



# RTL Design Sherpa

APB Crossbar Micro-Architecture Specification 1.0

January 3, 2026

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# Apb Xbar Mas Index

Generated: 2026-01-03

## APB Crossbar Micro-Architecture Specification Index

**Component:** APB Crossbar (MxN Interconnect) **Version:** 1.0 **Date:** 2026-01-03 **Purpose:** Detailed micro-architecture specification for APB Crossbar component

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### Document Organization

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This specification covers the APB Crossbar component - a parametric MxN interconnect for connecting multiple APB masters to multiple APB slaves with automatic address-based routing and round-robin arbitration.

#### Main Documentation

[README.md](#)

### Chapter 1: Architecture

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[chapters/01\\_architecture.md](#)

### Chapter 2: Address Decode and Arbitration

---

[chapters/02\\_address\\_and\\_arbitration.md](#)

### Chapter 3: RTL Generator

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[chapters/03\\_rtl\\_generator.md](#)

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### Quick Navigation

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#### For New Users

1. Start with [README.md](#) for overview and quick start
2. Read [01\\_architecture.md](#) to understand the design
3. Study [02\\_address\\_and\\_arbitration.md](#) for operational details
4. Reference [03\\_rtl\\_generator.md](#) if custom configuration needed

## For Integration

- **Pre-generated variants:** See [01\\_architecture.md](#) Section “Pre-Generated Variants”
- **Custom generation:** See [03 rtl\\_generator.md](#) Section “Quick Start”
- **Address mapping:** See [02\\_address\\_and\\_arbitration.md](#) Section “Address Decode”
- **Arbitration behavior:** See [02\\_address\\_and\\_arbitration.md](#) Section “Arbitration”

## Common Questions

All answered in [README.md](#) Section “Common Questions”

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## Visual Assets

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All diagrams referenced in the documentation are available in:

- **Source Files:**
  - [assets/graphviz/\\*.gv](#) - Graphviz source diagrams
  - [assets/wavedrom/\\*.json](#) - WaveJSON timing diagrams
- **Rendered Files:**
  - [assets/png/\\*.png](#) - PNG format (for document generation)

## Architecture Diagrams

1. **APB Crossbar Architecture (2x4 Example)**
  - Source: [assets/graphviz/apb\\_xbar\\_architecture.gv](#)
  - Rendered: [assets/png/apb\\_xbar\\_architecture.png](#)
2. **Address Decode Flow**
  - Source: [assets/graphviz/address\\_decode\\_flow.gv](#)
  - Rendered: [assets/png/address\\_decode\\_flow.png](#)

## Timing Diagrams

1. **Round-Robin Arbitration**
    - Source: [assets/wavedrom/arbitration\\_round\\_robin.json](#)
    - Rendered: [assets/wavedrom/arbitration\\_round\\_robin.png](#)
-

## Component Overview

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### Key Features

- **Parametric MxN Configuration:** Any combination of M masters and N slaves (up to 16x16)
- **Automatic Address Decode:** 64KB per slave, simple offset-based routing
- **Round-Robin Arbitration:** Per-slave fair arbitration, no master starvation
- **Zero-Bubble Throughput:** Back-to-back transactions without idle cycles
- **Grant Persistence:** Hold grant through transaction completion
- **RTL Generation:** Python-based generator for custom configurations

### Pre-Generated Variants

Module	M×N	Use Case
apb_xbar_1to1	1×1	Passthrough, protocol conversion
apb_xbar_2to1	2×1	Multi-master arbitration
apb_xbar_1to4	1×4	Simple SoC peripheral bus
apb_xbar_2to4	2×4	Typical SoC with CPU+DMA
apb_xbar_thin	1×1	Minimal overhead passthrough

### Design Philosophy

**Proven Building Blocks:** - Built from production-tested apb\_slave and apb\_master modules -  
No new protocol logic - pure composition - Each component independently verified

**Parametric Generation:** - Generator creates any MxN configuration - Pre-generated common variants for fast integration - Custom variants generated on-demand

**Clean Separation:** - Master-side: APB slaves convert protocol → cmd/rsp - Internal: Arbitration + address decoding - Slave-side: APB masters convert cmd/rsp → protocol

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## Related Documentation

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### Companion Specifications

- [APB Crossbar HAS](#) - Hardware Architecture Specification (high-level)

### Project-Level

- **PRD.md:** [../../PRD.md](#) - Complete product requirements document
- **CLAUDE.md:** [../../CLAUDE.md](#) - AI assistant integration guide
- **README.md:** [../../README.md](#) - Quick start guide

### Test Infrastructure

- **Test Directory:** `../../dv/tests/` - CocoTB + pytest test suite
- **Test Results:** All pre-generated variants 100% passing

### RTL

- **Core Modules:** `../../rtl/apb_xbar_*.sv` - Pre-generated crossbars
  - **Wrappers:** `../../rtl/wrappers/` - Pre-configured wrappers
  - **Generator:** `../../bin/generate_xbars.py` - Python generator script
- 

## Version History

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**Version 1.0 (2025-10-25):** - Initial specification release - Complete visual documentation (3 diagrams) - Comprehensive generator documentation - All pre-generated variants verified (100% passing)

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**Last Updated:** 2026-01-03 **Maintained By:** RTL Design Sherpa Project

## APB Crossbar Visual Documentation

**Component:** APB Crossbar (MxN Interconnect) **Version:** 1.0 **Status:** Production Ready **Last Updated:** 2025-10-25

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## Overview

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This directory contains visual documentation for the APB Crossbar component, including architecture diagrams, timing waveforms, and generator documentation.

**Component Purpose:** Parametric MxN APB interconnect connecting multiple masters to multiple slaves with automatic address-based routing and round-robin arbitration.

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## Documentation Structure

### Main Documentation Files

Document	Description	Contents
01_architecture.md	Architecture Overview	Top-level block diagram, functional blocks, signal flow, parameters
02_address_and_arbitration.md	Address Decode & Arbitration	Address map structure, decode algorithm, round-robin timing
03 rtl_generator.md	RTL Generator Guide	Generator architecture, usage, customization, advanced topics

### Supporting Documentation

Document	Location	Description
PRD.md	..../PRD.md	Complete product requirements document
CLAUDE.md	..../CLAUDE.md	AI assistant integration guide
README.md	..../README.md	Quick start guide

## Visual Assets

### Architecture Diagrams

Diagram	Format	Description
apb_xbar_architecture	Graphviz	2x4 crossbar showing master-side slaves, arbitration, slave-side masters

Diagram	Format	Description
<a href="#">address_decode_flow</a>	Graphviz	Step-by-step address decode example (0x10023456 → Slave 2)

**Rendered Formats:** - PNG: assets/svg/\*.svg (for markdown embedding) - SVG: assets/svg/\*.svg (for web viewing, scalable)

## Timing Diagrams

Diagram	Format	Description
<a href="#">arbitration_round_rob_in</a>	WaveJSON	2 masters competing for Slave 0 with round-robin arbitration

**Rendered Format:** - PNG: assets/svg/arbitration\_round\_robin.svg

---

## Quick Start

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### For New Users

1. **Understand the Architecture**
  - Read [01\\_architecture.md](#)
  - Study the architecture diagram
  - Understand master-side/slave-side protocol conversion
2. **Learn Address Decode & Arbitration**
  - Read [02\\_address\\_and\\_arbitration.md](#)
  - Study address decode flow diagram
  - Study arbitration timing diagram
3. **Generate Custom Crossbar (if needed)**
  - Read [03\\_rtl\\_generator.md](#)
  - Use pre-generated variants (1to1, 2to1, 1to4, 2to4) if possible
  - Run generator for custom MxN configurations
4. **Integrate Into Your Design**
  - See integration examples in [CLAUDE.md](#)
  - Reference complete specification in [PRD.md](#)

### For Existing Users

**Need a Crossbar?** - 1 master, N slaves → Use `apb_xbar_1toN` or generate - 2 masters, N slaves → Use `apb_xbar_2toN` or generate - M masters, N slaves → Generate with `generate_xbars.py`

**Understanding Behavior?** - Address decode issues → See [02\\_address\\_and\\_arbitration.md](#) -  
Arbitration questions → See [02\\_address\\_and\\_arbitration.md](#)

**Modifying/Generating?** - Generator usage → See [03\\_rtl\\_generator.md](#)

---

## Directory Structure

---

```
docs/app_xbar_spec/
  └── README.md                                ← This file
  └── 01_architecture.md                         ← Architecture overview
  └── 02_address_and_arbitration.md              ← Decode & arbitration
details
  └── 03_rtl_generator.md                        ← Generator documentation
assets/
  ├── graphviz/
  │   ├── apb_xbar_architecture.gv             ← Source diagrams
  │   └── address_decode_flow.gv
  ├── wavedrom/
  │   └── arbitration_round_robin.json        ← Source timing diagrams
  ├── svg/
  │   ├── apb_xbar_architecture.svg            ← Rendered SVG (scalable)
  │   └── address_decode_flow.svg
  └── png/
      ├── apb_xbar_architecture.svg            ← Rendered PNG (embedded)
      ├── address_decode_flow.svg
      └── arbitration_round_robin.svg
```

---

## Key Concepts

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### 1. Architecture

**Three-Stage Design:** 1. **Master-Side:** APB slaves convert protocol → cmd/rsp 2. **Internal Logic:** Address decode + arbitration + response routing 3. **Slave-Side:** APB masters convert cmd/rsp → protocol

**Why This Design?** - Reuses proven `apb_slave` and `apb_master` components - Clean separation of concerns - Scalable to any MxN configuration

### 2. Address Decode

**Fixed 64KB Per Slave:**

Slave 0: `BASE_ADDR + 0x00000 - 0x0FFF`  
Slave 1: `BASE_ADDR + 0x10000 - 0x1FFF`

Slave 2: BASE\_ADDR + 0x20000 - 0xFFFF

...

#### Decode Formula:

```
offset = PADDR - BASE_ADDR  
slave_index = offset[19:16] // Divide by 64KB
```

See: [02\\_address\\_and\\_arbitration.md](#)

### 3. Arbitration

**Per-Slave Round-Robin:** - Each slave has independent arbiter - Priority rotates after each grant - Grant persists through transaction completion - No master starvation

See: [02\\_address\\_and\\_arbitration.md](#)

### 4. RTL Generation

**All Generator Code in Component Area:** - **Convenience Wrapper:** bin/generate\_xbars.py (top-level script) - **Core Generator:** bin/apb\_xbar\_generator.py (library implementation)

#### Usage:

```
# Generate standard variants  
python generate_xbars.py  
  
# Generate custom 3x6 crossbar  
python generate_xbars.py --masters 3 --slaves 6
```

See: [03\\_rtl\\_generator.md](#)

---

## Common Questions

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### Q: Which pre-generated variant should I use?

#### Decision Tree:

```
1 master, 1 slave → apb_xbar_1to1 (passthrough)  
1 master, 4 slaves → apb_xbar_1to4 (address decode only)  
2 masters, 1 slave → apb_xbar_2to1 (arbitration only)  
2 masters, 4 slaves → apb_xbar_2to4 (full crossbar)  
Other MxN → Generate with generate_xbars.py
```

### Q: How do I change the base address?

#### At Instantiation:

```
apb_xbar_1to4 #(
    .BASE_ADDR(32'h8000_0000) // Override default 0x10000000
) u_xbar (...);
```

**Or Generate with Custom Base:**

```
python generate_xbars.py --masters 2 --slaves 4 --base-addr 0x80000000
```

**Q: Can I change per-slave address sizes?**

**No (Current Limitation):** Each slave is fixed at 64KB.

**Workarounds:** 1. Use multiple crossbars with different BASE\_ADDR 2. Modify generator's decode logic (advanced) 3. Address translation in slaves

**See:** [03 rtl\\_generator.md#limitations](#)

**Q: How does arbitration work with 3+ masters?**

**Round-Robin Example (4 Masters, Same Slave):**

```
Initial priority: M0
Transaction 1: M0 requests → M0 granted → Priority rotates to M1
Transaction 2: M0, M1, M2 request → M1 granted → Priority rotates to M2
Transaction 3: M0, M3 request → M2 skipped (not requesting) → M3
granted → Priority rotates to M0
Transaction 4: M0, M1 request → M0 granted → Priority rotates to M1
```

**Key:** Priority rotates after each grant, ensuring fairness.

**See:** [02\\_address\\_and\\_arbitration.md#arbitration](#)

**Q: What's the throughput?**

**Single Master:** - Zero-bubble (back-to-back transactions without gaps) - Limited only by slave PREADY response time

**Multiple Masters (Same Slave):** - Fair sharing: Each master gets  $\sim 1/M$  bandwidth - Example: 2 masters = 50% each, 4 masters = 25% each

**Multiple Masters (Different Slaves):** - Full parallelism: Each master gets 100% of its target slave - Total system bandwidth = NUM\_SLAVES  $\times$  slave\_bandwidth

**See:** [02\\_address\\_and\\_arbitration.md#performance](#)

---

## **Regenerating Diagrams**

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### **Graphviz Diagrams (Architecture, Address Decode)**

```
cd assets/graphviz/
```

```
# Generate SVG
```

```
dot -Tsvg apb_xbar_architecture.gv -o ../svg/apb_xbar_architecture.svg  
dot -Tsvg address_decode_flow.gv -o ../svg/address_decode_flow.svg
```

```
# Generate PNG
```

```
dot -Tsvg apb_xbar_architecture.gv -o ../svg/apb_xbar_architecture.svg  
dot -Tsvg address_decode_flow.gv -o ../svg/address_decode_flow.svg
```

### **WaveJSON Diagrams (Timing)**

```
cd assets/wavedrom/
```

```
# Generate PNG
```

```
wavedrom-cli -i arbitration_round_robin.json -s  
../svg/arbitration_round_robin.svg
```

---

## **Version History**

---

**Version 1.0 (2025-10-25):** - Initial visual documentation release - 3 main documentation files - 2 Graphviz architecture diagrams - 1 WaveJSON timing diagram - RTL generator documentation

---

## **Maintainers**

---

### **RTL Design Sherpa Project**

**Questions or Issues:** 1. Check this documentation first 2. Review [PRD.md](#) for complete specification 3. Review [CLAUDE.md](#) for integration guidance 4. Open GitHub issue if problem persists

---

**Last Updated:** 2025-10-25 **Version:** 1.0 **Status:** Production Ready

## **APB Crossbar Architecture**

**Component:** APB Crossbar (MxN Interconnect) **Version:** 1.0 **Status:** Production Ready

---

## Overview

---

The APB Crossbar is a parametric interconnect that connects M APB masters to N APB slaves with automatic address-based routing and per-slave round-robin arbitration. Built from proven `apb_slave` and `apb_master` components, the crossbar provides a clean, scalable solution for SoC peripheral interconnect.

**Key Features:** - Arbitrary MxN configuration (up to 16x16) - Automatic address decode (64KB per slave) - Round-robin arbitration per slave - Zero-bubble throughput - Grant persistence through transaction completion

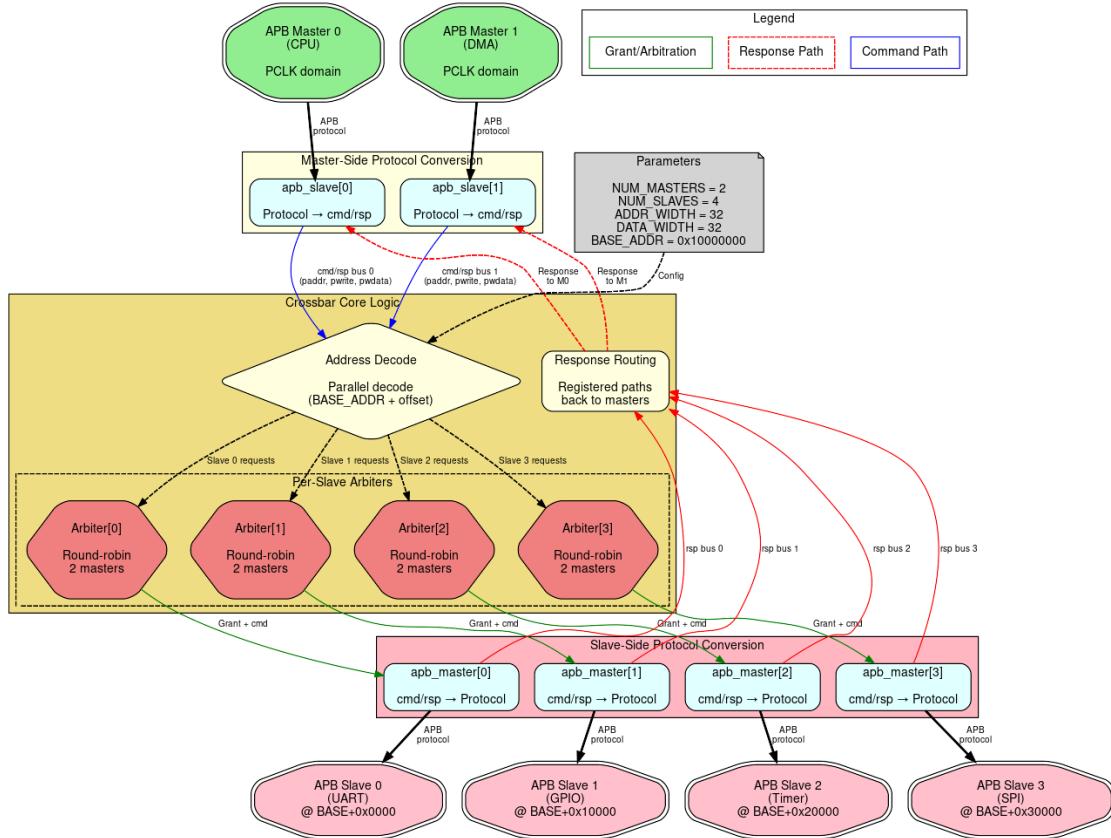
---

## Architecture Diagram

---

The following diagram shows a 2x4 crossbar configuration connecting 2 masters (CPU and DMA) to 4 slaves (UART, GPIO, Timer, SPI):

**Figure 1.1: APB Crossbar Top-Level Architecture**



### APB Crossbar Architecture (2x4 Example)

The figure shows 2 masters connected to 4 slaves via master-side protocol conversion, internal arbitration logic, and slave-side protocol conversion.

## Functional Blocks

### 1. Master-Side Protocol Conversion

**Component:** `apb_slave[M]` instances (one per master)

**Purpose:** Convert incoming APB protocol transactions to internal cmd/rsp bus format

**Features:** - Full APB protocol handling (PSEL, PENABLE, PREADY) - Transaction buffering - Error response generation - Back-to-back transaction support

**Dataflow:**

APB Master → `apb_slave` → cmd/rsp bus → Internal Crossbar Logic

---

## 2. Internal Crossbar Logic

**Components:** - **Address Decode** - Parallel decode to determine target slave - **Per-Slave Arbiters** - Round-robin arbitration for each slave - **Response Routing** - Registered paths back to requesting masters

**Key Operations:**

**Address Decode:**

```
offset = PADDR - BASE_ADDR  
slave_index = offset[19:16] // Upper 4 bits of 20-bit offset (64KB regions)
```

**Arbitration:** - Independent arbiter per slave - Round-robin priority rotation - Grant persistence through response - No starvation guarantee

**Response Routing:** - Track which master initiated each transaction - Route PRDATA/PSLVERR back to originating master - Maintain transaction ordering per master

---

## 3. Slave-Side Protocol Conversion

**Component:** apb\_master[N] instances (one per slave)

**Purpose:** Convert internal cmd/rsp bus format back to APB protocol for slaves

**Features:** - APB protocol generation (PSEL, PENABLE timing) - Response collection (PRDATA, PSLVERR, PREADY) - Wait state handling - Error propagation

**Dataflow:**

Internal Crossbar Logic → cmd/rsp bus → apb\_master → APB Slave

---

## Signal Flow Example

---

**Transaction:** Master 0 (CPU) writes to Slave 2 (Timer) at address 0x10023456

**Step-by-step:**

1. **Master 0 → apb\_slave[0]:**

- CPU asserts PSEL, PADDR=0x10023456, PWRITE=1
- apb\_slave[0] converts to cmd/rsp format

2. **Address Decode:**

- offset = 0x10023456 - 0x10000000 = 0x00023456
- slave\_index = 0x00023456 >> 16 = 0x2
- Target: Slave 2

### 3. Arbiter[2]:

- Check if Slave 2 is available
- Grant to Master 0 (if no conflict)
- Route cmd to apb\_master[2]

### 4. apb\_master[2] → Slave 2:

- Generate APB write transaction
- Assert PSEL[2], PENABLE, PADDR, PWDATA
- Wait for PREADY

### 5. Response Path:

- Slave 2 responds with PREADY, PSLVERR
- apb\_master[2] captures response
- Response routed back to apb\_slave[0]
- apb\_slave[0] returns PREADY to CPU

**Total Latency:** Typically 2-3 cycles for uncontended access

---

## Parameter Configuration

### Top-Level Parameters:

#### *Top-Level Parameters*

Parameter	Range	Default	Description
NUM_MASTERS	1-16	2	Number of APB masters
NUM_SLAVES	1-16	4	Number of APB slaves
ADDR_WIDTH	8-64	32	Address bus width
DATA_WIDTH	8-64	32	Data bus width
BASE_ADDR	Any	0x10000000	Base address for address map

**Derived Parameters:** - Slave address range: 64KB (0x10000) per slave - Total address space: NUM\_SLAVES × 64KB

---

## Pre-Generated Variants

---

### Pre-Generated Crossbar Variants

Module	M×N	LOC	Use Case
apb_xbar_1to1	1×1	~200	Passthrough, protocol conversion
apb_xbar_2to1	2×1	~400	Multi-master arbitration
apb_xbar_1to4	1×4	~500	Simple SoC peripheral bus
apb_xbar_2to4	2×4	~1000	Typical SoC with CPU+DMA
apb_xbar_thin	1×1	~150	Minimal overhead passthrough

**Custom Variants:** Generated on-demand via Python script

---

## Design Philosophy

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**Proven Components:** - Built from production-tested apb\_slave.sv and apb\_master.sv - No new protocol logic - pure composition - Each component independently verified

**Scalability:** - Parametric generation for any MxN configuration - Resource usage scales linearly with M×N - No centralized bottlenecks

**Predictability:** - Round-robin arbitration provides deterministic behavior - Fixed address map simplifies software integration - Zero-bubble design ensures maximum throughput

---

## Next Steps

---

- See [Address Decode and Arbitration](#) for detailed operation examples

- See [PRD.md](#) for complete specification
  - See [CLAUDE.md](#) for integration guidance
  - See [README.md](#) for quick start guide
- 

**Version:** 1.0 **Last Updated:** 2025-10-25 **Maintained By:** RTL Design Sherpa Project

## Address Decode and Arbitration

**Component:** APB Crossbar (MxN Interconnect) **Version:** 1.0 **Status:** Production Ready

---

### Overview

---

This document details the two core mechanisms of the APB Crossbar: 1. **Address Decode** - How incoming addresses map to specific slaves 2. **Arbitration** - How multiple masters share access to the same slave

---

### Address Decode

---

#### Address Map Structure

The crossbar uses a fixed 64KB (0x10000 bytes) region per slave:

```
BASE_ADDR + 0x0000_0000 → 0x0000_FFFF : Slave 0 (64KB)
BASE_ADDR + 0x0001_0000 → 0x0001_FFFF : Slave 1 (64KB)
BASE_ADDR + 0x0002_0000 → 0x0002_FFFF : Slave 2 (64KB)
BASE_ADDR + 0x0003_0000 → 0x0003_FFFF : Slave 3 (64KB)
...
BASE_ADDR + 0x000F_0000 → 0x000F_FFFF : Slave 15 (64KB)
```

**Default BASE\_ADDR:** 0x10000000

**Total Address Space:** NUM\_SLAVES × 64KB

#### Decode Algorithm

The crossbar extracts the slave index from the upper bits of the address offset:

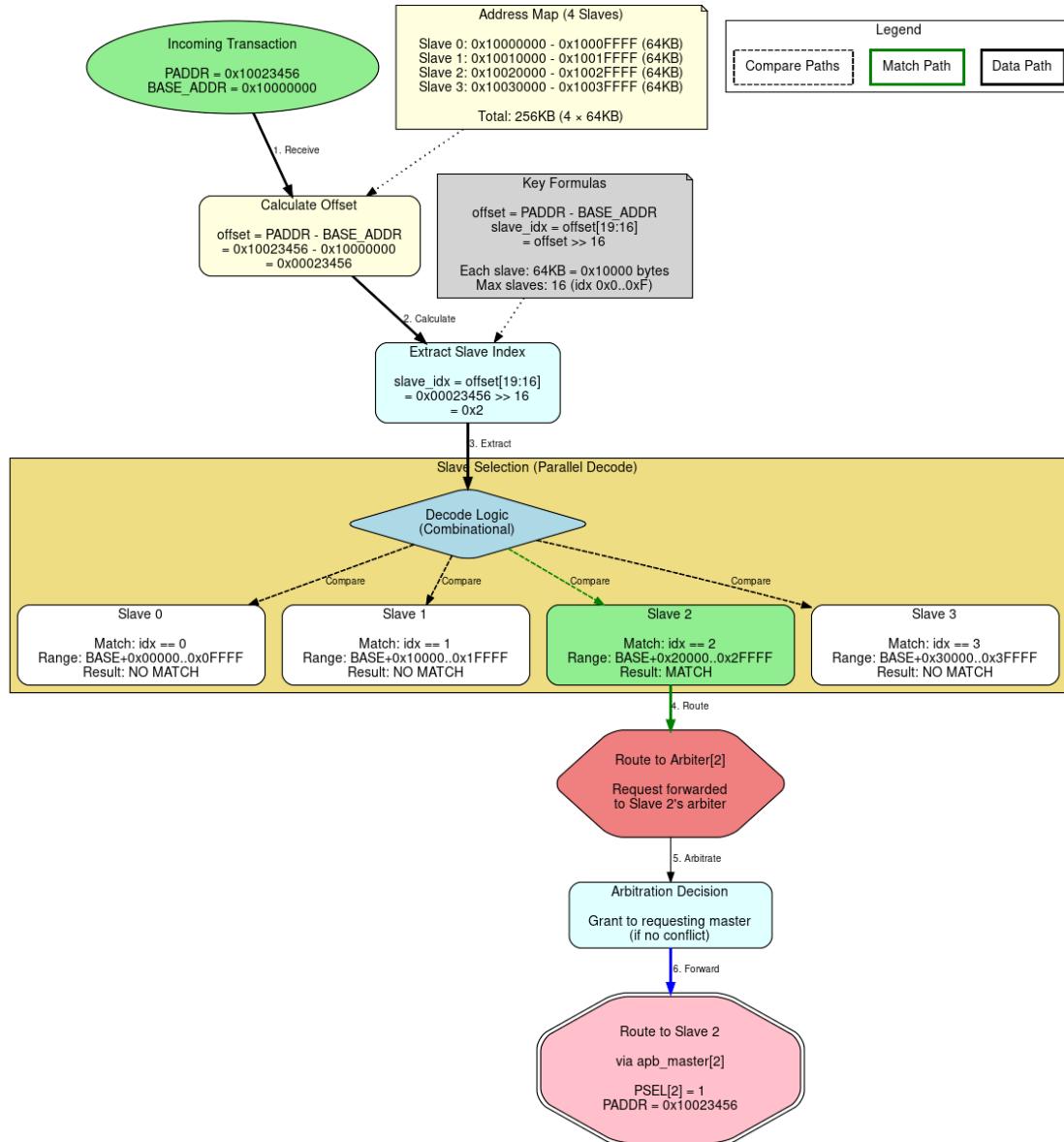
```
offset = PADDR - BASE_ADDR
slave_index = offset[19:16] // Upper 4 bits of 20-bit offset
```

**Why offset[19:16]?** -  $64\text{KB} = 0x10000 = 2^{16}$  bytes - Lower 16 bits (offset[15:0]) are byte address within slave - Upper 4 bits (offset[19:16]) select which of 16 slaves - Supports up to 16 slaves (0x0 through 0xF)

## Address Decode Flow Diagram

The following diagram shows a concrete example of how address 0x10023456 routes to Slave 2:

**Figure 2.1: Address Decode Flow**



## Address Decode Flow

The figure shows step-by-step routing of address 0x10023456 to Slave 2.

## Decode Example Walkthrough

**Scenario:** Master accesses address 0x10023456 with BASE\_ADDR = 0x10000000

### Step 1: Calculate Offset

```
offset = PADDR - BASE_ADDR  
       = 0x10023456 - 0x10000000  
       = 0x00023456
```

### Step 2: Extract Slave Index

```
slave_index = offset[19:16]  
             = 0x00023456 >> 16  
             = 0x2
```

### Step 3: Parallel Decode

The crossbar checks all slave ranges in parallel: - Slave 0: 0x00000 - 0x0FFFF → NO MATCH - Slave 1: 0x10000 - 0x1FFFF → NO MATCH - **Slave 2: 0x20000 - 0x2FFFF → MATCH ✓** - Slave 3: 0x30000 - 0x3FFFF → NO MATCH

### Step 4: Route to Arbiter

Transaction request forwarded to Arbiter[2] (Slave 2's arbiter)

### Step 5: Forward to Slave

After arbitration grant, transaction forwarded via apb\_master[2] to physical Slave 2

**Final Address Sent to Slave:** 0x10023456 (full address preserved)

## Multiple Address Maps

You can create multiple distinct address maps by using different BASE\_ADDR values:

### Example: Two Crossbars

```
// Peripheral Bus: 0x1000_0000 - 0x1003_FFFF  
apb_xbar_1to4 #(  
    .BASE_ADDR(32'h1000_0000)  
) u_periph_xbar (...);  
// Slaves at: 0x1000_0000, 0x1001_0000, 0x1002_0000, 0x1003_0000  
  
// Memory-Mapped I/O: 0x8000_0000 - 0x8003_FFFF  
apb_xbar_1to4 #(  
    .BASE_ADDR(32'h8000_0000)  
) u_mmio_xbar (...);  
// Slaves at: 0x8000_0000, 0x8001_0000, 0x8002_0000, 0x8003_0000
```

---

# Arbitration

## Per-Slave Round-Robin

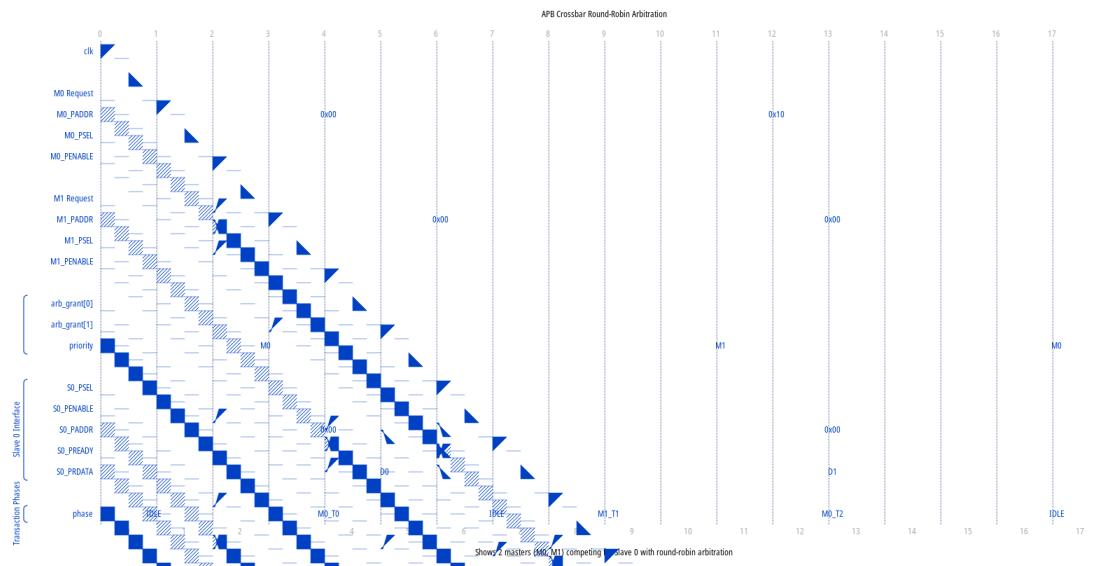
Each slave has an **independent arbiter** that implements round-robin scheduling:

**Key Properties:** - **Fair:** No master can starve another - **Independent:** Each slave arbitrates separately - **Predictable:** Priority rotates after each grant - **Persistent:** Grant held from command through response

## Round-Robin Timing Diagram

The following timing diagram shows 2 masters (M0, M1) competing for access to Slave 0:

Waveform 2.1: Round-Robin Arbitration Timing



## Round-Robin Arbitration Timing

## Arbitration Example Walkthrough

**Scenario:** Master 0 and Master 1 both want to access Slave 0

**Initial State:** - Priority: M0 (M0 has priority initially) - Slave 0: IDLE

### Transaction 1: M0 Requests Slave 0

Cycle 1: M0 asserts request (M0\_PSEL, M0\_PADDR=0x1000\_0000)  
Cycle 2: Arbiter[0] grants to M0 (only requester)  
M0\_PENABLE asserted  
S0\_PSEL asserted to Slave 0  
Cycle 3: Slave 0 responds (S0\_PREADY)

Transaction completes  
Priority rotates: M1 now has priority

#### Transaction 2: M0 and M1 Both Request Slave 0

Cycle 4: M0 asserts request (M0\_PADDR=0x1000\_0010)  
M1 asserts request (M1\_PADDR=0x1000\_0000) -- CONFLICT!  
Cycle 5: Arbiter[0] grants to M1 (has priority)  
M1\_PENABLE asserted  
S0\_PSEL asserted to Slave 0  
M0 blocked, waits  
Cycle 6: Slave 0 responds (S0\_PREADY)  
M1 transaction completes  
Priority rotates: M0 now has priority

#### Transaction 3: M0 Request (After Rotation)

Cycle 7: M0 still asserting request (was blocked)  
Cycle 8: Arbiter[0] grants to M0 (now has priority)  
M0\_PENABLE asserted  
S0\_PSEL asserted to Slave 0  
Cycle 9: Slave 0 responds (S0\_PREADY)  
Transaction completes  
Priority rotates: M1 now has priority

**Result:** Fair access - each master gets served in turn when both request

### Multi-Slave Parallelism

**Key Feature:** Different slaves can be accessed simultaneously by different masters

#### Example: Parallel Transactions

Time T0:

- Master 0 accesses Slave 0 (UART) - GRANTED
  - Master 1 accesses Slave 2 (Timer) - GRANTED
- Both transactions proceed in parallel (no conflict)

Time T1:

- Master 0 accesses Slave 0 (UART) - GRANTED
  - Master 1 accesses Slave 0 (UART) - BLOCKED (arbitration)
- Master 1 waits for Master 0 to complete

Time T2:

- Master 0 completes, releases Slave 0
  - Master 1 accesses Slave 0 (UART) - GRANTED
- Priority rotated for Slave 0's arbiter

**Benefit:** Maximum throughput when masters access different slaves

## Grant Persistence

**Critical Property:** Once granted, a master holds the slave until response completes

### Why This Matters:

WITHOUT Grant Persistence:

- Master 0 granted Slave 0
- Master 0 asserts PENABLE
- \*Grant could change here\* ← BREAKS PROTOCOL!
- Slave 0 responds to wrong master

WITH Grant Persistence:

- Master 0 granted Slave 0
- Master 0 asserts PENABLE
- Grant held until PREADY asserted ← SAFE
- Slave 0 responds to correct master
- Grant released for next transaction

**Implementation:** Grant signal registered and held from PSEL assertion through PREADY response

## Arbitration Latency

**Best Case (No Contention):** - 0 cycles arbitration delay - Request → Grant in same cycle - APB protocol overhead: 2 cycles minimum (PSEL + PENABLE)

**Worst Case (Maximum Contention):** - M-1 cycles wait time (other masters ahead in round-robin)  
- Example: 2 masters, worst case = 1 cycle wait - Example: 4 masters, worst case = 3 cycles wait

**Average Case (Random Access Pattern):** - (M-1)/2 cycles average wait time - Statistical fairness over time

---

## Integration Examples

---

### Example 1: CPU to 4 Peripherals (No Contention)

```
apb_xbar_1to4 #(
    .BASE_ADDR(32'h1000_0000)
) u_periph_xbar (
    // Single master (CPU)
    .m0_apb_(cpu_apb_),
    // 4 slaves (UART, GPIO, Timer, SPI)
    .s0_apb_(uart_),      // 0x1000_0000
    .s1_apb_(gpio_),     // 0x1001_0000
    .s2_apb_(timer_),    // 0x1002_0000
```

```

    .s3_apb_* (spi_*)      // 0x1003_0000
);

```

**Behavior:** - No arbitration needed (single master) - Pure address decode functionality - Zero arbitration overhead

### Example 2: CPU + DMA to 4 Peripherals (Potential Contention)

```

apb_xbar_2to4 #(
    .BASE_ADDR(32'h4000_0000)
) u_soc_xbar (
    // Two masters
    .m0_apb_* (cpu_apb_*),
    .m1_apb_* (dma_apb_*),

    // 4 slaves
    .s0_apb_* (mem_ctrl_*),   // 0x4000_0000
    .s1_apb_* (uart_*),      // 0x4001_0000
    .s2_apb_* (i2c_*),       // 0x4002_0000
    .s3_apb_* (adc_*)        // 0x4003_0000
);

```

**Behavior:** - Each slave has independent arbiter - CPU and DMA can access different slaves simultaneously - If both access same slave, round-robin arbitration - Fair access guaranteed

---

## Performance Characteristics

---

### Throughput

**Single Master:** - Back-to-back transactions supported - Zero bubble (no idle cycles between transactions) - Limited only by slave PREADY response time

**Multiple Masters (Same Slave):** - Round-robin introduces fair sharing - Each master gets  $\sim 1/M$  of bandwidth - Example: 2 masters = 50% bandwidth each

**Multiple Masters (Different Slaves):** - Full parallelism - Each master gets 100% of its target slave - Total system bandwidth = NUM\_SLAVES  $\times$  slave\_bandwidth

### Latency

#### Components:

1. **Address Decode:** 0 cycles (combinational, parallel)
2. **Arbitration Decision:** 0 cycles (combinational)
3. **APB Protocol:** 2 cycles minimum (PSEL + PENABLE)
4. **Slave Response:** Variable (depends on slave)

**Total Minimum Latency:** 2 cycles (uncontended access)

**With Contention:** +1 to +(M-1) cycles arbitration wait time

---

## Design Notes

---

### Why 64KB Per Slave?

**Rationale:** - Sufficient for most APB peripherals (typically 256B - 4KB register space) - Simple decode logic (single shift operation) - Allows up to 16 slaves with clean byte alignment - Software-friendly (each peripheral has “round” base address)

**Alternatives:** - Smaller regions (4KB, 16KB) → more slaves, more complex decode - Larger regions (256KB, 1MB) → fewer slaves, wasted address space

### Why Round-Robin?

**Advantages:** - Fair: Prevents starvation - Simple: Minimal logic (counter + comparator) - Predictable: Software can reason about worst-case latency - No configuration: Works out-of-box

**Alternatives:** - Fixed priority → Can starve low-priority masters - Weighted fair queuing → More complex, requires configuration - Lottery scheduling → Unpredictable, harder to verify

---

## Troubleshooting

---

### Issue: Wrong Slave Selected

**Check:** 1. BASE\_ADDR parameter correct? 2. Address within expected range? 3. Calculated slave\_index matches expectation?

**Debug:**

```
offset = PADDR - BASE_ADDR
slave_index = offset >> 16
expected_slave = slave_index // Should match actual PSEL
```

### Issue: Master Starved

**Check:** 1. Other masters continuously accessing same slave? 2. Arbitration timeout monitoring enabled? 3. Round-robin priority rotating correctly?

**Expected Behavior:** - Each master should get grant within M transactions - No master should wait indefinitely

## Issue: Back-to-Back Transactions Stalling

**Check:** 1. Grant persistence working? 2. Slave asserting PREADY correctly? 3. No unintended pipeline bubbles?

**Expected Behavior:** - Consecutive transactions from same master should flow without gaps - Only arbitration conflicts should introduce wait states

---

## Next Steps

- See [Architecture](#) for top-level design overview
  - See [PRD.md](#) for complete specification
  - See [CLAUDE.md](#) for integration guidance
  - See [README.md](#) for quick start guide
- 

**Version:** 1.0 **Last Updated:** 2025-10-25 **Maintained By:** RTL Design Sherpa Project

## APB Crossbar RTL Generator

**Component:** APB Crossbar (MxN Interconnect) **Version:** 1.0 **Status:** Production Ready

---

## Overview

The APB Crossbar uses **parametric RTL generation** to create custom MxN configurations. While several pre-generated variants exist (1to1, 2to1, 1to4, 2to4, thin), the Python-based generator enables creation of any arbitrary MxN crossbar up to 16x16.

**Philosophy:** - Pre-generated variants for common use cases (fast integration) - Python generator for custom configurations (flexibility) - Template-based code generation (consistency) - Built from proven components (quality)

---

## Generator Architecture

### Two-Level Structure

```
projects/components/apb_xbar/
  └── bin/
    └── generate_xbars.py           ← Convenience wrapper script
```

```
└─ (repo root)/bin/rtl_generators/amba/
    └─ apb_xbar_generator.py           ← Core generator engine
```

**Why Two Files?** 1. **Core Generator** (`apb_xbar_generator.py`): Reusable library function - Can be imported by other scripts - Contains `generate_apb_xbar()` function - Located in central `bin/rtl_generators/` directory

2. **Convenience Wrapper** (`generate_xbars.py`): Project-specific script

- Easy command-line interface
  - Pre-configured for standard variants
  - Located in project `bin/` directory
- 

## Quick Start

### Generate Standard Variants (1:1, 2:1, 1:4, 2:4)

```
cd projects/components/apb_xbar/bin/
python generate_xbars.py
```

#### Output:

```
Generating 1-to-1 crossbar...
  ✓ apb_xbar_1to1.sv
Generating 2-to-1 crossbar...
  ✓ apb_xbar_2to1.sv
Generating 1-to-4 crossbar...
  ✓ apb_xbar_1to4.sv
Generating 2-to-4 crossbar...
  ✓ apb_xbar_2to4.sv
```

✓ Generated 4 crossbar variants

### Generate Custom Variant

```
cd projects/components/apb_xbar/bin/
python generate_xbars.py --masters 3 --slaves 6
```

#### Output:

```
Generating 3-to-6 crossbar...
✓ Generated apb_xbar_3to6.sv
```

### Generate with Custom Base Address

```
cd projects/components/apb_xbar/bin/
python generate_xbars.py --masters 4 --slaves 8 --base-addr 0x80000000
```

**Output:**

```
Generating 4-to-8 crossbar...
✓ Generated apb_xbar_4to8.sv
```

## Address Map:

```
Slave 0: [0x80000000, 0x8000FFFF]
Slave 1: [0x80010000, 0x8001FFFF]
Slave 2: [0x80020000, 0x8002FFFF]
...
Slave 7: [0x80070000, 0x8007FFFF]
```

---

## Command-Line Interface

**Full Options**

```
python generate_xbars.py [OPTIONS]
```

**Options:***Command Line Options*

Option	Short	Type	Default	Description
--masters	-m	int	None	Number of master interfaces (1-16)
--slaves	-s	int	None	Number of slave interfaces (1-16)
--base-addr	-b	hex	0x10000000	Base address for slave address map
--help	-h	-	-	Show help message

**Rules:** - If neither --masters nor --slaves specified → Generate all standard variants - If only one specified → Error (must specify both) - If both specified → Generate custom variant

**Examples****Example 1: Generate All Standard Variants**

```
python generate_xbars.py
```

**Example 2: Generate 3x6 Crossbar**

```
python generate_xbars.py --masters 3 --slaves 6
```

**Example 3: Generate 5x10 Crossbar with Custom Base**

```
python generate_xbars.py -m 5 -s 10 -b 0xA0000000
```

#### Example 4: Show Help

```
python generate_xbars.py --help
```

---

## Generated Code Structure

---

### Template Components

The generator creates a complete SystemVerilog module with:

#### 1. Header with Address Map

```
// 3-to-6 APB crossbar with address decoding and arbitration
// 3 masters to 6 slaves using apb_slave and apb_master modules
//
// Address Map (same for all masters):
// Slave 0: [0x10000000, 0x1000FFFF]
// Slave 1: [0x10010000, 0x1001FFFF]
// Slave 2: [0x10020000, 0x1002FFFF]
// Slave 3: [0x10030000, 0x1003FFFF]
// Slave 4: [0x10040000, 0x1004FFFF]
// Slave 5: [0x10050000, 0x1005FFFF]
```

#### 2. Module Declaration with Parameters

```
module apb_xbar_3to6 #(
    parameter int ADDR_WIDTH = 32,
    parameter int DATA_WIDTH = 32,
    parameter int STRB_WIDTH = DATA_WIDTH / 8,
    parameter logic [ADDR_WIDTH-1:0] BASE_ADDR = 32'h10000000
) (
    // Clock and Reset
    input logic                      pclk,
    input logic                      presetn,
    //
    // Master 0-2 APB interfaces
    // Slave 0-5 APB interfaces
);
```

#### 3. Internal Signal Declarations

```
// Command/Response interfaces for master 0-2 apb_slave
logic m0_cmd_valid, m0_cmd_ready, m0_cmd_pwrite;
logic [ADDR_WIDTH-1:0] m0_cmd_paddr;
// ... (full cmd/rsp bus for each master)
```

```

// Command/Response interfaces for slave 0-5 apb_master
logic s0_cmd_valid, s0_cmd_ready, s0_cmd_pwrite;
logic [ADDR_WIDTH-1:0] s0_cmd_paddr;
// ... (full cmd/rsp bus for each slave)

```

#### 4. Master-Side apb\_slave Instantiations

```

// Master 0 apb_slave
apb_slave #(
    .ADDR_WIDTH(ADDR_WIDTH),
    .DATA_WIDTH(DATA_WIDTH)
) u_m0_slave (
    .pclk(pclk),
    .presetn(presetn),
    // APB interface
    .apb_PSEL(m0_apb_PSEL),
    .apb_PENABLE(m0_apb_PENABLE),
    // ... (full APB connections)
    // cmd/rsp interface
    .cmd_valid(m0_cmd_valid),
    .cmd_ready(m0_cmd_ready),
    // ... (full cmd/rsp connections)
);

```

```
// Master 1, 2 apb_slave instances...
```

#### 5. Address Decode Logic

```

// Address decode for each master
logic [M-1:0][N-1:0] m_to_s_req; // Request matrix

// Master 0 address decode
always_comb begin
    m_to_s_req[0] = '0;
    if (m0_cmd_valid) begin
        logic [ADDR_WIDTH-1:0] offset = m0_cmd_paddr - BASE_ADDR;
        logic [3:0] slave_idx = offset[19:16];
        case (slave_idx)
            4'd0: m_to_s_req[0][0] = 1'b1;
            4'd1: m_to_s_req[0][1] = 1'b1;
            // ... (case for each slave)
        endcase
    end
end

// Master 1, 2 address decode...

```

#### 6. Per-Slave Arbitration Logic

```

// Arbitration for each slave
logic [N-1:0][M-1:0] s_grant; // Grant matrix
logic [N-1:0][$clog2(M)-1:0] s_arb_priority; // Round-robin
priority

// Slave 0 arbiter (round-robin among M masters)
always_ff @(posedge pclk or negedge presetn) begin
    if (!presetn) begin
        s_arb_priority[0] <= '0;
        s_grant[0] <= '0;
    end else begin
        // Round-robin arbitration logic
        // Priority rotation after each grant
    end
end

// Slave 1-5 arbiters...

```

## 7. Response Routing Logic

```

// Route responses back to requesting masters
always_comb begin
    // Track which master initiated each transaction
    // Route PRDATA/PSLVERR back to correct master
end

```

## 8. Slave-Side apb\_master Instantiations

```

// Slave 0 apb_master
apb_master #(
    .ADDR_WIDTH(ADDR_WIDTH),
    .DATA_WIDTH(DATA_WIDTH)
) u_s0_master (
    .pclk(pclk),
    .presetn(presetn),
    // cmd/rsp interface
    .cmd_valid(s0_cmd_valid),
    .cmd_ready(s0_cmd_ready),
    // ... (full cmd/rsp connections)
    // APB interface
    .apb_PSEL(s0_apb_PSEL),
    .apb_PENABLE(s0_apb_PENABLE),
    // ... (full APB connections)
);

```

```
// Slave 1-5 apb_master instances...
```

## 9. Module End

```
endmodule : apb_xbar_3to6
```

---

## Generator Algorithm

---

### Step-by-Step Process

#### 1. Validate Parameters

```
if M < 1 or M > 16:  
    raise ValueError(f"Number of masters must be 1-16, got {M}")  
if N < 1 or N > 16:  
    raise ValueError(f"Number of slaves must be 1-16, got {N}")
```

#### 2. Calculate Derived Parameters

```
slave_addr_bits = max(1, math.ceil(math.log2(N))) # Bits for slave  
index  
strb_width = data_width // 8 # Byte strobe  
width  
module_name = f"apb_xbar_{M}to{N}" # Module name
```

#### 3. Generate Address Map Documentation

```
for s in range(N):  
    addr_offset = s * 0x10000 # 64KB per slave  
    addr_start = base_addr + addr_offset  
    addr_end = addr_start + 0xFFFF  
    # Generate comment: Slave S: [START, END]
```

#### 4. Generate Module Declaration - Parameters: ADDR\_WIDTH, DATA\_WIDTH, STRB\_WIDTH, BASE\_ADDR - Ports: Clock, reset - Master interfaces: M × full APB interface - Slave interfaces: N × full APB interface

#### 5. Generate Internal Signals - Master cmd/rsp buses: M sets - Slave cmd/rsp buses: N sets - Request matrix: [M][N] - Grant matrix: [N][M] - Priority counters: [N]

#### 6. Instantiate Master-Side Components

```
for m in range(M):  
    # Generate apb_slave instance  
    # Connect APB interface to external master m  
    # Connect cmd/rsp to internal buses
```

#### 7. Generate Address Decode Logic

```
for m in range(M):  
    # For each master, decode address to slave index  
    # offset = paddr - BASE_ADDR  
    # slave_idx = offset[19:16] # Upper 4 bits  
    # Set m_to_s_req[m][slave_idx] = 1
```

## 8. Generate Arbitration Logic

```
for s in range(N):
    # For each slave, arbitrate among M masters
    # Round-robin: priority rotates after each grant
    # Grant persistence: hold until transaction completes
```

## 9. Generate Response Routing

```
# Track transaction source (which master)
# Route responses back to originating master
```

## 10. Instantiate Slave-Side Components

```
for s in range(N):
    # Generate apb_master instance
    # Connect cmd/rsp from internal buses
    # Connect APB interface to external slave s
```

## 11. Write Generated Code

```
with open(output_file, 'w') as f:
    f.write(generated_code)
```

---

# Code Generation Patterns

---

## Loop-Based Generation

### Master Interfaces:

```
for m in range(M):
    code += f"    // Master {m} APB interface\n"
    code += f"    input logic m{m}_apb_PSEL,\n"
    code += f"    input logic m{m}_apb_PENABLE,\n"
    # ... (all APB signals for master m)
```

### Slave Interfaces:

```
for s in range(N):
    code += f"    // Slave {s} APB interface\n"
    code += f"    output logic s{s}_apb_PSEL,\n"
    code += f"    output logic s{s}_apb_PENABLE,\n"
    # ... (all APB signals for slave s)
```

## String Formatting

### Hex Values:

```
code += f"    parameter logic [ADDR_WIDTH-1:0] BASE_ADDR =\n{addr_width}'h{base_addr:08X}\\n\"\n# Example: 32'h10000000
```

#### Address Map Comments:

```
addr_start = base_addr + (s * 0x10000)\ncode += f"// Slave {s}: [0x{addr_start:08X}, 0x{addr_start +\n0xFFFF:08X}]\n\"# Example: Slave 2: [0x10020000, 0x1002FFFF]
```

---

## Customization Examples

### Example 1: Large SoC with 10 Peripherals

**Scenario:** CPU + DMA need to access 10 peripherals

**Command:**

```
python generate_xbars.py --masters 2 --slaves 10
```

**Generated File:** apb\_xbar\_2to10.sv

**Address Map:**

```
Slave 0: 0x10000000 - 0x1000FFFF (UART0)\nSlave 1: 0x10010000 - 0x1001FFFF (UART1)\nSlave 2: 0x10020000 - 0x1002FFFF (GPIO)\nSlave 3: 0x10030000 - 0x1003FFFF (I2C)\nSlave 4: 0x10040000 - 0x1004FFFF (SPI)\nSlave 5: 0x10050000 - 0x1005FFFF (Timer0)\nSlave 6: 0x10060000 - 0x1006FFFF (Timer1)\nSlave 7: 0x10070000 - 0x1007FFFF (PWM)\nSlave 8: 0x10080000 - 0x1008FFFF (ADC)\nSlave 9: 0x10090000 - 0x1009FFFF (Watchdog)
```

**LOC:** ~2500 lines (estimated)

### Example 2: Multi-CPU System

**Scenario:** 4 CPUs accessing shared peripheral bus with 4 slaves

**Command:**

```
python generate_xbars.py --masters 4 --slaves 4
```

**Generated File:** apb\_xbar\_4to4.sv

**Benefits:** - Fair arbitration among 4 CPUs - Each slave independently arbitrated - Maximum throughput when CPUs access different slaves

**LOC:** ~1600 lines (estimated)

### Example 3: Memory-Mapped I/O Region

**Scenario:** Single master accessing I/O region at 0xA0000000

**Command:**

```
python generate_xbars.py --masters 1 --slaves 8 --base-addr 0xA0000000
```

**Generated File:** apb\_xbar\_1to8.sv

**Address Map:**

```
Slave 0: 0xA0000000 - 0xA000FFFF  
Slave 1: 0xA0010000 - 0xA001FFFF  
...  
Slave 7: 0xA0070000 - 0xA007FFFF
```

---

## Using Generated Modules

### Integration Example

```
// Generated file: apb_xbar_3to6.sv

module my_soc (
    input logic clk,
    input logic rst_n,
    // ... other interfaces
);

    // Instantiate 3x6 crossbar
    apb_xbar_3to6 #(
        .ADDR_WIDTH(32),
        .DATA_WIDTH(32),
        .BASE_ADDR(32'h10000000) // Can override at instantiation
    ) u_periph_xbar (
        .pclk(clk),
        .presetn(rst_n),

        // Connect 3 masters (CPU, DMA, Debug)
        .m0_apb_PSEL(cpu_apb_psel),
        .m0_apb_PENABLE(cpu_apb_penable),
        // ... (full CPU APB interface)
```

```

.m1_apb_PSEL(dma_apb_psel),
.m1_apb_PENABLE(dma_apb_penable),
// ... (full DMA APB interface)

.m2_apb_PSEL(debug_apb_psel),
.m2_apb_PENABLE(debug_apb_penable),
// ... (full Debug APB interface)

// Connect 6 slaves (UART, GPIO, Timer, SPI, I2C, ADC)
.s0_apb_PSEL(uart_psel),
.s0_apb_PENABLE(uart_penable),
// ... (full UART APB interface)

.s1_apb_PSEL(gpio_psel),
// ... (remaining slaves)
);

endmodule : my_soc

```

### Parameter Override

```

// Use different base address at instantiation
apb_xbar_3to6 #(
    .BASE_ADDR(32'h80000000) // Override default 0x10000000
) u_mmio_xbar (
    // ... connections
);
// Slaves now at: 0x80000000, 0x80010000, 0x80020000, ...

```

---

## Generator Limitations and Future Work

### Current Limitations

1. **Fixed 64KB Per Slave**
  - Cannot customize individual slave region sizes
  - Workaround: Use multiple crossbars with different BASE\_ADDR
2. **Max 16x16 Configuration**
  - Practical limit due to arbitration complexity
  - Workaround: Hierarchical crossbars
3. **Single Address Map**
  - All masters see same slave address map

- Workaround: Address translation before crossbar

#### 4. No Priority Levels

- Round-robin only, no fixed priority or weighted arbitration
- Workaround: External priority arbitration before crossbar

### Future Enhancements

#### 1. Variable Slave Sizes

```
# Potential future API
generate_apb_xbar(
    num_masters=2,
    slave_sizes=[4096, 65536, 1024, 16384], # Custom sizes per slave
    base_addr=0x10000000
)
```

#### 2. Arbitration Policies

```
# Potential future API
generate_apb_xbar(
    num_masters=4,
    num_slaves=4,
    arbitration="weighted", # "round-robin", "fixed-priority",
    "weighted"
    weights=[4, 2, 1, 1]      # Master 0 gets 4x priority
)
```

#### 3. Address Translation

```
# Potential future API
generate_apb_xbar(
    num_masters=2,
    num_slaves=4,
    master_views=[
        {"base": 0x00000000, "remap": True}, # Master 0 sees 0x0
        {"base": 0x10000000, "remap": False} # Master 1 sees
        0x1000_0000
    ]
)
```

---

## Testing Generated Code

### Verification Flow

#### 1. Generate Crossbar

```
python generate_xbars.py --masters 2 --slaves 4
```

## 2. Lint Generated RTL

```
cd ../../rtl/
verilator --lint-only apb_xbar_2to4.sv
```

## 3. Run Functional Tests

```
cd ../../dv/tests/
pytest test_apb_xbar_2to4.py -v
```

## 4. View Waveforms (If Test Fails)

```
gtkwave waves.vcd
```

## Recommended Test Cases

1. **Single Master Access** - Verify basic routing
  2. **Multi-Master Contention** - Verify arbitration
  3. **Back-to-Back Transactions** - Verify zero-bubble throughput
  4. **Address Decode Boundary** - Verify slave selection at boundaries
  5. **Error Response Propagation** - Verify PSLVERR routing
- 

## Advanced Usage

---

### Using as Python Library

```
# Import generator function
from bin.rtl_generators.amba.apb_xbar_generator import
generate_apb_xbar

# Generate crossbar programmatically
code = generate_apb_xbar(
    num_masters=3,
    num_slaves=8,
    base_addr=0xA0000000,
    addr_width=32,
    data_width=32,
    output_file="my_custom_xbar.sv"
)

# Generated code is returned as string
print(f"Generated {len(code)} bytes of SystemVerilog code")

# Can also write to file manually
```

```

with open("custom_output.sv", "w") as f:
    f.write(code)

Batch Generation

# Generate multiple variants in one script
variants = [
    (1, 4, 0x10000000),
    (2, 4, 0x20000000),
    (3, 6, 0x30000000),
    (4, 8, 0x40000000),
]

for masters, slaves, base_addr in variants:
    code = generate_apb_xbar(
        num_masters=masters,
        num_slaves=slaves,
        base_addr=base_addr,
        output_file=f"xbar_{masters}to{slaves}_0x{base_addr:08X}.sv"
    )
    print(f"Generated  
xbar_{masters}to{slaves}_0x{base_addr:08X}.sv")

```

---

## Troubleshooting

**Issue:** “ModuleNotFoundError: No module named ‘amba.apb\_xbar\_generator’”

**Cause:** Python can’t find the core generator module

**Solution:**

```

# Verify generator exists
ls -la bin/apb_xbar_generator.py

# Run from bin directory
cd projects/components/apb_xbar/bin/
python generate_xbars.py

```

**Issue: Generated Code Won’t Lint**

**Cause:** Generator bug or unsupported configuration

**Solution:** 1. Check parameter ranges (1-16 for M and N) 2. Verify base address alignment (should be aligned to 64KB × N) 3. Report bug with command that caused issue

## Issue: Generated Code Too Large

**Cause:** Very large MxN configuration (e.g., 16x16)

**Expected Behavior:** - 1x1: ~200 LOC - 2x4: ~1000 LOC - 16x16: ~25,000 LOC (practical limit)

**Solution:** - Consider hierarchical approach (multiple smaller crossbars) - Or use different interconnect topology (bus, tree, etc.)

---

## References

---

- [Architecture Overview](#)
  - [Address Decode and Arbitration](#)
  - [PRD.md](#) - Complete specification
  - [CLAUDE.md](#) - Integration guidance
  - [README.md](#) - Quick start guide
- 

**Version:** 1.0 **Last Updated:** 2025-10-25 **Maintained By:** RTL Design Sherpa Project

## APB Crossbar Hardware Architecture Specification Index

**Version:** 1.0 **Date:** 2026-01-03 **Purpose:** High-level hardware architecture specification for APB Crossbar component

---

## Document Organization

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**Note:** All chapters linked below for automated document generation.

### Front Matter

- [Document Information](#)

### Chapter 1: Introduction

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- [Document Conventions](#)
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## **Chapter 2: System Overview**

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## **Chapter 6: Integration**

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- 

## **Related Documentation**

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- [\*\*APB Crossbar MAS\*\*](#) - Micro-Architecture Specification (detailed block-level)
  - [\*\*PRD.md\*\*](#) - Product requirements and overview
  - [\*\*CLAUDE.md\*\*](#) - AI development guide
- 

**Last Updated:** 2026-01-03 **Maintained By:** RTL Design Sherpa Project

# Product Requirements Document (PRD)

## APB Crossbar Generator

**Version:** 1.0 **Date:** 2025-10-19 **Status:** Production Ready **Owner:** RTL Design Sherpa Project

**Parent Document:** /PRD.md

---

## 1. Executive Summary

The **APB Crossbar** is a parametric APB interconnect generator that creates configurable MxN crossbar fabrics for connecting multiple APB masters to multiple APB slaves. Built using proven `apb_slave` and `apb_master` modules, the crossbar provides independent round-robin arbitration per slave and automatic address-based routing.

### 1.1 Quick Stats

- **Modules:** 5 pre-generated variants + generator for custom sizes
- **Max Capacity:** Up to 16x16 (configurable)
- **Architecture:** `apb_slave` → arbitration + decode → `apb_master`
- **Status:** Production ready, all tests passing
- **Generator:** Python-based parametric code generation

### 1.2 Project Goals

- **Primary:** Provide production-quality APB interconnect for SoC integration
  - **Secondary:** Demonstrate parametric RTL generation best practices
  - **Tertiary:** Support both fixed and dynamically-generated variants
- 

## 2. Key Design Principles

### 2.1 Architecture Philosophy

**Proven Building Blocks:** - Uses `apb_slave.sv` and `apb_master.sv` from `rtl/amba/apb` - Each module independently tested and production-proven - Crossbar = composition of proven components

**Parametric Generation:** - Generator creates any MxN configuration - Pre-generated common variants (1to1, 2to1, 1to4, 2to4, thin) - Custom variants generated on-demand

**Clean Separation:** - Master-side: APB slaves convert protocol to cmd/rsp - Internal: Arbitration + address decoding - Slave-side: APB masters convert cmd/rsp back to protocol

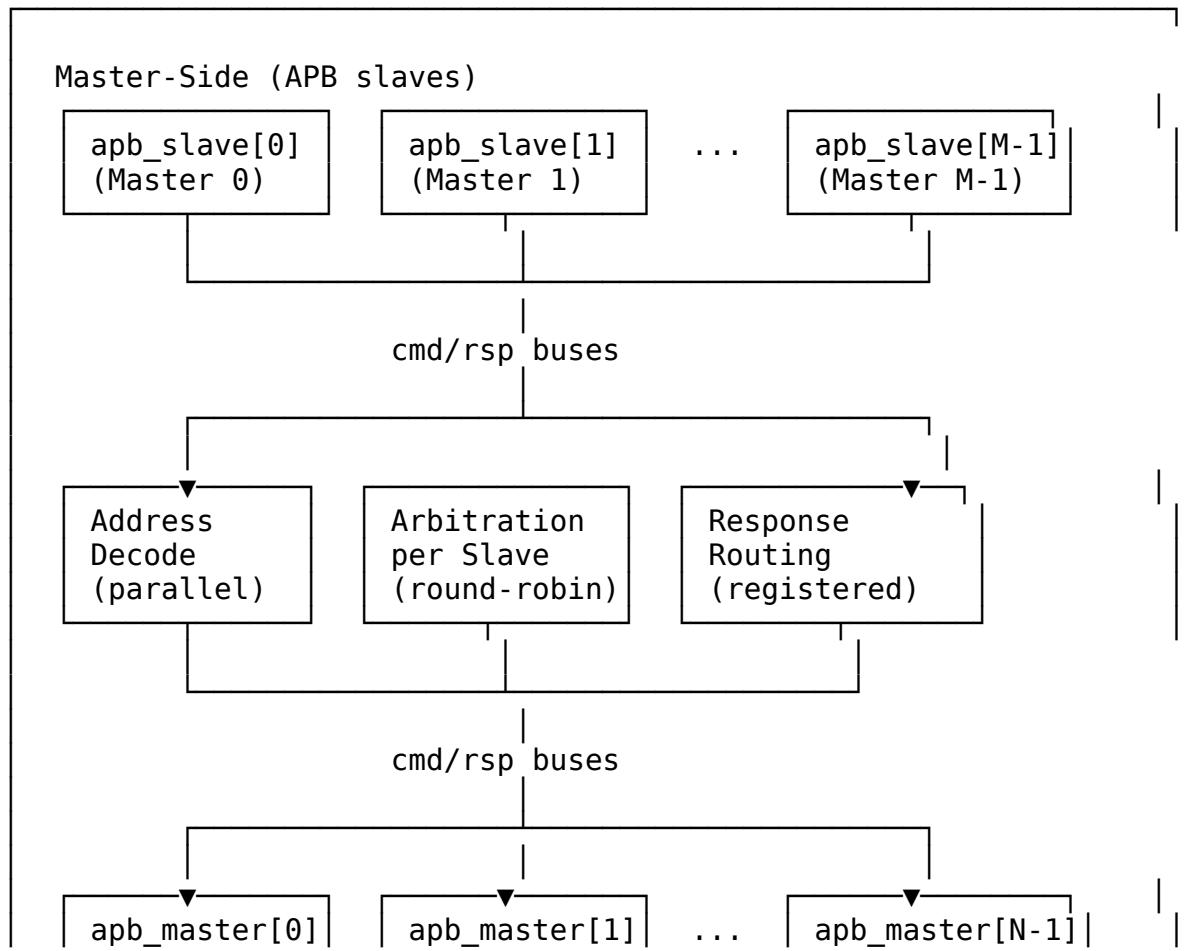
## 2.2 Design Trade-offs

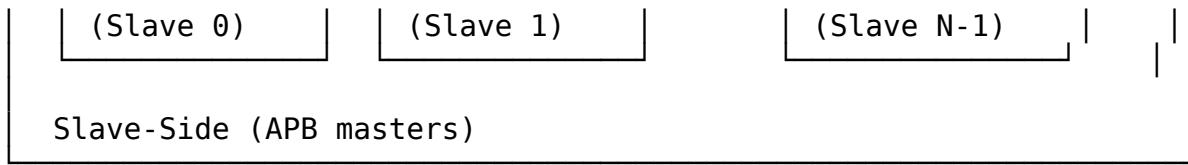
Feature	Choice	Rationale
<b>Arbitration</b>	Round-robin per slave	Fair, simple, predictable
<b>Address Map</b>	64KB per slave	Sufficient for most peripherals
<b>Grant Persistence</b>	Hold through response	Zero-bubble throughput
<b>Address Decode</b>	Parallel decode	Low latency, simple logic

## 3. Architecture Overview

### 3.1 Top-Level Block Diagram

APB Crossbar (M masters × N slaves)





APB Crossbar Architecture (2x4 Example) *Figure: APB Crossbar top-level architecture showing 2 masters connected to 4 slaves.* *Source:*

[docs/apb\\_xbar\\_spec/assets/graphviz/apb\\_xbar\\_architecture.gv](#) | [SVG](#)

### 3.2 Address Mapping

```
BASE_ADDR + 0x0000_0000 → 0x0000_FFFF : Slave 0 (64KB)
BASE_ADDR + 0x0001_0000 → 0x0001_FFFF : Slave 1 (64KB)
BASE_ADDR + 0x0002_0000 → 0x0002_FFFF : Slave 2 (64KB)
BASE_ADDR + 0x0003_0000 → 0x0003_FFFF : Slave 3 (64KB)
...
BASE_ADDR + 0x000F_0000 → 0x000F_FFFF : Slave 15 (64KB)
```

**Default BASE\_ADDR:** 0x1000\_0000

#### Address Decode Example:

The crossbar extracts the slave index from the upper bits of the address offset:

```
slave_index = (address - BASE_ADDR) >> 16 // Divide by 64KB (0x10000)
```

Address Decode Flow *Figure: Address decode flow showing how address 0x10023456 routes to Slave 2.* *Source:* [docs/apb\\_xbar\\_spec/assets/graphviz/address\\_decode\\_flow.gv](#) | [SVG](#)

### 3.3 Arbitration Strategy

**Per-Slave Round-Robin:** - Each slave has independent arbiter - Master priority rotates after each grant - Grant held from command acceptance through response completion - No master can starve another master

#### Example:

Slave 0 accessed by M0, M1, M0 → Next grant goes to M1  
 Slave 1 accessed by M1, M1, M0 → Next grant goes to M0

Round-Robin Arbitration Timing *Figure: Round-robin arbitration timing showing 2 masters competing for Slave 0. Master priority rotates after each grant to ensure fair access.* *Source:* [docs/apb\\_xbar\\_spec/assets/wavedrom/arbitration\\_round\\_robin.json](#)

---

## 4. Available Variants

---

### 4.1 Pre-Generated Modules

Module	Masters	Slaves	Use Case	File Size
<b>apb_xbar_1to1</b>	1	1	Protocol conversion, testing	~200 LOC
<b>apb_xbar_2to1</b>	2	1	Multi-master arbitration	~400 LOC
<b>apb_xbar_1to4</b>	1	4	Address decode, simple SoC	~500 LOC
<b>apb_xbar_2to4</b>	2	4	Full crossbar, typical SoC	~1000 LOC
<b>apb_xbar_t hin</b>	1	1	Minimal passthrough	~150 LOC

### 4.2 Wrapper Modules

Pre-configured wrappers for common topologies:

Wrapper	Configuration	Purpose
apb_xbar_1to1_wrap	1×1	Simple connection
apb_xbar_2to1_wrap	2×1	Dual-master arbitration
apb_xbar_1to4_wrap	1×4	Single-master decode
apb_xbar_2to4_wrap	2×4	Full SoC crossbar
apb_xbar_wrap_m10_s10	10×10	Large crossbar
apb_xbar_thin_wrap_m10_s10	10×10	Minimal version

## **5. Functional Requirements**

---

### **FR-1: Arbitrary MxN Configuration**

**Priority:** P0 (Critical) **Status:** ✓ Implemented and verified

**Description:** Generate crossbar for any M masters and N slaves (up to 16x16)

**Verification:** Generator creates valid RTL for all tested configurations

### **FR-2: Round-Robin Arbitration**

**Priority:** P0 (Critical) **Status:** ✓ Implemented and verified

**Description:** Fair per-slave arbitration with rotating master priority

**Verification:** Arbitration stress tests (130+ transactions for 2to1)

### **FR-3: Address-Based Routing**

**Priority:** P0 (Critical) **Status:** ✓ Implemented and verified

**Description:** Automatic slave selection based on address ranges

**Verification:** Address decode validation (200+ transactions for 1to4)

### **FR-4: Zero-Bubble Throughput**

**Priority:** P1 (High) **Status:** ✓ Implemented and verified

**Description:** Back-to-back transactions supported without idle cycles

**Verification:** Performance tests show consecutive transactions

### **FR-5: Configurable Address Map**

**Priority:** P1 (High) **Status:** ✓ Implemented and verified

**Description:** BASE\_ADDR parameter sets base of address map

**Verification:** Tests with multiple BASE\_ADDR values

---

## **6. Interface Specifications**

---

### **6.1 Master-Side Interface (APB Slave)**

Per-master APB slave interface:

```

input logic m<i>_apb_PSEL
input logic m<i>_apb_PENABLE
input logic [ADDR_WIDTH-1:0] m<i>_apb_PADDR
input logic m<i>_apb_PWRITE
input logic [DATA_WIDTH-1:0] m<i>_apb_PWDATA
input logic [STRB_WIDTH-1:0] m<i>_apb_PSTRB
input logic [2:0] m<i>_apb_PPROT
output logic [DATA_WIDTH-1:0] m<i>_apb_PRDATA
output logic m<i>_apb_PSLVERR
output logic m<i>_apb_PREADY

```

## 6.2 Slave-Side Interface (APB Master)

Per-slave APB master interface:

```

output logic s<j>_apb_PSEL
output logic s<j>_apb_PENABLE
output logic [ADDR_WIDTH-1:0] s<j>_apb_PADDR
output logic s<j>_apb_PWRITE
output logic [DATA_WIDTH-1:0] s<j>_apb_PWDATA
output logic [STRB_WIDTH-1:0] s<j>_apb_PSTRB
output logic [2:0] s<j>_apb_PPROT
input logic [DATA_WIDTH-1:0] s<j>_apb_PRDATA
input logic s<j>_apb_PSLVERR
input logic s<j>_apb_PREADY

```

---

## 7. Parameter Configuration

Parameter	Type	Default	Range	Description
ADDR_WIDTH	int	32	1-64	Address bus width
DATA_WIDTH	int	32	8,16,32,64	Data bus width
STRB_WIDTH	int	DATA_WIDT H/8	-	Strobe width (auto-calc)
BASE_ADDR	logic[31: 0]	0x10000000	Any	Base address for slave map

## 8. Generator Usage

### 8.1 Pre-Generated Variants

Use existing modules directly:

```
# Available in projects/components/apb_xbar/rtl/
apb_xbar_1to1.sv
apb_xbar_2to1.sv
apb_xbar_1to4.sv
apb_xbar_2to4.sv
apb_xbar_thin.sv
```

## 8.2 Custom Generation

Generate custom MxN crossbar:

```
cd projects/components/apb_xbar/bin/
python generate_xbars.py --masters 3 --slaves 6
python generate_xbars.py --masters 4 --slaves 8 --base-addr 0x80000000
```

## 8.3 Generator Options

```
python generate_xbars.py --help
```

Options:

```
--masters M      Number of masters (1-16)
--slaves N       Number of slaves (1-16)
--base-addr ADDR Base address (default: 0x10000000)
--output FILE    Output file path
--thin           Generate thin variant (minimal logic)
```

---

## 9. Performance Characteristics

---

### 9.1 Latency

Path	Latency	Notes
<b>Command path</b>	1 cycle	APB slave → decode → APB master
<b>Response path</b>	1 cycle	APB master → routing → APB slave
<b>Total</b>	2 cycles min	APB protocol overhead

### 9.2 Throughput

- **Back-to-back transactions:** Supported
- **Zero-bubble overhead:** Yes (with grant persistence)
- **Maximum rate:** 1 transaction per 2 APB cycles per master

### 9.3 Resource Utilization (Estimated)

Configuration	LUTs	FFs	Notes
1to1	~50	~20	Passthrough
2to1	~150	~80	Arbitration
1to4	~200	~100	Address decode
2to4	~400	~200	Full crossbar
10to10	~5K	~2K	Large crossbar

## 10. Verification Status

---

### 10.1 Test Coverage

Test	Transactions	Status	Coverage
test_apb_xbar_1to1	100+	✓ Pass	Basic connectivity
test_apb_xbar_2to1	130+	✓ Pass	Arbitration stress
test_apb_xbar_1to4	200+	✓ Pass	Address decode
test_apb_xbar_2to4	350+	✓ Pass	Full crossbar stress

**Overall:** 100% passing, >750 total transactions tested

### 10.2 Test Methodology

**Test Structure:** - CocoTB framework - Random transaction generation - Variable delay profiles - Address range validation - Arbitration fairness checks

**Verification Points:** - Correct address routing - Round-robin arbitration - Response integrity - Back-to-back transactions - Error propagation

---

## 11. Integration Guide

---

### 11.1 Simple Integration (1to4)

```
apb_xbar_1to4 #(
    .ADDR_WIDTH(32),
    .DATA_WIDTH(32),
    .BASE_ADDR(32'h1000_0000)
) u_xbar (
    .pclk(apb_clk),
    .presetn(apb_rst_n),

    // Master interface
    .m0_apb_PSEL(cpu_psel),
    .m0_apb_PENABLE(cpu_penable),
    .m0_apb_PADDR(cpu_paddr),
    .m0_apb_PWRITE(cpu_pwrite),
    .m0_apb_PWDATA(cpu_pwdata),
    .m0_apb_PSTRB(cpu_pstrb),
    .m0_apb_PPROT(cpu_pprot),
    .m0_apb_PRDATA(cpu_prdata),
    .m0_apb_PSLVERR(cpu_pslverr),
    .m0_apb_PREADY(cpu_pready),

    // Slave 0: UART (0x1000_0000 - 0x1000_FFFF)
    .s0_apb_PSEL(uart_psel),
    .s0_apb_PENABLE(uart_penable),
    // ... (similar connections)

    // Slave 1: GPIO (0x1001_0000 - 0x1001_FFFF)
    .s1_apb_PSEL(gpio_psel),
    // ... (similar connections)

    // Slave 2: Timer (0x1002_0000 - 0x1002_FFFF)
    // Slave 3: SPI (0x1003_0000 - 0x1003_FFFF)
);
```

### 11.2 Multi-Master Integration (2to4)

```
apb_xbar_2to4 #(
    .ADDR_WIDTH(32),
    .DATA_WIDTH(32),
    .BASE_ADDR(32'h1000_0000)
) u_xbar (
    .pclk(apb_clk),
    .presetn(apb_rst_n),

    // Master 0: CPU
```

```

.m0_apb_PSEL(cpu_psel),
// ... (full interface)

// Master 1: DMA
.m1_apb_PSEL(dma_psel),
// ... (full interface)

// Slaves 0-3: Peripherals
// ... (slave connections)
);

```

---

## 12. Design Constraints

### 12.1 Limitations

Constraint	Value	Rationale
<b>Max masters</b>	16	Generator limit (configurable)
<b>Max slaves</b>	16	Generator limit (configurable)
<b>Slave region size</b>	64KB	Fixed per slave
<b>No slave disable</b>	N/A	All slaves always active
<b>No timeout</b>	N/A	Assumes slaves always respond

### 12.2 Assumptions

- Slave responses:** All slaves respond eventually (no timeout handling)
  - Address ranges:** Slaves occupy 64KB regions starting at BASE\_ADDR
  - APB compliance:** All masters and slaves follow APB protocol
  - Single clock domain:** All signals synchronous to pclk
- 

## 13. Future Enhancements

### 13.1 Potential Features

- Configurable slave region sizes:** Not just 64KB

- **Slave enable/disable:** Dynamic slave activation
- **Timeout detection:** Watchdog for hung slaves
- **Transaction ordering:** Optional in-order completion
- **Priority arbitration:** Weighted instead of round-robin

## 13.2 Generator Improvements

- **HDL output formats:** Support Verilog, VHDL, Chisel
  - **Automated testing:** Generate tests alongside RTL
  - **Documentation generation:** Auto-generate integration guides
  - **Synthesis scripts:** Generate vendor-specific scripts
- 

# 14. References

---

## 14.1 Internal Documentation

- README.md - Quick start guide
- CLAUDE.md - AI assistant guidelines
- bin/generate\_xbars.py - Generator script
- dv/tests/ - Test implementations

## 14.2 External Standards

- **AMBA APB Protocol v2.0** - ARM IHI 0024C
- **APB4 Extensions** - AMBA 5 specification

## 14.3 Related Components

- rtl/amba/apb/apb\_slave.sv - Master-side building block
  - rtl/amba/apb/apb\_master.sv - Slave-side building block
  - projects/components/apb\_xbar/bin/apb\_xbar\_generator.py - Main generator
- 

**Document Version:** 1.0 **Last Review:** 2025-10-19 **Next Review:** 2026-01-01 **Maintained By:** RTL Design Sherpa Project

## Claude Code Guide: APB Crossbar Component

**Version:** 1.0 **Last Updated:** 2025-10-19 **Purpose:** AI-specific guidance for working with APB Crossbar component

---

## Quick Context

---

**What:** APB Crossbar Generator - Parametric APB interconnect for connecting M masters to N slaves  
**Status:** ✓ Production Ready (all tests passing)  
**Your Role:** Help users generate, integrate, and customize APB crossbars

 **Complete Specification:** [projects/components/apb\\_xbar/PRD.md](#) ← **Always reference this for technical details**

---

## Critical Rules for This Component

---

### Rule #0: This is a GENERATOR, Not Just Modules

**IMPORTANT:** APB Crossbar is both: 1. **Pre-generated modules** (1to1, 2to1, 1to4, 2to4, thin) in `rtl/` 2. **Python generator** (`bin/generate_xbars.py`) for custom configurations

**When users ask for crossbar:** - ✓ Check if pre-generated variant exists first - ✓ Only suggest generation if custom size needed

**Decision Tree:**

```
User needs crossbar?  
└─ 1x1, 2x1, 1x4, 2x4? → Use pre-generated module  
└─ Thin/minimal? → Use apb_xbar_thin  
└─ Custom MxN? → Run generator script
```

### Rule #1: Address Map is Fixed Per-Slave

**Each slave occupies 64KB region:**

```
Slave 0: BASE_ADDR + 0x0000_0000 → 0x0000_FFFF  
Slave 1: BASE_ADDR + 0x0001_0000 → 0x0001_FFFF  
Slave 2: BASE_ADDR + 0x0002_0000 → 0x0002_FFFF  
...
```

**Users CANNOT change per-slave size** (current limitation)

**If user asks for different sizes:**

- ✗ **WRONG:** "Let me modify the generator to support custom sizes per slave"
- ✓ **CORRECT:** "Current design uses fixed 64KB per slave. You can:  
1. Use `BASE_ADDR` parameter to shift entire map

2. For custom sizes, modify generator's `addr_offset` calculation
3. Or use multiple crossbars with different `BASE_ADDR` values"

### Rule #2: Know the Pre-Generated Variants

Available in `rtl/` directory:

Module	M×N	Use Case	When to Recommend
<code>apb_xbar_1t_o1</code>	1×1	Passthrough	Protocol conversion, testing
<code>apb_xbar_2t_o1</code>	2×1	Arbitration	Multi-master to single peripheral
<code>apb_xbar_1t_o4</code>	1×4	Decode	Single CPU to multiple peripherals
<code>apb_xbar_2t_o4</code>	2×4	Full crossbar	CPU + DMA to peripherals
<code>apb_xbar_th_in</code>	1×1	Minimal	Low-overhead passthrough

Always suggest pre-generated first!

### Rule #3: Generator Syntax

Generate custom crossbar:

```
cd projects/components/apb_xbar/bin/
python generate_xbars.py --masters 3 --slaves 6
```

Options:

<code>--masters M</code>	Number of masters (1-16)
<code>--slaves N</code>	Number of slaves (1-16)
<code>--base-addr ADDR</code>	Base address (default: 0x10000000)
<code>--output FILE</code>	Output file path
<code>--thin</code>	Generate thin variant (minimal logic)

Example:

```
# Generate 3x8 crossbar with custom base
python generate_xbars.py --masters 3 --slaves 8 --base-addr 0x80000000

# Generate thin 5x5 variant
python generate_xbars.py --masters 5 --slaves 5 --thin
```

---

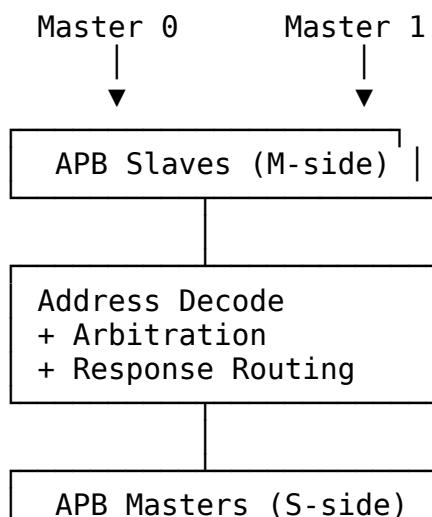
## Architecture Quick Reference

---

### Module Organization

```
projects/components/apb_xbar/
  └── rtl/
      ├── apb_xbar_1to1.sv          Core crossbar modules
      ├── apb_xbar_2to1.sv
      ├── apb_xbar_1to4.sv
      ├── apb_xbar_2to4.sv
      └── apb_xbar_thin.sv
  └── wrappers/                  Pre-configured wrappers
      ├── apb_xbar_1to1_wrap.sv
      ├── apb_xbar_2to1_wrap.sv
      ├── apb_xbar_1to4_wrap.sv
      ├── apb_xbar_2to4_wrap.sv
      ├── apb_xbar_wrap.sv
      └── apb_xbar_wrap_m10_s10.sv
      └── apb_xbar_thin_wrap_m10_s10.sv
  └── bin/
      └── generate_xbars.py        Generator script
  └── dv/
      └── tests/
          ├── test_apb_xbar_1to1.py
          ├── test_apb_xbar_2to1.py
          ├── test_apb_xbar_1to4.py
          └── test_apb_xbar_2to4.py
      └── GTKW/                   Waveform configs
  └── PRD.md                    Complete specification
  └── CLAUDE.md                This file
  └── README.md                Quick start guide
```

### Block Diagram (2x4 Example)





## Common User Questions and Responses

---

**Q: "How do I connect a CPU to 4 peripherals?"**

**A: Use the pre-generated 1to4 crossbar:**

```

apb_xbar_1to4 #(
    .ADDR_WIDTH(32),
    .DATA_WIDTH(32),
    .BASE_ADDR(32'h1000_0000) // Start of peripheral space
) u_peripheral_xbar (
    .pclk(apb_clk),
    .presetn(apb_rst_n),

    // CPU connection (master 0)
    .m0_apb_PSEL(cpu_psel),
    .m0_apb_PENABLE(cpu_penable),
    .m0_apb_PADDR(cpu_paddr),
    .m0_apb_PWRITE(cpu_pwrite),
    .m0_apb_PWDATA(cpu_pwdata),
    .m0_apb_PSTRB(cpu_pstrb),
    .m0_apb_PPROT(cpu_pprot),
    .m0_apb_PRDATA(cpu_prdata),
    .m0_apb_PSLVERR(cpu_pslverr),
    .m0_apb_PREADY(cpu_pready),

    // Peripheral 0: UART @ 0x1000_0000
    .s0_apb_PSEL(uart_psel),
    .s0_apb_PENABLE(uart_penable),
    // ... (full interface)

    // Peripheral 1: GPIO @ 0x1001_0000
    // Peripheral 2: Timer @ 0x1002_0000
    // Peripheral 3: SPI @ 0x1003_0000
);
    
```

**Address map:** - UART: 0x1000\_0000 - 0x1000\_FFFF - GPIO: 0x1001\_0000 - 0x1001\_FFFF - Timer: 0x1002\_0000 - 0x1002\_FFFF - SPI: 0x1003\_0000 - 0x1003\_FFFF

**See:** PRD.md Section 11.1

**Q: "I need CPU and DMA to access peripherals. Which crossbar?"**

**A: Use the 2to4 crossbar:**

```
apb_xbar_2to4 #(
    .ADDR_WIDTH(32),
    .DATA_WIDTH(32),
    .BASE_ADDR(32'h1000_0000)
) u_soc_xbar (
    .pclk(apb_clk),
    .presetn(apb_rst_n),

    // Master 0: CPU
    .m0_apb_PSEL(cpu_psel),
    // ... (full interface)

    // Master 1: DMA
    .m1_apb_PSEL(dma_psel),
    // ... (full interface)

    // Slaves 0-3: Peripherals
    // ... (slave connections)
);
```

**Key feature:** Round-robin arbitration per slave ensures fair access between CPU and DMA.

 **See:** PRD.md Section 11.2

**Q: "What if I need 3 masters and 8 slaves?"**

**A: Generate custom crossbar:**

```
cd projects/components/apb_xbar/bin/
python generate_xbars.py --masters 3 --slaves 8 --output
..../rtl/apb_xbar_3to8.sv
```

```
# Check generated file
ls -lh ..../rtl/apb_xbar_3to8.sv
```

Then instantiate like any other crossbar:

```
apb_xbar_3to8 #(
    .ADDR_WIDTH(32),
    .DATA_WIDTH(32),
    .BASE_ADDR(32'h1000_0000)
) u_custom_xbar (
    // ... connections for 3 masters and 8 slaves
);
```

 See: PRD.md Section 8

## Q: "How does arbitration work?"

A: **Per-slave round-robin:**

Each slave has its own arbiter that rotates master priority:

Example with 2 masters accessing Slave 0:

Transaction 1: M0 requests → M0 granted  
Transaction 2: M0 and M1 request → M1 granted (rotated)  
Transaction 3: M1 requests → M1 granted  
Transaction 4: M0 and M1 request → M0 granted (rotated)

**Key points:** - **Independent per slave:** Each slave arbitrates independently - **Fair:** No master can starve another - **Grant persistence:** Once granted, master holds slave until response completes - **Zero-bubble:** Back-to-back transactions supported

 See: PRD.md Section 3.3

## Q: "Can I change the address map?"

A: **BASE\_ADDR parameter shifts entire map, but per-slave size is fixed:**

```
// Default: 0x1000_0000
apb_xbar_1to4 #(.BASE_ADDR(32'h1000_0000)) u_xbar1 (...);
// Slaves at: 0x1000_0000, 0x1001_0000, 0x1002_0000, 0x1003_0000

// Shifted: 0x8000_0000
apb_xbar_1to4 #(.BASE_ADDR(32'h8000_0000)) u_xbar2 (...);
// Slaves at: 0x8000_0000, 0x8001_0000, 0x8002_0000, 0x8003_0000
```

**Limitation:** Each slave always occupies 64KB (0x10000 bytes)

**Workaround for different sizes:** 1. Use multiple crossbars with different BASE\_ADDR 2. Modify generator's addr\_offset calculation 3. Use address masking in slaves

 See: PRD.md Section 3.2

## Q: "How do I run tests?"

A: **Use pytest:**

```
cd projects/components/apb_xbar/dv/tests/

# Run specific test
pytest test_apb_xbar_1to4.py -v

# Run all tests
```

```

pytest test_apb_xbar_*.py -v

# Run with waveforms
pytest test_apb_xbar_2to4.py --vcd=waves.vcd
gtkwave waves.vcd

Test coverage: - test_apb_xbar_1to1: 100+ transactions (passthrough) - test_apb_xbar_2to1: 130+ transactions (arbitration) - test_apb_xbar_1to4: 200+ transactions (address decode) - test_apb_xbar_2to4: 350+ transactions (full stress)

```

All tests passing ✓

See: PRD.md Section 10

**Q: "What's the thin variant for?"**

**A: Minimal overhead passthrough:**

```

apb_xbar_thin #(
    .ADDR_WIDTH(32),
    .DATA_WIDTH(32)
) u_thin_xbar (
    // ... 1x1 connection
);

```

**Use cases:** - Protocol conversion - Timing boundary - Clock domain crossing preparation - Testing/debugging

**Difference from apb\_xbar\_1to1:** - Fewer internal registers - Lower latency - Smaller area (~30% reduction) - No arbitration overhead

See: README.md and PRD.md Section 4

---

## Integration Patterns

---

### Pattern 1: Simple Peripheral Interconnect

```

// CPU to 4 peripherals
apb_xbar_1to4 #(
    .ADDR_WIDTH(32),
    .DATA_WIDTH(32),
    .BASE_ADDR(32'h1000_0000)
) u_periph_xbar (
    .pclk(sys_clk),
    .presetn(sys_rst_n),
    // CPU side
);

```

```

.m0_apb_PSEL(cpu_apb_psel),
.m0_apb_PENABLE(cpu_apb_penable),
.m0_apb_PADDR(cpu_apb_paddr),
.m0_apb_PWRITE(cpu_apb_pwrite),
.m0_apb_PWDATA(cpu_apb_pwdata),
.m0_apb_PSTRB(cpu_apb_pstrb),
.m0_apb_PPROT(cpu_apb_pprot),
.m0_apb_PRDATA(cpu_apb_prdata),
.m0_apb_PSLVERR(cpu_apb_pslverr),
.m0_apb_PREADY(cpu_apb_pready),

// Peripherals
.s0_apb_PSEL(uart_psel), /* ... full interface ... */
.s1_apb_PSEL(gpio_psel), /* ... */
.s2_apb_PSEL(timer_psel), /* ... */
.s3_apb_PSEL(spi_psel) /* ... */
);

```

## Pattern 2: Multi-Master System

```

// CPU + DMA to peripherals
apb_xbar_2to4 #(
    .ADDR_WIDTH(32),
    .DATA_WIDTH(32),
    .BASE_ADDR(32'h4000_0000)
) u_soc_xbar (
    .pclk(apb_clk),
    .presetn(apb_rst_n),

// Master 0: CPU
    .m0_apb_PSEL(cpu_psel),
    /* ... full CPU interface ... */

// Master 1: DMA Controller
    .m1_apb_PSEL(dma_psel),
    /* ... full DMA interface ... */

// Slave 0-3: Memory-mapped peripherals
    .s0_apb_PSEL(mem_ctrl_psel), /* ... */
    .s1_apb_PSEL(uart_psel), /* ... */
    .s2_apb_PSEL(i2c_psel), /* ... */
    .s3_apb_PSELadc_psel) /* ... */
);

```

## Pattern 3: Hierarchical Interconnect

```

// Top-level crossbar
apb_xbar_1to4 u_top_xbar (
    .m0_apb_* (cpu_apb_*),

```

```

    .s0_apb_* (periph_bus0_*), // To sub-crossbar 0
    .s1_apb_* (periph_bus1_*), // To sub-crossbar 1
    .s2_apb_* (mem_ctrl_*), // Direct to memory controller
    .s3_apb_* (dma_ctrl_*) // Direct to DMA
);

// Sub-crossbar 0 for low-speed peripherals
apb_xbar_1to4 u_periph_xbar0 (
    .m0_apb_* (periph_bus0_*),
    .s0_apb_* (uart0_*),
    .s1_apb_* (gpio0_*),
    .s2_apb_* (i2c0_*),
    .s3_apb_* (spi0_*)
);

// Sub-crossbar 1 for high-speed peripherals
apb_xbar_1to4 u_periph_xbar1 (
    .m0_apb_* (periph_bus1_*),
    .s0_apb_* (uart1_*),
    .s1_apb_* (timer_*),
    .s2_apb_* (pwm_*),
    .s3_apb_* (adc_*)
);

```

---

## Anti-Patterns to Catch

### **X Anti-Pattern 1: Generating When Pre-Generated Exists**

**x WRONG:**

User: "I need a 2x4 crossbar"

You: "Let me generate that for you..."

python generate\_xbars.py --masters 2 --slaves 4

**✓ CORRECTED:**

"Use the pre-generated apb\_xbar\_2to4.sv in the rtl/ directory.

No generation needed!"

### **X Anti-Pattern 2: Assuming Custom Per-Slave Sizes**

**x WRONG:**

User: "Can I make slave 0 256KB and slave 1 4KB?"

You: "Sure, let me modify the parameters..."

**✓ CORRECTED:**

"Current design uses fixed 64KB per slave. For custom sizes:

1. Modify generator's addr\_offset calculation

2. Or use multiple crossbars with different BASE\_ADDR
3. Or implement address masking in slaves"

### X Anti-Pattern 3: Not Mentioning Address Map

x WRONG:

User: "How do I integrate the crossbar?"

You: \*Shows port connections only\*

✓ CORRECTED:

"Here's the integration with address map:

```
apb_xbar_1to4 #( .BASE_ADDR(32'h1000_0000) ) u_xbar (...);
```

Address map:

- Slave 0: 0x1000\_0000 - 0x1000\_FFFF
- Slave 1: 0x1001\_0000 - 0x1001\_FFFF
- Slave 2: 0x1002\_0000 - 0x1002\_FFFF
- Slave 3: 0x1003\_0000 - 0x1003\_FFFF"

### X Anti-Pattern 4: Forgetting About Wrappers

x WRONG:

User: "I need a quick 10×10 crossbar"

You: "Run the generator with --masters 10 --slaves 10"

✓ CORRECTED:

"We have pre-configured wrappers in rtl/wrappers/:"

- apb\_xbar\_wrap\_m10\_s10.sv (full version)
- apb\_xbar\_thin\_wrap\_m10\_s10.sv (thin version)

Use those for faster integration!"

---

## Debugging Workflow

---

### Issue: Address Not Routing Correctly

**Check in order:** 1. ✓ BASE\_ADDR parameter set correctly? 2. ✓ Address within slave's 64KB region? 3. ✓ PSEL signal asserted by master? 4. ✓ All APB signals properly connected?

**Calculate expected slave:**

```
slave_index = (address - BASE_ADDR) >> 16 // Divide by 64KB
```

**Debug commands:**

```
pytest dv/tests/test_apb_xbar_1to4.py --vcd=debug.vcd -v
gtkwave debug.vcd # Check address decode logic
```

## Issue: Arbitration Not Fair

**Symptoms:** - One master dominates - Other masters starved

**Check:** 1. ✓ Arbiters instantiated per slave? 2. ✓ Round-robin logic correct? 3. ✓ Grant persistence working?

**Verify with tests:**

```
pytest dv/tests/test_apb_xbar_2to1.py -v # Arbitration stress test
```

## Issue: Back-to-Back Transactions Stalling

**Check:** 1. ✓ Grant persistence enabled? 2. ✓ Slaves responding with PREADY? 3. ✓ No unintended pipeline bubbles?

**View waveforms:**

```
pytest dv/tests/test_apb_xbar_2to4.py --vcd=perf.vcd  
gtkwave perf.vcd # Check for idle cycles
```

---

## Quick Commands

---

```
# List available crossbars  
ls projects/components/apb_xbar/rtl/*.sv  
  
# Generate custom crossbar  
cd projects/components/apb_xbar/bin/  
python generate_xbars.py --masters 3 --slaves 6  
  
# Run all tests  
cd projects/components/apb_xbar/dv/tests/  
pytest test_apb_xbar_*.py -v  
  
# Run specific test with waveforms  
pytest test_apb_xbar_2to4.py --vcd=debug.vcd -v  
  
# View waveforms  
gtkwave debug.vcd  
  
# Check documentation  
cat projects/components/apb_xbar/PRD.md  
cat projects/components/apb_xbar/README.md
```

---

## Remember

---

1. **Check pre-generated first** - Don't generate unnecessarily
  2. **Address map matters** - Always mention BASE\_ADDR + 64KB regions
  3. **Fair arbitration** - Round-robin per slave
  4. **Complete connections** - All APB signals must be wired
  5. **Tests available** - 100% passing, comprehensive coverage
  6. **Wrappers exist** - Check rtl/wrappers/ for common configs
  7. **Generator limits** - Up to 16×16 (configurable)
- 

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## APB Crossbar Modules

This directory contains APB crossbar modules generated using the proven apb\_slave and apb\_master architecture.

## Architecture

---

All crossbars follow a consistent design:

Master Side:      apb\_slave modules convert APB → cmd/rsp interface  
Internal:           Round-robin arbitration + address decoding  
Slave Side:        apb\_master modules convert cmd/rsp → APB interface

## Key Features

- **Independent arbitration per slave:** Each slave has its own round-robin arbiter
- **Grant persistence:** Grants held from command acceptance through response completion
- **Address decoding:** Automatic slave selection based on address ranges
- **Proven architecture:** Uses production-tested apb\_slave/apb\_master modules

## Available Modules

---

Module	Description	Masters	Slaves	Use Case
apb_xbar_1 tol.sv	Simple passthrough	1	1	Protocol conversion,

Module	Description	Masters	Slaves	Use Case
apb_xbar_2 to1.sv	Arbitration only	2	1	testing
apb_xbar_1 to4.sv	Address decode only	1	4	Multi-master to single slave
apb_xbar_2 to4.sv	Full crossbar	2	4	Single master to multi-slave
				Multi-master to multi-slave

## Generating Crossbars

---

### Method 1: Convenience Script (Recommended)

Generate all standard variants:

```
cd rtl/amba/apb/xbar/
python generate_xbars.py
```

Generate custom variant:

```
python generate_xbars.py --masters 3 --slaves 6
python generate_xbars.py --masters 4 --slaves 8 --base-addr 0x80000000
```

### Method 2: Direct Generator

Use the main generator for more control:

```
cd bin/rtl_generators/amba/
python apb_xbar_generator.py --masters 2 --slaves 4 --
output ../../rtl/amba/apb/xbar/apb_xbar_2to4.sv
```

## Address Map

---

All crossbars use a uniform address mapping (configurable via BASE\_ADDR parameter):

```
Slave 0: [BASE_ADDR + 0x0000_0000, BASE_ADDR + 0x0000_FFFF] (64KB)
Slave 1: [BASE_ADDR + 0x0001_0000, BASE_ADDR + 0x0001_FFFF] (64KB)
Slave 2: [BASE_ADDR + 0x0002_0000, BASE_ADDR + 0x0002_FFFF] (64KB)
Slave 3: [BASE_ADDR + 0x0003_0000, BASE_ADDR + 0x0003_FFFF] (64KB)
...

```

**Default BASE\_ADDR: 0x1000\_0000**

## Parameters

---

All modules support these parameters:

Parameter	Default	Description
ADDR_WIDTH	32	Address bus width
DATA_WIDTH	32	Data bus width
STRB_WIDTH	DATA_WIDTH/8	Strobe width (auto-calculated)
BASE_ADDR	0x10000000	Base address for slave address map

## Usage Example

---

```
apb_xbar_2to4 #(
    .ADDR_WIDTH (32),
    .DATA_WIDTH (32),
    .BASE_ADDR  (32'h8000_0000)
) u_xbar (
    .pclk      (apb_clk),
    .presetn   (apb_rst_n),

    // Master 0 interface
    .m0_apb_PSEL  (m0_psel),
    .m0_apb_PENABLE (m0_penable),
    .m0_apb_PADDR  (m0_paddr),
    .m0_apb_PWRITE (m0_pwrite),
    .m0_apb_PWDATA (m0_pwdx),
    .m0_apb_PSTRB  (m0_pstrb),
    .m0_apb_PPROT  (m0_pprot),
    .m0_apb_PRDATA (m0_prdata),
    .m0_apb_PSLVERR (m0_pslverr),
    .m0_apb_PREADY (m0_pready),

    // Master 1 interface
    .m1_apb_PSEL  (m1_psel),
    // ... (similar connections)

    // Slave 0-3 interfaces
    .s0_apb_PSEL  (s0_psel),
    // ... (similar connections)
);
```

## Testing

---

All generated crossbars have corresponding test files in `val/integ_amba/`:

- `test_apb_xbar_1to1.py` - 100+ transactions, variable delay profiles
- `test_apb_xbar_2to1.py` - 130+ transactions, arbitration stress tests
- `test_apb_xbar_1to4.py` - 200+ transactions, address decode validation
- `test_apb_xbar_2to4.py` - 350+ transactions, full crossbar stress

Run tests:

```
pytest val/integ_amba/test_apb_xbar_2to4.py -v  
pytest val/integ_amba/test_apb_xbar_*.py -v # All variants
```

## Design Notes

---

### Arbitration Strategy

- **Round-robin per slave:** Master priority rotates ( $M0 \rightarrow M1 \rightarrow M0 \dots$ )
- **Grant persistence:** Once granted, master owns slave until transaction completes
- **Fairness:** No master can starve another master

### Address Decoding

- **Parallel decode:** All masters decode addresses simultaneously
- **Registered routing:** Slave selection registered at command acceptance
- **Response routing:** Based on registered slave selection

### Timing

- **Zero bubble overhead:** Back-to-back transactions supported
- **Single-cycle arbitration:** New grants issued in same cycle as previous completion
- **Pipelined datapath:** Command and response phases overlap different transactions

## Known Limitations

---

1. **Fixed address map:** 64KB regions per slave
  - Can be changed by modifying generator's `addr_offset` calculation
2. **No slave disable:** All slaves always active
  - Could add enable parameter if needed

3. **No timeout handling:** Assumes slaves always respond
  - Add watchdog if needed for unreliable slaves

## Generating Custom Variants

---

For variants beyond 16x16, modify generator limits in `apb_xbar_generator.py`:

```
if M < 1 or M > 16: # Change 16 to desired max
    raise ValueError(f"Number of masters must be 1-16, got {M}")
```

## Files

---

- `generate_xbars.py` - Convenience script for generation
- `apb_xbar_1to1.sv` - 1-to-1 passthrough
- `apb_xbar_2to1.sv` - 2-to-1 with arbitration
- `apb_xbar_1to4.sv` - 1-to-4 with address decode
- `apb_xbar_2to4.sv` - 2-to-4 full crossbar
- `README.md` - This file

## References

---

- APB Specification: ARM IHI 0024C (AMBA APB Protocol v2.0)
  - Generator: `projects/components/apb_xbar/bin/apb_xbar_generator.py`
  - Base modules: `rtl/amba/apb/apb_slave.sv`, `rtl/amba/apb/apb_master.sv`
  - Tests: `val/integ_amba/test_apb_xbar_*.py`
- 

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