



US007228442B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Kinstler

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,228,442 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jun. 5, 2007**

(54) **METHOD AND SYSTEMS FOR A RADIATION TOLERANT BUS INTERFACE CIRCUIT**

6,516,418 B1 *	2/2003	Lee	713/320
6,937,454 B2 *	8/2005	Mikolajczak et al.	361/111
6,963,985 B2 *	11/2005	Stachura et al.	713/310
2004/0229478 A1 *	11/2004	Chen	439/11
2005/0060587 A1 *	3/2005	Hwang et al.	713/300

(75) Inventor: **Gary A. Kinstler**, Torrance, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **The Boeing Company**, Chicago, IL (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 464 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **10/813,152**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 30, 2004**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2005/0223260 A1 Oct. 6, 2005

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G06F 1/00 (2006.01)
G06F 13/14 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **713/300; 710/305**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **713/300**
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,013,938 A *	3/1977	McCoy	363/56.01
5,548,467 A *	8/1996	Heaney et al.	361/93.7
6,064,554 A *	5/2000	Kim	361/64
6,067,628 A *	5/2000	Krithivas et al.	713/340
6,483,317 B1 *	11/2002	Floro et al.	324/537

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Tai et al., COTS-Based Fault Tolerance in Deep Space: Qualitative and Quantitative Analyses of a Bus Network Architecture, 4th IEEE Intl. Symposium on High Assurance Systems Engineering, Nov. 1999, pp. 1-8.

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—Chun Cao

Assistant Examiner—Ji H. Bae

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Lee & Hayes, PLLC

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A bus management tool that allows communication to be maintained between a group of nodes operatively connected on two busses in the presence of radiation by transmitting periodically a first message from one to another of the nodes on one of the busses, determining whether the first message was received by the other of the nodes on the first bus, and when it is determined that the first message was not received by the other of the nodes, transmitting a recovery command to the other of the nodes on a second of the of busses. Methods, systems, and articles of manufacture consistent with the present invention also provide for a bus recovery tool on the other node that re-initializes a bus interface circuit operatively connecting the other node to the first bus in response to the recovery command.

23 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets

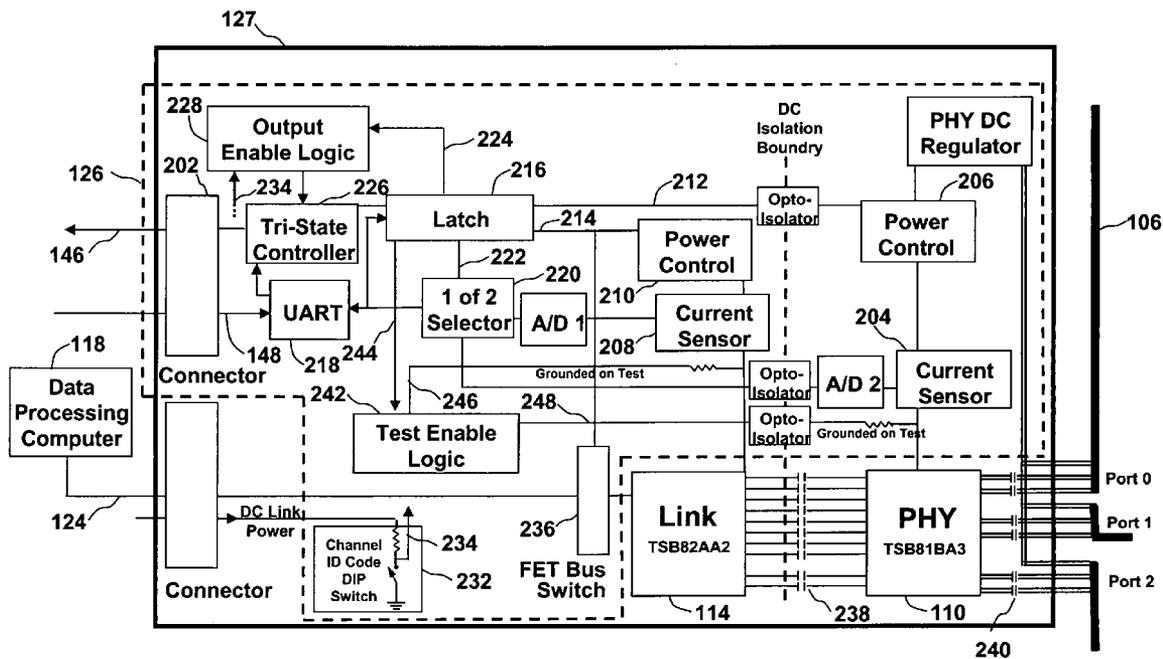


FIG. 1

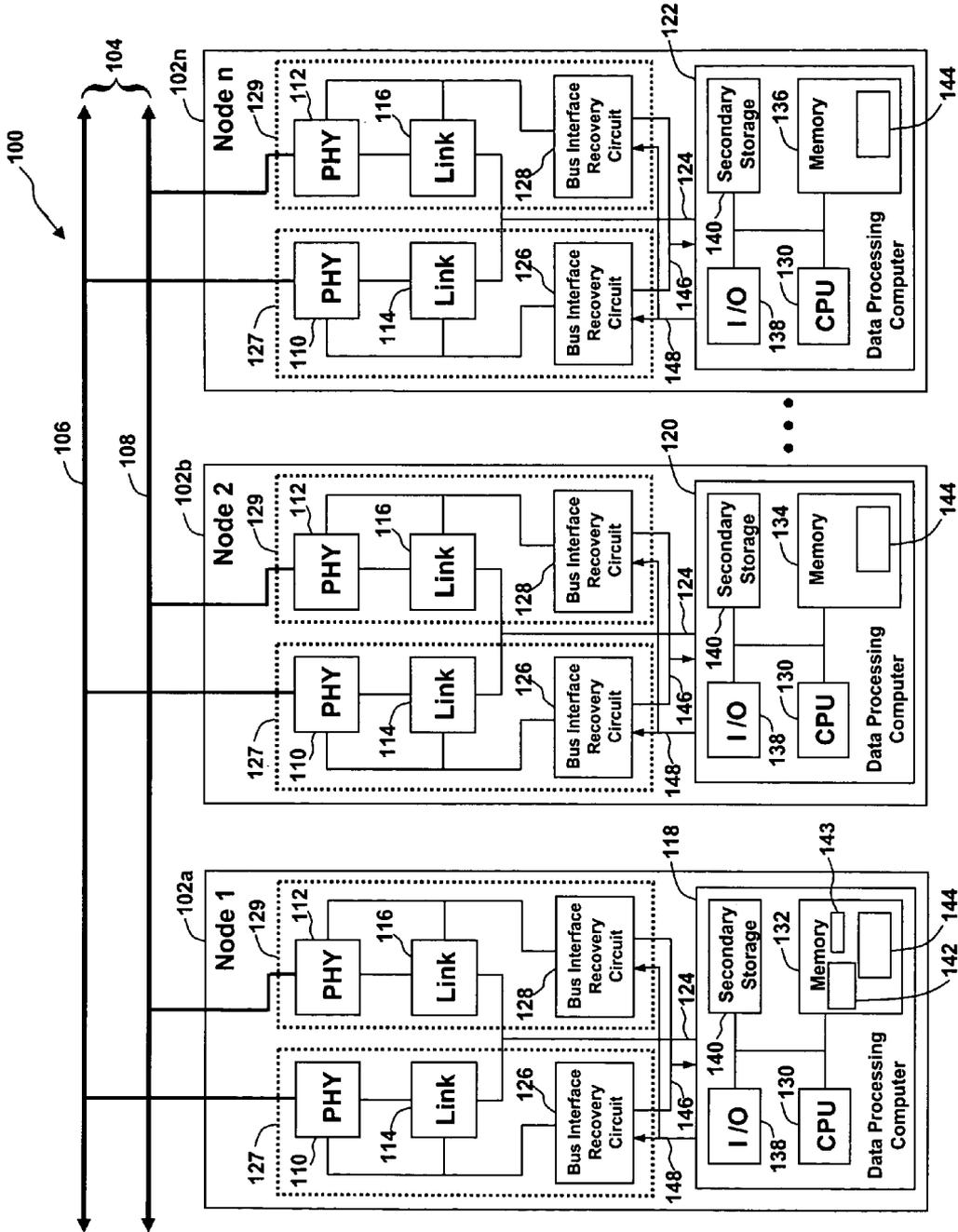


FIG. 2

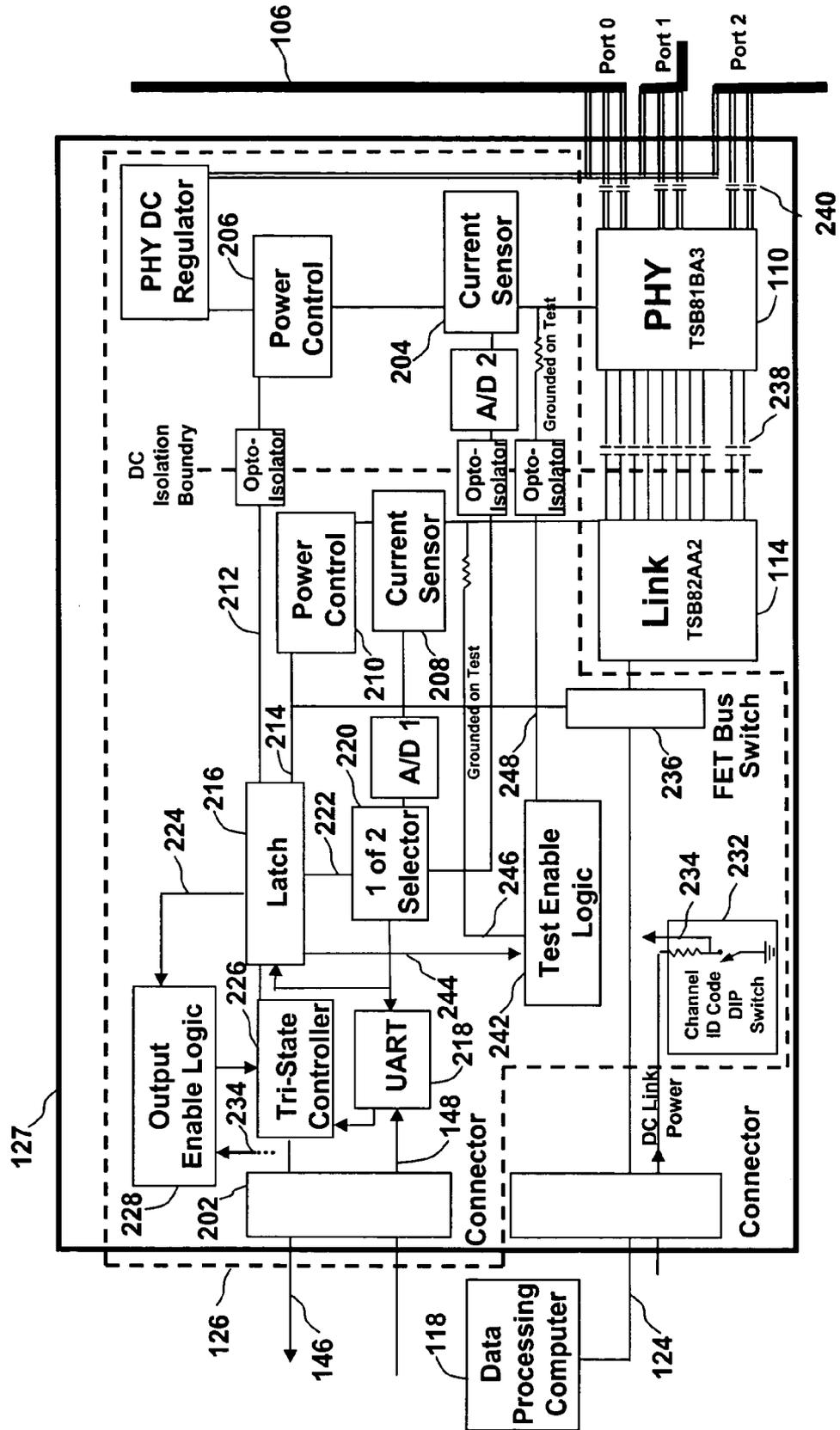


FIG. 3

300	<u>Bit No.</u>	
	1	1 = Power Down Command, Channel A Link
	2	1 = Power Down Command, Channel A PHY
	3	1 = Power Down Command, Channel B Link
	4	1 = Power Down Command, Channel B PHY
	5	1 = Activate Current Surge Test for the Enabled Outgoing UART Source
	6	0 = Enable Channel A for Outgoing UART Data, 1 = Enable Channel B
	7	0 = Enable Monitoring of Link Current for Outgoing UART Data, 1 = Enable PHY Current Monitoring
8	Reserved - Set to 0 in Control Latch	

FIG. 4

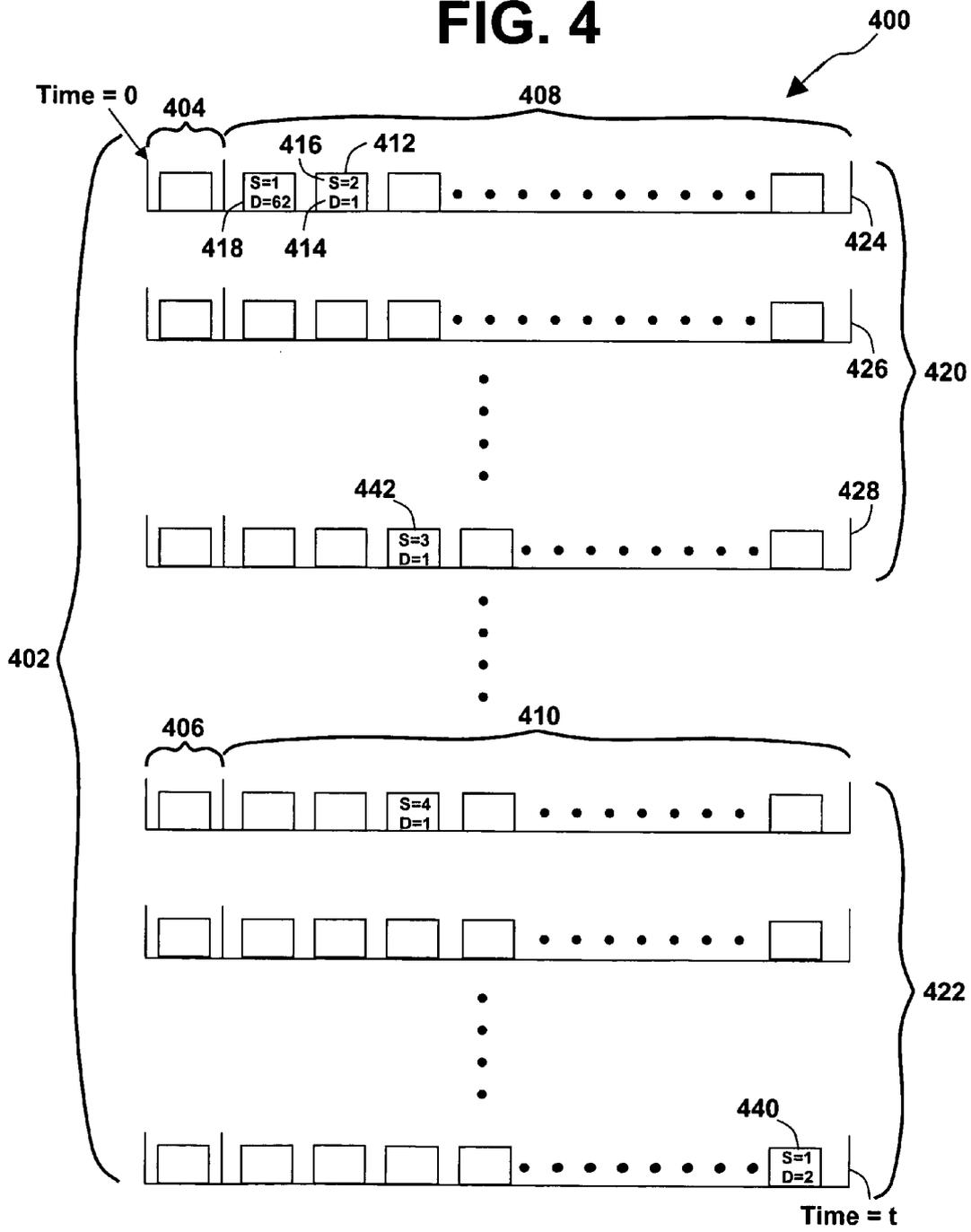


FIG. 5

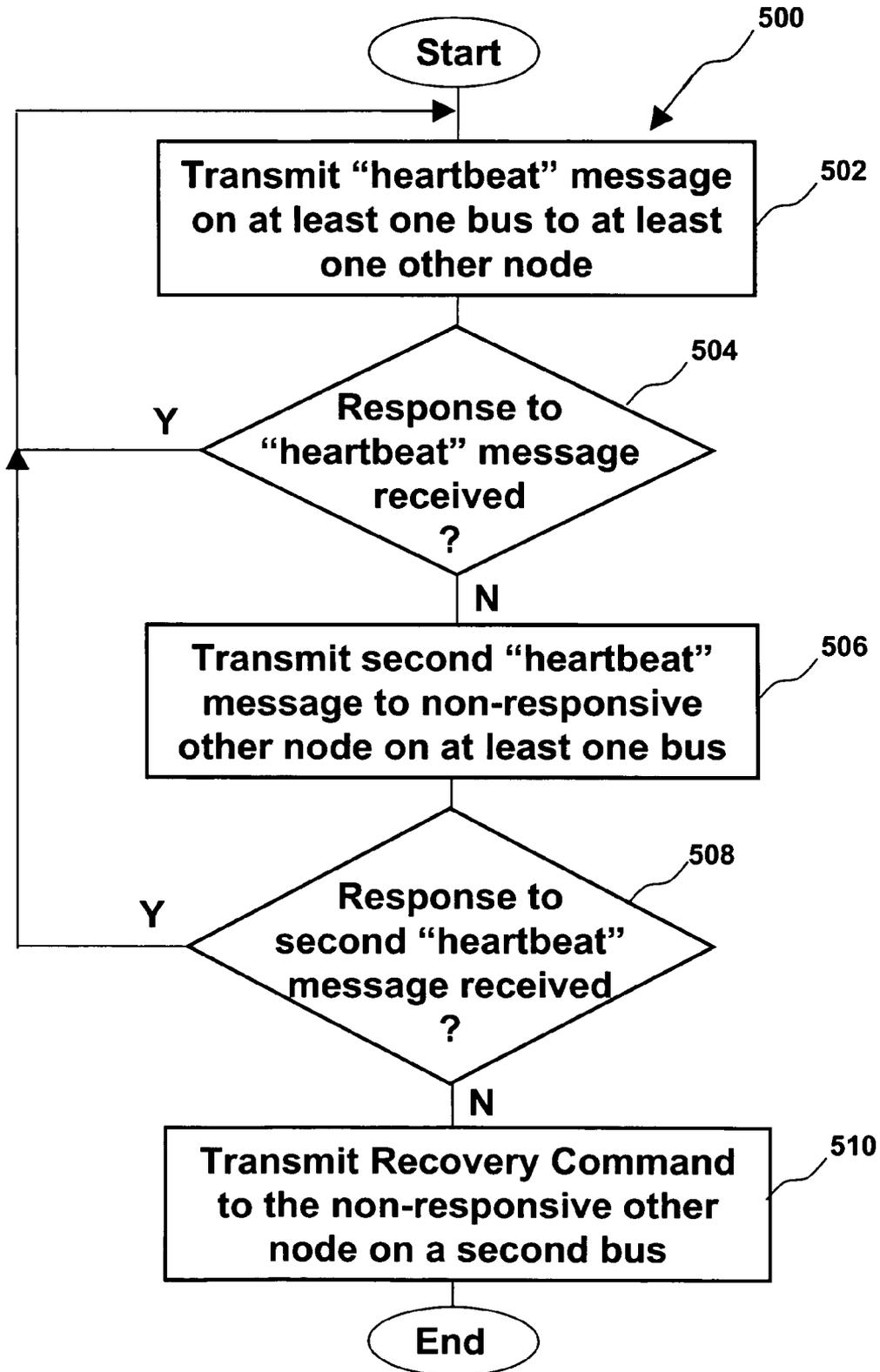


FIG. 6

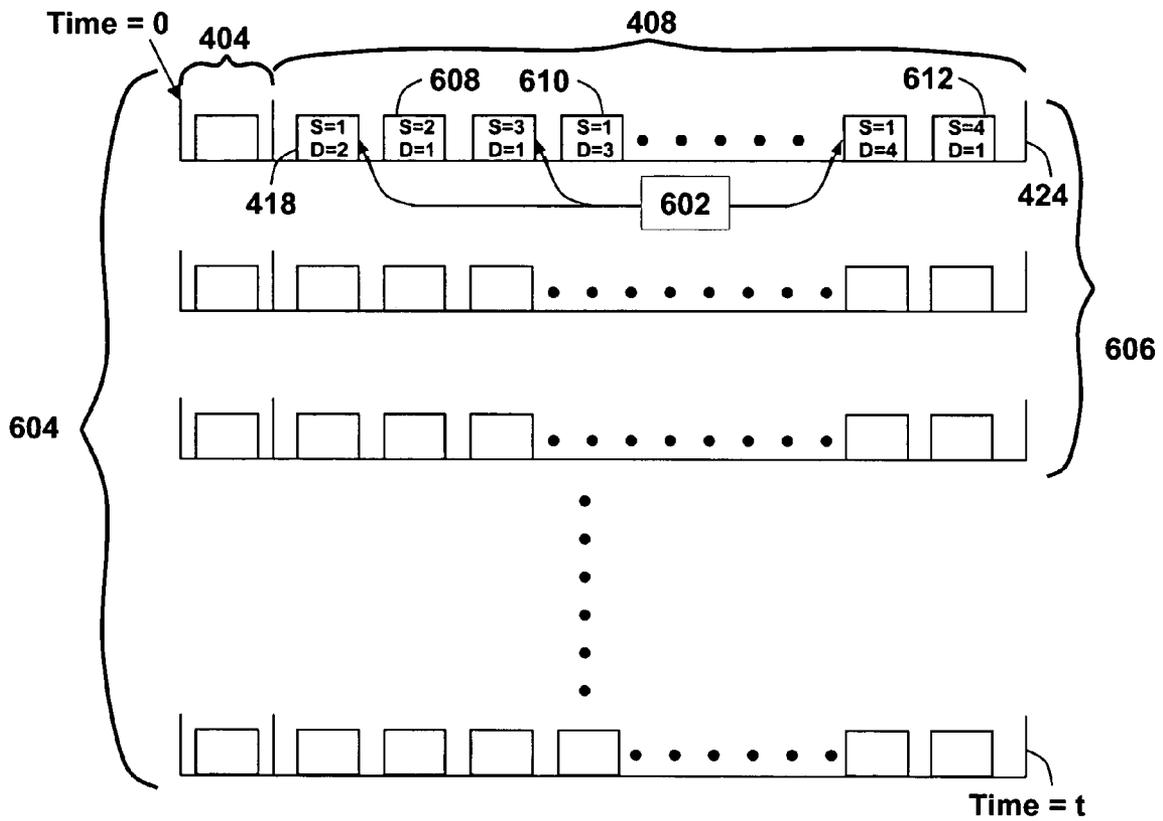


FIG. 7

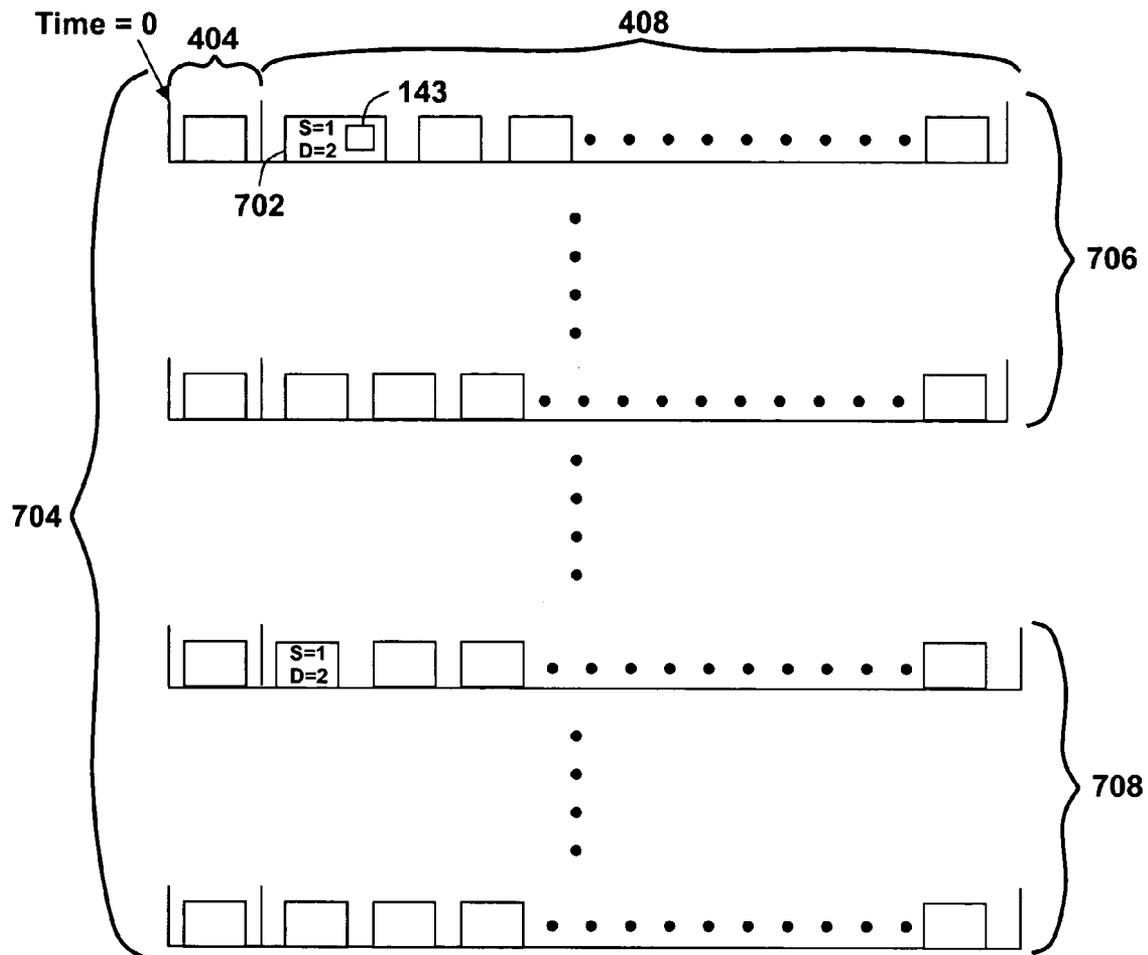


FIG. 8

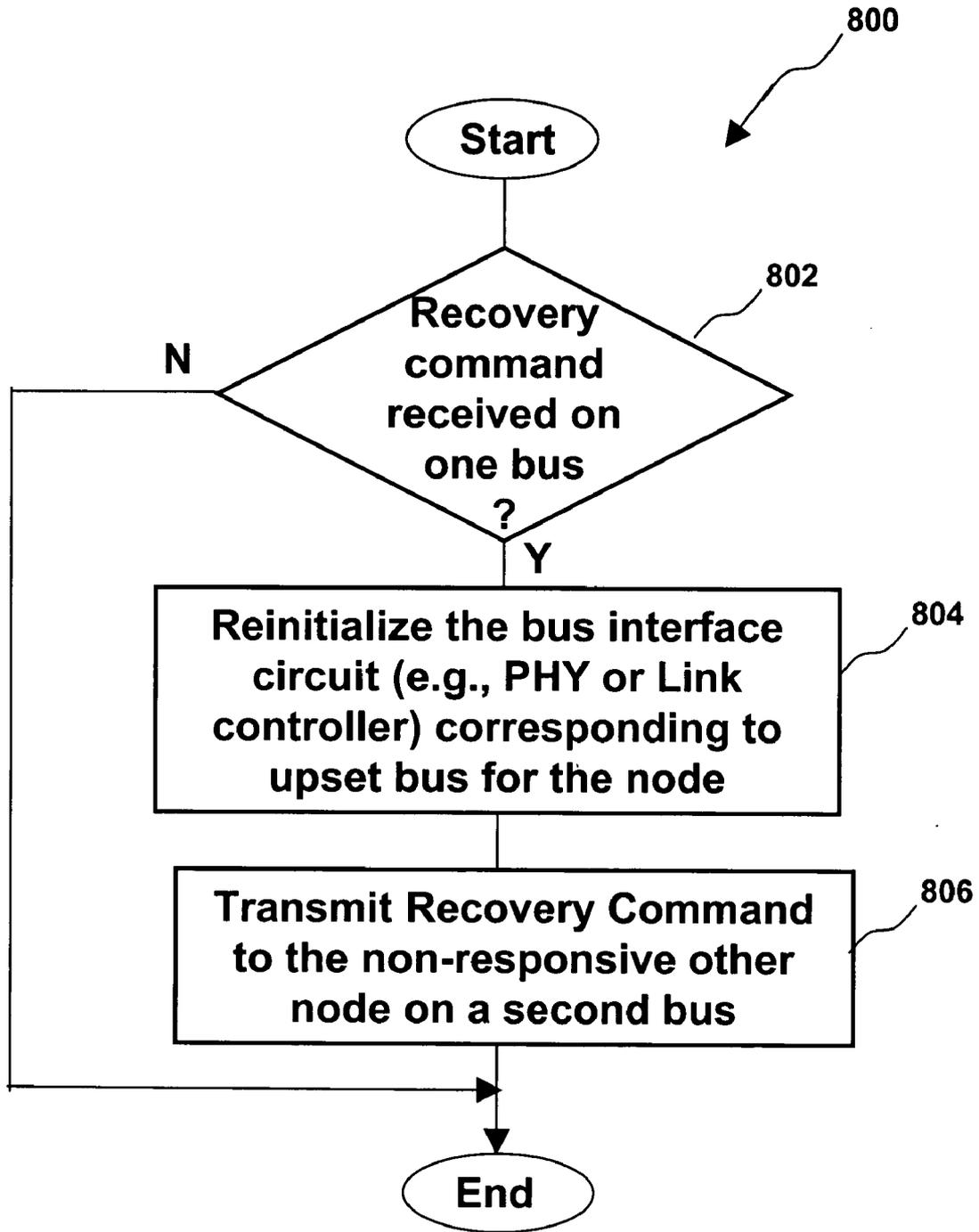


FIG. 9

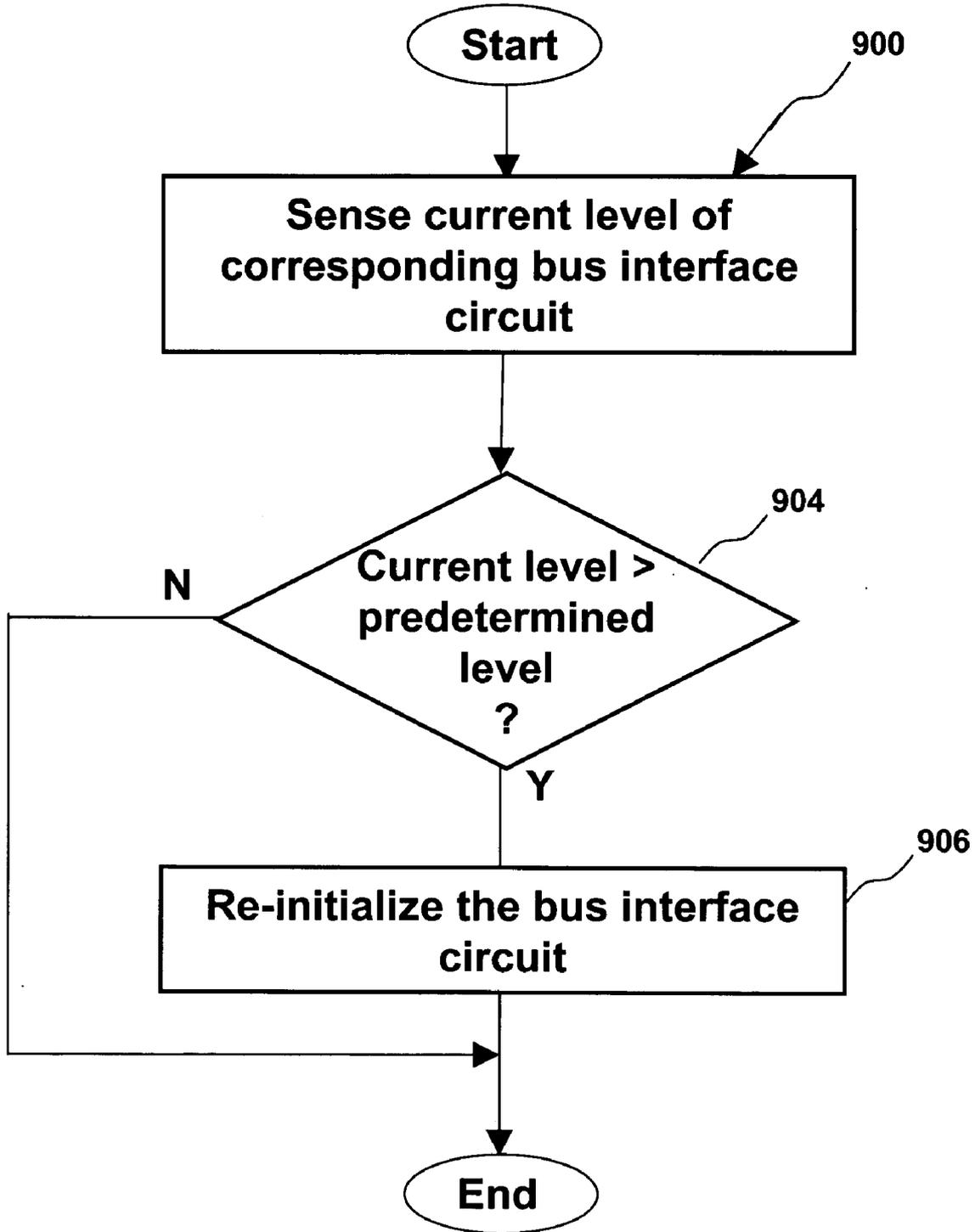
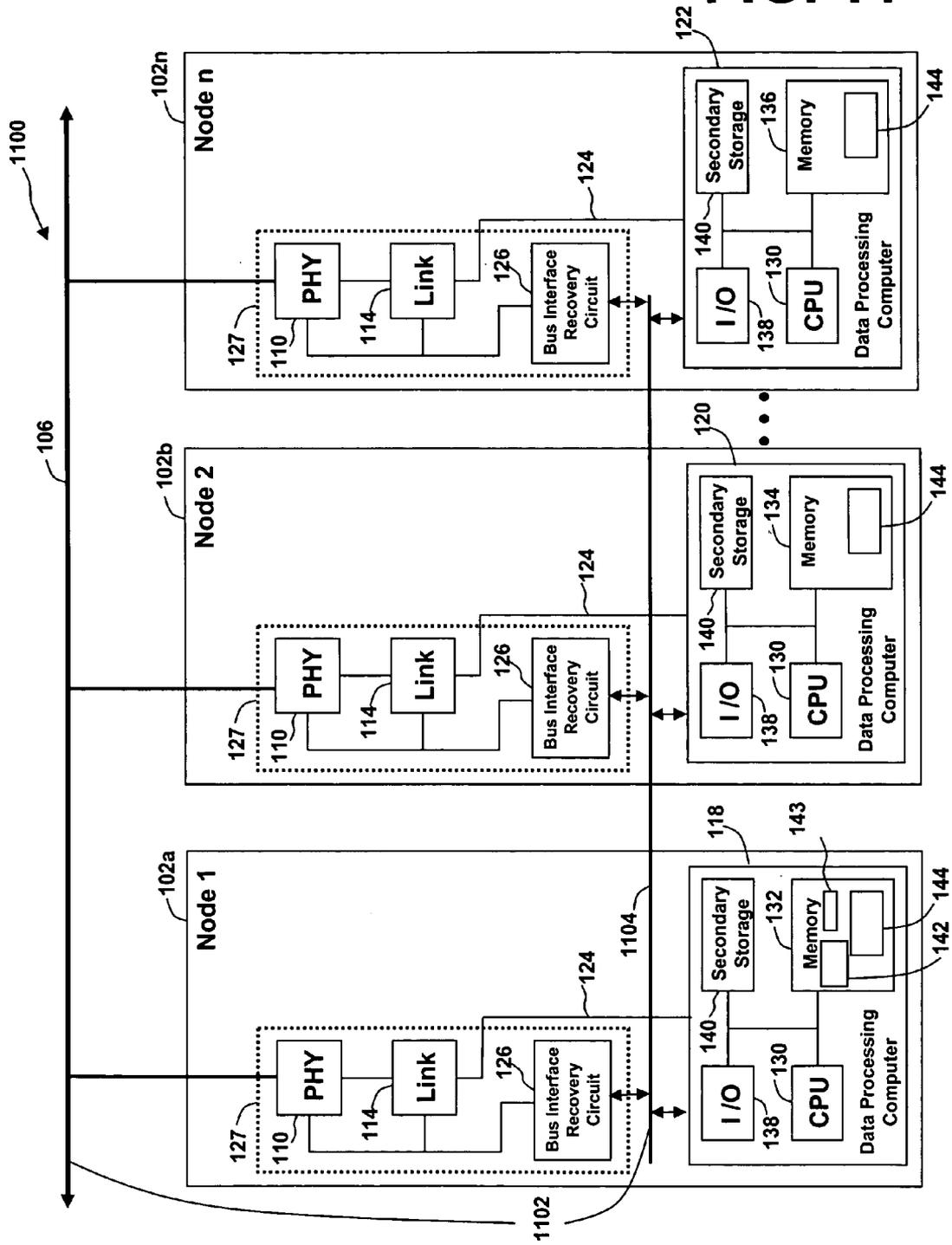


FIG. 11



METHOD AND SYSTEMS FOR A RADIATION TOLERANT BUS INTERFACE CIRCUIT

The invention described herein was made in the performance of work under NASA Contract No. NAS8-01099 and is subject to the provisions of Section 305 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (72 Stat. 435: 42 U.S.C. 2457).

This application relies upon and incorporates by reference U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/813,296, entitled "Methods and Systems for a Data Processing System Having Radiation Tolerant Bus," and filed on the same date herewith;

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to communication networks, and, more particularly, to systems and methods for recovery of communication to a node on a high speed serial bus.

High speed serial bus networks are utilized in automotive, aircraft, and space vehicles to allow audio, video, and data communication between various electronic components or nodes within the vehicle. Vehicle nodes may include a central computer node, a radar node, a navigation system node, a display node, or other electronic components for operating the vehicle.

Automotive, aircraft, and space vehicle manufacturers often use commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) parts to implement a high speed serial bus to minimize the cost for developing and supporting the vehicle nodes and the serial bus network. However, COTS for implementing a conventional high speed serial bus network in a home to connect a personal computer to consumer audio/video appliances (e.g., digital video cameras, scanners, and printers) is susceptible to errors induced by radiation, which may be present in space (e.g., proton and heavy ion radiation) or come from another vehicle having a radar device (e.g., RF radiation). Conventional methods of shielding high speed serial bus networks and COTS parts from radiation do not adequately protect against proton and heavy ion radiation. In addition, conventional shielding may be damaged (e.g., during repair of a vehicle), permitting a radiation induced latch-up error or upset error to occur. A COTS part experiencing a radiation induced latch-up error typically does not operate properly on the associated high speed bus network. A COTS part experiencing a radiation induced upset error typically communicates erroneous data to the associated node or on the high speed bus network. Thus, vehicles that use COTS to implement a conventional high speed serial bus network are often susceptible to radiation induced errors that may interrupt communication between vehicle nodes, creating potential vehicle performance problems.

For example, a conventional high-speed serial bus following the standard IEEE-1394 ("IEEE-1394 bus") allows a personal computer to be connected to consumer electronics audio/video appliances, storage peripherals, and portable consumer devices for high speed multi-media communication. However, when a conventional IEEE-1394 bus is implemented in a vehicle using COTS parts, radiation from another vehicle's radar or radiation present in space may cause a latch-up or upset error on the conventional IEEE-1394 bus that often renders one or more of the vehicle's nodes inoperative.

Some conventional vehicles employ a second or redundant high-speed serial bus to allow communication between vehicle nodes to be switched to the redundant bus when a

"hard fail" (e.g., vehicle node ceases to communicate on the first bus) occurs on the first bus. Radiation induced latch-up errors often cause "hard fails" when COTS parts are used in the vehicle nodes to implement the first and redundant busses. For example, the U.S. Advanced Tactical Fighter (ATF) aircraft has a redundant IEEE-1394 high-speed serial bus network. But the ATF and other conventional vehicles employing a redundant high-speed serial bus implemented using COTS components are still typically susceptible to radiation latch-up or upset errors and do allow for recovery of the primary bus when a "hard fail" occurs on that bus.

Therefore, a need exists for systems and methods that overcome the problems noted above and others previously experienced for error recovery on a high speed serial bus.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with methods consistent with the present invention, a method in a data processing system is provided. The data processing system has a plurality of nodes operatively connected to a network having a plurality of busses and one of the nodes has a bus management tool. The method comprises: transmitting periodically a first message from one of the plurality of nodes to another of the nodes on a first of the plurality of busses of the network, determining whether the first message was received by the other of the nodes on the first bus, and when it is determined that the first message was not received by the other of the nodes, transmitting a recovery command to the other of the nodes on a second of the plurality of busses.

In accordance with articles of manufacture consistent with the present invention, a computer-readable medium containing instructions causing a program in a data processing system to perform a method is provided. The data processing system has a plurality of nodes operatively connected to a network having a plurality of busses. The method comprises: transmitting periodically a first message from one of the plurality of nodes to another of the nodes on a first of the plurality of busses of the network, determining whether the first message was received by the other of the nodes on the first bus, and when it is determined that the first message was not received by the other of the nodes, transmitting a recovery command associated with the first bus to the other of the nodes on a second of the plurality of busses.

In accordance with systems consistent with the present invention, a data processing apparatus is provided. The data processing apparatus comprises: a plurality of network interface cards operatively configured to connect to a network having a plurality of busses, each network interface card having a bus interface circuit operatively configured to connect to a respective one of the plurality of busses; a memory having a program that transmits periodically a first message to at least one of a plurality of nodes operatively connected to a first of the plurality of busses of the network, determines whether the first message was received by the other of the nodes on the first bus, and transmits a recovery command associated with the first bus to the other of the nodes on a second of the plurality of busses in response to determining that the first message was not received by the other of the nodes; and a processing unit for running the program.

In accordance with systems consistent with the present invention, a network interface apparatus is provided. The network interface apparatus comprises: a bus interface circuit for operatively connecting the network interface card to a bus; a power controller operatively connected to the bus interface circuit; a current sensor operatively connected to

3

the bus interface circuit to sense a current level in the bus interface circuit; and means for determining whether the sensed current level exceeds a predetermined level and for causing the power controller to cycle power to the bus interface circuit in response to determining that the sensed current level exceeds the predetermined level.

In accordance with methods consistent with the present invention, a method in a data processing system is provided. The data processing system includes a network having a bus. The method comprises: sensing a current level in a bus interface circuit operatively connecting a node on the network to the bus; determining whether the sensed current level exceeds a predetermined level; and re-initializing the bus interface circuit in response to determining that sensed current level exceeds the predetermined level.

In accordance with articles of manufacture consistent with the present invention, a computer-readable medium containing instructions causing a program in a data processing system to perform a method is provided. The data processing system includes a network having a bus. The method comprises: sensing a current level in a bus interface circuit operatively connecting a node on the network to the bus; determining whether the sensed current level exceeds a predetermined level; and re-initializing the bus interface circuit in response to determining that sensed current level exceeds the predetermined level.

Other systems, methods, features, and advantages of the present invention will be or will become apparent to one with skill in the art upon examination of the following figures and detailed description. It is intended that all such additional systems, methods, features, and advantages be included within this description, be within the scope of the invention, and be protected by the accompanying claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate an implementation of the present invention and, together with the description, serve to explain the advantages and principles of the invention. In the drawings:

FIG. 1 depicts a block diagram of a vehicle data processing system having a bus management tool and a bus recovery tool suitable for practicing methods and implementing systems consistent with the present invention;

FIG. 2 depicts an exemplary block diagram of a bus interface recovery circuit suitable for use with methods and systems consistent with the present invention;

FIG. 3 depicts an exemplary control message that may be sent from the bus recovery tool of FIG. 1 to a bus interface recovery circuit of a node to control the operation of the bus interface recovery circuit;

FIG. 4 depicts an exemplary timing diagram for a frame of messages generated by nodes in the data processing system of FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 depicts a flow diagram illustrating an exemplary process performed by the bus management tool in FIG. 1 to detect a bus interface circuit of a node that is experiencing a radiation induced latch-up or upset error on a bus and to recover communication on the bus to the node;

FIG. 6 depicts another exemplary timing diagram for a frame of messages generated by nodes in the data processing system of FIG. 1 in which the bus management tool selectively transmits a "heartbeat" message to nodes of the system; and

FIG. 7 depicts an exemplary timing diagram of a frame on a bus in which the bus management tool transmits a recovery

4

command in a message to a node experiencing a radiation induced latch-up or upset error on another bus;

FIG. 8 depicts a flow diagram illustrating an exemplary process performed by the bus recovery tool in FIG. 1 to clear a radiation induced latch-up or upset error detected by the bus management tool in FIG. 1;

FIG. 9 depicts a flow diagram illustrating another exemplary process performed by the bus recovery tool of a node to detect a bus interface circuit of the node that is experiencing a radiation induced latch-up or upset error on a bus and to clear the detected latch-up or radiation induced upset condition;

FIG. 10 depicts an exemplary block diagram of another bus interface recovery circuit suitable for use with methods and systems consistent with the present invention; and

FIG. 11 depicts a block diagram of another vehicle data processing system having a bus management tool and a bus recovery tool suitable for practicing methods and implementing systems consistent with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Reference will now be made in detail to an implementation in accordance with methods, systems, and products consistent with the present invention as illustrated in the accompanying drawings. The same reference numbers may be used throughout the drawings and the following description to refer to the same or like parts.

FIG. 1 depicts a block diagram of a data processing system 100 implemented in a vehicle, such as an automotive, aircraft or space vehicle, and suitable for practicing methods and implementing systems consistent with the present invention. The data processing system 100 includes a plurality of nodes 102a–102n operatively connected to a network 104 having a primary bus 106 and a secondary bus 108. In one implementation, each node 102a corresponds to a separate electronic component within the vehicle. As explained in detail below, one of the nodes 102a is a data processing apparatus operatively configured to manage communication between the nodes 102a–102n and to detect and recover from a radiation-induced bus error, such as a node experiencing a latch-up or radiation induced upset condition, on the network 104.

Each node 102a–102n has at least two bus interface circuits (e.g., circuits 110 and 112) to operatively connect the respective node 102a–102n to both the primary bus 106 and the secondary bus 108. In the implementation shown in FIG. 1, each node 102a–102n has a physical layer (PHY) controller 110 operatively connected to the primary bus 106 and a PHY controller 112 operatively connected to the secondary bus 108. Furthermore, each node 102a–102n has a link layer (LINK) controller 114 or 116 operatively connected to a respective PHY controller 110 or 112. The PHY controller and the LINK controller for each bus (e.g., circuits 110, 114 for the primary bus and circuits 112, 116 for the secondary bus) may be incorporated into a single bus interface circuit (not shown in figures). The PHY controllers 110 and 112 and the LINK controllers 114 and 116 are configured to support known protocols for open system architecture or interconnection of applications performed on or by the respective nodes 102a–102n. The protocols may follow the established Open Systems Interconnect (OSI) seven-layer model for a communication network defined by the International Standards Organization (ISO) to allow heterogeneous products (e.g., vehicle nodes) to exchange data over a network (e.g., network 104).

In particular, each PHY controller **110** and **112** may be operatively configured to send and receive data packets or messages on the respective bus **106** and **108** of the network **104** in accordance with the bus **106** and **108** communication protocol (e.g., IEEE-1394b cable based network protocol) and bus **106** and **108** physical characteristics, such as fiber optic or copper wire. Each PHY controller **110** and **112** may also be configured to monitor the condition of the bus **106** and **108** as needed for determining connection status and for initialization and arbitration of communication on the respective bus **106** and **108**. Each PHY controller **110** and **112** may be any COTS PHY controller, such as a Texas Instrument 1394b Three-Port Cable Transceiver/Arbiter (TSB81BA3) configured to support known IEEE-1394b standards.

Each LINK controller **114** and **116** is operatively configured to encode and decode into meaningful data packets or messages and handle frame synchronization for the respective node **102a–102n**. Each LINK controller **114** and **116** may be any COTS LINK controller, such as a Texas Instrument 1394b OHCI-Lynx Controller (TSB82AA2) configured to support known IEEE-1394b standards.

Each node **102a–102n** also has a data processing computer **118**, **120**, and **122** operatively connected to the two bus interface circuits (e.g., circuits **110**, **112**, or circuits **110,114** and **112, 116**) via a second network **124**. The second network **124** may be any known high speed network or backplane capable of supporting audio and video communication as well as asynchronous data communication within the node **102a–102n**, such as a compact peripheral component interconnect (cPCI) backplane, local area network (“LAN”), WAN, Peer-to-Peer, or the Internet, using standard communications protocols. The secondary network **124** may include hardwired as well as wireless branches.

Each node **102a–102n** also has a bus interface recovery circuit **126** and **128** operatively connected between the data processing computer **118**, **120**, and **122** and a respective bus interface circuit (e.g., circuits **110** and **112**, or circuits **110,114** and **112,116**). In one implementation, one bus interface recovery circuit (e.g., **126**) may be operatively connected to both bus interface circuits of the node **102a–102n**. In another implementation, the PHY controller **110** or **112**, the LINK controller **114** or **116**, and the bus interface recovery circuit **126** or **128** may be incorporated into a single network interface card **127** and **129**.

As explained in detail below, each bus interface recovery circuit **126** and **128** is configured to sense a radiation induced glitch or current surge (e.g., a short circuit condition) on a respective interface circuit **110**, **112**, **114**, or **116**, which may cause the bus interface circuit that is operatively connected to the respective bus to latch-up (such that the bus interface circuit may no longer properly communicate on the bus **106** or **108**) or experience a radiation induced upset (such as a single event functional interrupt which may disrupt a control register) where the bus interface circuit may no longer communicate on the bus **106** or **108**. Each bus interface recovery circuit **126** and **128** may automatically re-initialize the bus interface circuit or report the radiation induced error to the data processing computer **118**, **120**, and **122** for further processing.

As shown in FIG. 1, each data processing computer **118**, **120**, and **122** includes a central processing unit (CPU) **130**, a memory **132**, **134**, and **136**, and an I/O device **138**. Each I/O device **138** is operatively configured to connect the respective computer **118**, **120**, and **122** to the second network **124** and to the respective bus interface circuits **126** and **128** of the node **102a–102n**. Each data processing computer

118, **120**, and **122** may also include a secondary storage device **140** to store data packets or applications accessible by CPU **130** for processing in accordance with methods and systems consistent with the present invention.

Memory in one of the data processing computers (e.g., memory **132** of data processing computer **118**) stores a bus management program or tool **142**. As described in more detail below, the bus management tool **142** in accordance with systems and methods consistent with the present invention detects a bus interface circuit **110**, **112**, **114**, or **116** of a node **102a–102n** that is experiencing a latch-up or radiation induced upset condition on a bus **106** or **108** and causes the corresponding bus interface recovery circuit **126** or **128** to clear the latch-up or radiation induced upset condition so that communication on the bus **106** or **108** via interface circuit **110**, **112**, **114**, or **116** to the node **102a–102n** is maintained or re-established. The same memory **132** that stores the bus management tool **142** may also store a recovery command **143**. As described herein, the bus management tool **142** may transmit the recovery command **143** in a message on one bus (e.g., either the primary bus **106** or the secondary bus **108** not effected by radiation) to another node **102b–102n** to cause the other node to clear the radiation induced latch-up or upset condition associated with its bus interface circuit (e.g., circuits **110,114**, or both) so that the other node can maintain communication on both busses **106** and **108**.

Memory **132**, **134**, and **136** in each of the data processing computers **118**, **120**, and **122**, respectively, stores a bus recovery program or tool **144** used in accordance with systems and methods consistent with the present invention to respond to a recovery command **143** and to allow the bus management tool **142** to communicate with the bus interface recovery circuit **126** and **128** for each node **102a–102n** as described herein.

Bus recovery tool **142** is called up by each CPU **130** from memory **132**, **134**, and **136** as directed by the respective CPU **130** of nodes **102a–102n**. Similarly, bus management tool **142** and the recovery command **143** are called up by the CPU **130** of node **102a** from memory **132** as directed by the CPU **130** of node **102a**. Each CPU **130** operatively connects the tools and other programs to one another using a known operating system to perform operations as described below. In addition, while the tools or programs are described as being implemented as software, the present implementation may be implemented as a combination of hardware and software or hardware alone.

Although aspects of methods, systems, and articles of manufacture consistent with the present invention are depicted as being stored in memory, one having skill in the art will appreciate that these aspects may be stored on or read from other computer-readable media, such as secondary storage devices, including hard disks, floppy disks, and CD-ROM; or other forms of ROM or RAM either currently known or later developed. Further, although specific components of data processing system **100** have been described, one skilled in the art will appreciate that a data processing system suitable for use with methods, systems, and articles of manufacture consistent with the present invention may contain additional or different components.

FIG. 2 depicts an exemplary block diagram of the bus interface recovery circuit **126** for node **102a**. The components of bus interface recovery circuits **126** and **128** for each node **102a–102n** suitable for implementing the methods and systems consistent with present invention may be the same. Thus, for the sake of brevity, only the components of bus

interface recovery circuit 126 depicted in FIG. 2 shall be discussed in detail as one having skill in the art will appreciate.

As shown in FIG. 2, the bus interface recovery circuit 126 includes a terminal 202 for data communication connection to the data processing computer 118 of node 102a, a current sensor 204, and a power controller 206. Both the current sensor 204 and the power controller 206 are operatively connected to the terminal 202 and to at least one interface circuit (e.g., PHY controller 110). The current sensor 204 may be any known current sensing device including a current sensing resistor (e.g., a 0.1 ohm series resistor) or any sensor measuring current based on the magnetoresistive effect.

In the implementation shown in FIG. 2, the bus interface recovery circuit has a second current sensor 208 and a second power controller 210 that are both operatively connected to the terminal 202. Each current sensor 204 and 208 is operatively configured to sense a current level in or to the respective bus interface circuit, PHY controller 110 and Link controller 114, and to report the current level to the data processing computer 118 via the terminal 202. Each power controller 206 and 210 is operatively configured to switch power on or off to the respective bus interface circuit, PHY controller 110 and Link controller 114, in response to a corresponding signal 212 and 214 received from the data processing computer via terminal 202. Each power controller 206 and 210 may source up to 1000 ma.

Thus, bus interface recovery circuits 126 and 128 allow the bus recovery tool 144 of each data processing computer 118, 120, and 122 to sense or monitor the current level on (e.g., current drawn by or through) PHY controller 110 and Link controller 114 of the nodes 102a–102n. In addition, when the sensed current level exceeds a predetermined level (e.g., 200 milliamps corresponding to a radiation-induced glitch or short circuit), the bus interface recovery circuit 126 and 128 allows the bus recovery tool 144 to re-initialize or cycle power to the respective bus interface circuit, PHY controller 110 and Link controller 114. The bus recovery tool may sense a current level, determine that the current level exceeds a predetermined level, and cycle power to the respective bus interface circuit in a period equal to or greater than 10 milliseconds in accordance with methods consistent with the present invention. The period is based on, among other things, power ramp up and down time constraints of the power controllers 206 and 210.

FIG. 3 depicts an exemplary assignment of bits in a control message 300 that may be sent by the bus recovery tool 144 of the data processing computer 118 to the bus interface recovery circuit 126 via terminal 202 for controlling operation of the bus interface recovery circuit. In the implementation shown in FIG. 3, Bits 1 and 2 of control message 300 correspond to respective signals 214 and 212 received by Link controller 114 and PHY controller 110 when the bus interface recovery circuit 126 is configured to connect to channel A or the primary bus 106 of the network 104. Bits 3 and 4 of the control message 300 may correspond to respective signals 214 and 212 received by Link controller 114 and PHY controller 110 when the bus interface recovery circuit 126 is configured to connect to channel B or the secondary bus 108 of the network 104.

Returning to FIG. 2, the bus interface recovery circuit 126 may include a latch 216 operatively connected between the terminal 202 and the power controllers 206 and 210. The latch 216 is adapted to latch or store the bits of the control message 300. The control message 300 may be received either serially or in parallel via terminal 202.

In the implementation shown in FIG. 2, terminal 202 is adapted for serial data communication connection, such as RS-232, RS-485, or I²C, to data processing computer 118 or to the bus management tool 142. In this implementation, the bus interface recovery circuit 126 further comprises a Universal Asynchronous Receiver-Transmitter (UART) 218. The UART 218 is operatively connected between the terminal 202 and the latch 216 such that bits in the control message 300 in FIG. 3 are received serially by the UART from the data processing computer 118 via an input serial bus 148 and then separately latched or stored in the latch 216.

In an alternative implementation, a multi-drop bus, such as an I2C bus, creates the second bus that is used to connect the bus management tool 142 in node 102a to a plurality of or all other nodes 102b–102n.

As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, each data processing computer 118, 120, and 124 may control respective bus interface recovery circuits 126 and 128 (configured as Channel A and B, or vice versa) via the same input serial bus 148.

The bus interface recovery circuit 126 may also include a switch or multiplexer 220 having an input 222 and operatively connected between the UART 218 and the current sensors 204 and 208. The multiplexer 220 is operatively configured to selectively allow one of the current sensors 204 or 208 to report the respective sensed current level to the data processing computer 118 via UART 218 based on input 222. Input 222 may be operatively connected to latch 216 so that an enable signal transmitted by bus recovery tool 144, such as Bit 7 in control message 300 in FIG. 3, causes multiplexer 220 to select one of the current sensors 204 or 208.

In one implementation, the UART 218 is configured to read latch 216 and report the current control message 300 stored in latch 216 as well as report the sensed current level from the selected current sensor 204 or 208 via an output serial bus 146. As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, each data processing computer 118, 120, and 124 may receive the sensed current level from respective bus interface recovery circuits 126 and 128 (configured as Channel A and B, or vice versa) via the same output serial bus 146.

The bus recovery tool 144 of the data processing computer 118 may provide a second enable signal 224 (e.g., Bit 6 in FIG. 3) to identify the channel for the network interface card 127) to the bus interface recovery circuit 126 to selectively cause the bus interface recovery circuit 126 to report the sensed current level from the selected current sensor 204 or 208 via terminal 202.

In the implementation shown in FIG. 2, the bus interface recovery circuit 126 also includes a tri-state controller 226 operatively connected between the terminal 202 and the UART 218 and operatively configured to selectively allow either bus interface circuit 126 or 128 to apply its output data on the shared output serial bus 146.

The bus interface recovery circuit 126 may also include an output enable logic 228 circuit and a switch 232 having an output 234 that identifies whether the bus interface recovery circuit 126 is to operate on a “Channel A” (e.g., primary bus 106), or on a “Channel B” (e.g., secondary bus 108) in the data processing system 100. The output enable logic 228 is operatively connected to trigger tri-state controller 226 to allow UART 218 to report the sensed current based upon the output 234 of switch 232 and a state associated with enable signal 224 (e.g., Bit 6 in FIG. 3). For example, the bus recovery tool 144 may transmit the enable 224 signal in an active low state as an indication to enable output of UART 218 if the output 234 of switch 232 reflects

“Channel A.” The bus recovery tool **144** may then transmit the enable signal **224** in an active high state as an indication to enable output of UART **218** if the output **234** of switch **232** reflects “Channel B.”

Returning to FIG. 2, the bus interface recovery circuit **126** may also include a bus switch **236**, such as a Texas Instruments switch SN74CBTLV16211, that allows the data processing computer **118**, **120**, and **122** to isolate the bus interface circuits **110** and **112** when a current surge is detected in one or both of these circuits **110** and **112**. In the implementation shown in FIG. 2, the bus switch is operatively connected to the signal **214** used to turn power on or off to the Link controller **114**, such that Link controller **114** and PHY controller **110** are isolated from the data processing computer **118**, **120**, and **122** when power is turned off to the Link controller **114**.

In addition, the bus interface recovery circuit **126** or the network interface card **127** may include a first bus isolation device **238** operatively connecting the PHY controller **110** to the Link controller **114** and a second isolation device **240** operatively connecting the PHY controller **110** to the bus **106**. The bus isolation devices **238** and **240** may be capacitors in series with data lines corresponding to bus **106**. The bus isolation devices **238** and **240** inhibit a current from Link controller **114** or bus **106**, which could otherwise maintain a latch-up condition in PHY controller **110**.

The bus interface recovery circuit **126** also may include a test enable logic **242** circuit that receives a test enable signal **244** from the bus recovery tool **144** of the respective data processing computer **118**, **120**, or **122** via latch **216**. Test enable logic **242** has a first output **246** operatively connected to the current sensor **208** and a second output **248** operatively connected to the current sensor **204**. Test enable logic **242** is operatively configured to send a test signal, such as a ground signal, on the first output **246** and/or the second output **248** to cause the respective current sensor **208** to report a current surge or short circuit in the respective bus interface circuit, Link controller **114** and PHY controller **110**. In one implementation, test enable signal **244** may comprise a collection of signals corresponding to Bits **5** and **7** of Command **300** in FIG. 3. In this implementation, test enable logic **242** sends a test signal on the first output **246** to current sensor **208** when Bit **5** is set to enable a current surge test and Bit **7** is set to select receiving the sensed current level of the Link controller **114**. Similarly, test enable logic **242** sends a test signal on the second output **246** to current sensor **204** when Bit **5** is set to enable a current surge test and Bit **7** is set to select receiving the sensed current level of the PHY controller **110**. Thus, the bus recovery tool **144** of each data processing computer **118**, **120**, and **122** is able to perform a test on whether each current sensor **204** and **208** as well upstream hardware and software components are operative for identifying a radiation-induced error.

Turning to FIG. 4, an exemplary timing diagram **400** is depicted for a frame **402** of messages generated by nodes **102a–102n** under the supervision of bus management tool **142** using methods and systems consistent with the present invention. Messages in the frame **402** are generated following the communication protocol of busses **106** and **108**, such as the IEEE-1394b standard protocol. As shown in FIG. 4, the data processing system **100** is operatively configured to allow nodes **102a–102n** to generate isochronous messages **404**, **406** (e.g., for transfer of video or audio up to a predetermined bandwidth) and asynchronous messages **408**, **410** within each frame **402**. Nodes **102a–102n** may be configured to provide a handshake acknowledge message (not shown in frame **402** of FIG. 4) in response to each of

the asynchronous messages **408**, **410** directed to and received by the respective node **102a–102n**. In one implementation, nodes **102a–102n** do not provide a handshake acknowledge message in response to an asynchronous message **408**, **410** when the asynchronous message **408**, **410** is transmitted using a broadcast channel number as discussed below.

Within data processing system **100**, each node **102a–102n** is assigned a respective one of a plurality of channel numbers so that each node **102a–102n** may selectively direct a message in frame **402** to another node **102a–102n**. In the implementation shown in FIG. 4, data processing system **100** has 4 nodes (e.g., nodes **102a–102n**) that are each assigned a different channel number. Each message of frame **402** has a header (not shown in FIG. 4) including a destination channel number reflecting the destination of the respective message. For example, message **412** of frame **402** has a header that includes a destination channel number **414** that indicates message **412** is directed to channel number “1,” assigned to node **102a**. The header of each message of frame **402** may also include a source channel number reflecting the source of the respective message. Continuing with the example depicted in FIG. 4, message **412** of frame **402** has a source channel number **416** indicating that message **412** was transmitted by the node **102b–102n** assigned to channel number “2” (e.g., node **102b**).

Any channel number not assigned to nodes **102a–102n** may be assigned as a broadcast channel to direct a message to each node in data processing system **100** other than the node transmitting the message. For example, in the implementation shown in FIG. 4, data processing system **100** is configured such that channel number **62** is assigned as a broadcast number and node **102a** transmits message **418** with channel number **62** as the destination channel number, directing other nodes **102b–102n** to respond to message **418**.

As shown in FIG. 4, the data processing system **100** may be further configured so that each frame **402** has a duration of time t corresponding to a nominal refresh rate for all nodes **102a–102n** to generate the messages in frame **402**, such as 10 ms duration for a 100 Hz refresh rate. Frame **402** may be subdivided into a number of minor frames **420**, **422** of a duration that is an integral multiple of the cycle period or length for the busses **106** and **108**. For example, in one implementation in which the communication protocol of bus **106** and **108** corresponds to IEEE-1394 standard protocol, the cycle length is 125 microseconds. In this implementation, the frame **402** may have ten minor frames **420**, **422** and each minor frame **420**, **422** may have eight cycles (e.g., cycles **424**, **426**, and **428**) having a cycle length of 125 microseconds such that each minor frame has a duration of 1 millisecond.

Each node **102a–102n** may be assigned one or more minor frame numbers in which it is authorized to arbitrate for the bus **106** and **108** to transmit an asynchronous message **408** and **410**. For example, in the implementation shown in FIG. 4, node **102a** is assigned channel number “1” and assigned to arbitrate for the bus **106** and **108** in minor frames **420** and **422** to transmit message **418** and message **440**, respectively. In addition, multiple nodes may be assigned to any minor frame **420**, **422** or in any cycle **424**, **426**, and **428** in accordance with a predetermined amount of messages to be transmitted by the nodes **102a–102n** on the bus **106** or **108**.

The bus management tool **142** may be configured to authorize the allocation of bandwidth to any node **102a–102n** requesting to transmit an isochronous message **404** or **406**, to transmit a synchronization message (not

shown in FIG. 4) at the beginning of each frame, and to transmit a cycle start message (not shown in FIG. 4) at the beginning of each minor frame.

Turning to FIG. 5, a flow diagram is shown that illustrates a process performed by the bus management tool 142 of node 102a to detect a bus interface circuit of a node 102a–102n that is experiencing a latch-up or radiation-induced upset error on a bus 106 or 108 and to recover communication on the bus 106 or 108 to the respective node 102a–102n. Initially, the bus management tool 142 of node 102a transmits a “heartbeat” or first message on one or both of the busses 106 and 108 to at least one other node 102b–102n. (Step 502) The “heartbeat” message is at least one of the plurality of messages (e.g., isochronous messages 404, 406 and asynchronous messages 408, 410) transmitted by the nodes 102a–102n in frame 402. The bus management tool 142 may transmit the “heartbeat message” 418 once each frame 402 or once each minor frame 420 and 422 to one node or to all nodes (e.g., via a broadcast message). For example, the bus management tool 142 of node 102a may transmit the “heartbeat” message as broadcast message 418 of frame 402 so that each other node 102b–102n may be expected to respond to the “heartbeat” message on one or both busses 106 and 108 during its response period within the each frame. In the implementation shown in FIG. 4, nodes 102b–102n are assigned channel numbers “2” through “4” and are configured to respond to the “heartbeat” message 418 by transmitting a handshake acknowledge message or a respective reply message (e.g., messages 412, 442, and 444) in the minor frame 420, 422 assigned to each node 102b–102n.

Alternatively, the bus management tool 142 of node 102a may individually transmit the “heartbeat message” to other nodes 102b–102n in the data processing system 100. For example, in the implementation shown in FIG. 6, the bus management tool 142 is configured to transmit separate “heartbeat messages” (e.g., collectively referenced as 602) on bus 106 or 108 to nodes 102b–102n in the frame 604. Each of the nodes 102b–102n receiving the “heartbeat message” 602 may subsequently respond by transmitting a respective handshake acknowledge message (e.g., messages 608, 610, and 612) to the bus management tool 142 hosted on node 102a.

Returning to FIG. 5, after transmitting the “heartbeat” message, the bus management tool 142 determines whether the “heartbeat” message was received by the other of the nodes on the first bus (e.g., bus 106 or 108). (Step 504) If the “heartbeat” message has been transmitted on both busses 106 and 108, the bus management tool may determine whether the “heartbeat” message was received by the other of the nodes on each of the busses 106 and 108. As shown in FIG. 4, the bus management tool 142 may determine that the “heartbeat” message (e.g., 418) was not received by the other nodes 102b–102n if the other nodes 102b–102n fail to transmit the respective reply message (e.g., messages 412, 442, and 444) in the response period or minor frame assigned to each node 102b–102n. Alternatively, the bus management tool 142 may determine that the “heartbeat” message was not received, if the other nodes 102b–102n fail to respond to a respective “heartbeat message” (e.g., respective one of “heartbeat” messages 602 in FIG. 6) within a predetermined period. The bus management tool 142 may also determine that the “heartbeat” message was not received if the handshake acknowledge message or respective reply message (e.g., messages 412, 442, 444, 608, 610,

and 612) identifies a communication error has occurred in association with the “heartbeat” message, such as a checksum error.

If the “heartbeat” message was received, the bus management tool 142 may continue processing at step 502. Thus, the bus management tool 142 is able to continually monitor for any node 102a–102n experiencing a latch-up or radiation induced upset condition on bus 106 or 108 by periodically transmitting a “heartbeat” message to each node 102b–102n on busses 106 and 108.

If the “heartbeat” message was not received, the bus management tool 142 may transmit a second “heartbeat” message to the non-responsive node on the first and/or second bus (e.g., bus 106 or 108). (Step 506) In one implementation, the bus management tool 142 waits until the next frame 402 to transmit the second “heartbeat” message. Alternatively, the bus management tool 142 may transmit the second “heartbeat” message when node 102a or the node hosting the bus management tool 142 is able to gain access to bus 106 or 108.

Next, the bus management tool 142 determines whether the second “heartbeat” message was received by the non-responsive nodes on the first bus (e.g., bus 106 or 108). (Step 508) The bus management tool 142 may determine that the second “heartbeat” message was received using the same techniques discussed above for the first “heartbeat” message.

If the second “heartbeat” message was received, the bus management tool 142 may continue processing at step 502. If the second “heartbeat” message was not received, the bus management tool 142 transmits a recovery command to the non-responsive other node on a second of the plurality of busses. (Step 510) The bus management tool 142 may have previously performed the process 500 to verify that the other node is not experiencing a radiation induced error on the second bus. For example, assuming frame 402 in FIG. 4 is transmitted on primary bus 106 and node 102b (assigned to channel number “2” in this example) fails to transmit message 412 in response to “heartbeat” message 418 or transmits message 412 with an indication that a communication error occurred with “heartbeat” message 418, then the bus management tool 142 may transmit recovery command 143 in a message 702 in a frame 704 on the secondary or unaffected bus 108 as shown in FIG. 7. The message 702 may be transmitted by the bus management tool 142 when the node 102 is next granted access to the secondary or unaffected bus 108. As discussed in further detail below, the non-responsive other node (e.g., node 102b) is configured to re-initialize or cycle power to a bus interface circuit (e.g., PHY controller 110 and/or Link controller 114) operatively connecting the other node to the first bus (e.g., the bus 106 on which node 102b is experiencing a radiation induced error) in response to receiving the recovery command on the second bus (e.g., the bus 108 on which node 102b is not experiencing a radiation induced error).

After transmitting the recovery command to the non-responsive other node, the bus management tool 142 may then terminate processing. The bus management tool 142 may continue to perform the process depicted in FIG. 5 to verify communication is re-established with the non-responsive other node (e.g., node 102b) on the first bus (e.g., the primary bus 106) and to maintain communication on both busses 106 and 108 for all nodes 102a–102n.

FIG. 8 depicts a flow diagram illustrating an exemplary process performed by the bus recovery tool 144 of a node (e.g., node 102b) to clear a bus interface circuit of the node that is experiencing a radiation induced latch-up or upset

error on a bus 106 or 108 as detected by the bus management tool 142. Initially, the bus recovery tool 144 of the node determines whether a recovery command 143 has been received on one of the busses 106 or 108. (Step 802) If a recovery command 143 has not been received on one of the busses 106 or 108, the bus recovery tool 142 may end processing. Alternatively, in one implementation, the bus management tool 142 is configured to thread or perform processes in parallel, and thus may continue processing at step 802.

In the example shown in FIG. 7, the bus recovery tool 144 of node 102b may determine that the recovery command 143 was received in message 702 in frame 704 on the secondary bus 108 after the bus management tool 142 has performed the process in FIG. 5 to detect that PHY controller 110 of node 102b, Link controller 114 of node 102b, or both are experiencing a radiation induced latch-up or upset error on primary bus 106.

If a recovery command 143 has been received on one of the busses 106 or 108, the bus recovery tool 144 re-initializes or cycles power to the bus interface circuit (e.g., PHY controller or Link controller) corresponding to the second or other bus of the node experiencing a radiation induced error. (Step 804) Continuing with the example of FIG. 7, the bus recovery tool 144 of node 102b may re-initialize the PHY controller 110, the Link controller 114, or both that are operatively connected to the primary or affected bus 106 in response to receiving the recovery command 143 on the secondary or unaffected bus 108. To re-initialize the PHY controller 110 and the Link controller 114, the bus recovery tool 144 of node 102b may transmit one or more control messages 300 in FIG. 3 to the respective bus interface recovery circuit 126 or 128 of the node 102b so that power controllers 206 and 210 re-cycle power to the PHY controller 110 and the Link controller 114 as discussed above in reference to FIG. 2.

Next, the bus recovery tool 144 transmits a message on the second or unaffected one of the busses 106 or 108 indicating communication has been restored. (Step 806) In the implementation in FIG. 7, to indicate that communication has been restored for node 102b on the primary bus 106, the bus recovery tool 144 transmits the message 710 to the bus management tool 142 of node 102a in frame 704. Alternatively, the bus recovery tool 144 may transmit the message 412 on the primary bus 106 in the next frame 402 in response to receiving the "heartbeat" message 418 from the bus management tool 144 as discussed above. To ensure communication has been restored on the first or affected one of the busses 106 and 108, bus recovery tool 144 may read the current level via the respective current sensors 204 and 208 of the node 102b to determine whether the current level is below the predetermined level (e.g., 200 milliamps or more) corresponding to a radiation-induced glitch or short circuit. After transmitting the message 710 or 412 indicating communication has been restored, the bus recovery tool 144 may end processing as shown in FIG. 8.

FIG. 9 depicts a flow diagram illustrating an exemplary process 900 performed by the bus recovery tool 144 of each node 102a-102n to detect a bus interface circuit of the node that is experiencing a radiation induced latch-up or upset error on a bus 106 or 108 and to clear the detected latch-up or upset error. Thus, by performing process 900, each node 102a-102n may automatically recover from a latch-up or single event functional interrupt caused by a radiation induced glitch or current surge on a bus interface circuits 110, 112, 114, or 114 operatively connected to respective bus 106 or 108. Initially, the bus recovery tool 144 of a respec-

tive node 102a-102n senses a current level on a bus interface circuit (e.g., PHY controller 110 or 112, or Link controller 112 or 116). (Step 902) As discussed above, the bus recovery tool 144 may provide an enable signal 224 (e.g., Bit 6 of control message 300 in FIG. 3) to the bus interface recovery circuit 126 and 128 to selectively cause the bus interface recovery circuit to report the sensed current level of PHY controller 110, 112 or the sensed current level of Link controller 114, 116 when the output signal 234 of switch 232 is set to correspond to the channel designated by enable signal 224. The bus recovery tool 144 provides a second enable signal (e.g., Bit 7 of control message 300) to select receiving the sensed current level of the PHY controller 110, 112 or the Link controller 114, 116.

Next, the bus recovery tool 144 of the node 102a-102n determines whether the sensed current level on the bus as received by the corresponding bus interface circuit (e.g., PHY controller 110 or 112, or Link controller 114 or 116) exceeds a predetermined level, such as that corresponding to a radiation induced glitch or surge. (Step 904) If the sensed current level does not exceed a predetermined level, the bus recovery tool 144 ends processing. If the sensed current level on the bus corresponding to the bus interface circuit 110, 112, 114, or 116 exceeds the predetermined level, the bus recovery tool 144 of the node 102a-102n re-initializes or cycles power to the respective bus interface circuit 110, 112, 114, or 116. (Step 906) For example, assuming that the bus recovery tool 144 of node 102a determines that the sensed current level on the primary bus 106 corresponding to the PHY controller 110 in FIG. 1 exceeds the predetermined level corresponding to a radiation induced surge on the primary bus 106, the bus recovery tool 144 of node 102a may automatically re-initialize the PHY controller 110 of node 102a by toggling bit 2 in one or more control messages 300 to bus interface recovery circuit 126 of node 102a so that power is cycled to PHY controller 110. One skilled the art would appreciate that the bus recovery tool 144 may detect and clear a radiation induced latch-up or upset on PHY controller 112 and Link controllers 114 and 116 in a like manner via corresponding power enable signals (e.g., Bits 4, 1 and 3 of control message 300).

In one implementation, each bus interface recovery circuit 126 and 128 may have a dedicated bus recovery tool 144 suitable for use with methods and systems consistent with the present invention to allow automatic recovery from a radiation induced latch-up or upset condition detected by the dedicated bus recovery tool 144 on a bus 106 or 108. In this implementation, each bus interface recovery circuit 126 and 128 has a CPU 1002 and a memory 1004 containing the bus recovery tool 144 as shown in FIG. 10. The CPU 1002 is operatively connected to memory 1004, latch 216, and multiplexer 220 so that bus recovery tool 144 residing in memory 1004 may perform process 900 as described above to automatically detect and clear a radiation induced latch-up or upset condition associated with bus interface circuit 110, 112, 114, or 116. In this implementation, the bus recovery tool 144 may send a control message 300 directly to latch 216 and monitor a sensed current level directly from multiplexer 220. As shown in FIG. 10, the CPU 1002 may also be operatively connected to the backplane or second network 124 so that the bus recovery tool 144 may perform process 800 and respond to a recovery command 143 from the bus management tool 142 on the bus 106 or 108.

FIG. 11 depicts a block diagram of another vehicle data processing system 1100 suitable for practicing methods and implementing systems consistent with the present invention. The data processing system 1100 also includes a plurality of

15

nodes **102a–102n** operatively connected to a network **1102** having a primary bus **106** and a secondary bus **1104**. In this implementation, the secondary bus **1104** is a different type of bus than the primary bus **106**. For example, the primary bus **106** may be configured to implement a first communication protocol such as a IEEE-1394b cable based network protocol and the secondary bus **1104** may be a multi-drop bus, such as an Inter-IC or I²C bus. In this implementation, the secondary bus **1104** connects the bus management tool **142** in node **102a** to a bus interface recovery circuit **126** in each of the nodes **102a–102n** of the data processing system **1100**, such that the bus management tool **142** and the bus interface recovery tool **144** of node **102a** may control the respective bus interface recovery circuit **126** of each node **102a–102n** in accordance with methods consistent with the present invention.

As shown in FIG. **11**, each node **102a–102n** has at least one bus interface circuit (e.g., a PHY controller **110** and/or a Link controller **114**) to operatively connect a data processing computer **118**, **120**, and **122** of the respective node **102a–102n** to the primary bus **106**. Each data processing computer **118**, **120**, and **122** is operatively connected to the bus interface circuit via a second network **124** as described above for data processing system **100**. In one implementation, the PHY controller **110**, the Link controller **114**, and the bus interface recovery circuit **126** or **128** may be incorporated into a single network interface card **127**.

In this implementation, when performing the process depicted in FIG. **5**, the bus management tool **142** may detect a bus interface circuit (e.g., circuit **110** or **114**) of a node that is experiencing a radiation induced latch-up or upset error on the primary bus **106** and send a recovery command to recover communication on the primary bus **106** to the unresponsive node on the secondary bus **1104** so that the bus recovery tool **144** may perform the process depicted in FIG. **8** to recover communication on the primary bus **106** for the unresponsive node.

Since the secondary bus **1104** connects the bus management tool **142** to the bus interface recovery circuit **126** of each node **102a–102n**, the bus management tool **142** may, in lieu of or in response to sending a recovery command on the secondary bus, cause the bus recovery tool **144** of node **102a** to re-initialize or cycle power to the bus interface circuit (e.g., PHY controller or Link controller) of the node experiencing a radiation induced error. To re-initialize the PHY controller **110** and the Link controller **114**, the bus recovery tool **144** of node **102a** may transmit one or more control messages **300** in FIG. **3** via bus **1104** to the respective bus interface recovery circuit **126** of the unresponsive node **102a–n** so that power controllers **206** and **210** re-cycle power to the PHY controller **110** and the Link controller **114** as discussed above in reference to FIG. **2**. In one implementation, the recovery command may comprise the one or more control messages **300** for effecting the re-initialization of the bus interface circuit of the unresponsive node **102a–n**.

The foregoing description of an implementation of the invention has been presented for purposes of illustration and description. It is not exhaustive and does not limit the invention to the precise form disclosed. Modifications and variations are possible in light of the above teachings or may be acquired from practicing of the invention. Additionally, the described implementation includes software, such as the bus management tool, but the present invention may be implemented as a combination of hardware and software or in hardware alone. Note also that the implementation may vary between systems. The invention may be implemented

16

with both object-oriented and non-object-oriented programming systems. The claims and their equivalents define the scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A network interface apparatus comprising:

a bus interface circuit for operatively connecting a network interface card to a data bus, wherein the bus interface circuit is a physical layer controller;

a power controller operatively connected to the bus interface circuit;

a first current sensor operatively connected to the bus interface circuit to sense a first current level in the bus interface circuit; and

means for determining whether the first sensed current level exceeds a predetermined level and for causing the power controller to cycle power to the bus interface circuit in response to determining that the first sensed current level exceeds the predetermined level;

a link layer controller operatively connected to the data bus via the physical layer controller;

a second power controller operatively connected to the link layer controller; and

a second current sensor operatively connected to the link layer controller to sense a second current level in the link layer controller;

wherein the means for determining and for causing further comprises means for determining whether the second sensed current level exceeds the predetermined level and for causing the power controller to cycle power to the physical layer controller and the second power controller to cycle power to the link layer controller in response to determining that one of the first sensed current level or the second sensed current level exceeds the predetermined level.

2. A network interface apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a switch operatively configured to select one of the first and second current sensors to report the selected sensed current level to the means for determining whether the selected sensed current level exceeds the predetermined level and for causing the power controller to cycle power to the bus interface circuit in response to determining that the selected sensed current level exceeds the predetermined level.

3. A network interface apparatus of claim 2, further comprising

a terminal operatively connected between another data bus and the switch; and

a latch operatively configured to receive an enable signal via the terminal and to provide the enable signal to the switch to allow one of the first and second current sensors to continuously report the selected sensed current level on the other data bus.

4. A network interface apparatus of claim 3 further comprising a bus switch operatively connected to the power controller and between the bus interface circuit and the terminal, the bus switch being operatively configured to isolate the bus interface circuit when the power controller cycles power to the bus interface circuit.

5. A network interface apparatus of claim 4, wherein re-initializing the bus interface circuit comprises inhibiting a current from the physical layer controller from reaching the link layer controller.

6. A network interface apparatus of claim 4, wherein re-initializing the bus interface circuit comprises inhibiting a current from the link layer controller from reaching the physical layer controller.

17

7. A network interface apparatus of claim 1, further comprising means for selectively causing the current sensor to sense a current level that exceeds the predetermined level.

8. A network interface apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a second bus interface circuit for operatively connecting the network interface card to a second data bus;

a second power controller operatively connected to the second bus interface circuit;

a third current sensor operatively connected to the second bus interface circuit to sense a third current level in the second bus interface circuit; and

means for determining whether the sensed third current level exceeds a second predetermined level and for automatically causing the second power controller to cycle power to the second bus interface circuit in response to determining that the sensed third current level exceeds the second predetermined level.

9. A network interface apparatus of claim 8, wherein the current level in the bus interface circuit and the second current level in the second bus interface circuit are sensed substantially simultaneously.

10. A method in a data processing system including a network having a data bus, the method comprising:

sensing a current level in a bus interface circuit operatively connecting a node on the network to the data bus; determining whether the sensed current level exceeds a predetermined level; and

re-initializing the bus interface circuit in response to determining that the sensed current level exceeds the predetermined level,

wherein the bus interface circuit is one of a plurality of bus interface circuits of the node operatively connecting the node to the data bus and sensing a current level comprises selecting the sensed current level associated with one of the plurality of bus interface circuits;

wherein a first one of the plurality of bus interface circuits is a physical layer controller;

wherein re-initializing the first one of the plurality of bus interface circuits comprises inhibiting a current from a power bus from reaching the physical layer controller; and

wherein a second of the plurality of bus interface circuits is a link layer controller and re-initializing the second of the plurality of bus interface circuits comprises inhibiting a current from the link layer controller from reaching the physical layer controller.

11. A method of claim 10, further comprising providing a test signal to one of the plurality of bus interface circuits to cause the sensed current level to exceed the predetermined level.

12. A method of claim 10 wherein re-initializing one of the plurality of bus interface circuits is completed within a period equal to or greater than 10 milliseconds.

13. A method of claim 10, wherein the current levels in the first and second of the plurality of bus interface circuits are sensed substantially simultaneously.

14. A computer-readable medium containing instructions causing a program in a data processing system to perform a method, the data processing system including a network having a data bus, the method comprising:

sensing a current level in a bus interface circuit operatively connecting a node on the network to the data bus;

determining whether the sensed current level exceeds a predetermined level; and

18

re-initializing the bus interface circuit in response to determining that the sensed current level exceeds the predetermined level,

wherein the bus interface circuit is one of a plurality of bus interface circuits of the node operatively connecting the node to the data bus and sensing a current level comprises selecting the sensed current level associated with one of the plurality of bus interface circuits;

wherein a first one of the plurality of bus interface circuits is a physical layer controller;

wherein re-initializing the first one of the plurality of bus interface circuits comprises inhibiting a current from a power bus from reaching the physical layer controller; and

wherein a second of the plurality of bus interface circuits is a link layer controller and re-initializing the second of the plurality of bus interface circuits comprises inhibiting a current from the link layer controller from reaching the physical layer controller.

15. A computer-readable medium of claim 14, further comprising providing a test signal to one of the plurality of bus interface circuits to cause the sensed current level to exceed the predetermined level.

16. A computer-readable medium of claim 14 wherein re-initializing one of the plurality of bus interface circuits is completed within a period equal to or greater than 10 milliseconds.

17. A computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the current levels in the first and second of the plurality of bus interface circuits are sensed substantially simultaneously.

18. A network interface apparatus, comprising:

a bus interface circuit for operatively connecting a network interface card to a first bus;

a power controller operatively connected to the bus interface circuit;

a first current sensor operatively connected to the bus interface circuit to sense a first current level in the bus interface circuit; and

means for determining whether the first sensed current level exceeds a predetermined level and for causing the power controller to cycle power to the bus interface circuit in response to determining that the first sensed current level exceeds the predetermined level,

wherein the bus interface circuit is a physical layer controller and the network interface apparatus further comprises:

a link layer controller operatively connected to the bus via the physical layer controller;

a second power controller operatively connected to the link layer controller; and a second current sensor operatively connected to the link layer controller to sense a second current level in the link layer controller,

wherein the means for determining and for causing further comprises means for determining whether the second sensed current level exceeds the predetermined level and for causing the power controller to cycle power to the physical layer controller and the second power controller to cycle power to the link layer controller in response to determining that one of the sensed current level or the second sensed current level exceeds the predetermined level.

19. A network interface apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a switch operatively configured to select one of the first and second current sensors to report the selected sensed current level to the means for determining whether the sensed current level exceeds the predetermined level and for causing the power controller to cycle power to the bus

19

interface circuit in response to determining that the sensed current level exceeds the predetermined level.

20. A network interface apparatus of claim **19**, further comprising

a terminal operatively connected between a second bus 5 and the switch; and

a latch operatively configured to receive an enable signal via the terminal and to provide the enable signal to the switch to allow one of the first and second current sensors to continuously report the selected sensed current level on the second bus. 10

21. A network interface apparatus of claim **20** further comprising a bus switch operatively connected to the power controller and the bus upstream from the bus interface

20

circuit, the bus switch being operatively configured to isolate the bus interface circuit when the power controller cycles power to the bus interface circuit.

22. A network interface apparatus of claim **21**, wherein re-initializing the bus interface circuit comprises inhibiting a current from the physical layer controller from reaching the link layer controller.

23. A network interface apparatus of claim **21**, wherein and re-initializing the bus interface circuit comprises inhibiting a current from the link layer controller from reaching the physical layer controller.

* * * * *