3GPP TSG-RAN WG1 Meeting #110 R1-22xxxxx

Toulouse, France, August 22nd – 26th, 2022

Agenda Item: 9.1.1.2

Source: Moderator (Ericsson)

Title: Moderator Summary on Two TAs for multi-DCI

Document for: Discussion

1 Introduction

During RAN#94e, a new WID for Rel-18 MIMO evolution for DL and UL was agreed [26]. The highlighted Part of objective 7 is relevant for this AI:

1. Study, and if justified, specify the following
   * Two TAs for UL multi-DCI for multi-TRP operation
   * *Power control for UL single DCI for multi-TRP operation where unified TCI framework extension in objective 2 is assumed.*

For the case of simultaneous UL transmission from multiple panels, the operation will only be limited to the objective 6 scenarios.

In this documents, proposals submitted to Agenda 9.1.1.2 are summarized and discussed.

# 2 Two TAGs vs one TAG

In RAN1#109-e, the following agreement was made with regards to how many TAGs to configure within a serving cell:

Agreement

For multi-DCI based multi-TRP operation, down-select one of the two alternatives:

* Alt 1: configure two TAGs within a serving cell
* Alt 2: consider two TAs within one TAG within a serving cell

The following is a summary of company views:

* Support Alt 1 **(19)**: Huawei/HiSilicon, Qualcomm, ZTE, vivo, FUTUREWEI, MediaTek, Apple, Intel, CATT, Ericsson, Xiaomi, Sharp, NTT Docomo, CMCC, Google, Lenovo, TCL, Spreadtrum, Transsion
* Support Alt 2 **(4)**: Samsung, OPPO, Interdigital, NEC
* Defer Decision **(2)**: Nokia/NSB, LGE

*FL Comment: A large majority of companies prefer to support two TAGs per serving cell. Based on this, FL suggestion is to see if we can agree Alt 1.*

***Proposal 1: For multi-DCI based multi-TRP operation with two TAs, support configuring two TAGs within a serving cell.***

*Companies are asked to provide their views below:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Company Name** | **Comments** |
| Google | We support FL’s proposal. |
| QC | Support. |
| Apple | Support |
| LGE | We think that it is more like RAN2 work. |
| NTT DOCOMO | Support the proposal. |
| MediaTek | Support, we think the decision should be made in RAN1 |
| Lenovo | Support. |
| CATT | Support FL’s proposal |
| OPPO | On Alt.1, i.e. two TAGs within a serving cell, we would like to share and remind some of our concerns.   * Each TAG is with one DL timing reference. Two TAGs within a serving cell introduces two potentially different DL timing references for the serving cell. Hopefully the gap between two DL timing references could be kept within a CP, otherwise it will increase the DL processing burden of UE. * If a serving cell is SpCell, the two TAGs that contain this SpCell would be considered PTAGs. Alt.1 would introduce two PTAGs which seems not aligned with RAN2 Spec.   The following definition on TAG is captured from TS 38.213.  **Timing Advance Group:** A group of Serving Cells that is configured by RRC and that, for the cells with a UL configured, using the same timing reference cell and the same Timing Advance value. A Timing Advance Group containing the SpCell of a MAC entity is referred to as Primary Timing Advance Group (PTAG), whereas the term Secondary Timing Advance Group (STAG) refers to other TAGs. |
| ZTE | Support. |
| Nokia | OK, but this is a RAN2 decision. |
| Xiaomi | Support the proposal. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | We support FL’s proposal.  In our view, with two TAG, each TA can be maintained by one TAG, which is more compatible to current TA framework. |
| Futurewei | Support FL’s proposal. |
| Samsung | From the definition sited by Oppo (from TS 38.321), the TAG is defined as “a group of Serving Cells …”. The proposal seems to be inconsistent with this definition by saying: “***two TAGs within a serving cell***”. A TAG is not defined within a serving cell, but is a group of serving cells. It is more accurate to say the serving cell has TAs for the same TAG. Alternatively, we can say that a serving cell can belong to two TAGs, however, this is less preferred as it could impact the RAN2 definition of the TAG. |
| Spreadtrum | Support |
| Intel | We can leave this to RAN2 as we proposed in RAN1#109-e – however, we are supportive of this proposal (consulting with RAN2 internally) |
| Ericsson | Support |
| NEC | We still have concerns. As mentioned above, TAG is cell group by definition.  In addition, MTRP is BWP-level configuration, it should not be a reason to change cell-level configuration, e.g., TAG. |
| CMCC | Support |
| Sony | Support |
| Sharp | Support |
| vivo | support |

# 3 Two TACs vs One TAC

In RAN1#109-e, the following agreement was made with regards to how many TACs the network signals:

Agreement

Enhancement on two Tas for UL multi-DCI for multi-TRP operation is supported in Rel-18.

Note 1: whether (1) the network signals two TACs or (2) the network signals one TAC and the UE deriving the second TA can be further studied.

Note 2: evaluations can be considered on as-needed basis.

The following is a summary of the proposals from different companies:

* Support network signalling of two TACs **(8)**: Qualcomm, Ericsson, ZTE, CATT, CMCC, NEC, Transsion, Apple, LGE, Lenovo, OPPO, Nokia, Xiaomi, Huawei, Hisilicon, Futurewei, Spreadtrum, Sharp
* Support network signalling one TAC and UE deriving the second TA **(2)**: Samsung, vivo

*FL Comment: One open question is whether we should study or support the possibility of network signaling one TAC and the UE deriving the second TA. One scenario mentioned by vivo [2] for allowing the UE to derive the second TA is the case where 2nd TRP has associated PUCCH transmission but does not have SRS/PUSCH transmission.*

*This issue depends on the outcome of Proposal 1 and can be discussed once Proposal 1 is resolved.*

# 4 Two vs One reference timing

In RAN1#109-e, the following agreement was made with regards to how many reference timings are to be considered:

Agreement

For multi-DCI multi-TRP operation with two Tas, study the following alternatives:

* Alt 1:  two reference timings are considered
* Alt 2:  one reference timing is considered

Note: reference timing above is the timing of the DL reception

The following is a summary of company views:

* Support Alt 1 **(13)**: Huawei/HiSilicon, Qualcomm, Nokia/NSB, vivo, Futurewei, Apple, Ericsson, Xiaomi, Sharp, CMCC, Interdigital, TCL, Transsion
* Support Alt 2 **(9)**: ZTE, Samsung, MediaTek, OPPO, LGE, CATT, NTT Docomo, NEC, Spreadtrum

*FL Comment: There is no strong majority support for either alternatives. FL would like to ask companies comment on if they have strong concerns on either Alt 1 or Alt 2. Please provide technical reason for your concern.*

***Question: Companies are asked to comment if they have strong concerns on either Alt 1 or Alt 2. Please provide technical reason for your concern.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Company Name** | **Comments** |
| QC | We do not have strong concern with Alt2 (we think it can also work), but would like to mention the following impact to legacy if Alt2 is adopted:  In CA scenario with e.g., 3 CCs, where CC1 is multi-TRP (TAG1 and TAG2), CC2 is configured with TAG1 (sTRP) and CC3 is configured with TAG2 (sTRP), then Alt2 results CC2 and CC3 to also use the same DL reference timing. This is not consistent with existing UL-CA with multiple TAGs. |
| Apple | We support Alt.1.  On Alt.2, it may result in modification of TA value range e.g., support negative values depending on the relative timing difference between two TRPs. |
| NTT DOCOMO | Our preference is Alt.2. From our perspective, Alt.2, i.e., one reference timing together with per TRP TA, is sufficient to achieve that the UL timing misalignment at TRP is within a CP. With Alt.1, association between DL signal and TRP needs to be studied, which brings more spec. impact. |
| MediaTek | We prefer Alt2. However, we do see both alternatives may cause impact to the definition of reference timing. |
| CATT | We support Alt2. The benefits of Alt1 need to be clarified. |
| OPPO | We support Alt.2.  As mentioned by DOCOMO, one reference timing plus per TRP differential TA would results in less UE complexity when compared with two timing references. For Alt.1, UE may have to prepare two DL/UL processing timelines. |
| ZTE | Support Alt 2.  Basically, our understand is that DL reference timing in legacy is determined per serving cell rather than per TAG, which can be referred to the spec description (subclause 7.1 in TS 38.133) that “*The uplink frame transmission takes place before the reception of the first detected path (in time) of the corresponding downlink frame from the reference cell.*”, hence DL reference timing associated to TAG can be the same or different. In other words, we have different understanding of QC’s example that “This is not consistent with existing UL-CA with multiple TAGs.”.  Taking proposal 1 into consideration, Alt 2 has less spec impact than Alt 1 due to the DL reference timing is determined per serving cell still. Besides, it should be noted that Alt 1 requires more spec efforts on determining the association between TRP and DL reference timing. |
| Nokia | Support Alt. 1  Alt. 2 does not fully fit with two TACs. |
| Xiaomi | We prefer Alt.1. When using one reference timing, a timing offset may be required to compensate by NTA. |
| Huawei, Hisilicon | Support Alt.1.  In addition to the issues of Alt.2 mentioned by QC and Apple, another issue is that, with a single DL reference timing, like DL reference timing of the first TRP, the calculation of the second TRP is more complicated. Transmission timing gap of the two TRPs need to be considered, which may further degrade the accuracy of the second TA as quantization of the transmission timing gap can also introduce some error. |
| InterDigital | Support Alt.1 (two reference timings). Since we are discussing Multi-DCI based MTRP scenario, the UE should be able to track each individual link based on each DL reference from each TRP. Following Alt.2, two TRPs has to coordinate each other to control UE’s timing advance behaviors. |
| Futurewei | Support Alt.1 (two reference timings). Regarding Alt.2, in addition to the issues mentioned by other companies, we would also like to point out the potential performance degradation on PUSCH with Alt. 2. Based on our simulation results in R1-2205748, we observed that even if the UL receive timing offset/TA error is within a CP length, PUSCH performance degradation is possible and can be detrimental. What can be generally tolerable is [0,+50%] of CP length in UL receive timing offset/TA error. However, Alt.2 with only one reference timing can cause the UL receive timing offset/TA error falling out of the tolerable range, resulting in significant UL performance degradation. Alt.1 with two reference timings on the other hand, can make sure the UL receive timing offset/TA error is within the tolerable range, resulting in no UL performance degradation. |
| Samsung | We slightly preferred Alt2 as it requires the UE to maintain one DL reference time. Alt1 can also work, but it would require the UE to maintain two different reference timings for the DL, which seems to increase the UE’s complexity |
| Spreadtrum | Support Alt2. In our understanding, Alt1 would require UE to maintain two sets of DL links/ DL timing, which obviously would bring huge complexity on UE. In previous release, to alleviate UE’s implementation burden for M-TRP operation, the Rx timing reference from two TRP is limited within CP. In this agenda, the WID only states to enhance two TAs for multi-DCI based M-TRP. Thus, the principle on the Rx timing reference from two TRP limited within CP still should be obeyed. On top of the principle, as mentioned by DOCOMO that one reference timing together with per TRP TA, is sufficient to achieve that the UL timing misalignment at TRP is within a CP. |
| Intel | Alt-1, we think either of the alternatives work – its unclear how maintaining a second timing reference leads to UE complexity increase, the UE anyway would maintain DL timing for the second TRP. Design-wise we think Alt-1 is future-proof incase larger inter-TRP timing difference is considered in the future |
| Ericsson | Assuming that 2 TAGs is adopted, each timing is individually adjusted. So fundamentally, either alternative could work for mDCI in a static scenario. But it would seem to be more robust to have 2TAs, since the DL timing reference may be updated. If the UE has a single DL timing reference, and that timing reference is changed, it would impact the UL timing of both legs, which would be unfortunate. |
| CMCC | Support Alt. 1. Our understanding is that each TRP has its own reference timing and the TA. But if there is a switching between two TRPs, UE may not change the timing dynamically or in time, then the current reference timing would be used for transmission to the other TRP. |
| Sony | Support Alt.2. Same view as NTT DOCOMO. |
| Sharp | We prefer Alt 1. In our view, in TDD case, timing of DL transmission and UL reception need to be aligned between gNBs. Consequently, for also two TRPs, two links should be individually managed. |
| vivo | Support alt 1. UE derives TA based on DL RS measurement, which means for 2 TAs UE has to measure 2 DL RSs from two TRPs, then it is natural that there are two reference timings |

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# 5 Two vs One Timing Advance Offset

In RAN1#109-e, the following agreement was made with regards to how many *n-TimingAdvanceOffset* values per serving cell are to be considered in Rel-18:

Agreement

For multi-DCI multi-TRP operation with two TAs, study the following alternatives further in Rel-18:

* Alt 1: one *n-TimingAdvanceOffset* value per serving cell
* Alt 2: two *n-TimingAdvanceOffset* value per serving cell

Company views are summarized as follows:

* Support Alt 1 **(13)**: Nokia/NSB, vivo, Samsung, Futurewei, OPPO, LGE, CATT, Ericsson, Xiaomi, Sharp, NTT Docomo, Spreadtrum, MediaTek, InterDigital
* Support Alt 2 **(6)**: Huawei/HiSilicon, Qualcomm, Apple, ZTE, NEC, TCL

*FL comment: Proponents of Alt 1 argue that the same duplex mode and frequency range are expected in a multi-DCI multi-TRP scenario and hence one n-TimingAdvanceOffset* *is sufficient. Some proponents of Alt 2 argue that the duplex mode may be different between the two TRPs involved in multi-DCI multi-TRP operation.*

***Question: Companies are asked to provide their view on the following:***

* ***Are there use cases why two n-TimingAdvanceOffset values per serving cell are needed?***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Company Name** | **Comments** |
| QC | One use case is different coexistence, i.e., one TRP is DSS while the other one is not.  In addition, Alt1 results in impact to legacy UL-CA scenario. Similar to the example mentioned in the previous section, it results in CC2 and CC3 to be forced to use the same *n-TimingAdvanceOffset* even though they are configured with different TAGs. |
| Apple | Our motivation to go with Alt.2 is exactly same as what QC said above. Currently, for FR1, network has flexibility to select different n\_TA offset values based on the actual deployment e.g., coexistence with LTE or not, TDD/FDD CA or not. For mTRP case, TRP#1 may be configured with FDD/TDD CA, but only FDD CCs are used for the other TRP. In this case, n\_offset is needed for TRP#1 but is unnecessary for TRP#2. If we go with Alt.1, n\_offset has been forced for TRP#2 once mTRP is enabled. |
| LGE | We prefer Alt 1 for simple extension of two TAs in addition to rationale as mentioned by FL, that the value is up to frequency range and depends on duplex mode. |
| NTT DOCOMO | Our preference is Alt.1. In our understanding, it may not be a typical case that two TRPs of a same cell have different coexistence/duplex mode. |
| CATT | We share similar view as DOCOMO and support Alt 1. |
| OPPO | Support Alt.1.  For either intra-cell or inter-cell MTRP, two TRPs are configured within one serving cell and operated on the same frequency band. In most of deployment cases, we believe that the same TDD/FDD mode and same frequency resources would be the wise choice for any operator. Therefore, we think Alt.2 is way too flexible and unnecessary according to RAN4’s rule on n-TimingAdvanceOffset configuration. |
| ZTE | We share the similar view with QC and apple, we support Alt 2.  One more thing needs to be clarified first. For the case of inter-cell MDCI based MTRP operation, the additional cell is the different from the serving cell, hence the previous agreement should be revised as:  Agreement  For multi-DCI multi-TRP operation with two TAs, study the following alternatives further in Rel-18:   * Alt 1: one *n-TimingAdvanceOffset* value per cell * Alt 2: two *n-TimingAdvanceOffset* value per cell |
| Nokia | Agree with DCM. |
| Xiaomi | We prefer Alt 1 since the cooperative two TRPs generally share the same frequency range and duplex mode. |
| Huawei, Hisilicon | The debate between proponents of the two alternatives seems lies on the configuration of gNB in reality, i.e., whether the two TRPs will be configured with different duplex modes or not. In our view, allowing configuring up to two TA offsets can support both kind of implementations. For gNB configuring the same duplex mode for both TRPs, it can configure one TA offset for the two TRPs. While, for gNB configuring different duplex mode for two TRPs, it can configure two TA offsets for the two TRPs. So, we suggest following modification of the proposal and support the modified Alt 2.  For multi-DCI multi-TRP operation with two TAs, study the following alternatives further in Rel-18:   * Alt 1: one *n-TimingAdvanceOffset* value per serving cell * Alt 2: up to two *n-TimingAdvanceOffset* value per serving cell |
| InterDigital | Agree with DOCOMO |
| Futurewei | Our preference is Alt 1 but we are open to Alt 2 to support more deployment scenarios. |
| Samsung | Support Alt.1. As for the reasons mentioned by QC, it is not clear that different coexistence can happen in two TRPs that are in the same serving cell (same geographical area). |
| Spreadtrum | Support Alt1, agree with DOCOMO. |
| Intel | We also think Alt-1 is sufficient |
| Ericsson | Although the parameter can be configured per cell, our understanding is that this is configured per band: even if DSS is configured in one cell, and not in the neighbor, we would still have to configure for LTE coexistence in all cells in that band. Still, Alt1 is a subset of Alt2, so Alt2 can be considered. But the issue can be deferred. |
| Lenovo | We prefer Alt 1. |
| CMCC | Our preference is Alt 1. In our network, we will not deploy the feature of MTRP to two TRPs where one is FDD and the other is TDD. But we are open if there is a real demand for that case. |
| Sharp | We prefer Alt 1. |
| vivo | Support alt 1, agree with DOCOMO’s comments and for multi DCI based, in our view, two TAs operate independently. |

# 6 Association between TAs and UL channels/signals

In RAN1#109-e, the following agreement was made:

Agreement

**Two TA enhancement for uplink multi-DCI based multi-TRP operation are applicable to** at least**:**

* **TDM based multi-DCI uplink transmission**
* **simultaneous multi-DCI uplink transmission (if simultaneous uplink multi-DCI uplink transmission is supported in Agenda 9.1.4.1)**
* **Note: Whether two TA enhancement is applicable to other schemes is a separate discussion, which is not in the scope of AI 9.1.1.2.**

***FL Comment: One open issue is how to associate each TA to UL channels/signals. Two different options were proposed by multiple companies:***

Option 1: Associate TA to TCI-state/spatial relation **(10 companies)**

Supported by Huawei/HiSilicon, Samsung, MediaTek, LGE, ZTE, Intel, CATT, Ericsson, Google, Transsion

Option 2: Associate TA to CORESETPoolIndex **(9 companies)**

Supported by Qualcomm, ZTE, vivo, Apple, Xiaomi, Lenovo, Spreadtrum, Transsion, OPPO, Nokia

*Taking into account the above input, the following is proposed:*

***Proposal 2: For associating TAs to UL channels/signals for multi-DCI based multi-TRP operation, downselect one of the options:***

* ***Option 1: Associate TA to TCI-state/spatial relation***
* ***Option 2: Associate TA to CORESETPoolIndex***

***FFS: detailed association (e.g., whether implicit association or explicit association)***

*Companies are asked to provide their views below:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Company Name** | **Comments** |
| Google | We support Option 1. It’s not clear to us how Option 2 can work for some preconfigured UL channels/RSs (i.e., those not scheduled/triggered by CORESETs).  Regarding detailed association, we believe it falls into RAN2’s expertise no matter which option is agreed finally. |
| QC | Support Option 2. We have a concern with Option 1 as it requires two different frameworks (the association would be needed for both unified TCI framework as well as Rel-15/16 spatial relation info). In addition, it is not clear how option 1 can work for FR1 for a UE not supporting unified TCI. In this case, spatial relation info does not even exist. However, in the previous meeting, we agreed the TA enhancements are applicable to both FR1 and FR2.  Regarding Google’s comment on Option 2, configuration of associated TAG is anyway needed. Actually, the situation is the other way around as Option 2 is already supported for dynamically scheduled signals/channels (which is not the case in Option 1), and the required enhancements are limited to configured UL signals/channels. |
| Apple | In previous release with single TRP and multiple beams, the TA is always maintained on a per CC/serving cell level, instead of beam-level. Of course, gNB can use TAC MAC-CE to update TA value for a given TAG in case of Beam Switching.  For Rel-18 with multiple TRPs, the TA framework is naturally extended to two TAGs towards two TRPs, but it should be still kept as CC or serving cell level. With Opt.1, it seems different TAs are associated with different UL TCI states. If there are multiple UL TCI states are activated for a TRP by MAC-CE, does it mean UE needs to maintain multiple TAGs with each for a UL TCI-state even for a TRP? We do not see the justification for this.  With Opt.2, different UL TCI states are associated with two CORESETPoolIndex values for two TRPs, which is simple and sufficient design for TA maintenance. |
| LGE | We support both option 1 and 2.  In Rel-18 unified TCI enhancement, N>1 of TCI states could be naturally associated with CORESETPoolIndex for M-DCI based M-TRP operation. For a UE with capable of Rel-18 extension of unified TCI, option 1 is simple solution without much specification impact.  For a UE without capable of unified TCI(e.g., Rel-15/16 spatialRelationInfo or FR1 UE), option 2 can be used as QC mentioned. |
| NTT DOCOMO | Support the proposal and prefer option2. We share similar concern as Qualcomm for option1. |
| MediaTek | We prefer Option 1 due to forward compatibility, e.g., Rel-18 mobility where M-DCI may not be configured. On the other hand, for SRS/PUCCH transmission that may not have association with a *coresetPoolIndex* value, how/whether to provide such association for Option 2 has to be discussed. For option 1, every UL Tx will be naturally provided with a TCI state/spatial relation at least in FR2. Regarding FR1, support it based on unified TCI should be okay.  On the wording of the proposal, since one alternative for providing two TAs is based on two TAGs, we prefer to include the possibility in this proposal, for example:  ***Proposal 2: For associating TAs or TAGs to UL channels/signals for multi-DCI based multi-TRP operation, downselect one of the options:***   * ***Option 1: Associate TA or TAG to TCI-state/spatial relation*** * ***Option 2: Associate TA or TAG to CORESETPoolIndex*** |
| Lenovo | OK with the proposal and we support Option 2. |
| CATT | Support Opt1 and Opt2.  For opt1, each TA can be associated with TCI state/Spatial Relation info for the PUSCH/PUCCH transmission. In the implementation, a TASG (TA sub group) can be introduced to represent a CC group that can be used for one TRP, each TAG consists of several TASGs, UE maintains one TA for each TASG. When two TCI states/Spatial Relation infos are indicated for PUSCH/PUCCH transmission to two TRPs, the associated TA can be used accordingly.  For opt2, each TA can be associated with the CORESETPoolIndex of the CORESET dynamically scheduling the PUSCH/PUCCH, for the periodic/semi-persistent PUCCH transmission, the association can be defined by RRC configuration. |
| OPPO | Support Option 2.  As for Option 1, i.e. association TA to TCI state/spatial relation, the UL channels/signals may apply different TCI states/spatial relations, even for unified TCI states (SRS with UTCI #1, PUCCH/PUSCH with UTCI #2). That will result in different TAs in UL for the same TRP, which is clearly out the scope of the WID.   1. Study, and if justified, specify the following    * Two TAs for UL multi-DCI for multi-TRP operation    * Power control for UL single DCI for multi-TRP operation where unified TCI framework extension in objective 2 is assumed. |
| ZTE | We are open to further down-select among option 1 and option 2.  For option 1, we think it should beam-group specific instead of beam specific in Rel-18 due to only 2 TAs can be used in MDCI MTRP operation but more than two beams can be activated, hence we suggest to revise option 1 as follows.   * ***Option 1: Associate TA to a group of TCI-states/spatial relations***   For option 2, given that 2 TAs aims for MDCI MTRP operation and in which *CORESETPoolIndex* is used to identify TRP-ID, this method can be workable to such UL signals/RSs in the legacy MDCI MTRP operation. |
| Nokia | Support Option 2.  We do not think Option 1 is in the scope of the WI objective. This discussion option 1 is not needed as WI is about mDCI and simultaneously transmitted TRPs are represented by CORESETPoolIndex. |
| Xiaomi | Both opinions are workable and we prefer to associate TA to CORESETPoolIndex since it is used to identify M-TRP. |
| Huawei, Hisilicon | For the two alternatives, we prefer Option 1. We agree with MTK that Option 1 has a better forward compatibility and can be also used for L1 mobility topic which also includes TA enhancement. In addition, although the WID targets on TA enhancement of mDCI case, it doesn’t mean TA issue any exist for mDCI case. Under the scenario, if a UE has TA problem (e.g., TA gap of the two TRPs exceeds CP length) under a mDCI configuration, it will surely have the same TA problem under sDCI configuration. If TA association is based on CORESETPoolIndex, how can it be used to solve the TA issue under sDCI configuration?  However, considering the issue of Option 1 mentioned by QC that it cannot be used for FR1 if legacy TCI framework is adopted, here we suggest another Option in which TA/TAG is associated with PL RS. As PL RS is always used for UL transmission in any case, such kind of solution can be used for both FR1 and FR2, and can also be used for sDCI MTRP, mDCI mTRP and L1 mobility scenario.  ***Proposal 2: For associating TAs or TAGs to UL channels/signals for multi-DCI based multi-TRP operation, downselect one of the options:***   * ***Option 1: Associate TA or TAG to TCI-state/spatial relation*** * ***Option 2: Associate TA or TAG to CORESETPoolIndex*** * ***Option 3: Associate TA or TAG to PL RS*** |
| Futurewei | For associating TAs to UL channels/signals, our view is that each TA is associated with a different TAG (e.g., with a different TAG ID). A TAG may be configured for a SSB/TRS resource. Any UL signals/channels QCLed to the SSB/TRS resource, directly or indirectly, are then associated with the TAG identified by the TAG ID. So on high level we are fine with ZTE’s modified Option 1 and Huawei’s Option 3.  Regarding Option 2, as we commented in previous meeting, there is an issue in supporting two TA enhancement for inter-cell multi-DCI multi-TRP scenarios. In Rel-17 inter-cell multi-DCI multi-TRP, in order to associate coresetPoolIndex to additional PCI, the coreset within the coresetPoolIndex needs to be activated with Rel-17 TCI state which includes additionalPCI-r17 info. However, since Rel-17 inter-cell multi-DCI multi-TRP is based on Rel-15/16 TCI framework, it is unclear how the Rel-17 TCI state can be utilized to associate the coresetPoolIndex with additionalPCI-r17. Also in Rel-15/16 TCI framework, the UL channels/signals configuration utilizes spatial information, instead of joint or UL TCI state defined in Rel-17 TCI framework, it is unclear how the coresetPoolIndex can be associated with additionalPCI-r17. |
| Samsung | Support Option 1, association of TA with UL/Joint TCI state or spatial relation. This solution can be applicable to all channels (on the other hand not all channels are associated with a CORESETPOOLIndex). It can easily be extended to inter-cell L1/L2 mobility. |
| Spreadturm | Support option2. Fot M-DCI based M-TRP, coresetPoolIndex always exists to be associated with one TRP, which is independent of FR, intra-cell or inter-cell. |
| Intel | Option-1, CORESETPoolIndex is not related to uplink transmission – TRP-1 can schedule uplink to TRP-2. Also uplink transmissions that are not DCI indicated cannot be handled with CORESETPoolIndex |
| Ericsson | In our view, the main advantages of opt1 are   * + it supports other scenarios,   + it is connected to UL transmissions in a systematic way   + it is simple to identify a DL timing reference |
| NEC | Support Option 1. |
| CMCC | Support the option 2. Our understanding is the TRP#1 will schedule one UE an UL transmission to TRP#1. Since the two TRPs are not ideally connected, that is the reason why we need multiple DCI scheduling. Or basically, one TRP should schedule the uplink transmission to itself. Then the UE could determine which TRP schedules the UL according to the CORESET pool index. |
| Sharp | We prefer Option 2. |
| vivo | Support option 2, in our view TA doesn’t change as dynamic as TCI states, option 2 simplifies the design |

# 7 Overlap Handling

Several companies discuss the issue of how to handle overlapping of two consecutive UL slots when two different TA values are used in multi-DCI multi-TRP operation:

* Huawei/HiSilicon [9] propose to introduce scheduling constraint in time domain to avoid overlap of two consecutive UL slots with different TA values
* Qualcomm [5] proposes to study further how to address the case when two different UL signals/channels overlap in time due to multi-TRP operation with two TAs.
* ZTE [1] proposes to introduce scheduling restriction gap in which UE does not expect to transmit any UL signals/channels
* ZTE [1] further proposes to reduce the transmission duration of one of the slots rather than shortening the later slot as in legacy.
* vivo [2] proposes to study how to handle overlapped channels/signals due to two TAs applied to different TRPs
* CATT [3] proposes similar dropping rule as legacy when the UE supports TDM multi-DCI based PUSCH transmission. CATT proposes to allow overlapped transmission in case the UE supports NR Rel-18 STxMP transmission.
* NEC [19] supports a time gap between consecutive PUSCH transmission occasions applying different TAs.

*Based on the input, the following is proposed:*

***Proposal 3: For multi-DCI based multi-TRP operation with two TAs, study how to handle overlapping part in consecutive UL slots, where the study includes:***

* ***whether to introduce scheduling restriction in overlapping part in consecutive UL slots***
* ***whether to introduce dropping rules***
* ***whether specification impact is need, or if the issue can be handled via implementation***
* ***whether to allow overlapped transmission in case the UE supports STxMP transmission (if STxMP feature is agreed in NR Rel-18)***

*Companies are asked to provide their views below.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Company Name** | **Comments** |
| Google | We support FL’s proposal. |
| QC | Support this proposal in principle to further study the issue, but this is not limited to “consecutive UL slots”. It is equally applicable to UL transmissions within a slot (e.g., PUSCH1 with TAG1 and PUSCH2 with TAG2 scheduled back-to-back in the same slot) |
| Apple | Agree in principle and share the QC’s comment. |
| LGE | Support the proposal. |
| NTT DOCOMO | Support the proposal. |
| MediaTek | Support the proposal. |
| Lenovo | Support the proposal. |
| CATT | Support FL’s proposal. |
| OPPO | Support the FL proposal. |
| ZTE | Support. |
| Nokia | Ok |
| Xiaomi | Support the proposal. |
| Huawei, Hisilicon | Support FL’s proposal |
| Futurewei | Support FL’s proposal. |
| Samsung | Support proposal in principle. This issue can be handled by implementation. |
| Spreadtrum | Support |
| Intel | In our view implementation based handling is the baseline – specification impact beyond this should be justified |
| Ericsson | Support the proposal and QC modification. If we discuss dropping rules, do we need to discuss time lines also? |
| NEC | Support the proposal.  In addition, we believe it is needed to discuss methods to avoid the potential overlapping, e.g., reserving a time gap. |
| CMCC | Support the proposal. Dropping rule as legacy scheme could be a starting point. But due to non-ideal backhaul between TRPs, the TRP should have the knowledge which part of the transmission is dropped. This may require an additional specification work. |
| Sharp | Support the proposal. |
| vivo | Support the proposal. |

# 8 Timing Alignment Timers

Several companies propose to support separate timing alignment timers per TRP when two different TA values are used in multi-DCI multi-TRP operation:

* ZTE [1] proposes support for configuring time alignment timer per TRP for TAGs within a serving cell
* OPPO [23] proposes to support up to 2 TA *TimeAlignmentTimer*’s for multi-TRP within a TAG
* Google [18] proposes two time alignment timers corresponding to two TA values are separately configured for a serving cell

*Based on the input, the following is proposed:*

***Proposal 4: For multi-DCI based multi-TRP operation with two TAs, support two time alignment timers corresponding to the two Tas***

* ***FFS: configuration details***

*Companies are asked to provide their views below.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Company Name** | **Comments** |
| Google | We support FL’s proposal. However, to make it clear, we suggest the following revision.  ***Proposal 4: For multi-DCI based multi-TRP operation with two Tas, support two time alignment timers corresponding to the two Tas for a serving cell***   * ***FFS: configuration details*** |
| QC | The proposal may not be needed if proposal 1 is agreed (each TAG has its own configurable timer in current spec) |
| Apple | Agree in principle. |
| LGE | Similar view as QC. We can wait for proposal 1. |
| NTT DOCOMO | Support the proposal. |
| MediaTek | We can wait for conclusion of proposal 1 |
| Lenovo | Similar view with QC. |
| CATT | Support FL’s proposal.  *timeAlignmentTimer*(per TAG) is used to control how long the MAC entity considers the Serving Cells belong to the associated TAG to be uplink time aligned. When a new TA is indicated, UE will reset *timeAlignmentTimer*. When the timer expires, UE will perform random access procedure to obtain a new TA and restart *timeAlignmentTimer.* In the case of multi-DCI based multi-TRP operation with two Tas, it’s natural that two timer alignment timers corresponding to the two Tas be supported. |
| OPPO | Support the FL proposal or the updated version from Google. |
| ZTE | Support FL’s proposal 4.  Regarding the update from Google, it is not proper to inter-cell MTRP operation where the additional cell is different from serving cell. Hence we think the original version from FL is accurate enough. |
| Nokia | Support |
| Xiaomi | Similar view with QC. |
| Huawei, Hisilicon | Support the updated version from Google which seems more clear. |
| Futurewei | Support in principle. Fine with Google’s updates. |
| Samsung | This can be further discussed based on the outcome of proposal 1. |
| Spreadtrum | Agree in principle. |
| Intel | Same view as QC, if 2 TAGs are associated then we don’t need this |
| Ericsson | Same view as QC. In addition, if we only have one TAG, and no other mechanism to update TA, then we can only have one timer. |
| NEC | Support two timers.  And we agree with QC that no need to discuss it if two TAGs configured in a serving cell.  (note that we support only one TAG for a serving cell.) |
| CMCC | Support the proposal. |
| Sharp | Same view as QC. |
| vivo | We can discuss this proposal later depending on progress on other proposals |

# 9 Impact on PDCCH order

Several companies propose studying potential impact of two TAs for multi-DCI multi-TRP scenario on PDCCH order.

* Qualcomm [5] proposes to study the impact of two Tas per CC to RACH triggered by PDCCH order
* Nokia/NSB [4] mention two possibilities for multi-TRP multi-DCI with two Tas:
  1. Allowing a PDCCH order from a first TRP to trigger PRACHs towards the two TRPs at a time
  2. Allowing TRP specific PDCCH order where each TRP can send a corresponding PDCCH order to trigger PRACH transmission towards that TRP
* ZTE [1] proposes to support PDCCH order based random access as starting point
* vivo [2] proposes to support TRP-specific RACH triggered by PDCCH order for both intra-cell and inter-cell mTRP
* NTT Docomo [15] proposes that PDCCH ordered RACH can be triggered to obtain per TRP TA
* Futurewei [8] proposes to support PDCCH order triggering PRACH transmission to obtain second TA
* OPPO [23] proposes to support updating TA per TRP in CFRA procedure where TRP is indicated implicitly through CORESETPoolIndex that transmits PDCCH order
* CATT [3] proposes PDCCH order triggering to acquire 2nd TA corresponding to 2nd TRP

*Based on the input, the following is proposed:*

***Proposal 5: For multi-DCI based multi-TRP operation with two Tas, study impact of two Tas per serving cell to RACH triggered by PDCCH order.***

* ***Further details of enhancements needed (if any)***

*Companies are asked to provide their views below.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Company Name** | **Comments** |
| Google | We support FL’s proposal. |
| QC | Support. |
| Apple | Support |
| LGE | Support. |
| MediaTek | Support |
| CATT | Support FL’s proposal. |
| OPPO | Support to study. |
| ZTE | Regarding 2 Tas for RACH, both CFRA and CBRA should be considered for further study. If this proposal mainly focus on RACH triggered by PDCCH order, the case of CBRA cannot be captured. More precisely, even though CBRA can be indicated by “Random Access Preamble Index” is set to all zeros in terms of the PDCCH order, it has NOT been stated in the current specification explicitly. To avoid this ambiguity among companies, we suggest:  ***Proposal 5: For multi-DCI based multi-TRP operation with two Tas, study impact of two Tas per serving cell to RACH triggered by CFRA and/or CBRA.*** |
| Nokia | Support |
| Xiaomi | Support. |
| Huawei, Hisilicon | Support |
| Futurewei | Support FL’s proposal. |
| Samsung | First we should agree on (maybe list) the methods to acquire the initial TA. This can include PDCCH order, UE triggered RACH, RACH-less procedures for acquiring initial TA. We can then further study these methods. |
| Spreadtrum | Support |
| Intel | Same view as Samsung |
| Huawei, Hisilicon (2) | Proposal 5 seems only consider intra-cell MTRP case. Inter-cell MTRP case should also be considered. So, suggest following update:  ***Proposal 5: For multi-DCI based multi-TRP operation with two Tas, study impact of two Tas to RACH triggered by PDCCH order in intra-cell MTRP case and inter-cell MTRP case.***   * ***Further details of enhancements needed (if any)*** |
| Ericsson | We should remember that a PDCCH order only triggers a RACH procedure, it is not how TA is updated. The NW may update the TA at any point in time, based on any input. The NW does this using either RAR, or one of types of MAC CEs. It feels these are two separate questions. Hence, we propose  Proposal 5.A: Study enhancements for the NW to update TA   * + Consider both initial TA assignment and gradual TA update   Proopsal 5.B: Study enhancements to RACH procedure to facilitate NW-controlled TA update. |
| Lenovo | We share the similar view with ZTE and Samsung that not only PDCCH order triggered RACH but also UE triggered RACH, RACH-less procedures for acquiring initial TA should be further studied. |
| CMCC | Support |
| Sharp | Support ZTE’s proposal. |
| vivo | Generally fine with the proposal, in our view, we should not complicate the system design, from the procedure wise, relevant RRC configuration will happen after initial access that means during the initial access UE operates with single TA as legacy. In the RRC connected state, PDCH ordered RACH is natural choice and essential enhancement to be considered. |

# 10 Other Issues

If there are other issues which are not captured in the previous sections, companies are welcome to propose them in the following table. Based on interest and time-permitting, we can try to discuss a subset of the issues during meeting week.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Company Name** | **Comments** |
| QC | Issues related to inter-cell mTRP can be also discussed. At least a high-level proposal on the issues would help companies to study the details further. |
| Apple | Support to list issues related to inter-cell mTRP to facilitate future discussions. |
| Intel | Same view as QC, TA acquisition for inter-cell mTRP should be discussed |
| Huawei, Hisilicon | For TAG configuration, only intra-cell MTRP case is considered by proposal 1. TAG configuration of inter-cell MTRP (e.g., TAG configuration for non-serving cells corresponding to configured addition PCIs) case should also be discussed. |
|  |  |

# 11 References

[1] R1-2205919, ZTE, “TA enhancement for multi-DCI”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[2] R1-2206025, vivo, “Discussion on two TAs for multi-DCI-based multi-TRP operation”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[3] R1-2206376, CATT, “Discussion on two TAs for UL multi-DCI for multi-TRP operation”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[4] R1-2207545, Nokia, Nokia Shanghai Bell, “Two TAs for UL multi-DCI multi-TRP operation”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[5] R1-2207216, Qualcomm Incorporated, “Supporting two TAs for multi-DCI based mTRP”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[6] R1-2206867, LG Electronics, “Two TAs for multi-TRP panel”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[7] R1-2206811, Samsung, “Views on two TAs for m-DCI”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[8] R1-2205748, FUTUREWEI, “Enhancements to support two TAs for multi-DCI”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[9] R1-2205880, Huawei, HiSilicon, ”Study on TA enhancement for UL M-TRP transmission”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[10] R1-2206996, MediaTek Inc., “UL Tx Timing Management for MTRP Operation”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[11] R1-2207321, Apple, “Views on two TAs for multi-DCI Uplink Transmissions”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[12] R1-2206247, Ericsson, “Two TAs for multi-DCI”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[13] R1-2206621, Xiaomi, “Discussion on two TAs for multi-TRP operation”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[14] R1-2207451, Sharp, “Two TAs for multi-DCI”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[15] R1-2207394, NTT DOCOMO, INC., “Discussion on two TAs for multi-DCI”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[16] R1-2206895, CMCC, “Discussion on two TAs for multi-DCI”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[17] R1-2205817, InterDigital, Inc., “On Utilization of Multiple TA”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[18] R1-2206485, Google, “Discussion on two TAs for multi-DCI”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[19] R1-2206464, NEC, “Discussion on two TAs for multi-DCI”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[20] R1-2206210, Lenovo, “Discussion of two TAs for multi-DCI UL transmission”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[21] R1-2205823, TCL Communication Ltd., “Discussion on two TAs for multi-DCI based on multi-TRP operation”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[22] R1-2205982, Spreadtrum Communications, “Discussion on two TAs for multi-DCI based multi-TRP”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[23] R1-2206264, OPPO, “Two TAs for multi-DCI”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[24] R1-2206668, Transsion Holdings, “Discussion on TA enhancement for multi-DCI based multi-TRP operation”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[25] R1-2206571, Intel Corporation, “On two TAs for multi-DCI”, RAN1#110, August 2022.

[26] RP-213598, Revised WID: MIMO evolution for downlink and uplink, Samsung, RAN#94-e, December 2021.