

01] METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROL OF
 ENHANCED DEDICATED CHANNEL TRANSMISSIONS

[0002] FIELD OF INVENTION

[0003] The present invention is related to wireless communication systems. More particularly, the present invention is related to a method and apparatus for controlling enhanced dedicated channel (E-DCH) transmissions.

[0004] BACKGROUND

[0005] Methods for improving uplink (UL) coverage, throughput and transmission latency are currently being investigated in the third generation partnership project (3GPP). In order to achieve these goals with respect to an E-DCH, the control of UL resources, (i.e., physical channels), has been moved from the radio network controller (RNC) to the Node-B.

[0006] In order to reduce complexity and power consumption, execution of wireless transmit/receive unit (WTRU) side enhanced uplink medium access control (MAC-e/es) functions, such as E-DCH transport format combination (E-TFC) selection and multiplexing, remaining transmit power calculation, and processing of absolute grants (AGs) and relative grants (RGs), needs to be properly controlled and coordinated.

[0007] SUMMARY

[0008] The present invention is related to a method and apparatus for controlling E-DCH transmissions. A MAC-e/es entity of the WTRU receives a scheduling grant and processes the scheduling grant to calculate a serving grant.

The MAC-e/es entity determines whether both a hybrid automatic repeat request (H-ARQ) process for scheduled data and the scheduled data are available. If an H-ARQ process for scheduled data and the scheduled data are both available, the MAC-e/es entity determines whether a serving grant exists. The MAC-e/es entity then calculates a remaining power based on the maximum allowed power and restricts an E-TFC based on the remaining power. The MAC-e/es entity selects an E-TFC using the serving grant and generates a MAC-e protocol data unit

(PDU) for transmission. The MAC-e/es entity may process the received scheduled grant at each transmission time interval (TTI), or may store the received scheduled grant in a grant list until there is E-DCH data to transmit.

[0009] BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] Figure 1 is a block diagram of a wireless communication system configured in accordance with the present invention.

[0011] Figure 2 is a block diagram of a protocol architecture of a WTRU in accordance with the present invention.

[0012] Figure 3 is a block diagram of a MAC-e/es entity of a WTRU in accordance with the present invention.

[0013] Figure 4 is a flow diagram of a process for controlling E-DCH transmissions in accordance with the present invention.

[0014] DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0015] When referred to hereafter, the terminology "WTRU" includes but is not limited to a user equipment (UE), a mobile station, a fixed or mobile subscriber unit, a pager, or any other type of device capable of operating in a wireless environment. When referred to hereafter, the terminology "Node-B" includes but is not limited to a base station, a site controller, an access point (AP) or any other type of interfacing device in a wireless environment.

[0016] The present invention is applicable to any wireless communication systems including, but not limited to, universal mobile telecommunication systems (UMTS) frequency division duplex (FDD), UMTS time division duplex (TDD) and time division synchronous code division multiple access (TD-SCDMA) systems.

[0017] The features of the present invention may be incorporated into an integrated circuit (IC) or be configured in a circuit comprising a multitude of interconnecting components.

[0018] Figure 1 is a block diagram of a wireless communication system 100 configured in accordance with the present invention. The system 100 comprises a

WTRU 102, a Node-B 104 and an RNC 106. The RNC 106 controls overall E-DCH operation by configuring E-DCH parameters for the Node-B 104 and the WTRU 102, such as initial transmit power level, maximum allowed transmit power or available channel resources per Node-B. Between the WTRU 102 and the Node-B 104, an E-DCH 108, an E-DCH dedicated physical control channel (E-DPCCH), an absolute grant channel (E-AGCH) 112, a relative grant channel (E-RGCH) 114 and an H-ARQ information channel (E-HICH) 116 are established for supporting E-DCH operations.

[0019] For E-DCH transmissions, the WTRU 102 sends scheduling information, (also known as a rate request), to the Node-B 104 via the E-DPCCH 110. The Node-B 104 sends a scheduling grant to the WTRU 102 via the E-AGCH 112 or the E-RGCH 114. After E-DCH radio resources are allocated for the WTRU 102, the WTRU 102 transmits UL data via the E-DCH 108. In response to the E-DCH transmissions, the Node-B 104 sends an acknowledgement (ACK) or non-acknowledgement (NACK) message for H-ARQ operation via the E-HICH 116. The Node-B 104 may also respond with rate grants to the WTRU 102 in response to E-DCH data transmissions.

[0020] Figure 2 is a block diagram of a protocol architecture of the WTRU 102 in accordance with the present invention. The protocol architecture of the WTRU 102 includes higher layers 202, a radio link control (RLC) layer 204, a MAC layer 206 and a physical layer 208. The MAC layer 206 includes a dedicated channel medium access control (MAC-d) entity 210 and a MAC-e/es entity 212. The MAC-e/es entity 212 handles all functions related to the transmission and reception of an E-DCH including, but not limited to, H-ARQ transmissions and retransmissions, priority of data, MAC-d and MAC-es multiplexing, and E-TFC selection. The RLC layer 204 is provided for in-sequence delivery of data. A re-ordering function is provided in the RLC layer 204 to organize the received data blocks according to the sequence.

[0021] Figure 3 is a block diagram of the MAC-e/es entity 212 in accordance with the present invention. The MAC-e/es entity 212 includes an E-TFC selection entity 302, a multiplexing and transmission sequence number (TSN)

setting entity 304, an H-ARQ entity 306, a serving grant processing entity 308 and a memory 310. The serving grant processing entity 308 receives an AG 312 and a RG(s) 314 from the physical layer 208 and processes the AG 312 and the RG(s) 314 to generate a serving grant or stores them in the memory 310. There may be one or more RGs 314. The E-TFC selection entity 302 selects an E-TFC based on the serving grant and performs an arbitration among different data flows mapped on the E-DCH.

[0022] The multiplexing and TSN setting entity 304 concatenates multiple MAC-d PDUs into MAC-es PDUs, and multiplexes one or multiple MAC-es PDUs into a single MAC-e PDU to be transmitted in the next TTI as instructed by the E-TFC selection entity 302. The multiplexing and TSN setting entity 304 also manages and sets a TSN per logical channel for each MAC-es PDU.

[0023] The H-ARQ entity 306 controls a plurality of H-ARQ processes for storing MAC-e PDUs and retransmitting the MAC-e PDUs when a transmission failure is signaled via the E-HICH. An active H-ARQ process is used for transmission of scheduled data, while a non-active H-ARQ process is not used for transmission of scheduled data. At a given TTI, the H-ARQ entity 306 identifies an H-ARQ process for which a transmission should take place. At the time of a new transmission, the H-ARQ entity 306 provides an H-ARQ profile for all new transmissions and retransmissions of a MAC-e PDU. The H-ARQ profile includes information on the maximum number of transmissions and a power offset with which to configure the physical layer.

[0024] The execution of the E-TFC selection by the E-TFC entity 302 depends on the availability of data mapped to the E-DCH with a grant (including an occurrence of a scheduling information rate request trigger) and the availability of an H-ARQ process. An H-ARQ process should be available before E-TFC selection is performed by the E-TFC selection entity 302. The H-ARQ entity 306 identifies to the E-TFC selection entity 302 the availability of H-ARQ processes. H-ARQ processes may be available upon initial configuration, ACK reception, or exceeding the maximum number of retransmissions for any H-ARQ processes.

[0025] Figure 4 is a flow diagram of a process 400 for controlling E-DCH transmissions in accordance with the present invention. A physical layer receives a scheduling grant via an E-AGCH 112 and E-RGCHs 114 (step 402). After decoding of E-AGCH and E-RGCH, an AG 312 and RG(s) 314 are sent to the serving grant processing entity 308 in the MAC-e/es entity 212. The serving grant processing entity 308 processes the AG 312 and RG(s) 314 to determine a serving grant. The scheduling grant may be an AG 312 from a serving E-DCH cell or an RG(s) 314 from either all cells in a serving E-DCH radio link set (RLS) or a non-serving radio link (RL). The scheduling grant is applied to a specific transmission time interval (TTI). This association is implicit based on the timing of the AG 312 and the RG(s) 314.

[0026] Upon reception of the scheduling grant, the serving grant processing entity 308 has two options when there is no data to transmit in the TTI associated to the scheduling grant. The serving grant processing entity 308 may process the received scheduling grant to determine a current serving grant each TTI (step 404). Alternatively, the serving grant processing entity 308 may store the received scheduling grant in a memory 310, (i.e., a grant list), and process the stored scheduling grants when there are E-DCH data to transmit.

[0027] The E-TFC selection entity 302 determines whether any H-ARQ processes for scheduled data, (i.e., an active H-ARQ process) and scheduled data are both available (step 406). If an H-ARQ process for scheduled data and scheduled data are both available, the process 400 proceeds to step 410 to determine whether a serving grant exists. Alternatively, if both the H-ARQ process for scheduled data and the scheduled data are both available, and if the second option is implemented, (i.e., the received scheduling grant is stored in the memory 310), the serving grant processing entity 308 processes the scheduling grant stored in the memory 310 to determine a serving grant at step 408 before proceeding to the step 410.

[0028] A serving grant indicates a maximum E-DPDCH to dedicated physical control channel (DPCCH) power ratio that the WTRU is allowed to

allocate for the upcoming transmission for scheduled data. The serving grant is updated based on the AG and the RG.

[0029] In processing the scheduling grant stored in the grant list, the serving grant processing entity 308 may process the last N AGs among the stored scheduling grants to generate the serving grant. The value of N is larger than one.

[0030] Alternatively, the serving grant processing entity 308 may maintain only the most recent primary AG and subsequent RGs, including the latest secondary AG in the grant list. A primary AG is an AG received with a primary radio network temporary ID (RNTI) and a secondary AG is an AG received with a secondary RNTI. When a new primary AG is received previous AG and RGs except for the last secondary AG are removed from the grant list when the next transmission requiring a scheduling grant occurs. This reduces significant processing overhead following transmission idle periods.

[0031] In addition, whenever a serving cell change occurs, the serving grant processing entity 308 discards all stored AGs and RGs in the grant list. This operation is equivalent to setting an AG to zero and discarding all RGs.

[0032] At step 410 if it is determined that there is no serving grant, (i.e., a current serving grant is zero), the E-TFC selection entity 302 limits an E-TFC to a minimum set of E-TFCs (step 412) and calculates a remaining power based on the minimum set of E-TFCs (step 414). If it is determined that there is a serving grant at step 410, the E-TFC selection entity 302 calculates a remaining power based on a maximum allowed power (step 414).

[0033] After the remaining power is calculated, the E-TFC selection entity 302 restricts E-TFCs for this TTI based on the remaining power (step 416). The E-TFC selection entity 302 then selects an E-TFC and the multiplexing and TSN setting entity 304 generates a MAC-e PDU by multiplexing MAC-d flows and MAC-es PDUs (step 418). A happy bit which indicates whether the WTRU is satisfied with a current scheduling grant is then set for transmission in this TTI (step 420) and the MAC-e/es entity waits for the next TTI (step 422).

[0034] If it is determined at step 406 that either an H-ARQ process for scheduled data, (i.e., an active H-ARQ process), is not available or scheduled data is not available, the E-TFC selection entity 302 then determines whether an H-ARQ process for non-scheduled data and the non-scheduled data are both available (step 424). If an H-ARQ process for non-scheduled data and the non-scheduled data are both available, the E-TFC selection entity 302 further determines whether there is any non-scheduled grant (step 426). The non-scheduled grant is set by an RNC in terms of maximum number of non-scheduled bits that can be included in a MAC-e PDU. The WTRU is allowed to transmit non-scheduled transmissions up to the sum of the non-scheduled grant if multiplexed in the same TTI. If there is a non-scheduled grant, the process proceeds to step 414 to calculate a remaining power and subsequent MAC-e functions, (i.e., steps 416-422), are performed as described hereinbefore.

[0035] If it is determined at step 426 that there is no non-scheduled grant, it is determined whether there is any H-ARQ processes available (step 428). If there is an available H-ARQ process, it is determined if scheduling information needs to be reported, (i.e., whether a triggering event occurs) (step 430).

[0036] Reporting of scheduling information is triggered by a plurality of different events, which are configurable. Generation of scheduling information is well known in the art and is not within the scope of the present invention. If it is determined at step 430 that there is scheduling information that needs to be transmitted, scheduling information bits are generated (step 432) and the process proceeds to step 414 to calculate a remaining power. Subsequent MAC-e functions, (i.e., steps 416-422), are then performed as described hereinbefore. If there is no scheduling information to be transmitted, no new transmission occurs in this TTI and the MAC-e entity waits for the next TTI (step 422).

[0037] If it is determined at step 428 that there is no available H-ARQ process, (which means that the transmission in this TTI is a retransmission), a happy bit is set for the transmission in this TTI to indicate whether the WTRU is satisfied with the scheduling grant (step 434) and the MAC-e entity waits for the next TTI (step 422).

- [0038] Embodiments.
- [0039] 1. A method for controlling E-DCH transmissions.
- [0040] 2. The method of embodiment 1, comprising the step of receiving a scheduling grant.
- [0041] 3. The method of embodiment 2, comprising the step of processing the scheduling grant to calculate a serving grant.
- [0042] 4. The method as in any embodiments 1-3, comprising the step of determining whether a H-ARQ process for scheduled data and scheduled data are both available, and if so determining whether a serving grant exists.
- [0043] 5. The method as in any embodiments 1-4, comprising the step of calculating a remaining power based on a maximum allowed power.
- [0044] 6. The method of embodiment 5, comprising the step of restricting E-TFC based on the remaining power.
- [0045] 7. The method as in any embodiments 1-6, comprising the step of selecting an E-TFC and generating a PDU for transmission over an E-DCH.
- [0046] 8. The method as in any embodiments 2-7, wherein the received scheduled grant is processed at each of a plurality of TTIs.
- [0047] 9. The method as in any embodiments 2-7, wherein the received scheduled grant is stored in a grant list when there is no data to be transmitted in a TTI associated to the scheduled grant.
- [0048] 10. The method of embodiment 9, wherein only the last N absolute grants are stored in the grant list, and the serving grant is calculated based on the last N absolute grants.
- [0049] 11. The method of embodiment 9, wherein only the most recent primary absolute grant and subsequent relative grants including the latest secondary absolute grant are stored in the grant list to calculate the serving grant.
- [0050] 12. The method of embodiment 11, wherein when a new primary absolute grant is received previous absolute grant and relative grants except for the last secondary absolute grant are removed from the grant list when a next transmission requiring a scheduling grant occurs.

- [0051] 13. The method as in any embodiments 9-12, wherein all stored scheduling grants in the grant list are discarded when a serving cell change occurs.
- [0052] 14. The method as in any embodiments 7-13, wherein if there is no serving grant, the E-TFC is limited to a minimum set of E-TFCs.
- [0053] 15. The method as in any embodiments 4-14, further comprising the step of determining whether an H-ARQ process for non-scheduled data and non-scheduled data are both available if it is determined that either the H-ARQ process for scheduled data or the scheduled data is not available, and if so, determining whether a non-scheduled grant exists.
- [0054] 16. The method of embodiment 15, further comprising the step of if a non-scheduled grant exists, proceeding to step of calculating a remaining power based on a maximum allowed power.
- [0055] 17. The method as in any embodiments 15-16, further comprising the step of, if it is determined that either the H-ARQ process for non-scheduled data or the non-scheduled data is not available, determining whether there is any H-ARQ process available.
- [0056] 18. The method of embodiment 17, further comprising the step of, if there is an available H-ARQ process, determining whether a triggering event for reporting scheduling information occurs.
- [0057] 19. The method of embodiment 18, further comprising the step of, if the triggering event occurs, generating scheduling information bits and proceeding to step of calculating a remaining power based on a maximum allowed power.
- [0058] 20. The method as in any embodiments 18-19, further comprising the step of if the triggering event does not occur, waiting for the next TTI.
- [0059] 21. The method as in any embodiments 17-20, further comprising the step of, if it is determined that there is no available H-ARQ process, setting a happy bit for transmission in this TTI.

[0060] 22. The method as in any embodiments 15-21, further comprising the step of, if it is determined that there is no non-scheduled grant, determining whether there is any H-ARQ process available.

[0061] 23. The method of embodiment 22, further comprising the step of, if there is an available H-ARQ process, determining whether a triggering event for reporting scheduling information occurs.

[0062] 24. The method of embodiment 23, further comprising the step of, if the triggering event occurs, generating scheduling information bits and proceeding to step of calculating a remaining power based on a maximum allowed power.

[0063] 25. The method of embodiment 24, further comprising the step of, if the triggering event does not occur, waiting for the next TTI.

[0064] 26. The method as in any embodiments 22-25, further comprising the step of, if it is determined that there is no available H-ARQ process, setting a happy bit for transmission in this TTI.

[0065] 27. A MAC-e entity in the WTRU for controlling E-DCH transmissions in a wireless communication system including a WTRU and a Node-B wherein the WTRU is allocated with an E-DCH for uplink transmission.

[0066] 28. The MAC-e entity of embodiment 27, comprising a serving grant processing entity configured to receive a scheduling grant and process the scheduling grant to calculate a serving grant.

[0067] 29. The MAC-e entity as in any embodiments 27-28, comprising an E-TFC selection entity configured to calculate a remaining power based on a maximum allowed power, restrict an E-TFC based on the remaining power, and select an E-TFC.

[0068] 30. The MAC-e entity as in any embodiments 27-29, comprising a multiplexing and TSN setting entity configured to generate a MAC-e PDU.

[0069] 31. The MAC-e entity as in any embodiments 27-30, comprising a H-ARQ entity configured to control a plurality of H-ARQ processes for transmission of a MAC-e PDU via one of the H-ARQ processes.

[0070] 32. The MAC-e as in any embodiments 28-31, wherein the serving grant processing entity processes the received scheduled grant at each of a plurality of TTIs.

[0071] 33. The MAC-e as in any embodiments 28-31, wherein the serving grant processing entity stores the received scheduled grant in a grant list when there is no data to be transmitted in a TTI associated to the scheduled grant.

[0072] 34. The MAC-e of embodiment 33, wherein the serving grant processing entity uses only the last N absolute grants in the grant list to calculate the serving grant.

[0073] 35. The MAC-e of embodiment 33, wherein the serving grant processing entity stores only the most recent primary absolute grant and subsequent relative grants including the latest secondary absolute grant in the grant list to calculate the serving grant.

[0074] 36. The MAC-e of embodiment 35, wherein the serving grant processing entity removes previous absolute grant and relative grants except for the last secondary absolute grant from the grant list when a new primary absolute grant is received and a next transmission requiring a scheduling grant occurs.

[0075] 37. The MAC-e as in any embodiments 33-36, wherein the serving grant processing entity discards all stored scheduling grants in the grant list when a serving cell change occurs.

[0076] 38. The MAC-e as in any embodiments 29-37, wherein the E-TFC selection entity is configured to check the serving grant, whereby if there is no serving grant, the E-TFC selection entity limits the E-TFC to a minimum set of E-TFCs before calculating a remaining power.

[0077] 39. The MAC-e as in any embodiments 28-38, wherein the serving grant processing entity is configured to calculate the serving grant when both an H-ARQ process for scheduled data is available and scheduled data is available.

[0078] 40. The MAC-e as in any embodiments 29-39, wherein the E-TFC selection entity is configured to calculate the remaining power for transmission in the next TTI when an H-ARQ process for non-scheduled data is available and non-scheduled data is available and there is a non-scheduled grant.

[0079] 41. The MAC-e as in any embodiments 29-40, wherein the E-TFC selection entity is configured to calculate the remaining power for transmission in the next TTI when there is an available H-ARQ process and a triggering event for reporting scheduling information occurs.

[0080] Although the features and elements of the present invention are described in the preferred embodiments in particular combinations, each feature or element can be used alone without the other features and elements of the preferred embodiments or in various combinations with or without other features and elements of the present invention.

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CLAIMS

1. A wireless transmit/receive unit (WTRU) for controlling enhanced dedicated channel (E-DCH) transmissions, the WTRU comprising:

a serving grant processing entity configured to calculate a serving grant from a scheduling grant received from a Node-B;

an E-DCH transport format combination (E-TFC) selection entity configured to select an E-TFC for a next transmission time interval (TTI) based on the serving grant on a condition that an active hybrid automatic repeat request (H-ARQ) process and scheduled data are both available, the active H-ARQ process being an H-ARQ process used for scheduled data;

a multiplexing and transmission sequence number (TSN) setting entity configured to generate an E-DCH protocol data unit (PDU) based on the selected E-TFC and set a TSN for the E-DCH PDU; and

an H-ARQ entity configured to control a plurality of H-ARQ processes for transmission of the E-DCH PDU via one of the H-ARQ processes.

2. The WTRU of claim 1 wherein the E-TFC selection entity is configured to calculate a remaining power based on a maximum allowed power for the WTRU, restrict E-TFCs based on the remaining power, and select the E-TFC among the restricted E-TFCs.

3. The WTRU of claim 1 wherein the serving grant processing entity is configured to store the received scheduling grant in a grant list on a condition that there is no data to be transmitted in a TTI associated with the scheduling grant, and process the stored scheduling grant later on a condition that data becomes available.

4. The WTRU of claim 3 wherein the serving grant processing entity is configured to use the last predetermined number of absolute grants in the grant list to calculate the serving grant.

5. The WTRU of claim 3 wherein the serving grant processing entity is configured to store the most recent primary absolute grant and subsequent relative grants including the latest secondary absolute grant in the grant list to calculate the serving grant.

6. The WTRU of claim 3 wherein the serving grant processing entity is configured to remove previous absolute grant and relative grants except for the last secondary absolute grant from the grant list on a condition that a new primary absolute grant is received and a next transmission requiring a scheduling grant occurs.

7. The WTRU of claim 3 wherein the serving grant processing entity is configured to discard all stored scheduling grants in the grant list on a condition that a serving cell change occurs.

8. The WTRU of claim 1 wherein the E-TFC selection entity is configured to limit the E-TFCs to a minimum set of E-TFCs on a condition that there is no serving grant.

9. The WTRU of claim 1 wherein on a condition that either the H-ARQ process for scheduled data or the scheduled data is not available, and an H-ARQ process for non-scheduled data and non-scheduled data are both available and there is a non-scheduled grant, the E-TFC selection entity is configured to select an E-TFC for the non-scheduled data.

10. A method for controlling enhanced dedicated channel (E-DCH) transmissions in a wireless transmit/receive unit (WTRU), the method comprising:

receiving a scheduling grant from a Node-B;

calculating a serving grant from the scheduling grant;

selecting an E-DCH transport format combination (E-TFC) for a next transmission time interval (TTI) based on the serving grant on a condition that an active hybrid automatic repeat request (H-ARQ) process and scheduled data are both available, the active H-ARQ process being an H-ARQ process used for scheduled data;

generating an E-DCH protocol data unit (PDU) based on the selected E-TFC and set a transmission sequence number (TSN) for the E-DCH PDU; and

transmitting the E-DCH PDU.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising:

calculating a remaining power based on a maximum allowed power for the WTRU; and

restricting E-TFCs based on the remaining power, wherein the E-TFC is selected among the restricted E-TFCs.

12. The method of claim 10 further comprising:

storing the received scheduling grant in a grant list on a condition that there is no data to be transmitted in a TTI associated with the scheduling grant, wherein the stored scheduling grant is processed later on a condition that data becomes available.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the last predetermined number of absolute grants in the grant list are used to calculate the serving grant.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein the most recent primary absolute grant and subsequent relative grants including the latest secondary absolute grant are stored in the grant list.

15. The method of claim 12 wherein previous absolute grant and relative grants except for the last secondary absolute grant are removed from the grant list on a condition that a new primary absolute grant is received and a next transmission requiring a scheduling grant occurs.

16. The method of claim 12 wherein all stored scheduling grants in the grant list are discarded on a condition that a serving cell change occurs.

17. The method of claim 10 wherein the E-TFCs are limited to a minimum set of E-TFCs on a condition that there is no serving grant.

18. The method of claim 10 wherein on a condition that either the H-ARQ process for scheduled data or the scheduled data is not available, and an H-ARQ process for non-scheduled data and non-scheduled data are both available and there is a non-scheduled grant, an E-TFC is selected for the non-scheduled data.