Riccati Transformation Method for Solving Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation

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- Motivation Optimal portfolio selection problem
- Principle of Dynamic stochastic optimization Hamilton Jacobi





Bellman equation



- 8 Reduction to a quasi-linear parabolic PDE by the Riccati transformation
- Parametric quadratic optimization and its value function
- Qualitative properties of the optimal response function
- O Numerical discretization scheme for solving PDEs
- Applications to the optimal portfolio selection problem and pension savings system

Important interactions between various mathematical fields



Static and Dynamic optimal portfolio selection problem

- Static Markowitz optimal portfolio problem
- Dynamic stochastic optimization problem statement
- Bellman's principle and Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation



Example of optimal asset selection for German DAX30 stock index (2013)

Mathematical formulation of the Markowitz model

$$\begin{array}{ll} \max_{\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \boldsymbol{\mu}^T \boldsymbol{\theta} & - \text{maximize the mean return} \\ s.t. \quad \frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\theta}^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \boldsymbol{\theta} \leq \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 & - \text{the variance is prescribed} \\ & \sum_{i=1}^n \theta^i = 1 & - \text{weights sum up to 100\%} \\ & \boldsymbol{\theta} \geq 0 & - \text{no short positions allowed} \end{array}$$

Here $\mu \in \mathbb{R}^n, \mu^i = \mathbb{E}(X^i)$ is the vector of mean returns of stochastic asset returns and Σ is their covariance matrix, $\Sigma_{ij} = cov(X^i X^j)$

Motivation - Static optimal portfolio selection problem

• its Lagrange function (corresponding to $min(-\mu^T \theta)$)

$$\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \varphi, \lambda, \xi) = -\boldsymbol{\mu}^{T}\boldsymbol{\theta} + \varphi \frac{1}{2}\boldsymbol{\theta}^{T}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\boldsymbol{\theta} + \lambda \mathbf{1}^{T}\boldsymbol{\theta} + \xi^{T}\boldsymbol{\theta}$$

- $\varphi \in \mathbb{R}, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}, \xi \in \mathbb{R}^n, \xi \geq 0$ are Lagrange multipliers
- The same Lagrange function corresponds to the minimization problem:

$$egin{aligned} \min_{eta \in \mathbb{R}^n} -oldsymbol{\mu}^{\mathsf{T}} oldsymbol{ heta} + arphi rac{1}{2} oldsymbol{ heta}^{\mathsf{T}} oldsymbol{\Sigma} oldsymbol{ heta} \ & \sum_{i=1}^n heta^i = 1 \ oldsymbol{ heta} > 0 \end{aligned}$$

provided that the Lagrange multiplier $\varphi > 0$ is fixed.

• φ can be viewed as a measure of investor's risk-aversion

Motivation - Static optimal portfolio selection problem



Optimal asset selection for German DAX30 stock index for various $\varphi > 0$

Motivation - Dynamic optimal selection problem

Assumptions:

• synthetic stochastic portfolio value Y_t^{θ} at time t has the same return as the weighted sum of returns of individual asset returns on Y_t^i

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}Y_t^{\boldsymbol{\theta}}}{Y_t^{\boldsymbol{\theta}}} = \sum_{i=1}^n \theta_t^i \frac{\mathrm{d}Y_t^i}{Y_t^i}$$

• each individual stochastic process satisfies Ito's SDE:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}Y_t^i}{Y_t^i} = \mu^i \mathrm{d}t + \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{\sigma}^{ji} \mathrm{d}W_t^j, \quad \text{ for all } i = 1, ..., n,$$

of geometric Brownian motion with mean returns μ^i and mutual covariances $\bar{\sigma}^{ji}$

Motivation - optimal selection problem

 if the portfolio is allowed to have an exogenous non-negative inflow with inflow rate ε ≥ 0 and constant interest rate r ≥ 0 then Y_t = Y^θ_t satisfies SDE:

Stochastic differential equation (SDE) for the portfolio value

$$dY_t^{\theta} = (\varepsilon + [r + \mu(\theta)]Y_t^{\theta})dt + \sigma(\theta)Y_t^{\theta}dW_t$$

• $\mu(\theta) = \mu^T \theta$, • $\sigma(\theta)^2 = \theta^T \Sigma \theta$ where $\Sigma = \bar{\Sigma}^T \bar{\Sigma}$ with $\bar{\Sigma} = (\bar{\sigma}^{ij})$

• for logarithmic variable $X_t^{\theta} = \ln(Y_t^{\theta})$ we obtain by $lt\bar{o}$'s lemma

SDE for logarithmic variable

$$\mathsf{d} X^{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_t = \left(\varepsilon e^{-X^{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_t} + r + \mu(\boldsymbol{\theta}) - \frac{1}{2}(\sigma(\boldsymbol{\theta}))^2\right) \mathsf{d} t + \sigma(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \mathsf{d} W_t$$

Motivation - optimal selection problem

Individual weights of assets: $\theta_t = (\theta_t^1, ..., \theta_t^n)^T$ belong to the given decision set Δ^n :

$$\Delta^n \subset \{oldsymbol{ heta} \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \ \sum_{i=1}^n oldsymbol{ heta}^i \leq 1\},$$

Examples:

compact convex simplex

$$\Delta^n = \{oldsymbol{ heta} \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid oldsymbol{ heta}^i \geq 0, \; \sum_{i=1}^n oldsymbol{ heta}^i = 1\} \qquad (\textit{or} \;\; \leq 1)$$

convex simplex with short positions allowed

$$\Delta^n = \{oldsymbol{ heta} \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid ~ \sum_{i=1}^n oldsymbol{ heta}^i = 1\}$$

• discrete set (example of a Slovak pension fund system) $\Delta^n = \{(0.8, 0.2), (0.5, 0.5), (0, 1)\}$

$$\{\boldsymbol{\theta}\} = \{\boldsymbol{\theta}_t \in \Delta^n \,|\, t \in [0, \, T]\}$$

belonging to a set $\mathcal{A}=\mathcal{A}_{0,\mathcal{T}}$ of admissible strategies,

$$\mathcal{A}_{t,T} = \{\{\boldsymbol{\theta}\} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}_s \in \Delta^n, s \in [t,T]\},\$$

and such that $\{\theta\}$ maximizes the expected terminal utility U(.) from the portfolio:

Stochastic dynamic optimization problem

$$\max_{\{\theta\}\in\mathcal{A}_{0,T}}\mathbb{E}\left[U(X_T^{\theta})|X_0^{\theta}=x_0\right],$$

where U is e.g. ARA terminal utility function $U(x) = -\exp(-ax)$ representing an investor with constant coefficient a > 0 of absolute risk aversion

Bellman's principle - Stochastic variant

It is known from the theory of stochastic dynamic programming that the so-called value function

$$\boldsymbol{V}(\boldsymbol{x},t) := \sup_{\{\boldsymbol{\theta}\} \in \mathcal{A}_{t,T}} \mathbb{E}\left[U(\boldsymbol{X}_{T}^{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) \mid \boldsymbol{X}_{t}^{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = \boldsymbol{x} \right]$$

subject to the terminal condition V(x, T) := U(x) can be used for solving the stochastic dynamic optimization problem

• Bellman's principle

(using tower law of conditioned expectations)

$$V(x,t) := \sup_{\{\theta\} \in \mathcal{A}_{t,t+dt}} \mathbb{E}\left[V(X_{t+dt}^{\theta}, t+dt) \mid X_t^{\theta} = x\right]$$

response {θ} is optimal on the entire interval [0, T] iff {θ} is optimal on each subinterval [t, t + dt]

Bellman's principle - Stochastic variant, a sketch

Stochastic dynamic optimization problem for $Y_t^{\theta} = \exp(X_t^{\theta})$ variable:

• find a non-anticipative strategy $\{\theta\}$ maximizing

 $\max_{\{\theta\}} \mathbb{E}(\mathsf{U}(\mathsf{Y}_{\mathsf{T}}) \mid \mathsf{Y}_{\mathsf{0}} = \mathsf{y})$



Important tool: Ito's lemma



Kiyoshi Itō 伊藤 清 (1915-2008)

 Let V(x, t) be a C² smooth function of x, t variables. Suppose that the process {X_t, t ≥ 0} satisfies SDE:

$$dX_t = \mu(X_t, t)dt + \sigma(X_t, t)dW_t,$$

Then the differential $dV_t = V(X_{t+dt}, t + dt) - V(X_t, t)$ is given by

$$dV_t = \left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2(x,t)\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2}\right)dt + \frac{\partial V}{\partial x}dX_t,$$

Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation

• The Bellman principle can be rewritten as:

$$0 = \sup_{\{\theta\} \in \mathcal{A}_{t,t+dt}} \mathbb{E}\left[V(X_{t+dt}^{\theta}, t+dt) - V(X_{t}^{\theta}, t) \mid X_{t}^{\theta} = x\right]$$

- Apply Itō's lemma for differential $dV_t = V(X_{t+dt}^{\theta}, t+dt) V(X_t^{\theta}, t)$ of the process X_t^{θ}
- Taking into account $dW_t = W_{t+dt} W_t$ and X_t^{θ} are independent we have $\mathbb{E}\left[\partial_x V(X_t^{\theta}, t) dW_t\right] = 0$

\Downarrow

Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman PDE

$$\partial_t V + \max_{\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \Delta^n} \left\{ \left(\mu(\boldsymbol{\theta}) - \frac{1}{2}\sigma(\boldsymbol{\theta})^2 \right) \partial_x V + \frac{1}{2}\sigma(\boldsymbol{\theta})^2 \partial_x^2 V \right\} = 0$$

Riccati transformation of the HJB equation

- Riccati transformation
- Transformation of the Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation to a quasi-linear parabolic PDE
- The role of the value function of a quadratic optimization problem

Introduce Riccati transformation

$$\varphi(x,t) = 1 - \frac{\partial_x^2 V(x,t)}{\partial_x V(x,t)}.$$

- notice that the function a(x, t) ≡ φ(x, t) − 1 can be viewed as the coefficient of absolute risk aversion for the intermediate utility function V(x, t)
- HJB equation (if $\partial_x V > 0$)

$$\partial_t V + \max_{\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \Delta^n} \left\{ \left(\mu(\boldsymbol{\theta}) - \frac{1}{2} \sigma(\boldsymbol{\theta})^2 \right) \partial_x V + \frac{1}{2} \sigma(\boldsymbol{\theta})^2 \partial_x^2 V \right\} = 0$$

can be rewritten as:

$$0 = \partial_t V - \alpha(\varphi) \partial_x V, \qquad V(x, T) := U(x),$$

where $\alpha(\varphi)$ is the value function of the

Parametric optimization problem:

$$\alpha(\varphi) = \min_{\theta \in \Delta^n} \{-\mu(\theta) + \frac{\varphi}{2}\sigma(\theta)^2\}.$$

Theorem (S. Kilianová & D.Š., 2013)

Suppose that the value function V satisfies HJB Then the Riccati transform function φ is a solution to the Cauchy problem for the quasi-linear parabolic equation:

$$egin{aligned} &\partial_t arphi + \partial_x^2 lpha(arphi) + \partial_x f(arphi) = 0, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, \, t \in [0, \, \mathcal{T}), \ &arphi(x, \, \mathcal{T}) = 1 - U''(x)/U'(x), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}. \end{aligned}$$

where $f(\varphi) := \varepsilon e^{-x} \varphi + r + (1 - \varphi) \alpha(\varphi)$

Parametric quadratic optimization problem

- Value function $\alpha(\varphi)$ as a minimizer of a parametric quadratic optimization problem
- Qualitative properties of the value function lpha(arphi)
- Counting discontinuities of $\alpha''(\varphi)$
- Generalizations for the case of worst case scenario

Parametric quadratic programming problem

The function $\alpha(\varphi)$ entering quasilinear HJB equation is a value function to the parametric quadratic convex programming problem

Value function

$$\alpha(\varphi) = \min_{\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \Delta^n} \{ -\boldsymbol{\mu}^T \boldsymbol{\theta} + \frac{\varphi}{2} \boldsymbol{\theta}^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \boldsymbol{\theta} \}$$

over a compact (convex) set Δ^n , e.g.:

$$\Delta^n = \{oldsymbol{ heta} \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid oldsymbol{ heta}^i \geq 0, \; \sum_{i=1}^n oldsymbol{ heta}^i = 1\}$$

or

$$\Delta^n = \{ oldsymbol{ heta} \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid oldsymbol{ heta}^i \geq 0, \; \sum_{i=1}^n oldsymbol{ heta}^i \leq 1 \}$$

Merton model with a risk free asset with interest rate r > 0

Properties of the value function $\alpha(\varphi)$

For optimal portfolio selection problem we have

$$\alpha(\varphi) = \min_{\theta \in \Delta^n} \{-\mu^T \theta + \frac{\varphi}{2} \theta^T \Sigma \theta\}$$

Theorem (S. Kilianová & D.Š., 2013)

If $\Sigma \succ 0$ (typical for a covariance matrix) and Δ^n is compact, convex then the function: $\varphi \mapsto \alpha(\varphi)$ is:

- $C^{1,1}$ continuous in $\varphi > 0$;
- strictly increasing in φ for $\varphi > 0$

Example: German DAX index, 30 assets:



Figure : The function α and its first derivative for the German DAX30 stock index, based on historical data Aug 2010 - Apr 2012.

Quadratic parametric optimization problem

$$\alpha(\varphi) = \min_{\theta \in \Delta^n} \{ -\mu^T \theta + \frac{\varphi}{2} \theta^T \Sigma \theta \}$$

Idea of the proof:

- $\alpha'(\varphi)$ it is the diffusion coefficient of the PDE for φ
- $\alpha'(\varphi) = \frac{1}{2}\hat{\theta}^T \Sigma \hat{\theta}$ where $\hat{\theta} = \hat{\theta}(\varphi)$ is the unique minimizer
- $0 < \lambda^{-} \leq \alpha'(\varphi) \leq \lambda^{+} < \infty$ for all $\varphi > 0$ and $t \in [0, T]$

Tools:

- Milgrom-Segal envelope theorem (give C^1 smoothness of α)
- Klatte's results on Lipschitz continuity of the minimizer $\hat{\theta}(\varphi)$ (S. Kilianová & D.Š., 2013)

Role of discontinuities of $\alpha''(\varphi)$

Points of discontinuity of the second derivative:



We know which assets have nonzero weights, without solving PDE

Recall the static Markowitz optimal selection problem for different φ :



Explanation of discontinuities of $\alpha''(\varphi)$



Increasing φ from $\varphi=0$ to $\varphi\rightarrow\infty$

 small values of φ: only one asset with maximal mean return is active,

$$\theta_1 > 0, \theta_2 = \theta_3 = 0$$

- intermediate values of φ : two assets are active, $\theta_1 > 0, \theta_2 > 0, \theta_3 = 0$
- large values of φ : all assets are active, $\theta_1 > 0, \theta_2 > 0, \theta_3 > 0$

Extensions of the model with different $\alpha(\varphi)$

ROBUST portfolio optimization

$$\alpha(\varphi) = \min_{\theta \in \Delta^n} \max_{(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) \in \mathcal{K}} \{ -\boldsymbol{\mu}^T \boldsymbol{\theta} + \frac{\varphi}{2} \boldsymbol{\theta}^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \boldsymbol{\theta} \}$$

- \mathcal{K} is a convex subset or a convex cone of mean return vectors and positive semidefinite covariance matrices
- it corresponds to the "worst case" variance optimization problem
- takes into account uncertainty in the covariance matrix and the mean return

Different behavior of the value function

For a nontrivial connected set \mathcal{K} the value function $\alpha(\varphi)$ can be a linear function on some subintervals (Kilianová & Trnovská (2016))

Qualitative properties of solutions of the HJB equation

Theorem (Kilianová & Ševčovič 2013)

Assume that the terminal condition $\varphi_T(x)$, $x \in \mathbb{R}$, is positive and uniformly bounded for $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and belongs to the Hölder space $H^{2+\lambda}(\mathbb{R})$ for some $0 < \lambda < 1/2$ and α is $C^{1,1}$ smooth.

Then there exists a unique classical solution $\varphi(x, t)$ to

 $\partial_t \varphi + \partial_x^2 \alpha(\varphi) + \partial_x f(\varphi) = 0, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, t \in [0, T),$ $\varphi(x, T) = \varphi_T(x).$

Moreover, $\partial_t \varphi$, $\partial_x \varphi$ is $\lambda/2$ -Hölder continuous and Lipschitz continuous, and $\alpha(\varphi(.,.)) \in H^{2+\lambda,1+\lambda/2}(\mathbb{R} \times [0,T])$.

- By the parabolic comparison principle we have: $0 < \varphi(x, t) \le \sup \varphi(., T)$, for all t, x
- Existence of a unique classical solution to the Cauchy problem follows from Ladyzhenskaya, Solonnikov and Uralceva theory. It is based on regularization of the diffusion function α and solving the equation for η = α(φ)

Numerical approximation scheme

General form of PDE to be solved (backward in time):

$$\partial_t \varphi + \partial_x^2 A(\varphi, x, t) + \partial_x B(\varphi, x, t) + C(\varphi, x, t) = 0,$$

- function values $\varphi(x_i, \tau^j)$ are approximated at grid points x_i by φ_i^j where $\tau^j = T jk$ (k is the time step)
- the first derivative is approximated at the dual mesh point $x_{i+\frac{1}{2}} = \text{mid point of } [x_i, x_{i+1}],$ ($h = x_{i+1} - x_i$ is the spatial step)
- PDE equation is integrated over the dual volume $[x_{i-\frac{1}{2}}, x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}]$

Semi-implicit scheme: tridiagonal system

$$\underbrace{-\frac{k}{h^2}D_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^{j}\varphi_{i+1}^{j+1} + (1 + \frac{k}{h^2}(D_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^{j} + D_{i-\frac{1}{2}}^{j}))\varphi_i^{j+1} - \frac{k}{h^2}D_{i-\frac{1}{2}}^{j}\varphi_{i-1}^{j+1}}{\mathcal{A}(\varphi^j)\varphi^{j+1}} = \underbrace{\frac{k}{h}(l_i^j + E_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^j - E_{i-\frac{1}{2}}^j + F_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^j - F_{i-\frac{1}{2}}^j)}{\mathcal{B}(\varphi^j)} + \varphi_i^j,$$

$$\begin{split} D_{i\pm\frac{1}{2}}^{j} &= A_{\varphi}'(\varphi, x, \tau)|_{\varphi_{i\pm\frac{1}{2}}^{j}, x_{i\pm\frac{1}{2}}, \tau^{j}} \qquad E_{i\pm\frac{1}{2}}^{j} &= A_{x}'(\varphi, x, \tau)|_{\varphi_{i\pm\frac{1}{2}}^{j}, x_{i\pm\frac{1}{2}}, \tau^{j}} \\ F_{i\pm\frac{1}{2}}^{j} &= B(\varphi, x, \tau)|_{\varphi_{i\pm\frac{1}{2}}^{j}, x_{i\pm\frac{1}{2}}, \tau^{j}} \qquad I_{i}^{j} &= hC(\varphi_{i}^{j}, x_{i}, \tau^{j}) \end{split}$$

Tridiagonal system of linear equations

$$\mathcal{A}\varphi^{j+1} = \mathcal{B}(\varphi^j) + \varphi^j \qquad \mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}(\varphi^j)$$

for the unknown vector $arphi = (arphi_1^{j+1}, \cdots, arphi_N^{j+1}) \in \mathbb{R}^N$

Computational results and applications to portfolio optimization

Optimal portfolio selection problem for

- DAX30 index with a compact simplex Δ^n
- Slovak pension system with
 - discrete decision set Δ^n , n = 2

Example: investment problem for the DAX 30 Index

- Utility function: $U(x) = \frac{1}{1-a}e^{(1-a)x}$, with risk aversion a = 9, inflow and interest rate $\varepsilon = 1$, r = 0, time horizon T = 10
- $\varphi(x,T) = 1 U''(x)/U'(x) \equiv a \Rightarrow 0 < \varphi(x,t) \le 9$ for all (x,t)
- Decision set: $\Delta^n = \{ \boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}^i \ge 0, \sum_{i=1}^n \boldsymbol{\theta}^i = 1 \}$ n = 30.





Kilianová & Ševčovič (2013)

In case of n = 2 assets the asymptotic analysis of PDE yields the first order approximation of the optimal stocks θ^1 to bonds $\theta^2 = 1 - \theta^1$ proportion :

$$\hat{\theta}_1(x,t) = C_0 + C_1 \frac{1}{a} \Big[1 + \varepsilon \exp(-x) \frac{1 - e^{-\delta(T-t)}}{\delta} \Big] + O(\varepsilon^2).$$

it means that the optimal stock to bonds proportion θ is a decreasing function with respect to time *t* as well as to the amount $y = \exp(x) > 0$ of yearly saved salaries, i.e.

Practical conclusions for policy makers

- higher amount of saved yearly salaries y
- closer time t to retirement T
- higher saver's risk aversion a

 \Rightarrow lower amount of risky assets (stocks) in the portfolio

• higher defined yearly contribution ε

 \Rightarrow higher amount of risky assets (stocks) in the portfolio

Optimal weight decision set n = 2

 Δ^n is the three element discrete set of funds

growth fund $\theta^{(s)} = 0.8$, $\theta^{(b)} = 0.2$ balanced fund $\theta^{(s)} = 0.5$, $\theta^{(b)} = 0.5$ conservative fund $\theta^{(s)} = 0$, $\theta^{(b)} = 1$

 $\Delta^n = \{ (0.8, 0.2), (0.5, 0.5), (0, 1) \}$

In general, if Δ^n is a discrete set then the function $\alpha(\varphi)$

$$\alpha(\varphi) = \min_{\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \Delta^n} \{ -\boldsymbol{\mu}^T \boldsymbol{\theta} + \frac{\varphi}{2} \boldsymbol{\theta}^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \boldsymbol{\theta} \}$$

need not be even C^1 smooth, and $\theta(\varphi)$ is not continuous

Example: $n = 1, \mu = 1, \Sigma = 1, \Delta = \{0, 1\}$ $\implies \alpha(\varphi) = \min\{-1 + \varphi/2, 0\}$ is only Lipschitz continuous !!!

Computational results



- risk aversion a = 9 for utility function $U(x) = \frac{1}{1-a}e^{(1-a)x}$
- n = 2 (Stocks and Bonds) with $\Delta^n = \{(0.8, 0.2), (0.5, 0.5), (0, 1)\}$ for the Slovak pension system
- Conservative F3, Balanced F2, Growth F1 fund
- Results of 10000 Monte-Carlo simulations of the path y_t . Mean $E(y_t)$ and $\pm \sigma(y_t)$

Dynamic stochastic accumulation model Computational results – Various risk aversions



 Higher risk aversion ⇒ earlier transition to less risky funds and lower expected terminal value of savings

Kilianová, Melicherčík, Ševčovič (2006)

Conclusions

- HJB equation arises dynamic stochastic portfolio selection problem
- HJB equation can be transformed to a quasilinear PDE and solved numerically
- important role is played by smoothness properties of the value function of a convex quadratic optimization problem

Thank you for your attention

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