

Why is Policy Complex?

Peter Allen

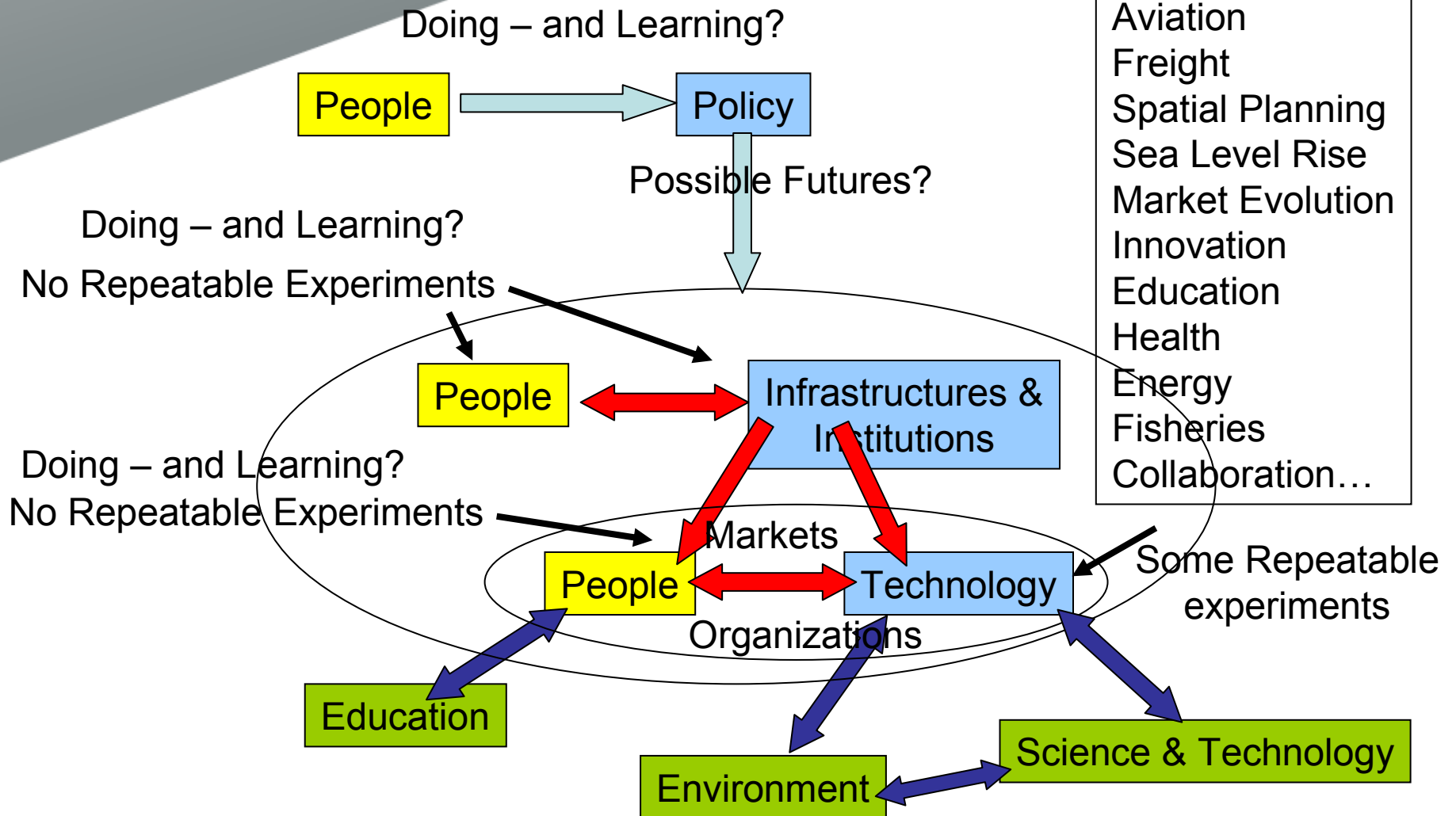
- No man is an island, entire of itself... But, what are the boundaries? Whose interests does the problem span?
- Policy is about intervening in the socio-cultural, economic and environmental system to achieve some aim. However, this contains many people - some participants, some stakeholders, some victims. Most will find ways of adapting and responding. Need models that capture responses.
- Traditional Science is based on repeatable experiments but these are NOT repeatable experiments. They are experiments however and MODELLING is even more important if we are improve our understanding and judgement

Two Rules for Complexity:

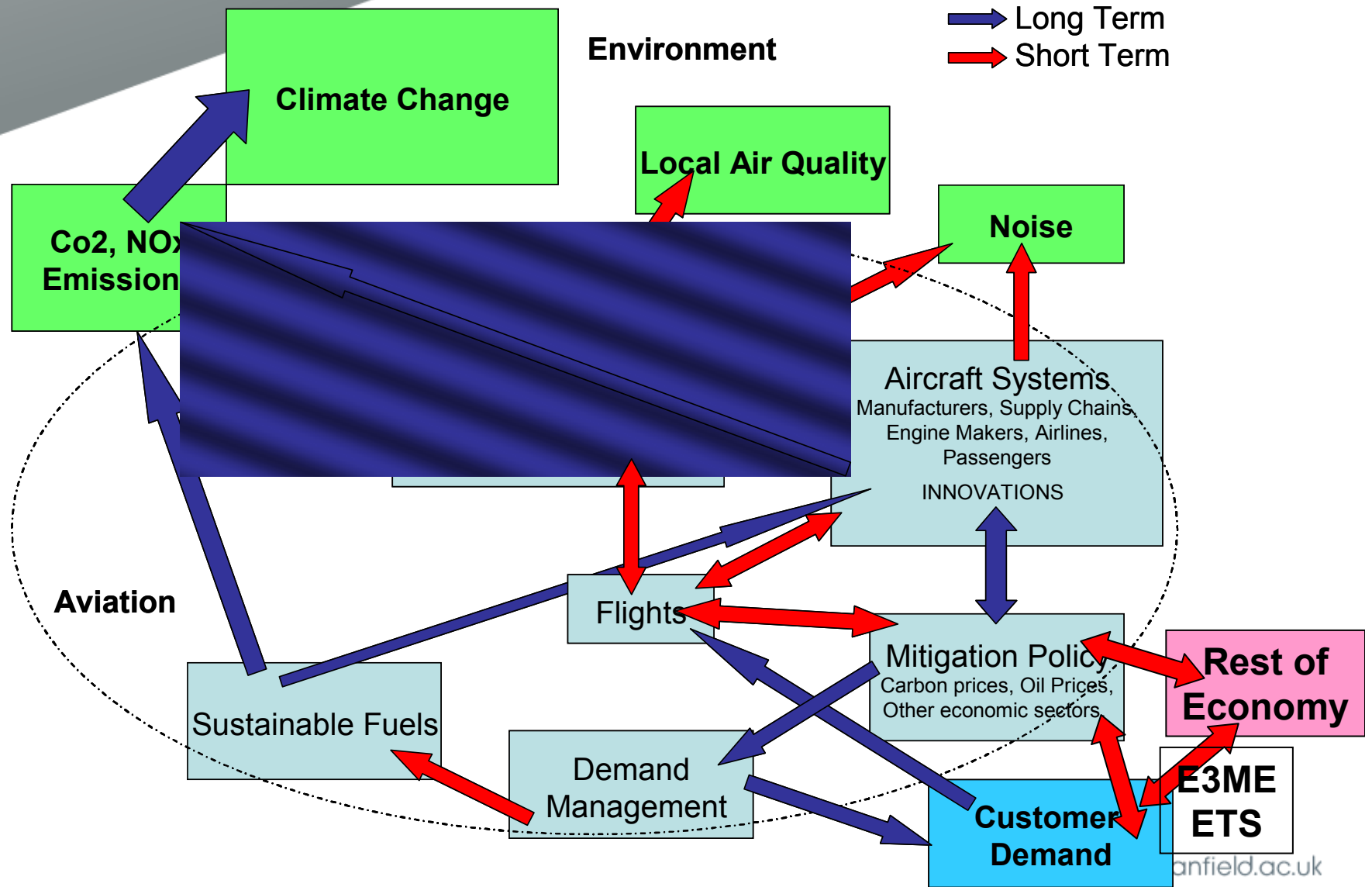
1. Something can only 'happen' if the current system is UNSTABLE to its appearance. We need to plan, design and prepare for contingencies with an idea of what 'could' occur.
2. If a system is to persist it must have parts or components that 'fit' (synergy) together and can get resources from the environment: An important principle for policy, design and intervention.

Policy: Modelling and Complexity

- Policy Issues:**
- Climate Change
 - Aviation
 - Freight
 - Spatial Planning
 - Sea Level Rise
 - Market Evolution
 - Innovation
 - Education
 - Health
 - Energy
 - Fisheries
 - Collaboration...

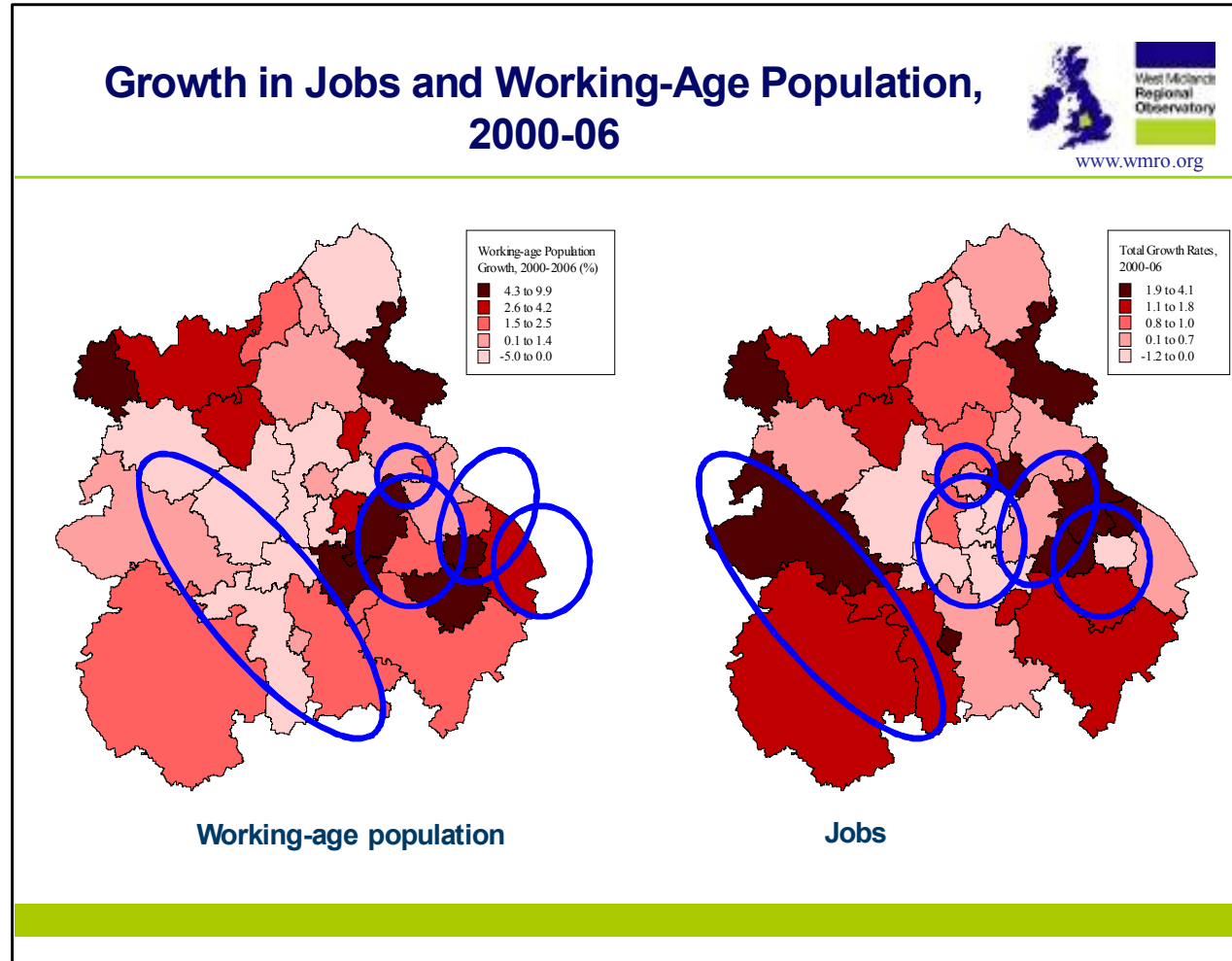


OMEGA – A Complex System



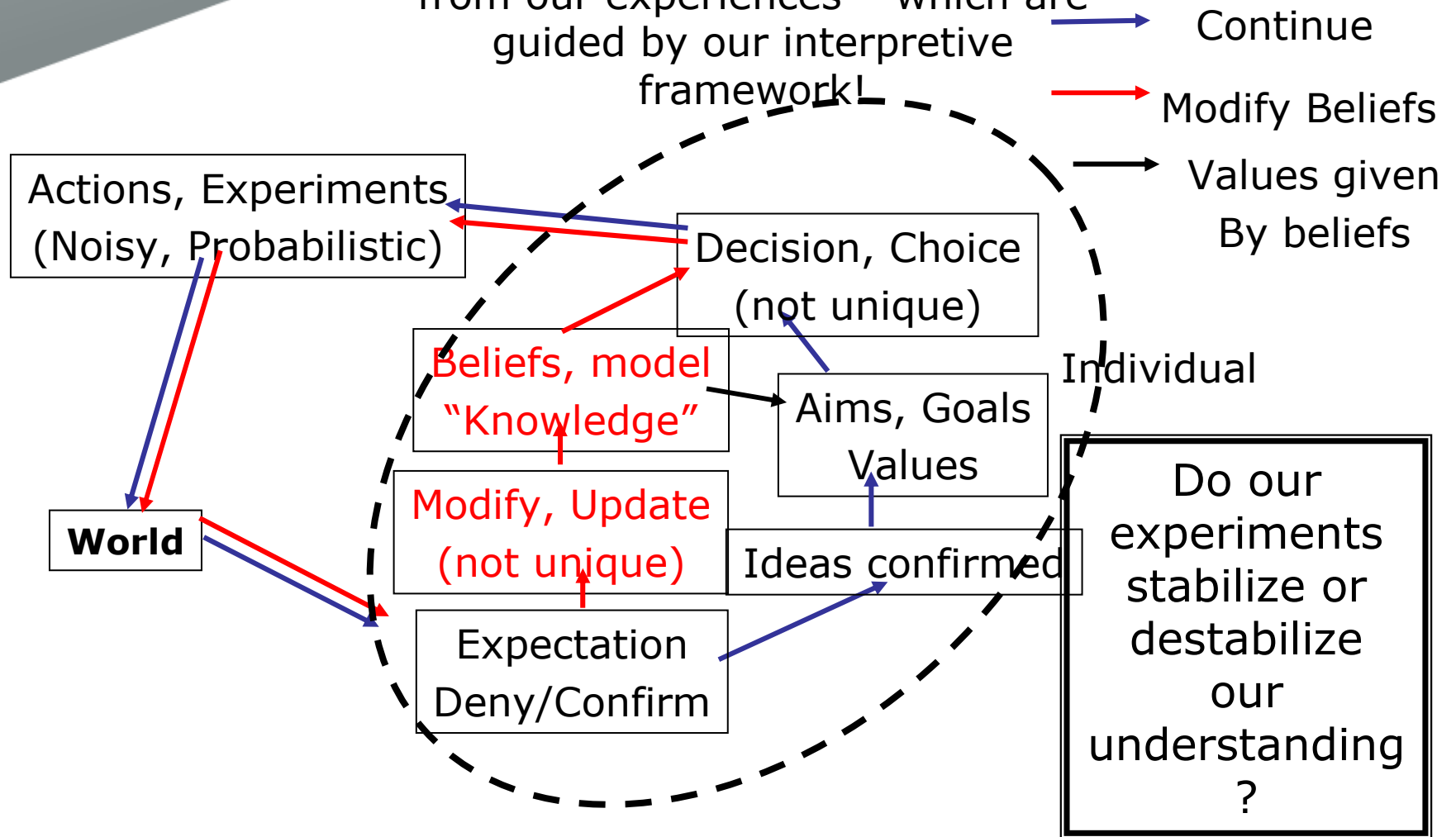
Integrated Policy Model

Dynamic Spatial Model For the West Midlands



Can we ever learn?:

Our interpretive framework results from our experiences – which are guided by our interpretive framework!



Emergence: Complexity and Organization

The Complexity Society
www.complexity-society.com

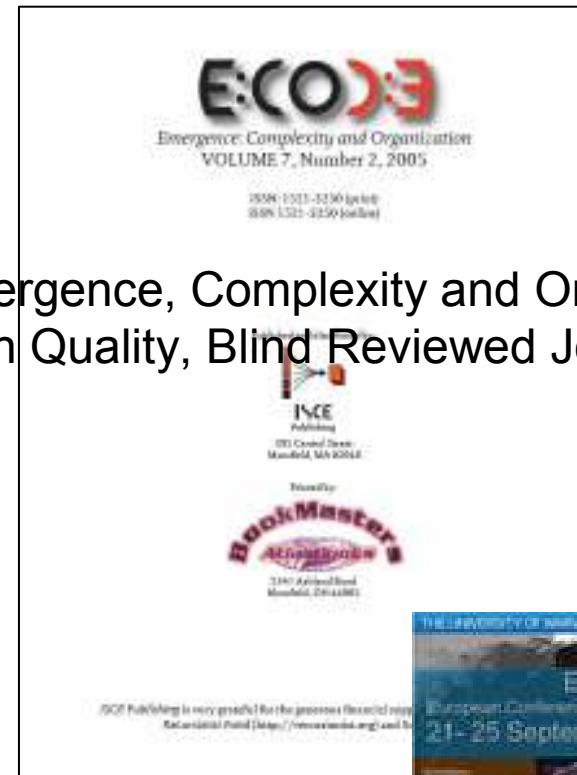
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