Fault Analysis on Grid Connected MPPT based Photovoltaic System

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Abstract

This paper presents the simulation model of a 3.5 kW PV array followed by a boost converter, which boost up the output voltage of the PV array. Maximum power point tracking (MPPT) can effectively improve the solar energy conversion efficiency of PV array, in this paper perturb- and – observe (P&O) algorithm has been used to achieve this function. Grid connected PV system needs a three phase inverter for synchronization. The inverter control system modeling has been carried out in Matlab/Simulink 2010 environment with the aids of the proportional-integral controllers, sinusoidal vectored pulse width modulation technique and park transformation. Phase locked loop (PLL) is used to lock the grid frequency and phase. Finally different types of AC faults are created on the grid side and total harmonic distortion (THD) is calculated in each of the case.

Keywords: Photovoltaic (PV), Voltage source inverter (VSI), sinusoidal vectored pulse width modulation (SVPWM), Total harmonic distortion (THD), Maximum power point tracking (MPPT).

1. Introduction

Renewable energy sources play an important role in electric power generation. Various renewable energy sources such as solar energy, wind energy, geothermal energy etc., are harness for electric power generation specifically solar energy has the advantages of no pollution, low maintenance cost, no installation area limitation and no noise due to the absence of moving parts. In recent years, photovoltaic (PV) systems have received unprecedented attention due to the concerns about adverse effects of extensive use of fossil fuels on the environment and energy security. Despite this high interest, grid connected PV systems are still outnumbered by the power generation schemes based on oil, natural gas, coal, nuclear, hydro, and wind (J. P. Benner et al, 1999). So far, PV system of capacities on the order of tens of megawatts have been installed and interfaced to the grid mainly at the primary distribution level.

The main drawbacks are the initial installation cost is considerably high and the energy conversion efficiency is relatively low, to overcome these problems the following two essential ways can be used (1) increase the efficiency of conversion of solar array (2) maximize the output power from the solar array. A grid-connected PV system includes a PV array, a voltage source inverter, an inverter control system, a load and a grid. The PV array consists of a number of individual photovoltaic cells that are connected in series and parallel array to convert sunlight to electricity by use of photovoltaic effect since the PV array produces DC power so the power electronics and control equipments are required to convert DC to AC power, this AC power is injected to utility grid.

Maximum power point tracking (MPPT) can effectively improve the solar energy conversion efficiency of PV system. In this paper perturb- and – observe (P&O) method is used to achieve this function. This paper establishes a dynamic model PV system by Matlab/simulink with d-axis and q-axis as coordinates which is synchronously rotating with the grid voltage to reflect the characteristics of system accurately. Reliability is an important issue in large-scale grid-connected photovoltaic (PV) systems as their operations rely on business plans developed over periods of time of at least twenty years, which often assume fault-free functioning. Not many papers discussing PV systems reliability are available in literature. For instance, (Stember LH et al, 1981) analyzes simple stand-alone PV systems using failure mode effect analysis (FMEA) and fault tree analysis (FTA). Failure rates estimates are also given assuming that time to failure is exponentially distributed. The failure rate for a PV array is hypothesized as being 33.3*10^-6 failures/month, while inverter failure rate is assumed to be 342.5*10^-6 failures/month (Handy MA et al, 2006). Since the inverter failure rate is more than the failure rate of PV array it is being necessary to analyze the fault in the inverter side i.e. L-G, L-L-G, L-L-L-G, L-L, L-L-L and the total harmonic distortion (THD).
is calculated for without fault condition and with different types of fault condition.

2. Mathematical Modeling

A. Modeling of PV cell

The direct conversion of the solar energy into electrical power is obtained by solar cells. A PV is composed by many strings of solar cells connected in series and in parallel combination, in order to provide desired values of output voltage and current.

The mathematical model of the PV cell is implemented in the form of a current source controlled by voltage, sensible to two input parameters, i.e. temperature (°C) and solar irradiation power (W/m²). An equivalent simplified electric circuit of a photovoltaic cell is presented in Fig.1.

\[ I_{PV} = I_{SC} - I_0 \left( e^{\frac{q}{nK} (V + 1/\eta_c)/V_T} - 1 \right) \]  

(1)

Where

- \( I_0 \) is the reverse saturation current of the diode.
- \( q \) is the electron charge (1.602*10^-19 C).
- \( V \) is the terminal voltage.
- \( K \) is the Boltzmann constant (1.381*10^-23 J/K)
- \( T \) is the junction temperature in Kelvin (K)
- \( n \) is the diode ideality factor.

Now equation (1) can be solved using Newton’s method (Marcelo Gradella Villalva et al)

\[ x_{n+1} = x_n - f(x_n)/f'(x_n) \]

Where: \( f'(x) \) is the derivative of the function, \( f(x) = 0 \), \( x_n \) is a present value, and \( x_{n+1} \) is the next value.

Now equation (1) can be written as

\[ f(I_{PV}) = I_{SC} - I_0 \left( e^{\frac{q}{nK} (V + 1/\eta_c)/V_T} - 1 \right) = 0 \]

Then using Newton’s equation

\[ I_{PV_{n+1}} = I_n \left( \frac{I_{SC} - I_0 \left( e^{\frac{q}{nK} (V + 1/\eta_c)/V_T} - 1 \right)}{I_0 + \left( e^{\frac{q}{nK} (V + 1/\eta_c)/V_T} - 1 \right)} \right) \]  

(2)

The MATLAB function written to solve equation (2) performs the calculation five times iteratively.

The figure 2 and 3 represents the V-I and V-P characteristics of solar cell. The photon generated current at a given irradiance is given by (Marcelo Gradella Villalva; D. Sera et al, 2007; W. De Soto et al, 2006)
Fig. 5. V-P characteristics of solar cell under constant temperature and different irradiance

Fig. 6. V-I characteristics of solar cell under constant irradiance and different temperature

Fig. 7. V-P characteristics of solar cell under constant irradiance and different temperature

B. Principle of MPPT algorithm

Peak power is reached with the help of a dc/dc converter between the PV generator and the load by adjusting its duty cycle such that the resistance matching is obtained. Now the question arises how to vary the duty cycle. The automatic tracking can be performed by implementing various algorithms. These algorithms are the heart of MPPT controller. The algorithm changes the duty cycle of the dc/dc converter to maximize the power output of the module and make it operate at the peak power point of the module. These techniques differ in many aspects such as required sensors, complexity, cost, range of effectiveness, convergence speed, correct tracking when irradiation and/or temperature change, hardware needed for the implementation or popularity, among others.

Fig. 8. I-V & P-V curve & maximum power point

In this paper perturb and observe algorithm is implemented. In this algorithm a slight perturbation is introduced in the system. Due to this perturbation the power of the module changes. If the power increases due to the perturbation then the perturbation is continued in that direction. After the peak power is reached the power at the next instant decreases and hence after that the perturbation reverses. At MPP, Vref = VMPP. Once the MPP is reached, operation of PV array is maintained at the point unless change in power is noted, indicating change in atmospheric conditions and the MPP. The algorithm decrements or increments Vref back to new MPP. The flowchart is shown in Fig. 9.

Fig. 9. Flow Chart of perturb and observe algorithm
The above proposed algorithm can be designed by using Matlab/simulink, is given in Fig.10 and the output duty cycle is shown in Fig.11.

![Fig.10. Matlab/Simulink model for the proposed MPPT algorithm](image)

**B. LC Filter**

Output voltage wave is synchronized with the grid voltage. So the PWM inverter will inject ripple current in to the grid. The output LC filter is connected to remove high switching frequency components from output current of inverter (Milan Pradanovic et al, 2003). The value of L is design based on current ripple. Smaller ripple results in lower switching and conduction losses. Typically the ripple current can be chosen as 10% - 15% of rated current. Considering 10% ripple at the rated current the designed value of inductor (L) in the system (C Y Wang et al,2003; Samul Araujo et al,2007)is given by (5)

\[ \Delta i_{L_{\text{max}}} = \frac{1}{8} V_{dc} / L * f_s \]  

(5)

The capacitor C is designed based on reactive power supplied by the capacitor at fundamental frequency. In this design reactive power is chosen as 15% of the rated power (C Y Wang et al, 2003) is given by (6)

\[ C = 15\% * P_{\text{rated}} / 3 * 2\pi f * V_{\text{rated}}^2 \]  

(6)

**C. Phase Locked Loop**

Grid synchronizations plays important role for grid connected systems. It synchronizes the output frequency and phase of grid voltage with grid current using different transformation. Different methods to extract phase angle have been developed and presented in many papers (S.K. Chung et al,2000; Guan Chyan Hsieh et al,1999). PLL techniques causes one signal to track another one. Phase-locked loop (PLL) is a feedback loop which locks two waveforms with same frequency but shifted in phase. The fundamental use of this loop is in comparing frequencies of two waveforms and then adjusting the frequency of the waveform in the loop to equal the input waveform frequency. The role of the phase locked loop is to provide the rotation frequency, direct and quadrature voltage components at the point of common coupling (PCC) by resolving the grid voltage abc components. Multiple control blocks of the PV system rely on this information to regulate their output command signals. The PLL computes the rotation frequency of the grid voltage vector by first transforming it to the dq frame, and then force the quadrature component of the voltage to zero to eliminate cross coupling in the active and reactive power terms (Xiao-Qiang Guo et al).

![Fig.13. Schematic diagram of the phase locked loop (PLL)](image)
The loop filter PI is a low pass filter. It is used to suppress high frequency component and provide DC controlled signal to voltage controlled oscillator (VCO) which acts as an integrator. The output of the PI controller is the inverter output frequency that is integrated to obtain inverter phase angle $\theta$. When the difference between grid phase angle and inverter phase angle is reduced to zero PLL becomes active which results in synchronously rotating voltages $V_d = 0$ and $V_q$ gives magnitude of grid voltage. The operation of the PLL is governed by equation (7)

$$\omega = K_p V_d + K_i \int V_q \, dt$$

$$\theta = \int \omega \, dt$$

**D. Space Vector PWM**

The space vector PWM (SVM) method is an advanced, computation-intensive PWM method and is possibly the best method among the all PWM techniques. The circuit model of a typical three-phase voltage source PWM inverter is shown in Fig.14.

![Three-phase inverter](image)

S1 to S6 are the six power switches that shape the output, which are controlled by the switching variables $a'$, $b'$, $b''$, $c$ and $c'$. When an upper transistor is switched on, i.e., when $a$, $b$ or $c$ is 1, the corresponding lower transistor is switched off, i.e., the corresponding $a'$, $b'$ or $c'$ is 0. Therefore, the on and off states of the upper transistors S1, S3 and S5 can be used to determines the output voltage. The relationship between the switching variable vector $[a \ b \ c]^T$ and the line-to-line voltage vector $[V_{ab} \ V_{bc} \ V_{ca}]^T$ is given by equation (8) in the following:

$$\begin{bmatrix} V_{ab} \\ V_{bc} \\ V_{ca} \end{bmatrix} = V_{dc} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$$

(8)

Also, the relationship between the switching variable vector $[a \ b \ c]^T$ and the phase voltage vector $[V_a \ V_b \ V_c]^T$ can be expressed by equation 9

$$\begin{bmatrix} V_a \\ V_b \\ V_c \end{bmatrix} = \frac{V_{dc}}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$$

(9)

There are eight possible combinations of on and off patterns for the three upper power switches (P.Tripura et al., 2011). The on and off states of the lower power devices are opposite to the upper one and so are easily determined once the states of the upper power transistors are determined. The eight switching vectors, output line to neutral voltage (phase voltage), and output line-to-line voltages in terms of DC-link Vdc, are given in Table 1 and Fig.15 shows the eight inverter voltage vectors (V0 to V7).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Voltage Vectors</th>
<th>Line to neutral voltage</th>
<th>Line to line voltage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$V_a$</td>
<td>0 0 0</td>
<td>0 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$V_b$</td>
<td>1 0 0</td>
<td>2/3 -1/3 -1/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$V_c$</td>
<td>1 1 0</td>
<td>1/3 1/3 -2/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$V_1$</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
<td>-1/3 1/3 2/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$V_2$</td>
<td>0 1 1</td>
<td>-2/3 1/3 1/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$V_3$</td>
<td>0 0 1</td>
<td>-1/3 -1/3 2/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$V_4$</td>
<td>1 0 1</td>
<td>1/3 -2/3 1/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$V_5$</td>
<td>1 1 1</td>
<td>0 0 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Switching vectors, phase voltages and output line to line voltages.

To implement the space vector PWM, the voltage equations in the $abc$ reference frame can be transformed into the stationary $dq$ reference frame that consists of the horizontal ($d$) and vertical ($q$) axes as depicted in Fig.16. The eight vectors are called the basic space vectors and are denoted by $V_0$, $V_1$, $V_2$, $V_3$, $V_4$, $V_5$, $V_6$, and $V_7$. Therefore, space vector PWM can be implemented by the following steps

Step 1. Determine $V_d$, $V_q$, $V_{ref}$ and angle ($\alpha$)

Step 2. Determine time duration $T_1$, $T_2$, $T_0$

Step 3. Determine the switching time of each transistor (S1 to S6)

![Voltage Space Vector and its components in (d, q)](image)
\[
\begin{bmatrix}
V_d \\
V_q
\end{bmatrix} =
\begin{bmatrix}
\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\
0 & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} & -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
V_{an} \\
V_{bn} \\
V_{cn}
\end{bmatrix}
\]  
(10)

\[
|\overline{V}_{ref}| = \sqrt{V_d^2 + V_q^2}
\]  
(11)

\[
\alpha = \tan^{-1}\frac{V_q}{V_d} = \omega t = 2\pi ft
\]  
(12)

where \( f \) = fundamental frequency

4. MATLAB SIMULINK model and fault analysis

A. Simulink Model

Fig.17. Simulink Model of Grid Connected PV System

Fig.18. Equivalent PV cell model in Simulink

Fig.19. Simulink model of Phase Locked Loop (PLL)

Fig.20. sin and cos wave generated by PLL

To simulate the system and the resulting output currents and voltages at various levels, the array was subjected to a 1000 W/m\(^2\) of solar irradiation and a temperature of 25\(^\circ\) C. The DC output current, terminal voltage and power of PV array was monitored during simulation at the specified atmospheric conditions. The switching action of the DC converter caused some ripple in the output current with an average value of about 13.5 A, the ripple magnitude can be reduced by increasing the size of the inductor used in the boost converter. There are some initial transients in the current waveform at the beginning of simulation as the system started operation and the DC converter drove the array to the estimated maximum power point. All the simulations given below are for 0.5 seconds. Fig.24, 25 shows the comparison of voltage, current and power of PV array without and with MPPT and boost converter power with MPPT respectively. It can be observed that PV array feeds 3.5 kW to the inverter using MPPT. Without MPPT the power reduces drastically from 3.5 kW to 2.9 kW.
B. Fault Analysis

The grid connected PV array system in Simulink is shown in Fig.17. The system is studied under different fault conditions which are shown below. The system is simulated at irradiance $G = 1000 \text{ W/m}^2$ and temperature $T=25 \, ^\circ\text{C}$. The fault is given only on the grid side. The fault duration is for 0.1 seconds from 0.2 to 0.3 seconds. The waveforms of grid side as well as inverter side are shown. Also voltage and current magnitudes and active and reactive power are also presented which varies with different fault conditions. First the system is simulated without fault.

1. Without Fault

The inverter output for 260 V dc input is shown in Fig.25. As seen in Fig.27, 28, and 29 there is no transients in any of the waveforms. Even there is no deviation in the active and reactive power curve while the reactive power being slightly greater than zero.
2. **LG Fault**

In line to ground fault, a phase of voltage waveforms collapse as seen in Fig.34 and the magnitude of current of a phase increases to 850 A. Also the active and the reactive power in Fig.35 deviate from their nominal values. The reactive power which remains nearly zero during no fault increases to 3.5 MVAR while the active power rises up to 6.2 MVA. In this case THD of voltage is increased from 0% to 0.04% in inverter side and 0.44% in grid side. The THD of current is also increased from 0% to 0.07% in inverter side and 1.08% in grid side.

![Fig.34. Voltage and Current waveforms on the grid side with LG fault](image4)

![Fig.35. Active and Reactive Power of Grid during LG fault](image5)

3. **LL Fault**

In line to line fault two phases of voltage waveforms collapse and two phases of current waveforms shoots to high magnitude as shown in Fig.36. During fault the active power rises from 0.9 MVA to 6.1 MVA whereas reactive power rises from 0 to 4 MVAR. In this case THD of voltage is increased from 0% to 0.22% in inverter side and 1.04% in grid side. The THD of current is also increased from 0% to 0.23% in inverter side and 3.45% in grid side.

![Fig.36. Voltage and Current waveforms on the grid side with LL fault](image6)

![Fig.37. Active and Reactive Power of Grid during LL fault](image7)

4. **LLG Fault**

Comparing LL and LLG faults, the fault current is higher in LLG fault as shown in Fig.38. But, during fault, the active power is lower and reactive power is higher in LLG fault than LL fault. In this case THD of voltage is increased from 0% to 0.12% in inverter side and 0.41% in grid side. The THD of current is also increased from 0% to 0.06% in inverter side and 1.09% in grid side.

![Fig.38. Voltage and Current waveforms on the grid side with LLG fault](image8)
5. **LLL Fault**

In symmetric three phase fault, all the three phases of voltage waveforms collapse and the current magnitude becomes very high during fault shown in Fig.40. The pattern of active and reactive power during three phase fault is presented in Fig.41. In this case THD of voltage is increased from 0% to 0.04% in inverter side and 0.23% in grid side. The THD of current is also increased from 0% to 0.23% in inverter side and 0.71% in grid side.

6. **LLLG Fault**

The waveforms of three phase to ground fault is similar to three phase fault except there is slight increase in fault current in LLLG shown in Fig.42. As LLLG fault is severe than any other fault, it can be concluded that fault on the grid side will hardly effects on the PV and boost converter side with other type of faults on ac side. In this case THD of voltage is increased from 0% to 0.04% in inverter side and 0.23% in grid side. The THD of current is also increased from 0% to 0.23% in inverter side and 0.71% in grid side.

5. Conclusion

A 3.5 kW PV array with MPPT has been modeled and simulated. The MPPT employed perturb and observe algorithm. The simulated results confirm the effectiveness of the MPPT. It is observed that with MPPT the power fed to the inverter from PV array has increased by 14%. A PLL has been designed for grid synchronization and it effectively synchronizes the inverter voltage and
frequency with the grid voltage and frequency. In case of fault it is observed that it takes only 0.2 sec for the system to become stable at nominal frequency. Fault analysis on grid side have been performed for various fault conditions like; LG, LL, LLL, LLG faults. The variations of active and reactive power and variation of voltage and current THD without fault and with fault conditions are studied. The findings of the fault analysis are essential for designing the protection circuit.

Appendix

Table.2 Module parameters of SPR 400E-WHT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PV Parameter</th>
<th>Specifications</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V_oc</td>
<td>85.2983V</td>
<td>Open circuit voltage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I_sc</td>
<td>5.8675A</td>
<td>Short circuit current</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V_mp</td>
<td>72.8992V</td>
<td>Voltage at maximum power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I_mp</td>
<td>5.48769A</td>
<td>Current at maximum power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P_mp</td>
<td>400 W</td>
<td>Maximum power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I_sc temperature coefficient</td>
<td>0.001837 A/°C</td>
<td>Short circuit current temperature coefficient</td>
</tr>
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Table.3 System Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Specifications</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V_oc</td>
<td>255.895V</td>
<td>Array Open circuit voltage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I_sc</td>
<td>17.60A</td>
<td>Array Short circuit current</td>
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<tr>
<td>V_mp</td>
<td>218.697V</td>
<td>Array Voltage at maximum power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I_mp</td>
<td>16.461A</td>
<td>Array Current at maximum power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P_mp</td>
<td>3600W</td>
<td>Array Maximum power</td>
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<tr>
<td>System frequency</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grid Voltage</td>
<td>25kV</td>
<td>Line to Line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inverter voltage</td>
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<td>Line to Line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grid inductance</td>
<td>3mH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grid resistance</td>
<td>20Ω</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switching frequency</td>
<td>4000Hz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inductive Load</td>
<td>500kW</td>
<td>Real Power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.4kVAR</td>
<td>Reactive Power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfacing transformer</td>
<td>260V</td>
<td>Primary Side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25kV</td>
<td>Secondary Side</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table.4 THD of voltage and current for different types of AC faults

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Type of Fault</th>
<th>Inverter side THD (Phase A) in %</th>
<th>Grid side THD (Phase A) in %</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voltage</td>
<td>Without Fault</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LG</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LL</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LLL</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LLL</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LLLG</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Without Fault</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LG</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>1.08</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LL</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>3.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LLL</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>0.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LLLG</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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