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HEAT OPERATORS AND QUASIMODULAR FORMS

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Abstract

We introduce a differential operator on quasimodular polynomials that corresponds to the derivative operator on quasimodular forms. We then prove that such a differential operator is compatible with a heat operator on Jacobi-like forms in certain cases. These results show in those cases that the derivative operator on quasimodular forms corresponds to a heat operator on Jacobi-like forms.

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1. Introduction

Jacobi-like forms are formal Laurent series which generalize Jacobi forms in some sense, and they correspond to certain sequences of modular forms (see [2, 6]). Quasimodular forms, on the other hand, generalize modular forms (see [4]), and the coefficients of a Jacobi-like form are quasimodular forms. Consequently, there are natural projection maps sending a Jacobi-like form to its coefficients. Derivatives of modular forms are not modular forms. On the other hand, derivatives of Jacobi-like forms are quasimodular forms. On the other hand, derivatives of quasimodular forms are quasimodular forms, and this paper is concerned with an operator on Jacobi-like forms.

Quasimodular forms for a discrete subgroup Γ of $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ can be identified with some polynomials, called quasimodular polynomials, that are invariant under certain actions of Γ (see [1]). There is a surjective map from Jacobi-like forms to quasimodular polynomials such that the coefficients of a quasimodular form of degree *n* are constant multiples of the first n + 1 coefficients of the corresponding Jacobi-like form.

In this paper we introduce a differential operator on quasimodular polynomials of a given degree that corresponds to the derivative operator on quasimodular forms. We then prove that such a differential operator is compatible with a heat operator on Jacobi-like forms studied in [5] under the above-mentioned projection map in

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certain cases. These results show in those cases that the derivative operator on quasimodular forms corresponds to a heat operator on Jacobi-like forms.

2. Formal Laurent series and polynomials

Let \mathcal{H} be the Poincaré upper half-plane, and let R be the ring of holomorphic functions on \mathcal{H} . We denote by R[[X]] the complex algebra of formal power series in X with coefficients in R. If δ is an integer, we set

$$R[[X]]_{\delta} = X^{\delta} R[[X]], \qquad (2.1)$$

so that an element $\Phi(z, X) \in R[[X]]_{\delta}$ can be written in the form

$$\Phi(z, X) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \phi_k(z) X^{k+\delta}$$
(2.2)

with $\phi_k \in R$ for each $k \ge 0$. Thus, if we allow δ to be negative, elements of $R[[X]]_{\delta}$ may be regarded as formal Laurent series in *X*. We fix a nonnegative integer *m* and denote by $R_m[X]$ the complex algebra of polynomials in *X* over *R* of degree at most *m*.

The group $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ acts on the Poincaré upper half-plane \mathcal{H} as usual by linear fractional transformations. Thus we may write

$$\gamma z = \frac{az+b}{cz+d}$$

for all $z \in \mathcal{H}$ and $\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in SL(2, \mathbb{R})$. For the same z and γ , we set

$$\mathfrak{J}(\gamma, z) = cz + d, \quad \mathfrak{K}(\gamma, z) = c\mathfrak{J}(\gamma, z)^{-1} = \frac{c}{cz + d}.$$
 (2.3)

The map $\mathfrak{J}: SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times \mathcal{H} \to \mathbb{C}$ determined by the first formula is a well-known automorphy factor satisfying the cocycle condition

$$\mathfrak{J}(\gamma\gamma', z) = \mathfrak{J}(\gamma, \gamma' z)\mathfrak{J}(\gamma', z)$$
(2.4)

for $\gamma, \gamma' \in SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ and $z \in \mathcal{H}$. The other map, on the other hand, can be shown to satisfy

$$\mathfrak{K}(\gamma\gamma', z) = \mathfrak{J}(\gamma', z)^{-2}\mathfrak{K}(\gamma, \gamma' z) + \mathfrak{K}(\gamma', z).$$
(2.5)

Given a function $f \in R$, a formal Laurent series $\Phi(z, X) \in R[[X]]_{\delta}$ with $\delta \in \mathbb{Z}$, a polynomial $F(z, X) \in R_m[X]$ and an integer λ , we set

$$(f|_{\lambda}\gamma)(z) = \mathfrak{J}(\gamma, z)^{-\lambda} f(\gamma z)$$
(2.6)

$$(\Phi \mid_{\lambda}^{J} \gamma)(z, X) = \mathfrak{J}(\gamma, z)^{-\lambda} e^{-\mathfrak{K}(\gamma, z)X} \Phi(\gamma z, \mathfrak{J}(\gamma, z)^{-2}X),$$
(2.7)

$$(F \parallel_{\lambda} \gamma)(z, X) = \mathfrak{J}(\gamma, z)^{-\lambda} F(\gamma z, \mathfrak{J}(\gamma, z)^{2}(X - \mathfrak{K}(\gamma, z)))$$
(2.8)

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for all $\gamma \in SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ and $z \in \mathcal{H}$. From (2.4) we see easily that

$$f \mid_{\lambda} (\gamma \gamma') = (f \mid_{\lambda} \gamma) \mid_{\lambda} \gamma'$$

for all $\gamma, \gamma' \in SL(2, \mathbb{R})$. Using (2.4) and (2.5), it can also be shown that

$$\Phi \mid_{\lambda}^{J} (\gamma \gamma') = (\Phi \mid_{\lambda}^{J} \gamma) \mid_{\lambda}^{J} \gamma', \quad (F \parallel_{\lambda} \gamma) \parallel_{\lambda} \gamma' = F \parallel_{\lambda} (\gamma \gamma').$$

We consider the surjective map

$$\Pi_m^{\delta} : R[[X]]_{\delta} \to R_m[X]$$
(2.9)

with $\delta \in \mathbb{Z}$ defined by

$$(\Pi_m^{\delta} \Phi)(z, X) = \sum_{r=0}^m \frac{1}{r!} \phi_{m-r}(z) X^r$$
(2.10)

for an element $\Phi(z, X) \in R[[X]]_{\delta}$ of the form

$$\Phi(z, X) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \phi_k(z) X^{k+\delta}.$$

This map is $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ -equivariant with respect to the operations in (2.7) and (2.8). More precisely, given $\Phi(z, X) \in R[[X]]_{\delta}$ and $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}$,

$$\Pi_m^{\delta}(\Phi \mid_{\lambda}^{J} \gamma) = \Pi_m^{\delta}(\Phi) \parallel_{\lambda + 2m + 2\delta} \gamma$$
(2.11)

for all $\gamma \in SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ (see [1])

Given $\nu \in \mathbb{Z}$, we now consider the formal differential operators

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$$\mathcal{D}_{\nu}: R[[X]] \to R[[X]], \quad \widehat{\mathcal{D}}_{\nu}: R_m[X] \to R_{m+1}[X]$$

defined by

$$\mathcal{D}_{\nu} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} - \nu \frac{\partial}{\partial X} - X \frac{\partial^2}{\partial X^2}, \qquad (2.12)$$

$$\widehat{\mathcal{D}}_{\nu} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} + X \left(\nu - X \frac{\partial}{\partial X} \right).$$
(2.13)

It was noted in [5] that operators of the form \mathcal{D}_{ν} correspond to heat operators on Jacobi forms considered by Eichler and Zagier in [3]. Thus \mathcal{D}_{ν} may be regarded as a heat operator on formal Laurent series, and it is $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ -equivariant in the sense of the following proposition.

PROPOSITION 2.1. Given $\lambda, \delta \in \mathbb{Z}$ and a formal Laurent series $\Phi(z, X) \in R[[X]]_{\delta}$,

$$(\mathcal{D}_{\nu}(\Phi)\mid_{\lambda+2}^{J}\gamma)(z,X) = \mathcal{D}_{\nu}(\Phi\mid_{\lambda}^{J}\gamma)(z,X) + (\lambda-\nu)\mathfrak{K}(\gamma,z)(\Phi\mid_{\lambda}^{J}\gamma)(z,X) \quad (2.14)$$

for all $\gamma \in SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ and $z \in \mathcal{H}$, where $|_{\lambda}^{J}$ and $|_{\lambda+2}^{J}$ are as in (2.7). In particular, we obtain

$$(\mathcal{D}_{\lambda}(\Phi)|_{\lambda+2}^{J}\gamma)(z,X) = \mathcal{D}_{\lambda}(\Phi|_{\lambda}^{J}\gamma)(z,X).$$
(2.15)

PROOF. This was proved in [5] for $\delta \ge 0$, and the proof of this proposition can be carried out in a similar manner.

3. Quasimodular and modular forms

Let R, R[[X]], $R[[X]]_{\delta}$, $R_m[X]$ with $\delta \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $m \ge 0$ be as in Section 2, and let Γ be a discrete subgroup of $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$.

DEFINITION 3.1. Let $|_{\xi}$, $|_{\xi}^{J}$ and $||_{\xi}$ with $\xi \in \mathbb{Z}$ be the operations in (2.6), (2.7) and (2.8).

(i) An element $f \in R$ is a quasimodular form for Γ of weight ξ and depth at most *m* if there are functions $f_0, \ldots, f_m \in R$ such that

$$(f \mid_{\xi} \gamma)(z) = \sum_{r=0}^{m} f_r(z) \mathfrak{K}(\gamma, z)^r$$
(3.1)

for all $z \in \mathcal{H}$ and $\gamma \in \Gamma$, where $\Re(\gamma, z)$ is as in (2.3).

(ii) A formal Laurent series $\Phi(z, X) \in R[[X]]_{\delta}$ with $\delta \in \mathbb{Z}$ is a *Jacobi-like form of* weight ξ for Γ if it satisfies

$$(\Phi \mid_{\mathcal{E}}^{J} \gamma)(z, X) = \Phi(z, X)$$

for all $z \in \mathcal{H}$ and $\gamma \in \Gamma$.

(iii) A polynomial $F(z, X) \in R_m[X]$ is a quasimodular polynomial for Γ of weight ξ and degree at most m if it satisfies

$$(F \parallel_{\mathcal{E}} \gamma)(z, X) = F(z, X)$$

for all $z \in \mathcal{H}$ and $\gamma \in \Gamma$.

If $\xi \in \mathbb{Z}$, we denote by $\mathcal{J}_{\xi}(\Gamma)_{\delta}$ the space of all Jacobi-like forms for Γ of weight ξ belonging to $R[[X]]_{\delta}$. We also denote by $QM_{\xi}^{m}(\Gamma)$ the space of quasimodular forms for Γ of weight ξ and depth at most m. The space of all quasimodular polynomials for Γ of weight ξ and degree at most m will be denoted by $QP_{\xi}^{m}(\Gamma)$.

If $f \in R$ is a quasimodular form belonging to $QM_{\xi}^{m}(\Gamma)$ satisfying (3.1), then we define the corresponding polynomial $(Q_{\xi}^{m}f)(z, X) \in R_{m}[X]$ by

$$(\mathcal{Q}_{\xi}^{m}f)(z, X) = \sum_{r=0}^{m} f_{r}(z)X^{r}$$
(3.2)

for $z \in \mathcal{H}$. We note that $\mathcal{Q}_{\xi}^{m} f$ is well defined because f determines the functions f_{k} uniquely. Thus we obtain the complex linear map

$$\mathcal{Q}^m_{\xi}: QM^m_{\xi}(\Gamma) \to R_m[X]$$

for each $\xi \in \mathbb{Z}$. In fact, this map determines an isomorphism

$$\mathcal{Q}_{\xi}^{m}: \mathcal{Q}M_{\xi}^{m}(\Gamma) \to \mathcal{Q}P_{\xi}^{m}(\Gamma)$$
(3.3)

whose inverse is given by

$$(\mathcal{Q}_{\xi}^{m})^{-1}(F(z,X)) = F(z,0)$$
(3.4)

for all $F(z, X) \in QP_{\varepsilon}^{m}(\Gamma)$ (see [1]).

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PROPOSITION 3.2. Let \widehat{D}_{ξ} with $\xi \in \mathbb{Z}$ be as in (2.13), and let $\partial = d/dz : R \to R$ be the derivative operator on R. Then

$$\mathcal{Q}_{\xi+2}^{m+1} \circ \partial = \widehat{\mathcal{D}}_{\xi} \circ \mathcal{Q}_{\xi}^{m}, \tag{3.5}$$

[5]

where \mathcal{Q}^m_{ξ} and $\mathcal{Q}^{m+1}_{\xi+2}$ are as in (3.2).

PROOF. Let f be a quasimodular form belonging to $QM_{\xi}^{m}(\Gamma)$, so that there are holomorphic functions $f_0, f_1, \ldots, f_m \in R$ satisfying

$$(f \mid_{\xi} \gamma)(z) = \mathfrak{J}(\gamma, z)^{-\xi} f(\gamma z) = \sum_{k=0}^{m} f_k(z) \mathfrak{K}(\gamma, z)^k$$

for all $z \in \mathcal{H}$ and $\gamma \in \Gamma$. By taking the derivative of this relation we obtain

$$-\xi\mathfrak{J}(\gamma,z)^{-\xi-1}\left(\frac{d}{dz}\mathfrak{J}(\gamma,z)\right)f(\gamma z)+\mathfrak{J}(\gamma,z)^{-\xi}f'(\gamma z)\left(\frac{d}{dz}(\gamma z)\right)$$
$$=\sum_{k=0}^{m}\left[f'_{k}(z)\mathfrak{K}(\gamma,z)^{k}+kf_{k}(z)\mathfrak{K}(\gamma,z)^{k-1}\left(\frac{d}{dz}\mathfrak{K}(\gamma,z)\right)\right].$$

Using this and the relations

$$\frac{d}{dz}\mathfrak{J}(\gamma, z) = \mathfrak{K}(\gamma, z)\mathfrak{J}(\gamma, z),$$
$$\frac{d}{dz}\mathfrak{K}(\gamma, z) = -\mathfrak{K}(\gamma, z)^2, \quad \frac{d}{dz}(\gamma z) = \mathfrak{J}(\gamma, z)^{-2},$$

we see that

$$-\xi \mathfrak{J}(\gamma, z)^{-\xi} \mathfrak{K}(\gamma, z) f(\gamma z) + \mathfrak{J}(\gamma, z)^{-\xi-2} f'(\gamma z)$$
$$= \sum_{k=0}^{m} [f'_{k}(z) \mathfrak{K}(\gamma, z)^{k} - k f_{k}(z) \mathfrak{K}(\gamma, z)^{k+1}].$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} ((\partial f)|_{\xi+2} \gamma)(z) &= \xi \Re(\gamma, z)(f|_{\xi} \gamma)(z) \\ &+ \sum_{k=0}^{m} [f'_{k}(z) \Re(\gamma, z)^{k} - kf_{k}(z) \Re(\gamma, z)^{k+1}] \\ &= \xi \Re(\gamma, z) \sum_{k=0}^{m} f_{k}(z) \Re(\gamma, z)^{k} \\ &+ \sum_{k=0}^{m} [f'_{k}(z) \Re(\gamma, z)^{k} - kf_{k}(z) \Re(\gamma, z)^{k+1}] \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{m+1} (\xi - k + 1) f_{k-1}(z) \Re(\gamma, z)^{k} + \sum_{k=0}^{m} f'_{k}(z) \Re(\gamma, z)^{k} \end{aligned}$$

Hence we see that $\partial f \in QM^{r+1}_{\xi+2}(\Gamma)$ and, using (3.2), we obtain

$$((\mathcal{Q}_{\xi+2}^{m+1} \circ \partial) f)(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{m+1} h_k(z) X^k,$$
(3.6)

where

$$h_0 = f'_0, \quad h_{m+1} = (\xi - m) f_m, \quad h_k = (\xi - k + 1) f_{k-1} + f'_k$$
(3.7)

for $1 \le k \le m$. On the other hand, since

$$(\mathcal{Q}^m_{\xi}f)(z, X) = \sum_{k=0}^m f_k(z) X^k \in R_m[[X]],$$

by using (2.13)

$$(\widehat{\mathcal{D}}_{\xi} \circ \mathcal{Q}_{\xi}^{m}) f(z, X) = \sum_{k=0}^{m} f_{k}'(z) X^{k} + \xi \sum_{k=0}^{m} f_{k}(z) X^{k} - \sum_{k=0}^{m} k f_{k}(z) X^{k}$$
$$= \sum_{k=0}^{m} f_{k}'(z) X^{k} + \sum_{k=1}^{m+1} (\xi - k + 1) f_{k-1}(z) X^{k}.$$

Comparing this with (3.6), we obtain (3.5).

The relation (3.5) provides us with the complex linear map

$$\widehat{\mathcal{D}}_{\xi} = \mathcal{Q}_{\xi+2}^{m+1} \circ \partial \circ (\mathcal{Q}_{\xi}^{m})^{-1} : \mathcal{Q}P_{\xi}^{m}(\Gamma) \to \mathcal{Q}P_{\xi+2}^{m+1}(\Gamma).$$

On the other hand, using (2.11) and (2.15), we see that

$$\mathcal{D}_{\lambda}(\mathcal{J}_{\lambda}(\Gamma)) \subset \mathcal{J}_{\lambda+2}(\Gamma), \quad \Pi^{\delta}_{m}(\mathcal{J}_{\lambda}(\Gamma)_{\delta}) \subset QP^{m}_{\lambda+2m+2\delta}(\Gamma);$$

hence we obtain the two additional complex maps

$$\Pi_{m}^{\delta,\lambda}: \mathcal{J}_{\lambda}(\Gamma)_{\delta} \to QP_{\lambda+2m+2\delta}^{m}(\Gamma), \quad \mathcal{D}_{\lambda}: \mathcal{J}_{\lambda}(\Gamma)_{\delta} \to \mathcal{J}_{\lambda+2}(\Gamma)_{\delta-1}$$
(3.8)

for each $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}$, where $\Pi_m^{\delta,\lambda}$ is the restriction of Π_m^{δ} to $\mathcal{J}_{\lambda}(\Gamma)_{\delta}$. THEOREM 3.3. *Given* $\lambda, \delta \in \mathbb{Z}$, *the diagram*

commutes if and only if $\delta = -m - 1$ *or* $\delta = -m - \lambda$ *.*

[6]

[7]

PROOF. Let $\Phi(z, X) \in R[[X]]_{\delta}$ be given by

$$\Phi(z, X) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \phi_k(z) X^{k+\delta}.$$

Then from (2.12) we obtain

$$\mathcal{D}_{\lambda}\Phi(z, X) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \phi_{k}'(z)X^{k+\delta} - \lambda \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+\delta)\phi_{k}(z)X^{k+\delta-1} - X \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+\delta)(k+\delta-1)\phi_{k}(z)X^{k+\delta-2} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (\phi_{k-1}'(z) - (k+\delta)(k+\delta-1+\lambda)\phi_{k}(z))X^{k+\delta-1} \in R[[X]]_{\delta-1}$$
(3.10)

with $\phi'_{-1} = 0$. Using this and (2.10),

$$((\Pi_{m+1}^{\delta-1} \circ \mathcal{D}_{\lambda})\Phi)(z, X) = \sum_{k=0}^{m+1} \frac{1}{k!} (\phi'_{m-k}(z) - (m+1-k+\delta)(m-k+\delta+\lambda)\phi_{m+1-k}(z))X^{k}.$$
(3.11)

On the other hand, from

$$(\Pi_m^{\delta}\Phi)(z, X) = \sum_{k=0}^m \frac{1}{k!} \phi_{m-k}(z) X^k$$

and (2.13) we see that

$$\begin{aligned} &(\widehat{\mathcal{D}}_{\lambda+2m+2\delta} \circ \Pi_{m}^{\delta}) \Phi)(z, X) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{m} \frac{1}{k!} \phi_{m-k}'(z) X^{k} + \sum_{k=0}^{m} \frac{\lambda + 2m + 2\delta}{k!} \phi_{m-k}(z) X^{k+1} \\ &- \sum_{k=0}^{m} \frac{1}{(k-1)!} \phi_{m-k}(z) X^{k+1} \end{aligned}$$
(3.12)
$$&= \sum_{k=0}^{m} \frac{1}{k!} \phi_{m-k}'(z) X^{k} + \sum_{k=1}^{m+1} \frac{\lambda + 2m + 2\delta - k + 1}{(k-1)!} \phi_{m-k+1}(z) X^{k} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{m+1} \frac{1}{k!} (\phi_{m-k}'(z) + k(\lambda + 2m + 2\delta - k + 1) \phi_{m+1-k}(z)) X^{k}. \end{aligned}$$

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Comparing (3.11) and (3.12),

$$\Pi_{m+1}^{\delta-1} \circ \mathcal{D}_{\lambda} = \widehat{\mathcal{D}}_{\lambda+2m+2\delta} \circ \Pi_m^{\delta}$$

if and only if

[8]

$$(m+\delta+1)(m+\delta+\lambda) = 0;$$

hence the theorem follows.

If $\Pi_m^{\delta,\lambda}$ is the map in (3.8), we consider the corresponding linear map

$$\widehat{\Pi}_m^{\delta,\lambda}:\mathcal{J}_\lambda(\Gamma)_\delta\to QM^m_{\lambda+2m+2\delta}(\Gamma)$$

defined by

$$\widehat{\Pi}_{m}^{\delta,\lambda} = (\mathcal{Q}_{\lambda+2m+2\delta}^{m})^{-1} \circ \Pi_{m}^{\delta,\lambda}, \qquad (3.13)$$

where $Q_{\lambda+2m+2\delta}^m$ is as in (3.3). Then from (2.10) and (3.4) we see that

$$(\widehat{\Pi}_m^{\delta,\lambda}\Phi)(z) = \phi_m(z)$$

for $\Phi(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \phi_k(z) X^{k+\delta} \in \mathcal{J}_{\lambda}(\Gamma)_{\delta}.$

COROLLARY 3.4. *Given* m, λ , $\delta \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $m \ge 0$, if $\delta = -m - 1$ or $\delta = -m - \lambda$, the diagram

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$$\begin{array}{c|c} \mathcal{J}_{\lambda}(\Gamma)_{\delta} & \xrightarrow{\Pi_{m}^{\delta, \wedge}} \mathcal{Q}M_{\lambda+2m+2\delta}^{m}(\Gamma) \\ \mathcal{D}_{\lambda} & & & \downarrow_{\partial} \\ \mathcal{J}_{\lambda+2}(\Gamma)_{\delta-1} & \xrightarrow{\widehat{\Pi}_{m}^{\delta-1, \lambda+2}} \mathcal{Q}M_{\lambda+2m+2\delta+2}^{m+1}(\Gamma) \end{array}$$

is commutative.

PROOF. From the relation (3.5) and the commutativity of the diagram (3.9) we see that the diagram

commutes, assuming that $\delta = -m - 1$ or $\delta = -m - \lambda$. Thus the corollary follows from this and the relations

$$\widehat{\Pi}_m^{\delta-1,\lambda+2} = (\mathcal{Q}_{\lambda+2m+2\delta+2}^{m+1})^{-1} \circ \Pi_{m+1}^{\delta-1,\lambda+2}$$

and (3.13).

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