

# Electronics Bit-banging (or bit-bashing)

Terry Sturtevant

Wilfrid Laurier University

May 25, 2017

# Problems

## Problems

- What do you do if you want 3 SPI devices with the Raspberry Pi?

## Problems

- What do you do if you want 3 SPI devices with the Raspberry Pi?
- What do you do if you want 3 PWM devices with the Raspberry Pi?

## Problems

- What do you do if you want 3 SPI devices with the Raspberry Pi?
- What do you do if you want 3 PWM devices with the Raspberry Pi?
- What do you do if you want a UART sensor *and* the serial console with the Raspberry Pi?

## Problems

- What do you do if you want 3 SPI devices with the Raspberry Pi?
- What do you do if you want 3 PWM devices with the Raspberry Pi?
- What do you do if you want a UART sensor *and* the serial console with the Raspberry Pi?
- What do you do if you have a sensor that has no available library?

## Problems

- What do you do if you want 3 SPI devices with the Raspberry Pi?
- What do you do if you want 3 PWM devices with the Raspberry Pi?
- What do you do if you want a UART sensor *and* the serial console with the Raspberry Pi?
- What do you do if you have a sensor that has no available library?

**Solution:** Bit-bang more ports.

- Built-in hardware ports allow complex operations to happen without ongoing software intervention.



- Built-in hardware ports allow complex operations to happen without ongoing software intervention.
- *Bit-banging* is the process of writing code to perform the necessary operations manually.

- Built-in hardware ports allow complex operations to happen without ongoing software intervention.
- *Bit-banging* is the process of writing code to perform the necessary operations manually.
- If the code can execute within whatever timing window is required, then it is an acceptable solution.

- Built-in hardware ports allow complex operations to happen without ongoing software intervention.
- *Bit-banging* is the process of writing code to perform the necessary operations manually.
- If the code can execute within whatever timing window is required, then it is an acceptable solution.

**Note:** Because the Raspberry Pi has an operating system running, tight timing tolerances can't be guaranteed this way.

# Tips for bit-banging

## Tips for bit-banging

- Use bit-banging for the slowest interfaces.

## Tips for bit-banging

- Use bit-banging for the slowest interfaces.
- Use bit-banging for the least frequent tasks.

## Tips for bit-banging

- Use bit-banging for the slowest interfaces.
- Use bit-banging for the least frequent tasks.
- **Avoid cumulative timing error by referencing a single event time.**

## Tips for bit-banging

- Use bit-banging for the slowest interfaces.
- Use bit-banging for the least frequent tasks.
- **Avoid cumulative timing error by referencing a single event time.**
- Create functions as similar as possible to those that are built-in.



## Example: bit-banging a UART (Transmitting)

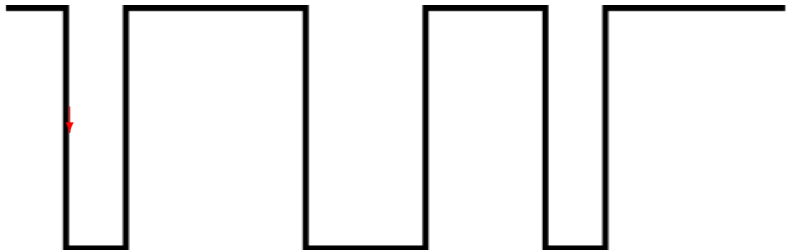
## Example: bit-banging a UART (Transmitting)

- When *transmitting*, a UART basically needs to *change* a signal at fixed time intervals.

## Example: bit-banging a UART (Transmitting)

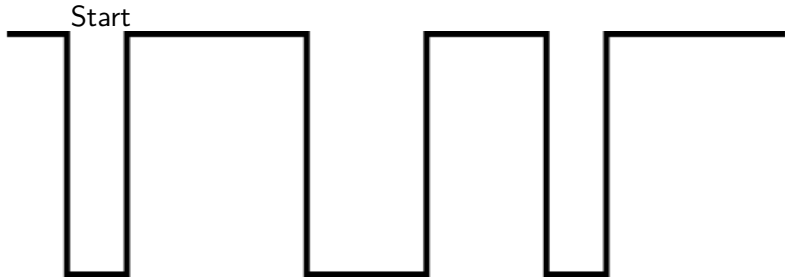
- When *transmitting*, a UART basically needs to *change* a signal at fixed time intervals.
- When *receiving*, after the detection of a START bit, a UART basically needs to *test* a signal at fixed time intervals.

# Transmitting



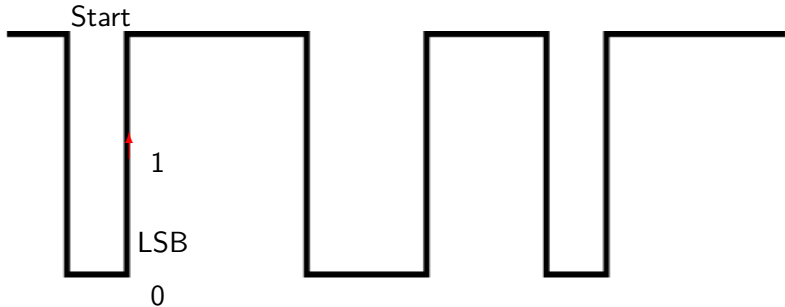
Set pin to START level

# Transmitting



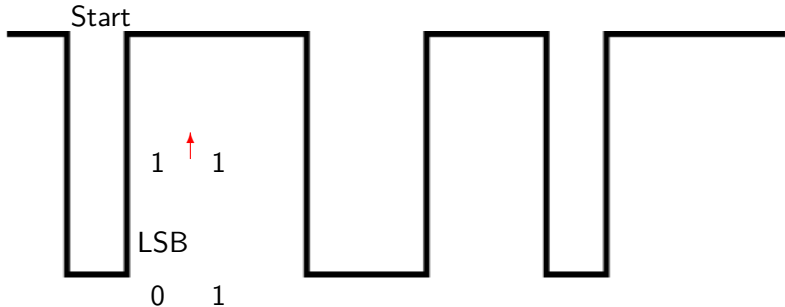
Wait one bit time before setting pin HIGH or LOW according to LSB

# Transmitting



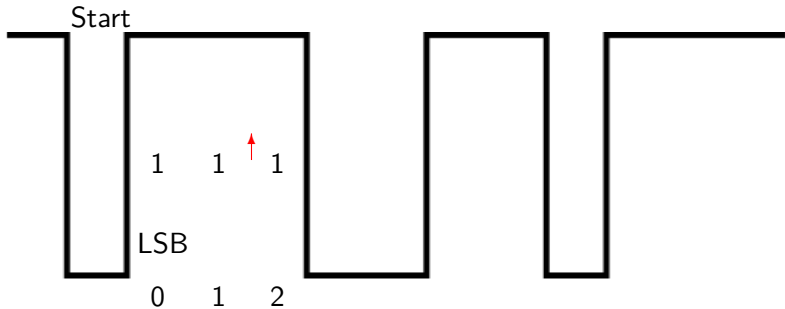
Wait one bit time before setting pin HIGH or LOW according to LSB

# Transmitting



Wait one bit time before setting pin HIGH or LOW according to bit 1

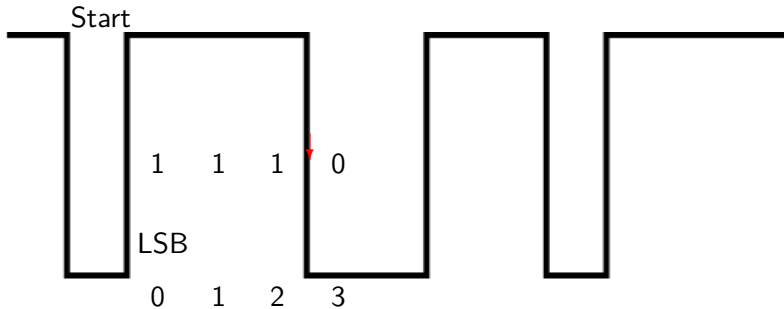
# Transmitting



Wait one bit time before setting pin HIGH or LOW according to bit 2

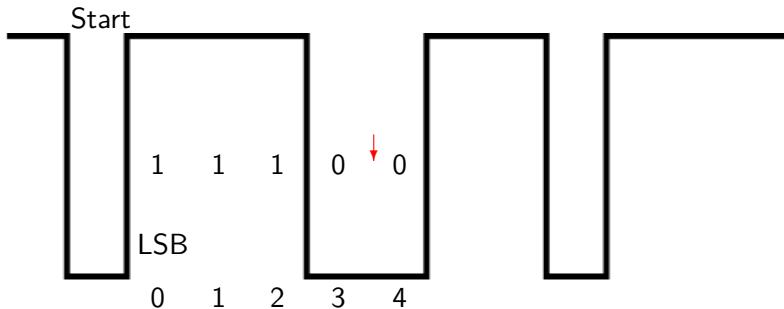


# Transmitting



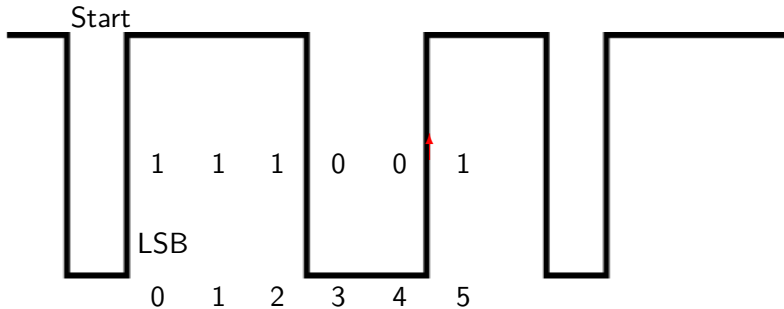
Wait one bit time before setting pin HIGH or LOW according to bit 3

# Transmitting



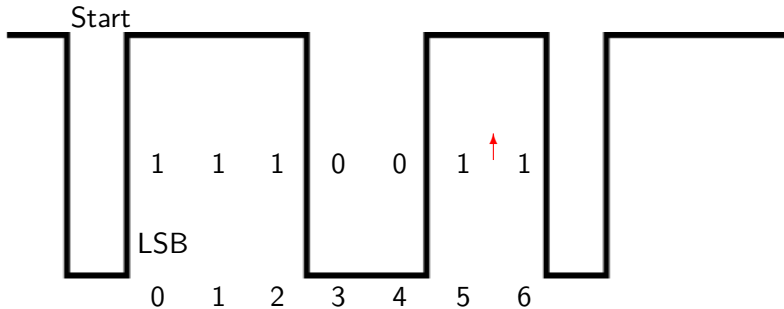
Wait one bit time before setting pin HIGH or LOW according to bit 4

# Transmitting

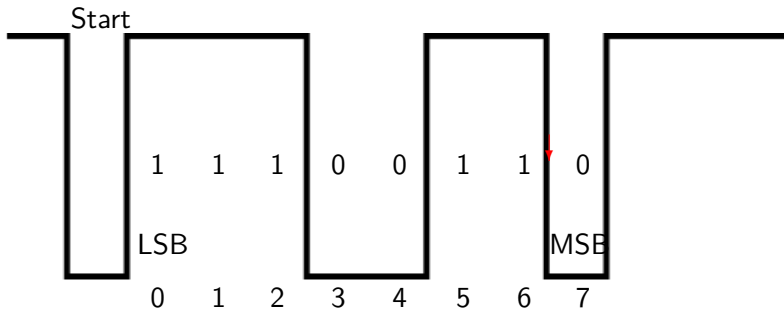


Wait one bit time before setting pin HIGH or LOW according to bit 5

# Transmitting

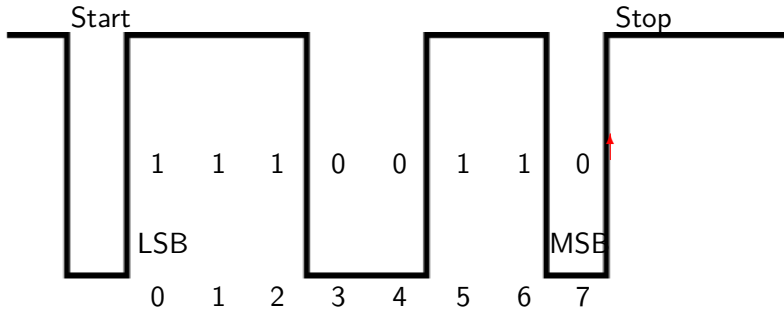


# Transmitting



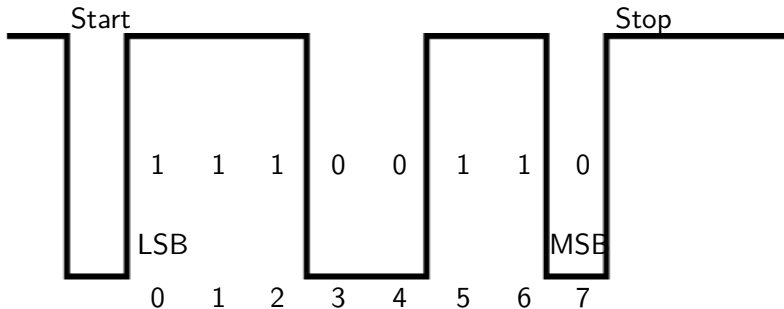
Wait one bit time before setting pin HIGH or LOW according to MSB

# Transmitting



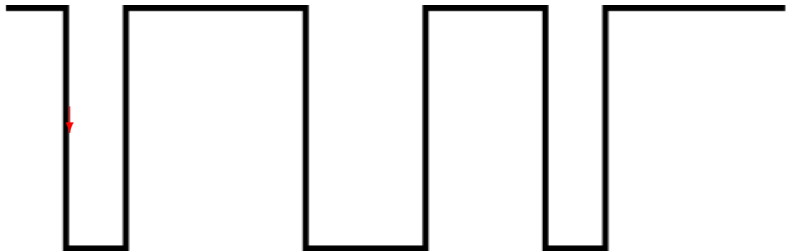
Wait one bit time before setting pin to STOP level

# Transmitting



Wait 1 bit time (if 1 STOP bit) before next START bit

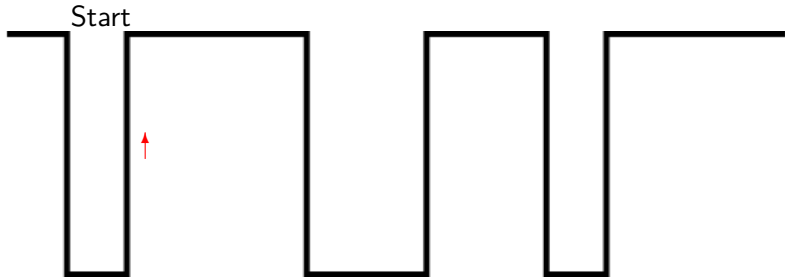
## Receiving



Poll for START level

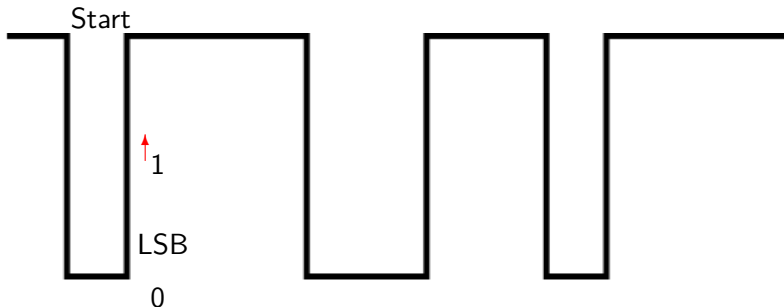


## Receiving



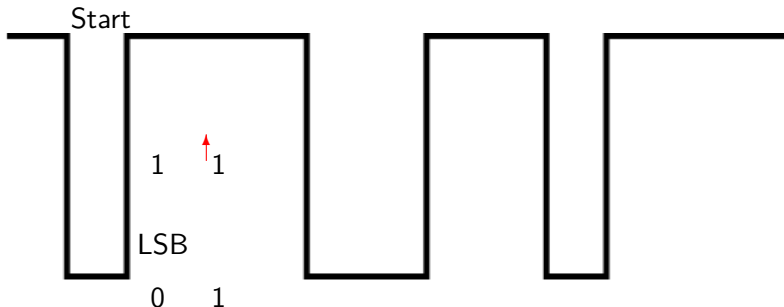
Wait one *and a half* bit times before testing pin for LSB

## Receiving



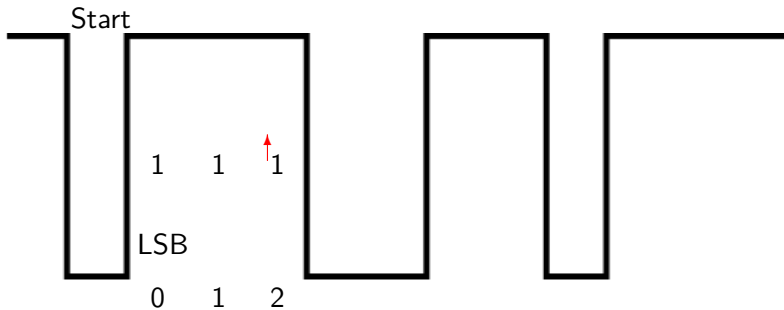
Wait one *and a half* bit times before testing pin for LSB

# Receiving



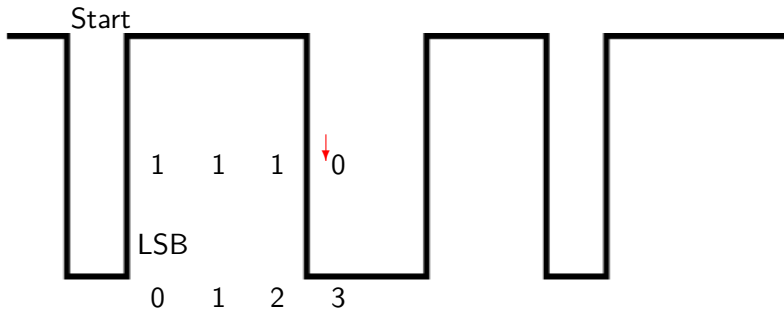
Wait one bit time before testing pin for bit 1

## Receiving



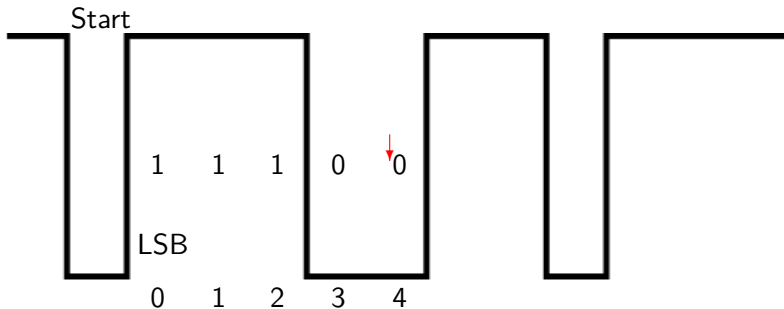
Wait one bit time before testing pin for bit 2

## Receiving



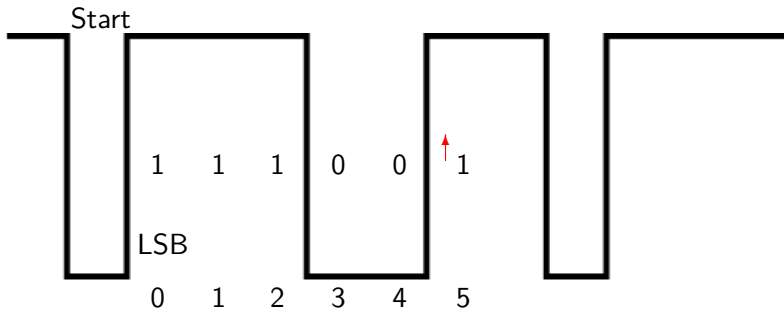
Wait one bit time before testing pin for bit 3

## Receiving



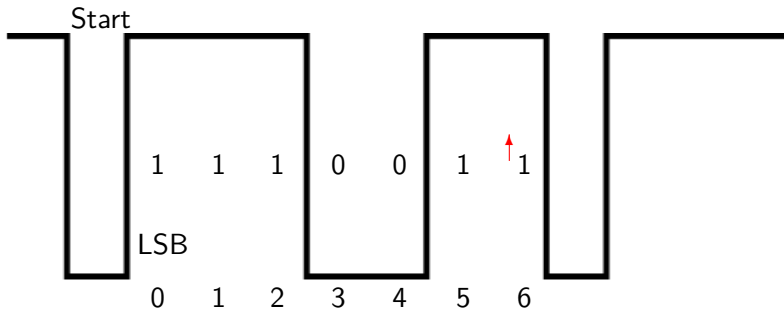
Wait one bit time before testing pin for bit 4

## Receiving



Wait one bit time before testing pin for bit 5

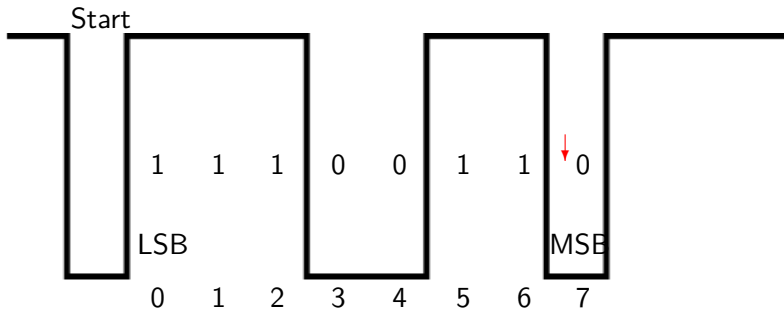
## Receiving



Wait one bit time before testing pin for bit 6

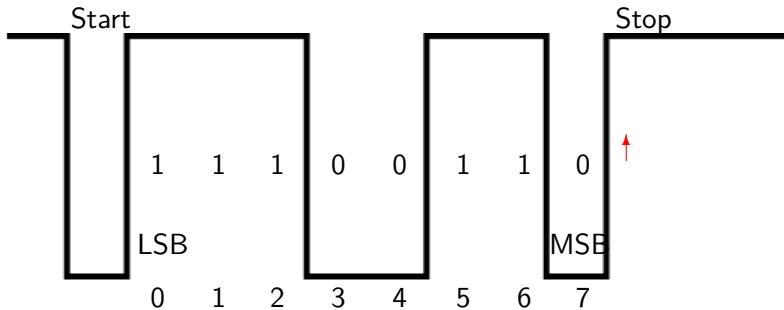


## Receiving



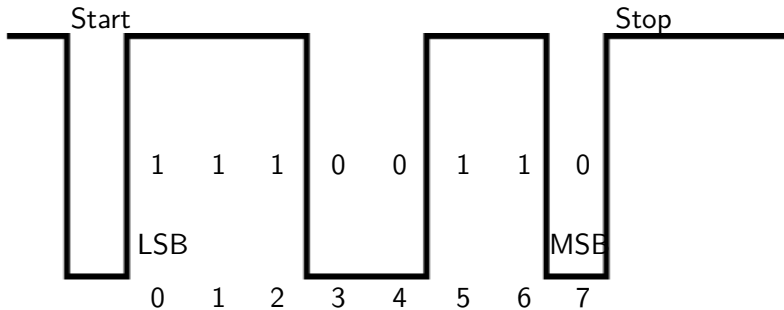
Wait one bit time before testing pin for MSB

## Receiving



Wait one bit time before testing pin for STOP level

## Receiving



Poll for next START bit