
Spice Documentation

Release 1.7_RC

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Analog simulation interface package for TheSyDeKick.

Provides utilities to import spice-like modules to Python environment and generate testbenches for the various simulation cases.

Initially written by Okko Järvinen, 2019

Release 1.6, Jun 2020 supports Eldo and Spectre

class `spice.spice`

Adding this class as a superclass enforces the definitions for Spice simulations in the subclasses.

connect_spice_inputs()

Automatically called function to connect iofiles (inputs) to top entity IOS Bundle items.

connect_spice_outputs()

Automatically called function to connect iofiles (outputs) to top entity IOS Bundle items.

property `dcsource_bundle`

Bundle

A thesdk.Bundle containing *spice_dcsource* objects. The *spice_dcsource* objects are automatically added to this Bundle, nothing should be manually added.

property distributed_run

True | False (default)

If True, distributes applicable simulations (currently DC sweep supported) into the LSF cluster. The number of subprocesses launched is set by self.num_processes.

property dspf

List of str

List containing filenames for DSPF-files to be included for post-layout simulations. The names given in this list are matched to dspf-files in './spice/' -directory. A postfix '.pex.dspf' is automatically appended to the given names (this will probably change later).

Example:

```
self.dspf = ['inv_v2', 'switch_v3']
```

would include files './spice/inv_v2.pex.dspf' and './spice/switch_v3.pex.dspf' as dspf-files in the testbench. If the dspf-file contains definition matching the original design name of the top-level netlist, it gets also renamed to match the module name (dspf-file for top-level instance is possible).

property errpreset

String

Global accuracy parameter for Spectre simulations. Options include 'liberal', 'moderate' and 'conservative', in order of rising accuracy.

execute_spice_sim()

Automatically called function to execute spice simulation.

extract_powers()

Automatically called function to extract transient power and current consumptions. The consumptions are extracted for spice_dcsource objects with the attribute extract=True.

The extracted consumptions are accessible on the top-level after simulation as:

```
# Dictionary with averaged power of each supply + total
self.extracts.Members['powers']
# Dictionary with averaged current of each supply + total
self.extracts.Members['currents']
# Dictionary with transient current of each supply
self.extracts.Members['curr_tran']
```

The keys in the aforementioned dictionaries match the *name*-fields of the respective *spice_dcsource* objects.

property extracts

Bundle

A thesdb.Bundle containing extracted quantities.

get_buswidth(*signame*)

Extract buswidth from signal name.

Little-endian example:

```
start, stop, width, busrange = get_buswidth('BUS<10:0>')
# start = 10
# stop = 0
# width = 11
# busrange = range(10, -1, -1)
```

Big-endian example:

```
start, stop, width, busrange = get_buswidth('BUS<0:8>')
# start = 0
# stop = 8
# width = 9
# busrange = range(0, 9)
```

property has_lsf

True | False (default)

True if LSF submissions are properly defined.

property interactive_spice

True | False (default)

Launch simulator in interactive mode. A waveform viewer (ezwave by default) is opened during the simulation for debugging. See *plotprogram* for selecting waveform viewer program.

property iofile_bundle

Bundle

A thesdb.Bundle containing *spice_iofile* objects. The *spice_iofile* objects are automatically added to this Bundle, nothing should be manually added.

property iofile_eventdict

Dictionary

Dictionary to store event type output from the simulations. This should speed up reading the results.

property load_state

String (default '')

Feature for loading results of previous simulation. The Spice simulation is not re-executed, but the outputs will be read from existing files. The string value should be the *runname* of the desired simulation.

Loading the most recent result automatically:

```
self.load_state = 'last'
# or
self.load_state = 'latest'
```

Loading a specific past result using the *runname*:

```
self.load_state = '20201002103638_tmpdbw11nr4'
```

List available results by providing any non-existent *runname*:

```
self.load_state = 'this_does_not_exist'
```

property name

String

Name of the module.

property nproc

Integer

Requested maximum number of threads for multithreaded simulations. For Eldo, maps to command line parameter '-nproc'. For Spectre, maps to command line parameter '+mt'.

property num_processes

Integer

Maximum number of spawned child processes for distributed runs.

property plotlist

List of str

List of net names to be saved in the waveform database.

Note: Obsolete! Moved to *spice_simcmd* as a keyword argument.

property plotprogcmd

String

Sets the command to be run for interactive simulations.

property plotprogram

String

Sets the program to be used for visualizing waveform databases. Options are ezwave (default) or viva.

property preserve_iofiles

True | False (default)

If True, do not delete file IO files after simulations. Useful for debugging the file IO.

property preserve_spicefiles

True | False (default)

If True, do not delete generated Spice files (testbench, subcircuit, etc.) after simulations. Useful for debugging.

read_oppts()

Internally called function to read the DC operating points of the circuit TODO: Implement for Eldo as well.

read_spice_outputs()

Automatically called function to call read() functions of each iofile with direction 'output'.

run_plotprogram()

Starting a parallel process for waveform viewer program.

The plotting program command can be set with 'plotprogram'. Tested for spectre and eldo.

run_spice()

Externally called function to execute spice simulation.

property save_database

True | False (default)

Whether to save the waveform database (.wdb-file for eldo, raw-database for spectre), when save_state=True.

property si_prefix_mult

Dictionary

Dictionary mapping SI-prefixes to multipliers.

si_string_to_float(strval)

Convert SI-formatted string to float

E.g. self.si_string_to_float('3 mV') returns 3e-3.

property simcmd_bundle

Bundle

A thesdc.Bundle containing *spice_simcmd* objects. The *spice_simcmd* objects are automatically added to this Bundle, nothing should be manually added.

property simpath

String

Simulation path. (./simulations/<model>/<runname>) This is not meant to be set manually.

property spice_submission

String

Defines spice submission prefix from thesdc.GLOBALS['LSFSUBMISSION'] and thesdc.GLOBALS['LSFINTERACTIVE'] for LSF submissions.

Usually something like 'bsub -K' or 'bsub -I'.

property spicecmd

String

Simulation command string to be executed on the command line. Automatically generated.

property spicecorner

Dictionary

Feature for specifying the 'section' of the model library file and simulation temperature. The path to model libraries should be set in TheSDK.config as either ELDOLIBFILE, SPECTRELIBFILE or NGSPICELIBFILE variable.

Example:

```
self.spicecorner = {
    'temp': 27,
    'corner': 'top_tt'
}
```

property spicedbpath

String

Path to output waveform database. (<simpath>/tb_<entityname>.<resultfile_ext>) For now only for spectre. This shouldn't be set manually.

property spicemisc

List of str

List of manual commands to be pasted to the testbench. The strings are pasted to their own lines (no linebreaks needed), and the syntax is unchanged.

For example, setting initial voltages from testbench (Eldo):

```
for i in range(nodes):
    self.spicemisc.append('.ic NODE<%d> 0' % i)
```

The same example can be done in Spectre with:

```
self.spicemisc.append('simulator lang=spice')
for i in range(nodes):
    self.spicemisc.append('.ic NODE<%d> 0' % i)
self.spicemisc.append('simulator lang=spectre')
```

property spiceoptions

Dictionary

Feature for specifying options for spice simulation. The key is the name of the option (as in simulator manual specifies), and the value is the value given to said option. Valid key-value pairs can be found from the manual of the simulator (Eldo, Spectre or Ngspice).

Example:

```
self.spiceoptions = {
    'save': 'lvlpub',
    'nestlvl': '1',
    'pwr': 'subckts',
    'digits': '12'
}
```

property spiceparameters

Dictionary

Feature for specifying simulation parameters for spice simulation. The key is the name of the parameter , and the value is the value given to said parameter.

Example:

```
self.spiceparameters = {
    'nf_pmos': 8,
    'nf_nmos': 4,
    'ibias': 100e-6
}
```

property spicesrc

String

Path to the source netlist (i.e. 'spice/entityname.scs'). This shouldn't be set manually.

Note: Provided netlist name has to match entity name (entityname.scs or entityname.cir).

Note: Netlist has to contain the top-level design as a subcircuit definition.

property spicesrcpath

String

Path to the spice source of the entity ('./spice').

property spicesubcktsrc

String

Path to the parsed subcircuit file. ('<simpath>/subckt_entityname.<suffix>'). This shouldn't be set manually.

property spicetbsrc

String

Path to the spice testbench ('<simpath>/tb_entityname.<suffix>'). This shouldn't be set manually.

property syntaxdict

Dictionary

Internally used dictionary for common syntax conversions between Spectre, Eldo, and Ngspice.

write_spice_inputs()

Automatically called function to call write() functions of each iofile with direction 'input'.

1 Spice IO-file

Provides spice file IO related attributes and methods for TheSDK spice.

Initially written by Okko Järvinen, 2020

class spice.spice_iofile.spice_iofile(*parent=None, **kwargs*)

Class to provide file IO for spice simulations. When created, adds a spice_iofile object to the parents iofile_bundle property. Accessible as iofile_bundle.Members['name'].

parent

The parent object initializing the spice_iofile instance. Default None

Type object

name

Name of the IO.

Type str

dir

Direction of the IO.

Type 'in' or 'out'

iotype

Type of the IO signal. Event type signals are time-value pairs (analog signal), whereas sample type signals are sampled by a clock signal (digital bus). Sample type signals can be used for discrete time & continuous amplitude outputs (sampled voltage for example), by setting iotype='sample' and ioformat='volt'. Time type signals return a vector of timestamps corresponding to threshold crossings.

Type 'event', 'sample' or 'time'

ioformat

Formatting of the sampled signals. Digital output buses are formatted to unsigned integers when ioformat = 'dec'. For 'bin', the digital output bus is returned as a string containing ones and zeros. When ioformat = 'volt', the output signal is sampled at the clock and the floating point value is returned. Voltage sampling is only supported for non-bus signals.

Type 'dec', 'bin' or 'volt'

sourcetype

Type of the source associated to a file. Default 'V'.

Type 'V', 'I' or 'ISUB'

datatype

Inherited from the parent. If complex, the ioname is handled as a complex signal. Currently implemented only for writing the outputs in testbenches and reading them in.

Type str

trigger

Name of the clock signal node in the Spice netlist. If a single string is given, the same clock signal is used for all bits/buses. If a list is given, and the length matches ionames list length, each ioname will be assigned its own clock. Applies only to sample type outputs.

Type `str` or `list(str)`

vth

Threshold voltage of the trigger signal and the bit rounding. Applies only to sample type outputs.

Type `float`

edgetype

Type of triggering edge. When time type signal is used, the edgetype values can define the extraction type as 'risetime' or 'falltime' additionally. Default 'rising'.

Type 'rising', 'falling' or 'both'

after

Initial delay added to the input signal (sample) or time extraction (time). Useful for ignoring initial settling, for example. Applies only to sample and time outputs. Default 0.

Type `float`

big_endian

Flag to read the extracted bus as big-endian. Applies only to sample type outputs. Default False.

Type `bool`

rs

Sample rate of the sample type input. Default None.

Type `float`

vhi

High bit value of sample type input. Default 1.0.

Type `float`

vlo

Low bit value of sample type input. Default 0.

Type `float`

tfall

Falltime of sample type input. Default 5e-12.

Type `float`

trise

Risetime of sample type input. Default 5e-12.

Type `float`

Examples

Initiated in parent as:

```
__=spice_iofile(self,name='foobar')
```

Defining analog input voltage signals from python to spice:

```
__=spice_iofile(self,name='inp',dir='in',iotype='event',sourcetype='V',ionames='INP')
__=spice_iofile(self,name='inn',dir='in',iotype='event',sourcetype='V',ionames='INN')
```

Defining time-domain output signal containing rising edge threshold crossing timestamps of an analog clock signal:


```

_=spice_iofile(self,name='clk_rise',dir='out',iotype='time',sourcetype='V',
               ionames='CLK',edgetype='rising',vth=self.vdd/2)

```

Defining digital output signal triggered with a falling edge of the analog clock:

```

_=spice_iofile(self,name='dout',dir='out',iotype='sample',sourcetype='V',
               ioformat='bin',ionames='DOUT<7:0>',edgetype='falling',
               vth=self.vdd/2,trigger='CLK')

```

Defining a discrete time & continuous amplitude output signal triggered with a rising edge of the analog clock. The iofile returns a 2D-vector similar to ‘event’ type signals:

```

_=spice_iofile(self,name='sampled_input',dir='out',iotype='sample',sourcetype='V',
               ioformat='volt',ionames='INP',edgetype='rising',
               vth=self.vdd/2,trigger='CLK')

```

Defining digital input signal with decimal format. The input vector is a list of integers, which get converted to binary bus of 4-bits (inferred from ‘CTRL<3:0>’). The values are changed at 1 MHz interval in this example.:

```

_=spice_iofile(self,name='ctrl',dir='in',iotype='sample',ionames='CTRL<3:0>',rs=1e6,
               vhi=self.vdd,trise=5e-12,tfall=5e-12,ioformat='dec')

```

property DEBUG

This fixes DEBUG prints in spice_iofile, by propagating the DEBUG flag of the parent entity.

append_to_data(arr=None, bits=False, buswidth=None)

Helper method to append array to self.Data.

The array(s) are padded with np.nan when bits=False, and ‘UUUU’ when bits=True. This is called automatically for time and sample type IOs.

property file

List<str>

List containing filepaths to files associated with this spice_iofile. For digital buses or arrays of signals, the list contains multiple files which are automatically handled together. These filepaths are set automatically.

interp_crossings(data, vth, nint, edgetype)

Helper method called for ‘time’ and ‘sample’ type outputs.

Interpolates the requested threshold crossings (rising or falling) from the ‘event’ type input signal. Returns the time-stamps of the crossing instants in a 1D-vector.

Parameters

- **data** (*ndarray*) – Input data array. Expected an ‘event’ type 2D-vector where first column is time and second is voltage.
- **vth** (*float*) – Threshold voltage.
- **nint** (*int*) – Interpolation factor. The two closest points on each side of a threshold crossing are used for linear interpolation endpoints, where nint points are added to find as close x-value of the threshold crossing as possible.
- **edgetype** (*str*) – Direction of the crossing: ‘rising’, ‘falling’ or ‘both’.

Returns 1D-vector with time-stamps of interpolated threshold crossings.

Return type ndarray

property ionames

List<str>

Set by argument 'ionames'. This property casts the given argument to a list if needed.

parse_io_from_file(filepath, start, stop, dtype, label, queue)

Parse specific lines from a spectre print file.

This is wrapped to a function to allow parallelism.

read(**kwargs)

Function to read files associated with this spice_iofile.

sample_signal(signal, trigger, nint=1)

Helper method called for 'sample' type outputs.

Finds the signal y-values at time instants defined by the clock signal (trigger).

Parameters

- **data** (*ndarray*) – Input data array. Expected an 'event' type 2D-vector where first column is time and second is voltage.
- **vth** (*float*) – Threshold voltage.
- **nint** (*int*) – Interpolation factor. The two closest points on each side of a threshold crossing are used for linear interpolation endpoints, where nint points are added to find as close x-value of the threshold crossing as possible.
- **edgetype** (*str*) – Direction of the crossing: 'rising', 'falling' or 'both'.

Returns 1D-vector with time-stamps of interpolated threshold crossings.

Return type ndarray

write(**kwargs)

Function to write files associated with this spice_iofile.

2 Spice Simulation Command

Class for spice simulation commands.

Initially written by Okko Järvinen, 9.1.2020

class spice.spice_simcmd.spice_simcmd(parent, **kwargs)

Class to provide simulation command parameters to spice testbench. When instantiated in the parent class, this class automatically attaches spice_simcmd objects to simcmd_bundle -bundle in testbench.

parent

The parent object initializing the spice_simcmd instance. Default None.

Type object

sim

Simulation type.

Type 'tran' or 'dc'

plotlist

List of node names or operating points to be plotted. Node names follow simulator syntax. For Eldo, the voltage/current specifier is expected:

```
self.plotlist = ['v(OUT)', 'v(CLK)']
```

For Spectre, the node name is enough:

```
self.plotlist = ['OUT', 'CLK']
```

Note: Below applies only for Spectre!

When capturing operating point information with Spectre, adding the instance name to plotlist saves all operating points for the device, e.g:

```
self.plotlist = [XTB_NAME.XSUBCKT/M0]
```

saves all operating points defined by the model for the device M0 in subckt XSUBCKT.

Wildcards are supported, but should be used with caution as the output file can quickly become excessively large. For example to capture the gm of all transistor use:

```
self.plotlist = ['*:gm']
```

It is highly recommended to exclude the devices that are not needed from the output to reduce file size. Examples of such devices are RC-parasitics (include option savefilter='rc' in self.spiceoptions to exclude them) and dummy transistors. See excludelist below.

Type list(str)

excludelist

Applies for Spectre only! List of device names NOT to be included in the output report. Wildcards are supported. Exclude list is especially useful for DC simulations when specifying outputs with wildcards.

For example, when capturing gm for all transistors, use exclude list to exclude all dummy transistors with:

```
self.excludelist = [XTB_NAME*DUMMY_ID*],
```

where DUMMY_ID is extraction tool / runset specific dummy identifier.

Type list(str)

sweep

DC & Spectre models only. If given, sweeps the top-level parameter given as value. For example:

```
_spice_simcmd(sim='dc', sweep='temp', swpstart=27, swpstop=87)
```

sweeps the top-level parameter temp (temperature) from 27 to 87 at 10 degree increments.

Type str

subcktname

If given, sweeps the parameter defined by property sweep from the subcircuit given by this property. For example:

```
_spice_simcmd(sim='dc', sweep='Vb', subcktname='XSUBCKT',  
              swpstart=0.1, swpstop=1.5, step=0.05)
```

sweeps the Vb parameter from subcircuit XSUBCKT from 0.1 volts to 1.5 volts with 0.05 volt increments.

Type str

devname

If given, sweeps the parameter defined by property sweep from the device given by this property. For example:

```
_=spice_simcmd(sim='dc', sweep='w', deviceswp='XSUBCKT.XNMOS',  
               swpstart='10u', swpstop='14u', step='0.1u')
```

sweeps the width of transistor XNMOS of subckt XSUBCKT from 10u to 14u in 0.1u increments.

Type `str`

swpstart

Starting point of DC sweep. Default 0.

Type `int`, `float` or `str`

swpstop

Stop point of DC sweep. Default 0.

Type `int`, `float` or `str`

swpstep

Step size of the sweep simulation. Default 10.

Type `int`, `float` or `str`

tprint

Print interval. Default 1e-12 (same as '1p').

Type `float` or `str`

tstop

Transient simulation duration. When not defined, the simulation time is the duration of the longest input signal.

Type `float` or `str`

uic

Use initial conditions flag. Default False.

Type `bool`

noise

Noise transient flag. Default False.

Type `bool`

fmin

Minimum noise frequency. Default 1 (Hz).

Type `float` or `str`

fmax

Maximum noise frequency. Default 5e9.

Type `float` or `str`

fscale

Logarithmic or linear scale for frequency. Default 'log'.

Type 'log' or 'lin'

fpoints

Number of points for frequency analysis. Default 0.

Type `int`

fstepsize

Step size for AC analysis, if scale if 'lin'. If fscale is 'log', this parameter gives number of points per decade. Default 0.

Type `int`

seed

Random generator seed for noise transient. Default None (random).

Type `int`

method

Transient integration method. Default None (Spectre takes method from errpreset).

Type `str`

cmin

Spectre cmin parameter: this much cap from each node to ground. Might speed up simulation. Default None (not used).

Type `float`

mc

Enable Monte Carlo simulation. This flag will enable Monte Carlo modeling for a single simulation. It will NOT execute multiple runs or do any statistical analysis. Intended use case is to generate a group of entities in the testbench with each having mc=True, simulating them in parallel (see run_parallel() of thesdk-class), post-processing results in Python.

Type `bool`

mc_seed

Random seed for the Monte Carlo instance. Default None (random seed).

Type `int`

Examples

Initiated in parent as:

```
_ = spice_simcmd(self, sim='tran', tprint=1e-12, tstop='10n',
                 uic=True, noise=True, fmin=1, fmax=5e9)
```

For a simple transient with inferred simulation duration:

```
_ = spice_simcmd(self, sim='tran')
```

3 Spice DC Source

Class for generating DC voltage/current sources in the Spectre or Eldo testbench.

Initially written by Okko Järvinen, 9.1.2020

class `spice.spice_dcsource.spice_dcsource`(*parent*, ***kwargs*)

Class to provide DC source definitions to spice testbench. When instantiated in the parent class, this class automatically attaches spice_dcsource objects to dcsouce_bundle -bundle in testbench.

parent

The parent object initializing the spice_dcsource instance. Default None.

Type object

name

Name of the source.

Type str

value

Value of the source.

Type float

sourcetype

Type of the DC source. Either 'V' for voltage or 'I' for current.

Type 'V' or 'I'

pos

Name of the positive net in the netlist.

Type str

neg

Name of the negative net in the netlist.

Type str

extract

Flag the source for transient current and power consumption extraction. Extracted currents and powers are accessible through dictionaries self.currents and self.powers in the parent object. Default False.

Type bool

ext_start

Time to start extracting average transient power consumption. Default is 0.

Type float

ext_stop

Time to stop extracting average transient power consumption. Default is simulation end time.

Type float

noise

Enable the noise contribution of this source (only when transient noise is enabled). Default is True.

Type bool

ramp

Ramp up the source from 0 to value in ramp seconds. Default is 0 (no ramping).

Type float

Examples

A voltage source connected between circuit nodes 'VDD' and 'VSS', for which power and current consumptions are extracted in transient simulation. Initiated in parent as:

```
_ = spice_dcsource(self, name='supply', value=1.0, extract=True, pos='VDD', neg='VSS')
_ = spice_dcsource(self, name='ground', value=0, pos='VSS', neg='0') # Ground 'source'
```

A bias current flowing from 'VDD' to node 'IBIAS':

```
_=spice_dcsource(self,name='bias',sourcetype='I',value=25e-6,pos='VDD',neg='IBIAS')
```

property ext_file

String

Optional filepath for extracted transient current when self.extract=True.

4 Spice Testbench

Testbench generation class for spice simulations.

class spice.testbench.testbench(*parent=None, **kwargs*)

This class generates all testbench contents. This class is utilized by the main spice class.

property dcsourcestr

String

DC source definitions parsed from spice_dcsource objects instantiated in the parent entity.

property dspfincludcmd

String

DSPF-file inclusion string pointing to files corresponding to self.dspf in the parent entity.

esc_bus(*name, esc_colon=True*)

Helper function to escape bus characters for Spectre simulations:

```
self.esc_bus('bus<3:0>')  
# Returns 'bus\<3\:0\>'
```

export(***kwargs*)

Internally called function to write the testbench to a file.

export_subckt(***kwargs*)

Internally called function to write the parsed subcircuit definitions to a file.

property file

String

Filepath to the testbench file (i.e. './spice/tb_entityname.scs').

generate_contents()

Internally called function to generate testbench contents.

property includcmd

String

Subcircuit inclusion string pointing to generated subckt_* -file.

property inputsignals

String

Input signal definitions parsed from spice_iofile objects instantiated in the parent entity.

property libcmd

String

Library inclusion string. Parsed from self.spicecorner -dictionary in the parent entity, as well as 'EL-DOLIBFILE' or 'SPECTRELIBFILE' global variables in TheSDK.config.

property misccmd

String

Miscellaneous command string corresponding to self.spicemisc -list in the parent entity.

property options

String

Spice options string parsed from self.spiceoptions -dictionary in the parent entity.

property parameters

String

Spice parameters string parsed from self.spiceparameters -dictionary in the parent entity.

property plotcmd

String

All output IOs are mapped to plot or print statements in the testbench. Also manual plot commands through *spice_simcmd.plotlist* are handled here.**property simcmdstr**

String

Simulation command definition parsed from spice_simcmd object instantiated in the parent entity.

5 Spice Module

Class for Spice netlist parsing.

class spice.spice_module.spice_module(**kwargs)

This class parses source netlist for subcircuits and handles the generation of a separate pruned subckt_* -file.

This class is internally utilized by the spice_testbench module.

property DEBUG

This fixes DEBUG prints in spice_iofile, by propagating the DEBUG flag of the parent entity.

property name

String

Entity name.

property postlayout

Boolean

Flag for detected post-layout netlists. This will enable post-layout optimizations in the simulator command options. Automatically detected from given netlist for Calibre extracted netlists, or when 'dspf' attribute is defined.

property subckt

String

String containing the contents of the subckt_* -file. This attribute parses the source netlist when called, and generates the contents to be written to the subckt-file.

property subinst

String

String containing the subcircuit instance to be placed in the testbench. The instance is parsed from the previously generated subckt_* -file.

subinst_constructor(***kwargs*)

Method that parses the subcircuit definition and constructs a subcircuit instance out of it

subckt : string

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