**3GPP TSG-RAN2 Meeting #115-e R2-210xxxx**

**e-Meeting, 16th-27th August 2021**

**Source: email discussion Rapporteur (ZTE Corporation)**

**Title: [Post114-e][505][SData] RRC/MAC modeling and RRC running CR (ZTE): Modeling discussion**

**Agenda item:** **8.6.1**

**Document for:** **Discussion and Decision**

# Introduction

This document contains summary of email discussion to collect comments on the RRC/MAC modelling for SDT:

* [Post114-e][505][SData] RRC/MAC modeling and RRC running CR (ZTE)

**Scope:**

Phase 1: Modeling discussion for RRC/MAC Review running stage 2 CR

i. Feedback on existing modelling used by the running CRs

ii. Identify any issues with the current modelling and any potential changes

iii. Updated running CRs can be provided based on the outcome of this discussion

Phase 2: Review running RRC CR after some agreements from phase 1

**Intended outcome:** CR ready to be endorsed in RAN2115-e

**Deadline for company comments on the modelling issues:** Monday 26th July

**Discussion summary**

* TBD

# Discussion

For the triggering of SDT, a number of conditions were agreed in the previous meetings. We need to agree how to split the specification of these conditions between MAC and RRC. In the latest RRC (R2-2105927) and MAC (R2-2105032) running CRs submitted to RAN2#114-e, the following split has been implemented:

RRC determines whether the pending UL data/NAS message(s) are mapped to SDT RB(s).

MAC performs all other checks

* Data volume threshold check
* SDT RSRP threshold check
* Determining whether to use RA-SDT or CG-SDT
  + CG resource validation
  + RA resource validation

The overall modelling between MAC and RRC hance is as depicted in Figure below (reproduced from R2-2105847):



Figure 1: Overall modelling of MAC and RRC for determining SDT vs non-SDT (see R2-2105847)

So, according to the above modelling, once RRC determines that all the pending UL data/NAS message(s) are mapped to SDT RB(s), the remaining checks to determine the initial SDT vs non-SDT selection are performed in MAC. The first question is to check whether there are any issues with the above modelling.

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| According to the latest RRC and MAC running CRs, **once RRC determines that all the pending UL data/NAS message(s) are mapped to SDT RB(s), the remaining checks to determine the initial SDT vs non-SDT selection are performed in MAC**.  Q1: Is the above split between RRC and MAC acceptable?   * In the comments, companies can highlight any issues and provide any alternative split between RRC and MAC explaining the reasons for the change. | |
| Company | Comments on the modelling and any identified issues and provide alternative split between RRC/MAC (if there is an issue) |
| CATT | We have identified the following issues:  1. If Data volume calculation is calculated at MAC, how to estimate the data volume before transmission if PDCP/RLC MAC header are taken into account.  2. CG validation will check whether TAT is running. If TAT is defined in RRC, there will be layer interactions. This is not yet captured in the figure above.  3. When SDT condition is not satisfied, MAC should indicate to RRC. Then, RRC performs legacy RRC Resume procedure. It is not reasonable for MAC directly goes to legacy Resume procedure. Whether the legacy resume procedure is initiated or not should be decided by RRC.  4. The agreement from RAN2#112 is that “For both RACH and CG based solutions, upon initiating RESUME procedure for SDT initiation (i.e. for first SDT transmission), the UE shall re-establish at least the SDT PDCP entities and resume the SDT DRBs that are configured for small data transmission (along with the SRB1). FFS for non-SDT DRBs.”  However the flow chart above has not captured this correctly in our understanding. According to the flow chart above, MAC indicates RRC whether SDT is selected after SDT selection performed at MAC layer. Afterward, RRC will perform SDT initiation procedure including resuming SDT RBs, applying PDCP/RLC/MAC configurations and etc.  After selection of SDT, MAC should inidicate RRC and CG-SDT/RA-SDT should be performed after resuming all SDT RBs by RRC..  We have modified the figure as below to capture point 3 and 4 above. |
| Intel | In our understanding, RRC or MAC cannot determine whether there is UL data in suspended RBs. Moreover, RRC or MAC cannot differentiate whether the UL data belongs or not to SDT RBs or the amount of data on SDT RB waiting to be conveyed. If this level of operations were specified, SDAP layer is the best to determine them while UE is in RRC\_INACTIVE.  However it seemed that companies may be OK not to specify how UE detects that there is SDT or non-SDT data in the RBs, or determines if SDT operation can be used (as otherwise, lower layers of UE would need to have knowledge of data belonging to suspended RBs). Therefore all these details could be left up to UE implementation. If so, MAC specification would not introduce any new checks for SDT operation and RRC specification would only define conditions that UE needs to meet in order to start the SDT operation (but defining them as general description of the condition instead than actual new checks from modeling perspective). On summary, UE is allowed to initiate SDT procedure when the list of the different conditions captured in RRC are met.  RAN2 may need to have further considerations on this depending on CT1’s input. |
| Google | The split is acceptable to us. We think if all arriving data are mapped to SDT, RRC should indicate SDT data arrival event to MAC. The MAC should select SDT or non-SDT and indicate its selection back to RRC. If MAC selects SDT, RRC submits a resume request to MAC and starts the new T319 timer. When MAC receives data from RRC, MAC initiates its selected procedure. In Fig. 1, if MAC selects legacy resume procedure, it should indicate to RRC. |
| NEC | We understand thatone of the intention of data volume calculation performed at MAC layer is to rely on exisiting PDCP/RLC data volume calculation, however, we have the we have some concerns:   1. Since the radio bearers configured with SDT are not resumed when perform data volume calculation, we are not sure if the new data can be seen as PDCP SDUs, such that the existing PDCP data volume can be used for to calculated the new data. At RAN2 #114-e, there is some discussion on the modeling of suspended DRBs at the main session [AT114-e][002][NR15] User Plane, it seems companies may have different understanding on the behavior of suspended radio bearer. 2. There may be stored data at PDCP and RLC entities (e.g. the data which is not transmissted before UE is released to INACTIVE state), which will be discarded by PDCP/RLC re-establishment upon SDT initialization. However, if the data volume check is performed by MAC before PDCP/RLC re-establishment, how to handle these buffered data? If they are taken account, we can not obtain a correct data volume value.   In addition, we also agree with bullet 3 of CATT’s comment, which is when SDT condition is not satisfied, MAC should indicate to RRC, such that RRC can submit RRCResumeRequest message to MAC layer, and start failure detection timer (T319) for non-SDT. |
| OPPO | The issues that need to be further discussed are identified as follows from our side:   1. We have not made consensus on whether MAC or AS is capable to calculate a proper data volume, i.e., same as BS, without the radio bearers resumed. If this is not achievable for MAC/AS after further study, we suggest to follow the LTE behavior, i.e., it is up to UE implementation to check the data volume criteria of SDT and the text is specified in RRC. 2. It was agreed that RSRP threshold is used to select between SDT and non-SDT but we did not make it clear whether this RSRP threshold is configured per cell or per carrier (SUL/NUL)? In our understanding, how to configure the RSRP threshold for SDT and non-SDT selection would have impacts on the modeling, i.e., the RSRP checking is performed before or after carrier selection. 3. The condition to perform carrier selection is not clear in the figure. We can interpret it in two different ways. Option1: UE performs carrier selection when both NUL and SUL are configured; Option2: UE performs carrier selection when both NUL and SUL are configured with SDT resources. If the intention isthe former, we think the next step after carrier selection should be the checking of whether there is SDT resources, which is missed from the figure. Otherwise, for the latter, the description of ‘UE carrier selection for SDT if both NUL and SUL are configured’is not proper. Furthermore, another case regarding how to handle the case that there is only one carrier configured with SDT resources is not considered. 4. According to the agreements that have been made so far, there are three criteria to determine whether UE can do SDT, namely data volume, radio bearer and RSRP threshold. While we notice that the provided modeling involves the procedures which shall be treated as rescource selection into the SDT intiation stage. We are not sure whether this is acceptable for majority. |
| Samsung | 1. We prefer to have all checks to determine whether to perform SDT procedure or not in one layer. The interaction (such as indication from RRC to MAC upon data arrival and then from MAC to RRC whether to perform SDT or not) between RRC and MAC is unnecessary. There are two alternative approaches:  Approach 1: Define all conditions for SDT in RRC and depending on whether all conditions are met or not, RRC initiate SDT procedure or resume procedure.  Approach 2: Define all conditions for SDT in MAC. Upon data arrival, if criteria (as defined in section x/y of TS 38.321) to initiate SDT procedure is met, initiate SDT procedure. Other wise initiate resume procedure. No need of indications between MAC and RRC.  We have sligh preference for approach 1. |
| LG | 1. Regarding Figure 1, we have similar view with CATT. MAC indicates whether SDT condition is satisfied or not, and RRC makes the final decision whether to perform the legacy resume procedure or SDT procedure. Thus, we think that the following two cases should be considered in the flow chart.  * When SDT condition is not met, MAC indicates to perform legacy RRC resume procedure * When RRC determines to perform SDT procedure, RRC instructs to MAC to initiate SDT procedure  1. We think that the NAS data does not arrive at AS layer until that the corresponding RB has been resumed. Thus, if RBs configured for SDT are not resumed, MAC layer cannot performs the data volume check. In order to check data volume, RB configured for SDT should be resumed to receive NAS data as following modified figure (based on CATT’s figure). |
| ZTE | We think the current modelling is in general fine.   * If the SDT RBs are resumed before determining that SDT can be used, then we need additional mechanisms to ensure the SDT data is not actually included in the MSG3/MSGA payload (in case SDT is not eventually chosen). This will further complicate the procedure in MAC and RRC and this is unnecessary in our view. * In general, we think lower layers can have the visibility of data buffered at upper layers. This is a prerequisite for any scheme and we think how this is visible to lower layers is UE internal implementation that need not be specified. * We have some sympathy for comments that all the checks can be performed in one layer (i.e. kept in one spec). However, we don’t have strong view on this and we think the current modelling is a good compromise split without extensive interlayer interactions. We don’t think there is really much difference in capturing this in RRC/MAC or in SDAP. However, typically we capture such procedures when executing the RRCResume mainly in RRC. So, we don’t really think SDAP is suitable for this purpose and we prefer to keep SDAP unchanged. |

One further aspect of the modelling is when to resume the RBs configured for SDT. As per the latest RRC running CR (see R2-2105927), the RBs configured for SDT are only resumed after MAC layer performs the data volume check and other relavent checks for SDT vs non-SDT selection and selects the SDT transmission. Companies are invited to comment on whether such modelling is acceptable.

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| According to the latest RRC and MAC running CRs, **the radio bearers configured for SDT are resumed only after the MAC layer performs the data volume check and other relavent checks for SDT vs non-SDT selection and SDT transmission is selected**.  Q2: Is the above modelling of the resumption of SDT RBs acceptable?   * In the comments, companies can highlight any issues and provide any alternative implementation for the resumption of SDT RBs. | |
| Company | Comments on when SDT RBs should be resumed in RRC and any alternative proposals (if there is any issue with the current modelling) |
| CATT | Same as our issue1 in Q1. If DRB is not resumed, how to estimate the data volume if the data volume is calculated at MAC layer taken into account PDCP/RLC/MAC headers? |
| Intel | See our related views provided in previous question Q1 in relation to how the running CR is done. Based on that, RRC would only capture a single statement with the SDT conditions met and then all SDT RBs could be resumed. In addition, MAC would address the CG/RA and carrier. |
| Google | In MAC, because data volume information is available for resumed DRBs, RRC should resume SDT DRBs before MAC uses the information. Otherwise, MAC have no data volume information to select SDT or non-SDT. |
| NEC | We are OK that the SDT radio bearers should be resumsed after the SDT conditions are fulfilled. |
| OPPO | UE shall resume SDT RBs once SDT is initiated as the agreement made in RAN2#112e. When and how to intiate SDT is discussed as a part of Q1.  For both RACH and CG based solutions, upon initiating RESUME procedure for SDT initiation (i.e. for first SDT transmission), the UE shall re-establish at least the SDT PDCP entities and resume the SDT DRBs that are configured for small data transmission (along with the SRB1). *FFS for non-SDT DRBs. FFS on implicit vs. explicit. FFS on whether we a new Resume cause. FFS on whether we need to deal with suppressing PDCP status report* |
| Samsung | Resumption should be performed after making the decision to initiate SDT procedure (i.e. all conditions are met) |
| LG | We think there is two option to check data volume.   * Optoin 1. NAS calculates the data volume and informs RRC of the calculated data volume. * Option 2. RBs configured for SDT is reumsed upon SDT data arrival before the data volume check.   In [AT113bis-e][501][SDT] UP SDT open issue, there was a consensus that data volume used for SDT selection criteria is calculated as the total sum of Buffer Size across SDT RBs, and this means that majority companies think that data volume used for SDT can be calculated similar to legacy BS. We thnk Option 2 is more aligned with legacy BS calculation and is acceptable from RAN2 point of view. |
| ZTE | We agree with Samsung and NEC. We think lower layers should have visibility of data from upper layers.  In general we also think that Option 2 above in LG’s reply works. However, we think option 2 is feasible with or without the RBs being resumed.  On the otherhand if the SDT RBs are resumed and if SDT is not eventually chosen then the data from these resumed RBs shall removed from the MAC PDU which would have been submitted to lower layers (along with the CCCH message). This in our view will create unnecessary complexity and hence the current modelling is simple and sufficient. |

Finally, companies are invited to provide any other comments on the modelling aspects between RRC and MAC (apart from Q1/Q2) above in the table below.

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| Q3: Are there any other comments/questions on modelling aspects between RRC and MAC (not covered by the scope of Q1/Q2 above)? | |
| Company | Comments on any other issues |
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# Conclusion and proposals

# References

1. [R2-2105032](file:///C:\\Users\\panidx\\OneDrive%20-%20InterDigital%20Communications,%20Inc\\Documents\\3GPP%20RAN\\TSGR2_114-e\\Docs\\R2-2105032.zip) Runnning MAC CR for small data Huawei, HiSilicon

1. [R2-2105927](file:///C:\\Users\\panidx\\OneDrive%20-%20InterDigital%20Communications,%20Inc\\Documents\\3GPP%20RAN\\TSGR2_114-e\\Docs\\R2-2105927.zip) RRC Running CR for SDT ZTE Corporation (rapporteur)
2. [R2-2105847](file:///C:\evutukuri\work\5G\RAN2\docs\R2-2105847.zip) Discussion on the spec modeling for Small Data Huawei, HiSilicon, ZTE corporation, Sanechips

# Annex (contact details for email discussions)

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