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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB88/00388 (22) International Filing Date: 17 May 1988 (17.05.88) (31) Priority Application Number: 8711796 (32) Priority Date: 19 May 1987 (19.05.87) (33) Priority Country: GB</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): CAMBRIDGE COMPUTER LIMITED [GB/GB]; Sidney House, Sussex Street, Cambridge CB1 1PA (GB). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only) : WESTWOOD, James, St. Valentine [GB/GB]; 9 Landbeach Road, Milton, Cambridgeshire (GB). (74) Agent: KEITH W. NASH & CO.; Pearl Assurance House, 90-92 Regent Street, Cambridge CB2 1DP (GB).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AT (European patent), BE (European patent), CH (European patent), DE, DE (European patent), FR (European patent), GB, GB (European patent), IT (European patent), JP, LU (European patent), NL (European patent), SE (European patent), US.</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report.</i></p>

(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO MICROCOMPUTERS

(57) Abstract

In the combination of a microcomputer (10) and a peripheral device (15) therefor, wherein electrical connection between the microcomputer and the peripheral device is by way of an edge connector (12) in the microcomputer and an array of connectors (22) (for making connection with the contact pads (20) of the edge connector) on the peripheral device, two of the connectors (40) are bridged electrically so that two of the pads (50, 52) of the edge connector (12) are short circuited before electrical contact is made between any other connectors of the array and their corresponding edge connector pads, on insertion, (or prior to contact being broken between other connectors of the array and the edge connector pads, on removal). The microcomputer is provided with circuit means (60) responsive to short circuiting of the said two contact pads to initiate emergency shut down of the microcomputer. Where the application of voltages to the peripheral device has to follow a particular sequence, the connectors (22) in the array are of differing effective lengths automatically to effect a required sequencing in the application or removal of voltages to the different circuits incorporated in the peripheral device (15) when the latter is interconnected with, or disconnected from, the microcomputer. The connectors (22) may have the same effective mechanical length, but include electrically "active" regions and "dead" regions, to define different electrical lengths.

