

Voltage Profile and THD Distortion of Residential Network with High Penetration of Plug-in Electrical Vehicles

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Abstract—This paper analyzes the potential impacts of Plug-in Electric Vehicles (PEVs) on the voltage profile, losses, power quality and daily load curve of low voltage residential network. PEVs are soon expected to grow in popularity as a low emission mode of transport compared to conventional petroleum based vehicles. Utilities are concerned about the potential detrimental impacts that multiple domestic PEV charging may have on network equipment (e.g., transformer and cable stresses). To address these issues, two charging regimes including uncoordinated (random) and coordinated (uniformly distribution) are considered. Based on harmonic analysis of a typical 19 bus low voltage (415V) residential network, different charging scenarios over a 24 hour period are compared considering voltage deviations, system losses, transformer overloading and harmonic distortions. Simulation results are used to highlight the advantages of the coordinated uniformly distributed charging of PEV in residential systems.

Index Terms—Smart grid, residential system, PEV charging, voltage profile, losses, coordinated charging and harmonics.

I. INTRODUCTION

Plug-in Electrical Vehicles (PEVs) are becoming more practical and popular in developing countries over conventional fuel-based vehicles as an efficient and more environmental friendly mode of transport. Smart appliances such as PEV will soon be able to “talk” to the grid and decide how best to operate and automatically schedule their activity at strategic times based on available generation.

So far there has been significant research in integrating customer demand side management into smart grids to improve the system load profile and reduce peak demand [1-9]. However, there are growing concerns and issues about the relatively high ratings, nonlinearities and charging regimes associated with PEVs, as well as their impacts on overall daily load patterns for residential systems [1]. An unexpected number of simultaneous PEV charger loads during the peak hours may alter the overall residential daily load curve, detriment power quality, increase system losses and cause

voltage fluctuations and overloading problems. Voltage deviations may cause reliability problems that should not be underestimated in order to avoid malfunctioning of electric appliances [10].

In order to investigate the above-mentioned potential problems, this paper aims to simulate a typical low voltage residential system with nonlinear PEV loads in the harmonic domain. The impacts of different charging regimes (random and uniformly distributed), charging periods (peak and off-peak) and PEV penetration (low, moderate and high) on performance and power quality of the grid considering load variations over a 24 hour period will be studied.

II. HARMONIC POWER FLOW

For the harmonic power-flow calculation, a decoupled approach is employed. This is justified due to the acceptable accuracy of the proposed decoupled harmonic power flow (DHPF) and the fact that industrial distribution systems consist of a large number of linear and nonlinear loads that cause convergence and memory storage problems if the harmonic couplings are considered [11].

At harmonic frequencies, the system is modeled as a combination of passive elements and harmonic current sources. The related admittance matrix is modified according to the harmonic frequency [12], [13], [14]. The general model of linear load as resistance in parallel with a reactance is utilized [14]. Nonlinear loads are modeled as current sources that inject harmonic current into the system. The fundamental and the h^{th} harmonic current of the nonlinear load installed at bus i with real power P and reactive power Q are modeled as

$$I_i^l = [(P_i + jQ_i)/V_i^l]^* \quad (1)$$

$$I_i^h = C(h)I_i^l \quad (2)$$

Where $C(h)$ is the ratio of the h^{th} harmonic current to its fundamental. The harmonic voltages are computed by solving the following load-flow equation:

$$Y^h V^h = I^h. \quad (3)$$

The voltage at bus is defined as

$$|V_i| = \left(\sum_{h=1}^H |V_i^h|^2 \right)^{1/2} \quad (4)$$

and the total harmonic distortions of voltage (THDv) and current (THDi) are

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$$THD_v = \left[\left(\sum_{h \neq 1}^H |V_i^h|^2 \right)^{1/2} / |V_i^1| \right] \times 100\% \quad (5)$$

$$THD_i = \left[\left(\sum_{h \neq 1}^H |I_i^h|^2 \right)^{1/2} / |I_i^1| \right] \times 100\%$$

Where $H=49$ is the highest harmonic order considered.

III. THE LOW VOLTAGE DISTORTED RESIDENTIAL SYSTEM

In this paper, the argument is made for taking advantage of smart grids to more effectively manage loads to mitigate the impact of harmonic distortion in low voltage residential systems. For example, charging PEVs could be dispersed in their scheduling to avoid too many charger loads coming online at one time to pollute the electrical system. Such operation can cause unacceptable bus voltage distortions and increase harmonic losses. The focus is on uniform distribution of PEV charging to improve voltage profile, reduce losses, avoid line overloading and limit harmonic stresses on the residential distribution transformers.

A. System under Study

A typical low voltage 19 bus 415V residential system is considered and modified to include different levels of PEV penetration (Fig. 1). A 100kVA transformer feeds the residential grid. Different PEV penetration levels (low, moderate and high) and three charging periods (5pm-8am, 5pm-12pm, and 5pm-7pm) with the possibility of one to two PEV loads per house (each rated at 4 kW each) are considered.

The typical daily load curve of Fig. 2 will be used and the system parameters are provided in the Appendix.

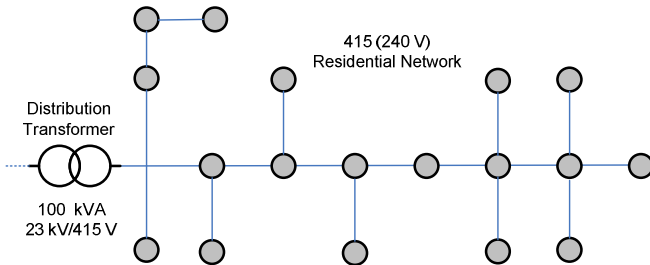


Fig.1. The typical 19-bus 415V residential system.

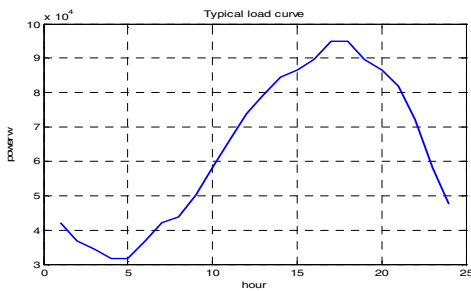


Fig.2. Typical daily load curve

B. Plug-in Electric Vehicles (PEVs)

Plug-in electric vehicles are becoming popular as a low emission mode of transport which will dramatically increase their presence in residential and distribution systems in the near future. Smart grids provide the unique opportunity to

manage not only the energy storage options, but also address power quality impacts presented by the highly nonlinear charging circuitry employed for PEVs.

In this paper, different (low, moderate and high) penetrations of PEVs are placed at various locations along the low voltage 415 V residential distribution feeder of Figure 1 to investigate the detrimental impacts of uncoordinated charging. Based on [10], the assumed maximum operating power level per PEV charger at a customer's premise is 4 kW. PEVs will be charged at any place where the standard outlet is present. In this article, they are assumed to be charged at home for two hours. Typical harmonic current content and waveform of PEV chargers obtained from [10] are shown in Table I and Fig. 3, respectively.

TABLE I
TYPICAL LINE CURRENT HARMONIC CONTENT OF
A TYPICAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGER [10]

Harmonic order h	Harmonic magnitude [%]	Harmonic phase angle [degrees]
1	100	-26
5	25	-94
7	17	-67
11	9	-67
13	5	-46
THD_i (Eq. 5)	31.9%	

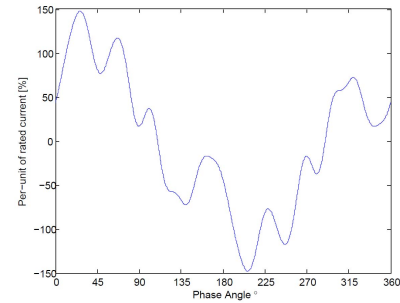


Fig.3. Waveform of input current for PEV charger (Table I)

IV. PROPOSED COORDINATED PEV CHARGING SCHEME

This paper simulates and examines two PEV charging schemes: uncoordinated (random charging) and coordinated (uniformly distribution charging over the projected charging period).

A. Uncoordinated Random PEV Charging

In this scheme, it is assumed that customers don't have the required information to schedule their PEV chargers. Therefore, they will randomly charge vehicles as they arrive home during the evening (peak) hours. For the analysis of this paper, three levels of PEV penetrations (low, moderate and high) will be considered. Each PEV is assumed to be rated at 4 kW and designed for constant current charging over a two hours period.

B. Coordinated Uniformly Distribution PEV Charging

A relatively simple alternative to the undesired random PEV charging is considered where the PEV charging is uniformly distributed over the designated charging period. The idea is educate and encourage the consumers to smartly distribute their charging periods during the off-peak hours.

C. Charging Zones

Three charging zones (periods) are considered:

- Green zone: 5pm to 8am.
- Yellow zone: 5pm to 12pm.
- Red zone: 5pm to 7pm (peak residential hours).

V. SIMULATION RESULTS

In order to investigate the impact of uncoordinated and coordinated PEV charging on the voltage profile, losses and power quality of the grid, the following operating conditions and cases are considered:

- Three charging zones: green (5pm-8am), yellow (5pm-12pm) and red (during the peak load; 5pm-7pm).
- Two charging schemes: uncoordinated random charging of PEVs and uniform distribution of PEV charging over the allowable charging periods.
- Three PEV penetration levels: 30%, 60% and 100%.

Case 1: Low PEV Penetration (30%)

The impact of uncoordinated and coordinated PEV charging on the residential system (Fig. 1) with a low PEV penetration of 30% (6 PEVs) are studied based on the DHPF algorithm of Section II. The maximum number of electric vehicles is assumed to be 18 PEVs.

PEVs are randomly placed for uncoordinated charging over the 19 buses. First bus is assumed to be the swing bus and PEVs can be connected to each of the remaining 18 buses. The selection of nodes and number of PEVs connected to each bus will definitely affect the calculations and simulation results. In order to have a precise comparison, the same selected random PEV locations are used for both uncoordinated and coordinated charging. Therefore, PEVs in uncoordinated PEV charging scenario are determined to be connected to the same buses in coordinated PEV charging and ultimately, the impact of PEV placement can be ignored.

Simulation results are provided in Table II. The current THD at the worst bus and the total power losses are shown in Figure 4.

Case 2: Moderate PEV Penetration (60%)

Simulations are performed for a moderate PEV penetration of 60% (11 PEVs). Simulation results are provided in Table II. Figures 5a and 5b show THD_i (at the worst bus) and the system power losses, respectively.

Case 3: High PEV Penetration (100%)

Simulation results for high penetration of PEVs (18 units) are provided in Table II and figures 6a and 6b.

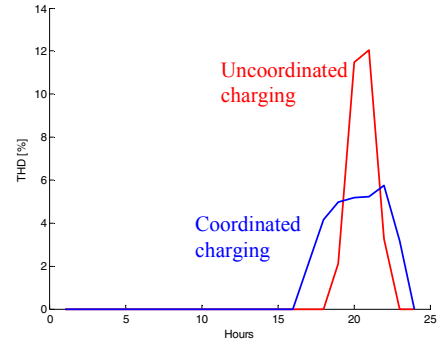


Figure 4(a). Case 1- THD voltage distortion at the worst bus (node 15) for uncoordinated (5pm-12pm) and coordinated (5pm-12pm) low penetration of PEV charging

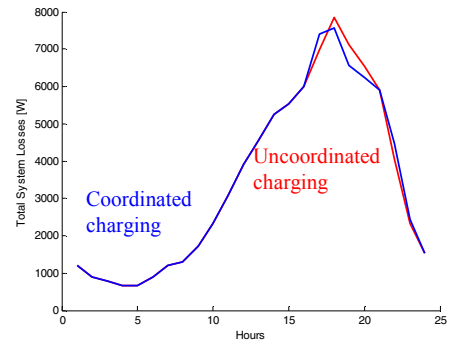


Figure 4(b). Case 1- Total power losses for uncoordinated (5pm-12pm) and coordinated (5pm-12pm) low penetration of PEV charging

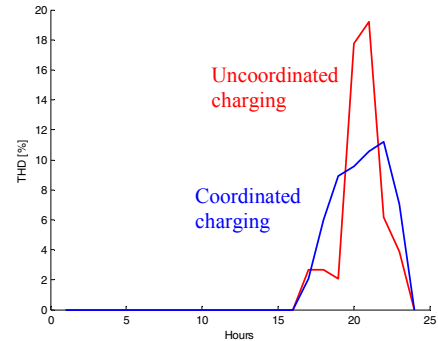


Figure 5(a). Case 1- THD voltage distortion at the worst bus (node 15) for uncoordinated (5pm-12pm) and coordinated (5pm-12pm) moderate penetration of PEV charging

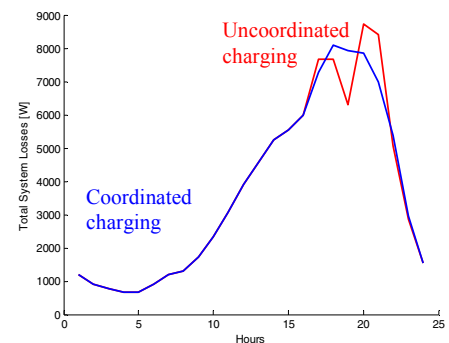


Figure 5(b). Case 2- Total power losses for uncoordinated (5pm-12pm) and coordinated (5pm-12pm) moderate penetration of PEV charging

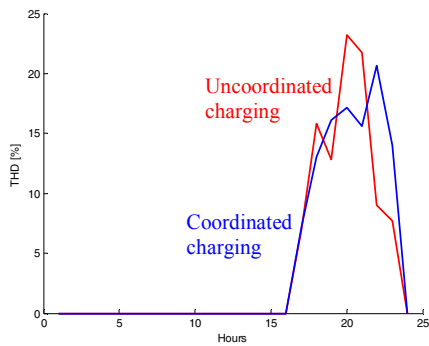


Figure 6(a). Case 2- THD voltage distortion at the worst bus (node10) for uncoordinated (5pm-12pm) and coordinated (5pm-12pm) high penetration of PEV charging

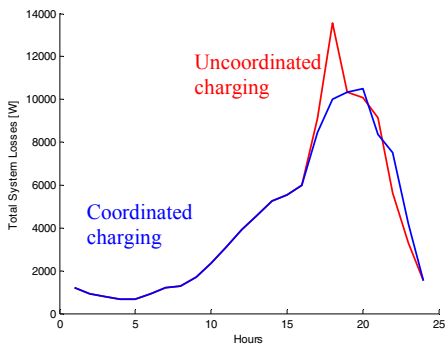


Figure 6(b). Case 3- Total power losses for uncoordinated (5pm-12pm) and coordinated (5pm-12pm) high penetration of PEV charging

VI. ANALYSIS

In this section, simulation results (Figs. 7-10) for high penetration of PEVs (100%) are presented and compared for two charging scenarios; uncoordinated charging during peak load (red zone: 5pm-7pm) and coordinated charging during the off-peak (green zone: 5pm-8am). The justifications for deploying different time zones for the two charging approaches are as follows:

- In a realistic scenario, most uncoordinated charging will occur within the narrower red time zone (5pm-7pm) upon the arrival of PEV owners from work (worst case), or, after some fixed delay into the evening. In this situation the system peak rises sharply and broadens due to much of the PEV charging loads coinciding with normal system load peaks. Severe voltage deviations, THD distortion, power losses and significant increase in transformer loading can occur as shown in Table II.
- The main purpose of coordinated charging is to force off-peak hours PEV charging to overcome these detrimental effects. The best coordinated case occurs if charging actions are uniformly distributed over the widest green time zone (5pm-8am). For this scenario, the impact on the system peak is lessened. Therefore, compared to the uncoordinated case, a significant improvement in smart grid performance could be achieved.

According to Figures 7, with uncoordinated charging the total system losses can be increased up to 500% during peak load while the proposed coordinated charging uniformly distributes PEV loads over the off-peak hours (5pm to 8am) and results in considerable lower loss levels. A similar situation occurs with the THD levels (Figure 8) which are

improved from 45% (uncoordinated charging) to about 15% for coordinated charging.

Coordinated charging can also improve the voltage profile as demonstrated in Figure 9 where the unacceptable voltage levels of 0.75pu at the worst bus in partially compensated to about 0.83pu. Figures 10 (a) and (b) show the impacts of PEV charging on the overall daily load curve. Both charging schemes show system overloading during peak hours; however, coordinated charging has less detrimental impacts.

Simulation results of Figs. 7-10 call for a more sophisticated charging approach which is beyond the scope of this paper.

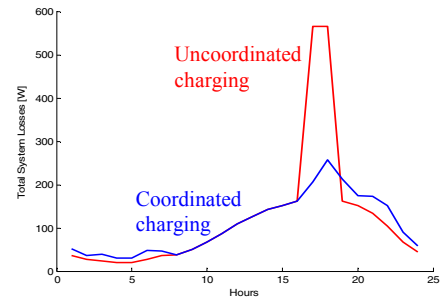


Figure 7. Comparison of total power losses for 100% penetration of PEV charging; uncoordinated charging (5pm-7pm) versus coordinated uniformly distributed charging (5pm-8am)

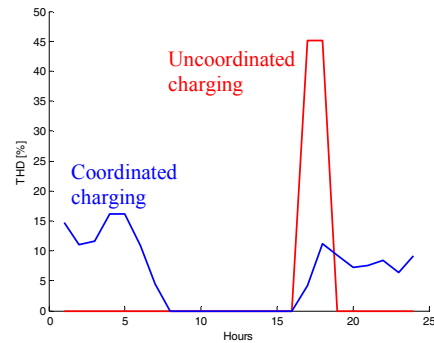


Figure 8. Comparison of THD voltage distortion for 100% penetration of PEV charging at the worst bus (node 10); uncoordinated charging (5pm-7pm) versus uniformly distributed charging (5pm-8am)

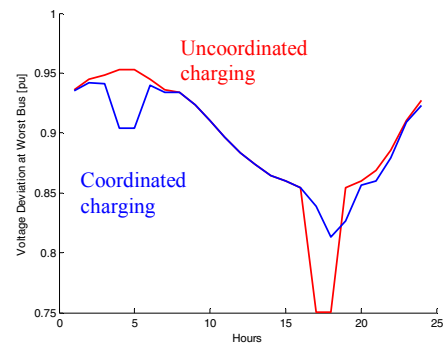


Figure 9. Comparison of maximum voltage deviation of the worst bus (node 10) for 100% penetration of PEV charging; uncoordinated charging (5pm-7pm) versus uniformly distributed charging (5pm-8am)

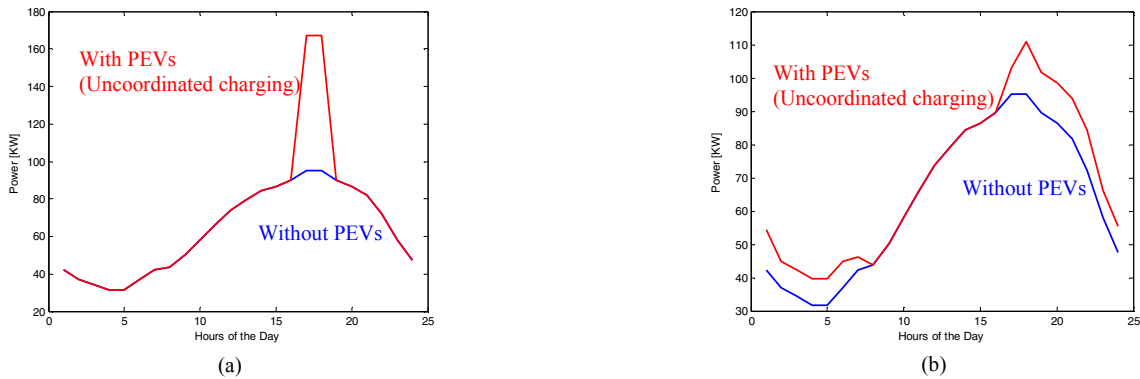


Figure 10. Daily load curves without any PEV and with a high penetration of PEVs using uncoordinated (a) and coordinated (b) charging

TABLE II

IMPACT OF RANDOM UNCOORDINATED CHARGING VERSUS UNIFORMLY DISTRIBUTED PEV CHARGING ON THE POWER QUALITY OF RESIDENTIAL SYSTEM (FIGURE 1)

CHARGING PERIODS	Uncoordinated (Random) PEV Charging				Coordinated (Uniformly Distributed) PEV Charging			
	Δloss^* [%]	ΔV^{**} [%]	I_{MAX}^{***} [pu]	THDV [%]	Δloss^* [%]	ΔV^{**} [%]	I_{MAX}^{***} [pu]	THDV [%]
CASE 1: LOW PEV PENETRATION (30%), NUMBER OF PEVS= 6 (FIGS. 4A-4B)								
5pm-8am	7.1666	10.8145	1.0702	9.7662	7.3508	11.2460	1.1512	5.2128
5pm-12pm	6.6904	10.8145	1.1686	12.0450	7.3508	11.2916	1.1512	5.7563
5pm-7pm (peak)	8.0123	11.9189	1.3200	12.3718	8.0123	11.9189	1.3200	12.3718
CASE 2: MODERATE PEV PENETRATION (60%), NUMBER OF PEVS= 11 (FIGS. 5A-5B)								
5pm-8am	6.9080	10.4433	1.0868	14.1605	7.2484	10.9326	1.1500	11.0006
5pm-12pm	7.3501	11.4729	1.2983	19.1976	7.5608	11.5479	1.1936	11.1792
5pm-7pm (peak)	10.1535	13.4792	1.5574	23.8978	10.1535	13.4792	1.5574	23.8978
CASE 3: HIGH PEV PENETRATION (100%), NUMBER OF PEVS= 18 (FIGS. 6A-6B)								
5pm-8am	7.3358	10.4041	1.1765	22.4150	8.9731	12.8371	1.2497	16.1782
5pm-12pm	10.7188	19.6538	1.3883	23.2272	8.8261	13.3092	1.3249	20.6539
5pm-7pm (peak)	15.5038	20.2222	1.9497	45.1715	15.5038	20.2222	1.9497	45.1715

*) Increase in system losses compared to rated losses.

**) Voltage deviation above the maximum allowable limit (e.g., 1pu) at the worst bus.

***) Maximum distribution transformer load current.

VII. CONCLUSION

The impacts of Plug in Electrical Vehicles (PEVs) on the performance and power quality of a typical low voltage residential system have been explored through extensive simulations. The nonlinearity of PEV charging circuitry including low order harmonic current injections has been considered using a decoupled harmonic power flow algorithm. Three charging zones (green, yellow and red), two charging schemes (uncoordinated and coordinated) and three PEV penetration levels (low, moderate and high) are considered. Main conclusions are:

- Penetration of PEVs, charging regime and charging zones (periods) have major impacts on system losses (Fig. 7), THD voltage distortion (Fig. 8), voltage profile (Fig. 9) and the overall daily load curve (Fig. 10).
- Random charging of the PEV batteries can result in expensive power losses, unacceptable voltage violations, extensive line loadings and THD voltage levels above the recommended limits of the IEEE-519std.
- Based on the results of this paper, uniformly distributed PEV charging can considerably improve system performance; however, it will still result in overvoltages

and high THD conditions at some buses during the peak hours. This calls for a more sophisticated charging approach which is beyond the scope of this paper.

VIII. APPENDIX

System parameters of the typical low voltage 19 bus 415V residential system (Fig. 1) including load and line parameters are listed in Tables D1 and D2, respectively.

TABLE D1
LINEAR AND NONLINEAR (PEV) LOADS OF THE TYPICAL
LOW VOLTAGE RESIDENTIAL SYSTEM (FIG. 1)

Linear and PEV Load		Power	
Bus	Name	kW	kVAR
2 to 19	Linear loads	5	2.42
At selected buses	PEV loads	4	0

TABLE D2
LINE PARAMETERS OF THE TYPICAL LOW VOLTAGE
RESIDENTIAL SYSTEM (FIG. 1)

Line		Line resistance R [Ω]	Line reactance X [Ω]
From bus	To bus		
1	2	0.041451	0.014461
2	3	0.042407	0.018924
3	4	0.044360	0.019795
4	5	0.036915	0.016473
5	6	0.052031	0.023218
6	7	0.052356	0.023364
7	8	0.000513	0.000195
7	9	0.200244	0.019970
7	10	1.734005	0.172931
6	11	0.260702	0.025999
6	12	1.360527	0.135684
4	13	0.14023	0.013985
3	14	0.776297	0.077419
2	15	0.597698	0.059608
1	16	0.142289	0.049642
16	17	0.083711	0.029205
17	18	0.312354	0.031150
1	19	0.016300	0.006200

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