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DESCRIPTION

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] This invention relates generally to radio frequency communications and, more specifically, relates to cell selection for UEs.

BACKGROUND

[0002] This section is intended to provide a background or context to the invention disclosed below. 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 in this application and is not admitted to be prior art by inclusion in this section.

[0003] The following abbreviations that may be found in the specification and/or the drawing figures are defined as follows:

3GPP

third generation partnership project

BS

base station

DL

downlink, from base station to user equipment

ECGI

enhanced cell global identity

EDGE

enhanced data rates for GSM evolution

eNB

Node B (evolved Node B), E-UTRAN base station

EPC

evolved packet core

E-UTRAN

evolved UTRAN (LTE)

GERAN

GSM EDGE radio access network

GSM

global system for mobile communications

HO

handover

LTE

	long term evolution of UTRAN (E-UTRAN)
LTE-A	LTE advanced
MAC	medium access control (layer 2, L2)
MM/MME	mobility management/mobility management entity
NodeB	Node B, UTRAN base station
NW	network
O&M	operations and maintenance
PCI	physical cell identity
PDCP	packet data convergence protocol
PHY	physical (layer 1, L1)
RAT	radio access technology
Rel	release (e.g., Rel-10 is release 10)
RLF	radio link failure
RNC	radio network controller (UTRAN)
RSRP	reference signal received power
RRC	radio resource control
RRM	radio resource management
TR	technical report
TS	technical standard
UE	user equipment, such as a mobile station, mobile node or mobile terminal
UL	uplink, from user equipment to base station
UTRAN	universal terrestrial radio access network
X2	

interface between eNBs (E-UTRAN)

[0004] One modern communication system is known as evolved UTRAN (E-UTRAN, also referred to as UTRAN-LTE or as E-UTRA). One specification of interest is 3GPP TS 36.300, V8.11.0 (2009-12), 3rd Generation Partnership Project; Technical Specification Group Radio Access Network; Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA) and Evolved Universal Terrestrial Access Network (EUTRAN); Overall description; Stage 2 (Release 8), incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. This system may be referred to for convenience as LTE Rel-8. In general, the set of specifications given generally as 3GPP TS 36.xyz (e.g., 36.211, 36.311, 36.312, etc.) may be seen as describing the Release 8 LTE system. More recently, Release 9 and Release 10 versions of at least some of these specifications have been published including 3GPP TS 36.300, V10.2.0 (2010-12).

[0005] FIG. 1 reproduces Figure 4-1 of 3GPP TS 36.300 and shows the overall architecture of the EUTRAN system (Rel-8). The E-UTRAN system includes eNBs, providing the E-UTRAN user plane (PDCP/RLC/MAC/PHY) and control plane (RRC) protocol terminations towards the UEs. The eNBs are interconnected with each other by means of an X2 interface. The eNBs are also connected by means of an S1 interface to an EPC, more specifically to a MME by means of a S1 MME interface and to an S-GW by means of a S1 interface (MME/S-GW). The S1 interface supports a many-to-many relationship between MMEs / S-GWs / UPEs and eNBs.

[0006] The eNB hosts the following functions:

functions for RRM: RRC, Radio Admission Control, Connection Mobility Control, Dynamic allocation of resources to UEs in both UL and DL (scheduling);

IP header compression and encryption of the user data stream;

selection of a MME at UE attachment;

routing of User Plane data towards the EPC (MME/S-GW);

scheduling and transmission of paging messages (originated from the MME);

scheduling and transmission of broadcast information (originated from the MME or O&M); and

a measurement and measurement reporting configuration for mobility and scheduling.

[0007] Of particular interest herein are the further releases of 3GPP LTE (e.g., LTE Rel-10, LTE Rel-11) targeted towards future IMT-A systems, referred to herein for convenience simply as LTE-Advanced (LTE-A). LTE-A is specified in Rel-10 (see, e.g., 3GPP TS 36.300 v10.3.0 (2011-03)), further enhancements in Rel-11. Reference in this regard may also be made to 3GPP TR 36.913 V9.0.0 (2009-12) Technical Report 3rd Generation Partnership Project;

Technical Specification Group Radio Access Network; Requirements for further advancements for Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA) (LTE-Advanced)(Release 9). Reference can also be made to 3GPP TR 36.912 V9.3.0 (2010-06) Technical Report 3rd Generation Partnership Project; Technical Specification Group Radio Access Network; Feasibility study for Further Advancements for E-UTRA (LTE-Advanced) (Release 9).

[0008] In this system and other systems, a UE performs a cell selection procedure according to certain standards. Cell selection may occur, for instance, in UE power on situations, in connection with handover (HO) failure situations and in connection with Radio Link Failure (RLF) where a UE is leaving one cell and is entering another cell. Cell selection is left to UE implementation. International publication no. WO2005/025092 relates to a system and method for selecting a serving base station according to a drop of a mobile subscriber station in a broadband wireless access communication system. European patent publication EP 2 026 610 relates to a method and apparatus for radio link failure recovery in a wireless communication network.

BRIEF SUMMARY

[0009] This section is illustrative and sets out examples of the invention.

[0010] In an exemplary embodiment, a method is disclosed that includes receiving information to be used in response to a failure, while a user equipment is in a connected state with a network, of a network connection between the user equipment and a current cell. The received information is to be used by the user equipment to search for another cell to reestablish the network connection. In response to the failure of the network connection to the current cell while the user equipment is in the connected state with the network, searching, based on the received information, for another cell to reestablish the network connection, wherein the information comprises one or more of the following: a list comprising one or more physical cell identities, and wherein searching further comprises searching for another cell meeting one of the one or more physical cell identities to reestablish the network connection; a list comprising one or more enhanced cell global identities, and wherein searching further comprises searching for another cell meeting one of the one or more enhanced cell global identities to reestablish the network connection; a list comprising band information for one or more bands, and wherein searching further comprises searching for another cell meeting the band information in one of the one or more bands to reestablish the network connection; or a list comprising carrier frequency for each of one or more carriers, and wherein searching further comprises searching for another cell meeting the carrier frequency for one of the one or more carriers to reestablish the network connection, wherein the information comprises at least one of information indicating whether context of the user equipment is available in certain cells, and information for each of one or more indicated cells, the one or more indicated cells limited to those certain cells having suitable context for the user equipment, wherein searching further comprises searching the indicated cells for another cell to reestablish the network connection.

[0011] In another exemplary embodiment, a computer program is disclosed that includes code for performing the above method.

[0012] In an additional example, an apparatus includes means for performing the above method.

[0013] In a further example, a method is disclosed that includes: determining, in a network, information to be used by a user equipment in response to a failure of a network connection between the user equipment and a current cell, the information to be used by the user equipment in response to the failure occurring while the user equipment is in a connected state with the network and to be used to search for another cell to reestablish the network connection; and transmitting the information from the network to the user equipment, wherein the information comprises one or more of the following: a list comprising one or more physical cell identities to be used by the user equipment to search for another cell meeting one of the one or more physical cell identities to reestablish the network connection; a list comprising one or more enhanced cell global identities to be used by the user equipment to search for another cell meeting one of the one or more enhanced cell global identities to reestablish the network connection; a list comprising band information for one or more bands to be used by the user equipment to search for another cell meeting the band information in one of the one or more bands to reestablish the network connection; or a list comprising carrier frequency for each of one or more carriers to be used by the user equipment to search for another cell meeting the carrier frequency for one of the one or more carriers to reestablish the network connection and, wherein the information further comprises at least one of information indicating whether context of the user equipment is available in certain cells, and information for each of one or more indicated cells, the one or more indicated cells limited to those certain cells having suitable context for the user equipment, to be used by the user equipment to search the indicated cells for another cell to reestablish the network connection.

[0014] An additional exemplary embodiment includes a computer program comprising code for performing the above method.

[0015] In an additional exemplary embodiment, an apparatus is disclosed that includes means for performing the above method.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016] In the attached Drawing Figures:

FIG. 1 reproduces Figure 4-1 of 3GPP TS 36.300, and shows the overall architecture of the EUTRAN system.

FIG. 2 is a table illustrating steps taken for an example of a failed RRC connection re-establishment.

FIG. 3 shows a simplified block diagram of various electronic devices that are suitable for use in practicing the exemplary embodiments of this invention.

FIG. 4 is a table illustrating steps taken for an example of improved cell selection for RRC connection re-establishment using dedicated signaling.

FIG. 5 is a block diagram of a flowchart performed by a user equipment for using pre-configured redirection information.

FIG. 6 is a block diagram of a flowchart performed by a network (e.g., base station) for using pre-configured redirection information.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0017] As described above, the UE shall perform a cell selection procedure according to certain standards. This procedure is determined according to 3GPP TS 36.133 and 3GPP TS 36.304. Cell selection procedural details are left to UE implementation and only general performance requirements are specified for the selection. Requirements can be found from 3GPP TS 36.133 section 4.1, copied below for convenience.

4.1 Cell Selection

[0018] After a UE has switched on and a PLMN has been selected, the Cell selection process takes place, as described in TS 36.304. This process allows the UE to select a suitable cell where to camp on in order to access available services. In this process the UE can use stored information (Stored information cell selection) or not (Initial cell selection).

[0019] Requirements can be also found from 3GPP TS 36.304 section 5.2.3.1, which is repeated below for convenience:

5.2.3 Cell Selection process

5.2.3.1 Description

[0020] The UE shall use one of the following two cell selection procedures:

1. a) Initial Cell Selection

This procedure requires no prior knowledge of which RF channels are E-UTRA carriers.

The UE shall scan all RF channels in the E-UTRA bands according to its capabilities to find a suitable cell. On each carrier frequency, the UE need only search for the strongest cell. Once a suitable cell is found this cell shall be selected.

2. b) Stored Information Cell Selection

[0021] This procedure requires stored information of carrier frequencies and optionally also information on cell parameters, from previously received measurement control information elements or from previously detected cells. Once the UE has found a suitable cell the UE shall select it. If no suitable cell is found the Initial Cell Selection procedure shall be started.

[0022] NOTE: Priorities between different frequencies or RATs provided to the UE by system information or dedicated signaling are not used in the cell selection process.

[0023] Basically, this means that at least the following factors are affecting cell selection time:

1. 1) UE implementation dependent cell selection algorithms:
 1. a) Which system and/or RAT are/is searched first;
 2. b) Order of band and/or frequency search;
 3. c) Search based on possible stored information.
2. 2) Supported bands and/or RATs.
3. 3) Search performance.
- 4.

[0024] A cell selection procedure is performed at least in the following scenarios:

1. 1) Initial cell selection, i.e., after power-on of the UE;
2. 2) Before RRC connection re-establishment; and
3. 3) After leaving the RRC_CONNECTED state.

[0025] The cell selection procedure may take a long time under certain circumstances. Especially in cases involving user activity, long cell selection times might become a visible interrupt in service for the user. One example of this is in a case of RLF (e.g., loss of serving cell or HO failure) during a connected state of the UE (e.g., RRC_CONNECTED) and thus causing for example a dropped voice call. Especially, there could be a drop of service if the UE selects a cell where the UE context is not available. UE context includes, e.g., E-RAB (E-UTRAN radio access bearer) context, C-RNTI (cell radio network temporary identifier), security context, roaming restriction, UE capability information, subscriber profile ID (identification) for RAT/frequency priority, UE S1 signaling connection ID, etc., in the eNB to enable fast Idle-to-Active transition. See, e.g., 3GPP TS 36.300, section 19.2.1.3. Thus, an RRC re-establishment procedure will fail, and the UE will move to the RRC_IDLE state. Also impacting the service

experience is the potential choice of another RAT, e.g., selecting a cell in GERAN although the service drop happened in E-UTRAN.

[0026] The following description will use E-UTRAN for the detailed discussion of a problem and describing potential solutions for the problem. The use of E-UTRAN should not be a limiting factor but merely a way to simplify the description.

[0027] An example of a failed RRC Connection re-establishment is shown in FIG. 2. In step 1, the UE is in the RRC_CONNECTED state on Cell 1. In step 2, the UE context is available in Cell 3, but the UE context is not available in Cell 2. In step 3, Cell 2 and Cell 3 are available with sufficient RSRP levels. However, the RSRP level of Cell 2 is better than the RSRP level of Cell 3. It should be noted that this is only one example of possible RSRP settings. In step 4, the RSRP level of Cell 1 suddenly goes bad (e.g., the RSRP level does not meet a predetermined criterion) and radio link failure (RLF) occurs. In step 5, the UE starts a cell selection procedure.

[0028] In step 6, the UE detects Cell 2 and starts a re-establishment procedure. This procedure includes sending from the UE to the BS (e.g., eNB) a

[0029] *RRCConnectionReestablishmentRequest* message. However, in step 7, the NW (via a BS) sends a *RRCConnectionReestablishmentReject* message because the UE context is not available in Cell 2. In step 8, the UE goes to RRC_IDLE.

[0030] Thus, because the UE could not determine that Cell 2 did not have the UE context available (or that Cell 3 did have the UE context available), the UE selected Cell 2 based on RSRP levels between Cell 2 and Cell 3, even though Cell 3 had a suitable RSRP level and had the UE context available.

[0031] Because the details of the cell selection algorithm and performance is left up to UE (and its internal modem) implementation, problems such as the one described above may occur. This means that it is up to modem suppliers and competition to provide the most efficient cell selection procedure for optimized performance.

[0032] Although this is beneficial for certain solutions, it also makes it difficult to predict the behavior of the UE and difficult (or perhaps even impossible) to perform network planning based on the assumed outcomes of cell selection procedures for a variety of UEs from different manufacturers.

[0033] Before describing in further detail the exemplary embodiments of this invention, reference is made to FIG. 3 for illustrating a simplified block diagram of various electronic devices and apparatus that are suitable for use in practicing the exemplary embodiments of this invention. In FIG. 3, a wireless network 90 is adapted for communication over a wireless link 35-1 with an apparatus, such as a mobile communication device which may be referred to as a UE 10, via a network access node, such as a Node B (base station), and more specifically an eNB 12. The network 90 may include a network control element (NCE) 14 that may include

the MME/SGW functionality shown in FIG. 1, and which provides connectivity with a further network 85, such as a telephone network and/or a data communications network (e.g., the internet), via a link 25.

[0034] The eNB 12-1 forms cell 310 and the UE 10 is in a connected state (e.g., RRC_Connected) with the cell 310, its eNB 12-1, and the NW 90 via wireless link 35-1. The line 301 is used as a simple example to show the extent of the cells 310 and 320. Cell 320 is formed by the eNB 12-2 and is a neighbor cell to cell 310. The eNB 12-2 is connected to the NCE 14 in this example via link 13 and the eNB 12-2 is part of the wireless network 90. The eNB 12-2 may also be connected to a different NCE/MME from another part of the wireless network 90. The UE 10 may also be able to communicate with the eNB 12-2 via wireless link 35-2.

[0035] The UE 10 includes a controller, such as at least one computer or a data processor (DP) 10A, at least one non-transitory computer-readable memory medium embodied as a memory (MEM) 10B that stores a program of computer instructions (PROG) 10C, and at least one suitable radio frequency (RF) transmitter and receiver pair (transceiver) 10D for bidirectional wireless communications with the eNB 12 via one or more antennas 10E. Each of the eNBs 12 also includes a controller, such as at least one computer or a data processor (DP) 12A, at least one computer-readable memory medium embodied as a memory (MEM) 12B that stores a program of computer instructions (PROG) 12C, and at least one suitable RF transceiver 12D for communication with the UE 10 via one or more antennas (typically several when multiple input / multiple output (MIMO) operation is in use). The eNBs 12 are coupled via a data / control path 13 to the NCE 14. The path 13 may be implemented as the S1 interface shown in FIG. 1. The eNBs 12 may also be coupled to other eNBs via data / control path 15, which may be implemented as the X2 interface shown in FIG. 1. The NCE 14 also includes a controller, such as at least one computer or a data processor (DP) 14A, and at least one computer-readable memory medium embodied as a memory (MEM) 14B that stores a program of computer instructions (PROG) 14C.

[0036] At least programs 10C and 12C are assumed to include program instructions that, when executed by the associated DP 10A, 12A, enables the corresponding UE 10, eNB 12 to operate in accordance with the exemplary embodiments of this invention, as will be discussed below in greater detail. The exemplary embodiments of this invention may be implemented at least in part by computer software executable by at least one of the data processors, or by hardware, or by a combination of software and hardware (and firmware).

[0037] In general, the various embodiments of the UE 10 can include, but are not limited to, cellular telephones, smartphones, personal digital assistants (PDAs) having wireless communication capabilities, tablets having wireless communication capabilities, portable computers having wireless communication capabilities, image capture devices such as digital cameras having wireless communication capabilities, gaming devices having wireless communication capabilities, music storage and playback appliances having wireless communication capabilities, Internet appliances permitting wireless Internet access and

browsing, as well as portable units or terminals that incorporate combinations of such functions.

[0038] The computer-readable memories 10B and 12B may be of any type suitable to the local technical environment and may be implemented using any suitable data storage technology, such as semiconductor based memory devices, random access memory, read only memory, programmable read only memory, flash memory, magnetic memory devices and systems, optical memory devices and systems, fixed memory and removable memory. The data processors 10A and 12A may be of any type suitable to the local technical environment, and may include one or more of general purpose computers, special purpose computers, microprocessors, digital signal processors (DSPs) and processors based on multi-core processor architectures, as non-limiting examples.

[0039] In order to solve the exemplary problems discussed above, in an exemplary embodiment, the NW 90 (e.g., via eNB 12-1) would signal certain information (called "pre-configured redirection information" herein) to the UE before the UE experiences connection problems (here exemplified by RLF or HO failure, e.g., as a handover is attempted from cell 310 to cell 320) in the RRC_CONNECTED state. After the UE has experienced RLF or HO failure, the UE would then first attempt to camp on an indicated (and potentially suitable) cell (e.g., cell 320 and eNB 12-2) according to this signaled pre-configured redirection information.

[0040] Additionally, the NW 90 (e.g., via eNB 12-1) would indicate which of the cells (such as cell 320) have the UE context or only the cells having the UE context would be indicated (i.e., context availability is indirectly indicated). It is noted that the NW 90 is assumed to include one or more eNBs 12 that operate to carry out the operations indicated herein that are performed by the NW.

[0041] The exemplary embodiments of the instant invention could be utilized in systems other than E-UTRAN. However, in the following, the E-UTRAN connected state and an RLF situation are used as examples for exemplifying the concept.

[0042] The pre-configured redirection information could be signaled to the UE in dedicated signaling. The UE could use the information as follows:

1. 1. The UE is in the RRC Connected state and has the pre-configured redirection information.
2. 2. The UE experiences RLF (see 3GPP TS 36.300 and 3GPP TS 36.331 for details).
3. 3. The UE starts searching the cells according to the pre-configured redirection information received and chooses the first found cell.
4. 4. The UE initiates access procedure on the chosen cell.

This is also outlined in more detail below.

[0043] The search of cells could be performed in the same order (i.e., priority) as the information is provided in the pre-configured redirection information or explicit priority

information may be provided (e.g., Cell 1 has Priority 1; Cell 2 has Priority 2). Alternatively, when the UE has chosen the target cell (potentially among multiple target cells), the UE will first search for the target cell if the UE has not already detected the target cell. As another example, if the UE has not detected the target cell, the UE will search on an indicated frequency and especially for cell(s) (including the target cell) indicated by the NW. Alternatively, as another example, the UE will choose a cell among those detected according to the information provided in the pre-configured redirection information.

[0044] The pre-configured redirection information may include different levels of detail. The pre-configured redirection information could include, for example, some or all of the following information (information 530 as shown in FIG. 5):

1. 1) A list having a single PCI or multiple PCIs;
2. 2) A list having a single ECGI or multiple ECGIs;
3. 3) A list having band information for a single band or band information for multiple bands;
4. 4) A list having carrier frequency for a single carrier or carrier frequency for each of multiple carriers;
5. 5) A list having RAT information for a single RAT or RAT information for multiple RATs;
6. 6) Relevant system information may be provided for all these cells to decrease the time of connection establishment in the cell; or
7. 7) Information indicating whether the UE context is available in certain cells or alternatively only the cells having the UE context would be indicated.

[0045] Optionally, only detected cells could be considered as re-direction candidates among the configured cells. It would be also beneficial if the measurements are activated on the carriers on which UE has redirection configuration.

[0046] Broadcasting of the list (e.g., one or more of the lists in 1)-5) above) should not be excluded, but it is unlikely that broadcasting of the list would be performed.

[0047] The instant invention should not be limited to RLF or HO failure. Exemplary embodiments could also be potentially used in other protocol error scenarios, e.g., random access failure. For random access failure, see 3GPP TS 36.321 (e.g., v.10.1.0, 2011-03), section 5.1.

[0048] The NW 90 (via one of the eNBs 12) can implement a variety of strategies as to how to distribute the UE information to candidate target cells in order to make the redirection work with potential re-establishment. For instance, there may be a concentration of RLFs occurring in some particular situation within the cell (varying between the cells). That is, although RLFs are more likely to happen in certain areas of a cell (e.g., cell edge), it does not mean that it is the same between different cells. One cell may also have a spot with poor coverage (or a coverage hole), e.g., due to a building or the like. There could be multiple of such

concentrations also within the cell. The NW 90 may utilize the information (e.g., statistics about the radio conditions) from previous RLFs in order to assess the potential of a particular UE having a RLF. The earlier RLF information could then be used to identify to which cell(s) where the re-establishment would most likely happen. This would limit the signaling overhead both on the radio interface as well as in the network side.

[0049] An example of an exemplary cell selection for RRC connection re-establishment using dedicated signaling is shown in FIG. 4. FIG. 4 is an example based on FIG. 2. In step 1 of FIG. 4, the UE is in RRC_CONNECTED state on Cell 1. In step 2, the network includes pre-configured redirection information. Information regarding Cell 3 is present in the pre-configured redirection information. The message *RRCCConnectionReconfiguration* is sent from the base station (BS) to the user equipment (UE). This message includes the *PreConfiguredRedirectInfo* including the pre-configured redirection information described above. This is an example message; that is, pre-configured redirection information could be signaled on some other message. In step 3, the UE confirms that the pre-configured redirection information is taken into use via a *RRCCConnectionReconfigurationComplete* message from the UE to the BS. Again, this message is merely exemplary and other messages might be used.

[0050] In step 4, Cell 2 and Cell 3 are available with sufficient RSRP levels. The RSRP level of Cell 2 is better than is the RSRP level of Cell 3. This is only one example of possible RSRP settings. In step 5, the RSRP level of Cell 1 suddenly goes bad and radio link failure occurs. In step 6, the UE 10 starts a cell selection procedure and the UE 10 searches Cell 3 first according to the pre-configured redirection information. In step 7, the UE 10 detects Cell 3 and starts a re-establishment procedure even if Cell 2 would have been heard as well. Cell 3 should also fulfill cell suitability criteria. The UE 10 sends to the BS 12 the *RRCCConnectionReestablishmentRequest* message.

[0051] In step 8, The NW (e.g., BS 12) transmits to the UE 10 a *RRCCConnectionReestablishment* message. In step 9, the UE transmits to the BS 12 a *RRCCConnectionReestablishmentComplete* message. In step 10, connection is re-established and normal operation continues.

[0052] The following rules might be used by the UE, in an exemplary embodiment. The *PreConfiguredRedirectInfo* is the pre-configured redirection information described above.

[0053] After RLF or HO failure, the UE shall attempt to camp on a suitable cell according to *PreConfiguredRedirectionInfo*, if available. If the UE cannot find a suitable cell, the UE is allowed to camp on any suitable cell of the indicated RAT. If *PreConfiguredRedirectionInfo* is not available, the UE shall attempt to select a suitable cell on an EUTRA carrier. If no suitable cell is found according to the above, the UE shall perform a cell selection starting with a Stored Information Cell Selection procedure in order to find a suitable cell to camp on.

[0054] After RLF or HO failure after UE moved to RRC_CONNECTED state from *camped on any cell* state, the UE shall attempt to camp on an acceptable cell according to

PreConfiguredRedirectInfo, if available. If the UE cannot find an acceptable cell, the UE is allowed to camp on any acceptable cell of the indicated RAT. If *PreConfiguredRedirectInfo* is not available, the UE shall attempt to select an acceptable cell on an EUTRA carrier. If no acceptable cell is found according to the above, the UE shall continue to search for an acceptable cell of any PLMN in state *any cell selection*.

[0055] Turning now to FIG. 5, a block diagram is shown of a flowchart performed by a user equipment for using pre-configured redirection information. The blocks in the flowchart may be performed by, e.g., PROG 10C executed by DP 10A, which causes the UE 10 to perform these operations. Additionally, the blocks may be performed by hardware only, such as a very large scale integrated circuit specifically designed to perform these operations. Additionally, the blocks may be performed by some combination of software (executed by hardware) and by hardware. In block 510, the user equipment performs the operation of receiving information 530 (described above also) to be used in response to a failure, while a user equipment is in a connected state with a network, by the user equipment of a network connection using a current cell to search for another cell to reestablish the network connection. The information 530 may be any one or more of the following non-limiting examples:

1. 1) A list having a single PCI or multiple PCIs;
2. 2) A list having a single ECGI or multiple ECGIs;
3. 3) A list having band information for a single band or band information for multiple bands;
4. 4) A list having carrier frequency for a single carrier or carrier frequency for each of multiple carriers;
5. 5) A list having RAT information for a single RAT or RAT information for multiple RATs;
6. 6) Relevant system information may be provided for all these cells to decrease the time of connection establishment in the cell; or
7. 7) Information indicating whether the UE context is available in certain cells or alternatively only the cells having the UE context would be indicated.

[0056] The failure 540 of the network connection to the current cell could be any of the following (as non-limiting examples):

1. 1) A radio link failure with the current cell;
2. 2) A handover failure to the current cell from an initial cell, wherein the user equipment retains the network connection and the connected state with the network using the initial cell;
3. 3) A random access failure with the current cell; or
4. 4) An idle to connected transition failure on a random access channel.

[0057] In block 520, the user equipment performs the operation of, in response to the failure

540 of the network connection to the current cell while the user equipment is in the connected state with the network, searching, based on the received information 530, for another cell to reestablish the network connection.

[0058] Turning now to FIG. 6, a block diagram is shown of a flowchart performed by a network (e.g., base station) for using pre-configured redirection information. The blocks in the flowchart may be performed by, e.g., PROG 12C executed by DP 12A, which causes the eNB 12 to perform these operations. Additionally, the blocks may be performed by hardware only, such as a very large scale integrated circuit specifically designed to perform these operations. Additionally, the blocks may be performed by some combination of software (executed by hardware) and by hardware. In block 610, the network performs the operation of determining, in the network, information 530 to be used by a user equipment in response to a failure 540, while the user equipment is in a connected state with the network, of a network connection using a current cell to search for another cell to reestablish the network connection. In block 620, the network (e.g., base station such as eNB 12) performs the operation of transmitting indications of the information from a base station (e.g., of the current cell) in the network to the user equipment. In the exemplary scenarios 1, 3, and 4 of failures 540, the current cell would transmit the indications, e.g., sometime prior to the failure 540. However, in scenario 2 of failures 540, there is a handover failure from an initial cell to the current cell. In this scenario, typically the initial cell would perform the operation of transmitting the indications, e.g., prior to the handover failure.

[0059] Embodiments of the present invention may be implemented in software (executed by one or more processors), hardware (e.g., an application specific integrated circuit), or a combination of software and hardware. In an example embodiment, the software (e.g., application logic, an instruction set) is maintained on any one of various conventional computer-readable media. In the context of this document, a "computer-readable medium" may be any media or means that can contain, store, communicate, propagate or transport the instructions for use by or in connection with an instruction execution system, apparatus, or device, such as a computer, with one example of a computer described and depicted, e.g., in FIG. 3. A computer-readable medium may comprise a computer-readable storage medium (e.g., device) that may be any media or means that can contain or store the instructions for use by or in connection with an instruction execution system, apparatus, or device, such as a computer.

[0060] If desired, the different functions discussed herein may be performed in a different order and/or concurrently with each other. Furthermore, if desired, one or more of the above-described functions may be optional or may be combined.

[0061] Although various aspects of the disclosure are set out above, other aspects of the disclosure comprise other combinations of features from the described embodiments, and not solely the combinations explicitly set out above.

[0062] It is also noted herein that while the above describes example embodiments of the

invention, these descriptions should not be viewed in a limiting sense. Rather, there are several variations and modifications which may be made without departing from the scope of the instant invention.

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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Patent documents cited in the description

- WO2005025092A [0008]
- EP2026610A [0008]

Non-patent literature cited in the description

- 3GPP TS 36.300, 2009, [0004]
- 3GPP TS 36.300, 2011, [0007]
- 3GPP TR 36.913, 2009, [0007]
- 3GPP TR 36.912, 2010, [0007]

Patentkrav

1. Fremgangsmåde, der omfatter:

modtagelse af information (530), der skal anvendes som
5 reaktion på en fejl (540), medens et brugerudstyr er i en
forbundet tilstand med et netværk, i en netværksforbindelse
mellem brugerudstyret og en aktuel celle, hvor den modtagne
information (530) skal anvendes af brugerudstyret til at søge
efter en anden celle for at genoprette netværksforbindelsen;

10 og

som reaktion på fejlen (540) i netværksforbindelsen til den
aktuelle celle, medens brugerudstyret er i den forbundne
tilstand med netværket, søgning, der er baseret på den
modtagne information (530), efter en anden celle for at
15 genoprette netværksforbindelsen, hvor informationen omfatter
en eller flere af de følgende:

en liste, der omfatter en eller flere fysiske
celleidentiteter, og hvor søgningen yderligere omfatter
søgning efter en anden celle, der opfylder en af den ene eller
20 de flere fysiske celleidentiteter for at genoprette
netværksforbindelsen;

en liste, der omfatter en eller flere forstærkede globale
celleidentiteter, og hvor søgningen yderligere omfatter
søgning efter en anden celle, der opfylder en af den ene eller
25 de flere forstærkede globale celleidentiteter for at
genoprette netværksforbindelsen;

en liste, der omfatter båndinformation for et eller flere
bånd, og hvor søgningen yderligere omfatter søgning efter en
anden celle, der opfylder båndinformationen i et af det ene
30 eller de flere bånd for at genoprette netværksforbindelsen;

eller en liste, der omfatter bærefrekvensen for hver af den
ene eller de flere bærebølger, og hvor søgningen yderligere
omfatter søgning efter en anden celle, der opfylder
bærefrekvensen for en af den ene eller de flere bærebølger for
35 at genoprette netværksforbindelsen; og

hvor informationen yderligere omfatter i det mindste en med
information, der angiver, om konteksten af brugerudstyret er
tilgængelig i bestemte celler,

og information for hver af den ene eller de flere angivne celler, hvor den ene eller de flere angivne celler, der er begrænset til disse bestemte celler, har egnet kontekst for brugerudstyret,

- 5 hvor søgningen yderligere omfatter søgning i de angivne celler efter en anden celle for at genoprette netværksforbindelsen.

2. Fremgangsmåde ifølge krav 1, hvor informationen yderligere omfatter radioadgangsteknologiinformation for hver
10 af den ene eller de flere radioadgangsteknologier, og hvor søgningen yderligere omfatter søgning efter en anden celle, der opfylder radioadgangsteknologiinformationen for en af den ene eller de flere radioadgangsteknologier for at genoprette netværksforbindelsen.

15

3. Fremgangsmåde ifølge krav 1 eller krav 2, hvor:
informationen yderligere omfatter systeminformation for hver af den ene eller de flere celler og modtagelse af information, der yderligere omfatter modtagelse af systeminformationen for
20 hver af den ene eller de flere andre celler;
søgningen finder en valgt én af den ene eller de flere andre celler som en celle for at genoprette netværksforbindelsen; og fremgangsmåden yderligere omfatter etablering af en forbindelse til den valgte anden celle ved anvendelse af
25 systeminformationen, der svarer til den valgte anden celle.

4. Fremgangsmåde ifølge hvilke som helst af de foregående krav, hvor listen omfatter en flerhed af entiteter, og hvor hver af de to eller de flere af flerheden af entiteter er
30 forbundet med en tilsvarende prioritet, og hvor søgningen yderligere omfatter søgning efter en anden celle i en rækkefølge, der er baseret på prioriteter af de to eller de flere entiteter.

35 5. Fremgangsmåde ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1 til 4, hvor fejlen ved brugerudstyret i netværksforbindelsen, der anvender den aktuelle celle, omfatter en af:
en radioforbindelsesfejl med den aktuelle celle;

en overleveringsfejl til den aktuelle celle fra en første celle, og hvor brugerudstyret bibeholder netværksforbindelsen og den forbundne tilstand med netværket, der anvender den første celle;

- 5 en random access fejl med den aktuelle celle; og
en ubenyttet til forbundne overgangsfejl på en random access kanal.

6. Fremgangsmåde ifølge et hvilket som helst af de
10 foregående krav, hvor den forbundne tilstand er en RRC_CONNECTED tilstand.

7. Anordning, der omfatter middel til udførelse af
fremgangsmåden ifølge hvilke som helst af kravene 1-6.

15

8. Fremgangsmåde, der omfatter:
bestemmelse af, i et netværk, information (530), der skal
anvendes af et brugerudstyr som en reaktion på en fejl (540) i
en netværksforbindelse mellem brugerudstyret og en aktuel
20 celle, hvor informationen (530), der skal anvendes af
brugerudstyret som reaktion på fejlen, forekommer, medens
brugerudstyret er i en forbundet tilstand med netværket, og
skal anvendes til at søge efter en anden celle for at
genoprette netværksforbindelsen; og
25 overførsel af informationen (530) fra netværket til
brugerudstyret, hvor informationen omfatter en eller flere af
de følgende:

en liste, der omfatter en eller flere fysiske
celleidentiteter, der skal anvendes af brugerudstyret til at
30 søge efter en anden celle, der opfylder en af den ene eller de
flere fysiske celleidentiteter for at genoprette
netværksforbindelsen;

en liste, der omfatter en eller flere forstærkede globale
celleidentiteter, der skal anvendes af brugerudstyret til at
35 søge efter en anden celle, der opfylder en af den ene eller de
flere forstærkede globale celleidentiteter for at genoprette
netværksforbindelsen;

en liste, der omfatter båndinformation for et eller flere

bånd, der skal anvendes af brugerudstyret til at søge efter en anden celle, der opfylder båndinformationen i et af det ene eller de flere bånd for at genoprette netværksforbindelsen; eller

5 en liste, der omfatter bærefrekvensen for hver af den ene eller de flere bærebølger, der skal anvendes af brugerudstyret til at søge efter en anden celle, der opfylder bærefrekvensen for en af den ene eller de flere bærebølger for at genoprette netværksforbindelsen; og,

10 hvor informationen yderligere omfatter i det mindste en med information, der angiver, om konteksten af brugerudstyret er tilgængelig i bestemte celler, og

information for hver af den ene eller de flere angivne celler, hvor den ene eller de flere angivne celler, der er begrænset
15 til disse bestemte celler, har egnet kontekst for brugerudstyret, der skal anvendes af brugerudstyret til at søge i de angivne celler efter en anden celle for at genoprette netværksforbindelsen.

20 9. Fremgangsmåde ifølge krav 8, hvor informationen omfatter radioadgangsteknologiinformation for hver af den ene eller de flere radioadgangsteknologier.

10. Fremgangsmåde ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 8
25 til 9, hvor listen omfatter en flerhed af entiteter, og hvor hver af de to eller de flere af flerheden af entiteter er forbundet med en tilsvarende prioritet.

11. Anordning, der omfatter middel til udførelse af
30 fremgangsmåden ifølge hvilke som helst af kravene 8-10.

12. Computerprogramprodukt, der omfatter et computerlæsbart medium, som bærer computerprogramkode, der er indbefattet
deri, til anvendelse med en computer, hvor
35 computerprogramkoden omfatter kode til udførelse af hvilke som helst af operationerne i fremgangsmåden ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-6 eller 8-10.

DRAWINGS

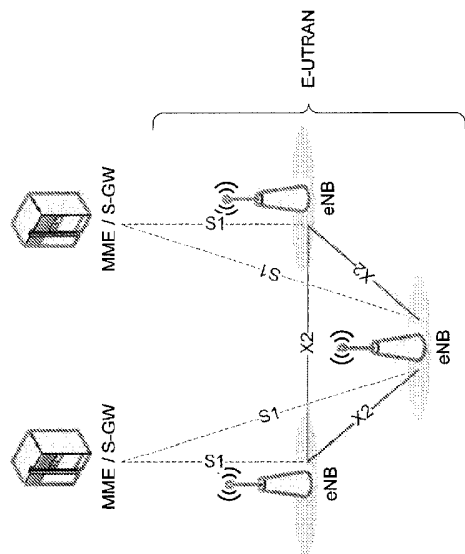


FIG. 1

Step	Procedure	Message Sequence	
		UE – BS	Message
1	The UE is in RRC_CONNECTED state on the Cell 1.	-	-
2	The UE context is available in Cell 3, but the UE context is not available in Cell 2.	-	-
3	Cell 2 and Cell 3 are available with sufficient RSRP levels. The RSRP level of Cell 2 is better than the RSRP level of Cell 3.	-	-
4	RSRP of Cell 1 suddenly goes bad and radio link failure occurs.	-	-
5	The UE starts cell selection procedure.	-	-
6	The UE detects Cell 2 and starts re-establishment procedure.	--> (UL)	<i>RRCConnectionReestablishmentRequest</i>
7	The NW sends <i>RRCConnectionReestablishmentReject</i> because the UE context is not available in Cell 2.	<-(DL)	<i>RRCConnectionReestablishmentReject</i>
8	The UE goes to RRC_IDLE.		

FIG. 2

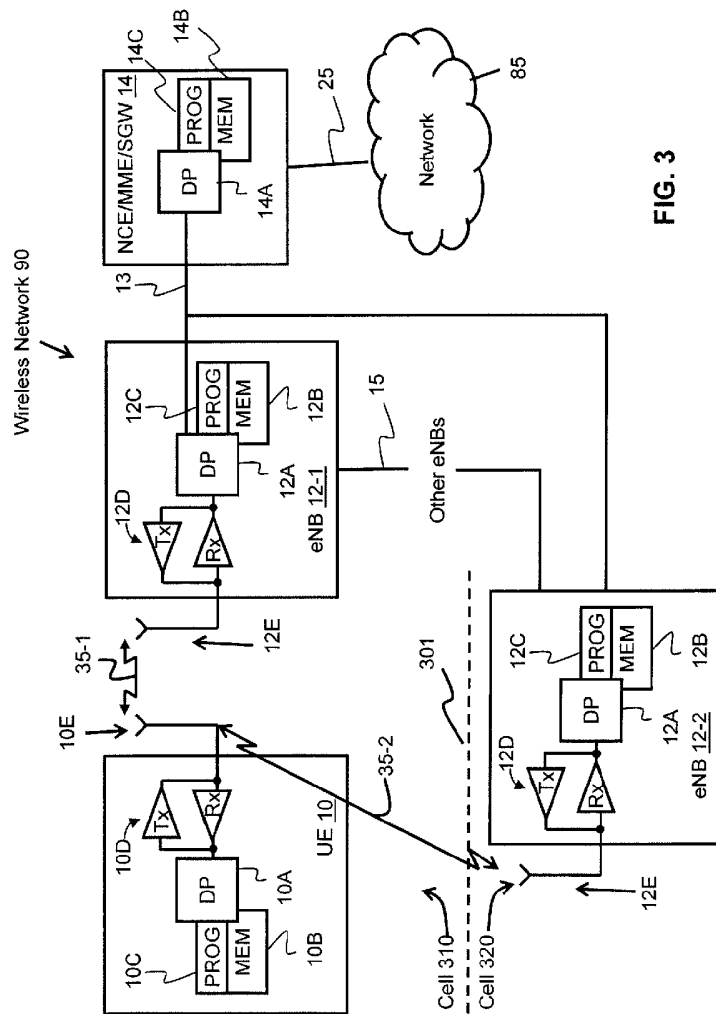


FIG. 3

Step	Procedure	Message Sequence	
		UE – BS	Message
1	The UE is in RRC_CONNECTED state on Cell 1.	-	-
2	The network includes redirection information. Information regarding Cell 3 is present in the redirection information.	<-- (DL)	<i>RRCConnectionReconfiguration (includes PreConfiguredRedirectionInfo)</i>
3	The UE confirms that the redirection information is taken into use.	--> (UL)	<i>RRCConnectionReconfigurationComplete</i>
4	Cell 2 and Cell 3 are available with sufficient RSRP levels. RSRP level of Cell 2 is better than RSRP level of Cell 3.	-	-
5	RSRP level of Cell 1 suddenly goes bad and radio link failure occurs.	-	-

FIG. 4

Step	Procedure	Message Sequence	
		UE - BS	Message
6	The UE starts a cell selection procedure and the UE searches Cell 3 first according to the redirection information.	-	-
7	The UE detects Cell 3 and starts a re-establishment procedure even if Cell 2 would have been heard as well. Cell 3 should also fulfill cell suitability criteria.	--> (UL)	<i>RRConnectionReestablishmentRequest</i>
8	The NW transmits <i>RRConnectionReestablishment</i> message.	<-- (DL)	<i>RRConnectionReestablishment</i>
9	The UE transmits <i>RRConnectionReestablishmentComplete</i> message.	--> (UL)	<i>RRConnectionReestablishmentComplete</i>
10	Connection is re-established and normal operation continues.		

FIG. 4 (Continued)

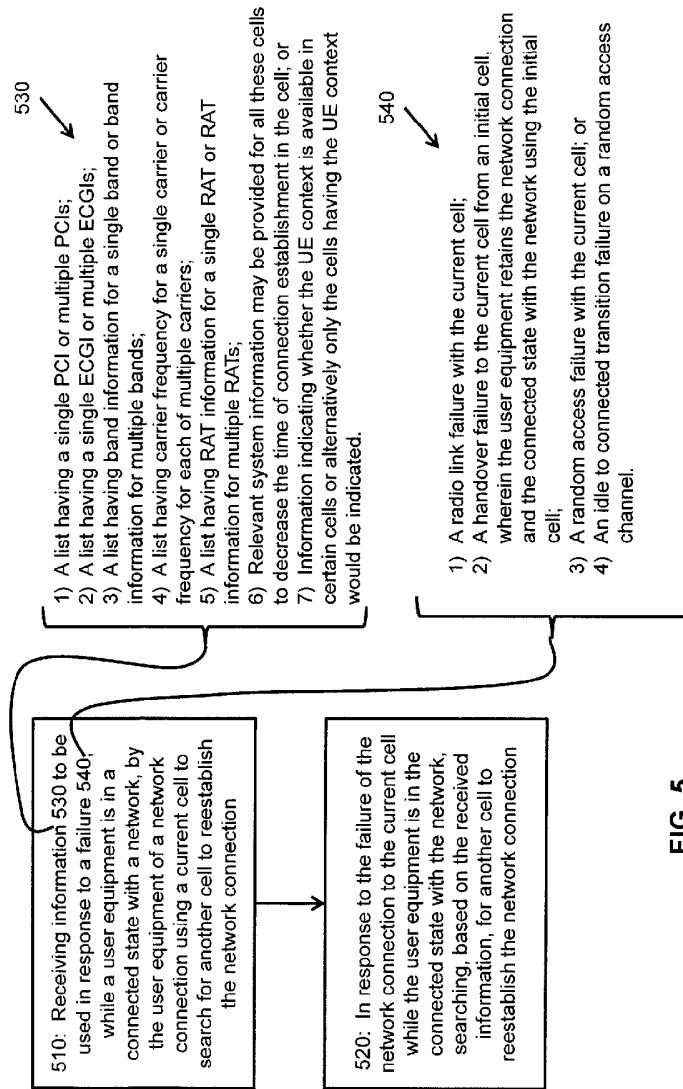


FIG. 5

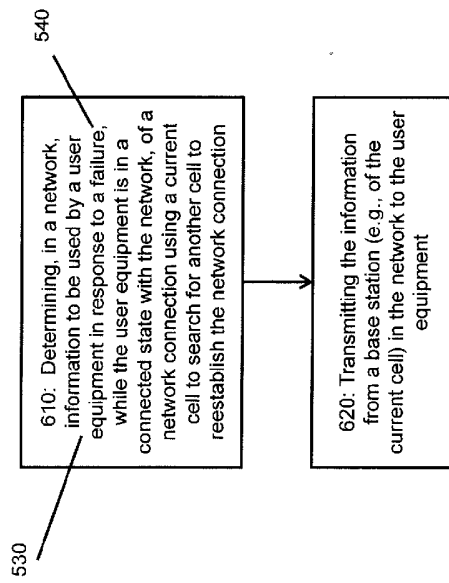


FIG. 6