Using bayesmixedlogit and bayesmixedlogitwtp in Stata

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1 Introduction

This document presents an overview of the bayesmixedlogit and bayesmixedlogitwtp Stata packages. It mirrors closely the helpfile obtainable in Stata (i.e., through help bayesmixedlogit or help bayesmixedlogitwtp). Further background for the packages can be found in Baker(2014).

1.1 Description

bayesmixedlogit can be used to fit mixed logit models using Bayesian methods – more precisely, bayesmixedlogit produces draws from the posterior parameter distribution and then presents summary and other statistics describing the results of the drawing. Detailed analysis of the draws is left to the discretion of the user.

Implementation of bayesmixedlogit follows Train (2009, chap. 12), and details of how the algorithm works are described in Baker(2014). A diffuse prior for the mean values of the random coefficients is assumed, and the prior distribution on the covariance matrix of random coefficients is taken to be an identity inverse Wishart. bayesmixedlogit uses the Mata routines amcmc() (if not installed: ssc install amcmc) for adaptive Markov chain Monte Carlo sampling from the posterior distribution of individual level coefficients and fixed coefficients. The data setup for bayesmixedlogit is the same as for clogit (ssc install clogit). Much of the syntax follows that used by Hole (2007) in development of the command mixlogit.

1.2 Options

group(varname) specifies a numeric identifier variable for choice occasions. group() is required.

identifier(varname) identifies coefficient sets (those observations for which a set of coefficients apply). Thus, when a person is observed making choices over multiple occasions, one would use group(varname) to specify the choice occasions, while identifier(varname) would identify the person. identifier() is required.

rand(varlist) specifies independent variables with random coefficients. The variables immediately following the dependent variable in the syntax are considered to have fixed coefficients (see the examples below). While a model can be run without any independent variables with fixed coefficients, at least one random-coefficient independent variable is required for bayesmixedlogit to work. rand() is required.

draws(#) specifies the number of draws that are to be taken from the posterior distribution of the parameters. The default is draws(1000).

drawsrandom(#) is an advanced option. The drawing algorithm treats each set of random coefficients as a Gibbs step in sampling from the joint posterior distribution of parameters. In difficult, large-dimensional problems, it might be desirable to let individual Gibbs steps run for more than one draw to achieve better mixing and convergence of the algorithm.

drawsfixed(#) is a more advanced option. The drawing algorithm treats fixed coefficients as a Gibbs step in sampling from the joint posterior distribution of parameters. In difficult, large-dimensional problems, it might be desirable to let this step in Gibbs sampling run for more than a single draw. The default is drawsfixed(1).

burn(#) specifies the length of the burn-in period; the first # draws are discarded upon completion of the algorithm and before further results are computed.

thin(#) specifies that only every #th draw is to be retained, so if thin(3) is specified, only every third draw is retained. This option is designed to help ease autocorrelation in the resulting draws, as is the option jumble, which randomly mixes draws. Both options may be applied.

araterandom(#) specifies the desired acceptance rate for random coefficients and should be a number between zero and one. Because an adaptive acceptance-rejection method is used to sample random coefficients, by specifying the desired acceptance rate, the user has some control over adaptation of the algorithm to the problem. The default is araterandom(.234).

aratefixed(#) specifies the desired acceptance rate for fixed coefficients and works in the same fashion as araterandom(#).

samplerfixed(string) specifies the type of sampler that is used when fixed parameters are drawn. Options are exactly as those described under samplerrandom(string).

dampparmfixed(#) works exactly as option **dampparmrandom**(#) but is applied to drawing fixed parameters.

dampparmrandom(#) is a parameter that controls how aggressively the proposal distributions for random parameters are adapted as drawing continues. If the parameter is set close to one, adaptation is aggressive in its early phase of trying to achieve the acceptance rate specified in araterandom(#). If the parameter is set closer to zero, adaptation is more gradual.

from(rowvector) specifies a row vector of starting values for all parameters in order. If these are not specified, starting values are obtained via estimation of a conditional logit model via clogit**.

from variance (matrix) specifies a matrix of starting values for the random parameters.

jumble specifies to randomly mix draws.

noisy specifies that a dot be produced every time a complete pass through the algorithm is finished. After 50 iterations, a function value ln_fc(p) will be produced, which gives the joint log of

the value of the posterior choice probabilities evaluated at the latest parameters. While $ln_fc(p)$ is not an objective function per se, the author has found that drift in the value of this function indicates that the algorithm has not yet converged or has other problems.

saving(filename) specifies a location to store the draws from the distribution. The file will contain just the draws after any burn-in period or thinning of values is applied.

replace specifies that an existing file is to be overwritten.

append specifies that an existing file is to be appended, which might be useful if multiple runs need to be combined.

indsave(filename) specifies a file to which individual-level random parameters are to be saved. More precisely, indsave(filename) saves the draws of the individual-level parameters. Caution: For long runs and models with large numbers of individuals, specifying this option can cause memory problems. Users should be careful how it is used and consult some of the examples before employing the option.

indkeep(#) is for use with indsave and specifies that only the last # draws of the individual-level random parameters be kept. This helps avoid excessive memory consumption.

indwide is for use with indsave and affords the user a degree of control over how individual-level parameters are saved. By default, individual-level parameters are saved in a panel form, meaning that each random parameter draw is saved in a row, where draws are marked by the group identifier. If instead the user would prefer that each row contain draws of each parameter, one could specify the indwide option, which saves all draws in a single row, with the first entry of the row being the group identifier. By analogy with reshape, by default draws are saved in "long" format, whereas indwide stores the draws in "wide" format.

replaceind functions in the same way as replace, but in reference to the file specified in indsave. appending functions in the same way as append, but in reference to the file specified in indsave.

1.3 Examples

1.3.1 Example 1

A single random coefficient, one decision per group. The random parameter acceptance rate is set to 0.4, and a total of 4,000 draws are taken. The first 1,000 draws are dropped, and then every fifth draw is retained. Draws are saved as choice_draws.dta:

```
[1]: webuse choice describe
```

variable name	type	format	label	variable label
id	int	%9.0g		
sex	byte	%9.0g	sex	
income	float	%9.0g		income in thousands
car	byte	%9.0g	nation	nationality of car
size	byte	%9.0g		
choice	byte	%9.0g		ID's chosen car
dealer	byte	%9.0g		number of dealers of each
				nationality in ID's city

Sorted by: id

```
[2]: bayesmixedlogit choice, rand(dealer) group(id) id(id) ///
          draws(4000) burn(1000) thin(5) arater(.4) saving(choice_draws) replace
```

Bayesian Mixed L	ogit Model			Observations	=	885
				Groups	=	295
Acceptance rates	3:			Choices	=	295
Fixed coefs	=			Total draws	=	4000
Random coefs(av	e,min,max)=	0.239, 0.186	3, 0.285	Burn-in draws	=	1000
	, , ,	·	·	*One of every	5 d:	raws kept
•		Std. Err.		P> t [95% C	onf.	Interval]
Random dealer	.2150072	.0360706	5.96	0.000 .14416		
Cov_Random	.1024538	.0322976		0.002 .03902		.1658839

Draws saved in choice_draws.dta

Attention!

1.3.2 Example 2

Fitting a mixed logit model using bayesmixedlogit, using the methods as described in Long and Freese (2006, sec. 7.2.4). The data must first be rendered into the correct format, which can be done using the command case2alt, which is part of the package spost9_ado; if not installed, type net install spost9_ado, from(https://jslsoc.sitehost.iu.edu/stata) from the Stata prompt. The example first arranges the data and then generates and summarizes posterior draws from a mixed logit model. The model uses bangladesh.dta, which has information on contraceptive

^{*}Results are presented to conform with Stata covention, but are summary statistics of draws, not coefficient estimates.

choice by a series of families. Coefficients of explanatory variables vary at the district level.

[3]: webuse choice describe

Contains data from http://www.stata-press.com/data/r14/choice.dta

obs: 885 vars: 7

2 Dec 2014 13:25

size: 9,735

variable name	storage type	display format	value label	variable label
id	int	%9.0g		
sex	byte	%9.0g	sex	
income	float	%9.0g		income in thousands
car	byte	%9.0g	nation	nationality of car
size	byte	%9.0g		
choice	byte	%9.0g		ID's chosen car
dealer	byte	% 9.0g		<pre>number of dealers of each nationality in ID's city</pre>

Sorted by: id

```
[4]: webuse bangladesh, clear case2alt, casevars(urban age) choice(c_use) gen(choice)
```

(Bangladesh Fertility Survey, 1989)

(note: variable _id used since case() not specified)
(note: variable _altnum used since altnum() not specified)

choice indicated by: choice

case identifier: _id

 ${\tt case-specific\ interactions:\ no*\ yes*}$

```
[5]: bayesmixedlogit choice, rand(yesXurban yesXage yes) group(_id) id(district) ///
draws(10000) burn(5000) saving(bdesh_draws) replace
```

Bayesian Mixed Logit Model Observations = 3868
Groups = 60
Acceptance rates: Choices = 1934
Fixed coefs = Total draws = 10000

Random coefs(ave,	min,max)=	0.310, 0.23	1, 0.354	Burn	-in draws =	5000
choice	+	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf.	_
Random							
yesXurban	1	.7796584	.1905085	4.09	0.000	.4061781	1.153139
yesXage	1	.0067593	.0329065	0.21	0.837	0577519	.0712706
yes	-	.7777077	.1154274	-6.74	0.000	-1.003996	5514193
	+						
Cov_Random	ļ						
$ ext{var_yesXurban}$.9302604	.4088646	2.28	0.023	.1287065	1.731814
cov_yesXurb~e	-	0010909	.034572	-0.03	0.975	0688672	.0666853
cov_yesXurb~s	-	3946547	.225488	-1.75	0.080	8367101	.0474007
var_yesXage	1	.0611443	.0120586	5.07	0.000	.0375042	.0847844
cov_yesXage~s	1	.0051727	.0258404	0.20	0.841	0454859	.0558313
var_yes		.5352136	.1687242	3.17	0.002	.2044401	.8659871

Draws saved in bdesh_draws.dta

Attention!

*Results are presented to conform with Stata covention, but are summary statistics of draws, not coefficient estimates.

Suppose one wished to save some values of individual-level random parameters, but that the problem has too many individuals or requires too many draws to get to convergence. A useful approach in these circumstances is to complete a long first run without saving parameters, and then do a short second one using starting values. Suppose that the code in the previous example has been run. One can then run something to the effect of the following to get individual parameters:

```
[6]: \max b = e(b)

\max beta = b[1, 1..3]

\max V = b[1,4], b[1,5], b[1,6] \setminus b[1,5], b[1,7], b[1,8] \setminus b[1,6], b[1,7], b[1,9]
```

[7]: bayesmixedlogit choice, rand(yesXurban yesXage yes) group(_id) id(district) ///
from(beta) fromv(V) draws(100) indsave(randpars) indkeep(50) replaceind

Bayesian Mixed Lo	git Model			Observa [.]	tions	=	3868
				Groups		=	60
Acceptance rates:				Choices		=	1934
Fixed coefs	=			Total d	raws	=	100
Random coefs(ave	,min,max)=	0.297, 0.160,	0.400	Burn-in	draws	; =	0
choice			t 	P> t			Interval]
Random							
yesXurban	.7763147	.1041361	7.45	0.000	. 5697	116	.9829178

yesXage	.0078787	.0344768	0.23	0.820	0605223	.0762797
yes	7578993	.1074017	-7.06	0.000	9709811	5448174
+-						
Cov_Random						
var_yesXurban	.3507105	.2150101	1.63	0.106	0758635	.7772845
cov_yesXurb~e	0014138	.0203943	-0.07	0.945	0418756	.0390479
cov_yesXurb~s	1896818	.140957	-1.35	0.181	4693365	.0899729
var_yesXage	.0599069	.0127719	4.69	0.000	.0345679	.0852459
cov_yesXage~s	.0070305	.0200905	0.35	0.727	0328285	.0468896
var_yes	.3150498	.1372705	2.30	0.024	.042709	.5873906

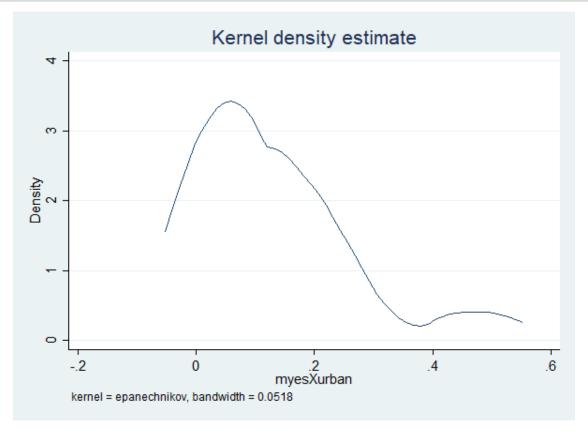
50 value(s) of individual-level random parameters saved in randpars.dta

Attention!

*Results are presented to conform with Stata covention, but are summary statistics of draws, not coefficient estimates.

One post-estimation idea is to get the mean for parameter values by individuals, and fit some kernel density to the means to view the distribution of the individual-level parameters:

```
[8]: bysort district: egen myesXurban = mean(yesXurban)
bysort district: gen last = _n == _N
kdensity myesXurban if last
graph display
```



global stata_kernel_graph_counter = \$stata_kernel_graph_counter + 1

1.3.3 Example 3

Of course, it is possible to just do one run and retain all the information. As one final example:

```
[9]: webuse union, clear
case2alt, casevars(age grade) choice(union) gen(unionmember)
bayesmixedlogit unionmember, rand(y0Xage y0Xgrade y0) group(_id) id(idcode) ///
draws(1000) burn(800) saving(parm_draws) indsave(indparm_draws) indkeep(20)
→replaceind replace
```

(NLS Women 14-24 in 1968)

(note: variable _id used since case() not specified)

(note: variable _altnum used since altnum() not specified)

choice indicated by: unionmember

case identifier: _id

case-specific interactions: y0* y1*

Bayesian Mixed I	ogit Model			Observ	vations =	52400
				Groups	s =	4434
Acceptance rates	3:			Choice	es =	26200
Fixed coefs	=			Total	draws =	1000
Random coefs(av	re,min,max)=	0.221, 0.01	7, 0.339	Burn-i	n draws =	800
unionmember	Coef.	Std. Err.				Interval]
Random						
y0Xage	.0427559	.0045651	9.37	0.000	.033754	.0517578
y0Xgrade	0475095	.0097271	-4.88	0.000	0666903	0283288
уО І	2.405118	.0067917	354.13	0.000	2.391726	2.418511
+- Cov_Random						
var_y0Xage	.0472717	.0030153	15.68	0.000	.0413258	.0532176
cov_y0Xagey~e	084886	.0067274	-12.62	0.000	0981517	0716203
cov_y0Xagey0	0017989	.0019461	-0.92	0.356	0056365	.0020387
var_y0Xgrade	.2070458	.0164691	12.57	0.000	.1745704	.2395211

```
cov_y0Xgrad~0 | -.0031688 .0034891 -0.91 0.365 -.010049 .0037114
var_y0 | .0808648 .0067269 12.02 0.000 .0676001 .0941296
```

·

Draws saved in parm_draws.dta

20 value(s) of individual-level random parameters saved in indparm_draws.dta

Attention!

*Results are presented to conform with Stata covention, but are summary statistics of draws, not coefficient estimates.

1.3.4 Stored results

bayesmixedlogit stores the following in e():

Scalars e(N) number of observations

- e(df_r) degrees of freedom for summarizing draws (equal to number of retained draws)
- e(krnd) number of random parameters
- e(kfix) number of fixed parameters
- e(draws) number of draws
- e(burn) burn-in observations
- e(thin) thinning parameter
- e(random_draws) number of draws of each set of random parameters per pass
- e(fixed_draws) number of draws of fixed parameters per pass
- e(damper_fixed) damping parameter fixed parameters
- e(damper_random) damping parameter random parameters
- e(opt_arate_fixed) desired acceptance rate fixed parameters
- e(opt_arate_random) desired acceptance rate random parameters
- e(N_groups) number of groups
- $e(N_choices)$ number of choice occasions
- e(arates_fa) acceptance rate fixed parameters
- e(arates_ra) average acceptance rate random parameters
- e(arates_rmax) maximum acceptance rate random parameters
- e(arates_rmin) minimum acceptance rate random parameters
- e(inddraws) draws of individual parameters kept

```
Macros e(cmd) bayesmixedlogit
e(depvar) name of dependent variable
e(indepvars) independent variables
e(title) title in estimation output
e(properties) b V
e(saving) file containing results
e(fixed_sampler) sampler type for fixed parameters
e(random_sampler) sampler type for random parameters
e(random) random parameter names
e(fixed) fixed parameter names
e(identifier) identifier for individuals
e(group) identifier for choice occasions
e(indsave) file holding individual-level parameter draws
```

Matrices e(b) mean parameter values

e(V) variance-covariance matrix of parameters

e(V_init) initial variance-covariance matrix of random parameters

e(b_init) initial mean vector of random parameters

e(arates_fixed) row vector of acceptance rates of fixed parameters

e(arates_rand) vector or matrix of acceptance rates of random parameters

Functions e(sample) marks estimation sample

1.4 bayesmixedlogitwtp

bayesmixedlogitwtp is essentially a wrapper for bayesmixedlogit, with a transformation of the coefficient on a price variable. The defining characteristic of the WTP-space mixed logit model is normalization of coefficients using the (random) coefficient on a designated price variable, as described in Train and Weeks (2005), Scarpa, Thiene, and Train (2008), and Hole and Kolstad (2012).

The model assumes that the coefficient on the price variable follows (the negative of) a log-normal distribution. Hence, if the estimated parameter is b, the price variable has coefficient $-\exp(b)$. The transformed coefficient is saved and displayed as part of the output, but as presented the saved and display value is the negative of the exponentiated average value of b, not the average of the value $-\exp(b)$.

1.5 Options

All options for bayesmixedlogitwtp are the same as bayesmixedlogit, with the following additional option:

price(varname) specifies a numeric identifier variable for price occasions. price() is required.

1.5.1 Stored results

In addition to all the scalars, macros, and matrices stored by bayesmixedlogit, bayesmixedlogitwtp adds the following additional macros:

Scalars e(price_coef) - exponent of mean of estimated coefficient on price variable

Macros e(pricevar) - name of price variable

Example 4

The following example mirrors examples provided of usage of the mixlogitwtp command (with thanks to Arne Rise Hole for allowing use of the example):

```
[10]: use http://fmwww.bc.edu/repec/bocode/t/traindata.dta, clear describe

bayesmixedlogitwtp y contract local wknown, group(gid) id(pid) price(price) /// rand(seasonal tod) draws(4000) burn(1000) thin(5) arater(.4) saving(draws)

→replace
```

```
Contains data from http://fmwww.bc.edu/repec/bocode/t/traindata.dta
            4,780
vars:
                                     28 Nov 2006 18:40
size:
           52,580
           storage display
                            value
variable name type
                   format
                            label
                                    variable label
______
                   %8.0g
            byte
У
            byte
price
                   %8.0g
            byte
                   %8.0g
contract
local
            byte
                  %8.0g
wknown
            byte
                  %8.0g
            byte
                   %8.0g
tod
            byte
                   %8.0g
seasonal
            int
                   %8.0g
gid
pid
                   %9.0g
            int
Sorted by:
```

Bayesian Mixed I	Logit Model -	- WTP Form		Obser	vations =	4780
				Group	s =	100
Acceptance rates	s:			Choic	es =	1195
Fixed coefs	=	0.290		Total	draws =	4000
Random coefs(av	/e,min,max)=	0.214, 0.16	84, 0.260	Burn-	in draws =	1000
				*One	of every 5 dr	aws kept
y	Coef.				[95% Conf.	Interval]
Fixed						
contract	249242	.0298574	-8.35	0.000	3078797	1906042
local	2.425951	.2125614	11.41	0.000	2.008497	2.843406
wknown	1.741476	.1599273	10.89	0.000	1.427391	2.055562
Random						
price	3333228	.0947416	-3.52	0.000	5193883	1472574
seasonal	-9.779766	.3131075	-31.23	0.000	-10.39469	-9.164847
tod	-9.612307	.3512882	-27.36	0.000	-10.30221	-8.922403
Cov_Random						
var_price	.2942746	.0795158	3.70	0.000	.1381115	.4504377
cov_pricese~l	2675019	.2485057	-1.08	0.282	7555485	.2205448
cov_pricetod	4965004	.2658258	-1.87	0.062	-1.018562	.0255617
var_seasonal	5.859335	1.728996	3.39	0.001	2.463715	9.254955
cov_seasona~d	4.173949	1.390441	3.00	0.003	1.443226	6.904672
var_tod	7.391194	1.994975	3.70	0.000	3.473211	11.30918

Draws saved in draws.dta

The price variable is price with transformed coef (-exp(b)): -0.779

Attention!

*Results are presented to conform with Stata covention, but are summary statistics of draws, not coefficient estimates.

1.5.2 Example 5

A case in which all coefficients are random:

Bayesian Mixed 1	Logit Model -	- WTP Form		Obser	vations =	4780
				Group	s =	100
Acceptance rates	s:			Choic	es =	1195
Fixed coefs	=			Total	draws =	2000
Random coefs(a	ve,min,max)=	0.152, 0.06	88, 0.237	Burn-	in draws =	1000
				*One	of every 5 dr	aws kept
y I	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf.	Intervall
, . +-					=	
Random						
price	6533948	.1186226	-5.51	0.000	8873062	4194833
seasonal	-9.684424	.4084787	-23.71	0.000	-10.4899	-8.878947
tod	-9.844531	.4323386	-22.77	0.000	-10.69706	-8.992004
wknown	.9696596	.2220143	4.37	0.000	.5318704	1.407449
Cov_Random						
var_price	.7395054	.2301116	3.21	0.002	.2857491	1.193262
cov_pricese~l	4428133	.4570225	-0.97	0.334	-1.344014	.4583876
cov_pricetod	4947435	.5077538	-0.97	0.331	-1.495981	.5064943
cov_pricewk~n	2005007	.2009999	-1.00	0.320	5968516	.1958502
var_seasonal	7.062787	2.070746	3.41	0.001	2.979491	11.14608
cov_seasona~d	5.437463	1.669412	3.26	0.001	2.145556	8.729371
cov_seasona~n	8402783	.5547666	-1.51	0.131	-1.93422	.2536639
var_tod	9.310019	2.347582	3.97	0.000	4.68083	13.93921
cov_todwknown	-1.204763	.5393129	-2.23	0.027	-2.268232	1412935
var_wknown	.9792376	. 2518897	3.89	0.000	.4825372	1.475938

Draws saved in draws.dta

The price variable is price with transformed coef (-exp(b)): -0.520

Attention!

*Results are presented to conform with Stata covention, but are summary statistics of draws, not coefficient estimates.

Looking at the distribution of draws for the price variable:

[12]: use draws, clear describe hist price graph display

size:

Contains data from draws.dta

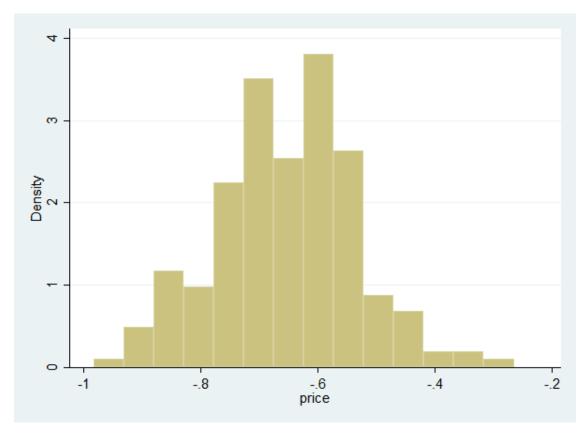
200 obs: vars: 16 12,800

1 Mar 2021 08:53

variable name	•	display format	variable label
price	float	%10.0g	
seasonal	float	%10.0g	
tod	float	%10.0g	
wknown	float	%10.0g	
var_price	float	%10.0g	
cov_priceseas	~l float	%10.0g	
cov_pricetod	float	%10.0g	
cov_pricewkno	wn float	%10.0g	
var_seasonal	float	%10.0g	
cov_seasonalt	od float	%10.0g	
cov_seasonalw	~n float	%10.0g	
var_tod	float	%10.0g	
cov_todwknown	float	%10.0g	
var_wknown	float	%10.0g	
fun_val	float	%10.0g	
t	float	%9.0g	

Sorted by:

(bin=14, start=-.98271137, width=.05126763)



global stata_kernel_graph_counter = \$stata_kernel_graph_counter + 1

1.6 References

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