

Output Power Control for Multislot Uplinks

Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to a method of operating a mobile station in a TDMA network.

Background to the Invention

The provision of high-speed data services to mobile stations such as mobile telephones and communicators in TDMA networks has resulted in the need for
10 mobile stations to transmit in more than one slot in each TDMA frame. A difficulty with this is that the base station needs to know the maximum power capability of the mobile station.

It has been proposed to allow a mobile station to change its power class through a
15 classmark change procedure or a routing area update but these procedures are found to be too slow and also not properly supported by several network implementations.

Summary of the Invention

According to the present invention, there is provided a method of operating a
20 mobile station in a TDMA network, the method comprising receiving a peak output power setting command from a base station and receiving a transmit slot allocation from the base station, characterised by:

detecting, at the mobile station, a parameter of the rf system of the mobile station meeting a predetermined criterion;
25 responding to said detection by modifying the average rf output power of the mobile station over a plurality of slots such that it falls below what would have been the average output power level had the peak output power setting command been complied with in all of the allocated slots.

30 The criterion may comprise an increase in slot allocation. A increase in slot allocation occurs when additional bandwidth is required. Another usable criterion is the temperature of the rf output power amplifier. The plurality of slots may or may not be consecutive.

The response may comprise reducing the average rf output power by reducing the instantaneous rf output power during each transmit slot and/or reducing the average rf output power by reducing the take up of the allocated slots. In the case
5 of slot allocation changes, it is preferable that there is a predetermined time delay between said detection and said response.

According to the present invention, there is also provided a mobile station for a TDMA network, the mobile station comprising a controller and an rf output power
10 amplifier, characterised in that the controller is configured to control the operation of the mobile station so as to perform a method according to the present invention.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 shows a mobile communication system according to the present invention;

15 Figure 2 is a block diagram of a mobile station;

Figure 3 is a block diagram of a base transceiver station;

Figure 4 illustrates the frame structure used in an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 5 illustrates a packet data channel in an embodiment of the present
20 invention;

Figure 6 illustrates the sharing of a radio channel between two half-rate packet channels in an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 7 illustrates the lower levels of a protocol stack used in an embodiment of the present invention;

25 Figure 8 is a flowchart illustrating a first embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 9 is a flowchart illustrating a second embodiment of the present invention;

Figures 10 and 11 are flowcharts illustrating a third embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 12 is a flowchart illustrating a fourth embodiment of the present invention;

30 Figure 13 is a flowchart illustrating a fifth embodiment of the present invention;
and

Figures 14 and 15 are flowcharts illustrating a sixth embodiment of the present invention.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Preferred embodiments of the present invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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Referring to Figure 1, a mobile phone network 1 comprises a plurality of switching centres including first and second switching centres 2a, 2b. The first switching centre 2a is connected to a plurality of base station controllers including first and second base station controllers 3a, 3b. The second switching centre 2b is similarly
10 connected to a plurality of base station controllers (not shown).

The first base station controller 3a is connected to and controls a base transceiver station 4 and a plurality of other base transceiver stations. The second base station controller 3b is similarly connected to and controls a plurality of base transceiver
15 stations (not shown).

In the present example, each base transceiver station services a respective cell. Thus, the base transceiver station 4 services a cell 5. However, a plurality of cells may be serviced by one base transceiver station by means of directional antennas. A
20 plurality of mobile stations 6a, 6b are located in the cell 5. It will be appreciated what the number and identities of mobile stations in any given cell will vary with time.

The mobile phone network 1 is connected to a public switched telephone network 7
25 by a gateway switching centre 8.

A packet service aspect of the network includes a plurality of packet service support nodes (one shown) 9 which are connected to respective pluralities of base station controllers 3a, 3b. At least one packet service support gateway node 10 connects
30 the or each packet service support node 10 to the Internet 11.

The switching centres 3a, 3b and the packet service support nodes 9 have access to a home location register 12.

Communication between the mobile stations 6a, 6b and the base transceiver station 4 employs a time-division multiple access (TDMA) scheme.

5 Referring to Figure 2, the first mobile station 6a comprises an antenna 101, an rf subsystem 102, a baseband DSP (digital signal processing) subsystem 103, an analogue audio subsystem 104, a loudspeaker 105, a microphone 106, a controller 107, a liquid crystal display 108, a keypad 109, memory 110, a battery 111 and a power supply circuit 112.

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The rf subsystem 102 contains if and rf circuits of the mobile telephone's transmitter and receiver and a frequency synthesizer for tuning the mobile station's transmitter and receiver. The antenna 101 is coupled to the rf subsystem 102 for the reception and transmission of radio waves.

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The baseband DSP subsystem 103 is coupled to the rf subsystem 102 to receive baseband signals therefrom and for sending baseband modulation signals thereto. The baseband DSP subsystems 103 includes codec functions which are well-known in the art.

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The analogue audio subsystem 104 is coupled to the baseband DSP subsystem 103 and receives demodulated audio therefrom. The analogue audio subsystem 104 amplifies the demodulated audio and applies it to the loudspeaker 105. Acoustic signals, detected by the microphone 106, are pre-amplified by the analogue audio
25 subsystem 104 and sent to the baseband DSP subsystem 4 for coding.

The controller 107 controls the operation of the mobile telephone. It is coupled to the rf subsystem 102 for supplying tuning instructions to the frequency synthesizer and to the baseband DSP subsystem 103 for supplying control data and
30 management data for transmission. The controller 107 operates according to a program stored in the memory 110. The memory 110 is shown separately from the controller 107. However, it may be integrated with the controller 107.

The display device 108 is connected to the controller 107 for receiving control data and the keypad 109 is connected to the controller 107 for supplying user input data signals thereto.

- 5 The battery 111 is connected to the power supply circuit 112 which provides regulated power at the various voltages used by the components of the mobile telephone.

The controller 107 is programmed to control the mobile station for speech and data
10 communication and with application programs, e.g. a WAP browser, which make use of the mobile station's data communication capabilities.

The second mobile station 6b is similarly configured.

- 15 Referring to Figure 3, greatly simplified, the base transceiver station 4 comprises an antenna 201, an rf subsystem 202, a baseband DSP (digital signal processing) subsystem 203, a base station controller interface 204 and a controller 207.

The rf subsystem 202 contains the if and rf circuits of the base transceiver station's
20 transmitter and receiver and a frequency synthesizer for tuning the base transceiver station's transmitter and receiver. The antenna 201 is coupled to the rf subsystem 202 for the reception and transmission of radio waves.

The baseband DSP subsystem 203 is coupled to the rf subsystem 202 to receive
25 baseband signals therefrom and for sending baseband modulation signals thereto. The baseband DSP subsystems 203 includes codec functions which are well-known in the art.

The base station controller interface 204 interfaces the base transceiver station 4 to
30 its controlling base station controllers 3a.

The controller 207 controls the operation of the base transceiver station 4. It is coupled to the rf subsystem 202 for supplying tuning instructions to the frequency

synthesizer and to the baseband DSP subsystem for supplying control data and management data for transmission. The controller 207 operates according to a program stored in the memory 210.

- 5 The base station controllers 3a, 3b are responsible for allocating radio link resources to mobile stations and cause the base transceiver stations 4 to transmit power command signals to the mobile stations 6a, 6b. Under normal circumstances, the mobile stations 6a, 6b transmit with the power level which accord with these command signals. However, according to the present invention, this is not always
10 the case as will be explained below.

- Referring to Figure 4, each TDMA frame, used for communication between the mobile stations 6a, 6b and the base transceiver stations 4, comprises eight 0.577ms time slots. A "26 multiframe" comprises 26 frames and a "51 multiframe"
15 comprises 51 frames. Fifty one "26 multiframes" or twenty six "51 multiframes" make up one superframe. Finally, a hyperframe comprises 2048 superframes.

- The data format within the time slots varies according to the function of a time slot. A normal burst, i.e. time slot, comprises three tail bits, followed by 58 encrypted
20 data bits, a 26-bit training sequence, another sequence of 58 encrypted data bits and a further three tail bits. A guard period of eight and a quarter bit durations is provided at the end of the burst. A frequency correction burst has the same tail bits and guard period. However, its payload comprises a fixed 142 bit sequence. A synchronization burst is similar to the normal burst except that the encrypted data is
25 reduced to two clocks of 39 bits and the training sequence is replaced by a 64-bit synchronization sequence. Finally, an access burst comprises eight initial tail bits, followed by a 41-bit synchronization sequence, 36 bits of encrypted data and three more tail bits. In this case, the guard period is 68.25 bits long.

- 30 When used for circuit-switched speech traffic, the channelisation scheme is as employed in GSM.

Referring to Figure 5, full rate packet switched channels make use of 12 4-slot radio blocks spread over a "52 multiframe". Idle slots follow the third, sixth, ninth and twelfth radio blocks.

- 5 Referring to Figure 6, for half rate, packet switched channels, both dedicated and shared, slots are allocated alternately to two sub-channels.

The baseband DSP subsystems 103, 203 and controllers 107, 207 of the mobile stations 6a, 6b and the base transceiver stations 4 are configured to implement two
10 protocol stacks. The first protocol stack is for circuit switched traffic and is substantially the same as employed in conventional GSM systems. The second protocol stack is for packet switched traffic.

Referring to Figure 7, the layers relevant to the radio link between a mobile station
15 6a, 6b and a base station controller 4 are the radio link control layer 401, the medium access control layer 402 and the physical layer 403.

The radio link control layer 401 has two modes: transparent and non-transparent. In transparent mode, data is merely passed up or down through the radio link
20 control layer without modification.

In non-transparent mode, the radio link control layer 401 provides link adaptation and constructs data blocks from data units received from higher levels by segmenting or concatenating the data units as necessary and performs the reciprocal
25 process for data being passed up the stack. It is also responsible for detecting lost data blocks or reordering data block for upward transfer of their contents, depending on whether acknowledged mode is being used. This layer may also provide backward error correction in acknowledged mode.

30 The medium access control layer 402 is responsible for allocating data blocks from the radio link control layer 401 to appropriate transport or logical channels and passing received radio blocks from transport or logical channels to the radio link control layer 403.

The physical layer 403 is responsible to creating transmitted radio signals from the data passing through the transport or logical channels and passing received data up through the correct transport or logical channel to the medium access control layer 402.

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Blocks are exchanged between the medium access control layer 402 and the physical layer 403 in synchronism with the radio block timing, i.e. block is passed to the physical layer at each radio block interval.

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As the demand for bandwidth increases to support increasing transport or logical channel throughput, more slots are required. Increased slot usage can result in overheating of the mobile station's power amplifier and an unsupportable current demand.

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In a first embodiment, the mobile station immediately changes its output power according to threshold slot usage/power combinations.

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Referring to Figure 8, when the demand for slots changes, the controller 107 of a mobile station 6a, 6b determines whether the current instantaneous power amplifier output power level exceeds a first threshold set for the number of slots to be used after change (step s1). The first threshold is the instantaneous output power level that gives an acceptable average output power level. If the first threshold is exceeded, the controller 107 determines the power reduction required and compares this with a second threshold set at the power level, demanded of the mobile station 6a, 6b by the serving base station controller 3a, 3b, less an "allowable reduction" margin, for example 3dB. If this reduced power level falls below the second threshold, the controller 107 notifies the application that the service requiring the extra slots cannot be provided (step s3). If the power reduction does not take the power amplifier output power level below the second threshold, the controller 107 reduces the output power accordingly (step s4). The process is left after steps s3 and s4.

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If the first threshold is not exceeded (step s1), the controller 107 determines whether the current power amplifier output power level is less than the current power level demanded of the mobile station 6a, 6b by its serving base station controller 3a, 3b (step s5). This situation may arise where the slot usage is being
5 reduced. If the current output power level is not less than the demanded level, the process is exited. However, if the current power level is below demanded level, the current power amplifier output power level is increased as close to the demanded level as possible without exceeding the second threshold (step s6) and then the process is exited.

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In a second embodiment, the mobile station changes its output power according to the temperature of its rf power amplifier, which is sensed by monitoring a convenient DC voltage in the amplifier or a temperature sensor (not shown) provided for the purpose. In this case the peak output power is kept on all slots at
15 the level requested by the BSS until the temperature exceeds a threshold level, after which, the output power will be reduced within specified limits.

Referring to Figure 9, the controller 107 regularly compares the temperature of the mobile station's rf power amplifier with a first threshold, corresponding to a
20 maximum allowable operating temperature (step s101). If the first threshold is exceeded, the controller 107, the power is reduced (step s102). The process is left after step s102.

If the first threshold is not exceeded (step s101), the temperature is compared with
25 a second lower threshold (s103). The second lower threshold is used to introduce some hysteresis into the power control. If the temperature is not below the second threshold, the process is exited. However, if the temperature is below the second threshold, the controller 107 determines whether the current power is below the level demanded by the serving base station controller 3a, 3b (step s104) and, if so,
30 increases the output power level of the mobile station, for example by one 2dB step s105, and the process is exited. Otherwise the procedure is simply exited without the output power of the mobile station being changed.

In a third embodiment, relatively high average power levels are allowed. However, such high power levels are adjusted down after a delay to avoid overheating while allowing short period of high bandwidth use.

- 5 Referring to Figure 10, when the demand for slots changes, the controller 107 of the mobile station 6a, 6b determines whether the current instantaneous power amplifier output power level exceeds a first threshold (step s201). The first threshold is the instantaneous output power level that gives an acceptable average output power level. If the first threshold is exceeded, the controller 107 determines
10 whether a cooling flag is set (step s202) and, if not, sets a timer (step s203), unless the timer is already running, increases the output power level (step 204) and exits the process. Otherwise the application is alerted that the service requiring the extra slots cannot be provided (step s205) and then the process is exited.
- 15 If the first threshold is not exceeded (step s201), the controller 107 determines whether the current instantaneous power amplifier output power level is less than the current power level demanded of the mobile station 6a, 6b by its serving base station controller 3a, 3b (step s206). This situation may arise where the slot allocation is being reduced. If the current instantaneous output power level is not
20 less than the demanded level, the process is exited. However, if the current power level is below demanded level, it is increased as close to the demanded level as possible without exceeding the second threshold (step s204) and then the process is exited.
- 25 Referring to Figure 11, when the timer expires, the controller 107 determines the power reduction required and compares this with a second threshold set at the power level demanded of the mobile station 6a, 6b by the serving base transceiver station 4 less an "allowable reduction" margin, for example 6dB, step s207. If the reduced power falls below the second threshold, the controller 107 notifies the
30 application that the service requiring the extra slots cannot be provided (step s208). If the power reduction does not take the power amplifier output power below the second threshold, the controller 107 reduces the output power accordingly (step s209). The cooling flag is also set when the timer expires (step s210).

An alternative to reducing the instantaneous output power is to reduce the average output power by not using all of the slots allocated to the mobile station by the serving base station controller 3a, 3b.

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In a fourth embodiment, the mobile station immediately changes its actual slot usage according to threshold granted slot usage/power combinations.

Referring to Figure 12, when the demand for slots changes, the controller 107 of a
10 mobile station 6a, 6b determines whether the new average power amplifier output power level would exceed a first threshold set for the number of slots to be used after change (step s301). If the first threshold is exceeded, the controller 107 determines the allocated slot take up reduction required to reduce the average power level below the first threshold. The new slot take up value is compared with
15 a second threshold, i.e. the minimum number of slots required to support the current service level (step s302). If the reduced allocated slot take up falls below the second threshold, the controller 107 notifies the application that the service requiring the extra slots cannot be provided (step s303). If the slot take up reduction does not take the slot take up below the second threshold, the controller
20 107 reduces the proportion of the allocated slots used (step s304). The process is left after steps s303 and s304.

If the first threshold is not exceeded (step s301), the controller 107 determines whether the new average power amplifier output power would be less than the
25 average corresponding to the current power level demanded of the mobile station 6a, 6b by its serving base station controller 3a, 3b (step s305). This situation may arise where the slot usage is being reduced. If the new average output power level would not be less than that corresponding to the demanded level, the process is exited. However, if the new average power level would be below that
30 corresponding to the demanded instantaneous power level, the slot take up is increased as close to the allocated level as possible without the first threshold being exceeded (step s306) and then the process is exited.

In a fifth embodiment, the mobile station changes its allocated slot take up according to the temperature of its rf power amplifier, which is sensed by monitoring a convenient DC voltage in the amplifier or a sensor provided specifically for this purpose.

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Referring to Figure 13, the controller 107 regularly compares the temperature of the mobile station's rf power amplifier with a first threshold corresponding to a maximum allowable operating temperature (step s401). If the first threshold is exceeded, the controller 107 determines whether a reduction in the allocated slot
10 take up is possible without abandoning a service (step s402). If the allocated slot take up would fall below the minimum acceptable level, a service or services can be lost due to insufficient resources and the application is notified of the lack of resources (step s403). Otherwise, the slot take up reduction is made (step s404). The process is left after steps s403 and s404.

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If the first threshold is not exceeded (step s401), the temperature is compared with a second lower threshold (s402). The second lower threshold is used to introduce some hysteresis into the slot take up control. If the temperature is not below the second threshold, the process is exited. However, if the temperature is below the
20 second threshold, the controller determines whether the current average rf amplifier output power level is below that corresponding to the demanded power level from the serving base station controller 3a, 3b (step s406) and, if so, increases the allocated slot take up of the mobile station (step s407) and the process is exited. Otherwise the procedure is simply exited without the allocated slot take being
25 changed.

In a sixth embodiment, the allocated slot take up is adjusted down after a delay to avoid overheating while allowing short period of high bandwidth used.

30 Referring to Figure 14, when the demand for slots changes, the controller 107 of a mobile station 6a, 6b determines whether the new average power amplifier output power level exceeds a first threshold (step s501). The first threshold is the instantaneous output power level that gives an acceptable average output power

level. If the first threshold is exceeded, the controller 107 determines whether a cooling flag is set (step s502) and, if not, sets a timer (step s503), unless the timer is already running, increases the output power level (step 504) and exits the process. Otherwise the application is alerted that the service requiring the extra slots cannot
5 be provided (step s505) and then the process is exited.

If the first threshold is not exceeded (step s501), the controller 107 determines whether the new average power amplifier output power level is less than that corresponding to the current power level demanded of the mobile station 6a, 6b by
10 its serving base station controller 3a, 3b (step s506). This situation may arise where the slot allocation is being reduced. If the new average output power level would not be less than that corresponding to the demanded level, the process is exited. However, if the new average power level is below that corresponding to the demanded level, the allocated slot take up is increased so that the average output
15 power level is as close to that corresponding to the demanded level as possible without exceeding the second threshold (step s504) and then the process is exited.

Referring to Figure 15, when the timer expires, the controller 107 determines the allocated slot take up reduction required and compares this with a second threshold
20 set at the minimum usable slot take up for supporting the current services, step s507. If the reduced slot take up falls below the second threshold, the controller 107 notifies the application that the service requiring the extra slots cannot be provided (step s508). If the power reduction does not take the power amplifier output power below the second threshold, the controller 107 reduces the output
25 power accordingly (step s509). The cooling flag is also set when the timer expires (step s510).

The power averages referred to above are calculated from the instantaneous power power levels in a moving window. The length of the window will depend on the
30 thermal characteristics of the rf power amplifier and the durations of slots and frames and the numbers of slots in a frame.

Claims

1. A method of operating a mobile station in a TDMA network, the method comprising:
 - 5 receiving a peak output power setting command from a base station; and receiving a transmit slot allocation from the base station,
characterised by:
detecting, at the mobile station, a parameter of the rf system of the mobile station meeting a predetermined criterion;
 - 10 responding to said detection by modifying the average rf output power of the mobile station over a plurality of slots such that it falls below what would have been the average output power level had the peak output power setting command been complied with in all of the allocated slots.
- 15 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said criterion comprises an increase in slot allocation.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said response comprises reducing the average rf output power by reducing the instantaneous rf output power during
20 each transmit slot.
4. A method according to claim 2, wherein said response comprises reducing the average rf output power by reducing the take up of the allocated slots.
- 25 5. A method according to claim 3 or 4, including waiting a predetermined time between said detection and said response.
6. A method according to claim 1, wherein said criterion is an rf power amplifier temperature threshold.
- 30 7. A method according to claim 6, wherein said response comprises reducing the average rf output power by reducing the instantaneous rf output power during each transmit slot.

8. A method according to claim 6, wherein said response comprises reducing the average rf output power by reducing the take up of the allocated slots.
- 5 9. A mobile station for a TDMA network, the mobile station comprising a controller and an rf output power amplifier, **characterised in that** the controller is configured to control the operation of the mobile station so as to perform a method according to any preceding claim.