

**ABTCP 2015**

48º CONGRESSO E EXPOSIÇÃO  
INTERNACIONAL DE CELULOSE E PAPEL

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1ª CONFERÊNCIA IBEROAMERICANA SOBRE BIOECONOMIA



# HOW BRAZILIAN PULP MILLS WILL LOOK LIKE IN THE FUTURE?



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REALIZAÇÃO



CORREALIZAÇÃO





## A challenging project

Imagine you were recently hired by a major pulp company and you are given the following project:

***“How our pulp mills will look like in the future?”***

**A guideline for future investments**

*(to be delivered to our C-level managers)*

### Current scenario:

- Modern kraft pulp mills
- Bleached eucalyptus market pulp
- Fiber lines with production capacity ranging from 1 to 1.5 MM adt/yr
- Operational excellence in forest, manufacturing, and logistics activities
- High energy/environmental efficiency - very competitive cash cost
- **Today biorefinery is an additional opportunity for a growing eucalyptus pulp industry**



# Structuring the project

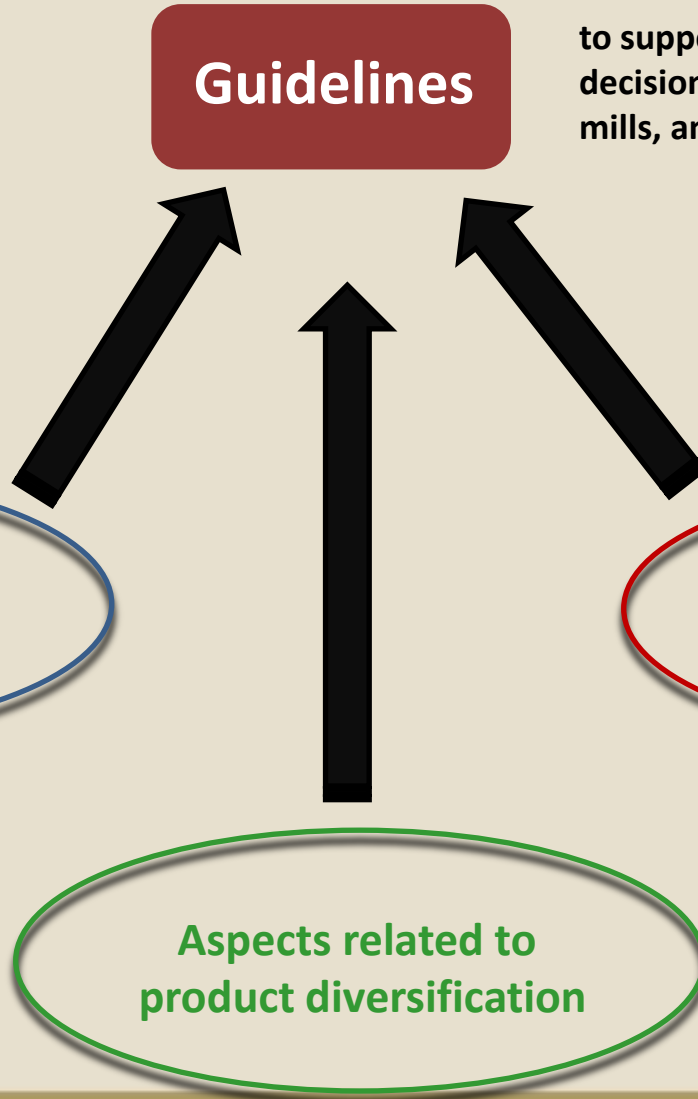
**Guidelines**

to support informed and systematic decisions about the design of future mills, and retrofit of existing ones.

Major trends in the  
Brazilian pulp industry

Power generation  
vs  
New products

Aspects related to  
product diversification

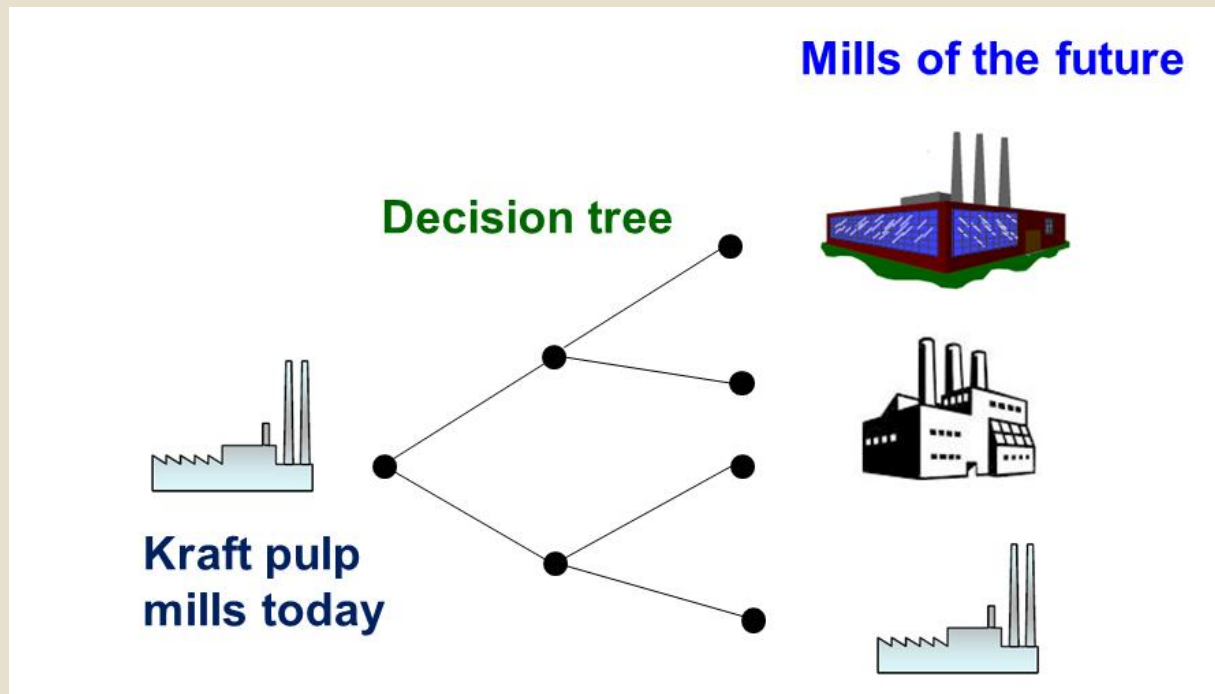




# Structuring the project

## Definition of the main line of reasoning

A sequence of strategic decisions will lead to different types of mills in the future



Leading to an open-ended response to the project question



# 1 – Identification of trending changes in pulp mills

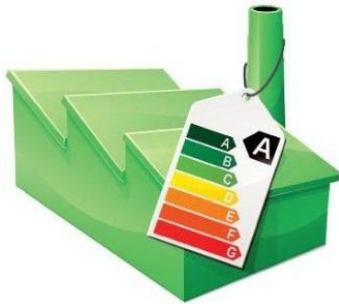
Long-term competitiveness

Corporation growth and business expansion

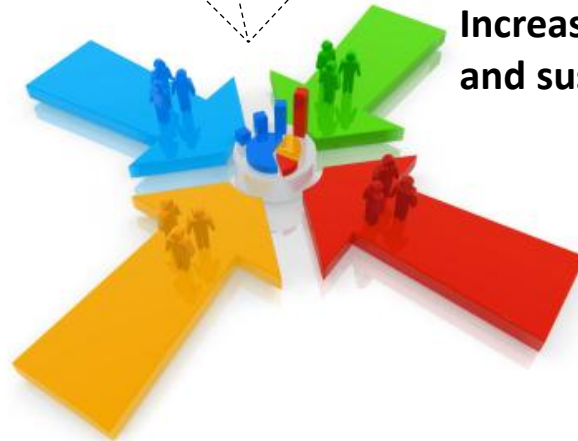
Environmental sustainability



Increasing forest productivity and sustainability



Energy efficiency



New products and technologies



Increased value from by-products and residues





## 2 - Main strategic decisions: (a) Which product(s)?

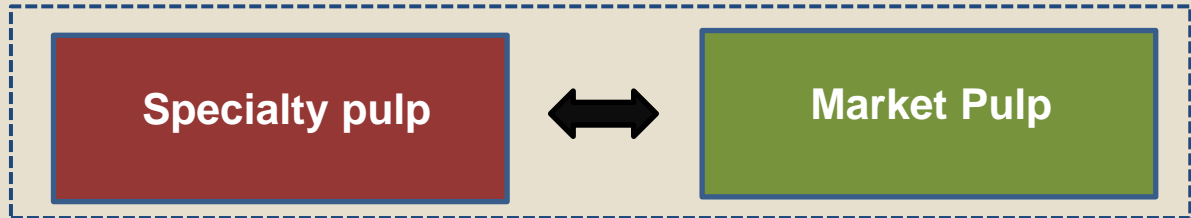
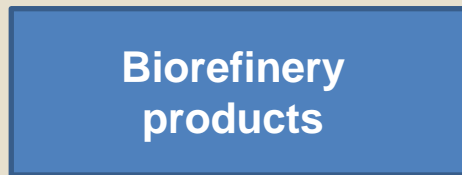
- New business model
- Revenues diversification
- Corporate transformation



- Commodity thinking (competition by scale and not differentiation)
- Risk aversion

**“New businesses”**

**“Business as usual”**



- Progress ratio of technological learning curves
- Cost reductions (including cost of capital)

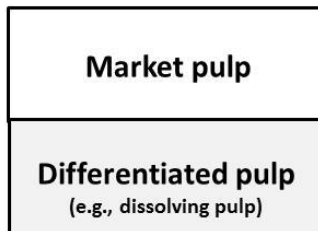
- Evolution of emerging markets
- Government incentives



## 2 - Main strategic decisions: (b) Cogeneration vs biorefinery

### *Different drivers to increase energy efficiency*

#### Mill model: “business as usual”



#### drivers



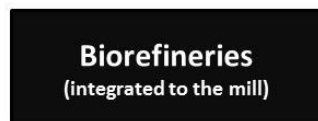
- Increase of selling of power to the grid
- Reduction of cash cost
- Energy self-sufficiency including substitution of fossil fuels (reduction of GHG emissions)

**In 2013, Fibria:**

**30 MW to the grid  
6 USD/adt**

**~ 5.3 MM adt/yr**

#### Mill model: “new businesses”



#### drivers



- Increase of surplus biomass to the biorefinery
- More steam available for the biorefinery (steam availability is an important design constraint)
- Reduction of cash cost and GHG emissions

### Lignin

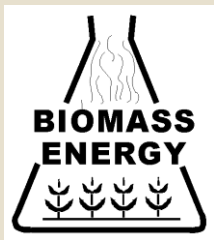
U.S. electricity grid mixture → 0.78 kgCO<sub>2</sub>-eq/kWh

Brazilian electricity grid → 0.096 kgCO<sub>2</sub>-eq/kWh

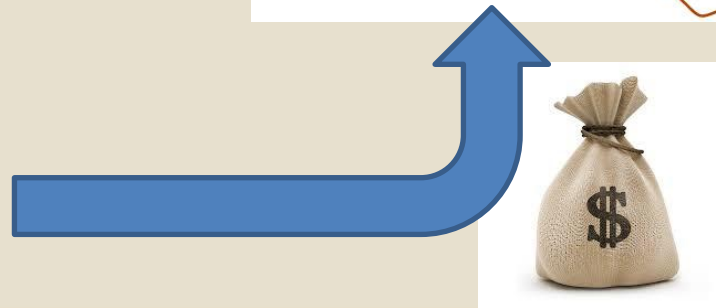
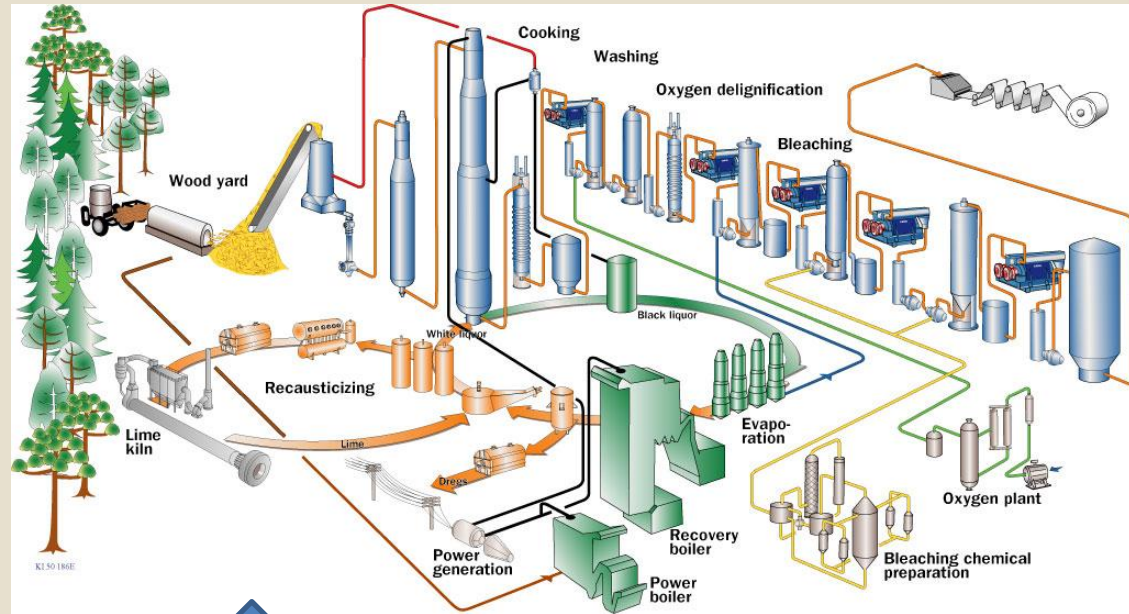


## 2 - Main strategic decisions:

(c) Which biorefinery strategy? *(if biorefinery is the case!)*



**Biorefineries**

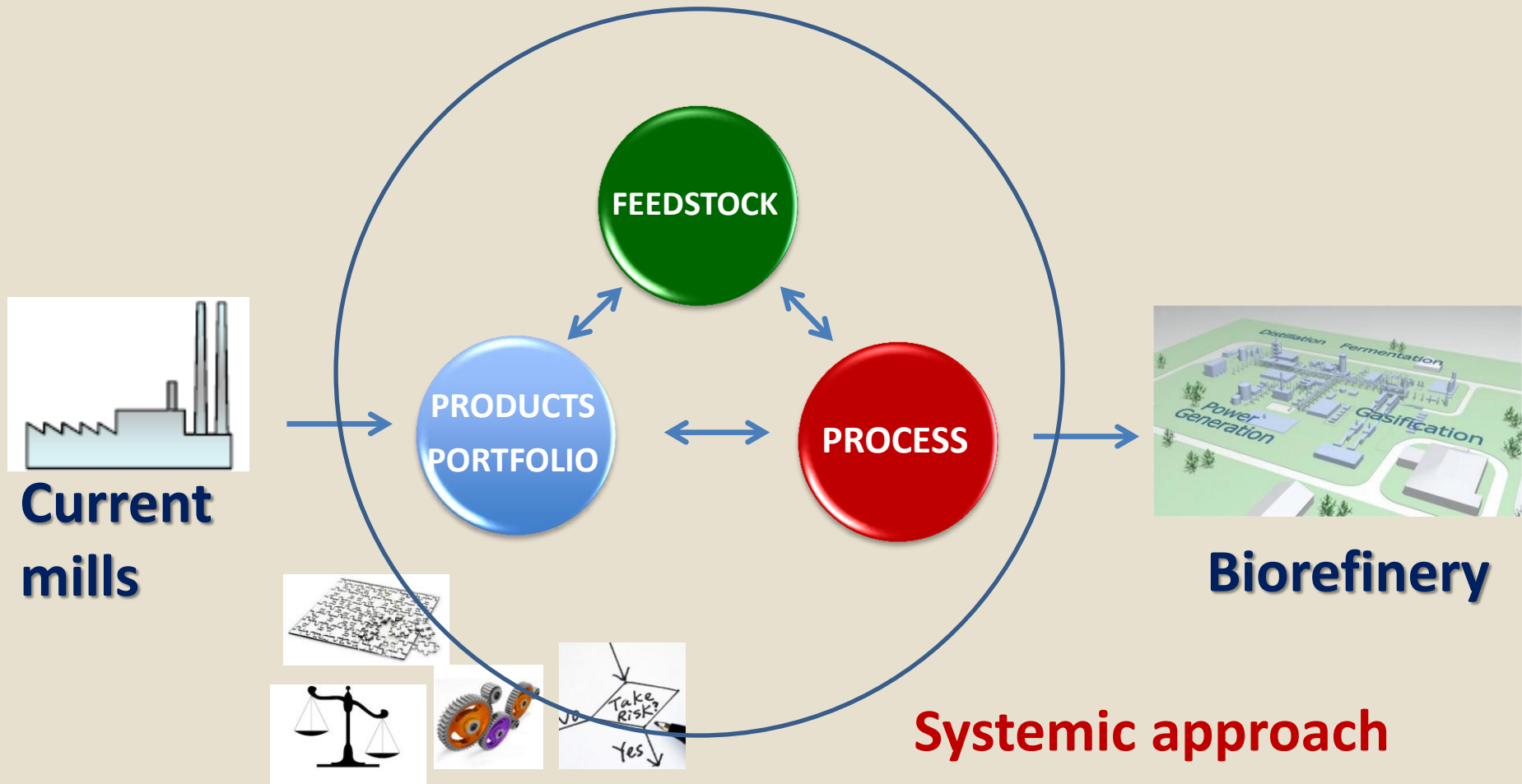






## 2 - Main strategic decisions:

(c) Which biorefinery strategy? *(if biorefinery is the case!)*





## Design of the product portfolio

### Biofuels

- commodity
- high volumes
- competitiveness by cost reduction

### Chemicals and specialties

- Value-added / smaller markets
- Lower volumes
- Competitiveness given by functionality and cost

**value-added / commodity mix**

Technology strategy serving a bold business strategy

**Technologies / process design**

**Design constraints**

- **Feedstock type and availability**
- **Capital integration / reduction of cash cost of core business**
- **Power and steam demand**
- **Waste water treatment unit**

**PRODUCT PORTFOLIO**



**Technology**



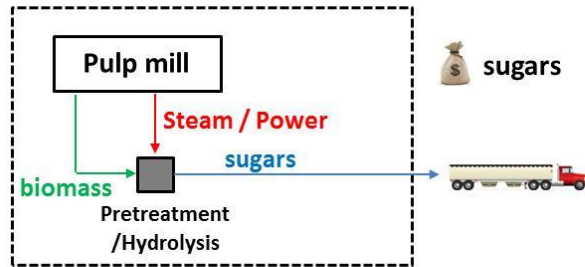
**Integration**



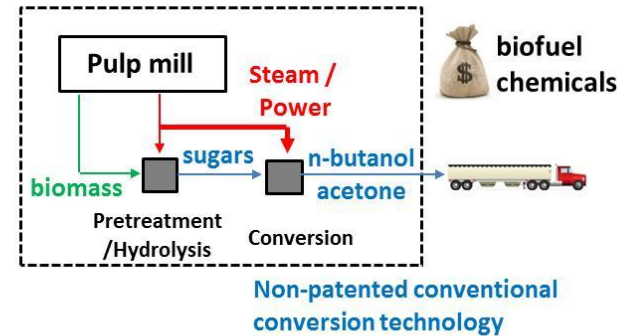


## Business models and energy demand from the host mill

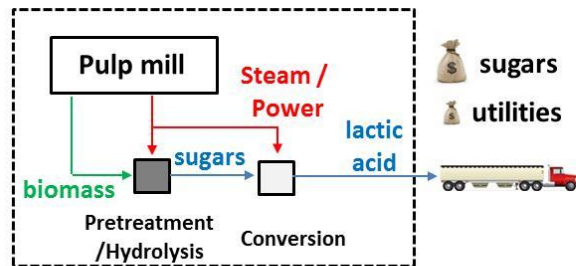
(1) Supplier of lignocelulosic sugars to off-site customers



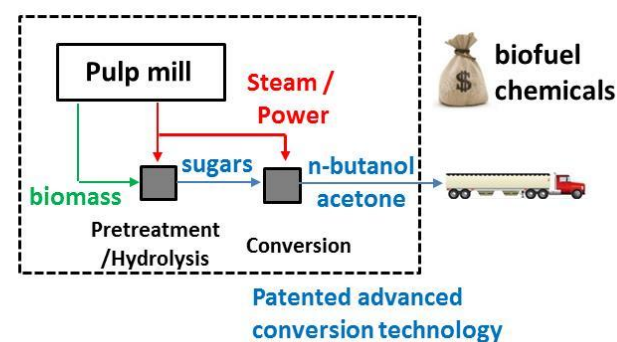
(3) Producer of biofuel/chemicals



(2) Supplier of lignocelulosic sugars to either an on-site or over-the-fence customer (conversion)



(4) Producer of biofuel/chemicals (technology licensee)



Adjust IRR in case energy demand cannot be met by the host mill

Increased technology risk



## 2 - Main strategic decisions:

### (d) How are we going to create value from by-products and residues?

#### Internal use

vs.

#### New product

- Energy generation
- Substitution of fossil fuels  
(reduction on GHG emissions)
- Zero market risk
- Generally, lower ROI
- Reduction of cash cost (core business)  
in the short term

- New business
- Market risk
- Revenues diversification
- Likely limited economies of scale
- Generally, better ROI
- Reduction of cash cost (core business)  
in the mid term



## Systematic design methodology to create a guideline for future investments

### Step 1: Basis for the synthesis of potential solutions

- (a) Identification of trending changes in pulp mills
- (b) Definition of the main line of reasoning

### Step 2: Synthesis of potential solutions: main strategic decisions

- (a) Which product(s)?
- (b) Cogeneration vs biorefinery
- (c) Which biorefinery strategy?
- (d) How are we going to create value from by-products and residues?

### Step 3: Analysis and Screening

- (a) Possible technology-product alternatives and their expected development through the coming years
- (b) Critical criteria to be used to eliminate alternatives





## Take-home messages

1. **Rupture** from a design with exclusive focus on market pulp and cogeneration may bring additional value for eucalyptus forests and support sustainable business expansions (in both feedstock and product ends)

**Rupture (2):** the capacity of a company to evolve from the traditional commodity thinking will be a key business success factor

2. **Success rate** is expected to increase if in the synthesis phase of the design process, priority is given to the definition of candidate product portfolios and implicated business model options
3. **Technological solutions** available for a given product portfolio should be assessed according to their risks and potential integration issues with the host pulp mill, especially the availability and demand of energy



## Complete study available in:

ARTIGO TÉCNICO / TECHNICAL ARTICLE

O PAPEL vol. 76, num. 6, pp. 55 - 61 JUN 2015

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