Arduino Application: Buttons for user input

ME 120

Mechanical and Materials Engineering

Portland State University

http://web.cecs.pdx.edu/~me120

User input features of the fan

- Potentiometer for speed control
  - Continually variable input makes sense for speed control
  - Previously discussed
- Start/stop
  - Could use a conventional power switch
  - Push button (momentary) switch
- Lock or limit rotation angle
  - Button click to hold/release fan in one position
  - Potentiometer to set range limit

Conventional on/off switch

- Basic light switch or rocker switch
  - Makes or breaks connection to power
  - Switch stays in position: On or Off
  - Toggle position indicates the state
  - NOT in the Arduino Inventors Kit

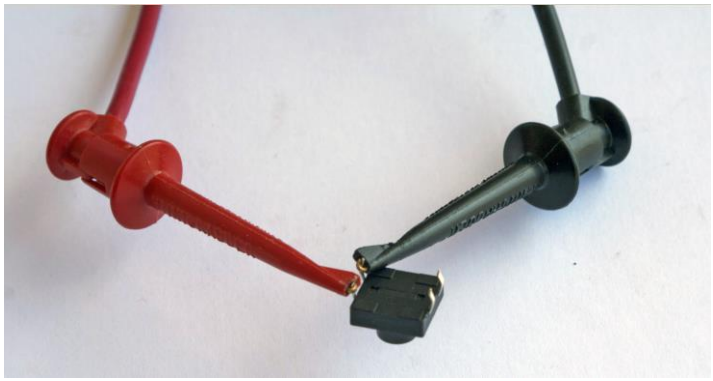
Image from sparkfun.com

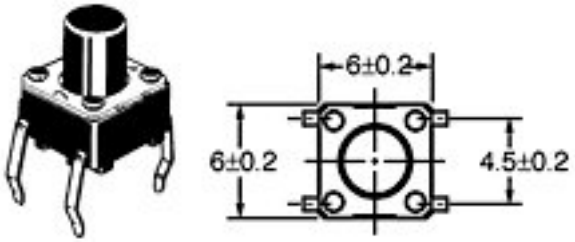
Image from lowes.com

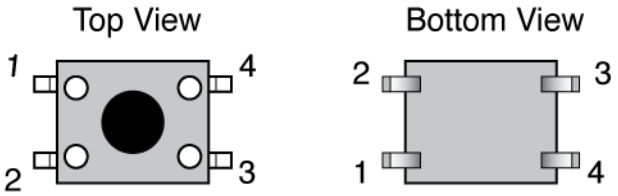
How does a button work?

- Simple switch schematic
- Use DMM to measure open/closed circuit
- Map the pin states

Measure Open and Closed Circuits

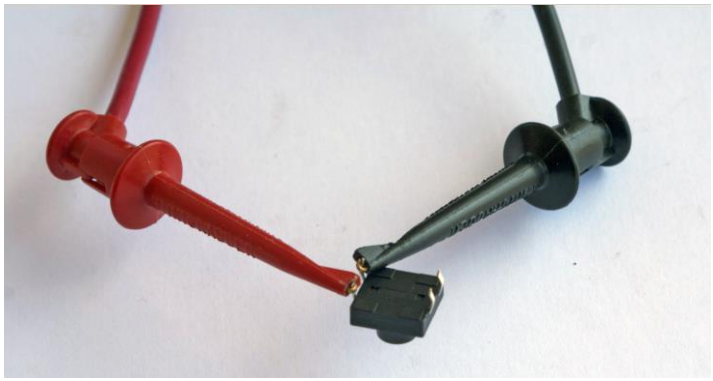




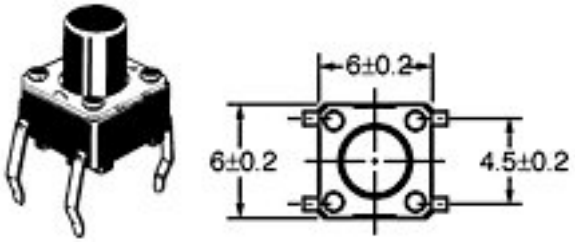


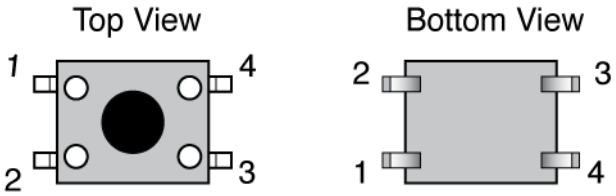
Connect Pins	Measured Resistance (Ω) When not pressed	When pressed
1 and 2		
1 and 3		
1 and 4		
2 and 3		

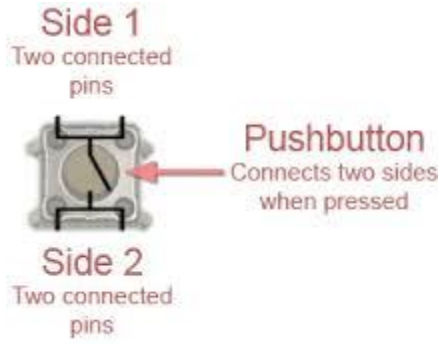
Measure Open and Closed Circuits



Connect Pins	Measured Resistance (Ω) When not pressed	When pressed
1 and 2	∞	0
1 and 3	∞	0
1 and 4	0	0
2 and 3	0	0







Push Button Switches

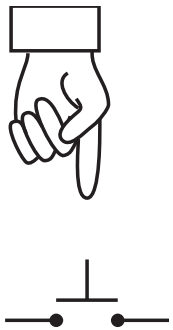
- A momentary button is a “Biased Switch”
- Pushing the button changes state
- State is reversed (return to biased position) when button is released
- Two types
  - NO: normally open
  - NC: normally closed

Normally Open

Normally Closed

Momentary or push-button switches

- Normally open
  - electrical *contact is made* when button is pressed
- Normally closed
  - electrical *contact is broken* when button is pressed
- Internal spring returns button to its un-pressed state



Open

Closed

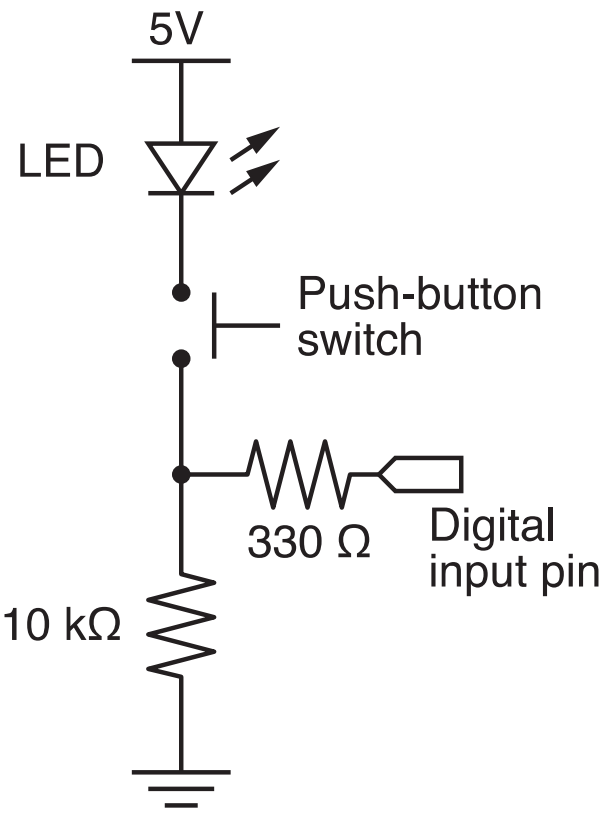
Image from sparkfun.com

Putting buttons into action

1. Build the circuit: same one is used for all examples
   a. Test with LED on/off
   b. LED is only controlled by the button, not by Arduino code
2. Create a “wait to start” button
   a. Simplest button implementation
   b. Execution is blocked while waiting for a button click
3. Use an interrupt handler
   a. Most sophisticated: Doesn’t block execution while waiting for button input
   b. Most sophisticated: Requires good understanding of coding
   c. Requires “de-bouncing”
   d. Not too hard to use as a black box

Momentary Button and LED Circuit

- Digital input with a *pull-down resistor*
  - When switch is open (button not pressed):
    - Digital input pin is tied to ground
    - No current flows, so there is no voltage difference from input pin to ground
    - Reading on digital input is LOW
  - When switch is closed (button is pressed):
    - Current flows from 5V to ground, causing LED to light up.
    - The 330Ω resistor limits the current draw by the input pin.
    - The 10k resistor causes a large voltage drop between 5V and ground, which causes the digital input pin to be closer to 5V.
    - Reading on digital input is HIGH

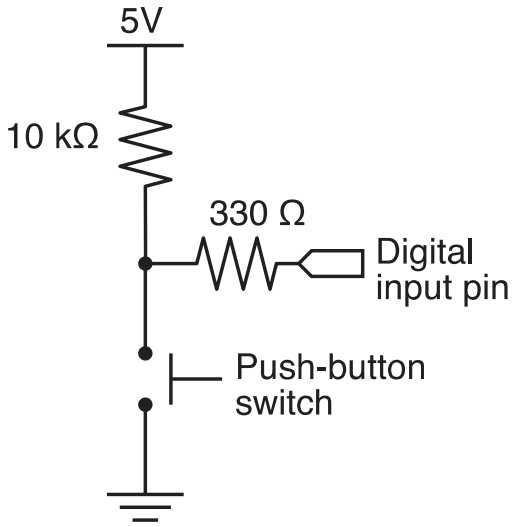


Technical Note

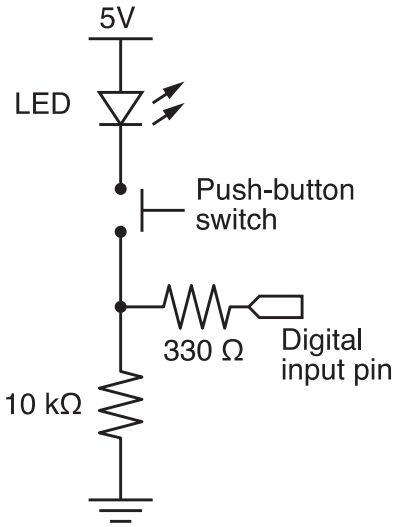
Usually we do not include an LED directly in the button circuit. The following diagrams show plan button circuits with pull-up and pull-down resistors. In these applications, the pull-up or pull-down resistors should be 10k. Refer to Lady Ada Tutorial #5:

- http://www.ladyada.net/learn/arduino/lesson5.html

Pull-up resistor:



Pull-down resistor:

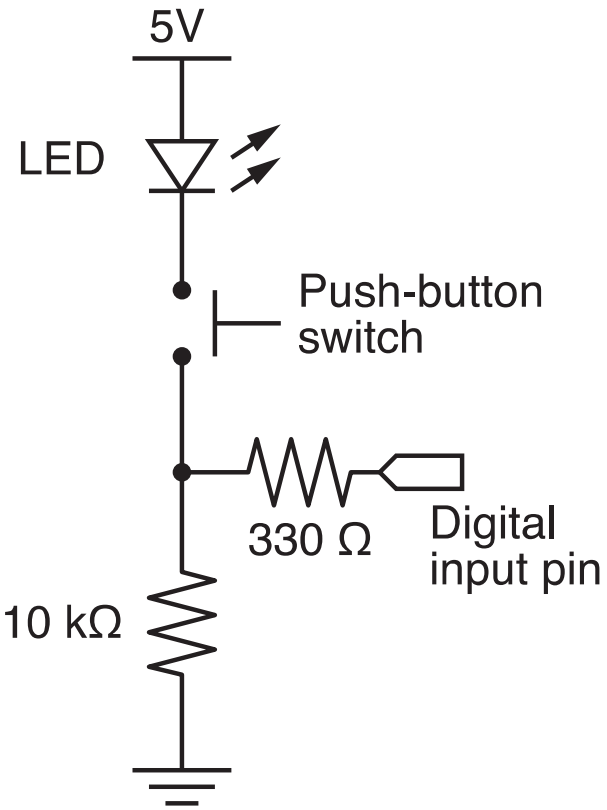


Programs for the LED/Button Circuit

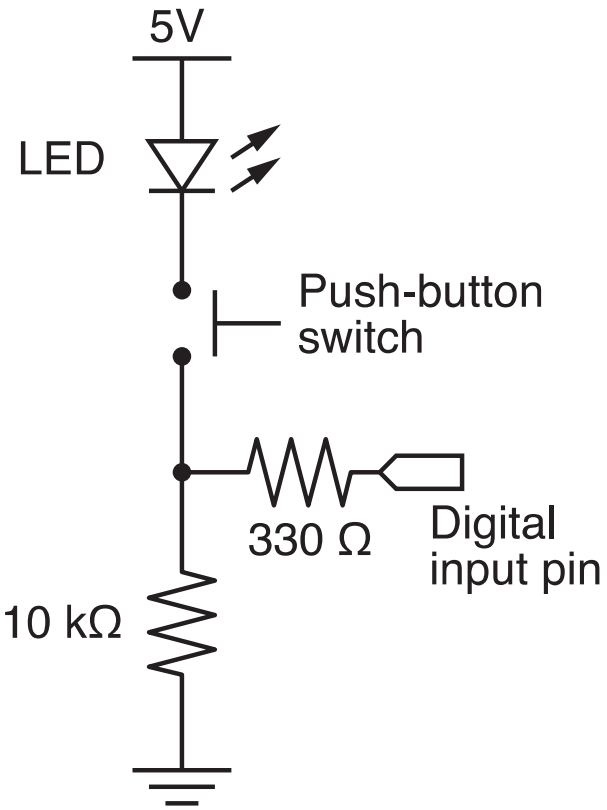
- Continuous monitor of button state
  - Program is completely occupied by monitoring the button
  - Used as a demonstration — not practically useful
- Wait for button input
- Interrupt Handler

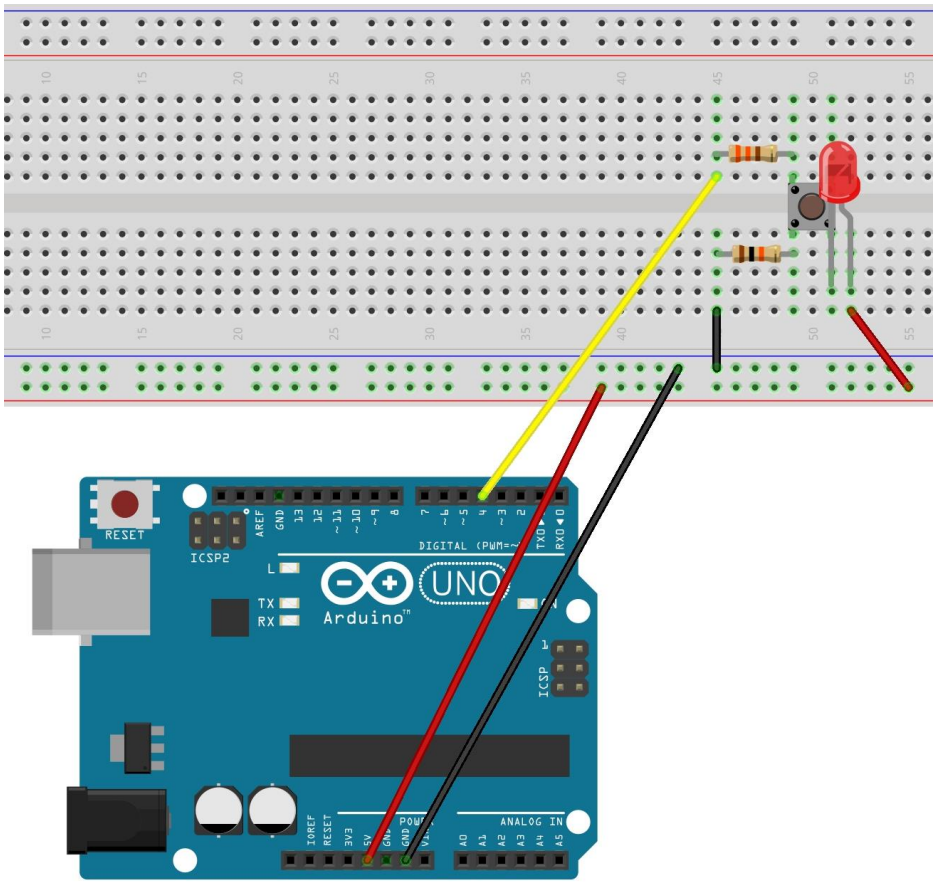
All three programs use the same electrical circuit

Momentary Button and LED Circuit



Momentary Button and LED Circuit





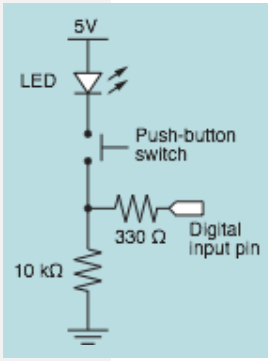
Continuous monitor of button state

```
int  button_pin = 2;              // pin used to read the button

void setup() {
  pinMode( button_pin, INPUT);
  Serial.begin(9600);             // Button state is sent to host
}

void loop() {
  int button;
  button = digitalRead( button_pin );

  if ( button == HIGH ) {
    Serial.println("on");
  } else {
    Serial.println("off");
  }
}
```



Serial monitor shows a continuous stream of "on" or "off"

This program *does not* control the LED

Programs for the LED/Button Circuit

- Continuous monitor of button state
  - Program is completely occupied by monitoring the button
  - Used as a demonstration — not practically useful
- Wait for button input
  - Blocks execution while waiting
  - May be useful as a start button
- Interrupt Handler

All three programs use the same electrical circuit

While loop

Syntax:

```
while (expression){
statement block
}
```

While loops will loop continuously, and infinitely, until the expression inside the parenthesis becomes false.

- Something must change the tested variable (= variable in the expression), or the while loop will never exit.
- This could be in your code, such as an incremented variable, or an external condition, such as testing a sensor.

Wait for button input

```
int  button_pin = 2;            // pin used to read the button

void setup() {
  int start_click = LOW;         //  Initial state: no click yet
  pinMode( button_pin, INPUT);
  Serial.begin(9600);

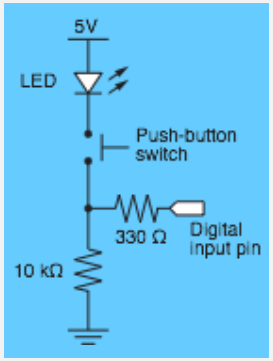
  while ( start_click == LOW ) {
    start_click = digitalRead( button_pin );
    Serial.println("Waiting for button press");
  }
}

void loop() {
  int button;

  button = digitalRead( button_pin );
  if ( button == HIGH ) {
    Serial.println("on");
  } else {
    Serial.println("off");
  }
}
```

condition

while loop continues as long as the condition **`start_click == LOW`** is true



Same **`loop()`** function as in the preceding sketch

Wait for button input

```
int  button_pin = 2;            // pin used to read the button

void setup() {
  int start_click = LOW;         //  Initial state: no click yet
  pinMode( button_pin, INPUT);
  Serial.begin(9600);

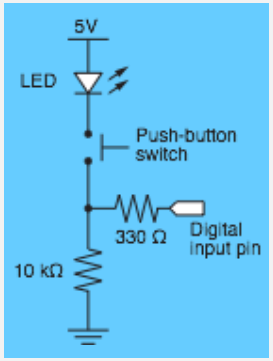
  while ( !start_click ) {
    start_click = digitalRead( button_pin );
    Serial.println("Waiting for button press");
  }
}

void loop() {
  int button;

  button = digitalRead( button_pin );
  if ( button == HIGH ) {
    Serial.println("on");
  } else {
    Serial.println("off");
  }
}
```

variable

while loop continues as long as the variable **`start_click`** is LOW



Same **`loop()`** function as in the preceding sketch

Digital - Review

Value	1	0
Condition	TRUE	FALSE
Pin level	HIGH	LOW
Voltage	5 V	0 V

Programs for the LED/Button Circuit

- Continuous monitor of button state
  - Program is completely occupied by monitoring the button
  - Used as a demonstration — not practically useful
- Wait for button input
  - Blocks execution while waiting
  - May be useful as a start button
- Interrupt Handler
  - Most versatile
  - Does not block execution
  - Interrupt is used to change a flag that indicates state
  - Regular code in loop function checks the state of the flag

All three programs use the same electrical circuit

Use push button as a switch

Now we would like to use the push button as a switch.

We push once: it would show on.

We push once more, it would show off.

Etc…

→ Use of interrupts

Interrupt

`attachInterrupt(interrupt, ISR, mode)`

Interrupt: either 0 or 1.

- If digital pin 2 is used, the interrupt number is 0
- If digital pin 3 is used, the interrupt number is 1

ISR: Interrupt Service Routine.

- It is a user-defined function that is called when the interrupt occurs.
- It needs to be short.
- It cannot contain the functions delay().
- It cannot have any parameters and cannot return any value.
- Therefore it is of the form void name_of_IRS (){ *block of code* }

Mode: defines when interrupt should be triggered

- Values can be LOW, CHANGE, RISING, FALLING

Interrupt handler for button input

```
int  button_interrupt = 0;     //  Interrupt 0 is on pin 2 !!
int  toggle_on = false;        //  Button click switches state

void setup() {
  Serial.begin(9600);
  attachInterrupt( button_interrupt, handle_click, RISING);  // Register handler
}

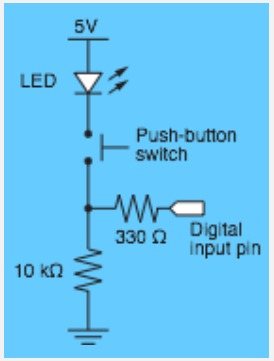
void loop() {
  if ( toggle_on ) {
    Serial.println("on");
  } else {
    Serial.println("off");
  }
}

void  handle_click() {

  static unsigned long last_interrupt_time = 0;       //  Zero only at start
  unsigned long interrupt_time = millis();             // Read the clock

  if ( interrupt_time - last_interrupt_time > 200 ) {  // Ignore when < 200 msec
    toggle_on = !toggle_on;
  }

  last_interrupt_time = interrupt_time;
}
```



Interrupt handler for button input

button_interrupt is the ID or number of the interrupt. It must be 0 or 1

```
int  button_interrupt = 0;     //  Interrupt 0 is on pin 2 !!
int  toggle_on = false;        //  Button click switches state

void setup() {
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  attachInterrupt( button_interrupt, handle_click, RISING);  // Register handler
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  }

  last_interrupt_time = interrupt_time;
}
```

Interrupt handler must be registered when program starts

A RISING interrupt occurs when the pin changes from LOW to HIGH

The interrupt handler, handle_click, is a user-written function that is called when an interrupt is detected

Interrupt handler for button input

```
int  button_interrupt = 0;     //  Interrupt 0 is on pin 2 !!
int  toggle_on = false;        //  Button click switches state

void setup() {
  Serial.begin(9600);
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void loop() {
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void  handle_click() {

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  if ( interrupt_time - last_interrupt_time > 200 ) {  // Ignore when < 200 msec
    toggle_on = !toggle_on;
  }

  last_interrupt_time = interrupt_time;
}
```

toggle_on is a global variable that remembers the "state". It is either true or false (1 or 0).

The **loop()** function only checks the state of **toggle_on**. The value of **toggle_on** is set in the interrupt handler, **handle_click**.

The value of **toggle_on** is flipped only when a *true* interrupt even occurs. De-bouncing is described in the next slide.

Interrupt handler for button input

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  unsigned long interrupt_time = millis();

  if ( interrupt_time - last_interrupt_time > 200 ) {  // Ignore when < 200 msec
    toggle_on = !toggle_on;
  }

  last_interrupt_time = interrupt_time;
}
```

Value of a **`static`** variable is always retained

Use **`long`**: the time value in milliseconds can become large

Clock time when current interrupt occurs

Ignore events that occur in less than 200 milliseconds from each other. These are likely to be mechanical bounces.

Save current time as the new “last” time

Other references

- Ladyada tutorial
  - Excellent and detailed
  - http://www.ladyada.net/learn/arduino/lesson5.html
- Arduino reference
  - Minimal explanation
    - http://www.arduino.cc/en/Tutorial/Button
  - Using interrupts
    - http://www.uchobby.com/index.php/2007/11/24/arduino-interrupts/
    - http://www.arduino.cc/en/Reference/AttachInterrupt