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Design of an initial LLC Data Protocol for the NBWF Simulator
Tore J. Berg

Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI)

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Approved by

Torunn Øvreås Project Manager

Anders Eggen Director

English summary

NATO has an ongoing activity with the objective to develop a narrowband waveform (NBWF) standard. This is a single-channel mobile ad-hoc network (MANET) which shall serve voice traffic and data traffic over a 25 kHz radio channel. We have earlier contributed to the NATO NBWF activity by delivering a design of an initial NBWF network simulator where the Logical Link Control (LLC) protocol was not optimised for NBWF. This document specifies a protocol for IP traffic and a design better suited for the NBWF radio node. This report includes a few simulation experiments for testing the implementation and the correctness of the protocol.

Sammendrag

Nato har en pågående aktivitet for standardisering av en smalbånds bølgeform for bruk i VHF området. FFI har en modellerings- og simuleringsaktivitet som skal bidra til NATO aktiviteten ved å vurdere alternative protokollfunksjoner for betjening av tale og datatrafikk i distribuerte mobile nett. Dette dokumentet spesifiserer en robust linkprotokoll for transport av datapakker over en upålitelig kanal. Protokollen implementeres i en simulator. Rapporten presenterer noen simuleringseksperimenter med det formål å teste korrekthet av protokoll og implementasjon.

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1 Introduction

The NATO NC3B CaP/1 LOS CaT has an ongoing activity with the objective to develop a narrowband waveform (NBWF) standard [1]. This is a single-channel mobile ad-hoc network (MANET), which shall serve voice and data traffic over a 25 kHz radio channel.

The NBWF radio node shall serve IP traffic between user terminals as illustrated in Figure 1.1. Reference [7] presents the design of an initial NBWF network simulator but also a preliminary data protocol stack for serving IP traffic. This protocol stack was implemented in the simulator because the source code was available from another project. However, this stack was known to have low efficiency in a TDMA based system. Based on [5], this memo designs a logical link control (LLC) protocol for implementation in the NBWF simulator, which is better suited for the NBWF TDMA protocol.

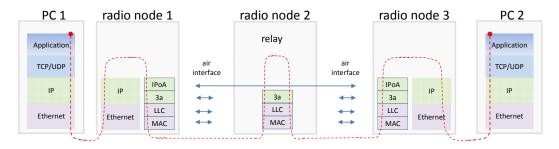


Figure 1.1 Transparent IP transfer over NBWF radio nodes. IP packet information elements are either carried by the IP over air (IPoA) protocol or the 3a protocol.

NBWF uses a single channel radio shared by a number of users and the medium access protocol (MAC) protocol determines how the radio nodes share and access the radio channel. NBWF uses dynamic TDMA [8]; TDMA to serve voice application that demands low and jitter free delay, and dynamic to give a statistical multiplexing gain. When a node has an IP packet to send, the LLC entity informs the MAC entity that it must establish a connection. The LLC entity has no knowledge about the access protocol in use but deals with logical connections only. Any LLC entity sees one and only one peer-entity; the remote entity at the other end of the MAC connection in use. This in contrast to the MAC entity which must operate with a one-to-many relationship since the entity shall control a set of entities. Be aware of that a radio node has one LLC entity for each neighbour if more than one MAC connection exists simultaneously, but they are invisible to each other.

This principle is illustrated in Figure 1.2 where the MAC entity reserves TDMA slots for the physical equipments in the time domain while the LLC entities operate over logical connections. The data packets sent on the logical connections are, of course, synchronised with the TDMA time frame but this is invisible for the LLC layer entities.

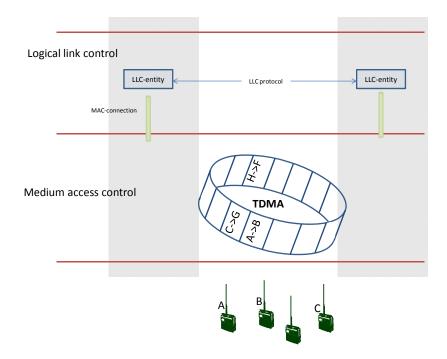


Figure 1.2 Illustration of the relationship between MAC functions and LLC functions.

The subject of this document is the LLC protocol in Figure 1.2 and how the two LLC entities use the MAC service. The LLC layer provides a set of services to the network layer and these services are described in section 2.1. The services required from the MAC layer are described in section 2.2. Chapter 3 specifies the LLC protocol functions while chapter 4 conducts a simple validation and testing of the LLC protocol implementation.

This document does only describe the first version of an LLC protocol as is implemented in the simulator, and is planned to be followed by a set of simulation experiments that shall study the performance of the protocol both in single-hop and multihop networks.

1.1 Terminology

This section defines the most important terms used in this document. Abbreviations are specified in an appendix at the end of this document.

Capture model

A (packet) capture model gives the air frame failure rate (loss due to bit-error) as function of the SNR during reception.

Zero-capture model

The preamble of an incoming air frame is handled according the normal NBWF procedure [9]¹. When the receiver is locked onto an air frame, any overlapping transmission(s) introduce biterrors in the payload.

Perfect capture model

The preamble of an incoming air frame is handled according to the normal NBWF procedure [9] but the preamble detection threshold is improved by 10 dB. When the receiver is locked onto an air frame, this air frame is always correctly received regardless of the SNR condition of the radio channel.

NBWF capture model

This is the normal operating mode as described in [9].

The near-far problem

A receiver is locked to a weak signal from a distant node when a node in the vicinity starts to emit a high energy signal. The stronger signal overrides the weaker signal.

Sink-node

An end-destination for an IP traffic stream.

Entry-node

A radio node which is the source node for an IP traffic stream (fresh input traffic) from an IP client.

Edge-node

A node taking the role as a *sink-node* and/or *entry-node*.

Throughput capacity

When the IP traffic requests use of ARQ, the offered traffic and the throughput shall follow a straight line until the network capacity is reached, see Figure 1.3. The throughput capacity is defined as the point on the curve where the deviation between the offered traffic and the throughput becomes higher than approximately 1%.

Maximum throughput

The highest point on a throughput plot, see Figure 1.3. Only loss tolerant IP applications can operate at this load level.

¹ Implementation of the LLC protocol started with a preliminary version of the NBWF radio [9]. A new version [10] became available before the LLC testing was completed but we decided to complete the work with use of the preliminary version since the scope of this document is the LLC layer and not the PHY/MAC layer.

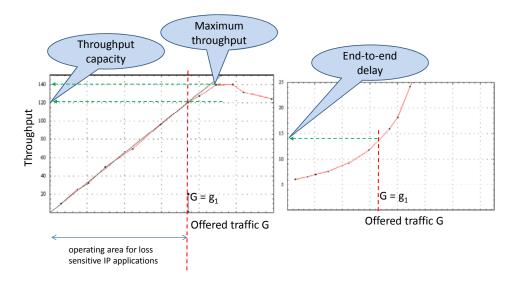


Figure 1.3 Throughput and delay plot examples.

2 Overview of the Protocol

The protocol architecture for the NBWF radio node is described in [7]. Figure 2.1 illustrates the location of the LLC layer within this hierarchy. The LLC layer provides a connectionless (CL) mode service towards the upper layer based on the MAC connection (CO) mode service and the MAC CL-mode service, see section 2.2. The difference between a CO-mode service and a CL-mode service is that a CO-mode service transfers data over logical connections and hence, the service must include service primitives to establish connections and release connections. The terms CO-mode and CL-mode do not express anything about reliability; a CL-mode service may have a lower error rate than a CO-mode service.

The LLC protocol includes the following elements of procedure described in detail later in this memo:

- Implements a selective repeat protocol for retransmission of lost data (DT) protocol data units (PDUs)
- Segmentation of LLC service data units (SDUs) into a number of DT PDUs when the size exceeds the maximum size of the MAC SDU
- Executes segmentation on a per DT PDU basis to cope with reduction of maximum MAC SDU size when retransmitting DT PDUs
- Lifetime control of LLC SDUs

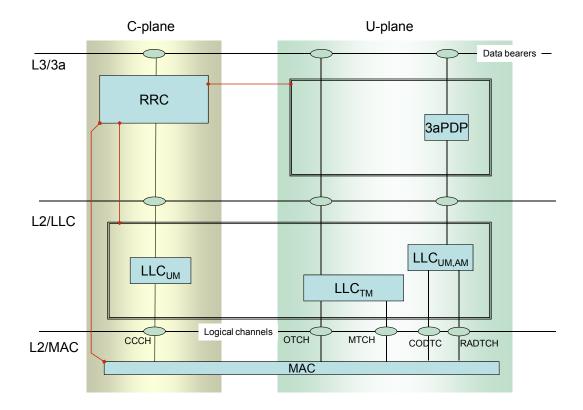


Figure 2.1 The protocol architecture for the lower layers in the radio node.

The LLC layer shall not implement priority handling of data traffic because the MAC service provider accepts one and only one connection at any time instance. The consequence is, if a low priority LLC SDU is under service (e.g. from node A to node B), higher priority LLC SDUs (e.g. from node A to node C) have to wait until this lower priority LLC SDU has been served. This is beneficial seen from the LLC layer; the LLC entity must manage one and only one connection at a time, and the LLC layer needs only one buffer location for the LLC SDU under service. The NBWF radio node is designed to have a large buffer space at layer 3^2 and the local flow control mechanism between layer 2 and layer 3 prevents loss of data due to lack of buffer space.

NBWF nodes shall serve voice traffic and IP traffic concurrently. These traffic types are treated by different protocol functions and must be routed to the correct protocol entity. Figure 2.2 illustrates how node internal routing of these traffic streams is resolved by means of layer internal addressing. This memo specifies how the TCP/UDP traffic passing the LLC-IP-SAP shall be handled within the LLC service provider (SP) and does not consider voice traffic.

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² To implement fairness of fresh traffic and transit traffic in multihop networks.

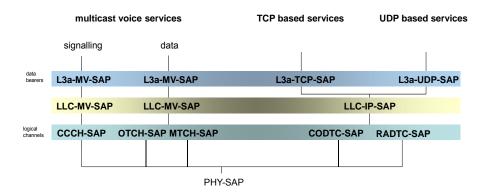


Figure 2.2 SAP address mapping. The PHY-SAP is identified by a unique global address assigned to each network node.

The model and terminology used for describing the layer services are specified by the OSI Reference Model [2] and the conventions for definition of OSI services [3]. Figure 2.3 summarises the terminology used. An entity is the object which executes a protocol. The protocol is a set of rules, which species how two remote entities shall interact. Service primitives specify how an (n)-entity and an (n+1)-entity interact.

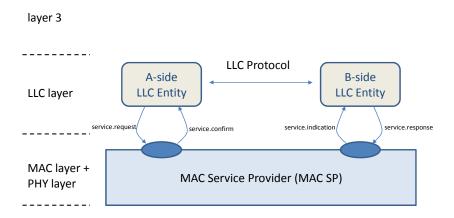


Figure 2.3 Illustration of concept and terminology

2.1 Services provided by the LLC layer

The LLC service provider gives a connectionless mode service to the upper layer. The LLC protocol specifies certain functions to enhance the reliability of the MAC Service Provider (SP). However, the LLC SP does not signal loss of LLC SDUs. Table 2.1 shows the LLC service primitives available to the LLC service user. The LLC service user may turn off the ARQ protocol on a per LLC SDU basis by setting the *useArq*-parameter to false.

Parameter	request	indication	
Destination Address	M	M(=)	
Source Address	M	M(=)	
QoS:Priority (integer range 03)	M	M(=)	
QoS:useArq (bool)	M		
Payload	О	O(=)	
Interface Control Information (ICI)			
remainingLifetime (double > 0) [sec]	M	M	

Table 2.1 LLC Data service primitives

2.2 Services assumed from the MAC layer

This section includes an overview on how the LLC layer entity uses the MAC service to make it easier to understand chapter 3.

The MAC service provider supports a CO-mode service on the CODTC SAP and a CL-mode service on the RADTC SAP (random access data channel). The MAC service user determines which of these SAPs to use but this memo does not consider the use of the CL-mode MAC service.

The LLC entity must set up and disconnect connections when using the MAC CO-mode service. For each SDU received from the upper layer, the LLCE establishes a MAC connection, transfers the LLC SDU and then releases the connection. A frequent event is to receive a *MAC-Disconnect.indication* as the response to a *MAC-Connect.request*. This is the result of losing the competition for channel access and the LLC entity will not delete the outgoing LLC SDU but serve it at a later time. The LLC protocol has no error recovery functions to handle lost MAC connections during the data transfer phase, since this should be an infrequent event and the outgoing LLC SDU is deleted silently.

Figure 2.4 visualizes connection setup from the time instance where the A-side LLC entity receives a data request from the 3a layer (t₁). The LLC entity issues a *MAC-Connect.request* which appears at the B-side LLC entity as a *MAC-Connection.indication* (t₂). A MAC-*Connection.response* primitive is not defined since the NBWF radio node shall not facilitate parameter negotiation (as permitted by the OSI RM). The MAC connection establishment phase is completed, as seen from the LLCE point of view, when the LLC entity receives the *MAC-Connection.confirm* (t₃). However, the LLC entity shall not start to send data on the MAC connection before a local flow control signal is received from the MACE (see Figure 2.5).

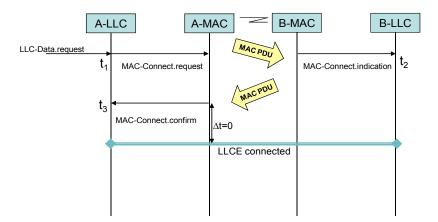


Figure 2.4 LLC connection establishment. These MAC service primitives are passed over port d83 in the simulator.

Table 2.2 specifies the parameters included in the MAC connect service primitives. The A-side LLC entity assigns the connection identifier³ to be used in the data transfer phase and passes this information as an ICI parameter.

Parameter	request	indication	response	confirm	
Destination Address	M	M(=)	not available	-	
Source Address	M	M(=)		-	
QoS:Priority	M	M(=)			
Interface Control Information (ICI)					
Connection Endpoint Identifier (CEID)	M	$M(=)^4$		M(=)	

Table 2.2 MAC Connect service primitives. These primitives go via port d83 in the simulator.

When the MAC connection has been established, the LLC entity shall issue a *MAC-Data.request* (on port d83) without any delay each time the MAC entity sends the local control signal *sduRequest* (on port c83), see Figure 2.5.

³ Not actually needed since the MAC SAP can have only one connection at time. An argument for including this parameter follows later in this memo.

⁴ They are semantically identical but may have different numerical values

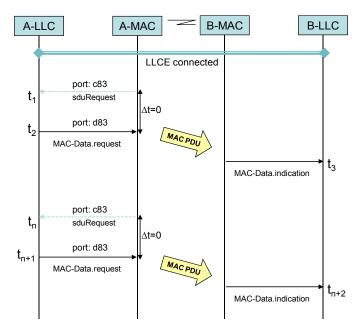


Figure 2.5 LLC data transfer. The local signal sduRequest carries information about the maximum MAC SDU allowed.

The signal *sduRequest* serves as a local flow control mechanism and contains the following parameters:

maximumSDUsize, CEID

Parameter	request	indication	
feedbackRequest, integer >= 0	M		
Payload	0	O(=)	
Interface Control Information (ICI)			
Connection Endpoint Identifier (CEID)	M	M(=)	
atTime, double > 0		M	

Table 2.3 MAC Data service primitives. These primitives go via port d83 in the simulator.

The CEID may be removed since: 1) the MAC service provider accepts only one connection at a time 2) The MAC SP has no memory (i.e., a connection id needs not to be frozen for a period of time after use). However, the CEID is included in the simulator to ease debugging. The originating LLC entity allocates the CEID number and this number (integer > 0) is incremented for each *MAC-Connect.request* generated.

The MAC TDMA reservation protocol reserves a number of TDMA slots for one-way data exchange directed from the originator (A-side) to the recipient (B-side). To make sending of a small amount of data in the reverse direction possible, the MAC-Data service primitives include a parameter named *feedbackRequest* by which the A-side LLCE can request a return channel.

The A-side LLC entity must know the size of the reverse data (LLC ACK PDU) and subtract this value from the maximum MAC SDU size signalled by the MAC service provider when it sends a DT PDU to be followed by an ACK PDU (since the A->B data and the B->A data must share the TDMA resource reserved).

Note: LLC PDUs are sent over MAC connections using the MAC-Data service primitives. A fundamental characteristic of the OSI reference model is that a layer entity shall not know the type of the PDU sent by the entity above. The intention of the OSI RM is to use service primitives and parameters to develop special features. The part of the TDMA frame allocated to LLC level acknowledgement is therefore named feedback channel and not LLC ACK PDU slot.

The B-side LLC entity becomes aware of the feedback request when receiving the indication primitive, t_3 in Figure 2.6. This primitive also depicts the time instance at which the feedback channel is ready for use. The B-side LLC entity implements one timer to manage the feedback channel and this timer is restarted using the time value signalled, each time a MACData.indication is received. When the timer expires, the B-side LLC entity issues a MACData.request without any delay.

The *feedbackRequest* parameter is used by the sending LLCE to inform the receiving LLCE that it needs an acknowledgement. The parameter is an integer type with the following semantics; send an acknowledgement after the *n*'th MAC SDUs received counted from this one. The sending LLC entity sets the *feedbackRequest* parameter to point to the last segment of the LLC SDU to be followed by an LLC ACK PDU, which means that the parameter is decremented for each MAC SDU sent. However, if a MAC SDU contains a segment transmitted earlier (retransmitted LLC DT PDU) and the segment size has changed (e.g., the original LLC DT PDU must be segmented into two shorter DT PDUs), the sending LLC must adjust the *feedbackRequest* parameter accordingly.

Whenever the sending LLC entity sends the last LLC DT PDU after which an acknowledgement is expected, the LLC must subtract the LLC ACK PDU size from the *maximumMacSduSize* signalled by the MAC SP signal *sduRequest*.

The maximum MAC SDU size allowed is a time variant parameter which depends on TDMA slot reservation status. Therefore the LLC entity must get this information before the segmentation procedure is applied. This information is determined by the local MAC entity, and the interface control information (ICI) signal named *sduRequest* in Figure 2.6 is the bearer of this information. The mission of this signal is to tell the local LLC entity that:

- a) the LLCE shall immediately send a MAC SDU (by issuing a MAC-Data.request)
- b) the MAC SDU size shall be less or equal to the maximum MAC SDU size

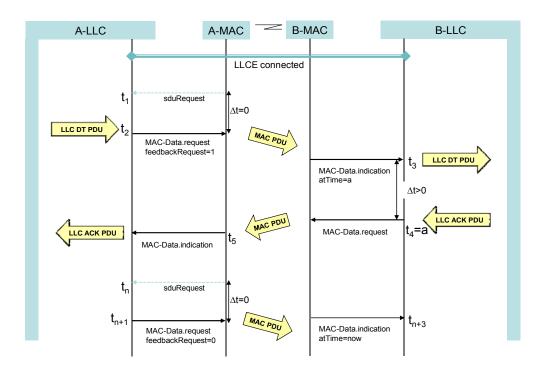


Figure 2.6 Time-sequence diagram when the originating LLC entity requests an acknowledgement from its peer entity. The LLC PDUs are **internal** data units used by the LLC level peer-entities.

The MAC-Disconnect service primitive is used by the A-side LLC entity to release a MAC connection after use, see Table 2.4. The MAC service provider may issue a *MAC-Disconnect.indication* at any point in time determined by internal matters. The *MAC-Disconnect.confirm* is a response to the request and is generated at the A-side when the local MAC entity receives a MAC disconnect confirm PDU, or it's disconnect timer expires. The *MAC-Disconnect.confirm* primitive was introduced to facilitate MAC connection setup delay measurements that exclude the disconnect delay of the previous connection.

Parameter	request	indication	confirm	
Has no parameters				
Interface Control Information (ICI)				
Connection Endpoint Identifier (CEID)	M	M	M	

Table 2.4 MAC Disconnect service primitives. These primitives go via port d83 in the simulator.

The LLC/MAC interface service primitives are implemented by the following data structure:

```
message LlcMacInterface
{
    int servicePrimitiveType; // port d83 {connect,data,disconnect}={0,1,2}
    int sap; //
    int ceid;
    int priority;
    int destinationAddress;
    int sourceAddress;
    int feedbackRequest;
    double atTime;
}
```

3 Elements of Procedure

The LLC protocol is specified and implemented as a Finite State Machine (FSM) where a set of protocol functions are executed as the machine switches from one state to another, see Figure 3.1. The purpose of this chapter is to specify these protocol functions.

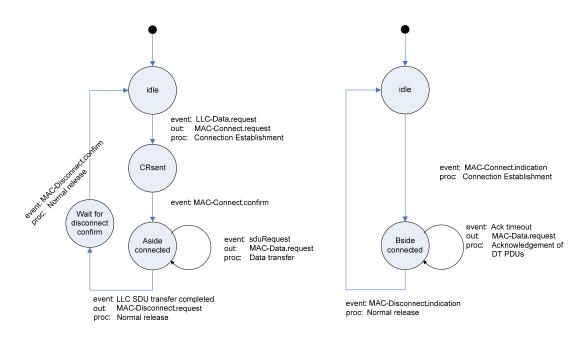


Figure 3.1 Simplified FSM diagram for the A-side LLCE (left) and the B-side LLCE

3.1 Connection Establishment

The purpose of the connection establishment procedure (class *ConnectionCache*) is to establish a MAC connection to serve a single LLC SDU. When the LLC SDU has been served, a connection release procedure is invoked.

3.2 LLC SDU Transfer

The LLC SDU transfer procedure is used to convey an LLC SDU in the payload field of the *MAC-Data.request* service primitive. This would have been an easy task if the LLC SDUs are smaller than the maximum MAC SDU size and if the LLCE could accept the MAC SDU loss probability. However, the LLCE must implement a segmentation function to transfer one LLC SDU as multiple MAC SDUs and handle unsignalled loss of MAC SDUs. The LLC SDU transfer procedure will therefore invoke a number of other procedures.

3.3 Normal Release

The release procedure is used by the LLCE to terminate incoming and outgoing connections. The release procedure for an outgoing connection is either initiated as a result of an internal protocol event, or by a MAC-SP initiated disconnect (*MAC-Disconnect.indication*). In the former case, the outgoing connection is cleared by deleting all internal data belonging to the connection and then issuing a *MAC-Disconnect.request*. No confirmation of receipt is expected from the peer entity but the local MAC entity (A-side) shall issue a *MAC-Disconnect.confirm*.

The release procedure for an incoming connection (B-side) is initiated upon receiving a *MAC-Disconnect.indication*. Internal data structures are cleared immediately together with any partially received LLC SDU.

3.4 LLC SDU Lifetime Control

Many upper layer protocols demand a guaranteed maximum lifetime of packets within a network to facilitate reuse of unique identifiers. This fact also applies to the NBWF intra network layer protocols. A lifetime control function can be based on a hop counter and a delay measurement function within each radio node. Another approach is to let the application signal a maximum lifetime and decrement this value as time passes. We propose the latter approach for NBWF.

The purpose of lifetime control is to guarantee a maximum lifetime of LLC SDUs within the LLC service provider. The LLC service user signals a maximum lifetime. When this time limit is reached, the discard LLC SDU procedure is applied.

The lifetime must be carried to the remote node and could be done at any layer. Only the LLC layer or the MAC layer can measure the internal node delay accurately⁵. The remaining lifetime is carried as LLC PCI.

3.5 Duplicate Filtering

Loss of acknowledgements and retransmission of DT PDUs may lead to duplicated DT PDUs. The purpose of duplicate filtering is to discard DT PDUs that are copy of older ones. This function uses the First Byte Number (FBN) and the MAC SDU size information to detect duplicates, see section 3.8.

⁵ The 3a layer protocol entities have none internal functions to measure service time.

3.6 Discard LLC SDU

The purpose of the discard LLC SDU procedure is to abort the LLC SDU under service. At the Aside this happens when the maximum lifetime of the SDU is reached, or the maximum number of retransmissions of a DT PDU is exceeded. In those cases, the LLCE applies the normal release procedure (a special error release procedure is not needed). Both the A-side and the B-side invokes the discard LLC SDU function upon receiving a *MAC-Disconnect.indication*. The LLC service user is never informed about the discard event.

3.7 Segmentation and Reassembly of LLC SDUs

The purpose of segmentation (A-side only) and reassembly (B-side only) is to facilitate transfer of LLC SDUs that are too large to be carried by a single MAC SDU. Segmentation (class *SegmentationLlcSdu*) is used to map one LLC SDU into a number of LLC Data PDUs. Reassembly (class *ReassemblyLlcSdu*) is the complementary process where a number of LLC DT PDUs is assembled by the receiving peer-entity to maintain the original byte pattern of the LLC SDU.

In ordinary communication systems, the LLC entity knows the maximum MAC SDU size allowed when the segmentation function starts. However, this is not the case for NBWF. Here the maximum MAC SDU size might change during the transfer of the LLC SDU according to the traffic load on the TDMA slots. The maximum MAC SDU size becomes a function of the network load level and may either increase or decrease within the transfer time of an LLC SDU.

The maximum LLC SDU sizes allowed is in order of 1580 bytes (preliminary size), and the segmentation protocol splits the LLC SDU into a number of DT PDUs to fulfil the maximum MAC SDU size. The maximum MAC SDU size is a time variant parameter. Without ongoing multicast voice, 4 TDMA slots are available for data traffic in a network with two voice relays. With merged TDMA slots, a single radio burst encompasses more than one slot; the first slot can carry 8 bytes payload [(22.5-9)msec*16kbps – 150bits] while subsequent slots can carry 45 bytes [22.5msec*16kbps]. The maximum MAC SDU size is then 143 bytes when 4 slots are available, and an LLC SDU containing 1580 bytes must be sent as 11 segments. When only one slot is available, 198 segments must be used! Long IP packets should therefore be denied service during the time periods where only one slot is available.

The segmentation and reassembly function uses the following PDUs, PCI-fields and local variables:

Upon receiving an LLC SDU, the LLCE applies the connection establishment procedure and thereby gets a MAC connection and the maximum MAC SDU size for the first DT PDU to be sent. The LLCE constructs a DT PDU containing the first bytes of the LLC SDU as shown in Figure 3.2, and sets $\{\text{moreBit,FBN,indexSdu}\}=\{1,1,101\}$. The indexSdu points to the next byte of the LLC SDU to be served. At this time instance, we do not know the size of the next segment.

Note: A lastByteNumber (LBN) is needed in section 3.10 and the moreBit = (FBN + MacSduSize < LBN). The implementation uses LBN.

The MAC service provider maintains the order of the DT PDUs but does not guarantee delivery. The receiving LLC entity is able to detect missing segments and keep the original order by using the PCI-field FBN (we cannot derive the segment number from FBN since they change because of a variable maximum MAC SDU size and retransmissions).

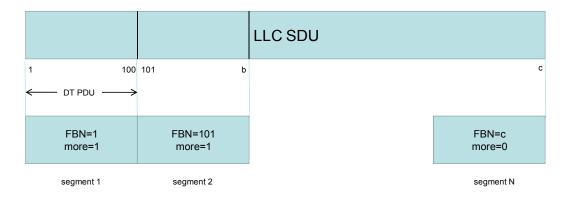


Figure 3.2 The LLC SDU is sent as one or more LLC DT PDUs. This is only an example when maximum MAC SDU size is 100 bytes.

3.8 Segmentation and Reassembly of LLC DT PDUs

The purpose of segmentation (A-side) and reassembly (B-side) of DT PDUs is to facilitate transfer of a DT PDU that is too large to be carried in a single MAC SDU. This function is needed during retransmission of DT PDUs when the MAC service provider has reduced the maximum MAC SDU size from the previous transmission of the same PDU, see Figure 3.3. This function is not needed in the first transmission because the LLC SDU is segmented into a DT PDU when the MAC SP requests a MAC SDU. At this time instance, the MAC SP also informs about the maximum MAC SDU size allowed.

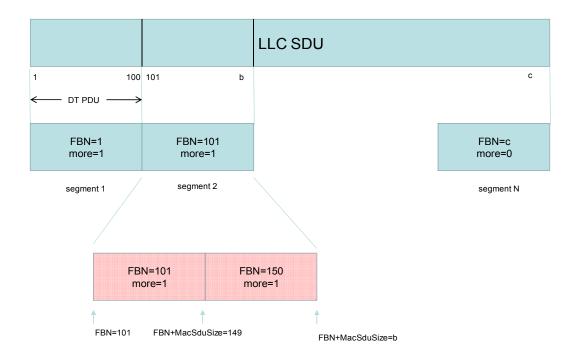


Figure 3.3 Segmentation of LLC DT PDUs

3.9 Lifetime Control

The purpose of lifetime control is to delete the LLC SDU under service when its time lifetime expires. Only the A-side LLCE executes the lifetime control function.

3.10 Acknowledgement of DT PDUs

The B-side LLC entity uses this function to inform the A-side about missing DT PDUs (negative acknowledgment), or received DT PDUs (positive acknowledgement). The purpose of negative acknowledgements is to have a shorter retransmission delay than devised by the retransmission timer at the A-side. The purpose of positive acknowledgment is to tell the sender that one or more DT PDUs have been received and retransmissions of these are not needed. The acknowledgement protocol uses the following PDUs, PCI-fields and local variables:

The usage of the *feedbackRequest* is explained in Figure 2.6. *maxPendingDtPdus* determines the maximum number of DT PDUs to be sent before requesting an acknowledgement.

The PCI fields in the LLC PDUs are as follows:

Figure 3.4 illustrates the principles of the acknowledgement protocol. The segmentation function divides the LLC SDU under service into segments of variable size and updates the *firstByteNumber* (FBN) and the *lastByteNumber* (LBN) for each DT PDU transferred. The reassembly procedure on the receiving side has a complete picture of the segment status when the acknowledgement shall be sent.

The acknowledgement procedure simply requests this information. After the first transmission phase depicted in the figure, two segments {s3,s4} are missing.

B-side sends a NACK PDU (negative acknowledgement) with the PCI-field: {FBN=161,LBN=320}. Only one element is needed in the ACK set since two consecutive segments were lost in this case.

At the beginning of the first retransmission phase, the MAC SP reduces the maximum MAC SDU size and the segmentation of DT PDUs procedure must be applied on the segment numbered s3. The segments numbered s3a and s3b succeed, but s4 does not reach the destination, and the B-side LLC entity returns a NACK PDU with the PCI-field: {FBN=241,LBN=320}. After the second retransmission phase in the figure, the entire LLC SDU has been received by the peerentity, which then returns an ACK PDU (positive acknowledgement) with the PCI-field: {FBN=1,LBN=400}.

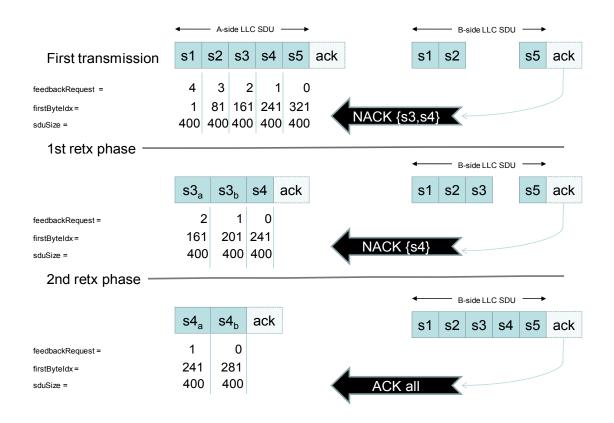


Figure 3.4 An acknowledgement scheme based on the byte numbers of the LLC SDU. The last byte index (referred to the original LLC SDU) of each segment carried by an LLC DT PDU, is given by firstByteIdx + dtPduPayloadSize. When this number is identical to the sduSize, the receiver knows it has received the last segment. However, the receiver cannot send an acknowledgement based on this information since the feedback channel might be unavailable.

We have earlier described that the A-side must subtract the ACK/NACK PDU size when sending the last DT PDU before an acknowledgment (the DT PDU and the ACK/NAK share a TDMA reservation). However, the ACK/NACK PDU is specified to be of variable size determined by the B-side. Therefore the A-side entity must always act as if the ACK/NACK PDU has maximum size. The consequence is loss of data capacity and Figure 3.5 depicts a scheme where the acknowledgement protocol is based on sequence numbering. This protocol demands sequence numbering of DT PDUs, but the LBN may be omitted and we get shorter ACK/NAK PDUs. This protocol version is a subject for further study.

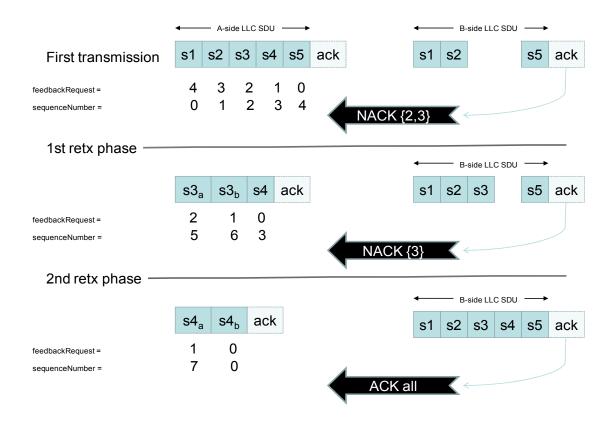


Figure 3.5 An acknowledgement scheme based on sequence numbering the DT PDU

3.11 The internal buffer structure

The A-side NBWF node is designed to do buffering at the 3a level for outgoing terminal traffic (fresh traffic) and relay traffic. These buffers are large capacity buffers served in a round robin manner. Only one buffer location is available for outgoing traffic within the LLC layer. The local flow control mechanism between these two layers arrange for immediate refilling of the LLC buffer when becoming empty.

When the LLCE sends a DT PDU, a copy is inserted in the awaiting acknowledgement buffer and a retransmission timer is started. If this timer expires, the DT PDU is moved to the retransmission buffer. Retransmission traffic is always served before fresh traffic.

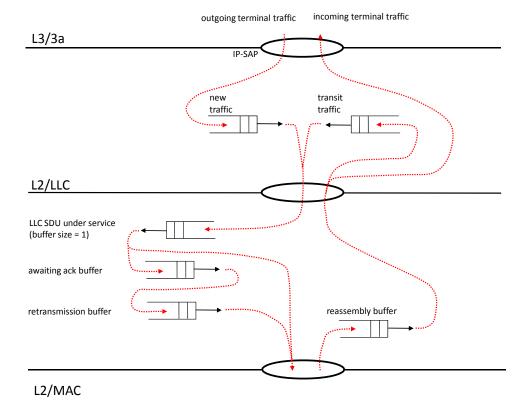


Figure 3.6 The NBWF node buffer system

4 Validation

The purpose of this chapter is to simulate a few network configurations and justify that the throughput results are reasonably correct since we have no mathematical model that can prove the correctness. We assume the TDM frame is configured to allocate capacity for two voice relays and then only four slots are available for IP traffic. The most important radio parameters for this chapter is summarised in the table below.

Parameter		Value	Unit
$f_{payload}$	Payload transmission rate	16025	kbits/s
$t_{v,pcas}$	PCAS detection delay	2.66	msec
$t_{v,cas}$	CAS detection delay	4.33	msec
t _{on}	Receive to transmit switching delay	1	msec
$t_{ m off}$	Transmit to receive switching delay	0	msec
t _{pci}	PHY PCI (radio overhead: preamble,SOM,PAR)	7.49	msec
n _t	Thermal noise of the receiver	-119.85	dBm

Table 4.1 Physical layer parameters

All the experiments in this chapter are based on a fully meshed network having 10 nodes (AHAn10) where the traffic pattern is altered by changing the number of source nodes. A 10dB

link loss provide for high signal levels at the receivers and a data packet sent on an established MAC connection will always reach the destination.

The current version of the MAC protocol uses a very short scheduling interval $randUni[0,3 \cdot t_{slot}]$ compared to the vulnerable period, and the current version does not support larger random delay. It is necessary to increase this scheduling interval since the theoretical MAC CR PDU collision probability may reach 0.33 for the AHAn10 network. However, this chapter shall test the LLC layer only and we do not modify the MAC layer. The consequence of operating with this high collision rate is a high connection establishment failure rate. To compensate for the high collision rate, all the experiments are setup to use the perfect capture model provided by the simulator. Moreover, the preamble detection threshold is moved from 0dB to -10dB such that the preamble can survive a number overlapping transmissions.

Firstly, we find the upper limit of the throughput capacity for the AHAn10 network given one single source node. As shown in Figure 4.1, when four TDM slots are allocated to IP traffic, the gross transfer capacity becomes 890 bytes/s. If the LLC entity sends data packets without requesting ARQ, these four slots may carry up to 148 bytes at the LLC level. Use of ARQ takes 50 bytes extra and the data capacity drops to 98 bytes per frame.

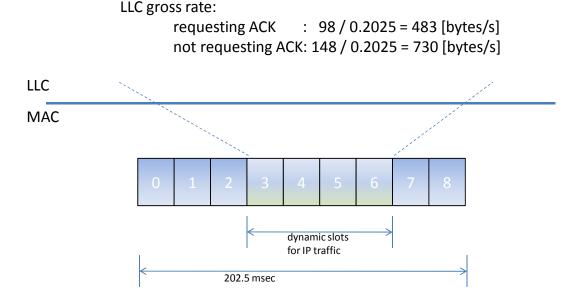


Figure 4.1 IP traffic can use the slots numbered 3 to 6 only since the TDMA allocation scheme reserves 3 slots for multicast voice and 2 slots for other applications (e.g. network management).

TDM IP gross rate = (16025/8) * 4/9 = 890[bytes/s]

The MAC service is connection oriented and data transfer demands a connection establishment phase and a disconnection phase. Consider a network with one active node attempting to send a data packet filling the slots 3 to 6. The LLC SDU delivery cycle, without use of ARQ, when the

first contention period contains the MAC CR PDU and the MAC CC PDU (Figure 4.2), encompasses three TDM frames. Then the data throughput becomes $\lambda_1 = 148 / (3 \cdot 0.2025) = 243.6$ [bytes/s]. If the MAC CR PDU is sent late in a contention period, the MAC CC PDU must be sent in next contention period (Figure 4.3) and the LLC SDU delivery cycle consumes 4 frame lengths. The data throughput reduces to $\lambda_2 = 148 / (4 \cdot 0.2025) = 182.7$ [bytes/s].

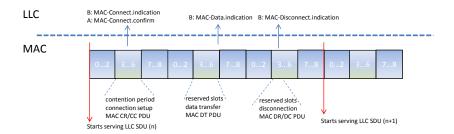


Figure 4.2 The delivery cycle when the first contention period contains the MAC Connect Confirm (CC) PDU.

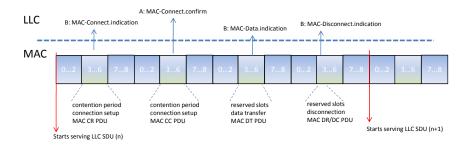


Figure 4.3 The delivery cycle when the MAC Connect Confirm (CC) PDU is sent in the second contention period.

The MAC protocol uses a random access protocol when serving MAC CR PDUs. The scheduling distribution is uniformly distributed over the slots in the contention period. If the scheduling expires in slot 3 or 4, the CR PDU and CC PDU are sent in slot 5 and 6, respectively. The probability of this event is $(2 \cdot t_{slot})/(3 \cdot t_{slot}) = 0.67$ where $t_{slot} = t_{frame}/9 = 22.5$ msec is the slot size⁶. If the CR PDU is sent after slot 5, the CC PDU must be postponed to the next frame. Given one source node in an AHA network, the maximum throughput becomes

$$\lambda = \lambda_1 P(fig 4.2) + \lambda_2 P(fig 4.3) = 223.3 \text{ [bytes/s]}$$
 (4.1)

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⁶ The MAC protocol implementation used does not add a priority delay and draws an access delay from randUniform[$0,3t_{slot}$].

If more than one node is busy, two or more MAC CR PDUs may collide and the throughput expression is no longer valid. The maximum throughput for the ARQ case is $\lambda \cdot 98/148 = 147.9$ bytes/s.

This chapter is organised as follows. The next section specifies the estimators used during experiments while the next three sections present the experiments.

4.1 Estimators

This section explains how measurements are taken in the simulator.

MAC connection holding time

The latency time between the *MAC-Connect.confirm* and the corresponding *MAC-Disconnect.confirm*. Connection release due to error events (e.g., an LLC SDU lifetime expiry) is not included in the sample set. Note that this definition encompasses the MAC disconnection delay. The LLC entity issues a *MAC-Disconnect.request* with zero delay after the last DT PDU has been sent down to MAC. This disconnect will be delayed by the MAC entity until it has sent the MAC SDU on the air. An exact holding time estimator must therefore be implemented by the MAC layer and not the LLC layer.

MAC connection setup delay

The latency time between the **first** *MAC-Connect.request* and the corresponding *MAC-Connect.confirm* which results in a MAC connection. Generally, the LLC entity must issue a number of requests before it wins the channel.

MAC disconnect delay

The time delay between a *MAC-Disconnect.request* and the corresponding *MAC-Disconnect.confirm*. Since the LLC entity is not informed when the MAC DT PDU has been sent on the air (see Figure 4.4), it issues the *MAC-Disconnect.reqest* immediately after the *MAC-Data.request*. Therefore the disconnect delay includes the transmission time of the last LLC DT PDU. Figure 4.5 illustrates why the disconnect phase is not delayed by the last DP PDU when ARQ is enabled.

MAC session length

The time delay between the first *MAC-Connect.request* sent and the *MAC-Disconnect.confirm*. Sessions terminated by the error disconnection procedure are also included.

Prob. MAC connection loss

This estimator monitors the state of an **established** connection and is implemented at the A-side only. A *MAC-Disconnect.indication* gives a connection loss event.

Prob. normal disconnect

This estimator operates at the A-side and monitors the LLC protocol disconnection phase. A positive outcome is an event where the MAC connection is taken down after a successful LLC

SDU service phase. A negative outcome is an LLC SDU lifetime expiry event on a half open or an established MAC connection.

Queue time fresh traffic

This estimator measures the queuing time delay in the fresh traffic input queue. Only packets which are taken under service by the LLC service provider are included. For example, packets rejected due to lifetime expiry while residing in the fresh traffic input buffer are not included.

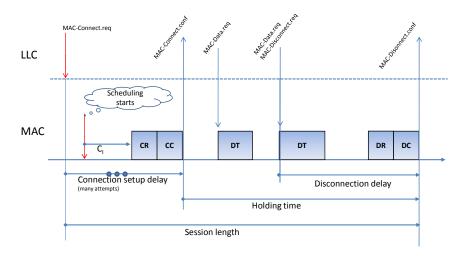


Figure 4.4 MAC delivery cycle when ARQ is disabled. Generally a node must compete a number of times before it wins the channel access.

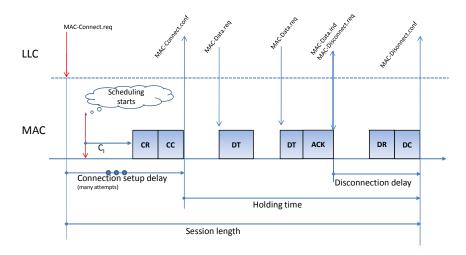


Figure 4.5 MAC delivery cycle when ARQ is enabled.

4.2 Experiments with ARQ disabled

The first experiments use a fixed payload size of 148 bytes with the ARQ protocol disabled. Figure 4.14 explains why the payload is sent as one or two segments. With one single active node (n=1), the length of the channel idle time is independent of the load level; MAC always starts the scheduling process at the beginning of slot 3 and the node has none competitors. From Figure 4.14 we conclude that case B in this figure is the most frequent event. This is as expected since the average scheduling delay is $1.5 \cdot t_{slot}$ and the CR+CC will occupy the remaining space in the

first frame. With many active nodes, the channel idle period becomes shorter, case A sequences happen more frequently and the average transmission burst length becomes shorter. Therefore Figure 4.6 shows a decreasing course as the offered traffic increases for n > 1.

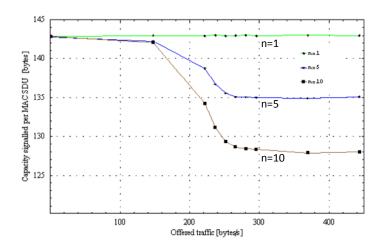


Figure 4.6 Capacity signalled per MAC SDU. MAC tells the LLC entity how many bytes that are available in each data slot. This is information is needed by the LLC segmentation function.

Figure 4.7 presents the throughput results using three different traffic patterns. The horizontal red line represents the theoretical result for the one-way traffic pattern and shows good conformity with the red line. The two other curves concern multiple traffic sources where collisions occur and the theoretical expression is invalid.

Compared to the throughput of the (n=1)-case, the (n=10)-case has a surprisingly high throughput since the network operate with a high MAC CR PDU loss rate. The main reason for this is that we have increased the preamble sensitivity threshold from 0 dB to -10 dB and used the perfect capture model (the payload succeed, see section 1.1). We also have another but smaller effect that contributes. LLC does not detect loss of CR PDUs but the MAC entity does and issues a *MAC-Disconnect.indication* when a MAC CC PDU is not received within a short time limit. LLC applies the same procedures as if a pending connection request was rejected due to an incoming call request and continues with the current LLC SDU later. An improved throughput course is achieved by this interaction between LLC and MAC, since collisions do not lead to loss of data packets.

To estimate a possible gain of increasing the MAC scheduling random delay, Figure 4.8 gives the results for a zero-capture environment. The throughput capacity of the (n=10)-case drops from 220 bytes/s to 205 bytes/s. We expect that an improvement is possible by increasing the MAC scheduling interval.

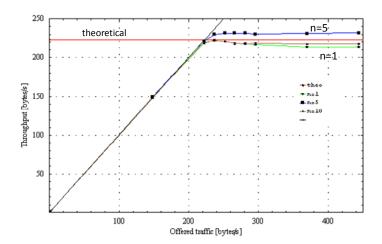


Figure 4.7 Throughput in an AHAn10 network using different traffic pattern (simJan10abc). No use of ARQ. The letter n indicates the number nodes in the source set.

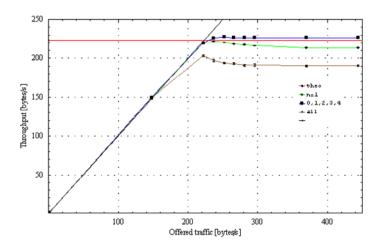


Figure 4.8 Throughput in an AHAn10 network in a zero-capture environment.

Under low load levels, the likelihood of having a MAC scheduling expiry event in slot 3, 4 and 5 is identical. As the number of active nodes increases, the channel idle period in the contention state becomes shorter and a larger fraction of the MAC CR PDUs is sent in the slots with a low number. The following simulation results (without confidence control) were taken:

Low load: P(CR in slot 3) = 1/3, P(CR in slot 4) = 1/3, P(CR in slot 5) = 1/3Medium load: P(CR in slot 3) = 0.58, P(CR in slot 4) = 0.27, P(CR in slot 5) = 0.14High load: P(CR in slot 3) = 0.88, P(CR in slot 4) = 0.11, P(CR in slot 5) = 0.02

Therefore the access cycle depicted in Figure 4.2 occurs more frequently with increasing load which again means that the throughput capacity may increase above equation (4.1), as it does in Figure 4.7.

End-to-end delay

During high load periods, the end-to-end delay is strongly affected by the traffic pattern, see Figure 4.9. The fresh traffic queuing delay is the dominating component of the end-to-end delay. With multiple fresh traffic input streams (n > 1), the fresh traffic queue length per node becomes shorter for the same offered traffic which gives a lower queuing delay. The lifetime control function deletes all packets older than 60 seconds and the delay approaches 60 seconds as the load becomes higher.

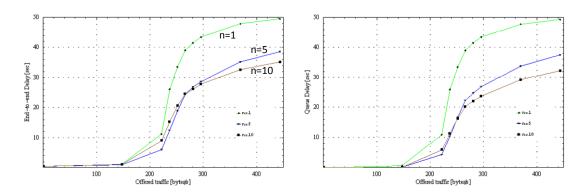


Figure 4.9 End-to-end and fresh traffic queuing (layer 3) delays.

Setup delay

A single active node (i.e., n=1) experiences approximately the same average connection setup delay regardless of the offered traffic since it has none competitors, see Figure 4.10. The small correlation to the offered traffic is caused by the point in time where the MAC scheduling starts⁷. With multiple active nodes, each node must go through a number of scheduling attempts before access is granted and hence the connection setup delay increases with increasing load. When the network is saturated, all nodes always have a packet under service and the connection setup delay reaches its maximum and should remain constant with increasing load. However, when the offered traffic increases above 2 packets/s (296 bytes/s), the connection setup delay drops a little for n>1 and is most noticeable for n=10. This is caused by the lifetime expiry events during the connection setup phase. Only successful connection setups are included in the statistics, the longest delay samples are excluded from the statistics and the average drops. A large network has a higher lifetime expiry rate at the LLC level than a small network⁸ since a node in a large network must compete for a longer time before it wins the channel.

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⁷ The slope is greater than zero below 220 bytes/s but this cannot be seen from the figure since the magnitude is small.

⁸ The simulation results shows that the (n=10)-case has 10% lifetime expiry while the (n=1)-case has 0% at maximum offered traffic.

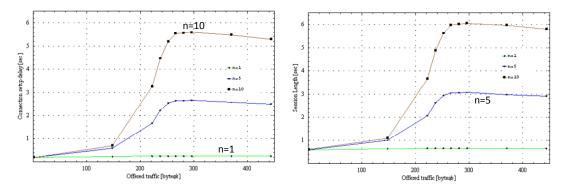


Figure 4.10 Connection setup delay (left) and session length vs. offered traffic.

MAC Disconnection delay

As illustrated in Figure 4.11, the LLC entity issues a MAC-Disconnect.request immediately after the last LLC DT PDU has been sent down to the local MAC. The disconnection delay becomes $11 \cdot t_{slot} = 247.5\,$ msec. This delay is not affected by the load level or the number of nodes. This is confirmed by the simulation experiments which always measured 247.5 msec (as min, max and average values). As the number of competitors increases, the LLC service time becomes so large that some LLC SDU lifetime expiry events happen and the LLC protocol entity takes down the MAC connection before completion. This can be seen from the right plot in Figure 4.12 as a deviation from a straight line.

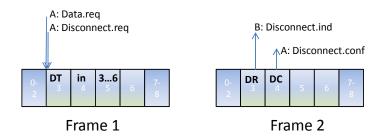


Figure 4.11 Illustration of the MAC disconnect phase. The MAC DR PDU and the DC PDU are always sent in TDMA frame 2 even if some slots in the frame are free.

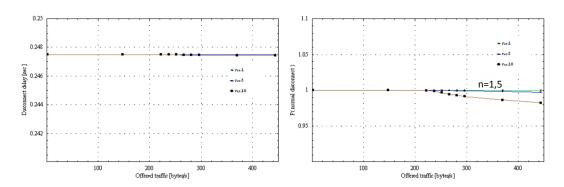


Figure 4.12 MAC disconnect delay and probability of normal disconnect.

4.3 Experiments with ARQ enabled

Figure 4.13 gives the throughput plot for the ARQ-case. The shape of the plot is as expected from the discussion in the previous section and no further comments are given.

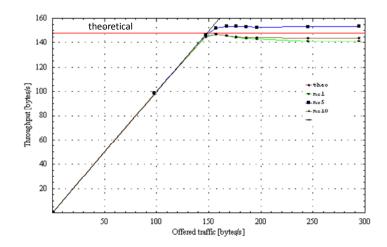


Figure 4.13 Throughput in an AHAn10 network using different traffic pattern (simJan11abc). ARQ is enabled. The letter n indicates the number nodes in the source set.

Session length

The shortest session length takes place when the *MAC-Connect.request* arrives just before TDMA slot 3 in Figure 4.14. By counting the number slots, we find the minimum session length $20 \cdot t_{slot} = 450\,$ msec. The simulation experiments confirm this number. The course of the session length, see Figure 4.15, shall be identical for the ARQ case and the non-ARQ case since the payload is adjusted to make place for the MAC ACK PDU and a data packet sent on a MAC connection is never lost since the scenarios simulated are free from background noise.

With ARQ enabled and n > 1, the number of active nodes grows faster with the offered traffic since the network has less capacity; each LLC SDU sent demands an ACK PDU. Therefore the session length grows faster when ARQ is enabled. However, both cases shall end up with the same value at maximum load since not any retransmissions are needed (data packets transferred on an MAC-connection is only lost due to background noise).

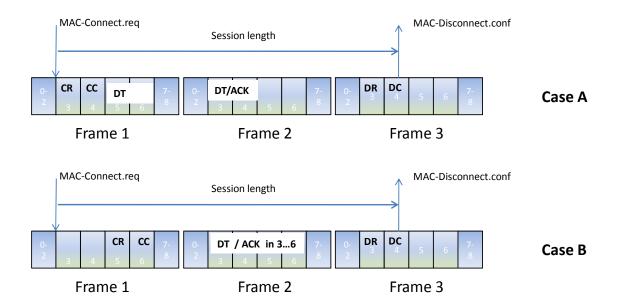


Figure 4.14 Time-sequence diagram for the shortest session length possible. The MAC protocol always delays the DR PDU to TDMA slot 3. If ARQ is disabled, DT replaces the ACK in the figure.

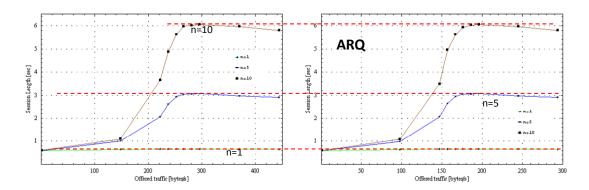


Figure 4.15 Session length vs. offered traffic.

4.4 Communication over noisy radio channels

In a fully meshed network without background noise, the NBWF MAC protocol shall not lose any data packet sent over a MAC connection. The previous experiments were conducted in a noiseless environment and now we introduce noise on the radio channel. Let p_{loss} denote the probability of MAC PDU (any type of packet) corruption due to background noise. By using the perfect-capture model provided by the simulator, the network becomes less sensitive to collisions and we have the possibility to set the "background noise" to a precise known packet loss value. When $p_{loss} > 0$, MAC CR PDU corruption events may occur both by packet collisions and background noise. The latter happens with probability p_{loss} regardless of other parameters.

The MAC entity detects a MAC CR PDU loss event when the CC PDU expected does not arrive at the known position in the TDM frame. Then MAC issues the same primitive (*MAC-Disconnect.indication*) as if the node loses the channel access competition. If the MAC connection setup phase fails, LLC continues later with the same LLC SDU until a MAC connection is established, or the LLC SDU lifetime expires. In the latter case, the data packet is deleted and LLC generates a *MAC-Disconnect.request*.

Data packets sent on a connection are only lost due to background noise in a fully meshed network. In a network with hidden-nodes, the MAC reservation protocol may fail by accepting two concurrent connections such that two nodes interfere when they send data packets. However, this situation is an infrequent incident in a real network compared to the collision rate between MAC CR PDUs.

Up to now we have used LLC SDU lengths much shorter than a typical IP packet. NBWF shall handle each IP packet as one LLC SDU, that is, no segmentation of IP packets at layer 3a. This section increases the packet length to embrace many TDM frames to indicate a more realistic IP capacity. Remember that short LLC SDUs give lower efficiency than long ones.

When ARQ is enabled, loss of IP packets is either due to lifetime expiry, or buffer overflow in the input buffer. These events occur only when the network operates close to saturation. The Layer 7 packet size is set to $148 \cdot 9 + 98 = 1430$ bytes. This packet size guarantees that all the data slots used usually are completely filled. When $p_{loss} = 0$, one LLC SDU occupies ca. ten consecutive TDM frames where the last slot in the tenth frame carries the LLC ACK PDU.

Figure 4.16 and Figure 4.17 present the simulated throughput and delay results for different p_{loss} – values. The capacity consumed by the LLC ACK PDU is insignificant since the throughput/delay performance is practically identical for both cases in a noiseless radio environment.

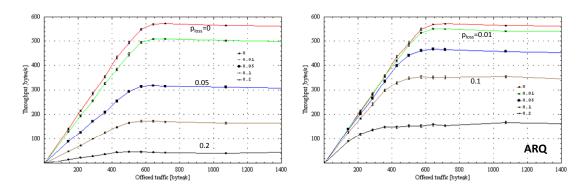


Figure 4.16 Simulated throughput vs. offered traffic for long IP packets using $p_{loss} = \{0,0.01,0.05,0.1,0.2\}$ (simFeb9a/b).

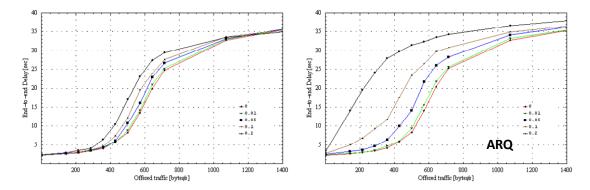


Figure 4.17 Simulated end-to-end delay vs. offered traffic.

A single IP packet demands successful delivery of 10 data segments and the non-ARQ case throughput drops fast with increasing segment loss rate (p_{loss}). As illustrated in Figure 4.18, the ARQ protocol adds an LLC ACK PDU after the last segment and the sender becomes notified about the segment(s) missing. The overhead added to the retransmission traffic is much higher since the ARQ protocol demands one acknowledgement for each data segment retransmitted. Moreover, the probability that a retransmitted segment must be carried by more than one MAC SDU also increases since an acknowledgement is requested.

The ARQ protocol is a byte oriented protocol in the sense that it keeps account on all the bytes sent and acknowledged, and just retransmits the bytes lacking an acknowledgement. The simulator estimates the retransmission as a retransmission ratio = (fresh traffic + retx traffic)/(fresh traffic). Because the maximum MAC SDU size is stochastic and the retransmission stage divides the segments into smaller segments, we have no simple analytical expression for the retransmission ratio. Therefore we resort to an approximation based on the most frequent error event which is loss of **one** of the 10 "fresh" data segments in Figure 4.18. The amount of bytes retransmitted is approximately $10 \cdot p_{loss} \cdot 148$ bytes which gives the retransmission ratio $\geq (1430+10 \cdot p_{loss} \cdot 148)/1430 \approx 1+p_{loss}$ if we neglect lost acknowledgements. A lost ACK PDU leads to retransmission of the bytes 1...98 in segment 1 but the ACK will confirm the receipt of the segments 1 to 10.

Figure 4.19 confirms that the retransmission rate is not affected by the offered traffic but shows a significant deviation from the analytical expression for $p_{loss} \ge 0.1$.

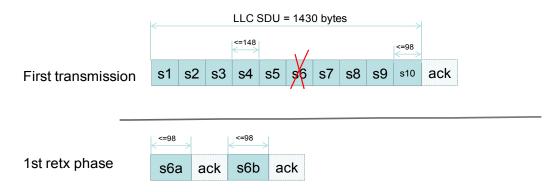


Figure 4.18 Example of an LLC SDU delivery cycle with retransmission. The figure assumes that segment s6 gets corrupted due to background noise and must be retransmitted as two MAC SDUs. Fresh segments are sent continuously and an acknowledgement is requested after the last segment only. Retransmitted segments demand an acknowledgement for each segment retransmitted.

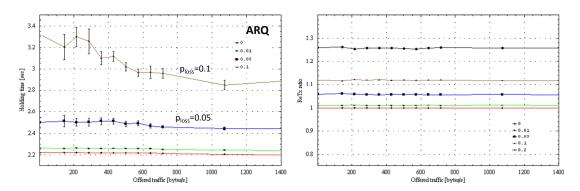


Figure 4.19 Holding time (left) and retransmission ratio.

5 Conclusions and Remarks

Voice traffic demands low and jitter free delay. For this reason, the NBWF MAC protocol specifies use of dynamic Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) [8]. The primary service in NBWF is voice and the residual capacity is available for IP traffic. Therefore the IP throughput capacity becomes a function of the offered voice traffic and the number of voice relays.

This document considers how IP traffic shall be served at the Logical Link Control layer (LLC) [7] by using the connection oriented (CO) MAC service. A CO-service has three distinct phases; connection establishment, data transfer and disconnection. The MAC protocol uses a random access protocol when it sends the Connection Request (CR) packets during the connection setup phase. This contention protocol suffers from collisions. However, the CR packets are short such that the wasted bandwidth in case of collisions is smaller than if the IP packet itself is treated by the random access protocol. The MAC CR/CC signalling has many similar properties to the IEEE 802.11 RTS/CTS signalling.

The NBWF network serves multihop IP traffic by establishing MAC connections on a hop-by-hop basis [7, section 2.3]. One IP packet is sent across one radio hop and the corresponding connection is disconnected immediately thereafter. This in contrast to voice connections, which operates as an end-to-end tunnel over link connections during the voice holding time. The result is much signalling, but this scheme gives reduced collision rate for the IP packets even in multihop environments.

This document represents a start of simulation study and must be followed by more comprehensive studies both with regard to protocol behaviour and network performance. However, we have done a few simulations that indicate an IP throughput capacity of about 600 bytes/s for a single hop network with two dedicated voice relays using a 16kbps physical layer payload rate. Higher data rates will, of course, improve the throughput capacity given that the radio link ranges are not reduced too much.

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Terms and Acronyms

AHA All hearing all

ARQ Automatic Repeat Request

CAS Carrier sense
CaP Capability Panel
CaT Capability Team
CC Connect Confirm
CC PDU Connect Confirm PDU
CCCH Common Control Channel
CEID Connection Endpoint Identifier

CL ConnectionLess
CNR Combat Net Radio
CO Connection Oriented

CODTC Connection oriented data traffic channel

CR Connect Request

CR PDU Connect Request PDU

CTS Clear To Send

DOM Document Object Model
DR-PDU Disconnect Request PDU

DSSS Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum

DT PDU Data PDU

FBN First Bit Number
GiD Global identifier

ICI Interface Control Information

IP Internet Protocol

IP-SAP Internet Protocol SAP
LBN Last Bit Number
LLC Logical Link Control
LLC-AM LLC Acknowledged Mode

LLCE LLC Entity
LLCP LLC Protocol

LLC-TM LLC Transparent Mode

LLC-UM LLC Unacknowledged Mode

MAC Medium Access Control

MACE MAC Entity

MAC-SP MAC Service Provider
MANET Mobile Ad-hoc NETwork

MIP-SAP Multicast IP SAP

MRATCH Multicast Random Access CHannel MTCH one-to-Multipoint Traffic CHannel

MV Multicast Voice
MV-SAP Multicast Voice SAP
NBWF Narrow Band Wave Form

NC3B NATO C3 Board

NM-SAP Network Management SAP OSI Open System Interconnection

OSI Open system

OTCH one-to-One Traffic CHannel

PCAS Premature CAS

Protocol Control Information PCI

PDP Packet Data Protocol **PDU** Protocol Data Unit

Physical PHY PTT Push To Talk

RATCH Random Access Traffic CHannel

RF Radio Frequency Radio Link Control RLC RM Reference Model

RRC Radio Resource Control

RTS Request To Send SAP Service Access Point **SDU** Service Data Unit SNR Signal to Noise Ratio SP Service Provider

SQL Structured Query Language **TDM** Time Division Multiplexing **TDMA** Time Division Multiple Access

UE User Environment or User Equipment

UTL Utility

XML

UV Unicast Voice **UV-SAP**

Unicast Voice SAP

xxx-E xxx Entity (e.g., LLC-E)

xxx-SAP xxx Service Access Point (e.g., LLC-SAP)

Extensible Mark-up Language

xxx-SP xxx Service Provider (e.g. MAC-SP)