

Dehydrocoupling of Bis(silyl)alkylbenzenes to Network Polysilanes, Catalyzed by Group 4 Metallocene Combination

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Abstract

Bis(silyl)alkylbenzenes such as bis(1-sila-*sec*-butyl)benzene (**1**) and 2-phenyl-1,3-disilapropane (**2**) were synthesized in high yields by the reduction of the corresponding chlorosilanes with LiAlH₄ in diethyl ether. The dehydrocoupling of **1** and **2** was performed using group IV metallocene complexes generated *in situ* from Cp₂MCl₂/Red-Al and Cp₂MCl₂/*n*-BuLi (M = Ti, Hf), producing two phases of polymers. The TGA residue yields of the insoluble polymers were in the range of 64-74%. The molecular weights of the soluble polymers produced ranged from 700 to 5000 (*M_w* vs polystyrene using GPC) and from 500 to 900 (*M_w* vs polystyrene using GPC). The dehydrocoupling of **1** and **2** seemed to initially produce a low-molecular-weight polymer, which then underwent an extensive cross-linking reaction of backbone Si-H bonds, leading to an insoluble network polymer.

Key words : Dehydrocoupling, Metallocene, Catalyst, Network, Curing, Combination, Bissilylbenzene

1. Introduction

Polysilanes, a class of inorganic polymers, with unusual optical and electronic properties due to the conjugation of σ -bonding electrons along the silicon backbone have attracted extensive attention as silicon-containing ceramic precursors, third-order NLO materials, deep-UV photoresists, photoconductors, and photoinitiators.^[1-3] The conventional synthetic method to get high-molecular-weight polysilanes to date has been the Wurtz coupling reaction of dichlorosilanes in refluxing toluene or xylene using molten alkali metals, which are intolerant of some functional groups, lack of reproducibility, and have other limitations for controlling stereochemistry and molecular weight.

Great discovery of group IV metallocene catalyzed dehydrocoupling paved a way to great progress in poly(organosilane) synthesis. A major shortcoming of the metallocene-catalyzed dehydrocoupling method is the production of low molecular weights of polysi-

lanes.^[4,5] Intensive efforts have been made to increase the molecular weight of the polysilanes.^[6-9]

To date, silanes which have been appeared in the literature have been mostly arylsilanes such as phenylsilane and tolylsilane. There are few reports on the dehydrocoupling of alkylsilanes.^[7,10] We reported the dehydrocoupling of aryl-substituted alkylsilanes catalyzed by group IV metallocene complex.^[11] Woo and coworkers reported the dehydrocoupling of bis- and tris(silyl)alkylbenzenes to produce highly cross-linked network polysilanes.^[6a] To our knowledge, the dehydrocoupling of bis(silyl)alkylbenzenes has not been reported to date. Higher-molecular-weight polysilanes are known to be more useful to material application.^[1] Here we report the dehydrocoupling of bis(silyl)alkylbenzenes to highly cured polysilanes catalyzed by group IV metallocene complexes.

2. Experimental Section

2.1. General Considerations

All reactions and manipulations were performed under prepurified nitrogen using Schlenk techniques. Dry, oxygen-free solvents were employed throughout. Glassware was flame-dried or oven-dried before use.

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Elemental analyses were performed by the Advanced Analysis Center of the Korea Institute of Science and Technology, Seoul, Korea. Infrared spectra were obtained using a Perkin-Elmer 1600 Series FT-IR or a Nicolet 520P FT-IR spectrometer. Proton NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Gemini 300 spectrometer using $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CHCl}_3$ as a reference at 7.24 ppm downfield from TMS. Carbon-13 NMR spectra were obtained using a Varian Gemini 300 (operating at 75.5 MHz) spectrometer using CDCl_3 as a reference at 77.0 ppm. Gas chromatography (GC) analyses were performed using a Varian 3300 chromatograph equipped with a packed column (10% OV-101 on Chromosorb, W/AW-DMCS 1.5 m \times 1.8" in. o.d.) in conjunction with a flame ionization detector. GC/MS data were obtained using Hewlett-Packard 5890II chromatograph (HP-5, 5% phenylmethylsiloxane, 0.25 mm i.d. \times 30.0 cm, film thickness 0.25 μm) connected to a Hewlett-Packard 5972A mass selective detector. Gel permeation chromatography (GPC) was carried out on a Waters Milipore GPC liquid chromatograph. The calibrant (monodisperse polystyrene) and the sample were dissolved in toluene and separately eluted from an Ultrastaygel GPC column series (sequence 500, 10^3 , 10^4 \AA column). Molecular weight were extrapolated from the calibration curve derived from the polystyrene standard. Data analyses were carried out using a Waters Data Module 570. Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) of the polymer sample were performed on a Perkin-Elmer 7 Series thermal analysis system under an argon flow. The polymer sample was heated from 25 to 800°C at a rate of 20°C/min. Ceramic residue yield is reported as the percentage of the sample remaining after completion of the heating cycle. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) of polymer sample was performed on a Perkin Elmer 7 Series Thermal Analysis System under an argon flow. Polymer sample was heated at 20°C/min. Melting point was determined on a Thomas Hoover Unimelt apparatus and is uncorrected. X-ray powder diffraction measurements were obtained using an APD 3600 X-ray powder diffractometer. Cp_2TiCl_2 , Cp_2HfCl_2 , Red-Al (3.4M in toluene), *n*-butyllithium (2.67 M solution in hexane) and LiAlH_4 were purchased from Aldrich Chemical Co. and were used without further purification.

2.2. Monomer Synthesis

α,α -Bis(chlorosilyl)toluene^[12a] and bis(1,1-dichloro-

1-sila-*sec*-butyl)benzene^[12b] were prepared according to the literature procedure. The following reduction procedure is representative of the other monomers. (**Warning!** In the absence of diethyl ether solvent, AlCl_3 can catalyzed silane redistribution reactions to produce SiH_4 which is an explosive gas upon contact with air. Therefore, the LiAlH_4 reduction of the silicon chlorides should be performed in ether and quenched properly with an isopropyl alcohol solution of aqueous HCl and then with water.)

2.3. Synthesis of Bis(1-sila-*sec*-butyl)benzene (1)

To a diethyl ether suspension of lithium aluminum hydride (6.1 g, 0.61 mol) in 150 mL of diethyl ether in a 500 mL three-necked, round-bottomed flask equipped with a reflux condenser topped with an inlet/outlet tube was slowly added bis(1,1-dichloro-1-sila-*sec*-butyl)benzene (17.2 g, 0.04 mol) in 100 mL of diethyl ether in a pressure-equalizing addition funnel. After addition was completed, the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The reaction mixture was filtered, cooled to 0°C, slowly quenched with a HCl/isopropyl alcohol solution (30 mL/200 mL), and then poured into ice-water. The resulting slurry was extracted with diethyl ether. The combined ether phases were washed twice with water, dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 , and concentrated on a rotary vacuum evaporator. The solution was then fractionally distilled at 65-66°C/0.6 mmHg to yield **1** (8.72 g, 98%). Anal. Calcd for $\text{Si}_2\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{22}$: C, 64.80; H, 9.97. Found: C, 64.90; H, 10.20. Isomer ratio (by GLC): meta:para=2:3. IR (neat, KBr, cm^{-1}): 2147 s (νSiH), 932 s (δSiH). ^1H NMR (δ , CDCl_3 , 300 MHz): 1.14-1.25 (m, 2H, SiCH_2), 1.38 (1.39) (d, $J=6.9$ Hz, 3H, CH_3), 2.63 (sextet, $J=7.2$ Hz, 2H, CH), 3.46 (t, $J=3.6$ Hz, 6H, SiH), 7.07-7.30 (m, 4H, ArH). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (δ , CDCl_3 , 75.5 MHz): 16.30 (CH_3), 24.50 (SiCH_2), 37.40 (37.90) (CH), 122.00, 125.00, 126.50, 128.50, 146.0, 148.30 (ArC). GC/MS, m/e (relative intensity): meta isomer 222 (M^+) (22), 177 (47), 163 (5), 149 (100), 147 (50), 135 (33), 133 (61), 131 (16), 107 (54), 105 (20), 91 (13), 73 (17); para isomer 222 (M^+) (19), 207 (6), 177 (100), 149 (21), 147 (24), 133 (41), 131 (14), 107 (21), 105 (12), 91 (10), 73 (18).

2.4. Synthesis of 2-phenyl-1,3-disilapropane (2)

85% yield; bp 178-174°C/760 mmHg. Anal. Calcd for $\text{Si}_2\text{C}_7\text{H}_{12}$: C, 54.50; H, 7.84. Found: C, 54.30; H,

8.17. IR (neat, KBr, cm^{-1}): 2115 s (ν_{SiH}), 930 s (δ_{SiH}). ^1H NMR (δ , CDCl_3 , 300 MHz): 2.15 (hep, $J=4.0$ Hz, 1H, CH), 4.01 (d, $J=4.0$ Hz, 6H, SiH_3), 7.30-7.44 (m, 5H, ArH). GC/MS, m/e (relative intensity): meta isomer 152 (M^+) (40), 121 (53), 120 (100), 119 (38), 105 (33), 93 (19), 91 (15), 53 (12).

2.5. Polymerization of **1** Catalyzed by $\text{Cp}_2\text{TiCl}_2/\text{Red-Al}$

To a Schlenk flask charged with Cp_2TiCl_2 (16 mg, 0.04 mmol) and Red-Al (8.8 μL , 0.034 mmol) was added slowly turned dark green, and the reaction mixture immediately gelatinous with violent gas evolution. The mixture remained undisturbed under a stream of nitrogen for 24 h. The catalyst was destroyed by exposure to the air for a few hours. The yellow gelatinous material was washed several times with toluene and diethyl ether and dried at reduced pressure to give 0.18 g (55% yield) of off-white solid ($\text{mp} > 300^\circ\text{C}$; TGA ceramic yield 64% (black solid)) which was insoluble in most organic solvent. The combined washing solutions were concentrated on a rotary vacuum evaporator and then passed rapidly through a silica gel column (70-230 mesh, 15 cm \times 2 cm) with 200 mL of toluene used as the eluent. The colorless effluent was evaporated to dryness to yield 0.12 g (36% yield) of a very viscous clear oil which was soluble in most organic solvents. IR (KBr pellet, cm^{-1}): 2140 s (ν_{SiH}) for solid. For the very viscous clear oil: IR (neat, KBr, cm^{-1}): 2148 s (ν_{SiH}). ^1H NMR (δ , CDCl_3 , 300 MHz): 1.08-1.23 (m, 4H, SiCH_2), 1.24-1.38 (m, 6H, CH_3), 2.85-2.95 (m, 2H, CH), 3.37-3.48 (m, SiH), 6.98-7.32 (m, 4H, ArH); GPC: $M_w=1050$, $M_n=820$.

2.6. Polymerization of **1** Catalyzed by $\text{Cp}_2\text{HfCl}_2/\text{Red-Al}$

To a Schlenk flask with Cp_2HfCl_2 (8.0 mg, 0.02 mmol) and Red-Al (5.2 μL , 0.02 mmol) was added slowly **1** (0.23 g, 1.03 mmol). The reaction mixture immediately turned light yellow, and the reaction medium became rapidly gelatinous with violent gas evolution upon heating at 90°C for 20 min. The catalyst was destroyed by exposure to the air for a few hours. The pale yellow gelatinous material was washed several times with toluene and diethyl ether and dried at reduced pressure to give 0.09 g (39% yield) of off-white solid ($\text{mp} > 300^\circ\text{C}$; TGA ceramic residue yield 67% (black solid)) which

was insoluble in most organic solvent. The combined washing solutions were concentrated on a rotary vacuum evaporator and then passed rapidly through a reverse phase silica gel column (70-230 mesh, 15 cm \times 2 cm) with 200 mL of toluene used as the eluent. The colorless effluent was evaporated to dryness to yield 0.52 g (60% yield) of a viscous clear oil which was soluble in most organic solvents. IR (KBr pellet, cm^{-1}): 2140 s (ν_{SiH}) for solid. For the very viscous clear oil: IR (neat, KBr, cm^{-1}): 2150 s (ν_{SiH}). ^1H NMR (δ , CDCl_3 , 300 MHz): 1.08-1.23 (m, 4H, SiCH_2), 1.24-1.38 (m, 6H, CH_3), 2.85-2.95 (m, 2H, CH), 3.37-3.48 (m, SiH), 6.98-7.32 (m, 4H, ArH); GPC: $M_w=720$, $M_n=590$.

Polymerization of **2** Catalyzed by $\text{Cp}_2\text{TiCl}_2/n\text{-BuLi}$. To a Schlenk flask loaded with Cp_2TiCl_2 (42.3 mg, 0.17 mmol) and $n\text{-BuLi}$ (0.13 mL of a 2.67 M solution in hexane, 0.35 mmol) was added slowly **2** (1.32 g, 8.55 mmol). The reaction mixture immediately turned dark green, and the reaction mixture immediately turned dark green, and the reaction medium became rapidly gelatinous with vigorous gas evolution. After 24 h, the catalyst was destroyed by exposure to the air for a few minutes. The yellow gelatinous material was washed several times with toluene and diethyl ether and dried at reduced pressure to give 1.08 g (82% yield) of pale yellow solid (Anal. Cald for $(\text{Si}_2\text{C}_7\text{H}_8)_n$: C, 56.69; H, 5.44. Found: C, 51.60; H, 6.14; $\text{mp} > 300^\circ\text{C}$; TGA ceramic residue yield 72% (black solid)) which was insoluble in most organic solvent. The combined washing solutions were concentrated on a rotary vacuum evaporator and then passed rapidly through a reverse phase silica gel column (70-230 mesh, 20 cm \times 2 cm) with 200 mL of toluene used as the eluent. The colorless effluent was evaporated to dryness to yield 0.17 g (13% yield) of a very viscous opaque oil which was soluble in most organic solvents. IR (KBr pellet, cm^{-1}): 2114 s (ν_{SiH}) for solid. For the very viscous oil: IR (neat, KBr, cm^{-1}): 2117 s (ν_{SiH}). ^1H NMR (δ , CDCl_3 , 300 MHz): 1.8-2.2 (m, CH), 3.0-4.5 (m, SiH), 6.5-7.5 (m, ArH); GPC: $M_w=4120$, $M_n=820$, PDI = 5.02.

2.7. Polymerization of **2** Catalyzed by $\text{Cp}_2\text{HfCl}_2/n\text{-BuLi}$

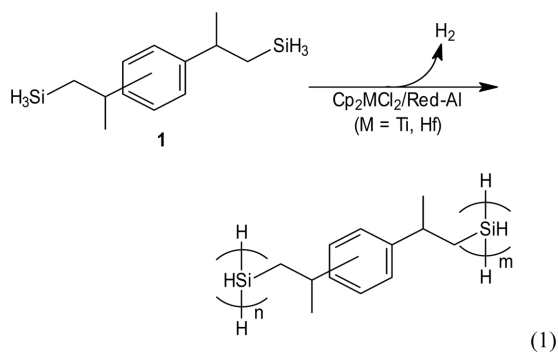
To a Schlenk flask charged with hafnocene Cp_2HfCl_2 (64.5 mg, 0.17 mmol) and $n\text{-BuLi}$ (0.13 mL of a 2.67 M solution in hexane, 0.35 mmol) was added slowly **2** (1.32 g, 8.55 mmol). The reaction mixture immediately

turned yellow, and the reaction medium became rapidly gelatinous with vigorous gas evolution upon heating at 90°C for 20 min. The catalyst was deactivated by exposure to the air for a few minutes. The yellow gelatinous material was washed several times with toluene and diethyl ether and dried at reduced pressure to give 1.05 g (80% yield) of pale yellow solid (mp>300°C; TGA ceramic residue yield 74% (black solid)) which was insoluble were concentrated on a rotary vacuum evaporator and then passed rapidly through a reverse phase silica gel column (70-230 mesh, 20 cm × 2cm) with 200 mL of toluene used as the eluent. The colorless effluent was evaporated to dryness to yield 0.18 g (14% yield) of a very viscous opaque oil which was soluble in most organic solvents. IR (KBr pellet, cm⁻¹): 2112 s (ν_{SiH}) for solid. For the very viscous oil: IR (neat, KBr, cm⁻¹): 2115 s (ν_{SiH}). ¹H NMR (δ, CDCl₃, 300 MHz): 1.8-2.2 (m, CH), 3.0-4.5 (m, SiH), 6.5-7.5 (m, ArH); GPC: M_w=5010, M_n=850, PDI = 5.89.

3. Results and Discussion

α,α'-Bis(chlorosilyl)toluene^[12a] and bis(1,1-dichloro-1-sila-*sec*-butyl)benzene^[12b] were prepared by the AlCl₃-catalyzed Friedel-Crafts reaction of allyldichlorosilane with benzene and by Cu/Cd-catalyzed direct reaction of elemental silicon with α,α'-dichlorotoluene in the presence of HCl gas (modified direct synthesis). The monomeric silanes **1** and **2** were prepared in 98 and 85% yields, respectively, by reaction of the corresponding chlorosilanes with LiAlH₄. The chemical shifts and coupling constants associated with the protons of the Si-H bonds in the ¹H NMR spectra of the silanes are in the ranges of 3.4-4.0 ppm and 3.6-4.0 Hz, respectively. The Si-H stretching bands in the IR spectra of the silanes are in the 2110-2140 cm⁻¹ range.

Although Cp₂MMe₂ (M = Ti, Zr),^[4] Cp₂Zr[Si(SiMe₃)₃]Me,^[5] and Cp₂ZrCl₂/*n*-BuLi^[13] are known to be the active catalysts for the dehydropolymerization of primary silanes and CpCp*Zr[Si(SiMe₃)₃]Me and (CpCp*ZrH₂)₂ were the most active catalyst previously examined^[5], we wanted to employ a novel catalyst system, Cp₂MCl₂/Red-Al (M = Ti, Hf)^[8], which were recently found to give predominantly linear, higher molecular weight of polysilanes than for any other catalyst system, because the monomeric silanes **1** and **2** are sterically hindered. Sterically hindered silanes were known to be



very slow to polymerize and to give low-molecular-weight oligosilanes.

Dehydropolymerization of **1** with 2 mol% Cp₂TiCl₂/Red-Al catalyst system was immediately initiated, as monitored by the immediate release of hydrogen gas, and the reaction medium became rapidly gelatinous (eq. 1).

Dehydrocoupling of **1** with 2 mol% Cp₂HfCl₂/Red-Al catalyst system also began immediately, as evidenced by the immediate discharge of hydrogen gas, but the reaction was slow and the reaction medium became rapidly gelatinous upon being heated at 90°C. The polymer was acquired in total >90% yield as two phases after workup including washing and column chromatography. The first part of polymer was obtained in 55% yield for Ti and 39% yield for Hf as off-white solids (mp>300°C), respectively, which were insoluble in most organic solvents. The TGA ceramic residue yield of the insoluble solid was 64% for Ti and 67% for Hf, respectively, which were soluble in most organic solvents. The weight average molecular weight (M_w) and number average molecular weight (M_n) of the oily polymers were 1050 and 820 for Ti and 720 and 590 for Hf, respectively (Table 1).

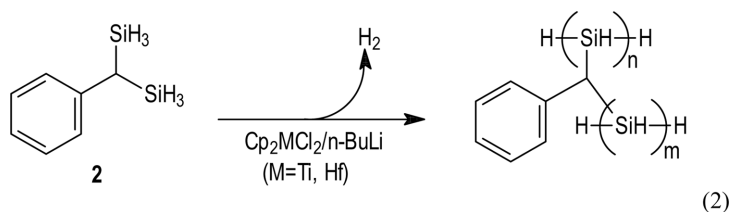
Dehydrocoupling of **2** with Cp₂MCl₂/Red-Al (M = Ti, Hf) catalyst system yielded a complex mixture of products by both redistribution and dehydrocoupling reaction of **2**.^[14] Dehydropolymerization of **2** with 2 mol% Cp₂TiCl₂/*n*-BuLi catalyst system commenced immediately, as monitored by the immediate discharge of hydrogen gas, and the reaction medium became rapidly gelatinous (eq. 2).

Dehydrocoupling of **2** with 2 mol% Cp₂HfCl₂/Red-Al catalyst system also started immediately, as evidenced by the immediate release of hydrogen gas, but the reac-

Table 1. GPC and TGA Characterization of Dehydropolymerization of Monomeric Silanes **1** and **2** with Group 4 Metallocene Complexes^a

Monomer	Catalyst	Percent Yield	mol wt ^b		Residue yield(%) ^c
			M_w	M_n	
1	Cp ₂ TiCl ₂ / Red-Al	55(solid)	1050	820	64
		36(oil)			
1	Cp ₂ HfCl ₂ / Red-Al	39(solid)	720	590	67
		60(oil)			
2	Cp ₂ TiCl ₂ / Red-Al	82(solid)	4120	820	72
		13(oil)			
2	Cp ₂ HfCl ₂ / Red-Al	80(solid)	5010	850	74
		14(oil)			

^a[M]/[Si]=0.02. For Ti, stirring at room temperature for 24 h; for Hf, heating at 90°C for 20 min. ^bMeasured with GPC (vs polystyrene) in toluene. ^cTGA residue yield at 800°C.



tion was slow and the reaction medium became rapidly gelatinous upon being heated at 90°C. The polymer was acquired in total >90% yield as two phases after workup including washing and column chromatography. The first part of polymer was obtained in 82% yield for Ti and 80% yield for Hf as pale yellow solids (mp >300°C), respectively, which were insoluble in most organic solvents. The TGA ceramic residue yield of the insoluble solid was 72% for Ti and 74% for Hf, respectively. The second part of polymer was acquired in 13% yield for Ti and 14% yield for Hf as very viscous opaque oils, respectively, which were soluble in most organic solvents. The weight average molecular weight (M_w) and number average molecular weight (M_n) of the oily polymers were 4120 and 820 for Ti and 5010 and 850 for Hf, respectively (Table 1). The ¹H NMR spectra for the soluble polysilanes prepared apparently show nearly one broad unresolved mountain-like resonance centered at ca. 3.4 ppm for **1** and 4.0 ppm for **2**. The IR spectra of all for the polysilanes produced here exhibit an intense nSi-H band in the 2110–2150 cm⁻¹ range. We found from the results that the expected polysilanes from the dehydropolymerization of **2** with Cp₂MCl₂/*n*-BuLi catalyst system are obtained without

redistribution. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) for these polymers did not show the existence of a glass transition temperature (T_g) between 25 and 350°C. X-ray powder pattern analysis ($2\theta=5-80^\circ$) of the solid polymer was featureless, which suggests that the polymer adopt an amorphous, glasslike structure. The solid polysilanes were found to be quite stable at air atmosphere for a long period: the growth of ν Si-O stretching bands (*i.e.* oxidation of the Si-Si bonds) was not observed for several months. We are not sure at this moment why the dehydropolymerization with Cp₂MCl₂/*n*-BuLi gave the higher degree of cross-linking than that with Cp₂MCl₂/Red-Al (Table 1). We think that the difference is due probably to the difference in the characteristic dehydrocoupling reactivity^[15] of the hydrosilanes **1** and **2** because both catalyst systems are known to produce same catalytic species in the presence of silane.^[5,13] One might naturally think that the polymerization first produced a low-molecular-weight polymer which then underwent an extensive cross-linking reaction of backbone Si-H bonds, leading to an insoluble polymer. The bis(silyl)alkylbenzenes **1** and **2** could be employed as a cross-linking agent in the dehydrocoupling of other primary silanes. The solid polymers could be used in the

preparation of silicon carbide and SiC-metal composite ceramic materials which might be used as a catalyst operating at high temperature. The study in progress and will be reported in due course as a separate paper.

In conclusion, this work describes the preparation and dehydrocoupling of new bis(silyl)alkylbenzenes, bis(1-sila-*sec*-butyl)benzene **1** and 2-phenyl-1,3-disilapropane **2**, catalyzed by group IV metallocene complexes generated *in situ* from Cp₂MCl₂/Red-Al and Cp₂MCl₂/*n*-BuLi (M=Ti, Hf), respectively. The monomeric silanes **1** and **2** dehydrocoupled to produce two phases of polymers: one is a highly cross-linked insoluble network solid, and the other is non-cross-linked or slightly cross-linked soluble oil and be a possible precursor for the solid.

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