

Time Slot Indication Method, Terminal Device, Network Device and Computer Storage Medium

Technical Field

The present invention relates to the technical field of communication processing, in particular to a time slot indication method, a terminal device, a network device and a computer storage medium.

Background

An LTE system adopts a static frame structure. Within a period (e.g. 10ms, 5ms), which subframes are uplink subframes, downlink subframes and special subframes are fixed. A 5G NR system introduces a Slot Format Indicator (SFI) to indicate a slot format, it may indicate which symbols in a slot are downlink symbols, which symbols are uplink symbols, which symbols are reserved symbols, and which symbols are unknown symbols. An SFI may be semi-statically configured through RRC signaling and dynamically indicated through PDCCH. One PDCCH may indicate SFIs of N continuous time slots (e.g., N=1, 2, 5, 10, 20, etc.) at one time. An SFI of each time slot is of N bits (e.g., N=6), and may indicate 2^N (e.g., 64) RRC configured time slot formats. According to an existing technical solution, the use of the downlink symbols, uplink symbols and reserved symbols configured through the semi-static SFI may not be converted through the dynamic SFI, but unknown symbols configured through the semi-static SFI may be converted through the dynamic SFI into downlink symbols or uplink symbols.

However, when using the semi-static SFI and the dynamic SFI in combination, the existing solution will cause a large control signaling overhead and may not realize flexible dynamic SFI indication. The existing solution may also limit the indication flexibility and efficiency of the dynamic SFI.

Summary

To solve the above technical problems, embodiments of the present invention provide a

time slot indication method, a terminal device (UE), a network device and a computer storage medium.

An embodiment of the present invention provides a time slot indication method, applied to a terminal device, including: acquiring N pieces of format indication information from first control information sent from the network side; wherein N is an integer greater than or equal to 1; determining N time slots corresponding to the N pieces of format indication information in the first control information; wherein at least part of the N time slots are discontinuous; and determining formats of the N time slots based on the N pieces of format indication information.

An embodiment of the present invention provides a time slot indication method, applied to a network device, including: sending first control information containing N pieces of format indication information to a terminal device; wherein the N pieces of format indication information correspond to N time slots of the terminal device, and at least part of the N time slots are discontinuous.

An embodiment of the present invention provides a terminal device, including: a first communication unit, configured to acquire N pieces of format indication information from first control information sent from a network side; wherein N is an integer greater than or equal to 1; and a first processing unit, configured to determine N time slots corresponding to the N pieces of format indication information in the first control information; wherein at least part of the N time slots are discontinuous; and determine formats of the N time slots based on the N pieces of format indication information.

An embodiment of the present invention provides a network device, includes: a second communication unit, configured to send first control information containing N pieces of format indication information to a terminal device; wherein the N pieces of format indication information correspond to N time slots of the terminal device, and at least part of the N time slots are discontinuous.

An embodiment of the present invention provides a terminal device, including a processor and a memory for storing a computer program capable of running on the processor, and the processor is used for, when the computer program is running, performing acts of the above method.

An embodiment of the present invention provides a network device, including a processor and a memory for storing a computer program capable of running on the processor, and the processor is used for, when the computer program is running, performing acts of the above method.

5 An embodiment of the present invention provides a computer storage medium, the computer storage medium stores computer-executable instructions which, when executed, implement acts of the aforementioned method.

10 According to technical solutions of embodiments of the present invention, when receiving N pieces of format indication information, the N pieces of format indication information are used for indicating the formats of N time slots, at least part of which are discontinuous, so that the format indication may be carried out only for part of the time slots. Thus, the control signaling overhead may be greatly reduced, and the flexibility of uplink and downlink resource scheduling and resource reservation may be improved.

15 Brief Description of Drawings

FIG. 1 is a flowchart of a time slot indication method according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of a time slot format according to an embodiment of the present invention.

20 FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram of correspondence between a first bitmap and first control information according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a schematic diagram of time slots of a first type according to an embodiment of the present invention.

25 FIG. 5 is a schematic diagram of a structure of a terminal device according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 6 is a schematic diagram of a structure of a network device according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 7 is a schematic diagram of an indication mode.

FIG. 8 is a schematic diagram of another indication mode.

FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram of hardware architecture according to an embodiment of the present invention.

5 Detailed Description

To understand features and technical contents of embodiments of the present invention in more detail, realizations of the embodiments of the present invention will be described in detail below with reference to the drawings, which are used for reference only and are not intended to limit the embodiments of the present invention.

10 Embodiment one

An embodiment of the present invention provides a time slot indication method, applied to a terminal device, as shown in FIG. 1, including acts 101-103.

In act 101, N pieces of format indication information are acquired from first control information sent from a network side; wherein N is an integer greater than or equal to 1.

15 In act 102, N time slots corresponding to the N pieces of format indication information in the first control information are determined; wherein at least part of the N time slots are discontinuous.

In act 103, formats of the N time slots are determined based on the N pieces of format indication information.

20 The terminal acquires the first control information from the network device which contains N ($N \geq 1$) pieces of format indication information.

The format indication information includes at least one of the following: a size and/or a position of a downlink portion, a size and/or a position of an uplink portion, a size and/or a position of a reserved portion, and a size and/or a position of an unidentified (such as unknown) 25 portion.

The N time slots are time slots of which at least partial formats may be changed.

For example, as shown in FIG. 2, one time slot x may include an uplink portion 21, a

downlink portion 22, and a reserved portion 23. It should be understood that FIG. 2 is only an example, and the aforementioned unidentified (such as unknown) portion, which is not shown, may exist in the time slot.

It should be pointed out that each piece of format indication information may indicate a format corresponding to one time slot, wherein the terminal determines the N pieces of time slot format information are for which N time slots according to a first mapping relation, and the N time slots may be continuous or discontinuous time slots.

At this point, the formats of N continuous or discontinuous time slots may be determined based on the first control information.

Further, modes for determining N continuous or discontinuous time slots may include the following modes.

In a first mode, specifically, before acquiring the N pieces of format indication information from the first control information sent from the network side, the method further includes: acquiring a first bitmap from second control information or from the first configuration information sent from the network side. Wherein, the first bitmap contains M bits, and each bit is used to indicate whether the format of the time slot corresponding to the bit is determined through the format indication information in the first control information, and M is an integer greater than or equal to N.

The second control information and the first control information in the step 101 may be the same piece of information, that is, before acquiring the N pieces of format indication information from the first or second control information, a first bitmap may be extracted firstly. Of course, the second control information and the first control information in the step 101 may be different information, that is, before receiving the first control information, the second control information may be acquired from the network side first, the first bitmap is obtained by extracting from the second control information in advance, then the act 101 is executed.

In addition, the first configuration information sent from the network side may be information configured through RRC information, that is, the network side sends the configured time slot format to the UE in advance through the first configuration information, which may be considered as semi-static information.

The first bitmap may include M bits. When an indication value for a time slot is 1, it may indicate that this time slot uses the format indication information in the first control information to determine its time slot format. When an indication value for a time slot is 0, it may indicate that the format of this time slot is not applicable to being determined through the format indication information in the first control information. Or vice versa, as long as the terminal and the network side may correctly identify.

As shown in FIG. 3, each bit may be used to indicate a time slot corresponding to the format indication information in the control information. For example, the first bitmap contains 10 bits, indicating 10 time slots respectively. If setting as 1 indicates that the format of the time slot is determined by the format indication information in the first control information, then the time slots 1, 3, 6, 8 and 9 in the map may be time slots corresponding to the 5 pieces of format indication information in the first control information.

In addition, a way by which a time slot corresponds to format indication information may be set according to an actual situation. For example, it may be set as a positive sequence correspondence, that is, according to a position in the first bitmap, the sequence from left to right corresponds to the same sequence from left to right in the format indication information. Of course, it may also be a reverse sequence correspondence, which is not exhaustive here.

In a second mode, at least one time slot of a first type is determined based on the second configuration information or a predefined configuration sent from the network side. Wherein the time slot of the first type is a time slot of which a corresponding format may be determined based on control information.

The second configuration information may be RRC configuration information. The predefined configuration may be a time slot format pre-configured by the network side.

It should be understood that, in this embodiment, whether a time slot of the first type is indicated in the second configuration information or the predefined configuration is the only thing concerned, and whether a time slot of another type is indicated therein is not concerned.

Correspondingly, determination of N time slots corresponding to N pieces of format indication information in the control information includes that the N pieces of format indication information in the control information correspond to N time slots of the first type. The time

slots of the first type are time slots containing unidentified (such as unknown) portions.

In other words, as shown in FIG. 4, only the time slots of the first type are sent to the UE side through the second configuration information or the preset configuration, so that the UE side may implement a corresponding according to the time slots of the first type sent from the network side and the N pieces of format indication information of the first control information, thereby determining the formats of the five time slots of the first types. The time slots of the first type are time slots containing the unidentified (such as unknown) portions.

Specifically, the terminal determines which time slots are the time slots of the first type according to the first configuration information, the time slots of the first type are time slots containing time domain resources of the first type, the time domain resources of the first type are time domain resources of which the usage may be indicated by the control information, and the N pieces of the time slot format information are mapped to the N continuous time slots of the first type.

In this embodiment, the first control information and the second control information are downlink control information DCI.

The first configuration information and the second configuration information are radio resource control RRC configuration information or system information.

It can be seen that by adopting the above solution, when receiving the N pieces of format indication information, the N pieces of format indication information may be used to indicate the formats of N time slots, at least part of which are discontinuous, so that the format indication may be carried out only for part of the time slots. Thus, the control signaling overhead may be greatly reduced, and the flexibility of uplink and downlink resource scheduling and resource reservation may be improved.

In addition, since the N time slots may be time slots of which the SFIs are configured only with a semi-static uplink and downlink assignment (semi-static DL/UL assignment) and at least partial formats may be at least partially changed. Therefore, the time slots configured through the semi-static DL/UL assignment, of which the formats may not be changed, may be skipped, and only the time slots of which the formats may be changed are indicated effectively. Thus, control signaling overhead can be further guaranteed to be reduced, and flexibility of uplink and

downlink resource scheduling and resource reservation can be improved.

Embodiment two

5 An embodiment of the present invention provides a time slot indication method, applied to a network device, including: sending first control information containing N pieces of format indication information to the terminal device; wherein the N pieces of format indication information correspond to N time slots of the terminal device; and at least part of the N time slots are discontinuous.

Further, the N time slots are time slots of which at least partial formats may be changed.

10 The first control information includes N ($N \geq 1$) pieces of format indication information.

The format indication information includes at least one of the following: a size and/or a position of a downlink portion, a size and/or a position of an uplink portion, a size and/or a position of a reserved portion, and a size and/or a position of an unidentified (such as unknown) portion.

15 For example, as shown in FIG. 2, one time slot x may include an uplink portion 21, a downlink portion 22, and a reserved portion 23. It should be understood that FIG. 2 is only an example, and the aforementioned unidentified (such as unknown) portion, which is not shown, may exist in the time slot.

20 It should be pointed out that each piece of format indication information may indicate a format corresponding to one time slot, wherein the terminal determines N pieces of time slot format information are for which N time slots according to a first mapping relation, and the N time slots may be continuous or discontinuous time slots.

At this point, the formats of N continuous or discontinuous time slots may be determined based on the first control information.

25 Further, modes for determining N continuous or discontinuous time slots may include the following modes.

In a first way, specifically, before sending the first control information containing the N pieces of format indication information to the terminal device, the method further includes:

sending a first bitmap to the terminal device through second control information or through first configuration information. Wherein, the first bitmap contains M bits, and each bit is used to indicate whether a format of a time slot corresponding to the bit is determined through the format indication information in the first control information, and M is an integer greater than
 5 or equal to N.

The second control information and the first control information may be the same piece of information, that is, before acquiring the N pieces of format indication information from the first control information, i.e. the second control information, a first bitmap may be extracted firstly. Of course, the second control information and the first control information may be
 10 different information, that is, before sending the first control information, the second control information is sent firstly, so that the terminal device may extract the first bitmap from the second control information in advance.

In addition, the first configuration information may be information configured through RRC information, that is, the network side sends the configured time slot format to the UE in
 15 advance through the first configuration information, which may be considered as semi-static information.

The first bitmap may include M bits. When an indication value for a time slot is 1, it may indicate that this time slot uses the format indication information in the first control information to determine its time slot format. When an indication value for a time slot is 0, it may indicate
 20 that the format of this time slot is not applicable to being determined through the format indication information in the first control information. Or vice versa, as long as the terminal and the network side may correctly identify.

As shown in FIG. 3, each bit may be used to indicate a time slot corresponding to the format indication information in the control information. For example, the first bitmap contains
 25 10 bits, indicating 10 time slots respectively. If setting as 1 indicates that the format of the time slot is determined by the format indication information in the first control information, then the time slots 1, 3, 6, 8 and 9 in the map may be time slots corresponding to the 5 pieces of format indication information in the first control information.

In addition, a way by which a time slot corresponds to format indication information may

be set according to an actual situation. For example, it may be set as a positive sequence correspondence, that is, according to a position in the first bitmap, the sequence from left to right corresponds to the same sequence from left to right in the format indication information. Of course, it may also be a reverse sequence correspondence, which is not exhaustive here.

5 In a second mode, before sending the first control information containing the N pieces of format indication information to the terminal device, the method further includes: sending second configuration information to the terminal device for the terminal device to determine at least one time slot of the first type. The time slot of the first type is a time slot of which a corresponding format may be determined based on the control information.

10 It should be understood that, in this embodiment, whether a time slot of the first type is indicated in the second configuration information or the predefined configuration is the only thing concerned, and whether a time slot of another type is indicated therein is not concerned.

Correspondingly, determination of the N time slots corresponding to N pieces of format indication information in the control information includes that the N pieces of format indication
15 information in the control information corresponds to N time slots of the first type. The time slots of the first type are time slots including unidentified (such as unknown) portions.

In other words, as shown in FIG. 4, only the time slots of the first type may be sent to the UE side through the second configuration information or the preset configuration, so that the UE side may implement a corresponding according to the time slots of the first type sent from
20 the network side and the N pieces of format indication information of the first control information, thereby determining the formats of the five time slots of the first type. The time slots of the first type are time slots containing unidentified (such as unknown) portions.

In this embodiment, the first control information and the second control information are downlink control information DCI.

25 The first configuration information and the second configuration information are radio resource control RRC configuration information or system information.

It can be seen that by adopting the above solution, when receiving the N pieces of format indication information, the N pieces of format indication information may be used to indicate the formats of N time slots, at least part of which are discontinuous, so that the format

indication may be carried out only for part of the time slots. Thus, the control signaling overhead may be greatly reduced, and the flexibility of uplink and downlink resource scheduling and resource reservation may be improved.

In addition, since the N time slots may be time slots of which the SFIs are configured only with a semi-static uplink and downlink assignment (semi-static DL/UL assignment) and at least partial formats may be at least partially changed. Therefore, the time slots configured through the semi-static DL/UL assignment, of which the formats may not be changed, may be skipped, and only the time slots of which the formats may be changed are indicated effectively. Thus, control signaling overhead can be further guaranteed to be reduced, and flexibility of uplink and downlink resource scheduling and resource reservation can be improved.

Embodiment three

An embodiment of the present invention provides a terminal device, as shown in FIG. 5. The terminal device includes a first communication unit 31 and a first processing unit 32.

The first communication unit 51 is configured to acquire N pieces of format indication information from first control information sent from a network side; wherein N is an integer greater than or equal to 1.

The first processing unit 52 is configured to determine N time slots corresponding to the N pieces of format indication information in the first control information; wherein at least part of the N time slots are discontinuous; and determine formats of the N time slots based on the N pieces of format indication information.

The terminal acquires the first control information from the network device, which contains N ($N \geq 1$) pieces of format indication information. Wherein the N time slots are time slots of which at least partial formats may be changed.

The format indication information includes at least one of the following: a size and/or position of a downlink portion, a size and/or position of an uplink portion, a size and/or position of a reserved portion, and a size and/or position of an unidentified (such as unknown) portion.

For example, as shown in FIG. 2, one time slot x may include an uplink portion 21, a

downlink portion 22, and a reserved portion 23. It should be understood that FIG. 2 is only an example, and the aforementioned unidentified (such as unknown) portion, which is not shown, may exist in the time slot.

It should be pointed out that each piece of format indication information may indicate a format of one time slot, wherein the terminal determines the N pieces of time slot format information are for which N time slots according to a first mapping relation, and the N time slots may be continuous or discontinuous time slots.

At this point, the formats of N continuous or discontinuous time slots may be determined based on the first control information.

Further, modes for determining N continuous or discontinuous time slots may include the following modes.

In a first mode, specifically, the first processing unit 52 acquires a first bitmap from second control information or the first configuration information sent from the network side. Wherein, the first bitmap contains M bits, and each bit is used to indicate whether the format of the time slot corresponding to the bit is determined through the format indication information in the first control information, and M is an integer greater than or equal to N.

The second control information and the first control information may be the same piece of information, that is, before acquiring the N pieces of format indication information from the first or second control information, a first bitmap may be extracted firstly. Of course, the second control information and the first control information may be different information, that is, before receiving the first control information, the second control information may be acquired from the network side first, and the first bitmap is obtained by extracting from the second control information in advance.

In addition, the first configuration information sent from the network side may be information configured through RRC information, that is, the network side sends the configured time slot format to the UE in advance through the first configuration information, which may be considered as semi-static information.

The first bitmap may include M bits. When an indication value for a time slot is 1, it may indicate that this time slot uses the format indication information in the first control information

to determine the time slot format. When an indication value for a time slot is 0, it may indicate that the format of this time slot is not applicable to being determined through the format indication information in the first control information. Or vice versa, as long as the terminal and the network side may correctly identify.

5 As shown in FIG. 3, each bit may be used to indicate a time slot corresponding to the format indication information in the control information. For example, the first bitmap contains 10 bits, indicating 10 time slots respectively. If setting as 1 indicates that the format of the time slot is determined by the format indication information in the first control information, then the time slots 1, 3, 6, 8 and 9 in the map may be time slots corresponding to the 5 pieces of format
10 indication information in the first control information.

In addition, a way by which a time slot corresponds to format indication information may be set according to an actual situation. For example, it may be set as a positive sequence correspondence, that is, according to a position in the first bitmap, the sequence from left to right corresponds to the same sequence from left to right in the format indication information.
15 Of course, it may also be a reverse sequence correspondence, which is not exhaustive here.

In a second mode, the first processing unit 52 is configured to determine at least one time slot of the first type based on the second configuration information or a predefined configuration sent from the network side. Wherein the time slot of the first type is a time slot of which a corresponding format may be determined based on the control information.

20 The second configuration information may be RRC configuration information. The predefined configuration may be a time slot format pre-configured by the network side.

It should be understood that, in this embodiment, whether a time slot of the first type is indicated in the second configuration information or the predefined configuration is the only thing concerned, and whether a time slot of another type is indicated therein is not concerned.

25 Correspondingly, N pieces of format indication information in the control information correspond to N time slots of the first type. The time slots of the first type are time slots containing unidentified (such as unknown) portions.

In other words, as shown in FIG. 4, only the time slots of the first type may be sent to the UE side through the second configuration information or the preset configuration, so that the

UE side may implement a corresponding according to to the time slots of the first type sent from the network side and the N pieces of format indication information of the first control information, thereby determining the formats of the five time slots of the first types. The time slots of the first type are time slots containing the unidentified (such as unknown) portions.

5 Specifically, the terminal determines which time slots are the time slots of the first type according to the first configuration information, the time slots of the first type are time slots containing time domain resources of the first type, the time domain resources of the first type are time domain resources of which the usage may be indicated by the control information, and the N pieces of the time slot format information are mapped to the N continuous time slots of
10 the first type.

In this embodiment, the first control information and the second control information are downlink control information DCI.

The first configuration information and the second configuration information are radio resource control RRC configuration information or system information.

15 It may be seen that by adopting the above scheme, when receiving the N pieces of format indication information, the N pieces of format indication information may be used to indicate the formats of N time slots, at least part of which are discontinuous, so that the format indication may be carried out only for part of the time slots. Thus, the control signaling overhead may be greatly reduced, and the flexibility of uplink and downlink resource
20 scheduling and resource reservation may be improved.

In addition, since the N time slots may be time slots of which the SFIs are configured only with a semi-static uplink and downlink assignment (semi-static DL/UL assignment) and at least partial formats may be at least partially changed. Therefore, the time slots configured through the semi-static DL/UL assignment, of which the formats may not be changed, may be skipped,
25 and only the time slots of which the formats may be changed are indicated effectively. Thus, control signaling overhead may be further guaranteed to be reduced, and flexibility of uplink and downlink resource scheduling and resource reservation may be improved.

Embodiment four

An embodiment of the present invention provides a network device. As shown in FIG. 6, the network device includes a second communication unit 31.

The second communication unit 61 is configured to send first control information containing N pieces of format indication information to the terminal device; wherein the N
5 pieces of format indication information corresponds to N time slots of the terminal device; and at least part of the N time slots are discontinuous.

The first control information includes N ($N \geq 1$) pieces of format indication information.

The N time slots are time slots of which at least partial formats may be changed.

The format indication information includes at least one of the following: a size and/or a
10 position of a downlink portion, a size and/or a position of an uplink portion, a size and/or a position of a reserved portion, and a size and/or a position of an unidentified portion.

For example, as shown in FIG. 2, one time slot X may include an uplink portion 21, a downlink portion 22, and a reserved portion 23. It should be understood that FIG. 2 is only an example, and the aforementioned unidentified (such as unknown) portion, which is not shown,
15 may exist in the time slot.

It should be pointed out that each piece of format indication information may indicate a format corresponding to one time slot, wherein the terminal determines N pieces of time slot format information are for which N time slots according to a first mapping relation, and the N time slots may be continuous or discontinuous time slots.

20 At this point, the formats of N continuous or discontinuous time slots may be determined based on the first control information.

Further, modes for determining N continuous or discontinuous time slots may include the following modes.

In a first mode, specifically, the network device further includes a second processing unit
25 62.

The second processing unit 62 is configured to determine a first bitmap.

The second communication unit 61 sends the first bitmap to the terminal device through second control information or through the first configuration information.

The first bitmap contains M bits, and each bit is used to indicate whether a format of a time slot corresponding to the bit is determined through the format indication information in the first control information, and M is an integer greater than or equal to N .

5 The second control information and the first control information may be the same piece of information, that is, before acquiring the N pieces of format indication information from the first control information, i.e. the second control information, a first bitmap may be extracted firstly. Of course, the second control information and the first control information may be different information, that is, before sending the first control information, the second control information is sent first, so that the terminal device may extract the first bitmap from the second
10 control information in advance.

In addition, the first configuration information may be information configured through RRC information, that is, the network side sends the configured time slot format to the UE in advance through the first configuration information, which may be considered as semi-static information.

15 The first bitmap may include M bits. When an indication value for a time slot is 1, it may indicate that this time slot uses the format indication information in the first control information to determine its time slot format. When an indication value for a time slot is 0, it may indicate that the format of this time slot is not applicable to being determined through the format indication information in the first control information. Or vice versa, as long as the terminal and
20 the network side may correctly identify.

As shown in FIG. 3, each bit may be used to indicate a time slot corresponding to the format indication information in the control information. For example, the first bitmap contains 10 bits, indicating 10 time slots respectively. If setting as 1 indicates that the format of the time slot is determined by the format indication information in the first control information, then the
25 time slots 1, 3, 6, 8 and 9 in the map may be time slots corresponding to the 5 pieces of format indication information in the first control information.

In addition, a way by which a time slot corresponds to format indication information may be set according to an actual situation. For example, it may be set as positive sequence correspondence, that is, according to a position in the first bitmap, the sequence from left to

right corresponds to the same sequence from left to right in the format indication information. Of course, it may also be a reverse sequence correspondence, which is not exhaustive here.

In a second mode, the second communication unit 61 is configured to send second configuration information to the terminal device for the terminal device to determine at least
 5 one time slot of the first type; the time slot of the first type is a time slot of which a corresponding format may be determined based on the control information.

It should be understood that, in this embodiment, whether a time slot of the first type is indicated in the second configuration information or the predefined configuration is the only thing concerned, and whether a time slot of another type is indicated therein is not concerned.

10 Correspondingly, determination of N time slots corresponding to N pieces of format indication information in the control information includes that the N pieces of format indication information in the control information correspond to N time slots of the first type. The time slots of the first type are time slots containing unidentified (such as unknown) portions.

In other words, as shown in FIG. 4, only the time slots of the first type may be sent to the
 15 UE side through the second configuration information or the preset configuration, so that the UE side may perform a corresponding according to the time slots of the first type sent from the network side and the N pieces of format indication information of the first control information, thereby determining the formats of the five time slots of the first type. The time slots of the first type are time slots containing unidentified (such as unknown) portions.

20 In this embodiment, the first control information and the second control information are downlink control information DCI.

The first configuration information and the second configuration information are radio resource control RRC configuration information or system information.

At present, in the prior art, when combining a semi-static SFI and a dynamic SFI, a great
 25 control signaling overhead will be caused, and a flexible dynamic SFI indication can not be realized, because dynamic SFIs can only indicate SFIs of continuous K time slots, and some of these K time slots may have been configured through the semi-static SFIs and do not contain unknown symbols, so the dynamic SFI signaling for these time slots is invalid and meaningless signaling overhead. As shown in FIG. 7, assuming that the base station sends dynamic SFIs of

K=5 time slots to the terminal through PDCCH, but 3 time slots do not contain unknown symbols in the semi-static SFI configuration, the SFIs of these 3 time slots will become invalid SFIs, thus wasting PDCCH signaling overhead.

In addition, the solution in the prior art may also limit the indication flexibility and efficiency of a dynamic SFI. As shown in FIG. 8, time slot 3 contains unknown symbols, so the base station may indicate the time slot format of this slot, i.e. a dynamic SFI of K=1 time slot needs to be transmitted through PDCCH. However, if time slot 3 itself contains a downlink symbol, then PDCCH may not be carried (PDCCH must be transmitted on a downlink symbol). In this way, the dynamic SFI may only be carried by PDCCH in a time slot containing a downlink symbol before time slot 3. Assuming that a time slot containing a downlink symbol closest to time slot 3 is time slot 1 in FIG. 8, the dynamic SFI may be carried. However, according to the solution in the prior art, K=1 represents that the SFI indicates the time slot format of the current time slot, so the SFI indication in this scenario can not be supported.

Compared with the prior art, it can be seen that by adopting the technical solution provided by the embodiment, N pieces of format indication information may be used for indicating the formats of N time slots, at least part of which are discontinuous, when the N pieces of format indication information are received, so that the format indication may be carried out only for part of the time slots. Thus, the control signaling overhead may be greatly reduced, and the flexibility of uplink and downlink resource scheduling and resource reservation may be improved.

In addition, since the N time slots may be time slots of which the SFIs are configured only with a semi-static uplink and downlink assignment (semi-static DL/UL assignment) and at least partial formats may be at least partially changed. Therefore, the time slots configured with the semi-static DL/UL assignment, of which the formats may not be changed, may be skipped, and only the time slots of which the formats may be changed are indicated effectively. Thus, control signaling overhead can be further guaranteed to be reduced, and flexibility of uplink and downlink resource scheduling and resource reservation can be improved.

An embodiment of the present invention also provides a hardware architecture of a terminal device or a network device, which includes at least one processor 91, a memory 92,

and at least one network interface 93, as shown in FIG. 9. The various components are coupled together by a bus system 94. It may be understood that the bus system 94 is used for implementing connection and communication between these components. In addition to a data bus, the bus system 94 further includes a power bus, a control bus, and a status signal bus. However, for clarity, all kinds of buses are uniformly referred to as a bus system 94 in the FIG. 9.

It should be understood that the storage 92 in the embodiment of the present invention may be a volatile memory or a non-volatile memory, or it may include both volatile and non-volatile memory.

In some implementation modes, the storage 92 stores following elements, executable modules or data structures, or subsets thereof, or extension sets thereof: an operating system 921 and an application program 922.

The processor 91 is configured to process acts in methods in the first embodiment or the second embodiment, which will not be repeated here.

An embodiment of the present invention provides a computer storage medium. The computer storage medium stores computer-executable instructions, which, when being executed, implementing acts of the method according to the first embodiment or the second embodiment.

The above device in the embodiments of the present invention may also be stored in a computer readable storage medium when implemented in a form of a software function module and sold or used as an independent product. Based on this understanding, the technical solutions in the embodiments of the present invention, in essence, or a part contributing to the prior art, may be embodied in the form of a software product stored in a storage medium. The computer software product is stored in a storage and includes several instructions for causing a computer device (which may be a personal computer, a server, or a network device, etc.) to perform all or part of the methods described in various embodiments of the present invention. The aforementioned storage medium includes various media capable of storing program codes such as a U disk, a mobile hard disk, a read-only memory (ROM), a magnetic disk or an optical disk. Thus, the embodiments of the present invention are not limited to any specific combination of hardware and software.

Correspondingly, an embodiment of the present invention also provides a computer storage medium in which a computer program is stored, and the computer program is configured to execute the time slot indication method in the embodiments of the present invention.

- 5 Although the preferable embodiments of the present invention have been disclosed for illustrative purposes, those skilled in the art will recognize that various modifications, additions and substitutions are also possible, and therefore, the scope of the present invention should not be limited to the above embodiments.

What is claimed is:

1. A time slot indication method, applied to a terminal device, comprising:

acquiring N pieces of format indication information from first control information sent from a network side; wherein N is an integer greater than or equal to 1;

5 determining N time slots corresponding to the N pieces of format indication information in the first control information; and

determining formats of the N time slots based on the N pieces of format indication information.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein at least part of the N time slots are discontinuous.

10 3. The method of claim 1, wherein, the N time slots corresponding to the N pieces of format indication information are time slots of which at least partial formats are capable of being changed.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein, the format indication information comprises at least one of the following:

15 a size and/or a position of a downlink portion, a size and/or a position of an uplink portion, a size and/or a position of a reserved portion, and a size and/or a position of an unidentified portion.

20 5. The method of claim 1, wherein, before acquiring the N pieces of format indication information from the first control information sent from the network side, the method further comprises:

determining at least one time slot of a first type based on second configuration information sent from the network side or a predefined configuration; wherein the time slot of the first type is a time slot of which at least partial format is capable of being determined based on control information.

25 6. The method of claim 1 or 5, determining the N time slots corresponding to the N pieces of format indication information in the first control information comprises:

the N pieces of format indication information in the first control information correspond

to N time slots of the first type.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the time slot of the first type is a time slot containing an unidentified portion.

8. A time slot indication method, applied to a network device, comprising:

5 sending first control information containing N pieces of format indication information to a terminal device;

wherein the N pieces of format indication information correspond to N time slots of the terminal device.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein at least part of the N time slots are discontinuous.

10 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the N time slots corresponding to the N pieces of format indication information are time slots of which at least partial formats are capable of being changed.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the format indication information comprises at least one of the following:

15 a size and/or a position of a downlink portion, a size and/or a position of an uplink portion, a size and/or a position of a reserved portion, and a size and/or a position of an unidentified portion.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein before sending the first control information comprising the N pieces of format indication information to the terminal device, the method
20 further comprises:

sending second configuration information to the terminal device, wherein the second configuration information is used for the terminal device to determine at least one time slot of a first type; wherein, the time slot of the first type is a time slot of which at least partial format is capable of being determined based on control information.

25 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the time slot of the first type is a time slot containing an unidentified portion.

14. A terminal device, comprising:

a first communication unit, configured to acquire N pieces of format indication information from first control information sent from a network side; wherein N is an integer greater than or equal to 1; and

5 a first processing unit, configured to determine N time slots corresponding to the N pieces of format indication information in the first control information; and determine formats of the N time slots based on the N pieces of format indication information.

15. The terminal device of claim 14, wherein at least part of the N time slots are discontinuous.

10 16. The terminal device of claim 14, wherein the N time slots corresponding to the N pieces of format indication information are time slots of which at least partial formats are capable of being changed.

17. The terminal device of claim 16, wherein the format indication information comprises at least one of the following:

15 a size and/or a position of a downlink portion, a size and/or a position of an uplink portion, a size and/or a position of a reserved portion, and a size and/or a position of an unidentified portion.

20 18. The terminal device of claim 14, wherein the first processing unit is configured to determine at least one time slot of a first type based on second configuration information sent from the network side or a predefined configuration; wherein the time slot of the first type is a time slot of which a corresponding format is capable of being determined based on control information.

19. The terminal device of claim 14 or 18, wherein the N pieces of format indication information in the first control information correspond to N time slots of the first type.

25 20. The terminal device of claim 18, wherein the time slot of the first type is a time slot containing an unidentified portion.

21. A network device comprising:

a second communication unit, configured to send first control information containing N pieces of format indication information to a terminal device;

wherein the N pieces of format indication information correspond to N time slots of the terminal device.

22. The network device of claim 21, wherein at least part of the N time slots are discontinuous.

5 23. The network device of claim 21, wherein the N time slots corresponding to the N pieces of format indication information are time slots of which at least partial formats are capable of being changed.

24. The network device of claim 21, wherein the format indication information comprises at least one of the following:

10 a size and/or a position of a downlink portion, a size and/or a position of an uplink portion, a size and/or a position of a reserved portion, and a size and/or a position of an unidentified portion.

25. The network device of claim 21, wherein the second communication unit is configured to send second configuration information to the terminal device, and the second configuration
15 information is used for the terminal device to determine at least one time slot of a first type; the time slot of the first type is a time slot of which a corresponding format is capable of being determined based on control information.

26. The network device of claim 25, wherein the time slot of the first type is a time slot containing an unidentified portion.

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