

1st International Conference on Scientific and Innovative Studies

April 18-20, 2023 : Konya, Turkey

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A CAN Bus-Based Efficient Design for a Simple Autonomous Vehicle (AV)

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Abstract – The development of autonomous vehicles (AVs) has gained significant attention in recent years due to their potential benefits in terms of increased safety, reduced traffic congestion, and improved energy efficiency. Various types of Controller Area Network (CAN) bus protocols in AVs are crucial for their proper functioning. This paper presents an efficient design of a basic autonomous vehicle based on various CAN bus types. The proposed design incorporates a multi-protocol CAN bus system that enables efficient communication between the different components of the AV. The system is designed to be scalable and adaptable to future advancements in autonomous driving. The paper also discusses the challenges faced during the design process and the solutions to overcome them. Simulation results demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed design, highlighting its reliability and robustness in various driving scenarios. Overall, the proposed design can be a foundation for developing more advanced AVs and pave the way toward safer and more efficient transportation systems.

Keywords - Autonomous Vehicles, CANoe, Controller Area Network, Electronic Control Unit, Matlab

I. INTRODUCTION

A vehicle that operates without human input or control is autonomous. Autonomous vehicles (AVs) can sense their surroundings using a combination of cameras, LiDAR, radar, and other electronic control units (ECUs), and then use these data to navigate and make decisions in real time [1][2].Several authors have proposed architectural models for the technical and functional design, development, and deployment of AV systems to facilitate a successful product development life cycle and eliminate the need for each AV development to reinvent the wheel. [3].

From a functional viewpoint, AVs are made up of functional or logical blocks, which are defined by the information flow and processing phases from data collecting to the vehicle control system, including the internal monitoring of the vehicle. Perception, planning and decision, motion and vehicle control, and system supervision are the four main functional blocks that can be found in the majority of the proposed architectures and solutions from both academia and industry[1][3][4][5][6].The four primary functional modules of the AV system process ECU-collected vehicular data, as shown in Fig. 1.

In the perception stage, ECUs collect data about the vehicle's environment, which is transmitted via the inra_vehicle_network (IVN) such as Controller Area Network (CAN) bus to the AV's central computing unit. In the planning and decisionmaking stage, the AV's computing unit uses artificial intelligence algorithms to analyze the data and make decisions about the vehicle's movements[7]. Finally, in the control stage, the AV's control system uses the CAN bus to execute the planned movements by sending commands to





various components, such as the engine, brakes, and steering system. The CAN bus plays a critical role in enabling real-time communication between these stages, allowing the AV to operate safely and efficiently.

The primary objective of the perception stage in AVs is to accurately and reliably perceive the surrounding environment through a combination of ECUs such as cameras, LiDAR, radar, and other ECUs. It is responsible for identifying and tracking objects and obstacles such as other vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists, road signs, lane markings, and traffic signals in real-time. It also helps in estimating the speed, distance, and direction of these objects to enable safe and effective decision making by the autonomous vehicle[3][5].

The CAN is a type of asynchronous serial bus multi-master protocol in which all ECUs have equal access rights and is widely used for in-vehicle communication [6]. It is the most famous bus standard for automotive applications. The

protocol is on the lower two OSI layers (physical and data link protocol). The CAN bus has an arbitration method based on the CSMA/CD (Carrier Sense Multiple Access with Collision Deterction) with the AMP technique (supporting Arbitration on Message Priority) [8].

The CAN bus versions are classical CAN, CAN FD (Flexible Data Rate), and CAN XL(eXtra Large). Classical CAN (ISO11898-1), reliably connects ECUs at 1 Mbps. CAN FD, known as ISO 11898-2, is a newer CAN bus that supports 8 Mbps data transfer. The latest CAN bus, ISO 11898-3 or CAN XL, is under development. It supports data transfer rates up to 10 Gbps[9][10].

The CAN bus plays a crucial role in connecting and communicating with both the external and

internal ECUs in an AV [11][12][13]. External ECUs such as cameras, lidars, radars, and GPS systems provide critical data about the vehicle's surroundings, while internal ECUs such as accelerometers and temperature ECUs provide about the vehicle's information internal environment. The CAN bus enables the real-time exchange of data between these ECUs and the AV's central computer. The AV's central computer uses machine learning algorithms and other technologies to analyze the information and make decisions about the vehicle's trajectory, speed, and other parameters [5][14][15]. This communication is critical for the safe operation of an AV, as it relies on the accuracy and timeliness of ECU data to make decisions about its movements.

As a result of the fact that a modern intra-vehicle communication system is almost always composed of a multiple subnetworks operating with a variety of communication protocols, automotive gateways, which serve as the interfaces between the various subnetworks [16], are vital to the intra-vehicle communication network overall and should under no circumstances be disregarded [17].

In a communication system, an automotive gateway can typically perform one of three different functions. In order to facilitate the transmission of data across various subnetworks, it may first work as a protocol bridge. The most traditional function of a gateway is also this one. Second, it can be used to "expand" network bandwidth, where the gateway is connected to other subnetworks of the same protocol in order to prevent one network section from becoming overloaded. Thirdly, a gateway can serve as a firewall, preventing unauthorized attempts to access the network from the outside and reducing undesirable disruptions. [17].

Relevant work examining the impact of CAN bus performance and comparing it with IVN is summarized in Table 1. The following are ways in which this paper contributes:

1) Designing a basic model of the AV based on different CAN bus standards by investigating the impact of the AV's internal and external ECUs on the CAN bus

2) Adapting the topology of the CAN network

Reference	Focus	Scenario	Verification
[18]		CAN-FD-8-byte and CAN networks were examined. Four ECUs exchange more than 40 messages in the simulation network. CAN-FD outperformed CAN for network message busload and WCRT.	Simulation using CANoe
[19]		The authors measured CAN and CAN FD bus transmission times for a network of two ECUs, one sending and one receiving data. Data bytes and messages were correlated. CAN FD outperformed CAN when flashing large amounts of data to the ECU.	Simulation using CANoe
[20]	Measure the performance of	A CAN FD network that sent time- and event-based SAE benchmark message set was examined. The CAN FD protocol improves real-time control system message delay and bus utilization in simulations.	Simulation using MATLAB
[21]	a CAN bus	FSAE standards were used to measure busload and response time for four electric vehicle ECUs.	Simulation using CANoe with hardware
[22]		J1939 and ISO 11783 were used to simulate and analyze an agricultural machine vehicle network. They compared CAN and CAN FD network performance (8 and 64 bytes). Three ECUs and a virtual terminal comprised the simulated network. CAN FD had lower busload, WCRT, and jitter than CAN.	Simulation using CANoe
[23]		Queuing analysis-based CAN, CAN-FD, and Automotive Ethernet analytical models estimated response time. The 81-message CAN bus connects six ECUs in CAN and CAN FD.	Simulations using OMNET++
[24]	Connecting with other IVN The authors created three communication protocols—LIN, classical CAN, a FlexRay—and a gateway protocol to transfer messages between them.		Simulation using CANoe with Hardware
[25]	using the gateway	The authors investigated how CAN bus structure affects transmission performance. The multi-level-bus CAN network with a gateway reduced busload and message delay in simulations.	Simulation using CANoe
[26]	Derfermen	Ring and star network topologies were compared by busload for four ECUs. The star topology outperformed the ring topology.	Simulation using CANoe
[27]	comparison with other IVN	The authors compared FlexRay and CAN-Bus latency. CAN-Bus is better for hard-time systems, and FlexRay is good for low-priority deterministic data transfer.	Hardware using HSC12 microcontrollers
[28]		Classical CAN network performance was analyzed. Compared to classical CAN+LIN, CAN has a 2.7% faster average transmission speed.	Simulation using CANoe

Table 1. Summary of Existing Studies on CAN Bus Performance

based on the performance findings that were received, which led to an increase in performance and a decrease in delay

3) Giving the recommended characteristics of a multi-protocol CAN bus system for AV model development.

The following is the rest of this paper: Section II briefly explains the AV external ECUs and Research methodology is presented in Section III. simulation scenarios and results details in Section IV. Finally, concluding remarks are presented in Section V.

II. AV EXTERNAL ECUS

ECUs quantify the sensed events or environmental changes for subsequent processing. ECUs must provide a perceptive and locational view of the environment so the vehicle can make realtime decisions.

This section provides a brief introduction to each

of the four basic ECUs for environmental perception in AV applications: camera, radar, INS and the LiDAR ECUs will be used in this research.

A. Camera

Vision Detection Generator ECU blocks are composed of a camera ECU and a monocular camera ECU. The configuration data for a camera comprises both intrinsic and extrinsic parameters. (The camera's focal length and optical center) and extrinsic parameters (pitch, yaw, and roll) [29].

B. Radar

Radio Detection and Ranging, or RADAR, is operated by producing electromagnetic waves within the area of interest and receiving scattered waves (or reflections) from targets to analyze signals and determine range information. It estimates the relative speed and location of known obstacles effect using the Doppler of electromagnetic waves [30].

Medium-Range Radar (MRR), Long-Range Radar (LRR), and Short-Range Radar (SRR) are the three main categories of vehicle radar systems.

C. INS

An inertial navigation system (INS) is one of the positional ECUs used to calculate a vehicle's pose (position and orientation) and velocity.

D. LiDAR

LiDAR is an acronym that stands for Light Detection and Ranging. LiDAR works by using rotating lenses to produce laser or infrared light pulses and measuring how long it takes for each light pulse to reflect.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The AV's external ECUs derive their data from the vehicle's surrounding environment, which is configured using Driving Scenario Designer application in Matlab. Then, these data is transferred to CANoe to study its combined effect with the data of the AV's internal ECUs on the CAN bus.

This section explains the requirements that need to be prepared for the proposed network, including the roads that will be simulated in Matlab and the proposed scheme for integrating the Matlab/CANoe programs, in addition to the specifications of the external ECUs and internal messages.

Α. Roads Traffic Map

Fig. 2 generally describes the situation in terms of the vehicles. It shows two roads that cross, the blue Ego vehicle and two other yellow and red vehicles. Each vehicle has its own set of waypoints, as well as the speed (in meters per second) and wait time (in seconds) for each one. As shown in the scene, the barriers are installed, and the pedestrians are scattered on both sides of the road.

Table 2 shows the types and numbers of external ECUs used in addition to the maximum number of detection objects for the camera and radar. Table 3



represents the delay deadline communication requirements of each ECU [9].

Two scenes will be simulated to test the system. Their specifications of them are shown in Table 4. In the first scene, the ego's vehicle travels along a busy road (like a mall road or something similar).

Table 2. T	ypes of external ECUS	

ECU type	Number of ECUs	Maximum number of detection objects
Camera	4	11 object, 2 lanes
Radar	6	20 objects
INS	1	-
LiDAR	1	-

Table 3. delay deadline requirements for AVs

ECU	Delay Deadline (ms)
Lidar	10
Radar	10
Camera	10
Normal control	5~50
Critical control	0.1

Table 4. More crowded road and less crowded road scenes

Scene Name	Number of Pedestrian	Number of Barrier	Number of vehicles
More Crowded	70	2	3
Less Crowded	24	0	2

The second scene is similar to the first, but the road is less busy (fewer objects).

The simulation's two scenes will be created Matlab's Driving Scenario Designer using application. It enables us to identify the route, the ego vehicle that contains the decision-making agent, and the actors, which include all other participants in the situation. The probable actors are grouped into three categories: vehicles, pedestrians, and barriers.

A Birds-eye plot of the selected ECU suite is shown in Fig. 3(a) (a close-up of Fig. 4 that will be illustrated later) that represents the general description of the scene, Fig. 3(b) is included to



Fig. 3. (a) A Birds-eye plot (b) ECU positioning and placement on Ego vehicle



a)before detection

Fig. 4. Actors detected by ECUs

provide a clearer view of Fig 3 (a). ECU positioning and placement can be found on the Ego vehicle.

Fig. 4(a) shows how the road looked before the ECUs found the actors on the ego vehicle. Fig. 4(b) shows the actors' detection points within the ECUs' coverage area, as an example, at the moment of the beginning of running the driving scene.

B. Matlab/CANoe Integration

When simulating the internal ECUs, only the canoe program will be used, whereas the CANoe/Matlab integration will be used when simulating the external ECUs.. Fig. 5 shows the scheme proposed in this work and the integration relationship between Matlab/CANoe, starting from creating the scene in Matlab in order for the vehicle's external ECUs to obtain their data from the surrounding environment, and ending with placing external and internal ECUs data on the CAN bus.



Fig. 5. The proposed scheme



Fig. 6. Illustration of the simulated network

Fig. 6 shows the simulated network in the CANoe environment, which contains 18 different ECUs. Those ECUs exchange messages over three types of CAN buses.

 TABLE 5. Specifications of the camera and radar that will be changed

Camera parameters	value	value	
Detection		Azimuth field of view(°)	
Range(meter)	25	Long range Mid range Short range	45 90 90
Horizontal Field of View (°)	90	azimuth resolution (°)	4
Bit Rate(bps)	500 000	Bit Rate(bps)	500 000
Update Interval (m sec)	100	Update Interval (m sec)	100

Table 6. The specifications of LiDAR ecu

LiDAR Sensor parameters							
Bit rate(Mbps) 10 AzimuthResolution(°) 0.							
Max Range(m)	20	ElevationResolution(°)	2				
RangeAccuracy(°)	0.03	ElevationLimits(°)	[-15 15]				
Frames per Second (FPS)	[-180 180]						

C. Exteroceptive ECUs of Autonomous Vehicles's specifications

Table 5 shows the characteristics of cameras and radars, which we will modify one by one and Table 6 shows the detailed specifications of the LiDAR. We set camera and radar specifications based on their changeable specifications [35,36]. We do this for the purpose of studying the effect of changing ECUs on the CAN bus. We set on what was

				17	IDEE	7.010	. T D Simulat	.on meas	age bet					
ID	Туре	[messages/ms]	payload [bytes]	sender	ID	Туре	[messages/ms]	payload [bytes]	sender	ID	Туре	[messages/ms]	payload [bytes]	sender
1	р	0.02	8	3	28	р	0.01	8	1	55	р	0.0078	8	6
2	s	0.03	8	3	29	s	0.03	8	1	56	р	0.01	8	1
3	р	0.02	8	3	30	р	0.01	8	1	57	s	0.03	8	4
4	s	0.03	8	3	31	s	0.03	8	1	58	р	0.004	3	4
5	s	0.03	8	3	32	р	0.05	8	4	59	р	0.002	8	4
6	р	0.02	8	3	33	s	0.03	8	4	60	р	0.002	8	4
7	s	0.03	8	1	34	р	0.002	8	4	61	р	0.002	7	4
8	s	0.03	8	3	35	р	0.05	8	4	62	р	0.002	8	4
9	р	0.02	8	3	36	р	0.002	8	4	63	s	0.03	2	4
10	s	0.03	8	3	37	р	0.05	8	4	64	р	0.01	8	4
11	s	0.03	8	3	38	s	0.03	8	3	65	р	0.01	8	4
12	s	0.03	8	6	39	р	0.05	8	4	66	р	0.01	8	4
13	р	0.01	8	1	40	р	0.005	8	3	67	р	0.01	8	4
14	р	0.01	8	3	41	р	0.01	8	4	68	р	0.01	8	4
15	р	0.01	8	1	42	р	0.01	8	5	69	р	0.01	6	4
16	р	0.01	8	3	43	s	0.03	8	5	70	s	0.03	8	4
17	s	0.03	8	3	44	р	0.01	8	5	71	s	0.03	8	4
18	р	0.01	8	1	45	s	0.03	8	5	72	р	0.005	8	4
19	s	0.03	8	1	46	р	0.02	8	5	73	р	0.005	8	4
20	р	0.01	8	1	47	s	0.03	8	5	74	р	0.005	8	4
21	р	0.01	8	2	48	р	0.02	8	5	75	s	0.03	8	4
22	р	0.002	8	2	49	s	0.03	8	6	76	р	0.005	8	4
23	р	0.002	8	2	50	р	0.01	8	6	77	р	0.005	8	4
24	s	0.03	8	2	51	s	0.03	8	6	78	р	0.005	2	4
25	р	0.002	8	2	52	р	0.01	8	6	79	р	0.02	1	3
26	р	0.01	8	3	53	р	0.0078	8	6	80	р	0.01	2	3
27	S	0.03	8	3	54	s	0.03	8	6	81	р	0.005	2	3

TABLE 7. CAN-FD simulation message set

concluded from the previous results, which showed how each type of ECU independently affected the busload, The intranetwork of the AV will be configured to accommodate all ECU types with minimal complexity, the worst case response time (WCRT) will also be calculated.

D. Internal ECUs of Autonomous Vehicles's specifications

In the experimental vehicle there are six internal ECUs1 are connected to a single CAN bus in the experimental vehicle to support 81 message types [23] [37]. Table 7 shows the attributes of these messages, of which 27 are aperiodic and 54 are periodic.

IV. SIMULATION SCENARIO AND RESULTS (*Overall ECUS EFFECT*)

The CAN network of the AV will be configured to accommodate all ECU types with minimal complexity, the WCRT will also be calculated. In this scenario, we will measure the WCRT and study the effect of the combined ECUs with various data rates .

The busload and FPS were obtained using the CANoe statistics tool. The Vector CAN programming language using CAPL, it is also feasible to acquire the message response time by collecting the time measurement when a message is queued to be delivered to the network by one ECU and another time measurement when another ECU receives this message in the network. First, the time was measured using the *timeNow()* function (which returns simulation time in 10 microseconds) and saved in a system variable. Then, when the ECU got the message, the time was measured again, and the time from when the message sent was subtracted. The code shown in Fig. 7 was used to set up the program to measure the WCRT.

// Save the current time whenever a message is transmitted
Now_Time = timeNow();
@cam1rt::rt.m1=Now_Time
// Whenever a message is received, calculate WCRT
if(this.id == ID)
{ Past_Time =@cam1rt::rt.m1
Now_Time = timeNow();
differance_Time =Now Time - Past_Time;
if(differance_Time < worst_Time)
worst_Time = differance_Time;}
<i>if</i> (<i>worst_Time</i> !=0)
write("msg_ID=xx worst_case_response_time=%d ms ",
worst Time /100);

Fig. 7. The code instrumentation to obtain the WCRT

We conclude that it is not possible to collect the effect of all ECUs on the vehicle on one bus network because the bus load exceeds its maximum capacity by 100%, which necessitated us to use subnets and connect them using the gateway, We noticed that the LiDAR external ECU, which had a 24-byte payload, worked well with the CAN FD network. The other external ECUs, such as the camera, radar, and INS, worked well with the traditional CAN. With a payload of 8 bytes, the CAN FD suits the internal ECUs. Thus, the three subnetworks above will be connected using the gateway.

Table 8 and Table 9 shows the busload and the FPS of the ECUs in each bus for two different bit



TABLE 8. Busload of all ecus over various CAN bus

TABLE 9. FPS of all ECUs over various CAN bus



¹ECU_1 to ECU_6 represent the different internal ECUs in electric vehicles, such as: the vehicle controller (V/C), the batteries (Battery), the inverter/motor controller (I/MC), brakes (Brakes), the instrument panel display (INS) and the transmission control (Trans)[38][39]

rates for both scenes, respectively. The CAN FD was appropriate for internal ECU messages. For the external ECUs, like the LiDAR, the CAN FD with the highest bit rate was the right choice, while the traditional CAN was appropriate for the other external units.

Finally, Fig. 8 illustrates the relationship between the priority of the ECUs' messages for three buses and two different bit rates and the WCRT. As shown in Fig. 8, the WCRT drops when a message with a higher priority than other messages on the network is sent. It emphasizes the significance of the the message's priority. By comparing the results obtained for the final simulation network, all ECUs were within the acceptable limits of busload or deadline delay (depending on Table 3), except the lidar, which breached the acceptable limit when using CAN FD with a 5 Mbps bit rate. However, in the case of using 10 Mbps, the delay was within acceptable limits.



(a) WCRT for LiDAR messages

V. CONCLUSION





c)WCRT for external ECUs messages except LiDAR

Fig. 8. worst-case response time for all ECUs messages over CAN

This paper presents an efficient design of a basic autonomous vehicle based on various CAN bus protocols. The proposed design incorporates a multi-protocol CAN bus system that enables efficient communication between the different components of the AV. The system is designed to be scalable and adaptable to future advancements in autonomous driving. Table 10 lists the recommended CAN network characteristics for AV model development. The comparison of our work with the most relevant previous research is shown in Table 11.

The simulations' results demonstrate the proposed design's effectiveness, highlighting its reliability and robustness in various driving scenarios. The use of a multi-protocol CAN bus system enhances the efficiency of communication between different components of the AV, leading to improved performance and reduced latency. The challenges faced during the design process were addressed by adopting appropriate solutions. These include using redundant CAN Bus systems, fine tuning the ECUs performance, and the CAN Bus load control mechanisms.

The proposed design can be a foundation for developing more advanced AVs, paving the way toward safer and more efficient transportation systems. It can be used as a basis for the development of future AVs with enhanced

Parameters	Network_1	Network_2	Network_3
CAN, CAN_FD	CAN_FD	CAN	CAN_FD
Bit rate (bps)	5 M	500 K	10 M
DLC (byte)	8	8	24
Number of	6	11	1
ECUs			
ECUa	Internal ECUs	Camera , Radar	LiDAR
ECUS	Internal ECUS	and INS	

TABLE 10. CAN network characteristics for AV model development

TABLE 11. Comparison among this work and previous related works

Issue	[18]	[20]	[21]	[22]	[23]	This work
Busload and WCRT	~	✓	~	~	\checkmark	~
Comparative with CAN FD	~	~		~	✓	✓
SAE Internal Message sets		~	~		✓	~
Simulation tool	CANoe	Matlab	CANoe with hardware	CANoe	OMNET++	Matlab/ CANoe
Simulation external ECUs						~
Number of ECUs (4 or more)	4	>5	4	>5	>5	>5

functionalities, such as advanced driver assistance systems and full autonomy.

Overall, the design presented in this paper offers a significant contribution towards the development of AVs, highlighting the importance of the efficient use of various types of CAN bus protocols in designing autonomous driving systems. The proposed design provides a promising solution for achieving safe, efficient, and reliable autonomous transportation systems.

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