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(54) **METHOD AND DEVICE FOR ACCESS POINT-TO-ACCESS POINT TRIGGER AND RESPONSE IN WIRELESS LAN SYSTEM**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method and a device for an access point-to-access point trigger and response for a multi-access point operation in a wireless LAN system are disclosed. A method for responding to an access point (AP)-to-AP trigger by a first AP in a wireless LAN system according to an embodiment of the present disclosure may comprise the steps of: receiving a first trigger frame including information related to a multi-AP operation from a second AP; and on the basis of the first trigger frame, transmitting a response frame for the first trigger to the second AP, wherein a common information field of the first trigger frame comprises information indicating the multi-AP operation.

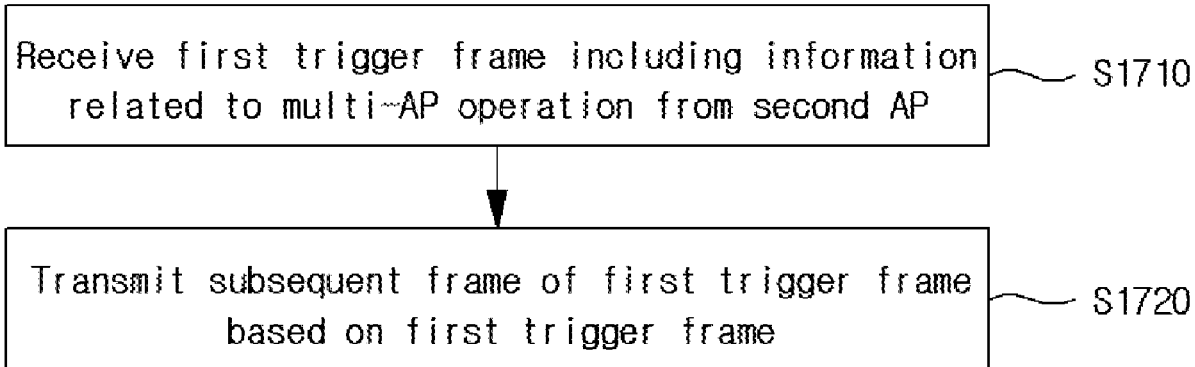


FIG. 1

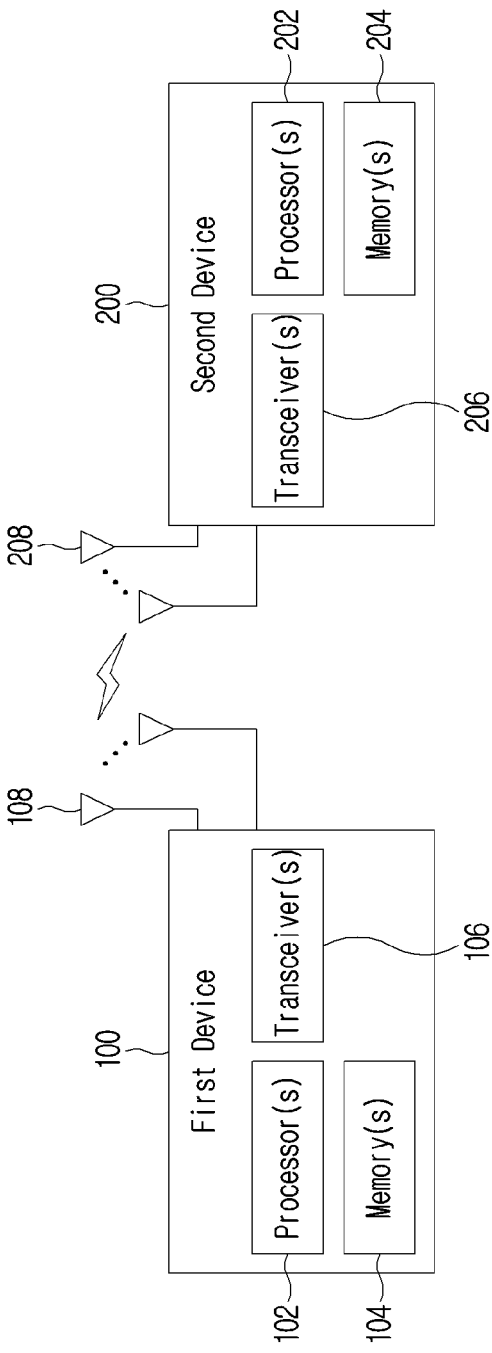


FIG. 2

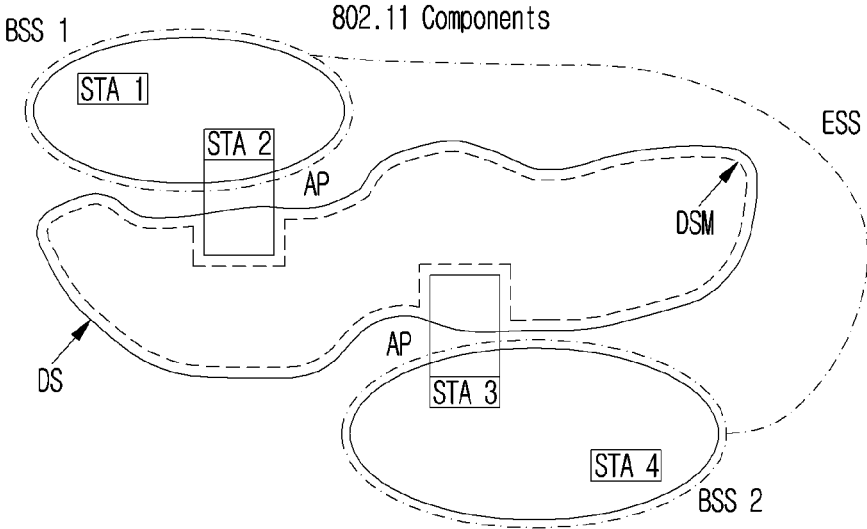


FIG. 3

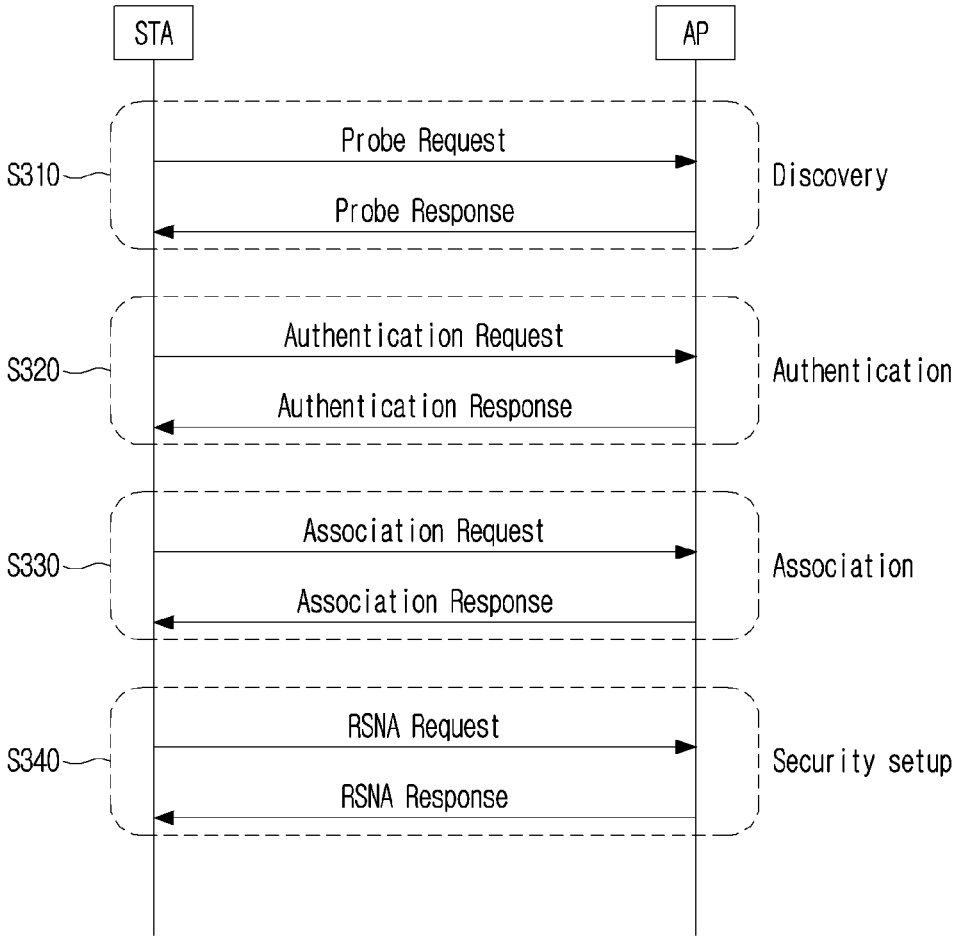


FIG. 4

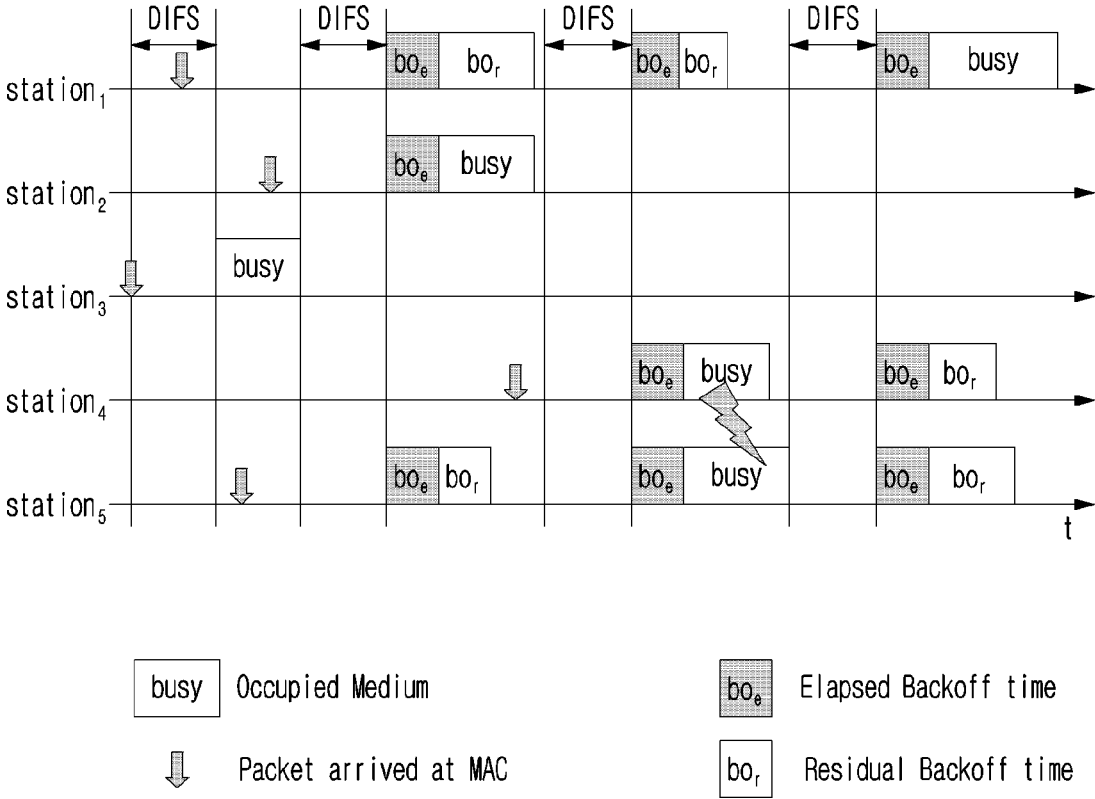


FIG. 5

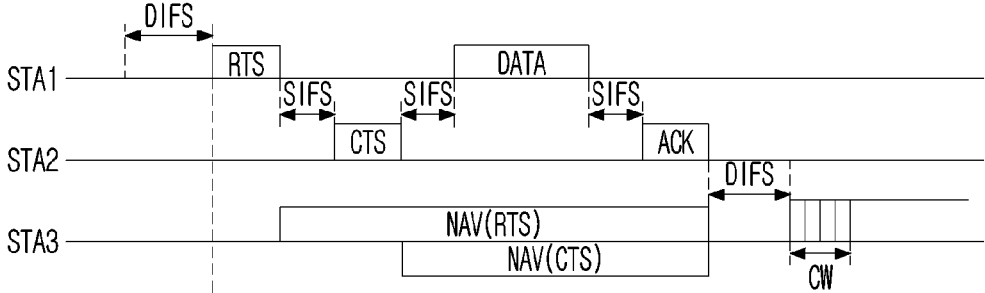


FIG. 6

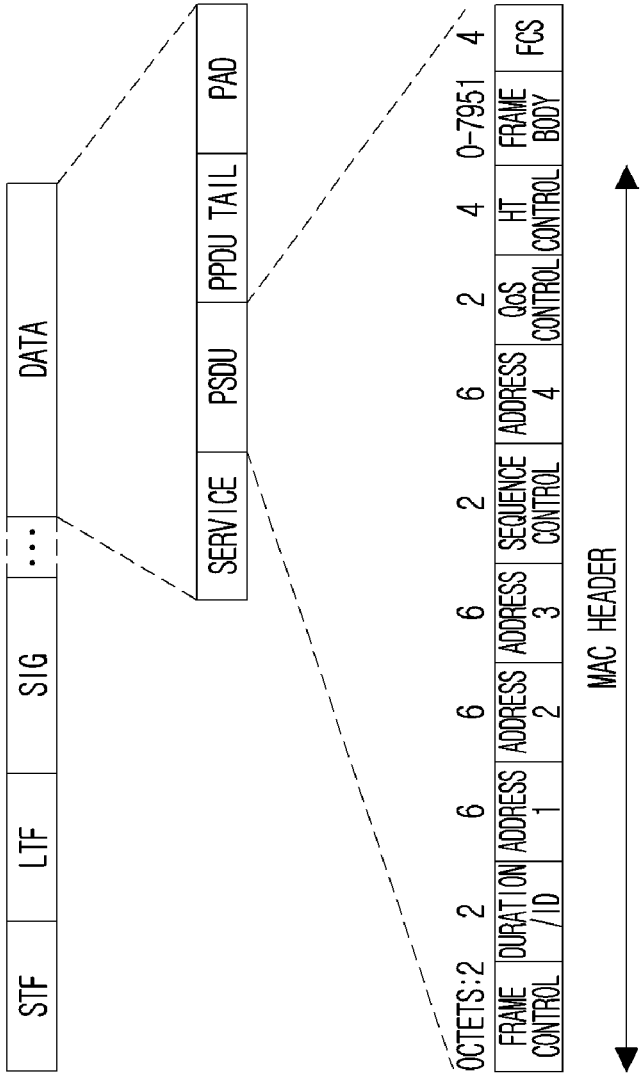


FIG. 7

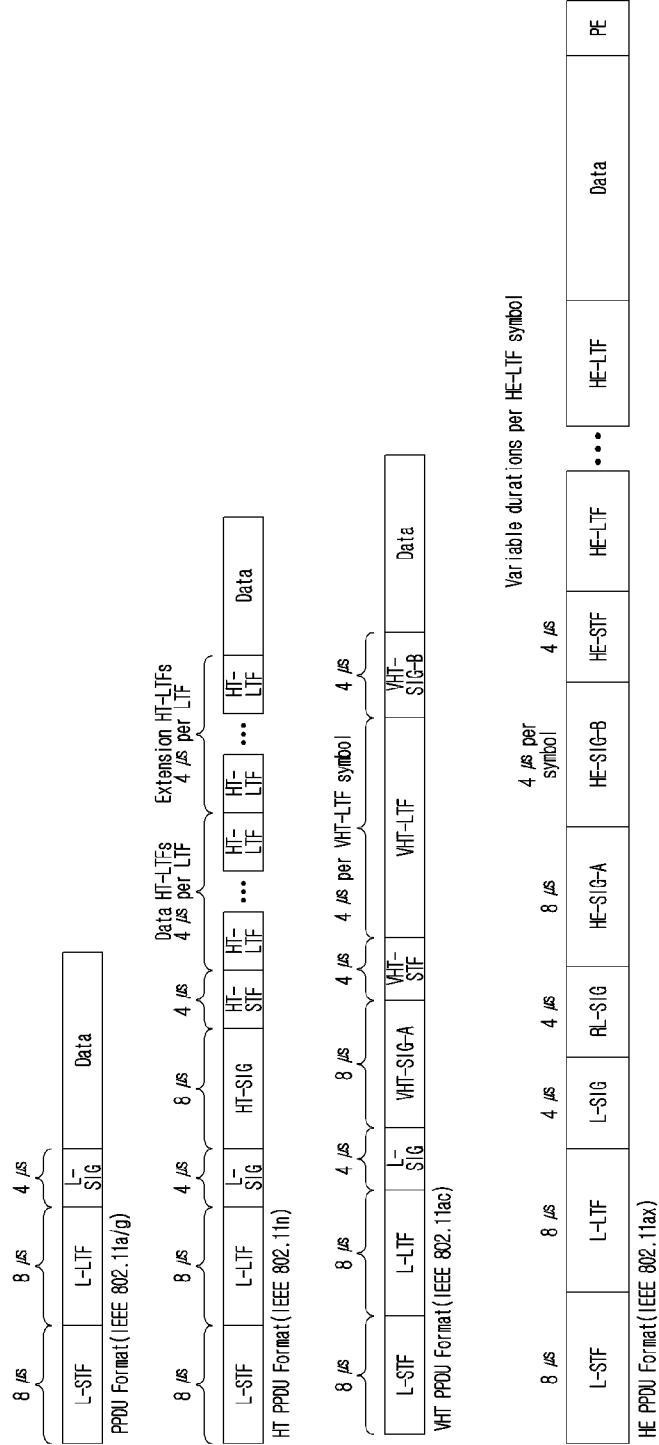


FIG. 8

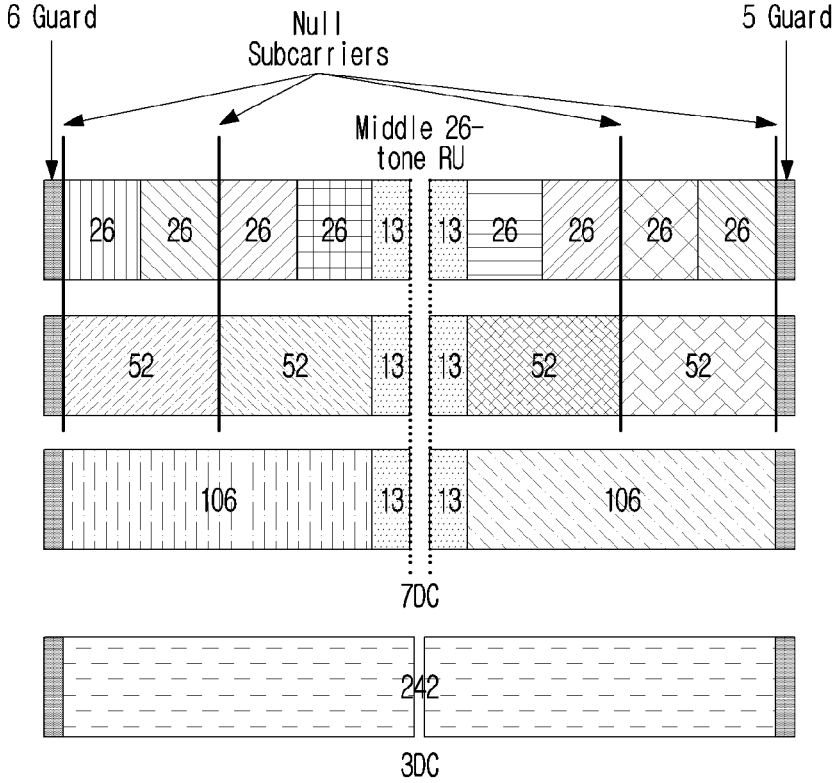


FIG. 9

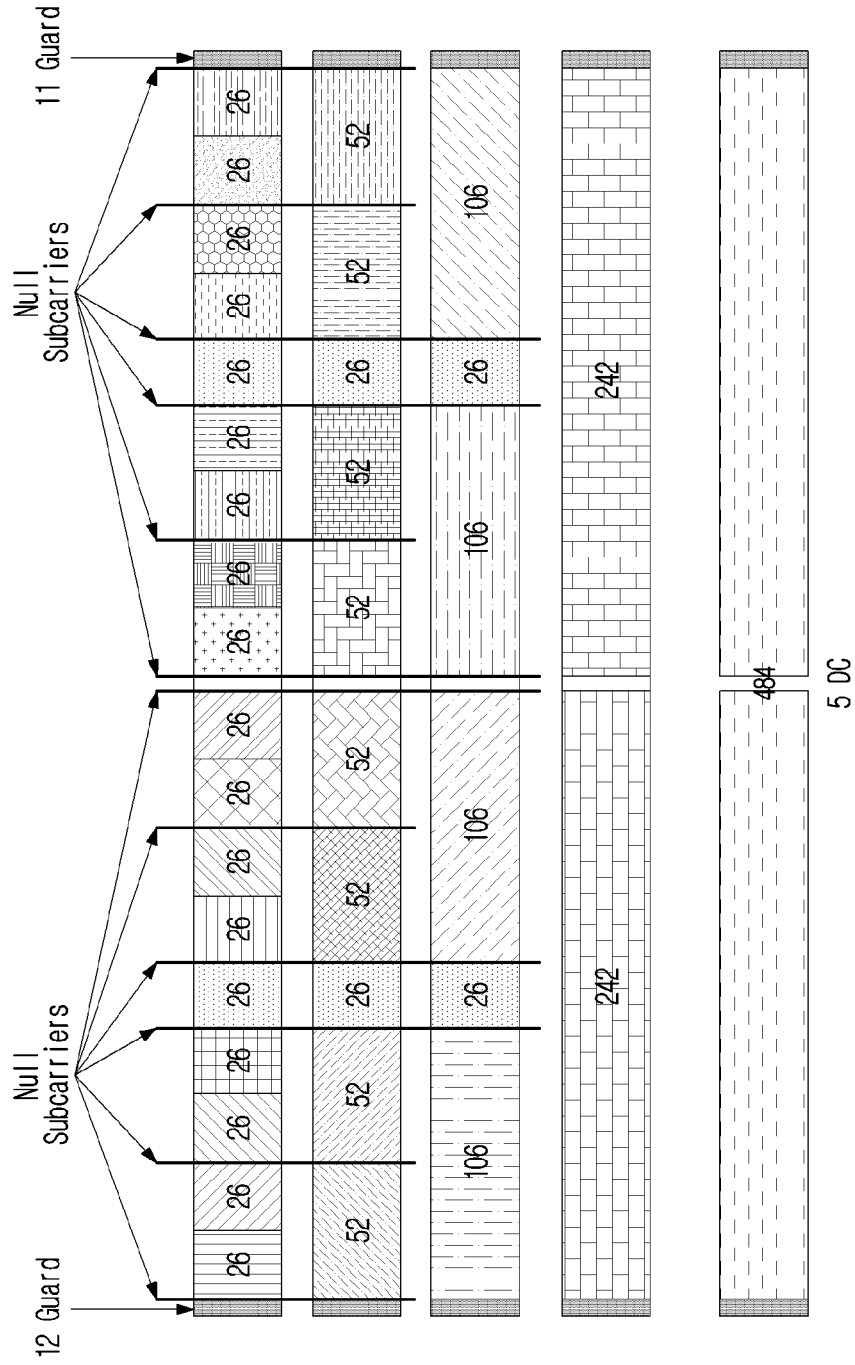


FIG. 10

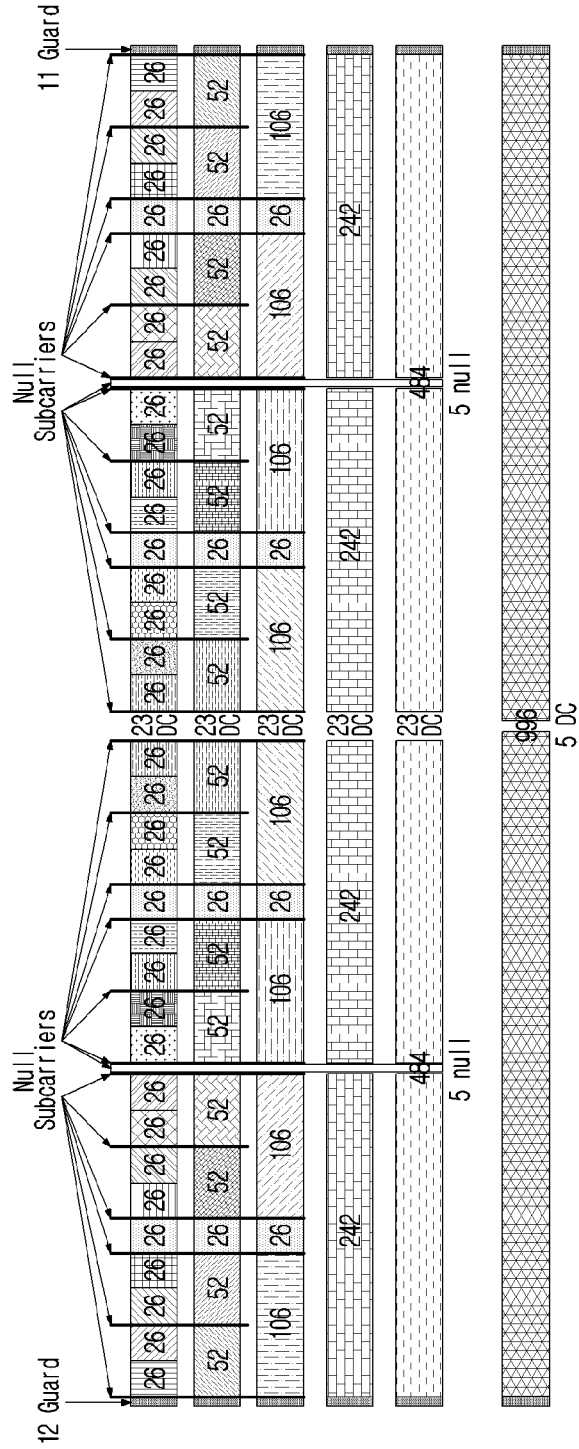


FIG. 11

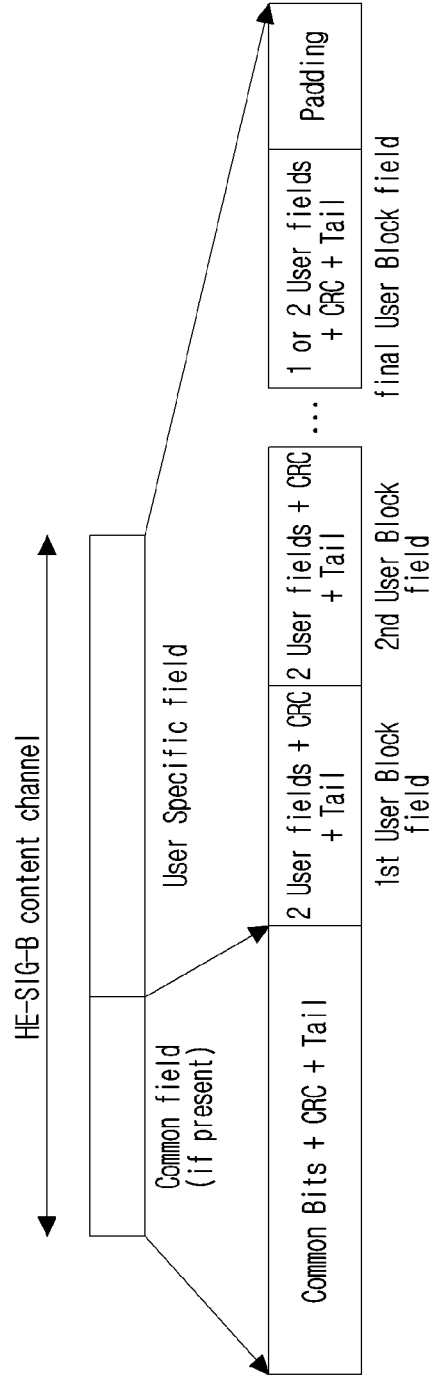


FIG. 12

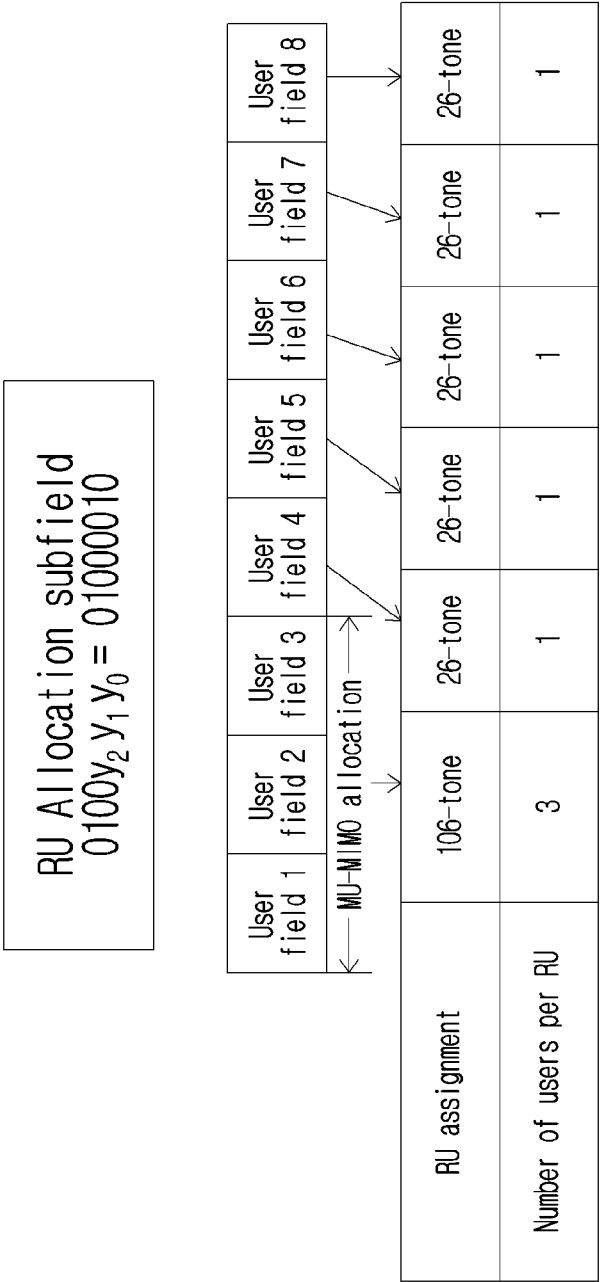


FIG. 13

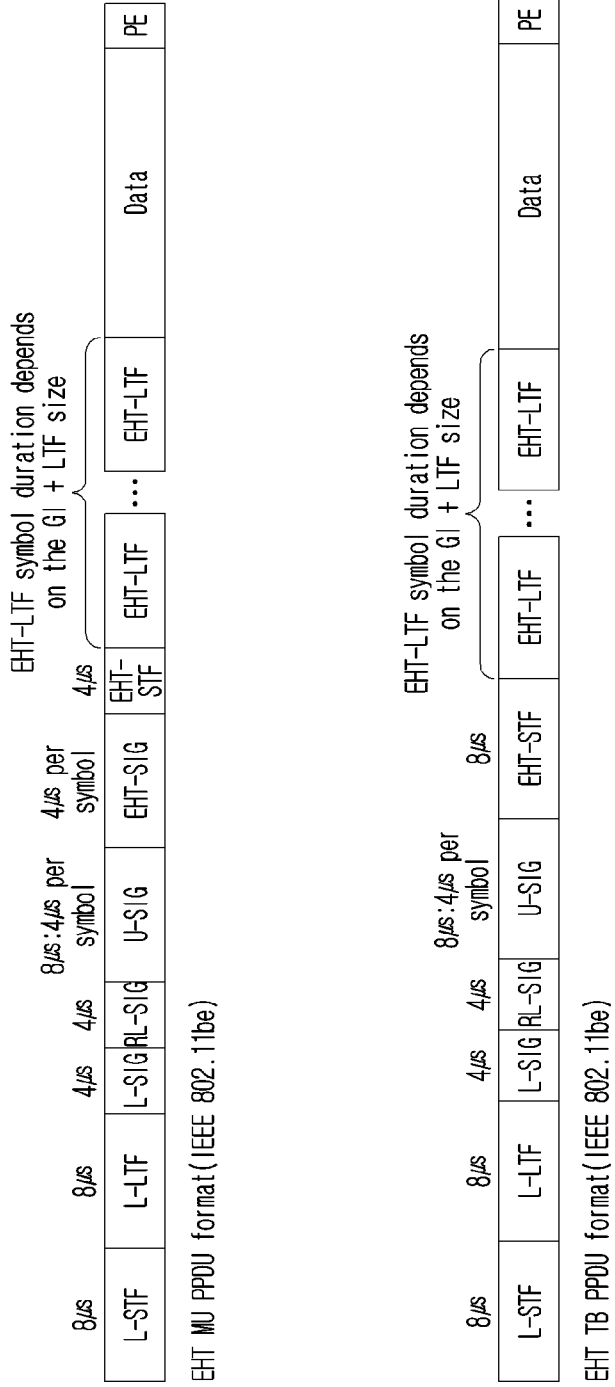


FIG. 14

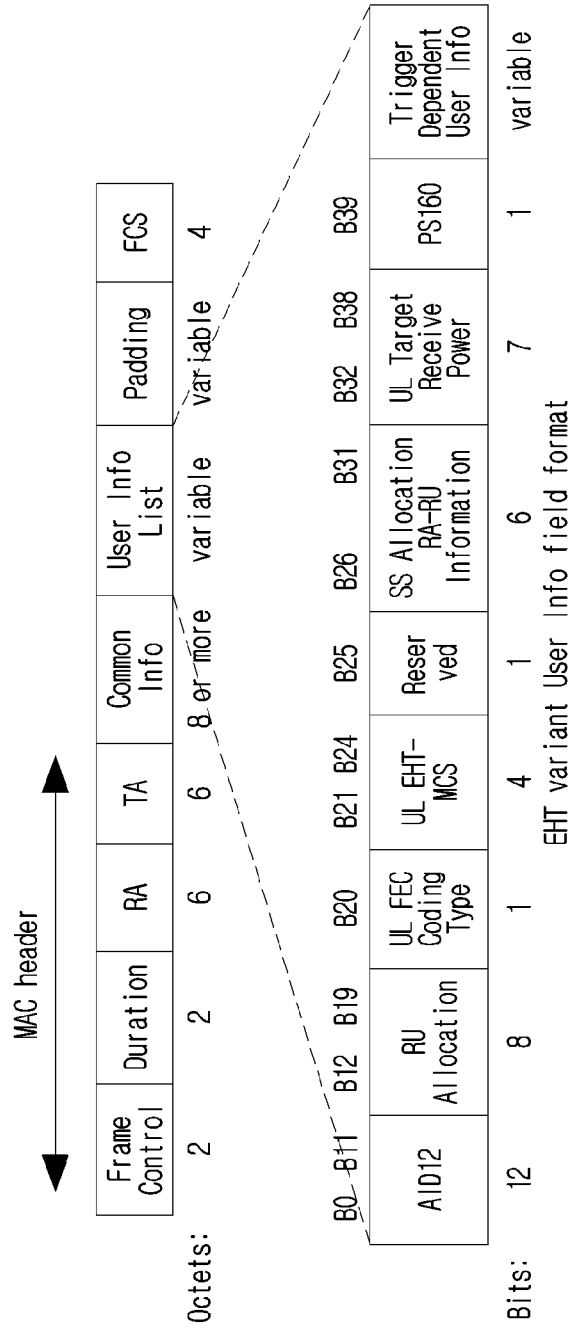


FIG. 15

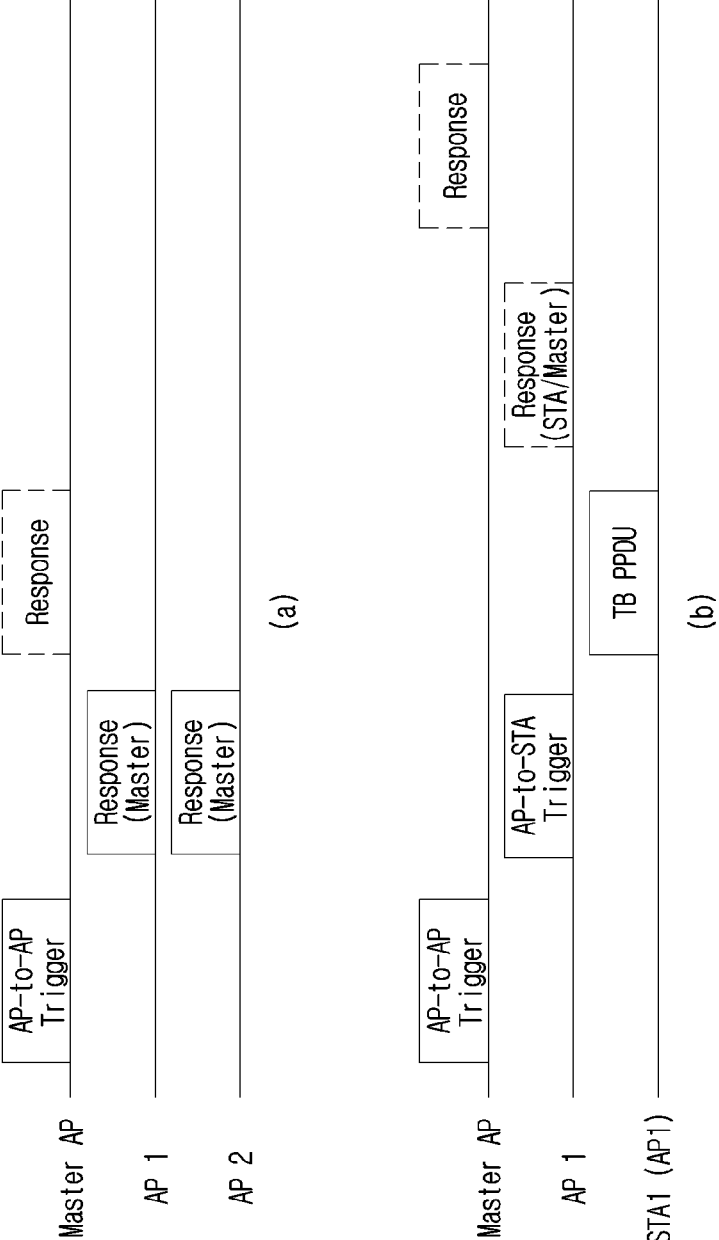


FIG. 16

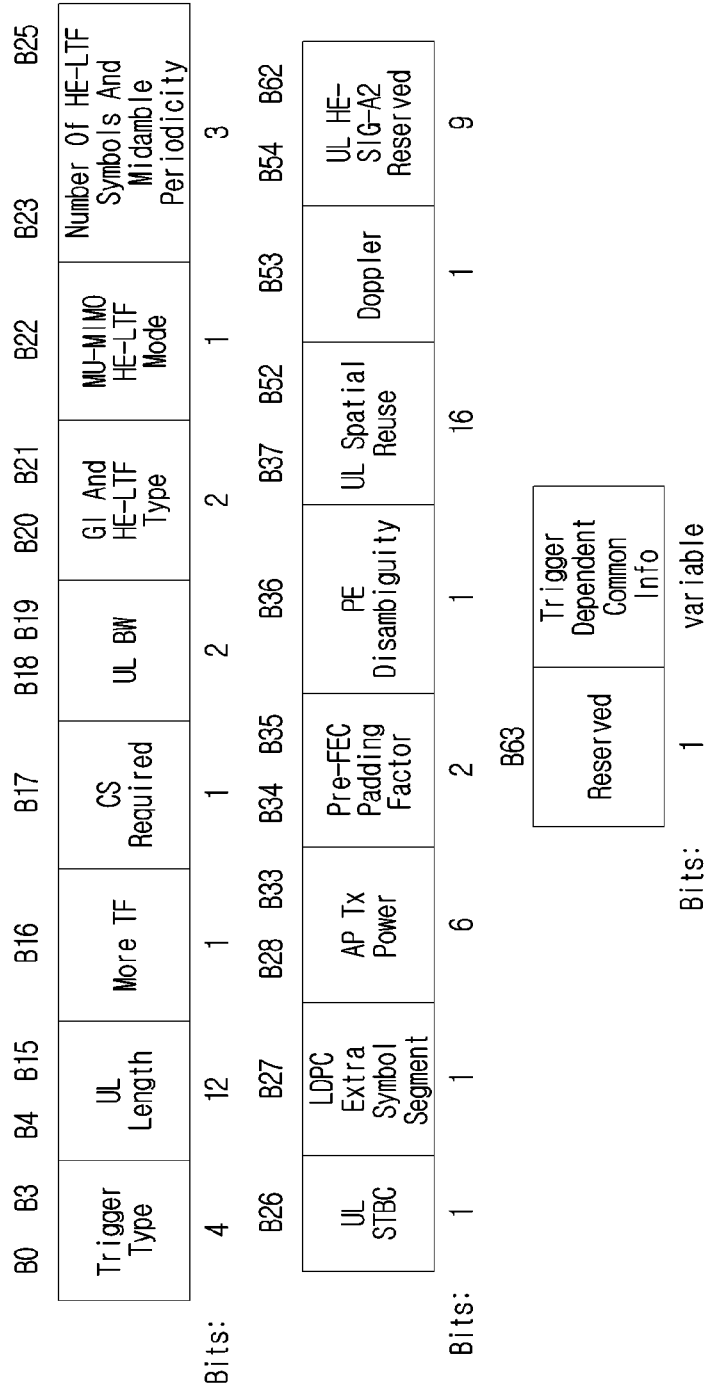


FIG. 17

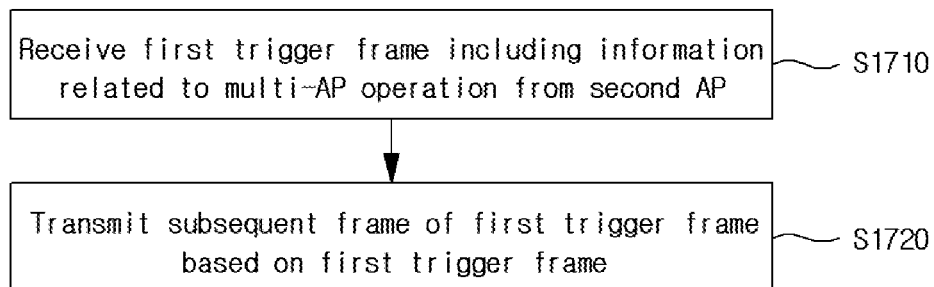
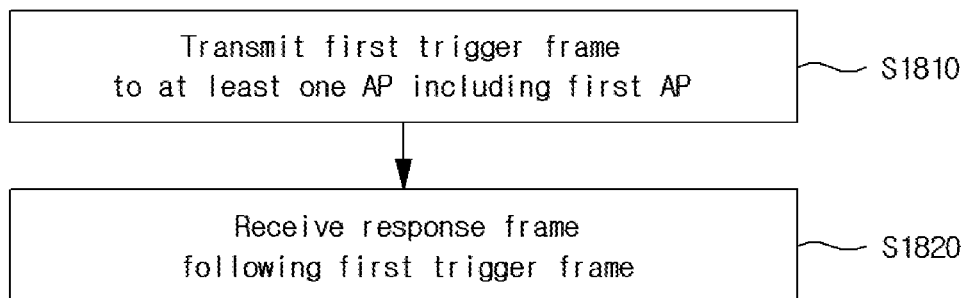


FIG. 18



METHOD AND DEVICE FOR ACCESS POINT-TO-ACCESS POINT TRIGGER AND RESPONSE IN WIRELESS LAN SYSTEM

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present disclosure relates to a multi-access point operation in a wireless local area network (WLAN) system, and more particularly, relates to a method and a device for an access point-to-access point trigger and response for a multi-access point operation.

BACKGROUND ART

[0002] New technologies for improving transmission rates, increasing bandwidth, improving reliability, reducing errors, and reducing latency have been introduced for a wireless LAN (WLAN). Among WLAN technologies, an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 802.11 series standard may be referred to as Wi-Fi. For example, technologies recently introduced to WLAN include enhancements for Very High-Throughput (VHT) of the 802.11ac standard, and enhancements for High Efficiency (HE) of the IEEE 802.11ax standard.

[0003] In order to provide a more improved wireless communication environment, an enhancement technologies for EHT (Extremely High Throughput) are being discussed. For example, technologies for multiple access point (AP) coordination and multiple input multiple output (MIMO) supporting an increased bandwidth, efficient utilization of multiple bands and increased spatial streams are being studied, and, in particular, various technologies for supporting low latency or real-time traffic are being studied.

DISCLOSURE

Technical Problem

[0004] A technical problem of the present disclosure is to provide a method and a device for supporting a multi-access point (MAP) operation in a WLAN system.

[0005] An additional technical problem of the present disclosure is to provide an AP-to-AP trigger and response method and device for a MAP operation in a WLAN system.

[0006] An additional technical problem of the present disclosure is to provide a method and a device for transmitting or receiving a trigger including information indicating a MAP operation in a WLAN system and a trigger-based frame in response thereto.

[0007] The technical objects to be achieved by the present disclosure are not limited to the above-described technical objects, and other technical objects which are not described herein will be clearly understood by those skilled in the pertinent art from the following description.

Technical Solution

[0008] A method for performing a response to an AP-to-AP trigger by a first access point (AP) in a WLAN system according to an aspect of the present disclosure includes receiving from a second AP a first trigger frame including information related to a multi-AP operation; and based on the first trigger frame, transmitting a response frame for the first trigger to the second AP, and a common information field of the first trigger frame may include information indicating the multi-AP operation.

[0009] A method for performing an AP-to-AP trigger by a second access point (AP) in a WLAN system according to an additional aspect of the present disclosure includes transmitting a first trigger frame including information related to a multi-AP operation to at least one AP including a first AP; and based on the first trigger frame, receiving a response frame for the first trigger from at least one of the at least one AP, and a common information field of the first trigger frame may include information indicating the multi-AP operation.

Advantageous Effects

[0010] According to the present disclosure, a method and a device for supporting a multi-access point (MAP) operation in a WLAN system may be provided.

[0011] According to the present disclosure, an AP-to-AP trigger and response method and device for a MAP operation in a WLAN system may be provided.

[0012] According to the present disclosure, a method and a device for transmitting or receiving a trigger including information indicating a MAP operation in a WLAN system and a trigger-based frame in response thereto may be provided.

[0013] Effects achievable by the present disclosure are not limited to the above-described effects, and other effects which are not described herein may be clearly understood by those skilled in the pertinent art from the following description.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0014] The accompanying drawings, which are included as part of the detailed description to aid understanding of the present disclosure, provide embodiments of the present disclosure and together with the detailed description describe technical features of the present disclosure.

[0015] FIG. 1 illustrates a block configuration diagram of a wireless communication device according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0016] FIG. 2 is a diagram illustrating an exemplary structure of a WLAN system to which the present disclosure may be applied.

[0017] FIG. 3 is a diagram for explaining a link setup process to which the present disclosure may be applied.

[0018] FIG. 4 is a diagram for explaining a backoff process to which the present disclosure may be applied.

[0019] FIG. 5 is a diagram for explaining a frame transmission operation based on CSMA/CA to which the present disclosure may be applied.

[0020] FIG. 6 is a diagram for explaining an example of a frame structure used in a WLAN system to which the present disclosure may be applied.

[0021] FIG. 7 is a diagram illustrating examples of PPDUs defined in the IEEE 802.11 standard to which the present disclosure may be applied.

[0022] FIGS. 8 to 10 are diagrams for explaining examples of resource units of a WLAN system to which the present disclosure may be applied.

[0023] FIG. 11 illustrates an example structure of a HE-SIG-B field.

[0024] FIG. 12 is a diagram for explaining a MU-MIMO method in which a plurality of users/STAs are allocated to one RU.

[0025] FIG. 13 illustrates an example of a PDU format to which the present disclosure may be applied.

[0026] FIG. 14 is a diagram representing an illustrative format of a trigger frame to which the present disclosure may be applied.

[0027] FIG. 15 is a diagram showing examples of a MAP trigger procedure to which the present disclosure may be applied.

[0028] FIG. 16 shows an example of a common information field format of a trigger frame.

[0029] FIG. 17 is a flowchart for describing an example of a method for performing a response to an AP-to-AP trigger according to the present disclosure.

[0030] FIG. 18 is a flowchart for describing an example of a method for performing an AP-to-AP trigger according to the present disclosure.

BEST MODE

[0031] Hereinafter, embodiments according to the present disclosure will be described in detail by referring to accompanying drawings. Detailed description to be disclosed with accompanying drawings is to describe exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure and is not to represent the only embodiment that the present disclosure may be implemented. The following detailed description includes specific details to provide complete understanding of the present disclosure. However, those skilled in the pertinent art knows that the present disclosure may be implemented without such specific details.

[0032] In some cases, known structures and devices may be omitted or may be shown in a form of a block diagram based on a core function of each structure and device in order to prevent a concept of the present disclosure from being ambiguous.

[0033] In the present disclosure, when an element is referred to as being “connected”, “combined” or “linked” to another element, it may include an indirect connection relation that yet another element presents therebetween as well as a direct connection relation. In addition, in the present disclosure, a term, “include” or “have”, specifies the presence of a mentioned feature, step, operation, component and/or element, but it does not exclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, stages, operations, components, elements and/or their groups.

[0034] In the present disclosure, a term such as “first”, “second”, etc. is used only to distinguish one element from other element and is not used to limit elements, and unless otherwise specified, it does not limit an order or importance, etc. between elements. Accordingly, within a scope of the present disclosure, a first element in an embodiment may be referred to as a second element in another embodiment and likewise, a second element in an embodiment may be referred to as a first element in another embodiment.

[0035] A term used in the present disclosure is to describe a specific embodiment, and is not to limit a claim. As used in a described and attached claim of an embodiment, a singular form is intended to include a plural form, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. A term used in the present disclosure, “and/or”, may refer to one of related enumerated items or it means that it refers to and includes any and all possible combinations of two or more of them. In addition, “/” between words in the present disclosure has the same meaning as “and/or”, unless otherwise described.

[0036] Examples of the present disclosure may be applied to various wireless communication systems. For example, examples of the present disclosure may be applied to a

wireless LAN system. For example, examples of the present disclosure may be applied to an IEEE 802.11a/g/n/ac/ax standards-based wireless LAN. Furthermore, examples of the present disclosure may be applied to a wireless LAN based on the newly proposed IEEE 802.11be (or EHT) standard. Examples of the present disclosure may be applied to an IEEE 802.11be Release-2 standard-based wireless LAN corresponding to an additional enhancement technology of the IEEE 802.11be Release-1 standard. Additionally, examples of the present disclosure may be applied to a next-generation standards-based wireless LAN after IEEE 802.11be. Further, examples of this disclosure may be applied to a cellular wireless communication system. For example, it may be applied to a cellular wireless communication system based on Long Term Evolution (LTE)-based technology and 5G New Radio (NR)-based technology of the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) standard.

[0037] Hereinafter, technical features to which examples of the present disclosure may be applied will be described.

[0038] FIG. 1 illustrates a block diagram of a wireless communication device according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0039] The first device 100 and the second device 200 illustrated in FIG. 1 may be replaced with various terms such as a terminal, a wireless device, a Wireless Transmit Receive Unit (WTRU), an User Equipment (UE), a Mobile Station (MS), an user terminal (UT), a Mobile Subscriber Station (MSS), a Mobile Subscriber Unit (MSU), a subscriber station (SS), an advanced mobile station (AMS), a wireless terminal (WT), or simply user, etc. In addition, the first device 100 and the second device 200 include an access point (AP), a base station (BS), a fixed station, a Node B, a base transceiver system (BTS), a network. It may be replaced with various terms such as an Artificial Intelligence (AI) system, a road side unit (RSU), a repeater, a router, a relay, and a gateway.

[0040] The devices 100 and 200 illustrated in FIG. 1 may be referred to as stations (STAs). For example, the devices 100 and 200 illustrated in FIG. 1 may be referred to by various terms such as a transmitting device, a receiving device, a transmitting STA, and a receiving STA. For example, the STAs 110 and 200 may perform an access point (AP) role or a non-AP role. That is, in the present disclosure, the STAs 110 and 200 may perform functions of an AP and/or a non-AP. When the STAs 110 and 200 perform an AP function, they may be simply referred to as APs, and when the STAs 110 and 200 perform non-AP functions, they may be simply referred to as STAs. In addition, in the present disclosure, an AP may also be indicated as an AP STA.

[0041] Referring to FIG. 1, the first device 100 and the second device 200 may transmit and receive radio signals through various wireless LAN technologies (e.g., IEEE 802.11 series). The first device 100 and the second device 200 may include an interface for a medium access control (MAC) layer and a physical layer (PHY) conforming to the IEEE 802.11 standard.

[0042] In addition, the first device 100 and the second device 200 may additionally support various communication standards (e.g., 3GPP LTE series, 5G NR series standards, etc.) technologies other than wireless LAN technology. In addition, the device of the present disclosure may be implemented in various devices such as a mobile phone, a vehicle, a personal computer, augmented reality (AR) equipment,

and virtual reality (VR) equipment, etc. In addition, the STA of the present specification may support various communication services such as a voice call, a video call, data communication, autonomous-driving, machine-type communication (MTC), machine-to-machine (M2M), device-to-device (D2D), IoT (Internet-of-Things), etc.

[0043] A first device **100** may include one or more processors **102** and one or more memories **104** and may additionally include one or more transceivers **106** and/or one or more antennas **108**. A processor **102** may control a memory **104** and/or a transceiver **106** and may be configured to implement description, functions, procedures, proposals, methods and/or operation flow charts disclosed in the present disclosure. For example, a processor **102** may transmit a wireless signal including first information/signal through a transceiver **106** after generating first information/signal by processing information in a memory **104**. In addition, a processor **102** may receive a wireless signal including second information/signal through a transceiver **106** and then store information obtained by signal processing of second information/signal in a memory **104**. A memory **104** may be connected to a processor **102** and may store a variety of information related to an operation of a processor **102**. For example, a memory **104** may store a software code including instructions for performing all or part of processes controlled by a processor **102** or for performing description, functions, procedures, proposals, methods and/or operation flow charts disclosed in the present disclosure. Here, a processor **102** and a memory **104** may be part of a communication modem/circuit/chip designed to implement a wireless LAN technology (e.g., IEEE 802.11 series). A transceiver **106** may be connected to a processor **102** and may transmit and/or receive a wireless signal through one or more antennas **108**. A transceiver **106** may include a transmitter and/or a receiver. A transceiver **106** may be used together with a RF (Radio Frequency) unit. In the present disclosure, a device may mean a communication modem/circuit/chip.

[0044] A second device **200** may include one or more processors **202** and one or more memories **204** and may additionally include one or more transceivers **206** and/or one or more antennas **208**. A processor **202** may control a memory **204** and/or a transceiver **206** and may be configured to implement description, functions, procedures, proposals, methods and/or operation flows charts disclosed in the present disclosure. For example, a processor **202** may generate third information/signal by processing information in a memory **204**, and then transmit a wireless signal including third information/signal through a transceiver **206**. In addition, a processor **202** may receive a wireless signal including fourth information/signal through a transceiver **206**, and then store information obtained by signal processing of fourth information/signal in a memory **204**. A memory **204** may be connected to a processor **202** and may store a variety of information related to an operation of a processor **202**. For example, a memory **204** may store a software code including instructions for performing all or part of processes controlled by a processor **202** or for performing description, functions, procedures, proposals, methods and/or operation flow charts disclosed in the present disclosure. Here, a processor **202** and a memory **204** may be part of a communication modem/circuit/chip designed to implement a wireless LAN technology (e.g., IEEE 802.11 series). A transceiver **206** may be connected to a processor **202** and may

transmit and/or receive a wireless signal through one or more antennas **208**. A transceiver **206** may include a transmitter and/or a receiver. A transceiver **206** may be used together with a RF unit. In the present disclosure, a device may mean a communication modem/circuit/chip.

[0045] Hereinafter, a hardware element of a device **100**, **200** will be described in more detail. It is not limited thereto, but one or more protocol layers may be implemented by one or more processors **102**, **202**. For example, one or more processors **102**, **202** may implement one or more layers (e.g., a functional layer such as PHY, MAC). One or more processors **102**, **202** may generate one or more PDUs (Protocol Data Unit) and/or one or more SDUs (Service Data Unit) according to description, functions, procedures, proposals, methods and/or operation flow charts disclosed in the present disclosure. One or more processors **102**, **202** may generate a message, control information, data or information according to description, functions, procedures, proposals, methods and/or operation flow charts disclosed in the present disclosure. One or more processors **102**, **202** may generate a signal (e.g., a baseband signal) including a PDU, a SDU, a message, control information, data or information according to functions, procedures, proposals and/or methods disclosed in the present disclosure to provide it to one or more transceivers **106**, **206**. One or more processors **102**, **202** may receive a signal (e.g., a baseband signal) from one or more transceivers **106**, **206** and obtain a PDU, a SDU, a message, control information, data or information according to description, functions, procedures, proposals, methods and/or operation flow charts disclosed in the present disclosure.

[0046] One or more processors **102**, **202** may be referred to as a controller, a micro controller, a micro processor or a micro computer. One or more processors **102**, **202** may be implemented by a hardware, a firmware, a software, or their combination. In an example, one or more ASICs (Application Specific Integrated Circuit), one or more DSPs (Digital Signal Processor), one or more DSPDs (Digital Signal Processing Device), one or more PLDs (Programmable Logic Device) or one or more FPGAs (Field Programmable Gate Arrays) may be included in one or more processors **102**, **202**. Description, functions, procedures, proposals, methods and/or operation flow charts disclosed in the present disclosure may be implemented by using a firmware or a software and a firmware or a software may be implemented to include a module, a procedure, a function, etc. A firmware or a software configured to perform description, functions, procedures, proposals, methods and/or operation flow charts disclosed in the present disclosure may be included in one or more processors **102**, **202** or may be stored in one or more memories **104**, **204** and driven by one or more processors **102**, **202**. Description, functions, procedures, proposals, methods and/or operation flow charts disclosed in the present disclosure may be implemented by using a firmware or a software in a form of a code, an instruction and/or a set of instructions.

[0047] One or more memories **104**, **204** may be connected to one or more processors **102**, **202** and may store data, a signal, a message, information, a program, a code, an indication and/or an instruction in various forms. One or more memories **104**, **204** may be configured with ROM, RAM, EPROM, a flash memory, a hard drive, a register, a cash memory, a computer readable storage medium and/or their combination. One or more memories **104**, **204** may be

positioned inside and/or outside one or more processors **102**, **202**. In addition, one or more memories **104**, **204** may be connected to one or more processors **102**, **202** through a variety of technologies such as a wire or wireless connection.

[0048] One or more transceivers **106**, **206** may transmit user data, control information, a wireless signal/channel, etc. mentioned in methods and/or operation flow charts, etc. of the present disclosure to one or more other devices. One or more transceivers **106**, **206** may receiver user data, control information, a wireless signal/channel, etc. mentioned in description, functions, procedures, proposals, methods and/or operation flow charts, etc. disclosed in the present disclosure from one or more other devices. For example, one or more transceivers **106**, **206** may be connected to one or more processors **102**, **202** and may transmit and receive a wireless signal. For example, one or more processors **102**, **202** may control one or more transceivers **106**, **206** to transmit user data, control information or a wireless signal to one or more other devices. In addition, one or more processors **102**, **202** may control one or more transceivers **106**, **206** to receive user data, control information or a wireless signal from one or more other devices. In addition, one or more transceivers **106**, **206** may be connected to one or more antennas **108**, **208** and one or more transceivers **106**, **206** may be configured to transmit and receive user data, control information, a wireless signal/channel, etc. mentioned in description, functions, procedures, proposals, methods and/or operation flow charts, etc. disclosed in the present disclosure through one or more antennas **108**, **208**. In the present disclosure, one or more antennas may be a plurality of physical antennas or a plurality of logical antennas (e.g., an antenna port). One or more transceivers **106**, **206** may convert a received wireless signal/channel, etc. into a baseband signal from a RF band signal to process received user data, control information, wireless signal/channel, etc. by using one or more processors **102**, **202**. One or more transceivers **106**, **206** may convert user data, control information, a wireless signal/channel, etc. which are processed by using one or more processors **102**, **202** from a baseband signal to a RF band signal. Therefore, one or more transceivers **106**, **206** may include an (analogue) oscillator and/or a filter.

[0049] For example, one of the STAs **100** and **200** may perform an intended operation of an AP, and the other of the STAs **100** and **200** may perform an intended operation of a non-AP STA. For example, the transceivers **106** and **206** of FIG. **1** may perform a transmission and reception operation of a signal (e.g., a packet or a physical layer protocol data unit (PPDU) conforming to IEEE 802.11a/b/g/n/ac/ax/be). In addition, in the present disclosure, an operation in which various STAs generate transmission/reception signals or perform data processing or calculation in advance for transmission/reception signals may be performed by the processors **102** and **202** of FIG. **1**. For example, an example of an operation of generating a transmission/reception signal or performing data processing or calculation in advance for the transmission/reception signal may include 1) Determining/acquiring/configuring/calculating/decoding/encoding bit information of fields (signal (SIG), short training field (STF), long training field (LTF), Data, etc.) included in the PPDU; 2) Determining/configuring/acquiring time resources or frequency resources (e.g., subcarrier resources) used for fields (SIG, STF, LTF, Data, etc.) included in the PPDU; 3) Determining/configuring/acquiring a specific sequence (e.g.,

pilot sequence, STF/LTF sequence, extra sequence applied to SIG) used for fields (SIG, STF, LTF, Data, etc.) included in the PPDU action, 4) power control operation and/or power saving operation applied to the STA, 5) Operations related to ACK signal determination/acquisition/configuration/calculation/decoding/encoding, etc. In addition, in the following example, various information (e.g., information related to fields/subfields/control fields/parameters/power, etc.) used by various STAs to determine/acquire/configure/calculate/decode/encode transmission and reception signals may be stored in the memories **104** and **204** of FIG. **1**.

[0050] Hereinafter, downlink (DL) may mean a link for communication from an AP STA to a non-AP STA, and a DL PPDU/packet/signal may be transmitted and received through the DL. In DL communication, a transmitter may be part of an AP STA, and a receiver may be part of a non-AP STA. Uplink (UL) may mean a link for communication from non-AP STAs to AP STAs, and a UL PPDU/packet/signal may be transmitted and received through the UL. In UL communication, a transmitter may be part of a non-AP STA, and a receiver may be part of an AP STA.

[0051] FIG. **2** is a diagram illustrating an exemplary structure of a wireless LAN system to which the present disclosure may be applied.

[0052] The structure of the wireless LAN system may consist of be composed of a plurality of components. A wireless LAN supporting STA mobility transparent to an upper layer may be provided by interaction of a plurality of components. A Basic Service Set (BSS) corresponds to a basic construction block of a wireless LAN. FIG. **2** exemplarily shows that two BSSs (BSS1 and BSS2) exist and two STAs are included as members of each BSS (STA1 and STA2 are included in BSS1, and STA3 and STA4 are included in BSS2). An ellipse representing a BSS in FIG. **2** may also be understood as representing a coverage area in which STAs included in the corresponding BSS maintain communication. This area may be referred to as a Basic Service Area (BSA). When an STA moves out of the BSA, it may not directly communicate with other STAs within the BSA.

[0053] If the DS shown in FIG. **2** is not considered, the most basic type of BSS in a wireless LAN is an independent BSS (IBSS). For example, IBSS may have a minimal form containing only two STAs. For example, assuming that other components are omitted, BSS1 containing only STA1 and STA2 or BSS2 containing only STA3 and STA4 may respectively correspond to representative examples of IBSS. This configuration is possible when STAs may communicate directly without an AP. In addition, in this type of wireless LAN, it is not configured in advance, but may be configured when a LAN is required, and this may be referred to as an ad-hoc network. Since the IBSS does not include an AP, there is no centralized management entity. That is, in IBSS, STAs are managed in a distributed manner. In IBSS, all STAs may be made up of mobile STAs, and access to the distributed system (DS) is not allowed, forming a self-contained network.

[0054] Membership of an STA in the BSS may be dynamically changed by turning on or off the STA, entering or exiting the BSS area, and the like. To become a member of the BSS, the STA may join the BSS using a synchronization process. In order to access all services of the BSS infrastructure, the STA shall be associated with the BSS. This

association may be dynamically established and may include the use of a Distribution System Service (DSS).

[0055] A direct STA-to-STA distance in a wireless LAN may be limited by PHY performance. In some cases, this distance limit may be sufficient, but in some cases, communication between STAs at a longer distance may be required. A distributed system (DS) may be configured to support extended coverage.

[0056] DS means a structure in which BSSs are interconnected. Specifically, as shown in FIG. 2, a BSS may exist as an extended form of a network composed of a plurality of BSSs. DS is a logical concept and may be specified by the characteristics of Distributed System Media (DSM). In this regard, a wireless medium (WM) and a DSM may be logically separated. Each logical medium is used for a different purpose and is used by different components. These medium are not limited to being the same, nor are they limited to being different. In this way, the flexibility of the wireless LAN structure (DS structure or other network structure) may be explained in that a plurality of media are logically different. That is, the wireless LAN structure may be implemented in various ways, and the corresponding wireless LAN structure may be independently specified by the physical characteristics of each embodiment.

[0057] A DS may support a mobile device by providing seamless integration of a plurality of BSSs and providing logical services necessary to address an address to a destination. In addition, the DS may further include a component called a portal that serves as a bridge for connection between the wireless LAN and other networks (e.g., IEEE 802.X).

[0058] The AP enables access to the DS through the WM for the associated non-AP STAs, and means an entity that also has the functionality of an STA. Data movement between the BSS and the DS may be performed through the AP. For example, STA2 and STA3 shown in FIG. 2 have the functionality of STAs, and provide a function allowing the associated non-AP STAs (STA1 and STA4) to access the DS. In addition, since all APs basically correspond to STAs, all APs are addressable entities. The address used by the AP for communication on the WM and the address used by the AP for communication on the DSM are not necessarily the same. A BSS composed of an AP and one or more STAs may be referred to as an infrastructure BSS.

[0059] Data transmitted from one of the STA(s) associated with an AP to a STA address of the corresponding AP may be always received on an uncontrolled port and may be processed by an IEEE 802.1X port access entity. In addition, when a controlled port is authenticated, transmission data (or frames) may be delivered to the DS.

[0060] In addition to the structure of the DS described above, an extended service set (ESS) may be configured to provide wide coverage.

[0061] An ESS means a network in which a network having an arbitrary size and complexity is composed of DSs and BSSs. The ESS may correspond to a set of BSSs connected to one DS. However, the ESS does not include the DS. An ESS network is characterized by being seen as an IBSS in the Logical Link Control (LLC) layer. STAs included in the ESS may communicate with each other, and mobile STAs may move from one BSS to another BSS (within the same ESS) transparently to the LLC. APs included in one ESS may have the same service set identification (SSID). The SSID is distinguished from the BSSID, which is an identifier of the BSS.

[0062] The wireless LAN system does not assume anything about the relative physical locations of BSSs, and all of the following forms are possible. BSSs may partially overlap, which is a form commonly used to provide continuous coverage. In addition, BSSs may not be physically connected, and logically there is no limit on the distance between BSSs. In addition, the BSSs may be physically located in the same location, which may be used to provide redundancy. In addition, one (or more than one) IBSS or ESS networks may physically exist in the same space as one (or more than one) ESS network. When an ad-hoc network operates in a location where an ESS network exists, when physically overlapping wireless networks are configured by different organizations, or when two or more different access and security policies are required in the same location, this may correspond to the form of an ESS network in the like.

[0063] FIG. 3 is a diagram for explaining a link setup process to which the present disclosure may be applied.

[0064] In order for an STA to set up a link with respect to a network and transmit/receive data, it first discovers a network, performs authentication, establishes an association, and need to perform the authentication process for security. The link setup process may also be referred to as a session initiation process or a session setup process. In addition, the processes of discovery, authentication, association, and security setting of the link setup process may be collectively referred to as an association process.

[0065] In step S310, the STA may perform a network discovery operation. The network discovery operation may include a scanning operation of the STA. That is, in order for the STA to access the network, it needs to find a network in which it can participate. The STA shall identify a compatible network before participating in a wireless network, and the process of identifying a network existing in a specific area is called scanning.

[0066] Scanning schemes include active scanning and passive scanning. FIG. 3 exemplarily illustrates a network discovery operation including an active scanning process. In active scanning, an STA performing scanning transmits a probe request frame to discover which APs exist around it while moving channels and waits for a response thereto. A responder transmits a probe response frame as a response to the probe request frame to the STA that has transmitted the probe request frame. Here, the responder may be an STA that last transmitted a beacon frame in the BSS of the channel being scanned. In the BSS, since the AP transmits the beacon frame, the AP becomes a responder, and in the IBSS, the STAs in the IBSS rotate to transmit the beacon frame, so the responder is not constant. For example, a STA that transmits a probe request frame on channel 1 and receives a probe response frame on channel 1, may store BSS-related information included in the received probe response frame and may move to the next channel (e.g., channel 2) and perform scanning (i.e., transmission/reception of a probe request/response on channel 2) in the same manner.

[0067] Although not shown in FIG. 3, the scanning operation may be performed in a passive scanning manner. In passive scanning, a STA performing scanning waits for a beacon frame while moving channels. The beacon frame is one of the management frames defined in IEEE 802.11, and is periodically transmitted to notify the existence of a wireless network and to allow the STA performing scanning to find a wireless network and participate in the wireless network. In the BSS, the AP serves to transmit beacon

frames periodically, and in the IBSS, STAs within the IBSS rotate to transmit beacon frames. When the STA performing scanning receives a beacon frame, the STA stores information for the BSS included in the beacon frame and records beacon frame information in each channel while moving to another channel. The STA receiving the beacon frame may store BSS-related information included in the received beacon frame, move to the next channel, and perform scanning in the next channel in the same way. Comparing active scanning and passive scanning, active scanning has an advantage of having less delay and less power consumption than passive scanning.

[0068] After the STA discovers the network, an authentication process may be performed in step S320. This authentication process may be referred to as a first authentication process in order to be clearly distinguished from the security setup operation of step S340 to be described later.

[0069] The authentication process includes a process in which the STA transmits an authentication request frame to the AP, and in response to this, the AP transmits an authentication response frame to the STA. An authentication frame used for authentication request/response corresponds to a management frame.

[0070] The authentication frame includes an authentication algorithm number, an authentication transaction sequence number, a status code, a challenge text, a robust security network (RSN), and a Finite Cyclic Group, etc. This corresponds to some examples of information that may be included in the authentication request/response frame, and may be replaced with other information or additional information may be further included.

[0071] The STA may transmit an authentication request frame to the AP. The AP may determine whether to allow authentication of the corresponding STA based on information included in the received authentication request frame. The AP may provide the result of the authentication process to the STA through an authentication response frame.

[0072] After the STA is successfully authenticated, an association process may be performed in step S330. The association process includes a process in which the STA transmits an association request frame to the AP, and in response, the AP transmits an association response frame to the STA.

[0073] For example, the association request frame may include information related to various capabilities, a beacon listen interval, a service set identifier (SSID), supported rates, supported channels, RSN, mobility domain, supported operating classes, Traffic Indication Map Broadcast request (TIM broadcast request), interworking service capability, etc. For example, the association response frame may include information related to various capabilities, status code, association ID (AID), supported rates, enhanced distributed channel access (EDCA) parameter set, received channel power indicator (RCPI), received signal to noise indicator (RSNI), mobility domain, timeout interval (e.g., association comeback time), overlapping BSS scan parameters, TIM broadcast response, Quality of Service (QoS) map, etc. This corresponds to some examples of information that may be included in the association request/response frame, and may be replaced with other information or additional information may be further included.

[0074] After the STA is successfully associated with the network, a security setup process may be performed in step S340. The security setup process of step S340 may be

referred to as an authentication process through Robust Security Network Association (RSNA) request/response, and the authentication process of step S320 is referred to as a first authentication process, and the security setup process of step S340 may also simply be referred to as an authentication process.

[0075] The security setup process of step S340 may include, for example, a process of setting up a private key through 4-way handshaking through an Extensible Authentication Protocol over LAN (EAPOL) frame. In addition, the security setup process may be performed according to a security scheme not defined in the IEEE 802.11 standard.

[0076] FIG. 4 is a diagram for explaining a backoff process to which the present disclosure may be applied.

[0077] In the wireless LAN system, a basic access mechanism of medium access control (MAC) is a carrier sense multiple access with collision avoidance (CSMA/CA) mechanism. The CSMA/CA mechanism is also called Distributed Coordination Function (DCF) of IEEE 802.11 MAC, and basically adopts a “listen before talk” access mechanism. According to this type of access mechanism, the AP and/or STA may perform Clear Channel Assessment (CCA) sensing a radio channel or medium during a predetermined time interval (e.g., DCF Inter-Frame Space (DIFS)), prior to starting transmission. As a result of the sensing, if it is determined that the medium is in an idle state, frame transmission is started through the corresponding medium. On the other hand, if it is detected that the medium is occupied or busy, the corresponding AP and/or STA does not start its own transmission and may set a delay period for medium access (e.g., a random backoff period) and attempt frame transmission after waiting. By applying the random backoff period, since it is expected that several STAs attempt frame transmission after waiting for different periods of time, collision may be minimized.

[0078] In addition, the IEEE 802.11 MAC protocol provides a Hybrid Coordination Function (HCF). HCF is based on the DCF and Point Coordination Function (PCF). PCF is a polling-based synchronous access method and refers to a method in which all receiving APs and/or STAs periodically poll to receive data frames. In addition, HCF has Enhanced Distributed Channel Access (EDCA) and HCF Controlled Channel Access (HCCA). EDCA is a contention-based access method for a provider to provide data frames to multiple users, and HCCA uses a non-contention-based channel access method using a polling mechanism. In addition, the HCF includes a medium access mechanism for improving QoS (Quality of Service) of the wireless LAN, and may transmit QoS data in both a Contention Period (CP) and a Contention Free Period (CFP).

[0079] Referring to FIG. 4, an operation based on a random backoff period will be described. When the occupied/busy medium changes to an idle state, several STAs may attempt to transmit data (or frames). As a method for minimizing collisions, each of STAs may respectively select a random backoff count and attempt transmission after waiting for a corresponding slot time. The random backoff count has a pseudo-random integer value and may be determined as one of values ranging from 0 to CW. Here, CW is a contention window parameter value. The CW parameter is given CW_{min} as an initial value, but may take a value twice as large in case of transmission failure (e.g., when an ACK for the transmitted frame is not received). When the CW parameter value reaches CW_{max}, data trans-

mission may be attempted while maintaining the CWmax value until data transmission is successful, and when data transmission is successful, the CWmin value is reset. The values of CW, CWmin and CWmax are preferably set to $2n-1$ ($n=0, 1, 2, \dots$).

[0080] When the random backoff process starts, the STA continuously monitors the medium while counting down the backoff slots according to the determined backoff count value. When the medium is monitored for occupancy, it stops counting down and waits, and resumes the rest of the countdown when the medium becomes idle.

[0081] In the example of FIG. 4, when a packet to be transmitted arrives at the MAC of STA3, STA3 may transmit the frame immediately after confirming that the medium is idle as much as DIFS. The remaining STAs monitor and wait for the medium to be occupied/busy. In the meantime, data to be transmitted may also occur in each of STA1, STA2, and STA5, and each STA waits as long as DIFS when the medium is monitored as idle, and then may perform a countdown of the backoff slot according to the random backoff count value selected by each STA. Assume that STA2 selects the smallest backoff count value and STA1 selects the largest backoff count value. That is, the case where the remaining back-off time of STA5 is shorter than the remaining back-off time of STA1 at the time when STA2 completes the back-off count and starts frame transmission is exemplified. STA1 and STA5 temporarily stop counting down and wait while STA2 occupies the medium. When the occupation of STA2 ends and the medium becomes idle again, STA1 and STA5 wait for DIFS and resume the stopped backoff count. That is, frame transmission may be started after counting down the remaining backoff slots for the remaining backoff time. Since the remaining backoff time of STA5 is shorter than that of STA1, STA5 starts frame transmission. While STA2 occupies the medium, data to be transmitted may also occur in STA4. From the standpoint of STA4, when the medium becomes idle, STA4 may wait for DIFS, and then may perform a countdown according to the random backoff count value selected by the STA4 and start transmitting frames. The example of FIG. 4 shows a case where the remaining backoff time of STA5 coincides with the random backoff count value of STA4 by chance. In this case, a collision may occur between STA4 and STA5. When a collision occurs, both STA4 and STA5 do not receive an ACK, so data transmission fails. In this case, STA4 and STA5 may double the CW value, select a random backoff count value, and perform a countdown. STA1 waits while the medium is occupied due to transmission of STA4 and STA5, waits for DIFS when the medium becomes idle, and then starts frame transmission after the remaining backoff time has elapsed.

[0082] As in the example of FIG. 4, the data frame is a frame used for transmission of data forwarded to a higher layer, and may be transmitted after a backoff performed after DIFS elapses from when the medium becomes idle. Additionally, the management frame is a frame used for exchange of management information that is not forwarded to a higher layer, and is transmitted after a backoff performed after an IFS such as DIFS or Point Coordination Function IFS (PIFS). As a subtype frames of management frame, there are a Beacon, an association request/response, a re-association request/response, a probe request/response, an authentication request/response, etc. A control frame is a frame used to control access to a medium. As a subtype frames of control

frame, there are Request-To-Send (RTS), Clear-To-Send (CTS), Acknowledgement (ACK), Power Save-Poll (PS-Poll), block ACK (BlockAck), block ACK request (Block-ACKReq), null data packet announcement (NDP announcement), and trigger, etc. If the control frame is not a response frame of the previous frame, it is transmitted after backoff performed after DIFS elapses, and if it is a response frame of the previous frame, it is transmitted without performing backoff after short IFS (SIFS) elapses. The type and subtype of the frame may be identified by a type field and a subtype field in a frame control (FC) field.

[0083] A Quality of Service (QoS) STA may perform the backoff that is performed after an arbitration IFS (AIFS) for an access category (AC) to which the frame belongs, that is, AIFS[i] (where i is a value determined by AC), and then may transmit the frame. Here, the frame in which AIFS[i] can be used may be a data frame, a management frame, or a control frame other than a response frame.

[0084] FIG. 5 is a diagram for explaining a frame transmission operation based on CSMA/CA to which the present disclosure may be applied.

[0085] As described above, the CSMA/CA mechanism includes virtual carrier sensing in addition to physical carrier sensing in which a STA directly senses a medium. Virtual carrier sensing is intended to compensate for problems that may occur in medium access, such as a hidden node problem. For virtual carrier sensing, the MAC of the STA may use a Network Allocation Vector (NAV). The NAV is a value indicating, to other STAs, the remaining time until the medium is available for use by an STA currently using or having the right to use the medium. Therefore, the value set as NAV corresponds to a period in which the medium is scheduled to be used by the STA transmitting the frame, and the STA receiving the NAV value is prohibited from accessing the medium during the corresponding period. For example, the NAV may be configured based on the value of the "duration" field of the MAC header of the frame.

[0086] In the example of FIG. 5, it is assumed that a STA1 intends to transmit data to a STA2, and a STA3 is in a position capable of overhearing some or all of frames transmitted and received between the STA1 and the STA2.

[0087] In order to reduce the possibility of collision of transmissions of multiple STAs in CSMA/CA based frame transmission operation, a mechanism using RTS/CTS frames may be applied. In the example of FIG. 5, while transmission of the STA1 is being performed, as a result of carrier sensing of the STA3, it may be determined that the medium is in an idle state. That is, the STA1 may correspond to a hidden node to the STA3. Alternatively, in the example of FIG. 5, it may be determined that the carrier sensing result medium of the STA3 is in an idle state while transmission of the STA2 is being performed. That is, the STA2 may correspond to a hidden node to the STA3. Through the exchange of RTS/CTS frames before performing data transmission and reception between the STA1 and the STA2, a STA outside the transmission range of one of the STA1 or the STA2, or a STA outside the carrier sensing range for transmission from the STA1 or the STA3 may not attempt to occupy the channel during data transmission and reception between the STA1 and the STA2.

[0088] Specifically, the STA1 may determine whether a channel is being used through carrier sensing. In terms of physical carrier sensing, the STA1 may determine a channel occupation idle state based on an energy level or signal

correlation detected in a channel. In addition, in terms of virtual carrier sensing, the STA1 may determine a channel occupancy state using a network allocation vector (NAV) timer.

[0089] The STA1 may transmit an RTS frame to the STA2 after performing a backoff when the channel is in an idle state during DIFS. When the STA2 receives the RTS frame, the STA2 may transmit a CTS frame as a response to the RTS frame to the STA1 after SIFS.

[0090] If the STA3 cannot overhear the CTS frame from the STA2 but can overhear the RTS frame from the STA1, the STA3 may set a NAV timer for a frame transmission period (e.g., SIFS+CTS frame+SIFS+data frame+SIFS+ACK frame) that is continuously transmitted thereafter, using the duration information included in the RTS frame. Alternatively, if the STA3 can overhear a CTS frame from the STA2 although the STA3 cannot overhear an RTS frame from the STA1, the STA3 may set a NAV timer for a frame transmission period (e.g., SIFS+data frame+SIFS+ACK frame) that is continuously transmitted thereafter, using the duration information included in the CTS frame. That is, if the STA3 can overhear one or more of the RTS or CTS frames from one or more of the STA1 or the STA2, the STA3 may set the NAV accordingly. When the STA3 receives a new frame before the NAV timer expires, the STA3 may update the NAV timer using duration information included in the new frame. The STA3 does not attempt channel access until the NAV timer expires.

[0091] When the STA1 receives the CTS frame from the STA2, the STA1 may transmit the data frame to the STA2 after SIFS from the time point when the reception of the CTS frame is completed. When the STA2 successfully receives the data frame, the STA2 may transmit an ACK frame as a response to the data frame to the STA1 after SIFS. The STA3 may determine whether the channel is being used through carrier sensing when the NAV timer expires. When the STA3 determines that the channel is not used by other terminals during DIFS after expiration of the NAV timer, the STA3 may attempt channel access after a contention window (CW) according to a random backoff has passed.

[0092] FIG. 6 is a diagram for explaining an example of a frame structure used in a WLAN system to which the present disclosure may be applied.

[0093] By means of an instruction or primitive (meaning a set of instructions or parameters) from the MAC layer, the PHY layer may prepare a MAC PDU (MPDU) to be transmitted. For example, when a command requesting transmission start of the PHY layer is received from the MAC layer, the PHY layer switches to the transmission mode and configures information (e.g., data) provided from the MAC layer in the form of a frame and transmits it. In addition, when the PHY layer detects a valid preamble of the received frame, the PHY layer monitors the header of the preamble and sends a command notifying the start of reception of the PHY layer to the MAC layer.

[0094] In this way, information transmission/reception in a wireless LAN system is performed in the form of a frame, and for this purpose, a PHY layer protocol data unit (PPDU) frame format is defined.

[0095] A basic PPDU frame may include a Short Training Field (STF), a Long Training Field (LTF), a SIGNAL (SIG) field, and a Data field. The most basic (e.g., non-High Throughput (HT)) PPDU frame format may consist of only L-STF (Legacy-STF), L-LTF (Legacy-LTF), SIG field, and

data field. In addition, depending on the type of PPDU frame format (e.g., HT-mixed format PPDU, HT-greenfield format PPDU, VHT (Very High Throughput) PPDU, etc.), an additional (or different type) STF, LTF, and SIG fields may be included between the SIG field and the data field (this will be described later with reference to FIG. 7).

[0096] The STF is a signal for signal detection, automatic gain control (AGC), diversity selection, precise time synchronization, and the like, and the LTF is a signal for channel estimation and frequency error estimation. The STF and LTF may be referred to as signals for synchronization and channel estimation of the OFDM physical layer.

[0097] The SIG field may include a RATE field and a LENGTH field. The RATE field may include information on modulation and coding rates of data. The LENGTH field may include information on the length of data. Additionally, the SIG field may include a parity bit, a SIG TAIL bit, and the like.

[0098] The data field may include a SERVICE field, a physical layer service data unit (PSDU), and a PPDU TAIL bit, and may also include padding bits if necessary. Some bits of the SERVICE field may be used for synchronization of the descrambler at the receiving end. The PSDU corresponds to the MAC PDU defined in the MAC layer, and may include data generated/used in the upper layer. The PPDU TAIL bit may be used to return the encoder to a 0 state. Padding bits may be used to adjust the length of a data field in a predetermined unit.

[0099] A MAC PDU is defined according to various MAC frame formats, and a basic MAC frame consists of a MAC header, a frame body, and a Frame Check Sequence (FCS). The MAC frame may consist of MAC PDUs and be transmitted/received through the PSDU of the data part of the PPDU frame format.

[0100] The MAC header includes a Frame Control field, a Duration/ID field, an Address field, and the like. The frame control field may include control information required for frame transmission/reception. The duration/ID field may be set to a time for transmitting a corresponding frame or the like. For details of the Sequence Control, QoS Control, and HT Control subfields of the MAC header, refer to the IEEE 802.11 standard document.

[0101] A null-data packet (NDP) frame format means a frame format that does not include a data packet. That is, the NDP frame refers to a frame format that includes a physical layer convergence procedure (PLCP) header part (i.e., STF, LTF, and SIG fields) in a general PPDU frame format and does not include the remaining parts (i.e., data field). A NDP frame may also be referred to as a short frame format.

[0102] FIG. 7 is a diagram illustrating examples of PPDUs defined in the IEEE 802.11 standard to which the present disclosure may be applied.

[0103] In standards such as IEEE 802.11a/g/n/ac/ax, various types of PPDUs have been used. The basic PPDU format (IEEE 802.11a/g) includes L-LTF, L-STF, L-SIG and Data fields. The basic PPDU format may also be referred to as a non-HT PPDU format.

[0104] The HT PPDU format (IEEE 802.11n) additionally includes HT-SIG, HT-STF, and HT-LTF(s) fields to the basic PPDU format. The HT PPDU format shown in FIG. 7 may be referred to as an HT-mixed format. In addition, an HT-greenfield format PPDU may be defined, and this corresponds to a format consisting of HT-GF-STF, HT-LTF1,

HT-SIG, one or more HT-LTF, and Data field, not including L-STF, L-LTF, and L-SIG (not shown).

[0105] An example of the VHT PPDU format (IEEE 802.11ac) additionally includes VHT SIG-A, VHT-STF, VHT-LTF, and VHT-SIG-B fields to the basic PPDU format.

[0106] An example of the HE PPDU format (IEEE 802.11ax) additionally includes Repeated L-SIG (RL-SIG), HE-SIG-A, HE-SIG-B, HE-STF, HE-LTF(s), Packet Extension (PE) field to the basic PPDU format. Some fields may be excluded or their length may vary according to detailed examples of the HE PPDU format. For example, the HE-SIG-B field is included in the HE PPDU format for multi-user (MU), and the HE-SIG-B is not included in the HE PPDU format for single user (SU). In addition, the HE trigger-based (TB) PPDU format does not include the HE-SIG-B, and the length of the HE-STF field may vary to 8 us. The Extended Range (HE ER) SU PPDU format does not include the HE-SIG-B field, and the length of the HE-SIG-A field may vary to 16 us.

[0107] FIGS. 8 to 10 are diagrams for explaining examples of resource units of a WLAN system to which the present disclosure may be applied.

[0108] Referring to FIGS. 8 to 10, a resource unit (RU) defined in a wireless LAN system will be described. The RU may include a plurality of subcarriers (or tones). The RU may be used when transmitting signals to multiple STAs based on the OFDMA scheme. In addition, the RU may be defined even when a signal is transmitted to one STA. The RU may be used for STF, LTF, data field of the PPDU, etc.

[0109] As shown in FIGS. 8 to 10, RUs corresponding to different numbers of tones (i.e., subcarriers) are used to construct some fields of 20 MHz, 40 MHz, or 80 MHz X-PPDUs (X is HE, EHT, etc.). For example, resources may be allocated in RU units shown for the X-STF, X-LTF, and Data field.

[0110] FIG. 8 is a diagram illustrating an exemplary allocation of resource units (RUs) used on a 20 MHz band.

[0111] As shown at the top of FIG. 8, 26-units (i.e., units corresponding to 26 tones) may be allocated. 6 tones may be used as a guard band in the leftmost band of the 20 MHz band, and 5 tones may be used as a guard band in the rightmost band of the 20 MHz band. In addition, 7 DC tones are inserted in the center band, that is, the DC band, and 26-units corresponding to each of the 13 tones may exist on the left and right sides of the DC band. In addition, 26-unit, 52-unit, and 106-unit may be allocated to other bands. Each unit may be allocated for STAs or users.

[0112] The RU allocation of FIG. 8 is utilized not only in a situation for multiple users (MU) but also in a situation for a single user (SU), and in this case, it is possible to use one 242-unit as shown at the bottom of FIG. 8. In this case, three DC tones may be inserted.

[0113] In the example of FIG. 8, RUs of various sizes, that is, 26-RU, 52-RU, 106-RU, 242-RU, etc. are exemplified, but the specific size of these RUs may be reduced or expanded. Therefore, in the present disclosure, the specific size of each RU (i.e., the number of corresponding tones) is exemplary and not restrictive. In addition, within a predetermined bandwidth (e.g., 20, 40, 80, 160, 320 MHz, . . .) in the present disclosure, the number of RUs may vary according to the size of the RU. In the examples of FIG. 9 and/or FIG. 10 to be described below, the fact that the size and/or number of RUs may be varied is the same as the example of FIG. 8.

[0114] FIG. 9 is a diagram illustrating an exemplary allocation of resource units (RUs) used on a 40 MHz band.

[0115] Just as RUs of various sizes are used in the example of FIG. 8, 26-RU, 52-RU, 106-RU, 242-RU, 484-RU, and the like may be used in the example of FIG. 9 as well. In addition, 5 DC tones may be inserted at the center frequency, 12 tones may be used as a guard band in the leftmost band of the 40 MHz band, and 11 tones may be used as a guard band in the rightmost band of the 40 MHz band.

[0116] In addition, as shown, when used for a single user, a 484-RU may be used.

[0117] FIG. 10 is a diagram illustrating an exemplary allocation of resource units (RUs) used on an 80 MHz band.

[0118] Just as RUs of various sizes are used in the example of FIG. 8 and FIG. 9, 26-RU, 52-RU, 106-RU, 242-RU, 484-RU, 996-RU and the like may be used in the example of FIG. 10 as well. In addition, in the case of an 80 MHz PPDU, RU allocation of HE PPDUs and EHT PPDUs may be different, and the example of FIG. 10 shows an example of RU allocation for 80 MHz EHT PPDUs. The scheme that 12 tones are used as a guard band in the leftmost band of the 80 MHz band and 11 tones are used as a guard band in the rightmost band of the 80 MHz band in the example of FIG. 10 is the same in HE PPDU and EHT PPDU. Unlike HE PPDU, where 7 DC tones are inserted in the DC band and there is one 26-RU corresponding to each of the 13 tones on the left and right sides of the DC band, in the EHT PPDU, 23 DC tones are inserted into the DC band, and one 26-RU exists on the left and right sides of the DC band. Unlike the HE PPDU, where one null subcarrier exists between 242-RUs rather than the center band, there are five null subcarriers in the EHT PPDU. In the HE PPDU, one 484-RU does not include null subcarriers, but in the EHT PPDU, one 484-RU includes 5 null subcarriers.

[0119] In addition, as shown, when used for a single user, 996-RU may be used, and in this case, 5 DC tones are inserted in common with HE PPDU and EHT PPDU. EHT PPDUs over 160 MHz may be configured with a plurality of 80 MHz subblocks in FIG. 10. The RU allocation for each 80 MHz subblock may be the same as that of the 80 MHz EHT PPDU of FIG. 10. If the 80 MHz subblock of the 160 MHz or 320 MHz EHT PPDU is not punctured and the entire 80 MHz subblock is used as part of RU or multiple RU (MRU), the 80 MHz subblock may use 996-RU of FIG. 10.

[0120] Here, the MRU corresponds to a group of subcarriers (or tones) composed of a plurality of RUs, and the plurality of RUs constituting the MRU may be RUs having the same size or RUs having different sizes. For example, a single MRU may be defined as 52+26-tone, 106+26-tone, 484+242-tone, 996+484-tone, 996+484+242-tone, 2X996+484-tone, 3X996-tone, or 3X996+484-tone. Here, the plurality of RUs constituting one MRU may correspond to small size (e.g., 26, 52, or 106) RUs or large size (e.g., 242, 484, or 996) RUs. That is, one MRU including a small size RU and a large size RU may not be configured/defined. In addition, a plurality of RUs constituting one MRU may or may not be consecutive in the frequency domain.

[0121] When an 80 MHz subblock includes RUs smaller than 996 tones, or parts of the 80 MHz subblock are punctured, the 80 MHz subblock may use RU allocation other than the 996-tone RU.

[0122] The RU of the present disclosure may be used for uplink (UL) and/or downlink (DL) communication. For example, when trigger-based UL-MU communication is

performed, the STA transmitting the trigger (e.g., AP) may allocate a first RU (e.g., 26/52/106/242-RU, etc.) to a first STA and allocate a second RU (e.g., 26/52/106/242-RU, etc.) to a second STA, through trigger information (e.g., trigger frame or triggered response scheduling (TRS)). Thereafter, the first STA may transmit a first trigger-based (TB) PPDU based on the first RU, and the second STA may transmit a second TB PPDU based on the second RU. The first/second TB PDUs may be transmitted to the AP in the same time period.

[0123] For example, when a DL MU PPDU is configured, the STA transmitting the DL MU PPDU (e.g., AP) may allocate a first RU (e.g., 26/52/106/242-RU, etc.) to a first STA and allocate a second RU (e.g., 26/52/106/242-RU, etc.) to a second STA. That is, the transmitting STA (e.g., AP) may transmit HE-STF, HE-LTF, and Data field for the first STA through the first RU and transmit HE-STF, HE-LTF, and Data field for the second STA through the second RU, in one MU PPDU,

[0124] Information on the allocation of RUs may be signaled through HE-SIG-B in the HE PPDU format.

[0125] FIG. 11 illustrates an example structure of a HE-SIG-B field.

[0126] As shown, the HE-SIG-B field may include a common field and a user-specific field. If HE-SIG-B compression is applied (e.g., full-bandwidth MU-MIMO transmission), the common field may not be included in HE-SIG-B, and the HE-SIG-B content channel may include only a user-specific field. If HE-SIG-B compression is not applied, the common field may be included in HE-SIG-B.

[0127] The common field may include information on RU allocation (e.g., RU assignment, RUs allocated for MU-MIMO, the number of MU-MIMO users (STAs), etc.)

[0128] The common field may include $N \times 8$ RU allocation subfields. Here, N is the number of subfields, $N=1$ in the case of 20 or 40 MHz MU PPDU, $N=2$ in the case of 80 MHz MU PPDU, $N=4$ in the case of 160 MHz or 80+80 MHz MU PPDU, etc. One 8-bit RU allocation subfield may indicate the size (26, 52, 106, etc.) and frequency location (or RU index) of RUs included in the 20 MHz band.

[0129] For example, if a value of the 8-bit RU allocation subfield is 00000000, it may indicate that nine 26-RUs are sequentially allocated in order from the leftmost to the rightmost in the example of FIG. 8, if the value is 00000001, it may indicate that seven 26-RUs and one 52-RU are sequentially allocated in order from leftmost to rightmost, and if the value is 00000010, it may indicate that five 26-RUs, one 52-RU, and two 26-RUs are sequentially allocated from the leftmost side to the rightmost side.

[0130] As an additional example, if the value of the 8-bit RU allocation subfield is 01000y2y1y0, it may indicate that one 106-RU and five 26-RUs are sequentially allocated from the leftmost to the rightmost in the example of FIG. 8. In this case, multiple users/STAs may be allocated to the 106-RU in the MU-MIMO scheme. Specifically, up to 8 users/STAs may be allocated to the 106-RU, and the number of users/STAs allocated to the 106-RU is determined based on 3-bit information (i.e., y2y1y0). For example, when the 3-bit information (y2y1y0) corresponds to a decimal value N , the number of users/STAs allocated to the 106-RU may be $N+1$.

[0131] Basically, one user/STA may be allocated to each of a plurality of RUs, and different users/STAs may be allocated to different RUs. For RUs larger than a predetermined size (e.g., 106, 242, 484, 996-tones, . . .), a plurality

of users/STAs may be allocated to one RU, and MU-MIMO scheme may be applied for the plurality of users/STAs.

[0132] The set of user-specific fields includes information on how all users (STAs) of the corresponding PPDU decode their payloads. User-specific fields may contain zero or more user block fields. The non-final user block field includes two user fields (i.e., information to be used for decoding in two STAs). The final user block field contains one or two user fields. The number of user fields may be indicated by the RU allocation subfield of HE-SIG-B, the number of symbols of HE-SIG-B, or the MU-MIMO user field of HE-SIG-A. A User-specific field may be encoded separately from or independently of a common field.

[0133] FIG. 12 is a diagram for explaining a MU-MIMO method in which a plurality of users/STAs are allocated to one RU.

[0134] In the example of FIG. 12, it is assumed that the value of the RU allocation subfield is 01000010. This corresponds to the case where y2y1y0=010 in 01000y2y1y0. 010 corresponds to 2 in decimal (i.e., $N=2$) and may indicate that 3 ($=N+1$) users are allocated to one RU. In this case, one 106-RU and five 26-RUs may be sequentially allocated from the leftmost side to the rightmost side of a specific 20 MHz band/channel. Three users/STAs may be allocated to the 106-RU in a MU-MIMO manner. As a result, a total of 8 users/STAs are allocated to the 20 MHz band/channel, and the user-specific field of HE-SIG-B may include 8 user fields (i.e., 4 user block fields). Eight user fields may be assigned to RUs as shown in FIG. 12.

[0135] The user field may be constructed based on two formats. The user field for a MU-MIMO allocation may be constructed with a first format, and the user field for non-MU-MIMO allocation may be constructed with a second format. Referring to the example of FIG. 12, user fields 1 to 3 may be based on the first format, and user fields 4 to 8 may be based on the second format. The first format and the second format may contain bit information of the same length (e.g., 21 bits).

[0136] The user field of the first format (i.e., format for MU-MIMO allocation) may be constructed as follows. For example, out of all 21 bits of one user field, B0-B10 includes the user's identification information (e.g., STA-ID, AID, partial AID, etc.), B11-14 includes spatial configuration information such as the number of spatial streams for the corresponding user, B15-B18 includes Modulation and Coding Scheme (MCS) information applied to the Data field of the corresponding PPDU, B19 is defined as a reserved field, and B20 may include information on a coding type (e.g., binary convolutional coding (BCC) or low-density parity check (LDPC)) applied to the Data field of the corresponding PPDU.

[0137] The user field of the second format (i.e., the format for non-MU-MIMO allocation) may be constructed as follows. For example, out of all 21 bits of one user field, B0-B10 includes the user's identification information (e.g., STA-ID, AID, partial AID, etc.), B11-13 includes information on the number of spatial streams (NSTS) applied to the corresponding RU, B14 includes information indicating whether beamforming is performed (or whether a beamforming steering matrix is applied), B15-B18 includes Modulation and Coding Scheme (MCS) information applied to the Data field of the corresponding PPDU, B19 includes information indicating whether DCM (dual carrier modula-

tion) is applied, and B20 may include information on a coding type (e.g., BCC or LDPC) applied to the Data field of the corresponding PPDU.

[0138] MCS, MCS information, MCS index, MCS field, and the like used in the present disclosure may be indicated by a specific index value. For example, MCS information may be indicated as index 0 to index 11. MCS information includes information on constellation modulation type (e.g., BPSK, QPSK, 16-QAM, 64-QAM, 256-QAM, 1024-QAM, etc.), and coding rate (e.g., $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{5}{6}$, etc.). Information on a channel coding type (e.g., BCC or LDPC) may be excluded from the MCS information.

[0139] FIG. 13 illustrates an example of a PPDU format to which the present disclosure may be applied.

[0140] The PPDU of FIG. 13 may be referred as various names such as an EHT PPDU, a transmitted PPDU, a received PPDU, a first type or an Nth type PPDU. For example, the PPDU or EHT PPDU of the present disclosure may be referred as various names such as a transmission PPDU, a reception PPDU, a first type or an Nth type PPDU. In addition, the EHT PPU may be used in an EHT system and/or a new wireless LAN system in which the EHT system is improved.

[0141] The EHT MU PPDU of FIG. 13 corresponds to a PPDU carrying one or more data (or PSDUs) for one or more users. That is, the EHT MU PPDU may be used for both SU transmission and MU transmission. For example, the EHT MU PPDU may correspond to a PPDU for one receiving STA or a plurality of receiving STAs.

[0142] In the EHT TB PPDU of FIG. 13, the EHT-SIG is omitted compared to the EHT MU PPDU. Upon receiving a trigger for UL MU transmission (e.g., a trigger frame or TRS), the STA may perform UL transmission based on the EHT TB PPDU format.

[0143] In the example of the EHT PPDU format of FIG. 13, L-STF to EHT-LTF correspond to a preamble or a physical preamble, and may be generated/transmitted/received/acquired/decoded in the physical layer.

[0144] A Subcarrier frequency spacing of L-STF, L-LTF, L-SIG, RL-SIG, Universal SIGNAL (U-SIG), EHT-SIG field (these are referred to as pre-EHT modulated fields) may be set to 312.5 kHz. A subcarrier frequency spacing of the EHT-STF, EHT-LTF, Data, and PE field (these are referred to as EHT modulated fields) may be set to 78.125 kHz. That is, the tone/subcarrier index of L-STF, L-LTF, L-SIG, RL-SIG, U-SIG, and EHT-SIG field may be indicated in units of 312.5 kHz, and the tone/subcarrier index of EHT-STF, EHT-LTF, Data, and PE field may be indicated in units of 78.125 kHz.

[0145] The L-LTF and L-STF of FIG. 13 may be constructed identically to the corresponding fields of the PPDU described in FIGS. 6 to 7.

[0146] The L-SIG field of FIG. 13 may be constructed with 24 bits and may be used to communicate rate and length information. For example, the L-SIG field includes a 4-bit Rate field, a 1-bit Reserved bit, a 12-bit Length field, a 1-bit Parity field, and a 6-bit Tail field may be included. For example, the 12-bit Length field may include information on a time duration or a length of the PPDU. For example, a value of the 12-bit Length field may be determined based on the type of PPDU. For example, for a non-HT, HT, VHT, or EHT PPDU, the value of the Length field may be determined

as a multiple of 3. For example, for the HE PPDU, the value of the Length field may be determined as a multiple of 3+1 or a multiple of 3+2.

[0147] For example, the transmitting STA may apply BCC encoding based on a coding rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 24-bit information of the L-SIG field. Thereafter, the transmitting STA may obtain 48-bit BCC coded bits. BPSK modulation may be applied to 48-bit coded bits to generate 48 BPSK symbols. The transmitting STA may map 48 BPSK symbols to any location except for a pilot subcarrier (e.g., {subcarrier index -21, -7, +7, +21}) and a DC subcarrier (e.g., {subcarrier index 0}). As a result, 48 BPSK symbols may be mapped to subcarrier indices -26 to -22, -20 to -8, -6 to -1, +1 to +6, +8 to +20, and +22 to +26. The transmitting STA may additionally map the signals of {-1, -1, -1, 1} to the subcarrier index {-28, -27, +27, +28}. The above signal may be used for channel estimation in the frequency domain corresponding to {-28, -27, +27, +28}.

[0148] The transmitting STA may construct RL-SIG which is constructed identically to L-SIG. For RL-SIG, BPSK modulation is applied. The receiving STA may recognize that the received PPDU is a HE PPDU or an EHT PPDU based on the existence of the RL-SIG.

[0149] After the RL-SIG of FIG. 13, a Universal SIG (U-SIG) may be inserted. The U-SIG may be referred as various names such as a first SIG field, a first SIG, a first type SIG, a control signal, a control signal field, and a first (type) control signal, etc.

[0150] The U-SIG may include N-bit information and may include information for identifying the type of EHT PPDU. For example, U-SIG may be configured based on two symbols (e.g., two consecutive OFDM symbols). Each symbol (e.g., OFDM symbol) for the U-SIG may have a duration of 4 us, and the U-SIG may have a total 8 us duration. Each symbol of the U-SIG may be used to transmit 26 bit information. For example, each symbol of the U-SIG may be transmitted and received based on 52 data tones and 4 pilot tones.

[0151] Through the U-SIG (or U-SIG field), for example, A bit information (e.g., 52 un-coded bits) may be transmitted, the first symbol of the U-SIG (e.g., U-SIG-1) may transmit the first X bit information (e.g., 26 un-coded bits) of the total A bit information, and the second symbol of the U-SIG (e.g., U-SIG-2) may transmit the remaining Y-bit information (e.g., 26 un-coded bits) of the total A-bit information. For example, the transmitting STA may obtain 26 un-coded bits included in each U-SIG symbol. The transmitting STA may generate 52-coded bits by performing convolutional encoding (e.g., BCC encoding) based on a rate of $R=\frac{1}{2}$, and perform interleaving on the 52-coded bits. The transmitting STA may generate 52 BPSK symbols allocated to each U-SIG symbol by performing BPSK modulation on the interleaved 52-coded bits. One U-SIG symbol may be transmitted based on 56 tones (subcarriers) from subcarrier index -28 to subcarrier index +28, except for DC index 0. The 52 BPSK symbols generated by the transmitting STA may be transmitted based on the remaining tones (subcarriers) excluding pilot tones -21, -7, +7, and +21 tones.

[0152] For example, the A bit information (e.g., 52 un-coded bits) transmitted by the U-SIG includes a CRC field (e.g., a 4-bit field) and a tail field (e.g., 6 bit-length field). The CRC field and the tail field may be transmitted through the second symbol of the U-SIG. The CRC field may be

constructed based on 26 bits allocated to the first symbol of U-SIG and 16 bits remaining except for the CRC/tail field in the second symbol, and may be constructed based on a conventional CRC calculation algorithm. In addition, the tail field may be used to terminate the trellis of the convolution decoder, and for example, the tail field may be set to 0.

[0153] A bit information (e.g., 52 un-coded bits) transmitted by the U-SIG (or U-SIG field) may be divided into version-independent bits and version-dependent bits. For example, a size of the version-independent bits may be fixed or variable. For example, the version-independent bits may be allocated only to the first symbol of U-SIG, or the version-independent bits may be allocated to both the first symbol and the second symbol of U-SIG. For example, the version-independent bits and the version-dependent bits may be referred as various names such as a first control bit and a second control bit, etc.

[0154] For example, the version-independent bits of the U-SIG may include a 3-bit physical layer version identifier (PHY version identifier). For example, the 3-bit PHY version identifier may include information related to the PHY version of the transmitted/received PPDU. For example, the first value of the 3-bit PHY version identifier may indicate that the transmission/reception PPDU is an EHT PPDU. In other words, when transmitting the EHT PPDU, the transmitting STA may set the 3-bit PHY version identifier to a first value. In other words, the receiving STA may determine that the received PPDU is an EHT PPDU based on the PHY version identifier having the first value.

[0155] For example, the version-independent bits of U-SIG may include a 1-bit UL/DL flag field. A first value of the 1-bit UL/DL flag field is related to UL communication, and a second value of the UL/DL flag field is related to DL communication.

[0156] For example, the version-independent bits of the U-SIG may include information on the length of a transmission opportunity (TXOP) and information on a BSS color ID.

[0157] For example, if the EHT PPDU is classified into various types (e.g., EHT PPDU related to SU mode, EHT PPDU related to MU mode, EHT PPDU related to TB mode, EHT PPDU related to Extended Range transmission, etc.), information on the type of EHT PPDU may be included in the version-dependent bits of the U-SIG.

[0158] For example, the U-SIG may include information on 1) a bandwidth field containing information on a bandwidth, 2) a field containing information on a MCS scheme applied to EHT-SIG, 3) an indication field containing information related to whether the DCM technique is applied to the EHT-SIG, 4) a field containing information on the number of symbols used for EHT-SIG, 5) a field containing information on whether EHT-SIG is constructed over all bands, 6) a field containing information on the type of EHT-LTF/STF, and 7) a field indicating the length of EHT-LTF and CP length.

[0159] Preamble puncturing may be applied to the PPDU of FIG. 13. Preamble puncturing may mean transmission of a PPDU for which no signal is present in one or more 20 MHz subchannels among the bandwidth of the PPDU. Preamble puncturing may be applied to a PPDU transmitted to one or more users. For example, the resolution of preamble puncturing may be 20 MHz for EHT MU PPDUs in OFDMA transmissions with bandwidths greater than 40 MHz and non-OFDMA transmissions with 80 MHz and 160

MHz bandwidths. That is, in the above case, puncturing on a subchannel smaller than 242-tone RU may not be allowed. In addition, for an EHT MU PPDU in non-OFDMA transmission with a bandwidth of 320 MHz, the resolution of preamble puncturing may be 40 MHz. That is, puncturing for a subchannel smaller than 484-tone RU in a 320 MHz bandwidth may not be allowed. In addition, preamble puncturing may not be applied to the primary 20 MHz channel in the EHT MU PPDU.

[0160] For example, for an EHT MU PPDU, information on preamble puncturing may be included in the U-SIG and/or the EHT-SIG. For example, the first field of the U-SIG may include information on the contiguous bandwidth of the PPDU, and the second field of the U-SIG may include information on preamble puncturing applied to the PPDU.

[0161] For example, the U-SIG and the EHT-SIG may include information on preamble puncturing based on the following method. If the bandwidth of the PPDU exceeds 80 MHz, the U-SIG may be individually constructed in units of 80 MHz. For example, if the bandwidth of the PPDU is 160 MHz, the PPDU may include a first U-SIG for a first 80 MHz band and a second U-SIG for a second 80 MHz band. In this case, the first field of the first U-SIG includes information on the 160 MHz bandwidth, and the second field of the first U-SIG includes information on preamble puncturing applied to the first 80 MHz band (i.e., information on a preamble puncturing pattern). In addition, the first field of the second U-SIG includes information on a 160 MHz bandwidth, and the second field of the second U-SIG includes information on preamble puncturing applied to a second 80 MHz band (i.e., information on a preamble puncturing pattern). The EHT-SIG following the first U-SIG may include information on preamble puncturing applied to the second 80 MHz band (i.e., information on a preamble puncturing pattern), and the EHT-SIG following the second U-SIG may include information on preamble puncturing applied to the first 80 MHz band (i.e., information on a preamble puncturing pattern).

[0162] Additionally or alternatively, the U-SIG and the EHT-SIG may include information on preamble puncturing based on the following method. The U-SIG may include information on preamble puncturing for all bands (i.e., information on a preamble puncturing pattern). That is, EHT-SIG does not include information on preamble puncturing, and only U-SIG may include information on preamble puncturing (i.e., information on a preamble puncturing pattern).

[0163] U-SIG may be constructed in units of 20 MHz. For example, if an 80 MHz PPDU is constructed, the U-SIG may be duplicated. That is, the same 4 U-SIGs may be included in the 80 MHz PPDU. PPDUs exceeding 80 MHz bandwidth may include different U-SIGs.

[0164] The EHT-SIG of FIG. 13 may include control information for the receiving STA. EHT-SIG may be transmitted through at least one symbol, and one symbol may have a length of 4 us. Information on the number of symbols used for EHT-SIG may be included in U-SIG.

[0165] The EHT-SIG may include technical features of HE-SIG-B described through FIGS. 11 and 12. For example, EHT-SIG, like the example of FIG. 8, may include a common field and a user-specific field. The Common field of

the EHT-SIG may be omitted, and the number of user-specific fields may be determined based on the number of users.

[0166] As in the example of FIG. 11, the common field of the EHT-SIG and the user-specific field of the EHT-SIG may be coded separately. One user block field included in the user-specific field may contain information for two user fields, but the last user block field included in the user-specific field may contain one or two user fields. That is, one user block field of the EHT-SIG may contain up to two user fields. As in the example of FIG. 12, each user field may be related to MU-MIMO allocation or non-MU-MIMO allocation.

[0167] In the same way as in the example of FIG. 11, the common field of the EHT-SIG may include a CRC bit and a Tail bit. The length of the CRC bit may be determined as 4 bits, and the length of the tail bit is determined by 6 bits and may be set to 000000.

[0168] As in the example of FIG. 11, the common field of the EHT-SIG may include RU allocation information. RU allocation information may mean information on the location of an RU to which a plurality of users (i.e., a plurality of receiving STAs) are allocated. RU allocation information may be configured in units of 9 bits (or N bits).

[0169] A mode in which a common field of EHT-SIG is omitted may be supported. The mode in which the common field of the EHT-SIG is omitted may be referred to as a compressed mode. When the compressed mode is used, a plurality of users (i.e., a plurality of receiving STAs) of the EHT PPDU may decode the PPDU (e.g., the data field of the PPDU) based on non-OFDMA. That is, a plurality of users of the EHT PPDU may decode a PPDU (e.g., a data field of the PPDU) received through the same frequency band. When a non-compressed mode is used, multiple users of the EHT PPDU may decode the PPDU (e.g., the data field of the PPDU) based on OFDMA. That is, a plurality of users of the EHT PPDU may receive the PPDU (e.g., the data field of the PPDU) through different frequency bands.

[0170] EHT-SIG may be constructed based on various MCS scheme. As described above, information related to the MCS scheme applied to the EHT-SIG may be included in the U-SIG. The EHT-SIG may be constructed based on the DCM scheme. The DCM scheme may reuse the same signal on two subcarriers to provide an effect similar to frequency diversity, reduce interference, and improve coverage. For example, modulation symbols to which the same modulation scheme is applied may be repeatedly mapped on available tones/subcarriers. For example, modulation symbols (e.g., BPSK modulation symbols) to which a specific modulation scheme is applied may be mapped to first contiguous half tones (e.g., 1st to 26th tones) among the N data tones (e.g., 52 data tones) allocated for EHT-SIG, and modulation symbols (e.g., BPSK modulation symbols) to which the same specific modulation scheme is applied may be mapped to the remaining contiguous half tones (e.g., 27th to 52nd tones). That is, a modulation symbol mapped to the 1st tone and a modulation symbol mapped to the 27th tone are the same. As described above, information related to whether the DCM scheme is applied to the EHT-SIG (e.g., a 1-bit field) may be included in the U-SIG. The EHT-STF of FIG. 13 may be used to enhance automatic gain control (AGC) estimation in a MIMO environment or an OFDMA envi-

ronment. The EHT-LTF of FIG. 13 may be used to estimate a channel in a MIMO environment or an OFDMA environment.

[0171] Information on the type of STF and/or LTF (including information on a guard interval (GI) applied to LTF) may be included in the U-SIG field and/or the EHT-SIG field of FIG. 13.

[0172] The PPDU (i.e., EHT PPDU) of FIG. 13 may be constructed based on an example of RU allocation of FIGS. 8 to 10.

[0173] For example, a EHT PPDU transmitted on a 20 MHz band, that is, a 20 MHz EHT PPDU may be constructed based on the RU of FIG. 8. That is, a RU location of EHT-STF, EHT-LTF, and data field included in the EHT PPDU may be determined as shown in FIG. 8. A EHT PPDU transmitted on a 40 MHz band, that is, a 40 MHz EHT PPDU may be constructed based on the RU of FIG. 9. That is, a RU location of EHT-STF, EHT-LTF, and data field included in the EHT PPDU may be determined as shown in FIG. 9.

[0174] The EHT PPDU transmitted on the 80 MHz band, that is, the 80 MHz EHT PPDU may be constructed based on the RU of FIG. 10. That is, a RU location of EHT-STF, EHT-LTF, and data field included in the EHT PPDU may be determined as shown in FIG. 10. The tone-plan for 80 MHz in FIG. 10 may correspond to two repetitions of the tone-plan for 40 MHz in FIG. 9.

[0175] The tone-plan for 160/240/320 MHz may be configured in the form of repeating the pattern of FIG. 9 or 10 several times.

[0176] The PPDU of FIG. 13 may be identified as an EHT PPDU based on the following method.

[0177] The receiving STA may determine the type of the received PPDU as the EHT PPDU based on the following. For example, when 1) the first symbol after the L-LTF signal of the received PPDU is BPSK, 2) RL-SIG in which the L-SIG of the received PPDU is repeated is detected, and 3) the result of applying the modulo 3 calculation to the value of the Length field of the L-SIG of the received PPDU (i.e., the remainder after dividing by 3) is detected as 0, the received PPDU may be determined as a EHT PPDU. When the received PPDU is determined to be an EHT PPDU, the receiving STA may determine the type of the EHT PPDU based on bit information included in symbols subsequent to the RL-SIG of FIG. 13. In other words, the receiving STA may determine the received PPDU as a EHT PPDU, based on 1) the first symbol after the L-LTF signal, which is BSPK, 2) RL-SIG contiguous to the L-SIG field and identical to the L-SIG, and 3) L-SIG including a Length field in which the result of applying modulo 3 is set to 0.

[0178] For example, the receiving STA may determine the type of the received PPDU as the HE PPDU based on the following. For example, when 1) the first symbol after the L-LTF signal is BPSK, 2) RL-SIG in which L-SIG is repeated is detected, and 3) the result of applying modulo 3 to the length value of L-SIG is detected as 1 or 2, the received PPDU may be determined as a HE PPDU.

[0179] For example, the receiving STA may determine the type of the received PPDU as non-HT, HT, and VHT PPDU based on the following. For example, when 1) the first symbol after the L-LTF signal is BPSK and 2) RL-SIG in which L-SIG is repeated is not detected, the received PPDU may be determined as non-HT, HT, and VHT PPDU.

[0180] In addition, when the receiving STA detects an RL-SIG in which the L-SIG is repeated in the received

PPDU, it may be determined that the received PPDU is a HE PPDU or an EHT PPDU. In this case, if the rate (6 Mbps) check fails, the received PPDU may be determined as a non-HT, HT, or VHT PPDU. If the rate (6 Mbps) check and parity check pass, when the result of applying modulo 3 to the Length value of L-SIG is detected as 0, the received PPDU may be determined as an EHT PPDU, and when the result of Length mod 3 is not 0, it may be determined as a HE PPDU.

[0181] The PPDU of FIG. 13 may be used to transmit and receive various types of frames. For example, the PPDU of FIG. 13 may be used for (simultaneous) transmission and reception of one or more of a control frame, a management frame, or a data frame.

[0182] Hereinafter, the U-SIG included in the EHT PPDU will be described in more detail.

[0183] For a 40 MHz EHT PPDU or Extended Range (ER) preamble, the U-SIG content is the same in both 20 MHz subchannels. For an 80 MHz EHT PPDU or ER preamble, the U-SIG content is the same in all non-punctured 20 MHz subchannels. For a 160/320 MHz EHT PPDU or ER preamble, the U-SIG content is the same on all non-punctured 20 MHz subchannels within each 80 MHz subblock and may be different from the U-SIG content in other 80 MHz subblocks. The U-SIG-1 part of the U-SIG of the EHT MU PPDU may include PHY version identifier (B0-B2), BW (B3-B5), UL/DL (B6), BSS color (B7-B12), and TXOP (B13-B19), and U-SIG-2 part may include PPDU type and compression mode (B0-B1), validate (B2), punctured channel information (B3-B7), validate (B8), EHT-SIG MCS (B9-B10), number of EHT-SIG symbols (B11-B15), CRC (B16-B19), and tail (B20-B25).

[0184] Here, an example of a 5-bit punctured channel indication for a non-OFDMA case in the EHT MU PPDU is shown in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1

PPDU bandwidth	Cases	Puncturing pattern	Field value	
20/40 MHz	No puncturing	[1 1 1 1]	0	
	80 MHz No puncturing	[1 1 1 1]	0	
		[x 1 1 1]	1	
		[1 x 1 1]	2	
160 MHz	No puncturing	[1 1 x 1]	3	
		[1 1 1 x]	4	
		20 MHz puncturing	[1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1]	0
			[x 1 1 1 1 1 1 1]	1
	[1 x 1 1 1 1 1 1]		2	
	[1 1 x 1 1 1 1 1]		3	
	[1 1 1 x 1 1 1 1]		4	
	[1 1 1 1 x 1 1 1]		5	
	[1 1 1 1 1 x 1 1]		6	
	[1 1 1 1 1 1 x 1]		7	
	[1 1 1 1 1 1 1 x]	8		
	40 MHz puncturing	[x x 1 1 1 1 1 1]	9	
[1 1 x x 1 1 1 1]		10		
[1 1 1 1 x x 1 1]		11		
[1 1 1 1 1 1 x x]		12		
320 MHz	No puncturing	[1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1]	0	
		[x 1 1 1 1 1 1 1]	1	
		[1 x 1 1 1 1 1 1]	2	
		[1 1 x 1 1 1 1 1]	3	
	40 MHz puncturing	[1 1 1 x 1 1 1 1]	4	
		[1 1 1 1 x 1 1 1]	5	
		[1 1 1 1 1 x 1 1]	6	
		[1 1 1 1 1 1 x 1]	7	
[1 1 1 1 1 1 1 x]	8			

TABLE 1-continued

PPDU bandwidth	Cases	Puncturing pattern	Field value
80 MHz	puncturing	[x x 1 1 1 1 1 1]	9
		[1 1 x x 1 1 1 1]	10
		[1 1 1 1 x x 1 1]	11
320-80-40		[1 1 1 1 1 1 x x]	12
		[x x x 1 1 1 1 1]	13
		[x x 1 x 1 1 1 1]	14
		[x x 1 1 x 1 1 1]	15
		[x x 1 1 1 x 1 1]	16
		[x x 1 1 1 1 x 1]	17
		[x x 1 1 1 1 1 x]	18
		[x 1 1 1 1 1 x x]	19
		[1 x 1 1 1 1 x x]	20
		[1 1 x 1 1 1 x x]	21
		[1 1 1 x 1 1 x x]	22
		[1 1 1 1 x 1 x x]	23
		[1 1 1 1 1 x x x]	24

[0185] In the puncturing pattern of Table 1, 1 denotes a non-punctured subchannel, and x denotes a punctured subchannel. The puncturing granularity for the 80 MHz and 160 MHz PPDU bandwidths may be 20 MHz, and the puncturing granularity for the 320 MHz PPDU bandwidth may be 40 MHz.

[0186] Next, the U-SIG-1 part of the U-SIG of the EHT TB PPDU may include a version identifier (B0-B2), BW (B3-B5), UL/DL (B6), BSS color (B7-B12), TXOP (B13-B19), and disregard (B20-B25), and U-SIG-2 part may include PPDU type and compression mode (B0-B1), validate (B2), spatial reuse 1 (B3-B6), spatial reuse 2 (B7-B10), disregard (B11-B15), CRC (B16-B19), and tail (B20-B25).

[0187] As described above, the U-SIG field of the EHT MU PPDU includes 5-bit punctured channel information, but the EHT TB PPDU does not include punctured channel information. This is because it is assumed that the EHT TB PPDU is constructed according to resource allocation indicated by the trigger frame or TRS control information, so the STA does not need to inform the AP of the resource information of the EHT TB PPDU.

[0188] In addition, even if the trigger frame or TRS control information as described above is received, the STA may not respond with the HE TB PPDU. For example, if, in the non-AP STA, a common information field included in the trigger frame or one or more subfields of an user field addressed to the non-AP STA or selected by the non-AP STA are not recognized, supported, or have an unsatisfied value, the corresponding non-AP STA may choose not to respond to the trigger frame. Similarly, if, in the non-AP STA, a TRS control subfield included in a frame addressed to the non-AP STA is not recognized by the non-AP STA, is not supported, or has an unsatisfied value, the corresponding non-AP STA may choose not to respond to the TRS control subfield.

[0189] FIG. 14 is a diagram representing an illustrative format of a trigger frame to which the present disclosure may be applied.

[0190] A trigger frame may allocate a resource for at least one TB PPDU transmission and request TB PPDU transmission. A trigger frame may also include other information required by a STA which transmits a TB PPDU in response thereto. A trigger frame may include common information and a user information list field in a frame body.

[0191] A common information field may include information commonly applied to at least one TB PPDU transmission requested by a trigger frame, e.g., a trigger type, a UL

length, whether a subsequent trigger frame exists (e.g., More TF), whether channel sensing (CS) is required, a UL bandwidth (BW), etc.

[0192] A user information list includes at least 0 user information field. FIG. 14 illustratively represents an EHT variant user information field format.

[0193] It represents that a AID12 subfield is basically a user information field for a STA having a corresponding AID. In addition, when a AID12 field has a predetermined specific value, it may be utilized for other purpose including allocating a random access (RA)-RU or being configured in a form of a special user information field. A special user information field is a user information field which does not include user-specific information but includes extended common information not provided in a common information

field. For example, a special user information field may be identified by an AID12 value of 2007 and a special user information field flag subfield in a common information field may represent whether a special user information field is included.

[0194] A RU allocation subfield may represent a size and a position of a RU/a MRU. To this end, a RU allocation subfield may be interpreted with a PS160 (primary/secondary 160 MHz) subfield of a user information field, a UL BW subfield of a common information field, etc. For example, as in Table 2 below, mapping of B7-B1 of a RU allocation subfield may be defined along with a setting of a B0 and PS160 subfield of a RU allocation subfield. Table 2 shows an example of encoding of a PS160 subfield and a RU allocation subfield of a EHT variant user information field.

TABLE 2

PS160 subfield	B0 of the RU Allocation subfield	B7-B1 of the RU Allocation subfield	Bandwidth (MHz)	RU/MRU size	RU/MRU index	PHY RU/MRU index			
0-3: 80 MHz segment where the RU is located	0	0-8	20, 40, 80, 160, or 320	26	RU1 to RU9, respectively	37 × N + RU index			
		9-17	40, 80, 160, or 320		RU10 to RU18, respectively				
		18	80, 160, or 320		Reserved				
		19-36	80, 160, or 320		RU20 to RU37 respectively				
	1	0	37-40	20, 40, 80, 160, or 320	52	RU1 to RU4, respectively	16 × N + RU index		
			41-44	40, 80, 160, or 320		RU5 to RU8, respectively			
			45-52	80, 160, or 320		RU9 to RU16, respectively			
			53, 54	20, 40, 80, 160, or 320	106	RU1 and RU2, respectively			
		1	0	55, 56	40, 80, 160, or 320		RU3 and RU4, respectively	8 × N + RU index	
				57-60	80, 160, or 320		RU5 to RU8, respectively		
			1	0	61	20, 40, 80, 160, or 320	242	RU1	4 × N + RU index
					62	40, 80, 160, or 320		RU2	
				1	63, 64	80, 160, or 320		RU3 and RU4, respectively	2 × N + RU index
					65	40, 80, 160, or 320	484	RU1	
0-1: 160 MHz segment where the RU is located	0	66	80, 160, or 320		RU2	N + RU index			
		67	80, 160, or 320	996	RU1				
		68	160 or 320	2 × 996	Reserved RU1		Reserved		
		69			Reserved		Reserved		
	1	0	70-72	320	4 × 996	RU1	12 × N + MRU index		
			73-75	20, 40, 80, 160, or 320	52 + 26	MRU1 to MRU3, respectively			
		1	76-81	40, 80, 160, or 320	52 + 26	MRU4 to MRU6, respectively			
			1	76-81	80, 160, or 320	52 + 26		MRU7 to MRU12, respectively	

TABLE 2-continued

PS160 subfield	B0 of the RU Allocation subfield	B7-B1 of the RU Allocation subfield	Bandwidth (MHz)	RU/MRU size	RU/MRU index	PHY RU/MRU index	
0-1: 160 MHz segment where the MRU is located	0	82, 83	20, 40, 80, 160, or 320	106 + 26	MRU1 and MRU2, respectively	8 × N + MRU index	
		84, 85	40, 80, 160, or 320	106 + 26	MRU3 and MRU4, respectively		
		86-89	80, 160, or 320	106 + 26	MRU5 to MRU8, respectively		
		90-93	80, 160, or 320	484 + 242	MRU1 to MRU4, respectively	4 × N + MRU index	
	1	0	94, 95	160 or 320	996 + 484	MRU1 and MRU2, respectively	4 × X1 + MRU index
						MRU3 and MRU4, respectively	
	0-1: 160 MHz segment where the MRU is located	0	96-99	160 or 320	996 + 484	MRU1 to MRU4, respectively	8 × X1 + MRU index
						MRU5 to MRU8, respectively	
	0	0	100-103	320	2 × 996 + 484	MRU1 to MRU4, respectively	MRU index
	0	1				MRU5 and MRU6, respectively	
	1	0				MRU7 and MRU8, respectively	
	1	1				MRU9 to MRU12, respectively	
0	0	104	320	3 × 996	MRU1	MRU index	
0	1				MRU2		
1	0				MRU3		
1	1				MRU4		
0	0	105, 106	320	3 × 996 + 484	MRU1 and MRU2, respectively	MRU index	
0	1				MRU3 and MRU4, respectively		
1	0				MRU5 and MRU6, respectively		
1	1				MRU7 and MRU8, respectively		
Any	Any	107-127	Any	Reserved	Reserved	Reserved	

[0195] When B0 of a RU allocation subfield is set as 0, it may represent that RU/MRU allocation is applied to a primary 80 MHz channel and when that value is set as 1, it may represent that RU allocation is applied to a secondary 80 MHz channel of primary 160 MHz. It may represent that when B0 of a RU allocation subfield is set as 0, RU/MRU allocation is applied to lower 80 MHz of secondary 160 MHz and when that value is set as 1, RU allocation is applied to upper 80 MHz of secondary 160 MHz.

[0196] In a trigger frame RU allocation table of Table 2, parameter N may be calculated based on a formula of $N=2 \times X1 + X0$. For a bandwidth equal to or less than 80 MHz, a value of PS160, B0, X0 and X1 may be set as 0. For a 160 MHz bandwidth and a 320 MHz bandwidth, a value of PS160, B0, X0 and X1 may be set as in Table 3. This configuration represents absolute frequency order for primary and secondary 80 MHz and 160 MHz channels. Order from the left to the right represents order from a low frequency to a high frequency. A primary 80 MHz channel is indicated as P80, a secondary 80 MHz channel is indicated as S80 and a secondary 160 MHz channel is indicated as S160.

TABLE 3

Bandwidth (MHz)	Configuration	Inputs		Outputs		
		PS160	B0	X0	X1	N
20/40/80	[P80]	0	0	0	0	0
	[P80 S80]	0	0	0	0	0
	[S80 P80]	0	1	1	0	1
320	[S80 P80]	0	0	1	0	1
		0	1	0	0	0
	[P80 S80 S160]	0	0	0	0	0
		0	1	1	0	1
		1	0	0	1	2
		1	1	1	1	3
	[S80 P80 S160]	0	0	1	0	1
		0	1	0	0	0
		1	0	0	1	2
		1	1	1	1	3
	[S160 P80 S80]	0	0	0	1	2
		0	1	1	1	3
	1	0	0	0	0	
	1	1	1	0	1	

TABLE 3-continued

Bandwidth (MHz)	Inputs			Outputs		
	Configuration	PS160	B0	X0	X1	N
[S160 S80 P80]		0	0	1	1	3
		0	1	0	1	2
		1	0	0	0	0
		1	1	1	0	1

[0197] Hereinafter, an uplink OFDMA-based random access (UORA) will be described.

[0198] An AP may transmit a trigger frame including at least one RU for a random access. In a trigger frame (e.g., a trigger frame in a basic type, a Bandwidth Query Report Poll (BQRP) type or a Buffer Status Report Poll (BSRP) type), an AID12 subfield of a user information field may be configured as a value of 0 or 2045 indicating allocation of at least one random access-RU (RA-RU).

[0199] When a STA does not have a pending frame for an AP, it does not compete for an eligible RA-RU, and also does not decrease an OBO (OFDMA-based random access back off) counter.

[0200] When a STA has a pending frame for an AP when receiving a trigger frame including an eligible RA-RU and an OBO counter of a corresponding STA is not larger than the number of eligible RA-RUs of a trigger frame from a corresponding AP, a STA may configure an OBO counter as 0 and randomly select one of eligible RA-RUs to perform transmission. Otherwise, a STA decreases an OBO counter by the number of eligible RA-RUs of a trigger frame.

[0201] A STA performing random access transmission may generate a TB PPDU and transmit it on a selected RA-RU.

[0202] When a STA transmitting a TB PPDU including a frame soliciting an immediate response in a RA-RU does not receive an expected response, corresponding transmission is considered unsuccessful. Otherwise, corresponding transmission is considered successful. After each successful TB PPDU transmission in a RA-RU, a STA may configure an OFDMA contention window (OCW) as the minimum value (e.g., a default value or a value indicated by an UORA parameter set provided by an AP) and initialize an OBO counter to a value randomly selected between 0 and an OCW value.

[0203] When TB PPDU transmission in a RA-RU of a trigger frame is not successful, a STA may retransmit failed PPDU retransmission by using an EDCA or try to retransmit it as a response to a trigger frame.

[0204] When a TB PPDU transmitted from a selected RA-RU is not successful, a STA may update an OCW to $2*OCW+1$ if an OCW is smaller than the maximum value and randomly select an OBO counter between 0 and an OCW value. When an OCW reaches the maximum value due to successive retransmission attempts, an OCW may be maintained as the maximum value until reset.

[0205] When an updated OVW is maintained between the minimum value and the maximum value of an OCW obtained from the most recently received UORA parameter set, an OCW value may be updated. When an OCW value becomes larger than the maximum value upon receiving a modified UORA parameter set, a STA may configure an OCW value as a new OCW maximum value.

[0206] Hereinafter, examples of the present disclosure for a multi-access point (MAP) operation will be described.

[0207] A MAP operation may be defined as an operation between a master AP (or a sharing AP) and a slave AP (or a shared AP).

[0208] A master AP plays a role of initiating and controlling a MAP operation for transmission or reception between multiple APs. A master AP groups a slave AP and manages a link with slave APs to share information between slave APs. A master AP manages information of a BSS configured with slave APs and information of STAs associated with a corresponding BSS.

[0209] A slave AP may be associated with a master AP and share control information, management information and data traffic with each other. A slave AP performs a basic function of an AP which may establish a BSS in a wireless LAN in the same way.

[0210] A STA in a MAP operation may be associated with a slave AP or a master AP to configure a BSS.

[0211] In a MAP environment, a master AP and a slave AP may perform direct transmission or reception with each other. A master AP and a STA may not be able to perform direct transmission or reception with each other. A slave AP (e.g., a slave AP associated with a STA) may perform direct transmission or reception with a STA. One of slave APs may become a master AP.

[0212] A MAP operation is a technique in which at least one AP transmits and receives information to at least one STA. For example, a C-TDMA (coordinated-time division multiple access) technique which divides allocation between APs on a time axis, a C-OFDMA (coordinated-orthogonal frequency division multiple access) technique which divides allocation between APs on a frequency axis, a C-SR (coordinated-spatial reuse) technique which uses spatial reuse and others may be applied for a MAP operation. Alternatively, a coordinated beamforming (C-BF) or joint beamforming technique which performs simultaneous transmission or reception in cooperation may be also applied for a MAP operation.

[0213] Hereinafter, an AP-to-AP trigger (or a MAP trigger) will be described.

[0214] For a MAP operation, a master AP may transmit a trigger frame to a slave AP. For a MAP operation, a master AP and a slave AP may exchange information and based thereon, a master AP and a slave AP may simultaneously perform data transmission or reception with a STA. Here, an AP-to-AP trigger may be used for information exchange between a master AP and a slave AP.

[0215] An AP-to-AP trigger in a MAP may be defined as follows.

[0216] In a MAP, an AP-to-AP trigger (or a MAP trigger) may refer to a procedure in which a master AP transmits a trigger frame to a slave AP and receives a response from a slave AP. A trigger frame used here, unlike a non-AP STA transmitting a TB PPDU in response to a conventional trigger frame transmitted by an AP (e.g., an example in FIG. 14), may be distinguished in that slave AP(s) or slave AP candidate(s) transmit a response PPDU in response to an AP-to-AP trigger frame transmitted by a master AP.

[0217] Hereinafter, examples of a response to a MAP trigger will be described.

[0218] A MAP trigger may be used for discovery. For example, in order to select a slave AP, a master AP may perform triggering to ask surrounding APs or APs which are

likely to become a slave AP whether to participate in a MAP operation. In other words, a master AP may confirm a capability of surrounding APs in advance, specify APs capable of a MAP operation as a candidate and ask (or poll) corresponding candidate APs whether to participate in a MAP operation. Alternatively, a master AP may ask surrounding APs whether to participate in a MAP operation in a broadcast way. Here, a kind/a type of a MAP operation a master AP intends to perform (e.g., C-OFDMA, C-SR, etc.) may be designated. In this case, a response to a MAP trigger frame may include information showing whether a responding AP participates in a MAP operation.

[0219] A MAP trigger may be used for rough channel measurement. For example, in order to select slave APs, a master AP may perform triggering to measure and report a received signal strength indicator (RSSI), a signal to noise ratio (SNR), etc. of a master AP. In this case, a response to a MAP trigger frame may include signal measurement information of a responding AP.

[0220] A MAP trigger may be used for sounding. For example, in order to accurately know channel information of slave APs (or selected slave APs), a master AP may trigger channel information measurement and report. In this case, a response to a MAP trigger frame may include channel measurement information such as channel state information (CSI), beamforming information, etc. measured by a responding AP.

[0221] A MAP trigger may be used for selection notification. For example, a master AP may perform triggering to notify specific APs that they are selected to participate in a MAP operation. In this case, a response to a MAP trigger frame may include acknowledgment (ACK) information of a responding AP.

[0222] A MAP trigger may be used for data transmission. For example, a master AP may use a trigger frame to transmit data to multiple APs. In this case, a response to a MAP trigger frame may include ACK information for data of a responding AP.

[0223] Hereinafter, an example of a MAP trigger procedure will be described.

[0224] FIG. 15 is a diagram showing examples of a MAP trigger procedure to which the present disclosure may be applied.

[0225] Example (a) of FIG. 15 shows that a master AP transmits an AP-to-AP trigger frame and each slave AP (e.g., AP1 and AP2) transmits a response in its allocated region. An example of FIG. 15(a) exemplarily shows a case in which a region allocated to AP1 and AP2 is divided/multiplexed on a frequency or spatial resource, but it may be also divided/multiplexed on a time resource. A response PPDU transmitted by each of slave APs may be transmitted to a master AP. A master AP which received a response from slave AP(s) to an AP-to-AP trigger may transmit a response frame to corresponding slave AP(s) or a response of a master AP may be omitted.

[0226] Example (b) of FIG. 15 shows that a master AP transmits an AP-to-AP trigger frame and each slave AP transmits a trigger frame for a STA (i.e., an AP-to-STA trigger frame) in its allocated region. An example of FIG. 15(b) shows only one slave AP (i.e., AP1), but a plurality of slave APs may transmit an AP-to-STA trigger based on an AP-to-AP trigger from a master AP. Accordingly, a STA (i.e., a STA associated with AP1) may transmit a TB PPDU. An

example of FIG. 15(b) shows only one STA, but a plurality of STAs may be associated with one slave AP.

[0227] A slave AP which received a TB PPDU from a STA may transmit a response (or ACK) to a STA or a slave AP's response to a STA may be omitted. Additionally or alternatively, a slave AP which received a TB PPDU from a STA may transmit a response (i.e., a response to an AP-to-AP trigger) to a master AP or a slave AP's response to a master AP may be omitted. In addition, a master AP which received a response from slave AP(s) to an AP-to-AP trigger may transmit a response frame to corresponding slave AP(s) or a master AP's response may be omitted.

[0228] It may be assumed that a MAP trigger procedure as in an example of FIG. 15(a) is used for discovery. In this case, a master AP may ask slave AP candidates (e.g., AP1 and AP2) whether to participate in a MAP operation by transmitting an AP-to-AP trigger frame. With this regard, slave AP candidates may transmit a response thereto (i.e., whether to participate in a MAP operation) to a master AP. Here, each slave AP may have information on STAs associated with it in advance and include a list of STAs capable of participating in a MAP operation, a capability, an operation element, a channel status, a buffer status, etc. in a response (i.e., a response to an AP-to-AP trigger frame) to transmit it to a master AP along with whether to participate in a MAP operation.

[0229] It may be assumed that a MAP trigger procedure as in an example of FIG. 15(b) is used for discovery. In this case, a master AP may ask slave AP candidates (e.g., AP1 and AP2 (not shown)) whether to participate in a MAP operation by transmitting an AP-to-AP trigger frame. Based thereon, each slave AP candidate may transmit a trigger frame (i.e., an AP-to-STA trigger frame) to ask STAs belonging to its BSS whether to participate in a MAP. With this regard, STAs may transmit a response thereto to a slave AP. Here, STAs may also include information such as their capability, operation element, channel status, buffer status, etc. in a response. Each slave AP may collect information to which STAs responded and transmit a response (i.e., a response to an AP-to-AP trigger) to a master AP.

[0230] In examples described above, a MAP trigger frame may be transmitted to designated slave APs or may be transmitted to unspecified slave APs. As an example of the former, a MAP trigger frame may be transmitted as an individual trigger frame by designating an address and/or a BSS COLOR (i.e., identification information which distinguishes an overlapping BSS (OBSS)) of a slave AP. As an example of the latter, a MAP trigger frame may be transmitted in a broadcast manner, allocate a response region to slave APs in an uplink OFDMA-based random access (UORA) method and receive a response from slave APs in a RA method.

[0231] Hereinafter, specific examples for a configuration of an AP-to-AP trigger frame (or a MAP trigger frame) and a response thereto will be described.

[0232] Examples below may be applied when a MAP trigger frame is used to request or ask for participation in a MAP operation. However, a scope of the present disclosure is not limited thereto and it may be also applied to any AP-to-AP trigger frame.

[0233] As described above, a master AP may transmit an AP-to-AP trigger frame to candidates of a specific slave AP or to candidates of unspecified slave APs. For the content of this AP-to-AP trigger frame, partial information may be

excluded/modified/added by comparing it with that of the existing trigger frame format (e.g., an example of FIG. 14).

[0234] FIG. 16 shows an example of a common information field format of a trigger frame.

[0235] A format of a common information field in FIG. 16 corresponds to examples of subfields included in a common information field of a trigger frame in FIG. 14.

[0236] A trigger type subfield in a 4-bit size may have a value from 0 to 15. Among them, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, a value of a trigger type subfield, are defined as corresponding to basic, Beamforming Report Poll (BFRP), multi user-block acknowledgment request (MU-BAR), multi user-request to send (MU-RTS), Buffer Status Report Poll (BSRP), groupcast with retries (GCR) MU-BAR, Bandwidth Query Report Poll (BQRP) and NDP Feedback Report Poll (NFRP), respectively and a value of 8-15 is defined as being reserved.

[0237] Uplink (UL)-related information may include an uplink length (UL Length), an uplink bandwidth (UL BW), uplink space-time block coding (UL STBC), uplink spatial reuse (UL spatial reuse) and uplink HE-SIG-A2 reserved (UL HE-SIG-A2 reserved) subfields. An UL length subfield may indicate a value of a L-SIG LENGTH field of a requested TB PPDU. An UL BW subfield may indicate a bandwidth of a HE-SIG-A field of a TB PPDU and when its value is 0, 1, 2 and 3, it may indicate 20, 40, 80, 80+80 or 160 MHz, respectively. An UL STBC subfield may indicate a status of STBC for a requested TB PPDU (i.e., when its value is 1, it indicates STBC encoding and when its value is 0, it indicates that STBC encoding is not applied). An UL spatial reuse subfield may represent a value which will be included in spatial reuse fields of a HE-SIG-A field of requested TB PDUs. An UL HE-SIG-A2 reserved subfield may indicate a value which will be included in a reserved field of a HE-SIG-A2 subfield of requested TB PDUs.

[0238] Out of common information, a trigger dependent common information subfield may include information which is selectively included based on a trigger type.

[0239] An example of FIG. 16 may correspond to an example of a HE variant common information field format and for a EHT variant common information field format, some fields may be replaced compared to an example of FIG. 16.

[0240] A GI And HE-LTF Type subfield of B20-B21 may be replaced with a GI And HE/EHT-LTF Type/Triggered TXOP Sharing Mode subfield. A MU-MIMO HE-LTF Mode subfield of B22 may be reserved. A Number of HE-LTF Symbols And Midamble Periodicity subfield of B23-B25 may be replaced with a Number of HE/EHT-LTF Symbols subfield. An UL STBC subfield of B26 may be reserved. A Doppler subfield of B53 may be reserved. Among UL HE-SIG-A2 Reserved subfield bit positions of B54-B62, B54 may be replaced with a HE/EHT P160 subfield, B55 may be replaced with a Special User Info Field Flag subfield and B56-B62 may be replaced with a EHT Reserved subfield.

[0241] Among common information fields of an AP-to-AP trigger frame, a subfield which is modified/added compared to the existing trigger frame format (e.g., a HE variant or EHT variant common information field format) is as follows.

[0242] A value corresponding to an AP-to-AP trigger indication may be newly added to a trigger type subfield. For example, one (e.g., 8) of reserved values (e.g., 8-15) among

values of the existing trigger type subfield may be used to indicate that it is an AP-to-AP trigger.

[0243] As an additional example, at least one AP-to-AP trigger type may be defined. For example, when a value of a trigger type subfield is 8, it may indicate that it is a first type of AP-to-AP trigger and when a value of a trigger type subfield is 9, it may indicate that it is a second type of AP-to-AP trigger. A plurality of AP-to-AP trigger types may correspond to a plurality of discovery, rough channel measurement, sounding, selection notification and data transmission described above. Alternatively, a plurality of AP-to-AP trigger types may include a type of deriving an AP-to-STA trigger of a slave AP (e.g., an example of FIG. 15(b)) and a type of not doing so (e.g., an example of FIG. 15(a)).

[0244] Alternatively, a trigger type subfield may be defined in the same way as before to use a variant of the existing trigger types as it is, and it may also indicate that it is an AP-to-AP trigger frame in a different way. For example, it may configure a broadcast address that APs are a receiver in a reception address (RA) field of a trigger frame or use one bit of reserved bits in a common information field to show that it is an AP-to-AP trigger frame.

[0245] Next, at least one of subfields corresponding to UL-related information of the existing trigger frame format may be newly defined or may be interpreted as subfields of MAP-related information in an AP-to-AP trigger frame. For example, in an example of FIG. 16, at least one of an UL Length, UL BW, UL STBC, UL spatial reuse and UL HE-SIG-A2/EHT reserved subfield may be newly defined or may be interpreted as MAP Length, MAP BW, MAP STBC, MAP spatial reuse, MAP HE-SIG-A2/EHT reserved, respectively. In this case, a MAP length subfield may indicate a value of a L-SIG LENGTH field of a response PPDU which will be transmitted from slave AP(s) to a master AP. A MAP BW subfield may indicate a bandwidth of a HE-SIG-A field (or a new specific SIG field corresponding thereto) of a response PPDU which will be transmitted from slave AP(s) to a master AP, and for example, when its value is 0, 1, 2 and 3, it may indicate 20, 40, 80, 80+80 or 160 MHz, respectively. In order to indicate a bandwidth for a MAP operation, a bandwidth of an U-SIG field of a PPDU responding to a trigger may be indicated up to 320 MHz through a combination of an UL/MAP BW subfield in a common information field and an UL/MAP BW extension subfield in a special user information field. A MAP STBC subfield may indicate whether to apply STBC to a response PPDU which will be transmitted from slave AP(s) to a master AP. A MAP spatial reuse subfield may indicate a value which will be included in a spatial reuse field of a HE-SIG-A field (or a new SIG field corresponding thereto) of response PDUs which will be transmitted from slave AP(s) to a master AP. A MAP HE-SIG-A2 reserved subfield may indicate a value which will be included in a reserved field of a HE-SIG-A2 subfield (or a new SIG field corresponding thereto) of response PDUs which will be transmitted from slave AP(s) to a master AP.

[0246] A trigger dependent common info subfield of a MAP trigger frame may include identification information on each of a master AP and/or slave AP(s) participating in a MAP operation (e.g., BSS COLOR information, BSSID information, etc.).

[0247] Among user info fields of an AP-to-AP trigger frame, a subfield which is modified/added compared to the existing trigger frame format is as follows.

[0248] For an AP-to-AP trigger for specific slave AP (candidate)(s), an AP-to-AP trigger frame may include identification information on each of corresponding AP(s). Accordingly, an AID12 subfield of an AP-to-AP trigger frame may include BSS COLOR information, a BSSID, etc. of a slave AP (candidate). For example, some of 12 bits of an AID12 subfield (e.g., 6 bits or a bit with a length greater than 6 bits) may be used to indicate a BSS COLOR of a slave AP and the remaining bits may be defined as a reserved bit. Alternatively, an AID12 subfield may be configured as a value corresponding to part of a BSSID, SSID and MAC address of a slave AP.

[0249] When requesting a random access responding to an AP-to-AP trigger from unspecified slave AP (candidate)s, an AID12 subfield may be configured as a value of 0 or 2045 used in the existing UORA. In this case, since a STA recognizing that a trigger type corresponding to an AP-to-AP trigger is configured or a STA recognizing an AP-to-AP trigger indication in a different way may not recognize that a corresponding trigger frame is indicated to itself, an UORA may not be performed in response to an AP-to-AP trigger frame. Alternatively, an AID value for an AP's random access distinguished from a STA's random access may be newly defined or one (e.g., 2008) of reserved values of an AID12 subfield may be newly defined as corresponding to an AP's random access.

[0250] When a special user info field exists in the existing trigger frame, a special user info field may include 12-bit AID12, 3-bit PHY version identifier, 2-bit UL bandwidth extension, 4-bit EHT spatial reuse 1, 4-bit EHT spatial reuse 2, 12-bit U-SIG disregard and validate, 3-bit reserved and a variable sized trigger dependent user info subfields in order from B0.

[0251] In a user info and/or special user info field of the existing trigger frame, at least one of an UL forward error correction (FEC) Coding Type (indicating one of coding types such as BCC or LDPC, etc.), an UL HE/EHT-MCS (a MCS level applied to a TB PPDU), UL bandwidth extension (additional information on a bandwidth for a TB PPDU), EHT spatial reuse $\frac{1}{2}$ (spatial reuse information on an U-SIG field of a TB PPDU) and UL target receive power which are uplink-related information may be newly defined or may be interpreted as subfields of MAP-related information in an AP-to-AP trigger frame. For example, an AP-to-AP trigger frame may include a MAP FEC Coding Type, a MAP HE/EHT-MCS, MAP bandwidth extension (e.g., indicating a bandwidth of a trigger response PPDU up to 320 MHz in combination with an UL/MAP BW subfield of a common information field), MAP spatial reuse 1, MAP spatial reuse 2, MAP target receive power, etc. for a response PPDU which will be transmitted from slave AP(s) to a master AP.

[0252] Hereinafter, an example of a configuration of a response frame for a MAP trigger frame will be described.

[0253] A response frame transmitted by an AP which received an AP-to-AP trigger frame may be in a form of a TB PPDU and may not be the same as an UL TB PPDU transmitted from a STA. For example, for a MAP trigger frame for discovery, an AP which intends to become a slave AP may respond by configuring a frame including the following content (hereinafter, a MAP response frame). A scope of the present disclosure is not limited to a response frame to a MAP trigger for discovery, and it may be also applied to a response frame to a trigger frame for various purposes/uses described above.

[0254] A MAP response frame may include necessary information of information included in a management frame such as a beacon, etc. provided by a transmitting AP (e.g., a slave AP (candidate)) to a STA. It may be assumed that a slave AP knows information on a master AP in advance through a management frame such as a beacon, etc. from a master AP. For example, information such as whether to participate in a MAP operation, capability information, an operation element, etc. may be included in a MAP response frame. Capability information may include information on which type of MAP operation is supported (e.g., C-TDMA, C-OFDMA, C-SR, C-BF, etc.).

[0255] When a master AP transmits a trigger frame to candidate(s) of a specific slave AP, information such as a capability, an operation element, etc. of each of corresponding slave AP candidate(s) may be known in advance by reading a management frame such as a beacon, etc. transmitted by corresponding slave AP candidate(s). In this case, a MAP response frame may include only whether to participate in a MAP operation.

[0256] In response to an AP-to-AP trigger frame, each of AP(s) which intends to become a slave AP may transmit the existing AP-to-STA trigger frame to STAs belonging to it and receive a response from STAs (e.g., refer to FIG. 15(b)). In response to an AP-to-STA trigger frame, STAs may respond to a corresponding AP regarding whether to participate in a MAP operation or may respond according to the existing trigger type such as a bandwidth query, a buffer status, etc.

[0257] As such, a MAP response in two methods may be performed in a MAP trigger procedure. For example, according to a response method as in examples (a) and (b) of FIG. 15, a form of a PPDU including a MAP response frame transmitted by a slave AP to a master AP may vary.

[0258] Examples of a format of a response PPDU of slave AP(s) in a first procedure (e.g., example (a) of FIG. 15) are described below.

[0259] As a first example, a PPDU including a MAP response frame transmitted by a slave AP may be also transmitted by using the existing TB PPDU format configured to be addressed to a master AP. It is based on a standard for distinguishing an UL/a DL being defined by "if the PPDU is addressed to an AP" as an UL. In other words, regardless of a transmitting end of a PPDU, an UL/a DL is determined according to whether a receiving end of a PPDU is an AP or a non-AP STA, so a TB PPDU from an AP to an AP may be also configured in the same way as an UL TB PPDU.

[0260] As a second example, in order to distinguish from an UL PPDU from a STA, a PPDU including a MAP response frame transmitted by a slave AP may be configured as a new/different PPDU type, not the existing TB PPDU. Accordingly, it is possible to prevent confusion of other AP or other STA which recognizes a PPDU including a MAP response frame from an AP an UL PPDU from a STA.

[0261] For example, as in Table 4 below, by a combination of an UL/DL field of an U-SIG and a PPDU type and compression mode field, an EHT PPDU format, existence of an EHT-SIG, existence of a RU allocation subfield, the number of user fields of transmitting ends of a MU PPDU or a TB PPDU, etc. may be indicated.

TABLE 4

U-SIG fields		Description				
UL/DL	PPDU Type And Compression Mode	EHT PPDU format	EHT-SIG present?	RU Allocation subfields presents?	Total number of User fields in MU PPDU or transmitters in TB PPDU	Note
0(DL)	0	EHT MU	Yes	Yes	≥ 1	DL OFDMA (including non-MU-MIMO and MU-MIMO)
	1	EHT MU	Yes	No	1 for transmission to a single user; 0 for NDP	Transmission to a single user or NDP that is not addressed to an AP.
	2	EHT MU	Yes	No	> 1	DL MU-MIMO (non-OFDMA).
1(UL)	3	—	—	—	—	Validate UL OFDMA or UL non-OFDMA (including non-MU-MIMO and MU-MIMO).
	0	EHT TB	No	—	≥ 1	Validate UL OFDMA or UL non-OFDMA (including non-MU-MIMO and MU-MIMO).
	1	EHT MU	Yes	No	1 for transmission to a single user; 0 for NDP	Transmission to a single user or NDP that is addressed to an AP.
	2-3	—	—	—	—	Validate

[0262] In an example of Table 4, by using a combination of a DL (i.e., UL/DL=0) and PPDU Type And Compression Mode=3 or an UL (i.e., UL/DL=1) and PPDU Type And Compression Mode=2 or 3, a new PPDU type called a TB PPDU transmitted from an AP may be indicated.

[0263] Alternatively, a new PPDU type called a TB PPDU transmitted from an AP may be indicated by using a reserved bit of an U-SIG.

[0264] Alternatively, in a TB PPDU transmitted from a slave AP, a BSS COLOR of an U-SIG is defined as an identifier of a BSS, but it may be newly defined or may be interpreted as indicating BSS COLOR information of a slave AP. Alternatively, a BSS COLOR of an U-SIG may be configured as a BSS COLOR of a master AP, and BSS COLOR information of a slave AP may be added by using other reserved bits.

[0265] As a third example, for a PPDU including a MAP response frame transmitted by a slave AP, a new form of AP-TB PPDU format may be defined. For example, in an example of Table 4, by using a combination of a DL (i.e., UL/DL=0) and PPDU Type And Compression Mode=3 or an UL (i.e., UL/DL=1) and PPDU Type And Compression Mode=2 or 3, a new PPDU type called a TB PPDU transmitted from an AP may be indicated. It may have a different format from the existing TB PPDU format. For example, a PPDU including a MAP response frame transmitted by a slave AP may have a format similar to a MU OFDMA PPDU format including EHT-SIG.

[0266] A PPDU including a MAP response frame transmitted by a slave AP may use most of the existing TB

PPDU's content as it is. Here, in a PPDU including a MAP response frame, a spatial reuse field, etc. may be omitted compared to a general TB PPDU.

[0267] In a PPDU including a MAP response frame transmitted by a slave AP, a MCS, a SNR, etc. are not designated by a trigger frame (i.e., an AP-to-AP trigger frame), but may be directly selected and configured by a slave AP. In this case, a subfield indicating a MCS, a SNR, etc. in an AP-to-AP trigger frame may be omitted. In addition, a subfield such as a MCS, a SNR, etc. may be added in an U-SIG of a PPDU including a MAP response frame transmitted by a slave AP.

[0268] In a second procedure (e.g., example (b) of FIG. 15), a format of a response PPDU of slave AP(s) may be configured according to one of first, second and third examples of a PPDU format of the above-described first procedure (e.g., example (a) of FIG. 15).

[0269] Here, when a STA recognizes that a MAP trigger is an AP-to-AP trigger frame (i.e., even if it recognizes that it is not a trigger frame for a STA itself), a corresponding STA may operate to decode all subsequently received frames without NAV setting. It is because a slave AP may transmit an AP-to-STA trigger frame to a STA in response to an AP-to-AP trigger frame.

[0270] In addition, in a MU OFDMA PPDU format of a third example described above, the existing MU OFDMA PPDU format is not allowed to avoid including a primary channel. Accordingly, a PPDU including a MAP response frame transmitted by a slave AP may be transmitted with using a MU OFDMA PPDU format, in a Subchannel Selec-

tive Transmission (SST) operation or in a DL Aggregated-PPDU (A-PPDU) format which without including a primary channel of a BSS of a master AP.

[0271] An A-PPDU may correspond to a new format that a plurality of PPDU formats are merged on a frequency domain. For example, in A-PPDU transmission, a first PPDU format may be transmitted to a first frequency band and a second PPDU format may be transmitted to a second frequency band. A first frequency band and a second frequency band may be included in an A-PPDU band or may not be overlapped with each other.

[0272] A SST operation may include determining a RU or a sub-channel which will perform frame exchange between a transmitting end and a receiving end and performing frame exchange in a corresponding sub-channel/RU for a predetermined period of time.

[0273] To this end, in a RU allocation subfield of an AP-to-AP trigger frame, a RU allocated to each of slave AP(s) must match a bandwidth of a corresponding slave AP. For example, when a BW indicated by an AP-to-AP trigger frame is 320 MHz and primary 160 MHz and secondary 160 MHz are RU-allocated to two slaves AP1 and AP2, respectively, a BW of a PPDU including a MAP response frame transmitted by a slave AP becomes 160 MHz for each of AP1 and AP2. In this case, a STA may decode only a PPDU of primary 160 MHz or a PPDU of secondary 160 MHz without decoding all 320 MHz. To this end, when a STA receives an AP-to-AP trigger frame, it may decode it, figure out a RU region allocated to a slave AP to which it belongs and decode only a corresponding region. In addition, a master AP may perform RU allocation to a slave AP according to an A-PPDU format or rule (e.g., what format of PPDU will be transmitted in which frequency band) or operate to provide/obtain SST information in advance.

[0274] FIG. 17 is a flowchart for describing an example of a method for performing a response to an AP-to-AP trigger according to the present disclosure.

[0275] In S1710, a first AP may receive a first trigger frame including information related to a multi-AP operation from a second AP.

[0276] A first trigger frame may include a common information field. A common information field may include information indicating a multi-AP operation. For example, a trigger type subfield of a common information field may be configured as a value indicating a multi-AP operation. In addition, a common information field may include information on at least one of a value of a length field (e.g., a L-SIG LENGTH field), a bandwidth (e.g., a bandwidth of a specific SIG field), whether STBC is applied, spatial reuse, a value to be included in a reserved field of a specific SIG field, identification information of the first AP, or identification information of the second AP, related to a PPDU including a response frame.

[0277] A first trigger frame may include at least one user information field or at least one special user information field. An AID field (e.g., an AID12 field) of a user information field or a special user information field may include identification information of a first AP or may be configured as a value indicating a random access. At least one of a user information field or a special user information field may include at least one of information on a FEC coding type, a MCS, a bandwidth or spatial reuse which is related to a PPDU including a response frame.

[0278] In S1720, a first AP may transmit a subsequent frame of the first trigger frame based on a first trigger frame.

[0279] A subsequent frame of a first trigger frame may be a response frame from a first AP to a second AP. Alternatively, a subsequent frame of a first trigger frame may be a second trigger frame transmitted from a first AP to STA(s).

[0280] For example, after receiving a first trigger frame, a first AP may transmit a second trigger frame to at least one STA associated with a first AP before a response frame for a first trigger frame is transmitted. After a second trigger frame is transmitted and before a response frame for a first trigger frame is transmitted, a response frame for a second trigger frame may be transmitted from at least one STA. For example, a first AP may receive a response frame from STA(s) and collect information to transmit a response frame for a first trigger frame to a first AP. Alternatively, a first AP does not transmit a response frame to a second AP and a second AP may directly receive a response frame from STA(s) and confirm information.

[0281] For example, a response frame for a first trigger may include at least one of whether a first AP participates in a multi-AP operation, capability information of a first AP or information included in an operation element of a first AP. A PPDU including a response frame for a first trigger may be configured as an UL and a PPDU type and compression mode field may be configured as a value of 2 or 3, or may be configured as a DL and a PPDU type and compression mode field may be configured as a value of 3. A BSS color field of the PPDU may be configured as a BSS COLOR value of a first AP. The PPDU may be configured in an uplink MU OFDMA PPDU format. The PPDU may include information on at least one of a MCS or a SNR. The PPDU may be transmitted on a channel which does not include a primary channel of a second AP.

[0282] FIG. 18 is a flowchart for describing an example of a method for performing an AP-to-AP trigger according to the present disclosure.

[0283] In S1810, a second AP may transmit a first trigger frame to at least one AP including a first AP.

[0284] Specific details related to a first trigger frame are the same as described in S1710 of FIG. 17, and an overlapping description is omitted.

[0285] In S1820, a second AP may receive a response frame following a first trigger frame.

[0286] A response frame following a first trigger frame may be received from at least one of at least one AP including a first AP (i.e., all or part of at least one AP). For example, a response frame for a first trigger frame may be received from at least one AP immediately following a first trigger frame. For example, immediately following a first trigger frame, each of at least one AP may transmit a second trigger frame to STA(s) associated with it and receive a response frame for a first trigger frame from each AP which received a response frame for a second trigger frame from STA(s). Alternatively, for example, immediately following a first trigger frame, each of at least one AP may transmit a second trigger frame to STA(s) associated with it and a second AP may also directly receive a response frame for a second trigger frame from STA(s). In this case, a response frame for a first trigger frame from at least one AP including a first AP may not be received.

[0287] Specific details related to a response frame for a first trigger frame from at least one AP are the same as described in S1720 of FIG. 17, and an overlapping description is omitted.

[0288] In an example of FIGS. 17 and 18, a first AP may correspond to a slave AP and a second AP may correspond to a master AP.

[0289] As described in the above-described examples, an AP-to-AP trigger and response for a multi-access point (MAP) operation may be efficiently performed according to the present disclosure.

[0290] Embodiments described above are that elements and features of the present disclosure are combined in a predetermined form. Each element or feature should be considered to be optional unless otherwise explicitly mentioned. Each element or feature may be implemented in a form that it is not combined with other element or feature. In addition, an embodiment of the present disclosure may include combining a part of elements and/or features. An order of operations described in embodiments of the present disclosure may be changed. Some elements or features of one embodiment may be included in other embodiment or may be substituted with a corresponding element or a feature of other embodiment. It is clear that an embodiment may include combining claims without an explicit dependency relationship in claims or may be included as a new claim by amendment after application.

[0291] It is clear to a person skilled in the pertinent art that the present disclosure may be implemented in other specific form in a scope not going beyond an essential feature of the present disclosure. Accordingly, the above-described detailed description should not be restrictively construed in every aspect and should be considered to be illustrative. A scope of the present disclosure should be determined by reasonable construction of an attached claim and all changes within an equivalent scope of the present disclosure are included in a scope of the present disclosure.

[0292] A scope of the present disclosure includes software or machine-executable commands (e.g., an operating system, an application, a firmware, a program, etc.) which execute an operation according to a method of various embodiments in a device or a computer and a non-transitory computer-readable medium that such a software or a command, etc. are stored and are executable in a device or a computer. A command which may be used to program a processing system performing a feature described in the present disclosure may be stored in a storage medium or a computer-readable storage medium and a feature described in the present disclosure may be implemented by using a computer program product including such a storage medium. A storage medium may include a high-speed random-access memory such as DRAM, SRAM, DDR RAM or other random-access solid state memory device, but it is not limited thereto, and it may include a nonvolatile memory such as one or more magnetic disk storage devices, optical disk storage devices, flash memory devices or other non-volatile solid state storage devices. A memory optionally includes one or more storage devices positioned remotely from processor(s). A memory or alternatively, nonvolatile memory device(s) in a memory include a non-transitory computer-readable storage medium. A feature described in the present disclosure may be stored in any one of machine-readable mediums to control a hardware of a processing system and may be integrated into a software and/or a

firmware which allows a processing system to interact with other mechanism utilizing a result from an embodiment of the present disclosure. Such a software or a firmware may include an application code, a device driver, an operating system and an execution environment/container, but it is not limited thereto.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

[0293] A method proposed by the present disclosure is mainly described based on an example applied to an IEEE 802.11-based system, 5G system, but may be applied to various WLAN or wireless communication systems other than the IEEE 802.11-based system.

1. A method for performing a response to an access point (AP)-to-AP trigger by a first AP in a wireless local area network (WLAN) system, the method comprising:

receiving, from a second AP, a first trigger frame including information related to a multi-AP operation; and based on the first trigger frame, transmitting a response frame to the first trigger to the second AP,

wherein a common information field of the first trigger frame includes information indicating the multi-AP operation.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein:

information indicating the multi-AP operation is indicated by a trigger type subfield of the common information field.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the common information field includes information on at least one of a value of a length field, a bandwidth, whether to apply space time block coding (STBC), spatial reuse, a value to be included in a reserved field of a specific signal (SIG) field, identification information of the first AP, or identification information of the second AP, related to a physical layer protocol data unit (PPDU) including the response frame.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein:

at least one of a user information field or a special user information field of the first trigger frame includes identification information of the first AP or includes an association identifier (AID) field configured as a value indicating a random access.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein:

at least one of a user information field or a special user information field of the first trigger frame includes at least one of information on a forward error correction (FEC) coding type, a modulation and coding scheme (MCS), a bandwidth, or spatial reuse, related to a PPDU including the response frame.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein:

after the first AP receives the first trigger frame, and before a response frame to the first trigger frame is transmitted, a second trigger frame is transmitted to at least one station (STA) associated with the first AP from the first AP.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein:

after the second trigger frame is transmitted, and before the response frame to the first trigger frame is transmitted, a response frame to the second trigger frame is transmitted from the at least one STA.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the response frame includes at least one of whether the first AP participates in the multi-AP operation, capa-

- bility information of the first AP or information included in an operation element of the first AP.
- 9. The method of claim 1, wherein a PPDU including the response frame:
 - is configured as an uplink (UL) and a PPDU type and compression mode field is configured as a value of 2 or 3, or
 - is configured as a downlink (DL) and the PPDU type and compression mode field is configured as the value of 3.
- 10. The method of claim 1, wherein:
 - a basic service set (BSS) color field of a PPDU including the response frame is configured as a BSS color value of the first AP.
- 11. The method of claim 1, wherein:
 - a PPDU including the response frame is configured with uplink multi user (MU) orthogonal frequency division multiple access (OFDMA) PPDU formats.
- 12. The method of claim 1, wherein:
 - a PPDU including the response frame includes information on at least one of a MCS or a signal to noise ratio (SNR).
- 13. The method of claim 1, wherein:
 - a PPDU including the response frame is transmitted on a channel which does not include a primary channel of the second AP.
- 14. The method of claim 1, wherein:
 - the first AP is a slave AP and the second AP is a master AP.
- 15. A first AP device for performing a response to an access point (AP)-to-AP trigger in a wireless local area network (WLAN) system, the device comprising:

- at least one transceiver; and
- at least one processor coupled with the at least one transceiver,
- wherein the at least one processor is configured to:
 - receive, through the at least one transceiver, from a second AP, a first trigger frame including information related to a multi-AP operation; and
 - based on the first trigger frame, transmit, through the at least one transceiver, a response frame to the first trigger to the second AP,
- wherein a common information field of the first trigger frame includes information indicating the multi-AP operation.
- 16. (canceled)
- 17. A second AP device for performing an access point (AP)-to-AP trigger in a wireless local area network (WLAN) system, the device comprising:
 - at least one transceiver; and
 - at least one processor coupled with the at least one transceiver,
 - wherein the at least one processor is configured to:
 - transmit, through the at least one transceiver, a first trigger frame including information related to a multi-AP operation to at least one AP including a first AP; and
 - based on the first trigger frame, receive, through the at least one transceiver, a response frame to the first trigger from at least one of the at least one AP,
 - wherein a common information field of the first trigger frame includes information indicating the multi-AP operation.
- 18-19. (canceled)

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