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Contents

Foreword

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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.
- For a specific reference, subsequent revisions do not apply.
- For a non-specific reference, the latest version applies. In the case of a reference to a 3GPP document (including a GSM document), a non-specific reference implicitly refers to the latest version of that document *in the same Release as the present document*.

[1] 3GPP TR 21.905: "Vocabulary for 3GPP Specifications".

[2] 3GPP TS 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".

[12] 3GPP TS 36.306: "Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA); User Equipment (UE) radio access capabilities".

[13] 3GPP TS 23.303: "Proximity-based services (ProSe); Stage 2".

[14] 3GPP TS 23.285: "Architecture enhancements for V2X services".

[15] 3GPP TS 24.386: "User Equipment (UE) to V2X control function; protocol aspects; Stage 3".

[16] 3GPP TS 26.114: "IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS); Multimedia telephony; Media handling and interaction".

[17] 3GPP TS 38.323: "NR; Packet Data Convergence Protocol (PDCP) specification".

[18] 3GPP TS 38.213: "NR; Physical Layer Procedures for control".

[19] 3GPP TS 38.133: "NR; Requirements for support of radio resource management".

[20] 3GPP TS 36.300: "Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA) and Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRAN); Overall description; Stage 2".

[21] 3GPP TS 38.101-3: "NR; User Equipment (UE) radio transmission and reception; Part 3: Range 1 and Range 2 Interworking operation with other radios".

[22] 3GPP TS 38.306: "NR; User Equipment (UE) radio access capabilities".

[23] 3GPP TS 23.287: "Architecture enhancements for 5G System (5GS) to support Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) services ".

[24] 3GPP TS 38.321: "NR; Medium Access Control (MAC) protocol specification".

[25] 3GPP TS 38.331: "NR; Radio Resource Control (RRC); Protocol specification".

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 clause 5.7, during which the MAC entity monitors the PDCCH.

mac-ContentionResolutionTimer: Specifies the number of consecutive subframe(s) during which the MAC entity 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).

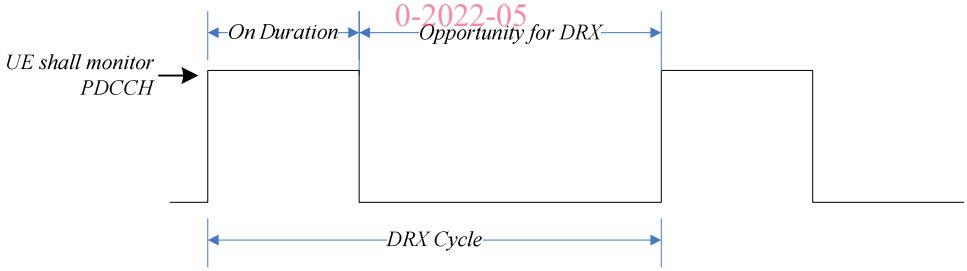

Figure 3.1-1: DRX Cycle

drx-InactivityTimer: Except for NB-IoT UEs, BL UEs or UEs in enhanced coverage, it specifies the number of consecutive PDCCH-subframe(s) after the subframe in which a PDCCH indicates an initial UL, DL or SL user data transmission for this MAC entity. For NB-IoT UEs, it specifies the number of consecutive PDCCH-subframe(s) after the subframe in which the HARQ RTT timer or UL HARQ RTT timer expires. For BL UEs or UEs in enhanced coverage, it specifies the number of consecutive PDCCH-subframe(s) following the subframe containing the last repetition of the PDCCH reception that indicates an initial UL or DL user data transmission for this MAC entity.

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

drx-RetransmissionTimerShortTTI: Specifies the maximum number of consecutive TTI(s) until a DL retransmission is received for HARQ processes scheduled using short TTI.

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

drxStartOffset: Specifies the subframe where the DRX Cycle starts.

drx-ULRetransmissionTimer: Specifies the maximum number of consecutive PDCCH-subframe(s) until a grant for UL retransmission or the HARQ feedback is received.

drx-ULRetransmissionTimeShortTTI: Specifies the maximum number of consecutive TTI(s) until a grant for UL retransmission is received for HARQ processes scheduled using short TTI.

Early Data Transmission: Allows one uplink data transmission optionally followed by one downlink data transmission during the random access procedure as specified in TS 36.300 [20]. The S1 connection is established or resumed upon reception of the uplink data and may be released or suspended along with the transmission of the downlink data. Early data transmission refers to both CP-EDT and UP-EDT.

HARQ information: HARQ information for DL-SCH or for UL-SCH transmissions consists of New Data Indicator (NDI), Transport Block (TB) size. For DL-SCH transmissions and for asynchronous UL HARQ and for autonomous UL HARQ, the HARQ information also includes HARQ process ID, except for UEs in NB-IoT configured with a single HARQ process for which this information is not present. For UL-SCH transmission the HARQ information 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 information for SL-SCH and SL-DCH transmissions consists of TB size only.

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

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

NB-IoT: NB-IoT allows access to network services via E-UTRA with a channel bandwidth limited to 200 kHz.

NB-IoT UE: A UE that uses NB-IoT.

NR sidelink communication: AS functionality enabling at least V2X Communication as defined in TS 23.287 [23], between two or more nearby UEs, using NR technology but not traversing any network node.

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

PDCCH: Refers to the PDCCH (see TS 36.211 [7]), EPDCCH (in subframes when configured), MPDCCH (see TS 36.213 [2]), for an RN with R-PDCCH configured and not suspended, to the R-PDCCH, for NB-IoT to the NPDCCH or for short TTI to SPDCCH.

PDCCH period (pp): Refers to the interval between the start of two consecutive PDCCH occasions and depends on the currently used PDCCH search space, as specified in TS 36.213 [2]. A PDCCH occasion is the start of a search space and is defined by subframe k0 as specified in clause 16.6 of TS 36.213 [2]. The calculation of number of PDCCH-subframes for the timer configured in units of a PDCCH period is done by multiplying the number of PDCCH periods with *npdcch-NumRepetitions-RA* when the UE uses the common search space or by *npdcch-NumRepetitions* when the UE uses the UE specific search space. When counting a timer whose length is calculated in PDCCH-subframes, the UE shall include PDCCH-subframes that will be dropped or not required to be monitored as specified in clause 16.6 of TS 36.213 [2]. The calculation of number of subframes for the timer configured in units of a PDCCH period is done by multiplying the number of PDCCH periods with duration between two consecutive PDCCH occasions.

PDCCH-subframe: Refers to a subframe with PDCCH. This represents the union over PDCCH-subframes for all serving cells excluding cells configured with cross carrier scheduling for both uplink and downlink, as specified in TS 36.331 [8]; except if the UE is not capable of simultaneous reception and transmission in the aggregated cells where this instead represents the PDCCH-subframes of the SpCell.

- For FDD serving cells, all subframes represent PDCCH-subframes, unless specified otherwise in this clause.
- For TDD serving cells, all downlink subframes and subframes including DwPTS of the TDD UL/DL configuration indicated by *tdd-Config*, as specified in TS 36.331 [8] of the cell represent PDCCH-subframes, unless specified otherwise in this clause.

- For serving cells operating according to Frame structure Type 3, all subframes represent PDCCH-subframes.
- For RNs with an RN subframe configuration configured and not suspended, in its communication with the E-UTRAN, all downlink subframes configured for RN communication with the E-UTRAN represent PDCCH-subframes.
- For SC-PTM reception on an FDD cell, all subframes except MBSFN subframes represent PDCCH-subframes, unless specified otherwise in this clause.
- For SC-PTM reception on a TDD cell, all downlink subframes and subframes including DwPTS of the TDD UL/DL configuration indicated by *tdd-Config*, as specified in TS 36.331 [8] of the cell except MBSFN subframes represent PDCCH-subframes, unless specified otherwise in this clause.
- For BL UE or UE in enhanced coverage, all subframes in which the UE is required to monitor MPDCCH represent PDCCH-subframes among all valid subframes regardless of whether the subframe is dropped, see clause 9.1.5 of TS 36.213 [2].
- For NB-IoT UE, all subframes that are part of the NPDCCH search space represent PDCCH-subframes among all NB-IoT downlink subframes, including those which the UE is not required to monitor as specified in clause 16.6 of TS 36.213 [2].

PDSCH: Refers to subframe-PDSCH/slot-PDSCH/subslot-PDSCH or for NB-IoT to NPDSCH.

PRACH: Refers to PRACH or for NB-IoT to NPRACH.

PRACH Resource Index: The index of a PRACH within a system frame, see TS 36.211 [7]

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

PUCCH SCell: An SCell configured with PUCCH/SPUCCH.

PUSCH: Refers to subframe-PUSCH/slot-PUSCH/subslot-PUSCH or for NB-IoT to NPUSCH.

***ra-PRACH-MaskIndex*:** Defines in which PRACHs within a system frame the MAC entity can transmit a Random Access Preamble (see clause 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 MAC entity to transmit the Random Access preamble.

SC Period: Sidelink Control period, the time period consisting of transmission of SCI and its corresponding data.

SCI: The Sidelink Control Information contains the sidelink scheduling information such as resource block assignment, modulation and coding scheme, Group Destination ID (for sidelink communication) and PPPP (for V2X sidelink communication), see TS 36.212 [5].

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

Serving Cell: A Primary or a Secondary Cell, see TS 36.331 [8].

Short Processing Time: For 1 ms TTI length, the operation with short processing time in UL data transmission and DL data reception.

Short TTI: TTI length based on a slot or a subslot.

Sidelink: UE to UE interface for sidelink communication, sidelink discovery and V2X sidelink communication. The sidelink corresponds to the PC5 interface as defined in TS 23.303 [13] for sidelink communication and sidelink discovery, and as defined in TS 23.285 [14] for V2X sidelink communication.

Sidelink communication: AS functionality enabling ProSe Direct Communication as defined in TS 23.303 [13], between two or more nearby UEs, using E-UTRA technology but not traversing any network node.

Sidelink Discovery Gap for Reception: Time period during which the UE does not receive any channels in DL from any serving cell, except during random access procedure.

Sidelink Discovery Gap for Transmission: Time period during which the UE prioritizes transmission of sidelink discovery and associated procedures e.g. re-tuning and synchronisation over transmission of channels in UL, if they occur in the same subframe, except during random access procedure.

Special Cell: For Dual Connectivity operation the term Special Cell refers to the PCell of the MCG or the PSCell of the SCG, otherwise the term Special Cell refers to the PCell.

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.

Transmission using PUR: Allows one uplink data transmission using preconfigured uplink resource from RRC_IDLE mode as specified in TS 36.300 [9]. Transmission using PUR refers to both CP transmission using PUR and UP transmission using PUR.

UL HARQ RTT Timer: This parameter specifies the minimum amount of subframe(s) before a UL HARQ retransmission grant is expected by the MAC entity.

V2X sidelink communication: AS functionality enabling V2X Communication as defined in TS 23.285 [14], between nearby UEs, using E-UTRA technology but not traversing any network node.

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].

AS	Access Stratum
AUL	Autonomous Uplink
BL	Bandwidth reduced Low complexity
BR	Bandwidth Reduced
BSR	Buffer Status Report
C-RNTI	Cell RNTI
CBR	Channel Busy Ratio
CC-RNTI	Common Control RNTI
CG	Cell Group
CQI	Channel Quality Indicator
CRI	CSI-RS Resource Indicator
CSI	Channel State Information
DAPS	Dual Active Protocol Stack
DCQR	Downlink Channel Quality Report
DRB	Data Radio Bearer
EDT	Early Data Transmission
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
G-RNTI	Group RNTI
H-SFN	Hyper SFN
MAC	Medium Access Control
MCG	Master Cell Group
M-RNTI	MBMS RNTI
MPDCCH	MTC Physical Downlink Control Channel
LCG	Logical Channel Group
NB-IoT	Narrow Band Internet of Things
NPDCCH	Narrowband Physical Downlink Control Channel
NPDSCH	Narrowband Physical Downlink Shared channel
NPRACH	Narrowband Physical Random Access Control Channel
NPUSCH	Narrowband Physical Uplink Shared channel

PCell	Primary Cell
PSCell	Primary Secondary Cell
PHR	Power Headroom Report
PMI	Precoding Matrix Index
PPPP	ProSe Per-Packet Priority
P-RNTI	Paging RNTI
ProSe	Proximity-based Services
pTAG	Primary Timing Advance Group
PTI	Precoding Type Indicator
PUR	Preconfigured Uplink Resource
RA-RNTI	Random Access RNTI
RAI	Release Assistance Indication
RI	Rank Indicator
RN	Relay Node
RNTI	Radio Network Temporary Identifier
SCell	Secondary Cell
SC-FDM	Single-Carrier Frequency Division Multiplexing
SCG	Secondary Cell Group
SCI	Sidelink Control Information
SC-N-RNTI	Single Cell Notification RNTI
SC-PTM	Single Cell Point to Multipoint
SC-RNTI	Single Cell RNTI
SI-RNTI	System Information RNTI
SL	Sidelink
SL-RNTI	Sidelink RNTI
SL-V-RNTI	Sidelink V2X RNTI
SR	Scheduling Request
SRS	Sounding Reference Symbols
SRS-TPC-RNTI	Sounding Reference Symbols-Transmit Power Control-RNTI
SpCell	Special Cell
sTAG	Secondary Timing Advance Group
sTTI	Slot or subslot TTI
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
V2X	Vehicle-to-Everything

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.

The introduction of short TTI allows for more than a single instance of a TTI to occur within a 1ms subframe and as such the use of the term "for each TTI" shall be read as meaning that the associated actions shall be executed for all TTIs also in the case of overlapping TTIs (e.g. a UE may read multiple instances of PDCCH in a downlink subframe).

4.2 MAC architecture

The description in this 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);
- Sidelink Broadcast Channel (SL-BCH);
- Sidelink Discovery Channel (SL-DCH);
- Sidelink Shared Channel (SL-SCH).

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

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

In Dual Connectivity, two MAC entities are configured in the UE: one for the MCG and one for the SCG. In DAPS handover, two MAC entities are configured in the UE: one MAC entity for the source cell (source MAC entity) and one MAC entity for the target cell (target MAC entity). Each MAC entity is configured by RRC with a serving cell supporting PUCCH transmission and contention based Random Access. In this specification, the term SpCell refers to such cell, whereas the term SCell refers to other serving cells. The term SpCell either refers to the PCell of the MCG or the PSCell of the SCG depending on if the MAC entity is associated to the MCG or the SCG, respectively. A Timing Advance Group containing the SpCell of a MAC entity is referred to as pTAG, whereas the term sTAG refers to other TAGs.

The functions of the different MAC entities in the UE operate independently if not otherwise indicated. The timers and paramenters used in each MAC entity are configured independently if not otherwise indicated. The Serving Cells, C-RNTI, radio bearers, logical channels, upper and lower layer entities, LCGs, and HARQ entities considered by each MAC entity refer to those mapped to that MAC entity if not otherwise indicated.

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

The physical layer may perform a listen-before-talk procedure, according to which transmissions are not performed if the channel is identified as being occupied or the physical layer may monitor for PUSCH trigger, as specified in TS 36.213 [2], according to which transmissions are not performed if PUSCH trigger B is not received. In both cases a MAC entity considers the transmission to have been performed anyway, unless stated otherwise.

Figure 4.2.1-1 illustrates one possible structure for the UE side MAC entity when SCG is not configured and for each MAC entity during DAPS handover, and it should not restrict implementation.

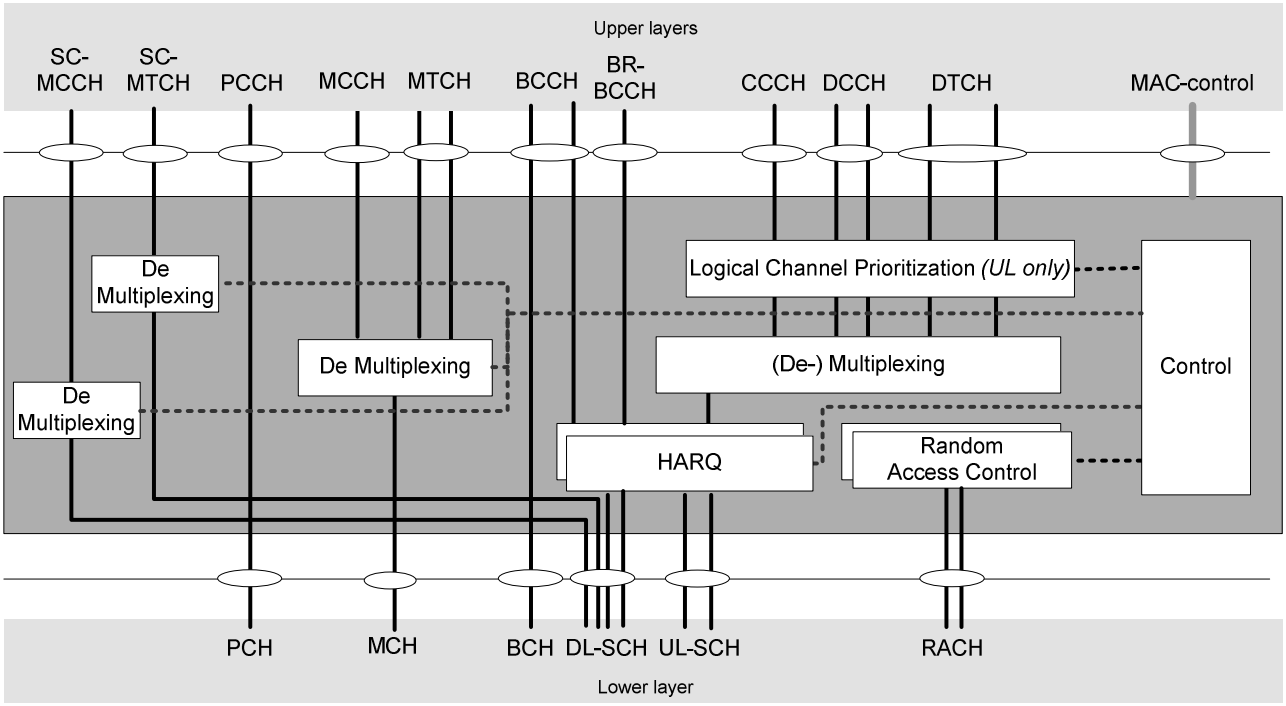

Figure 4.2.1-1: MAC structure overview, UE side

Figure 4.2.1-2 illustrates one possible structure for the UE side MAC entities when MCG and SCG are configured, and it should not restrict implementation. MBMS reception and SC-PTM reception are excluded from this figure for simplicity.

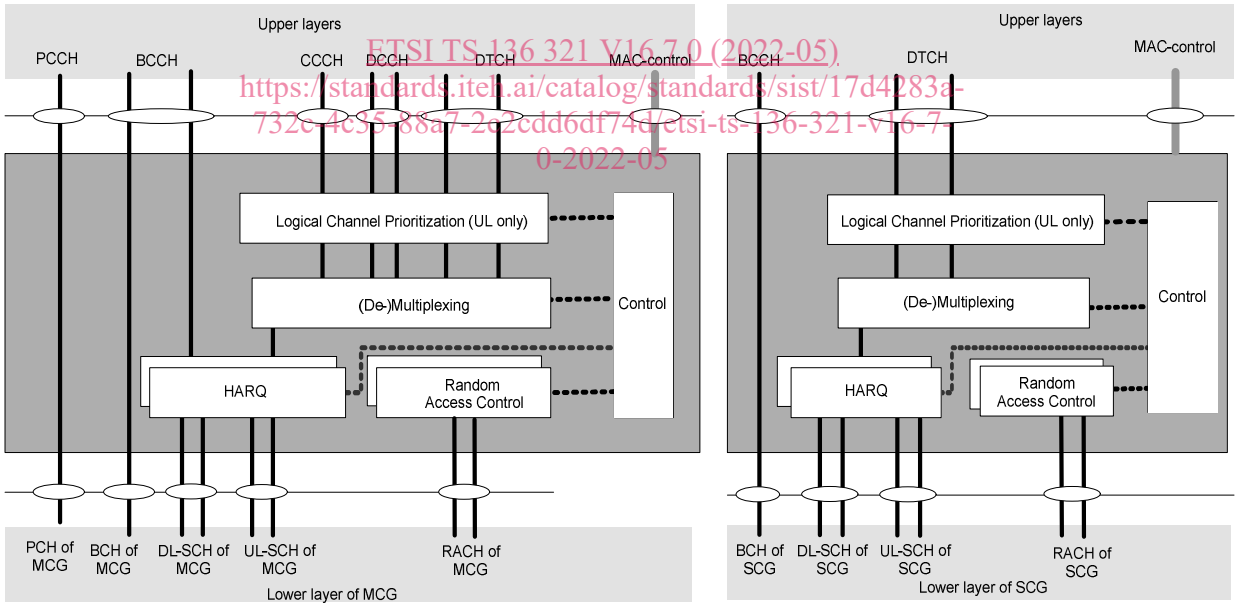

Figure 4.2.1-2: MAC structure overview with two MAC entities, UE side

Figure 4.2.1-3 illustrates one possible structure for the UE side MAC entity when sidelink is configured, and it should not restrict implementation.