

MEASURING FAITH

QUANTIFYING FAITH IN RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

A Presentation for the
2022 Midwest Christian
Psychology Conference

Bill DuVall, ThM, PhD
Associate Professor of Psychology
Southwest Baptist University

DEVELOPING RESEARCH

- SOME INITIAL RESEARCH
- A FELT DIFFICULTY
- A HYPOTHESIS FORMS



TWO MAIN CONCERNS

1. ARE WE LOOKING AT FAITH THE RIGHT WAY?
2. IS THERE A BETTER WAY TO MEASURE FAITH?



Faith is an orientation of the total person, giving purpose and goal to one's hopes and strivings, thoughts and actions.

— *James W. Fowler* —

PROMINENT FAITH DEVELOPMENT THEORIES

James Fowler		M. Scott Peck	
Stage	Description	Stage	Description
1. Intuitive-Projective	This is the stage of preschool children in which fantasy and reality often get mixed together. However, during this stage, our most basic ideas about God are usually picked up from our parents and/or society.	I. Chaotic-Antisocial	People stuck at this stage are usually self-centered and often find themselves in trouble due to their unprincipled living. If they do end up converting to the next stage, it often occurs in a very dramatic way.
2. Mythic-Literal	When children become school-age, they start understanding the world in more logical ways. They generally accept the stories told them by their faith community but tend to understand them in very literal ways. [A few people remain in this stage through adulthood.]		

PROMINENT FAITH DEVELOPMENT THEORIES

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Stage	Description	Stage	Description
3. Synthetic-Conventional	Most people move on to this stage as teenagers. At this point, their life has grown to include several different social circles and there is a need to pull it all together. When this happens, a person usually adopts some sort of all-encompassing belief system. However, at this stage, people tend to have a hard time seeing outside their box and don't recognize that they are "inside" a belief system. At this stage, authority is usually placed in individuals or groups that represent one's beliefs. [This is the stage in which many people remain.]	II. Formal-Institutional	At this stage people rely on some sort of institution (such as a church) to give them stability. They become attached to the forms of their religion and get extremely upset when these are called into question.

PROMINENT FAITH DEVELOPMENT THEORIES

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Stage	Description	Stage	Description
4. Individuative-Reflective	This is the tough stage, often begun in young adulthood, when people start seeing outside the box and realizing that there are other "boxes". They begin to critically examine their beliefs on their own and often become disillusioned with their former faith. Ironically, the Stage 3 people usually think that Stage 4 people have become "backsliders" when in reality they have actually moved forward.	III. Skeptic-Individual	Those who break out of the previous stage usually do so when they start seriously questioning things on their own. A lot of the time, this stage ends up being very non-religious and some people stay in it permanently

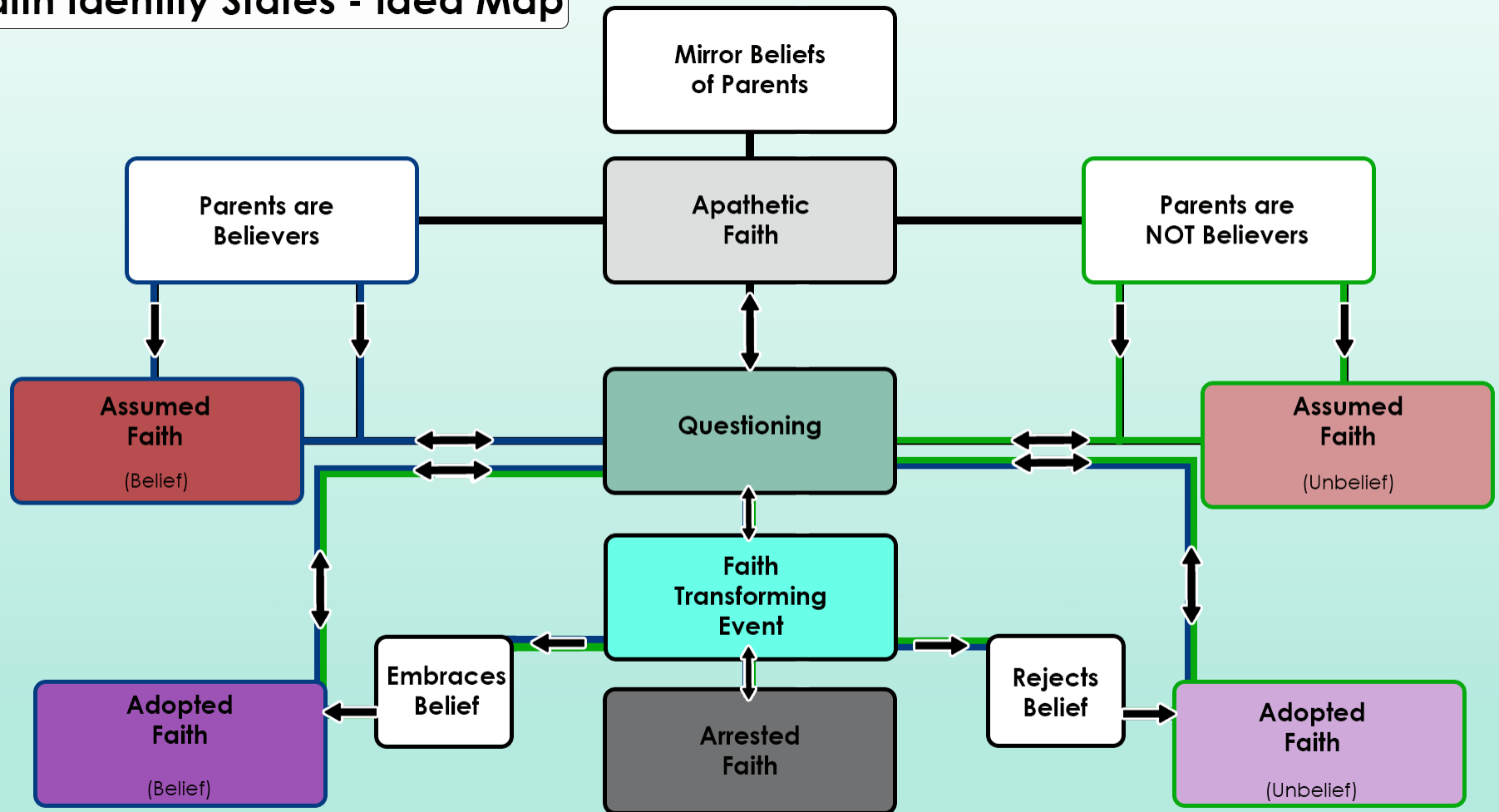
PROMINENT FAITH DEVELOPMENT THEORIES

James Fowler		M. Scott Peck	
Stage	Description	Stage	Description
5. Conjunctive Faith	It is rare for people to reach this stage before mid-life. This is the point when people begin to realize the limits of logic and start to accept the paradoxes in life. They begin to see life as a mystery and often return to sacred stories and symbols but this time without being stuck in a theological box.	IV. Mystical-Communal	People who reach this stage start to realize that there is truth to be found in both the previous two stages and that life can be paradoxical and full of mystery. Emphasis is placed more on community than on individual concerns.
6. Universalizing Faith	Few people reach this stage. Those who do live their lives to the full in service of others without any real worries or doubts.		

ISSUES

- AGE-GRADED DEVELOPMENT
- ONLY ONE CRISIS PER CUSTOMER?
- FAITH OR WISDOM DEVELOPMENT?

Faith Identity States - Idea Map



FAITH IDENTITY THEORY

APATHETIC FAITH

- INDICATES MINIMAL EXPLORATION OF FAITH BELIEFS AND MINIMAL COMMITMENT TO A PARTICULAR SET OF BELIEFS. MATTERS OF FAITH MAY NOT BE VIEWED AS WORTHY OF DEEPER CONSIDERATION.

FAITH IDENTITY THEORY

ASSUMED FAITH

- INDICATES A DEEPER LEVEL OF COMMITMENT TO UNEXPLORED FAITH. FOR THIS INDIVIDUAL, FAITH MAY LARGELY BE UNTESTED AND THUS COMMITMENT IS WITHOUT DEEP FOUNDATION.

FAITH IDENTITY THEORY

ARRESTED FAITH

- INDICATES CURRENT EXPLORATION WITHOUT COMMITMENT. THIS INDIVIDUAL IS LIKELY SEEKING WHAT THEY BELIEVE. WHILE THEY HAVE STEPPED AWAY FROM THE BELIEFS THEY HELD DURING THEIR UPBRINGING, THEY MAY RETURN TO THEM IN THE FUTURE.

FAITH IDENTITY THEORY

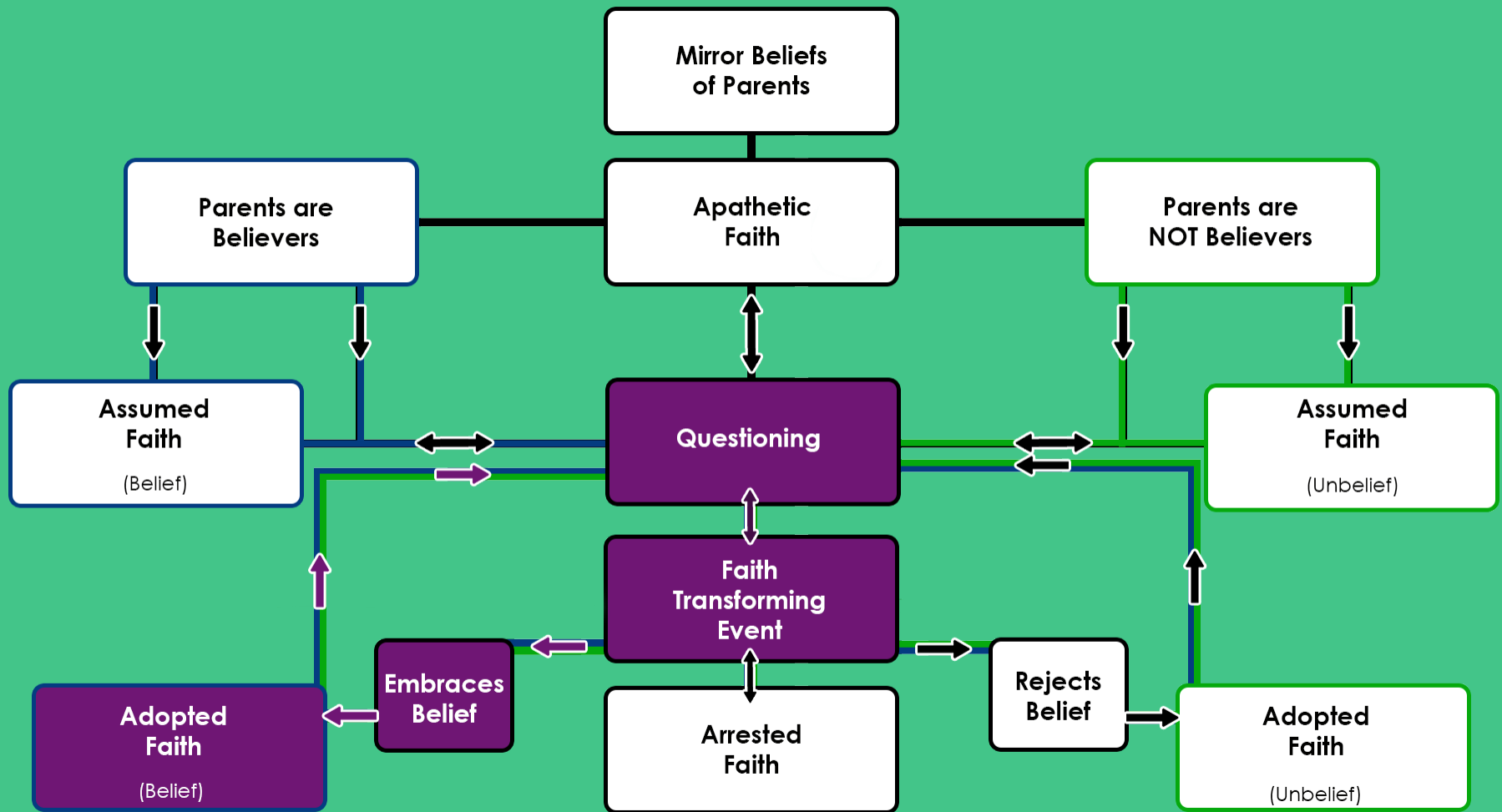
ADOPTED FAITH

- INDICATES A DEEPER COMMITMENT TO FAITH AS A RESULT OF HAVING GONE THROUGH A TIME OF QUESTIONING. THUS, THIS IS A LEVEL OF COMMITMENT INFORMED BY EXPERIENCE.

FAITH IDENTITY THEORY

FAITH TRANSFORMING EVENTS

- FAITH CHANGING EVENTS THAT CAN OCCUR AT ANY POINT IN LIFE AND EITHER REAFFIRM OR CHALLENGE AN INDIVIDUAL'S BELIEF
- SOMETIMES THESE ARE INDIVIDUAL EVENTS, BUT IN OTHER INSTANCES THEY EVOLVE FROM A SERIES OF FAITH INFORMING MOMENTS



Perseverance – Running the race through the obstacle course of life.

TWO MAIN CONCERNS

1. ARE WE LOOKING AT FAITH THE RIGHT WAY?
2. IS THERE A BETTER WAY TO MEASURE FAITH?

ISSUES WITH MEASURING FAITH

CEILING EFFECTS AMONG EVANGELICALS

- SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING SCALE
- FAITH MATURITY SCALE

FAITH IDENTITY TEST

- DEVELOPED ~80 QUESTIONS DEALING WITH COMMITMENT, EXPLORATION, AND FAITH TRANSFORMING EVENTS
- DIVIDED QUESTIONS INTO GROUPS BASED ON TYPE OF COMMITMENT VS. EXPLORATION (EMOTIONAL, SPIRITUAL, COGNITIVE, VOLITIONAL)
- NARROWED DOWN TO 16 QUESTIONS FOR INITIAL STUDY
- AS RESULT OF STUDY, DROPPED TO 10 QUESTIONS

FAITH IDENTITY TEST

- FOR INITIAL TEST
 - N = 165 PARTICIPANTS (M=57; F=108)
 - 150 FRESHMEN, 12 SOPHOMORES, 3 JUNIORS
 - COMPLETION TIME: < 5 MINUTES

RELIGION					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Mainline	13	7.9	7.9	7.9
	Evangelical	116	70.3	70.3	78.2
	Catholic	8	4.8	4.8	83.0
	None	4	2.4	2.4	85.5
	Other	24	14.5	14.5	100.0
	Total	165	100.0	100.0	

FAITH IDENTITY TEST

FACTOR ANALYSIS IN SPSS
REVEALED 2 CLEAR FACTORS
AFTER VARIMAX ROTATION

(FACTORS CLEARLY DIVIDED BY
QUESTION TYPE)

KMO AND BARTLETT'S VALUES INDICATE
SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO CONDUCT A FACTOR
ANALYSIS AND THAT DATA ARE NORMALLY
DISTRIBUTED.

Rotated Component Matrix^a

	Component	
	1	2
E14	.866	
E12	.847	
E16	.812	
E5	.745	
E7	.645	
C13		.853
C9		.852
C11		.783
C4		.727
C6		.703

KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.783
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	782.010
	df	45
	Sig.	<.001

FAITH IDENTITY TEST

NOT ONLY IS THE TEST AS A WHOLE INDICATED AS RELIABLE DUE TO HIGH INTERNAL CONSISTENCY, EACH SUBSCALE SCORED HIGH ON CRONBACH'S ALPHA AS WELL.

Full Instrument

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.665	.659	10

Commitment

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.848	.849	5

Exploration

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.851	.848	5

FAITH IDENTITY TEST

TOTAL VARIANCE
EXPLAINED BETWEEN
THE TWO FACTORS IS
GREATER THAN 60%.

Total Variance Explained			
Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings			
Component	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	3.163	31.632	31.632
2	3.142	31.425	63.057

Strongly Disagree	Moderately Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Moderately Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- ___ 1. I have surrendered my life to God.
- ___ 2. I have had a time when life's struggles caused me to question my faith.
- ___ 3. I obey God even when it's not popular.
- ___ 4. I have experienced a crisis of faith.
- ___ 5. Based on my behaviors, my peers would identify me as a committed believer.
- ___ 6. I have had doubts about my views about God.
- ___ 7. There has been a time when my doubts caused me to wonder if God is real.
- ___ 8. The trials in my life have given me more confidence in my faith.
- ___ 9. At some point in life, I have questioned my beliefs about God.
- ___ 10. I regularly demonstrate my faith by my actions.

FAITH IDENTITY TEST

SCORING AND RESULTS

Faith Identity State		Exploration	
		HIGH	LOW
Commitment	HIGH	Adopted Faith	Assumed Faith
	LOW	Arrested Faith	Apathetic Faith

- Each Subscale has a minimum score of 5 and a maximum score of 35
- Scores from **5-20** equate to **LOW**
- Scores from **21-35** equate to **HIGH**

FAITH IDENTITY TEST

SCORING AND RESULTS

All Participants

ADOPTED	93
ASSUMED	59
ARRESTED	9
APATHETIC	4

Faith Identity State		Exploration	
		HIGH	LOW
Commitment	HIGH	Adopted Faith	Assumed Faith
	LOW	Arrested Faith	Apathetic Faith

Scoring Sample

Commitment							Exploration							
Q4	Q6	Q9	Q11	Q13	C-Total	Level	Q5	Q7	Q12	Q14	Q16	E-Total	Level	
6	5	5	5	6	27	HIGH	5	5	5	6	6	27	HIGH	ADOPTED
4	3	5	7	5	24	HIGH	6	4	1	5	3	19	LOW	ASSUMED
5	5	4	4	5	23	HIGH	4	4	4	3	3	18	LOW	ASSUMED
7	5	5	6	7	30	HIGH	7	7	1	7	5	27	HIGH	ADOPTED

FAITH IDENTITY TEST

SCORING AND RESULTS

All Participants

ADOPTED	93
ASSUMED	59
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APATHETIC	4

Faith Identity State		Exploration	
		HIGH	LOW
Commitment	HIGH	Adopted Faith	Assumed Faith
	LOW	Arrested Faith	Apathetic Faith

Catholic

ADOPTED	4
ASSUMED	4
ARRESTED	0
APATHETIC	0

Evangelical

ADOPTED	74
ASSUMED	39
ARRESTED	2
APATHETIC	1

Mainline

ADOPTED	3
ASSUMED	8
ARRESTED	2
APATHETIC	0

None

ADOPTED	0
ASSUMED	0
ARRESTED	2
APATHETIC	2

Other

ADOPTED	12
ASSUMED	8
ARRESTED	3
APATHETIC	1

FAITH IDENTITY TEST - APPLICATIONS

CCCU UNIVERSITY

- COULD BE GIVEN TO ALL INCOMING FRESHMEN
- USEFUL IN IDENTIFYING BEST FIT FOR
INTRODUCTORY SPIRITUAL FORMATION CLASS

FAITH IDENTITY TEST - APPLICATIONS

LOCAL CHURCH

- COULD BE GIVEN TO NEW MEMBERS
- USEFUL IN IDENTIFYING BEST FIT FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS OR CORE GROUP
- ALSO USEFUL IN IDENTIFYING EVANGELISTIC OPPORTUNITIES (*APATHETIC*)

FAITH IDENTITY TEST - APPLICATIONS

THERAPY PRACTICE

- COULD BE GIVEN AS PART OF INTAKE
- USEFUL IN INFORMING CLIENT'S SPIRITUAL "LOCATION"
- ESPECIALLY BENEFICIAL IF CLIENT IS STRUGGLING WITH SPIRITUAL MATTERS (VOCABULARY TO TALK THROUGH FTEs; NORMALIZE QUESTIONING)

FAITH IDENTITY TEST - APPLICATIONS

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

- SHORT INSTRUMENT TO DIVIDE FAITH MEMBERS INTO GROUPS
- USEFUL IN DIFFERENCE RESEARCH (GROUPS)
- SUBSCALE SCORES COULD BE USED IN CORRELATION RESEARCH

YOU - APPLICATIONS

- WHAT ARE YOU NOTICING IN YOUR RESEARCH?
 - FOR SOME, PRACTICE
 - FOR OTHERS, THE START OF A JOURNEY

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