Verified Extraction from Coq to a Lambda-Calculus

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Abstract

We present a framework to export programs in Coq to a weak call-by-value lambda calculus called L. L can be seen as a very basic functional programming language, featuring abstraction, match-constructs based on Scott's encoding and full recursion.

The extraction from Coq is not verified itself, but produces proofs for the correctness of each single extracted program semi-automatically. The frameworks builds on the Coq plugin Template Coq by Gregory Malecha [4]. It eliminates the non-computational parts of the Coq program and produces a term in L and the corresponding correctness statement, which in turn can be verified using several provided automation tactics (developed in [3]).

Using the framework, one can focus on the interesting parts of developments in L, because the task of programming is taken care of. We use the framework to develop a formalization of Computability theory [2] as a case study.

1 Overview

This report is intended to be an overview of the basic ideas behind a framework rather than a documentation or a manual. It tries to be mostly self contained. The framework itself grew out of [2] and heavily depends on the automation developed in [3].

We use Template Coq to get an inductive representation from Coq terms. We directly translate this representation to our own intermediate representation, which is more concise and gives the possibility to eliminate non computational parts. We describe this in in section 2.

In sections 3.1 and 3.2 we give a short introduction to L and Scott's encoding and describe the mathematical idea behind the framework. The implementation in Coq using type classes is described in sections 3.3 and 3.4.

Section 4.1 deals with the generation of correctness statements and 4.2 gives a short overview of the semi-automatic proofs.

Finally, we reimplement the development of basic computability theory from [2] and compare the two formalizations in section 5.

2 Representations for Coq terms

2.1 Template Coq

Template Coq [4] "is a quoting library for Coq. It takes Coq terms and constructs a representation of their syntax tree as a Coq inductive data type"¹ developed by Gregory Malecha.

¹cited from https://github.com/gmalecha/template-coq/

We use tactics provided by Template Coq to convert a Coq term to an inductive representation. We give a short overview over this inductive representation and briefly describe our contributions to Template Coq.

```
Inductive term : Type :=
| \texttt{tRel} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \texttt{term}
| tVar : ident \rightarrow term (** this can go away **)
| tMeta : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow term (** NOTE: this can go away *)
| tEvar : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \texttt{term}
| tSort : sort \rightarrow term
| tCast : term \rightarrow cast_kind \rightarrow term \rightarrow term
| tProd : name 
ightarrow term (** the type **) 
ightarrow term 
ightarrow term
| tLambda : name \rightarrow term (** the type **) \rightarrow term \rightarrow term
| tLetIn : name 
ightarrow term (** the type **) 
ightarrow term 
ightarrow term
| tApp : term \rightarrow list term \rightarrow term
| tConst : string \rightarrow term
| tInd : inductive \rightarrow term
| tConstruct : inductive \rightarrow \mathbb{N}\rightarrow term
| tCase : \mathbb{N} (* # of parameters *) 
ightarrow term (** type info **) 
ightarrow term 
ightarrow list term 
ightarrow term
| tFix : mfixpoint term \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \rightarrow term
| tUnknown : string \rightarrow term.
```

Because we are mainly interested in the computational part of Coq terms and especially in the extraction of closed terms, many of those constructors are uninteresting for us.

The most important part of Template Coq for our purposes is the tactic $quote_term k x$, that takes a tactic k (expecting one argument) and a term x. It then quotes the term x giving the result to the tactic k.

The inductive representation of plus (without any unfolding) is Ast.tConst "Coq.Init.Nat.add". In many cases, we need to be able to reproduce the term plus out of the string "Coq.Init.Nat.add". This was previously not provided by Template Coq as a tactic, but only as a Vernacular command. We added the tactic denote_term k x working inverse to quote_term for a restricted subset of the Ast.term type to Template Coq².

2.2 Intermediate Representation

The AST representation of Template Coq carries a lot of information which is unnecessary for the purpose of extraction. To ease for instance the elimination of propositions before the extraction, we define an intermediate representations, that specifies the subset of Coq which can be extracted. This can also be seen as a clean interface to extract to other languages than L.

Almost every constructor should be self-explanatory. The match constructor carries the list of its match branches, which are represented as abstractions. Variables have a second argument, that will be used to conveniently extract fixed points (see section 3.2.3). The *iType* and *iConst* constructors will be explained in the following sections.

²see https://github.com/gmalecha/template-coq/commit/c6de18e0ba00980e82f61c98e2348c292f86faa5

2.3 Eliminating Propositions

The Extraction command in Coq conveniently removes all proofs and computation on types from the terms and extracts the computationally relevant part only. This is especially useful in the case of deciders, for instance of type

 $\forall x y : \mathbb{N}, \{ x = y \} + \{ x \neq y \}$

which can be extracted to a term of type $\mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{bool}$ in the obvious way. We mimic this behavior. Currently, we eliminate non computational part by a heuristic, that works in all interesting cases. The key idea is that we compute the typeLevel of a Coq term t in Ltac. If t : Type, it has typeLevel 0. If $t : X \to Y$, it has typeLevel n + 1 if Y has typeLevel n.

We eliminate parts of the term that have typeLevel 0.

3 Extraction

3.1 A Weak Call-By-Value Lambda Calculus

We use a weak call-by-value lambda calculus called L, already used in the development of computability theory in [2].L is syntactically a lambda calculus with de-Bruijn variables and uses the following reduction rules:

$$\frac{s \succ s'}{(\lambda s) v \succ s_v^0} \qquad \qquad \frac{s \succ s'}{s t \succ s' t} \qquad \qquad \frac{t \succ t'}{s t \succ s t'}$$

We write \succ^* for the reflexive, transitive closure of \succ and \equiv for the equivalence closure. Note that \succ^* is a subrelation of \equiv and $s \equiv \lambda t \leftrightarrow s \succ^* \lambda t$. For further properties of L see [2], chapters 2 and 3.

3.2 Scott's Encoding

There are several well-known ways to represent constructor types in the lambda calculus. One is a representation via Church's encoding, which does not work in the setting of call-by-value reduction.

A second way would be to encode the terms as natural numbers via some sort of Gödelization and encode this number, as it is often done in Computability theory. While this is technically easy, programming with such encoded terms is almost impossible.

Thus we use Scott's encoding [1], which was used for terms by Mogensen [5], similar to the development in [2]. Scott's encoding encodes a term t as the match-construct that is implicitly hidden in the term.

As an example, natural numbers are encoded via a recursive procedure $x \mapsto \overline{x}$ as follows:

$$0 := \lambda z s. z$$
$$\overline{Sn} := \lambda z s. s \,\overline{n}$$

One can now define the constructor *S* as a lambda term:

$$\ulcorner S \urcorner \mathrel{\mathop:}= \lambda xzs.s \; x$$

We say that $\lceil x \rceil$ is the *extracted* version of the Coq term x. We also say that $\lceil x \rceil$ *internalizes* the Coq term x. We will use both terminologies interchangeably.

We will from now on always use the notation \overline{x} to refer to the Scott encoding of a Coq term x. Note that we have $\lceil 2 \rceil = \lceil S \rceil (\lceil S \rceil \rceil) = \lceil S \rceil (\lceil S \rceil \overline{0}) \succ^* \overline{2}$. In general, we get $\lceil x \rceil \succ^* \overline{x}$.

Arbitrary constructor datatypes can be encoded in a similar way:

Assume that the type *X* has *n* constructors c_1, \ldots, c_n . For any *k*-ary constructor c_i an element $c_i x_1 \ldots x_k$ is represented as

$$\lambda c_1 \ldots c_n \ldots c_i x_1 \ldots x_k$$

3.2.1 Application, Abstraction, Variables

The subset of Coq consisting of applications, abstractions and variables is essentially a typed version of the pure λ -calculus. It thus is straightforward how to internalize those terms.

If $\lceil s \rceil$ internalizes a term s and $\lceil t \rceil$ internalizes a term t then $\lceil s \rceil \lceil t \rceil$ internalizes the application s t. On a high level we see that always $\lceil s \rceil \lceil t \rceil \succ^* \lceil s t \rceil$.

Abstractions and variables are also straightforward in the obvious way.

3.2.2 Match

Internalizing match constructs is easy, because a Scott encoding is essentially nothing more than a match construct.

Now every term $\lambda c_1 \dots c_n . c_i x_1 \dots x_k$ yields a match construct. The Coq-match

$$\begin{array}{l|l} \text{match t with} \\ \mid c_1 x_1 \ldots x_{k_1} \Rightarrow f_1 \ x_1 \ldots x_{k_1} \\ \mid \ldots \\ \mid c_n x_1 \ldots x_{k_n} \Rightarrow f_n \ x_1 \ldots x_{k_n} \\ \text{end} \end{array}$$

is simply done with $t f_1 \ldots f_n$.

Note that this only works for strongly normalizing terms, which is no problem in our setting, because every term in Coq is strongly normalizing and extraction will preserve this property.

3.2.3 Fix

Fix is technically the hardest part. In contrast to [2] we do not use a fixed point combinator here. For a well behaving fixed point combinator R, we would like to have the property that $Ru \equiv u$ (Ru) for a procedure u. This seems impossible in a call-by-value setting and the best equation one can get is $Ru \equiv \lambda x.u$ (Ru) x. Even more problematic, a term Ru is no procedure anymore (because it is an application). The last can be solved by the definition of a function $\rho : \mathbf{T} \to \mathbf{T}$ following [6].

We define:

$$A := \lambda z g. g(\lambda x. z z g x)$$

$$\rho s := \lambda x..A A s x$$

and have that $(\rho u) t \equiv u (\rho u) t$ for procedures u and t.

A technical difficulty comes up when dealing with nested fixed-points or functions of the form $fun x \Rightarrow fix f y := ...$ The introduction of the additional λx in ρ requires us to essentially increase every de-Bruijn index following to a fix by one. We do this by annotating every variable with the corrected de-Bruijn index. This is because we will need the initial index as well as the corrected one later.

```
Ltac annotateVariables' t L :=
  let f x :=annotateVariables' x L in
 match eval hnf in t with
  | iVar ?n ?m \Rightarrow
   let m' :=eval lazy in (m + elAt' L m) in
   constr: (iVar n m')
  | iApp ?s ?t \Rightarrow
   let s' := annotateVariables' s L in
   let t' := annotateVariables' t L in
   constr: (iApp s' t')
  | iLam ?s \Rightarrow
   let s' := annotateVariables' s (0 :: L) in
    constr: (iLam s')
  | iFix ?s \Rightarrow
   let s' := annotateVariables' s (0::map S L) in
   constr: (iFix s')
  | iMatch ?s ?l \Rightarrow
   let l' :=list_map iTerm f l in
   let s' := annotateVariables' s L in
   constr:(iMatch s' l')
  | iType ⇒iType
  | iConst ?f ⇒constr:(iConst f)
  | _ \Rightarrowfail 1000 "annotation failed in:" t
  end.
Ltac annotateVariables t := annotateVariables' t (Qnil \mathbb{N}).
```

The tactic maintains a list L of natural numbers. The m'th number in L stores the number of fix introduced between the binder and the variable m in the current context.

3.3 A Typeclass for Scott Encodings

On paper, we use the notation $\overline{2}$ or \overline{true} to denote the Scott encoded terms 2 and true. In Coq, without further work we need to write for instance N_enc 2 and bool_enc true. The typeclass mechanism of Coq allows us to use overloading as on paper.

```
Class registered (X : Type) :=mk_registered
{
    enc_f : X → term ; (* the encoding function for X *)
    proc_enc : ∀ x, proc (enc_f x) (* encodings need to be a procedure *)
}.
Arguments enc_f X {registered} _.
```

A type now can be registered by giving an encoding function and a proof that this function yields procedures only. Note that this allows for more than Scott encodings. Our automation will never-theless only work for Scott encodings.

We define a tactic to register encodings easily:

```
Ltac register encf :=refine (@mk_registered _ encf _);
abstract (now ((induction 0 || intros);simpl;value)).
```

The value tactic is taken from [3].

Registration is straightforward now:

```
Instance register_bool : registered bool.
Proof.
  register bool_enc.
Defined.
Instance register_N : registered N.
Proof.
```

```
register \mathbb{N}_{enc}.
```

Note that we close the Instance with the Defined command to make enc_f available for computations. The proof remains opaque because we use the abstract³ tactic.

The following definition makes the overloading possible:

We use a well-known trick here. Note that the function enc essentially is just a projection on one of its arguments. But, the only non-implicit argument is the third one. Especially, the argument H, from which the result is taken, is made implicit. Now when one writes enc 2, Coq derives (if possible) automatically the argument H : registered N, takes the projection function and applies it to 2.

Thus, the following computation works:

```
Compute (enc 0, enc false, enc 2).
= ((\lambda (\lambda 1)), (\lambda (\lambda 0)), (\lambda (\lambda 0 (\lambda (\lambda 0 (\lambda (\lambda 1)))))))
: term * term * term
```

3.4 A Typeclass and Tactics for Internalization

The translation to L-terms which was described mathematically in the last sections can be done by a short Ltac tactic. But we want to be able to reuse previously internalized subterms. This is why we employ the typeclass mechanism of Coq again. We introduce a typeclass internalized now, that will be extended in the following sections.

```
Class internalized (X : Type) (x : X) :=
{ internalizer : term ;
    proc_t : proc internalizer
}.
Definition int (X : Type) (x : X) (H : internalized x) :=internalizer.
Global Arguments int {X} {ty} x {H} : simpl never.
```

The key part again is the definition of int. It uses the same trick as the function enc before. After a function, say, plus is registered, one can write int plus to get the corresponding L-term.

We will now focus on how to use this class and the mathematically described ideas to write a tactic translating intermediate terms to lambda terms. We already explained every interesting nontechnical problem but one. This appears in the context of lists and options, in general where polymorphic datatypes appear.

First, we define how to encode options:

```
Section Fix_X.

Variable X:Type.

Variable intX : registered X.

Definition option_enc (t:option X) :term :=

match t with

| Some t \Rightarrow\lambda(\lambda (1 (enc t)))

| None \Rightarrow\lambda(\lambda 0)

end.

Global Instance register_option : registered (option X).
```

³See https://coq.inria.fr/refman/Reference-Manual011.html#hevea_tactic189

```
Proof.
  register option_enc.
Defined.
Global Instance term_None : internalized (@None X).
Proof.
  ...
Defined.
Global Instance term_Some : internalized (@Some X).
Proof.
  ...
Defined.
End Fix_X.
```

We omit the proof scripts for now. Note that in order to generate correctness statements we have to internalize @Some X instead of Some only. Using this definitions the problem comes up when internalizing, say, the term @Some N. After Prop/Type-elimination the term is represented as iApp (iConst Some) (iType N). One can now easily see that the usual approach does not work here. Internalizing iType N will yield a dummy term, but internalizing Some does not work, because we have only registered @Some N. Thus, our internalization tactic has to be a bit more complex. We first give the code and explain the interesting parts afterwards:

```
Ltac reconstruct t :=
  match t with
  | iApp ?s ?t \Rightarrow
   let s' := reconstruct s in
   let t' :=reconstruct t in
   constr: (s' t')
  | iType (Some ?x) \Rightarrowconstr:(x)
  | iType None ⇒constr:(True)
  | iConst ?f \Rightarrow constr:(f)
  | _ \Rightarrowfail 1000 "reconstruction failed for:" t
  end.
Ltac toLambda t (* : iTerm \rightarrow L.term + Cog.term *) :=
  match t with
  | iVar ?n ?m ⇒let v :=eval cbv in (@inl term True (Lvw.var m)) in constr: v
  | iLam ?t \Rightarrow
    match toLambda t with
    | inl ?x \Rightarrowconstr : (@inl term True (\lambda x ))
    end
  | iApp ?s ?t \Rightarrow
    let x :=toLambda s in
    match x with
    | inl ?r1 \Rightarrow
      let y :=toLambda t in
      match y with
        inl ?r2 \Rightarrowconstr: (@inl term True (app r1 r2))
      | inr _ \Rightarrow fail 1000 "internalized lhs" s "successfully, but rhs " t "failed"
      end
    | inr ?r1 \Rightarrow
      let r2 :=reconstruct t in
      constr:( @inl term True (int (r1 r2)) )
    (* if internalization failed *)
    | inr ?r1 \Rightarrow
      let r2 :=reconstruct t in
      constr: (@inr True _ (r1 r2))
    | inr ?r1 \Rightarrow
      fail 1000 "internalization failed for" r1 "(reconstructing" t "didn't work)"
    end
  | @iConst ?X ?x \Rightarrow
    constr: (@inl term True (int x))
```

```
| @iConst ?X ?x ⇒
constr: (@inr True X x)
| iFix ?s ⇒
match toLambda s with
    inl ?s' ⇒constr:(@inl term True(Lvw.rho (Lvw.λ s')))
| _ ⇒fail 100 "failed under fix" t
    end
| iMatch ?s ?1 ⇒
let 1' :=matchToApp s 1 in
let t :=toLambda 1' in
    constr:(t)
| iType _ ⇒constr: ( @inl term True I)
| _ ⇒fail 100 "failed to internalize iterm " t
end.
```

The toLambda tactic takes an iTerm as argument. It then returns either an L-term, or, if that did not work, tries to reconstruct the Coq-term. The cases for variables, abstractions, fix and match are straightforward.

We explain the behavior on applications, constants and eliminated Types by means of an example.

On the argument iApp (iConst @Some) (iType \mathbb{N}), it will first try to internalize iConst @Some in the usual way. Since this fails, it returns inr @Some, reconstructs the right hand side also (yielding simply \mathbb{N}), puts the two parts together and tries to internalize @Some \mathbb{N} afterwards, finally succeeding.

4 Automated Verification

Until now we described how to extract L-terms from Coq code. The clear structure of the extraction and Scott's encoding allow us now to formulate and prove correctness properties of the extracted terms highly automated.

Section 4.1 describes how we generate correctness statements. Section 4.2 the connection to the automation that can be used to generate the corresponding proofs.

4.1 Generating Correctness Statements

One can read the corresponding correctness lemma of a term from its type. The correctness lemma of plus : $\mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}$ reads \forall n m : \mathbb{N} , (int plus) (enc n) (enc m) >* enc (plus n m).

One choice would be now to generate the correctness lemma via a tactic and store it in the instance of the internalized class. This would be easy to work with, but bear the risk that trivial correctness lemmas get used. Thus proof reading Coq proofs generated by our framework would be considerably more complicated, because the statement that a term was correctly internalized is based on the concrete correctness statement.

We use a different but similar approach. First, we give an inductive datatype TT X which inductively represents the type X. We then define a function $internalizesF : TT X \rightarrow Prop$ that generates the correctness lemma for each proof by structural recursion over the TT object. While proof reading, one simply needs to check that internalizesF is well-behaving, every other statement then can be trusted.

```
Inductive TT : Type \rightarrow Type :=

TyB t (H : registered t) : TT t

| TyElim t : TT t

| TyAll t (ttt : TT t) (f : t \rightarrow Type) (ftt : \forall x, TT (f x))

: TT (\forall (x:t), f x).

Arguments TyB _ {_}.

Arguments TyAll {_} _ {_} .

Notation "! X" :=(TyB X) (at level 69).
```

Notation "X \rightsquigarrow Y" :=(TyAll X (fun _ \Rightarrow Y)) (right associativity, at level 70).

We allow the representation of a base type only if it can be encoded already. We mark the parts of a type which correspond to previously eliminated parts by introducing the constructor TyElim.

The TyAll constructor is able to represent dependent types. If we assume that we registered how to encode the type sumbool, the TT representation for $\forall x y : \mathbb{N}$, { x = y } + { $x \neq y$ } is

```
TyAll (! \mathbb{N})

(fun x : \mathbb{N}

TyAll (! \mathbb{N}) (fun y : \mathbb{N} + {x = y} + {x \neq y}))

: TT (\forall x y : \mathbb{N}, {x = y} + {x \neq y})
```

We define the internalizesF function by a proof script:

```
Definition internalizesF (p : Lvw.term) t (ty : TT t) (f : t) : Prop.
revert p. induction ty as [ t H p | t H p | t ty internalizesHyp R ftt internalizesF'];
simpl in *; intros.
- exact (p >* enc f).
- exact (p >* I).
- exact (∀ (y : t) u, proc u → internalizesHyp y u → internalizesF'_ (f y) (app p u)).
Defined.
```

The idea is clear: internalizes f(p : L.term) (t : Type) (ty : TT t) (f : t) expresses the statement that the L-term p correctly internalizes the term f of type t. It works by structural recursion over the TT object. A term p internalizes f : t for t being registered if $p \succ \overline{f}$. We require eliminated terms to reduce to the term I.

The function case where the term f has type $\forall t, Rt$ is most interesting. We define that it is internalizes by a term p if pu internalizes fy for every y : t and internalization u of y that is a procedure. In the definition internalizesF, is essentially internalizesF, with some slight changes in the arguments.

```
Class internalizedClass (X : Type) (ty : TT X) (x : X) :=
{ internalizer : term ;
    proc_t : proc internalizer ;
    correct_t : internalizesF internalizer ty x
}.
Definition int (X : Type) (ty : TT X) (x : X) (H : internalizedClass ty x) :=internalizer.
Global Arguments int {X} {ty} x {H} : simpl never.
Definition correct (X : Type) (ty : TT X) (x : X) (H : internalizedClass ty x) :=correct_t.
Global Arguments correct {X} {ty} x {H} : simpl never.
Notation "'internalized' f" :=
    (internalizedClass $(let t :=type of f in let x :=toTT t in exact x)$ f)
    (at level 100, only parsing).
```

At first the decision to add a parameter instead of a new field seems odd. But, we can observe that there is at most one *meaningful* TT instance for every type. This statement is obviously (due to the term meaningful) nor provable in Coq, nor is the TT instance computable in Coq.

This is because the statement that there is at most one representation as TT x for every type x is true externally, but can not be proven in Coq. Not even a function $\forall x : Type$, TT x would be definable in Coq. This is why we need to add the toTT part as a parameter. If we assume that a function of type for instance $x \rightarrow y$ is internalized, we also should be able to assume the right correctness lemma. Thus we add the TT object as parameter, but hide it for the user when writing it down.

4.2 Proving Correctness using Tactics

```
(* this can be used to internalize with an anonymous term, defined in coq*)
Ltac internalizeWith' t_arg :=
 match goal with
 | [ \vdashinternalizedClass _ ?f ] \Rightarrow
   let t :=(let t' :=eval lazy [enc] in t_arg in eval cbn in t') in
   let h := visableHead t in
   (* this allows to branch if the head is opaque (e.g. a constructor) *)
   let e1 :=eval cbv in h in
   let e :=
       match h with
        e1 \Rightarrowt
       | \_ \Rightarrow(let t' :=eval lazy [h enc] in t in t')
       end
   in
   let t' :=eval lazy [decision] in e in
   let ter :=to_iTerm_elim t' in
   let ter' := annotateVariables ter in
   let Lter' :=toLambda ter' in
   match Lter' with
     | inl ?Lter
     ⇒apply Build_internalizedClass with (internalizer:=Lter); [try value|cbn]
   end
end.
```

The internalizeWith' tactic is the core of our tactics to assist the internalization of terms. It expects the term which should be internalized as argument t_arg.

If the head of the t_arg can be unfolded, it unfolds it. After that, every occurrence of decision is unfolded to its concrete instance. The resulting term gets converted to an iTerm and propositions and types get eliminated. At last, variables get annotated and the whole term is extracted. As a last step, the Build_internalizedClass constructor is applied.

There are two open goals: One is to prove that the internalized term is a procedure, which can be handled by the value tactic. The other goal is the correctness lemma itself, which is left open for the user.

With the help of the extensive automation from Kunze15 these proofs can be done with few tactic calls in most cases. The only thing a user has to do is start the induction and do (if needed) some destructs by hand. Everything else, especially all reductions, is handled by the tactic crush.

5 Case Study

[2] develops a formalization of basic Computability theory in L. We reimplemented the formalization using the framework presented here. The following table presents a comparison in lines of Coq-code between the two approaches, concerning the verification of the most interesting procedures.

| Formalization | Thesis | Framework |
|--------------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Natural Numbers | 110 | 60 |
| Equality on terms and $\mathbb N$ | 85 | 46 |
| Lists | 230 | 113 |
| Substitution and Self Interpretation | 209 | 74 |
| Enumeration of terms | 143 | 26 |
| Inverse Encoding of $\mathbb N$ | 37 | 9 |
| In Total | 777 | 319 |

The definition of the framework and the corresponding tactics is roughly 650 lines long.

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