



## **Genome-wide association study for stature for Holstein cattle based on whole genome sequence, using a mixed linear model**

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# Introduction

- 528 Holstein bulls
- Phenotype – Estimated Breeding Value for Stature
- Genotype – 1000 Bull Genomes Project



## Purpose of the study

- Reducing dimensionality of data for WGS based on GWAS
- Define significant genomic regions
- Compare computing time and iterations



# Data pre-processing (Plink 1.9)



- Filtering data
  - Call rates 0.95
  - Minor allele frequency 0.05
- Dimensionality reduction
  - Window size 100 000 bp
  - Step size 1 000 bp
  - LD treshhold (0.9, 0.75, 0.5)  $R^2$

| Data set | Number of SNPs | Size (Gigabytes) |
|----------|----------------|------------------|
| Unpruned | 10,771,020     | 11.4             |
| Tag 0.90 | 5,874,889      | 5.8              |
| Tag 0.75 | 1,343,767      | 1.4              |
| Tag 0.50 | 448,468        | 0.5              |



## Model

$$y = 1 + Vu + e$$

**y** – bull's EBV for Stature

**u** – SNP additive genetic effects

**V** – incidence matrix

**e** – residuals

## Computing server

- Linux Red Hat
- 260GB RAM
- 16 x Intel CPUs with 2.20GHZ
- MiXBLUP 3.0



## Wald test for significant SNPs

$$Wald_{unpruned_n} = SNP_{solution_n} / sd(Solutions_{unpruned})$$

$$p\_value_n = 2 \times P(Z > |Wald_{unpruned_n}|)$$

$$p\_value_{corrected_n} = adjust(p\_value_n, method = FDR, n = N)$$

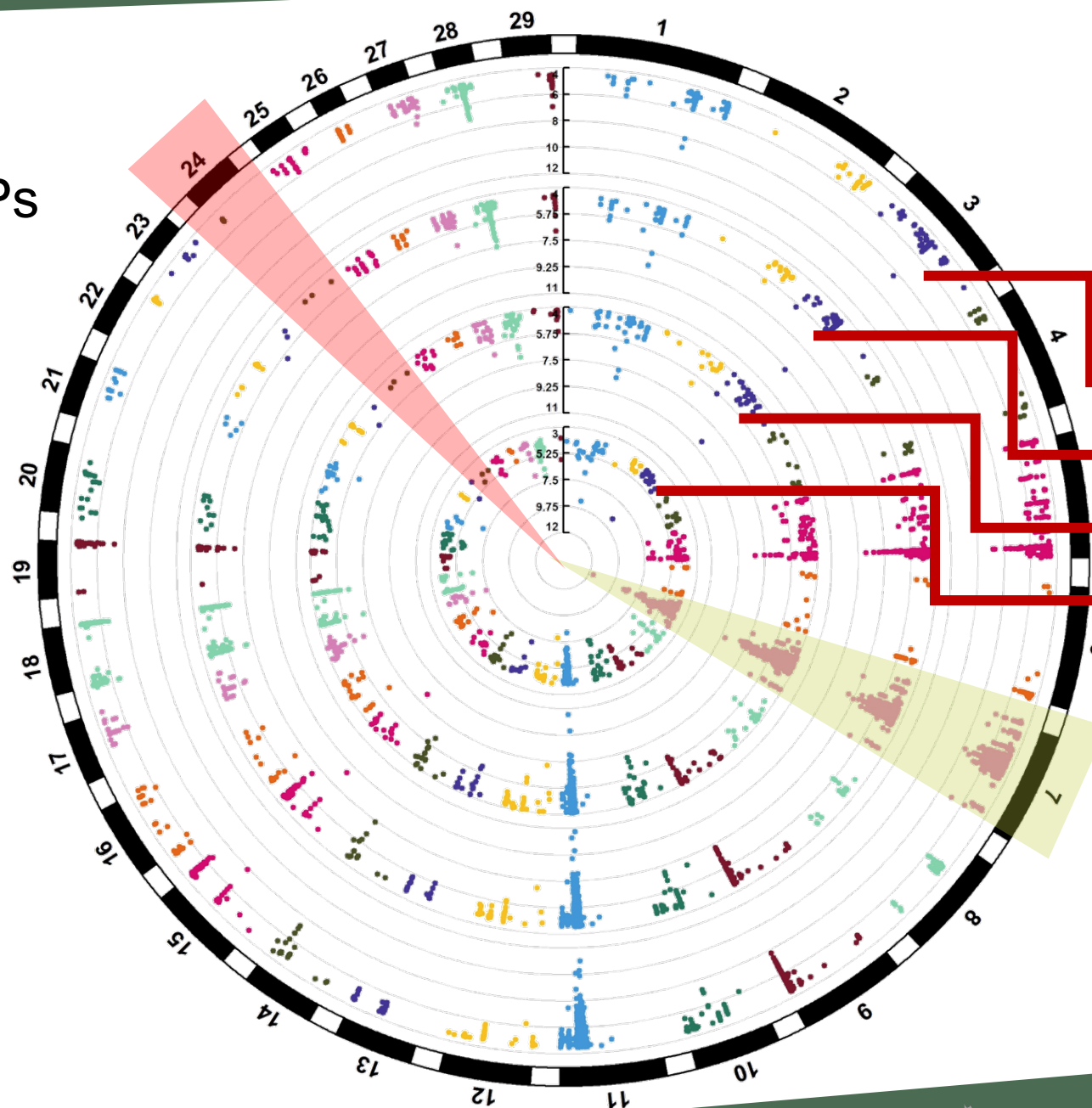
$$Significant_{SNP_{unpruned}} = p\_value_{corrected_n} < 0.1$$



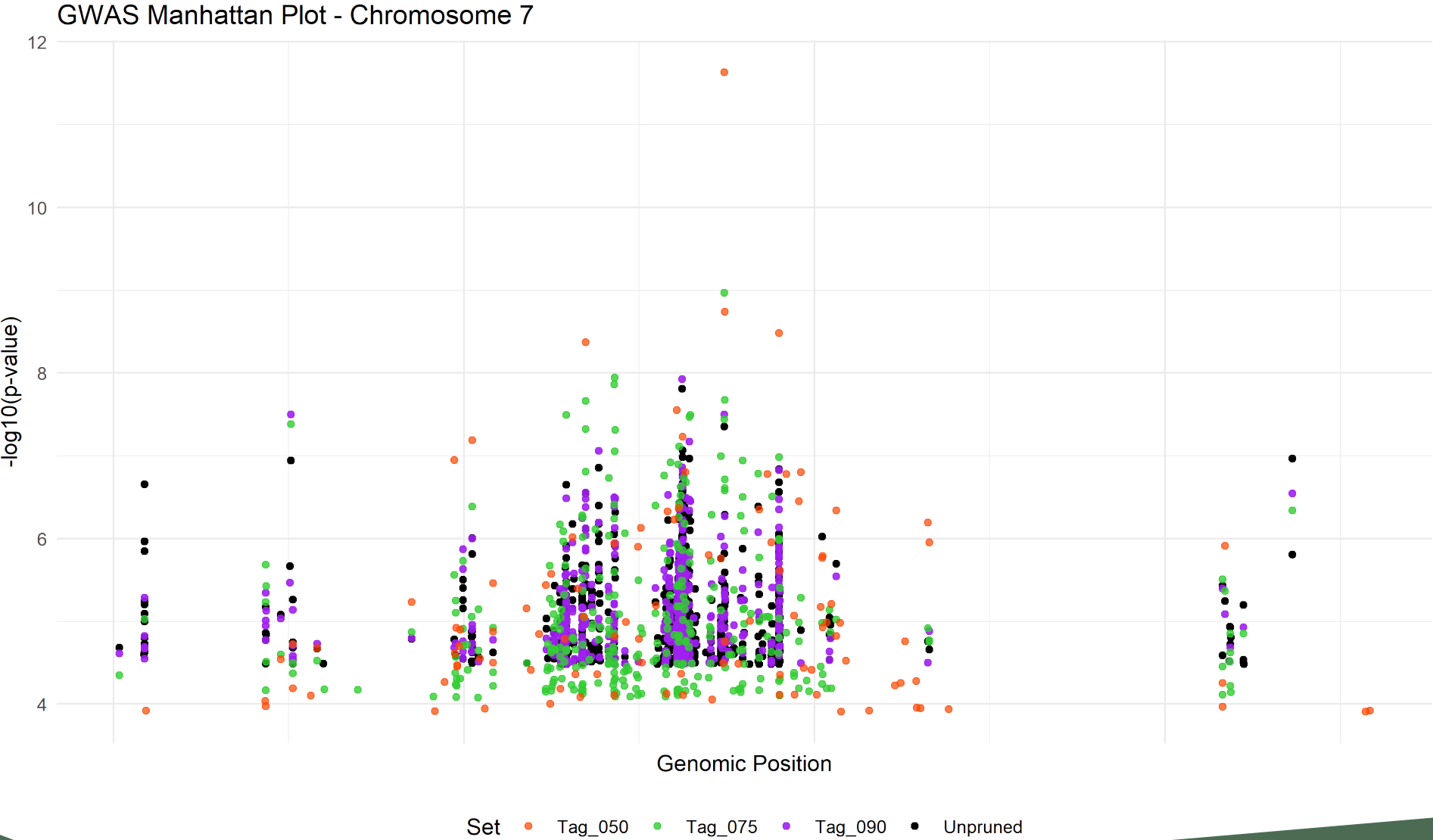
# Results

Number of significant SNPs

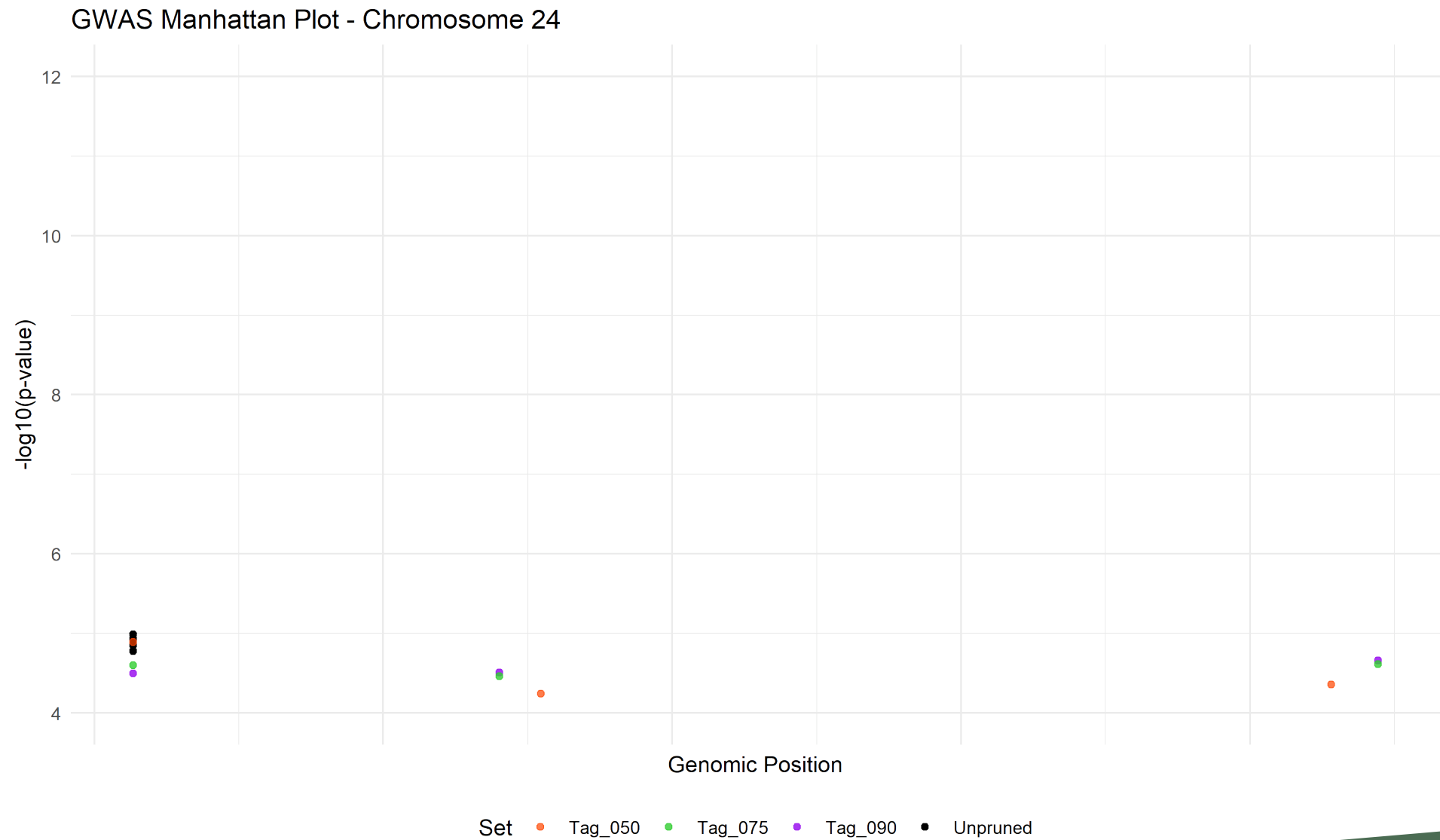
- Unpruned 3,582
- Tag 0.90 1,923
- Tag 0.75 1,118
- Tag 0.50 559



# Results



# Results



# Time and iteration



| Scenarios | Wall clock time (min) |             |       | Number of iterations |
|-----------|-----------------------|-------------|-------|----------------------|
|           | PLINK 1.9             | MiXBLUP 3.0 | Sum   |                      |
| Unpruned  | 19                    | 55          | 74    | 42                   |
| Tag 0.90  | 997                   | 42          | 1 039 | 33                   |
| Tag 0.75  | 55                    | 9           | 64    | 33                   |
| Tag 0.50  | 44                    | 3           | 47    | 32                   |



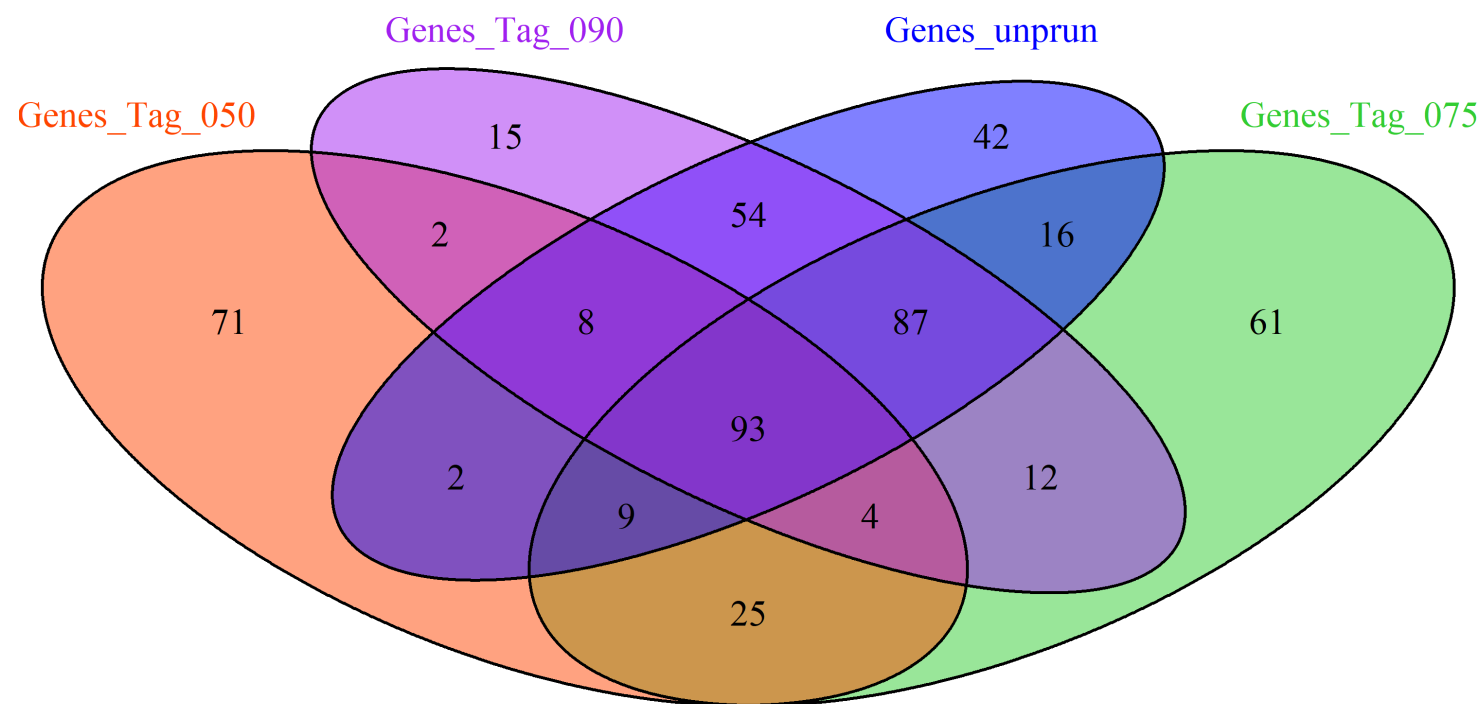
## Conclusions

- Tag 0.50 data set provides better defined peaks
  - Exceptions exist
- Dimensionality reduction: wall clock time reduction from 74 mins to 47 mins
- SNP tagging allows for genomic noise reduction



## Next steps

- Check variants of significant SNPs
- Validate the tag concept by moving from BPS to genes
- Define the optimal  $R^2$  threshold



# Thank You!



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