In the following example of instantiating a voltage-controlled oscillator, the parameters are specified on a named-association basis much as they are for ports.

```
module n(lo_out, rf_in):
electrical lo_out, rf_in;
    //create an instance and set parameters
    vco #(.centerFreq(5000), .convGain(1000)) vcol(lo_out, rf_in);
endmodule
```

Here, the name of the instantiated vco module is vcol. The centerFreq parameter is passed a value of 5000 and the convGain parameter is passed a value of 1000. The positional assignment mechanism for ports assigns lo\_out as the first port and rf\_in as the second port of vcol.

#### 7.2.4 Parameter dependence

A parameter (for example, gate\_cap) can be defined with an expression containing another parameter (for example, gate\_width or gate\_length). Since gate\_cap depends on the value of gate\_width and gate\_length, a modification of gate\_width or gate\_length changes the value of gate\_cap.

*Examples:* 

In the following parameter declaration, an update of gate\_width, whether by a *defparam* statement or in an instantiation statement for the module which defined these parameters, automatically updates gate\_cap.

#### parameter

```
gate_width = 0.3e-6,
gate_length = 4.0e-6,
gate_cap = gate_length * gate_width * `COX;
```

#### 7.2.5 Detecting parameter overrides

In some cases, it is important to be able to determine whether a parameter value was obtained from the default value in its declaration statement or if that value was overridden. In such a case, the **\$param\_given()** function described in Section 10.2 can be used.

## 7.3 Paramsets

A paramset definition is enclosed between the keywords **paramset** and **endparamset**, as shown in Syntax 7-5. The first identifier following the keyword **paramset** is the name of the paramset being defined. The second identifier will usually be the name of a module with which the paramset is associated. The second identifier can also be the name of a second paramset; a chain of paramsets may be defined in this way, but the last paramset in the chain shall reference a module.

```
paramset_declaration ::=
    {attribute_instance} paramset paramset_identifier module_or_paramset_identifier;
    paramset_item_declaration {paramset_item_declaration}
    paramset_statement { paramset_statement }
    endparamset
paramset item declaration ::=
     {attribute_instance} parameter_declaration
     {attribute_instance} local_parameter_declaration
     {attribute_instance} string_parameter_declaration
     {attribute_instance} local_string_parameter_declaration
     aliasparam_declaration
     {attribute_instance} integer_declaration
     {attribute instance} real declaration
paramset_statement ::=
     .module_parameter_identifier = expression ;
     statement
    paramset_seq_block
paramset_seq_block ::=
    begin
     { paramset_statement }
    end
```

Syntax 7-5—Syntax for paramset

The paramet itself contains no behavioral code; all of the behavior is determined by the associated module. The restrictions on statements in the parameter are described in Section 7.3.1.

The parameter provides a convenient way to collect parameter values for a particular module, such that an instance need only provide overrides for a smaller number of parameters. A simulator can use this information to optimize data storage for the instances: multiple instances may share a parameter, and the simulator can share storage of parameters of the underlying module. The shared storage of parameters makes them similar to the SPICE model card. Also like the SPICE model card, parameters may be overloaded, as described in Section 7.3.2.

A paramset can have a description attribute, which shall be used by the simulator when generating help messages for the paramset.

#### 7.3.1 Paramset statements

The restrictions on statements or assignments allowed in a paramset are similar to the restrictions for analog functions. Specifically, a paramset:

• can use any statements available for conditional execution (see Section 6.1);

- shall not use access functions;
- shall not use contribution statements or event control statements; and
- shall not use named blocks.

### The special syntax

.module\_parameter\_identifier = expression ;

is used to assign values to the parameters of the associated module. The expression on the right-hand side can be composed of numbers and parameters, local parameters, and variables declared in the parameter, as well as out-of-module references to parameters of a different module.

### 7.3.2 Paramset overloading

Paramset identifiers need not be unique: multiple paramsets can be declared using the same *paramset\_*identifier, and they may refer to different modules. During elaboration, the simulator shall choose an appropriate paramset from the set that shares a given name for every instance that references that name.

When choosing an appropriate paramset, the following rules shall be enforced:

- All parameters overridden on the instance shall be parameters of the parameter
- The parameters of the parameter, with overrides and defaults, shall be all within the allowed ranges.
- The local parameters of the parameter, computed from parameters, shall be within the allowed ranges.

The rules above may not be sufficient for the simulator to pick a unique paramset, in which case the following rules shall be applied in order until a unique paramset has been selected:

- The parameters with the fewest number of un-overridden parameters shall be selected.
- The parameters with the greatest number of local parameters with specified ranges shall be selected.

It shall be an error if there are still more than one applicable paramset for an instance after application of these rules.

#### 7.3.3 Paramset output variables

As with modules, integer or real variables in the paramete that are declared with descriptions are considered output variables; see Section 3.1.1. A few special rules apply to paramete output variables and output variables of modules referenced by a paramete:

- If a paramset output variable has the same name as an output variable of the module, the value of the paramset output variable is the value reported for any instance that uses the paramset.
- If a parameter variable without a description has the same name as an output variable of the module, the output variable of that name shall not be available for instances that use the paramet.
- A paramset output variable's value may be computed from values of any output parameters of the module by using the special syntax *.module\_output\_variable\_*identifier
   However, any paramset variable that depends on a module output variable shall not be used in the assignment of module parameters.

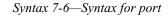
# 7.4 Ports

Ports provide a means of interconnecting instances of modules. For example, if a module A instantiates module B, the ports of module B are associated with either the ports or the internal nets of module A.

### 7.4.1 **Port association**

The syntax for a port association is shown in Syntax 7-6.

```
port ::=
    port_expression
    | . port_identifier ( [ port_expression ] )
port_expression ::=
    port_identifier
    | port_identifier [ constant_expression ]
    | port_identifier [ constant_range ]
constant_range ::=
    msb_constant_expression : lsb_constant_expression
```



The port expression in the port definition can be one of the following:

• a simple net identifier