

BIRD ID#: ???
ISSUE TITLE: Clarify sample_interval for IBIS-AMI
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STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:

The IBIS 5.0 specification does not spell out the rules clearly regarding sample_interval. As a result, numerous AMI models have been released which can only operate at certain sampling rates, while EDA tools pass data into the AMI models at a sample_interval of their own choice. Consequently, simulation results are often incorrect, or in more severe cases the AMI model and/or the EDA platform might crash as well.

STATEMENT OF THE RESOLVED SPECIFICATIONS:

In BIRD 130, replace the following paragraph:

```
| 3.1.2.1 impulse_matrix  
| =====  
|  
|* 'impulse_matrix' points to a memory location where the collection of  
|* channel voltage impulse responses, called the "impulse response matrix",  
|* is stored in the form of a single dimensional array of floating point  
|* numbers. The impulse response values are uniformly spaced in time.  
|* The sample spacing is given by the parameter 'sample_interval'.  
|
```

with:

```
| 3.1.2.1 impulse_matrix  
| =====  
|  
|* 'impulse_matrix' points to a memory location where the collection of  
|* channel voltage impulse responses, called the "impulse response matrix",  
|* is stored in the form of a single dimensional array of floating point  
|** numbers. The impulse responses pointed to by the 'impulse_matrix'  
|** argument are both input and output. The EDA platform provides the  
|** impulse responses. The algorithmic model is expected to modify the  
|** impulse responses in place by applying a filtering behavior, for  
|** example, an equalization function, if modeled in the AMI_Init  
|** function. The impulse response values are uniformly spaced in time.  
|** The sample spacing is determined by the EDA tool and passed to the  
|** algorithmic model through the AMI_Init function's 'sample_interval'  
|** argument.
```

On pg. 186, replace the following lines:

```
| 3.1.2.4 sample_interval  
|
```

```
| This is the sampling interval of the impulse_matrix. Sample_interval is
| usually a fraction of the highest data rate (lowest bit_time) of the
| device. Example:
|
| Sample_interval = (lowest_bit_time/64)
```

with:

```
| 3.1.2.4 sample_interval
|
|* This is the sampling interval of the 'impulse_matrix' passed into the
|* AMI_Init function and the 'wave' passed into the AMI_GetWave function.
|* The sample_interval is determined by the EDA tool and it is usually a
|* fraction of the highest data rate (lowest bit_time) of the device.
|* Algorithmic modes must be able to produce valid results at any
|* sample_interval.
|*
|* Example:
|
| Sample_interval = (lowest_bit_time/64)
|
```

On pg. 188 replace these lines:

```
| 3.2.2.1 wave
|
| A vector of a time domain waveform, sampled uniformly at an interval
| specified by the 'sample_interval' specified during the init call. The
| wave is both input and output. The EDA platform provides the wave. The
| algorithmic model is expected to modify the waveform in place by applying
| a filtering behavior, for example, an equalization function, being
| modeled in the AMI_Getwave call.
```

with:

```
| 3.2.2.1 wave
|
|* 'wave' points to a memory location where a uniformly sampled vector of
|* a time domain waveform is stored. The waveform pointed to by the
|* 'wave' argument is both input and output. The EDA platform provides
| the wave. The algorithmic model is expected to modify the waveform in
| place by applying a filtering behavior, for example, an equalization
|* function, if modeled in the AMI_Getwave function. The sample spacing
|* is determined by the EDA tool and passed to the algorithmic model
|* through the AMI_Init function's 'sample_interval' argument.
|
```

ANALYSIS PATH/DATA THAT LED TO SPECIFICATION:

This topic was discussed at length in IBIS-ATM teleconferences as well as on the IBIS-ATM email reflector. Suggestions were made to introduce a new required parameter called Samples_per_Bit to provide a mechanism for algorithmic models to communicate to the EDA tool how many samples per bit in the impulse response and waveform they were designed to operate with. These suggestions were turned down in favor of clarifying the original intent of the specification that it is the EDA tool's responsibility to determine the sampling rate of the impulse responses and waveforms, and all algorithmic models must be able to produce correct results with any samples per bit values.

The question whether there should be a mechanism to allow algorithmic models to impose a limit for the EDA tool on how it determines the value for samples per bit was tabled due to insufficient experience in this area.

ANY OTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
