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Source controlled rate operation  
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# Foreword

This Technical Specification has been produced by the 3GPP.

The present document describes the operation of the Adaptive Multi Rate Wideband speech codec during Source Controlled Rate (SCR) operation within the 3GPP system.

The contents of the present document are subject to continuing work within the TSG and may change following formal TSG approval. Should the TSG modify the contents of this TS, it will be re-released by the TSG with an identifying change of release date and an increase in version number as follows:

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- z the third digit is incremented when editorial only changes have been incorporated in the specification;

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# 1 Scope

This document describes the Source Controlled Rate (SCR) operation of the Adaptive Multi-Rate Wideband speech Codec. The implementation of this SCR operation is mandatory in all UMTS equipment implementing the Adaptive Multi-Rate Wideband speech Codec.

The description is structured according to the block diagram in Figure 1. This structure of distributing the various functions between system entities is not mandatory for implementation, as long as the operation on the speech decoder output remains the same.

Annex A describes the Discontinuous Transmission (DTX) operation of the Adaptive Multi-Rate Wideband speech Codec in Codec Type FR\_AMR-WB for the GSM system.

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# 2 Normative references

This document incorporates by dated and undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this document only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references, the latest edition of the publication referred to applies.

- [1] 3GPP TS 26.171 : "AMR Wideband Speech Codec; General description".
- [2] 3GPP TS 26.173 : "AMR Wideband Speech Codec; ANSI-C code".
- [3] 3GPP TS 26.174 : "AMR Wideband Speech Codec; Test sequences".
- [4] 3GPP TS 26.190 : "AMR Wideband Speech Codec; Transcoding functions".
- [5] 3GPP TS 26.191 : "AMR Wideband Speech Codec; Error concealment of lost frames".
- [6] 3GPP TS 26.192 : "AMR Wideband Speech Codec; Comfort noise aspects".
- [7] 3GPP TS 26.194 : "AMR Wideband Speech Codec; Voice Activity Detector (VAD)".
- [8] 3GPP TS 26.201 : "AMR Wideband Speech Codec; Frame structure".

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# 3 Definitions, symbols and abbreviations

## 3.1 Definitions

For the purpose of this document, the following definitions apply.

**frame:** Time interval of 20 ms, corresponding to the time segmentation of the Adaptive Multi-Rate Wideband speech Codec, also used as a short term for a traffic frame.

**traffic frame:** Block of 132..477 information bits transmitted on the speech traffic channels.

**SID frame:** Frame that conveys information about the acoustic background noise.

**speech frame:** Traffic frame that has been classified as SPEECH\_GOOD, SPEECH\_BAD or SPEECH\_LOST frame.

**VAD flag:** Boolean flag, generated by the VAD algorithm indicating the presence ("1") or the absence ("0") of a speech frame.

**RX\_TYPE:** classifies the received frame.

**TX\_TYPE:** classifies the frame to be transmitted.

**hangover period:** A period of frames added at the end of a speech burst in which VAD flag ="0" and TX\_TYPE is ="SPEECH\_GOOD", this period provides the encoder with an extra window to derive the Comfort Noise parameters .

## 3.2 Symbols

For the purpose of this document, the following symbols apply.

$N_{\text{elapsed}}$       Number of elapsed frames since the last updated SID frame.

## 3.3 Abbreviations

For the purpose of this document , the following abbreviations apply.

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| AN  | Access Network                                      |
| SCR | Source Controlled Rate operation                    |
| TS  | Telecommunication Standard, Technical Specification |
| GSM | Global System for Mobile Telecommunication          |
| UE  | User Equipment                                      |
| RAN | Radio Access Network                                |
| RX  | Receive   |
| SID | Silence Descriptor                                  |
| TX  | Transmit  |
| VAD | Voice Activity Detector                             |

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# 4 General

Source Controlled Rate operation (SCR) is a mechanism for the AMR Wideband Speech Codec, which allows to encode the input signal at a lower average rate by taking speech inactivity into account. The SCR scheme may be used for the following purposes:

- to save power in the User Equipment;
- to reduce the overall interference and load in the networks.

SCR in the transmitting path (uplink) shall be in operation in UEs, if commanded so by the network. The UE shall handle SCR in the receiving path (downlink) at any time, regardless, whether SCR in the transmitting path is commanded or not.

## 4.1 General organisation

The default SCR mechanism described in this document requires the following functions:

- a Voice Activity Detector (VAD) on the transmit (TX) side;
- evaluation of the background acoustic noise on the transmit (TX) side, in order to transmit characteristic parameters to the receive (RX) side;
- generation on the receive (RX) side of a similar noise, called comfort noise, during periods where the transmission is switched off.

The Voice Activity Detector (VAD) is defined in [7] and the comfort noise functions in [6]. Both are based partly on the speech Codec and its internal variables, defined in [4].

In addition to these functions, if the parameters arriving at the RX side are detected to be seriously corrupted by errors, the speech or comfort noise must be generated from substituted data in order to avoid seriously annoying effects for the listener. These functions are defined in [5].

An overall description of the speech processing parts can be found in [1]. An overview of one link SCR operation is shown in Figure 1.

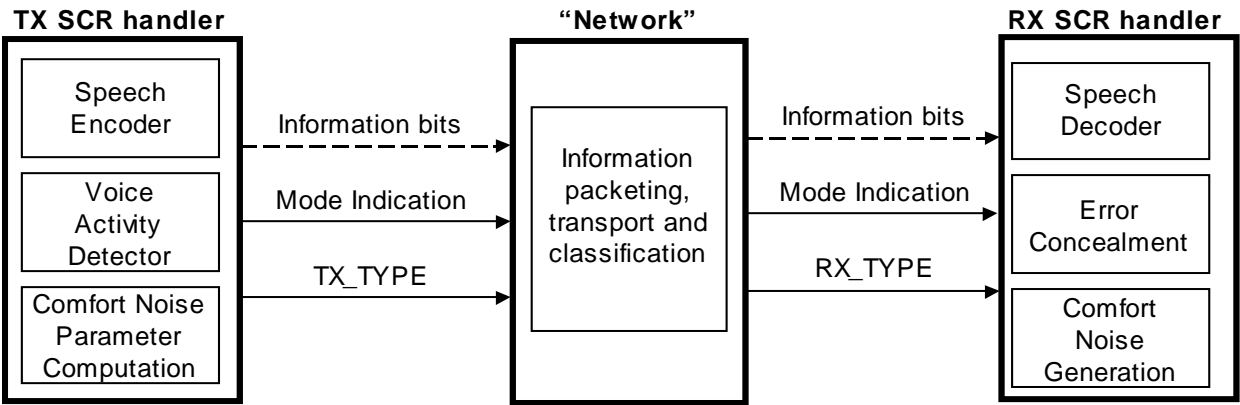


Figure 1: Block diagram of one link SCR operation

## 5 AMR-WB SCR operation

### 5.1 Transmit (TX) side

A block diagram of the transmit side SCR functions is shown in Figure 2.

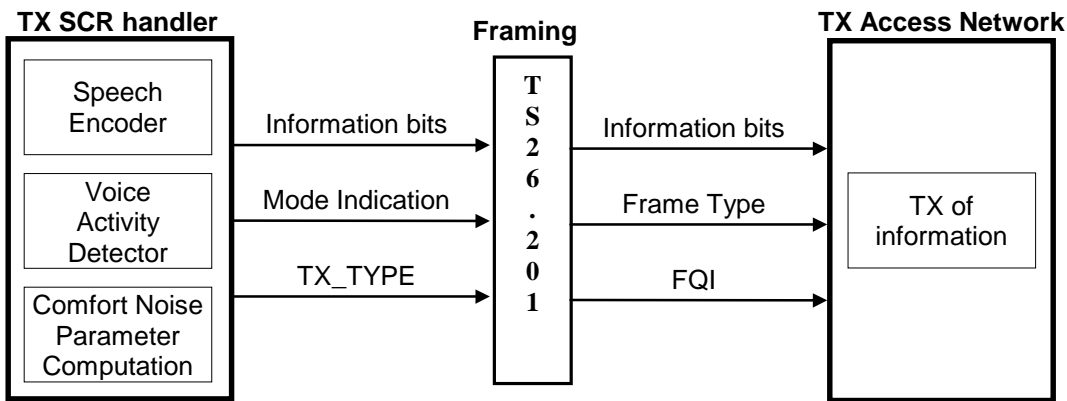


Figure 2: Block diagram of SCR functions at the TX side

#### 5.1.1 General operation

The TX SCR handler passes traffic frames, individually marked by TX\_TYPE, to the Framing unit. Each frame consists of bit fields containing the information bits, the codec mode indication, and the TX\_TYPE. TX\_TYPE shall be used to specify the contents of the frame. The table below provides an overview of the different TX\_TYPEs used and explains the required contents in the information bit and the mode indication bit fields.



**Table 1: SCR TX\_TYPE identifiers for UMTS\_AMR-WB and FR\_AMR-WB**

| <b>TX_TYPE</b> | <b>Information Bits</b>  | <b>Mode Indication</b>   |
|----------------|--|--|
| SPEECH_GOOD    | Speech frame, size 132..477 bits, depending on codec mode  | Current codec mode   |
| SPEECH_BAD     | Corrupt speech frame (bad CRC), size 132..477 bits, depending on codec mode  | Current codec mode   |
| SPEECH_LOST    | No useful information.<br>(Note: If implementation does not support the SPEECH_LOST, SPEECH_BAD shall be used instead) | No useful information  |
| SID_FIRST      | Marker for the end of talkspurt, no further information, all 35 comfort noise bits set to "0"                          | The codec mode that would have been used if TX_TYPE had been "SPEECH_GOOD" |
| SID_UPDATE     | 35 comfort noise bits  | The codec mode that would have been used if TX_TYPE had been "SPEECH_GOOD" |
| SID_BAD        | Corrupt SID update frame (bad CRC)   | The codec mode that would have been used if TX_TYPE had been "SPEECH_GOOD" |
| NO_DATA        | No useful information, nothing to be transmitted   | No useful information  |

TX\_TYPE = "SPEECH\_LOST" indicates that the Information Bit and Codec Mode fields do not contain any useful data (but still should be transmitted over AN). The purpose of this TX\_TYPE is indicate that the frame was transmitted but lost on some previous phase. This TX\_TYPES may occur only in TFO and TrFO situations. Note, that it is possible to replace SPEECH\_LOST with SPEECH\_BAD but this may degrade the quality of the error concealment in the receiving end because concealment may try to use part of the received parameters from the frame which do not contain any useful information.

TX\_TYPE = "NO\_DATA" indicates that the Information Bit and Codec Mode fields do not contain any useful data (and should not be transmitted over AN). The purpose of this TX\_TYPE is to provide the option to save network transmission between the transcoder and AN.

Note, the TX\_TYPES "SPEECH\_BAD", "SPEECH\_LOST" and "SID\_BAD" may occur in TFO and TrFO situations.

The scheduling of the frames for transmission on the Access Network is controlled by the TX SCR handler by the use of the TX\_TYPE field.

## 5.1.2 Functions of the TX SCR handler

If TX SCR operation is disabled, the TX SCR handler continuously generates speech frames, i.e. frames marked with TX\_TYPE="SPEECH\_GOOD".

If the TX SCR operation is enabled, the VAD flag controls the TX SCR handler operation as described in the following paragraphs.

### 5.1.2.1 AMR-WB SCR Timing procedures

To allow an exact verification of the TX SCR handler functions, all frames before the reset of the system are treated as if there were speech frames of an infinitely long time. Therefore, and in order to ensure the correct estimation of

comfort noise parameters at RX SCR side, the first 7 frames after the reset or after enabling the SCR operation shall always be marked with TX\_TYPE= "SPEECH\_GOOD", even if VAD flag ="0" (hangover period, see figure 3).

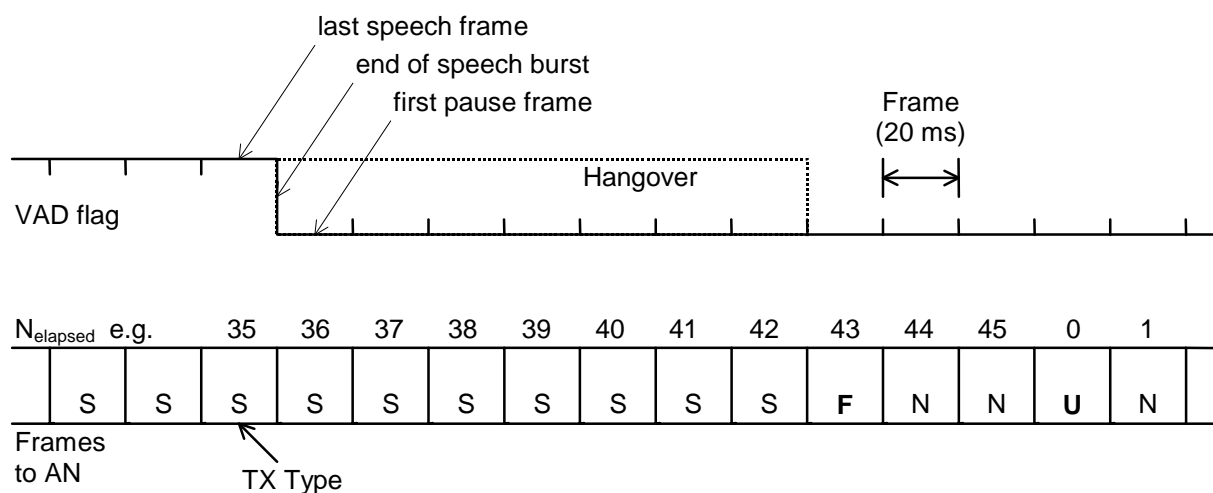
The Voice Activity Detector (VAD) shall operate all the time in order to assess whether the input signal contains speech or not. The output is a binary flag (VAD flag ="1" or VAD flag ="0", respectively) on a frame by frame basis (see [7]).

The VAD flag controls indirectly, via the TX SCR handler operations described below, the overall SCR operation on the transmit side.

Whenever VAD flag ="1", the speech encoder output frame along with mode information shall be passed directly to the AN, marked with TX\_TYPE = " SPEECH\_GOOD "

At the end of a speech burst (transition VAD flag ="1" to VAD flag ="0"), it takes eight consecutive frames to make a new updated SID analysis available (see [6]). Normally, the first seven speech encoder output frames after the end of the speech burst shall therefore be passed directly to the AN, marked with TX\_TYPE = " SPEECH\_GOOD " ("hangover period").

The end of the speech is then indicated by passing frame eight after the end of the speech burst to the AN, marked with TX\_TYPE = "SID\_FIRST" (see figure 3). SID\_FIRST frames do not contain data.



TX Types: "S" = SPEECH; "F" = SID\_FIRST; "U" = "SID\_UPDATE"; "N" = NO DATA

$N_{\text{elapsed}}$ : No. of elapsed frames since last SID\_UPDATE

**Figure 3: Normal hangover procedure for AMR-WB ( $N_{\text{elapsed}} > 23$ )**

If, however, at the end of the speech burst, less than 24 frames have elapsed since the last SID\_UPDATE frame was computed, then this last analysed SID\_UPDATE frame should be passed to the AN whenever a SID\_UPDATE frame is to be produced, until a new updated SID analysis is available (8 consecutive frames marked with VAD flag ="0"). This reduces the load on the network in cases where short background noise spikes are taken for speech, by avoiding the "hangover" waiting for the SID frame computation.

Once the SID\_FIRST frame has been passed to the AN, the TX SCR handler shall at regular intervals compute and pass updated SID\_UPDATE (Comfort Noise) frames to the AN as long as VAD flag = "0". SID\_UPDATE frames shall be generated every 8<sup>th</sup> frame. The first SID\_UPDATE shall be sent as the third frame after the SID\_FIRST frame.

The speech encoder is operated in full speech modality if TX\_TYPE = " SPEECH\_GOOD " and otherwise in a simplified mode, because not all encoder functions are required for the evaluation of comfort noise parameters and because comfort noise parameters are only to be generated at certain times.

### 5.1.3 The TX part of the AN

The TX part of the AN has the following overall functionality. The transmission is cut after the transmission of a SID\_FIRST frame when the speaker stops talking. During speech pauses the transmission is resumed at regular intervals for transmission of one SID\_UPDATE frame, in order to update the generated comfort noise on the RX side. The operation of

the TX part of the AN is controlled by the TX SCR handler via the TX\_TYPE.

All frames, marked with SPEECH\_GOOD, SID\_FIRST or SID\_UPDATE shall be transmitted by the TX part of the AN.

## 5.2 Receive (RX) side

A block diagram of the receive side SCR functions is shown in Figure 3 below.

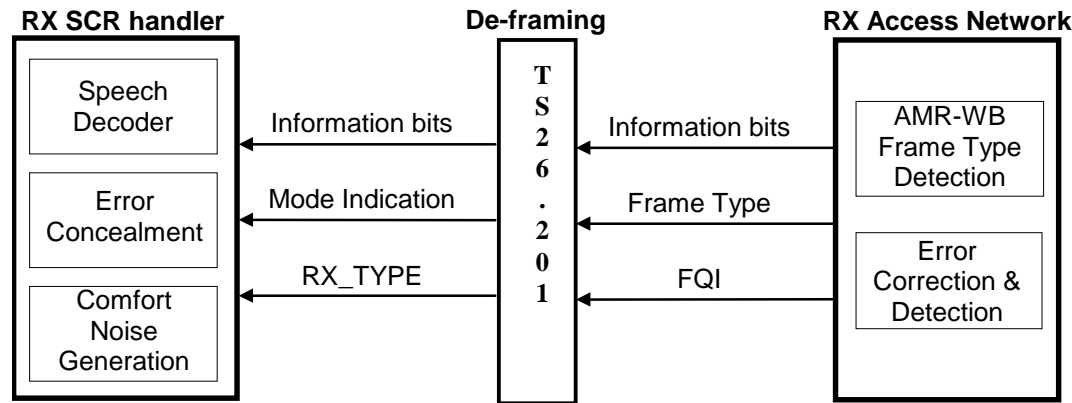


Figure 4: Block diagram of the receive side SCR functions

### 5.2.1 General operation

The AN passes all the received traffic frames to the RX SCR handler, classified with RX\_TYPE, as described in Table 2 (see TS 26.201). The RX SCR handles the frame accordingly.

Table 2: RX\_TYPE identifiers for AMR-WB

| RX_TYPE     | Information Bits   |
|-------------|--|
| SPEECH_GOOD | Speech frame without detected errors.  |
| SPEECH_BAD  | (likely) speech frame with bad CRC (or estimated to be very bad by the RX part of the AN ) |
| SPEECH_LOST | No frame received. Indicates that this frame was transmitted, but never received.          |
| SID_FIRST   | This SID-frame marks the beginning of a comfort noise period.                              |
| SID_UPDATE  | Correct SID update frame   |
| SID_BAD     | Corrupt SID update frame (bad CRC; applicable only for SID_UPDATE frames)                  |
| NO_DATA     | Nothing useable was received. The synthesis mode of the previous frame type is used.       |

### 5.2.3 Demands on the RX SCR handler

The RX SCR handler is responsible for the overall SCR operation on the RX side. It consists of two main modes: SPEECH and COMFORT\_NOISE. The initial mode shall be SPEECH.

The SCR operation on the RX side shall be as follows:

- The RX SCR handler shall enter mode SPEECH, when a frame classified as SPEECH\_GOOD is received.  
Whenever a frame classified as SPEECH\_GOOD is received the RX SCR handler shall pass it directly on to the speech decoder;
- if the RX SCR handler is in mode SPEECH, then frames classified as SPEECH\_BAD, SPEECH\_LOST, or NO\_DATA shall be substituted and muted as defined in [5]. Frames classified as NO\_DATA shall be handled like SPEECH\_LOST frames without valid speech information;
- if the error concealment of RX SCR handler does not support the RX\_TYPE=SPEECH\_LOST, then frames classified as SPEECH\_LOST shall be substituted with RX\_TYPE=SPEECH\_BAD;
- frames classified as SID\_FIRST, SID\_UPDATE or SID\_BAD shall bring the RX SCR handler into mode COMFORT\_NOISE and shall result in comfort noise generation, as defined in [6]. SID\_BAD frames shall be substituted and muted as defined in [5];
- in mode COMFORT\_NOISE the RX SCR handler shall ignore all unusable frames (NO\_DATA, SPEECH\_BAD); comfort noise generation shall continue, until timeout may apply ([5]).

## 5.3 AMR-WB SID Information format

When the TX SCR handler is ordered by the network to operate in AMR-WB mode with SCR operation enabled the SID\_UPDATE frame format is according to [5]. This is the default and only mandatory operating mode of the SCR handler.

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# Annex A (normative): AMR-WB DTX handler for the GSM system

## A.1 Scope

The present document gives a description of the general baseband operation of Adaptive Multi-Rate Wideband speech traffic channels in the transmitter and in the receiver of GSM Mobile Stations (MS)s and Base Station Systems (BSS)s during Discontinuous Transmission (DTX).

For clarity, the description is structured according to the block diagrams in Figures 1 and 3. Except in the case described next, this structure of distributing the various functions between system entities is not mandatory for implementation, as long as the operation on the air interface and on the speech decoder output remains the same.

In the case of BSSs where the speech transcoder is located remote from the Base Transceiver Station (BTS), the implementation of the interfaces between the DTX handlers and the Radio Sub System (RSS) as described in the present document together with all their flags is mandatory, being part of the A-bis interface as described in GSM 08.60 and GSM 08.61.

The DTX functions described in this technical specification are mandatory for implementation in the GSM MSs implementing the AMR-WB speech codec. The receiver requirements are mandatory for implementation in all GSM BSSs implementing the AMR-WB speech codec, the transmitter requirements only for those BSSs where downlink DTX or Tandem Free Operation will be used.

---

## A.2 References

The following documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of the present document.

- References are either specific (identified by date of publication, edition number, version number, etc.) or non-specific.
- For a specific reference, subsequent revisions do not apply.
- For a non-specific reference, the latest version applies. In the case of a reference to a 3GPP document (including a GSM document), a non-specific reference implicitly refers to the latest version of that document *in the same Release as the present document*.

- [1] 3GPP TR 21.905: "Vocabulary for 3GPP Specifications".
- [2] 3GPP TS 24.008: "Digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2+); Mobile radio interface layer 3 specification".
- [3] 3GPP TS 45.003: "Digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2+); Channel coding".
- [4] 3GPP TS 45.005: "Digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2+); Radio transmission and reception".
- [5] 3GPP TS 45.008: "Digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2+); Radio subsystem link control".
- [6] 3GPP TS 45.009: "Digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2+); Link adaptation".
- [7] 3GPP TS 26.171: "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+); Adaptive Multi-Rate Wideband (AMR-WB) speech processing functions; General description".
- [8] 3GPP TS 26.173: "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+); ANSI-C code for the GSM Adaptive Multi-Rate Wideband speech codec".
- [9] 3GPP TS 26.174: "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Test vectors for the GSM Adaptive Multi-Rate Wideband speech codec".

- [10] 3GPP TS 26.190: "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+); Adaptive Multi-Rate Wideband speech transcoding".
- [11] 3GPP TS 26.191: "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+); Substitution and muting of lost frame for Adaptive Multi-Rate Wideband speech traffic channels".
- [12] 3GPP TS 26.192: "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+); Comfort noise aspects for Adaptive Multi-Rate Wideband speech traffic channels".
- [13] 3GPP TS 26.194: "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+); Voice Activity Detector (VAD) for Adaptive Multi-Rate Wideband speech traffic channels".
- [14] 3GPP TS 28.060: "Digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2+); Inband control of remote transcoders and rate adaptors for Full Rate traffic channels".
- [15] 3GPP TS 28.061: "Digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2+); Inband Control of Remote Transcoders and Rate Adaptors for Half Rate traffic channels".
- [16] 3GPP TS 28.062: "Digital cellular telecommunications system; Inband Tandem Free Operation (TFO) of Speech Codecs".

---

## A.3 Definitions, symbols and abbreviations

### A.3.1 Definitions

For the purpose of the present document, the following definitions apply.

**frame:** Time interval of 20 ms, corresponding to the time segmentation of the Adaptive Multi-Rate Wideband speech transcoder (3GPP TS 26.190 [9]), also used as a short term for a traffic frame.

**traffic frame:** Block of 132..397 information bits transmitted on the TCH/WFS or TCH/WS speech traffic channels.

**SID frame:** Frame characterised by the SID (Silence Descriptor) gross bit patterns. It may convey information on the acoustic background noise.

**speech frame:** Traffic frame that has been classified as a SPEECH\_GOOD, SPEECH\_BAD or SPEECH\_LOST frame.

**VAD flag:** Boolean flag, generated by the VAD algorithm defined in 3GPP TS 26.194 indicating the presence ("1") or the absence ("0") of a speech frame.

**RX\_TYPE:** flag with eight values, generated by the RX radio subsystem, indicating to the RX DTX handler the type of data in the current frame. Refer to Table 2.

**TX\_TYPE:** flag with eight values, generated by the TX DTX handler, indicating to the TX radio subsystem the type of data in the current frame. Refer to Table 1.

**hangover period:** A period of 7 frames added at the end of a speech burst in which VAD flag ="0" and TX\_TYPE is "SPEECH".

### A.3.2 Symbols

For the purpose of the present document, the following symbols apply.

$N_{\text{elapsed}}$  Number of elapsed frames since the last updated SID frame.

### A.3.3 Abbreviations

For the purpose of the present document, the following abbreviations apply.

BSC Base Station Controller

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| BSS     | Base Station System                             |
| BTS     | Base Transceiver Station                        |
| CHD     | Channel Decoder                                 |
| CHE     | Channel Encoder                                 |
| DTX     | Discontinuous Transmission                      |
| ETS     | European Telecommunication Standard             |
| FACCH   | Fast Associated Control CHannel                 |
| GSM     | Global System for Mobile Telecommunications     |
| MS      | Mobile Station                                  |
| RATSCCH | Robust Amr Traffic Synchronised Control CHannel |
| RSS     | Radio Sub System                                |
| RX      | Receive   |
| SACCH   | Slow Associated Control CHannel                 |
| SID     | Silence Descriptor                              |
| TX      | Transmit  |
| VAD     | Voice Activity Detector                         |

For abbreviations not given in this subclause, see 3GPP TS 21.004.

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## A.4 General

Discontinuous Transmission (DTX) is a mechanism, which allows the radio transmitter to be switched off most of the time during speech pauses for the following two purposes:

- to save power in the Mobile Station (MS);
- to reduce the overall interference level over the air interface.

DTX in uplink shall be in operation within the GSM MS, if commanded so by the network, see 3GPP TS 24.008. The MS shall handle DTX in downlink at any time, regardless, whether DTX in uplink is commanded or not.

### A.4.1 General organisation

The overall DTX mechanism described in the present document requires the following functions:

- a Voice Activity Detector (VAD) on the transmit (TX) side;
- evaluation of the background acoustic noise on the transmit (TX) side, in order to transmit characteristic parameters to the receive (RX) side;
- generation on the receive (RX) side of a similar noise, called comfort noise, during periods where the radio transmission is switched off.

The Voice Activity Detector (VAD) is defined in 3GPP TS 26.194 and the comfort noise functions in 3GPP TS 26.192. Both are based partly on the speech transcoder and its internal variables, defined in 3GPP TS 26.190.

In addition to these functions, if the parameters arriving at the RX side are detected to be seriously corrupted by errors, the speech or comfort noise must be generated from substituted data in order to avoid seriously annoying effects for the listener. This function is defined in 3GPP TS 26.191.

An overall description of the speech processing parts can be found in 3GPP TS 26.171.

The description for Tandem Free Operation is given in 3GPP TS 28.062.

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## A.5 Transmit (TX) side

A block diagram of the transmit side DTX functions is shown in figure 1.

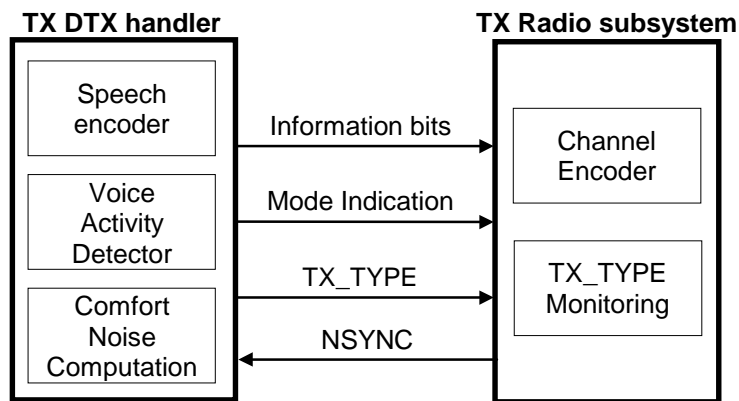


Figure 5: Block diagram of the transmit side DTX functions

## A.5.1 General operation

The TX DTX handler passes traffic frames, individually marked by TX\_TYPE, to the Radio Subsystem (RSS). Each frame passed to the RSS consists of bit fields containing the information bits, the codec mode indication, and the TX\_TYPE. TX\_TYPE is used to specify the contents of the frame. The table below provides an overview of the different TX\_TYPES used and explains the required contents in the information bit and the mode indication bit fields. In case of ongoing Tandem Free Operation (see 3GPP TS 28.062) frames with errors may arrive in downlink in the BTS.

Table 3: TX TYPE identifiers

| TX_TYPE Legend                                      | Information Bits  | Mode Indication   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>SPEECH_GOOD</b>                                  | speech frame, size 132..397 bits depending on codec mode;<br>no errors known.   | current code mode   |
| <b>SPEECH_DEGRADED</b><br>(only in downlink in TFO) | Speech frame, size 132..397 bits, depending on codec mode;<br>there might be errors in class 2 bits.                  | current codec mode  |
| <b>SPEECH_BAD</b><br>(only in downlink in TFO)      | Speech frame, size 132..397 bits, depending on codec mode;<br>there are errors in class 1 bits.                       | current codec mode  |
| <b>SPEECH_LOST</b><br>(only in downlink in TFO)     | no useful information<br>(Note: If implementation does not support the SPEECH_LOST, SPEECH_BAD shall be used instead) | no useful information   |
| <b>SID_FIRST</b>                                    | marks the end of a talkspurt, respectively the beginning of a speech pause; does not contain information bits.        | the codec mode that would have been used if TX_TYPE had been SPEECH |
| <b>SID_UPDATE</b>                                   | comfort noise, 35 bits;<br>no errors known  | the codec mode that would have been used if TX_TYPE had been SPEECH |
| <b>SID_BAD</b><br>(only in downlink in TFO)         | comfort noise, 35 bits;<br>errors detected, parameters unusable   | the codec mode that would have been used if TX_TYPE had been SPEECH |
| <b>ONSET</b><br>(only in downlink in TFO)           | announces the beginning of a speech burst; does not contain information bits  | the codec mode of the following speech frame                        |
| <b>NO_DATA</b>                                      | no useful information   | no useful information   |

TX\_TYPE = "SPEECH\_LOST" indicates that the Information Bit and Codec Mode fields do not contain any useful data (but still should be transmitted the air interface). The purpose of this TX\_TYPE is indicate that the frame was transmitted but lost on some previous phase. This TX\_TYPES may occur only in TFO and TrFO situations. Note, that it is possible to replace SPEECH\_LOST with SPEECH\_BAD but this may degrade the quality of the error concealment in the receiving end because concealment may try to use part of the received parameters from the frame which do not contain any useful information.



TX\_TYPE = "NO\_DATA" indicates that the Information Bit and Codec Mode fields do not contain any useful data (and shall not be transmitted over the air interface). The purpose of this TX\_TYPE is to provide the option to save transmission between the transcoder and the radio base station if a packet oriented transmission is used.

The scheduling of the frames for transmission on the air interface is controlled by the TX DTX handler by the use of the TX\_TYPE field.

### A.5.1.1 Functions of the TX DTX handler

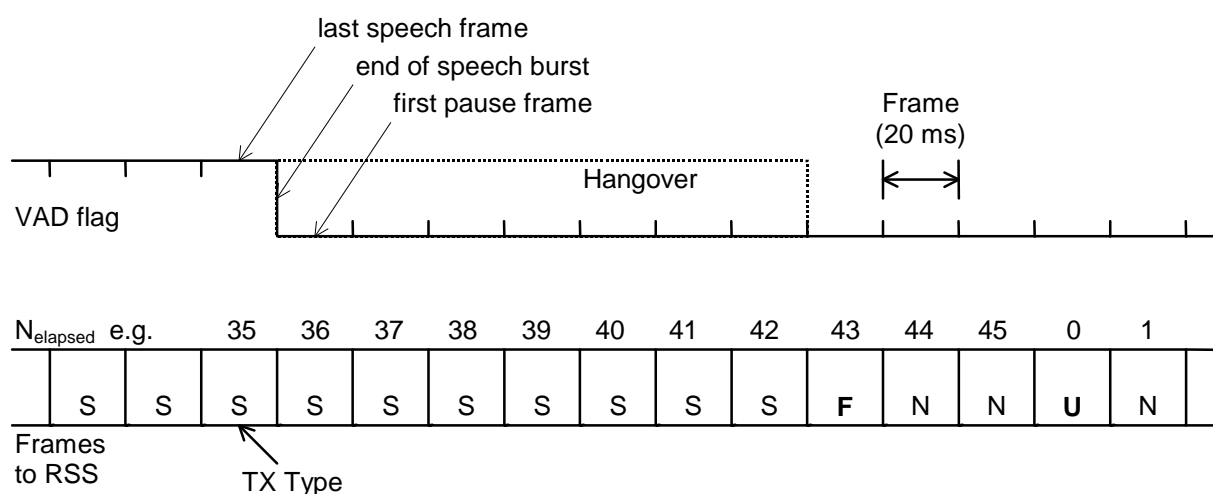
To allow an exact verification of the TX DTX handler functions, all frames before the reset of the system are treated as if there were speech frames of an infinitely long time. Therefore, and in order to ensure the correct estimation of comfort noise parameters at RX DTX side, the first 7 frames after the reset or after enabling the DTX operation shall always be marked with TX\_TYPE= " SPEECH\_GOOD ", even if VAD flag ="0" (hangover period, see figure 2).

The Voice Activity Detector (VAD) shall operate all the time in order to assess whether the input signal contains speech or not. The output is a binary flag (VAD flag ="1" or VAD flag ="0", respectively) on a frame by frame basis (see 3GPP TS 26.194).

The VAD flag controls indirectly, via the TX DTX handler operations described below, the overall DTX operation on the transmit side.

Whenever VAD flag ="1", the speech encoder output frame along with mode information shall be passed directly to the radio subsystem (RSS), marked with TX\_TYPE =" SPEECH\_GOOD "

At the end of a speech burst (transition VAD flag ="1" to VAD flag ="0"), it takes 8 consecutive frames to make a new updated SID analysis available at receiver side (see 3GPP TS 26.192). Normally, the first 7 speech encoder output frames after the end of the speech burst shall therefore be passed directly to the RSS, marked with TX\_TYPE =" SPEECH\_GOOD " ("hangover period"). The end of the speech is then indicated by passing frame 8 after the end of the speech burst to the RSS, marked with TX\_TYPE = "SID\_FIRST" (see figure 2).



TX Types: "S" = SPEECH; "F" = SID\_FIRST; "U" = "SID\_UPDATE"; "N" = NO DATA

N<sub>elapsed</sub>: No. of elapsed frames since last SID\_UPDATE

**Figure 6: Normal hangover procedure (N<sub>elapsed</sub> > 23)**

If, however, at the end of the speech burst, less than 24 frames have elapsed since the last SID\_UPDATE frame was computed and passed to the RSS, then this last analysed SID\_UPDATE frame shall repeatedly be passed to the RSS whenever a SID\_UPDATE frame is to be produced, until a new updated SID analysis is available (8 consecutive frames marked with VAD flag ="0"). This reduces the activity on the air in cases where short background noise spikes are taken for speech, by avoiding the "hangover" waiting for the SID frame computation.

Once the first SID analysis after the end of a speech burst has been computed and the SID\_FIRST frame has been passed to the Radio Subsystem, the TX DTX handler shall at regular intervals compute and pass updated SID\_UPDATE (Comfort Noise) frames to the Radio Subsystem (RSS) as long as VAD flag = "0". SID\_UPDATE

frames shall be generated every 8<sup>th</sup> frame. The first SID\_UPDATE shall be sent as the third frame after the SID\_FIRST frame.

The speech encoder is operated in full speech modality if TX\_TYPE = "SPEECH\_GOOD" and otherwise in a simplified mode, because not all encoder functions are required for the evaluation of comfort noise parameters and because comfort noise parameters are only to be generated at certain times.

In order to ensure TX/RX DTX handler synchronisation at handover, the uplink TX DTX handler in the MS shall accept messages from TX RSS with control parameter NSYNC, resulting in the following operation during a period of the next NSYNC frames:

- The TX DTX handler shall send SID\_UPDATE instead of NO\_DATA frames to the TX RSS.
- If, during this period of NSYNC frames, VAD flag is equal to 1 at least for one speech frame, TX DTX handler shall send SPEECH frames for the rest of the period of the NSYNC frames. Note the TX DTX handler shall send SPEECH frames at least for the duration of the hangover period.

### A.5.1.2 Functions of the TX Radio Subsystem

The TX Radio Subsystem has the following overall functionality. The radio transmission is cut after the transmission of a SID\_FIRST frame when the speaker stops talking. During speech pauses the transmission is resumed at regular intervals for transmission of one SID\_UPDATE frame, in order to update the generated comfort noise on the RX side (and to improve the measurement of the link quality by the RSS). Note that the transcoder knows what frames to send. In the case when nothing is to be transmitted it outputs frames marked with TX\_TYPE = "NO\_DATA".

Within the TX Radio Subsystem the TX\_TYPE Monitoring unit controls the operation of the Channel Encoder (as specified in 3GPP TS 25.003) and the Transmission of the frame. Control input to the TX\_TYPE Monitoring unit is the TX\_TYPE. Control output and input to the Channel Encoder are indicators specifying the frame format. These frame format indicators are defined in 3GPP TS 25.003.

#### A.5.1.2.1 Functions of the TX Radio Subsystem for TCH/WFS

The TX Radio Subsystem operates in the following way regarding DTX (without TFO):

- all frames marked with TX\_TYPE = "SPEECH\_GOOD" are scheduled for normal channel coding and transmission. The frame format for CHE operation shall be SPEECH. If, however, the previous frame was not of TX\_TYPE = "SPEECH\_GOOD", an ONSET frame format followed by SPEECH\_GOOD shall be signalled to the CHE;
- for frames marked with TX\_TYPE = "SID\_FIRST" a SID\_FIRST frame format is signalled to the CHE;
- frames marked with TX\_TYPE = "SID\_UPDATE" are scheduled for SID\_UPDATE frame channel coding and transmission. The frame format signalled to CHE is SID\_UPDATE;
- for frames marked with TX\_TYPE = "NO\_DATA" no processing or transmission is carried out.

If a SID\_FIRST frame or a SID\_UPDATE frame is stolen for Fast Associated Control Channel (FACCH) signalling purposes, then the subsequent frame shall be scheduled for transmission of the SID\_FIRST or SID\_UPDATE frame (whichever applies) instead.

SPEECH frames shall override possible SID\_FIRST or SID\_UPDATE frames in exceptional cases.

At handover, TX/RX DTX handler synchronisation shall be initiated. At the time instant before the MS starts sending to the new base station, a message shall be sent to the uplink TX DTX handler with the parameter NSYNC = 12.

#### A.5.1.2.2 Functions of the Downlink TX Radio Subsystem for TFO

The TX Radio Subsystem in the BTS shall in addition operate in the following way regarding DTX, if TFO is ongoing (see 3GPP TS 28.062):

- Frames with TX\_TYPE = SPEECH\_GOOD, SID\_FIRST and SID\_UPDATE shall be handled as usual in DTX, regardless whether DTX in downlink is requested or not. Also NO\_DATA shall be handled as usual, if DTX is requested.

- Frames with TX\_TYPE = NO\_DATA shall be replaced by SID\_FILLER frames, if DTX in downlink is not requested. By this the radio transmission continues in downlink, although no parameters are transmitted in speech pauses on the Abis interface. The MS generates Comfort Noise in these speech pauses.
- Frames with TX\_TYPE = SPEECH\_DEGRADED shall be handled exactly like SPEECH\_GOOD frames.
- For frame with TX\_TYPE = SPEECH\_BAD and SID\_BAD the CHE shall perform its regular processing, but then shall invert CRC bits before convolutional encoding and transmitting the frames on the air interface. By this the error concealment mechanism in the MS is triggered to handle these corrupted frames.
- Frames with TX\_TYPE = SPEECH\_LOST shall be replaced by SPEECH\_LOST\_FILLER frames, if DTX in downlink is not requested. By this the radio transmission continues in downlink. The MS performs special lost frame handling operations for the frame.
- ONSET frames may be ignored by the TX Radio Subsystem and need not to be processed.

#### Definitions:

SID\_FILLER frames are like SID\_BAD frames, but with all information bits set to "1". The CRC bits shall artificially be inverted by the CHE before convolutional encoding and transmission.

SPEECH\_LOST\_FILLER frames are like SPEECH\_BAD frames, but with all information bits set to "1". The CRC bits shall artificially be inverted by the CHE before convolutional encoding and transmission.

#### A.5.1.2.4 Functions of the TX Radio Subsystem for RATSCCH

During regular speech transmission (in the middle of a speech burst) RATSCCH replaces (steals) one speech frame (see 3GPP TS 25.009). Also in all non speech cases the RATSCCH shall be handled like speech. The respective RATSCCH frame formats shall be signalled to the CHE.

If RATSCCH has to be sent during a speech pause in DTX, then first an ONSET frame shall be signalled to the CHE, followed by the RATSCCH frame and finally by the respective SID\_FIRST frame.

If a SID\_UPDATE frame is affected by RATSCCH signalling, then the SID\_UPDATE frame shall be re-scheduled for transmission immediately after the RATSCCH signalling.

FACCH should be handled in the same way as a RATSCCH, i.e. like a short speech burst.

## A.6 Receive (RX) side

A block diagram of the receive side DTX functions is shown in figure 3.

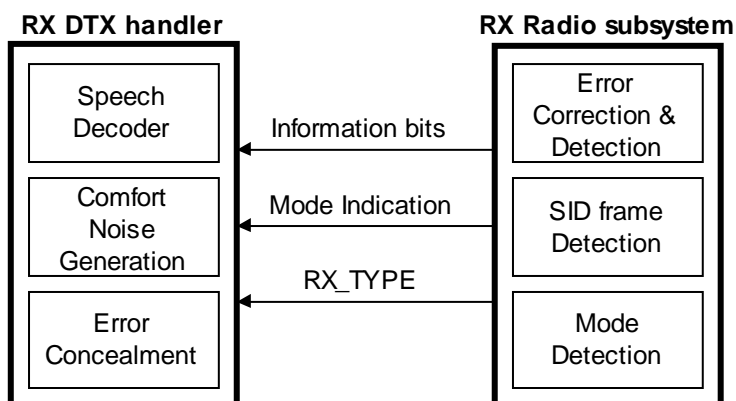


Figure 7: Block diagram of the receive side DTX functions

### A.6.1 General operation

Whatever their context (speech, SID, FACCH or none), the RSS continuously passes the received traffic frames to the RX DTX handler, individually marked by various pre-processing functions with RX\_TYPE as described in subclause

6.1.1 and table 2, which serves to classify the traffic frame. This classification allows the RX DTX handler to determine in a simple way how the received frame is to be handled.

**Table 4: RX\_TYPE identifiers**

| <b>RX_TYPE Legend</b>  | <b>Description</b>  |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>SPEECH_GOOD</b>     | Speech frame with CRC OK, Channel Decoder soft values also OK   |
| <b>SPEECH_DEGRADED</b> | Speech frame with CRC OK, but 1B bits and class2 bits may be corrupted  |
| <b>SPEECH_BAD</b>      | (likely) speech frame, bad CRC (or very bad Channel Decoder measures)   |
| <b>SPEECH_LOST</b>     | Nothing useable (for the speech decoder) was received. Indicates that this frame was transmitted, but never received  |
| <b>SID_FIRST</b>       | first SID marks the beginning of a comfort noise period   |
| <b>SID_UPDATE</b>      | SID update frame (with correct CRC)   |
| <b>SID_BAD</b>         | Corrupt SID update frame (bad CRC; applicable only for SID_UPDATE frames)   |
| <b>ONSET</b>           | ONSET frames precede the first speech frame of a speech burst   |
| <b>NO_DATA</b>         | Nothing useable (for the speech decoder) was received. This applies for the cases of no received frames (DTX) or received FACCH or RATSCCH or SID_FILLER signalling frames. |

### A.6.1.1 Functions of the RX radio subsystem

The RX radio subsystem uses a combination of gross-bit markers, receiver measurements, and CRC checks to classify each received frame. The basic operation for each frame is outlined below:

- the receiver first searches for the RATSCCH, SID\_UPDATE, SID\_FIRST or ONSET gross bit markers.
- If the RATSCCH signalling is detected, then the RATSCCH frame shall be decoded and handled as described in 3GPP TS 25.009. They shall be passed to the RX DTX handler as a NO\_DATA frame(s).
- If the SID\_FIRST marker is detected the frame is passed to the RX DTX handler as a SID\_FIRST frame.
- If the SID\_UPDATE marker is detected, then the frame shall be decoded and passed to the RX DTX handler as a SID\_UPDATE or a SID\_BAD or a NO\_DATA frame, depending on the CRC and the information bits, along with the comfort noise parameters, if applicable. A NO\_DATA frame shall be passed on, if all information bits of a SID\_UPDATE frame are set to "1" and the CRC is bad (see SID\_FILLER in subclause 5.1.2.2).
- If the ONSET marker is detected, then an ONSET frame shall be passed to the RX DTX handler.
- if neither SID\_UPDATE nor SID\_FIRST markers are detected, the frame shall be channel decoded assuming it to be a speech frame. A speech frame shall be passed on, if all information bits of speech frame are set to "1" and the CRC is bad (see SPEECH\_LOST\_FILLER in subclause 5.1.2.2). Depending on the CRC for speech frame channel decoding along with other receiver measurements the frame shall then be passed to the RX DTX handler marked as either SPEECH\_GOOD, SPEECH\_DEGRADED, SPEECH\_BAD, NO\_DATA or SPEECH\_LOST frame.

### A.6.1.2 Functions of the RX DTX handler

The RX DTX handler is responsible for the overall DTX operation on the RX side. It consists of two main modes: SPEECH and COMFORT\_NOISE. The initial mode shall be SPEECH.

The DTX operation on the RX side shall be as follows:

- The RX DTX handler shall enter mode SPEECH, when a frame classified as SPEECH\_GOOD or SPEECH\_DEGRADED is received. ONSET frames may be taken into account to identify the beginning of a speech burst;
- whenever a frame classified as SPEECH\_GOOD is received the RX DTX handler shall pass it directly on to the speech decoder;

- if the RX DTX handler is in mode SPEECH, then frames classified as SPEECH\_DEGRADED, SPEECH\_BAD, SPEECH\_LOST or NO\_DATA shall be substituted and muted as defined in 3GPP TS 26.191. Frames classified as NO\_DATA shall be handled like SPEECH\_LOST frames without valid speech information;
- if the error concealment of RX SCR handler does not support the RX\_TYPE=SPEECH\_LOST, then frames classified as SPEECH\_LOST shall be substituted with RX\_TYPE=SPEECH\_BAD.

Frames classified as SID\_FIRST, SID\_UPDATE or SID\_BAD shall bring the RX DTX handler into mode COMFORT\_NOISE and shall result in comfort noise generation, as defined in 3GPP TS 26.192. SID\_BAD frames shall be substituted and muted as defined in 3GPP TS 26.191. In mode COMFORT\_NOISE the RX DTX handler shall ignore all unusable frames (NO\_DATA, SPEECH\_BAD, SPEECH\_LOST) delivered by the RSS; comfort noise generation shall continue, until timeout may apply (see 3GPP TS 26.191).

## Annex B: (informative)

### Change history

| Change history |       |           |      |     |                                      |        |        |
|----------------|-------|-----------|------|-----|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Date           | TSG # | TSG Doc.  | CR   | Rev | Subject/Comment                      | Old    | New    |
| 03-2001        | 11    | SP-010088 |      |     | Version 2.0.0 presented for approval |        | 5.0.0  |
| 12-2004        | 26    |           |      |     | Version for Release 6                | 5.0.0  | 6.0.0  |
| 06-2006        | 32    | SP-060356 | 0001 | 2   | Correction of references             | 6.0.0  | 6.1.0  |
| 06-2007        | 36    |           |      |     | Version for Release 7                | 6.0.0  | 7.0.0  |
| 12-2008        | 42    |           |      |     | Version for Release 8                | 7.0.0  | 8.0.0  |
| 12-2009        | 46    |           |      |     | Version for Release 9                | 8.0.0  | 9.0.0  |
| 03-2011        | 51    |           |      |     | Version for Release 10               | 9.0.0  | 10.0.0 |
| 09-2012        | 57    |           |      |     | Version for Release 11               | 10.0.0 | 11.0.0 |
| 09-2014        | 65    |           |      |     | Version for Release 12               | 11.0.0 | 12.0.0 |
| 12-2015        | 70    |           |      |     | Version for Release 13               | 12.0.0 | 13.0.0 |

| Change history |         |      |    |     |     |                                |             |
|----------------|---------|------|----|-----|-----|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Date           | Meeting | TDoc | CR | Rev | Cat | Subject/Comment                | New version |
| 2017-03        | 75      |      |    |     |     | Version for Release 14         | 14.0.0      |
| 2018-06        | 80      |      |    |     |     | Version for Release 15         | 15.0.0      |
| 2020-07        | -       | -    | -  | -   | -   | Update to Rel-16 version (MCC) | 16.0.0      |
| 2022-04        | -       | -    | -  | -   | -   | Update to Rel-17 version (MCC) | 17.0.0      |
| 2024-03        | -       | -    | -  | -   | -   | Update to Rel-18 version (MCC) | 18.0.0      |
| 2025-10        | -       | -    | -  | -   | -   | Update to Rel-19 version (MCC) | 19.0.0      |

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# History

| Document history |              |             |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|
| V19.0.0          | October 2025 | Publication |
|                  |              |             |
|                  |              |             |
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|                  |              |             |