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PCF8576C

Universal LCD driver for low multiplex rates

Rev. 13 — 16 December 2013 Product data sheet

1. General description

The PCF8576C is a peripheral device which interfaces to almost any Liquid Crystal Display (LCD)[1] with low multiplex rates. It generates the drive signals for any static or multiplexed LCD containing up to four backplanes and up to 40 segments and can easily be cascaded for larger LCD applications. The PCF8576C is compatible with most microcontrollers and communicates via the two-line bidirectional I^2C-bus. Communication overheads are minimized by a display RAM with auto-incremented addressing and by hardware subaddressing.

For a selection of NXP LCD segment drivers, see Table 24 on page 52.

2. Features and benefits

- Single-chip LCD controller and driver
- 40 segment drives:
  - Up to twenty 7-segment alphanumeric characters
  - Up to ten 14-segment alphanumeric characters
  - Any graphics of up to 160 elements
- Versatile blinking modes
- No external components required (even in multiple device applications)
- Selectable backplane drive configuration: static, 2, 3, or 4 backplane multiplexing
- Selectable display bias configuration: static, $\frac{1}{2}$, or $\frac{1}{3}$
- Internal LCD bias generation with voltage-follower buffers
- 40 × 4-bit RAM for display data storage
- Auto-incremented display data loading across device subaddress boundaries
- Display memory bank switching in static and duplex drive modes
- Wide logic LCD supply range:
  - From 2 V for low-threshold LCDs
  - Up to 6 V for high-threshold twisted nematic LCDs
- Low power consumption
- May be cascaded for large LCD applications (up to 2560 elements possible)
- No external components required
- Separate or combined LCD and logic supplies
- Optimized pinning for plane wiring in both single and multiple PCF8576C applications
- Power-saving mode for extremely low power consumption in battery-operated and telephone applications

1. The definition of the abbreviations and acronyms used in this data sheet can be found in Section 20.

3. Ordering information

Table 1. Ordering information

Type number	Package		
	Name	Description	Version
PCF8576CHL/1	LQFP64	plastic low profile quad flat package; 64 leads; body 10 × 10 × 1.4 mm	SOT314-2
PCF8576CT/1	VSO56	plastic very small outline package, 56 leads	SOT190-1
PCF8576CU/2/F2	bare die	bare die; 56 bumps; 3.2 × 2.92 × 0.40 mm	PCF8576CU/2
PCF8576CU/F1	bare die	wire bond die; 56 bonding pads; 3.2 × 2.92 × 0.38 mm	PCF8576CU

3.1 Ordering options

Table 2. Ordering options

Product type number	Sales item (12NC)	Orderable part number	IC revision	Delivery form
PCF8576CHL/1	935290305118	PCF8576CHL/1,118	1	tape and reel, 13 inch
	935290305157	PCF8576CHL/1,157	1	tray pack
PCF8576CT/1	935278818518	PCF8576CT/1,518	1	tape and reel, 13 inch, dry pack
PCF8576CU/2/F2	935261851026	PCF8576CU/2/F2,026	1	chips in tray
PCF8576CU/F1	935208600026	PCF8576CU/F1,026	1	chips in tray

4. Marking

Table 3. Marking codes

Product type number	Marking code
PCF8576CHL/1	PCF8576CHL
PCF8576CT/1	PCF8576CT
PCF8576CU/2/F2	PC8576C-2
PCF8576CU/F1	PC8576C-1

5. Block diagram

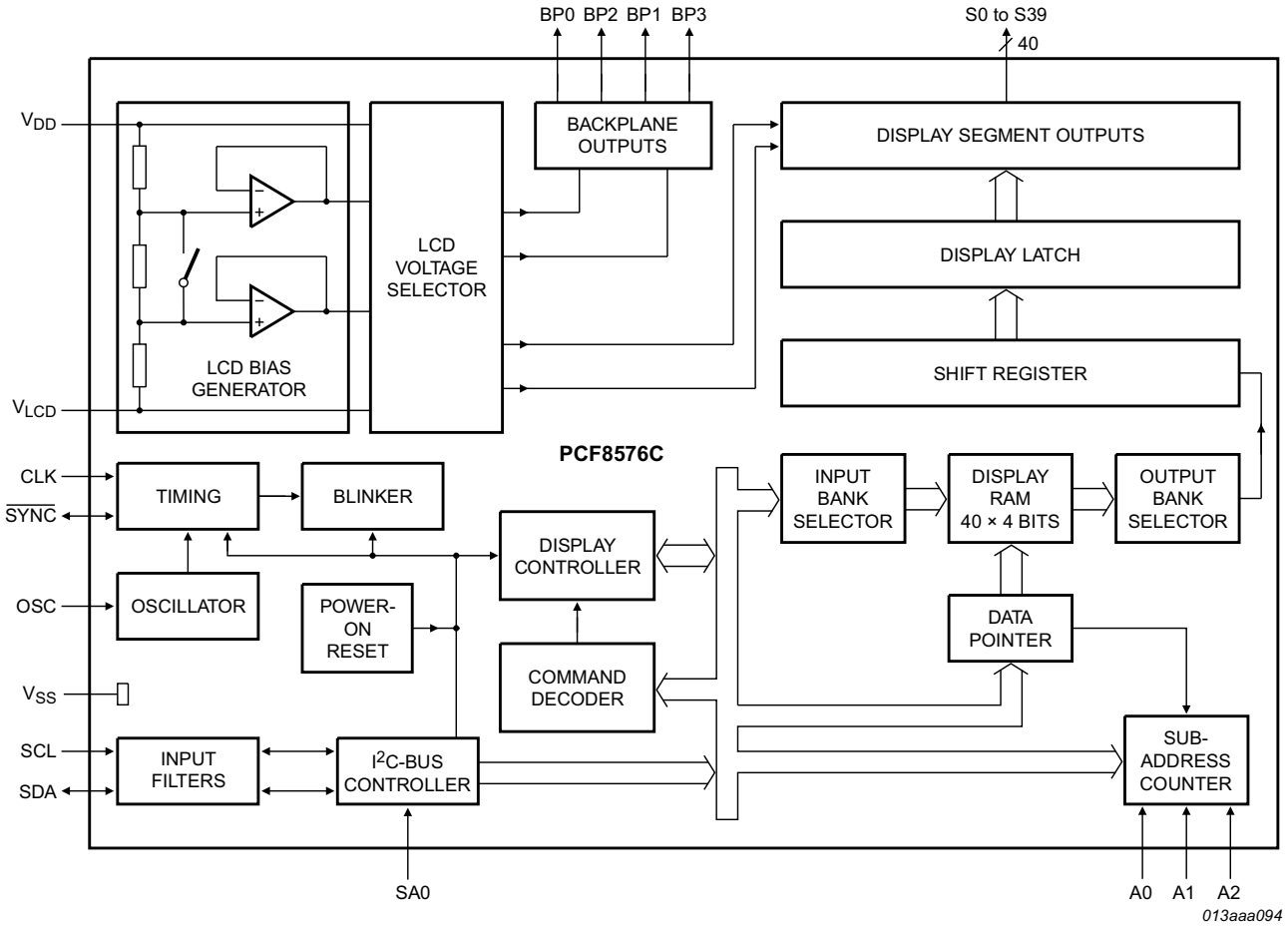
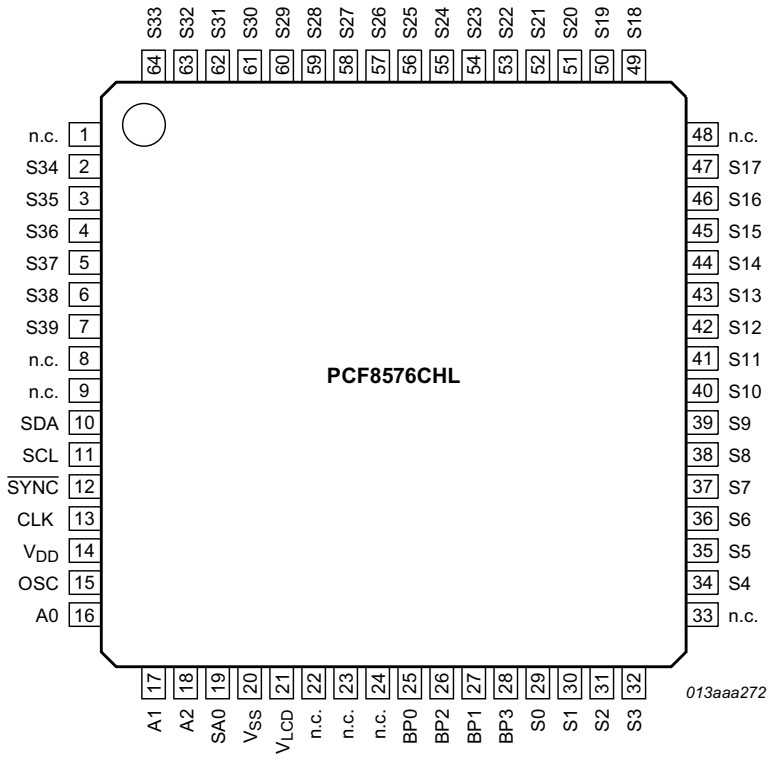


Fig 1. Block diagram of PCF8576C

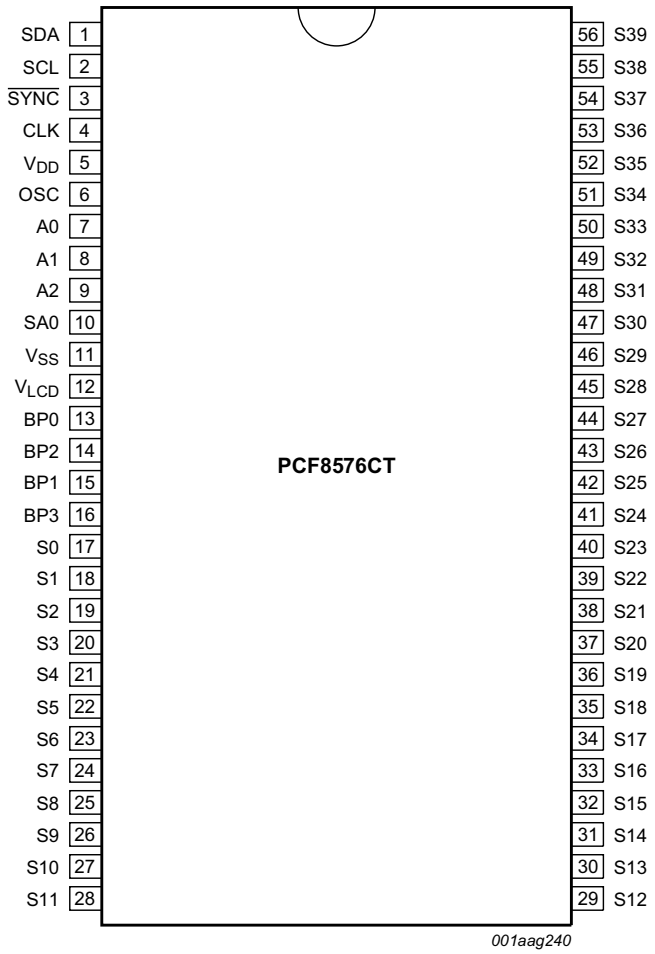
6. Pinning information

6.1 Pinning



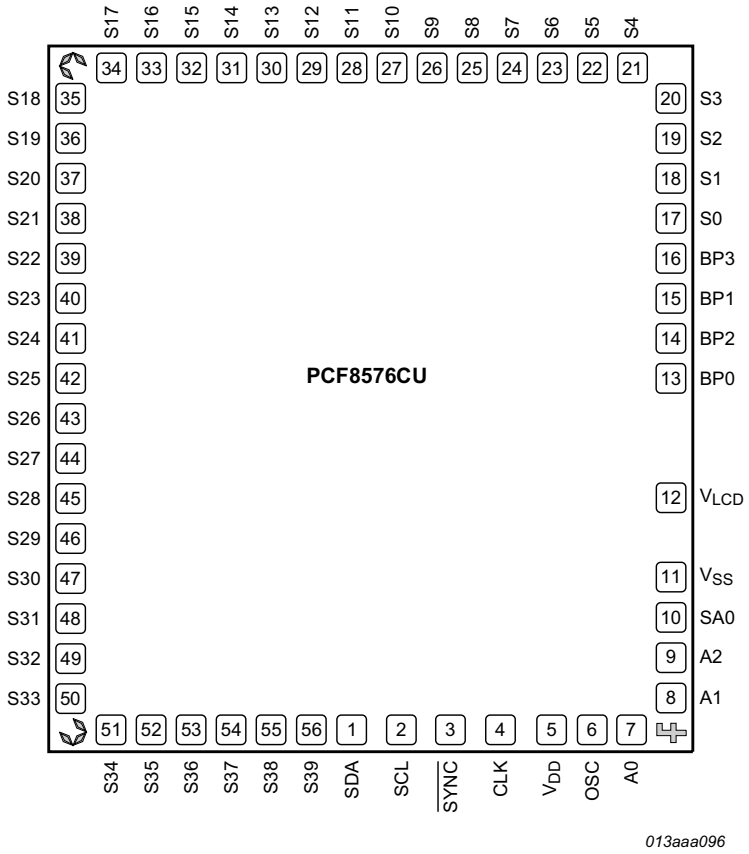
Top view. For mechanical details, see Figure 33.

Fig 2. Pin configuration for LQFP64 (PCF8576CHL/1)



Top view. For mechanical details, see Figure 34.

Fig 3. Pin configuration for VSO56 (PCF8576CT/1)



Viewed from pin side. For mechanical details, see Figure 36 and Figure 35.

Fig 4. Pin locations of PCF8576CU/F1 and PCF8576CU/2/F2

6.2 Pin description

Table 4. Pin description

Input or input/output pins must always be at a defined level (V_{SS} or V_{DD}) unless otherwise specified.

Symbol	Pin				Description
	LQFP64 (PCF8576CHL)	VSO56 (PCF8576CT)	PCF8576CU	Type	
SDA	10	1	1	input/output	I^2C-bus serial data input and output
SCL	11	2	2	input	I^2C-bus serial clock input
$\overline{SYNC}$	12	3	3	input/output	cascade synchronization input and output
CLK	13	4	4	input/output	external clock input/output
V_{DD}	14	5	5[1]	supply	supply voltage
OSC	15	6	6	input	internal oscillator enable input
A0 to A2	16 to 18	7 to 9	7 to 9	input	subaddress inputs
SA0	19	10	10	input	I^2C-bus address input; bit 0
V_{SS}	20	11	11	supply	ground supply voltage
V_{LCD}	21	12	12	supply	LCD supply voltage
BP0, BP2, BP1, BP3	25 to 28	13 to 16	13 to 16	output	LCD backplane outputs
S0 to S39	2 to 7, 29 to 32, 34 to 47, 49 to 64	17 to 56	17 to 56	output	LCD segment outputs
n.c.	1, 8, 9, 22 to 24, 33, 48	-	-	-	not connected; do not connect and do not use as feed through

[1] The substrate (rear side of the die) is connected to V_{DD} and should be electrically isolated.

7. Functional description

The PCF8576C is a versatile peripheral device designed to interface between any microcontroller to a wide variety of LCD segment or dot matrix displays (see Figure 5). It can directly drive any static or multiplexed LCD containing up to four backplanes and up to 40 segments.

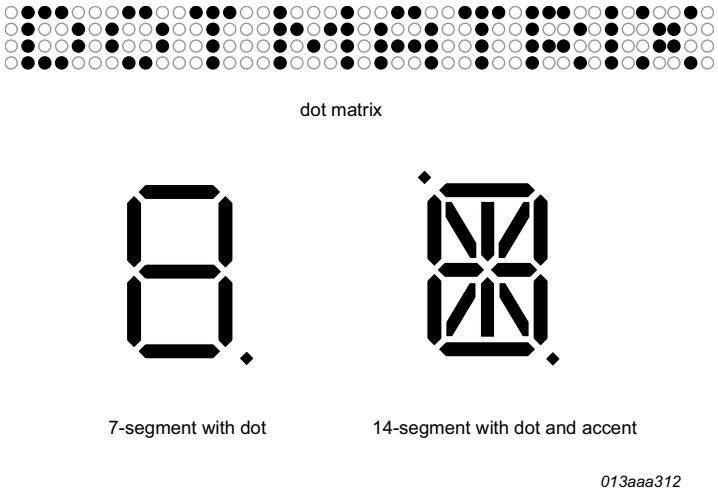


Fig 5. Example of displays suitable for PCF8576C

The possible display configurations of the PCF8576C depend on the number of active backplane outputs required. A selection of display configurations is shown in Table 5. All of these configurations can be implemented in the typical system shown in Figure 6.

Table 5. Selection of possible display configurations

Number of				
Backplanes	**Icons**	**Digits/Characters**		**Dot matrix/ Elements**
		7-segment	**14-segment**	
4	160	20	10	160 dots (4 × 40)
3	120	15	7	120 dots (3 × 40)
2	80	10	5	80 dots (2 × 40)
1	40	5	2	40 dots (1 × 40)

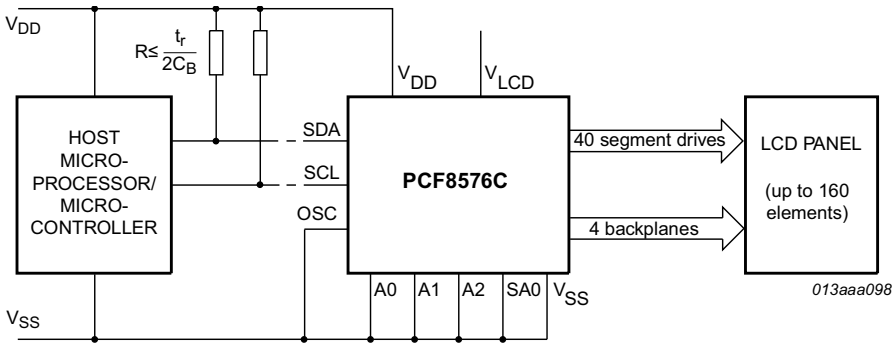


Fig 6. Typical system configuration

The host microprocessor or microcontroller maintains the 2-line I²C-bus communication channel with the PCF8576C.

Biasing voltages for the multiplexed LCD waveforms are generated internally, removing the need for an external bias generator. The internal oscillator is selected by connecting pin OSC to V_{SS}. The only other connections required to complete the system are the power supplies (pins V_{DD}, V_{SS}, and V_{LCD}) and the LCD panel selected for the application.

7.1 Power-On-Reset (POR)

At power-on the PCF8576C resets to the following starting conditions:

- All backplane and segment outputs are set to V_{DD}
- The selected drive mode is 1:4 multiplex with $\frac{1}{3}$ bias
- Blinking is switched off
- Input and output bank selectors are reset
- The I²C-bus interface is initialized
- The data pointer and the subaddress counter are cleared

Remark: Do not transfer data on the I²C-bus for at least 1 ms after a power-on to allow the reset action to complete.

7.2 LCD bias generator

The full-scale LCD voltage (V_{oper}) is obtained from $V_{DD} - V_{LCD}$. The LCD voltage may be temperature compensated externally through the V_{LCD} supply to pin V_{LCD}.

Fractional LCD biasing voltages are obtained from an internal voltage divider comprising three series resistors connected between V_{DD} and V_{LCD}. The center resistor can be switched out of the circuit to provide a $\frac{1}{2}$ bias voltage level for the 1:2 multiplex configuration.

7.3 LCD voltage selector

The LCD voltage selector coordinates the multiplexing of the LCD in accordance with the selected LCD drive configuration. The operation of the voltage selector is controlled by the mode-set command from the command decoder. The biasing configurations that apply to the preferred modes of operation, together with the biasing characteristics as functions of V_{LCD} and the resulting discrimination ratios (D) are given in Table 6.

Discrimination is a term which is defined as the ratio of the on and off RMS voltage across a segment. It can be thought of as a measurement of contrast.

Table 6. Biasing characteristics

LCD drive mode	Number of:		LCD bias configuration	$\frac{V_{off(RMS)}}{V_{LCD}}$	$\frac{V_{on(RMS)}}{V_{LCD}}$	$D = \frac{V_{on(RMS)}}{V_{off(RMS)}}$
	Backplanes	Levels				
static	1	2	static	0	1	∞
1:2 multiplex	2	3	½	0.354	0.791	2.236
1:2 multiplex	2	4	⅓	0.333	0.745	2.236
1:3 multiplex	3	4	⅓	0.333	0.638	1.915
1:4 multiplex	4	4	⅓	0.333	0.577	1.732

A practical value for V_{LCD} is determined by equating $V_{off(RMS)}$ with a defined LCD threshold voltage (V_{th}), typically when the LCD exhibits approximately 10 % contrast. In the static drive mode, a suitable choice is $V_{LCD} > 3V_{th}$.

Multiplex drive modes of 1:3 and 1:4 with ½ bias are possible but the discrimination and hence the contrast ratios are smaller.

Bias is calculated by $\frac{1}{1+a}$, where the values for a are

a = 1 for ½ bias

a = 2 for ⅓ bias

The RMS on-state voltage ($V_{on(RMS)}$) for the LCD is calculated with Equation 1:

$$V_{on(RMS)} = V_{LCD}\sqrt{\frac{a^2 + 2a + n}{n \times (1+a)^2}} \quad (1)$$

where the values for n are

n = 1 for static drive mode

n = 2 for 1:2 multiplex drive mode

n = 3 for 1:3 multiplex drive mode

n = 4 for 1:4 multiplex drive mode

The RMS off-state voltage ($V_{off(RMS)}$) for the LCD is calculated with Equation 2:

$$V_{off(RMS)} = V_{LCD}\sqrt{\frac{a^2 - 2a + n}{n \times (1+a)^2}} \quad (2)$$

Discrimination is the ratio of $V_{on(RMS)}$ to $V_{off(RMS)}$ and is determined from Equation 3:

$$D = \frac{V_{on(RMS)}}{V_{off(RMS)}} = \sqrt{\frac{(a+1)^2 + (n-1)}{(a-1)^2 + (n-1)}} \quad (3)$$

Using Equation 3, the discrimination for an LCD drive mode of 1:3 multiplex with ½ bias is $\sqrt{3} = 1.732$ and the discrimination for an LCD drive mode of 1:4 multiplex with ½ bias is $\frac{\sqrt{21}}{3} = 1.528$.

The advantage of these LCD drive modes is a reduction of the LCD full scale voltage V_{LCD} as follows:

- 1:3 multiplex (½ bias): $V_{LCD} = \sqrt{6} \times V_{off(RMS)} = 2.449 V_{off(RMS)}$
- 1:4 multiplex (½ bias): $V_{LCD} = \left[\frac{(4 \times \sqrt{3})}{3}\right] = 2.309 V_{off(RMS)}$

These compare with $V_{LCD} = 3 V_{off(RMS)}$ when ⅓ bias is used.

V_{LCD} is sometimes referred as the LCD operating voltage.

7.3.1 Electro-optical performance

Suitable values for $V_{on(RMS)}$ and $V_{off(RMS)}$ are dependent on the LCD liquid used. The RMS voltage, at which a pixel will be switched on or off, determine the transmissibility of the pixel.

For any given liquid, there are two threshold values defined. One point is at 10 % relative transmission (at $V_{th(off)}$) and the other at 90 % relative transmission (at $V_{th(on)}$), see Figure 7. For a good contrast performance, the following rules should be followed:

$$V_{on(RMS)} \geq V_{th(on)} \quad (4)$$

$$V_{off(RMS)} \leq V_{th(off)} \quad (5)$$

$V_{on(RMS)}$ and $V_{off(RMS)}$ are properties of the display driver and are affected by the selection of a (see Equation 1), n (see Equation 3), and the V_{LCD} voltage.

$V_{th(off)}$ and $V_{th(on)}$ are properties of the LCD liquid and can be provided by the module manufacturer. $V_{th(off)}$ is sometimes named V_{th}. $V_{th(on)}$ is sometimes named saturation voltage V_{sat}.

It is important to match the module properties to those of the driver in order to achieve optimum performance.

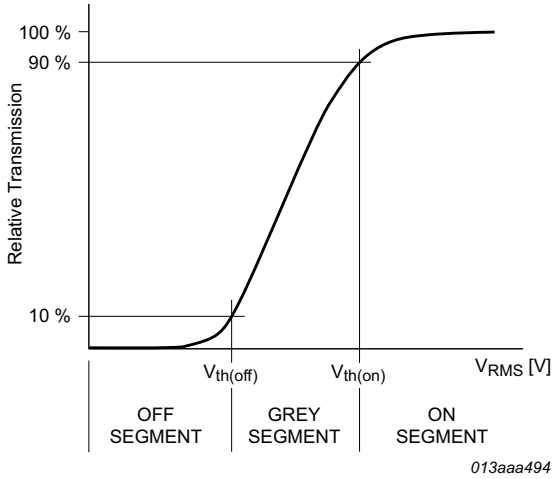
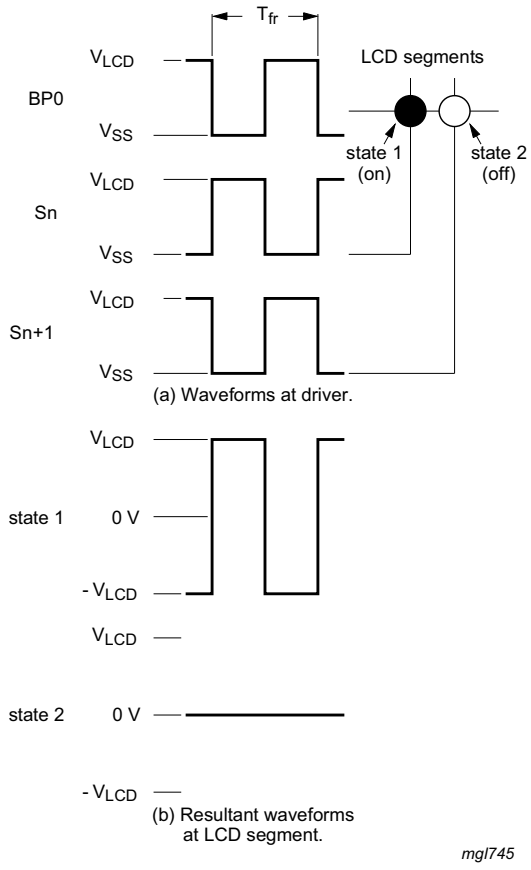


Fig 7. Electro-optical characteristic: relative transmission curve of the liquid

7.4 LCD drive mode waveforms

7.4.1 Static drive mode

The static LCD drive mode is used when a single backplane is provided in the LCD. Backplane and segment drive waveforms for this mode are shown in Figure 8.



$V_{state1}(t) = V_{Sn}(t) - V_{BP0}(t)$.

$V_{on(RMS)} = V_{LCD}$.

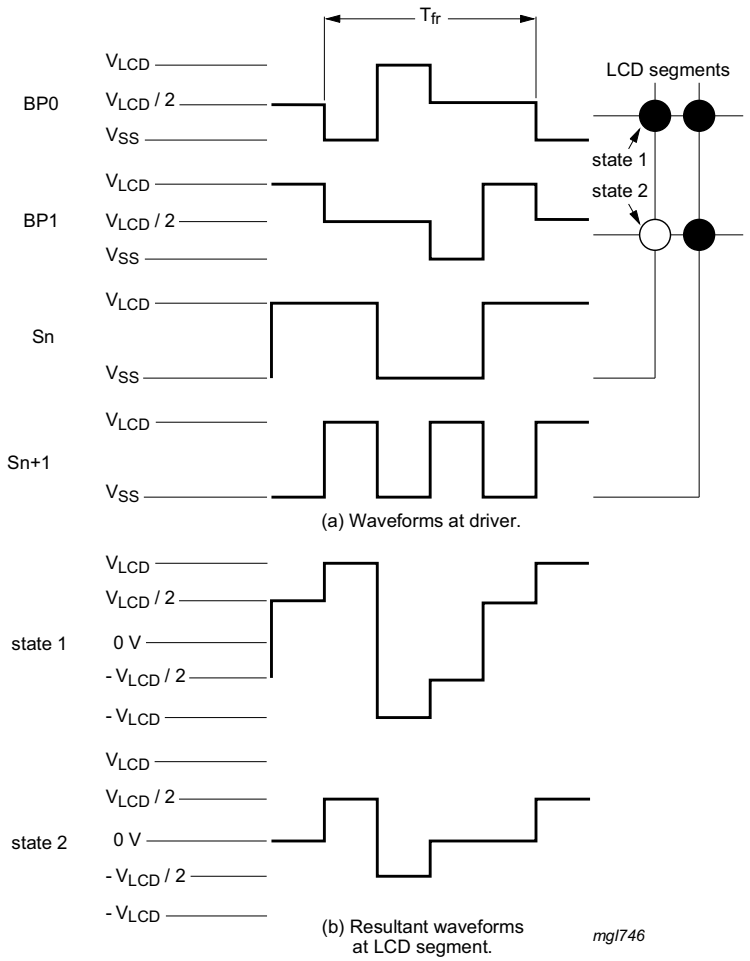
$V_{state2}(t) = V_{Sn+1}(t) - V_{BP0}(t)$.

$V_{off(RMS)} = 0$ V.

Fig 8. Static drive mode waveforms

7.4.2 1:2 Multiplex drive mode

When two backplanes are provided in the LCD, the 1:2 multiplex mode applies. The PCF8576C allows the use of ½ bias or ⅓ bias (see Figure 9 and Figure 10).



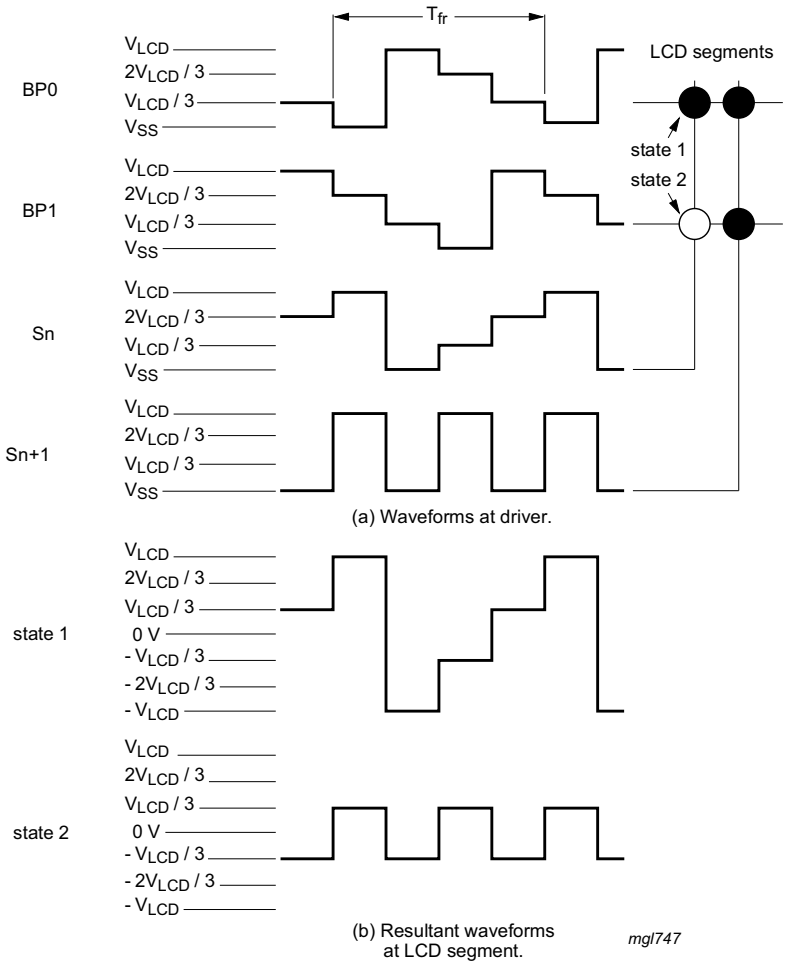
$V_{state1}(t) = V_{Sn}(t) - V_{BP0}(t)$.

$V_{on(RMS)} = 0.791V_{LCD}$.

$V_{state2}(t) = V_{Sn}(t) - V_{BP1}(t)$.

$V_{off(RMS)} = 0.354V_{LCD}$

Fig 9. Waveforms for the 1:2 multiplex drive mode with ½ bias



$V_{state1}(t) = V_{Sn}(t) - V_{BP0}(t)$.

$V_{on(RMS)} = 0.745V_{LCD}$

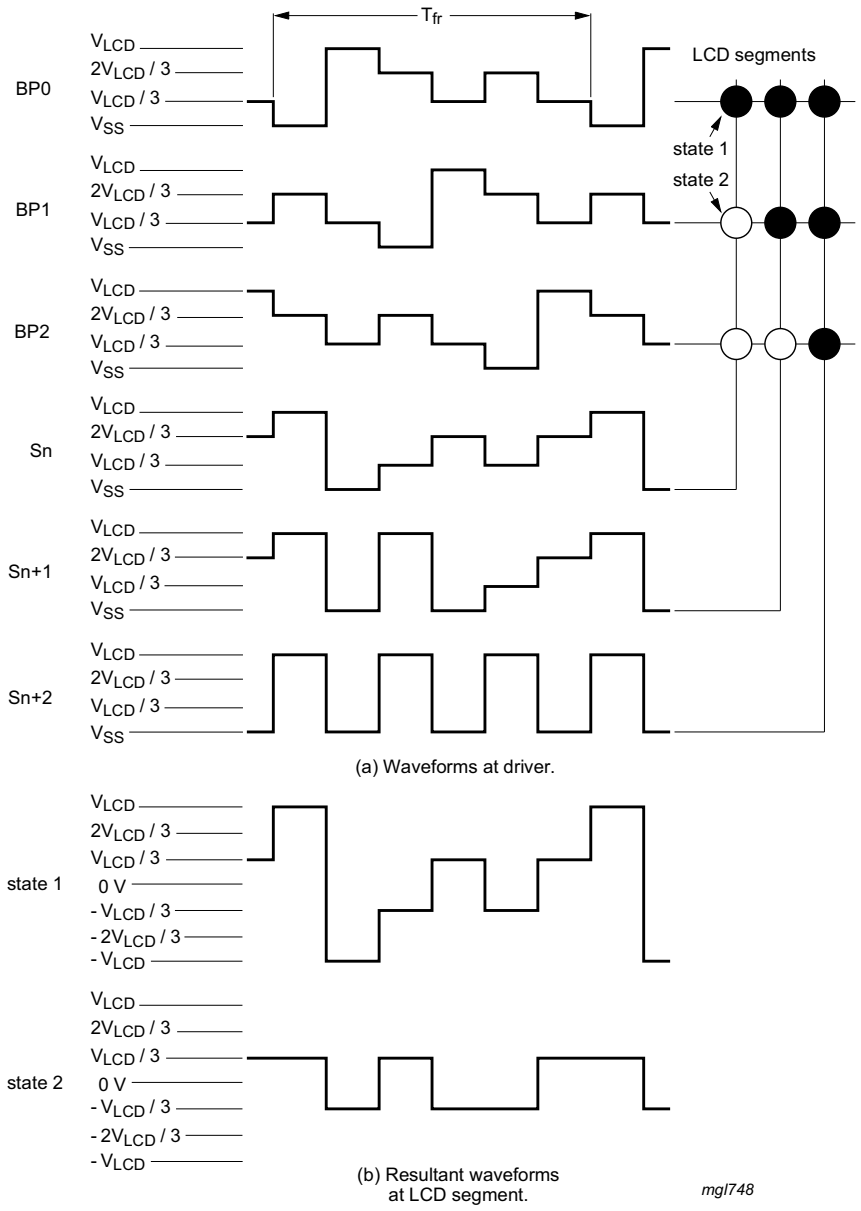
$V_{state2}(t) = V_{Sn}(t) - V_{BP1}(t)$

$V_{off(RMS)} = 0.333V_{LCD}$.

Fig 10. Waveforms for the 1:2 multiplex drive mode with ⅓ bias

7.4.3 1:3 Multiplex drive mode

When three backplanes are provided in the LCD, the 1:3 multiplex drive mode applies as shown in Figure 11.



$V_{state1}(t) = V_{Sn}(t) - V_{BP0}(t)$.

$V_{on(RMS)} = 0.638V_{LCD}$.

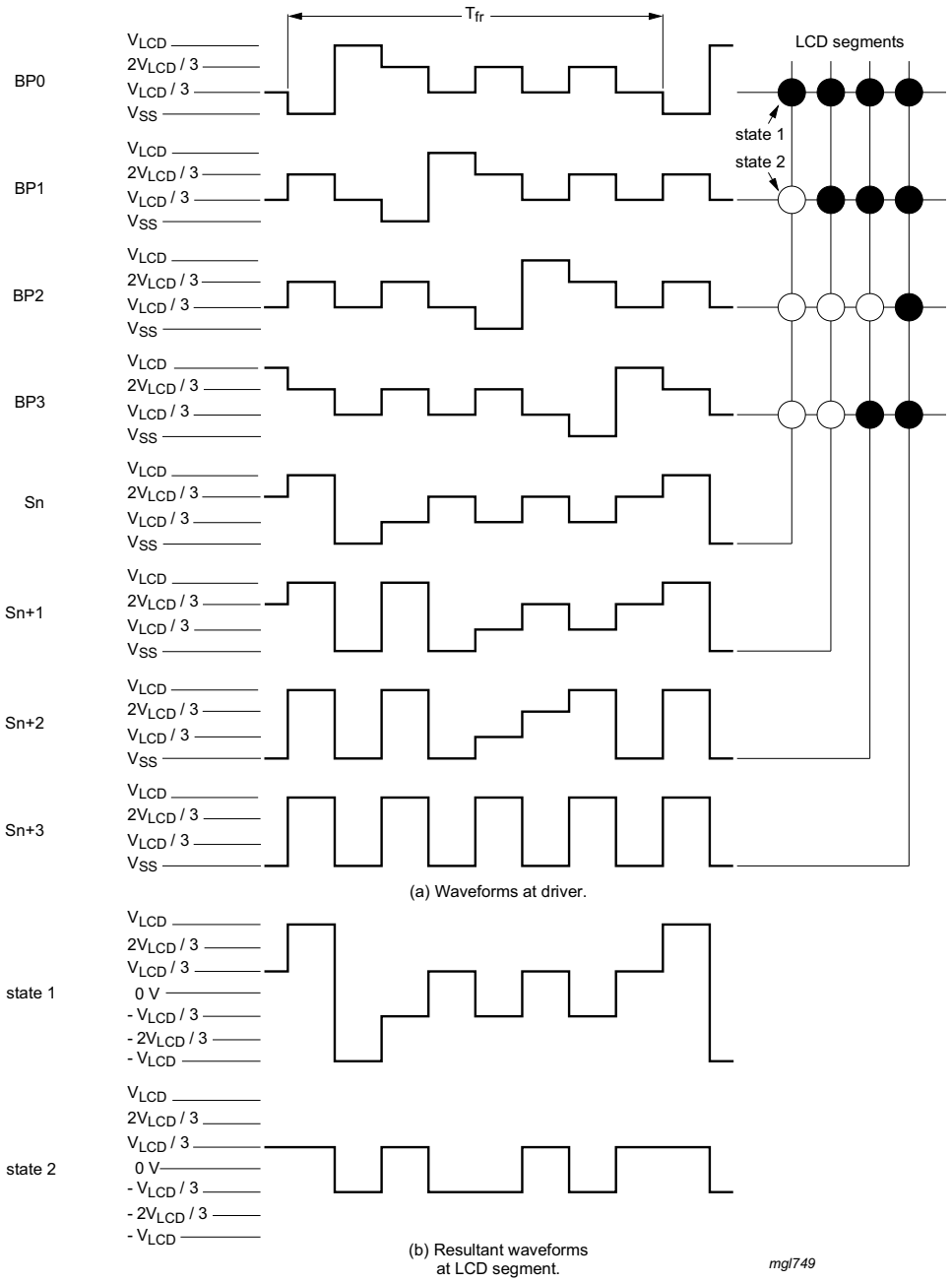
$V_{state2}(t) = V_{Sn}(t) - V_{BP1}(t)$.

$V_{off(RMS)} = 0.333V_{LCD}$.

Fig 11. Waveforms for the 1:3 multiplex drive mode with ⅓ bias

7.4.4 1:4 multiplex drive mode

When four backplanes are provided in the LCD, the 1:4 multiplex drive mode applies, as shown in Figure 12.



$V_{state1}(t) = V_{Sn}(t) - V_{BP0}(t)$.

$V_{on(RMS)} = 0.577V_{LCD}$.

$V_{state2}(t) = V_{Sn}(t) - V_{BP1}(t)$.

$V_{off(RMS)} = 0.333V_{LCD}$.

Fig 12. Waveforms for the 1:4 multiplex mode with ⅓ bias

7.5 Oscillator

The internal logic and the LCD drive signals of the PCF8576C are timed by the frequency f_{clk}, which equals either the built-in oscillator frequency f_{osc} or the external clock frequency $f_{clk(ext)}$.

The clock frequency (f_{clk}) determines the LCD frame frequency (f_{fr}) and the maximum rate for data reception from the I^2C-bus. To allow I^2C-bus transmissions at their maximum data rate of 100 kHz, f_{clk} should be chosen to be above 125 kHz.

7.5.1 Internal clock

The internal oscillator is enabled by connecting pin OSC to pin V_{SS}. In this case, the output from pin CLK is the clock signal for any cascaded PCF8576C in the system.

7.5.2 External clock

Connecting pin OSC to V_{DD} enables an external clock source. Pin CLK then becomes the external clock input.

Remark: A clock signal must always be supplied to the device. Removing the clock, freezes the LCD in a DC state, which is not suitable for the liquid crystal.

7.6 Timing

The timing of the PCF8576C sequences the internal data flow of the device. This includes the transfer of display data from the display RAM to the display segment outputs. In cascaded applications, the synchronization signal ($\overline{SYNC}$) maintains the correct timing relationship between the PCF8576Cs in the system. The timing also generates the LCD frame frequency which is derived as an integer division of the clock frequency (see Table 7). The frame frequency is set by the mode-set command (see Table 10) when an internal clock is used or by the frequency applied to the pin CLK when an external clock is used.

Table 7. LCD frame frequencies [1]

Power mode	Frame frequency	Nominal frame frequency (Hz)
Normal-power mode	$f_{fr} = \frac{f_{clk}}{2880}$	69 [2]
Power-saving mode	$f_{fr} = \frac{f_{clk}}{480}$	65 [3]

[1] The possible values for f_{clk} see Table 17.

[2] For f_{clk} = 200 kHz.

[3] For f_{clk} = 31 kHz.

The ratio between the clock frequency and the LCD frame frequency depends on the power mode in which the device is operating. In the power-saving mode, the reduction ratio is six times smaller; this allows the clock frequency to be reduced by a factor of six. The reduced clock frequency results in a significant reduction in power consumption.

The lower clock frequency has the disadvantage of increasing the response time when large amounts of display data are transmitted on the I^2C-bus. When a device is unable to process a display data byte before the next one arrives, it holds the SCL line LOW until the first display data byte is stored. This slows down the transmission rate of the I^2C-bus but no data loss occurs.

7.7 Display register

The display register holds the display data while the corresponding multiplex signals are generated.

7.8 Shift register

The shift register transfers display information from the display RAM to the display register while previous data is displayed.

7.9 Segment outputs

The LCD drive section includes 40 segment outputs, S0 to S39, which must be connected directly to the LCD. The segment output signals are generated based on the multiplexed backplane signals and with data residing in the display register. When less than 40 segment outputs are required, the unused segment outputs should be left open-circuit.

7.10 Backplane outputs

The LCD drive section includes four backplane outputs: BP0 to BP3. The backplane output signals are generated based on the selected LCD drive mode.

- In 1:4 multiplex drive mode: BP0 to BP3 must be connected directly to the LCD.

If less than four backplane outputs are required, the unused outputs can be left as an open-circuit.

- In 1:3 multiplex drive mode: BP3 carries the same signal as BP1, therefore these two adjacent outputs can be tied together to give enhanced drive capabilities.
- In 1:2 multiplex drive mode: BP0 and BP2, BP1 and BP3 respectively carry the same signals and can also be paired to increase the drive capabilities.
- In static drive mode: the same signal is carried by all four backplane outputs and they can be connected in parallel for very high drive requirements.

7.11 Display RAM

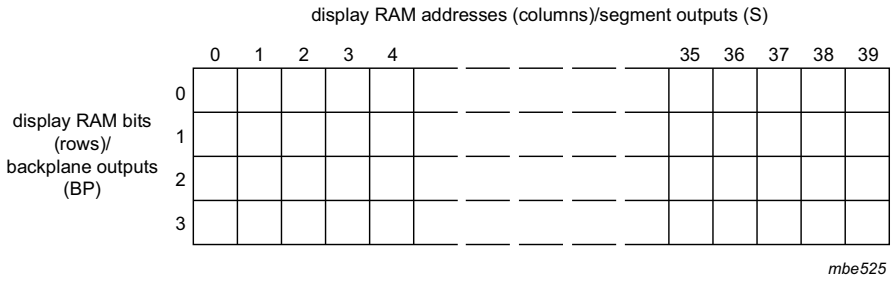
The display RAM is a static 40 × 4-bit RAM which stores LCD data.

There is a one-to-one correspondence between

- the bits in the RAM bitmap and the LCD elements
- the RAM columns and the segment outputs
- the RAM rows and the backplane outputs.

A logic 1 in the RAM bitmap indicates the on-state of the corresponding LCD element; similarly, a logic 0 indicates the off-state.

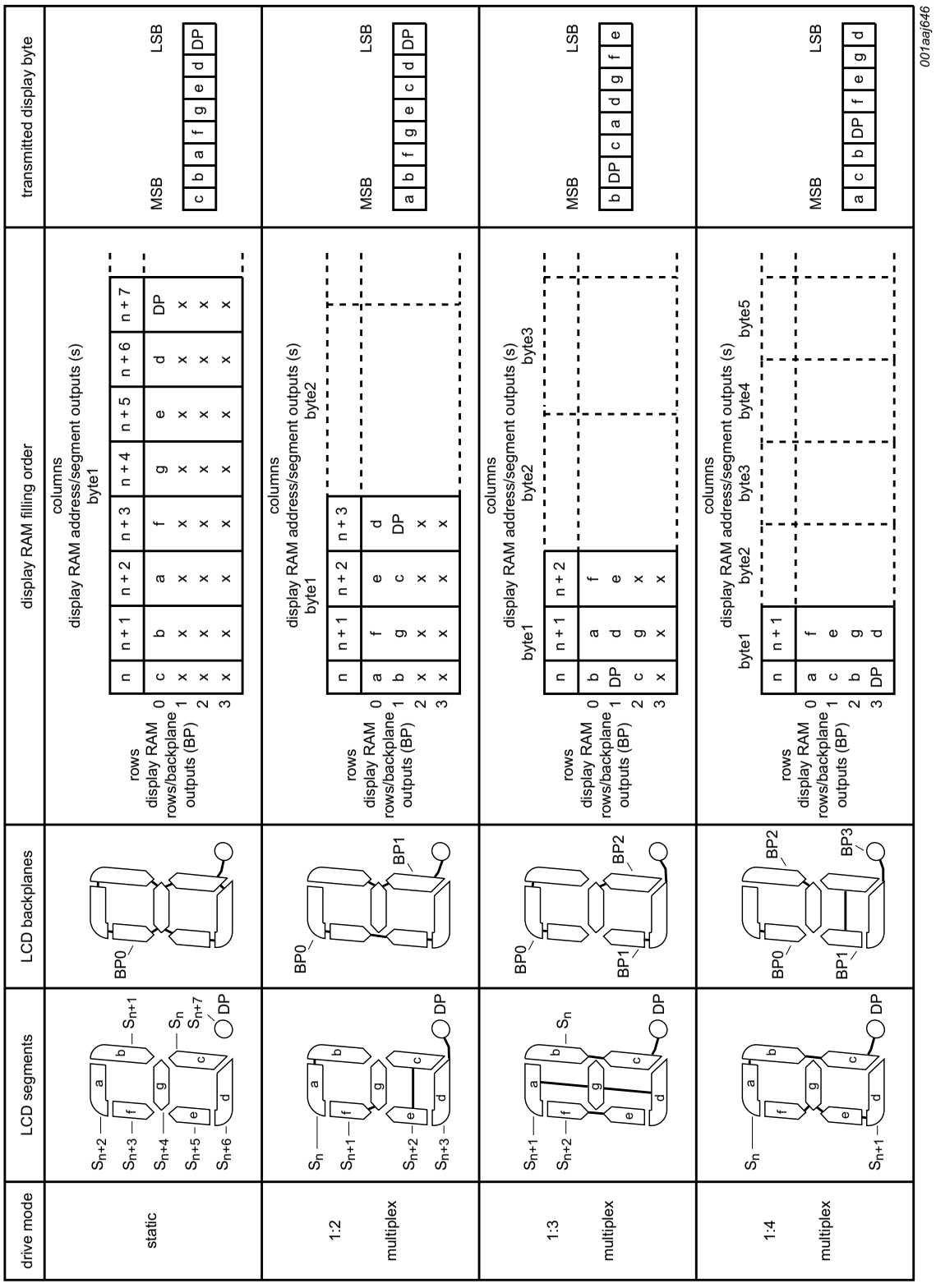
The display RAM bit map Figure 13 shows the rows 0 to 3 which correspond with the backplane outputs BP0 to BP3, and the columns 0 to 39 which correspond with the segment outputs S0 to S39. In multiplexed LCD applications the segment data of the first, second, third and fourth row of the display RAM are time-multiplexed with BP0, BP1, BP2, and BP3 respectively.



The display RAM bitmap shows the direct relationship between the display RAM column and the segment outputs; and between the bits in a RAM row and the backplane outputs.

Fig 13. Display RAM bit map

When display data is transmitted to the PCF8576C, the display bytes received are stored in the display RAM in accordance with the selected LCD drive mode. The data is stored as it arrives and does not wait for an acknowledge cycle as with the commands. Depending on the current multiplex drive mode, data is stored singularly, in pairs, triples or quadruples. To illustrate the filling order, an example of a 7-segment numeric display showing all drive modes is given in Figure 14; the RAM filling organization depicted applies equally to other LCD types.



x = data bit unchanged.

Fig 14. Relationship between LCD layout, drive mode, display RAM filling order, and display data transmitted over the I²C-bus

The following applies to Figure 14:

- In the static drive mode, the eight transmitted data bits are placed in row 0 of eight successive 4-bit RAM words.
- In the 1:2 multiplex mode, the eight transmitted data bits are placed in pairs into row 0 and 1 of four successive 4-bit RAM words.
- In the 1:3 multiplex mode, the eight bits are placed in triples into row 0, 1, and 2 to three successive 3-bit RAM words, with bit 3 of the third address left unchanged. It is not recommended to use this bit in a display because of the difficult addressing. This last bit may, if necessary, be controlled by an additional transfer to this address but care should be taken to avoid overwriting adjacent data because always full bytes are transmitted.
- In the 1:4 multiplex mode, the eight transmitted data bits are placed in quadruples into row 0, 1, 2, and 3 of two successive 4-bit RAM words.

7.12 Data pointer

The addressing mechanism for the display RAM is realized using the data pointer. This allows the loading of an individual display data byte or a series of display data bytes, into any location of the display RAM. The sequence commences with the initialization of the data pointer by the load-data-pointer command (see Table 11). After this, the data byte is stored starting at the display RAM address indicated by the data pointer (see Figure 14). Once each byte is stored, the data pointer is automatically incremented based on the selected LCD configuration.

The contents of the data pointer are incremented as follows:

- In static drive mode by eight.
- In 1:2 multiplex drive mode by four.
- In 1:3 multiplex drive mode by three.
- In 1:4 multiplex drive mode by two.

If an I^2C-bus data access terminates early, the state of the data pointer is unknown. Consequently, the data pointer must be rewritten prior to further RAM accesses.

7.13 Sub-address counter

The storage of display data is conditioned by the contents of the subaddress counter. Storage is allowed to take place only when the contents of the subaddress counter match with the hardware subaddress applied to A0, A1, and A2. The subaddress counter value is defined by the device-select command (see Table 12). If the contents of the subaddress counter and the hardware subaddress do not match, then data storage is blocked but the data pointer will be incremented as if data storage had taken place. The subaddress counter is also incremented when the data pointer overflows.

The storage arrangements described lead to extremely efficient data loading in cascaded applications. When a series of display bytes are sent to the display RAM, automatic wrap-over to the next PCF8576C occurs when the last RAM address is exceeded. Subaddressing across device boundaries is successful even if the change to the next device in the cascade occurs within a transmitted character.

7.14 Bank selector

7.14.1 Output bank selector

The output bank selector (see Table 13), selects one of the four rows per display RAM address for transfer to the display register. The actual row selected depends on the LCD drive mode in operation and on the instant in the multiplex sequence.

- In 1:4 multiplex mode: all RAM addresses of row 0 are selected, followed sequentially by the contents of row 1, row 2, and then row 3.
- In 1:3 multiplex mode: rows 0, 1, and 2 are selected sequentially.
- In 1:2 multiplex mode: rows 0 and 1 are selected.
- In the static mode: row 0 is selected.

The PCF8576C includes a RAM bank switching feature in the static and 1:2 multiplex drive modes. In the static drive mode, the bank-select command may request the contents of row 2 to be selected for display instead of the contents of row 0. In 1:2 multiplex drive mode, the contents of rows 2 and 3 may be selected instead of rows 0 and 1. This enables preparation of display information in an alternative bank and the ability to switch to it once it has been assembled.

7.14.2 Input bank selector

The input bank selector (see Table 13) loads display data into the display RAM based on the selected LCD drive configuration. Using the bank-select command, display data can be loaded in row 2 into static drive mode or in rows 2 and 3 into 1:2 multiplex drive mode. The input bank selector functions independently of the output bank selector.

7.15 Blinking

The display blinking capabilities of the PCF8576C are very versatile. The whole display can be blinked at frequencies selected by the blink-select command. The blinking frequencies are integer fractions of the clock frequency; the ratios between the clock and blinking frequencies depend on the mode in which the device is operating (see Table 8).

Table 8. Blink frequencies

Blinking mode	Normal-power mode ratio	Power-saving mode ratio	Blink frequency
off	-	-	blinking off
1	$f_{blink} = \frac{f_{clk}}{92160}$	$f_{blink} = \frac{f_{clk}}{15360}$	2 Hz
2	$f_{blink} = \frac{f_{clk}}{184320}$	$f_{blink} = \frac{f_{clk}}{30720}$	1 Hz
3	$f_{blink} = \frac{f_{clk}}{368640}$	$f_{blink} = \frac{f_{clk}}{61440}$	0.5 Hz

An additional feature is for an arbitrary selection of LCD segments to be blinked. This applies to the static and 1:2 multiplex drive modes and can be implemented without any communication overheads. Using the output bank selector, the displayed RAM banks are exchanged with alternate RAM banks at the blinking frequency. This mode can also be specified by the blink-select command (see Table 14).

In the 1:3 and 1:4 multiplex modes, where no alternate RAM bank is available, groups of LCD segments can be blinked by selectively changing the display RAM data at fixed time intervals.

If the entire display must be blinked at a frequency other than the nominal blink frequency, this can be done using the mode-set command to set and reset the display enable bit E at the required rate (see Table 10).

7.16 Characteristics of the I²C-bus

The I²C-bus is for bidirectional, two-line communication between different ICs or modules. The two lines are a Serial DAta line (SDA) and a Serial CLock line (SCL). Both lines must be connected to a positive supply via a pull-up resistor when connected to the output stages of a device. Data transfer may be initiated only when the bus is not busy.

7.16.1 Bit transfer

One data bit is transferred during each clock pulse. The data on the SDA line must remain stable during the HIGH period of the clock pulse. Changes in the data line at this time will be interpreted as a control signal. Bit transfer is illustrated in Figure 15.

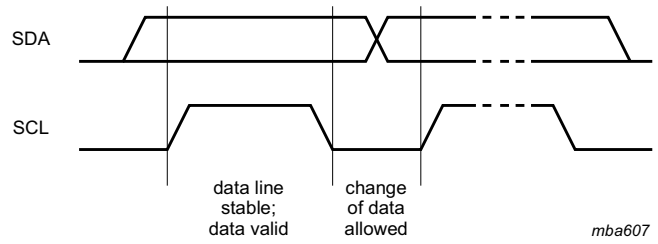


Fig 15. Bit transfer

7.16.2 START and STOP conditions

Both data and clock lines remain HIGH when the bus is not busy. A HIGH-to-LOW change of the data line, while the clock is HIGH, is defined as the START condition (S).
A LOW-to-HIGH change of the data line, while the clock is HIGH, is defined as the STOP condition (P). The START and STOP conditions are illustrated in Figure 16.

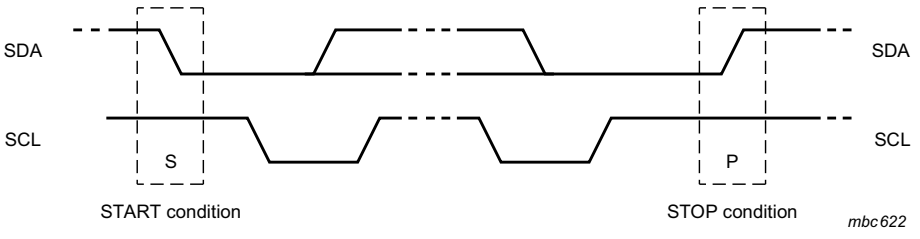


Fig 16. Definition of START and STOP conditions

7.16.3 System configuration

A device generating a message is a transmitter and a device receiving a message is the receiver. The device that controls the message is the master and the devices which are controlled by the master are the slaves. The system configuration is illustrated in Figure 17.

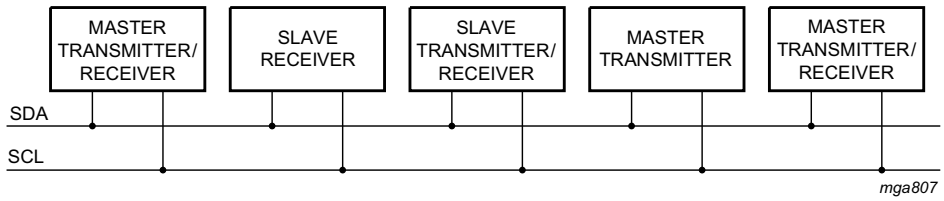


Fig 17. System configuration

7.16.4 Acknowledge

The number of data bytes transferred between the START and STOP conditions from transmitter to receiver is unlimited. Each byte of eight bits is followed by an acknowledge cycle.

- A slave receiver, which is addressed, must generate an acknowledge after the reception of each byte.
- A master receiver must generate an acknowledge after the reception of each byte that has been clocked out of the slave transmitter.
- The device that acknowledges must pull-down the SDA line during the acknowledge clock pulse, so that the SDA line is stable LOW during the HIGH period of the acknowledge related clock pulse (set-up and hold times must be considered).
- A master receiver must signal an end of data to the transmitter by not generating an acknowledge on the last byte that has been clocked out of the slave. In this event, the transmitter must leave the data line HIGH to enable the master to generate a STOP condition.

Acknowledgement on the I^2C-bus is illustrated in Figure 18.

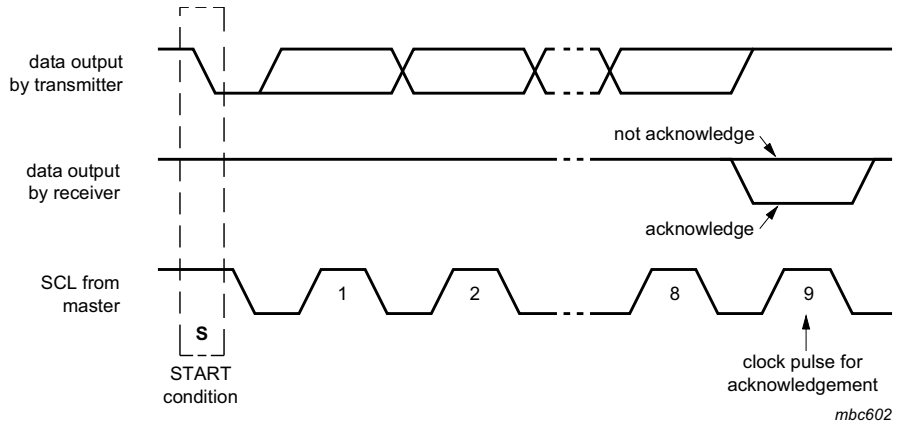


Fig 18. Acknowledgement of the I^2C-bus