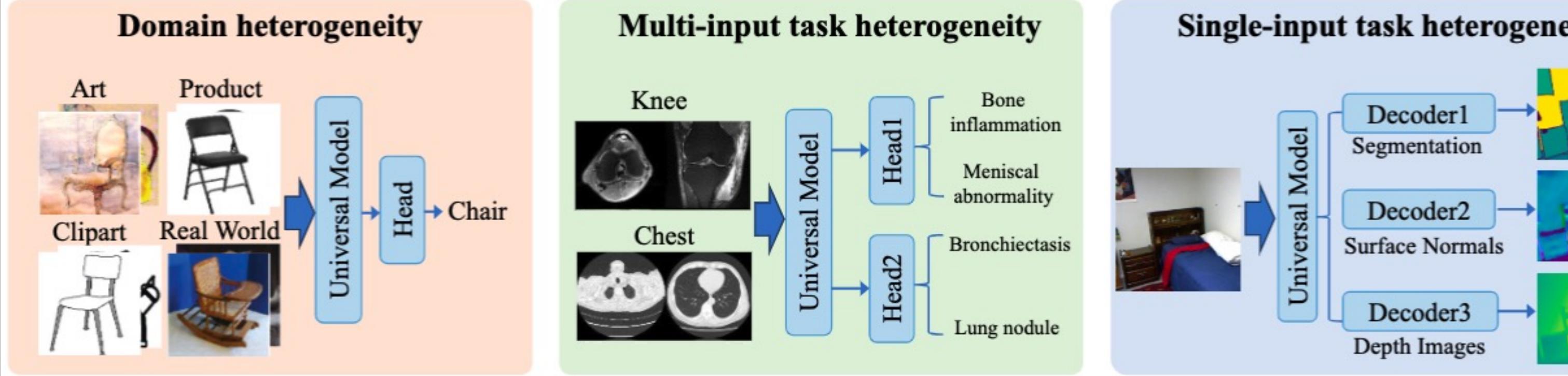


# Exploring Training on Heterogeneous Data with Mixture of Low-rank Adapters

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## Introduction



**Motivation:** Diverse training data collected from different domains or tasks is often utilized to train a unified model for pursuing universal capability. However, due to **the presence of heterogeneity**, such unification may suffer from **strong conflicts during training**, resulting in the suppression of the scale advantage of the pre-training dataset and **severely impacting the performance of the model**.

**Main Task:** Mitigate the training conflicts among heterogeneous data collected from different domains or tasks.

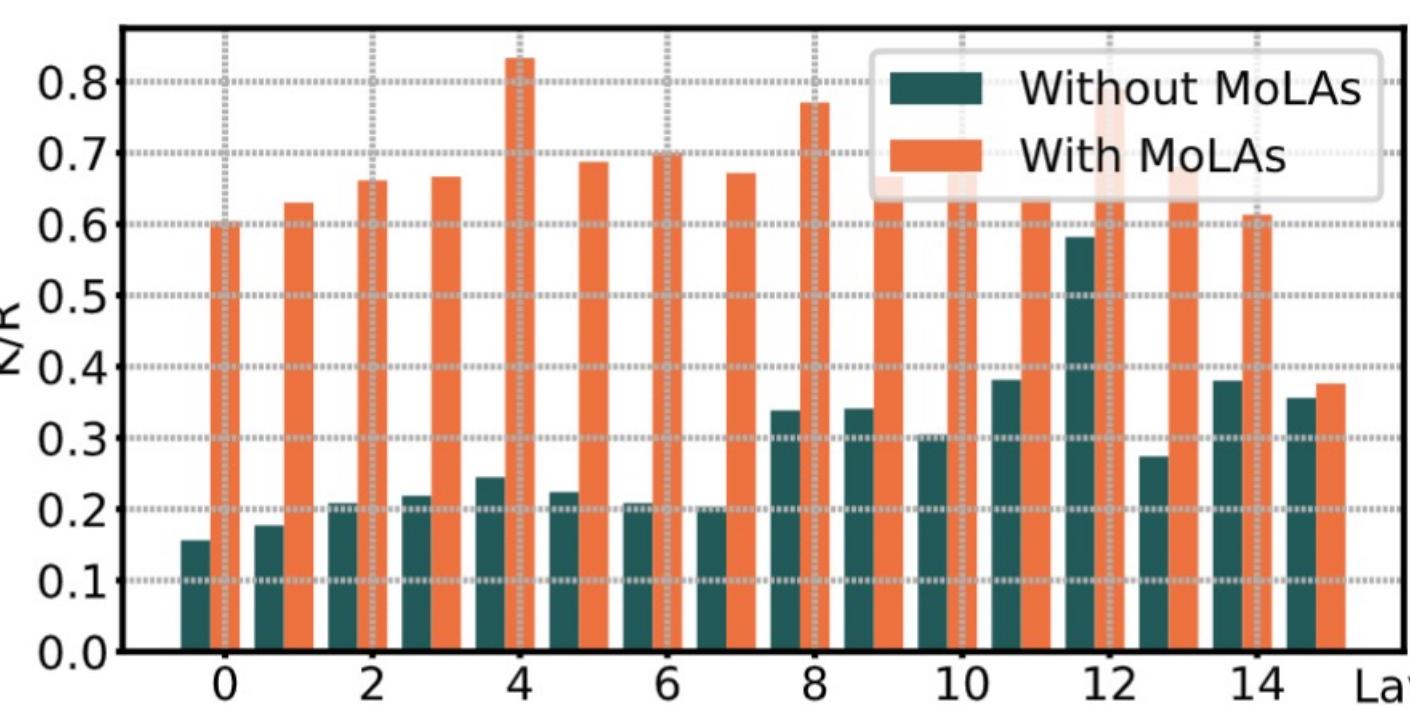
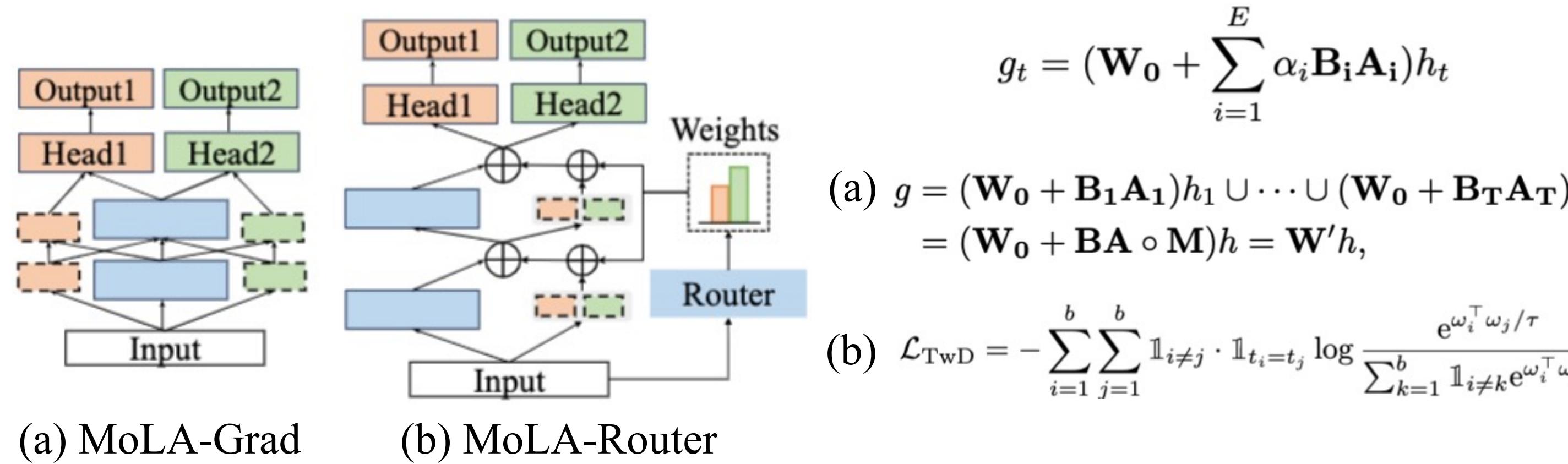
## Main Contributions

- By introducing task-specific low-rank parameters, MoLA achieves parameter isolation between different tasks, thereby separating heterogeneous gradients to avoid conflicts between tasks.
- We propose MoLA-Grad and MoLA-Router, which use task identifiers and the router intervened by our TwD loss respectively, explicitly or implicitly mitigating the conflicts.
- Analysis on the training of MoLA from the perspectives of principal component changes and eigenvalue distributions.

## Method

### Intuition:

- the low-rank property of MoLA ensures that **the increase of parameters is controllable**;
- the (primary-secondary) rank discrepancy between backbone and adapters encourages model to **disentangle the shared knowledge and complementary knowledge**.



$$\sum_{i=1}^K \sigma_i \geq \alpha \sum_{i=1}^R \sigma_i \quad (\alpha=0.99 \text{ in our analysis})$$

MoLA allows for the extraction of more task-specific heterogeneous features, thus requiring the involvement of a greater number of eigenvectors for representation.

The main difference from the original LoRA:

- Different learning stages. LoRA is used for adapting models to downstream tasks, while MoLA is used to train from scratch together with the backbone;
- Different impacts on training. LoRA can significantly amplify a small number of eigenvalues, thereby emphasizing task-relevant eigenvectors. Instead, MoLA significantly reduce the maximum eigenvalues to capture more heterogeneous information, alleviating training conflicts.

## Experimental Results

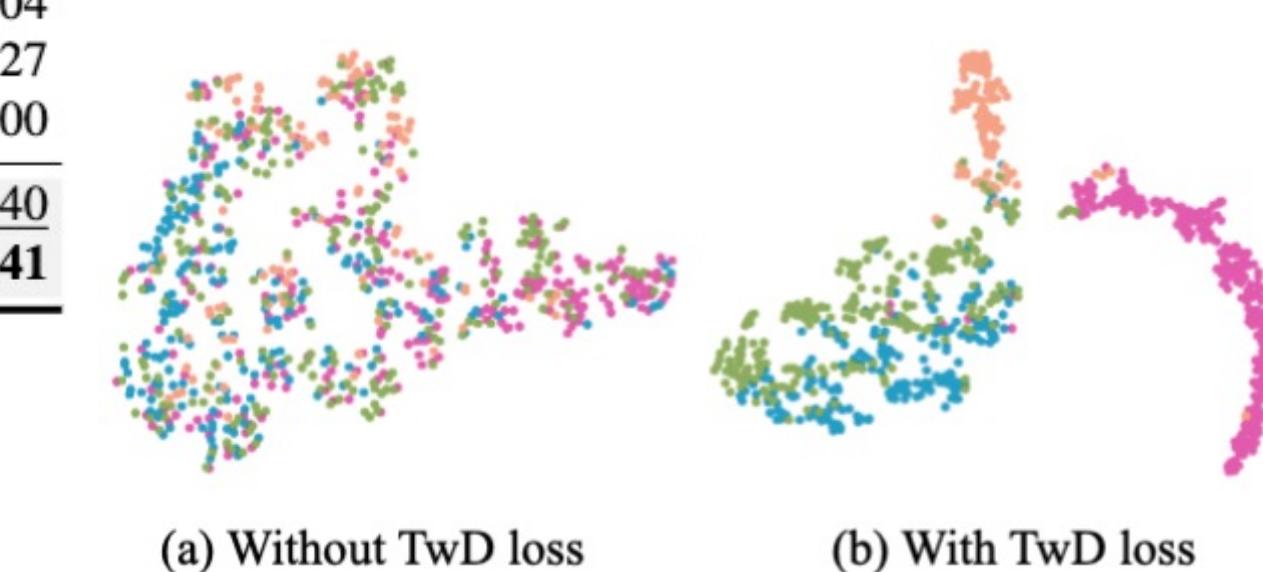
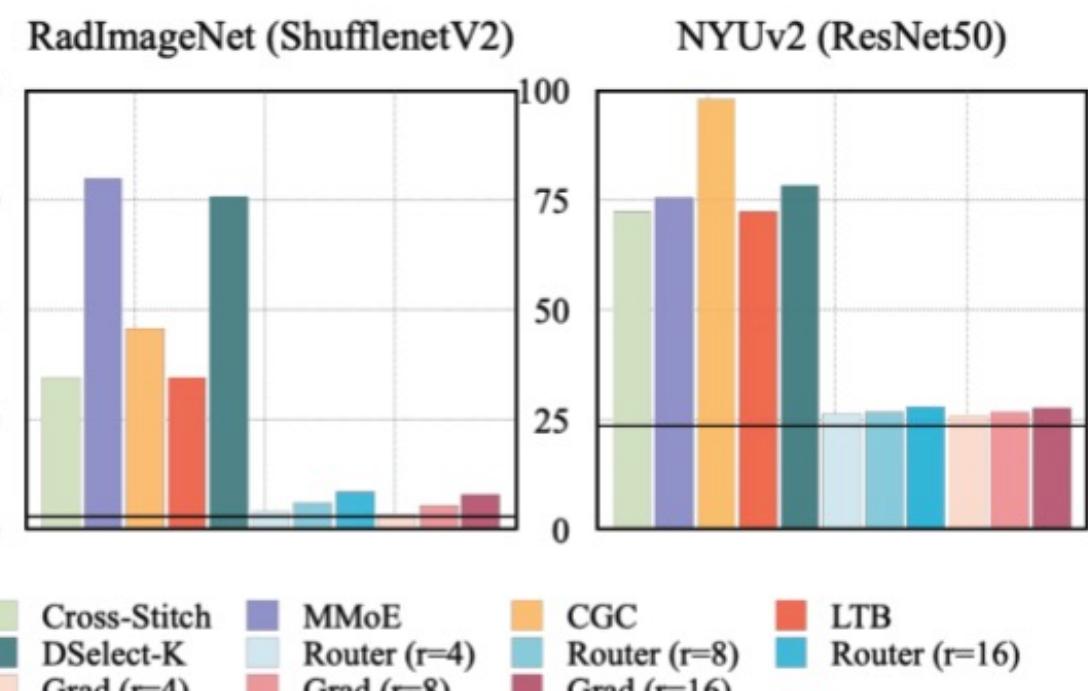
### ➤ Multi-input task heterogeneity:

	Lung ↑	Abdomen ↑	Thyroid ↑	Abdomen ↑	Knee ↑	Shoulder ↑	Spine ↑	Ankle ↑	Abdomen ↑	Brain ↑	Hip ↑	Avg ↑
Single-Task Uniform	76.42 34.34	33.94 41.33	91.55 69.85	<b>69.17</b> 22.87	49.32 34.71	41.80 27.86	20.62 20.26	<b>20.31</b> 12.88	65.99 60.01	83.88 75.16	51.05 24.13	54.91 38.49
HSP	77.16	37.45	91.73	68.43	46.47	42.72	20.85	18.17	71.13	84.67	<b>55.16</b>	55.81
MGDA	70.61	31.74	<b>94.22</b>	67.46	43.59	45.18	<b>23.69</b>	17.67	73.86	84.20	53.62	55.08
PCGrad	69.34	<b>43.15</b>	75.60	67.77	42.59	39.24	14.20	14.38	34.52	69.36	46.26	46.95
CAGrad	71.73	22.71	91.83	62.70	42.30	42.84	<b>24.42</b>	18.99	<b>75.07</b>	83.83	50.51	53.36
Aligned-MTL	62.59	33.90	<b>92.96</b>	67.18	44.33	<b>45.41</b>	23.41	18.28	71.68	<b>84.93</b>	54.84	54.50
Cross-Stitch	80.71	26.67	92.73	66.03	44.25	44.13	23.01	17.92	65.22	74.37	47.51	52.96
MMoE	<b>81.75</b>	38.65	83.27	67.27	44.35	43.84	16.42	13.11	47.64	77.64	<b>55.63</b>	51.78
DSelect-K	77.48	35.34	91.62	67.08	45.89	42.22	19.50	15.49	73.39	79.74	53.85	54.69
CGC	75.47	28.12	86.26	67.67	46.02	42.16	15.09	15.81	24.93	84.88	53.04	49.04
LTB	68.63	40.69	88.99	68.09	45.69	<b>45.61</b>	23.13	18.79	<b>75.39</b>	84.39	53.56	55.72
MoLA-Router	78.94	36.38	91.76	68.05	48.41	43.03	23.26	18.37	68.65	84.56	54.93	<b>56.03</b>
MoLA-Grad	80.72	34.54	92.18	68.87	<b>50.18</b>	43.41	22.06	19.76	69.10	84.67	<b>55.63</b>	<b>56.47</b>

### ➤ Domain heterogeneity:

	Domain-V	Domain-L	Domain-C	Domain-S	Avg ↑
Single-Task Uniform	84.32 84.75	75.40 72.73	100.0 100.0	78.70 76.09	84.60 83.39
MMD-AAE	84.32	69.52	100.0	80.43	83.57
SelfReg	81.36	71.65	100.0	<b>82.17</b>	83.80
EQRM	83.9	67.38	100.0	79.57	82.71
DANN	49.15	57.75	60.00	55.65	55.64
HPS	85.59	74.33	100.0	80.00	84.98
Cross-Stitch	<b>86.44</b>	<b>78.07</b>	100.0	77.83	85.59
MMoE	83.05	74.33	100.0	79.57	84.24
DSelect-K	83.90	75.40	100.0	80.87	85.04
CGC	83.90	72.73	100.0	80.43	84.27
LTB	80.93	75.94	100.0	79.13	84.00
MoLA-Router	85.59	<b>79.14</b>	100.0	80.87	86.40
MoLA-Grad	<b>87.29</b>	74.87	100.0	<b>83.48</b>	<b>86.41</b>

### ➤ Parameter number:



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