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Kogiantis et al.

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(54) **DOPPLER ESTIMATION AND
COMPENSATION FOR WIRELESS
COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC H04B 7/01; H04L 27/0014; H04L 27/266;
H04L 2017/0026

See application file for complete search history.

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H04B 1/00 (2006.01)
H04B 7/01 (2006.01)
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H04L 27/26 (2006.01)

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2027/0026 (2013.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method of estimating and compensating for Doppler frequency shifts includes providing an accurate reference device for generating an accurate reference frequency in a Doppler estimation and compensation (DEC) system, the DEC system being electrically connected to a user device. The DEC system receives one of a downlink signal from a base station and an uplink signal from the user device. The one of the downlink signal and the uplink signal is compared to the accurate reference frequency. An estimate of a Doppler frequency shift associated with the one of the downlink signal and the uplink signal is determined. An offset Doppler frequency shift of opposite sign as the Doppler frequency shift is added to the one of the downlink signal and uplink signal to provide a compensated signal. The compensated signal is transmitted to one of the base station and user device.

20 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

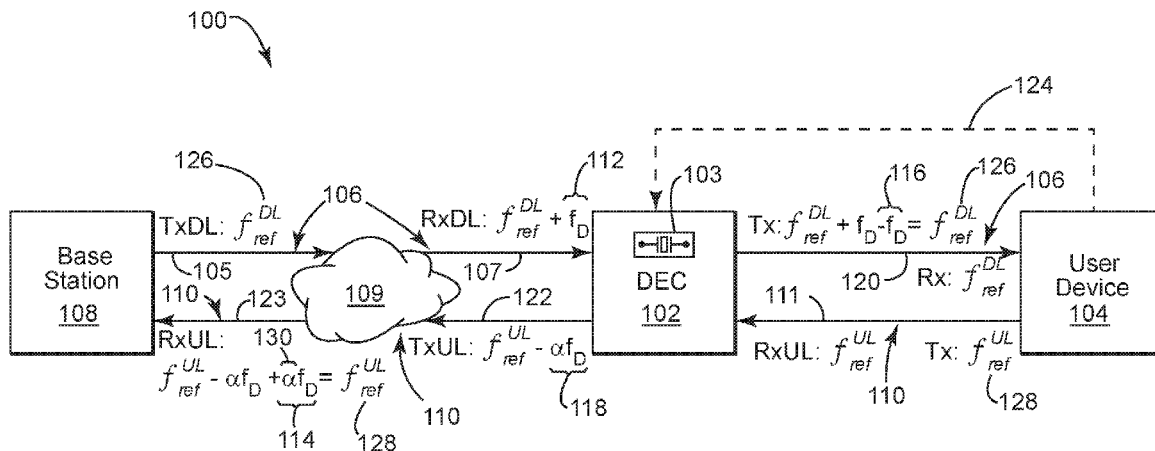


FIG. 1

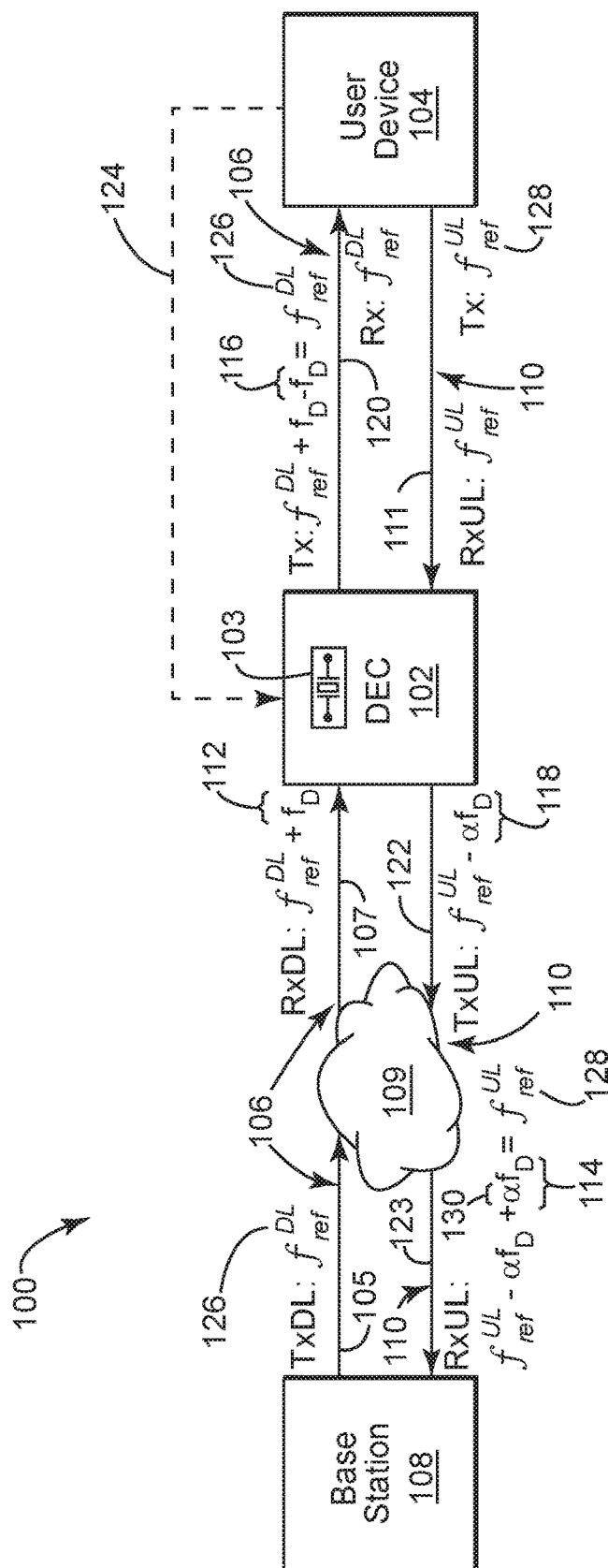


FIG. 2

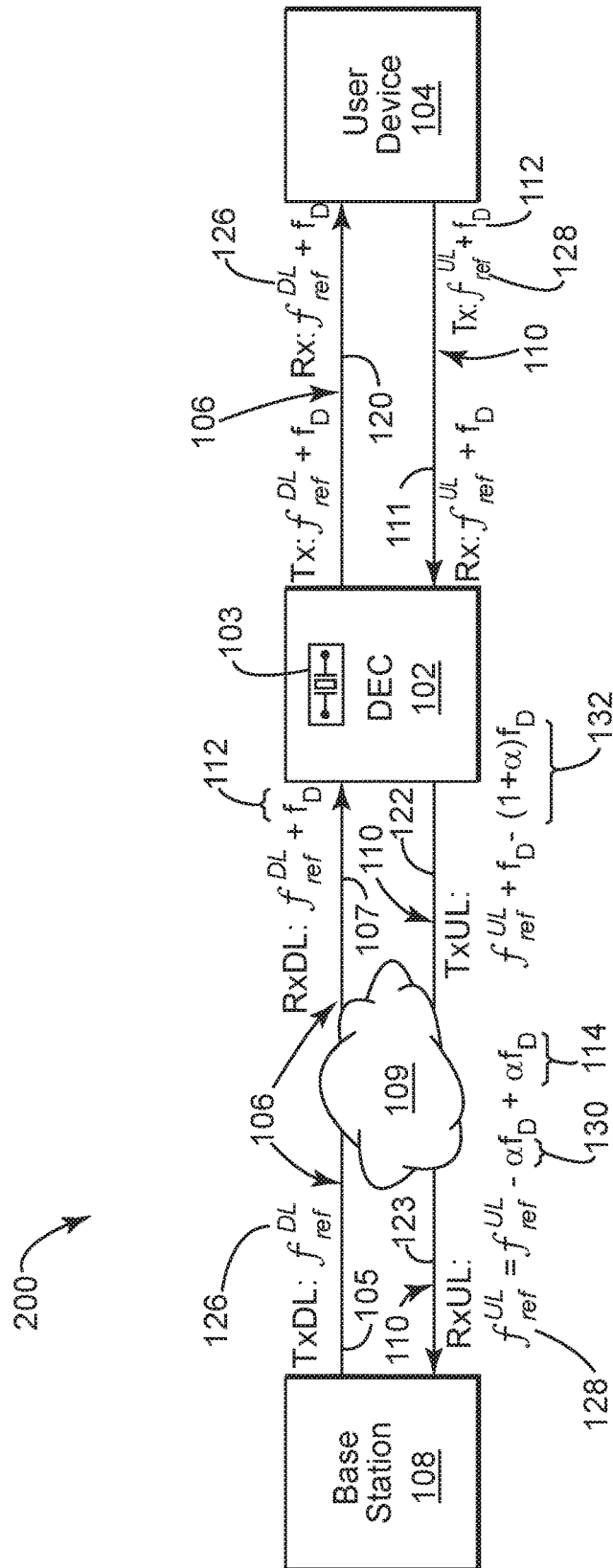


FIG. 3

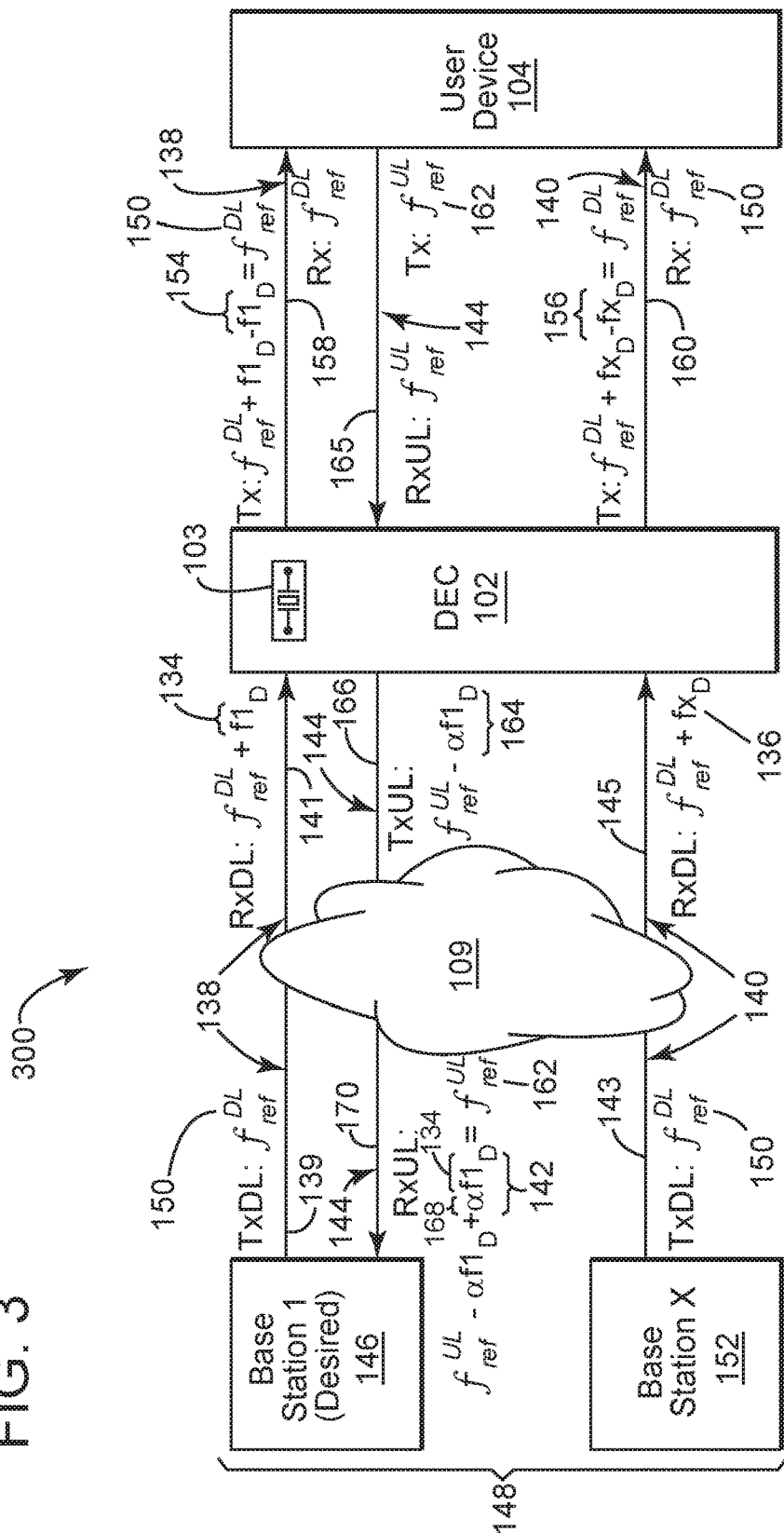
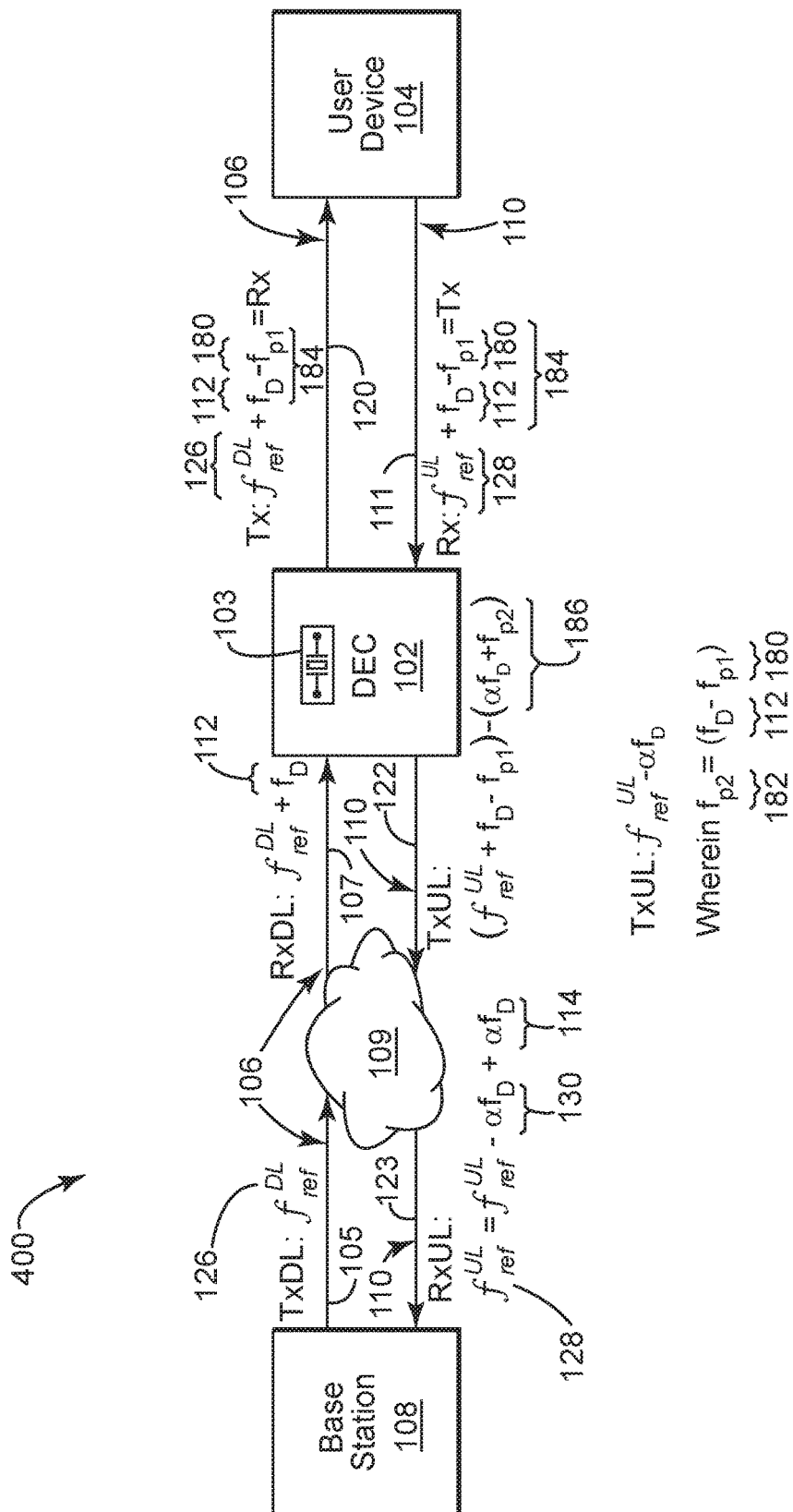


FIG. 4



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DOPPLER ESTIMATION AND COMPENSATION FOR WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

GOVERNMENT RIGHTS STATEMENT

This invention was made with U.S. Government support under Agreement No. W125QKN-15-9-1004 awarded by the ACC-NJ to the National Spectrum Consortium (NSC). The Government has certain rights in the invention.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to wireless communications systems and methods of making the same. More specifically, the invention relates to systems and methods of estimating and compensating for Doppler shifts in wireless communication systems.

BACKGROUND

In commercial cellular wireless systems (for example, those based on the well-known 3GPP LTE standard for 4G wireless communication) user devices and base stations are designed to support communication links where the relative speed between a base station and a user device can be, for example, up to 400-500 km/hour. The greater the relative speed between a user device and a base station, the larger the well-known Doppler shift that will occur during a transmission from one to the other.

A user device can be a cell phone or other similar device and a base station can be a cell tower or other similar device. Generally, the base station is stationary and the user device is mobile, but it is possible that either or both the user device and base station can be moving relative to a fixed reference point such as the earth.

Such wireless communication systems typically are full duplex systems where communication can occur in a downlink transmission (i.e., transmission from the base station to the user device) and an uplink transmission (i.e., transmission from the user device to the base station) simultaneously. Full duplex systems can be either frequency division duplex (FDD) systems or time division duplex (TDD) systems. In a FDD system, the downlink and the uplink transmissions communicate over two separate frequency bands and associated center frequencies. Alternatively, in TDD systems, the downlink and uplink transmissions communicate over a single frequency band and associated center frequency. However, the uplink and downlink communications are separated in time. In a full duplex communication system, both the uplink signal and downlink signal must remain active. If either the uplink or downlink signal is lost for a significant period of time, the full duplex connection will fail.

A receiver in a user device typically derives the downlink frequency, which includes a Doppler shift if the user device is moving relative to the base station, by locking on to the received downlink signal from the base station. The user device will typically introduce this Doppler shift into the uplink signal it transmits towards the base station. As a consequence, the uplink signal received by the base station may experience a Doppler shift that is twice that measured by the user device.

User devices can typically handle relatively large Doppler shifts, for example, several kHz. However, base stations generally cannot handle such large Doppler shifts. For example a base station may only be able to handle a Doppler

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shift of up to 500 Hz. This may be due to the fact that base stations must be designed to handle signals from multiple user devices with multiple Doppler shifts. As a result of this design requirement, base stations may not generally be capable of detecting and adjusting to such relatively large Doppler shifts. Problematically, if the Doppler shift from a user device is outside of a base station receiver's capability, the base station will fail to decode the signals from the user device and the communication link will break down.

This problem is exacerbated as the relative speed between a user device and base station increases, along with an associated increase in Doppler shift. For example, in an LTE-based air-to-ground communication system, the user devices are located in airplanes that move at speeds that are several times higher than the typical speed limits allowed by commercial LTE systems.

Accordingly, there is a need for a system and method that can dynamically detect and estimate Doppler shifts in a wireless communication system. Moreover, there is a need to detect, estimate and compensate for Doppler frequency shifts on either, or both, the uplink transmission signal and the downlink transmission signal.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The present invention offers advantages and alternatives over the prior art by providing a Doppler estimation and compensation system that can detect, estimate and compensate for Doppler frequency shifts on either an uplink transmission signal, a downlink transmission signal or both.

A method of estimating and compensating for Doppler frequency shifts in a wireless communication system in accordance with one or more aspects of the present invention includes providing an accurate reference device for generating an accurate reference frequency in a Doppler estimation and compensation (DEC) system. The DEC system is electrically connected to the user device. The DEC system receives one of a downlink signal from a base station and an uplink signal from the user device. The one of the downlink signal and the uplink signal is compared to the accurate reference frequency. An estimate of a Doppler frequency shift associated with the one of the downlink signal and the uplink signal is determined based on the comparison. An offset Doppler frequency shift of opposite sign as the Doppler frequency shift is added to the one of the downlink signal and uplink signal to provide a compensated signal. The compensated signal is transmitted to one of the base station and user device.

DRAWINGS

The invention will be more fully understood from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of an exemplary embodiment of a wireless communication system utilizing a DEC system in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of an alternative exemplary embodiment of a wireless communication system utilizing a DEC system in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram of another alternative exemplary embodiment of a wireless communication system utilizing a DEC system in accordance with the present invention; and

FIG. 4 is a schematic diagram of another alternative exemplary embodiment of a wireless communication system utilizing a DEC system in accordance with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Certain exemplary embodiments will now be described to provide an overall understanding of the principles of the structure, function, manufacture, and use of the methods, systems, and devices disclosed herein. One or more examples of these embodiments are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Those skilled in the art will understand that the methods, systems, and devices specifically described herein and illustrated in the accompanying drawings are non-limiting exemplary embodiments and that the scope of the present invention is defined solely by the claims. The features illustrated or described in connection with one exemplary embodiment may be combined with the features of other embodiments. Such modifications and variations are intended to be included within the scope of the present invention.

Referring to FIGS. 1, 2, 3 and 4 generally, schematics of exemplary alternative embodiments of wireless communication systems 100 (FIG. 1), 200 (FIG. 2), 300 (FIG. 3) and 400 (FIG. 4) are presented. The systems 100, 200, 300, 400 are capable of estimating and compensating for Doppler frequency shifts between a base station 108 and a user device 104 on either a downlink signal (or transmission) 106 or an uplink signal (or transmission) 110. The downlink signal 106 and uplink signal 110 being transmitted between the base station 108 and user device 104 through a wireless transmission medium 109, such as air, space or the like.

Each wireless communication system 100, 200, 300, 400 includes a Doppler estimation and compensation (DEC) system 102 that is electrically connected to a user device 104. The DEC system 102 includes an accurate reference device 103 for generating and transmitting an accurate reference frequency. The accurate reference device 103 may include, by way of example but not limitation, an oven controlled crystal oscillator (OCXO), a microprocessor compensated crystal oscillator (MCXO) or an atomic oscillator (such as a rubidium or cesium based atomic oscillator). The accurate reference device 103 generates and transmits a reference frequency that has a predetermined range of accuracy which is generally measured in parts per billion (ppb). For example, accurate reference devices 103 based on OCXOs and MCXOs may have reference frequency accuracy ranges in the order of 10 to 50 ppb. Also, accurate reference devices 103 based on atomic oscillators may have reference frequency accuracy ranges that are in the order of 0.1 to 0.5 ppb.

For purposes herein, a reference frequency includes a center frequency (which also may be referred to herein as a nominal frequency) that is centrally disposed within a tolerance band (or accuracy range) of frequencies. The accurate reference device 103 may generate a reference frequency with an accuracy range that is equal to or less than 100 ppb, equal to or less than 50 ppb and equal to or less than 10 ppb.

The reference frequency generated from the accurate reference device 103 is significantly more accurate than an internal reference frequency generated by a local oscillator device (not shown) frequently used in user device 104. For example, the reference frequency from an accurate reference device 103 may be greater than an order of magnitude more accurate than an internal reference frequency generated from a local oscillator used in user device 104.

As referred to herein, an internal reference frequency of a user device 104 is a reference frequency that is used internally within the user device 104 for comparison with downlink or uplink signals. However, the internal reference frequency of a user device 104 is not transmitted externally from the user device in an uplink 110 or downlink 106 signal.

A local oscillator device (not shown) used to generate such an internal reference frequency may be based on, for example, a temperature compensation crystal oscillator (TCXO). The local oscillator device may generate an internal reference frequency with an accuracy range that is equal to or greater than 1000 ppb (or one part per million (ppm)).

Without the use of a DEC 102, a user device 104 frequently derives a transmittable reference frequency from the measured center (or reference) frequency of the downlink signal 106 received from a base station 108. The user device 104 may do this by first locking onto a downlink signal 106 that has a center frequency within a predetermined range of the internal reference frequency generated from the local oscillator device. For example, a user device 104 may be electronically configured to lock onto downlink signals 106 that have center frequencies which are within plus or minus 7.5 kHz of the internal reference frequency of its local oscillator device.

Thereafter, the user device 104 may compare the center frequency of the downlink signal 106 to the internal reference frequency generated from the local oscillator device. The user device 106 may then adjust its output to provide a transmittable reference frequency that matches the center frequency of the downlink signal 106.

However, the center frequency of the downlink signal 106 received by the user device 104 may include a downlink Doppler frequency shift, which may be imposed onto the derived reference frequency transmitted by the user device 104 in an uplink signal 110. Under certain circumstances, such as if the relative speed between the user device 104 and base station 108 were greater than 500 km/hour, the Doppler frequency shift could adversely affect the communications link between the base station 108 and user device 104.

Furthermore, the local oscillator device in a user device 104 is not accurate enough to be used to estimate the Doppler effect alone. That is, if the local oscillator device were used to estimate the Doppler effect (without the assistance of a DEC 102), the relatively large inaccuracies of the local oscillator (e.g., 1000 ppb) could adversely affect the estimate.

In contrast, the DEC 102 does not derive its reference frequency from a center frequency of the received downlink signal 106. Rather, the DEC 102 utilizes the accurate reference device 103 to generate a reference frequency independent of the center (or reference) frequency received from the downlink signal 106. As such, the accurate reference device 103 may generate a reference frequency whose error range (a measure of accuracy) is equal to or less than 100 ppb, equal to or less than 50 ppb and equal to or less than 10 ppb. As will be explained in greater detail herein, because the reference frequency generated from the DEC 102 does not include a Doppler shift, it can be used to estimate the Doppler shift of uplink 110 and downlink 106 signals. Further, the relatively small inaccuracies of the reference frequency generated from the DEC 102 will not significantly affect the estimate.

The DEC system 102 can be in the form of a module, which attaches to the user device 104. Alternatively, the DEC system 102 can be integrated into the electronics of user device 104.

As an overview, the DEC system 102 of wireless communication systems 100, 200, 300 and 400 is capable of receiving a downlink signal 106 from a base station 108 and an uplink signal 110 from the user device 104. The DEC system 102 is capable of comparing either the downlink signal 106 or the uplink signal 110 to the accurate reference frequency generated by the accurate reference device 103 within the DEC system 102.

For example, by comparing the downlink signal 106 with the output of the accurate reference device 103, the DEC system 102 may obtain an estimate of a downlink Doppler frequency shift f_D (ref. no. 112 in FIG. 1) associated with the downlink signal 106 transmitted from the base station 108. It can then add a downlink offset Doppler frequency shift $-f_D$ (ref. no. 116 in FIG. 1) to the downlink signal 106 to compute a compensated downlink signal 120, which is then provided to the user device 104. When the user device 104 transmits, the DEC system 102 computes a scaling of its estimate of the downlink Doppler frequency shift f_D (ref. no. 112 in FIG. 1) to determine an uplink offset Doppler frequency shift $-\alpha f_D$ (ref. no. 118 in FIG. 1). The DEC system 102 adds the uplink offset Doppler frequency shift $-\alpha f_D$ to the uplink signal 110 to provide an uplink compensated signal 122 that is then transmitted to the base station 108 in FIG. 1. The scaling parameter α depends on the ratio of the center frequencies associated with uplink and downlink transmissions. The offset Doppler frequency shift 116, 118 is substantially of the same magnitude and opposite sign as the corresponding Doppler frequency shift 112, 114.

Referring more specifically to FIG. 1, the wireless communication system 100 illustrates an embodiment where the DEC 102 compensates for Doppler shifts 112, 114 on both the downlink signals 106 and uplink signals 110. It is important to note, that the downlink signal 106 represents the signal transmitted along the entire transmission path from base station 108 to user device 104. The downlink signal 106 can be divided into the following three segments:

- the downlink transmitted signal 105, which is initially transmitted from the base station 108 through the transmission medium 109;

- the downlink received signal 107, which is received by the DEC 102 and subjected to a Doppler shift 112 after being transmitted through the transmission medium 109; and

- the downlink compensated signal 120, which is transmitted from the DEC 102 to the user device 104 with a near zero Doppler shift.

It is also important to note, that the uplink signal 110 represents the signal transmitted along the entire transmission path from user device 104 to base station 108. The uplink signal 110 can be divided into the following three segments:

- the uplink transmitted signal 111, which is initially transmitted from the user device 104 to the DEC;

- the uplink compensated signal 122, which is initially transmitted from the DEC with an uplink offset Doppler frequency shift 118 imposed thereon; and

- the uplink received signal 123, which is received by the base station 108 and subjected to a Doppler shift 114 after traveling through transmission medium 109, such that the uplink received signal 123 has a net near zero Doppler shift.

To begin with, the user device 104 starts by scanning a plurality of base stations located within its transmission range for predetermined center frequencies (or reference frequencies) and predetermined bands associated with those

reference frequencies. The user device 104 will select and lock onto a single desired base station 108 out of the plurality of base stations.

However, the DEC 102 receives signals from each of the local base stations within its transmission range. Therefore, the DEC system 102 requires some indication as to which base station is the desired base station 108 that the user device 104 locks onto in order to be able to compensate for Doppler shifts 112 on the downlink signal 106. This can be accomplished by the user device 104 providing an indication signal 124 to the DEC system 102 designating the base station 108 as a desired base station out of a plurality of base stations, wherein the desired base station 108 is the single base station that the user device 104 has decided to communicate with.

Once user device 104 has locked onto base station 108, the DEC system 102 will receive a downlink signal 106 transmitted from the base station 108. The downlink signal 106 transmitted from base station 108 has its center frequency substantially equal to a downlink reference frequency (f_{ref}^{DL}) associated with it (126), and when this signal is received by the DEC system 102, the downlink received signal 106 will have its center frequency shifted by an amount equal to a downlink Doppler frequency shift 112. In other words, the downlink received signal 107 will be a frequency-shifted version of the downlink signal 106, with its center frequency at the sum of the downlink reference frequency 126 and the downlink Doppler frequency shift 112. The downlink signal 106 as well as the downlink received signal 107 will include data to be communicated to user device 104. The downlink Doppler frequency shift 112 will have been induced into the downlink reference frequency 126 due at least in part to the relative speed between the base station 108 and user device 104.

The DEC 102 will compare the downlink received signal 107 to its own accurate reference frequency to determine an estimate of the downlink Doppler frequency shift 112. The DEC 102 will then add a downlink offset Doppler frequency shift 116 to the downlink received signal 107 of substantially the same magnitude and opposite sign as the downlink Doppler frequency shift 112 to provide a downlink compensated signal 120. The net result will be that downlink compensated signal 120 will have its center frequency substantially equal to the downlink reference frequency 126. The DEC system 102 will then transmit the downlink compensated signal 120 to the user device 104.

Once the user device 104 is ready to communicate back to the base station 108, the user device 104 will generate an uplink signal 110, which at this point in the transmission is considered to be the uplink transmitted signal 111, which has its center frequency at the reference frequency (f_{ref}^{UL}) 128. The uplink transmitted signal 111 will contain data to be communicated to the base station 108. The DEC system 102 will receive the uplink transmitted signal 111 from the user device 104.

The DEC system 102 then computes an uplink offset Doppler frequency shift 118 by scaling the downlink offset Doppler frequency shift 116 by a factor α . The factor α may equal the ratio of the center frequencies associated with the uplink transmitted signal 111 and the downlink transmitted signal 105. The DEC system 102 adds the uplink offset Doppler frequency shift 118 to the uplink transmitted signal 111 to produce the uplink compensated signal 122. The DEC system 102 then transmits the uplink compensated signal 122 toward the base station 108. The uplink Doppler frequency offset 118 will be substantially equal in magnitude and opposite in sign to that of the uplink Doppler frequency

shift **114** that will occur when the uplink compensated signal **122** reaches the base station **108** as the uplink received signal **123**. Thus, the uplink received signal **123** that is actually received by the base station **108** will have its center frequency close to the uplink reference frequency (f_{ref}^{UL}) **128**.

It is possible that the downlink reference frequency signal **126** and the uplink reference frequency signal **128** may not be the same frequency. For example, the wireless communication system **100** may be a frequency division duplex (FDD) system, wherein the downlink and the uplink transmissions occur over two separate frequency bands. When the center frequencies **126**, **128**, associated respectively with downlink and uplink transmissions, are not equal, the Doppler frequency shifts **112**, **114** will also not be equal. Rather, the ratio of the Doppler frequency shifts will be equal to the ratio of the corresponding reference frequencies.

Since the DEC has measured and determined the downlink Doppler frequency shift **112**, it can apply a scaling factor α (ref. no. **130** in FIG. **1**) to the downlink frequency shift **112** to provide the uplink frequency shift **114** that will be induced into the compensated signal **122** when it is transmitted to the base station **108**. More specifically, the DEC will generate the uplink Doppler frequency shift **114** such that it is substantially equal to downlink Doppler frequency shift **112** multiplied by a scaling factor **130** that is proportional to the ratio of the uplink reference frequency **128** to the downlink reference frequency **126**. If the uplink and downlink reference frequencies **126**, **128** are substantially equal, the scaling factor **130** will be 1 and the downlink and uplink Doppler frequency shifts **112**, **114** will also be equal.

Referring to FIG. **2**, the wireless communication system **200** illustrates an embodiment where the DEC **102** compensates for Doppler shifts **112**, **114** on the uplink signal **110** only. No compensation is provided on the downlink signal **106**. Rather the downlink received signal **107**, which is a Doppler-frequency-shifted version of the downlink transmitted signal **105**, is transmitted to the user device **104** without compensating for downlink Doppler frequency shift **112**.

In this embodiment, the DEC **102** receives the downlink received signal **107** and transmits it substantially unaltered to the user device **104** as the downlink compensated signal **120**. The user device **104** locks on to the downlink compensated signal **120** and determines the amount by which the carrier frequency associated with this signal **120** differs from the center frequency generated from its own local oscillator. This frequency difference equals $f_D + \Delta$, where f_D represents the downlink Doppler shift **112** and Δ represents the difference between the downlink reference frequency (f_{ref}^{DL}) **126** and the center frequency generated from the local oscillator of the user device **104**. When the user device **104** generates an uplink transmitted signal **111**, it adds this difference to the center frequency generated from its own local oscillator. (That is, it shifts the center frequency of the local oscillator output by $f_D + \Delta$.)

Therefore, when, as described above, the user device **104** shifts the frequency of the local oscillator output by an amount equal to $f_D + \Delta$, the center frequency of the resulting signal substantially equals $f_{ref}^{UL} + f_D$. In other words, the center frequency associated with the uplink transmitted signal **111** is $f_{ref}^{UL} + f_D$.

By comparing the center frequency of the uplink transmitted signal **111** with its own accurate uplink reference frequency, the DEC system **102** will estimate the downlink Doppler frequency shift **112**. The DEC system **102** will then

add an uplink offset Doppler frequency shift **132** to the uplink transmitted signal **111** to obtain the uplink compensated signal **122**, which is then transmitted toward the base station **108**. The uplink offset Doppler frequency shift **132** in the embodiment of FIG. **2** will be substantially equal in magnitude and opposite in sign to the downlink Doppler frequency shift **112** plus an uplink Doppler frequency shift **114** that will occur when the uplink signal **110** is received by the base station **108** as the uplink received signal **123**.

If the downlink reference frequency **126** and the uplink reference frequency **128** are the same then the uplink offset Doppler frequency shift **132** will be substantially equal to twice the magnitude of the Doppler frequency shift **112** and opposite in sign.

When the reference frequencies **126**, **128** are not equal, DEC system **102** can apply the scaling factor **130** to the downlink frequency shift **112** to provide the uplink offset Doppler frequency shift **132**. More specifically, the DEC **102** will generate the uplink offset Doppler frequency shift **132** such that it is substantially equal to downlink Doppler frequency shift **112** multiplied by one plus the scaling factor **130**, wherein the scaling factor **130** is proportional to the ratio of the uplink reference frequency **128** to the downlink reference frequency **126**. The uplink signal **110**, when transmitted by the DEC system **102**, is an uplink compensated signal **122** that is transmitted toward the base station **108**.

The uplink signal **110** received by the base station **108** is referred to as the uplink received signal **123**. The uplink received signal **123** is a frequency-shifted version of the uplink compensated signal **122** that is transmitted by the DEC system **102**. That is, the center frequency of the uplink received signal **123** is shifted from that of the center frequency associated with the uplink compensated signal **122** by an amount equal to the uplink Doppler frequency shift **114**. Since the center frequency of the uplink compensated signal **122** equals the sum of the uplink reference frequency **128** and the negative of the uplink Doppler frequency shift **114**, the center frequency of the uplink received signal **123**, when it is received by the base station **108**, will be substantially equal to the uplink reference frequency **128**.

Referring to FIG. **3**, the wireless communication system **300** illustrates an embodiment where the DEC **102** compensates for any number of multiple downlink Doppler frequency shifts (f_{1D} (ref. no. **134** in FIG. **3**) through f_{ND} (ref. no. **136** in FIG. **3**)) on multiple downlink signals **138** through **140**. However the communication system **300** only compensates for a single uplink Doppler frequency shift **142** on a single uplink signal **144** that is transmitted to a desired base station **146** selected by the user device **104**. In this embodiment, there is no indication signal (for example, indication signal **124** of FIG. **1**) from the user device **104** to provide the DEC **102** with an indication as to which base station is the desired base station **146**.

It is important to note, that the downlink signals **138**, **140** represent the signals transmitted along the entire transmission paths from base stations **146**, **152** to user device **104**. The downlink signal **138** can be divided into the following three segments:

- the downlink transmitted signal **139**, which is initially transmitted from the base station **146** through the transmission medium **109**;

- the downlink received signal **141**, which is received by the DEC **102** and subjected to a Doppler shift **134** after being transmitted through the transmission medium **109**; and

the downlink compensated signal **158**, which is transmitted from the DEC **102** to the user device **104** with a near zero Doppler shift.

Also, the downlink signal **140** can be divided into the following three segments:

the downlink transmitted signal **143**, which is initially transmitted from the base station **152** through the transmission medium **109**;

the downlink received signal **145**, which is received by the DEC **102** and subjected to a Doppler shift **136** after being transmitted through the transmission medium **109**; and

the downlink compensated signal **160**, which is transmitted from the DEC **102** to the user device **104** with a near zero Doppler shift.

It is also important to note, that the uplink signal **144** represents the signal transmitted along the entire transmission path from user device **104** to base station **146**. The uplink signal **144** can be divided into the following three segments:

the uplink transmitted signal **165**, which is initially transmitted from the user device **104** to the DEC **102**;

the uplink compensated signal **166**, which is initially transmitted from the DEC with an uplink offset Doppler frequency shift **164** imposed thereon; and

the uplink received signal **170**, which is received by the base station **108** and subjected to a Doppler shift **142** after traveling through transmission medium **109**, such that the uplink received signal **170** has a net near zero Doppler shift.

As is usually the case, the user device **104** starts by scanning a plurality of base stations **148** located within its transmission range for a predetermined downlink reference frequency signal **150**. The user device **104** will select and lock onto a single desired base station **146** out of the plurality of base stations **148**. In this exemplary embodiment, only two base stations are illustrated, the desired base station **1** (ref. no. **146**) and base station **x** (ref. no. **152**). However the plurality of base stations **148** may be any number of such base stations, numbering, for example, from 2 to 100 or more.

The DEC system **102** receives a plurality of downlink signals **138**, **140** transmitted from the plurality of base stations **148**. Each of the plurality of downlink signals **138**, **140** has its center frequency at downlink reference frequency **150**. When the plurality of downlink signals **138**, **140** reach the DEC system, they are referred to as downlink received signals **141**, **145** respectively. The downlink received signals **141**, **145** are frequency-shifted versions of the downlink signals **138**, **140**, respectively, wherein their respective center frequencies are shifted from the downlink reference frequency **150** by amounts equal to downlink Doppler frequency shifts **134**, **136**, respectively. Though the downlink signals **138**, **140** have substantially the same center frequency **150**, the downlink Doppler frequency shifts **134**, **136** are not necessarily equal.

In order to more accurately distinguish and measure each downlink signal **138**, **140**, the DEC system **102** may use a multi-antenna technique such as beam-forming. Such a multi-antenna technique would enhance the DEC system's **102** ability to simultaneously track multiple base stations **146**, **152** and accurately measure the downlink Doppler frequency shift **134**, **136** associated with each base station.

The DEC system **102** has received no indication from the user device **104** as to which base station will be the desired base station **146** that the user device has selected to communicate with. Therefore, the DEC system **102** adds a

downlink offset Doppler frequency shift **154**, **156** to each of the plurality of downlink received signals **141**, **145**.

The downlink offset Doppler frequency shifts **154**, **156** are not necessarily equal and can be any number to match the number of base stations **146**, **152** in the plurality of base stations **148**. The downlink offset Doppler frequency shifts **154**, **156** are substantially the same magnitude and opposite sign as the corresponding downlink Doppler frequency shift **134**, **136** associated with each of the plurality of downlink signals **138**, **140**. The addition of the downlink offset Doppler frequency shifts **154**, **156** to the downlink signals **138**, **140** provide a plurality of downlink compensated signals **158**, **160** such that their respective center frequencies are equal to the downlink reference frequency **150**. The plurality of downlink compensated signals **158**, **160** are transmitted to the user device **104**.

The user device **104** then designates a base station out of the plurality of base stations **148** as a desired base station **146**. The desired base station **146** is the single base station that the user device **104** has selected to communicate with. The user device **104** then transmits the uplink signal **144** to the DEC **102**. The DEC system **102** receives the single uplink signal **144** transmitted from the user device **104**. At this stage in the transmission, the center frequency of the uplink signal **144** is substantially equal to the uplink reference frequency **162** and the uplink signal **144** is the uplink transmitted signal **165**.

In this embodiment of FIG. **3**, the user device **104** has not communicated to the DEC which base station out of the plurality of base stations **148** is the desired base station **146** that the user device has chosen to transmit to. However, the DEC can autonomously determine which base station is the desired base station **146** by analyzing the data in the uplink transmitted signal **165**. That analyzed data can then be compared to the data received from the plurality of downlink received signals **141**, **145** to determine the specific desired base station **146**.

In one exemplary embodiment, the DEC system **102** can, rather than fully compensating for the downlink Doppler frequency shift **134**, **136**, intentionally introduce different relatively small errors in the downlink offset Doppler frequency shifts **154**, **156** for each base station. Because the User Device **104** will generate an uplink transmitted signal **165** that includes the intentionally induced frequency error, the DEC system **102** can determine which base station is the desired base station **146** based on a measure of the frequency error associated with the uplink transmitted signal **165**.

At the DEC system **102** an uplink offset Doppler frequency shift **164** is applied to the uplink signal **144** before it is transmitted toward the base station **146**. The uplink signal **144** is an uplink compensated signal **166** when it is transmitted from the DEC system **102**. The uplink offset Doppler frequency shift **164** is of a substantially equal magnitude and opposite sign of the uplink Doppler frequency shift **142** that will occur in the uplink compensated signal **166** when it reaches the desired base station **146** as the uplink received signal **170**.

When the uplink compensated signal **166** is received by the desired base station **146** the uplink Doppler frequency shift **142** will have been induced into the signal **166** to provide the uplink received signal **170**. Therefore the center frequency associated with the uplink received signal **170** when it is received by the desired base station **146** will be substantially equal to the uplink reference frequency **162**.

As previously discussed in FIGS. **1** and **2**, it is possible that the downlink reference frequency **150** and the uplink reference frequency **162** may not be the same. Accordingly,

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DEC system 102 can apply a scaling factor 168 to the downlink Doppler frequency shift 134 to provide the uplink Doppler frequency shift 142. More specifically, the DEC 102 will generate the uplink Doppler frequency shift 142 such that it is substantially equal to downlink Doppler frequency shift 134 multiplied by the scaling factor 168, wherein the scaling factor 168 is proportional to the ratio of the uplink reference frequency 162 to the downlink reference frequency 150. If the downlink reference frequency 150 is substantially equal to the uplink reference frequency 162, the scaling factor will be substantially equal to 1 and the downlink and uplink Doppler frequency shifts 134, 142 will be equal.

In FIGS. 1 and 3, two methods have been disclosed detailing how the DEC 102 determines which base station, out of a plurality of base stations 148, is the desired base station 146 that the user device 104 has selected to communicate with. In the embodiment of FIG. 1, the user device 104 provides an indication signal 124 to the DEC 102 indicating the desired base station 146. In the embodiment of FIG. 3, the DEC autonomously determines the desired base station 146 by analyzing the data in the uplink transmitted signal 165 and comparing it to the data the DEC received from the plurality of downlink received signals 141, 145.

An alternative third possible method of establishing communication from the DEC 102 to the desired base station 146 exists, wherein the DEC 102 sends an uplink compensated signal to each base station 146, 152 of the plurality of base stations 148 without determining the desired base station 146. In that third embodiment, the DEC 102 is blind as to which base station is the desired base station 146, so the DEC sends an uplink compensated signal to all of the base stations 146, 152.

For example, the alternative third method of establishing communication to the desired base station 146 may be accomplished using beamforming techniques as follows:

1. The DEC 102 receives downlink received signal 141 from base station 146. Using beamforming techniques, the DEC 102 determines a spatial filter (filt1 (not shown)) based on data received from signal 141. The DEC 102 simultaneously receives downlink received signal 145 from base station 152. Using beamforming techniques, the DEC determines a spatial filter (filt2 (not shown)) based on data received from signal 145. The spatial filters filt1, filt2 provide data that represent mathematically formed beams that are directed toward their associated base stations 146, 152.
2. The DEC 102 measures the downlink Doppler shift 134 in signal 141 and the downlink Doppler shift 136 in signal 145. The DEC 102 then applies the downlink offset Doppler shift 154 to the downlink compensated signal 158. Additionally, the DEC 102 applies the downlink offset Doppler shift 156 to the downlink compensated signal 160. The DEC transmits the compensated signals 158, 160 to the user device.
3. The DEC 102 then receives the uplink transmitted signal 165 from the user device 104.
4. The DEC 102 then applies the uplink offset Doppler frequency shift 164 to the uplink transmitted signal 165 to obtain the uplink compensated signal 166. The DEC 102 then applies a spatial filter based on measured filt1 to transmit the uplink compensated signal 166 to base station 146 while minimizing interference to base station 152.

The DEC 102 simultaneously applies a second uplink offset Doppler frequency shift (not shown) to the uplink

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transmitted signal 165 to obtain a second uplink compensated signal (not shown), which will be directed toward base station 152. The DEC 102 then applies a spatial filter based on measured. filt2 to transmit the second uplink compensated signal to base station 152 while minimizing interference to base station 146.

5. The DEC 102 transmits combined compensated uplink signals (i.e., the uplink compensated signal 166 and the second uplink compensated signal (not shown)) using a beam-forming array.

Referring to FIG. 4, the wireless communication system 400 illustrates an embodiment where the DEC 102 partially compensates for Doppler shifts on the downlink signal 106 and then fully compensates for Doppler shifts on the uplink signal 110. Similar to the wireless communication system 200 illustrated in FIG. 2, the DEC 102 of FIG. 4 estimates the Doppler shift from the uplink transmitted signal 111. The DEC 102 then applies a first partial offset Doppler frequency shift 180 (schematic symbol f_{P1} in FIG. 4) to the downlink compensated signal 120, which is of smaller magnitude and opposite sign as that of the downlink Doppler frequency shift 112. Therefore the first partial offset Doppler frequency shift 180 only partially compensates for the total downlink Doppler frequency shift 112 (schematic symbol f_D in FIG. 4). That is, the first partial offset Doppler frequency shift 180 reduces the effect of the downlink Doppler frequency shift 112 on the downlink signal 106, but does not eliminate it.

Additionally, the DEC 102 also applies a second partial offset Doppler frequency shift 182 (schematic symbol f_{P2} in FIG. 4) to the uplink compensated signal 122, wherein the sum of f_{P1} plus f_{P2} substantially equals f_D . As such, the DEC 102 fully compensates for the Doppler shifts on the uplink signal 110. That is, the sum of the first and second partial offset Doppler frequency shifts 180, 182 substantially eliminate the effect of the total downlink Doppler frequency shift 112 on the uplink signal 110.

More specifically in this embodiment, the DEC 102 will compare the center frequency of the uplink transmitted signal 111 with its own accurate reference device 103 to estimate the downlink Doppler frequency shift 112 (f_D), in similar fashion to the embodiment of FIG. 2. The DEC 102 may then add a first partial offset Doppler frequency shift 180 (f_{P1}) to the downlink received signal 107 to provide a downlink compensated signal 120 whose center frequency is substantially equal to: $f_{ref}^{DL} + f_D - f_{P1}$.

The first partial offset Doppler frequency signal 180 assists the user device 104 such that the user device 104 sees a reduced (or partially compensated) downlink Doppler frequency shift 184, which the user device 104 can more easily track and lock onto. For example, for a user device 104 and base station 102 that have a velocity of greater than 500 km per hour relative to each other, the downlink Doppler frequency shift 112 may be greater than a value that the user device can lock onto. For example, many user devices 104 cannot lock onto downlink signals 106 that are shifted more than 7 to 8 kHz. However, the first partially offset Doppler frequency signal 180 may partially compensate for the large (e.g. greater than or equal to 8 kHz) downlink Doppler frequency shift 112 and re-shift the center frequency of the downlink signal 106 such that it is less than or equal to a value that the user device can lock onto. For example, within 7 kHz of the original downlink reference frequency 126, therefore enabling the user device 104 to lock onto downlink signal 106.

The user device 104 then locks on to the downlink compensated signal 120 and, in similar fashion to the embodiment of FIG. 2, transmits the uplink transmitted

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signal **111** to the DEC **102**, wherein the center frequency of the uplink transmitted signal **111** is substantially equal to: $f_{ref}^{UL} + f_D - f_{P1}$. In other words, the center frequency associated with the uplink transmitted signal **111** is f_{ref}^{UL} shifted by the partially compensated Doppler frequency shift **184** of $f_D - f_{P1}$.

By comparing the center frequency of the uplink transmitted signal **111** with its own accurate uplink reference frequency generated from its accurate referenced device **103**, the DEC system **102** will estimate the downlink Doppler frequency shift **112** (f_D). As the first partially offset Doppler frequency shift **180** (f_{P1}) is known to the DEC system **102**, the DEC system **102** will then determine a second partially offset Doppler frequency shift **182** (f_{P2}), wherein $f_{P2} = f_D - f_{P1}$.

The DEC system **102** will then add an uplink offset Doppler frequency shift **186** to the uplink transmitted signal **111** to obtain the uplink compensated signal **122**, which is then transmitted toward the base station **108**. The uplink offset Doppler frequency shift **186** will be substantially equal in magnitude and opposite in sign to the second partially offset Doppler frequency shift **182** (f_{P2}) plus an uplink Doppler frequency shift **114** (αf_D) that will occur when the uplink signal **110** is received by the base station **108** as the uplink received signal **123**.

The uplink Doppler frequency shift **114** (αf_D) will be substantially equal to the downlink Doppler frequency shift **112** (f_D) multiplied by the scaling factor **130**, wherein the scaling factor **130** is proportional to the ratio of the uplink reference frequency **128** to the downlink reference frequency **126**. The uplink signal **110**, when transmitted by the DEC system **102**, is an uplink compensated signal **122** that is transmitted toward the base station **108**.

The uplink signal **110** received by the base station **108** is referred to as the uplink received signal **123**. The uplink received signal **123** is a frequency-shifted version of the uplink compensated signal **122** that is transmitted by the DEC system **102**. That is, the center frequency of the uplink received signal **123** is shifted from that of the center frequency associated with the uplink compensated signal **122** by an amount equal to the uplink Doppler frequency shift **114**. Since the center frequency of the uplink compensated signal **122** equals the sum of the uplink reference frequency **128** and the negative of the uplink Doppler frequency shift **114**, the center frequency of the uplink received signal **123**, when it is received by the base station **108**, will be substantially equal to the uplink reference frequency **128**.

As described above, the DEC **102** must determine the frequency shift of either the downlink received signal **107**, the uplink transmitted signal **111** or both. To do so, the DEC **102** can use characteristics of the LTE transmission signal to determine the frequency shift of the received signal. Generally, the frequency shift can be learned by measuring the phase change over time of the received signal relative to a known reference signal. There are a number of ways that the DEC **102** will have a known reference signal to compare to. Two such methods are described below. However, other methods of determining the frequency shift are possible and the present invention is not limited to the below referenced exemplary methods.

The cyclic prefix of an LTE Orthogonal-Frequency-Division-Multiplexing (OFDM) symbol can be used to measure the frequency shift. In an LTE transmission, a portion (i.e. a few information symbols) at the end of each OFDM symbol is repeated (sometimes opposite in sign) at the beginning of the OFDM symbol period. This is known as the cyclic prefix. In one embodiment, the DEC **102** can use correlation

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techniques to detect the start and end of an OFDM symbol. The DEC **102** can then determine the phase difference between information symbols in the cyclic prefix and the corresponding information symbols occurring at the end of the OFDM symbol. Because these information symbols should be identical, any phase difference measured between information symbols in the cyclic prefix and the information symbols at the end of the OFDM symbol is likely to have been caused by frequency shift. Thus, this phase change information coupled with the time difference between the start and end of the OFDM symbol can be used to calculate the frequency shift of the received signal.

With particular regard to the uplink transmitted signal **111**, the LTE random access procedure can be used to measure the frequency shift. When attempting to attach to a base station **108**, the user device **104** will perform a random access procedure, where it will transmit one of a known set of random access preamble sequences to the base station **108**. Because the set of possible preambles is known, the DEC **102** can determine, via, for example, correlation techniques, which preamble sequence the user device **104** has transmitted. Once the DEC **102** knows which preamble sequence was transmitted by the user device **104**, the DEC **102** can compare the change in the phase over time between the known reference preamble sequence and the preamble sequence transmitted by the user device **104** to determine the frequency shift.

Although the invention has been described by reference to specific embodiments, it should be understood that numerous changes may be made within the spirit and scope of the inventive concepts described. Accordingly, it is intended that the invention not be limited to the described embodiments, but that it have the full scope defined by the language of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of estimating and compensating for Doppler frequency shifts in a wireless communication system, the method comprising:

providing an accurate reference device for generating an accurate reference frequency in a Doppler estimation and compensation (DEC) system, the DEC system being electrically connected to a user device;

receiving within the DEC system one of a downlink signal from a base station and an uplink signal from the user device;

comparing a center frequency of one of the downlink signal and the uplink signal to the accurate reference frequency;

determining an estimate of a Doppler frequency shift associated with the one of the downlink signal and the uplink signal based on the comparing;

adding an offset Doppler frequency shift of opposite sign as the Doppler frequency shift to the one of the downlink signal and uplink signal to provide a compensated signal; and

transmitting the compensated signal to one of the base station and user device.

2. The method of claim 1 comprising:

receiving within the DEC system a downlink signal transmitted from the base station, the downlink signal having its center frequency equal to an associated downlink reference frequency shifted by a downlink Doppler frequency shift;

adding a downlink offset Doppler frequency shift to the downlink signal of substantially the same magnitude and opposite sign as the downlink Doppler frequency

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shift to provide a downlink compensated signal with its center frequency substantially equal to the downlink reference frequency; and
transmitting the downlink compensated signal to the user device.

3. The method of claim 2 comprising:

receiving within the DEC system an uplink signal transmitted from the user device, the uplink signal with its center frequency equal to an uplink reference frequency;

adding an uplink offset Doppler frequency shift to the uplink signal to provide an uplink compensated signal, the uplink offset Doppler frequency shift being substantially equal in magnitude and opposite in sign to an uplink Doppler frequency shift that will occur when the uplink signal is received by the base station; and

transmitting the uplink compensated signal to the base station such that the base station receives a signal whose center frequency is substantially equal to the uplink reference frequency.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the uplink Doppler frequency shift is substantially equal to downlink Doppler frequency shift multiplied by a scaling factor that is proportional to the ratio of the uplink reference frequency to the downlink reference frequency.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the downlink reference frequency is substantially equal to the uplink reference frequency and the scaling factor is substantially equal to 1.

6. The method of claim 3 comprising the user device providing an indication signal to the DEC system designating the base station as a desired base station out of a plurality of base stations, the desired base station being the single base station that the user device communicates with.

7. The method of claim 1 comprising:

receiving within the user device a downlink signal transmitted from the base station, the downlink signal having its center frequency substantially equal to a downlink reference frequency shifted by a downlink Doppler frequency shift;

receiving within the DEC system an uplink signal transmitted from the user device, the uplink signal having its center frequency substantially equal to an uplink reference frequency shifted substantially by the downlink Doppler frequency shift;

adding an uplink offset Doppler frequency shift to the uplink signal to provide an uplink compensated signal, the uplink offset Doppler frequency shift being substantially equal in magnitude and opposite in sign to the downlink Doppler frequency shift plus an uplink Doppler frequency shift that will occur when the uplink signal is received by the base station; and

transmitting the compensated signal to the base station such that when the base station receives the uplink compensated signal its center frequency is substantially equal to the uplink reference frequency.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the uplink Doppler frequency shift is substantially equal to the downlink Doppler frequency shift multiplied by a scaling factor that is proportional to the ratio of the uplink reference frequency to the downlink reference frequency.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the downlink reference frequency is substantially equal to the uplink reference frequency and the scaling factor is substantially equal to 1.

10. The method of claim 9 comprising the user device having an accurate reference device for generating an accurate reference frequency.

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11. The method of claim 1 comprising:

receiving within the DEC system a plurality of downlink signals transmitted from a plurality of base stations, the plurality of downlink signals each having a center frequency equal to a downlink reference frequency, the plurality of downlink signals also each having its center frequency shifted by a downlink Doppler frequency shift;

adding a downlink offset Doppler frequency shift to each of the plurality of downlink signals of opposite sign as the downlink Doppler frequency shift associated with each of the plurality of downlink signals to provide a plurality of downlink compensated signals whose center frequencies are substantially equal to the downlink reference frequency; and

transmitting the plurality of downlink compensated signals to the user device.

12. The method of claim 11 comprising:

the user device designating a base station out of the plurality of base stations as a desired base station, the desired base station being the single base station that the user device communicates with;

receiving within the DEC system a single uplink signal transmitted from the user device, the uplink signal having its center frequency substantially equal to an uplink reference frequency;

adding an uplink offset Doppler frequency shift to the uplink signal to provide an uplink compensated signal, the uplink offset Doppler frequency shift being substantially equal in magnitude and opposite in sign to an uplink Doppler frequency shift that will occur when the uplink signal is received by the desired base station; and

transmitting the uplink compensated signal to the desired base station such that the desired base station receives a combined signal whose center frequency is substantially equal to the uplink reference frequency.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the uplink Doppler frequency shift is substantially equal to downlink Doppler frequency shift associated with the desired base station multiplied by a scaling factor that is proportional to the ratio of the uplink reference frequency to the downlink reference frequency.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the downlink reference frequency is substantially equal to the uplink reference frequency and the scaling factor is substantially equal to 1.

15. The method of claim 1 comprising:

receiving within the DEC system a downlink signal transmitted from the base station, the downlink signal having a center frequency equal to a downlink reference frequency (f_{ref}^{DL}) shifted by a downlink Doppler frequency shift (f_D);

adding a first partial offset Doppler frequency shift ($-f_{P1}$) to the downlink signal of smaller magnitude and opposite sign as the downlink Doppler frequency shift to provide a downlink compensated signal transmitted to the user device;

receiving within the DEC system an uplink transmitted signal transmitted from the user device, the uplink transmitted signal having a center frequency substantially equal to an uplink reference frequency (f_{ref}^{UL}) shifted by the sum of the Doppler frequency shift plus the first partial offset Doppler frequency shift ($f_D - f_{P1}$); comparing the center frequency of the uplink transmitted signal to the accurate reference frequency;

determining a second partial offset Doppler frequency shift (f_{P2}) based on the comparing, wherein the second partial offset Doppler frequency shift is substantially

equal to the downlink Doppler frequency shift plus the first partially offset Doppler frequency shift ($f_{p2}=f_D-f_{p1}$).

16. The method of claim 15, comprising adding an uplink offset Doppler frequency shift to the uplink transmitted signal to obtain an uplink compensated signal, the uplink offset Doppler frequency shift being substantially equal in magnitude and opposite in sign to the second partial offset Doppler frequency shift (f_{p2}) plus an uplink Doppler frequency shift (αf_D) that will occur when the uplink compensated signal is received by the base station as an uplink received signal.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the uplink Doppler frequency shift (αf_D) is substantially equal to the downlink Doppler frequency shift (f_D) multiplied by a scaling factor (α), the scaling factor being proportional to the ratio of the uplink reference frequency (f_{ref}^{UL}) to the downlink reference frequency (f_{ref}^{DL}).

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the downlink Doppler frequency shift is greater than a value that the user device can lock onto and the sum of the downlink Doppler frequency shift plus the first partial offset Doppler frequency shift is less than or equal to the value that the user device can of lock onto.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the accurate reference device generates an accurate reference frequency independent of a center frequency of the downlink signal.

20. The method of claim 1 wherein the accurate reference frequency generated by the accurate reference device has an accuracy range of 100 ppb or less.

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