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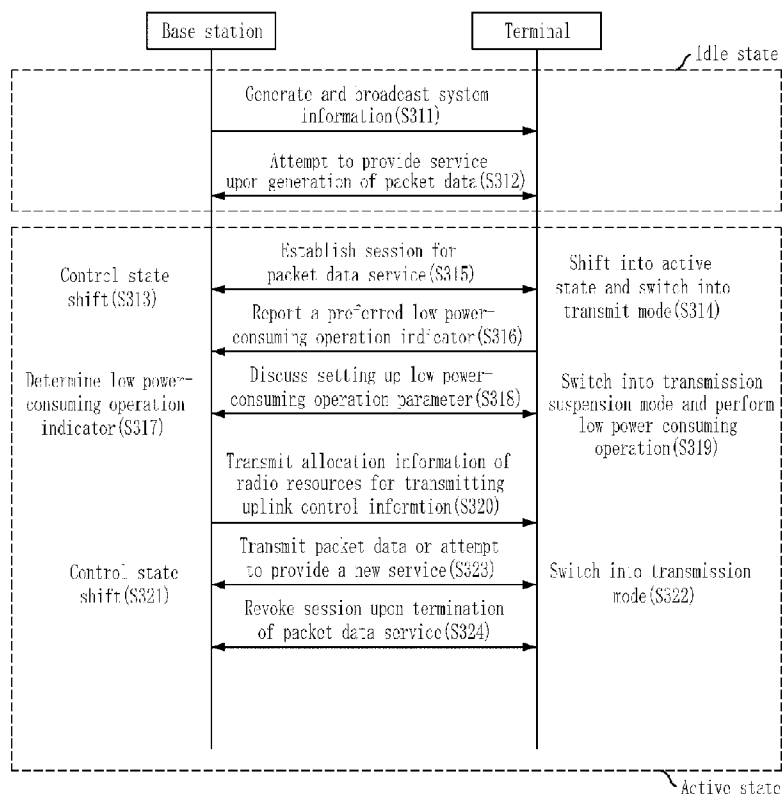(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): KIM, Jae-He-ung [KR/KR]; #108-302 Sejong Apt., Jeonmin-dong, Yuseong-gu, Daejon 305-728 (KR). KIM, Jung-Im [KR/KR]; #106-401 Baekhap Apt., Wolpyeong-dong, Seo-gu, Daejon 302-280 (KR). LEE, Kyoung-Seok [KR/KR]; #106-1005 Dungji Apt., Dunsan 2-dong, Seo-gu, Daejon 302-734 (KR). RYU, Byung-Han [KR/KR]; #118-604 Hanbit Apt., Eoeun-dong, Yuseong-gu, Dae-jon 305-755 (KR). BANG, Seung-Chan [KR/KR]; #111-1102 Nuri Apt., Wolpyeong-dong, Seo-gu, Daejon 302-280 (KR).

(54) Title: METHOD FOR REDUCING POWER CONSUMPTION OF A TERMINAL IN CELLULAR SYSTEM

(57) Abstract: Provided is a method and apparatus for discontinuously transmitting/receiving packets for low-power consumption of a terminal in a cellular system for packet transmission. The present invention provides a method and apparatus that can perform a low-power consuming operation when a terminal is in active state in a cellular system. The method for discontinuously transmitting/receiving packet data to reduce power consumption of a terminal in a cellular system, including the steps of: a) establishing discontinuous transmission/reception (DTX/DRX) parameters including discontinuous DTX/DRX cycle information for terminals operating in a transmission suspension mode, which is a sub-state of an active state; and b) performing DTX/DRX based on the DTX/DRX parameters in the terminals operating in the transmission suspension mode.

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Description

METHOD FOR REDUCING POWER CONSUMPTION OF A TERMINAL IN CELLULAR SYSTEM

Technical Field

[1]   The present invention relates to a low power-consuming operation in a cellular system; and, more particularly, to a low power-consuming operation method of a terminal that can reduce the power consumption of the terminal and extend a call waiting time in a cellular system for packet transmission.

[2]

Background Art

[3]   In a conventional cellular system, terminals have performed a low power-consuming operation, i.e., a power-saving operation, by using a sleep-mode operation based on a discontinuous reception (DRX) cycle, which is a system parameter.

[4]   The WCDMA 3GPP system aims to provide circuit and packet services in a circuit-based system. On the other hand, a Long-Term Evolution (LTE), which is under standardization process to provide diverse packet services, is a packet-based system aiming to provide only a packet service.

[5]   Therefore, the LTE system which is devised to provide a packet service having a burst characteristic requires an efficient low power-consuming operation method for terminals.

[6]   In short, it is required to develop a method that can reduce power consumption not only in idle-state terminals whose session for a packet service is terminated, but also in active-state terminals in a section where there is no data to be transmitted to provide a packet service having a burst characteristic and diverse qualities of service (QoS).

[7]

Disclosure of Invention

Technical Problem

[8]   It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide a method that can effectively reduce power consumption of a terminal by using an indicator indicating whether the terminal needs to perform a low power-consuming operation to control the low power-consuming operation in a cellular system for transmitting packets.

[9]   Other objects and advantages of the present invention can be understood by the following description, and become apparent with reference to the embodiments of the present invention. Also, it is obvious to those skilled in the art to which the present invention pertains that the objects and advantages of the present invention can be realized by the means as claimed and combinations thereof.

[10]

Technical Solution

[11]   In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for performing low power-consuming operation to reduce power consumption of a terminal in a cellular system for a packet service, including the steps of: a) establishing low power-consuming operation parameters including a low power-consuming operation indicator in a terminal operating in a transmission suspension mode, which is a sub-state of an active state; and b) performing the low power-consuming operation based on the low power-consuming operation parameters in the terminal according to a value of the low power-consuming operation indicator.

[12]

Advantageous Effects

[13]   The method of the present invention can effectively reduce power consumption of a terminal by using an indicator indicating whether the terminal needs to perform a low power-consuming operation to control the low power-consuming operation in a cellular system for transmitting packets, when the terminal is in an active state.

[14]

Brief Description of the Drawings

[15]   Fig. 1 is a diagram illustrating a terminal state in a cellular system to which the present invention is applied.

[16]   Fig. 2 is a view showing a low power-consuming operation based on low power-consuming operation parameters in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

[17]   Fig. 3 is a signaling flowchart between a base station and a terminal that perform low power-consuming operation in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

[18]

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

[19]   Other objects and aspects of the invention will become apparent from the following description of the embodiments with reference to the accompanying drawings, which is set forth hereinafter. Accordingly, those skilled in the art of the present invention can easily implement the technological concept of the present invention. Also, when it is considered that detailed description on a prior art related to the present invention may obscure the points of the present invention unnecessarily in the description of the present invention, the description will not be provided. Hereinafter, specific embodiments of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

[20]   Fig. 1 is a diagram illustrating terminal states in a cellular system to which the present invention is applied.

[21]   A cellular system providing a packet service defines and manages the state of a terminal as shown in Fig. 1 to efficiently operate limited radio resources in nodes over a base station, i.e., a node B.

[22]   When a terminal is registered on a network through a base station, the state of the terminal is defined as an attached mode 1. When a terminal is not recognized on a cellular network and the base station, or when the terminal is not registered, the state of the terminal is defined as a detached mode 2.

[23]   Terminals in the attached mode 1 are divided into those of an active state 3 and those of an idle state 4 according to whether or not a packet service is provided.

[24]   The active state 3 is a state where a terminal can be allocated with radio resources for transmitting/receiving packet data under the control of a scheduling unit disposed in a base station.

[25]   The active state 3 is divided into a transmission mode (Tx on) 5 and a transmission suspension mode (Tx off) 6 according to whether radio resources for transmitting packet data are allocated.

[26]   A conventional terminal performs a low power-consuming operation, which is so-called a power-saving operation, by maintaining only the least control channel with a base station only in the idle state 4 where there is no data to be transmitted/received based on the burst property of packet data. The terminal may enter the idle state 4 by a scheduling unit of a base station, regardless of the state of the terminal.

[27]   In the transmission suspension mode 6 of the active state 3, the scheduling unit operates in the transmission suspension mode because there are no data to be transmitted or received due to the burst characteristic of packet data or other reasons and does not allocate the radio resources for transmitting/receiving packet data and control information. The terminals need to efficiently perform the low power-consuming operation in a transmission suspension mode duration to minimize the power consumption of the terminal.

[28]   According to the embodiment of the present invention, terminals performs low power-consuming operation based on a discontinuous reception (DRX) cycle established between the terminals and the base station in a duration of the transmission suspension mode 6, which is a sub-state of the active state 3, while maintaining the least power for a control channel.

[29]   Fig. 2 is a view showing a low power-consuming operation based on low power-consuming operation parameters in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

[30]   Referring to Fig. 2, the low power-consuming operation of a terminal is controlled

based on low power-consuming operation parameters in the transmission suspension mode 8 of the active state.

[31]   The low power-consuming operation parameters include an active-state initial DRX cycle length 10, a DRX cycle augmentation coefficient, a DRX duration 11, the number of DRX durations 12, active dwelling time (Active_dwell_time) 13, low power consuming operation indicator, i.e., a power-saving indicator, and a physical layer uplink sync sustaining time (L1_UL_Sync_keep_time) 16.

[32]   The active-state initial DRX cycle length 10 is the minimum value of a DRX cycle length for a terminal in the transmission suspension mode to perform low power-consuming operation. The DRX cycle augmentation coefficient is an increased amount of the DRX cycle length that performs DRX operation. The DRX duration 11 is a section to which a DRX is applied. It is established as a counter number or time. When one DRX duration ends, another DRX cycle which is obtained by increasing the DRX cycle as much as the DRX cycle augmentation coefficient parameters in the next DRX duration.

[33]   The number of DRX durations 12 is the number of DRX durations needed for a terminal to perform the low power-consuming operation. The active dwelling time (Active_dwell_time) 13 is a threshold value of time for which a terminal can remain in the active state without having packet data to be transmitted to a transmission buffer.

[34]   The low power-consuming operation indicator, i.e., a power-saving indicator indicates whether to perform the low power-consuming operation in a terminal. When the low power-consuming operation indicator is set "on," the base station and terminal performs low power-consuming operation when the terminal enters the transmission suspension mode. When the low power-consuming operation indicator is set "off," the low power-consuming operation is not performed in the terminal.

[35]   The physical layer uplink sync sustaining time (L1_UL_Sync_keep_time) 16 is a threshold value of time for which uplink synchronization should be sustained in a physical layer while a terminal operates in the transmission suspension mode.

[36]   As aforementioned, the low power-consuming operation parameters are established through negotiation between the base station and the terminal. The active-state initial DRX cycle length parameter may differ according to the quality of service (QoS) attributes of a provided packet service.

[37]   The base station may inform the generation of downlink traffic in a monitoring section 9 at a termination moment of a DRX cycle or it may transmit radio resource allocation information for reporting or a radio resource allocation request through the uplink. A terminal operating in the transmission suspension mode recognizes the presence of downlink traffic transmitted through a downlink traffic notification channel in the monitoring section and determines whether to receive the downlink

packet data or not. Otherwise, the terminal operating in the transmission suspension mode recognizes uplink radio resource allocation information transmitted through a downlink control channel and transmits control information, such as measurement information or a radio resource allocation request through the uplink.

[38]   When there is no downlink traffic or when packet data to be transmitted through the uplink is not transmitted from the upper layer of a terminal, the terminal performs the low power-consuming operation in DRX cycles until the next monitoring section. In the low power-consuming operation, the terminal does not receive downlink signals and does not transmit signals through the uplink, either.

[39]   The DRX cycle length for low power-consuming operation is determined by a base station to efficiently operate the system. When one DRX cycle ends without setting up an additional parameter, the base station may determine the next DRX cycle based on the control information transmitted in the monitoring section 9 and notify terminals of the next DRX cycle. Herein, the scheduling unit of the base station may change the DRX cycle according to the QoS attributes of the provided packet service and loads applied to the system.

[40]   Meanwhile, when the low power-consuming operation is performed based on the low power-consuming operation parameters determined through negotiation between the base station and the terminals, a DRX cycle is applied to one DRX duration. When one DRX duration ends, the base station and the terminals can negotiate and re-establish the next DRX duration.

[41]   A DRX cycle is determined in the following algorithm based on the parameters determined through the negotiation between the base station and the terminals.

[42]

[43]   When n>0 and n mod DTX/DRX duration is equal to 0,

[44]   DRX cycle(n+1) = DRX cycle (n) * DRX cycle augmentation coefficient.

[45]   In other cases,

[46]   DRX cycle(n+1) = DRX cycle (n)

[47]   where n = 0,1,2,3...

[48]   DRX cycle(0) = DRX cycle initial value

[49]   DRX cycle augmentation coefficient = 1,2,3...,j

[50]   DRX duration = time duration (or a threshold value of a counter) to which the same DRX cycle is applied

[51]

[52]   The terminals perform the low power-consuming operation based on the low power-consuming operation parameters determined as above.

[53]   When data to be transmitted or received are not generated until the moment 14 that the time determined based on the DRX duration and the number of DRX durations

ends, the scheduling unit in the base station shifts the terminal into the idle state or re-establishes the low power-consuming operation parameters.

[54]   Meanwhile, when data to be transmitted or received are not generated until the moment 15 when an additional timer is provided and an active dwelling time (Active_dwell_time) is achieved, the scheduling unit of the base station shifts the terminal into the idle state or re-establishes the low power-consuming operation parameters.

[55]   The scheduling unit and the terminal may include a timer for a physical layer uplink sync sustaining time (L1_UL_Sync_keep_time) and, when data to be transmitted or received are not generated until the moment 17 when a physical layer uplink sync sustaining time is achieved, they operate the terminal not to sustain the physical layer sync for the uplink and reduce the power consumption of the terminal.

[56]   Fig. 3 is a signaling flowchart between a base station and a terminal that perform low power-consuming operation in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

[57]   The base station determines low power-consuming operation parameters based on the QoS of the packet service, generates system information including the low power-consuming operation parameters, and transmits it through a broadcasting channel at step S311.

[58]   The low power-consuming operation parameters included in the system information are the active-state initial DRX cycle length 10, the DRX cycle augmentation co-efficient, the DRX duration 11, the number 12 of DRX durations, and the active dwelling time (Active_dwell_time) 13.

[59]   At step S312, when packet data are generated, the base station attempts to provide a service corresponding to the packet data. Herein, the base station attempts to provide the service through paging, and the terminal receives the system information during a paging monitoring section and attempts to access in a random access method to receive the service corresponding to the generated packet data.

[60]   The base station shifts the terminal into the active state at step S313, and the terminal shifts into the active state and operates in the transmission mode at step S314. When the terminal shifts from the idle state into the active state, the base station and the terminal establish a session though negotiation.

[61]   Meanwhile, the base station and the terminal perform an Radio Resource Control (RRC) connection through the session establishment to transmit/receive packet data, and they set up basic parameters of the upper layer for it.

[62]   At step S316, the terminal reports a low power-consuming operation indicator preferred according to the power setup environment of the terminal to the base station. When the terminal is connected to an external power source or it does not need to

perform the low power-consuming operation for other reasons, the terminal reports a low power-consuming operation indicator set to be `off` to the base station to inform the base station that the terminal does not need to perform the low power-consuming operation. In the other cases, the terminal reports a low power-consuming operation set to be `on` which informs the base station that it needs to perform the low power-consuming operation. Also, the terminal may receive a signal directly from a user and set up a needed low power-consuming operation indicator.

[63]   At step S317, when the terminal enters the transmission suspension mode in the active state, the base station determines a low power-consuming operation indicator to be applied to the terminal based on the low power-consuming operation indicator reported by the terminal and the environment of the base station.

[64]   At step S321, the terminal is shifted into the active state by controlling the state shift, and the terminal whose mode is shifted into the active state operates in the transmission mode at step S722, and the base station and terminal establishes session for the packet data service at step S723.

[65]   When the base station determines the low power-consuming operation value to be applied to the terminal to be `on`, it negotiates and sets up the low power-consuming operation parameters at step S318.

[66]   To be specific, at the step S318, the terminal negotiates the low power-consuming operation parameters, such as the physical layer uplink sync sustaining time, the active-state initial DRX cycle length, the DRX cycle augmentation coefficient, the DRX duration, the number of DRX durations, and the active dwelling time, through negotiation with the base station, or establishes the parameters based on the system information transmitted through a broadcasting channel without negotiation.

[67]   Subsequently, at step S319, the terminal enters the transmission suspension mode and performs low power-consuming operation based on the established low power-consuming operation parameters.

[68]   Through the process described above, the base station can not only apply an appropriate DRX cycle in consideration of the QoS of the provided packet service, but also divide the terminals within the service coverage into those in need of the low power-consuming operation and those that do not need the low power-consuming operation based on the low power-consuming operation indicator.

[69]   The scheduling unit of the base station can inform generation of downlink traffic to the terminals operating in the transmission suspension mode of the active state and having a low power-consuming operation indicator of `off`, whenever it needs to do, regardless of the value of the low power-consuming operation parameters, such as the DRX cycle length. The scheduling unit can also transmit a report or radio resource allocation information for requesting resources through the uplink. However, when the

8

low power-consuming operation indicator is set up to be `on`, the scheduler sets up the low power-consuming operation parameters according to the QoS of the provided packet service, and performs low power-consuming operation.

[70]   Meanwhile when the terminal operating in the low power-consuming operation sets up and reports its low power-consuming operation indicator to be `off`, and the base station determines and changes the low power-consuming operation indicator from on into off and notifies the change to the terminal to there by control the terminal operate in the active state without performing the low power-consuming operation. In other words, the base station determines the low power-consuming operation indicator in consideration of the low power-consuming operation indicator reported by the terminal and the base station environment, and informs the terminal of the determined low power-consuming operation indicator.

[71]   Subsequently, the base station transmits information informing the generation of downlink traffic in a monitoring section 9 where a downlink signal is received, or it transmits radio resource allocation information for transmitting uplink control information to make a report or request for radio resources through the uplink at step S320.

[72]   Subsequently, when data to be transmitted are generated when the terminal is in the transmission suspension mode, the terminal changes its mode into the transmission mode upon the state shift control, which is performed in the base station at step S321, at step S322. At step S323, the terminal transmits packet data or attempts to provide a new service. When the packet data service ends, the terminal cancels a session.

[73]   The method of the present invention may be realized as a program and stored in computer-readable recording media, such as CD-ROM, RAM, ROM, floppy disks, hard disks, and magneto-optical disks. Since the present invention can be easily implemented by those of ordinary skill in the art of the present invention, detailed description on it will not be provided herein.

[74]   The method of the present invention can effectively reduce the power consumption of a terminal by controlling the terminal to perform the low power-consuming operation in the active state with an low power-consuming operation indicator, which indicates whether the terminal is in need of performing the low power-consuming operation, in a cellular system for transmitting packets.

[75]   While the present invention has been described with respect to certain preferred embodiments, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications may be made without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the following claims.

Claims

[1]   A method for performing low power-consuming operation to reduce power consumption of a terminal in a cellular system for a packet service, comprising the steps of:

a) establishing low power-consuming operation parameters including a low power-consuming operation indicator in a terminal operating in a transmission suspension mode, which is a sub-state of an active state; and

b) performing the low power-consuming operation based on the low power-consuming operation parameters in the terminal according to a value of the low power-consuming operation indicator.

[2]   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step a) includes the steps of:

a1) transmitting a value of the low power-consuming operation indicator preferred by the terminal from the terminal to the base station; and

a2) determining a value of a low power-consuming operation indicator in the base station based on the low power-consuming operation indicator preferred by the terminal.

[3]   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the low power-consuming operation parameters include:

an active-state initial time parameter indicating a threshold value of time for which the terminal remains in the active state without packet data to be transmitted in a transmission buffer.

[4]   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the low power-consuming operation parameters include:

an uplink sync sustaining time parameter indicating a threshold value of time for which the terminal maintains uplink synchronization in a physical layer while operating in the transmission suspension mode.
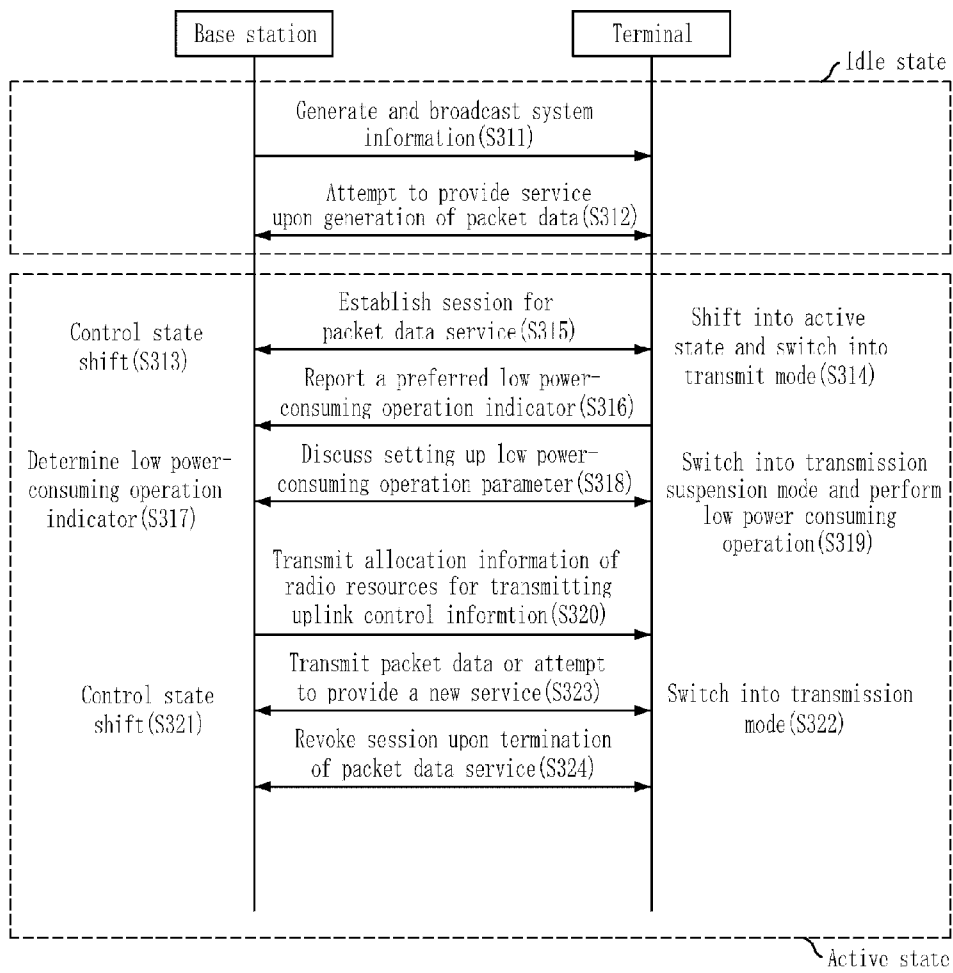
[Fig. 1]
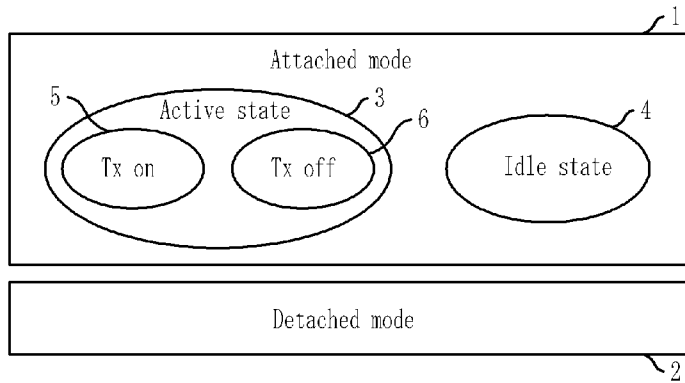
[Fig. 2]
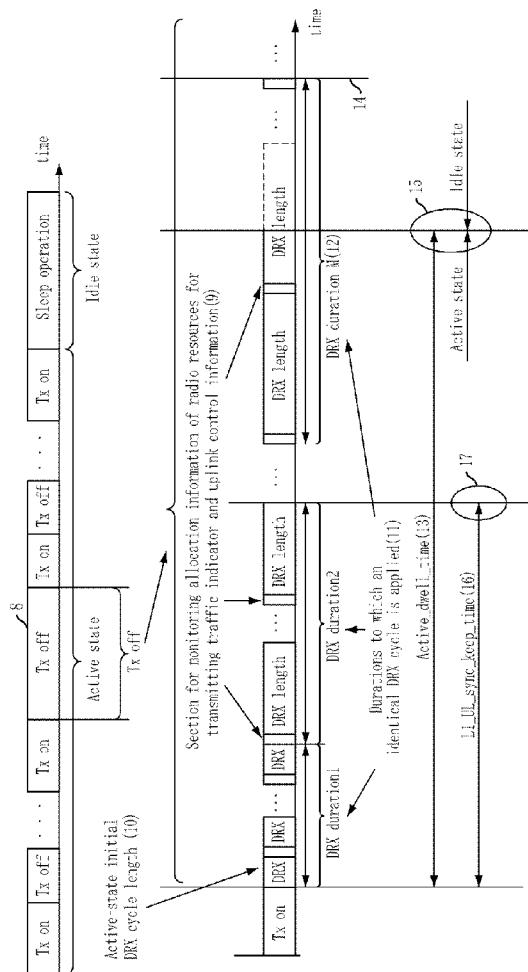
[Fig. 3]

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

H04B 7/26(2006.01)i

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)
IPC 8   H04B   H04Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
KOREAN UTILITY MODELS AND APPLICATIONS FOR UTILITY MODELS SINCE 1975

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 99/38278 A1 (SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD) 29 July 1999 See the Abstract, page 11 line 1 - page 12 line 15, FIG. 2, 4, 5	1 - 4
A	US 2003/0117969 A1 (SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD.) 26 June 2003 See the Abstract, FIG. 5, 6, paragraphs [0039] - [0050]	1 - 4
A	EP 1414201 A1 (NEC CORPORATION) 28 April 2004 See the Abstract	1 - 4

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.   ☒ See patent family annex.

*	Special categories of cited documents:	"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
"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	"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
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of citation or other special reason (as specified)	"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
"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	"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
15 JUNE 2007 (15.06.2007)	**16 JUNE 2007 (16.06.2007)**

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (April 2007)

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