Fault-tolerant ECU platform including an in-vehicle Ethernet controller

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An electronic control unit (ECU) is a key component in implementing automotive functionalities such as braking systems, power steering systems, as well as engine control systems. A single-chip ECU platform exhibiting much stronger fault-tolerance than conventional structures is implemented. A block diagram and a die photo of the single-chip ECU platform is shown in Fig. 1.

The Core-A embedded processor [1] with additional fault-tolerant techniques is employed as a main controller. Compared to the conventional controllers, the proposed fault-tolerant Core-A processor provides much stronger fault-tolerance because a double-error correcting (DEC) BCH code is employed. A low-complexity search-less DEC BCH decoder [2] is implemented to correct bit errors of the memory system while the register file inside the processor is protected by the single-error correcting Hamming code. In addition, a 100BASE-TX Ethernet controller is included to provide a new solution of in-vehicle control network reducing the wiring harness in vehicles. Lastly, there are various kinds of peripheral interfaces such as inter-integrated circuits (I2C) and 4-channel serial peripheral interface (SPI). The ECU platform is fabricated in a 65nm CMOS process. The platform occupying area of 0.80mm² operates at a maximum operating frequency of 208MHz.

Fig 1. A block diagram and a chip die photo of the single-chip ECU platform


This work was supported in part by the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) grant funded by the Korea government (MSIP) (No. 2010-0028680) and the IC Design Education Center (IDEC).