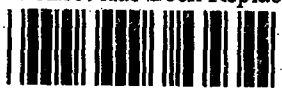
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ABSTRACT

HIGH SPEED ACTIVE BUS

A high speed bus structure comprises an active bus wherein a number of logic functions which control the operation of the bus are removed from the modules (40) and centrally incorporated into the bus. The amount of bus functionality provided by the modules (40) is minimized, decreasing the complexity and computational overhead of the modules (40) and traffic on the bus that are attributable to supporting the functionality of the bus. The number of bussed signal lines (10) is minimized by eliminating the bused lines relevant to the centralized bus functions and substituting dedicated signal lines (30) to connect the modules (40) inserted into the bus components (20) providing the centralized logic functions. Thus certain states or commands which were separate commands are incorporated into the basic bus commands or communicated through the dedicated signal lines (30) which connect the centralized bus components (20) and the modules (40).