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## Self-approximation of periodic Hurwitz zeta-functions

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**Abstract.** Let  $\zeta(s, \omega; \mathfrak{A})$  be the periodic Hurwitz zeta-function. We look for real numbers  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  for which there exist “many” real numbers  $\tau$  such that the shifts  $\zeta(s + i\alpha\tau, \omega; \mathfrak{A})$  and  $\zeta(s + i\beta\tau, \omega; \mathfrak{A})$  are “near” each other.

**Keywords:** self-approximation, periodic Hurwitz zeta-functions.

### 1 Introduction

Let as usual  $s = \sigma + it$  denote a complex variable. Let  $\omega$  be a fixed real number from the interval  $(0, 1]$  and denote by  $\mathfrak{A} = \{c_m: m \in \mathbb{N}_0\}$ ,  $\mathbb{N}_0 = \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ , a periodic sequence of complex numbers with the smallest period  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . For  $\sigma > 1$ , the periodic Hurwitz zeta-function is defined by

$$\zeta(s, \omega; \mathfrak{A}) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{c_m}{(m + \omega)^s}.$$

If  $\mathfrak{A} = \{1\}$ , then  $\zeta(s, \omega; \mathfrak{A})$  is the classical Hurwitz zeta-function

$$\zeta(s, \omega) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(m + \omega)^s}, \quad \sigma > 1,$$

which has meromorphic continuation to the whole complex plane with a simple pole  $s = 1$  and residue 1.

If  $\omega = 1$ , then the function  $\zeta(s, \omega; \mathfrak{A})$  reduces to the periodic zeta-function

$$\zeta(s; \mathfrak{A}) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{c_{m-1}}{m^s}, \quad \sigma > 1.$$

It is not difficult to see that, for  $\sigma > 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\zeta(s, \omega; \mathfrak{A}) &= \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{c_l}{(mk + l + \omega)^s} = \frac{1}{k^s} \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} c_l \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(m + (l + \omega/k))^s} \\ &= \frac{1}{k^s} \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} c_l \zeta\left(s, \frac{l + \omega}{k}\right).\end{aligned}\quad (1)$$

Therefore, (1) gives the analytic continuation for  $\zeta(s, \omega; \mathfrak{A})$  to the whole complex plane, except, perhaps, for a simple pole  $s = 1$  with residue

$$c = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} c_l.$$

If  $c = 0$ , then  $\zeta(s, \omega; \mathfrak{A})$  is an entire function.

In the case when  $\mathfrak{A} = \{1\}$  and  $\omega = 1$ , the function  $\zeta(s, \omega; \mathfrak{A})$  becomes the Riemann zeta-function

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m^s}, \quad \sigma > 1.$$

In 1982, Bagchi [1] proved that the Riemann hypothesis for Dirichlet  $L$ -function  $L(s, \chi)$  ( $\chi$  is an arbitrary Dirichlet character) holds if and only if for any compact subset  $\mathcal{K}$  of the strip  $1/2 < \sigma < 1$  and for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ :

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \text{meas} \left\{ \tau \in [0, T]: \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} |L(s + i\tau, \chi) - L(s, \chi)| < \varepsilon \right\} > 0,$$

where  $\text{meas}$  stands for the Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Recently, Nakamura in [5] considered joint universality of shifted Dirichlet  $L$ -functions, which led to the following generalization of Bagchi's criteria. Assume that  $1 = d_1, d_2, \dots, d_m$  are algebraic real numbers linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$  and  $\chi$  is an arbitrary Dirichlet character. Then, for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , we have

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \text{meas} \left\{ \tau \in [0, T]: \max_{1 \leq j, k \leq m} \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} |L(s + id_j \tau, \chi) - L(s + id_k \tau, \chi)| < \varepsilon \right\} > 0. \quad (2)$$

For  $m = 2$ , Pańkowski [8] using Six Exponentials Theorem showed that (2) holds as well for every real numbers  $d_1, d_2$  linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . The case where  $d_1/d_2 \in \mathbb{Q}$  in inequality (2) was considered by Garunkštis [2] and Nakamura [5] independently. It is worth mentioning that the proofs of their results contain gaps. The gaps were filled by Nakamura and Pańkowski in [7], where  $d_1 = 1$  and  $d_2 = a/b \in \mathbb{Q}$  satisfies  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ ,  $|a - b| \neq 1$ . It should be mentioned that the general case for  $d_1 = 1$  and for non-zero rational  $d_2$  is still open. Garunkštis and Karikovas [3] investigated the self-approximation property for Hurwitz zeta-functions with a transcendental parameter  $\omega$ . Karikovas and Pańkowski [4] deal with Hurwitz zeta-functions with rational  $\omega$ .

In this paper, we prove two theorems.

**Theorem 1.** Let  $\mathfrak{A} = \{c_m: m \in \mathbb{N}_0\}$  be a periodic sequence of complex numbers with the smallest period  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $\omega = a/b, \omega \in (0, 1], 0 < a < b, \gcd(a, b) = 1$ . Moreover, suppose that  $\alpha, \beta$  are real numbers linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$  and  $\mathcal{K}$  is any compact subset of the strip  $1/2 < \sigma < 1$ . Then, for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \text{meas} \left\{ \tau \in [0, T]: \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} \left| \zeta \left( s + i\alpha\tau, \frac{a}{b}; \mathfrak{A} \right) - \zeta \left( s + i\beta\tau, \frac{a}{b}; \mathfrak{A} \right) \right| < \varepsilon \right\} > 0.$$

In the next theorem, we consider the case when the parameter  $\omega$  is a transcendental number.

Let  $d_1, d_2, \dots, d_k, \omega$  be real numbers and let  $\omega$  be a transcendental number from the interval  $(0, 1]$ .

Let

$$A(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_k; \omega) = \{d_j \log(n + \omega): j = 1, \dots, k; n \in \mathbb{N}_0\}$$

be a multiset. Note that in a multiset the elements can appear more than once. For example,  $\{2, 3\}$  and  $\{2, 3, 3\}$  are different multisets, but  $\{2, 3\}$  and  $\{3, 2\}$  are equal multisets. If a multiset  $A(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_k; \omega)$  is linearly independent over rational numbers, then  $A(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_k; \omega)$  is a set and the numbers  $d_1, \dots, d_k$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

Denote by  $\|x\|$  the minimal distance of  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  to an integer.

**Theorem 2.** Let  $\mathfrak{A} = \{c_m: m \in \mathbb{N}_0\}$  be a periodic sequence of complex numbers with the smallest period  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $\omega$  be a transcendental number from the interval  $(0, 1]$ . Moreover, suppose that  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$  are such that the set  $A(\alpha, \beta; \omega)$  is linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$  and  $\mathcal{K}$  is any compact subset of the strip  $1/2 < \sigma < 1$ . Then, for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \text{meas} \left\{ \tau \in [0, T]: \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} \left| \zeta(s + i\alpha\tau, \omega; \mathfrak{A}) - \zeta(s + i\beta\tau, \omega; \mathfrak{A}) \right| < \varepsilon, \right. \\ \left. \left\| \frac{(\alpha - \beta)\tau \log k}{2\pi} \right\| < \varepsilon \right\} > 0.$$

In the next section, we prove Theorem 1. Section 3 is devoted to the proof of Theorem 2.

## 2 Proof of theorem 1

Recall that, for Lebesgue measurable set  $A \subset (0, \infty)$ , we define *lower density* of  $A$  as

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \text{meas}(A \cap (0, T]).$$

Moreover, if the limit above is positive, then we say that  $A$  has a *positive lower density*.

In the proof of Theorem 1, the following statement will be useful.

**Lemma 1.** Let  $\mathcal{K} \subset D$  be any compact set with connected complement,  $\chi_1, \dots, \chi_n$  be pairwise non-equivalent Dirichlet characters and  $f_j, g_j$ , ( $j = 1, \dots, n$ ) be functions which are non-vanishing and continuous on  $\mathcal{K}$  and analytic in the interior. Moreover, let  $\alpha, \beta$  be real numbers linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$  and  $B$  be a finite set of prime numbers.

Then, for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , the set of real numbers  $\tau$  satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} |L(s + i\alpha\tau, \chi_j) - f_j(s)| &< \varepsilon, \\ \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} |L(s + i\beta\tau, \chi_j) - g_j(s)| &< \varepsilon, \\ \max_{p \in B} \left\| \tau \frac{(\alpha - \beta) \log p}{2\pi} \right\| &< \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

has a positive lower density.

Particularly, taking  $f_j = g_j$  yields that the set of  $\tau \in \mathbb{R}$  satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} |L(s + i\alpha\tau, \chi_j) - L(s + i\beta\tau, \chi_j)| &< \varepsilon, \\ \max_{p \in B} \left\| \tau \frac{(\alpha - \beta) \log p}{2\pi} \right\| &< \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

has a positive lower density.

*Proof.* This is Theorem 4.1 in [4]. □

Theorem 1 will be derived from the following proposition.

**Proposition 1.** Let  $k, n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $a_1/b_1, \dots, a_n/b_n$  be rational numbers satisfying  $0 < a_j < b_j$  and  $\gcd(a_j, b_j) = 1$  for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Moreover, suppose that  $\alpha, \beta$  are real numbers linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$  and  $\mathcal{K}$  is any compact subset of the strip  $1/2 < \sigma < 1$ . Then, for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \text{meas} \left\{ \tau \in [0, T] : \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \left| \zeta \left( s + i\alpha\tau, \frac{a_j}{b_j} \right) - \zeta \left( s + i\beta\tau, \frac{a_j}{b_j} \right) \right| < \varepsilon, \right. \\ \left. \max_{p|k} \left\| \frac{1}{2\pi} \tau \log p - 1 \right\| < \varepsilon \right\} > 0. \end{aligned}$$

Let the notation  $A \ll B$  means that there exists  $c > 0$  such that  $|A| \leq cB$ . Note that the inequality

$$\max_{p|k} \left\| \frac{1}{2\pi} \tau \log p - 1 \right\| < \varepsilon$$

implies that

$$\max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} |k^{s+i\tau} - k^s| \ll \varepsilon.$$

*Proof.* Let us consider the set of the functions  $\{\zeta(s, a_1/b_1), \zeta(s, a_2/b_2), \dots, \zeta(s, a_n/b_n)\}$ .  
 Since  $(a_j, b_j) = 1$  ( $j = 1, \dots, n$ ), we have:

$$\zeta\left(s, \frac{a_j}{b_j}\right) = \frac{b_j^s}{\varphi(b_j)} \sum_{\chi^{(j)} \bmod b_j} \overline{\chi^{(j)}(a_j)} L(s, \chi^{(j)}) = \frac{b_j^s}{\varphi(b_j)} \sum_{k=1}^{\varphi(b_j)} \overline{\chi_k^{(j)}(a_j)} L(s, \chi_k^{(j)}).$$

Thus

$$\zeta\left(s, \frac{a}{b}; \mathfrak{A}\right) = \frac{1}{k^s} \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} c_l \frac{b_l^s}{\varphi(b_l)} \sum_{\chi^{(l)} \bmod b_l} \overline{\chi^{(l)}(a_l)} L(s, \chi^{(l)}).$$

Two characters,  $\chi_1 \bmod k_1, \chi_2 \bmod k_2$ , are equivalent if they are induced by the same primitive character  $\chi^* \bmod k$  with  $k|k_1$  and  $k|k_2$ . Then, for  $j = 1, 2$ , we have

$$L(s, \chi_j) = L(s, \chi^*) \prod_{p|k_j} \left(1 - \frac{\chi^*(p)}{p^s}\right).$$

Now let us assume that  $\chi_k^{(j)}$  is induced by a primitive character  $\chi_k^{(j)*}$ . Let us observe that every two elements from the set

$$\{\chi_1^{(1)*}, \chi_2^{(1)*}, \dots, \chi_{\varphi(b_1)}^{(1)*}, \dots, \chi_1^{(n)*}, \chi_2^{(n)*}, \dots, \chi_{\varphi(b_n)}^{(n)*}\}$$

are non-equivalent either equal.

Let  $\chi_1, \dots, \chi_N$  denote all distinct characters in the set

$$\{\chi_1^{(1)*}, \chi_2^{(1)*}, \dots, \chi_{\varphi(b_1)}^{(1)*}, \dots, \chi_1^{(n)*}, \chi_2^{(n)*}, \dots, \chi_{\varphi(b_n)}^{(n)*}\}.$$

Moreover, put

$$P(s, \chi^{(j)}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \chi^{(j)} \text{ is primitive,} \\ \prod_{p|q} \left(1 - \frac{\chi^{(j)*}(p)}{p^s}\right) & \text{if } \chi^{(j)} \text{ is imprimitive character mod } q. \end{cases}$$

Let us observe that, for any imprimitive character  $\chi^{(j)} \bmod q$ , we have

$$|P(s + i\tau, \chi^{(j)}) - P(s, \chi^{(j)})| \ll \varepsilon,$$

provided

$$\max_{p|q} \left\| \frac{1}{2\pi} \tau \log p \right\| \ll \varepsilon.$$

Therefore,

$$\zeta\left(s, \frac{a_j}{b_j}\right) = \frac{b_j^s}{\varphi(b_j)} \sum_{k=1}^{\varphi(b_j)} \overline{\chi_k^{(j)}(a_j)} P(s, \chi_k^{(j)}) L(s, \chi_k^{(j)}).$$

We see that, for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there are  $\varepsilon_1 > 0$  and  $\varepsilon_2 > 0$  such that

$$\left| \zeta\left(s + i\tau, \frac{a_j}{b_j}\right) - \zeta\left(s, \frac{a_j}{b_j}\right) \right| < \varepsilon$$

for all  $j = 1, \dots, n$  if

$$\begin{aligned} |L(s + i\tau, \chi_r) - L(s, \chi_r)| &< \varepsilon_1 \quad \text{for all } r = 1, \dots, N, \\ |P(s + i\tau, \chi_r^{(j)}) - P(s, \chi_r^{(j)})| &< \varepsilon_2 \quad \text{for all } j = 1, \dots, n, r = 1, \dots, \varphi(b_j). \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

The above inequalities (3) are implied by Lemma 1. This proves Proposition 1.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 1.* From equality (1) for  $\omega = a/b \in \mathbb{Q}$  we obtain

$$\zeta\left(s, \frac{a}{b}, \mathfrak{A}\right) = \frac{1}{k^s} \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} c_l \zeta\left(s, \frac{lb + a}{bk}\right).$$

Obviously, for all  $l$  with  $0 \leq l \leq k - 1$ , we can find  $a_l, b_l$  such that  $(a_l, b_l) = 1$  and  $(lb + a)/(bk) = a_l/b_l$ . Hence

$$\zeta\left(s, \frac{a}{b}, \mathfrak{A}\right) = \frac{1}{k^s} \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} c_l \zeta\left(s, \frac{a_l}{b_l}\right).$$

Now we have that

$$\begin{aligned} &\max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} \left| \zeta(s + i\alpha\tau, \omega; \mathfrak{A}) - \zeta(s + i\beta\tau, \omega; \mathfrak{A}) \right| \\ &= \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} \left| \frac{1}{k^{s+i\alpha\tau}} \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} c_l \zeta\left(s + i\alpha\tau, \frac{a_l}{b_l}\right) - \frac{1}{k^{s+i\beta\tau}} \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} c_l \zeta\left(s + i\beta\tau, \frac{a_l}{b_l}\right) \right| \\ &\leq \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} \max_{0 \leq l \leq k-1} |kc_l| \left| \frac{1}{k^{s+i\alpha\tau}} \zeta\left(s + i\alpha\tau, \frac{a_l}{b_l}\right) - \frac{1}{k^{s+i\beta\tau}} \zeta\left(s + i\beta\tau, \frac{a_l}{b_l}\right) \right|. \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

Note that  $|kc_l| \ll 1$ .

In view of (4), it is easy to see that Theorem 1 follows from the Proposition 1.  $\square$

### 3 Proof of the theorem 2

In the proof of Theorem 2 the following lemmas will be useful.

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $l \leq m$  be positive integers and let  $\omega$  be a transcendental number from the interval  $(0, 1]$ . Let  $d_1, \dots, d_l \in \mathbb{R}$  be such that  $A(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_l; \omega)$  is linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . For  $m > l$ , let  $d_{l+1}, \dots, d_m \in \mathbb{R}$  be such that each  $d_k, k = l + 1, \dots, m$ , is a linear combination of  $d_1, \dots, d_l$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Then, for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,*

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \text{meas}\{\tau \in [0, T]: \max_{1 \leq j, k \leq m} \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} |\zeta(s + id_j\tau, \omega) - \zeta(s + id_k\tau, \omega)| < \varepsilon\} > 0.$$

*Proof.* This is Theorem 1 in [3]. □

Note that for any transcendental number  $\omega$ ,  $0 < \omega \leq 1$ , and for any real number  $d_1$ , the set  $A(d_1; \omega)$  is linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . The following lemma shows that for any positive integer  $l$ , “most” collections of real numbers  $d_1, d_2, \dots, d_l, \omega$ , where  $0 < \omega \leq 1$ , are such that  $A(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_l; \omega)$  is linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $\omega$  be a transcendental number and  $l \geq 2$ . If  $A(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_{l-1}; \omega)$  is linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , then the set*

$$D = \{d_l \in \mathbb{R}: A(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_l; \omega) \text{ is linearly dependent over } \mathbb{Q}\}$$

*is countable.*

*Proof.* This is Proposition 2 in [3]. □

Next we will prove Theorem 2.

*Proof of Theorem 2.* Let  $\alpha$  be a real number. By Lemma 3, we can find a real number  $\beta$  such that  $A(\alpha, \beta; \omega)$  is linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

We have that

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} \left| \zeta(s + i\alpha\tau, \omega; \mathfrak{A}) - \zeta(s + i\beta\tau, \omega; \mathfrak{A}) \right| \\ &= \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} \left| \frac{1}{k^{s+i\alpha\tau}} \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} c_l \zeta(s + i\alpha\tau, \omega_l) - \frac{1}{k^{s+i\beta\tau}} \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} c_l \zeta(s + i\beta\tau, \omega_l) \right| \\ &\leq \max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} \max_{0 \leq l \leq k-1} |kc_l| \left| \frac{1}{k^{s+i\alpha\tau}} \zeta(s + i\alpha\tau, \omega_l) - \frac{1}{k^{s+i\beta\tau}} \zeta(s + i\beta\tau, \omega_l) \right|. \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $|kc_l| \ll 1$ .

Inequality

$$\left\| \tau \frac{(\alpha - \beta) \log k}{2\pi} \right\| < \varepsilon$$

implies that

$$|k^{s+i\alpha\tau} - k^{s+i\beta\tau}| = |k^\sigma| |k^{i(\alpha-\beta)\tau} - 1| \ll |k^{i(\alpha-\beta)\tau} - 1| \ll \varepsilon.$$

This means that  $1/k^{s+i\alpha\tau}$  is near  $1/k^{s+i\beta\tau}$ .

Now we consider linear independence of numbers  $\log(n + \omega_l)$  ( $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ ) and  $\log k$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , where  $\omega_l = (l + \omega)/k$  and  $l = 0, \dots, k - 1$ .

Assume that there exists a finite sequence of rational numbers

$$d_{ln}, \quad l = 0, \dots, k - 1, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N, \quad \text{and} \quad d$$

such that not all of these numbers are equal to 0 and

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} \sum_{n=0}^N d_{ln} \log(n + \omega_l) + d \log k \\ &= \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} \sum_{n=0}^N d_{ln} (\log(nk + l + \omega) - \log k) + d \log k = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\sum_{l=0}^{k-1} \sum_{n=0}^N d_{ln} \log(nk + l + \omega) = \log k^\gamma,$$

where

$$\gamma = \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} \sum_{n=0}^N d_{ln} - d$$

and

$$\prod_{l=0}^{k-1} \prod_{n=0}^N (nk + l + \omega)^{d_{ln}} = k^\gamma. \quad (5)$$

Numbers  $d_{ln}$ ,  $d$  and  $\gamma$  are rationals. Therefore, it is not difficult to see that we can write (5) in the form  $P(\omega) = 0$ , where  $P(\omega)$  is a polynomial. Then  $\omega$  is a root of this polynomial. But  $\omega$  is a transcendental number, and we obtain a contradiction. This gives that numbers  $\log(n + \omega_l)$  and  $\log k$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

By the linear independence of numbers  $\log(n + \omega_l)$  and  $\log k$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , and by Lemma 2 (for  $m = 2$ ) we obtain

$$\max_{s \in \mathcal{K}} \max_{0 \leq l \leq k-1} |\zeta(s + i\alpha\tau, \omega_l) - \zeta(s + \beta\tau, \omega_l)| \ll \varepsilon,$$

and Theorem 2 follows.  $\square$

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