

1. Classification of interrupts
 - a. Examples of possible interrupts
 - i. Power failure
 - ii. Arithmetic overflow
 - iii. I/O device request
 - iv. OS call (system call or syscall)
 - v. Page fault (in virtual memory, will discuss this later)
 - b. How to classify interrupts
 - i. By timing (with the clock)
 1. Synchronous (deterministic) – function of program and memory state
 - a. Overflows, page faults
 2. Asynchronous (nondeterministic) – external device, or hardware malfunction
 - a. Printer ready, bus error
 - ii. Source of interrupt
 1. User request – from a user program (OS / system call)
 2. Coerced – from the OS or hardware (page fault, protection violation)
 - iii. Masking
 1. User maskable – can be temporarily ignored (overflow, user-set breakpoint)
 2. Non-maskable – must be handled (power failure, page fault, reset button)
 - iv. Location (or time) in instruction
 1. Within an instruction – must be dealt with to finish instruction (page fault)
 2. Between instructions – not part of an instruction (I/O device request, OS call)
 - v. Result
 1. Resume - transparently return to user process (page fault, I/O request)
 2. Terminate – give up and die (protection violation, power failure)
2. Memory overview
 - a. Terminology
 - i. Word – usually the size of an int, 32 bits
 1. Bytes are a fixed size, words are not!
 - ii. Addressable units – usually bytes, but can be words
 1. 2^A = number of addressable units, where A is the number of bits in an address
 - iii. Unit of transfer – number of bits written out or read into memory at a time
 1. Same idea as bus width

3. Characteristics of memory systems (incomplete list)
 - a. Physical type
 - i. Need two well-defined states in the medium to differentiate 0 and 1
 - ii. Semiconductor – flip-flops, capacitors, so on
 - iii. Magnetic surface – stored using magnetism (like hard drives)
 - iv. Optical – CDs, Blu-ray, and the like
 - b. Volatility
 - i. Non-volatile – retains information when power is off (hard drives)
 - ii. Volatile – loses information when power is cut (registers, flip flops, RAM)
 - c. Location – internal (RAM) or external (USB hard drive)
 - d. Capacity – number of bytes, number of words
 - e. Units of transfer – larger memory devices tend to have larger units of transfer
 - f. Access methods
 - i. Sequential – linear search to pass through intermediate records
 1. $O(n)$ to find a piece of data
 2. Tape drives are sequential
 - ii. Direct access – reach general vicinity (via tracks), then sequentially to exact sector
 1. $O(n/\text{tracks} + \text{sectors})$
 2. Hard drives do this
 - iii. Random access – each addressable location has a unique, physically wired-in addressing mechanism
 1. $O(1)$ to access that piece
 2. RAM (hence the name)
 - iv. Associative – ask for a piece of data, rather than the address
 1. $O(1)$ to ask if memory contains value 1234
 2. Memory looks at everything in parallel to determine address
 3. Content Addressable Memory (CAM)
 - g. Performance
 - i. Access time – time it takes to do a read or write
 - ii. Cycle time – in RAM, access time + extra time to reset circuit/memory
 1. Must get ready again to access another value
 - iii. Transfer rate – rate at which data can be transferred in and out of memory
 - h. Erasability
 - i. Some memories are non-erasable, hence the term read-only memory (ROM)
 - ii. Otherwise, most memories we encounter are erasable