

WIRELESS COMMUNICATION METHOD, ENODB AND USER EQUIPMENT

TECHNICAL FIELD

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The present disclosure relates to the field of wireless communication, and in particular, to wireless communication methods, an eNode B (eNB) and a user equipment (UE).

10 BACKGROUND

Machine-Type Communication (MTC) is an important revenue stream for operators and has a huge potential from the operator perspective. Based on the market and operators' requirements, one of the important requirements of MTC is improving the
15 coverage of MTC UEs. To enhance the MTC coverage, almost all of the physical channels need to be enhanced. Repetition in time domain is the main method to improve the coverage of the channels. At the receiver side, the receiver combines all the repetitions of the channel and decodes the information.

20 Another requirement of MTC is power consumption reduction at UE side. One efficient method to reduce the power consumption is to reduce the active time of UE, in other words, to reduce UE's unnecessary blind detection, reception and transmission.

25 SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a first aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a wireless communication method performed by an eNode B (eNB), comprising transmitting repetitions of control
30 channel(s) in a control region to a first user equipment (UE) in a coverage enhancement level, wherein the control region comprises multiple sub-regions each of

which can be used to transmit repetitions of one control channel; possible sub-region(s) allocated from the multiple sub-regions for transmitting one control channel to the first UE in the coverage enhancement level start from the same subframe; and the possible sub-region(s) for the first UE in the specific coverage enhancement level constitute a subset of a set of available sub-regions for the coverage enhancement level in the eNB's perspective.

In a second aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a wireless communication method performed by a user equipment (UE), comprising receiving repetitions of control channel(s) transmitted from an eNode B (eNB) in a control region to the UE in a coverage enhancement level, wherein the control region comprises multiple sub-regions each of which can be used to transmit repetitions of one control channel; possible sub-region(s) that the UE in the coverage enhancement level needs to monitor for one control channel in the control region start from the same subframe; and the possible sub-region(s) for the UE in the specific coverage enhancement level constitute a subset of a set of available sub-regions for the coverage enhancement level in the eNB's perspective.

In a third aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided an eNode B (eNB) for wireless communication, comprising a transmitting unit configured to transmit repetitions of control channel(s) in a control region to a first user equipment (UE) in a coverage enhancement level, wherein the control region comprises multiple sub-regions each of which can be used to transmit repetitions of one control channel; possible sub-region(s) allocated from the multiple sub-regions for transmitting one control channel to the first UE in the coverage enhancement level start from the same subframe; and the possible sub-region(s) for the first UE in the specific coverage enhancement level constitute a subset of a set of available sub-regions for the coverage enhancement level in the eNB's perspective.

In a fourth aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a user equipment (UE) for wireless communication, comprising a receiving unit configured to receive repetitions of control channel(s) transmitted from an eNode B (eNB) in a control region to the UE in a coverage enhancement level, wherein the control region comprises multiple sub-
5 regions each of which can be used to transmit repetitions of one control channel; possible sub-region(s) that the UE in the coverage enhancement level needs to monitor for one control channel in the control region start from the same subframe; and the possible sub-region(s) for the UE in the specific coverage enhancement level constitute a subset of a set of available sub-regions for the coverage enhancement level in the
10 eNB's perspective.

According to the present disclosure, it is possible to reduce the UE's power consumption, decrease the number of blind decoding and reduce buffer size.

15 The foregoing is a summary and thus contains, by necessity, simplifications, generalization, and omissions of details. Other aspects, features, and advantages of the devices and/or processes and/or other subject matters described herein will become apparent in the teachings set forth herein. The summary is provided to introduce a selection of concepts in a simplified form that are further described below in
20 the Detailed Description. This summary is not intended to identify key features or essential features of the claimed subject matter, nor is it intended to be used as an aid in determining the scope of the claimed subject matter.

25 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The foregoing and other features of the present disclosure will become more fully apparent from the following description and appended claims, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings. Understanding that these drawings depict only several
30 embodiments in accordance with the disclosure and are, therefore, not to be

considered limiting of its scope, the disclosure will be described with additional specificity and detail through use of the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 schematically illustrates an exemplary control region according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;

5 Fig. 2 schematically illustrates a flowchart of a wireless communication method performed by an eNB according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;

Fig. 3 schematically illustrates a flowchart of a wireless communication method performed by a UE according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;

10 Fig. 4 schematically illustrates exemplary allocations of the UEs into sub-regions according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;

Fig. 5 schematically illustrates an exemplary control region and an exemplary data channel according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;

Fig. 6 schematically illustrates a block diagram of an eNB according to an embodiment of the present disclosure; and

15 Fig. 7 schematically illustrates a block diagram of a UE according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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In the following detailed description, reference is made to the accompanying drawings, which form a part thereof. In the drawings, similar symbols typically identify similar components, unless context dictates otherwise. It will be readily understood that the aspects of the present disclosure can be arranged, substituted, combined, and
25 designed in a wide variety of different configurations, all of which are explicitly contemplated and make part of this disclosure.

As described in the background, in order to reduce power consumption at UE side for MTC, an efficient way is to reduce UE's unnecessary blind detection, reception and
30 transmission. For this purpose, a control region for MTC can be defined to transmit

control channel(s), as exemplarily illustrated in Fig. 1 schematically illustrates an exemplary control region according to an embodiment of the present disclosure. The control region can be transmitted periodically. Therefore, MTC UEs only need to wake up in the control region to monitor their respective control channels and do not need to be active in every subframe. The control region is mapped onto multiple subframes, and there can be multiple sub-regions in the control region some of which may be overlapped. Each sub-region can be used to transmit repetitions of one control channel such as PDCCH (Physical Downlink Control Channel). In the example of Fig. 1, there are 7 sub-regions in the control region. It is noted that the sub-region division in Fig.1 is just an example, and other division manner of sub-regions is also possible. In addition, the illustrated sub-regions are mapped onto continuous logical indices of subframes, but the mapping of logical indices to physical indices of subframes can be localized or distributed.

Based on the control region concept, solutions to the search space for MTC UEs are proposed in the present disclosure. According to the proposed solution, UE's active time and blind decoding time will be reduced a lot. In the present disclosure, MTC may be taken as an example to describe the principle of the present disclosure; however, it is noted that the wireless communication methods disclosed in the present disclosure can not only be applied to MTC, but also be applied to other wireless communications such as other communications conforming to LTE specifications as long as those wireless communications transmit control channel(s) repeatedly. Accordingly, the UEs are not limited to MTC UEs, but can be any other UEs that can perform the communication methods described in the present disclosure.

In an embodiment of the present disclosure, there is provided a wireless communication method 200 performed by an eNB, as shown in Fig. 2 which schematically illustrates the flowchart of the wireless communication method 200 according to an embodiment of the present disclosure. The wireless communication method 200 comprises a step 201 of transmitting repetitions of control channel(s) in a

control region to a first UE in a coverage enhancement (CE) level. In the step 201, one or more control channels (also referred to as control channel(s)) can be transmitted repeatedly in a control channel such as the control channel shown in Fig. 1. The control region comprises multiple sub-regions each of which can be used to transmit repetitions of one control channel. In the exemplary control region shown in Fig. 1, there are seven sub-regions. Some of the sub-regions can be overlapped with each other. For example, the sub-region 1, sub-region 5 and sub-region 7 in Fig. 1 are overlapped with each other. Here, the “coverage enhancement level” refers to the largest repetition number of transmission for a specific channel. According to the application scenarios such as the channel condition, there can be several available coverage enhancement levels for the eNB to transmit a control channel. If the eNB chooses a lower coverage enhancement level to transmit a control channel repeatedly, fewer subframes can be reserved for the repeated transmission. In other words, a smaller sub-region can be reserved for the lower coverage enhancement level. From system’s perspective (i.e. from the eNB’s perspective, or for all possible receiving UEs), the eNB can transmit a control channel in one sub-region selected from a set of available sub-regions that are constituted by part or all of the multiple sub-regions of the control region for each coverage enhancement level. Taking the control channel shown in Fig. 1 as an example, from system’s perspective, for coverage enhancement level 1(the lowest level here), the control channel can be transmitted in sub-region 1, 2, 3 or 4; for coverage enhancement level 2, the control channel can be transmitted in sub-region 1,2 3,4 ,5 or 6; for coverage enhancement level 3 (the highest level here), the control channel can be transmitted in sub-region 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7. Table 1 lists the above exemplary available sub-region assignment.

Table 1

Coverage enhancement level	Available sub-regions
Level 1	sub-region 1, 2, 3, 4

Level 2	sub-region 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Level 3	sub-region 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

In the wireless communication method 200, from the UE's perspective (that is, for a specific UE), possible sub-region(s) for transmitting one control channel to the specific UE in a specific coverage enhancement level are selected from the set of available sub-regions for the specific coverage enhancement level from the eNB's perspective, and the possible sub-region(s) all start from the same subframe. It is noted that the term of "sub-region(s)" herein means that the number of the possible sub-region(s) can be one or more, and if the number of the possible sub-region(s) is more than one, the possible sub-regions start from the same subframe. In other words, the possible sub-region(s) for a specific UE in a specific coverage enhancement level constitute a subset of the set of available sub-regions for the specific coverage enhancement level for all possible receiving UEs. In conclusion, in the wireless communication method 200, possible sub-region(s) allocated from the multiple sub-regions for transmitting one control channel to the first UE in the coverage enhancement level start from the same subframe; and the possible sub-region(s) for the first UE and the specific coverage enhancement level constitute a subset of a set of available sub-regions for the coverage enhancement level in the eNB's perspective, that is, the set of available sub-regions are constituted by part or all of the multiple sub-regions of the control region, and from the eNB's perspective, any sub-region from the set of available sub-regions can be used by the eNB to transmit one control channel in the coverage enhancement level.

In the exemplary control region shown in Fig. 1, for example, for the UE in coverage enhancement level 1, the possible sub-region can comprise only one sub-region, e.g., sub-region 1 (or sub-frame 2, 3, or 4); for the UE in coverage enhancement level 2, the possible sub-regions can comprise two sub-regions, e.g., sub-region 1 and sub-region 5 (or sub-frame 3 and sub-frame 6); for the UE in coverage enhancement level 3, the

possible sub-region can comprise three sub-regions, e.g., sub-region 1, sub-region 5 and sub-region 7. It can be seen from Fig. 1 that, for each coverage enhancement level, the possible sub-regions start from the same subframe. For example, for coverage enhancement level 2, sub-region 1 and sub-region 5 start from the same subframe; and for coverage enhancement level 3, sub-region 1, sub-region 5 and sub-region 7 start from the same subframe. In other words, for each coverage enhancement level, there are different alternative subsets of sub-regions for transmitting a control channel from the eNB's perspective, and each UE in a certain coverage enhancement level monitors one alternative subset as listed in Table 2 for the exemplary control region of Fig. 1.

Table 2

Coverage enhancement level	Alternative subsets of sub-region(s)
Level 1	Alt.1: sub-region 1; Alt.2: sub-region 2; Alt.3: sub-region 3; Alt.4: sub-region 4
Level 2	Alt.1: sub-region 1+ sub-region 5; Alt.2: sub-region 3+ sub-region 6
Level 3	Alt.1: sub-region 1 + sub-region 5 + sub-region 7

Since the possible sub-region(s) used by the eNB to transmit repetitions of a control channel to a specific UE start from the same subframe, at the UE side, the possible sub-region(s) that the UE in the coverage enhancement level needs to monitor for the control channel also start from the same subframe. In other words, the UE does not need to monitor the whole control region for the control channel, but only monitors

specific sub-region(s) starting from the same subframe. Accordingly, an embodiment of the present disclosure provides a wireless communication method 300 performed by a UE (first UE), as shown in Fig. 3 which schematically illustrates the flowchart of the wireless communication method 300 according to an embodiment of the present disclosure. The wireless communication method 300 comprises a step 301 of receiving repetitions of control channel(s) transmitted from an eNB in a control region to the UE in a coverage enhancement level, wherein the control region comprises multiple sub-regions each of which can be used to transmit repetitions of one control channel; possible sub-region(s) that the UE in the coverage enhancement level needs to monitor for one control channel in one control region start from the same subframe; and the possible sub-region(s) for the UE in the specific coverage enhancement level constitute a subset of a set of available sub-regions for the coverage enhancement level in the eNB's perspective. It is noted that the above descriptions for the method 200 can also be applied to the method 300, which will not be described in detail.

According to the above wireless communication methods provided by embodiments of the present disclosure, a plurality of benefits can be achieved. First, it is possible to reduce the UE's power consumption. The UE does not need to monitor the whole control region for its control channel, and the UE is active only during the transmission time of repetitions. Therefore, no unnecessary active time is powered on. Second, it is possible to decrease the number of blind decoding. Taking the control region as shown in Fig. 1 and Table 1 as an example, according to the present disclosure, at most 3 blind decoding is enough. However, if all the sub-regions in Table 1 should be monitored by one UE, the maximum blind decoding number will be 7. Third, no extra buffer is needed but only one buffer is enough since all the possible sub-frames that one UE needs to monitor start from the same subframe. In contrast, if a UE needs to monitor for example sub-regions 1, 2 3, 4, 5 and 6, then the UE needs to buffer sub-regions 2 and 5 simultaneously and it needs double size of the buffer.

In an optional embodiment of the present disclosure, the possible sub-region(s) can be configured by signaling such as physical layer signaling or RRC (Radio Resource Control) signaling. In other words, which alternative subset of sub-frame(s) is used for the UE can be configured by signaling, and then the UE knows which sub-frame(s) should be monitored.

Alternatively, the possible sub-region(s) can be implicitly indicated by a UE index of the receiving UE (the first UE). The UE index can be a RNTI (Radio Network Temporary Identifier) or any other index to identify the UE. For example, the UE can monitor alternative subset with index of $\text{mod}(n_{idx}, n_L) + 1$ for coverage enhancement level L. where n_{idx} is the UE index, and n_L is the number of alternative subsets for coverage enhancement level L. For instance, the UE with index #30 can monitor alternative subset with index of $\text{mod}(30, 4) + 1$ for coverage enhancement level 1, that is, Alt.3 (i.e., sub-region 3) in Table 2. Similarly, for coverage enhancement level 2, the UE with index #30 can monitor Alt. 1 (i.e., sub-regions 1 and 5), and for coverage enhancement level 3, the UE with index #30 can monitor Alt. 1 (i.e., sub-regions 1, 5 and 7). According to this embodiment, no more signaling is needed.

Further, in an embodiment of the present disclosure, the first UE can monitor UE index(es) of at least one second UE in addition to the UE index of the first UE in the possible sub-region(s) of the first UE in one control region, the UE index of the first UE and the UE index(es) of the at least one second UE can be used to indicate information on the control channel transmitted to the first UE, and the possible sub-region(s) that the at least one second UE monitors have a different starting subframe from the possible sub-region(s) the first UE monitors. According to this embodiment, if the alternative subset (first alternative subset) for one UE (e.g. the first UE) has a different starting subframe from that of the alternative subset (second alternative subset) for another UE (a second UE), then both the UE indexes of the at least two UEs can be used by the eNB to indicate information on the control channel (for example, the type of the control information (e.g. DCI)) transmitted to the first UE in the possible sub-

region(s) for the first UE. Now, the first UE monitors its own UE index (first UE index) and the UE index (second UE index) of the second UE in the first alternative subset of sub-region(s) allocated to the first UE in the CE level. When the first UE detects control information in the possible sub-region(s) for the first UE assuming it is scrambled by the first UE index successfully, the control information is type 1 control information for the first UE. When the first UE detects control information in the possible sub-region(s) for the first UE assuming it is scrambled by the second UE index successfully, the control information is type 2 control information for the first UE, wherein the control information of type 2 is different from type 1. Conventionally, the control information scrambled by the second UE index is not for the first UE, and the first UE does not decode it. However, in the example of the present disclosure, since the starting subframe of the first alternative subset is different from the starting subframe of the second alternative subset, the control channel transmitted in the first alternative subset cannot be for the second UE, and the second UE would not monitor a control channel in the first alternative subset of sub-region(s). Therefore, the second UE index can be reused in the first alternative subset for the first UE to indicate information on the control channel being transmitted to the first UE. With this embodiment, the UE can monitor multiple types of control information without adding new indexes (e.g., RNTI). This can be a way of saving RNTI resource.

As a specific example of the above embodiment, for a specific coverage enhancement level L (for example, Level 1 in the example of Fig. 1 and Table 2), the UEs are allocated into M (e.g. 4) sub-regions which are not overlapped with each other. Fig. 4 schematically illustrates two exemplary allocation ways of the UEs into sub-regions. In this example, one UE will only monitor one specific sub-region, but the UE monitors not only its own RNTI but also some RNTIs of other UEs allocated to other M-1 sub-regions to obtain its control information (e.g., DCI). Different RNTIs indicate different control information type indexes. Table 3 shows one example of the indication of the control information types by RNTIs in different monitoring sub-regions by taking the allocation 2 shown in Fig. 4 as an example.

Table 3

	Monitoring sub-region	Control information type index	RNTI used for scrambling
UE with RNTI #0	Sub-region 1	Type 1 (e.g., DL grant)	RNTI #0
		Type 2 (e.g., RAR)	RNTI #1
		Type 3 (e.g., Paging)	RNTI #2
		Type 4 (...)	RNTI #3
UE with RNTI #1	Sub-region 2	Type 1	RNTI #1
		Type 2	RNTI #0
		Type 3	RNTI #2
		Type 4	RNTI #3
...			
UE with RNTI #4	Sub-region 1	Type 1	RNTI #4
		Type 2	RNTI #5
		Type 3	RNTI #6
		Type 4	RNTI #7
...			

As can be seen from Table 3, for example, the UE with RNTI #0 will monitor RNTI #0, #1, #2 and #3 in sub-region 1. If the control channel is decoded successfully by RNTI #0, then the control channel is Type 1 DCI; If the control channel is decoded successfully by RNTI #1, then the control channel is Type 2 DCI; and so on. Therefore, the UE can monitor multiple types of control information without adding new RNTIs, which saves RNTI resource.

In addition, in another embodiment of the present disclosure, the above method 200 can further comprise transmitting repetitions of a data channel in a sub-region of a data region to the first UE, and the above method 300 can further comprise receiving repetitions of a data channel transmitted from the eNB in a sub-region of a data region.

5 The sub-region for the data channel can be related to the sub-region for the control channel scheduling the data channel, or the information on the sub-region for the data channel can be signaled in the control channel scheduling the data channel. The data channel is scheduled by the control channel.

10 Fig. 5 schematically illustrates a control region and a data region according to an embodiment of the present disclosure. In Fig. 5, the division of sub-regions in the control channel and the data channel is the same, but the present disclosure is not limited to that. The division of sub-regions in the data channel can be different from that in the control channel. In the following, several specific examples of this
15 embodiment are described.

In a first example, the sub-region of the transmitted control channel (for example PDCCH) and the sub-region of the transmitted data channel scheduled by the control channel are in one to one mapping. One instance is as exemplarily shown in Table 4

20 below.

Table 4

Control channel (in control region)	Scheduled data channel (in data channel)
sub-region 1	sub-region 1
sub-region 2	sub-region 2
sub-region 3	sub-region 3
sub-region 4	sub-region 4
sub-region 5	sub-region 5

sub-region 6	sub-region 6
sub-region 7	sub-region 7

It can be seen from Table 4 that, when the UE decodes its control channel successfully in sub-region 1 of the control region, its scheduled data channel repetitions are transmitted in sub-region 1 in the data region; when the UE decodes its control channel successfully in sub-region 2 of the control region, its scheduled data channel repetitions are transmitted in sub-region 2 in the data region; and so on.

Alternatively, in a second example, the monitored possible sub-region(s) of the control channel and the monitored possible sub-region(s) of the data channel that is scheduled by the control channel have a correspondence relationship. One instance is shown in Table 5 below.

Table 5

CE level	Monitored possible sub-region(s) of control channel	Monitored possible sub-region(s) of scheduled data channel
CE level 1	Alt.1: sub-region 1	sub-region 1
	Alt.2: sub-region 2	sub-region 2
	Alt.3: sub-region 3	sub-region 3
	Alt.4: sub-region 4	sub-region 4
CE level 2	Alt.1: sub-region 1+ sub-region 5	sub-region 1+ sub-region 5
	Alt.2: sub-region 3+ sub-region 6	sub-region 3+ sub-region 6
CE level 3	Alt.1: sub-region 1 + sub-region 5 + sub-region 7	sub-region 1 + sub-region 5 + sub-region 7

It can be seen from Table 5 that, if the UE in CE level 1 is configured to monitor sub-region 1 in the control region, its scheduled data channel will be transmitted in sub-

region 1 in the data region; if the UE in CE level 2 is configured to monitor sub-region 1 and sub-region 5 (Alt.1) in the control region, its scheduled data channel can be transmitted in sub-region 1 or 5 in the data region and which sub-region is actually used can be blindly detected.

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Alternatively, in a third example, the information on the sub-region for the data channel can be signaled in the control channel scheduling the data channel. For example, in the exemplary control region and data region shown in Fig. 5, the UE can use the control channel to signal the information of the specific sub-region for the data channel, that is, signal which of the seven sub-regions is used to transmit the data channel.

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Alternatively, the correspondence relationship as shown in Table 5 can be used together with the signaling to indicate which sub-region is used for the data channel. In particular, if the UE in CE level 1 is configured to monitor sub-region 1, 2, 3 or 4 in the control region, its scheduled data channel will be transmitted in sub-region 1, 2, 3 or 4

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in the data region respectively. If the UE in CE level 2 is configured to monitor sub-region 1 and sub-region 5 (Alt.1) in the control region, its scheduled data channel can be transmitted in sub-region 1 or 5 in the data region and which sub-region of the sub-regions 1 and 5 is actually used is signaled in the scheduling control channel. For the UE in CE level 3, which sub-region of the sub-regions 1, 5 and 7 is actually used is signaled in the scheduling control channel. This example illustrated in Table 6.

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Table 6

CE level	Monitored possible sub-region(s) of control channel	Monitored sub-region of scheduled data channel	Note
CE level 1	Alt.1: sub-region 1	sub-region 1	
	Alt.2: sub-region 2	sub-region 2	
	Alt.3: sub-region 3	sub-region 3	

	Alt.4: sub-region 4	sub-region 4	
CE level 2	Alt.1: sub-region 1+ sub-region 5;	sub-region 1 or sub-region 5;	The information of data sub- region 1 or 5 is signaled in the scheduling control channel.
	Alt.2: sub-region 3+ sub-region 6	sub-region 3 or sub-region 6	The information of data sub- region 3 or 6 is signaled in the scheduling control channel.
CE level 3	Alt.1: sub-region 1 + sub-region 5 + sub- region 7	sub-region 1 or sub-region 5 or sub-region 7	The information of data sub- region 1, 5 or 7 is signaled in the scheduling control channel.

In addition, as another example, if the UE in CE level 1 is configured to monitor any of sub-regions 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the control region, its scheduled data channel can be transmitted in any of sub-regions 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the data region, and which sub-region
5 of the sub-regions 1, 2, 3 and 4 is actually used is signaled in the scheduling control channel.

In the above embodiments of transmitting repetitions of a data channel in connection with the control channel, it is possible to reduce the UE power consumption, and use
10 smaller blind decoding times and smaller buffer size since the sub-region of the data channel can be indicated at least partly. In addition, these embodiments also have the benefits of reducing the signaling overhead and making the scheduling of data channel easier since the sub-region for the data channel can be related to the sub-region for the control channel scheduling the data channel.

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In the present disclosure, there are also provided an eNB and a UE for performing the above described methods. An embodiment of the present disclosure provides an eNB 600 for wireless communication as shown in Fig. 6 which schematically illustrates a block diagram of the eNB 600 according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.
20 The eNB 600 can comprise a transmitting unit 601 configured to transmit repetitions of

control channel(s) in a control region to a first UE in a coverage enhancement level, wherein the control region comprises multiple sub-regions each of which can be used to transmit repetitions of one control channel; possible sub-region(s) allocated from the multiple sub-regions for transmitting one control channel to the first UE in the coverage enhancement level start from the same subframe; and the possible sub-region(s) for the first UE in the specific coverage enhancement level constitute a subset of a set of available sub-regions for the coverage enhancement level in the eNB's perspective. It is noted that the above descriptions and specific embodiments for method 200 can also be applied to the eNB 600. For example, the transmitting unit 601 can be further configured to transmit repetitions of a data channel in a sub-region of a data region to the first UE.

The eNB 600 according to the present disclosure may optionally include a CPU (Central Processing Unit) 610 for executing related programs to process various data and control operations of respective units in the eNB 600, a ROM (Read Only Memory) 613 for storing various programs required for performing various process and control by the CPU 610, a RAM (Random Access Memory) 615 for storing intermediate data temporarily produced in the procedure of process and control by the CPU 610, and/or a storage unit 617 for storing various programs, data and so on. The above transmitting unit 601, CPU 610, ROM 613, RAM 615 and/or storage unit 617 etc. may be interconnected via data and/or command bus 620 and transfer signals between one another.

Respective units as described above do not limit the scope of the present disclosure. According to one implementation of the disclosure, the functions of the above transmitting unit 601 may be implemented by hardware, and the above CPU 610, ROM 613, RAM 615 and/or storage unit 617 may not be necessary. Alternatively, the functions of the above transmitting unit 601 may also be implemented by functional software in combination with the above CPU 610, ROM 613, RAM 615 and/or storage unit 617 etc.

An embodiment of the present disclosure provides a UE 700 for wireless communication as shown in Fig. 7 which schematically illustrates a block diagram of the UE 700 according to an embodiment of the present disclosure. The UE 700 can
5 comprise a receiving unit 701 configured to receive repetitions of control channel(s) transmitted from an eNB in a control region to the UE in a coverage enhancement level, wherein the control region comprises multiple sub-regions each of which can be used to transmit repetitions of one control channel; possible sub-region(s) that the UE in the coverage enhancement level needs to monitor for one control channel in the control
10 channel start from the same subframe; and the possible sub-region(s) for the UE in the specific coverage enhancement level constitute a subset of a set of available sub-regions for the coverage enhancement level in the eNB's perspective. It is noted that the above descriptions and specific embodiments for method 300 can also be applied to the UE 700. For example, the receiving unit 701 can be further configured to receive
15 repetitions of a data channel transmitted from the eNB in a sub-region of a data region.

The UE 700 according to the present disclosure may optionally include a CPU (Central Processing Unit) 710 for executing related programs to process various data and control operations of respective units in the UE 700, a ROM (Read Only Memory) 713
20 for storing various programs required for performing various process and control by the CPU 710, a RAM (Random Access Memory) 715 for storing intermediate data temporarily produced in the procedure of process and control by the CPU 710, and/or a storage unit 717 for storing various programs, data and so on. The above receiving unit 701, CPU 710, ROM 713, RAM 715 and/or storage unit 717 etc. may be interconnected
25 via data and/or command bus 720 and transfer signals between one another.

Respective units as described above do not limit the scope of the present disclosure. According to one implementation of the disclosure, the functions of the above receiving unit 701 may be implemented by hardware, and the above CPU 710, ROM 713, RAM
30 715 and/or storage unit 717 may not be necessary. Alternatively, the functions of the

above receiving unit 701 may also be implemented by functional software in combination with the above CPU 710, ROM 713, RAM 715 and/or storage unit 717 etc.

The present invention can be realized by software, hardware, or software in cooperation with hardware. Each functional block used in the description of each embodiment described above can be realized by an LSI as an integrated circuit. They may be individually formed as chips, or one chip may be formed so as to include a part or all of the functional blocks. The LSI here may be referred to as an IC, a system LSI, a super LSI, or an ultra LSI depending on a difference in the degree of integration.

However, the technique of implementing an integrated circuit is not limited to the LSI and may be realized by using a dedicated circuit or a general-purpose processor. In addition, a FPGA (Field Programmable Gate Array) that can be programmed after the manufacture of the LSI or a reconfigurable processor in which the connections and the settings of circuits cells disposed inside the LSI can be reconfigured may be used.

Further, the calculation of each functional block can be performed by using calculating means, for example, including a DSP or a CPU, and the processing step of each function may be recorded on a recording medium as a program for execution. Furthermore, when a technology for implementing an integrated circuit that substitutes the LSI appears in accordance with the advancement of the semiconductor technology or other derivative technologies, it is apparent that the functional block may be integrated by using such technologies.

It is noted that the present invention intends to be variously changed or modified by those skilled in the art based on the description presented in the specification and known technologies without departing from the content and the scope of the present invention, and such changes and applications fall within the scope that claimed to be protected. Furthermore, in a range not departing from the content of the invention, the constituent elements of the above-described embodiments may be arbitrarily combined.

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 5 1. A wireless communication method performed by an eNode B (eNB), comprising:
- transmitting repetitions of control channel(s) in a control region to a first user equipment (UE) in a coverage enhancement level, wherein
- the control region comprises multiple sub-regions each of which can be used to
- 10 transmit repetitions of one control channel;
- possible sub-region(s) allocated from the multiple sub-regions for transmitting one control channel to the first UE in the coverage enhancement level start from the same subframe; and
- the possible sub-region(s) for the first UE in the specific coverage enhancement
- 15 level constitute a subset of a set of available sub-regions for the coverage enhancement level in the eNB's perspective.
2. The wireless communication method according to claim 1, wherein
- the possible sub-region(s) are configured by signaling or implicitly indicated by a UE index of the first UE.
- 20 3. The wireless communication method according to claim 2, wherein
- the UE index of the first UE and UE index(es) of at least one second UE are used to indicate information on the control channel being transmitted to the first UE, and the possible sub-region(s) allocated for the at least one second UE have a different starting subframe from the possible sub-region(s) allocated for the first UE.
- 25 4. The wireless communication method according to claim 1, further comprising:
- transmitting repetitions of a data channel in a sub-region of a data region to the first UE, wherein
- the sub-region for the data channel is related to the sub-region for the control channel scheduling the data channel.
- 30 5. The wireless communication method according to claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting repetitions of a data channel in a sub-region of a data region to the first UE, wherein

information on the sub-region for the data channel is signaled in the control channel scheduling the data channel.

5 6. A wireless communication method performed by a user equipment (UE), comprising:

receiving repetitions of control channel(s) transmitted from an eNode B (eNB) in a control region to the UE in a coverage enhancement level, wherein

10 the control region comprises multiple sub-regions each of which can be used to transmit repetitions of one control channel;

possible sub-region(s) that the UE in the coverage enhancement level needs to monitor for one control channel in the control region start from the same subframe; and

15 the possible sub-region(s) for the UE in the specific coverage enhancement level constitute a subset of a set of available sub-regions for the coverage enhancement level in the eNB's perspective.

7. The wireless communication method according to claim 6, wherein

the possible sub-region(s) are configured by signaling or implicitly indicated by a UE index of the UE.

8. The wireless communication method according to claim 7, wherein

20 the UE monitors UE index(es) of at least one other UE in addition to the UE index of the UE in the possible sub-region(s) for the UE in the control region, the UE index of the UE and the UE index(es) of the at least one other UE are used to indicate information on the control channel transmitted to the UE, and the possible sub-region(s) that the at least one other UE monitors have a different starting subframe from the possible sub-region(s) the UE monitors.

9. The wireless communication method according to claim 6, further comprising:

receiving repetitions of a data channel transmitted from the eNB in a sub-region of a data region, wherein

30 the sub-region for the data channel is related to the sub-region for the control channel scheduling the data channel.

10. The wireless communication method according to claim 6, further comprising:
receiving repetitions of a data channel transmitted from the eNB in a sub-region
of a data region, wherein

information on the sub-region for the data channel is signaled in the control
5 channel scheduling the data channel.

11. An eNode B (eNB) for wireless communication, comprising:
a transmitting unit configured to transmit repetitions of control channel(s) in a
control region to a first user equipment (UE) in a coverage enhancement level, wherein
the control region comprises multiple sub-regions each of which can be used to
10 transmit repetitions of one control channel;

possible sub-region(s) allocated from the multiple sub-regions for transmitting
one control channel to the first UE in the coverage enhancement level start from the
same subframe; and

the possible sub-region(s) for the first UE in the specific coverage enhancement
15 level constitute a subset of a set of available sub-regions for the coverage
enhancement level in the eNB's perspective.

12. The eNB according to claim 11, wherein
the possible sub-region(s) are configured by signaling or implicitly indicated by a
UE index of the first UE.

20 13. The eNB according to claim 12, wherein
the UE index of the first UE and UE index(es) of at least one second UE are
used to indicate information on the control channel being transmitted to the first UE,
and the possible sub-region(s) allocated for the at least one second UE have a different
starting subframe from the possible sub-region(s) allocated for the first UE.

25 14. The eNB according to claim 11, wherein
the transmitting unit is further configured to transmit repetitions of a data channel
in a sub-region of a data region to the first UE, wherein
the sub-region for the data channel is related to the sub-region for the control
channel scheduling the data channel.

30 15. The eNB according to claim 11, wherein

the transmitting unit is further configured to transmit repetitions of a data channel in a sub-region of a data region to the first UE, wherein

information on the sub-region for the data channel is signaled in the control channel scheduling the data channel.

5 16. A user equipment (UE) for wireless communication, comprising:

a receiving unit configured to receive repetitions of control channel(s) transmitted from an eNode B (eNB) in a control region to the UE in a coverage enhancement level, wherein

10 the control region comprises multiple sub-regions each of which can be used to transmit repetitions of one control channel;

possible sub-region(s) that the UE in the coverage enhancement level needs to monitor for one control channel in the control region start from the same subframe; and

15 the possible sub-region(s) for the UE in the specific coverage enhancement level constitute a subset of a set of available sub-regions for the coverage enhancement level in the eNB's perspective.

17. The UE according to claim 16, wherein

the possible sub-region(s) are configured by signaling or implicitly indicated by a UE index of the UE.

18. The UE according to claim 17, wherein

20 the UE monitors UE index(es) of at least one other UE in addition to the UE index of the UE in the possible sub-region(s) for the UE in the control region, the UE index of the UE and the UE index(es) of the at least one other UE are used to indicate information on the control channel transmitted to the UE, and the possible sub-region(s) that the at least one other UE monitors have a different starting subframe from the
25 possible sub-region(s) the UE monitors.

19. The UE according to claim 16, wherein

the receiving unit is further configured to receive repetitions of a data channel transmitted from the eNB in a sub-region of a data region, wherein

30 the sub-region for the data channel is related to the sub-region for the control channel scheduling the data channel.

20. The UE according to claim 16, wherein
the receiving unit is further configured to receive repetitions of a data channel
transmitted from the eNB in a sub-region of a data region, wherein
information on the sub-region for the data channel is signaled in the control
5 channel scheduling the data channel.