

Can You Afford to Research? The Financial Strain of Ph.D. students in Spain

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Introduction

Methods

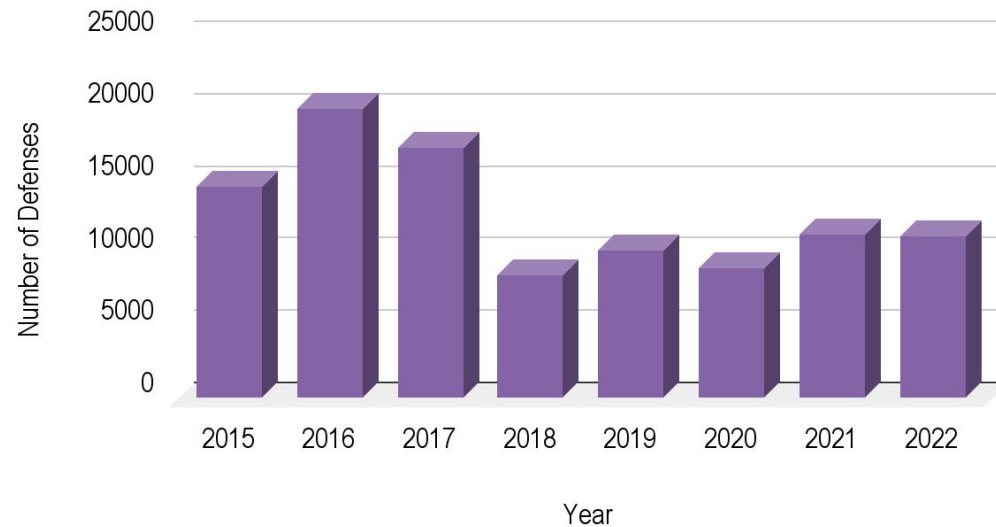
Results

Discussions



Clear decrease in the total number of PhD Defenses

PhD Defenses in Spain



Choosing careers
outside academia

High dropout rate (60%
in 2011)

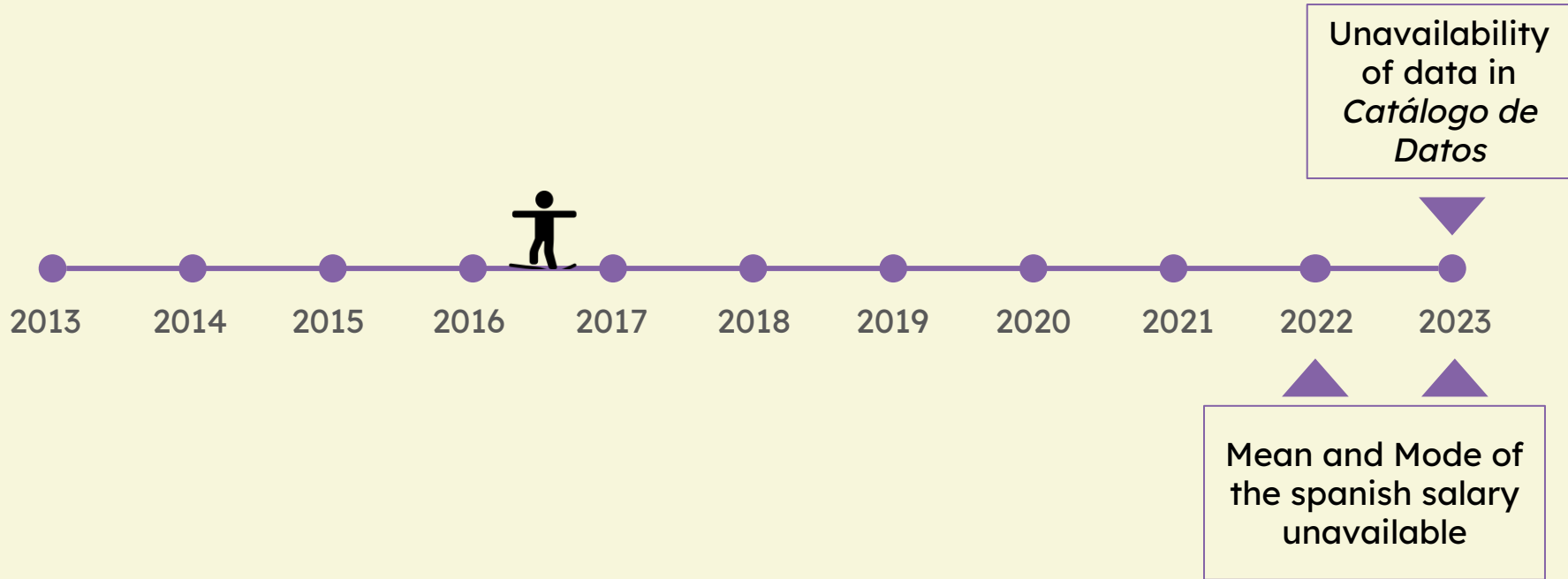
**Can you afford to do a Ph.D.
in Spain?**

Hypothesis:

Public Ph.D. salaries in Spain are not enough to cover living expenses.

Public salaries are lower than those in industry, pushing people out of academia.

Analyzed Period





FPU

Intended to train university faculty

Appointed by the Ministry to a student + supervisor

Evaluation of academic grades and merits



PIF

(old FPI)

Intended to train researchers

Appointed by the principal investigator (PI)

Ad-hoc evaluation by PI

IPC

Índice del Precio al Consumo (IPC)

Measures the variation of consumer prices

Extracted from INE

Data available until 2022

Mean and Mode Salary

Mean salary and general mode in Spain

Mean salary with high education in Spain

Extracted from INE

Data available until 2021

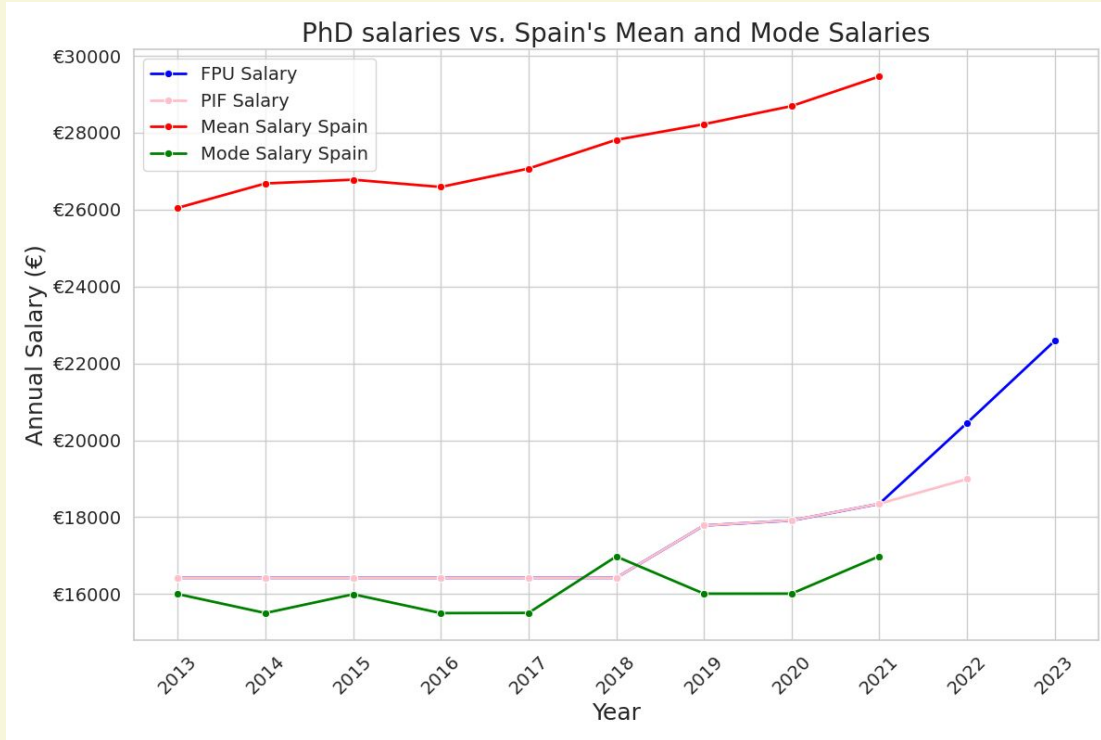
Rent

m2 price in Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia

Minimum m2 for *certificate of habitability* by city

Extracted from Idealista

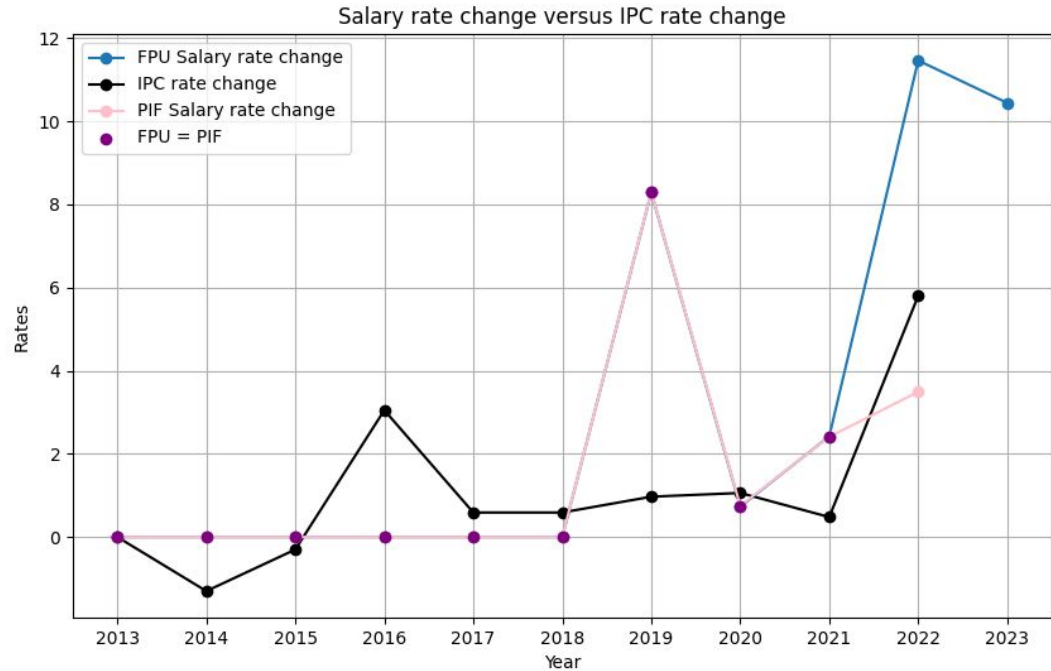
Data available until 2022

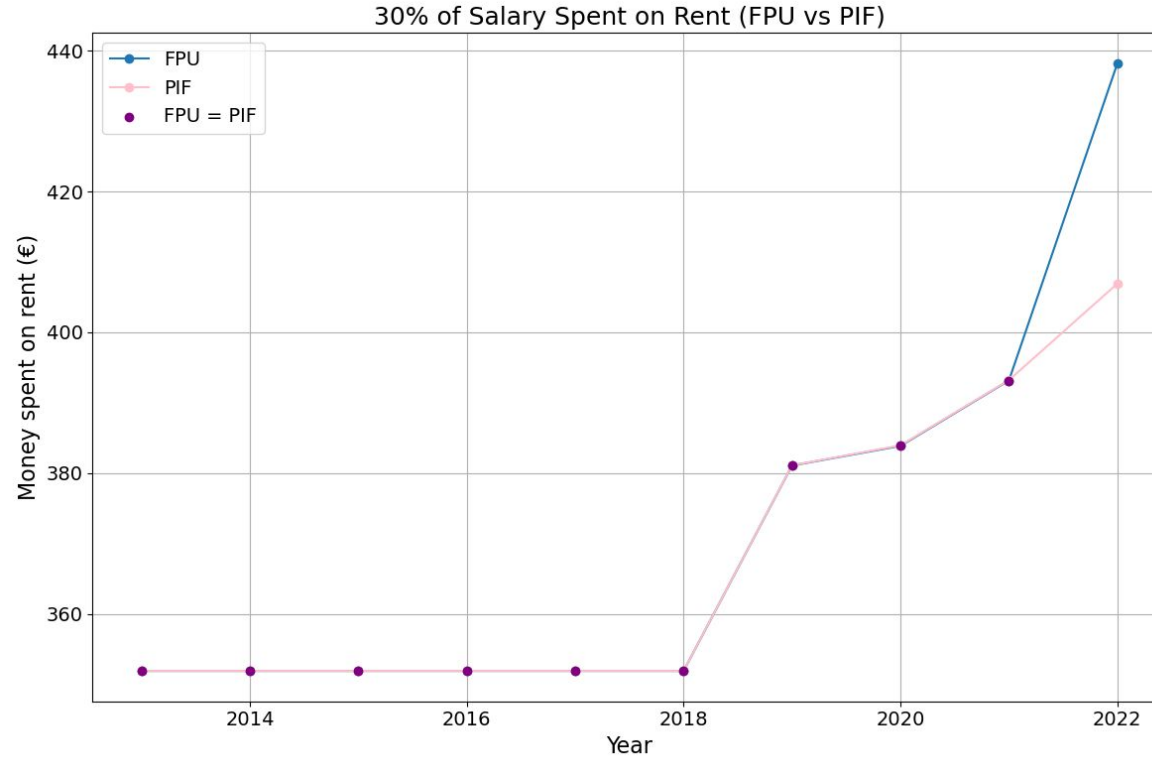


**FPU and PIF
salaries compared
to general salaries**

Spanish mean salary
with high education in
2022:
33,722.61€

FPU and PIF salaries compared to IPC



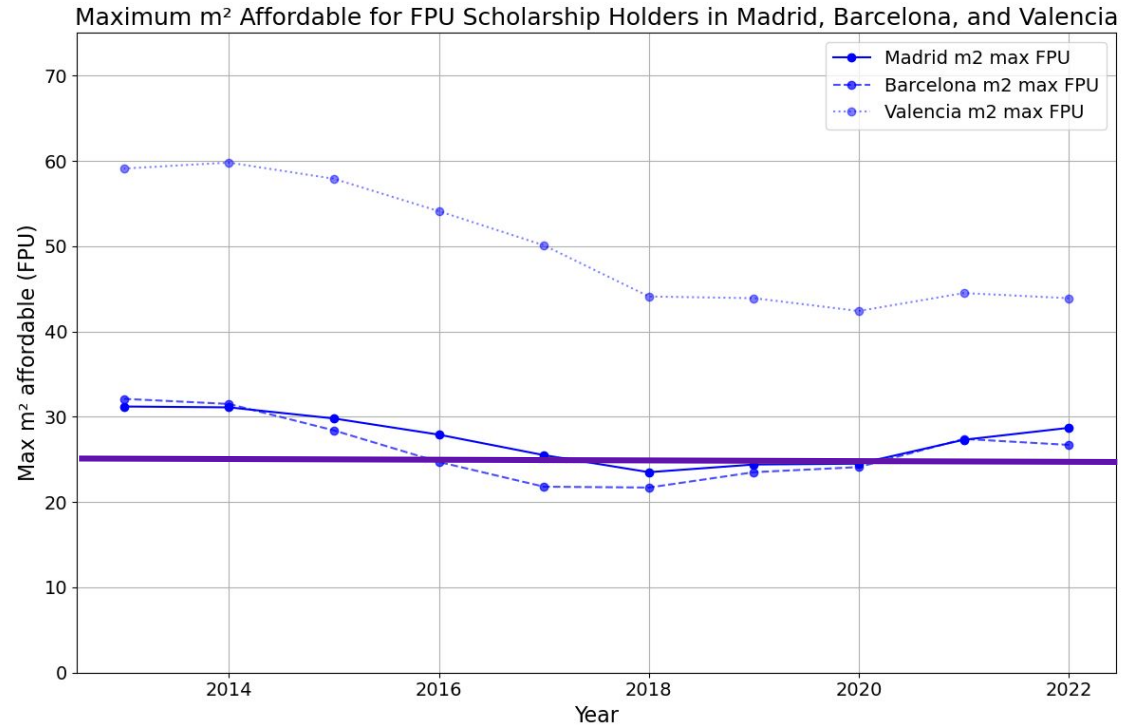


How much is a 30% of your salary?

According to
economists and
insurance companies,
only the **30% of your
salary** can be spent on
rent.

How many meters can you afford to pay?

Certificate of habitability in **Madrid** (25m²)



How many meters can you afford to pay?

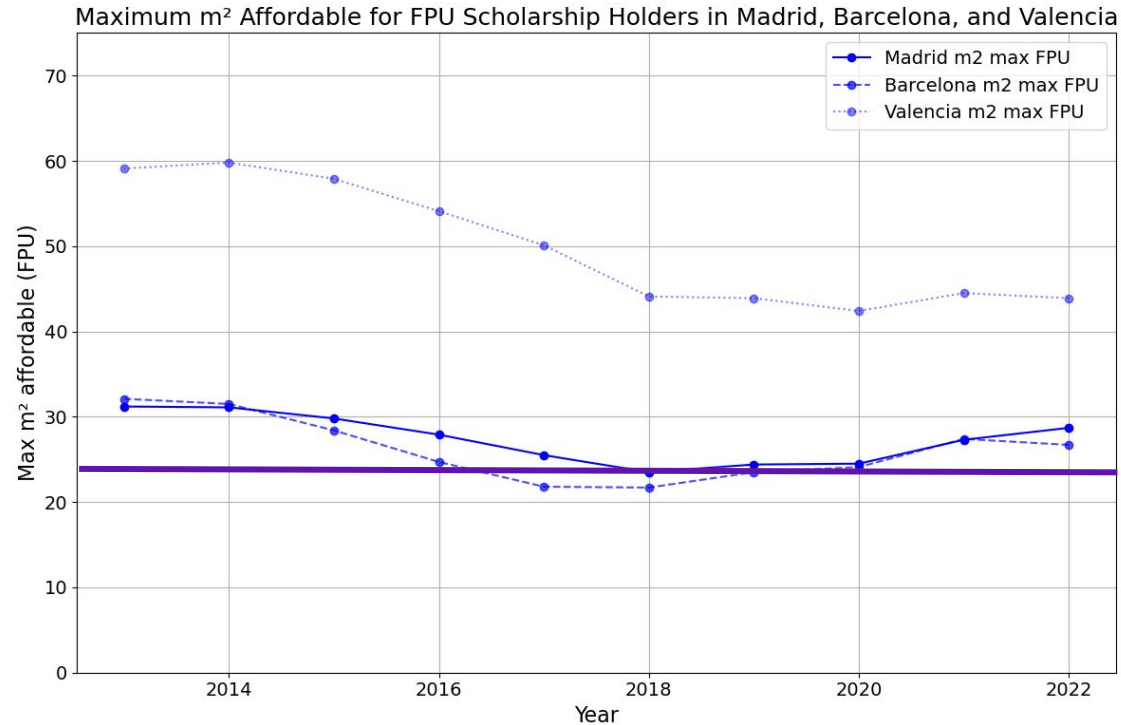
Certificate of habitability in **Barcelona** (36m²)



idealista

How many meters can you afford to pay?

Certificate of habitability in **Valencia** (24m2)



Salaries

Average salary with **higher education** in **2022**: 33,722.61€

PIF and FPU salaries **lower** than the **average** from **2013 to 2022**

PIF and FPU salaries **slightly higher** than the **mode** from **2013 to 2022**

Salaries so far below the average can push individuals to abandon academia

Limitation:
Mode/median salary of recent graduates is not available

IPC

From **2013 to 2018**, the salary was **below** the IPC

From **2018 to 2023**, the salary has been **above** the IPC

The IPC does **not reflect housing prices**

From 2013 to 2018, the government was led by the **Partido Popular**

From 2018 to 2023, the government was led by the **Partido Socialista Obrero Español** and **Podemos**

Limitation:
The IPC does not reflect the **major cost of living**, which is rent*

Renting in Madrid

In Madrid, no year could afford **more than 35m²**, and it has fallen below 30m²

In 2018, rent was **below** the **habitation certificate**

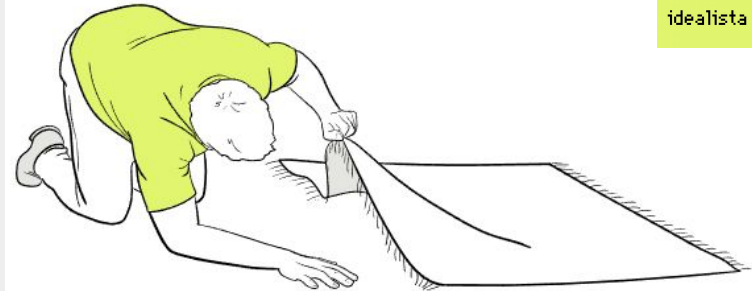
Accessed: 07/12/2024

Hemos mirado por todas partes, pero no hemos encontrado lo que buscas.

Alquilar; Viviendas; Madrid; hasta 500 euros

Puedes probar:

- [Recibir un aviso en caso de que aparezcan casas o pisos con estas características](#)
- O prueba a ampliar tu búsqueda modificando algún filtro



Renting in Barcelona

In Barcelona, no year could afford **more than 35m²**, and it has fallen below 30m²

Rent has been **below** the **habitation certificate** in all analyzed years

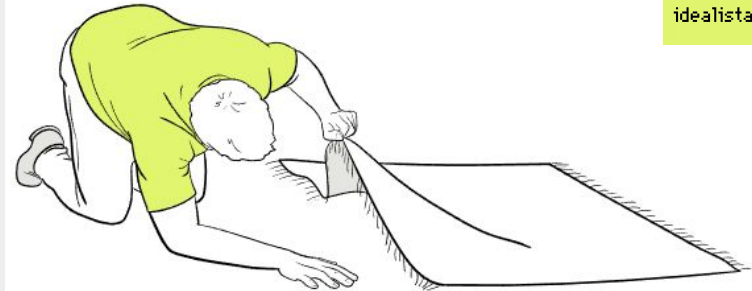
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Renting in Valencia

In Valencia, **all analyzed periods** are **above** the **habitation certificate**

In **2014** a PhD student could rent a flat of **even 60m²**

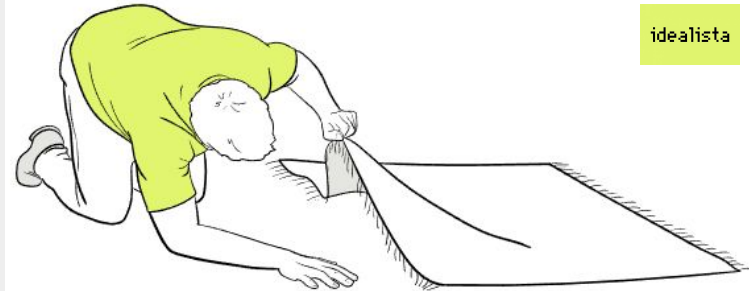
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Rent

According to most home insurance policies, **only 30% of the salary** can be **allocated** to **rent**

If the rent is more than the 30% of your salary, **insurance companies** will **not rent** the flat

There are no apartments for the supposed 30% that should be dedicated to rent

Many apartments advertised for one person do not comply with the current law

Rent costs also include security deposits and guarantees, which are sometimes not even legal

Rent

Impossibility of renting a home **alone**

Impossibility of **saving** to buy a home alone

Forced to share

Forced to **spend much more than 30%** on rent



MARÍA GÓMEZ

So...?

H1: Public Ph.D. salaries in Spain are not enough to cover living expenses

H2: Public salaries **may** be pushing individuals to seek work outside academia

Disclaimer:

While the issues with salaries, rents, and the IPC affect more sectors, the focus on public salaries in academia highlights an area where action is possible through policy changes

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