IEEE P802.15

Wireless Specialty Networks

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| Re: |  |
| Abstract | MAC proposal for P802.15.6a |
| Purpose | For discussion in TG6a |
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# Channel dedicated to network control frames

In IEEE Std 802.15.6-2012, both network control and data exchange take place on the same channel. Network control and data exchange are distinguished by the frame type filed.

We propose to set aside one of the channels for exchanging only network control frames. This can help Clear Channel Assessment (CCA) to be carried out more efficiently, because it has to be done only for one channel. In addition, since the control frame is transmitted on a less congested channel due to the absence of a data frame, the possibility of frame collision can be reduced, thereby improving interoperability of multiple BANs collocated. This common channel also can be used to guarantee interoperability with not only other BANs but also other UWB systems using this channel.

Table 1 shows the UWB frequency bands defined in the original standards. Although this may need to be changed depending on regions and regulations, it may be possible to define one channel from each band (e.g., # 1 and # 6) as control channel, and other channels as data channels.

In addition, since two channels must be used for both control and data frames, the number of mandatory channels should be two instead of one for each band.

Table 1 UWB operating frequency bands in Std 802.15.6-2012

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Band group** | **Channel number** | **Central frequency (MHz)** | **Bandwidth (MHz)** | **Channel attribute** |
| Low band | 0 | 3494.4 | 499.2 | Optional |
| 1 | 3993.6 | 499.2 | Mandatory |
| 2 | 4492.8 | 499.2 | Optional |
| High band | 3 | 6489.6 | 499.2 | Optional |
| 4 | 6988.8 | 499.2 | Optional |
| 5 | 7488.0 | 499.2 | Optional |
| 6 | 7987.2 | 499.2 | Mandatory |
| 7 | 8486.4 | 499.2 | Optional |
| 8 | 8985.6 | 499.2 | Optional |
| 9 | 9484.8 | 499.2 | Optional |
| 10 | 9984.0 | 499.2 | Optional |

# Control Channel

* Only coordinators shall transmit on control channel (C-Channel).
* Control channel does not have time slot structure.
	+ Since BANs are mobile, there is always a possibility that BANs or groups of BANs having different synchronization timings will encounter each other. Therefore, it is reasonable to design MAC under the premise that reliable synchronization between multiple BANs is not possible. This is especially true when we consider the interoperability of BANs and other UWB systems.
* A coordinator shall transmit one control beacon frame (C-Beacon) on C-Channel every *TC* seconds.
* The C-Beacon Period *TC* shall be chosen randomly by the coordinator within the range from *TC,min* to *TC,max*.
	+ Reason for choosing *TC* randomly: Let us consider a case where the transmission timings of C-Beacons from two or more coordinators coincidently overlap. If these beacons are transmitted at the same *TC* interval, they will collide every time, and therefore cannot be received forever. However, if each coordinator transmits its beacon with a different *TC*, even if a collision occurs, we can expect that the next beacon will not collide. It may be desirable if the values of *TC* are relatively prime or have a large greatest common multiple.



Figure 1 Control Channel

# Data Channel

* Coordinators and nodes may transmit on the data channel (D-Channel).
* The time axis in a D-Channel is divided into superframes which have equal duration of *TD* seconds.
* Each superframe is composed of time slots which have equal duration of *TS* seconds.
* A superframe shall consist of four distinct periods:
	+ **Network Management Period (NMP)**, consisting of *NNMP* time slots, where the network management frames such as data beacons shall be transmitted,
	+ **Contention Free Period (CFP)**, consisting of *NCFP* time slots, where scheduled frames shall be transmitted,
	+ **Contention Access Period (CAP)**, consisting of *NCAP* time slots, where unscheduled frames shall be transmitted,
	+ **Inactive Period**, where no frames shall be transmitted.
* A coordinator shall select one D-Channel.
* A coordinator shall transmit a data beacon frame (D-Beacon) on one time slot from NMP at every superframe of the D-Channel.



Figure 2 Data Channel

# Frames

T.B.D.

## General Structure

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## C-Beacon

* BAN ID
* D-Channel number
* Slot number of D-Beacon in Network Management Period (NMP)
* …

T.B.D.

## D-Beacon

* Slot number where Contention Free Period (CFP) begins
* Slot number where Contention Access Period (CAP) begins
* …

T.B.D.

# MAC Functions

## BAN Creation

* A coordinator starts monitoring the C-Channel and checks whether there are neighboring BANs.
* The coordinator chooses a BAN ID which is not currently in use by neighboring BANs.
* The coordinator chooses a Data Channel (D-Channel).
* The coordinator transmits Control Beacons (C-Beacon) periodically.
	+ The C-Beacon provides the BAN ID, D-Channel number, and slot number of D-Beacon in Network Management Period (NMP).
* The coordinator transmits Data Beacons (D-Beacon) periodically.
	+ The D-Beacon provides slot numbers where Contention Free Period (CFP) and Contention Access Period (CAP) begin.

## Node Connection/Disconnection

* The node may monitor the C-Channels to acquire a C-Beacon.
* The node may acquire the BAN ID, D-Channel number, and slot number of D-Beacon in Network Management Period (NMP) from the C-Beacon.
* The node may monitor the D-Channels to acquire a D-Beacon.
* The node may acquire the slot numbers where Contention Free Period (CFP) and Contention Access Period (CAP) begin.
* The node may transmit a Connection Request (C-Request) frame during the CAP using the Contention Access procedure.
* On successful reception of the C-Request frame, the coordinator shall transmit
	+ an Acknowledgement,
	+ a Connection Assignment (C-Assignment) frame in the next available time slot.
		- The C-Assignment frame shall contain details of allocated resources to the node, including the number of allocated time slot, and node’s allocated Node ID.

## Contention Free Period Channel Access

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## Contention Access Period Channel Access

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# Discussion on frame assignments

The performance will depend not only on the MAC scheme, such as to which channel or period frames are allocated, but also on the conditions in which the system is used, e.g., how many BANs will coexist. Therefore, the MAC scheme should be determined according to the technical requirements and use cases.

Table *3* Frame assignments

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Channels | Periods | Frames |
| From coordinators | From nodes |
| Control | n/a | * Control Beacon
 | Not allowed |
| Data | Network Management  | * Data Beacon
* Connection Assignment
* Disconnection Response
 | * Connection Request
* Disconnection Request
 |
| Contention Free  | * Data
 | * Data
 |
| Contention Access | * Data
 | * Data
 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Channels | Periods | Frames |
| From coordinators | From nodes |
| Control | n/a | * Control Beacon
* Connection Assignment
* Disconnection Response
 | * Connection Request

Disconnection Request |
| Data | Network Management | Not needed | Not needed |
| Contention Free  | * Data Beacon
* Data
 | * Data
 |
| Contention Access | * Data
* (Data Beacon)
 | * Data
 |