Project 3: Smart Beta Portfolio and Portfolio Optimization

Overview

Smart beta has a broad meaning, but we can say in practice that when we use the universe of stocks from an index, and then apply some weighting scheme other than market cap weighting, it can be considered a type of smart beta fund. A Smart Beta portfolio generally gives investors exposure or "beta" to one or more types of market characteristics (or factors) that are believed to predict prices while giving investors a diversified broad exposure to a particular market. Smart Beta portfolios generally target momentum, earnings quality, low volatility, and dividends or some combination. Smart Beta Portfolios are generally rebalanced infrequently and follow relatively simple rules or algorithms that are passively managed. Model changes to these types of funds are also rare requiring prospectus filings with US Security and Exchange Commission in the case of US focused mutual funds or ETFs.. Smart Beta portfolios are generally long-only, they do not short stocks.

In contrast, a purely alpha-focused quantitative fund may use multiple models or algorithms to create a portfolio. The portfolio manager retains discretion in upgrading or changing the types of models and how often to rebalance the portfolio in attempt to maximize performance in comparison to a stock benchmark. Managers may have discretion to short stocks in portfolios.

Imagine you're a portfolio manager, and wish to try out some different portfolio weighting methods.

One way to design portfolio is to look at certain accounting measures (fundamentals) that, based on past trends, indicate stocks that produce better results.

For instance, you may start with a hypothesis that dividend-issuing stocks tend to perform better than stocks that do not. This may not always be true of all companies; for instance, Apple does not issue dividends, but has had good historical performance. The hypothesis about dividend-paying stocks may go something like this:

Companies that regularly issue dividends may also be more prudent in allocating their available cash, and may indicate that they are more conscious of prioritizing shareholder interests. For example, a CEO may decide to reinvest cash into pet projects that produce low returns. Or, the CEO may do some analysis, identify that

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reinvesting within the company produces lower returns compared to a diversified portfolio, and so decide that shareholders would be better served if they were given the cash (in the form of dividends). So according to this hypothesis, dividends may be both a proxy for how the company is doing (in terms of earnings and cash flow), but also a signal that the company acts in the best interest of its shareholders. Of course, it's important to test whether this works in practice.

You may also have another hypothesis, with which you wish to design a portfolio that can then be made into an ETF. You may find that investors may wish to invest in passive beta funds, but wish to have less risk exposure (less volatility) in their investments. The goal of having a low volatility fund that still produces returns similar to an index may be appealing to investors who have a shorter investment time horizon, and so are more risk averse.

So the objective of your proposed portfolio is to design a portfolio that closely tracks an index, while also minimizing the portfolio variance. Also, if this portfolio can match the returns of the index with less volatility, then it has a higher risk-adjusted return (same return, lower volatility).

Smart Beta ETFs can be designed with both of these two general methods (among others): alternative weighting and minimum volatility ETF.

Instructions

Each problem consists of a function to implement and instructions on how to implement the function. The parts of the function that need to be implemented are marked with a # T0D0 comment. After implementing the function, run the cell to test it against the unit tests we've provided. For each problem, we provide one or more unit tests from our project_tests package. These unit tests won't tell you if your answer is correct, but will warn you of any major errors. Your code will be checked for the correct solution when you submit it to Udacity.

Packages

When you implement the functions, you'll only need to you use the packages you've used in the classroom, like Pandas and Numpy. These packages will be imported for you. We recommend you don't add any import statements, otherwise the grader might not be able to run your code.

The other packages that we're importing are helper, project_helper, and project_tests. These are custom packages built to help you solve the problems. The helper and project_helper module contains utility functions and graph

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functions. The project_tests contains the unit tests for all the problems.

Install Packages

```
In [ ]: import sys
!{sys.executable} -m pip install -r requirements.txt
```

Load Packages

```
In [108... import pandas as pd
  import numpy as np
  import helper
  import project_helper
  import project_tests
```

Market Data

Load Data

For this universe of stocks, we'll be selecting large dollar volume stocks. We're using this universe, since it is highly liquid.

```
In [109... df = pd.read_csv('../../data/project_3/eod-quotemedia.csv')

percent_top_dollar = 0.2
high_volume_symbols = project_helper.large_dollar_volume_stocks(df, 'adj_df = df[df['ticker'].isin(high_volume_symbols)]

close = df.reset_index().pivot(index='date', columns='ticker', values='ad volume = df.reset_index().pivot(index='date', columns='ticker', values='a dividends = df.reset_index().pivot(index='date', columns='ticker', values
```

View Data

To see what one of these 2-d matrices looks like, let's take a look at the closing prices matrix.

```
In [110... project_helper.print_dataframe(close)
```

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Part 1: Smart Beta Portfolio

In Part 1 of this project, you'll build a portfolio using dividend yield to choose the portfolio weights. A portfolio such as this could be incorporated into a smart beta ETF. You'll compare this portfolio to a market cap weighted index to see how well it performs.

Note that in practice, you'll probably get the index weights from a data vendor (such as companies that create indices, like MSCI, FTSE, Standard and Poor's), but for this exercise we will simulate a market cap weighted index.

Index Weights

The index we'll be using is based on large dollar volume stocks. Implement generate_dollar_volume_weights to generate the weights for this index. For each date, generate the weights based on dollar volume traded for that date. For example, assume the following is close prices and volume data:

	Prices			
	Α	В		
2013-07-08	2	2		
2013-07-09	5	6		
2013-07-10	1	2		
2013-07-11	6	5		
•••		• • • •		
Volume				
	Α	В		
2013-07-08	100	340		
2013-07-09	240	220		
2013-07-10	120	500		
2013-07-11	10	100		

The weights created from the function <code>generate_dollar_volume_weights</code> should be the following:

	Α	В	
2013-07-08	0.126	0.194	
2013-07-09	0.759	0.377	
2013-07-10	0.075	0.285	
2013-07-11	0.037	0.142	

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```
In [111... def generate dollar volume weights(close, volume):
              Generate dollar volume weights.
             Parameters
              ______
              close : DataFrame
                 Close price for each ticker and date
              volume : str
                 Volume for each ticker and date
             Returns
              _____
              dollar_volume_weights : DataFrame
                 The dollar volume weights for each ticker and date
              assert close.index.equals(volume.index)
              assert close.columns.equals(volume.columns)
             #TODO: Implement function
              # This Udacity Knowledge Post helped me to understand howh to impleme
              # https://knowledge.udacity.com/questions/12761
              dollar_volume = close * volume
              dollar volume sum = dollar volume.sum(axis=1)
              dollar volume weights = dollar volume.div(dollar volume sum, axis=0)
             return dollar_volume_weights
         project tests.test generate dollar volume weights(generate dollar volume
```

Tests Passed

View Data

Let's generate the index weights using <code>generate_dollar_volume_weights</code> and view them using a heatmap.

```
In [112... index_weights = generate_dollar_volume_weights(close, volume)
    project_helper.plot_weights(index_weights, 'Index Weights')
```

The graph for Index Weights is too large. You can view it here.

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Portfolio Weights

Now that we have the index weights, let's choose the portfolio weights based on dividend. You would normally calculate the weights based on trailing dividend yield, but we'll simplify this by just calculating the total dividend yield over time.

Implement calculate_dividend_weights to return the weights for each stock based on its total dividend yield over time. This is similar to generating the weight for the index, but it's using dividend data instead. For example, assume the following is dividends data:

	Prices		
	Α	В	
2013-07-08	0	0	
2013-07-09	0	1	
2013-07-10	0.5	0	
2013-07-11	0	0	
2013-07-12	2	0	

The weights created from the function calculate_dividend_weights should be the following:

	Α	В
2013-07-08	NaN	NaN
2013-07-09	0	1
2013-07-10	0.333	0.666
2013-07-11	0.333	0.666
2013-07-12	0.714	0.285

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```
In [113... def calculate dividend weights(dividends):
             Calculate dividend weights.
             Parameters
              _____
             dividends : DataFrame
                 Dividend for each stock and date
             Returns
             _____
             dividend weights : DataFrame
                 Weights for each stock and date
             #TODO: Implement function
             cum dividends = np.cumsum(dividends)
             cum_dividends_sum = cum_dividends.sum(axis=1)
             dividends weights = cum dividends.div(cum dividends sum, axis=0)
             return dividends_weights
         project tests.test calculate dividend weights(calculate dividend weights)
```

Tests Passed

View Data

Just like the index weights, let's generate the ETF weights and view them using a heatmap.

```
In [114... etf_weights = calculate_dividend_weights(dividends)
    project_helper.plot_weights(etf_weights, 'ETF Weights')
```

The graph for ETF Weights is too large. You can view it here.

Returns

Implement generate_returns to generate returns data for all the stocks and dates from price data. You might notice we're implementing returns and not log returns. Since we're not dealing with volatility, we don't have to use log returns.

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```
In [115... def generate_returns(prices):
    """
    Generate returns for ticker and date.

Parameters
------
prices: DataFrame
    Price for each ticker and date

Returns
-----
returns: Dataframe
    The returns for each ticker and date

"""

#TODO: Implement function
returns = (prices - prices.shift(1)) / prices.shift(1)

return returns
project_tests.test_generate_returns(generate_returns)
```

Tests Passed

View Data

Let's generate the closing returns using generate_returns and view them using a heatmap.

```
In [116... returns = generate_returns(close)
    project_helper.plot_returns(returns, 'Close Returns')
```

The graph for Close Returns is too large. You can view it here.

Weighted Returns

With the returns of each stock computed, we can use it to compute the returns for an index or ETF. Implement generate_weighted_returns to create weighted returns using the returns and weights.

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```
In [117... | def generate_weighted_returns(returns, weights):
              Generate weighted returns.
             Parameters
              _____
             returns : DataFrame
                 Returns for each ticker and date
             weights : DataFrame
                 Weights for each ticker and date
             Returns
              _____
              weighted_returns : DataFrame
                 Weighted returns for each ticker and date
              assert returns.index.equals(weights.index)
              assert returns.columns.equals(weights.columns)
              #TODO: Implement function
             weighted_returns = returns * weights
             return weighted_returns
         project_tests.test_generate_weighted_returns(generate_weighted_returns)
```

Tests Passed

View Data

Let's generate the ETF and index returns using <code>generate_weighted_returns</code> and view them using a heatmap.

```
index_weighted_returns = generate_weighted_returns(returns, index_weights
    etf_weighted_returns = generate_weighted_returns(returns, etf_weights)
    project_helper.plot_returns(index_weighted_returns, 'Index Returns')
    project_helper.plot_returns(etf_weighted_returns, 'ETF Returns')
```

The graph for Index Returns is too large. You can view it here.

The graph for ETF Returns is too large. You can view it here.

Cumulative Returns

To compare performance between the ETF and Index, we're going to calculate the tracking error. Before we do that, we first need to calculate the index and ETF comulative returns. Implement calculate_cumulative_returns to calculate the cumulative returns over time given the returns.

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```
In [119... def calculate_cumulative_returns(returns):
             Calculate cumulative returns.
             Parameters
             _____
             returns : DataFrame
                 Returns for each ticker and date
             Returns
             _____
             cumulative returns : Pandas Series
                 Cumulative returns for each date
             #TODO: Implement function
             # Udacity Knowledge Post https://knowledge.udacity.com/questions/1635
             # on how to implement this function (cumprod formula from Lession 17
             cum returns sum = returns.cumsum(axis=1)
             cumulative returns = (cum returns sum + 1).cumprod(axis=0)[returns.co
             return cumulative_returns
         project tests test calculate cumulative returns (calculate cumulative retu
```

Tests Passed

View Data

Let's generate the ETF and index cumulative returns using calculate cumulative returns and compare the two.

```
index_weighted_cumulative_returns = calculate_cumulative_returns(index_we
etf_weighted_cumulative_returns = calculate_cumulative_returns(etf_weight
project_helper.plot_benchmark_returns(index_weighted_cumulative_returns,
```

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Tracking Error

In order to check the performance of the smart beta portfolio, we can calculate the annualized tracking error against the index. Implement tracking_error to return the tracking error between the ETF and benchmark.

For reference, we'll be using the following annualized tracking error function: $TE = \sqrt{252} * SampleStdev(r_p - r_b)$

Where r_p is the portfolio/ETF returns and r_b is the benchmark returns.

Note: When calculating the sample standard deviation, the delta degrees of freedom is 1, which is the also the default value.

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```
In [121... def tracking_error(benchmark_returns_by_date, etf_returns_by_date):
              Calculate the tracking error.
             Parameters
              _____
             benchmark_returns_by_date : Pandas Series
                 The benchmark returns for each date
              etf_returns_by_date : Pandas Series
                 The ETF returns for each date
             Returns
              _____
              tracking_error : float
                 The tracking error
              assert benchmark_returns_by_date.index.equals(etf_returns_by_date.ind
              #TODO: Implement function
             tracking_error = np.sqrt(252)*np.std(etf_returns_by_date - benchmark_
              return tracking_error
         project_tests.test_tracking_error(tracking_error)
```

Tests Passed

View Data

Let's generate the tracking error using tracking_error.

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Part 2: Portfolio Optimization

Now, let's create a second portfolio. We'll still reuse the market cap weighted index, but this will be independent of the dividend-weighted portfolio that we created in part 1.

We want to both minimize the portfolio variance and also want to closely track a market cap weighted index. In other words, we're trying to minimize the distance between the weights of our portfolio and the weights of the index.

\$Minimize \left [\sigma^2_p + \lambda \sqrt{\sum_{1}^{m}(weight_i - indexWeight_i)^2} \right]\$ where \$m\$ is the number of stocks in the portfolio, and \$\lambda\$ is a scaling factor that you can choose.

Why are we doing this? One way that investors evaluate a fund is by how well it tracks its index. The fund is still expected to deviate from the index within a certain range in order to improve fund performance. A way for a fund to track the performance of its benchmark is by keeping its asset weights similar to the weights of the index. We'd expect that if the fund has the same stocks as the benchmark, and also the same weights for each stock as the benchmark, the fund would yield about the same returns as the benchmark. By minimizing a linear combination of both the portfolio risk and distance between portfolio and benchmark weights, we attempt to balance the desire to minimize portfolio variance with the goal of tracking the index.

Covariance

Implement get_covariance_returns to calculate the covariance of the returns. We'll use this to calculate the portfolio variance.

If we have \$m\$ stock series, the covariance matrix is an \$m \times m\$ matrix containing the covariance between each pair of stocks. We can use Numpy.cov to get the covariance. We give it a 2D array in which each row is a stock series, and each column is an observation at the same period of time. For any NaN values, you can replace them with zeros using the DataFrame.fillna function.

The covariance matrix \$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma^2_{1,1} & ... & \sigma^2_{1,m} \\ ... & ... \sigma_{m,1} & ... & \sigma^2_{m,m} \\ \end{bmatrix}\$

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Tests Passed

View Data

Let's look at the covariance generated from get_covariance_returns .

The graph for Covariance Returns Correlation Matrix is too large. You can view it here.

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portfolio variance

We can write the portfolio variance $\simeq 2_p = \mathbb{Y}^2$ \mathbf{x^T} \mathbf{P} \mathbf{x}\$

Recall that the $\mathbf{x^T} \neq \mathbf{x}$ is called the quadratic form. We can use the cvxpy function $\mathbf{quad}_{\mathbf{r}}$ to get the quadratic form.

Distance from index weights

We want portfolio weights that track the index closely. So we want to minimize the distance between them. Recall from the Pythagorean theorem that you can get the distance between two points in an x,y plane by adding the square of the x and y distances and taking the square root. Extending this to any number of dimensions is called the L2 norm. So: $\frac{1}^n \frac{1}^n}{m^2} Can also be written as \left| \frac{1}^n \frac{1}^n \frac{1}^n}{m^2} \right|$. There's a cvxpy function called $\frac{norm}{norm}(x, p=2, axis=None)$. The default is already set to find an L2 norm, so you would pass in one argument, which is the difference between your portfolio weights and the index weights.

objective function

We want to minimize both the portfolio variance and the distance of the portfolio weights from the index weights. We also want to choose a scale constant, which is \$\lambda\$ in the expression.

 $\hat{x^T} \mathcal{E}_{x^T} \mathcal{E}_{x} + \mathcal{E}_{x} + \mathcal{E}_{x} - \mathcal{$

This lets us choose how much priority we give to minimizing the difference from the index, relative to minimizing the variance of the portfolio. If you choose a higher value for scale (\$\lambda\$).

We can find the objective function using cvxpy objective = cvx.Minimize(). Can you guess what to pass into this function?

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constraints

We can also define our constraints in a list. For example, you'd want the weights to sum to one. So $\sum_{1}^{n}x = 1$. You may also need to go long only, which means no shorting, so no negative weights. So $x_i > 0$ for all i, you could save a variable as $x_i > 0$, sum(x) == 1, where x was created using cvx.Variable().

optimization

So now that we have our objective function and constraints, we can solve for the values of \$\mathbf{x}\\$. cvxpy has the constructor Problem(objective, constraints), which returns a Problem object.

The **Problem** object has a function solve(), which returns the minimum of the solution. In this case, this is the minimum variance of the portfolio.

It also updates the vector \mathbf{x} .

We can check out the values of x_A and x_B that gave the minimum portfolio variance by using x_value

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```
In [135...
         import cvxpy as cvx
          def get optimal weights(covariance returns, index weights, scale=2.0):
              Find the optimal weights.
             Parameters
              _____
              covariance_returns : 2 dimensional Ndarray
                  The covariance of the returns
              index_weights : Pandas Series
                 Index weights for all tickers at a period in time
              scale : int
                  The penalty factor for weights the deviate from the index
              Returns
              x : 1 dimensional Ndarray
                  The solution for x
              assert len(covariance returns.shape) == 2
              assert len(index weights.shape) == 1
              assert covariance_returns.shape[0] == covariance_returns.shape[1]
              #TODO: Implement function
             m = len(covariance_returns)
             x = cvx.Variable(m)
             var = cvx.quad_form(x, covariance_returns)
              dist = cvx.norm(x - index_weights)
              objective = cvx.Minimize(var + scale*dist)
              constraints = [x \ge 0, sum(x) == 1]
              cvx.Problem(objective, constraints).solve()
              return x.value
          project_tests.test_get_optimal_weights(get_optimal_weights)
```

Tests Passed

Optimized Portfolio

Using the <code>get_optimal_weights</code> function, let's generate the optimal ETF weights without rebalanceing. We can do this by feeding in the covariance of the entire history of data. We also need to feed in a set of index weights. We'll go with the average weights of the index over time.

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With our ETF weights built, let's compare it to the index. Run the next cell to calculate the ETF returns and compare it to the index returns.

Optimized ETF Tracking Error: 0.05795012630412267

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Rebalance Portfolio Over Time

The single optimized ETF portfolio used the same weights for the entire history. This might not be the optimal weights for the entire period. Let's rebalance the portfolio over the same period instead of using the same weights. Implement rebalance_portfolio to rebalance a portfolio.

Reblance the portfolio every n number of days, which is given as shift_size.

When rebalancing, you should look back a certain number of days of data in the past, denoted as chunk_size. Using this data, compute the optoimal weights using get_optimal_weights and get_covariance_returns.

```
In [167... def rebalance_portfolio(returns, index_weights, shift_size, chunk_size):
             Get weights for each rebalancing of the portfolio.
             Parameters
             _____
             returns : DataFrame
                 Returns for each ticker and date
             index weights : DataFrame
                 Index weight for each ticker and date
             shift size : int
                 The number of days between each rebalance
             chunk size : int
                 The number of days to look in the past for rebalancing
             Returns
             all rebalance weights : list of Ndarrays
                  The ETF weights for each point they are rebalanced
             assert returns.index.equals(index weights.index)
             assert returns.columns.equals(index weights.columns)
             assert shift_size > 0
             assert chunk size >= 0
             #TODO: Implement function
             # Udacity Knowledge Article https://knowledge.udacity.com/questions/1
             # to get an idea on how to implement this function, especially the hi
             # range function as described here: https://www.pythoncentral.io/pyth
             all rebalance weights = []
             for chunk in range(chunk size, returns.shape[0], shift size):
                  chunk_rebalance_weights = get_optimal_weights(get_covariance_retu
                  all rebalance weights.append(chunk rebalance weights)
             return all rebalance weights
         project_tests.test_rebalance_portfolio(rebalance_portfolio)
```

Tests Passed

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Run the following cell to rebalance the portfolio using rebalance_portfolio.

```
In [168... chunk_size = 250
    shift_size = 5
    all_rebalance_weights = rebalance_portfolio(returns, index_weights, shift_size)
```

Portfolio Turnover

With the portfolio rebalanced, we need to use a metric to measure the cost of rebalancing the portfolio. Implement get_portfolio_turnover to calculate the annual portfolio turnover. We'll be using the formulas used in the classroom:

- \$ AnnualizedTurnover =\frac{SumTotalTurnover}{NumberOfRebalanceEvents} *
 NumberofRebalanceEventsPerYear \$
- $\int \int \int \int (t_n)^{t_n} (t_n)^{t_n} dt = x_{t_n} x_{t_n} \cdot (t_n)^{t_n} \cdot (t_n)^{t_n} dt = x_{t_n}^{t_n} \cdot (t_n)^{t_n} \cdot (t_n)^{t$
- $\$ SumTotalTurnover $\$ is just a different way of writing $\$ \sum \left | $x_{t_1,n} x_{t_2,n} \right|$

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```
In [188... def get portfolio turnover(all rebalance weights, shift size, rebalance c
              Calculage portfolio turnover.
             Parameters
              ______
              all_rebalance_weights : list of Ndarrays
                 The ETF weights for each point they are rebalanced
              shift size : int
                  The number of days between each rebalance
             rebalance_count : int
                 Number of times the portfolio was rebalanced
             n_trading days in year: int
                 Number of trading days in a year
             Returns
              _____
              portfolio_turnover : float
                 The portfolio turnover
             assert shift size > 0
             assert rebalance_count > 0
             #TODO: Implement function
             # Udacity Knowledge Article https://knowledge.udacity.com/questions/1
             # implementing this function
             sum_total_turnover = 0.0
              for i in np.arange(rebalance count):
                  sum total turnover += (np.absolute(all rebalance weights[i]-all r
              portfolio turnover = sum total turnover / rebalance count * (n tradin
             return portfolio_turnover
         project tests.test get portfolio turnover(get portfolio turnover)
```

Tests Passed

Run the following cell to get the portfolio turnover from get_portfolio turnover.

```
In [189... print(get_portfolio_turnover(all_rebalance_weights, shift_size, len(all_r
16.72683266050277
```

That's it! You've built a smart beta portfolio in part 1 and did portfolio optimization in part 2. You can now submit your project.

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Submission

Now that you're done with the project, it's time to submit it. Click the submit button in the bottom right. One of our reviewers will give you feedback on your project with a pass or not passed grade. You can continue to the next section while you wait for feedback.

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