

DESCRIPTION

MOBILE COMMUNICATION METHOD AND RADIO BASE STATION

TECHNICAL FIELD

5 [0001]

The present invention relates to a mobile communication method in which a radio base station performs a handover process for a mobile station, and also to a radio base station performing the same.

10

BACKGROUND ART

[0002]

In a mobile communication system employing the "LTE (Long Term Evolution)" system specified in the 3GPP, a radio base station eNB1 which is a serving radio base station of mobile stations UE is configured to perform a handover of a mobile station UE to a neighbor radio base station eNB2, when " $P_1 + \text{offset1} + \text{hysteresis1} < P_2 + \text{offset2}$ " becomes true for the mobile station.

20 [0003]

Here, P_1 is a reception power of a signal from the radio base station eNB1 in the mobile station UE, and P_2 is a reception power of a signal from the neighbor radio base station eNB2 in the mobile station UE.

25 [0004]

In addition, the offset1 and the hysteresis1 are own station parameters which are used in the radio base station eNB1. Each of the offset1 and the hysteresis1 may be a positive value or a negative value.

[0005]

Moreover, the offset2 and the hysteresis2 are neighbor base station parameters which are used in the radio base station eNB2. Each of the offset2 and the hysteresis2 may be a positive
5 value or a negative value.

[0006]

Note that, the offset2 set in the radio base station eNB1 and the offset1 set in the radio base station eNB2 are set in accordance with load conditions of an OAM (Operation And
10 Maintenance) apparatus and a neighbor radio base station eNB.

[0007]

Specifically, the radio base station eNB1 is configured to optimize the aforementioned offset1 and hysteresis1 in accordance with load information (Load Indication) received
15 from the neighbor radio base station eNB2.

[0008]

However, there is a problem in a conventional mobile communication system. Specifically, in the conventional mobile communication system, a neighbor radio base station
20 parameter ("New offset2") supposed to be used in the neighbor radio base station eNB2 is calculated in the radio base station eNB1, on the basis of the load condition of the neighbor radio base station eNB2, and then, the neighbor radio base station parameter is set and applied to a handover process of a mobile
25 station UE within a serving area under the radio base station eNB1. However, when the neighbor radio base station eNB2 does not know the "new offset2", which is set and applied to the radio base station eNB1, a "Ping Pong phenomenon" likely occurs, i.e., the mobile station UE is handed over to the radio base station

eNB1 immediately, because an "old offset2" which is different from the "new offset2" is applied, after the mobile station UE is handed over to the neighbor radio base station eNB2.

[0009]

5 For example, as shown in Fig. 8, when a mobile station UE exists at a point X, there is a problem that the radio base station eNB1 handovers the mobile station UE to the radio base station eNB2, because " $P_{11} + \text{offset1} + \text{hysteresis1} (P_{13}) < P_{21} + \text{new offset2} (P_{24})$ " is true, while the radio base station eNB2,
10 handovers the mobile station UE to the radio base station eNB1 because " $P_{21} + \text{old offset2} + \text{hysteresis2} (P_{23}) < P_{11} + \text{offset1} (P_{12})$ " is true.

[0010]

 Moreover, when the mobile station UE exists at a point
15 Y, there is a problem that the radio base station eNB2 handovers the mobile station UE to the radio base station eNB1 because " $P_{21} + \text{old offset2} + \text{hysteresis2} (P_{23}) < P_{11} + \text{offset1} (P_{12})$ " is true, while the radio base station eNB1 handovers the mobile station UE to the radio base station eNB2, because " $P_{11} + \text{offset1}$
20 + $\text{hysteresis1} (P_{13}) < P_{21} + \text{new offset2} (P_{24})$ " is true.

NON-PATENT DOCUMENT 1: 3GPP TS36.423 V8.0.0

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

25 [0011]

 In this respect, the present invention has been made in view of the aforementioned problems. An objective of the present invention is to provide a mobile communication method capable of preventing an occurrence of a "Ping Pong phenomenon"

by causing each radio base station to perform a handover process in consideration of a neighbor radio base station parameter used in a neighbor radio base station, and also to provide a radio base station capable of preventing the same.

5 [0012]

A first aspect of the present invention is summarized as a mobile communication method in which a radio base station performs a handover process for a mobile station, the method including the steps of: (A) calculating, at the radio base
10 station, an estimated neighbor radio base station parameter, on a basis of load information acquired from a neighbor radio base station, the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter being supposed to be used in the neighbor radio base station; and (B) notifying, from the radio base station to the
15 neighbor radio base station, the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter.

[0013]

In the first aspect, the mobile communication method can further include the steps of: (C) acquiring, at the radio base
20 station, a neighbor radio base station parameter to be actually used in the neighbor radio base station, as a response made to the notice by the neighbor radio base station; and (D) determining, at the radio base station, whether or not to perform a handover process for the mobile station, on a basis
25 of an own station parameter to be used in the radio base station itself and the neighbor radio base station parameter acquired in the step (C).

[0014]

In the first aspect, the mobile communication method can

further include the steps of: (E) determining a neighbor radio base station parameter to be actually used in the neighbor radio base station, through negotiation between the radio base station and the neighbor radio base station; and (F) determining,
5 at the radio base station, whether or not to perform a handover process for the mobile station, on a basis of an own station parameter to be used in the radio base station itself and the neighbor radio base station parameter acquired in the step (E).

[0015]

10 In the first aspect, in the step (B), the radio base station can notify, to the neighbor radio base station, the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter by X2 signaling; and in the step (C), the radio base station can acquire the neighbor radio base station parameter from the
15 neighbor radio base station by X2 signaling.

[0016]

A second aspect of the present invention is summarized as a radio base station configured to perform a handover process for a mobile station, the radio base station including: an
20 estimation unit configured to calculate an estimated neighbor radio base station parameter, on a basis of load information acquired from a neighbor radio base station, the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter being supposed to be used in the neighbor radio base station; and a negotiation unit
25 configured to notify, to the neighbor radio base station, the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter.

[0017]

In the second aspect, the negotiation unit can be configured to acquire a neighbor radio base station parameter

to be actually used in the neighbor radio base station, as a response made to the notice by the neighbor radio base station; and the radio base station can further include a handover processor unit configured to determine whether or not to perform a handover process for the mobile station, on a basis of an own station parameter to be used in the radio base station itself and the acquired neighbor radio base station parameter.

[0018]

In the second aspect, the negotiation unit can be configured to determine a neighbor radio base station parameter to be actually used in the neighbor radio base station, by negotiating with the neighbor radio base station; and the radio base station can further include a handover processor unit configured to determine whether or not to perform a handover process for the mobile station, on a basis of an own station parameter to be used in the radio base station itself and the acquired neighbor radio base station parameter.

[0019]

In the second aspect, the negotiation unit can be configured to notify, to the neighbor radio base station, the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter, and to acquire the neighbor radio base station parameter from the neighbor radio base station, by X2 signaling.

[0020]

A third aspect of the present invention is summarized as a radio base station configured to perform a handover process for a mobile station, the radio base station including: a negotiation unit configured to reply with a radio base station parameter to a neighbor radio base station, upon receipt of an

estimated radio base station parameter from the neighbor radio base station, the radio base station parameter being actually used in the radio base station, the estimated radio base station parameter being supposed to be used in the radio base station;
5 and a handover processor unit configured to determine whether or not to perform a handover process for the mobile station, on a basis of the radio base station parameter and a neighbor base station parameter used in the neighbor radio base station.
[0021]

10 A fourth aspect of the present invention is summarized as a radio base station configured to perform a handover process for a mobile station, the radio base station including: a negotiation unit configured to determine a radio base station parameter to be actually used in the radio base station, by
15 negotiating with a neighbor radio base station, when an estimated radio base station parameter supposed to be used in the radio base station is received from the neighbor radio base station; and a handover processor unit configured to determine whether or not to perform a handover process for the mobile
20 station, on a basis of the radio base station parameter and a neighbor radio base station parameter used in the neighbor radio base station.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

25 [0022]

[FIG. 1] FIG. 1 is an overall configuration diagram of a mobile communication system according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

[Fig. 2] Fig. 2 is a functional block diagram of a radio base

station according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

[Fig. 3] Fig. 3 is a sequence diagram showing how radio base stations negotiate with each other in the mobile communication system according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

[Fig. 4] Fig. 4 is a diagram showing a format of an "Offset negotiation setup" message to be transmitted by a radio base station in the mobile communication system according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

[Fig. 5] Fig. 5 is a diagram showing a format of an "Offset negotiation response" message to be transmitted by a radio base station in the mobile communication system according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

[Fig. 6] Fig. 6 is a diagram for describing a handover process in the mobile communication system according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

[Fig. 7] Fig. 7 is a flowchart showing an operation of the mobile communication system according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

[Fig. 8] Fig. 8 is a diagram for describing problems in a conventional mobile communication system.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

[0023]

(Configuration of Mobile Communication System According to First Embodiment of the Present Invention)

A description will be given of a mobile communication system according to a first embodiment of the present invention

with reference to Figs. 1 through 6. In this embodiment, a mobile communication system of the LTE system defined by the 3GPP is used as an example to describe the embodiment. However, the present invention is not limited to the example.

5 [0024]

As shown in Fig. 1, the mobile communication system according to the first embodiment of the present invention includes multiple radio base stations eNB1 to eNB5. Each of the radio base stations eNB1 to eNB5 is configured to transmit
10 a "Load Indication (load information)" defined in the 3GPP TS36.423 to a neighbor radio base station.

[0025]

The configurations of the radio base stations eNB1 to eNB5 are basically the same. Thus, the configuration of the radio
15 base station eNB1 will be described below as a representative.

[0026]

As shown in Fig. 2, the radio base station eNB1 includes a load information receiver unit 11, a neighbor radio base station parameter estimation unit 12, an own station parameter
20 adjustment unit 13, a negotiation unit 14 and a handover processor unit 15.

[0027]

The load information receiver unit 11 is configured to receive the aforementioned "Load Indication (load
25 information)" from the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5.

[0028]

The neighbor radio base station parameter estimation unit 12 is configured to calculate an estimated neighbor radio base

station parameter (an offset2, a hysteresis2 or the like, for example), on the basis of the load information acquired by the load information receiver unit 11, the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter being supposed to be used in a corresponding one of the neighbor radio base stations.

[0029]

In addition, the neighbor radio base station parameter estimation unit 12 may be configured to calculate an estimated neighbor radio base station parameter (offset2), in consideration of a neighbor radio base station parameter (offset2) that is previously set by an OAM apparatus.

[0030]

Here, the neighbor radio base station parameter estimation unit 12 may be configured to calculate the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter, when the load information receiver unit 11 acquires the load information. Alternatively, the neighbor radio base station parameter estimation unit 12 may be configured to calculate and estimate the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter in a predetermined cycle.

[0031]

The own station parameter adjustment unit 13 is configured to adjust an own station parameter (offset1, hysteresis1 or the like, for example), on the basis of the load information acquired by the load information receiver unit 11.

[0032]

The negotiation unit 14 is configured to notify, to each of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5, the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter, and to acquire a neighbor

radio base station parameter to be actually used in the each of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5, as a response made to the notice by the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5.

5 [0033]

For example, the negotiation unit 14 is configured to notify, to each of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5, the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter, by use of an "Offset negotiation setup" message in an X2 signaling procedure as shown in Fig. 3, the parameter being estimated by the neighbor radio base station parameter estimation unit 12.
[0034]

Further, the negotiation unit 14 is configured to acquire the neighbor radio base station parameter as a response to the "Offset negotiation setup" message, by use of an "Offset negotiation response" message in the X2 signaling procedure, as shown in Fig. 3, the response being made from the each of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5.
[0035]

20 Here, an example of a format of the "Offset negotiation setup" message is shown Fig. 4, and an example of a format of the "Offset negotiation response" message is shown in Fig. 5.
[0036]

In Fig. 4, "Evaluated Offset value" specifies the aforementioned estimated neighbor radio base station parameter estimated by the neighbor radio base station parameter estimation unit 12.
[0037]

In addition, in Fig. 5, "Preferred Offset value for the

Cell ID" specifies the neighbor radio base station parameter to be actually used in each of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5.

[0038]

5 For example, when the corresponding one of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5 uses the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter specified by "Evaluated Offset value", "Preferred Offset value for the Cell ID" does not have to be set in the "Offset negotiation response" message.
10 Moreover, when notified by one of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5 of the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter (offset1) supposed to be used in the radio base station eNB1, the negotiation unit 14 replies to the one of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5 with a radio
15 base station parameter (offset1) to be actually used in the radio base station eNB1, as the response to the notice.

[0039]

 For example, when receiving an "Offset negotiation setup" message from one of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to
20 eNB5, the negotiation unit 14 determines whether or not to use the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter specified by "Evaluated Offset value".

[0040]

 When determining to use the estimated neighbor radio base
25 station parameter, the negotiation unit 14 replies to the one of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5 with an "Offset negotiation response" message indicating that the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter is to be used, i.e., an "Offset negotiation response" message in which "Preferred

Offset value for the Cell ID" is not set, or an "Offset negotiation response" message in which the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter is set in "Preferred Offset value for the Cell ID."

5 [0041]

On the other hand, when determining not to use the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter, the negotiation unit 14 replies to the one of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5 with an "Offset negotiation response" message in which the radio base station parameter to be actually used is set.

[0042]

Note that, the negotiation unit 14 may be configured to negotiate with each of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5, e.g., to repeat the operation shown in Fig. 3, and thereby to determine the neighbor radio base station parameter to be actually used in a corresponding one of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5.

[0043]

20 For example, consider a case where multiple radio base stations are connected to each other in a "Master-Slave" configuration. In this case, the radio base station eNB1 of "Master" type is configured to notify, to each of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5 of "Slave" type, an estimated neighbor radio base station parameter. Moreover, in this case, 25 the radio base station eNB1 of "Master" type is configured to then acquire the neighbor radio base station parameter to be actually used in the each of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5, as the response made to the notice by the each

of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5.

[0044]

Here, as a general rule, the neighbor radio base station parameter is preferably the same as the estimated neighbor radio
5 base station parameter.

[0045]

Further, consider another case where multiple radio base stations are connected to each other in a "Master-Slave" configuration. In this case, when the radio base station eNB1
10 of "Slave" type is notified by one of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5 of "Master" type of an estimated neighbor radio base station parameter (offset1) supposed to be used in the radio base station eNB1, the radio base station eNB1 of "Slave" type replies to the one of the neighbor radio base
15 stations eNB2 to eNB5 with the radio base station parameter (offset1) to be actually used in the radio base station eNB1, as the response to the notice.

[0046]

Here, if the estimated radio base station parameter
20 (offset1) is usable, the radio base station eNB1 of "Slave" type replies to the one of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5 with the estimated radio base station parameter (offset1) as the radio base station parameter (offset1).

[0047]

25 Further, consider a case where multiple radio base stations are connected to each other in a "Distributed" configuration. In this case, each of the radio base stations eNB may be configured to negotiate with the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5, e.g., to repeat the operation shown in

Fig. 3, and thereby to determine the neighbor radio base station parameter to be actually used in a corresponding one of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5.

[0048]

5 The handover processor unit 15 is configured to determine whether or not to perform a handover process for a mobile station UE, on the basis of the own station parameters (offset1 and hysteresis1) adjusted by the own station parameter adjustment unit 13 and the neighbor radio base station parameter (new
10 offset2) acquired by the negotiation unit 14.

[0049]

 Specifically, as shown in Fig. 6, the handover processor unit 15 is configured to handover a specific mobile station UE to the neighbor radio base station eNB2, when " $P_{11} + \text{offset1} + \text{hysteresis1} (P_{13}) < P_{21} + \text{new offset2} + (P_{23})$ " is true for the
15 specific mobile station UE.

[0050]

 Accordingly, as shown in Fig. 6, when a mobile station UE exists at the point X, the radio base station eNB1 handovers
20 the mobile station UE to the radio base station eNB2, because " $P_{11} + \text{offset1} + \text{hysteresis1} (P_{13}) < P_{21} + \text{new offset2} (P_{23})$ " is true. In this case, however, the situation where the radio base station eNB2 handovers the mobile station UE to the radio base station eNB1 does not occur, because " $P_{21} + \text{new offset2} + \text{hysteresis2} (P_{24}) < P_{11} + \text{offset1} (P_{12})$ " is not true.
25

[0051]

 Here, when " $P_{11} + \text{offset1} + \text{hysteresis1} (P_{13}) < P_{21} + \text{new offset2} (P_{23})$ " is true, and when the mobile station UE exists at the point X, the mobile station UE may transmit a "Measurement

Report" indicating to that effect, to the radio base station eNB1. Then, the radio base station eNB1 may determine that " $P_{11} + \text{offset1} + \text{hysteresis1} (P_{13}) < P_{21} + \text{new offset2} (P_{23})$ " is true, on the basis of the Measurement Report.

5 [0052]

In addition, when a mobile station UE exists at the point Y, the radio base station eNB2 handovers the mobile station UE to the radio base station eNB1, because " $P_{21} + \text{new offset2} + \text{hysteresis2} (P_{24}) < P_{11} + \text{offset1} (P_{12})$ " is true. In this case, however, the situation where the radio base station eNB1 handovers the mobile station UE to the radio base station eNB2 does not occur, because " $P_{11} + \text{offset1} + \text{hysteresis1} (P_{13}) < P_{21} + \text{new offset2} (P_{23})$ " is not true.

[0053]

15 Here, when " $P_{21} + \text{new offset2} + \text{hysteresis2} (P_{24}) < P_{11} + \text{offset1} (P_{12})$ " is true, and when the mobile station UE exists at the point Y, the mobile station UE may transmit a "Measurement Report" indicating to that effect, to the radio base station eNB2. Then, the radio base station eNB2 may determine that " $P_{21} + \text{new offset2} + \text{hysteresis2} (P_{24}) < P_{11} + \text{offset1} (P_{12})$ " is true, on the basis of the Measurement Report.

[0054]

25 Here, consider a case where the amount of traffic is large in the cell under the radio base station eNB1, or the load on the radio base station eNB1 is high, whereas the amount of traffic is small in the cell under the radio base station eNB2, or the load on the radio base station eNB2 is low. In this case, by adjusting the value of the "offset1" or "offset2", the situation can be adjusted so as to make it easy to perform a

handover of the mobile station UE from the radio base station eNB1 to the radio base station eNB2 and to make it difficult to perform a handover from the radio base station eNB2 to the radio base station eNB1.

5 [0055]

(Operation of Mobile Communication System According to First Embodiment of the Present Invention)

A description will be given of an operation of the mobile communication system according to the first embodiment of the present invention with reference to Fig. 7.

[0056]

As shown in Fig. 7, the radio base station eNB1 acquires load information from each of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5 in step S101.

15 [0057]

In step S102, the radio base station eNB1 calculates an estimated neighbor radio base station parameter (offset2 or the like, for example) supposed to be used in a corresponding one of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5.

20 [0058]

In step S103, the radio base station eNB1 notifies, to the each of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5, the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter by use of an "Offset negotiation setup" message.

25 [0059]

In step S104, the radio base station eNB1 acquires the neighbor radio base station parameter (offset2 or the like, for example) to be actually used in the each of the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5, from the each of the neighbor radio

base stations eNB2 to eNB5 via an "Offset negotiation response" message.

[0060]

In step S105, the radio base station eNB1 sets and applies
5 the neighbor radio base station parameters to a mobile station UE existing in the serving area under the radio base station eNB1. Then, the radio base station eNB1 notifies, to the mobile station UE, the neighbor radio base station parameters, in step S106.

10 [0061]

Thereafter, the radio base station eNB1 performs a handover process for each mobile station UE by use of the neighbor radio base station parameters acquired from the neighbor radio base stations eNB2 to eNB5 and the own station
15 parameter.

[0062]

(Operations and Effects of Mobile Communication System According to First Embodiment of the Present Invention)

With the mobile communication system according to the
20 present embodiment, the radio base station eNB1 acquires a neighbor radio base station parameter to be actually used in the radio base station eNB2, by use of the X2 signaling, and the radio base station eNB1 can perform a handover process in consideration of the neighbor radio base station parameter.

25 Thus, the occurrence of "Ping Pong phenomenon" can be prevented.

[0063]

Note that operation of the above described mobile station UE and of the radio base station eNB may be implemented by means of hardware, a software module executed by a processor, or a

combination of both.

[0064]

The software module may be provided in any type of storage medium such as an RAM (Random Access Memory), a flash memory,
5 a ROM (Read Only Memory), an EPROM (Erasable Programmable ROM), an EEPROM (Electrically Erasable and Programmable ROM), a register, a hard disk, a removable disk, or a CD-ROM.

[0065]

The storage medium is connected to the processor so that
10 the processor can read and write information from and to the storage medium. Also, the storage medium may be integrated into the processor. Also, the storage medium and the processor may be provided in an ASIC. The ASIC may be provided in the mobile station UE and the radio base station eNB. Also, the storage
15 medium and the processor may be provided in the mobile station UE and the radio base station eNB as a discrete component.

[0079]

Hereinabove, the present invention has been described in detail using the above embodiment; however, it is apparent to
20 those skilled in the art that the present invention is not limited to the embodiment described herein. Modifications and variations of the present invention can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention defined by the description of the scope of claims. Thus, what
25 is described herein is for illustrative purpose, and has no intention whatsoever to limit the present invention.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

[0067]

As described above, according to the present invention, it is possible to provide a mobile communication method capable of preventing an occurrence of "Ping Pong phenomenon" by causing each radio base station to perform a handover process in consideration of a neighbor radio base station parameter used in a neighbor radio base station, and also to provide a radio base station capable of preventing the same in the same manner.

CLAIMS

[1] A mobile communication method in which a radio base station performs a handover process for a mobile station, the
5 method comprising the steps of:

(A) calculating, at the radio base station, an estimated neighbor radio base station parameter, on a basis of load information acquired from a neighbor radio base station, the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter being supposed
10 to be used in the neighbor radio base station; and

(B) notifying, from the radio base station to the neighbor radio base station, the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter.

15 [2] The mobile communication method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

(C) acquiring, at the radio base station, a neighbor radio base station parameter to be actually used in the neighbor radio base station, as a response made to the notice by the neighbor
20 radio base station; and

(D) determining, at the radio base station, whether or not to perform a handover process for the mobile station, on a basis of an own station parameter to be used in the radio base station itself and the neighbor radio base station parameter
25 acquired in the step (C).

[3] The mobile communication method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

(E) determining a neighbor radio base station parameter

to be actually used in the neighbor radio base station, through negotiation between the radio base station and the neighbor radio base station; and

(F) determining, at the radio base station, whether or
5 not to perform a handover process for the mobile station, on a basis of an own station parameter to be used in the radio base station itself and the neighbor radio base station parameter acquired in the step (E).

10 [4] The mobile communication method according to claim 2, wherein

in the step (B), the radio base station notifies, to the neighbor radio base station, the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter by X2 signaling; and

15 in the step (C), the radio base station acquires the neighbor radio base station parameter from the neighbor radio base station by X2 signaling.

[5] A radio base station configured to perform a handover
20 process for a mobile station, the radio base station comprising:

an estimation unit configured to calculate an estimated neighbor radio base station parameter, on a basis of load information acquired from a neighbor radio base station, the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter being supposed
25 to be used in the neighbor radio base station; and

a negotiation unit configured to notify, to the neighbor radio base station, the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter.

[6] The radio base station according to claim 5, wherein
the negotiation unit is configured to acquire a neighbor
radio base station parameter to be actually used in the neighbor
radio base station, as a response made to the notice by the
5 neighbor radio base station; and

the radio base station further comprises a handover
processor unit configured to determine whether or not to perform
a handover process for the mobile station, on a basis of an own
station parameter to be used in the radio base station itself
10 and the acquired neighbor radio base station parameter.

[7] The radio base station according to claim 5, wherein
the negotiation unit is configured to determine a
neighbor radio base station parameter to be actually used in
15 the neighbor radio base station, by negotiating with the
neighbor radio base station; and

the radio base station further comprises a handover
processor unit configured to determine whether or not to perform
a handover process for the mobile station, on a basis of an own
20 station parameter to be used in the radio base station itself
and the acquired neighbor radio base station parameter.

[8] The radio base station according to claim 6, wherein
the negotiation unit is configured to notify, to the
25 neighbor radio base station, the estimated neighbor radio base
station parameter, and to acquire the neighbor radio base
station parameter from the neighbor radio base station, by X2
signaling.

[9] A radio base station configured to perform a handover process for a mobile station, the radio base station comprising:

a negotiation unit configured to reply with a radio base station parameter to a neighbor radio base station, upon receipt
5 of an estimated radio base station parameter from the neighbor radio base station, the radio base station parameter being actually used in the radio base station, the estimated radio base station parameter being supposed to be used in the radio base station; and

10 a handover processor unit configured to determine whether or not to perform a handover process for the mobile station, on a basis of the radio base station parameter and a neighbor base station parameter used in the neighbor radio base station.

15 [10] A radio base station configured to perform a handover process for a mobile station, the radio base station comprising:

a negotiation unit configured to determine a radio base station parameter to be actually used in the radio base station, by negotiating with a neighbor radio base station, when an
20 estimated radio base station parameter supposed to be used in the radio base station is received from the neighbor radio base station; and

a handover processor unit configured to determine whether or not to perform a handover process for the mobile station,
25 on a basis of the radio base station parameter and a neighbor radio base station parameter used in the neighbor radio base station.

ABSTRACT

A mobile communication method according to the present invention includes the steps of: (A) calculating, at the radio
5 base station (eNB1), an estimated neighbor radio base station
parameter, on a basis of load information acquired from a
neighbor radio base station (eNB2), the estimated neighbor
radio base station parameter being supposed to be used in the
neighbor radio base station (eNB2); and (B) notifying, from the
10 radio base station to (eNB1) the neighbor radio base station
(eNB2), the estimated neighbor radio base station parameter.

Fig. 8