# Note

# An Algorithm with ALGOL 60 Program for the Computation of the Zeros of Ordinary Bessel Functions and those of their Derivatives

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In this note we describe an algorithm for the numerical computation of the zeros of the Bessel functions

$$J_a(x), Y_a(x), J'_a(x), Y'_a(x).$$
 (1.1)

When a is real, these functions each have an infinite number of real zeros, all of which are simple with the possible exception of x = 0. For non-negative a the sth positive zeros of these functions are denoted by

$$j_{a,s}, y_{a,s}, j'_{a,s}, y'_{a,s}$$
 (s = 1, 2, 3,...) (1.2)

except that x = 0 is counted as the first zero of  $J'_0(x)$ . For properties of the zeros the reader is referred to the literature, for instance to Olver [3], or to his contribution in Abramowitz and Stegun [1, Chap. 9].

In Section 2 we describe the algorithm for computing the zeros. It is based on a higher order Newton process. In Section 3 we give methods for obtaining first approximations of the zeros. We use asymptotic expansions as given in the literature. In Section 4 we give the implementation of the algorithm as an ALGOL 60 procedure. In order to compute values of the functions of (1.1) we use the ALGOL 60 procedures published earlier in Temme [4], which procedures are not incorporated here.

## 2. HIGHER ORDER NEWTON PROCESS

It is well-known (cf., for instance, Hofsommer [2]) that, if a function satisfies a second order differential equation, this fact may be used with advantage in the computation of its zeros. In that event it is convenient to use a process in which derivatives of the function are needed. Such a process is the Newton-Raphson method. We use a higher order version of it.

Let f be the function, the roots of which are to be computed. Let  $\alpha$  be such a (simple!) root and let x be a first approximation. If the approximation is sufficiently accurate we have

$$\alpha = x - \rho(x)[1 + \alpha_1(x)\rho(x) + \alpha_2(x)\rho^2(x) + \mathcal{O}(\rho^3(x))]$$
(2.1)  
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with

$$\rho(x) = f(x)/f'(x) 
\alpha_1(x) = \frac{1}{2}f''(x)/f'(x) 
\alpha_2(x) = \frac{1}{6}\{3[f''(x)/f'(x)]^2 - f'''(x)/f'(x)\}.$$
(2.2)

By using the differential equation of the Bessel functions

$$x^{2}C_{a}''(x) + xC_{a}'(x) + (x^{2} - a^{2}) C_{a}(x) = 0$$
(2.3)

the derivatives f'' and f''' can be eliminated. Furthermore we remark that derivatives of the Bessel functions can be expressed in terms of other Bessel functions by using

$$C'_{a}(x) = \frac{a}{x} C_{a}(x) - C_{a+1}(x).$$
(2.4)

In (2.3) and (2.4)  $C_a$  stands for  $J_a$  or  $Y_a$ .

The expression (2.1) will be modified in several ways. A first modification comes from replacing  $\rho(x) = C_a(x)/C'_a(x)$  by  $r(x) = C_a(x)/C_{a+1}(x)$  (for the case of  $J_a$  and  $Y_a$ ) and from replacing  $\rho(x) = C'_a(x)/C''_a(x)$  by  $r(x) = C'_a(x)/C_a(x)$  (for  $J'_a$  and  $Y'_a$ ). In both cases  $\rho(x)/r(x) = \mathcal{O}(1)$  for  $x \to \alpha$ , hence the  $\mathcal{O}$ -term remains of the same order, if we change  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  in the right way.

A second modification comes from writing the quadratic polynomial in (2.1) as a Padé-fraction. An expression of the type

$$f(x) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 x + \alpha_2 x^2 + \ell(x^3), \qquad x \to 0, \tag{2.5}$$

may be converted by Padé-methods into

$$f(x) = \frac{p_0 + p_1 x}{1 + q_1 x} + \mathcal{O}(x^3), \qquad x \to 0,$$
(2.6)

where, if  $\alpha_1 \neq 0$ ,

$$p_0 = \alpha_0$$
,  $p_1 = (\alpha_1^2 - \alpha_0 \alpha_2) / \alpha_1$ ,  $q_1 = -\alpha_2 / \alpha_1$ . (2.7)

In an asymptotic sense (2.5) and (2.6) are equivalent, but numerically the fraction in (2.6) may yield a better approximation to f than the polynomial part in (2.5). From numerical experiments we concluded that this is indeed the case for the representation in (2.1).

A third modification of (2.1) comes from eliminating the derivatives of the Bessel functions appearing in  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  of (2.2). In the following subsections we give more details for the computation of the coefficients p and q appearing in the form obtained after the modifications, viz.

$$\alpha = x - r(x) \frac{1 + pr(x)}{1 + qr(x)} + \mathcal{O}(r^4(x)), \qquad x \to \alpha.$$
(2.8)

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2.1. The Coefficients p and q for  $J_a(x)$  and  $Y_a(x)$ 

First we remark that

$$\rho(x) = C_a(x)/C'_a(x) = -r(x)/\left[1 - \frac{a}{x}r(x)\right],$$
  
$$r(x) = C_a(x)/C_{a+1}(x).$$

Further we have for  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  of (2.2) the relation

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_1(x) &= -\frac{1}{2x} \left[ 1 + \frac{a^2 - x^2}{x} r(x) + \mathcal{O}(r^2(x)) \right], \quad x \to \alpha, \\ \alpha_2(x) &= \frac{1 + x^2 - a^2}{6x^2} + \mathcal{O}(r(x)), \qquad x \to \alpha. \end{aligned}$$

This gives (2.8) (by using (2.5), (2.6), (2.7)), with

$$p = \frac{1 + 4x^2 - 4a^2}{6x(2a+1)}, \qquad q = \frac{2x^2 - 1 - 6a - 8a^2}{3x(2a+1)}.$$
 (2.9)

Formula (2.8) is then used in the sense that if x is an approximation for the sth zero of  $J_a(x)$  or  $Y_a(x)$ , then

$$j_{a,s}, y_{a,s} = x - r(x) \frac{1 + pr(x)}{1 + qr(x)}$$
 (2.10)

is a better approximation, with p and q given in (2.9) and

$$r(x) = J_a(x)/J_{a+1}(x)$$
 or  $r(x) = Y_a(x)/Y_{a+1}(x)$ .

2.2. The Coefficients p and q for  $J'_a(x)$  and  $Y'_a(x)$ 

In this case we write in (2.1)

$$\rho(x) = \frac{C'_a(x)}{C''_a(x)} = r(x) \frac{x^2}{a^2 - x^2 - xr(x)}, \qquad r(x) = C'_a(x)/C_a(x)$$

and we change  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  as before. The result is

$$j'_{a,s}, y'_{a,s} = x - \frac{x^2}{a^2 - x^2} r(x) \frac{1 + pr(x)}{1 + qr(x)}, \qquad (2.11)$$

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where x is an approximation of the sth zero of  $J'_a(x)$  or  $Y'_a(x)$ ,

$$r(x) = J'_a(x)/J_a(x)$$
 or  $r(x) = Y'_a(x)/Y_a(x)$ 

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and

$$p = \frac{4x(a^2 - x^2)}{6(a^2 + x^2)} \left[ 1 + \frac{10x^2a^2 + 3x^4 - a^4}{4(a^2 - x^2)^3} \right],$$
$$q = \frac{4x(a^2 - x^2)}{6(a^2 + x^2)} \left[ 1 + \frac{8x^2a^2 + 3x^4 + a^4}{2(a^2 - x^2)^3} \right].$$

Formulas (2.10) and (2.11) will be repeatedly used until the approximation is sufficiently accurate. In the next section we describe methods for obtaining first (i.e., initial) approximations to the zeros.

# 3. FIRST APPROXIMATIONS TO THE ZEROS

From Abramowitz and Stegun [1, p. 371] we take the following expansions of the sth zero  $j_{a,s}$  (or  $y_{a,s}$ ) of  $J_a(x)$  (or  $Y_a(x)$ )

$$j_{a,s}, y_{a,s} = \beta - \frac{\mu - 1}{8\beta} \left[ 1 + \frac{4(7\mu - 31)}{3(8\beta)^2} + \frac{32(83\mu^2 - 982\mu + 3779)}{15(8\beta)^4} \right] + \mathcal{O}(\beta^{-7}),$$
(3.1)

for  $s \rightarrow \infty$ , where  $\mu = 4a^2$  and

$$\beta = (s + \frac{1}{2}a - \frac{1}{4}) \pi \quad \text{for} \quad j_{a,s}$$
  

$$\beta = (s + \frac{1}{2}a - \frac{3}{4}) \pi \quad \text{for} \quad y_{a,s}.$$
(3.2)

This approximation can be written as (following the method described by (2.5), (2.6), (2.7))

$$j_{a,s}, y_{a,s} = \beta - \frac{\mu - 1}{8\beta} \left[ \frac{1 - p/(8\beta)^2}{1 - q/(8\beta)^2} \right] + \mathcal{O}(\beta^{-7}),$$
(3.3)

for  $s \rightarrow \infty$ , with  $\beta$  given in (3.2) and

$$p = \frac{4(253\mu^2 - 3722\mu + 17869)}{15(7\mu - 31)}, \qquad q = \frac{8(83\mu^2 - 982\mu + 3779)}{5(7\mu - 31)}.$$

The relations in (3.1) and (3.3) are valid for  $s \to \infty$ . However, for small values of a they give good approximations for small values of s, even for s = 1. For a = 0, s = 1, (3.3) gives  $j_{0,1} = 2.4052...$  while in 7 significant digits it is 2.404825. Hence, the absolute error is 0.00043. (Formula (3.1) gives a result with absolute error 0.0016.) For large values of a (3.3) (and (3.1)) is useless for the smaller *s*-values. Other approximations will be given for this case. First we give the results for the zeros of  $J'_a(x)$  and  $Y'_a(x)$  for small a.

In this case we have for large s

$$j'_{a,s}, y'_{a,s} = \beta' - \frac{\mu + 3}{8\beta'} - \frac{4(7\mu^2 + 82\mu - 9)}{3(8\beta')^3} - \frac{32(83\mu^3 + 2075\mu^2 - 3039\mu + 3537)}{15(8\beta')^5} + \mathcal{O}(\beta'^{-7}), \qquad (3.4)$$

where  $\mu = 4a^2$  and

$$\beta' = (s + \frac{1}{2}a - \frac{3}{4})\pi \quad \text{for} \quad j'_{a,s}$$
  

$$\beta' = (s + \frac{1}{2}a - \frac{1}{4})\pi \quad \text{for} \quad y'_{a,s}.$$
(3.5)

The Padé-version of (3.4) reads as follows:

$$j'_{a,s}, y'_{a,s} = \beta' - \frac{1}{8\beta'} \left[ \frac{p_0 - p_1/(8\beta')^2}{1 - q_1/(8\beta')^2} \right] + \mathcal{O}(\beta'^{-7}),$$
(3.6)

where

$$p_{0} = \mu + 3,$$

$$p_{1} = \frac{4(253\mu^{4} + 8204\mu^{3} - 13874\mu^{2} - 26100\mu + 63261)}{15(7\mu^{2} + 82\mu - 9)}$$

$$q_{1} = \frac{8(83\mu^{3} + 2075\mu^{2} - 3039\mu + 3537)}{5(7\mu^{2} + 82\mu - 9)}.$$

As mentioned earlier, the approximations (3.3) and (3.6) are valid for small values of *a*. If *a* is large (this "large" will be specified in more detail further on) we need other approximations for the early zeros. These can be obtained from Olver's result on uniform asymptotic expansions for the Bessel functions. We use the formulas in Abramowitz and Stegun [1, p. 371, 9.5.22–9.5.26]. The zeros are expressed in terms of the zeros of Airy functions. The formulas are valid for all  $s \ge 1$ .

For  $j_{a,s}$ ,  $j'_{a,s}$  the formulas read as follows:

$$j_{a,s} = az(\zeta) + \frac{f_1(\zeta)}{a} + \mathcal{O}(a^{-2})$$
  

$$j_{a,s}' = az(\zeta) + \frac{g_1(\zeta)}{a} + \mathcal{O}(a^{-2})$$
(3.7)

with

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta &= a^{-2/3} a_s & \text{ for } j_{a,s} \\ \zeta &= a^{-2/3} a'_s & \text{ for } j'_{a,s} \end{aligned} \tag{3.8}$$

(where  $a_s$ ,  $a'_s$  is the sth negative zero of  $A_i(z)$ ,  $A'_i(z)$ ) and with  $z(\zeta)$  defined implicitly by

$$\frac{2}{3}(-\zeta)^{3/2} = (z^2 - 1)^{1/2} - \arccos(1/z), \qquad \zeta \leq 0, \qquad z \ge 1.$$
(3.9)

The functions  $f_1$  and  $g_1$  appearing in (3.7) are given by

$$\begin{split} f_1(\zeta) &= -z(\zeta) \ \zeta^{-1}h(\zeta) \left[ 5\zeta^{-1}/48 + h(\zeta) \left( \frac{5}{z^2 - 1} + 3 \right) / 24 \right], \\ g_1(\zeta) &= z(\zeta) \ \zeta^{-1}h(\zeta) \left[ 7\zeta^{-1}/48 + h(\zeta) \left( \frac{7}{z^2 - 1} + 9 \right) / 24 \right], \\ h(\zeta) &= [\zeta(1 - z^2)]^{1/2}. \end{split}$$

The expansions for  $y_{a,s}$ ,  $y'_{a,s}$  are given by (3.7) if in (3.8) the zeros  $b_s$ ,  $b'_s$  of  $B_i(z)$ ,  $B'_i(z)$  are used instead of  $a_s$ ,  $a'_s$ .

From numerical experiments it follows that (3.7) gives good initial approximations, even if a is rather small. For a = 3 and s = 1 the approximations based on (3.7) are of the same order of accuracy as those based on (3.3) or (3.6). However, the numerical process based on (3.7) is more intricate than the other one, since we need the inversion of (3.9), which must be carried out numerically. At the end of this section we pay attention to this problem, first, however, we give an indication for which values of a and s the approximations in (3.3), (3.6) and (3.7) are to be used.

A safe bound for using (3.3) and (3.6) is s > 3a, even when a is large. In order to take into account the smaller values of s and a we propose the following criterion: if

$$s \ge 3a - 8, \qquad a \ge 0$$

then (3.3) and (3.6) are to be used, otherwise (3.7). Consequently, for  $0 \le a \le 3$ , we use (3.3) and (3.6) for all s; if a becomes larger than 3 it is better to use (3.7) for the early zeros.

Finally we describe a method for the inversion of (3.9). By substituting  $z = 1/\cos(x)$ ,  $y = \frac{2}{3}(-\zeta)^{3/2}$ , it follows that we need the inversion of

tg 
$$x - x = y$$
,  $y \ge 0$ ,  $0 \le x < \frac{\pi}{2}$ . (3.10)

Since we need the solution of this equation for a first approximation in (3.7), it is not necessary to solve (3.10) with high accuracy precision. Four significant digits in x is enough.

For small y we can expand

$$x = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} c_{2i+1} p^{2i+1}, \quad p = (3y)^{1/3},$$
 (3.11)

where the first few coefficients are

$$c_1 = 1, c_3 = -2/15, c_5 = 3/175, c_7 = -2/1575.$$

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For large y we write  $x = \pi/2 - \xi$ , and (3.10) becomes

$$\lg \xi = \frac{p}{1 - p\xi}, \quad p = 1/(y + \frac{\pi}{2}),$$

and again we can expand

$$\xi = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} d_{2i+1} p^{2i+1}.$$
(3.12)

In this case the first coefficients are

$$d_1 = 1, d_3 = 2/3, d_5 = 13/15, d_7 = 146/105, d_9 = 781/315, d_{11} = 16328/3465.$$

If we use the above given coefficients  $c_i$  and  $d_i$ , both (3.11) and (3.12) give about four correct significant digits for y = 1.

## 4. AN ALGOL 60 PROCEDURE

The heading of the procedure given in this section reads as follows:

procedure bess zeros (a,n,z,d,e); value a,n,d,e; real a, e; integer n,d; array z;

The meaning of the formal parameters is:

- *a*:  $\langle arithmetic expression \rangle$ ; the order of the Bessel function,  $a \ge 0$ .
- *n*:  $\langle arithmetic expression \rangle$ ; the number of zeros to be computed,  $n \ge 1$ .
- z: (array identifier);
  array z[1: n];
  exit: z[j] is the jth zero of the selected Bessel function.
- *d*:  $\langle arithmetic expression \rangle$ ;

the thoice of d determines the type of the Bessel function of which the zeros are to be computed:

if d = 1 then  $J_a$ , if d = 2 then  $Y_a$ , if d = 3 then  $J'_a$ , if d = 4 then  $Y'_a$ .

e: <arithmetic expression>;

the desired relative accuracy in the zeros; e should be larger than the machine accuracy.

The procedure calls for the nonlocal procedure *besspqa*, which is published in Temme [4]. It computes the functions  $P_a$ ,  $Q_a$  appearing in the relations

$$J_a(x) = [2/(\pi x)]^{1/2} [P_a(x) \cos \chi - Q_a(x) \sin \chi],$$
  
$$Y_a(x) = [2/(\pi x)]^{1/2} [P_a(x) \sin \chi + Q_a(x) \cos \chi],$$

with  $\chi = x - \pi (2a + 1)/4$ , and  $P_{a+1}$ ,  $Q_{a+1}$  which are defined equivalently.

If for the computation of a zero more than 5 iterations are needed in the Newton process then the last computed value of the zero is accepted. Otherwise the computation is stopped if consecutive approximations agree within a relative precision e (see the heading of the procedure) with each other. From various tests it followed that not more than 3 iterations are needed if  $e = {}_{10}$ -13. In many cases only 1 iteration is needed for obtaining this precision.

**procedure** bess zeros (a,n,z,d,e); value a,n,d,e; real a,e; integer n,d; array z; comment computes z[1],..., z[n], the first n zeros of a bessel function.

the choice of d determines the type of the bessel function:

if d = 1 then *ja* else

if d = 2 then ya else

if d = 3 then *ja*-prime else

if d = 4 then *ya*-prime.

*a* is the order of the bessel function, it must be non-negative.

*e* is a measure for the relative accuracy;

**begin real** *aa*, *a*1, *a*2, *b*, *bb*, *c*, *chi*, *co*, *mu*, *mu*2, *mu*3, *mu*4, *p*, *pi*, *pa*, *pa*1, *p*0, *p*1, *pp*1, *psi*, *q*, *qa*, *qa*1, *q*1, *qg*1, *ro*, *si*, *t*, *tt*, *u*, *v*, *w*, *x*, *xx*, *x*4, *v*; **integer** *j*, *s*;

real procecure fi(y); value y; real y; **comment** computes *fi* from the equation  $\tan(fi) - fi = y,$ where  $y \ge 0$ . the relative accuracy is at least 5 digits; if y = 0 then fi := 0 else if v > 100000 then  $f_i := 1.570796$  else begin real r, p, pp; if y < 1 then begin  $p := (3 \times y) \uparrow (1/3); pp := p \times p;$  $p := p \times (1 + pp \times (-210 + pp \times (27 - 2 \times pp))/1575)$ end else begin  $p := 1/(y + 1.570796); pp := p \times p;$  $p := 1.570796 - p \times (1 + pp \times (2310 + pp \times (3003 + pp \times (4818 + pp \times (2310 + pp \times$  $\times$  (8591 + *pp*  $\times$  16328))))/3465) end;  $pp := (y + p) \times (y + p); r := (p - \arctan(p + y))/pp;$ 

 $fi := p - (1 + pp) \times r \times (1 + r/(p + y))$ 

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real procedure r;
begin besspqa(a,x,e,pa,qa,pa1,qa1);
      chi := x - psi;
      si := sin(chi); co := cos(chi);
      r := if d = 1 then (pa \times co - qa \times si)/(pa1 \times si + qa1 \times co) else
                     if d = 2 then (pa \times si + qa \times co)/(qa1 \times si - pa1 \times co) else
                     if d = 3 then a/x - (pa1 \times si + qa1 \times co)/(pa \times co - qa \times si) else
                                                           a|x - (qa1 \times si - pa1 \times co)/(pa \times si + qa \times co)
end r:
pi := 4 \times \arctan(1); aa := a \times a; mu := 4 \times aa; mu2 := mu \times mu;
mu3 := mu \times mu2; mu4 := mu2 \times mu2;
if d < 3 then
begin p := 7 \times mu - 31; p0 := mu - 1; if 1 + p = p then p1 := q1 := 0 else
      begin p1 := 4 \times (253 \times mu2 - 3722 \times mu + 17869) \times p0/(p \times 15);
                       q1 := 1.6 \times (83 \times mu2 - 982 \times mu + 3779)/p
      end
 end
                       else
 begin p := 7 \times mu^2 + 82 \times mu - 9; p0 := mu + 3;
      if p + 1 = 1 then p1 := q1 := 0 else
      begin p1 := (4048 \times mu4 + 131264 \times mu3 - 221984 \times mu2 - 417600 \times mu + 131264 \times mu3 - 221984 \times mu2 - 417600 \times mu + 131264 \times mu3 - 221984 \times
                        1012176)/(p \times 60);
                        q1 := 1.6 \times (83 \times mu3 + 2075 \times mu2 - 3039 \times mu + 3537)/p
      end
end:
 t := if d = 1 \lor d = 4 then 0.25 else 0.75; tt := 4 \times t;
if d < 3 then
begin pp1 := 5/48; qq1 := -5/36 end else
begin pp1 := -7/48; qq1 := 35/288 end;
y := .375 \times pi; bb := if a \ge 3 then a \uparrow (-2/3) else 1;
a1 := 3 \times a - 8; psi := pi \times (.5 \times a + .25);
for s := 1 step 1 until n do
 begin if a = 0 \land s = 1 \land d = 3 then
       begin x := 0; j := 0 end else
       begin if s \ge a1 then
             begin b := (s + .5 \times a - t) \times pi; c := .015625/(b \times b);
                                       x := b - .125 \times (p0 - p1 \times c)/(b \times (1 - q1 \times c))
                                   else
             end
             begin if s = 1 then
                           begin x := if d = 1 then -2.33811 else
                                                           if d = 2 then -1.17371 else
                                                           if d = 3 then -1.01879 else -2.29444
                           end
                                                 else
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begin  $x := y \times (4 \times s - tt); v := 1/(x \times x);$  $x := -x \uparrow (2/3) \times (1 + v \times (pp1 + qq1 \times v))$ end:  $u := x \times bb; v := fi(2/3 \times (-u) \uparrow 1.5);$  $w := 1/\cos(v); xx := 1 - w \times w; c := sqrt(u/xx);$  $x := w \times (a + c/(48 \times a \times u) \times a)$ (if d < 3 then  $-5/u - c \times (-10/xx + 6)$  else  $7/u + c \times (-14/xx + 18)$ )) **end**; i := 0; 11:  $xx := x \times x$ ;  $x4 := xx \times xx$ ; a2 := aa - xx; ro := r; j := j + 1; if d < 3 then **begin**  $u := ro; w := 6 \times x \times (2 \times a + 1); p := (1 - 4 \times a^2)/w;$  $q := (4 \times (xx - mu) - 2 - 12 \times a)/w$ end else **begin**  $u := -xx \times ro/a2$ ;  $v := 2 \times x \times a2/(3 \times (aa + xx))$ ;  $w := 64 \times a2 \times a2 \times a2;$  $q := 2 \times v \times (1 + mu2 + 32 \times mu \times xx + 48 \times x4)/w);$  $p := v \times (1 + (-mu2 + 40 \times mu \times xx + 48 \times x4)/w)$ end:  $w := u \times (1 + p \times ro)/(1 + q \times ro); x := x + w;$ if  $abs(w|x) > e \land j < 5$  then goto 11 end; z[s] := xend bess zeros:

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