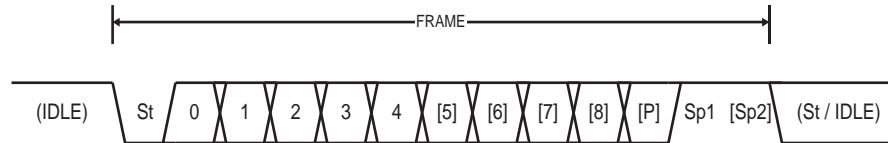


A frame starts with the start bit followed by the least significant data bit. Then the next data bits, up to a total of nine, are succeeding, ending with the most significant bit. If enabled, the parity bit is inserted after the data bits, before the stop bits. When a complete frame is transmitted, it can be directly followed by a new frame, or the communication line can be set to an idle (high) state. Figure 17-4 illustrates the possible combinations of the frame formats. Bits inside brackets are optional.

**Figure 17-4.** Frame Formats



<b>St</b>	Start bit, always low.
<b>(n)</b>	Data bits (0 to 8).
<b>P</b>	Parity bit. Can be odd or even.
<b>Sp</b>	Stop bit, always high.
<b>IDLE</b>	No transfers on the communication line (RxDn or TxDn). An IDLE line must be high.

The frame format used by the USART is set by the UCSZn2:0, UPMn1:0 and USBSn bits in UCSRnB and UCSRnC. The Receiver and Transmitter use the same setting. Note that changing the setting of any of these bits will corrupt all ongoing communication for both the Receiver and Transmitter.

The USART Character SiZe (UCSZn2:0) bits select the number of data bits in the frame. The USART Parity mode (UPMn1:0) bits enable and set the type of parity bit. The selection between one or two stop bits is done by the USART Stop Bit Select (USBSn) bit. The Receiver ignores the second stop bit. An FE (Frame Error) will therefore only be detected in the cases where the first stop bit is zero.

## 17.4.1 Parity Bit Calculation

The parity bit is calculated by doing an exclusive-or of all the data bits. If odd parity is used, the result of the exclusive or is inverted. The relation between the parity bit and data bits is as follows:

$$P_{even} = d_{n-1} \oplus \dots \oplus d_3 \oplus d_2 \oplus d_1 \oplus d_0 \oplus 0$$

$$P_{odd} = d_{n-1} \oplus \dots \oplus d_3 \oplus d_2 \oplus d_1 \oplus d_0 \oplus 1$$

<b>P<sub>even</sub></b>	Parity bit using even parity
<b>P<sub>odd</sub></b>	Parity bit using odd parity
<b>d<sub>n</sub></b>	Data bit n of the character

If used, the parity bit is located between the last data bit and first stop bit of a serial frame.