

Last updated on July 1, 2020

Contents

1 Overview	3
1.1 Features	3
2 Getting Started	4
3 Software installation	6
3.1 Windows	6
3.2 Linux	8
3.3 MacOS	9
4 APIs	10
4.1 Python 2 and 3	10
4.1.1 Reference	12
4.2 C/C++	15
5 Using I²C Driver	16
5.1 The display	16
5.2 The GUI	18
5.3 The command-line tool <code>i2cc1</code>	22
5.4 Monitor mode	23
5.5 Capture mode	23
5.5.1 Command line	24
5.5.2 GUI	24

6 Examples	26
6.1 Color Compass	26
6.2 Egg Timer	27
6.3 Take-a-ticket	27
7 Technical notes	28
7.1 Port names	28
7.2 Decreasing the USB latency timer	28
7.3 Temperature sensor	29
7.4 Raw protocol	30
7.4.1 ?: transmit status info	31
7.4.2 e: echo byte	32
7.4.3 1: set speed to 100 KHz	32
7.4.4 4: set speed to 400 KHz	33
7.4.5 s: START	33
7.4.6 0x80-bf : read 1-64 bytes, NACK the final byte	33
7.4.7 0xc0-ff : write 1-64 bytes	34
7.4.8 a: read N bytes, ACK every byte	34
7.4.9 p: send STOP	34
7.4.10 x: reset I ² C bus	35
7.4.11 r: register read	35
7.4.12 d: scan devices, return 112 status bytes	36
7.4.13 m: enter monitor mode	36
7.4.14 c: enter capture mode	36
7.4.15 b: enter bitbang mode	36
7.4.16 i: leave bitbang, return to I ² C mode.	37
7.4.17 u: set pullup control lines	37
7.4.18 _: reboot	37
7.5 Pull-up resistors	37
7.6 Bitbang mode	38
7.7 Capture mode	40
7.8 Specifications	42
8 Troubleshooting	43
9 Support information	43
Index	44

1 Overview

I²CDriver is an easy-to-use, open source tool for controlling I²C devices. It works with Windows, Mac, and Linux, and has a built-in color screen that shows a live dashboard of all the I²C activity. It uses a standard FTDI USB serial chip to talk to the PC, so no special drivers need to be installed. The board includes a separate 3.3 V supply with voltage and current monitoring.

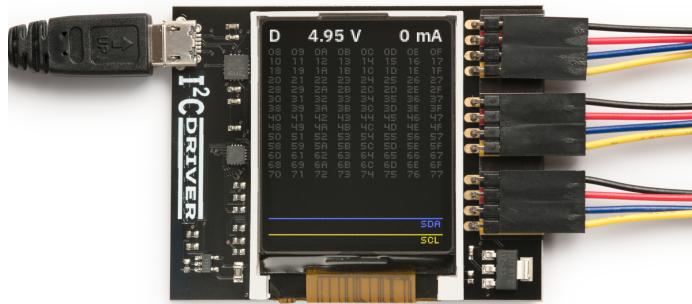
I²CMini is a reduced-size version of I²CDriver suitable for use in embedded devices. It is 100% compatible with I²CDriver but lacks a display, current or voltage monitoring. In every other respect it behaves identically to I²CDriver.

1.1 Features

- **Live display:** shows you exactly what it's doing all the time
- **Supports all I²C features:** 7- and 10-bit I²C addressing, clock stretching, bus arbitration, and sustained I²C transfers at 400 and 100 kHz
- **I²C pullups:** programmable I²C pullup resistors, with automatic tuning
- **USB voltage monitoring:** USB line voltage monitor to detect supply problems, to 0.01 V
- **Target power monitoring:** target device high-side current measurement, to 5 mA
- **Three I²C ports:** three identical I²C ports, each with power and I²C signals
- **Jumpers:** three sets of high-quality color coded 100mm jumpers included
- **3.3 V output:** output levels are 3.3 V, all are 5 V tolerant
- **Sturdy componentry:** uses an FTDI USB serial adapter, and Silicon Labs automotive-grade EFM8 controller
- **Open hardware:** the design, firmware and all tools are under BSD license
- **Flexible control:** GUI, command-line, C/C++, and Python 2/3 host software provided for Windows, Mac, and Linux

2 Getting Started

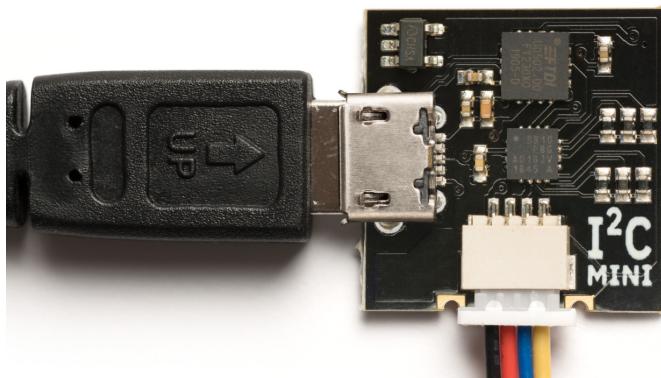
When you first connect I²CDriver to the USB port, the display blinks white for a moment then displays the initial status screen:



Connect the three sets of colored hookup wires as shown, following the same sequence as on the colored label:

GND	black	signal ground
VCC	red	3.3 V supply
SDA	blue	I ² C data
SCL	yellow	I ² C clock

Across the top of the display I²CDriver continuously shows the USB bus voltage and the current output.



I²CMini also has a micro USB connector. Its Qwiic connector is polarized; it attaches as shown. The color coding for the signals is the same as for I²CDriver.

3 Software installation

The source for all the I²CDriver software is the [repository](#). Available are:

- a Windows/Mac/Linux GUI
- a Windows/Mac/Linux command-line
- Python 2 and 3 bindings
- Windows/Mac/Linux C/C++ bindings

Installation of the GUI and command-line utilities varies by platform.

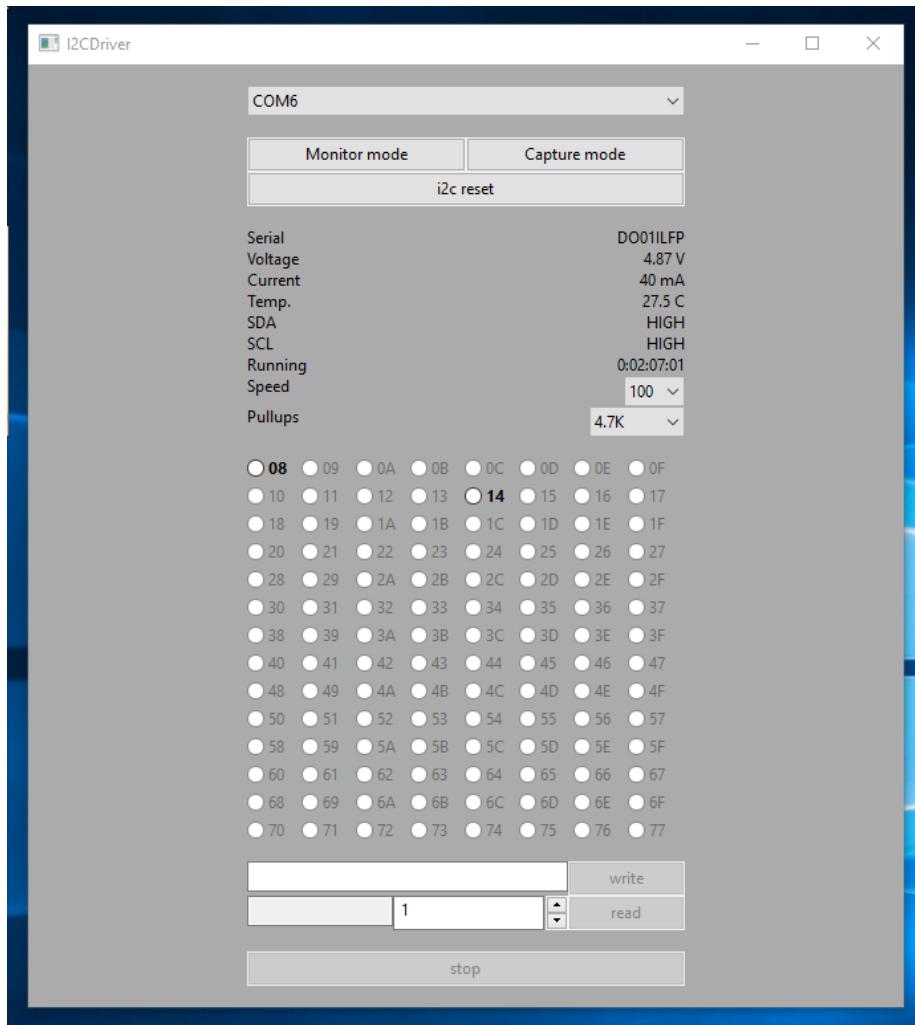
3.1 Windows

This [installer](#) contains the GUI and command-line utilities.

The GUI shortcut is installed on the desktop:



launching it brings up the control window:



If there is only one serial device, the I²CDriver device should be automatically selected. If there is more than one device, select its COM port from the pull-down menu at the top. Once connected, you can select a connected I²C device and write and read data.

The command line utility `i2cc1` is also installed, and added to the Windows PATH. For example to display status information:

```
c:\>i2cc1 COM6 i  
uptime 8991 4.957 V 30 mA 25.8 C SDA=1 SCL=1 speed=100 kHz
```

The COM port can be found using the MODE command to list connected ports. You can use the Device Manager or the MODE command to display the available ports.

The Windows convention for COM10 and above is that they must be prefixed by \\.\, for example:

```
c:\>i2ccl \\.\COM11 i
```

See (section 7.1 "Port names") for details on how to fix a device to a port number permanently.

See below for more information on the command-line syntax.

3.2 Linux

The GUI is included in the `i2cdriver` Python package, compatible with both Python 2 and 3. To install it, open a shell prompt and do:

```
sudo pip install i2cdriver
```

Then run it with

```
i2cgui.py
```

For the command-line tool, clone the [repository](#), then do:

```
cd i2cdriver/c  
make -f linux/Makefile  
sudo make -f linux/Makefile install  
i2ccl /dev/ttyUSB0 i
```

and you should see something like:

```
uptime 1651 4.971 V 0 mA 21.2 C SDA=1 SCL=1 speed=100 kHz
```

3.3 MacOS

The GUI is included in the `i2cdriver` Python package, compatible with both Python 2 and 3. To install it, open a shell prompt and do:

```
sudo pip install i2cdriver
```

Then run it with

```
i2cgui.py
```

For the command-line tool, clone the [repository](#), then do:

```
cd i2cdriver/c  
make -f linux/Makefile  
sudo make -f linux/Makefile install  
i2ccl /dev/cu.usbserial-D000QS8D i
```

(substituting your actual I²CDriver's ID for D000QS8D) and you should see something like:

```
uptime 1651 4.971 V 5 mA 21.2 C SDA=1 SCL=1 speed=100 kHz
```

Note that the port to use is `/dev/cu.usbserial-XXXXXXXX`, as explained [here](#).

4 APIs

4.1 Python 2 and 3

The I²CDriver bindings can be installed with pip like this:

```
pip install i2cdriver
```

then from Python you can read an LM75B temperature sensor with:

```
>>> import i2cdriver
>>> i2c = i2cdriver.I2CDriver("/dev/ttyUSB0")
>>> d=i2cdriver.EDS.Temp(i2c)
>>> d.read()
17.875
>>> d.read()
18.0
```

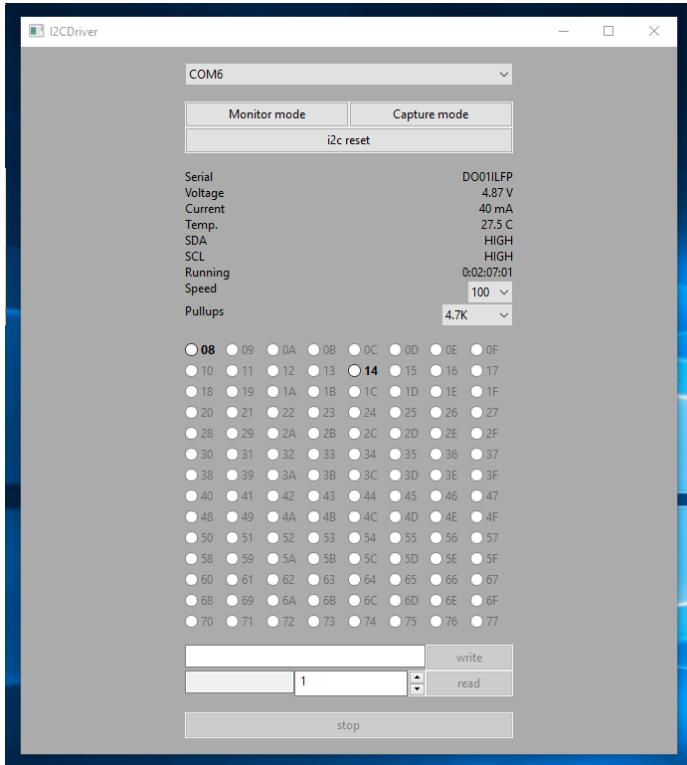
You can print a bus scan with:

```
>>> i2c.scan()
-- -- -- -- --
-- -- -- -- --
-- -- -- 1C -- --
-- -- -- -- --
-- -- -- -- --
-- -- -- -- --
-- -- -- -- --
-- -- -- -- --
48 -- -- -- --
-- -- -- -- --
-- -- -- -- --
-- -- -- -- --
68 -- -- -- --
-- -- -- -- --
[28, 72, 104]
```

The Python GUI (which uses [wxPython](#)) can be run with:

```
python i2cgui.py
```

which depending on your distribution looks something like this:



There are more examples in the [samples folder in the repository](#).

The module has extensive help strings:

```
>>> help(i2cdriver)
```

displays the API documentation.

4.1.1 Reference

```
class i2cdriver.I2CDriver(port='/dev/ttyUSB0', reset=True)
```

A connected I2CDriver.

Variables

- product – product code e.g. i2cdriver1
- serial – serial string of I2CDriver
- uptime – time since I2CDriver boot, in seconds
- voltage – USB voltage, in V
- current – current used by attached device, in mA
- temp – temperature, in degrees C
- scl – state of SCL
- sda – state of SDA
- speed – current device speed in KHz (100 or 400)
- mode – IO mode (I2C or bitbang)
- pullups – programmable pullup enable pins
- ccitt_crc – CCITT-16 CRC of all transmitted and received bytes

```
__init__(port='/dev/ttyUSB0', reset=True)
```

Connect to a hardware i2cdriver.

Parameters

- port (*str*) – The USB port to connect to
- reset (*bool*) – Issue an I2C bus reset on connection

```
setspeed(s)
```

Set the I2C bus speed.

Parameters *s* (*int*) – speed in KHz, either 100 or 400

```
setuppullups(s)
```

Set the I2CDriver pullup resistors

Parameters *s* – 6-bit pullup mask

scan(*silent=False*)

Performs an I²C bus scan. If silent is False, prints a map of devices.
Returns a list of the device addresses.

```
>>> i2c.scan()
-- -- -- -- -- -- -- --
-- -- -- -- -- -- -- --
-- -- -- -- 1C -- -- -- 
-- -- -- -- -- -- -- --
-- -- -- -- -- -- -- --
-- -- -- -- -- -- -- --
-- -- -- -- -- -- -- --
-- -- -- -- -- -- -- --
48 -- -- -- -- -- -- --
-- -- -- -- -- -- -- --
-- -- -- -- -- -- -- --
-- -- -- -- -- -- -- --
68 -- -- -- -- -- -- --
-- -- -- -- -- -- -- --
[28, 72, 104]
```

reset()

Send an I²C bus reset

start(*dev, rw*)

Start an I²C transaction

Parameters

- *dev* – 7-bit I²C device address
- *rw* – read (1) or write (0)

To write bytes [0x12,0x34] to device 0x75:

```
>>> i2c.start(0x75, 0)
>>> i2c.write([0x12,034])
```

(continues on next page)

(continued from previous page)

```
>>> i2c.stop()
```

`read()`

Read *l* bytes from the I²C device, and NAK the last byte

`write(bb)`

Write bytes to the selected I²C device

Parameters *bb* – sequence to write

`stop()`

stop the i2c transaction

`regrd(dev, reg, fmt='B')`

Read a register from a device.

Parameters

- *dev* – 7-bit I²C device address
- *reg* – register address 0-255
- *fmt* – `struct.unpack()` format string for the register contents

If device 0x75 has a 16-bit register 102, it can be read with:

```
>>> i2c.regrd(0x75, 102, ">H")
```

```
4999
```

`regwr(dev, reg, *vv)`

Write a devices register.

Parameters

- *dev* – 7-bit I²C device address
- *reg* – register address 0-255
- *vv* – sequence of values to write

To set device 0x34 byte register 7 to 0xA1:

```
>>> i2c.regwr(0x34, 7, [0xa1])
```

If device 0x75 has a big-endian 16-bit register 102 you can set it to 4999 with:

```
>>> i2c.regwr(0x75, 102, struct.pack(">H", 4999))
```

`monitor(s)`

Enter or leave monitor mode

Parameters `s` – True to enter monitor mode, False to leave

`getstatus()`

Update all status variables

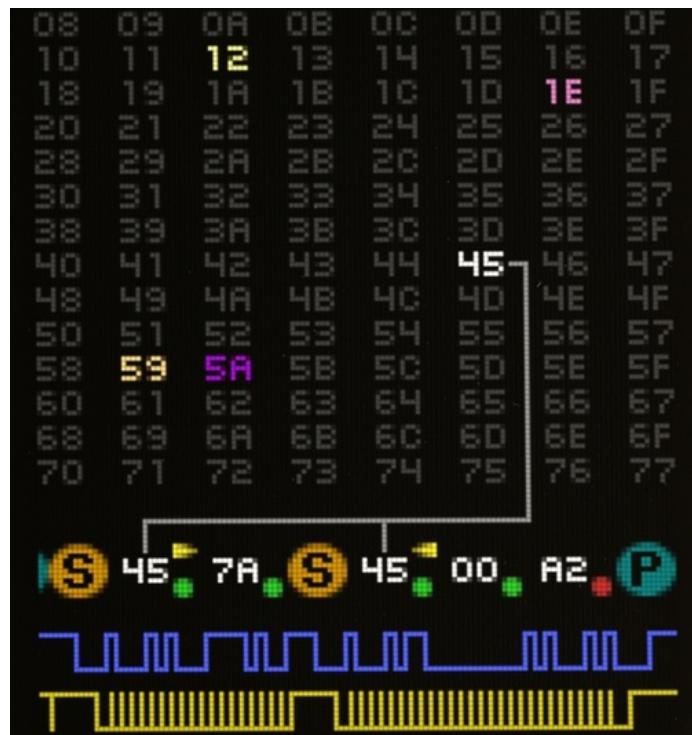
4.2 C/C++

I²CDriver is contained in a single source file with a single header. Both are in [this subdirectory](#). Usage follows the Python API and is fairly self-explanatory.

5 Using I²CDriver

5.1 The display

The main display on the screen has three sections. The top section is a heat-map showing all 112 legal I²C addresses. Addresses that are currently active are white. Inactive addresses fade to yellow, purple and finally blue. The middle section is a symbolic interpretation of current I²C traffic. Details on this are below. The bottom two lines show a representation of the SDA (blue) and SCL (yellow) signals.



The symbolic decode section shows I²C transactions as they happen. Start and stop are shown as **S** and **P** symbols. After a **S** symbol the address byte is shown, with a right arrow (write) or left arrow (read). The gray lines connect the address byte to its heat-map indicator. Following this is a series of data bytes. Each byte is shown in hex, with either a green dot (ACK) or red dot

(NACK).



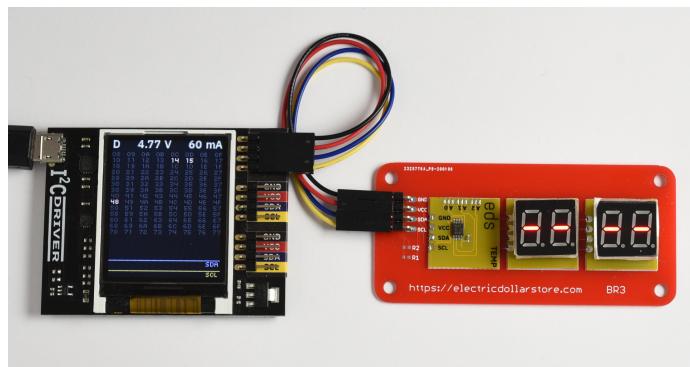
So for example the above sequence is showing

- Start, write to address 45
- Write byte 7A
- Repeated Start, read from address 45
- Read byte 00
- Read byte A2
- Stop

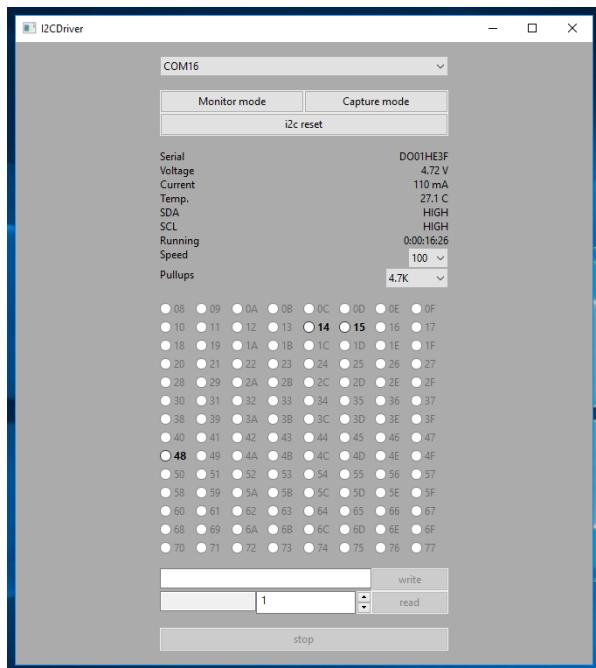
The above sequence is very typical for reading registers from an I²C Device. Note that the final NACK (red dot) is not an error condition, but the standard way of handling the last byte of read transaction.

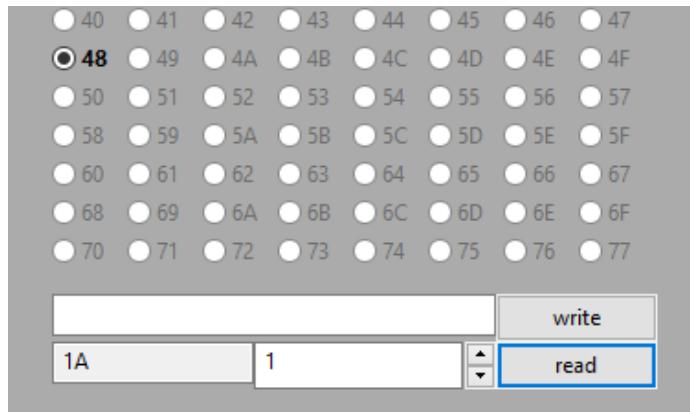
5.2 The GUI

The GUI is a straightforward way of interacting with I²C devices. For example, here I²CDriver is connected to some I²C peripherals: an LM75B temperature sensor and two 7-segment display modules.

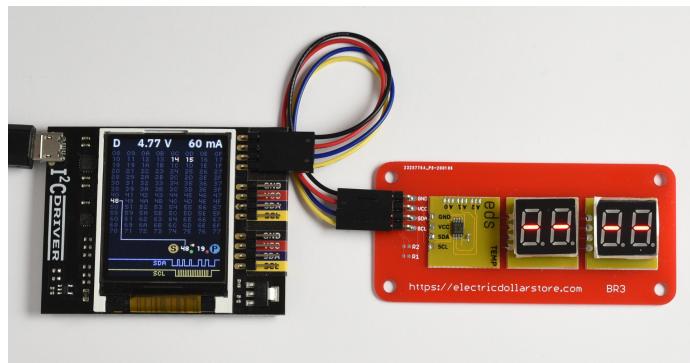


Starting the GUI and connecting to the I²CDriver on COM16 shows the temperature sensor at address 48 and the two display modules at addresses 14 and 15.

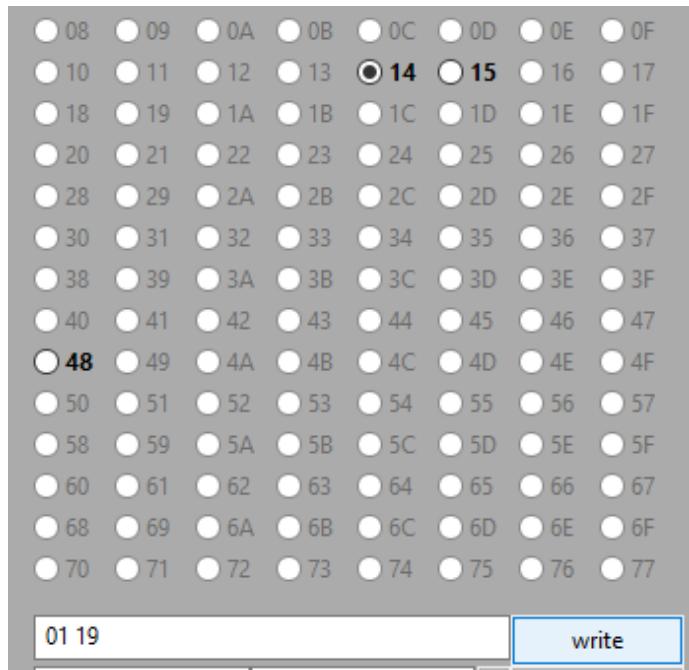




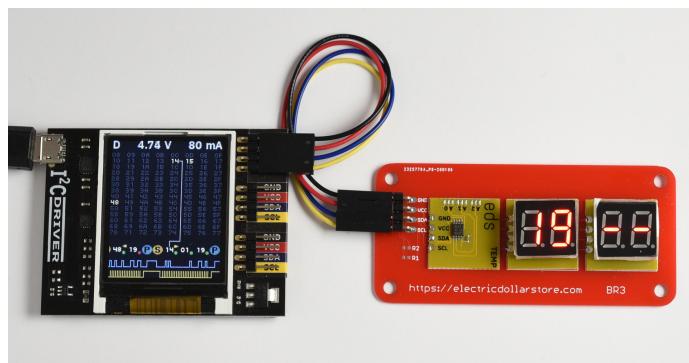
Selecting address 48 and clicking on **read** reads a single byte from the temperature sensor. The I²CDriver display shows the traffic immediately.

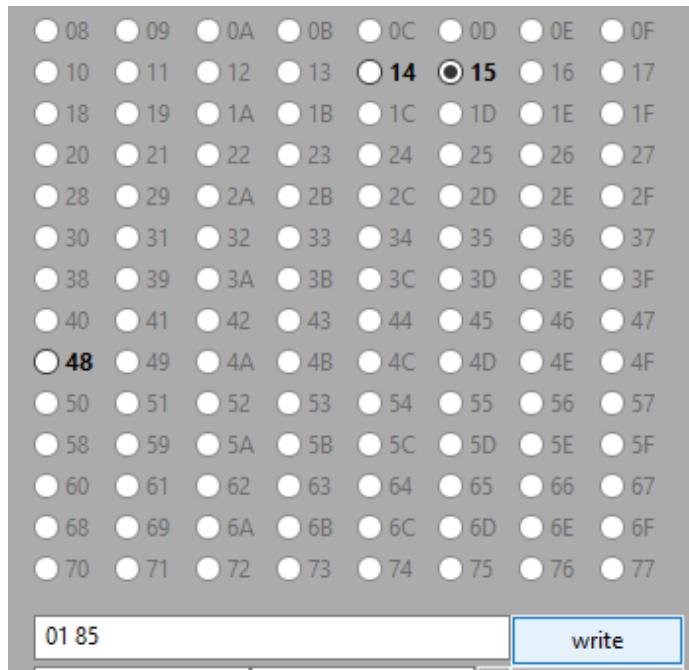


This LM75B sensor reports temperature in Celcius, so the hex byte 1A represents a temperature of 26 °C.

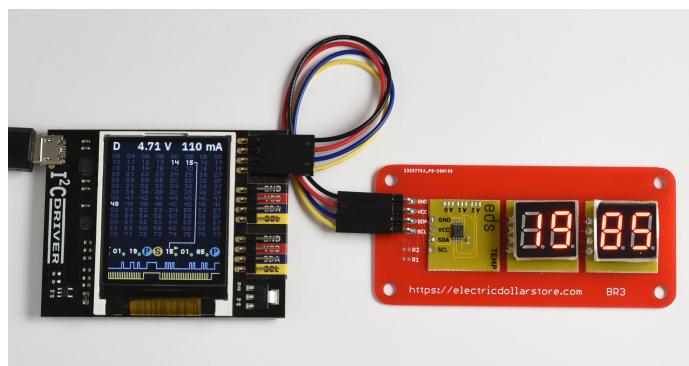


Selecting the left-hand display (address 14) and entering the hex values 01 19 then clicking on **write** sets the first LED to the digits 19.





Similarly selecting address 15 and entering the hex values 01 85 then clicking on **write** sets the second LED to 85.



5.3 The command-line tool i2ccl

i2ccl is the same on all platforms.

The first parameter to the command is the serial port, which depends on your operating system. All following parameters are control commands. These are:

- i display status information (uptime, voltage, current, temperature)
- d device scan
- w *dev bytes* write *bytes* to I²C device *dev*
- p send a STOP
- r *dev N* read *N* bytes from I²C device *dev*, then STOP
- m enter I²C bus monitor mode

For example the command:

```
i2ccl /dev/ttyUSB0 r 0x48 2
```

reads two bytes from the I²C device at address 0x48. So with an [LM75B temperature sensor](#) connected you might see output like:

```
0x16,0x20
```

which indicates a temperature of about 22 °C.

I²C devices usually have multiple registers. To write to a device register, use the w command. Using the same device at address 0x48, writing the two byte value 0x25,0x26 to register 2 is:

```
i2ccl /dev/ttyUSB0 w 0x48 2,0x25,0x26 p
```

To read register 3 of the LM75B, first write the register address 3, then read two bytes as above:

```
i2ccl /dev/ttyUSB0 w 0x48 3 r 0x48 2  
0x50,0x00
```

Which shows that register 3 has the value 0x5000.

5.4 Monitor mode

In monitor mode, the I²CDriver does not write any data to the I²C bus. Instead it monitors bus traffic and draws it on the display. This makes it an ideal tool for troubleshooting and debugging I²C hardware and software.

To show that it is in monitor mode, the I²CDriver changes the character in the top-left of the display from D to M.

There are several ways of entering monitor mode:

- use the command-line tool:

```
i2ccl m
```

- from the GUI check the "Monitor" box
- from Python issue:

```
i2c.monitor(True)
```

and to exit:

```
i2c.monitor(False)
```

- connect a terminal to the I²CDriver (at 1000000 8N1) and type the m character, then type any character to exit monitor mode

5.5 Capture mode

In capture mode, the I²CDriver does not write any data to the I²C bus. Instead it monitors bus traffic and transmits it via USB for recording on the PC.

5.5.1 Command line

There is a Python sample program that can be used to capture traffic on the command-line at `capture.py`.

Running it with the I²CDriver address as an argument puts the I²CDriver into capture mode: the character in the top-left of the display changes from D to C.

```
$ python samples/capture.py /dev/ttyUSBO

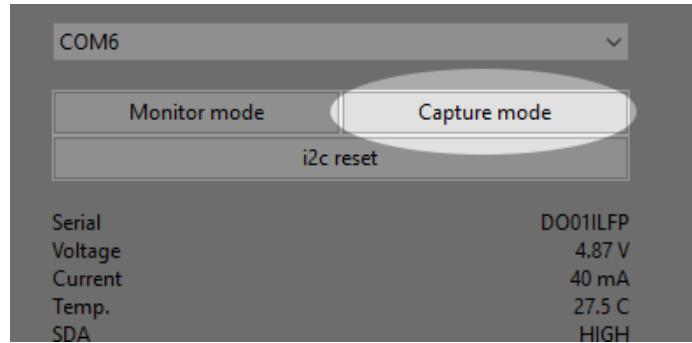
Now capturing traffic to
    standard output (human-readable)
    log.csv
Hit CTRL-C to leave capture mode
<START 0x14 WRITE ACK>
<WRITE 0x02 ACK>
<WRITE 0x22 ACK>
<STOP>
^C
Capture finished
```

When run, it displays any traffic on standard output. It also writes a traffic summary to `log.csv` which can be examined and processed by any tool that can accept CSV files.

	A	B	C	D	
1	START	WRITE	20	ACK	
2	BYTE	WRITE	2	ACK	
3	BYTE	WRITE	34	ACK	
4	STOP				
5					
6					

5.5.2 GUI

The GUI also supports capture to CSV file.



Clicking “Capture mode” starts the capture and prompts for a destination CSV file. The character in the top-left of the display changes from D to C. Capture continues until you click “Capture mode” again.

6 Examples

The Python `samples` directory contains short examples of using all **Electric Dollar Store** I²C modules:

Module	Function	Sample
DIG2	2-digit 7-seg display	EDS-DIG2.py
LED	RGB LED	EDS-LED.py
POT	potentiometer	EDS-POT.py
BEEP	Piezo beeper	EDS-BEEP.py
REMOTE	IR remote receiver	EDS-REMOTE.py
EPROM	CAT24C512 64 Kbyte EPROM	EDS-EPROM.py
MAGNET	LIS3MDL magnetometer	EDS-MAGNET.py
TEMP	LM75B temperature sensor	EDS-TEMP.py
ACCEL	RT3000C Accelerometer	EDS-ACCEL.py
CLOCK	HT1382 real-time clock	EDS-CLOCK.py

All demos and applications are run the same way, supplying the I²CDriver on the command-line. For example:

```
python EDS-LED.py COM16
```

Also included are some small applications which demonstrate combinations of modules.

6.1 Color Compass

Source code: [EDS-color-compass.py](#)

Color compass uses MAGNET and LED, reading the current magnetic field direction and rendering it as a color on the LED. As you twist the module, the color changes. For example there is a particular direction for pure red, as well as all other colors. The code reads the magnetic field direction, scales the values to 0-255, and sets the LED color.

6.2 Egg Timer

Source code: [EDS-egg-timer.py](#)

The demo uses POT, DIG2 and BEEPER to make a simple kitchen egg timer. Twisting the POT sets a countdown time in seconds, and after it's released the ticker starts counting. When it reaches "00" it flashes and beeps.

6.3 Take-a-ticket

Source code: [EDS-take-a-ticket.py](#)

This demo runs a take-a-ticket display for a store or deli counter, using REMOTE, DIG2 and BEEP modules. It shows 2-digit "now serving" number, and each time '+' is pressed on the remote it increments the counter and makes a beep, so the next customer can be served. Pressing '-' turns the number back one.

7 Technical notes

7.1 Port names

The serial port that I²CDriver appears at depends on your operating system.

On **Windows**, it appears as COM1, COM2, COM3 etc. You can use the Device Manager or the MODE command to display the available ports. The Windows convention for COM10 and above is that they must be prefixed by \\.\, for example: \\.\COM11. [This article](#) describes how to set a device to a fixed port.

On **Linux**, it appears as /dev/ttyUSB0, 1, 2 etc. The actual number depends on the order that devices were added. However it also appears as something like:

```
/dev/serial/by-id/usb-FTDI_FT230X_Basic_UART_D000QS8D-if00-port0
```

Where D000QS8D is the serial code of the I²CDriver (which is printed on the bottom of each I²CDriver). This is longer, of course, but always the same for a given device. You can create a symlink to refer to the device easily from scripts:

```
ln -s /dev/serial/by-id/usb-FTDI_FT230X_Basic_UART_D000QS8D-if00-port0  
~/ex1
```

Similarly on **Mac OS**, the I²CDriver appears as /dev/cu.usbserial-D000QS8D.

7.2 Decreasing the USB latency timer

I²CDriver performance can be increased by setting the USB latency timer to its minimum value of 1 ms. This can increase the speed of two-way traffic by up to 10X.

On **Linux** do:

```
setserial /dev/ttyUSB0 low_latency
```

On **Windows** and **Mac OS** follow [these instructions](#).

7.3 Temperature sensor

The temperature sensor is located in the on-board EFM8 microcontroller. It is calibrated at manufacture to within 2 °C.

7.4 Raw protocol

I²CDriver uses a serial protocol to send and receive I²C commands. Connect to the I²CDriver at 1M baud, 8 bits, no parity, 1 stop bit (1000000 8N1).

Because many I²CDriver commands are ASCII, you can control it interactively from any terminal application that can connect at 1M baud. For example typing ? displays the status info, and d returns a bus scan.

Commands are:

?	transmit status info
e	echo byte
1	set speed to 100 KHz
4	set speed to 400 KHz
s	send START/addr, return status
0x80-bf	read 1-64 bytes, NACK the final byte
0xc0-ff	write 1-64 bytes
a	read N bytes, ACK every byte
p	send STOP
x	reset I ² C bus
r	register read
d	scan devices, return 112 status bytes
m	enter monitor mode
c	enter capture mode
b	enter bitbang mode
i	leave bitbang, return to I ² C mode
u	set pullup control lines
-	reboot I ² CDriver

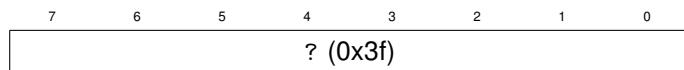
So for example to send this sequence:



Then the serial conversation is:

sender	bytes	meaning
host	s 0x90	START write to device 45
I ² CDriver	0x01	acknowledge
host	0xc0 0x7a	Write 1 byte
I ² CDriver	0x01	acknowledge
host	s 0x91	START read from device 45
I ² CDriver	0x01	acknowledge
host	0x81	Read 2 bytes, NAK on last
I ² CDriver	0x00 0xa2	byte data
host	p	STOP

7.4.1 ?: transmit status info



The response is always 80 bytes, space padded. For example::

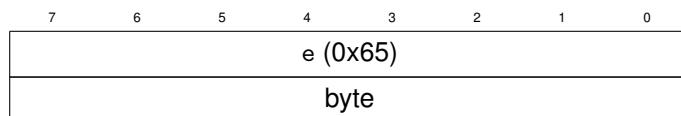
```
[i2cdriver1 D001JU00 000000061 4.971 000 23.8 I 1 1 100 24 ffff ]
```

The fields are space-delimited:

identifier	i2cdriver1 for I ² CDriver, i2cdriverm for I ² CMini
serial	serial code identifier
uptime	I ² CDriver uptime 0-999999999, in seconds
voltage	USB bus voltage, in volts
current	attached device current, in mA
temperature	junction temperature, in °C
mode	current mode, I for I ² C, B for bitbang
SDA	SDA line state, 0 or 1
SCL	SCL line state, 0 or 1
speed	I ² C bus speed, in KHz
pullups	pullup state byte
crc	16-bit CRC of all input and output bytes (CRC-16-CCITT)

The Python sample `confirm.py` shows the CRC-16-CCITT calculation.

7.4.2 e: echo byte

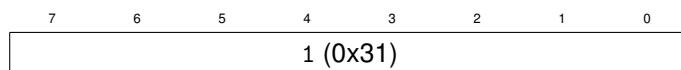


byte is any byte value. The response is the same value:



This command is normally used when first connecting to the I²CDriver to check the serial channel.

7.4.3 1: set speed to 100 KHz



Sets the I²C bus speed to 100 KHz. There is no response.

7.4.4 4: set speed to 400 KHz

7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
4 (0x34)							

Sets the I²C bus speed to 400 KHz. There is no response.

7.4.5 s: START

7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
s (0x73)							
dev						r/w	

dev is the I²C 7-bit device address

r/w is 0 to start a write, 1 to start a read

The single byte response is:

7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
0	0	1	1	0	ARB	TO	ACK

ARB is set if bus arbitration is lost during the transmission

TO is set if the transmission times out

ACK is set if the I²C device acknowledged the transmission

7.4.6 0x80-bf : read 1-64 bytes, NACK the final byte

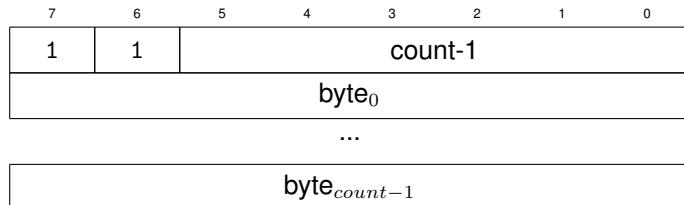
7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
1	0						count-1

count is the number of bytes to read.

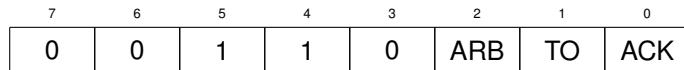
I²CDriver ACKs each read byte, except the last which is NACKed.

The response is **count** bytes of I²C bus data.

7.4.7 0xc0-ff : write 1-64 bytes



The single byte response is:

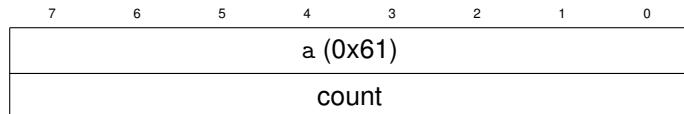


ARB is set if bus arbitration is lost during the transmission

TO is set if the transmission times out

ACK is set if the I²C device acknowledged the transmission

7.4.8 a: read N bytes, ACK every byte

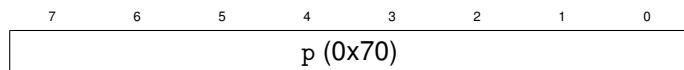


count is the number of bytes to read.

I²CDriver ACKs each read byte. This command is useful when reading more than 64 bytes from an I²C device.

The response is **count** bytes of I²C bus data.

7.4.9 p: send STOP



Send an I²C STOP symbol, ending the current transaction. There is no response.

7.4.10 x: reset I²C bus

7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
x (0x78)							

Attempts an I²C bus reset. This consists of:

- 10 pulses of SCK with SDA high
- an I²C STOP symbol

The response is sent after the reset, and indicates the state of the I²C signals:

7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
						SDA	SCL

If both signals are 1, the I²C bus is free.

7.4.11 r: register read

7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0							
r (0x72)														
0	dev													
addr														
count														

dev is the I²C 7-bit device address

addr is the device register address

count is the number of bytes to read

Reads an I²C device register data. This command executes the following I²C operations:

- START, select address **dev** for writing
- write a single byte **addr**
- START, select address **dev** for reading
- read **count** bytes item STOP

The response is **count** bytes of I²C bus data.

7.4.12 d: scan devices, return 112 status bytes

7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
d (0x64)							

Execute an I²C bus scan for devices from addresses 0x08 to 0x77.

The response is 112 bytes. Each byte is:

7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
0	0	1	1	0	ARB	TO	ACK

ARB is set if bus arbitration is lost during the transmission

TO is set if the transmission times out

ACK is set if the I²C device acknowledged the transmission

7.4.13 m: enter monitor mode

7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
m (0x6d)							

Enters monitor mode. The I²C Driver updates the graphical display with any traffic on the I²C bus. To exit monitor mode, send byte 0x20:

7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
0x20							

7.4.14 c: enter capture mode

TBD

7.4.15 b: enter bitbang mode

7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
b (0x62)							

Enters bitbang mode. See section [7.6 Bitbang mode](#).

7.4.16 i: leave bitmang, return to I²C mode.

7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
i (0x69)							

Leaves bitbang mode and enters I²C mode. See section [7.6 Bitbang mode](#).

7.4.17 u: set pullup control lines

7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
u (0x75)							
	SCL	SCL	SCL	SDA	SDA	SDA	
	4.7K	4.3K	2.2K	4.7K	4.3K	2.2K	

Sets the I²C line pullup resistors. See section [7.5 Pull-up resistors](#).

7.4.18 _: reboot

7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
_ (0x5f)							

Reboots the I²CDriver. There is no response. The host should wait at least 500ms before sending the following command.

7.5 Pull-up resistors

I²CDriver has 6 programmable pull-up resistors, 3 each for SDA and SCL. 6 control bits each enable or disable a pull-up resistor. These bits are:

bit	resistor
0	2.2K to SDA
1	4.3K to SDA
2	4.7K to SDA
3	2.2K to SCL
4	4.3K to SCL
5	4.7K to SCL

At boot the two 4.7K resistors are enabled. By setting combinations of parallel resistors, a range of pull-up strengths can be achieved:

4.7K	4.3K	2.2K	pull-up strength
0	0	0	0 (i.e. no pull-up)
0	0	1	2.2K
0	1	0	4.3K
0	1	1	1.5K
1	0	0	4.7K
1	0	1	1.5K
1	1	0	2.2K
1	1	1	1.1K

Ordering this by useful resistances, the 3-bit combinations are:

3-bit value	Resistance
0	0
1	2.2K
2	4.3K
4	4.7K
5	1.5K
7	1.1K

In Python, the pullups are controlled by the `setpullups()` method, and the state can be read from the `pullups` variable. Both are 6-bit values as above.

The GUI has a control for the pull-up resistors. It sets the same pull-up strength for both SDA and SCL.

7.6 Bitbang mode

In bitbang mode, the SCL and SDA signals are driven as bidirectional IO signals.

Following the 'b' command, the host sends a **bitbang control sequence** where each sent byte controls the state of the SCL and SDA signals. Each byte is a

bitfield, encoded as:

bit	meaning
0	SDA pin direction (0: input, 1: output)
1	SDA pin output value
2	SCL pin direction (0: input, 1: output)
3	SCL pin output value
4	report pin states

Note that when using a pin as an input, the corresponding output value bit should be '1'. When bit 4 is set, the pins are sampled and I²CDriver transmits a byte to the host with their state:

bit	meaning
0	SDA state
1	SCL state

The special value 0x40 ends the bitbang control sequence, but does not exit bitbang mode. To exit bitbang mode and re-enter I²C mode, send command 'i'.

7.7 Capture mode

In capture mode I²CDriver monitors the I²C bus and reports all events back to the USB host, encoded in a byte stream.

Each byte contains two 4-bit event symbols packed so that the first event symbol is in the 4 more significant bits, and the second event is in the 4 less significant bits.



The following 4-bit event symbols are defined:

code	meaning
0x0	bus is idle
0x1	START
0x2	STOP
0x8	bit triple 0,0,0
0x9	bit triple 0,0,1
0xa	bit triple 0,1,0
0xb	bit triple 0,1,1
0xc	bit triple 1,0,0
0xd	bit triple 1,0,1
0xe	bit triple 1,1,0
0xf	bit triple 1,1,1

I²CDriver sends the "bus is idle" token after the bus has been idle for approximately 30 ms. Hence when there is no bus activity "bus is idle" tokens arrive at about 30 Hz.

I²C is a byte-oriented protocol, and each byte is followed by an ACK/NAK bit, so each byte actually appears as 9 bits on the wire, with the final bit as the ACK/NAK. Hence each I²C byte results in three triples being sent. The first 8 bits are the big-endian I²C byte. The final bit is the ACK/NAK. Note that I²C represents ACK as 0, and NAK as 1.

As an example, the following wire sequence



would appear on the capture interface as the following event symbols:

code	meaning	interpretation
0x1	START	
0xc	bit triple 1,0,0	
0xa	bit triple 0,1,0	
0xc	bit triple 1,0,0	I ² C address 0x45, write, ACK
0xb	bit triple 0,1,1	
0xe	bit triple 1,1,0	
0xc	bit triple 1,0,0	write byte 0x7a, ACK
0x1	START	
0xc	bit triple 1,0,0	
0xa	bit triple 0,1,0	
0xe	bit triple 1,1,0	I ² C address 0x45, read, ACK
0x8	bit triple 0,0,0	
0x8	bit triple 0,0,0	
0x8	bit triple 0,0,0	read byte 0x00, ACK
0xd	bit triple 1,0,1	
0x8	bit triple 0,0,0	
0xd	bit triple 1,0,1	read byte 0xa2, NAK
0x2	STOP	

Hence the bytes sent from the I²CDriver for this sequence are:

0x1c, 0xac, 0xbe, 0xc1, 0xca, 0xe8, 0x88, 0xd8, 0xd2

7.8 Specifications

I²CDriver DC characteristics

	min	typ	max	units
Voltage accuracy		0.01		V
Current accuracy		5		mA
Temperature accuracy		± 2		°C
SDA,SCL				
low voltage			0.6	V
high voltage	2.7		5.8	V
Output current			470	mA
Current consumption		25		mA

I²CMini DC characteristics

	min	typ	max	units
Temperature accuracy		± 2		°C
SDA,SCL				
low voltage			0.6	V
high voltage	2.7		5.8	V
Output current			270	mA
Current consumption		5		mA

AC characteristics

	min	typ	max	units
I ² C speed	100		400	Kbps
Uptime accuracy		150		ppm
Uptime rollover		31.7		years
Startup time			200	ms

8 Troubleshooting

Screen is dark after connecting USB	Check USB cable and port Return for replacement
Screen is white after connecting USB	Return for replacement
Screen appears discolored	Remove protective film from screen
Port does not appear on host	Check that the USB Cable is not "power only" Confirm that FTDI VCP drivers are installed Check USB cable and port Return for replacement
I ² CDriver reports high current usage	Check target circuit for power shorts
I ² CDriver reports high temperature	Check target circuit for logic shorts
I ² CDriver reports USB voltage below 4.0 V	Check USB cable and port

9 Support information

Technical and product support is available at support@spidriver.com

I²CDriver is built and maintained by [Excamera Labs](#).

Index

- `__init__()` (*i2cdriver.I2CDriver method*), 12
 - bitbang, 38
 - bitbang control sequence, 38
 - bus scan, 10, 22
 - capture, 40
 - Capture mode, 23
 - `capture.py`, 24
 - CRC, 32
 - display, 16
 - drivers
 - C/C++, 15
 - Linux, 8
 - Mac, 9
 - Python, 10
 - Windows, 6
 - Example
 - Beeper, 27
 - Compass, 26
 - LM75B, 10, 22
 - Magnetometer, 26
 - Potentiometer, 27
 - RGB, 26
 - `getstatus()` (*i2cdriver.I2CDriver method*), 15
 - GPIO, 38
 - GUI, 18
 - heat-map, 16
 - hookup, 4
 - `I2CDriver` (*class in i2cdriver*), 12
 - jumpers, 4
 - Monitor mode, 23
 - `monitor()` (*i2cdriver.I2CDriver method*), 15
 - protocol, 30
 - pull-ups, 37
 - Qwiic, 5
 - `read()` (*i2cdriver.I2CDriver method*), 14
 - register read, 22
 - `regrd()` (*i2cdriver.I2CDriver method*), 14
 - `regwr()` (*i2cdriver.I2CDriver method*), 14
 - Remote control, 27
 - `reset()` (*i2cdriver.I2CDriver method*), 13
 - `scan()` (*i2cdriver.I2CDriver method*), 12
 - `setpullups()` (*i2cdriver.I2CDriver method*), 12
 - `setspeed()` (*i2cdriver.I2CDriver method*), 12

speed, [32](#)
`start()` (*i2cdriver.I2CDriver method*), [13](#)
`stop()` (*i2cdriver.I2CDriver method*), [14](#)
symbols, [16](#)
temperature sensor, [29](#)
uptime, [43](#)
USB
 latency, [28](#)
 ports, [28](#)
`write()` (*i2cdriver.I2CDriver method*), [14](#)