

## 4.2 Basic Theory for Imputation

# Basic Setup

- Recall that imputation is used in computing the expected estimating equation

$$n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n U(\psi; \mathbf{y}_i) = 0.$$

- $\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}^{*(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}^{*(m)}$ :  $m$  imputed values of  $\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}$  generated from

$$f(\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}} \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \delta; \hat{\eta}_p) = \frac{f(\mathbf{y}; \hat{\theta}_p) P(\delta \mid \mathbf{y}; \hat{\phi}_p)}{\int f(\mathbf{y}; \hat{\theta}_p) P(\delta \mid \mathbf{y}; \hat{\phi}_p) d\mu(\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}})}, \quad (1)$$

where  $\hat{\eta}_p = (\hat{\theta}_p, \hat{\phi}_p)$  is a preliminary estimator of  $\eta_0 = (\theta_0, \phi_0)$ .

- Two cases for  $\psi$ :
  - ①  $\psi = \eta$ : Theorem 4.1 (i.e.  $U$  is the score function for  $\eta$ )
  - ②  $\psi \neq \eta$ : Theorem 4.2 (for general estimating function  $U$ )

## Case 1: $\psi = \eta$

- Using  $m$  imputed values, the imputed score function is computed as

$$\bar{S}_{I,m}(\eta \mid \hat{\eta}_p) \equiv \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m S_{\text{com}}(\eta; \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}^{*(j)}, \boldsymbol{\delta}),$$

where  $S_{\text{com}}(\eta; \mathbf{y}) = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n S(\eta; \mathbf{y}_i)$  is the score function of  $\eta = (\theta, \phi)$  under complete response.

- We will first consider the case when  $m \rightarrow \infty$ . In this case,

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \bar{S}_{I,m}(\eta \mid \hat{\eta}_p) = E \{ S_{\text{com}}(\eta) \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \hat{\eta}_p \} := \bar{S}(\eta \mid \hat{\eta}_p).$$

The solution to  $\bar{S}(\eta \mid \hat{\eta}_p) = 0$  is the M-step update of the EM algorithm using  $\hat{\eta}_p$  as the current parameter estimate.

# Preliminary results

- Let  $\hat{\eta}_1$  and  $\hat{\eta}_2$  satisfy

$$\bar{S}(\hat{\eta}_2 \mid \hat{\eta}_1) = 0$$

where

$$\bar{S}(\eta_2 \mid \eta_1) = \int S_{\text{com}}(\eta_2) f(\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}} \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \eta_1) d\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}.$$

- To apply Taylor expansion, we need to use

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta'_2} \bar{S}(\eta_2 \mid \eta_1) = \int \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta'_2} S_{\text{com}}(\eta_2) \right\} f(\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}} \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \eta_1) d\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}$$

and

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta'_1} \bar{S}(\eta_2 \mid \eta_1) = \int S_{\text{com}}(\eta_2) S_{\text{mis}}(\eta_1)' f(\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}} \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \eta_1) d\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}.$$

# Theory for Case 1 with $m = \infty$

## Lemma 4.2 (Asymptotic results for $m = \infty$ )

Assume that  $\hat{\eta}_p$  converges in probability to  $\eta_0$ . Let  $\hat{\eta}_{l,m}$  be the solution to

$$\frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m S_{\text{com}} \left( \eta; \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}^{*(j)}, \delta \right) = 0,$$

where  $\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}^{*(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}^{*(m)}$  are the imputed values generated from  $f(\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}} \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \delta; \hat{\eta}_p)$ . Then, under some regularity conditions, for  $m \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$\hat{\eta}_{l,\infty} \cong \hat{\eta}_{\text{MLE}} + \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}} (\hat{\eta}_p - \hat{\eta}_{\text{MLE}}) \quad (2)$$

and

$$V(\hat{\eta}_{l,\infty}) \doteq \mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}}^{-1} + \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}} \{V(\hat{\eta}_p) - V(\hat{\eta}_{\text{MLE}})\} \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}}', \quad (3)$$

where  $\mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}} = \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}}$  is the fraction of missing information.

## Remark 1

- Equation (2) means that

$$\hat{\eta}_{I,\infty} = (I - \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}}) \hat{\eta}_{MLE} + \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}} \hat{\eta}_p. \quad (4)$$

That is,  $\hat{\eta}_{I,\infty}$  is a convex combination of  $\hat{\eta}_{MLE}$  and  $\hat{\eta}_p$ .

- Note that  $\hat{\eta}_{I,\infty}$  is one-step EM update with initial estimate  $\hat{\eta}_p$ . Let  $\hat{\eta}^{(t)}$  be the  $t$ -th EM update of  $\eta$  that is computed by solving

$$\bar{S}(\eta \mid \hat{\eta}^{(t-1)}) = 0$$

with  $\hat{\eta}^{(0)} = \hat{\eta}_p$ . Equation (4) implies that

$$\hat{\eta}^{(t)} = (I - \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}}) \hat{\eta}_{MLE} + \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}} \hat{\eta}^{(t-1)}. \quad (5)$$

- By (5), we can obtain

$$\hat{\eta}^{(t)} = \hat{\eta}_{MLE} + (\mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}})^{t-1} \left( \hat{\eta}^{(0)} - \hat{\eta}_{MLE} \right),$$

which justifies  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \hat{\eta}^{(t)} = \hat{\eta}_{MLE}$ .

- Also, (5) implies that the convergence rate for EM algorithm is linear. It can be shown that

$$\eta^{(t+1)} - \eta^{(t)} \cong \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}} \left( \eta^{(t)} - \eta^{(t-1)} \right) \quad (6)$$

where  $\mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}} = \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}}$  is called the *fraction of missing information*. The fraction of missing information may vary across different components of  $\eta^{(t)}$ , suggesting that certain components of  $\eta^{(t)}$  may approach  $\eta^*$  rapidly while other components may require many iterations. Roughly speaking, the rate of convergence of a vector sequence  $\eta^{(t)}$  from the EM algorithm is given by the largest eigenvalue of the matrix  $\mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}}$ .

## Remark 2

- To obtain (3), we use the following (approximate) equality

$$V(\hat{\eta}_p) = V(\hat{\eta}_{MLE}) + V(\hat{\eta}_p - \hat{\eta}_{MLE}) \quad (7)$$

which is essentially a version of Pythagorean theorem.

- To prove (7), we can use the following result: Any consistent and optimal estimator of  $\theta$  is uncorrelated with any estimator with zero mean.



# Proof for Lemma 4.2

# Alternative Proof

- The solution  $\hat{\eta}$  to  $S_{\text{com}}(\eta) = 0$  satisfies

$$\hat{\eta} - \eta_0 \cong \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} S_{\text{com}}(\eta_0).$$

- Similarly, the solution  $\hat{\eta}_{l,\infty}$  to  $E\{S_{\text{com}}(\eta) \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \hat{\eta}_p\} = 0$  satisfies

$$\hat{\eta}_{l,\infty} - \eta_0 \cong \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} E\{S_{\text{com}}(\eta_0) \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \hat{\eta}_p\}. \quad (8)$$

- Now, we can decompose

$$E\{S_{\text{com}}(\eta_0) \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \hat{\eta}_p\} = S_{\text{obs}}(\eta_0) + E\{S_{\text{mis}}(\eta_0) \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \hat{\eta}_p\}$$

and use

$$S_{\text{obs}}(\eta_0) \cong \mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}} (\hat{\eta}_{\text{MLE}} - \eta_0)$$

- If  $\hat{\eta}_p$  converges in probability to  $\eta_0$ , we can obtain

$$E\{S_{\text{mis}}(\eta_0) \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \hat{\eta}_p\} \cong \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}} (\hat{\eta}_p - \eta_0).$$

- Combining the two, we obtain

$$\hat{\eta}_{l,\infty} - \eta_0 \cong \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}} (\hat{\eta}_{\text{MLE}} - \eta_0) + \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}} (\hat{\eta}_p - \eta_0)$$

which essentially proves (2).

# Theory for Case 1 with $m < \infty$

## Lemma 4.3: Asymptotic results for $m = 1$

Let  $S_I^*(\eta \mid \hat{\eta}_p) = S_{\text{com}}(\eta; \mathbf{y}^*)$  be the imputed score function evaluated with  $\mathbf{y}^* = (\mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}^*)$  where  $\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}^*$  is generated from  $f(\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}} \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \hat{\eta}_p)$ . Assume that  $\hat{\eta}_p$  converges in probability to  $\eta_0$ . Then, under some regularity conditions, the solution  $\hat{\eta}^*$  to  $S_I^*(\eta \mid \hat{\eta}_p) = 0$  satisfies

$$\hat{\eta}^* \cong \hat{\eta}_{MLE} + \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}}(\hat{\eta}_p - \hat{\eta}_{MLE}) + \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} S_{\text{mis}}^*(\hat{\eta}_p) \quad (9)$$

where  $\mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}} = \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}}$  and  $S_{\text{mis}}^*(\eta) = S_{\text{com}}(\eta; \mathbf{y}^*) - S_{\text{obs}}(\eta)$ .

Comparing (9) with (2), we have an additional term  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} S_{\text{mis}}^*(\hat{\eta}_p)$  in (9) due to the imputation mechanism (i.e., the randomness in generating  $\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}^*$  from  $f(\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}} \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \hat{\eta}_p)$ ).

- Let us write

$$S_{\text{com}}(\eta; \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}^*) = E^*\{S_{\text{com}}(\eta) \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \hat{\eta}_p\}$$

and let  $\hat{\eta}_l^*$  be the solution to  $E^*\{S_{\text{com}}(\eta) \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \hat{\eta}_p\} = 0$ .

- Similarly to (8), we obtain

$$\hat{\eta}_l^* - \eta_0 \cong \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} E^*\{S_{\text{com}}(\eta_0) \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \hat{\eta}_p\}.$$

and we can decompose

$$E^*\{S_{\text{com}}(\eta_0) \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \hat{\eta}_p\} = S_{\text{obs}}(\eta_0) + E\{S_{\text{mis}}(\eta_0) \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \hat{\eta}_p\} + Z^*$$

where

$$Z^* = E^*\{S_{\text{com}}(\eta_0) \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \hat{\eta}_p\} - E\{S_{\text{com}}(\eta_0) \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \hat{\eta}_p\}.$$

- Thus,

$$\hat{\eta}^* \cong \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}} \hat{\eta}_{\text{MLE}} + \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}} \hat{\eta}_p + \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} Z^*.$$

- Also, conditional on  $(\mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta})$  and  $\hat{\eta}_p$ ,  $Z^*$  is a random variable with mean zero and its variance

$$V \{ S_{\text{com}}(\eta_0; \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}) \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \hat{\eta}_p \} = I_{\text{mis}}(\hat{\eta}_p)$$

which will converge to  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}}$  in probability.

- Therefore, we can express

$$\hat{\eta}^* \cong \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}} (\hat{\eta}_{\text{MLE}} - \eta_0) + \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}} (\hat{\eta}_p - \eta_0) + \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} Z^* \quad (10)$$

where  $Z^* \mid (\mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \hat{\eta}_p) \sim (0, I_{\text{mis}}(\hat{\eta}_p))$ .

# Main Theory: Wang and Robins (1998)

## Theorem 4.1

Let  $\hat{\eta}_p$  be a preliminary  $\sqrt{n}$ -consistent estimator of  $\eta_0$  with variance  $V_p$ . Under some regularity conditions, the solution  $\hat{\eta}_{I,m}$  to

$$\bar{S}_{I,m}(\eta \mid \hat{\eta}_p) \equiv \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m S_{\text{com}}(\eta; \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}^{*(j)}, \delta) = 0$$

Now, the solution  $\hat{\eta}_{I,m}$  to  $\bar{S}_{I,m}(\eta \mid \hat{\eta}_p) = 0$  satisfies

$$\hat{\eta}_{I,m} \cong \hat{\eta}_{MLE} + \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}}(\hat{\eta}_p - \hat{\eta}_{MLE}) + \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \cdot \frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=1}^m Z^{*(k)}, \quad (11)$$

where

$$Z^{*(k)} \mid (\mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \hat{\eta}_p) \stackrel{i.i.d}{\sim} (0, \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}}).$$

## Remark

- Theorem 4.1 implies that  $\hat{\eta}_{l,m}$  is asymptotically unbiased to  $\eta$  and the asymptotic variance equal to

$$V(\hat{\eta}_{l,m}) \doteq \mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}}^{-1} + \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}} \{V_p - \mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}}^{-1}\} \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}}' + m^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}} \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \quad (12)$$

where  $\mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}} = \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}}$ .

- Variance term (12) has three components. Writing

$$\hat{\eta}_{l,m} = \hat{\eta}_{MLE} + (\hat{\eta}_{l,\infty} - \hat{\eta}_{MLE}) + (\hat{\eta}_{l,m} - \hat{\eta}_{l,\infty}),$$

we can establish that the three terms are independent and satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} V(\hat{\eta}_{MLE}) &= \mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}}^{-1}, \\ V(\hat{\eta}_{l,\infty} - \hat{\eta}_{MLE}) &= \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}} \{V_p - \mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}}^{-1}\} \mathcal{J}_{\text{mis}}', \\ V(\hat{\eta}_{l,m} - \hat{\eta}_{l,\infty}) &= m^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1} \mathcal{I}_{\text{mis}} \mathcal{I}_{\text{com}}^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$



## Basic Setup for Case 2 ( $\psi \neq \eta$ )

- Parameter  $\psi$  defined by  $E\{U(\psi; \mathbf{y})\} = 0$ .
- Under complete response, a consistent estimator of  $\psi$  can be obtained by solving  $\hat{U}(\psi; \mathbf{y}) = 0$ , where  $\hat{U}(\psi; \mathbf{y}) = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n U(\psi; \mathbf{y}_i)$ .
- Assume that some part of  $\mathbf{y}$ , denoted by  $\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}$ , is not observed and  $m$  imputed values, say  $\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}^{*(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}^{*(m)}$ , are generated from  $f(\mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}} \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \hat{\eta}_{MLE})$ , where  $\hat{\eta}_{MLE}$  is the MLE of  $\eta_0$ .
- The imputed estimating function using  $m$  imputed values is computed as

$$\bar{U}_m(\psi \mid \hat{\eta}_{MLE}) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m \hat{U}(\psi; \mathbf{y}^{*(j)}), \quad (13)$$

where  $\mathbf{y}^{*(j)} = (\mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \mathbf{y}_{\text{mis}}^{*(j)})$ .

## Theorem 4.2

Suppose that the parameter of interest  $\psi_0$  is estimated by solving  $\hat{U}(\psi) = 0$  under complete response. Then, under some regularity conditions, the solution to

$$E \left\{ \hat{U}(\psi) \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \boldsymbol{\delta}; \hat{\eta}_{MLE} \right\} = 0 \quad (14)$$

has mean  $\psi_0$  and the asymptotic variance  $\tau^{-1} \Omega \tau'^{-1}$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} \tau &= -E \left\{ \partial \hat{U}(\psi_0) / \partial \psi' \right\} \\ \Omega &= V \left\{ \bar{U}(\psi_0 \mid \eta_0) + \kappa^* S_{\text{obs}}(\eta_0) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\kappa^* = E \left\{ \hat{U}(\psi_0) S_{\text{mis}}(\eta_0)' \right\} \mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}}^{-1}. \quad (15)$$

## Remark

- To understand (15), we first consider

$$\bar{U}_{\kappa}(\psi \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \delta; \eta) = E \left\{ \hat{U}(\psi) \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \delta; \eta \right\} + \kappa S_{\text{obs}}(\eta).$$

- Note that, since  $S_{\text{obs}}(\hat{\eta}_{MLE}) = 0$ , we have

$$\bar{U}_{\kappa}(\psi \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \delta; \hat{\eta}_{MLE}) = E \left\{ \hat{U}(\psi) \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \delta; \hat{\eta}_{MLE} \right\}$$

for all  $\kappa$ .

- The particular choice of  $\kappa = \kappa^*$  in (15) is obtained from

$$E \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta'} \bar{U}_{\kappa}(\psi_0 \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \delta; \eta_0) \right\} = 0. \quad (16)$$

Thus, the estimation error of  $\hat{\eta}_{MLE}$  in  $\bar{U}_{\kappa}(\psi \mid \mathbf{y}_{\text{obs}}, \delta; \hat{\eta}_{MLE})$  can be safely ignored at  $\kappa = \kappa^*$ . Equation (16) is often called Randles (1982) condition.

# Sketched Proof

- Writing

$$\bar{U}(\psi | \eta) \equiv E\{\hat{U}(\psi) | \mathbf{y}_{obs}, \delta; \eta\},$$

the solution to (14) can be treated as the solution to the joint estimating equation

$$\mathbf{U}(\psi, \eta) \equiv \begin{bmatrix} \hat{U}_1(\psi, \eta) \\ \hat{U}_2(\eta) \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0},$$

where  $\hat{U}_1(\psi, \eta) = \bar{U}(\psi | \eta)$  and  $\hat{U}_2(\eta) = S_{obs}(\eta)$ .

- We can apply the Taylor expansion to get

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{\psi} \\ \hat{\eta} \end{pmatrix} \cong \begin{pmatrix} \psi_0 \\ \eta_0 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} B_{11} & B_{12} \\ B_{21} & B_{22} \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{U}_1(\psi_0, \eta_0) \\ \hat{U}_2(\eta_0) \end{bmatrix}$$

where

$$\begin{pmatrix} B_{11} & B_{12} \\ B_{21} & B_{22} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} E\left(\partial \hat{U}_1 / \partial \psi'\right) & E\left(\partial \hat{U}_1 / \partial \eta'\right) \\ E\left(\partial \hat{U}_2 / \partial \psi'\right) & E\left(\partial \hat{U}_2 / \partial \eta'\right) \end{bmatrix}.$$

# Sketched Proof (Cont'd)

- Note that

$$B_{11} = E\{\partial \hat{U}(\psi_0)/\partial \psi'\}$$

$$B_{21} = 0$$

$$B_{12} = E\{\hat{U}(\psi_0)S_{mis}(\eta_0)'\}$$

$$B_{22} = -\mathcal{I}_{\text{obs}}$$

- Thus,

$$\hat{\psi} \cong \psi_0 - B_{11}^{-1} \left\{ \hat{U}_1(\psi_0, \eta_0) - B_{12} B_{22}^{-1} \hat{U}_2(\eta_0) \right\}.$$

## REFERENCES

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