

# Determinan Audit Delay pada BPKP di Provinsi Sumatera Utara

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**Abstract:** Financial reports have an important role for stakeholder users, such as governments, lenders, citizens, investors, and various other interests, as a reference for measuring profits and making decisions. The results of the analysis to determine the components that drive audit delays on audited financial reports. This study analyzes variables such as audit tenure, financial distress, audit opinion, and auditor reputation. This study uses a quantitative objective mechanism and includes primary data and distributes questionnaires to researchers at the BPKP office. The sample of this study consisted of auditors at the BPKP office in North Sumatra Province, totaling 60 active auditors on duty. Based on the findings of this study analysis, audit tenure has no significant impact on the occurrence of audit delays in financial reporting. However, financial distress, audit opinion, and auditor reputation have a significant impact on the occurrence of audit delays in financial reporting. However, financial distress, audit opinion, and auditor reputation have a significant impact on the occurrence of audit delays in financial reporting. However, financial distress, audit opinion, and auditor reputation have a significant impact on the occurrence of audit delays in financial reporting.

Keyword: Audit Delay, Audit Tenure, Financial Distress, Audit Opinion, Auditor Reputation.

# **INTRODUCTION**

The Financial and Development Supervisory Agency (Badan Pengawasan Keuangan dan Pembangunan, BPKP) of North Sumatra Province is an internal audit institution whose implementation is carried out by auditors advocating for the promotion of regional autonomy, accountability in government institutions' performance to achieve accountable governance, good corporate management, optimization of provincial/regional revenue, and efforts to combat corruption, collusion, and nepotism (Silalahi et al., 2023).

The BPKP Representative Office in Maluku plans to submit the results of a state loss audit in a suspected corruption case involving the construction project of the East Seram Regency (SBT) DPRD building, amounting to IDR 14.8 billion. The submission is being carried out as the Maluku BPKP audit team has completed its audit on this case and will hand over the audit results to the special crime investigators of the Maluku Regional Police. According to Zainuri, the delay in the audit process by the BPKP team was due to a backlog of other cases still awaiting audit. This delay is attributed to the volume of both old and new case files that must be addressed within the constraints of limited BPKP auditors. Thus, it can be concluded that the delayed publication of audits in this case is due to a lack of auditors or the extended time required for the auditing process, often referred to as audit tenure.

Audit delay refers to the time needed to manage and finalize an audit, calculated until the day the audit report is issued. Over time, audit delays lead to longer delays in financial reporting (Idris and Afiah, 2023). Audit delay is particularly important for investors when making investment decisions (Irhamna, Arifin, and Nurmala, 2024). Audit tenure refers to the duration of the agreement between the auditor and the client regarding the provision of agreedupon audit services (Madalena, Lilianti, and Jusmani, 2023). Audit tenure is measured by calculating the time required for the audit engagement, which influences the emotional relationship between the client and the auditor (Haalisa and Inayati, 2021). The tenure period is necessary to maintain a balance between the client and auditor relationship; excessively long or short periods can lead to issues affecting the auditor's professionalism (Novriska Putri and Pohan, 2022). The audit period also relates to the observation of the auditor-client attachment, where the auditor's standard value gradually becomes more prominent as contract durations increase.

Financial distress occurs when a company is in financial crisis and unable to meet its obligations due to insufficient funds for continued operations (Bebasari and Putri, 2023). Financial distress can manifest as a decline in assets and finances, inability to repay debts, outstanding stock allocations, cash management issues, limited cash flow, and employee layoffs (Avianty and Lestari, 2023). Failure to address financial distress can result in corporate bankruptcy. Independent auditors provide opinions on the client company's financial statements concerning the fairness of all material aspects through financial reports prepared by the management following the accounting standards set by PSAK. Audit opinions on an institution's annual financial reports play a key role in decision-making (Yanthi, Merawati, and Munidewi, 2020). An audit opinion is the conclusion drawn by auditors based on their audit process and represents their assessment of the fairness of financial reporting. Auditors issue opinions based on their findings and audit results (Eka Banias and Kuntadi, 2022). According to Abdillah et al. (2019), an auditor's reputation is the public trust in the auditor's quality and directly correlates with their credibility. The auditor's reputation significantly affects the quality and performance of financial reports, thereby increasing public trust (Effendi and Tirtajaya, 2022). Based on the above background, this study examines the influence of audit tenure, financial distress, audit opinions, and auditor reputation in relation to delays in financial reporting, commonly referred to as audit delay.

# **METHOD**

The research method used in this study is a descriptive quantitative approach. The study employs Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) based on Partial Least Square (PLS) using SmartPLS software to analyze interactions within the model and determine relationships between constructs. PLS-SEM is a component-based structural equation modeling technique that uses a variance-based approach. The primary objective of this research is to examine the influence between independent and dependent variables, categorizing the study as causalcomparative research. The population in this study consists of auditors working at the BPKP Office of North Sumatra Province. The sample is drawn from the population based on specific predefined characteristics. The sampling method employed in this study is simple random sampling, where sample selection is conducted randomly without considering group order or stratification. A total of 60 auditors working at the BPKP Office of North Sumatra Province were selected as the sample for this study.

For data analysis, the research utilizes the Partial Least Square (PLS) technique with the assistance of SmartPLS version 4 software. PLS is one of the more advanced strategies for solving structural equation modeling (SEM), especially in combining theory and data, as well as in path analysis using latent variables. This technique offers high flexibility in social research and is considered effective because it does not require stringent assumptions and allows for the use of relatively small sample sizes, even fewer than 100 samples.



**Figure 1. Conceptual Framework** 

**H1:** Audit tenure influences audit delay at the BPKP Office in North Sumatra Province. **H2:** Financial distress influences audit delay at the BPKP Office in North Sumatra Province.

**H3:** Auditor opinion influences audit delay at the BPKP Office in North Sumatra Province.

**H4:** Auditor reputation influences audit delay at the BPKP Office in North Sumatra Province.

**H5:** Audit tenure, financial distress, auditor opinion, and auditor reputation collectively influence audit delay at the BPKP Office in North Sumatra Province.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Descriptive Analysis of Research Respondents**

The questionnaire was distributed to 60 auditors at the BPKP Office of North Sumatra Province. All questionnaires distributed were returned, processed, examined, and evaluated.

Table 1. Questionnaire Criteria				
Criteria	Quantity	Percentage		
Questionnaires distributed	60	100%		
Unanswered questionnaires	0	0%		
Incomplete responses	0	0%		
Valid questionnaires	60	100%		

The table above shows that 60 surveys were distributed, all of which were returned, resulting in a 100% survey response rate.

	Table 2. Number of Questions	by variable
No	Variable	Number of Questions
1	Audit Tenure	6
2	Financial Distress	6
3	Audit Opinion	6
4	Auditor Reputation	4
5	Audit Delay	4
Total	26	
Questions		

Table	2	Numh	er o	f (	Juestions	hv	Variable
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#### **Descriptive Analysis**

The descriptive analysis outlines the data obtained from respondents. The descriptive data describe the situation and status of the respondents, providing additional information to support the research findings.

#### **Characteristics of Research Respondents**

The participants in this study are 60 auditors registered at BPKP North Sumatra Province, representing the profile of participants, which is the position of auditor.

Table 3. Respondent Profile Characteristics				
Component	Criteria	Ν	%	Diagram
Auditor Position	Auditor Ahli Pertama	11	18%	
	Auditor Mahir	10	17%	
	Auditor Terampil	11	18%	
	Auditor Muda	15	25%	
	Auditor Penyelia	3	4%	
	Auditor Madya	3	4%	
	Auditor	7	12%	

Based on Table 3, from the 60 auditors surveyed at BPKP North Sumatra, 11 were First-Level Auditors and Skilled Auditors, accounting for 18%, 10 were Expert Auditors or 17%, and 15 were Junior Auditors, with Supervisory Auditors and Senior Auditors each making up 3 auditors or 4%. The remaining 7 auditors made up 12%.

# **Descriptive Analysis of Research Variables**

According to the data that has been accumulated, the responses from the participants have been summarized and evaluated to understand the descriptive nature of each variable. The evaluation of the respondents is based on the following criteria:

Lowest Rating Score: 1 Highest Rating Score: 5 Thus, the rating limits for each variable are as follows: 1.00-1.79 = Very Low 1.80-2.59 = Low 2.60-3.39 = Moderate 3.40-4.19 = High 4.20-5.00 = Very High

# **Descriptive Analysis of the Audit Tenure Variable**

The responses from 60 participants regarding audit tenure were measured using three indicators: the length of time the partner has been assigned the audit, changes the partner has

made to the audit process, and the emotional approach the auditor has with the audit firm over a specific period. The following are the 6 statements/questions used to measure this variable:

Code	Item	Mean	Criteria
1	Auditors should perform audit engagements with clients for a	4.100	High
	maximum of 6 consecutive years.		
2	The compatibility between the auditor and client allows the	2.800	Moderate
	audit engagement to continue for a long period.		
3	The longer the auditor is engaged with a client, the more it	4.350	Very High
	affects the quality of the audit.		
4	Frequent changes in audit partners may disrupt the audit	4.100	High
	process.		-
5	Auditors remain vigilant with clients even if they have a close	4.350	Very High
	relationship.		
6	Auditors are able to work effectively and efficiently due to	4.100	High
	their emotional closeness with the client.		-

#### **Descriptive Analysis of the Financial Distress Variable**

The responses from 60 participants regarding financial distress were measured using six questions based on three indicators: wage cuts, declining profitability, and the inability to settle cash obligations. The following are the 6 statements/questions used to measure this variable:

Code	Item	Mean	Criteria
1	When clients experience financial difficulties, they may be	2.850	Moderate
	forced to cut employee wages to reduce costs.		
2	Wage reductions can affect your performance as an auditor.	4.033	High
3	Clients have experienced declining profitability over recent	4.383	Very
	periods.		High
4	There is no suitable solution to increase profitability. The most	4.183	High
	effective strategy will vary depending on the specific situation		
	of the company.		
5	Clients have difficulty meeting obligations, which can affect	3.567	High
	the financial statements.		
6	Auditing carries the risk of a client's inability to settle its cash	4.383	Very
	obligations due to weak profitability.		High

#### **Table 5. Financial Distress Indicators**

#### **Descriptive Analysis of the Audit Opinion Variable**

The responses from 60 participants regarding audit opinions were measured using six questions based on three indicators: honesty, presentation, and completeness of information. The following are the six statements/questions used to measure this variable:

Code	Item	Mean	Criteria
1	Auditors are responsible for revealing any material	4.350	Very
	misstatements identified in the client's financial statements		High
	during the audit process.		
2	The assessment of honesty during the audit process heavily	4.100	High
	relies on the integrity and accuracy of the auditor in revealing		
	findings and conclusions.		

#### **Table 6. Audit Opinion Indicators**

3	Competent auditors will issue accurate audit opinions.		High
4	Transparent and comprehensive financial reporting can support	4.417	Very
	favorable audit opinions from independent auditors.		High
5	Financial statements provide clear information on the	4.367	Very
	accounting policies used by clients to record and measure		High
	financial transactions.		
6	Your view on the quality of the audit opinion is based on the	4.100	High
	completeness of the information presented in the audit report.		

#### **Descriptive Analysis of the Auditor Reputation Variable**

Auditor reputation was measured using four questions based on two indicators: auditor experience and audit quality. The responses from 60 participants were based on the following four statements:

	Table 7. Auditor Reputation Indicators		
Code	Item	Mean	Criteria
1	Experienced auditors are more capable of communicating	4.333	Very High
	effectively with clients.		
2	Auditors have sufficient knowledge and expertise to conduct	4.383	Very High
	an audit.		
3	An auditor's reputation will influence the quality of the audit.	4.183	High
4	Auditors must possess high integrity in carrying out their	4.100	High
	duties.		

#### **Descriptive Analysis of the Audit Delay Variable**

The responses from 60 participants regarding audit delay were measured using four questions based on two indicators: audit report dates and financial statement report dates. The following are the four statements/questions used to measure this variable:

	Table 8. Audit Delay Indicators		
Code	Item	Mean	Criteria
1	The audit report date must be accurate and match the audit	4.383	Very
	completion date.		High
2	Delays in the audit report can negatively affect the audit	4.000	High
	quality.		-
3	The financial statement date must be accurate and correspond	4.100	High
	with financial transactions.		-
4	Audit delays are often caused by external factors, such as	4.033	High
	delays in providing financial data by the client.		-

# **Evaluation of Measurement Model (Outer Model)**

The actual model testing was conducted to demonstrate the validity and reliability testing results. In this study, we conducted a validity test to determine if the constructs meet the criteria to be continued as part of the research. The validity test involves two types of evaluations:

#### **Convergent Validity (Validating Using Outer Loading)**

Convergent validity evaluates the measurement model's validity using items whose values are based on the correlation between item scores and construct values. The convergent validity is measured by the AVE (Average Variance Extracted) coefficient, composite

Table 9. AVE Index, Composite Reliability, R Square, Cronbach's Alpha					
	AVE	<b>Composite Reliability</b>	Cronbach's Alpha		
Audit Tenure	0.629	0.951	0.831		
<b>Financial Distress</b>	0.547	0.879	0.827		
Audit Opinion	0.503	0.882	0.733		
Auditor Reputation	0.642	0.821	0.811		
Audit Delay	0.666	0.842	0.829		

reliability, R-squared, and Cronbach's alpha. The results of the AVE index, composite reliability, R square, and Cronbach's alpha can be seen in Table 9.

The validity and reliability criteria can also be determined from the composite reliability values and AVE (Average Variance Extracted) of each variable. A variable is considered highly reliable if the composite reliability is greater than 0.7 and the AVE is greater than 0.5. Table 9 shows that most of the composite reliability values are above 0.7, and the AVE values are greater than 0.5, indicating that they fall within the reliability category. Additionally, the variables of audit tenure, financial distress, audit opinion, auditor reputation, and audit delay have AVE values approaching and exceeding 0.5, although they do not pass the conformity test for the threshold > 0.5. This suggests the need for an outlier variable adjustment, as the index can still describe the latent variables. The regulatory compliance value of less than 0.7 but more than 0.5 means that a pre-exclusion structural search model is applied. This implies that the reliability hypothesis is met.



Figure 2. Results of the Outer Model Test Showing Outer Loading Values

# **Discriminant Validity (Validating Using AVE)**

Discriminant validity is measured by comparing the square root of the average variance extracted (AVE) for each construct with the correlations between that construct and other constructs in the model. A good discriminant validity is chosen if the square root of AVE for each construct is higher than the correlation between that construct and the other constructs in the model. This can be better understood by referring to the graph below.



Figure 3. Discriminant Validity (Validating Using AVE)

# **Composite Reliability**

Two methods can be used to measure the reliability of a construct in PLS-SEM using the SmartPLS application: Cronbach's alpha reliability and composite reliability. However, Cronbach's alpha provides a lower value, so composite reliability is preferred. The value should be greater than 0.7. Table 10 below shows that all variable values exceed 0.7 for both Cronbach's alpha and composite reliability tests, as well as exceeding 0.5 for the AVE validity test. Therefore, it can be concluded that the tested variables are valid and reliable, allowing us to proceed with testing the structural model.

	Table 10. Composite Reliability						
	Cronbach's Alpha	Composite Reliability (rho_a)					
Audit Tenure	0.829	0.842					
<b>Financial Distress</b>	0.831	0.951					
Audit Opinion	0.827	0.879					
Auditor Reputation	0.733	0.882					
Audit Delay	0.811	0.821					

# **Evaluation of Structural Model (Inner Model)**

The evaluation of the structural model aims to predict the relationships between latent variables based on substantive theory. The structural model is evaluated using R-square of the dependent structures.

# **R-Square** (R<sup>2</sup>)

R-squared is used to measure the predictive power of the structural model. R-squared illustrates the effect of a particular exogenous latent variable on whether the endogenous latent variable has a significant influence or not. An R-squared value of 0.67, 0.33, and 0.19 indicates a strong, moderate, and weak model, respectively (Chin et al., 1998 in Ghozali and Latan, 2015).

Table 11. R-Square (R2)						
<b>R-square</b>	<b>R-square adjusted</b>					
Audit Tenure	0.961					

The results in the table show an R-squared value of 0.961. This indicates that the variables of audit tenure, financial distress, audit opinion, and auditor reputation have a 96.1% influence on audit tenure, with the remaining influence being affected by other variables not included in this study.

# **F-Square**

To assess the model quality, an F-squared test is conducted. An F-squared value of 0.02, 0.15, and 0.35 can be interpreted as the latent predictor variables having weak, moderate, or strong influences on the level of their construct. A variable is considered influential if its value is greater than 0.02.

			Table 12. F-Squa	re		
	Audit	Audit	Financial	Audit	Auditor	
	Delay	Tenure	Distress	Opinion	Reputation	
Audit Delay	-	0.002	2.095	0.636	0.531	
Audit Tenure	-	-	-	-	-	
Financial	-	-	-	-	-	
Distress						
Audit Opinion	-	-	-	-	-	
Auditor	-	-	-	-	-	
Reputation						

From the table above, we can categorize the following:

- a) The value of 0.02 indicates that audit tenure does not have a significant impact on audit delay.
- b) Financial distress, audit opinion, and auditor reputation have a significant impact on audit delay because their values are greater than 0.02.

# **Hypothesis Testing**

Hypothesis testing was conducted by examining the structural model (inner model) using R-squared values, which is a model quality fit test. Additionally, considering the number of effects, the parameter coefficients and T-statistics were found to be significant and equal to 1.96. SmartPLS performs statistical tests for each hypothesized relationship through simulations. In this case, the bootstrap approach also aims to minimize data anomaly searching problems. The significance of the parameter estimates provides valuable information about the relationships between the research variables. The results of the SmartPLS bootstrap analysis can be seen in the internal weight outputs shown in the structural model image.

SmartPLS 4									-	
SmartPLS Export										
Edit	Save	Excel	HTML	Create data file	Compare					
Bootstrapping				Graphic						
Graphical output     Graphical output     Final results     Fund coefficients     Intercepts     Total indexct effects     Specific indexct effects     Outer weights     Outer weights     Quality criteria					and and and and and and and and and and		oper here:	40 40 40 40 40 40		
Graphical output				21						
Structural model P volues					1000 0.000	water Delay				
Measurement model P values				44	1211 Foundat Distance		Reputati Au Rhor	-		
Constructs				10.0						
R-square										
Highlight paths										

Figure 4. Results of SmartPLS Bootstrap Analytical Test

To determine whether a hypothesis is accepted or rejected, p-values, t-statistics, and interconstruct values can be tested. In this way, estimates and measurement standard errors are

calculated based on empirical observations, not using statistical assumptions. In the bootstrap resampling method of this study, a hypothesis is accepted if the t-value significance is greater than 1.96 and/or the p-value is less than 0.05, then Ha is accepted and Ho is rejected, and vice versa. The following hypotheses have been proposed:

Ho: There is no effect of Audit Tenure on Audit Delay

Ha: There is an effect of Audit Tenure on Audit Delay

Ho: There is no effect of Financial Distress on Audit Delay

Ha: There is an effect of Financial Distress on Audit Delay

Ho: There is no effect of Audit Opinion on Audit Delay

Ha: There is an effect of Audit Opinion on Audit Delay

Ho: There is no effect of Auditor Reputation on Audit Delay

Ha: There is an effect of Auditor Reputation on Audit Delay

Table 13. Path Coefficients							
	Original	Sample	Standard	T- statistics	Р		
	sample	Mean (M)	Deviation	( O/STDEV )	Values		
	(0)		(STDEV)				
Audit Tenure ->	-0,119	-0,169	0,189	0,629	0,529		
Audit Delay							
Financial	0,702	0,740	0,212	3,301	0,001		
Distress->							
Audit Delay							
Audit Opinion -	0,926	0,866	0,155	5,988	0,000		
> Audit Delay							
Auditor	-0,483	-0,419	0,140	3,443	0,001		
Reputation->							
Audit Delay							

Based on the table above, exogenous variables are present when the T-statistic is greater than 1.96 or the p-values are less than 0.05. The acceptance or rejection of hypotheses is determined as follows:

- 1. The audit tenure variable has a t-statistic value of 0.629 (less than 1.96) and a p-value of 0.529 (greater than 0.05). This proves the first hypothesis that there is no effect of audit tenure on audit delay.
- 2. The financial distress variable has a t-statistic value of 3.301 (greater than 1.96) and a p-value of 0.001 (less than 0.05). This proves the second hypothesis that financial distress affects audit delay.
- 3. The audit opinion variable has a t-statistic value of 5.988 (greater than 1.96) and a p-value of 0.000 (less than 0.05). This proves the third hypothesis that audit opinion affects audit delay.
- 4. The auditor reputation variable has a t-statistic value of 3.443 (greater than 1.96) and a p-value of 0.001 (less than 0.05). This proves the fourth hypothesis that auditor reputation affects audit delay.

# The Effect of Audit Tenure on Audit Delay

The discussion on the effect of audit tenure on audit delay aims to address the research question and the first hypothesis, which posits that audit tenure does not affect audit delay. Based on the internal path analysis model, it shows that the audit tenure period (X1) does not have a significant effect on audit delay (Y). This is evident from the obtained t-statistic of 0.629 and p-value of 0.529. From the table above, it can be seen that audit tenure does not have an effect on audit delay because the t-statistic value is smaller than 1.96 and the p-value is greater than 0.05, indicating no significant effect. Based on a survey conducted with several auditors at the BPKP offices in North Sumatra, it was found that audit tenure does not influence audit delay. The findings support previous research by Safitri & Triani (2021), which stated that "audit tenure" has no effect on audit delay.

# The Effect of Financial Distress on Audit Delay

The discussion on the impact of financial distress on audit delay aims to answer the research question and the second hypothesis, which states that financial distress affects audit delay. Based on the inner model analysis, it was found that financial distress (X2) has a significant effect on audit delay (Y). This is shown by the t-statistic value of 5.988, with a p-value of 0.000, indicating a significant effect as the t-statistic is greater than 1.96 and the p-value is less than 0.05. Based on a survey conducted with several auditors at the BPKP offices in North Sumatra, it was found that financial distress does affect audit delay. This result supports previous research by Submitter et al. (2021) and Kristiana & Annisa (2022), which indicated that the "financial distress" variable has a significant effect on audit delay.

# The Effect of Audit Opinion on Audit Delay

The discussion on the effect of audit opinion on audit delay aims to address the research question and the third hypothesis, which states that audit opinion affects audit delay. Based on the inner model analysis, it shows that audit opinion (X3) has a significant effect on audit delay (Y). This is evident from the obtained t-statistic value of 3.301 and p-value of 0.001, indicating a significant effect because the t-statistic is greater than 1.96 and the p-value is less than 0.05.

Based on a survey conducted with several auditors at the BPKP offices in North Sumatra, it was found that audit opinion does affect audit delay. The findings support previous research by Annisa & Sartika (2021), which stated that the "audit opinion" variable has a significant effect on audit delay.

# The Effect of Auditor Reputation on Audit Delay

The discussion on the effect of auditor reputation on audit delay aims to answer the research question and the fourth hypothesis, which posits that auditor reputation affects audit delay. Based on the inner model analysis, it shows that auditor reputation (X3) has a significant effect on audit delay (Y). This is evidenced by the obtained t-statistic value of 3.443 and a p-value of 0.001, indicating a significant effect as the t-statistic is greater than 1.96 and the p-value is less than 0.05. Based on a survey conducted with several auditors at the BPKP offices in North Sumatra, it was found that auditor reputation affects audit delay. This result supports previous research by Puji Astuti (2019), which indicated that the "auditor reputation" variable has a significant effect on audit delay.

# CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research and the discussion in the previous chapter, calculations using Smart PLS 4.0 can be concluded as follows:

1. Based on the inner model path analysis, it was found that Audit Tenure (X1) does not significantly affect Audit Delay (Y). This is indicated by a t-statistic value of 0.629 with a p-value of 0.529, meaning there is no significant effect.

- 2. Based on the inner model path analysis, it shows that Financial Distress (X2) has a significant effect on Audit Delay (Y), as evidenced by a t-statistic of 5.988 with a p-value of 0.000.
- 3. Based on the inner model path analysis, it shows that Audit Opinion (X3) has a significant effect on Audit Delay (Y), as seen from a t-statistic of 3.301 with a p-value of 0.001.
- 4. Based on the inner model path analysis, it shows that Auditor Reputation (X4) has a significant effect on Audit Delay (Y), as indicated by a t-statistic of 3.443 with a p-value of 0.001.

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