3GPP TSG-RAN WG2 Meeting #121bis-e R2-2304303

Electronic Meeting, April, 2022

Agenda: x.x.x

Source: InterDigital

Title: Summary of [AT121bis-e][430][Relay] Multi-path relay idle/inactive cases (InterDigital)

Document for: Discussion, Decision

# 1 Introduction

The following email discussion was initiated at RAN2#121bis-e [1]:

* [AT121bis-e][430][Relay] Multi-path relay idle/inactive cases (InterDigital)

Scope: Discuss and attempt to converge on the candidate agreements from the multi-path discussion:

Multi-path at the remote UE is not maintained when the relay UE is moved to RRC\_IDLE/RRC\_INACTIVE in this release.

A remote UE in multipath that is released to RRC\_IDLE/RRC\_INACTIVE can apply legacy cell/relay selection behaviour, thus moving to single-path operation on either path according to implementation.

Intended outcome: Report to CB session

Deadline: Monday 2023-04-24 2359 UTC

This document summarizes the discussion of this email.

# 2 Contact Information

Respondents to the offline discussion are kindly asked to fill in the following table.

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| Xiaomi | Xing Yang (yangxing1@xiaomi.com) |
| CATT | Hao Xu(xuhao@catt.cn) |
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# 3 Discussion

## 3.1 Relay UE in IDLE/INACTIVE

The first discussion based on the proposals in [2] was on the allowable RRC states of the relay UE while the remote UE is in multipath. The attempt was to converge on the following candidate agreement which is effectively to not maintain multipath at the remote UE:

*Multi-path at the remote UE is not maintained when the relay UE is moved to RRC\_IDLE/RRC\_INACTIVE in this release.*

Some of the difficulty in agreeing to the above was based on different interpretation of what is meant by not maintaining multipath. Specifically, when the relay UE moves to RRC\_IDLE/RRC\_INACTIVE, the remote UE can release the configuration associated to multipath and operate in legacy Uu, or it may maintain the configuration for the purposes of being able to re-use it when the relay UE moves back to RRC\_CONNECTED.

**Q1.1) Which option(s) do you prefer for how to handle the multipath configuration at the remote UE when the relay UE moves to RRC\_IDLE/RRC\_INACTIVE?**

* **A) The remote UE releases the multipath configuration (i.e., release SL-RLC entities, SRAP, and bearers having only indirect path).**
* **B) The remote UE maintains the multipath configuration but suspends the SL-RLC path. The remote UE can re-use the suspended indirect path when the relay UE moves back to RRC\_CONNECTED.**
* **C) The remote UE maintains the multipath configuration but suspends the SL-RLC path. The remote UE can re-use the suspended indirect path based on UE decision (e.g., UL data arrival).**
* **D) Other**
* **E) The remote UE inform “relayUE-Uu-RLF” or “relayUE-Uu-RRC-Failure” to gNB, and wait for the reconfiguration from gNB.**

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| Company | Response | Comments |
| OPPO | D | We understand remote UE would follow the network command to operate on entity/bearer release, and there is no need to define new behavior on top of the following we reached online.  *Multi-path at the remote UE is not maintained when the relay UE is moved to RRC\_IDLE/RRC\_INACTIVE in this release.* |
| Xiaomi | D | Remote UE is not aware of the RRC state of the relay UE, therefore remote UE is not able to autonomously perform multipath release or suspend.  If the relay UE enter IDLE/INACTIVE due to NW configuration, i.e. RRCRelease, NW should also release the multipath at remote UE.  If the relay UE enter IDLE/INACTIVE due to failure, e.g. Uu RLF, this is handled by multipath recovery.  The UE behavior should follow NW configuration. |
| CATT | E | If the relay UE is acting as relay for the remote UE in RRC\_CONNECTED, it should keep in RRC\_CONNECTED. gNB should not release the RRC connection of it. Therefore, the relay UE moves to RRC\_IDLE/RRC\_INACTIVE is not due to release from gNB. A possible case is Uu RLF is detected by the relay UE or DataInactivityTimer expired. The relay UE should send NotificationMessageSidelink message to the remote UE with cause “relayUE-Uu-RLF” or “relayUE-Uu-RRC-Failure” when Uu RLF is detected. The remote UE should inform “relayUE-Uu-RLF” or “relayUE-Uu-RRC-Failure” to gNB via direct path, and wait for the reconfiguration from gNB. |

A similar situation may occur when the relay UE experiences Uu RLF. In this case, based on Rel17 behavior, the relay UE should informs the remote UE using the NoticationMessageSidelink. However, depending on whether the relay UE recovers or not (i.e., successful re-establishment), the relay UE may not move to RRC\_IDLE, and releasing the multipath configuration at the remote UE may be unnecessary.

**Q1.2) Which option(s) do you prefer for how to handle the multipath configuration at the remote UE when the relay UE informs the remote UE of Uu RLF?**

* **A) The remote UE releases the multipath configuration (i.e., release SL-RLC entities, SRAP, and bearers having only indirect path).**
* **B) The remote suspends the multipath configuration and may continue to use it in case the relay UE does not move to RRC\_IDLE/RRC\_INACTIVE (i.e., recovery following Uu RLF)**
* **C) Other**
* **D) handled by indirect path recovery procedure**
* **E) The remote UE inform “relayUE-Uu-RLF” or “relayUE-Uu-RRC-Failure” to gNB, and wait for the reconfiguration from gNB.**

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| Company | Response | Comments |
| OPPO | C | This can be handled in the context of RLF handling.  *In case of Uu-RLF, at least for split SRB1, if SRB1 is available on indirect path not suspended, trigger report to network via indirect path to report the failure via a RRC message. Otherwise, RRC Re-establishment is initiated. RAN2 is requested to discuss whether the RRC message is the existing message e.g. MCGFailureInformation or a new message.*  Based on the agreement above, PC5 RLF in MP-relay scenario should lead to a suspend operation for the PC5 path. Yet the resume operation does not have to be based on “**in case the relay UE does not move to RRC\_IDLE/RRC\_INACTIVE (i.e., recovery following Uu RLF)**”, but can be based on network reconfiguration (as in legacy to handle CG suspend/resumption)  So we suggest to conclude it as,  *When relay UE informs the remote UE of Uu RLF, remote UE suspends the sidelink transmission.* |
| Xiaomi | D | We understand such case should be handled by indirect path failure recovery, similar as the PC5 RLF, i.e. remote UE reports the failure via direct path if SRB1 is available on direct path. gNB can decide whether to release multipath or change indirect path. |
| CATT | E/D | Same comments as Q1.1. We think E and D are under the same understanding with different description. |

Finally, the only other notification by the relay UE that would be relevant to the multipath case is the relay UE HO.

**Q1.3) Which option(s) do you prefer on how to handle the multipath configuration at the remote UE when the relay UE informs the remote UE of HO?**

* **A) The remote UE releases the multipath configuration (i.e., release SL-RLC entities, SRAP, and bearers having only indirect path).**
* **B) The remote continues to use the multipath configuration in some cases (e.g., intra-gNB HO) and releases the configuration in other cases (e.g., inter-gNB HO, HO failure, etc)**
* **C) Other**
* **D) handled by indirect path recovery procedure**

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| Company | Response | Comments |
| OPPO | C | Same view as for Q1.2, on the one hand, this should be of the same issue and solution, as a sub-case of PC5 RLF, on the other hand, since we are talking about a remote UE configured with MP, gNB should already send reconfiguration to remote UE before there is handover of serving relay (in R17, the target scenario of this case is more for RRC\_IDLE/INACTIVE remote UE, but here it is only for RRC\_CONNECTED remote UE), so we do not see there is a need for special operation for remote UE. |
| Xiaomi | D | Similar as Q1.2, this should be handled by indirect path failure recovery procedure. |
| CATT | B | Up to gNB configuration. When the relay UE performs intra-gNB HO, gNB may reconfigure the Scell to the remote UE. The remote UE can continue to use the reconfigured multipath configuration. |

The remote UE may determine the change in state of the relay directly from the network itself. While this may be straightforward for the case of explicit release, it may be more difficult for cases where the state change is triggered by an error at the relay UE since waiting for the network to detect the condition may incur unacceptable delays. Two such cases are Uu RLF, and expiry of the DataInactivityTimer at the relay UE. In this case, the NotificationMessageSidelink may be preferrable. Use of NotificationMessageSidelink may also be more scalable to the inter-gNB case.

**Q1.4) How does the remote UE determine the that the relay UE moved to IDLE/INACTIVE in the explicit release case (e.g., relay UE receives a release from the network)?**

* **A) Relay UE informs the remote UE (e.g., using NotificationMessageSidelink)**
* **B) NW reconfigures each remote UE before it releases the relay UE to IDLE/INACTIVE**
* **C) Other**

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| Company | Response | Comments |
| OPPO | B |  |
| Xiaomi | B |  |
| CATT | B | If the relay UE is acting as relay for the remote UE in RRC\_CONNECTED, it should keep in RRC\_CONNECTED. gNB should not release the RRC connection of it. If gNB determined to release the relay UE to IDLE/INACTIVE, it should reconfigure the indirect path of the remote UE in RRC\_CONNECTED via this relay UE. |

**Q1.5) How does the remote UE determine the that the relay UE moved to IDLE/INACTIVE in the case where the relay UE experiences Uu RLF without recovery or DataInactivityTimer expires?**

* **A) Relay UE informs the remote UE (e.g., using NotificationMessageSidelink)**
* **B) NW reconfigures remote UE after it determine the relay UE is no longer accessible**
* **C) Other**

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| Company | Response | Comments |
| OPPO | B | For Uu-RLF, see our reply to Q1.2.  For DataInactivityTimer, there were old discussion on this, and the conclusion was it is not compatible with SL, so we do not think network would configure it to a UE running SL. |
| Xiaomi | A | Reuse the legacy notification. Maybe one general indication is enough to cover all cases. |
| CATT | B | The remote UE should inform “relayUE-Uu-RLF” or “relayUE-Uu-RRC-Failure” to gNB via direct path, and wait for the reconfiguration from gNB. |

## 3.2 IDLE/INACTIVE remote UE following a release

The second issue discussed based on proposals in [2] is how to handle the NW initiated release to a remote UE in multipath. In this case, during online session, companies were mostly of the opinion that legacy behaviour can apply which resulted in the following proposed agreement from the chairman.

*A remote UE in multipath that is released to RRC\_IDLE/RRC\_INACTIVE can apply legacy cell/relay selection behaviour, thus moving to single-path operation on either path according to implementation.*

However, it is not clear what legacy behaviour in the case of multipath really means:

* In legacy Uu, a UE that receives a release message on Uu starts by camping on that cell and reselecting to another cell when the conditions related to cell reselection are triggered.
* In legacy relays, a remote UE that receives a release message maintains the PC5-RRC connection to the relay and only triggers cell/relay reselection when the conditions related to cell/relay reselection are triggered.

There is therefore some ambiguity as to which of the above two behaviours is considered as “legacy” for a remote UE in multipath. If both cases are considered value for the UE in multipath, legacy behaviour indicates that the path maintained correspond to the path where the UE received the release message from.

Some companies mentioned that the preferred approach would be for the UE to always camp on Uu, since the PCell is on Uu. However, the relayed path may be the best path, and camping on the direct path upon release may result in releasing the PC5-RRC connection, only to immediately establish it again if the IDLE/INACTIVE remote UE ends up triggering relay selection.

For this reason, [2] proposed to have a NW-based decision (similar to a release with redirection) to remove the ambiguity and avoid path ping-pong during the release. In this case, the network releases the remote UE to the most reliable path, and can also know how to deliver SI and paging to the remote UE following this.

**Q2.1) Upon reception of a release message, how does the remote UE decide between i) camping on Uu and releasing the PC5-RRC connection, or ii) maintaining the PC5-RRC connection and behaving as a Rel17 remote UE in IDLE/INACTIVE?**

* **A) Release message indicates whether to perform i) or ii)**
* **B) Always perform i)**
* **C) Follow legacy behavior (if release is received via Uu, perform i, if the release is received from the relay, perform ii).**
* **D) Other**
* **E) Follow legacy behavior (up to UE implementation to perform i) or ii)).**

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| Company | Response | Comments |
| OPPO | D | We do not see a need to deviate from legacy behavior for the case of “**Upon reception of a release message**”.  Based on the current spec, upon release message with suspend configuration  2> if the UE is capable of L2 U2N Remote UE:  3> enter RRC\_INACTIVE, and perform either cell selection as specified in TS 38.304 [20], or relay selection as specified in clause 5.8.15.3, or both;  Upon release message without suspend configuration  2> if the UE is capable of L2 U2N Remote UE:  3> enter RRC\_IDLE, and perform either cell selection as specified in TS 38.304 [20], or relay selection as specified in clause 5.8.15.3, or both;  So we think the following we reached online is sufficient  *A remote UE in multipath that is released to RRC\_IDLE/RRC\_INACTIVE can apply legacy cell/relay selection behaviour, thus moving to single-path operation on either path according to implementation.* |
| Xiaomi | E | Following legacy procedure, the behavior should be left to UE’s implementation whether to select relay or cell. |
| CATT | E | The remote UE should perform legacy release operation. The remote UE can select to camp on a cell or connect to a relay up to UE implementation. This principle is reused from Rel-17 L2 U2N relay which was agreed in RAN2#114-e meeting.  “For RRC\_IDLE/INACTIVE L2 remote UE, the legacy cell (re)selection procedure and relay (re)selection procedure could go independently and up to UE implementation to select either cell or relay.”. |

# 4 Conclusion

# 5 References

1. RAN2#121bis-e Chairman Notes
2. R2-2302924