

17. USART0

17.1 Features

- Full Duplex Operation (Independent Serial Receive and Transmit Registers)
- Asynchronous or Synchronous Operation
- Master or Slave Clocked Synchronous Operation
- High Resolution Baud Rate Generator
- Supports Serial Frames with 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9 Data Bits and 1 or 2 Stop Bits
- Odd or Even Parity Generation and Parity Check Supported by Hardware
- Data OverRun Detection
- Framing Error Detection
- Noise Filtering Includes False Start Bit Detection and Digital Low Pass Filter
- Three Separate Interrupts on TX Complete, TX Data Register Empty and RX Complete
- Multi-processor Communication Mode
- Double Speed Asynchronous Communication Mode

17.2 Overview

The Universal Synchronous and Asynchronous serial Receiver and Transmitter (USART) is a highly flexible serial communication device.

The USART0 can also be used in Master SPI mode, see “USART in SPI Mode” on page 204. The Power Reduction USART bit, PRUSART0, in ["Minimizing Power Consumption" on page 42](#) must be disabled by writing a logical zero to it.

A simplified block diagram of the USART Transmitter is shown in [Figure 17-1 on page 177](#). CPU accessible I/O Registers and I/O pins are shown in bold.

The dashed boxes in the block diagram separate the three main parts of the USART (listed from the top): Clock Generator, Transmitter and Receiver. Control Registers are shared by all units. The Clock Generation logic consists of synchronization logic for external clock input used by synchronous slave operation, and the baud rate generator. The XCKn (Transfer Clock) pin is only used by synchronous transfer mode. The Transmitter consists of a single write buffer, a serial Shift Register, Parity Generator and Control logic for handling different serial frame formats. The write buffer allows a continuous transfer of data without any delay between frames. The Receiver is the most complex part of the USART module due to its clock and data recovery units. The recovery units are used for asynchronous data reception. In addition to the recovery units, the Receiver includes a Parity Checker, Control logic, a Shift Register and a two level receive buffer (UDRn). The Receiver supports the same frame formats as the Transmitter, and can detect Frame Error, Data OverRun and Parity Errors.