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A Wi-Fi dynamic routing algorithm based on energy prediction for wildlife monitoring wireless network

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The routing protocol of wildlife monitoring Wi-Fi (Wireless Fidelity) networks cannot balance node energy consumption, leading to early node death. Therefore, the research on energy balance in wildlife monitoring Wi-Fi networks is a hot topic. In order to balance the energy consumption of Wi-Fi networks and extend the lifespan of wireless networks, we designed the low energy dynamic routing protocol LEACH-EP (Low Energy Adaptive Clustering Hierarchy- Energy Prediction) based on energy prediction by analyzing the longrange dependent characteristics of the remaining energy time series (RETS) of wireless network nodes. This protocol uses the LSTM (Long Short-Term Memory) model to predict the remaining energy of network nodes, and then dynamically plans routes using future remaining energy. We conducted a networking experiment in the Anzihe Nature Reserve in Chengdu, China, and the Energy Balance Factor index of the wireless network significantly improved. The Mean Absolute Error value of network nodes is less than 60 mW, which is less than 10% of the average daily energy consumption of nodes. Half of the surviving network nodes have achieved an increase to 55.2%, and the network death time has been extended by 38.6%. The experimental results show that the energy prediction routing protocol LEACH-EP can significantly extend the node survival life and balance network energy consumption.

KEYWORDS

time series, long-range dependent, dynamic routing algorithm, energy prediction, Hurst exponent, wireless network

1 Introduction

Wildlife is a precious ecological resource bestowed upon humans by nature and an important component of the ecosystem. Strengthening the protection of wildlife species is an urgent task for the entire society [1]. Researchers collect information on the number, behavior, distribution, ecological environment, and other aspects of wildlife through wireless sensor networks (WSNs) deployed in the wild. It can achieve tracking and early warning of wildlife, providing scientific basis and decision-making support for wildlife protection. This method does not require manual data collection, but it also has problems such as low transmission bandwidth and inability to provide timely feedback [2–8], and cannot collect video and image data captured by infrared cameras.

The Northeast China Tiger and Leopard National Park used to combine cable television with an infrared camera network, but the network transmission bandwidth was not high [9, 10]. Yu Zhouyan [11] uses Zigbee and 3G networks to transmit wildlife data. The system can



remotely and automatically monitor wildlife, but is not capable of transmitting wildlife video. The wireless sensor networks in [12–15] also have similar drawbacks.

Karunanithy et al. [16] used WSN and IOT technology to track wildlife and identify their territory, quantity, and behavior. The disadvantage of this system is that it can only collect location information. Wotherspoon et al. [17] used a 433 MHz wireless Lo-Ra module, which can transmit up to 5,500 m of wireless network transmission distance at a power of 20 dBm and has a packet loss rate of only 2%. The disadvantage of this system is that it cannot transmit images and videos. Camacho et al. [18] used a 900 MHz radio frequency network to establish an infrared camera network in the rainforest. Data was collected through drones, and the distance between adjacent sensor nodes in this network was only a few tens of meters. Giordano et al. [19] proposed a farmland protection monitoring system that uses a Wi-Fi gateway to transmit node data to the internet. The distance between network nodes and base stations can reach 500 m, but the system has high power consumption.

Wi-Fi wireless monitoring networks have solved the bandwidth problem of video transmission, but there are still several problems: 1) High energy consumption of Wi-Fi transmission; 2) Difficult to remotely control and unable to provide timely feedback on device status; 3) Unable to adapt to changes in node energy consumption, nodes die prematurely, and network lifespan is not long.

Therefore, we need to establish a new Wi-Fi routing mechanism to balance the energy consumption of Wi-Fi networks, in order to reduce Wi-Fi network power consumption, extend service life, and improve the performance of Wi-Fi networks in complex outdoor environments.

Generally, we classify WSN routing protocols into two categories: flat routing and hierarchical routing [20]. The flat routing protocol is simple and robust, but the network latency is high and the response speed is slow. Typical planar routing protocols include Rumor [21], SPIN [22], and SAR [23]. The hierarchical routing protocol belongs to the cluster routing

protocol, and typical cluster routing protocols include PEGASIS [24], LEACH [25], HEED [26], etc.

Cluster routing technology meets the needs of WSN in data collection, environmental monitoring, energy consumption balancing, and is currently one of the main research directions of WSN. Heinzelman et al. [25] proposed an adaptive, low-power WSN routing protocol LEACH, which lays the foundation for WSN layered protocols. In cluster routing, cluster head election is a key issue. The HEED [26] protocol uses probabilistic methods to generate pre-selected cluster heads, and nodes compete within the cluster to generate cluster heads.

By using this method, a more uniform cluster head can be obtained, but it incurs a large cost of cluster head election. The LEACH-C [27] protocol optimizes cluster head selection through base stations and transfers node election costs to base stations. The PEGASIS [24] protocol considers WSN as a chain topology at the beginning of a chain, which can easily lead to early cluster head death. The MMR [28] protocol layers nodes based on their distance from the base station, selecting secondary and primary cluster heads in different layers. The LEACH-X [29] protocol modifies the cluster head election threshold function based on the current remaining energy of nodes, without considering the future energy consumption of the network.

Due to these clustering low-power routing protocols selecting cluster heads and updating routes based on lagged and fixed energy information within an election cycle. Therefore, it is unable to respond to the latest energy changes of nodes in a timely manner, which leads to imbalanced network energy consumption, premature consumption of network node energy, and premature death of wireless transmission networks.

Therefore, existing clustering routing protocols cannot meet the needs of wildlife monitoring wireless networks, and more optimized low-power routing algorithms must be designed in conjunction with wildlife monitoring environments. We propose a Wi-Fi dynamic routing algorithm LEACH-EP based on energy prediction by analyzing the long-range dependent characteristics of the remaining energy time series (RETS) of network nodes. This



routing algorithm introduces predictive energy into Wi-Fi routing planning, enabling its routing structure to reflect the current and future changes in energy consumption of the network, balancing the overall energy consumption of the Wi-Fi network. This routing algorithm can better balance the energy consumption of network nodes, extend the service life of the network, and improve the stability of the field WSN.

2 Long-range dependent of RETS

2.1 Network description

The Wi-Fi network structure is shown in Figure 1, which is based on the Lo-Ra network. Due to the high power consumption of Wi-Fi networks, the communication link is only opened during data transmission. When users retrieve data from infrared camera nodes, the server calculates the optimal path from the base station to the node through a routing protocol and sends control commands to open the corresponding network node. Due to the limited communication distance between individual Wi-Fi nodes in the monitoring area, the network may require multi-level relay stations (Sinks) to reach the terminal nodes.

The optimal path routing protocol LEACH-EP (Low Energy Adaptive Clustering Hierarchy Energy Prediction) for our designed Wi-Fi network considers the residual energy of network nodes as a time series with long-range dependent characteristics. The residual energy of network nodes in the future is predicted through Long Short Term Memory Network (LSTM), and the residual energy of network nodes is introduced into the routing cluster head selection function, Network routing protocols can reflect real-time fluctuations in network energy. The Remaining Energy Time Series (RETS) of a network node is composed of the remaining energy values of an infrared camera every half hour, and the design lifespan of a network node with one energy replenishment is greater than 160 days.

2.2 ACF of RETS

Theorem: Let RE(t) be a sequence composed of the remaining energy values of nodes (i.e., infrared cameras) in the network every half hour, and let $t = 1, 2, \dots, n$, *n* is the sequence length, then, the autocorrelation function (ACF) of the sequence is shown in Eq. 2.1.

$$ACF(k) = \frac{n}{n-k} \times \frac{\sum_{t=k+1}^{n} (RE_t - \mu) (RE_{t-k} - \mu)}{\sum_{t=1}^{n} (xRE_t - \mu) (RE_t - \mu)}$$
(2.1)

where, k is the lag order $(k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1)$, μ is mean of the sequence *RE*.

Proof. Let the mean μ of sequence *RE* is shown in Eq. 2.2.

$$\mu = E(RE) \tag{2.2}$$

Let the autocovariance c_k of sequence RE be:

$$c_{k} = \frac{1}{n-k} \sum_{t=k+1}^{n} \left(RE_{t} - \mu \right) \left(RE_{t-k} - \mu \right)$$
(2.3)

where, k is the lag order $(k=0, 1, \dots, n-1)$. The ACF of sequence RE is:



$$acf(k) = \frac{c_k}{c_0} \tag{2.4}$$

Bring Eq. 2.3 into Eq. 2.4, get Eq. 2.5.

$$acf(k) = \frac{n}{n-k} \times \frac{\sum_{t=k+1}^{n} (RE_t - \mu) (RE_{t-k} - \mu)}{\sum_{t=1}^{n} (RE_t - \mu) (RE_t - \mu)}$$
(2.5)

This finishes the proof.

Figure 2 show the ACF values of the RETS network nodes. Figures a, b, and c show the daily energy consumption, the RETS, and the ACF values of RETS at 10th node, 20th node,30th node.

If we believe that a time series may be long-rang dependence sequence, then the ACF value of the sequence is greater than zero or has tailing phenomenon [30]. Figure 2C shows that the ACF value of the RETS is greater than zero, which indicates that the RETS may be the long-range dependent sequence.

2.3 Hurst exponent of RETS

Hurst exponent (H) is an index established by H.E. Hurst, a British hydrologist. The Hurst index (H) established using the rescaled range (R/S) analysis method is used as an indicator to determine whether time series data follows a random walk or a biased random walk process [31].

When 0.5 < H < 1, according to the fractional Gaussian noise model, time series data has long-range dependence [32].

Through the analysis in Section 2.2, we can see that the RETS sequence may have long-range dependence. Next, we use the r/s method to calculate the H index and further determine that RETS has long-range dependence [33]. The calculation process is as follows:

1. Divide the sequence *RS* into *G* groups of non overlapping subsequences with length *n*:

 $x_{11}, x_{12}, \ldots, x_{1r}$ $x_{21}, x_{22}, \ldots, x_{2r}$ \ldots $x_{g1}, x_{g2}, \ldots, x_{gr}$

2. Calculate the mean value \bar{x}_i of each group of subsequences $x_{g1}, x_{g2}, \ldots, x_{gr}$ $(i = 1, 2, \cdots, g)$, as shown in Eq. 2.6.

$$\bar{x}_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ij} \, i = 1, 2, \dots, g \, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$$
 (2.6)

3. Calculated deviation σ_{ij} , as shown in Eq. 2.7.

$$\sigma_{ij} = x_{ij} - \bar{x}_i \, i = 1, 2, \dots, g \, j = 1, 2, \dots, n \tag{2.7}$$

4. Calculate cumulative deviation z_{ij} , as shown in Eq. 2.8.

$$z_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^{j} \sigma_{ik} \, i = 1, 2, \dots, g \, j = 1, 2, \dots, n \tag{2.8}$$

5. Calculate range R_i , as shown in Eq. 2.9.

$$R_i = \max(z_{ij}) - \min(z_{ij})i = 1, 2, \dots, g \ j = 1, 2, \dots, n$$
(2.9)

6. Calculate standard deviation S_i , as shown in Eq. 2.10.

$$S_i = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{j=1}^n \sigma_{ij}^2} i = 1, 2, \dots, g$$
 (2.10)

7. Get value RS_i , as shown in Eq. 2.11.

$$RS_i = \frac{R_i}{S_i} i = 1, 2, \dots, g$$
 (2.11)

The average value \overline{RS} of each subsequence was obtained, as shown in Eq. 2.12.





$$\overline{RS} = \frac{1}{g} \sum_{i=1}^{g} RS_i$$
(2.12)

Finally, $\log \overline{RS}$ as the explained variable Y and $\log n$ as the explanatory variable X, the data pair $(\log n, \log \overline{RS})$ is obtained for each grouping X_n ($k = 1, 2, \dots, m$), the slope H is estimated by linear regression, that is, Hurst index.

Figure 3 shows the *H* value of the RETS sequence. Hurst index is 0.90 at node 10. Hurst index is 0.92 at node 50.

From Figure 3, we can see that the H value of the RETS sequence is far greater than 0.5, close to 1, indicating that the RETS sequence has long-range dependent characteristics.

In order to better verify the long-range dependent characteristics of the RETS sequence of infrared cameras, we calculated the Hurst index of the RETS sequence of infrared camera nodes, as shown in Figure 4. The Hurst index of each node RETS sequence is close to 1, indicating that the daily RETS sequence of infrared camera nodes has good long-term memory characteristics, and the daily residual energy of infrared camer nodes can be predicted.

3 Prediction of residual energy of network nodes

The Long Short Term Memory (LSTM) [34] model has been widely used in time series prediction, with unique advantages in dealing with long-range dependency problems and capturing nonlinear relationships. And it alleviates the problem of gradient vanishing caused by backpropagation during training. Therefore, we use LSTM to predict the remaining energy of network nodes in the future. The prediction model consists of an LSTM layer, a fully connected layer, a Dropout layer, and a fully connected layer. The residual energy prediction network model is shown in Figure 5.

In the training set, a sliding window is used to partition the training set, as shown in Figure 6. The size of the training set



window X for the prediction task is m, and the label is the remaining energy of the node at time T. Predict the remaining energy of nodes at the future T+1 time using the remaining energy of the last m T time nodes. The model predicts the remaining energy E of network nodes after time T+1 by moving a sliding window.

4 The low energy dynamic routing protocol

We construct a new routing algorithm LEACH-EP based on the LEACH routing protocol and the predicted residual energy of network nodes. Firstly, the cluster head is selected based on the remaining energy of the current node in the next day as the main factor; Then, based on the distance between nodes and cluster heads, network nodes are clustered. When transmitting data from network nodes, the distance between ordinary nodes and Sink nodes is considered. Within a limited distance range, network nodes directly transmit data to the aggregation node, further saving energy consumption and improving data transmission efficiency.

The LEACH-EP algorithm process is shown in Figure 7, and the specific steps are as follows.

1) Calculate the distance *S* between each node and other nodes. The calculation formula for *S* is as shown in Eq. 4.1.

$$S = 2 \arcsin \sqrt{\sin^2 \frac{a}{2} + \cos(Lat1) \times \cos(Lat2) \times \sin^2 \frac{b}{2}} \times 6378.137$$
(4.1)

where, *Lat*1 represents the latitude and longitude of node A, and *Lat*2 represents the latitude and longitude of node B; *a* represents the difference in dimensions between A and B; *a* represents the difference in longitude between A and B, and the unit of *S* is Km. The values of *Lat*1 and *Lat*2 are obtained from the GPS information of the infrared camera.

2) Use LSTM to predict the remaining energy E_i of each node in the next energy cycle, and calculate the average remaining energy \overline{E}_i using formula 4.2.



$$\bar{E}_{i} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} E_{i}(j)$$
(4.2)

where, $E_i(j)$ is the predicted residual energy of node *i* at each time in the next cycle; \overline{E}_i is the average remaining energy of node *i* in the next energy cycle, with a duration of 1 day; *j* represents time (days), $j = 1, 2, \dots n$.

3) Calculate the threshold T(n) for each node to become a new cluster head node based on the remaining energy of the node and the number of nodes within a specific distance range. The threshold calculation formula is shown in 4.3.



FIGURE 8 Infrared camera Wi Fi network node distribution

TABLE 1 Network node parameters.

Parameters	Value (mW)
Node initial energy E_0	74,000
Photography energy consumption (<15 times/day, 1s/times)	189
Recording energy consumption (<15 times/day, 10s/times)	521
Lo-Ra energy consumption (100 times/day, 3s/times)	105
Wi-Fi energy consumption (times)	653
Infrared fill light energy consumption (<5 times/day, 10s/times)	300
Standby power (24 h)	50

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} \frac{p_i}{1 - p_i \left(rmod\left(\frac{1}{p_i}\right) \right)} \cdot \frac{\bar{E}_i}{E_0}, & n \in G\\ 0, & otherwise \end{cases}$$
(4.3)

where, E_0 is the initial energy of the node, $p_i = p \cdot a/n$, p is the proportion of the cluster head node to the total number of nodes N in the entire network, and a is the number of times the current node has been a cluster; G represents the set of nodes in the current cycle r that have not been selected as cluster heads; $rmod(\frac{1}{p_i})$ is the number of infrared camera nodes that have been selected as cluster heads in the current cycle.

- 4) The node will generate a random number of [0,1]. If the random number is less than this threshold T(n), then the node becomes the cluster head.
- 5) After all cluster heads are selected, the LoRa network broadcasts the location information of all cluster head nodes. The remaining ordinary nodes select the closest cluster head to enter the cluster based on the distance information S, and record their own identification as the identification number of the cluster head.

- 6) All nodes have completed clustering and transitioned to the data transmission phase. Compared to the distance between the cluster head and the Sink node, ordinary nodes within the cluster can directly transmit data to the Sink node if the distance to the Sink node is smaller. This reduces the consumption of network energy.
- 7) The cluster head node receives data from non cluster head nodes within the cluster, and sends the data to the Sink node after calculation and fusion. After running one round in this stage, proceed to the next round, proceed to step 2), and calculate the average remaining energy \bar{E}_i of the node.

5 Experiment and discussion

Due to the maximum Wi-Fi communication distance of the infrared camera node being less than 100 m. The Sink node has photovoltaic power generation, and its energy can be infinitely large. At the same time, in order to verify the networking capability of routing protocols in outdoor environments. Therefore, in areas that cannot be covered by 5G signals, infrared cameras are deployed in a single or multi hop manner, communicating with Sink nodes through Wi-Fi.

So, the site for the field experiment is located in the Anzihe Nature Reserve in Sichuan, China. The nodes of the field infrared camera network are distributed in an area of $4,000 \text{ m} \times 3,000 \text{ m}$, and the base station is connected to the internet through 5G signals. The field infrared camera network consists of 10 Sink nodes and 100 infrared camera nodes. Each Sink node communicates with the base station through a network bridge, with 10 infrared cameras distributed around each Sink node. The network structure is shown in Figure 8. The duration of Wi-Fi transmission is determined by the amount of data obtained from photography and video recording. The Wi-Fi transmission bandwidth is 10 Mb/s. The parameters of each node in the network are shown in Table 1.





5.1 Prediction of residual energy of network nodes

The Mean Absolute Error (MAE) indicator reflects the average change in the distance between the predicted values of the model and the true values of the sample, and has the characteristics of insensitivity to outliers and inclusiveness. We use the MAE index to evaluate the accuracy of residual energy prediction for infrared camera nodes, as shown in formula 5.1.

$$MAE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} |y_i - y_{pre}|$$
(5.1)

where, y_i and y_{pre} represent the true and predicted values.





We use the LSTM model from Section 3 to predict the remaining energy data of infrared cameras. The infrared camera captures the remaining energy every 10 min, and the remaining energy of each life form a time series of remaining energy in the infrared camera. Conduct two rounds of experiments on 50 infrared cameras to form the training set data for the remaining energy time series (RETS). The dataset contains 100 remaining energy time series samples, each with a total of 25,920 points. The parameter T of the LSTM model is set to 10 days, and the sliding window size is set to 20. The model

starts from the 1440th data of each sequence and predicts the remaining energy of T+1 for the next day.

Figure 9 shows the actual and predicted residual energy values of the 10th infrared camera node, while Figure 10 shows the MAE curves of between predicted residual energy values and actual residual energy values of all nodes in the network. It can be seen that the MAE value is less than 60mW, which is less than 10% of the average daily energy consumption of nodes, indicating that it can timely reflect changes in network energy consumption.



5.2 Changes in the number of nodes surviving over time

In infrared camera wireless networks, once the camera node runs out of energy, the node cannot do any work, and it may also affect the transmission of data by other nodes. Therefore, this article compares the changes in the number of surviving nodes over time in the network under three protocols: LEACH [25], LEACH-X [29], and LEACH-EP. Figure 11 shows the curve of the number of surviving nodes in the network over time.

From Figure 11, it can be seen that the LEACH protocol had the first node die on the day 64th, the surviving nodes were less than 50 on the day 84th, and all nodes died on the day 98th; The LEACH-X protocol causes the first node to die on the 82nd day, with 50 surviving nodes on the 109th day, and all nodes dying on the 134th day; LEACH-EP died on the first node on the 99th day, half of the nodes on the 166th day, and all nodes on the 191th day. Compared with LEACH and LEACH-X algorithms, the LEACH-EP algorithm has a greater number of surviving nodes in routing at all times, and its routing energy balance advantage is obvious. Compared with the LEACH-X algorithm, the LEACH-EP algorithm has a delay of approximately 55.2% and 31.5% when the network energy loss is 50%; When the network energy loss is 95%, the LEACH-EP algorithm has a delay of approximately 68.8% and 38.6%.

5.3 Energy consumption factor changes over time

The Energy Balance Factor (EBF) index can reflect the fluctuations of the residual energy sequence. We use the EBF indicator to evaluate the overall energy balance performance of the network. EBF is shown in formula 5.2.

$$EBF = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=0}^{N} \left(E_i - E_{avg} \right)}$$
(5.2)

Where E_{avg} represents the average remaining energy of all nodes, E_i represents the average remaining energy of all nodes *i*.

The EBF indicator measures the balance of energy consumption of sensor nodes by observing the changes in

energy consumption factors over time. The smaller the EBF value, the stronger the routing protocol's ability to balance energy consumption. As shown in Figure 12, without energy prediction, the EBF of LEACH-X and LEACH-EP remain consistent; After 45 days, the EBF curve of LEACH-EP is below that of LEACH-X, indicating that LEACH-EP can better balance network energy consumption; As time goes on, the EBF curve of LEACH-X rapidly decreases as nodes gradually die, and the predicted route EBF changes relatively smoothly, indicating that LEACH-EP nodes have a longer survival time.

5.4 Network received data volume

Due to the fact that the infrared camera Wi-Fi network does not require the establishment of a downlink network from the base station to the camera node, we only measure uplink data transmission. The relationship between the data received by the base stations of the LEACH, LEACH-X, and LEACH-EP algorithms is shown in Figure 13.

From the three curves in Figure 13, it can be seen that the data volume of the LEACH algorithm no longer changes in less than 80 days, the data volume of the LEACH-X algorithm no longer changes in less than 110 days, and the LEACH-EP algorithm reaches 161 days. By analyzing the total data volume of the LEACH-EP and LEACH-X routing protocols, we can find that the data volume of LEACH-EP is more than 20 times that of the LEACH-X algorithm. It can be seen that the network life cycle using the LEACH-EP protocol is longer, and the overall network sends more data. Therefore, the LEACH-EP algorithm is more optimized overall than the LEACH-X algorithm.

6 Conclusion

In order to reduce Wi-Fi network power consumption, extend service life, and improve the performance of Wi-Fi networks in complex outdoor environments. To ensure reliable and stable operation of the infrared camera wireless network and balance network energy consumption, we have designed a Wi-Fi dynamic routing based on energy prediction.

We first analyzed the long-term memory characteristics of the residual energy sequence of infrared cameras using the Hurst index, and then used the LSTM prediction model to predict the residual energy of network nodes. Finally, the predicted remaining energy is fed back into the LEACH-EP routing protocol to achieve dynamic routing planning.

We conducted a LEACH-EP networking experiment in the Anzihe Nature Reserve in Sichuan, China, testing the number of Wi-Fi network data transfers and network lifetime indicators. The

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wireless network constructed using LEACH-EP achieved a 55.2% improvement in the survival of half of the network nodes, a 38.6% extension in network death time, and a significant improvement in data throughput. Experiments have shown that energy prediction routing effectively prolongs node survival time and balances network energy consumption. These indicate that our proposed routing protocol LEACH-EP has significant advantages and is more suitable for field monitoring scenarios.

Data availability statement

The raw data supporting the conclusions of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation.

Author contributions

YS: Writing-original draft, Methodology, and Software. PZ: Writing-original draft, Data curation, Investigation, Supervision, Validation. TH: Writing-reviewing and editing, Visualization, Resources. HS: Writing-review and editing, Conceptualization, Methodology, Validation, and Writing commentary.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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