

Supporting Information

for

Copper-catalyzed stereoselective conjugate addition of alkylboranes to alkynoates

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Experimental procedures, spectroscopic and analytical data, and copies of NMR spectra for newly synthesized compounds

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Instrumentation and chemicals

NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL ECX-400, operating at 400 MHz for ^1H NMR, 100.5 MHz for ^{13}C NMR. Chemical shift values for ^1H and ^{13}C are referenced to Me_4Si . Chemical shifts are reported in δ ppm. Mass spectra were obtained with Thermo Fisher Scientific Exactive, JEOL JMS-T100LP or JEOL JMS-700TZ at the Instrumental Analysis Division, Equipment Management Center, Creative Research Institution, Hokkaido University. Elemental analysis was performed at the Instrumental Analysis Division, Equipment Management Center, Creative Research Institution, Hokkaido University. TLC analyses were performed on commercial glass plates bearing 0.25-mm layer of Merck Silica gel 60F₂₅₄. Silica gel (Kanto Chemical Co., Silica gel 60 N, spherical, neutral) was used for column chromatography. Melting points were measured on a Yanaco MP-500D apparatus.

All reactions were carried out under nitrogen or argon atmosphere. Materials were obtained from commercial suppliers or prepared according to standard procedures unless otherwise noted. 9-Borabicyclo[3,3,1]nonane dimer (9-BBN-H)₂ was purchased from Kanto Chemical Co., stored

under nitrogen, and used as is. 1,4-Dioxane was purchased from Kanto Chemical Co. and stored under argon.

Alkenes **1a–c** and **1e** were purchased from TCI Chemical Co., stored under nitrogen, and used as it is. Alkenes **1d** and **1k** are known compounds.¹ Alkynoates **3a**, **3h** and **3i** were purchased from Aldrich Chemical Co., distilled and stored under nitrogen. Alkynoates **3b**¹, **3c**¹, **3f**¹, **3g**¹ and **3j**² are known compounds. Alkynoates **3d**³ and **3e**⁴ were prepared by Sonogashira coupling between the corresponding aryl iodides and ethyl propiolate.³ Alkynoate **3g** was prepared by the reaction between the corresponding lithium acetylide and ethyl chloroformate⁵.

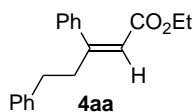
Procedures for copper-catalyzed conjugate addition

Typical procedure for copper-catalyzed stereoselective conjugate addition of alkylboranes to alkynoates. The reaction in Scheme 1 was conducted in a similar manner as described before ref. 1. Styrene (**1a**) (33 μ L, 0.289 mmol) and (9-BBN-H)₂ (33.6 mg, 0.138 mmol) were placed in a vial containing a magnetic stirring bar. The vial was sealed with a Teflon[®]-coated silicon rubber septum, and the vial was evacuated and filled with argon. 1,4-Dioxane (0.4 mL) was added to the vial, and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 1 h to prepare an alkylborane **2a**. Meanwhile, CuOAc (1.5 mg, 0.0125 mmol), P(OPh)₃ (6.9 μ L, 0.025 mmol) and *t*-BuOK (1.4 mg, 0.0125 mmol) were placed in another vial. The vial was sealed with a Teflon[®]-coated silicon rubber septum, evacuated, and then filled with argon. After 1,4-Dioxane (0.6 mL) was added to the vial, the mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 1 h. Next, the alkylborane solution was transferred to the vial containing the Cu(I) complex. Next, alkynoate **3a** (41.3 μ L, 0.25 mmol) and *t*-BuOH (24 μ L, 0.25 mmol) were added. After 12 h stirring at 40 °C, diethyl ether was added to the mixture. The mixture was filtered through a short plug of silica gel, which was then washed with diethyl ether. After the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, flash chromatography on silica gel (0–5% EtOAc/hexane) provided **4aa** (69.4 mg, 0.248 mmol) in 99% yield with >99:1 *syn/anti* selectivity.

Procedure for the synthesis of 4k (Scheme 2). **1k** (50 mg, 0.25 mmol) and (9-BBN-H)₂ (30.5 mg, 0.125 mmol) were placed in a vial containing a magnetic stirring bar. The vial was sealed with a Teflon[®]-coated silicon rubber septum and the vial was evacuated and filled with argon. 1,4-Dioxane (0.4 mL) was added to the vial, and then the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 1 h to prepare the alkylborane. On the other hand, CuOAc (1.5 mg, 0.0125 mmol), P(OPh)₃ (6.9 μ L, 0.025 mmol) and *t*-BuOK (1.4 mg, 0.0125 mmol) were placed in another vial. The vial was sealed with a Teflon[®]-coated silicon rubber septum and the vial was evacuated and filled with argon. After 1,4-dioxane (0.6 mL) was added to the vial, the mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 1 h. Next, the alkylborane solution was transferred to the vial containing a Cu(I) complex. Then, *t*-BuOH (24 μ L, 0.25 mmol) was added. After 12 h stirring at 40 °C, diethyl ether was added to the mixture. The mixture was filtered through a short plug of silica gel, which was then washed with diethyl ether. After the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, flash chromatography on silica gel (0–5% EtOAc/hexane) provided **4k** (47.5 mg, 0.238 mmol) in 94% yield with >99:1 *syn/anti* selectivity.

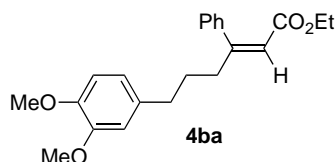
Characterization data for β -disubstituted acrylates

(Z)-Ethyl 3,5-diphenyl-2-pentenoate (**4aa**)



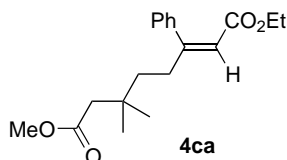
The product **4aa** was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (0–5% EtOAc/hexane). Colorless Oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.06 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 2.71–2.76 (m, 4H), 3.98 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 5.90 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.12–7.15 (m, 2H), 7.18–7.20 (m, 3H), 7.25–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.31–7.37 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100.5 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.88, 33.72, 42.01, 59.77, 117.65, 126.06, 127.15, 127.69, 127.88, 128.24, 128.38, 139.78, 140.81, 158.44, 165.92. HRMS–ESI (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_2\text{Na}$, 303.13555; found, 303.13560. The stereochemistry was determined by NOESY experiments.

(Z)-Ethyl 6-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-3-phenyl-2-hexenoate (**4ba**)



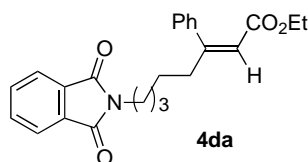
The product **4ba** was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (0–20% EtOAc/hexane). Colorless Oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.06 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.70 (quin, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.47 (td, $J = 7.6$, 0.8 Hz, 2H), 2.56 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.98 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 5.89 (t, $J = 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.62–6.67 (m, 2H), 6.77 (m, 1H), 7.14–7.17 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.37 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100.5 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.83, 28.99, 34.60, 39.59, 55.65, 55.79, 59.68, 111.04, 111.51, 117.48, 120.07, 127.00, 127.51, 127.76, 134.16, 139.90, 147.06, 148.65, 159.11, 165.89. HRMS–ESI (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_4\text{Na}$, 377.17233; found, 377.17247. The stereochemistry was assigned by consideration of the reaction pathway.

(Z)-1-Ethyl 8-methyl 6,6-dimethyl-3-phenyl-2-octenedioate (**4ca**)



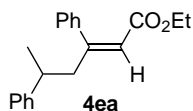
The product **4ca** was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (0–8% EtOAc/hexane). Colorless Oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 0.97 (s, 6H), 1.07 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H), 1.40–1.44 (m, 2H), 2.18 (s, 2H), 2.41–2.45 (m, 2H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.98 (q, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 5.89 (s, 1H), 7.14–7.17 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.35 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100.5 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.87, 27.17, 33.03, 35.10, 39.69, 45.42, 51.09, 59.68, 117.04, 126.98, 127.53, 127.77, 140.16, 159.72, 165.96, 172.28. HRMS–ESI (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_4\text{Na}$, 341.17233; found, 341.17238. The stereochemistry was assigned by consideration of the reaction pathway.

(Z)-Ethyl 8-(1,3-dioxoisindolin-2-yl)-3-phenyl-2-octenoate (4da)



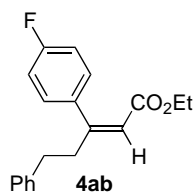
The product **4da** was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (0–20% EtOAc/hexane). White Solid. M.p. 63–65 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.07 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.30–1.50 (m, 4H), 1.62 (quin, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.43 (td, $J = 7.6, 1.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.65 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.97 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 5.86 (s, 1H), 7.12–7.14 (m, 2H), 7.24–7.35 (m, 3H), 7.68–7.73 (m, 2H), 7.81–7.85 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100.5 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.82, 26.20, 26.77, 28.15, 37.66, 40.04, 59.62, 117.69, 123.03, 126.91, 127.44, 127.71, 131.95, 133.77, 139.91, 159.23, 165.86, 168.26. HRMS–ESI (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_4\text{NNa}$, 414.16758; found, 414.16776. The stereochemistry was assigned by consideration of the reaction pathway.

(Z)-Ethyl 3,5-diphenyl-2-hexenoate (4ea)



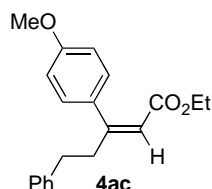
The product **4ea** was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (0–5% EtOAc/hexane). White Solid. M.p. 61–62 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.04 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.23 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 3H), 2.61–2.75 (m, 2H), 2.82 (m, 1H), 3.95 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 5.81 (s, 1H), 7.09–7.21 (m, 5H), 7.26–7.38 (m, 5H). ^{13}C NMR (100.5 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.86, 21.53, 37.26, 49.03, 59.73, 118.93, 126.17, 126.83, 127.31, 127.72, 127.81, 128.38, 139.46, 146.13, 157.45, 165.78. HRMS–ESI (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_2\text{Na}$, 317.15120; found, 317.15142. The stereochemistry was assigned by consideration of the reaction pathway.

(Z)-Ethyl 3-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-phenyl-2-pentenoate (4ab)



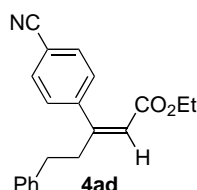
The product **4ab** was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (0–5% EtOAc/hexane). Colorless Oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.10 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 2.67–2.76 (m, 4H), 4.00 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 5.90 (s, 1H), 7.03–7.09 (m, 2H), 7.10–7.21 (m, 5H), 7.25–7.31 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100.5 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.93, 33.71, 42.03, 59.86, 114.89 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 21$ Hz), 118.04, 126.12, 128.22, 128.42, 129.04 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 8.6$ Hz), 135.47 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 3.8$ Hz), 140.60, 157.39, 162.33 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 246$ Hz), 165.75. HRMS–ESI (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2\text{FNa}$, 321.12613; found, 321.12632. The stereochemistry was assigned by consideration of the reaction pathway.

(Z)-Ethyl 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-phenyl-2-pentenoate (4ac)



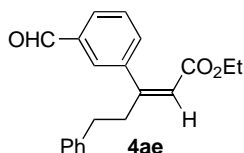
The product **4ac** was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (0–5% EtOAc/hexane). Colorless Oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.12 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 2.68–2.76 (m, 4H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 4.01 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 5.85 (s, 1H), 6.89–6.92 (m, 2H), 7.11–7.25 (m, 4H), 7.25–7.27 (m, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100.5 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.00, 33.94, 42.06, 55.11, 59.70, 113.25, 117.06, 126.00, 128.23, 128.34, 128.75, 131.49, 140.89, 158.12, 159.29, 166.07. HRMS–ESI (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$, 333.14612; found, 333.14600. The stereochemistry was assigned by consideration of the reaction pathway.

(Z)-Ethyl 3-(4-cyanophenyl)-5-phenyl-2-pentenoate (4ad)



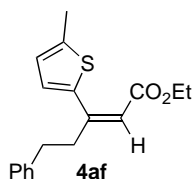
The product **4ad** was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (0–10% EtOAc/hexane). Colorless Oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.10 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H), 2.68–2.77 (m, 4H), 3.99 (q, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 5.96 (s, 1H), 7.10–7.13 (m, 2H), 7.21 (m, 1H), 7.23–7.30 (m, 4H), 7.64–7.67 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100.5 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.89, 33.48, 41.46, 60.11, 111.38, 118.70, 118.93, 126.30, 128.00, 128.17, 128.50, 131.74, 140.06, 145.03, 156.62, 165.19. HRMS–ESI (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2\text{NNa}$, 328.13080; found, 328.13101. The stereochemistry was assigned by consideration of the reaction pathway.

(Z)-Ethyl 3-(3-formylphenyl)-5-phenyl-2-pentenoate (4ae)



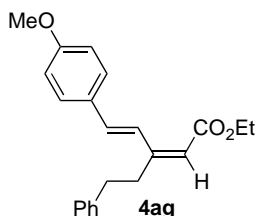
The product **4ad** was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (0–15% EtOAc/hexane). Colorless Oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.08 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 2.72–2.80 (m, 4H), 3.98 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 5.97 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.11–7.13 (m, 2H), 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.25–7.29 (m, 2H), 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.54 (m, 1H), 7.69 (m, 1H), 7.85 (m, 1H), 10.02 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100.5 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 13.88, 33.59, 41.73, 59.94, 118.59, 126.20, 128.19, 128.25, 128.44, 128.56, 129.13, 133.45, 136.06, 140.29, 140.85, 157.10, 165.40, 192.03. HRMS–ESI (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$, 331.13047; found, 331.13046. The stereochemistry was assigned by consideration of the reaction pathway.

(Z)-Ethyl 3-(5-methylthiophen-2-yl)-5-phenyl-2-pentenoate (4af)



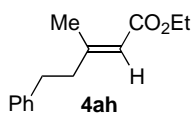
The product **4af** was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (0–5% EtOAc/hexane). Colorless Oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.23 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 2.50 (d, $J = 0.8$ Hz, 3H), 2.72–2.83 (m, 4H), 4.13 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 5.76 (s, 1H), 6.72 (m, 1H), 7.16–7.22 (m, 4H), 7.26–7.32 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100.5 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.08, 15.28, 35.17, 42.85, 59.95, 116.17, 125.26, 126.07, 128.28, 128.37, 129.22, 136.88, 140.85, 142.16, 148.52, 166.08. HRMS–ESI (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_2\text{NaS}$, 323.10762; found, 323.10757. The stereochemistry was assigned by consideration of the reaction pathway.

(2Z,4E)-Ethyl 5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-phenethyl-2,4-pentadienoate (4ag)



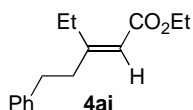
The product **4ag** was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (0–5% EtOAc/hexane). Colorless Oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.32 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 2.74–2.78 (m, 2H), 2.87–2.91 (m, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 4.21 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 5.70 (s, 1H), 6.87–6.91 (m, 2H), 6.94 (d, $J = 16.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.19–7.27 (m, 3H), 7.27–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.47–7.53 (m, 2H), 8.27 (d, $J = 16.4$ Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100.5 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.31, 35.63, 35.93, 55.25, 59.70, 114.10, 116.11, 122.80, 126.13, 128.27, 128.45, 128.74, 129.42, 134.38, 141.32, 154.41, 160.09, 166.64. HRMS–ESI (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$, 359.16177; found, 359.16168. The stereochemistry was assigned by consideration of the reaction pathway.

(E)-Ethyl 3-methyl-5-phenyl-2-pentenoate (4ah)



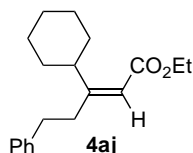
The product **4ah** was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (0–3% EtOAc/hexane). **4ah** was consistent with the the literature data.⁶

(E)-Ethyl 3-ethyl-5-phenyl-2-pentenoate (4ai)



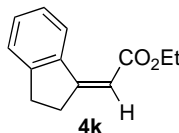
The product **4ai** was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (0–5% EtOAc/hexane). Colorless Oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.10 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H), 1.28 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 3H), 2.43–2.48 (m, 2H), 2.68 (q, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.76–2.80 (m, 2H), 4.15 (q, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 5.66 (s, 1H), 7.12–7.32 (m, 5H). ^{13}C NMR (100.5 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 12.95, 14.25, 25.39, 34.08, 39.69, 59.49, 115.10, 126.05, 128.22, 128.42, 141.18, 164.76, 166.37. HRMS–ESI (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_2$, 233.15361; found, 233.15363. The stereochemistry was assigned by consideration of the reaction pathway.

(Z)-Ethyl 3-cyclohexyl-5-phenyl-2-pentenoate (4aj)



The product **4aj** was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (0–5% EtOAc/hexane). Colorless Oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.15 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.30–1.45 (m, 4H), 1.60–1.80 (m, 5H), 2.39–2.45 (m, 2H), 2.74–2.78 (m, 2H), 3.69 (m, 1H), 4.16 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 5.66 (s, 1H), 7.19–7.32 (m, 5H). ^{13}C NMR (100.5 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.30, 26.10, 26.33, 30.96, 34.65, 34.95, 40.55, 59.50, 114.34, 126.05, 128.24, 128.45, 141.52, 166.54, 167.68. HRMS–ESI (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_2\text{Na}$, 309.18250; found, 309.18271. The stereochemistry was assigned by consideration of the reaction pathway.

(Z)-Ethyl 2-(2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-1-ylidene)acetate (4k)



The product **4k** was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (0–5% EtOAc/hexane). Colorless Oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.32 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 2.90–2.94 (m, 2H), 2.98–3.01 (m, 2H), 4.22 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 5.97 (t, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.26–7.35 (m, 3H), 8.82 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100.5 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 14.33, 29.54, 35.61, 59.78, 110.81, 124.97, 126.53, 128.68, 130.70, 137.52, 150.90, 160.49, 166.28. HRMS–ESI (m/z): $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_2\text{Na}$, 225.08860; found, 225.08881. The stereochemistry was assigned by consideration of the reaction pathway.

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