



**E**UROPEAN  
**T**ELECOMMUNICATION  
**S**TANDARD

**ETS 300 552**

September 1994

---

Source: ETSI TC-SMG

Reference: GSM 04.03

ICS: 33.060.30

**Key words:** European digital cellular telecommunications system, Global System for Mobile communications (GSM)

**European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2);  
Mobile Station - Base Station System (MS - BSS) interface  
Channel structures and access capabilities  
(GSM 04.03)**

**ETSI**

European Telecommunications Standards Institute

**ETSI Secretariat**

**Postal address:** F-06921 Sophia Antipolis CEDEX - FRANCE

**Office address:** 650 Route des Lucioles - Sophia Antipolis - Valbonne - FRANCE

**X.400:** c=fr, a=atlas, p=etsi, s=secretariat - **Internet:** secretariat@etsi.fr

Tel.: +33 92 94 42 00 - Fax: +33 93 65 47 16

---

**Copyright Notification:** No part may be reproduced except as authorized by written permission. The copyright and the foregoing restriction extend to reproduction in all media.

© European Telecommunications Standards Institute 1994. All rights reserved.



## Contents

Foreword .....	5
1 General.....	7
1.1 Scope.....	7
1.2 Normative references .....	7
1.3 Definitions and abbreviations.....	9
2 General definitions .....	9
3 Channel types and their use: Traffic channels and user channels.....	10
3.1 User channels.....	10
3.2 Bm Channel.....	10
3.3 Lm Channels.....	10
4 Channel types and their use: Control channels.....	11
4.1 Control channel types .....	11
4.1.1 Broadcast Control Channel .....	11
4.1.2 Common Control Channel.....	11
4.1.3 Dedicated Control Channel .....	11
5 BS access capability .....	12
6 Channel configurations.....	12
6.1 Mandatory capabilities .....	13
History.....	14

Blank page

## Foreword

This European Telecommunication Standard (ETS) has been produced by the Special Mobile Group (SMG) Technical Committee (TC) of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI).

This ETS describes the channel structures and access capabilities at the Mobile Station - Base Station System (MS - BSS) interface within the European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2) and corresponds to GSM technical specification, GSM 04.03 version 4.1.1.

The specification from which this ETS has been derived was originally based on CEPT documentation, hence the presentation of this ETS may not be entirely in accordance with the ETSI/PNE rules.

Reference is made within this ETS to GSM Technical Specifications (GSM-TSs) (NOTE).

Reference is also made within this ETS to GSM 0x.xx. series. The specifications in the series can be identified, with their full title, within the normative reference Clause of this ETS by the first two digits of their GSM reference number e.g. GSM 09.xx series, refers to GSM 09.01, GSM 09.02 etc.

NOTE: TC-SMG has produced documents which give the technical specifications for the implementation of the European digital cellular telecommunications system. Historically, these documents have been identified as GSM Technical Specifications (GSM-TS). These TSs may have subsequently become I-ETTs (Phase 1), or ETSS (Phase 2), whilst others may become ETSI Technical Reports (ETRs). GSM-TSs are, for editorial reasons, still referred to in GSM ETSS.

Blank page

## 1 General

### 1.1 Scope

This Technical Specification defines limited sets of channel types, access capabilities and channel configurations at reference point Um (radio interface).

### 1.2 Normative references

This ETS 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 ETS only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references, the latest edition of the publication referred to applies.

- [1] GSM 01.04 (ETR 100): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Abbreviations and acronyms".
- [2] GSM 04.01 (prETS 300 550): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Mobile Station - Base Station System (MS - BSS) interface General aspects and principles".
- [3] GSM 04.02 (prETS 300 551): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); GSM Public Land Mobile Network (PLMN) access reference configuration".
- [4] GSM 04.04 (prETS 300 553): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); layer 1 General requirements".
- [5] GSM 04.05 (prETS 300 554): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Data Link (DL) layer General aspects".
- [6] GSM 04.06 (prETS 300 555): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Mobile Station - Base Station System (MS - BSS) interface Data Link (DL) layer specification".
- [7] GSM 04.07 (prETS 300 556): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Mobile radio interface signalling layer 3 General aspects".
- [8] GSM 04.08 (prETS 300 557): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Mobile radio interface layer 3 specification".
- [9] GSM 04.10 (prETS 300 558): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Mobile radio interface layer 3 Supplementary services specification General aspects".
- [10] GSM 04.11 (prETS 300 559): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Point-to-Point (PP) Short Message Service (SMS) support on mobile radio interface".
- [11] GSM 04.12 (prETS 300 560): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Short Message Service Cell Broadcast (SMSCB) support on the mobile radio interface".
- [12] GSM 04.13 (prETS 300 561): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Performance requirements on mobile radio interface".
- [13] GSM 04.21 (prETS 300 562): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Rate adaption on the Mobile Station - Base Station System (MS - BSS) interface".

- [14] GSM 04.22 (prETS 300 563): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Radio Link Protocol (RLP) for data and telematic services on the Mobile Station - Base Station System (MS - BSS) interface and the Base Station System - Mobile-services Switching Centre (BSS - MSC) interface".
- [15] GSM 04.80 (prETS 300 564): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Mobile radio interface layer 3 supplementary services specification Formats and coding".
- [16] GSM 04.81 (prETS 300 565): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Line identification supplementary services - Stage 3".
- [17] GSM 04.82 (prETS 300 566): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Call Forwarding (CF) supplementary services - Stage 3".
- [18] GSM 04.83 (prETS 300 567): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Call Waiting (CW) and Call Hold (HOLD) supplementary services - Stage 3".
- [19] GSM 04.84 (prETS 300 568): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); MultiParty (MPTY) supplementary services - Stage 3".
- [20] GSM 04.85 (prETS 300 569): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Closed User Group (CUG) supplementary services - Stage 3".
- [21] GSM 04.86 (prETS 300 570): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Advice of Charge (AoC) supplementary services - Stage 3".
- [22] GSM 04.88 (prETS 300 571): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Call Barring (CB) supplementary services - Stage 3".
- [23] GSM 04.90 (prETS 300 572): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Unstructured supplementary services operation - Stage 3".
- [24] GSM 05.01 (prETS 300 573): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Physical layer on the radio path General description".
- [25] GSM 05.02 (prETS 300 574): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Multiplexing and multiple access on the radio path".
- [26] GSM 05.03 (prETS 300 575): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Channel coding".
- [27] GSM 05.04 (prETS 300 576): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Modulation".
- [28] GSM 05.05 (prETS 300 577): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Radio transmission and reception".
- [29] GSM 05.08 (prETS 300 578): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Radio subsystem link control".
- [30] GSM 05.10 (prETS 300 579): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Radio subsystem synchronisation".
- [31] GSM 05.90 (ETR 108): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); GSM Electro Magnetic Compatibility (EMC) considerations".
- [32] GSM 06.01 (prETS 300 580-1): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Full rate speech processing functions".



- [33] GSM 06.10 (prETS 300 580-2): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Full rate speech transcoding".
- [34] GSM 06.11 (prETS 300 580-3): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Substitution and muting of lost frames for full rate speech channels".
- [35] GSM 06.12 (prETS 300 580-4): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Comfort noise aspect for full rate speech traffic channels".
- [36] GSM 06.31 (prETS 300 580-5): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Discontinuous Transmission (DTX) for full rate speech traffic channel".
- [37] GSM 06.32 (prETS 300 580-6): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Voice Activity Detection (VAD)".
- [38] GSM 06.02 (prETS 300 581-1): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Half rate speech processing functions".
- [39] GSM 06.20 (prETS 300 581-2): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Half rate speech transcoding".
- [40] GSM 06.21 (prETS 300 581-3): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Substitution and muting of lost frames for half rate speech traffic channels".
- [41] GSM 06.22 (prETS 300 581-4): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Comfort noise aspects for half rate speech traffic channels".
- [42] GSM 06.41 (prETS 300 581-5): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Discontinuous Transmission (DTX) for half rate speech traffic channels".
- [43] GSM 06.42 (prETS 300 581-6): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Voice Activity Detection (VAD) for half rate speech traffic channels".

### 1.3 Definitions and abbreviations

Abbreviations used in this specification are listed in GSM 01.04

## 2 General definitions

A channel represents a specified portion of the information-carrying capacity of an interface.

Channels are classified by channel types, which have common characteristics. Channel types appearing on the radio interface are specified in sections 3 and 4.

At a given time, the complete interface between a Base Station and the set of Mobile Stations in relation corresponds to some interface structure. The interface structure may change in time. The number of possible different such interface structures can be large. The BS access capability is a description of all the possible interface structures of the considered BS. BS access capabilities are specified in section 5.

At a given moment, the channel configuration of a Mobile Station is the interface structure this Mobile Station actually uses to transmit information to or receive information from the Base Station. The channel configuration may change in time. A limited number of channel configurations are identified, and are specified in section 6.

A Mobile Station access capability is the description of the set of its possible channel configurations. MS access capabilities are specified in section 7.

### 3 Channel types and their use: Traffic channels and user channels

#### 3.1 User channels

User channels are intended to carry a wide variety of user information streams. A distinguishing characteristic is that user channels do not carry signalling information for Connection Management (CM), Mobility Management (MM) or Radio Resource (RR) management. This signalling information is carried over other types of channels, namely the control channels.

User channels may be used to provide access to the PLMN and the networks it permits access to.

Different types of user channels are distinguished by their rates.

#### 3.2 Bm Channel

A Bm channel is a user channel able to carry:

- a 13 kbit/s rate bit stream with an error structure and a transmission delay compatible with some grade of service, intended to carry voice encoded according to Technical Specifications in GSM 06-series;

or

- a bit stream at a rate of 12, 6 or 3,6 kbit/s, with an error structure and a transmission delay adapted to a wider range of services, including data transmission; or other kinds of bit stream adapted to a wider range of services (for further study).

User information streams are carried on the Bm channel on a dedicated, alternate (within one call or as separate calls), or simultaneous basis, consistent with the Bm channel carrying capability. The following are samples of user information streams:

- i) voice encoded at 13 kbit/s according to Technical Specifications in GSM 06-series; and
- ii) data information corresponding to circuit switching user classes of services at bit rates compatible with the channel capability.

A Bm Channel uses the radio resources referred to as TCH/F. Traffic channels (TCH) are fixed physical gross rate channels, accompanied with timing (see GSM 05.02).

#### 3.3 Lm Channels

A Lm channel is a user channel with a carrying capability lower than a Bm channel.

A Lm channel is a user channel able to carry:

- some bit stream to be defined with an error structure and a transmission delay compatible with some grade of service, intended to carry voice encoded according to a method to be defined;
- a bit stream at a rate of 6 or 3.6 kbit/s, with an error structure and a transmission delay adapted to a wider range of services, including data transmission; or
- other kinds of bit stream adapted to a wider range of services (for further study).

User information streams are carried on a Lm channel on a dedicated, alternate (within one call or as separate calls), or simultaneous basis, consistent with the TCH/H channel carrying capability. The following are samples of user information streams:

- i) voice encoded at some rate according to a method to be specified in the future; and
- ii) data information corresponding to circuit switching user classes of services at bit rates compatible with the channel capability.

A Bm Channel uses the radio resources referred to as TCH/F. Traffic channels (TCH) are fixed physical gross rate channels, accompanied with timing (see GSM 05.02).

## **4 Channel types and their use: Control channels**

NOTE: The term "Dm channel" may be used to refer to the controls channels used by a Mobile Station at a given moment, independently of their type.

Control channels are used to provide all active Mobile Stations with a continuous frame oriented means of communication across the MS-BS interface.

A Mobile Station Channel Configuration contains one or more control channels. These control channels may change in time, with the channel configuration. Access management signalling functions are used to insure the continuity when a change in the control channels occurs.

Control channels are classified by control channel types, which have common characteristics. These control channel types are specified in section 4.1.

The control channels are primarily intended to carry signalling information for Connection management (CM), Mobility Management (MM) and Radio Resource (RR) management.

In addition to signalling information control channels may also be used to carry other data, including those relating to Short Message Services.

### **4.1 Control channel types**

#### **4.1.1 Broadcast Control Channel**

A broadcast control channel (BCCH) is a point-to-multipoint unidirectional control channel, from the fixed sub-system to the Mobile Stations.

A BCCH is intended to broadcast a variety of informations to MSs, including informations necessary for MS to register in the system (e.g. synchronisation data).

A BCCH uses a protocol specified in Technical Specifications in GSM 04-Series.

#### **4.1.2 Common Control Channel**

A common control channel (CCCH) is a point-to-multipoint bidirectional control channel.

A CCCH is primarily intended to carry signalling information necessary for access management functions (e.g. allocation of dedicated channels). The CCCH can be used for other signalling purposes.

A CCCH uses a layered protocol according to Technical Specifications in GSM 04-Series. In particular the multipoint to point management is achieved through random access techniques.

The following terms may be used when the context requires it:

- The RACH (Random Access Channel) is the uplink (MS to network) part of the CCCH.
- The AGCH (Access Grant Channel) is the part of the downlink (network to MS) part of the CCCH reserved for assignment messages.
- The PCH (Paging Channel) is the remaining part.

#### **4.1.3 Dedicated Control Channel**

A dedicated control channel (DCCH) is a point-to-point bidirectional control channel.

DCCHs exist with a variety of bit rates.

DCCHs are further classified as follows according to some technical particularities:

A SDCCH (Stand-alone DCCH) is a DCCH whose allocation is not linked to the allocation of a TCH. The bit rate of a SDCCH is 598/765 kbit/s.

A FACCH (Fast Associated DCCH) is a DCCH obtained by preemptive dynamic multiplexing on respectively a TCH/F or a TCH/H channel. The allocation of a FACCH is obviously linked to the allocation of a TCH. The bit rate of a FACCH is 9200 or 4600 bit/s.

A SACCH (Slow Associated DCCH) is a DCCH of rate 115/300 or 299/765 kbit/s. A independent SACCH is always allocated together with a TCH or a SDCCH.

The terms Bm, or Bm + ACCHs can be used to refer to a Bm channel together with the corresponding FACCH and the co-allocated SACCH when the context avoids any ambiguities. Similar remarks apply to the terms Lm, Lm + ACCHs, Lm + Lm, Lm + Lm + ACCHs. The term SDCCH can be used to refer specifically to a SDCCH together with the co-allocated SACCH when the contexts avoids any ambiguities.

NOTE: TCH/F is sometimes used to designate Bm associated with its control channel (FACCH and SACCH). TCH/H is sometime used to designate Lm associated with its control channel (FACCH and SACCH).

The DCCHs use a layered protocol according to Technical Specifications in GSM 04- and 05-series.

## 5 BS access capability

The BS access capability is composed of:

one BCCH;

one CCCH physically related to the BCCH;

{{0 to 3 additional CCCHs; and a global resource.

OR:

BCCH, CCCH plus 4 SDCCHs and a global resource.}}

The global resource can be used to accommodate:

- i)  $n_1$  ( Bm + FACCH + SACCH);
- ii)  $2n_2$  ( Lm + FACCH + SACCH); and
- iii)  $8n_3$  ( SDCCH of rate 598/765 kbit/s + SACCH);

with the constraint

$n_1 + n_2 + n_3$  lower than some value characterising the BS capability.

The exact use of the global resource may vary in time.

## 6 Channel configurations

At a given moment, a Mobile Station accesses only a limited number of the channels appearing on its radio interface. Different compositions for the accessed channels set are identified, and specified below.

Different channel configurations are:

- i) BCCH;
- ii) CCCH;
- iii) CCCH + BCCH;
- iv) SDCCH + SACCH;
- v) Bm + FACCH + SACCH;
- vi) Lm + FACCH + SACCH;
- vii) Lm + Lm + FACCH + SACCH.

Configuration i) is normally used only in the phase when the physical connection is not set (i.e. just after switch-on, or after a too long interruption of the physical connection due to poor propagation conditions).

Configurations ii) or iii) are used by active but idle MS.

Configurations iv) is used in phases when only a dedicated control channel is needed.

Configurations v) to vii) are used in particular when a circuit-switched communication is in progress.

### 6.1 Mandatory capabilities

The following access capabilities are mandatory for all MSs.

- All MSs shall support the SDCCH.
- If a given service is supported by an MS on a TCH/H, this MS shall support this service on a TCH/F (but not necessarily vice versa).
- An MS supporting a service on TCH/F shall support the signalling only mode on TCH/F as well as the signalling modes associated with the TCH/F.
- An MS supporting a service on TCH/H shall support the signalling only mode on TCH/F as well as the signalling modes associated with the TCH/H.

## History

Document history	
September 1994	First Edition
October 1995	Converted into Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF)