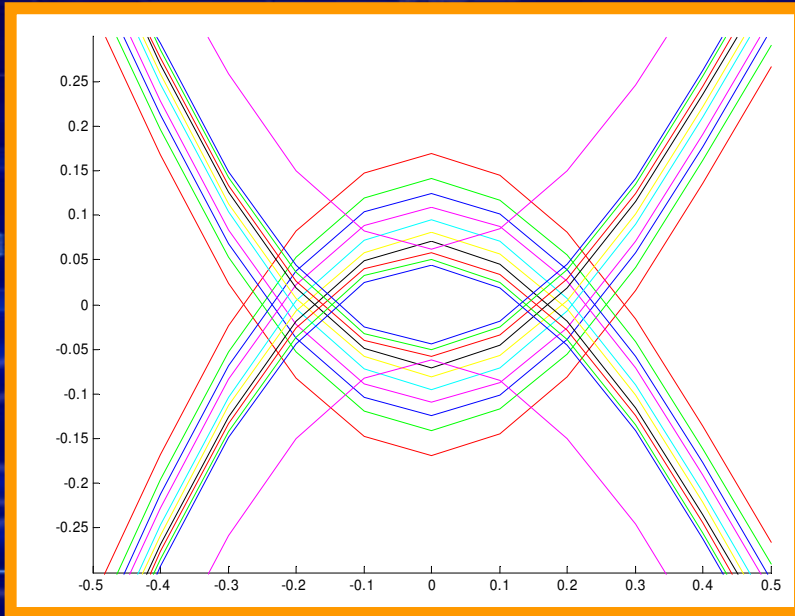


The process and goal of the AMI BIRD

***IBIS ATM Teleconference,
March 30, 2010***



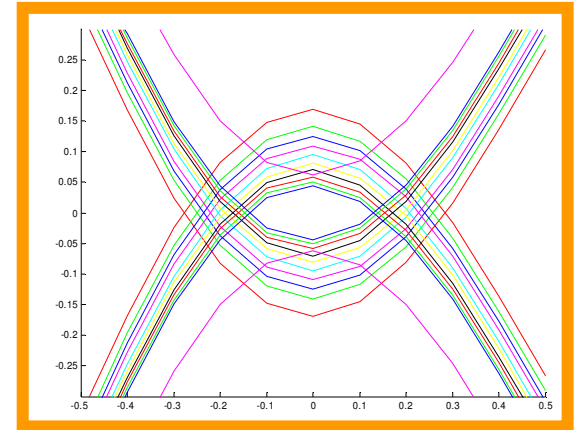
Arpad Muranyi

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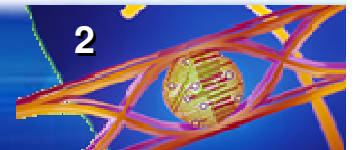
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The process and goal of the AMI BIRD

IBIS ATM Teleconference, March 30, 2010



1. Purpose of this presentation
2. Goal
3. Process
4. Why are we not done yet?
5. Conclusion



Purpose of this presentation

- **Bob Ross, the chairman of the IBIS Open Forum made a statement in the March 23, 2010 IBIS-ATM teleconference that the task group does not have a goal and a process for the AMI BIRD document that is being written and discussed**
 - **in a subsequent private discussion Bob made numerous comments and suggestions to Arpad Muranyi, the chairman of the IBIS-ATM task group on how to improve and speed up the process**
- **Let this presentation serve as an official statement of the goal(s) and process**

Goal

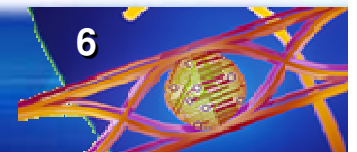
- Various issues have been raised about the new AMI portions of the IBIS v5.0 specification by the parser developer, EDA tool vendors, and model makers
- The goal of the IBIS-ATM task group is to prepare and submit (one or more) BIRD-s to the IBIS Open Forum in which the problems are stated and solutions are proposed
- The purpose of this (or these) BIRD-s is **ONLY** to correct errors, inconsistencies and clarify ambiguities in the AMI portions of the existing IBIS v5.0 specification

Process

- **Issues are identified in the ATM task group meetings**
 - this has been done in Walter's draft BIRD
- **A draft BIRD is written by members of the ATM task group**
 - Walter has drafted a BIRD and numerous iterations have been posted on the IBIS-ATM web site in the “Work Archive” section
 - http://www.vhdl.org/pub/ibis/macromodel_wip/archive-date.html
- **The draft BIRD is discussed in the ATM task group meetings**
 - this is what we have been doing in the IBIS-ATM task group meetings and the [ibis-macro] email reflector since August 2009
- **Once the BIRD has been finalized, it will be submitted to the IBIS Open Forum for review**
- **The IBIS Open Forum will call for an official vote to accept the BIRD for the IBIS v5.1 specification**

Why are we not done yet?

- **The BIRD attempts to address multiple issues, each of which needs careful consideration and discussion**
- **Comments from each ATM participant must be considered**
 - need feedback from all EDA vendors to prevent serving the interest of certain vendors while putting others in a disadvantage
 - need feedback from model makers to be able to support them with features they need for their models
 - we also have to solicit comments from the parser developer to make sure there are no conflicts in the syntax, etc... and a robust parser can be developed
- **Certain differences of opinions still exist and are unresolved**
 - some of these do not appear that they will ever be resolved
- **A certain amount of “mission creep” is slipping into the draft BIRD with desirable but not absolutely necessary changes**

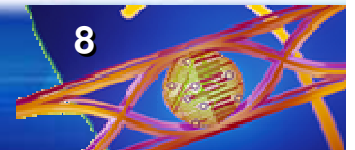


What is our problem?

- **Our problem is not that we do not have a goal or a process**
- **We chose to write a single BIRD for all issues**
 - consequently decided to replace the entire AMI section of the spec
 - consequently decided(?) to separate AMI from IBIS
 - consequently decided(?) to abandon the ASCII text style
- **This is equivalent to writing a brand new specification**
 - not a bad idea, but was this our initial goal?
 - how long would it take to develop a new spec from scratch?
 - can this be done while maintaining backward compatibility?
- **Similar “mission creep” is happening in other areas**
 - reserved and model specific branches
 - jitter parameters, etc...
- **These are all valid and good ideas, but **not absolutely necessary** to fix the current specification**

Conclusion

- **As the chairman of the ATM committee, I propose the following actions:**
- **Adopt a minimalistic approach**
 - make a checklist with the absolutely necessary changes
 - use the list as a governing document “process” in the meetings
 - check off the various items as we make progress
- **Consider writing multiple smaller BIRD-s**
 - each BIRD should address one topic and an easily identifiable area of the specification
 - this will help maintaining backward compatibility
- **Clarify semantics instead of add/remove/change keywords**
 - the intent of the specification is not always spelled out clearly
 - come to an agreement on the intent and write clarification BIRD-s
- **Consider writing a complete functioning modeling example (toolkit)**
 - include Tx and Rx analog and algorithmic models with a known channel
 - EDA vendors and model makers could use it for testing



The background is a vibrant blue with a complex pattern of white and light blue lines, resembling a circuit board or data flow. The lines form various shapes, including rectangles, circles, and zig-zags, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall aesthetic is high-tech and digital.

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