Effects of nonlocality of nuclear potentials on direct capture reactions

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Calculations of the direct radiative capture reactions are made for the ${}^{48}\text{Ca}(n,\gamma){}^{49}\text{Ca}$, ${}^{7}\text{Li}(n,\gamma){}^{8}\text{Li}$, and ${}^{12}\text{C}(p,\gamma){}^{13}\text{N}$ reactions with the Perey-Buck-type nonlocal potentials using a potential model. Our results reproduce the experimental data reasonably well. From comparisons to results obtained by using local potentials, it is found that the cross sections of direct capture reactions may change by around 25% due to the nonlocality of nuclear potentials.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Radiative capture of nucleons at energies of astrophysical interest is one of the most important processes for nucleosynthesis. The nucleon capture can occur through both the compound nucleus formation and direct capture processes [1-3]. At low incident energies, the cross sections of the compound processes are usually very small because only a few excited states of the compound nuclei are involved. In these cases, the direct capture mechanism may be dominant. The direct radiative capture reactions, especially at the low energy region, play a crucial role in studies of big bang nucleosynthesis, main path stellar evolution, element synthesis at supernova sites, x-ray bursts, and so on since these cross sections are often necessary for investigating the astrophysical entities [4,5]. These necessitate reliable theoretical models of direct radiative capture reactions from low to high energies.

The direct radiative capture process represents a transition of the projectile-target system from an initial continuum state to a final bound state via interaction with the electromagnetic field. The reaction selects those projectiles from the appropriate partial waves with orbital angular momentum that can jump into the final orbits by emission of γ ray of multipolarity L. To calculate the direct capture cross sections, one needs to solve the many-body problems for the bound and continuum states of relevance. There are several levels of difficulties in attacking this problem. Theories, such as the microscopic cluster model [6] and the R-matrix method [7] have been developed to overcome these difficulties. However, the simplest solution is the potential model [8-12]. This model represents the initial and final states of the reaction system with the continuum/scattering and bound state wave functions, which are solutions of the two-body Schrödinger equation with a potential in the center-of-mass of the projectile and the target nuclei. The cross sections are sensitive to these potentials.

In principle, the potentials that are responsible to the scattering and reactions of a projectile (nucleon or nucleus) with a target nucleus are nonlocal. Sources of the nonlocality in these effective potentials arise predominantly from antisymmetrization [13] and channel couplings [14]. In a folding model, the nonlocal character of the nucleon-nucleus optical potential is solely determined by the off-shell structure of NN t-matrix [15–17]. The nonlocality of nucleon-nucleus potentials can be naturally dealt with in momentum space [18–20]. In coordinate space, nonlocal potentials are often given in tabular forms with microscopic models [21], which are not convenient to be used in usual nuclear reaction calculations and to be compared to results of different systems and different works. Because of these reasons, the separable form of nonlocal potentials proposed by Perev and Buck (PB) [22], which is parameterized with a range of nonlocality, is most widely used in various nuclear reaction calculations [23-28] although it may not represent the real structure of nonlocal potentials given by microscopic theories sufficiently well. Some systematic nonlocal nucleon-nucleus potentials have also been proposed with the Perey-Buck form [22,29].

We adopt the Perey-Buck-type nonlocal potential to study the effects of potential nonlocality to direct capture reactions. In Sec. II we briefly introduce the numerical method to solve the Schrödinger equations with nonlocal potentials. We investigate the nonlocality effects on neutron and proton direct capture reactions in Sec. III. The cases reported here are the ${}^{48}Ca(n,\gamma){}^{49}Ca$, ${}^{7}Li(n,\gamma){}^{8}Li$, and ${}^{12}C(p,\gamma){}^{13}N$, reactions. A summary of the present work is presented in Sec. IV.

II. POTENTIAL MODEL FOR DIRECT RADIATIVE CAPTURE REACTIONS

With the potential model [8–12], the cross sections for direct radiative capture reaction, $x(n,\gamma)a$

is

$$\sigma_{\pi L,J_b}^{\text{d.c.}} = \frac{(2\pi)^3}{k^2} \left(\frac{E_{nx} + E_b}{\hbar c} \right) \frac{2(2I_a + 1)}{(2I_n + 1)(2I_x + 1)} \\ \times \frac{L + 1}{L[(2L + 1)!!]^2} \sum_{J_c j_c l_c} (2J_c + 1) \\ \times \left\{ \frac{j_c}{J_b} \quad J_c \quad I_x \\ J_b \quad j_b \quad L \right\}^2 |\langle l_b j_b || \mathscr{O} || l_c j_c \rangle|^2, \qquad (1)$$

where $\pi = E$ or M, which stands for electronic or magnetic transitions, respectively, L is the multipoliarity of the emitting γ -ray. I_n , I_x , and I_a are intrinsic spins of the cluster n (n can also be a nucleon), the nucleus x, and the composite nucleus a = n + x, respectively. In the n-x system, I_c is the orbital angular momentum of n in continuum states, and $j_c = I_c + I_n$. Similarly, I_b is the orbital angular momentum of n in bound states, and $j_b = I_b + I_n$. $J_c = j_c + I_x$, and $J_b = j_b + I_x$ are channel spins of the incident- and exit-channels (corresponding to continuum and bound states of the n-x system). E_b is the binding energy of n in the bound states of a. E_{nx} is the incident energy in the center-of-mass system and $\langle I_b j_b || \mathcal{O} || I_c j_c \rangle$ is the reduced matrix element, which can be expressed as a product of two factors:

$$\langle l_b j_b || \mathscr{O} || l_c j_c \rangle = \tau_{b,c} A_{b,c}, \qquad (2)$$

where

$$\tau_{b,c} = \int u_b(r) r^L u_c(r) dr \tag{3}$$

is the overlap integral of the radial parts of the scattering wave function, u_c , and the bound state wave function, u_b , of n in the n + x system. The factor $A_{b,c}$ denotes an angular momentum coupling coefficient [10].

The total direct capture cross section is obtained by adding all multipolarities and final spins of the bound state

$$\sigma^{\text{d.c.}}(E_{nx}) = \sum_{LJ_b} (SF)_{J_b} \sigma^{\text{d.c.}}_{LJ_b}(E_{nx}), \qquad (4)$$

where $(SF)_{J_b}$ are spectroscopic factors of *n* in each of the bound states of *a*. For charged particles it is more convenient to use the astrophysical *S*-factors instead of the cross sections

$$S(E_{nx}) = E_{nx}\sigma^{\text{d.c.}}(E_{nx})\exp[2\pi\eta(E_{nx})],$$
 (5)

where $\eta(E_{nx})$ is the Sommerfeld parameter

$$\eta(E_{nx}) = \frac{Z_n Z_x e^2}{\hbar} \left(\frac{\mu}{2E_{nx}}\right)^{1/2},\tag{6}$$

 μ is the reduced mass of *n* in the *n*-*x* system, and *Z_n* and *Z_x* are charge numbers of *n* and *x*, respectively.

The radial wave functions u_b and u_c in Eq. (3) are solutions of Schrödinger equations. With local potentials, the radial part of the Schrödinger equation reads:

$$\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \left[\frac{d^2}{dr^2} - \frac{l(l+1)}{r^2} \right] u_{jl}(r) + [E - V_L(r) - V_C(r) - (I_n \cdot l) V_{so}(r)] u_{jl}(r) = 0,$$
(7)

where the energy E is E_b for a bound state, and is E_{nx} for a scattering state, l is the angular momentum of n in the

n-*x* system, $j = l + l_n$, $V_L(r)$ and $V_{so}(r)$ are the central and the spin-orbital parts of the local potentials, respectively, and $V_C(r)$ is the Coulomb potential assuming a uniform charge distribution with a radius R_C :

$$V_{\rm C}(r) = \frac{Z_n Z_x e^2}{2R_{\rm C}} \left(3 - \frac{r^2}{R_{\rm C}^2}\right), \quad \text{for } r \leqslant R_{\rm C}$$

$$= \frac{Z_n Z_x e^2}{r}. \qquad \text{for } r > R_{\rm C}. \qquad (8)$$

A Woods-Saxon and a derivative of Woods-Saxon form factors are used for $V_L(r)$ and $V_{so}(r)$, respectively, namely [12],

$$V_L(r) = V_L f_0(r),$$
 (9)

and

where

$$V_{\rm so}(r) = 2V_{\rm so}\frac{1}{r}\frac{d}{dr}f_{\rm so}(r),\tag{10}$$

$$f_i(r) = \left[1 + \exp\left(\frac{r - R_i}{a_i}\right)\right]^{-1},$$

i = 0 and so labeling the central and spin-orbital terms, respectively, and $R_i = r_i A^{1/3}$ and a_i are the radius and diffuseness parameters with A being the atomic number of the target nucleus.

In this work, we only take the central part of the potential nonlocal and keep the spin-orbital and Coulomb terms local. Furthermore, the Perey-Buck form of nonlocality is adopted, with which the Schrödinger equation reads:

$$\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \left[\frac{d^2}{dr^2} - \frac{l(l+1)}{r^2} \right] u_{jl}(r) + [E - V_C(r) - (I_n \cdot l) V_{so}(r)] u_{jl}(r) - \int_0^\infty g_l(r,r') u_{jl}(r') dr' = 0,$$
(11)

where [22]

$$g_l(r,r') = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}\beta} \exp\left[-\left(\frac{r^2 + r'^2}{\beta^2}\right)\right] 2i^l z j_l(-iz) W(p), \quad (12)$$

and $W(p) = V_{\text{NL}} f_0(p)$, $p = \frac{r+r'}{2}$, and $z = \frac{2rr'}{\beta^2}$. Here β is the range of nonlocality and $j_l(-iz)$ is the spherical Bessel functions of the *l*th order.

The Schrödinger equation with a nonlocal potential is solved with iterations. We first find the solution, $u_j^{(0)}$, of the Schrödinger equation with an initial *local* potential V_{init} :

$$\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \left[\frac{d^2}{dr^2} - \frac{l(l+1)}{r^2} \right] u_j^{(0)}(r) + [E - (V_{\text{init}}(r) + V_C(r) + (\boldsymbol{I_n} \cdot \boldsymbol{l}) V_{\text{so}}(r)] u_j^{(0)}(r) = 0.$$
(13)

An iteration is then made until a converged result is obtained. For the *i*th iteraction, we have

$$\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \left[\frac{d^2}{dr^2} - \frac{l(l+1)}{r^2} \right] u_j^{(i)}(r) + \{ E - (V_{\text{init}}(r) + V_C(r) + [\mathbf{I}_n \cdot \mathbf{l}) V_{\text{so}}(r)] \} u_j^{(i)}(r)$$
$$= \int g_l(r,r') u_j^{(i-1)}(r') dr' - V_{\text{init}}(r) u_j^{(i-1)}(r). \quad (14)$$

III. RESULTS OF NUMERICAL CALCULATIONS

In this section, we present our results of numerical calculations for direct capture reactions, ${}^{48}\text{Ca}(n,\gamma){}^{49}\text{Ca}, {}^{7}\text{Li}(n,\gamma){}^{8}\text{Li}$, and ${}^{12}\text{C}(p,\gamma){}^{13}\text{N}$ within the ranges of incident energies from 0.01 to 0.4 MeV, from 0.01 to 2 MeV, and from 0 to 1.2 MeV, respectively, which are interesting for nuclear astrophysical studies. With these energy ranges, all these three reactions are E1 dominant [30–34]. We first find the local and nonlocal potential parameters for bound and scattering states of these reactions in Sec. III A. The direct capture reaction cross sections are then calculated using these potentials and compared to experimental data in Sec. III B.

A. Local and nonlocal potential parameters for bound and scattering states

Usual Woods-Saxon form factors are assumed for these potentials. Empirical values are used for the radius parameters and the range of nonlocality, namely, $r_0 = 1.25$ fm and $\beta = 0.85$ fm. The other parameters are allowed to vary to simultaneously reproduce the binding energies and the *s*-wave scattering lengths of the *n*-*x* systems. For the ${}^{12}C(p,\gamma){}^{13}N$ reaction, a potential supporting the resonance state at 0.422 MeV is also found. The same is done for local potentials.

For the ${}^{48}Ca(n,\gamma){}^{49}Ca$ reaction, we consider one neutron capture into the ground $(\frac{3}{2}^{-})$ and the first excited states $(\frac{1}{2}^{-}, 2.023 \text{ MeV})$ of ⁴⁹Ca. These states are assumed to consist of an inert ⁴⁸Ca core and a neutron in the $2p_{3/2}$ and $2p_{1/2}$ orbitals, respectively. One set of potential parameters are found to simultaneously reproduce the neutron binding energies in both states of ⁴⁹Ca and the s-wave scattering length, $\alpha_0 =$ 0.36 ± 0.09 fm [35]. For the ⁷Li(n, γ)⁸Li reaction, the neutron is assumed to be captured into the ground state (2^+) and the first excited state (1⁺, 0.981 MeV) of ⁸Li. These states are assumed to consist of an inert ⁷Li core and a neutron in the $1p_{3/2}$ and $1p_{1/2}$ orbitals, respectively. For this reaction we have to find two sets of potential parameters, one set to simultaneously reproduce the ground state binding energy and the spin-state scattering length $a_{\pm} = -3.63 \pm 0.05$ fm (groups "local-gs" and "nonlocal-gs" for local and nonlocal potentials, corresponding to the spin 2 of the ground state of ⁸Li) and another set to simultaneously reproduce the E_b in the first excited state of ⁸Li and the spin-state scattering length

TABLE I. Potential parameters found for the ⁴⁸Ca $(n,\gamma)^{49}$ Ca, ⁷Li $(n,\gamma)^{8}$ Li, and ¹²C $(p,\gamma)^{13}$ N reactions. See the text for the details. The units of V_0 and V_{so} are MeV and MeV fm², respectively, and those of r_0 , a_0 , r_{so} , and a_{so} are femtometer.

Target	Group	V_0	r_0	a_0	$V_{\rm so}$	r _{so}	$a_{\rm so}$	β
⁴⁸ Ca	local	47.24	1.25	0.65	16.52	1.25	0.65	
	nonlocal	60.58	1.25	0.65	18.25	1.25	0.65	0.85
⁷ Li	local-gs	40.35	1.25	0.773	10	1.25	0.65	
	local-1ex	46.52	1.25	0.603	10	1.25	0.65	
	nonlocal-gs	45.78	1.25	0.773	10	1.25	0.65	0.85
	nonlocal-1ex	54.5	1.25	0.603	10	1.25	0.65	0.85
^{12}C	local-dir	41.66	1.25	0.65	10	1.25	0.65	
	local-res	54.44	1.25	0.65	10	1.25	0.65	
	nonlocal-dir	48.35	1.25	0.65	10	1.25	0.65	0.85
	nonlocal-res	70.43	1.25	0.65	10	1.25	0.65	0.85

 $a_{-} = 0.87 \pm 0.07$ fm (groups "local–lex" and "nonlocal–lex" for local and nonlocal potentials, corresponding to the spin 1 of the first excited state of ⁸Li) [36]. For the ¹²C(p, γ)¹³N reaction, the proton is assumed to be captured in the ground state of ¹³N, which is considered to consist of a inert ¹²C core and a proton in the 1 $p_{1/2}$ orbital. There is a resonance state in the p-¹²C system at 0.422 MeV with spin-parity of $\frac{1}{2}^+$. We found two sets of potential parameters for these two states, labeled as "local–dir" and "local–res" for local potentials and "nonlocal-dir" and "nonlocal-res" for nonlocal potentials, respectively. Parameters of these potentials are given in Table I.

The phase shifts for neutron scattering from ⁴⁸Ca and ⁷Li and for proton scattering from ¹²C with these potentials are plotted in Fig. 1 as functions of incident energies. For simplicity, only phase shifts of the *s*-waves are presented, which are the most important partial waves for these reactions at energies below 1 MeV. Clearly, we see that these nonlocal potentials and their associated local counterparts are not phase equivalent. The differences in their phase shifts increase when the incident energy increases. Given the fact that, for each nucleon-target system, both local and nonlocal potentials are obtained by fitting the same binding energies and *s*-save scattering lengths, these results suggest that other properties of the nucleon-target systems, such as their effective ranges [37,38], are needed to confine these potential parameters. We,



FIG. 1. S-wave phase shifts as functions of incident energies for neutron scattering from (a) ⁴⁸Ca, from (b) ⁷Li, and for proton scattering from (c) ¹²C with the potentials listed in Table I. Phase shifts obtained with nonlocal and local potentials are presented with solid and dashed curve, respectively. The s-wave phase shifts for the total spin 2⁺ of the $n + {}^{7}Li$ system is shifted by π for better visualization.



FIG. 2. Upper panels: Comparisons between experimental data and results of theoretical calculations using local and nonlocal potentials for reactions ${}^{48}Ca(n,\gamma){}^{49}Ca$ (a), ${}^{7}Li(n,\gamma){}^{8}Li$ (b), and ${}^{12}C(p,\gamma){}^{13}N$ (c). Contributions of transition to the ground (dashed curves) and the first excited sates (dotted curves) are shown explicitly for the ${}^{48}Ca(n,\gamma){}^{49}Ca$ and ${}^{7}Li(n,\gamma){}^{8}Li$ reactions and their summed cross sections (multiplied by a factor of 5) are represented by solid curves. Results obtained with local and nonlocal potentials are discriminated by thin and thick curves, with labels "nlp" and "lp," respectively. Similarly, contributions of direct and resonant terms and their coherent sums are plotted for the ${}^{12}C(p,\gamma){}^{13}N$ reaction. The symbols represents the experimental data for the ${}^{48}Ca(n,\gamma){}^{49}Ca$ reaction from Ref. [31], for the ${}^{7}Li(n,\gamma){}^{8}Li$ reaction from Ref. [39], and for the ${}^{12}C(p,\gamma){}^{13}N$ reaction from Refs. [32] (asterisk) and [34] (solid circles). Lower panels: Comparisons of cross sections with potential nonlocality treated in both bound and scattering states (the same as in the upper panels) with those treated in the bound states only (solid curves) and in the scattering states only (double-dotted curves) for reactions ${}^{48}Ca(n,\gamma){}^{49}Ca$ (d), ${}^{7}Li(n,\gamma){}^{8}Li$ (e), and ${}^{12}C(p,\gamma){}^{13}N$ (f). See the text for details.

however, do not endeavor to pursue exact phase equivalence of these local and nonlocal potentials in this work. With these potentials, we examine the effects of nuclear potential nonlocality to direct capture reactions in the following text.

B. Direct capture reaction cross sections with local and nonlocal potentials

Cross sections of the ${}^{48}\text{Ca}(n,\gamma){}^{49}\text{Ca}$, ${}^{7}\text{Li}(n,\gamma){}^{8}\text{Li}$, and ${}^{12}\text{C}(p,\gamma){}^{13}\text{N}$ reactions are calculated using the aforementioned nonlocal potentials within the ranges of incident energies from 0.01 to 0.4 MeV, from 0.01 to 2 MeV, and from 0 to 1.2 MeV, respectively. Their comparisons to the experimental data and to the results calculated using local potentials are also made. The results are shown in Fig. 2. All calculations are made with a modified version of the computer code RADCAP [12].

For the ⁴⁸Ca $(n, \gamma)^{49}$ Ca and ⁷Li $(n, \gamma)^{8}$ Li reactions, the processes of neutron capture to the ground and the first excited states of the composite nuclei are calculated separately. The summed cross sections are then obtained by adding the cross sections of these processes multiplied by their corresponding neutron spectroscopic factors (SFs). The same is done for both local and nonlocal potentials. The neutron SFs in the ground and the first excited states of the composite nuclei are 0.72 and 0.86, respectively, for ⁴⁹Ca [31] and are 0.87 and 0.48, respectively, for ⁸Li [40]. From Fig. 2, one sees that these summed cross sections reproduce the experimental

data reasonably well. The cross sections with the nonlocal potentials are about 20% larger than those with the local ones for the ⁴⁸Ca(n,γ)⁴⁹Ca reaction. However, due to their large uncertainties, the experimental data of this reaction cannot discriminate which theoretical result agrees better with them. The experimental data of the ⁷Li(n,γ)⁸Li reaction, on the other hand, is shown to be better reproduced with nonlocal potentials, which is about 25% larger than the cross sections with local potentials when the incident energy is below around 1 MeV.

For the ${}^{12}C(p,\gamma){}^{13}N$ reaction, the astrophysical *S*-factor defined in Eq. (5) is used instead of the cross sections. A description of the experimental data requires a coherent sum of the direct and resonance terms [32]

$$S(E) = S_{\rm dir}(E) + S_{\rm res}(E) + 2[S_{\rm dir}(E)S_{\rm res}(E)]^{1/2}\cos(\delta_{\gamma}),$$
(15)

where δ_{γ} is the resonance phase shift given by

$$\delta_{\gamma} = \arctan\left[\frac{\Gamma(E)}{2(E - E_{\gamma})}\right].$$
 (16)

The direct term S_{dir} is obtained when the bound and scattering state wave functions are calculated with the potential, which was confined only with the ground state binding energy of proton in ¹³N (groups local–dir and nonlocal–dir in Table I), while the resonance term S_{res} is obtained when the scattering wave functions are calculated with the potential that was adjusted to support the resonant state at 0.422 MeV (groups local-res and nonlocal-res in Table I). The results are shown in Fig. 2(c), from which, one sees that the direct terms of the S-factor are almost identical to the local and nonlocal potentials. The changes induced by the nonlocality of nuclear potentials manifest themselves in the resonance terms, S_{res} . For incident energies at the vicinity of the resonance energy and below, S_{res} calculated with local and nonlocal potentials are very close to each other. Their difference increases with the increase of the incident energy. At around 1 MeV, they differ by around 25%. The interference between S_{dir} and S_{res} are apparent and is seen to be important for the description of the experimental data, which is familiar as in Ref. [32]. At the vicinity of the resonance energy, the experimental data are rather well reproduced by the coherent sums of $S_{\rm dir}$ and Sres calculated with both nonlocal and local potentials. At above the resonant energies, however, they are underestimated below 0.85 MeV and are overestimated above 0.85 MeV by calculations with both potentials. The nonlocal potential improved the description to the experimental data between 0.55 and 0.8 MeV, but the calculated S-factors are still smaller than the experimental ones by around 50%. Calculations with both local and nonlocal potentials also overestimated the experimental data at below the resonant energies. In all these calculations, S_{dir} is calculated with a proton spectroscopic factor of 0.81, which was determined with a ${}^{12}C({}^{3}He,d){}^{13}N$ reaction [41]. The proton SF in the 0.422 MeV resonant state was then determined by matching the calculated S(E) with the experimental S-factor at the resonant energy. The resulting SF of the resonant state is 0.36. It is very close to the value (SF = 0.35) obtained in Ref. [42].

The nonlocality of nuclear potentials affects both the bound and the scattering wave functions as compared to the wave functions calculated using local potentials although both potentials reproduce the same binding energies and *s*-wave scattering lengths. It is interesting to see the effects to the direct capture reactions from changes in the bound and scattering wave functions separately. In the bottom panels of Fig. 2 we

compare the results of calculations with potential nonlocality treated in both bound and scattering wave functions (dashed and dotted curves) to those calculated with nonlocality treated only in the bound states (solid curves) or only in the scattering states (double-dotted curves) for the three reactions. These results show that the effects of potential nonlocality in bound and scattering state wave functions affect the direct capture reactions differently and they interfere constructively in the ⁷Li(n,γ)⁸Li reaction and destructively in the ⁴⁸Ca(n,γ)⁴⁹Ca and ¹²C(p,γ)¹³N reactions.

IV. SUMMARY

The effects of potential nonlocality in direct radiative capture reactions are studied with ${}^{48}Ca(n,\gamma){}^{49}Ca, {}^{7}Li(n,\gamma){}^{8}Li$, and ${}^{12}C(p,\gamma){}^{13}N$ reaction at low energies with a potential model. The parameters of Perey-Buck-type nonlocal potentials are found for these reaction systems and theoretical cross sections with these potentials are compared to the experimental data. Our results show that the reproduction to the experimental data is improved when nonlocal potentials are used for the {}^{7}Li(n,\gamma){}^{8}Li and ${}^{12}C(p,\gamma){}^{13}N$ reactions. A change of cross sections up to around 25% is found for these three reactions. The effects of potential nonlocality in the bound and continuum state wave functions are found to affect the direct capture reactions differently and they interfere, which suggests that potential nonlocality should be treated simultaneously for both bound and continuum states in direct capture reactions.

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