# Section Based Hex-Cell Routing Algorithm (SBHCR) 

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#### Abstract

A Hex-Cell network topology can be constructed using units of hexagon cells. It has been introduced in the literature as interconnection network suitable for large parallel computers, which can connect large number of nodes with three links per node. Although this topology exhibits attractive characteristics such as embeddability, symmetry, regularity, strong resilience, and simple routing, the previously suggested routing algorithms suffer from the high number of logical operations and the need for readdressing of nodes every time a new level is add to the network. This negatively impacts the performance of the network as it increases the execution time of these algorithms. In this paper we propose an improved optimal point to point routing algorithm for Hex-Cell network. The algorithm is based on dividing the Hex-Cell topology into six divisions, hence the name Section Based Hex-Cell Routing (SBHCR). The SBHCR algorithm is simple and preserves the advantage of the addressing scheme proposed for the Hex-Cell network. It does not depend on the depth of the network topology which leads to overcome the issue of readdressing of nodes every time a new level is added. Evaluation against two previously suggested routing algorithms has shown the superiority of SBHCR in term of less logical operations.


## KEYWORDS

Hex-Cell topology, Routing Algorithm, Interconnection Topology, Networking.

## 1.INTRODUCTION

Routing algorithms is a popular topic in the study of computer networks, distributed systems and their applications [1,2]. The design of routing algorithm plays an important role in determining the performance of tightly and loosely coupled systems. The efficiency of many applications that run on tightly and loosely coupled systems depends highly on communication time which is affected by characteristics of routing algorithm. Routing algorithm should prove correctness, simplicity, robustness, stability, fairness and optimality $[3,4,5,6]$.

Several static interconnection networks and their related routing algorithms have been reported in the literature $[6,7,8,9,10]$. Hex-Cell network is a class of interconnection networks which has proposed for parallel computing systems [10,11,12,13,14]. Its topology can be constructed using units of hexagon cells. Sharieh et al. [10] suggested the original routing algorithm in which the addressing mode was based on the depth of the network and the position of the node in the level. The routing from one node to another can be done using one or more of the following three functions: moveUp, moveDown and moveHorizontal. Qatawneh et al. [11] have criticized the dependency on the depth of Hex-Cell network which mean that the topology must be fixed otherwise the depth value must be updated to readdress the nodes every time a new level is added.

Therefore, they have proposed an alternative routing algorithm in which the node addressing is based on the address of the three cells around the node while the cell itself is addressed based on Cartesian coordinate ( X -axis and Y-axis). Their algorithm assumes the central cell is having $(0,0)$ as coordinate and in order to reach the destination two functions need to be used: Cell Routing and Node Routing.

Although Hex-Cell topology exhibits attractive characteristics such as embeddability, symmetry, regularity, strong resilience, and simplicity $[10,11,12,13]$, the previously suggested routing algorithms $[10,11]$ suffer from the high number of logical operations and the need for readdressing network nodes every time a new level is added which negatively impact the running time of that network. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to propose a new routing algorithm for Hex-Cell network that eliminate these shortcomings.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 provides an overview of Hex-Cell network. Section 3 presents the proposed routing algorithm. Section 4 compares the algorithm to its predecessor. Finally conclusion is presented in section 5 .

## 2. HEX-CELL NETWORK TOPOLOGY

A Hex-Cell network [9] with depth d is denoted by HC (d) and can be constructed by using units of hexagon cells, each of six nodes. A Hex-Cell network with depth $d$ has d levels numbered from 1 to d, where, level 1 represents the innermost level corresponding to one hexagon cell. Level 2 corresponds to the six hexagon cells surrounding the hexagon at level 1 . Level 3 corresponds to the 12 hexagon cells surrounding the six hexagons at level 2 as shown in figure 1 . The levels of the HC (d) network are labeled from 1 to d . Each level i has $\mathrm{N}_{\mathrm{i}}$ nodes, representing processing elements and interconnected in a ring structure $[10,11]$.


Figure 1. (a) Hex-Cell with 1 level, 2 levels and 3 levels [10]

## 3.SBHCR ALGORITHM

The routing algorithm which is proposed in [10] depends on the depth of Hex-Cell network which means that the topology must be fixed or there is a need for updating the depth value and readdressing which in turns increase the setup time [11]. The number of logical operations may increase as the depth of Hex-Cell increases which leads to more time in calculating the routing algorithm to forward the message from one node to another. The SBHCR algorithm eliminates the above disadvantages by proposing simple and flexible addressing mode. In order to explain the SBHCR, we propose new addressing scheme for Hex-Cell topology which is based on the following key assumptions:

1- The Hex-Cell topology is divided into six sections labeled from left to right (clockwise) and numbered from 1 to 6 , as shown in figure 2 .

2- The address of each node in the Hex-Cell topology is identified by ( $\mathrm{S}, \mathrm{L}, \mathrm{X}$ ) where S denotes the section number, $L$ denotes the level number, and $X$ denotes the node number on that level labeled from $X_{1}, \ldots, X_{n}$; where $n=((2 \times L)-1)$.


Figure 2. Hex-Cell addressing scheme for HC (3) network
A node with the address 1.1 .1 is the first node that exists at the section number 1 and level number 1. A node 1.2.1 refers to first node that exists at the section number 1 and level number 2 and so on. In SBHCR algorithm for HC as shown in Figure 3, the movement from one node to another can be done using one of the following five cases as shown in figure 3 (a).


Figure 3.(a) The main function for the SBHCR algorithm
As an input to this routing algorithm the address of the source node (which is the first node address) and the address of the destination node (Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest) is used to get the output which is the address of the second node and the address of the destination node (Snxt, Lnxt, Xnxt, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest). Then the second node apply the routing algorithm using the address of the source node (which is the second node address in this case) and the address of the destination node (Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest) to get the address of the third node
and the address of the destination node (Snxt, Lnxt, Xnxt, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest). We continue this way until we reach the source address equal the destination address.

```
moveToUpperLevelC1(Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
Output(Snxt, Lnxt, Xnxt, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest) {
    If (Lsrc is odd) }->\mathrm{ return (Ssrc, Lsrc + 1, Xsrc + 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
    Else
            If (Xsrc < Xdest) }->\mathrm{ return (Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc + 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
            Else }->\mathrm{ return (Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc - 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest) }
moveToLowerLevelC1(Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
Output(Snxt, Lnxt, Xnxt, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest){
    If (Lsrc is even) }->\mathrm{ return (Ssrc, Lsrc - 1, Xsrc - 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
    Else
            If (Xsrc \leq Xdest) }->\mathrm{ return (Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc + 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
            Else }->\mathrm{ return (Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc - 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest) }
moveToLowerLevelC2(Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
Output(Snxt, Lnxt, Xnxt, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest){
    If (Xsrc is even) }->\mathrm{ return (Ssrc, Lsrc - 1, Xsrc - 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
    Else
        If (Xsrc + 1> ((2 < Lsrc) - 1))
                        If (Ssrc = 6) }->\mathrm{ return(1, Lsrc, 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
                        Else }->\mathrm{ return (Ssrc + 1, Lsrc, 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
Else }->\mathrm{ return (Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc + 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)}
moveToLowerLevelC3(Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
Output(Snxt, Lnxt, Xnxt, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest){
    If (Xsrc is even) }->\mathrm{ return(Ssrc, Lsrc - 1, Xsrc-1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
    Else
            If (Xsrc + 1> ((2 < Lsrc) - 1))
                            If (Ssrc = 6) }->\mathrm{ return(1, Lsrc, 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
                            Else }->\mathrm{ return (Ssrc + 1, Lsrc, 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
                    Else }->\mathrm{ return (Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc + 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)}
moveToLowerLevelC4(Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
Output(Snxt, Lnxt, Xnxt, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest){
    If (Xsrc is even) }->\mathrm{ return(Ssrc, Lsrc - 1, Xsrc - 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
    Else
        If (Xsrc - 1 < 1)
                            If (Ssrc = 1) }->\mathrm{ return (6, Lsrc, (( }2\times\mathrm{ Lsrc) - 1), Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
                            Else }->\mathrm{ return (Ssrc - 1, Lsrc, ((2 < Lsrc ) - 1), Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
            Else }->\mathrm{ return (Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc - 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest) }
moveToLowerLevelC5(Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
Output(Snxt, Lnxt, Xnxt, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest){
    If (Xsrc is even) }->\mathrm{ return(Ssrc, Lsrc - 1, Xsrc - 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
    Else
        If (Xsrc - 1<1)
            If (Ssrc = 1) }->\mathrm{ return (6, Lsrc, ((2 < Lsrc) - 1), Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
                        Else }->\mathrm{ return (Ssrc - 1, Lsrc, ((2 < Lsrc ) - 1), Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
            Else }->\mathrm{ return (Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc - 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest) }
moveSameLevelC1(Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
Output(Snxt, Lnxt, Xnxt, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest){
    If (Xsrc < Xdest) }->\mathrm{ return (Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc + 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
    Else }->\mathrm{ return (Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc - 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)}
moveSameLevelC2(Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
Output(Snxt, Lnxt, Xnxt, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest){
    If (Xsrc + 1> ((2\timesLsrc)-1))
            If (Ssrc = 6) }->\mathrm{ return(1, Lsrc, 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
            Else }->\mathrm{ return (Ssrc + 1, Lsrc, 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
    Else }->\mathrm{ return (Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc + 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)}
moveSameLevelC5(Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
Output(Snxt, Lnxt, Xnxt, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest){
    If (Xsrc - 1<1)
            If (Ssrc = 1) }->\mathrm{ return (6, Lsrc, ((2 < Lsrc) - 1), Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
            Else }->\mathrm{ return (Ssrc - 1, Lsrc, (( }2\times\mathrm{ Lsrc ) - 1), Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)
    Else }->\mathrm{ return (Ssrc, Lsrc, Xsrc - 1, Sdest, Ldest, Xdest)}
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Figure 3.(b) The sub-functions the SBHCR algorithm

## 4.SCENARIO based Discussion

The following examples explain the above routing cases. For this purposed, we consider a network of a Hex-cell topology with 4 levels; i.e. HC (4) as shown in Figure 4.


Figure 4. HC (4) topology with labeled nodes and levels

## Scenario 1: The source and destination in the same section and level

Let $\left(\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{s}} \cdot \mathrm{L}_{\mathrm{s}} \cdot \mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{s}}\right)=(2.4 .2)$ be the source node and $\left(\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{d}} \cdot \mathrm{L}_{\mathrm{d}} \cdot \mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{d}}\right)=(2.4 .7)$ be the destination node. When executing the routing algorithm, CASE 1 will be applied. To reach the destination, the algorithm goes through five steps; i.e., (2.4.2) $\rightarrow$ (2.4.3) $\rightarrow$ (2.4.4) $\rightarrow(2.4 .5) \rightarrow(2.4 .6) \rightarrow(2.4 .7)$, as shown in Figure (5).


Figure 5. The source and destination in the same section and level
Scenario 2: source and destination are in the same section and different levels (destination level less than source level)

Let $\left(\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{s}} \cdot \mathrm{L}_{\mathrm{s}} \cdot \mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{s}}\right)=(5.4 .5)$ be the source node and $\left(\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{d}} \cdot \mathrm{L}_{\mathrm{d}} \cdot \mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{d}}\right)=(5.2 .1)$ be the destination node. When executing the routing algorithm, CASE 1 will be applied. To reach the destination, the algorithm goes through four steps; i.e., (5.4.5) $\rightarrow(5.4 .4) \rightarrow(5.3 .3) \rightarrow(5.3 .2) \rightarrow(5.2 .1)$, as shown in Figure (6).


Figure 6: source and destination are in the same section and different levels (destination level less than source level).

Scenario 3: source and destination are in the same section and different levels (source level less than destination level)

Let $\left(S_{s} \cdot L_{s} \cdot X_{s}\right)=(5.3 .2)$ be the source node and $\left(S_{\mathbf{d}} \cdot L_{d} \cdot X_{d}\right)=(5.4 .7)$ be the destination node. When executing the routing algorithm, CASE 1 will be applied. To reach the destination, the algorithm goes through five steps; i.e., $(5.3 .2) \rightarrow(5.3 .3) \rightarrow(5.4 .4) \rightarrow(5.4 .5) \rightarrow(5.4 .6) \rightarrow$ (5.4.7), as shown in Figure (7).

figure 7. Source and destination are in the same section and different levels (source level less than destination level)

Scenario 4: source and destination are in different sections ( $S_{s}=S_{d} \mathbf{- 1}$ or $\left.S_{s}=S_{d}+5\right)$ (source level less than or equal destination level)

Let $\left(\mathrm{S}_{\mathbf{s}} \cdot \mathrm{L}_{\mathbf{s}} \cdot \mathrm{X}_{\mathbf{s}}\right)=(1.3 .2)$ be the source node and $\left(\mathrm{S}_{\mathbf{d}} \cdot \mathrm{L}_{\mathbf{d}} \cdot \mathrm{X}_{\mathbf{d}}\right)=(2.4 .1)$ be the destination node. When executing the routing algorithm, CASE 2 will be applied. To reach the destination, the algorithm goes through six steps; i.e., $(1.3 .2) \rightarrow(1.3 .3) \rightarrow(1.3 .4) \rightarrow(1.3 .5) \rightarrow(2.3 .1) \rightarrow(2.4 .2)$ $\rightarrow$ (2.4.1), as shown in Figure (8).


Figure 8. Source and destination are in different sections $\left(S_{s}=S_{d}-1\right.$ or $\left.S_{s}=S_{d}+5\right)$ (source level less than or equal destination level).

Scenario 5: source and destination are in different sections ( $S_{s}=S_{d}-1$ or $\quad S_{s}=S_{d}+$ 5) (destination level less than source level)

Let $\left(S_{s} \cdot L_{s} \cdot X_{s}\right)=(1.4 .4)$ be the source node and $\left(S_{\mathbf{d}} \cdot L_{\mathbf{d}} \cdot X_{\mathbf{d}}\right)=(2.2 .3)$ be the destination node. When executing the routing algorithm, CASE 2 will be applied. To reach the destination, the algorithm goes through six steps; i.e., (1.4.4) $\rightarrow(1.3 .3) \rightarrow(1.3 .4) \rightarrow(1.2 .3) \rightarrow(2.2 .1) \rightarrow(2.2 .2)$ $\rightarrow(2.2 .3)$, as shown in Figure (9).


Figure 9. Source and destination are in different sections $\left(S_{s}=S_{d}-1\right.$ or $\left.S_{s}=S_{d}+5\right)$ (destination level less than source level)

Scenario 6: source and destination are in different sections ( $S_{s}=S_{d}-2$ or $\left.S_{s}=S_{d}+4\right)$
Let $\left(\right.$ Ss. $\left.\mathrm{L}_{\mathrm{s}} \cdot \mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{s}}\right)=(4.3 .2)$ be the source node and $\left(\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{d}} \cdot \mathrm{L}_{\mathrm{d}} \cdot \mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{d}}\right)=(6.3 .3)$ be the destination node. When executing the routing algorithm, CASE 3 will be applied. To reach the destination, the
algorithm goes through nine steps; i.e., (4.3.2) $\rightarrow$ (4.2.1) $\rightarrow(4.2 .2) \rightarrow(4.1 .1) \rightarrow(5.1 .1) \rightarrow(6.1 .1)$ $\rightarrow(6.2 .2) \rightarrow(6.2 .3) \rightarrow(6.3 .4) \rightarrow(6.3 .3)$, as shown in Figure (10).


Figure 10. Source and destination are in the different sections ( $\mathrm{Ss}=\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{d}}-2$ or $\mathrm{Ss}=\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{d}}+4$ )
Scenario 7: source and destination are in different sections ( $S_{s}=S_{d}-3$ or $S_{s}=S_{d}+3$ or $S_{s}=S_{d}-4$ or $S_{s}=S_{d}+2$ )

Let $\left(S_{s} . L_{s} \cdot X_{s}\right)=(6.3 .3)$ be the source node and $\left(S_{d} \cdot L_{d} \cdot X_{d}\right)=(3.3 .3)$ be the destination node. When executing the routing algorithm, CASE 4 will be applied. To reach the destination, the algorithm goes through eleven steps; i.e., (6.3.3) $\rightarrow$ (6.3.4) $\rightarrow$ (6.2.3) $\rightarrow(1.2 .1) \rightarrow(1.2 .2) \rightarrow(1.1 .1) \rightarrow$ (2.1.1) $\rightarrow$ (3.1.1) $\rightarrow$ (3.2.2) $\rightarrow$ (3.2.3) $\rightarrow$ (3.3.4) $\rightarrow$ (3.3.3), as shown in Figure(11).


Figure 11. Source and destination are in different sections

$$
\left(S_{s}=S_{d}-3 \text { or } S_{s}=S_{d}+3 \text { or } S_{s}=S_{d}-4 \text { or } S_{s}=S_{d}+2\right)
$$

Scenario 8: source and destination are in the different sections ( $S_{s}=S_{d}-5$ or $S_{s}=S_{d}$ $+1)$ (source level less than or equal destination level).

Let $\left(\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{s}} \cdot \mathrm{L}_{\mathrm{s}} \cdot \mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{s}}\right)=(5.2 .3)$ be the source node and $\left(\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{d}} \cdot \mathrm{L}_{\mathrm{d}} \cdot \mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{d}}\right)=(4.4 .2)$ be the destination node. When executing the routing algorithm, CASE 5 will be applied. To reach the destination, the algorithm goes through eight steps; i.e., $(5.2 .3) \rightarrow(5.2 .2) \rightarrow(5.2 .1) \rightarrow(4.2 .3) \rightarrow(4.3 .4) \rightarrow(4.3 .3) \rightarrow$ (4.4.4) $\rightarrow$ (4.4.3) $\rightarrow$ (4.4.2), as shown in Figure (12).


Figure 12. Source and destination are in the different sections ( $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{s}}=\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{d}}-5$ or $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{s}}=\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{d}}+1$ ) (source level less than or equal destination level).

Scenario 9: source and destination are in different sections ( $S_{s}=S_{d}-5$ or $\left.S_{s}=S_{d}+1\right)$ (destination level less than source level)

Let $\left(S_{s} \cdot L_{s} \cdot X_{s}\right)=(5.4 .4)$ be the source node and $\left(S_{d} \cdot L_{d} \cdot X_{d}\right)=(4.2 .2)$ be the destination node. When executing the routing algorithm, CASE 5 will be applied. To reach the destination, the algorithm goes through five steps; i.e., (5.4.4) $\rightarrow(5.3 .3) \rightarrow(5.3 .2) \rightarrow(5.2 .1) \rightarrow(4.2 .3) \rightarrow(4.2 .2)$, as shown in Figure (13).


Figure 13. source and destination are in different sections $\left(S_{s}=S_{d}-5\right.$ or $\left.S_{s}=S_{d}+1\right)$
(destination level less than source level)

## 5.COMPARISON BETWEEN SBHCR AND OTHERS ALGORITHMS

The original Hex-Cell routing [10] uses a centralized algorithm to find the best path from the source to the destination. This means that one node do the job, and it is same in the alternative algorithm proposed in [11]. In the contrary, in the SBHCR each node finds the best next node in order to get to the final destination. Thus, the total number of required operation to perform
logical comparison is divided on the nodes, which would give better performance when compared with a single node performing the same logical operation.

Table 1. Comparison between SBHCR and others algorithms.

| First Cell Level | Original Routing <br> Algorithm [10] | Routing Algorithm in [11] | Proposed <br> Routing <br> Algorithm |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number of Steps | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Number of Logical Operations | 13 | 25 | 23 |
| Arithmetic operation | sum, sub and mod | sum and sub | sum, sub and <br> mod |
| Second Cell Level |  |  |  |
| Number of Steps | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Number of Logical Operations | 21 | 85 | 32 |
| Arithmetic operation | sum, sub and mod | sum and sub | sum, sub and <br> mod |

For instance, the number of steps and logical comparison between two same nodes:

1) Original routing algorithm [10]:
a) From node (4.8) to (5.8) it takes 3 Steps and need 13 Logical Operations
b) From node (3.7) to (6.7) it takes 5 Steps and need 21 Logical Operations
2) Alternative Routing Algorithm [11]:
a) From node $((1,-1),(0,0),(1,1))$ to $((-1,-1),(0,0),(-1,1))$ it takes 3 Steps and need 25 Logical Operations
b) From node $((1,-1),(2,0),(1,1))$ to $((-1,-1),(-2,0),(-1,1))$ it takes 5 Steps and need 85 Logical Operations
3) SBHCR Algorithm
a) From node (2.1.1) to (5.1.1) it takes 3 Steps and need 22 Logical Operations
b) From node (2.2.2) to (5.2.2) it takes 5 Steps and need 32 Logical Operations.

## 6.CONCLUSION

In this paper we propose a new routing algorithm for Hex-Cell network that eliminates the weaknesses of the previously suggested algorithms. The algorithm is based on dividing the HexCell topology into six divisions and called Section Based Hex-Cell Routing (SBHCR). The SBHCR algorithm is simple and preserves the advantage of the addressing scheme proposed for the Hex-Cell network. The SBHCR does not depend on the depth like the current addressing which means that the network can be extended without reconfiguration the whole network. Moreover, in this algorithm the task of finding the best routing path is performed by more than one node which implies better performance.

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