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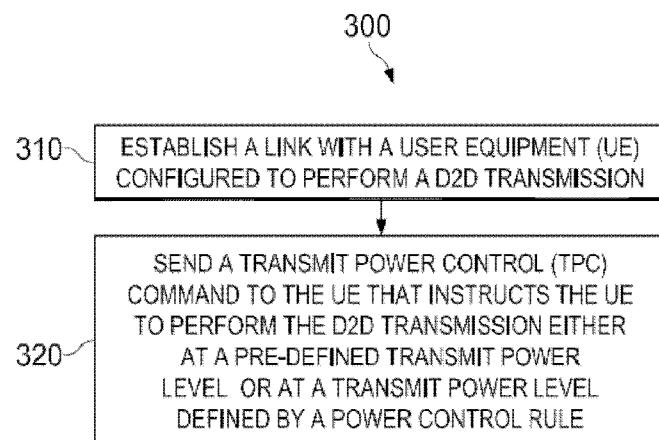


FIG. 3

(57) Abstract: A transmit power control rule for device-to-device (D2D) transmissions may not be necessary during periods in which no uplink transmissions are scheduled to be received by an enhanced Node B base station (eNB) (900, 1000). When uplink transmissions are not scheduled to be received by the eNB (900, 1000), the eNB (900, 1000) may send a transmit power control (TPC) command to a D2D capable user equipment (D2D UE) that instructs the D2D UE to perform a D2D transmission at a pre-defined transmit power level (e.g., maximum transmit power level). When uplink transmissions are scheduled to be received by the eNB (900, 1000), the eNB (900, 1000) may send a TPC command to the D2D UE that instructs the D2D UE to perform a D2D transmission at a transmit power level defined by a power control rule.

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System and Method for Power Control Command for Device-to-Device Transmissions

[0001] This patent application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/990,510, filed on May 8, 2014 and entitled “System and Method for Power Control Command for D2D Transmissions,” and U.S. non-provisional Application Serial No. 14/704,382 and entitled “System and Method for Power Control Command for Device-to-Device Transmissions ,” filed on May 05, 2015, both of which are hereby incorporated by reference herein as if reproduced in their entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] The present invention relates to a system and method for wireless communications, and, in particular embodiments, to a system and method for power control command for device-to-device transmissions.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Device-to-device (D2D) transmission techniques provide direct communications between user equipments (UEs). D2D transmission techniques may increase system capacity and spectral efficiency, for instance by offloading local communications from an enhanced Node B (eNB). In addition, D2D transmission techniques may also provide a direct connection between neighboring UEs when an indirect connection via an eNB is undesirable or unavailable.

[0004] There are two main steps to establish D2D transmissions. In the first step, a device-to-device capable user equipment (D2D UE) attempts to discover neighboring UEs. In the second step, the D2D UE directly communicates data with neighboring UEs without the data relaying through the eNB. Discovery can be performed as a standalone operation. D2D direct communication can be performed following D2D discovery.

[0005] D2D transmissions may be communicated over uplink resources, and therefore have the potential to interfere with uplink signals received at nearby eNBs. Accordingly, an efficient power control scheme for D2D transmissions that mitigates interference to neighboring UEs and nearby eNBs is desired.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] Technical advantages are generally achieved, by embodiments of this disclosure which describe system and method for power control command for device-to-device transmissions.

[0007] In accordance with an embodiment, a method for power control command for device-to-device (D2D) communications in a wireless communication network is provided. In this example, the method comprises establishing a link with a first user equipment (UE) in a cell. The first UE is configured to perform a D2D transmission to one or more UEs. The method further comprises sending a transmit power control (TPC) command to the first UE, the TPC command instructing the first UE to perform the D2D transmission either at a pre-defined transmit power level or at a transmit power level defined by a power control rule. An apparatus for performing this method is also provided.

[0008] In accordance with another embodiment, another method for power control command for device-to-device (D2D) communications in a wireless communication network is provided. In this example, the method comprises receiving a TPC command from a base station. The TPC command instructs the first UE to perform a D2D transmission either at a pre-defined transmit power level or at a transmit power level defined by a power control rule. The method further comprises performing the D2D transmission using the pre-defined transmit power level when the TPC command instructs the first UE to perform the D2D transmission at the pre-defined transmit power level. The method further comprises performing the D2D transmission at the transmit power level defined by the power control rule when the TPC command instructs the UE to perform the D2D transmission at the transmit power level defined by the power control rule. An apparatus for performing this method is also provided.

[0009] In accordance with yet another embodiment, a method for power control command for setting a transmit power level in a D2D transmission is provided. In this example, the method comprises receiving a TPC command from a base station. The TPC command instructs the first UE to perform a D2D transmission either at a pre-defined transmit power level or at a transmit power level defined by a power control rule. The method further comprises obtaining the transmit power level in accordance with $P_{D2D} = \min \{P_{CMAX,D2D}, 10\log_{10}(M) + P_{O_{D2D,1}} + \alpha \cdot PL\}$ [dBm], where $P_{CMAX,D2D}$ is a maximum power level of a D2D communication channel, M is a

bandwidth of a D2D communication channel resource assignment, PL is a downlink path loss estimate calculated for a serving cell, and $P_{O_{D2D}}$ and α are provided by higher layer parameters. An apparatus for performing this method is also provided.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] For a more complete understanding of the present invention, and the advantages thereof, reference is now made to the following descriptions taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, in which:

[0011] FIG. 1 illustrates a diagram of an embodiment wireless network;

[0012] FIG. 2 illustrates a diagram of an embodiment wireless network for supporting direct device-to-device (D2D) communication;

[0013] FIG. 3 illustrates a flow chart of an embodiment method for regulating a transmit power level of D2D transmissions;

[0014] FIG. 4 illustrates a flow chart of an embodiment method for performing D2D transmissions;

[0015] FIG. 5 illustrates a flow chart of an embodiment method for setting a transmit power level;

[0016] FIG. 6 illustrates a flow chart of an embodiment method for transmitting a transmit power control (TPC) command to a UE;

[0017] FIG. 7 illustrates a flow chart of an embodiment method for performing D2D transmissions;

[0018] FIG. 8 illustrates a flow chart of another embodiment method for performing D2D transmissions;

[0019] FIG. 9 illustrates a block diagram of an embodiment communications device;

[0020] FIG. 10 illustrates a block diagram of an embodiment computing platform;

[0021] FIG. 11 shows a base station according to an embodiment; and

[0022] FIG. 12 shows a first UE according to an embodiment.

[0023] Corresponding numerals and symbols in the different figures generally refer to corresponding parts unless otherwise indicated. The figures are drawn to clearly illustrate the relevant aspects of the embodiments and are not necessarily drawn to scale.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS

[0024] The structure, manufacture and use of the embodiments are discussed in detail below. It should be appreciated, however, that the present invention provides many applicable inventive concepts that can be embodied in a wide variety of specific contexts. The specific embodiments discussed are merely illustrative of specific ways to make and use the invention, and do not limit the scope of the invention.

[0025] It is a problem to conduct D2D communications between UEs in a wireless communication network without generating interference affecting other communications in the wireless communication network. It is a problem to conduct D2D communications between UEs in a wireless communication network at relatively low or reduced transmission power levels.

[0026] The above problems are addressed herein. A transmit power control rule for D2D transmissions may not be necessary during periods in which no uplink transmissions are scheduled to be received by a base station. When uplink transmissions are not scheduled to be received by the base station, the base station may send a transmit power control (TPC) command to a D2D-capable UE that instructs the D2D UE to perform a D2D transmission at a pre-defined transmit power level (such as at a maximum transmit power level, for example). When uplink transmissions are scheduled to be received by the base station, the base station may send a TPC command to the D2D UE that instructs the D2D UE to perform a D2D transmission at a transmit power level defined by a power control rule.

[0027] A base station may communicate transmit power control (TPC) commands to user equipments (UEs) to instruct the UEs to regulate their transmit power level based on transmit power control algorithms/rules. For D2D transmissions, transmit power control rules may typically specify relatively low transmit power levels for UEs located nearby the eNB to mitigate interference between the UE's D2D transmissions and uplink transmissions being received by the eNB from UEs. However, restricting the D2D UE to low power D2D transmissions may be unnecessary during periods in which no uplink transmissions are scheduled to be received by the eNB. In addition, the eNB may tolerate a predetermined amount of interference from D2D transmissions to improve D2D transmission performance. This may be beneficial when the D2D transmissions are used for the purpose of public safety. . Thus, regulating D2D transmissions using a transmit power control rule may unnecessarily constrain D2D performance (e.g.,

throughput, range, etc.) during periods in which no uplink transmissions are received by the eNB. In such cases, it may be desirable to improve D2D performance and/or range by using a pre-defined transmit power level (e.g., a maximum transmit power level) to perform D2D transmissions.

[0028] Aspects of this disclosure provide an embodiment TPC command that instructs a D2D UE to perform a D2D transmission either at a pre-defined transmit power level or based on a power control rule depending on whether uplink transmissions are scheduled to be received by an eNB during a specific period. The TPC command may instruct the D2D UE to perform the D2D transmission at the pre-defined transmit power level (e.g., a maximum transmit power level) when there is no uplink transmissions scheduled to be received by the eNB over time-frequency resources available to carry the D2D transmission. Conversely, the TPC command may instruct the D2D UE to perform a D2D transmission at a transmit power level defined by a power control rule when uplink transmissions are scheduled to be received by the eNB over time-frequency resources available to carry the D2D transmission. The TPC command may be transmitted in a physical downlink control channel (PDCCH) or an enhanced PDCCH (ePDCCH) using a downlink control information (DCI) format. In one embodiment, a DCI format 3/3A (as defined in LTE specifications) may carry a TPC command that enables/disables a transmit power control rule for a D2D UE. The TPC command may carry a new radio network temporary identifier (RNTI) (referred to as a D2D-TPC-RNTI) to identify the D2D UE and/or to distinguish the new TPC command from existing control commands (e.g., LTE control commands). In another embodiment, a new DCI format (e.g., DCI format 5) may be defined to instruct the D2D UE to perform the D2D transmission to neighboring UE at either a pre-defined transmit power level or a transmit power level defined by a power control rule. In addition, the eNB may notify the UE about a specific period for which the UE's D2D transmissions can be communicated at a pre-defined transmit power. In one embodiment, the eNB communicates the specific period to the D2D UE via a parameter in a downlink control channel. In another embodiment, the eNB communicates the time interval to the D2D UE using higher-layer signaling. As a result, the D2D UE may use a pre-defined transmit power level to perform D2D transmissions during the specific period. These and other details are described in greater detail below.

[0029] FIG. 1 illustrates a wireless network 100 for communicating data. The wireless network 100 includes an access point (AP) 110 having a coverage area 101, a plurality of mobile

devices 120, and a backhaul network 130. The AP 110 may comprise any component capable of providing wireless access by, among other things, establishing uplink (dashed line) and/or downlink (dotted line) connections with the UEs 120, such as a base station, an enhanced base station (eNB), a femtocell, and other wirelessly enabled devices. The UEs 120 may comprise any component capable of establishing a wireless connection with the AP 110, such as a mobile phone, a mobile station or other wirelessly enabled devices. The backhaul network 130 may be any component or collection of components that allow data to be exchanged between the AP 110 and a remote end. In some embodiments, there may be multiple such networks, and/or the network may comprise various other wireless devices, such as relays, low power nodes, etc.

FIG. 2 illustrates a wireless network 200 for supporting direct D2D communications. As shown, the wireless network 200 comprises an eNB 205 and a plurality of UEs 210, 220, 230. In this example, the UE 210 performs a D2D transmission 212 to the UE 220. Oftentimes, the eNBs will be operated by, or under the control of, a wireless service provider, and hence may allow the wireless service provider to monitor and/or control various aspects of a direct D2D communication between a pair of UEs. For instance, one or both of the UEs 210, 220 may establish a cellular uplink (Cell_UL) connection with the eNB 205, thereby allowing the wireless service provider to monitor various aspects of the D2D transmission 212. Likewise, the eNB 205 may establish a cellular downlink (Cell_DL) connection with one or both of the UEs 210, 220, thereby allowing the wireless service provider to control various aspects of the D2D communication. The D2D transmission 212 may be communicated over uplink resources (e.g., uplink frequencies, etc.), and therefore may interfere with uplink signals being received by the eNB 205. For example, the D2D transmission 212 may interfere with an uplink transmission 235 from the UE 230. This interference may be particularly problematic when the UE 210 is positioned nearby the eNB 205. Interference may also be present when the UE 210 is located somewhat further from the eNB 205, but uses a high transmit power level. The UE 210 may perform the D2D transmission 212 using a transmit power level defined by a transmit power control algorithm/rule (e.g., open-loop power control algorithm defined in LTE specifications). The transmit power control algorithm may constrain a transmit power level of the D2D transmission 212 to mitigate interference between the D2D transmission 212 and the uplink transmission 235. However, constraining the transmit power level of the D2D transmission 212

in accordance with the transmit power control rule may unnecessarily reduce D2D performance during periods in which no uplink transmissions are scheduled to be received by the eNB 205.

[0030] Aspects of this disclosure address this issue by providing a transmit power control (TPC) command that instructs the UE 210 to perform D2D transmissions at a pre-defined transmit power level (e.g., a maximum transmit power level) during periods in which no uplink transmissions are scheduled to be received. FIG. 3 illustrates a flow chart of an embodiment method 300 for regulating transmit power levels of D2D transmissions, as might be performed by an eNB. As shown, the method 300 begins at step 310, where the eNB establishes a link with a UE that is configured to perform a D2D transmission. Subsequently, the method 300 proceeds to step 320, where the eNB sends a transmit power control (TPC) command that instructs the UE to perform the D2D transmission at either a pre-defined transmit power level or a transmit power level defined by a transmit power control rule. The TPC command may instruct the UE to perform the D2D transmission at the pre-defined transmit power level when no uplink transmissions are scheduled to be received by the eNB. Alternatively, the eNB transmitting the TPC command may instruct the UE to perform the D2D transmission at the transmit power level defined by the power control rule when uplink transmissions are scheduled to be received by the eNB. In an embodiment, parameters of the power control rule (e.g., open-loop power control rule, closed-loop power control rule, etc.) are configured by higher layer signaling. The TPC command may instruct the UE to use the pre-defined power level, or the power control rule, for a specific period (e.g., T subframes). The specific period may be specified by a parameter in the TPC command. Alternatively, the specific period may be communicated to the UE via higher-layer signaling. The TPC command may be transmitted on a physical downlink control channel (PDCCH) and/or an enhanced physical downlink control channel (EPDCCH). The TPC command may be communicated using a downlink control information (DCI) format e.g., a new DCI format, an existing DCI format carrying a new radio network temporary identifier (RNTI) associated with a D2D UE, etc.

[0031] FIG. 4 illustrates a flow chart of an embodiment method 400 for performing D2D transmissions, as might be performed by a UE. As shown, the method 400 begins at step 410, where a UE receives a TPC command from a base station that instructs the UE to perform a D2D transmission either at a pre-defined transmit power level or at a transmit power level defined by a power control rule. Thereafter, the method 400 proceeds to step 420, where the UE

determines whether the TPC command instructs the UE to perform D2D transmission using the power control rule. If so, the method 400 proceeds to step 440, where the UE performs the D2D transmission at the transmit power level defined by the power control rule. Alternatively, if the TPC command instructs the UE not to perform D2D transmission using a power control rule, the method 400 proceeds to step 430, where the UE determines whether D2D transmission coincides with a random access channel (RACH) transmission. If so, the method 400 proceeds to step 440. A D2D transmission may coincide with a RACH transmission when the D2D transmission collides, or significantly interferes, with the RACH transmission. Alternatively, if the D2D transmission does not coincide with the RACH transmission, then the method 400 proceeds to step 450, where the UE performs D2D transmission using the pre-defined transmit power level. For instance, in some embodiments the D2D transmission may be performed over time-frequency resources of a D2D communication channel, e.g., a physical sidelink shared channel (PSSCH). In some embodiments, the UE may not consider whether the D2D transmission coincides with a RACH transmission. In such embodiments, step 430 is omitted, and the method 400 proceeds to step 450 when the TPC command instructs the UE not to perform D2D transmission using a power control rule.

[0032] FIG. 5 illustrates a flow chart of an embodiment method 500 for setting a transmit power level, as might be performed by a UE. As shown, the method 500 begins at step 510, where the UE receives a TPC command from a base station. In an embodiment, the UE performs a D2D transmission at a pre-defined transmit power level when the TPC command instructs the UE to perform the D2D transmission at the pre-defined transmit power level. In another embodiment, the UE performs a D2D transmission at a transmit power level defined by a transmit power control rule when the TPC command instructs the UE to perform the D2D transmission in accordance with the transmit power control rule. Subsequently, the method 500 proceeds to step 520, where the UE obtains the transmit power level in accordance with the equation $P_{D2D} = \min \{P_{C_{MAX,D2D}}, 10 \log_{10}(M) + P_{O_{D2D,1}} + \alpha \cdot PL\}$ [dBm], where P_{D2D} is the transmit power level used by the UE to perform the D2D transmission, $P_{C_{MAX,D2D}}$ is the maximum power the UE can transmit on the D2D communication channel when the open loop power control rule is used, M is a bandwidth of a D2D communication channel resource assignment, PL is a downlink path loss estimate calculated for a serving cell, and $P_{O_{D2D}}$ and α are provided by

higher layer parameters. In some embodiments, the D2D communication channel is a PSSCH. In such embodiments, the above equation may be rewritten as

$P_{\text{PSSCH}} = \min \{P_{\text{CMAX},\text{PSSCH}}, 10 \log_{10}(M_{\text{PSSCH}}) + P_{\text{O}_{\text{PSSCH},1}} + \alpha_{\text{PSSCH},1} \cdot PL\}$, where $P_{\text{CMAX},\text{PSSCH}}$ is the maximum power the UE can transmit on the PSSCH when the open loop power control rule is used, M_{PSSCH} is a bandwidth of a PSSCH resource assignment, PL is a downlink path loss estimate calculated for a serving cell, and $P_{\text{O}_{\text{PSSCH},1}}$ and $\alpha_{\text{PSSCH},1}$ are provided by higher layer parameters.

[0033] FIG. 6 illustrates a flow chart of an embodiment method 600 for transmitting a transmit power control (TPC) command to a UE. As shown, the method 600 begins at step 610, where an eNB determines whether uplink transmissions have been scheduled from UEs in its cell for a specific period (e.g., T subframes). If the eNB determines that at least one UL transmission is scheduled during the specific period, then the method 600 proceeds to step 620, where the eNB instructs the UE to perform D2D transmissions at a transmit power level defined by a transmit power control rule. In some embodiments, the eNB expressly instructs the UE to use a transmit power control rule by transmitting a TPC command that instructs the UE to use a transmit power control rule. In other embodiments, the UE has previously been instructed to use a transmit power control rule unless further notice is received (e.g., via a TPC command disabling D2D power control). In such embodiments, the eNB implicitly instructs the UE to continue using the transmit power control rule by not transmitting a TPC command disabling a D2D power control rule. During step 610, if the eNB determines that UL transmissions are not scheduled during the specific period, then the method 600 proceeds to step 630, where the eNB sends the TPC command to instruct the UE to perform D2D transmissions at a pre-defined transmit power level (e.g., a maximum transmit power level). In another embodiment, the eNB instructs the UE to perform D2D transmissions at a fixed transmit power level to provide larger range D2D transmissions irrespective of their interference with uplink transmissions received by the eNB or other wireless communications.

[0034] FIG. 7 illustrates a flow chart of an embodiment method 700 for performing D2D transmissions. As shown, the method 700 begins at step 710, where a UE begins performing D2D transmissions at a transmit power level defined by a transmit power control rule. Thereafter, the method proceeds to step 720, where the UE determines whether a TPC command disabling

the transmit power control rule has been received. If so, the method 700 proceeds to step 730, where the UE performs D2D transmissions at a pre-defined transmit power level. Alternatively, if a TPC command disabling the transmit power control rule has not been received, then the method 700 proceeds to step 740, where the UE performs D2D transmissions at the transmit power level defined by the transmit power control rule.

[0035] FIG. 8 illustrates a flow chart of another embodiment method 800 for performing D2D transmissions associated with a random access channel (RACH) transmission. As shown, the method 800 begins at step 810, where a UE begins performing D2D transmissions at a transmit power level defined by a transmit power control rule. Thereafter, the method 800 proceeds to step 820, where the UE determines whether a TPC command disabling the transmit power control rule has been received. If not, the method 800 proceeds to step 830, where the UE performs D2D transmissions at the transmit power level defined by the transmit power control rule. Alternatively, if a TPC command disabling the transmit power control rule has been received, then the method 800 proceeds to step 840, where the UE determines the D2D transmissions would coincide (e.g., collide) with a random access channel (RACH) transmission. If not, the method 800 proceeds to step 850, where the UE performs D2D transmissions using a pre-defined transmit power level. Alternatively, if the D2D transmission would coincide with a RACH transmission, then the method 800 proceeds to step 860, where the UE performs the D2D transmission at the transmit power level defined by the transmit power control rule.

[0036] FIG. 9 is a block diagram of a processing system 900 that may be used for implementing the devices and methods disclosed herein. Specific devices may utilize all of the components shown, or only a subset of the components, and levels of integration may vary from device to device. Furthermore, a device may contain multiple instances of a component, such as multiple processing units, processors, memories, transmitters, receivers, etc. The processing system 900 may comprise a processing unit equipped with one or more input/output devices, such as a speaker, microphone, mouse 924, touchscreen, keypad, keyboard 924, printer 924, display 916, and the like. The processing system 900 may include a central processing unit (CPU) 902, memory 910, a mass storage device 904, a video adapter 915, and an I/O interface 921, all connected to a bus 906.

[0037] The bus 906 may be one or more of any type of several bus architectures including a memory bus or memory controller, a peripheral bus, video bus, or the like. The CPU 902 may

comprise any type of electronic data processor. The memory 910 may comprise any type of non-transitory system memory such as static random access memory (SRAM), dynamic random access memory (DRAM), synchronous DRAM (SDRAM), read-only memory (ROM), a combination thereof, or the like. In an embodiment, the memory 910 may include ROM for use at boot-up, and DRAM for program and data storage for use while executing programs.

[0038] The mass storage device 904 may comprise any type of non-transitory storage device configured to store data, programs, and other information and to make the data, programs, and other information accessible via the bus 906. The mass storage device 904 may comprise, for example, one or more of a solid state drive, hard disk drive, a magnetic disk drive, an optical disk drive, or the like.

[0039] The video adapter 915 and the I/O interface 921 provide interfaces to couple external input and output devices to the processing system 900. As illustrated, examples of input and output devices include the display 916 coupled to the video adapter 915 and the mouse/keyboard/printer 924 coupled to the I/O interface 921. Other devices may be coupled to the processing system 900, and additional or fewer interfaces or interface cards may be utilized. For example, a serial interface such as Universal Serial Bus (USB) (not shown) may be used to provide an interface for a printer 924.

[0040] The processing system 900 also includes one or more network interfaces 907, which may comprise wired links, such as an Ethernet cable or the like, and/or wireless links to access nodes or different networks 930. The network interface 907 allows the processing system 900 to communicate with remote units via the networks 930. For example, the network interface 907 may provide wireless communication via one or more transmitters/transmit antennas and one or more receivers/receive antennas. In an embodiment, the processing system 900 is coupled to a local-area network 930 or a wide-area network 930 for data processing and communications with remote devices, such as other processing units, the Internet, remote storage facilities, or the like.

[0041] FIG. 10 illustrates a block diagram of an embodiment of a communications device 1000, which may be equivalent to one or more devices (e.g., requesting devices, candidate devices, network nodes, etc.) discussed above. The communications device 1000 may include a processor 1004, a memory 1006, a cellular interface 1010, a supplemental interface 1012, and a backhaul interface 1014, which may (or may not) be arranged as shown in FIG. 10. The processor 1004 may be any component capable of performing computations and/or other

processing related tasks, and the memory 1006 may be any component capable of storing programming and/or instructions for the processor 1004. The cellular interface 1010 may be any component or collection of components that allows the communications device 1000 to communicate using a cellular signal, and may be used to receive and/or transmit information over a cellular connection of a cellular network. The supplemental interface 1012 may be any component or collection of components that allows the communications device 1000 to communicate data or control information via a supplemental protocol. For instance, the supplemental interface 1012 may be a non-cellular wireless interface for communicating in accordance with a Wireless-Fidelity (Wi-Fi) or Bluetooth protocol. Alternatively, the supplemental interface 1012 may be a wireline interface. The backhaul interface 1014 may be optionally included in the communications device 1000, and may comprise any component or collection of components that allows the communications device 1000 to communicate with another device via a backhaul network.

[0042] FIG. 11 shows a base station 1100 according to an embodiment. The base station 1100 can be used for implementing the devices and methods disclosed herein. The base station 1100 in the example shown includes a power control module 1106 and a link module 1108. The power control module 1106 is configured to send a transmit power control (TPC) command to the first UE, the TPC command instructing the first UE to perform the D2D transmission to the one or more UEs either at a pre-defined transmit power level or at a transmit power level defined by a power control rule. The link module 1108 is configured to establish a link with a first user equipment (UE) in a cell, wherein the first UE is configured to perform a D2D transmission to one or more UEs.

[0043] FIG. 12 shows a first UE 1200 according to an embodiment. The first UE 1200 can be used for implementing the devices and methods disclosed herein. The first UE 1200 in the example shown includes a power control module 1203 and a power level transmission module 1205. The power control module 1203 is configured to receive a TPC command from a base station, wherein the TPC command instructs the first UE to perform a D2D transmission either at a pre-defined transmit power level or at a transmit power level defined by a power control rule. The power level transmission module 1205 is configured to perform the D2D transmission using the pre-defined transmit power level when the TPC command instructs the first UE to perform the D2D transmission at the pre-defined transmit power level and when the D2D transmission

does not coincide with a random access channel (RACH) transmission, and perform the D2D transmission at the transmit power level defined by the power control rule when the TPC command instructs the first UE to perform the D2D transmission at the transmit power level defined by the power control rule.

[0044] The following references are related to subject matter of the present application. Each of these references is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety:

- 3GPP specification 36.213;
- 3GPP RAN1 Chairman Notes, RAN1#76;
- 3GPP RAN1 Chairman Notes, RAN1#76bis;
- 3GPP RAN1 Chairman Notes, RAN1#73.

While this invention has been described with reference to illustrative embodiments, this description is not intended to be construed in a limiting sense. Various modifications and combinations of the illustrative embodiments, as well as other embodiments of the invention, will be apparent to persons skilled in the art upon reference to the description. It is therefore intended that the appended claims encompass any such modifications or embodiments.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for power control command for device-to-device (D2D) communications in a wireless communication network, the method comprising:

establishing, by a base station, a link with a first user equipment (UE) in a cell, wherein the first UE is configured to perform a D2D transmission to one or more UEs; and

sending, by the base station, a transmit power control (TPC) command to the first UE, the TPC command instructing the first UE to perform the D2D transmission either at a pre-defined transmit power level or at a transmit power level defined by a power control rule.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

determining, by the base station, whether uplink transmissions are scheduled to be received by the base station over time-frequency resources available to carry the D2D transmission;

setting, by the base station, the TPC command to instruct the first UE to perform the D2D transmission using the pre-defined transmit power level when no uplink transmissions are scheduled to be received by the base station over the time-frequency resources available to carry the D2D transmission; and

setting, by the base station, the TPC command to instruct the first UE to perform the D2D transmission at the transmit power level defined by the power control rule when at least one uplink transmission is scheduled to be received by the base station over the time-frequency resources available to carry the D2D transmission.

3. The method according to any of claims 1 through 2, wherein the TPC command is valid for a specific period.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the specific period comprises one or more subframes.

5. The method according to claim 3, wherein the specific period is communicated from the base station to the first UE via higher layer signaling.

6. The method according to any of claims 1 through 5, wherein parameters of the power control rule are configured by higher layer signaling.
7. The method according to any of claims 1 through 6, wherein the power control rule comprises an open-loop power control rule.
8. The method according to any of claims 1 through 7, wherein the TPC command is communicated using a downlink control information (DCI) format.
9. The method according to any of claims 1 through 8, wherein the TPC command is transmitted on a physical downlink control channel (PDCCH) or is transmitted on an enhanced physical downlink control channel (EPDCCH).
10. The method according to any of claims 1 through 9, wherein the DCI format associates the TPC command with the first UE by carrying a radio network temporary identifier (RNTI).
11. A base station (900, 1000) for power control command for device-to-device (D2D) communications in a wireless communication network, the base station (900, 1000) comprising:
 - a processor (902, 1004); and
 - a computer readable storage medium (904, 910, 1006) storing programming for execution by the processor (902, 1004), the programming including instructions configuring the base station (900, 1000) to:
 - establish a link with a first user equipment (UE) in a cell, wherein the first UE is configured to perform a D2D transmission to one or more UEs; and
 - send a transmit power control (TPC) command to the first UE, the TPC command instructing the first UE to perform the D2D transmission to the one or more UEs either at a pre-defined transmit power level or at a transmit power level defined by a power control rule.
12. The base station (900, 1000) according to claim 11 wherein the programming further includes instructions configuring the base station (900, 1000) to:

determine whether uplink transmissions are scheduled to be received by the base station (900, 1000) over time-frequency resources available to carry the D2D transmission;

set the TPC command to instruct the first UE to perform the D2D transmission using the pre-defined transmit power level when no uplink transmissions are scheduled to be received by the base station (900, 1000) over the time-frequency resources available to carry the D2D transmission; and

set the TPC command to instruct the first UE to perform the D2D transmission at the transmit power level defined by the power control rule when at least one uplink transmission is scheduled to be received by the base station (900, 1000) over the time-frequency resources available to carry the D2D transmission.

13. A method for power control command for device-to-device (D2D) communications in a wireless communication network, the method comprising:

receiving, by a first user equipment (UE), a TPC command from a base station, wherein the TPC command instructs the first UE to perform a D2D transmission either at a pre-defined transmit power level or at a transmit power level defined by a power control rule;

performing, by the first UE, the D2D transmission using the pre-defined transmit power level when the TPC command instructs the first UE to perform the D2D transmission at the pre-defined transmit power level; and

performing, by the first UE, the D2D transmission at the transmit power level defined by the power control rule when the TPC command instructs the UE to perform the D2D transmission at the transmit power level defined by the power control rule.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the D2D transmission is performed over a D2D communication channel.

15. The method according to any of claims 13 through 14, wherein the D2D communication channel is a physical sidelink shared channel (PSSCH).

16. The method according to any of claims 13 through 15, further comprising:
performing, by the first UE, the D2D transmission at the transmit power level defined by the power control rule when the D2D transmission coincides with the RACH transmission.
17. A first user equipment (UE) (900, 1000) for power control command for device-to-device (D2D) communications in a wireless communication network, the first UE (900, 1000) comprising:
 - a processor (902, 1004); and
 - a computer readable storage medium (904, 910, 1006) storing programming for execution by the processor (902, 1004), the programming including instructions configuring the first UE (900, 1000) to:
 - receive a TPC command from a base station, wherein the TPC command instructs the first UE (900, 1000) to perform a D2D transmission either at a pre-defined transmit power level or at a transmit power level defined by a power control rule;
 - perform the D2D transmission using the pre-defined transmit power level when the TPC command instructs the first UE (900, 1000) to perform the D2D transmission at the pre-defined transmit power level and when the D2D transmission does not coincide with a random access channel (RACH) transmission; and
 - perform the D2D transmission at the transmit power level defined by the power control rule when the TPC command instructs the first UE (900, 1000) to perform the D2D transmission at the transmit power level defined by the power control rule.
18. The first UE (900, 1000) according to claim 17, wherein the programming further includes instructions configuring the first UE (900, 1000) to:
perform the D2D transmission at the transmit power level defined by the power control rule when the D2D transmission coincides with the RACH transmission.
19. A method for power control command for setting a transmit power level in a D2D transmission, the method comprising:

receiving, by a first user equipment (UE), a TPC command from a base station, wherein the TPC command instructs the first UE to perform a D2D transmission either at a pre-defined transmit power level or at a transmit power level defined by a power control rule; and

obtaining, by the first UE, the transmit power level in accordance with

$$P_{\text{D2D}} = \min \{P_{\text{CMAX},\text{D2D}}, 10 \log_{10}(M) + P_{\text{O}_{\text{D2D}},1} + \alpha \cdot PL\} \text{ [dBm]},$$

where $P_{\text{CMAX},\text{D2D}}$ is a maximum power level of a D2D communication channel, M is a bandwidth of a D2D communication channel resource assignment, PL is a downlink path loss estimate calculated for a serving cell, and $P_{\text{O}_{\text{D2D}}}$ and α are provided by higher layer parameters.

20. The method according to claim 19, further comprising:

setting, by the first UE, the transmit power level to perform the D2D transmission to one or more UEs using the transmit power level obtained by the power control rule.

21. A base station for power control command for device-to-device (D2D) communications in a wireless communication network according to any of method claims 1 through 10, the base station comprising:

a link module configured to establish a link with a first user equipment (UE) in a cell, wherein the first UE is configured to perform a D2D transmission to one or more UEs; and

a power control module configured to send a transmit power control (TPC) command to the first UE, the TPC command instructing the first UE to perform the D2D transmission to the one or more UEs either at a pre-defined transmit power level or at a transmit power level defined by a power control rule.

22. A first user equipment (UE) for power control command for device-to-device (D2D) communications in a wireless communication network according to any of method claims 13 through 16, the first UE comprising:

a power control module configured to receive a TPC command from a base station, wherein the TPC command instructs the first UE to perform a D2D transmission either at a pre-defined transmit power level or at a transmit power level defined by a power control rule;

a power level transmission module configured to perform the D2D transmission using the pre-defined transmit power level when the TPC command instructs the first UE (900, 1000) to perform the D2D transmission at the pre-defined transmit power level and when the D2D transmission does not coincide with a random access channel (RACH) transmission; and

the power level transmission module configured to perform the D2D transmission at the transmit power level defined by the power control rule when the TPC command instructs the first UE (900, 1000) to perform the D2D transmission at the transmit power level defined by the power control rule.

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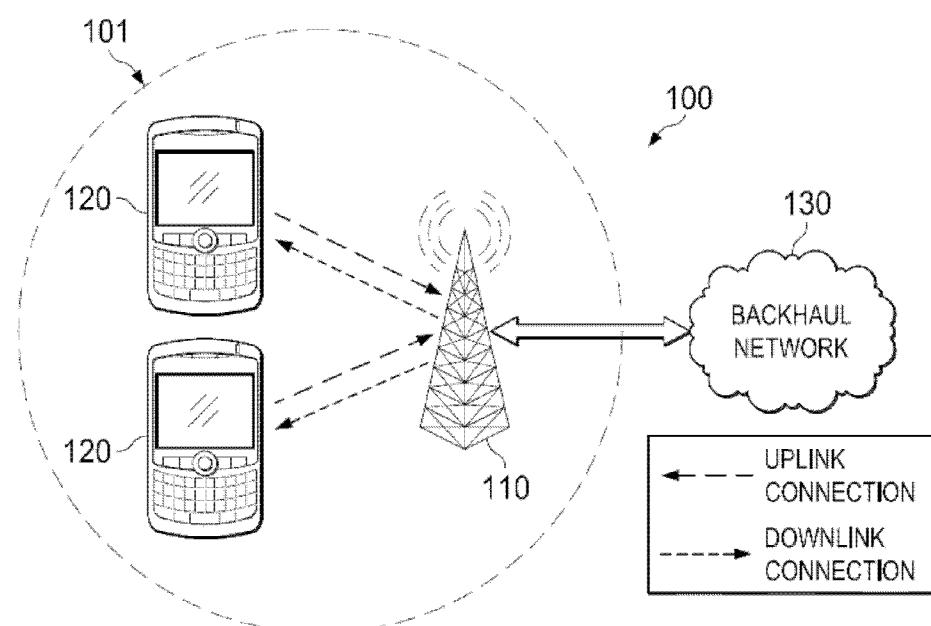


FIG. 1

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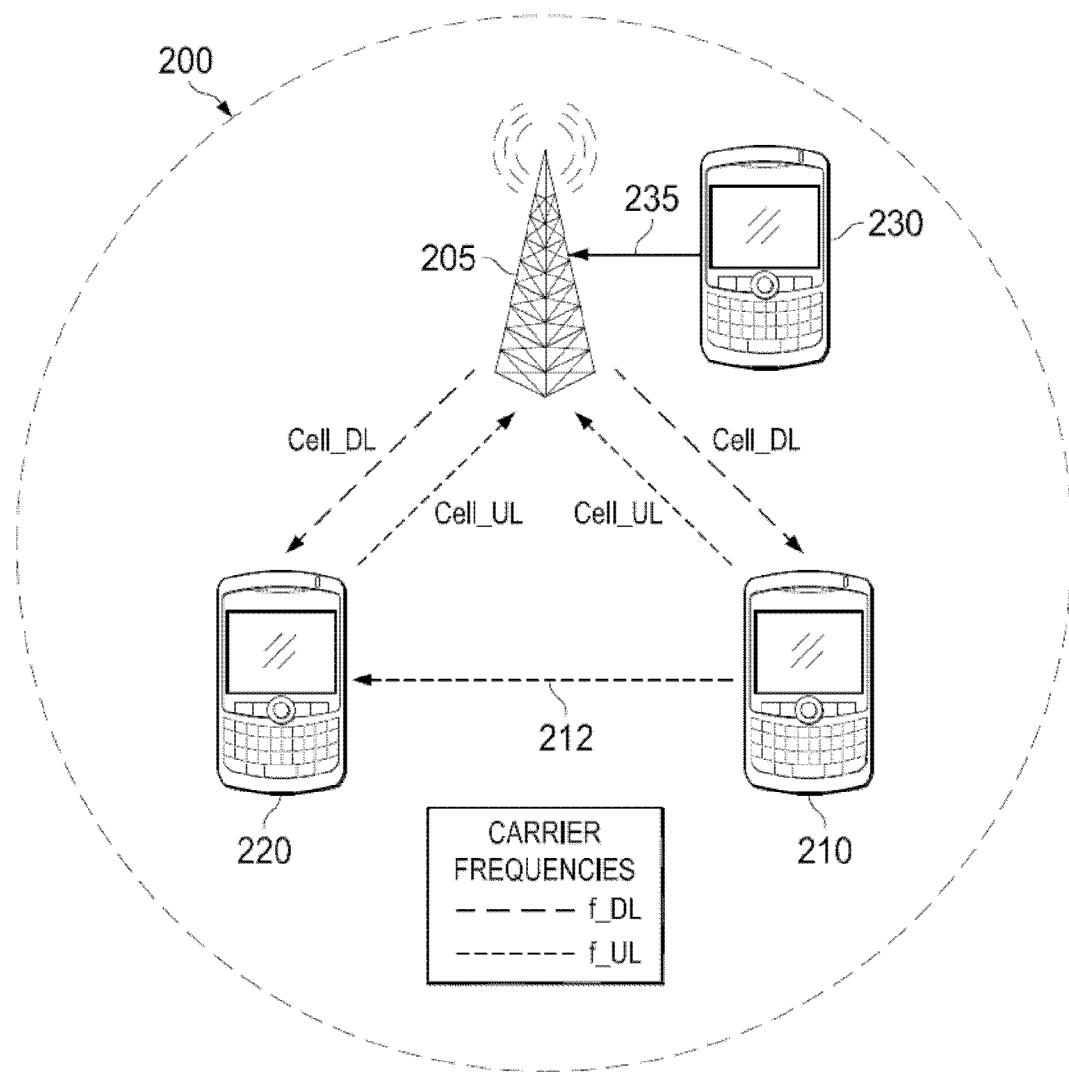


FIG. 2

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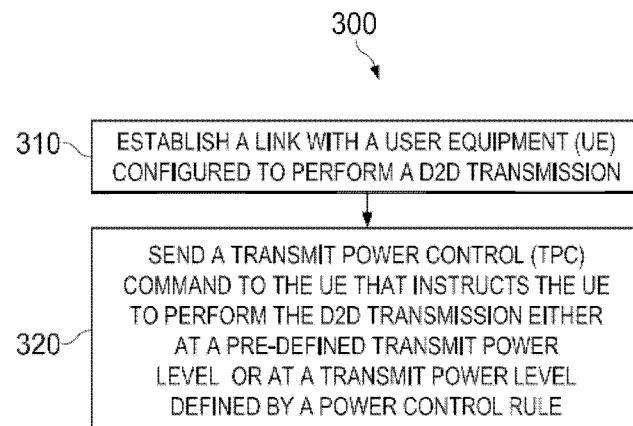


FIG. 3

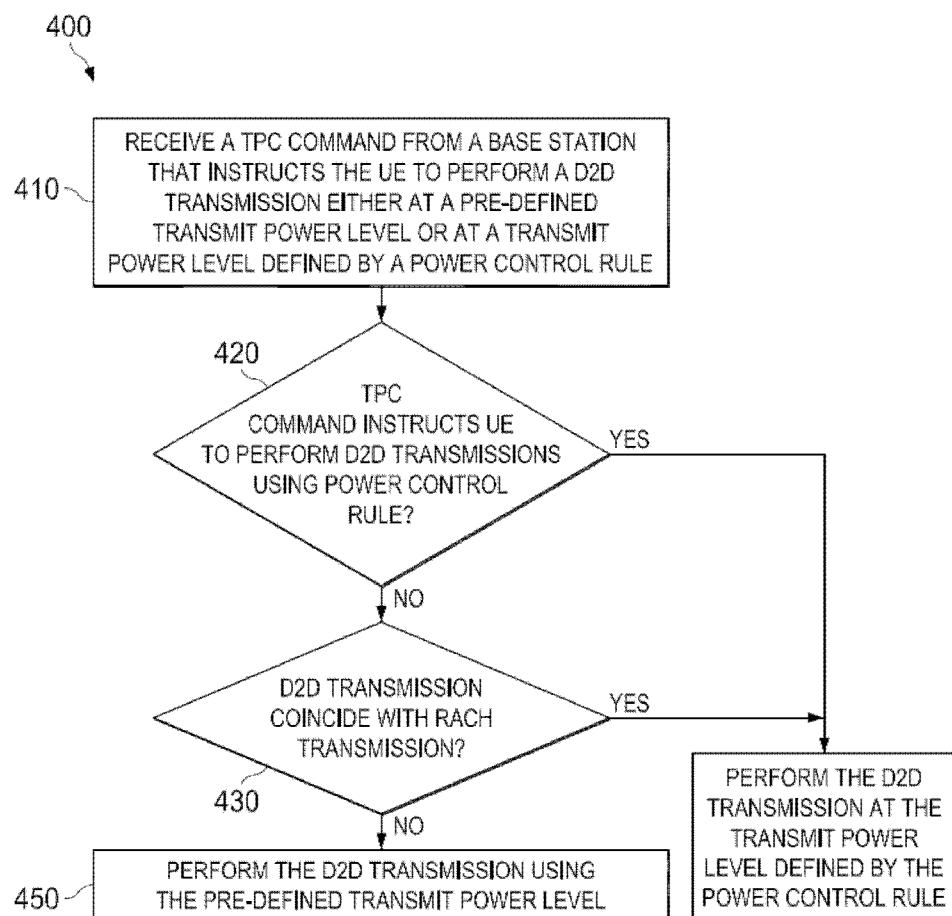


FIG. 4

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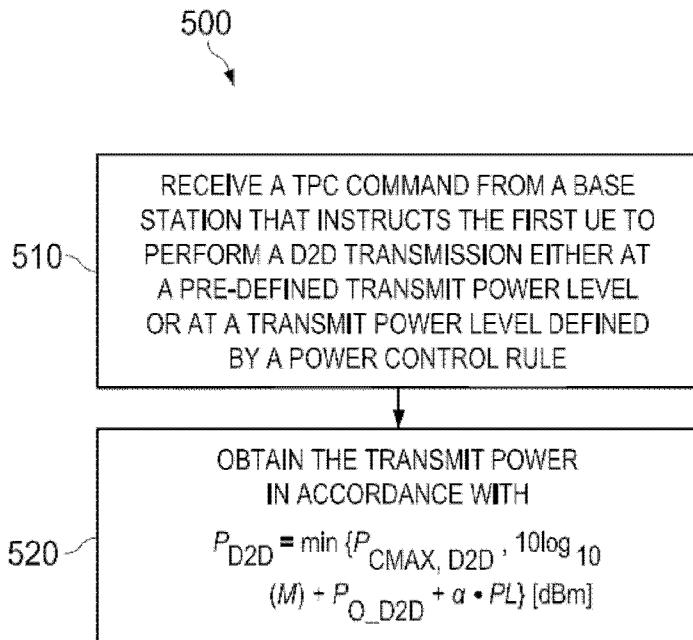


FIG. 5

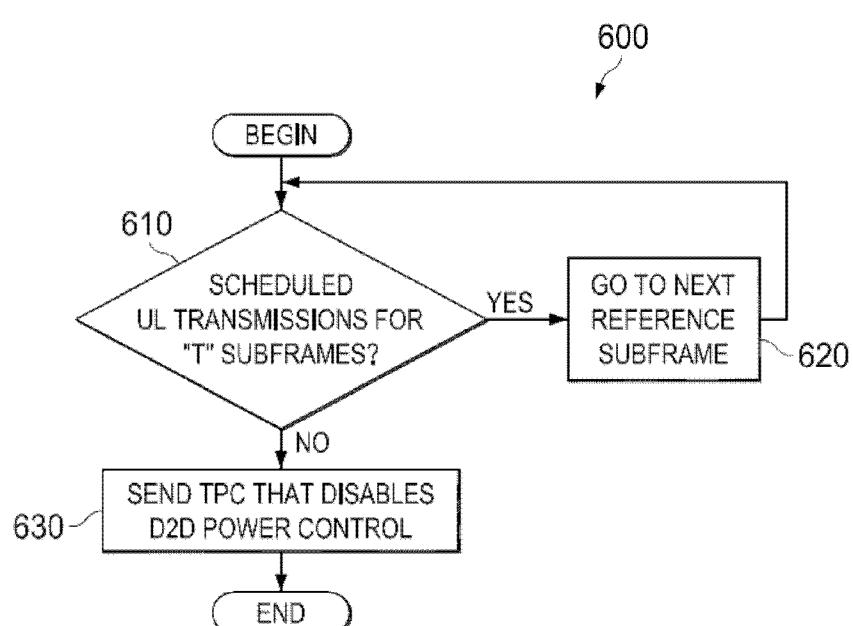


FIG. 6

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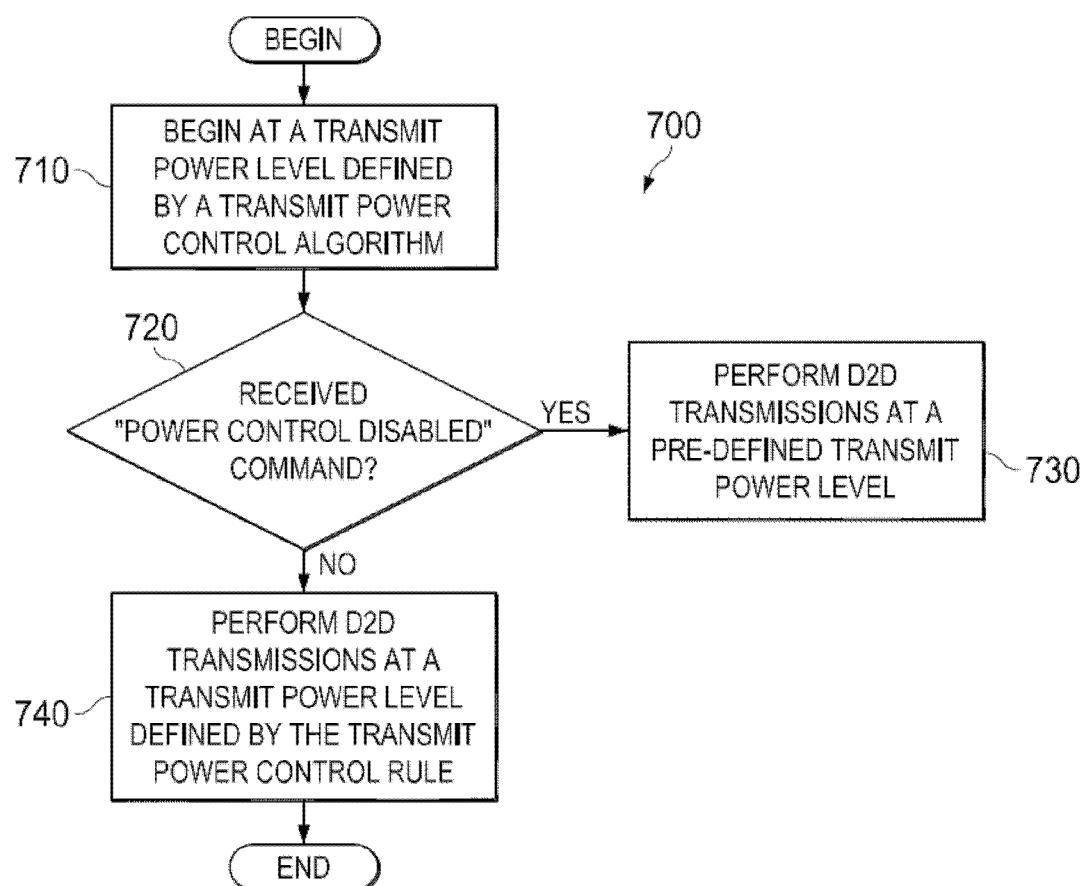


FIG. 7

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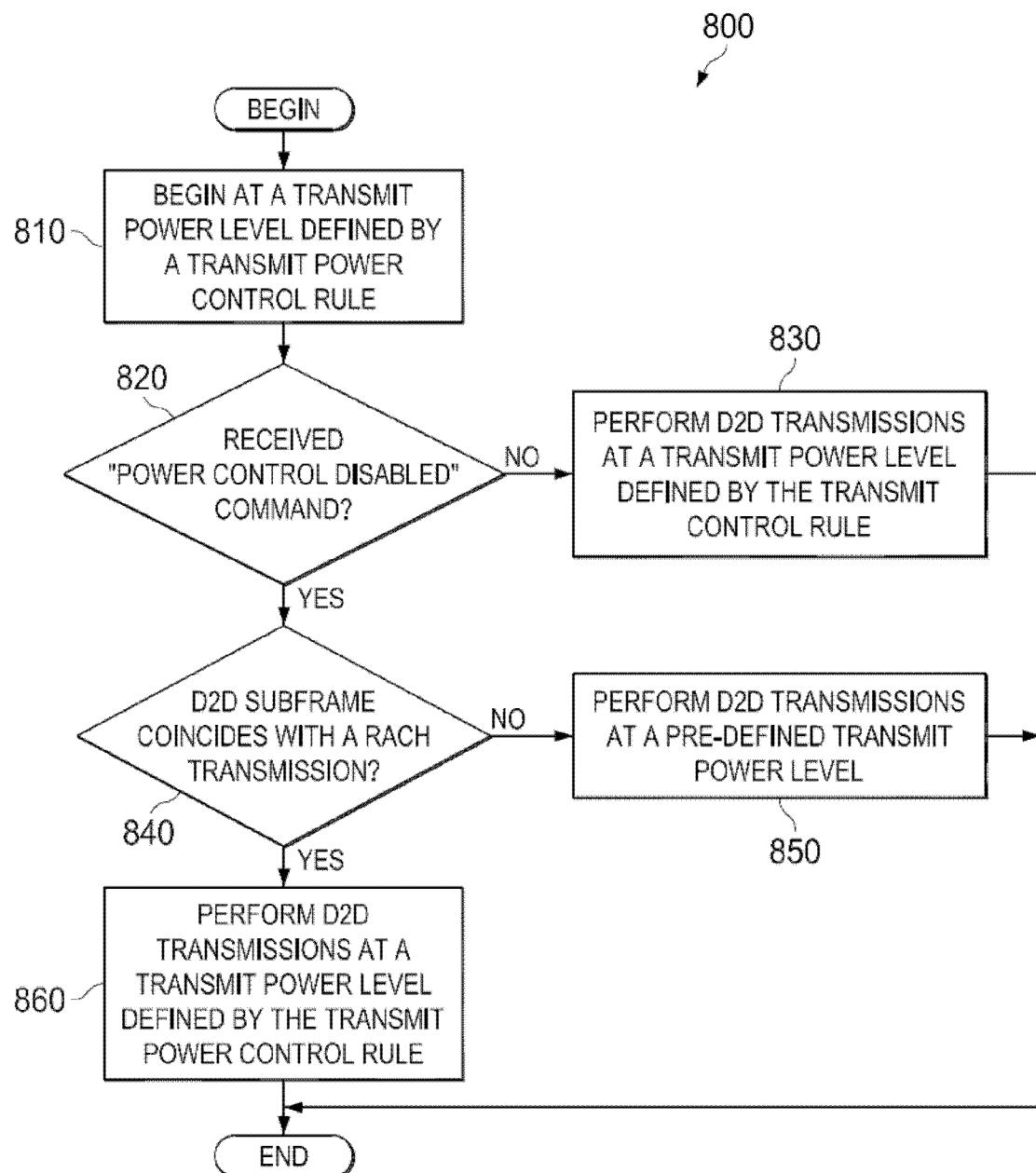


FIG. 8

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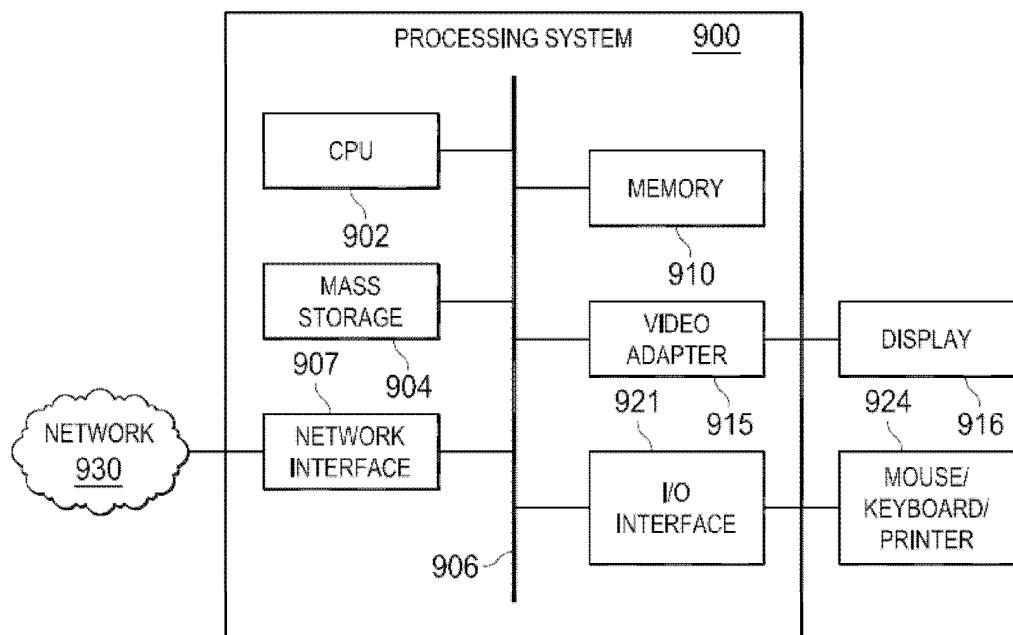


FIG. 9

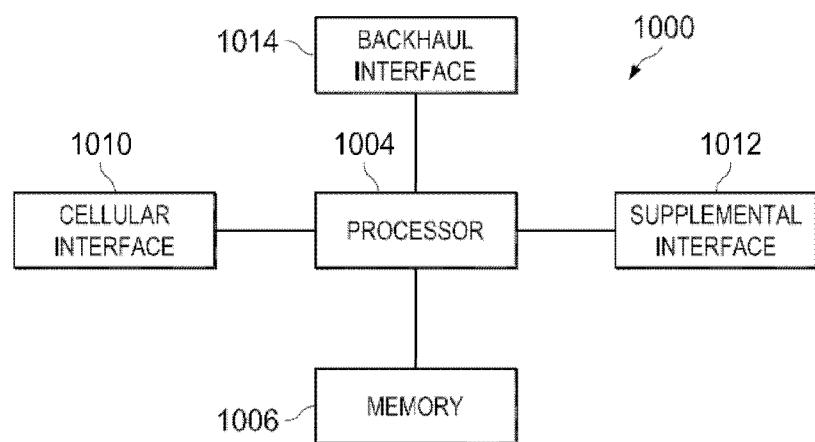


FIG. 10

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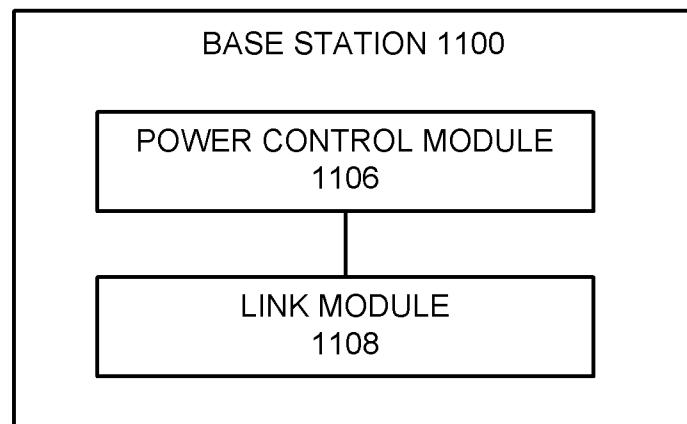


FIG. 11

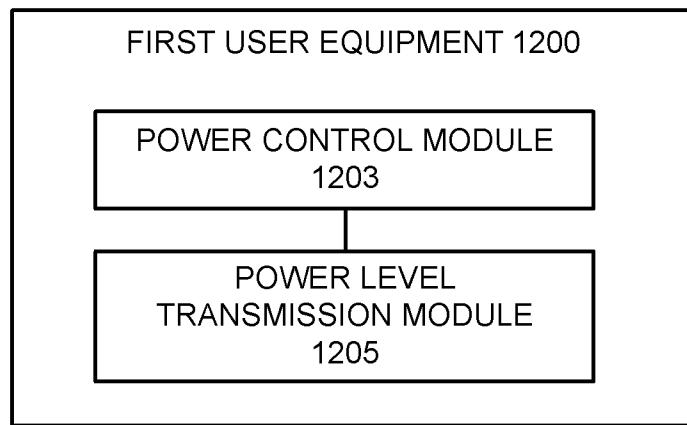


FIG. 12