# **AMBA AXI**

2014 - 2017 - 2018

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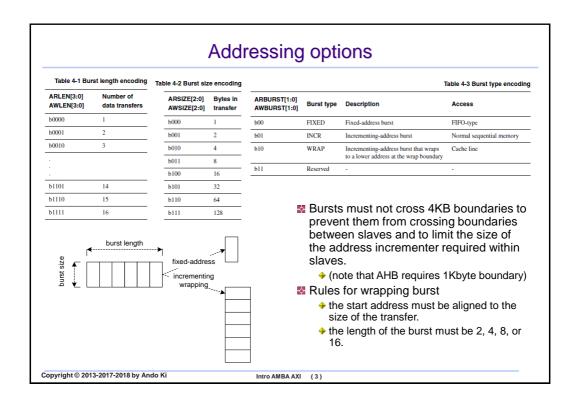
# Agenda

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- Data bus option
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- Byte invariance
- Unaligned transfers
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- Read address channel
- Read data channel
- All together for read
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- Channel dependency
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- Addressing options
- Transaction ordering
- ID scheme

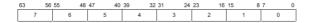
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# Data bus option

- The write strobe signals, WSTRB, enable sparse data transfer on the write data bus. Each write strobe signal corresponds to one byte of the write data bus. When asserted, a write strobe indicates that the corresponding byte lane of the data bus contains valid information to be updated in memory.
- There is one write strobe for each eight bits of the write data bus, so WSTRB[n] corresponds to WDATA[(8 × n) + 7: (8 × n)].
- The AXI protocol enables a master to use the low-order address lines to signal an unaligned start address for a burst.
  - The information on the low-order address lines must be consistent with the information contained on the byte lane strobes.

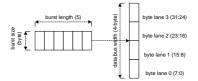


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## Narrow transfer

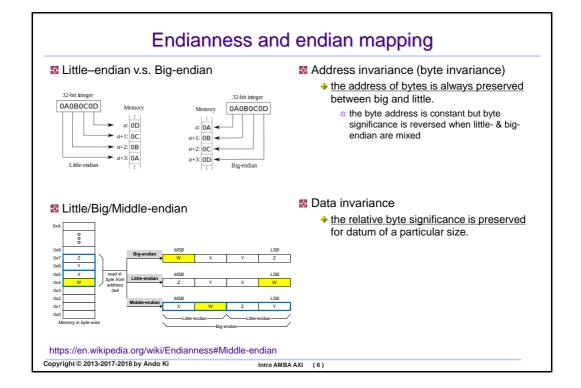
- When a master generates a transfer that is narrower than its data bus, the address and control information determine which byte lanes the transfer uses. In incrementing or wrapping bursts, different byte lanes transfer the data on each beat of the burst. In a fixed burst, the address remains constant, and the byte lanes that can be used also remain constant.
- Example
  - + the burst has five transfers
  - ◆ the starting address is 0
  - + each transfer is eight bits
  - + the transfers are on a 32-bit bus.



	byte rai	ne usea		
			DATA[7:0]	1st transfer
		DATA[15:8]		2nd transfer
	DATA[23:16]			3rd transfer
[31:24]				4th transfer
				i

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#### Invariance

- Address invariance (byte invariance)
  - When 4-byte data is read by big- or littleendian fashion.
    - The 4-byte are stored at the same address (invariant), but its significance varies depending on access size.

Addı	Memroy		
	(byte)	(LE)	(BE)
+3	dd	msb	Isb
+2	СС		
+1	bb		••
+0	aa	Isb	msb

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address	(BE)	(LE)	Access Addr=+0
← preserved	0xaa	0xaa	Read 1 byte:
for 0xaa	0xaabb	0xbbaa	Read 2 byte:
]	0xaabb_ccdd	0xddcc_bbaa	Read 4 byte:
address	(BE)	(LE)	Access Addr=+1
→ preserved	0xbb	0xbb	Read 1 byte:
for 0xbb			
address	(BE)	(LE)	Access Addr=+2
← preserved	0xcc	0xcc	Read 1 byte:
for 0xcc	0xccdd	0xddcc	Read 2 byte:
address	(BE)	(LE)	Access Addr=+3
→ preserved	0xdd	0xdd	Read 1 byte:
for 0xdd			

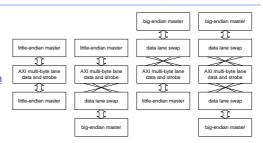
- Data invariance
  - → 32-bit data invariance (word invariance)
    - The datum of 32-bit word always the same value independent of endianness.
  - 16-bit data invariance (half-word invariance).
    - The datum of 16-bit word always the same value independent of endianness.
  - This scheme makes it possible to intermix big- and little-endian system without any treatment.
    - However, accesses should keep its access size.
      - E.g., 32-bit data invariance only guarantees data-invariance for 32-bit wide data access.

http://stackoverflow.com/questions/21449/types-of-endianness

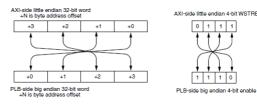
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# Byte invariance (Address invariance)

- Byte-invariant endianness means that a byte transfer to a given address passes the eight bits of data on the same data bus wires to the same address location.
  - AXI uses <u>nonjustified-bus with little-endian</u> scheme
  - Most little-endian components can connect directly to a byte-invariant interface.
  - Components that support only big-endian transfers require a conversion function for byte-invariant operation.
    - The conversion function should provide byte-invariant (i.e., address invariant)

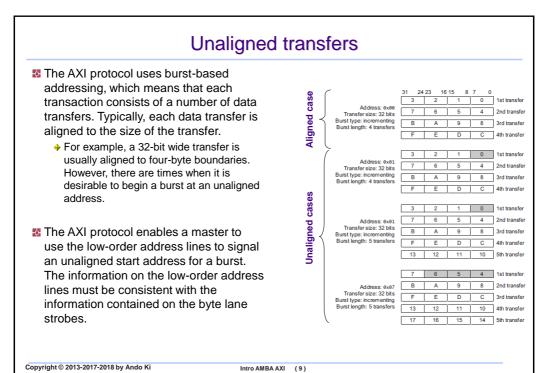


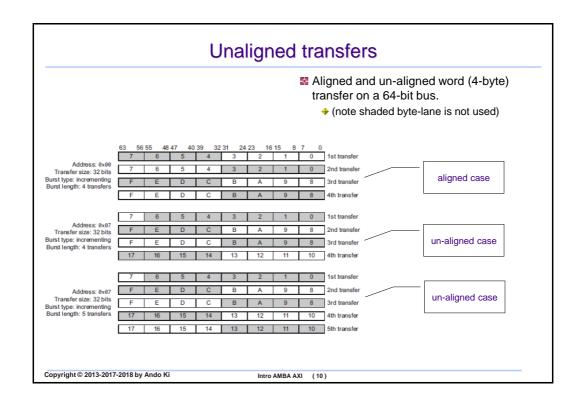
#### AXI to PLB component, where PLB uses big-endian

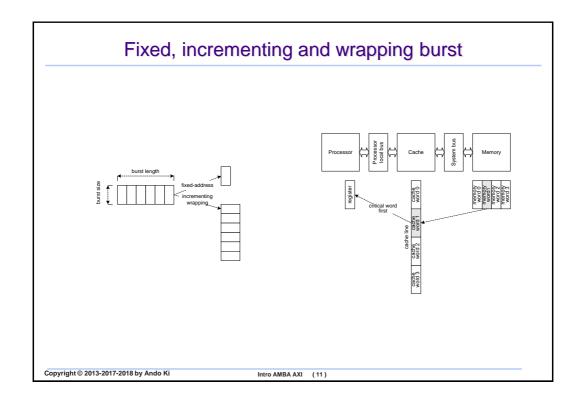


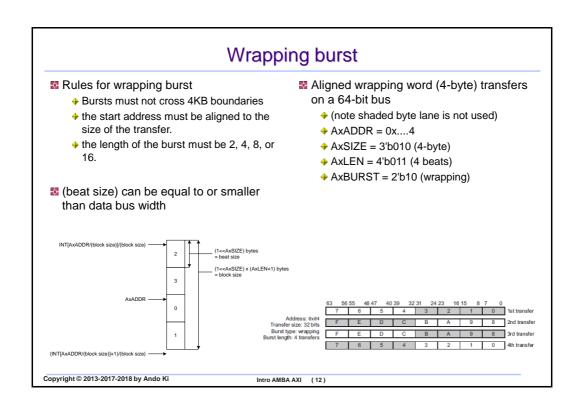
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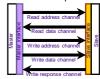






## Responses

- BRESP[1:0] for write response of write transaction
  - a single response is signaled for the entire burst, and not for each data transfer within the
  - burst.
- RRESP[1:0] for read data of read transaction
  - → Each transfer has its own response.
- The OKAY response indicates:
  - the success of a normal access
  - ◆ the failure of an exclusive access
  - an exclusive access to a slave that does not support exclusive access.
- The EXOKAY response indicates the success of an exclusive access
- **15** The DECERR response
  - Interconnect responds for accesses to unmapped locations.
- The SLVERR response includes
  - → FIFO/buffer overrun or under-run condition
  - unsupported transfer size attempted
  - write access attempted to read-only location
  - timeout condition in the slave
  - access attempted to an address where no registers are present
  - access attempted to a disabled or powereddown function.



ь00	OKAY	Normal access okay indicates if a normal access has been successful. Can also indicate an exclusive access failure.
ь01	EXOKAY	Exclusive access okay indicates that either the read or write portion of an exclusive access has been successful.
ь10	SLVERR	Slave error is used when the access has reached the slave successfully, but the slave wishes to return an error condition to the originating master.
ын	DECERR	Decode error is generated typically by an interconnect component to indicate that there is no slave at the transaction address.

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# Atomic access

- Locked access (AXI 3 only)
  - AXI slave guarantees that there will be no accesses with different transaction ID between locked read and locked write from the same transaction ID.
- Exclusive access (AXI 3 and AXI 4)
  - AXI slave reports if there are any write accesses with different transaction ID between exclusive read and exclusive write from the same transaction ID.

#### 

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RRESP[1:0] BRESP[1:0]	Response	Meaning
ь00	OKAY	Normal access okay indicates if a normal access has been successful. Can also indicate an exclusive access failure.
b01	EXOKAY	Exclusive access okay indicates that either the read or write portion of an exclusive access has been successful.
ь10	SLVERR	Slave error is used when the access has reached the slave successfully, but the slave wishes to return an error condition to the originating master.
ь11	DECERR	Decode error is generated typically by an interconnect component to indicate that there is no slave at the transaction address.

Exclusive ERROR

Exclusive OK

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## **Atomics instructions**

- Examples of atomic operations
  - test and set
  - atomic increment
  - atomic exchange register and memory location, i.e., swap
  - → compare and swap

- Material Atomic increment case
  - → simple approach

ldr r0, [r1] add r0, r0, #1 str r0, [r1]

→ What happen when more than one try

atomic\_inc:
ldrex r0, [r1]
add r0, r0, #1
strex r2, r0, r1
cmp r2, #0
bne atomic\_inc

"strex r0, r1, [addr]": 'r0' will have '0' when succeeded

Programs	Shared programs
Higher-level API	Locks, Semaphoeres, Monitors,
Hardware	load/store, disable interrupt, test&set, Compare&swap

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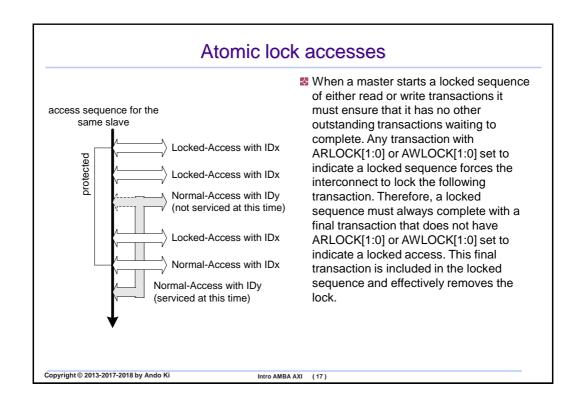
# **Atomics instructions**

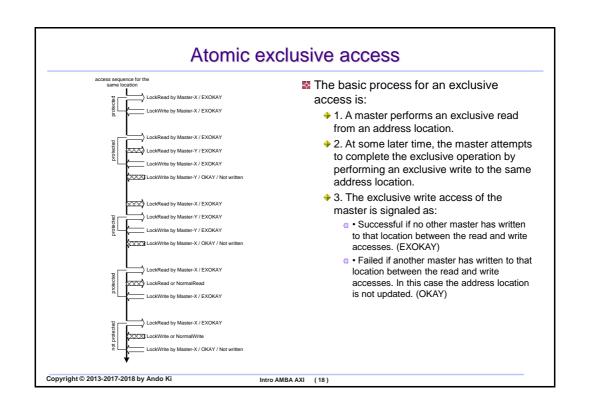
- ARM
  - → SWP
  - → LDREX & STREX

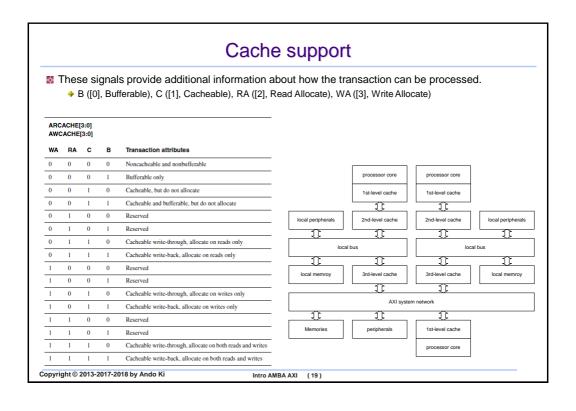
- Intel
- Sparc
- **MIPS**
- Motorola

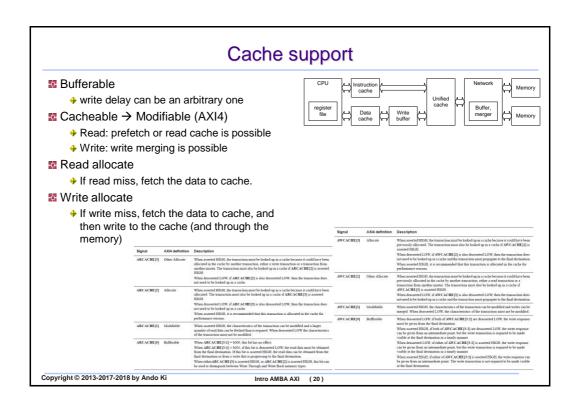
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#### **Protection**

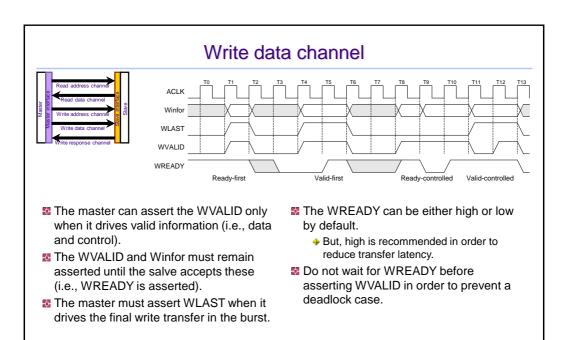
Table 5-2 Protection encoding		
ARPROT[2:0] AWPROT[2:0]	Protection level	
[0]	1 = privileged access 0 = normal access	
[1]	1 = nonsecure access 0 = secure access	
[2]	1 = instruction access 0 = data access	

To support complex system designs, it is often necessary for both the interconnect and other devices in the system to provide protection against illegal transactions. The **AWPROT** or **ARPROT** signal gives three levels of access protection:

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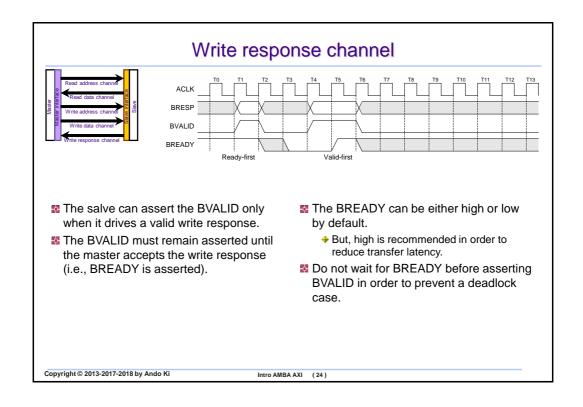
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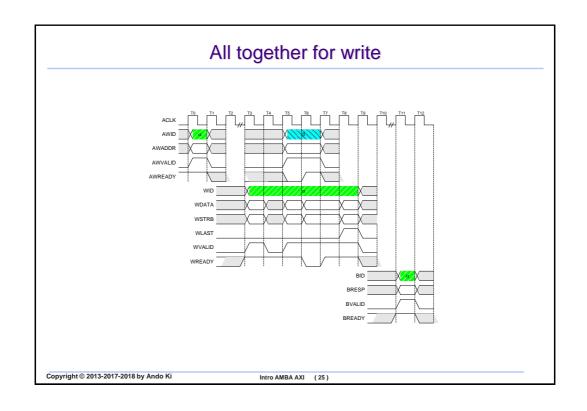
## Write address channel ACLK AWinfo AWVALID AWREADY Ready-controlled The AWREADY can be either high or low The master can assert the AWVALID only when it drives valid information (i.e., by default. address and control). → But, high is recommended in order to reduce transfer latency. ■ The AWVALID and AWinfor must remain Do not wait for AWREADY before asserted until the salve accepts these (i.e., AWREADY is asserted). asserting AWVALID in order to prevent a deadlock case. Copyright © 2013-2017-2018 by Ando Ki Intro AMBA AXI (22)

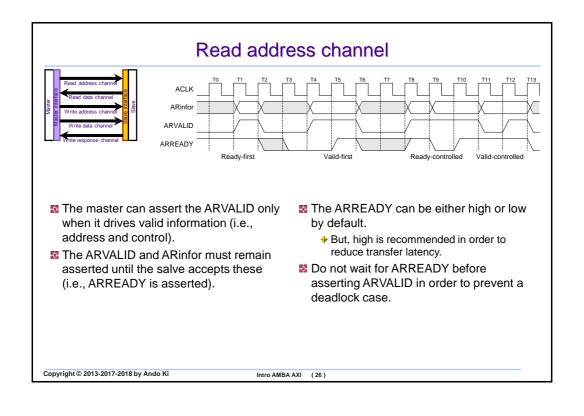


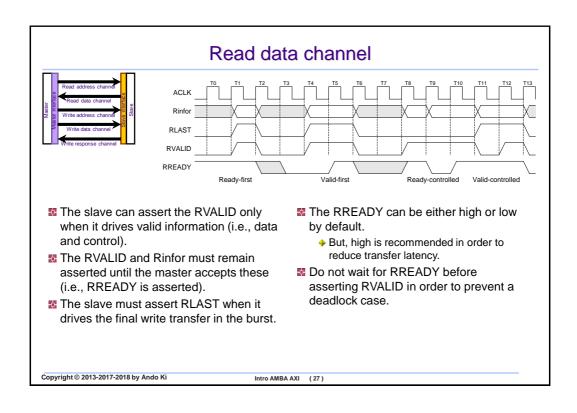
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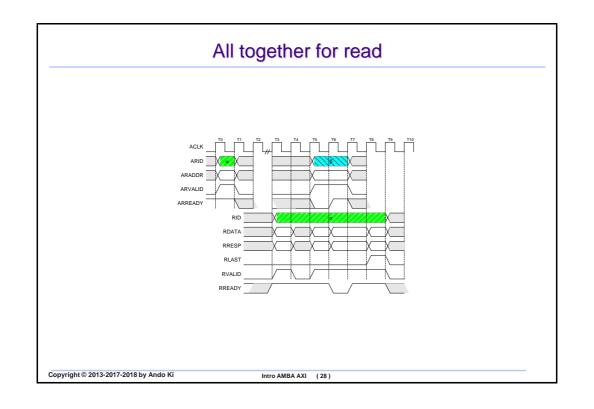
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#### Channel definition

- Read and write address channel
  - variable-length bursts, 1 to 16 data transfers pre burst
  - bursts with a transfer size of 8-1024 bits (1 to 128 bytes)
  - wrapping, incrementing, and nonincrementing bursts
  - atomic operations, using exclusive or locked accesses
  - system-level caching and buffering control
  - secure and privileged access
- Read data channel
  - data bus, can be 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, 256, 512, 1024 bits wide
  - a read response indicating the completion status of the read transaction

- Write data channel
  - the data bus, can be 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, 256, 512, 1024 bits wide
  - one byte lane strobe for every eight data bits
  - always treated as buffered, so that the master can perform write transactions without slave acknowledgement of previous write transactions
- Write response channel
  - all write transactions use completion signaling
  - The completing signal occurs once for each burst, not for each individual data transfer within the burst

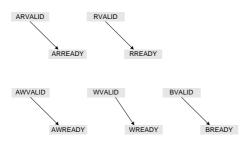
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#### Channel dependency The slave should start read data sequence after the read address sequence. ACLK 슬레이브는 읽기 주소를 받은 후에 읽 를 전송한다. (당연, 주소 없이 읽기는 ARADDR ARVALID ◆ Read data must always follows the address to ARREADY which the data related. RDATA The master should start write address RLAST sequence before write data sequence. 마스터는 쓰기 데이터를 보내기 소를 보낸다. 단, 슬레이브 역이터가 쓰기 주소보다 먼저 입장에/ 도착할 + However, the write data can appear at the ACL K interface before the write address that related to it due to register stages of the write address. AWADDR The slave should start write response ΔW//ΔΙ ΙΠ sequence after write data sequence. AWREADY 슬레이브는 연속 쓰기에 대해 한번만데, 이때 응답은 데이터 전송을 모두다. (AXI3) WDATA ( D(A2) ( D(A3) ) WLAST ◆ A write response must always follow the last write transfer in the write transaction to which WVALID WREADY the write response related. (OKAY) BRESE ◆ In addition, the AXI4 protocol requires that the BVALID write response for all transactions must not be given until the clock cycle after address 주수가 쓰 acceptance. (슬레이브 입장에서 쓰기 기 데이터 보다 나중에 오기도 하므로) Copyright © 2013-2017-2018 by Ando Ki Intro AMBA AXI (30)

## Handshake dependency

- In order to avoid deadlock
  - The VALID signal must not be dependent on the READY signals
    - The VALID signal must not wait for any READY signal before driving it.
  - The READY signal can wait for assertion of the VALID signal.
- Guess what will happen.
  - Master waits for READY before driving VALID for something.
  - While, slave also waits for VALID before driving READY for something.



•The <u>single-headed arrow</u> points to signal that can be asserted before or after the previous signal is asserted. (A→B: B를 구동할 수 있다, A를 기다리지 않고)

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# Handshake dependency

- The slave <u>can wait</u> for ARVALID to be asserted before it asserts ARREADY.
  - Meaning that ARREADY can be driven prior to ARVALID.
- The slave <u>must wait</u> for ARVALID and ARREADY to be asserted before it starts to return read data by asserting RVALID.
- The master <u>can wait</u> for RVALID to be asserted before it asserts RREADY.
  - Meaning that RREADY can be driven prior to RVALID.
  - ◆ The VALID signal must not wait for any READY signal before driving it.
- ARVALID RVALID

  ARREADY RREADY

  ARREADY RREADY

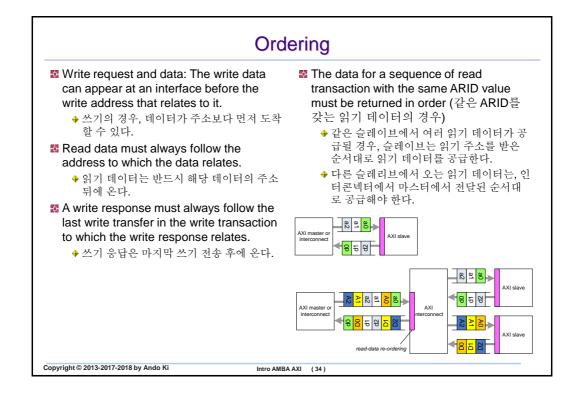
  ARREADY RREADY

  ARREADY RREADY
- The <u>single-headed arrow</u> points to signal that can be asserted before or after the previous signal is asserted. (A→B: B를 구동할 수 있다, A를 기다리지 않고)
- The <u>double-headed arrow</u> points to signal that must be asserted only after assertion of the previous signal. (A=>>B: B를 구동하기에 앞서 A를 기다려야 하다.

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#### Handshake dependency The master must not wait for the slave to WLAST BVALID AWVALID assert AWREADY or WREADY before WVALID asserting AWVALID or WVALID. AWREADY The slave can wait for AWVALID or WVALID, or both, before AWREADY. WLAST BVALID AWVALID WVALID The slave can wait for AWVALID or WVALID, or both, before asserting WREADY. AWREADY BREADY WLAST The slave must wait for both WVALID AWVALID WVALID BVALID and WREADY to be asserted before asserting BVALID. AWREADY BREADY In addition, the AXI4 protocol requires that the write response for all transactions must not be given until the AWVALID clock cycle after address acceptance. WREADY BREADY AWREADY Copyright © 2013-2017-2018 by Ando Ki Intro AMBA AXI (33)



# Ordering

- Write data with different AWIDs follow their address order.
- Responses to multiple writes with different IDs can be out-of-order from address order.
- Write interleaving
  - ♦ Interleaving rule
    - Data with different ID can be interleaved.
    - The order within a single burst is maintained
    - The order of first data needs to be the same with that of request
  - → AXI4 does not support data interleaving
    - As a result, WID is not used.
    - But, all data-for-write should follow the same order of address arriving.

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#### **Burst transfers** MAHB burst (locked) A12 A13 A14 A21 A22 A23 + Address and data are locked together → Single pipeline stage D11 D12 D13 D14 D21 D22 D23 ♦ HREADY controls intervals of address and data MAHB burst (slow slave) A11 A12 A13 A14 A21 A22 A23 ♦ If one slave is very slow, all data is held up. Mark AXI one address for burst ta D11 D12 One Address for entire burst XI multiple outstanding bursts One Address for entire burst D12 D13 D14 → Allows multiple outstanding addresses D22 D23 XI out-of-order completion ♦ Each transaction has an ID attached → Transactions with the same ID must be ordered Requires bus-level monitoring to ensure correct ordering D12 D13 D14 D22 D23 on each ID Masters can issue multiple ordered addresses Fast slaves may return data ahead of slow slaves Complex slaves may return data out of order D22 D23 D11 D12 D13 D14 Mark AXI data interleaving ♦ Returned data can even be interleaved Gives maximum use of data bus Data within a burst is always in order Copyright © 2013-2017-2018 by Ando Ki Intro AMBA AXI (36)

## Addressing options

- AXI is burst-based, i.e., all transaction can be seen as a burst that consists of a number of transfers.
- The address of a burst is the address of the first byte in the transfer.
  - ◆ The slave should calculate the address of subsequent transfers in the burst.
- The burst address must not cross 4Kbyte boundary.
  - not allowed crossing boundaries between slaves
    - A burst is only destined for a single slave.

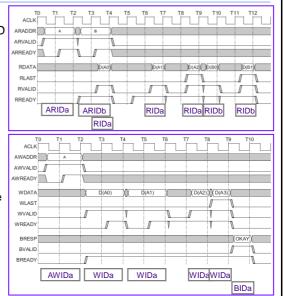
- No early termination allowed
  - Master can disable further writes by deasserting all the strobes of the remaining transfers.
  - Master can discard further reads, but the remaining transfers should be completed.
    - Be careful to discard a read-sensitive device such as a FIFO.
- Additional limitations for AXI4
  - Burst longer than 16 are only supported for the INCR burst type.
    - WRAP & FIXED burst types can be up to 16 burst length.
  - Exclusive access are not permitted to use a burst length greater than 16.

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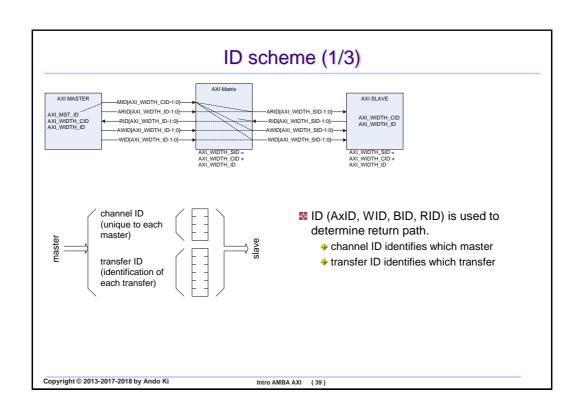
# Transaction ordering

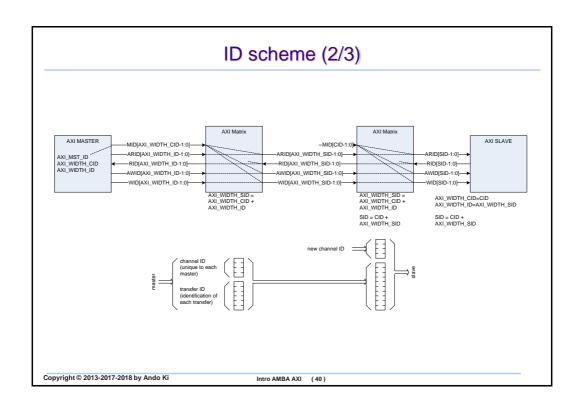
- For each channel, each information is tagged with <u>transaction identification</u> (ID tag) in order to find corresponding information.
  - Write transaction: AWID[n:0], WID[n:0], BID[n:0]
  - ◆ Read transaction: ARID[n:0], RID[n:0]
  - ♦ Where n is implementation-specific
- Multi-master system should use additional ID tag to ensure that ID from all masters are unique.
- Multiple virtual masters can be possible by adopting sub-field tag ID.
  - A port of master interface can act as a multiple master.

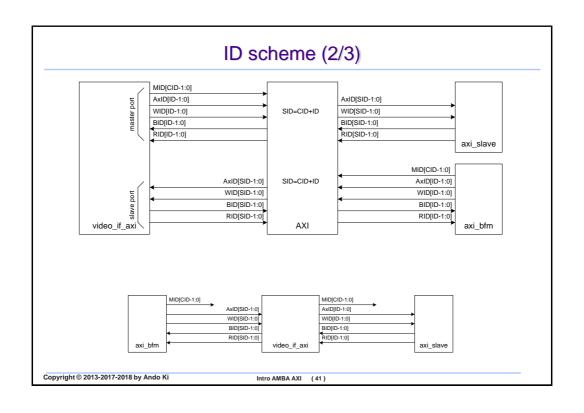


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#### References

- MBA® AXI Protocol v1.0 Specification, IHI 0022B, ARM Limited, 2004.
- MBA® AXI Protocol Version: 2.0 Specification, IHI 0022C (ID030510), ARM Limited, 2010.
- MBA® AXI and ACE Protocol Specification, IHI 0022D (ID102711), ARM Limited, 2011. (AXI3, AXI3, and AXI4-Lite, ACE and ACE-Lite)
- AMBA® 4 AXI4-Stream Protocol Version: 1.0 Specification, IHI 0051A (ID030510), ARM Limited, 2010.

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