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FAST DEVICE REINITIALIZATION ON DSI3 BUS

Abstract

Accordingly, there is disclosed herein host device and bus communication method that enables fast sensor device reinitialization that minimizes outage time associated with an unexpected device reset. In one illustrative embodiment, a bus master includes: a driver configured to drive a downlink signal on a bus signal line coupled to slave devices each with a dynamically-determined bus address; a receive buffer configured to sense an uplink signal on the bus signal line; and a controller coupled to the driver and the receive buffer, the controller being configured to implement a communication method via the bus signal line. The communication method includes: sending a query for a unique device identifier to a default bus address; and upon detecting a query timeout, initiating a data frame to collect time-division multiplexed data from the slave devices.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] The present application claims priority U.S. application Ser. No. 18/162,972, filed 2023 Feb. 1 and titled “Fast Device Reinitialization on DSI3 Bus” by inventor Marek Hustava, which in turn claims benefit of Provisional U.S. App. 63/399,311, filed 2022 Aug. 19. The present application further relates to U.S. application Ser. No. 16/359,693, filed 2019 Mar. 20 and titled “Slave device enhancing data rate of DSI3 bus” by inventors Marek Hustava, Tomas Suchy, Lukas Vykydal, and Pavel Hartl. The foregoing applications are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Current and future vehicles are incorporating increasing numbers of on-board sensors and systems to enable or aid critical vehicle functions including Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC), Parking Assistance, Forward Collision Warning (FCW), Forward Collision with Active Braking, Blind Spot Warning (BSW), Lane Keeping Systems (LKS), and others. These technologies provide direct driver assistance in normal driving and critical scenarios, and some are even capable of enhancing driver control or providing autonomous control to prevent or mitigate a crash or negative outcome.

[0003] To accommodate the many sensors, actuators, and control systems being employed for such features, manufacturers are implementing increasingly sophisticated data communication networks in each vehicle. The 3rd generation Distributed System Interface (DSI3) standard published by the DSI Consortium (dsiconsortium.org) provides one example of such a communication network. The DSI3 Bus Standard Revision 1.0, published 2011 Feb. 16, is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

[0004] DSI3 and other communication standards must contend with a unique set of circumstances that challenge their performance. The networks are portable, battery powered (i.e., low voltage), with wire runs long enough to cause (and to be susceptible to) electromagnetic interference (EMI). The networks should be resistant to vibration effects, yet remain inexpensive and easy to repair. The DSI3 standard has thrived by offering a number of desirable features including single-conductor communication with optionally integrated power delivery. However, the safety standards being developed to certify systems operating in the automotive environment challenge the capabilities of existing sensors and systems relying on the DSI3 and similar communications standards.

SUMMARY

[0005] Accordingly, there is disclosed herein host device and bus communication method that enables fast sensor device reinitialization that minimizes outage time associated with an unexpected device reset. One illustrative method suitable for use with a bus having slave devices each with a dynamically-determined bus address includes: sending a query for a unique device identifier to a default bus address; and upon detecting a query timeout, initiating a data frame to collect time-division multiplexed data from the slave devices.

[0006] An illustrative bus master device includes: a driver configured to drive a downlink signal on a bus signal line coupled to slave devices each with a dynamically-determined bus address; a receive buffer configured to sense an uplink signal on the bus signal line; and a controller coupled to the driver and the receive buffer, the controller being configured to implement a communication method via the bus signal line. The method includes: sending a query for a unique device identifier

to a default bus address; and upon detecting a query timeout, initiating a data frame to collect time-division multiplexed data from the slave devices.

[0007] Another illustrative communications method includes: creating a lookup table associating each dynamically-assigned sensor ID with a device-level traceability (DLT) code; before initiating a measurement cycle, querying a default sensor ID for a DLT code; and proceeding with the measurement cycle if the query times out before a response is received.

[0008] Each of the foregoing devices and methods may be employed individually or conjointly, and they may further employ one or more of the following optional features in any suitable combination: 1. upon detecting a query response containing the unique device identifier from a reset slave device: determining the dynamically-determined bus address previously associated with the unique device identifier contained in the query response; and configuring the reset slave device with that dynamically-determined bus address. 2. said configuring includes writing register data to the default bus address. 3. said register data includes additional configuration data for the reset slave device. 4. initiating the data frame to collect time-division multiplexed data from the slave devices after said configuring. 5. writing additional configuration data to the reset slave device after said configuring and before said initiating. 6. after said configuring, repeating said sending and, upon detecting the query timeout, said initiating. 7. the unique device identifier is a device level traceability code. 8. repeating said sending and, upon detecting the query timeout, said initiating to collect a sequence of data frames from the slave devices. 9. if a response to the query is received, using the lookup table to find a reset sensor ID associated with a DLT code received in a response to the query and sending reconfiguration information associated with the reset sensor ID to the default sensor ID, the reconfiguration information including at least the reset sensor ID. 10. sending one more measurement configuration parameters to the reset sensor ID after sending the reconfiguration information and before proceeding with the measurement cycle.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] FIG. 1A is a block diagram of an illustrative data communication network.

[0010] FIG. 1B is a schematic model of an illustrative daisy-chain arrangement of sensors on a DSI3 bus.

[0011] FIG. 2A is a block diagram of an illustrative slave device for a DSI3 bus.

[0012] FIG. 2B is a block diagram of an illustrative master device for a DSI3 bus.

[0013] FIG. 3 is a flow diagram of an illustrative sensing method that provides fast slave device reinitialization.

[0014] FIG. 4 is an illustrative lookup table associating each sensor ID with a device-level traceability code.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0015] The attached drawings and following description set out particular embodiments and details for explanatory purposes, but it should be understood that the drawings and corresponding detailed description do not limit the disclosure. On the contrary, they provide a foundation that, together with the understanding of one of ordinary skill in the art, discloses and enables all modifications, equivalents, and alternatives falling within the scope of the appended claims.

[0016] FIG. 1A shows an electronic control unit (ECU) **102** coupled to the various ultrasonic sensors **104** via a sensor bus controller **106**, a radar array controller **108**, a LIDAR sensor **110**, and a set of actuators such as a throttle actuator **112**, a braking actuator **114**, a steering actuator **116**, and turn-signal actuators **118**. ECU **102** may further couple to a user-interactive interface **120** to accept user input and provide a display of the various measurements and system status.

[0017] The various sensors emit ultrasonic pulses, electromagnetic waves, and coherent beams;

receive corresponding reflections to measure reflector distances; and collect the measurements to determine a spatial relationship of the vehicle to its surroundings. ECU **102** may employ these measurements and internal measurements of the vehicle's orientation and motion to provide automated parking, assisted parking, lane-change assistance, obstacle and blind-spot detection, autonomous driving, and other desirable features.

[0018] Various standards exist to support communications between the ECU **102** and the various sensors and actuators. Of particular interest with respect to the present disclosure is the 3rd generation Distributed System Interface (DSI3) bus standard, which provides for half-duplex single-ended signal communication between a bus master device (typically the ECU) and one or more slave devices (e.g., the sensors and actuators). Because the DSI3 bus requires only one signal conductor, it may at times be referred to as a “one-wire” bus.

[0019] FIG. **1B** is a schematic model of a daisy-chain arrangement. When initially powered-on or reset, each of the slave devices has the default address. As set forth in section 6.3.3 of the DSI3 standard, the bus enters a Discovery Mode shortly after power-on to perform an iterative address assignment process that replaces the default address for each device with a unique address corresponding to their position in the daisy chain, thereby enabling the slave devices to avoid bus collisions when responding to the bus master. Thus, the dynamically determined address of a given slave device may correspond to the physical location of that slave device along the chain. When the Discovery Mode is complete, the slave devices use the assigned addresses to determine their slot for communicating responses (such as measurement results) within a time-division multiplexed frame.

[0020] FIG. **2A** is a block diagram of an illustrative slave device **200** suitable for use on a standard DSI3 bus. While maintaining physical compatibility with the DSI3 standard, the illustrative device **200** may include certain features to enhance system performance, at least some of which extend the standard in a way that may necessitate a firmware adjustment in the bus master device as discussed further below.

[0021] Slave device **200** includes a controller **202** that collects measurements and buffers relevant messages in memory **204** for communicating the measurement data to the bus master device. While the message length can be varied, in at least one contemplated embodiment each message is 16 bytes and may begin with or be preceded by a preamble that is one or two nibbles in length. An optional scrambler **206** masks each message with a pseudorandom binary sequence using a bitwise exclusive-or (XOR) operation to randomize or “whiten” any repeating data patterns. If present, the preamble is not masked, so as to preserve the preamble pattern in the scrambler's output bitstream. The seed for the pseudorandom sequence may vary for each message and may vary for each slave device.

[0022] A channel encoder **208** encodes the bitstream from the scrambler **206** by mapping each nibble to a corresponding triplet of channel symbols. Each triplet includes three ternary channel symbols. Channel symbols are also referred to herein as “chips” and are transmitted as one of three unipolar non-return-to-zero levels: 0, 1, or 2, each symbol having a fixed symbol duration which may be about 3 or 4 microseconds. As provided in the standard, “0” may correspond to a quiescent channel signal current of $I_{sub.Q}$. A “1” may correspond to a response channel signal current of $I_{sub.Q} + I_{sub.RESP}$, and a “2” may correspond to a response channel signal current of $I_{sub.Q} + 2I_{sub.RESP}$. In at least some embodiments, $I_{sub.Q}$ is limited to no more than 2 mA, and $I_{sub.RESP}$ is approximately 12 mA. Some contemplated embodiments may switch from three-level signaling to two level signaling to improve noise immunity. In such embodiments, the channel encoder **208** maps 8-bit bytes to 8-bit codewords, in this case only $I_{sub.Q}$ and $I_{sub.Q} + 2I_{sub.RESP}$ current levels are used.

[0023] An optional pulse-shaping filter **210** may operate on the channel symbol stream from the encoder **208**, providing a transfer function that converts rectangular pulses (e.g., NRZ chips) into smoother pulse shapes that provide the channel signal with more desirable spectral properties. A

digital-to-analog converter **212** operates on the filtered channel signal to convert it from digital form to analog form, which herein may be termed the uplink channel signal. An optional transmit correction filter **214** may operate on the uplink channel signal to limit signal energy in one or more frequency ranges where EMI emissions are restricted.

[0024] A channel driver **216** converts the uplink channel signal into an electrical current on an input/output pin of the slave device **200**. A low pass RC filter (capacitor C3, resistor R3) couples the input/output pin to the signal conductor of the DSI3 bus.

[0025] Current biasing of the input/output pin may be provided by a current sink **218** and a receive buffer **220**. Controller **202** adjusts the current sink **218** as needed for biasing during the forward (downlink) and reverse (uplink) communication phases of the half-duplex DSI3 communication protocol. During the downlink communication phase, the input/output pin receives a downlink channel signal in the form of an electrical voltage signal. Receive buffer **220** provides a high input impedance for the input/output pin, buffering the downlink channel signal for the analog-to-digital converter **224**.

[0026] A downlink receive filter **225** may limit the digital receive signal bandwidth and/or enhance signal to noise ratio of the downlink signal. In at least some embodiments, the filter **225** operates to suppress noise above 300 kHz. In system embodiments where the master device employs a transmit correction filter (similar to filter **214** above), the downlink receive filter **225** may include a compensation function to boost downlink signal frequencies up to about 150 kHz, before rolling off to suppress noise at signal frequencies above about 250 or 300 kHz. A symbol detector and decoder **226** operates on the filtered receive signal to determine the command type and associated payload, placing the information in the receive buffer for the controller **202** to use when formulating a response.

[0027] FIG. 2B is a block diagram of an illustrative bus master device **240** suitable for use on a standard DSI3 bus. As with the slave device **200**, the master device **240** maintains physical compatibility with the DSI3 standard, but may include certain features to enhance system performance when employed in conjunction with a compatible slave device.

[0028] Master device **240** includes a controller **242** that formulates downlink messages in memory **244** for communication to one or more slave devices. A channel encoder **246** encodes the binary downlink messages by mapping bits 0 and 1 to upward and downward channel voltage transitions as provided by, e.g., Manchester-1 encoding. A digital-to-analog converter **248** converts the encoded signal into an analog downlink signal. A driver **249** supplies the analog downlink signal as a voltage signal to an input/output pin of the master device **240**. Though the DSI3 standard provides for a 2 volt swing between “high” and “low” symbol voltages, some contemplated embodiments employ a 4 volt swing to enhance noise immunity. A low pass RC filter (capacitor C1, resistor R1) couples the input/output pin to the signal conductor of the DSI3 bus.

[0029] A high impedance receive buffer **250** couples the uplink signal from the input/output pin to an optional receive correction filter **251**. The optional receive correction filter **251** may, e.g., boost high frequency content of the uplink signal to compensate for operation of the transmit correction filter **214**. An analog to digital converter **252** digitizes the uplink signal, and an uplink receive filter **253** operates on the digital signal to limit signal bandwidth and/or enhance signal-to-noise ratio. Filter **253** may be a matched filter, having a filter response based at least in part on the pulse shape provided by the optional pulse shaping filter **210**. Filters **251** and **253** can be re-ordered, merged into a single filter, and each implemented in digital or analog form.

[0030] A chip detector **254** operates on the filtered uplink signal to detect channel symbol levels. A threshold capture unit **255** may capture and/or adapt comparator threshold levels for the chip detector **254** based at least in part on the message preambles. A decoder **256** operates on the channel symbol sequence from the chip detector **254**, inverting the operation of encoder **208** to map the chip triplets to binary nibbles. An optional descrambler **257** operates on the bitstream from the decoder **256**, inverting the operation of the scrambler **206** to extract the message data sent by the

slave device. The message data may be stored in memory **244** for analysis and use by controller **242**.

[0031] Safety standards being developed for advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) include challenging requirements for tolerating electrostatic discharge (ESD) events within the sensors or other components of the system. As one example of such an event, a passenger touching a sideview mirror may induce an ESD event affecting a blind spot detection sensor positioned within the mirror. At the ESD event voltages for specified for testing, it has been determined that the sensor is likely to be reset by the voltage transient. Such a reset causes the sensor to revert to the default address, forgetting the unique address it was assigned during the discovery process, as well as any measurement configuration information.

[0032] With this information loss, the sensor ceases to respond to measurement requests from the ECU or bus master, potentially creating a blind spot within the ECU's spatial awareness. Once multiple measurement cycles have occurred without a response from a given sensor, the ECU may immediately initiate a sensor bus reset, or even a complete system reset, in an effort to correct the issue. The bus reset or system reset causes a substantial break in measurement acquisition, which is highly undesirable.

[0033] The present disclosure seeks to prevent such a substantial break in measurement acquisitions using a process that queries the default address to detect the occurrence of a sensor reset, enabling fast restoration of the information that the reset sensor device has lost—doing so in less than the duration of a measurement cycle (e.g., about 50 milliseconds)—to prevent more than two measurement cycles elapsing without a response from the reset sensor.

[0034] FIG. **3** is a flow diagram of an illustrative sensing method. At power-on (block **301**), the registers are reset in each of the sensor devices operating on the DSI3 bus as a slave device, causing their sensor ID (“SID”, aka bus address) to default to 0x0. (The “0x” prefix indicates the use of hexadecimal notation.) Blocks **302** and **303** represent an illustrative discovery process in which the ECU and/or bus master periodically sends a discovery command, causing the sensors to iteratively determine their respective positions in the daisy chain (and correspondingly, their bus addresses) through a sequence of current ramping and sensing operations that comply with the DSI3 bus standard or a variant thereof. In block **303**, the ECU and/or bus master ends the discovery process only after the number of cycles exceeds the expected number of sensors on the bus.

[0035] Variations of the DSI3 standard may employ alternative discovery processes to provide each of the slave devices with a dynamically-determined bus address, e.g., a discovery process in which only one discovery command is used to initiate multiple phases of current boosting corresponding to the number of connected sensors. The unaddressed sensors keep initiating subsequent current ramping phases until each of the sensors has met the requirements for obtaining an address. In any event, the discovery process ensures that each sensor device has a unique bus address in the range from 0x1 to 0xE (typically about six sensors 0x1-0x6 may be supported). Address 0xF is used for broadcast messages and address 0x0 is the default address on reset.

[0036] In block **304**, the ECU and/or bus master queries each of the dynamically-determined bus addresses to obtain a unique identifier associated with that bus address. A suitable unique identifier would be each sensor's Device-Level Traceability (DLT) code. The ECU and/or bus master populates a look-up table such as that shown in FIG. **4** to associate each dynamically assigned bus address or sensor ID with the unique identifier obtained from that bus address. In block **306**, the ECU and/or bus master sends commands to configure the sensor devices for the desired measurements (e.g., setting selected sensors for send & receive while setting other sensors for receive-only, specifying different channels for different sensors, setting measurement range). The sensor devices can be reconfigured before each measurement cycle, or optionally multiple measurements may be acquired for a given configuration.

[0037] In block **308**, the ECU and/or bus master triggers the sensor measurements, and collects the measurement results from the sensors in block **310**, e.g., using a Broadcast Read Command to

operate the DSI3 bus in the Periodic Data Collection Mode (a mode in which each slave device sends its data during an allocated time slot within a time-division multiplexed data frame). In block **312**, the measurements are conveyed to the ECU for ADAS use (or for whichever feature(s) are being provided).

[0038] Before performing a subsequent measurement cycle which may produce its own time-division multiplexed data frame, block **314**, the ECU and/or bus master checks whether any of the slave devices has been reset. In at least some implementations, this is done by querying the default sensor ID (0x0) for its unique identifier, e.g., by operating the DSI3 bus in the Command and Response Mode to request the DLT code from the default bus address 0x0. In the absence of a sensor reset, there should be no response to this read command, causing the request to timeout quickly (e.g., less than 2 ms). On the other hand, if a sensor reset has occurred, the reset sensor should respond to this read command, providing its unique identifier. (In the unlikely event that multiple sensors have been reset, their responses will collide, causing a CRC error in the response, which may be taken as an indication that a full bus reset is needed.)

[0039] In block **316**, the ECU and/or bus master determines whether a response was received. If not, the next measurement cycle begins in block **306** or **308**. Otherwise, in block **318**, the ECU and/or bus master searches the lookup table for the unique identifier to determine the dynamically-determined bus address previously associated with that unique identifier. Once the correct sensor ID is determined, the ECU and/or bus master sends a block write command to the default sensor ID 0x0 to reconfigure the reset sensor with the lost configuration information and the lost bus address. Alternatively, a first write command may be used to provide the reset sensor with its previously-assigned sensor ID, and a subsequent write command to that sensor ID can be used to reconfigure that sensor appropriately. The next measurement cycle can then be initiated beginning with block **306** or **308**.

[0040] Blocks **314** through **318** are expected to require less than one measurement cycle (e.g., less than 50 ms) to complete, rendering the sensor fully operable for the next measurement cycle. Even if more time were required, this process could still prevent a system-level reset depending on the threshold number of missing measurements required by the system to initiate such a reset.

[0041] In an alternative sensing method, block **314** is omitted. In block **316**, a reset is detected if broadcast read command in block **310** elicits no response from one of the sensors. In that case, block **318** is performed, sending suitable configuration information (including the correct bus address) to the sensor with the default bus address.

[0042] Numerous modifications, equivalents, and alternatives, will become apparent to those skilled in the art once the above disclosure is fully appreciated. For example, the illustrative methods are shown and described as if they occur in a sequential fashion, but those skilled in the art will recognize that many of the operations can be reordered, pipelined or otherwise performed in parallel, potentially using multiple independent or loosely-coupled hardware components. It is intended that the following claims be interpreted to embrace all such modifications, equivalents, and alternatives where applicable.

Claims

1. A method for use with a bus having slave devices each with a dynamically-determined bus address, the method comprising: sending a query for a unique device identifier to a default bus address; and upon detecting a query timeout, initiating a data frame to collect time-division multiplexed data from the slave devices.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising, upon detecting a query response containing the unique device identifier from a reset slave device: determining the dynamically-determined bus address previously associated with the unique device identifier contained in the query response; and configuring the reset slave device with that dynamically-determined bus address.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said configuring includes writing register data to the default bus address.
 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said register data includes additional configuration data for the reset slave device.
 5. The method of claim 3, further comprising: after said configuring, initiating the data frame to collect time-division multiplexed data from the slave devices.
 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising writing additional configuration data to the reset slave device after said configuring and before said initiating.
 7. The method of claim 3, further comprising: after said configuring, repeating said sending and, upon detecting the query timeout, said initiating.
 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the unique device identifier is a device level traceability code.
 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising: repeating said sending and, upon detecting the query timeout, said initiating to collect a sequence of data frames from the slave devices.
 10. A bus master that comprises: a driver configured to drive a downlink signal on a bus signal line coupled to slave devices each with a dynamically-determined bus address; a receive buffer configured to sense an uplink signal on the bus signal line; and a controller coupled to the driver and the receive buffer, the controller being configured to implement a communication method via the bus signal line, the method including: sending a query for a unique device identifier to a default bus address; and upon detecting a query timeout, initiating a data frame to collect time-division multiplexed data from the slave devices.
 11. The bus master of claim 10, wherein the communication method further comprises: upon detecting a query response containing the unique device identifier from a reset slave device: determining the dynamically-determined bus address previously associated with the unique device identifier contained in the query response; and configuring the reset slave device with that dynamically-determined bus address.
 12. The bus master of claim 11, wherein said configuring includes writing register data to the default bus address.
 13. The bus master of claim 12, further comprising: after said configuring, initiating the data frame to collect time-division multiplexed data from the slave devices.
 14. The bus master of claim 13, further comprising writing additional configuration data to the reset slave device after said configuring and before said initiating.
 15. The bus master of claim 12, further comprising: after said configuring, repeating said sending and, upon detecting the query timeout, said initiating.
 16. The bus master of claim 10, further comprising: repeating said sending and, upon detecting the query timeout, said initiating to collect a sequence of data frames from the slave devices.
 17. A communications method that comprises: populating a lookup table associating each of a plurality of dynamically-assigned sensor IDs with a device-level traceability (DLT) code; before initiating a measurement cycle, sending a query to a default sensor ID for a DLT code; and proceeding with the measurement cycle if the query times out before a query response is received.
 18. The communications method of claim 17, further comprising: if the query response is received, using the lookup table to find a reset sensor ID associated with the DLT code received in the query response, and sending reconfiguration information associated with the reset sensor ID to the default sensor ID, the reconfiguration information including at least the reset sensor ID.
 19. The communications method of claim 18, wherein the reconfiguration information further includes one or more measurement configuration parameter values.
 20. The communications method of claim 18, further comprising: sending one more measurement configuration parameters to the reset sensor ID after sending the reconfiguration information and before proceeding with the measurement cycle.
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