Normally, instructions that perform data transfer with internal RAM are used the most. However, auto-incrementation by 1 (or auto-decrementation by 1) of internal HD44780U RAM addresses after each data write can lighten the program load of the MPU. Since the display shift instruction (Table 11) can perform concurrently with display data write, the user can minimize system development time with maximum programming efficiency.

When an instruction is being executed for internal operation, no instruction other than the busy flag/address read instruction can be executed.

Because the busy flag is set to 1 while an instruction is being executed, check it to make sure it is 0 before sending another instruction from the MPU.

Note: Be sure the HD44780U is not in the busy state (BF = 0) before sending an instruction from the MPU to the HD44780U. If an instruction is sent without checking the busy flag, the time between the first instruction and next instruction will take much longer than the instruction time itself. Refer to Table 6 for the list of each instruc-tion execution time.

Table 6 Instructions

	Code											
Instruction	**RS**	**R/$\overline{W}$**	**DB7**	**DB6**	**DB5**	**DB4**	**DB3**	**DB2**	**DB1**	**DB0**	**Description**	**Execution Time (max) (when f_{cp} or f_{osc} is 270 kHz)**
Clear display	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Clears entire display and sets DDRAM address 0 in address counter.	
Return home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	—	Sets DDRAM address 0 in address counter. Also returns display from being shifted to original position. DDRAM contents remain unchanged.	1.52 ms
Entry mode set	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	I/D	S	Sets cursor move direction and specifies display shift. These operations are performed during data write and read.	37 s
Display on/off control	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	D	C	B	Sets entire display (D) on/off, cursor on/off (C), and blinking of cursor position character (B).	37 s
Cursor or display shift	0	0	0	0	0	1	S/C	R/L	—	—	Moves cursor and shifts display without changing DDRAM contents.	37 s
Function set	0	0	0	0	1	DL	N	F	—	—	Sets interface data length (DL), number of display lines (N), and character font (F).	37 s
Set CGRAM address	0	0	0	1	ACG	ACG	ACG	ACG	ACG	ACG	Sets CGRAM address. CGRAM data is sent and received after this setting.	37 s
Set DDRAM address	0	0	1	ADD	ADD	ADD	ADD	ADD	ADD	ADD	Sets DDRAM address. DDRAM data is sent and received after this setting.	37 s
Read busy flag & address	0	1	BF	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	Reads busy flag (BF) indicating internal operation is being performed and reads address counter contents.	0 s

Table 6 Instructions (cont)

Instruction	Code RS	R/W	DB7	DB6	DB5	DB4	DB3	DB2	DB1	DB0	Description	Execution Time (max) (when f_{cp} or f_{OSC} is 270 kHz)
Write data to CG or DDRAM	1	0	Write data								Writes data into DDRAM or CGRAM.	37 s t_{ADD} = 4 s*
Read data from CG or DDRAM	1	1	Read data								Reads data from DDRAM or CGRAM.	37 s t_{ADD} = 4 s*
	I/D = 1: Increment I/D = 0: Decrement S = 1: Accompanies display shift S/C = 1: Display shift S/C = 0: Cursor move R/L = 1: Shift to the right R/L = 0: Shift to the left DL = 1: 8 bits, DL = 0: 4 bits N = 1: 2 lines, N = 0: 1 line F = 1: 5 10 dots, F = 0: 5 8 dots BF = 1: Internally operating BF = 0: Instructions acceptable										DDRAM: Display data RAM CGRAM: Character generator RAM ACG: CGRAM address ADD: DDRAM address (corresponds to cursor address) AC: Address counter used for both DD and CGRAM addresses	Execution time changes when frequency changes Example: When f_{cp} or f_{OSC} is 250 kHz, 37 s $\frac{270}{250}$ = 40 s

Note: — indicates no effect.

* After execution of the CGRAM/DDRAM data write or read instruction, the RAM address counter is incremented or decremented by 1. The RAM address counter is updated after the busy flag turns off. In Figure 10, t_{ADD} is the time elapsed after the busy flag turns off until the address counter is updated.

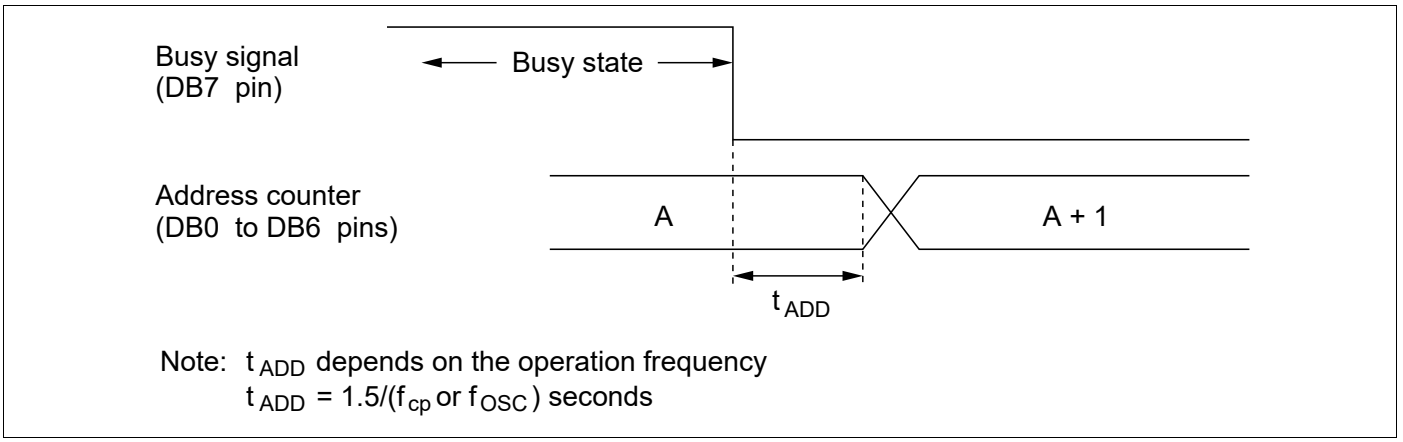

Figure 10 Address Counter Update

Instruction Description

Clear Display

Clear display writes space code 20H (character pattern for character code 20H must be a blank pattern) into all DDRAM addresses. It then sets DDRAM address 0 into the address counter, and returns the display to its original status if it was shifted. In other words, the display disappears and the cursor or blinking goes to the left edge of the display (in the first line if 2 lines are displayed). It also sets I/D to 1 (increment mode) in entry mode. S of entry mode does not change.

Return Home

Return home sets DDRAM address 0 into the address counter, and returns the display to its original status if it was shifted. The DDRAM contents do not change.

The cursor or blinking go to the left edge of the display (in the first line if 2 lines are displayed).

Entry Mode Set

I/D: Increments (I/D = 1) or decrements (I/D = 0) the DDRAM address by 1 when a character code is written into or read from DDRAM.

The cursor or blinking moves to the right when incremented by 1 and to the left when decremented by 1. The same applies to writing and reading of CGRAM.

S: Shifts the entire display either to the right (I/D = 0) or to the left (I/D = 1) when S is 1. The display does not shift if S is 0.

If S is 1, it will seem as if the cursor does not move but the display does. The display does not shift when reading from DDRAM. Also, writing into or reading out from CGRAM does not shift the display.

Display On/Off Control

D: The display is on when D is 1 and off when D is 0. When off, the display data remains in DDRAM, but can be displayed instantly by setting D to 1.

C: The cursor is displayed when C is 1 and not displayed when C is 0. Even if the cursor disappears, the function of I/D or other specifications will not change during display data write. The cursor is displayed using 5 dots in the 8th line for 5 8 dot character font selection and in the 11th line for the 5 10 dot character font selection (Figure 13).

B: The character indicated by the cursor blinks when B is 1 (Figure 13). The blinking is displayed as switching between all blank dots and displayed characters at a speed of 409.6-ms intervals when f_{cp} or f_{OSC} is 250 kHz. The cursor and blinking can be set to display simultaneously. (The blinking frequency changes according to f_{OSC} or the reciprocal of f_{cp}. For example, when f_{cp} is 270 kHz, 409.6 250/270 = 379.2 ms.)

Cursor or Display Shift

Cursor or display shift shifts the cursor position or display to the right or left without writing or reading display data (Table 7). This function is used to correct or search the display. In a 2-line display, the cursor moves to the second line when it passes the 40th digit of the first line. Note that the first and second line displays will shift at the same time.

When the displayed data is shifted repeatedly each line moves only horizontally. The second line display does not shift into the first line position.

The address counter (AC) contents will not change if the only action performed is a display shift.

Function Set

DL: Sets the interface data length. Data is sent or received in 8-bit lengths (DB7 to DB0) when DL is 1, and in 4-bit lengths (DB7 to DB4) when DL is 0.When 4-bit length is selected, data must be sent or received twice.

N: Sets the number of display lines.

F: Sets the character font.

Note: Perform the function at the head of the program before executing any instructions (except for the read busy flag and address instruction). From this point, the function set instruction cannot be executed unless the interface data length is changed.

Set CGRAM Address

Set CGRAM address sets the CGRAM address binary AAAAAA into the address counter.

Data is then written to or read from the MPU for CGRAM.

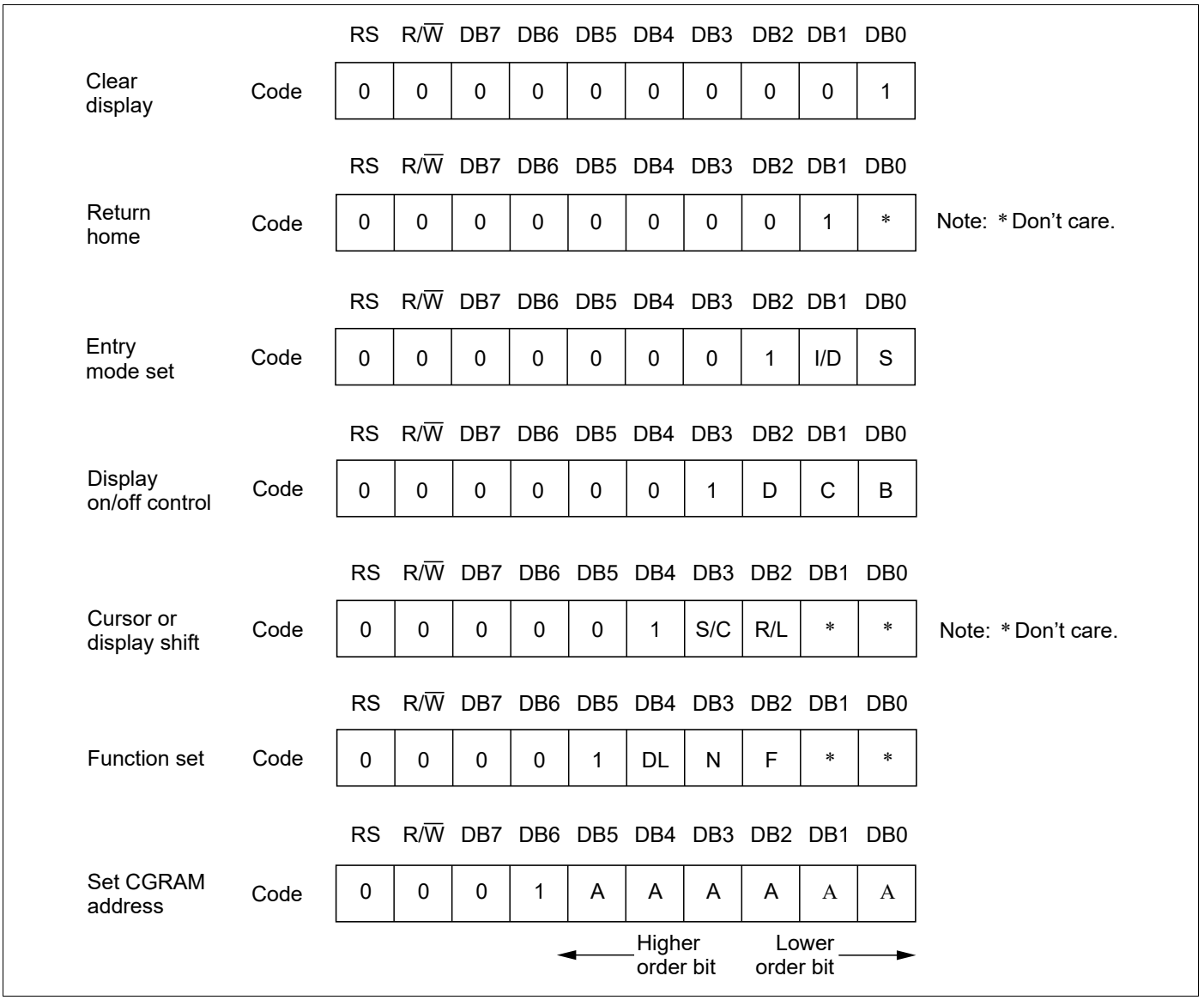

Figure 11 Instruction (1)

Set DDRAM Address

Set DDRAM address sets the DDRAM address binary AAAAAAA into the address counter.

Data is then written to or read from the MPU for DDRAM.

However, when N is 0 (1-line display), AAAAAAA can be 00H to 4FH. When N is 1 (2-line display), AAAAAAA can be 00H to 27H for the first line, and 40H to 67H for the second line.

Read Busy Flag and Address

Read busy flag and address reads the busy flag (BF) indicating that the system is now internally operating on a previously received instruction. If BF is 1, the internal operation is in progress. The next instruction will not be accepted until BF is reset to 0. Check the BF status before the next write operation. At the same time, the value of the address counter in binary AAAAAAA is read out. This address counter is used by both CG and DDRAM addresses, and its value is determined by the previous instruction. The address contents are the same as for instructions set CGRAM address and set DDRAM address.

Table 7 Shift Function

S/C	R/L	
0	0	Shifts the cursor position to the left. (AC is decremented by one.)
0	1	Shifts the cursor position to the right. (AC is incremented by one.)
1	0	Shifts the entire display to the left. The cursor follows the display shift.
1	1	Shifts the entire display to the right. The cursor follows the display shift.

Table 8 Function Set

N	F	No. of Display Lines	Character Font	Duty Factor	Remarks
0	0	1	5 8 dots	1/8	
0	1	1	5 10 dots	1/11	
1	*	2	5 8 dots	1/16	Cannot display two lines for 5 10 dot character font

Note: * Indicates don't care.

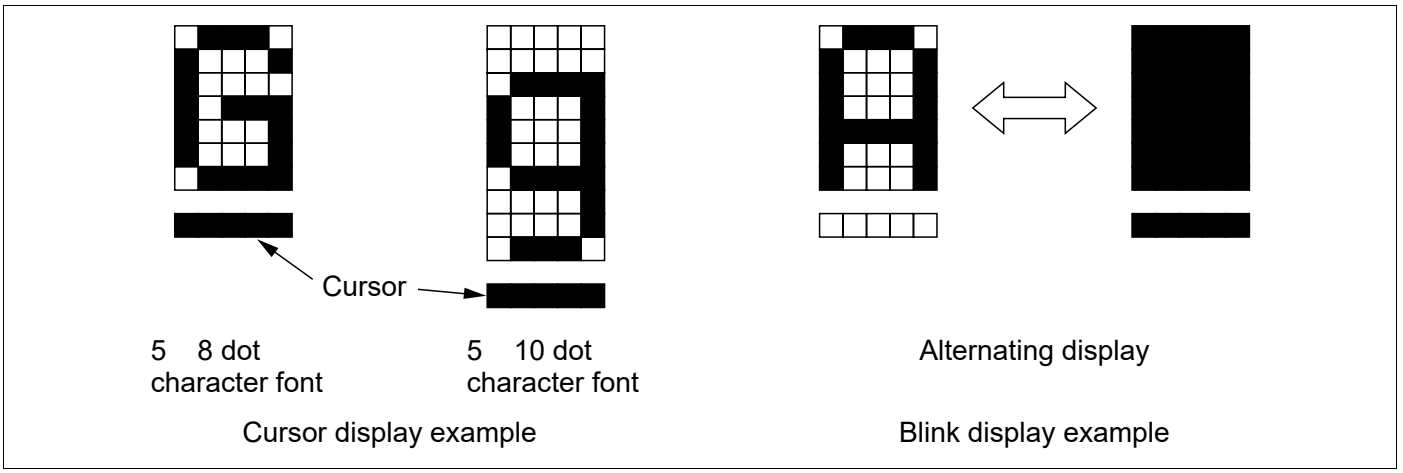

Figure 12 Cursor and Blinking

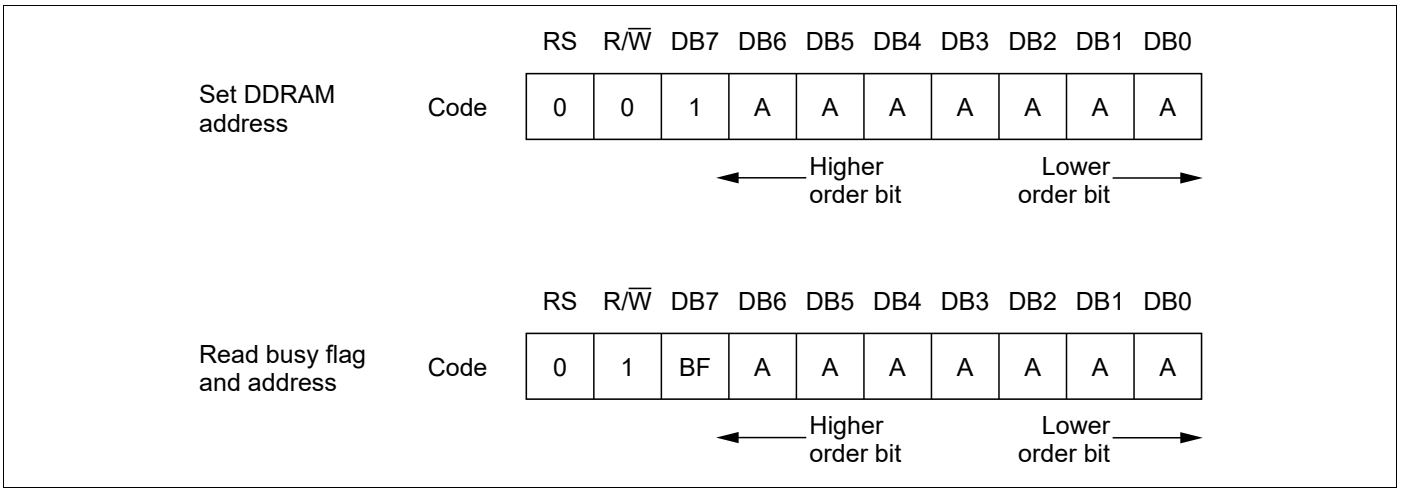

Figure 13 Instruction (2)

Write Data to CG or DDRAM

Write data to CG or DDRAM writes 8-bit binary data DDDDDDDD to CG or DDRAM.

To write into CG or DDRAM is determined by the previous specification of the CGRAM or DDRAM address setting. After a write, the address is automatically incremented or decremented by 1 according to the entry mode. The entry mode also determines the display shift.

Read Data from CG or DDRAM

Read data from CG or DDRAM reads 8-bit binary data DDDDDDDD from CG or DDRAM.

The previous designation determines whether CG or DDRAM is to be read. Before entering this read instruction, either CGRAM or DDRAM address set instruction must be executed. If not executed, the first read data will be invalid. When serially executing read instructions, the next address data is normally read from the second read. The address set instructions need not be executed just before this read instruction when shifting the cursor by the cursor shift instruction (when reading out DDRAM). The operation of the cursor shift instruction is the same as the set DDRAM address instruction.

After a read, the entry mode automatically increases or decreases the address by 1. However, display shift is not executed regardless of the entry mode.

Note: The address counter (AC) is automatically incremented or decremented by 1 after the write instructions to CGRAM or DDRAM are executed. The RAM data selected by the AC cannot be read out at this time even if read instructions are executed. Therefore, to correctly read data, execute either the address set instruction or cursor shift instruction (only with DDRAM), then just before reading the desired data, execute the read instruction from the second time the read instruction is sent.

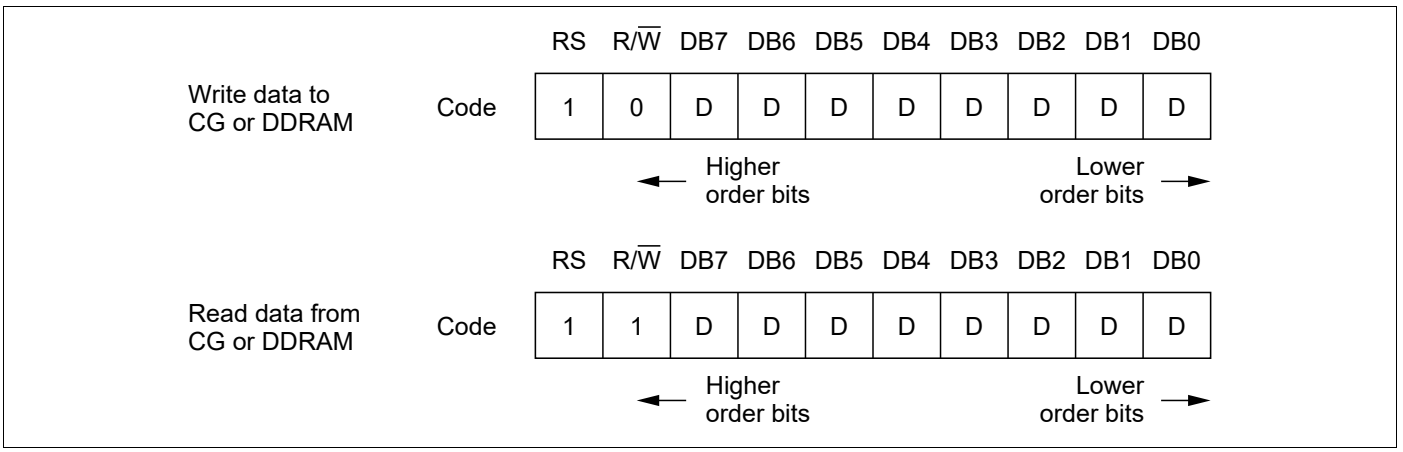

Figure 14 Instruction (3)