Abstract: This amendment defines modifications to both the IEEE 802.11 physical layer (PHY) and the medium access control (MAC) sublayer for high efficiency operation in frequency bands between 1 GHz and 6 GHz.

Keywords: high efficiency, PHY, physical layer, MAC, medium access control, OFDMA, orthogonal frequency division multiple access, wireless local area network, WLAN

Introduction

This introduction is not part of IEEE P802.11ax /D0.2, June 2016, IEEE Standard for Information technology—Telecommunications and information exchange between systems—Local and metropolitan area network—Specific requirements—Part 11: Wireless LAN Medium Access Control (MAC) and Physical Layer (PHY) Specifications—Amendment 6: Enhancements for high efficiency in frequency bands between 1 GHz and 6 GHz.

This amendment defines modifications to both the IEEE 802.11 physical layer (PHY) and the medium access control (MAC) sublayer for high efficiency operation in frequency bands between 1 GHz and 6 GHz.

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Major contributions were received from the following individuals:

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Part 11: Wireless LAN Medium Access Control (MAC) and Physical Layer (PHY) specifications

Amendment 6: Enhancements for high efficiency in frequency bands between 1 GHz and 6 GHz

[This amendment is based on IEEE P802.11REVmc D5.0 amended by IEEE P802.11ai/D4.0, IEEE P802.11ah/D5.0, IEEE P802.11aq/D3.0, IEEE P802.11ak/D1.0 and IEEE P802.11aj/D1.0]

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New tables are tagged in the table caption (if there is one), or in the introductory paragraph. Otherwise, new rows in existing tables are tagged only in the first column, to avoid distraction. Otherwise, a modified cell is tagged.

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Editor's Note: A cumulative status of the versions of this draft is shown below.

Table 1—Draft Status

Draft	Date	Status
D0.1	2016-03-03	Converted to FrameMaker from 16/0024r1 Proposed draft specification

3. Definitions, acronyms, and abbreviations

3.2 Definitions specific to IEEE 802.11

3.4 Abbreviations and acronyms

Insert the following acronym definitions (maintaining alphabetical order):

DCM	Dual carrier modulation(#2567)
DL	Downlink(#2401)
DL MU	Downlink multi-user
HE	High efficiency
OBO	Orthogonal frequency division multiple access (OFDMA) backoff(#1747)
OCW	Orthogonal frequency division multiple access (OFDMA) contention window(#1747)
OFDMA	Orthogonal frequency-division multiple access
MU-RTS	Multi-user request to send
UL	Uplink
UL MU	Uplink multi-user(#545)

4. General description

4.3 Components of the IEEE Std 802.11 architecture

Insert a new subclause after subclause 4.3.12 as follows:

4.3.12a High efficiency (HE) STA

The IEEE 802.11 HE STA operates in frequency bands between 1 GHz and 6 GHz.

An HE STA is VHT STA that, in addition to the features supported as a VHT STA, supports the MAC features defined in Clause 25 and the PHY features defined in Clause 26.

6. Layer management

6.1 Overview of management model

6.2 Generic management primitives

6.3 MLME SAP interface

6.3.7 Associate

6.3.7.2 MLME-ASSOCIATE.request

6.3.7.2.2 Semantics of the service primitive

Change the primitive parameters as follows (note that not all existing parameters in the baseline are shown):

The primitive parameters are as follows:

MLME-ASSOCIATE.request(

...

HE Capabilities,

VendorSpecificInfo

)

Insert the following entry to the unnumbered table in this subclause:

Name	Type	Valid range	Description
HE Capabilities	As defined in HE Capabilities element.(#1122)	As defined in 9.4.2.213 (HE Capabilities element)	Specifies the parameters within the HE Capabilities element that are supported by the MAC entity. The parameter is optionally present if dot11HighEfficiencyOptionImplemented is true; otherwise, this parameter is not present.

6.3.7.3 MLME-ASSOCIATE.confirm

6.3.7.3.2 Semantics of the service primitive

Change the primitive parameters as follows (note that not all existing parameters in the baseline are shown):

The primitive parameters are as follows:

MLME-ASSOCIATE.confirm(

...,

HE Capabilities,

VendorSpecificInfo

)

Insert the following entry to the unnumbered table in this subclause:

Name	Type	Valid range	Description
HE Capabilities	As defined in HE Capabilities element.(#1122)	As defined in 9.4.2.213 (HE Capabilities element)	Specifies the parameters within the HE Capabilities element that are supported by the MAC entity. The parameter is optionally present if dot11HighEfficiencyOptionImplemented is true; otherwise, this parameter is not present.

6.3.8 Reassociate

6.3.8.2 MLME-REASSOCIATE.request

6.3.8.2.2 Semantics of the service primitive

Change the primitive parameters as follows (note that not all existing parameters in the baseline are shown):

The primitive parameters are as follows:

MLME-REASSOCIATE.request(

...
HE Capabilities,
VendorSpecificInfo
)

Insert the following entry to the unnumbered table in this subclause:

Name	Type	Valid range	Description
HE Capabilities	As defined in HE Capabilities element.(#1122)	As defined in 9.4.2.213 (HE Capabilities element)	Specifies the parameters within the HE Capabilities element that are supported by the MAC entity. The parameter is optionally present if dot11HighEfficiencyOptionImplemented is true; otherwise, this parameter is not present.

6.3.8.3 MLME-REASSOCIATE.confirm

6.3.8.3.2 Semantics of the service primitive

Change the primitive parameters as follows (note that not all existing parameters in the baseline are shown):

The primitive parameters are as follows:

MLME-REASSOCIATE.confirm(

...
HE Capabilities,

VendorSpecificInfo
)

Insert the following entry to the unnumbered table in this subclause:

Name	Type	Valid range	Description
HE Capabilities	As defined in HE Capabilities element.(#1122)	As defined in 9.4.2.213 (HE Capabilities element)	Specifies the parameters within the HE Capabilities element that are supported by the MAC entity. The parameter is optionally present if dot11HighEfficiencyOptionImplemented is true; otherwise, this parameter is not present.

6.3.11 Start

6.3.11.2 MLME-START.request

6.3.11.2.2 Semantics of the service primitive

Change the primitive parameters as follows (note that not all existing parameters in the baseline are shown):

MLME-START.request(

...,
HE Capabilities,
HE Operation,
VendorSpecificInfo
)

Insert the following entry to the unnumbered table in this subclause:

Name	Type	Valid range	Description
HE Capabilities	As defined in HE Capabilities element.(#1122)	As defined in 9.4.2.213 (HE Capabilities element)	Specifies the parameters within the HE Capabilities element that are supported by the MAC entity. The parameter is optionally present if dot11HighEfficiencyOptionImplemented is true; otherwise, this parameter is not present.
HE Operation	As defined in HE Operation element.(#1122)	As defined in 9.4.2.214 (HE Operation element)	The additional HE capabilities to be advertised for the BSS. The parameter is present if BSSType = INFRASTRUCTURE and dot11HighEfficiencyOptionImplemented is true; otherwise, this parameter is not present.

9. Frame formats

9.2 MAC frame formats

9.2.4 Frame fields

9.2.4.1 Frame Control field

9.2.4.1.3 Type and Subtype fields

Change the row below and insert a new row immediately after it in Table 9-1 (Valid type and subtype combinations) as follows:

Table 9-1—Valid type and subtype combinations

Type value B3 B2	Type description	Subtype value B7 B6 B5 B4	Subtype description
01	Control	0000–~~0011~~<ANA>	Reserved
<ANA>	Control	<ANA>	Trigger

9.2.4.1.10 Order field

Change this subclause as follows:

The Order field is 1 bit in length. The setting of the Order field is as follows:

— It is set to 1 in a non-QoS Data frame transmitted by a non-QoS STA to indicate that the frame contains an MSDU, or fragment thereof, that is being transferred using the StrictlyOrdered service class.

— It is set to 1 in a QoS Data or Management frame transmitted with a value of HT_GF, HT_MF, VHT, HE or S1G for the FORMAT parameter of the TXVECTOR to indicate that the frame contains an HT Control field.

— It is set to 1 in an S1G RTS frame to indicate that the intended recipient of the frame has permission to extend the TXOP as described in 10.51.5.4 (Relay-shared TXOP protection mechanisms).

Otherwise, the Order field is set to 0.

NOTE—The Order field is always set to 0 for frames transmitted by a DMG STA.

9.2.4.6 HT Control field

9.2.4.6.1 General

Remove Figure 9-7 (HT Control field).

Insert Table 9-9a(#2373) as follows:

Table 9-9a—HT Control field

Variant	Bit 0 (value)	Bit 1 (value)	Bit 2-29	Bit 30	Bit 31
HT variant	VHT (0)	HT Control Middle		AC Constraint	RDG/More PPDU
VHT variant	VHT (1)	HE (0)	VHT Control Middle(#548)	AC Constraint	RDG/More PPDU
HE variant	VHT (1)	HE (1)	Aggregated Control		

Change the paragraphs below of 9.2.4.6.1 as follows:

The HT Control field has ~~two~~ different forms~~;~~:(#359) the HT variant, ~~and~~ (#1879)the VHT variant, and the HE variant. These forms differ in the values of the VHT and(#711) HE subfields and in their formats, which are shown in Table 9-9a (HT Control field). ~~The two forms differ in the format of the HT Control Middle subfield, described in 9.2.4.6.2 (HT variant) for the HT variant and in 9.2.4.6.3 (VHT variant) for the VHT variant and in the value of the VHT subfield.~~

The VHT subfield is set to 0 to indicate an(#2829) HT variant HT Control field. The VHT subfield is set to 1 and the HE subfield is set to 0 to indicate a VHT variant HT Control field. The VHT subfield is set to 1 and the HE subfield is set to 1 to indicate an(#2829) HE variant HT Control field(#960).

The HT Control Middle subfield is defined in 9.2.4.6.2 (HT variant)(#2203) and the VHT Control Middle subfield is defined in 9.2.4.6.3 (VHT variant).

The Aggregated Control subfield is defined in 9.2.4.6.4 (HE variant)(#2203).

~~The VHT subfield of the HT Control field indicates whether the HT Control Middle subfield is the VHT Variant or the HT Variant. The VHT subfield is set to 1 to indicate that the HT Control Middle subfield is the VHT Variant and is set to 0 to indicate that the HT Control Middle subfield is the HT Variant.~~

9.2.4.6.3 VHT variant

Change the paragraph below as follows:

The format of the VHT Control Middle subfield of the VHT variant HT Control field is shown in Figure 9-12 (VHT Control Middle subfield of the VHT variant HT Control field).(#550)

Change Figure 9-12 as follows (remove Reserved field and change title):

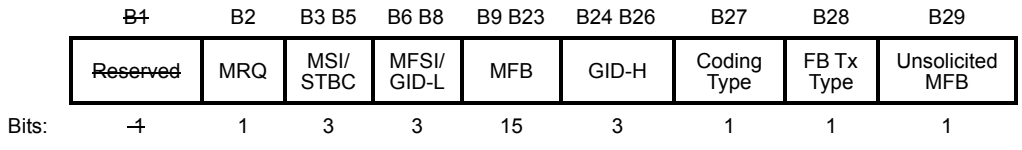

Figure 9-12—VHT Control Middle subfield of the VHT variant HT Control field

Insert a new subclause 9.2.4.6.4 following 9.2.4.6.3:

9.2.4.6.4 HE variant

9.2.4.6.4.1 General

The format of the Aggregated Control (A-Control) subfield of the HE variant HT Control field(#1132) is shown in Figure 9-14a (A-Control subfield of the HE variant HT Control field(#360)).

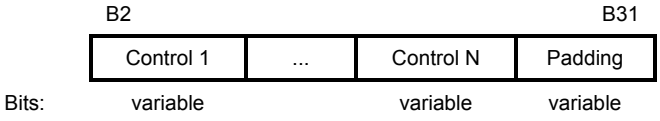

Figure 9-14a—A-Control subfield of the HE variant HT Control field(#360)

The A-Control subfield contains a sequence of one or more Control subfields. The format of each Control subfield is defined in Figure 9-14b (Control subfield format). The Control subfield with Control ID subfield equal to 0, if present, is the first subfield of the sequence.

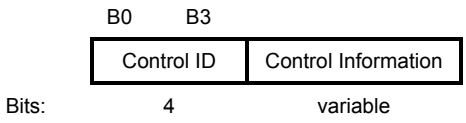

Figure 9-14b—Control subfield format

The Control ID subfield indicates the type of information carried in the Control Information subfield. The length of the Control Information subfield is fixed for each value of the Control ID subfield that is not reserved.(#1251) The values of the Control ID subfield and the associated length of the Control Information subfield are defined in Table 9-18a (Control ID subfield values).

Table 9-18a—Control ID subfield values

Control ID value	Meaning	Length of the Control Information subfield (bits)	Content of the Control Information subfield
0	UL MU response scheduling	TBD	
1	Receive operating mode(#2209)	TBD	
2	HE link adaptation	TBD	
TBD	...		
8-15	Reserved		

(#1252)The Padding subfield follows the last Control subfield and is set to a sequence of zeros so that the length of the A-Control subfield is 30 bits.

9.2.4.6.4.2 UL MU response scheduling

If the Control ID subfield is 0, the Control Information subfield contains(#1257) scheduling information for an HE trigger-based PPDU that carries an immediate acknowledgment, which is sent as a response to the soliciting A-MPDU (see 25.5.2 (UL MU operation)).

The format of the Control Information subfield is defined in Figure 9-14c (Control Information subfield format when Control ID subfield is 0).

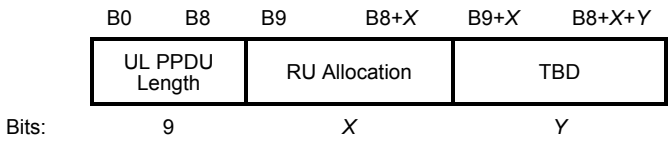

Figure 9-14c—Control Information subfield format when Control ID subfield is 0

The UL PPDU Length subfield indicates the length of the HE trigger-based PPDU response and is set to a nonzero value that is TBD.

The RU Allocation subfield indicates the resource unit (RU) assigned for transmitting the HE trigger-based PPDU response and is set to TBD.

9.2.4.6.4.3 Receive operating mode(#2209)

If the Control ID subfield is 1, the Control Information subfield contains(#1257) information related to the receive operating mode(#2209) of the STA transmitting the frame containing this information (see 25.8 (Receive operating mode)).

The format of the Control Information subfield is defined in Figure 9-14d (Control Information subfield format when Control ID subfield is 1).

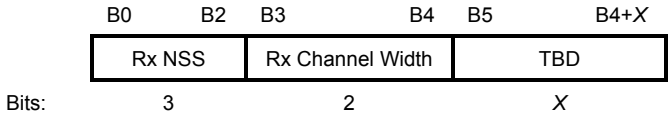

Figure 9-14d—Control Information subfield format when Control ID subfield is 1

The RX NSS subfield indicates the maximum number of spatial streams, N_{SS}, that the STA can receive(#1258) and is set to $N_{SS} - 1$.

The RX Channel Width subfield indicates the operating channel width supported by the STA in reception, and is set to 0 for 20 MHz, 1 for 40 MHz, 2 for 80 MHz, and 3 for 160 MHz.

9.2.4.6.4.4 HE link adaptation

If the Control ID subfield is 2, the Control Information subfield contains(#1257) information related to the HE link adaptation procedure (see 9.31.4 (Link adaptation using the HE variant HT Control field)).

The format of the Control Information subfield is defined in Figure 9-14e (Control Information subfield format when Control ID subfield is 2).

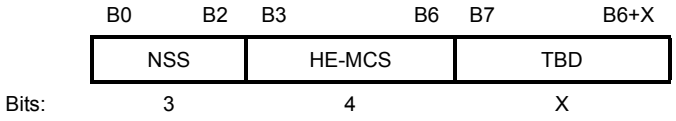

Figure 9-14e—Control Information subfield format when Control ID subfield is 2

The NSS subfield indicates the recommended number of spatial streams, N_{SS}, and is set to $N_{SS} - 1$.

The HE-MCS subfield indicates the recommended HE-MCS, and is set to the HE-MCS Index value (defined in 26.5 (Parameters for HE-MCSs)).

9.2.5 Duration/ID field (QoS STA)

9.2.5.2 Setting for single and multiple protection under enhanced distributed channel access (EDCA)

Change item a) of the 2nd paragraph as follows:

The Duration/ID field is determined as follows:

a) Single protection settings.

1) For an RTS frame that is not part of a dual clear-to-send (CTS) exchange and is not part of a BDT exchange(11ah), the Duration/ID field is set to the estimated time, in microseconds, required to transmit the pending frame, plus one CTS frame, plus one Ack or BlockAck frame if required, plus any NDPs required, plus explicit feedback if required, plus applicable IFSs.

1a) In an MU-RTS frame, the Duration/ID field is set to the estimated time, in microseconds, required for the pending transmission.

Change item b) of the 2nd paragraph as follows:(#366)

b) Multiple protection settings. The Duration/ID field is set to a value D as follows:

4) Else $T_{END-NAV} - T_{PPDU} \le D \le T_{TXOP-REMAINING} - T_{PPDU}$

where

$T_{SINGLE\text{-}MSDU}$ is the estimated time required for the transmission of the allowed frame exchange sequence defined in 10.22.2.8 (TXOP limits) (for a TXOP limit of 0), including applicable IFS durations

$T_{PENDING}$ is the estimated time required for the transmission of

—Pending MPDUs of the same AC

—Any associated immediate response frames

—Any HT NDP, VHT NDP, or Beamforming Report Poll frame transmissions and explicit feedback response frames

—Applicable IFSs

—Any RDG

—Any pending QoS Null frame exchanges by paged STAs(11ah)

—Any pending PS-Poll or NDP PS-Poll frame exchanges by paged STAs(11ah)

—Any DL MU PPDUs

—Any HE trigger-based PPDUs

—Any Trigger frames to solicit HE trigger-based PPDUs

T_{TXOP} is the duration given by dot11EDCATableTXOPLimit (dot11QAPEDCATableTXOPLimit for the AP) for that AC

$T_{TXOP\text{-}REMAINING}$ is T_{TXOP} less the time already used time within the TXOP

$T_{END\text{-}NAV}$ is the remaining duration of any NAV set by the TXOP holder, or 0 if no NAV has been established

T_{PPDU} is the time required for transmission of the current PPDU

9.2.5.7 Setting for control response frames

Insert a new paragraph after the 2nd paragraph of this subclause:

In a CTS frame that is transmitted in response to an MU-RTS frame, the Duration/ID field is set to the value obtained from the Duration/ID field of the MU-RTS frame that elicited the CTS frame minus the time, in microseconds, between the end of the PPDU carrying the MU-RTS frame and the end of the PPDU carrying the CTS frame.

9.3 Format of individual frame types

9.3.1 Control frames

9.3.1.3 CTS frame format

Change the 2nd paragraph of this subclause as follows:

When the CTS frame is a response to an RTS frame, the value of the RA field of the CTS frame is set to the address from the TA field of the RTS frame with the Individual/Group bit forced to the value 0. When the CTS frame is a response to an MU-RTS frame, the value of the RA field of the CTS frame is set to the address from the TA field of the MU-RTS frame with the Individual/Group bit forced to the value 0.

9.3.1.8 BlockAckReq frame format

9.3.1.8.2 Basic BlockAckReq variant

Change Figure 9-27 as follows:

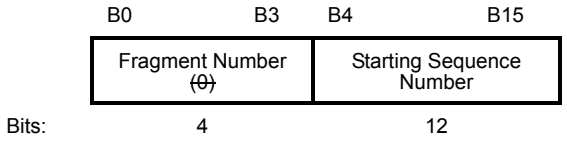

Figure 9-27—Block Ack Starting Sequence Control subfield(#515)