



- (51) **International Patent Classification:**
H04W 52/34 (2009.01)
- (21) **International Application Number:**
PCT/EP2013/076903
- (22) **International Filing Date:**
17 December 2013 (17.12.2013)
- (25) **Filing Language:** English
- (26) **Publication Language:** English
- (30) **Priority Data:**
13/733,220 3 January 2013 (03.01.2013) US
- (71) **Applicant:** NOKIA SOLUTIONS AND NETWORKS OY [FI/FI]; Karaportti 3, FI-02610 Espoo (FI).
- (72) **Inventors:** SANKARAN, Chandrasekar; 900 West Rand Road, #C204, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004 (US). FLEMING, Philip; 309 Prince Edward Road, Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137 (US). VISOTSKY, Eugene; 421 Raymond Road, Buffalo Grove, Illinois 60089 (US). HONIG, Michael; 2716 Broadway Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60201 (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, 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, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, 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.

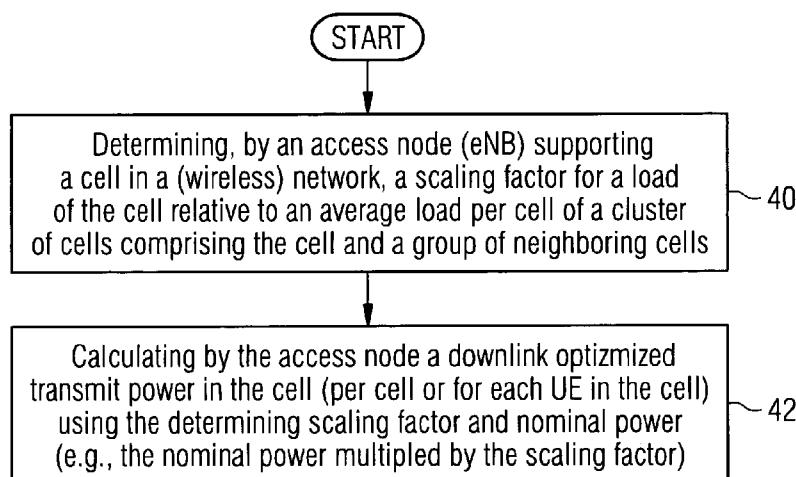
- (84) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, 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))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

(54) **Title:** DOWNLINK POWER CONTROL USING RELATIVE LOAD

FIG 4



(57) **Abstract:** The specification and drawings present a new method, apparatus and software related product (e.g., a computer readable memory) for a power control (e.g., at least for DL power control) in a cell using a concept of a relative load in a network such as a wireless network. The relative load may be a ratio of cell's own load relative to an average load in a cluster of neighboring cells for scaling a nominal power value (or a function of the power value). The load can be measured, for example, either as a number of UEs in the cell, a RB utilization in the cell, a DL information traffic in the cell, or any other metric that's representative of the load in the cell. The resulting computed power for a DL signaling can be either on a per cell basis or on a per UE basis.



Description**Title****DOWNLINK POWER CONTROL USING RELATIVE LOAD****5 Technical Field**

The exemplary and non-limiting embodiments of this invention relate generally to wireless communications and more specifically to a downlink power control in a cell using a concept of a relative load.

10 Background Art

This section is intended to provide a background or context to the invention that is recited in the claims. The description herein may include concepts that could be pursued, but are not necessarily ones that have been previously conceived, implemented or described. Therefore, unless otherwise indicated herein, what is described in this section is not prior art to the description and claims in this application and is not admitted to be prior art by inclusion in this section.

The following abbreviations that may be found in the specification and/or the drawing figures are defined as follows:

20	3GPP	third generation partnership project
	BW	bandwidth
	CINR	carrier to interference and noise ratio
	CQI	channel quality indicator
	CRS	common reference signal
25	DL	downlink
	E-UTRA	evolved universal terrestrial radio access
	eNB or eNodeB	evolved node B /base station in an E-UTRAN system
	E-UTRAN	evolved UTRAN (LTE)
	FFR	fractional frequency reuse
30	FSS	frequency selective scheduler
	FTP	file transfer protocol
	HARQ	hybrid automatic repeat request
	ICIC	inter cell interference co-ordination
	LTE	long term evolution
35	LTE-A	long term evolution advanced

	MIMO	multiple input multiple output
	MMSE	minimum MSE
	MRC	maximum ratio combining
	MSE	mean squared error
5	NGMN	next generation mobile networks
	PF	proportional fair
	QAM	quadrature amplitude modulation
	RAN	radio access network
	RB	resource block
10	RRC	radio resource controller
	Rx	receiver
	RAT	radio access technology
	SB	subband
	TU	typical urban
15	Tx	transmitter
	UE	user equipment (e.g. mobile terminal)
	UL	uplink
	UTRAN	universal terrestrial radio access network
	WB	wideband
20	PCN	power control normalized
	PCLN	power control log normalized

In LTE, downlink interference control is a major topic of interest and several schemes have been proposed to mitigate interference. These schemes are typically referred to as

25 Fractional Frequency Reuse (FFR)/Inter cell Interference Coordination (ICIC) schemes. They all essentially do some form of downlink power control. In these schemes a cell sets aside a portion of its bandwidth for being transmitted at a low power level (including zero power), so that neighboring cells can schedule their cell edge UEs in these portions to mitigate interference issues. The problem with these approaches is that they are ad-hoc static

30 approaches where there is no information sharing between the cells that could potentially lead to better utilization of system resources (and/or optimization of a global utility metric).

Summary:

According to a first embodiment, a method, comprising: determining, by an access

35 node supporting a cell in a network, a scaling factor for a load of the cell relative to an average

load per cell of a cluster of cells comprising the cell and a group of neighboring cells; and calculating by the access node an optimized transmit power at least in downlink in the cell using the determined scaling factor.

According to a second embodiment, an apparatus comprising: at least one processor
5 and a memory storing a set of computer instructions, in which the processor and the memory storing the computer instructions are configured to cause the apparatus, supporting a cell in a network, to: determine a scaling factor for a load of the cell relative to an average load per cell of a cluster of cells comprising the cell and a group of neighboring cells; and calculate by the access node an optimized transmit power at least in downlink in the cell using the determined
10 scaling factor.

According to a third embodiment, a computer program product comprising a non-transitory computer readable medium bearing computer program code embodied herein for use with a computer, the computer program code comprising: code for determining, by an access node supporting a cell in a network, a scaling factor for a load of the cell relative to an
15 average load per cell of a cluster of cells comprising the cell and a group of neighboring cells; and code for calculating by the access node an optimized transmit power at least in downlink in the cell using the determined scaling factor.

Brief Description of the Drawings:

20 For a better understanding of the nature and objects of the present invention, reference is made to the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the following drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a diagram demonstrating simulation results for a 2nd percentile throughput gain as a function of number of UEs per cell for a bursty traffic model according to exemplary
25 embodiments of the invention;

Figure 2 is a diagram demonstrating simulation results for a 5th percentile throughput gain as a function of a number of UEs per cell for a bursty traffic model according to exemplary embodiments of the;

Figure 3 is a diagram demonstrating simulation results for a 10th percentile throughput
30 gain as a function of number of UEs per cell for a bursty traffic model according to exemplary embodiments of the invention;

Figure 4 is a flow chart demonstrating implementation of exemplary embodiments of the invention by an eNB (access node); and

Figure 5 is a block diagram of wireless devices for practicing exemplary embodiments
35 of the invention.

Detailed Description

A new method, apparatus, and software related product (e.g., a computer readable memory) are presented for a power control (e.g., at least for DL power control) in a cell using a concept of a relative load in a network such as a wireless network to scale a nominal power value (or a function of the power value, e.g., $\log(\text{power})$). The relative load may be a ratio of cell's own load relative to an average load in a cluster of neighboring cells. The load can be measured, for example, either as a number of UEs in the cell, a RB utilization in the cell, a DL information traffic in the cell, or any other metric that is representative of a cell load. The resulting computed power for a DL signaling can be either on a per cell basis or on a per UE basis. The described approach may result in a heavily loaded cell using more power than a lightly loaded neighboring cell. The lightly loaded neighbor thus may cause lower interference to UEs in the heavily loaded cell. Though the UEs in the lightly loaded cell may see higher interference/lower CINR, it can be compensated by the fact that each of these UEs may have access to more bandwidth.

It is noted that for the purposes of this invention, the cluster of neighboring cells may be defined as a group of neighboring cells physically/geographically sharing a border with a cell in the cluster. However, in a broader sense the cluster may be defined as an extended group of neighboring cells not only physically sharing the border with that cell but also those cells which may not geographically share the border with the cell but cause a measurable power interference with UEs in the cell.

According to an embodiment of the invention, an access node/network element (e.g., eNB) supporting a cell, in a network such as wireless LTE network, may determine a scaling factor using the load of the cell relative to an average load per cell of a cluster of cells comprising the cell and a group of neighboring cells of the cell. Then, using the determined scaling factor, the access node may calculate a downlink optimized transmit power in the cell using the determined scaling factor. The determining of the scaling factor and calculating of the downlink optimized transmit power (for UEs) may be performed by the access node at configurable time intervals.

Moreover, the optimized transmit power (or a function of the power, e.g., $\log()$) may be equal to a nominal power (or a function of the nominal power, e.g., $\log()$) multiplied by the scaling factor. The nominal power may be a configurable quantity or a system parameter. In one scenario, the scaling factor may be determined as a ratio of the average number of UEs in the cell and the average number of UEs in the cluster of cells. In another scenario, the scaling factor may be determined as a ratio of the average number of resource blocks used for communication in the cell and the average number of resource blocks used for communication

in the cluster of cells. In yet another scenario, the scaling factor may be determined as a ratio of an average volume of DL information traffic used in the cell and the average volume of DL information traffic in the cluster of cells.

5 In a further embodiment, the optimized transmit power may be the result of solving a global utility optimization problem of the form:

$$\text{Maximize } \sum_{i=1}^{M_s} \sum_{u=1}^{N_i} \log(T_u) \Leftrightarrow \text{Maximize } \sum_{i=1}^{M_s} \sum_{u=1}^{N_i} \lambda_{u,i} \frac{SE_u(P_i)}{T_u}$$

where M_s is a total number of cells in system, N_i is a total number of UEs in cell i , $\lambda_{u,i}$ is a fraction of bandwidth assigned to UE u in cell i , $SE_u(P_i)$ is a spectral efficiency of UE u when
 10 cell i transmits at P_i and T_u is a throughput of the UE u . The above maximization problem can be decomposed in each cell (i) as:

$$\max_{0 \leq P_i \leq P_{\max}, \lambda_{u,i}} U(i) = \left[\sum_{u=1}^{N_i} \lambda_{u,i} \times \frac{SE_u(P_i)}{T_u} + \underbrace{\sum_{k \neq i}^{M_s} \sum_{v=1}^{N_k} \lambda_{v,k} \times \frac{SE_v(P_i)}{T_v}}_{\text{other sectors utility}} \right] \quad (1).$$

Cell i then can determine the optimal power P_i by solving:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial P_i} U(i) = 0 \quad (2).$$

The other sectors utility in the above Equation 1 represents a penalty term and reflects the effect of interference in neighboring cells due to cell i transmitting at power P_i . This penalty term can be represented as: $P_i * K/F$, where K is a constant and F is the scaling factor
 20 determined as the ratio of average load in cell i to the average load in the cluster of cells - thus a heavily loaded cell will pay a lower penalty compared to a lightly loaded cell (and hence won't power down as much as the lightly loaded cell). Using this representation for the penalty term and solving equation (2) will lead to an optimal transmit power per cell per UE of the form:

$$P_{i,u}^* = - \left(\frac{r_u \times \overline{CQI_u} + (\frac{K}{F}) T_u}{T_u \times (\frac{K}{F}) \overline{CQI_u}} \right) \quad (3),$$

where r_u is a MIMO rank of a UE u , $\overline{CQI_u}$ is a CQI for the UE u associated with the rank
 30 r_u , $\overline{CQI_u}$ is a CQI associated with the rank r_u if the cell i was to use a unit power (i.e., $P_i = 1$)

According to one embodiment, the DL optimized transmit power per cell (the same power may be used for all UEs in the cell) can be calculated as follows:

$$P_i = P_{nom} \times F \quad (4),$$

where F is a scaling factor and P_{nom} is a nominal power, a configured quantity or a system parameter (e.g., P_{nom} can be set based on cell coverage requirements). For example, as described herein the scaling factor F can be determined as a ratio:

$$F = N_i / N_{ave} \quad (5),$$

where N_i is the average number of UEs per cell i and N_{ave} is an average number of UEs (or active UEs) per cell in a cluster of cells which comprises the cell i and its neighboring cells.

The cluster may comprise a group of local neighbor cells (e.g., 6 neighboring cells). N_{ave} can be obtained by the eNB of the one cell from a Radio Resource Controller (RRC) or by exchange of load information among neighboring cells through the X2 interface. Alternatively, as described herein, the scaling factor F may be determined as a similar ratio for RB utilization in the cell vs. the cluster of neighboring cells, or for a DL information traffic in the cell vs. the cluster of neighboring cells.

The power terms in Equation (4) can be replaced with a function of the power terms (preferably monotonic), e.g., as follows:

$$\log[P_i] = \log[P_{nom}] \times F \quad (6).$$

Figures 1-3 demonstrate simulation results for DL power mitigation/control according to exemplary embodiments of the invention under the following simulation assumptions:

- Simulation configuration: NGMN case 1 (500m site-site, 40W total power);
- Channel model and speed: TU6, 3 km/hr;
- Uncorrelated antennas: 2 Tx / 2 Rx, 2D antenna pattern;
- Transmit scheme: TM4;
- Bandwidth: 10 MHz FDD (11 data symbols per DL sub-frame);
- Traffic models: Bursty (3GPP TR 36.814: FTP traffic mode-1);
- Simulation setup (wraparound): 19 sites, 57 cells, UEs are dropped randomly in simulation space, 12 drops;
- Proportional fair (PF) scheduler with frequency selective scheduler (FSS) - assign RB to UE that maximizes PF metric for RB using:
 - periodic mode 2-2 (best-M reporting),
 - wideband (WB) CQI for non-reported SBs,
 - when UE switches rank, get CQI report (corresponding to new rank) for all SBs;
- Receiver: MRC/MMSE;
- Link adaptation with 20% target error rate on 1st HARQ attempt;

- CQI feedback period is 10 msec;

Figure 1 shows simulation results for a 2nd percentile throughput gain (compared to a baseline that does not do power control) as a function of number of UEs per cell for one embodiment using PCLN (which uses the log function of the power terms, e.g., based on a normalized version of Equation 6), and PCN (which does not use any function of the power terms, e.g., based on a normalized version of Equation 4).

Figures 2 and 3 show simulation results for a 5th and 10th percentile throughput gains (compared to a baseline that does not do power control) as a function of number of UEs per cell for the proposed approaches PCLN.

It is seen from Figure 1-3 that the proposed scheme makes performance very robust and provide a significant improvement (25+% in some cases) over conventional techniques (identified as BASE in the figures) which do not use the relative load based power control schemes, as described herein.

Figure 4 shows an exemplary flow chart demonstrating implementation of embodiments of the invention by an access node (e.g., eNB). It is noted that the order of steps shown in Figure 4 is not absolutely required, so in principle, the various steps may be performed out of the illustrated order. Also certain steps may be skipped, different steps may be added or substituted, or selected steps or groups of steps may be performed in a separate application.

In a method according to the exemplary embodiment shown in Figure 4, in a first step **40**, the eNB (access node) supporting a cell in a (wireless) network, determines a scaling factor for a load of the cell relative to an average load per cell of a cluster of cells comprising the cell and a group of neighboring cells (which can be obtained from the RRC or through exchange of information between cells over the X2 interface).

In a next step **42**, the eNB calculates a downlink optimized transmit power (or a function of the power such as log function of power) in the cell (per cell or for each UE in the cell as described herein) using the determined scaling factor and the nominal power (e.g., the nominal power (or a function of the nominal power) is multiplied by the scaling factor).

Figure 5 shows an example of a block diagram demonstrating LTE devices including an access node (e.g., eNB) **80** comprised in a network **100**, and UEs **82** and **84** communicating with the eNB **80**, according to an embodiment of the invention. Figure 5 is a simplified block diagram of various electronic devices that are suitable for practicing the exemplary embodiments of this invention, and a specific manner in which components of an electronic device are configured to cause that electronic device to operate.

The eNB **80** may comprise, e.g., at least one transmitter **80a** at least one receiver **80b**, at least one processor **80c** at least one memory **80d** and a DL transmit power determining application module **80e**. The transmitter **80a** and the receiver **80b** may be configured to provide a wireless communication with the UEs **82** and **84** (and others not shown in Figure 5), e.g., through corresponding links **81a** and **81b** (e.g., to sent DL signals using determined power according to the embodiments described herein). Also the device **80** can communicate using a wireless or wired link **85** with other neighboring cells (e.g., through a wired X2 interface) as described herein. The transmitter **80a** and the receiver **80b** may be generally means for transmitting/receiving and may be implemented as a transceiver, or a structural equivalence thereof. It is further noted that the same requirements and considerations are applied to transmitters and receivers of the UEs **82** and **84**.

Various embodiments of the at least one memory **80d** (e.g., computer readable memory) may include any data storage technology type which is suitable to the local technical environment, including but not limited to semiconductor based memory devices, magnetic memory devices and systems, optical memory devices and systems, fixed memory, removable memory, disc memory, flash memory, DRAM, SRAM, EEPROM and the like. Various embodiments of the processor **80c** include but are not limited to general purpose computers, special purpose computers, microprocessors, digital signal processors (DSPs) and multi-core processors. Similar embodiments are applicable to memories and processors in other devices **82** and **84** shown in Figure 5.

The a DL transmit power determining application module **80e** may provide various instructions for performing steps **40-44** shown in Figure 4. The module **80e** may be implemented as an application computer program stored in the memory **80d**, but in general it may be implemented as software, firmware and/or hardware module or a combination thereof. In particular, in the case of software or firmware, one embodiment may be implemented using a software related product such as a computer readable memory (e.g., non-transitory computer readable memory), computer readable medium or a computer readable storage structure comprising computer readable instructions (e.g., program instructions) using a computer program code (i.e., the software or firmware) thereon to be executed by a computer processor. Furthermore, the module **80e** may be implemented as a separate block or may be combined with any other module/block of the device **80**, or it may be split into several blocks according to their functionality.

The devices **82** and **84** may have similar components as the eNB **80**, as shown in Figure 5, so that the above discussion about components of the eNB **80** is fully applicable to the components of the UEs **82** and **84**.

It is noted that various non-limiting embodiments described herein may be used separately, combined or selectively combined for specific applications.

Further, some of the various features of the above non-limiting embodiments may be used to advantage without the corresponding use of other described features. The foregoing
5 description should therefore be considered as merely illustrative of the principles, teachings and exemplary embodiments of this invention, and not in limitation thereof.

It is to be understood that the above-described arrangements are only illustrative of the application of the principles of the present invention. Numerous modifications and alternative
10 arrangements may be devised by those skilled in the art without departing from the scope of the invention, and the appended claims are intended to cover such modifications and arrangements.

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:
determining, by an access node supporting a cell in a network, a scaling factor for a load of the cell relative to an average load per cell of a cluster of cells comprising the cell and a group of neighboring cells; and
calculating by the access node an optimized transmit power at least in downlink in the cell using the determined scaling factor.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the network is a wireless network.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein determining of the scaling factor and calculating of the downlink optimized transmit power is performed by the access node at configurable time intervals.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the access node is an eNB.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the scaling factor is determined as a ratio of an average number of user equipments in the cell and the average number of user equipments in the cluster of cells.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the scaling factor is determined as a ratio of an average number of resource blocks used for communication in the cell and the number of resource blocks used for communication in the cluster of cells.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the scaling factor is determined as a ratio of an average volume of a downlink information traffic used in the cell and the average volume of a downlink information traffic in the cluster of cells.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the optimized transmit power equals a nominal power multiplied by the scaling factor.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein a function of the optimized transmit power equals a function of the nominal power multiplied by the scaling factor.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the function of the optimized transmit power is a logarithmic function of the optimized transmit power and the function of the nominal power is the logarithmic function of the nominal power.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein a penalty term in a utility maximization problem equals the optimized transmit power multiplied by a constant and divided by a scaling factor.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein the calculated optimized transmit power is different for different user equipments in the cell.
13. An apparatus comprising:
 - at least one processor and a memory storing a set of computer instructions, in which the processor and the memory storing the computer instructions are configured to cause the apparatus, supporting a cell in a network, to:
 - determine a scaling factor for a load of the cell relative to an average load per cell of a cluster of cells comprising the cell and a group of neighboring cells; and
 - calculate by the access node an optimized transmit power at least in downlink in the cell using the determined scaling factor.
14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the apparatus comprises an eNB.
15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the scaling factor is determined as one of:
 - a ratio of an average number of user equipments in the cell and the average number of user equipments in the cluster of cells,
 - a ratio of an average number of resource blocks used for communication in the cell and the average number of resource blocks in the cluster of cells, and
 - a ratio of an average volume of a downlink information traffic used in the cell and the average volume of a downlink information traffic used in the cluster of cells.
16. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the optimized transmit power equals a nominal power multiplied by the scaling factor.

17. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein a function of the optimized transmit power equals a function of the nominal power multiplied by the scaling factor.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the function of the optimized transmit power is a logarithmic function of the optimized transmit power and the function of the nominal power is the logarithmic function of the nominal power.

19. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the calculated optimized transmit power is different for different user equipments in the cell.

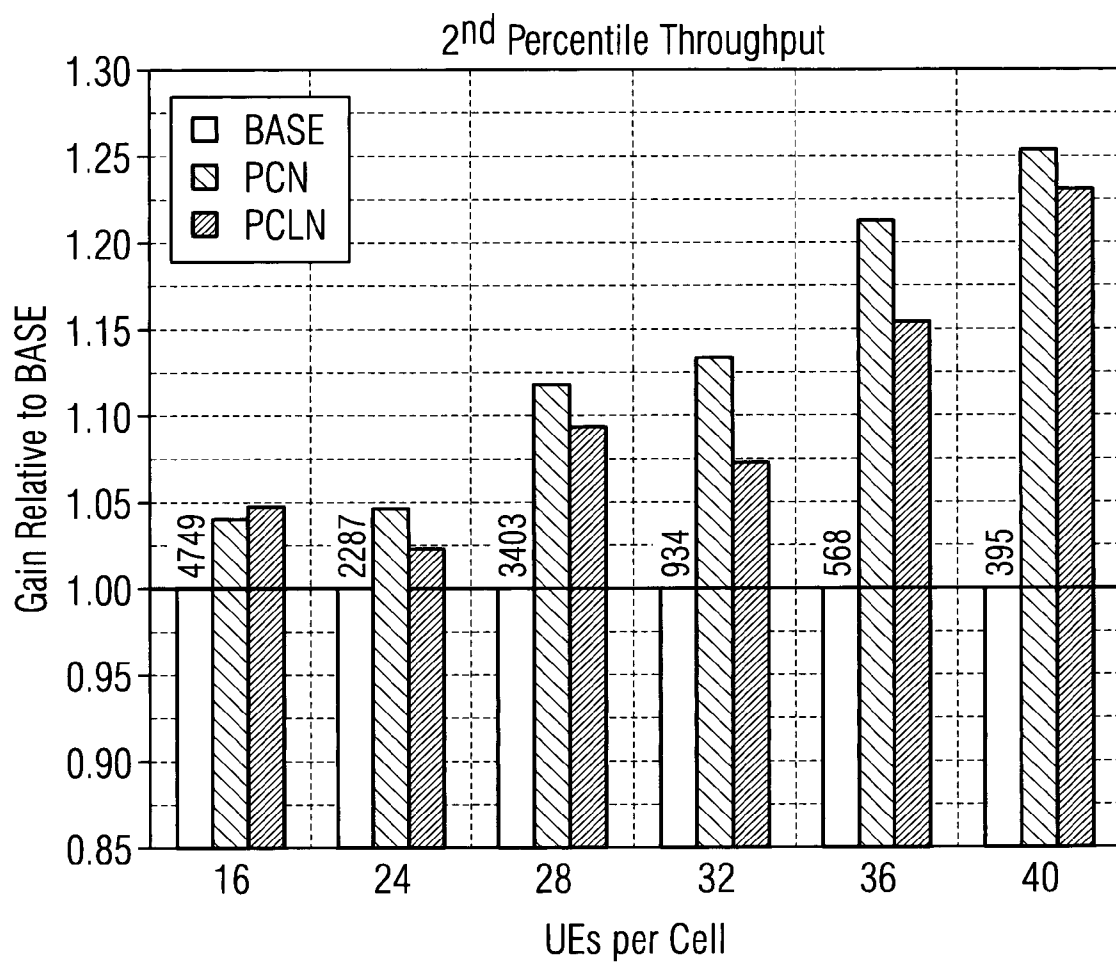
20. A computer program product comprising a non-transitory computer readable medium bearing computer program code embodied herein for use with a computer, the computer program code comprising:

code for determining, by an access node supporting a cell in a network, a scaling factor for a load of the cell relative to an average load per cell of a cluster of cells comprising the cell and a group of neighboring cells; and

code for calculating by the access node an optimized transmit power at least in downlink in the cell using the determined scaling factor.

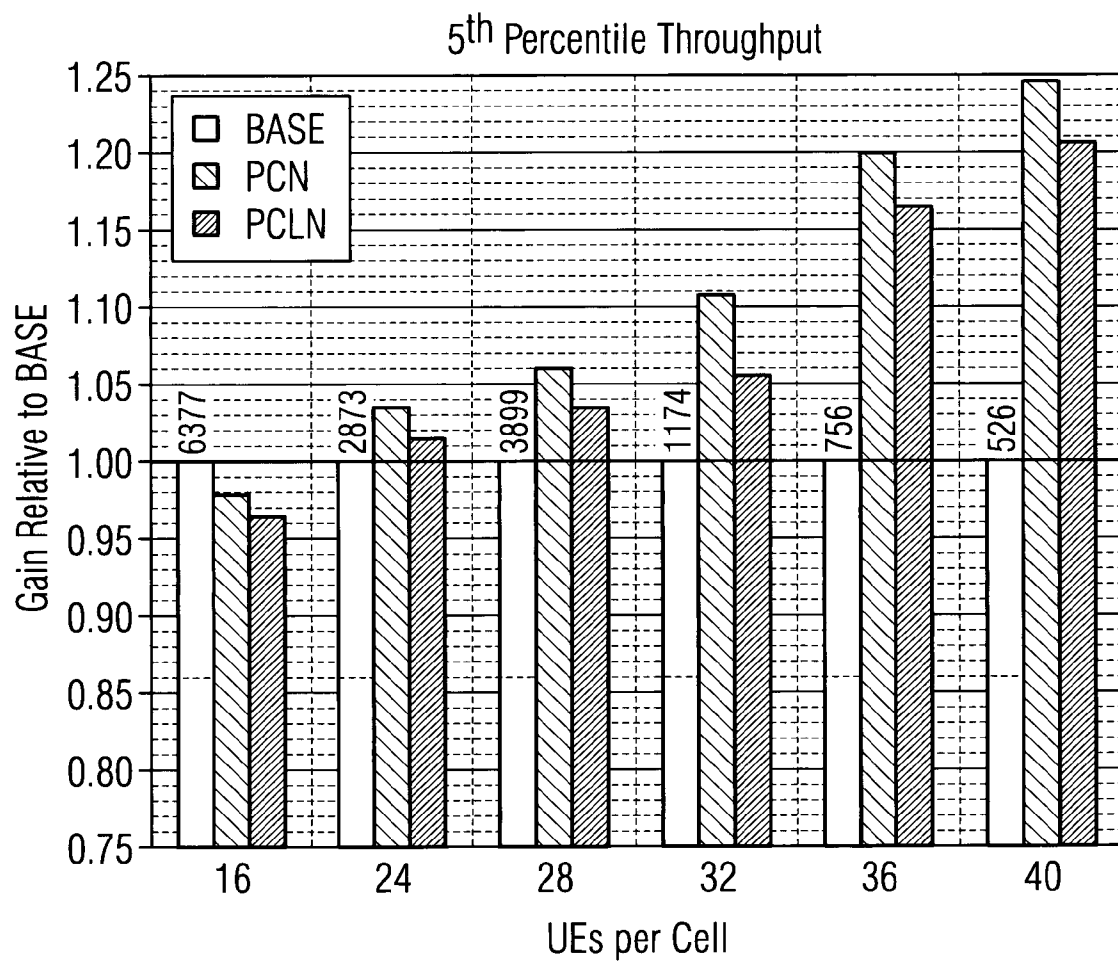
1/5

FIG 1



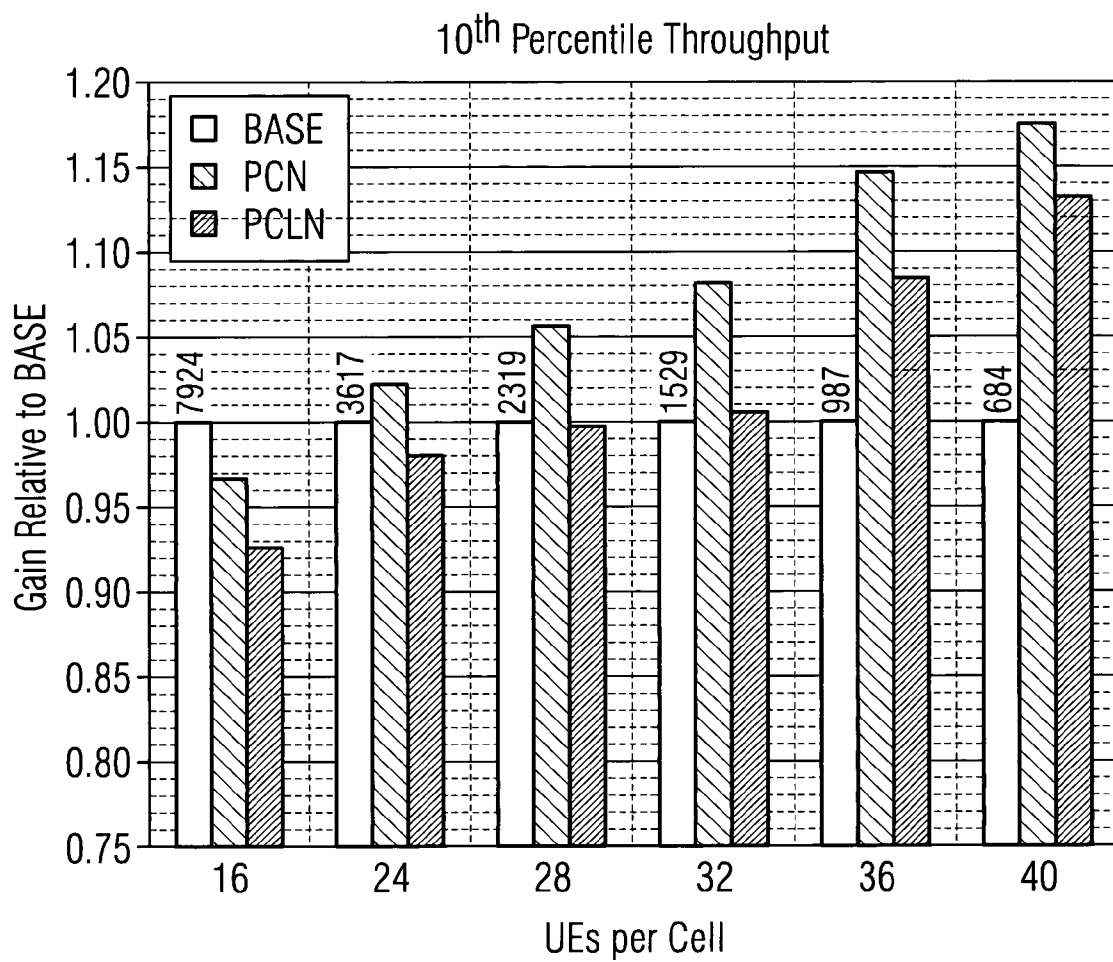
2/5

FIG 2



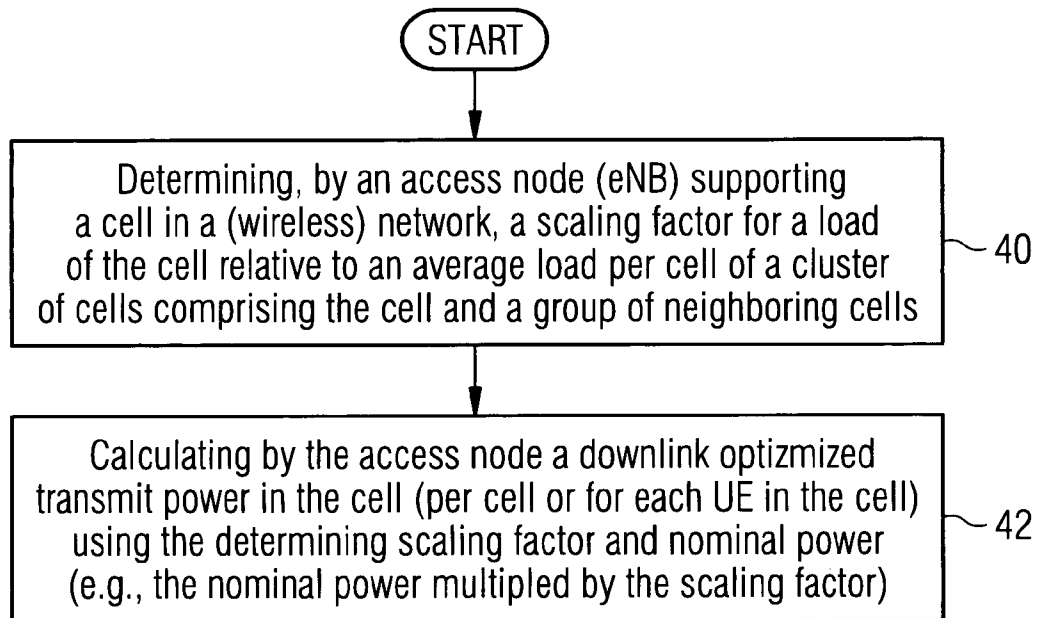
3/5

FIG 3



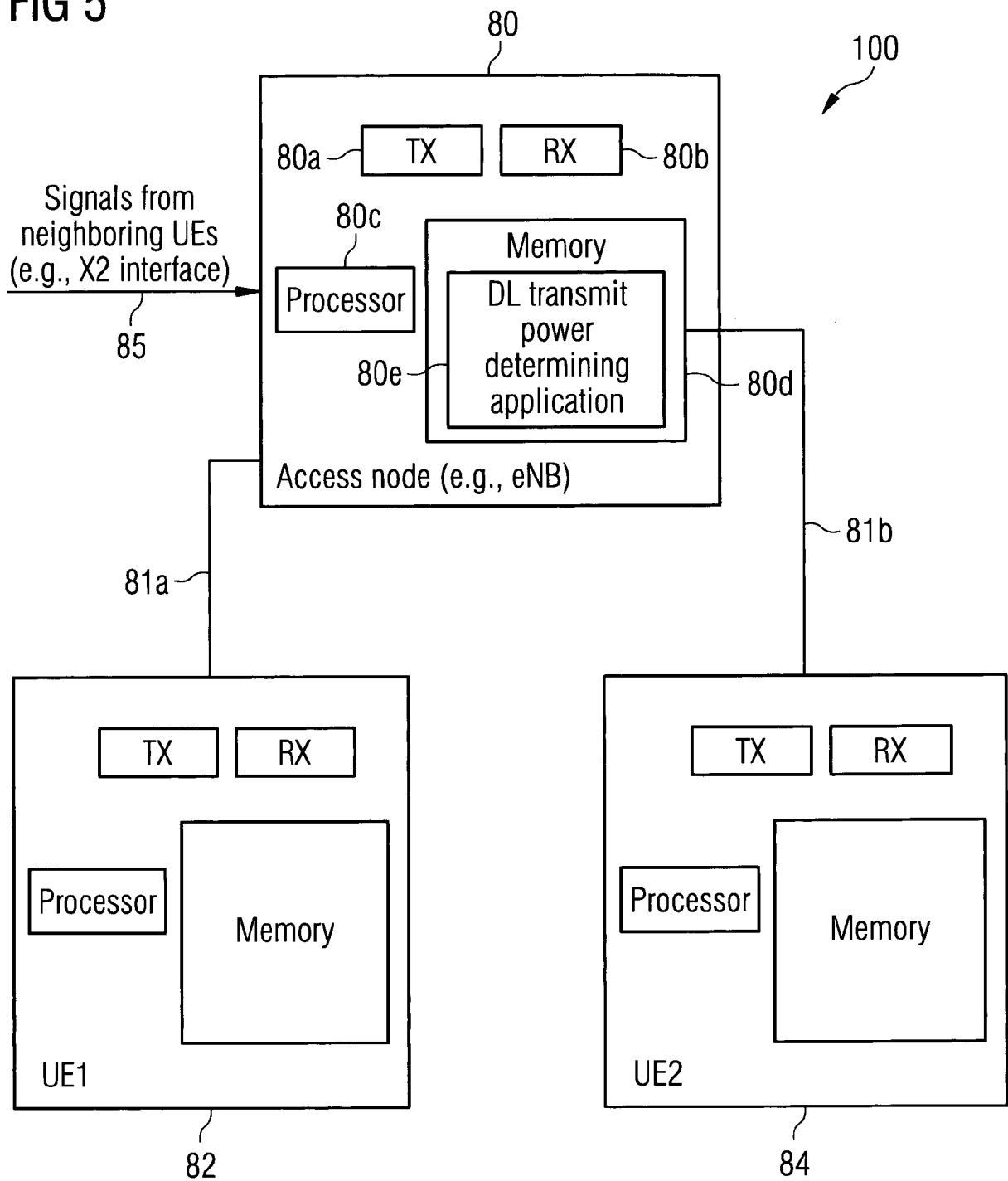
4/5

FIG 4



5/5

FIG 5



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2013/076903

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. H04W52/34
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)
H04W

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 2012/122512 A1 (NAMMI SAIRAMESH [US] ET AL) 17 May 2012 (2012-05-17) paragraphs [0002], [0004], [0013] -----	1-20
A	GB 2 360 909 A (MOTOROLA INC [US]) 3 October 2001 (2001-10-03) abstract page 4, line 33 - page 5, line 35 -----	1-20
A	US 2012/270593 A1 (PARK YOUNG-JUN [KR] ET AL) 25 October 2012 (2012-10-25) paragraphs [0012], [0013] -----	1-20



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

8 May 2014

Date of mailing of the international search report

19/05/2014

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) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Cantagallo, Marco

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/EP2013/076903

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2012122512 A1	17-05-2012	NONE	

GB 2360909 A	03-10-2001	AU 3930301 A	15-10-2001
		GB 2360909 A	03-10-2001
		WO 0176096 A1	11-10-2001

US 2012270593 A1	25-10-2012	KR 20120118579 A	29-10-2012
		US 2012270593 A1	25-10-2012
