

CUBIC FORM GEOMETRY FOR IMMERSIONS IN CENTRO-AFFINE AND GRAPH HYPERSURFACES

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ABSTRACT. We study hypersurfaces whose traceless cubic form vanishes.

1. INTRODUCTION AND MAIN RESULTS

For a hypersurface (M^n, ∇) of (\mathbb{R}^{n+1}, D) with second fundamental form h , the behaviour of ∇h plays a prominent role in both Riemannian geometry and affine differential geometry (ADG).

In the Riemannian setting, M^n is called “parallel” or also “(extrinsic locally) symmetric” if $\nabla h \equiv 0$. If M^n is parallel, then M^n is an open part of a hypersphere, or an open part of a hyperplane, or an open part of a product of an affine subspace \mathbb{R}^{n-k} and a sphere S^k in a $(k+1)$ -dimensional affine subspace \mathbb{R}^{k+1} , orthogonal to \mathbb{R}^{n-k} , see [8]. For a classification of parallel submanifolds of \mathbb{R}^{n+p} , which can be defined in a similar way, see [1]. For further generalizations, e.g. parallel submanifolds in space-forms, we refer to the survey [2].

In the classical affine differential geometry, the cubic form C of a Blaschke hypersurface (see below) is given by $C := \nabla h$. The theorem of Pick and Berwald states that a Blaschke hypersurface has vanishing cubic form if and only if it is a non-degenerate hyperquadric. In this way, non-degenerate quadrics are characterized in a differential geometric way.

This theorem has been generalized in many directions, e.g. Simon [7] and Nomizu and Pinkall [4] showed that a non-degenerate hypersurface (with an arbitrary affine structure) of \mathbb{R}^{n+1} with $h \mid C$ (i.e. when there is a one-form ρ such that

$$C(X, Y, Z) = \rho(X)h(Y, Z) + \rho(Y)h(Z, X) + \rho(Z)h(X, Y)$$

for all X, Y and $Z \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$) is a hyperquadric.

Recently, Lusala [3] applied methods from ADG to investigate a cubic form C for non-degenerate hypersurfaces of space-forms as follows. Given a hypersurface (M^n, ∇) of a

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space-form $(\widetilde{M}^{n+1}(c), \widetilde{\nabla})$ with non-degenerate second fundamental form h , put $C(X, Y, Z) = (\nabla h)(X, Y, Z)$ for X, Y, Z in $\mathfrak{X}(M)$.

Since h is non-degenerate, we can define the Tchebychev vector field T by

$$\begin{aligned} h(T, u) &= \frac{1}{n} \text{tr}_h C(u, \cdot, \cdot) \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \epsilon_i C(u, e_i, e_i) \text{ for all } u, \end{aligned}$$

where e_i is an orthonormal frame w.r.t. h ; i.e. $h(e_i, e_j) = \epsilon_i \delta_{ij}$ with $\epsilon_i = \pm 1$. The symmetric traceless part \widetilde{C} of C is given by

$$\widetilde{C}(X, Y, Z) = C(X, Y, Z) - \frac{n}{n+2} (h(X, Y)h(Z, T) + h(Z, X)h(Y, T) + h(Y, Z)h(X, T))$$

for X, Y, Z in $\mathfrak{X}(M^n)$.

One can now try to classify hypersurfaces for which \widetilde{C} vanishes identically, hereby generalizing the notion of parallel submanifolds. In [3], this has been done for M^2 in $S^3(1)$.

In this paper, we prove several generalizations of the main theorem of [3]. Our first results deal with (pseudo-)Riemannian manifolds.

Theorem 1. *Let M^n be a Riemannian hypersurface of $S^{n+1}(1)$ with non-degenerate second fundamental form. Let \widetilde{C} be the symmetric traceless part of its cubic form, then \widetilde{C} vanishes identically if and only if M^n is the intersection of the sphere with a non-degenerate quadratic cone which is centered at the origin.*

In fact, the same proof holds if the surrounding space is pseudo-Riemannian.

Theorem 2. *Let M^n be a pseudo-Riemannian hypersurface of $S_m^{n+1}(\pm 1) \subset \mathbb{R}_k^{n+2}$ with non-degenerate second fundamental form. Let \widetilde{C} be the symmetric traceless part of its cubic form, then \widetilde{C} vanishes identically if and only if M^n is the intersection of $S_m^{n+1}(\pm 1)$ with a non-degenerate quadratic cone which is centered at the origin.*

These results turn out to be a consequence of the fact that the conditions $\widetilde{C} \equiv 0$ and $h \mid C$ are equivalent (cf. the proof of Proposition 1 in section 3), and the following more general result in ADG.

Theorem 3. *Let f be a non-degenerate affine immersion of (M^n, ∇) into $(\widetilde{M}^{n+1}, \widetilde{\nabla})$, where $(\widetilde{M}^{n+1}, \widetilde{\nabla})$ is a centro-affine hypersurface of \mathbb{R}^{n+2} w.r.t. a point o . Let h be the second fundamental form of M^n in \widetilde{M}^{n+1} and C its cubic form. Then $h \mid C$ if and only if $f(M^n)$ is the intersection of \widetilde{M}^{n+1} with a non-degenerate quadratic cone which is centered at the point o .*

Non-degenerate affine immersions into a graph hypersurface \widetilde{M} of \mathbb{R}^{n+2} (i.e. when the connection on \widetilde{M} is induced by a constant transversal vector field) for which $h \mid C$ can be characterized as well.

Theorem 4. *Let f be a non-degenerate affine immersion of (M^n, ∇) into a graph hypersurface \widetilde{M}^{n+1} of \mathbb{R}^{n+2} . Let h be the second fundamental form of M^n in \widetilde{M}^{n+1} and C its*

cubic form. Then $h \mid C$ if and only if $f(M^n)$ is the intersection of \widetilde{M} with a cylinder on a non-degenerate quadric of which the rulings are parallel to the normal of \widetilde{M}^{n+1} .

Now, we can deal with affine spheres. If the shape operator of a Blaschke hypersurface \widetilde{M} is identically zero (i.e. its Blaschke normal is constant), \widetilde{M} is called an improper affine sphere; if its shape operator is a constant nonzero multiple of the identity, \widetilde{M} is called a proper affine sphere. In the latter case, one can show that its normals meet at a point, called the center (see e.g. [5]). The two previous theorems then lead to the following result.

Corollary 1. *Let f be a non-degenerate affine immersion of (M^n, ∇) into an affine sphere $(\widetilde{M}^{n+1}, \widetilde{\nabla})$ in \mathbb{R}^{n+2} . Let h be the second fundamental form of M^n in \widetilde{M}^{n+1} and C its cubic form. If $h \mid C$, then $f(M^n)$ is the intersection of \widetilde{M}^{n+1} with a hyperquadric.*

Since a central hyperquadric with its Blaschke structure is a centro-affine hypersurface w.r.t. the center of the hyperquadric, and a paraboloid with its Blaschke structure is an improper affine sphere, we also have the following consequence.

Corollary 2. *Let $(\widetilde{M}^{n+1}, \widetilde{\nabla})$ be a non-degenerate hyperquadric in \mathbb{R}^{n+2} , equipped with its Blaschke normal. Let f be a non-degenerate affine immersion of (M^n, ∇) into \widetilde{M}^{n+1} . Then,*

- (a) *in case \widetilde{M}^{n+1} is a central quadric, $h \mid C$ if and only if $f(M^n)$ is the intersection of \widetilde{M}^{n+1} with a non-degenerate cone which vertex coincides with the center of \widetilde{M}^{n+1} , or*
- (b) *in case \widetilde{M}^{n+1} is a paraboloid, $h \mid C$ if and only if $f(M^n)$ is the intersection of \widetilde{M}^{n+1} with a cylinder on a non-degenerate quadric of which the rulings are parallel to the normal of \widetilde{M}^{n+1} .*

The last result proves a conjecture of Lusala (personal communication).

2. PRELIMINARIES

Let M^n and \widetilde{M}^{n+1} be manifolds with a torsion-free affine connection ∇ resp. $\widetilde{\nabla}$. Let $f : M^n \rightarrow \widetilde{M}^{n+1}$ be an immersion for which there is a transversal vector field ξ s.t.

$$(2.1) \quad \widetilde{\nabla}_X f_*(Y) = f_*(\nabla_X Y) + h(X, Y)\xi$$

for all $X, Y \in \mathfrak{X}(M^n)$. Then f is said to be an affine immersion of (M, ∇) into $(\widetilde{M}^{n+1}, \widetilde{\nabla})$ and h is called the affine fundamental form; see [5]. For an affine immersion f of (M^n, ∇) into $(\widetilde{M}^{n+1}, \widetilde{\nabla})$ with transversal vector field ξ , the (affine) shape operator S and the transversal connection form τ are defined by

$$(2.2) \quad \widetilde{\nabla}_X \xi = -f_*(S(X)) + \tau(X)\xi.$$

Consider an immersion $f : M \rightarrow (\widetilde{M}, \widetilde{\nabla})$ and a transversal vector field ξ ; from (2.1), the pair (f, ξ) induces a connection ∇ on M . Then, with this choice of ξ , the immersion considered is an affine immersion.

Sometimes we will identify M with its image and refrain from denoting the immersion.

M^n is called non-degenerate if h is non-degenerate (and this condition is independent of the choice of ξ).

Remark. A cone in \mathbb{R}^n is a set consisting of half-lines emanating from some point v , the vertex of the cone. A quadratic cone Q with vertex v is called non-degenerate if it does not contain a entire straight line, i.e. there exists an affine coordinate system $\{x^1, \dots, x^n\}$ on \mathbb{R}^n in which Q is given by $\sum_{i=1}^n a_i(x^i - v^i)^2 = 0$ and $x^n > v^n$ with $a_i \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$.

Note that this notion of non-degeneracy of a cone does not correspond to the concept of a non-degenerate immersion. Indeed, for the inclusion $\iota : Q \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ the second fundamental form of a cone Q is always degenerate.

The cubic form of (M^n, ∇) in $(\widetilde{M}^{n+1}, \widetilde{\nabla})$ is defined by

$$C(X, Y, Z) := (\nabla_X h)(Y, Z) + \tau(X)h(Y, Z) ,$$

for $X, Y, Z \in \mathfrak{X}(M^n)$.

The cubic form is called divisible by h (see [4]) if there exists a one-form ρ such that, for all $X, Y, Z \in \mathfrak{X}(M^n)$,

$$C(X, Y, Z) = \rho(X)h(Y, Z) + \rho(Y)h(Z, X) + \rho(Z)h(X, Y),$$

or, equivalently,

$$C(X, X, Y) = 3\rho(X)h(X, X),$$

and this property is denoted by $h \mid C$. One can show that this property does not depend on the choice of the transversal vector field.

Now take $(\widetilde{M}^{n+1}, \widetilde{\nabla})$ to be (\mathbb{R}^{n+1}, D) , the affine space with its usual flat connection and fix an affine coordinate system $\{x^1, \dots, x^{n+1}\}$ on \mathbb{R}^{n+1} . Let M^n be a hypersurface of \mathbb{R}^{n+1} . If the position vector is transversal to the tangent space at each point x of M^n , one can take $\xi = -x$ and consider the induced connection on M^n given by (2.1); with this choice of ξ , (M^n, ∇) is called a centro-affine hypersurface.

Let again $(\widetilde{M}^{n+1}, \widetilde{\nabla})$ be (\mathbb{R}^{n+1}, D) . A hypersurface M of \mathbb{R}^{n+1} is called a graph hypersurface if the connection ∇ on M is induced by a constant transversal vector field ξ , i.e. $D_X \xi = 0$. Taking $\xi = (0, \dots, 0, 1)$, then M is locally given by

$$\{(x^1, \dots, x^n, x^{n+1}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \mid (x^1, \dots, x^n) \in U \text{ and } x^{n+1} = F(x^1, \dots, x^n)\} ,$$

where U is a connected open part of \mathbb{R}^n and F is a smooth function on U .

If $(\widetilde{M}^{n+1}, \widetilde{\nabla})$ is equipped with a parallel volume element ω (e.g. (\mathbb{R}^{n+1}, D) with its volume form given by the determinant), and M is non-degenerate, there exists (up to sign) a unique choice of ξ such that

- (i) $\tau = 0$, or equivalently $\nabla \theta = 0$, and
- (ii) θ coincides with the volume element ω_h of the non-degenerate metric h ,

where θ denotes the induced volume form given by

$$\theta(X_1, \dots, X_n) = \omega(f_*(X_1), \dots, f_*(X_n), \xi)$$

for $X_1, \dots, X_n \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$. This choice of ξ is called the Blaschke normal and (M^n, ∇) is called a Blaschke hypersurface.

We can now state the theorem of Pick and Berwald.

Theorem 5. *Let $f : (M^n, \nabla) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^{n+1}, D)$ be a Blaschke hypersurface. If its cubic form C vanishes identically, then $f(M^n)$ is a hyperquadric in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} .*

This theorem has been generalized in many directions; e.g.

Theorem 6 ([7]; [4]). *Let $f : (M^n, \nabla) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^{n+1}, D)$ be a non-degenerate immersion. If C is divisible by h , then $f(M^n)$ lies in a hyperquadric.*

To transfer the concept of the cubic form from ADG to Riemannian geometry for hypersurfaces of space-forms, we take a unit Euclidean normal vector field for the transversal vector field ξ from above and see that the cubic form C is given then by ∇h since $\tau = 0$.

To conclude this section, we recall that the Codazzi equation for h states that the difference $C(X, Y, Z) - C(Y, X, Z)$ equals the transversal (or normal) part of $\tilde{R}(X, Y)Z$. This implies that the cubic form in all cases under consideration (immersions into centro-affine hypersurfaces or into graph hypersurfaces; hypersurfaces of space-forms) is totally symmetric.

3. PROOFS

We deal with the proofs of Theorem 3 and 4 first. Then we show how these lead to Theorem 1 and 2.

3.1. Proof of Theorem 3. Let \tilde{M}^{n+1} be a centro-affine hypersurface of \mathbb{R}^{n+2} w.r.t. the point o and let f be an immersion of M^n into \tilde{M}^{n+1} . Since our considerations will be local, we may assume $M^n \subset \tilde{M}^{n+1}$ and we will use the notation M and \tilde{M} throughout for the local situation.

Define $F : \tilde{M} \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+2} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+2} : x \mapsto \lambda(x)x$ with $\lambda > 0$ such that the image of \tilde{M} under F is contained in a hyperplane of \mathbb{R}^{n+2} not passing through o . We will denote this hyperplane by \mathbb{R}^{n+1} and the image of M under F by $\bar{M} = F(M)$.

We have the following immersions:

- $(M, \nabla) \hookrightarrow (\tilde{M}, \tilde{\nabla})$ with transversal vector field ξ , fundamental form h , shape operator S and transversal connection form τ ,
- $(\tilde{M}, \tilde{\nabla}) \hookrightarrow (\mathbb{R}^{n+2}, D)$ with transversal vector field $-x$ and fundamental form \tilde{h} and
- $F : (M, \nabla) \hookrightarrow (\mathbb{R}^{n+1}, D)$ with transversal vector field $\bar{\xi} = F_*(\xi)$, fundamental form \bar{h} , shape operator \bar{S} and transversal connection form $\bar{\tau}$.

For $V \in T_p \tilde{M}$, one has

$$F_*(V) = \lambda V + V(\lambda)x.$$

For $X, Y \in T_p M$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} D_X F_*(Y) &= D_X(\lambda Y + Y(\lambda)x) \\ &= \lambda D_X Y + X(\lambda)Y + Y(\lambda)X + X(Y(\lambda))x \end{aligned}$$

and, because of

$$D_X Y = \nabla_X Y + h(X, Y)\xi + \tilde{h}(X, Y)(-x),$$

we find

$$D_X F_*(Y) = \lambda \left(\nabla_X Y + h(X, Y)\xi - \tilde{h}(X, Y)x \right) + X(\lambda)Y + Y(\lambda)X + X(Y(\lambda))x.$$

Keeping in mind that $F_*(\xi) = \lambda\xi + \xi(\lambda)x$, we also obtain

$$\begin{aligned} D_X F_*(Y) &= F_*(\bar{\nabla}_X Y) + \bar{h}(X, Y)(\lambda\xi + \xi(\lambda)x) \\ &= \lambda\bar{\nabla}_X Y + X(Y(\lambda))x + \bar{h}(X, Y)(\lambda\xi + \xi(\lambda)x) \\ &= \lambda\bar{\nabla}_X Y + \bar{h}(X, Y)\lambda\xi + (X(Y(\lambda)) + \bar{h}(X, Y)\xi(\lambda))x. \end{aligned}$$

By comparing the coefficients of ξ and x and taking the tangential part of both expressions for $D_X F_*(Y)$, we find

$$\begin{aligned} h(X, Y) &= \bar{h}(X, Y) \\ -\lambda\tilde{h}(X, Y) &= \bar{h}(X, Y)\xi(\lambda) \\ \lambda\bar{\nabla}_X Y &= \lambda\nabla_X Y + X(\lambda)Y + Y(\lambda)X, \end{aligned}$$

in particular

$$\bar{\nabla}_X Y = \nabla_X Y + \rho(X)Y + \rho(Y)X,$$

where $\rho = d \log \lambda$.

Calculating $D_X F_*(\xi)$ in two ways gives

$$\begin{aligned} D_X F_*(\xi) &= D_X(\lambda\xi + \xi(\lambda)x) \\ &= X(\lambda)\xi + \xi(\lambda)X + X(\xi(\lambda))x + \lambda(-S(X) + \tau(X)\xi) \\ D_X F_*(\xi) &= -F_*(\bar{S}(X)) + \bar{\tau}(X)F_*(\xi) \\ &= -\lambda\bar{S}(X) - (\bar{S}(X))(\lambda)x + \bar{\tau}(X)(\lambda\xi + \xi(\lambda)x). \end{aligned}$$

Equating the component of ξ in these formulae gives

$$\lambda\bar{\tau}(X) = X(\lambda) + \lambda\tau(X),$$

hence

$$\bar{\tau}(X) = \rho(X) + \tau(X).$$

The cubic form of \widetilde{M} in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
\widetilde{C}(X, Y, Z) &= (\widetilde{\nabla}_X \widetilde{h})(Y, Z) + \widetilde{\tau}(X) \widetilde{h}(Y, Z) \\
&= (\widetilde{\nabla}_X \widetilde{h})(Y, Z) + (\rho(X) + \tau(X))h(Y, Z) \\
&= X(h(Y, Z)) + (\rho(X) + \tau(X))h(Y, Z) \\
&\quad - \widetilde{h}(\nabla_X Y + \rho(X)Y + \rho(Y)X, Z) \\
&\quad - \widetilde{h}(Y, \nabla_X Z + \rho(X)Z + \rho(Z)X) \\
&= X(h(Y, Z)) + \rho(X)h(Y, Z) + \tau(X)h(Y, Z) \\
&\quad - h(\nabla_X Y, Z) - \rho(X)h(Y, Z) - \rho(Y)h(X, Z) \\
&\quad - h(Y, \nabla_X Z) - \rho(X)h(Y, Z) - \rho(Z)h(Y, X) \\
&= X(h(Y, Z)) - h(\nabla_X Y, Z) - h(Y, \nabla_X Z) + \tau(X)h(Y, Z) \\
&\quad - \rho(X)h(Y, Z) - \rho(Y)h(X, Z) - \rho(Z)h(X, Y) \\
&= (\nabla_X h)(Y, Z) + \tau(X)h(Y, Z) \\
&\quad - \rho(X)h(Y, Z) - \rho(Y)h(Z, X) - \rho(Z)h(X, Y) \\
&= C(X, Y, Z) - \rho(X)h(Y, Z) - \rho(Y)h(Z, X) - \rho(Z)h(X, Y).
\end{aligned}$$

Now assume that the cubic form C of M^n in \widetilde{M}^{n+1} is divisible by h . Since \widetilde{h} and h coincide, we obtain that $\widetilde{h} \mid \widetilde{C}$, hence, by Theorem 6, \widetilde{M} is an open part of a non-degenerate hyperquadric of \mathbb{R}^{n+1} .

Since M can be obtained as the result of a central projection of \widetilde{M} ; we see that M can be described as the intersection of \widetilde{M} and the cone on \widetilde{M} whose vertex is the center of \widetilde{M} .

3.2. Proof of Theorem 4. Let \widetilde{M}^{n+1} be a graph hypersurface of \mathbb{R}^{n+2} and let f be a non-degenerate affine immersion of M^n into \widetilde{M}^{n+1} .

Locally, one can proceed as in the previous proof by considering a projection π of the graph hypersurface \widetilde{M} onto a hyperplane \mathbb{R}^{n+1} that does not contain the direction of the normal of \widetilde{M} , where the projection takes place along the normals of \widetilde{M} . Calculating the data $(\widetilde{\nabla}, \widetilde{h}, \widetilde{\tau})$ for the projection $\widetilde{M} = \pi(M)$ in terms of those of M reveals $\widetilde{\nabla} = \nabla, \widetilde{h} = h$ and $\widetilde{\tau} = \tau$, hence $\widetilde{C} = C$. Since $\widetilde{h} = h$, \widetilde{M} is a non-degenerate hyperquadric of \mathbb{R}^{n+1} if $h \mid C$.

3.3. Proof of Theorem 1 and 2. To prove Theorem 1, we first note that the Blaschke normal and the Euclidean unit normal coincide for the immersion $S^{n+1}(1) \hookrightarrow (\mathbb{R}^{n+2}, D)$.

To complete the proof of Theorem 1, it now suffices to observe that $\widetilde{C} \equiv 0$ if and only if $h \mid C$; then use Theorem 3.

Proposition 1. *Given a $(0, 3)$ -tensor C on \mathbb{R}^n and a non-degenerate symmetric $(0, 2)$ -tensor h on \mathbb{R}^n , let T be defined by the condition $nh(T, X) = \text{tr}_h C(X, \cdot, \cdot)$ for all $X \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Let \widetilde{C} be the traceless part of C with respect to h , i.e. for all $X, Y, Z \in \mathbb{R}^n$*

$$\widetilde{C}(X, Y, Z) = C(X, Y, Z) - \frac{n}{n+2} (h(X, Y)h(Z, T) + h(Z, X)h(Y, T) + h(Y, Z)h(X, T))$$

and call C divisible by h , denoted by $h \mid C$, if there exists a one-form ρ such that

$$(3.1) \quad C(X, Y, Z) = \rho(X)h(Y, Z) + \rho(Y)h(Z, X) + \rho(Z)h(X, Y)$$

for all $X, Y, Z \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then the conditions $\tilde{C} \equiv 0$ and $h \mid C$ are equivalent.

Proof. If $\tilde{C} \equiv 0$, then with $\rho := \frac{n}{n+2}h(T, \cdot)$, it is obvious that (3.1) holds. On the other hand, assume that \tilde{C} is divisible by h with corresponding one-form ρ . Choose an orthonormal frame (e_1, \dots, e_n) w.r.t. h , i.e. $h(e_i, e_j) = \epsilon_i \delta_{ij}$ with $\epsilon_i = \pm 1$. With $X = \sum_{i=1}^n X^i e_i$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} h(T, X) &= \frac{1}{n} \operatorname{tr}_h C(X, \cdot, \cdot) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \epsilon_i C(X, e_i, e_i) \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \epsilon_i (\rho(X) \epsilon_i + 2\rho(e_i) h(X, e_i)) \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \epsilon_i (\rho(X) \epsilon_i + 2\rho(e_i) X^i \epsilon_i) \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\rho(X) + 2\rho(X^i e_i)) = \frac{n+2}{n} \rho(X). \end{aligned}$$

From the definition of the traceless part of C , it is now clear that \tilde{C} vanishes identically. \square

Since Theorem 6 holds true when the signature of the standard metric on \mathbb{R}^{n+2} is changed, the proof of Theorem 2 is similar.

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