

STEREOCHEMICAL STUDIES—XXIX

STEREOCHEMISTRY OF THE ADDITION OF PHOSPHOROUS TRIBROMIDE TO OLEFINS

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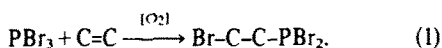
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Abstract—The stereochemical course of PBr_3 addition to a series of cycloolefins has been found to depend crucially on the olefinic structure and the reaction proceeds in highly stereoselective fashion either as *trans*- (cyclohexene) or as *cis*- (norbornene and related compounds) addition without skeletal and homoallylic rearrangements.

The utility of addition reactions of compounds containing P-Hal bond/s to olefins in the preparation of organophosphorous compounds is well recognized.¹⁻¹² Different types of initiation of these addition process were employed including Lewis acids² or the typical initiators of free-radical addition such as UV light,^{3,7} radiation,^{5,6} peroxides³ and thermal.⁷ It is remarkable, that oxygen can also play the role of catalyst to these reactions.^{1,7-10} The simple examination of bonds energies¹³ indicates that PBr_3 should more easily dissociate into radicals and hence should be better chain-transfer agent, than PCl_3 .

In spite of the intensive studies many problems still remain open. First, the major question to be answered concerns the role of the oxygen. Indeed, the PCl_3 additions in presence of O_2 lead to the product/s of oxidative phosphorylation with the incorporation of the O_2 into structure/s of product/s.¹ In the opposite, the additions of the PBr_3 to a double bond follows the simple 1, 2-addition pathway in accordance with eqn (1) without incorporation of the O_2 .⁷⁻¹¹

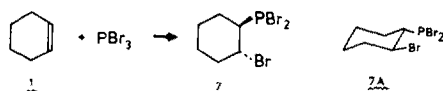


Thus, the "invisible" participation of O_2 in PBr_3 reactions remains obscure and the nature of transition state/s and intermediate/s have yet to be established. Secondly, it is surprising that the stereochemical course of PBr_3 addition to olefins is also unknown^{7,8} (for the addition to triple bond see refs. 9-12). The absence of a knowledge of stereochemistry of PBr_3 additions precludes from specification of any possible mechanism. It was of interest, therefore, to investigate more systematically the stereochemistry of PBr_3 addition to a series of cycloolefins, and that was the purpose of present study (preliminary communication see Ref. 14).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The model olefins 1-6 have been chosen to clarify the following problems: (a) the stereochemistry dependence of the PBr_3 addition on the olefin structure and the double bond strain, and (b) evaluation of the "effective electrophilicity"¹⁵ of these reactions via possible isolation of the rearranged products, typical for carbocationic-like pathways.

Reaction of PBr_3 with cyclohexene (1). As reported by Fontal and Goldwhite⁷ the PBr_3 addition to cyclohexene initiated by UV or (t-BuO)₂ proceeds non-stereospecifically to give 1:1 mixture of isomers. Later it was shown⁸ that this reaction initiated by oxygen proceeds to give a single adduct, which exhibits the peak near 200 ppm in its NMR ³¹P spectrum. However, its configuration has not been determined. We reproduced these data and also show that PBr_3 addition to 1 with the slow stream of O_2 proceeds to give a single adduct 7 ($\delta_p = 201$ ppm), isolated in 44% yield. However, the absence of another addition products, including oxygenated derivatives has been proven by NMR ³¹P spectra of the reaction mixtures. If the reaction has been performed without special addition of O_2 , but in the usual dry air atmosphere, the only adduct 7 has also been identified with the completion of the addition being substantially lower for the same period.



Scheme 1.

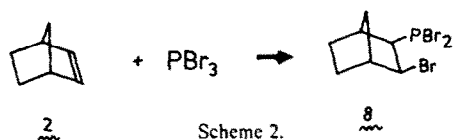
The H-CBr signal in the NMR ¹H spectrum of 7 containing nine lines was simplified into triplet of doublets ($J_1 = J_2 = 10.8$ Hz, $J_3 = 4.4$ Hz) by H-P decoupling ($^3J_{\text{HP}} = 3.3$ Hz). The large vicinal coupling constant fits perfectly for the *trans ee*-isomer 7A. Thus, the PBr_3 reaction with cyclohexene in presence of O_2 is obviously

highly stereoselective since the *trans*-adduct is isolated and there is no indication of the formation of any significant amount of the *cis*-adduct.

In free-radical additions to cyclohexene there is usually a strong preference for both axial attack of a radical on the double bond^{17,18} and also axial transfer of the second portion of the addend to the resulting cyclohexyl radical.¹⁷⁻¹⁹ If one assumes as suggested in literature a free-radical chain mechanisms for PBr_3 addition^{7,8} the high degree of *trans*-selectivity means that intermediate radical, formed by axial attack of $\text{Br}\cdot$ on cyclohexene, must undergo chain transfer rapidly compared with the rate of the conformational ring flip. The stereochemistry of the reaction studied is not unprecedented and is similar to that of the free-radical addition of arenesulfonyl iodides²⁰ and areneselenosulfonates¹⁸ to cyclohexene.

Reaction of PBr_3 with norbornene (2). Norbornene is a typical strained olefin which has been widely used for studies of the course of addition processes due to the exceptional characteristics of its reactivity: (a) occurrence of Wagner–Meerwein rearrangement for Ad_E additions of the "effectively strong electrophiles",^{15a,21} (b) high preference for *exo*-attack on the double bond²² and (c) increased rate constants in all addition reactions.²³ What is more, addition to the norbornene and related bicyclic olefins often follows a different stereochemical course from that of monocyclic and acyclic olefins.^{18,21,22}

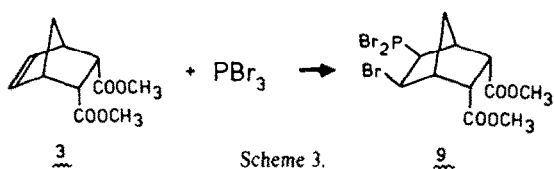
We have found that PBr_3 addition to **2** proceeds



smoothly in the air atmosphere at 0° to give the adduct **8** ($\delta_P = 178$ ppm) in 70% yield. However, the NMR ³¹P spectra of the reaction mixtures revealed the formation of the minor by-product ($\delta_P \approx 181$ ppm; $\leq 4\%$), which has not been isolated. The DNMR ¹H-³¹P spectrum of **8** includes the multiplets of H-CBr and H-CPBr₂ signals with ³J_{H₂H₁} = 7.2 Hz, ³J_{H₃H₄} = 2.1 Hz, and ³J_{H₁H₂} = 1.6 Hz, which clearly evidences the *cis*-configuration of the adduct (we accepted *exo*-configuration in accordance with usually observed stereochemical course). Thus, the addition of PBr_3 to norbornene proceeds (i) without skeletal rearrangement and (ii) in sufficiently selective manner to give *cis*-adduct, which is in contrast with adduct configuration observed for the addition to cyclohexene.

Reaction of PBr_3 to the diester 3. The addition of electrophilic agents to the diester **3**²⁴ involves the participation of the ester moiety in the final step of the addition to give the corresponding γ -lactones. Few examples of the addition to analogs of **3** exhibited the *cis-exo*-addition to the double bond without the intramolecular cyclization.²⁵ Hence, the structure of the addition product can shed light on the basic characteristic of the addition process.

We have found that PBr_3 addition to **3** proceeds to give the single adduct **9** ($\delta_P = 177$ ppm) as a crystal solid in the total yield of 51% (92% calculated on the reacted ester **3**). The NMR ¹H spectrum of **9** contains two multiplets of H-CBr and H-CPBr₂ signals with the vicinal coupling constant ³J = 7.4 Hz. This value of ³J clearly indicates *exo-cis* configuration. Thus the reaction of PBr_3 with the diester **3** proceeds as *exo-cis*-addition



without participation of COOR group, which is similar to the addition to norbornene.

Reaction of PBr_3 with norbornadiene (4). The majority of free-radical additions to norbornadiene (e.g. Refs. 18a, 26, 27) give mainly the product/s with nortricyclic structures and nortricyclic radical **11** is favored in the equilibrium which includes the interconversion of norbornenyl (**10**) and nortricyclyl (**11**) radicals.²⁷

We have found that the reaction of PBr_3 with norbornadiene in 1:1 ratio proceeds to give the mixture with 85% content of the adduct **12**. However, the NMR ³¹P spectrum reveals the presence of the minor product in 14% yield. Unfortunately, we could not separate these compounds and the structural and stereochemical assignment have been achieved using the mixture of the products. The decoupling ¹H-³¹P study revealed that the major product has the structure **12** which was confirmed by the presence of the signals of olefinic protons as well as of vicinal coupling constant ³J = 7.2 Hz. Thus, these data confirm that the addition of PBr_3 to **4** proceeds as 1, 2-*exo-cis*-addition to the one double bond without allylic participation of the second double bond. The observation that 1, 2-adduct is the major product evidences that PBr_3 should be an extremely reactive chain-transfer agent such as, for example, arenesulfonyl iodide.^{26a}

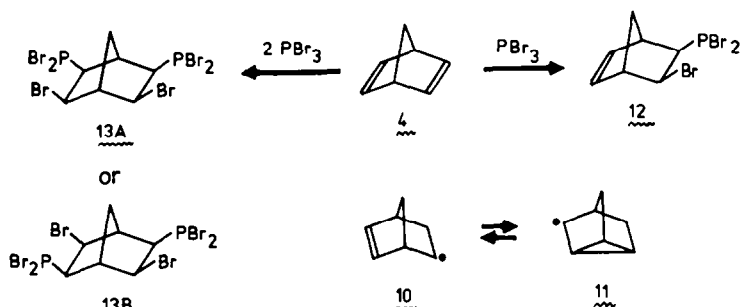
The addition of PBr_3 to **4** in 4:1 ratio proceeds to give diadduct as a crystal solid in the 68% yield. The NMR data (single resonance in NMR ³¹P at 170 ppm, NMR ¹H: $J_{\text{vic}} = 7.3$ Hz, absence of olefinic protons) support the structure of the diadduct **13**, but do not permit to make choice between the structures **13A** vs **13B**. Thus, the addition of excess of PBr_3 also proceeds as *exo-cis*-addition in agreement with above obtained data.

Reaction of PBr_3 with diester (5). The addition to the tricyclo[4, 2, 2, 0^{2,5}]deca-3, 7-diene derivatives has been extensively studied.^{16,28-32} In general, the addition of effectively strong electrophiles¹⁵ involves the cross-type participation of the C₇-C₈ double bond^{16,28-30} and δ -lactone closure.^{29,30} However, the addition of effectively weak electrophiles^{16,31} and radical addition^{29,32} involves the strained cyclobutene double bond to give *trans* and *cis* (discussion see¹⁶) addition products.

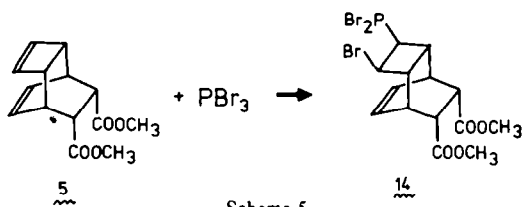
The reaction of PBr_3 with ester **5** (2.7:1 ratio) in CH_2Cl_2 proceeds to give the adduct **14** in 71% yield. However, the NMR ³¹P of the reaction mixtures reveals the formation of the minor product ($\leq 7\%$) which has not been isolated.

The DNMR ¹H-³¹P spectrum of **14** contains the signal of H₄ which appears as a doublet of doublets with $J_{\text{H}_3\text{H}_4} = 8.8$ Hz and $J_{\text{H}_4\text{H}_5} = 3.8$ Hz. In accordance with literature data this set of coupling constants seems to indicate the *cis*-configuration of the Br-C-C-PBr₂ framework. Thus, the addition of PBr_3 to the diester **5** proceeds at cyclobutene double bond in *cis*-fashion without the participation of the second double bond (*cf* Ref. 29).

Reaction of PBr_3 with methylenecyclobutane (6). The interconversion of cyclobutyl (**15**) and cyclopropylmethyl (**16**) cationic intermediates is well documented.^{33,34} For example, electrophilic additions to **6**



Scheme 4.



Scheme 5.

often lead to a mixture of cyclobutane (17) and cyclopropane (18) derivatives.^{34,35}

The addition of PBr_3 to **6** proceeds regioselectively to give a single adduct **19** ($\delta_{\text{P}} = 190$ ppm). The assignment of the structure **19** (vs **20**) is based on the downfield chemical shift of the CH_2 signal (δ 3.91 ppm) in NMR ^1H spectrum of the adduct which is attributed to that of CH_2Br group rather than to that of CH_2PBr_2 one. The DNMR $^{13}\text{C}\{-^1\text{H}\}$ spectrum shows the presence of the three carbons with geminal $^{13}\text{C}\text{-}^{31}\text{P}$ coupling constant ($J_1 = J_2 = 16.6$ Hz, $J_3 = 13.7$ Hz) and the absence of the signals of $t\text{-CBr}$ in the region of 65–80 ppm, which confirms the structure **19** and rejects the structure **20**. Thus, the addition of PBr_3 to **6** proceeds regioselectively with the Br atom bonded with methylene group and without rearrangement. The structure of adduct **19** may be regarded to as the indication of the transfer of chain reaction by $\text{Br}\cdot$ rather than $\text{PBr}_2\cdot$.

CONCLUSIONS

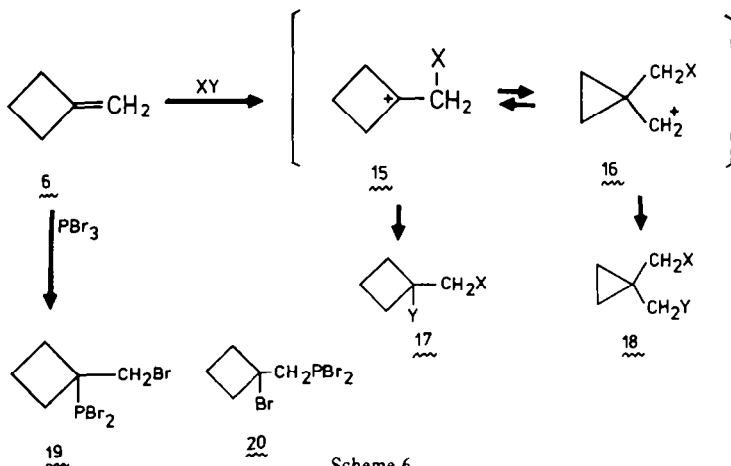
First, the formation of non-rearranged products in all cases provides the best evidence for an absence of discrete cationic intermediate and supports any non-electrophilic schemes of the addition (cf the addition of PX_3 ³⁶).

Second, we have found that PBr_3 addition to a series of cycloolefins proceeds in either stereospecific or at least in highly stereoselective manner. If one assumes the previously suggested stepwise chain-radical mechanism^{7,8} our observation requires, in turn, to accept the sufficiently rapid chain transfer to intercept the intermediate radical, which is potentially capable of undergoing a number of transformations including conformational ring reversal, rearrangements, etc.

Third, the stereochemistry of PBr_3 addition was found to depend crucially on the olefin structure. Undoubtedly, that high stereoselectivity, which may be easily predicted empirically, sharply enforces the synthetic utility of PBr_3 addition to olefins. Of course, the circumstances surrounded the observed changeable stereochemistry of the PBr_3 addition are not completely understood, because free-radical additions has been shown to depend on "the complex interplay of polar, steric and bond strength terms".³⁷ Nevertheless, a wide variety of radical reactions, contrary to the general belief, may proceed in stereospecific (and regioselective) fashion.³⁷ The rationalization of such a behavior has to be based on the knowledge of the mechanisms of reactions. The observation of stereospecificity of PBr_3 addition as well as the stereochemical course in general is not obviously sufficient to specify the mechanism. While more works, especially kinetics concerning the role of the oxygen, are needed to evaluate the whole mechanistic picture, every suggested mechanism must be able to explain the observed stereochemical regularities.

EXPERIMENTAL

PBr_3 as well as the olefins **1**, **2**, **4** and **6** were the commercial chemicals which were distilled before using. Esters **3** and **5** were



Scheme 6.

obtained following published procedures.³⁸⁻⁴⁹ NMR spectra were recorded on Varian T-60 and Varian XL-100 spectrometers in CDCl₃ unless otherwise specified with TMS as the internal standard. The ³¹P NMR spectra (¹H decoupled) were recorded using Varian CFT-20 (40.5 MHz) spectrometer in CHCl₃ with 85% phosphoric acid as external standard. The ¹³C NMR spectra (¹H decoupled) were recorded on Varian CFT-20 spectrometer (25.16 MHz) in CDCl₃ and chemical shifts were given in ppm from TMS.

General procedure for the addition of PBr₃ to olefins. The reagents (PBr₃ and olefin) were mixed dropwise at 0° in a dry atmosphere and a moderate flow of dried O₂ was passed through the mixture at a suitable temp. during 10–12 hr. The unreacted olefin and PBr₃ were removed *in vacuo* (10–12 mm Hg) and residue was distilled (1 mg of Hg). In the case of solid adducts they were isolated by washing with a suitable solvent after removing unreacted PBr₃.

trans-2-Bromocyclohexyldibromophosphine (7) From 32.5 g of PBr₃ (0.12 mmol) and 5 g (0.06 mol) of **1** the adduct **7** was obtained (8.8 g; 44%) following the general procedure, b.p. 134–135° (1 mm), *n*_D²⁰ = 1.6322 (lit. data⁸ b.p. 172–176°/15 mm, *n*_D²⁰ = 1.6325); *δ*_P 201.3; DNMR ¹H–³¹P (δ): 1.28–2.65 (m, 9H), 4.08 (td, 1H, H_{CB}r, ³J₁ = ³J₂ = 10.8 Hz, ³J₃ = 4.4 Hz). ³J_{HP} = 3.3 Hz; ²J_{HP} = 26.9 Hz. The yield of **7** without passing of O₂ is 31%.

cis-2-Bromonorbornyldibromophosphine (8). From 1.86 g of **2** and 8.13 g of PBr₃ at 0° the adduct **8** (5.11 g; 70%) was obtained as a crystalline solid (during distillation), b.p. 148–150°/1 mm, m.p. 89–90° (from CHCl₃). (Found: C, 23.00; H, 2.73; Br, 65.11. Calc. for C₇H₁₀PBr₃: C, 23.04; H, 2.76; Br, 65.70). *δ*_P = 177.9 ppm. ¹H–³¹P NMR (δ): 4.41 (dq, 1H, H_{CB}r, ³J₁ = 7.2 Hz, ³J₂ = 2.1 Hz and ⁴J₃ = 0.8 Hz), 3.08 (dd, 1H, H_{CP}Br₂, ³J₁ = 7.2 Hz, ³J₂ = 1.6 Hz), 2.78 (m, 2H, H₁ and H₄), 1.30–2.52 (m, 6H). ³J_(H,P) = 1.2 Hz; ²J_(H,P) = 8.8 Hz. *δ*_P of the minor product was at 181.2 ppm.

Adduct of PBr₃ and ester 3 (9). 2.1 g (0.01 mol) of **3** and 5.42 g (0.02 mol) of PBr₃ gave 2.45 g (51%) of **9** as colourless crystals following the general procedure with subsequent washing with Et₂O (yield on reacted ester **3** is 92%), m.p. 103–104° (from ether). *δ*_P = 177.1 ppm. ¹H NMR (δ): 5.05 (m, 1H, H_{CB}r, ³J₁ = 7.4 Hz), 3.71 and 3.68 (two singlets of COOCH₃), 2.97–3.26 (m, 4H), 2.48 and 1.60 (two one-proton doublets of H₇, |²J| = 11 Hz). ³J_{HP} = 1.9 Hz; ²J_{HP} = 9.1 Hz. (Found: C, 27.62; P, 6.51; Br, 49.24. Calc. for C₁₁H₁₄O₄PBr₃: C, 27.47; P, 6.44; Br, 49.85%).

Reaction of PBr₃ with norbornadiene

(a). From 2.56 g (0.03 mol) of **4** and 8.13 g (0.03 mol) of PBr₃ at room temp. using the general procedure, 8.9 g of the mixture of four compounds was obtained as a viscous colourless oil with *δ*_P at 183.2, 182.0, 180.9 (main product, **12**, 86% by integrating) and 175.0 ppm, b.p. (mixture) 131–132°/1 mm. NMR data for the major product: DNMR ¹H–³¹P (δ): 6.42 (m, 1H, =CH), 6.14 (m, 1H, =CH), 4.19 (dd, 1H, H_{CB}r, ³J₁ = 7.2, ³J₂ = 2.0), 3.38 (m, 2H, H₁ and H₄), 2.96 (dd, 1H, H_{CP}Br₂, ³J₁ = 7.2 Hz, ³J₂ = 2.0 Hz), 2.18 and 1.69 (two one-proton multiplets of H₇; |²J| = 10 Hz). (Found for mixture: C, 23.45; P, 8.52; Br, 65.87. Calc. for C₇H₈PBr₃: C, 23.17; P, 8.54; Br, 66.07%).

(b). From 35.2 g (0.13 mol) of PBr₃ and 2.56 g (0.03 mol) of **4** using the general procedure 11.5 g (68%) of diadduct **13** was obtained after distilling off the unreacted reagents and washing the residue with CHCl₃ (2 × 7 ml). The crystalline solid rapidly becomes dark in sunlight, m.p. 131–132° (washing with CHCl₃). *δ*_P = 170.0 ppm. ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, δ): 4.61 (m, 2H, 2H_{CB}r, ³J₁ = 7.3 Hz), 3.30 and 2.75 (two multiplets of H₁, H₄ and 2H_{CP}Br₂), 2.46 (m, 2H, H₇). (Found: Br, 74.12. Calc. for C₇H₈P₂Br₆: Br, 75.68%).

Adduct of PBr₃ and ester 5 (14). Following the above procedure, 1.09 g (10.8 mmol) of PBr₃ and 1.0 g (4.03 mmol) of **5** in 2 ml CH₂Cl₂ gave 1.5 g (71%) of **14** after the washing the residue with Et₂O, m.p. 131–132° (from Et₂O). *δ*_P = 175.0 ppm; *δ*_P of a minor product is 203.5 ppm. ¹H NMR (³¹P decoupled, δ): 6.56 (m, 2H, olefinic protons), 4.22 (dd, 1H, H_{CB}r, ³J₁ = 8.8 Hz, ³J₂ = 3.8 Hz), 3.58 (s, 6H, COOCH₃), 2.66–3.64 (m, 7H); ³J_{H,P} = 5.4 Hz. (Found: C, 33.01; P, 6.06; Br, 46.01. Calc. for C₁₄H₁₆O₄PBr₃: C, 32.40; P, 5.97; Br, 46.19%).

Adduct of PBr₃ and 6 (19). Following the general procedure, from 16.3 g (0.06 mol) of PBr₃ and 3.4 g (0.05 mol) of **6** the adduct **19** (10.7 g, 63%) was obtained as a colourless oil with b.p. 103–105°/1 mm, *n*_D²⁰ = 1.6254. *δ*_P = 190.0 ppm. ¹H NMR (δ): 1.62–2.78 (broad multiplet, 6H), 3.91 (d, 2H, CH₂Br, ³J_{HP} = 8 Hz). ¹³C NMR (¹H decoupled): 14.14 (d, ¹J_{CP} = 5.0 Hz), 27.96 (d, ²J_{CP} = 16.6 Hz), 40.60 (d, ²J_{CP} = 13.7 Hz), 45.38 (d, ¹J_{CP} = 21.7 Hz). (Found: C, 18.51; Br, 69.54. Calc. for C₅H₈PBr₃: C, 17.72; Br, 70.75%). Yield of **19** without passing O₂ is 49%.

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- It is worthy to clarify additionally this term. For the multistage electrophilic additions the total rate ("kinetic electrophilicity") describes only the rate limiting step. We suggested^{15b,16} that the ratio of rearranged and non-rearranged products may be regarded as the measure of the electrophilicity of intermediates and hence of "effective electrophilicity" of reagents. In other words, an "effectively" strong electrophile generates a relatively large positive charge on C atom/s of intermediate.^b N. S. Zefirov, N. K. Sadovaja, A. M. Maggeramov, I. V. Bodrikov and V. R. Kartashov, *Tetrahedron* **31**, 2948 (1975); N. S. Zefirov, N. K. Sadovaja, A. M. Maggeramov and I. V. Bodrikov, *Zh. Org. Khim.* **13**, 245 (1977).
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