

Increasing Voter Turnout in Los Angeles

Center for the Study of Los Angeles

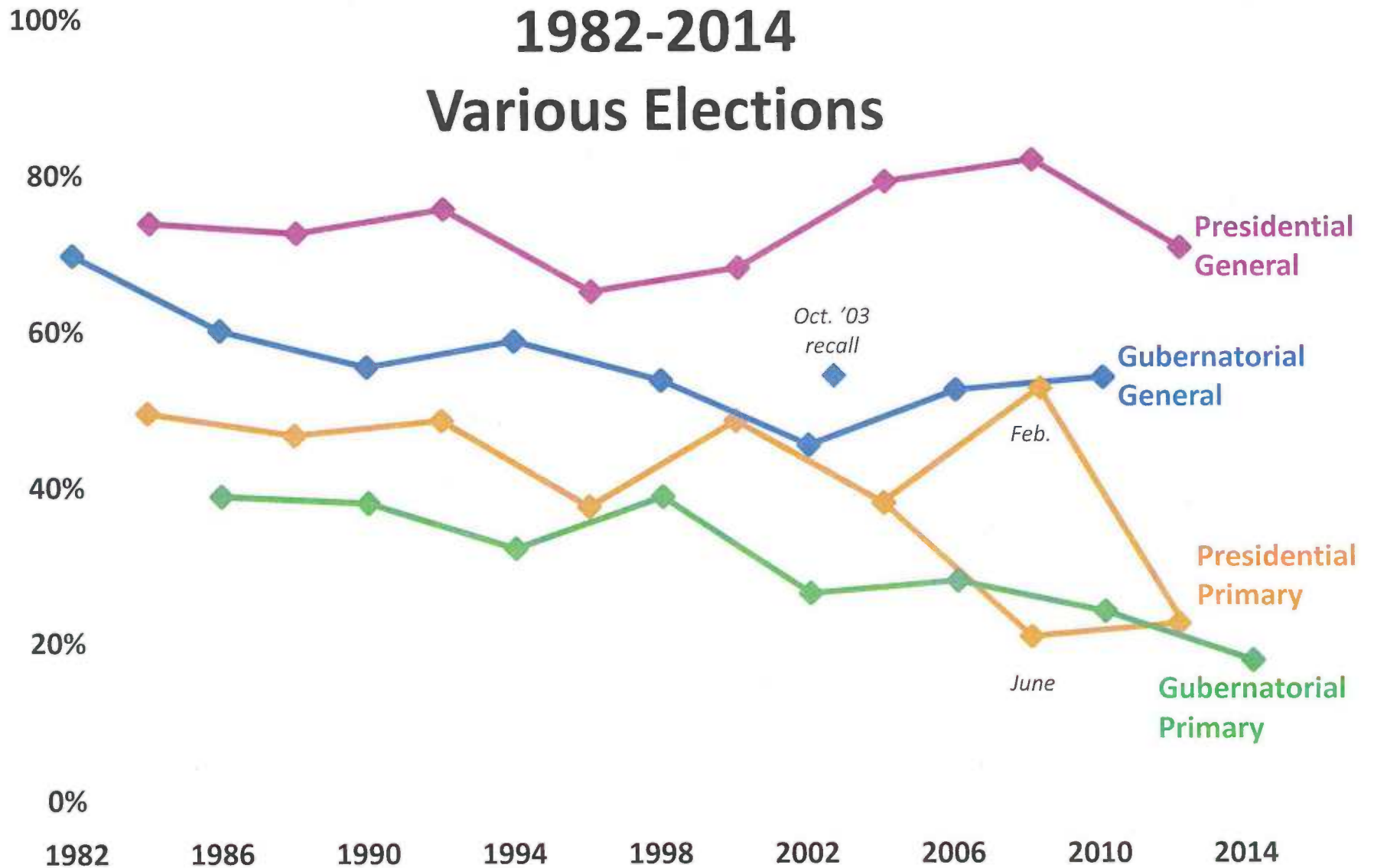
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October 22, 2014**

***Presentation to the
Los Angeles City Council***

Introduction

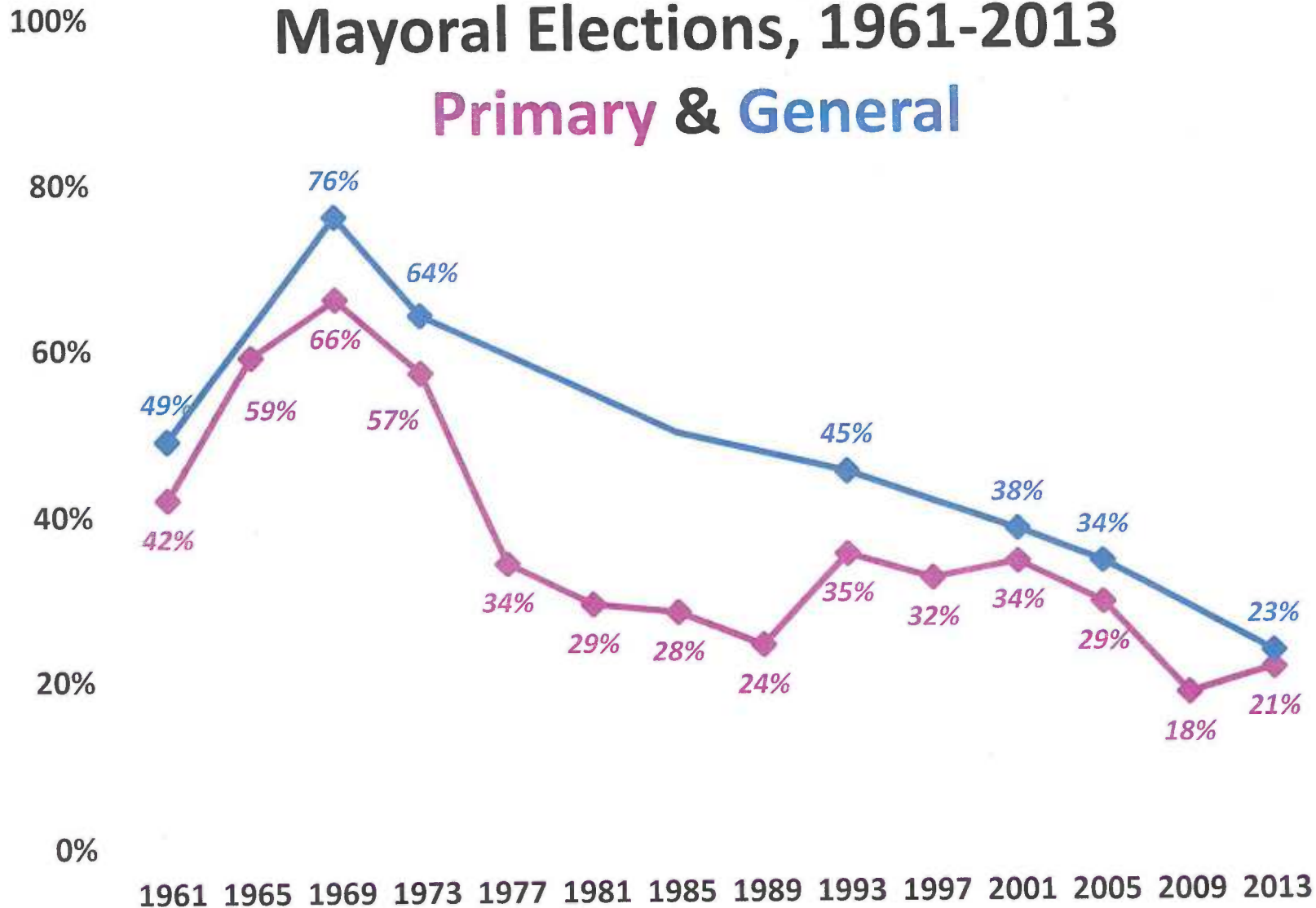
- Document a democratic challenge: low voter turnout
- Examine this challenge at the local level: the case of Los Angeles
- Discuss and analyze the “official” response

Turnout in *Los Angeles County* 1982-2014 Various Elections



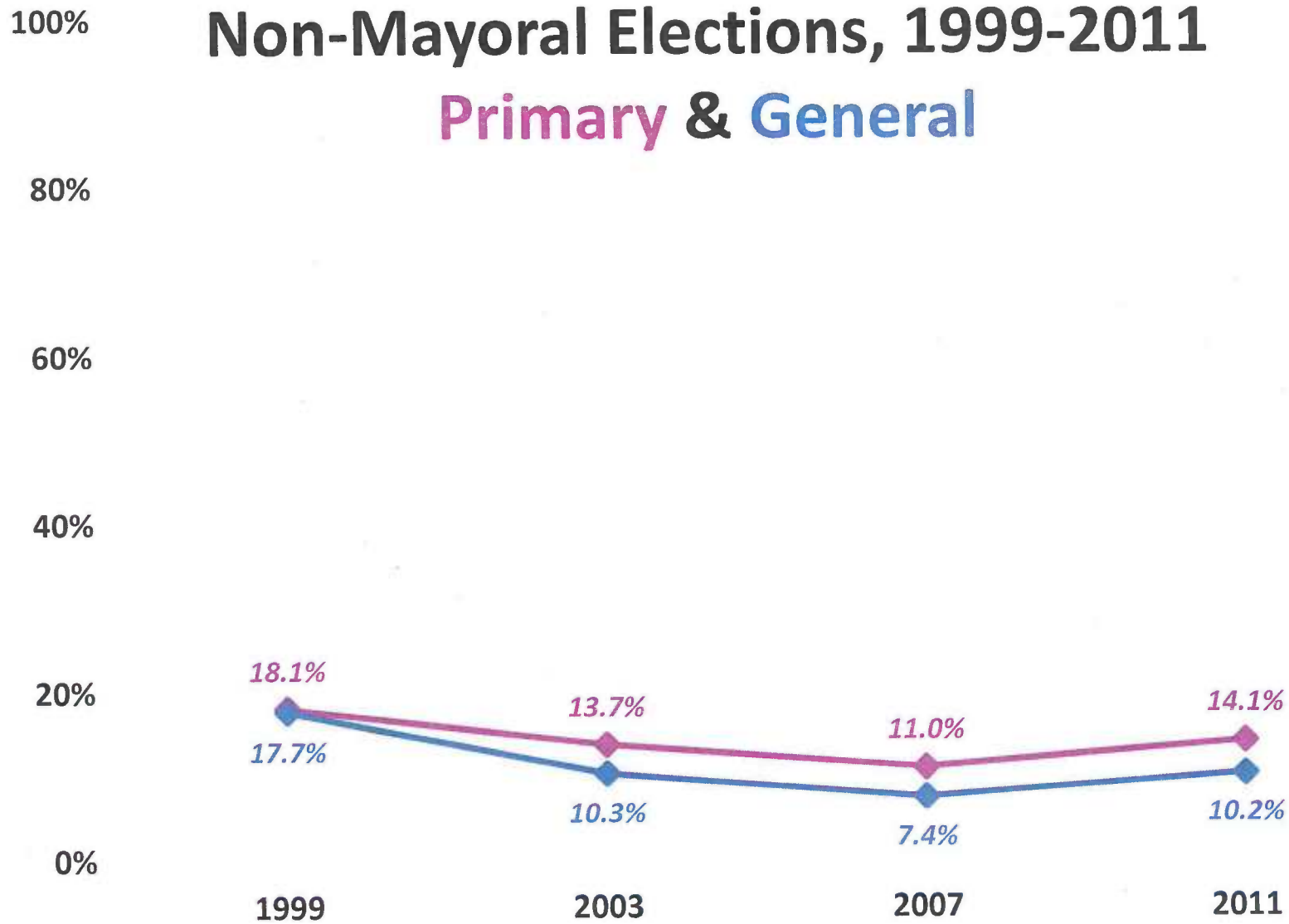
Turnout in *City of Los Angeles* Mayoral Elections, 1961-2013

Primary & General



Turnout in *City of Los Angeles* Non-Mayoral Elections, 1999-2011

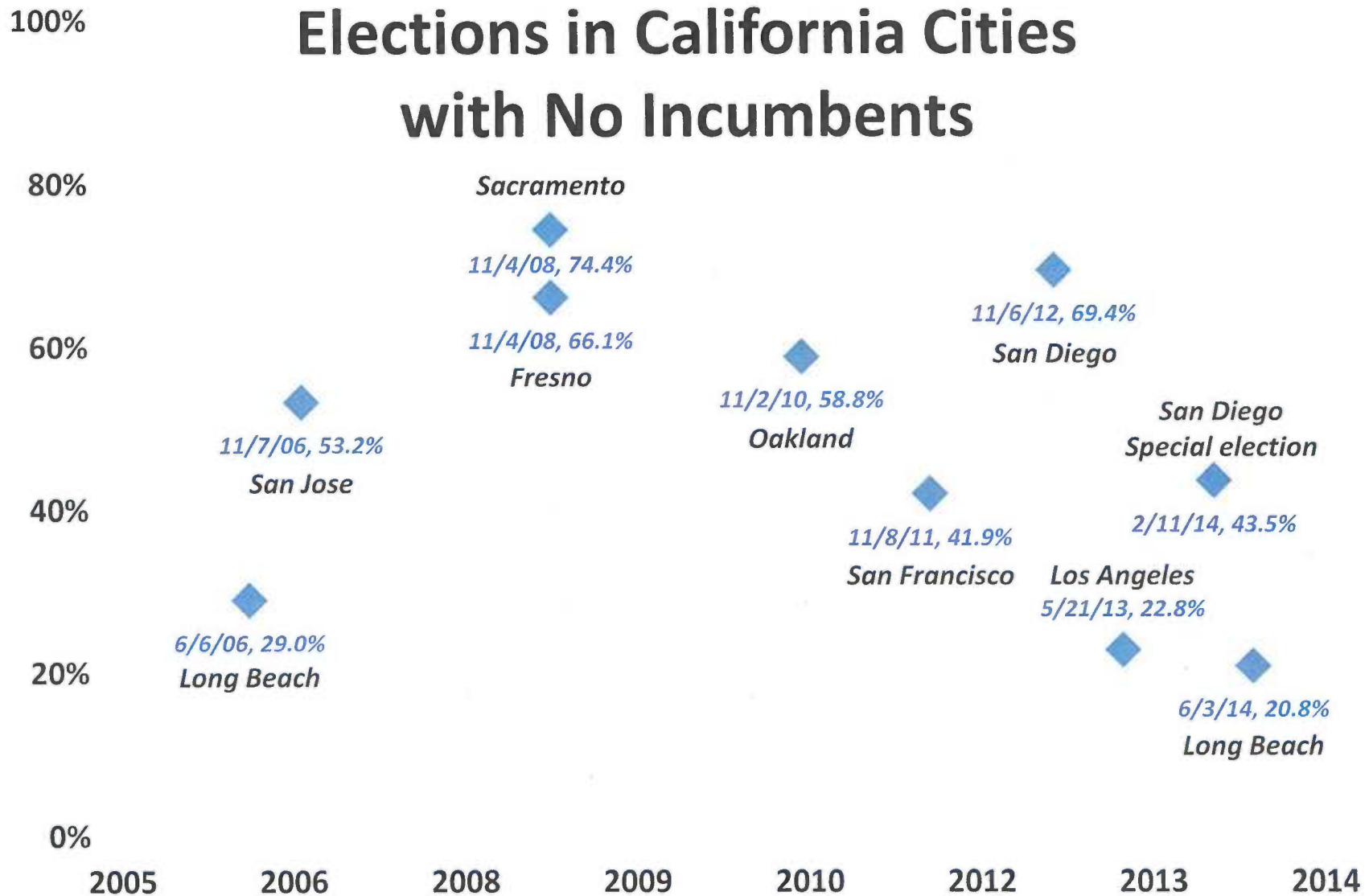
Primary & General



Why is turnout low in Los Angeles

- No partisan competition
- No racial exclusion
- No wedge issues
- Off year elections
- Non-partisan ballots
- Gerrymandered districts
- Election fatigue (November-March = 4.5 months)

Most Recent Mayoral Elections in California Cities with No Incumbents



“Official” Response

Municipal Elections Reform Commission

- Move date of city elections to November (3)
- Voter registration and voter list maintenance (6)
- Early voting, polling place and ease of voting (6)
- Outreach to voters, public information and education (15)
- Vote-by-mail changes (5)

*Numbers in parentheses correspond to
number of recommendations the commission
made to the city for each topic*

For more information

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