Title: Short position expiration - ELI5

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I've asked this a few times before but how is it possible to hold a short position as large as the HFs do for such a long time?

Let's assume that the HFs shorted GME at \$8 per share in January 2021. It's now at \$140ish per share today but has been bouncing between \$100-200 for months. Give or take some peaks and troughs.

It's now 2022. At what point do they HAVE to buy back the shares? Other than a margin call.

Can they technically hold their short positions forever?

Why wouldn't a 2,000% increase in price of GME force them to be margin called? Maybe margin called is not the correct term...

I just don't understand why they are allowed to continue holding a short position on GameStop which they are exponentially underwater.

Can someone ELI5 this for me?

Could they technically retain their short positions for 10 years? 50 years?

Eventually a lot of companies will go under as time goes on. If that's the case why not short a company and hold the short position for 20+ years until their products/services are longer relevant and they have to close their doors.