

# Supplement of

## Bacteria in clouds biodegrade atmospheric formic and acetic acids

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**Table S1.** Irreversible processes in the aqueous phase. The kinetic data are the same as used in the model study by Khaled et al. (2021). The biodegradation rate constants are calculated based on the lab data by Vaitilingom et al. (2011).

Chemical reactions				
	Reactants	Products	k [M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ]	E <sub>a</sub> /R [K]
R1	SO <sub>2</sub> + O <sub>3</sub>	→ S(VI) + O <sub>2</sub>	2.4·10 <sup>4</sup>	
R2	HSO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> + O <sub>3</sub>	→ S(VI) + O <sub>2</sub>	3.7·10 <sup>5</sup>	5530
R3	SO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> + O <sub>3</sub>	→ S(VI) + O <sub>2</sub>	1.5·10 <sup>9</sup>	5280
R4	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + HSO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> + H <sup>+</sup>	→ S(VI) + H <sub>2</sub> O	7.2·10 <sup>7</sup> M <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>	4000
R5	HO <sub>2</sub> + HO <sub>2</sub>	→ H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + O <sub>2</sub>	8.3·10 <sup>5</sup>	2720
R6	O <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> + HO <sub>2</sub>	→ H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + O <sub>2</sub>	9.7·10 <sup>7</sup>	1060
R7	OH + CH <sub>2</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub>	→ HO <sub>2</sub> + HCOOH	1·10 <sup>9</sup>	1000
R8	OH + CH <sub>3</sub> OOH	→ CH <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O	2.4·10 <sup>7</sup>	1680
R9	OH + CH <sub>3</sub> OOH	→ HO <sub>2</sub> + HCOOH	61·10 <sup>6</sup>	1680
R10	O <sub>3</sub> + O <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> (+ H <sup>+</sup> )	→ OH + 2 O <sub>2</sub>	1.5·10 <sup>9</sup>	2200
R11	OH + CHOCHO	→ HO <sub>2</sub> + CHOCOHO	1.1·10 <sup>9</sup>	1516
R12	OH + CHOCOHO	→ HO <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> C <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	3.6·10 <sup>8</sup>	1000
R13	OH + CHOCOHO <sup>-</sup>	→ HO <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> C <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	2.9·10 <sup>9</sup>	4300
R14	OH + C <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	→ O <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> + 2 CO <sub>2</sub> + OH <sup>-</sup>	1.6·10 <sup>8</sup>	4300
R15	OH + HC <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	→ HO <sub>2</sub> + 2 CO <sub>2</sub> + OH <sup>-</sup>	1.9·10 <sup>8</sup>	2800
R16	OH + H <sub>2</sub> C <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	→ HO <sub>2</sub> + 2 CO <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O	1.4·10 <sup>6</sup>	
R17	OH + CH <sub>3</sub> C(O)COO <sup>-</sup>	→ HO <sub>2</sub> + CO <sub>2</sub> + CH <sub>3</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>	7.2·10 <sup>8</sup>	
R18	OH + CH <sub>3</sub> C(O)COOH	→ HO <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O + CH <sub>3</sub> COOH	1.2·10 <sup>8</sup>	
R19	OH + CH <sub>3</sub> CHO	→ HO <sub>2</sub> + CO <sub>2</sub> + CH <sub>3</sub> COOH	3.6·10 <sup>9</sup>	
R20	OH + CH <sub>3</sub> C(O)CHO	→ HO <sub>2</sub> + CHC(O)COOH	1.1·10 <sup>9</sup>	1516
R21	OH + HCOO <sup>-</sup>	→ HO <sub>2</sub> + CO <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O	3.2·10 <sup>9</sup>	1000
R22	OH + HCOOH	→ HO <sub>2</sub> + CO <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O	1.3·10 <sup>8</sup>	1000
R23	CH <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + CH <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	→ CH <sub>2</sub> O + CH <sub>3</sub> OH + HO <sub>2</sub>	1.7·10 <sup>8</sup>	2200
R24	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + OH	→ HO <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O	3·10 <sup>7</sup>	1680
R25	OH + WSOC	→ WSOC + HO <sub>2</sub>	3.8·10 <sup>8</sup>	
R26	OH + CH <sub>2</sub> OHCHO	→ CH <sub>2</sub> OHCOOH + HO <sub>2</sub>	1.2·10 <sup>9</sup>	
R27	OH + CH <sub>2</sub> OHCOOH	→ CHOCOHO + HO <sub>2</sub>	5.4·10 <sup>8</sup>	
R28	OH + CH <sub>2</sub> OHCOO <sup>-</sup>	→ CHOCOHO + HO <sub>2</sub>	1.2·10 <sup>9</sup>	
R29	OH + CH <sub>3</sub> COOH	→ 0.85 CHOCOHO + 0.15 HCHO + HO <sub>2</sub>	1.5·10 <sup>7</sup>	1330
R30	OH + CH <sub>3</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>	→ 0.85 CHOCOHO + 0.15 HCHO + HO <sub>2</sub>	1·10 <sup>8</sup>	1800
R31	CH <sub>3</sub> (O)O <sub>2</sub> + O <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup>	→ CH <sub>3</sub> COOH	1·10 <sup>9</sup>	
R32	CH <sub>3</sub> (O)O <sub>2</sub> + CH <sub>3</sub> (O)O <sub>2</sub>	→ 2 CH <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	1.5·10 <sup>8</sup>	
Biodegradation			k <sub>bact</sub> [L cell <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ]	
R33	HCOOH/HCOO <sup>-</sup> + Bacteria	→ Products	1.5·10 <sup>-13</sup>	
R34	CH <sub>3</sub> COOH/CH <sub>3</sub> COO <sup>-</sup> + Bacteria	→ Products	8.7·10 <sup>-14</sup>	

**Table S2.** Aqueous phase equilibria. The data are the same as used in the model study by Khaled et al. (2021).

				$K_a$ [M]
E1	H <sub>2</sub> O	$\rightleftharpoons$	OH <sup>-</sup> +H <sup>+</sup>	1.0·10 <sup>-14</sup>
E2	HO <sub>2</sub>	$\rightleftharpoons$	O <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> + H <sup>+</sup>	1.60·10 <sup>-5</sup>
E3	CHOCOOH	$\rightleftharpoons$	CHOCOO <sup>-</sup> + H <sup>+</sup>	6.60·10 <sup>-4</sup>
E4	HCOOH	$\rightleftharpoons$	HCOO <sup>-</sup> + H <sup>+</sup>	1.77·10 <sup>-4</sup>
E5	H <sub>2</sub> C <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	$\rightleftharpoons$	HC <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> + H <sup>+</sup>	6.40·10 <sup>-2</sup>
E6	HC <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	$\rightleftharpoons$	C <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> + H <sup>+</sup>	5.25·10 <sup>-5</sup>
E7	HNO <sub>3</sub>	$\rightleftharpoons$	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> + H <sup>+</sup>	22
E8	SO <sub>2</sub> ·H <sub>2</sub> O	$\rightleftharpoons$	HSO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> + H <sup>+</sup>	0.013
E9	HSO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	$\rightleftharpoons$	SO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> + H <sup>+</sup>	6.60·10 <sup>-8</sup>
E10	H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	$\rightleftharpoons$	HSO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> + H <sup>+</sup>	1000
E11	HSO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	$\rightleftharpoons$	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> + H <sup>+</sup>	0.102
E12	NH <sub>3</sub>	$\rightleftharpoons$	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> + OH <sup>-</sup>	1.76·10 <sup>-5</sup>

**Table S3.** Phase transfer parameters. The parameters are the same as used in the model study by Khaled et al. (2021). The Henry's law constant for acetic acid is the same as used by Brimblecombe and Clegg (1988), its  $\alpha$  and  $D_g$  values are estimated to be same as for similar compounds.

Species	$M_g$ [g mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	$\alpha$	$D_g$ [cm <sup>2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ]	$K_H$ [M atm <sup>-1</sup> ]
O <sub>3</sub>	48	0.05	0.148	1.14·10 <sup>-2</sup>
H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	34	0.1	0.118	1.02·10 <sup>5</sup>
OH	17	0.05	0.153	25
HO <sub>2</sub>	33	0.05	0.104	9·10 <sup>3</sup>
HCHO	30	0.02	0.164	4.99·10 <sup>3</sup>
CH <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	47	0.0038	0.135	310
CH <sub>3</sub> OOH	48	0.0038	0.135	310
HNO <sub>3</sub>	63	0.054	0.132	2.1·10 <sup>5</sup>
N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	108	0.0037	0.110	1.4
SO <sub>2</sub>	64	0.035	0.128	1.23
HCOOH	46	0.012	0.153	5530
(CHO) <sub>2</sub>	58	0.023	0.115	4.19·10 <sup>5</sup>
CH <sub>3</sub> COCHO	72	0.1	0.115	3.2·10 <sup>4</sup>
NH <sub>3</sub>	17	0.1	0.1	60.7
CH <sub>3</sub> COOH	60	0.1	0.1	5500

**Table S4.** Gas phase formation and loss processes of formic and acetic acids. The full gas phase mechanism is the same as used in Barth et al. (2021).

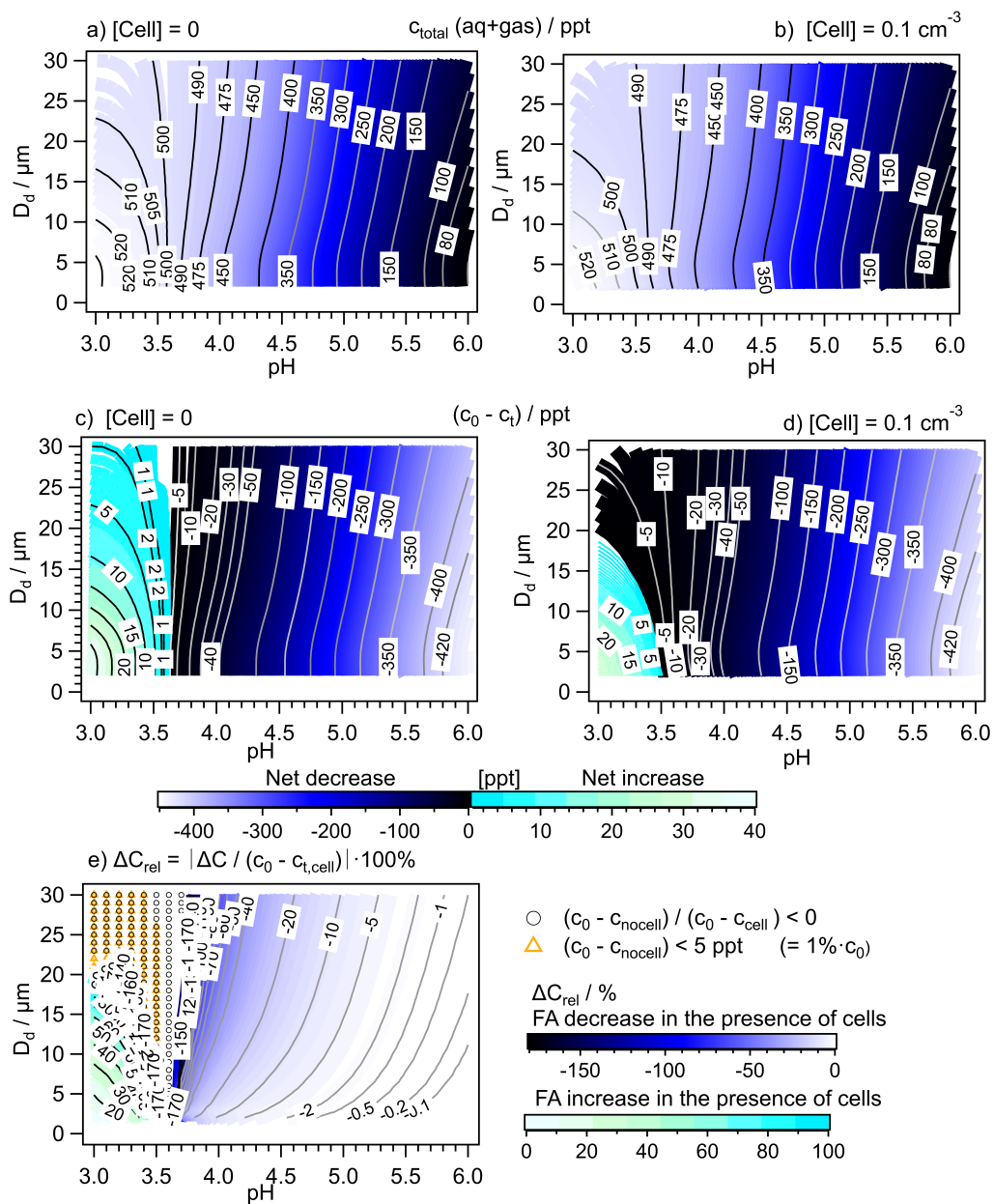
	Reactants		Products	k [cm <sup>3</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ]	E <sub>a</sub> /R [K]
Rg1	Isoprene + O <sub>3</sub>	→	0.2 CH <sub>3</sub> COOH + 0.1 OH + 0.27 HO <sub>2</sub> + 0.06 HO <sub>2</sub> + 0.6 HCHO + CH <sub>3</sub> COOH + 0.4 MACR + 0.3 MVK + 0.07 C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>6</sub> + 0.2 CH <sub>3</sub> (O)O <sub>2</sub>	9.6·10 <sup>-18</sup>	
Rg2	CH <sub>3</sub> (O)O <sub>2</sub> + HO <sub>2</sub>	→	0.1 O <sub>3</sub> + 0.7 CH <sub>3</sub> C(O)OOH + 0.3 CH <sub>3</sub> COOH	1.8·10 <sup>-11</sup>	360
Rg3	HCOOH + OH	→	CO <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O + HO <sub>2</sub>	1.5· 10 <sup>-12</sup>	
Rg4	CH <sub>3</sub> COOH + OH	→	0.7 OH + 0.7 CH <sub>3</sub> CHO + 0.3 C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	1·10 <sup>-11</sup>	200

**Table S5.** Initial mixing ratios of gas phase species [ppb] and concentrations of aqueous phase species [ $\mu\text{g m}_{air}^{-3}$ ]; all other species are not initialized

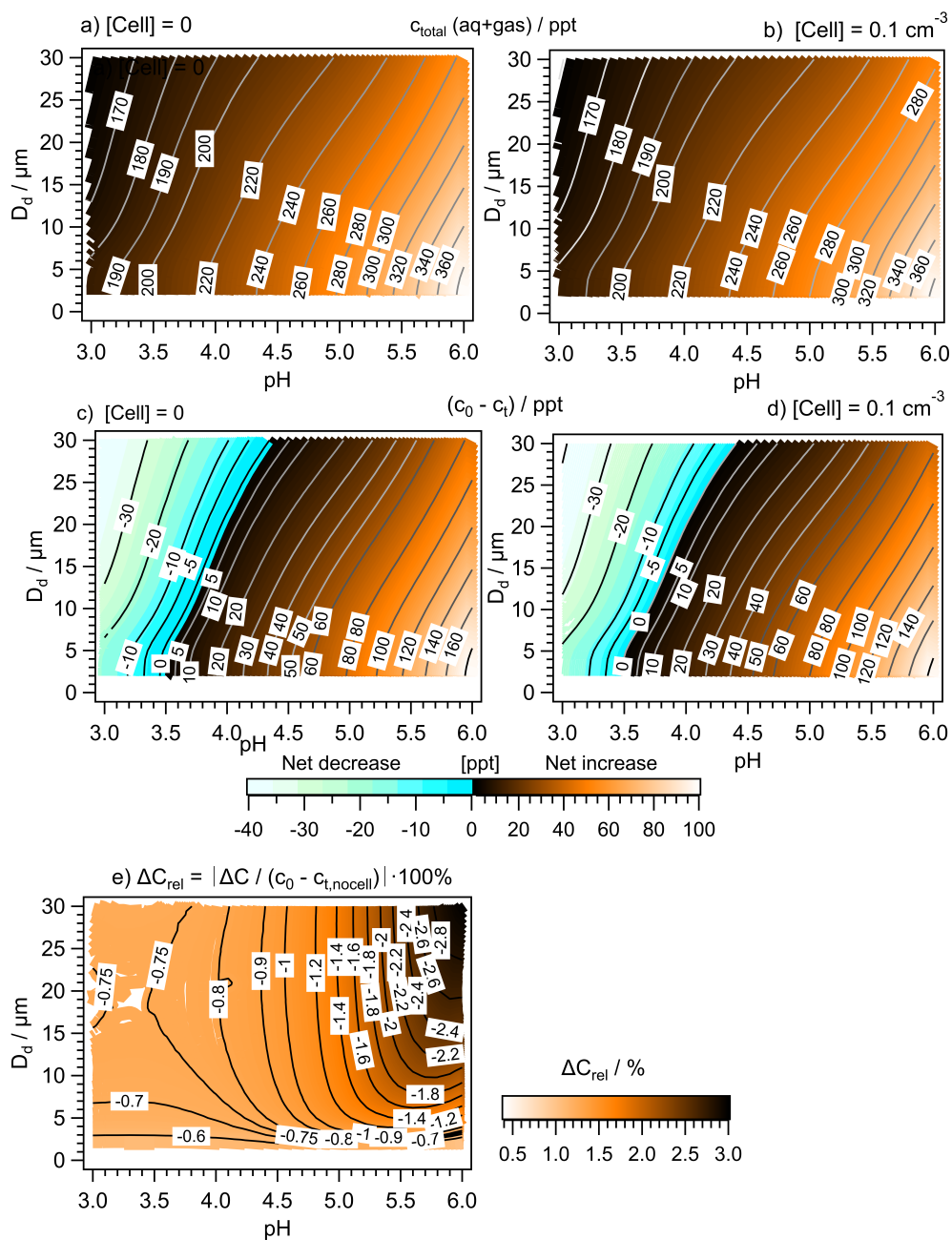
Gas phase species	Mixing ratio [ppb]
O <sub>3</sub>	60
H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	1
HCHO	0.1
HCOOH	0.5
CH <sub>3</sub> COOH	0.2
HNO <sub>3</sub>	1
SO <sub>2</sub>	2
NH <sub>3</sub>	1
NO	3
NO <sub>2</sub>	0.1
CO	150
Isoprene	1
Toluene	2
Ethylene	0.5
CH <sub>4</sub>	1850 (const.)
Aqueous phase species	Concentration
WSOC	20 $\mu\text{M}$
Bacteria cells	0.1 cm <sub>air</sub> <sup>-3</sup>

**Table S6.** Rates for all processes shown in Figure 6, at the end of 1-hour simulation time and for  $D_d = 20 \mu\text{m}$ . The upper part of the table lists the rates in units of  $10^{-16} \text{ mol g}_{\text{air}}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . These numbers allow the comparison of rates related scaled by the aqueous phase volumes. The bottom part of the table reports the same rates (only aqueous phase) in units of  $10^{-9} \text{ mol L}_{\text{aq}}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . These units allow comparing the two droplet classes. If the chemical composition were identical in both classes, the rates should be identical, too. Any deviation is caused by the biodegradation in drop class 2.

Acid	pH	$PT_1$	$S_{aq1}$	$L_{aq1}$	$PT_2$	$S_{aq2}$	$L_{aq2}$	$L_{Bact}$	$S_g$	$L_g$
Formic acid	3	-2.5	2.9	-0.45	0.87	0.003	$-4 \cdot 10^{-4}$	-0.87	0	-0.77
	4.6	3.7	5.3	14	2.0	0.006	-0.011	-2.0	0	-0.22
	5.6	1.2	11	27	0.49	0.013	-0.008	-0.5	0	-0.015
Acetic acid	3	-3.0	3.1	-0.004	0.15	0.003	$-3.5 \cdot 10^{-6}$	-0.15	0.38	-6.4
	4.6	-8.2	8.9	-0.05	0.31	0.009	$-5 \cdot 10^{-5}$	-0.32	0.85	-5.4
	5.6	-10	16	-0.74	0.98	0.02	$-7 \cdot 10^{-4}$	-1.0	1.1	-3.4
$10^{-9} \text{ mol L}_{\text{aq}}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$										
Formic acid	3	-0.61	0.72	-0.11	210	0.72	-0.11	-210		
	4.6	0.91	1.3	-3.5	500	1.4	-2.8	-500		
	5.6	0.3	2.8	-6.6	120	3.1	-2.0	-120		
Acetic acid	3	-0.74	0.76	$-8.7 \cdot 10^{-4}$	37	0.76	$-8.5 \cdot 10^{-4}$	-38		
	4.6	-2.0	2.2	-0.012	77	2.2	-0.012	-79		
	5.6	-2.5	4.0	-0.18	240	4.6	-0.17	-250		



**Figure S1.** Results from 900 1-hour simulations (30 pH values, 30 drop diameters, Total formic acid concentrations (gas + aqueous) and absolute concentration difference  $(c_0 - c_t)$  in the absence of bacteria (a, c) and in the presence of bacteria (b, d). e) Relative difference in concentration due to bacteria according to Equation 6. The threshold of  $c_0 - c_{t,\text{nocell}}$  in panel e) is chosen to avoid displaying very high values by dividing by an irrelevant small concentration difference



**Figure S2.** Results from 900 1-hour simulations (30 pH values, 30 drop diameters, Total acetic acid concentrations (gas + aqueous) and absolute concentration difference ( $(c_0 - c_t)$ ) in the absence of bacteria (a, c) and in the presence of bacteria (b, d). e) Relative difference in concentration due to bacteria according to Equation 6

## References

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