Jarrett D. Phillips, Ph.D.
School of Computer Science
Department of Integrative Biology
University of Guelph
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○ jphill01

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

My academic work and research interests can best be described as *computational molecular biodiversity science*. Biodiversity is under threat in a rapidly changing world, where mitigation requires innovative and collaborative solutions from multiple disciplines. DNA-based specimen identification and species discovery through techniques like DNA barcoding and environmental DNA (eDNA) offer promising ways forward, yet produce overwhelming amounts of data. I leverage AI/ML/Data Science/Big Data methods to help researchers find meaningful signal in a vast sea of noise.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Adjunct Professor, School of Computer Science   2023–Present
University of Guelph

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Computational Sciences**,** University of Guelph   2016–2022
Co-Advisors: Dr. Daniel Gillis and Dr. Robert Hanner
Advisory Committee Members: Dr. Deborah Stacey and Dr. Graham Taylor
Thesis: A Novel Statistical Framework for Assessment of Intraspecific Haplotype Sampling Completeness: Implications for DNA Barcode Gap Estimation

Master of Bioinformatics (MBinf.), University of Guelph   2013–2014
Co-Advisors: Dr. Robert Hanner and Dr. Daniel Ashlock
Thesis: Assessing DNA Barcode Haplotype Sampling Diversity in the Ray-finned Fishes (Chordata: Actinopterygii)

BSc. (Hons.) in Biological Science, University of Guelph   2009–2013
Coursework in bioinformatics, ecology, evolutionary biology, comparative physiology, genetics, mathematics, and statistics

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Fellow   2023–Present
University of Guelph
GBADs Informatics Team
Stacey Lab, School of Computer Science
Supervisor: Dr. Deborah Stacey

- Currently developing an R package to run a compartmentalized equation-based Dynamic Population Model (DPM) for the Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs) initiative to calculate the Animal Health Loss Envelope (AHLE) in livestock species as part of a larger team of computer scientists, software engineers, data scientists, epidemiologists, and veterinarians
- Co-developed and ran a week-long data workshop at the University of Liverpool alongside other members of the GBADs Informatics Working Group and international colleagues

Postdoctoral Fellow   2023–Present
University of Guelph
Gillis Lab, School of Computer Science
Hanner Lab, Department of Integrative Biology
Supervisors: Drs. Daniel Gillis and Robert Hanner

- Mentored and supervised CIS*4900/4910, STAT*4600, IBIO*6070, and URA students in projects on seafood fraud and environmental DNA sampling using computational methods
- Participated in conceptualization and drafting of various manuscripts for both academic and non-academic audiences, where I was lead author on most

Postdoctoral Fellow   2022
University of Guelph
Hanner Lab, Department of Integrative Biology
Supervisor: Dr. Robert Hanner

- Mentored and supervised a Master of Bioinformatics (MBINF.) BINF*6999 student on research project examining DNA barcoding in Canadian pests and disease vectors
- Participated in conceptualization and drafting of various manuscripts and invited book chapters, many as primary author

Summer Research Assistant   2016
Algoma University
Plant and Soil Ecology Lab, Department of Biology
Invasive Species Research Institute (ISRI)
Supervisor: Dr. Pedro Antunes

- Offered bioinformatics and statistical analysis support in R
- Assisted Principal Investigator and undergraduate thesis student with initial drafting of a manuscript on invasive plant root lesion staining quantification

Lab Assistant Volunteer   2014–2016
Algoma University
Plant and Soil Ecology Lab, Department of Biology
Invasive Species Research Institute (ISRI)
Supervisor: Dr. Pedro Antunes

- Offered bioinformatics and statistical analysis support in R
- Assisted with collaborative and outreach initiatives for the Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species (TIPS) Network Project through drafting communication letters to public and private conservation agencies across Canada and the USA seeking volunteers to collect invasive plant species for root lesion quantification

Undergraduate Research Assistant   2013
University of Guelph
Vaccine Discovery Research Group
Supervisor: Dr. Mario Monteiro

- Performed various experimental techniques (gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR)) on bacterial polysaccharide samples for vaccine synthesis and development under the supervision of qualified graduate students

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA)   2016–2020
University of Guelph
CIS*3130 – System Modelling and Simulation   2020
    ~ 30 students · Python
- Statistical and Monte Carlo methods
CIS*1910 – Discrete Structures in Computing I   2017
    ~ 300 students
- Deductive logic, set theory, and mathematical proof techniques
CIS*2460 – Modelling of Computer Systems   2016–2019
    ~ 60 students · R, Excel, Java
- Statistical and Monte Carlo methods

STUDENT SUPERVISION AND MENTORSHIP

* Indicates students under my direct mentorship or supervision
** Indicates students under my indirect mentorship or supervision

*Nikolett Toth   2024-2025
CIS*4900/4910 · Mining association rules for eDNA spatiotemporal sampling
*Nikolett Toth (with Dan Gillis)   2024
Summer Undergraduate Research Assistant (URA) · Mining association rules for eDNA spatiotemporal sampling

*Nathan Zeinstra (with Dirk Steinke)   2024
IBIO*6070 · Bayesian habitat occupancy modelling of sea lamprey using eDNA
*Fynn De Vuono-Fraser (with Dan Gillis)   2024
CIS*4900/4910 · Bayesian modelling of seafood fraud in the Canadian supply chain
*Zaid Al-Gayyali (with Dan Gillis)   2023
Summer Undergraduate Research Assistant (URA) · Seafood Fraud Visualization Tool Shiny app
*Fynn De Vuono-Fraser (with Dan Gillis)   2023
STAT*4600 · Bayesian modelling of seafood fraud in the Canadian supply chain
*Amina Asif (with Bob Hanner)   2022
BINF*6999 · DNA barcode gap analysis of Canadian disease vectors and agricultural pests
*Navdeep Singh (with Dan Gillis)   2021
CIS*4900 · HACSim R Shiny web application
*Scarlett Bootsma (with Dan Gillis)   2020–2021
CIS*4900/4910 · HACSim simulation study
*Maya Persram (with Bob Hanner)   2020
Hanner Lab volunteer · R reporting ecological meta-analysis
**Ashley Chen (with Bob Hanner)   2020
Hanner Lab volunteer · R reporting ecological meta-analysis
**Olivia Friesen Kroeker (with Bob Hanner)   2020
Hanner Lab volunteer · R reporting ecological meta-analysis
**Christina Fragel (with Bob Hanner)   2018–2019
BINF*6999 · DNA barcode sequence classification with machine learning
**Jiaojia (Paula) Yu (with Bob Hanner)   2018–2019
BINF*6999 · MDMAPR R Shiny app
**Danielle St. Jean (with Dan Gillis)   2018–2019
MSc. thesis · DNA barcode sequence classification with machine learning
*Steven French (with Dan Gillis)   2018
CIS*4900/4910 · HACSim R package
**Julia Harvie (with Bob Hanner)   2018–2019
MCB*4500/4510 · Data mining GenBank and BOLD
**Ankita Bhanderi (with Bob Hanner)   2018
BINF*6999 · Data mining GenBank and BOLD

ASSISTANTSHIPS, AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND GRANTS[1]

Food from Thought Advancing Research Impact (ARIF) Fund – Livestock Innovation Grant   2024
University of Guelph $40000.00 CAD
- 1-year postdoctoral funding to develop and refine the Dynamic Population Model (DPM) to assess global disease burden in livestock

Food from Thought Advancing Research Impact (ARIF) Fund   2022
University of Guelph $30000.00 CAD
- 1-year postdoctoral funding to develop a Bayesian hierarchical binary logistic time-series regression model of seafood fraud in the Canadian supply chain

SoCS Travel Grant 2019
University of Guelph $1000.00 CAD
- Supported travel to the 8th International Barcode of Life Conference in Trondheim, Norway to present doctoral research

Arthur D. Latornell Graduate Travel Grant 2019
University of Guelph $500.00 CAD
- Awarded for first-class academic standing in Ph.D. coursework
- Supported travel to the 8th International Barcode of Life Conference in Trondheim, Norway to present work related to resource management and conservation

Graduate Teaching Assistantships 2017–2020
University of Guelph $34,506.00-35,148.00 CAD

Graduate Research Assistantships 2017–2019
University of Guelph $11,000.00 CAD

CPES Graduate Dean's Scholarship 2017
University of Guelph $3500.00 CAD
- Awarded in recognition of achieving over 85% in Master's coursework

CPES Graduate Excellence Entrance (GEE) Scholarship 2016
University of Guelph $30000.00 CAD
- Awarded in recognition of achieving over 85% in Master's coursework

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Pathways to Increase Standards and Competency in eDNA Surveys (PISCeS) Conference 2023
University of Guelph
- Organized and participated in international eDNA conference hosted by the Hanner Lab
- Duties included registration, upload, and audiovisual support

School of Computer Science (SoCS) Search Committee 2018
University of Guelph
- Associate Professor position in cybersecurity
- Responsibilities included reviewing and ranking received applications, shortlisting strong candidates to be invited for formal interviews, participating in interview questioning, and attending organized events with candidates and other SoCS faculty

School of Computer Science (SoCS) Search Committee 2017–2018
University of Guelph
- Two-year contractually-limited Assistant Professor position in cybersecurity
- Tasks included reviewing and ranking received applications, shortlisting strong candidates to be invited for formal interviews, participating in interview questioning, and attending organized events with candidates and other SoCS faculty

ACADEMIC PEER REVIEW SERVICE

Ecology and Evolution, *F1000 Research*, *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, *Lifestyle Genomics*,
Mitochondrial DNA Part A, *Molecular Ecology Resources*, *Molecular Biology Reports*,
Methods in Ecology and Evolution

PROCEEDINGS

CEPS Undergraduate Student Poster Day (student poster presentation)   2024
Nikolett Toth · Association Rule Mining of eDNA Datasets
University of Guelph, Canada

CBS Undergraduate Poster Session (student poster presentation)   2024
Nikolett Toth · Association Rule Mining of eDNA Datasets
University of Guelph, Canada

9th International Barcode of Life Conference (poster presentation)   2024
Estação das Docas, Brazil · A Measure of the DNA Barcode Gap for Applied and Basic Research
(not attended)

GBADs Technical Workshop (oral presentation)   2023
University of Liverpool, England · The GBADs R Package (and Why We Need it!)

CEPS Student Research Day (student poster presentation)   2023
Fynn De Vuono-Fraser · Estimating Seafood Mislabelling Rates in Canada Using Bayesian Modelling
University of Guelph, Canada

Pathway to Increase Standards and Competency of eDNA Surveys (PICSeS)   2023
International Conference (poster presentation)
University of Guelph, Canada

8th International Barcode of Life Conference (oral presentation)   2019
NTNU University Museum and Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre, Norway

Guelph BioMathematics and Statistics (BioM&S) Symposium
Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Biology (attended)   2019
University of Guelph, Canada

CEPS Undergraduate Student Poster Day (student poster presentation)   2018
Steven French · Estimating Sampling Size Using Haplotype Accumulation Curves and Semiparametric
Models
University of Guelph, Canada

7th International Barcode of Life Conference (oral presentation)   2017
University of Johannesburg, South Africa

6th International Barcode of Life Conference (poster presentation)   2015
University of Guelph, Canada

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

RulesTools · R package
- Streamlined tools to facilitate association rule mining and visualization using various discretization and imputation methods, along with heatmaps and Euler diagrams
- R package available for download through the Comprehensive R Archive Network (CRAN) package repository
- Has been downloaded over 100 times since publication in January 2025

GBADsDPM (**G**lobal **B**urden of **A**nimal **D**isease**s** **D**ynamic **P**opulation **M**odel) · R package
- A novel stochastic age- and sex-structured compartmentalized equation-based model to assess the burden of animal diseases in livestock such as cattle, small ruminants, and poultry within developing countries like Ethiopia

HACSim (**H**aplotype **A**ccumulation **C**urve **Sim**ulator) · R package · R Shiny web app
- A novel nonparametric stochastic (Monte Carlo) local search optimization method of iteratively generating species' haplotype accumulation curves through extrapolation to assess within-species sampling completeness
- R package and Shiny app respectively available for download through CRAN or at shinyappps.io
- Publication *in PeerJ Computer Science* was one of the top five most viewed papers in the category *Optimization Theory and Computation*
- Has been downloaded over 40000 times since being published in May 2019

VLF (**V**ery **L**ow **F**requency) · R package
- A novel tool to assess PCR errors, sequencing errors, *etc.* in the form of very low frequency variants, within DNA sequences using a sliding window approach
- R package available for download through CRAN
- Manuscript published in the *Biodiversity Data Journal*
- Has been downloaded over 40000 times since publication in 2013

REFEREED WORK

Journal Articles
Citations: 247 · h-index: 6 (According to Google Scholar, as of February 28, 2025)

* Indicates students under my direct mentorship or supervision
** Indicates students under my indirect mentorship or supervision

Published or Accepted

9. **Phillips, J.D.**, Hubert, N. and Hanner, R.H. A Bayesian coalescent model of the DNA barcode gap. Authorea. DOI: **10.22541/au.174073683.37707806/v1**

8. Raymond, K., Sobkowich, K.E., **Phillips, J.D.**, Nguyen, L., McKechnie, I., Mohideen, R.N., Fitzjohn, W., Szurkowski, M., Davidson, J., Rushton, J., Stacey, D.A. and Bernardo T.M. (2024). GBADs informatics strategy: User-centric tools, data quality, and model interoperability. *WOAH Scientific and Technical Review*, **43**: 96-107. DOI: 10.20506/rst.43.3522.

7. **Phillips, J.D.** and *De Vuono-Fraser, F.A. (2024). Statistical modelling of seafood fraud in the Canadian supply chain. bioRxiv. DOI: 10.1101/2024.02.05.578947.

6. **Phillips, J.D.**, Athey, T.B.T., Hanner, R.H. and McNicholas, P.D. VLF: An R package for the analysis of very low frequency variants in DNA sequences. *Biodiversity Data Journal,* e96480*.* DOI: 10.3897/BDJ.11.e98480. Number of article citations: 2.

5. **Phillips, J.D.**, Gillis, D.J. and Hanner, R.H. (2022). Lack of statistical rigor in DNA barcoding likely invalidates the presence of a true species' barcode gap. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, 10: 859099. DOI: 10.3389/fevo.2022.859099. Number of article citations: 35.

4. D'Ercole, J., Dincă, V., Opler, P.A., Kondla, N.G., Schmidt, C.B., **Phillips, J.D.**, Robbins, R., Burns, J.M., Miller, S.E., Grishin, N., Zakharov, E.V., deWaard, J.R., Ratnasingham, S. and Hebert, P.D.N. (2021). A DNA barcode library for the butterflies of North America. *PeerJ*, 9: e11157. DOI: 10.7717/peerj.11157. Number of article citations: 24.

3. **Phillips, J.D.**, *French, S.H., Hanner, R.H. and Gillis, D.J. (2020). HACSim: An R package to estimate intraspecific sample sizes for genetic diversity assessment using haplotype accumulation curves. *PeerJ Computer Science*, 6(192): 1-37. DOI: 10.7717/peerj-cs.243. Number of article citations: 23.

2. **Phillips, J.D.**, Gillis, D.J. and Hanner, R.H. (2019). Incomplete estimates of genetic diversity within species: Implications for DNA barcoding. *Ecology and Evolution,* 9(5): 2996-3010. DOI: 10.1002/ece3.4757. Number of article citations: 130.

1. **Phillips, J.D.**, Gwiazdowski, R.A., Ashlock, D. and Hanner, R. (2015). An exploration of sufficient sampling effort to describe intraspecific DNA barcode haplotype diversity: examples from the ray-finned fishes (Chordata: Actinopterygii). *DNA Barcodes*, 3: 66-73. DOI: 10.1515/dna-2015-0008. Number of article citations: 32.

Submitted or Under Revision

3. **Phillips, J.D.** and *****De Vuono-Fraser, F.A. Statistical modelling of seafood fraud highlights uncertainties in products from Metro Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada: Revisiting Hu *et al.* (2018). Submitted to *RSS Data Science and Artificial Intelligence.*

2. **Phillips, J.D.** and *****De Vuono-Fraser, F.A. Swimming in uncertainty: How proper statistical modelling can help expose seafood product mislabelling. Submitted to *CHANCE*.

1. **Phillips, J.D.**, Hubert, N. and Hanner, R.H. A Bayesian coalescent model of the DNA barcode gap. Submitted to *Molecular Ecology Resources*.

In Preparation or To Be Submitted

7. *Toth, N., **Phillips, J.D.**, Antonie, M.L., Hanner, R.H., and Gillis, D.J. Mining association rules for targeted spatiotemporal aquatic environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling. Targeted to *Environmental DNA*.

6. **Phillips, J.D., ***Al-Gayyali, Z.B.**,** *De Vuono-Fraser, F.A., Hanner, R.H. and Gillis, D.J. The Seafood Fraud Visualization Tool: An R Shiny web app to summarize, model, and visualize seafood mislabelling trends in the supply chain.

5. Morey, K.C., **Phillips, J.D.**, Loeza-Quintana, T. and Hanner, R.H. Haplotype diversity reveals challenges and opportunities for developing targeted detection assays for COI in Canadian freshwater fish. Targeted to *Environmental DNA.*

4. Young, R.G., ******Persram, M., ******Friesen, O., ******Chen, A., ******Yu, J., **Phillips, J.D.** and Hanner, R.H. Incomplete and irregular reporting of the R statistical and computing environment highlights the need for citation guidelines to support scientific reproducibility.

3. **Phillips, J.D.**, *Singh, N., Hanner, R.H. and Gillis, D.J. The HACSim R Shiny app: A web interface to estimate specimen sampling sufficiency for species genetic diversity assessment with DNA sequence data.

2. D'Ercole, J., Dapporto, L., **Phillips, J.D.**, Dincă, V.E., Vila, R., Talavera, G. and Hebert, P.D.N. Macrogenetics of North American butterflies—The impact of Quaternary climatic fluctuations. Targeted to *PNAS.*

1. **Phillips, J.D.**, *Bootsma, S.E., Hanner, R.H. and Gillis, D.J. Solving the genetic specimen sample size problem with a local search optimization algorithm. Targeted to *Methods in Ecology and Evolution.*

Book Chapters

Published or Accepted

2. **Phillips, J.D.**, Griswold, C.K., Young, R.G., Hubert, N. and Hanner, R.H. (2024). A Measure of the DNA Barcode Gap for Applied and Basic Research. In: DeSalle, R. (eds) DNA Barcoding. Methods in Molecular Biology, vol 2744. Humana, New York, NY. URL: https://link.springer.com/protocol/10.1007/978-1-0716-3581-0_24 Number of article citations: 1.

1. Hubert, N., **Phillips, J.D.**, Hanner, R.H. (2024). Delimiting Species with Single-Locus DNA Sequences. In: DeSalle, R. (eds) DNA Barcoding. Methods in Molecular Biology, vol 2744. Humana, New York, NY. URL: https://link.springer.com/protocol/10.1007/978-1-0716-3581-0_3

Conference Proceedings

4. Morey, K., Loeza-Quintana, T., **Phillips, J.** and Hanner R. (2023). Haplotype diversity reveals challenges and opportunities for developing targeted detection assays for *COI* in Canadian freshwater fish. Pathways to Increase Standards and Competency in eDNA Surveys (PISCeS) Conference. Poster.
3. **Phillips, J.D.**, Gillis, D. and Hanner, R. (2019). HACSim: Iterative extrapolation of haplotype accumulation curves for assessment of intraspecific COI DNA barcode sampling completeness Scientific abstracts from the 8th International Barcode of Life Conference, Trondheim, Norway (ed. Torbjørn Ekrem), *Genome*, 62(6): 349-453. Oral presentation.
2. **Phillips, J.D.**, Gillis, D. and Hanner, R. (2017). Intraspecific sample size estimation for DNA barcoding: Are current sampling levels enough? Scientific abstracts from the 7th International Barcode of Life Conference, Johannesburg, South Africa (ed. M. van der Bank), *Genome*, 60(11): 881-1019. Oral presentation.
1. **Phillips, J.D.**, Gwiazdowski, R.A., Ashlock, D. and Hanner, R. (2015). An exploration of sufficient sampling effort to describe intraspecific haplotype diversity in the ray-finned fishes (Chordata: Actinopterygii). Scientific abstracts from the 6th International Barcode of Life Conference, Guelph, ON., Canada (ed. S.J. Adamowicz), *Genome*, 58(5): 163-303. Poster.

NON-REFEREED WORK

* Indicates students under my direct mentorship or supervision

12. **Phillips, J.D.**, *****De Vuono-Fraser, F.A., Gillis, D.J., and Hanner, R.H. (2024). Statistical modelling of seafood fraud. Whiteboard explainer video. URL: https://www.moon-man.com/whiteboard-animation-production-company.
11. *****Toth, N. (2024). eDNA Collection Gets a Tech Update. Student contributed CEPS Research Highlights article. URL: https://www.uoguelph.ca/ceps/news/2024/07/edna-collection-gets-tech-upgrade
10. *****Toth, N. (2024). Unravelling eDNA with Association Rule Mining. Contributed guest post to the Science Borealis-syndicated blog of Dr. Daniel Gillis. URL: https://danielgillis.wordpress.com/2024/08/15/unravelling-edna-with-association-rule-mining/
9. **Phillips, J.D.** (2024). Summer URA Position. Contributed guest post to the Science Borealis-syndicated blog of Dr. Daniel Gillis. URL: https://danielgillis.wordpress.com/2024/02/07/summer-ura-position-2/
8. **Phillips, J.D.** (2022). A Novel Statistical Framework for Assessment of Intraspecific Haplotype Sampling Completeness: Implications for DNA Barcode Gap Estimation. Ph.D. Thesis. URL: https://atrium.lib.uoguelph.ca/items/8addfcc5-f21c-4691-89b7-c4db051892eb
7. **Phillips, J.D.** (2022) Mind the Gap ⸺ The DNA Barcode Gap, That Is. Contributed CEPS Research Highlights article. URL: https://www.uoguelph.ca/ceps/news/2022/08/mind-gap-–-dna-barcode-gap
6. **Phillips, J.D.** (2020). Barcode Cracking. Contributed CEPS Research Highlights article. URL: https://www.uoguelph.ca/ceps/news/2020/02/barcode-cracking
5. **Phillips, J.D.** (2020). Protecting Biodiversity Through the Lens of Genetic Diversity. Contributed guest post to the Science Borealis-syndicated blog of Dr. Daniel Gillis. URL: https://danielgillis.wordpress.com/2020/01/30/protecting-biodiversity-through-the-lens-of-genetic-diversity/

4. **Phillips, J.D.** (2019). IBOL8 and the Midnight Sun. Contributed guest post to the Science Borealis-syndicated blog of Dr. Daniel Gillis. URL: https://danielgillis.wordpress.com/2019/07/02/reflections-ibol8-and-the-midnight-sun/

3. **Phillips, J.D.** (2017). The Big Five and IBOL7. Contributed guest post to the Science Borealis-syndicated blog of Dr. Daniel Gillis. URL: https://danielgillis.wordpress.com/2017/12/06/reflections-the-big-five-and-ibol7/

2. **Phillips, J.D.** (2016). Sample size estimation for DNA barcoding: Are current sampling levels enough? Contributed guest post to the DNA Barcoding Blog of Dr. Dirk Steinke. URL: http://dna-barcoding.blogspot.com/2016/01/guest-post-sample-size-estimation-for.html

1. **Phillips, J.D.** (2016). Sample size estimation for DNA barcoding of ray-finned fishes: Are current sampling levels enough? Contributed newsletter article to the Barcode Bulletin, 7(1).

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

2. **Student Research Connections Networking Night**   2025
University of Guelph
- Connected with motivated undergraduate students interested in conducting research projects under my supervision over the summer semester and beyond

1. **Wireframing session**   2021-2024
University of Guelph
- Participated in student-led use case mobile app prototype demonstrations for CIS*3750 – System Analysis and Design in Applications
- Graded students based on several factors via Qualtrics surveys

REFERENCES

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