

# Promethean Toolkit

Enabling Best Practices  
in IC Design & Test

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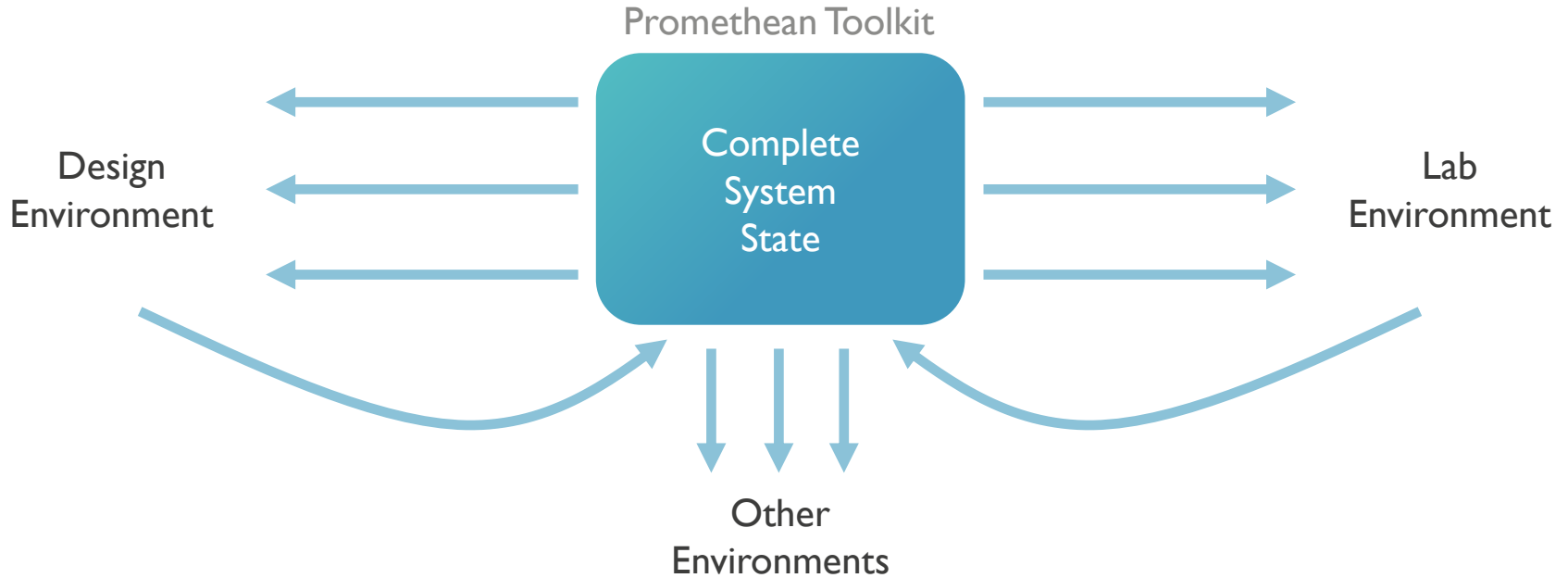
# Promethean Toolkit

## Centralized Design and Test

- Full-fledged application written in Matlab
  - 3 years of development
  - Already in use by ADC team
- Can be used throughout the design process
  - Design in Cadence (or other CAD tools)
  - Measurement in Lab

# Centralized Data Source

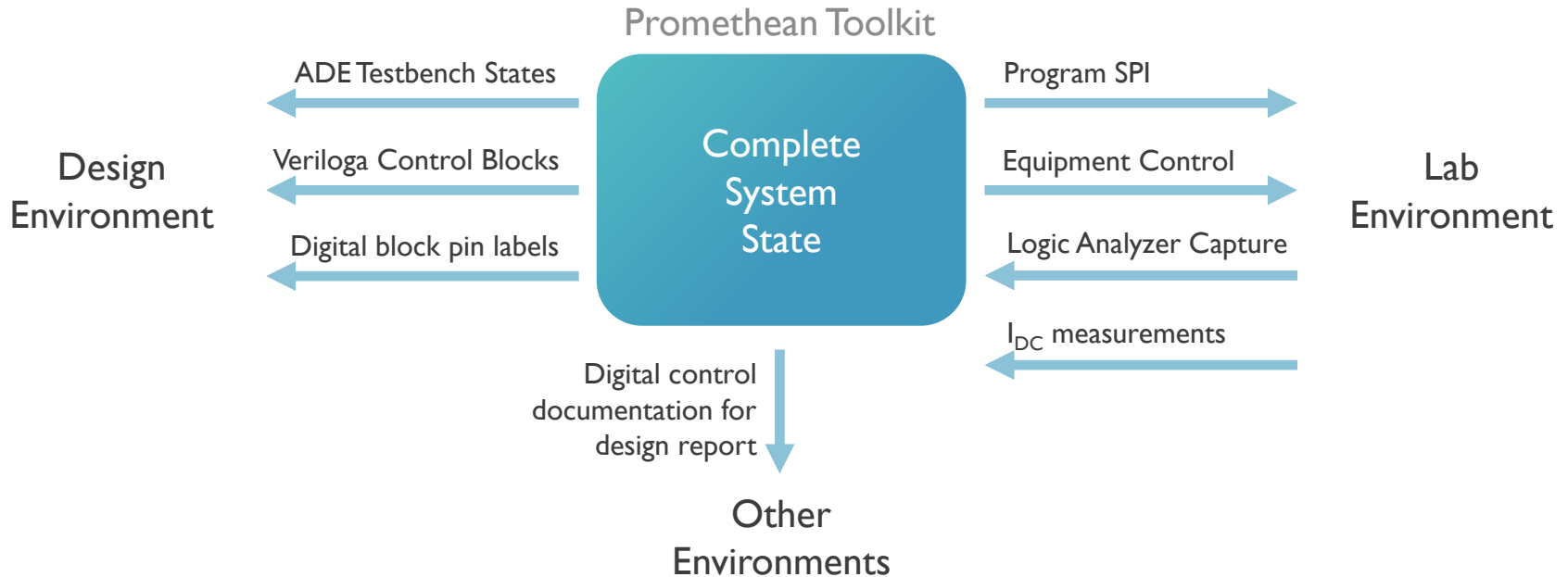
Everything feeds from a single, central source



# Centralized Data Source

Everything feeds from a single, central source

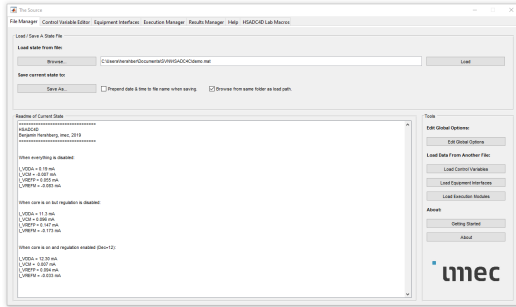
Real Example: ringamp ADC



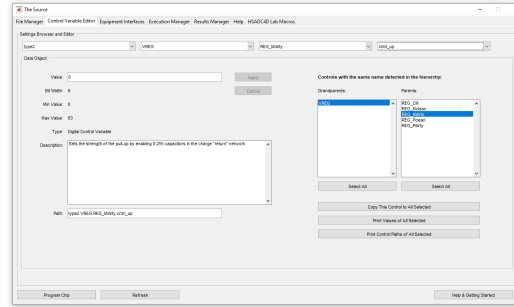
# The Common Modules

## Top-level System Architecture

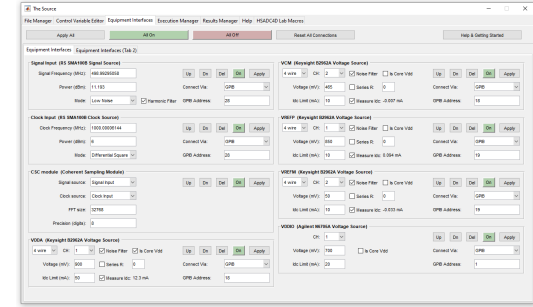
### File Manager:



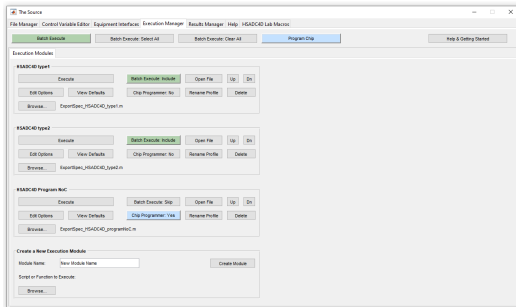
### Control Variable Editor:



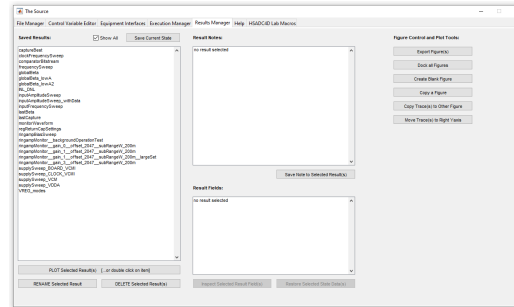
### Equipment Interfaces:



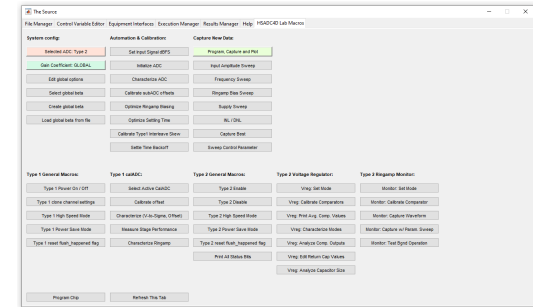
### Execution Manager:



### Results Manager:



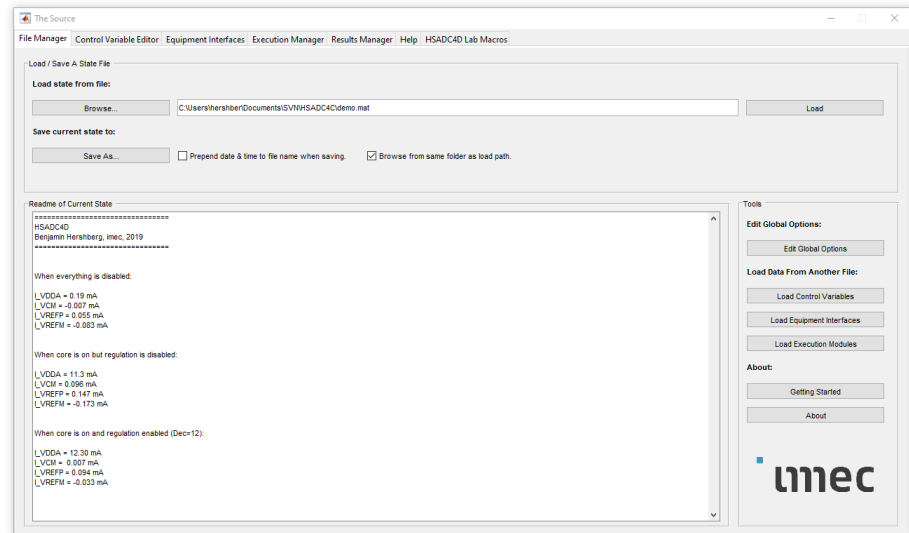
### Custom (User) Defined:



# File Manager

## Tour of the Common Modules

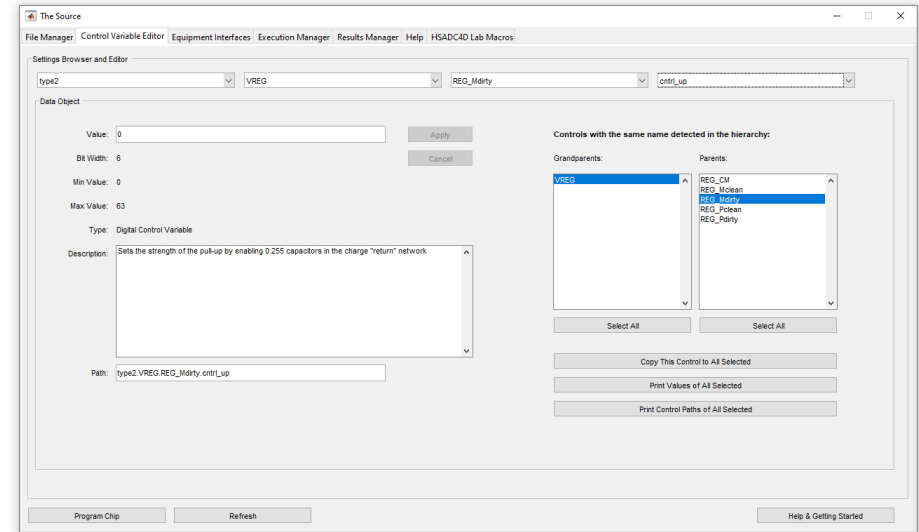
- Main Purpose
  - Load / Save states
- Features
  - “Readme” scratchpad for annotations
  - Load specific pieces of another file’s state
  - Configure the “global options”



# Control Variable Editor

## Tour of the Common Modules

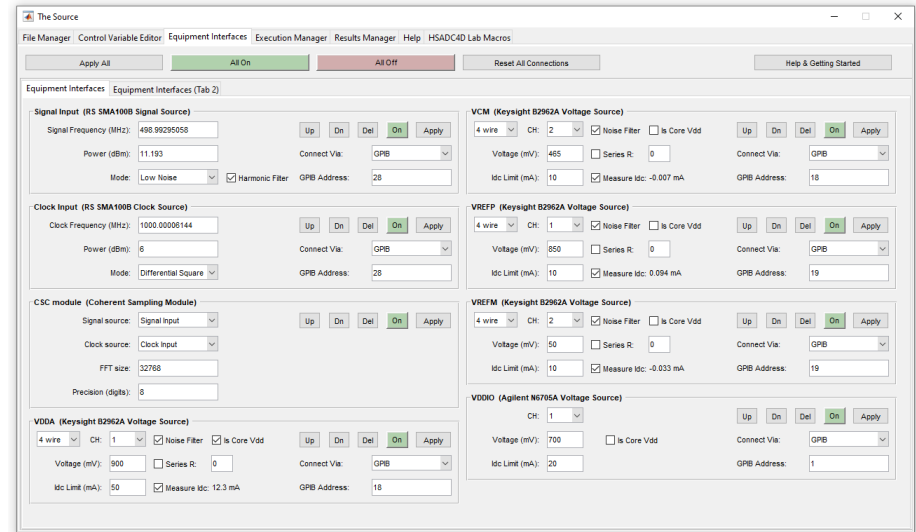
- Main Purpose
  - Browse / Edit the control variable tree
- Features
  - Built-in documentation for variables
  - Detects patterns in the control hierarchy and allows for batch analysis & edit
  - Supports both “hard” digital variables and “soft” cadence variables
  - Define control variables with a simple pre-defined hierarchical struct / cell format.
  - Hierarchy organization does not need to match physical system



# Equipment Control

## Tour of the Common Modules

- Main Purpose
  - Control lab equipment
- Features
  - Interactive and fully reconfigurable
  - Any connection protocol (GPIB, LAN, Abstraction Layer, etc...)
  - Simple templates show how to add new instruments and interface with low-level drivers (TMControl)

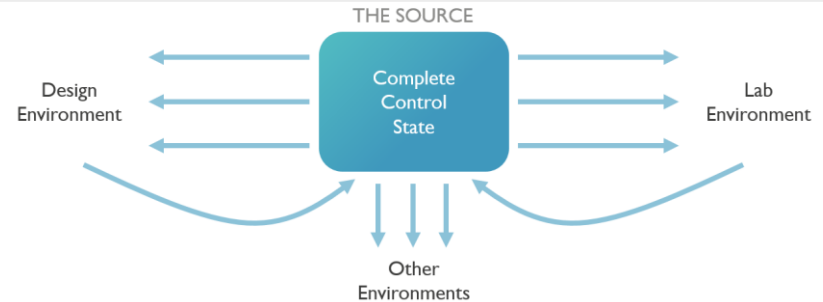
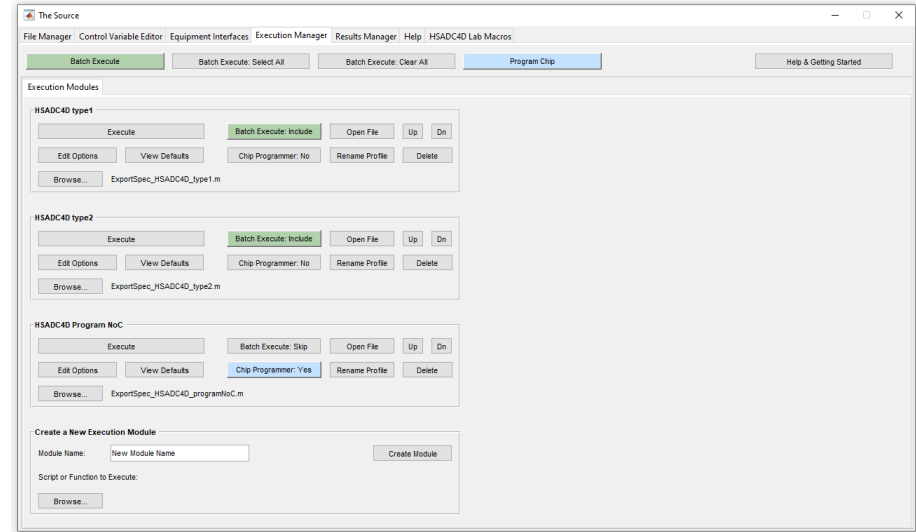




# Export Control

## Tour of the Common Modules

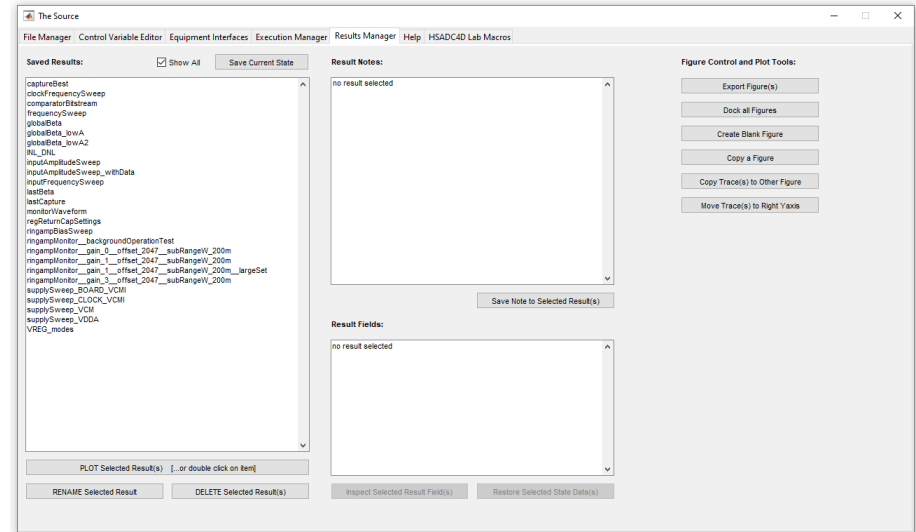
- Main Purpose
  - Export internal state to external formats
  - Execute any custom code in the local environment
  - Program your chip
- Features
  - No restrictions. Run whatever code you want.
  - No learning curve.
  - Allows for user-defined parameters to be defined
  - Built-in library with exporters for common formats



# Results Manager

## Tour of the Common Modules

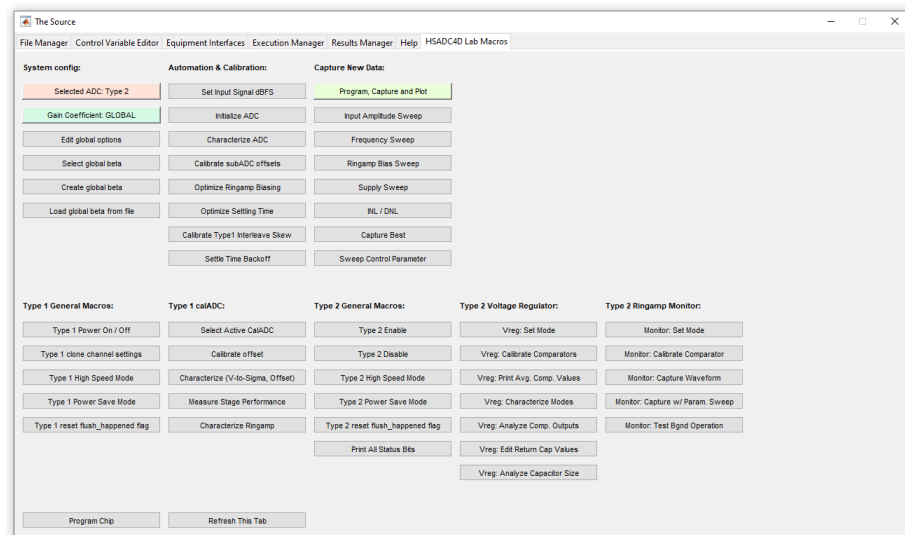
- Main Purpose
  - Plot, analyze, organize, and annotate measurement results
- Features
  - “Auto-magically” knows how to plot your result.
  - Interactive plotting and analysis.
  - Helpful tools for creating figures for external reports, publications, etc.



# Custom (User) Defined

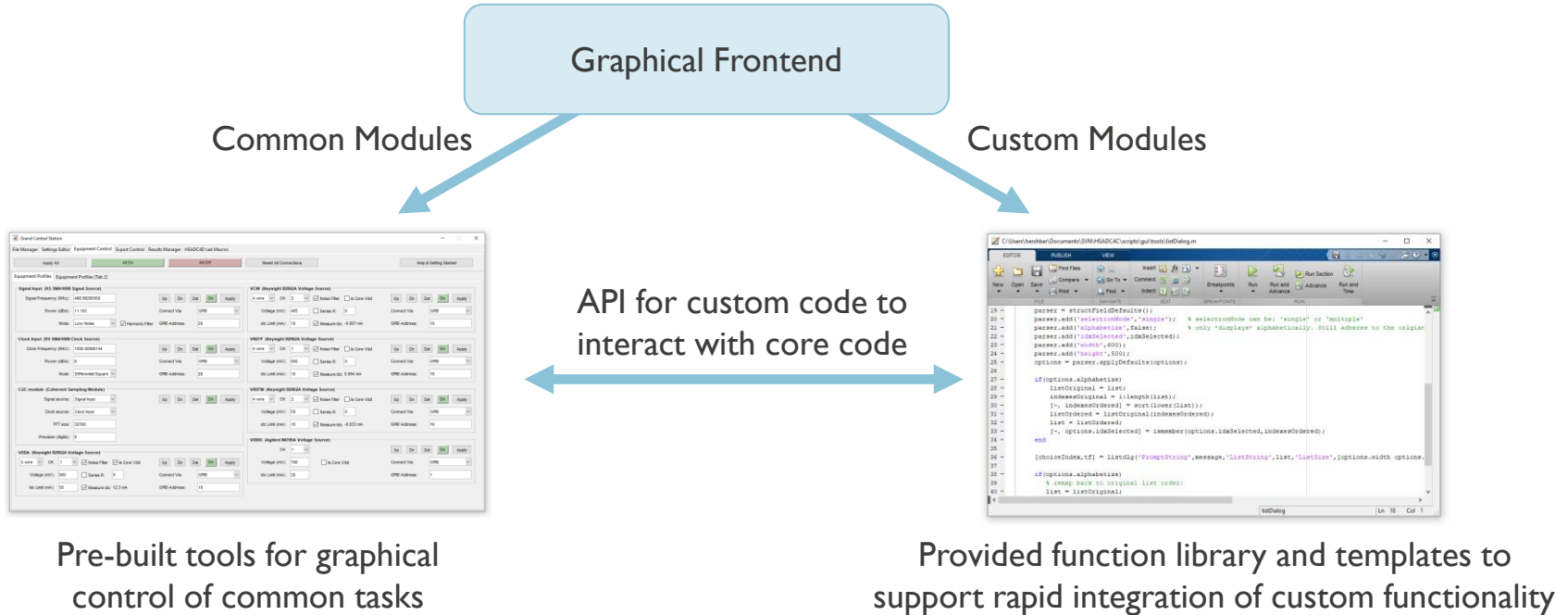
## Tour of the Common Modules

- Main Purpose
  - Customize your setup
  - Whatever you need it to be!
- Features
  - Extensive tools, templates, and examples provided for integrating your custom code into the GUI
  - Method of writing your functions that makes them “auto-magically” interactive
  - Extracts the default options out of your functions and lets the user edit them “auto-magically”



# Combining Common & Custom Functionality

## Top-level System Architecture



# Customization

## Integrating Project-Specific Code

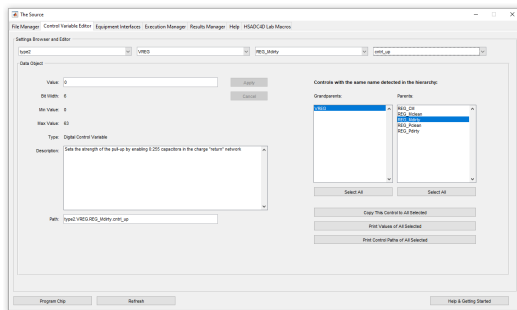
- Templates and examples to guide you the whole way
  - Follows a simple software engineering paradigm, with big benefits
- Code built using the provided templates will “auto-magically” support two modes of execution
  - Interactive mode - for use with the GUI
  - Function mode – for everything else
- More details in a future “hands-on” seminar

# Key Benefits

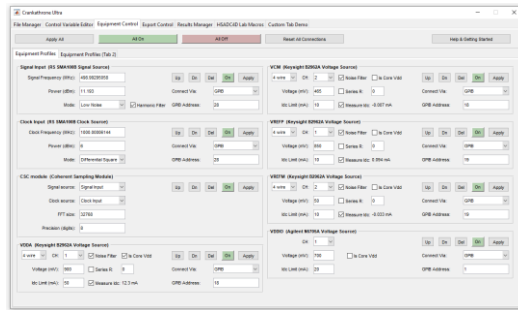
## Conclusions

- Productivity
  - It cannot be over-stated how much graphical control provides insight and boosts productivity

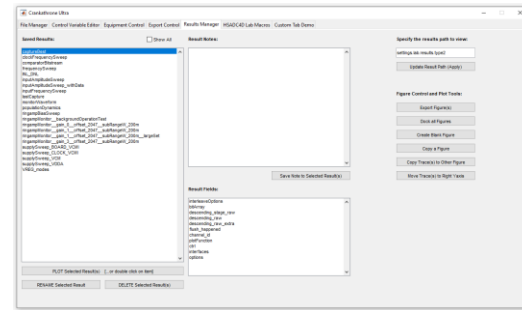
Visually inspect your chip's digital settings and experiment with different settings on-the-fly...



Click a button to sweep a voltage source and immediately see its effect on performance...



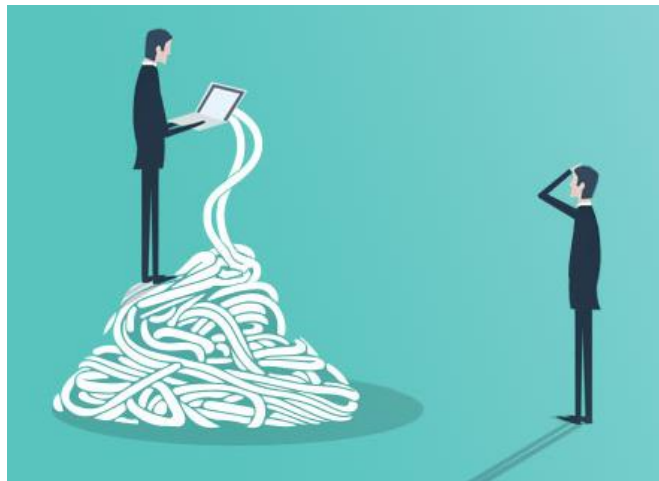
Run interactive analysis and plotting on the results you've acquired...



# Key Benefits

## Conclusions

- Reproducibility
  - Must Save / Load full representation of test setup
  - Must know what state was used to obtain a result
  - Must know what code was run to obtain the result, and with which user-defined parameters
- Usability
  - Graphical control and visualization of the complete system without needed to dig into code
  - Interactive execution flow of code that allows others to use your code without hacking it
  - Easy for others to understand how/where to make modifications



Will a colleague or external client be able to make sense of your work?

# Key Benefits

## Conclusions

- Transferability
  - Delivery of saved state(s) alongside physical IP to partners
  - Deliver pre-configured or pre-initialized states for each physical sample
    - With the results from our lab attached as a benchmark
  - Partners can send files of their state for debug / advice
  - You can send them files from our lab for them to try



Will a colleague or external client be able to make sense of your work?



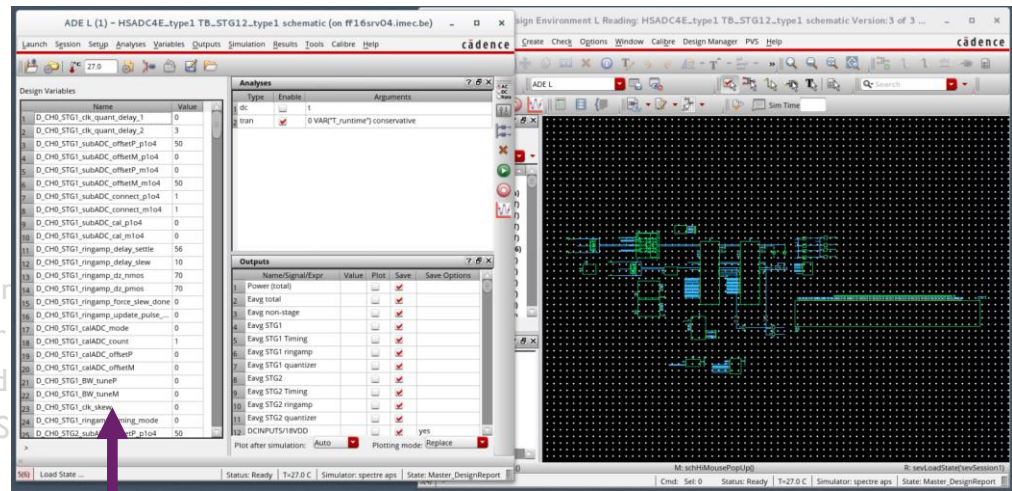
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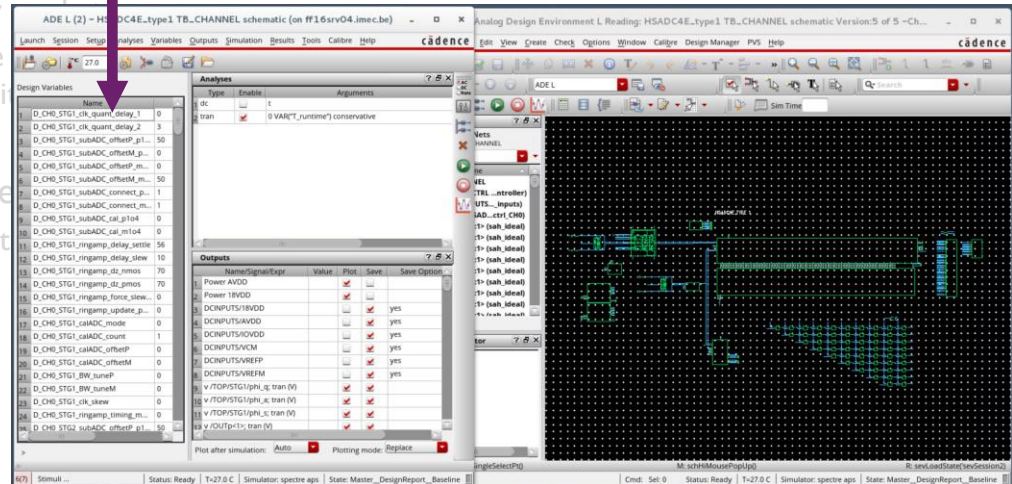
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  - All ADE variable names/values in your testben
  - Ever simulated the wrong thing because your
  - Keeps multiple users on a team synchronized
  - Automated generation of digital blocks (e.g. S

- Moving between Cadence and the Lab is trivial
  - When the time comes to test, you're already
  - No problem going from lab back to Cadence (Example: using lab settings to conduct paras

- Remote testing is awesome & very convenient
  - Reproducibility naturally leads to remote test
  - Just load up a state file and go!



How do I maintain a synchronized state?



# Key Benefits

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- Your life in Cadence becomes easier
  - All ADE variable names/values in your testbenches stay synchronized across the many levels of design hierarchy
  - Ever simulated the wrong thing because your testbench variables weren't setup how you expected?
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(Example: using lab settings to conduct parasitic extraction investigations in simulation)
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# Key Benefits

## Conclusions

- **YOU** will love this because it will make your job easier and certainly more fun
- **YOUR COLLEAGUES** will love this because they will be able to use your work without a master's degree in Spaghetti Code Interpreting
- **OUR PARTNERS** will love this because they will be able to test physical IP in a way that is reproducible, graphical, and intuitive

# Okay, I'm sold! How do I get started?

- <https://github.com/bhershberg/PrometheanToolkit>
- Give back to the project
  - Looking for new project mods and code contributors
  - Sharp edges: a lot of code cleanup is still needed 😞
- Help and documentation
  - Templates, Examples, and Explanations already included in the codebase (via 'Help' tab)
  - Possible future work: Video tutorials on YouTube for all key topics
    - (only going to put time into doing this if I see community interest for it)

Questions?



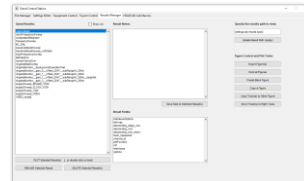
Custom GUI tab allows user to graphically execute custom functions



User graphically specifies the “options” that determine execution flow

```
results = yourCustomFunction(options);
```

Custom code executes



Results are available in the Results Manager for interactive plotting and analysis