# 21. USART in SPI Mode

## 21.1 Features

- **Full Duplex, Three-wire Synchronous Data Transfer**
- **Master Operation**
- **Supports all four SPI Modes of Operation (Mode 0, 1, 2, and 3)**
- **LSB First or MSB First Data Transfer (Configurable Data Order)**
- **Queued Operation (Double Buffered)**
- **High Resolution Baud Rate Generator**
- **High Speed Operation ($f_{XCKmax} = f_{CK}/2$)**
- **Flexible Interrupt Generation**

## 21.2 Overview

The Universal Synchronous and Asynchronous serial Receiver and Transmitter (USART) can be set to a master SPI compliant mode of operation.

Setting both UMSELn1:0 bits to one enables the USART in MSPIM logic. In this mode of operation the SPI master control logic takes direct control over the USART resources. These resources include the transmitter and receiver shift register and buffers, and the baud rate generator. The parity generator and checker, the data and clock recovery logic, and the RX and TX control logic is disabled. The USART RX and TX control logic is replaced by a common SPI transfer control logic. However, the pin control logic and interrupt generation logic is identical in both modes of operation.

The I/O register locations are the same in both modes. However, some of the functionality of the control registers changes when using MSPIM.

## 21.3 Clock Generation

The Clock Generation logic generates the base clock for the Transmitter and Receiver. For USART MSPIM mode of operation only internal clock generation (i.e. master operation) is supported. The Data Direction Register for the XCKn pin (DDR_XCKn) must therefore be set to one (i.e. as output) for the USART in MSPIM to operate correctly. Preferably the DDR_XCKn should be set up before the USART in MSPIM is enabled (i.e. TXENn and RXENn bit set to one).

The internal clock generation used in MSPIM mode is identical to the USART synchronous master mode. The baud rate or UBRRn setting can therefore be calculated using the same equations, see Table 21-1:

**Table 21-1.** Equations for Calculating Baud Rate Register Setting

| Operating Mode | Equation for Calculating Baud Rate[1] | Equation for Calculating UBRRn Value |
|---|---|---|
| Synchronous Master mode | $BAUD = \frac{f_{OSC}}{2(\boldsymbol{UBRR}n + 1)}$ | $\boldsymbol{UBRR}n = \frac{f_{OSC}}{2BAUD} - 1$ |

Note: 1. The baud rate is defined to be the transfer rate in bit per second (bps)

**BAUD** Baud rate (in bits per second, bps)

$\mathbf{f_{osc}}$ System Oscillator clock frequency

**UBRRn** Contents of the UBRRnH and UBRRnL Registers, (0-4095)

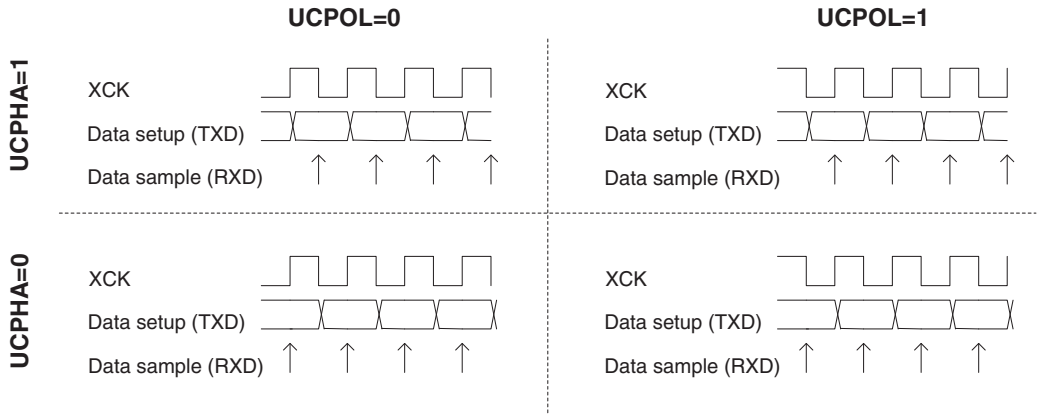
## 21.4 SPI Data Modes and Timing

There are four combinations of XCKn (SCK) phase and polarity with respect to serial data, which are determined by control bits UCPHAn and UCPOLn. The data transfer timing diagrams are shown in Figure 21-1. Data bits are shifted out and latched in on opposite edges of the XCKn signal, ensuring sufficient time for data signals to stabilize. The UCPOLn and UCPHAn functionality is summarized in Table 21-2. Note that changing the setting of any of these bits will corrupt all ongoing communication for both the Receiver and Transmitter.

**Table 21-2.** UCPOLn and UCPHAn Functionality-

| UCPOLn | UCPHAn | SPI Mode | Leading Edge | Trailing Edge |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 0 | 0 | Sample (Rising) | Setup (Falling) |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | Setup (Rising) | Sample (Falling) |
| 1 | 0 | 2 | Sample (Falling) | Setup (Rising) |
| 1 | 1 | 3 | Setup (Falling) | Sample (Rising) |

**Figure 21-1.** UCPHAn and UCPOLn data transfer timing diagrams.




## 21.5 Frame Formats

A serial frame for the MSPIM is defined to be one character of 8 data bits. The USART in MSPIM mode has two valid frame formats:

- 8-bit data with MSB first
- 8-bit data with LSB first

A frame starts with the least or most significant data bit. Then the next data bits, up to a total of eight, are succeeding, ending with the most or least significant bit accordingly. When a complete frame is transmitted, a new frame can directly follow it, or the communication line can be set to an idle (high) state.

The UDORDn bit in UCSRnC sets the frame format used by the USART in MSPIM mode. 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.

16-bit data transfer can be achieved by writing two data bytes to UDRn. A UART transmit complete interrupt will then signal that the 16-bit value has been shifted out.

### 21.5.1 USART MSPIM Initialization

The USART in MSPIM mode has to be initialized before any communication can take place. The initialization process normally consists of setting the baud rate, setting master mode of operation (by setting DDR_XCKn to one), setting frame format and enabling the Transmitter and the Receiver. Only the transmitter can operate independently. For interrupt driven USART operation, the Global Interrupt Flag should be cleared (and thus interrupts globally disabled) when doing the initialization.

Note: To ensure immediate initialization of the XCKn output the baud-rate register (UBRRn) must be zero at the time the transmitter is enabled. Contrary to the normal mode USART operation the UBRRn must then be written to the desired value after the transmitter is enabled, but before the first transmission is started. Setting UBRRn to zero before enabling the transmitter is not necessary if the initialization is done immediately after a reset since UBRRn is reset to zero.

Before doing a re-initialization with changed baud rate, data mode, or frame format, be sure that there is no ongoing transmissions during the period the registers are changed. The TXCn Flag can be used to check that the Transmitter has completed all transfers, and the RXCn Flag can

be used to check that there are no unread data in the receive buffer. Note that the TXCn Flag must be cleared before each transmission (before UDRn is written) if it is used for this purpose.

The following simple USART initialization code examples show one assembly and one C function that are equal in functionality. The examples assume polling (no interrupts enabled). The baud rate is given as a function parameter. For the assembly code, the baud rate parameter is assumed to be stored in the r17:r16 registers.

Assembly Code Example[1]

```
USART_Init:
  clr r18
  out UBRRnH,r18
  out UBRRnL,r18
  ; Setting the XCKn port pin as output, enables master mode.
  sbi XCKn_DDR, XCKn
  ; Set MSPI mode of operation and SPI data mode 0.
  ldi r18, (1<<UMSELn1)|(1<<UMSELn0)|(0<<UCPHAn)|(0<<UCPOLn)
  out UCSRnC,r18
  ; Enable receiver and transmitter.
  ldi r18, (1<<RXENn)|(1<<TXENn)
  out UCSRnB,r18
  ; Set baud rate.
  ; IMPORTANT: The Baud Rate must be set after the transmitter is enabled!
  out UBRRnH, r17
  out UBRRnL, r18
  ret
```

C Code Example[1]

```
void USART_Init( unsigned int baud )
{
  UBRRn = 0;
  /* Setting the XCKn port pin as output, enables master mode. */
  XCKn_DDR |= (1<<XCKn);
  /* Set MSPI mode of operation and SPI data mode 0. */
  UCSRnC = (1<<UMSELn1)|(1<<UMSELn0)|(0<<UCPHAn)|(0<<UCPOLn);
  /* Enable receiver and transmitter. */
  UCSRnB = (1<<RXENn)|(1<<TXENn);
  /* Set baud rate. */
  /* IMPORTANT: The Baud Rate must be set after the transmitter is enabled
  */
  UBRRn = baud;
}
```

Note: 1. See ”About Code Examples” on page 8.

## 21.6 Data Transfer

Using the USART in MSPI mode requires the Transmitter to be enabled, i.e. the TXENn bit in the UCSRnB register is set to one. When the Transmitter is enabled, the normal port operation of the TxDn pin is overridden and given the function as the Transmitter's serial output. Enabling the receiver is optional and is done by setting the RXENn bit in the UCSRnB register to one. When the receiver is enabled, the normal pin operation of the RxDn pin is overridden and given the function as the Receiver's serial input. The XCKn will in both cases be used as the transfer clock.

After initialization the USART is ready for doing data transfers. A data transfer is initiated by writing to the UDRn I/O location. This is the case for both sending and receiving data since the transmitter controls the transfer clock. The data written to UDRn is moved from the transmit buffer to the shift register when the shift register is ready to send a new frame.

Note: To keep the input buffer in sync with the number of data bytes transmitted, the UDRn register must be read once for each byte transmitted. The input buffer operation is identical to normal USART mode, i.e. if an overflow occurs the character last received will be lost, not the first data in the buffer. This means that if four bytes are transferred, byte 1 first, then byte 2, 3, and 4, and the UDRn is not read before all transfers are completed, then byte 3 to be received will be lost, and not byte 1.

The following code examples show a simple USART in MSPIM mode transfer function based on polling of the Data Register Empty (UDREn) Flag and the Receive Complete (RXCn) Flag. The USART has to be initialized before the function can be used. For the assembly code, the data to be sent is assumed to be stored in Register R16 and the data received will be available in the same register (R16) after the function returns.

The function simply waits for the transmit buffer to be empty by checking the UDREn Flag, before loading it with new data to be transmitted. The function then waits for data to be present in the receive buffer by checking the RXCn Flag, before reading the buffer and returning the value.

Assembly Code Example[1]

```
USART_MSPIM_Transfer:
  ; Wait for empty transmit buffer
  in r16, UCSRnA
  sbrs r16, UDREn
  rjmp USART_MSPIM_Transfer
  ; Put data (r16) into buffer, sends the data
  out UDRn,r16
  ; Wait for data to be received
USART_MSPIM_Wait_RXCn:
  in r16, UCSRnA
  sbrs r16, RXCn
  rjmp USART_MSPIM_Wait_RXCn
  ; Get and return received data from buffer
  in r16, UDRn
  ret
```

C Code Example[1]

```
unsigned char USART_Receive( void )
{
  /* Wait for empty transmit buffer */
  while ( !( UCSRnA & (1<<UDREn)) );
  /* Put data into buffer, sends the data */
  UDRn = data;
  /* Wait for data to be received */
  while ( !(UCSRnA & (1<<RXCn)) );
  /* Get and return received data from buffer */
  return UDRn;
}
```

Note: 1. See "About Code Examples" on page 8.

### 21.6.1 Transmitter and Receiver Flags and Interrupts

The RXCn, TXCn, and UDREn flags and corresponding interrupts in USART in MSPIM mode are identical in function to the normal USART operation. However, the receiver error status flags (FE, DOR, and PE) are not in use and is always read as zero.

### 21.6.2 Disabling the Transmitter or Receiver

The disabling of the transmitter or receiver in USART in MSPIM mode is identical in function to the normal USART operation.

## 21.7 AVR USART MSPIM vs. AVR SPI

The USART in MSPIM mode is fully compatible with the AVR SPI regarding:

- Master mode timing diagram.
- The UCPOLn bit functionality is identical to the SPI CPOL bit.
- The UCPHAn bit functionality is identical to the SPI CPHA bit.
- The UDORDn bit functionality is identical to the SPI DORD bit.

However, since the USART in MSPIM mode reuses the USART resources, the use of the USART in MSPIM mode is somewhat different compared to the SPI. In addition to differences of the control register bits, and that only master operation is supported by the USART in MSPIM mode, the following features differ between the two modules:

- The USART in MSPIM mode includes (double) buffering of the transmitter. The SPI has no buffer.
- The USART in MSPIM mode receiver includes an additional buffer level.
- The SPI WCOL (Write Collision) bit is not included in USART in MSPIM mode.
- The SPI double speed mode (SPI2X) bit is not included. However, the same effect is achieved by setting UBRRn accordingly.
- Interrupt timing is not compatible.
- Pin control differs due to the master only operation of the USART in MSPIM mode.

A comparison of the USART in MSPIM mode and the SPI pins is shown in Table 21-3 on page 212.

**Table 21-3.** Comparison of USART in MSPIM mode and SPI pins.

| USART_MSPIM | SPI | Comment |
|---|---|---|
| TxDn | MOSI | Master Out only |
| RxDn | MISO | Master In only |
| XCKn | SCK | (Functionally identical) |
| (N/A) | $\overline{SS}$ | Not supported by USART in MSPIM |

## 21.8 Register Description

The following section describes the registers used for SPI operation using the USART.

### 21.8.1 UDRn – USART MSPIM I/O Data Register

The function and bit description of the USART data register (UDRn) in MSPI mode is identical to normal USART operation. See ”UDRn – USART I/O Data Register n” on page 201.

### 21.8.2 UCSRnA – USART MSPIM Control and Status Register n A

| Bit | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | RXCn | TXCn | UDREn | – | – | – | – | – | UCSRnA |
| Read/Write | R | R/W | R | R | R | R | R | R | |
| Initial Value | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | |

- **Bit 7 – RXCn: USART Receive Complete**

This flag bit is set when there are unread data in the receive buffer and cleared when the receive buffer is empty (i.e., does not contain any unread data). If the Receiver is disabled, the receive buffer will be flushed and consequently the RXCn bit will become zero. The RXCn Flag can be used to generate a Receive Complete interrupt (see description of the RXCIEn bit).

- **Bit 6 – TXCn: USART Transmit Complete**

This flag bit is set when the entire frame in the Transmit Shift Register has been shifted out and there are no new data currently present in the transmit buffer (UDRn). The TXCn Flag bit is automatically cleared when a transmit complete interrupt is executed, or it can be cleared by writing a one to its bit location. The TXCn Flag can generate a Transmit Complete interrupt (see description of the TXCIEn bit).

- **Bit 5 – UDREn: USART Data Register Empty**

The UDREn Flag indicates if the transmit buffer (UDRn) is ready to receive new data. If UDREn is one, the buffer is empty, and therefore ready to be written. The UDREn Flag can generate a Data Register Empty interrupt (see description of the UDRIE bit). UDREn is set after a reset to indicate that the Transmitter is ready.

- **Bit 4:0 – Reserved Bits in MSPI mode**

When in MSPI mode, these bits are reserved for future use. For compatibility with future devices, these bits must be written to zero when UCSRnA is written.

### 21.8.3 UCSRnB – USART MSPIM Control and Status Register n B

| Bit | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | RXCIEn | TXCIEn | UDRIE | RXENn | TXENn | – | - | - | UCSRnB |
| Read/Write | R/W | R/W | R/W | R/W | R/W | R | R | R | |
| Initial Value | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | |

- **Bit 7 – RXCIEn: RX Complete Interrupt Enable**

Writing this bit to one enables interrupt on the RXCn Flag. A USART Receive Complete interrupt will be generated only if the RXCIEn bit is written to one, the Global Interrupt Flag in SREG is written to one and the RXCn bit in UCSRnA is set.

- **Bit 6 – TXCIEn: TX Complete Interrupt Enable**

Writing this bit to one enables interrupt on the TXCn Flag. A USART Transmit Complete interrupt will be generated only if the TXCIEn bit is written to one, the Global Interrupt Flag in SREG is written to one and the TXCn bit in UCSRnA is set.

- **Bit 5 – UDRIE: USART Data Register Empty Interrupt Enable**

Writing this bit to one enables interrupt on the UDREn Flag. A Data Register Empty interrupt will be generated only if the UDRIE bit is written to one, the Global Interrupt Flag in SREG is written to one and the UDREn bit in UCSRnA is set.

- **Bit 4 – RXENn: Receiver Enable**

Writing this bit to one enables the USART Receiver in MSPIM mode. The Receiver will override normal port operation for the RxDn pin when enabled. Disabling the Receiver will flush the receive buffer. Only enabling the receiver in MSPI mode (i.e. setting RXENn=1 and TXENn=0) has no meaning since it is the transmitter that controls the transfer clock and since only master mode is supported.

- **Bit 3 – TXENn: Transmitter Enable**

Writing this bit to one enables the USART Transmitter. The Transmitter will override normal port operation for the TxDn pin when enabled. The disabling of the Transmitter (writing TXENn to zero) will not become effective until ongoing and pending transmissions are completed, i.e., when the Transmit Shift Register and Transmit Buffer Register do not contain data to be transmitted. When disabled, the Transmitter will no longer override the TxDn port.

- **Bit 2:0 – Reserved Bits in MSPI mode**

When in MSPI mode, these bits are reserved for future use. For compatibility with future devices, these bits must be written to zero when UCSRnB is written.

### 21.8.4 UCSRnC – USART MSPIM Control and Status Register n C

| Bit | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | UMSELn1 | UMSELn0 | – | – | – | UDORDn | UCPHAn | UCPOLn | UCSRnC |
| Read/Write | R/W | R/W | R | R | R | R/W | R/W | R/W | |
| Initial Value | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | |

- **Bit 7:6 – UMSELn1:0: USART Mode Select**

These bits select the mode of operation of the USART as shown in Table 21-4. See ”UCSRnC – USART Control and Status Register n C” on page 203 for full description of the normal USART operation. The MSPIM is enabled when both UMSELn bits are set to one. The UDORDn, UCPHAn, and UCPOLn can be set in the same write operation where the MSPIM is enabled.

**Table 21-4.** UMSELn Bits Settings

| UMSELn1 | UMSELn0 | Mode |
|---|---|---|
| 0 | 0 | Asynchronous USART |
| 0 | 1 | Synchronous USART |
| 1 | 0 | Reserved |
| 1 | 1 | Master SPI (MSPIM) |

- **Bit 5:3 – Reserved Bits in MSPI mode**

When in MSPI mode, these bits are reserved for future use. For compatibility with future devices, these bits must be written to zero when UCSRnC is written.

- **Bit 2 – UDORDn: Data Order**

When set to one the LSB of the data word is transmitted first. When set to zero the MSB of the data word is transmitted first. Refer to the Frame Formats section page 4 for details.

- **Bit 1 – UCPHAn: Clock Phase**

The UCPHAn bit setting determine if data is sampled on the leasing edge (first) or tailing (last) edge of XCKn. Refer to the SPI Data Modes and Timing section page 4 for details.

- **Bit 0 – UCPOLn: Clock Polarity**

The UCPOLn bit sets the polarity of the XCKn clock. The combination of the UCPOLn and UCPHAn bit settings determine the timing of the data transfer. Refer to the SPI Data Modes and Timing section page 4 for details.

### 21.8.5 USART MSPIM Baud Rate Registers – UBRRnL and UBRRnH

The function and bit description of the baud rate registers in MSPI mode is identical to normal USART operation. See “UBRRnL and UBRRnH – USART Baud Rate Registers” on page 205.