Hints, Tips and Solutions

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Q: Sometimes I have problem to skip cells when importing cells with the same names from reference library. Once we skip one cell, expert will complain other cells already exist in the new library.

A: To process name collisions for several cells when you try to skip some of them:

1. click 'All Existing' button in Cell Name Collision dialog. The name of all existing cells become highlighted in grey.

2. Hold 'Ctrl' and mouse click on existing(grey) cell name(s) for the cells you want to stay without changes. Cell name background becomes white.

3. Press "Replace". New Cell Name disappears from the 'existing' cell lines that will be replaced and stays for the cells that won't be replaced.

4. For cell that you want to skip from importing, click on a Copied cell Old name($$ImportLib$$ line), then press "Skip". If you have several cells in the list, you can hold 'Ctrl' key while clicking on cell names, then press "Skip".

Now for all Existing cells to be replaced New Cell Name field is empty and a replacement cell has New Cell Name in $$ImportLib$$ line. For all Existing cells NOT to be replaced, New Cell Name field has a cell name and New Cell Name in $$ImportLib$$ line is empty.

If you have only one New Cell Name for each cell pair, press OK. If for some cell both New Cell Names are empty, or the same cell name repeated twice in New Cell Name field, press "Retry" and repeat steps 1 - 4.

Q: I have set up device and connection layers and then tried to run Hipex. But I got an error message saying that there are no executable DRC commands in DRC scripts. What kind of scripts I need to prepare?

A: Please check an option 'Rebuild Derived Layers' in Hipex>>Options>>Layout. It should be OFF if you don't need to generate any derived layers. If it is ON, Hipex looks for derived layers in technology or for DRC script for layer generation, depending on setting in Hipex>>Options>>Netlist_Technology_Definition>> Derived_Layers ('Use Current Technology' or 'Use DRC Script File').

Q: I'm having some difficulty setting the instance grid. I know how to change MinGridStep for instanceGrid-Params in technology file, but is there a way to change it interactively inside Expert?

A: There are several kinds of grids in EXPERT. Their sizes and visibility are defined in Grid Setup, which is invoked from three different places, for different purposes.

1. Default grid settings are set from Setup>> Technology>> Grid. These grid settings are applied to all editing operations, if they are not overriden.

2. Individual layer grid settings are set from the Layer Setup panel (Setup>>Technology>>Layer/Wire Setup menu command). They are applied to that particular layer.

3. Cell instance placement grid is set as a parameter of the cell instancing dialog and is applied to cell instance/array placement. In Create Instance dialog set Individual_Grid ON and press Set_up_Grid. This Grid Setup dialog is for instances grid settings. If Individual_Grid is OFF, these settings are disabled and grid settings from Setup>>Technology>>Grid Setup are used for instances.

Q: I get the warning "Polygonal font file 'C:\...' is not found". Do you have a polgfont.gds file that I should be referencing?

A: We always include <polgfont.gds> in each *Expert* version...\Silvaco\lib\Expert\3.6.12.R\x86-nt\polgfont.gds. It looks like your Silvaco installation is not in C:\Silvaco, so in Setup>>Editor/Viewer>>Editing>>Polygonal_ font_file browse for polygonal font file from ...\Silvaco\ .You can use the provided <polgfont.gds> file or create your own with another name.