NEWS LETTER
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Crossfire extended with new message waiving tool

The message waiving tool is a powerful new extension to Crossfire.

It is possible to create message filters based on the message id and variables. Activating a "waive" is done either from the GUI or command-line.

Waived messages are still available in order to keep a complete view on the test quality.

Figure 1: GUI for waiving rule creation

New checks and features in Crossfire

- Check defined units in .lib file
- Check for illegal pins
- Check for matrix size of tables
- Run a subset of checks from an existing setup
- Set parameters for checks via command line
- Updated liberty parser
- Spice parser speed up for IP validation
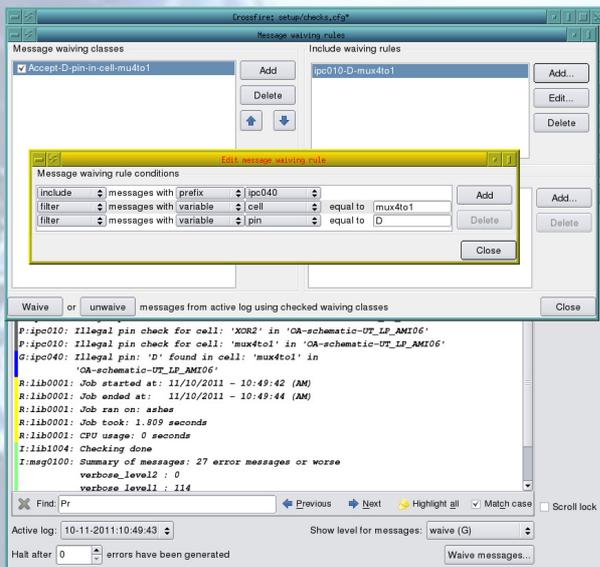- Automatically add new formats to relevant checks from GUI

Crossfire used in design flow

A powerful usage model of Crossfire is its usage as a design tool.

An example of this is the possibility of continuously checking the progress and correctness of a (re)characterization. A previously checked and correct PVT corner is promoted to be the "Golden reference" Every new characterised process corner can easily be compared with this reference. The reference can both be used as a placeholder for all necessary arcs and as a comparison for the exact delay numbers.

Crossfire will allow to quickly configure such a check.
Using crossfire like this will save a lot of effort to create the new .lib file.

Users have indicated that this style of usage can save weeks of design time.

About Crossfire

Crossfire reports mismatches or modelling errors for Libraries and IP which can seriously delay an IC design project.

Library and IP integrity checking has become a mandatory step for a "state of the art" deep submicron design:
- The sheer number of different views
- The complexity of the views (ECSM, CCS)
- The loss of valuable design time
- Time to market
- …

Crossfire helps CAD teams and IC designers in achieving a high quality of design data in a short time.

Crossfire assures that the information represented across the various views is consistent and does not contain anomalies.

Crossfire usability features
- Graphical setup creation & run environment as well as batch runs
- Powerful hierarchical configuration language supporting macro functions
- Graphical debugging (message > double click > open relevant views)
- Graphical output filtering (zoom in on cells/formats/error-types)
- Automatic setup feature

Crossfire integration features
- API for creating database independent checks, available in: Perl, Tcl and Python
- Existing customer validation scripts can be integrated
- Visualisation messages/results from customer scripts (double click opens message)

Crossfire Interview
- Visualization and browsing of database contents
- Opens e.g. LEF, GDS, CDB, OA and Milky Way views in a single window

About Fractal Technologies

Fractal Technologies is a privately held company with offices in San Carlos, California and Eindhoven, the Netherlands. The company was founded by a small group of highly recognized EDA professionals.

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