**3GPP TSG-RAN WG2 Meeting #123bis** **R2-230xxxx**

**Xiamen, China, 9 – 13 October 2023**

**Agenda item: 7.20.1**

**Source: Samsung**

**Title: [Post123bis][203][MIMOevo] Remaining issues on MAC CR**

**Document for: Discussion and Decision**

# Introduction

This document records inputs and outcome for the following post-meeting discussion.

* [Post123bis][204][MIMOevo] MAC Running CR and further discussions (Samsung)

**Scope**: Update and review the MAC running CR, also discussions on the MAC open issues based on the progress in this meeting

**Intended outcome**: MAC running CR for endorsement, and discussion report with proposals

**Deadline**: Long (2 weeks for running CR, November 3rd for open issue)

This discussion aims to collect views and comments for the remaining open issues on MAC CR, and prepare agreeable proposals for RAN2#124 meeting.

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# Discussion

## TAG indication for inter-cell PDCCH order CFRA

For inter-cell PDCCH order CFRA, based on RAN1 agreements,

* one additional PRACH configuration for each additional PCI is supported for RACH triggered by PDCCH order;
* support indication of which PRACH configuration to be used in the RACH procedure in the PDCCH order;
* PDCCH order can be received from one TRP triggering CFRA PRACH towards another TRP;

In RAN2#123 meeting, we have reached the following agreement for inter-cell PDCCH order CFRA.

* For inter-cell PDCCH order CFRA to the additionalPCI,
* PDCCH order indicates which additiona lPCI’s PRACH configuration to be used (according to RAN1 agreement),

In RAN1#114bis meeting, the following agreement has been made.

Agreement

For inter-cell multi-DCI based Multi-TRP operation with two TA enhancement, 1 bit is supported for indicating active *additionalPCI* in the PDCCH order.

* The single bit in the PDCCH order indicates if the PRACH triggering is towards *servingCell* PCI or active *additionalPCI*.

Note: This has no impact on whether common or separate field with cell indication in LTM is used.

Hence, UE can determine the PRACH configuration to be applied based on the indication in PDCCH order. However, how to indicate the TAG for the TA to be applied in inter-cell PDCCH order CFRA is still not clear. Based on companies’ contributions, Rapporteur understands there are two options.

Option 1: Specify that if inter-cell PDCCH order CFRA towards the serving cell PCI is triggered, the legacy PRACH configuration is applied and the legacy tag-Id is applied for the TA in RAR; if inter-cell PDCCH order CFRA towards the active addtionalPCI is triggered, the additional PCI’s PRACH configuration is applied and the tag-Id2 is applied for the TA in RAR.

Option 2: Use the R bit in RAR to indicate TAG, same as intra-cell PDCCH order CFRA.

Note that Option 1 implies different procedures for inter-cell and inter-cell cases to determine the TAG, while the current RA procedure does not differentiate inter-cell or intra-cell PDCCH order CFRA. Option 2 can allow a unified procedure and NW flexibility.

**Q1) Which option do you agree to determine TAG for inter-cell PDCCH order CFRA?**

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| **Company** | **1 or 2** | **Comments** |
| ZTE | Option 2 | Both can work. we slightly prefer option 2 where the unified solution for both inter-cell and intra-cell PDCCH ordered CFRA can be achieved. |
| Docomo | Option 2 | We agree that both will work. We are not motivated to have separate indications considering their MAC spec impact and complexity. |
| Sharp | Option 2 | A unified procedure is prefered |
| CATT | Option 2 | Considering the spec impacts, prefer to have unified solution. |
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## Issues on UE initiated CBRA

In RAN2#123bis, we have made the following agreement for CBRA.

* The baseline is confirmed as agreement: One R bit in RAR is used to indicate TAG ID, i.e. which TAG’s TA is updated. FFS if the association between the TAGs and value of the R bit (0 or 1) need to be configured by RRC.

Regarding the FFS, the mapping between TAG ID and 1st/2nd TAG indication in RAR may be needed to make TAG indication in RAR in CBRA workable.

From NW perspective, it can fix the mapping between TAG and TRP, e.g., 1st TAG mapped to TRP1 and 2nd TAG mapped to TRP2. For a UE performing initial access (4-step CBRA), it has not been configured with 2 TAGs, so it regards the R bit in RAR (although NW indicates a TAG in RAR) and applies the first TA to the legacy tag-Id, i.e., tag 0. Then NW may configure 2 TAGs and configures the association between TAGs and 1st/2nd TAG indication by RRC. If the UE sent PRACH in initial access by selecting a SSB from TRP2, NW can configure for this UE tag-Id (i.e., tag 0) is mapped to the 2nd TAG and tag-Id2 is mapped to the 1st TAG, then trigger PDCCH ordered CFRA for 1st TAG (i.e. tag-Id2) and indicate the second TA is applied to 1st TAG in RAR.

For a UE in connected mode with 2 TAGs configured, when it performs 4-step CBRA, it reads the TAG indication in RAR. And the NW can indicate the TAG in RAR without identifying the UE, but based on the SSB selected by UE for PRACH transmission, i.e., if PRACH is received with SSB from TRP1, NW indicates the 1st TAG in RAR; otherwise NW indicates 2nd TAG in RAR.

By this means, NW can configure UE-specific association between the TAG ID and the 1st/2nd TAG indication in RAR, and indicate TAG in RAR for 4-step CBRA.

**Q2: Do you agree that the association between the TAGs and value of the R bit (0 or 1) need to be configured by RRC?**

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| **Company** | **Yes/No** | **Comments** |
| ZTE | Yes | It can address the issue caused by the UE identity unknown by NW in the first two steps of the CBRA procedure.  In this sense, NW always needs to present the value of the R bit in RAR as long as the NW support mDCI mTRP with 2TA, and regardless of the UE who initiates the CBRA. |
| Docomo | Yes | Looks a good solution for consistent consiguration of association between TRP# and TAG# among UEs in the same cell. |
| Sharp | Yes |  |
| CATT | Yes | Agree RRC to configure the association upon configuring the 2TA to UE.  As for the concern from ZTE, we have similar understanding, NW may always need to indicate the TAG index, but whether to use/ignore the TAG index totally depend on UE (i.e., whether the 2TA is configured or not). |
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Since the 2 TA operation is only supported in connected mode, for CBRA in connected mode, the R bit is used for TAG indication in MAC RAR and fallbackRAR included in Msg2 if 2 TAGs are configured.

However, it is not clear whether TAG indication using the R bit is needed in successRAR or not. As the successRAR is included in MsgB in initial access only (i.e., before 2 TA is applied), TAG indication in successRAR may not be necessary.

**Q3: Do you agree that the TAG indication is not needed in the successRAR?**

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| **Company** | **Yes/No** | **Comments** |
| ZTE | No | The UE who performs the RRC resumption procedure may need TAG indication in the successRAR if the UE was configured with two TAG for PCell before stepping into RRC\_InactiveState and the RRC configuration related two TAG is still applied according to the *RRCResume*. |
| Docomo | Yes | Agree that the scenario which ZTE mentions is a valid case, but I guess TAG# (i.e. first TAG or second TAG) can be indicated then via absolute TAC MAC CE in MsgB, based on following agreement.   |  | | --- | | RAN2#123bis   * **One R bit in Absolute TAC MAC CE is used to indicate TAG ID, i.e. which TAG’s TA is updated.** | |
| Sharp | NO with comments | The scenario mentioned by ZTE could be a valid case. However, it has not been discussed if the two TAG configuration could be stored in INACTIVE state and restored when initiating RRC resume procedure. |
| CATT | No | Same understanding as ZTE. |
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As we have the previous agreement that do not support per-TRP UE initiated RACH, UE initiated RACH should be performed towards the SpCell using the legacy serving cell RACH configuration, as the legacy operation. Therefore, the RACH configuration for the additionalPCI shall only be used for inter-cell PDCCH ordered CFRA, i.e., not used for UE initiated RACH.

**Q4: Do you agree that the RACH configuration for the additionalPCI shall only be used for inter-cell PDCCH ordered CFRA, i.e., not used for UE initiated RACH?**

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| **Company** | **Yes/No** | **Comments** |
| ZTE | Yes | As legacy, the RACH-ConfigCommon of the serving cell would be applied for UE initiated CBRA for TA acquisition. |
| Docomo | Yes |  |
| Sharp | Yes |  |
| CATT | Yes | It is RAN1 agreement, the RACH configuration for the additionalPCI shall only be used for inter-cell PDCCH order CFRA. |
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## TAT expiry when exceeding MTTD

Maximum transmission timing difference (MTTD) is defined for DC between PCell and PSCell, and for CA between different carriers. In TS 38.321 clause 5.2, the relevant restriction on TAT expiry is specified as follows.

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| When the MAC entity stops uplink transmissions for an SCell due to the fact that the maximum uplink transmission timing difference between TAGs of the MAC entity or the maximum uplink transmission timing difference between TAGs of any MAC entity of the UE is exceeded, the MAC entity considers the *timeAlignmentTimer* associated with the SCell as expired. |

This means if the MTTD between TAGs is exceeded, the TAT of the corresponding SCell is considered expired, the TAT of PTAG is not considered as expired.

For multi-DCI multi-TRP operation, RAN4 has defined new MTTD values between multiple TRPs that are applicable to both intra-cell and inter-cell cases (R4-2217278). Correspondingly, we need to discuss when/which TAG(s) is considered as expired if MTTD between TRPs is exceeded. The MTTD could be exceeded between TRPs from the same cell or between TRPs from different cells/MAC entities. The following cases are possible.

Case 1: the MTTD between two STAGs is exceeded

Case 2: the MTTD between a PTAG and a STAG is exceeded

Case 3: the MTTD between two PTAGs is exceeded

For case 1, we can apply the principle in legacy operation that TAT of SCell is considered to be expired, so the TATs of both STAGs are considered as expired.

For case 2, similarly, the TAT of the STAG is considered as expired.

For case 3, we can follow the legacy principle that the TAT of PTAG is not considered as expired.

**Q5: Do you agree that if the MTTD between two STAGs or between a STAG and a PTAG is exceeded, the TAT of each concerned STAG is considered as expired?**

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| **Company** | **Yes/No** | **Comments** |
| ZTE | Yes | As legacy |
| Docomo | Yes |  |
| Sharp | Yes |  |
| CATT | Yes |  |
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**Q6: Do you agree that if the MTTD between PTAGs is exceeded, do not consider TAT of any PTAG as expired?**

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| **Company** | **Yes/No** | **Comments** |
| ZTE | No? | In this case, it may be allocated into two sub-cases:  Subcase 1: MDDT between PTAGs in one MAC entity  Subcase 2:MDDT between PTAGs across different MAC entities  For subcase 2, it is legacy that the TAT of any PTAGs is not considered as expired.  For subcase 1, it is a brand new scenario, there is no legacy behavior can be referred to. We suggest to send an LS to RAN4 to ask what is the expected UE behavior if MDDT between PTAGs in one MAC entity is reached. |
| Docomo | No | We support observation about subcases by ZTE. For subcase 2, we tend to think that two PTAGs with exceeded MTTD in between should not co-exist in one MAC entity, i.e., one of PTAGs should be regarded as expired, but it is fine to confirm with RAN4. |
| Sharp | - | No strong view, we could go with majority. |
| CATT | Yes | May need to check with RAN4. |
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## RA upon SCG activation

For SCG activation, currently RA is needed if TAT of pTAG is not running as specified in 5.29.

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| The network may activate and deactivate the configured SCG.  The MAC entity shall for the configured SCG:  1> if upper layers indicate that SCG is activated:  2> if *BFI\_COUNTER* >= *beamFailureInstanceMaxCount* for the PSCell or the *timeAlignmentTimer* associated with PTAG is not running:  3> indicate to upper layers that a Random Access Procedure (as specified in clause 5.1.1) is needed for SCG activation. |

As we have agreed the PSCell has two PTAGs if 2 TAGs are configured, the issue is whether RA is needed only if TATs of both PTAGs are not running, i.e., as long as the TAT of a PTAG of PSCell is running, RA is not needed.

**Q7: Do you agree that if two PTAGs are configured for the PSCell, indicate to uppler layers that RA is needed for SCG activation if TATs of both PTAGs are not running?**

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| **Company** | **Yes/No** | **Comments** |
| ZTE | Yes | As legacy. |
| Docomo | Yes |  |
| Sharp | Yes |  |
| CATT | At least no for now | Before discussing this, we need to discuss whether to support the coexistence of these two features. As we know in R17 DCCA discussion, the coexistence of deactivated SCG and mTRP is not supported. |
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## HARQ feedback handling when TAT(s) expires

In TS 38.321 clause 5.3.1 and 5.3.2.2, HARQ feedback is not generated if the TAT is expired or not running. In case of 2 TAGs for a serving cell, we have to discuss how to handle HARQ feedback when any TAT(s) is expired or not running. Since for 2 TA operation, each TCI state is associated with a TAG and we have agreed that UE shall not send any UL transmission using TCI state(s) associated to the TAG with TAT expired, we can follow this principle for HARQ ACK. That is, HARQ ACK is not generated if the TCI state to be used for HARQ feedback transmission is associated to the TAG with the expired TAT.

**Q8: Do you agree that HARQ ACK is not generated if the TCI state to be used for HARQ feedback transmission is associated to a TAG with TAT expired?**

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| **Company** | **Yes/No** | **Comments** |
| ZTE | Yes |  |
| Docomo | Yes |  |
| Sharp | Yes |  |
| CATT | Yes |  |
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## Other issues

**Q9: Please indicate and justify other critical issues, if any.**

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| **Company** | **Comment** |
| Sharp | As we discussed in R2-2310193  Issue-1: Regarding to P1, random access problem could be indicated to upper layer and result RLF declaration.  However, considering two TA config, early RLF declaration could be avoid in a case that the RA via the other TRP could be normal.  So it is proposed to discuss the Random Access problem indication in two TAs case to avoid unnecessary interruption of the link connection  Issue-2: regarding to P2, during a RA procedure, when RA response is received successfully, the *preambleReceivedTargetPower* is provided to PHY and used todetermine the PUSCH transmission power as described in 7.1.1 in TS38.213.  Considering in two TAs case, RA procedure could be performed per TRP. Consequently, the resulted *preambleReceivedTargetPower* is also per TRP.  So it should be indicated to PHY the associated TAG ID with the indicated preambleReceivedTargetPower for a Serving Cell configured with two TAGs.  Issue-3, According to the running CR,” the PUCCH, if configured only with TCI state(s) that is associated with the TAG of the expired timeAlignmentTimer” could be released. In other words, the PUCCH which is configured with both the first and the second TCI states will not be released if the other associated TA timer is running, and still could be used for SR.  Currently only valid PUCCH will be indicated to PHY for SR transmission. And PHY could decide TCI state if applicable.  However, how does the PHY know the TCI state(s) that is associated with the TAG of the expired timeAlignmentTimer? |
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# Conclusions and Proposals

**TBD**