

# AXI4-Stream VVC – Quick Reference

For general information see UVVM VVC Framework Essential Mechanisms located in `uvvm_vvc_framework/doc`.

AXI4-Stream Master (see page 2 for AXI4-Stream Slave)

**axistream\_transmit[\_bytes]** (VVCT, vvc\_instance\_idx, data\_array, [user\_array, [strb\_array, id\_array, dest\_array]], msg, [scope])

**Example:** `axistream_transmit(AXISTREAM_VVCT, 0, v_data_array(0 to v_numBytes-1), v_user_array(0 to v_numWords-1), " Send a 'v_numBytes' byte packet to DUT");`

**Example:** `axistream_transmit(AXISTERAM_VVCT, 0, v_data_array(0 to v_numBytes-1)(31 downto 0), v_user_array(0 to v_numWords-1), "Send a '4 x v_numBytes' byte packet to DUT");`

*Note that this procedure can only be called when the AXISTREAM VVC is instantiated in master mode, i.e. setting the generic constant 'GC\_MASTER\_MODE' to true.  
See page 5 for additional information.*

Note! Use `axistream_transmit_bytes ( )` when using `t_byte_array`.

VVC



*axistream\_vvc.vhd*



VHDL 2008 only

# AXI4-Stream VVC – Quick Reference

AXI4-Stream Slave (see page 1 for AXI4-Stream Master)

## **axistream\_receive[\_bytes] (VVCT, vvc\_instance\_idx, msg, [scope])**

**Example:** axistream\_receive (AXISTREAM\_VVCT, 1, "Receive packet, which is stored in VVC and will be fetched later using fetch\_result() ");

*Note that this procedure can only be called when the AXISTREAM VVC is instantiated in slave mode, i.e. setting the generic constant 'GC\_MASTER\_MODE' to false.  
See page 6 for additional information.*

Note! Use axistream\_receive\_bytes ( ) when using t\_byte\_array.

**VVC**



axistream\_vvc.vhd

## **axistream\_expect[\_bytes] (VVCT, vvc\_instance\_idx, exp\_data\_array, [exp\_user\_array, [exp\_strb\_array, exp\_id\_array, exp\_dest\_array]], msg, [alert\_level, [scope]])**

**Example:** axistream\_expect(AXISTREAM\_VVCT, 0, v\_data\_array(0 to v\_numBytes-1), v\_user\_array(0 to v\_numWords-1), "Expect a packet, checking the tuser bits");

**Example:** axistream\_expect(AXISTREAM\_VVCT, 0, v\_data\_array(0 to v\_numBytes-1)(16 downto 0), v\_user\_array(0 to v\_numWords-1), "Expecting a packet, checking the tuser bits");

*Note that this procedure can only be called when the AXISTREAM VVC is instantiated in slave mode, i.e. setting the generic constant 'GC\_MASTER\_MODE' to false.  
See page 5 and 6 for additional information.*

Note! Use axistream\_expect\_bytes ( ) when using t\_byte\_array



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AXI4-Stream VVC Configuration record 'vvc\_config' -- accessible via **shared\_axistream\_vvc\_config**

Record element	Type	C_AXISTREAM_VVC_CONFIG_DEFAULT
inter_bfm_delay	t_inter_bfm_delay	C_AXISTREAM_INTER_BFM_DELAY_DEFAULT
cmd_queue_count_max	natural	C_CMD_QUEUE_COUNT_MAX
cmd_queue_count_threshold	natural	C_CMD_QUEUE_COUNT_THRESHOLD
cmd_queue_count_threshold_severity	t_alert_level	C_CMD_QUEUE_COUNT_THRESHOLD_SEVERITY
bfm_config	t_axistream_bfm_config	C_AXISTREAM_BFM_CONFIG_DEFAULT
msg_id_panel	t_msg_id_panel	C_VVC_MSG_ID_PANEL_DEFAULT

AXI4-Stream VVC Status record signal 'vvc\_status' -- accessible via **shared\_axistream\_vvc\_status**

Record element	Type
current_cmd_idx	natural
previous_cmd_idx	natural
pending_cmd_cnt	natural

## Common VVC procedures applicable for this VVC

- See UVVM Methods QuickRef for details.

**await\_[any\_]completion()**

**enable\_log\_msg()**

**disable\_log\_msg()**

**fetch\_result()**

**flush\_command\_queue()**

**terminate\_current\_command()**

**terminate\_all\_commands()**

**insert\_delay()**

**get\_last\_received\_cmd\_idx()**

## VVC target parameters

Name	Type	Example(s)	Description
VVCT	t_vvc_target_record	AXISTREAM_VVCT	VVC target type compiled into each VVC in order to differentiate between VVCs.
vvc_instance_idx	integer	0	Instance number of the VVC

## VVC functional parameters

Name	Type	Example(s)	Description
data_array	t_byte_array, t_slv_array or std_logic_vector	x"D0" & x"D1" (x"D0D1", x"D2D3") x"D0D1"	A byte array, SLV array or a single SLV containing the packet data to be sent or the data received. Note the name change when data_array is t_byte_array. SLV and t_slv_array data has to be a multiple of byte(s), e.g. x"AA", x"BEEF". t_byte_array is defined in axistream_bfm_pkg. Refer to the AXI4-Stream BFM documentation
user_array	t_user_array	x"1" & x"2"	Sideband data to send or has been received via the tuser signal. t_user_array is defined in axistream_bfm_pkg. Refer to the AXI4-Stream BFM documentation
strb_array	t_strb_array	x"1" & x"2"	Sideband data to send or has been received via the tstrb signal. t_strb_array is defined in axistream_bfm_pkg. Refer to the AXI4-Stream BFM documentation
id_array	t_id_array	x"1" & x"2"	Sideband data to send or has been received via the tid signal. t_id_array is defined in axistream_bfm_pkg. Refer to the AXI4-Stream BFM documentation
dest_array	t_dest_array	x"1" & x"2"	Sideband data to send or has been received via the tdest signal. t_dest_array is defined in axistream_bfm_pkg. Refer to the AXI4-Stream BFM documentation
msg	string	"Send data"	A custom message to be appended in the log/alert
alert-level	t_alert_level	ERROR or TB_WARNING	Set the severity for the alert that may be asserted by the method.
scope	string	"AXISTREAM VVC"	A string describing the scope from which the log/alert originates. In a simple single sequencer typically "AXISTREAM BFM". In a verification component typically "AXISTREAM VVC".

## VVC entity signals

Name	Type	Description
clk	std_logic	VVC Clock signal
axistream_vvc_master_if	t_axistream_if	See AXI4-Stream BFM documentation

## VVC entity generic constants

Name	Type	Default	Description
GC_VVC_IS_MASTER	boolean	-	Set to true when this VVC instance is an AXI4 Stream master (data is output from BFM). Set to false when this VVC is an AXI4 Stream slave (data is input to BFM.)
GC_DATA_WIDTH	integer	-	Width of the AXI4-Stream data bus
GC_USER_WIDTH	integer	-	Width of the AXI4-Stream TUSER signal. <i>Note 1:</i> if TUSER is wider than 8, increase the value of the constant C_MAX_TUSER_BITS in axistream_bfm_pkg. <i>Note 2:</i> If the TUSER signal is not used, refer to description in Section 4
GC_ID_WIDTH	integer	-	Width of the AXI4-Stream TID signal. <i>Note 1:</i> if TID is wider than 8, increase the value of the constant C_MAX_TID_BITS in axistream_bfm_pkg. <i>Note 2:</i> If the TID signal is not used, refer to description in Section 4
GC_DEST_WIDTH	integer	-	Width of the AXI4-Stream TDEST signal. <i>Note 1:</i> if TDEST is wider than 4, increase the value of the constant C_MAX_TDEST_BITS in axistream_bfm_pkg. <i>Note 2:</i> If the TDEST signal is not used, refer to description in Section 4
GC_INSTANCE_IDX	natural	-	Instance number to assign the VVC
GC_AXISTREAM_CONFIG	t_axistream_bfm_config	C_AXISTREAM_BFM_CONFIG_DEFAULT	Configuration for the AXI4-Stream BFM, see AXI4-Stream BFM documentation.
GC_CMD_QUEUE_COUNT_MAX	natural	1000	Absolute maximum number of commands in the VVC command queue
GC_CMD_QUEUE_COUNT_THRESHOLD	natural	950	An alert will be generated when reaching this threshold to indicate that the command queue is almost full. The queue will still accept new commands until it reaches C_CMD_QUEUE_COUNT_MAX.
GC_CMD_QUEUE_COUNT_THRESHOLD_SEVERITY	t_alert_level	WARNING	Alert severity which will be used when command queue reaches GC_CMD_QUEUE_COUNT_THRESHOLD.
GC_RESULT_QUEUE_COUNT_MAX	natural	1000	Maximum number of unfetched results before result_queue is full.
GC_RESULT_QUEUE_COUNT_THRESHOLD	natural	950	An alert with severity 'result_queue_count_threshold_severity' will be issued if result queue exceeds this count. Used for early warning if result queue is almost full. Will be ignored if set to 0.
GC_RESULT_QUEUE_COUNT_THRESHOLD_SEVERITY	t_alert_level	WARNING	Severity of alert to be initiated if exceeding result_queue_count_threshold

# VVC details

All VVC procedures are defined in `vvm_methods_pkg` (dedicated this VVC), and `uvvm_vvc_framework.td_vvc_framework_common_methods_pkg` (common VVC procedures).

It is also possible to send a multicast to all instances of a VVC with `ALL_INSTANCES` as parameter for `vvc_instance_idx`.

Note the procedure name change when using `t_byte_array`.

*Note: Every procedure here can be called without the optional parameters enclosed in [ ].*

## 1 VVC procedure details

Procedure	Description
<b><code>axistream_transmit[_bytes]()</code></b>	<p><b><code>axistream_transmit[_bytes]</code> (VVCT, <code>vvc_instance_idx</code>, <code>data_array</code>, [<code>user_array</code>, [<code>strb_array</code>, <code>id_array</code>, <code>dest_array</code>]], <code>msg</code>, [<code>scope</code>])</b></p> <p>The <code>axistream_transmit()</code> VVC procedure adds a transmit command to the AXI4-Stream VVC executor queue, which will run as soon as all preceding commands have completed. When the command is scheduled to run, the executor calls the AXI4-Stream BFM <code>axistream_transmit()</code> procedure, described in the AXI4-Stream BFM QuickRef.</p> <p>The <code>axistream_transmit()</code> procedure can only be called when the AXISTREAM VVC is instantiated in master mode, i.e. setting the generic constant 'GC_MASTER_MODE' to true.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <pre>axistream_transmit(AXISTREAM_VVCT, 0, v_data_array(0 to 1),     "Send a 2 byte packet to DUT, tuser=0 each word / clock cycle", C_SCOPE); axistream_transmit(AXISTREAM_VVCT, 0, v_data_array(0 to 1)(16 downto 0),     "Send a 4 byte packet to DUT, tuser=0 each word / clock cycle", C_SCOPE); axistream_transmit(AXISTREAM_VVCT, 0, v_data_array(0 to v_numBytes-1), v_user_array(0 to v_numWords-1),     " Send a 'v_numBytes' byte packet to DUT", C_SCOPE); axistream_transmit(AXISTREAM_VVCT, 0, v_data_array(0 to v_numBytes-1), v_user_array(0 to v_numWords-1),     v_strb_array(0 to v_numWords-1), v_id_array(0 to v_numWords-1),     v_id_array(0 to v_numWords-1), "Send..", C_SCOPE); axistream_transmit(AXISTREAM_VVCT, 0, (x"D0", x"D1", x"D2", x"D3"), (x"00", x"0A"),     "Send a 4 byte packet with tuser=A at the 2<sup>nd</sup> (last) word", C_SCOPE); --(tdata'length = 16) axistream_transmit(AXISTREAM_VVCT, 0, (x"D0", x"D1", x"D2", x"D3"), (x"00", x"00", x"00", x"0A"),     "Send a 4 byte packet with tuser=A at the 4<sup>th</sup> (last) word", C_SCOPE); --(tdata'length = 8)</pre>
<b><code>axistream_expect[_bytes]()</code></b>	<p><b><code>axistream_expect[_bytes]</code> (VVCT, <code>vvc_instance_idx</code>, <code>exp_data_array</code>, [<code>exp_user_array</code>, [<code>exp_strb_array</code>, <code>exp_id_array</code>, <code>exp_dest_array</code>]], <code>msg</code>, [<code>alert_level</code>, [<code>scope</code>]])</b></p> <p>The <code>axistream_expect()</code> VVC procedure adds an expect command to the AXI4-Stream VVC executor queue, which will run as soon as all preceding commands have completed. When the command is scheduled to run, the executor calls the AXI4-Stream BFM <code>axistream_expect()</code> procedure, described in the AXI4-Stream BFM QuickRef.</p> <p>The <code>axistream_expect()</code> procedure can only be called when the AXISTREAM VVC is instantiated in slave mode, i.e. setting the generic constant 'GC_MASTER_MODE' to false.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <pre>axistream_expect(AXISTREAM_VVCT, 0, v_exp_data_array(0 to 1),</pre>

```

        "Expect a 2 byte packet, ignoring the tuser bits", C_SCOPE);
axistream_expect(AXISTREAM_VVCT, 0, v_exp_data_array(0 to 1)(16 downto 0),
        "Expect a 4 byte packet, ignoring the tuser bits", C_SCOPE);
axistream_expect(AXISTREAM_VVCT, 0, v_exp_data_array(0 to v_numBytes-1), v_user_array(0 to v_numWords-1),
        "Expect a packet, checking the tuser bits", C_SCOPE);
axistream_expect(AXISTREAM_VVCT, 0, v_exp_data_array(0 to v_numBytes-1), v_user_array(0 to v_numWords-1),
        v_strb_array(0 to v_numWords-1), v_id_array(0 to v_numWords-1),v_id_array(0 to v_numWords-1),
        "Check all sigs", C_SCOPE);
axistream_expect(AXISTREAM_VVCT, 0, (x"D0", x"D1", x"D2", x"D3"), (x"00", x"0A"), "Expect a 4 byte packet with
        tuser=A at the 2nd (last) word", C_SCOPE); --(tdata'length = 16)
axistream_expect(AXISTREAM_VVCT, 0, (x"D0", x"D1", x"D2", x"D3"), (x"00", x"00", x"00", x"0A"), "Expect a
        4 byte packet with tuser=A at the 4th (last) word", C_SCOPE); --(tdata'length = 8)

```

## axistream\_receive[\_bytes] ()

**axistream\_receive[\_bytes] (VVCT, vvc\_instance\_idx, addr, msg, [scope])**

The `axistream_receive()` VVC procedure adds a receive command to the AXISTREAM VVC executor queue, which will run as soon as all preceding commands have completed. When the receive command is scheduled to run, the executor calls the AXISTREAM BFM `axistream_receive()` procedure, described in the AXISTREAM BFM QuickRef. The `axistream_receive()` procedure can only be called when the AXISTREAM VVC is instantiated in slave mode, i.e. setting the generic constant 'GC\_MASTER\_MODE' to false.

The value received from DUT will not be returned in this procedure call since it is non-blocking for the sequencer/caller, but the received data and metadata will be stored in the VVC for a potential future fetch (see example with *fetch\_result* below).

Note that the stored received data is `t_byte_array`.

Example:

```
axistream_receive(AXISTREAM_VVCT, 1, "Receive data to VVC", C_SCOPE);
```

**Example with `fetch_result()` call:** Result is placed in **`v_result`**

```

variable v_cmd_idx      : natural;                -- Command index for the last receive
variable v_result       : work.vvc_cmd_pkg.t_vvc_result; -- Result from receive (data and metadata)
(...)
axistream_receive(AXISTREAM_VVCT, 1, "Receive data to VVC");
v_cmd_idx := get_last_received_cmd_idx(AXISTREAM_VVCT, 1);
await_completion(AXISTREAM_VVCT,1, 1 ms, "Wait for receive to finish");
fetch_result(AXISTREAM_VVCT,1, v_cmd_idx, v_result, "Fetching result from receive operation");

```

## 2 VVC Configuration

Record element	Type	C_AXISTREAM_BFM_CONFIG_DEFAULT	Description
inter_bfm_delay	t_inter_bfm_delay	C_AXISTREAM_INTER_BFM_DELAY_DEFAULT	Delay between any requested BFM accesses towards the DUT. - TIME_START2START: Time from a BFM start to the next BFM start (A TB_WARNING will be issued if access takes longer than TIME_START2START). - TIME_FINISH2START: Time from a BFM end to the next BFM start. Any insert_delay() command will add to the above minimum delays, giving for instance the ability to skew the BFM starting time.
cmd_queue_count_max	natural	C_CMD_QUEUE_COUNT_MAX	Maximum pending number in command queue before queue is full. Adding additional commands will result in an ERROR.
cmd_queue_count_threshold	natural	C_CMD_QUEUE_COUNT_THRESHOLD	An alert with severity "cmd_queue_count_threshold_severity" will be issued if command queue exceeds this count. Used for early warning if command queue is almost full. Will be ignored if set to 0.
cmd_queue_count_threshold_severity	t_alert_level	C_CMD_QUEUE_COUNT_THRESHOLD_SEVERITY	Severity of alert to be initiated if exceeding cmd_queue_count_threshold
result_queue_count_max	natural	C_RESULT_QUEUE_COUNT_MAX	Maximum number of unfetched results before result_queue is full.
result_queue_count_threshold	natural	C_RESULT_QUEUE_COUNT_THRESHOLD	An alert with severity 'result_queue_count_threshold_severity' will be issued if result queue exceeds this count. Used for early warning if result queue is almost full. Will be ignored if set to 0.
result_queue_count_threshold_severity	t_alert_level	C_RESULT_QUEUE_COUNT_THRESHOLD_SEVERITY	Severity of alert to be initiated if exceeding result_queue_count_threshold
bfm_config	t_axistream_bfm_config	C_AXISTREAM_BFM_CONFIG_DEFAULT	Configuration for AXI4-Stream BFM. See quick reference for AXI4-Stream BFM
msg_id_panel	t_msg_id_panel	C_VVC_MSG_ID_PANEL_DEFAULT	VVC dedicated message ID panel

The configuration record can be accessed from the Central Testbench Sequencer through the shared variable array, e.g.:

```
shared_axistream_vvc_config(1).inter_bfm_delay.delay_in_time := 50 ns;
shared_axistream_vvc_config(1).bfm_config.clock_period      := 10 ns;
```

## 3 VVC Status

The current status of the VVC can be retrieved during simulation. This is achieved by reading from the shared variable shared\_axistream\_vvc\_status record from the test sequencer. The record contents can be seen below:

Record element	Type	Description
current_cmd_idx	natural	Command index currently running
previous_cmd_idx	natural	Previous command index to run
pending_cmd_cnt	natural	Pending number of commands in the command queue

## 4 Activity watchdog

The VVCs support an activity watchdog which monitors VVC activity and will alert if no VVC activity is registered within a selected timeout value. The VVCs will register their presence to the activity watchdog at start-up, and report when busy and not, using dedicated activity watchdog methods and triggering the `global_trigger_activity_watchdog` signal, during simulations.

Include `activity_watchdog(num_exp_vvc, timeout, alert_level, msg)` in the testbench to start using the activity watchdog. More information can be found in UVVM Essential Mechanisms PDF in the UVVM VVC Framework doc folder.

## 5 VVC Interface

In this VVC, the interface has been encapsulated in a signal record of type `t_axistream_if` in order to improve readability of the code. Since the AXI4-Stream interface busses can be of arbitrary size, the interface `std_logic_vectors` have been left unconstrained. These unconstrained SLVs needs to be constrained when the interface signals are instantiated. For this interface, the could look like:

```
signal axistream_if : t_axistream_if(tdata(C_DATA_WIDTH-1 downto 0),
  tkeep((C_DATA_WIDTH/8)-1 downto 0),
  tuser(C_USER_WIDTH-1 downto 0),
  tstrb((C_DATA_WIDTH/8)-1 downto 0),
  tid(C_ID_WIDTH-1 downto 0),
  tdest(C_DEST_WIDTH-1 downto 0)
  );
```

The widths of `tuser`, `tstrb`, `tid` and `tdest` are declared even when not used or connected to DUT. Set the widths of unused signals to 1, for example `C_USER_WIDTH = 1`.

## 6 Additional Documentation

Additional documentation about UVVM and its features can be found under `"/uvvm_vvc_framework/doc/".`

For additional documentation on the AXI4-Stream standard, refer to "AMBA 4 AXI4-Stream Protocol Specification (ARM IHI 0051)", available from ARM.



## 7 Compilation

AXI4-Stream VVC must be compiled with VHDL 2008.

It is dependent on the following libraries

- **UVVM Utility Library (UVVM-Util), version 2.11.0 and up**
- **UVVM VVC Framework, version 2.7.1 and up**
- **AXI4-Stream BFM**
- **Bitvis VIP Scoreboard**

Before compiling the AXI4-Stream VVC, assure that `uvvm_vvc_framework`, `uvvm_util` and `bitvis_vip_scoreboard` have been compiled.

See UVVM Essential Mechanisms located in `uvvm_vvc_framework/doc` for information about compile scripts.

### Compile order for the AXI4-Stream VVC:

Compile to library	File	Comment
bitvis_vip_axistream	axistream_bfm_pkg.vhd	AXI4-Stream BFM
bitvis_vip_axistream	transaction_pkg.vhd	AXI4-Stream transaction package with DTT types, constants etc.
bitvis_vip_axistream	vvc_cmd_pkg.vhd	AXI4-Stream VVC command types and operations
bitvis_vip_axistream	../uvvm_vvc_framework/src_target_dependent/td_target_support_pkg.vhd	UVVM VVC target support package, compiled into the AXI4-Stream VVC library.
bitvis_vip_axistream	../uvvm_vvc_framework/src_target_dependent/td_vvc_framework_common_methods_pkg.vhd	UVVM framework common methods compiled into the AXI4-Stream VVC library
bitvis_vip_axistream	vvc_methods_pkg.vhd	AXI4-Stream VVC methods
bitvis_vip_axistream	../uvvm_vvc_framework/src_target_dependent/td_queue_pkg.vhd	UVVM queue package for the VVC
bitvis_vip_axistream	../uvvm_vvc_framework/src_target_dependent/td_vvc_entity_support_pkg.vhd	UVVM VVC entity support compiled into the AXI4-Stream VVC library
bitvis_vip_axistream	axistream_vvc.vhd	AXI4-Stream VVC

## 8 Simulator compatibility and setup

See README.md for a list of supported simulators.

For required simulator setup see **UVVM-Util** Quick reference.

### IMPORTANT

This is a simplified Verification IP (VIP) for AXI4-Stream. The given VIP complies with the basic AXI4-Stream protocol and thus allows a normal access towards an AXI4-Stream interface.

This VIP is not AXI4-Stream protocol checker. For a more advanced VIP please contact Bitvis AS at [support@bitvis.no](mailto:support@bitvis.no)

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