

DDR 4/3 PHY

SUMMARY

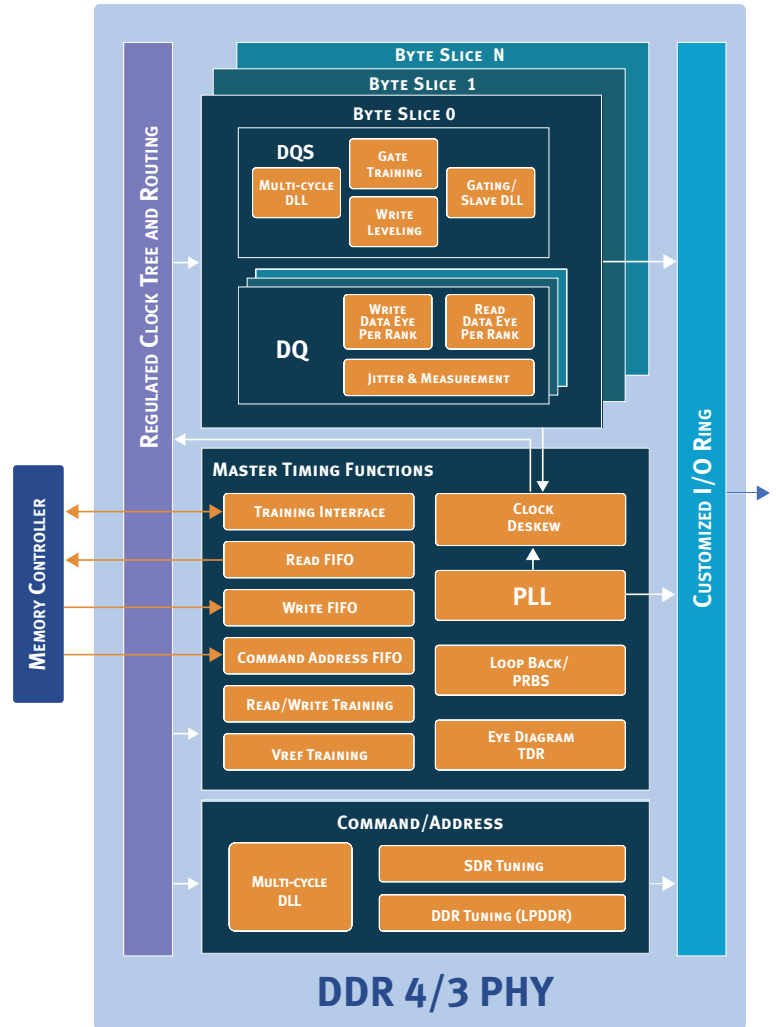
The TCI DDR PHY is a high-performance, scalable system using a radically new architecture that continuously and automatically adjusts each pin individually, correcting skew within byte lanes. This state-of-the-art tuning acts independently on each pin, data phase and chip select value. Read data eye and gate timing are also continuously adjusted. Automatic training is included for multi-cycle read gate timing and write leveling, write data eye timing, and internal and external (on DRAM) Vref setting.

Remarkable physical flexibility allows the PHY to adapt to each customer's die floorplan and package constraints, yet is delivered and verified as a single unit for easy timing closure with no assembly required.

The PHY is DFI 4.0 compliant, and when combined with the Northwest Logic DDR memory controller, a complete and fully-automatic DDR system is realized.

FEATURES

- Supports DDR4-3200, DDR3/L/U, LPDDR4/X and LPDDR3, simultaneously with one hard macro
- DFI 4.0 compliant
- Supports x4, x8 and x16 DRAMs
- Up to 144 bits wide
- Up to 4 chip selects
- Includes PLL, with frequency multiplication from low frequency reference
- Per-pin architecture, similar to a SerDes, automatically corrects skew, increases data eye and eliminates most parallel interface problems
- Continuous adjustment of read data eye and gate timing
- Automatic Training includes:
 - Multi-cycle read gate training and write leveling
 - Write data eye centering
 - Internal Vref adjustment
 - External Vref adjustment in each DRAM
- Localized and optimized PHY-to-memory controller interface to ease timing closure
- Full speed read/write BIST with pseudo-random data, mux-scan ATPG and 1149.1 Boundary Scan
- Circuitry in each pin able to measure the data eye and jitter, and calculate flight delays



KEY FEATURES	BENEFITS
Automatic Deskew	Skew among pins is automatically corrected; intentional skew can reduce SSO
Tuning	State-of-the-art tuning is the key to a high performance DDR system
Complete PHY	Completely assembled and validated hard PHY and I/O ring means no assembly is required and performance is guaranteed
Flexibility	Proprietary tools generate and validate a PHY fitted to the customer's die floorplan and package
Timing Closure	Memory controller to PHY timing closure is eased by a localized and optimized interface
Instrumentation	PHY resources can measure data eye and jitter per pin, speeding up board bring-up



DDR 4/3 PHY

HIGH PERFORMANCE

TUNING FOR PERFORMANCE

The PHY has been designed from the ground up to provide extensive, automatic and continuous tuning. Each pin constantly adjusts separate read data eyes for even and odd data phases, taking jitter into account. Tuning is also done separately for each chip select value. Pervasive tuning is the key to performance.

TIMING CLOSURE

To make timing closure of the DDR PHY to the memory controller faster, the interface from PHY to memory controller is localized and optimized for easy timing.

AUTOMATIC TRAINING

DDR4 systems require a great deal of training to function properly. The TCI PHY, combined with an appropriate controller, does all of the required training with almost no user interaction. Low overhead, incremental training can be done at the user's discretion to achieve even higher data rates.

Automatic training includes multi-cycle read gate training and write leveling, and read and write data eye centering. DDR4 systems require internal Vref and external Vref (on DRAM) adjustment, which the TCI PHY performs automatically using very sophisticated algorithms.

TOOLS

TCI uses many proprietary tools to achieve a level of quality, flexibility and automation unseen in mixed-signal design, and not currently available in this type of hard IP.

EASY INTEGRATION

NO ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

The PHY is fully tested and verified with state-of-the-art timing analysis. Through a careful, joint process, the I/O ring and package are co-designed prior to PHY delivery, so that the PHY can be fully described, verified and delivered as a whole. Tremendous flexibility is allowed and no assembly is required.

LOWERING PACKAGE AND BOARD COSTS

Simpler and cheaper (fewer layer) chip packages and boards can be designed by eliminating the need for matched trace lengths, and by allowing for tremendous flexibility in the I/O ring/package co-development.

By intentionally skewing adjacent pins, lower cost power delivery systems can be used, and wire bond packages can be used at a higher speed.

MEASUREMENT RESOURCES FOR CHARACTERIZATION

The PHY contains many resources that can be set up to quickly characterize a new chip, a package or a customer's PCB board. Per pin measurements include: DQ switching jitter, read DQS jitter, read data eye, write data eye, Vref sensitivity and flight times. Pin and pattern weaknesses can be found quickly, without expensive lab equipment. Using an appropriate controller, the DDR interface can be fully characterized without CPU interaction.

TEST

The PHY includes a full speed read/write BIST, which tests the complete read and write paths of every pin simultaneously with pseudo-random data. The PHY design kits include industry-standard boundary scan chains and all the appropriate views for DFT.

True Circuits, Inc.
4300 El Camino Real, Suite 200
Los Altos, CA 94022
Phone: 650.949.3400
Fax: 650.949.3434
sales@truecircuits.com

