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Buffer Issue Resolution Document (BIRD)  
BIRD ID#: {TBD}  
ISSUE TITLE: AMI\_parameters\_out Clarification  
REQUESTOR: Arpad Muranyi, Mentor Graphics, Curtis Clark, Ansys  
DATE SUBMITTED:  
DATE REVISED: May 23, 2011  
DATE ACCEPTED BY IBIS OPEN FORUM:

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STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:

The IBIS 5.0 specification has several problems with the definition of AMI\_parameters\_out.

On pg. 186, section 3.1.2.6 doesn't mention whether AMI\_parameters\_in and AMI\_parameters\_out are required for the AMI\_Init function, and what the pointer values should be in the absence of any parameters.

On pg. 189, section 3.2.2.4 says that AMI\_parameters\_out is optional for AMI\_GetWave, but doesn't spell out what the pointer's value should be in case the parameter is not used.

The rule for AMI\_parameters\_in/out for AMI\_Init needs to be defined, and the value of the pointer should also be defined in case the parameters are not used to eliminate any ambiguity in the specification.

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STATEMENT OF THE RESOLVED SPECIFICATIONS:

On pg. 186, replace these lines:

```
| 3.1.2.6 AMI_parameters (_in and _out)
| =====
|
| Memory for AMI_parameters_in is allocated and de-allocated by the EDA
| platform. The memory pointed to by AMI_parameters_out is allocated and
| de-allocated by the model. This is a pointer to a string. All the input
| from the IBIS AMI parameter file are passed using a string that been
| formatted as a parameter tree.
```

with these lines:

```
|* 3.1.2.6 AMI_parameters_in
|* =====
|*
|* The AMI_parameters_in argument is a pointer to a string. Memory for the
|* string is allocated and de-allocated by the EDA platform. All the input
|* from the IBIS AMI parameter file are passed to the algorithmic model using
|* a string that has been formatted as a parameter tree.
|*
|* While the AMI_parameters_in argument must always be present in the
|* AMI_Init function call, it may contain the address of an empty string
|* for algorithmic models which do not use any input parameters. Null
```

|\* pointers are not permitted in AMI\_parameters\_in.

On pg. 187, insert before these lines:

| 3.1.2.7 AMI\_memory\_handle

the following lines:

```
|* 3.1.2.7 AMI_parameters_out
|* =====
|*
|* The AMI_parameters_out argument is a pointer to a string pointer. Memory
|* for the string is allocated and de-allocated by the algorithmic model.
|* The model returns a pointer to the string as the contents of this argument.
|* The string must be formatted as a parameter tree, as described in 3.1.2.6.
|* The AMI_Init function may use this string to return information and
|* parameters to the EDA platform.
|*
|* While the AMI_parameters_out argument must always be present in the
|* AMI_Init function call, and the EDA platform must always provide a valid
|* (non-zero) address value in it, algorithmic models are not required to
|* return anything at that address to the EDA platform. For this reason,
|* the EDA platform must also initialize the memory content at that address
|* to zero (null pointer) prior to calling the AMI_Init function, so that
|* after the execution of the function it can determine whether or not the
|* function returned a valid string pointer at that address. If the AMI_Init
|* function does not wish to return a parameter string to the EDA platform,
|* it may ignore the address provided in this argument, or it may return a
|* null pointer or a pointer to an empty string at this address to the EDA
|* platform.
|*
```

On pg. 187, replace:

| 3.1.2.7 AMI\_memory\_handle

with:

| 3.1.2.8 AMI\_memory\_handle

On pg. 187, replace:

```
| 3.1.2.8 msg (optional)
| =====
|
| Provides descriptive, textual message from the algorithmic model to the EDA
| platform. It must provide a character string message that can be used by
| EDA platform to update log file or display in user interface.
|
```

with:

```
|* 3.1.2.9 msg
|* =====
```

```

|*
|* The msg argument is a pointer to a string pointer.  Memory for the string
|* is allocated and de-allocated by the algorithmic model.  The model returns
|* a pointer to the string as the contents of this argument.  The AMI_Init
|* function may use this string to send a descriptive, textual message to the
|* EDA platform to be displayed in the user interface and/or to be saved in
|* a log file.
|*
|* While the msg argument must always be present in the AMI_Init function
|* call, and the EDA platform must always provide a valid (non-zero) address
|* value in it, algorithmic models are not required to return anything at that
|* address to the EDA platform.  For this reason, the EDA platform must also
|* initialize the memory content at that address to zero (null pointer) prior
|* to calling the AMI_Init function, so that after the execution of the
|* function it can determine whether or not the function returned a valid
|* string pointer at that address.  If the AMI_Init function does not wish to
|* return a message string to the EDA platform, it may ignore the address
|* provided in this argument, or it may return a null pointer or a pointer
|* to an empty string at this address to the EDA platform.
|*

```

On pg. 189, replace these lines:

```

| 3.2.2.4 AMI_parameters_out (optional)
| =====
|
| A handle to a 'tree string' as described in 1.3.1.2.6.  This is used by the
| algorithmic model to return dynamic information and parameters.  The memory
| for this string is to be allocated and deleted by the algorithmic model.
|

```

with these lines:

```

|* 3.2.2.4 AMI_parameters_out
|* =====
|*
|* The AMI_parameters_out argument is a pointer to a string pointer.  Memory
|* for the string is allocated and de-allocated by the algorithmic model.
|* The model returns a pointer to the string as the contents of this argument.
|* The string must be formatted as a parameter tree, as described in 3.1.2.6.
|* The AMI_GetWave function may use this string to return dynamic information
|* and parameters to the EDA platform.
|*
|* While the AMI_parameters_out argument must always be present in the
|* AMI_GetWave function call, and the EDA platform must always provide a valid
|* (non-zero) address value in it, algorithmic models are not required to
|* return anything at that address to the EDA platform.  For this reason,
|* the EDA platform must also initialize the memory content at that address
|* to zero (null pointer) prior to calling the AMI_GetWave function, so that
|* after the execution of the function it can determine whether or not the
|* function returned a valid string pointer at that address.  If the
|* AMI_GetWave function does not wish to return a parameter string to the
|* EDA platform, it may ignore the address provided in this argument, or it
|* may return a null pointer or a pointer to an empty string at this address
|* to the EDA platform.
|*

```

New questions, reminders:

Should we say that the AMI\_GetWave is NOT allowed to put string pointers into the \*\*msg argument's memory location?

Should we spell out which function does the memory allocation (AMI\_Init, AMI\_GetWave) and which function does the deallocation (AMI\_Close)?

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ANALYSIS PATH/DATA THAT LED TO SPECIFICATION:

The changes documented in this BIRD are based on the discussions which took place in the IBIS ATM teleconference on May 17, 2011 and in subsequent emails on the ATM email reflector.

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ANY OTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

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