

14. External Interrupts

The External Interrupts are triggered by the INT0, INT1, and INT2 pins. Observe that, if enabled, the interrupts will trigger even if the INT0:2 pins are configured as outputs. This feature provides a way of generating a software interrupt. The external interrupts can be triggered by a falling or rising edge or a low level (INT2 is only an edge triggered interrupt). This is set up as indicated in the specification for the MCU Control Register – MCUCR – and MCU Control and Status Register – MCUCSR. When the external interrupt is enabled and is configured as level triggered (only INT0/INT1), the interrupt will trigger as long as the pin is held low. Note that recognition of falling or rising edge interrupts on INT0 and INT1 requires the presence of an I/O clock, described in [“Clock Systems and their Distribution” on page 31](#). Low level interrupts on INT0/INT1 and the edge interrupt on INT2 are detected asynchronously. This implies that these interrupts can be used for waking the part also from sleep modes other than Idle mode. The I/O clock is halted in all sleep modes except Idle mode.

Note that if a level triggered interrupt is used for wake-up from Power-down mode, the changed level must be held for some time to wake up the MCU. This makes the MCU less sensitive to noise. The changed level is sampled twice by the Watchdog Oscillator clock. The period of the Watchdog Oscillator is 1 μ s (nominal) at 5.0V and 25°C. The frequency of the Watchdog Oscillator is voltage dependent as shown in [“Electrical Characteristics” on page 286](#). The MCU will wake up if the input has the required level during this sampling or if it is held until the end of the start-up time. The start-up time is defined by the SUT fuses as described in [“System Clock and Clock Options” on page 31](#). If the level is sampled twice by the Watchdog Oscillator clock but disappears before the end of the start-up time, the MCU will still wake up, but no interrupt will be generated. The required level must be held long enough for the MCU to complete the wake up to trigger the level interrupt.

14.1 Register Description

14.1.1 MCUCR – MCU Control Register

The MCU Control Register contains control bits for interrupt sense control and general MCU functions.

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
	SE	SM2	SM1	SM0	ISC11	ISC10	ISC01	ISC00	MCUCR
Read/Write	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	
Initial Value	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

• Bit 3, 2 – ISC11, ISC10: Interrupt Sense Control 1 Bit 1 and Bit 0

The External Interrupt 1 is activated by the external pin INT1 if the SREG I-bit and the corresponding interrupt mask in the GICR are set. The level and edges on the external INT1 pin that activate the interrupt are defined in [Table 14-1](#). The value on the INT1 pin is sampled before detecting edges. If edge or toggle interrupt is selected, pulses that last longer than one clock period will generate an interrupt. Shorter pulses are not ensured to generate an interrupt. If low level interrupt is selected, the low level must be held until the completion of the currently executing instruction to generate an interrupt.

Table 14-1. Interrupt 1 Sense Control

ISC11	ISC10	Description
0	0	The low level of INT1 generates an interrupt request.
0	1	Any logical change on INT1 generates an interrupt request.
1	0	The falling edge of INT1 generates an interrupt request.
1	1	The rising edge of INT1 generates an interrupt request.

• Bit 1, 0 – ISC01, ISC00: Interrupt Sense Control 0 Bit 1 and Bit 0

The External Interrupt 0 is activated by the external pin INT0 if the SREG I-flag and the corresponding interrupt mask are set. The level and edges on the external INT0 pin that activate the interrupt are defined in Table 14-2. The value on the INT0 pin is sampled before detecting edges. If edge or toggle interrupt is selected, pulses that last longer than one clock period will generate an interrupt. Shorter pulses are not ensured to generate an interrupt. If low level interrupt is selected, the low level must be held until the completion of the currently executing instruction to generate an interrupt.

Table 14-2. Interrupt 0 Sense Control

ISC01	ISC00	Description
0	0	The low level of INT0 generates an interrupt request.
0	1	Any logical change on INT0 generates an interrupt request.
1	0	The falling edge of INT0 generates an interrupt request.
1	1	The rising edge of INT0 generates an interrupt request.

14.1.2 MCUCSR – MCU Control and Status Register

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
	JTD	ISC2	–	JTRF	WDRF	BORF	EXTRF	PORF	MCUCSR
Read/Write	R/W	R/W	R	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	
Initial Value	0	0	0						See Bit Description

• Bit 6 – ISC2: Interrupt Sense Control 2

The Asynchronous External Interrupt 2 is activated by the external pin INT2 if the SREG I-bit and the corresponding interrupt mask in GICR are set. If ISC2 is written to zero, a falling edge on INT2 activates the interrupt. If ISC2 is written to one, a rising edge on INT2 activates the interrupt. Edges on INT2 are registered asynchronously. Pulses on INT2 wider than the minimum pulse width given in Table 14-3 will generate an interrupt. Shorter pulses are not ensured to generate an interrupt. When changing the ISC2 bit, an interrupt can occur. Therefore, it is recommended to first disable INT2 by clearing its Interrupt Enable bit in the GICR Register. Then, the ISC2 bit can be changed. Finally, the INT2 Interrupt Flag should be cleared by writing a logical one to its Interrupt Flag bit (INTF2) in the GIFR Register before the interrupt is re-enabled.

Table 14-3. Asynchronous External Interrupt Characteristics

Symbol	Parameter	Condition	Min	Typ	Max	Units
t_{INT}	Minimum pulse width for asynchronous external interrupt			50		ns

14.1.3 GICR – General Interrupt Control Register

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
	INT1	INT0	INT2	–	–	–	IVSEL	IVCE	GICR
Read/Write	R/W	R/W	R/W	R	R	R	R/W	R/W	
Initial Value	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

• Bit 7 – INT1: External Interrupt Request 1 Enable

When the INT1 bit is set (one) and the I-bit in the Status Register (SREG) is set (one), the external pin interrupt is enabled. The Interrupt Sense Control1 bits 1/0 (ISC11 and ISC10) in the MCU General Control Register (MCUCR) define whether the External Interrupt is activated on rising and/or falling edge of the INT1 pin or level sensed. Activity on the pin will cause an interrupt request even if INT1 is configured as an output. The corresponding interrupt of External Interrupt Request 1 is executed from the INT1 interrupt Vector.

• Bit 6 – INT0: External Interrupt Request 0 Enable

When the INT0 bit is set (one) and the I-bit in the Status Register (SREG) is set (one), the external pin interrupt is enabled. The Interrupt Sense Control0 bits 1/0 (ISC01 and ISC00) in the MCU General Control Register (MCUCR) define whether the External Interrupt is activated on rising and/or falling edge of the INT0 pin or level sensed. Activity on the pin will cause an interrupt request even if INT0 is configured as an output. The corresponding interrupt of External Interrupt Request 0 is executed from the INT0 interrupt vector.

• Bit 5 – INT2: External Interrupt Request 2 Enable

When the INT2 bit is set (one) and the I-bit in the Status Register (SREG) is set (one), the external pin interrupt is enabled. The Interrupt Sense Control2 bit (ISC2) in the MCU Control and Status Register (MCUCSR) defines whether the External Interrupt is activated on rising or falling edge of the INT2 pin. Activity on the pin will cause an interrupt request even if INT2 is configured as an output. The corresponding interrupt of External Interrupt Request 2 is executed from the INT2 Interrupt Vector.

14.1.4 GIFR – General Interrupt Flag Register

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
	INTF1	INTF0	INTF2	–	–	–	–	–	GIFR
Read/Write	R/W	R/W	R/W	R	R	R	R	R	
Initial Value	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

• Bit 7 – INTF1: External Interrupt Flag 1

When an edge or logic change on the INT1 pin triggers an interrupt request, INTF1 becomes set (one). If the I-bit in SREG and the INT1 bit in GICR are set (one), the MCU will jump to the corresponding Interrupt Vector. The flag is cleared when the interrupt routine is executed. Alternatively, the flag can be cleared by writing a logical one to it. This flag is always cleared when INT1 is configured as a level interrupt.

• Bit 6 – INTF0: External Interrupt Flag 0

When an edge or logic change on the INT0 pin triggers an interrupt request, INTF0 becomes set (one). If the I-bit in SREG and the INT0 bit in GICR are set (one), the MCU will jump to the corresponding interrupt vector. The flag is cleared when the interrupt routine is executed. Alternatively, the flag can be cleared by writing a logical one to it. This flag is always cleared when INT0 is configured as a level interrupt.

• Bit 5 – INTF2: External Interrupt Flag 2

When an event on the INT2 pin triggers an interrupt request, INTF2 becomes set (one). If the I-bit in SREG and the INT2 bit in GICR are set (one), the MCU will jump to the corresponding Interrupt Vector. The flag is cleared when the interrupt routine is executed. Alternatively, the flag can be cleared by writing a logical one to it. Note that when entering some sleep modes with the INT2 interrupt disabled, the input buffer on this pin will be disabled. This may cause a logic change in internal signals which will set the INTF2 Flag. Refer to [“Digital Input Enable and Sleep Modes” on page 60](#) for more information.