} \quad (1.7)$$

$$= \sum_{1 \leq j \leq 2t+1} (-1)^j A^{[w_{2t+1}], \overline{w_j, \dots, w_{2t}}, w_0, \overline{w_1, \dots, w_{j-1}}} \quad (1.8)$$

Under the exchange  $w_0 \leftrightarrow w_{2t+1}$ , the last identity becomes:

$$0 = \sum_{1 \leq j \leq 2t+1} (-1)^j A^{[w_0], \overline{w_j, \dots, w_{2t}}, w_{2t+1}, \overline{w_1, \dots, w_{j-1}}} = \sum_{1 \leq j \leq 2t+1} (-1)^j A^{[w_0], \overline{w_j, \dots, w_{2t+1}}, w_1, \dots, w_{j-1}}$$

Or again, reverting to the short notation:

$$0 = \sum_{1 \leq j \leq 2t+1} (-1)^j A^{\overline{w_j, \dots, w_{2t+1}}, \overline{w_1, \dots, w_{j-1}}} \quad (1.9)$$

On the other hand, alternality implies *pus*-neutrality<sup>3</sup>  $\sum \text{pus}^j A^\bullet \equiv 0$ , which reads:

$$0 = \sum_{1 \leq j \leq 2t+1} A^{\overline{w_j, \dots, w_{2t+1}}, \overline{w_1, \dots, w_{j-1}}} \quad (1.10)$$

From (1.9) and (1.10) we get by addition:

$$0 = \sum_{0 \leq k \leq t} A^{\overline{w_{2k+1}, \dots, w_{2t+1}}, \overline{w_1, \dots, w_{2k}}} \quad (1.11)$$

and by subtraction:

$$0 = \sum_{1 \leq k \leq t} A^{\overline{w_{2k}, \dots, w_{2t+1}}, \overline{w_1, \dots, w_{2k-1}}} \quad (1.12)$$

Under the change  $(w_2, w_3, \dots, w_{2t+1}, w_1) \rightarrow (w_1, w_2, \dots, w_{2t+1})$ , (1.12) becomes:

$$0 = \sum_{1 \leq k \leq t} A^{\overline{w_{2k+1}, \dots, w_{2t+1}}, \overline{w_1, \dots, w_{2k}}} \quad (1.13)$$

Subtracting (1.13) from (1.11), we end up with  $A^{w_1, \dots, w_r} \equiv 0$ .  $\square$ .

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<sup>3</sup>See [FLEX], §2.4. For a proof, see below, §3.

## 2 Canonical factorisation of bisymmetrals.

This section is devoted to establishing the factorisation<sup>4</sup>:

$$\text{GARI}^{\text{as/as}} = \text{gari}(\text{GARI}^{\dot{\text{as}}/\dot{\text{as}}}, \text{GARI}^{\underline{\text{as}}/\underline{\text{as}}}) \quad (2.1)$$

of the set  $\text{GARI}^{\text{as/as}}$  of all bisymmetrals into

- (i) a large, regular factor  $\text{GARI}^{\underline{\text{as}}/\underline{\text{as}}}$  consisting of *even* bimoulds and stable under the *gari* product
- (ii) a small, exceptional factor  $\text{GARI}^{\dot{\text{as}}/\dot{\text{as}}}$  consisting of special bimoulds derived from so-called *flexion units* and alternately *odd/even*, i.e. invariant under *pari.neg* rather than *neg*.

The proof rests on the construction and properties of the special bisymmetrals  $\text{ess}_{\mathfrak{E}}^{\bullet}$  (see [FLEX] §4.2) and on the following statement:

### Proposition 2.1 (Factorisation of bisymmetrals).

*Any bisymmetrals bimould  $\text{Sa}^{\bullet}$  and its swapee simultaneously factor as*

$$\text{Sa}^{\bullet} = \text{gari}(\text{Sal}^{\bullet}, \text{Sar}^{\bullet}) = \text{gira}(\text{Sal}^{\bullet}, \text{Sar}^{\bullet}) \quad (2.2)$$

$$\text{Si}^{\bullet} = \text{gari}(\text{Sil}^{\bullet}, \text{Sir}^{\bullet}) = \text{gira}(\text{Sil}^{\bullet}, \text{Sir}^{\bullet}) \quad (2.3)$$

- with  $\text{Si}^{\bullet} = \text{swap.Sa}^{\bullet}$ ,  $\text{Sil}^{\bullet} = \text{swap.Sal}^{\bullet}$ ,  $\text{Sir}^{\bullet} = \text{swap.Sar}^{\bullet}$
  - with bisymmetrals right factors at once *neg-* and *gush-invariant*
  - with bisymmetrals left factors at once *pari.neg-* and *pari.gush-invariant*.
- In other words:*

$$\text{Sar}^{\bullet}, \text{Sir}^{\bullet} \in \text{GARI}_{\text{neg}}^{\text{as/as}} = \text{GARI}_{\text{gush}}^{\text{as/as}} =: \text{GARI}^{\underline{\text{as}}/\underline{\text{as}}} \quad (2.4)$$

$$\text{Sal}^{\bullet}, \text{Sil}^{\bullet} \in \text{GARI}_{\text{pari.neg}}^{\text{as/as}} = \text{GARI}_{\text{pari.gush}}^{\text{as/as}} \quad (2.5)$$

*The above decompositions are not unique, but two of them stand out, namely the one in which*

$$\text{Sal}^{\bullet} = \text{ess}_{\mathfrak{E}}^{\bullet} \quad \text{with} \quad -\frac{1}{2} \mathfrak{E}^{w_1} = \text{Sal}^{w_1} = \frac{1}{2}(\text{Sa}^{w_1} - \text{Sa}^{-w_1}) \quad (2.6)$$

*and the one in which*

$$\text{Sil}^{\bullet} = \text{oss}_{\mathfrak{D}}^{\bullet} \quad \text{with} \quad -\frac{1}{2} \mathfrak{D}^{w_1} = \text{Sil}^{w_1} = \frac{1}{2}(\text{Si}^{w_1} - \text{Si}^{-w_1}) \quad (2.7)$$

*These ‘co-canonical’ decompositions involve two conjugate flexion units  $\mathfrak{E}$  and  $\mathfrak{D}$  and, though distinct, easily translate one into the other under the classical relation between  $\text{ess}_{\mathfrak{E}}^{\bullet}$  and  $\text{oss}_{\mathfrak{D}}^{\bullet}$ : see formula (4.63) in §4.2 of [FLEX].*

<sup>4</sup>See [FLEX], §2.8.

**Proof:** It rests on the Proposition 1.1 of the preceding section, in conjunction with the two following lemmas.

**Lemma 2.1 (First components of bisymmetrals).**

If the length-one component  $\text{Sal}^{w_1}$  of a bisymmetrals bimould  $\text{Sal}^\bullet$  is an even function of  $w_1 = \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ v_1 \end{pmatrix}$ , it may a priori be anything, but if it is an odd function, it is necessarily a flexion unit.

**Proof:** Let  $u_0, u_1, u_2$  be constrained by  $u_0 + u_1 + u_2 = 0$  and let  $v_0, v_1, v_2$  be defined up to a common additive constant. At length 2, the unique symmetrality relation for  $\text{Sal}^\bullet$  may be written thus:

$$\text{Sal}^{\begin{pmatrix} u_1 & u_2 \\ v_{1:0} & v_{2:0} \end{pmatrix}} + \text{Sal}^{\begin{pmatrix} u_2 & u_1 \\ v_{2:0} & v_{1:0} \end{pmatrix}} \equiv \text{Sal}^{\begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ v_{1:0} \end{pmatrix}} \text{Sal}^{\begin{pmatrix} u_2 \\ v_{2:0} \end{pmatrix}} \quad (2.8)$$

Due to  $\text{Sal}^{w_1}$  being odd, this yields:

$$\text{Sal}^{\begin{pmatrix} -u_1 & -u_2 \\ -v_{1:0} & -v_{2:0} \end{pmatrix}} + \text{Sal}^{\begin{pmatrix} -u_2 & -u_1 \\ -v_{2:0} & -v_{1:0} \end{pmatrix}} \equiv \text{Sal}^{\begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ v_{1:0} \end{pmatrix}} \text{Sal}^{\begin{pmatrix} u_2 \\ v_{2:0} \end{pmatrix}} \quad (2.9)$$

Likewise, the unique symmetrality relation for  $\text{Sal}^\bullet$  may be written as:

$$\text{Sil}^{\begin{pmatrix} -v_{0:2} & v_{1:2} \\ -u_0 & u_1 \end{pmatrix}} + \text{Sil}^{\begin{pmatrix} v_{1:2} & -v_{0:2} \\ u_1 & -u_0 \end{pmatrix}} \equiv \text{Sil}^{\begin{pmatrix} v_{1:2} \\ u_1 \end{pmatrix}} \text{Si}^{\begin{pmatrix} -v_{0:2} \\ -u_0 \end{pmatrix}}$$

In the  $u_i$ -variables, this translates into:

$$\text{Sal}^{\begin{pmatrix} u_1 & -u_{0,1} \\ v_{1:0} & -v_{0:2} \end{pmatrix}} + \text{Sal}^{\begin{pmatrix} -u_0 & u_{0,1} \\ -v_{0:1} & v_{1:2} \end{pmatrix}} \equiv \text{Sal}^{\begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ v_{1:2} \end{pmatrix}} \text{Sal}^{\begin{pmatrix} -u_0 \\ -v_{0:2} \end{pmatrix}}$$

or again, due to imparity and to  $\sum u_i = 0$ :

$$\text{Sal}^{\begin{pmatrix} u_1 & u_2 \\ v_{1:0} & v_{2:0} \end{pmatrix}} + \text{Sal}^{\begin{pmatrix} -u_0 & -u_2 \\ -v_{0:1} & -v_{2:1} \end{pmatrix}} \equiv -\text{Sal}^{\begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ v_{1:2} \end{pmatrix}} \text{Sa}^{\begin{pmatrix} u_0 \\ v_{0:2} \end{pmatrix}} \quad (2.10)$$

Let  $E_1$  be the identity obtained by adding the three circular permutations of (2.8) and (2.9), and  $E_2$  the identity obtained by adding the six permutations, circular or anticircular, of (2.10). The left-hand sides of  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  clearly coincide, while their right-hand sides coincide only up to the sign. Equating these right-hand sides, we find:

$$4 \left( \text{Sal}^{\begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ v_{1:0} \end{pmatrix}} \text{Sal}^{\begin{pmatrix} u_2 \\ v_{2:0} \end{pmatrix}} + \text{Sal}^{\begin{pmatrix} u_2 \\ v_{2:1} \end{pmatrix}} \text{Sal}^{\begin{pmatrix} u_0 \\ v_{0:1} \end{pmatrix}} + \text{Sal}^{\begin{pmatrix} u_0 \\ v_{0:2} \end{pmatrix}} \text{Sal}^{\begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ v_{1:2} \end{pmatrix}} \right) \equiv 0 \quad (2.11)$$

which is precisely the symmetrical characterisation of a *flexion unit*.  $\square$ .

**Remark 1:** On the face of it, the requirement that the length-1 component be a flexion unit is merely a necessary condition for the existence of a bisymmetrals ‘continuation’. However, the theory of unit-generated bisymmetrals

$\mathfrak{ess}_{\mathfrak{C}}^{\bullet}$  shows this condition to be (miraculously) sufficient.<sup>5</sup> This is probably the best *a posteriori* justification for singling out this notion of *flexion unit*, though by no means the only one.

**Remark 2:** Had we assumed  $Sal^{\bullet}$  to be even, we would have found no constraints at all on the length-1 component – which was only to be expected, since the Lie-exponential of that length-1 component is automatically in  $GARI^{\underline{as}/\underline{as}}$ .

**Remark 3:** One should not be too exercised over the presence of the factor 4 in (2.11), but rather observe that it vanishes after the change  $Sal^{w_1} = -\frac{1}{2}\mathfrak{C}^{w_1}$  which, as it happens, the construction of  $\mathfrak{ess}_{\mathfrak{C}}^{\bullet}$  quite naturally imposes.

**Lemma 2.2 (General and even bisymmetrals).**

*Though not a group, the set  $GARI^{\underline{as}/\underline{as}}$  of all bialternals is stable under both gari- and gira-postcomposition by the group  $GARI^{\underline{as}/\underline{as}}$  of even bisymmetrals, and the identity holds:*

$$\text{gari}(S_1^{\bullet}, S_2^{\bullet}) \equiv \text{gira}(S_1^{\bullet}, S_2^{\bullet}) \in \underline{as}/\underline{as} \quad (\forall S_1^{\bullet} \in \underline{as}/\underline{as}, \forall S_2^{\bullet} \in \underline{as}/\underline{as}) \quad (2.12)$$

**Proof:** Here *gira* stands for the pull-back of *gari* under the basic involution *swap*. Both group laws are related as follows<sup>6</sup>:

$$\text{gira}(S_1^{\bullet}, S_2^{\bullet}) = \text{ganit}(\text{rash}.S_2^{\bullet}).\text{gari}(S_1^{\bullet}, \text{ras}.S_2^{\bullet}) \quad (2.13)$$

with non-linear operators *ras*, *rash* defined by:

$$\text{ras}.S_2^{\bullet} = \text{invgari.swap.invgari.swap}.S_2^{\bullet} \quad (2.14)$$

$$\text{rash}.S_2^{\bullet} = \text{mu}(\text{push.swap.invmu.swap}.S_2^{\bullet}, S_2^{\bullet}) \quad (2.15)$$

But since in Lemma 2.1 the right factor  $S_2^{\bullet}$  is in  $GARI^{\underline{as}/\underline{as}}$  and since *gari* and *gira* coincide on  $GARI^{\underline{as}/\underline{as}}$  (even as *ari* and *ira* coincide on  $ARI^{\underline{al}/\underline{al}}$ ), this implies:

$$\text{ras}.S_2^{\bullet} = \text{invgari.invgira}.S_2^{\bullet} = S_2^{\bullet} \quad (2.16)$$

Likewise, any bimould of  $\underline{as}/\underline{as}$  type is automatically *gush*-invariant (even as any bimould of  $\underline{al}/\underline{al}$  type is automatically *push*-invariant). See [FLEX], §2.4. This in turn implies:

$$\text{rash}.S_2^{\bullet} = 1^{\bullet} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{ganit}(\text{rash}.S_2^{\bullet}) = \text{id} \quad (2.17)$$

<sup>5</sup>See [FLEX], §4.2, §11.9, §11.10.

<sup>6</sup>see [FLEX], §2.3. This universal identity holds for *any* factors  $S_1^{\bullet}, S_2^{\bullet}$ .

and establishes (2.12).  $\square$ .

**Remark 4.** Thus,  $S_2^\bullet$  is the only factor that really matters when comparing  $\text{gari}(S_1^\bullet, S_2^\bullet)$  and  $\text{gira}(S_1^\bullet, S_2^\bullet)$ . This is less surprising than may appear at first sight, since the  $\text{gari}$  and  $\text{gira}$  products are linear in the *left* factor and violently non-linear in the *right* factor.

We may now return to the **proof of Proposition 2.1**. To define our left factor  $\text{Sal}^\bullet$  we set:

$$\text{Sal}_r^\bullet := \text{ess}_\mathfrak{E}^\bullet \quad \text{with} \quad -\frac{1}{2}\mathfrak{E}^{w_1} := \frac{1}{2}(\text{Sa}^{w_1} - \text{Sa}^{-w_1}) \quad (2.18)$$

By the general theory of §4.2 in [FLEX], this left factor is not just bisymmetrical, but also invariant under *pari.neg*. Let us now address the construction of the right factor  $\text{Sar}^\bullet$ . For each  $r$ , we can construct bimould pairs  $(\text{Sa}_r^\bullet, \text{sar}_r^\bullet)$  by the following induction. For  $r = 1$  we set:

$$\text{Sa}_1^\bullet := \text{Sa}^\bullet \quad (2.19)$$

$$\text{sar}_1^\bullet := \frac{1}{2}(\text{Sa}^{w_1} + \text{Sa}^{-w_1}) \quad (2.20)$$

and for  $r > 1$  we set:

$$\text{Sa}_r^\bullet := \text{gari}(\text{Sa}^\bullet, \text{expari}(-\text{sar}_1^\bullet), \dots, \text{expari}(-\text{sar}_{r-1}^\bullet)) \quad (2.21)$$

$$\text{sar}_r^{w_1, \dots, w_r} := \text{Sa}_r^{w_1, \dots, w_r} - \text{Sal}^{w_1, \dots, w_r} \quad (2.22)$$

$$\text{sar}_r^{w_1, \dots, w_l} := 0 \quad \text{if} \quad l \neq r \quad (2.23)$$

Clearly:

$$\text{sar}_r^\bullet \in \text{BIMU}_r \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Sa}_r^\bullet \equiv \text{Sal}^\bullet \quad \text{mod} \quad \bigoplus_{r \leq r'} \text{BIMU}_{r'}$$

Let us now check that

- (i) each  $\text{Sa}_l^\bullet$  is in  $\text{GARI}^{\text{as/as}}$ ;
- (ii) each  $\text{sar}_l^\bullet$  is in  $\text{ARI}^{\text{as/as}}$ ;
- (iii) and therefore each  $\text{expar}(\pm \text{sar}_l^\bullet)$  is in  $\text{GARI}^{\text{as/as}}$ .

This obviously holds for  $l = 1$ . If it holds for all  $l < r$ , then by Lemma 2.1  $\text{Sa}_l^\bullet$  is also in  $\text{GARI}^{\text{as/as}}$ , as the  $\text{gari}$ -product of an  $\text{as/as}$  by a string of several  $\text{as/as}$ . As for  $\text{sar}_r^\bullet$ , it is defined as the difference of length- $r$  components of two bisymmetrical bimoulds,  $\text{Sa}_r^\bullet$  and  $\text{Sal}^\bullet$ , whose earlier components coincide. It is therefore not just  $\text{al/al}$  (bialternal) but also, by Lemma 1.1 of



the preceding section,  $\underline{al}/\underline{al}$  (bialternal *and* even), and its Lie exponential is automatically  $\underline{as}/\underline{as}$ .

Summing up, we arrive at a factorisation of the announced type (2.2), with a left factor defined by (2.18) and a right factor defined by

$$\text{Sar}^\bullet = \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \text{gari}(\text{expari}(\text{sar}_r^\bullet), \dots, \text{expari}(\text{sar}_1^\bullet)) \quad (2.24)$$

The swapee factorisations (2.3) immediately follow, again under (2.13).  $\square$

### 3 Bimould symmetries and the underlying group actions.

3.1 Simple symmetries and the group  $\mathfrak{S}_r$ .

3.2 Intermediate symmetries and the group  $\mathfrak{S}_{r+1}$ .

3.3 Double symmetries and the group  $Sl_r(\mathbb{Z})$ .

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