

ECTE333

Lecture 4 – Interrupts and Timers

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ECTE333's schedule

| Lecture (2h) | Tutorial (1h) | Lab (2h) |
|--|---------------|----------|
| L1: Introduction to AVR Microcontrollers | | |
| L2: C Programming, Digital IO | Tutorial 1 | Lab 1 |
| L3: Serial Communication | | |
| | Tutorial 2 | Lab 2 |
| → L4: Interrupts, Timers | | |
| | Tutorial 3 | Lab 3 |
| L5: Pulse Width Modulators | | |
| | Tutorial 4 | Lab 4 |
| L6: Analogue-to-Digital Converters | | |
| | Tutorial 5 | Lab 5 |
| L7: Microcontroller Applications | | |
| | | Lab 6 |

Lecture 4's sequence

4.1 Interrupt programming in C for ATmega16



4.2 Timers in ATmega16



4.3 Timer applications

4.1 Interrupt programming in C for ATmega16

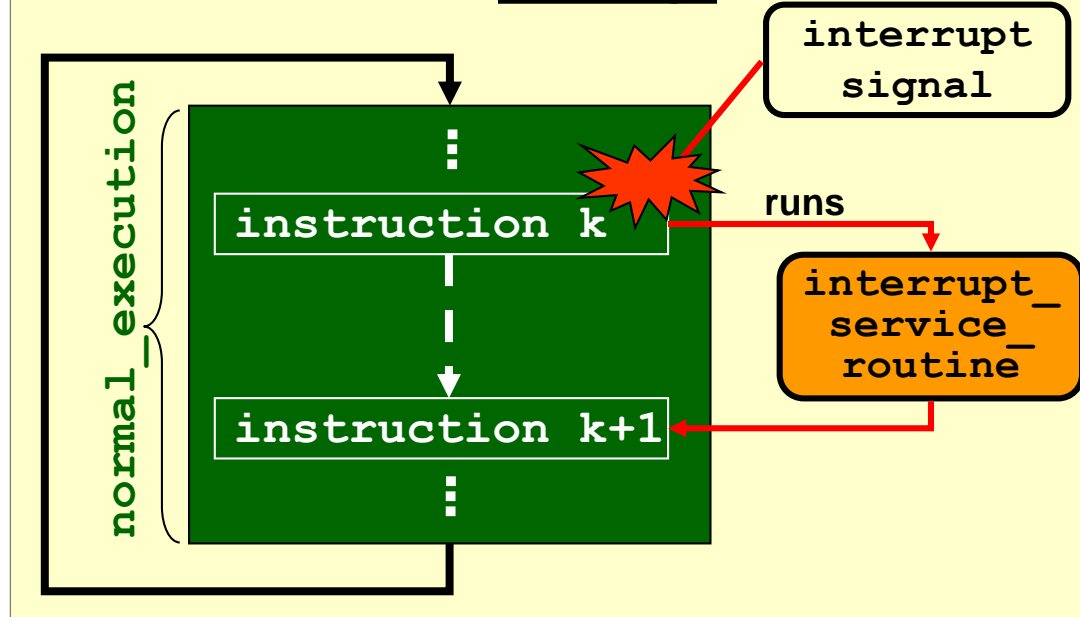
- Compared to polling, interrupt is a more efficient approach for the CPU to handle peripheral devices.
- Example peripheral devices are serial port, external switches, timers, PWM, and ADC.
- In this lecture, we will learn the **interrupt subsystem in the ATmega16**.
- We will also learn how to **write an interrupt-driven program in C**.

Polling versus Interrupt

Polling

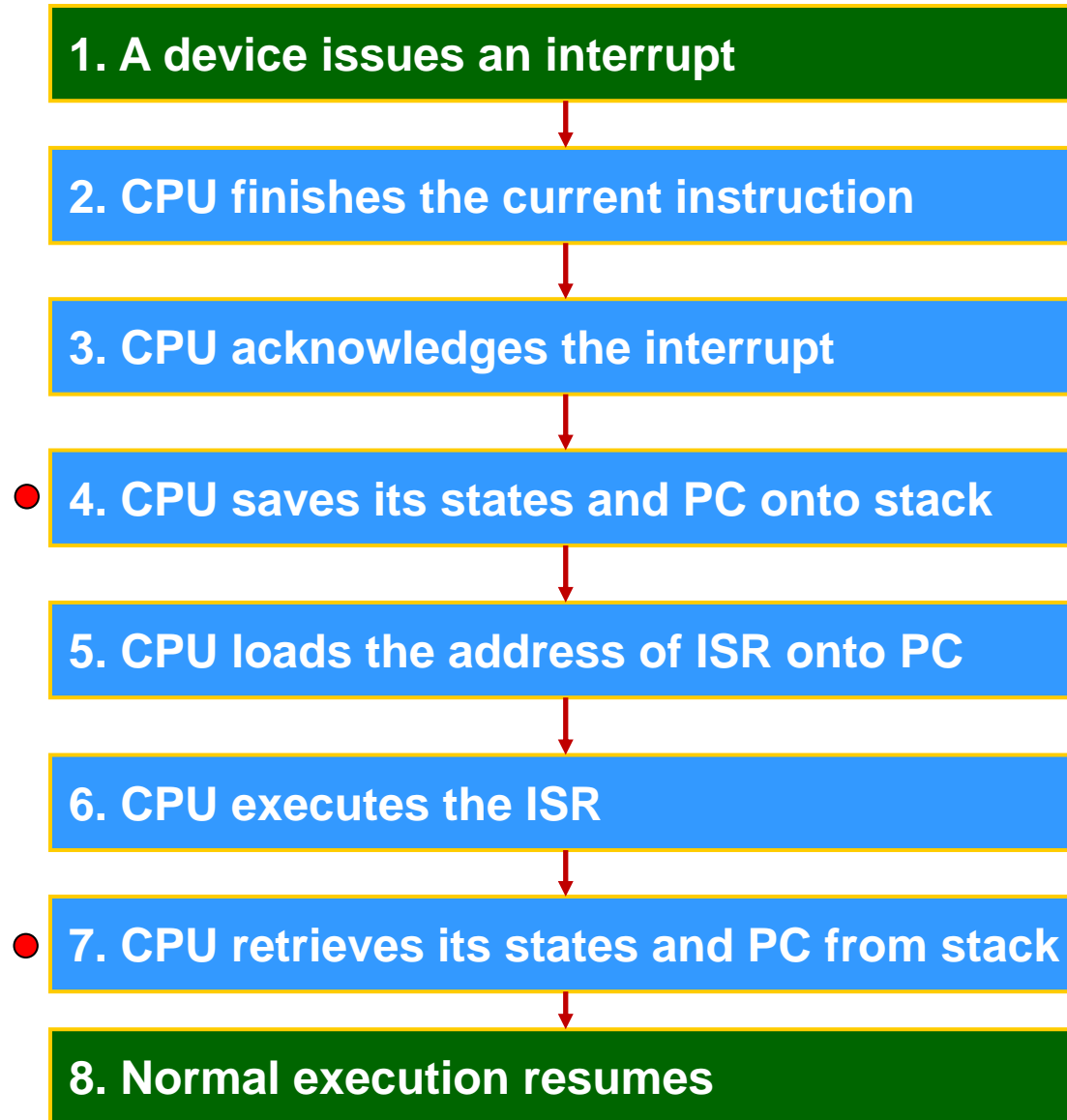
```
while (1){  
    get_device_status;  
    if (service_required){  
        service_routine;  
    }  
    normal_execution;  
}
```

Interrupt



- Using polling: The CPU must continually check the device's status.
- Using interrupt:
 - When needed, a device sends an interrupt signal.
 - In response, the CPU will perform an interrupt service routine, and then resume its normal execution.

Interrupt execution sequence



ATmega16 interrupt subsystem

The ATmega16 has 21 interrupts:

- 3 external interrupts
- 8 timer interrupts
- 3 serial port interrupts
- 1 ADC interrupt

our focus

- 1 analogue comparator interrupt
- 1 SPI interrupt
- 1 TWI interrupt
- 2 memory interrupts
- 1 reset interrupt

Table 4.1: Interrupts in ATmega16

| Vector No. | Program Address | Interrupt vector name | Description |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | \$000 | RESET_vect | Reset |
| 2 | \$002 | INT0_vect | External Interrupt Request 0 |
| 3 | \$004 | INT1_vect | External Interrupt Request 1 |
| 4 | \$006 | TIMER2_COMP_vect | Timer/Counter2 Compare Match |
| 5 | \$008 | TIMER2_OVF_vect | Timer/Counter2 Overflow |
| 6 | \$00A | TIMER1_CAPT_vect | Timer/Counter1 Capture Event |
| 7 | \$00C | TIMER1_COMPA_vect | Timer/Counter1 Compare Match A |
| 8 | \$00E | TIMER1_COMPB_vect | Timer/Counter1 Compare Match B |
| 9 | \$010 | TIMER1_OVF_vect | Timer/Counter1 Overflow |
| 10 | \$012 | TIMER0_OVF_vect | Timer/Counter0 Overflow |
| 11 | \$014 | SPI_STC_vect | Serial Transfer Complete |
| 12 | \$016 | USART_RXC_vect | USART, Rx Complete |
| 13 | \$018 | USART_UDRE_vect | USART Data Register Empty |
| 14 | \$01A | USART_TXC_vect | USART, Tx Complete |
| 15 | \$01C | ADC_vect | ADC Conversion Complete |
| 16 | \$01E | EE_RDY_vect | EEPROM Ready |
| 17 | \$020 | ANA_COMP_vect | Analog Comparator |
| 18 | \$022 | TWI_vect | 2-wire Serial Interface |
| 19 | \$024 | INT2_vect | External Interrupt Request 2 |
| 20 | \$026 | TIMER0_COMP_vect | Timer/Counter0 Compare Match |
| 21 | \$028 | SPM_RDY_vect | Store Program Memory Ready |

Table 4.1: Interrupts in ATmega16

■ Vector No

- An interrupt with a lower 'Vector No' has a higher priority.
- E.g., INT0 has a higher priority than INT1 and INT2.

■ Program Address

- The fixed memory location for a given interrupt handler.
- E.g., in response to interrupt INT0, CPU runs the instruction at \$002.

■ Interrupt Vector Name

- This is the interrupt name, to be used with C macro ISR().

Steps to program an interrupt in C

- To program an interrupt, 5 steps are required.
 1. Include header file `<avr\interrupt.h>`.
 2. Use C macro `ISR()` to define the interrupt handler and update IVT.
 3. Enable the specific interrupt.
 4. Configure details of the interrupt by setting the relevant registers.
 5. Enable the interrupt subsystem globally using `sei()`.

- Later, we'll study steps for interrupt programming in C, via 2 examples.
 - 4.1.1 USART RXD Complete interrupt
 - 4.1.2 External interrupts

Using C macro ISR()

- The C macro ISR() is used to define the handler for a given interrupt.
- Its syntax is given as

```
ISR(interrupt_vector_name) {  
    // ... code for interrupt handler here  
}
```

where `interrupt_vector_name` is given in Table 4.1.

- Example: On interrupt 'RXD Complete', to put the received character in Port B, we write

```
ISR(USART_RXC_vect) {  
    PORTB = UDR;    // put the received character in Port B  
}
```

Learning ATmega16 interrupts

| Vector No. | Interrupt vector name | Description |
|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | RESET_vect | Reset |
| 2 | INT0_vect | External Interrupt Request 0 |
| 3 | INT1_vect | External Interrupt Request 1 |
| 4 | TIMER2_COMP_vect | Timer/Counter2 Compare Match |
| 5 | TIMER2_OVF_vect | Timer/Counter2 Overflow |
| 6 | TIMER1_CAPT_vect | Timer/Counter1 Capture Event |
| 7 | TIMER1_COMPA_vect | Timer/Counter1 Compare Match A |
| 8 | TIMER1_COMPB_vect | Timer/Counter1 Compare Match B |
| 9 | TIMER1_OVF_vect | Timer/Counter1 Overflow |
| 10 | TIMER0_OVF_vect | Timer/Counter0 Overflow |
| 11 | SPI_STC_vect | Serial Transfer Complete |
| 12 | USART_RXC_vect | USART, Rx Complete |
| 13 | USART_UDRE_vect | USART Data Register Empty |
| 14 | USART_TXC_vect | USART, Tx Complete |
| 15 | ADC_vect | ADC Conversion Complete |
| 16 | EE_RDY_vect | EEPROM Ready |
| 17 | ANA_COMP_vect | Analog Comparator |
| 18 | TWI_vect | 2-wire Serial Interface |
| 19 | INT2_vect | External Interrupt Request 2 |
| 20 | TIMER0_COMP_vect | Timer/Counter0 Compare Match |
| 21 | SPM_RDY_vect | Store Program Memory Ready |

} **Lecture 4.1.2**

} **Lecture 4.2, 4.3**

} **Lecture 5**

} **Lecture 4.1.1**

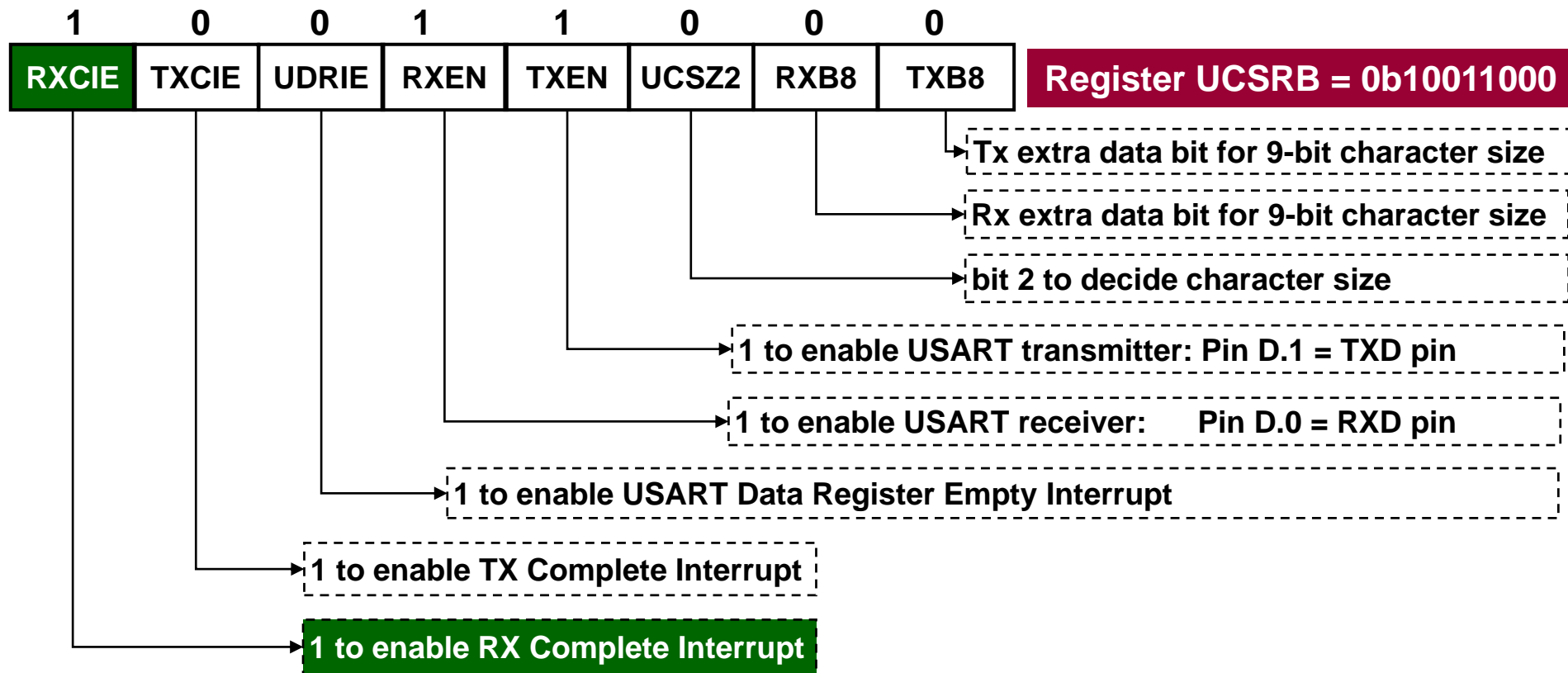
} **Lecture 6**

4.1.1 Serial RXD interrupt

Write a C interrupt-driven program to use the serial port of ATmega16 at baud rate 1200, no parity, 1 stop bit, 8 data bits, clock speed 1MHz. Whenever a character is received, it should be sent to Port B.

- The serial port of ATmega16 can trigger an RXD interrupt whenever a character is received [**Lecture 3**].
- We enable this interrupt by setting a flag in a serial port register.
- We then write the ISR, to be run whenever the interrupt is triggered.

Serial RXD interrupt: Enabling



- The ATmega16 manual explains how to enable any interrupt.
- For serial RXD interrupt, we look at the 'USART' section.

Serial RXD interrupt: serial_int.c

```
#include <avr/io.h>
#include <avr/interrupt.h>
```

1

```
void serial_init(void){
    // Normal speed, disable multi-proc
    UCSRA = 0b00000000;
```

```
    // Enable Tx and Rx pins, enable RX interrupt
    UCSRB = 0b10011000;
```

3

```
    // Asynchronous mode, no parity, 1 stop bit, 8 data bits
    UCSRC = 0b10000110;
```

```
    // Baud rate 1200bps, assuming 1MHz clock
    UBRRL = 0x33; UBRRH = 0x00;
```

```
}
```

```
ISR(USART_RXC_vect){ // handler for RXD interrupt
    PORTB = UDR;      // received character is displayed on port B
}
```

2

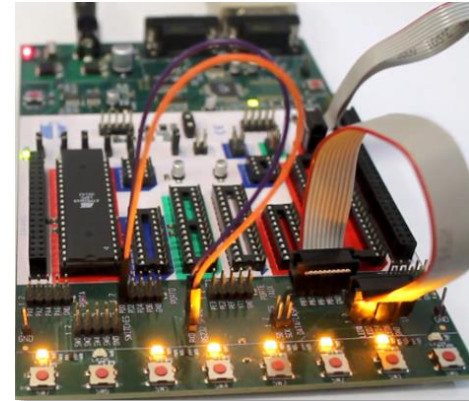
```
int main(void) {
    serial_init(); // initialise serial port
    sei();         // enable interrupt subsystem globally
    DDRB = 0xFF;   // set port B for output
    while (1) {;}  // infinite loop
    return 0;
}
```

4

5

Serial RXD interrupt: Testing

- Connect **RXD** pin (pin D.0) to **RXD** pin of RS232 Spare.
- Connect **TXD** pin (pin D.1) to **TXD** pin of RS232 Spare.
- Connect **Port B** to **LED connector**.
- Compile, download program.
- Connect **RS232 Spare Connector** to **Serial Port of PC**.
- Configure and run Hyper Terminal and use it to send characters.



Serial RXD interrupt: Testing



Demo: serial_int.mp4

Serial RXD: Polling approach

For comparison, the program below uses polling for the same effect.

```
#include <avr/io.h>

void serial_init(void) {
    // Normal speed, disable multi-proc
    UCSRA = 0b00000000;

    // Enable Tx and Rx, disable interrupts
    UCSRB = 0b00011000;

    // Asynchronous mode, no parity, 1 stop bit, 8 data bits
    UCSRC = 0b10000110;

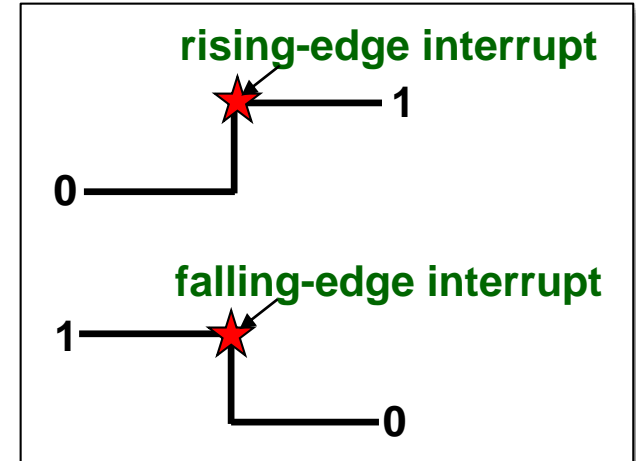
    // Baud rate 1200bps, assuming 1MHz clock
    UBRR1 = 0x33; UBRRH = 0x00;
}

int main(void) {
    serial_init(); // initialise serial port
    DDRB = 0xFF; // set port B for output
    while (1) { // infinite loop
        while ((UCSRA & (1<<RXC)) == 0x00) {;} // poll until RXC flag = 1

        PORTB = UDR; // received character is displayed on port B
    }
    return 0;
}
```

4.1.2 External interrupts

- External interrupts on ATmega16 and ATmega8515 are similar.
- Key references: ATmega16 user manual, '**External Interrupts**' section.
- Three external interrupts can be triggered.
 - INT0 on pin D.2,
 - INT1 on pin D.3,
 - INT2 on pin B.2.
- Key steps in using external interrupts:
 - enable the interrupt,
 - specify what events will trigger the interrupt.



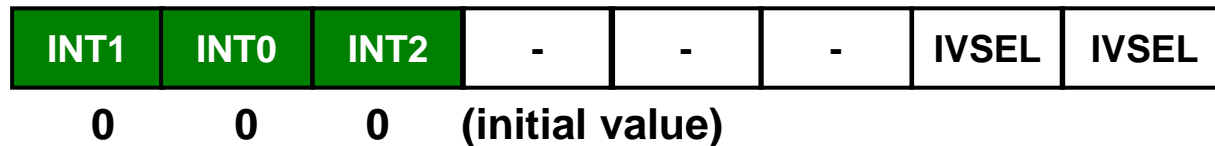
External Interrupts: Relevant pins

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----|----|-------------|
| (XCK/T0) PB0 | 1 | 40 | PA0 (ADC0) |
| (T1) PB1 | 2 | 39 | PA1 (ADC1) |
| (INT2/AIN0) PB2 | 3 | 38 | PA2 (ADC2) |
| (OC0/AIN1) PB3 | 4 | 37 | PA3 (ADC3) |
| (\overline{SS}) PB4 | 5 | 36 | PA4 (ADC4) |
| (MOSI) PB5 | 6 | 35 | PA5 (ADC5) |
| (MISO) PB6 | 7 | 34 | PA6 (ADC6) |
| (SCK) PB7 | 8 | 33 | PA7 (ADC7) |
| RESET | 9 | 32 | AREF |
| VCC | 10 | 31 | GND |
| GND | 11 | 30 | AVCC |
| XTAL2 | 12 | 29 | PC7 (TOSC2) |
| XTAL1 | 13 | 28 | PC6 (TOSC1) |
| (RXD) PD0 | 14 | 27 | PC5 (TDI) |
| (TXD) PD1 | 15 | 26 | PC4 (TDO) |
| (INT0) PD2 | 16 | 25 | PC3 (TMS) |
| (INT1) PD3 | 17 | 24 | PC2 (TCK) |
| (OC1B) PD4 | 18 | 23 | PC1 (SDA) |
| (OC1A) PD5 | 19 | 22 | PC0 (SCL) |
| (ICP1) PD6 | 20 | 21 | PD7 (OC2) |

ATmega16 chip

External interrupts: Enabling

- To enable an external interrupt, set a flag in General Interrupt Control Register (**GICR**):



- Example: To enable INT1 (pin D.3), we can write

```
GICR = 0b1000000;    // same as GICR = (1 << INT1);
```

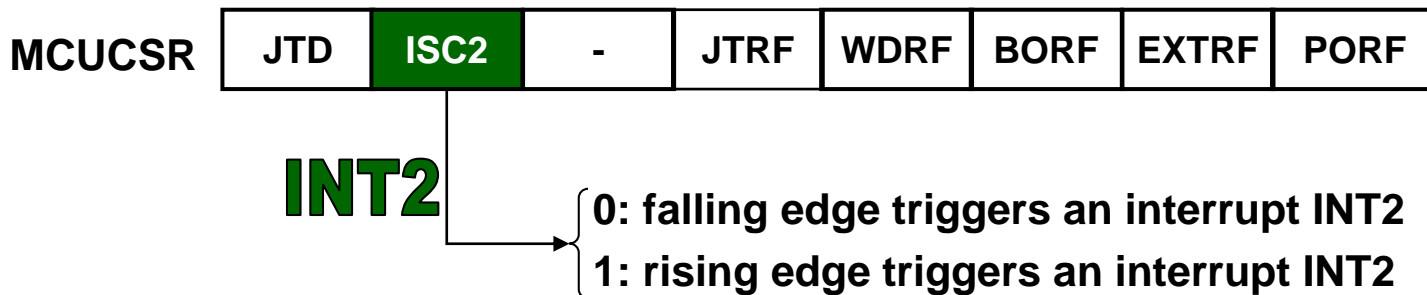
Note that INT1 and GICR names are already defined in <avr/io.h>.

```
#define INT1    7
```

External interrupts: Specifying events

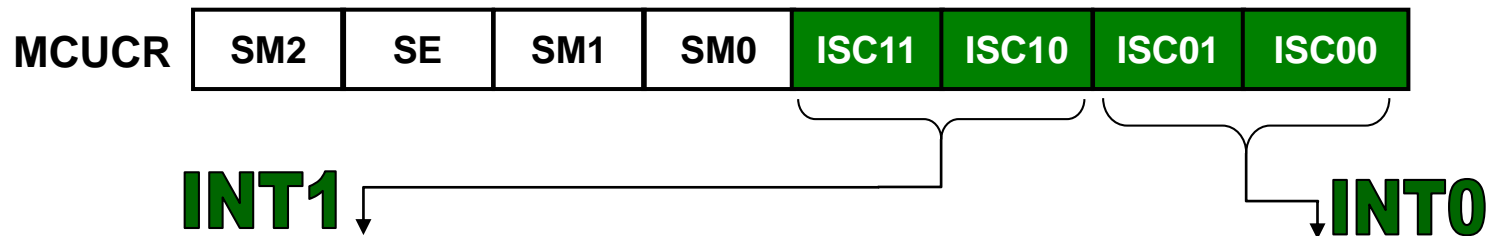
- Specify the events that trigger an external interrupt by using
 - **MCU Control Register** (for INT0 and INT1), or
 - **MCU Control and Status Register** (for INT2).

- For INT2:



External interrupts: Specifying events

■ For INT0 and INT1:



| ISC11 | ISC10 | An interrupt is triggered when |
|-------|-------|--------------------------------|
| 0 | 0 | low level of INT1 |
| 0 | 1 | any change of INT1 |
| 1 | 0 | falling edge of INT1 |
| 1 | 1 | rising edge of INT1 |

| ISC11 | ISC10 | An interrupt is triggered when |
|-------|-------|--------------------------------|
| 0 | 0 | low level of INT0 |
| 0 | 1 | any change of INT0 |
| 1 | 0 | falling edge of INT0 |
| 1 | 1 | rising edge of INT0 |

External interrupts: Example

Write a C program to invert Port B whenever a switch on the STK500 board is pressed. The program should use an external interrupt.

- Let's use interrupt INT1. This interrupt is triggered on pin D.3.

- To enable interrupt INT1:

```
GICR = 0b1000000;    // same as GICR = (1 << INT1);
```

- To specify that INT1 is triggered on any change in pin D.3:

```
MCUCR = 0b00000100; // same as MCUCR = (1 << ISC10);
```

- Then, we write the ISR, and enable interrupt subsystem.

External interrupts: ext_int.c

```
#include <avr/io.h>
```

```
#include <avr/interrupt.h>
```

```
ISR(INT1_vect) {           // handler for INT1 interrupt
    PORTB = (~PORTB);      // invert Port B
}
```

```
int main(void) {
```

```
    GICR = (1 << INT1);    // enable interrupt INT1
```

```
    MCUCR = (1 << ISC10);  // triggered on any change to INT1 (D.3)
```

```
    sei();                  // enable interrupt subsystem globally
```

```
    DDRB = 0xFF;           // set Port B for output
```

```
    PORTB = 0b10101010;    // initial value
```

```
    while (1) {;}          // infinite main loop
```

```
    return 0;
```

```
}
```

1

2

3

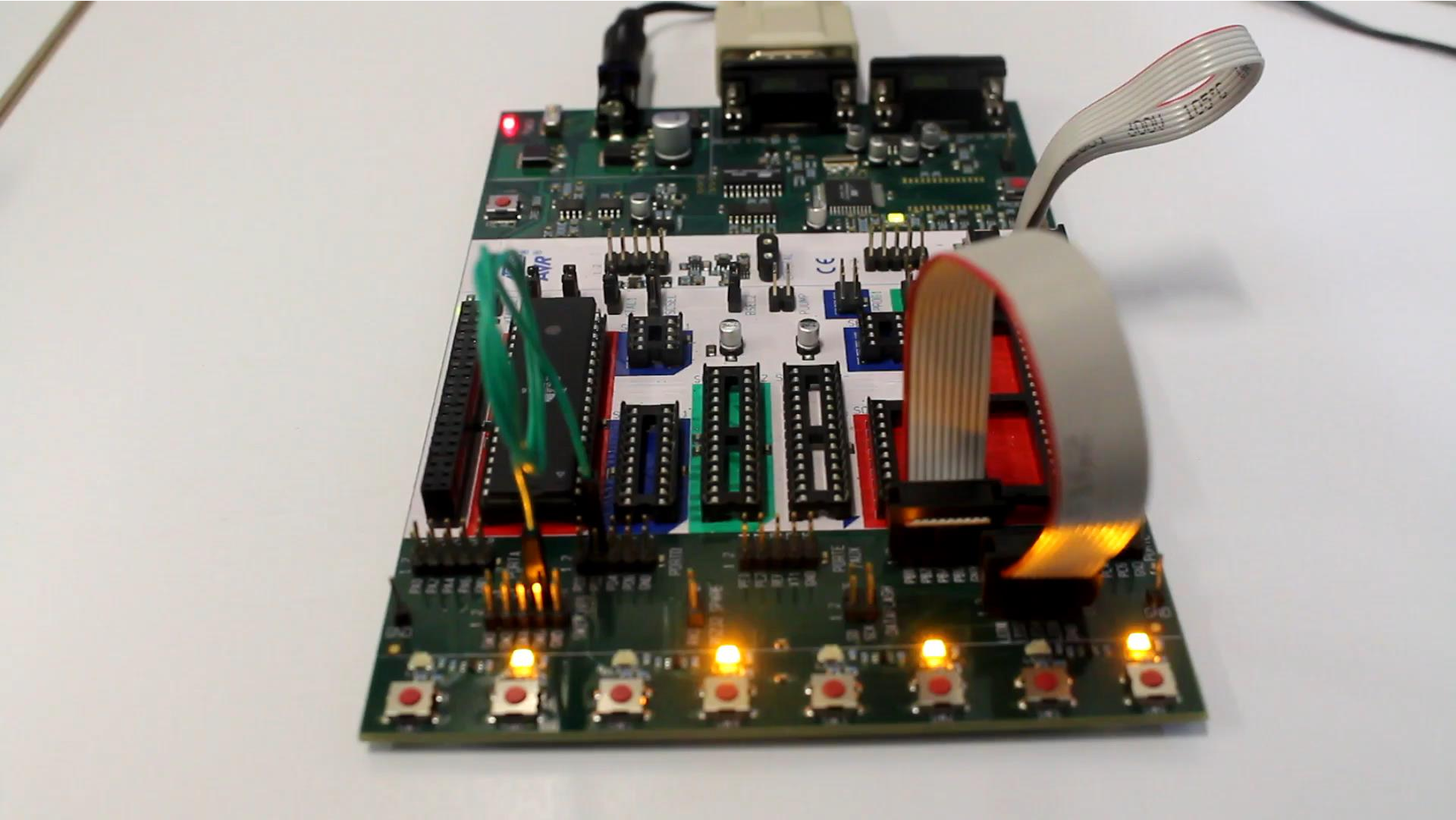
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5

External interrupts: Testing ext_int.c

- Connect **INT1 pin (D.3)** to **switch SW7** (or any switch) of STK500 board.
- Connect **GRD pin of Port D** to **GRD pin of SW connector**.
- Connect **Port B** to **LED connector**.
- Compile, download program.
- Press switch SW7; LEDs will toggle.

External interrupts: Testing ext_int.c



Demo: ext_int.mp4

Lecture 4's sequence

4.1 Interrupt programming in C for ATmega16



4.2 Timers in ATmega16



4.3 Timer applications

4.2 Timers in ATmega16

- Many computer applications require accurate timing.
- Examples include:
 - recording the time when an event occurs,
 - calculating the time difference between events,
 - performing tasks at specific or periodic times,
 - creating accurate time delays,
 - generating waveforms of a certain shape, period, or duty cycle.
- Lectures 4 and 5 focus on using timers to perform time-related tasks.



Timer terminology

■ Input Capture:

- ❑ Input signal is connected to a pin, called input capture, of the timer.
- ❑ When an event (rising edge, falling edge, or change) occurs on this pin, the current timer value is automatically stored in a register.

■ Output Compare:

- ❑ A timer typically has a pin, called output compare.
- ❑ When the timer reaches a preset value, the output compare pin can be automatically changed to binary 0 or 1.

Overview of Timers in ATmega16

- ATmega16 has three timers: **Timer 0**, **Timer 1** and **Timer 2**.
- Each timer is associated with a counter and a clock signal.
- The counter is incremented by 1 in every clock cycle of the timer.
- The clock signal of a timer can come from
 - the internal system clock, or
 - an external clock source.

Overview of Timers in ATmega16

- When the internal system clock is used, a **prescaler** can be applied to make the timer count at a slower rate.

- Example:
 - Consider a system clock of 1Mhz (i.e. $1\mu\text{s}$ per cycle).
 - Suppose that a timer prescaler of 64 is used.
 - Then, timer will increment every $64\mu\text{s}$.

Overview of Timers in ATmega16

| | Timer 0 | Timer 1 | Timer 2 |
|-----------------|---|---|---|
| Overall | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 8-bit counter- 10-bit prescaler | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 16-bit counter- 10-bit prescaler | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 8-bit counter- 10-bit prescaler |
| Functions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- PWM- Frequency generation- Event counter- Output compare | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- PWM- Frequency generation- Event counter- Output compare channels: 2- Input capture | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- PWM- Frequency generation- Event counter- Output compare |
| Operation modes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Normal mode- Clear timer on compare match- Fast PWM- Phase correct PWM | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Normal mode- Clear timer on compare match- Fast PWM- Phase correct PWM | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Normal mode- Clear timer on compare match- Fast PWM- Phase correct PWM |

Timer 1 has the most capability among the three timers.

Study plan

■ In Lecture 4, we focus on

- operations of Timer 1,
- using Timer 1 overflow interrupt,
- using Timer 1 input capture interrupt,
- measuring time, creating time delay,
- measuring period/duty cycle of a signal,
- information required for Lab 3.

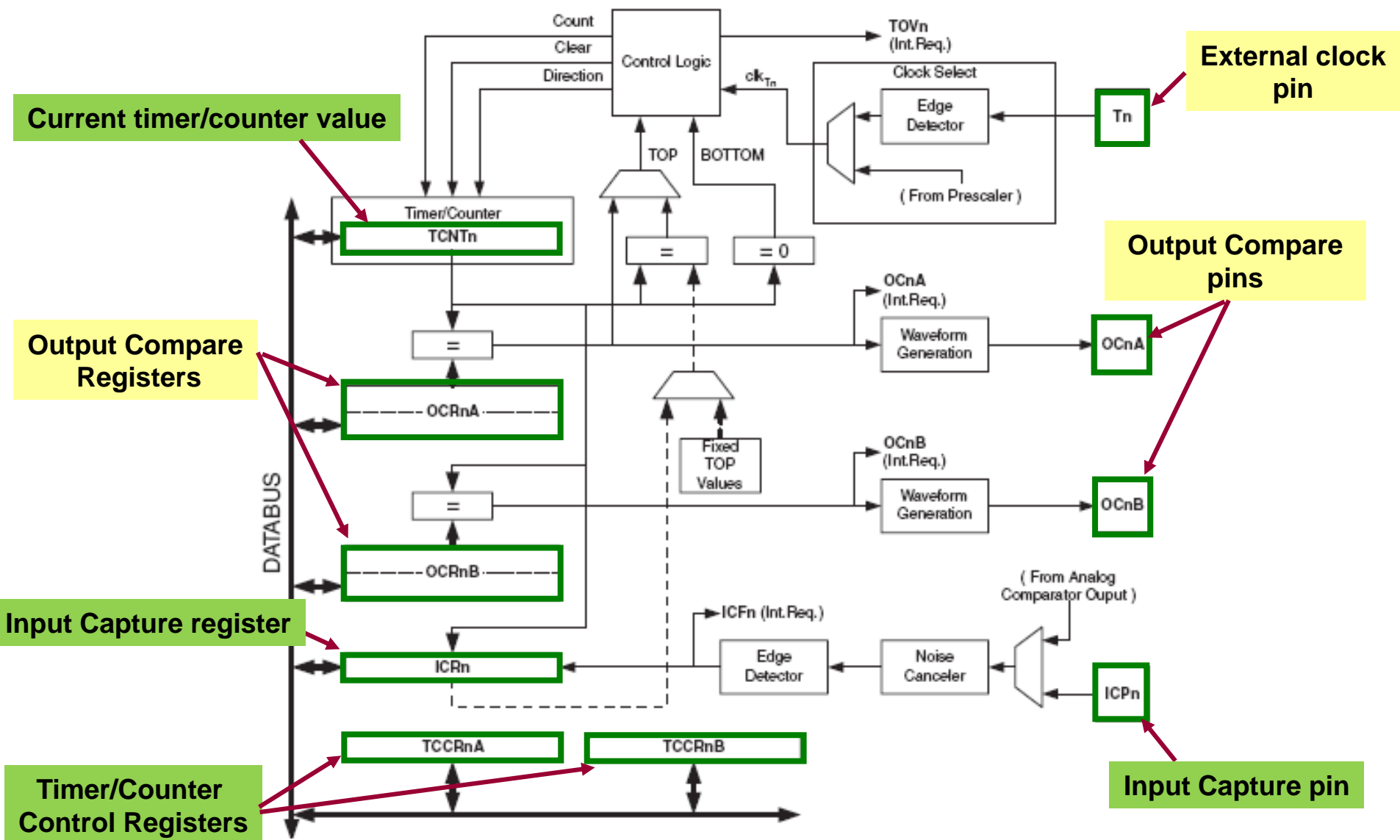
■ In Lecture 5, we will learn

- using Timer 1 output compare interrupt,
- generating PWM signals,
- information required for Lab 4.

Timer 1: An overview

- 16-bit counter.
- 10-bit prescaler: 8, 64, 256, and 1024
- can trigger **a timer overflow interrupt** when counter reaches MAX.
- can trigger **an input capture interrupt** when an event occurs on the input capture pin.
 - Timer value is stored automatically in a register.
 - Input capture pin for Timer 1 is ICP1 (D.6).
- can trigger **an output compare match interrupt** when timer reaches a preset value.
 - There are two independent output compare channels A and B.

Timer 1: Block diagram



Not shown here: TIMSK and TIFR registers

Timer 1 – Relevant pins

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----|----|-------------|
| (XCK/T0) PB0 | 1 | 40 | PA0 (ADC0) |
| (T1) PB1 | 2 | 39 | PA1 (ADC1) |
| (INT2/AIN0) PB2 | 3 | 38 | PA2 (ADC2) |
| (OC0/AIN1) PB3 | 4 | 37 | PA3 (ADC3) |
| (\overline{SS}) PB4 | 5 | 36 | PA4 (ADC4) |
| (MOSI) PB5 | 6 | 35 | PA5 (ADC5) |
| (MISO) PB6 | 7 | 34 | PA6 (ADC6) |
| (SCK) PB7 | 8 | 33 | PA7 (ADC7) |
| RESET | 9 | 32 | AREF |
| VCC | 10 | 31 | GND |
| GND | 11 | 30 | AVCC |
| XTAL2 | 12 | 29 | PC7 (TOSC2) |
| XTAL1 | 13 | 28 | PC6 (TOSC1) |
| (RXD) PD0 | 14 | 27 | PC5 (TDI) |
| (TXD) PD1 | 15 | 26 | PC4 (TDO) |
| (INT0) PD2 | 16 | 25 | PC3 (TMS) |
| (INT1) PD3 | 17 | 24 | PC2 (TCK) |
| (OC1B) PD4 | 18 | 23 | PC1 (SDA) |
| (OC1A) PD5 | 19 | 22 | PC0 (SCL) |
| (ICP1) PD6 | 20 | 21 | PD7 (OC2) |

used in
this lecture →

Timer 1 – Five groups of registers

1) Timer/Counter 1

- ❑ TCNT1
- ❑ 16-bit register that stores the current value of the timer.

2) Timer/Counter 1 Control Registers

- ❑ TCCR1A and TCCR1B
- ❑ To configure the operations of Timer 1.

3) Input Capture Register

- ❑ ICR1
- ❑ to store timer value when an event occurs on input capture pin.

4) Interrupt registers

- ❑ TIMSK to enable timer interrupts
- ❑ TIFR to monitor status of timer interrupts.

5) Output Compare Registers

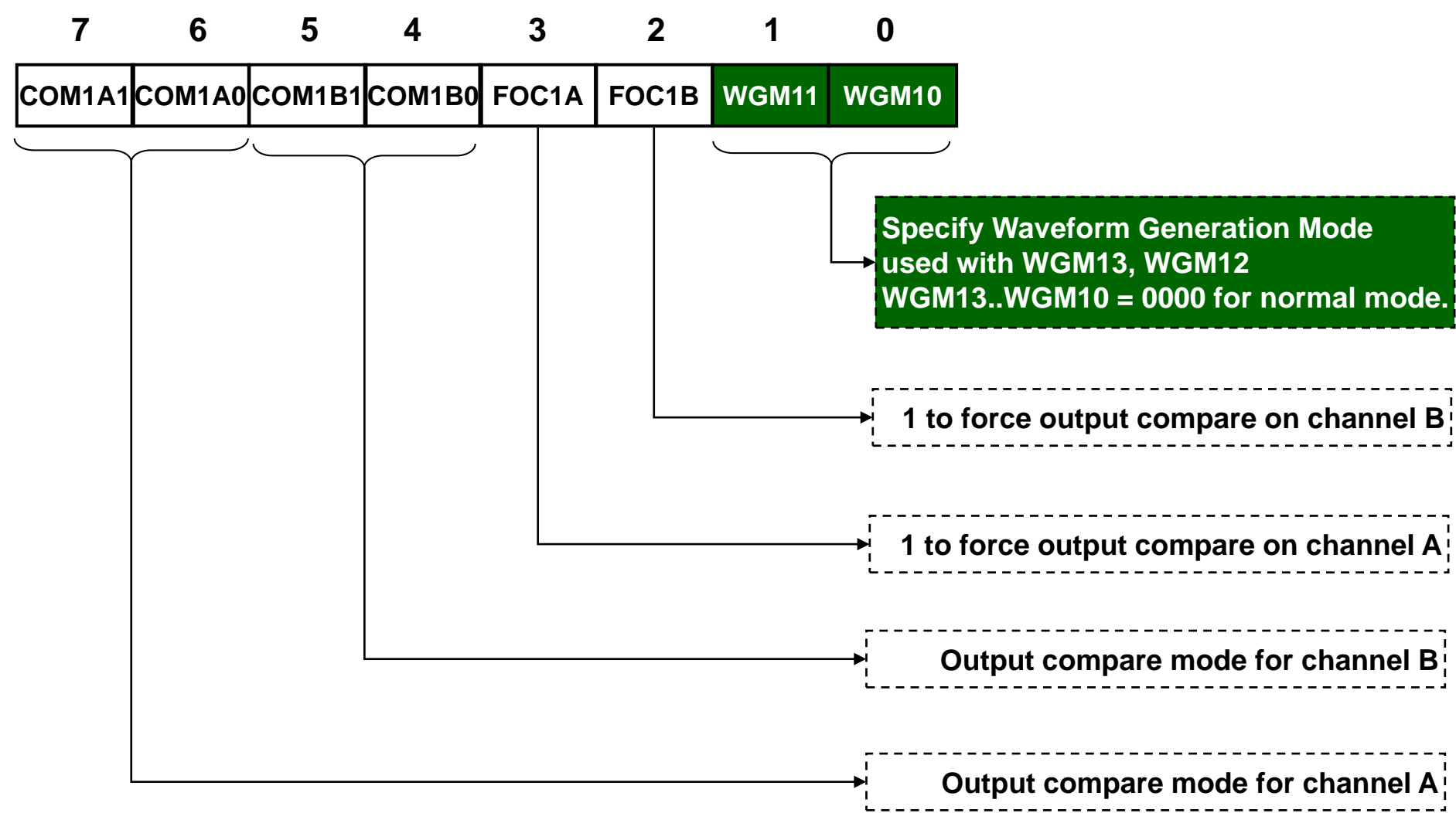
- ❑ OCR1A, OCR1B
- ❑ To store the preset values for output compare.

**will be covered
in Lecture 5.**

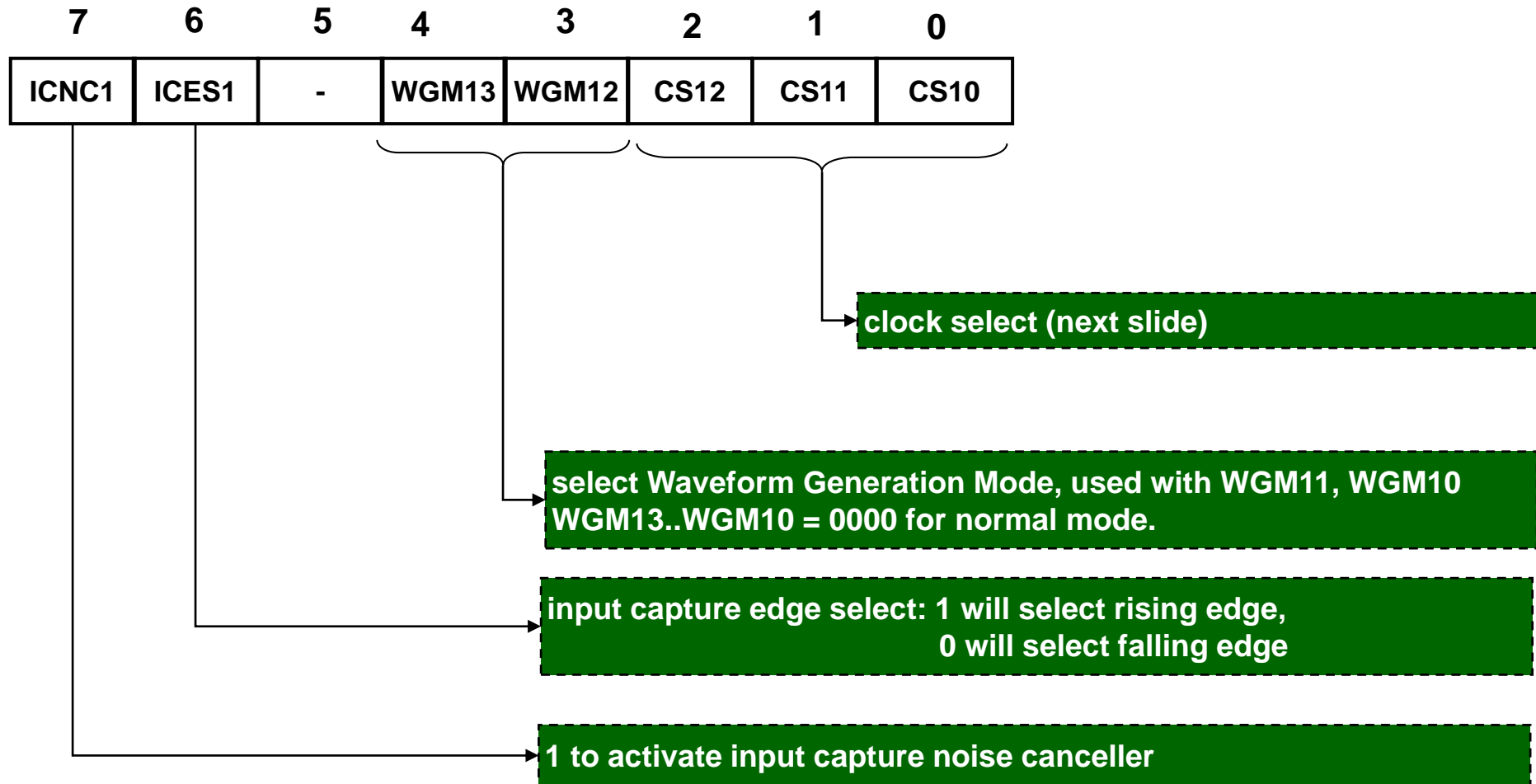
Timer 1 — Five groups of registers

**We now study the
important registers for Timer 1.**

4.2.1 Timer/Counter 1 Control Register A (TCCR1A)



4.2.2 Timer/Counter 1 Control Register B (TCCR1B)

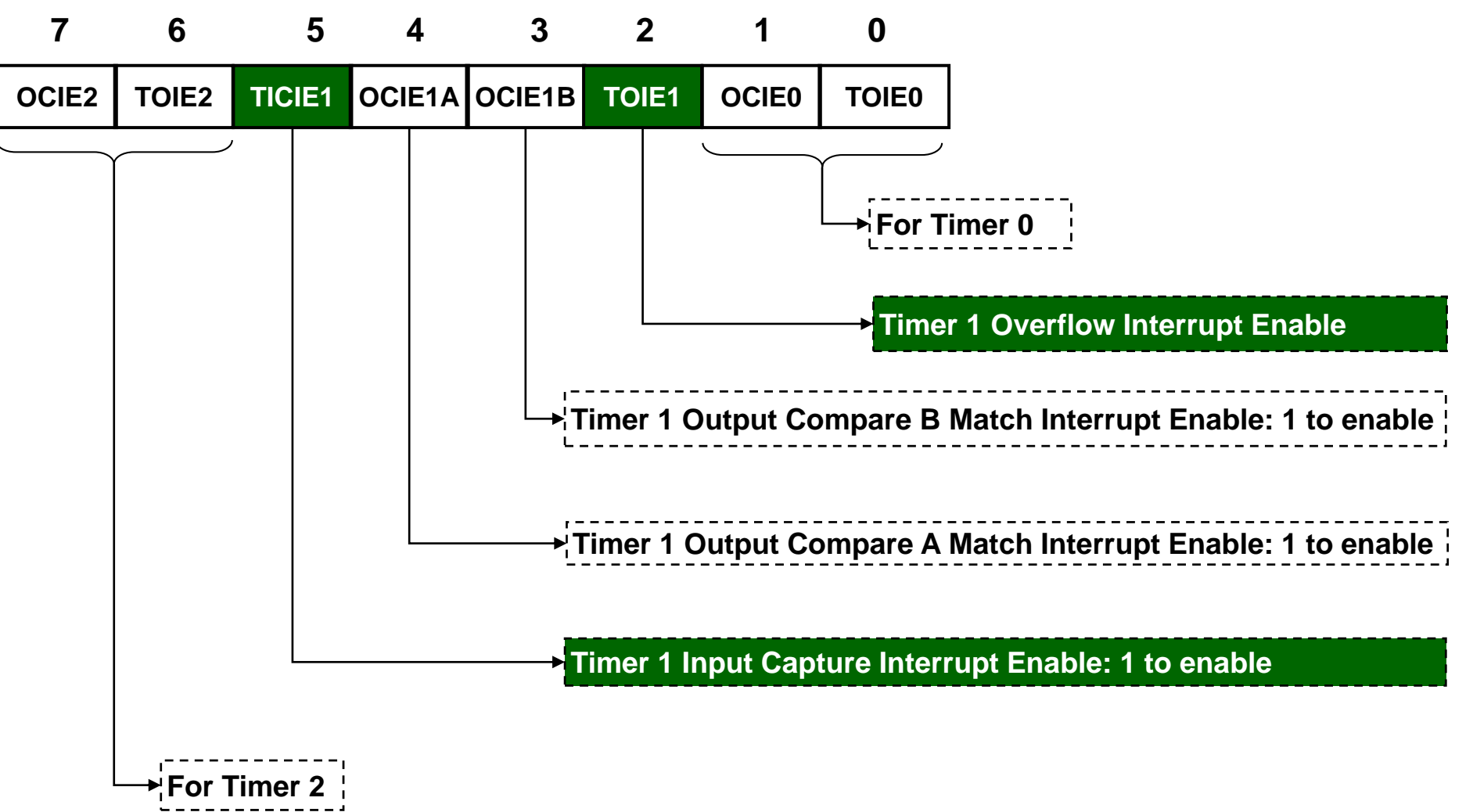


Clock select

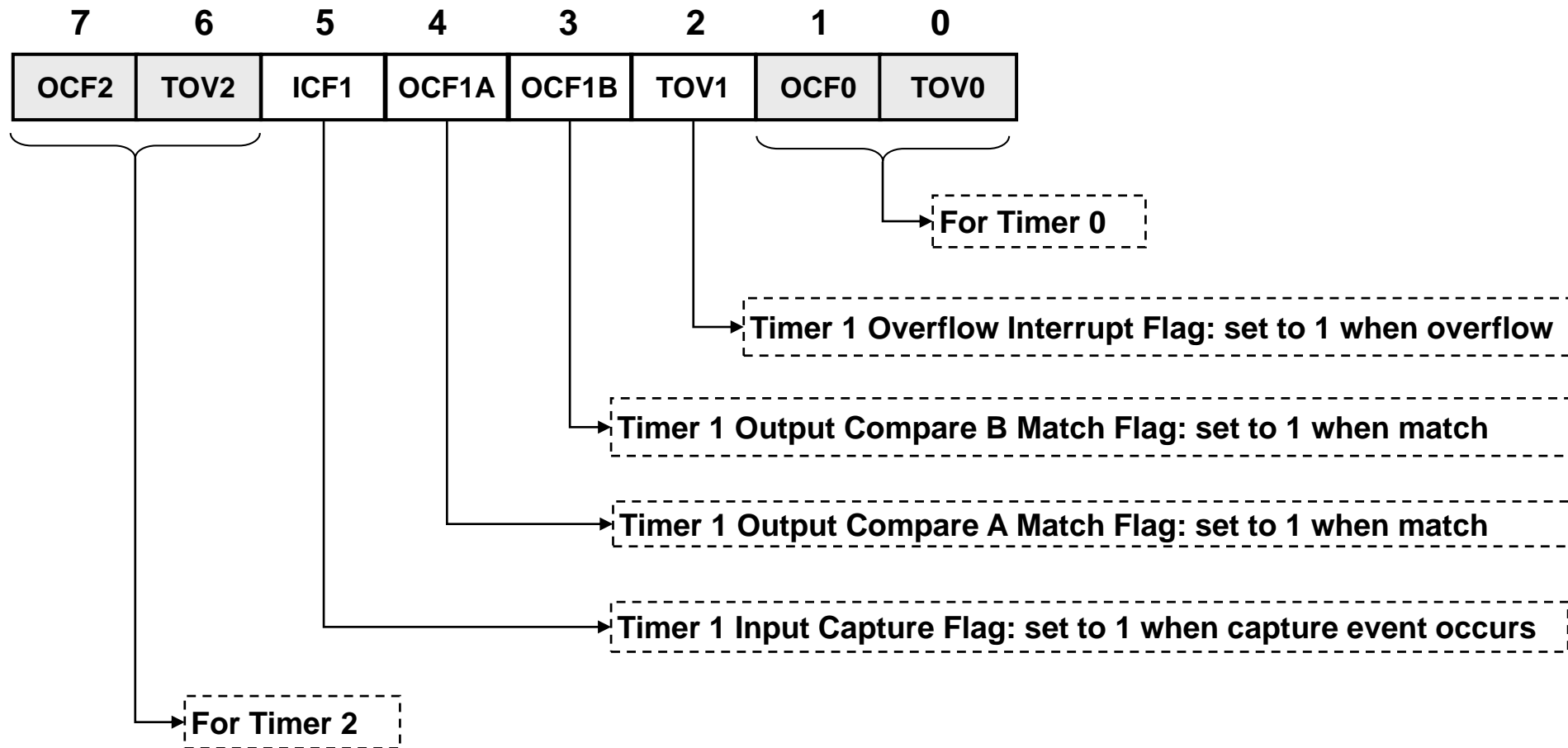
| CS12 | CS11 | CS10 | Description |
|------|------|------|---|
| 0 | 0 | 0 | No clock source (timer stopped) |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | $\text{CLK}_{\text{I/O}}/1$ (no prescaling) |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | $\text{CLK}_{\text{I/O}}/8$ (from prescaler) |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | $\text{CLK}_{\text{I/O}}/64$ (from prescaler) |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | $\text{CLK}_{\text{I/O}}/256$ (from prescaler) |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | $\text{CLK}_{\text{I/O}}/1024$ (from prescaler) |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | External clock source on T1 pin. Clock on falling edge. |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | External clock source on T1 pin. Clock on rising edge. |

- For ATmega16, the default internal clock is $\text{CLK}_{\text{I/O}} = 1\text{MHz}$.
- Timer 1 can use the internal or external clock.
- If using the internal clock, we can set Timer 1 to be 8, 64, 256, or 1024 times slower than the internal clock.

4.2.3 Timer/Counter Interrupt Mask Register (TIMSK)



4.2.4 Timer/Counter Interrupt Flag Register (TIFR)



- This register has flags that indicate when a timer interrupt occurs.
- It is not often used in ATmega16 programs.

Lecture 4's sequence

4.1 Interrupt programming in C for ATmega16



4.2 Timers in ATmega16



4.3 Timer applications

4.3 Timer applications

- In this section, we consider three applications of Timer 1.

4.3.1 Creating an accurate delay using timer overflow interrupt.

4.3.2 Measuring elapsed time between two events.

4.3.3 Measuring the period of a square signal using input capture interrupt.

4.3.1 Creating an accurate delay

Write a C program for ATmega16 to invert PORTB every 2 seconds. It should use Timer 1 overflow interrupt to create delays of 2s each.

■ Analysis

- ❑ Internal system clock: 1MHz.
- ❑ With no prescaler, Timer 1 increments every 1 μ s.
- ❑ Timer 1 is 16-bit counter, so it will overflow every 2^{16} μ s.
- ❑ For a 2s delay, we need Timer 1 to overflow for: $2\text{s}/2^{16} \mu\text{s} = 31 \text{ times}$.

■ Implementation

- ❑ Write code to enable Timer 1 overflow interrupt.
- ❑ Use ISR to count the number of overflows.
- ❑ When the number of overflows is 31, invert port B.

Creating an accurate delay: timer_delay.c

```
#include <avr/io.h>
```

```
#include <avr/interrupt.h>
```

```
volatile int overflow_count; // declare a global variable
```

```
ISR(TIMER1_OVF_vect) {           // ISR for Timer1 overflow interrupt
    overflow_count++;             // increment overflow count
    if (overflow_count >= 31) {   // when 2s has passed
        overflow_count = 0;      // start new count
        PORTB = ~PORTB;         // invert port B
    }
}
```

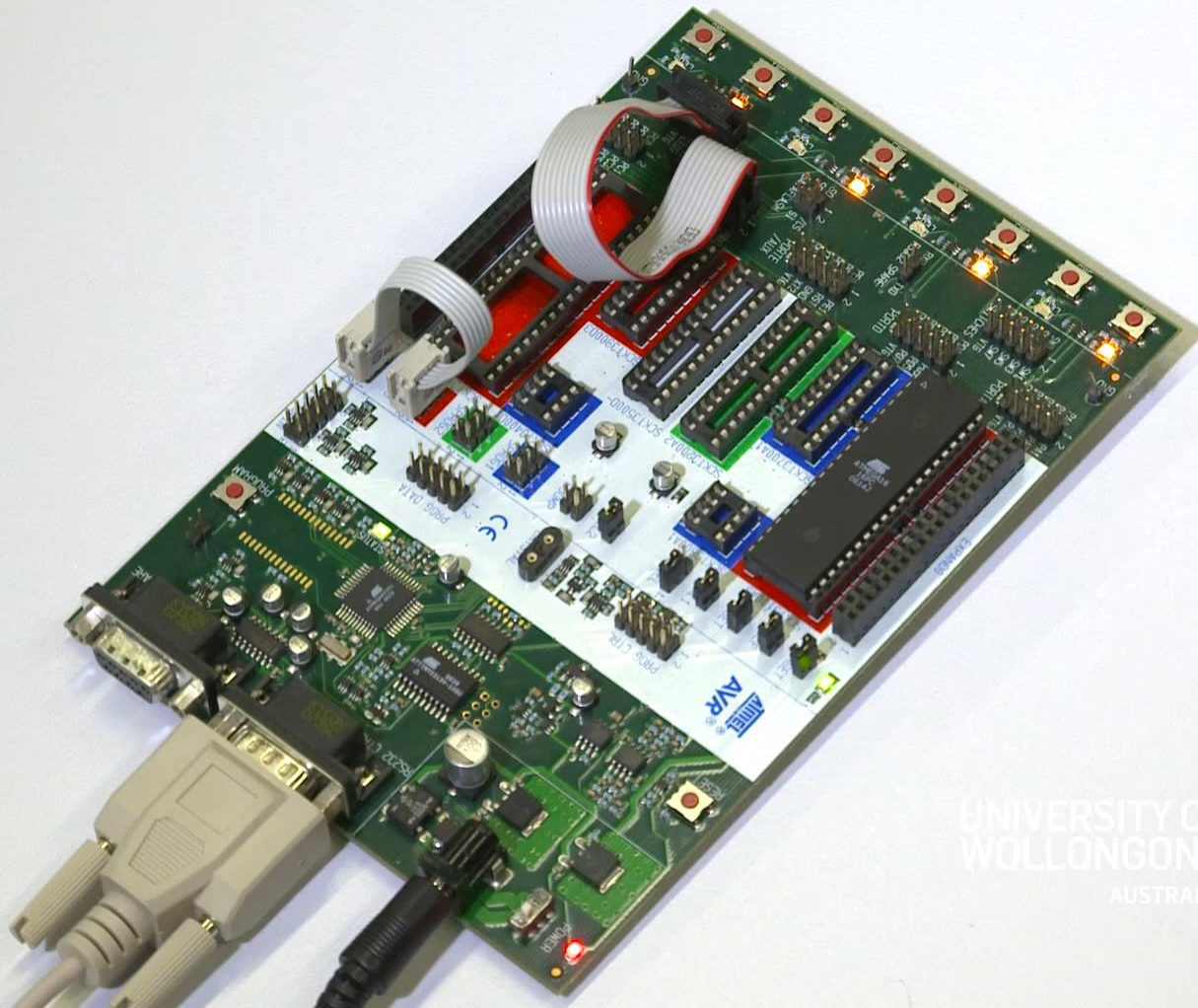
```
int main(void) {
    DDRB  = 0xFF;                // set port B for output
    PORTB = 0x00;                // initial value of PORTB
    overflow_count = 0;          // initialise overflow count
    TCCR1A = 0b00000000;         // normal mode
    TCCR1B = 0b00000001;         // no prescaler, internal clock
```

```
TIMSK  = 0b00000100; // enable Timer 1 overflow interrupt
sei(); // enable interrupt subsystem globally
```

```
while (1){;} // infinite loop
return 0;
```

```
}
```


Creating an accurate delay: Demo



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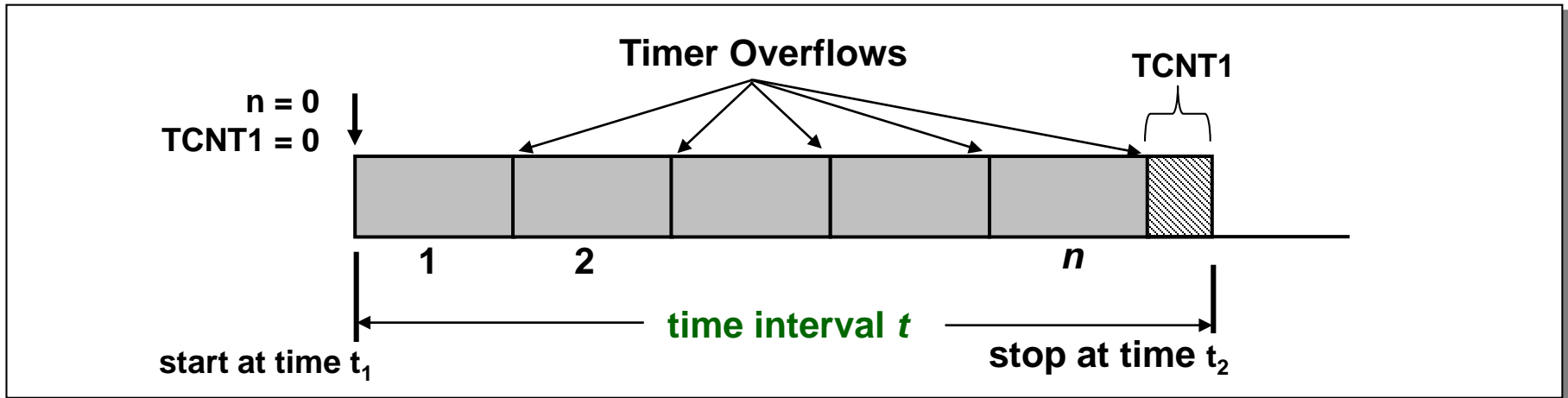


Using a timer to turn LEDs on/off periodically ([Lab 3 – Task 1](#))

4.3.2 Measuring elapsed time

- To measure time using Timer 1, we must keep track of both
 - the number of times that Timer 1 has overflowed: **n**
 - the current counter value: **TCNT1**
- Reset n and TCNT1 at the beginning of the interval. The time elapse is (assuming no prescaler, 1MHz clock):

$$t = n \times 2^{16} + \text{TCNT1} \quad (\mu\text{s})$$



Measuring elapsed time

Use Timer 1 to measure the execution time of some custom C code.

Approach

- Clear Timer 1 when the custom code starts.
- Record Timer 1 when the custom code finishes.
- Use Timer 1 Overflow Interrupt to count the number of timer overflows.

Measuring elapsed time: measure_time.c

```
#include <avr/io.h>
#include <avr/interrupt.h>
#include <inttypes.h>

volatile uint32_t n;    // uint32_t is unsigned 32-bit integer data type
ISR(TIMER1_OVF_vect){  // handler for Timer1 overflow interrupt
    n++;                // increment overflow count
}

int main(void) {
    int i, j;
    uint32_t elapse_time; // uint32_t is unsigned 32-bit integer data type

    TCCR1A = 0b00000000; // normal mode
    TCCR1B = 0b00000001; // no prescaler, internal clock
    TIMSK  = 0b00000100; // enable Timer 1 overflow interrupt

    n = 0;                // reset n
    TCNT1 = 0;            // reset Timer 1
    sei();                // enable interrupt subsystem globally

    // ----- start code -----
    for (i = 0; i < 100; i++)
        for (j = 0; j < 1000; j++){;}
    // ----- end code -----

    elapse_time = (n << 16) + (uint32_t) TCNT1;
    cli();                // disable interrupt subsystem globally
    return 0;
}
```

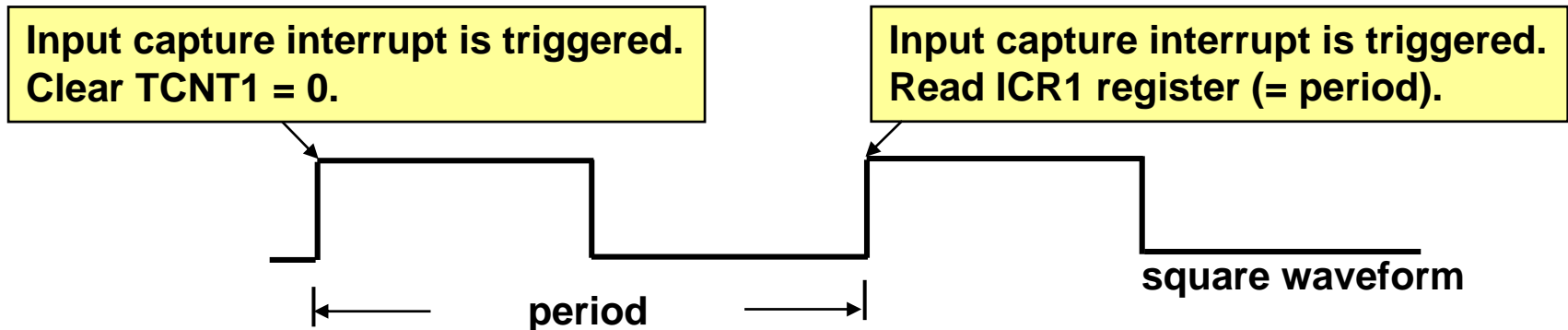
any custom code

4.3.3 Measuring period of a square signal

Use Timer 1 input capture interrupt to measure the period of a square wave.

■ Analysis:

- ❑ The period of a square wave = the time difference between two consecutive rising edges.
- ❑ Connect the square wave to Input Capture pin of Timer 1.
- ❑ Configure input capture module to trigger on rising edges.



Measuring period of a square signal

- **Assumption**: The input signal has a high frequency, hence timer overflow can be ignored.

- **Implementation**:
 - **Select timer operations**: normal, no prescaler, internal clock 1MHz, noise canceller enabled, input capture for rising edges.

```
TCCR1A = 0b00000000;  
TCCR1B = 0b11000001;
```

 - **Enable input capture interrupt**:

```
TIMSK = 0b00100000;
```

measure_period.c

```
#include <avr/io.h>
#include <avr/interrupt.h>
#include <inttypes.h>    // header file for custom data types

// Global variable period is used to share data between ISR() and main()
volatile uint16_t period; // uint16_t is unsigned 16-bit integer

ISR(TIMER1_CAPT_vect){ // handler for Timer1 input capture interrupt
    period = ICR1;      // period = value of Timer 1 stored in ICR1
    TCNT1 = 0;          // reset Timer 1
}

int main(void) {
    DDRB = 0xFF;        // set port B for output

    TCCR1A = 0b00000000; // normal mode
    TCCR1B = 0b11000001; // no prescaler, rising edge, noise canceller
    TIMSK = 0b00100000; // enable Timer 1 input capture interrupt
    sei();               // enable interrupt subsystem globally
    while (1){           // infinite loop
        PORTB = ~(period >> 8); // Top 8-bit to PORT B: LED on=0, off=1
    }
    return 0;
}
```

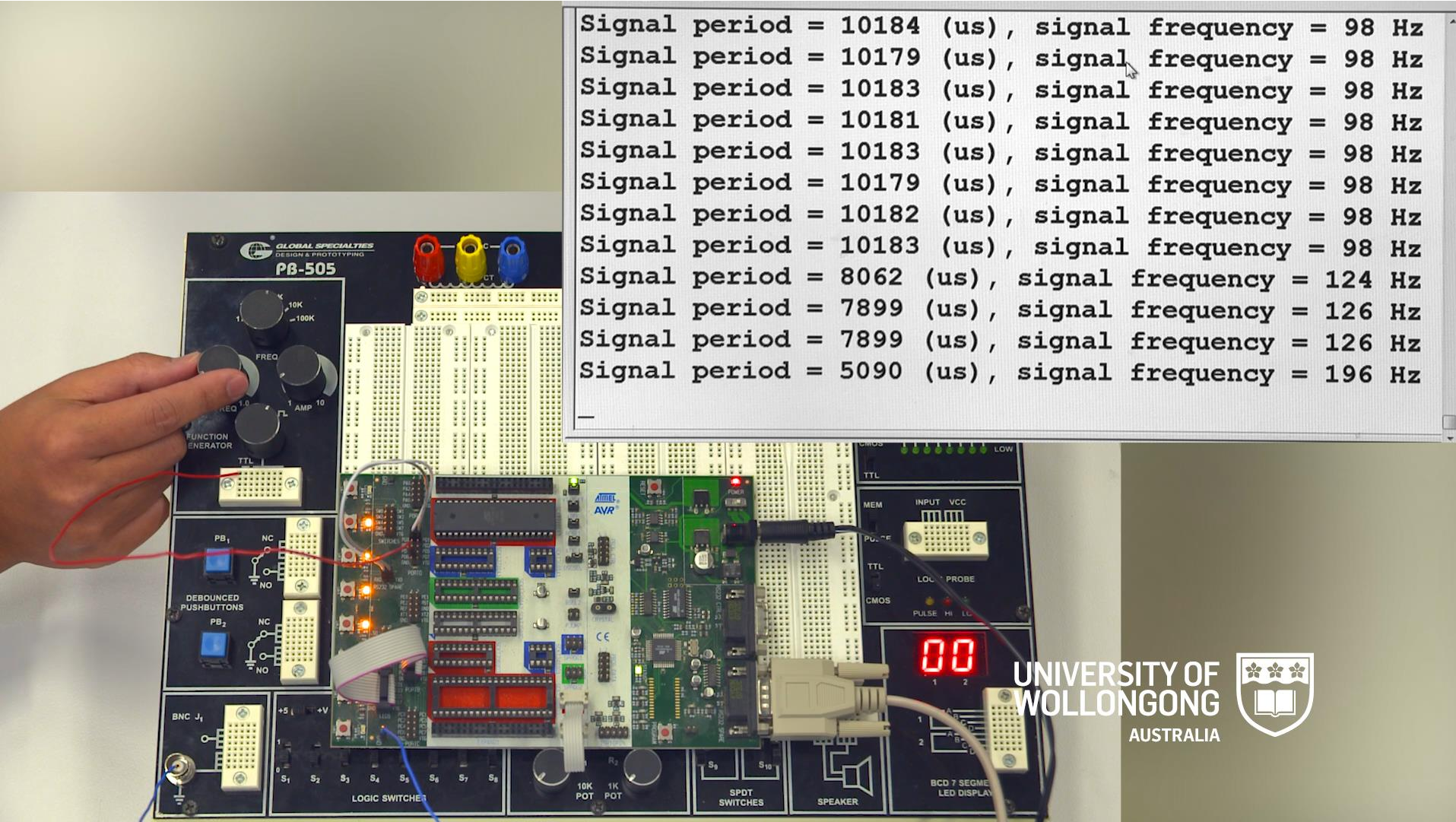
Testing measure_period.c

- Connect **Input Capture pin (D.6)** to **square wave output** of **Function Generator**.
- Connect **GRD pin of Port D** to **GRD pin of Function Generator**.
- Connect **Port B** to **LED connector**.
- Compile, download program.
- Change frequency of square wave and observe output on LEDs.
- Demo: See later in Slide 58.

Extending measure_period.c

- This example assumes no timer overflow between two rising edges of the square signal.
- In Lab 3, you are required to extend the code to measure the period for low-frequency signals.
- It is necessary to intercept timer overflow (see Examples 4.3.1 & 4.3.2).
- For testing, the measured period is sent to the PC via serial port.

Extending measure_period.c



Using a timer to measure the period of a square signal (Lab 3 – Task 2)

Lecture 4's summary

■ Key points of this lecture

- ❑ Writing an interrupt-driven program in C for ATmega16.
- ❑ Programming serial and external interrupts in C.
- ❑ Overview of timers in ATmega16.
- ❑ Using Timer1 overflow and input capture interrupts in 3 applications.

■ Next activities

- ❑ Tutorial 3: 'Timers'.
- ❑ Lab 3: 'Timers'
 - ❖ Complete the online Pre-lab Quiz for Lab 3.
 - ❖ Study video demos of Lab 3.
 - ❖ Write programs for Tasks 1 and 2 of Lab 3.

Lecture 4's references

- M. A. Mazidi, S. Naimi, S. Naimi, AVR Microcontroller and Embedded Systems: Using Assembly and C, 2nd edition Pearson, 2015, [Chapters 9, 10, 15].
- J. Pardue, C Programming for Microcontrollers, 2005, SmileyMicros, [Chapter 7: Interrupts...].
- Atmel Corp., 8-bit AVR microcontroller with 16K Bytes In-System Programmable Flash ATmega16/ATmega16L, 2010, [Interrupts], [External Interrupts] and [Timers]. **Manual**
- S. F. Barrett and D. J. Pack, Atmel AVR Microcontroller Primer: Programming and Interfacing, 2008, Morgan & Claypool Publishers, [Chapter 5: Timing Subsystem].

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- M. Mazidi, J. Mazidi, R. McKinlay, “The 8051 microcontroller and embedded systems using assembly and C,” 2nd ed., Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006, [**Chapter 9**].
- M. Mazidi and J. Mazidi, “The 8086 IBM PC and compatible computers,” 4th ed., Pearson Prentice Hall, 2003, [**Chapter 13**].
- P. Spasov, “Microcontroller technology the 68HC11,” 3rd ed., Prentice Hall, 1999, [**Chapter 11**].
- H. Huang, “MC68HC12 an introduction: software and hardware interfacing,” Thomson Delmar Learning, 2003, [**Chapter 8**].