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Research Article

On the Tensor Products of Maximal Abelian *JW***-Algebras**

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It is well known in the work of Kadison and Ringrose (1983) that if *A* and *B* are maximal abelian von Neumann subalgebras of von Neumann algebras *M* and *N*, respectively, then $A \otimes B$ is a maximal abelian von Neumann subalgebra of $M \otimes N$. It is then natural to ask whether a similar result holds in the context of *JW*-algebras and the *JW*-tensor product. Guided to some extent by the close relationship between a *JW*-algebra M and its universal enveloping von Neumann algebra $W^*(M)$, we seek in this article to investigate the answer to this question.

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1. Introduction

A *JC*-algebra *A* is a norm (uniformly) closed Jordan subalgebra of the Jordan algebra $B(H)_{s.a}$ of all bounded self adjoint operators on a Hilbert space *H*. The Jordan product is given by $a \circ b = (ab + ba)/2$. A subspace *I* of a *JC*-algebra *A* is called a *Jordan ideal* if $a \circ b \in I$ for every $a \in A$ and every $b \in I$. A *JC*-algebra is said to be *simple* if it has no nontrivial norm closed Jordan ideals. A *JW*-algebra $M \subseteq B(H)_{s.a}$ is a weakly closed *JC*-algebra. If *M* is a *JC*-algebra (resp., *JW*-algebra), let $C^*(M)$ (resp., $W^*(M)$) be the universal enveloping C^* -algebra (resp., von Neumann algebra) of *M*, and let θ_M (resp., Φ_M) be the canonical involutive *-antiautomorphism of $C^*(M)$ (resp., $W^*(M)$). Usually we will regard *M* as a generating Jordan subalgebra of $C^*(M)$ and $W^*(M)$ so that θ_M and Φ_M fix each point of *M*. The real C^* -algebra $R^*(M) = \{x \in C^*(M) : \theta_M(x) = x^*\}$ satisfies

$$R^*(M) \cap iR^*(M) = 0, \qquad C^*(M) = R^*(M) \oplus iR^*(M),$$
(1.1)

and the real von Neumann algebra $RW^*(M) = \{x \in W^*(M) : \Phi_M(x) = x^*\}$ satisfies

$$RW^*(M) \cap iRW^*(M) = 0, \qquad W^*(M) = RW^*(M) \oplus iRW^*(M).$$
 (1.2)

The reader is referred to [1-5] for a detailed account of the theory of *JC*-algebras and *JW*-algebras. The relevant background on the theory of *C**-algebras and von Neumann algebras can be found in [6–8].

A projection *e* of a *JW*-algebra *M* is said to be *abelian* if *eMe* is associative, and it is called *minimal* if it is nonzero and contains no other nonzero projections of *M*, or equivalently, *e* is minimal if and only if $eMe = \mathbb{R}e$. *A JW*-factor is a *JW*-algebra with trivial centre; a Type *I JW*-factor is a *JW*-factor which contains a minimal projection. A *JW*-algebra is said to be of *Type I*_n if there is a family of abelian projections $(e_{\alpha})_{\alpha \in J}$ such that the central support $c_{M}(e_{\alpha})$ of e_{α} in *M* equals the unit 1_{M} of M, $\sum_{\alpha \in J} e_{\alpha} = 1_{M}$ and card J = n (see [1, Section 5.3]). A spin factor $V = H \oplus \mathbb{R}1_V$ is a real Jordan algebra with identity 1_V , where *H* is a real Hilbert space of dimension at least two. The Jordan product on *V* is defined by

$$(a + \lambda 1_V) \circ (b + \mu 1_V) = (\mu a + \lambda b) + (\langle a, b \rangle + \lambda \mu) 1_V, \quad a, b \in V, \, \lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{R},$$
(1.3)

and the norm on V is given by

$$\|a + \lambda \mathbf{1}_V\| = \langle a, a \rangle^{1/2} + |\lambda|.$$
(1.4)

A spin factor *V* is universally reversible when dimV = 3 or 4, nonreversible when dim $V \neq 3, 4$ or 6, and it can be either reversible or nonreversible when dimV = 6. A spin factor is a simple reflexive *JW*-algebra and constitutes the Type I_2 *JW*-factor (see [2, Section 6.1]).

A linear map $\varphi : A \rightarrow B$ between *JC*-algebras *A* and *B* is called *a* (*Jordan*) homomorphism if it preserves the Jordan product. A Jordan homomorphism which is one to one is called *a Jordan isomorphism*. A factor representation of a *JC*-algebra *A* is a (Jordan) homomorphism of *A* onto a weakly dense subalgebra of a *JW*-factor *M*. Type I factor representations are defined accordingly.

A *JC*-algebra *A* is said to be *reversible* if $a_1a_2 \cdots a_n + a_na_{n-1} \cdots a_1 \in A$ whenever $a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n \in A$ and is said to be *universally reversible* if $\pi(A)$ is reversible for every representation π of *A* [2, page 5]. The only universally reversible spin factors are $V_2 = M_2(\mathbb{R})_{s.a}$ and $V_3 = M_2(\mathbb{C})_{s.a}$ [2, Theorem 2.1]. A *JC*-algebra *A* is universally reversible if and only if it has no spin factor representations other than onto V_2 and V_3 [2, Theorems 2.2]. Every *JW*-algebra without a direct summand of Type I_2 is universally reversible [1, 5.1.5, 5.3.5, 6.2.3].

Two elements *a* and *b* of a *JC*-algebra *A* are said to *operator commute* if $T_aT_b = T_bT_a$, where $T_a : A \to A$ is the multiplication operator defined by $T_a(x) = a \circ x$, for all $x \in A$. A *JW*-algebra *M* is called *associative* if all its elements operators commute. A *JW*-subalgebra *A* of a *JW*-algebra *M* is called *maximal associative* if it is not contained in any larger associative *JW*-subalgebra of *M*. If *A* is a *JW*-subalgebra of a *JW*-algebra $M \subseteq B(H)_{s,a}$ and *A'* is the set of all elements of $B(H)_{s,a}$ which operator commutes with all elements of *A*, then *A* is a maximal associative *JW*-subalgebra of *M* if and only if $A = A' \cap M$. Indeed, since *A* is associative, $A \subseteq A' \cap M$ and *A* together with any element of $A' \cap M$ generates an associative *JW*-subalgebra of *M* which implies that $A' \cap M \subseteq A$ since *A* is maximal abelian. In particular, if $A \subseteq B(H)_{s,a}$ is an associative *JW*-algebra, then *A* is maximal associative if and only if A = A'.

This article aims to study the relationship between the maximality of an associative *JW*-subalgebra *B* of a *JW*-algebra *M* and that of $W^*(B)$ in $W^*(M)$. We give a counterexample which rules out the establishing of a result in the theory of *JW*-tensor products analog to that

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given in [6, Theorem 11.2.18] for von Neumann tensor products (cf. Example 2.2). Then we prove that a Jordan analog of Theorem 11.2.18 in [6] can be established in some particular cases.

Theorem 1.1 (see [9, Proposition 1]). Let $M \subseteq B(H)_{s.a}$ be a JW-algebra, and let $a, b \in M$. Then the following are equivalent:

- (i) ab = ba;
- (ii) $T_a T_b = T_b T_a$;
- (iii) $a^2 \circ b = aba$.

That is, a and b operators commute if and only if they commute under ordinary operator multiplication.

Definition 1.2. Let *M* and *N* be a pair of *JW*-algebras canonically embedded in their respective universal enveloping von Neumann algebras $W^*(M)$ and $W^*(N)$. Then the *JW*-tensor product $JW(M \otimes N)$ of *M* and *N* is the *JW*-algebra generated by $M \otimes N$ in $W^*(M) \otimes W^*(N)$. The reader is referred to [10] for the properties of the *JW*-tensor product of *JW*-algebras.

Theorem 1.3 (see [10, Theorem 2.9]). Let M and N be JW- algebras. If $JW(M \otimes N)$ is universally reversible, then

$$W^*(JW(M \otimes N)) = W^*(M) \otimes W^*(N).$$
(1.5)

2. Maximal Abelian JW-algebras

Let \mathfrak{A} and \mathfrak{B} be maximal abelian von Neumann subalgebras of von Neumann algebras \mathfrak{M} and \mathfrak{N} , respectively, then $\mathfrak{A} \otimes \mathfrak{B}$ is a maximal abelian von Neumann algebra of $\mathfrak{M} \otimes \mathfrak{N}$ (see [6, 11.2.18]). In Example 2.2, we show that the Jordan analog of this result, in the context of *JW*-algebras and the *JW*-tensor product, is not true in general. However, it is shown in Theorem 2.11 that the result does hold in special circumstances.

Remark 2.1. (i) Note that any *JW*-subalgebra of a spin factor which is not a spin factor is of dimension at most 2. Indeed, let A be a *JW*-subalgebra of a spin factor $V \subseteq B(H)_{s.a}$. If $1_A \neq 1_V$, then 1_A is the only projection in A, since every projection in V is minimal, and hence dim A = 1. If $1_A = 1_V$, then any family of orthogonal central projections of A contains at most two projections. Indeed if $e_1 + e_2 + e_3 = 1_A$, $e_i \in Z(A)$, i = 1, 2, 3, then $e_2 + e_3 \leq 1_A - e_1$. Since $1_A - e_1$ is a minimal projection, we see that one of e_i , i = 1, 2, 3 must be zero. It is clear that if A is a factor, then it is of Type I_2 , and hence it is a spin factor. (ii)Recall that $W^*(V) = M_2(\mathbb{C}) \oplus M_2(\mathbb{C})$, where V is the 4-dimensional spin factor $M_2(\mathbb{C})_{s.a}$ [1, 6.2.1]:

$$M_2(\mathbb{C}) = \operatorname{span}\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & i \\ -i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\} = \mathbb{C} \underset{\mathbb{R}}{\otimes} M_2(\mathbb{R}),$$
(2.1)

which is an 8-dimensional real C^* -algebra.

Example 2.2. Let *A* be a maximal abelian *JW*-subalgebra of $V = M_2(C)_{s.a}$. Then $JW(A \otimes A)$ is not a maximal abelian subalgebra of $JW(V \otimes V)$.

Proof. By the above remark, dim A = 2, and hence $A = \mathbb{R}e + \mathbb{R}f$ for some minimal projections e, f. Therefore,

$$JW(A \overline{\otimes} A) = A \underset{\mathbb{D}}{\otimes} A = \mathbb{R}(e \otimes e) \oplus \mathbb{R}(e \otimes f) \oplus \mathbb{R}(f \otimes e) \oplus \mathbb{R}(f \otimes f),$$
(2.2)

and hence dim $JW(A \otimes A) = 4$, since dim $A \otimes A = \dim A \cdot \dim A$ (see [11, Corollary 7.5]). On the other hand, $JW(V \otimes V)$ is universally reversible, by [10, Proposition 2.7] which implies that

$$JW(V \otimes V) = RW^* (JW(V \otimes V))_{s.a}$$

= $\left(RW^*(V) \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} RW^*(V)\right)_{s.a}$
= $\left(M_2(\mathbb{C}) \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} M_2(\mathbb{C})\right)_{s.a}$
= $M_{2^2}(\mathbb{C})_{s.a} \oplus M_{2^2}(\mathbb{C})_{s.a'}$ (2.3)

since $RW^*(M_2(\mathbb{C})_{s.a}) = M_2(\mathbb{C})$ [3, page 385]. It can be seen that a maximal abelian JW-subalgebra of $JW(V \otimes V)$ is of dimension 8, which implies that $JW(A \otimes A)$ is not maximal abelian in $JW(V \otimes V)$.

Remark 2.3. Note that if *B* is an associative *JW*-subalgebra of a *JW*-algebra *M* such that $W^*(B)$ is a maximal abelian subalgebra of $W^*(M)$, then *B* is a maximal associative *JW*-subalgebra of *M*, since $B = W^*(B) \cap M$.

Lemma 2.4. Let B be an associative JW-subalgebra of a JW-algebra M. Then,

$$W^*(B) = \overline{[B]} = B \oplus iB, \tag{2.4}$$

is an abelian von Neumann algebra, where $\overline{[B]}$ is the weak*-closure of the C*-subalgebra [B] of $W^*(M)$ generated by B.

Proof. Being associative, *B* has no representation into a spin factor of the form V_{4n+1} and is, therefore, universally reversible. It follows from [3, page 383] that

$$B = RW^*(B)_{s.a}.$$
 (2.5)

Therefore, by [3, Corollary 3.2], $RW^*(B)$ is isomorphic to the weak*-closure R(B) of the real C^* -subalgebra R(B) of $W^*(M)$ generated by B, and the result follows.

Recall that if M is a JW-algebra isomorphic to the self adjoint part $\mathcal{N}_{s.a}$ of a von Neumann algebra \mathcal{N} and has no one-dimensional representations, then $W^*(M)$ is *-isomorphic to $\mathcal{N} \oplus \mathcal{N}^\circ$, where \mathcal{N}° is the opposite algebra of \mathcal{N} [2, 7.4.15]. A real C^* -algebra \mathfrak{A}

can be realized as a complex *C**-algebra if there is a *C**-algebra isomorphism $\phi : \mathfrak{B} \to \mathfrak{A}$ of a complex *C**-algebra \mathfrak{B} onto \mathfrak{A} . In this case, the real linear isometry *j* on \mathfrak{A} defined, for each *a* in \mathfrak{B} , by

$$j\phi(a) = \phi(ia) \tag{2.6}$$

is such that j^2 and $-id_{\mathfrak{A}}$ coincide.

Lemma 2.5. Let *B* be a maximal associative JW-subalgebra of a JW-algebra M. Suppose that M is isomorphic to the self adjoint part $\mathcal{N}_{s.a}$ of a von Neumann algebra \mathcal{N} and has no one-dimensional representations. Then $W^*(B)$ is not a maximal abelian on Neumann subalgebra of $W^*(M)$.

Proof. Identifying *M* with $\mathcal{M}_{s.a}$, $\overline{[B]}$ is a von Neumann subalgebra of both \mathcal{M} and \mathcal{M}° , and hence, the von Neumann subalgebra $\overline{[B]} \oplus \overline{[B]}$ of $\mathcal{M} \oplus \mathcal{M}^{\circ} \cong W^*(M)$ is abelian and contains $W^*(B) = \overline{[B]} \cong \overline{[B]} \oplus \{0\}$, which implies that $W^*(B)$ is not maximal abelian in $W^*(M)$.

Lemma 2.6. Let B be a maximal associative JW-subalgebra of a JW-algebra M. If $RW^*(M)$ is *isomorphic to a complex C*-algebra, then $W^*(B)$ is not a maximal abelian von Neumann subalgebra of $W^*(M)$.

Proof. Since $C^*(M)$ is the complex C^* -algebra [M] generated by M in $W^*(M)$ [12, Theorem 2.7], $RW^*(M)$ is the weak*-closure of $R^*(M)$ in $W^*(M)$. Therefore, $R^*(M)$ is a complex C^* -algebra, which implies that $C^*(M) = \mathcal{I} \oplus \Phi_M(\mathcal{I})$ for some norm closed ideal \mathcal{I} of $C^*(M)$ isomorphic to $R^*(M)$ [13, Lemma 1], so that $W^*(M) = \mathcal{I} \oplus \Phi_M(\mathcal{I})$, where \mathcal{I} is the weak*-closure $\overline{\mathcal{I}}$ of \mathcal{I} in $W^*(M)$. Hence, \mathcal{I} is isomorphic to $RW^*(M)$. Let ϕ be the isomorphism of \mathcal{I} onto $RW^*(M)$, and let j be the corresponding real linear operator on $RW^*(M)$, defind above. Then, using Lemma 2.4, there exists an isomorphism π from the W*-algebra $B \oplus iB$ into $RW^*(M)$ such that, for elements b_1 and b_2 in B,

$$\pi(b_1 + ib_2) = b_1 + jb_2. \tag{2.7}$$

It follows that $\phi^{-1} \circ \pi$ and $\Phi_M \circ \phi^{-1} \circ \pi$ are *-isomorphisms of $\overline{[B]} = B \oplus iB$ into \mathcal{Q} and $\Phi_M(\mathcal{Q})$, respectively. Since a *-isomorphism between *C**-algebras is an isometry [7, Corollary 1.5.4], we may identify $\overline{[B]}$ with $\phi^{-1} \circ \pi(\overline{[B]})$ and $\Phi_M \circ \phi^{-1} \circ \pi(\overline{[B]})$. It follows that $\overline{[B]} \oplus \overline{[B]}$ is an abelian von Neumann subalgebra of $W^*(M)$, proving that $W^*(B) = \overline{[B]} \cong \overline{[B]} \oplus \{0\}$ is not maximal abelian in $W^*(M)$.

Proposition 2.7. Let M be a universally reversible JW-algebra not isomorphic to the self adjoint part of a von Neumann algebra and without direct summands of type I_1 . If B is a maximal associative subalgebra of M, then $W^*(B)$ is a maximal abelian von Neumann subalgebra of $W^*(M)$.

Proof. By Lemma 2.4, $W^*(B) = [B] = B \oplus iB \hookrightarrow W^*(M)$. If $W^*(B)$ is not maximal abelian in $W^*(M)$, there exists an element $z \in W^*(M) = RW^*(M) \oplus iRW^*(M)$, $z \notin W^*(B)$ such that z together with $W^*(B)$ generate an abelian von Neumann subalgebra $Y \supseteq W^*(B) \supseteq B$ of $W^*(M) \supseteq M$. Let z = x + iy, $x, y \in W^*(M)_{s.a}$. Since $z \notin W^*(B)$, then either x or y (or both) does not belong to $W^*(B)$. Suppose that $x \notin W^*(B)$, since $W^*(M) = RW^*(M) \oplus iRW^*(M)$, then x = a + ib, for some $a, b \in RW^*(M)$. Then either a or b (or both) does not belong to

 $W^*(B)$. Since $x \in W^*(M)_{s.a}$, we have $a = a^*$, and $b = -b^*$, and so $a \in M = RW^*(M)_{s.a}$, since M is a universally reversible [3, page 383]. Therefore, a must be the zero element, since it obviously commutes with all elements in B. On the other hand, $b^2 = -bb^* \in RW^*(M)_{s.a} = M$. Since bu = ub for all $u \in W^*(B)$, $b^2u = bub = ub^2$ for all $u \in B$, and so b^2 and u operators commute relative to the Jordan product in B [9, Proposition 1]. Hence $b^2 \in B \subseteq W^*(B)$, since B is a maximal associative subalgebra of M, which implies that $b \in W^*(B)$. Therefore, $x = ib \in W^*(B)$, a contradiction. This proves the result.

Lemma 2.8. Let M be a universally reversible JW-algebra not isomorphic to the self adjoint part of a von Neumann algebra. If B is a maximal associative subalgebra of M, then $W^*(B)$ is a maximal abelian von Neumann subalgebra of $W^*(M)$.

Proof. Splitting $M = M_{I_1} \oplus M_{n.a}$ as the direct sum of a *JW*-algebra M_{I_1} of type I_1 (the abelian part) and a *JW*-algebra $M_{n.a}$ without direct summands of type I_1 (the nonabelian part). It is clear that $B \supseteq M_{I_1}, B_{n.a} = B \cap M_{n.a}$ is a maximal associative subalgebra of $M_{n.a}$ and $B = M_{I_1} \oplus B_{n.a}$. By Proposition 2.7, $W^*(B_{n.a})$ is a maximal abelian von Neumann subalgebra of $W^*(M_{n.a})$, and hence $W^*(B) = W^*(M_{I_1}) \oplus W^*(B_{n.a})$ is a maximal abelian von Neumann subalgebra of $W^*(M)$, since $W^*(M) = W^*(M_{I_1}) \oplus W^*(M_{n.a})$ [12, Lemma 2.6].

Proposition 2.9. Let B_i be a maximal associative subalgebra of a JW-algebra M_i , i = 1, 2, and suppose that M_i is universally reversible JW-algebra not isomorphic to the self adjoint part of a von Neumann algebra and without direct summands of type I_1 . Then $JW(B_1 \otimes B_2)$ is a maximal associative JW-subalgebra of $JW(M_1 \otimes M_2)$.

Proof. Note first that $W^*(B_1) \otimes W^*(B_2)$ is a von Neumann *-subalgebra of $W^*(M_1) \otimes W^*(M_2)$ [8, Theorem 11.2.10], and $JW(B_1 \otimes B_2)$ is a *JW*-subalgebra of $JW(M_1 \otimes M_2)$, since $B_1 \otimes B_2 \subseteq M_1 \otimes M_2$. By Proposition 5.2, $W^*(B_i)$ is maximal abelian in $W^*(M_i)$, and hence, $W^*(B_1) \otimes W^*(B_2)$ is maximal abelian in $W^*(M_1) \otimes W^*(M_2)$ [8, Corollary 11.2.18] and [10, Theorem 2.9]. The result is now obvious, since $W^*(JW(B_1 \otimes B_2)) = W^*(B_1) \otimes W^*(B_2)$, and $W^*(JW(M_1 \otimes M_2)) = W^*(M_1) \otimes W^*(M_2)$ [10, Theorem 2.9].

Proposition 2.10. Let N be an associative JW-algebra, and let M be a universally reversible JWalgebra not isomorphic to the self adjoint part of a von Neumann algebra and without direct summands of type I_1 . If B is a maximal associative subalgebra of M, then $JW(N \otimes B)$ is a maximal associative JW-subalgebra of $JW(N \otimes M)$.

Proof. Let $M = M_{I_1} \oplus M_{n.a}$ be the decomposition of M into abelian part M_{I_1} and nonabelian part $M_{n.a}$. Then $B = M_{I_1} \oplus B_{n.a}$, where $B_{n.a} = B \cap M_{n.a}$ is obviously a maximal associative subalgebra of $M_{n.a}$. By [10, Remark 2.14],

$$JW(N \otimes M) = JW(N \otimes (M_{I_1} \oplus M_{n.a})) = JW(A \otimes M_{I_1}) \oplus JW(A \otimes M_{n.a}),$$

$$JW(N \otimes B) = JW(N \otimes (M_{I_1} \oplus B_{n.a})) = JW(N \otimes M_{I_1}) \oplus JW(N \otimes B_{n.a}).$$
(2.8)

It is clear now that $JW(N \otimes B)$ is a maximal associative *JW*-subalgebra of $JW(N \otimes M)$, since $JW(N \otimes M_{I_1})$ is obviously associative, and $JW(N \otimes B_{n.a})$ is maximal in $JW(N \otimes M_{n.a})$, by Proposition 2.9.

Theorem 2.11. Let M and N be universally reversible JW-algebras not isomorphic to the self adjoint parts of von Neumann algebras. If A and B are maximal associative subalgebra of M and N, respectively, then $JW(A \otimes B)$ is a maximal associative JW-subalgebra of $JW(M \otimes N)$.

Proof. Let $M = M_{I_1} \oplus M_{n.a}$, $N = N_{I_1} \oplus N_{n.a}$ be the decomposition of M, N into abelian parts (M_{I_1}, N_{I_1}) , and nonabelian parts $(M_{n.a}, N_{n.a})$. Then $A = M_{I_1} \oplus A_{n.a}$ and $B = N_{I_1} \oplus B_{n.a}$, where $A_{n.a} = A \cap M_{n.a}$ and $B_{n.a} = B \cap N_{n.a}$. Therefore,

$$JW(M \otimes N) = JW(M_{I_1} \otimes N_{I_1}) \oplus JW(M_{I_1} \otimes N_{n.a})$$

$$\oplus JW(M_{n.a} \otimes N_{I_1}) \oplus JW(M_{n.a} \otimes N_{n.a}),$$

$$JW(A \otimes B) = JW(M_{I_1} \otimes N_{I_1}) \oplus JW(M_{I_1} \otimes B_{n.a})$$

$$\oplus JW(A_{n.a} \otimes N_{I_1}) \oplus JW(A_{n.a} \otimes B_{n.a}),$$

(2.9)

by [13, Remark 2.14]. The proof is complete, by Propositions 2.9 and 2.10.

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