CLAIMS

1. A communication method, comprising:

determining, by a current access point multi-link device, that data exists in a send buffer of the current access point multi-link device, wherein the send buffer is used to buffer data of the current access point multi-link device and data of a non-access point multi-link device, and the non-access point multi-link device triggers a tentative association with a target access point multi-link device; and

sending, by the current access point multi-link device, all the data in the send buffer to the non-access point multi-link device or the target access point multi-link device, wherein the target access point multi-link device is configured to send the data that is from the current access point multi-link device to the non-access point multi-link device.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein it is predefined in a protocol that when the current access point multi-link device determines that the non-access point multi-link device triggers the tentative association with the target access point multi-link device, data that starts from a window start location and that is in the send buffer is not cleared.

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the method further comprises:

when the current access point multi-link device does not support a first capability, clearing, by the current access point multi-link device, successfully sent data in the send buffer; or

when the current access point multi-link device supports the first capability, retaining, by the current access point multi-link device, successfully sent data that starts from the window start location and that is in the send buffer, wherein

the first capability is a capability of the current access point multi-link device to retain the successfully sent data that starts from the window start location and that is in the send buffer when the current access point multi-link device determines that the non-access point multi-link device triggers the tentative association with the target access point multi-link device.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the method further comprises:

when the current access point multi-link device supports the first capability and the current access point multi-link device determines that the non-access point multi-link device triggers the tentative association with the target access point multi-link device, deleting, by the current access point multi-link device, block acknowledgement session information between the current access point multi-link device and the non-access point multi-link device; or

when the current access point multi-link device does not support the first capability and the current access point multi-link device determines that the non-access point multi-link device triggers the tentative association with the target access point multi-link device, retaining, by the

current access point multi-link device, block acknowledgement session information between the current access point multi-link device and the non-access point multi-link device.

5. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the method further comprises:

sending, by the current access point multi-link device to the target access point multi-link device, the block acknowledgement session information between the current access point multi-link device and the non-access point multi-link device.

6. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the method further comprises:

sending, by the current access point multi-link device, first information to the non-access point multi-link device, wherein the first information indicates that the data in the send buffer is not completely transmitted.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the first information is carried in a more data field of a first frame, the more data field of the first frame is set to 1, and the first frame is a data frame or a disassociation frame.

8. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the method further comprises:

sending, by the current access point multi-link device, second information to the non-access point multi-link device, wherein the second information indicates that all the data in the send buffer has been transmitted.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the second information is carried in a more data field of a second frame, the more data field of the second frame is set to 0, and the second frame is a data frame or a disassociation frame.

10. A communication apparatus, comprising a unit or module configured to implement the method according to any one of claims 1 to 9.

11. A communication apparatus, wherein the communication apparatus comprises at least one processor and a memory; and

the memory is configured to store a computer program or instructions, and the at least one processor is configured to execute the computer program or the instructions in the memory, so that the method according to any one of claims 1 to 9 is performed.

12. A communication system, wherein the communication system comprises a current access point multi-link device;

the current access point multi-link device is configured to perform the method according to any one of claims 1 to 9.

13. A computer-readable storage medium, wherein the computer-readable storage medium stores computer instructions, and when the computer instructions are executed, a computer is enabled to perform the method according to any one of claims 1 to 9.

14. A computer program product, wherein the computer program product comprises computer program code, and when the computer program code is run by a computer, the computer is enabled to perform the method according to any one of claims 1 to 9.