in the user terminal **402** and the corresponding uplink control information being expected to be transmitted from the user terminal **402**, and a second time interval between the uplink control information being transmitted from the user terminal **402** and the corresponding downlink retransmission at earliest being expected to be received in the user terminal **402**.

[0066] Another option is that, in item **902**, uplink transmission is received in the base station **401** from the user terminal **402**. In item **903**, downlink information is transmitted from the base station **401** to the user terminal **402**. In item **904**, uplink retransmission is received in the base station **401** from the user terminal **402**. According an exemplary embodiment, the hybrid automatic repeat request profile indicates a third time interval between the uplink transmission being received in the base station **401** and the corresponding downlink information being expected to be transmitted from the base station **401**, and a fourth time interval between the downlink information being transmitted from the base station **401** and the corresponding uplink retransmission at earliest being expected to be received in the base station **401**.

[0067] In an exemplary embodiment, the hybrid automatic repeat request profile is predefined or defined during initial access to a cell.

[0068] In another exemplary embodiment, flexible HARQ timing is provided by adjusting the time reserved for processing data and related control signals in the system. The processing may include receiver processing (control or data) and/or transmitter processing (data or control).

[0069] In yet another exemplary embodiment, at least one of the uplink control information and the downlink information comprises an acknowledgement message or a negative acknowledgement message.

[0070] In yet another exemplary embodiment, the uplink transmission comprises an uplink message, such as an uplink scheduled message.

[0071] In yet another exemplary embodiment, the downlink information comprises an uplink scheduling grant message.

[0072] In yet another exemplary embodiment, the HARQ timing profile is device specific (user terminal specific), device type specific, cell specific and/or service type specific.

[0073] In yet another exemplary embodiment, a variable or fixed number of different HARQ processes involved in the HARQ timing profile is defined.

[0074] In yet another exemplary embodiment, a variable transmission time interval TTI length is defined for different HARQ processes involved in the HARQ profile.

[0075] In yet another exemplary embodiment, multiple HARQ timing profiles coexist in a common resource space comprising frequency and time resources.

[0076] In yet another exemplary embodiment, HARQ loop timing for the user terminal is defined based on a capability class of the user terminal.

[0077] In yet another exemplary embodiment, the user terminal is defined as a fast response capable user terminal or the user terminal is defined as a lower HARQ loop delay capable user terminal.

[0078] In yet another exemplary embodiment, in response to predetermined event in the system, a HARQ loop delay is dynamically reconfigured for the user terminal during an active session.

[0079] In yet another exemplary embodiment, separate HARQ-ACK control channel portions are defined in a shared control channel for user terminals having different HARQ timing profiles.

[0080] In yet another exemplary embodiment, a size of a HARQ buffer per subframe and/or a maximum number of HARQ processes is defined according to the HARQ timing profile.

[0081] In yet another exemplary embodiment, a bi-directional HARQ profile is defined for the user terminal, the bi-directional HARQ profile comprising the downlink HARQ profile and the uplink HARQ profile for the user terminal.

[0082] In yet another exemplary embodiment, an apparatus is provided comprising at least one processor; and at least one memory including a computer program code, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus to perform a method according to an exemplary embodiment.

[0083] The steps/points, signalling messages and related functions de-scribed above in FIGS. **1** to **9** are in no absolute chronological order, and some of the steps/points may be performed simultaneously or in an order differing from the given one. Other functions can also be executed between the steps/points or within the steps/points and other signalling messages sent be-tween the illustrated messages. Some of the steps/points or part of the steps/points can also be left out or replaced by a corresponding step/point or part of the step/point. The apparatus operations illustrate a procedure that may be implemented in one or more physical or logical entities. The signalling messages are only exemplary and may even comprise several separate messages for transmitting the same information. In addition, the messages may also contain other information.

[0084] It will be obvious to a person skilled in the art that, as the technology advances, the inventive concept can be implemented in various ways. The invention and its embodiments are not limited to the examples described above but may vary within the scope of the claims.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

[0085] 3GPP 3rd generation partnership project
[0086] LTE long term evolution
[0087] UE user equipment
[0088] QoS quality of service
[0089] HARQ hybrid automatic repeat request
[0090] MTC machine type communication
[0091] LTE-A long term evolution advanced
[0092] HSPA high speed packet access
[0093] PUCCH physical uplink control channel
[0094] PHICH physical hybrid-ARQ indicator channel
[0095] TTI transmission time interval

1-19. (canceled)

20. A method for transmission control in a communications system, the method comprising

defining, in a network apparatus, a hybrid automatic repeat request profile for a user terminal among a plurality of hybrid automatic repeat request profiles available,

wherein the hybrid automatic repeat request profile indicates

a first time interval between downlink transmission being received in the user terminal and correspond-