# **Functional Programming**

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## Lecture 7: Laziness

### Lazy evaluation. Stream processing.

M. Douglas McIlroy "Power Series, Power Serious"

Oleg Kiselyov, Simon Peyton-Jones, Amr Sabry "Lazy v. Yield: Incremental, Linear Pretty-Printing"

If you see any error on the slides, let me know!

### Laziness

- Today's lecture is about lazy evaluation.
- Thank you for coming, goodbye!
- But perhaps, do you have any questions?

## Evaluation strategies and parameter passing

- **Evaluation strategy** is the order in which expressions are computed.
  - For the most part: when are arguments computed.
- Recall our problems with using *flow control* expressions like if\_then\_else in examples from  $\lambda$ -calculus lecture.
- There are many technical terms describing various strategies. Wikipedia:
  - **Strict evaluation.** Arguments are always evaluated completely before function is applied.
  - **Non-strict evaluation.** Arguments are not evaluated unless they are actually used in the evaluation of the function body.
  - **Eager evaluation.** An expression is evaluated as soon as it gets bound to a variable.
  - **Lazy evaluation.** Non-strict evaluation which avoids repeating computation.

- **Call-by-value.** The argument expression is evaluated, and the resulting value is bound to the corresponding variable in the function (frequently by copying the value into a new memory region).
- **Call-by-reference.** A function receives an implicit reference to a variable used as argument, rather than a copy of its value.
  - In purely functional languages there is no difference between the two strategies, so they are typically described as call-by-value even though implementations use call-by-reference internally for efficiency.
  - Call-by-value languages like C and OCaml support explicit references (objects that refer to other objects), and these can be used to simulate call-by-reference.
- **Normal order.** Start computing function bodies before evaluating their arguments. Do not even wait for arguments if they are not needed.

- **Call-by-name.** Arguments are substituted directly into the function body and then left to be evaluated whenever they appear in the function.
- **Call-by-need.** If the function argument is evaluated, that value is stored for subsequent uses.
- Almost all languages do not compute inside the body of un-applied function, but with curried functions you can pre-compute data before all arguments are provided.
  - Recall the search\_bible example.
- In eager / call-by-value languages we can simulate call-by-name by taking a function to compute the value as an argument instead of the value directly.
  - "Our" languages have a unit type with a single value () specifically for use as throw-away arguments.
  - Scala has a built-in support for call-by-name (i.e. direct, without the need to build argument functions).
- ML languages have built-in support for lazy evaluation.
- Haskell has built-in support for eager evaluation.

## Call-by-name: streams

Call-by-name is useful not only for implementing flow control

```
o let if_then_else cond e1 e2 =
    match cond with true -> e1 () | false -> e2 ()
```

but also for arguments of value constructors, i.e. for data structures.

• **Streams** are lists with call-by-name tails.

```
type 'a stream = SNil | SCons of 'a * (unit -> 'a stream)
```

Reading from a stream into a list.

• Streams can easily be infinite.

```
let rec s_ones = SCons (1, fun () -> s_ones)
let rec s_from n =
   SCons (n, fun () ->s_from (n+1))
```

Streams admit list-like operations.

Streams can provide scaffolding for recursive algorithms:

 Streams are less functional than could be expected in context of inputoutput effects.

```
let file_stream name =
  let ch = open_in name in
  let rec ch_read_line () =
    try SCons (input_line ch, ch_read_line)
  with End_of_file -> SNil in
  ch_read_line ()
```

- OCaml Batteries use a stream type enum for interfacing between various sequence-like data types.
  - The safest way to use streams in a linear / ephemeral manner: every value used only once.
  - Streams minimize space consumption at the expense of time for recomputation.

### Lazy values

- Lazy evaluation is more general than call-by-need as any value can be lazy, not only a function parameter.
- A *lazy value* is a value that "holds" an expression until its result is needed, and from then on it "holds" the result.
  - Also called: a suspension. If it holds the expression, called a thunk.
- In OCaml, we build lazy values explicitly. In Haskell, all values are lazy but functions can have call-by-value parameters which "need" the argument.
- To create a lazy value: lazy expr where expr is the suspended computation.
- Two ways to use a lazy value, be careful when the result is computed!
  - In expressions: Lazy.force l\_expr
  - o In patterns: match l\_expr with lazy v -> ...
    - Syntactically lazy behaves like a data constructor.

• Lazy lists:

```
type 'a llist = LNil | LCons of 'a * 'a llist Lazy.t
```

• Reading from a lazy list into a list:

Lazy lists can easily be infinite:

```
let rec l_ones = LCons (1, lazy l_ones)
let rec l_from n = LCons (n, lazy (l_from (n+1)))
```

• Read once, access multiple times:

```
let file_llist name =
  let ch = open_in name in
  let rec ch_read_line () =
    try LCons (input_line ch, lazy (ch_read_line ()))
  with End_of_file -> LNil in
  ch_read_line ()
```

```
• let rec lzip = function
    | LNil, LNil -> LNil
    | LCons (a1, 111), LCons (a2, 112) ->
       LCons ((a1, a2), lazy (
         lzip (Lazy.force 111, Lazy.force 112)))
    | _ -> raise (Invalid_argument "lzip")
  let rec lmap f = function
    | LNil -> LNil
    | LCons (a, 11) ->
     LCons (f a, lazy (lmap f (Lazy.force 11)))
• let posnums = lfrom 1
  let rec lfact =
    LCons (1, lazy (lmap (fun (a,b) -> a*b))
                       (lzip (lfact, posnums))))
   1 1 2 6 24 120 ...
       1 2 6 24 | 120 | ...
```

### Power series and differential equations

- Differential equations idea due to Henning Thielemann. Just an example.
- Expression  $P(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{n} a_i x^i$  defines a polynomial for  $n < \infty$  and a power series for  $n = \infty$ .
- If we define

then we can compute polynomials

```
let horner x l =
  lfold_right (fun c sum -> c +. x *. sum) l 0.
```

- But it will not work for infinite power series!
  - $\circ$  Does it make sense to compute the value at x of a power series?
  - Does it make sense to fold an infinite list?

- If the power series converges for x > 1, then when the elements  $a_n$  get small, the remaining sum  $\sum_{i=n}^{\infty} a_i x^i$  is also small.
- lfold\_right falls into an infinite loop on infinite lists. We need call-by-name / call-by-need semantics for the argument function f.

• We need a stopping condition in the Horner algorithm step:

### Power series / polynomial operations

```
let rec add xs ys =
    match xs, ys with
      | LNil, _ -> ys
      \mid _, LNil \rightarrow xs
       | LCons (x,xs), LCons (y,ys) \rightarrow
        LCons (x +. y, lazy (add (Lazy.force xs) (Lazy.force ys)))
• let rec sub xs ys =
    match xs, ys with
       | LNil, \_ -> lmap (fun x-> \sim-.x) ys
       | _, LNil -> xs
       | LCons (x,xs), LCons (y,ys) ->
        LCons (x-.y, lazy (add (Lazy.force xs) (Lazy.force ys)))
• let scale s = lmap (fun x->s*.x)
• let rec shift n xs =
    if n = 0 then xs
     else if n > 0 then LCons (0., lazy (shift (n-1) xs))
     else match xs with
      | LNil -> LNil
       | LCons (0., lazy xs) -> shift (n+1) xs
       _ -> failwith "shift: fractional division"
```

```
• let rec mul xs = function
     | LNil -> LNil
     | LCons (y, ys) ->
       add (scale y xs) (LCons (0., lazy (mul xs (Lazy.force ys))))
• let rec div xs ys =
    match xs, ys with
     | LNil, _ -> LNil
     | LCons (0., xs'), LCons (0., ys') ->
      div (Lazy.force xs') (Lazy.force ys')
     | LCons (x, xs'), LCons (y, ys') ->
      let q = x /. y in
      LCons (q, lazy (divSeries (sub (Lazy.force xs')
                                    (scale q (Lazy.force ys'))) ys))
     | LCons _, LNil -> failwith "divSeries: division by zero"
• let integrate c xs =
    LCons (c, lazy (lmap (uncurry (/.)) (lzip (xs, posnums))))
• let ltail = function
     | LNil -> invalid_arg "ltail"
     | LCons (_, lazy tl) -> tl
• let differentiate xs =
    lmap (uncurry ( *.)) (lzip (ltail xs, posnums))
```

### Differential equations

- $\frac{\operatorname{dsin} x}{\operatorname{d} x} = \cos x, \frac{\operatorname{dcos} x}{\operatorname{d} x} = -\sin x, \sin 0 = 0, \cos 0 = 1.$
- We will solve the corresponding integral equations. Why?
- We cannot define the integral by direct recursion like this:

```
let rec sin = integrate (of_int 0) cos Unary op. let (\sim-:) = and cos = integrate (of_int 1) \sim-:sin \lim_{n \to \infty} (fun x - > \sim -.x)
```

unfortunately fails:

Error: This kind of expression is not allowed as right-hand side of 'let rec'

 Even changing the second argument of integrate to call-by-need does not help, because OCaml cannot represent the values that x and y refer to.  We need to inline a bit of integrate so that OCaml knows how to start building the recursive structure.

```
let integ xs = lmap (uncurry (/.)) (lzip (xs, posnums))
let rec sin = LCons (of_int 0, lazy (integ cos))
and cos = LCons (of_int 1, lazy (integ ~-:sin))
```

- The complete example would look much more elegant in Haskell.
- Although this approach is not limited to linear equations, equations like Lotka-Volterra or Lorentz are not "solvable" – computed coefficients quickly grow instead of quickly falling...

Drawing functions are like in previous lecture, but with open curves.

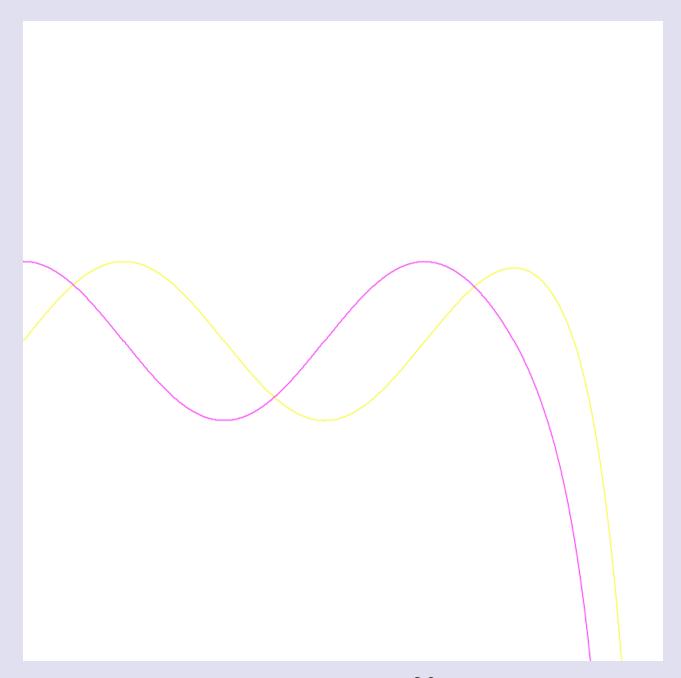
```
• let plot_1D f ~w ~scale ~t_beg ~t_end =
   let dt = (t_end -. t_beg) /. of_int w in
   Array.init w (fun i ->
   let y = lhorner (dt *. of_int i) f in
   i, to_int (scale *. y))
```

### Arbitrary precision computation

• Putting it all together reveals drastic numerical errors for large x.

```
let graph =
  let scale = of_int h /. of_int 8 in
  [plot_1D sin ~w ~h0:(h/2) ~scale
        ~t_beg:(of_int 0) ~t_end:(of_int 15),
        (250,250,0);
  plot_1D cos ~w ~h0:(h/2) ~scale
        ~t_beg:(of_int 0) ~t_end:(of_int 15),
        (250,0,250)]
let () = draw_to_screen ~w ~h graph
```

- Floating-point numbers have limited precision.
- We break out of Horner method computations too quickly.



- For infinite precision on rational numbers we use the nums library.
  - It does not help yet.
- Generate a sequence of approximations to the power series limit at x.

Find where the series converges – as far as a given test is concerned.

```
let rec exact f = function We arbitrarily decide that convergence is 

| LNil -> assert false when three consecutive results are the same. 

| LCons (x0, lazy (LCons (x1, lazy (LCons (x2, _))))) when f x0 = f x1 && f x0 = f x2 -> f x0 

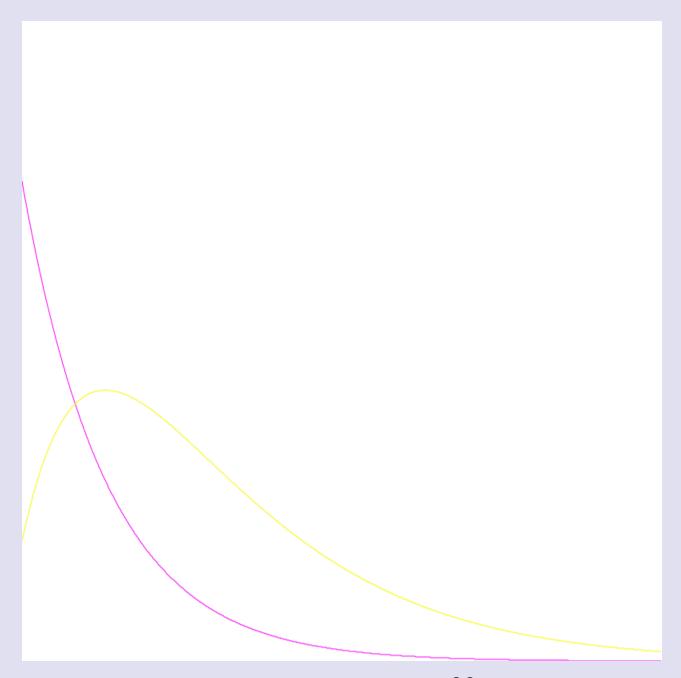
| LCons (_, lazy tl) -> exact f tl
```

Draw the pixels of the graph at exact coordinates.

```
let plot_1D f ~w ~h0 ~scale ~t_beg ~t_end =
  let dt = (t_end -. t_beg) /. of_int w in
  let eval = exact (fun y-> to_int (scale *. y)) in
  Array.init w (fun i ->
  let y = infhorner (t_beg +. dt *. of_int i) f in
  i, h0 + eval y)
```

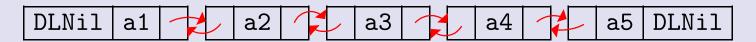
- Success! If a power series had every third term contributing we would have to check three terms in the function exact...
  - We could like in lhorner test for f x0 = f x1 && not x0 = . x1
- Example n\_chain: nuclear chain reaction—A decays into B decays into C
  - $\circ \quad \mathsf{http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radioactive\_decay\#Chain\text{-}decay\_processes}$

```
let n_chain ~nA0 ~nB0 ~lA ~lB =
  let rec nA =
    LCons (nA0, lazy (integ (~-.lA *:. nA)))
  and nB =
    LCons (nB0, lazy (integ (~-.lB *:. nB +: lA *:. nA))) in
  nA, nB
```



### Circular data structures: double-linked list

- Without delayed computation, the ability to define data structures with referential cycles is very limited.
- Double-linked lists contain such cycles between any two nodes even if they are not cyclic when following only forward or backward links.



- We need to "break" the cycles by making some links lazy.
- type 'a dllist =
   DLNil | DLCons of 'a dllist Lazy.t \* 'a \* 'a dllist

```
• let dllist_of_list l =
    let rec dllist prev l =
      match 1 with
         | [] -> DLNil
         | x::xs ->
          let rec cell =
            lazy (DLCons (prev, x, dllist cell xs)) in
          Lazy.force cell in
    dllist (lazy DLNil) 1
• let rec dltake n l =
    match 1 with
       | DLCons (\_, x, xs) when n>0 ->
        x::dltake (n-1) xs
       | _ -> []
• let rec dlbackwards n l =
    match 1 with
       | DLCons (lazy xs, x, _) when n>0 ->
        x::dlbackwards (n-1) xs
       _ -> []
```

### Input-Output streams

• The stream type used a throwaway argument to make a suspension

```
type 'a stream = SNil | SCons of 'a * (unit -> 'a stream)
```

What if we take a real argument?

```
type ('a, 'b) iostream =
   EOS | More of 'b * ('a -> ('a, 'b) iostream)
```

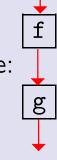
A stream that for a single input value produces an output value.

• type 'a istream = (unit, 'a) iostream Input stream produces output when "asked".

```
type 'a ostream = ('a, unit) iostream
Output stream consumes provided input.
```

 Sorry, the confusion arises from adapting the input file / output file terminology, also used for streams. • We can compose streams: directing output of one to input of another.

Every box has one incoming and one outgoing wire:



Notice how the output stream is ahead of the input stream.

### **Pipes**

- We need a more flexible input-output stream definition.
  - Consume several inputs to produce a single output.
  - Produce several outputs after a single input (or even without input).
  - No need for a dummy when producing output requires input.
- After Haskell, we call the data structure pipe.

```
type ('a, 'b) pipe =
   EOP
| Yield of 'b * ('a, 'b) pipe   For incremental streams change to lazy.
| Await of 'a -> ('a, 'b) pipe
```

 Again, we can have producing output only input pipes and consuming input only output pipes.

```
type 'a ipipe = (unit, 'a) pipe
type void
type 'a opipe = ('a, void) pipe
```

O Why void rather than unit, and why only for opipe?

 Composition of pipes is like "concatenating them in space" or connecting boxes:

 Appending pipes means "concatenating them in time" or adding more fuel to a box:

Append a list of ready results in front of a pipe.

```
let rec yield_all l tail =
  match l with
  | [] -> tail
  | x::xs -> Yield (x, yield_all xs tail)
```

Iterate a pipe (not functional).

```
let rec iterate f : 'a opipe =
  Await (fun x -> let () = f x in iterate f)
```

### **Example: pretty-printing**

Print hierarchically organized document with a limited line width.

```
type doc =
     Text of string | Line | Cat of doc * doc | Group of doc
• let (++) d1 d2 = Cat (d1, Cat (Line, d2))
   let (!) s = Text s
   let test doc =
     Group (!"Document" ++
                Group (!"First part" ++ !"Second part"))
# let () = print_endline (pretty 30 test_doc);;
Document
First part Second part
# let () = print_endline (pretty 20 test_doc);;
Document
First part
Second part
# let () = print_endline (pretty 60 test_doc);;
Document First part Second part
```

#### Straightforward solution:

```
let pretty w d =
                                               Allowed width of line w.
  let rec width = function
                                           Total length of subdocument.
    | Text z -> String.length z
    | Line -> 1
    \mid Cat (d1, d2) -> width d1 + width d2
    | Group d -> width d in
  let rec format f r = function
                                                  Remaining space r.
    | Text z -> z, r - String.length z
    | Line when f -> " ", r-1
                                              If not, f then line breaks.
    | Line -> "\n", w
    | Cat (d1, d2) ->
      let s1, r = format f r d1 in
      let s2, r = format f r d2 in
      s1 ^ s2, r If following group fits, then without line breaks.
    | Group d -> format (f || width d <= r) r d in
  fst (format false w d)
```

Working with a stream of nodes.

```
type ('a, 'b) doc_e = Annotated nodes, special for group beginning.
TE of 'a * string | LE of 'a | GBeg of 'b | GEnd of 'a
```

Normalize a subdocument – remove empty groups.

Generate the stream by infix traversal.

 Compute lengths of document prefixes, i.e. the position of each node counting by characters from the beginning of document.

```
let rec docpos curpos =
  Await (function
                                            We input from a doc_e pipe
  | TE (_, z) ->
    Yield (TE (curpos, z), and output doc_e annotated with position.
            docpos (curpos + String.length z))
  | LE ->
                          Spice and line breaks increase position by 1.
    Yield (LE curpos, docpos (curpos + 1))
  | GBeg _ ->
                                         Groups do not increase position.
    Yield (GBeg curpos, docpos curpos)
  | GEnd ->
    Yield (GEnd curpos, docpos curpos))
let docpos = docpos 0
                                         The whole document starts at 0.
```

• Put the end position of the group into the group beginning marker, so that we can know whether to break it into multiple lines.

```
let rec grends grstack =
  Await (function
  | TE _ | LE _ as e ->
    (match grstack with
    | [] -> Yield (e, grends []) We can yield only when
    | gr::grs -> grends ((e::gr)::grs))
                                                 no group is waiting.
  | GBeg _ -> grends ([]::grstack)
                                        Wait for end of group.
  | GEnd endp ->
    match grstack with
                                         End the group on top of stack.
    | [] -> failwith "grends: unmatched group end marker"
    | [gr] ->
                                         Top group – we can yield now.
      yield_all
         (GBeg endp::List.rev (GEnd endp::gr))
        (grends [])
    | gr::par::grs ->
                                      Remember in parent group instead.
      let par = GEnd endp::gr @ [GBeg endp] @ par in
      grends (par::grs))
                                Could use catenable lists above.
```

• That's waiting too long! We can stop waiting when the width of a group exceeds line limit. GBeg will not store end of group when it is irrelevant.

```
let rec grends w grstack =
  let flush tail =
                                        When the stack exceeds width w,
    yield_all
                                          flush it – yield everything in it.
       (rev_concat_map ∼prep:(GBeg Too_far) snd grstack)
      tail in
                     Above: concatenate in rev. with prep before each part.
  Await (function
  | TE (curp, _) | LE curp as e ->
    (match grstack with Remember beginning of groups in the stack.
    | [] -> Yield (e, grends w [])
    | (begp, _)::_ when curp-begp > w ->
      flush (Yield (e, grends w []))
    | (begp, gr)::grs -> grends w ((begp, e::gr)::grs))
  | GBeg begp -> grends w ((begp, [])::grstack)
```

```
| GEnd endp as e ->
 match grstack with No longer fail when the stack is empty -
  [] -> Yield (e, grends w []) could have been flushed.
 | (begp, _)::_ when endp-begp > w ->
   flush (Yield (e, grends w []))
 | [_, gr] ->
                                            If width not exceeded,
   yield_all
                                       work as before optimization.
      (GBeg (Pos endp)::List.rev (GEnd endp::gr))
      (grends w [])
  | (_, gr)::(par_begp, par)::grs ->
   let par =
     GEnd endp::gr @ [GBeg (Pos endp)] @ par in
   grends w ((par_begp, par)::grs))
```

Initial stack is empty:

```
let grends w = grends w []
```

Finally we produce the resulting stream of strings.

• Put the pipes together:

Factorize format so that various line breaking styles can be plugged in.

```
let rec breaks w (inline, endlpos as st) =
  Await (function
  TE _ as e -> Yield (e, breaks w st)
  | LE p when List.hd inline ->
   Yield (TE (p, " "), breaks w st)
  | LE p as e -> Yield (e, breaks w (inline, p+w))
  | GBeg Too_far as e ->
   Yield (e, breaks w (false::inline, endlpos))
  | GBeg (Pos p) as e ->
    Yield (e, breaks w ((p<=endlpos)::inline, endlpos))</pre>
  | GEnd as e ->
    Yield (e, breaks w (List.tl inline, endlpos)))
let breaks w = breaks w ([false], w)
```

```
let rec emit =
   Await (function
   | TE (_, z) -> Yield (z, emit)
   | LE _ -> Yield ("n", emit)
   | GBeg _ | GEnd _ -> emit)

let pretty_print w doc =
   gen doc >-> docpos >-> grends w >-> breaks w >->
   emit >-> iterate print_string
```

#### Tests.

```
let (++) d1 d2 = Cat (d1, Cat (Line, d2))
let (!) s = Text s
let test_doc =
  Group (!"Document" ++
            Group (!"First part" ++ !"Second part"))
let print_e_doc pr_p pr_ep = function
  | TE (p,z) -> pr_p p; print_endline (": "^z)
  | LE p -> pr_p p; print_endline ": endline"
  | GBeg ep -> pr_ep ep; print_endline ": GBeg"
  | GEnd p -> pr_p p; print_endline ": GEnd"
let noop () = ()
let print_pos = function
  | Pos p -> print_int p
  | Too_far -> print_string "Too far"
let _ = gen test_doc >->
  iterate (print_e_doc noop noop)
let _ = gen test_doc >-> docpos >->
  iterate (print_e_doc print_int print_int)
let _ = gen test_doc >-> docpos >-> grends 20 >->
  iterate (print_e_doc print_int print_pos)
let _ = gen test_doc >-> docpos >-> grends 30 >->
  iterate (print_e_doc print_int print_pos)
let _ = gen test_doc >-> docpos >-> grends 60 >->
  iterate (print_e_doc print_int print_pos)
let _ = pretty_print 20 test_doc
let _ = pretty_print 30 test_doc
let _ = pretty_print 60 test_doc
```