**TS Initial Character**

The first character of the ATR sequence is defined as the initial character, TS. By virtue of its bit pattern, this character synchronizes information and defines the polarity of all subsequent characters. The first four bits of TS consist of a low start bit, followed by two high bits, followed by an additional low bit. This fixed-bit pattern allows timing synchronization. The following three bits are either all high to indicate direct convention, or all low to indicate inverse convention. For direct convention, a high state on the I/O line is equivalent to logic 1, and the data is transmitted least significant bit first. For the inverse convention, a low state on the I/O line is equivalent to logic 1, and the data is transferred most significant bit first. While the specifications allow inverse convention, EMV recommends that the direct convention be used for all current card designs. The final three bits are two low bits followed by a high bit. The last bit in this, or any other 10-bit character frame, is the parity bit; it will be set or cleared to make the number of 1s in the frame an even number.