

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR A WIRELESS DEVICE TO RECEIVE DATA IN AN ECO STATE

[0001] The present application claims benefit of U.S. Non-provisional Application No. 14/609,707, filed on January 30, 2015, entitled "APPARATUS AND
5 METHOD FOR A WIRELESS DEVICE TO RECEIVE DATA IN AN ECO STATE," which application is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Field of the Disclosure

[0002] This application relates to wireless communication, and more particularly to transmitting data to a wireless device while the wireless device is in an eco state.

10 Background

[0003] A wireless device may communicate with a wireless network. However, the sort of communication that is possible may depend on a state of the wireless device. A wireless device might transition from an energy saving state to an active state in order to enhance the sort of communication that is possible. However, such
15 transition may introduce overhead.

Summary of the Disclosure

[0004] According to an embodiment of the disclosure, upon determining that data is to be transmitted to a wireless device in an eco state, a network node operates to transmit a unicast notification message to the wireless device. The unicast
20 notification message informs the wireless device of the impending data transmission. The network node then transmits the data to the wireless device in the eco state.

[0005] According to another embodiment of the disclosure, after receiving the unicast notification message, the wireless device operates to receive the data in accordance with the unicast notification message. To this end, the wireless device
25 might for example try to receive data for a time period following the unicast notification message. Meanwhile, the wireless device may remain in the eco state.

[0006] According to another embodiment of the disclosure, unicast notification for a wireless device in the eco state can be conditionally enabled or disabled based on one or more factors.

[0007] Other aspects and features of the present disclosure will become
5 apparent, to those ordinarily skilled in the art, upon review of the following description of the various embodiments of the disclosure.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0008] Embodiments will now be described by way of example with reference to the attached drawings in which:

10 Figure 1 is a schematic of a wireless system featuring a wireless device and a wireless network, in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure;

Figure 2 is a flowchart of a method for a wireless network to transmit data to a wireless device while the wireless device is in an eco state, in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure;

15 Figure 3 is a flowchart of a method for a wireless device in an eco state to receive data from a wireless network, in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure;

Figure 4 is a flowchart of another method for a wireless network to transmit data to a wireless device while the wireless device is in an eco state, in
20 accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure; and

Figure 5 is a signalling diagram for a wireless system featuring a wireless device and a network node of a wireless network, in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure.

Detailed Description of Embodiments

25 [0009] It should be understood at the outset that although illustrative implementations of one or more embodiments of the present disclosure are provided below, the disclosed systems and/or methods may be implemented using any number of techniques, whether currently known or in existence. The disclosure should in no

way be limited to the illustrative implementations, drawings, and techniques illustrated below, including the exemplary designs and implementations illustrated and described herein, but may be modified within the scope of the appended claims along with their full scope of equivalents.

5 Introduction

[0010] Referring now to Figure 1, shown is a schematic of a wireless system 30 featuring a wireless device 10 and a wireless network 31. The wireless device 10 has a wireless access radio 11, circuitry implementing an eco state receive function 12, a processor 13, a computer-readable medium 14, and may have other components that
10 are not specifically shown. Note that there may be numerous other wireless devices in addition to the wireless device 10, but they are not specifically shown. The wireless network 31 has a network node 20, several base stations 33,34,35 and may have other components that are not specifically shown. Note that the wireless network 31 may include wired components even though the wireless network 31 is described as
15 being wireless. The network node 20 has circuitry implementing an eco state transmit function 22, a processor 23, a computer-readable medium 24, and may have other components that are not specifically shown. The network node 20 may be a discrete component or integrated with one or more network components. For example, the network node 20 might be a network controller separate from the base
20 stations 33,34,35, or form part of one or more of the base stations 33,34,35.

[0011] Operation of the wireless system 30 will now be described by way of example. The wireless device 10 is capable of communicating with the wireless network 31 using its wireless access radio 11. Likewise, the wireless network 31 is capable of communicating with the wireless device 10 using one or more of its base
25 stations 33,34,35. However, the sort of communication that is possible may depend on a state of the wireless device 10. For instance, when the wireless device 10 is in an active state, such communication may include a wide range of message traffic for session based applications such as web browsing, file transfer, instant messaging, chatting, gaming, etc. However, when the wireless device 10 is in an eco state,
30 communication is more limited. Moreover, when the wireless device 10 is in the eco state, the wireless device 10 may not know when or if any data transmissions are going to be received from the wireless network 31. The wireless device 10 could

transition from the eco state to the active state. However, such transition may introduce overhead.

[0012] According to an embodiment of the disclosure, upon determining that data is to be transmitted to the wireless device 10 in the eco state, the eco state transmit function 22 of the network node 20 operates to transmit a unicast notification message to the wireless device 10. The unicast notification message serves to inform the wireless device 10 of an impending data transmission, and may for example be provided on a control channel or another channel having low resources. According to another embodiment of the disclosure, in response to receiving the unicast notification message, the eco state receive function 12 of the wireless device 10 operates to receive the data in accordance with the unicast notification message. To this end, the wireless device 10 might for example try to receive data over a data channel for a time period following the unicast notification message. Meanwhile, the wireless device 10 may remain in the eco state and may therefore benefit from power saving features of the eco state that would not be experienced if the wireless device 10 had instead transitioned to the active state.

[0013] The “eco state” is a power saving state that utilises fewer resources than the active state. Specific example details of the eco state will now be provided. The eco state may support always-on connections by permitting some message traffic for non-session based applications. Wireless terminals may maintain a closer association to the wireless network 31 in the eco state than before, as light traffic can be exchanged intermittently in a grant-free/scheduling-free transmission mode. In particular, the eco state may support data transmission and reception with a light connection management mechanism, which typically means that there is no need for short-term link connection reports by the wireless device 10 and no need for dynamic resource allocation requests and grants from the network node 20. A short-term link connection report is a report on a channel quality (e.g. signal-to-interference-plus-noise ratio) over a short period of time (e.g. one or several milliseconds), and the report may be sent frequently. The eco state may employ a semi-persistent and/or persistent scheduling with semi-static link adaptation and/or a grant-free transmission mechanism. Furthermore, the eco state may allow for the maintenance of an identifier for a user device to facilitate data transmission and/or reception while in the eco state.

The eco state may permit fast transitions to the active state using a dedicated connection signature.

[0014] When the wireless device 10 is in the eco state, the wireless device 10 may periodically send measurement related information to the network node 20 on a relatively infrequent basis. The measurement related information might for example include one or more of uplink sounding reference signals, measurement from downlink pilots and/or data, uplink data, mobility tracking information such as GPS (Global Positioning System) information, and location prediction information. The measurement related information may be used by the wireless network 31 to determine where the wireless device 10 is located and/or the channel quality of the wireless device 10. Based on this information, when transmitting data to the wireless device 10, the wireless network 31 can select one or more base stations 33,34,35 to transmit the data. The wireless network 31 may also determine how each selected base station is to transmit the data, for example by determining coding and modulation levels for each selected base station or a group of base stations. However, there may be scenarios in which the measurement related information provided on the relatively infrequent basis is insufficient for the wireless network 31 to precisely determine where the wireless device 10 is located. Such scenarios might for example include physical movement of the wireless device 10.

[0015] According to another embodiment of the disclosure, in response to receiving the unicast notification message, the eco state receive function 12 of the wireless device 10 operates to transmit, while the wireless device 10 is in the eco state, measurement related information to the wireless network 31. The measurement related information may assist the network node 20 in determining where the wireless device 10 is located so that the data can be transmitted accordingly. Examples of measurement related information have been provided above. In some implementations, the measurement related information is provided on a more frequent basis than the relatively infrequent basis. The increased frequency might for example be based on some pre-defined configuration. In any event, by using the measurement related information provided in response to the unicast notification message, the network node 20 can then determine where the wireless device 10 is located and transmit the data to the wireless device 10 in the eco state accordingly. In some

implementations, after receiving the data transmission, the wireless device 10 responds with an ACK/NAK (Acknowledgement or Negative-Acknowledgment) response to confirm receipt.

[0016] It is to be understood that the network node 20 may not need to receive any measurement related information prior to data transmission. It may be sufficient to rely on previous measurement related information, for example, if the wireless device is not moving. Also, if the data can be transmitted with a predefined modulation and coding level (e.g. a robust modulation and coding level in the wireless system 30), then measurement related information may be unnecessary. Thus, the wireless device 10 may alternatively refrain from sending any measurement related information in response to the unicast notification message. In some implementations, the eco state receive function 12 of the wireless device 10 is configured to conditionally send measurement related information in response to the unicast notification message depending on various factors such as whether the wireless device 10 has been moving and/or whether the wireless system 30 uses a robust modulation and coding level.

[0017] Note that the unicast notification message is a message sent to the wireless device 10 in a unicast manner. This differs from multicast messages such as paging messages, which are broadcasted to numerous wireless devices of a paging group even when it may be desired to locate only one of those wireless devices. Each time a paging message is sent, there may be numerous wireless devices receiving the paging message thereby creating signalling overhead for those wireless devices. This signalling overhead tends to grow as the number of wireless devices increases. In contrast, by using the unicast notification message instead of a paging message, there is less signalling overhead for the wireless system 30 as a whole because the unicast notification message is not received by other wireless devices.

[0018] Although unicast notification is used as an alternative to paging messages, there may be situations in which paging messages may be used as a back-up procedure. For instance, if the wireless network 31 cannot locate the wireless device 10 whatsoever (e.g. unicast notification does not result in receiving measurement related information from which the location of the wireless device 10 can be determined, and/or the subsequent data transmission does not result in an

ACK/NAK response from the wireless device 10), then a paging message may be broadcasted as a back-up procedure. Using paging messages as a back-up procedure may increase robustness of the wireless system 30 as a whole, while avoiding signalling overhead of paging messages when possible. In the event that the wireless device 10 is not mobile but instead forms part of a home appliance such as a refrigerator, then it is unlikely that paging messages would be necessary. However, in the event that the wireless device 10 is a mobile device, then it may be possible that the wireless device 10 could become missing from the perspective of the wireless network 31, and if this happens, then a paging message may be broadcasted to help locate the wireless device 10. In another example, if the subsequent data transmission does not result in the wireless network 31 receiving an ACK/NAK response from the wireless device 10, then the unicast notification procedure can be retried one or more times. In yet another example, after retries of the unicast notification procedure, the wireless network 31 can then fall back to the paging procedure.

[0019] The eco state transmit function 22 of the network node 20 and the eco state receive function 12 of the wireless device 10 enable the wireless device 10 to receive data while the wireless device 10 is in the eco state. In this regard, there is no need for the wireless device 10 to transition to another state such as the active state. Note that transitioning from one state to another can introduce overhead. Moreover, the active state introduces further overhead such as handshake signalling for scheduling transmissions. Thus, by enabling the wireless device 10 to remain in the eco state, any overhead involved in transitioning to the active state can be avoided. Meanwhile, power saving features of the eco state may be exploited by the wireless device 10. This might result in longer battery life for the wireless device 10 in the event that the wireless device 10 is a mobile device powered by a battery.

[0020] However, in some implementations, for large data payloads, the wireless device 10 transitions to the active state. For instance, if the wireless device 10 is to have message traffic for a session based application to download a large data file, then the session based application may trigger the wireless device 10 to transition to the active state. Although the active state may not provide all of the power saving features of the eco state, it may support larger data payloads. The precise size of

data payloads for which it is preferred to transition to the active state is implementation-specific and may depend on traffic conditions.

[0021] Unicast notification allows the wireless device 10 to receive data while the wireless device 10 is in the eco state even if the wireless device 10 has physically moved. However, unicast notification may be unnecessary if the measurement related information provided on the relatively infrequent basis is sufficient for the wireless network 31 to precisely determine where the wireless device 10 is located. This may be the case for example if the wireless device 10 is not a mobile device but instead forms part of a home appliance such as a refrigerator. According to another embodiment of the disclosure, the eco state transmit function 22 of the network node 20 operates to conditionally enable or disable unicast notification. Unicast notification may be conditionally enabled or disabled based on whether the wireless device 10 is mobile, or for other reasons as described later with reference to Figure 4.

[0022] There are many possibilities for the wireless network 31. In some implementations, the wireless network 31 is a VRA (Virtual Radio Access) network. VRA networks normally determine the best transmit points to serve wireless terminals with the help of measurement related information, examples of which have been provided above. In the case of the wireless device 10 shown in Figure 1, there may be more than one base station 33,34,35 serving the wireless device 10. The wireless network 31 would know which base station 33,34,35 is to send data to the wireless device 10 when the wireless device 10 is in the active state or the eco state.

[0023] In alternative implementations, the wireless network 31 is some other type of network. For instance, the wireless network 31 may be an LTE (Long-Term Evolution) network or a WiMAX (Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access) network, but with suitable modification where appropriate. LTE networks and WiMAX networks normally page a wireless device in an idle state to first locate the wireless device. Note that such paging is not necessary for VRA networks. As noted above, paging could be avoided and used as a back-up procedure.

[0024] There are many possibilities for the circuitry implementing the eco state transmit function 22 of the network node 20. In some implementations, the circuitry includes the processor 23, which is configured to implement the eco state transmit

function 22 when instructions recorded on the computer-readable medium 24 are executed by the processor 23. In other implementations, the circuitry includes a DSP (Digital Signal Processor), an FPGA (Field Programmable Gate Array), an ASIC (Application Specific Integrated Circuit) and/or a microcontroller. More generally, the circuitry implementing the eco state transmit function 22 includes any appropriate combination of hardware, software and firmware.

[0025] There are many possibilities for the wireless device 10. The wireless device 10 might be a mobile terminal such as a tablet, smartphone, vehicle phone, etc. Alternatively, the wireless device 10 might be a fixed terminal and/or form part of a machine or a home appliance such as a refrigerator. Note that the wireless system 30 may have a mix of mobile terminals and fixed terminals.

[0026] There are many possibilities for the circuitry implementing the eco state receive function 12 of the wireless device 10. In some implementations, the circuitry includes the processor 13, which is configured to implement the eco state receive function 12 when instructions recorded on the computer-readable medium 14 are executed by the processor 13. In other implementations, the circuitry includes a DSP, an FPGA, an ASIC and/or a microcontroller. More generally, the circuitry implementing the eco state receive function 12 includes any appropriate combination of hardware, software and firmware.

[0027] There are many possibilities for the wireless access radio 11 of the wireless device 10. In some implementations, the wireless access radio 11 includes a receiver and a transmitter. The receiver may be coupled to a receive antenna while the transmitter is coupled to a transmit antenna. In some implementations, the wireless access radio 11 includes more than one receiver and more than one transmitter. The transmitter(s) and receiver(s) may be coupled to a processing unit, for example a DSP, for processing signalling.

[0028] Further example details of unicast notification are provided below with reference to Figures 2 through 5.

Wireless Network Method

[0029] Referring now to Figure 2, shown is a flowchart of a method for a wireless network to transmit data to a wireless device while the wireless device is in an eco state. This method may be implemented by a network node of a wireless network, for example by the eco state transmit function 22 of the network node 20 shown in Figure 1. More generally, this method may be implemented by any appropriate network node. The network node may be a discrete component or integrated with one or more network components.

[0030] If at step 2-1 there is data to transmit to a wireless device in an eco state, then at step 2-2 the network node transmits a unicast notification message to the wireless device. The wireless device in the eco state receives the unicast notification message, which serves to inform the wireless device of an impending data transmission, and may for example be provided on a control channel or another channel having low resources. In some implementations, the wireless device in the eco state responds by sending measurement related information to the wireless network, as the measurement related information may assist the network node in determining where the wireless device is located so that the data can be transmitted accordingly. Examples of measurement related information have been provided above with reference to Figure 1. If the wireless device in the eco state has responded with measurement related information, then at step 2-3 the network node may receive the measurement related information from the wireless device. Finally, at step 2-4 the network node transmits the data to the wireless device in the eco state. In this example, the data transmission is performed based on the measurement related information received in response to the unicast notification message. However, as previously noted with reference to Figure 1, the data transmission may be possible without any measurement related information, for example if the network node is already aware of where the wireless device is located or a predefined modulation and coding level is being employed.

[0031] There are many ways in which the measurement related information may be used to transmit the data to the wireless device. In some implementations, based on the measurement related information, the network node determines one or more base stations from which the data is to be transmitted. Such determination may

be made by estimating a location of the wireless device using the measurement related information, and selecting one or more base stations based on the location of the wireless device. In further implementations, for each base station that has been selected, the network node determines a coding and modulation level for transmitting the data. Since the measurement related information received in response to the unicast notification message is current, the network node may be in a good position to appropriately select base station(s) and appropriately select a coding and modulation level for each base station that has been selected.

[0032] In some implementations, as similarly described above with reference to Figure 1, the wireless device in the eco state may periodically send measurement related information to the network node on a relatively infrequent basis. The network node may receive this measurement related information prior to the unicast notification message being sent. If measurement related information is later received in response to the unicast notification message, such measurement related information is additional measurement related information that may be used for transmitting the data at step 2-4, particularly because the additional measurement related information is current. In some implementations, the additional measurement related information is received on a more frequent basis than the relatively infrequent basis of the measurement related information prior to the unicast notification message. As a specific example, while the relatively infrequent basis may involve sending measurement related information every 500ms, the more frequent basis may involve sending measurement related information every 5ms. In some implementations, the unicast notification message includes an explicit indication that prompts the wireless device to provide the measurement related information. In further implementations, the unicast notification message includes information related to resources on which the additional measurement information is to be transmitted. In other implementations, the unicast notification message does not include any explicit indication, but rather includes an implicit indication or no indication at all.

[0033] In some implementations, the unicast notification message indicates timing of when the data is to be transmitted. Thus, for example, the wireless device in the eco state may try to receive the data over a data channel according to the timing indicated by the unicast notification message. Note that the wireless device may

refrain from trying to receive data at other times, which can result in power savings. In some implementations, the timing is determined by the network node based on latency requirements or QoS (Quality of Service). Alternatively, the timing may be preconfigured. When the timing has been preconfigured, the unicast notification message may not indicate the timing. For instance, if the data transmission is scheduled to occur at a predefined time after the unicast notification message, then the wireless device can try to receive the data after the predefined time has passed since the unicast notification message. As a specific example, the data transmission may be scheduled to occur precisely 10 μ s after the unicast notification message. In alternative implementations, the wireless device is not provided with any timing information and it is not known precisely when the data transmission may occur. In such alternative implementations, the wireless device may perform blind detection, which involves the wireless device continuously trying to receive data.

Wireless device Method

[0034] Referring now to Figure 3, shown is a flowchart of a method for a wireless device in an eco state to receive data from a network node. This method may be implemented by a wireless device, for example by the eco state receive function 12 of the wireless device 10 shown in Figure 1. More generally, this method may be implemented by any appropriate wireless device having an eco state. The wireless device may be a mobile wireless device, or a stationary wireless device.

[0035] For this method, it is assumed that the wireless device is in the eco state. If there is data to transmit to the wireless device, then the wireless network transmits a unicast notification message to the wireless device. At step 3-1, the wireless device receives the unicast notification message from the wireless network. The unicast notification message serves to inform the wireless device of an impending data transmission, and may for example be provided on a control channel or another channel having low resources. In some implementations, as shown at step 3-2, the wireless device responds to the unicast notification message by transmitting measurement related information to the wireless network. Examples of measurement related information have been provided above with reference to Figure 1. If the wireless network receives the measurement related information, then the wireless network may utilize the measurement related information to transmit the data as

similarly described with reference to Figure 2. Finally, at step 3-3 the wireless device receives data from the wireless network in accordance with the unicast notification message. To this end, the wireless device might for example try to receive data for a time period following the unicast notification message.

5 **[0036]** In some implementations, as similarly described above with reference to Figure 2, the wireless device in the eco state may periodically send measurement related information to the network node on a relatively infrequent basis prior to the unicast notification message being sent. Thus, if the measurement related information is later transmitted in response to the unicast notification message, such
10 measurement related information is additional measurement related information. In some implementations, as similarly described above with reference to Figure 2, the additional measurement related information is sent on a more frequent basis than the relatively infrequent basis of the measurement related information prior to the unicast notification message.

15 **[0037]** In some implementations, as similarly described above with reference to Figure 2, the unicast notification message indicates timing of when the data is to be transmitted. Thus, the wireless device can use this information to schedule when it tries to receive data. In alternative implementations, as similarly described above with reference to Figure 2, the wireless device is not provided with any timing information
20 and it is not known precisely when the data transmission may occur. In such alternative implementations, the wireless device may perform blind detection, which involves the wireless device continuously trying to receive data. In some implementations, as similarly described above with reference to Figure 2, the unicast notification message may also include (1) an indication for the wireless device to send
25 additional measurement information and (2) information related to resources on which the additional measurement information is transmitted.

Another Wireless Network Method

[0038] As noted above for Figure 1, unicast notification may be conditionally enabled or disabled. An example method for transmitting data to a wireless device
30 based on whether unicast notification is enabled or disabled is described below with reference to Figure 4.

[0039] Referring now to Figure 4, shown is a flowchart of another method for a network node to transmit data to a wireless device while the wireless device is in an eco state. This method may be implemented by a network node of a wireless network, for example by the eco state transmit function 22 of the network node 20 shown in Figure 1. More generally, this method may be implemented by any appropriate network node such as a data notification controller. The network node may be a discrete component or integrated with one or more network components.

[0040] At step 4-1, the network node accepts at least one input for determining whether to enable unicast notification for a wireless device in the eco state. Examples of this are provided below. If at step 4-2 the network node has data to transmit to the wireless device in the eco state, then at steps 4-3 through 4-5 the network node transmits the data to the wireless device based on whether unicast notification has been enabled for the wireless device. In particular, if unicast notification has been enabled for the wireless device, then at step 4-4 the network node transmits the data to the wireless device with unicast notification. Examples of transmitting data with unicast notification have been provided above with reference to Figures 1 through 3. However, if unicast notification has been disabled for the wireless device, then at step 4-5 the network node transmits the data to the wireless device without unicast notification.

[0041] The transmission at step 4-5 involves transmitting the data to the wireless device without any unicast notification message being sent to inform the wireless device of the impending data transmission. This wireless device may perform blind detection, which involves the wireless device continuously trying to receive data in absence of the unicast notification.

[0042] Regardless of whether the data transmission is executed at step 4-4 or 4-5, the data transmission is scheduling-free and may be accomplished with a reduced set of radio resources (reserved or pre-configured). This is because the wireless device is in the eco state. The data transmission might for example use a subset of SCMA (Sparse Code Multiple Access) codebooks, or SCMA codebooks with one non-zero element. Other implementations are possible.

[0043] There are many possible inputs for determining whether to enable unicast notification for the wireless device in the eco state. In some implementations, the network node receives from the wireless device an indication of preference for enabling unicast notification. For example, if the wireless device is not mobile but instead forms part of a home appliance such as a refrigerator, then the wireless device may convey a preference to disable unicast notification. Another example is a gas meter installed on a premise. As previously noted, for non-mobile devices, there may be no need for the unicast notification. Thus, disabling unicast notification may be preferred for these devices. Conversely, if the wireless device is mobile, then the wireless device may convey a preference to enable unicast notification.

[0044] The indication of preference can be explicit or implicit. As an example of explicit preference, an explicit indication can be sent for example upon initial network access (e.g. power-up). As an example of implicit preference, the indication of preference may be an indication of mobility type (i.e. fixed terminal or mobile terminal) from which preference is implicitly conveyed. The indication of mobility type might be a device equipment ID such as a new kind of IMEI (International Mobile Station Equipment Identity) with a certain digit(s) indicating terminal type. This may be set by a manufacturer of wireless devices (e.g. household appliances, smartphones, tablets, etc.) A mobility type field (e.g. flag) can be added to a wireless device default configuration stored in non-volatile memory. Upon powering on the wireless device, the content of the mobility type field can be read and the indication of preference may be set accordingly.

[0045] Note that factors other than mobility type may be considered by the wireless device in determining preference for enabling unicast notification. For instance, the preference for enabling unicast notification may be based on location history of the wireless device, QoS of traffic, etc. Thus, for example, if a mobile device has not been moving and has low QoS of traffic, then it may be preferred to disable unicast notification. Conversely, if the mobile device has been moving and has high QoS of traffic, then it may be preferred to enable unicast notification. In another example, a non-mobile device may want to enable unicast notification in order to further reduce power consumption since monitoring and decoding a unicast notification takes less processing power than decoding actual data. In yet another

example, a wireless device may want to disable unicast notification in the eco state due to the QoS requirement (e.g. latency) of the traffic.

[0046] In other implementations, the network node receives tracking information from a network-side mobility tracking module. The tracking information might for example convey location history and/or predicted path(s) of the mobile device. Based on the tracking information, the network node may determine whether the network node has the ability to track or adequately track conditions of the mobile device (e.g. movement of the mobile device, channel variation of the mobile device, etc.) to satisfy QoS of traffic. If the network node has the ability to track or adequately track boundary conditions of the mobile device, then unicast notification may be disabled. Otherwise, unicast notification may be enabled.

[0047] In other implementations, the network node receives signalling from the mobile device from which the network node may determine whether the network node has the ability to track or adequately track boundary conditions of the mobile device to satisfy QoS of traffic. The signalling may for example include an SRS (Sounding Reference Signal) from the mobile device and/or upload data from the mobile device. If the network node has the ability to track or adequately track boundary conditions of the mobile device based on this signalling, then unicast notification may be disabled. Otherwise, unicast notification may be enabled.

[0048] In other implementations, the network node receives a combination of two or more inputs for determining whether to enable unicast notification for the wireless device in the eco state. Thus, the network node may consider several conditions when determining whether to enable or disable unicast notification. For example, the network node may consider both (1) an indication of preference from the wireless device for enabling unicast notification and (2) signalling from the mobile device from which the network node may determine whether the network node has the ability to track or adequately track boundary conditions of the mobile device to satisfy QoS of traffic. In some implementations, upon determining whether to enable or disable unicast notification, the network node conveys to the wireless device an indication of whether unicast notification is enabled.

[0049] Referring now to Figure 5, shown is a signalling diagram 50 for a wireless system featuring a wireless device 51 and a network node 52 of a wireless network. It is to be understood that the signalling diagram is shown with specific signalling for exemplary purposes only. Also, while the signalling diagram depicts signalling between the wireless device 51 and the network node 52, it is to be understood that there may be intermediate components such as a base station for example.

[0050] In some implementations, as shown at step 5-1, the wireless device 51 sends a notification preference message to the network node 52 in order to convey a preference for enabling unicast notification for the wireless device 51 in an eco state. In response, the network node 52 determines based on the notification preference whether unicast notification is to be enabled for the wireless device 51 in the eco state. The notification preference may help the network node 52 to reach a decision much quicker than relying on uplink measurement and mobility tracking information. However, the determination could additionally or alternatively be based on uplink measurement and mobility tracking information as similarly described above with reference to Figure 4.

[0051] In some implementations, as shown at step 5-2, the network node 52 sends a notification enablement message to the wireless device 51 in order to convey whether unicast notification has been enabled for the wireless device 51 in the eco state. In this particular example, it is assumed that the network node 52 has enabled unicast notification for the wireless device 51 in the eco state, so the notification enablement message indicates this enablement.

[0052] In some implementations, as shown at step 5-3, the wireless device 51 sends measurement related information to the network node 52 from time to time. Examples of measurement related information have been provided above with reference to Figure 1. The measurement related information may be sent on a relatively infrequent basis as described above with reference to Figures 1 through 3. Note that the measurement related information may be insufficient for the network node 52 to precisely determine where the wireless device 51 is located, especially if the wireless device 51 has been physically moving.

[0053] According to an embodiment of the disclosure, if there is data to be transmitted to the wireless device 51 in the eco state, then at step 5-4 the network node 52 operates to transmit a unicast notification message to the wireless device 51 in order to inform the wireless device 51 of the impending data transmission. In some implementations, the unicast notification message is provided over a control channel, which may involve fewer resources than the data channel. In some implementations, as shown at step 5-5, the wireless device 51 responds with measurement related information on a more frequent basis than the relatively infrequent basis. In any event, by using the measurement related information provided in response to the unicast notification message, the network node 52 can then transmit the data to the wireless device 51 in the eco state at step 5-6. In some implementations, the data transmission occurs over the data channel.

[0054] The option to send additional measurement information can be configured by the wireless network as described previously. In other implementations, the wireless device may indicate to the wireless network its preference to send additional measurement information. Such preference information can be included in measurement related information that is sent from time to time as shown at step 5-3. In other implementations, such preference information can be sent during uplink data transmission. In yet another implementation, the preference information can be sent at step 5-1 with the notification preference message. Other implementations are possible.

Computer Readable Medium

[0055] In accordance with another embodiment of the disclosure, there is provided a non-transitory computer readable medium having computer executable instructions stored thereon for execution on a processor so as to implement any of the methods described herein. The non-transitory computer readable medium might for example be an optical disk such as a CD (Compact Disc), a DVD (Digital Video Disc), or a BD (Blu-Ray Disc). Alternatively, the non-transitory computer readable medium might for example be a memory stick, a memory card, a disk drive, a solid state drive, etc. Other non-transitory computer readable media are possible and are within the scope of this disclosure. More generally, the non-transitory computer readable

medium can be any tangible medium in which the computer executable instructions can be stored.

[0056] Numerous modifications and variations of the present disclosure are possible in light of the above teachings. It is therefore to be understood that within the
5 scope of the appended claims, the disclosure may be practised otherwise than as specifically described herein.

CLAIMS:

1. A method for execution by a network node of a wireless network, the method comprising:
 - transmitting, to a wireless device that is in a first state, a unicast notification message notifying the wireless device of an impending data transmission to the wireless device by the network node, wherein the first state is different from an active state and supports data transmission and reception with a light connection management mechanism; and
 - transmitting data to the wireless device that is in the first state, at a time after transmitting the unicast notification.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving, in response to the unicast notification message, measurement related information from the wireless device that is in the first state;
 - wherein transmitting the data to the wireless device that is in the first state comprises transmitting the data to the wireless device based on the measurement related information received in response to the unicast notification message.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising receiving first measurement related information from the wireless device that is in the first state;
 - wherein the measurement related information received in response to the unicast notification message is additional measurement related information.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein:
 - receiving the first measurement related information comprises receiving the first measurement related information on an ongoing basis; and
 - receiving the additional measurement related information in response to the unicast notification message comprises receiving the additional measurement related information on a more frequent basis than the ongoing basis.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the unicast notification message indicates timing of when the data is to be transmitted.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - accepting at least one input for determining whether to enable unicast notification for the wireless device that is in the first state

wherein transmitting the unicast notification message to the wireless device is executed only when unicast notification is enabled.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein:

accepting at least one input comprises receiving from the wireless device an indication of preference for enabling unicast notification;

wherein determining whether to enable unicast notification for the wireless device that is in the first state is based on the indication of preference from the wireless device.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein:

accepting at least one input comprises receiving signalling from which the network node determines whether the network node has the ability to track boundary conditions of the wireless device to satisfy QoS (Quality of Service) of traffic;

wherein determining whether to enable unicast notification for the wireless device that is in the first state is based on whether the network node has the ability to track boundary conditions of the wireless device to satisfy QoS of traffic.

9. The method of claim 6, further comprising:

conveying to the wireless device whether unicast notification is enabled.

10. A non-transitory computer-readable medium having recorded thereon instructions that when executed by a processor of a network node of a wireless network implement a method comprising:

transmitting, to a wireless device that is in a first state, a unicast notification message notifying the wireless device of an impending data transmission to the wireless device by the network node, wherein the first state is different from an active state and supports data transmission and reception with a light connection management mechanism; and

transmitting data to the wireless device that is in the first state, at a time after transmitting the unicast notification.

11. A network node of a wireless network, the network node comprising:

circuitry implementing a first state transmit function for a transceiver and being configured to:

transmit, to a wireless device that is in the first state, a unicast notification message notifying the wireless device of an impending data transmission to the wireless device by the network node, wherein the first state is different from an active state and supports data transmission and reception with a light connection management mechanism; and

transmit data to the wireless device that is in the first state, at a time after transmitting the unicast notification.

12. The network node of claim 11, wherein:

the circuitry implementing the first state transmit function comprises a processor; and
the network node further comprises a computer-readable medium having recorded thereon instructions that when executed by the processor configure the processor to implement the first state transmit function.

13. The network node of claim 11, wherein the circuitry implementing the first state transmit function is further configured to:

receive, in response to the unicast notification message, measurement related information from the wireless device that is in the first state;

wherein the circuitry implementing the first state transmit function is configured to transmit the data to the wireless device that is in the first state based on the measurement related information received in response to the unicast notification message.

14. The network node of claim 13, wherein the circuitry implementing the first state transmit function is further configured to:

receive first measurement related information from the wireless device that is in the first state;

wherein the measurement related information received in response to the unicast notification message is additional measurement related information.

15. The network node of claim 14, wherein:

the circuitry implementing the first state transmit function is further configured to receive the first measurement related information on an ongoing basis; and

the circuitry implementing the first state transmit function is further configured to receive the additional measurement related information on a more frequent basis than the ongoing basis.

16. The network node of claim 11, wherein the unicast notification message indicates timing of when the data is to be transmitted.

17. The network node of claim 11, wherein the circuitry implementing the first state transmit function is further configured to:

accept at least one input for determining whether to enable unicast notification for the wireless device that is in the first state

wherein the circuitry implementing the first state transmit function is configured to transmit the unicast notification message to the wireless device only when unicast notification is enabled.

18. The network node of claim 17, wherein:

the circuitry implementing the first state transmit function is configured to accept at least one input by receiving from the wireless device an indication of preference for enabling unicast notification;

wherein the circuitry implementing the first state transmit function determines whether to enable unicast notification for the wireless device that is in the first state based on the indication of preference from the wireless device.

19. The network node of claim 17, wherein:

the circuitry implementing the first state transmit function is configured to accept at least one input by receiving signalling from which the network node determines whether the network node has the ability to track boundary conditions of the wireless device to satisfy QoS (Quality of Service) of traffic;

wherein the circuitry implementing the first state transmit function determines whether to enable unicast notification for the wireless device that is in the first state based on whether the network node has the ability to boundary conditions of the wireless device to satisfy QoS of traffic.

20. The network node of claim 17, wherein the circuitry implementing the first state transmit function is further configured to:

convey to the wireless device whether unicast notification is enabled.

21. A method for execution by a wireless device, the method comprising:

receiving, from a network node of a wireless network while the wireless device is in a first state, a unicast notification message notifying the wireless device of an impending data transmission to the wireless device by the network node, wherein the first state is different from an active state and supports data transmission and reception with a light connection management mechanism; and

receiving, while the wireless device is in the first state, data from the network node in accordance with the unicast notification message, at a time after receiving the unicast notification.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
transmitting, while the wireless device is in the first state, measurement related information to the network node in response to the unicast notification message.
23. The method of claim 22, further comprising:
transmitting, while the wireless device is in the first state, first measurement related information to the network node;
wherein the measurement related information transmitted in response to the unicast notification message is additional measurement related information.
24. The method of claim 23, wherein:
transmitting the first measurement related information comprises transmitting the first measurement related information on an ongoing basis; and
transmitting the additional measurement related information in response to the unicast notification message comprises transmitting the additional measurement related information on a more frequent basis than the ongoing basis.
25. The method of claim 21, wherein:
the unicast notification message indicates timing of when the data is to be received;
and
receiving, while the wireless device is in the first state, data from the network node in accordance with the unicast notification message comprises receiving the data according to the timing indicated by the unicast notification message.
26. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
conveying to the network node an indication of preference for enabling unicast notification;
wherein the unicast notification message is received from the network node only when unicast notification is enabled.
27. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
receiving an indication of whether unicast notification is enabled;
wherein the unicast notification message is received from the network node only when unicast notification is enabled.

28. A non-transitory computer-readable medium having recorded thereon instructions that when executed by a processor of a wireless device implement a method comprising:

receiving, from a network node of a wireless network while the wireless device is in a first state, a unicast notification message notifying the wireless device of an impending data transmission to the wireless device by the network node, wherein the first state is different from an active state and supports data transmission and reception with a light connection management mechanism; and

receiving, while the wireless device is in the first state, data from the network node in accordance with the unicast notification message, at a time after receiving the unicast notification.

29. A wireless device comprising:

a wireless access radio configured to communicate with a network node of a wireless network; and

circuitry implementing a first state receive function with the wireless access radio and being configured to:

receive, from the network node while the wireless device is in the first state, a unicast notification message notifying the wireless device of an impending data transmission to the wireless device by the network node, wherein the first state is different from an active state and supports data transmission and reception with a light connection management mechanism; and

receive, while the wireless device is in the first state, data from the network node in accordance with the unicast notification message, at a time after receiving the unicast notification.

30. The wireless device of claim 29, wherein:

the circuitry implementing the first state receive function comprises a processor; and

the wireless device further comprises a computer-readable medium having recorded thereon instructions that when executed by the processor configure the processor to implement the first state receive function.

31. The wireless device of claim 29, wherein the circuitry implementing the first state receive function is further configured to:

transmit, while the wireless device is in the first state, measurement related information to the network node in response to the unicast notification message.

32. The wireless device of claim 31, wherein the circuitry implementing the first state receive function is further configured to:

transmit, while the wireless device is in the first state, first measurement related information to the network node;

wherein the measurement related information transmitted in response to the unicast notification message is additional measurement related information.

33. The wireless device of claim 32, wherein:

the circuitry implementing the first state receive function is configured to transmit the first measurement related information on an ongoing basis; and

the circuitry implementing the first state receive function is configured to transmit the additional measurement related information on a more frequent basis than the ongoing basis.

34. The wireless device of claim 29, wherein:

the unicast notification message indicates timing of when the data is to be received; and

the circuitry implementing the first state receive function is configured to receive the data in accordance with the unicast notification message by receiving the data according to the timing indicated by the unicast notification message.

35. The wireless device of claim 29, wherein the circuitry implementing the first state receive function is further configured to:

convey to the network node an indication of preference for enabling unicast notification;

wherein the unicast notification message is received from the network node only when unicast notification is enabled.

36. The wireless device of claim 29, wherein the circuitry implementing the first state receive function is further configured to:

receive an indication of whether unicast notification is enabled;

wherein the unicast notification message is received from the network node only when unicast notification is enabled.