

VILNIUS GEDIMINAS TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

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**RESEARCH AND EVALUATION OF
WIND TURBINES NOISE AND
PROTECTION MEASURES**

SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

TECHNOLOGICAL SCIENCES,
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING (04T)

The doctoral dissertation was prepared at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University in 2009–2013.

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The dissertation will be defended at the public meeting of the Council of Scientific Field of Environmental Engineering in the Senate Hall of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University at 9 a. m. on 24 January 2014.

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The summary of the doctoral dissertation was distributed on 23 December 2013.

A copy of the doctoral dissertation is available for review at the Library of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (Saulėtekio al. 14, LT-10223 Vilnius, Lithuania).

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VILNIAUS GEDIMINO TECHNIKOS UNIVERSITETAS

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**VĖJO JĒGAINIŲ KELIAMO TRIUKŠMO
BEI APSAUGOS PRIEMONIŲ TYRIMAS
IR VERTINIMAS**

**DAKTARO DISERTACIJOS SANTRAUKA
TECHNOLOGIJOS MOKSLAI,
APLINKOS INŽINERIJA (04T)**


Vilnius TECHNIKA 2013

Disertacija rengta 2009–2013 metais Vilniaus Gedimino technikos universitete.
Mokslinis vadovas

prof. habil. dr. Donatas BUTKUS (Vilniaus Gedimino technikos universitetas, technologijos mokslai, aplinkos inžinerija – 04T).

Disertacija ginama Vilniaus Gedimino technikos universiteto Aplinkos inžinerijos mokslo krypties taryboje:

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Disertacija bus ginama viešame Aplinkos inžinerijos mokslo krypties tarybos posėdyje 2013 m. sausio 24 d. 9 val. Vilniaus Gedimino technikos universiteto senato posėdžiu salėje.

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Disertacijos santrauka išsiuntinėta 2013 m. gruodžio 23 d.

Disertaciją galima peržiūrėti Vilniaus Gedimino technikos universiteto bibliotekoje (Saulėtekio al. 14, LT-10223 Vilnius, Lietuva).

VGTU leidyklos „Technika“ 2221-M mokslo literatūros knyga.

Introduction

Topicality of the problem

Wind turbine noise is aerodynamic and mechanical in origin. Noise has a significant impact on the population living near wind turbines: it is harmful to the health of the environment and can cause specific and non-specific pathological changes in various body systems. The wind turbine is an unusual noise source, because it is up to 100 m above the ground, and the noise fluctuates in a big range of frequencies.

The sound of a relatively low strength affects people because in the noise spectrum emanated by wind turbines low-frequency sound and infrasound predominate. Investigating noise distribution of wind farm, when the results are adjusted according to the frequency characteristic A, background noise detection method is based on the percentage of the sound level LAF90. However, the methodology for establishing the values of infrasound and low-frequency background noise has not been developed, even though it is essential to set the background noise in wind farms. It was found that 32 dBA of wind turbines noise is already for some people a strong irritant to the nervous system, and the noise of 40 dB and above can cause severe discomfort to many people.

Wind turbine noise dispersion has been studied by many researchers. A lot of investigation has been carried out by Swedish scientists Karl Bolin, Lisa Johansson, Eja Pedersen, Olivier Fegeant. Olivier Fegeant paid great attention to noise fluctuations, Peter R. Wolters (USA) and Luís Filipe da Conceição Vargas (Portugal) in their research focused on noise dispersion models and numerical analysis as well as prediction of noise. In Lithuania a lot of studies in sound-absorbing materials and their compositions have been performed by Vytautas Stauskis; room acoustics and sound insulation in the field have been researched by Alexander Jagniatinskis, and noise dispersion in cylindrical structures by Danielius Gužas.

The subject of the research

The subject of the research is the noise generated by industrial wind farms and measures of protection of living environment.

The aims and objectives of the research

The aims:

1. To establish and evaluate generation and dispersion of low frequency noise in industrial wind farms and beyond.
2. To establish effective protection measures of living environment against the low frequency noise emitted by wind turbines.

The objectives:

1. Measurement of noise dispersion in wind farms and outside, and assessment of background noise.
2. Establishment and assessment of background noise in wind parks at the wind speed 6 m/s.
3. Establishment of low frequency sound insulation index of environmentally friendly materials.
4. Development of security measures against low frequency noise generated by wind farms near living environment.

Methodology of the research

The methodology employed in the study is based on establishing the noise generated by wind turbines in concentric rings. The study of environmentally friendly materials and acoustic properties of their combinations was carried out in accordance with the international ISO standard testing methodologies. In order to evaluate the efficiency of noise reduction measures, the empirical formula and Strati-Artz software have been used. To simulate noise dispersion in the environment the noise dispersion modelling software CadnaA and finite element method based on program Comsol Multiphysics software have been applied.

Scientific novelty of the research

In the noise frequency characteristic, infrasound emitted by wind turbines and low frequency noise source have been distinguished, examined and evaluated. Infrasound and low frequency background noise of operating wind farms has been estimated. Infrasound and low frequency noise emissions have been measured in wind farms, outside, and in living environment. The novelty of the work lies in the fact that it is complex: natural study of noise generated by wind turbines and its dissemination have been performed; sound insulation index of environmentally friendly materials and their combinations have been calculated by experimental studies in a noise suppression chamber and by simulating noise dispersion; on the basis of the results of the study, sound reduction measures in residential areas have been designed by simulating sound dispersion outside wind farms.

Practical value

According to the data obtained from analysis of noise dispersion produced by individual industrial wind turbines it is possible to simulate noise dispersion in wind farms. On the basis of low-frequency background noise measurement methodologies it is possible to assess the overall impact of the background

noise on the general low-frequency noise. Taking into account the data obtained from the study and simulation in the noise reduction chamber, the measures for protecting residential areas from wind power noise have been suggested in the thesis.

Defended statements

1. In order to experimentally determine the distribution of the values of wind turbine noise dispersion in a wind farm, it is recommended to choose the appropriate measurement locations by the method of concentric circles around wind farms.
2. The background low-frequency noise can be estimated in an operational wind farm without stopping its functioning.
3. By applying constructions of environmentally friendly materials (adobe, cane, and straw bale plastered with clay) it is possible to reduce low-frequency sound dispersion in the buildings inside the zone of wind turbine acoustic impact.

The scope of the scientific work

The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, conclusion, bibliography and a list of publications. The work has 163 pages it contains 22 numbered formulas, 87 pictures, and two tables. 150 sources have been used in writing the dissertation.

1. Wind turbines and their noise

Depending on the sound generation mechanism, the predominant frequencies are different. With the blade periodically crossing the turbulent air flow created behind the tower, the resulting noise ranges from 1 to 30 Hz. The blade tip cutting the air generates noise with dominating 500–1000 Hz frequencies. The back air flow turbulence created by the back edge is the source of 10–300 Hz sound frequency. In researching low-frequency noise and infrasound generated by wind turbines the most appropriate Z frequency weighting is the most suitable for the investigation of low-frequency sound because this kind of noise affects not only hearing, but also the entire human body. There is a large number of studies carried out on aerodynamic noise produced by wind turbines. It was found that large-diameter (~ 60 m) wind turbine rotors with the distance of 50 to 400 m at 12–20 m/s wind speed emit 65–115 dBA noise. It is best described by US scientist George W. Kamperman in the study on wind turbine noise dispersion.

The sound insulation of walls in the wind turbine impact area must have good low-frequency sound absorption. Low-frequency sound travels quite a

long distance because the low attenuation coefficient. Low-frequency sound and infrasound are known to be absorbed by cylindrical or hexagonal mufflers. Currently, there is a lot of information about noise insulation materials, but they are expensive. Some cheaper raw materials are clay, straw, and reeds. A group of scientists from Liverpool University headed by Oldham, studied biomass samples by interferometer. Sound absorption coefficient α was established on jute, sisal, linen, ramie, wool, hemp fibre, straw, and reed samples. The researchers found that a 14 cm thick reed sample is suitable for insulating low-frequency sounds. However, there are very few laboratory tests conducted on sound insulation index R_w of straw and reed.

2. Methodology of experimental studies and simulation of wind power plant noise emissions and their reduction

Wind turbine noise emission measurements were carried out in the wind farms of Griežpelkės, Anužiai, Rūdaičiai, and Liepynė. Their aim was to determine how wind turbines sited in the park can affect the aerodynamic noise formation of wind turbines in the park and beyond. For measuring noise emitted by wind turbines it is important to determine the maximum and minimum sound level values $L_{ZF_{min}}$ $L_{ZF_{maks}}$. Wind turbine noise emission values $L_{ZF_{min}}$ and $L_{ZF_{maks}}$ were calculated by the following formula:

$$L_J = 10 \cdot \lg \left(10^{\frac{L_{FJ}}{10}} - 10^{\frac{L_F}{10}} \right), \text{dBZ} \quad (2.1)$$

where: L_F – $L_{ZF_{min}}$ – background noise dBZ; L_{FJ} – $L_{ZF_{maks}}$ – the sum of background noise and wind turbine noise emission levels, dBZ, L_J – the level of wind turbine emitted noise dBZ. If $L_{FJ} > L_F + 20$ dBZ, then L_F is relatively small and does not significantly affect the calculations. Therefore, when $L_{FJ} > L_F + 20$ dBZ it is assumed that $L_{ZF_{maks}}$ corresponds to the noise emitted by the wind turbine. The 6.3–200 Hz frequency range was chosen for analysis since the noise of these frequencies is generated erratically. The equivalent maximum and minimum sound levels in the range of average geometric frequency 6.3 to 31.5 Hz and 31.5 to 200 Hz, is calculated according to the formula:

$$L_{n,eq} = 10 \cdot \lg \sum_{i=n}^n 10^{\frac{L_i}{10}}, \quad (2.2)$$

where L_i – maximum or minimum values dBZ of sound pressure level.

In the study of wind farm noise distribution, measurement points were located equidistant from the wind turbine. In the plan of measuring points the

wind turbines were marked and concentric circles were drawn. The measurement location plan of concentric rings of six wind turbines is presented in Figure 2.1.

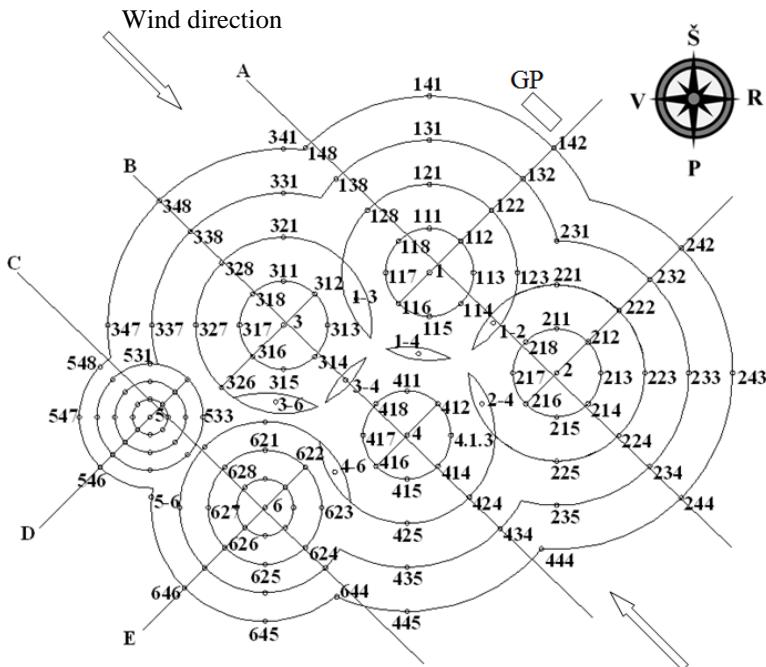


Fig. 2.1. Scheme of measuring points of six wind turbines in Liepyné wind park:
GP – residential buildings, A, B, C, D, E – measuring sections

The radius of the first circle corresponds to the length of the blade, that of the second to two blade lengths, the third to three blade lengths, etc. Wind turbine noise was measured in the formed rings, in each ring at 8 points. In the case of ring intersection for the second time, the measurements in that direction and in the area of crossing rings were not performed, since the measurements were carried out in the smaller rings. The sound insulation index RW of the materials was established in the noise suppression chamber. The total length of the chamber is 4.2 m, its width – 2.5 m, and the height – 3 m.

The measurements were performed in accordance with the international standard ISO 12354th The materials selected for the study are environmentally

friendly and have a cylindrical structure: straw, reed, adobe and clay plastered straw.

The complex impact of environmentally friendly materials, structural element of the roof and the layout of the building were found by simulation. The digital model was developed on the basis of finite element method.

3. Results of research in wind turbines noise dissemination and reduction measures

The investigation was carried out in wind farms and the buildings located in the area of their acoustic impact and the surroundings. The noise dispersion of two, four and six wind farms was established taking the background noise into account. The environments selected for research contained residential dwellings at the distance of 200–400 meters away from the wind turbines. In the noise suppression chamber, sound insulation indices of the environmentally friendly materials with cylindrical structure and their combinations were estimated.

In Griežpelkiai wind farm the background noise was measured with the wind stopped. The measurements were repeated in the same locations when the wind farm was operating. It was established that with wind turbines rotating the lowest sound level values are close to an equivalent sound level established with the wind turbines being suspended. The difference of the mismatch between the levels is illustrated in Figure 3.1.

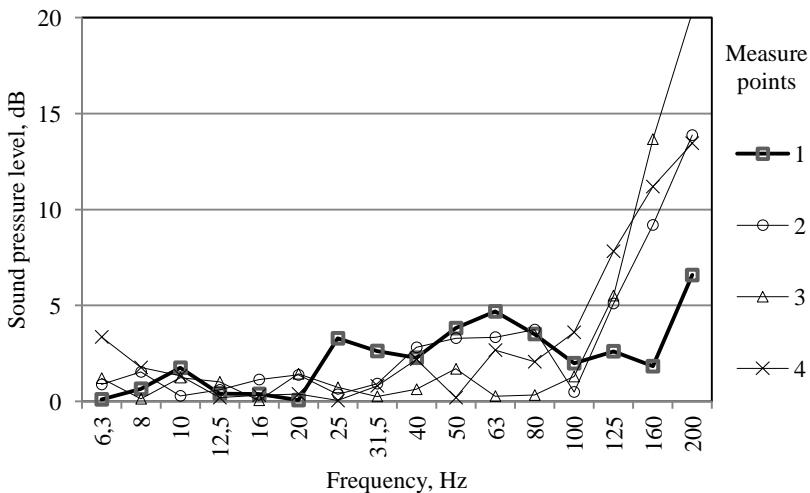


Fig. 3.1. Difference of sound level values in frequency range from 6.3 Hz to 200 Hz, measured in suspended and operating wind turbines in the wind park

Sound pressure level difference between the values of up to 100 Hz does not exceed 5 dB, and the average of the difference is 3 dB. The difference between the values of 200 Hz sound pressure level, measured when the wind farm was stopped and when it was operating, at one measuring point was up to 7 dB. In determining the minimum background noise the minimum sound pressure level above 100 Hz should be measured in the acoustic shadow zone.

The results of the test on noise emissions of the two wind farms in the frequency range from 6.3 to 31.5 Hz are presented in Figure 3.2.

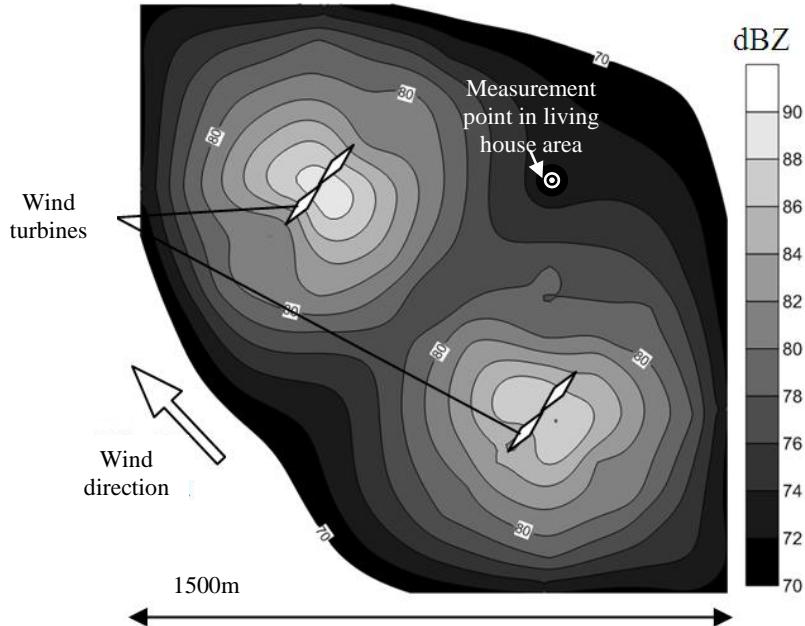


Fig. 3.2. Equivalent sound levels in frequency range from 6.3 to 31.5 Hz

Equivalent sound level of 6.3 to 31.5 Hz frequency range L_{ZEq} (6.3 to 31.5) varied from 74 dB to 89 dB. The sound level under the wind turbine blades was up to 10 dB lower than at the other measurement locations with the same distance from the wind turbine.

In the acoustic shadow zone, the sound level difference between the values under the blades can be influenced by the effect Doppler. 8 Hz frequency sound with blade approaching the tower will be recorded as 8.5 Hz and as 7.5 Hz frequency sound with the blade moving away from the tower. According to the estimates of low frequency and infrasound in the range 6.3–200 Hz, the sound pressure level generated by falling blades is higher by 1–2 dB than that of the

rising blades. The resulting acoustic shadow under the wind turbine blades determines the lower sound level in the centre of the park.

The noise with the change of the level more than 5 dB and constantly changing, the break off or pulsing is called irregular noise. During the measurement of noise distribution in a farm of six wind turbines the fluctuation interval (the time change between adjacent maximum or minimum values) of the wind turbine at the edge of the farm was established. The average of the fluctuation interval is 1.5 sec.

The difference between the peak mean is 4.43 dB, and in some cases between adjacent peaks the sound level difference is greater than 5 dB. Therefore, it can be claimed that the fluctuating noise emitted by wind turbines is irregular. The erratic noise consisting of one or more audio signals with duration of less than 1 second is called impulse noise. It was found that the fluctuation range varied from 1200 ms to 1700 ms then the time interval between close noise peaks, the highest and the lowest values of the sound, varies from 0.6 s to 0.85 s. Therefore, at this measurement point the fluctuating noise is impulsive.

The results of sound pressure level values in the environment of the buildings in the two, four and six wind farms affected areas and the exceedances of the limit values in accordance with the hygiene norms HN 30:2009 are presented in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1. Noise emission of wind farms in living environment

The distance to the turbine, m	No of wind turbines in the farm	Background noise values, dBZ	Maximum sound pressure level, dBZ	Intensity of fluctuation, dB	Period of fluctuation, s
100	2	55	77	10	0.81
200			72	9	0.77
300			69	7	0.59
400			65	5	0.48
500			60	3	0.41
100	4	83	104	11	0.55
200			101	8	0.47
300			97	7	0.41
400			93	4	0.36
500			91	3	0.32
100	6	60	82	10	0.68
200			78	8	0.55
300			70	6	0.40
400			66	4	0.37
500			64	3	0.33

Although the low-frequency sound is not well heard, it is harmful both to humans and the environment, and therefore it is essential to find materials and structures for attenuating low frequency noise.

Both in the four wind turbines farm and in the six wind turbines park, sound pressure level values for the wind farm were higher downwind. When the prevailing wind direction coincides with the central axis of the farm, higher sound pressure level values are located in a narrow range. If the wind direction is perpendicular to the central axis of the farm, then the values of a higher sound pressure level are located in a wider band corresponding to the length of the wind farm.

In the trials, sound reduction index R_w were calculated for the samples of 250 mm thick adobe, 400 mm thick straw bale plastered by clay, 50–200 mm thick straw bale, and 50–200 mm thick cane, oriented perpendicularly to the noise source and of 150–200 mm thick reed oriented parallel to the noise source.

It was found that the best sound isolating samples were 400 mm thick straw bale plastered with clay plaster and 200 mm thick adobe, their sound reduction index R_w were 47 dB and 43 dB, respectively. The results are shown in Figures 3.3 and 3.4.

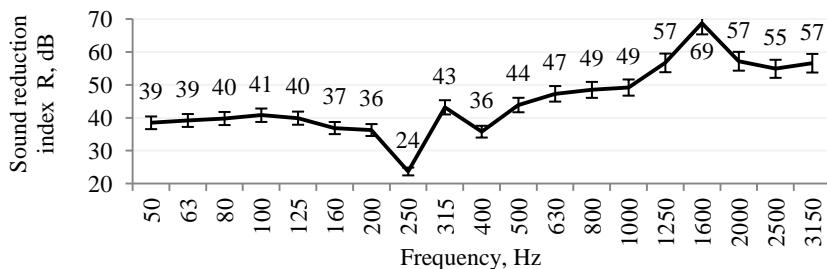


Fig. 3.3. Sound insulating properties of clay plastered straw bale sample and their dependence on insulated sound frequency

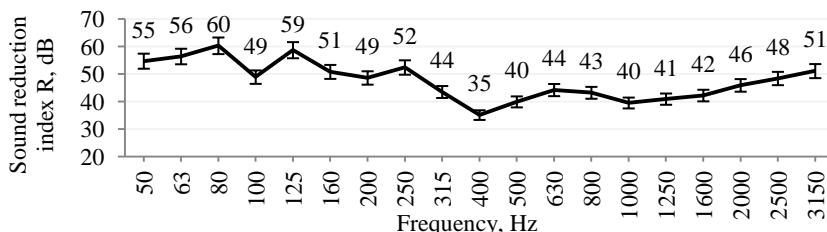


Fig. 3.4. Sound insulating properties of adobe sample and their dependence on insulated sound frequency

The lowest standard frequency of sound insulation index is 50 Hz. In order to determine the sound insulation index R at smaller than 50 Hz frequencies, calculations and simulations have been performed with pressed straw plastered with clay, adobe, pressed straw and reed samples.

Sound insulation index values determined during the experiment and the simulation results of infrasound and low frequency are presented in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2. Sound reduction index R of environmentally friendly materials and their composites in frequency range from 8 to 200 Hz

Material	Thickness, mm	Sound reduction index R, dB		
		8–20 Hz	25–63 Hz	80–200 Hz
Cob (Clay and straw)	200	9–28	40–56	49–60
Plastered straw	400	8–25	30–39	36–41
Straw	200	16–39	39–40	42–47
Reeds perpendicular to the noise source	150	0–17	17–19	9–23
Reeds parallel to the noise source	200	5–18	19–25	4–30

Out of environmentally friendly materials tested at 8–20 Hz frequency range, the best samples to attenuate noise were straw, at 25–63 Hz frequency range – straw plastered with clay plaster and straw bale, at 80–200 Hz frequency range of noise levels adobe attenuated noise was the best. The study showed that the thresholds specified in the hygiene norm HN 30:2009, are exceeded by up to 35 dB 25–200 Hz frequencies.

Given the results of the trials, the best noise attenuating materials are those containing straw. Pressed straw can be used as an extra sound insulation layer, and adobe and plastered straw can be suitable for partitioning structures.

The environmentally friendly materials studied can be used in renovating and constructing buildings in wind farm environment, but uncalcined clay should be protected from moisture. It is possible to protect walls of pressed straw plastered with clay or adobe by increasing the eaves of the building, which would also affect noise dispersion in the building and its surroundings.

Sound diffusion research in the building aimed at establishing whether auxiliary facilities, such as a warehouse or garage, can influence the low-frequency dispersion throughout the building. By changing the space of the buildings low-frequency sound dispersion in the premises was assessed. It was also determined whether the roof eaves can reduce the spread of the noise in the building environment.

Numerical simulations showed that an eave of 25–50 cm in length at the frequency 1 Hz can reduce the sound pressure level up to 4 dB, at 10 Hz up to 8 dB, at 20 Hz – 10 dB, at 50 Hz – 13 dB, and at 100 Hz – 12 dB. Raising the roof eaves up to 1 m, the sound level in the attic would reduce the sound level at 1 Hz – 10 dB, 10 Hz – 14 dB, 20 Hz – 15 dB, 50 Hz – 18 dB at 100 Hz – 14 dB, respectively.

In solving the problem a numerical model of one-storey building has been designed. The walls of the building were 2.7 m in height and 10 m in length, the length of the roof eaves was 1.0 m, the slope of the roof was 45° . The wall thickness was 200 mm, the material was adobe. The thickness of the roof coating was 400 mm, made of straw. The noise source was six wind turbines with the tower's height of 100 m and the distance to the building 300 m. In the model compiled, one wind power plant emits 120 dBZ equivalent sound pressure level. In the building and its environment, the equivalent sound level corresponds to the sound pressure level established during the study. The results of the simulation of 100 Hz sound dispersion in the building and its environment are presented in Figure 3.5.

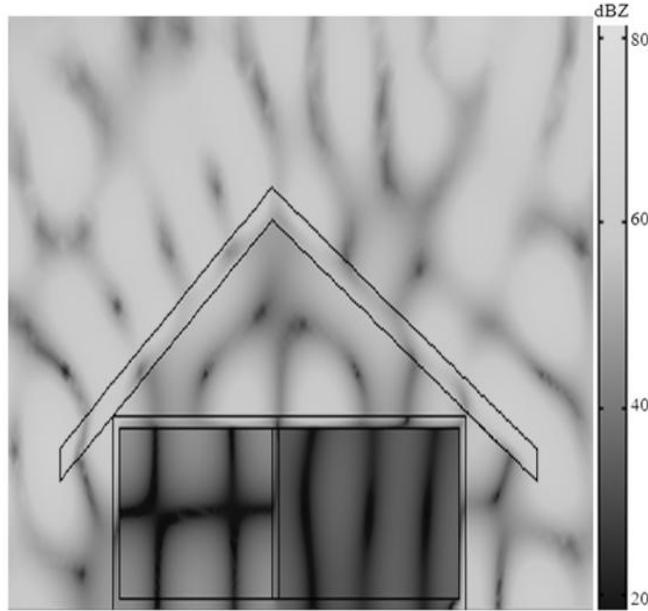


Fig. 3.5. Dissemination of 100 Hz frequency sound pressure level in the building with auxiliary room and its environment

With the simulation of auxiliary premises the sound pressure level of a building could be reduced because the air space in the auxiliary room would provide extra attenuation of the sound. The orientation of the premises has no impact on the 10 Hz sound spread in the attic, but with the rooms in the attic being of equal space, the 100 Hz sound can increase from 60 dB to 80 dB. The 100 Hz sound pressure level varies by forming auxiliary premises in the building. In the auxiliary premises the 100 Hz sound pressure level decreases and reaches 30 dB as in a monolithic building. In the formed auxiliary room the standing sound waves remain, but the sound entering into the adjacent room is attenuated by the partition and the living room is dominated by slightly varying 30 dBZ sound pressure level across the room. Divided into two parts, the room reduces the interference effects in the second room. In the attic, the sound pressure level varied insignificantly from 50 dBZ to 40 dBZ sound pressure level, while without changing rooms in the attic the 45 dBZ sound pressure level prevailed.

General conclusions

1. The background noise of low frequencies in an operating wind farm can be calculated from maximum and minimum sound pressure values to be determined in the acoustic shadow zones.
2. Within the wind farms, the sound pressure level depends on the number of wind turbines and their location, their height from the ground, power, rotor diameter and wind speed. At 6 m/s wind speed, 2 MW of average wind turbine and 50 dB background noise of two wind turbines in the park, sound pressure level varies from 55 dBZ to 72 dBZ, four wind turbines in the park – from 58 dBZ to 81 dBZ, six wind turbines in the park – from 54 dBZ to 77 dBZ.
3. It was observed that at the distance of one rotor diameter from the wind turbine, sound pressure level reduction is formed under its blade, i.e. an acoustic shadow. This is believed to be caused by the effect of Doppler which is observed due to the difference of sound pressure level under rising and descending blades. It is estimated that such a difference in the sound pressure level at 6 m/s wind speed can be up to 2 dB. The acoustic shadow of the wind turbines can be attenuated by adjacent wind farm noise.
4. It was found that inside the wind farms, impulse noise is formed by the turbine blade moving towards the tower, but outside the wind farm it is transformed into a fluctuating noise.
5. It was found that the noise spread in the wind farms depends on the prevailing wind direction and the location of wind turbines in the wind park. Behind the two turbine wind farm, the noise dispersion is mainly affected by

one or two wind turbines' noise, depending on the observer's position. In case of more than two turbines situated on the same line, the noise dispersion will be affected by the noise generated by one turbine. If several wind power plants are located outside a straight line with respect to the observer, the dispersion of the noise is influenced by at least two wind turbines. The more wind turbines affect the spread of the noise with respect to the observer, the greater the probability that the fluctuations decrease in intensity and their time span.

6. Noise fluctuations are smaller in measurement points where the formation of noise is influenced by a larger number of wind turbines with their rotors being different in diameters. The fluctuation periods beyond wind farms range from 0.8 sec at 100 meter distance from the two wind turbine farm up to 0.3 sec at 500 metre distance from the six-turbine wind farm. Inside the parks, the fluctuation period of 1.0 to 1.5 sec prevails.

7. Wind farm efficiency can be increased by changing the number of wind turbines and their location in the park, hence optimizing the area ratio of installed capacity and noise pollution area. For example, in the two wind turbine farm under investigation, the mentioned ratio is $5 \text{ MW}/\text{km}^2$, in a four wind turbine farm it is $10 \text{ MW}/\text{km}^2$, in a six wind turbine farm it is $9.13 \text{ MW}/\text{km}^2$. The wider the wind farm with respect to prevailing wind direction the larger is the area downwind of the park exposed to noise.

8. To attenuate low-frequency noise emitted by wind turbines, environmentally friendly materials with cylindrical structure were selected. It was found that low frequency sound was best attenuated by pressed straw, cob and pressed straw plastered with clay with sound insulation index in low frequency ranges varied from 49 dB to 60 dB.

9. Wind turbine noise dispersion inside buildings can be reduced to acceptable levels by changing the layout of rooms, roof eaves dimensions and by using adobe for wall constructions. The roof eaves can reduce the spread of noise in the attic of the building by 10 dB to 18 dB. The space of the premises should be adjusted according to the smallest sound insulation index R values of the building walls and the roof. Given the sound insulation index, a wall of 400 mm thick straw bale plastered with clay can reduce the spread of the noise in the building by 47 dB, 200 mm adobe wall by 43 dB, and an additional 200 mm layer of straw bale by 26 dB.

Recommendations

1. Low-frequency background noise of wind turbines in a wind farm is recommended to be established according to the minimum sound pressure level values near external wind turbines. External wind turbines are chosen moving

away perpendicularly from the central axis of the wind farm, which coincides with the direction of the wind. In measuring the background noise of wind farms it is recommended to follow the concentric methodology of measuring points selecting the lowest sound pressure level values in acoustic shadow zones. According to the minimum sound pressure level values established at the 8 measuring points in the first ring, the acoustic shadow zones are identified and the background noise of the wind farm is determined. The impact of the background noise on the overall noise of the wind farm is estimated by the minimum and maximum values of sound pressure level difference: if these values are higher than 20 dB, then the background noise impacts the overall noise of the wind farm no more than by 1 dB.

2. Fluctuations of equivalent sound pressure level of 4–5 dB in intensity decrease at the distance of 400 m from the wind farm. To avoid impulse noise, residential buildings should be located at least 500 meters from wind turbines. In order to protect against low-frequency noise emanating from wind turbines, it is recommended to use adobe structures in building walls, to construct the roof eaves no less than 1 meter in length, and to situate auxiliary premises of the house in the part oriented to the wind farm.

List of published papers on the topic of the dissertation In the reviewed scientific periodical publications

- Butkus, D.; Grubliauskas, R.; Mažuolis, J. 2012. Research of equivalent and maximum value of noise generated by wind power plants. *Journal of Environmental Engineering and Landscape Management* 20(1): 27–34. ISSN 1648-6897. IF = 1.958 (Thomson ISI Web of Science).
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Jurgis Mažuolis was born on 19th October, 1979 in Vilnius. In 2000 was qualified as draftsmen-constructor at Vilnius polytechnic school N 1. In 2005 he obtained bachelor's degree in environmental engineering at the Faculty of Environmental Engineering of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University. In 2007 he obtained master's degree in environmental engineering at the Faculty of Environmental Engineering of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University. Since 2009 to 2013 he was doing research for doctor's degree at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University.

VĖJO JĘGAINIŲ KELIAMO TRIUKŠMO BEI APSAUGOS PRIEMONIŲ TYRIMAS IR VERTINIMAS

Mokslo problemos aktualumas

Vėjo turbinos triukšmas turi aerodinaminę ir mechaninę kilmę. Triukšmas daro reikšmingą poveikį gyventojams, gyvenantiems šalia vėjo jégainių. Tai kenksmingas sveikatai aplinkos faktorius, sukeliantis specifinius ir nespecifinius patologinius pokyčius įvairiose organizmo sistemoje. Vėjo jégainės yra savitas triukšmo šaltinis, nes montuojamos dideliamė aukštyste virš žemės paviršiaus, o skleidžiamas triukšmas yra fliuktuojantis bei pasireiškia dideliamė dažnių diapazone.

Palyginti nedidelio stiprumo garsas veikia žmones, nes vėjo jégainių spektrinėje triukšmo sudėtyje vyraujantys toli sklindantys žemo dažnio garsai ir infragarsas. Vėjo jégainių aplinkoje triukšmo tyrimus yra atlikę daug tyrėjų, tačiau žemo dažnio triukšmo ir infragarso skliaudos vėjo jégainių parke tyrimų atlikta mažai. Mažai tirta ir vėjo jégainių išdėstymo parke įtaka triukšmo formavimuisi. Tiriant vėjo jégainių parkų triukšmo sklidą, kai rezultatai koreguojami pagal A dažnį charakteristiką, naudojama foninio triukšmo nustatymo metodika remiasi procentiniu garso lygiu LAF90. Tačiau nėra metodikos kuria vadovaujantis galima nustatyti infragarso bei žemo dažnio foninio triukšmo vertes. Foninį triukšmą vėjo jégainių parke nustatyti būtina

Nustatyta, kad jau 32 dBA vėjo jégainių triukšmas kai kuriems žmonėms yra stiprus nervinės sistemos dirgiklis, o 40 dBA ir didesnis triukšmas sukelia stiprų diskomfortą jau daugeliui žmonių.

Vėjo jégainių triukšmo sklaidą tyrė daugelis mokslininkų. Didžioji dalis mokslo darbų yra švedų mokslininkų: Karl Bolin, Lisa Johansson, Eja Pedersen, Olivier Fegeant. Fegeant didelį dėmesį skyrė triukšmo fliuktuacijoms, Peter R. Wolton (JAV) ir Luís Filipe da Conceição Vargas (Portugalija) – triukšmo sklaidos skaitinio modelio kūrimui ir analizei bei triukšmo prognozavimui. Lietuvoje garsą sugeriančių medžiagų bei jų kompozicijų tyrimų daug atlikęs Vytautas Stauskis, patalpų akustikos ir garso izoliacijos srityje – Aleksandras Jagnatienskis, triukšmo sklaidos cilindrinėse konstrukcijose – Danielius Gužas.

Tyrimo objektas

Pramoninių vėjo jégainių parkų skleidžiamas triukšmas ir gyvenamosios aplinkos apsaugos priemonės.

Darbo tikslai ir uždaviniai

Darbo tikslai:

1. Nustatyti ir įvertinti žemo dažnio triukšmo ir infragarso susidarymą ir sklaidą pramoninių vėjo jégainių parkuose ir jų išorėje.
2. Nustatyti efektyvias gyvenamosios aplinkos apsaugos priemones nuo vėjo jégainių keliamo žemo dažnio triukšmo.

Darbo tikslui pasiekti reikia išspręsti šiuos uždavinius:

1. Triukšmo sklaidos matavimas ir vertinimas vėjo jégainių parkuose ir jų išorėje.
2. Foninio triukšmo nustatymas ir įvertinimas vėjo jégainių parkuose pučiant 6 m/s vėjo greičiu.
3. Aplinkai palankių medžiagų garso izoliacijos rodiklio žemų dažnių srityje nustatymas.
4. Apsaugos priemonių nuo vėjo jégainių keliamo žemo dažnio triukšmo gyvenamojoje aplinkoje kūrimas ir modeliavimas.

Tyrimų metodika

Darbe taikoma vėjo jégainių keliamo triukšmo išcentriniuose žieduose nustatymo metodika. Aplinkai nekenksmingų medžiagų bei jų kompozicijų akustinių savybių tyrimai atlikti pagal tarptautiniuose ISO standartuose pateikiamas bandymų atlikimo metodikas. Siekiant įvertinti triukšmo sklaidą mažinančių priemonių efektyvumą naudotos empirinės formulės ir Strati-Artz programinė įranga. Triukšmo sklaidai aplinkoje modeliuoti naudota triukšmo sklaidos modeliavimo programa CadnaA ir baigtinių elementų metodu paremta programa Comsol Multiphysics.

Mokslinis darbo naujumas

Triukšmo dažninėje charakteristikoje išskiriamas, nagrinėjamas bei įvertinamas vėjo jégainių skleidžiamo infragarso ir žemo dažnio triukšmo šaltinis. Įvertinamas veikiančių vėjo jégainių infragarsas ir žemo dažnio foninis triukšmas. Infragarso ir žemo dažnio triukšmo sklaida vertinama vėjo jégainių parkuose, už jų ribų bei gyvenamojoje aplinkoje. Darbas pasižymi kompleksiškumu: atliekami natūriniai vėjo jégainių keliamo triukšmo susidarymo ir sklaidos tyrimai; eksperimentiniai tyrimais triukšmo slopinimo kameroje ir modeliuojant nustatomas aplinkai nekenksmingų medžiagų ir jų kompozicijų garso izoliacijos rodiklis; atsižvelgiant į gautus tyrimų duomenis modeliuojama triukšmo sklaida vėjo jégainių parko išorėje ir garso slopinimo priemonės gyvenamojoje aplinkoje.

Praktinė reikšmė

Pagal pavienių pramoninių vėjo jégainių keliamo triukšmo sklaidos duomenis galima modeliuoti vėjo jégainių parkų triukšmo sklaidą. Remiantis žemo dažnio foninio triukšmo matavimo metodika galima įvertinti foninio triukšmo įtaką bendram žemo dažnio triukšmui. Atsižvelgiant į triukšmo slopinimo kameroje gautus tyrimų ir modeliavimo duomenis siūlomos gyvenviečių apsaugos priemonės nuo vėjo jégainių keliamo žemo dažnio triukšmo.

Ginamieji teiginiai

1. Siekiant eksperimentiškai nustatyti sklindančio triukšmo verčių pasiskirstymą vėjo jégainių parke, matavimo vietas tikslinga parinkti koncentriiniu apskritimiu apie vėjo jégaines metodu.
2. Foninį žemų dažnių triukšmą veikiančių vėjo jégainių aplinkoje galima įvertinti jų nestabdom.
3. Žemų dažnių triukšmo sklaidą vėjo jégainių akustinio poveikio zonoje esančiuose pastatuose galima sumažinti panaudojant konstrukcijas iš aplinkai nekenksmingų medžiagų (plaušamolio, nendrių ir presuotų šiaudų, tinkuotų molio tinku).

Darbo apimtis

Disertaciją sudaro įvadas, trys skyriai, bendrosios išvados, rekomendacijos, literatūros sąrašas ir autoriaus publikacijų sąrašas. Darbo apimtis yra 163 puslapių, tekste panaudotos 22 numeruotas formulės, 87 paveikslai ir dvi lentelės. Rašant disertaciją panaudota 150 literatūros šaltinių.

Įvadiniame skyriuje aptariama tiriamoji problema, formuluojamas darbo aktualumas, aprašomas tyrimų objektas, formuluojamas darbo tikslas bei uždaviniai, aprašoma tyrimų metodika, darbo mokslinis naujumas, darbo rezultatų praktinė reikšmė, ginamieji teiginiai. Pirmasis skyrius skirtas literatūros analizei. Šiame skyriuje nagrinėjama vėjo jégainių triukšmo sklaida ir jos mažinimo priemonės. Antrame skyriuje pateikiama vėjo jégainių skleidžiamo triukšmo tyrimo bei garso izoliacijos rodiklio nustatymo metodikos. Trečiame skyriuje pateikiama atliktu tyrimų rezultatų analizė. Buvo įvertinta žemo dažnio garso ir infragarso sklaida parkų viduje ir išorėje bei nustatytas aplinkai nekenksmingų medžiagų efektyvumas slopinant vėjo jégainių skleidžiamą triukšmą.

Bendrosios išvados

1. Foninių žemų dažnių triukšmą veikiančiame vėjo jégainių parke galima apskaičiuoti pagal didžiausias ir mažiausias garso slėgio lygio vertes kurios turi būti nustatamos akustinio šešėlio zonose.
2. Vėjo jégainių parkų viduje garso slėgio lygis priklauso nuo vėjo jégainių skaičiaus, jų išdėstymo, aukščio nuo žemės paviršiaus, galios, vėjaračio skersmens ir vėjo greičio. Esant 6 m/s vėjo greičiui, 2 MW vidutinei jégainės galiai ir esant 50 dBZ foniniams triukšmui dviejų vėjo jégainių parke garso slėgio lygis kinta nuo 55 dBZ iki 72 dBZ, keturių vėjo jégainių parke – nuo 58 dBZ iki 81 dBZ, šešių vėjo jégainių parke – nuo 54 dBZ iki 77 dBZ.
3. Pastebėta, kad iki vieno vėjaračio atstumu nuo vėjo jégainės, esant po jos mentėmis, susidaro garso slėgio lygio sumažėjimas – akustinis šešėlis. Prognozuojama, kad jis sukelia po kyylančiomis ir besileidžiančiomis mentėmis garso slėgio lygio skirtumas, susidarantis dėl Doplerio efekto. Apskaičiuota, kad tokis garso slėgio lygio skirtumas esant 6 m/s vėjo greičiui gali sudaryti 2 dB. Akustinis šešėlis prie vėjo jégainių gali būti slopinamas greta esančių vėjo jégainių keliamo triukšmo.
4. Nustatyta, kad vėjo jégainių parkų viduje susidaro impulsinis triukšmas, kuris susidaro jégainės mentei judant link bokšto, tačiau už parko ribų jis virsta fliuktuojančiu triukšmu.
5. Nustatyta, kad triukšmo sklaida vėjo jégainių parkuose priklauso nuo vyraujančios vėjo krypties ir vėjo jégainių išdėstymo parke. Už dviejų vėjo jégainių parko, priklausomai nuo stebėtojo esamos padėties, triukšmo sklaidai didžiausią įtaką daro vienos arba dviejų vėjo jégainių keliamas triukšmas. Išdėstant daugiau nei dvi jégaines vienoje linijoje, prie kraštinių vėjo jégainių triukšmo sklaidai įtaką darys vienos vėjo jégainės keliamas triukšmas. Jeigu kelios vėjo jégainės išdėstomos ne vienoje tiesėje, stebėtojo atžvilgiu, triukšmo

sklaidai įtaką turi ne mažiau kaip dviejų vėjo jégainių keliamas triukšmas. Kuo daugiau vėjo jégainių lems triukšmo sklaidą stebėtojo atžvilgiu, tuo didesnė tikimybė kad sumažės fliuktuacijų intensyvumas ir jų periodas.

6. Triukšmo fliuktuacijos mažesnės tose matavimo vietose kuriose triukšmo susidarymą lemia daugiau jégainių ir jų vejaračių skersmenys skiriasi. Fliuktuacijų periodas už parkų kinta nuo 0,8 s 100 metrų atstumu nuo 2-jų vėjo jégainių parko iki 0,3 s 500 m atstumu nuo 6-ių vėjo jégainių parko. Parkų viduje vyrauja 1,0–1,5 s fliuktuacijų periodas.

7. Vėjo jégainių parko efektyvumą galima didinti keičiant jégainių kiekį bei išdėstyti parke, tuo pačiu didinant ir instaliuotas galios ir akustinės taršos ploto santykį. Pavyzdžiu, nagrinėtame dviejų vėjo jégainių parke minėtas santykis yra 5 MW/km^2 , keturių vėjo jégainių parke – 10 MW/km^2 , šešių vėjo jégainių parke – $9,13 \text{ MW/km}^2$. Kuo vėjo jégainių parkas yra platesnis vyraujančios vėjo krypties atžvilgiu, tuo didesnė teritorija pavėjui už parko yra veikiamai triukšmo.

8. Žemo dažnio triukšmo sklaidai nuo vėjo jégainių slopinti pasirinktos cilindrinės struktūros aplinkai nekenksmingos medžiagos. Nustatyta, kad geriausiai žemų dažnių garsą slopina presuoti šiaudai, plaušamolis ir presuoti šiaudai tinkuoti molio tinku, kurių garso izoliacijos rodiklis žemų dažnių srityje kinta nuo 49 dB iki 60 dB.

9. Pastato stogo karnizas gali sumažinti triukšmo sklaidą pastogeje ir pastate nuo 10 dB iki 18 dB. Patalpos tūri reikštę keisti atsižvelgiant į pastato sienų ir stogo mažiausias garso izoliacijos rodiklio vertes. Atsižvelgiant į garso izoliacijos rodiklį, 400 mm storio presuotų šiaudų, tinkuotų molio tinku, sieną triukšmo sklaidą pastate gali sumažinti apie 47 dB, 200 mm plaušamolio sieną – iki 43 dB, o papildomas 200 mm presuotų šiaudų sluoksnis – iki 26 dBZ.

Rekomendacijos

1. Žemo dažnio foninį triukšmą vėjo jégainių parke rekomenduojama nustatyti pagal minimalaus garso slėgio lygio vertes prie išorinių vėjo jégainių. Išorinės vėjo jégainės parenkamos statmenai tolstant nuo centrinės vėjo jégainių parko ašies kuri sutampa su vėjo kryptimi. Matuojant vėjo jégainių parkų foninį triukšmą rekomenduojama vadovautis žiedine matavimo vietų parinkimo metodika atrenkant mažiausio garso slėgio lygio vertes akustinio šešėlio zonose. Pagal pirmame žiede, 8-iose matavimo vietose, nustatytas minimalaus garso slėgio lygio vertes išskiriamais akustinio šešėlio zonos ir jose nustatomas foninis vėjo jégainių parko triukšmas. Foninio triukšmo įtaka suminiams vėjo jégainių parko triukšmui įvertinama pagal minimalių ir maksimalių garso slėgio lygio verčių skirtumą: jeigu minėtų verčių skirtumas yra didesnis nei 20 dB,

tuomet suminiams vėjo jégainių parko triukšmui foninis triukšmas įtaką turi ne didesnę nei 1 dB.

2. Ekvivalentinio garso slėgio lygio fliuktuacijos iki 4–5 dB intensyvumo sumažėja už 400 m tolstant nuo vėjo jégainių parko. Siekiant išvengti impulsinio triukšmo gyvenamieji pastatai tūrėtų būti statomi ne arčiau kaip už 500 m už vėjo jégainių. Siekiant apsisaugoti nuo žemo dažnio triukšmo, sklindančio nuo vėjo jégainių, rekomenduojama pastatų sienų konstrukcijose naudoti plaušamoli, stogo karnizą įrengti nemažesnį, nei 1 metro ilgio ir namo dalyje, orientuotoje į vėjo jégainių parką, išdėstyti pagalbines patalpas. Visų patalpų dydį planuoti atsižvelgiant į pastato atitvarų mažiausias garso izoliacijos rodiklio vertes.

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RESEARCH AND EVALUATION OF WIND TURBINES NOISE AND
PROTECTION MEASURES

Summary of Doctoral Dissertation
Technological Sciences,
Environmental Engineering (04T)

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VĖJO JÉGAINIŲ KELIAMO TRIUKŠMO BEI APSAUGOS PRIEMONIŲ
TYRIMAS IR VERTINIMAS

Daktaro disertacijos santrauka
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2013 12 20. 1,5 sp. l. Tiražas 70 egz.
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