8255 Programmable peripheral Interface(PPI)

The 8255A is a general purpose programmable I/O device designed to transfer the data from I/O to interrupt I/O under certain conditions as required. It can be used with almost any microprocessor. It consists of three 8-bit bidirectional I/O ports (24 I/O lines) which can be configured as per the requirement.

Features of 8255A

The prominent features of 8255A are as follows −

- It consists of 3 8-bit IO ports i.e. PA, PB, and PC.
- Address/data bus must be externally demultiplexed.
- It is TTL compatible.
- It has improved DC driving capability.

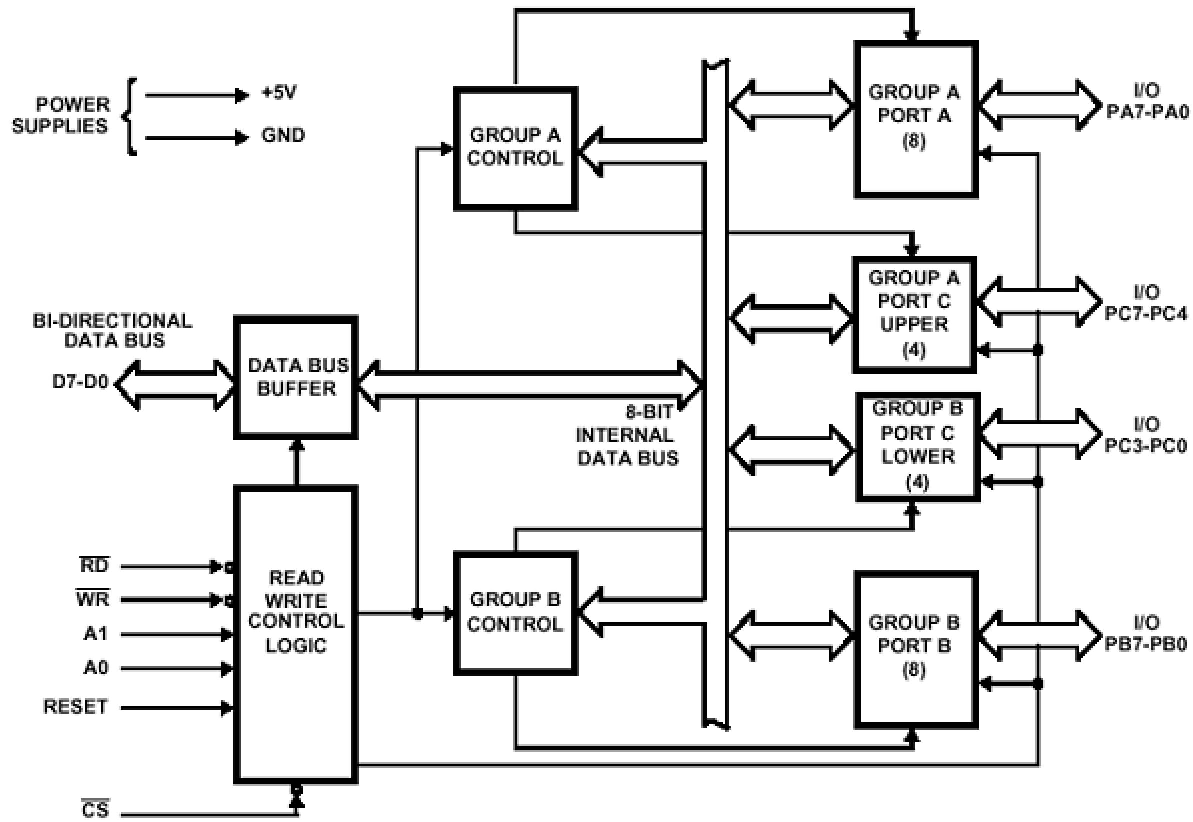
8255 Architecture

The following figure shows the architecture of 8255A

Ports of 8255A

- 8255A has three ports, i.e., PORT A, PORT B, and PORT C.
- Port A contains one 8-bit output latch/buffer and one 8-bit input buffer.
- Port B is similar to PORT A.
- Port C can be split into two parts, i.e. PORT C lower (PC0-PC3) and PORT C upper (PC7-PC4) by the control word.

These three ports are further divided into two groups, i.e. Group A includes PORT A and upper PORT C. Group B includes PORT B and lower PORT C. These two groups can be programmed in three different modes, i.e. the first mode is named as mode 0, the second mode is named as Mode 1 and the third mode is named as Mode 2.



Operational modes of 8255

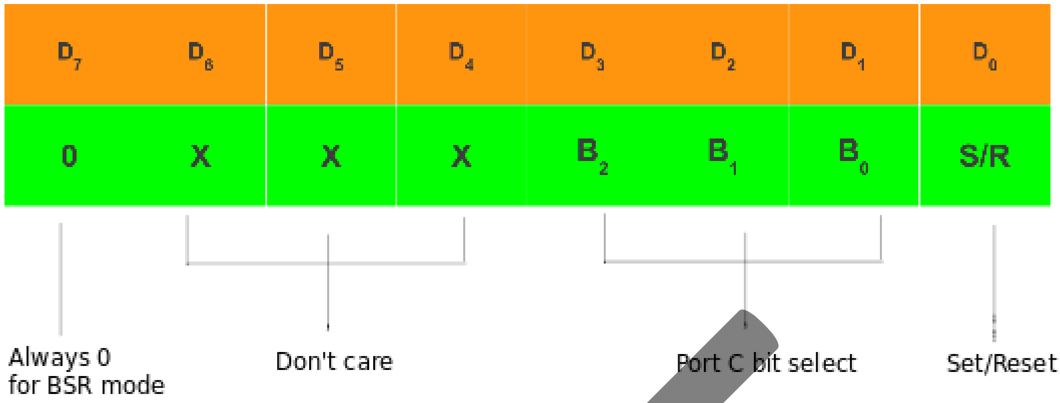
There are two basic operational modes of 8255:

- Bit Set/Reset mode (BSR mode).
- Input/Output mode (I/O mode).

The two modes are selected on the basis of the value present at the D7 bit of the control word register. When D7 = 1, 8255 operates in I/O mode, and when D7 = 0, it operates in the BSR mode.

Bit Set/Reset (BSR) mode

The Bit Set/Reset (BSR) mode is available on port C only. Each line of port C (PC_0 - PC_7) can be set or reset by writing a suitable value to the control word register. BSR mode and I/O mode are independent and selection of BSR mode does not affect the operation of other ports in I/O mode.



8255 Control Register format for BSR Mode

- D_7 bit is always 0 for BSR mode.
- Bits D_6, D_5 and D_4 are don't care bits.
- Bits D_3, D_2 and D_1 are used to select the pin of Port C.
- Bit D_0 is used to set/reset the selected pin of Port C.

Selection of port C pin is determined as follows:

D3	D2	D1	Bit/pin of port C selected
0	0	0	PC_0
0	0	1	PC_1
0	1	0	PC_2
0	1	1	PC_3
1	0	0	PC_4

1	0	1	PC_5
1	1	0	PC_6
1	1	1	PC_7

As an example, if it is needed that PC_5 be set, then in the control word,

1. Since it is BSR mode, **D_7 = '0'**.
2. Since D_4, D_5, D_6 are not used, assume them to be '**0**'.
3. PC_5 has to be selected, hence, **D_3 = '1', D_2 = '0', D_1 = '1'**.
4. PC_5 has to be set, hence, **D0 = '1'**.

Thus, as per the above values, 0B (Hex) will be loaded into the Control Word Register (CWR).

D7	D6	D5	D4	D3	D2	D1	D0
0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1

Input/Output mode

8255A has three different operating modes in I/O mode −

Mode 0

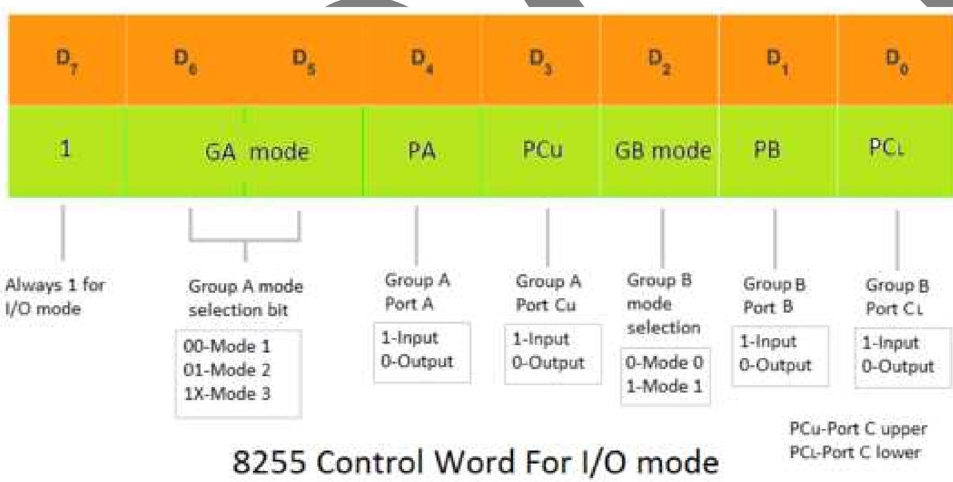
In this mode, Port A and B is used as two 8-bit ports and Port C as two 4-bit ports. Each port can be programmed in either input mode or output mode where outputs are latched and inputs are not latched. Ports do not have interrupt capability.

Mode 1

In this mode, Port A and B is used as 8-bit I/O ports. They can be configured as either input or output ports. Each port uses three lines from port C as handshake signals. Inputs and outputs are latched.

Mode 2

In this mode, Port A can be configured as the bidirectional port and Port B either in Mode 0 or Mode 1. Port A uses five signals from Port C as handshake signals for data transfer. The remaining three signals from Port C can be used either as simple I/O or handshaking signal for port B



8255 Control Word For I/O mode

•D0, D1, D3, D4 are assigned for port C lower, port B, port C upper and port A respectively. When these bits are 1, the corresponding port acts as an input port. For e.g., if D0 = D4 = 1, then lower port C and port A act as input ports. If these bits are 0, then the corresponding port acts as an output port. For e.g., if D1 = D3 = 0, then port B and upper port C act as output ports.

• D2 is used for mode selection of Group B (port B and lower port C). When D2 = 0, mode 0 is selected and when D2 = 1, mode 1 is selected.

• D5 & D6 are used for mode selection of Group A (port A and upper port C). The selection is done as follows:

D6	D5	Mode
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	X	2

• As it is I/O mode, D7 = 1.

For example, if port B and upper port C have to be initialized as input ports and lower port C and port A as output ports (all in mode 0):

1. Since it is an I/O mode, D7 = 1.

2. Mode selection bits, D2, D5, D6 are all 0 for mode 0 operation.

3. Port B and upper port C should operate as Input ports, hence, D1 = D3 = 1.

4. Port A and lower port C should operate as Output ports, hence, D4 = D0 = 0.

Hence, for the desired operation, the control word register will have to be loaded with "10001010" = 8A (hex).

Mode 0 - simple I/O: In this mode, the ports can be used for simple I/O operations without handshaking signals. Port A, port B provide simple I/O operation. The two halves of port C can be either used together as an additional 8-bit port, or they can be used as individual 4-bit ports. Since the two halves of port C are independent, they may be used such that one-half is initialized as an input port while the other half is initialized as an output port.

The input/output features in mode 0 are as follows:

1. Output ports are latched.

2. Input ports are buffered, not latched.

3. Ports do not have handshake or interrupt capability.

4. With 4 ports, 16 different combinations of I/O are possible.

'Latched' means the bits are put into a storage register (array of flip-flops) which holds its output constant even if the inputs change after being latched. The 8255's outputs are latched to hold the last data written to them. The inputs are not latched because the CPU only has to read their current values, and then store the data in a CPU register or memory if it needs to be referenced at a later time.

Mode 0 – input mode

• In the input mode, the 8255 gets data from the external peripheral ports and the CPU reads the received data via its data bus. The CPU first selects the 8255 chip by making CS' low. Then it selects the desired port using A0 and A1 lines. The CPU then issues an RD signal to read the data from the external peripheral device via the system data bus.

Mode 0 - output mode

• In the output mode, the CPU sends data to 8255 via system data bus and then the external peripheral ports receive this data via 8255 port.CPU first selects the 8255 chip by making CS low. It then selects the desired port using A0 and A1 lines.CPU then issues a WR signal to write data to the selected port via the system data bus. This data is then received by the external peripheral device connected to the selected port.

- **Mode 1** - Strobed Input/output mode :When we wish to use port A or port B for handshake (strobed) input or output operation, we initialize that port in mode 1 (port A and port B can be initialized to operate in different modes, i.e., for e.g., port A can operate in mode 0 and port B in mode 1. Some of the pins of port C function as handshake lines. For port B in this mode (irrespective of whether is acting as an input port or output port), PC0, PC1 and PC2 pins function as handshake lines. If port A is initialized as mode 1 input port, then, PC3, PC4 and PC5 function as handshake signals. Pins PC6 and PC7 are available for use as input/output lines.

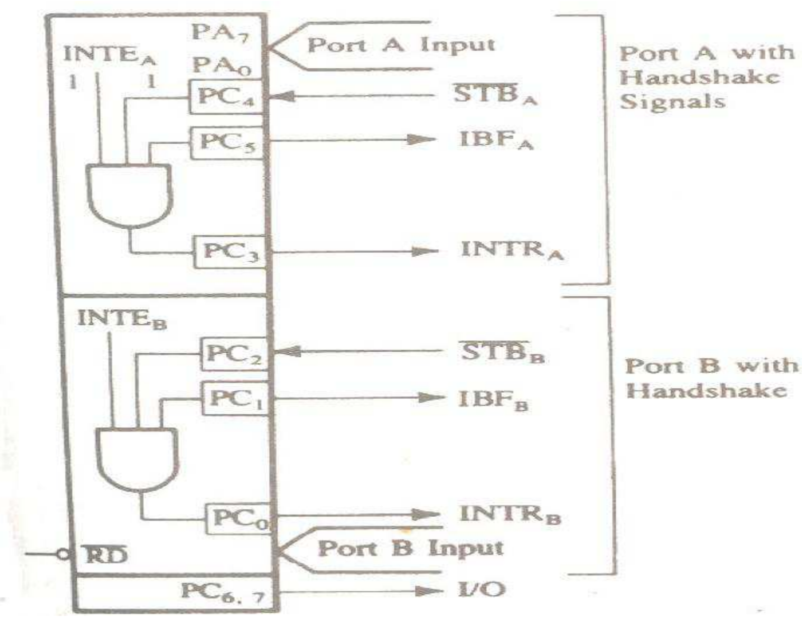
The mode 1 which supports handshaking has following features:

1. Two ports i.e. port A and B can be used as 8-bit i/o ports.

2. Each port uses three lines of port c as handshake signal and remaining two signals can be used as i/o ports.

3. Interrupt logic is supported.

4. Input and Output data are latched.



Input Handshaking signals

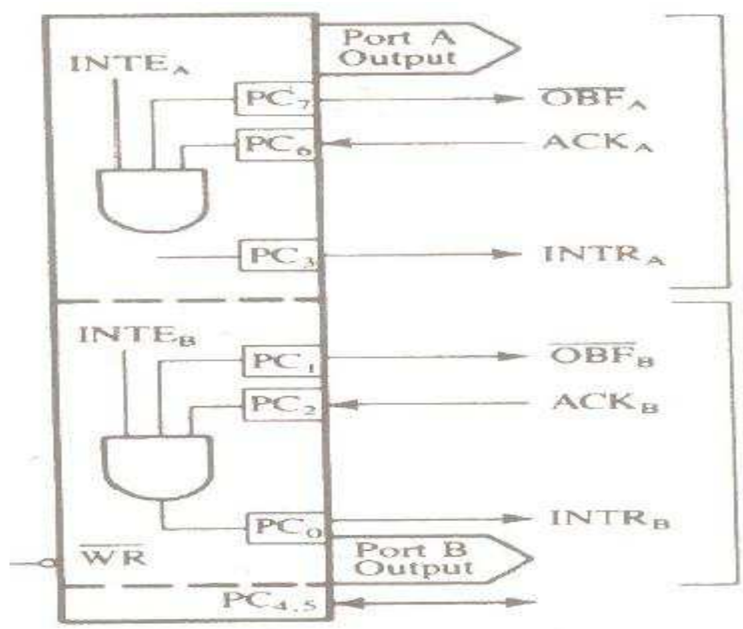
1. IBF (Input Buffer Full) - It is an output indicating that the input latch contains information.

2. STB (Strobed Input) - The strobe input loads data into the port latch, which holds the information until it is input to the microprocessor via the IN instruction.

3. INTR (Interrupt request) - It is an output that requests an interrupt. The INTR pin becomes a logic 1 when the STB input returns to a logic 1, and is cleared when the data are input from the port by the microprocessor.

4. INTE (Interrupt enable) - It is neither an input nor an output; it is an internal bit programmed via the port PC4(port A) or PC2(port B) bit position.

Output Handshaking signals



1. OBF (Output Buffer Full) - It is an output that goes low whenever data are output(OUT) to the port A or port B latch. This signal is set to a logic 1 whenever the ACK pulse returns from the external device.

2. ACK (Acknowledge)-It causes the OBF pin to return to a logic 1 level. The ACK signal is a response from an external device, indicating that it has received the data from the 82C55A port.

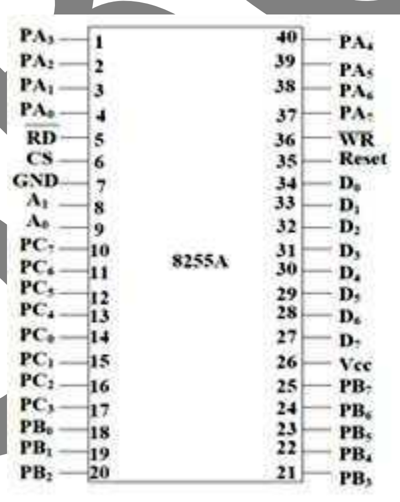
3. INTR (Interrupt request) - It is a signal that often interrupts the microprocessor when the external device receives the data via the signal. this pin is qualified by the internal INTE(interrupt enable) bit.

4. INTE (Interrupt enable) - It is neither an input nor an output; it is an internal bit programmed to enable or disable the INTR pin. The INTE A bit is programmed using the PC6 bit and INTE B is programmed using the PC2 bit.

Mode 2 - Strobed Bidirectional Input/Output mode : Only port A can be initialized in this mode. Port A can be used for bidirectional handshake data transfer. This means that data can be input or output on the same eight lines (PA0 - PA7). Pins PC3 - PC7 are used as handshake lines for port A. The remaining pins of port C (PC0 - PC2) can be used as input/output lines if group B is initialized in mode 0 or as handshaking for port B if group B is initialized in mode 1.

PIN Details of 8255

The functional description of the pins in 8255A.



Data Bus Buffer

It is a tri-state 8-bit buffer, which is used to interface the microprocessor to the system data bus. Data is transmitted or received by the buffer as per the instructions by the CPU. Control words and status information is also transferred using this bus.

Read/Write Control Logic

This block is responsible for controlling the internal/external transfer of data/control/status word. It accepts the input from the CPU address and control buses, and in turn issues command to both the control groups.

CS

It stands for Chip Select. A LOW on this input selects the chip and enables the communication between the 8255A and the CPU. It is connected to the decoded address, and A_0 & A_1 are connected to the microprocessor address lines.

Their result depends on the following conditions −

CS	**A_1**	**A_0**	**Result**
0	0	0	PORT A
0	0	1	PORT B
0	1	0	PORT C
0	1	1	Control Register
1	X	X	No Selection

WR

It stands for write. This control signal enables the write operation. When this signal goes low, the microprocessor writes into a selected I/O port or control register.

RESET

This is an active high signal. It clears the control register and sets all ports in the input mode.

RD

It stands for Read. This control signal enables the Read operation. When the signal is low, the microprocessor reads the data from the selected I/O port of the 8255.

A_0 and A_1

These input signals work with RD, WR, and one of the control signal. Following is the table showing their various signals with their result.

A_1	A_0	RD	WR	CS	Result
0	0	0	1	0	**Input Operation** PORT A → Data Bus
0	1	0	1	0	PORT B → Data Bus
1	0	0	1	0	PORT C → Data Bus
0	0	1	0	0	**Output Operation** Data Bus → PORT A
0	1	1	0	0	Data Bus → PORT A
1	0	1	0	0	Data Bus → PORT B
1	1	1	0	0	Data Bus → PORT D

8257 DMA Controller

- DMA stands for Direct Memory Access. It is designed by Intel to transfer data at the fastest rate. It allows the device to transfer the data directly to/from memory without any interference of the CPU.
- Using a DMA controller, the device requests the CPU to hold its data, address and control bus, so the device is free to transfer data directly to/from the memory. The DMA data transfer is initiated only after receiving HLDA signal from the CPU.

- The Direct Memory Access or DMA mode of data transfer is the fastest amongst all the modes of data transfer. In this mode, the device may transfer data directly to/from memory without any interference from the CPU. The device requests the CPU (through a DMA controller) to hold its data, address and control bus, so that the device may transfer data directly to/from memory. The DMA data transfer is initiated only after receiving HLDA signal from the CPU.Intel's 8257 is a four channel DMA controller designed to be interfaced with their family of microprocessors. The 8257, on behalf of the devices, requests the CPU for bus access using local bus request input i.e. HOLD in minimum mode.

In maximum mode of the microprocessor RQ/GT pin is used as bus request input. On receiving the HLDA signal (in minimum mode) or RQ/GT signal (in maximum mode) from the CPU, the requesting devices gets the access of the bus, and it completes the required number of DMA cycles for the data transfer and then hands over the control of the bus back to the CPU.

Following is the sequence of operations performed by a DMA controller 8257

- Initially, when any device has to send data between the device and the memory, the device has to send DMA request (DRQ) to DMA controller.There are four DRQ inputs namely DRQ0 – DRQ3 corresponding to each channel ie channel0 – channel3.
- Four devices can be connected to a single 8257.Prioroty resolver in 8257 select the any one of DRQ request based on the priority.
- The DMA controller sends Hold request (HRQ) to the CPU and waits for the CPU to assert the HLDA.
- Then the microprocessor tri-states all the data bus, address bus, and control bus. The CPU leaves the control over bus and acknowledges the HOLD request through HLDA signal.
- Now the CPU is in HOLD state and the DMA controller has to manage the operations over buses between the CPU, memory, and I/O devices.

Features of 8257

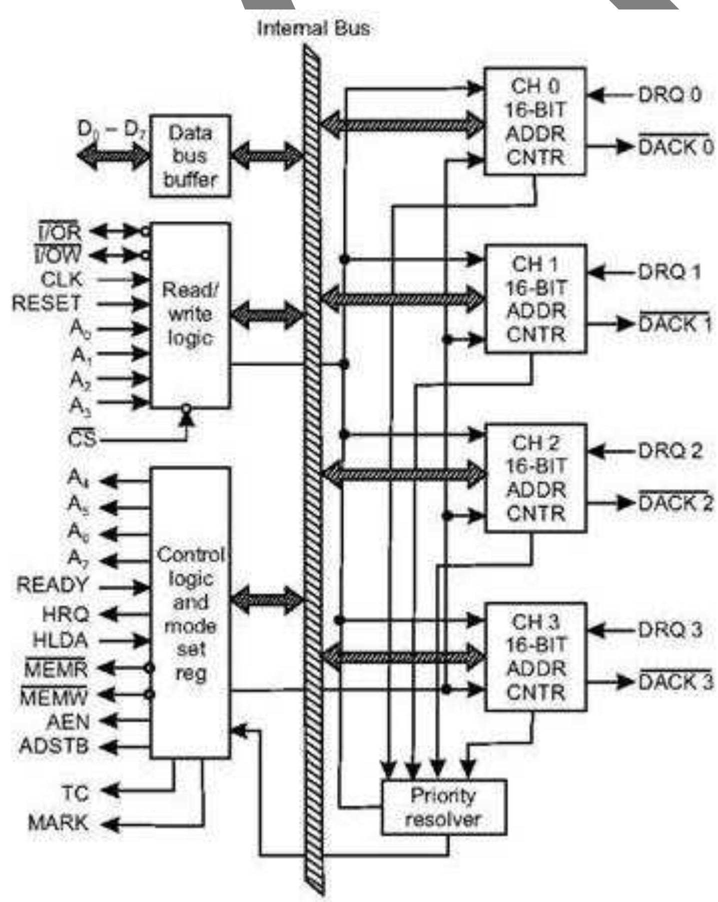
Some of the prominent features of 8257 −

- It has four channels which can be used over four I/O devices.
- Each channel has 16-bit address and 14-bit counter.

- Each channel can transfer data up to 64kb.
- Each channel can be programmed independently.
- Each channel can perform read transfer, write transfer and verify transfer operations.
- It generates MARK signal to the peripheral device that 128 bytes have been transferred.
- It requires a single phase clock.
- Its frequency ranges from 250Hz to 3MHz.
- It operates in 2 modes, i.e., **Master mode** and **Slave mode**.

8257 Architecture

The following image shows the architecture of 8257



Internal Architecture of 8257

The internal architecture of 8257 is shown in figure.

- The chip support four DMA channels, i.e. four peripheral devices can independently request for DMA data transfer through these channels at a time. The DMA controller has 8-bit internal data buffer, a read/write unit, a control unit, a priority resolving unit along with a set of registers. The 8257 performs the DMA operation over four independent DMA channels. Each of four channels of 8257 has a pair of two 16-bit registers, viz. DMA address register and terminal count register.

- There are two common registers for all the channels, namely, mode set register and status register. Thus there are a total of ten registers. The CPU selects one of these ten registers using address lines Ao-A3. Table shows how the Ao-A3 bits may be used for selecting one of these registers.

DMA Address Register

Each DMA channel has one DMA address register. The function of this register is to store the address of the starting memory location, which will be accessed by the DMA channel. Thus the starting address of the memory block which will be accessed by the device is first loaded in the DMA address register of the channel. The device that wants to transfer data over a DMA channel, will access the block of the memory with the starting address stored in the DMA Address Register.

Terminal Count Register

Each of the four DMA channels of 8257 has one terminal count register (TC). This 16-bit register issued for ascertaining that the data transfer through a DMA channel ceases or stops after the required number of DMA cycles. The low order 14-bits of the terminal count register are initialized with the binary equivalent of the number of required DMA cycles minus one. After each DMA cycle, the terminal count register content will be decremented by one and finally it becomes zero after the required number of DMA cycles are over. The bits 14 and 15 of this register indicate the type of the DMA operation (transfer). If the device wants to write data into the memory, the DMA operation is called DMA write operation. Bit 14 of the register in this case will be set to one and bit 15 will be set to zero.

Table 3. DMA operation selection using A_{15}/RD and A_{15}/WR

Bit 15	*Bit 14*	*Type of DMA Operation*
0	0	Verify DMA Cycle
0	1	Write DMA Cycle
1	0	Read DMA Cycle
1	1	(Illegal)

Table gives detail of DMA operation selection and corresponding bit configuration of bits 14 and 15 of the TC register.

Mode Set Register

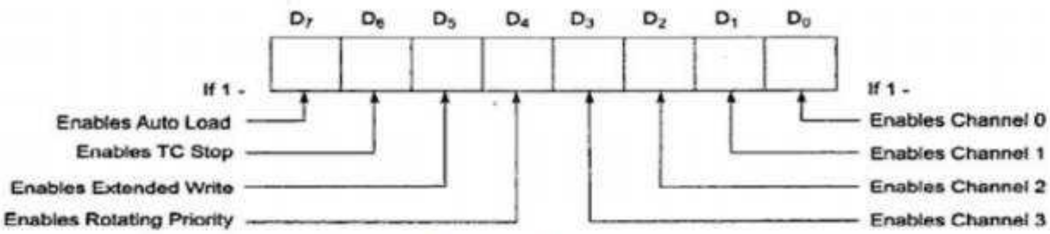


Fig 3.32 Bit definition of the mode set register

• The mode set register is used for programming the 8257 as per the requirements of the system. The function of the mode set register is to enable the DMA channels individually and also to set the various modes of operation.

• The DMA channel should not be enabled till the DMA address register and the terminal count register contain valid information. The bits Do -D3 enable one of the four DMA channels of 8257. for example, if Do is '1', channel 0 is enabled. If bit 4 is set, rotating priority is enabled, otherwise, the normal, i.e. fixed priority is enabled.

- If the TC STOP bit is set, the selected channel is disabled after the terminal count condition is reached, and it further prevents any DMA cycle on the channel.

- To enable the channel again, this bit must be reprogrammed. If the TC STOP bit is programmed to be zero, the channel is not disabled, even after the count reaches zero and further request are allowed on the same channel.
- The auto load bit is set, it enables channel 2 for the repeat block chaining operations, without immediate software intervention between the two successive blocks. The channel 2 registers are used as usual, while the channel 3 registers are used to store the block reinitialization parameters, i.e. the DMA starting address and terminal count.
    - After the first block is transferred using DMA, the channel 2 registers are reloaded with the corresponding channel 3 registers for the next block transfer, if the update flag is set. The extended write bit, if set to '1', extends the duration of MEMW and IOW signals by activating them earlier, this is useful in interfacing the peripherals with different access times.If the peripheral is not accessed within the stipulated time, it is expected to give the'NOT READY' indication to 8257, to request it to add one or more wait states in the DMA CYCLE. The mode set register can only be written into.

Status Register

The status register of 8257 is shown in figure. The lower order 4-bits of this register contain the terminal count status for the four individual channels. If any of these bits is set, it indicates that the specific channel has reached the terminal count condition. These bits remain set till either the status is read by the CPU or the 8257 is reset.

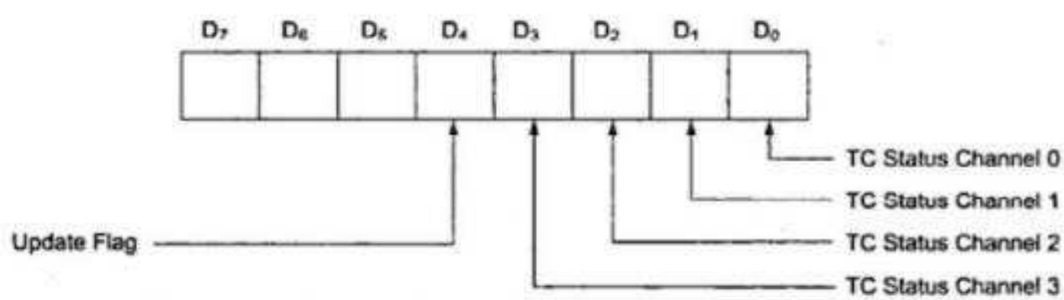


Fig 3.33 Status Register

- The update flag is not affected by the read operation. This flag can only be cleared by resetting 8257 or by resetting the auto load bit of the mode set register.

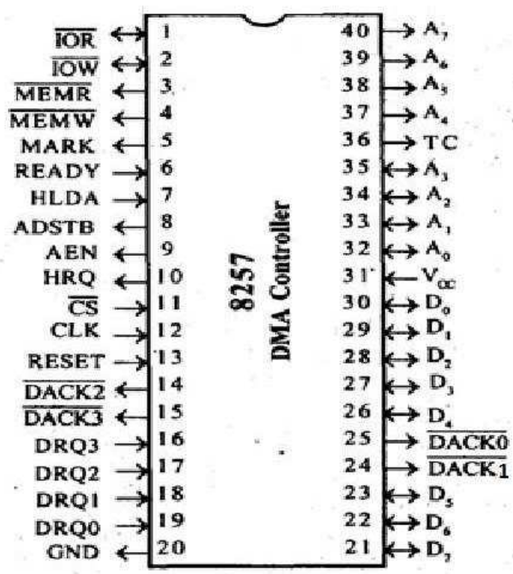
- If the update flag is set, the contents of the channel 3 registers are reloaded to the corresponding registers of channel 2 whenever the channel 2 reaches a terminal count condition, after transferring one block and the next block is to be transferred using the auto load feature of 8257.
- The update flag is set every time; the channel 2 registers are loaded with contents of the channel 3 registers. It is cleared by the completion of the first DMA cycle of the new block. This register can only read.

Data Bus Buffer, Read/Write Logic, Control Unit and Priority Resolver

- The 8-bit. Tristate, bidirectional buffer interfaces the internal bus of 8257 with the external system bus under the control of various control signals.
- In the slave mode, the read/write logic accepts the I/O Read or I/O Write signals, decodes the Ao-A3 lines and either writes the contents of the data bus to the addressed internal register or reads the contents of the selected register depending upon whether IOW or IOR signal is activated.
- In master mode, the read/write logic generates the IOR and IOW signals to control the data flow to or from the selected peripheral. The control logic controls the sequences of operations and generates the required control signals like AEN, ADSTB, MEMR, MEMW, TC and MARK along with the address lines A4-A7, in master mode. The priority resolver resolves the priority of the four DMA channels depending upon whether normal priority or rotating priority is programmed.

8257 Pin Description

The following image shows the pin diagram of a 8257 DMA controller :



DRQ_0–DRQ**3**

These are the four individual channel DMA request inputs, which are used by the peripheral devices for using DMA services. When the fixed priority mode is selected, then DRQ_0 has the highest priority and DRQ_3 has the lowest priority among them.

$DACK_o - DACK_3$

These are the active-low DMA acknowledge lines, which updates the requesting peripheral about the status of their request by the CPU. These lines can also act as strobe lines for the requesting devices.

$D_o - D_7$

These are bidirectional, data lines which are used to interface the system bus with the internal data bus of DMA controller. In the Slave mode, it carries command words to 8257 and status word from 8257. In the master mode, these lines are used to send higher byte of the generated address to the latch. This address is further latched using ADSTB signal.

IOR

It is an active-low bidirectional tri-state input line, which is used by the CPU to read internal registers of 8257 in the Slave mode. In the master mode, it is used to read data from the peripheral devices during a memory write cycle.

IOW

It is an active low bi-direction tri-state line, which is used to load the contents of the data bus to the 8-bit mode register or upper/lower byte of a 16-bit DMA address register or terminal count register. In the master mode, it is used to load the data to the peripheral devices during DMA memory read cycle.

CLK

It is a clock frequency signal which is required for the internal operation of 8257.

RESET

This signal is used to RESET the DMA controller by disabling all the DMA channels.

A_o - A_3

These are the four least significant address lines. In the slave mode, they act as an input, which selects one of the registers to be read or written. In the master mode, they are the four least significant memory address output lines generated by 8257.

CS

It is an active-low chip select line. In the Slave mode, it enables the read/write operations to/from 8257. In the master mode, it disables the read/write operations to/from 8257.

A_4 - A_7

These are the higher nibble of the lower byte address generated by DMA in the master mode.

READY

It is an active-high asynchronous input signal, which makes DMA ready by inserting wait states.

HRQ

This signal is used to receive the hold request signal from the output device. In the slave mode, it is connected with a DRQ input line 8257. In Master mode, it is connected with HOLD input of the CPU.

HLDA

It is the hold acknowledgement signal which indicates the DMA controller that the bus has been granted to the requesting peripheral by the CPU when it is set to 1.

MEMR

It is the low memory read signal, which is used to read the data from the addressed memory locations during DMA read cycles.

MEMW

It is the active-low three state signal which is used to write the data to the addressed memory location during DMA write operation.

ADST

This signal is used to convert the higher byte of the memory address generated by the DMA controller into the latches.

AEN

This signal is used to disable the address bus/data bus.

TC

It stands for 'Terminal Count', which indicates the present DMA cycle to the present peripheral devices.

MARK

The mark will be activated after each 128 cycles or integral multiples of it from the beginning. It indicates the current DMA cycle is the 128th cycle since the previous MARK output to the selected peripheral device.

V_{cc}

It is the power signal which is required for the operation of the circuit.

8279 Programmable Keyboard/Display Controller

Intel's 8279 is a general purpose Keyboard Display controller that simultaneously drives the display of a system and interfaces a Keyboard with the CPU. The Keyboard Display interface scans the Keyboard to identify if any key has been pressed and sends the code of the pressed key to the CPU. It also transmits the data received from the CPU to the display device. Both of these functions are performed by the controller in repetitive fashion without involving the CPU. The Keyboard is interfaced either in the interrupt or the polled mode. In the interrupt mode, the processor is requested service only if any key is pressed, otherwise the CPU can proceed with its main task.

In the polled mode, the CPU periodically reads an internal flag of 8279 to check for a key pressure. The Keyboard section can interface an array of a maximum of 64 keys with the CPU. The Keyboard entries (key codes) are debounced and stored in an 8-byte FIFO RAM, that is further accessed by the CPU to read the key codes. If more than eight characters are entered in the FIFO (i.e. more that eight keys are pressed), before any FIFO read operation, the overrun status is set. If a FIFO contains a valid key entry, the CPU is interrupted (in interrupt mode) or the CPU checks the status (in polling) to read the entry.

Once the CPU reads a key entry, the FIFO is updated, i.e. the key entry is pushed out of the FIFO to generate space for new entries. The 8279 normally provides a maximum of sixteen 7-seg display interface with CPU It contains a 16-byte display RAM that can be used either as an integrated block of 16x8-bits or two 16x4-bit block of RAM. The data entry to RAM block is controlled by CPU using the command words of the 8279.

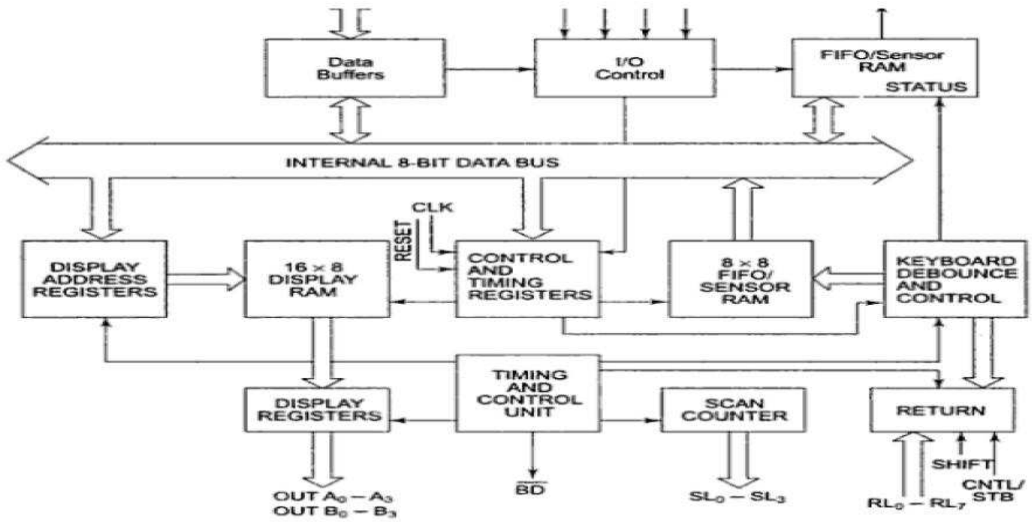
Architecture and Signal Descriptions of 8279

The Keyboard display controller chip 8279 provides
1. A set of four scan lines and eight return lines for interfacing keyboards.
2. A set of eight output lines for interfacing display.

I/O Control and Data Buffer

The I/O control section controls the flow of data to/from the 8279. The data buffer interface the external bus of the system with internal bus of 8279. the I/O section is enabled only if D is low.

8279 Internal Architecture



The pin Ao, RD and WR select the command, status or data read/write operations carried out by the CPU with 8279.

Control ,Timing Register and Timing Control

These registers store the keyboard and display modes and other operating conditions programmed by CPU. The registers are written with Ao=1 and WR =0. The timing and control unit controls the basic timings for the operation of the circuit. Scan Counter divide down the operating frequency of 8279 to derive scan keyboard and scan display frequencies.

Scan Counter

The Scan Counter has two modes to scan the key matrix and refresh the display.In the Encoded mode, the counter provides a binary count that is to be externally decoded to provide the scan lines for keyboard and display (four externally decoded scan lines may drive up to 16 displays).

In the decoded scan mode, the counter internally decodes the least significant 2 bits and provides a decoded 1 out of 4 scan on SL0-SL3 (four internally decoded scan lines may drive up to 4 Displays). The Keyboard and Display both are in the same mode at a time.

Return Buffers and Keyboard Debounce and Control

This section scans for a Key closure row-wise. If it is detected, the Keyboard debounce unit debounces the key entry (i.e. wait for 10 ms). After the debounce period, if the key continues to be detected. The code of the Key is directly transferred to the sensor RAM along with SHIFT and

CONTROL key status.

FIFO/Sensor RAM and Status Logic

In Keyboard or strobed input mode, this block acts as 8-byte first-in-first-out (FIFO) RAM. Each key code of the pressed key is entered in the order of the entry, and in the meantime, read by the CPU, till the RAM becomes empty. The status logic generates an interrupt request after each FIFO read operation till the FIFO is empty.

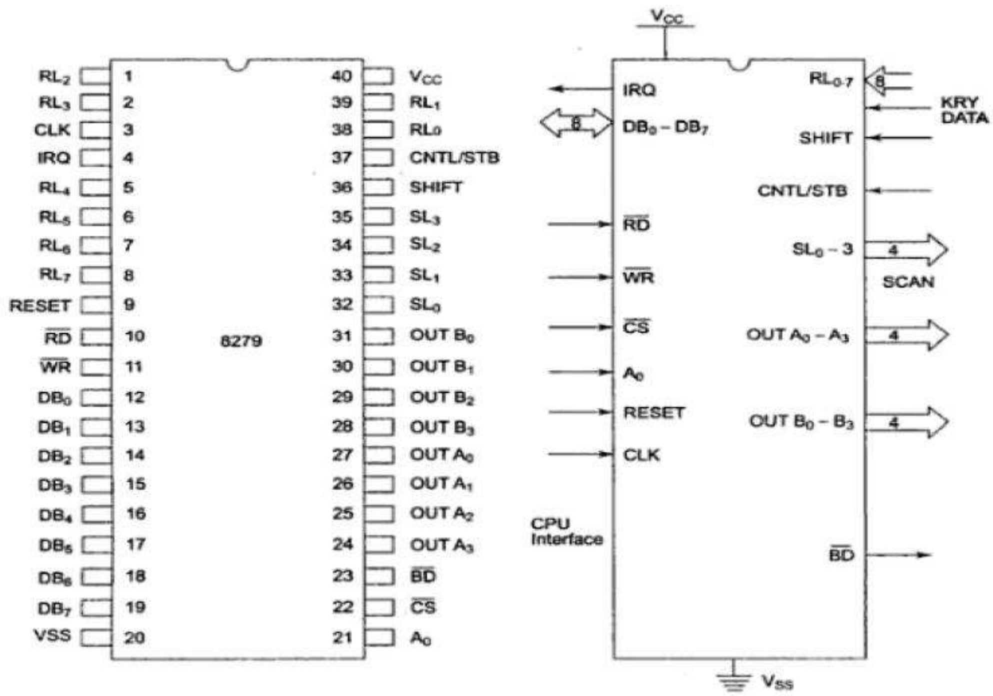
In scanned sensor matrix mode, this unit acts as sensor RAM. Each row of the sensor RAM is loaded with the status of the corresponding row of sensors in the matrix. If a sensor changes its state, the IRQ line goes high to interrupt the CPU.

Display Address Registers and Display RAM.

The Display address registers hold the addresses of the word currently being written or read by the CPU to or from the display RAM. The contents of the registers are automatically updated by 8279 to accept the next data entry by CPU. The 16-byte display RAM contains the 16-byte of data to be displayed on the sixteen 7-seg displays in the encoded scan mode.

8279 − Pin Description

The following figure shows the pin diagram of 8279 –



Data Bus Lines, DB_0 - DB_7

These are 8 bidirectional data bus lines used to transfer the data to/from the CPU.

CLK

The clock input is used to generate internal timings required by the microprocessor.

RESET

As the name suggests this pin is used to reset the microprocessor.

CS Chip Select

When this pin is set to low, it allows read/write operations, else this pin should be set to high.

A_0

This pin indicates the transfer of command/status information. When it is low, it indicates the transfer of data.

RD, WR

This Read/Write pin enables the data buffer to send/receive data over the data bus.

IRQ

This interrupt output line goes high when there is data in the FIFO sensor RAM. The interrupt line goes low with each FIFO RAM read operation. However, if the FIFO RAM further contains any key-code entry to be read by the CPU, this pin again goes high to generate an interrupt to the CPU.

V_{ss}, V_{cc}

These are the ground and power supply lines of the microprocessor.

$SL_0 - SL_3$

These are the scan lines used to scan the keyboard matrix and display the digits. These lines can be programmed as encoded or decoded, using the mode control register.

$RL_0 - RL_7$

These are the Return Lines which are connected to one terminal of keys, while the other terminal of the keys is connected to the decoded scan lines. These lines are set to 0 when any key is pressed.

SHIFT

The Shift input line status is stored along with every key code in FIFO in the scanned keyboard mode. Till it is pulled low with a key closure, it is pulled up internally to keep it high

CNTL/STB - CONTROL/STROBED I/P Mode

In the keyboard mode, this line is used as a control input and stored in FIFO on a key closure. The line is a strobe line that enters the data into FIFO RAM, in the strobed input mode. It has an internal pull up. The line is pulled down with a key closure.

BD

It stands for blank display. It is used to blank the display during digit switching.

$OUTA_0 – OUTA_3$ and $OUTB_0 – OUTB_3$

These are the output ports for two 16x4 or one 16x8 internal display refresh registers. The data from these lines is synchronized with the scan lines to scan the display and the keyboard.

Operational Modes of 8279

There are two modes of operation on 8279 − **Input Mode** and **Output Mode**.

Input Mode

This mode deals with the input given by the keyboard and this mode is further classified into 3 modes.

- **Scanned Keyboard Mode** − In this mode, the key matrix can be interfaced using either encoded or decoded scans. In the encoded scan, an 8×8 keyboard or in the decoded scan, a 4×8 keyboard can be interfaced. The code of key pressed with SHIFT and CONTROL status is stored into the FIFO RAM.
- **Scanned Sensor Matrix** − In this mode, a sensor array can be interfaced with the processor using either encoder or decoder scans. In the encoder scan, 8×8 sensor matrix or with decoder scan 4×8 sensor matrix can be interfaced.
- **Strobed Input** − In this mode, when the control line is set to 0, the data on the return lines is stored in the FIFO byte by byte.

Output Mode

This mode deals with display-related operations. This mode is further classified into two output modes.

- **Display Scan** − This mode allows 8/16 character multiplexed displays to be organized as dual 4-bit/single 8-bit display units.
- **Display Entry** − This mode allows the data to be entered for display either from the right side/left side.