EECS 373
Design of Microprocessor-Based Systems

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Lecture 7: Interrupts (2)
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Some slides prepared by Mark Brehob

High-level review of interrupts

- Why do we need them? Why are the alternatives unacceptable?
  - Convince me!
- What sources of interrupts are there?
  - Hardware and software!
- What makes them difficult to deal with?
  - Interrupt controllers are complex: there is a lot to do!
    - Enable/disable, prioritize, allow premption (nested interrupts), etc.
  - Software issues are non-trivial
    - Can't trash work of task you interrupted
    - Need to be able to restore state
    - Shared data issues are a *real* pain

Table 7.1 List of System Exceptions

Exception Number	Exception Type	Priority	Description
1	Reset	–3 (Highest)	Reset
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3	Hard fault	–1	All fault conditions if the corresponding fault handler is not enabled
4	MemManage fault	Programmable	Memory management fault; Memory Protection Unit (MPU) violation or access to illegal locations
5	Bus fault	Programmable	Bus error; occurs when Advanced High-Performance Bus (AHB) interface receives an error response from a bus slave (also called *prefetch abort* if it is an instruction fetch or *data abort* if it is a data access)
6	Usage fault	Programmable	Exceptions resulting from program error or trying to access coprocessor (the Cortex-M3 does not support a coprocessor)
7–10	Reserved	NA	—
11	SVC	Programmable	Supervisor Call
12	Debug monitor	Programmable	Debug monitor (breakpoints, watchpoints, or external debug requests)
13	Reserved	NA	—
14	PendSV	Programmable	Pendable Service Call
15	SYSTICK	Programmable	System Tick Timer

Table 7.2 List of External Interrupts

Exception Number	Exception Type	Priority
16	External Interrupt #0	Programmable
17	External Interrupt #1	Programmable
…	…	…
255	External Interrupt #239	Programmable

Configuring the NVIC

- Interrupt Set Enable and Clear Enable
  - 0xE000E100-0xE000E11C, 0xE000E180-0xE000E19C

0xE000E100	SETENA0	R/W	0	Enable for external interrupt #0–31 bit[0] for interrupt #0 (exception #16) bit[1] for interrupt #1 (exception #17) … bit[31] for interrupt #31 (exception #47) Write 1 to set bit to 1; write 0 has no effect Read value indicates the current status
0xE000E180	CLRENA0	R/W	0	Clear enable for external interrupt #0–31 bit[0] for interrupt #0 bit[1] for interrupt #1 … bit[31] for interrupt #31 Write 1 to clear bit to 0; write 0 has no effect Read value indicates the current enable status

Configuring the NVIC (2)

- Set Pending & Clear Pending
  - 0xE000E200-0xE000E21C, 0xE000E280-0xE000E29C

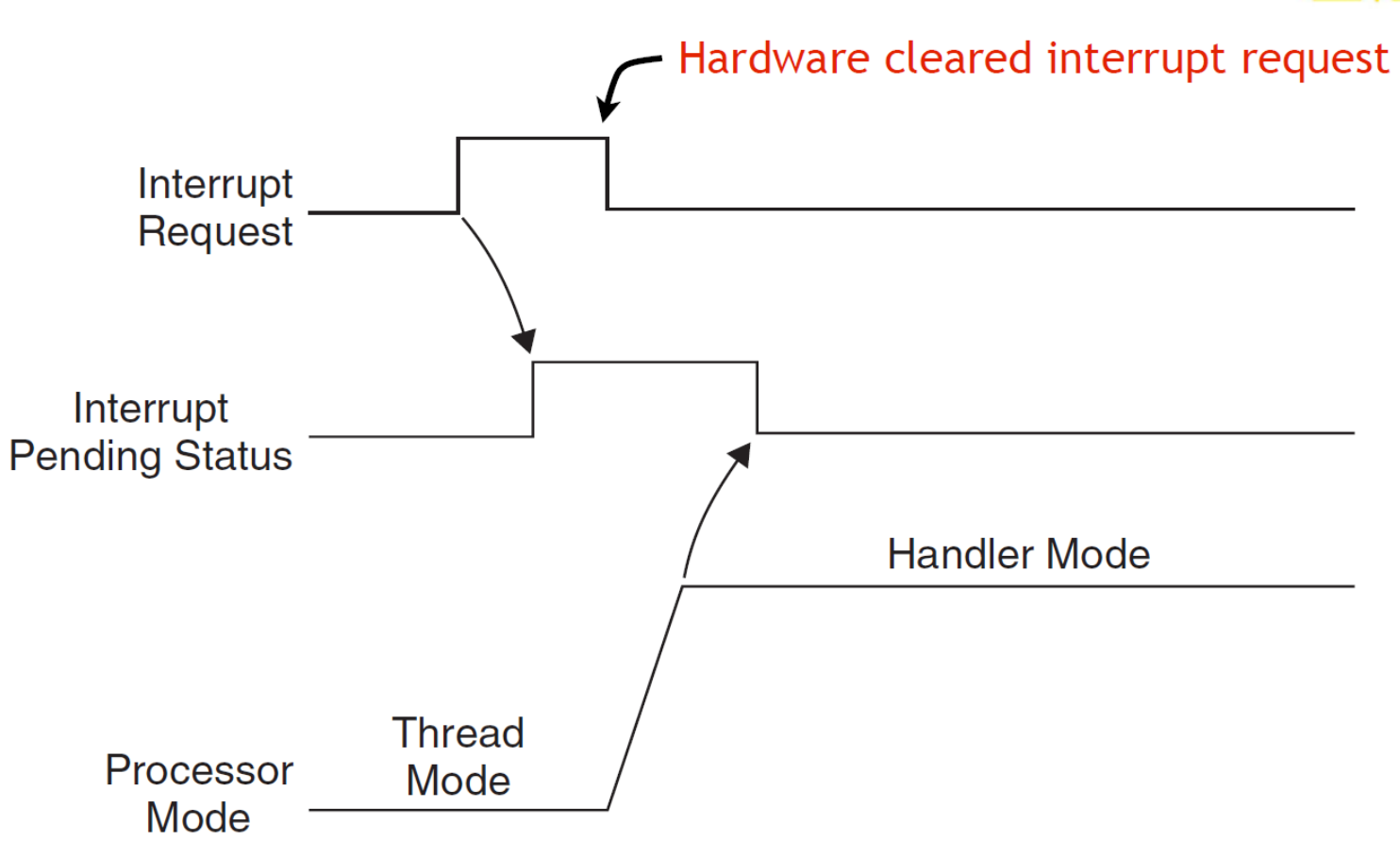
0xE000E200	SETPEND0	R/W	0	Pending for external interrupt #0–31 bit[0] for interrupt #0 (exception #16) bit[1] for interrupt #1 (exception #17) … bit[31] for interrupt #31 (exception #47) Write 1 to set bit to 1; write 0 has no effect Read value indicates the current status
0xE000E280	CLRPEND0	R/W	0	Clear pending for external interrupt #0–31 bit[0] for interrupt #0 (exception #16) bit[1] for interrupt #1 (exception #17) … bit[31] for interrupt #31 (exception #47) Write 1 to clear bit to 0; write 0 has no effect Read value indicates the current pending status

Configuring the NVIC (3)

- Interrupt Active Status Register
  - 0xE000E300-0xE000E31C

Address	Name	Type	Reset Value	Description
0xE000E300	ACTIVE0	R	0	Active status for external interrupt #0–31 bit[0] for interrupt #0 bit[1] for interrupt #1 … bit[31] for interrupt #31
0xE000E304	ACTIVE1	R	0	Active status for external interrupt #32–63
…	–	–	–	–

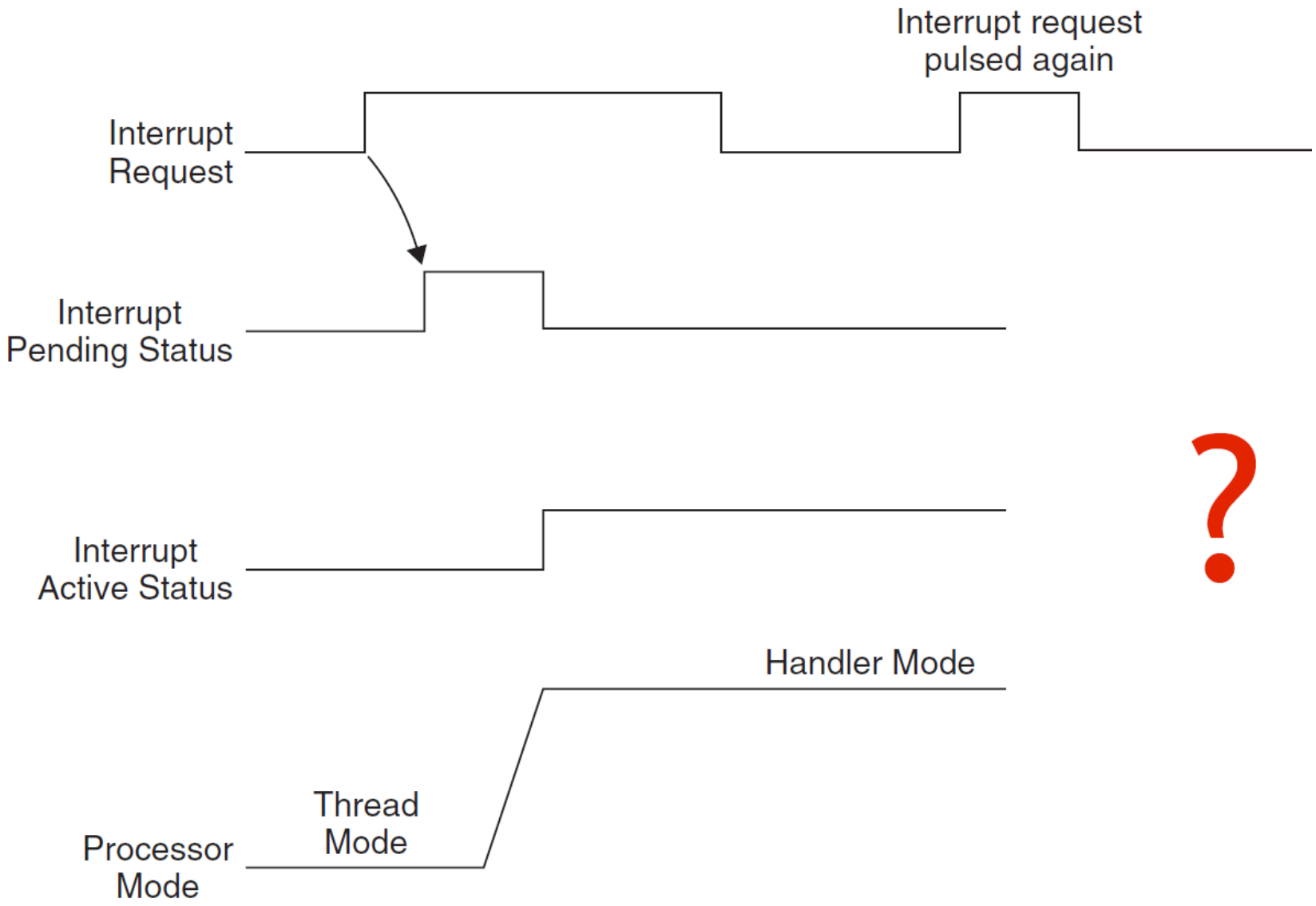
Pending interrupts



The normal case. Once Interrupt request is seen, processor puts it in "pending" state even if hardware drops the request.
IPS is cleared by the hardware once we jump to the ISR.

This figure and those following are from *The Definitive Guide to the ARM Cortex-M3, Section 7.4*

New Interrupt Request after Pending Cleared



?

Interrupt Priority

- What do we do if several interrupts arrive at the same time?
- NVIC allows to set priorities for (almost) every interrupt
- 3 fixed highest priorities, up to 256 programmable priorities
  - 128 preemption levels
  - Not all priorities have to be implemented by a vendor!

Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0
Implemented			Not implemented, read as zero				

  - SmartFusion has 32 priority levels, i.e., 0x00, 0x08, …, 0xF8
- Higher priority interrupts can pre-empt lower priorities
- Priority can be sub-divided into priority groups
  - splits priority register into two halves, *preempt priority* and *subpriority*
  - preempt priority: indicates if an interrupt can preempt another
  - subpriority: used if two interrupts of same group arrive concurrently

Interrupt Priority (2)

- Interrupt Priority Level Registers
  - 0xE000E400-0xE000E4EF

Address	Name	Type	Reset Value	Description
0xE000E400	PRI_0	R/W	0 (8-bit)	Priority-level external interrupt #0
0xE000E401	PRI_1	R/W	0 (8-bit)	Priority-level external interrupt #1
…	–	–	–	–
0xE000E41F	PRI_31	R/W	0 (8-bit)	Priority-level external interrupt #31
…	–	–	–	–

Preemption Priority and Subpriority

Priority Group	Preempt Priority Field	Subpriority Field
0	Bit [7:1]	Bit [0]
1	Bit [7:2]	Bit [1:0]
2	Bit [7:3]	Bit [2:0]
3	Bit [7:4]	Bit [3:0]
4	Bit [7:5]	Bit [4:0]
5	Bit [7:6]	Bit [5:0]
6	Bit [7]	Bit [6:0]
7	None	Bit [7:0]

Application Interrupt and Reset Control Register (Address 0xE000ED0C)

Bits	Name	Type	Reset Value	Description
31:16	VECTKEY	R/W	–	Access key; 0x05FA must be written to this field to write to this register, otherwise the write will be ignored; the read-back value of the upper half word is 0xFA05
15	ENDIANNESS	R	–	Indicates endianness for data: 1 for big endian (BE8) and 0 for little endian; this can only change after a reset
10:8	PRIGROUP	R/W	0	Priority group
2	SYSRESETREQ	W	–	Requests chip control logic to generate a reset
1	VECTCLRACTIVE	W	–	Clears all active state information for exceptions; typically used in debug or OS to allow system to recover from system error (Reset is safer)
0	VECTRESET	W	–	Resets the Cortex-M3 processor (except debug logic), but this will not reset circuits outside the processor

PRIMASK, FAULTMASK, and BASEPRI

- What if we quickly want to disable all interrupts?

- Write 1 into PRIMASK to disable all interrupt except NMI
  - MOV R0, #1
  - MSR PRIMASK, R0
- Write 0 into PRIMASK to enable all interrupts
- FAULTMASK is the same as PRIMASK, but also blocks hard fault (priority -1)

- What if we want to disable all interrupts below a certain priority?
- Write priority into BASEPRI
  - MOV R0, #0x60
  - MSR BASEPRI, R0

Masking

B1.4.3 The special-purpose mask registers

There are three special-purpose registers which are used for the purpose of priority boosting. Their function is explained in detail in *Execution priority and priority boosting within the core* on page B1-18:

- the exception mask register (PRIMASK) which has a 1-bit value
- the base priority mask (BASEPRI) which has an 8-bit value
- the fault mask (FAULTMASK) which has a 1-bit value.

All mask registers are cleared on reset. All unprivileged writes are ignored.

The formats of the mask registers are illustrated in Table B1-4.

Table B1-4 The special-purpose mask registers

	31 ... 8	7 ... 1	0
PRIMASK	RESERVED		PM
FAULTMASK	RESERVED		FM
BASEPRI	RESERVED	BASEPRI	

Interrupt Service Routines

- Automatic saving of registers upon exception
  - PC, PSR, R0-R3, R12, LR
  - This occurs over data buss
- While data bus busy, fetch exception vector
  - i.e. target address of exception handler
  - This occurs over instruction bus
- Update SP to new location
- Update IPSR (low part of xPSR) with exception new #
- Set PC to vector handler
- Update LR to special value EXC_RETURN
- Several other NVIC registers gets updated
- Latency can be as short as 12 cycles (w/o mem delays)

The xPSR register layout

The APSR, IPSR and EPSR registers are allocated as mutually exclusive bitfields within a 32-bit register. The combination of the APSR, IPSR and EPSR registers is referred to as the xPSR register.

Table B1-2 The xPSR register layout

	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	16	15	10	9	8	0
APSR	N	Z	C	V	Q										
IPSR														0 or Exception Number	
EPSR						ICI/IT		T				ICI/IT	a		

ARM interrupt summary

1. We've got a bunch of memory-mapped registers that control things (**NVIC**)
   - Enable/disable individual interrupts
   - Set/clear pending
   - Interrupt priority and preemption

2. We've got to understand how the hardware interrupt lines interact with the NVIC

3. And how we figure out where to set the PC to point to for a given interrupt source.

1. NVIC registers (example)

- Set Pending & Clear Pending
  - 0xE000E200-0xE000E21C, 0xE000E280-0xE000E29C

0xE000E200	SETPEND0	R/W	0	Pending for external interrupt #0–31 bit[0] for interrupt #0 (exception #16) bit[1] for interrupt #1 (exception #17) … bit[31] for interrupt #31 (exception #47) Write 1 to set bit to 1; write 0 has no effect Read value indicates the current status
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1. More registers (example)

- Interrupt Priority Level Registers
  - 0xE000E400-0xE000E4EF

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…	–	–	–	–
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…	–	–	–	–

1. Yet another part of the NVIC registers!

Priority Group	Preempt Priority Field	Subpriority Field
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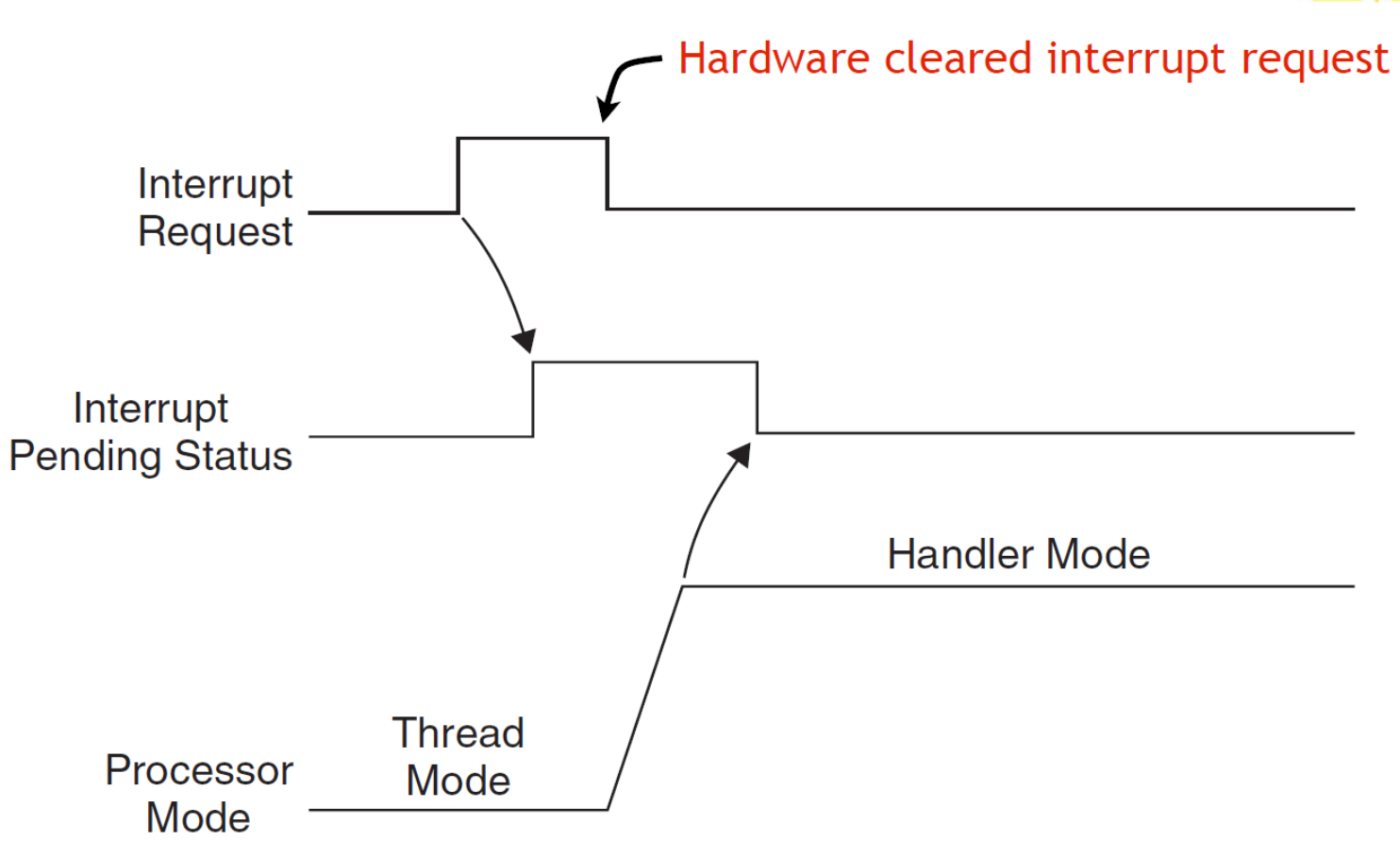
2. How external lines interact with the NVIC



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3. How the hardware figures out what to set the PC to

```
g_pfnVectors:
    .word  _estack
    .word  Reset_Handler
    .word  NMI_Handler
    .word  HardFault_Handler
    .word  MemManage_Handler
    .word  BusFault_Handler
    .word  UsageFault_Handler
    .word  0
    .word  0
    .word  0
    .word  0
    .word  SVC_Handler
    .word  DebugMon_Handler
    .word  0
    .word  PendSV_Handler
    .word  SysTick_Handler
    .word  WdogWakeup_IRQHandler
    .word  BrownOut_1_5V_IRQHandler
    .word  BrownOut_3_3V_IRQHandler
.............. (they continue)
```

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Discussion: So let's say a GPIO pin goes high

- When will we get an interrupt?
- What happens if the interrupt is allowed to proceed?

What happens when we return from an ISR?

- Interrupt exiting process
  - System restoration needed (different from branch)
  - Special LR value could be stored (0xFFFFFFFx)
- Tail chaining
  - When new exception occurs
  - But CPU handling another exception of same/higher priority
  - New exception will enter pending state
  - But will be executed before register unstacking
  - Saving unnecessary unstacking/stacking operations
  - Can reenter hander in as little as 6 cycles
- Late arrivals (ok, so this is actually on entry)
  - When one exception occurs and stacking commences
  - Then another exception occurs before stacking completes
  - And second exception of higher preempt priority arrives
  - The later exception will be processed first

Other stuff: The xPSR register layout

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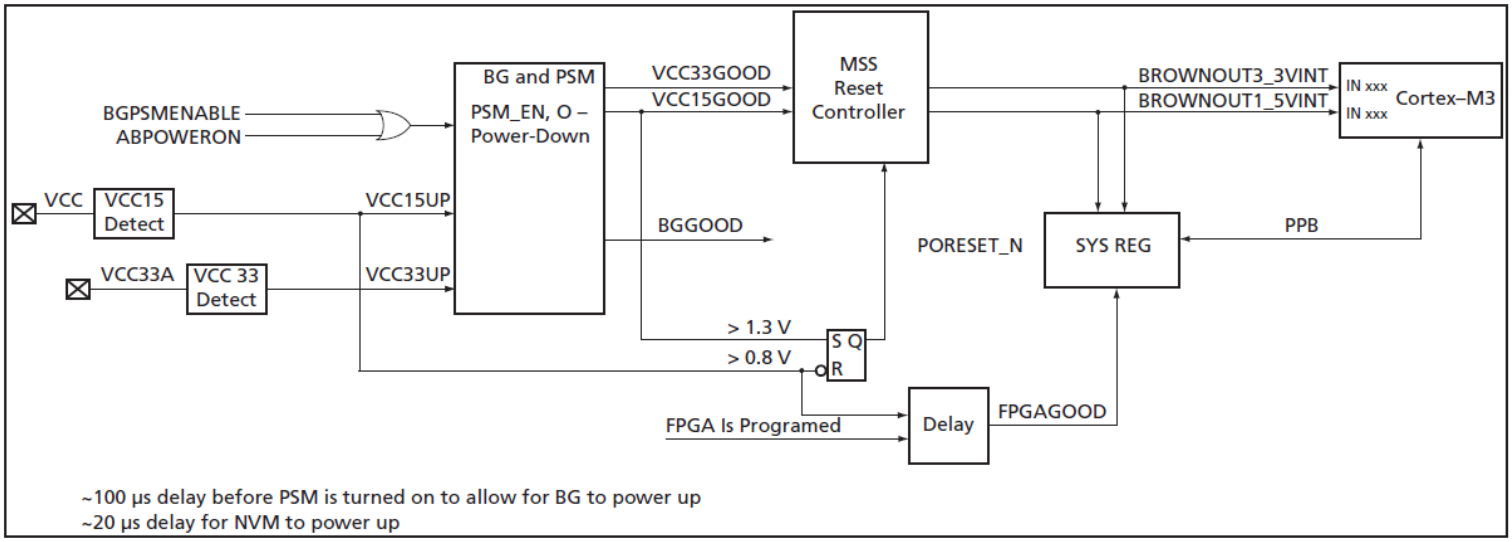
APSR	N	Z	C	V	Q													
IPSR																0 or Exception Number		
EPSR						ICI/IT		T				ICI/IT			a			

Example of Complexity: The Reset Interrupt



1) No power
2) System is held in RESET as long as VCC15 < 0.8V
    a) In reset: registers forced to default
    b) RC-Osc begins to oscillate
    c) MSS_CCC drives RC-Osc/4 into FCLK
    d) PORESET_N is held low
3) Once VCC15GOOD, PORESET_N goes high
    a) MSS reads from eNVM address 0x0 and 0x4

Interrupt types

- Two main types
  - Level-triggered
  - Edge-triggered

Level-triggered interrupts

- Signaled by asserting a line low or high
- Interrupting device drives line low or high and holds it there until it is serviced
- Device deasserts when directed to or after serviced
- Can share the line among multiple devices (w/ OD+PU)
- Active devices assert the line
- Inactive devices let the line float
- Easy to share line w/o losing interrupts
- But servicing increases CPU load → example
- And requires CPU to keep cycling through to check
- Different ISR costs suggests careful ordering of ISR checks
- Can't detect a new interrupt when one is already asserted

Edge-triggered interrupts

- Signaled by a level *transition* (e.g. rising/falling edge)
- Interrupting device drive a pulse (train) onto INT line
- What if the pulse is too short? Need a pulse extender!
- Sharing *is* possible...under some circumstances
- INT line has a pull up and all devices are OC/OD.
- Devices *pulse* lines
- Could we miss an interrupt? Maybe...if close in time
- What happens if interrupts merge? Need one more ISR pass
- Must check trailing edge of interrupt
- Easy to detect "new interrupts”
- Benefits: more immune to unserviceable interrupts
- Pitfalls: spurious edges, missed edges
- Source of "lockups" in early computers