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1 Scope

The present document specifies the E-UTRA MAC protocol.

2 References

The following documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of the present document.

- References are either specific (identified by date of publication, edition number, version number, etc.) or non-specific.
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[1] 3GPP TR 21.905: "Vocabulary for 3GPP Specifications".

[2] 3GPP TR 36.213: "Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA); Physical Layer Procedures".

[3] 3GPP TS 36.322: “Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA); Radio Link Control (RLC) protocol specification”.

[4] 3GPP TS 36.323: “Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA); Packet Data Convergence Protocol (PDCP) Specification”.

[5] 3GPP TS 36.212: “Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA); Multiplexing and channel coding”.

[6] 3GPP TS 36.214: “Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA); Physical layer; Measurements”.

[7] 3GPP TS 36.211: “Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA); Physical Channels and Modulation”.

[8] 3GPP TS 36.331: “Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA); Radio Resource Control (RRC); Protocol specification”.

[9] 3GPP TS 36.133: "Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA); Requirements for support of radio resource management".

[10] 3GPP TS 36.101: "Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA); User Equipment (UE) radio transmission and reception".

[11] 3GPP TS 36.216: "Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA); Physical layer for relaying operation".

3 Definitions and abbreviations

3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the terms and definitions given in TR 21.905 [1] and the following apply. A term defined in the present document takes precedence over the definition of the same term, if any, in TR 21.905 [1].

Active Time: Time related to DRX operation, as defined in subclause 5.7, during which the UE monitors the PDCCH.

mac-ContentionResolutionTimer: Specifies the number of consecutive subframe(s) during which the UE shall monitor the PDCCH after Msg3 is transmitted.

DRX Cycle: Specifies the periodic repetition of the On Duration followed by a possible period of inactivity (see figure 3.1-1 below).

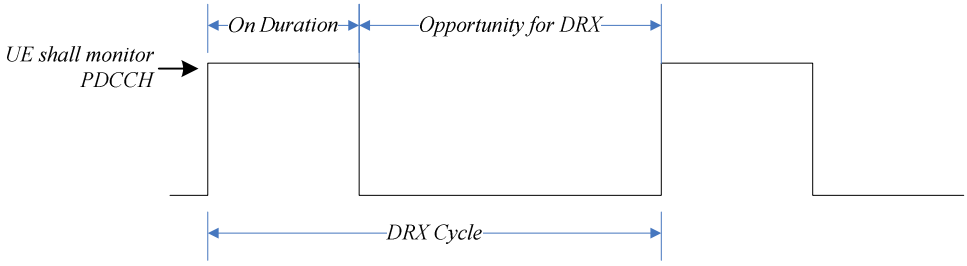

Figure 3.1-1: DRX Cycle

drx-InactivityTimer: Specifies the number of consecutive PDCCH-subframe(s) after the subframe in which a PDCCH indicates an initial UL or DL user data transmission for this UE.

drx-RetransmissionTimer: Specifies the maximum number of consecutive PDCCH-subframe(s) until a DL retransmission is received.

drxShortCycleTimer: Specifies the number of consecutive subframe(s) the UE shall follow the Short DRX cycle.

drxStartOffset: Specifies the subframe where the DRX Cycle starts.

HARQ information: HARQ information consists of New Data Indicator (NDI), Transport Block (TB) size. For DL-SCH transmissions the HARQ information also includes HARQ process ID. For UL-SCH transmission the HARQ info also includes Redundancy Version (RV). In case of spatial multiplexing on DL-SCH the HARQ information comprises a set of NDI and TB size for each transport block.

HARQ RTT Timer: This parameter specifies the minimum amount of subframe(s) before a DL HARQ retransmission is expected by the UE.

Msg3: Message transmitted on UL-SCH containing a C-RNTI MAC CE or CCCH SDU, submitted from upper layer and associated with the UE Contention Resolution Identity, as part of a random access procedure.

onDurationTimer: Specifies the number of consecutive PDCCH-subframe(s) at the beginning of a DRX Cycle.

PDCCH: Refers to the PDCCH [7], EPDCCH (in subframes when configured) or, for an RN with R-PDCCH configured and not suspended, to the R-PDCCH.

PDCCH-subframe: Refers to a subframe with PDCCH. For UE configured with only FDD serving cell(s), this represents any subframe; for UE configured with at least one TDD serving cell, if UE is capable of simultaneous reception and transmission in the aggregated cells, this represents the union of downlink subframes and subframes including DwPTS of the TDD UL/DL configuration indicated by *tdd-Config* [8] of all serving cells, except serving cells that are configured with *schedulingCellId* [8]; otherwise, this represents the subframes where the PCell is configured as a downlink subframe or a subframe including DwPTS of the TDD UL/DL configuration indicated by *tdd-Config* [8]. For RNs with an RN subframe configuration configured and not suspended, in its communication with the E-UTRAN, this represents all downlink subframes configured for RN communication with the E-UTRAN.

PRACH Resource Index: The index of a PRACH within a system frame [7]

Primary Timing Advance Group: Timing Advance Group containing the PCell.

***ra-PRACH-MaskIndex*:** Defines in which PRACHs within a system frame the UE can transmit a Random Access Preamble (see subclause 7.3).

RA-RNTI: The Random Access RNTI is used on the PDCCH when Random Access Response messages are transmitted. It unambiguously identifies which time-frequency resource was utilized by the UE to transmit the Random Access preamble.

Secondary Timing Advance Group: Timing Advance Group not containing the PCell. A Secondary Timing Advance Group contains at least one Serving Cell with an UL configured.

Serving Cell: A Primary or a Secondary Cell [8].

Timing Advance Group: A group of Serving Cells that is configured by RRC and that, for the cells with an UL configured, using the same timing reference cell and the same Timing Advance value.

NOTE: A timer is running once it is started, until it is stopped or until it expires; otherwise it is not running. A timer can be started if it is not running or restarted if it is running. A Timer is always started or restarted from its initial value.

3.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in TR 21.905 [1] and the following apply. An abbreviation defined in the present document takes precedence over the definition of the same abbreviation, if any, in TR 21.905 [1].

BSR	Buffer Status Report
C-RNTI	Cell RNTI
CQI	Channel Quality Indicator
eIMTA	Enhanced Interference Management and Traffic Adaptation
eIMTA-RNTI	Enhanced Interference Management and Traffic Adaptation - RNTI
E-UTRA	Evolved UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access
E-UTRAN	Evolved UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access Network
MAC	Medium Access Control
M-RNTI	MBMS RNTI
LCG	Logical Channel Group
PCell	Primary Cell [8]
PHR	Power Headroom Report
PMI	Precoding Matrix Index
P-RNTI	Paging RNTI
pTAG	Primary Timing Advance Group
PTI	Precoding Type Indicator
RA-RNTI	Random Access RNTI
RI	Rank Indicator
RN	Relay Node
RNTI	Radio Network Temporary Identifier
SCell	Secondary Cell [8]
SI-RNTI	System Information RNTI
SR	Scheduling Request
SRS	Sounding Reference Symbols
sTAG	Secondary Timing Advance Group
TAG	Timing Advance Group
TB	Transport Block
TPC-PUCCH-RNTI	Transmit Power Control-Physical Uplink Control Channel-RNTI
TPC-PUSCH-RNTI	Transmit Power Control-Physical Uplink Shared Channel-RNTI

4 General

4.1 Introduction

The objective is to describe the MAC architecture and the MAC entity from a functional point of view. Functionality specified for the UE equally applies to the RN for functionality necessary for the RN. There is also functionality which is only applicable to the RN, in which case the specification denotes the RN instead of the UE. RN-specific behaviour is not applicable to the UE. For TDD operation, UE behaviour follows the TDD UL/DL configuration indicated by *tdd-Config* unless specified otherwise.

4.2 MAC architecture

The description in this sub clause is a model and does not specify or restrict implementations.

RRC is in control of configuration of MAC.

4.2.1 MAC Entities

E-UTRA defines two MAC entities; one in the UE and one in the E-UTRAN. These MAC entities handle the following transport channels:

- Broadcast Channel (BCH);
- Downlink Shared Channel(s) (DL-SCH);
- Paging Channel (PCH);
- Uplink Shared Channel(s) (UL-SCH);
- Random Access Channel(s) (RACH);
- Multicast Channel(s) (MCH).

The exact functions performed by the MAC entities are different in the UE from those performed in the E-UTRAN.

The RN includes both MAC entities; one for communication with UEs and one for communication with the E-UTRAN.

If the UE is configured with one or more SCells, there are multiple DL-SCH and there may be multiple UL-SCH and RACH per UE; one DL-SCH and UL-SCH on the PCell, one DL-SCH, zero or one UL-SCH and zero or one RACH for each SCell.

Figure 4.2.1-1 illustrates one possible structure for the UE side MAC entity, and it should not restrict implementation.

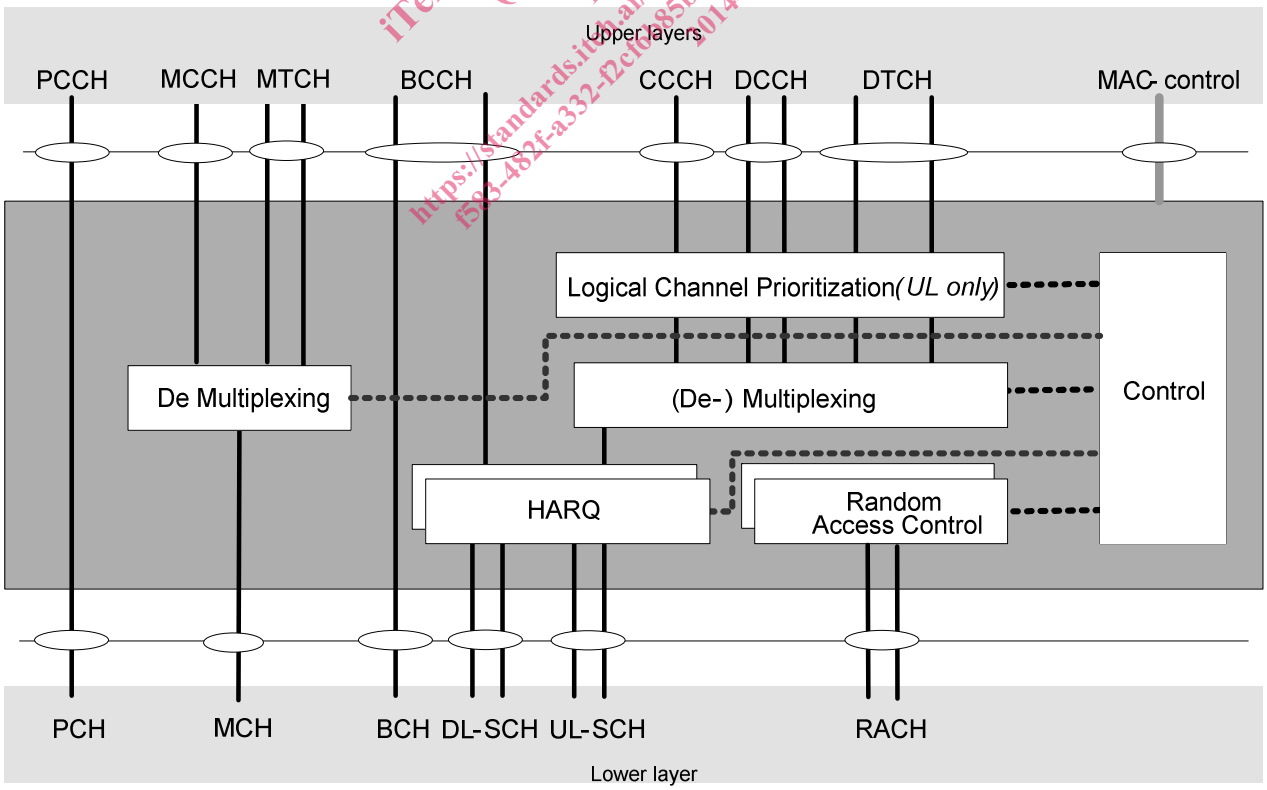

Figure 4.2.1-1: MAC structure overview, UE side

4.3 Services

4.3.1 Services provided to upper layers

This clause describes the different services provided by MAC sublayer to upper layers.

- data transfer
- radio resource allocation

4.3.2 Services expected from physical layer

The physical layer provides the following services to MAC:

- data transfer services;
- signalling of HARQ feedback;
- signalling of Scheduling Request;
- measurements (e.g. Channel Quality Indication (CQI)).

The access to the data transfer services is through the use of transport channels. The characteristics of a transport channel are defined by its transport format (or format set), specifying the physical layer processing to be applied to the transport channel in question, such as channel coding and interleaving, and any service-specific rate matching as needed.

4.4 Functions

The following functions are supported by MAC sublayer:

- mapping between logical channels and transport channels;
- multiplexing of MAC SDUs from one or different logical channels onto transport blocks (TB) to be delivered to the physical layer on transport channels;
- demultiplexing of MAC SDUs from one or different logical channels from transport blocks (TB) delivered from the physical layer on transport channels;
- scheduling information reporting;
- error correction through HARQ;
- priority handling between UEs by means of dynamic scheduling;
- priority handling between logical channels of one UE;
- Logical Channel prioritisation;
- transport format selection.

The location of the different functions and their relevance for uplink and downlink respectively is illustrated in Table 4.4-1.

Table 4.4-1: MAC function location and link direction association.

MAC function	UE	eNB	Downlink	Uplink
Mapping between logical channels and transport channels	X		X	X
		X	X	X
Multiplexing	X			X
		X	X	
Demultiplexing	X		X	
		X		X
Error correction through HARQ	X		X	X
		X	X	X
Transport Format Selection		X	X	X
Priority handling between UEs		X	X	X
Priority handling between logical channels of one UE		X	X	X
Logical Channel prioritisation	X			X
Scheduling information reporting	X			X

4.5 Channel structure

The MAC sublayer operates on the channels defined below; transport channels are SAPs between MAC and Layer 1, logical channels are SAPs between MAC and RLC.

4.5.1 Transport Channels

The transport channels used by MAC are described in Table 4.5.1-1 below.

Table 4.5.1-1: Transport channels used by MAC

Transport channel name	Acronym	Downlink	Uplink
Broadcast Channel	BCH	X	
Downlink Shared Channel	DL-SCH	X	
Paging Channel	PCH	X	
Multicast Channel	MCH	X	
Uplink Shared Channel	UL-SCH		X
Random Access Channel	RACH		X

4.5.2 Logical Channels

The MAC layer provides data transfer services on logical channels. A set of logical channel types is defined for different kinds of data transfer services as offered by MAC.

Each logical channel type is defined by what type of information is transferred.

MAC provides the control and traffic channels listed in Table 4.5.2-1 below.

Table 4.5.2-1: Logical channels provided by MAC.

Logical channel name	Acronym	Control channel	Traffic channel
Broadcast Control Channel	BCCH	X	
Paging Control Channel	PCCH	X	
Common Control Channel	CCCH	X	
Dedicated Control Channel	DCCH	X	
Multicast Control Channel	MCCH	X	
Dedicated Traffic Channel	DTCH		X
Multicast Traffic Channel	MTCH		X

4.5.3 Mapping of Transport Channels to Logical Channels

The mapping of logical channels on transport channels depends on the multiplexing that is configured by RRC.

4.5.3.1 Uplink mapping

The MAC entity is responsible for mapping logical channels for the uplink onto uplink transport channels. The uplink logical channels can be mapped as described in Figure 4.5.3.1-1 and Table 4.5.3.1-1.

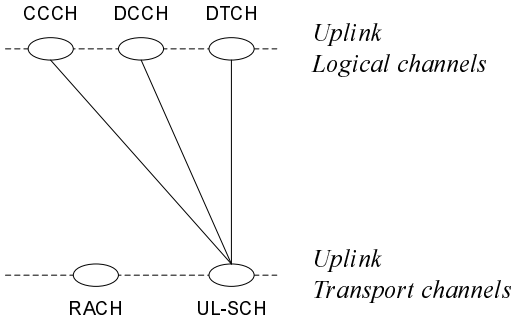

Figure 4.5.3.1-1

Table 4.5.3.1-1: Uplink channel mapping.

Logical channel \ Transport channel	UL-SCH	RACH
CCCH	X	
DCCH	X	
DTCH	X	

4.5.3.2 Downlink mapping

The MAC entity is responsible for mapping the downlink logical channels to downlink transport channels. The downlink logical channels can be mapped as described in Figure 4.5.3.2-1 and Table 4.5.3.2-1.

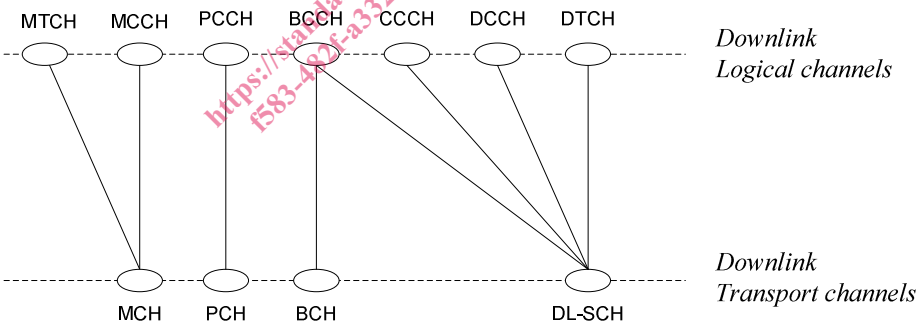

Figure 4.5.3.2-1

Table 4.5.3.2-1: Downlink channel mapping.

Logical channel \ Transport channel	BCH	PCH	DL-SCH	MCH
BCCH	X		X	
PCCH		X		
CCCH			X	
DCCH			X	
DTCH			X	
MCCH				X
MTCH				X