

**Asymptotic behavior of non-linear differential equations via
non-standard analysis**

Part III. Boundedness and monotone behavior of the equation

$$(a(t)\varphi(x)x')' + c(t)f(x) = q(t)$$

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Abstract. Using the techniques of non-standard analysis this paper continues the study of the equation stated in the title. Some boundedness and monotonicity theorems are proved, following assumptions concerning the coefficients $a(t)$, $c(t)$, the forcing term $q(t)$, and properties of the functions $\varphi(x)$, $f(x)$. The notation and basic properties of the non-standard model *R are the same as described in parts I and II.

I. Introductory remarks. Using the techniques of non-standard analysis this paper continues the study of the asymptotic behavior of the equation

$$(1) \quad (a(t)\varphi(x)x')' + c(t)f(x) = q(t)$$

and of the homogeneous equation

$$(1^H) \quad (a(t)\varphi(x)x')' + c(t)f(x) = 0, \quad t \in [0, \infty),$$

where throughout this paper we assume that

$$a(t) \in C^1[0, \infty), \quad c(t) \in C[0, \infty), \quad q(t) \in L_{1(\text{locally})}[0, \infty).$$

$a(t)$ is eventually positive ($c(t)$ could change its sign). $f(\xi)$, $\varphi(\xi) \in C(-\infty, +\infty)$,

$$\limsup_{\xi \rightarrow 0} \left| \frac{\varphi(\xi)}{\xi} \right| < \infty.$$

Equation (1) occurs in celestial mechanics as the law of conservation of angular momentum. (See a brief explanation in [3], or read Poincaré [6], Chapter 7.) We assume that solutions are continuable. For exact necessary and sufficient conditions for continuability of equation (1^H) see [3], Theorems 1 and 2.

No exposition of the foundations of non-standard analysis will be attempted in this paper. We refer the reader to [5], [7], and [8].

For a discussion of oscillatory behavior of equation (1) and (1^H) we refer to [3] and [4]. For higher order equations see [3], [9] and [10]. This paper continues the basic ideas of [4] and [3] in the study of equations of type (1), (1^H).

2. Notation. As in part I and II of this work the notation follows closely that given by A. Robinson in [8]. ${}^*\mathbf{R}$ denotes a non-standard model of the real number system \mathbf{R} , which is an enlargement of \mathbf{R} . The notation $x \approx y$ ($x \in {}^*\mathbf{R}, y \in {}^*\mathbf{R}$) implies that $(x - y)$ is in the monad of zero, i.e. $(x - y)$ is an infinitesimal. ${}^*\mathbf{R}_{bd}$ denotes the elements of ${}^*\mathbf{R}$ which are bounded in absolute value by some standard number which ${}^*\mathbf{R}_\infty$ (${}^*\mathbf{R}_\infty = {}^*\mathbf{R}/{}^*\mathbf{R}_{bd}$) denotes the infinite elements of ${}^*\mathbf{R}$, with ${}^*\mathbf{R}_{+\infty}$, ${}^*\mathbf{R}_{-\infty}$ denoting respectively the positive and the negative infinite numbers.

Note in the non-standard arguments concerning asymptotic behavior of differential equations we can utilize the results of Bernstein [1], Loeb and Robinson to extend the Lebesgue measure to power set of ${}^*\mathbf{R}$, i.e., ${}^*\mu: \mathcal{P}({}^*\mathbf{R}) \rightarrow {}^*\mathbf{R}$. $\text{std}({}^*\mu)$ coinciding with the Lebesgue measure on \mathbf{R} . In this context we introduce essential asymptotic concepts. We shall say that a function $f: {}^*\mathbf{R} \rightarrow {}^*\mathbf{R}$ has essential asymptotic property P if for $[t_1, t_2] \subset {}^*\mathbf{R}$ the measure ${}^*\mu$ of the set S on which P is not true is infinitesimal compared to $(t_2 - t_1)$, i.e. $\frac{{}^*\mu(S)}{t_2 - t_1} \approx 0$. Essential limits will be understood in this sense.

3. Some boundedness theorems.

THEOREM 1. *Suppose that the following hypothesis are true:*

For Sufficiently large values of $|x|$ the function $\varphi(x)$ is of constant sign, the function $q(t)$ is bounded, and

$$\text{either } \lim_{|\xi| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(\xi)}{\xi} = 0 \text{ while } \limsup |c(t)| < \infty,$$

$$\text{or } \limsup_{|\xi| \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{f(\xi)}{\xi} \right| < \infty \text{ while } \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} c(t) = 0,$$

while $\liminf_{|\xi| \rightarrow \infty} |\varphi(\xi)| > 0, \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} |a(t)| > 0$.

Then any solution $\hat{x}(t)$ of (1) which fails to be eventually monotone, and such that $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |\hat{x}(t)| = \infty$ will have the property $\text{esslim}_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\hat{x}'(t)}{\hat{x}(t)} = 0$.

Note. We observe that any equation of the form $x'' + c(t)x^a = q(t)$, where $0 < a < 1$, and $c(t)$ and $q(t)$ are bounded, satisfies our hypothesis.

Also the pendulum equation $x'' + c(t)\cos(kx) = q(t)$, with the k a constant with the same assumptions concerning $c(t)$, $q(t)$, fits these hypothesis.

THEOREM 2. *Suppose that $\varphi(\xi)$ is of constant sign for large values of $|\xi|$, and $\xi f(\xi) > 0$ if $\xi \neq 0$. Then if in addition to the hypothesis of Theorem 1 we also assume that $c(t)$ is eventually positive and $q(t)$ is eventually non-positive, then any solution $\hat{x}(t)$ of (1) such that $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |\hat{x}(t)| = +\infty$ must be eventually monotone.*

Proof of Theorem 1. Suppose that to the contrary there exists a solution $\hat{x}(t)$ of (1) such that $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |\hat{x}(t)| = \infty$, but it fails to be eventually

monotone. Then it is easily shown that there exists a sequence of points $\{t_i\} \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_{+\infty}$ such that $\hat{x}(t_i) \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_\infty$ and $\hat{x}'(t_i) = 0, i = 1, 2, \dots$. Let us select such pair of points $t_i, t_j \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_{+\infty}$. Since $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |\hat{x}(t)| = \infty, \hat{x}(t) \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_\infty$

$\forall t \in [t_i, t_j]$. We examine the behavior of the integral $\int_{t_i}^{t_j} \left(\frac{a(t)\varphi(\hat{x})\hat{x}'(t)}{\hat{x}(t)} \right)' dt$.

Clearly the value of this integral is zero since $\hat{x}'(t_i) = \hat{x}'(t_j) = 0$, while $\hat{x}(t) \neq 0$ on $[t_i, t_j]$. However, $\hat{x}(t)$ is a solution of (1), hence $(a(t)\varphi(\hat{x})\hat{x}')' = -c(t)f(x) + q(t)$. Therefore

$$(a) \quad 0 = \int_{t_i}^{t_j} \left(\frac{a(t)\varphi(\hat{x})\hat{x}'(t)}{\hat{x}(t)} \right)' dt$$

$$= \int_{t_i}^{t_j} \left\{ -c(t)\frac{f(\hat{x})}{\hat{x}} + \frac{q(t)}{\hat{x}(t)} - \left(\frac{a(t)\varphi(\hat{x})(\hat{x}')^2}{\hat{x}^2} \right) \right\} dt.$$

The hypothesis imply that $c(t)f(\hat{x})/\hat{x}$ and $q(t)/\hat{x}$ are infinitesimal for all $t \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_{+\infty}$. The last term in the integrand of (a) is of constant sign.

Suppose that, on a subset $S \subset [t_i, t_j]$, $\eta(t) = \frac{a(t)\varphi(\hat{x}(t))(\hat{x}'(t))^2}{(\hat{x}(t))^2}$ is not an infinitesimal. Then there exists a standard number $m > 0$ such that, for all $t \in S, |\eta(t)| > 2m$. Without any loss of generality let us assume $\eta(t) > 0$ on S .

Then

$$\int_S \left(\frac{a(t)\varphi(\hat{x})\hat{x}'(t)}{\hat{x}} \right)' dt > m \cdot \mu(S)$$

on $[t_i, t_j]/S, \eta(t)$ is an infinitesimal, and

$$\int_{[t_i, t_j]/S} \left(\frac{a(t)\varphi(x)x'}{\hat{x}} \right)' dt = \int_{[t_i, t_j]/S} |k(t)| dt,$$

where $k(t) \approx 0 \forall t \in [t_i, t_j]/S$. Then, for any standard $\varepsilon > 0$, $|k(t)| < \varepsilon$, and

$$\int_{[t_i, t_j]/S} |k(t)| dt < \varepsilon \cdot \mu([t_i, t_j]/S).$$

Hence it follows easily that

$$\varepsilon \cdot \mu\{[t_i, t_j]/S\} > m\mu(S) \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\mu(S)}{\mu([t_i, t_j]/S)} < \frac{\varepsilon}{m}.$$

Since ε was an arbitrary standard number it follows that

$$\frac{\mu(S)}{\mu([t_i, t_j]/S)} \approx 0,$$

proving that $\eta(t)$ is essentially an infinitesimal on $[t_i, t_j]$. Since $\liminf_{|\xi| \rightarrow \infty} \varphi(\xi) \neq 0$, $\liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} |a(t)| \neq 0$, it follows that (\hat{x}'/\hat{x}) is essentially an infinitesimal on $[t_i, t_j]$, completing the proof.

COBOLLARY 1.1. *If hypothesis (*) $\liminf_{|\xi| \rightarrow \infty} |\varphi(\xi)| > 0$ is replaced by the condition $\liminf_{\xi \rightarrow \infty} |\varphi(\xi)/\xi| > 0$, the conclusion of the theorem is changed to $\text{ess} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (\hat{x}')^2/(\hat{x}) = 0$, which is a stronger result.*

Similarly if (*) is replaced by $\liminf_{\xi \rightarrow \infty} |\varphi(\xi)/\xi^2| > 0$, then the conclusion Theorem 1 is changed to $\text{ess} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x'(t) = 0$.

Proof of Theorem 2. The proof follows in a routine manner from the argument of Theorem 1. Suppose as before that there exists points $t_i, t_j \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_{+\infty}$ such that $\hat{x}'(t_i) = \hat{x}'(t_j) = 0$. Without any loss of generality it is assumed that $\hat{x}(t) > 0$ on $[t_i, t_j] \subset {}^*\mathbf{R}_{+\infty}$. Since $q(t) \leq 0$, $c(t) > 0 \forall t \in [t_i, t_j]$ the integrand in formula (a) is of constant sign, and equality (a) is impossible. Consequently no points t_i, t_j can exist in ${}^*\mathbf{R}_{+\infty}$ such that $x'(t_i) = x'(t_j) = 0$. This easily implies that $x'(t)$ has no zeros on ${}^*\mathbf{R}_{+\infty}$, and $x'(t)$ is of constant sign $\forall t \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_{+\infty}$. Hence $\hat{x}(t)$ is eventually monotone.

THEOREM 3. *Suppose that $\liminf_{|\xi| \rightarrow \infty} |f(\xi)/\xi| > 0$, $\varphi(\xi) > 0$ if $|\xi|$ is sufficiently large $\limsup_{|\xi| \rightarrow \infty} |\varphi(\xi)/\xi| < \infty$, and $a(t), q(t)$ are bounded functions. Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be chosen. Then any solution $\hat{x}(t)$ of (1) with the property $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |\hat{x}(t)| = \infty$ will be eventually monotone on all intervals on which $c(t)$ is positive, and $|c(t)| > \varepsilon$. Moreover, for some $M > 0$, there exists $T > \varepsilon$ such that on any interval $[t_1, t_2], t_1 > T$ on which $c(t)$ is negative it is possible to find $\bar{t} \in [t_1, t_2]$ such that $|(x'(\bar{t}))^2/x(\bar{t})| > M$ (uniformly on all such intervals).*

Note. The choosing of (an arbitrary) $\varepsilon > 0$ was a device to avoid a non-standard theorem. What was needed was a statement $c(t) \neq 0$ on the interval in question when such interval lies in ${}^*\mathbf{R}_{\infty}$.

Proof. Proceeding as in Theorem 1 we derive equality (a). As before t_i, t_j are points in ${}^*\mathbf{R}_{+\infty}$ such that $\hat{x}'(t_i) = \hat{x}'(t_j)$. If $c(t)$ is positive, then $-c(t)f(\hat{x})/x$ is a negative non-infinitesimal number, $(q(t)/\hat{x})$ is an infinitesimal, and $(-c(t)f(\hat{x})/\hat{x}) \not\approx 0$ is a negative number, while $\frac{-a(t)\varphi(x)(x')^2}{x^2}$ is also negative. Since a negative non-infinitesimal number + an infinitesimal + a negative number = a negative (non-infinitesimal) number, and equality (a) can not be satisfied. This completes the proof of the first assertion of the theorem.

If $c(t) < 0$, then by a similar reasoning we have: $\int_{t_i}^{t_j} \left(\text{negative non-infinitesimal} + \text{infinitesimal} - \left(\frac{a(t)\varphi(\hat{x})(\hat{x}')^2}{\hat{x}} \right) \right) dt = 0$. Hence the mean value of $\frac{a(t)\varphi(\hat{x})(\hat{x}')^2}{\hat{x}}$ on (t_i, t_j) is a negative non-infinitesimal number.

But $a(t) \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_{bd}$ and $(\varphi(\hat{x})/\hat{x}) \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_{bd}$. Hence $(\hat{x}')^2/(\hat{x}) \not\approx 0$ for some values of $t \in [t_i, t_j]$, which implies the following statement: " $\exists M > 0$ ($\in {}^*\mathbf{R}$) such that $|(\hat{x}')^2/\hat{x}| > M$ on each such interval $[t_i, t_j]$ " (with the properties described above which can be stated in our language \mathcal{L}). Since this statement is in \mathcal{L} an identical statement is true in \mathbf{R} : " $\exists M (\in \mathbf{R}) \dots$ ".

COROLLARY 3.1. *If the hypothesis $\liminf_{|\xi| \rightarrow \infty} |f(\xi)/\xi| > 0$ is replaced by $\lim_{\xi \rightarrow \infty} f(\xi)/\xi = +\infty$, then we can replace in the conclusion of the theorem $\exists M > 0$ by " $\forall M > 0$ ", i.e. $\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} |(\hat{x}')^2/\hat{x}| = +\infty$.*

COROLLARY 3.2. *If in the hypothesis of Theorem 3 $\limsup_{|\xi| \rightarrow \infty} |\varphi(\xi)/\xi| < \infty$ is replaced by $\limsup_{|\xi| \rightarrow \infty} |\varphi(\xi)| < \infty$, then we can assert a stronger conclusion: " $\exists M > 0 \ni \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} |x'(t)/x(t)| > M$ ".*

THEOREM 4. *Consider equation (1) with additional hypothesis: $a(t)$ is bounded, $c(t)$ is eventually positive and bounded away from zero, $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} q(t) = 0$, $\xi f(\xi) > 0$, & $\xi \varphi(\xi) > 0 \forall \xi \neq 0$, $\liminf_{|\xi| \rightarrow \infty} |f(\xi)/\xi| \neq 0$, then any solution $\hat{x}(t)$ of (1) which is eventually bounded away from zero must be unbounded.*

Proof. We make the following observation. If $\hat{x}(t): \mathbf{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ is bounded away from zero, but is bounded on any ray $[T, \infty)$, then $\hat{x}(t): {}^*\mathbf{R}_+ \rightarrow {}^*\mathbf{R}$ has the property $[\forall t \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_{+\infty} \hat{x}(t) \not\approx 0 \ \& \ \hat{x}(t) \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_{bd}] \ \& \ [\exists t_i \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_{+\infty}, i = 1, 2, \dots, x'(t_i) \approx 0]$. Suppose by the way of contradiction that indeed $\hat{x}(t) \not\approx 0 \ \forall t \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_{+\infty}$ but $x'(t_i) \approx 0$ for a sequence of points $\{t_i\}, i = 1, 2, \dots$, when $t_j - t_i$ are arbitrarily large (in ${}^*\mathbf{R}$) for suitable choice of indices i, j . (Note. Consider the sentences describing this in \mathbf{R} .)

We repeat the device used in Theorem 1 and 2 and integrate along the trajectory of the solution $\hat{x}(t)$

$$\int_{t_i}^{t_j} \left(\frac{a(t)\varphi(\hat{x})\hat{x}'(t)}{\hat{x}(t)} \right)' dt = \frac{a(t)\varphi(\hat{x})\hat{x}'(t)}{\hat{x}(t)} \Big|_{t_i}^{t_j} \approx 0,$$

since

$$\frac{a(t)\varphi(\hat{x})}{\hat{x}} \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_{bd} \begin{cases} t = t_i, \\ t = t_j, \end{cases}$$

while $\hat{x}'(t_i) \approx \hat{x}'(t_j) \approx 0$.

We use again formula (a) (in the proof of Theorem 1) and observe that $-c(t)f(\hat{x})/\hat{x}$ is negative and is not an infinitesimal, $q(t)/\hat{x}(t)$ is infinitesimal, while the remaining term in the integrand of (a) is negative. Hence the integrand is bounded away from zero by some standard number. But then

$$\int_{t_i}^{t_j} \left(\frac{a(t)\varphi(\hat{x})\hat{x}'(t)}{\hat{x}} \right)' dt \approx 0$$

is possible only if $t_j - t_i \approx 0$. This is a contradiction, which proves the theorem.

We comment that so far all theorems proved here and in parts I and II were standard theorems, i.e. the statement of each theorem referred only to \mathbf{R} and to functions from \mathbf{R} to \mathbf{R} . However, some asymptotic properties of solutions of differential equations are stated easier in non-standard terms. Some problems concerning oscillation, boundedness or monotone properties of solutions lead naturally to conditions which are complex when stated (in \mathbf{R}) in terms of limits. Restated in ${}^*\mathbf{R}$ they sometimes become quite simple and easy to interpret.

For this reason we shall offer two theorems stated in both the standard and non-standard versions.

THEOREM 5. Consider the solution $\hat{x}(t)$ of (1) $\hat{x}: {}^*\mathbf{R}_+ \rightarrow {}^*\mathbf{R}$. Suppose that, for any $t \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_{+\infty}$, $a(t) \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_{bd}$, $q(t) \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_{bd}$, $c(t) \neq 0$, and for any $\xi \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_\infty$, $f(\xi) \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_\infty$, and $a(t)c(t) \neq 0$. We also assume that $\varphi(\xi)f'(\xi)$ is a positive function ($\forall \xi \in (-\infty, +\infty)$) if $\xi \neq 0$. Suppose that, on some interval $[t_1, t_2] \subset {}^*\mathbf{R}_{+\infty}$, $\hat{x}(t) \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_\infty$ while $\varphi(\hat{x})\hat{x}'(t) \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_{bd}$. Then $t_2 - t_1 \approx 0$.

STANDARD VERSION. Suppose that for sufficiently large values of t the following conditions hold: $\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} |a(t)| < \infty$, $\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} |q(t)| < \infty$, $\liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} |c(t)| > 0$, $\lim_{|\xi| \rightarrow \infty} |f(\xi)| = \infty$, and there exists $\tilde{T} > 0$ such that $a(t)c(t) \neq 0$ for all $t > \tilde{T}$; $\varphi(\xi)f'(\xi) > 0$ if $\xi \neq 0$. Suppose that given any $T > 0$, and given any $M > 0$, $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists an interval $[t_i, t_j]$, $t_j > t_i > T$, such

that $x(t) > M$ for all $t \in [t_i, t_j]$, while $|\varphi(x(t))x'(t)| < \varepsilon$ (for all $t \in [t_i, t_j]$). Then $\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} (t_j - t_i) = 0$.

Proof. Let $[t_1, t_2]$ be an interval (in ${}^*\mathbf{R}_{+\infty}$) with the properties stated above.

Consider the integral

$$(b) \quad \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \left(\frac{a(t)\varphi(\hat{x})\hat{x}'}{f(\hat{x})} \right)' dt = \frac{a(t)\varphi(\hat{x}(t))\hat{x}'(t)}{f(\hat{x}(t))} \Big|_{t_1}^{t_2} \approx 0,$$

since $a(t) \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_{ba}$, $\varphi(x(t))x'(t) \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_{ba}$ but $f(\hat{x}(t)) \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_{\infty}$. However,

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} \left(\frac{a(t)\varphi(\hat{x})\hat{x}'}{f(\hat{x})} \right)' dt = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \left[-c(t) + \frac{q(t)}{f(\hat{x})} - \frac{a(t)\varphi(\hat{x}) \cdot f'(\hat{x}) \cdot (\hat{x}')^2}{f^2(\hat{x})} \right] dt.$$

We observe that $c(t)$ is not an infinitesimal, $q(t)/f(\hat{x})$ is an infinitesimal, and $\frac{-a(t)\varphi(\hat{x})(\hat{x}')^2 f'(\hat{x})}{f^2(\hat{x})}$ has the same sign as $-c(t)$. Hence the in-

tegrand is bounded away from zero by a standard number. The only possibility which remains for the integral to have infinitesimal value is $t_2 - t_1 \approx 0$. This completes the proof. A very similar line of argument leads to the proof of the following

THEOREM 6. *Suppose that*

$$\limsup_{\xi \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{\varphi(\xi)f'(\xi)}{f^2(\xi)} \right| < \infty, \quad \lim_{\xi \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\varphi(\xi)}{f(\xi)} = 0, \quad \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} |a(t)| < \infty,$$

$$\lim_{\xi \rightarrow 0} f(\xi) = 0, \quad \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} |c(t)| < \infty, \quad \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} |q(t)| > 0.$$

Then for any solution $\hat{x}(t)$ of (1) if $\hat{x}(t) \neq 0$, but $\hat{x}(t) \approx 0 \forall t \in [t_1, t_2] \Rightarrow t_2 - t_1 \approx 0$.

Comment on the proof. We make an observation that if $x'(t_1)$ is infinite it must assume a near standard value in an infinitesimal neighborhood of t_1 if $x(t)$ is not infinite in some non-infinitesimal neighborhood of t_1 .

Hence if the interval $[t_1, t_2]$ stated in the conclusion of the theorem was of length $t_2 - t_1 \neq 0$, while $x'(t)$ was infinite at t_1 and/or t_2 , then $[t_1, t_2]$ can be replaced by an interval $[t'_1, t'_2]$ with identical properties (as stated in the hypothesis) but such that $\hat{x}'(t_1) \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_{ba}$, and $\hat{x}'(t_2) \in {}^*\mathbf{R}_{ba}$. Now an argument similar to the one given in the proof of Theorems 5 and 6 completes this proof. The details are omitted.

During the writing of this paper I was told of the death of Professor Abraham Robinson the originator of the non-standard analysis, a gentle man with a sense of humor and a great mathematician. Professor Robinson offered me his advice and encouraged me to work on the subject of this paper. All of us working in this field will miss his leadership.

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