

# A Control Trajectory Problem: Continuous Systems

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## Abstract

In this paper we consider a fundamental control problem. Our aim is not to determine the control which steers the system to a desired final state at time  $T$ , but to investigate, under some hypothesis, the input which makes the trajectory of the system, along the interval of time  $[0, T]$ , to be exactly equal to a desired given one. To resolve the problem, we use a state space technique (see [1, 2, 3]), generally used in the analysis and control of hereditary systems. We also study the regional aspect of the problem.

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## 1 Introduction

Consider the linear system

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}(t) &= Ax(t) + Bu(t), \quad t \in [0, T] \\ x(0) &= x_0, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where  $A$  is the generator of a strongly continuous semi-group  $(R(t))_{t \geq 0}$  on the Hilbert space  $X$ ,  $B \in \mathcal{L}(U, X)$ , where  $U$  is a Hilbert space.

Given a desired trajectory  $x_d(\cdot) \in L^2(0, T; X)$ , we investigate <sup>1</sup> the control law  $u$ , having a minimal norm, which allows the state  $x(t)$  to coincide with  $x_d(t)$  along the interval of time  $[0, T]$ , i.e.,

$$\begin{cases} x(\cdot, x_0, u) = x_d(\cdot) \text{ on } L^2(0, T; X) \\ \|u\| = \min\{\|v\| : x(\cdot, x_0, v) = x_d\} \end{cases} ,$$

where  $x(\cdot, x_0, v)$  is the state of system 1 corresponding to the command  $v$ .

## 1.1 State space technique

We consider the strongly continuous semi-group  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$  defined on the Hilbert space  $Y = L^2(-T, 0; X)$  by

$$(S(t)y)(r) = \begin{cases} y(t+r) & \text{if } r \in [-T, -t] \\ 0 & \text{if } r \in ]-t, 0] \end{cases} , \text{ pour } t \leq T$$

and

$$(S(t)y)(r) = 0; \forall r \in [-T, 0], \forall t > T.$$

The generator of  $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$  is the operator  $D = \frac{d}{ds}$  with domaine  $Dom(D) = \{y \in W^{1,2}(-T, 0; X) : y(0) = 0\}$ . Let  $F \in \mathcal{L}(X, Y)$  be the operator defined by

$$(Fx)(r) = x, \forall x \in X, \forall r \in [-T, 0].$$

For every  $x_0 \in X$  and all control  $u \in L^2(0, T; U)$ , we define on  $Y$ , the following evolution system

$$y(t, x_0, u) = S(t)(Fx_0) - D \int_0^t S(t-r)Fx(r, x_0, u)dr, \quad t \in [0, T], \quad (2)$$

where  $x(\cdot, x_0, u)$  is the solution of equation (1) corresponding to the control  $u$ .

**Remark 1.1** [4],[3]

i) For every  $t \leq T$

$$(y(t, x_0, u))(r) = \begin{cases} x_0 & \text{if } r \in [-T, -t] \\ x(t+r, x_0, u) & \text{if } r \in ]-t, 0], \end{cases}$$

hence,  $(y(T, x_0, u))(r) = x(T+r, x_0, u), \forall r \in [-T, 0]$ .

ii) For every  $t \leq T$

$$(-D \int_0^t S(t-r)Fx(r, x_0, u)dr)(s) = \begin{cases} x(t+s, x_0, u) & \text{if } s \in ]-t, 0] \\ 0 & \text{if } s \in [-T, -t] \end{cases}$$

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The introduction of the state  $y(\cdot, x_0, u)$  allows us to transform the control trajectory problem to a standard controllability problem on the space  $Y$ . Indeed, to determine a control  $u$  such that  $x(\cdot, x_0, u) = x_d(\cdot)$  is equivalent to find a control  $u$  which satisfy  $y(T) = y_d$ , where  $y_d \in Y$  is the desired state defined by  $y_d(\cdot) = x_d(\cdot + T)$ .

The input  $u$  acts on the signal  $y(\cdot, x_0, u)$  in a non standard form, this suggest us to define an other evolution equation on the state  $Z = X \times Y$ . Precisely, we consider the system defined on the Hilbert space  $Z = X \times Y$ , by

$$z(t) = U(t)z_0 + \int_0^t U(t-r)Lu(r)dr, \quad \forall t \in [0, T]. \tag{3}$$

where  $L = (B, 0)^T$ ,  $z_0 = (x_0, Fx_0)^T$  and  $(U(t))_{t \geq 0}$  the strongly continuous semi-group defined by

$$U(t) = \begin{pmatrix} U_0(t) & 0 \\ U_1(t) & U_2(t) \end{pmatrix}; \quad \forall t \geq 0 \tag{4}$$

where

$$U_0(t) = R(t), \quad U_2(t) = S(t) \text{ and } U_1(t) = -D \int_0^t S(t-r)FR(r)dr.$$

**Remark 1.2** We verify easily that for all  $x_0 \in X$  and all control  $u \in L^2(0, T; U)$ , we have

$$z(\cdot, x_0, u) = (x(\cdot, x_0, u), y(\cdot, x_0, u)), \tag{5}$$

where  $z(\cdot, x_0, u)$  is the solution of (3).

### 1.2 Fundamental results

Define the operator  $H$  by

$$\begin{aligned} H : L^2(0, T; U) &\rightarrow Y \\ u &\rightarrow p_2 \int_0^T U(T-r)Lu(r)dr \end{aligned}$$

where  $p_2$  is the operator

$$\begin{aligned} p_2 : Z &\rightarrow Y \\ (x, y) &\rightarrow y \end{aligned}$$

and  $(U(t))_{t \geq 0}$  is the strongly continuous semi group defined by (4).

**Remark 1.3** the operator  $H$  is bounded and have an adjoint operator given by

$$\begin{aligned} H^* : Y &\rightarrow L^2(0, T; U) \\ y &\rightarrow B^* \int_{-T}^0 R^*(T - \cdot + r)y(r)dr. \end{aligned}$$

Let's consider the Hilbert space

$$F_0 = \overline{Im H} = (Ker H^*)^\perp \tag{6}$$

and the semi norm defined on  $Y$  by

$$\|f\|_F = \|H^* f\|_{L^2(0,T;U)}$$

The corresponding scalar product to this semi norm is

$$\langle\langle f, g \rangle\rangle = \langle H^* f, H^* g \rangle \quad \forall f, g \in Y.$$

**Remark 1.4** *We easily establish that*

*i)  $\|\cdot\|_F$  is a norm on  $F_0$ .*

*ii)  $(HH^*)(Y) \subset F_0$ .*

Define the operator  $\Lambda$  by

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda : F_0 &\rightarrow F_0 \\ f &\rightarrow HH^* f. \end{aligned}$$

It follows from remark 1.4 that  $\Lambda$  is well defined and bounded. If  $F$  is the completion space of  $F_0$  respectively to the norm  $\|\cdot\|_F$ , then operator  $\Lambda$  has a unique extension, denoted also  $\Lambda$ , which is an isomorfism from the space  $F$  to its dual  $F'$ .

Let's define the operator  $G$  by

$$\begin{aligned} G : L^2(0, T; X) &\rightarrow L^2(-T, 0; X) \\ y &\rightarrow y(T + \cdot) \end{aligned}$$

**Proposition 1.1** *Let  $x_0 \in X$  and  $y_d \in L^2(0, T; X)$  a given desired trajectory. If  $y_d \in G^{-1}(p_2(U(T)z_0) + F')$ , where  $z_0 = (x_0, Fx_0)^T$ , then there exists a unique control  $u^* \in L^2(0, T; U)$  such that*

$$\begin{cases} x(\cdot, x_0, u^*) &= y_d(\cdot) \text{ on } L^2(0, T; X) \\ \|u^*\| &= \min\{\|v\| : x(\cdot, x_0, v) = y_d\}. \end{cases}$$

The input  $u^*$  is given by

$$u^* = H^* f, \tag{7}$$

where  $f$  is the unique solution of the equation

$$\Lambda f = Gy_d - p_2(U(T)z_0). \tag{8}$$

Proof. Since  $y_d \in G^{-1}(p_2(U(T)z_0) + F')$ , then

$$y_d(T + \cdot) \in p_2(U(T)z_0) + F'$$

but  $\Lambda$  is an isomorphism, hence there exists a unique  $f \in F$  such that

$$y_d(T + \cdot) = p_2(U(T)z_0) + \Lambda f.$$

Consider the control  $u^* = H^*f$ , we can write  $y_d(T + \cdot)$  as follows

$$y_d(T + \cdot) = p_2(U(T)z_0) + Hu^*$$

which implies that  $y_d(T + \cdot) = p_2(z(T, x_0, u^*))$ , and from remark 1.2 we deduce that  $y_d(T + \cdot) = y(T, x_0, u^*)$ . Finally, from remark 1.1 we obtain

$$y_d = x(\cdot, x_0, u^*).$$

On the other hand, to proof the optimality of  $u^*$ , we consider the set

$$C = \{v \in L^2(0, T; U) : x(\cdot, x_0, v) = y_d\}.$$

For every  $v \in C$ , we have  $x(\cdot, x_0, v) = x(\cdot, x_0, u^*)$ . Hence  $Hu^* = Hv$ , consequently

$$\langle \langle H(v - u^*), f \rangle \rangle = 0, \text{ i.e., } \langle v - u^*, u^* \rangle = 0, \text{ thus } \|u^*\| \leq \|v\|. \quad \blacksquare$$

To complete the precedent result, we give a characterization of the reachable trajectory.

**Proposition 1.2** *Let  $W = \{x(\cdot, x_0, u) : u \in L^2(0, T; U)\}$  be the set of all reachable trajectories, from an initial state  $x_0$ , on  $[0, T]$ , then*

$$W = G^{-1}(p_2(U(T)z_0) + F').$$

Proof. It follows from proposition 1.1 that

$$W \supset G^{-1}(p_2(U(T)z_0) + F').$$

Inversely, given  $x(\cdot, x_0, u) \in W$ , we consider the linear form

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi : F_0 &\rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ f &\rightarrow \langle Gx(\cdot, x_0, u) - p_2(U(T)z_0), f \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

From the density of  $F_0$  on  $F$ , we deduce that

$$|\Psi(f)| \leq \|u\| \|f\|, \quad \forall f \in F.$$

Finally, it follows from the Riesz theorem that  $Gx(\cdot, x_0, u) - p_2(U(T)z_0) \in F'$ . ■

**Remark 1.5** *Similarly to what was done by Emirsajlow in [5] and [6], the approach developped in this section can be used to resolve the following control problem*

$$\min \left\{ \int_0^T \langle u(t), Ru(t) \rangle dt : u \in V_\alpha \right\},$$

where

$$V_\alpha = \{u \in L^2(0, T; U) : \|x(\cdot, x_0, u) - y_d\|_{L^2(0, T; X)} \leq \alpha\}, \quad (\alpha > 0)$$

and  $R$  a self-adjoint definite positif operator.

### 1.3 A finite dimensional case

Consider the system

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}(t) &= Ax(t) + Bu(t), \quad t \in [0, T] \\ x(0) &= x_0, \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

where  $A \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $B \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

**Proposition 1.3** *If there exists a matrice  $K_2 \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  such that the matrice  $BK_2$  is invertible, then the space  $F_0$  defined by (6) is given by*

$$F_0 = L^2(-T, 0; \mathbb{R}^n).$$

Proof. We take  $y_d \in L^2(-T, 0; \mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $\epsilon > 0$  and seek a control  $u$  such that

$$\|Hu - y_d\| \leq \epsilon.$$

Let  $K_1$  be an arbitrary matrix in  $\mathcal{L}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $h \in ]0, T[$ . We easily deduce from [7] that, under the invertibility hypothesis of the matrix  $BK_2$ , the system

$$\begin{cases} \dot{q}(t) &= Aq(t) + BK_1q(t-h) + BK_2v(t), \quad t \in [0, T] \\ q(0) &= q_0 \\ q(r) &= \Phi_1(r), \quad \forall r \in [-T, 0] \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

is approximately controllable on the space  $M^2 = \mathbb{R}^n \times L^2(-T, 0; \mathbb{R}^n)$ . In other words, for every  $x_d = (a_d, b_d) \in M^2$ , there exists a control  $v$  in  $L^2(0, T; \mathbb{R}^n)$  such that

$$\|(q(T, \Phi, v), q_T(\cdot, \Phi, v)) - x_d\|_{M^2} \leq \epsilon, \quad (11)$$

where  $\Phi = (q_0, \Phi_1) \in M^2$  is the initial state,  $q(\cdot, \Phi, v)$  is the state variable corresponding to  $\Phi$  and the input  $v$ ,  $q_T(\cdot, \Phi, v) \in L^2(-T, 0; \mathbb{R}^n)$  is defined by

$$[q_T(\cdot, \Phi, v)](r) = q(T+r, \Phi, v), \quad r \in [-T, 0].$$

It follows from equation (11) that given an initial state  $\Phi = (x_0, \Phi_1)$ , where  $x_0$  is the initial state of system 9 and  $\Phi_1 \in L^2(-T, 0; \mathbb{R}^n)$ , given a desired state  $c_d = (x_d, y_d + p_2(U(T)z_0))$ , where  $x_d$  is an arbitrary element of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $z_0 = (x_0, Fx_0)$ , there exists a control  $v^* \in L^2(0, T; \mathbb{R}^n)$  such that

$$\|(q(T, \Phi, v^*), q_T(\cdot, \Phi, v^*)) - c_d\|_{M^2} \leq \epsilon,$$

hence

$$\|q_T(\cdot, \Phi, v^*) - y_d - p_2(U(T)z_0)\|_{L^2(-T, 0; \mathbb{R})} \leq \epsilon.$$

Then define the control variable

$$u_{v^*}(t) = K_1q(t-h, \Phi, v^*) + K_2v^*(t).$$

Since  $q(\cdot, \Phi, v^*)$  is the solution of equation

$$\dot{q}(t) = Aq(t) + BK_1q(t - h) + BK_2v^*(t) , t \in [0, T],$$

we deduce that

$$\begin{cases} \dot{q}(t) &= Aq(t, \Phi, v^*) + Bu_{v^*}(t) , t \in [0, T] \\ q(0, \Phi, v^*) &= x_0, \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

thus

$$q(t, \Phi, v^*) = x(t, x_0, u_{v^*}) , r \in [0, T]$$

consequently,

$$q(T + r, \Phi, v^*) = x(T + r, x_0, u_{v^*}) , t \in [-T, 0].$$

From remark 1.1, we have  $q_T(\cdot, \Phi, v^*) = y(T, x_0, u_{v^*})$ , hence

$$\|y(T, x_0, u_{v^*}) - y_d - p_2(U(T)z_0)\|_{L^2(-T,0;\mathbb{R})} \leq \epsilon.$$

Finally, from remark 1.2 we obtain that

$$y(T, x_0, u_{v^*}) = p_2(z(T, x_0, u_{v^*})), \text{ and then } \|Hu_{v^*} - y_d\| \leq \epsilon. \quad \blacksquare$$

## 2 A regional control trajectory problem

In this section we study the regional aspect of the control trajectory problem, i.e., we suppose that the state space is  $X = L^2(\Omega)$ , where  $\Omega$  is an open bounded subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , and we consider a region  $\omega \subset \Omega$  and a desired trajectory  $y_d \in L^2(0, T; L^2(\omega))$ , then we investigate the control  $u$  solution of the problem

$$\begin{cases} [x(\cdot, x_0, u)] &= y_d \\ \|u\| &= \min\{\|v\| : [x(\cdot, x_0, v)]/\omega = y_d\}. \end{cases}$$

### 2.1 Definition of the problem-characterization

Given a region  $\omega$  of  $\Omega$ , we consider the bounded operators  $M_\omega, M$  and  $H_\omega$  defined by

$$\begin{aligned} M_\omega : L^2(-T, 0; X) &\rightarrow L^2(-T, 0; L^2(\omega)) \\ f &\rightarrow f/\omega \\ M : Z = X \times Y &\rightarrow L^2(-T, 0; L^2(\omega)) \\ (f, g) &\rightarrow M_\omega(g) \\ H_\omega : L^2(0, T; U) &\rightarrow L^2(-T, 0; L^2(\omega)) \\ u &\rightarrow M(\int_0^T U(T-r)Lu(r)dr). \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

and the Hilbert space  $E_0 = \overline{Im H_\omega} = (Ker H_\omega^*)^\perp$ .

We define on  $L^2(-T, 0; L^2(\omega))$ , the semi norm

$$\|f\|_E = \|H_\omega^* f\|_{L^2(0, T; U)}$$

and the corresponding inner product by

$$\langle\langle f, g \rangle\rangle_E = \langle H_\omega^* f, H_\omega^* g \rangle, \quad \forall f, g \in L^2(-T, 0; L^2(\omega)).$$

**Remark 2.1** *We have*

(i)  $\|\cdot\|_E$  is a norm on the space  $E_0$ .

(ii)  $(H_\omega H_\omega^*)(L^2(-T, 0; L^2(\omega))) \subset E_0$ .

Define the operator  $\Lambda_\omega$  by

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda_\omega : E_0 &\rightarrow E_0 \\ f &\rightarrow H_\omega H_\omega^* f. \end{aligned}$$

It follows from the precedent remark that  $\Lambda_\omega$  is well defined, we also verify easily that it is bounded.

Let  $E$  be the completion space of  $E_0$  relatively to the norm  $\|\cdot\|_E$ . The operator  $\Lambda_\omega$  can be extended continuously, and uniquely, to an isomorphism defined from  $E$  to its dual  $E'$ . This extension is also denoted  $\Lambda_\omega$ .

To establish the fundamental result of this section we introduce the operator  $G_\omega$  defined by

$$\begin{aligned} G_\omega : L^2(0, T; L^2(\omega)) &\rightarrow L^2(-T, 0; L^2(\omega)) \\ y &\rightarrow y(T + \cdot) \end{aligned}$$

$G_\omega$  is bijective and has an inverse operator described by

$$\begin{aligned} G_\omega^{-1} : L^2(-T, 0; L^2(\omega)) &\rightarrow L^2(0, T; L^2(\omega)) \\ y &\rightarrow y(\cdot - T) \end{aligned}$$

**Proposition 2.1** *Let  $x_0 \in X$  and  $y_d \in L^2(0, T; L^2(\omega))$  a desired given trajectory,*

*if  $y_d \in G_\omega^{-1}(M(U(T)z_0) + E')$ , then there exists a unique control  $u^* \in L^2(0, T; U)$  such that*

$$\begin{cases} [x(\cdot, x_0, u^*)]/\omega &= y_d(\cdot) \text{ in } L^2(0, T; L^2(\omega)) \\ \|u^*\| &= \min\{\|v\| : [x(\cdot, x_0, v)]/\omega = y_d\}. \end{cases}$$

$u^*$  is given by

$$u^* = H_\omega^* f \tag{14}$$

where  $f$  is the unique solution of equation

$$\Lambda_\omega f = G_\omega y_d - M(U(T)z_0). \tag{15}$$

Moreover, the set  $W_\omega = \{[x(\cdot, x_0, u)]/\omega : u \in L^2(0, T; U)\}$  of all trajectories  $\omega$  - reachable on  $[0, T]$  is given by

$$W_\omega = G_\omega^{-1}(M(U(T)z_0) + E').$$

Proof. The proof is similar to the ones of proposition 1.1 and 1.2. ■



## 2.2 Application

Let  $\omega$  and  $\bar{\omega}$  be a given regions of  $\Omega$ ,  $y_d \in L^2(\bar{\omega})$  a desired state and  $z_d(\cdot) \in L^2(0, T; L^2(\omega))$  a desired trajectory. The regional control trajectory problem consists of determining, under some hypothesis, the control  $u^*$  solution of following problem

$$\|u^*\| = \min \|v\|$$

where  $v$  verify

$$\begin{cases} x(T, x_0, v)/\bar{\omega} = y_d \\ x(\cdot, x_0, v)/\omega = z_d(\cdot) \text{ dans } L^2(0, T; X) \end{cases}$$

To resolve this problem, we define the following operators

$$\begin{aligned} P : X \times Y &\rightarrow L^2(\bar{\omega}) \\ (f, g) &\rightarrow f/\bar{\omega}, \end{aligned}$$

and  $H_{\bar{\omega}, \omega} : L^2(0, T; U) \rightarrow L^2(\bar{\omega}) \times L^2(-T, 0; L^2(\omega))$ , such that

$$H_{\bar{\omega}, \omega}(u) = (P(\int_0^T U(T-r)Lu(r)dr), M(\int_0^T U(T-r)Lu(r)dr))$$

where the operator  $M$  is defined by equation (13).

Consider the Hilbert space

$$N_0 = \overline{\text{Im } H_{\bar{\omega}, \omega}} = (\text{Ker } H_{\bar{\omega}, \omega}^*)^\perp$$

and define on the space  $L^2(\bar{\omega}) \times L^2(-T, 0; L^2(\omega))$  the semi norm

$$\|f\|_N = \|H_{\bar{\omega}, \omega}^* f\|_{L^2(0, T; U)}.$$

### Remark 2.2

- i)  $\|\cdot\|_N$  is a norm on the space  $N_0$ .
- ii)  $(H_{\bar{\omega}, \omega} H_{\bar{\omega}, \omega}^*)(L^2(\bar{\omega}) \times L^2(-T, 0; L^2(\omega))) \subset N_0$ .

We deduce from the above that the operator  $\Lambda_{\bar{\omega}, \omega}$  defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda_{\bar{\omega}, \omega} : N_0 &\rightarrow N_0 \\ f &\rightarrow (H_{\bar{\omega}, \omega} H_{\bar{\omega}, \omega}^*)(f) \end{aligned}$$

is bounded and well defined.

Let  $N$  be the completion space of  $N_0$  respectively to the norm  $\|\cdot\|_N$ , The operator  $\Lambda_{\bar{\omega}, \omega}$  can be extended continuously and uniquely to an isomorfism defined from  $N$  to its dual space  $N'$ . This extension is also denoted by  $\Lambda_{\bar{\omega}, \omega}$ .

Define the operator  $K_{\bar{\omega}, \omega}$  by

$$\begin{aligned} K_{\bar{\omega}, \omega} : L^2(\bar{\omega}) \times L^2(-T, 0; L^2(\omega)) &\rightarrow L^2(\bar{\omega}) \times L^2(-T, 0; L^2(\omega)) \\ (y, z(\cdot)) &\rightarrow (y, z(\cdot - T)). \end{aligned}$$

$K_{\bar{\omega}, \omega}$  is bijectif and its inverse operator is given by

$$K_{\bar{\omega}, \omega}^{-1}(y, z(\cdot)) = (y, z(\cdot - T)).$$

**Proposition 2.2** 1) Let  $x_0 \in X, y_d \in L^2(\bar{\omega})$  and  $z_d \in L^2(0, T; L^2(\omega))$ . If  $(y_d, z_d) \in K_{\bar{\omega}, \omega}^{-1}((P(U(T)z_0), M(U(T)z_0)) + N')$ , then there exists a unique control  $u^* \in L^2(0, T; U)$  solution of the problem, and  $u^*$  is given by

$$u^* = H_{\bar{\omega}, \omega}^* f, \quad (16)$$

where  $f$  is the unique solution of the equation

$$\Lambda_{\bar{\omega}, \omega} f = K_{\bar{\omega}, \omega}(y_d, z_d) - (P(U(T)z_0), M(U(T)z_0)). \quad (17)$$

2) The set

$$Q = \{([x(\cdot, x_0, u)]/\bar{\omega}, [x(\cdot, x_0, u)]/\omega) : u \in L^2(0, T; U)\}$$

is equal to the set

$$K_{\bar{\omega}, \omega}^{-1}((P(U(T)z_0), M(U(T)z_0)) + N').$$

Proof. The proof is similar to the ones of propositions 1.1, 1.2. ■

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