#### **Project: IEEE P802.15 Working Group for Wireless Personal Area Networks (WPANs)**

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Abstract: [NICT's MAC proposal to TG6]

**Purpose:** [In response to TG6 call for proposals]

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## NICT's MAC proposal

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## Outline

- TG6 requirement and overview
- TDMA based BAN superframe
  - Slot design
  - Contention access period (CAP), contention free period (CFP) and ACK
  - Priority access period (PAP)
- BAN group superframe
  - Concept of group superframe
  - Non-beacon mode
  - Power efficient beacon
  - Usage cases and coexistence
- Self-evaluation
- Backup slides
  - Simulation
  - Protocol diagram
  - Major questions to previous proposal

# §1. TG6 requirements and overview of proposed MAC protocol

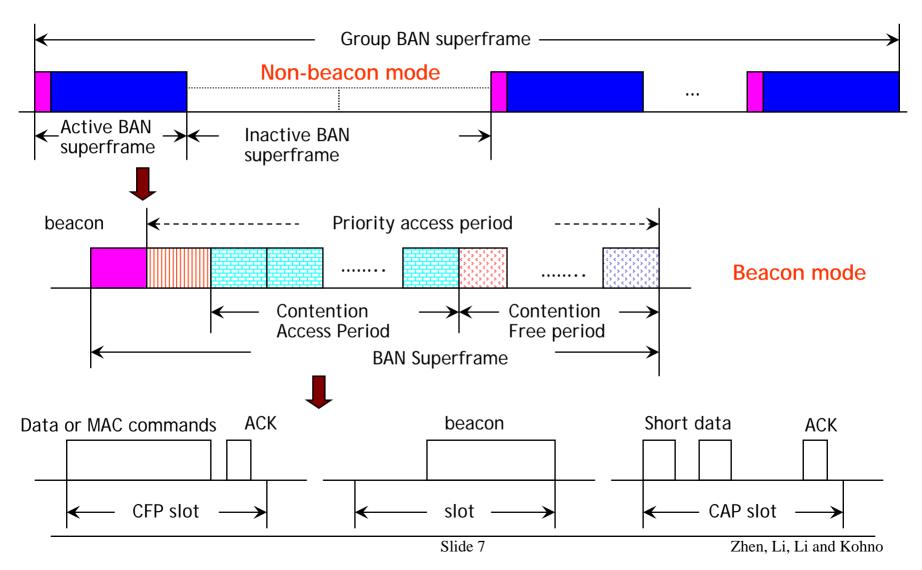
## Usage scenarios

- Medical and multi-media applications on/in a same person or near space
  - Periodical vital information collection or diagnosis command from doctor
  - Video and audio for entertainment
- Operation environment includes home, hospital, small clinic, fitness center, etc
- Up to 256 sensors/actuators or device in a piconet
  - Devices can be on the surface of body, under the skin or in the deep tissue

## MAC requirements

- Dependability and QoS guarantee
  - Real time and life-critical message → Priority access and CFP
- Scalability
  - Multiple PHYs → TDMA based BAN superframe
  - data rate
  - duty cycle and network size → (group) BAN superframe
- Low power consumption
  - $\rightarrow$  Power efficient beacon, non-beacon mode
- Security

## **Overview of MAC proposal**



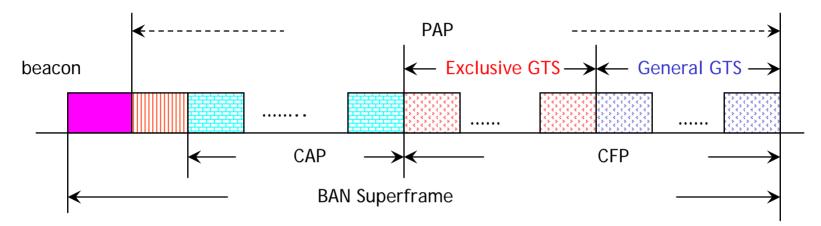
- Beacon mode: TDMA based BAN superframe
  - Contention access period (CAP)
    - Minislots in CAP and group ACK → to increase contention efficiency
  - − Contention free period (CFP) → to guarantee QoS
  - Priority access period (PAP)
    - Priority slot and embedded priority period → for life-critical and emergency traffic
  - All slots in BAN superframe are equal duration → easy implementation
  - Mandatory ACK except beacon
  - Hybrid of data and MAC command  $\rightarrow$  for burst traffic
  - Power efficient beacon  $\rightarrow$  for low duty cycle node
- Non-beacon mode
  - $\rightarrow$  for very low duty cycle traffic and uplink medical event
- Group BAN superframe
  - $\rightarrow$  for dynamic duty cycle, re-transmission and network scale

## §2. TDMA-based BAN superframe

## **Motivations**

- A unified MAC to meet BAN requirements
  - QoS, network scalability, different PHYs
  - Different priorities: ECG vs. music
- Easy to be implemented by chip maker

## **TDMA-based BAN superframe**



- A superframe consists of beacon, CAP and CFP
  - CFP is further divided into exclusive portion and general portion
    - Exclusive portion: for life-critical traffic whose radio resource cannot be withdrawn due to other's applications, e.g. waveforms in ICU
    - General portion: for general purposes of guaranteed traffic
  - Priority access period (PAP) is partially overlapped with CAP and CFP
    - One fixed priority slots is optional

- A BAN superframe consists of constant number of equal duration slot
  - Even number of slots in a superframe, e.g. 16 or 32
  - A BAN superframe has 1+1+Na+Nf slots
- CAP
  - Mainly for uplink GTS request and short data packet
    - Asynchronous short data packet, link management
  - Contention based slotted ALOHA
- CFP
  - For both uplink and downlink communication
    - · Isochronous stream and allocated burst traffic
  - Contention free slot allocation by BAN coordinator
- PAP
  - Especially for priority traffic

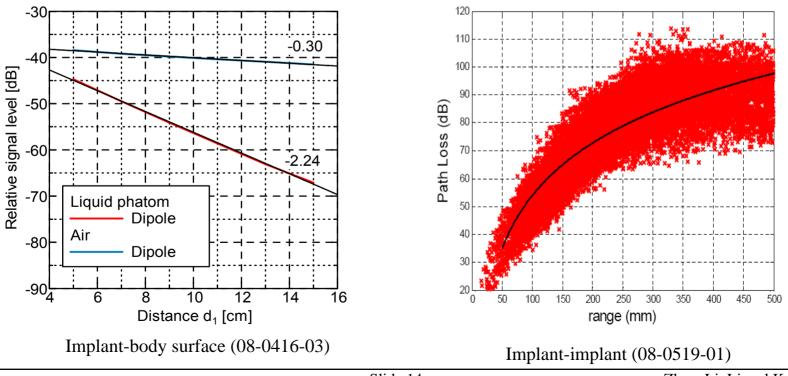
## Why TDMA-based BAN superframe?

- Channel sensing cannot be guaranteed in all BAN frequency bands and scenarios
  - UWB systems
  - NLOS of on-body of narrow band systems
  - Implant systems (<300mm)</li>
  - Dynamic environment with human movement
- Unreliable channel sensing leads to 'hidden nodes' in CSMA, which deteriorate system performance severely
  - Free-channel assumed slotted CSMA with random backoff is not totally the same as slotted ALOHA

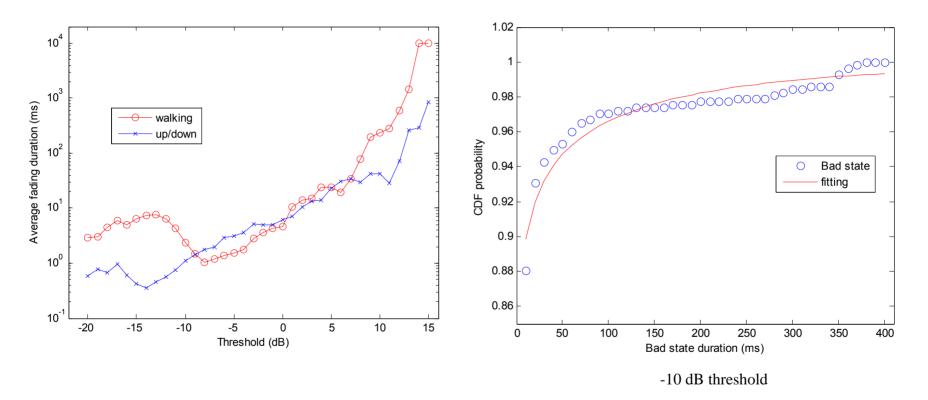
## - MICS systems

 For both implant-implant and implant-on body, the device can conduct channel sensing within 250 mm

This distance is too short for most applications



### -Human movements



- Signal lower than a threshold, e.g. -10dB, usually leads to frame error or channel sensing error
- It is true even for narrow band systems

#### §2.1 Slot design

## **Motivations**

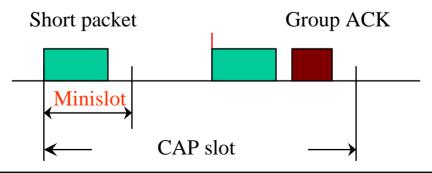
- To increase contention efficiency in CAP
- To guarantee QoS in CFP
- To consider easy implementation

## Slot design

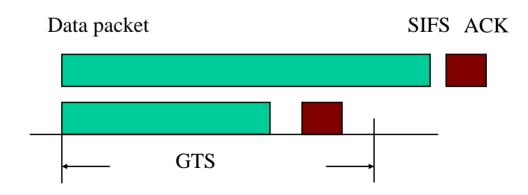
- Slot in the BAN superframe consists of data packet and ACK
- An equal slot duration for easy implementation
  - To be determined by the lowest mandatory data rate in a PHY
  - Slot duration should be optimal for most applications
    - High data rate may have more payload bytes
  - Duration of slot is configurable
    - Optional feature
- Communication only starts at the beginning of the slot

## Minislots in CAP

- Slots in CAP are for channel contention
  - Slotted ALOHA is simple compared with slotted CSMA
- 4 minislots in a CAP slot
  - 3 times capacity slotted ALOHA
  - The number of 4 is tradeoff
- Three minislots share a group ACK
  - The last minislot is for group ACK
- Slots in CAP is configurable
- No cross-boundary communication in CAP



- Slots in CFP are Guaranteed time slots (GTS)
- A GTS consists of a data packet and an ACK
  - A data packet may cross two continuous GTS if they are allocated to the same link
  - A GTS can be uplink or downlink as indicated by beacon
- Number of GTS in BAN superframe is configurable
  - Scalability in QoS



#### §2.2 CAP, CFP and ACK

## Beacon slot

- Beacon transmit depends on PHY
  - For MICS PHY, channel sensing by coordinator is mandatory before beacon per FCC rule
  - For other PHYs, beacon can be directly transmit
- Beacon can do time hopping or frequency hopping to avoid jamming attacks
  - Beacon can be in wakeup radio channel
- Beacon may spend 2 or 3 consecutive slots
  - Same as 15.4
- Beacon function
  - Clockwise and frame synchronization, pending data, poll command, network management

## CAP

- CAP is mainly for channel contention
  - The number of slot in CAP is configurable
- The transmit and re-transmit mechanism is traffic related
  - A device has more than one transmit chances in the CAP
- Minislot can be used for GTS request and short uplink data packet
  - The short packet can be ID packet, link request etc.
- Limited payload for packet in a minislot
  - 1/4 of a slot

## CFP

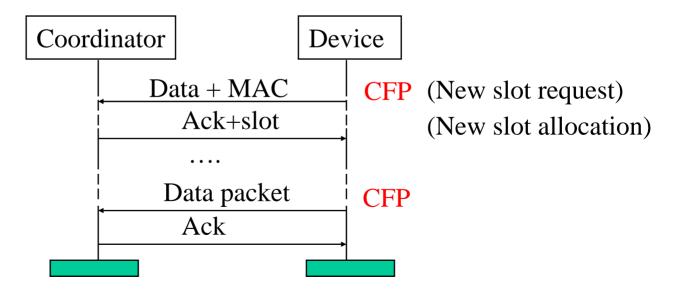
- CFP is mainly for data transmit and/or re-transmit
- GTS are classified into general GTS and exclusive GTS
  - To support different priorities of data streams, e.g. music vs.
     ECG
    - Exclusive and general are attributes of GTS. They are not necessary consecutive in physical
- GTS in CFP are allocated by BAN coordinator
  - Life time attribute of GTS allocation
    - It can be a BAN superframe, group BAN superframe or more
  - BAN coordinator can actively de-allocate the general GTS allocation for the new exclusive traffic
- Free GTS are unallocated GTS in a BAN superframe
  - Re-transmission in case of packet error

## Information piggybacked ACK

- Mandatory ACK packet in CAP, CFP and PAP
   ACK in CAP is group ACK
- To confirm packet reception
- To piggyback GTS allocation in CFP
  - ACK to packet in CAP
    - To receive downlink command or data from coordinator
  - ACK to packet in CFP and PAP
    - The second chance for corrupted packet in the same BAN superframe
- Benefits
  - To increase capacity of CAP and reduce latency and power consumption in CFP and PAP

## Hybrid of data and MAC command

- MAC command and data are put in the same packet
  - For Variable Bitrate (VBR) traffic, we cannot pre-allocate slot per its peak rate
- Device can use it for new slot request



## Re-transmit control

- During large scale fading, both data packet and ACK can be corrupted
  - Device do not know the new allocated slot
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> and later re-transmit can be
  - immediately in the same BAN superframe,
  - the next active superframe, or
  - coordinator changes an inactive BAN superframe to be active
- This is negotiated as the application layer during device association per the required QoS, power resource and channel condition

#### §2.3 Priority access period

## Motivations

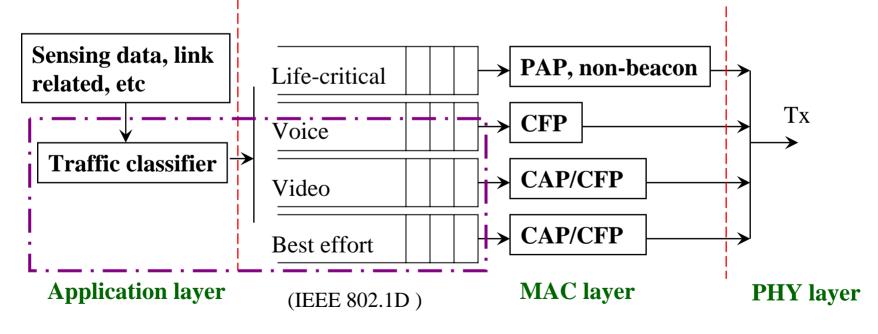
- Medical events that are life-critical
  - Abnormal vital information or state
    - Body temperature > 40°C, fall
  - Abnormal sensor states
    - Sensor is out of order
- Transmit of life-critical medical message should be guaranteed and ASAP
- FDA requires guaranteed medical communications

## What is priority traffic?

- The life-critical medical events are priority traffic
  - Priority traffic is a segment of data stream with an abrupt change in (usually more stringent) QoS and reliability requirement
    - A waveform in intensive-care-unit (ICU) can be done by the exclusive GTS
- Characteristic of priority traffic
  - Priority traffic can be uplink or downlink after the link have been established
  - Very low duty cycle (e.g. <0.01%)</li>
  - Limited payload (maybe several bytes)

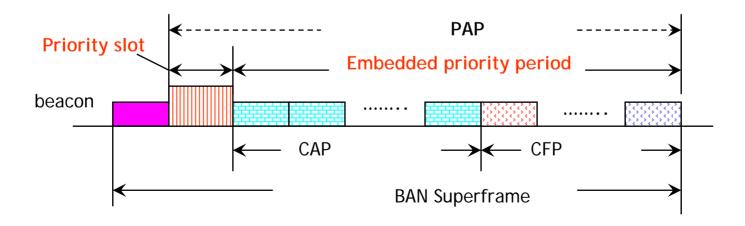
## Priority traffic

- Traffics must be classified and buffered in queues
  - Different traffic categories should be buffered in different queues
- Priority traffic go first in a BAN superframe



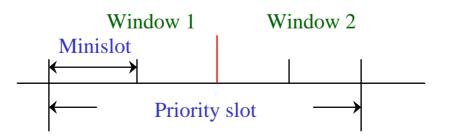
## Priority access period

- Only priority traffic can take PAP
- PAP can be
  - an optional priority slot, and
  - embedded priority period: the free period in CAP and CFP

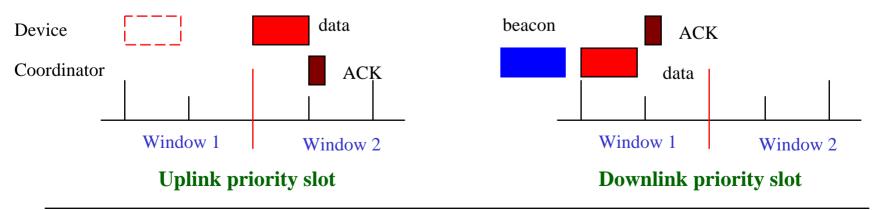


## Priority slot

- Priority slot is the slot immediately after beacon in the BAN superframe
  - Two communication windows in 4 minislots
  - Priority slot is allocated by beacon
  - Priority slot is optional
- Priority slot guarantees the upper limit of the priority traffic delay
  - Priority slot can be uplink or downlink as indicated by beacon



- Beacon broadcasts direction of priority slot and pending priority traffic in beacon
- Uplink priority slot
  - Coordinator enters receiving state in if there is no pending priority traffic
  - Device can randomly select a window
- Downlink priority slot
  - Coordinator transmits pending priority traffic and wait for ACK
  - Tow priority traffics in two windows
- If priority slot fails, go to embedded priority period



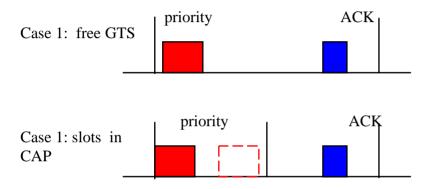
ACK

priority

Data

## Embedded priority period

Case 2 in CFP



- Case 1: a free slot
  - All minislots in CAP except ACK are free slots
  - Unallocated GTS
- Case 2: a busy GTS
  - the free period in GTS if it is long enough
    - Due to equal slot division, there may be some free space after ACK
    - Allocated GTS should be protected
- After transmit priority traffic, the device waits for ACK
  - ACK to priority traffic take the next transmission chance

## Detection of channel free period in case 2

- Coordinator assisted detection
  - Coordinator broadcasts BUZZ signals once the GTS is free
  - Device with priority traffic listens the BUZZ signal in all GTS
  - The BUZZ signals depend on PHYs
  - The need of cooperation between coordinator and device
- Device detection
  - Device actively conducts channel sensing to detect free space in a GTS
  - "Hidden node" issues of channel sensing

# §3 BAN group superframe

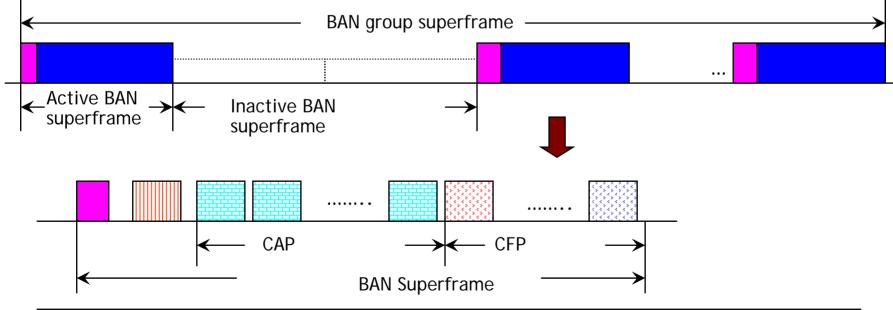
### §3.1 Group Superframe

# Motivations

- Dynamic BAN
  - Network scalability
    - Up to 256 devices in a piconet, and typical network size is about 10
  - Traffic duty cycle
    - Low duty cycle <0.1%
    - Medium and heavy duty cycle for non-medical traffic
  - Data rate of real time traffic
    - Audio vs. video, ECG vs. EMG
- How to guarantee the QoS and maintain the low power consumption?

# BAN group superframe

- A BAN group superframe consists of *N* superframes
  - Each BAN superframe can be active or inactive
    - No beacon in the inactive BAN superframe
  - The interval between adjacent active beacons is defined by beacon order
- Beacon listening is not mandatory for a device
  - Low duty cycle devices can skip some beacons



# Benefit of BAN group superframe

- To provide data rate and QoS support
  - Totally there can be up to N\*Nf GTS in a BAN group superframe
  - More than one slot in a BAN group superframe can be allocated to a link
- To provide dynamic duty cycle support
  - Scheduled and synchronized active and inactive period
  - Power saving by distributed optional beacon listening
    - Device may skip some beacons per its duty cycle
  - Easy for multihop support and radio resource computation
- To provide a hardware clock to upper layer
  - BAN superframe can be time unit
- Inactive BAN superframe enables
  - multi-hop and multiple BAN coexistence, and
  - flexible allocation of re-transmission

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### Why it is better than a long BAN superframe?

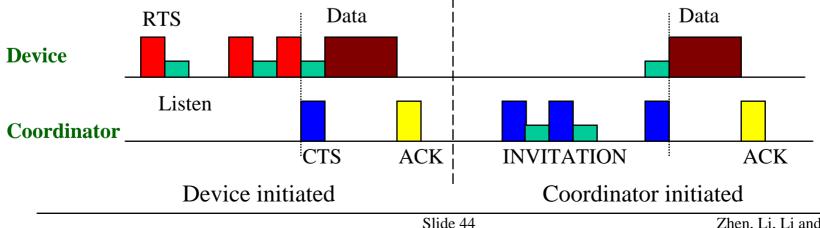
- Short and practical beacon frame
  - Beacon in 15.4 can last 2 or 3 slots for a 16-slot superframe
- Extension to 802.15.4
  - Easy for chip maker
- Clock offset after beacon in the BAN superframe
  - Some devices may enter inactive mode after the beacon until its slots
  - Large BAN superframe
- More flexibility

### §3.2 Non-beacon mode

### Two motivations

- Some FCC rules
  - Implanted medical device in MICS band can transmit immediately in case of some medical events
- For very low duty cycle devices, periodical listening to the beacon is power consuming

- Who can use non-beacon mode?
  - Medical events from medical sensors
  - Device with very low duty cycle traffic
- Channel access in non-beacon mode
  - Pure ALOHA or CDMA (depend on PHY) based handshake due to clock offset after long time sleep
  - The handshake should also consider power consumption
    - Coordinator initiated method
    - Device initiated method



- Non-beacon mode should be used in inactive BAN superframe
  - Devices in non-beacon mode do not need to listen beacon before communication
  - Coordinator enters receiving state in inactive period periodically or upon command from application layer
    - Coordinator and Devices should negotiate the non-beacon mode time if coordinator is not always ready for reception
    - Coordinator and devices are pseudo-asynchronous (in application layer)
  - Non-beacon communication shall be finished before active BAN superframe to avoid collision with beacon mode
    - There should be enough guard time to combat clock offset
    - Coordinator can stop non-beacon communication during handshake

# Coexistence between beacon mode and non-beacon mode

- After long time sleep, devices in non-beacon mode may lose the clear border of inactive BAN superframe.
  - Packets in non-beacon mode may collide with packets in beacon mode
- The collisions are low probability because the total traffics in non-beacon mode are low duty cycle
  - <0.1% duty cycle per device</p>
- Devices in non-beacon mode have more or less BAN superframe information
  - Device's clock can be refreshed in the non-beacon mode communication, e.g. through MAC command

### Non-beacon mode vs. beacon mode

|                | Beacon mode   | Non-beacon mode   |  |  |
|----------------|---|---|--|--|
| Who            | Normal traffic  | Medical event from sensor, or very low duty cycle traffic |  |  |
| When           | Active BAN superframe   | inactive BAN superframe                                   |  |  |
| How            | Slotted ALOHA and TDMA  | Pure ALOHA (narrow band PHY) or CDMA (UWB PHY), handshake |  |  |
| Mode<br>switch | <ul> <li>Coordinator informs device the period of active and inactive superframes. Coordinator and device negotiate the time of non-beacon mode.</li> <li>Coordinator enters reception state at the negotiated time.</li> </ul> |   |  |  |
|                | •   |   |  |  |
|                | is draining   |   |  |  |

|             | Beacon mode                                       | Non-beacon mode                            |  |
|-------------|---|--|--|
| Direction   | Uplink and downlink                               | Uplink only                                |  |
| Advantage   | Guaranteed QoS                                    | Low power consumption                      |  |
| Clock       | Accurate MAC clock maintained by beacon listening | Coarse clock in application layer          |  |
| Coexistence | Low probability of packet collision               |  |  |
|             | MAC clock   | Cooperation between device and coordinator |  |

- Non-beacon mode is a "minimum function set" for medical applications in the case of beacon jamming attack
- Reliability and QoS in non-beacon cannot be guaranteed
  - Asynchronous clock, pure ALOHA and possible poor channel quality
  - Resource limited sensors

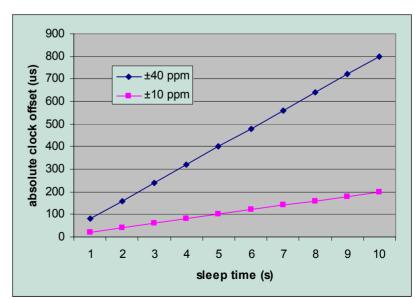
### §3.3 Power-efficient beacon

### **Motivations**

- When and how to wakeup an inactive device with the least power consumption?
  - Dynamic duty cycle of BAN devices
- The clock is maintained by beacon listening
  - Typical clock accuracy is ±40ppm

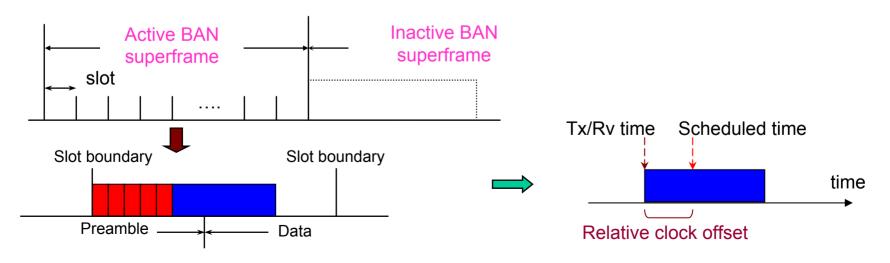


Clock accuracy: drift in unit time



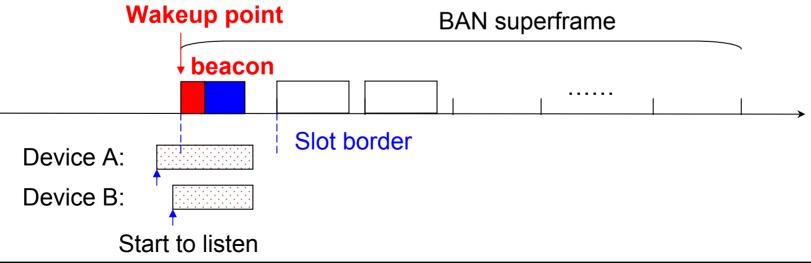
### Beacon in BAN superframe

- Except bit-wise synchronization, the beacon carries slot information of superframe
  - Where is the start or end of a slot?
- How to cooperate beacon transmit/listen and maintain the slot information in an energy efficient way?
  - Beacon starts at slot Beginning (B-B)
  - Beacon ends at slot End (B-E)



### Beacon starts at slot beginning (B-B)

- It is the device's duty to consider the clock offset
  - Slot is described by the start of beacon
- Device operation
  - Coordinator broadcast beacon at scheduled time per its clock
  - Node must listen before the scheduled time

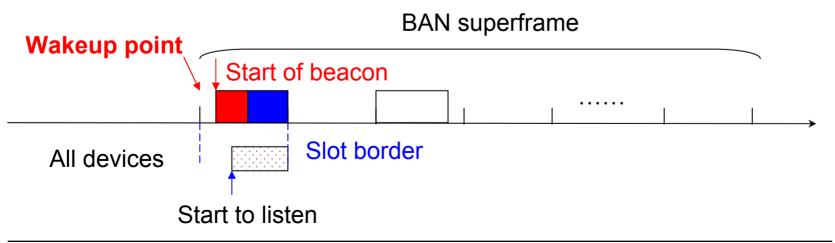


# Beacon ends at slot end (B-E)

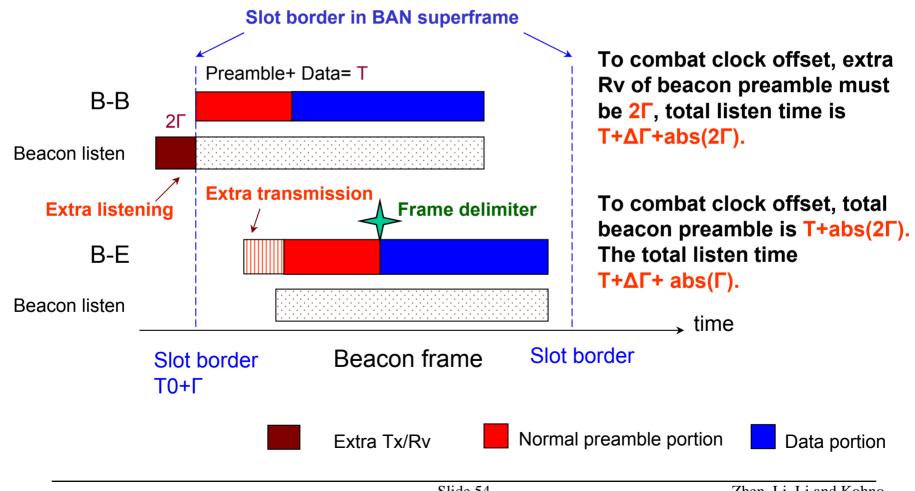
- It is the coordinator's duty to consider clock offset
  - Slot is described by the end of beacon
- Devices operation

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- Coordinator must transmit before the scheduled time. But the beacon must be end at the slot boarder
- Device wakeup per its clock for beacon listening



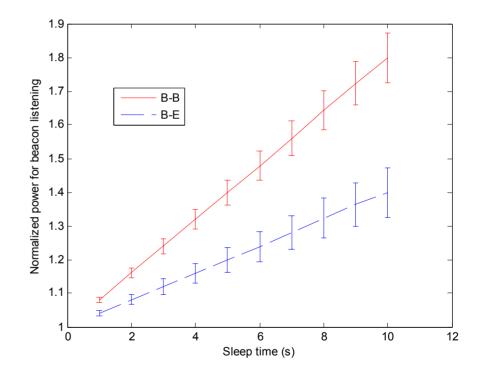
### Where are the differences?



|                              | B-B                               | B-E   |  |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Transmit of beacon preamble  | Constant preamble                 | Additional preamble symbols                                     |  |
| Listen of beacon preamble    | Wakeup before the beacon preamble | Wakeup during the beacon preamble                               |  |
| Slot boundary                | At the beginning of beacon        | At the frame delimiter with a constant delay                    |  |
| Maximal device sleeping time | No limitation                     | Be limited by slot duration, frame delimiter and clock accuracy |  |
| Beacon payload               | No limitation                     | No limitation   |  |
| Power                        | More power to listen at device    | More power to transmit at coordinator                           |  |

### B-E can save more power

- Numeric result
  - 2ms beacon
  - Uniform distribution of clock drift in ±80 ppm
  - Sleeping time: 1~10 s
  - 10 sensors in a piconet
- B-E is better for dynamic and very low duty cycle of devices
  - On average, B-E consume no more extra power

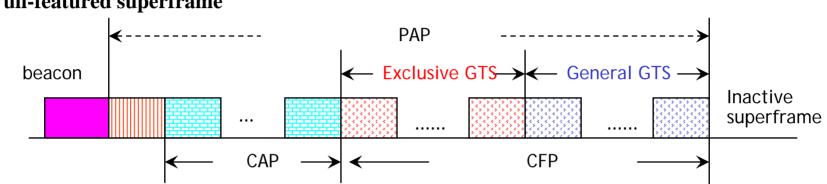


# §3.4 Usage cases and coexistence analysis

### Example system configuration

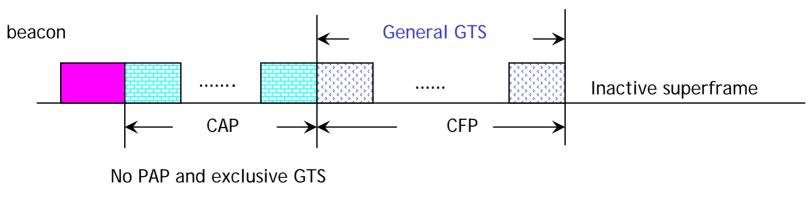
| System parameters    |                 | value  |  |
|----------------------|-----------------|--|--|
| BAN superframe       | slots           | 16 or 32                                       |  |
|                      | CAP slots       | 7 (assume 16 slots, more at network beginning) |  |
|                      | CFP slots       | 8  |  |
|                      | Priority slot   | 1 or 2   |  |
|                      | Minislots (CAP) | 4 or 8 (depend on slot duration)               |  |
|                      | Slot duration   | 1 ~ 256 ms                                     |  |
| Group BAN superframe |                 | 256 or 512 slots                               |  |
| Max. payload         |                 | 256 or 512 bytes                               |  |

### Different superframe scenarios

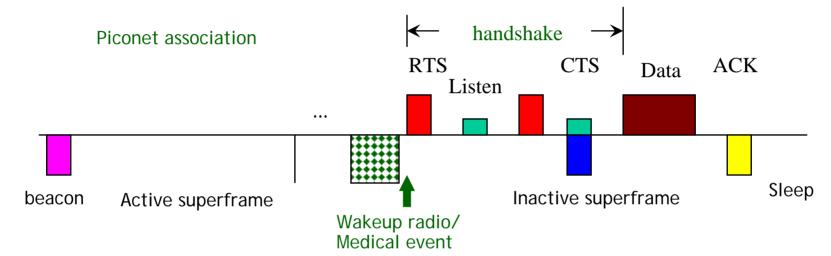


#### **Full-featured superframe**

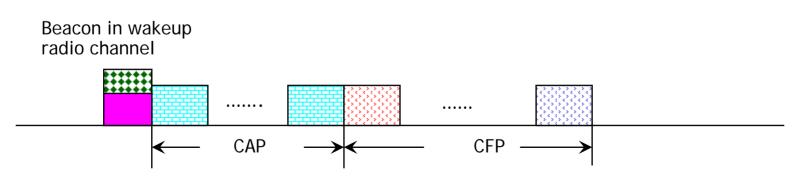
Simplified superframe





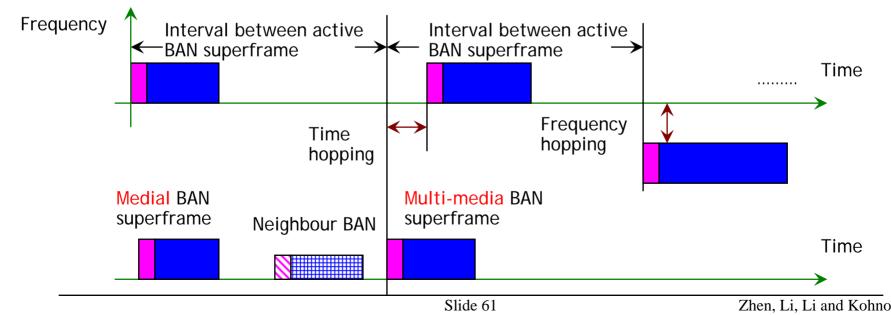


### Wakeup radio based systems



### **Coexistence of multiple BANs**

- PHY layer solution
  - Multiple BANs should be in different channels
  - Channel scan before new BAN piconet
- Uncollaborative BANs
  - Time hopping (TH) and frequency hopping (HP) of BAN superframe
- Collaborative BANs
  - Medical BAN superframe and multi-media superframe
  - Neighbour BANs can work in the inactive period of each other



### Coexistence within a BAN

- In a BAN superframe, radio resource can be measured by GTS
  - Radio resource allocation is controlled by coordinator
- Coordinator can allocate GTS to multi-media links or medical links
  - General GTS and exclusive GTS

### Security concerns

- Wireless threats for BAN
  - External: eavesdropping, traffic injection, (beacon) jamming
  - Internal: greedy user, unintentional user misuse, misconfiguration, rogue component
- Multi-level security
  - No security, authentication-only, encryption-only and authentication + encryption
- AES-128 has been defined in 802.15.4
  - Elliptic curve cryptography (ECC) is another choice
- Light-weigh and power efficient security
  - 802.15.4b and 802.15.4e are good reference

# §4. Self-evaluation

- MAC transparency
  - TDMA based BAN superframe
  - Support all PHYs
- Scalability
  - Group BAN superframe
  - Minislots in CAP
- QoS and dependability
  - GTS in BAN superframe
  - PAP
- Power efficiency
  - Inactive BAN superframe
  - Distributed beacon listen and B-E beacon
  - Non-beacon mode

- Topology
  - Star topology
- Interference and coexistence
  - TH and FH of BAN superframe
  - Inactive superframe
- Security
- Easy implementation

### Conclusions

- BAN group superframe
  - → for dynamic duty cycle, QoS, network scale, power consumption and diversity of traffic
- TDMA based BAN superframe  $\rightarrow$  QoS friendly
  - PAP  $\rightarrow$  for guaranteed priority traffic
  - Exclusive and general GTS  $\rightarrow$  for radio resource control
  - Power efficient beacon
  - Minislot and group ACK  $\rightarrow$  large capacity
  - Information piggybacked ACK→ for retransmission
  - Equal slot duration  $\rightarrow$  easy implementation
  - Robust  $\rightarrow$  flexible retransmission
- Non-beacon mode → power consumption friendly
- Coexistent and flexible framework
  - Full featured, simplified, MICS or wakeup radio based superframe

Slide 66

• A general framework

# §5. Backup slides

### §B1. Performance simulation

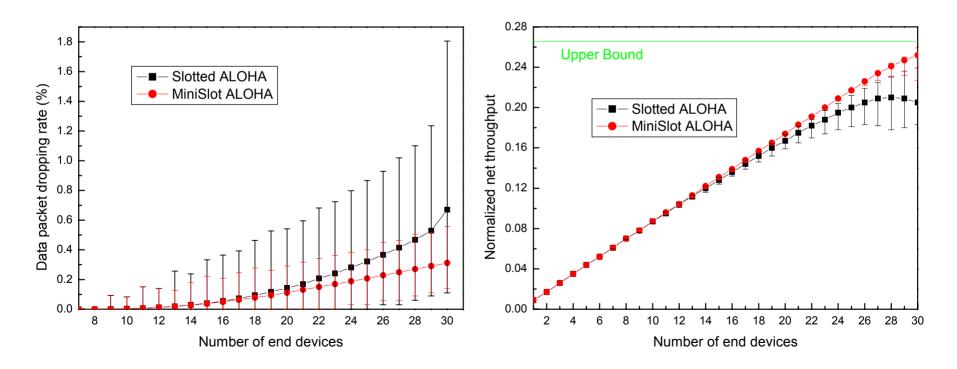
# Simulation assumption and definition

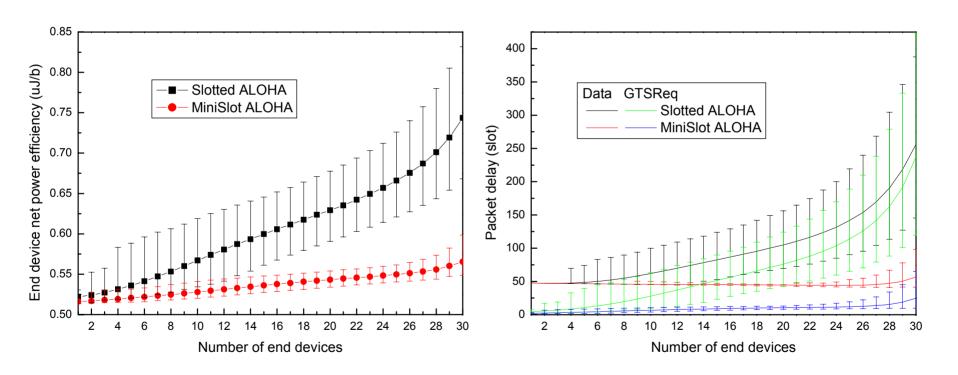
- A perfect physical channel
- Packet errors are due to packet collision, lifetime and buffer overflow
- Traffic
  - Periodical traffic
  - Poisson distribution of best-effort traffic
- Star topology
- Communication and power consumption includes slot request, ACK and retransmission
- 50% BAN superframe duty cycle

### Simulation parameters

| Parameters                              | Value                  | Parameters              | Value                |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Data rate                               | 250 kbps               | Tx power consumption    | 36.5 mW              |
| Slots in BAN superframe                 | 16,32                  | Rx power consumption    | 41.4 mW              |
| Slot duration                           | 240 symbols            | Sleep power consumption | 42 μW                |
| Symbol time                             | 16 µs                  |                         | •                    |
| PHY Symbols per Octet                   | 2                      | Re                      | ef. Chipcon CC2420   |
| SIFS                                    | 12 symbols             |                         |                      |
| LIFS                                    | 40 symbols             |                         |                      |
| Turnaround time                         | 12 symbols             |                         |                      |
| CAP Retries                             | 3                      |                         |                      |
| GTS Request command                     | 11 Octets              |                         |                      |
| ACK wait duration (max.)<br>ACK command | 54 symbols<br>5 Octets |                         | 30 s<br>50,000 times |
| MAC Header                              | 9 Octets               | Confidence level        | 0.95                 |
| PHY Header                              | 6 Octets               |                         |                      |

- Commands contend in CAP and data transmit in GTS
- Slot request in CAP is dropped after 3 times of retransmissions
- Data rate: 2.176kbps/device

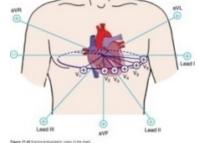




most of delay is due to GTS request.

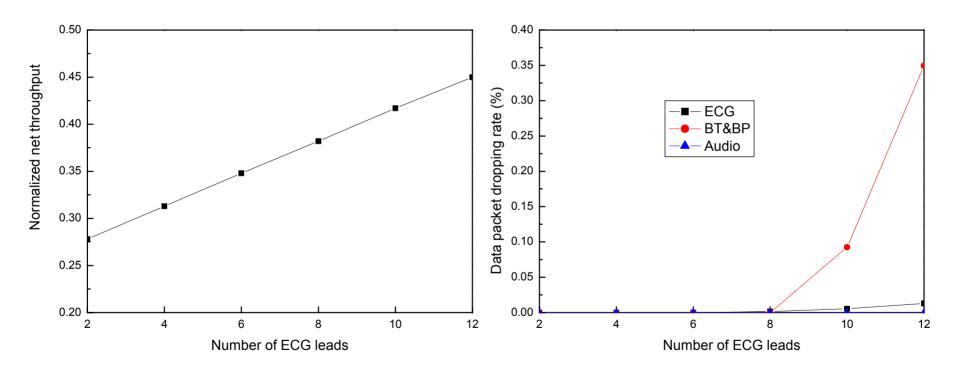
doc: IEEE 802.15-09-0346-01-0006

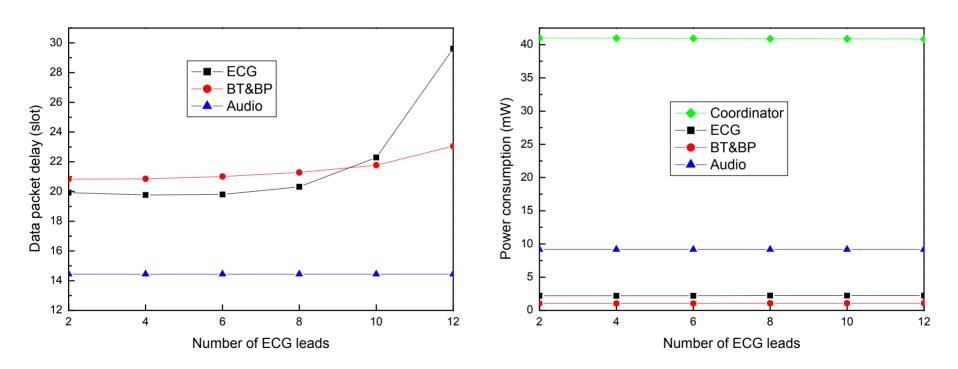
# Scenario 2: mixed medical traffic and audio traffic



| Applications          | Leads/ Sensors | Traffic load                         | Payload (bytes) |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| ECG                   | 2,4,6,8,10,12  | 4.352 kbps/lead,<br>8 packets/s/lead | 68              |
| Body temperature (BT) | 1              | 1.6bps, 1packet/5s                   | 1               |
| Blood pressure (BP)   | 1              | 3.2bps, 1packet/5s                   | 2               |
| Audio                 | 2              | 30kbps each                          | 68              |

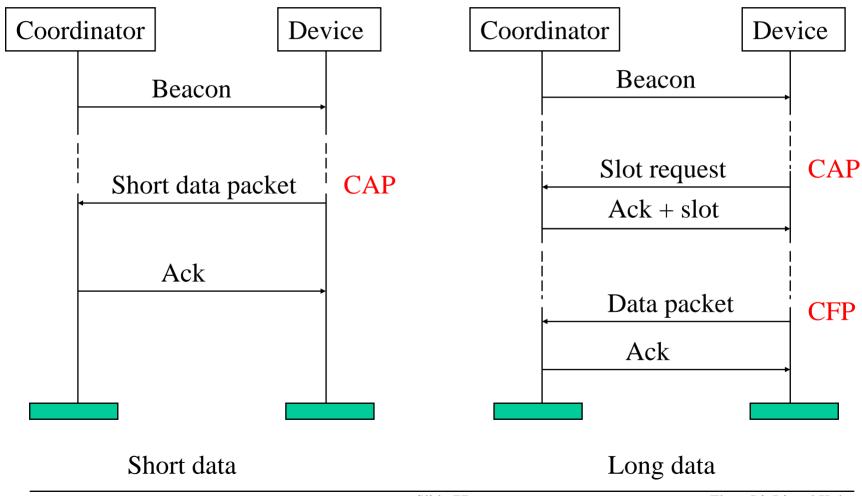
- Commands contend in CAP and data transmit in GTS
- A BAN group superframe consists of two single superframes



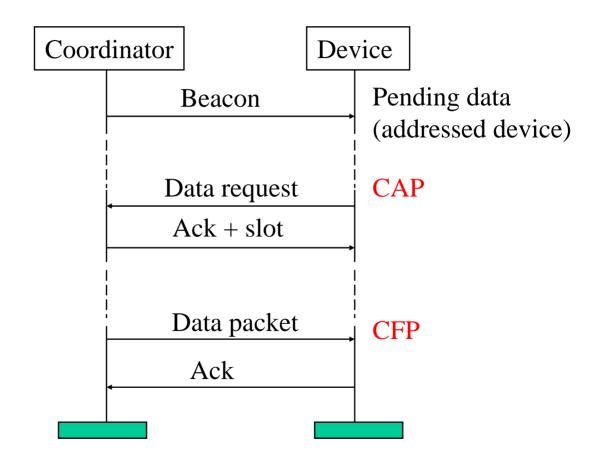


#### §B2. Protocol diagram

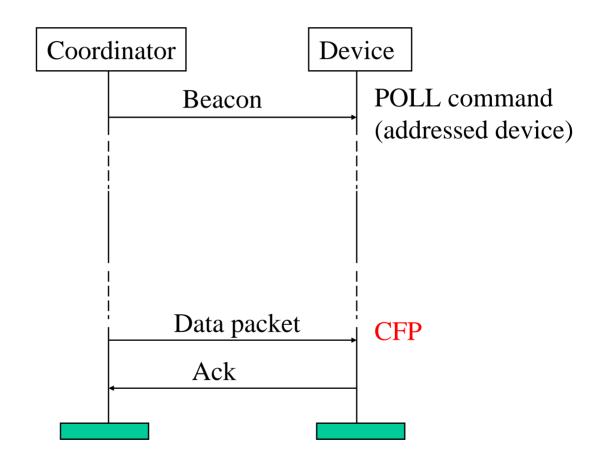
## Uplink data in beacon mode



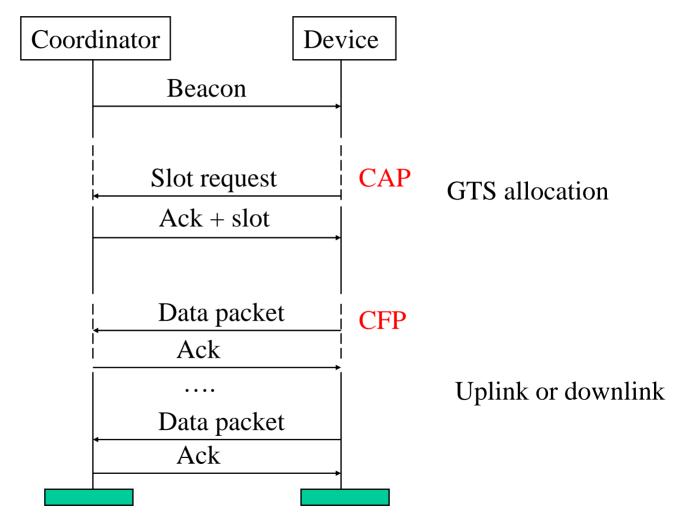
#### Downlink data in beacon mode



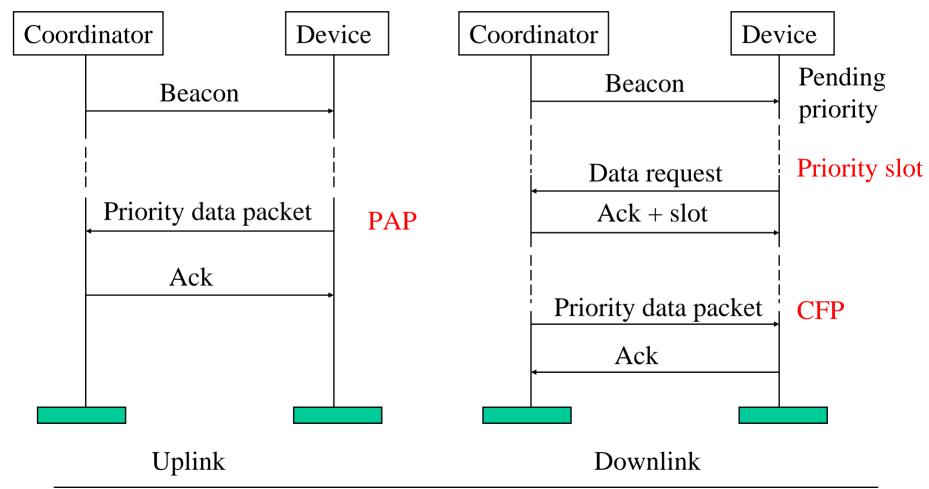
#### Poll a device in beacon mode

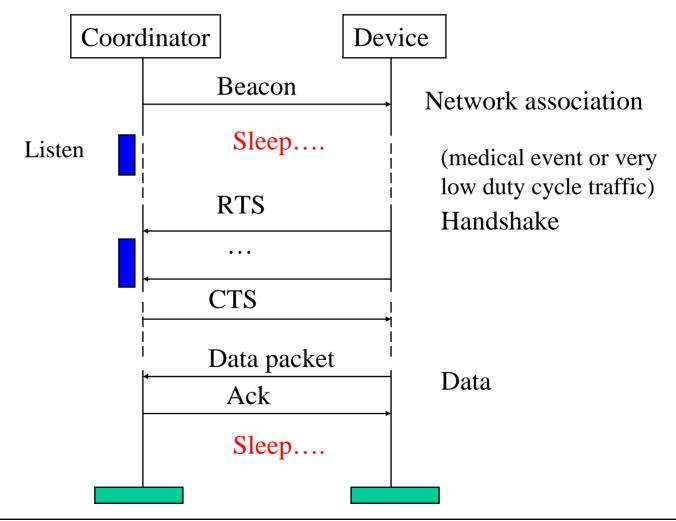


#### Stream data in beacon mode



## Priority data in beacon mode





#### §B3. Major questions to NICT's MAC at Vancouver

# Major questions

- Q1: Coexistence between beacon mode and non-beacon mode
- Q2: Beacon listening in non-beacon mode
- Q3: How does non-beacon device know the inactive BAN superframe
- Q4: What is the parameters for the proposed systems?
- Q4: Cooperation mechanism in 2.4GHz
- Q5: Coexistence of medical and non-medical traffic
- Q6: Power consumption of your MAC proposal
- Q7: Can the MAC support tree or mesh topology?
- Q8: Communication between coordinators?
- Q9: Communication between beacon device and non-beacon device