

Schur rings and DCI-groups

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1. Schur rings

Let H be a finite group with multiplicative notation and identity element e .

The **group algebra** $\mathbb{Q}H$ has operations:

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{x \in H} a_x x + \sum_{x \in H} b_x x &= \sum_{x \in H} (a_x + b_x) x \\ \sum_{x \in H} a_x x \cdot \sum_{x \in H} b_x x &= \sum_{x, y \in H} (a_y b_{y^{-1}x}) x.\end{aligned}$$

For $S \subseteq H$ let $\underline{S} := \sum_{x \in H} a_x x$ where $a_x = 1$ if $x \in S$ and 0 otherwise, such element is called **simple quantity**.

Definition (Wielandt)

A subalgebra \mathcal{A} of $\mathbb{Q}H$ is a **Schur ring** (for short **S-ring**) over H if the following hold:

- (S1) $\mathcal{A} = \langle \underline{T}_0, \dots, \underline{T}_r \rangle$, $T_i \subseteq H$ for all $i \in \{0, \dots, r\}$,
- (S2) $T_0 = \{e\}$, and the sets T_i form a partition of H .
- (S3) For every $i \in \{0, \dots, r\}$, there exists $j \in \{0, \dots, r\}$ such $T_i^{-1} := \{g^{-1} : g \in T_i\} = T_j$.

The sets T_i are the **basic sets** of \mathcal{A} , and their cardinality is the **rank** of \mathcal{A} .

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Example:

$$H = C_6 = \langle g \rangle,$$

$$\mathcal{A} = \langle \underline{e}, \underline{g, g^3, g^5}, \underline{g^2, g^4} \rangle.$$

\mathcal{A} is a subalgebra of $\mathbb{Q}H$ (closed under \cdot):

$$\underline{g, g^3, g^5} \cdot \underline{g, g^3, g^5} = 3 \underline{e} + 3 \underline{g^2, g^4}$$

As all axioms (S1)-(S3) hold, \mathcal{A} is an S-ring over C_6 of rank 3.

Theorem (Schur)

Let $H_R \leq G \leq \text{Sym}(H)$. Then $V(H, G_e) := \langle \underline{T} : T \in \text{Orb}(G_e) \rangle$ is a subalgebra of $\mathbb{Q}H$.

$H_R \leq \text{Sym } H$ denotes the group of right multiplications:

$$x \mapsto xh \text{ for every } x, h \in H.$$

For $G \leq \text{Sym}(H)$, G_e denotes the **point stabilizer** of e in G .

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As all axioms (S1)-(S3) hold, the subalgebra $V(H, G_e)$ is an S-ring over H (**transitivity module**).

* In fact, $\langle \underline{e}, \underline{g}, \underline{g^3}, \underline{g^5}, \underline{g^2}, \underline{g^4} \rangle = V(C_6, G_e)$, where $G \leq \text{Sym}(C_6)$ consists of all permutations that preserve the partition

$$e, g^2, g^4 \mid g, g^3, g^5.$$

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Wielandt's example:

$H = \mathbb{Z}_p \times \mathbb{Z}_p$, $p \geq 5$ a prime, and

$$\mathcal{A} = \left\langle \underline{e}, \underline{P_1 \setminus \{e\}}, \underline{P_2 \setminus \{e\}}, \underline{P_3 \setminus \{e\}}, \underline{H \setminus \cup_{i=1}^3 P_i} \right\rangle,$$

where $P_1, P_2, P_3 \leq H$ are pairwise distinct subgroups of order p .

It can be proved that there exists no permutation group G of H such that

- 1 $H_R \leq G$,
- 2 The orbits of G_e on H are:

$$\{e\}, P_1 \setminus \{e\}, P_2 \setminus \{e\}, P_3 \setminus \{e\}, H \setminus \cup_{i=1}^3 P_i.$$

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- * Schur rings are equivalent to **Cayley schemes**, i.e., association schemes having a regular automorphism group.

Definition

An S-ring \mathcal{A} over a group H is **Schurian** if $\mathcal{A} = V(H, G_e)$ for some $H_R \leq G \leq \text{Sym}(H)$.

A finite group H is a **Schur group** if every S-ring over H is Schurian.

Problem (Pöschel)

Classify the finite Schur groups.

Known results about Schur groups:

- C_n is a Schur group iff $n \in \{p^k, pq^k, 2pq^k, pqr, 2pqr\}$, where p, q, r are distinct primes, and $k \geq 0$ is an integer (Evdokimov, K, Ponomarenko, 2013).
- C_p^n , $n > 1$ is a Schur group iff $p^n \in \{4, 8, 9, 16, 27, 32\}$ (Pech, Reichard, 2009).
- If H is an abelian Schur group which is neither cyclic nor elementary abelian, then H is isomorphic to one of the following groups:
(1) $C_2 \times C_{2k}$, $C_{2p} \times C_{2k}$, $C_2^2 \times C_{p^k}$, $C_2^2 \times C_{pq}$, $C_2^4 \times C_p$,
(2) $C_3 \times C_{3k}$, $C_6 \times C_{3k}$, $C_3^2 \times C_q$, $C_3^2 \times C_{2q}$,
where p, q are distinct primes, $p \neq 2$, and $k \geq 1$ is an integer (Evdokimov, K, Ponomarenko, 2014+).
- If H is a non-abelian Schur group, then it is metaabelian (Ponomarenko, Vasiljev 2014+).

2. Sub-, quotient- and generated S-rings

Definition

Given two S-rings \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} over H , \mathcal{A} is called a **sub-S-ring** (or a **fusion**) of \mathcal{B} if $\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{B}$.

A subgroup $K \leq H$ is an \mathcal{A} -**subgroup** if $\underline{K} \in \mathcal{A}$.

Definition

Given an S-ring \mathcal{A} over H , a normal \mathcal{A} -subgroup K , the **quotient S-ring of \mathcal{A} by K** is the S-ring over H/K defined by

$$\mathcal{A}_{H/K} := \langle \pi_{H/K}(T) : T \text{ a basic set of } \mathcal{A} \rangle,$$

where $\pi_{H/K}$ is the natural homomorphism from H to H/K .

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Definition

The S-ring **generated by given elements** $\eta_1, \dots, \eta_k \in \mathbb{Q}H$ is defined as

$$\langle\langle \eta_1, \dots, \eta_k \rangle\rangle = \bigcap_{\eta_1, \dots, \eta_k \in \mathcal{A}} \mathcal{A}.$$

3. Automorphisms and isomorphisms of S-rings

For a subset $S \subset H$, $e \notin S$, the **Cayley graph** $\text{Cay}(H, S)$ has vertex set H and arc set $\{(x, sx) : x \in H, s \in S\}$ (thus $H_R \leq \text{Aut}(\text{Cay}(H, S))$).

If $S = S^{-1}$, $\text{Cay}(H, S)$ is regarded as an undirected graph.

Definition (Klin)

Let $\mathcal{A} = \langle T_0, \dots, T_r \rangle$ be an S-ring over a group H . The **automorphism group** of \mathcal{A} is defined by

$$\text{Aut}(\mathcal{A}) = \text{Aut}(\text{Cay}(H, T_1)) \cap \dots \cap \text{Aut}(\text{Cay}(H, T_r)).$$

Definition

Let \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} be S-rings over the groups H and K respectively. A **combinatorial isomorphism** from \mathcal{A} to \mathcal{B} is a bijection f from H to K such that

$$\{\text{Cay}(H, T) : T \in \text{Bsets}(\mathcal{A})\}^f = \{\text{Cay}(H, T) : T \in \text{Bsets}(\mathcal{B})\}.$$

For an S-ring \mathcal{A} over H , let

$$\text{Iso}(\mathcal{A}) = \{f \in \text{Sym}(H) : f : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B} \text{ comb. iso.}\}.$$

We say that $f \in \text{Iso}(\mathcal{A})$ is **normalized** if $e^f = e$, notation: $\text{Iso}_1(\mathcal{A})$.

There are some natural sets of combinatorial isomorphisms:

- (1) $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{A})$,
- (2) $\text{Aut}(H)$,
- (3) $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{A}) \text{Aut}(H)$.

Definition

An S -ring \mathcal{A} over a group H is a **CI-S-ring** if it satisfies the second condition of the proposition.

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Definition

An S -ring \mathcal{A} over a group H is a **CI-S-ring** if it satisfies the second condition of the proposition.

Proposition

Let $G \leq \text{Sym}(H)$ be a permutation group such that $H_R \leq G$ and let $\mathcal{A} = V(H, G_e)$. Then the following are equivalent:

- $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{A}) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{A}) \text{Aut}(H)$.
- $\text{Iso}_1(\mathcal{A}) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{A})_e \text{Aut}(H)$.
- Every two regular subgroups of $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{A})$, which are isomorphic to H , are conjugate in G .

4. DCl- and Cl-groups

It is a trivial observation that, if $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(H)$, then $\text{Cay}(H, S) \cong \text{Cay}(H, S^\sigma)$. However, the converse implication does not hold in general.

Definition

A Cayley graph $\text{Cay}(H, S)$ is a **Cl-graph** if $\text{Cay}(H, S) \cong \text{Cay}(H, T)$ implies that $T = S^\sigma$ for some automorphism $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(H)$.

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Definition

A finite group H is called a **DCI-group** if every Cayley graph over H is a CI-graph; and a **CI-group** if every undirected Cayley graph over H is a CI-graph.

Problem (Babai)

Classify the finite DCI- and CI-groups.

Theorem (Li–Praeger–Xu)

If H is a DCI -group, then H is a coprime product (i.e., a direct product of groups of coprime orders). of groups from the following list:

$$\mathbb{Z}_p^e, \mathbb{Z}_4, Q, A_4, E(M, 2), E(M, 4),$$

where M is a direct product of elementary abelian groups of odd order and $E(M, k) := M \rtimes \langle z \rangle$ where z is an element of order k the action of which on M is defined as follows $m^z = m^{-1}$.

An analogous list exists for CI -groups (Li–Lu–Pálffy).

In order to finish the classification of DCI -groups one has to answer two basic questions:

- Which groups in the above list are DCI -groups?
- When a coprime product of two DCI -groups is a DCI -group?

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The first question was answered affirmatively for the following groups:

- \mathbb{Z}_4 , Q_8 and A_4 (Conder–Li).
- $D_{2p} = E(\mathbb{Z}_p, 2)$ (Babai).
- $E(\mathbb{Z}_p, 4)$ (Li–Pálffy).
- \mathbb{Z}_p^e with $e \leq 4$ (Elsapas–Turner; Godsil; Alspah–Nowitz; Dobson; Hirasaka–Muzychuk, Morris).
- \mathbb{Z}_2^5 (Conder–Li).
- \mathbb{Z}_3^5 (Spiga).

On the other hand,

- \mathbb{Z}_2^6 is **NOT** a Cl-group (Nowitz)
- \mathbb{Z}_3^8 is **NOT** a Cl-group (Spiga)
- $\mathbb{Z}_p^e, p > 2$ is **NOT** Cl-group if $e \geq 2p + 3$ (Somlai).

Concerning the second question, all known examples of *DCI*-groups are:

- $\mathbb{Z}_n, \mathbb{Z}_{2n}$ and \mathbb{Z}_{4n} where n is square-free odd (Muzychuk).
- $\mathbb{Z}_2^3 \times \mathbb{Z}_p$ where p is any prime (Dobson–Spiga)
- $Q \times \mathbb{Z}_p$ where $p > 2$ a prime (Somlai)
- $\mathbb{Z}_p^2 \times \mathbb{Z}_q$ where p, q are distinct primes (K–Muzychuk)
- $\mathbb{Z}_p^3 \times \mathbb{Z}_q$ where p, q are primes such that $q > p^3$ (Somlai)

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5. Schur rings and DCl-groups

Theorem (Babai)

The following are equivalent for every Cayley graph $\text{Cay}(H, S)$:

- *Every regular subgroup of $\text{Aut}(\text{Cay}(H, S))$ isomorphic to H is conjugate to H_R in $\text{Aut}(\text{Cay}(H, S))$.*
- *$\text{Cay}(H, S)$ is a CI-graph.*

Proposition

Let $G \leq \text{Sym}(H)$ be a permutation group such that $H_R \leq G$ and let $\mathcal{A} = V(H, G_e)$. Then the following are equivalent:

- Every regular subgroup of G isomorphic to H is conjugate to H_R in G .
- $\text{Iso}(\mathcal{A}) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{A}) \text{Aut}(H)$.
- $\text{Iso}_1(\mathcal{A}) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{A})_e \text{Aut}(H)$.

Proposition

For every subset $S \subset G \setminus \{e\}$,

$$\text{Aut}(\text{Cay}(G, S)) = \text{Aut}(\langle\langle \underline{S} \rangle\rangle).$$

The Klin–Pöschel approach:

- (1) Classify the S -rings over H .
- (2) Select the non-CI- S -rings.
- (3) For every non-CI- S -ring check that whether it can be generated by a subset of H .

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The Klin–Pöschel approach:

- (1) Classify the S -rings over H .
- (2) Select the non-Cl- S -rings.
- (3) For every non-Cl- S -ring check that whether it can be generated by a subset of H .

Example:

no.	basic sets
1.	0 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
2.	0 1, 3, 5, 7 2, 4, 6
3.	0 1, 3, 5, 7, 2, 6 4
4.	0 1, 3, 5, 7 2, 6 4
5.	0 1, 3, 5, 7 2 6 4
6.	0 1, 5 3, 7 2, 6 4
7.	0 1, 7 3, 5 2, 6 4
8.	0 1, 7 3, 5 2, 6 4
9.	0 1, 5 3, 7 2 4 6
10.	0 1 2 ... 7

Table : S-rings over \mathbb{Z}_8

$\text{Cay}(\mathbb{Z}_8, S)$ is a non-CI-graph iff $\langle\langle S \rangle\rangle = \mathcal{A}_9$.

no.	basic sets
1.	0 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
2.	0 1, 3, 5, 7 2, 4, 6
3.	0 1, 3, 5, 7, 2, 6 4
4.	0 1, 3, 5, 7 2, 6 4
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$\langle\langle 1, 2, 5 \rangle\rangle = \mathcal{A}_9$, thus \mathbb{Z}_8 is not a DCl-group.

$\langle\langle \underline{S} \rangle\rangle \neq \mathcal{A}_9$ if $S^{-1} = S$, thus \mathbb{Z}_8 is a Cl-group.

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$\langle\langle 1, 2, 5 \rangle\rangle = \mathcal{A}_9$, thus \mathbb{Z}_8 is not a DCl-group.

$\langle\langle \underline{S} \rangle\rangle \neq \mathcal{A}_9$ if $S^{-1} = S$, thus \mathbb{Z}_8 is a Cl-group.

6. Which groups \mathbb{Z}_p^n are DCl-groups?

Theorem (Djoković; Elspas–Turner)

\mathbb{Z}_p is a DCl-group.

In the case of p -groups the Klin–Pöschel approach can be modified by searching in Step (1) only for p -S-rings.

Definition

An S-ring over a p -group is a p -S-ring if every basic set has cardinality a p -power.

Proposition

If H is a p -group and every p -S-ring over H is a CI-S-ring, then H is a DCl-group.

Wreath product of S-rings

For an S-ring \mathcal{A} over H and \mathcal{A} -subgroup $K \leq H$, the **induced S-ring** of \mathcal{A} on K is the S-ring over K defined by

$$\mathcal{A}_K = \langle T : T \in \text{Bsets}(\mathcal{A}) \text{ and } T \subset K \rangle.$$

Definition

Let \mathcal{A} be an S-ring over a group H and N be an \mathcal{A} -subgroup such that N is normal in H . Then \mathcal{A} is a **wreath product**, notation:

$$\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_N \wr \mathcal{A}_{H/N}$$

if for every $T \in \text{Bsets}(\mathcal{A})$, if $T \not\subset N$, then T is a union of N -cosets.

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Proposition

Up to combinatorial isomorphisms, there are two p -S-rings over \mathbb{Z}_p^2 :

$$\mathbb{Q}\mathbb{Z}_p^2 \text{ and } \mathbb{Q}\mathbb{Z}_p \wr \mathbb{Q}\mathbb{Z}_p.$$

Theorem (Godsil; Alspah–Nowitz)

\mathbb{Z}_p^2 is a DCl-group.

Tensor product of S -rings

Definition

Let \mathcal{A} be an S -ring over a group H and E, F be \mathcal{A} -subgroups such that $H = EF$ and $E \cap F = \{e\}$. Then \mathcal{A} is a **tensor product**, notation:

$$\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_E \otimes \mathcal{A}_F$$

if for every $T \in \text{Bsets}(\mathcal{A})$, if $T \not\subseteq E \cup F$, then $T = RS$ where $R \in \text{Bsets}(\mathcal{A}) \cap E$ and $S \in \text{Bsets}(\mathcal{A}) \cap F$.

Proposition

If $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_N \wr \mathcal{A}_{H/N}$ such that \mathcal{A}_N and $\mathcal{A}_{H/N}$ are Cl- S -rings, then \mathcal{A} is also a Cl- S -ring.

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Proposition

If $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_N \wr \mathcal{A}_{H/N}$ such that \mathcal{A}_N and $\mathcal{A}_{H/N}$ are Cl- S -rings, then \mathcal{A} is also a Cl- S -ring.

Theorem (Spiga–Wang)

Up to combinatorial isomorphisms, there are 6 p -S-rings over \mathbb{Z}_p^3 :

- $\mathbb{Q}\mathbb{Z}_p^3$,
- $\mathbb{Q}\mathbb{Z}_p^2 \wr \mathbb{Q}\mathbb{Z}_p$,
- $\mathbb{Q}\mathbb{Z}_p \wr \mathbb{Q}\mathbb{Z}_p^2$,
- $\mathbb{Q}\mathbb{Z}_p \wr \mathbb{Q}\mathbb{Z}_p \wr \mathbb{Q}\mathbb{Z}_p$,
- $\mathbb{Q}\mathbb{Z}_p \otimes (\mathbb{Q}\mathbb{Z}_p \wr \mathbb{Q}\mathbb{Z}_p)$,
- $V\left(\mathbb{Z}_p^3, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}\right)$.

Lemma

$\text{Aut} \left(V \left(\mathbb{Z}_p^3, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right) \right) = \mathbb{Z}_p^3 \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_p$, which has a unique regular subgroup isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}_p^3 .

Theorem (Dobson)

\mathbb{Z}_p^3 is a DCI-group.

Lemma

$\text{Aut} \left(V \left(\mathbb{Z}_p^3, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right) \right) = \mathbb{Z}_p^3 \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_p$, which has a unique regular subgroup isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}_p^3 .

Theorem (Dobson)

\mathbb{Z}_p^3 is a DCI-group.

Star product of S -rings

Definition (Hirasaka–Muzychuk)

Let \mathcal{A} be an S -ring over a group H and E, F be \mathcal{A} -subgroups. Then \mathcal{A} is a **star product**, notation:

$$\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_E \star \mathcal{A}_F$$

if the following hold:

- $EF = H$ and $E \cap F$ is normal in F .
- For every $T \in \text{Bsets}(\mathcal{A})$ such that $T \subseteq F \setminus E$, $T = T(E \cap F)$.
- For every basic set $T \in \text{Bsets}(\mathcal{A})$ such that $T \subset H \setminus (E \cup F)$, $T = RS$, where $R \in \text{Bsets}(E)$ and $S \in \text{Bsets}(F)$.

The star product generalizes the tensor and wreath products:

$$\mathcal{A}_E \star \mathcal{A}_F = \mathcal{A}_E \otimes \mathcal{A}_F \text{ when } E \cap F = \{e\},$$

$$\mathcal{A}_E \star \mathcal{A}_F = \mathcal{A}_E \wr \mathcal{A}_{H/E} \text{ when } F = H.$$

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Theorem (Hirasaka–Muzychuk)

If \mathcal{A} is an S -ring over $H = \mathbb{Z}_p^n$ such that $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_E \star \mathcal{A}_F$, and both \mathcal{A}_E and $\mathcal{A}_F/(E \cap F)$ are CI- S -rings, then \mathcal{A} is also a CI- S -ring.

Theorem (Hirasaka–Muzychuk; Morris)

\mathbb{Z}_p^4 is a DCI-group.

Definition (Leung–Man; Evdokimov–Ponomarenko)

Let \mathcal{A} be an S -ring over a group H and E, F be \mathcal{A} -subgroups such that $E \leq F$ and E is normal in H . Then \mathcal{A} is a **generalized wreath product GWP** (or **wedge product**)

$$\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_F \wr_{F/E} \mathcal{A}_{H/E}$$

if for every $T \in \text{Bsets}(\mathcal{A})$ such that $T \not\subseteq F$, T is a union of E -cosets.

A GWP is **non-trivial** if $E \neq 1$ and $F \neq G$.

Example:

$$H = \mathbb{Z}_8.$$

$$\mathcal{A} = \langle \underline{0}, \underline{1}, \underline{5}, \underline{3}, \underline{7}, \underline{2}, \underline{4}, \underline{6} \rangle$$

$$E = \{0, 4\} \text{ and } F = \{0, 2, 4, 6\}.$$

$$\mathcal{A}_F = \mathbb{Q}\mathbb{Z}_4 \text{ and } \mathcal{A}_{H/E} = \mathbb{Q}\mathbb{Z}_4$$

Note that, while both \mathcal{A}_F and \mathcal{A}_E are CI-S-rings, \mathcal{A} is not.

Question

Let \mathcal{A} be a Schurian p -S-ring over \mathbb{Z}_p^5 such that it is a non-trivial GWP of two CI-S-rings. Does this imply that \mathcal{A} is a CI-S-ring?

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Every Schurian p -S-ring over \mathbb{Z}_p^3 is either a non-trivial GWP or it is normal with automorphism group of order at most p^4 .

Definition

An S-ring \mathcal{A} over H is **normal** if H_R is normal in $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{A})$.

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