

# Supplementary material of the article *Uncovering Causality from Multivariate Hawkes Integrated Cumulants*

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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 In a nutshell

We prove here the consistency of NPHC estimator using the framework of Generalized Method of Moments Hansen [1982]. The main difference with the usual Generalized Method of Moments relies in the relaxation of the moment conditions, since we have  $\mathbb{E}[\hat{g}_T(\theta_0)] = m_T \neq 0$ . We adapt the proof of consistency given in Newey and McFadden [1994].

### 1.2 Sketch of the proof

We can relate the integral of the Hawkes process's kernels to the integrals of the cumulant densities, from Jovanović et al. [2015]. Our cumulant matching method would fall into the usual GMM framework if we could estimate - without bias - the integral of the covariance on  $\mathbb{R}$ , and the integral of the skewness on  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . Unfortunately, we can't do that easily. We can however estimate without bias  $\int f_t^T C_t^{ij} dt$  and  $\int f_t^T K_t^{ijk} dt$  with  $f^T$  a compact supported function on  $[-H_T, H_T]$  that weakly converges to 1, with  $H_T \xrightarrow{T \rightarrow \infty} \infty$ . In most cases we will take  $f_t^T = \mathbb{1}_{[-H_T, H_T]}(t)$ .

Denoting  $\hat{C}^{ij,(T)}$  the estimator of  $\int f_t^T C_t^{ij} dt$ , the term  $|\mathbb{E}[\hat{C}^{ij,(T)}] - C^{ij}| = |\int f_t^T C_t^{ij} dt - C^{ij}|$  can be considered a proxy to the *distance to the classical GMM*. This distance has to go to zero to make the rest of GMM's proof work: the estimator  $\hat{C}^{ij,(T)}$  is then asymptotically unbiased towards  $C^{ij}$  when  $T$  goes to infinity.

### 1.3 Notations

We observe the multivariate point process  $(N_t)$  on  $\mathbb{R}^+$ , with  $Z^i$  the events of the  $i^{th}$  component. We will often write covariance / skewness instead of integrated covariance / skewness. In the rest of the document, we use the following notations.

**Hawkes kernels' integrals**  $G^{\text{true}} = \int \Phi_t dt = (\int \phi_t^{ij} dt)_{ij} = \mathbf{I}_d - (\mathbf{R}^{\text{true}})^{-1}$

**Theoretical mean matrix**  $L = \text{diag}(\Lambda^1, \dots, \Lambda^d)$

**Theoretical covariance**  $C = \mathbf{R}^{\text{true}} L (\mathbf{R}^{\text{true}})^\top$

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**Theoretical skewness**  $K^c = (K^{ij})_{ij} = (\mathbf{R}^{\text{true}})^{\odot 2} \mathbf{C}^\top + 2[\mathbf{R}^{\text{true}} \odot (\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{R}^{\text{true}} \mathbf{L})](\mathbf{R}^{\text{true}})^\top$

**Filtering function**  $f^T \geq 0$   $\text{supp}(f^T) \subset [-H_T, H_T]$   $F^T = \int f_s^T ds$   $\tilde{f}_t^T = f_{-t}^T$

**Events sets**  $Z^{i,T,1} = Z^i \cap [H_T, T + H_T]$   $Z^{j,T,2} = Z^j \cap [0, T + 2H_T]$

**Estimators of the mean**  $\hat{\Lambda}^i = \frac{N_{T+H_T}^i - N_{H_T}^i}{T}$   $\tilde{\Lambda}^j = \frac{N_{T+2H_T}^j}{T+2H_T}$

**Estimator of the covariance**  $\hat{C}^{ij,(T)} = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{\tau \in Z^{i,T,1}} \left( \sum_{\tau' \in Z^{j,T,2}} f_{\tau'-\tau} - \tilde{\Lambda}^j F^T \right)$

**Estimator of the skewness<sup>1</sup>**

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{K}^{ijk,(T)} &= \frac{1}{T} \sum_{\tau \in Z^{i,T,1}} \left( \sum_{\tau' \in Z^{j,T,2}} f_{\tau'-\tau} - \tilde{\Lambda}^j F^T \right) \left( \sum_{\tau'' \in Z^{k,T,2}} f_{\tau''-\tau} - \tilde{\Lambda}^k F^T \right) \\ &\quad - \frac{\hat{\Lambda}^i}{T + 2H_T} \sum_{\tau' \in Z^{j,T,2}} \left( \sum_{\tau'' \in Z^{k,T,2}} (f^T \star \tilde{f}^T)_{\tau'-\tau''} - \tilde{\Lambda}^k (F^T)^2 \right) \end{aligned}$$

**GMM related notations**

$$\begin{aligned} \theta &= \mathbf{R} \quad \text{and} \quad \theta_0 = \mathbf{R}^{\text{true}} \\ g_0(\theta) &= \text{vec} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C} - \mathbf{R} \mathbf{L} \mathbf{R}^\top \\ \mathbf{K}^c - \mathbf{R}^{\odot 2} \mathbf{C}^\top - 2[\mathbf{R} \odot (\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{R} \mathbf{L})] \mathbf{R}^\top \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2d^2} \\ \hat{g}_T(\theta) &= \text{vec} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{C}}^{(T)} - \mathbf{R} \hat{\mathbf{L}} \mathbf{R}^\top \\ \hat{\mathbf{K}}^c - \mathbf{R}^{\odot 2} (\hat{\mathbf{C}}^{(T)})^\top - 2[\mathbf{R} \odot (\hat{\mathbf{C}}^{(T)} - \mathbf{R} \hat{\mathbf{L}})] \mathbf{R}^\top \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2d^2} \\ Q_0(\theta) &= g_0(\theta)^\top W g_0(\theta) \\ \hat{Q}_T(\theta) &= \hat{g}_T(\theta)^\top \hat{W}_T \hat{g}_T(\theta) \end{aligned}$$

## 2 Consistency

First, let's remind a useful theorem for consistency in GMM from Newey and McFadden [1994].

**Theorem 2.1.** *If there is a function  $Q_0(\theta)$  such that (i)  $Q_0(\theta)$  is uniquely maximized at  $\theta_0$ ; (ii)  $\Theta$  is compact; (iii)  $Q_0(\theta)$  is continuous; (iv)  $\hat{Q}_T(\theta)$  converges uniformly in probability to  $Q_0(\theta)$ , then  $\hat{\theta}_T = \arg \max \hat{Q}_T(\theta) \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} \theta_0$ .*

We can now prove the consistency of our estimator.

**Theorem 2.2.** *Suppose that  $(N_t)$  is observed on  $\mathbb{R}^+$ ,  $\hat{W}_T \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} W$ , and*

1.  $W$  is positive semi-definite and  $W g_0(\theta) = 0$  if and only if  $\theta = \theta_0$ ,
2.  $\theta \in \Theta$ , which is compact,
3. the spectral radius of the kernel norm matrix satisfies  $\|\Phi\|_* < 1$ ,
4.  $\forall i, j, k \in [d]$ ,  $\int f_u^T C_u^{ij} du \rightarrow \int C_u^{ij} du$  and  $\int f_u^T f_v^T K_{u,v}^{ijk} dudv \rightarrow \int K_{u,v}^{ijk} dudv$ ,

<sup>1</sup>When  $f_t^T = \mathbb{1}_{[-H_T, H_T]}(t)$ , we remind that  $(f^T \star \tilde{f}^T)_t = (2H_T - |t|)^+$ . This leads to the estimator we showed in the article.

5.  $(F^T)^2/T \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$  and  $\|f\|_\infty = O(1)$ .

Then

$$\widehat{\theta}_T \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} \theta_0.$$

**Remark 1.** In practice, we use a constant sequence of weighting matrices:  $\widehat{W}_T = \mathbf{I}_d$ .

*Proof.* Proceed by verifying the hypotheses of Theorem 2.1 from Newey and McFadden [1994]. Condition 2.1(i) follows by (i) and by  $Q_0(\theta) = [W^{1/2}g_0(\theta)]^\top [W^{1/2}g_0(\theta)] > 0 = Q_0(\theta_0)$ . Indeed, there exists a neighborhood  $N$  of  $\theta_0$  such that  $\theta \in N \setminus \{\theta_0\}$  and  $g_0(\theta) \neq 0$  since  $g_0(\theta)$  is a polynomial. Condition 2.1(ii) follows by (ii). Condition 2.1(iii) is satisfied since  $Q_0(\theta)$  is a polynomial. Condition 2.1(iv) is harder to prove. First, since  $\widehat{g}_T(\theta)$  is a polynomial of  $\theta$ , we prove easily that  $\mathbb{E}[\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} |\widehat{g}_T(\theta)|] < \infty$ . Then, by  $\Theta$  compact,  $g_0(\theta)$  is bounded on  $\Theta$ , and by the triangle and Cauchy-Schwarz inequalities,

$$\begin{aligned} & |\widehat{Q}_T(\theta) - Q_0(\theta)| \\ & \leq |(\widehat{g}_T(\theta) - g_0(\theta))^\top \widehat{W}_T(\widehat{g}_T(\theta) - g_0(\theta))| + |g_0(\theta)^\top (\widehat{W}_T + \widehat{W}_T^\top)(\widehat{g}_T(\theta) - g_0(\theta))| + |g_0(\theta)^\top (\widehat{W}_T - W)g_0(\theta)| \\ & \leq \|\widehat{g}_T(\theta) - g_0(\theta)\|^2 \|\widehat{W}_T\| + 2\|g_0(\theta)\| \|\widehat{g}_T(\theta) - g_0(\theta)\| \|\widehat{W}_T\| + \|g_0(\theta)\|^2 \|\widehat{W}_T - W\|. \end{aligned}$$

To prove  $\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} |\widehat{Q}_T(\theta) - Q_0(\theta)| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$ , we should now prove that  $\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \|\widehat{g}_T(\theta) - g_0(\theta)\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$ . By  $\Theta$  compact, it is sufficient to prove that  $\|\widehat{L} - L\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$ ,  $\|\widehat{C}^{(T)} - C\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$ , and  $\|\widehat{K}^{c^{(T)}} - K^c\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$ .

**Proof that  $\|\widehat{L} - L\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$**

The estimator of  $L$  is unbiased so let's focus on the variance of  $\widehat{L}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[(\widehat{\Lambda}^i - \Lambda^i)^2] &= \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \frac{1}{T} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} (dN_t^i - \Lambda^i dt) \right)^2 \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{T^2} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} \mathbb{E}[(dN_t^i - \Lambda^i dt)(dN_{t'}^i - \Lambda^i dt')] \\ &= \frac{1}{T^2} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} C_{t'-t}^{ii} dt dt' \\ &\leq \frac{1}{T^2} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} C^{ii} dt = \frac{C^{ii}}{T} \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

By Markov inequality, we have just proved that  $\|\widehat{L} - L\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$ .

**Proof that  $\|\widehat{C}^{(T)} - C\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$**

First, let's remind that  $\mathbb{E}(\widehat{C}^{(T)}) \neq C$ . Indeed,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(\widehat{C}^{ij,(T)}) &= \mathbb{E} \left( \frac{1}{T} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} dN_t^i \int_0^{T+2H_T} dN_{t'}^j f_{t'-t} - \widehat{\Lambda}^i \widetilde{\Lambda}^j F^T \right) \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left( \frac{1}{T} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} dN_t^i \int_{-t}^{T+2H_T-t} dN_{t+s}^j f_s - \Lambda^i \Lambda^j F^T \right) + \epsilon^{ij,T,H_T} F^T \\ &= \frac{1}{T} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} \int_{-H_T}^{H_T} f_s \mathbb{E}(dN_t^i dN_{t+s}^j - \Lambda^i \Lambda^j ds) + \epsilon^{ij,T,H_T} F^T \\ &= \int f_s C_s^{ij} ds + \epsilon^{ij,T,H_T} F^T \end{aligned}$$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned}
\epsilon^{ij,T,H_T} &= \mathbb{E} \left( \Lambda^i \Lambda^j - \widehat{\Lambda}^i \widetilde{\Lambda}^j \right) \\
&= -\frac{1}{T^2} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} \int_0^{T+2H_T} \mathbb{E} \left( dN_t^i dN_{t'}^j - \Lambda^i \Lambda^j dt dt' \right) \\
&= -\frac{1}{T^2} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} \int_0^{T+2H_T} C_{t-t'}^{ij} dt dt' \\
&= -\frac{1}{T} \int \left( 1 + \left( \frac{H_T - |t|}{T} \right)^- \right)^+ C_t^{ij} dt
\end{aligned}$$

Since  $f$  satisfies  $F^T = o(T)$ , we have  $\mathbb{E}(\widehat{C}^{(T)}) \rightarrow C$ . It remains now to prove that  $\|\widehat{C}^{(T)} - \mathbb{E}(\widehat{C}^{(T)})\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$ . Let's now focus on the variance of  $\widehat{C}^{ij,(T)}$ :  $\mathbb{V}(\widehat{C}^{ij,(T)}) = \mathbb{E} \left( (\widehat{C}^{ij,(T)})^2 \right) - \mathbb{E}(\widehat{C}^{ij,(T)})^2$ .

Now,

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E} \left( (\widehat{C}^{ij,(T)})^2 \right) &= \mathbb{E} \left( \frac{1}{T^2} \sum_{(\tau,\eta,\tau',\eta') \in (Z^{i,T,1})^2 \times (Z^{j,T,2})^2} (f_{\tau'-\tau} - F^T/(T+2H_T))(f_{\eta'-\eta} - F^T/(T+2H_T)) \right) \\
&= \mathbb{E} \left( \frac{1}{T^2} \int_{t,s \in [H_T, T+H_T]} \int_{t',s' \in [0, T+2H_T]} dN_t^i dN_{t'}^j dN_s^i dN_{s'}^j (f_{t'-t} - F^T/(T+2H_T))(f_{s'-s} - F^T/(T+2H_T)) \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{T^2} \int_{t,s \in [H_T, T+H_T]} \int_{t',s' \in [0, T+2H_T]} \mathbb{E} \left( dN_t^i dN_{t'}^j dN_s^i dN_{s'}^j \right) (f_{t'-t} - F^T/(T+2H_T))(f_{s'-s} - F^T/(T+2H_T))
\end{aligned}$$

And,

$$\mathbb{E}(\widehat{C}^{ij,(T)})^2 = \frac{1}{T^2} \int_{t,s \in [H_T, T+H_T]} \int_{t',s' \in [0, T+2H_T]} \mathbb{E} \left( dN_t^i dN_{t'}^j \right) \mathbb{E} \left( dN_s^i dN_{s'}^j \right) (f_{t'-t} - F^T/(T+2H_T))(f_{s'-s} - F^T/(T+2H_T))$$

Then, the variance involves the integration towards the difference of moments  $\mu^{r,s,t,u} - \mu^{r,s} \mu^{t,u}$ . Let's write it as a sum of cumulants, since cumulants density are integrable.

$$\begin{aligned}
\mu^{r,s,t,u} - \mu^{r,s} \mu^{t,u} &= \kappa^{r,s,t,u} + \kappa^{r,s,t} \kappa^u [4] + \kappa^{r,s} \kappa^{t,u} [3] + \kappa^{r,s} \kappa^t \kappa^u [6] + \kappa^r \kappa^s \kappa^t \kappa^u - (\kappa^{r,s} + \kappa^r \kappa^s)(\kappa^{t,u} + \kappa^t \kappa^u) \\
&= \kappa^{r,s,t,u} \\
&\quad + \kappa^{r,s,t} \kappa^u + \kappa^{u,r,s} \kappa^t + \kappa^{t,u,r} \kappa^s + \kappa^{s,t,u} \kappa^r \\
&\quad + \kappa^{r,t} \kappa^{s,u} + \kappa^{r,u} \kappa^{s,t} \\
&\quad + \kappa^{r,t} \kappa^s \kappa^u + \kappa^{r,u} \kappa^s \kappa^t + \kappa^{s,t} \kappa^r \kappa^u + \kappa^{s,t} \kappa^r \kappa^u
\end{aligned}$$

In the rest of the proof, we denote  $a_t = \mathbb{1}_{t \in [H_T, T+H_T]}$ ,  $b_t = \mathbb{1}_{t \in [0, T+2H_T]}$ ,  $c_t = \mathbb{1}_{t \in [-H_T, H_T]}$ ,  $g_t = f_t - \frac{1}{T+2H_T} F^T$ . Before starting the integration of each term, let's remark that:

1.  $\Psi_t = \sum_{n \geq 1} \Phi_t^{(\star n)} \geq 0$  since  $\Phi_t \geq 0$ .
2. The regular parts of  $C_u^{ij}$ ,  $S_{u,v}^{ijk}$  (skewness density) and  $K_{u,v,w}^{ijkl}$  (fourth cumulant density) are positive as polynomials of integrals of  $\psi^{ab}$  with positive coefficients. The integrals of the singular parts are positive as well.
3. (a)  $\int a_t b_{t'} f_{t'-t} dt dt' = T F^T$   
(b)  $\int a_t b_{t'} g_{t'-t} dt dt' = 0$   
(c)  $\int a_t b_{t'} |g_{t'-t}| dt dt' \leq 2T F^T$

4.  $\forall t \in \mathbb{R}, a_t(b \star \tilde{g})_t = 0$ , where  $\tilde{g}_s = g_{-s}$ .

**Fourth cumulant** We want here to compute  $\int \kappa_{t,t',s,s'}^{i,j,i,j} a_t b_{t'} a_s b_{s'} g_{t'-t} g_{s'-s} dt dt' ds ds'$ .

We remark that  $|g_{t'-t} g_{s'-s}| \leq (\|f\|_\infty (1 + 2H_T/T))^2 \leq 4\|f\|_\infty^2$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{1}{T^2} \int \kappa_{t,t',s,s'}^{i,j,i,j} a_t b_{t'} a_s b_{s'} g_{t'-t} g_{s'-s} dt dt' ds ds' \right| &\leq \left( \frac{2\|f\|_\infty}{T} \right)^2 \int dt a_t \int dt' b_{t'} \int ds a_s \int ds' b_{s'} K_{t'-t, s-t, s'-t}^{ijij} \\ &\leq \left( \frac{2\|f\|_\infty}{T} \right)^2 \int dt a_t \int dt' b_{t'} \int ds a_s \int dw K_{t'-t, s-t, w}^{ijij} \\ &\leq \left( \frac{2\|f\|_\infty}{T} \right)^2 \int dt a_t \int K_{u,v,w}^{ijij} du dv dw \\ &\leq \frac{4\|f\|_\infty^2}{T} K^{ijij} \xrightarrow{T \rightarrow \infty} 0 \end{aligned}$$

**Third  $\times$  First** We have four terms, but only two different forms since the roles of  $(s, s')$  and  $(t, t')$  are symmetric.  
First form

$$\begin{aligned} \int \kappa_{t,t',s}^{i,j,i} \Lambda^j G_t dt &= \frac{\Lambda^j}{T^2} \int \kappa_{t,t',s}^{i,j,i} a_t b_{t'} a_s b_{s'} g_{t'-t} g_{s'-s} dt dt' ds ds' \\ &= \frac{\Lambda^j}{T^2} \int \kappa_{t,t',s}^{i,j,i} a_t b_{t'} a_s (b \star \tilde{g})_s g_{t'-t} dt dt' ds \\ &= 0 \quad \text{since } a_s (b \star \tilde{g})_s = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Second form

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int \kappa_{t,t',s}^{i,j,j} \Lambda^i G_t dt \right| &= \left| \frac{\Lambda^i}{T^2} \int \kappa_{t,t',s}^{i,j,j} a_t b_{t'} a_s b_{s'} g_{t'-t} g_{s'-s} dt dt' ds ds' \right| \\ &= \left| \frac{\Lambda^i}{T^2} \int \kappa_{t,t',s}^{i,j,j} a_t b_{t'} g_{t'-t} b_{s'} (a \star g)_{s'} dt dt' ds' \right| \\ &\leq \frac{\Lambda^i}{T^2} 2\|f\|_\infty \int ds' b_{s'} (a \star |g|)_{s'} \int dt a_t \int dt' b_{t'} S_{t'-s', t-s'}^{ijj} \\ &\leq 4\|f\|_\infty S^{ijj} \Lambda^i \frac{F^T}{T} \xrightarrow{T \rightarrow \infty} 0 \end{aligned}$$

**Second  $\times$  Second**

First form

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int \kappa_{t,s}^{i,i} \kappa_{t',s'}^{j,j} G_t dt \right| &\leq \frac{2\|f\|_\infty}{T^2} \int C_{t-s}^{ii} C_{t'-s'}^{jj} a_t b_{t'} |g_{t'-t}| a_s b_{s'} dt dt' ds ds' \\ &\leq \frac{2\|f\|_\infty}{T^2} C^{ii} C^{jj} \int a_t b_{t'} |g_{t'-t}| dt dt' \\ &\leq 4\|f\|_\infty C^{ii} C^{jj} \frac{F^T}{T} \xrightarrow{T \rightarrow \infty} 0 \end{aligned}$$

Second form

$$\left| \int \kappa_{t,s}^{i,j} \kappa_{t',s}^{i,j} G_t dt \right| \leq 4\|f\|_\infty (C^{ij})^2 \frac{F^T}{T} \xrightarrow{T \rightarrow \infty} 0$$

**Second  $\times$  First  $\times$  First**

First form

$$\int \kappa_{t,t'}^{i,j} \Lambda^i \Lambda^j G_t dt = \frac{\Lambda^i \Lambda^j}{T^2} \int \kappa_{t,t}^{i,j} a_t b_{t'} g_{t'-t} dt dt' \int a_s b_{s'} g_{s'-s} ds ds' = 0$$

Second form

$$\int \kappa_{t,s}^{i,i} \Lambda^j \Lambda^j G_t d\mathbf{t} = \left( \frac{\Lambda^j}{T} \right)^2 \int \kappa_{t,s}^{i,i} a_t b_{t'} g_{t'-t} a_s (b \star \tilde{g})_s dt dt' ds = 0$$

We have just proved that  $\mathbb{V}(\widehat{\mathbf{C}}^{(T)}) \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$ . By Markov inequality, it ensures us that  $\|\widehat{\mathbf{C}}^{(T)} - \mathbb{E}(\widehat{\mathbf{C}}^{(T)})\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$ , and finally that  $\|\widehat{\mathbf{C}}^{(T)} - \mathbf{C}\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$ .  $\square$

**Proof that  $\|\widehat{\mathbf{K}}^c{}^{(T)} - \mathbf{K}^c\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$**

The scheme of the proof is similar to the previous one. The upper bounds of the integrals involve the same kind of terms, plus the new term  $(F^T)^2/T$  that goes to zero thanks to the assumption 5 of the theorem.

## References

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