

LOWER AND UPPER BOUNDS OF THE ČEBYŠEV FUNCTIONAL FOR THE RIEMANN-STIELTJES INTEGRAL

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Abstract. Lower and upper bounds of the Čebyšev functional for the Riemann-Stieltjes integral, in the monotonicity case of one function, are given. Applications in relation with the Steffensen generalisation of the Čebyšev inequality are provided.

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1. Introduction

In [3], S.S. Dragomir introduced the following Čebyšev functional for the Riemann-Stieltjes integral:

$$(1.1) \quad T(f, g; u) := \frac{1}{u(b) - u(a)} \int_a^b f(t) g(t) du(t) \\ - \frac{1}{u(b) - u(a)} \int_a^b f(t) du(t) \cdot \frac{1}{u(b) - u(a)} \int_a^b g(t) du(t),$$

provided $u(b) \neq u(a)$ and the involved Riemann-Stieltjes integrals exist.

In order to bound the error in approximating the Riemann-Stieltjes integral of the product in terms of the product of the integrals, as described in the definition of the Čebyšev functional (1.1), the first author obtained the inequality:

$$(1.2) \quad |T(f, g; u)| \\ \leq \frac{1}{2} (M - m) \cdot \frac{1}{|u(b) - u(a)|} \left\| g - \frac{1}{u(b) - u(a)} \int_a^b g(s) du(s) \right\|_{\infty} \bigvee_a^b(u),$$

provided u is of bounded variation, f, g are continuous on $[a, b]$ and $m \leq f(t) \leq M$ for any $t \in [a, b]$. The constant $\frac{1}{2}$ is best possible in the sense that it cannot be replaced by a smaller quantity.

Moreover, if f, g are as above and u is monotonic nondecreasing on $[a, b]$, then

$$(1.3) \quad |T(f, g; u)| \leq \frac{1}{2} (M - m) \frac{1}{u(b) - u(a)} \int_a^b \left| g(t) - \frac{1}{u(b) - u(a)} \int_a^b g(s) du(s) \right| du(t),$$

and the constant $\frac{1}{2}$ here is also sharp.

Finally, if f and g are Riemann integrable and u is Lipschitzian with the constant $L > 0$, then also

$$(1.4) \quad |T(f, g; u)| \leq \frac{1}{2} L (M - m) \frac{1}{|u(b) - u(a)|} \int_a^b \left| g(t) - \frac{1}{u(b) - u(a)} \int_a^b g(s) du(s) \right| dt,$$

provided $m \leq f(t) \leq M, t \in [a, b]$. The multiplicative constant $\frac{1}{2}$ is best possible in (1.4).

For results concerning bounds for the Čebyšev functional $T(f, g; u)$ see [4] and [5]. For other recent results on inequalities for the Riemann-Stieltjes integral, see [1], [2] and [6].

The main aim of this paper is to provide an upper and a lower bound for the functional $T(f, g; u)$ under the monotonicity assumption on the function f . An application for the Čebyšev inequality for Riemann-Stieltjes integrals that is related to Steffensen's result from [8] is given as well.

2. The results

The following result providing upper and lower bounds for the quantity

$$[h(b) - h(a)] T(f, g, h; a, b)$$

can be stated:

Theorem 2.1 *Let $f, g, h : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be such that $h(a) \neq h(b)$ and the Riemann-Stieltjes integrals $\int_a^b f(t) dh(t)$, $\int_a^b g(t) dh(t)$ and $\int_a^b f(t) g(t) dh(t)$ exist. If f*

is monotonic nondecreasing, then

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.1) \quad & [f(b) - f(a)] \inf_{t \in [a,b]} \left\{ \int_t^b g(s) dh(s) - \frac{h(b) - h(t)}{h(b) - h(a)} \cdot \int_a^b g(\tau) dh(\tau) \right\} \\
 & \leq \int_a^b f(t) g(t) dh(t) - \frac{1}{h(b) - h(a)} \cdot \int_a^b f(t) dh(t) \cdot \int_a^b g(t) dh(t) \\
 & \leq [f(b) - f(a)] \sup_{t \in [a,b]} \left\{ \int_t^b g(s) dh(s) - \frac{h(b) - h(t)}{h(b) - h(a)} \cdot \int_a^b g(\tau) dh(\tau) \right\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

If f is monotonic nonincreasing, then:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.2) \quad & [f(a) - f(b)] \inf_{t \in [a,b]} \left\{ \int_a^t g(s) dh(s) - \frac{h(t) - h(a)}{h(b) - h(a)} \cdot \int_a^b g(\tau) dh(\tau) \right\} \\
 & \leq \int_a^b f(t) g(t) dh(t) - \frac{1}{h(b) - h(a)} \cdot \int_a^b f(t) dh(t) \cdot \int_a^b g(t) dh(t) \\
 & \leq [f(a) - f(b)] \sup_{t \in [a,b]} \left\{ \int_a^t g(s) dh(s) - \frac{h(t) - h(a)}{h(b) - h(a)} \cdot \int_a^b g(\tau) dh(\tau) \right\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Inequalities (2.1) and (2.2) are sharp.

Proof. We use the following Abel type inequality obtained by Mitrinović et al. in [7, p. 336]:

Let u be a nonnegative and monotonic nondecreasing function on $[a, b]$ and $v, w : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that the Riemann-Stieltjes integrals $\int_a^b v(t) dw(t)$ and $\int_a^b u(t) v(t) dw(t)$ exist. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.3) \quad & u(b) \inf_{t \in [a,b]} \left\{ \int_t^b v(t) dw(t) \right\} \leq \int_a^b u(t) v(t) dw(t) \\
 & \leq u(b) \sup_{t \in [a,b]} \left\{ \int_t^b v(t) dw(t) \right\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

We also use the representation (see [3])

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.4) \quad & T(f, g, h; a, b) \\
 & = \frac{1}{h(b) - h(a)} \int_a^b [f(t) - \gamma] \left[g(t) - \frac{1}{h(b) - h(a)} \int_a^b g(s) dh(s) \right] dh(t),
 \end{aligned}$$

which holds for any $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$.

Now, if we choose $\gamma = f(a)$, then we observe that the function $u(t) = f(t) - f(a)$ is nonnegative and monotonic nondecreasing on $[a, b]$ and applying

(2.3) for $w(t) = h(t)$ and $v(t) = g(t) - \frac{1}{h(b) - h(a)} \int_a^b g(s) dh(s)$ we deduce:

$$(2.5) \quad [f(b) - f(a)] \inf_{t \in [a, b]} \left\{ \int_t^b \left[g(s) - \frac{1}{h(b) - h(a)} \cdot \int_a^b g(\tau) dh(\tau) \right] dh(s) \right\} \\ \leq [h(b) - h(a)] T(f, g, h; a, b) \\ \leq [f(b) - f(a)] \sup_{t \in [a, b]} \left\{ \int_t^b \left[g(s) - \frac{1}{h(b) - h(a)} \cdot \int_a^b g(\tau) dh(\tau) \right] dh(s) \right\},$$

which is equivalent with the desired inequality (2.1).

For the second inequality, we use (2.4) with $\gamma = f(b)$ and the following Abel type result for functions u which are monotonic nonincreasing and nonnegative (see [7, p. 336]):

$$(2.6) \quad u(a) \inf_{t \in [a, b]} \left\{ \int_a^t v(t) dw(t) \right\} \leq \int_a^b u(t) v(t) dw(t) \\ \leq u(a) \sup_{t \in [a, b]} \left\{ \int_a^t v(t) dw(t) \right\}.$$

The details are omitted.

Let us prove for instance the sharpness of the second inequality in (2.1).

If we choose $h(t) = t$ and $g(t) = \operatorname{sgn} \left(t - \frac{a+b}{2} \right)$, $t \in [a, b]$ then we have to show that the inequality:

$$(2.7) \quad \int_a^b f(t) \operatorname{sgn} \left(t - \frac{a+b}{2} \right) dt \leq [f(b) - f(a)] \sup_{t \in [a, b]} \left\{ \int_t^b \operatorname{sgn} \left(s - \frac{a+b}{2} \right) ds \right\}$$

is sharp provided f is monotonic nondecreasing on $[a, b]$.

Notice that

$$\lambda(t) := \int_t^b \operatorname{sgn} \left(s - \frac{a+b}{2} \right) ds = \begin{cases} t - a & \text{if } t \in \left[a, \frac{a+b}{2} \right] \\ b - t & \text{if } t \in \left(\frac{a+b}{2}, b \right] \end{cases}$$

and then $\sup_{t \in [a, b]} \lambda(t) = \frac{b-a}{2}$.

Therefore (2.7) becomes

$$(2.8) \quad \int_a^b f(t) \operatorname{sgn} \left(t - \frac{a+b}{2} \right) dt \leq [f(b) - f(a)] \cdot \frac{b-a}{2}.$$

Now, if in this inequality we choose $f(t) = \operatorname{sgn} \left(t - \frac{a+b}{2} \right)$, which is monotonic nondecreasing on $[a, b]$, we get in both sides of (2.8) the same quantity $b - a$.

The sharpness of the other inequalities can be shown in a similar way. The details are omitted. ■

Remark 2.1 We observe that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_t^b g(s) dh(s) - \frac{h(b) - h(t)}{h(b) - h(a)} \cdot \int_a^b g(\tau) dh(\tau) \\ &= \int_t^b g(s) dh(s) - \frac{h(b) - h(t)}{h(b) - h(a)} \cdot \left[\int_a^t g(s) dh(s) + \int_t^b g(s) dh(s) \right] \\ &= \frac{h(t) - h(a)}{h(b) - h(a)} \int_t^b g(s) dh(s) - \frac{h(b) - h(t)}{h(b) - h(a)} \int_a^t g(s) dh(s) \\ &= \frac{[h(t) - h(a)][h(b) - h(t)]}{h(b) - h(a)} \\ & \quad \times \left[\frac{1}{h(b) - h(t)} \int_t^b g(s) dh(s) - \frac{1}{h(t) - h(a)} \int_a^t g(s) dh(s) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, if we denote by $\Delta(g, h; t, a, b)$ the difference

$$\frac{1}{h(b) - h(t)} \int_t^b g(s) dh(s) - \frac{1}{h(t) - h(a)} \int_a^t g(s) dh(s),$$

provided $h(t) \neq h(a), h(b)$ for $t \in [a, b]$, then from (2.1) we get

$$\begin{aligned} (2.9) \quad & [f(b) - f(a)] \inf_{t \in [a, b]} \left\{ \frac{[h(t) - h(a)][h(b) - h(t)]}{h(b) - h(a)} \Delta(g, h; t, a, b) \right\} \\ & \leq \int_a^b f(t) g(t) dh(t) - \frac{1}{h(b) - h(a)} \int_a^b f(t) dh(t) \cdot \int_a^b g(t) dh(t) \\ & \leq [f(b) - f(a)] \sup_{t \in [a, b]} \left\{ \frac{[h(t) - h(a)][h(b) - h(t)]}{h(b) - h(a)} \Delta(g, h; t, a, b) \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

provided f is monotonic nondecreasing on $[a, b]$.

A similar result can be stated from (2.2) on noticing that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_a^t g(s) dh(s) - \frac{h(t) - h(a)}{h(b) - h(a)} \cdot \int_a^b g(\tau) dh(\tau) \\ = - \frac{[h(t) - h(a)][h(b) - h(t)]}{h(b) - h(a)} \Delta(g, h; t, a, b). \end{aligned}$$

Indeed, since

$$\begin{aligned} & \inf_{t \in [a, b]} \left(\sup_{t \in [a, b]} \right) \left\{ \int_a^t g(s) dh(s) - \frac{h(t) - h(a)}{h(b) - h(a)} \cdot \int_a^b g(s) dh(s) \right\} \\ &= \inf_{t \in [a, b]} \left(\sup_{t \in [a, b]} \right) \left\{ - \frac{[h(t) - h(a)][h(b) - h(t)]}{h(b) - h(a)} \Delta(g, h; t, a, b) \right\} \\ &= - \sup_{t \in [a, b]} \left(\inf_{t \in [a, b]} \right) \left\{ \frac{[h(t) - h(a)][h(b) - h(t)]}{h(b) - h(a)} \Delta(g, h; t, a, b) \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

then from (2.2) we get

$$\begin{aligned}
& [f(a) - f(b)] \inf_{t \in [a, b]} \left\{ \frac{[h(t) - h(a)][h(b) - h(t)]}{h(b) - h(a)} \Delta(g, h; t, a, b) \right\} \\
& \leq \frac{1}{h(b) - h(a)} \int_a^b f(t) dh(t) \int_a^b g(t) dh(t) - \int_a^b f(t) g(t) dh(t) \\
& \leq [f(a) - f(b)] \sup_{t \in [a, b]} \left\{ \frac{[h(t) - h(a)][h(b) - h(t)]}{h(b) - h(a)} \Delta(g, h; t, a, b) \right\}
\end{aligned}$$

provided that f is monotonic nonincreasing on $[a, b]$.

The following corollary gives a particular result of interest for Riemann weighted integrals.

Corollary 2.1 *Let $f, g, w : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be such that the Riemann integrals $\int_a^b f(t) w(t) dt$, $\int_a^b g(t) w(t) dt$, $\int_a^b f(t) g(t) w(t) dt$ and $\int_a^b w(t) dt$ exist, and $\int_a^b w(t) dt \neq 0$.*

If f is monotonic nondecreasing, then

$$\begin{aligned}
(2.10) \quad & [f(b) - f(a)] \inf_{t \in [a, b]} \left\{ \int_t^b g(s) w(s) ds - \frac{\int_t^b w(s) ds}{\int_a^b w(s) ds} \cdot \int_a^b g(\tau) w(\tau) d\tau \right\} \\
& \leq \int_a^b f(t) g(t) w(t) dt - \frac{1}{\int_a^b w(s) ds} \cdot \int_a^b f(t) w(t) dt \cdot \int_a^b g(t) w(t) dt \\
& \leq [f(b) - f(a)] \sup_{t \in [a, b]} \left\{ \int_t^b g(s) w(s) ds - \frac{\int_t^b w(s) ds}{\int_a^b w(s) ds} \cdot \int_a^b g(\tau) w(\tau) d\tau \right\}.
\end{aligned}$$

If f is monotonic nonincreasing, then

$$\begin{aligned}
(2.11) \quad & [f(a) - f(b)] \inf_{t \in [a, b]} \left\{ \int_a^t g(s) w(s) ds - \frac{\int_a^t w(s) ds}{\int_a^b w(s) ds} \cdot \int_a^b g(\tau) w(\tau) d\tau \right\} \\
& \leq \int_a^b f(t) g(t) w(t) dt - \frac{1}{\int_a^b w(s) ds} \cdot \int_a^b f(t) w(t) dt \cdot \int_a^b g(t) w(t) dt \\
& \leq [f(a) - f(b)] \sup_{t \in [a, b]} \left\{ \int_a^t g(s) w(s) ds - \frac{\int_a^t w(s) ds}{\int_a^b w(s) ds} \cdot \int_a^b g(\tau) w(\tau) d\tau \right\}.
\end{aligned}$$

Remark 2.2 If we define

$$\tilde{\Delta}(g, w; t, a, b) := \frac{1}{\int_t^b w(s) ds} \int_t^b g(s) w(s) ds - \frac{1}{\int_a^t w(s) ds} \int_a^t g(s) w(s) ds,$$

provided $\int_a^t w(s) ds, \int_t^b w(s) ds \neq 0$, then, under the assumptions of Corollary 2.1, we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.12) \quad & [f(b) - f(a)] \inf_{t \in [a,b]} \left\{ \frac{\int_a^t w(s) ds \int_a^b w(s) ds}{\int_a^b w(s) ds} \cdot \tilde{\Delta}(g, w; t, a, b) \right\} \\
 & \leq \int_a^b f(t) g(t) w(t) dt - \frac{1}{\int_a^b w(s) ds} \cdot \int_a^b f(t) w(t) dt \cdot \int_a^b g(t) w(t) dt \\
 & \leq [f(b) - f(a)] \sup_{t \in [a,b]} \left\{ \frac{\int_a^t w(s) ds \int_a^b w(s) ds}{\int_a^b w(s) ds} \cdot \tilde{\Delta}(g, w; t, a, b) \right\},
 \end{aligned}$$

provided f is monotonic nondecreasing on $[a, b]$, and

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.13) \quad & [f(a) - f(b)] \inf_{t \in [a,b]} \left\{ \frac{\int_a^t w(s) ds \int_a^b w(s) ds}{\int_a^b w(s) ds} \cdot \tilde{\Delta}(g, w; t, a, b) \right\} \\
 & \leq \frac{1}{\int_a^b w(s) ds} \int_a^b f(t) w(t) dt \cdot \int_a^b g(t) w(t) dt - \int_a^b f(t) g(t) w(t) dt \\
 & \leq [f(a) - f(b)] \sup_{t \in [a,b]} \left\{ \frac{\int_a^t w(s) ds \int_a^b w(s) ds}{\int_a^b w(s) ds} \cdot \tilde{\Delta}(g, w; t, a, b) \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

if f is monotonic nonincreasing on $[a, b]$.

Remark 2.3 In the particular case where $w(t) = 1, t \in [a, b]$, we get the simpler inequalities:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.14) \quad & [f(b) - f(a)] \inf_{t \in [a,b]} \left\{ \int_t^b g(s) ds - \frac{b-t}{b-a} \int_a^b g(\tau) d\tau \right\} \\
 & \leq \int_a^b f(t) g(t) dt - \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b f(t) dt \cdot \int_a^b g(t) dt \\
 & \leq [f(b) - f(a)] \sup_{t \in [a,b]} \left\{ \int_t^b g(s) ds - \frac{b-t}{b-a} \int_a^b g(\tau) d\tau \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

in the case where f is monotonic nondecreasing on $[a, b]$.

If f is monotonic nonincreasing on $[a, b]$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.15) \quad & [f(a) - f(b)] \inf_{t \in [a,b]} \left\{ \int_a^t g(s) ds - \frac{t-a}{b-a} \int_a^b g(\tau) d\tau \right\} \\
 & \leq \int_a^b f(t) g(t) dt - \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b f(t) dt \cdot \int_a^b g(t) dt \\
 & \leq [f(a) - f(b)] \sup_{t \in [a,b]} \left\{ \int_a^t g(s) ds - \frac{t-a}{b-a} \int_a^b g(\tau) d\tau \right\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

If we denote

$$\bar{\Delta}(g; t, a, b) := \frac{1}{b-t} \int_t^b g(s) ds - \frac{1}{t-a} \int_a^t g(s) ds,$$

then we get from (2.14)

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{[f(b) - f(a)]}{b-a} \inf_{t \in [a,b]} \{(t-a)(b-t) \bar{\Delta}(g; t, a, b)\} \\ & \leq \int_a^b f(t) g(t) dt - \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b f(t) dt \cdot \int_a^b g(t) dt \\ & \leq \frac{[f(b) - f(a)]}{b-a} \sup_{t \in [a,b]} \{(t-a)(b-t) \bar{\Delta}(g; t, a, b)\}, \end{aligned}$$

provided f is monotonic nondecreasing and from (2.15)

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{[f(a) - f(b)]}{b-a} \inf_{t \in [a,b]} \{(t-a)(b-t) \bar{\Delta}(g; t, a, b)\} \\ & \leq \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b f(t) dt \cdot \int_a^b g(t) dt - \int_a^b f(t) g(t) dt \\ & \leq \frac{[f(a) - f(b)]}{b-a} \sup_{t \in [a,b]} \{(t-a)(b-t) \bar{\Delta}(g; t, a, b)\} \end{aligned}$$

if f is monotonic nonincreasing on $[a, b]$.

3. Applications for the Čebyšev inequality

Let $f, g : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be integrable functions, both increasing or both decreasing. Furthermore, let $p : [a, b] \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be an integrable function, then [7, p. 239]:

$$(3.1) \quad \int_a^b p(x) dx \int_a^b p(x) f(x) g(x) dx \geq \int_a^b p(x) f(x) dx \int_a^b p(x) g(x) dx.$$

This inequality is known in the literature as Čebyšev's inequality.

For various other results related to this classical fact, see Chapter IX of the book [7].

Proposition 3.1 *Let $f, g, h : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be such that the Riemann-Stieltjes integrals $\int_a^b f(t) dh(t)$, $\int_a^b g(t) dh(t)$ and $\int_a^b f(t) g(t) dh(t)$ exist. If $h(b) > h(a)$, f is monotonic nondecreasing (nonincreasing) and*

$$(3.2) \quad [h(b) - h(a)] \int_a^t g(s) dh(s) \geq [h(b) - h(t)] \int_a^b g(s) dh(s)$$

for any $t \in [a, b]$, then

$$(3.3) \quad [h(b) - h(a)] \int_a^b f(t) g(t) dh(t) \geq (\leq) \int_a^b f(t) dh(t) \cdot \int_a^b g(t) dh(t).$$

The proof follows by Theorem 2.1 by using

$$\begin{aligned} \int_t^b g(s) dh(s) - \frac{h(b) - h(t)}{h(b) - h(a)} \int_a^b g(s) dh(s) \\ = - \left[\int_a^t g(s) dh(s) - \frac{h(t) - h(a)}{h(b) - h(a)} \int_a^b g(s) dh(s) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Remark 3.4 The above proposition implies the following Čebyšev type inequality for weighted integrals (with not necessarily positive weights).

Let $f, g, w : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be such that the Riemann integrals, $\int_a^b w(t) dt$, $\int_a^b f(t) w(t) dt$, $\int_a^b g(t) w(t) dt$ and $\int_a^b f(t) g(t) w(t) dt$ exist.

If $\int_a^b w(t) dt > 0$, f is monotonic nondecreasing (nonincreasing) and

$$(3.4) \quad \int_a^b w(s) ds \int_t^b g(s) w(s) ds \geq \int_t^b w(s) ds \int_a^b g(s) w(s) ds$$

for any $t \in [a, b]$, then

$$(3.5) \quad \int_a^b w(t) dt \int_a^b f(t) g(t) w(t) dt \geq (\leq) \int_a^b f(t) w(t) dt \int_a^b g(t) w(t) dt.$$

In particular (i.e., if $w(s) = 1$), if f is monotonic nondecreasing (nonincreasing) and if

$$(3.6) \quad (b - a) \int_a^t g(s) ds \geq (b - t) \int_a^b g(s) ds$$

for any $t \in [a, b]$, then

$$(3.7) \quad (b - a) \int_a^b f(t) g(t) dt \geq (\leq) \int_a^b f(t) dt \int_a^b g(t) dt.$$

Remark 3.5 Notice that, the weighted inequality (3.5), as pointed out in [7, p. 246], can be also obtained from the Steffensen result [8] which states that: if F, G, H are integrable functions on $[a, b]$ such that for all $x \in [a, b]$

$$\frac{\int_a^x G(t) dt}{\int_a^b G(t) dt} \leq \frac{\int_a^x H(t) dt}{\int_a^b H(t) dt},$$

then

$$(3.8) \quad \frac{\int_a^b F(t) G(t) dt}{\int_a^b G(t) dt} \geq \frac{\int_a^b F(t) H(t) dt}{\int_a^b H(t) dt},$$

provided F is monotonic nondecreasing on $[a, b]$.

The choice $F(t) \equiv f(t)$, $H(t) = w(t)$, and $G(t) = g(t)w(t)$ in (3.8) produces (3.5) under the condition that (3.4) holds and f is monotonic nondecreasing.

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