# e Language Quick Reference

November 2003

This card contains selected  ${\bf e}$  constructs. For complete  ${\bf e}$  syntax, see the  ${\bf e}$  Language Reference.

Abbreviations:

arg - argument inst - instance bool - boolean num - number

enum - enumerated TCM - time-consuming method expr - expression TE - temporal expression

# **Predefined Types**

```
bit // unsigned integer with value 0 or 1 (default: 0)byte // unsigned integer in the range 0-255 (default: 0)int // 32-bit signed integer (default: 0)
```

uint // 32-bit unsigned integer (default: 0)

int | uint ( bits: n | bytes: n ) // n-bit or n-byte signed int or uint

**bool** // one-bit boolean (0 = FALSE, 1 = TRUE) (default: FALSE)

list [ (key: field-name) ] of type

// a list of elements of the specified type (default: empty)

**string** // strings are enclosed in quotes: "my string" (default: NULL)

# Type Conversion

expr = expr.as\_a( type )

# **User-Defined Types**

**Statements** 

struct struct-type [ like base-struct-type ] { struct members };
unit unit-type [ like base-unit-type ] { unit members };
type type-name : [u]int (bits: n | bytes: n); // defines a scalar type
type type-name : [ name [=n], ... ]; // defines an enumerated type
extend type-name : [ name [=n], ... ]; // extends an enumerated type
extend struct-type|unit-type { additional struct or unit members };
// extends a struct or unit

#### **Struct and Unit Members**

fields constraints when conditions methods and TCMs cover groups events temporal struct|unit members preprocessor directives

#### Fields Struct and Unit Members

[!][%]field-name: type; //! = do not generate, % = physical field field-name[n]: list of type; // creates a list with n elements field-name: unit-type is instance; // for units only, not structs

# Conditional Extensions using When Struct and Unit Members

```
type enum-type: [name1, name2, ...];
struct|unit struct-type|unit-type {
    field-name : enum-type;
    when name1 struct-type|unit-type { additional members };
};
extend name1 struct-type|unit-type { ... };
```

#### Ports Struct and Unit Members

```
port-name: dir [buffer_port | simple_port] of data-type is instance;
port-name: dir event_port is instance;
```

keep [soft] port\_inst.attribute() == value;

keep bind(inst-name1, inst-name2 | external | empty | undefined);

#### Encapsulation

Statements, Struct and Unit Members

package package-name; [package] type type; package | protected | private struct-member-definition;

#### Constraints

Struct and Unit Members

keep [soft] bool-expr; // for example, keep field1 <= MY\_MAX
keep [soft] field-name in [range]; // example: keep field1 in [0..256]
keep bool-expr1 => bool-expr2; // bool-expr1 implies bool-expr2

keep [soft] field-name in list;

keep list.is\_all\_iterations( field-name );

keep list1.is\_a\_permutation( list2 );

**keep** *list*[index].field-name constraint-expr;

keep for each ( item ) in list { [soft] bool-expr; ... };

keep all of {constraint-expr; ... };

keep soft bool-expr == select { weight : value; ... };

keep [soft] gen ( item-a ) before ( item-b );

**keep** *gen-item*.**reset\_soft();** // ignore soft constraints on gen-item

keep field-name.hdl\_path() == "string"; //field-name is unit instance

**keep soft** bool-expr == **select** { weight : value; ... };

keep gen before subtypes(determinant-field: field, ...);

#### **Predefined Methods of All Structs**

**Struct and Unit Members** 

run()	extract()	check()	finalize()
init()	pre_generate()	post_generate()	
copy()	do_print()	print_line()	quit()

#### **Methods and TCMs**

**Struct and Unit Members** 

```
regular-method( [arg: type, ...]) [: return-type] is { action; ... };

TCM([arg: type, ...]) [: return-type] @event-name is { action; ... };

method(arg: type, ...) [: return-type] [@event-name] is

also|first|only { action; ... };
```

#### Variable Declarations and Assignments

Actions

var var-name : type; var var-name : = value;
var-name = expr; // e.g. field-name=expr, var-name=method()

# **Conditional Procedures**

Actions

```
if bool-expr[ then ] { action; ... }
[ else if bool-expr[ then ] { action; ... } ] [ else { action; ... } ];
case { bool-expr[:] { action; ... } ; [ default[:] { action; ... } ;] };
case expr { value[:] { action; ... } ; [ default[:] { action; ... } ;] };
```

```
Checks Actions
```

```
check that bool-expr [ else dut_error( ... ) ];
```

#### Loops Actions

```
for i from expr [ down ] to expr [step expr] [do] { action; ... };
for each [struct-type] (list-item) [ using index (index-name) ]
    in [reverse] list [do] { action; ... };
for each [line] [(line-name)] in file file-name [do] {action; ... };
while bool-expr [do] { action; ... };
```

#### Invoking Methods and TCMs

Actions

```
TCM2()@event-name is { TCM1(); method();}; // calling methods method1() is { method2(); method3(); }; // calling methods method() is { start TCM();}; // starting a TCM on a separate thread Note: A TCM can only be called from another TCM. However, a TCM can be started from a regular method or from another TCM.
```

continue;

#### Operators

break;

Operator precedence is left to right, top to bottom in the list

```
[] list indexing
                                  [..] list slicing
[:] bit slicing
                                  f() method or routine call
  field selection
                                  in range list
{...; ...} list concatenation
                                  %{..., ...} bit concatenation
bitwise not
                                  !, not boolean not
+, - unary positive, negative
                                  *, /, % multiply, divide, modulus
                                  >>, << shift right, shift left
+, - plus, minus
<, <=, >, >= boolean
                                  is [not] a subtype identification
comparison
==, != boolean equal, not equal ===,!== Verilog 4-state compare
~, !~ string matching
                                  &, |, ^ bitwise and, or, xor
&&, and boolean and
                                  II, or boolean or
!, not boolean not
                                  => boolean implication
a?b:c conditional "if a then b. else c"
```

#### Simulator Interface

**Statements and Unit Members** 

```
verilog function 'HDL-path'(params) : n;  // n is result size in bits
verilog import file-name;  // statement only
verilog task 'HDL-path'(params);
verilog time Verilog-timescale;  // statement only
vhdl driver 'HDL-path' using option, ...;  // unit member only
vhdl function 'designator' using option, ...;
```

**Generation On the Fly** 

vhdl procedure 'identifier' using option, ...;

vhdl time VHDL-timescale; // statement only

Actions

```
gen gen-item [keeping { [soft] constraint-bool-expr ; ... }];
```

#### **Events**

event event-name [ is [only] TE]; // struct or unit member
emit [struct-inst.]event-name; // action

#### **Predefined Events**

sys.any struct-inst.quit

#### **Temporal Struct and Unit Members**

```
on event-name { action; ... } ;
expect|assume [rule-name is [only ]] TE
  [ else dut_error( "string", expr, ... ) ];
```

# **Temporal Expressions (TEs)**

#### **Basic Temporal Expressions**

@[struct-inst.]event-name // event instance

change|fall|rise('HDL-path') @sim // simulator callback annotation

change|fall|rise(expr) true(bool-expr) cycle

#### **Boolean Temporal Expressions**

TE1 and TE2 TE1 or TE2 not TE

# **Complex Temporal Expressions**

```
TE @[struct-inst.]event-name
                                   // explicit sampling
{ TE; TE; ... }
                                   // sequence
TE1 => TE2
                                   // if TE1. then TE2 follows
TE exec { action; ... }
                                   // execute when TE succeeds
[n][* TE]
                                   // fixed repeat
{ ... ; [ [n]..[m] ] [ * TE ]; TE; ... }
                                   // first match repeat
                                   // true match repeat
~[ [n]..[m] ] [ * TE ]
delay(expr)
                                   detach(TE)
consume( @[struct-inst.]event-name )
```

#### **Time-Consuming Actions**

wait [[until] TE]; sync [TE];

# Lock and Release, Sempahores Pred

#### **Predefined Structs and Methods**

fail TE

```
struct struct-type {
    locker-expr: locker;
    TCM() @event-name is {
        locker-expr.lock();
        ...
        locker-expr.release(); };
};
struct struct-type {
        sem-expr: semaphore;
        TCM() @event-name is {
            sem-expr.up();
            ...
            sem-expr.down(); };
};
```

# **Packing and Unpacking Pseudo-Methods**

```
expr = pack( pack-options, expr, ... )
unpack( pack-options, value-expr, target-expr [ , target-expr, ... ] )
```

#### Printing

**Action** 

print expr[,...] [using print-options];

#### Predefined Routines Actions

# **Deep Copy and Compare Routines**

deep\_copy(expr : struct-type) : struct-type

deep\_compare[\_physical](inst1: struct-type, inst2: struct-type,
 max-diffs: int): list of string

#### **Output Routines**

```
out ("string", expr, ...); out ( struct-inst );
outf ( "string %c ...", expr ); // c is a conversion code: s, d, x, b, o, u
```

#### **Selected Configuration Routines**

Note: Categories for these routines are listed in "Configuration Commands" in the Specman Elite Quick Reference.

set\_config( category, option, option-value )

get\_config( category, option );

# **Selected Arithmetic Routines**

min max ( x: int, y: int): int	abs(x: int): int
<pre>ipow(x: int, y: int): int</pre>	<pre>isqrt(x: int): int</pre>
odd even (x: int): bool	div round up(x: int, y: int): int

#### **Bitwise Routines**

expr.bitwise\_and|or|xor|nand|nor|xnor(expr: int|uint): bit

# **Selected String Routines**

```
appendf(format, expr, ...): string append(expr, ...): string
expr. to_string(): string bin|dec|hex(expr, ...): string
str_join(list: list of string, separator: string): string
str_match(str: string, regular-expr: string): bool
str_replace(str:string, regular-expr:string, replacement:string):string
str_split(str: string, regular-expr: string): list of string
```

#### **Selected Operating System Interface Routines**

#### Stopping a Test

stop\_run(); // stops the simulator and invokes test finalization

#### **On-the-Fly Memory Management**

do\_otf\_gc()

#### **Preprocessor Directives** Statements, Struct Members or Actions

#define [']macro-name [ replacement ]

#### #if[n]def [']macro-name then {string} [ #else {string} ] ;

#### **List Pseudo-Methods**

#### **Selected List Actions**

**Selected List Expressions** 

-	
size() : int	top[0](): list-type
reverse(): list	sort(expr: expr): list
<pre>sum(expr: int) : int</pre>	count (expr: bool): int
exists(index: int): bool	has(expr: bool): bool
is_empty() : bool	is_a_permutation(list: list) : bool
all(expr: bool): list	all_indices(expr: bool): list of int
first(expr: bool): list-type	last(expr: bool): list-type
<pre>first_index(expr: bool) : int</pre>	last_index(expr: bool) : int
key(key-expr : expr) : list-item	key_index(key-expr: expr): int
max(expr: int): list-type	max_value(expr: int): int   uint
min(expr: int): list-type	min_value(expr: int): int   uint
swap(small: int, large: int): list of bit	

crc\_8|32(from-byte: int, num-bytes: int): int

unique(expr: expr): list

# **Coverage Groups and Items**

**Struct and Unit Members** 

```
cover cover-group [ using [also] cover-group-options ] is [empty]
[also] {
    item item-name [: type = expr] [ using [also] cover-item-options ];
    cross item-name1, item-name2, ...; transition item-name;
};
```

To enable coverage, extend the **global** struct as follows: setup\_test() is also {set\_config(cover, mode, cover-mode)}

# Coverage Group Options

text = string weight = uint no\_collect radix = DEC|HEX|BIN
count\_only global when = bool-expr

external=surecov agent\_options=SureCov options

#### **Coverage Item Options**

text = string	when = bool-expr	weight = uint
no_collect	radix=DEC HEX BIN	name name
at_least = num	ignore   illegal = cover-item-bool-expr	
no_trace	ranges=range( [ nm ], sub-bucket-name, sub-bucket-size, at-least-number);	
	amont antique-Com	Carrantiana

per\_instance agent\_options=SureCov options



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# Specman Elite Quick Reference

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This card contains selected Specman Elite commands and procedures. For more information, see the *Specman Elite Command Reference*.

Abbreviations: dir - directory expr - expression

inst - instance num - number

# General Help

help command [syntax]apropos command [syntax]Specview Help buttonSpecview Vadvisor button

# Creating an HDL Stub File

write stubs -verilog | -qvh | -ncvhdl | -spd [file-name]

specman -command "load top.e; write stubs -verilog"

// creates stub file named specman.v for most Verilog simulators
specman -command "load top.e; write stubs -qvh my\_stub.vhd"

// creates stub file for ModelSim VHDL named my stub.vhd

# Compiler Script

%sn\_compile.sh

// use with no arguments to display compiler script options

%sn compile.sh top.e

// create an executable named "top" with compiled top.e module

#### **NC Simulator or ModelSim**

%sn compile.sh top.e -sim ncvlog

// creates a Specman Elite executable named "ncvlog\_top" that // includes the compiled top.e module and NC Simulator (Verilog)

%sn compile.sh top.e -shlib

// creates a library that includes top.e and ModelSim

#### **VCS**

%sn\_compile.sh -sim vcs -vcs\_flags "file1.v ... specman.v" top.e
// creates a Specman Elite executable named "vcs\_top" that
// includes VCS, compiled top.e and Verilog source files

#### **Incremental Compilation Command Sequence**

1. sn\_compile.sh -e my\_dir -t . first.e

2. sn\_compile.sh -s my\_dir/first -t . next.e

3. sn compile.sh -s my dir/next -t . last.e

# Switching between Specman Elite and Simulator Prompts

<Cntl>-<Return> // switch from simulator prompt to Specman Elite // in text mode (no simulator GUI is being used)

\$sn; // switch from Verilog-XL or VCS to Specman Elite sn // switch from ModelSim to Specman Elite call sn // switch from NC Simulator to Specman Elite

<Return> // switch from Specman Elite back to the simulator

#### Specman Elite Commands from Simulator Prompt

Verilog-XL or VCS: \$sn("command"); ModelSim: sn "command" NC Simulator: call sn {"command"}

eates stub file for ModelSim

**Simulator-Related Commands** 

show functions // Verilog and VHDL

show tasks [and functions] // Verilog

show procedures // VHDL show subprograms // VHDL

show defines [ -v ] [ -e ] [ " [`]macro-name" ] // Verilog defines

#### Starting Specman Elite or the Specview GUI

# Starting Specman Elite in Text Mode

specman [ -p[re\_commands] commands ... ] [ -c[ommands] commands ... ]

Example:

specman -p "config print -radix = HEX" -p "load top"
// Starts Specman Elite, sets print radix to hex, and loads top.e

# Starting the Specview GUI

specview [ -p[re\_commands] commands ... ]

[-c[ommands] commands ... ] [ integrated-executable parameters ]

Example:

specview xl specman +gui -s xor.v specman.v

// Starts Specview along with the Verilog-XL GUI, loads the xor.v // file and the specman.v stubs file

# **Running from Compiled Executables**

%specsim [-pre-commands command ...] [-commands command ...] [ integrated-executable parameters ]

// General way to pass pre-commands to a compiled executable

#### NC Simulator

% ncvlog\_top -s file1.v file2.v specman.v

// Invokes an executable named ncvlog\_top to start Specman Elite // with NC Simulator, and load Verilog files file1.v and file2.v

#### **NC Simulator:**

%specsim -p "@batch.ecom" ncvlog\_top -s file1.v file2.v specman.v // Same as above, but with optional pre-commands

#### ModelSim:

% specsim -p "@batch.ecom" vsim -keepstdout top < batch.do

#### VCS:

% specsim -p "@batch.ecom" vcs\_cpu\_top -s -i batch.cmd

# Using a Specman Elite Command File

@file-name [parameter ...]

Example:

// Contents of my\_batch.ecom file:

load <1>:

out("<2> is <3>");

Execute my\_batch.ecom:

Specman> @my\_batch my\_code Today Wednesday Result:

Loads my code.e, prints Today is Wednesday

#### **Record Commands**

record start [ -dir = dir-name ][ -comment = "comment-text"]

#### **Configuration Commands**

config category -option = value;

Category	Options	
print	radix, title, window, raw, items, list_from, list_is_horizontal, list_lines, list_starts_on_right, list_grouping, list_of_bit_in_hex, list_index_radix, list_end_flag, full, source_lines, line_size	
cover	at_least_multiplier, grading_formula, show_mode, verbose_interface, sorted, max_int_buckets, absolute_max_buckets, max_gui_buckets, mode, test_name, run_name, tag_name, dir, file_name, show_file_names, show_sub_holes, show_instances_only, show_partial_grade,	

check\_illegal\_immediately, hole\_color, illegal\_bucket\_color, chart\_colors
seed, default\_max\_list\_size, reorder\_fields, absolute max list size, max depth, max structs,

warn, resolve cycles, check unsatisfied cons

ranking cost, ranking precision, gui sync mode,

gui auto\_scroll

gen

misc

wave

run tick\_max, error\_command, exit\_on,

use\_manual\_tick

memory gc\_threshold, gc\_increment, max\_size,

absolute\_max\_size, print\_msg, retain\_trace\_structs warn, pre specman path, post specman path,

short\_is\_signed

debug watch\_list\_items

working\_mode, auto\_refresh, register\_structs, use\_wave, stub\_message\_len, stub\_output, stub\_errors, stub\_events, event\_data, stub\_integers, stub\_etrings\_stub\_etrings\_len\_stub\_bealages.

stub\_strings, stub\_strings\_len, stub\_booleans, list\_items, thread\_code\_line, hierarchy\_name, port, dump\_file, timeout

show config [ category [ option ]]

write config [ to ] file-name

read config [ from ] file-name

#### **Test Phase Commands**

test [-option = value...] setup\_test generate [-option = value...]
start [-option = value...] run [-option = value...]

extract check finalize\_test

# **Test Phase Command Options**

seed =  $n \mid \text{random}$ default\_max\_list\_size = nmax\_depth = nabsolute\_max\_list\_size = nmax\_structs = nwarn = TRUE | FALSE

reorder\_fields = TRUE | FALSE resolve cycles = TRUE | FALSE

check\_unsatisfied\_cons = TRUE | FALSE

# Saving and Restoring the State

load file-name ... reload [ -nokeep ]

save file-name

restore [-override] [ -nokeep ] [file-name]

# **Coverage Commands**

read cover file-name | -merge -file = file-name

write cover [-merge] file-name

clear cover

show cover [-kind = full|summary|spreadsheet ]

[-file = file-name ] [-contributors[= num]] [-window]

[struct-type[.cover-group[(inst)][.item-name]]]

show cover -tests

**show cover** -**def** [struct-name[.event-name[.item-name]]]

show cover -new -cross = (struct-type.cover-group.item-name, ...)
[-interval = (struct-type.event-name, [struct-type.event-name | next])]
[-only\_simultaneous] [-win]

show cover -unique buckets file name

include cover[\_tests] full-run-name [on|off]

rank cover [-sort\_only] [-recover] [-window] [-file=file\_name] [-initial\_list=file\_name] [item-wild-cards]

#### **Waveform-Related Commands**

set wave [ -mode=working-mode ] viewer

wave [ -when [ = when-regular-expr ] ]

[ **-field[s**] [ **=** fields-regular-expr ] ]

[ -event[s] [ -event\_data=event-data ] ] [ -thread[s]

[-code line=bool]]expr

wave event [ -data=data-option ] [ struct-type.event-type ]

wave out

#### **Memory Commands**

**show memory** [-recursive] [struct-type | unit-type]

who is [-full] struct-expr // show paths for all pointers to a struct

#### **Event Commands**

collect events [event-name [,...]] [on | off]

echo events [event-name [,...]] [ on | off ]

delete events

show events [event-name | [ num [..[num] ] ]

show event definitions [event-name, ...]

**show events -chart** [time-value | -prev | -next | -beginning | -end] [event-name, ...]

# Show Pack and Unpack Commands

show pack(options: pack\_options, expr, ...)

**show unpack(***options*: pack\_options, *value-expr, target-expr, ...* )

#### **Show Modules Command**

show modules

#### Log Commands

set log file-name set log off

#### **Shell Commands**

shell shell-command

# **Print and Report Commands**

Note: **print** and **report** can also be used in **e** code as actions.

print expr, ... [using print-options]

report list-expr, {[headers]}, expr,... [using print-options]

Note: Use the **show config print** command to display print options. Examples:

print sys.packets using radix=HEX

report sys.packets, {"Addr \t Indx"; "%d \t %d"},.address,index

**tree** [struct-inst | list-expr] // display the contents of a struct or list

# Generation Debugger Commands

col[lect] generation [off]

show gen [-instance inst-name[.field-name]]

# Source Code Debugger Commands

continue [to breakpoint-syntax] step anywhere

step next finish abort

In the next two sections, the #thread-handle option can only be used with the "I" (local) form of the command (e.g. **Ibreak**, but not **break**). The special events and special wild cards used as options for some of the commands are listed separately at the end.

# **Setting Breakpoints**

[l]break [once] [on] call [extension]

[struct-wild-card.]method-wild-card [@module-name] [#[thread-handle] [if bool-expr]

[I]break [once] [on] [return] [extension]

[struct-wild-card.]method-wild-card [@module-name] [#[thread-handle]] [if bool-expr]

[I]break [once] [on] line [line-number] [@module-name] [#[thread-handle]] [if bool-expr]

[i]break [once] [on] special-event-name [special-wild-card] [@module-name] [#[thread-handle]] [if bool-expr]

[i]break [once] [on] event [[struct-wild-card.]event-wild-card] [@module-name] [#[thread-handle]] [if bool-expr]

break [once] [on] change expr

break [once] [on] error

break [once] [on] interrupt

break [once] [on] simulator

break [on] alloc [memory-size]

## **Managing Breakpoints**

delete break [ last | id-number | "pattern" ]

disable break [ last | id-number | "pattern" ]

enable break [ last | id-number | "pattern" ]

show breakpoint

#### **Setting and Managing Watches**

[I]watch expr [-radix = DEC|HEX|BIN] [-items = value] [#thread-id]

update watch watch-id [radix = DEC|HEX|BIN] [-items = value|default]

show watch delete watch [watch-id]

## **Setting Traces**

[I]trace [once] [on] call [extension] [struct-wild-card.]method-wild-card [@module-name] [#[thread-handle]] [if bool-expr]

[I]trace [once] [on] return [extension] [struct-wild-card.]method-wild-card [@module-name] [#[thread-handle]] [if bool-expr]

[I]trace [once] [on] line [line-number] [@module-name] [if bool-expr]

[i]trace [once] [on] special-event-name [special-wild-card] [@module-name] [#[thread-handle]] [if bool-expr]

trace [once] [on] change expr

trace [on] packing trace [on] reparse

# **Special Events and Special Wild Cards**

Special Event Name	Special Wild Card
tcm_start	struct-wild-card.tcm-wild-card
tcm_end	struct-wild-card.tcm-wild-card
tcm_call	struct-wild-card.tcm-wild-card
tcm_return	struct-wild-card.tcm-wild-card
tcm_wait	struct-wild-card.tcm-wild-card
tcm_state	struct-wild-card.tcm-wild-card
call	struct-wild-card.method-wild-card
return	struct-wild-card.method-wild-card
sim_read	signal-name-wild-card
sim_write	signal-name-wild-card
output	text wild-card

# Command-Line Mode Debugging Commands

**show stack** // show the calls stack for the current thread

**show threads** // show all threads

**show thread source** // show the **e** source for the current thread

**show thread tree** // show the full tree of calls for the current thread

show thread #thread-handle



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