3GPP TSG RAN WG1 #104-e R1-21xxxxx

e-Meeting, January 25th – February 5th, 2021

**Agenda item: 7.1**

**Source: Moderator (Nokia)**

**Title:** **Moderator summary of [104-e-NR-7.1CRs-17]
38.213 CR on DCI ordering in a search space**

**Document for: Discussion and Decision**

# 1 Introduction

Draft CR [R1-2101134](https://www.3gpp.org/ftp/tsg_ran/WG1_RL1/TSGR1_104-e/Docs/R1-2101134.zip) 38.213 CR on DCI ordering in a search space set, Nokia, Nokia Shanghai Bell noted that there are two possible interpretations in two parts of 38.213 related to how the DCI ordering is counted.

1. When the UE is e.g. configured with 1-symbol CORESET with the fist 3 symbols in a slot as a search space set, and the UE scheduled with a PUSCH in a DCI on an earlier symbol and a PDSCH in a later symbol in the same search space set, the current specification could be interpreted as if the UE may drop the DCI scheduling the PDSCH according to the yellow highlighted text of clause 9.

A UE does not expect to detect a DCI format scheduling a PDSCH reception or a SPS PDSCH release and indicating a resource for a PUCCH transmission with corresponding HARQ-ACK information in a slot if the UE previously detects a DCI format scheduling a PUSCH transmission in the slot and if the UE multiplexes HARQ-ACK information in the PUSCH transmission.

1. When a UE configured with two CCs, it is not clear how the cDAI/tDAI are counted as the yellow highlighted in the paragraph in subclause 9.1.3.1 can be interpreted in two ways when e.g. 1 symbol CORESET with first 3 symbols of the slot are configured to contain a search space. This is because it is not clear what constitutes as a start of a search space set.

The set of PDCCH monitoring occasions for DCI format 1\_0 or DCI format 1\_1 for scheduling PDSCH receptions or SPS PDSCH release is defined as the union of PDCCH monitoring occasions across active DL BWPs of configured serving cells, ordered in ascending order of start time of the search space set associated with a PDCCH monitoring occasion. The cardinality of the set of PDCCH monitoring occasions defines a total number  of PDCCH monitoring occasions.

**Interpretation 1: Even tough there are 3 symbols where PDCCH could be transmitted, they are all part of just one search space set, so the “start time of the search space set” is symbol 0 regardless of where DCI is actually transmitted**



**Interpretation 2: The start time of the search space set is the symbol of the search space in which DCI is transmitted**



# 2 Discussion

# 2.1 Issue #1

Possible interpretation 1: The word ‘previously’ refers to a previous set of search spaces (not counting symbol-wise), and the UE is expected to process both DCIs regardless of their order in time if they are in the same group of search spaces.

Possible interpretation 2: The word ‘previously’ refers to any previous symbol, and the UE may drop the DCI scheduling the PDSCH unless gNB ensures that the PUSCH-scheduling DCI is in an overlapping or in a later symbol than the PDSCH-scheduling DCI.

Possible actions:

1. Draft a CR
2. Capture a RAN1 conclusion in the chairman’s notes

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| **Company** | **Comment** |
| Nokia, NSB | **Interpretation 1:** The previously should refer to an earlier set of search spaces.**Action a):** a CR should be drafted and agreed together with issue #2 |
| CATT | We have a different understanding on the definition of search space set. For the case when UE is configured with a search space associated with 1-symbol CORESET and configured to monitor PDCCH in the first 3 symbols in a slot, they are three search space sets instead of one according to our understanding. With this understanding, we do not see any issue here. |
| Apple  | **Interpretation 2.** We do not see the need of CR. Note that, this sentence is precisely captured in the following agreement made in RAN1 90bis meeting after long debating. At the end, none of alt.1/Alt.2 was agreed and hence last bullet was converted to agreement, which was captured in specification. At that time, main concern from infra-vendors is that Alt.2 results in predication of DL grant for the future and is not assumed in scheduler alogirthm design.

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| Agreements:* Regarding hanlding the possibility of DL assignments later than UL grant, to down-select between:
	+ Alt 1: Limit to up to X ACK bits for later DL assignments. ACK bits for later DL assignments puncture PUSCH
		- X=2 for slot-based scheduling
		- FFS X for non-slot based scheduling
	+ Alt 2: Uplink grant indicates number of ACK/NACK bits including past and estimated future DL assignments. UE computes ACK/NACK resources based on indicated number of ACK/NACK bits
		- FFS other details
* If no consensus can be achieved by the end of this week, the following will be agreed:
	+ In Rel-15, do not support the case when DL assignments are later than UL grant mapped to the same time instance for HARQ-ACK transmission on PUSCH
 |

Referring to the agreement and taking into the debating point, Interpretation #2 should be the intended behavior regardless of later DL grant comes from a same or different search space set.  |
| ZTE | **Interpretation 2. No CR is needed.**Interpretation 1 would require gNB to predict the subsequent DL scheduling, and would also cause UE to count UL DAI kind of out of order in some cases. Regarding the definition of search space set, our understanding is a search space set contains all the associated MOs in one slot. For the example given by CATT, our understanding is there is only one search space set which contains three MOs. It’s good to hear other companies view on this. |
| Spreadtrum | **Interpretation 2. Agree with Apple.****For three MOs of a SS set, our understanding is same as ZTE.** |
| Huawei | **Interpretation 2.** No CR is required and the interpretation 1 would require the gNB to do prediction which is ruled out according to previous discussion as quoted by Apple. |
| Intel | **Interpretation 2.**On issue 1, agree with Apple that interpretation 2 was indeed the intention, and we do not think a CR is needed.  |
| QC | **Interpretation 1.** Interpretation 1 just says DL grant has to arrive in earlier set of search spaces, which aligned with the agreements well. We don’t see how this would require gNB to do prediction of DL grants.  |

# 2.2 Issue #2

Possible interpretation 1: The start of a search space set is understood as the first symbol of any CORESET in the search space configuration. See the 1st figure in the introduction.

Possible interpretation 2: The start of a search space set is understood as the first symbol of that CORESET in which the DCI is in. See the 2nd figure in the introduction.

Possible actions:

1. Draft a CR
2. Capture a RAN1 conclusion in the chairman’s notes

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| **Company** | **Comment** |
| Nokia, NSB | **Interpretation1:** The previously should refer to any CORESET so that the location of the DCI does not alter the cDAI/tDAI ordering.**Action a):** a CR should be drafted and agreed together with issue #1 |
| CATT | Same as comments to Issue #1. The DAI ordering should be as shown for interpretation 2. |
| Apple  | **Interpretation 2.** It is based on the complete sentence of ‘start time of the search space set associated with a PDCCH monitoring occasion’, instead of ‘start time of the search space set’. Note that, in our view, MO is a pure time-domain concept in symbol granularity across CCs. That’s the reason why C-DAI/T-DAI in TS 38.213 is defined using two-dimension parameters i.e., <serving cell, MO>, instead of MO only. As pointed out by Aris in email discussion, interpretation #1 would require gNB to implement prediction on lower CC for setting the C-DAI/T-DAI in CC with higher CC index. With interpretation 2, we think ACTION b) is sufficient.  |
| ZTE | **Interpretation 2**DAI counting is performed per MO basis in the time domain according to the pseudo-code. Thus, Interpretation 2 should be the original intention. In addition, as commented above, Interpretation 1 would require gNB to predict the subsequent DL scheduling, and would also cause UE to count UL DAI kind of out of order in some cases.  |
| Spreadtrum | **Interpretation 2. Agree with Apple.** |
| Huawei | **Interpretation 2.**DAI counting is based on the starting time of PDCCH monitoring occasions instead of the starting time of search space sets in a slot. Interpretation 1 would require a change to the definition of C/T-DAI since the starting time of the three MOs have the same starting timeA value of the counter downlink assignment indicator (DAI) field in DCI format 1\_0 or DCI format 1\_1 denotes the accumulative number of {serving cell, PDCCH monitoring occasion}-pair(s) in which PDSCH reception(s) or SPS PDSCH release associated with DCI format 1\_0 or DCI format 1\_1 is present, up to the current serving cell and current PDCCH monitoring occasion, first in ascending order of serving cell index and then in ascending order of PDCCH monitoring occasion index , where . The value of the total DAI, when present [5, TS 38.212], in DCI format 1\_1 denotes the total number of {serving cell, PDCCH monitoring occasion}-pair(s) in which PDSCH reception(s) or SPS PDSCH release associated with DCI format 1\_0 or DCI format 1\_1 is present, up to the current PDCCH monitoring occasion  and is updated from PDCCH monitoring occasion to PDCCH monitoring occasion. |
| Intel | **Interpretation 2.**On issue 2, we agree with explanations from Apple and Huawei. While a CR is again not essential, but we would be open to considering some clarifications to the phrase “start time of the search space set associated with a PDCCH monitoring occasion” (similar to the suggestion from Samsung during the preparation phase, e.g., “start time of the ~~search space set associated with a~~ PDCCH monitoring occasions”) if deemed useful. As others have pointed out, with Interpretation 1, the gNB would be expected to predict future scheduling decisions, and this would be problematic even when restricting to within a slot duration. For instance, UE features involving multiple PDCCH MOs distributed within a slot duration (e.g., FGs 3-5, 3-5a, 3-5b, Rel-16 span-based PDCCH monitoring) would all be rendered practically ineffective in addressing low latency use-cases and requirements. |
| QC | **Interpretation 1.** The spec is very clear, it says: “ordered in ascending order of start time of the search space set associated with a PDCCH monitoring occasion.” Based on spec, for a PDCCH MO, what matters is the starting time of the associated “search space set”, not the starting time of the MO. It is QC view but we don’t see how the spec can be interpret as interpretation 2. We acknowledge that interpretation 2 might be the original design principle in RAN1. But the spec is implemented as in the above quoted sentence and have been there for a long time. What Intel proposed is an NBC change to spec and we reject it.  |

# 3 Conclusions

To be written