WHY WE WILL HAVE NO IMITATORS William Bricken May 2002

We have developed a unique hardware architecture and supporting software. This architecture is demonstrably better than existing products. Why haven't strong competitors fielded the same ideas?

BOUNDARY LOGIC

a diagrammatic formalism, not a symbolic formalism diagrammatic tools have been actively suppressed for over a century it takes a multidisciplinary perspective to understand it it takes a software expert to implement it to give it value it takes an EDA application to maximize its value it takes others (management, EEs, funders) to bring it to market no one else has dedicated a career to understanding it no one else has been supported for a decade to develop it those who have popularized it have poor reputations

BOUNDARY LOGIC EDA SOFTWARE

deeply nested circuits are thought to be a bad idea (too slow) algorithms for deep nesting must pass through many gates logical transparency is obscured by a diversity of gate types using non-representation is avoided, misunderstood, and condemned circuits create an illusion that wiring and logic are different exact algorithms suggest that Boolean techniques are very difficult knowledge priesthoods have a vested interest in maintaining complexity EDA tools are not build on a formal foundation focusing on logic creates an artificial partition algebraic logic is not well understood EDA addresses logic to the exclusion of architecture

COMESH HARDWARE

a multilevel block architecture requires codesign with BL to justify fine-grain choices requires codesign to understand multilevel place and route requires a memory-based perspective to maintain speed has been iteratively discovered uses many elements which were abandoned decades ago deeply integrates logic and wiring place and route looks too difficult to conventional techniques deep optimization is not considered an architectural solution reconfigurable hardware approaches miss software reconfigurability

INERTIA

semi-conductor companies are expanding rapidly there is no time to explore exotic options exotic options do not offer backward compatibility successful companies do not disregard their current products the need for exotic new techniques has only just surfaced exotic options are not cost justified

existing architectures are wedded to symbolic approaches existing architectures are historically wedded to two-level approaches no academic tools exist to directly address multilevel optimization academic research is very political