3GPP TSG RAN WG1 Meeting #104-e R1-210xxxx

**e-Meeting, Jan. 25th – Feb. 5th, 2021**

**Source: Moderator (ZTE)**

Title: FL summary #4 on SRS enhancements

Agenda Item: 8.1.3

Document for: Discussion and Decision

# Introduction

In RAN#86, the Rel-17 WID of further enhancements on MIMO for NR is approved [1]. In the approved WID, a particular point is about SRS enhancements in terms of flexibility, coverage and capacity, targeting both FR1 and FR2. The detailed scope of the SRS enhancement is given as follows.

*3. Enhancement on SRS, targeting both FR1 and FR2:*

* 1. *Identify and specify enhancements on aperiodic SRS triggering to facilitate more flexible triggering and/or DCI overhead/usage reduction*
  2. *Specify SRS switching for up to 8 antennas (e.g., xTyR, x = {1, 2, 4} and y = {6, 8})*
  3. *Evaluate and, if needed, specify the following mechanism(s) to enhance SRS capacity and/or coverage: SRS time bundling, increased SRS repetition, partial sounding across frequency*

Previous RAN1 agreements on these SRS enhancements are given in Section 6.1.

In this contribution, we summarize companies’ views on the above SRS enhancements submitted to RAN1#103e [2]-[25].

# Flexibility enhancements

## SRS triggering offset

### 2.1.1. Reference slot definition

**Table 2-1**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Opt. 1 | Reference slot is the slot with the triggering DCI |
| Opt. 2 | Reference slot is the slot indicated by the legacy triggering offset |

***FL Proposal 2-1:*** *For reference slot definition, support Opt 2 (Reference slot is the slot indicated by the legacy triggering offset).*

Supported by NEC, CMCC, Xiaomi, Qualcomm, Ericsson, Sharp, InterDigital, CATT, vivo, MediaTek, Intel, Lenovo, MotM, Samsung.

Concern: LG, OPPO, Huawei, HiSilicon, Spreadtrum. (Support Opt. 1 instead)

Companies’ further views are collected as follows.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Companies | Views |
| OPPO | Not support.  During the previous discussion, some companies think Option 2 offers more flexibility than Option 1.  According the agreement of GTW session, a list of t values is configured in RRC for each SRS resource set. Let assume that for option 2, Rel-15 RRC configured offset set is T0, and the a list of t values is {t0, t1, .. }. If a list of t values { N0+t0, N0+t1, …} is configured for option 1, then option 1 will achieve the same purpose of option 2. In summary, we don’t see any additional flexibility of option 2 compared to option 1.  In contrast, Option 2 will lead to more UE complexity since option 2 requires more procedures to achieve the same purpose.  Option 2 needs four steps:  a. determine the RRC-configured offset,  b. determine the additional offset indicated by DCI,  c. calculate the total offset (RRC-configured offset + additional offset),  d. determine the occasion for real transmission.  Option 1 needs only two steps:  a’. determine the offset indicated by DCI,  b’. determine the occasion for real transmission. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | **Support Option-1.**  We share the similar view as OPPO, and do have concerns on Option-2 on flexibility for Aperiodic SRS triggering, where flexibility of SRS triggering is the goal for the enhancement.  **For single SRS set case**: If the *slotoffset* in Option-2 is not 0, then the available slot for SRS transmission before reference slot cannot be used for SRS transmission.  Example-1:    **For Multi SRS sets case**: With candidates list ‘t’ configured per set, the SRS transmission can be allocated in different slot easily in Option-1. However, there is some problems on flexibility for Option-2. Following are examples:  Example-2:   * SRS set-1 with ***slotoffset=0*** and candidate list ‘***t***’= {0, 1} * SRS set-2 with ***slotoffset=1*** and candidate list ‘***t***’ ={0, 1}   Then, there is SRS transmission collision between set-1 and set-2 when the triggering DCI is in the slot before reference slot, due to ‘t’ is the same list.  C:\Users\z00221589\AppData\Roaming\eSpace_Desktop\UserData\z00583471\imagefiles\3CEE600C-4011-4D83-B68C-B21E4EB1A7AC.png  Example-3:   * SRS set-1 with ***slotoffset=0*** and candidate list ‘***t***’= {0, 1} * SRS set-2 with ***slotoffset=1*** and candidate list ‘***t***’ ={1, 2}   If the triggering DCI in the following S slot, then the SRS set-1 can only be transmitted in {S, or U1}, but SRS set-2 can only be transmitted in {U2, or U3}, while U3 is out of the frame.    Obviously, Option-1 is no above issue. So, Option-1 should be supported. |
| Lenovo, MotM | Support FL proposal since it can also support the legacy UE behavior in R15/16. |
| InterDigital | Support FL proposal. We believe that Option2 is a better solution.   * If ever needed, by employing Option 2, the NW can still operate as Option 1 if the *slotoffset* in configured to 0. * Also, switching to a different definition of slot reference for an enhancement is counter-intuitive and not helpful, as it adds unnecessary complications to specifications and implementation. * Unlike what presented by some of our colleagues, there is no meaningful difference in UE complexity between the two options. In both cases, the *slotoffset* is always configured and known to the UE; thus no determination step is required. * Another drawback of Option 1 is its limitation for AP SRS triggering for MU-MIMO. With Option 1, to be able to trigger AP SRS for multiple UEs using a single DCI, we need to have a similar set of *t* values configured for all involved UEs which it obviously involves RRC (re)configuration of multiple *t* values. However, in Option2, a same set of configured *t* can be used for all UEs, and only (re)configuration of a single *slotoffset* parameter may be needed which requires much less overhead for RRC signaling. |
| Intel | Support FL proposal |
| Apple | We are fine with FL proposal. |
| QC | Support FL proposal.  Reply to OPPO on UE complexity.   * Rel-17 UE must support legacy SRS triggering based on slot offset and is currently supported by UE implementation. What we are discussing in Rel-17 is additional/optional feature for enhancement of SRS triggering. So, for fair comparison, your analysis should consider the complexity for supporting legacy triggering scheme for both options. Option 1 and legacy are two different mechanics and don’t have much in common. While option 2 is an extension of legacy triggering. In other words, Legacy triggering and option 2 share common processing. * Having this in mind, let’s discuss what is the ***extra complexity*** based on current implementation (legacy) for both options. Decoding the DCI and determining the value of ‘t’ is common for both options and is trivial operation. The most complex part from UE side is the timeline and bookkeeping/counting. Option 2 is natural and incremental extension for current implementation and doesn’t affect UE Timelines. The UE will either send SRS at the SlotOffset (legacy mechanism) or at a later slot based on reference SlotOffset (enhanced mechanics). However, to support option 1, the UE should have two timelines and two bookkeeping and counting mechanism; one is based on legacy and the other one is based counting towards available slot. * So, as a UE vendor, we prefer option 2 from implementation point of view. |
| Futurewei | Regarding the comment on MU MIMO support, we think Option 1 is more suitable than Option 2. When DL MU MIMO CSI acquisition is done via SRS, the SRSs may resemble the DL DMRSs and be multiplexed in the same way as DL DMRSs. In this case, transmitting SRSs on the same slot or even on the same symbol may not be an issue but could be an advantage from SRS capacity perspective. Note that even if more than one SRS set (for the same UE or different UEs) are indicated on the same slot, it does not mean that it will cause a collision, as the SRS may be multiplexed.  To further compare the options, let’s fix a given configuration of SRS resource set with a given slotoffset and a given DCI field bitwidth. We can check which slots are within reach and which are not for different options. Option 1 can indicate x near-future slots but not far-future slots, and Option 2 can indicate x far-future slots but not near-future slots except for the no slotoffset case. It is questionable why far-future slots indication is useful. If we were to overcome the issue of Option 2 with 0 slotoffset all the time, it just reduces to Option 1. So our analysis still shows Option 1 is a better solution. |

## Flexible antenna switching

***FL Proposal 2-9:*** *Study L1 or L2 based adaptation on the number of Tx and/or Rx antennas for SRS antenna switching based on the indicated UE capability of supported SRS-TxPortSwitch*

* *Consider this adaption is applicable to which type(s) of SRS ( aperiodic SRS, periodic SRS, or semi-persistent SRS)*
* *Consider use cases like UE power saving, NW overhead saving, multi-panel UEs, etc.* 
  + *Motivations/target use cases should be clarified before moving forward to detailed designs*
* *FFS via MAC CE or DCI*
* *FFS whether to consider dynamic DL MIMO layer adaptation together*
* *FFS UE reporting of the preferred Tx/Rx antenna number*
* *FFS potential enhancements on CSI measurement to solve issues (if any) caused by this dynamic adaption*

Supported by Spreadtrum, Lenovo, MotM, Nokia, NSB, Intel, Ericsson, Xiaomi, InterDigital, Qualcomm, ZTE

Concern: vivo, OPPO

Companies’ further views are collected as follows.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Companies | Views |
| OPPO | We still failed to see the use cases and benefits. Could the proponents elaborate a bit on the use cases and benefits? Moreover, we have a couple of questions for clarification   1. The 2nd bullet: If power saving is the design target, we prefer to discus it in power saving session where companies can have a whole picture which mechanism(s) are most useful for power saving 2. The 2nd bullet: what’s the relationship between antenna switching and multiple panels? Why do we need some specific antenna switching design for multi-panel Ues? 3. The 4th bullet: DL MIMO layer is indicated by NW. In Rel-15, NW has the flexibility to dynamically change the DL MIMO layers for transmission. Moreover, NR supports UE assistance information where UE can report the preferred DL/UL MIMO layers. What’s the spec impact of this bullet? 4. The 5th bullet: What is “*UE reporting*” referring to here? UE capability or something else? The Rx/Tx antenna number seems related to the MIMO layers that can be recommend via UE assistance information. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Not positive on this issue, but fine for study. |
| Lenovo, MotM | Support this proposal with MAC CE based approach.  One of applicable scenario is for multi-panel UE, where the UE RX panel(s) may be activated semi-statically and the SRS resources corresponding to the deactivated panel(s) can also be deactivated. Another purpose is for power saving, especially for UE with 1T6R and 1T8R UE in poor channel conditional, where high rank transmission is almost impossible. |
| InterDigital | Support FL’s proposal for study. |
| Intel | Generally fine with FL proposal.  Just one thing to clarify, what does the following bullet exactly mean?   * *FFS potential enhancements on CSI measurement to solve issues (if any) caused by this dynamic adaption* |
| Apple | We are fine with DL proposal |
| QC | Support FL proposal for the study. |
| Futurewei | We see some companies suggesting power saving as a motivation, but some other companies disagree. Could the proponents for this feature clarify?  @Intel: We described a CSI issue for antenna switching. That is, when the UE antenna configuration changes, the wireless channels and hence CSI change abruptly. For example, with 2 Rx antenna ports or with 8 Rx antenna ports, the channel H, PMI, RI, CQI, etc., can be all different. How to resolve this CSI issue depends on various factors, such as how often the switching occurs, but unfortunately, this is not clear yet as the motivation/target use cases have not been clarified. This issue has to be addressed, otherwise this feature may not work. |

# Antenna switching up to 8Rx

## Whether 4T6R is supported

***FL Proposal 3-2:*** *Support antenna switching SRS with 4T6R in NR Rel-17*

Supported by OPPO, Spreadtrum, Lenovo, MotM, Nokia, NSB, NEC, Intel, Xiaomi, InterDigital, Qualcomm, NTT DOCOMO, CMCC

Concern: Futurewei, vivo, Huawei, HiSilicon, Ericsson. (Deprioritized or not support)

Companies’ further views are collected as follows.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Companies | Views |
| OPPO | Ok with the proposal |
| Huawei, HiSilicon2 | **Not support.**  We do have concerns on the antenna switching for 4T6R. For QC’s Tdoc and results, we have the following comments:  1. Please clarify the exact mapping between antennas and Tx chain with switches, since in the Tdoc, the mapping part is a **black box**. What’s the switches look like, especially for the best performance case: 4+4+4?  2. Please clarify the **insertion loss modeling** in the evaluation. In our understanding, with **special antenna switches mapping** may be with different insertion loss/modeling, which need to study.  3. It seems in the evaluation 4+4+4 for 4T6R is with best performance, but **we already have the antenna switching solution for 2T6R**, what’s the benefits compared to 2T6R? Actually, the same periodicity, but 2T6R may beneficial on less overhead and also each port is with much more transmit power (beneficial for channel estimation).  4. In the simulation provided by QC, although we do not know the exact antenna mapping and not sure the insertion loss modeling for the special cases, but **some results show the gain of 1T6R and 2T6R are already better performance than 4T6R**, e.g., Figure 3-7. |
| Lenovo, MotM | Support. |
| InterDigital | Support FL’s proposal.  In our contribution, we have shown that it is possible to support 4T6R without incurring any additional insertion loss or requiring an unconventional RF switching network. |
| Intel | Ok with FL proposal. |
| QC | Support FL proposal.  Thanks to Huawei for the questions and constructive discussion!   1. There could different implementation for such RF switching network. One implementation could be based on 3x3 RF switch with one of the inputs is terminated. Such RF switch is commonly used by UE vendors for SRS switching and is supplied by several RF-FE vendors (e.g., Skyworks, Qorvo, etc.,).      1. Based on this RF part, the insertion loss has a typical value of 1.18 and maximum of 1.44 dB for n78 band (3.3 to 3.8 GHz). In our analysis, we considered a 1.44 dB insertion loss (worst case) for all antenna ports. 2. We are open consider (4+4) or (4+2) configuration which save on SRS resource overhead compared to 4+4+4. 3. In general, there is tradeoff between 1TyR/2TyR and 4TyR depending on SRS periodicity and mobility. It is not only for 4T6R. In the appendix in our tdco, we showed results show that 4T8R is inferior to 1T8R and 2T8R at low mobility. This is due to power gain for 1T8R (6dB) compared to 4T8R. The situation is totally different for high mobility where 4T8R/4T6R outperform due to channel again and decorrelation for 1T8R/1T6R. |
| Futurewei | We had a comment on (4+2) in our contribution. The per-port Tx power seems different for 4 and 2, with 3 dB difference. As far as we understand, the power change could lead to problems. |

# Conclusion

# Appendix

## Previous agreements

**Table 6-1**

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| --- |
| **RAN1#102e**  **Agreement**  Enhance the determination of aperiodic SRS triggering offset, with at least one of the following alternatives   * + Alt 1: Delay the SRS transmission to an available slot later than the triggering offset defined in current specification, including possible re-definition of the triggering offset   + Alt 2: Indicate triggering offset in DCI explicitly or implicitly   + Alt 3: Update triggering offset in MAC CE   + Further consideration aspects may include the cost v.s. the total combinations PDCCH and SRS locations for gNB to choose, DCI overhead, multi-UE SRS multiplexing, CA aspect, whether to have multiple opportunities to transmit SRS, etc.   **Agreement**  Study the following two alternatives in the scope to enhance at least one DCI format for aperiodic SRS triggering   * + Alt 1: Use UE-specific DCI, e.g., extending DCI 0\_1 without uplink data and without CSI   + Alt 2: Use group-common DCI, e.g., extending DCI 2\_3 for cases other than carrier switching   + Further consideration aspects may include simultaneous or CC-specific SRS triggering for multiple CCs, dynamic indication of SRS frequency resources, etc..   **Agreement**  For SRS overhead reduction, study reusing same resources among multiple usages, at least for “codebook” and “antenna switching”. Study aspects include   * + Whether implementation approach based on legacy SRS configuration is sufficient     - If not, and if there are benefits other than RRC overhead reduction, study further on the case that antenna switching and PUSCH have different number of Tx antennas, whether UL BWP for different SRS usages is the same or different, whether and how to ensure UE to use same virtualization, the set of applicable usages, UE implementation complexity and overhead, etc..   **Agreement**  For SRS antenna switching up to 8Rx, study the configuration of {1T6R, 1T8R, 2T6R, 2T8R, 4T6R, 4T8R}.   * + Study points may include CSI latency, performance considering aspects like insertion loss, use cases, antenna structure, UE power saving, SRS resource configuration, etc..   **Agreement**  For SRS coverage/capacity enhancements, evaluate and, if needed, specify one or more from three categories based on the following definition.   * + Class 1 (Time bundling): Utilize relationship among two or more occasions of one or more SRS resources in one or more slots to enable joint processing within time domain.     - Study aspects include the issue of phase discontinuity, interruption of SRS transmission by other UL signals, etc..   + Class 2 (Increase repetition): Change the legacy SRS pattern in one resource and one occasion from time domain by increasing SRS symbols for repetition.     - Study aspects include to use TD-OCC to compensate the negative impact on SRS capacity, inter-cell interference randomization, whether these SRS symbols are in one slot or consecutive slots, etc..   + Class 3 (Partial frequency sounding): Support more flexibility on SRS frequency resources to allow SRS transmission on partial frequency resources within the legacy SRS frequency resources.     - Study aspects include the partial frequency resources are with RB level or subcarrier level (e.g., larger comb, partial bandwidth), PAPR issue, etc..   **RAN1#103e**  **Agreement**  A given aperiodic SRS resource set is transmitted in the (t+1)-th available slot counting from a reference slot, where t is indicated from DCI, or RRC (if only one value of t is configured in RRC), and the candidate values of t at least include 0. Adopt at least one of the following options for the reference slot.   * Opt. 1: Reference slot is the slot with the triggering DCI. * Opt. 2: Reference slot is the slot indicated by the legacy triggering offset. * FFS the detailed definition of “available slot” considering UE processing complexity and timeline to determine available slot, potential co-existence with collision handling, etc., e.g.,   + Based on only RRC configuration, “available slot” is the slot satisfying: there are UL or flexible symbol(s) for the time-domain location(s) for all the SRS resources in the resource set and it satisfies the minimum timing requirement between triggering PDCCH and all the SRS resources in the resource set * FFS explicit or implicit indication of t * FFS whether updating candidate triggering offsets in MAC CE may be beneficial   **Agreement**  Support at least DCI 0\_1 and 0\_2 to trigger aperiodic SRS without data and without CSI.   * FFS whether/how to re-purpose the unused fields, e.g., the triggering offset(s) and the frequency resources for triggering A-SRS on one or more component carriers, SFI-index, etc. * FFS UL/DL DCI with data for aperiodic SRS * FFS group common DCI   **Agreement**  In Rel-17 SRS coverage and capacity enhancement, support at least one scheme from Class 2 and Class 3, and deprioritize Class 1.   * Note: Extensions of Rel-15/16 frequency hopping are included in Classes 2 and 3, e.g. where UE hops once per symbol within a Rel-17 SRS resource.   **Agreement**  Candidate schemes for Class 2:   * Scheme 2-0: Increase the number of repetition symbols in one slot * Scheme 2-1: Inter-slot repetition on consecutive symbols or non-consecutive symbols across slots * Scheme 2-2: Repetition with TD-OCC * Scheme 2-3: Repetition with CS hopping   Candidate schemes for Class 3:   * Scheme 3-1: RB-level partial frequency sounding * Scheme 3-2: Subcarrier-level partial frequency sounding * Scheme 3-3: Subband-level partial frequency sounding * Scheme 3-4: Partial-frequency sounding schemes assisted with CSI-RS, where SRS is transmitted in a subset of RBs of the original SRS frequency resource * Scheme 3-5: Dynamic change of SRS bandwidth with RB-level subband size scaling * Note: Consider issues like gNB receiver complexity, PAPR, etc., with above schemes * Note: Joint operation between Class 2 and Class 3 schemes can be considered   **Agreement**  For antenna switching up to 8Rx, support SRS resource configurations for {1T6R, 1T8R, 2T6R, 2T8R, [4T6R], 4T8R}. |

# References

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