

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization

International Bureau



(10) International Publication Number

WO 2017/120555 A1

(43) International Publication Date

13 July 2017 (13.07.2017)

(51) International Patent Classification:

H04L 1/16 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2017/012646

(22) International Filing Date:

7 January 2017 (07.01.2017)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

62/276,813 8 January 2016 (08.01.2016) US
15/400,229 6 January 2017 (06.01.2017) US

(71) Applicant: QUALCOMM INCORPORATED [US/US];
ATTN: International IP Administration, 5775 Morehouse Drive, San Diego, California 92121-1714 (US).

(72) Inventors: MERLIN, Simone; 5775 Morehouse Drive, San Diego, California 92121-1714 (US). ASTERJADHI, Alfred; 5775 Morehouse Drive, San Diego, California 92121-1714 (US). CHERIAN, George; 5775 Morehouse Drive, San Diego, California 92121-1714 (US).

(74) Agent: ABUMERI, Mark M.; Knobbe Martens Olson & Bear LLP, 2040 Main Street, Fourteenth Floor, Irvine, California 92614 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

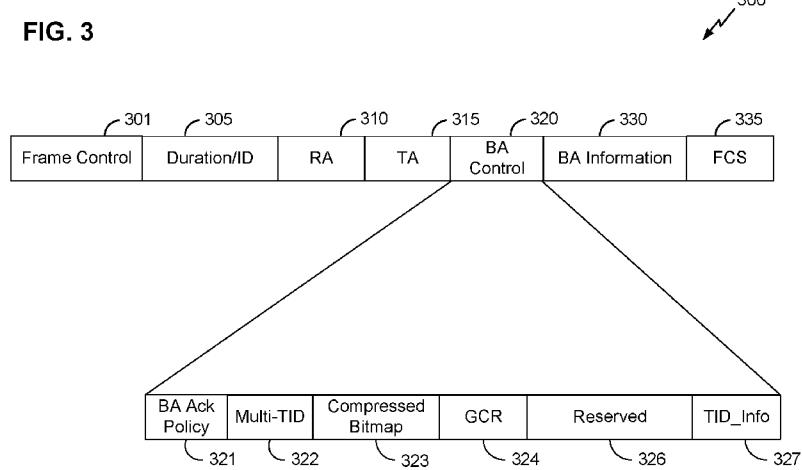
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR VARIABLE LENGTH BLOCK ACKNOWLEDGMENT

FIG. 3



(57) Abstract: Systems, methods, and apparatuses for generating variable length block acknowledgement fields in a wireless network are provided. One aspect of this disclosure provides a method of wireless communication. The method includes receiving, by an apparatus, an indication of block acknowledgement (BA) parameters, and determining, by the apparatus, a size of a bitmap field based on the BA parameters. The method further includes generating, by the apparatus, a block acknowledgement (BA) frame comprising the bitmap field and an indication of the determined size of the bitmap field.

WO 2017/120555 A1

SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR VARIABLE LENGTH BLOCK ACKNOWLEDGMENT

BACKGROUND

Field

[0001] The present application relates generally to wireless communications, and more specifically to systems, methods, and devices for signaling and generating variable length block acknowledgement (BA) frames in a wireless network.

Background

[0002] In many telecommunication systems, communications networks are used to exchange messages among several interacting spatially-separated devices. Networks may be classified according to geographic scope, which could be, for example, a metropolitan area, a local area, or a personal area. Such networks would be designated respectively as a wide area network (WAN), metropolitan area network (MAN), local area network (LAN), wireless local area network (WLAN), or personal area network (PAN).

[0003] As wireless communications continue to advance, communication schemes continue to grow more complicated, there may be a need to more efficiently transmit messages and frames across various communication schemes.

SUMMARY

[0004] The systems, methods, and devices of the invention each have several aspects, no single one of which is solely responsible for its desirable attributes. Without limiting the scope of this invention as expressed by the claims which follow, some features will now be discussed briefly. After considering this discussion, and particularly after reading the section entitled “Detailed Description” one will understand how the features of this invention provide advantages that include improved communications between access points and stations in a wireless network.

[0005] One aspect of the present application provides a method for wireless communication. The method comprises receiving, by an apparatus, an indication of block acknowledgment (BA) parameter, determining, by the apparatus, a size of a bitmap field based on the indication of the BA parameters; generating, by the apparatus,

a block acknowledgement (BA) frame comprising the bitmap field and an indication of the determined size of the bitmap field; and outputting the BA frame for transmission.

[0006] Another aspect of the present application provides an apparatus for wireless communication. The apparatus comprises an interface configured to receive an indication of block acknowledgment (BA) parameters, a processing system configured to determine a size of a bitmap field based at least in part on the indication of the BA parameters, generate a BA frame comprising the bitmap field and an indication of the determined size of the bitmap field. The interface is further configured to output the BA frame for transmission to another apparatus.

[0007] an interface configured to receive an indication of block acknowledgment (BA) parameters; a processing system configured to: determine a size of a bitmap field based at least in part on the indication of the BA parameters, generate a BA frame comprising the bitmap field and an indication of the determined size of the bitmap field; and an interface for outputting the BA frame for transmission.

[0008] Yet another aspect of the present application provides a computer-readable medium comprising code that, when executed, causes the apparatus to perform a method, the method comprising: receiving, by an apparatus, an indication of block acknowledgment (BA) parameters; determining, by the apparatus, a size of a bitmap field based on the indication of the BA parameters; generating, by the apparatus, a block acknowledgement (BA) frame comprising the bitmap field and an indication of the determined size of the bitmap field; and outputting the BA frame for transmission.

[0009] Yet another aspect of the present application provides an apparatus for wireless communication. The apparatus comprises means for receiving, by an apparatus, an indication of block acknowledgment (BA) parameters; means for determining, by the apparatus, a size of a bitmap field based on the indication of the BA parameters; means for generating, by the apparatus, a block acknowledgement (BA) frame comprising the bitmap field and an indication of the determined size of the bitmap field; and means for outputting the BA frame for transmission.

[0010] Yet another aspect of the present application provides a wireless node for wireless communication. The wireless node comprises at least one antenna; an interface configured to receive an indication of block acknowledgment (BA) parameters; a processing system configured to: determine a size of a bitmap field based at least in part on the indication of the BA parameters, generate a BA frame comprising the bitmap field and an indication of the determined size of the bitmap field. The interface is

further configured to output the BA frame for transmission to another wireless node via the at least one antenna.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0011] FIG. 1 illustrates an example of a wireless communication system in which aspects of the present disclosure may be employed.

[0012] FIG. 2 illustrates various components that may be utilized in a wireless device that may be employed within the wireless communication system of FIG. 1.

[0013] FIG. 3 illustrates an example of a block ACK frame.

[0014] FIG. 4A shows another example of a block ACK frame.

[0015] FIG. 4B is a chart showing exemplary block ACK frame variant encoding in accordance with the block ACK frame format of FIG. 4A.

[0016] FIG. 5 shows another example of a block ACK frame.

[0017] FIG. 6 is a flowchart of a method of wireless communication, in accordance with an implementation.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0018] Various aspects of the novel apparatuses and methods are described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings. The teachings disclosure may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to any specific structure or function presented throughout this disclosure. Rather, these aspects are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the scope of the disclosure to those skilled in the art. Based on the teachings herein one skilled in the art should appreciate that the scope of the disclosure is intended to cover any aspect of the novel systems, apparatuses, and methods disclosed herein, whether implemented independently of or combined with any other aspect of the invention. For example, an apparatus may be implemented or a method may be practiced using any number of the aspects set forth herein. In addition, the scope of the invention is intended to cover such an apparatus or method which is practiced using other structure, functionality, or structure and functionality in addition to or other than the various aspects of the invention set forth herein. It should be understood that any aspect disclosed herein may be embodied by one or more elements of a claim.

[0019] Although particular aspects are described herein, many variations and permutations of these aspects fall within the scope of the disclosure. Although some

benefits and advantages of the preferred aspects are mentioned, the scope of the disclosure is not intended to be limited to particular benefits, uses, or objectives. Rather, aspects of the disclosure are intended to be broadly applicable to different wireless technologies, system configurations, networks, and transmission protocols, some of which are illustrated by way of example in the figures and in the following description of the preferred aspects. The detailed description and drawings are merely illustrative of the disclosure rather than limiting, the scope of the disclosure being defined by the appended claims and equivalents thereof.

[0020] Wireless network technologies may include various types of wireless local area networks (WLANs). A WLAN may be used to interconnect nearby devices together, employing widely used networking protocols. The various aspects described herein may apply to any communication standard, such as WiFi or, more generally, any member of the IEEE 802.11 family of wireless protocols. For example, the various aspects described herein may be used as part of the IEEE 802.11ax, 802.11ac, 802.11n, 802.11g, and/or 802.11b protocols.

[0021] In some aspects, wireless signals may be transmitted according to an 802.11 protocol using orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing (OFDM), direct-sequence spread spectrum (DSSS) communications, a combination of OFDM and DSSS communications, or other schemes. Implementations of 802.11 protocols may be used for sensors, metering, and smart grid networks. Advantageously, aspects of certain devices implementing 802.11 protocols may consume less power or provide higher communication speeds than devices implementing other wireless protocols, such as 802.11b, 802.11g, 802.11n or 802.11ac for example.

[0022] Certain of the devices described herein may further implement Multiple Input Multiple Output (MIMO) technology. This may also be implemented as part of 802.11 protocols. A MIMO system employs multiple (N_T) transmit antennas and multiple (N_R) receive antennas for data transmission. A MIMO channel formed by the N_T transmit and N_R receive antennas may be decomposed into N_S independent channels, which are also referred to as spatial channels or streams, where $N_S \leq \min\{N_T, N_R\}$. Each of the N_S independent channels corresponds to a dimension. The MIMO system can provide improved performance (e.g., higher throughput and/or greater reliability) if the additional dimensionalities created by the multiple transmit and receive antennas are utilized.

[0023] In some implementations, a WLAN includes various devices which are the components that access the wireless network. For example, there may be two types of devices: access points (“APs”) and clients (also referred to as stations or wireless devices, or “STAs”). In general, an AP serves as a hub or base station for the WLAN and an STA serves as a user of the WLAN. For example, an STA may be a laptop computer, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a mobile phone, etc. In an example, an STA connects to an AP via a WiFi (e.g., IEEE 802.11 protocol such as 802.11ax) compliant wireless link to obtain general connectivity to the Internet or to other wide area networks. In some implementations an STA may also be used as an AP.

[0024] An access point (“AP”) may also comprise, be implemented as, or known as a NodeB, Radio Network Controller (“RNC”), eNodeB, Base Station Controller (“BSC”), Base Transceiver Station (“BTS”), Base Station (“BS”), Transceiver Function (“TF”), Radio Router, Radio Transceiver, or some other terminology.

[0025] A station “STA” may also comprise, be implemented as, or known as an access terminal (“AT”), a subscriber station, a subscriber unit, a mobile station, a remote station, a remote terminal, a user terminal, a user agent, a user device, user equipment, or some other terminology. In some implementations an access terminal may comprise a cellular telephone, a cordless telephone, a Session Initiation Protocol (“SIP”) phone, a wireless local loop (“WLL”) station, a personal digital assistant (“PDA”), a handheld device having wireless connection capability, or some other suitable processing device connected to a wireless modem. Accordingly, one or more aspects taught herein may be incorporated into a phone (e.g., a cellular phone or smartphone), a computer (e.g., a laptop), a portable communication device, a headset, a portable computing device (e.g., a personal data assistant), an entertainment device (e.g., a music or video device, or a satellite radio), a gaming device or system, a global positioning system device, or any other suitable device that is configured to communicate via a wireless medium.

[0026] As discussed above, certain of the devices described herein may implement 802.11 protocols. Such devices, whether used as an STA or AP or other device, may be used for smart metering or in a smart grid network. Such devices may provide sensor applications or be used in home automation. The devices may instead or in addition be used in a healthcare context, for example for personal healthcare. They may also be used for surveillance, to enable extended-range Internet connectivity (e.g. for use with hotspots), or to implement machine-to-machine communications. Block acknowledgement frames may be used to acknowledge multiple messages received

(e.g., a media access control (MAC) protocol data unit (MPDU)) together. In some embodiments, it may be desirable to vary a length of the block acknowledgement frame to adapt to network conditions. Techniques are needed to indicate the presence of the variable length block acknowledgements and determine the length of the block acknowledgment.

[0027] FIG. 1 illustrates an example of a wireless communication system 100 in which aspects of the present disclosure may be employed. The wireless communication system 100 may operate pursuant to a wireless standard, for example at least one of the 802.11ac, 802.11n, 802.11g or 802.11b standard. The wireless communication system 100 may include an AP 104, which communicates with STAs 106a-106f.

[0028] A variety of processes and methods may be used for transmissions in the wireless communication system 100 between the AP 104 and the STAs 106a-106f. For example, signals may be transmitted and received between the AP 104 and the STAs 106a-106f in accordance with OFDM/OFDMA techniques. If this is the case, the wireless communication system 100 may be referred to as an OFDM/OFDMA system. Alternatively, signals may be transmitted and received between the AP 104 and the STAs 106a-106f in accordance with CDMA techniques. If this is the case, the wireless communication system 100 may be referred to as a CDMA system.

[0029] In FIG. 1, the STAs 106a-106c may comprise high efficiency (HEW) wireless stations (e.g., stations that operate according to 802.11ax or later developed communication protocols), while the STAs 106d-106f may comprise “legacy” wireless stations (e.g., stations that operate according to one or more of 802.11a/b/g/n/ac communication protocols). For example, any of the STAs 106a-106c may be configured to communicate at higher data rates and/or to utilize less energy during communication or operation as compared to the legacy wireless STAs 106d-106f. Thus, for the purposes of this disclosure, the STAs 106a-106c may be considered part of a first group of STAs 108a, while the STAs 106d-106f may be considered part of a second group of STAs 108b.

[0030] It should be noted that the wireless communication system 100 may not have a central AP 104, but rather may function as a peer-to-peer network between the STAs 106a-106f. Accordingly, the functions of the AP 104 described herein may alternatively be performed by one or more of the STAs 106a-106f.

[0031] FIG. 2 illustrates various components that may be utilized in a wireless device 202 that may be employed within the wireless communication system 100. The

wireless device 202 is an example of a device that may be configured to implement the various methods described herein. For example, the wireless device 202 may comprise the AP 104 or one of the STAs 106a-106f.

[0032] The wireless device 202 may include a processor 204 which controls operation of the wireless device 202. The processor 204 may also be referred to as a central processing unit (CPU). Memory 206, which may include both read-only memory (ROM) and random access memory (RAM), provides instructions and data to the processor 204. A portion of the memory 206 may also include non-volatile random access memory (NVRAM). The processor 204 typically performs logical and arithmetic operations based on program instructions stored within the memory 206. The instructions in the memory 206 may be executable to implement the methods described herein.

[0033] The processor 204 may comprise or be a component of a processing system implemented with one or more processors. The one or more processors may be implemented with any combination of general-purpose microprocessors, microcontrollers, digital signal processors (DSPs), field programmable gate array (FPGAs), programmable logic devices (PLDs), controllers, state machines, gated logic, discrete hardware components, dedicated hardware finite state machines, or any other suitable entities that can perform calculations or other manipulations of information.

[0034] The processing system may also include non-transitory machine-readable media for storing code or software. Software shall be construed broadly to mean any type of instructions, whether referred to as software, firmware, middleware, microcode, hardware description language, or otherwise. Instructions may include code (e.g., in source code format, binary code format, executable code format, or any other suitable format of code). The instructions, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the processing system to perform the various functions described herein.

[0035] The wireless device 202 may also include a housing 208 that may include a transmitter 210 and a receiver 212 to allow transmission and reception of data between the wireless device 202 and a remote location. The transmitter 210 and receiver 212 may be combined into a transceiver 214. An antenna 216 may be attached to the housing 208 and electrically coupled to the transceiver 214. The wireless device 202 may also include (not shown) multiple transmitters, multiple receivers, multiple transceivers, and/or multiple antennas, which may be utilized during MIMO communications, for example.

[0036] The wireless device 202 may also include a signal detector 218 that may be used in an effort to detect and quantify the level of signals received by the transceiver 214. The signal detector 218 may detect such signals as total energy, energy per subcarrier per symbol, power spectral density and other signals. The wireless device 202 may also include a digital signal processor (DSP) 220 for use in processing signals. The DSP 220 may be configured to generate a data unit for transmission. In some aspects, the data unit may comprise a PLCP protocol data unit (PPDU). In some aspects, the PPDU may be referred to as a frame or packet.

[0037] The wireless device 202 may further comprise a user interface 222 in some aspects. The user interface 222 may comprise a keypad, a microphone, a speaker, and/or a display. The user interface 222 may include any element or component that conveys information to a user of the wireless device 202 and/or receives input from the user.

[0038] In some aspects, the wireless device 202 may further comprise a variable length block acknowledgement (BA) unit 235. The variable length BA unit 235 may be configured to determine or otherwise adjust the length of a BA frame based on certain parameters. The variable length BA unit 235 may be configured to determine the BA frame bitmap size (e.g., different than 64 bits), and may be further configured to indicate this size within the BA frame. In some aspects, transmitting and/or signaling a variable length BA frame can allow for efficient use of the wireless medium and reduce overhead.

[0039] The various components of the wireless device 202 may be coupled together by a bus system 226. The bus system 226 may include a data bus, for example, as well as a power bus, a control signal bus, and a status signal bus in addition to the data bus. Those of skill in the art will appreciate the components of the wireless device 202 may be coupled together or accept or provide inputs to each other using some other mechanism.

[0040] Although a number of separate components are illustrated in FIG. 2, those of skill in the art will recognize that one or more of the components may be combined or commonly implemented. For example, the processor 204 may be used to implement not only the functionality described above with respect to the processor 204, but also to implement the functionality described above with respect to the signal detector 218 and/or the DSP 220. Further, each of the components illustrated in FIG. 2 may be implemented using a plurality of separate elements.

[0041] As discussed above, the wireless device 202 may comprise an AP 104 or an STA 106a-106f, and may be used to transmit and/or receive communications. The communications exchanged between devices in a wireless network may include data units which may comprise packets or frames. In some aspects, the data units may include data frames, control frames, and/or management frames. Data frames may be used for transmitting data from an AP and/or a STA to other APs and/or STAs. Control frames may be used together with data frames for performing various operations and for reliably delivering data (e.g., acknowledging receipt of data, polling of APs, area-clearing operations, channel acquisition, carrier-sensing maintenance functions, etc.). Management frames may be used for various supervisory functions (e.g., for joining and departing from wireless networks, etc.).

[0042] A variable length BA frame may allow a device to have more flexibility when receiving and/or transmitting BA frames based on network conditions. Typically, a BA frame comprises a BA bitmap that has a fixed length of 64 bits. In certain embodiments, it may be beneficial to have a variable length BA bitmap to better adjust to network conditions (e.g., increase the bitmap size to increase throughput or decrease bitmap size to reduce overhead). Accordingly, embodiments described herein relate to transmitting and signaling the presence of a variable length BA frame.

[0043] FIG. 3 illustrates an example of a BA frame 300 according to the teachings herein. As shown, the BA frame 300 includes a frame control field 301, a duration/identifier (ID) field 305, a receiver address (RA) field 310, a transmitter address (TA) field 315, a BA control field 320, a BA information field 330, and a frame check sequence (FCS) field 335. In some aspects, the BA control field 320 may comprise a BA acknowledgment policy field 321, a multi-traffic identifier (TID) field 322, a compressed bitmap field 323, a group cast retries (GCR) field 324, a reserved field 326, and a TID information field 327. In some aspects, the BA acknowledgment policy field 321, the multi- TID field 322, the compressed bitmap field 323, and the GCR field 324 may each comprise one bit and the reserved field 326 may comprise 9 bits. In some aspects, the BA frame 300 may comprise a bitmap size of 64x16 bits.

[0044] FIG. 4A shows an exemplary structure of a block acknowledgement (BA) control field 420. As shown, the BA control field 420 is similar to and adapted from the BA control field 320 of FIG. 3. For the sake of brevity, only differences between the BA control fields 320 and 420 are discussed. In some aspects, one or more bits from the reserved field 326 may be re-configured to indicate the presence of a different bitmap

size. For example, the one or more bits from the reserved field 326 may be re-defined as an extended bitmap (EB) bit field 425. In some aspects the EB bit field 425 may be used in conjunction with the multi-TID field 322, the compressed bitmap field 323, and the GCR field 324 to define certain combinations that indicate the bitmap size which may be 64 bits or a different size.

[0045] For example, FIG. 4B illustrates a chart 450 depicting various exemplary combinations of bit values of the multi-TID field 322, the compressed bitmap field 323, and the GCR field 324 to indicate a BA variant. In some aspects, the one or more bits of the EB field 425 may be used to expand the possible BA variants depicted in the chart 450.

[0046] FIG. 5 shows an exemplary structure of a BA frame 500. As shown, the BA frame 500 is similar to the BA frame 300 of FIG. 3. For the sake of brevity, only differences between the BA frames 300 and 500 are discussed. Although the BA frame 500 is illustrated as having a particular structure, the actual structure may vary, depending upon the specific use of the BA frame 500. For example, if the BA is utilized to acknowledge packets for multiple TIDs, the BA frame can include additional information, such as one or more bitmaps per TID. On the other hand, if the BA is not used to acknowledge packets from multiple TIDs, there may be less information included in the BA frame 500 (e.g., only one bitmap).

[0047] As shown in FIG. 5, the BA frame 500 comprises a BA information field 530. In some aspects, the BA information field 530 comprises a per TID information (Info) field 531, a block ACK starting sequence control 532, and a BA bitmap field 533. In some aspects, the per TID Info field 531 may comprise 2 bytes, the block ACK starting sequence control 532 may comprise 2 bytes, and the BA bitmap field 533 may comprise 8 bytes or may be a variable length. In some aspects, the size of the BA bitmap field 533 may also be referred to as the BA bitmap size. In some embodiments, the BA information field 530 may be repeated for each TID.

[0048] FIG. 5 also illustrates that the per TID Info field 531 may comprise a reserved field 541 and a TID value field 542. In some aspects, the reserved field 541 may comprise 12 bits and the TID value field 542 may comprise 4 bits. As illustrated, in some aspects, the block ACK starting sequence control field 532 may comprise a fragment number field 551 and a starting sequence number field 552. In some aspects, the fragment number field 551 may comprise 4 bits and the starting sequence number field 552 may comprise 12 bits.

[0049] In an embodiment, the starting sequence number 552 can include an indication of the “WinStart” parameter. In another aspect, the starting sequence number 552 can include an indication of a value greater than the WinStart parameter. In an aspect, the WinStart parameter is the sequence number of the first data packet that has not been acknowledged (e.g., the lowest sequence number among unacknowledged packets). For example, a STA 106 may send an AP 104 packets with sequence numbers 0 through 25, and the AP 104 may utilize the BA frame 500 to acknowledge that sequence numbers 0 through 10 were correctly received. The AP 104 can keep track of this information by storing the value of 11 as the WinStart parameter. This way, the next time the AP 104 transmits a BA frame 500 to the STA 106, the AP 104 will not need to start from sequence number 0, and will only be acknowledging previously unacknowledged packets. In various aspects, the WinStart parameter may refer to a packet that was sent at any point in time, and need not refer to frames that were received (or not) immediately preceding the BA frame 500. In some aspects, the AP 104 (or a STA 106) may keep track of a WinStart parameter for each TID. Other parameters may also be tracked by the AP 104 (or a STA 106), per TID.

[0050] In some embodiments, a size of the BA bitmap may be variable (e.g., not always 64 bits), as noted above and described in further detail below. In various aspects, an indication of the bitmap size (e.g., the size of the BA bitmap field 533) of the BA frame 500 may be located in different fields of the BA frame 500. For example, in some aspects, the BA bitmap size may be included in the reserved bits (e.g., reserved field 541) of the per-TID Info field 531 (valid for the included BA information field 530, e.g., may be different across BA information fields, if more than one are present). In other aspects, the indication may be included in the reserved bits (e.g., reserved field 326) of the BA control field 320 (may be same for all the BA Information fields 530). In some aspects, the indication may be included in a newly defined frame subtype of the BA frame 500 (not illustrated). In some aspects, the indication may be included in the Duration/ID field 305, which can be overloaded if the BA frame 500 is sent in a multiple user (MU) PLCP protocol data unit (PPDU). The Duration/ID field 305 may be overloaded in a MU PPDU frame because only the intended receiver might receive the BA frame 500, and since the Duration/ID field 305 is usually intended for third party receivers (e.g., non-intended recipients) it may be possible to re-purpose some of the bits of Duration/ID field 305 in this context.

[0051] In other embodiments, a way to represent a different bitmap size (e.g., different than 64 bits) may be to use a multi-TID BA format instead of extending the BA bitmap field 533. In some aspects, the multi-TID BA format may include multiple BA information fields (e.g., BA information field 530) for the same TID, with different sequence numbers. In some aspects, each BA information field 530 may include the starting sequence number (SSN) field 552 indicating the SSN for the bitmap. For example, referring to FIG. 5, a second BA information field 530 (not illustrated) may be located after the BA information field 530, but before the FCS field 335. Thus, the combined length of the BA bitmap field 533 may comprise the sum of the lengths of each of the BA bitmap fields 533 in each of the multiple BA information fields (e.g., total size of the BA bitmap field comprises summing the BA bitmap fields in each of the BA information field 530 (shown in FIG. 5) and the second BA information field 530 (not shown)).

[0052] In some aspects, new rules may be put in place for implicitly defining values of the bitmaps, instead of explicitly communicating the size in the BA frame 500. For example, if a first BA Information field 530 includes a bitmap [1:64] and a second BA Information field 530 includes a bitmap for [80:144], then the missing bits (e.g., bits 65-79) may be assumed to be all set to a value of 1 to indicate a successful transmission or all set to a value of 0 to indicate a failed transmission.

[0053] In other embodiments, it may be desirable to acknowledge more or less than 64 frames (e.g., frames of an media access control (MAC) protocol data unit (MPDU)). In an embodiment, this acknowledgment procedure may utilize a BA bitmap field 533 that is eight bytes or less. In some aspects, each bit of the BA bitmap field 533 may be configured to acknowledge a group of messages (e.g., a group of N MPDUs). For example, each bit of the BA bitmap field 533 may be configured to acknowledge four (4) MPDUs. In this embodiment, a bit of the BA bitmap field 533 may be set to 1 to indicate a successful transmission, only if all four MPDUs are successfully transmitted. If one or more of the four MPDUs are not successful then the bit of the BA bitmap field 533 may be set to 0. In some embodiments, such a mapping may be desirable for high data rates where the high aggregation is used, and the errors in adjacent MPDUs are very likely correlated.

[0054] In some embodiments, the above group acknowledgement may be indicated in various locations of the BA frame 500. In some aspects, the same indications described above with respect to indicating the bitmap size may be applied to the group

acknowledgment indication. In some aspects, the indication may be included in the reserved bits (e.g., reserved field 541) of the per-TID Info field 531 (valid for the included BA information field 530, e.g., may be different across BA information fields, if more than one are present). In other aspects, the indication may be included in the reserved bits (e.g., reserved field 326) of the BA control field 320 (may be same for all the BA Information fields 530). In some aspects, the indication may be included in a newly defined frame subtype of the BA frame 500. In some aspects, the indication may be included in the Duration/ID field 305, which can be overloaded if the BA frame 500 is sent in a MU PPDU.

[0055] In some embodiments, when using a variable length BA frame with a variable length BA bitmap size, it may be desirable to determine which BA bitmap size to send in the BA. In some embodiments, it may desirable to statically determine the length or size of the BA bitmap. In some aspects, the bitmap size may be determined during an initial session negotiation phase between an AP and STA or among a group of STAs. The BA bitmap size could then be based on the negotiated BA parameters. In some embodiments, the determined bitmap size may be based on an add block acknowledgement (ADDBA) negotiation. For example, if during negotiation, it is determined that the buffer size for the session is 256 bits (e.g., max buffer size), then the devices may set the BA bitmap size to 256. If the buffer size is smaller (e.g., 64 bits), then the devices may determine a bitmap size of 64 bits is appropriate. While only two values are discussed for the buffer size and bitmap size other combinations for larger or smaller buffer and bitmap sizes are possible.

[0056] In some embodiments, it may desirable to dynamically determine the BA bitmap size. In some aspects, a transmitter (e.g., AP) of a data frame may indicate a requested size of the BA bitmap size for a receiver device (e.g., STA) to include in the BA frame (e.g., BA frame 500) in response to the data frame. In some aspects, it may be beneficial for the transmitter to indicate the BA bitmap size because the transmitter may then know exactly how long the response (e.g., BA) will be from the receiver (e.g., STA) and may able to properly coordinate network traffic. In some aspects, the indication may be included in an aggregated media access control protocol data unit (A-MPDU) delimiter to indicate a request for 256 bit BA bitmap size (or other size). In some embodiments, the A-MPDU delimiter may be configured such that a defined pattern of bits indicate that the BA bitmap has a size different than 64 bits. In other

embodiments, the indication may comprise an undefined A-MPDU delimiter value to indicate that the BA bitmap has a size different than 64 bits.

[0057] In some aspects, the indication may comprise a value in a media access control protocol data unit (MPDU) power save multipoll (PSMP) acknowledgment (ACK) policy field. For example, the PSMP ACK policy field may comprise a reserve bit that may be redefined to indicate one of two different sizes for the BA bitmap (e.g., 64 or 256). In other embodiments, the indication may be included in a field of a media access control (MAC) header. The MAC header may comprise one or more of a signal (SIG) field, a long training field (LT), a short training field (STF). Each of the SIG, LT, and STF fields may have different variants (e.g., high throughput (HT), very high throughput (VHT), high efficiency (HE), etc.). In some aspects, the indication of the bitmap size may be included in one or more of these MAC header fields and may be based on the physical (PHY) layer rate. For example, if the transmitter is transmitting data at a rate that satisfies a first threshold (e.g., higher than the first threshold), then the transmitter may set the BA bitmap size to a value larger than 64 bits (e.g., 128 or 256). If the transmitter is transmitting at a rate that does not satisfy the first threshold (e.g., at a rate lower than the first threshold), then the transmitter may set the BA bitmap size to a value smaller than 64 bits (e.g., 32 or 16). In some embodiments, the transmitter may use more or fewer thresholds and may set the bitmap size to different values.

[0058] In some aspects, a receiver (e.g., STA) of the data frame may indicate the BA bitmap size to include in the BA frame (e.g., BA frame 500) in response to the data frame. In some aspects, the receiver may determine the BA bitmap size based on the number of MPDUs it has received from the transmitter. In some aspects, the number of MPDUs it has received may be based on the span of received sequence numbers from the transmitter (e.g., AP). For example, if the receiver receives a large number of MPDUs it may set a larger BA bitmap size (e.g., 256 bits). If the receiver receives a small number of MPDUs it may set a smaller bitmap size (e.g., 32 bits).

[0059] In some aspects, the receiver of the data frame and the transmitter of the data frame may negotiate a number of variables that may be used to dynamically determine the size of the BA. In an embodiment, as part of an exchange of ADDBA control messages, the transmitter and receiver may negotiate one or more of a maximum buffer size, a range of bitmap sizes, or other parameters relating to the bitmap size. In accordance with this embodiment, the receiver may determine the size of the BA bitmap based on these parameters, the value of the lowest sequence number of an

unacknowledged packet (e.g., WinStart), and/or the value of the highest sequence number of a correctly received packet. For example, in an aspect, the maximum buffer size may be negotiated to be 256 bits and the range of bitmap sizes may be negotiated to be one of 8 bits, 32 bits, 64 bits, or 256 bits. In certain embodiments, the receiver may calculate the size of the bitmap to be greater than or equal to the value of the highest sequence number of a correctly received packet, minus the value of WinStart, plus one.

[0060] For example, in an aspect, a receiver may have WinStart set to a value of 10, and may have correctly received packets with sequence numbers 11 to 15. In accordance with this aspect, the receiver may determine that only an 8 bit bitmap length is required to acknowledge these frames. This may occur because $15 - 10 + 1 = 6$, and the receiver and the transmitter previously negotiated that the lowest possible bitmap allowed that will acknowledge 6 frames is the 8 bit bitmap length. In another aspect, the receiver may have WinStart set to a value of 10, and may have only correctly received packets with sequence numbers 260 to 267. In accordance with this aspect, the receiver may determine that only a 256 bit bitmap length is required to acknowledge these frames. This may occur because $264 - 10 + 1 = 255$, and the receiver and the transmitter previously negotiated that the lowest possible bitmap allowed that will acknowledge 255 frames is the 256 bit bitmap length. Thus, a receiver may be able to efficiently utilize a wireless communication medium by refraining from transmitting large bitmaps when only a small number of packets are being acknowledged, or by utilizing larger bitmaps to acknowledge a larger number of packets without the requirement of sending multiple BA frames (e.g., reduced overhead).

[0061] FIG. 6 is a flowchart of a method 600 for wireless communication, in accordance with an implementation. In some aspects, the method 600 may be performed by the wireless device 202, shown above with respect to FIG. 2. In some aspects, method 600 may be performed by the AP 104, the STA 106, or any other suitable device.

[0062] At block 610, a communication device may receive an indication of block acknowledgment (BA) parameters. For example, in some aspects, the indication of the BA parameters comprises a maximum buffer size and a plurality of allowed lengths of the bitmap field. In an embodiment, the maximum buffer size can be 256 bits, and the plurality of allowed lengths can include one or more of 8 bits, 32 bits, 64 bits, or 256 bits. In certain aspects, the BA parameters are negotiated between the communication device and a wireless station or device. For example, the communication device may

comprise the AP 104, and the wireless station or device may comprise a STA 106 from FIG. 1. In some aspects, the negotiation may occur after an association procedure between the AP 104 and the STA 106. In an embodiment, the negotiation may occur through the use of ADDBA messaging.

[0063] At block 620, the communication device may determine a size of a bitmap field based on the BA parameters (e.g., a BA bitmap field). For example, the communication device may utilize one or more of a maximum buffer size and a plurality of allowed lengths of the bitmap field to determine the size. In some aspects, the method 600 may further include receiving a plurality of packets from a wireless station or device, and determining the size of the bitmap field can be based at least in part on a lowest sequence number of the received plurality of packets that are unacknowledged and a largest sequence number of correctly received packets from the plurality of packets. For example, if the lowest sequence number of unacknowledged packets is 100 and a largest sequence number of correctly received packets is 120, then the wireless communication device may determine the size of the BA bitmap to be 32 bits. For example, in some aspects, possible block acknowledgment bitmaps lengths may be one of 8 bits, 32 bits, 64 bits and 256 bits.

[0064] At block 630, the communication device may generate a BA frame comprising the bitmap field and an indication of the determined size of the bitmap field. For example, with reference to FIG. 5, the communication device may generate a BA frame 500 comprising the BA bitmap field 533, and may utilize the BA control field 320 to indicate the size of the BA bitmap field 533 (e.g., by utilizing reserved field 326). In an embodiment, if the BA frame 500 is intended to acknowledge packets for multiple TIDs, the BA frame may comprise more than one BA bitmap field 533 (e.g., multiple BA information fields 530).

[0065] As used herein, the term “determining” encompasses a wide variety of actions. For example, “determining” may include calculating, computing, processing, deriving, investigating, looking up (e.g., looking up in a table, a database or another data structure), ascertaining and the like. Also, “determining” may include receiving (e.g., receiving information), accessing (e.g., accessing data in a memory) and the like. Also, “determining” may include resolving, selecting, choosing, establishing and the like. Further, a “channel width” as used herein may encompass or may also be referred to as a bandwidth in certain aspects.

[0066] As used herein, a phrase referring to “at least one of” a list of items refers to any combination of those items, including single members. As an example, “at least one of: a, b, or c” is intended to cover: a, b, c, a-b, a-c, b-c, a-a, b-b, c-c, and a-b-c.

[0067] The various operations of methods described above may be performed by any suitable means capable of performing the operations, such as various hardware and/or software component(s), circuits, and/or module(s). Generally, any operations illustrated in the Figures may be performed by corresponding functional means capable of performing the operations. For example, the various means for receiving may comprise one or more of the receiver 212, the transceiver 214, the antenna 216, the DSP 220, the processor 204, the memory 206, the signal detector 218, the variable length BA unit 235, or equivalents thereof. In some aspects, the various means for determining or means for generating may comprise one or more of the DSP 220, the processor 204, the memory 206, the variable length BA unit 235, or equivalents thereof.

[0068] As used herein, the term interface may refer to hardware or software configured to connect two or more devices together. For example, an interface may be a part of a processor or a bus and may be configured to allow communication of information or data between the devices. The interface may be integrated into a chip or other device. For example, in some embodiments, an interface may comprise a receiver configured to receive information or communications from a device at another device. The interface (e.g., of a processor or a bus) may receive information or data processed by a front end or another device or may process information received. In some embodiments, an interface may comprise a transmitter configured to transmit or communicate information or data to another device. Thus, the interface may transmit information or data or may prepare information or data for outputting for transmission (e.g., via a bus).

[0069] The various illustrative logical blocks, modules and circuits described in connection with the present disclosure may be implemented or performed with a general purpose processor, a digital signal processor (DSP), an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), a field programmable gate array signal (FPGA) or other programmable logic device (PLD), discrete gate or transistor logic, discrete hardware components or any combination thereof designed to perform the functions described herein. A general purpose processor may be a microprocessor, but in the alternative, the processor may be any commercially available processor, controller, microcontroller or state machine. A processor may also be implemented as a combination of computing devices, e.g., a

combination of a DSP and a microprocessor, a plurality of microprocessors, one or more microprocessors in conjunction with a DSP core, or any other such configuration.

[0070] In one or more aspects, the functions described may be implemented in hardware, software, firmware, or any combination thereof. If implemented in software, the functions may be stored on or transmitted over as one or more instructions or code on a computer-readable medium. Computer-readable media includes both computer storage media and communication media including any medium that facilitates transfer of a computer program from one place to another. A storage media may be any available media that can be accessed by a computer. By way of example, and not limitation, such computer-readable media can comprise RAM, ROM, EEPROM, CD-ROM or other optical disk storage, magnetic disk storage or other magnetic storage devices, or any other medium that can be used to carry or store desired program code in the form of instructions or data structures and that can be accessed by a computer. Also, any connection is properly termed a computer-readable medium. For example, if the software is transmitted from a website, server, or other remote source using a coaxial cable, fiber optic cable, twisted pair, digital subscriber line (DSL), or wireless technologies such as infrared, radio, and microwave, then the coaxial cable, fiber optic cable, twisted pair, DSL, or wireless technologies such as infrared, radio, and microwave are included in the definition of medium. Disk and disc, as used herein, includes compact disc (CD), laser disc, optical disc, digital versatile disc (DVD), floppy disk, and Blu-ray® disc where disks usually reproduce data magnetically, while discs reproduce data optically with lasers. Thus, in some aspects, computer readable medium may comprise non-transitory computer readable medium (e.g., tangible media). In addition, in some aspects computer readable medium may comprise transitory computer readable medium (e.g., a signal). Combinations of the above should also be included within the scope of computer-readable media.

[0071] Thus, certain aspects may comprise a computer program product for performing the operations presented herein. For example, such a computer program product may comprise a computer readable medium having instructions stored (and/or encoded) thereon, the instructions being executable by one or more processors to perform the operations described herein. For certain aspects, the computer program product may include packaging material.

[0072] The methods disclosed herein comprise one or more steps or actions for achieving the described method. The method steps and/or actions may be interchanged

with one another without departing from the scope of the claims. In other words, unless a specific order of steps or actions is specified, the order and/or use of specific steps and/or actions may be modified without departing from the scope of the claims.

[0073] Software or instructions may also be transmitted over a transmission medium. For example, if the software is transmitted from a website, server, or other remote source using a coaxial cable, fiber optic cable, twisted pair, digital subscriber line (DSL), or wireless technologies such as infrared, radio, and microwave, then the coaxial cable, fiber optic cable, twisted pair, DSL, or wireless technologies such as infrared, radio, and microwave are included in the definition of transmission medium.

[0074] Further, it should be appreciated that modules and/or other appropriate means for performing the methods and techniques described herein can be downloaded and/or otherwise obtained by a user terminal and/or base station as applicable. For example, such a device can be coupled to a server to facilitate the transfer of means for performing the methods described herein. Alternatively, various methods described herein can be provided via storage means (e.g., RAM, ROM, a physical storage medium such as a compact disc (CD) or floppy disk, etc.), such that a user terminal and/or base station can obtain the various methods upon coupling or providing the storage means to the device. Moreover, any other suitable technique for providing the methods and techniques described herein to a device can be utilized.

[0075] It is to be understood that the claims are not limited to the precise configuration and components illustrated above. Various modifications, changes and variations may be made in the arrangement, operation and details of the methods and apparatus described above without departing from the scope of the claims.

[0076] While the foregoing is directed to aspects of the present disclosure, other and further aspects of the disclosure may be devised without departing from the basic scope thereof, and the scope thereof is determined by the claims that follow.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of wireless communication, comprising:
 - receiving, by an apparatus, an indication of block acknowledgment (BA) parameters;
 - determining, by the apparatus, a size of a bitmap field based on the indication of the BA parameters;
 - generating, by the apparatus, a block acknowledgement (BA) frame comprising the bitmap field and an indication of the determined size of the bitmap field; and
 - outputting the BA frame for transmission.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the indication of the BA parameters comprises at least one of a maximum buffer size or a plurality of allowed lengths of the bitmap field.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the BA parameters are received from a wireless device, and wherein determining the size of the bitmap field comprises at least in part negotiating the BA parameters between the apparatus and the wireless device.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a plurality of packets from a wireless device, wherein determining the size of the bitmap field is based at least in part on a lowest sequence number of the received plurality of packets that are unacknowledged by the apparatus and a largest sequence number of correctly received packets.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the BA frame further comprises at least one of a BA acknowledgment (ACK) policy field, a multiple traffic identifier (TID) field, a compressed bitmap field, a group cast retries (GCR) field, or a BA control field, wherein the indication of the determined size comprises a value in at least one of the multiple TID field, the compressed bitmap field, the GCR field, or the BA control field.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the BA frame further comprises a per traffic identifier (TID) field and the indication of the determined size of the bitmap field comprises a value in the per TID field.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the BA frame further comprises a BA control field, and wherein the indication of the determined size of the bitmap field is a value in the BA control field.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the BA control field comprises a reserved field, and wherein the indication of the determined size of the bitmap field is a value in the reserved field.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the BA frame further comprises a duration / identifier (ID) field, and wherein the indication of the determined size of the bitmap field is a value in the duration / ID field.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the BA frame further comprises two or more block acknowledgment (BA) information fields, said two or more BA information fields each including a BA bitmap subfield, wherein determining the size of the bitmap field comprises summing the BA bitmap subfields in each of the two or more BA information fields.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein each of the two or more BA information fields comprises a traffic identifier (TID) value field, the TID value field indicating a same value for each of the two or more BA information fields.

12. The method of Claim 10, wherein each of the two or more BA information fields comprises a starting sequence number field, wherein determining the size of the bitmap field is based at least in part on the starting sequence number field in each of the two or more BA information fields.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the two or more BA information fields comprise:

a first BA information field with a first starting sequence number; and

a second BA information field with a second starting sequence number, wherein determining the size of the bitmap field comprises determining values of bits between the first starting sequence number and the second starting sequence number.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein a bit of the bitmap field acknowledges a number of packets correctly received by the apparatus.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein determining the size of the bitmap field is based at least in part on the number of packets correctly received by the apparatus.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein generating the BA frame comprises inserting an indication of the number of packets correctly received by the apparatus in a field of the BA frame.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the BA frame comprises a BA acknowledgment (ACK) policy field, a multiple traffic identifier (TID) field, a compressed bitmap field, a group cast retries (GCR) field, and a BA control field, wherein the indication of the number of packets correctly received comprises a combination of values in the multiple TID field, the compressed bitmap field, the GCR field, and the BA control field.

18. The method of claim 3, wherein the negotiation comprises an add block acknowledgement (ADDBA) negotiation between the apparatus and the wireless device.

19. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving an aggregated medium access control (MAC) data unit (A-MPDU) comprising a requested size of the bitmap field, wherein determining the size of the bitmap field is based at least in part on the requested size.

20. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a media access control protocol data unit (MPDU) comprising a power save multipoll (PSMP) acknowledgment (ACK) policy field, wherein determining the size of the bitmap field is based at least in part on a value of the PSMP ACK policy field.

21. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a packet from a wireless device comprising a medium access control (MAC) header portion comprising a requested size of the bitmap field, wherein determining the size of the bitmap field is based at least in part on the requested size.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the requested size is based at least in part on a transmission data rate of the packet received.

23. An apparatus for wireless communication, comprising:
an interface configured to receive an indication of block acknowledgment (BA) parameters;
a processing system configured to:
determine a size of a bitmap field based at least in part on the indication of the BA parameters,
generate a BA frame comprising the bitmap field and an indication of the determined size of the bitmap field; and
wherein the interface is further configured to output the BA frame for transmission to another apparatus.

24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the indication of the BA parameters comprises at least one of a maximum buffer size or a plurality of allowed lengths of the bitmap field.

25. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the BA parameters are received from a wireless device, and wherein the processing system is configured to determine the size of the bit map field at least in part by negotiating the BA parameters between the apparatus and the wireless device.

26. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein:
the interface configured to receive the indication of block acknowledgment (BA) parameters is further configured to receive a plurality of packets from a wireless device, and
the processing system is further configured to determine the size of the bitmap field based at least in part on a lowest sequence number of the received packets unacknowledged by the apparatus and a largest sequence number of correctly received packets.

27. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the BA frame further comprises at least one of a BA acknowledgment (ACK) policy field, a multiple traffic identifier

(TID) field, a compressed bitmap field, a group cast retries (GCR) field, or a BA control field, wherein the indication of the determined size comprises a value in at least one of the multiple TID field, the compressed bitmap field, the GCR field, or the BA control field.

28. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the BA frame further comprises a per traffic identifier (TID) field and the indication of the determined size comprises a value in the per TID field.

29. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the BA frame further comprises a BA control field, and wherein the indication of the determined size of the bitmap field is a value in the BA control field.

30. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the BA control field comprises a reserved field, and wherein the indication of the determined size of the bitmap field is a value in the reserved field.

31. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the BA frame further comprises a duration / identifier (ID) field, and wherein the indication of the determined size of the bitmap field is a value in the duration / ID field.

32. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the BA frame further comprises two or more block acknowledgment (BA) information fields, said two or more BA information fields each including a BA bitmap subfield, wherein determining the size of the bitmap field comprises summing the BA bitmap subfields in each of the two or more BA information fields.

33. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein each of the two or more BA information fields comprises a traffic identifier (TID) value field, the TID value field indicating a same value for each of the two or more BA information fields.

34. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein each of the two or more BA information fields comprises a starting sequence number field, wherein determining the size of the bitmap field is based at least in part on the starting sequence number field in each of the two or more BA information fields.

35. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the two or more BA information fields comprise:

a first BA information field with a first starting sequence number; and
a second BA information field with a second starting sequence number,
wherein determining the size of the bitmap field comprises determining values
of bits between the first starting sequence number and the second starting
sequence number.

36. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein a bit of the bitmap field
acknowledges a number of packets correctly received by the apparatus.

37. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein determining the size of the bitmap
field is based at least in part on the number of packets correctly received by the
apparatus.

38. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the processing system is further
configured to insert an indication of the number of packets correctly received by the
apparatus in a field of the BA frame.

39. The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the BA frame comprises a BA
acknowledgment (ACK) policy field, a multiple traffic identifier (TID) field, a
compressed bitmap field, a group cast retries (GCR) field, and a BA control field,
wherein the indication of the number of packets correctly received comprises a
combination of values in the multiple TID field, the compressed bitmap field, the GCR
field, and the BA control field.

40. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the negotiation comprises an add
block acknowledgement (ADDBA) negotiation between the apparatus and the wireless
device.

41. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the interface is further configured to
receive an aggregated medium access control (MAC) data unit (A-MPDU) comprising a
requested size of the bitmap field, wherein the processing system is configured to
determining the size of the bitmap field based at least in part on the requested size.

42. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the interface is further configured to receive a media access control protocol data unit (MPDU) comprising a power save multipoll (PSMP) acknowledgment (ACK) policy field, wherein the processing system is configured to determining the size of the bitmap field based at least in part on a value of the PSMP ACK policy field.

43. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the interface is further configured to receive a packet from a wireless device comprising a medium access control (MAC) header portion comprising a requested size of the bitmap field, wherein the processing system is configured to determining the size of the bitmap field based at least in part on the requested size.

44. The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the requested size is based at least in part on a data rate of the packet received.

45. A computer-readable medium comprising code that, when executed, causes an apparatus to perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving, by an apparatus, an indication of block acknowledgment (BA) parameters;

determining, by the apparatus, a size of a bitmap field based on the indication of the BA parameters;

generating, by the apparatus, a block acknowledgement (BA) frame comprising the bitmap field and an indication of the determined size of the bitmap field; and

outputting the BA frame for transmission.

46. The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein the indication of the BA parameters comprises at least one of a maximum buffer size or a plurality of allowed lengths of the bitmap field.

47. The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein the BA parameters are received from a wireless device, and wherein determining the size of the bitmap field comprises at least in part negotiating the BA parameters between the apparatus and the wireless device.

48. The computer-readable medium of claim 45, further comprising:
receiving a plurality of packets from a wireless device, wherein
determining the size of the bitmap field is based at least in part on a lowest
sequence number of the received plurality of packets that are unacknowledged
by the apparatus and a largest sequence number of correctly received packets.

49. The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein the BA frame
further comprises at least one of a BA acknowledgment (ACK) policy field, a multiple
traffic identifier (TID) field, a compressed bitmap field, a group cast retries (GCR) field,
or a BA control field, wherein the indication of the determined size comprises a value in
at least one of the multiple TID field, the compressed bitmap field, the GCR field, or the
BA control field.

50. The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein the BA frame
further comprises a per traffic identifier (TID) field and the indication of the determined
size of the bitmap field comprises a value in the per TID field.

51. The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein the BA frame
further comprises a BA control field, and wherein the indication of the determined size
of the bitmap field is a value in the BA control field.

52. The computer-readable medium of claim 51, wherein the BA control
field comprises a reserved field, and wherein the indication of the determined size of the
bitmap field is a value in the reserved field.

53. The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein the BA frame
comprises a duration / identifier (ID) field, and wherein the indication of the determined
size of the bitmap field is a value in the duration / ID field.

54. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein the
BA frame further comprises two or more block acknowledgment (BA) information
fields, said two or more BA information fields each including a BA bitmap subfield,
wherein determining the size of the bitmap field comprises summing the BA bitmap
subfields in each of the two or more BA information fields.

55. The computer-readable medium of claim 54, wherein each of the two or more BA information fields comprises a traffic identifier (TID) value field, the TID value field indicating a same value for each of the two or more BA information fields.

56. The computer-readable medium of claim 54, wherein each of the two or more BA information fields comprises a starting sequence number field, wherein determining the size of the bitmap field is based at least in part on the starting sequence number field in each of the two or more BA information fields.

57. The computer-readable medium of claim 54, wherein the two or more BA information fields comprise:

a first BA information field with a first starting sequence number; and

a second BA information field with a second starting sequence number, wherein determining the size of the bitmap field comprises determining values of bits between the first starting sequence number and the second starting sequence number.

58. The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein a bit of the bitmap field acknowledges a number of packets correctly received by the apparatus.

59. The computer-readable medium of claim 58, wherein determining the size of the bitmap field is based at least in part on the number of packets correctly received by the apparatus.

60. The computer-readable medium of claim 58, wherein generating the BA frame comprises inserting an indication of the number of packets correctly received by the apparatus in a field of the BA frame.

61. The computer-readable medium of claim 60, wherein the BA frame comprises a BA acknowledgment (ACK) policy field, a multiple traffic identifier (TID) field, a compressed bitmap field, a group cast retries (GCR) field, and a BA control field, wherein the indication of the number of packets correctly received comprises a combination of values in the multiple TID field, the compressed bitmap field, the GCR field, and the BA control field.

62. The computer-readable medium of claim 47, wherein the negotiation comprises an add block acknowledgement (ADDBA) negotiation between the apparatus and the wireless device.

63. The computer-readable medium of claim 45, further comprising receiving an aggregated medium access control (MAC) data unit (A-MPDU) comprising a requested size of the bitmap field, wherein determining the size of the bitmap field is based at least in part on the requested size.

64. The computer-readable medium of claim 45, further comprising receiving a media access control protocol data unit (MPDU) comprising a power save multipoll (PSMP) acknowledgment (ACK) policy field, wherein determining the size of the bitmap field is based at least in part on a value of the PSMP ACK policy field.

65. The computer-readable medium of claim 45, further comprising receiving a packet from a wireless device comprising a medium access control (MAC) header portion comprising a requested size of the bitmap field, wherein determining the size of the bitmap field is based at least in part on the requested size.

66. The computer-readable medium of claim 65, wherein the requested size is based at least in part on a transmission data rate of the packet received.

67. An apparatus for wireless communication, comprising:

means for receiving, by an apparatus, an indication of block acknowledgement (BA) parameters;

means for determining, by the apparatus, a size of a bitmap field based on the indication of the BA parameters;

means for generating, by the apparatus, a block acknowledgement (BA) frame comprising the bitmap field and an indication of the determined size of the bitmap field; and

means for outputting the BA frame for transmission.

68. The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the indication of the BA parameters comprises at least one of a maximum buffer size or a plurality of allowed lengths of the bitmap field.

69. The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the BA parameters are received from a wireless device, and wherein the means for determining the size of the bitmap field comprises at least in part negotiating the BA parameters with the wireless device.

70. The apparatus of claim 67, further comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of packets from a wireless device, wherein the means for determining the size of the bitmap field is based at least in part on a lowest sequence number of the received plurality of packets that are unacknowledged by the apparatus and a largest sequence number of correctly received packets.

71. The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the BA frame further comprises at least one of a BA acknowledgment (ACK) policy field, a multiple traffic identifier (TID) field, a compressed bitmap field, a group cast retries (GCR) field, or a BA control field, wherein the indication of the determined size comprises a value in at least one of the multiple TID field, the compressed bitmap field, the GCR field, or the BA control field.

72. The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the BA frame further comprises a per traffic identifier (TID) field and the indication of the determined size of the bitmap field comprises a value in the per TID field.

73. The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the BA frame further comprises a BA control field, and wherein the indication of the determined size of the bitmap field is a value in the BA control field.

74. The apparatus of claim 73, wherein the BA control field comprises a reserved field, and wherein the indication of the determined size of the bitmap field is a value in the reserved field.

75. The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the BA frame further comprises a duration / identifier (ID) field, and wherein the indication of the determined size of the bitmap field is a value in the duration / ID field.

76. The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the BA frame further comprises two or more block acknowledgment (BA) information fields, said two or more BA information fields each including a BA bitmap subfield, wherein determining the size of the bitmap field comprises summing the BA bitmap subfields in each of the two or more BA information fields.

77. The apparatus of Claim 76, wherein each of the two or more BA information fields comprises a traffic identifier (TID) value field, the TID value field indicating a same value for each of the two or more BA information fields.

78. The apparatus of Claim 76, wherein each of the two or more BA information fields comprises a starting sequence number field, wherein determining the size of the bitmap field is based at least in part on the starting sequence number field in each of the two or more BA information fields.

79. The apparatus of claim 76, wherein the two or more BA information fields comprise:

a first BA information field with a first starting sequence number; and
style="padding-left: 40px;">a second BA information field with a second starting sequence number, wherein determining the size of the bitmap field comprises determining values of bits between the first starting sequence number and the second starting sequence number.

80. The apparatus of claim 67, wherein a bit of the bitmap field acknowledges a number of packets correctly received by the apparatus.

81. The apparatus of claim 80, wherein the means for determining the size of the bitmap field is based at least in part on the number of packets correctly received by the apparatus.

82. The apparatus claim 80, wherein the means for generating the BA frame comprises inserting an indication of the number of packets correctly received by the apparatus in a field of the BA frame.

83. The apparatus of claim 82, wherein the BA frame comprises a BA acknowledgment (ACK) policy field, a multiple traffic identifier (TID) field, a compressed bitmap field, a group cast retries (GCR) field, and a BA control field, wherein the indication of the number of packets correctly received comprises a combination of values in the multiple TID field, the compressed bitmap field, the GCR field, and the BA control field.

84. The apparatus of claim 69, wherein the means for negotiation comprises an add block acknowledgement (ADDBA) negotiation between the apparatus and the wireless device.

85. The apparatus of claim 67, further comprising means for receiving an aggregated medium access control (MAC) data unit (A-MPDU) comprising a requested size of the bitmap field, wherein the means for determining the size of the bitmap field is based at least in part on the requested size.

86. The apparatus of claim 67, further comprising means for receiving a media access control protocol data unit (MPDU) comprising a power save multipoll (PSMP) acknowledgment (ACK) policy field, wherein the means for determining the size of the bitmap field is based at least in part on a value of the PSMP ACK policy field.

87. The apparatus of claim 67, further comprising means for receiving a packet from a wireless device comprising a medium access control (MAC) header portion comprising a requested size of the bitmap field, wherein the means for determining the size of the bitmap field is based at least in part on the requested size.

88. The apparatus of claim 87, wherein the requested size is based at least in part on a transmission data rate of the packet received.

89. A wireless node for wireless communication, comprising:
at least one antenna;

an interface configured to receive an indication of block acknowledgment (BA) parameters;

a processing system configured to:

determine a size of a bitmap field based at least in part on the indication of the BA parameters,

generate a BA frame comprising the bitmap field and an indication of the determined size of the bitmap field; and

wherein the interface is further configured to output the BA frame for transmission to another wireless node via the at least one antenna.

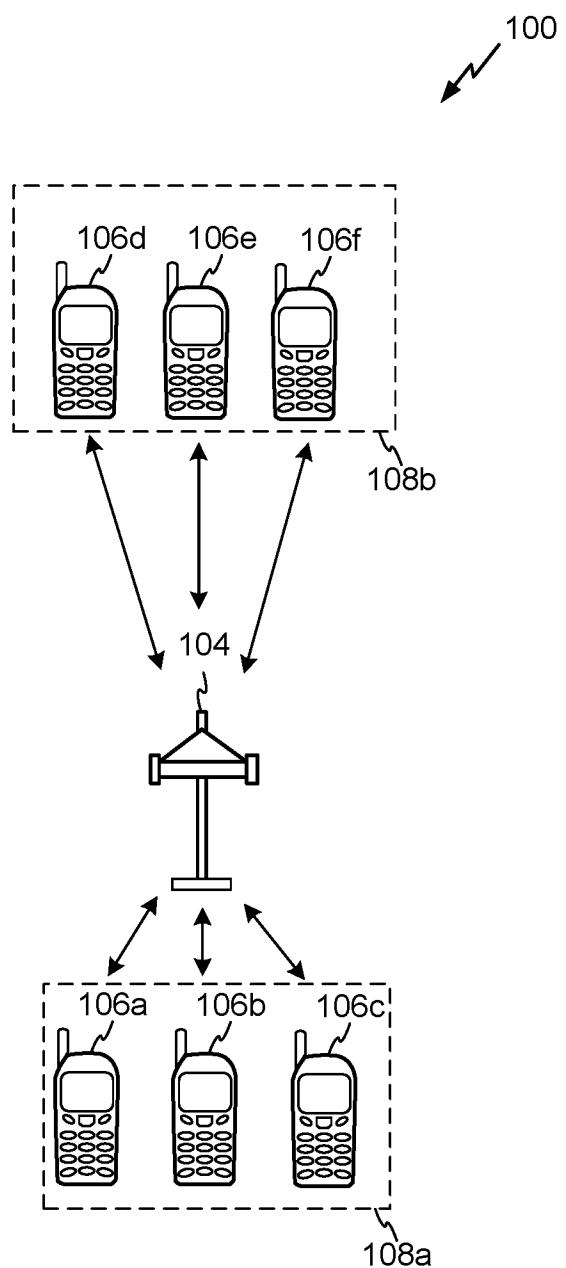
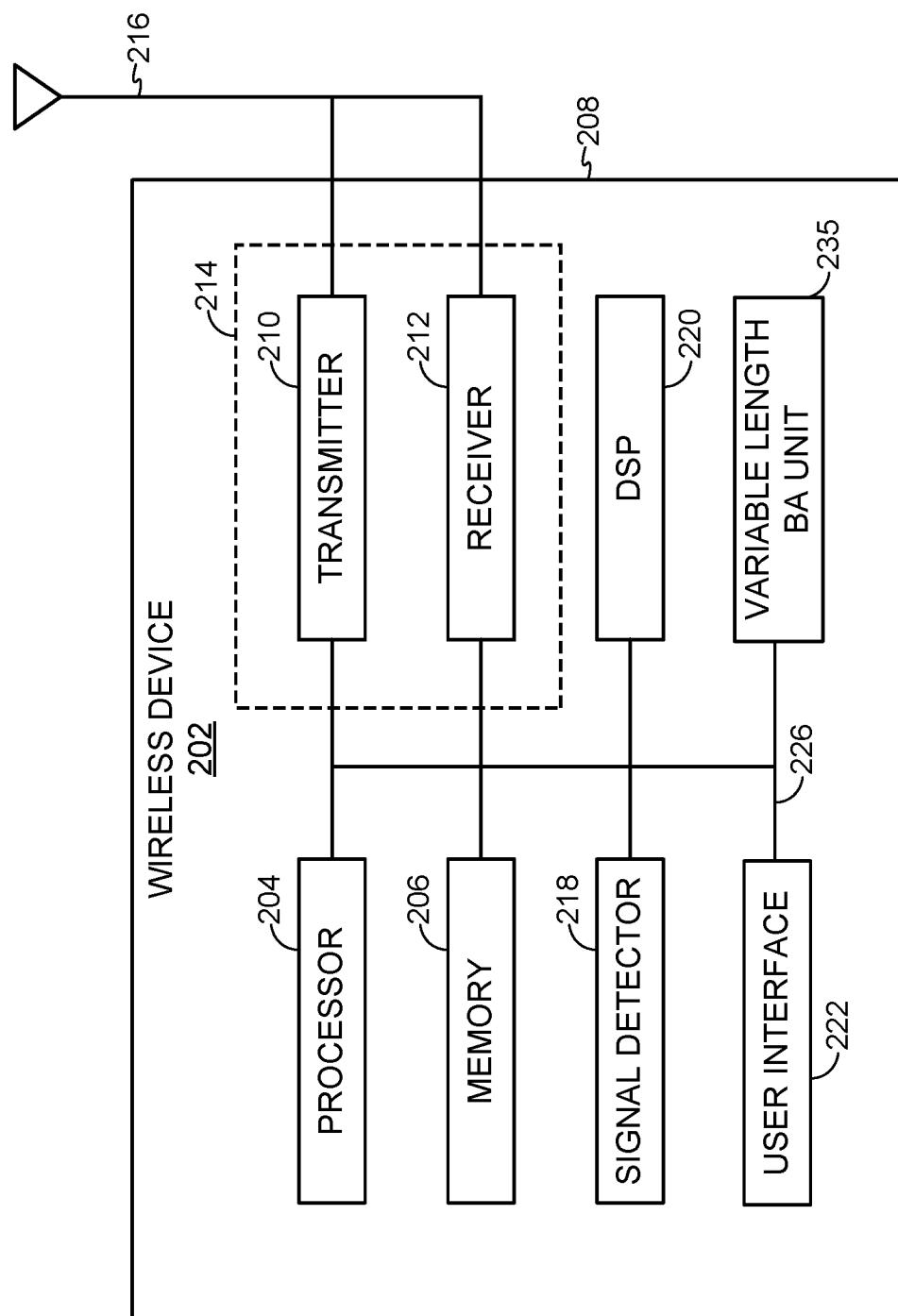
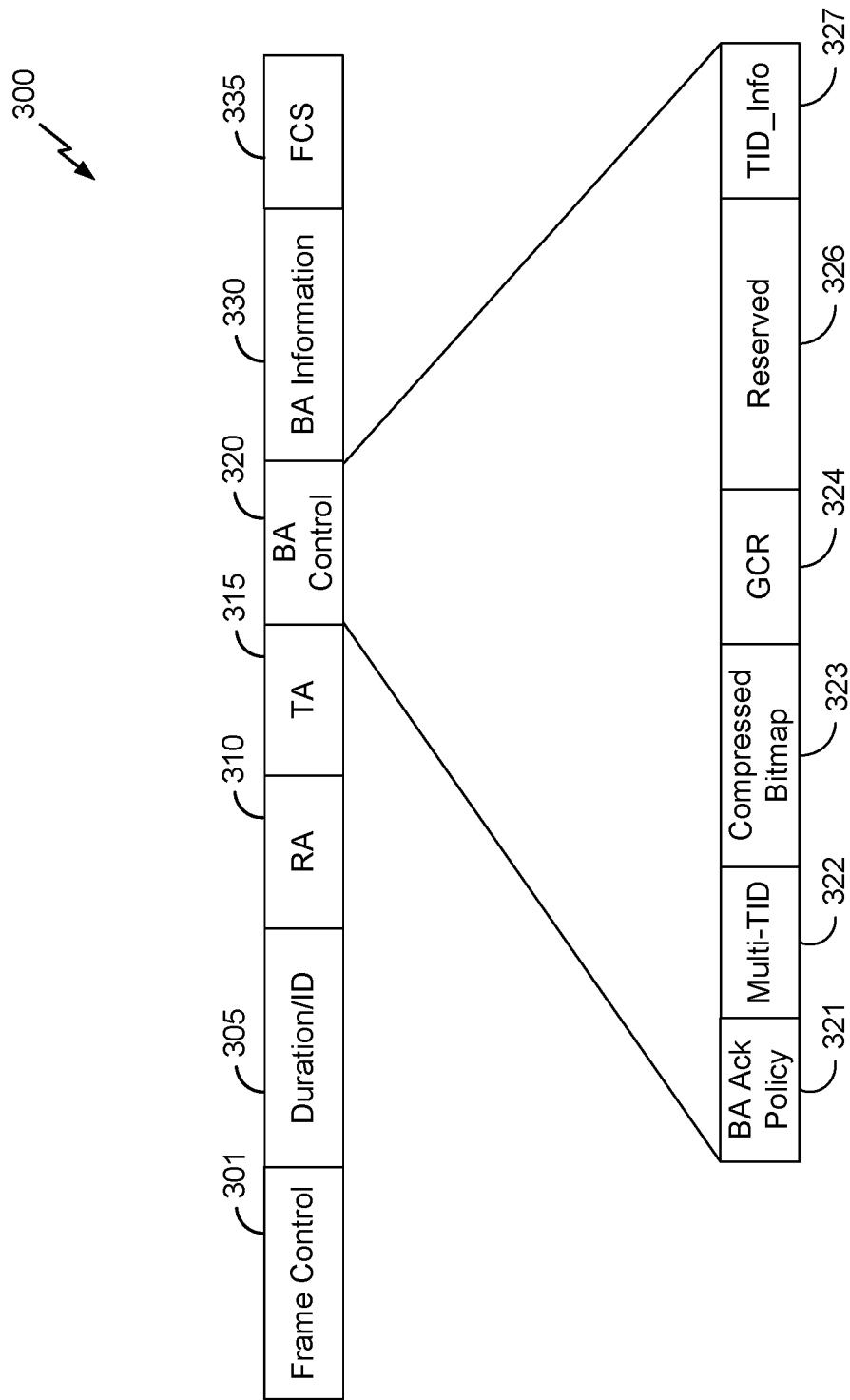


FIG. 1

**FIG. 2**

**FIG. 3**

4/6

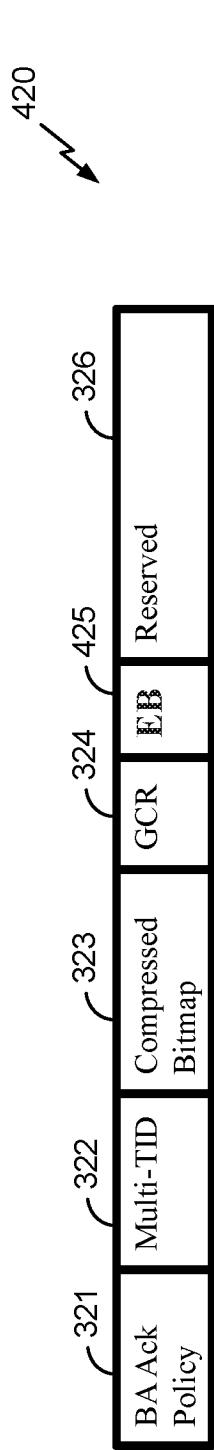


FIG. 4A

Table 8-24—BlockAck frame variant encoding

Multi-TID subfield value	Compressed Bitmap subfield value	GCR subfield value	BlockAck frame variant
0	0	0	Basic BlockAck
0	1	0	Compressed BlockAck
1	0	0	Extended Compressed BlockAck
1	1	0	Multi-TID BlockAck
0	0	1	Reserved
0	1	1	GCR BlockAck
1	0	1	Reserved
1	1	1	Reserved

FIG. 4B

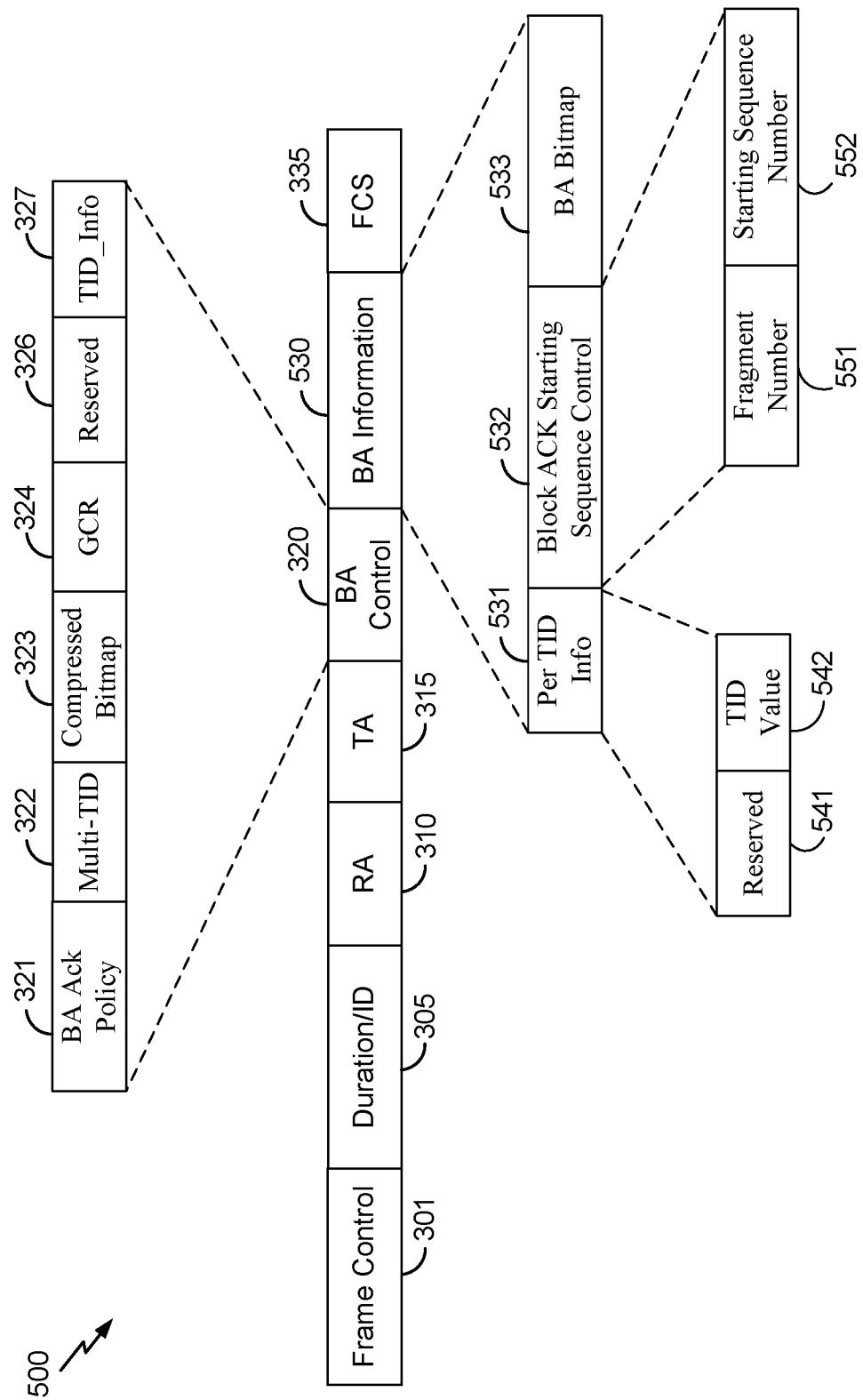
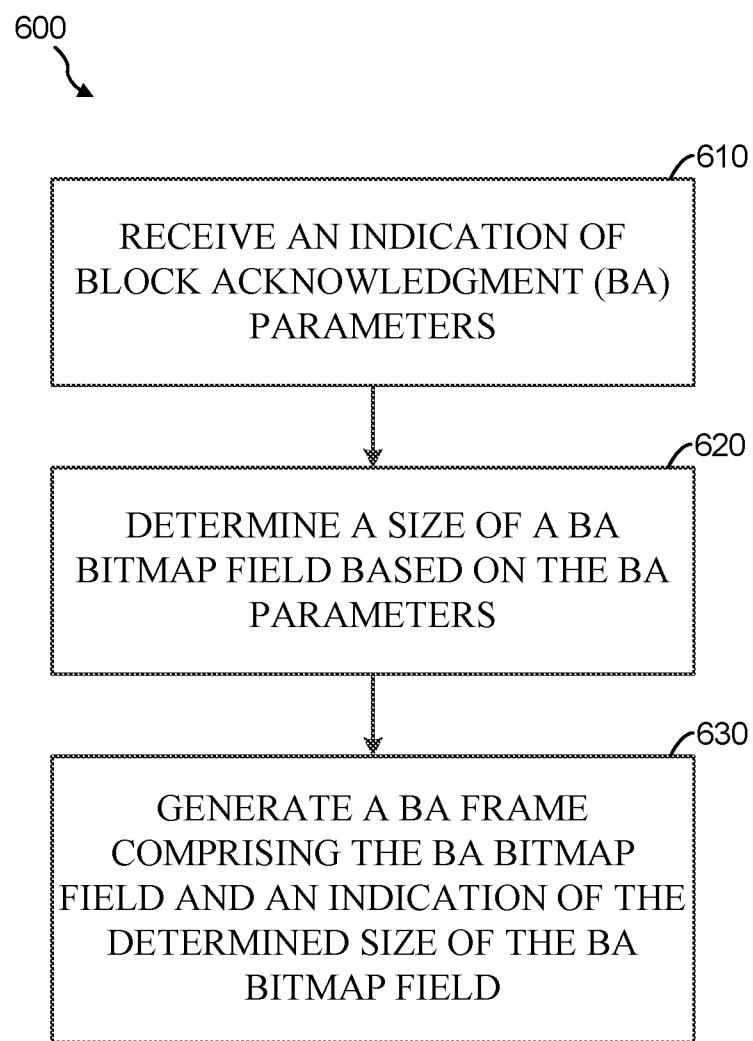


FIG. 5

**FIG. 6**

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2017/012646

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. H04L1/16
ADD.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
H04L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2015/092697 A1 (YEOW WAI LEONG [SG] ET AL) 2 April 2015 (2015-04-02)	1-13, 18-35, 40-57, 62-79, 84-89
Y	paragraph [0064] - paragraph [0066] paragraph [0090] paragraph [0096] - paragraph [0097] paragraph [0100] - paragraph [0106] figures 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 ----- -/--	14-17, 36-39, 58-61, 80-83

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
 "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
 "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
 "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
 "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
31 March 2017	10/04/2017
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3046	Authorized officer Christopoulou, K

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2017/012646

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>WO 2006/015252 A1 (NOKIA CORP [FI]; NOKIA INC [US]; KAKANI NAVEEN KUMAR [US]; SREEMANTHUL) 9 February 2006 (2006-02-09)</p> <p>page 6, line 9 - line 11 page 10, line 16 - line 37 page 12, line 14 - page 13, line 19 page 15, line 16 - line 21 figures 3, 4A, 4B, 7 -----</p>	1,4-10, 12,14, 23, 26-32, 34,36, 45, 48-54, 56,58, 67, 70-76, 78,80,89
Y	<p>EP 2 612 462 A1 (QUALCOMM INC [US]) 10 July 2013 (2013-07-10)</p> <p>paragraphs [0035] - [0039]; figure 4 -----</p>	14-17, 36-39, 58-61, 80-83
2		

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2017/012646

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 2015092697	A1 02-04-2015	CN 104541568 A		22-04-2015
		SG 11201407424T A		30-12-2014
		US 2015092697 A1		02-04-2015
		WO 2013169212 A1		14-11-2013
<hr/>				
WO 2006015252	A1 09-02-2006	AU 2005267791 A1		09-02-2006
		EP 1779577 A1		02-05-2007
		JP 2008508812 A		21-03-2008
		KR 20070083516 A		24-08-2007
		US 2006034274 A1		16-02-2006
		WO 2006015252 A1		09-02-2006
<hr/>				
EP 2612462	A1 10-07-2013	CN 103081394 A		01-05-2013
		EP 2612462 A1		10-07-2013
		JP 5784730 B2		24-09-2015
		JP 2013542632 A		21-11-2013
		KR 20130052007 A		21-05-2013
		US 2012207087 A1		16-08-2012
		WO 2012030541 A1		08-03-2012
<hr/>				