# INTEL 8279 MICROPROCESSOR - KEYBOARD/DISPLAY CONTROLLER

The INTEL 8279 is specially developed for interfacing keyboard and display devices
to 8085/8086/8088 microprocessor based system. The important features of 8279 are,

• Simultaneous keyboard and display operations.

• Scanned keyboard mode.

• Scanned sensor mode.

• 8-character keyboard FIFO.

• 1 6-character display.

• Right or left entry 1 6-byte display RAM.

• Programmable scan timing.

Block diagram of 8279:

• The functional block diagram of 8279 is shown.
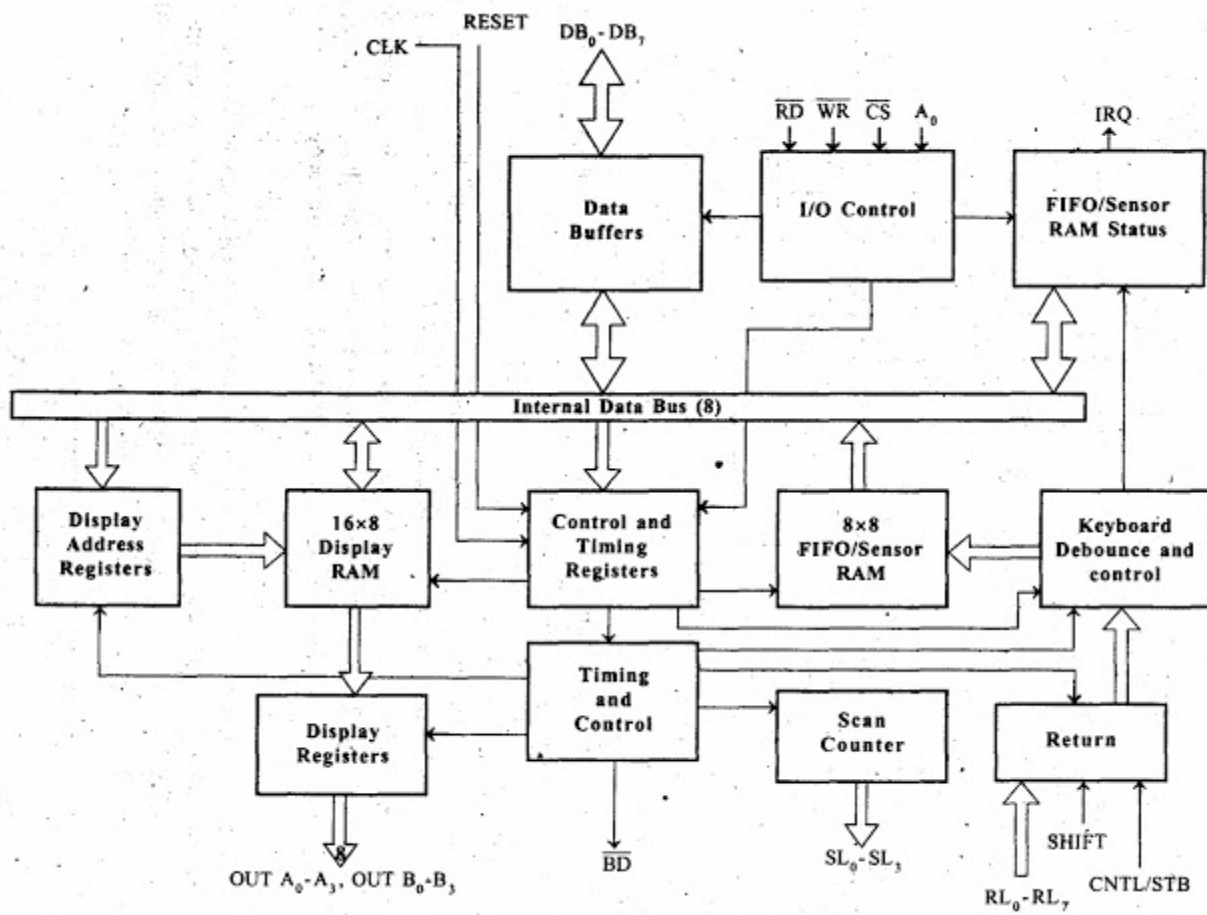
• The four major sections of 8279 are keyboard, scan, display and CPU interface.

Keyboard section:

• The keyboard section consists of eight return lines RL0 – RL7 that can be used to form the columns of a keyboard matrix.

• It has two additional input : shift and control/strobe. The keys are automatically debounced.

• The two operating modes of keyboard section are 2-key lockout and N-key rollover.

• In the 2-key lockout mode, if two keys are pressed simultaneously, only the first key is recognized.

• In the N-key rollover mode simultaneous keys are recognized and their codes are stored in FIFO.

• The keyboard section also have an 8 x 8 FIFO (First In First Out) RAM.

• The FIFO can store eight key codes in the scan keyboard mode. The status of the shift key and control key are also stored along with key code. The 8279 generate an interrupt signal when there is an entry in FIFO. The format of key code entry in FIFO for scan keyboard mode is,
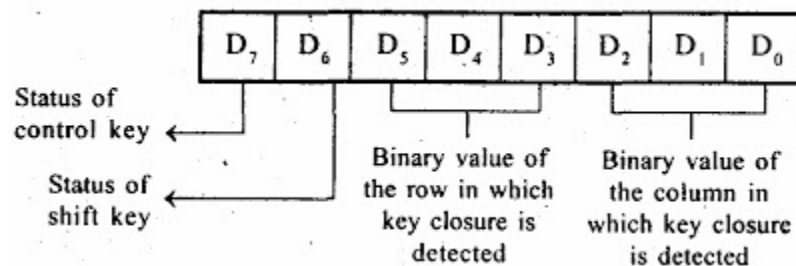
• In sensor matrix mode the condition (i.e., open/close status) of 64 switches is stored in FIFO RAM. If the condition of any of the switches changes then the 8279 asserts IRQ as high to interrupt the processor.

Display section:

• The display section has eight output lines divided into two groups A0-A3 and B0-B3.

• The output lines can be used either as a single group of eight lines or as two groups of four lines, in conjunction with the scan lines for a multiplexed display.

• The output lines are connected to the anodes through driver transistor in case of common cathode 7-segment LEDs.

• The cathodes are connected to scan lines through driver transistors.

• The display can be blanked by BD (low) line.

• The display section consists of 16 x 8 display RAM. The CPU can read from or write into any location of the display RAM.

Scan section:

• The scan section has a scan counter and four scan lines, SL0 to SL3.

• In decoded scan mode, the output of scan lines will be similar to a 2-to-4 decoder.

• In encoded scan mode, the output of scan lines will be binary count, and so an external decoder should be used to convert the binary count to decoded output.

• The scan lines are common for keyboard and display.

• The scan lines are used to form the rows of a matrix keyboard and also connected to digit drivers of a multiplexed display, to turn ON/OFF.

CPU interface section:

• The CPU interface section takes care of data transfer between 8279 and the processor.

• This section has eight bidirectional data lines DB0 to DB7 for data transfer between 8279 and CPU.

• It requires two internal address A =0 for selecting data buffer and A = 1 for selecting control register of8279.

• The control signals WR (low), RD (low), CS (low) and A0 are used for read/write to 8279.

• It has an interrupt request line IRQ, for interrupt driven data transfer with processor.

• The 8279 require an internal clock frequency of 100 kHz. This can be obtained by dividing the input clock by an internal prescaler.

• The RESET signal sets the 8279 in 16-character display with two -key lockout keyboard modes.

Programming the 8279:

- The 8279 can be programmed to perform various functions through eight command words.