

21. 2-wire Serial Interface

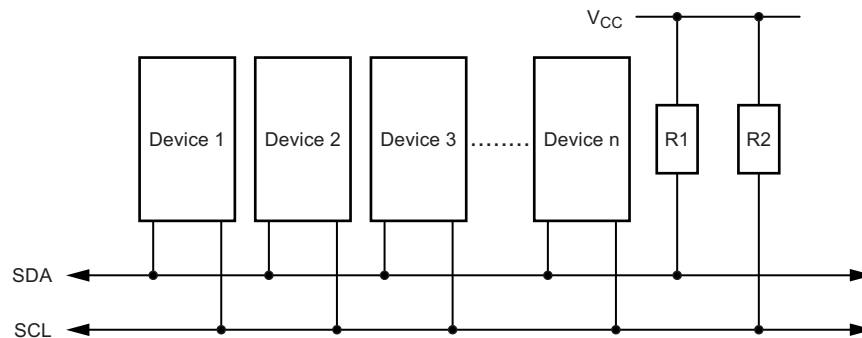
21.1 Features

- Simple yet powerful and flexible communication interface, only two bus lines needed
- Both master and slave operation supported
- Device can operate as transmitter or receiver
- 7-bit address space allows up to 128 different slave addresses
- Multi-master arbitration support
- Up to 400kHz data transfer speed
- Slew-rate limited output drivers
- Noise suppression circuitry rejects spikes on bus lines
- Fully programmable slave address with general call support
- Address recognition causes wake-up when AVR[®] is in sleep mode
- Compatible with Phillips' I²C protocol

21.2 2-wire Serial Interface Bus Definition

The 2-wire serial interface (TWI) is ideally suited for typical microcontroller applications. The TWI protocol allows the systems designer to interconnect up to 128 different devices using only two bi-directional bus lines, one for clock (SCL) and one for data (SDA). The only external hardware needed to implement the bus is a single pull-up resistor for each of the TWI bus lines. All devices connected to the bus have individual addresses, and mechanisms for resolving bus contention are inherent in the TWI protocol.

Figure 21-1. TWI Bus Interconnection



21.2.1 TWI Terminology

The following definitions are frequently encountered in this section.

Table 21-1. TWI Terminology

Term	Description
Master	The device that initiates and terminates a transmission. The master also generates the SCL clock.
Slave	The device addressed by a master.
Transmitter	The device placing data on the bus.
Receiver	The device reading data from the bus.

The PRTWI bit in [Section 9.10 “Minimizing Power Consumption” on page 36](#) must be written to zero to enable the 2-wire serial interface.

21.2.2 Electrical Interconnection

As depicted in [Figure 21-1 on page 173](#), both bus lines are connected to the positive supply voltage through pull-up resistors. The bus drivers of all TWI-compliant devices are open-drain or open-collector. This implements a wired-AND function which is essential to the operation of the interface. A low level on a TWI bus line is generated when one or more TWI devices output a zero. A high level is output when all TWI devices tri-state their outputs, allowing the pull-up resistors to pull the line high. Note that all AVR® devices connected to the TWI bus must be powered in order to allow any bus operation.

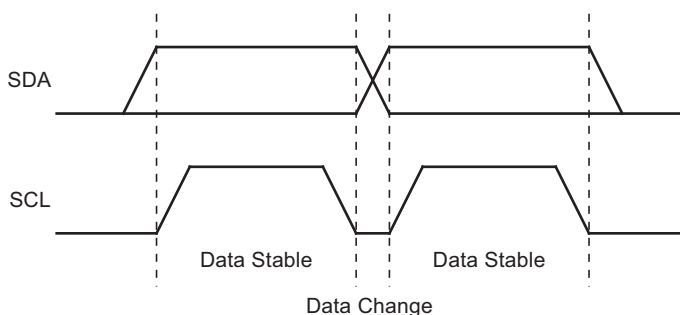
The number of devices that can be connected to the bus is only limited by the bus capacitance limit of 400pF and the 7-bit slave address space. A detailed specification of the electrical characteristics of the TWI is given in [Section 28.8 “2-wire Serial Interface Characteristics” on page 264](#). Two different sets of specifications are presented there, one relevant for bus speeds below 100kHz, and one valid for bus speeds up to 400kHz.

21.3 Data Transfer and Frame Format

21.3.1 Transferring Bits

Each data bit transferred on the TWI bus is accompanied by a pulse on the clock line. The level of the data line must be stable when the clock line is high. The only exception to this rule is for generating start and stop conditions.

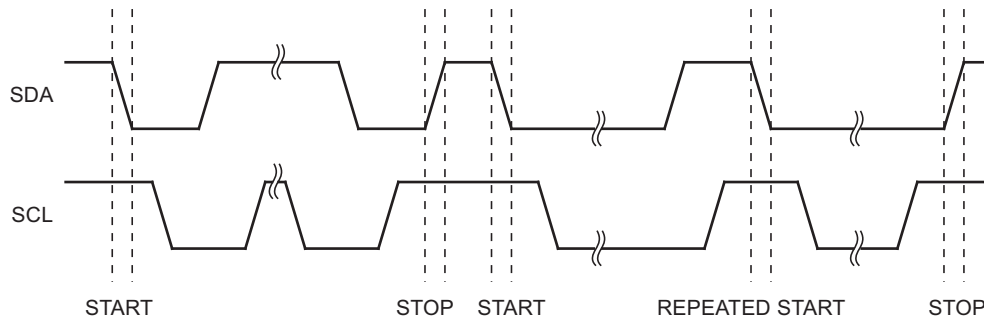
Figure 21-2. Data Validity



21.3.2 START and STOP Conditions

The master initiates and terminates a data transmission. The transmission is initiated when the master issues a START condition on the bus, and it is terminated when the master issues a STOP condition. Between a START and a STOP condition, the bus is considered busy, and no other master should try to seize control of the bus. A special case occurs when a new START condition is issued between a START and STOP condition. This is referred to as a REPEATED START condition, and is used when the master wishes to initiate a new transfer without relinquishing control of the bus. After a REPEATED START, the bus is considered busy until the next STOP. This is identical to the START behavior, and therefore START is used to describe both START and REPEATED START for the remainder of this datasheet, unless otherwise noted. As depicted below, START and STOP conditions are signalled by changing the level of the SDA line when the SCL line is high.

Figure 21-3. START, REPEATED START and STOP Conditions



21.3.3 Address Packet Format

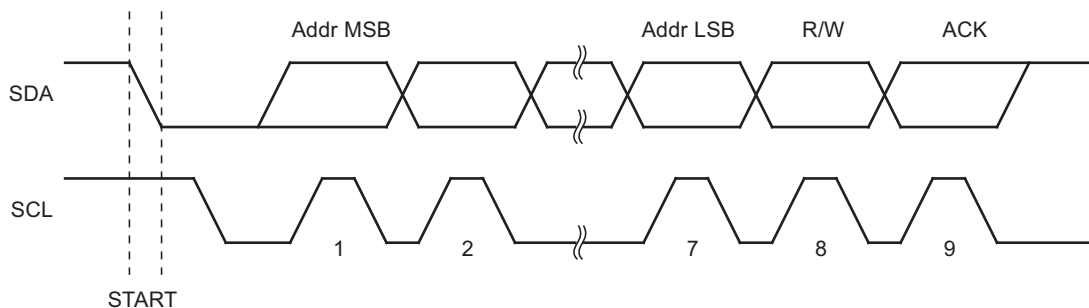
All address packets transmitted on the TWI bus are 9 bits long, consisting of 7 address bits, one READ/WRITE control bit and an acknowledge bit. If the READ/WRITE bit is set, a read operation is to be performed, otherwise a write operation should be performed. When a slave recognizes that it is being addressed, it should acknowledge by pulling SDA low in the ninth SCL (ACK) cycle. If the addressed Slave is busy, or for some other reason can not service the master's request, the SDA line should be left high in the ACK clock cycle. The master can then transmit a STOP condition, or a REPEATED START condition to initiate a new transmission. An address packet consisting of a slave address and a READ or a WRITE bit is called SLA+R or SLA+W, respectively.

The MSB of the address byte is transmitted first. Slave addresses can freely be allocated by the designer, but the address 0000 000 is reserved for a general call.

When a general call is issued, all slaves should respond by pulling the SDA line low in the ACK cycle. A general call is used when a master wishes to transmit the same message to several slaves in the system. When the general call address followed by a write bit is transmitted on the bus, all slaves set up to acknowledge the general call will pull the SDA line low in the ack cycle. The following data packets will then be received by all the slaves that acknowledged the general call. Note that transmitting the general call address followed by a read bit is meaningless, as this would cause contention if several slaves started transmitting different data.

All addresses of the format 1111 xxx should be reserved for future purposes.

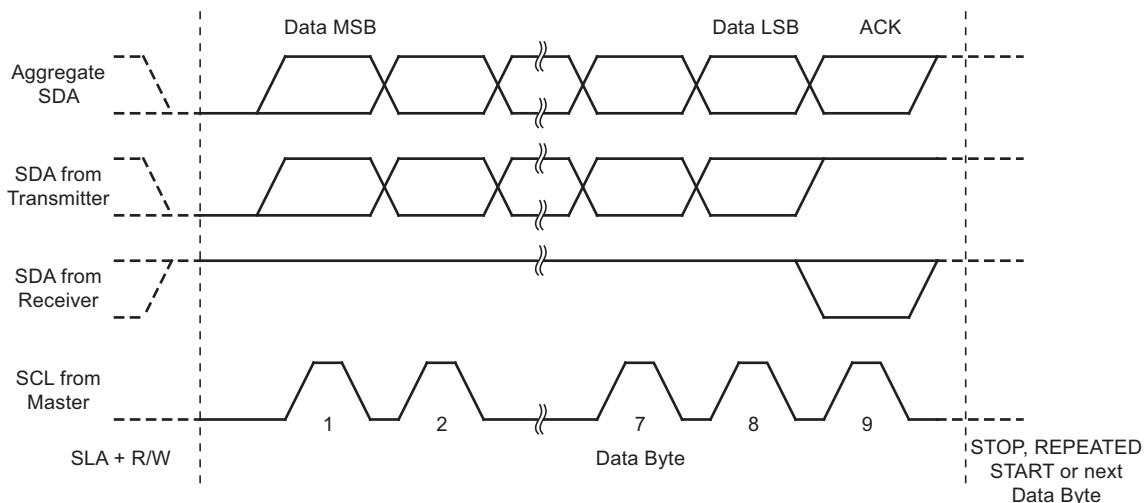
Figure 21-4. Address Packet Format



21.3.4 Data Packet Format

All data packets transmitted on the TWI bus are nine bits long, consisting of one data byte and an acknowledge bit. During a data transfer, the master generates the clock and the START and STOP conditions, while the receiver is responsible for acknowledging the reception. An acknowledge (ACK) is signalled by the receiver pulling the SDA line low during the ninth SCL cycle. If the receiver leaves the SDA line high, a NACK is signalled. When the receiver has received the last byte, or for some reason cannot receive any more bytes, it should inform the transmitter by sending a NACK after the final byte. The MSB of the data byte is transmitted first.

Figure 21-5. Data Packet Format

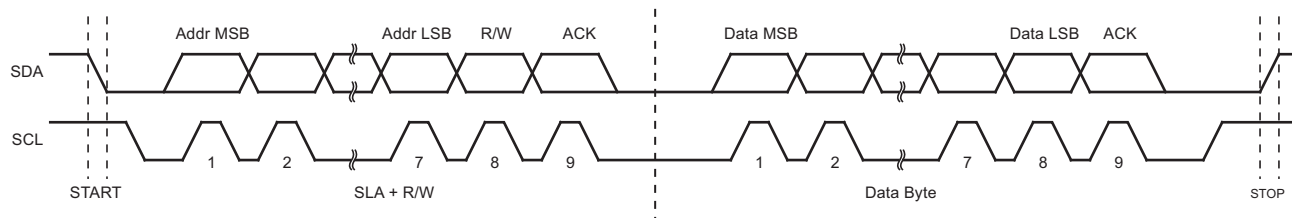


21.3.5 Combining Address and Data Packets into a Transmission

A transmission basically consists of a START condition, a SLA+R/W, one or more data packets and a STOP condition. An empty message, consisting of a START followed by a STOP condition, is illegal. Note that the Wired-ANDing of the SCL line can be used to implement handshaking between the master and the slave. The slave can extend the SCL low period by pulling the SCL line low. This is useful if the clock speed set up by the master is too fast for the slave, or the slave needs extra time for processing between the data transmissions. The slave extending the SCL low period will not affect the SCL high period, which is determined by the master. As a consequence, the slave can reduce the TWI data transfer speed by prolonging the SCL duty cycle.

Figure 21-6 shows a typical data transmission. Note that several data bytes can be transmitted between the SLA+R/W and the STOP condition, depending on the software protocol implemented by the application software.

Figure 21-6. Typical Data Transmission



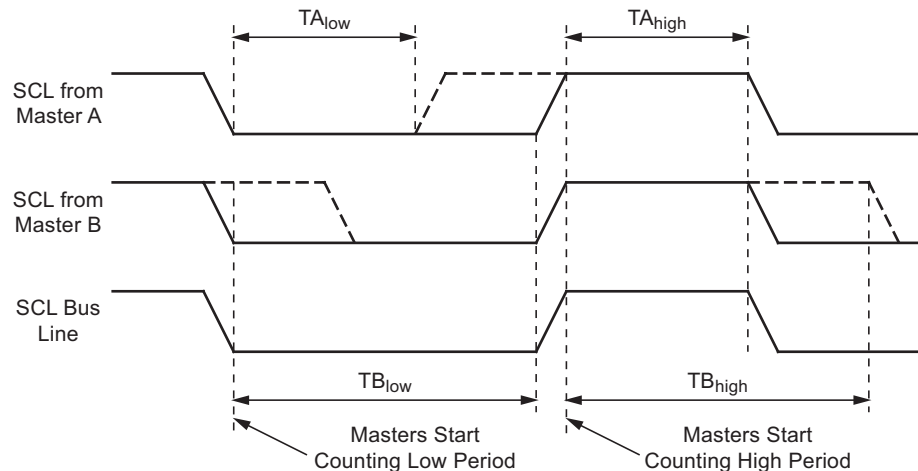
21.4 Multi-master Bus Systems, Arbitration and Synchronization

The TWI protocol allows bus systems with several masters. Special concerns have been taken in order to ensure that transmissions will proceed as normal, even if two or more masters initiate a transmission at the same time. Two problems arise in multi-master systems:

- An algorithm must be implemented allowing only one of the masters to complete the transmission. All other masters should cease transmission when they discover that they have lost the selection process. This selection process is called arbitration. When a contending master discovers that it has lost the arbitration process, it should immediately switch to slave mode to check whether it is being addressed by the winning master. The fact that multiple masters have started transmission at the same time should not be detectable to the slaves, i.e. the data being transferred on the bus must not be corrupted.
- Different masters may use different SCL frequencies. A scheme must be devised to synchronize the serial clocks from all masters, in order to let the transmission proceed in a lockstep fashion. This will facilitate the arbitration process.

The wired-ANDing of the bus lines is used to solve both these problems. The serial clocks from all masters will be wired-ANDed, yielding a combined clock with a high period equal to the one from the master with the shortest high period. The low period of the combined clock is equal to the low period of the master with the longest low period. Note that all masters listen to the SCL line, effectively starting to count their SCL high and low time-out periods when the combined SCL line goes high or low, respectively.

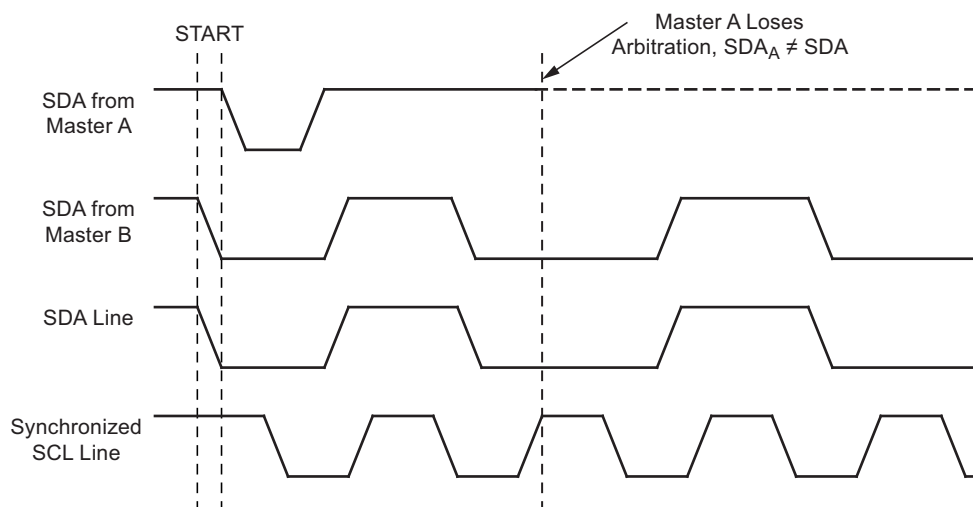
Figure 21-7. SCL Synchronization Between Multiple Masters



Arbitration is carried out by all masters continuously monitoring the SDA line after outputting data. If the value read from the SDA line does not match the value the master had output, it has lost the arbitration. Note that a master can only lose arbitration when it outputs a high SDA value while another master outputs a low value. The losing master should immediately go to slave mode, checking if it is being addressed by the winning master. The SDA line should be left high, but losing masters are allowed to generate a clock signal until the end of the current data or address packet.

Arbitration will continue until only one master remains, and this may take many bits. If several masters are trying to address the same slave, arbitration will continue into the data packet.

Figure 21-8. Arbitration Between Two Masters



Note that arbitration is not allowed between:

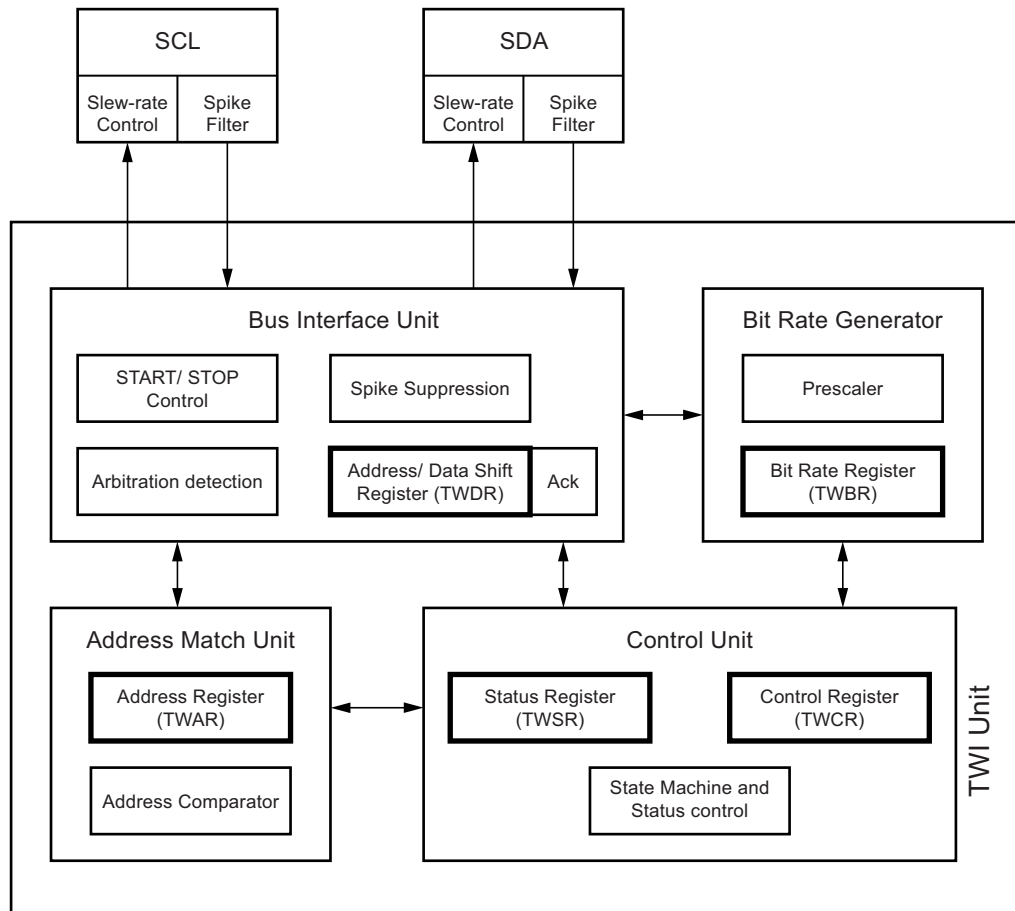
- A REPEATED START condition and a data bit.
- A STOP condition and a data bit.
- A REPEATED START and a STOP condition.

It is the user software's responsibility to ensure that these illegal arbitration conditions never occur. This implies that in multi-master systems, all data transfers must use the same composition of SLA+R/W and data packets. In other words: All transmissions must contain the same number of data packets, otherwise the result of the arbitration is undefined.

21.5 Overview of the TWI Module

The TWI module is comprised of several sub modules, as shown in Figure 21-9. All registers drawn in a thick line are accessible through the AVR® data bus.

Figure 21-9. Overview of the TWI Module



21.5.1 SCL and SDA Pins

These pins interface the AVR TWI with the rest of the MCU system. The output drivers contain a slew-rate limiter in order to conform to the TWI specification. The input stages contain a spike suppression unit removing spikes shorter than 50ns. Note that the internal pull-ups in the AVR pads can be enabled by setting the PORT bits corresponding to the SCL and SDA pins, as explained in the I/O port section. The internal pull-ups can in some systems eliminate the need for external ones.

21.5.2 Bit Rate Generator Unit

This unit controls the period of SCL when operating in a master mode. The SCL period is controlled by settings in the TWI bit rate register (TWBR) and the prescaler bits in the TWI status register (TWSR). Slave operation does not depend on bit rate or prescaler settings, but the CPU clock frequency in the slave must be at least 16 times higher than the SCL frequency. Note that slaves may prolong the SCL low period, thereby reducing the average TWI bus clock period. The SCL frequency is generated according to the following equation:

$$\text{SCL frequency} = \frac{\text{CPU Clock frequency}}{16 + 2(\text{TWBR}) \times (\text{PrescalerValue})}$$

- TWBR = Value of the TWI Bit rate register.
- PrescalerValue = Value of the prescaler, see [Table 21-8 on page 200](#).

Note: Pull-up resistor values should be selected according to the SCL frequency and the capacitive bus line load. See [Table 28-7 on page 264](#) for value of pull-up resistor.

21.5.3 Bus Interface Unit

This unit contains the data and address shift register (TWDR), a START/STOP controller and arbitration detection hardware. The TWDR contains the address or data bytes to be transmitted, or the address or data bytes received. In addition to the 8-bit TWDR, the bus interface unit also contains a register containing the (N)ACK bit to be transmitted or received. This (N)ACK register is not directly accessible by the application software. However, when receiving, it can be set or cleared by manipulating the TWI control register (TWCR). When in transmitter mode, the value of the received (N)ACK bit can be determined by the value in the TWSR.

The START/STOP controller is responsible for generation and detection of START, REPEATED START, and STOP conditions. The START/STOP controller is able to detect START and STOP conditions even when the AVR MCU is in one of the sleep modes, enabling the MCU to wake up if addressed by a master.

If the TWI has initiated a transmission as master, the arbitration detection hardware continuously monitors the transmission trying to determine if arbitration is in process. If the TWI has lost an arbitration, the control unit is informed. Correct action can then be taken and appropriate status codes generated.

21.5.4 Address Match Unit

The address match unit checks if received address bytes match the seven-bit address in the TWI address register (TWAR). If the TWI general call recognition enable (TWGCE) bit in the TWAR is written to one, all incoming address bits will also be compared against the general call address. Upon an address match, the control unit is informed, allowing correct action to be taken. The TWI may or may not acknowledge its address, depending on settings in the TWCR. The address match unit is able to compare addresses even when the AVR[®] MCU is in sleep mode, enabling the MCU to wake up if addressed by a master.

If another interrupt (e.g., INT0) occurs during TWI power-down address match and wakes up the CPU, the TWI aborts operation and return to its idle state. If this cause any problems, ensure that TWI Address Match is the only enabled interrupt when entering power-down.

21.5.5 Control Unit

The control unit monitors the TWI bus and generates responses corresponding to settings in the TWI control register (TWCR). When an event requiring the attention of the application occurs on the TWI bus, the TWI interrupt flag (TWINT) is asserted. In the next clock cycle, the TWI status register (TWSR) is updated with a status code identifying the event. The TWSR only contains relevant status information when the TWI interrupt flag is asserted. At all other times, the TWSR contains a special status code indicating that no relevant status information is available. As long as the TWINT flag is set, the SCL line is held low. This allows the application software to complete its tasks before allowing the TWI transmission to continue.

The TWINT flag is set in the following situations:

- After the TWI has transmitted a START/REPEATED START condition.
- After the TWI has transmitted SLA+R/W.
- After the TWI has transmitted an address byte.
- After the TWI has lost arbitration.
- After the TWI has been addressed by own slave address or general call.
- After the TWI has received a data byte.
- After a STOP or REPEATED START has been received while still addressed as a slave.
- When a bus error has occurred due to an illegal START or STOP condition.

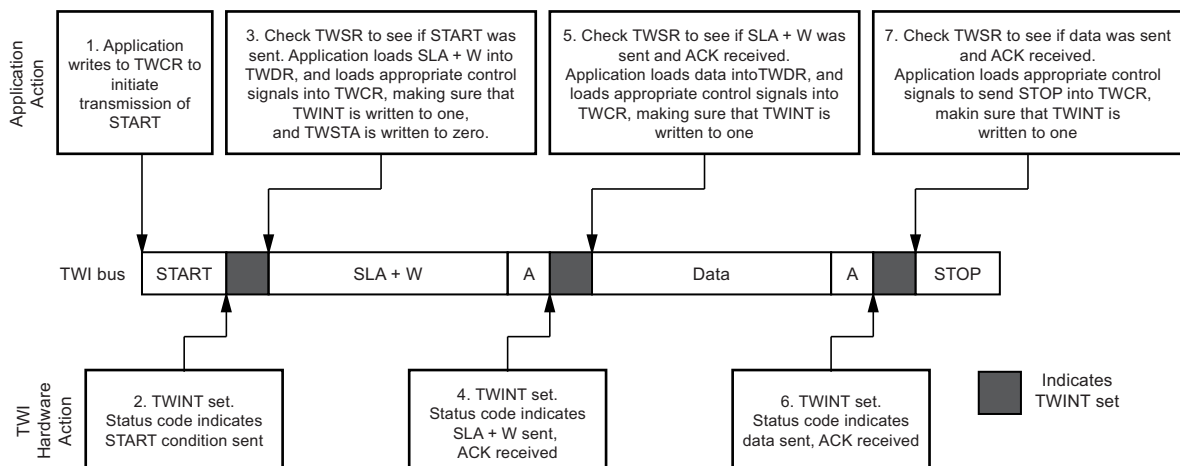
21.6 Using the TWI

The AVR[®] TWI is byte-oriented and interrupt based. Interrupts are issued after all bus events, like reception of a byte or transmission of a START condition. Because the TWI is interrupt-based, the application software is free to carry on other operations during a TWI byte transfer. Note that the TWI interrupt enable (TWIE) bit in TWCR together with the global interrupt enable bit in SREG allow the application to decide whether or not assertion of the TWINT flag should generate an interrupt request. If the TWIE bit is cleared, the application must poll the TWINT flag in order to detect actions on the TWI bus.

When the TWINT flag is asserted, the TWI has finished an operation and awaits application response. In this case, the TWI status register (TWSR) contains a value indicating the current state of the TWI bus. The application software can then decide how the TWI should behave in the next TWI bus cycle by manipulating the TWCR and TWDR registers.

Figure 21-10 is a simple example of how the application can interface to the TWI hardware. In this example, a master wishes to transmit a single data byte to a slave. This description is quite abstract, a more detailed explanation follows later in this section. A simple code example implementing the desired behavior is also presented.

Figure 21-10. Interfacing the Application to the TWI in a Typical Transmission



1. The first step in a TWI transmission is to transmit a START condition. This is done by writing a specific value into TWCR, instructing the TWI hardware to transmit a START condition. Which value to write is described later on. However, it is important that the TWINT bit is set in the value written. Writing a one to TWINT clears the flag. The TWI will not start any operation as long as the TWINT bit in TWCR is set. Immediately after the application has cleared TWINT, the TWI will initiate transmission of the START condition.
2. When the START condition has been transmitted, the TWINT flag in TWCR is set, and TWSR is updated with a status code indicating that the START condition has successfully been sent.
3. The application software should now examine the value of TWSR, to make sure that the START condition was successfully transmitted. If TWSR indicates otherwise, the application software might take some special action, like calling an error routine. Assuming that the status code is as expected, the application must load SLA+W into TWDR. Remember that TWDR is used both for address and data. After TWDR has been loaded with the desired SLA+W, a specific value must be written to TWCR, instructing the TWI hardware to transmit the SLA+W present in TWDR. Which value to write is described later on. However, it is important that the TWINT bit is set in the value written. Writing a one to TWINT clears the flag. The TWI will not start any operation as long as the TWINT bit in TWCR is set. Immediately after the application has cleared TWINT, the TWI will initiate transmission of the address packet.
4. When the address packet has been transmitted, the TWINT flag in TWCR is set, and TWSR is updated with a status code indicating that the address packet has successfully been sent. The status code will also reflect whether a slave acknowledged the packet or not.
5. The application software should now examine the value of TWSR, to make sure that the address packet was successfully transmitted, and that the value of the ACK bit was as expected. If TWSR indicates otherwise, the application software might take some special action, like calling an error routine. Assuming that the status code is as expected, the application must load a data packet into TWDR. Subsequently, a specific value must be written to TWCR, instructing the TWI hardware to transmit the data packet present in TWDR. Which value to write is described later on.
However, it is important that the TWINT bit is set in the value written. Writing a one to TWINT clears the flag. The TWI will not start any operation as long as the TWINT bit in TWCR is set. Immediately after the application has cleared TWINT, the TWI will initiate transmission of the data packet.
6. When the data packet has been transmitted, the TWINT flag in TWCR is set, and TWSR is updated with a status code indicating that the data packet has successfully been sent. The status code will also reflect whether a slave acknowledged the packet or not.
7. The application software should now examine the value of TWSR, to make sure that the data packet was successfully transmitted, and that the value of the ACK bit was as expected. If TWSR indicates otherwise, the application software might take some special action, like calling an error routine. Assuming that the status code is as expected, the application must write a specific value to TWCR, instructing the TWI hardware to transmit a STOP condition. Which value to write is described later on. However, it is important that the TWINT bit is set in the value written. Writing a one to TWINT clears the flag. The TWI will not start any operation as long as the TWINT bit in TWCR is set. Immediately after the application has cleared TWINT, the TWI will initiate transmission of the STOP condition. Note that TWINT is NOT set after a STOP condition has been sent.

Even though this example is simple, it shows the principles involved in all TWI transmissions. These can be summarized as follows:

- When the TWI has finished an operation and expects application response, the TWINT flag is set. The SCL line is pulled low until TWINT is cleared.
- When the TWINT flag is set, the user must update all TWI registers with the value relevant for the next TWI bus cycle. As an example, TWDR must be loaded with the value to be transmitted in the next bus cycle.
- After all TWI register updates and other pending application software tasks have been completed, TWCR is written. When writing TWCR, the TWINT bit should be set. Writing a one to TWINT clears the flag. The TWI will then commence executing whatever operation was specified by the TWCR setting.

In the following an assembly and C implementation of the example is given. Note that the code below assumes that several definitions have been made, for example by using include-files.

Table 21-2. Assembly code Example

	Assembly Code Example	C Example	Comments
1	ldi r16, (1<<TWINT) (1<<TWSTA) (1<<TWEN) out TWCR, r16	TWCR = (1<<TWINT) (1<<TWSTA) (1<<TWEN)	Send START condition
2	wait1: in r16, TWCR sbrs r16, TWINT rjmp wait1	while (!(TWCR & (1<<TWINT))) ;	Wait for TWINT flag set. This indicates that the START condition has been transmitted
3	in r16, TWSR andi r16, 0xF8 cpi r16, START brne ERROR ldi r16, SLA_W out TWDR, r16 ldi r16, (1<<TWINT) (1<<TWEN) out TWCR, r16	if ((TWSR & 0xF8) != START) ERROR(); TWDR = SLA_W; TWCR = (1<<TWINT) (1<<TWEN);	Check value of TWI status register. Mask prescaler bits. If status different from START go to ERROR Load SLA_W into TWDR register. Clear TWINT bit in TWCR to start transmission of address
4	wait2: in r16, TWCR sbrs r16, TWINT rjmp wait2	while (!(TWCR & (1<<TWINT))) ;	Wait for TWINT flag set. This indicates that the SLA+W has been transmitted, and ACK/NACK has been received.
5	in r16, TWSR andi r16, 0xF8 cpi r16, MT_SLA_ACK brne ERROR ldi r16, DATA out TWDR, r16 ldi r16, (1<<TWINT) (1<<TWEN) out TWCR, r16	if ((TWSR & 0xF8) != MT_SLA_ACK) ERROR(); TWDR = DATA; TWCR = (1<<TWINT) (1<<TWEN);	Check value of TWI status register. Mask prescaler bits. If status different from MT_SLA_ACK go to ERROR Load DATA into TWDR register. clear TWINT bit in TWCR to start transmission of data
6	wait3: in r16, TWCR sbrs r16, TWINT rjmp wait3	while (!(TWCR & (1<<TWINT))) ;	Wait for TWINT flag set. This indicates that the DATA has been transmitted, and ACK/NACK has been received.
7	in r16, TWSR andi r16, 0xF8 cpi r16, MT_DATA_ACK brne ERROR ldi r16, (1<<TWINT) (1<<TWEN) (1<<TWSTO) out TWCR, r16	if ((TWSR & 0xF8) != MT_DATA_ACK) ERROR(); TWCR = (1<<TWINT) (1<<TWEN) (1<<TWSTO);	Check value of TWI status register. Mask prescaler bits. If status different from MT_DATA_ACK go to ERROR Transmit STOP condition

21.7 Transmission Modes

The TWI can operate in one of four major modes. These are named master transmitter (MT), master receiver (MR), slave transmitter (ST) and slave receiver (SR). Several of these modes can be used in the same application. As an example, the TWI can use MT mode to write data into a TWI EEPROM, MR mode to read the data back from the EEPROM. If other masters are present in the system, some of these might transmit data to the TWI, and then SR mode would be used. It is the application software that decides which modes are legal.

The following sections describe each of these modes. Possible status codes are described along with figures detailing data transmission in each of the modes. These figures contain the following abbreviations:

- S: START condition
- Rs: REPEATED START condition
- R: Read bit (high level at SDA)
- W: Write bit (low level at SDA)
- A: Acknowledge bit (low level at SDA)
- \bar{A} : Not acknowledge bit (high level at SDA)
- Data: 8-bit data byte
- P: STOP condition
- SLA: Slave address

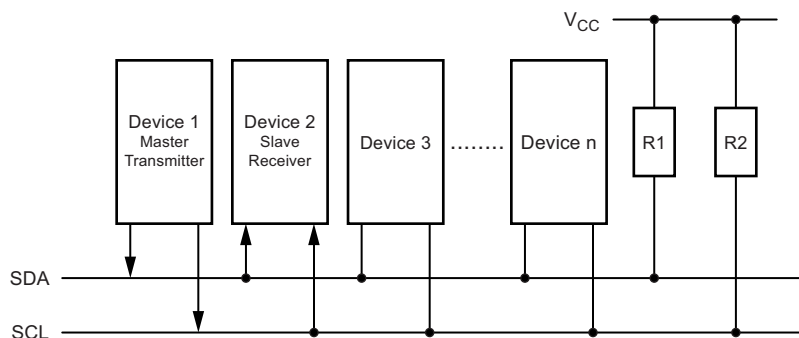
In [Figure 21-12 on page 187](#) to [Figure 21-18 on page 196](#), circles are used to indicate that the TWINT flag is set. The numbers in the circles show the status code held in TWSR, with the prescaler bits masked to zero. At these points, actions must be taken by the application to continue or complete the TWI transfer. The TWI transfer is suspended until the TWINT flag is cleared by software.

When the TWINT flag is set, the status code in TWSR is used to determine the appropriate software action. For each status code, the required software action and details of the following serial transfer are given in [Table 21-3 on page 186](#) to [Table 21-6 on page 195](#). Note that the prescaler bits are masked to zero in these tables.

21.7.1 Master Transmitter Mode

In the master transmitter mode, a number of data bytes are transmitted to a slave receiver (see [Figure 21-11](#)). In order to enter a master mode, a START condition must be transmitted. The format of the following address packet determines whether master transmitter or master receiver mode is to be entered. If SLA+W is transmitted, MT mode is entered, if SLA+R is transmitted, MR mode is entered. All the status codes mentioned in this section assume that the prescaler bits are zero or are masked to zero.

Figure 21-11. Data Transfer in Master Transmitter Mode



A START condition is sent by writing the following value to TWCR:

TWCR	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	–	TWIE
value	1	X	1	0	X	1	0	X

TWEN must be set to enable the 2-wire serial interface, TWSTA must be written to one to transmit a START condition and TWINT must be written to one to clear the TWINT flag. The TWI will then test the 2-wire serial bus and generate a START condition as soon as the bus becomes free. After a START condition has been transmitted, the TWINT flag is set by hardware, and the status code in TWSR will be 0x08 (see [Table 21-3](#)). In order to enter MT mode, SLA+W must be transmitted. This is done by writing SLA+W to TWDR. Thereafter the TWINT bit should be cleared (by writing it to one) to continue the transfer. This is accomplished by writing the following value to TWCR:

TWCR	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	–	TWIE
value	1	X	0	0	X	1	0	X

When SLA+W have been transmitted and an acknowledgement bit has been received, TWINT is set again and a number of status codes in TWSR are possible. Possible status codes in master mode are 0x18, 0x20, or 0x38. The appropriate action to be taken for each of these status codes is detailed in [Table 21-3](#).

When SLA+W has been successfully transmitted, a data packet should be transmitted. This is done by writing the data byte to TWDR. TWDR must only be written when TWINT is high. If not, the access will be discarded, and the write collision bit (TWWC) will be set in the TWCR register. After updating TWDR, the TWINT bit should be cleared (by writing it to one) to continue the transfer. This is accomplished by writing the following value to TWCR:

TWCR	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	–	TWIE
value	1	X	0	0	X	1	0	X

This scheme is repeated until the last byte has been sent and the transfer is ended by generating a STOP condition or a repeated START condition. A STOP condition is generated by writing the following value to TWCR:

TWCR	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	–	TWIE
value	1	X	0	1	X	1	0	X

A REPEATED START condition is generated by writing the following value to TWCR:

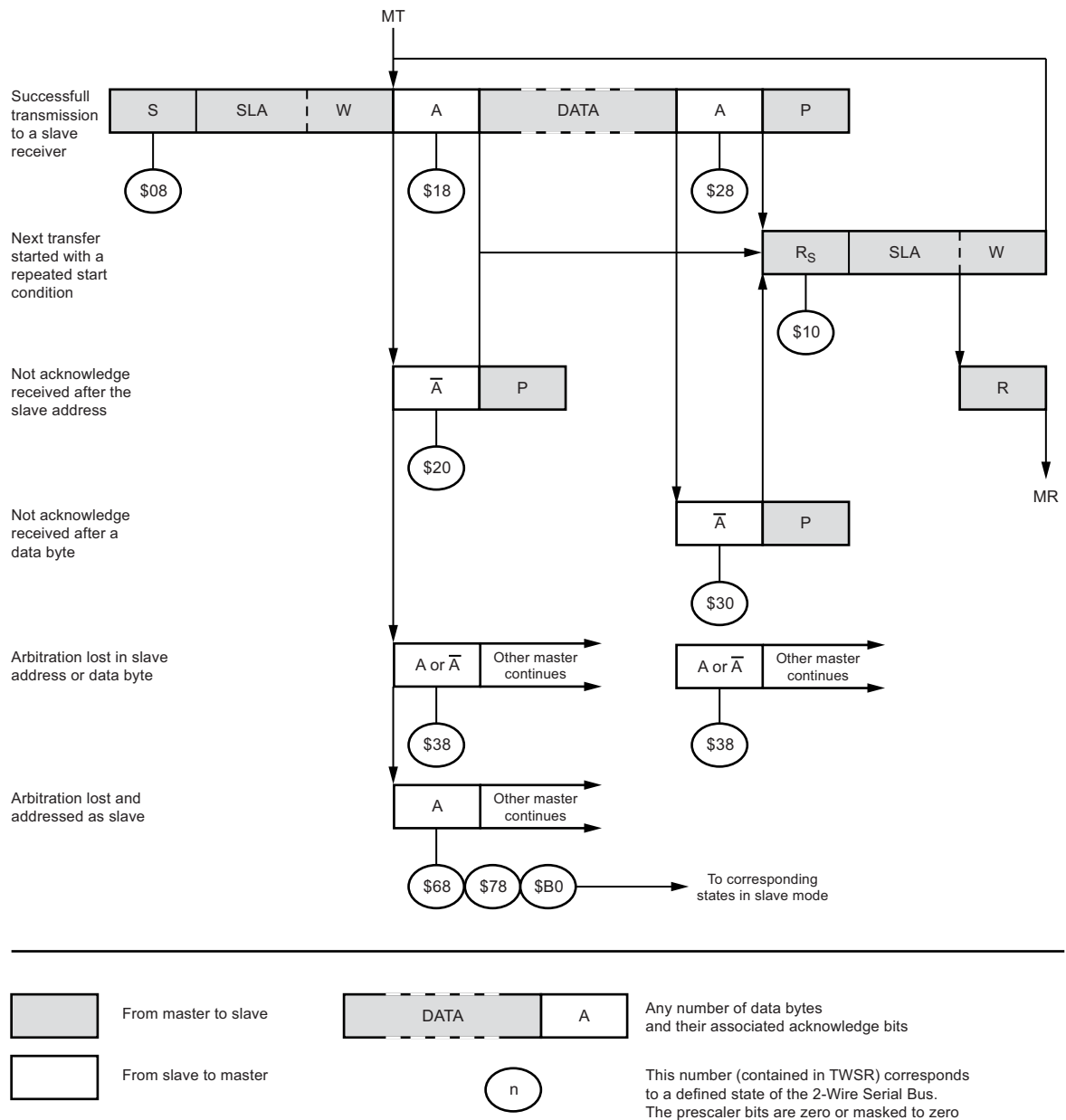
TWCR	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	–	TWIE
value	1	X	1	0	X	1	0	X

After a repeated START condition (state 0x10) the 2-wire serial interface can access the same slave again, or a new slave without transmitting a STOP condition. Repeated START enables the master to switch between slaves, master transmitter mode and master receiver mode without losing control of the bus.

Table 21-3. Status Codes for Master Transmitter Mode

Status Code (TWSR) Prescaler Bits are 0	Status of the 2-wire Serial Bus and 2-wire Serial Interface Hardware	Application Software Response					Next Action Taken by TWI Hardware
		To/from TWDR	To TWCR				
			STA	STO	TWINT	TWEA	
0x08	A START condition has been transmitted	Load SLA+W	0	0	1	X	SLA+W will be transmitted; ACK or NOT ACK will be received
0x10	A repeated START condition has been transmitted	Load SLA+W or	0	0	1	X	SLA+W will be transmitted; ACK or NOT ACK will be received
		Load SLA+R	0	0	1	X	SLA+R will be transmitted; Logic will switch to master receiver mode
0x18	SLA+W has been transmitted; ACK has been received	Load data byte or	0	0	1	X	Data byte will be transmitted and ACK or NOT ACK will be received
		No TWDR action or No TWDR action or	1 0	0 1	1 1	X X	Repeated START will be transmitted STOP condition will be transmitted and TWSTO Flag will be reset
		No TWDR action	1	1	1	X	STOP condition followed by a START condition will be transmitted and TWSTO flag will be reset
0x20	SLA+W has been transmitted; NOT ACK has been received	Load data byte or	0	0	1	X	Data byte will be transmitted and ACK or NOT ACK will be received
		No TWDR action or No TWDR action or	1 0	0 1	1 1	X X	Repeated START will be transmitted STOP condition will be transmitted and TWSTO flag will be reset
		No TWDR action	1	1	1	X	STOP condition followed by a START condition will be transmitted and TWSTO flag will be reset
0x28	Data byte has been transmitted; ACK has been received	Load data byte or	0	0	1	X	Data byte will be transmitted and ACK or NOT ACK will be received
		No TWDR action or No TWDR action or	1 0	0 1	1 1	X X	Repeated START will be transmitted STOP condition will be transmitted and TWSTO flag will be reset
		No TWDR action	1	1	1	X	STOP condition followed by a START condition will be transmitted and TWSTO flag will be reset
0x30	Data byte has been transmitted; NOT ACK has been received	Load data byte or	0	0	1	X	Data byte will be transmitted and ACK or NOT ACK will be received
		No TWDR action or No TWDR action or	1 0	0 1	1 1	X X	Repeated START will be transmitted STOP condition will be transmitted and TWSTO flag will be reset
		No TWDR action	1	1	1	X	STOP condition followed by a START condition will be transmitted and TWSTO flag will be reset
0x38	Arbitration lost in SLA+W or data bytes	No TWDR action or	0	0	1	X	2-wire Serial Bus will be released and not addressed Slave mode entered
		No TWDR action	1	0	1	X	A START condition will be transmitted when the bus becomes free

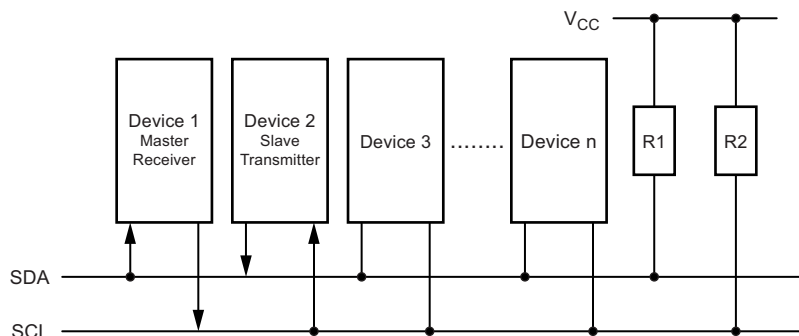
Figure 21-12. Formats and States in the Master Transmitter Mode



21.7.2 Master Receiver Mode

In the master receiver mode, a number of data bytes are received from a slave transmitter (slave see [Figure 21-13](#)). In order to enter a master mode, a START condition must be transmitted. The format of the following address packet determines whether master transmitter or master receiver mode is to be entered. If SLA+W is transmitted, MT mode is entered, if SLA+R is transmitted, MR mode is entered. All the status codes mentioned in this section assume that the prescaler bits are zero or are masked to zero.

Figure 21-13. Data Transfer in Master Receiver Mode



A START condition is sent by writing the following value to TWCR:

TWCR	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	–	TWIE
value	1	X	1	0	X	1	0	X

TWEN must be written to one to enable the 2-wire serial interface, TWSTA must be written to one to transmit a START condition and TWINT must be set to clear the TWINT flag. The TWI will then test the 2-wire serial bus and generate a START condition as soon as the bus becomes free. After a START condition has been transmitted, the TWINT flag is set by hardware, and the status code in TWSR will be 0x08 (See [Table 21-3 on page 186](#)). In order to enter MR mode, SLA+R must be transmitted. This is done by writing SLA+R to TWDR. Thereafter the TWINT bit should be cleared (by writing it to one) to continue the transfer. This is accomplished by writing the following value to TWCR:

TWCR	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	–	TWIE
value	1	X	0	0	X	1	0	X

When SLA+R have been transmitted and an acknowledgement bit has been received, TWINT is set again and a number of status codes in TWSR are possible. Possible status codes in master mode are 0x38, 0x40, or 0x48. The appropriate action to be taken for each of these status codes is detailed in [Table 21-4 on page 189](#). Received data can be read from the TWDR register when the TWINT flag is set high by hardware. This scheme is repeated until the last byte has been received. After the last byte has been received, the MR should inform the ST by sending a NACK after the last received data byte. The transfer is ended by generating a STOP condition or a repeated START condition. A STOP condition is generated by writing the following value to TWCR:

TWCR	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	–	TWIE
value	1	X	0	1	X	1	0	X

A REPEATED START condition is generated by writing the following value to TWCR:

TWCR	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	–	TWIE
value	1	X	1	0	X	1	0	X

After a repeated START condition (state 0x10) the 2-wire serial interface can access the same slave again, or a new slave without transmitting a STOP condition. Repeated START enables the master to switch between slaves, master transmitter mode and master receiver mode without losing control over the bus.

Table 21-4. Status Codes for Master Receiver Mode

Status Code (TWSR) Prescaler Bits are 0	Status of the 2-wire Serial Bus and 2-wire Serial Interface Hardware	Application Software Response					Next Action Taken by TWI Hardware
		To/from TWDR	To TWCR				
			STA	STO	TWINT	TWEA	
0x08	A START condition has been transmitted	Load SLA+R	0	0	1	X	SLA+R will be transmitted ACK or NOT ACK will be received
0x10	A repeated START condition has been transmitted	Load SLA+R or	0	0	1	X	SLA+R will be transmitted ACK or NOT ACK will be received
		Load SLA+W	0	0	1	X	SLA+W will be transmitted logic will switch to master transmitter mode
0x38	Arbitration lost in SLA+R or NOT ACK bit	No TWDR action or	0	0	1	X	2-wire serial bus will be released and not addressed slave mode will be entered
		No TWDR action	1	0	1	X	A START condition will be transmitted when the bus becomes free
0x40	SLA+R has been transmitted; ACK has been received	No TWDR action or	0	0	1	0	Data byte will be received and NOT ACK will be returned
		No TWDR action	0	0	1	1	Data byte will be received and ACK will be returned
0x48	SLA+R has been transmitted; NOT ACK has been received	No TWDR action or	1	0	1	X	Repeated START will be transmitted
		No TWDR action or	0	1	1	X	STOP condition will be transmitted and TWSTO flag will be reset
		No TWDR action	1	1	1	X	STOP condition followed by a START condition will be transmitted and TWSTO flag will be reset
0x50	Data byte has been received; ACK has been returned	Read data byte or	0	0	1	0	Data byte will be received and NOT ACK will be returned
		Read data byte	0	0	1	1	Data byte will be received and ACK will be returned
0x58	Data byte has been received; NOT ACK has been returned	Read data byte or	1	0	1	X	Repeated START will be transmitted
		Read data byte or	0	1	1	X	STOP condition will be transmitted and TWSTO flag will be reset
		Read data byte	1	1	1	X	STOP condition followed by a START condition will be transmitted and TWSTO flag will be reset

The diagram illustrates the 2-Wire Serial Bus protocol with the following components and scenarios:

- Legend:**
 - Gray box: From master to slave
 - White box: From slave to master
- Successful reception:**
 - Sequence: S (\$08) → SLA → R → A (\$40) → DATA → A (\$50) → DATA → \bar{A} (\$58) → P (\$10).
 - Labels: "Successful reception from a slave receiver", "Next transfer started with a repeated start condition".
- Not acknowledge received:**
 - Sequence: A (\$48) → P.
 - Label: "Not acknowledge received after the slave address".
- Arbitration lost in slave address or data byte:**
 - Sequence: A or \bar{A} (\$38) → Other master continues.
 - Label: "Arbitration lost in slave address or data byte".
- Arbitration lost and addressed as slave:**
 - Sequence: A (\$68, \$78, \$B0) → Other master continues.
 - Label: "Arbitration lost and addressed as slave".
- Final State:**
 - Sequence: W → MT.
 - Label: "To corresponding states in slave mode".

In the slave receiver mode, a number of data bytes are received from a master transmitter (see [Figure 21-15](#)). All the status codes mentioned in this section assume that the prescaler bits are zero or are masked to zero.

The diagram illustrates a multi-master/slave I2C bus configuration. It features two horizontal lines representing the SDA (Serial Data) and SCL (Serial Clock) buses. Above the SDA line, there are four rectangular blocks representing devices: 'Device 1 Slave Receiver', 'Device 2 Master Transmitter', 'Device 3', and 'Device n'. Arrows indicate the direction of data flow: Device 1 has two arrows pointing up to the SDA line, Device 2 has two arrows pointing down to the SDA line, and Device 3 and Device n each have one arrow pointing down to the SDA line. Above the SCL line, there are two rectangular blocks representing resistors, 'R1' and 'R2', connected to a common Vcc supply line. The SCL line is connected to the bottom of both resistors. The SDA line is connected to the bottom of Device 1, Device 2, Device 3, and Device n. The Vcc supply line is connected to the top of both resistors and the top of Device 1, Device 2, Device 3, and Device n.

To initiate the slave receiver mode, TWAR and TWCR must be initialized as follows:

TWAR	TWA6	TWA5	TWA4	TWA3	TWA2	TWA1	TWA0	TWGCE
value	Device's own slave address							

The upper 7 bits are the address to which the 2-wire serial interface will respond when addressed by a master. If the LSB is set, the TWI will respond to the general call address (0x00), otherwise it will ignore the general call address.

TWCR	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	–	TWIE
value	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	X

TWEN must be written to one to enable the TWI. The TWEA bit must be written to one to enable the acknowledgement of the device's own slave address or the general call address. TWSTA and TWSTO must be written to zero.

When TWAR and TWCR have been initialized, the TWI waits until it is addressed by its own slave address (or the general call address if enabled) followed by the data direction bit. If the direction bit is "0" (write), the TWI will operate in SR mode, otherwise ST mode is entered. After its own slave address and the write bit have been received, the TWINT flag is set and a valid status code can be read from TWSR. The status code is used to determine the appropriate software action. The appropriate action to be taken for each status code is detailed in [Table 21-5](#). The slave receiver mode may also be entered if arbitration is lost while the TWI is in the master mode (see states 0x68 and 0x78).

If the TWEA bit is reset during a transfer, the TWI will return a "not acknowledge" ("1") to SDA after the next received data byte. This can be used to indicate that the slave is not able to receive any more bytes. While TWEA is zero, the TWI does not acknowledge its own slave address. However, the 2-wire serial bus is still monitored and address recognition may resume at any time by setting TWEA. This implies that the TWEA bit may be used to temporarily isolate the TWI from the 2-wire serial bus.

In all sleep modes other than Idle mode, the clock system to the TWI is turned off. If the TWEA bit is set, the interface can still acknowledge its own slave address or the general call address by using the 2-wire serial bus clock as a clock source. The part will then wake up from sleep and the TWI will hold the SCL clock low during the wake up and until the TWINT flag is cleared (by writing it to one). Further data reception will be carried out as normal, with the AVR® clocks running as normal. Observe that if the AVR is set up with a long start-up time, the SCL line may be held low for a long time, blocking other data transmissions.

Note that the 2-wire serial interface data register – TWDR does not reflect the last byte present on the bus when waking up from these sleep modes.

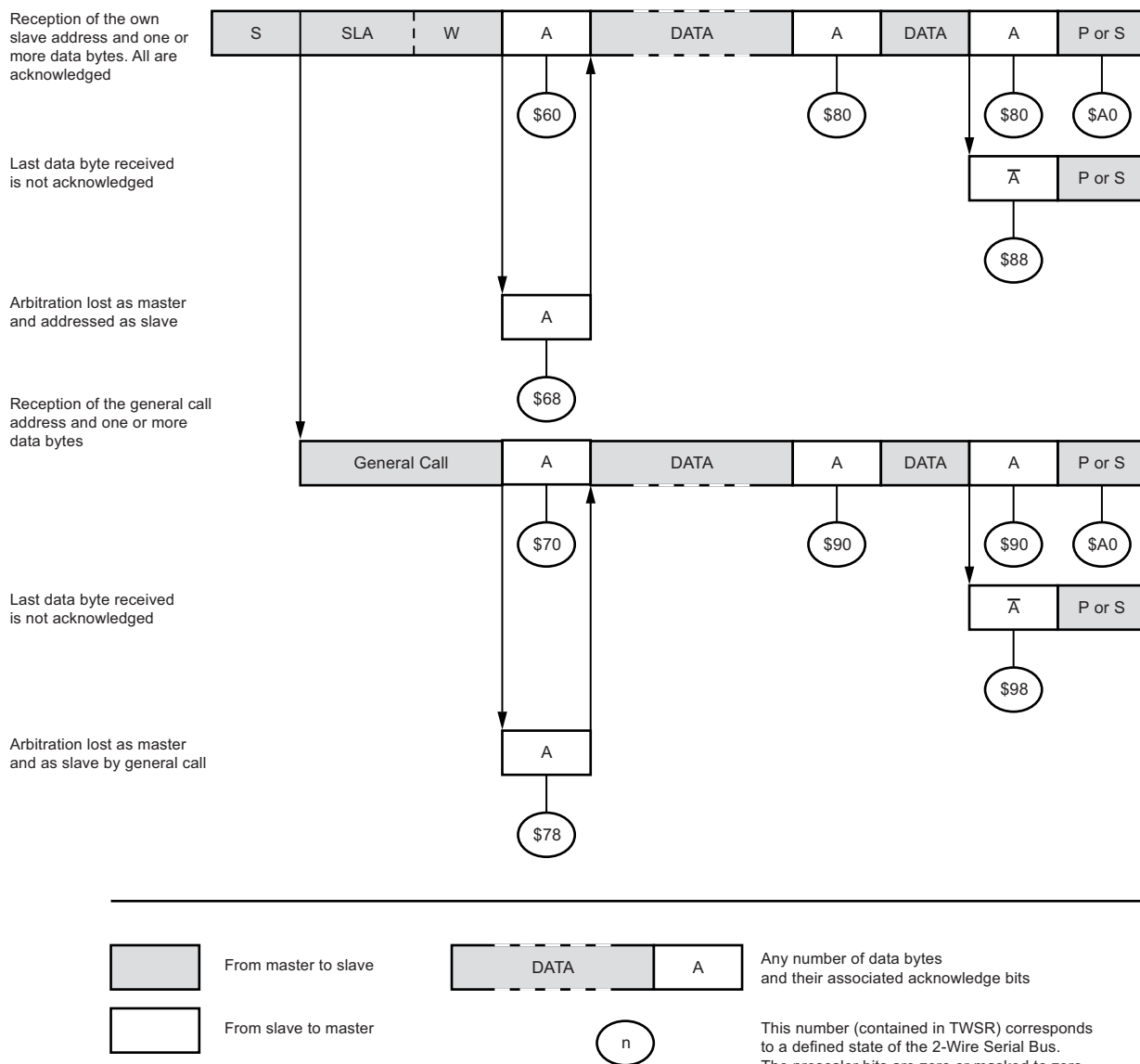
Table 21-5. Status Codes for Slave Receiver Mode

Status Code (TWSR) Prescaler Bits are 0	Status of the 2-wire Serial Bus and 2-wire Serial Interface Hardware	Application Software Response					Next Action Taken by TWI Hardware
		To/from TWDR	To TWCR				
			STA	STO	TWINT	TWEA	
0x60	Own SLA+W has been received; ACK has been returned	No TWDR action or	X	0	1	0	Data byte will be received and NOT ACK will be returned
		No TWDR action	X	0	1	1	Data byte will be received and ACK will be returned
0x68	Arbitration lost in SLA+R/W as Master; own SLA+W has been received; ACK has been returned	No TWDR action or	X	0	1	0	Data byte will be received and NOT ACK will be returned
		No TWDR action	X	0	1	1	Data byte will be received and ACK will be returned
0x70	General call address has been received; ACK has been returned	No TWDR action or	X	0	1	0	Data byte will be received and NOT ACK will be returned
		No TWDR action	X	0	1	1	Data byte will be received and ACK will be returned
0x78	Arbitration lost in SLA+R/W as Master; General call address has been received; ACK has been returned	No TWDR action or	X	0	1	0	Data byte will be received and NOT ACK will be returned
		No TWDR action	X	0	1	1	Data byte will be received and ACK will be returned
0x80	Previously addressed with own SLA+W; data has been received; ACK has been returned	Read data byte or	X	0	1	0	Data byte will be received and NOT ACK will be returned
		Read data byte	X	0	1	1	Data byte will be received and ACK will be returned

Table 21-5. Status Codes for Slave Receiver Mode (Continued)

Status Code (TWSR) Prescaler Bits are 0	Status of the 2-wire Serial Bus and 2-wire Serial Interface Hardware	Application Software Response					Next Action Taken by TWI Hardware
		To/from TWDR	To TWCR				
			STA	STO	TWINT	TWEA	
0x88	Previously addressed with own SLA+W; data has been received; NOT ACK has been returned	Read data byte or	0	0	1	0	Switched to the not addressed Slave mode; no recognition of own SLA or GCA
		Read data byte or	0	0	1	1	Switched to the not addressed Slave mode; own SLA will be recognized; GCA will be recognized if TWGCE = “1”
		Read data byte or	1	0	1	0	Switched to the not addressed Slave mode; no recognition of own SLA or GCA; a START condition will be transmitted when the bus becomes free
		Read data byte	1	0	1	1	Switched to the not addressed Slave mode; own SLA will be recognized; GCA will be recognized if TWGCE = “1”; a START condition will be transmitted when the bus becomes free
0x90	Previously addressed with general call; data has been received; ACK has been returned	Read data byte or	X	0	1	0	Data byte will be received and NOT ACK will be returned
		Read data byte	X	0	1	1	Data byte will be received and ACK will be returned
0x98	Previously addressed with general call; data has been received; NOT ACK has been returned	Read data byte or	0	0	1	0	Switched to the not addressed Slave mode; no recognition of own SLA or GCA
		Read data byte or	0	0	1	1	Switched to the not addressed Slave mode; own SLA will be recognized; GCA will be recognized if TWGCE = “1”
		Read data byte or	1	0	1	0	Switched to the not addressed Slave mode; no recognition of own SLA or GCA; a START condition will be transmitted when the bus becomes free
		Read data byte	1	0	1	1	Switched to the not addressed Slave mode; own SLA will be recognized; GCA will be recognized if TWGCE = “1”; a START condition will be transmitted when the bus becomes free
0xA0	A STOP condition or repeated START condition has been received while still addressed as slave	No action	0	0	1	0	Switched to the not addressed Slave mode; no recognition of own SLA or GCA
			0	0	1	1	Switched to the not addressed Slave mode; own SLA will be recognized; GCA will be recognized if TWGCE = “1”
			1	0	1	0	Switched to the not addressed Slave mode; no recognition of own SLA or GCA; a START condition will be transmitted when the bus becomes free
			1	0	1	1	Switched to the not addressed Slave mode; own SLA will be recognized; GCA will be recognized if TWGCE = “1”; a START condition will be transmitted when the bus becomes free

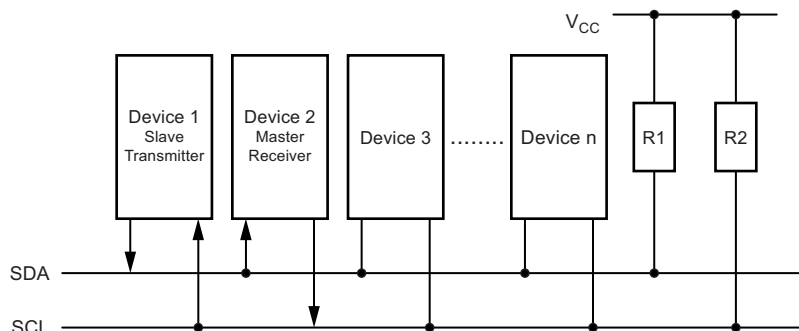
Figure 21-16. Formats and States in the Slave Receiver Mode



21.7.4 Slave Transmitter Mode

In the slave transmitter mode, a number of data bytes are transmitted to a master receiver (see Figure 21-17). All the status codes mentioned in this section assume that the prescaler bits are zero or are masked to zero.

Figure 21-17. Data Transfer in Slave Transmitter Mode



To initiate the slave transmitter mode, TWAR and TWCR must be initialized as follows:

TWAR	TWA6	TWA5	TWA4	TWA3	TWA2	TWA1	TWA0	TWGCE
value	Device's Own Slave Address							

The upper seven bits are the address to which the 2-wire serial interface will respond when addressed by a master. If the LSB is set, the TWI will respond to the general call address (0x00), otherwise it will ignore the general call address.

TWCR	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	–	TWIE
value	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	X

TWEN must be written to one to enable the TWI. The TWEA bit must be written to one to enable the acknowledgement of the device's own slave address or the general call address. TWSTA and TWSTO must be written to zero.

When TWAR and TWCR have been initialized, the TWI waits until it is addressed by its own slave address (or the general call address if enabled) followed by the data direction bit. If the direction bit is "1" (read), the TWI will operate in ST mode, otherwise SR mode is entered. After its own slave address and the write bit have been received, the TWINT flag is set and a valid status code can be read from TWSR. The status code is used to determine the appropriate software action. The appropriate action to be taken for each status code is detailed in Table 21-6 on page 195. The slave transmitter mode may also be entered if arbitration is lost while the TWI is in the master mode (see state 0xB0).

If the TWEA bit is written to zero during a transfer, the TWI will transmit the last byte of the transfer. State 0xC0 or state 0xC8 will be entered, depending on whether the master receiver transmits a NACK or ACK after the final byte. The TWI is switched to the not addressed slave mode, and will ignore the master if it continues the transfer. Thus the master receiver receives all "1" as serial data. State 0xC8 is entered if the master demands additional data bytes (by transmitting ACK), even though the slave has transmitted the last byte (TWEA zero and expecting NACK from the master).

While TWEA is zero, the TWI does not respond to its own slave address. However, the 2-wire serial bus is still monitored and address recognition may resume at any time by setting TWEA. This implies that the TWEA bit may be used to temporarily isolate the TWI from the 2-wire serial bus.

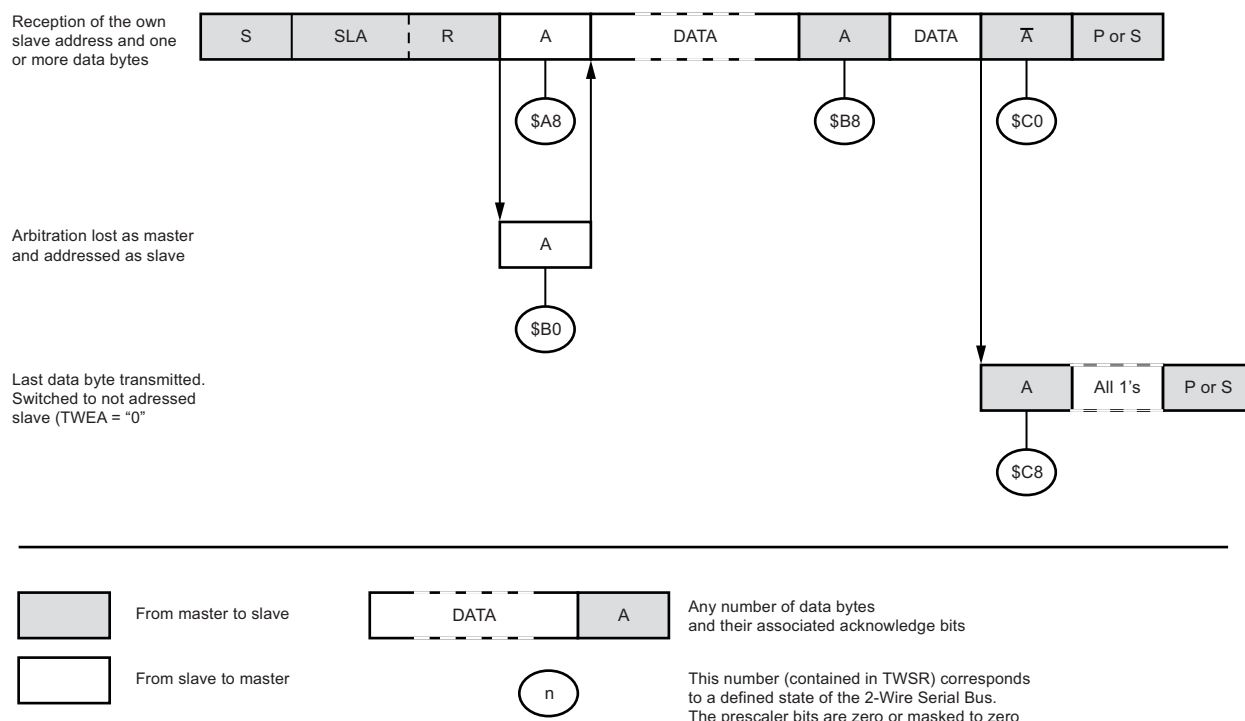
In all sleep modes other than idle mode, the clock system to the TWI is turned off. If the TWEA bit is set, the interface can still acknowledge its own slave address or the general call address by using the 2-wire serial bus clock as a clock source. The part will then wake up from sleep and the TWI will hold the SCL clock low during the wake up and until the TWINT flag is cleared (by writing it to one). Further data transmission will be carried out as normal, with the AVR® clocks running as normal. Observe that if the AVR is set up with a long start-up time, the SCL line may be held low for a long time, blocking other data transmissions.

Note that the 2-wire serial interface data register – TWDR does not reflect the last byte present on the bus when waking up from these sleep modes.

Table 21-6. Status Codes for Slave Transmitter Mode

Status Code (TWSR) Prescaler Bits are 0	Status of the 2-wire Serial Bus and 2-wire Serial Interface Hardware	Application Software Response					Next Action Taken by TWI Hardware
		To/from TWDR	To TWCR				
			STA	STO	TWINT	TWEA	
0xA8	Own SLA+R has been received; ACK has been returned	Load data byte or	X	0	1	0	Last data byte will be transmitted and NOT ACK should be received Data byte will be transmitted and ACK should be received
		Load data byte	X	0	1	1	
0xB0	Arbitration lost in SLA+R/W as Master; own SLA+R has been received; ACK has been returned	Load data byte or	X	0	1	0	Last data byte will be transmitted and NOT ACK should be received Data byte will be transmitted and ACK should be received
		Load data byte	X	0	1	1	
0xB8	Data byte in TWDR has been transmitted; ACK has been received	Load data byte or	X	0	1	0	Last data byte will be transmitted and NOT ACK should be received Data byte will be transmitted and ACK should be received
		Load data byte	X	0	1	1	
0xC0	Data byte in TWDR has been transmitted; NOT ACK has been received	No TWDR action or	0	0	1	0	Switched to the not addressed Slave mode; no recognition of own SLA or GCA Switched to the not addressed slave mode; own SLA will be recognized; GCA will be recognized if TWGCE = “1” Switched to the not addressed Slave mode; no recognition of own SLA or GCA; a START condition will be transmitted when the bus becomes free Switched to the not addressed Slave mode; own SLA will be recognized; GCA will be recognized if TWGCE = “1”; a START condition will be transmitted when the bus becomes free
		No TWDR action or	0	0	1	1	
		No TWDR action or	1	0	1	0	
		No TWDR action	1	0	1	1	
0xC8	Last data byte in TWDR has been transmitted (TWEA = “0”); ACK has been received	No TWDR action or	0	0	1	0	Switched to the not addressed slave mode; no recognition of own SLA or GCA Switched to the not addressed Slave mode; own SLA will be recognized; GCA will be recognized if TWGCE = “1” Switched to the not addressed Slave mode; no recognition of own SLA or GCA; a START condition will be transmitted when the bus becomes free Switched to the not addressed Slave mode; own SLA will be recognized; GCA will be recognized if TWGCE = “1”; a START condition will be transmitted when the bus becomes free
		No TWDR action or	0	0	1	1	
		No TWDR action or	1	0	1	0	
		No TWDR action	1	0	1	1	

Figure 21-18. Formats and States in the Slave Transmitter Mode



21.7.5 Miscellaneous States

There are two status codes that do not correspond to a defined TWI state, see [Table 21-7](#).

Status 0xF8 indicates that no relevant information is available because the TWINT flag is not set. This occurs between other states, and when the TWI is not involved in a serial transfer.

Status 0x00 indicates that a bus error has occurred during a 2-wire serial bus transfer. A bus error occurs when a START or STOP condition occurs at an illegal position in the format frame. Examples of such illegal positions are during the serial transfer of an address byte, a data byte, or an acknowledge bit. When a bus error occurs, TWINT is set. To recover from a bus error, the TWSTO flag must set and TWINT must be cleared by writing a logic one to it. This causes the TWI to enter the not addressed slave mode and to clear the TWSTO flag (no other bits in TWCR are affected). The SDA and SCL lines are released, and no STOP condition is transmitted.

Table 21-7. Miscellaneous States

Status Code (TWSR) Prescaler Bits are 0	Status of the 2-wire Serial Bus and 2-wire Serial Interface Hardware	Application Software Response					Next Action Taken by TWI Hardware
		To/from TWDR	To TWCR				
			STA	STO	TWINT	TWEA	
0xF8	No relevant state information available; TWINT = “0”	No TWDR action	No TWCR action				Wait or proceed current transfer
0x00	Bus error due to an illegal START or STOP condition	No TWDR action	0	1	1	X	Only the internal hardware is affected, no STOP condition is sent on the bus. In all cases, the bus is released and TWSTO is cleared.

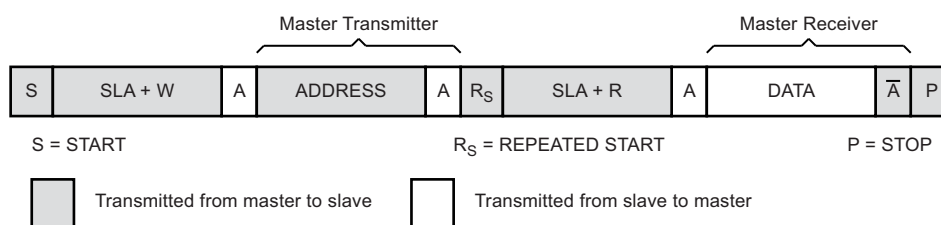
21.7.6 Combining Several TWI Modes

In some cases, several TWI modes must be combined in order to complete the desired action. Consider for example reading data from a serial EEPROM. Typically, such a transfer involves the following steps:

1. The transfer must be initiated.
2. The EEPROM must be instructed what location should be read.
3. The reading must be performed.
4. The transfer must be finished.

Note that data is transmitted both from master to slave and vice versa. The master must instruct the slave what location it wants to read, requiring the use of the MT mode. Subsequently, data must be read from the slave, implying the use of the MR mode. Thus, the transfer direction must be changed. The master must keep control of the bus during all these steps, and the steps should be carried out as an atomical operation. If this principle is violated in a multi master system, another Master can alter the data pointer in the EEPROM between steps 2 and 3, and the master will read the wrong data location. Such a change in transfer direction is accomplished by transmitting a REPEATED START between the transmission of the address byte and reception of the data. After a REPEATED START, the master keeps ownership of the bus. The following figure shows the flow in this transfer.

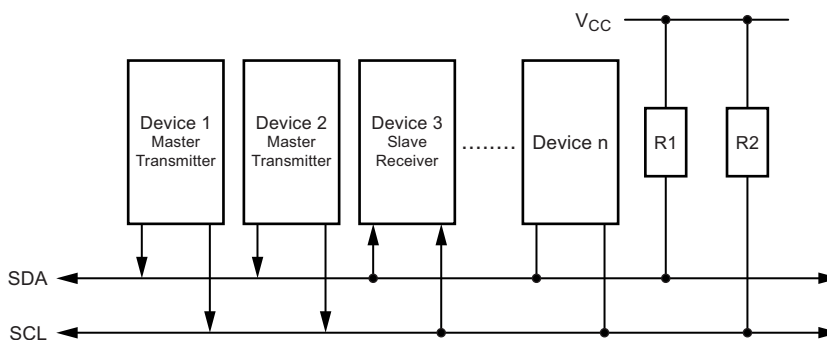
Figure 21-19. Combining Several TWI Modes to Access a Serial EEPROM



21.8 Multi-master Systems and Arbitration

If multiple masters are connected to the same bus, transmissions may be initiated simultaneously by one or more of them. The TWI standard ensures that such situations are handled in such a way that one of the masters will be allowed to proceed with the transfer, and that no data will be lost in the process. An example of an arbitration situation is depicted below, where two masters are trying to transmit data to a slave receiver.

Figure 21-20. An Arbitration Example

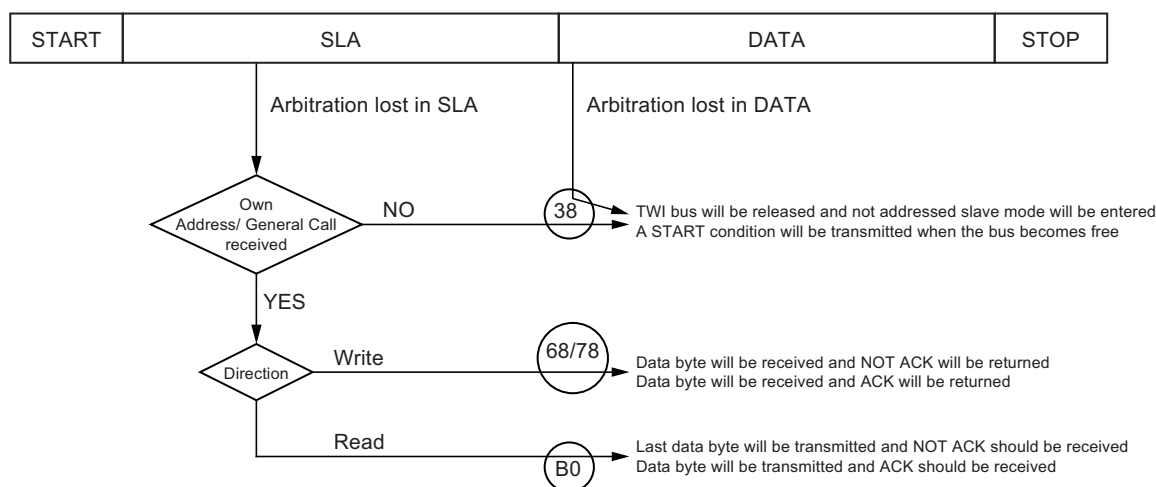


Several different scenarios may arise during arbitration, as described below:

- Two or more masters are performing identical communication with the same slave. In this case, neither the slave nor any of the masters will know about the bus contention.
- Two or more masters are accessing the same slave with different data or direction bit. In this case, arbitration will occur, either in the READ/WRITE bit or in the data bits. The masters trying to output a one on SDA while another Master outputs a zero will lose the arbitration. Losing masters will switch to not addressed Slave mode or wait until the bus is free and transmit a new START condition, depending on application software action.
- Two or more masters are accessing different slaves. In this case, arbitration will occur in the SLA bits. Masters trying to output a one on SDA while another master outputs a zero will lose the arbitration. Masters losing arbitration in SLA will switch to slave mode to check if they are being addressed by the winning master. If addressed, they will switch to SR or ST mode, depending on the value of the READ/WRITE bit. If they are not being addressed, they will switch to not addressed slave mode or wait until the bus is free and transmit a new START condition, depending on application software action.

This is summarized in [Figure 21-21](#). Possible status values are given in circles.

Figure 21-21. Possible Status Codes Caused by Arbitration



21.9 Register Description

21.9.1 TWBR – TWI Bit Rate Register

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
(0xB8)	TWBR7	TWBR6	TWBR5	TWBR4	TWBR3	TWBR2	TWBR1	TWBR0	TWBR
Read/Write	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	
Initial Value	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

• Bits 7.0 – TWI Bit Rate Register

TWBR selects the division factor for the bit rate generator. The bit rate generator is a frequency divider which generates the SCL clock frequency in the master modes. See [Section 21.5.2 "Bit Rate Generator Unit" on page 180](#) for calculating bit rates.

21.9.2 TWCR – TWI Control Register

Bit (0xBC)	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	–	TWIE	TWCR
Read/Write	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R	R/W	R	R/W	
Initial Value	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

The TWCR is used to control the operation of the TWI. It is used to enable the TWI, to initiate a master access by applying a START condition to the bus, to generate a receiver acknowledge, to generate a stop condition, and to control halting of the bus while the data to be written to the bus are written to the TWDR. It also indicates a write collision if data is attempted written to TWDR while the register is inaccessible.

- **Bit 7 – TWINT: TWI Interrupt Flag**

This bit is set by hardware when the TWI has finished its current job and expects application software response. If the I-bit in SREG and TWIE in TWCR are set, the MCU will jump to the TWI interrupt vector. While the TWINT flag is set, the SCL low period is stretched. The TWINT flag must be cleared by software by writing a logic one to it. Note that this flag is not automatically cleared by hardware when executing the interrupt routine. Also note that clearing this flag starts the operation of the TWI, so all accesses to the TWI address register (TWAR), TWI status register (TWSR), and TWI data register (TWDR) must be complete before clearing this flag.

- **Bit 6 – TWEA: TWI Enable Acknowledge Bit**

The TWEA bit controls the generation of the acknowledge pulse. If the TWEA bit is written to one, the ACK pulse is generated on the TWI bus if the following conditions are met:

1. The device's own slave address has been received.
2. A general call has been received, while the TWGCE bit in the TWAR is set.
3. A data byte has been received in master receiver or slave receiver mode.

By writing the TWEA bit to zero, the device can be virtually disconnected from the 2-wire serial bus temporarily. Address recognition can then be resumed by writing the TWEA bit to one again.

- **Bit 5 – TWSTA: TWI START Condition Bit**

The application writes the TWSTA bit to one when it desires to become a master on the 2-wire serial bus. The TWI hardware checks if the bus is available, and generates a START condition on the bus if it is free. However, if the bus is not free, the TWI waits until a STOP condition is detected, and then generates a new START condition to claim the bus master status. TWSTA must be cleared by software when the START condition has been transmitted.

- **Bit 4 – TWSTO: TWI STOP Condition Bit**

Writing the TWSTO bit to one in master mode will generate a STOP condition on the 2-wire serial bus. When the STOP condition is executed on the bus, the TWSTO bit is cleared automatically. In slave mode, setting the TWSTO bit can be used to recover from an error condition. This will not generate a STOP condition, but the TWI returns to a well-defined unaddressed slave mode and releases the SCL and SDA lines to a high impedance state.

- **Bit 3 – TWWC: TWI Write Collision Flag**

The TWWC bit is set when attempting to write to the TWI data register – TWDR when TWINT is low. This flag is cleared by writing the TWDR register when TWINT is high.

- **Bit 2 – TWEN: TWI Enable Bit**

The TWEN bit enables TWI operation and activates the TWI interface. When TWEN is written to one, the TWI takes control over the I/O pins connected to the SCL and SDA pins, enabling the slew-rate limiters and spike filters. If this bit is written to zero, the TWI is switched off and all TWI transmissions are terminated, regardless of any ongoing operation.

- **Bit 1 – Res: Reserved Bit**

This bit is a reserved bit and will always read as zero.

- **Bit 0 – TWIE: TWI Interrupt Enable**

When this bit is written to one, and the I-bit in SREG is set, the TWI interrupt request will be activated for as long as the TWINT flag is high.

21.9.3 TWSR – TWI Status Register

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
(0xB9)	TWS7	TWS6	TWS5	TWS4	TWS3	–	TWPS1	TWPS0	TWSR
Read/Write	R	R	R	R	R	R	R/W	R/W	
Initial Value	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	

- **Bits 7..3 – TWS: TWI Status**

These 5 bits reflect the status of the TWI logic and the 2-wire serial bus. The different status codes are described later in this section. Note that the value read from TWSR contains both the 5-bit status value and the 2-bit prescaler value. The application designer should mask the prescaler bits to zero when checking the status bits. This makes status checking independent of prescaler setting. This approach is used in this datasheet, unless otherwise noted.

- **Bit 2 – Res: Reserved Bit**

This bit is reserved and will always read as zero.

- **Bits 1..0 – TWPS: TWI Prescaler Bits**

These bits can be read and written, and control the bit rate prescaler.

Table 21-8. TWI Bit Rate Prescaler

TWPS1	TWPS0	Prescaler Value
0	0	1
0	1	4
1	0	16
1	1	64

To calculate bit rates, see [Section 21.5.2 “Bit Rate Generator Unit” on page 180](#). The value of TWPS1..0 is used in the equation.

21.9.4 TWDR – TWI Data Register

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
(0xBB)	TWD7	TWD6	TWD5	TWD4	TWD3	TWD2	TWD1	TWD0	TWDR
Read/Write	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	
Initial Value	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	

In transmit mode, TWDR contains the next byte to be transmitted. In receive mode, the TWDR contains the last byte received. It is writable while the TWI is not in the process of shifting a byte. This occurs when the TWI interrupt flag (TWINT) is set by hardware. Note that the data register cannot be initialized by the user before the first interrupt occurs. The data in TWDR remains stable as long as TWINT is set. While data is shifted out, data on the bus is simultaneously shifted in. TWDR always contains the last byte present on the bus, except after a wake up from a sleep mode by the TWI interrupt. In this case, the contents of TWDR is undefined.

In the case of a lost bus arbitration, no data is lost in the transition from master to slave. Handling of the ACK bit is controlled automatically by the TWI logic, the CPU cannot access the ACK bit directly.

- **Bits 7..0 – TWD: TWI Data Register**

These eight bits constitute the next data byte to be transmitted, or the latest data byte received on the 2-wire serial bus.

21.9.5 TWAR – TWI (Slave) Address Register

Bit (0xBA)	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
	TWA6	TWA5	TWA4	TWA3	TWA2	TWA1	TWA0	TWGCE	TWAR
Read/Write	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	
Initial Value	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	

The TWAR should be loaded with the 7-bit slave address (in the seven most significant bits of TWAR) to which the TWI will respond when programmed as a slave transmitter or receiver, and not needed in the master modes. In multi master systems, TWAR must be set in masters which can be addressed as slaves by other masters.

The LSB of TWAR is used to enable recognition of the general call address (0x00). There is an associated address comparator that looks for the slave address (or general call address if enabled) in the received serial address. If a match is found, an interrupt request is generated.

- **Bits 7..1 – TWA: TWI (Slave) Address Register**

These seven bits constitute the slave address of the TWI unit.

- **Bit 0 – TWGCE: TWI General Call Recognition Enable Bit**

If set, this bit enables the recognition of a general call given over the 2-wire serial bus.

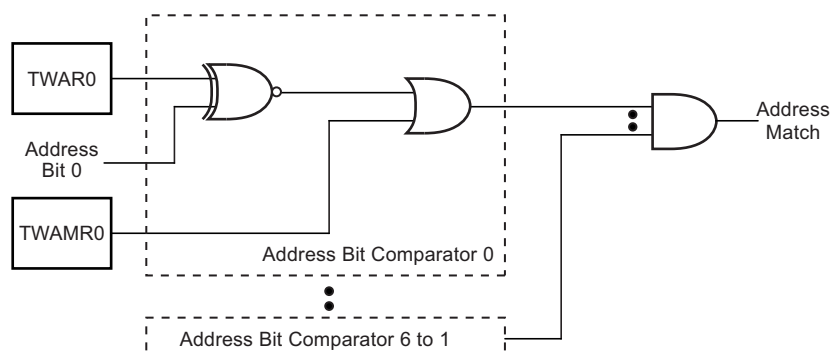
21.9.6 TWAMR – TWI (Slave) Address Mask Register

Bit (0xBD)	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
	TWAM[6:0]							–	TWAMR
Read/Write	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R	
Initial Value	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

- **Bits 7..1 – TWAM: TWI Address Mask**

The TWAMR can be loaded with a 7-bit slave address mask. Each of the bits in TWAMR can mask (disable) the corresponding address bits in the TWI address register (TWAR). If the mask bit is set to one then the address match logic ignores the compare between the incoming address bit and the corresponding bit in TWAR. Figure 21-22 shown the address match logic in detail.

Figure 21-22. TWI Address Match Logic, Block Diagram



- **Bit 0 – Res: Reserved Bit**

This bit is an unused bit in the ATmega328P, and will always read as zero.