

Interfacing to the MPU

The HD44780U can send data in either two 4-bit operations or one 8-bit operation, thus allowing interfacing with 4- or 8-bit MPUs.

- For 4-bit interface data, only four bus lines (DB4 to DB7) are used for transfer. Bus lines DB0 to DB3 are disabled. The data transfer between the HD44780U and the MPU is completed after the 4-bit data has been transferred twice. As for the order of data transfer, the four high order bits (for 8-bit operation, DB4 to DB7) are transferred before the four low order bits (for 8-bit operation, DB0 to DB3). The busy flag must be checked (one instruction) after the 4-bit data has been transferred twice. Two more 4-bit operations then transfer the busy flag and address counter data.
- For 8-bit interface data, all eight bus lines (DB0 to DB7) are used.

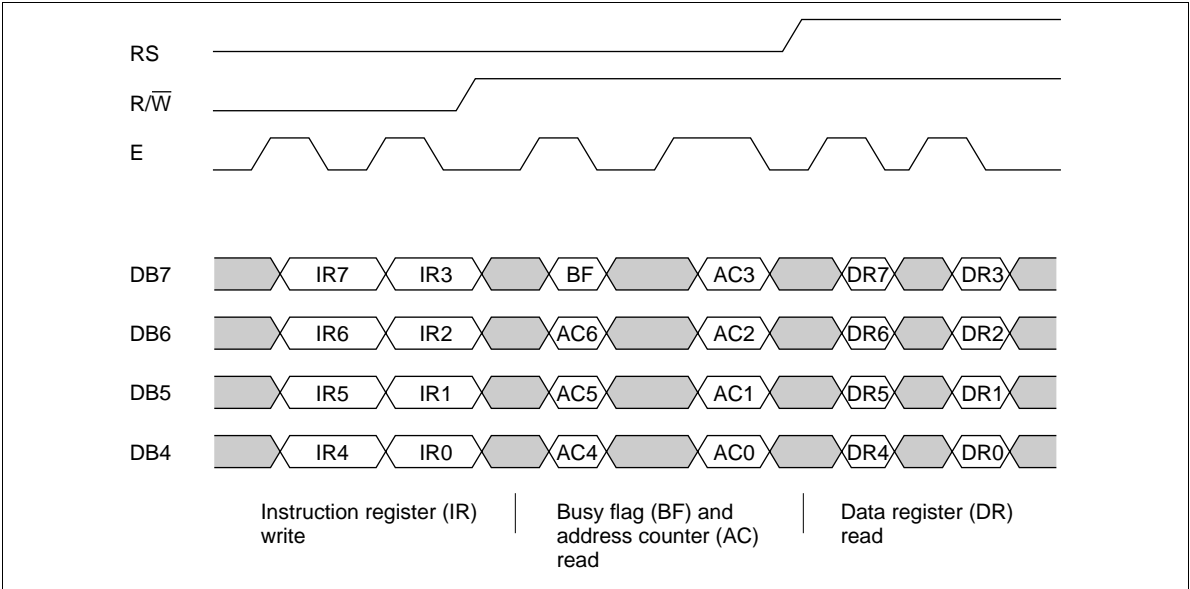


Figure 9 4-Bit Transfer Example

Reset Function

Initializing by Internal Reset Circuit

An internal reset circuit automatically initializes the HD44780U when the power is turned on. The following instructions are executed during the initialization. The busy flag (BF) is kept in the busy state until the initialization ends (BF = 1). The busy state lasts for 10 ms after V_{CC} rises to 4.5 V.

1. Display clear
2. Function set:
DL = 1; 8-bit interface data
N = 0; 1-line display
F = 0; 5 × 8 dot character font
3. Display on/off control:
D = 0; Display off
C = 0; Cursor off
B = 0; Blinking off
4. Entry mode set:
I/D = 1; Increment by 1
S = 0; No shift

Note: If the electrical characteristics conditions listed under the table Power Supply Conditions Using Internal Reset Circuit are not met, the internal reset circuit will not operate normally and will fail to initialize the HD44780U. For such a case, initial-ization must be performed by the MPU as explained in the section, Initializing by Instruction.

Instructions

Outline

Only the instruction register (IR) and the data register (DR) of the HD44780U can be controlled by the MPU. Before starting the internal operation of the HD44780U, control information is temporarily stored into these registers to allow interfacing with various MPUs, which operate at different speeds, or various peripheral control devices. The internal operation of the HD44780U is determined by signals sent from the MPU. These signals, which include register selection signal (RS), read/

write signal (R/\overline{W}), and the data bus (DB0 to DB7), make up the HD44780U instructions (Table 6). There are four categories of instructions that:

- Designate HD44780U functions, such as display format, data length, etc.
- Set internal RAM addresses
- Perform data transfer with internal RAM
- Perform miscellaneous functions

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 instruction execution time.

Table 6 Instructions

Instruction	Code										Description	Execution Time (max) (when f_{cp} or f_{osc} is 270 kHz)
	RS	R/W	DB7	DB6	DB5	DB4	DB3	DB2	DB1	DB0		
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 μ 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 μ 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 μ 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 μ 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 μ 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 μ 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 μ s