IEEE P802.11
Wireless LANs

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| Proposed Draft TextMAC MLO: Single STA Trigger |
| Date: 2021-2-26 |
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Abstract

This submission proposes draft text to be included in 802.11be Draft 1.0 for the following topic:

* Multi-link channel access – End PPDU alignment
	+ In R1 of TGbe that
		- A non-AP STA can include an indication in a PPDU that solicits an AP to transmit a control response frame in an SU PPDU whose duration is indicated by the indication in a new A-ctrl subfield. The new A-ctrl subfield will be specifically designed to include that duration for the control response.
		- The SU PPDU can be carried in at least HE/EHT PPDU to meet the indicated duration. [#SP385]

Revisions:

* Rev 0: Initial version of the document.
* Rev 1: Added further discussion and simplified the text to cover optional support case only based on the offline feedback.
* Rev 2: Incorporated email discussion results.

**Discussions:**

**Non-AP STAs behaviour**

If a STA that transmits a frame with the proposed A-Control subfield sets the indicated duration of the control response frame that is not reasonable, it is not clear how the responding AP’s behaviour will be. If the indicated duration value is longer than what the AP expects, the AP can adjust the PPDU duration by adding appropriate paddings. However, if the indicated duration value is shorter than what the AP expects, additional rule needs to be defined further. To resolve this, it is needed to define behaviour for non-AP STA that solicits the control response frame. The proposed text is based on a philosophy that the non-AP STA calculates the required duration of the control response frame assuming the longest possible response, because if the indicated duration is longer than what the AP expects, the AP can aadjust the PPDU duration by adding appropriate paddings.

**Mandatory/optional support of parsing the proposed A-Control subfield**

It has not been decided if the support of parsing the proposed A-Control subfield from receiving AP side is mandatory or optional.

If this feature becomes mandatory, all AP MLD needs to generate a PPDU containing a control response frame whose length is directly indicated by the A-Control subfield of the soliciting frame. It will make it easy to align the transmission end time of control response frame for the case of TXOP busrting, however it will require additional complexity to the AP’s implementation.

If this feature becomes optional, it is allowed for an AP MLD to declare that it doesn’t support the parsing of the corresponding A-Control subfield. And, non-AP MLDs shall send UL PPDU on multiple links including the A-Control subfield only if the responding AP MLD supports this feature. It will make flexibility for the AP’s implementation, however it may not be easy to enable multiple frame transmissions within a TXOP (TXOP bursting) on multiple links for those AP MLDs that don’t support this feature.

As it has quite an impact on the AP’s implementation and simultaneous transmission on multiple links are still available without TXOP bursting, the proposed text here is based on optional support of this feature. (Originally there were 2 different versions of the text were prepared, but based on offline discussion the proposed text was modified.)

***TGbe editor: Please update Table 9-22a in a subclause 9.2.4.6.3a as follows:***

* HE variant

***…***

The Control ID subfield indicates the type of information carried in the Control Information subfield. The length of the Control Information subfield is fixed for each value of the Control ID subfield that is not reserved. The values of the Control ID subfield and the associated length of the Control Information subfield are defined in Table 9-22a (Control ID subfield values).

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| --- |
| * Control ID subfield values
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| Control ID value | Meaning | Length of the Control Information subfield (bits) | Content of the Control Information subfield |
| 0 | Triggered response scheduling (TRS) | 26 | See 9.2.4.6a.1 (TRS Control) |
| 1 | Operating mode (OM) | 12 | See 9.2.4.6a.2 (OM Control) |
| 2 | HE link adaptation (HLA) | 26 | See 9.2.4.6a.3 (HLA Control) |
| 3 | Buffer status report (BSR) | 26 | See 9.2.4.6a.4 (BSR Control) |
| 4 | UL power headroom (UPH) | 8 | See 9.2.4.6a.5 (UPH Control) |
| 5 | Bandwidth query report (BQR) | 10 | See 9.2.4.6a.6 (BQR Control) |
| 6 | Command and status (CAS) | 8 | See 9.2.4.6a.7 (CAS Control)) |
| 7 | Single response scheduling (SRS) | 10 | See 9.2.4.6a.xxx (SRS Control) |
| 8-14 | Reserved |  |  |

*[Note to Editor: In case the Control ID value of 7 (or more) is taken by other passed motion, please use the next available Control ID instead of 7, and also modify the Reserved Control ID values accordingly.]*

***…***

***TGbe editor: Please add the following subclause after subclause 9.2.4.6a.7 as follows:***

9.2.4.6a.xxx SRS Control

The Control Information subfield in an SRS Control subfield contains scheduling information for the non-TB PPDU containing the control response to the PPDU carrying the MPDU(s) containing the SRS Control subfield (see 35.3.13.5 PPDU end time alignment)). The format of the subfield is shown in Figure 9-22x (Control Information subfield format in an SRS Control subfield).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | B0      B7 | B8 B9 |
|  | Response Duration | Reserved |
| Bits: | 8 | 2 |
| **Figure 9-22x – Control Information subfield format in an SRS Control subfield** |

The Response Duration subfield contains the duration of the solicited non-TB PPDU that carries the control response frame that immediately follows the PPDU carrying the SRS Control subfield. The Response Duration subfield is in units of 4 microseconds and is set as defined in 35.3.15.

***TGbe editor: Please add the following at the end of subclause 35.3.15:***

An AP that is affiliated with an AP MLD shall set the SRS Support subfield in the Common Info field of the Basic variant ML element it transmits to 1 if its dot11SRSOptionImplemented is true; otherwise the AP shall set it to 0.

When more than one STA that are affiliated with the same NSTR non-AP MLD simultaneously transmit a PPDU to their peer APs that are affiliated with the same AP MLD soliciting a control response frame and the peer APs have set the SRS Support subfield in the Common Info field of the Basic variant ML element it transmits to 1, and if the NSTR non-AP MLD intends to align the PPDU end time of PPDUs carrying the control response frame from the peer APs, the PPDU soliciting the control response frame shall carry one or more MPDUs with SRS Control subfield. The STA affiliated with the NSTR non-AP MLD shall set the Response Duration field to a value that is equal to or longer than an expected duration of the responded PPDU with the following parameters:

* PPDU format is at least HE SU PPDU, or EHT MU PPDU,
* Bandwidth that is equal to the bandwidth of the soliciting frame,
* NSS and number of LTFs that are equal to one,
* GI equal to the longest mandatory GI value (3.2us),
* MCS that is selected following the rate selection rules defined in10.6.6.5 (Rate selection for control response frames), 26.17.1 (Basic HE BSS operation), 26.15.3 (MCS, NSS, BW and DCM selection), and 35.9 (EHT BSS operation),
* A PSDU length that is equal to or longer than the length to accommodate the solicited control response frame in any links that are transmitted simultaneously per the selected MCS, bandwidths of respective links, and the negotiated BA bitmap size.

*[Editorial Note: Depending on the progress of defining MCS selection for EHT PPDU, the referenced sub-clause number (currently 35.9) will be modified accordingly.]*

An EHT AP affiliated with AP MLD transmitting a PPDU in response to a frame containing an SRS Control subfield behaves as follows:

* The AP shall use at least the HE SU PPDU format or the EHT MU PPDU format addressed to a single STA for the PPDU transmission. If the PSDU carried in the response PPDU contains an A-MPDU then the contents of the A-MPDU shall be as defined in Table 9-533 (A-MPDU contents in the control response context).

NOTE—If the PPDU carrying the response is an HE SU PPDU or an EHT MU PPDU addressed to one STA then the STA might use any type of padding to ensure that the length of the PPDU is equal to that of the Response Duration.