



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

Parental Satisfaction with Child Care Time in Italy

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Background

- Emergence of **intensive parenting** (Craig et al. 2014)
- Intensive childrearing is positively associated to the healthy development of children (Laureau 2002), while the effects on the **wellbeing of parents** are less clear
- Substantial body of work shows lower levels of subjective well-being (SWB) among parents compared to childless people (e.g. Aassve et al. 2012)
- Fewer studies examine the **links between doing child care activities and parents' SWB** with mixed results



Background

- The suggestion that women enjoy child caregiving more than men has been offered as a partial explanation for the slowdown in the gender revolution (e.g. Coontz 2013)
- By contrast, a number of time use study found that American fathers enjoy their time spent in child caregiving more than mothers (Connelly and Kimmel 2014; Musick et al. 2016)

Aim

Analyse gender differences in SWB during child care activities



Data: Italian Time Use Survey 2013



Ten-minutes intervals	PRIMARY ACTIVITY	SECONDARY ACTIVITY	WHERE	WITH WHOM?								HOW PLEASANT WAS THE MOMENT? From -3 (very unpleasant) to 3 (very pleasant)						
				Alone	With other household members						With other people	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
					Mother	Father	Spouse or Partner	Son or Daugther	Brother or sister	Other								
07.00 - 07.10	<i>Sleeping</i>		<i>At home</i>															
07.10 - 07.20	<i>Washing</i>			X										X				
07.20 - 07.30	<i>Washing</i>	<i>Listening to the radio</i>		X											X			
07.30 - 07.40	<i>Washing</i>	<i>Listening to the radio</i>		X											X			
07.40 - 07.50	<i>Preparing breakfast</i>													X				
07.50 - 08.00	<i>Eating</i>	<i>Talking</i>		X			X									X		
07.50 - 08.00	<i>Eating</i>	<i>Talking</i>		X			X									X		
08.00 - 08.10	<i>Dressing</i>													X				

Sample

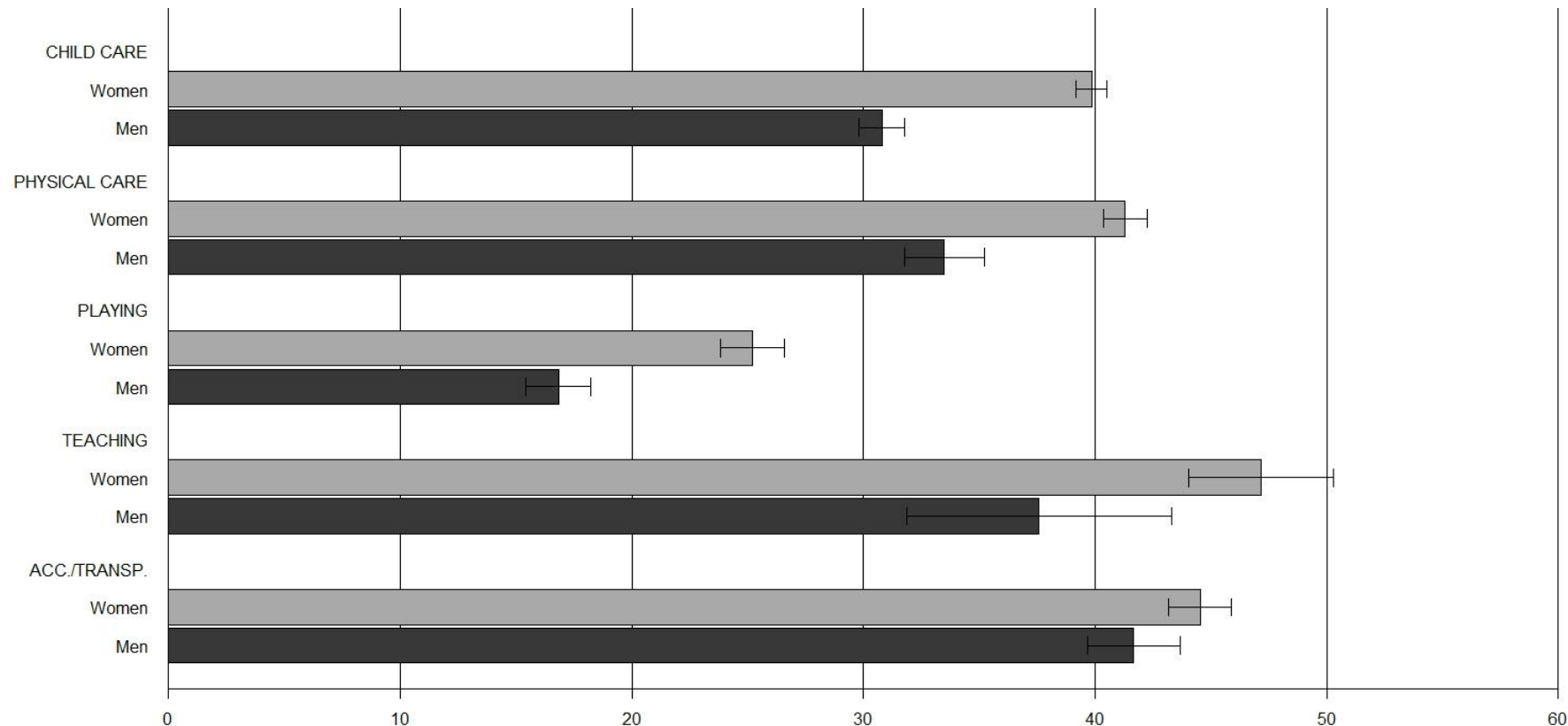
- ❑ **5,148** individuals aged 25-54 years parents of dependent children (2,043 fathers and 3,055 mothers)
- ❑ **29,742** child care episodes identified relying on HETUS classification

Distribution of child care episodes by activity

	Men		Women	
	N	%	N	%
Child Care	8,630	100.0	21,112	100.0
Physical care	3,064	35.5	10,818	51.2
Teaching	288	3.3	1,017	4.8
Playing	2,845	33.0	3,951	18.7
Accomp./Travel	2,433	28.2	5,326	25.2

Measure of SWB in child care time

Dichotomous *U(npleasantness)-indicator* with 1 corresponding to the lowest 25th percentile of the child care enjoyment scores (see also Musick et al. 2016)

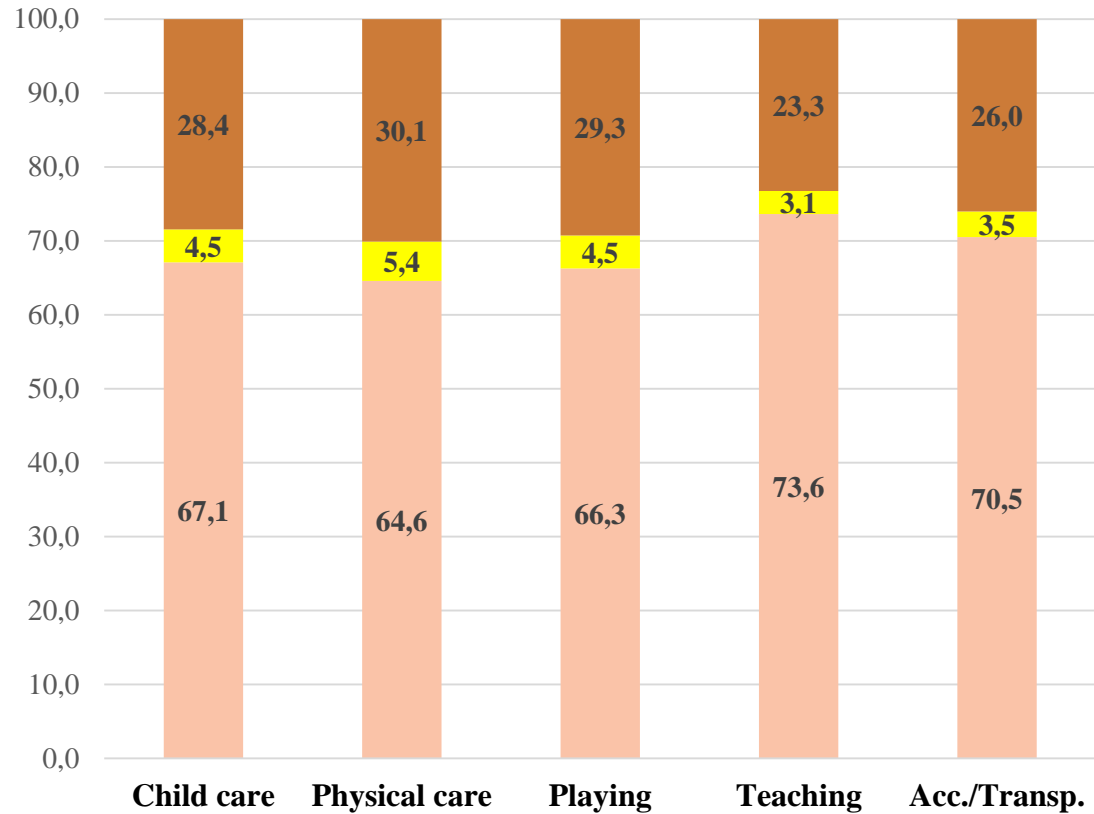


Multitasking and wellbeing

- Bianchi and colleagues (2006) show that married mothers and father behave similarly in terms of multitasking.
- However, studies focusing housework and childcare point to significant differences in the experience of multitasking by gender with **women being more likely than men to multitask in the domestic sphere** (e.g. Craig 2007)
- Multitasking is likely an important source of **gender inequality**: mothers' experience of multitasking at home is significantly more negative and stressful than that of fathers (Offer and Schneider 2011)

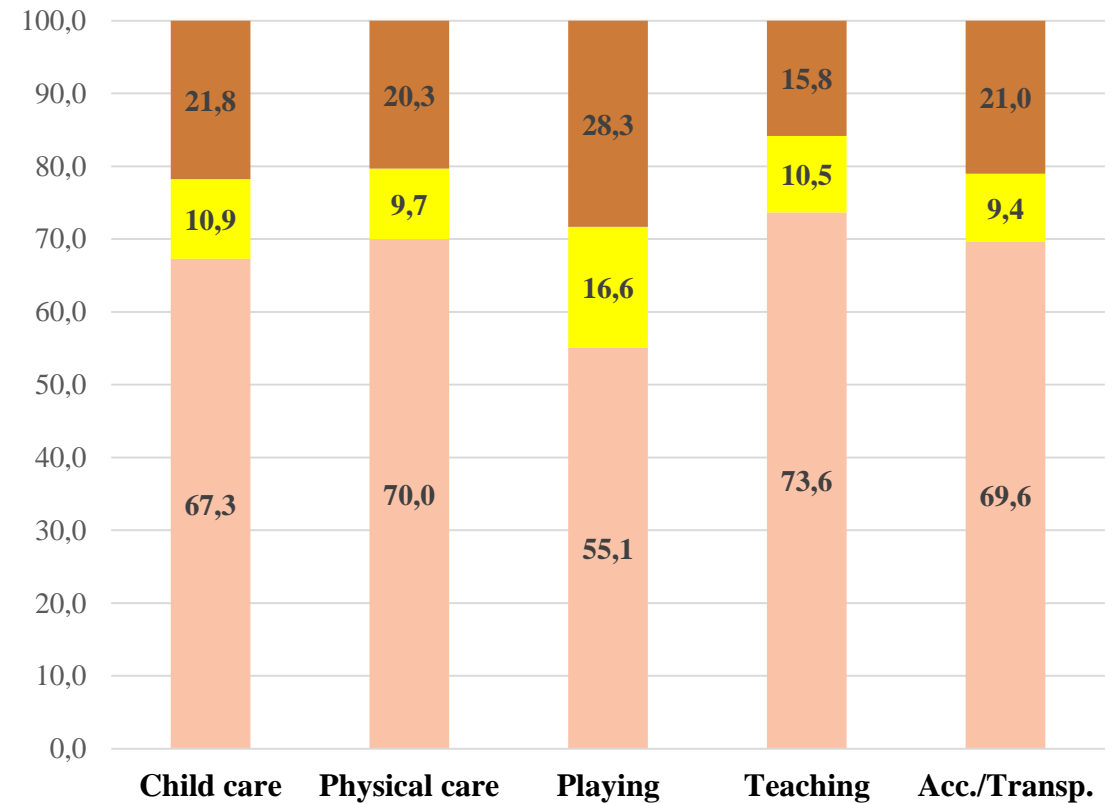
Presence of a parallel activity

MEN



■ No ■ Yes, domestic work ■ Yes, free time

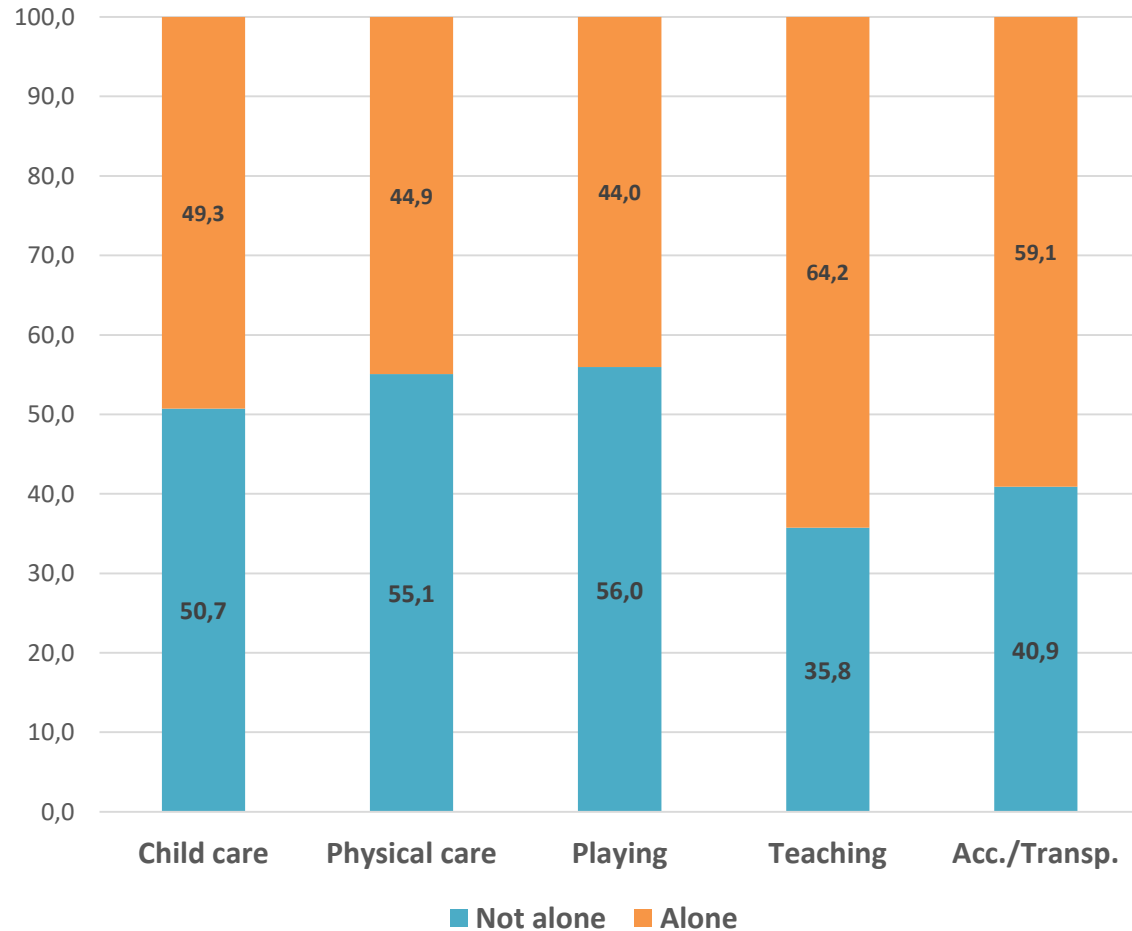
WOMEN



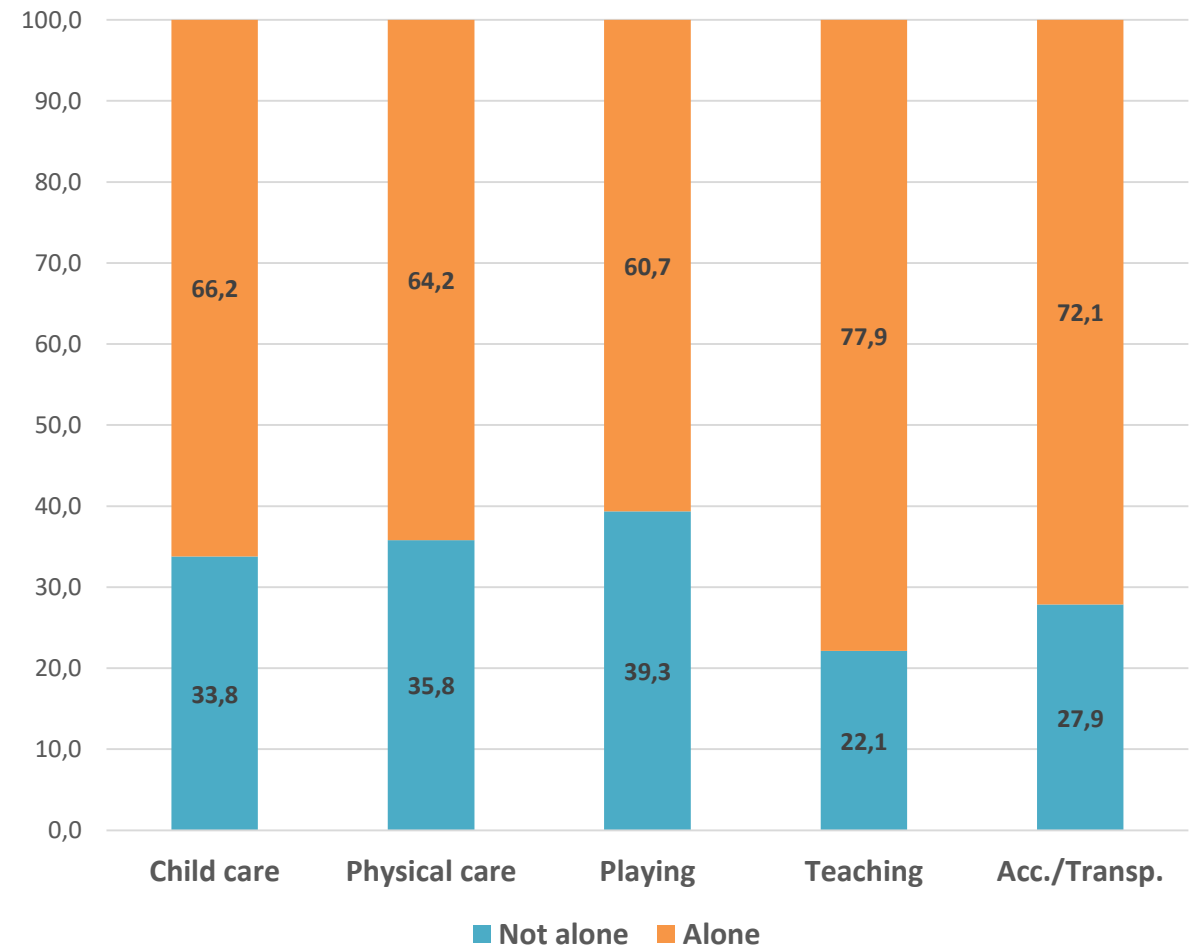
■ No ■ Yes, domestic work ■ Yes, free time

Presence of (at least) another adult

MEN



WOMEN



Method

- ✓ Dependent variable: *U-indicator*
- ✓ Logistic regression, one separate model for each activity

Explicative variables: gender, multitasking, presence of adults

! Definition of MULTITASKING: Consistent with the approach adopted by Bianchi and colleagues (2006), we exclude all free-time activities from our multitasking measure. Thus, our definition of multitasking includes only **unpaid domestic work**

Controls:

- **Episode:** episode duration, hour of start, day of the week, month
- **Individual:** age group, education, employment status, life satisfaction, daily minutes devoted to child care
- **Household:** number of children, age of the youngest child, living in a couple



Child Care (overall)

	Odds ratio	Standard error	Wald ChiSquare	Prob > ChiSquare
Men vs. Women	0.67	0.038	49.09	<0.001
Multitasking*Men (Ref. Yes)	1.02	0.129	0.03	0.864
Multitasking*Women (Ref. Yes)	1.10	0.048	5.11	0.024
With adults*Men (Ref. Alone)	0.63	0.032	84.23	<0.001
With adults*Women (Ref. Alone)	0.63	0.019	236.49	<0.001

Controlled for: episode duration, hours of start, day of the week, month, daily child care minutes, age group, education, employment status, life satisfaction, living arrangement, number of children, age of the youngest child,



Physical care

	Odds ratio	Standard error	Wald ChiSquare	Prob > ChiSquare
Men vs. Women	0.85	0.076	3.15	0.076
Multitasking*Men (Ref. Yes)	1.05	0.204	0.07	0.792
Multitasking*Women (Ref. Yes)	1.14	0.073	3.93	0.047
With adults*Men (Ref. Alone)	0.86	0.072	3.24	0.072
With adults*Women (Ref. Alone)	0.67	0.029	86.77	<0.001

Controlled for: episode duration, hours of start, day of the week, month, daily child care minutes, age group, education, employment status, life satisfaction, living arrangement, number of children, age of the youngest child



Playing

	Odds ratio	Standard error	Wald ChiSquare	Prob > ChiSquare
Men vs. Women	0.73	0.082	7.76	0.005
Multitasking*Men (Ref. Yes)	2.54	0.553	18.24	<0.001
Multitasking *Women (Ref. Yes)	1.77	0.165	38.12	<0.001
With adults*Men (Ref. Alone)	0.73	0.078	8.49	0.004
With adults*Women (Ref. Alone)	0.69	0.057	20.28	<0.001

Controlled for: episode duration, hours of start, day of the week, month, daily child care minutes, age group, education, employment status, life satisfaction, living arrangement, number of children, age of the youngest child



Accompanying/Transporting

	Odds ratio	Standard error	Wald ChiSquare	Prob > ChiSquare
Men vs. Women	0.56	0.071	20.98	<0.001
Multitasking*Men (Ref. Yes)	0.46	0.134	7.15	0.008
Multitasking *Women (Ref. Yes)	1.09	0.100	0.80	0.372
With adults*Men (Ref. Alone)	0.50	0.045	58.45	<0.001
With adults*Women (Ref. Alone)	0.54	0.032	110.14	<0.001

Controlled for: episode duration, hours of start, day of the week, month, daily child care minutes, age group, education, employment status, life satisfaction, living arrangement, number of children, age of the youngest child



Concluding remarks

- Our results show fathers enjoying childcare giving more than mothers; however, looking at the detailed child care activities we do not observe any significant gender difference for physical care
- Multitasking negatively affects the SWB of mothers during physical care and playing activities; while, the experience of multitasking has a negative effect on the wellbeing of fathers during playing and accompanying/traveling activities
- The presence of other adults positively affects SWB of parents during child care time, with the exception of physical care for fathers for which we do not observe any significant effect
- ❖ A main contribution of this study to literature in the field is to measure the effect of multitasking during child care time on SWB
- ❖ Momentary SWB assessments tend to be more reliable than global assessments (e.g. Kahneman and Krueger 2006)
- ❖ NEXT STEP: Experiment an alternative approach to identify parenting time, based on the information with child rather than on the activity classification



References

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Thank you for your ... *time!*

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