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General description  
(GSM 05.01)**

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## 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, in general terms, the physical layer on the radio path of GSM and DCS 1800 within the European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2).

This ETS corresponds to GSM technical specification, GSM 05.01 version 4.4.0.

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).

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-TSs). 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.

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## 1.1 Scope

This technical specification is an introduction to the 05 series of the GSM technical specifications for GSM and DCS 1800. It is not of a mandatory nature, but consists of a general description of the organization of the physical layer with reference to the technical specifications where each part is specified in detail. It introduces furthermore, the reference configuration that will be used throughout this series of technical specifications.

## 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 telecommunication system (Phase 2); Definitions, abbreviations and acronyms".
- [2] GSM 03.03 (ETS 300 523): "European digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2); Numbering, addressing and identification".
- [3] GSM 03.20 (ETS 300 534): "European digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2); Security related network functions".
- [4] GSM 03.22 (ETS 300 535): "European digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2); Functions related to Mobile Station (MS) in idle mode".
- [5] GSM 04.03 (ETS 300 552): "European digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2); Mobile Station - Base Station System (MS - BSS) interface Channel structures and access capabilities".
- [6] GSM 04.08 (ETS 300 557): "European digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2); Mobile radio interface layer 3 specification".
- [7] GSM 04.21 (ETS 300 562): "European digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2); Rate adaption on the Mobile Station - Base Station System (MS - BSS) interface".
- [8] GSM 05.02 (ETS 300 574): "European digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2); Multiplexing and multiple access on the radio path".
- [9] GSM 05.03 (ETS 300 575): "European digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2); Channel coding".
- [10] GSM 05.04 (ETS 300 576): "European digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2); Modulation".
- [11] GSM 05.05 (ETS 300 577): "European digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2); Radio transmission and reception".
- [12] GSM 05.08 (ETS 300 578): "European digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2); Radio subsystem link control".
- [13] GSM 05.10 (ETS 300 579): "European digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2); Radio subsystem synchronisation".
- [14] GSM 03.30 (ETR 103): "European digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2); Radio network planning aspects".

### 1.3 Definitions and abbreviations

Definitions and abbreviations used in this specification are listed in GSM 01.04.

## 2. Set of channels

The radio subsystem provides a certain number of logical channels that can be separated into two categories according to GSM 04.03:

- 1) the traffic channels (TCH): they are intended to carry two types of user information streams: encoded speech and data. Two types of traffic channels are defined: Bm or full-rate (TCH/F) and Lm or half-rate (TCH/H) traffic channels. For the purpose of this series of technical specifications, the following traffic channels are distinguished:
  - full rate speech TCH (TCH/FS)
  - half rate speech TCH (TCH/HS)
  - 9.6 kbit/s full rate data TCH (TCH/F9.6)
  - 4.8 kbit/s full rate data TCH (TCH/F4.8)
  - 4.8 kbit/s half rate data TCH (TCH/H4.8)
  - $\leq 2.4$  kbit/s full rate data TCH (TCH/F2.4)
  - $\leq 2.4$  kbit/s half rate data TCH (TCH/H2.4)
  - cell broadcast channel (CBCH)
- 2) the signaling channels: these can be sub-divided into BCCH (broadcast control channel), CCCH (common control channel), SDCCH (stand-alone dedicated control channel) and ACCH (associated control channel). An associated control channel is always allocated in conjunction with, either a TCH, or a SDCCH. Two types of ACCH are defined: continuous stream (slow ACCH) and burst stealing mode (fast ACCH). For the purpose of this series of technical specifications, the following signalling channels are distinguished:
  - stand-alone dedicated control channel, four of them mapped on the same basic physical channel as the CCCH (SDCCH/4)
  - stand-alone dedicated control channel, eight of them mapped on a separate basic physical channel (SDCCH/8)
  - full rate fast associated control channel (FACCH/F)
  - half rate fast associated control channel (FACCH/H)
  - slow, TCH/F associated, control channel (SACCH/TF)
  - slow, TCH/H associated, control channel (SACCH/TH)
  - slow, SDCCH/4 associated, control channel (SACCH/C4)
  - slow, SDCCH/8 associated, control channel (SACCH/C8)
  - broadcast control channel (BCCH)
  - random access channel (ie uplink CCCH) (RACH)
  - paging channel (part of downlink CCCH) (PCH)
  - access grant channel (part of downlink CCCH) (AGCH)

When there is no need to distinguish between different sub-categories of the same logical channel, only the generic name will be used, meaning also all the sub-categories (SACCH will mean all categories of SACCHs, SACCH/T will mean both the slow, TCH associated, control channels,...).

The logical channels mentioned above are mapped on physical channels that are described in this set of technical specifications. The different physical channels provide for the transmission of information pertaining to higher layers according to a block structure.



### 3. Reference configuration

For the purpose of elaborating the physical layer specification, a reference configuration of the transmission chain is used as shown in annex A. This reference configuration also indicates which parts are dealt with in details in which technical specification. It shall be noted that only the transmission part is specified, the receiver being specified only via the overall performance requirements. With reference to this configuration, the technical specifications in the 05 series address the following functional units:

- GSM 05.02: burst building, and burst multiplexing;
- GSM 05.03: coding, reordering and partitioning, and interleaving;
- GSM 05.04: differential encoding, and modulation;
- GSM 05.05: transmitter, antenna, and receiver (overall performance).

This reference configuration defines also a number of points of vocabulary in relation to the name of bits at different levels in the configuration. It must be outlined, in the case of the encrypted bits, that they are named only with respect to their position after the encryption unit, and not to the fact that they pertain to a flow of information that is actually encrypted.

### 4. The block structures

The different block structures are described in more detail in GSM 05.03 (Channel coding). A summarised description appears in table 1, in terms of net bit rate, length and recurrence of blocks.

**Table 1: Channel block structures**

Type of channel	net bit rate (kbit/s)	block length (bits)	block recurrence (ms)
full rate speech TCH <sup>1</sup>	13,0	182 + 78	20
half rate speech TCH <sup>2</sup>	5,6	95 + 17	20
data TCH (9,6 kbit/s) <sup>3</sup>	12,0	60	5
data TCH (4,8 kbit/s) <sup>3</sup>	6,0	60	10
data TCH ( $\leq 2,4$ kbit/s) <sup>3</sup>	3,6	36	10
full rate FACCH (FACCH/F)	9,2	184	20
half rate FACCH (FACCH/H)	4,6	184	40
SDCCH	598/765 ( $\approx 0,782$ )	184	3060/13 (235)
SACCH (with TCH) <sup>4</sup>	115/300 ( $\approx 0,383$ )	168 + 16	480
SACCH (with SDCCH) <sup>4</sup>	299/765 ( $\approx 0,391$ )	168 + 16	6120/13 ( $\approx 471$ )
BCCH	598/765 ( $\approx 0,782$ )	184	3060/13 ( $\approx 235$ )
AGCH <sup>5</sup>	n*598/765 ( $\approx 0,782$ )	184	3060/13 ( $\approx 235$ )
PCH <sup>5</sup>	p*598/765 ( $\approx 0,782$ )	184	3060/13 ( $\approx 235$ )
RACH <sup>5</sup>	r*26/765 ( $\approx 0,034$ )	8	3060/13 ( $\approx 235$ )
CBCH	598/765 ( $\approx 0,782$ )	184	3060/13 ( $\approx 235$ )
NOTE 1: For full rate speech, the block is divided into two classes according to the importance of the bits (182 bits for class I and 78 bits for class II).			
NOTE 2: For half rate speech, the block is divided into two classes according to the importance of the bits (95 bits for class I and 17 bits for class II).			
NOTE 3: For data services, the net bit rate is the adaptation rate as defined in GSM 04.21.			
NOTE 4: On SACCH, 16 bits are reserved for control information on layer 1, and 168 bits are used for higher layers.			
NOTE 5: CCCH channels are common to all users of a cell; the total number of blocks (n, p, r) per recurrence period is adjustable on a cell by cell basis and depends upon the parameters (BS_CC_CHANs, BS_BCCH_SDCCH_COMB and BS_AG_BLKs_RES) broadcast on the BCCH and specified in GSM 05.02 and GSM 04.08.			

## 5. Multiple access and timeslot structure

The access scheme is Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) with eight basic physical channels per carrier. The carrier separation is 200 kHz. A physical channel is therefore defined as a sequence of TDMA frames, a time slot number (modulo 8) and a frequency hopping sequence.

The basic radio resource is a time slot lasting  $\approx 576.9\mu\text{s}$  (15/26 ms) and transmitting information at a modulation rate of  $\approx 270.833$  kbit/s (1625/6 kbit/s). This means that the time slot duration, including guard time, is 156.25 bit durations.

We shall describe successively the time frame structures, the time slot structures and the channel organization. The appropriate specifications will be found in GSM 05.02 (multiplexing and multiple access).

### 5.1 Hyperframes, superframes and multiframes

A diagrammatic representation of all the time frame structures is in figure 1. The longest recurrent time period of the structure is called hyperframe and has a duration of 3h 28mn 53s 760ms (or 12533.76 s). The TDMA frames are numbered modulo this hyperframe (TDMA frame number, or FN, from 0 to 2715647). This long period is needed to support cryptographic mechanisms defined in GSM 03.20.

One hyperframe is subdivided in 2048 superframes which have a duration of 6.12 seconds. The superframe is the least common multiple of the time frame structures. The superframe is itself subdivided in multiframes; two types of multiframes exist in the system:

- a 26-frame multiframe (51 per superframe) with a duration of 120 ms, comprising 26 TDMA frames. This multiframe is used to carry TCH (and SACCH/T) and FACCH.
- a 51-frame multiframe (26 per superframe) with a duration of  $\sim 235.4$  ms (3060/13 ms), comprising 51 TDMA frames. This multiframe is used to carry BCCH, CCCH (AGCH, PCH and RACH) and SDCCH (and SACCH/C).

A TDMA frame, comprising eight time slots has a duration of  $\sim 4.62$  (60/13) ms.

### 5.2 Time slots and bursts

The time slot is a time interval of  $\approx 576.9\mu\text{s}$  (15/26 ms), that is 156.25 bit durations, and its physical content is called a burst. Four different types of bursts exist in the system. A diagram of these bursts appears in figure 1.

- normal burst (NB): this burst is used to carry information on traffic and control channels, except for RACH. It contains 116 encrypted bits and includes a guard time of 8.25 bit durations ( $\approx 30.46\mu\text{s}$ ).
- frequency correction burst (FB): this burst is used for frequency synchronization of the mobile. It is equivalent to an unmodulated carrier, shifted in frequency, with the same guard time as the normal burst. It is broadcast together with the BCCH. The repetition of FBs is also named frequency correction channel (FCCH).
- synchronization burst (SB): this burst is used for time synchronization of the mobile. It contains a long training sequence and carries the information of the TDMA frame number (FN) and base station identity code (BSIC, see GSM 03.03). It is broadcast together with the frequency correction burst. The repetition of synchronization bursts is also named synchronization channel (SCH).
- access burst (AB): this burst is used for random access and is characterized by a longer guard period (68.25 bit durations or  $252\mu\text{s}$ ) to cater for burst transmission from a mobile which does not know the timing advance at the first access (or after handover). This allows for a distance of 35 km. This burst is used in the RACH and after a handover. In exceptional cases of cell radii larger than 35 km, some possible measures are described in GSM 03.30.

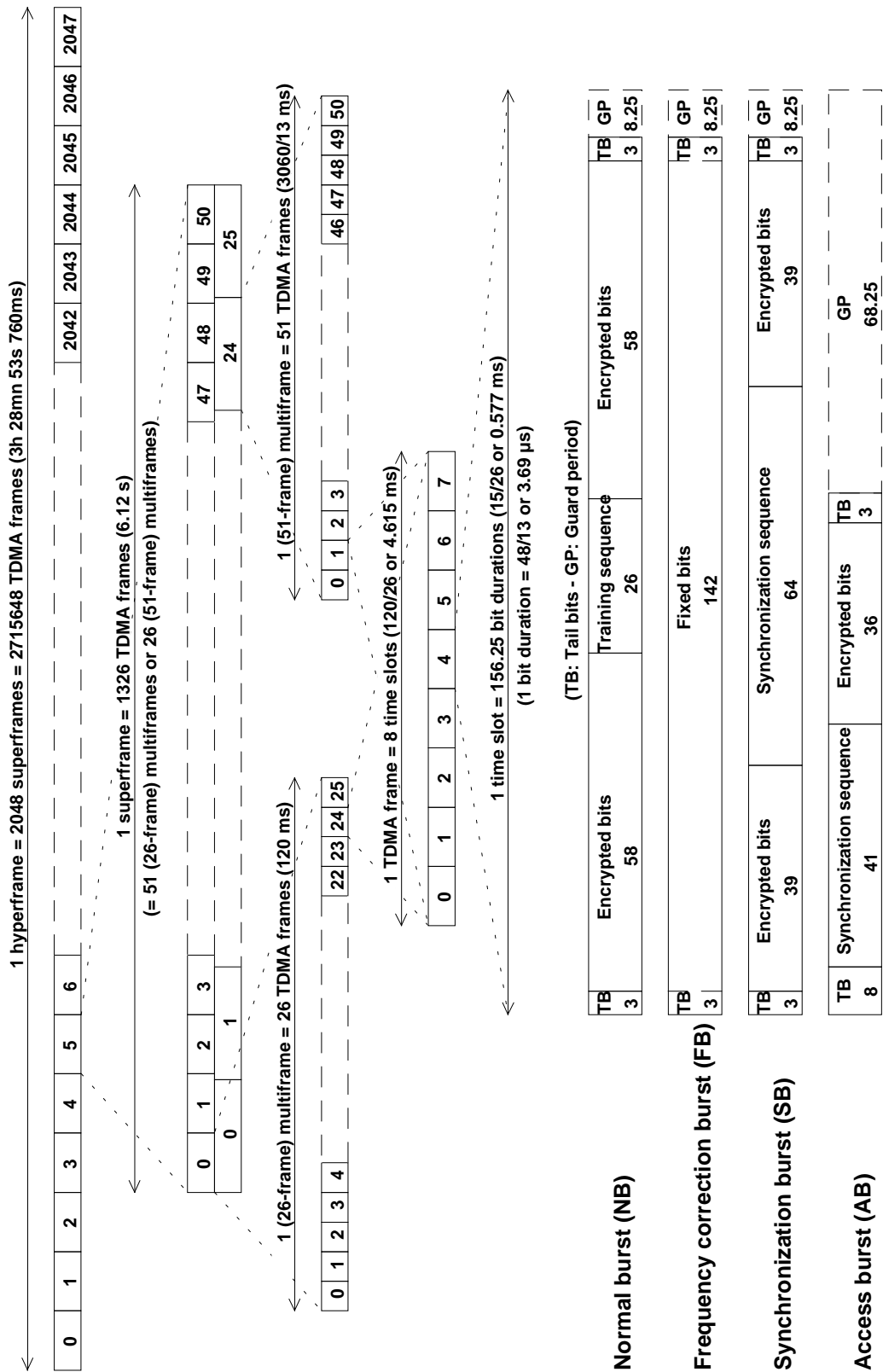


Figure 1: Time frames time slots and bursts

### 5.3 Channel organization

The channel organization for the traffic channels (TCH), FACCHs and SACCH/T uses the 26-frame multiframe. It is organized as described in figure 2, where only one time slot per TDMA frame is considered.

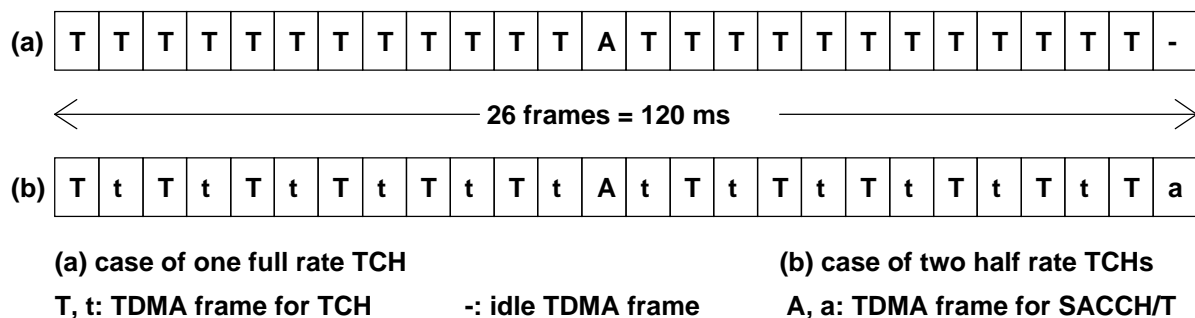


Figure 2: Traffic channel organization

The FACCH is transmitted by preempting half or all of the information bits of the bursts of the TCH to which it is associated (see GSM 05.03).

The channel organization for the control channels (except FACCHs and SACCH/T) uses the 51-frame multiframe. It is organized in the downlink and uplink as described in figure 3.

## 6. Frequency hopping capability

The frequency hopping capability is optionally used by the network operator on all or part of its network. The main advantage of this feature is to provide diversity on one transmission link (especially to increase the efficiency of coding and interleaving for slowly moving mobile stations) and also to average the quality on all the communications through interferers diversity. It is implemented on all mobile stations.

The principle of slow frequency hopping is that every mobile transmits its time slots according to a sequence of frequencies that it derives from an algorithm. The frequency hopping occurs between time slots and, therefore, a mobile station transmits (or receives) on a fixed frequency during one time slot ( $\sim 577 \mu\text{s}$ ) and then must hop before the time slot on the next TDMA frame. Due to the time needed for monitoring other base stations the time allowed for hopping is approximately 1 ms, according to the receiver implementation. The receive and transmit frequencies are always duplex frequencies.

The frequency hopping sequences are orthogonal inside one cell (ie no collisions occur between communications of the same cell), and independent from one cell to an homolog cell (ie using the same set of RF channels, or cell allocation). The hopping sequence is derived by the mobile from parameters broadcast at the channel assignment, namely, the mobile allocation (set of frequencies on which to hop), the hopping sequence number of the cell (which allows different sequences on homolog cells) and the index offset (to distinguish the different mobiles of the cell using the same mobile allocation). The non-hopping case is included in the algorithm as a special case. The different parameters needed and the algorithm are specified in GSM 05.02.

It must be noted that the basic physical channel supporting the BCCH does not hop.

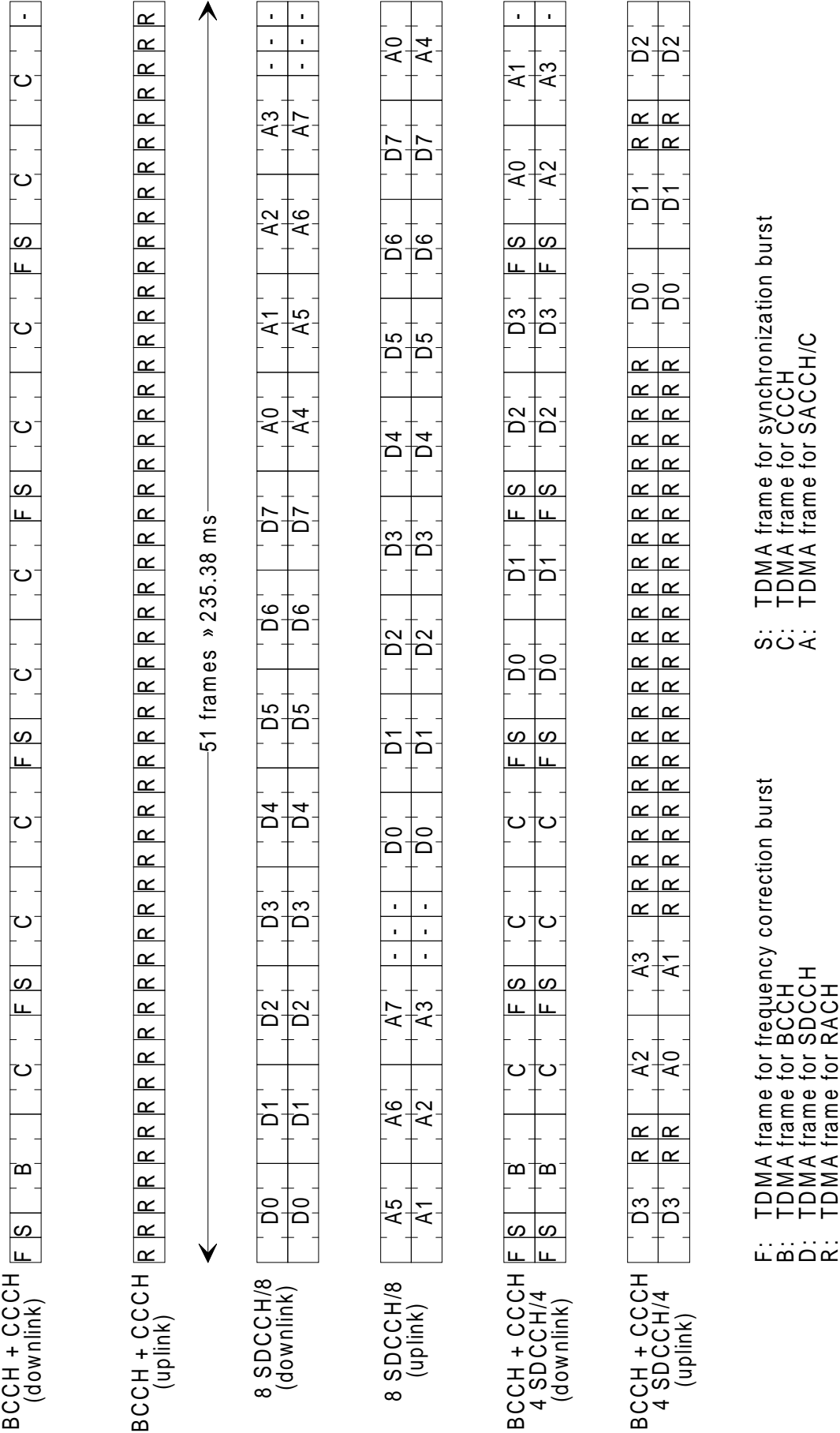


Figure 3: Channel organization in the 51-frame multiframe

## 7. Coding and interleaving

A brief description of the coding schemes that are used for the logical channels mentioned in section 2, plus the synchronization channel (SCH, see 5.2), is made in the following table. For all the types of channels the following operations are made in this order:

- external coding (block coding);
- internal coding (convolutional coding);
- interleaving.

After coding the different channels (except RACH and SCH) are constituted by blocks of coded information bits plus coded header (the purpose of the header is to distinguish between TCH and FACCH blocks). These blocks are interleaved over a number of bursts. The block size and interleaving depth are channel dependent. All these operations are specified in GSM 05.03.

Type of channel	bits/block data+parity+tail <sup>1</sup>	convolutional code rate	coded bits per block	interleaving depth
TCH/FS			456	8
class I <sup>2</sup>	182 + 3 + 4	1/2	378	
class II	78 + 0 + 0	-	78	
TCH/HS			228	4
class I <sup>3</sup>	95+3+6	104/211	211	
class II	17+0+0		17	
TCH/F9.6	4*60 + 0 + 4	244/456	456	19
TCH/F4.8	60 + 0 + 16	1/3	228	19
TCH/H4.8	4*60 + 0 + 4	244/456	456	19
TCH/F2.4	72 + 0 + 4	1/6	456	8
TCH/H2.4	72 + 0 + 4	1/3	228	19
FACCH/F	184 + 40 + 4	1/2	456	8
FACCH/H	184 + 40 + 4	1/2	456	6
SDCCHs SACCHs				
BCCH AGCH PCH				
CBCH	184 + 40 + 4	1/2	456	4
RACH	8 + 6 + 4	1/2	36	1
SCH	25 + 10 + 4	1/2	78	1
NOTE 1: The tail bits mentioned here are the tail bits of the convolutional code.				
NOTE 2: The 3 parity bits for TCH/FS detect an error on 50 bits of class I.				
NOTE 3: The 3 parity bits for TCH/HS detect an error on 22 bits of class I.				

## 8. Modulation

The modulation scheme is gaussian MSK (GMSK) with BT = 0.3. As already mentioned the modulation rate is 1625/6 kbit/s ( $\approx$  270.83 kbit/s). This scheme is specified in detail in GSM 05.04 (Modulation and demodulation).

## 9. Transmission and reception

The modulated stream is then transmitted on a radio frequency carrier. The frequency bands and channel arrangement is following.

For GSM 900, the system is required to operate, at least, in the following frequency band (primary band P-GSM 900):

890 - 915 MHz : mobile transmit, base receive  
935 - 960 MHz : base transmit, mobile receive

For DCS 1800, the system is required to operate in the following frequency band:

1710 - 1785 MHz : mobile transmit, base receive  
1805 - 1880 MHz : base transmit, mobile receive

Furthermore, in some countries, GSM 900 is allowed to operate in part or all of the following extension band G1:

880 - 890 MHz : mobile transmit, base receive  
925 - 935 MHz : base transmit, mobile receive

The RF channel spacing is 200 kHz, allowing for 174 (GSM) or 374 (DCS 1800) radio frequency channels, thus leaving a guard band of 200 kHz at each end of the subbands.

The specific RF channels, together with the requirements on the transmitter and the receiver will be found in GSM 05.05 (Transmission and reception).

In order to allow for low power consumption for different categories of mobiles (eg. vehicle mounted, hand-held, ..), different power classes have been defined. For GSM there are four power classes with the maximum power class having 8 W peak output power (ca 1 W mean output power) and the minimum having 0.8 W peak output power. For DCS 1800 there are two power classes of 1 W peak output power (ca 0.125 W mean) and 0.25 W peak output power.

The classes are specified in GSM 05.05.

The requirements on the overall transmission quality together with the measurement conditions are also in GSM 05.05.

## 10. Other layer 1 functions

The transmission involves other functions. These functions may necessitate the handling of specific protocols between BS and MS. Relevant topics for these cases are:

- 1) the power control mechanisms which adjust the output level of the mobile station (and optionally of the base station) in order to ensure that the required quality is achieved with the less possible radiated power. Power levels with 2 dB steps have been defined for that purpose. This is described in GSM 05.08 (radio subsystem link control) and GSM 05.05.
- 2) the synchronization of the receiver with regard to frequency and time (time acquisition and time frame alignment). The synchronization problems are described in GSM 05.10 (synchronization aspects).
- 3) the hand-over and quality monitoring which are necessary to allow a mobile to continue a call during a change of physical channel. This can occur either because of degradation of the quality of the current serving channel, or because of the availability of another channel which can allow communication at a lower Tx power level, or to prevent a MS from grossly exceeding the planned cell boundaries. The choice of the new channel is done by the network (base station control and MSC) based on measurements (on its own and on adjacent base stations) that are sent on a continuous basis by the mobile station via the SACCHs. The requirements are specified in GSM 05.08 (radio subsystem link control).

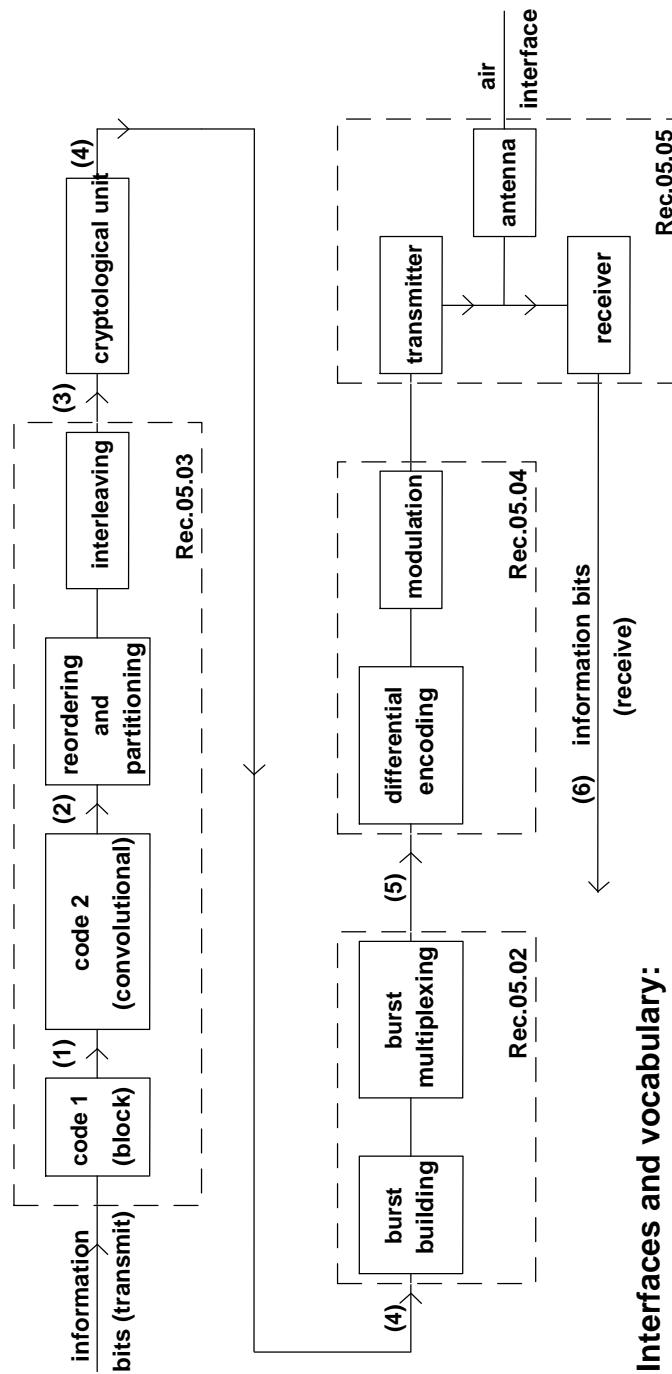
- 4) the measurements and sub-procedures used in the first selection or reselection of a base station by a mobile are specified in GSM 05.08 (radio subsystem link control). (The overall selection and reselection procedures, together with the idle mode activities of a mobile are defined in GSM 03.22 (functions related to MS in idle mode).)

## 11. Performance

Under typical urban fading conditions (ie multipath delays no greater than 5  $\mu$ s), the quality threshold for full-rate speech is reached at a C/I value of approximately 9 dB. The maximum sensitivity is approximately -104 dBm for base stations and GSM mobiles and -102 dBm and -100 dBm for GSM 900 small MSs (see GSM 05.05) and DCS 1800 hand-helds, respectively.



## Annex A (informative): Reference Configuration

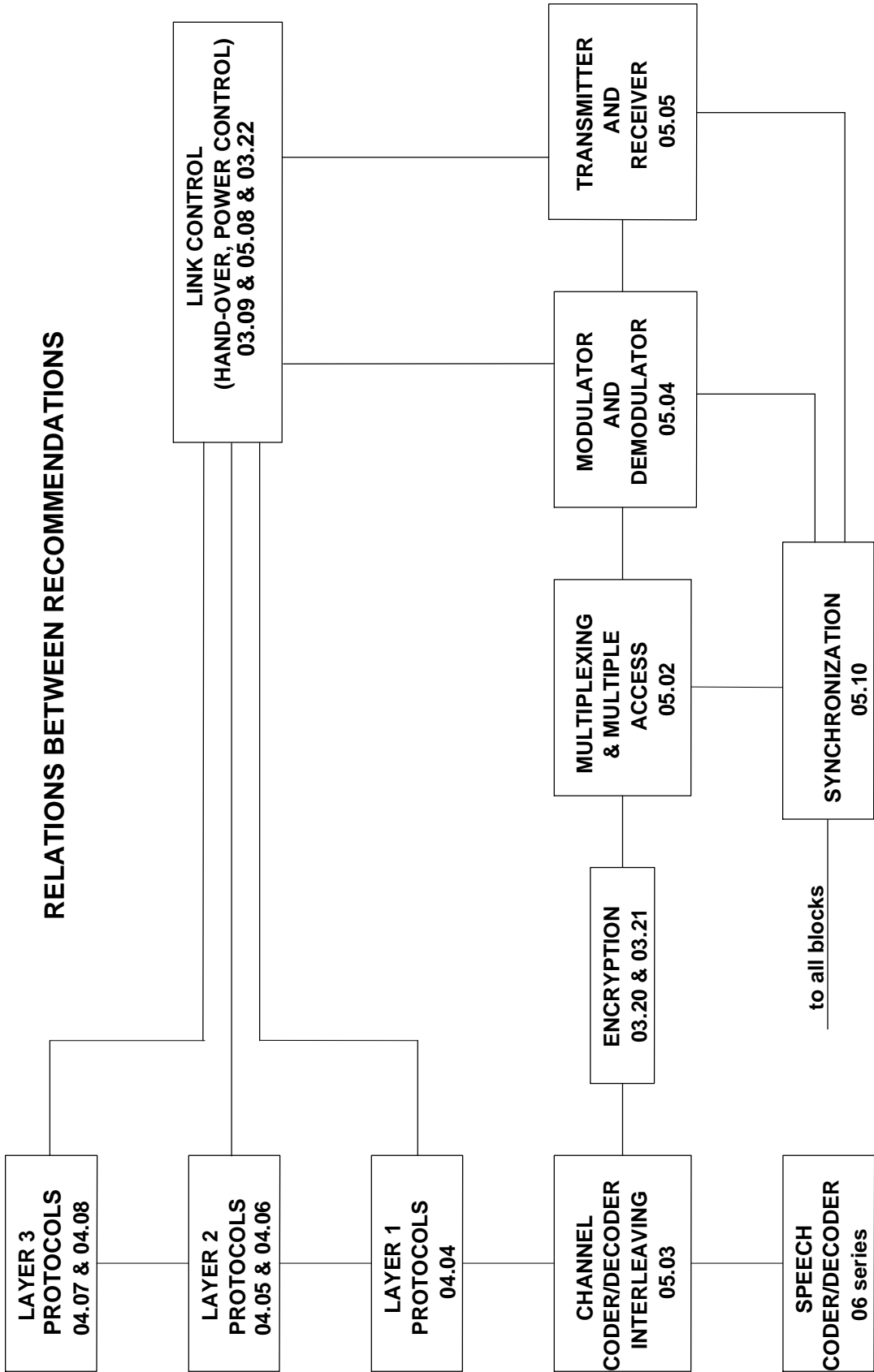


### Interfaces and vocabulary:

- (1) info + parity bits
- (2) coded bits
- (3) interleaved bits
- (4) encrypted bits
- (5) modulating bits
- (6) information bits (receive)

## REFERENCE CONFIGURATION

Annex B (informative):    Relations between recommendations



## History

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