

RECOVERY METHOD FOR LOST SIGNALING CONNECTION WITH HSDPA/FRACTIONAL DPCH

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Technical Field

The present invention generally relates to a universal mobile telecommunications system (UTMS), including the UTMS that forms part of the 3rd generation partnership project (3GPP or 3GPP2) based on code division multiple access (CDMA).

The present invention relates to the Release 6 wideband CDMA (also known as "WCDMA") specification that includes high speed downlink packet access (HSDPA) and a new feature, a so-called "Fractional Dedicated Physical Channel (F-DPCH)," to be used together with HSDPA; and more particularly, relates to a recovery method for a lost signaling connection with HSDPA/Fractional DPCH.

2. Description of Related Problem

In general, Figures 1a and 1b show basic diagrams of the UMTS packet network architecture, which is known in the art. In Figure 1a, the UMTS packet network architecture includes the major architectural elements of user equipment (UE), UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access Network (UTRAN), and core network (CN). The UE (also referred to as a "terminal" herein) is interfaced to the UTRAN over a radio (Uu) interface, while the UTRAN interfaces to the core network (CN) over a (wired) Iu interface. Figure 1b shows some further details of the architecture, particularly the UTRAN, which includes multiple

Radio Network Subsystems (RNSs), each of which contains at least one Radio Network Controller (RNC). In operation, each RNC may be connected to multiple Node Bs which are the UMTS counterparts to GSM base stations. Each Node B may be in radio contact with multiple UEs via the radio interface (Uu) shown in Fig. 1b. A given UE may be in radio contact with multiple Node Bs even if one or more of the Node Bs are connected to different RNCs. For instance, a UE1 in Fig. 1b may be in radio contact with Node B2 of RNS1 and Node B3 of RNS2 where Node B2 and Node B3 are neighboring Node Bs. This may occur, for example, when the UE1 is in a handover situation and there is a change in the connection from one Node B to another. The RNCs of different RNSs may be connected by an Iur interface which allows mobile UEs to stay in contact with both RNCs while traversing from a cell belonging to a Node B of one RNC to a cell belonging to a Node B of another RNC.

The Release 6 WCDMA specifications provide for the use of the "Fractional Dedicated Physical Channel (F-DPCH)" together with HSDPA, which may be implemented in a UMTS such as that shown in Figures 1a and 1b. In particular, Figure 2 shows the proposed Fractional DPCH slot formats in the downlink (DL), and illustrates the fact that there is no space in the DL dedicated physical channel (DPCH) for any data carrying dedicated physical data channel (DPDCH) bits. For example, the current DPCH radio frame includes 15 slots, each slot #i having a DPDCH (Data1), DPCCH (TPC and TFCI), DPDCH (Data2) and DPCCH (Pilot), while the proposed Fractional DPCH slot

formats include five different options 1-5 (Option 4 was adopted to the specifications), each having some arrangement of the TPC and Pilot in relation to Tx OFF, where the transmission is off, as shown, but no DPDCH bits.

In effect, the principle of the Fractional DPCH is to have in the downlink direction only a Dedicated Physical Control Channel (DPCCH) and not a Dedicated Physical Data Channel (DPDCH) at all, and thus all traffic in the downlink, including a logical channel carrying the control signaling, Dedicated Control Channel (DCCH) (radio resource control (RRC) signaling etc.), would be carried on HSDPA (e.g., on HS-DSCH).

The problem with this approach is that at the cell edge in the soft handover area the terminal may be receiving several radio links but the HS-DSCH only from a single base transceiving station (BTS) (as HS-DSCH cannot be in soft handover). In the Release 5 specifications, if the measurements indicate that the serving cell with the HS-DSCH has become weak, then the control-signaling-carrying logical channel, DCCH, transmitted on the downlink DPCH (DPCH being formed by DPCCH and DPDCH and thus having a data carrying capability) can be used to transport the control message reconfiguring the HS-DSCH to be coming from another cell. This is because when the UE is in SHO the same DPDCH content is transmitted from all the cells participating in the soft handover, but the HS-DSCH is transmitted only from one cell, and thus losing the signal from one cell does not impact the reception of the channels transmitted on the downlink DPDCH.

(See Figure 1d below.) Now if the DCCH delivering the control signaling is mapped on the HS-DSCH and this cell transmitting the HS-DSCH becomes too weak for reliable signaling (and is lost from an active set of suitable cells in the worst case), then a situation can develop in which there is a DPCH coming from several cells but no possibility to carry signaling in the downlink for the terminal, and thus there is no mechanism for the network to reconfigure the terminal's reception to somewhere else from the HS-DSCH that was lost. The situation can occur even with the Release 5 specifications (e.g. if the DCCH is mapped to the HS-DSCH), although the problem can be avoided simply by mapping the DCCH always on the DPCH (and never on the HS-DSCH). However, with the Fractional DPCH, there are no other options available than to use the HS-DSCH for signaling thus the problem cannot be circumvented.

For example, Figure 1c shows in particular how the DCCH can be mapped either to HSDPA or DCH channels when in the CELL_DCH state and in parallel showing how DCCH is mapped when in the CELL_FACH state, while Figure 1d shows that HS-DSCH is always transmitted from one cell only. In operation, if the DCCH is transmitted with DPCH, then in the SHO it is transmitted using all the radio links and thus losing one radio link does not cut the DCCH connection, but when DCCH is transmitted with HS-DSCH then in the SHO if that radio link (RL) is lost then the DCCH connection is lost and can be recovered by moving to CELL-FACH where the DCCH is sent using forward access channel shared by all UEs in the CELL_FACH

state.

There is no known prior art that provides a solution to this problem.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a solution to this problem.

In its broadest sense, the present invention provides a new and unique method featuring steps of detecting in one node, such as a terminal, that a downlink shared channel cannot be received reliably from another node, such as a Node B in control of a serving cell, in a network when a control channel is mapped to the shared channel and autonomously moving the terminal to another protocol state. The method also includes an automatic re-establishment of a signaling carrying connection between the terminal and the network without actions needed from the user of the terminal.

In one embodiment, the downlink shared channel may be a high speed downlink shared channel (HS-DSCH), the control channel may be a dedicated control channel (DCCH), and the DCCH may be carried over the HS-DSCH, the control protocol may be radio resource control (RRC) protocol and the protocol states may be RRC protocol states, such as e.g. CELL_FACH and CELL_DCH, or some combination of one or more of these features.

In operation, after the terminal detects that the downlink shared channel is lost, it may notify the network of

the same. The terminal also initiates uplink signaling on an access channel to inform a network node and ask for downlink shared channel re-establishment in a suitable cell. In one embodiment, the access channel may take the form of the random access channel (RACH) or other suitable access channel. The suitable cell may be the strongest cell in an active set of cells, and may be based on measurements done prior to when the connection from the serving cell was lost.

In an alternative embodiment, the network itself may initiate procedures for re-establishing the radio link and, if applicable, re-establishing the downlink shared channel connection.

In accordance with the present invention, the step of detecting may include estimating the quality criterion based on information in the control channel received from the serving cell, including information in one or more TPC fields.

The terminal detects that the shared channel connection is lost when the quality of the control channel transmitted in the same radio link with the shared channel is worse than a predetermined threshold quality (Q_{out}) over a predetermined period. By way of example, the predetermined threshold quality (Q_{out}) may correspond to about a 30% error probability of the TPC fields in the control channel, or some other suitable quality criterion, and the predetermined time period is about 160 milliseconds, a multiple of 160 milliseconds, or some other suitable timeframe. When the terminal is in a given state where a dedicated physical channel is allocated to

the terminal in uplink and downlink directions, then after considering the quality criterion over a predetermined period, the terminal considers the link quality to be either "in sync" or "out of sync". After considering the quality criterion over one or several consecutive periods to be "out of sync" in relation to established physical channels, the terminal starts a timer; and upon considering the quality criterion over one or multiple successive periods to be "in sync" the terminal stops and resets the timer, or if the timer expires then determines that there is a radio link failure. The established physical channels may include physical channels (DPCCH or F-DPCH). The radio link failure triggers the UE to initiate a cell update procedure, during which the dedicated physical channels are released and the terminal moves to the CELL_FACH state.

In particular, the method also uniquely features a step of setting up a regular R'99/R'5 DPCH in order to restore the radio resource control (RRC) signaling connection in a CELL_DCH state.

The present invention may be implemented in apparatus that may take the form of either user equipment or terminal, a network node, a network or system, a computer program product or some combination thereof.

For example, the user equipment or terminal may feature a module that detects that the downlink shared channel cannot be received reliably from the serving cell in the network when the control channel is mapped to the shared channel and

autonomously moves the user equipment to another protocol state, in accordance with the present invention and consistent with that described herein.

The network node may feature a corresponding module for cooperating with such user equipment (or terminal) in such a network, wherein the corresponding module allows the terminal to detect that such a downlink shared channel cannot be received reliably from such a serving cell in such a network when such a control channel is mapped to such a shared channel and to move autonomously to such another protocol state, in accordance with the present invention and consistent with that described herein.

The network or system would have such a network node for cooperating with such a terminal.

The present invention may also take the form of a computer program product with a program code, which program code is stored on a machine readable carrier, for carrying out the steps of a method including: detecting in a terminal or UE or network node that a downlink shared channel cannot be received reliably from a serving cell in a network when a control channel is mapped to the shared channel and autonomously moving the terminal to another protocol state, when the computer program is run in a processor or control module of either the terminal or UE), the network node, or some combination thereof.

The scope of the invention is also intended to include a device, including chip hardware, comprising one or more

integrated circuits for detecting in a terminal that a downlink shared channel cannot be received reliably from a serving cell in a network when a control channel is mapped to the shared channel and autonomously moving the terminal to another protocol state. The device may take the form of an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) for performing the functionality thereof. For example, the chip hardware may form part of the terminal or the network node that forms part of the serving cell.

In its most basic operation, the present invention defines a whole new terminal or UE behavior in a case, for example, where the terminal or UE detects that it cannot receive, for example, the HS-DSCH from a serving cell reliably when the DCCH is mapped to HS-DSCH (e.g. does not receive any radio link control (RLC) acknowledged mode feedback for the uplink measurement reports or in general the common pilot channel (CPICH) level drops too low in the serving HS-DSCH cell).

In one solution, the terminal would be autonomously moved to the cell forward access channel (CELL_FACH) state and would initiate uplink signaling on the random access channel (RACH) to inform the network and ask for HS-DSCH re-establishment in a suitable cell (preferably in the one being strongest one in the active set or according to the measurements done prior the connection from the serving HS-DSCH cell was lost), or the regular R'99/R'5 DPCH would be set up in order to restore the RRC signaling connection in the CELL_DCH state.

As an alternative solution, instead of moving automatically to the CELL_FACH state and releasing the DPCH connection, the UE could maintain the physical layer connection of the DPCHs with the network and start listening to FACH (or HS-DSCH) of an another cell in the active set for RRC signaling. The drawback of this idea is that in a soft handover (SHO) there are several cells to choose from and the network would not automatically know to which cell the RRC message should be sent as FACH (as well as HS-DSCH) is sent to one cell only.

As a third solution, instead of moving automatically to the CELL_FACH state and releasing the DPCH connection, the UE could maintain the physical layer connection of the DPCHs with the network, and the UE and the network could automatically reconfigure the SRB to DPDCH, and in the case of Fractional DPCH being in use also reconfigure the Fractional DPCH to preconfigured R'99 DPCH. However this solution is likely to require more extensive preconfigurations for the UE than the other solutions and thus is not likely to be adopted.

One advantage of the present invention is that it provides a recovery mechanism in the case that a signaling radio bearer is mapped to the HS-DSCH and the HS-DSCH connection is lost.

The foregoing and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent in light of the following detailed description of exemplary embodiments thereof.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The drawing is not drawn to scale and includes the following Figures:

Figures 1a and 1b show basic block diagrams of the UMTS packet network architecture, which is known in the art; and Figures 1c and 1d show diagrams respectively of channels carrying network control signaling and physical layer connection when the UE is in a soft handover.

Figure 2 shows proposed fractional DPCH slot formats in the downlink. (3GPP adopted option 4)

Figure 3 shows a block diagram of user equipment or a terminal according to the present invention.

Figure 4 shows a block diagram of a network node according to the present invention.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

The implementation of the present invention may include the following:

An initial condition is that a signaling radio bearer (e.g. RRC signaling that is sent on a logical channel named DCCH) is mapped to the HS-DSCH. This has to be the case if the fractional DPCH is used as no other option exist.

Now, in the event that the HS-DSCH connection is lost (i.e. the network loses control over the UE or terminal), the UE could detect this situation and e.g. after some network set delay the UE could autonomously fall back to CELL_FACH mode

and initiate the signal radio bearer (SRB) setup procedure over RACH as usual.

Additionally, the network could detect the same situation and after the abovementioned delay could internally consider the UE being in CELL_FACH state and subsequently terminate the hanging DPCHs.

The network could have control over the criteria when the UE considers that the HS-DSCH connection is lost, e.g. based on the CPICH level, delay since the last message was received (similar to already existing inactivity timer in the network side) or something else. Additionally, the network may set a hysteresis delay so that the UE would wait after detecting this situation before moving to CELL_FACH state.

Figure 3: Terminal or UE 100

Figure 3 shows, by way of example, a terminal or UE generally indicated as 100 according to the present invention that may form part of the network shown in Figure 1a and 1b, consistent with that shown and described herein. The terminal or UE includes a downlink shared channel detection module 102 and other terminal modules 104.

In operation, the downlink shared channel detection module 102 detects in the terminal that a downlink shared channel cannot be received reliably from a serving cell in a network when a control channel is mapped to the shared channel and autonomously moves the terminal to another protocol state.

The module 102 also cooperates with the network node

shown and described in relation to Figure 4 to provide an automatic re-establishment of a signaling carrying connection between the terminal and the network without actions needed from the user of the terminal.

Consistent with that described herein, the downlink shared channel may include a high speed downlink shared channel (HS-DSCH), the control channel may include a dedicated control channel (DCCH), the other channel state may include a cell forward access channel (FACH) state, and the protocol state may include a radio resource control (RRC) protocol state.

In operation, after the module 102 detects that the downlink shared channel is lost, it notifies the network node (Figure 4) of the same. The module 102 also initiates uplink signaling on an access channel to inform the network node (Figure 4) and ask for downlink shared channel re-establishment in a suitable cell. The access channel may include a random access channel (RACH). The suitable cell may be the strongest cell in an active set of cells, and may be based on measurements done prior to when the connection from the serving cell was lost. The scope of the invention is also intended to include the network initiating procedures for re-establishing the radio link and, if applicable, re-establishing the downlink shared channel connection, for example, in the network node consistent with that discussed herein.

The module 102 may also set up a regular R'99/R'5 DPCH in

order to restore the radio resource control (RRC) signaling connection in a CELL_DCH mode.

By way of example, the functionality of the module 102 may be implemented using hardware, software, firmware, or a combination thereof, although the scope of the invention is not intended to be limited to any particular embodiment thereof. In a typical software implementation, the module 102 would be one or more microprocessor-based architectures having a microprocessor, a random access memory (RAM), a read only memory (ROM), input/output devices and control, data and address buses connecting the same. A person skilled in the art would be able to program such a microprocessor-based implementation to perform the functionality described herein without undue experimentation. The scope of the invention is not intended to be limited to any particular implementation using technology known or later developed in the future. Moreover, the scope of the invention is intended to include the module 102 being a stand alone module in the combination with other circuitry for implementing another module.

The other modules 104 and the functionality thereof are known in the art, do not form part of the underlying invention per se, and are not described in detail herein. For example, the other modules 104 may include other modules such as a UMTS subscriber identity module (USIM) and mobile equipment (ME) module, which are known in the art and not described herein. The module 102 may be a stand-alone module, form part of the USIM, ME or some combination thereof.

Figure 4: Network Node 200

Figure 4 shows, by way of example, a network node generally indicated as 200 according to the present invention that may form part of the RNS, RNC, node Bs or some combination thereof shown in Figure 1a and 1b, consistent with that shown and described herein. The scope of the invention is not intended to be limited to where the functionality of the network node is implemented in the network. The network node 200 includes a downlink shared channel module 202 and other network modules 204.

The downlink shared channel module 202 cooperates with the module 102 of the user equipment or terminal 100 in such a network as that shown in Figure 1a and 1b, wherein the module 202 allows the terminal 100 to detect that such a downlink shared channel cannot be received reliably from such a serving cell in the network when such a control channel is mapped to the shared channel and to move autonomously to such another protocol state, in accordance with the present invention and consistent with that described herein.

The module 202 also cooperates with the module 102 shown and described in relation to Figure 3 to provide an automatic re-establishment of a signaling carrying connection between the terminal and the network without actions needed from the user of the terminal.

In operation, the module 202 may also initiate procedures for re-establishing the radio link and, if applicable, re-

establishing the downlink shared channel connection, consistent with that discussed herein.

By way of example, the functionality of the module 202 may be implemented using hardware, software, firmware, or a combination thereof, although the scope of the invention is not intended to be limited to any particular embodiment thereof. In a typical software implementation, the module 102 would be one or more microprocessor-based architectures having a microprocessor, a random access memory (RAM), a read only memory (ROM), input/output devices and control, data and address buses connecting the same. A person skilled in the art would be able to program such a microprocessor-based implementation to perform the functionality described herein without undue experimentation. The scope of the invention is not intended to be limited to any particular implementation using technology known or later developed in the future. Moreover, the scope of the invention is intended to include the module 102 being a stand alone module in the combination with other circuitry for implementing another module.

The other modules 204 and the functionality thereof are known in the art, do not form part of the underlying invention per se, and are not described in detail herein. For example, the other modules 204 may include one or more other modules in the RNS, RNC, Node B or some combination thereof, which are known in the art and not described herein.

List of abbreviations

CPICH	Common Pilot Channel
DCCH	Dedicated Control Channel
DL	Downlink
DPCH	Dedicated Physical Channel
DPCCH	Dedicated Physical Control Channel
DPDCH	Dedicated Physical Data Channel
FACH	Forward Access Channel
F-DPCH	Fractional DPCH
HS-DSCH	High Speed Downlink Shared Channel
RACH	Random Access Channel
RLC	Radio Link Control
RRC	Radio Resource Control
SHO	SOFT HANDOVER
SRB	Signaling Radio Bearer
TFCI	Transport Format Combination Indicator
TPC	Transmission Power Control
UE	User Equipment
UL	Uplink

The Scope of the Invention

It should be understood that, unless stated otherwise herein, any of the features, characteristics, alternatives or modifications described regarding a particular embodiment herein may also be applied, used, or incorporated with any other embodiment described herein. Also, the drawings herein are not drawn to scale.

Although the invention has been described and illustrated with respect to exemplary embodiments thereof, the foregoing and various other additions and omissions may be made therein and thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising the steps of:

detecting in a terminal that a downlink shared channel cannot be received reliably from a serving cell in a network when a control channel is mapped to the shared channel; and autonomously moving the terminal to another protocol state.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the method includes automatic re-establishment of a signaling carrying connection between the terminal and the network without actions needed from the user of the terminal.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the method includes the terminal initiating uplink signaling on an access channel to inform a network node and asking for downlink shared channel re-establishment in a suitable cell.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the method includes the network initiating procedures for re-establishing the radio link and, if applicable, re-establishing the downlink shared channel connection.

5. A method according to claim 3, wherein the method includes choosing the suitable cell that is the strongest cell in an active set.

6. A method according to claim 3, wherein the method includes choosing the suitable cell based on the measurements done prior to when the connection from the serving cell was lost.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the method includes setting up a regular R'99/R'5 DPCH in order to restore the radio resource control (RRC) signaling connection in a CELL_DCH mode.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the other channel state is a cell forward access channel (CELL_FACH) state.

9. A method according to claim 3, wherein the access channel is a random access channel (RACH).

10. A method according to claim 1, wherein the downlink shared channel is a high speed downlink shared channel (HS-DSCH).

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein the control channel is a dedicated control channel (DCCH).

12. User equipment for operating in a network, characterized in that

the user equipment has a module that detects that a downlink shared channel cannot be received reliably from a serving cell in a network when a control channel is mapped to the shared channel and autonomously moves the user equipment to another protocol state.

13. User equipment according to claim 12, wherein the module automatically re-establishes the signaling carrying connection with the network without actions needed from the user of the user equipment.

14. User equipment according to claim 12, wherein the module initiates uplink signaling on an access channel to inform a network node and asks for downlink shared channel re-establishment in a suitable cell.

15. User equipment according to claim 12, wherein the module relies on a network node to initiate procedures for re-establishing the radio link and, if applicable, re-establish the downlink shared channel connection.

16. User equipment according to claim 14, wherein the suitable cell chosen is the strongest cell in an active set.

17. User equipment according to claim 14, wherein the suitable cell chosen is based on the measurements done prior to when the connection from the serving cell was lost.

18. User equipment according to claim 12, wherein the module sets up a regular R'99/R'5 DPCH in order to restore the radio resource control (RRC) signaling connection in a CELL_DCH mode.

19. User equipment according to claim 12, wherein the other channel state is a cell forward access channel (CELL_FACH) state.

20. User equipment according to claim 14, wherein the access channel is a random access channel (RACH).

21. User equipment according to claim 12, wherein the downlink shared channel is a high speed downlink shared channel (HS-DSCH).

22. User equipment according to claim 12, wherein the control channel is a dedicated control channel (DCCH).

23. A network node having a module for cooperating with a terminal in a network, characterized in that

the module allows the terminal to detect that a downlink shared channel cannot be received reliably from a serving cell in the network when a control channel is mapped to the shared channel and to move autonomously to another protocol state.

24. A network node according to claim 23, wherein the module allows the terminal to automatically re-establish the signaling carrying connection with the network without actions needed from the user of the terminal.

25. A network node according to claim 23, wherein the module allows the terminal to initiate uplink signaling on an access channel to inform the network node and to ask for downlink shared channel re-establishment in a suitable cell.

26. A network node according to claim 23, wherein the module initiates procedures for re-establishing the radio link and, if applicable, re-establishing the downlink shared channel connection.

27. A network node according to claim 25, wherein the suitable cell chosen is the strongest cell in an active set.

28. A network node according to claim 25, wherein the suitable cell chosen is based on the measurements done prior to when the connection from the serving cell was lost.

29. A network node according to claim 23, wherein the module sets up a regular R'99/R'5 DPCH in order to restore the radio resource control (RRC) signaling connection in a CELL_DCH state.

30. A network node according to claim 23, wherein the other channel state is a cell forward access channel (CELL_FACH) state.

31. A network node according to claim 25, wherein the access channel is a random access channel (RACH).

32. A network node according to claim 23, wherein the downlink shared channel is a high speed downlink shared channel (HS-DSCH).

33. A network node according to claim 23, wherein the control channel is a dedicated control channel (DCCH).

34. A system having a network node cooperating with a terminal characterized in that:

the terminal detects that a downlink shared channel cannot be received reliably from a serving cell in the network when a control channel is mapped to the shared channel and moves autonomously to another protocol state.

35. A system according to claim 34, wherein the system includes automatic re-establishment of the signaling carrying connection between the terminal and the network without actions needed from the user of the terminal.

36. A system according to claim 34, wherein the system includes the terminal initiating uplink signaling on an access channel to inform a network node and asking for downlink shared channel re-establishment in a suitable cell.

37. A system according to claim 34, wherein the system includes the network initiating procedures for re-establishing the radio link and, if applicable, re-establishing the downlink shared channel connection.

38. A system according to claim 36, wherein the system includes the suitable cell being chosen that is the strongest cell in an active set.

39. A system according to claim 36, wherein the system includes the suitable cell being choosing based on the measurements done prior to when the connection from the serving cell was lost.

40. A system according to claim 34, wherein the system includes a regular R'99/R'5 DPCH being set up in order to restore the radio resource control (RRC) signaling connection in a CELL_DCH mode.

41. A system according to claim 34, wherein the other channel state is a cell forward access channel (CELL_FACH) state.

42. A system according to claim 36, wherein the access channel is a random access channel (RACH).

43. A system according to claim 34, wherein the downlink shared channel is a high speed downlink shared channel (HS-DSCH) .

44. A system according to claim 34, wherein the control channel is a dedicated control channel (DCCH) .

45. A method according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises implementing the step of the method via a computer program running in a processor or controller in the terminal.

46. A computer program product with a program code, which program code is stored on a machine readable carrier, for carrying out the steps of a method comprising the steps of: detecting in a terminal that a downlink shared channel cannot be received reliably from a serving cell in a network when a control channel is mapped to the shared channel and autonomously moving the terminal to another protocol state, when the computer program is run in a processor or control module of either user equipment, a network node, or some combination thereof.

47. A computer program product according to claim 46, wherein the method includes automatic re-establishment of the signaling carrying connection between the terminal and the network without actions needed from the user of the terminal.

48. A computer program product according to claim 46, wherein the method includes the terminal initiating uplink signaling on an access channel to inform a network node and asking for downlink shared channel re-establishment in a suitable cell.

49. A computer program product according to claim 46, wherein the method includes the network initiating procedures for re-establishing the radio link and, if applicable, re-establishing the downlink shared channel connection.

50. A method comprising the steps of:

detecting in a terminal that a downlink shared channel cannot be received reliably from a serving cell when a control channel is mapped to the shared channel;

autonomously moving the terminal to another protocol state; and

initiating uplink signaling on an access channel to inform a network node and asking for downlink shared channel re-establishment in a suitable cell.

51. A method according to claim 50, wherein the method includes automatically re-establishing the signaling carrying connection between the terminal and the network without actions needed from the user of the terminal.

52. A method according to claim 50, wherein the terminal initiates the uplink signaling.

53. A method according to claim 50, wherein the network initiates the procedures for re-establishing the radio link and, if applicable, re-establishing the downlink shared channel connection.

54. A method according to claim 1, wherein the protocol state is a radio resource control (RRC) protocol state.

55. User equipment according to claim 12, wherein the protocol state is a radio resource control (RRC) protocol state.

56. A network node according to claim 23, wherein the protocol state is a radio resource control (RRC) protocol state.

57. A system according to claim 34, wherein the protocol state is a radio resource control (RRC) protocol state.

58. A computer program product according to claim 46, wherein the protocol state is a radio resource control (RRC) protocol state.

59. A method according to claim 50, wherein the protocol state is a radio resource control (RRC) protocol state.

60. A method according to claim 1, wherein, after the terminal detects that the downlink shared channel is lost, it notifies the network of the same.

61. User equipment according to claim 12, wherein, after the terminal detects that the downlink shared channel is lost, it notifies the network of the same.

62. A network node according to claim 23, wherein, after the terminal detects that the downlink shared channel is lost, the network receives notification of the same from the terminal.

63. A system according to claim 34, wherein, after the terminal detects that the downlink shared channel is lost, it notifies the network of the same.

64. A method according to claim 50, wherein, after the terminal detects that the downlink shared channel is lost, it notifies the network of the same.

65. A method according to claim 60, wherein only downlink signaling is lost, and the uplink signaling is not.

66. A method according to claim 1, wherein the terminal maintains a physical layer connection of the downlink shared channel with the network and starts listening to other channel states of another cell in the active set for signaling, instead of moving automatically to the another protocol state and releasing the physical layer connection.

67. User equipment according to claim 12, wherein the user equipment maintains a physical layer connection of the downlink shared channel with the network and starts listening to other channel states of another cell in the active set for signaling, instead of moving automatically to the another protocol state and releasing the physical layer connection.

68. A network node according to claim 23, wherein the module cooperates with the terminal so as to maintain a physical layer connection of the downlink shared channel with the network and start listening to other channel states of another cell in the active set for signaling, instead of moving automatically to the another protocol state and releasing the physical layer connection.

69. A system according to claim 34, wherein the terminal maintains a physical layer connection of the downlink shared channel with the network and starts listening to other channel states of another cell in the active set for signaling, instead of moving automatically to the another protocol state and releasing the physical layer connection.

70. A method according to claim 1, wherein the terminal detects that the shared channel connection is lost, moves to a cell forward access channel state (CELL_FACH) and initiates a signal radio bearer (SRB) setup procedure over an access channel.

71. A method according to claim 1, wherein the network detects that the shared channel connection is lost, internally considers the terminal to be in a cell forward access channel state (CELL_FACH), and subsequently terminates any hanging dedicated physical channels (DPCHs).

72. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of detecting includes estimating the quality criterion based on information in the control channel received from the serving cell.

73. A method according to claim 72, wherein the information in the control channel includes information in one or more TPC fields.

74. A method according to claim 70, wherein the terminal detects that the shared channel connection is lost when the quality of the control channel over a predetermined period is worse than a predetermined threshold quality (Q_{out}).

75. A method according to claim 74, wherein the predetermined threshold quality (Q_{out}) is evaluated over about 160 milliseconds.

76. A method according to claim 70, wherein, when the terminal is in a given state where a dedicated physical channel is allocated to the terminal in uplink and downlink directions, then after considering the link quality over one or several consecutive evaluation periods to be "out of sync" in relation to established physical channels, the terminal starts a timer; and upon considering the link quality over one or multiple successive periods to be "in sync" the terminal stops and resets the timer, or if the timer expires then

determines that there is a radio link failure.

77. A method according to claim 76, wherein the established physical channels include physical channels (DPCCH or F-DPCH).

78. A method according to claim 70, wherein the transition to the CELL_FACH state occurs when all dedicated channels have been released.

79. A method according to claim 76, wherein when the radio link failure occurs, the terminal clears the dedicated physical channel configuration, and performs a cell update procedure.

80. User equipment according to claim 12, wherein the user equipment detects that the shared channel connection is lost, moves to a cell forward access channel state (CELL_FACH) and initiates a signal radio bearer (SRB) setup procedure over an access channel.

81. User equipment according to claim 12, wherein the network detects that the shared channel connection is lost, internally considers the user equipment to be in a cell forward access channel state (CELL_FACH), and subsequently terminates any hanging dedicated physical channels (DPCHs).

82. User equipment according to claim 12, wherein the user equipment detects the reliability of the shared channel by estimating the quality criterion based on information in the control channel received from the serving cell.

83. User equipment according to claim 82, wherein the information in the control channel includes information in one or more TPC fields.

84. User equipment according to claim 80, wherein the terminal detects that the shared channel connection is lost when the quality of the control channel over a predetermined period is worse than a predetermined threshold quality (Q_{out}).

85. User equipment according to claim 84, wherein the predetermined threshold quality (Q_{out}) is evaluated over about 160 milliseconds.

86. User equipment according to claim 80, wherein, when the user equipment is in a given state where a dedicated physical channel is allocated to the terminal in uplink and downlink directions, then after considering the link quality over one or several consecutive evaluation periods to be "out of sync" in relation to established physical channels, the module starts a timer; and upon considering the link quality over one or multiple successive periods to be "in sync" the user equipment stops and resets the timer, or if the timer

expires then determines that there is a radio link failure.

87. User equipment according to claim 86, wherein the established physical channels include physical channels (DPCCH or F-DPCH).

88. User equipment according to claim 80, wherein the transition to the CELL_FACH state occurs when all dedicated channels have been released.

89. User equipment according to claim 86, wherein when the radio link failure occurs, the module clears the dedicated physical channel configuration, and performs a cell update procedure.

90. A network node according to claim 23, wherein the network node detects that the shared channel connection is lost, internally considers the terminal to be in a cell forward access channel state (CELL_FACH), and subsequently terminates any hanging dedicated physical channels (DPCHs).

91. A system according to claim 34, wherein the terminal detects that the shared channel connection is lost, moves to a cell forward access channel state (CELL_FACH) and initiates a signal radio bearer (SRB) setup procedure over an access channel.

92. A system according to claim 34, wherein the network node detects that the shared channel connection is lost, internally considers the terminal to be in a cell forward access channel state (CELL_FACH), and subsequently terminates any hanging dedicated physical channels (DPCHs).

93. A system according to claim 34, wherein the terminal detects the reliability of the shared channel by estimating the quality criterion based on information in the control channel received from the serving cell.

94. A system according to claim 93, wherein the information in the control channel includes information in one or more TPC fields.

95. A system according to claim 91, wherein the terminal detects that the shared channel connection is lost when the quality of the control channel over a predetermined period is worse than a predetermined threshold quality (Q_{out}).

96. A system according to claim 95, wherein the predetermined threshold quality (Q_{out}) is evaluated over about 160 milliseconds.

97. A system according to claim 91, wherein, when the terminal is in a given state where a dedicated physical channel is allocated to the terminal in uplink and downlink directions, then after considering the link quality over one or several consecutive evaluation periods to be "out of sync" in relation to established physical channels, the terminal starts a timer; and upon considering the link quality over one or multiple successive periods to be "in sync" the terminal stops and resets the timer, or if the timer expires then determines that there is a radio link failure.

98. A system according to claim 97, wherein the established physical channels include physical channels (DPCCH or F-DPCH).

99. A system according to claim 91, wherein the transition to the CELL_FACH state occurs when all dedicated channels have been released.

100. A system according to claim 97, wherein when the radio link failure occurs, the terminal clears the dedicated physical channel configuration, and performs a cell update procedure.

101. A device, including chip hardware, comprising one or more integrated circuits for detecting in a terminal that a downlink shared channel cannot be received reliably from a serving cell in a network when a control channel is mapped to the shared channel and autonomously moving the terminal to another protocol state.

102. A device according to claim 101, wherein the device is an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) for performing the functionality thereof.

103. A method comprising the steps of:

detecting in a terminal that a downlink shared fractional dedicated physical channel (F-DPCH) cannot be received reliably from a serving cell in a network when a control channel is mapped to the shared channel, the quality criterion being estimated based on information contained in one or more transmit power control (TPC) fields in the downlink shared fractional dedicated physical channel (F-DPCH); and

autonomously moving the terminal from the CELL_DCH state to the CELL_FACH state after considering one or several consecutive evaluation periods to be "out of sync" and considering the radio link as failed.

104. A method comprising the steps of:

detecting that a downlink shared channel having a control channel mapped therein cannot be received reliably between two nodes in a network; and

autonomously moving one node to another protocol state based on this detection.

105. A method according to claim 104, wherein the downlink shared channel is the high speed downlink shared channel (HS-DSCH).

106. A method according to claim 105, wherein the detection is based on a quality criterion being estimated using information contained in one or more transmit power control (TPC) fields in the downlink shared fractional dedicated physical channel (F-DPCH);

107. A method according to claim 104, wherein one node is a terminal and the other node is a serving cell.

108. A method according to claim 104, wherein the control channel includes one or more transmit power control (TPC) fields.

109. A method according to claim 104, wherein the one state is a CELL_DCH state to the other state is a CELL_FACH state.