Microprocessors & Microcontrollers

Second Year

Electrical Engineering Department

College of Engineering

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4: Microcontrollers

Microcontroller

- A **microcontroller** is a small and low-cost microcomputer, which is designed to perform the specific tasks of embedded systems like displaying microwave's information, receiving remote signals, etc. The general microcontroller consists of the processor, the memory (RAM, ROM, EPROM), Serial ports, peripherals (timers, counters), etc.

Microcontroller	Microprocessor
Microcontrollers are used to execute a single task within an application.	Microprocessors are used for big applications.
Its designing and hardware cost is low.	Its designing and hardware cost is high.
Easy to replace.	Not so easy to replace.
It is built with CMOS technology, which requires less power to operate.	Its power consumption is high because it must control the entire system.
It consists of CPU, RAM, ROM, I/O ports.	It doesn’t consist of RAM, ROM, I/O ports. It uses its pins to interface to peripheral devices.

Types of Microcontrollers

Microcontrollers are divided into various categories based on memory, architecture, bits and instruction sets. Following is the list of their types −

Based on **Bit** configuration, the microcontroller is further divided into three categories.

- **8-bit microcontroller** − This type of microcontroller is used to execute arithmetic and logical operations like addition, subtraction, multiplication division, etc. For example, Intel 8031 and 8051 are 8 bits microcontroller.
- **16-bit microcontroller** − This type of microcontroller is used to perform arithmetic and logical operations where higher accuracy and performance is required. For example, Intel 8096 is a 16-bit microcontroller.
- **32-bit microcontroller** − This type of microcontroller is generally used in automatically controlled appliances like automatic operational machines, medical appliances, etc.

Based on the **MEMORY** configuration, the microcontroller is further divided into two categories.

- **External memory microcontroller** − This type of microcontroller is designed in such a way that they do not have a program memory on the chip. Hence, it is named as external memory microcontroller. For example: Intel 8031 microcontroller.
- **Embedded memory microcontroller** − This type of microcontroller is designed in such a way that the microcontroller has all programs and data memory, counters and timers, interrupts, I/O ports are embedded on the chip. For example: Intel 8051 microcontroller.

Based on the **instruction set** configuration, the microcontroller is further divided into two categories.

- CISC − CISC stands for Complex Instruction Set Computer. It allows the user to insert a single instruction as an alternative to many simple instructions.
- RISC − RISC stands for Reduced Instruction Set Computers. It reduces the operational time by shortening the clock cycle per instruction.

Applications of Microcontrollers

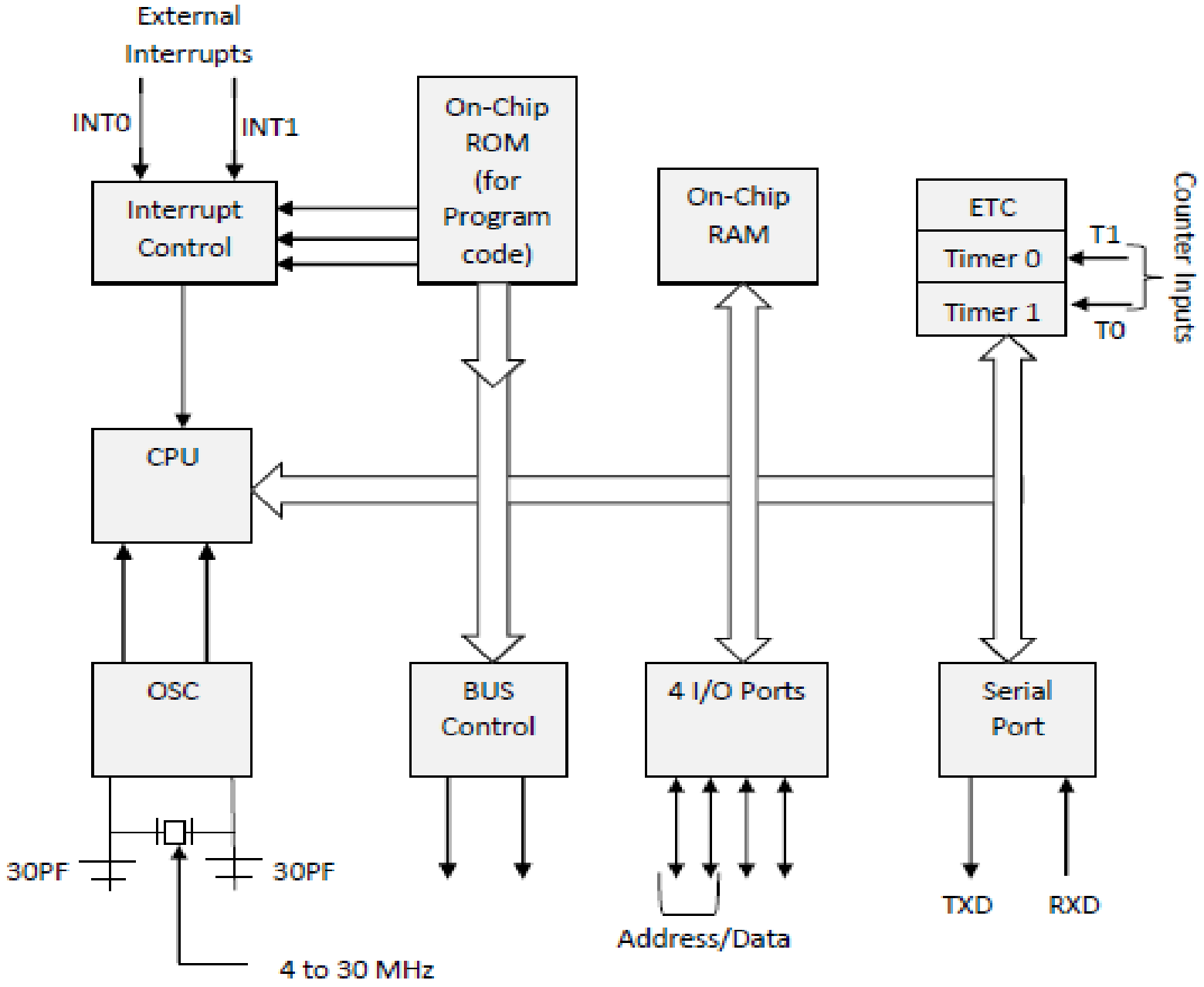
Microcontrollers are widely used in various devices such as −

- Light sensing and controlling devices like LED.
- Temperature sensing and controlling devices like microwave oven, chimneys.
- Fire detection and safety devices like Fire alarm.
- Measuring devices like Volt Meter.

8051 Microcontroller is designed by Intel in 1981. It is an 8-bit microcontroller. It is built with 40 pins DIP (dual inline package), 4kb of ROM storage and 128 bytes of RAM storage, 2 16-bit timers. It consists of are four parallel 8-bit ports, which are programmable as well as addressable as per the requirement. An on-chip crystal oscillator is integrated in the microcontroller having crystal frequency of 12 MHz.

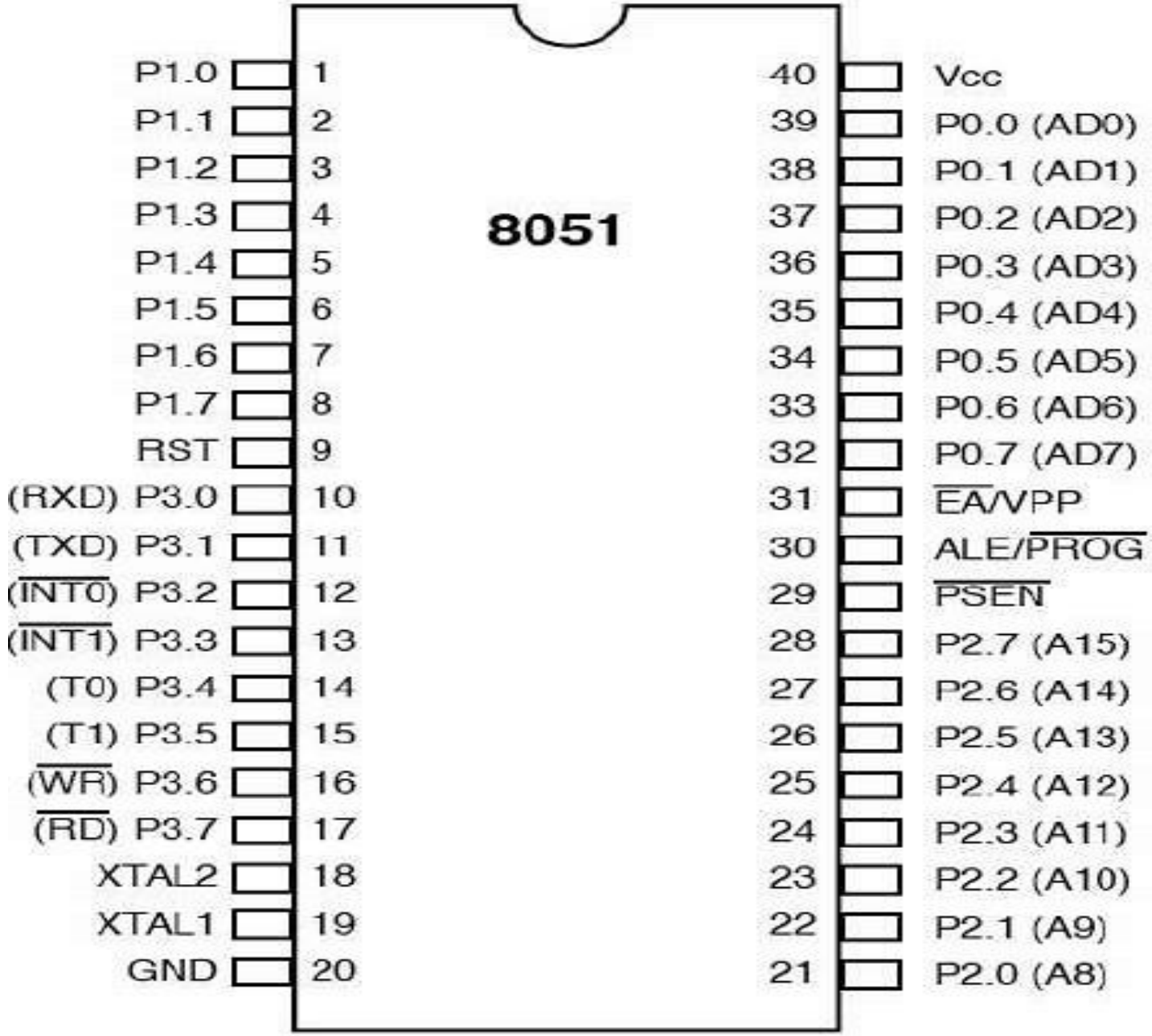
The architecture of 8051 Microcontroller.

In the following diagram, the system bus connects all the support devices to the CPU. The system bus consists of an 8-bit data bus, a 16-bit address bus and bus control signals. All other devices like program memory, ports, data memory, serial interface, interrupt control, timers, and the CPU are all interfaced together through the system bus.



H.W: Write a report about the pin diagram of 8051 Microcontroller

8051 Microcontrollers have 4 I/O ports each of 8-bit, which can be configured as input or output. Hence, total 32 input/output pins allow the microcontroller to be connected with the peripheral devices.



Interrupts are the events that temporarily suspend the main program, pass the control to the external sources and execute their task. It then passes the control to the main program where it had left off.

8051 has 5 interrupt signals, i.e. INT0, TFO, INT1, TF1, RI/TI. Each interrupt can be enabled or disabled by setting bits of the IE register and the whole interrupt system can be disabled by clearing the EA bit of the same register.

IE (Interrupt Enable) Register: This register is responsible for enabling and disabling the interrupt. EA register is set to one for enabling interrupts and set to 0 for disabling the interrupts. Its bit sequence and their meanings are shown in the following figure.

(note: Pin 30 − This is EA pin which stands for External Access input. It is used to enable/disable the external memory interfacing)

EA	-	-	ES	ET1	EX1	ET0	EX0

EA	**IE.7**	It disables all interrupts. When EA = 0 no interrupt will be acknowledged and EA = 1 enables the interrupt individually.
-	IE.6	Reserved for future use.
-	IE.5	Reserved for future use.
ES	IE.4	Enables/disables serial port interrupt.
ET1	IE.3	Enables/disables timer1 overflow interrupt.
EX1	IE.2	Enables/disables external interrupt1.
ET0	IE.1	Enables/disables timer0 overflow interrupt.
EX0	**IE.0**	Enables/disables external interrupt0.

IP (Interrupt Priority) Register

We can change the priority levels of the interrupts by changing the corresponding bit in the Interrupt Priority (IP) register as shown in the following figure.

- A low priority interrupt can only be interrupted by the high priority interrupt, but not interrupted by another low priority interrupt.
- If two interrupts of different priority levels are received simultaneously, the request of higher priority level is served.
- If the requests of the same priority levels are received simultaneously, then the internal polling sequence determines which request is to be serviced.

-	-	PT2	PS	PT1	PX1	PT0	PX0
bit7	bit6	bit5	bit4	bit3	bit2	bit1	

-	**IP.6**	Reserved for future use.
-	IP.5	Reserved for future use.
PS	IP.4	It defines the serial port interrupt priority level.
PT1	IP.3	It defines the timer interrupt of 1 priority.
PX1	IP.2	It defines the external interrupt priority level.
PT0	IP.1	It defines the timer0 interrupt priority level.
PX0	**IP.0**	It defines the external interrupt of 0 priority level.

8051 Memory Organization

The 8051 Microcontroller's memory is divided into Program Memory and Data Memory. Program Memory (ROM) is used for permanent saving program being executed, while Data Memory (RAM) is used for temporarily storing and keeping intermediate results and variables.

Program Memory (ROM)

Program Memory (ROM) is used for permanent saving program (CODE) being executed. The memory is read only. Depending on the settings made in compiler, program memory may also used to store a constant variables. The 8051 executes programs stored in program memory only. code memory type specifier is used to refer to program memory.

8051 memory organization allows external program memory to be added. The microcontroller handle external memory depends on the pin EA logical state.

Internal Data Memory

Up to 256 bytes of internal data memory are available depending on the 8051 derivative. Locations available to the user occupy addressing space from 0 to 7Fh, i.e. first 128 registers and this part of RAM is divided in several blocks. The first 128 bytes of internal data memory are both directly and indirectly addressable. The upper 128 bytes of data memory (from 0x80 to 0xFF) can be addressed only indirectly.

External Data Memory

Access to external memory is slower than access to internal data memory. There may be up to 64K Bytes of external data memory. Several 8051 devices provide on-chip XRAM space that is accessed with the same instructions as the traditional external data space. This XRAM space is typically enabled via proper setting of SFR register (special function registers) and overlaps the external memory space. Setting of that register must be manually done in code, before any access to external memory or XRAM space is made.