AXI4-Stream VVC – Quick Reference

For general information see UVVM VVC Framwork Essential Mechanisms located in uvvm_vvc_framework/doc. CAUTION: shaded code/description is preliminary

AXI4-Stream Master

In order to use the AXI4-Stream VVC in master mode, it must be instantiated in the test harness by setting the generic constant 'GC_MASTER_MODE' to TRUE.

axistream_transmit (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"); axistream_transmit(AXISTREAM_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! Use axistream_transmit_bytes () when using t_byte_array.



AXI4-Stream Slave

In order to use the AXI4-Stream VVC in slave mode, it must be instantiated in the test harness by setting the generic constant 'GC_MASTER_MODE' to FALSE.

axistream_receive (VVCT, vvc_instance_idx, msg, [scope])

Example: axistream_receive (AXISTREAM_VVCT, 1, "Receive packet, and store it in the VVC. To be fetched later using fetch_result() "); axistream_receive (AXISTREAM_VVCT, 1, "Receive packet, and send it to scoreboard for checking");

Note! Use axistream_receive_bytes () when using t_byte_array.

axistream_expect (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"); axistream_expect(AXISTREAM_VVCT, 0, v_data_array(0 to v_numBytes-1)(15 downto 0), v_user_array(0 to v_numWords-1), "Expecting a packet, checking the tuser bits");

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	Туре	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
result_queue_count_max	natural	C_RESULT_QUEUE_COUNT_MAX
result_queue_count_threshold	natural	C_RESULT_QUEUE_COUNT_THRESHOLD
result_queue_count_threshold_severity	t_alert_level	C_RESULT_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
unwanted_activity_severity	t_alert_level	C_UNWANTED_ACTIVITY_SEVERITY

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	Туре	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	Туре	Example(s)	Description
data_array	t_slv_array,	x"D0" & x"D1"	A SLV array, byte array or a single SLV containing the packet data to be sent or the data received.
	std_logic_vector or	(x"D0D1", x"D2D3")	SLV and t_slv_array data has to be a multiple of byte(s), e.g. x"AA", x"BEEF".
	t_byte_array	x"D0D1"	Note the name change when data_array is t_byte_array.
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	Туре	Description
clk	std_logic	VVC Clock signal
axistream_vvc_master_if	t_axistream_if	See AXI4-Stream BFM documentation

VVC entity generic constants

Name	Туре	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.
			Note 1: if TUSER is wider than 8, increase the value of the constant C_MAX_TUSER_BITS in
			axistream_bfm_pkg.
			Note 2: If the TUSER signal is not used, refer to description in Section 7
GC_ID_WIDTH	integer	-	Width of the AXI4-Stream TID signal.
			Note 1: if TID is wider than 8, increase the value of the constant C_MAX_TID_BITS in
			axistream_bfm_pkg.
			Note 2: If the TID signal is not used, refer to description in Section 7
GC_DEST_WIDTH	integer	-	Width of the AXI4-Stream TDEST signal.
			Note 1: if TDEST is wider than 4, increase the value of the constant C_MAX_TDEST_BITS in
			axistream_bfm_pkg.
			Note 2: If the TDEST signal is not used, refer to description in Section 7
GC_INSTANCE_IDX	natural	-	Instance number to assign the VVC
GC_AXISTREAM_CONFIG	t_axistream_bfm_config	C_AXISTREAM_BFM_	Configuration for the AXI4-Stream BFM, see AXI4-Stream BFM documentation.
		CONFIG_DEFAULT	
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
			GC_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 gueue count threshold

VVC details

All VVC procedures are defined in vvc_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

axistream transmit()

axistream_transmit (VVCT, vvc_instance_idx, data_array, [user_array, [strb_array, id_array, dest_array]], msg, [scope])

The axistream_transmit() 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 axistream_transmit() procedure, described in the AXI4-Stream BFM QuickRef.

The axistream_transmit() 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.

Examples:

axistream_expect()

axistream_expect (VVCT, vvc_instance_idx, exp_data_array, [exp_user_array, [exp_strb_array, exp_id_array, exp_dest_array]],
msg, [alert_level, [scope]])

The axistream_expect() 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 axistream_expect() procedure, described in the AXI4-Stream BFM QuickRef.

The axistream_expect() 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.

Examples:

axistream receive()

axistream_receive (VVCT, vvc_instance_idx, 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_reveice() 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 receive 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 Instantiation

In order to select between the master and slave modes, the VVC must be instantiated using the correct value of the generic constant GC_VVC_IS_MASTER in the testbench or test-harness. Example instantiations of the VVC in both operation supplied for ease of reference.

Mode	Instatiation	Mode	Instatiation
Master	i_axistream_vvc_master: entity work.axistream_vvc	Slave	i_axistream_vvc_slave : entity work.axistream_vvc
	generic map(generic map(
	<pre>GC_VVC_IS_MASTER => true,</pre>		<pre>GC_VVC_IS_MASTER => false,</pre>
	GC_DATA_WIDTH => GC_DATA_WIDTH,		GC_DATA_WIDTH => GC_DATA_WIDTH,
	GC_USER_WIDTH => GC_USER_WIDTH,		GC_USER_WIDTH => GC_USER_WIDTH,
	GC_ID_WIDTH => GC_ID_WIDTH,		GC_ID_WIDTH => GC_ID_WIDTH,
	GC_DEST_WIDTH => GC_DEST_WIDTH,		GC_DEST_WIDTH => GC_DEST_WIDTH,
	GC_INSTANCE_IDX => 2)		GC_INSTANCE_IDX => 3)
	port map (port map (
	clk => clk,		clk => clk,
	<pre>axistream vvc if => axistream if);</pre>		<pre>axistream vvc if => axistream if);</pre>

3 VVC Configuration

AXI4-Stream VVC - Quick Reference

Record element inter_bfm_delay	Type t_inter_bfm_delay	C_AXISTREAM_BFM_CONFIG_DEFAULT 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. See section 16 of uvvm_vvc_framework/doc/UVVM_VVC_Framework_Essential_Mechanisms.pdf for how to use verbosity control.
unwanted_activity_severity	t_alert_level	C_UNWANTED_ACTIVITY_SEVERITY	Severity of alert to be initiated if unwanted activity on the DUT outputs is detected. Unwanted activity detection is enabled (ERROR) by default.

Note: cmd/result queue parameters in the VVC Configuration are unused and will be removed in v3.0, use instead the entity generic constants.

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;
```

4 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	Туре	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

5 Activity watchdog

The VVCs support a centralized VVC activity register which the activity watchdog uses to monitor the VVC activities. The VVCs will register their presence to the VVC activity register at start-up, and report when ACTIVE and INACTIVE, using dedicated VVC activity register methods, and trigger the global_trigger_vvc_activity_register signal during simulations. The activity watchdog is continuously monitoring the VVC activity register for VVC inactivity and raises an alert if no VVC activity is registered within the specified timeout period.

Include activity_watchdog(num_exp_vvc, timeout, [alert_level, [msg]]) in the testbench to start using the activity watchdog. Note that setting the exact number of expected VVCs in the VVC activity register can be omitted by setting num exp vvc = 0.

More information can be found in UVVM Essential Mechanisms PDF in the UVVM VVC Framework doc folder.

6 Transaction Info

This VVC supports transaction info, a UVVM concept for distributing transaction information in a controlled manner within the complete testbench environment. The transaction info may be used in many different ways, but the main purpose is to share information directly from the VVC to a DUT model.

See UVVM VVC Framework Essential Mechanisms PDF, section 6, for additional information.

Table 6.1 AXI4-Stream base transaction							
		Transaction type: t					

Info field	Туре	Default	Description
operation	t_operation	NO_OPERATION	Current VVC operation, e.g. INSERT_DELAY, POLL_UNTIL, READ, WRITE.
data_array	t_slv_array(0 to 16*1024)	(others => (others => '0'))	Packet data to be sent or received.
user_array	t_user_array(0 to 16*1024)	(others => (others => '0'))	Sideband data to send or which has been received via the tuser signal.
strb_array	t_strb_array(0 to 16*1024)	(others => (others => '0'))	Sideband data to send or which has been received via the tstrb signal.
id_array	t_id_array(0 to 16*1024)	(others => (others => '0'))	Sideband data to send or which has been received via the tid signal.
dest_array	t_dest_array(0 to 16*1024)	(others => (others => '0'))	Sideband data to send or which has been received via the tdest signal.
vvc_meta	t_vvc_meta	C_VVC_META_DEFAULT	VVC meta data of the executing VVC command.
→ msg	string	u u	Message of executing VVC command.
→ cmd_idx	integer	-1	Command index of executing VVC command.
transaction_status	t_transaction_status	C_TRANSACTION_STATUS_DEFAULT	Set to INACTIVE, IN_PROGRESS, FAILED or SUCCEEDED during a transaction.

Refer to the the VVC Functional Parameters table in page 3 for more details regarding the VVC specific Transaction Info record fields. See UVVM VVC Framework Essential Mechanisms PDF, section 6, for additional information about transaction types and transaction info usage.

7 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 buses 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, they 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.

8 Unwanted Activity Detection

This VVC supports detection of unwanted activity from the DUT. This mechanism will give an alert if the DUT generates any unexpected bus activity. It assures that no data is output from the DUT when it is not expected, i.e. AXI-Stream read/check VVC methods are not called. Once the VVC is inactive, it starts to monitor continuously on the DUT outputs. When unwanted activity is detected, the VVC issues an alert of severity.

The unwanted activity detection can be configured from the central testbench sequencer, where the severity of alert can be changed to a different value. To disable this feature in the testbench, e.g.:

```
shared axistream vvc config(C VVC INDEX).unwanted activity severity := NO ALERT;
```

Note that the tready signal is not monitored in this VVC. The tready signal is allowed to be set independently of the tvalid signal, and there is no method to differentiate between the unwanted activity and intended activity. See the AXI-Lite protocol specification for more information.

The unwanted activity detection is ignored when the tvalid signal goes low within one clock period after the VVC becomes inactive. This is to handle the situation when the read command exits before the next rising edge, causing signal transitions during the first clock cycle after the VVC is inactive.

For AXI-Stream VVC, the unwanted activity detection is enabled (unwanted activity severity := ERROR) by default.

9 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.

10 Compilation

AXI4-Stream VVC must be compiled with VHDL 2008. It is dependent on the following libraries

- UVVM Utility Library (UVVM-Util), version 2.14.0 and up
- UVVM VVC Framework, version 2.10.0 and up
- AXI4-Stream BFM

Before compiling the AXI4-Stream VVC, assure that uvvm_vvc_framework and uvvm_util 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:

Complic order for the AME		
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

11 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 UVVM at info@uvvm.org



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