

CHAPTER 10

BREAKING, TRACING, AND ADVISING

It is frequently useful to be able to modify the behavior of a function without actually editing its definition. Interlisp provides several different facilities for doing this. By “breaking” a function, the user can cause breaks to occur at various times in the running of an incomplete program, so that the program state can be inspected. “Tracing” a function causes information to be printed every time the function is entered or exited. These are very useful debugging tools.

“Advising” is a facility for specifying longer-term function modifications. Even system functions can be changed through advising.

10.1 BREAKING FUNCTIONS AND DEBUGGING

Debugging a collection of LISP functions involves isolating problems within particular functions and/or determining when and where incorrect data are being generated and transmitted. In the Interlisp system, there are three facilities which allow the user to (temporarily) modify selected function definitions so that he can follow the flow of control in his programs, and obtain this debugging information. All three redefine functions in terms of a system function, `BREAK1` (see page 9.11).

`BREAK` modifies the definition of a function `FN`, so that whenever `FN` is called and a break condition (defined by the user) is satisfied, a function break occurs. The user can then interrogate the state of the machine, perform any computation, and continue or return from the call.

`TRACE` modifies a definition of a function `FN` so that whenever `FN` is called, its arguments (or some other values specified by the user) are printed. When the value of `FN` is computed it is printed also. (`TRACE` is a special case of `BREAK`).

`BREAKIN` allows the user to insert a breakpoint *inside* an expression defining a function. When the breakpoint is reached and if a break condition (defined by the user) is satisfied, a temporary halt occurs and the user can again investigate the state of the computation.

The following two examples illustrate these facilities. In the first example, the user traces the function `FACTORIAL`. `TRACE` redefines `FACTORIAL` so that it print its arguments and value, and then goes on with the computation. When an error occurs on the fifth recursion, a full interactive break occurs. The situation is then the same as though the user had originally performed `BREAK(FACTORIAL)` instead of `TRACE(FACTORIAL)`, and the user can evaluate various Interlisp forms and direct the course of the computation. In this case, the user examines the variable `N`, and instructs `BREAK1` to return 1 as the value of this cell to `FACTORIAL`. The rest of the tracing proceeds without incident. The user would then presumably edit `FACTORIAL` to change `L` to 1.

```
_PP FACTORIAL
```

```
(FACTORIAL
```

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```
[LAMBDA (N)
  (COND
    ((ZEROP N
      L)
     (T (ITIMES N (FACTORIAL (SUB1 N]))
    )
  )
FACTORIAL
_TRACE(FACTORIAL)
(FACTORIAL)
_FACTORIAL(4)
```

```
FACTORIAL:
N = 4
```

```
FACTORIAL:
N = 3
```

```
FACTORIAL:
N = 2
```

```
FACTORIAL:
N = 1
```

```
FACTORIAL:
N = 0
```

```
U.B.A.
L
(FACTORIAL BROKEN)
:N
0
:RETURN 1
          FACTORIAL = 1
        FACTORIAL = 1
      FACTORIAL = 2
    FACTORIAL = 6
  FACTORIAL = 24
24
```

—

In the second example, the user has constructed a non-recursive definition of FACTORIAL. He uses BREAKIN to insert a call to BREAK1 just after the PROG label LOOP. This break is to occur only on the last two iterations, when N is less than 2. When the break occurs, the user tries to look at the value of N, but mistakenly types NN. The break is maintained, however, and no damage is done. After examining N and M the user allows the computation to continue by typing OK. A second break occurs after the next iteration, this time with N= 0. When this break is released, the function FACTORIAL returns its value of 120.

```
_PP FACTORIAL
(FACTORIAL
  [LAMBDA (N)
```

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```

(PROG ((M 1))
  LOOP (COND
    ((ZEROP N)
      (RETURN M)))
    (SETQ M (ITIMES M N))
    (SETQ N (SUB1 N))
    (GO LOOP])
FACTORIAL
_BREAKIN(FACTORIAL (AFTER LOOP) (ILESSP N 2]
SEARCHING...
FACTORIAL
_FACTORIAL(5)

((FACTORIAL) BROKEN)
:NN
U.B.A.
NN
(FACTORIAL BROKEN AFTER LOOP)
:N
1
:M
120
:OK
(FACTORIAL)

((FACTORIAL) BROKEN)
:N
0
:OK
(FACTORIAL)
120
—

```

Note: BREAK and TRACE can also be used on CLISP words which appear as CAR of form, e.g. FETCH, REPLACE, IF, FOR, DO, etc., even though these are not implemented as functions. For conditional breaking, the user can refer to the entire expression via the variable EXP, e.g. BREAK ((FOR (MEMB 'UNTIL EXP))).

```

(BREAK0 FN WHEN COMS _ _ ) [Function]
Sets up a break on the function FN; returns FN. If FN is not defined, returns (FN NOT DEFINED).

```

BREAK0 redefines FN as a call to BREAK1 (page 9.11), with an equivalent definition of FN as BRKEXP, and WHEN, FN, COMS as BRKWHEN, BRKFN, BRKCOMS. Puts a GENSYM defined with the original definition of FN on the property list of FN under the property BROKEN. Puts (BREAK0 WHEN COMS) on the property list of FN under the property BRKINFO (for use in conjunction with REBREAK). Adds FN to the front of the list BROKENFNNS.

If FN is non-atomic and of the form (FN1 IN FN2), BREAK0 breaks every call

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to `FN1` from within `FN2`. This is useful for breaking on a function that is called from many places, but where one is only interested in the call from a specific function, e.g., `(RPLACA IN FOO)`, `(PRINT IN FIE)`, etc. It is similar to `BREAKIN` described below, but can be performed even when `FN2` is compiled or blockcompiled, whereas `BREAKIN` only works on interpreted functions. If `FN1` is not found in `FN2`, `BREAK0` returns the value `(FN1 NOT FOUND IN FN2)`.

`BREAK0` breaks one function *inside* another by first calling a function which changes the name of `FN1` wherever it appears inside of `FN2` to that of a new function, `FN1-IN-FN2`, which is initially given the same function definition as `FN1`. Then `BREAK0` proceeds to break on `FN1-IN-FN2` exactly as described above. In addition to breaking `FN1-IN-FN2` and adding `FN1-IN-FN2` to the list `BROKENFNs`, `BREAK0` adds `FN1` to the property value for the property `NAMESCHANGED` on the property list of `FN2` and puts `(FN2 . FN1)` on the property list of `FN1-IN-FN2` under the property `ALIAS`. This will enable `UNBREAK` to recognize what changes have been made and restore the function `FN2` to its original state.

If `FN` is nonatomic and not of the above form, `BREAK0` is called for each member of `FN` using the same values for `WHEN`, `COMS`, and `FILE`. This distributivity permits the user to specify complicated break conditions on several functions. For example,

```
(BREAK0 '(FOO1 ((PRINT PRIN1) IN (FOO2 FOO3)))
        '(NEQ X T)
        '(EVAL ?= (Y Z) OK) )
```

will break on `FOO1`, `PRINT-IN-FOO2`, `PRINT-IN-FOO3`, `PRIN1-IN-FOO2` and `PRIN1-IN-FOO3`.

If `FN` is non-atomic, the value of `BREAK0` is a list of the functions broken.

`(BREAK X)`

[NLambda NoSpread Function]

Nlambda nospread function. For each atomic argument, it performs `(BREAK0 ATOM T)`. For each list, it performs `(APPLY 'BREAK0 LIST)`. For example, `(BREAK FOO1 (FOO2 (GREATERP N 5) (EVAL)))` is equivalent to `(BREAK0 'FOO1 T)` and `(BREAK0 'FOO2 '(GREATERP N 5) '(EVAL))`.

`(TRACE X)`

[NLambda NoSpread Function]

Nlambda nospread function. For each atomic argument, it performs `(BREAK0 ATOM T '(TRACE ?= NIL GO))`¹

For each list argument, `CAR` is the function to be traced, and `CDR` the forms the user wishes to see, i.e., `TRACE` performs:

```
(BREAK0 (CAR LIST) T (LIST 'TRACE '?(= (CDR LIST) 'GO))
```

For example, `(TRACE FOO1 (FOO2 Y))` will cause both `FOO1` and `FOO2` to be traced. All the arguments of `FOO1` will be printed; only the value of `Y` will be printed for `FOO2`. In the special case that the user wants to see *only* the value,

¹The flag `TRACE` is checked for in `BREAK1` and causes the message `'FUNCTION :'` to be printed instead of `(FUNCTION BROKEN)`.

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he can perform (TRACE (FUNCTION)). This sets up a break with commands (TRACE ?= (NIL) GO).

Note: the user can always call BREAK0 himself to obtain combination of options of BREAK1 not directly available with BREAK and TRACE. These two functions merely provide convenient ways of calling BREAK0, and will serve for most uses.

(BREAKIN FN WHERE WHEN COMS) [NLambda Function]
BREAKIN is an nlambda function. WHEN and COMS are similar to WHEN and COMS for BREAK0, except that if WHEN is NIL, T is used. WHERE specifies where in the definition of FN the call to BREAK1 is to be inserted (see below).

If FN is a compiled function, BREAKIN returns (FN UNBREAKABLE) as its value.

If FN is interpreted, BREAKIN types SEARCHING... while it calls the editor. If the location specified by WHERE is not found, BREAKIN types (NOT FOUND) and exits. If it is found, BREAKIN puts T under the property BROKEN-IN and (WHERE WHEN COMS) under the the property BRKINFO on the property list of FN, and adds FN to the front of the list BROKENFNFS.

Multiple break points, can be inserted with a single call to BREAKIN by using a list of the form ((BEFORE) (AROUND)) for WHERE. It is also possible to call BREAK or TRACE on a function which has been modified by BREAKIN, and conversely to BREAKIN a function which has been redefined by a call to BREAK or TRACE.

BREAKIN enables the user to insert a break, i.e., a call to BREAK1, at a specified location in an interpreted function. For example, if FOO calls FIE, inserting a break in FOO before the call to FIE is similar to breaking FIE. However, BREAKIN can be used to insert breaks before or after PROG labels, particular SETQ expressions, or even the evaluation of a variable. This is because BREAKIN operates by calling the editor and actually inserting a call to BREAK1 at a specified point *inside* of the function.

The user specifies where the break is to be inserted by a sequence of editor commands. These commands are preceded by BEFORE, AFTER, or AROUND, which BREAKIN uses to determine what to do once the editor has found the specified point, i.e., put the call to BREAK1 BEFORE that point, AFTER that point, or AROUND that point. For example, (BEFORE COND) will insert a break before the first occurrence of COND, (AFTER COND 2 1) will insert a break after the predicate in the first COND clause, (AFTER BF (SETQ X &)) after the *last* place X is set. Note that (BEFORE TTY:) or (AFTER TTY:) permit the user to type in commands to the editor, locate the correct point, and verify it for himself using the P command if he desires, and exit from the editor with OK.² BREAKIN then inserts the break BEFORE, AFTER, or AROUND that point.

For BREAKIN BEFORE or AFTER, the break expression is NIL, since the value of the break is irrelevant. For breakin AROUND, the break expression will be the indicated form. In this case, the user can use the EVAL command to evaluate that form, and examine its value, before allowing the computation to proceed. For example, if the user inserted a break after a COND predicate, e.g., (AFTER (EQUAL X Y)), he would be powerless to alter the flow of computation if the predicate were not true, since the break would

²A STOP command typed to TTY: produces the same effect as an unsuccessful edit command in the original specification, e.g., (BEFORE CONDD). In both cases, the editor aborts, and BREAKIN types (NOT FOUND).

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not be reached. However, by breaking `(AROUND (EQUAL X Y))`, he can evaluate the break expression, i.e., `(EQUAL X Y)`, look at its value, and return something else if he wished.

The message typed for a `BREAKIN` break, is `((FN) BROKEN)`, where `FN` is the name of the function inside of which the break was inserted. Any error, or typing control-E, will cause the full identifying message to be printed, e.g., `(FOO BROKEN AFTER COND 2 1)`.

A special check is made to avoid inserting a break inside of an expression headed by any member of the list `NOBREAKS`, initialized to `(GO QUOTE *)`, since this break would never be activated. For example, if `(GO L)` appears before the label `L`, `BREAKIN (AFTER L)` will not insert the break inside of the `GO` expression, but skip this occurrence of `L` and go on to the next `L`, in this case the label `L`. Similarly, for `BEFORE` or `AFTER` breaks, `BREAKIN` checks to make sure that the break is being inserted at a “safe” place. For example, if the user requests a break `(AFTER X)` in `(PROG (SETQ X &))`, the break will actually be inserted `AFTER (SETQ X &)`, and a message printed to this effect, e.g., `BREAK INSERTED AFTER (SETQ X &)`.

`(UNBREAK X)` [NLambda NoSpread Function]
Nlambda nospread function. It takes an indefinite number of functions modified by `BREAK`, `TRACE`, or `BREAKIN` and restores them to their original state by calling `UNBREAK0`. Returns list of values of `UNBREAK0`.

`(UNBREAK)` will unbreak all functions on `BROKENFNs`, in reverse order. It resets `BRKINFOLST` to `NIL`.

`(UNBREAK T)` unbreaks just the first function on `BROKENFNs`, i.e., the most recently broken function.

`(UNBREAK0 FN _)` [Function]
Restores `FN` to its original state. If `FN` was not broken, value is `(NOT BROKEN)` and no changes are made. If `FN` was modified by `BREAKIN`, `UNBREAKIN` is called to edit it back to its original state. If `FN` was created from `(FN1 IN FN2)`, (i.e., if it has a property `ALIAS`), the function in which `FN` appears is restored to its original state. All dummy functions that were created by the break are eliminated. Adds property value of `BRKINFO` to (front of) `BRKINFOLST`.

Note: `(UNBREAK0 '(FN1 IN FN2))` is allowed: `UNBREAK0` will operate on `(FN1 -IN-FN2)` instead.

`(UNBREAKIN FN)` [Function]
Performs the appropriate editing operations to eliminate all changes made by `BREAKIN`. `FN` may be either the name or definition of a function. Value is `FN`. `UNBREAKIN` is automatically called by `UNBREAK` if `FN` has property `BROKEN-IN` with value `T` on its property list.

`(REBREAK X)` [NLambda NoSpread Function]
Nlambda nospread function for rebreaking functions that were previously broken without having to respecify the break information. For each function on `x`, `REBREAK` searches `BRKINFOLST` for break(s) and performs the corresponding operation. Value is a list of values corresponding to calls to `BREAK0` or `BREAKIN`. If no information is found for a particular function, returns `(FN - NO BREAK`

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INFORMATION SAVED).

(REBREAK) rebreaks everything on BRKINFOLST, so (REBREAK) is the inverse of (UNBREAK).

(REBREAK T) rebreaks just the rst break on BRKINFOLST, i.e., the function most recently unbroken.

(CHANGENAME FN FROM TO) [Function]
Changes all occurrences of FROM to TO in FN. FN may be compiled or blockcompiled. Value is FN if FROM was found, otherwise NIL. Does not perform any modifications of property lists. Note that FROM and TO do not have to be functions, e.g., they can be names of variables, or any other literals.

(VIRGINFN FN FLG) [Function]
The function that knows how to restore functions to their original state regardless of any amount of breaks, breakins, advising, compiling and saving exprs, etc. It is used by PRETTYPRINT, DEFINE, and the compiler. If FLG= NIL, as for PRETTYPRINT, it does not modify the definition of FN in the process of producing a “clean” version of the definition; it works on a copy. If FLG= T, as for the compiler and DEFINE, it physically restores the function to its original state, and prints the changes it is making, e.g., FOO UNBROKEN, FOO UNADVISED, FOO NAMES RESTORED, etc. Returns the virgin function definition.

10.2 ADVISING

The operation of advising gives the user a way of modifying a function without necessarily knowing how the function works or even what it does. Advising consists of modifying the *interface* between functions as opposed to modifying the function definition itself, as in editing. BREAK, TRACE, and BREAKDOWN, are examples of the use of this technique: they each modify user functions by placing relevant computations *between* the function and the rest of the programming environment.

The principal advantage of advising, aside from its convenience, is that it allows the user to treat functions, his or someone else's, as “black boxes,” and to modify them without concern for their contents or details of operations. For example, the user could modify SYSOUT to set SYSDATE to the time and date of creation by (ADVISE 'SYSOUT '(SETQ SYSDATE (DATE))).

As with BREAK, advising works equally well on compiled and interpreted functions. Similarly, it is possible to effect a modification which only operates when a function is called from some other specified function, i.e., to modify the interface between two particular functions, instead of the interface between one function and the rest of the world. This latter feature is especially useful for changing the *internal* workings of a system function.

For example, suppose the user wanted TIME (page 14.14) to print the results of his measurements to the teletype instead of the teletype. He could accomplish this by (ADVISE '((PRIN1 PRINT SPACES) IN TIME) 'BEFORE '(SETQ U FOO))

Note that advising PRIN1, PRINT, or SPACES directly would have affected all calls to these very frequently used function, whereas advising ((PRIN1 PRINT SPACES) IN TIME) affects just those

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10.2.2 Advise Functions

ADVISE is a function of four arguments: `FN`, `WHEN`, `WHERE`, and `WHAT`. `FN` is the function to be modified by advising, `WHAT` is the modification, or piece of advice. `WHEN` is either `BEFORE`, `AFTER`, or `AROUND`, and indicates whether the advice is to operate `BEFORE`, `AFTER`, or `AROUND` the body of the function definition. `WHERE` specifies exactly where in the list of advice the new advice is to be placed, e.g., `FIRST`, or `(BEFORE PRINT)` meaning before the advice containing `PRINT`, or `(AFTER 3)` meaning after the third piece of advice, or even `(: TTY:)`. If `WHERE` is specified, `ADVISE` first checks to see if it is one of `LAST`, `BOTTOM`, `END`, `FIRST`, or `TOP`, and operates accordingly. Otherwise, it constructs an appropriate edit command and calls the editor to insert the advice at the corresponding location.

Both `WHEN` and `WHERE` are optional arguments, in the sense that they can be omitted in the call to `ADVISE`. In other words, `ADVISE` can be thought of as a function of two arguments (`ADVISE FN WHAT`), or a function of three arguments: (`ADVISE FN WHEN WHAT`), or a function of four arguments: (`ADVISE FN WHEN WHERE WHAT`). Note that the advice is always the *last* argument. If `WHEN = NIL`, `BEFORE` is used. If `WHERE = NIL`, `LAST` is used.

(ADVISE FN WHEN WHERE WHAT) [Function]
`FN` is the function to be advised, `WHEN = BEFORE`, `AFTER`, or `AROUND`, `WHERE` specifies where in the advice list the advice is to be inserted, and `WHAT` is the piece of advice.

If `FN` is of the form `(FN1 IN FN2)`, `FN1` is changed to `FN1-IN-FN2` throughout `FN2`, as with `break`, and then `FN1-IN-FN2` is used in place of `FN`. If `FN1` and/or `FN2` are lists, they are distributed as with `BREAK0`, page 10.3.

If `FN` is broken, it is unbroken before advising.

If `FN` is not defined, an error is generated, `NOT A FUNCTION`.

If `FN` is being advised for the first time, i.e., if `(GETP FN 'ADVISED) = NIL`, a `GENSYM` is generated and stored on the property list of `FN` under the property `ADVISED`, and the `GENSYM` is defined with the original definition of `FN`. An appropriate `S-expression` definition is then created for `FN`.⁵ Finally, `FN` is added to the (front of) `ADVISEDFNs`, so that `(UNADVISE T)` always unadvises the last function advised (see page 10.10).

If `FN` has been advised before, it is moved to the front of `ADVISEDFNs`.

If `WHEN = BEFORE` or `AFTER`, the advice is inserted in `FN`'s definition either `BEFORE` or `AFTER` the original body of the function. Within that context, its position is determined by `WHERE`. If `WHERE = LAST`, `BOTTOM`, `END`, or `NIL`, the advice is added following all other advice, if any. If `WHERE = FIRST` or `TOP`, the advice is inserted as the first piece of advice. Otherwise, `WHERE` is treated as a command for the editor, similar to `BREAKIN`, e.g., `(BEFORE 3)`, `(AFTER PRINT)`.

⁵Using private versions of `PROG`, `SETQ`, and `RETURN`, so that these functions can also be advised.

Advise Functions

If `WHEN = AROUND`, the body is substituted for `*` in the advice, and the result becomes the new body, e.g., `(ADVISE 'FOO 'AROUND '(RESETFORM (OUTPUT T) *))`. Note that if several pieces of `AROUND` advice are specified, earlier ones will be embedded inside later ones. The value of `WHERE` is ignored.

Finally `(LIST WHEN WHERE WHAT)` is added (by `ADDPROP`) to the value of property `ADVICE` on the property list of `FN`, so that a record of all the changes is available for subsequent use in readvising. Note that this property value is a list of the advice in order of calls to `ADVISE`, not necessarily in order of appearance of the advice in the definition of `FN`.

The value of `ADVISE` is `FN`.

If `FN` is non-atomic, every function in `FN` is advised with the same values (but copies) for `WHEN`, `WHERE`, and `WHAT`. In this case, `ADVISE` returns a list of individual functions.

Note: advised functions can be broken. However if a function is broken at the time it is advised, it is `rst` unbroken. Similarly, advised functions can be edited, including their advice. `UNADVISE` will still restore the function to its unadvised state, but any changes to the body of the definition will survive. Since the advice stored on the property list is the same structure as the advice inserted in the function, editing of advice can be performed on either the function's definition or its property list.

`(UNADVISE x)`

[NLambda NoSpread Function]

An `nlambda nospread` like `UNBREAK`. It takes an indefinite number of functions and restores them to their original unadvised state, including removing the properties added by `ADVISE`. `UNADVISE` saves on the list `ADVINFOLST` enough information to allow restoring a function to its advised state using `READWISE`. `ADVINFOLST` and `READWISE` thus correspond to `BRKINFOLST` and `REBREAK`. If a function contains the property `READVICE`, `UNADVISE` moves the current value of the property `ADVICE` to `READVICE`.

`(UNADVISE)` unadvise all functions on `ADVISEDFN`s in reverse order, so that the most recently advised function is unadvised last. It `rst` sets `ADVINFOLST` to `NIL`.

`(UNADVISE T)` unadvise the `rst` function of `ADVISEDFN`s, i.e., the most recently advised function.

`(READWISE x)`

[NLambda NoSpread Function]

An `nlambda nospread` like `REBREAK` for restoring a function to its advised state without having to specify all the advise information. For each function on `x`, `READWISE` retrieves the advise information either from the property `READVICE` for that function, or from `ADVINFOLST`, and performs the corresponding advise operation(s). In addition it stores this information on the property `READVICE` if not already there. If no information is found for a particular function, value is `(FN - NO ADVICE SAVED)`.

`(READWISE)` readvise everything on `ADVINFOLST`.

`(READWISE T)` readvise the `rst` function on `ADVINFOLST`, i.e., the function most recently unadvised.

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A difference between `ADVISE`, `UNADVISE`, and `READVICE` versus `BREAK`, `UNBREAK`, and `REBREAK`, is that if a function is not rebroken between successive `(UNBREAK)`'s, its break information is forgotten. However, once `READVICE` is called on a function, that function's advice is permanently saved on its property list (under `READVICE`); subsequent calls to `UNADVISE` will not remove it. In fact, calls to `UNADVISE` update the property `READVICE` with the current value of the property `ADVISE`, so that the sequence `READVICE`, `ADVISE`, `UNADVISE` causes the augmented advice to become permanent. Note that the sequence `READVICE`, `ADVISE`, `READVICE` removes the "intermediate advice" by restoring the function to its earlier state.

`(ADVISEDUMP X FLG)`

[Function]

Used by `PRETTYDEF` when given a command of the form `(ADVISE)` or `(ADVISE)`. If `FLG = T`, `ADVISEDUMP` writes both a `DEFLIST` and a `READVICE` (this corresponds to `(ADVISE)`). If `FLG = NIL`, only the `DEFLIST` is written (this corresponds to `(ADVISE)`). In either case, `ADVISEDUMP` copies the advise information to the property `READVICE`, thereby making it "permanent" as described above.

Advise Functions