

The Hidden Operator: An Integrative Review of Polyatomic Time Crystal Dynamics Within the Resonant Manifold Quantum Emulator Framework

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Abstract

The elucidation of the physical substrate of consciousness remains a central challenge in neuroscience, historically divided between discrete connectionist and continuous dynamicist paradigms. The recently proposed Resonant Manifold Quantum Emulator (RMQE) framework attempts to bridge this divide by modeling the cortex as a classical electrodynamic system that functionally emulates quantum information processing. Within the RMQE model, continuous macroscopic alpha fields represent probabilistic wave functions, transient gamma bursts signify state collapse, and diverse beta bursts act as the quantum operators driving state transitions. However, the RMQE hypothesis explicitly bounds its physical substrate to classical synaptic and ephaptic mechanisms, rejecting subcellular quantum phenomena.

Recent empirical discoveries of polyatomic time crystals within neuronal microtubules challenge this purely classical assumption. These time crystals are shown to generate multiple inherent clocks, actively edit thermal noise to maintain coherence, and project information holographically over macroscopic distances. This paper presents a comprehensive integrative review synthesizing the classical "software" of the RMQE with the quantum holographic "hardware" of microtubule time crystals to propose a Unified Resonant Operator Theory. We argue that the holographic projection of these time crystals provides the precise, non-synaptic distal drive required to sustain the RMQE's global alpha carrier wave. Furthermore, we posit that cortical beta bursts represent the macroscopic electromagnetic signatures of the time crystal's intrinsic error-correcting mechanisms. Ultimately, this synthesis redefines cortical computation as a dual-layer architecture, wherein a quantum holographic microtubule core drives a classical electrodynamic neuronal interface.

1. Introduction: The Convergence of Discrete and Continuous Architectures in Neurophysics

The elucidation of the physical substrate of consciousness and high-order cognition remains the distinct "Hard Problem" of contemporary neuroscience. For the better part of a century, the field has been philosophically and methodologically bifurcated into two dominant, yet seemingly irreconcilable, camps. The first, the **connectionist** or computationalist paradigm, views the brain as a massive network of discrete switching elements—neurons—where information is encoded in the digital logic of synaptic transmission and axonal firing rates. The second, the **dynamicist** or field-theoretic paradigm, posits that the brain's computational power resides in the analog interference patterns of macroscopic electromagnetic fields, where information is encoded in the phase and amplitude of oscillatory rhythms.

This schism has recently been addressed by a novel theoretical framework: the **Resonant Manifold Quantum Emulator (RMQE)**. As detailed in the report "*Electrodynamic Cortical Computation Integrating Beta Burst Waveform Diversity into the Resonant Manifold Quantum Emulator Hypothesis*", this model proposes a radical unification. It suggests that the brain is neither strictly a digital computer nor a chaotic dynamical system, but a hybrid architecture that utilizes its "classical" neuro-electrodynamic hardware to instantiate algorithms that are mathematically isomorphic to quantum information processing.¹ By mapping the continuous Alpha field to the quantum Wave Function (Ψ) and discrete Gamma bursts to the Collapse of that function, the RMQE offers a compelling functionalist account of cortical computation.

However, the RMQE hypothesis explicitly delimits its physical substrate. It posits that this "emulation" of quantum mechanics is achieved entirely through classical mechanisms—specifically, synaptic integration and ephaptic coupling in the apical dendrites of cortical Layer 1—and explicitly rejects the necessity of particle-level quantum effects, such as those proposed in the microtubule-based theories of Penrose and Hameroff.¹

Parallel to this theoretical development, empirical research in quantum biology has yielded a discovery that fundamentally challenges the "classical" assumption of the RMQE. The study "*Polyatomic time crystals of the brain neuron extracted microtubule are projected like a hologram meters away*" by Saxena, Bandyopadhyay, et al., demonstrates the existence of **Polyatomic Time Crystals** within the microtubule networks of neurons.¹ These structures are shown to spontaneously generate multiple inherent clocks, "edit" noise to maintain coherence, and, most radically, project their information as a holographic field over macroscopic distances.¹

This report undertakes a deep, exhaustive integrative review of these two seminal texts. It seeks to answer a specific, high-stakes theoretical question: **How are the time crystals described by Saxena et al. represented in the model described by the RMQE hypothesis?** Given that the RMQE text explicitly excludes microtubule-based quantum

theories, this review will argue that the representation is **implicit yet foundational**. We posit that the "Holographic Projection" of the polyatomic time crystal provides the precise, physically necessary "Distal Drive" mechanism that the RMQE requires to sustain its "Resonant Manifold" but fails to explain biophysically. By synthesizing the "classical emulator" software of the RMQE with the "quantum holographic" hardware of the Time Crystal, this report proposes a **Unified Resonant Operator Theory** of cortical function.

2. The Resonant Manifold Quantum Emulator (RMQE): Theoretical Architecture

To understand where the Time Crystal fits—or fails to fit—we must first rigorously deconstruct the architecture of the Resonant Manifold Quantum Emulator. The RMQE is not merely a metaphor; it is a structural claim about how the brain leverages the physics of electromagnetism to achieve computational efficiency that rivals quantum systems.

2.1 The Alpha Field as the Wave Function (Ψ)

The foundational axiom of the RMQE is the reinterpretation of the Alpha rhythm (8-13 Hz). Historically dismissed as an "idling" rhythm that disappears during active processing, the RMQE elevates Alpha to the status of the **Quantum Wave Function (Ψ)**.¹

2.1.1 The Physics of Superposition

In quantum mechanics, a system exists in a superposition of all possible states until a measurement occurs. The RMQE posits that the brain emulates this state through the Alpha field.

- **Inhibition as Potentiality:** High Alpha power correlates with broad, pulsed inhibition across the cortex. The RMQE argues that this inhibition does not "turn off" the cortex but rather "gates" it. It creates a protected state space where multiple potential percepts, motor plans, or cognitive interpretations are held in active suspension.¹
- **The Probabilistic Landscape:** The Alpha field represents a **probability distribution of excitability**. It defines the "priors" of the system. Just as the electron cloud defines where an electron *might* be, the Alpha field defines where a neural firing event *might* occur. The broad spatial tuning of Alpha population Receptive Fields (pRFs)—which are 2-3 times larger than their broadband counterparts—physically instantiates this "delocalized" uncertainty, mirroring the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle.¹

2.1.2 The Global Carrier Wave

Crucial to the RMQE is the concept of binding. How does the brain unify disparate features (color, motion, shape) processed in different cortical areas into a single coherent percept?

- **Coherence and Binding:** The Alpha rhythm maintains significant phase coherence over centimeters of cortical tissue. It acts as a "**Global Clock**" or carrier wave. This long-range coherence establishes a "Resonant Manifold"—a unified functional space where the phase relationship between distant neuronal populations allows them to communicate as if they were entangled.¹
- **The Manifold:** The "Manifold" is not a physical structure but a topological space defined by the phase-locking of the Alpha field. It is the "screen" upon which the movie of consciousness is projected.

2.1.3 The Layer 1 Dipole Generator

The biophysical generation of this field is a critical point of analysis. The RMQE attributes the Alpha field to the synchronized activity of **pyramidal neurons**, specifically involving their **apical dendrites in Layer 1 (L1)**.¹

- **Ephaptic Coupling:** The model relies on **ephaptic coupling**—the non-synaptic interaction between neurons via the extracellular electric field. The dense packing of parallel apical dendrites in Layer 1 allows for the summation of individual current dipoles into a coherent, volume-conducted field that feeds back onto the network.¹
- **The Feedback Loop:** This creates a non-synaptic feedback loop: the "wires" (synapses) generate the "field" (Alpha), and the field, in turn, modulates the threshold of the wires.

2.2 Gamma Bursts as Wave Function Collapse

If Alpha represents the wave-like nature of the emulator (Potentiality), **Gamma bursts (70-180 Hz)** represent the particle-like nature (Actuality).¹

- **The Measurement Event:** In the Copenhagen interpretation of quantum mechanics, the wave function collapses upon measurement. In the RMQE, the "measurement" is the moment the cortex commits to a specific interpretation of the input.
- **Desynchronization:** This collapse is phenomenologically observed as "Alpha desynchronization" or "Alpha blocking." The broad, inhibitory Alpha field dissolves, and a precise, spatially localized Gamma burst emerges.
- **Determinism:** While Alpha represents the probabilistic distribution (Ψ), Gamma represents the specific eigenstate ($|\phi\rangle$) that the system has collapsed into. Gamma signals have small, retinotopically precise receptive fields, confirming their role as the "readout" of the computation.¹

2.3 Beta Bursts as Quantum Operators

The most significant contribution of the RMQE paper is the integration of **Beta Bursts (13-30 Hz)** as the "Control Signals" or "Quantum Operators" of the system.

2.3.1 The Missing Operator

The original RMQE framework (Alpha/Gamma) provided a mechanism for state maintenance and state collapse but lacked a mechanism for **state transition**. How does the brain move from one thought to another? How does it manipulate the probability distribution before collapse?

- **Beta as the Gate:** The report posits that Beta bursts fill this gap. They are the **logic gates** (e.g., NOT, CNOT, HADAMARD) of the emulator. They are transient, high-power events that intervene in the Alpha field to fundamentally alter the probability landscape.¹

2.3.2 Waveform Diversity

Citing groundbreaking work by Rayson et al., the RMQE emphasizes that Beta is not a sustained rhythm but a series of discrete bursts with **rich waveform diversity**.¹

- **The Shape is the Code:** Beta bursts are rarely perfect sine waves. Some are sharp, some are broad; some have steep rising phases, others steep falling phases. The RMQE argues that this diversity is not noise but **information**. The shape of the waveform encodes the specific operation being performed.
- **The Fingerprint of Computation:** A "sharp" burst might correspond to a "RESET" or "CLEAR" operation (erasing working memory), while a "broad" burst might correspond to a "HOLD" operation (maintaining the current state against decay).¹

2.3.3 The Distal Drive Mechanism

Biophysically, the generation of these specific waveforms is attributed to the **temporal integration of distal and proximal synaptic drives**.¹

- **The L1 Target:** Specifically, a strong Beta burst requires a powerful, temporally narrow (~50 ms) excitatory input targeting the **apical tufts in Layer 1** (the "Distal Drive").
- **Source of the Drive:** The RMQE identifies the Prefrontal Cortex (PFC)—specifically the Anterior Cingulate (ACA) and Orbitofrontal Cortex (ORB)—as the source of these feedback projections. The ACA provides "Evidence" (Probability Amplitude) signals, while the ORB provides "Context" (State Vector) signals.¹

2.4 The Biophysical Limit: The Rejection of Orch-OR

A crucial boundary condition of the RMQE is its explicit rejection of "true" quantum computing in the brain.

- **The Functionalist Stance:** The document states: *"The model is not a claim that the brain is a 'quantum computer' in the sense of utilizing particle-level entanglement (e.g., in microtubules, as proposed by Penrose and Hameroff)."*¹
- **Implication:** The RMQE assumes that the "emulation" is robust enough to run on "wet," noisy, classical hardware (synapses and ion channels). It does not require the delicate coherence of sub-cellular structures.

3. Polyatomic Time Crystals: The Sub-Neuronal Reality

While the RMQE constructs a functional model of the "software" of cortical computation, the work by Saxena, Bandyopadhyay, et al. provides a startling new look at the "hardware." The discovery of **Polyatomic Time Crystals** in brain microtubules suggests that the biological substrate is far more sophisticated than the "classical" wires assumed by the RMQE.

3.1 Defining the Biological Time Crystal

The concept of a time crystal was originally proposed by Frank Wilczek in 2012 as a phase of matter that breaks time-translation symmetry—meaning it exhibits periodic motion even in its lowest energy state (ground state). While controversial in physics, the biological realization described by Saxena et al. is distinct and robust.

3.1.1 The "Editing" Mechanism

In a standard classical system, if a periodic oscillation is perturbed by noise, it dephases and eventually decays to equilibrium. The microtubule system behaves differently.

- **Self-Correction:** When a perturbed periodic oscillation in the microtubule dephases, the system actively **"edits"** the signal to retrieve the original clock topology.¹
- **The Inherent Clock:** The "inherent clock" that is born during this retrieval process—the persistent, self-correcting oscillation—is the time crystal. This implies that microtubules possess an intrinsic error-correction mechanism that protects coherence against thermal noise.¹

3.1.2 Polyatomic Complexity

Previous artificial time crystals (e.g., in trapped ions) typically involved a single type of atom and a single driven frequency. The microtubule time crystals are **Polyatomic**.

- **Multi-Clock System:** The microtubule, composed of alpha and beta-tubulin dimers arranged in a complex lattice, generates **distinct new clocks at many time domains simultaneously**.¹
- **Time-Symmetry Breaking:** The researchers observed "multiple time-symmetry-breaking events at a time." This means the microtubule is not just a single clock but a **lattice of clocks**, capable of maintaining multiple, nested independent timekeeping rhythms.

3.2 Frequency Scaling: The Bridge to Biology

A critical aspect of the Saxena finding is the frequency domain in which these crystals operate.

- **Excitation vs. Observation:** The microtubules were excited with electromagnetic signals

in the GHz range. However, the researchers searched for and found the time crystals at frequencies **at least** 10^3 **orders lower** than the excitation frequency.¹

- **The MHz/kHz Bridge:** 10^3 orders lower than GHz (10^9 Hz) places the primary time crystal resonance in the **MHz (10^6 Hz)** range. Further nested clocks (triplet-of-triplets) extend down into the **kHz and Hz** range.²
- **Relevance:** This frequency scaling is profound. It demonstrates a mechanism by which high-frequency quantum vibrations (THz/GHz) in the protein lattice are down-converted into biologically relevant signals (MHz/kHz/Hz) that can interact with ionic events and neural oscillations.

3.3 The Holographic Projection

The most radical and transformative finding of the Saxena paper is the mechanism of information output.

- **The Holographic Principle:** The study demonstrates that the quantum information contained within the polyatomic time crystal is not confined to the physical nanowire. Instead, it is **"projected like a hologram meters away"**.¹
- **Mechanism:** Using quantum optics and dielectric resonance experiments, the researchers revealed a method to "synthesize and fuse distinct clocks in one hologram... and project it like an antenna".¹
- **Physical Reality:** This suggests that the microtubule functions as a **phased array antenna**. The "hologram" is a structured interference pattern of electromagnetic (or quantum-optical) fields that extends well beyond the cell body, potentially encompassing the entire volume of the brain ("meters away" implies a range exceeding the skull).

4. Integrative Review: The Implicit Representation of Time Crystals in the RMQE

We now address the core integrative question: **How are these time crystals represented in the RMQE model?**

As noted, the explicit representation is one of rejection. The RMQE text dismisses the Penrose-Hameroff microtubule hypothesis. However, a deep structural analysis reveals that the **RMQE is describing the effects of the time crystals while misidentifying their cause**. The "classical" mechanisms proposed by the RMQE (e.g., L1 Ephaptics, Distal Drives) are biophysically insufficient to explain the phenomena they are credited with, leaving a "theoretical void" that is perfectly filled by the physics of the Polyatomic Time Crystal.

Table 1: Comparative Axioms of the Two Frameworks

Feature	RMQE Model (The Emulator)	Polyatomic Time Crystal (The Source)	Integrative Insight
Physical Substrate	Classical Synapses, Dendrites, Ion Channels	Microtubule Nanowires, Tubulin Lattices	The MT lattice drives the Dendritic response.
Primary "State"	Alpha Field (Ψ) / Resonant Manifold	Polyatomic Time Crystal / Inherent Clock	Alpha is the macroscopic beat of the TC lattice.
Operator / Action	Beta Burst (Logic Gate)	"Editing" of Dephased Oscillation	Beta is the EM signature of the TC "Edit".
Communication	Ephaptic Coupling (Electric Field)	Holographic Projection (Antenna)	Holography <i>is</i> the mechanism of Ephaptics.
Information Range	Centimeters (Cortical Coherence)	Meters (Holographic Field)	Holography enables whole-brain binding.
Stance on Quantum	"Emulated" via Classical Physics	Real Quantum-Optical Phenomena	The Brain is a Quantum system (MT) driving a Classical interface (Synapse).

4.1 The Void of the "Distal Drive" and the Holographic Solution

The RMQE model is biophysically predicated on the existence of a precise, high-power **Distal Drive** targeting the apical tufts of Layer 1 dendrites.¹

- **The Requirement:** To generate a coherent "Alpha Global Clock" across the entire cortex, and to execute precise "Beta Burst" operators, the apical dendrites in Layer 1 must receive synchronized input.
- **The Classical Problem:** The RMQE attributes this drive to "feedback projections" from the PFC. However, relying on long-range axonal transmission (with conduction delays and

synaptic jitter) to maintain a perfectly phase-locked "Global Clock" across the entire cortical mantle is problematic. The "binding problem" is difficult to solve with slow wires.

- **The Holographic Solution:** The **Holographic Projection** of the microtubule time crystals offers the exact physical substrate required.
 - If microtubules in the PFC project a holographic field "meters away," this field propagates at the speed of light (or near-light speed in the medium).
 - This field would instantaneously intersect the Layer 1 dendrites of the sensory cortex.
 - The "Distal Drive" is not a chemical synaptic input; it is a **Non-Synaptic Holographic Input**. The apical dendrites, acting as dielectric resonators (a property noted in Saxena's work), pick up the projected time crystal field.
 - **Conclusion:** The "Distal Drive" of the RMQE is the "Holographic Projection" of the Time Crystal.

4.2 Beta Bursts as the "Editing" of the Time Crystal

The RMQE identifies **Beta Bursts** as the "Quantum Operators" that manipulate the probability field. The Time Crystal paper describes an "**Editing**" mechanism that restores the clock.¹

- **The Correlation:**
 - **RMQE:** Beta bursts appear when the system needs to "maintain status quo" (HOLD) or "clear out" a state (RESET). This implies an injection of order or energy to counteract decay.
 - **Time Crystal:** The "editing" mechanism is triggered when the periodic oscillation "dephases" (i.e., when entropy increases). The system "edits it to retrieve the original clock."
- **The Mechanism:** We propose that the **Beta Burst is the electromagnetic signature of the Time Crystal's editing process.**
 - When the "Global Clock" (Alpha) begins to dephase due to sensory noise, the microtubule lattice initiates an error-correction routine (the "Edit").
 - This rapid re-synchronization of the microtubule dipoles releases a burst of energy in the 13-30 Hz range (the beat frequency of the correction).
 - This energy is detected at the scalp as a "Beta Burst."
 - **Waveform Diversity:** The Saxena paper notes that the system generates "distinct new clocks" and "multiple time-symmetry-breaking events." The diverse shapes of the Beta bursts (sharp vs. broad) likely correspond to the **specific topological correction** being applied by the Time Crystal. A "sharp" burst might be a hard reset (symmetry breaking), while a "broad" burst might be a harmonic stabilization.

4.3 The "Resonant Manifold" as the Time Crystal Lattice

The RMQE uses the term "**Resonant Manifold**" to describe the unified functional space of the cortex. It admits this is a topological description rather than a structural one.¹

- **The Structural Reality:** The "Polyatomic Time Crystal" provides the structure. A crystal, by definition, is a repeating order. A *Time Crystal* is a repeating order in time.

- **The Manifold Definition:** The "Resonant Manifold" is the **macroscopic phenomenological description of the Global Time Crystal Lattice.**
 - The "Manifold" exists because billions of microtubule clocks are entrained via their holographic projections.
 - The "Resonance" is the frequency-locking of these crystals.
 - The "Quantum Emulator" is the observation that this lattice behaves according to quantum rules (superposition/collapse) because it *is* a quantum system at the microtubule level, even if the readout (spikes) is classical.

5. Synthesis: The Unified Resonant Operator Theory

By integrating the "missing" details from the Time Crystal research into the "unexplained" mechanisms of the RMQE, we arrive at a unified theory.

The Unified Resonant Operator Theory posits that the cortex operates as a dual-layer system:

1. **The Quantum Control Layer (The Source):**
 - Located within the microtubules of pyramidal neurons.
 - Operates as a **Polyatomic Time Crystal**, generating stable, multi-frequency clocks (10^3 Hz to 10^9 Hz) via quantum optical mechanisms.
 - Broadcasts its state via **Holographic Projection** (the "Hologram"), creating a structured electromagnetic field that permeates the brain volume ("meters away").
 - performs "Editing" operations to maintain temporal coherence against noise.
2. **The Classical Interface Layer (The Emulator):**
 - Located at the cell membrane, specifically the **Apical Dendrites of Layer 1.**
 - Acts as a **Receiver/Resonator** for the holographic field. The "Distal Drive" is the reception of the hologram.
 - Generates the **Alpha Field** as the macroscopic envelope (beat frequency) of the received holographic carrier wave.
 - Generates **Beta Bursts** as the inductive signature of the Time Crystal's "Editing" events.
 - Generates **Gamma Bursts** as the final, discrete "Readout" or collapse of the system into action potentials.

5.1 Frequency Coupling Analysis

The RMQE focuses on 10-100 Hz. The Time Crystals originate in GHz/MHz. How do they couple?

- **Deep Insight:** The Saxena paper notes that time crystals were found at " 10^3 orders lower" than excitation.

- Excitation: ~1-100 GHz.
- Primary Time Crystal: ~1-100 MHz.
- Secondary Time Crystal (Triplet): ~1-100 kHz.
- Tertiary Time Crystal (Beat): ~1-100 Hz (The EEG Range).
- **Implication:** The Alpha/Beta/Gamma rhythms studied in the RMQE are the **tertiary resonance artifacts** of the primary microtubule time crystals. They are the "hum" of the quantum engine. The RMQE effectively models the behavior of the "hum" without acknowledging the engine.

5.2 Revisiting the "Classical" Assumption

The RMQE's rejection of the Penrose-Hameroff model is based on the assumption that "wet" biology cannot sustain quantum coherence.

- **The Counter-Proof:** The Saxena results empirically demonstrate that microtubules *do* sustain quantum optical effects (time crystals) and holographic projection at biological temperatures.¹
- **Correction to RMQE:** The RMQE is correct that the *synaptic* level is classical. It is incorrect that the *entire* brain is classical. The brain is a quantum machine (Microtubule) driving a classical puppet (Neuron). The "Emulation" is simply the translation of quantum states into classical spikes.

6. Implications and Future Outlook

This integrative review has profound implications for the future of the RMQE hypothesis and neuroscience at large.

6.1 Validating the "Field Theory" of Consciousness

The RMQE validates the "Dynamicist" view that fields are primary. The Time Crystal discovery provides the **generator** for these fields. This moves "Field Theories of Consciousness" from the realm of metaphor to concrete biophysics (Holographic Projection from Nanowires).

6.2 Neuropathology as Crystallographic Defects

If the "Resonant Manifold" is actually a Time Crystal Lattice, then pathologies like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's can be reinterpreted.

- **Parkinson's:** The RMQE notes that Parkinsonian Beta is "stereotypical" and lacks diversity.¹ In the Unified Theory, this represents a **"Frozen" Time Crystal**. The "Editing" mechanism has jammed, repeating the same error-correction loop (tremor) without resolving the clock.
- **Alzheimer's:** The disintegration of microtubules (tauopathy) leads to the loss of the Time Crystal. Without the "Global Clock" and "Holographic Projection," the "Resonant

Manifold" collapses. The "binding" of memory and self fails because the physical carrier of the hologram has dissolved.

6.3 Toward "Holographic" Brain-Computer Interfaces

The RMQE suggests we can interact with the brain via "Beta" operators. The Unified Theory suggests a more direct route: **Holographic Resonance**.

- Instead of stimulating with electrodes (classical), future BCIs might use **RF/Optical Holography** to couple directly with the microtubule time crystals, inserting information into the "Resonant Manifold" at the source level.

7. Conclusion

The "Polyatomic Time Crystals" described by Saxena et al. are not merely an exotic curiosity; they are the **hidden physical substrate** that makes the "Resonant Manifold Quantum Emulator" possible. While the RMQE model constructs a brilliant functional architecture of "Alpha Waves," "Gamma Collapse," and "Beta Operators," it leaves a biophysical void regarding the source of the fields and the mechanism of the operators.

This review concludes that the **Holographic Projection** of the microtubule time crystal is the **Distal Drive** of the RMQE. The **Time Crystal Editing** is the **Beta Operator**. The **Global Clock** is the **Time Crystal Lattice**.

Far from being contradictory, the two papers are perfectly complementary halves of a single truth: The brain, controlled by the Beta Operator, uses a Quantum Holographic Core (Microtubules) to elicit a Classical Electrodynamical Interface (Neurons), creating a system that is neither purely quantum nor purely classical, but a Resonant Operator of reality.

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