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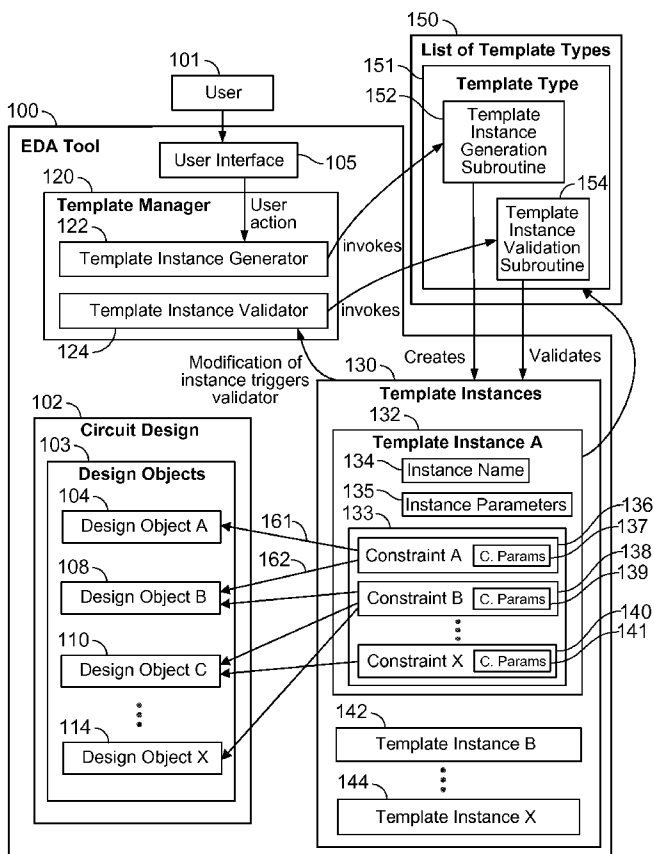
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: GENERALIZED CONSTRAINT COLLECTION MANAGEMENT METHOD



(57) Abstract: Techniques are provided to allow users of Electronic Design Automation (EDA) tools to define constraint template types for efficiently associating constraints with design objects to specify design intent. Processes for creating and validating the constraints are provided by user-defined plug-ins, thereby allowing users to annotate circuit designs with constraints for proprietary layout and fabrication processes without exposing the constraints to tool vendors or competitors. The constraints are re-created from the template types whenever the circuit design is loaded into the EDA tool, so that the constraints are based upon the latest version of the template type. The constraints are also re-created when validation fails. Constraint groups are reusable in different designs, technology nodes, and processes because they automatically expand to provide the specific constraints to achieve a goal. The specific constraints in a template type can be modified as technology changes, and the modification will automatically be applied to the design objects.

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	UNKNOWN: "What's New in Board Station 2005"[Online] 2006, XP007904262 Retrieved from the Internet: URL:http://www.mentor.com/products/pcb/boar rdstation/upload/bs2005_wnandc_final.pdf> [retrieved on 2008-03-06] pages 29-31	1-32
A	US 2004/205573 A1 (CARLSON BRENT A [US] ET AL) 14 October 2004 (2004-10-14) abstract	1-32

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date	
US 2004205573	A1	14-10-2004	AU 2003225697 A1	08-10-2003
			CA 2479310 A1	02-10-2003
			EP 1493100 A1	05-01-2005
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			WO 03081457 A1	02-10-2003
