



Faculty of Engineering and Technology

Computer Engineering Department

ENCS4380, INTERFACING TECHNIQUES

**I2C protocol implementation
without (wire.h) library... using signaling on the bits**

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Introduction

I2C (Inter-Integrated Circuit) protocol is synchronous, half duplex protocol

- Synchronous: has a clock line (SCL)
- Half duplex: has only one data line (SDA), at a time only send or receive (not both at same time).

I2C is a multi-master, multi-slave protocol.

Each slave defined by a unique address.

I2C protocol needs a pull up resistors in order to rise the bus to VDD when the bus is idle (without the pull up resistors the bus will be floating, which is bad), these pull up resistors are built in the Arduino microcontroller chip (so no need to connect them).

Reference (your lecture).

Procedure

With library

At first to go into the protocol and understand it, I tried at first to build the protocol using the library (wire.h).

The wire.h library functions are

Wire.h Library

The Wire library has several useful functions for working with I2C.

- **begin()** – This initiates the library and sets up the Arduino to be either master or slave.
- **requestFrom()** – This function is used by the master to request data from a slave.
- **beginTransaction()** – This function is used by the master to send data to a specified slave.
- **endTransmission()** – This function is used by the master to end a transmission started with the beginTransaction function.
- **write()** – Used by both master and slave to send data on the I2C bus.
- **available()** – Used by both master and slave to determine the number of bytes in the data they are receiving.
- **read()** – Reads a byte of data from the I2C bus.
- **SetClock()** – Used by the master to set a specific clock frequency.
- **onReceive()** – Used by the slave to specify a function that is called when data is received from the master.
- **onRequest()** – Used by the slave to specify a function that is called when the master has requested data.

Figure 1(wire.h library) [ref. your slides p.37)

The circuit and its connection in addition to the code are shown below,

Circuit

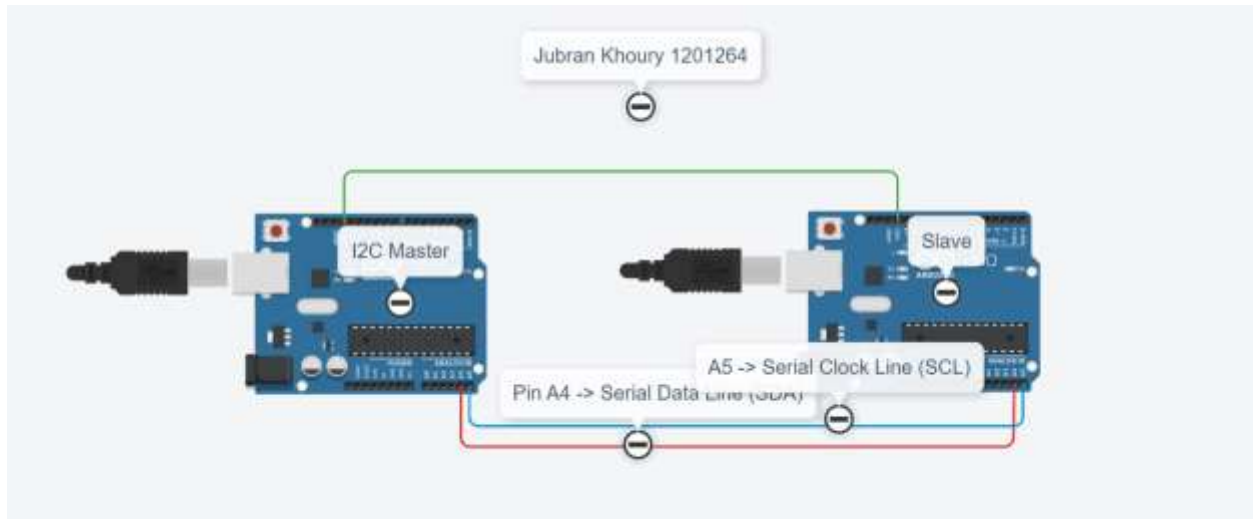


Figure 2(The circuit)

Both connected with common ground (very necessary point).

Master Pin A4(SDA) to Slave Pin A4(SDA).

Master Pin A5(SCL) master to Slave Pin A5(SCL).

Codes

Master code

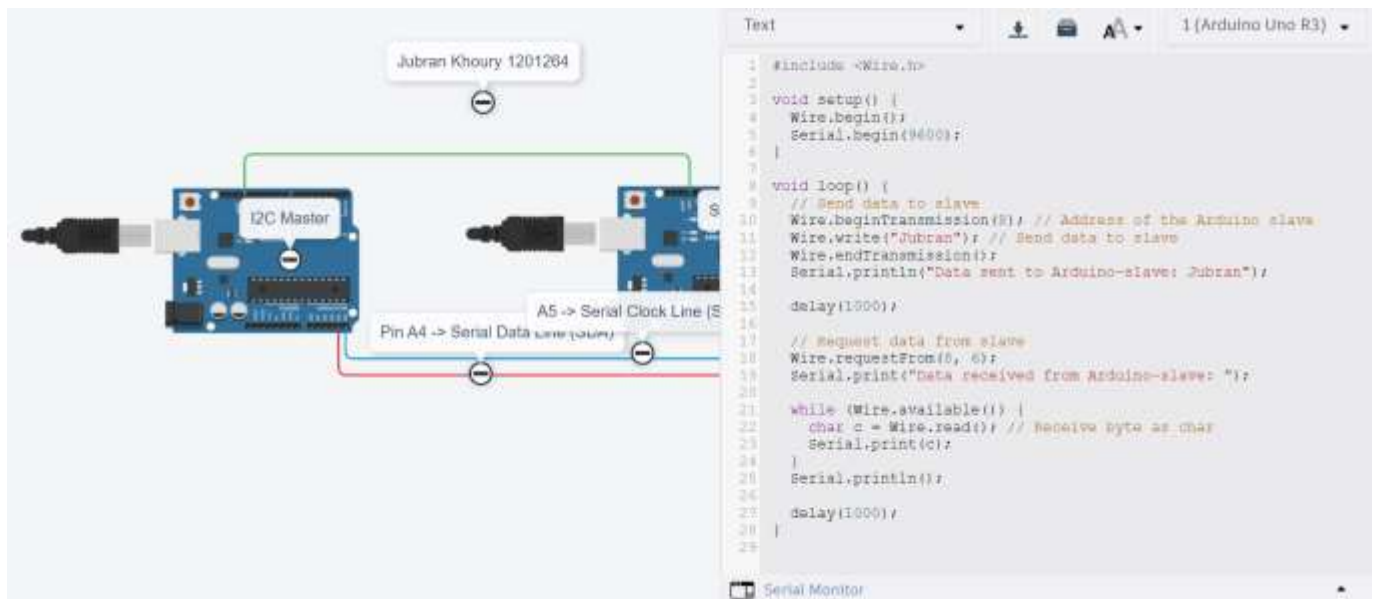


Figure 3(master code)

In the setup, the wire.begin ,

•**begin()** – This initiates the library and sets up the Arduino to be either master or slave.

Ref (your slides p.37)

In the loop,

Wire.beginTransmission this function is used by the master to send data to a specific slave defined by its address. In this simulation the slave is at address **0x08**, founded by the following method (ref: <https://learn.adafruit.com/scanning-i2c-addresses/arduino>)



Then, I send my name "Jubran" to the slave by **Wire.write("Jubran")**.

And **Wire.endTransmission()** to end the transmission.

Delay of 1 second between sending and receiving **delay(1000)**.

Now to receive data from the slave....

The function **requestFrom()**

•**requestFrom()** – This function is used by the master to request data from a slave.

It takes two parameters the first is of course the address of the slave that wants to receive data from. And the second parameter is the number of bytes to be received, since it will receive my family name "Khoury" which is 6 char, then the master will receive each byte as char, as shown

```
// Request data from slave
Wire.requestFrom(8, 6); |
Serial.print("Data received from Arduino-slave: ");

while (Wire.available()) {
  char c = Wire.read(); // Receive byte as char
  Serial.print(c);
}
Serial.println();
```

Then in a while loop.... as long as there are available data on the data line then read it as char and print it on the serial monitor.

Finally, a delay of 1 second is applied before the master send the data again to the slave and this process continue, because it's in the loop().

Slave code

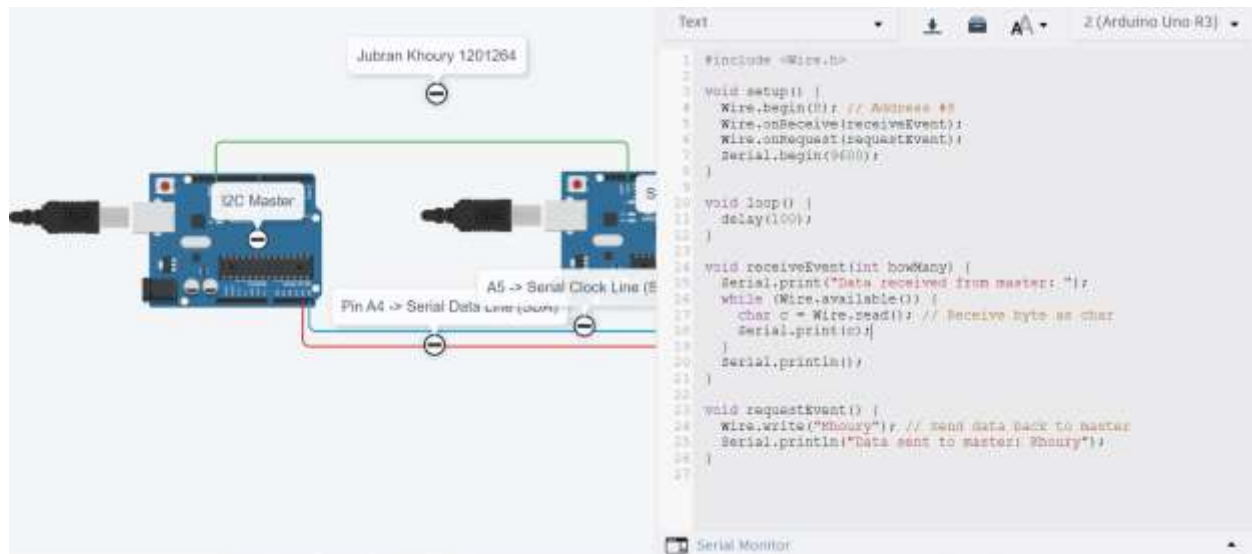


Figure 4((slave code)

In the setup,

Wire.begin() with address of the slave.

•onReceive() – Used by the slave to specify a function that is called when data is received from the master.

•onRequest() – Used by the slave to specify a function that is called when the master has requested data.

Since both **onReceive()** and **onRequest()** need to call functions,

I have declared two functions.

First function is **receiveEvent()**, this function to print each received byte from the master on the serial monitor (each byte is received as char).

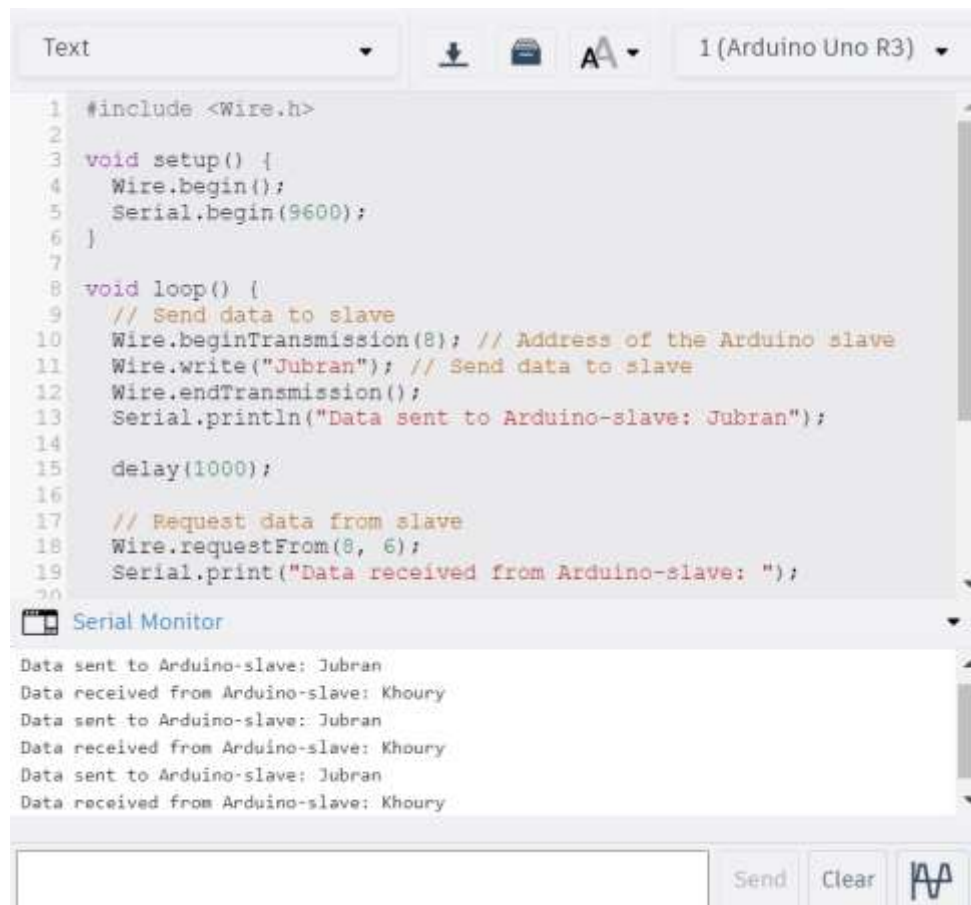
Second function is **requestEvent()**, this function sends data back to the master using **wire.write()**.

So, when the slave receives data from the master → print it on the serial monitor, because this is how **onReceive()** works, its calling the **receiveEvent()** only when the slave receive data from the master, and once the **receiveEvent()** is called, then it prints the data on the serial monitor.

And when the master request data from the slave then **onRequest()** is used, and this function call **requestEvent()**, and once this function is called, then it sends data back to the master.

Simulation result

Serial monitor of the master



```
1 #include <Wire.h>
2
3 void setup() {
4   Wire.begin();
5   Serial.begin(9600);
6 }
7
8 void loop() {
9   // Send data to slave
10  Wire.beginTransmission(8); // Address of the Arduino slave
11  Wire.write("Jubran"); // Send data to slave
12  Wire.endTransmission();
13  Serial.println("Data sent to Arduino-slave: Jubran");
14
15  delay(1000);
16
17  // Request data from slave
18  Wire.requestFrom(8, 6);
19  Serial.print("Data received from Arduino-slave: ");
20
```

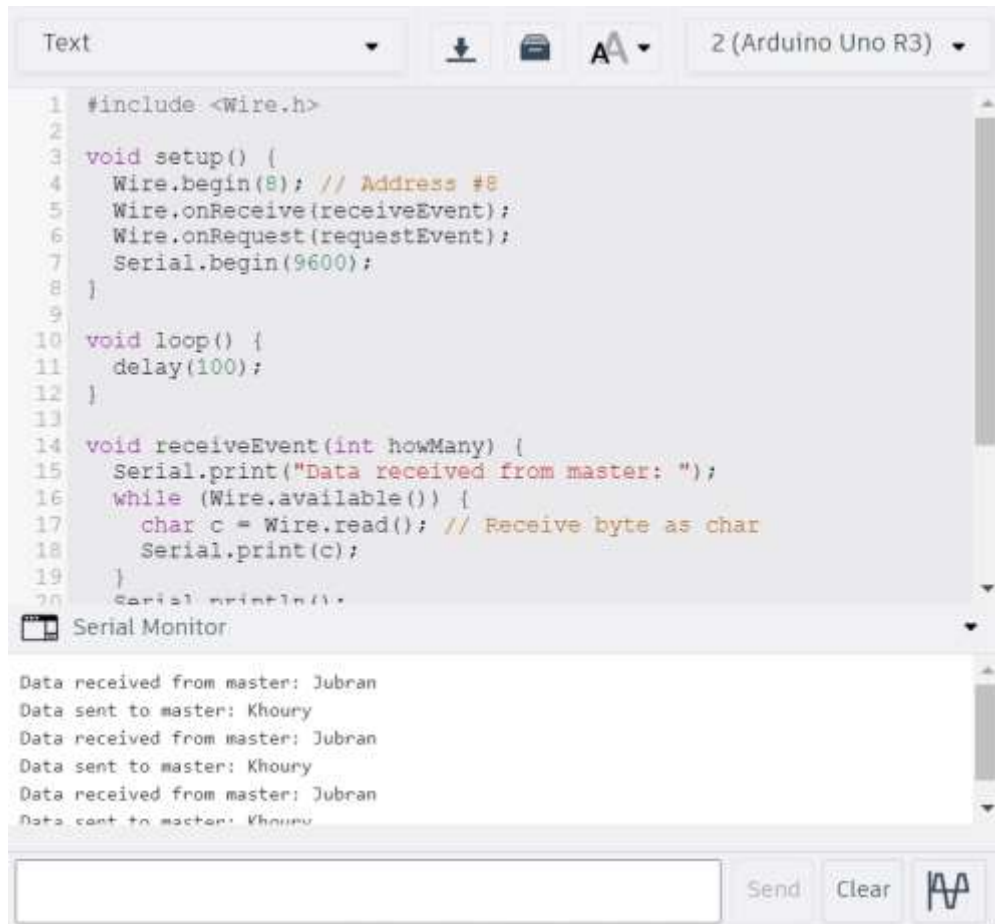
Serial Monitor

```
Data sent to Arduino-slave: Jubran
Data received from Arduino-slave: Khoury
Data sent to Arduino-slave: Jubran
Data received from Arduino-slave: Khoury
Data sent to Arduino-slave: Jubran
Data received from Arduino-slave: Khoury
```

Figure 5(serial monitor of the master)

As shown above, the master sending my name "Jubran" to the slave and receive back my family name " Khoury".

Slave serial monitor



The screenshot displays the Arduino IDE interface. The top toolbar includes icons for saving, uploading, and a font size selector. The target board is set to '2 (Arduino Uno R3)'. The code editor shows the following C++ code:

```
1 #include <Wire.h>
2
3 void setup() {
4   Wire.begin(8); // Address #8
5   Wire.onReceive(receiveEvent);
6   Wire.onRequest(requestEvent);
7   Serial.begin(9600);
8 }
9
10 void loop() {
11   delay(100);
12 }
13
14 void receiveEvent(int howMany) {
15   Serial.print("Data received from master: ");
16   while (Wire.available()) {
17     char c = Wire.read(); // Receive byte as char
18     Serial.print(c);
19   }
20   Serial.println();
21 }
```

Below the code editor is the 'Serial Monitor' window. It shows a log of data received from and sent to the master:

```
Data received from master: Jubran
Data sent to master: Khoury
Data received from master: Jubran
Data sent to master: Khoury
Data received from master: Jubran
Data sent to master: Khoury
```

At the bottom of the Serial Monitor window, there is a text input field, a 'Send' button, a 'Clear' button, and a waveform icon.

Figure 6(Slave serial monitor)

As shown above, the slave receiving my name "Jubran" from the master and sending back my family name " Khoury".

Implementing the communication with library helped me to better understanding how the I2C protocol works and to make a communication between the master and the slave using the I2C protocol.

Now to implement it without wire.h library

I2C protocol communication without using the library (By signaling on the bits)

How I think or what were my references?

Initially, my primary references were the contents of your lecture. During the lecture, you provided a concise overview of the communication mechanisms within this protocol. During the lecture I have written all the notes needed in order to build the I2C protocol communication.

Also, I utilized this slide (ref: your slides p.25) as a reference for better understanding and real example of the communication.

I2C

➤ I2C frame format

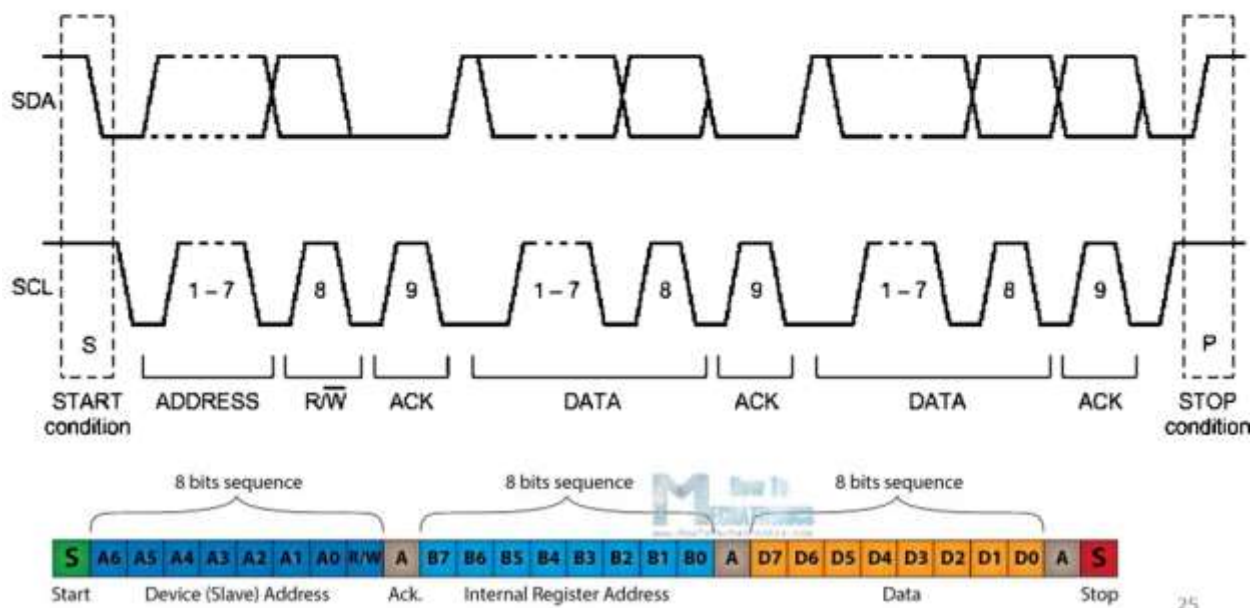


Figure 7(I2C frame format)

My notes

Jubran Khoury 1201264

* The data is not allowed to change while the CLK is high.

* Start condition

At first the bus is ideal $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{mean} \rightarrow \text{SDA is high} \\ \text{mean} \rightarrow \text{SCL is high} \end{array} \right.$
(due to pull-up resistor)

So, When the master needs to communicate

\Rightarrow the Data line (SDA) goes from high to low

∴ لا يسمح بغير ان يكون master في حالة عالية
Data تقرأ

∴ The data is allowed to change $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{From high to low} \end{array} \right.$ while the CLK is high only in the beginning and at the end,
and by this the begin & end is to be known

begin: SDA is high, CLK is high $\xrightarrow{\text{then}}$ SDA goes low

end: SDA is low, CLK is high $\xrightarrow{\text{then}}$ SDA goes high

* First 7-bits is for slave addresses.

As we talked early, each slave must have a unique address,

The available addresses are from $[0 - 127]$, since 7-bits gives $2^7 = 128$ address.

* Bit #8 \longrightarrow Read/write bit

if 1, then the master needs to read from the slave

if 0, then the master wants to send data to the slave.

* Acknowledgment

Now, the slave which has this address (the address at which the master sent the data to) must make an ACK,

So on the bit #9 goes low.

By this the slave say "i am here".

(the ACK is always by low).

* After ACK \rightarrow the master sends the data,
or Receive data

In case the master wants to receive data,
then the master must do the ACK.

So, the most important question

When should the master / slave stop from
ACK ??

Ans:- when they stop receiving data

\rightarrow end of the communication.

* Same thing when writing but the opposite.

* always, who receive \rightarrow make ACK

* Of course the first ACK is from the slave.

Circuit

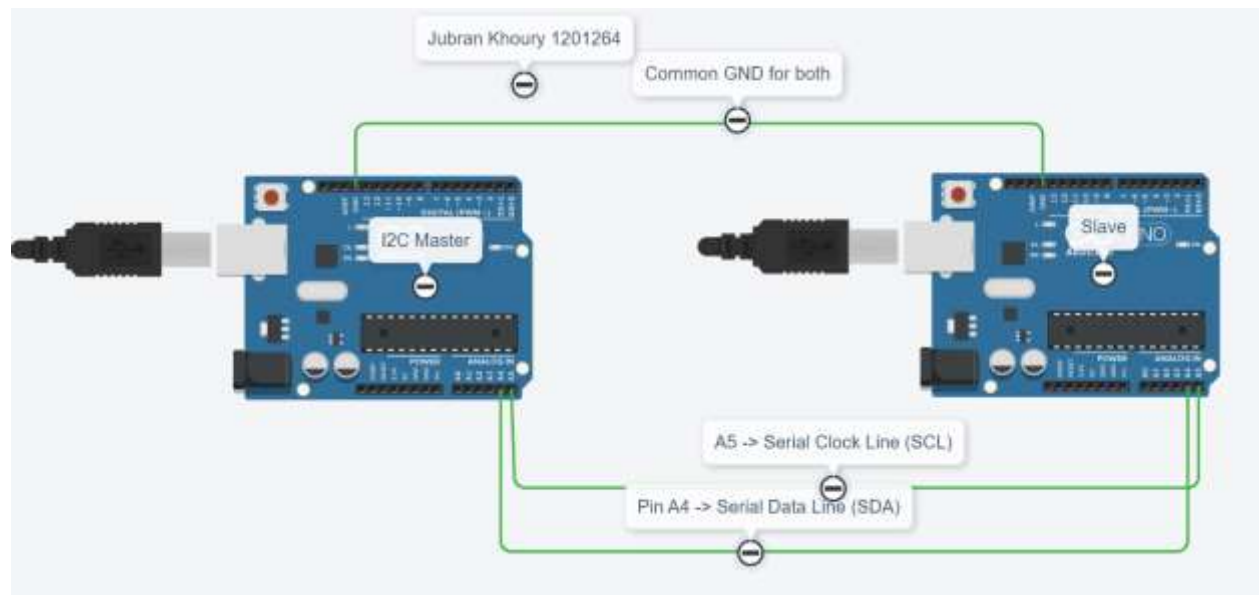


Figure 8(circuit)

Codes & Explanation

Master

```
#define SDA_PIN  A4
#define SCL_PIN  A5

// Slave address
#define SLAVE_ADDRESS 0x04

void setup() {
  Serial.begin(9600);
  pinMode(SDA_PIN, OUTPUT);
  pinMode(SCL_PIN, OUTPUT);

  // At first both are high
  digitalWrite(SDA_PIN, HIGH);
  digitalWrite(SCL_PIN, HIGH);
}
```

At first, I have given both A4 and A5 the corresponding names (just easy to deal with their names instead of the pins number).

Then, the slave address is at address 0x04 (the same way was used to search for the slave address).

And sets both high to indicate the I2C bus is idle.

```
// Start condition
void Start() {
    digitalWrite(SDA_PIN, LOW);
    delayMicroseconds(5);
    digitalWrite(SCL_PIN, LOW);
}
```

The start condition as described above

begin: SDA is high, CLK is high $\xrightarrow{\text{then}}$ SDA goes low

```
// Stop condition
void Stop() {
    digitalWrite(SDA_PIN, LOW);
    delayMicroseconds(4);
    digitalWrite(SCL_PIN, HIGH);
    delayMicroseconds(4);
    digitalWrite(SDA_PIN, HIGH);
}
```

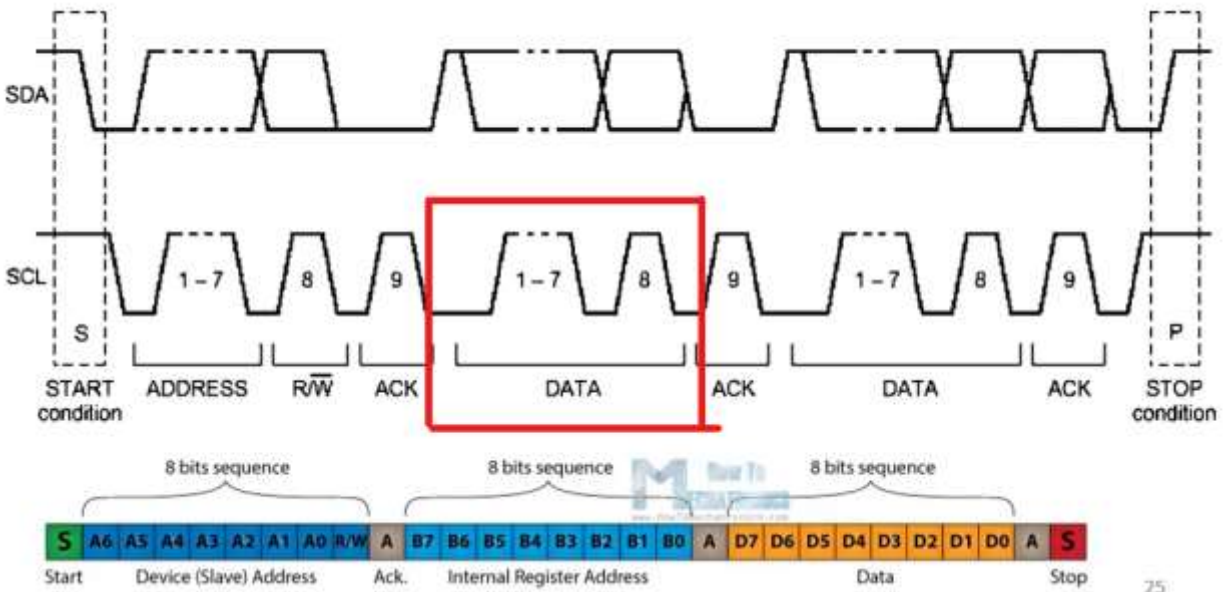
The stop condition as described above

end: SDA is low, CLK is high $\xrightarrow{\text{then}}$ SDA goes high

The write function,

```
void Write(byte data) {  
  for (byte i = 0; i < 8; i++) {  
    digitalWrite(SDA_PIN, (data & 0x80) != 0);  
    data <<= 1;  
    digitalWrite(SCL_PIN, HIGH);  
    delayMicroseconds(4);  
    digitalWrite(SCL_PIN, LOW);  
    delayMicroseconds(4);  
  }  
  
  // Ack bit  
  pinMode(SDA_PIN, INPUT);  
  digitalWrite(SDA_PIN, HIGH);  
  digitalWrite(SCL_PIN, HIGH);  
  delayMicroseconds(4);  
  digitalWrite(SCL_PIN, LOW);  
  pinMode(SDA_PIN, OUTPUT);  
}
```

For loop (8 loops), because we send 8-bits (1 byte).



The data is sent from most significant bit to lowest (the bitwise AND operation and then shifts the data left by one-bit concept is used).

For each bit to be sent, the SCL line goes from high to low, after sending the 8 bits... reads the ACK bit from the SDA line by pulse the clk line (high to low).

The read function,

```
char Read() {
    char data = 0;
    pinMode(SDA_PIN, INPUT);
    for (byte i = 0; i < 8; i++) {
        digitalWrite(SCL_PIN, HIGH);
        delayMicroseconds(4);
        data <= 1;
        if (digitalRead(SDA_PIN)) {
            data |= 1;
        }
        digitalWrite(SCL_PIN, LOW);
        delayMicroseconds(4);
    }

    // Send ACK
    pinMode(SDA_PIN, OUTPUT);
    delayMicroseconds(4);
    digitalWrite(SDA_PIN, LOW);
    digitalWrite(SCL_PIN, HIGH);
    delayMicroseconds(4);
    digitalWrite(SCL_PIN, LOW);
    pinMode(SDA_PIN, INPUT);

    return data;
}
```

Same, the data is received bit by bit starting from the most significant (8-bits).

For each bit to be received, read it from the SDA line while the SCL line goes from high to low.

Finally, after reading the byte... sends ACK to the slave.

So the above functions to be used in the loop for communication

```
void loop() {
    Start();
    Write(SLAVE_ADDRESS << 1);
    Write('j'); // Send char 'j'
    Stop(); // stop
    Serial.println("Master: 'j' sent."); // now... wait for ACK from the slave

    delay(2000);

    Start();
    Write((SLAVE_ADDRESS << 1) | 1); // Send slave address with read bit
    char data = Read();
    Stop();
    Serial.print("Master received: ");
    Serial.println(data);

    delay(5000);
}
```

Send j and wait for 2 second to receive k from the master and this process to be repeated every 5s.

Slave

The slave code is clear and the concept is as described above in the write-handed papers, but I wish to explain only the read and write functions of the slave.

Read

```
byte Read() {
    byte data = 0;
    pinMode(SDA_PIN, INPUT);
    for (byte i = 0; i < 8; i++) {
        while (digitalRead(SCL_PIN) == LOW);
        data <<= 1;
        if (digitalRead(SDA_PIN)) {
            data |= 1;
        }
        while (digitalRead(SCL_PIN) == HIGH);
    }
    return data;
}
```

In the for loop (8-loops) [each loop for each bit (8 bit in total)]

➔ Waits for the clock line to go high (while the clock line is LOW), then shifts the current data left by one bit (data <<= 1). It reads the bit from the SDA line and sets it in the data if the bit is high.

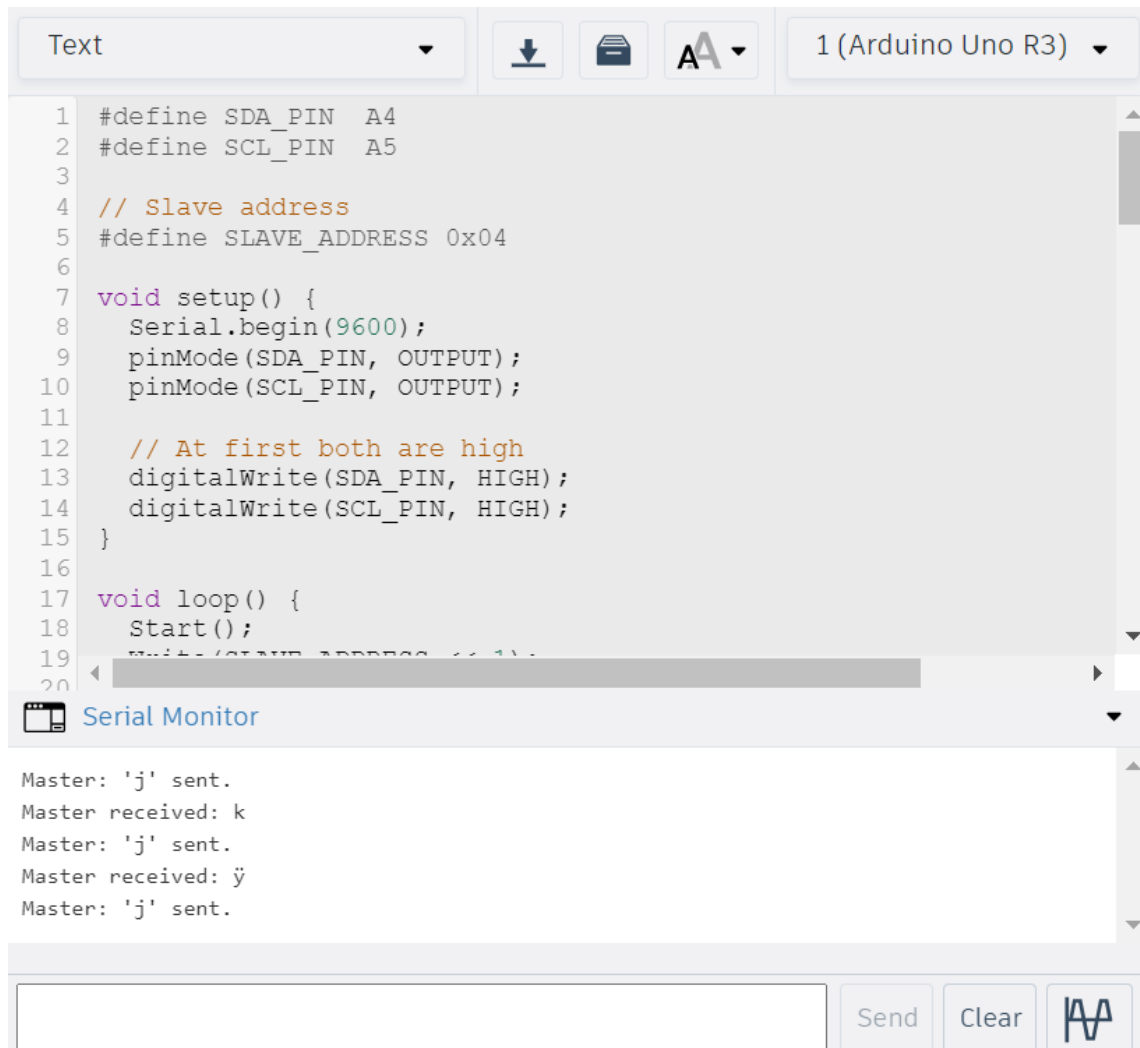
Finally, it waits for the clock line to go low.

Note that the Ack here is defined as a separate function, then to be called in the loop().

The **write** function is the same as the write function in the master.

Simulation result

Master



The screenshot displays the Arduino IDE interface. The top toolbar includes a dropdown menu set to 'Text', icons for download, save, and font settings, and a board selector set to '1 (Arduino Uno R3)'. The main code editor contains the following C++ code:

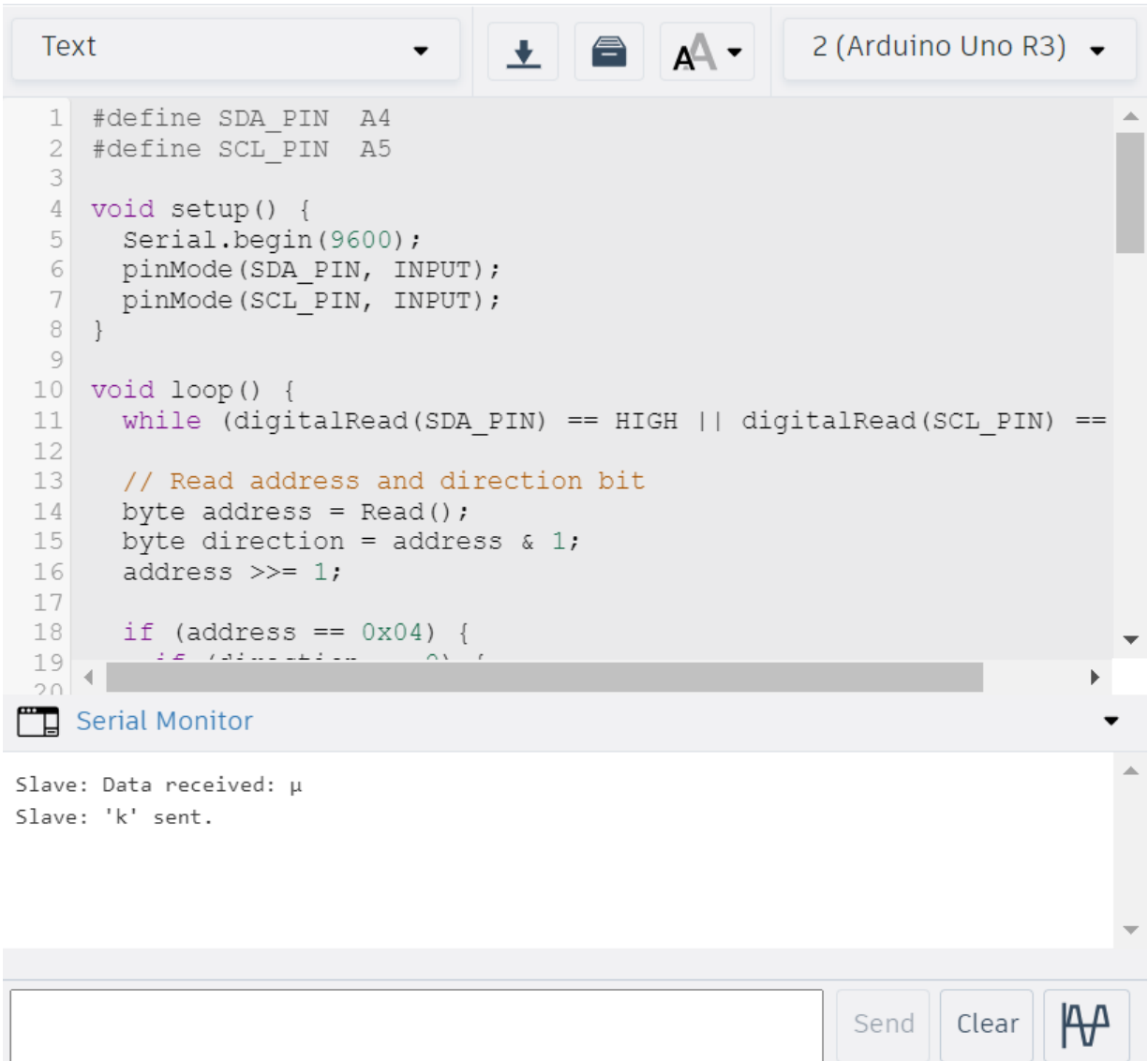
```
1 #define SDA_PIN  A4
2 #define SCL_PIN  A5
3
4 // Slave address
5 #define SLAVE_ADDRESS 0x04
6
7 void setup() {
8   Serial.begin(9600);
9   pinMode(SDA_PIN, OUTPUT);
10  pinMode(SCL_PIN, OUTPUT);
11
12  // At first both are high
13  digitalWrite(SDA_PIN, HIGH);
14  digitalWrite(SCL_PIN, HIGH);
15 }
16
17 void loop() {
18   Start();
19   Write(SLAVE_ADDRESS, 0x1);
20 }
```

Below the code editor is the 'Serial Monitor' window, which shows the following output:

```
Master: 'j' sent.
Master received: k
Master: 'j' sent.
Master received: ÿ
Master: 'j' sent.
```

At the bottom of the IDE, there is a text input field and three buttons: 'Send', 'Clear', and a waveform icon.

Slave



The screenshot displays the Arduino IDE interface. At the top, the 'Text' editor tab is active, showing a C++ code for an I2C slave. The code defines SDA_PIN as A4 and SCL_PIN as A5. The setup function initializes the serial port at 9600 baud and sets the pins as inputs. The loop function contains a while loop that checks for HIGH signals on both SDA and SCL pins. Inside the loop, it reads an address and direction bit, then checks if the address is 0x04. The Serial Monitor at the bottom shows the output: 'Slave: Data received: μ' and 'Slave: 'k' sent.'.

```
1 #define SDA_PIN  A4
2 #define SCL_PIN  A5
3
4 void setup() {
5   Serial.begin(9600);
6   pinMode(SDA_PIN, INPUT);
7   pinMode(SCL_PIN, INPUT);
8 }
9
10 void loop() {
11   while (digitalRead(SDA_PIN) == HIGH || digitalRead(SCL_PIN) ==
12
13   // Read address and direction bit
14   byte address = Read();
15   byte direction = address & 1;
16   address >>= 1;
17
18   if (address == 0x04) {
19     if (direction == 0) {
20
```

Serial Monitor

Slave: Data received: μ
Slave: 'k' sent.

Send Clear

The first process is 100% correct, but after the first process the result is not correct, I think the problem is timing problem, I tried to solve the problem by using the delay to be in **micro seconds** instead of the regular delay which in mille seconds, and also I have reduced the time between the send and the receive and also the time between one process and another, but unfortunately the same.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this activity has given me a much better understanding of the I2C protocol, especially how communication works both with and without using a library. This was my first time trying to build a library from scratch, and I'm proud to have successfully done it. Although I encountered some timing issues, I consider this normal for a beginner. I'm confident this experience is just the beginning of my journey in creating libraries in the future. After all, if computer engineers don't create libraries, who will? Certainly, it's the role of computer engineers, who dive deep into both coding and hardware.

Something nice I have noticed when I studied this protocol and specially after done this activity.

We can increase the resolution of the Arduino by connecting for example my own 16-bit ADC and make it communicate with Arduino by I2C protocol ... instead of the 10-bit Arduino ADC and jump from 1023 to 65,536.

References

[1]: Your I2C protocol slides.

My Tinkercards

With library: <https://www.tinkercad.com/things/6Thm84ZqKxb-i2c-communication-with-library?sharecode=tE5uXih3aaPR4k33gWQZswExNnmXZN4cdcXYcva3QwA>

Without library: https://www.tinkercad.com/things/89AloFjncDL-i2c-communication-without-library?sharecode=YFRiuF5tUpZW9CO3vCENIQWCqGOc_mGB8cjdMOcBn-g