



Numerical Sequence of Borane Series

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.13005/ojc/300317>

(Received: July 01, 2014; Accepted: August 08, 2014)

ABSTRACT

A table of hydroborane families has been created. The table links boranes of different families (homologous series) and members of the same family based on k number. The table is useful deducing straight away whether a borane (molecular formula) is closo, nido or arachno or something else. The table also indicates that boranes are formed according to natural periodic function (arithmetic progression). The empirical formula utilized is extremely versatile, simple and based on the principle of Nobel gas configuration. It could be used in both simple and complex boranes and carboranes. The closo members which portray characteristic shapes also have characteristic k_1 numbers.

Key words: Numerical sequence, Borane series, closo members.

INTRODUCTION

As a result of the carbon (C) atom to catenate and also form strong bonds with a hydrogen atom, it is able to generate a vast range of families of hydrocarbons. Some of the common families may be given by the formulas

$F_1 = C_n H_{2n+2}$ (alkanes), $F_2 = C_n H_{2n}$ (alkenes), and $F_3 = C_n H_{2n-2}$ (alkynes).

For each of these families, the carbon atom obeys the octet (8) rule which has its base in a noble gas configuration of neon (Ne). On the other hand the boron atom (B) which is next to the carbon atom one valence electron less, mimics the

carbon atom to produce boron hydrides (boranes) in an attempt to obey the octet rule. For instance, diborane $B_2H_6 = (BH)_2H_4$ may be regarded as attempting to mimic C_2H_4 since (BH) fragment is electronically equivalent to (C) atom. Indeed, their shapes could be viewed as indicated in the sketch of Fig. 1. The two hydrogen atoms indicated by dots in the two bonds, can be considered to donate two electrons into the diborane molecule so as to enable the boron atoms to satisfy the octet rule. In reality, it should be noted that diborane has two banana bonds of bridging H atoms.

Borane series

Just like hydrocarbons, the known boron

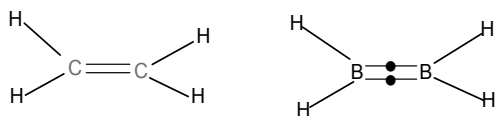


Fig. 1: The relationship between C_2H_6 and B_2H_6

hydrides have been grouped into families. These families are known as CLOSO, NIDO, ARACHNO and HYPO and the rare one KLADO. These families may be represented by the formulas given below.

$G_0 = B_nH_n$, $G_1 = B_nH_{n+2}$ (CLOSO), $G_2 = B_nH_{n+4}$ (NIDO), $G_3 = B_nH_{n+6}$ (ARACHNO), $G_4 = B_nH_{n+8}$ (HYPO), $G_5 = B_nH_{n+10}$ (P = KLADO), $G_6 = B_nH_{n+12}$ (Q), $G_7 = B_nH_{n+14}$ (R). These series (families) are given in Table 1. Each member of the family has been given a number (k_1 value). The k_1 values are calculated from the empirical formula $k_1 = \frac{1}{2}(E-V)$, where E = sum of octet electrons and V = sum of valence electrons in the cluster. This empirical formula has

been discussed in our previous publications¹⁻². What is interesting about the empirical formula is that it predicts a quadruple bond for C_2 diatomic molecule as found from high level theoretical calculation methods³⁻⁴.

Analysis of k_1 values

The k_1 numbers do vary from family to family and also within the members of the same boron family. A movement from one family member to the next family member (horizontally, similar to a period in the periodic table), the k_1 number varies by 1. On the other hand a movement from one member to the next member of the same family (similar to a group in the periodic table), the k_1 number varies by 2. Clearly these are simple arithmetical series. The following examples illustrate this point.

Across families: $B_6H_6(12)$, $B_6H_8(11)$, $B_6H_{10}(10)$, $B_6H_{12}(9)$, $B_6H_{14}(8)$; (simply add or subtract 2H atoms) and across members of the same family: $B_5H_7(9)$, $B_6H_8(11)$, $B_7H_9(13)$, $B_8H_{10}(15)$,

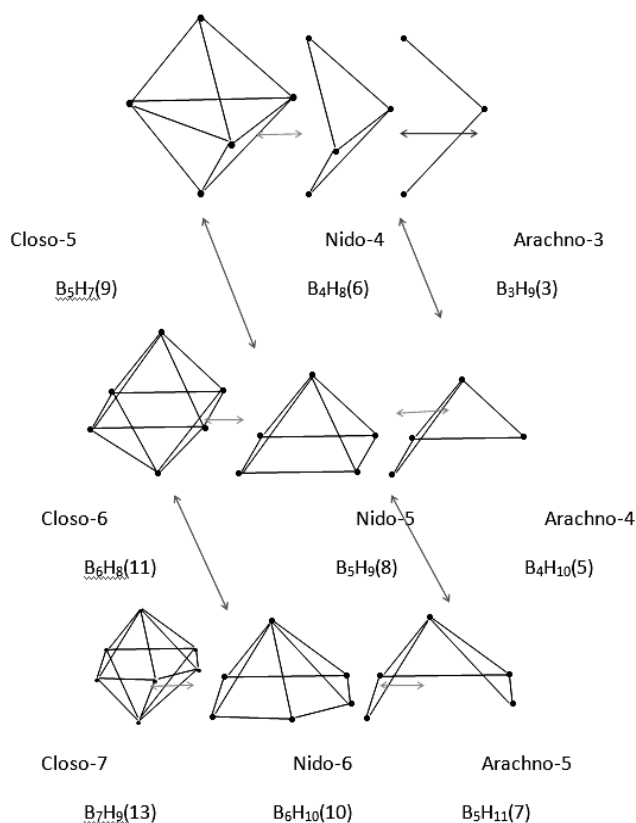


Fig. 2: Geometrical Relationship corresponding to the Diagonal Relationship of k Values of Boranes

Table 1: The k_1 Values and the Borane Series

A	CLOSO	NIDO	ARACHINO	HYPO	P (KLADO)	Q	R
1	$B_n H_{n+2}(k_1)$	$B_n H_{n+4}(k_1)$	$B_n H_{n+6}(k_1)$	$B_n H_{n+8}(k_1)$	$B_n H_{n+10}(k_1)$	$B_n H_{n+12}(k_1)$	$B_n H_{n+14}(k_1)$
2	$B_2 H_4(4)$	$B_2 H_6(2)$	$B_2 H_8(1)$	$B_2 H_{10}(0)$	$B_3 H_{13}(1)$	$B_3 H_{15}(0)$	$B_4 H_{18}(1)$
3	$B_3 H_5(6)$	$B_3 H_7(4)$	$B_3 H_9(3)$	$B_3 H_{11}(2)$	$B_4 H_{14}(3)$	$B_4 H_{16}(2)$	$B_5 H_{19}(3)$
4	$B_4 H_6(8)$	$B_4 H_8(6)$	$B_4 H_{10}(5)$	$B_4 H_{12}(4)$	$B_5 H_{15}(5)$	$B_5 H_{17}(4)$	$B_6 H_{20}(5)$
5	$B_5 H_7(10)$	$B_5 H_9(8)$	$B_5 H_{11}(7)$	$B_5 H_{13}(6)$	$B_6 H_{16}(7)$	$B_6 H_{18}(6)$	$B_7 H_{21}(7)$
6	$B_6 H_8(12)$	$B_6 H_{10}(10)$	$B_6 H_{12}(9)$	$B_6 H_{14}(8)$	$B_7 H_{17}(9)$	$B_7 H_{19}(8)$	$B_8 H_{22}(9)$
7	$B_7 H_9(14)$	$B_7 H_{11}(12)$	$B_7 H_{13}(11)$	$B_7 H_{15}(10)$	$B_8 H_{18}(11)$	$B_8 H_{20}(10)$	$B_9 H_{23}(11)$
8	$B_8 H_{10}(16)$	$B_8 H_{12}(14)$	$B_8 H_{14}(13)$	$B_8 H_{16}(12)$	$B_9 H_{19}(13)$	$B_9 H_{21}(12)$	$B_{10} H_{24}(13)$
9	$B_9 H_{11}(18)$	$B_9 H_{13}(16)$	$B_9 H_{15}(15)$	$B_9 H_{17}(14)$	$B_{10} H_{20}(15)$	$B_{10} H_{22}(14)$	$B_{11} H_{25}(15)$
10	$B_{10} H_{12}(20)$	$B_{10} H_{14}(18)$	$B_{10} H_{16}(17)$	$B_{10} H_{18}(16)$	$B_{11} H_{21}(17)$	$B_{11} H_{23}(16)$	$B_{12} H_{26}(17)$
11	$B_{11} H_{13}(22)$	$B_{11} H_{15}(20)$	$B_{11} H_{17}(19)$	$B_{11} H_{19}(18)$	$B_{12} H_{22}(19)$	$B_{12} H_{24}(18)$	$B_{13} H_{27}(19)$
12	$B_{12} H_{14}(24)$	$B_{12} H_{16}(22)$	$B_{12} H_{18}(21)$	$B_{12} H_{20}(20)$	$B_{13} H_{23}(21)$	$B_{13} H_{25}(20)$	$B_{14} H_{28}(21)$
13	$B_{13} H_{15}(26)$	$B_{13} H_{17}(24)$	$B_{13} H_{19}(23)$	$B_{13} H_{21}(22)$	$B_{14} H_{24}(23)$	$B_{14} H_{26}(22)$	$B_{15} H_{29}(23)$
14	$B_{14} H_{16}(28)$	$B_{14} H_{18}(26)$	$B_{14} H_{20}(25)$	$B_{14} H_{22}(24)$	$B_{15} H_{25}(25)$	$B_{15} H_{27}(24)$	$B_{16} H_{30}(25)$
15	$B_{15} H_{17}(30)$	$B_{15} H_{19}(28)$	$B_{15} H_{21}(27)$	$B_{15} H_{23}(26)$	$B_{16} H_{26}(27)$	$B_{16} H_{28}(26)$	$B_{17} H_{31}(27)$
16	$B_{16} H_{18}(32)$	$B_{16} H_{20}(30)$	$B_{16} H_{22}(29)$	$B_{16} H_{24}(28)$	$B_{17} H_{27}(29)$	$B_{17} H_{29}(28)$	$B_{18} H_{32}(29)$
17	$B_{17} H_{19}(34)$	$B_{17} H_{21}(32)$	$B_{17} H_{23}(31)$	$B_{17} H_{25}(30)$	$B_{18} H_{28}(31)$	$B_{18} H_{30}(30)$	$B_{19} H_{33}(31)$
18	$B_{18} H_{20}(36)$	$B_{18} H_{22}(34)$	$B_{18} H_{24}(33)$	$B_{18} H_{26}(32)$	$B_{19} H_{29}(33)$	$B_{19} H_{31}(32)$	$B_{20} H_{34}(33)$
19	$B_{19} H_{21}(38)$	$B_{19} H_{23}(36)$	$B_{19} H_{25}(35)$	$B_{19} H_{27}(34)$	$B_{20} H_{30}(35)$	$B_{20} H_{32}(34)$	$B_{21} H_{35}(35)$
20	$B_{20} H_{22}(40)$	$B_{20} H_{24}(38)$	$B_{20} H_{26}(37)$	$B_{20} H_{28}(36)$	$B_{21} H_{31}(37)$	$B_{21} H_{33}(36)$	$B_{22} H_{36}(37)$
21	$B_{21} H_{23}(42)$	$B_{21} H_{25}(40)$	$B_{21} H_{27}(39)$	$B_{21} H_{29}(38)$	$B_{22} H_{32}(39)$	$B_{22} H_{34}(38)$	$B_{23} H_{37}(39)$
22	$B_{22} H_{24}(44)$	$B_{22} H_{26}(42)$	$B_{22} H_{28}(41)$	$B_{22} H_{30}(40)$	$B_{23} H_{33}(41)$	$B_{23} H_{35}(40)$	$B_{24} H_{38}(41)$
24	$B_{23} H_{25}(46)$	$B_{23} H_{27}(44)$	$B_{23} H_{29}(43)$	$B_{23} H_{31}(42)$	$B_{24} H_{34}(43)$	$B_{24} H_{36}(42)$	$B_{25} H_{39}(43)$
24	$B_{24} H_{26}(48)$	$B_{24} H_{28}(46)$	$B_{24} H_{30}(45)$	$B_{24} H_{32}(44)$	$B_{25} H_{35}(45)$	$B_{25} H_{37}(44)$	$B_{26} H_{40}(45)$
25	$B_{25} H_{27}(50)$	$B_{25} H_{29}(48)$	$B_{25} H_{31}(47)$	$B_{25} H_{33}(46)$	$B_{26} H_{36}(47)$	$B_{26} H_{38}(46)$	$B_{27} H_{41}(47)$
26	$B_{26} H_{28}(52)$	$B_{26} H_{30}(50)$	$B_{26} H_{32}(49)$	$B_{26} H_{34}(48)$	$B_{27} H_{37}(49)$	$B_{27} H_{39}(48)$	$B_{28} H_{42}(49)$
27	$B_{27} H_{29}(54)$	$B_{27} H_{31}(52)$	$B_{27} H_{33}(51)$	$B_{27} H_{35}(50)$	$B_{28} H_{38}(51)$	$B_{28} H_{40}(50)$	$B_{29} H_{43}(51)$
28	$B_{28} H_{30}(56)$	$B_{28} H_{32}(54)$	$B_{28} H_{34}(53)$	$B_{28} H_{36}(52)$	$B_{29} H_{39}(53)$	$B_{29} H_{41}(52)$	$B_{30} H_{44}(53)$
29	$B_{29} H_{31}(58)$	$B_{29} H_{33}(56)$	$B_{29} H_{35}(55)$	$B_{29} H_{37}(54)$	$B_{30} H_{40}(55)$	$B_{30} H_{42}(54)$	
30	$B_{30} H_{32}(60)$	$B_{30} H_{34}(58)$	$B_{30} H_{36}(57)$	$B_{30} H_{38}(56)$			

Table 2: Diagonal Relationship of k Values of Boranes for n =2 to 12

Geometry of Closo	Formula of Closo	Possible Closo Neutral Formula	NIDO	Arachino
		n	$B_n H_{n+2} (k_1)$	$B_n H_{n+6} (k_1)$
		2	$B_2 H_4 (3)$	$B_2 H_8 (1)$
		3	$B_3 H_5 (5)$	$B_3 H_9 (3)$
Tetrahedral, T_d	$B_4 H_4^{2-}$	4	$B_4 H_6 (7)$	$B_4 H_{10} (5)$
Trigonalbipyramid, D_{3h}	$B_5 H_5^{2-}$	5	$B_5 H_7 (9)$	$B_5 H_{11} (7)$
Octahedral, O_h	$B_6 H_6^{2-}$	6	$B_6 H_8 (11)$	$B_6 H_{12} (9)$
Pentagonal bipyramid, D_{5h}	$B_7 H_7^{2-}$	7	$B_7 H_9 (13)$	$B_7 H_{13} (11)$
Dodecahedron, D_{2d}	$B_8 H_8^{2-}$	8	$B_8 H_{10} (15)$	$B_8 H_{14} (13)$
Tricapped Trigonal Prism, D_{3h}	$B_9 H_9^{2-}$	9	$B_9 H_{11} (17)$	$B_9 H_{15} (15)$
Bicapped Square Antiprism, D_{4d}	$B_{10} H_{10}^{2-}$	10	$B_{10} H_{12} (19)$	$B_{10} H_{16} (17)$
Octadecahedron, C_{2v}	$B_{11} H_{11}^{2-}$	11	$B_{11} H_{13} (21)$	$B_{11} H_{17} (19)$
Icosahedron, I_h	$B_{12} H_{12}^{2-}$	12	$B_{12} H_{14} (23)$	$B_{12} H_{18} (21)$

Table 3: Geometrical Relationship corresponding to the Diagonal Relationship of k Values of Boranes

n	CLOSO	NIDO	ARACHNO
	$B_n H_{n+2} (k_1)$	$B_{n+4} (k_1)$	$B_{n+6} (k_1)$
	n	n-1	n-2
3	$B_3 H_5 (5)$	$B_2 H_6 (2)$	
4	$B_4 H_6 (7)$	$B_3 H_7 (4)$	$B_2 H_8 (1)$
5	$B_5 H_7 (9)$	$B_4 H_8 (6)$	$B_3 H_9 (3)$
6	$B_6 H_8 (11)$	$B_5 H_9 (8)$	$B_4 H_{10} (5)$
7	$B_7 H_9 (13)$	$B_6 H_{10} (10)$	$B_5 H_{11} (7)$
8	$B_8 H_{10} (15)$	$B_7 H_{11} (12)$	$B_6 H_{12} (9)$
9	$B_9 H_{11} (17)$	$B_8 H_{12} (14)$	$B_7 H_{13} (11)$
10	$B_{10} H_{12} (19)$	$B_9 H_{13} (16)$	$B_8 H_{14} (13)$
11	$B_{11} H_{13} (21)$	$B_{10} H_{14} (18)$	$B_9 H_{15} (15)$
12	$B_{12} H_{14} (23)$	$B_{11} H_{15} (20)$	$B_{10} H_{16} (17)$

$B_9 H_{11} (17)$, $B_{10} H_{12} (19)$, $B_{11} H_{13} (21)$, $B_{12} H_{14} (23)$ (simply add or subtract BH fragment). A large number of hypothetical neutral boranes expected from the formulas have never been synthesized. For instance, the neutral members of the closo family, $B_5 H_7$, $B_6 H_8$, $B_7 H_9$, $B_8 H_{10}$, $B_9 H_{11}$, $B_{10} H_{12}$, $B_{11} H_{13}$, and $B_{12} H_{14}$ have not been observed instead $B_5 H_5^{\ddot{E}\#2-}$, $B_6 H_6^{\ddot{E}\#2-}$, $B_7 H_7^{\ddot{E}\#2-}$, $B_8 H_8^{\ddot{E}\#2-}$, $B_9 H_9^{\ddot{E}\#2-}$, $B_{10} H_{10}^{\ddot{E}\#2-}$, $B_{11} H_{11}^{\ddot{E}\#2-}$, and $B_{12} H_{12}^{\ddot{E}\#2-}$ are well known. In Table 1, it has been found easier to explain the series by assuming that all boranes are neutral. For instance to test to which family a hydroborane belongs, $B_2 H_7^{\ddot{E}\#-}$ is regarded as $B_2 H_8$ and $B_5 H_8^{\ddot{E}\#-}$ as $B_5 H_9$. A collection sample of boranes have been classified based on Table 1 and these are presented in Table 5.

Table 4: Geometrical Relationship in Fig. 1 expressed in k_1 values

	Starting Cluster	Closo	NIDO	Arachno
	-B + H			
+ B H	$B_4 H_6 (B_4 H_4^{2-})$	7	4	1
	$B_5 H_7 (B_5 H_5^{2-})$	9	6	3
	$B_6 H_8 (B_6 H_6^{2-})$	11	8	5
	$B_7 H_9 (B_7 H_7^{2-})$	13	10	7
	$B_8 H_{10} (B_8 H_8^{2-})$	15	12	9
	$B_9 H_{11} (B_9 H_9^{2-})$	17	14	11
	$B_{10} H_{12} (B_{10} H_{10}^{2-})$	19	16	13
	$B_{11} H_{13} (B_{11} H_{11}^{2-})$	21	18	15
	$B_{12} H_{14} (B_{12} H_{12}^{2-})$	23	20	17

Table 5: Selected Examples of Boranes for Classification Using Table 1

B_n	Examples	Proposed Classification
1		
2	B_2H_6, B_2H_8	NAR
3	B_3H_9	AR
4	$B_4H_8,$ B_4H_{10}	N AR
5	$B_5H_7, B_5H_9,$ B_5H_{11} B_5H_{13}	CN AR H
6	$B_6H_8,$ B_6H_{10}, B_6H_{12}	C NAR
7	B_7H_9, B_7H_{13}	C
8	$B_8H_{10},$ $B_8H_{12},$ $B_8H_{14},$ B_8H_{16} B_8H_{18}	C N AR H P
9	$B_9H_{11},$ $B_9H_{13},$ B_9H_{15}	C N AR
10	$B_{10}H_{12},$ $B_{10}H_{14},$ $B_{10}H_{16},$ $B_{10}H_{18}$	C N AR H

Diagonal relationship within the families

The diagonal relationship within borane families can readily be discerned from Table 1. The examples include $B_5H_7(9)!$ $B_4H_8(6)!$ $B_3H_9(3)$; and $B_6H_8(11)!$ $B_5H_9(8)!$ $B_4H_{10}(5)$. This diagonal relationship also presented horizontally in Table 3, is cited widely in form of shapes⁵ and is partially presented in Fig. 1. The k_i numbers vary by 3 units. The diagonal relationship within boron families when set up horizontally, another diagonal relationship is detected. The variations are given in Table 4. This relationship links up boranes with the same number of B atoms but different number of hydrogen atoms from different families. For instance, $B_5H_7(9)$ (CLOSO)! $B_5H_9(8)$ (NIDO)! $B_5H_{11}(7)$ (ARACHNO). The k_i values vary by 1 and therefore the shapes differ. It has also been found from theoretical studies by Yao and Hoffman⁶ that the boranes B_3H_9 , B_4H_{12} and B_6H_{18} have some stability with B_6H_{18} being the most stable. These boranes belong to the families, ARACHNO, HYPO, and P (see Table 1) respectively. Furthermore, theoretical calculations⁷ indicate that the boranes B_4H_2 , B_4H_{24} , B_4H_6 , B_4H_8 and B_4H_{10} (belong to the families B, C, N, AR in the Table 1) are more stable than B_4H , B_4H_3 , B_4H_5 , B_4H_7 , and B_4H_9 which do not belong to any of the families.

Table 1: Extended left wise

	G	F	E	D	C_0
n	B_nH_{n-10}	B_nH_{n-8}	B_nH_{n-6}	B_nH_{n-4}	B_nH_{n-2}
1	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	B_2
3	0	0	0	0	B_3H
4	0	0	0	B_4	B_4H_2
5	0	0	0	B_5H	B_5H_3
6	0	0	B_6	B_6H_2	B_6H_4
7	0	0	B_7H	B_7H_3	B_7H_5
8	0	B_8	B_8H_2	B_8H_4	B_8H_6
9	0	B_9H	B_9H_3	B_9H_5	B_9H_7
10	B_{10}	$B_{10}H_2$	$B_{10}H_4$	$B_{10}H_6$	$B_{10}H_8$
11	$B_{11}H$	$B_{11}H_3$	$B_{11}H_5$	$B_{11}H_7$	$B_{11}H_9$
12	$B_{12}H_2$	$B_{12}H_4$	$B_{12}H_6$	$B_{12}H_8$	$B_{12}H_{10}$
13	$B_{13}H_3$	$B_{13}H_5$	$B_{13}H_7$	$B_{13}H_9$	$B_{13}H_{11}$
14	$B_{14}H_4$	$B_{14}H_6$	$B_{14}H_8$	$B_{14}H_{10}$	$B_{14}H_{12}$
15	$B_{15}H_5$	$B_{15}H_7$	$B_{15}H_9$	$B_{15}H_{11}$	$B_{15}H_{13}$
16	$B_{16}H_6$	$B_{16}H_8$	$B_{16}H_{10}$	$B_{16}H_{12}$	$B_{16}H_{14}$
17	$B_{17}H_7$	$B_{17}H_9$	$B_{17}H_{11}$	$B_{17}H_{13}$	$B_{17}H_{15}$
18	$B_{18}H_8$	$B_{18}H_{10}$	$B_{18}H_{12}$	$B_{18}H_{14}$	$B_{18}H_{16}$
19	$B_{19}H_9$	$B_{19}H_{11}$	$B_{19}H_{13}$	$B_{19}H_{15}$	$B_{19}H_{17}$
20	$B_{20}H_{10}$	$B_{20}H_{12}$	$B_{20}H_{14}$	$B_{20}H_{16}$	$B_{20}H_{18}$

Table 1 has been extended on the left to cover the boron families headed by symbols C₀, D, E, and G. The whole Table 1 covers the series B_nH_{n-10} to B_nH_{n+14}.

CONCLUSION

Borane series tend to occur in families just like hydrocarbons. The driving force for cluster formation is probably due to boranes attempting to obey the octet rule. A given borane that obeys the octet rule may be classified to belong to a particle

family using the table. Both the known boranes and the theoretically established as being stable appear to fit into one of the families. Just as the elements of the periodic table follow a simple arithmetical progression, the boranes across the row horizontally (families- similar to the period in the periodic table) and vertically (within the family members- similar to a group within the periodic table) as well as diagonally (similar to the diagonal relationship of elements in the periodic table) follow simple arithmetical progression. The k_i values are useful in organizing the boron families and their members.

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