



US009270303B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Kahrizi et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** US 9,270,303 B2
(45) **Date of Patent:** Feb. 23, 2016

(54) **CONFIGURABLE RECEIVER ARCHITECTURE FOR CARRIER AGGREGATION WITH MULTIPLE-INPUT MULTIPLE-OUTPUT**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 136 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/144,043**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 30, 2013**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2015/0188582 A1 Jul. 2, 2015

(51) **Int. Cl.**
H04B 1/26 (2006.01)
H04B 1/00 (2006.01)
H04B 7/04 (2006.01)
H04B 7/06 (2006.01)
H04W 88/06 (2009.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **H04B 1/0067** (2013.01); **H04B 7/0413** (2013.01); **H04B 7/0689** (2013.01); **H04W 88/06** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC .. H04B 1/0067; H04B 7/0413; H04B 7/0689; H04W 88/06
USPC 455/77, 73, 275, 313, 79, 323, 311, 455/103, 126, 127.2, 315, 3.01, 189.1, 314, 455/226.2, 234.1; 370/329, 343; 375/343, 375/219, 68, 63, 69, 70, 332, 299, 316, 322, 375/295; 331/49, 55, 74, 2, 18, 25, 45

See application file for complete search history.

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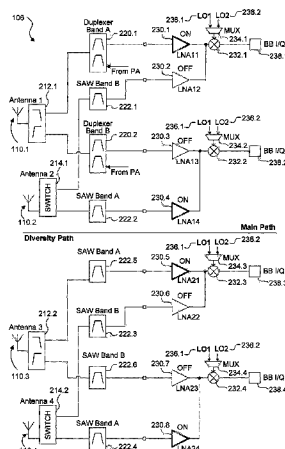
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A wireless communication system and method that includes configurable Carrier Aggregation (CA) and/or Multiple-input Multiple-output (MIMO) operational modes. In CA, multiple carriers (i.e., channel bundling) are aggregated and jointly used for transmission to/from a single terminal. Downlink inter-band carrier aggregation increases the downlink data rates by routing two signals, received in different frequency bands, simultaneously to two active receivers in the RF transceiver. MIMO utilizes two additional receivers as diversity paths and the frequency generation can be shared between main and diversity path for each carriers.

20 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



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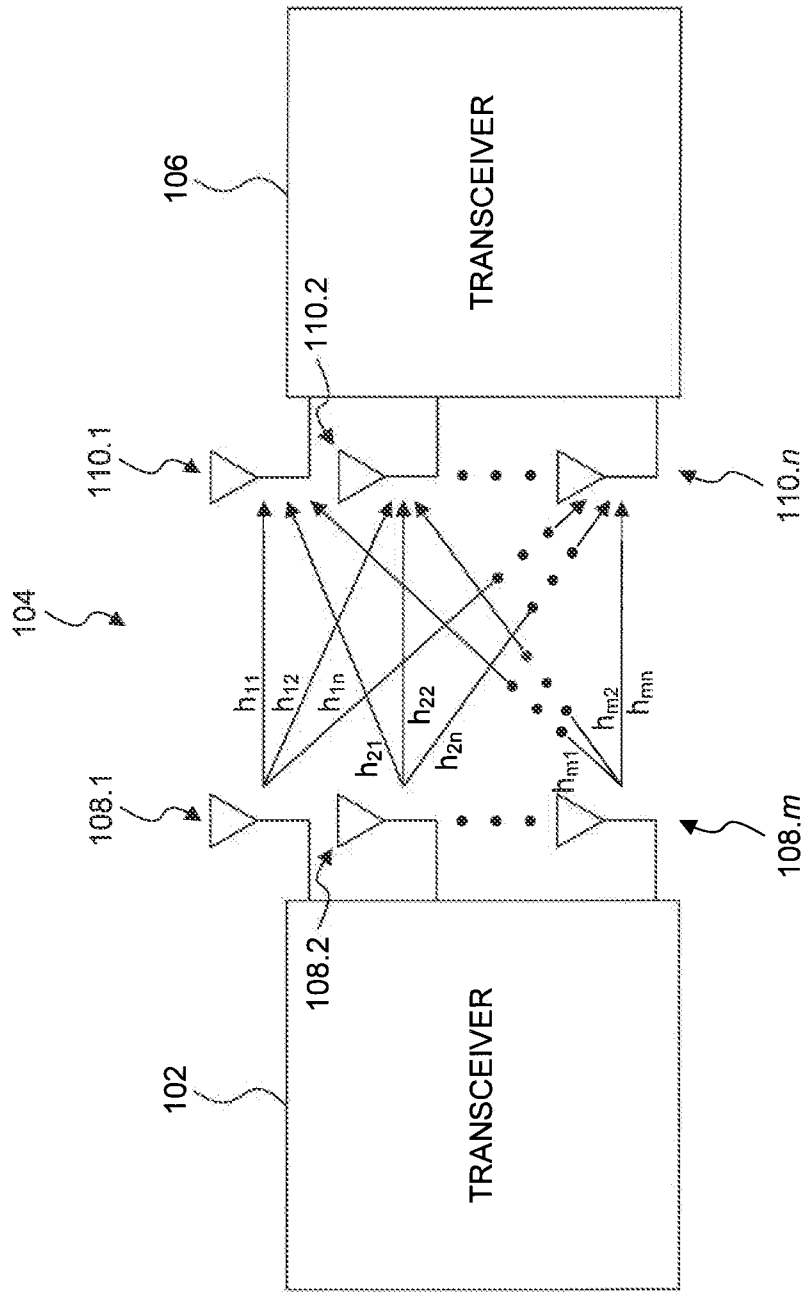
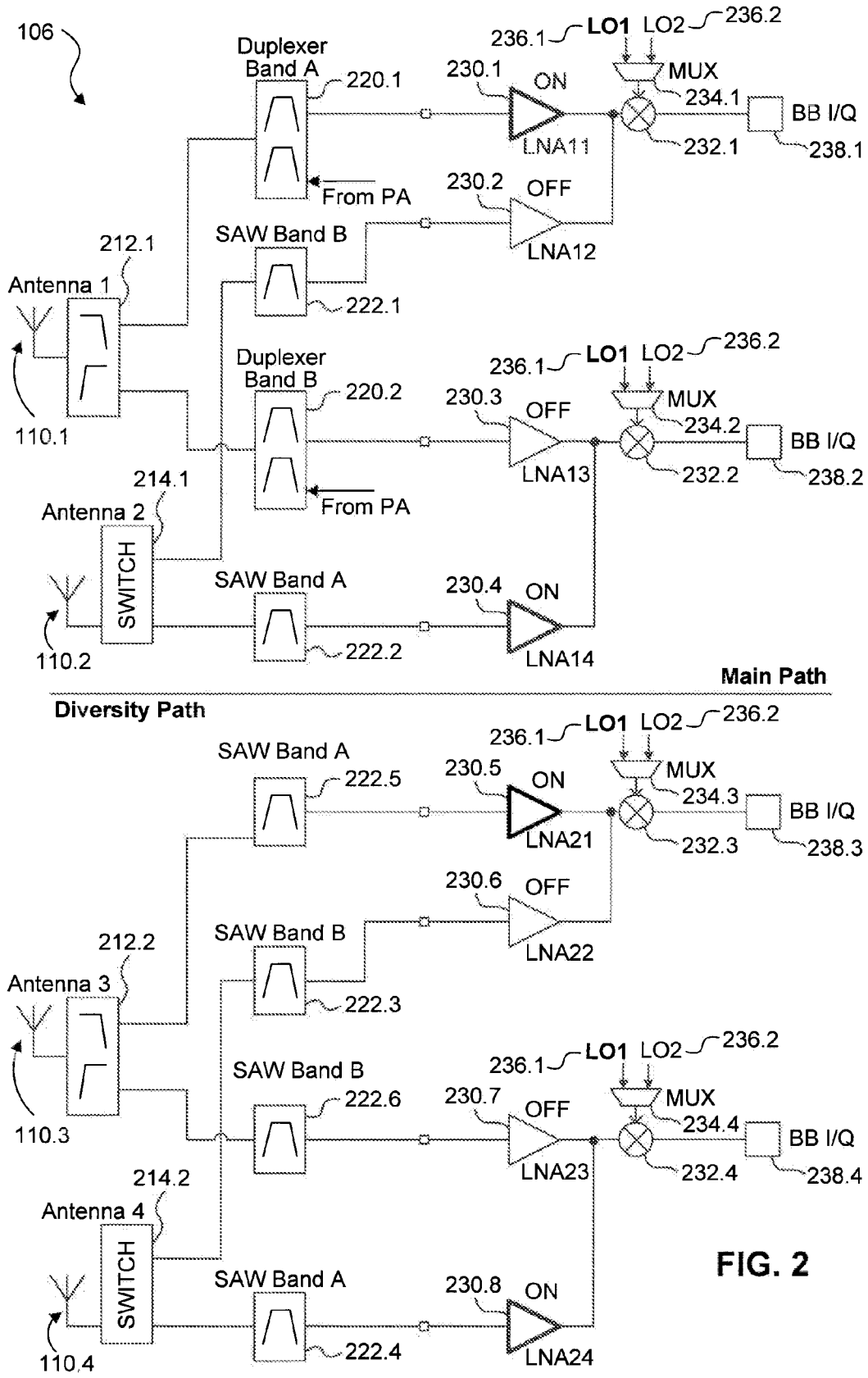
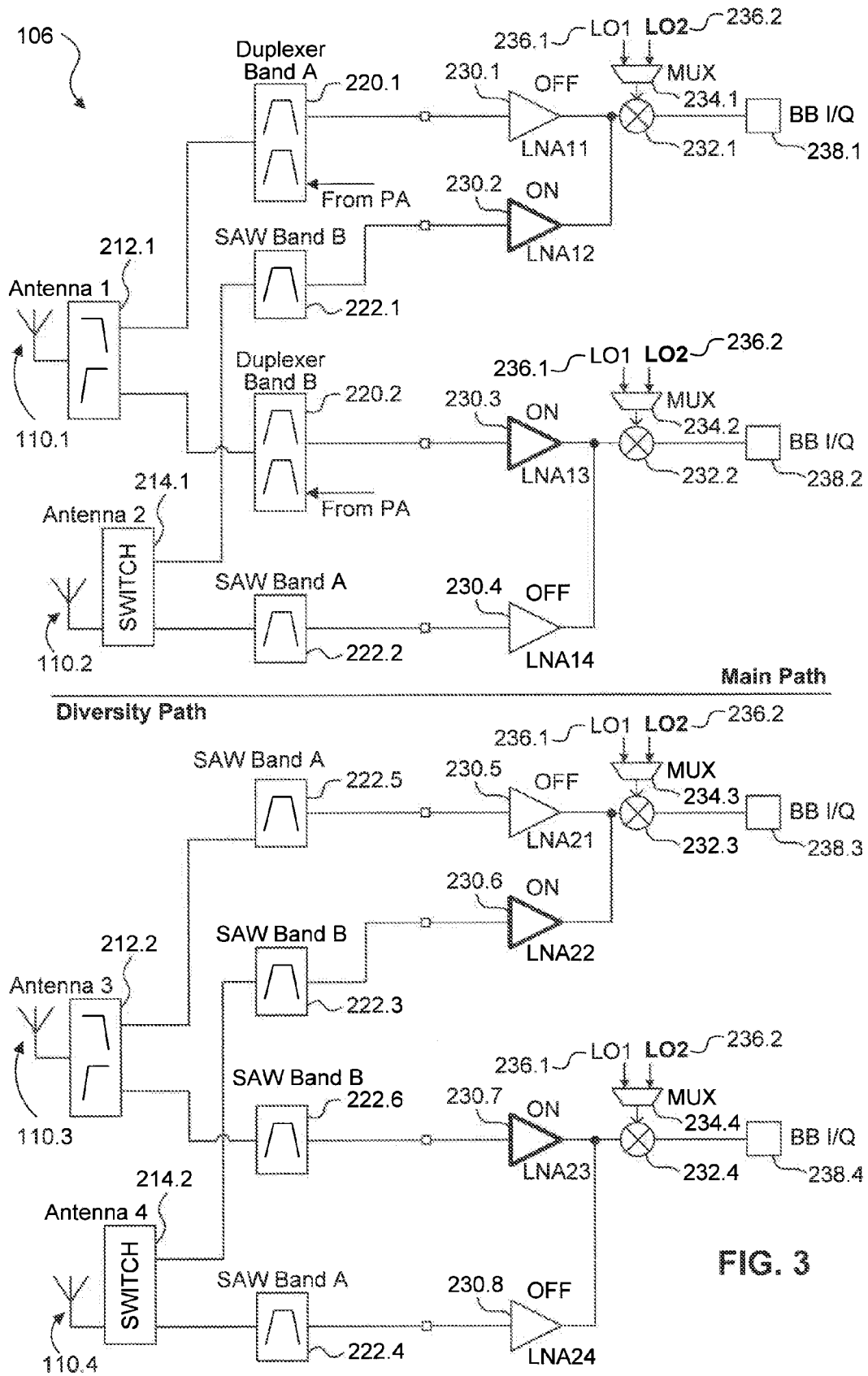


FIG. 1





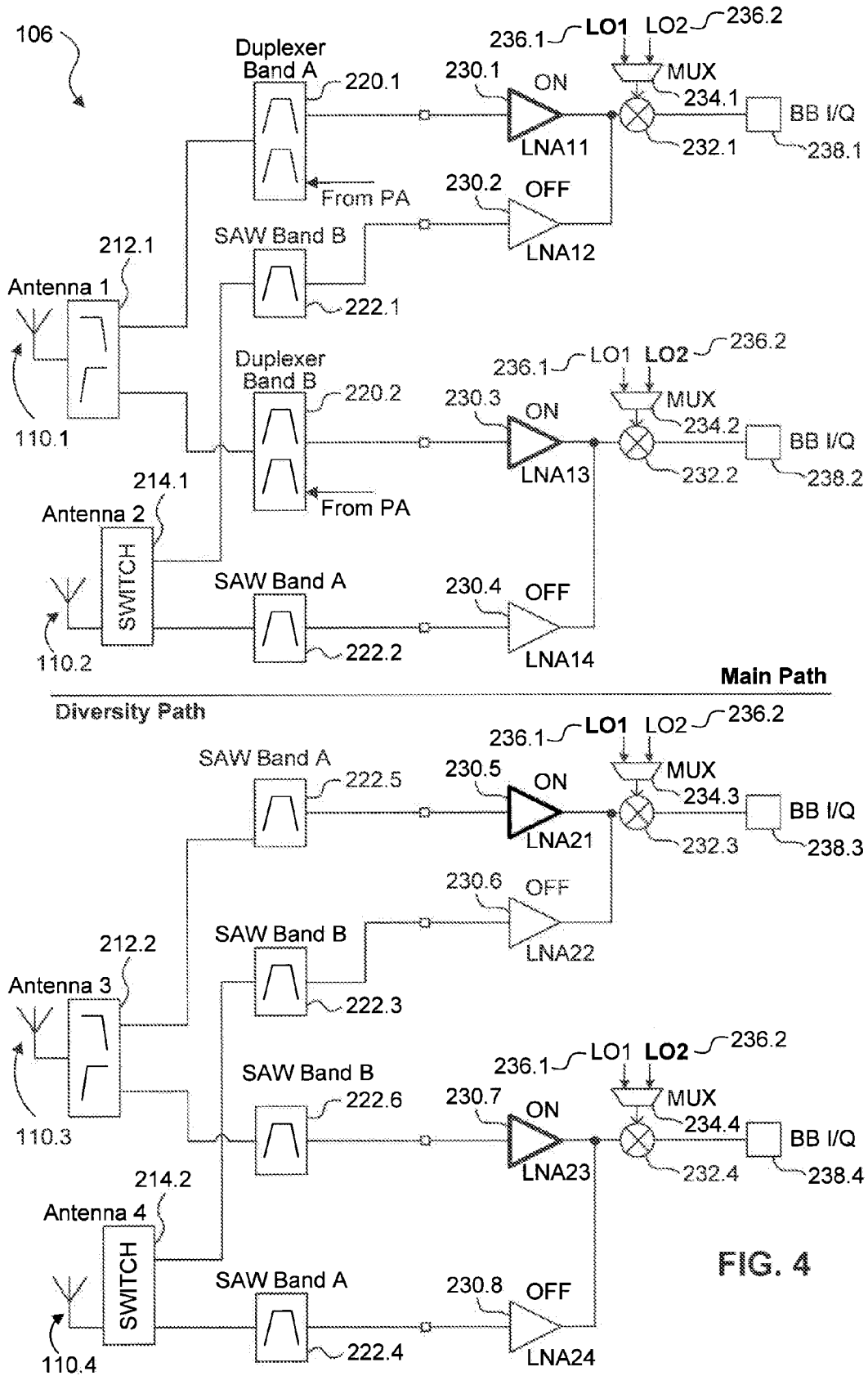


FIG. 4

500

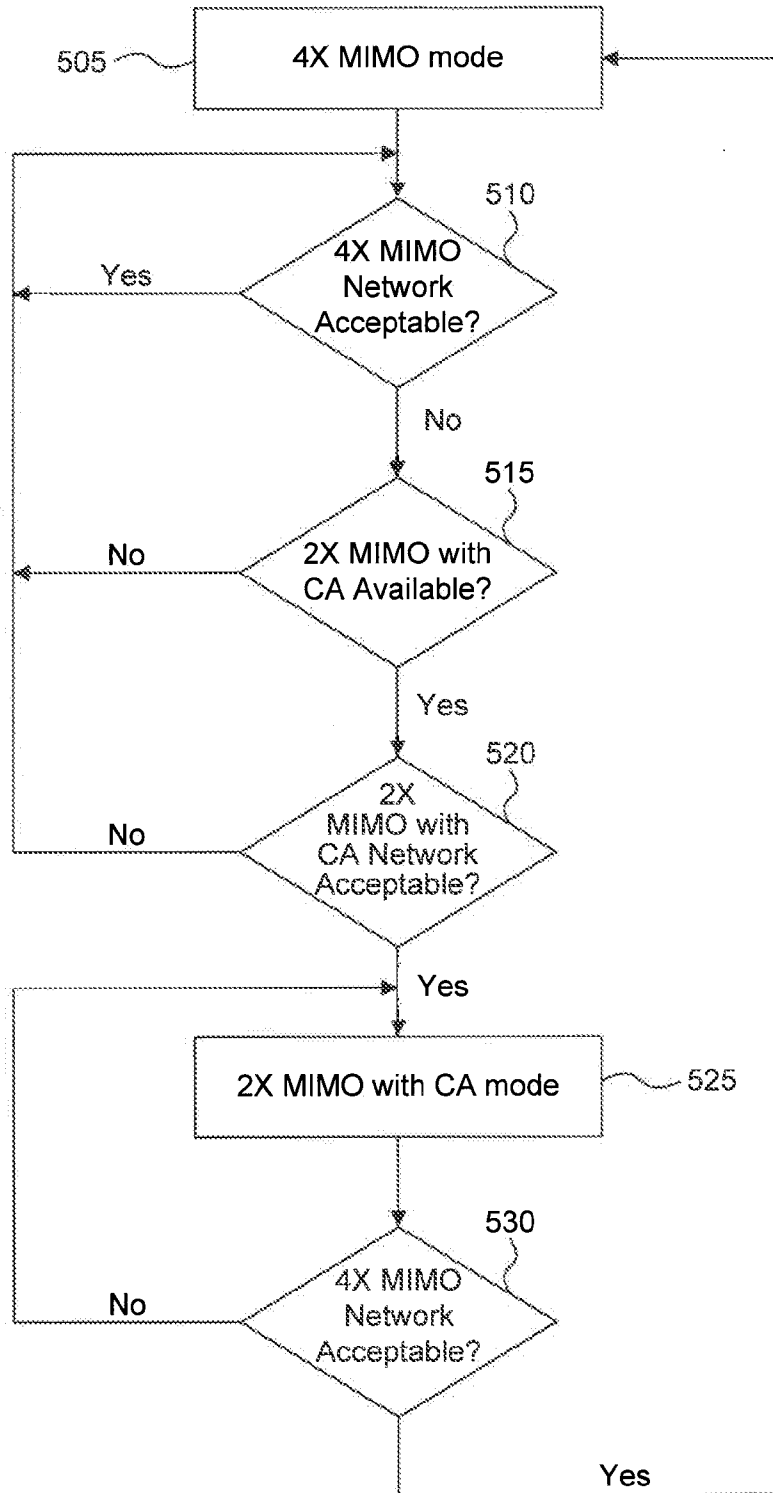


FIG. 5

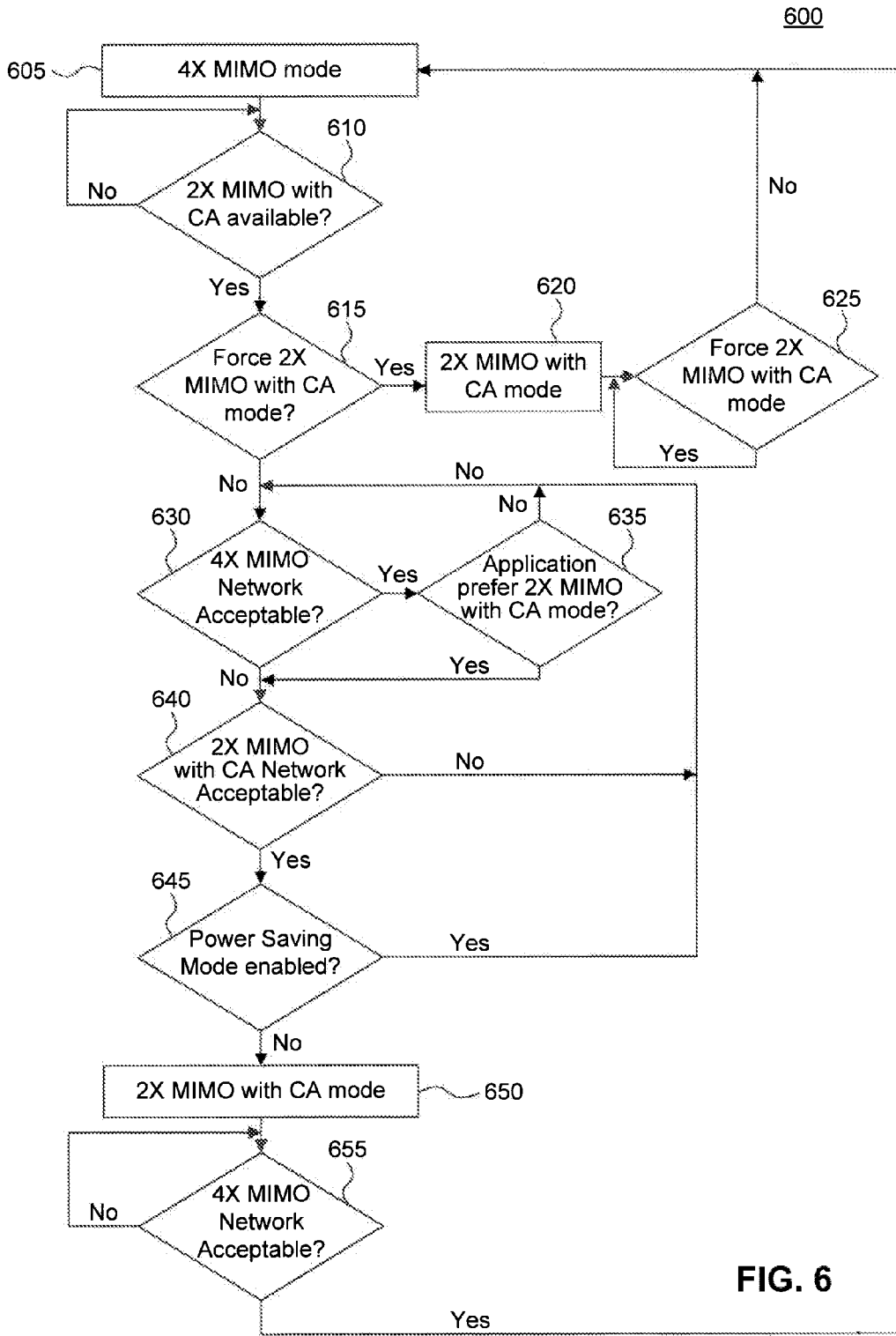


FIG. 6

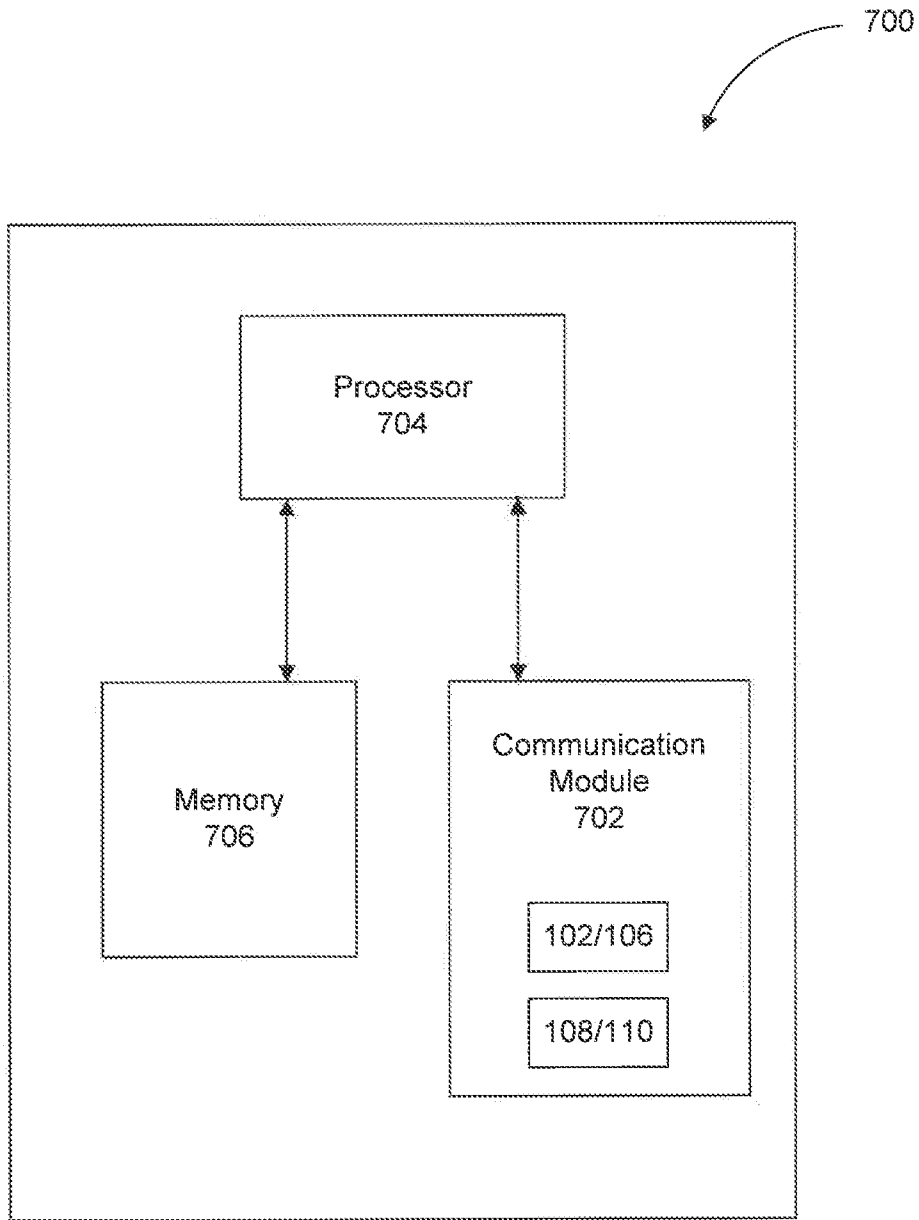


FIG. 7

**CONFIGURABLE RECEIVER
ARCHITECTURE FOR CARRIER
AGGREGATION WITH MULTIPLE-INPUT
MULTIPLE-OUTPUT**

FIELD

This application relates generally to wireless communication, and more particularly to configurable multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) systems.

BACKGROUND

Wireless communication devices communicate with one or more other wireless communication devices or wireless access points to send and receive data. Typically, a first wireless communication device generates and transmits a radio frequency signal modulated with encoded information. This radio frequency signal is transmitted into a wireless environment and is received by a second wireless communication device. The second wireless communication device demodulates and decodes the received signal to obtain the information. The second wireless communication device may then respond in a similar manner. The wireless communication devices can communicate with each other or with access points using any well-known modulation scheme, including: amplitude modulation (AM), frequency modulation (FM), quadrature amplitude modulation (QAM), phase shift keying (PSK), quadrature phase shift keying (QPSK), and/or orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing (OFDM), as well as any other communication scheme that is now, or will be, known.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE
DRAWINGS/FIGURES

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated herein and form a part of the specification, illustrate the embodiments of the present disclosure and, together with the description, further serve to explain the principles of the embodiments and to enable a person skilled in the pertinent art to make and use the embodiments.

FIG. 1 illustrates a communication environment in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 2 illustrates a communication transceiver in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 3 illustrates a communication transceiver in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 4 illustrates a communication transceiver in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 5 illustrates a flowchart of a data transfer method in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 6 illustrates a flowchart of a data transfer method in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 7 illustrates a communication device in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure.

The embodiments of the present disclosure will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings. The drawing in which an element first appears is typically indicated by the leftmost digit(s) in the corresponding reference number.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In the following description, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the embodiments of the present disclosure. However, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the embodiments, including structures, systems, and methods, may be practiced without these specific details. The description and representation herein are the common means used by those experienced or skilled in the art to most effectively convey the substance of their work to others skilled in the art. In other instances, well-known methods, procedures, components, and circuitry have not been described in detail to avoid unnecessarily obscuring aspects of the disclosure.

The exemplary wireless communication environments described below provide wireless communication of information, such as one or more commands and/or data, between two or more wireless communication devices. The wireless communication devices may each be implemented as a standalone or a discrete device, such as a mobile telephone or mobile telephone peripheral device (e.g., Bluetooth headset), or may be incorporated within or coupled to another electrical device or host device, such as a portable computing device, a camera, or a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit or another computing device such as a personal digital assistant, a video gaming device, a laptop, a desktop computer, or a tablet, a computer peripheral such as a printer or a portable audio and/or video player to provide some examples and/or any other suitable electronic device that will be apparent to those skilled in the relevant art(s) without departing from the spirit and scope of the present disclosure.

The wireless communication devices are capable of both wireless transmission and wireless reception utilizing one or more various cellular protocols specified in the International Mobile Telecommunications-2000 (IMT-2000) standard, developed by the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) and/or the 3rd Generation Partnership Project 2 (3GPP2), including, for example, the Long-Term Evolution (LTE) standard and/or the LTE-Advanced standard, and/or one or more various wireless communication protocols, such as Wi-Fi (IEEE 802.11), Bluetooth, Near-field Communication (NFC) (ISO/IEC 18092), WiMax (IEEE 802.16), ZigBee (IEEE 802.15.4) to provide some examples. Each of these various protocols/standards is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

The exemplary wireless communication environments can use multi-antenna techniques that include multiple antennas at the transmitter, receiver, and/or transceiver. The multi-antenna techniques can be grouped into three different categories: diversity, interference suppression, and spatial multiplexing. These three categories are often collectively referred to as Multiple-input Multiple-output (MIMO) communication even though not all of the multi-antenna techniques that fall within these categories require at least two antennas at both the transmitter and receiver.

In exemplary embodiments, the multi-antenna configurations can also implement Carrier Aggregation (CA). CA is a feature of Release-10 of the 3GPP LTE-Advanced standard, which allows multiple resource blocks from/to multiple respective serving cells to be logically grouped together (aggregated) and allocated to the same wireless communication device. The aggregated resource blocks are known as component carriers (CCs) in the LTE-Advanced standard. Each of the wireless communication devices may receive/transmit multiple component carriers simultaneously from/to the multiple respective serving cells, thereby effectively increasing the downlink/uplink bandwidth of the wireless communication.

tion device(s). The term “component carriers (CCs)” is used to refer to groups of resource blocks (defined in terms of frequency and/or time) of two or more RF carriers that are aggregated (logically grouped) together.

There are various forms of Carrier Aggregation (CA) as defined by Release-10 of the LTE-Advanced standard, including intra-band adjacent CA, intra-band non-adjacent CA, and inter-band CA. In intra-band adjacent CA, aggregated component carriers (CCs) are within the same frequency band and adjacent to each other forming a contiguous frequency block. In intra-band non-adjacent CA, aggregated CCs are within the same frequency band but are not adjacent to each other. In inter-band CA, aggregated CCs are in different frequency bands.

Release-10 of the LTE-Advanced standard allows a maximum of five CCs to be allocated to a wireless communication device at any given time. CCs can vary in size from 1.4 to 20 MHz, resulting in a maximum bandwidth of 100 MHz that can be allocated to the wireless communication device in the downlink/uplink. The allocation of CCs to the wireless communication device is performed by the network and is communicated to the wireless communication device.

Although the exemplary embodiments are described with respect to the LTE standard, a person of ordinary skill in the relevant art(s) will understand that the exemplary embodiments are not limited to the LTE standard and can be applied to other wireless or wired communication standards, including, for example, one or more of the wireless protocols/standards described above, and/or one or more cable networks (e.g., DOCSIS) and/or one or more optical networks (e.g., EPON, EPoC, GPON).

FIG. 1 illustrates an exemplary communication environment **100** according to an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure. The communication environment **100** includes a communication transceiver **102** to transmit/receive one or more data streams to/from a communication transceiver **106** via a communication channel **104** utilizing Multiple-input Multiple-output (MIMO) and/or Carrier Aggregation (CA) configurations. For the purposes of this discussion, the operation of the communication transceivers **102** and **106** will be described with the communication transceiver **102** transmitting one or more data streams to the communication transceiver **106**. However, as will be appreciated by those skilled in the relevant art(s), the communication transceiver **106** can also be configured to transmit one or more data streams to the communication transceiver **102**.

The communication transceiver **102** provides multiple parallel data streams by operating upon the one or more data streams to provide multiple parallel data streams. The communication transceiver **102** provides the multiple parallel data streams to multiple transmit antennas **108.1** through **108.m** for transmission over the communication channel **104** to the communication transceiver **106**. The communication transceiver **102** can represent a transmitter of a base station (BS), a femtocell, or user equipment (UE). Similarly, the communication transceiver **106** can represent a receiver of a base station, a femtocell, or user equipment. In some situations, multiple MIMO communication environments **100** can be used within a communications network. For example, a first MIMO communication environment **100** can represent a downlink (DL) between a base station and a user equipment of a wireless communication network and a second MIMO communication environment **100** can represent an uplink (UL) between the user equipment and the base station of the wireless communication network. Alternatively, or in addition to, the MIMO communication environment **100** can be implemented in conjunction with various non-MIMO com-

munication environments, such as legacy LTE 3-4G to provide an example, to facilitate communication between communication devices.

The communication transceiver **106** observes the multiple parallel data streams using the multiple receive antennas **110.1** through **110.n** as the multiple parallel data streams traverse through various communication pathways of the communication channel **104** to provide multiple observed parallel data streams. The communication transceiver **106** can operate upon the multiple observed parallel data streams to provide one or more recovered data streams.

The various communication pathways of the communication channel **104** represent various communication pathways between each of the multiple transmit antennas **108.1** through **108.m** and a corresponding one of the multiple receive antennas **110.1** through **110.n**. For example, the receive antenna **110.1** observes the multiple parallel data streams over communication pathways $h_{1,1}$, $h_{2,1}$, and $h_{m,1}$. The communication pathway $h_{1,1}$ represents a communication pathway from the transmit antenna **108.1** to the receive antenna **110.1**, the communication pathway $h_{2,1}$ represents a communication pathway from the transmit antenna **108.2** to the receive antenna **110.1**, and the communication pathway $h_{m,1}$ represents a communication pathway from the transmit antenna **108.m** to the receive antenna **110.1**. As another example, the receive antenna **110.2** observes the multiple parallel data streams over communication pathways $h_{1,2}$, $h_{2,2}$, and $h_{m,2}$. The communication pathway $h_{1,2}$ represents a communication pathway from the transmit antenna **108.1** to the receive antenna **110.2**, the communication pathway $h_{2,2}$ represents a communication pathway from the transmit antenna **108.2** to the receive antenna **110.2**, and the communication pathway $h_{m,2}$ represents a communication pathway from the transmit antenna **108.m** to the receive antenna **110.2**. As a further example, the receive antenna **110.n** observes the multiple parallel data streams over communication pathways $h_{1,n}$, $h_{2,n}$, and $h_{m,n}$. The communication pathway $h_{1,n}$ represents a communication pathway from the transmit antenna **108.1** to the receive antenna **110.n**, the communication pathway $h_{2,n}$ represents a communication pathway from the transmit antenna **108.2** to the receive antenna **110.n**, and the communication pathway $h_{m,n}$ represents a communication pathway from the transmit antenna **108.m** to the receive antenna **110.n**.

In some situations, a number of the multiple transmit antennas **108.1** through **108.m** can be similar to a number of the multiple receive antennas **110.1** through **110.n**. In other situations, the number of the multiple transmit antennas **108.1** through **108.m** can differ from the number of the multiple receive antennas **110.1** through **110.n**.

Often times, the multiple transmit antennas **108.1** through **108.m** and/or the multiple receive antennas **110.1** through **110.n** represent elements of one or more transmitting arrays and/or one or more receiving arrays, respectively. Each of the one or more transmitting arrays and/or the one or more receiving arrays can include one or more of the multiple transmit antennas **108.1** through **108.m** and/or the multiple receive antennas **110.1** through **110.n**.

FIG. 2 illustrates a communication transceiver **106** according to an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure. In an exemplary embodiment, the communication transceiver **106** includes a plurality of antennas **110.1** through **110.4**, where antennas **110.1** and **110.2** form a main path section and antennas **110.3** and **110.4** form a diversity path section. Communication transceiver **106** further includes diplexers **212.1** and **212.2**, switching modules **214.1** and **214.2**, diplexers **220.1** and **220.2**, surface acoustic wave (SAW) filter modules **222.1** to **222.6**, low-noise amplifiers (LNA) **230.1** to **230.8**,

mixers **232.1** to **231.4**, multiplexers **234.1** to **234.4**, local oscillators (LO) **236.1** and **236.2**, and baseband modules **238.1** to **238.4**. The quantities of each of these components is not limited to the example quantities of the exemplary embodiments of this disclosure, as one of ordinary skill in the relevant arts would understand that the quantities can be adjusted accordingly based on the scale and implementation of the communication transceiver **106**.

For the purpose of this disclosure, the main path section of the communication transceiver **106** will be described in more detail below. As illustrated in FIG. 2, the corresponding diversity path shares many common elements and features with the main path of the communication transceiver **106**, and therefore the discussion of these common elements is omitted for brevity.

In the main path section, antenna **110.1** is communicatively and electrically coupled to a diplexer **212.1** and antenna **110.2** is communicatively and electrically coupled to switching module **214.1**. The diplexer **212.1** includes suitable logic, circuitry, and/or code that is configured to perform frequency domain multiplexing (e.g., two ports onto a single port) so as to allow two different devices to share a common communications channel (i.e., antenna **110.1**). In particular, the diplexer **212.1** is connected to antenna **110.1** and to first and second duplexers **220.1** and **220.2**. In operation, the diplexer **212.1** splits a data stream received by the antenna **110.1** into a first communication signal having a first frequency band and a second communication signal having a second frequency band. For example, the diplexer **212.1** can split the received data stream into a first portion that is within the first frequency band (e.g., Band A) and a second portion that is within the second frequency band (e.g., Band B), and provide the first and second portions to the diplexer **220.1** and **220.2**, respectively. In an exemplary embodiment, frequency Band A is, for example, 1.5 to 2.7 GHz and frequency Band B is, for example, less than or equal to 1 GHz. The frequencies and/or frequency band ranges are not limited to these exemplary frequencies, as the frequencies can be any frequency or frequency band range that would be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the relevant arts without departing from the spirit or scope of the present disclosure.

The duplexers **220.1** to **220.4** include suitable logic, circuitry, and/or code that is configured to allow bi-directional (duplex) communication over a single path to/from two devices (e.g., transmitter and receiver). That is, the duplexers **220** isolate the two devices while permitting them to share a path (e.g., common antenna **110.1**). In an exemplary embodiment, the duplexers **220** are configured to allow two different devices (e.g., an LNA **230** and the output of power amplifier (PA) configured to transmit the output data stream of the communication transceiver **106**) to share a common communications channel (e.g., antenna **110.1**). That is, the diplexer **220.1** is connected to the LNA **230.1**, the output of the PA, and diplexer **212.1**, and the diplexer **220.2** is connected to LNA **230.3**, the output of the PA, and the diplexer **212.1**.

The low-noise amplifiers (LNA) **230.1** to **230.8** include suitable logic, circuitry, and/or code that is configured to amplify a received input signal and to output the amplified input signal that has been amplified by a predetermined gain value. In an exemplary embodiment, the input of each LNA **230** is connected to an antenna **110** (with one or more intermediate components), and the output of the connected to a baseband module **238** via a mixer **232** at the LNA's output. That is, the LNA **230** receives an input signal from an antenna **110** and outputs an amplified output signal to a mixer **232**. In an exemplary embodiment, the LNAs **230** can be configured to operate on specific frequencies and/or frequency bands. In

operation, the transceiver **10.6** is then configured to utilize a predetermined number of LNAs **230** corresponding to one or more desired frequencies and/or frequency bands. These LNAs **230** are then connected to respective antenna **110** while unused LNAs can be left disconnected. This allows for the communication transceiver **106** to be customizable so as to be operable on one or more frequencies and/or frequency bands.

Mixers **232** each include suitable logic, circuitry, and/or code that is configured to mix two input signals and to generate an output signal based on the two input signals. As illustrated in FIG. 2, each mixer **232** can be configured to mix the output of an LNA **230** with the output of a multiplexer **234** to generate an output signal that is provided to a corresponding the baseband module **238**. Each multiplexer **234** includes suitable logic, circuitry, and/or code that is configured to selectively output the signals generated by the local oscillators **236.1** and **236.2** based on the mode of operation of the communication transceiver **106** (e.g., Band A 4x MIMO, Band B 4x MIMO, Carrier Aggregation mode). Each oscillator **236** includes suitable logic, circuitry, and/or code that is configured to generate an output signal at a specific frequency or specific frequency band (e.g., Band A or Band B), which may be predetermined or controlled based on an input signal (e.g., the oscillators **236** may be voltage-controlled oscillators in a frequency synthesizer). For example, local oscillator **236.1** can be configured to generate an output signal at frequency Band A, and local oscillator **236.2** can be configured to generate an output signal at frequency Band B. The mixer **232**, multiplexer **234** and oscillators **236** cooperatively operate to mix a received signal (e.g., output signal from a corresponding LNA **230**) with an oscillator signal to down-convert a desired carrier in the received signal to baseband or some non-zero intermediate frequency (IF) for further processing.

Each of the baseband modules **236** include suitable logic, circuitry, and/or code that is configured to perform digital signal processing on signals received from respective mixers **232**. The digital signal processing can include, for example, demodulation, modulation, interpolation, frequency shifting, encoding, decoding, filtering, analog-to-digital conversion (ADC), digital-to-analog conversion (DAC), in-phase and quadrature-phase (I/Q) signal processing, and/or any other suitable digital signal processing that will be apparent to those skilled in the relevant art(s) without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

The second antenna (e.g., antenna **110.2**) of the main path is communicatively and electrically coupled to switching module **214.1**. The switching module **214.1** includes suitable logic, circuitry, and/or code that is configured to selectively connect the antenna **110.2** to the surface acoustic wave (SAW) filter module **222.1** and the SAW filter module **222.2**. The SAW filter modules **222** include suitable logic, circuitry, and/or code that is configured to perform surface acoustic wave (SAW) filtering on signals received from the switching module **214.1** to generate and output a SAW filtered signal. The outputs of the SAW filter modules **222.1** and **222.2** are connected to inputs of LNAs **230.2** and **230.4**, respectively. The outputs of LNAs **230.2** and **230.4** are connected to the inputs of mixers **232.1** and **232.2**, respectively. As illustrated in FIG. 2, the mixers **232** are each connected to two LNAs **230** and a multiplexer **234**. In operation, as discussed in more detail below, only a single LNA of each pair is activated at any particular time; therefore, each mixer **232** receives two inputs at any particular time the output of a multiplexer **234** and the output of a single LNA **230**.

As discussed above, the components and their interconnections within the diversity path section of the communication transceiver **106** share many common elements and features

with the components of the main path section. Therefore the discussion of these common elements has been omitted for brevity. It should also be appreciated that the discussion of operation of the various components of the main path section is similar to the corresponding components of the diversity path section. The discussion of these similar components and their corresponding operations has also been omitted for brevity.

In an exemplary embodiment, the communication transceiver **106** is configured to operate in multiple communication modes, including, for example, a 4× Multiple-input Multiple-output (MIMO) mode at a first frequency band, a 4× Multiple-input Multiple-output (MIMO) mode at a second frequency band, and a 2× MIMO with downlink Carrier Aggregation (CA) mode utilizing both the first and second frequency bands. This exemplary embodiment provides an implementation having the flexibility and benefits of a single device that is configured to operate in three communication modes, including a 4× Multiple-input Multiple-output (MIMO) mode at a first frequency band, a 4× Multiple-input Multiple-output (MIMO) mode at a second frequency band, and a 2× MIMO with downlink Carrier Aggregation (CA) mode utilizing both the first and second frequency bands.

FIG. 2 illustrates an exemplary configuration of the communication transceiver **106** in the 4× Multiple-input Multiple-output (MIMO) mode at a first frequency band (e.g., Band A). In the 4× MIMO mode, the communication transceiver **106** is configured to utilize four antennas **110.1** to **110.4**, where antennas **110.1** and **110.2** are configured as main path antennas and corresponding antennas **110.3** and **110.4** are configured as diversity path antennas. As illustrated in FIG. 2, the communication transceiver **106** is configured to operate on the first frequency band (e.g., Band A) that is associated with the local oscillator **236.1**. In this configuration, the multiplexers **234.1** to **234.4** are configured to output the signal generated by the local oscillator **236.1** (e.g., LO1) to corresponding mixers **232.1** to **232.4**. LNAs **230.1**, **230.4**, **230.5** and **230.8** are activated while LNAs **230.2**, **230.3**, **230.6**, and **230.7** are deactivated. Further, switching modules **214.1** and **214.2** are configured to connect antennas **110.2** and **110.4** to SAW filter modules **222.2** and **222.4**, respectively. That is, the communication transceiver is configured such that: (1) antenna **110.1** is connected to the baseband module **238.1** via diplexer **212.1**, duplexer **220.1**, LNA **230.1** and mixer **232.1**; (2) antenna **110.2** is connected to the baseband module **238.2** via switching module **214.1**, SAW filter module **222.2**, LNA **230.4** and mixer **232.2**; (3) antenna **110.3** is connected to the baseband module **238.3** via diplexer **212.2**, SAW filter module **222.5**, LNA **230.5** and mixer **232.3**; and (4) antenna **110.4** is connected to the baseband module **238.4** via switching module **214.2**, SAW filter module **222.4**, LNA **230.8** and mixer **232.4**.

FIG. 3 illustrates an exemplary configuration of the communication transceiver **106** in the 4× Multiple-input Multiple-output (MIMO) mode at a second frequency band (e.g., Band B). Similar to the configuration of the communication transceiver **106** in FIG. 2, the communication transceiver **106** is configured to utilize four antennas **110.1** to **110.4**, where antennas **110.1** and **110.2** are configured as main path antennas and corresponding antennas **110.3** and **110.4** are configured as diversity path antennas.

As illustrated in FIG. 3, the communication transceiver **106** is configured to operate on the second frequency band (e.g., Band B) that is associated with the local oscillator **236.2**. In this configuration, the multiplexers **234.1** to **234.4** are configured to output the signal generated by the local oscillator **236.2** (e.g., LO2) to corresponding mixers **232.1** to **232.4**.

LNAs **230.2**, **230.3**, **230.6**, and **230.7** are activated while LNAs **230.1**, **230.4**, **230.5** and **230.8** are deactivated. Further, switching modules **214.1** and **214.2** are configured to connect antennas **110.2** and **110.4** to SAW filter modules **222.1** and **222.3**, respectively. That is, the communication transceiver is configured such that: (1) antenna **110.1** is connected to the baseband module **238.2** via diplexer **212.1**, duplexer **220.2**, LNA **230.3** and mixer **232.2**; (2) antenna **110.2** is connected to the baseband module **238.1** via switching module **214.1**, SAW filter module **222.1**, LNA **230.2** and mixer **232.1**; (3) antenna **110.3** is connected to the baseband module **238.4** via diplexer **212.2**, SAW filter module **222.6**, LNA **230.7** and mixer **232.4**; and (4) antenna **110.4** is connected to the baseband module **238.3** via switching module **214.2**, SAW filter module **222.3**, LNA **230.6** and mixer **232.3**.

FIG. 4 illustrates an exemplary configuration of the communication transceiver **106** in the 2× Multiple-input Multiple-output (MIMO) with downlink Carrier Aggregation (CA) mode utilizing both the first and second frequency bands (e.g., Bands A and B). In the 2× MIMO with downlink CA mode, the communication transceiver **106** is configured to utilize two antennas **110.1** and **110.3**, where antenna **110.1** is configured as main path antenna and corresponding antennas **110.3** is configured as diversity path antenna.

As illustrated in FIG. 4, the communication transceiver **106** is configured to operate on both the first and second frequency bands (e.g., Bands A and B) that are associated with the local oscillators **236.1** and **236.2**, respectively. In this configuration, the multiplexers **234.1** and **234.3** are configured to output the signal generated by the local oscillator **236.1** (e.g., LO1) to corresponding mixers **232.1** and **232.3** while multiplexers **234.2** and **234.4** are configured to output the signal generated by the local oscillator **236.2** (e.g., LO2) to corresponding mixers **232.2** and **232.4**. LNAs **230.1**, **230.3**, **230.5**, and **230.7** are activated while LNAs **230.2**, **230.4**, **230.6** and **230.8** are deactivated. Switching modules **214.1** and **214.2** are also deactivated as antennas **110.2** and **110.4** are not utilized in the 2× MIMO with downlink CA configuration.

In the 2× MIMO with downlink CA configuration mode, the communication transceiver **106** is configured such that: (1) antenna **110.1** is connected to the baseband module **238.1** via diplexer **212.1**, duplexer **220.1**, LNA **230.1** and mixer **232.1**; (2) antenna **110.1** is also connected to the baseband module **238.2** via diplexer **212.1**, duplexer **220.2**, LNA **230.3** and mixer **232.2**; (3) antenna **110.3** is connected to the baseband module **238.3** via diplexer **212.2**, SAW filter module **222.5**, LNA **230.5** and mixer **232.3**; and (4) antenna **110.3** is also connected to the baseband module **238.4** via diplexer **212.2**, SAW filter module **222.6**, LNA **230.7** and mixer **232.4**. That is, the baseband modules **238.1** and **238.3** process signals that utilize the first frequency band and that are received via antennas **110.1** and **110.3**, while the baseband modules **238.2** and **238.4** process signals that utilize the second frequency band and that are received via antennas **110.1** and **110.3**.

In operation, the communication transceiver **106** can be configured to switch between various communication modes. The mode selection can be controlled by one or more processors (e.g., processor **704** in FIG. 7) implemented with or within the communication transceiver **106** and/or the communication transceiver **102**. The one or more processors can be configured to monitor the available operating modes, network conditions, quality of service (QoS), and/or user and/or service provider mode selection and/or preference, to provide some examples, and to instruct the various components of the communication transceiver **106** (e.g., switching modules **214**, multiplexers **234**, LNAs **230**, etc.) to select between the

various antenna and/or frequency configurations. The operational mode selection can be governed by the communication network service provider (e.g., communication transceiver 102) and/or the communication transceiver 106.

In an exemplary embodiment, the communication transceiver 106 can be configured to operate in the 4x MIMO mode or the 2x MIMO with CA mode based on the network conditions and/or quality of service (QOS) of the 4x MIMO connection and/or 2x MIMO with CA connection. For example, the communication transceiver 106 can be configured so as to prefer to operate in the 4x MIMO mode, and to switch to the 2x MIMO with CA mode if the network conditions and/or QOS of the 4x MIMO connection falls below a predetermined threshold. Once the network conditions and/or QOS allow, the communication transceiver 106 can return to the 4x MIMO mode. In this configuration, the communication transceiver 106 can provide the desired communication network environment, network accessibility and/or QOS, while only using the additional frequency spectrum allocated for the 2x MIMO with CA mode when necessary to maintain the desired communication network environment, network accessibility and/or QOS. For example, the communication transceiver 106 can be configured to switch from the 4x MIMO mode to the 2x MIMO with CA mode if the 4x MIMO mode cannot provide sufficient bandwidth, data throughput and/or QOS to provide some examples, and return to the 4x MIMO mode once sufficient bandwidth, data throughput and/or QOS can be provided by the 4x MIMO communication environment. It should be appreciated that the communication transceiver 106 can alternatively be configured to operate with preference to the 2x MIMO with CA mode so as to switch to the 4x MIMO mode when necessary to achieve a desired communication environment. Similarly, the communication transceiver 106 can be configured to initially operate in any of the various modes, to switch to an alternative mode when necessary, and to remaining in the current operating mode until network conditions, QOS, etc. necessitate a switch to an alternative operating mode.

When operating in the 4x MIMO mode, the communication transceiver 106 can also be configured to monitor the network conditions and/or QOS of the various available frequency bands (e.g., Bands A and B), and selectively choose between the available frequency bands based on the network conditions and/or QOS. Here, the communication transceiver 106 can then be configured to switch to the 2x MIMO with CA mode when the desired communication network environment, network accessibility and/or QOS cannot be achieved while operating in one or more of the available 4x MIMO modes.

In an exemplary embodiment, the communication transceiver 106 can be configured with a user override function that allows for selection of an operating mode regardless of the network conditions and/or QOS associated with the selected mode. Here, the communication transceiver 106 is limited to the one or more designated operational modes. For example, the communication transceiver 106 can be configured to receive a user input corresponding to one or more designated operational modes in which the communication transceiver 106 is to operate.

Similarly, the service provider (e.g., communication transceiver 102) can be configured to designate one or more operational modes in which the communication transceiver 106 is permitted to operate in. Here, the designation can be communicated to the communication transceiver 106 by the service provider.

In an exemplary embodiment, the communication transceiver 106 and/or the service provider can be configured to

select the operational mode based on one or more geographical and/or temporal factors. The geographical and/or temporal factors can include orientation, compass coordinates (e.g., longitude and/or latitude, azimuth, altitude, pitch, roll, yaw, etc.), velocity, acceleration, time, and/or any other geographical and/or temporal factor to provide some examples. For example, the communication transceiver 106 and/or service provider can be configured to select a specific operational mode based on the location of the communication transceiver 106, time of day, and/or the current date to provide some examples.

In an exemplary embodiment, the communication transceiver 106 and/or the service provider can be configured to select the operational mode based on the available power source(s) of the communication transceiver 106. For example, if the communication transceiver 106 is operating on battery power, the operational mode selection can be made based on the remaining battery life (e.g., the remaining ampere-hours of the battery). Typically, the 4x MIMO mode can offer a more efficient operation (e.g., consumes less power) as the radio frequency integrated circuit (RFIC) will consume less power when operating in the 4x MIMO mode as compared to the 2x MIMO with CA mode. That is, because the 4x MIMO mode utilizes only one of the local oscillators 236, so that only the phase lock loop (PLL) corresponding to the active oscillator 236 is consuming power. Conversely, when operating in the 2x MIMO with CA mode, respective PLLs of both local oscillators 236 are actively operating, which can increase the overall power consumption of the communication transceiver 106.

The communication transceiver 106 and/or the service provider can also be configured to operate in a power saving mode that designates one or more available modes of operation in which the communication transceiver 106 is allowed to operate in. Here, the modes of operation can be limited to conserve power regardless of the available power sources. For example, if the power saving mode is enabled, the communication transceiver 106 can be limited to operating in, for example, the 4x MIMO mode because the 4x MIMO mode typically consumes less power than the 2x MIMO with CA mode.

In exemplary embodiment, the communication transceiver 106 and/or the service provide can be configured to select the operational mode based on one or more active applications being performed by the communication transceiver 106. In particular, the communication transceiver 106 can perform applications that have bandwidth and/or data throughput requirements that vary based on the application. For example, the communication transceiver 106 can receive data corresponding to live video streaming which typically requires high bandwidth and/or data throughput requirements, or data corresponding to internet browsing which typically requires low bandwidth and/or data throughput requirements to provide some examples. Therefore, if the communication transceiver 106 is executing an application that requires high bandwidth and/or data throughput requirements, the communication transceiver 106 can select to operate in, for example, the 2x MIMO with CA mode as this mode generally provides higher data throughput.

The communication transceiver 106 and/or the service provider can also be configured to select the operational mode based on a user account associated with the communication transceiver 106. For example, the service provider may offer premium services that include the availability of the 2x MIMO with CA mode in addition to the standard 4x MIMO modes in a service agreement. Here, the communication transceiver 106 and/or the service provider can select a pre-

mium network mode (e.g., \times MIMO with CA) based on whether the user account associated with the communication transceiver 106 includes the premium network functionality (e.g., whether the user pays for the premium service).

FIG. 5 illustrates a flowchart 500 of a communication network mode selection method in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure. The method of flowchart 500 is described with continued reference to FIGS. 1-4 and 7. The steps of the method of flowchart 500 are not limited to the order described below, and the various steps may be performed in a different order. Further, two or more steps of the method of flowchart 500 may be performed simultaneously with each other.

The method of flowchart 500 begins at step 505, where the communication transceiver 106 is configured to operate in the 4 \times MIMO mode. For example, one or more processors (e.g., processor 704 in FIG. 7) implemented with the communication transceiver 106 can be configured to instruct the various components of the communication transceiver 106 (e.g., switching modules 214, multiplexers 234, LNAs 230 etc.) to select the antenna and/or frequency configuration associated with the 4 \times MIMO mode. In an exemplary embodiment, the selection of the 4 \times MIMO mode can include determining available frequency bands in which the communication transceiver 106 is configured to operate in the 4 \times MIMO mode, and monitoring network conditions and/or QOS of the available frequency bands (e.g., Bands A and B). Based on this monitoring, the communication transceiver 106 can be configured to selectively choose an available frequency band that provides a better communication environment (e.g., has better network conditions and/or provides a better QOS).

After step 505, the flowchart 500 transitions to step 510, where the communication transceiver 106 is configured to analyze, for example, the network conditions, QOS bandwidth and/or data throughput to determine if the 4 \times MIMO mode provides the desired communication environment. If the communication transceiver 106 determines that the current 4 \times MIMO mode provides the desired communication environment (YES at step 510), the flowchart 500 returns to step 510. Otherwise (NO at step 510), the flowchart 500 transitions to step 515.

At step 515, the communication transceiver 106 determines if the 2 \times MIMO with CA mode is available. For example, the communication transceiver 106 and/or the service provider can determine if the additional frequency spectrum is available at the location of the communication transceiver 106 and if the communication transceiver 106 can be configured to operate in the 2 \times MIMO with CA mode. This determination can also include, for example, determining if the communication transceiver 106 is operating in a power saving mode (e.g., battery saving mode), and/or if the service agreement (user account) associated with communication transceiver 106 includes premium network services (i.e., the user is a premium user) to provide some examples.

If the communication transceiver 106 determines that the 2 \times MIMO with CA mode is available (YES at step 515), the flowchart 500 transitions to step 520. Otherwise (NO at step 515), the flowchart 500 returns to step 510.

At step 520, the communication transceiver 106 is configured to analyze, for example, the network conditions, QOS bandwidth and/or data throughput to determine if the 2 \times MIMO with CA mode provides the desired communication environment. If the communication transceiver 106 determines that the current 2 \times MIMO with CA mode provides the desired communication environment (YES at step 520), the flowchart 500 transitions to step 525. Otherwise (NO at step 520), the flowchart 500 returns to step 510.

At step 525, the communication transceiver 106 is configured to operate in the 2 \times MIMO with CA mode. For example, one or more processors (e.g., processor 704 in FIG. 7) implemented with the communication transceiver 106 can be configured to instruct the various components of the communication transceiver 106 (e.g., switching modules 214, multiplexers 234, LNAs 230 etc.) to select the antenna and/or frequency configuration associated with the 2 \times MIMO with CA.

After step 525, the flowchart 500 transitions to step 530, where the communication transceiver 106 is configured to analyze, for example, the network conditions, QOS bandwidth and/or data throughput to determine if the 4 \times MIMO mode provides the desired communication environment. If so (YES at step 530), the flowchart 500 transitions to step 505, where the communication transceiver 106 is configured to operate in the 4 \times MIMO mode. Otherwise (NO at step 530), the flowchart 500 returns to step 530 so as to recheck the status of the 4 \times MIMO communication environment.

FIG. 6 illustrates a flowchart 600 of a communication network mode selection method in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure. The method of flowchart 600 is described with continued reference to FIGS. 1-5 and 7. The steps of the method of flowchart 600 are not limited to the order described below, and the various steps may be performed in a different order. Further, two or more steps of the method of flowchart 600 may be performed simultaneously with each other.

The method of flowchart 600 begins at step 605, where the communication transceiver 106 is configured to operate in the 4 \times MIMO mode. For example, one or more processors (e.g., processor 704 in FIG. 7) implemented with the communication transceiver 106 can be configured to instruct the various components of the communication transceiver 106 (e.g., switching modules 214, multiplexers 234, LNAs 230 etc.) to select the antenna and/or frequency configuration associated with the 4 \times MIMO mode. In an exemplary embodiment, the selection of the 4 \times MIMO mode can include determining available frequency bands in which the communication transceiver 106 is configured to operate in the 4 \times MIMO mode, and monitoring network conditions and/or QOS of the available frequency bands (e.g., Bands A and B). Based on this monitoring, the communication transceiver 106 can be configured to selectively choose an available frequency band that provides a better communication environment (e.g., has better network conditions and/or provides a better QOS).

After step 605, the flowchart 600 transitions to step 610, where, the communication transceiver 106 determines if the 2 \times MIMO with CA mode is available. For example, the communication transceiver 106 and/or the service provider can determine if the additional frequency spectrum is available at the location of the communication transceiver 106 and if the communication transceiver 106 can be configured to operate in the 2 \times MIMO with CA mode. This determination can also include, for example, the communication transceiver 106 sending a message to the service provider inquiring as to the availability of the available frequency spectrum, the service provider sending a message to the communication transceiver 106 notifying the communication transceiver 106 of the available frequency spectrum, determining if the communication transceiver 106 is operating a Battery saving (e.g., power saving) mode, and/or if the service agreement (user account) associated with communication transceiver 106 includes premium network services (i.e., the user is a premium user) to provide some examples.

If the communication transceiver 106 determines that the 2 \times MIMO with CA mode is available (YES at step 610), the

flowchart 600 transitions to step 615. Otherwise (NO at step 610), the flowchart 600 returns to step 610.

At step 615, the communication transceiver 106 is configured to determine if a network override function has been enabled. The network override function allows the communication transceiver 106 and/or the service provider to select or restrict one or more network modes regardless of the communication environments of the various communication networks. For example, the communication transceiver 106 can be configured to receive a user input corresponding to one or more designated operational modes in which the communication transceiver 106 is to operate.

Here, for example, the network override function can be enabled so that the communication transceiver 106 is forced to operate in the 2× MIMO with CA mode. That is, if the network override function is enabled (YES at step 615), the flowchart 600 transitions to step 620, where the communication transceiver 106 is configured to operate in the 2× MIMO with CA mode. Otherwise (NO at step 615), the flowchart 600 transitions to step 630.

After step 620, the flowchart 600 transitions to step 625, where the communication transceiver 106 is configured to determine if a network override function has remained enabled. If so, the flowchart 600 returns to step 625 to recheck if the network override has remained enabled. If the network override function has been disabled (NO at step 625), the flowchart 600 returns to step 605.

At step 630, the communication transceiver 106 is configured to analyze, for example, the network conditions, QOS bandwidth and/or data throughput to determine if the 4× MIMO mode provides the desired communication environment. If the communication transceiver 106 determines that the current 4× MIMO mode provides the desired communication environment (YES at step 630), the flowchart 600 transitions to step 635. Otherwise (NO at step 630), the flowchart 600 transitions to step 640.

At step 635, the communication transceiver 106 and/or the service provider can be configured to select the operational mode based on the bandwidth and/or data throughput requirements of one or more active applications being performed by the communication transceiver 106. For example, the communication transceiver 106 can determine if one or more active applications prefers to operate in, for example, the 2× MIMO with CA mode as this mode generally provides higher data throughput. If the communication transceiver and/or the service provider determine that one or more active applications prefers that the communication transceiver 106 operate in the 2× MIMO with CA mode (YES at step 635), the flowchart 600 transitions to step 640. Otherwise (NO at step 635), the flowchart 600 returns to step 630 and the communication transceiver 106 continues to operate in the 4× MIMO mode for the time being.

At step 640, the communication transceiver 106 is configured to analyze, for example, the network conditions, QOS bandwidth and/or data throughput to determine if the 2× MIMO with CA mode provides the desired communication environment. If the communication transceiver 106 determines that the current 2× MIMO with CA mode provides the desired communication environment (YES at step 640), the flowchart 600 transitions to step 645. Otherwise (NO at step 640), the flowchart 600 returns to step 630 and the communication transceiver 106 continues to operate in the 4× MIMO mode for the time being.

At step 645, the communication transceiver 106 is configured to determine if the communication transceiver 106 is operating in a power saving mode. If the power saving mode is enabled (YES at step 645), the flowchart returns to step 630

and the communication transceiver 106 continues to operate in the 4× MIMO mode for the time being. If the power saving mode is disabled (NO at step 645), the flowchart 600 transitions to step 650.

At step 650, communication transceiver is configured to operate in the 2× MIMO with CA mode. For example, one or more processors (e.g., processor 704 in FIG. 7) implemented with the communication transceiver 106 can be configured to instruct the various components of the communication transceiver 106 (e.g., switching modules 214, multiplexers 234, LNAs 230 etc.) to select the antenna and/or frequency configuration associated with the 2× MIMO with CA.

After step 650, the flowchart 600 transitions to step 655, where the communication transceiver 106 is configured to analyze, for example, the network conditions, QOS bandwidth and/or data throughput to determine if the 4× MIMO mode provides the desired communication environment. If so (YES at step 655), the flowchart returns to step 605, where the communication transceiver 106 is configured operate in the 4× MIMO mode. Otherwise (NO at step 655), the flowchart 600 returns to step 655 so as to recheck the status of the 4× MIMO communication environment.

FIG. 7 illustrates a communication device 700 according to an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure. In an exemplary embodiment, the communication device 700 includes a communication module 702, processor 704, and a memory 706.

The communication module 702 includes suitable logic, circuitry, and/or code that is configured to transmit/receive one or more data streams to/from one or more communication transceivers via a communication channel utilizing Multiple-input Multiple-output (MIMO) and/or Carrier Aggregation (CA) configurations. In an exemplary embodiment, the communication transceiver 106 described with reference to FIGS. 1-6 can be implemented as the communication module 702. More specifically, the communication transceivers 102 or 106, and their respective antennas 108/110, can be implemented in the communication module 702.

The processor 704 includes suitable logic, circuitry, and/or code that is configured to control the overall operation of the communication system 700, including controlling the selection between one or more 4× MIMO modes and 2× MIMO with CA modes in the communication module 702. Further, the processor 704 can be configured to monitor the available operating modes, network conditions, quality of service (QOS), and/or user and/or service provider mode selection and/or preference, to provide some examples, and to instruct the various components of the communication module 702 (e.g., components of communication transceiver 106, including switching modules 214, multiplexers 234, LNAs 230 etc.) to select between the various antenna and/or frequency configurations. The processor 704 is communicatively and electrically coupled to the communication module 702 and the memory 706.

The memory 706 includes suitable logic, circuitry, and/or code that is configured to store data. The data can include control logic used by the processor 704, data received by communication system 700, data that is to be transmitted by the communication system 700 and/or any other data as will be apparent to those skilled in the relevant arts. The memory 706 can be a random access memory (RAM), FLASH memory, and/or read only memory (ROM) to provide some examples. It should be appreciated that the memory 706 is not limited to these example memory types and can be any volatile and/or non-volatile memory type as will be apparent to

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those skilled in the relevant arts. The memory 706 can be removable, non-removable or include both removable and non-removable portions.

CONCLUSION

The aforementioned description of the specific embodiments will so fully reveal the general nature of the invention that others can, by applying knowledge within the skill of the art, readily modify and/or adapt for various applications such specific embodiments, without undue experimentation, without departing from the general concept of the present invention. Therefore, such adaptations and modifications are intended to be within the meaning and range of equivalents of the disclosed embodiments, based on the teaching and guidance presented herein. It is to be understood that the phraseology or terminology herein is for the purpose of description and not of limitation, such that the terminology or phraseology of the present specification is to be interpreted by the skilled artisan in light of the teachings and guidance.

References in the specification to “one embodiment,” “an embodiment,” “an exemplary embodiment,” etc., indicate that the embodiment described may include a particular feature, structure, or characteristic, but every embodiment may not necessarily include the particular feature, structure, or characteristic. Moreover, such phrases are not necessarily referring to the same embodiment. Further, when a particular feature, structure, or characteristic is described in connection with an embodiment, it is submitted that it is within the knowledge of one skilled in the art to affect such feature, structure, or characteristic in connection with other embodiments whether or not explicitly described.

The exemplary embodiments described herein are provided for illustrative purposes, and are not limiting. Other exemplary embodiments are possible, and modifications may be made to the exemplary embodiments within the spirit and scope of the disclosure. Therefore, the specification is not meant to limit the invention. Rather, the scope of the invention is defined only in accordance with the following claims and their equivalents.

Embodiments may be implemented in hardware (e.g., circuits), firmware, software, or any combination thereof. Embodiments may also be implemented as instructions stored on a machine-readable medium, which may be read and executed by one or more processors. A machine-readable medium may include any mechanism for storing or transmitting information in a form readable by a machine (e.g., a computing device). For example, a machine-readable medium may include read only memory (ROM); random access memory (RAM); magnetic disk storage media; optical storage media; flash memory devices and the like. Further, firmware, software, routines, instructions may be described herein as performing certain actions. However, it should be appreciated that such descriptions are merely for convenience and that such actions in fact results from computing devices, processors, controllers, or other devices executing the firmware, software, routines, instructions, etc. Further, any of the implementation variations may be carried out by a general purpose computer.

For purposes of this discussion, the term “module” and the like, shall be understood to include at least one of software, firmware, and hardware (such as one or more circuits, microchips, processors, or devices, or any combination thereof), and any combination thereof. In addition, it will be understood that each module can include one, or more than one, component within an actual device, and each component that forms a part of the described module can function either

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cooperatively or independently of any other component forming a part of the module. Conversely, multiple modules described herein can represent a single component within an actual device. Further, components within a module can be in a single device or distributed among multiple devices in a wired or wireless manner.

The present disclosure has been described above with the aid of functional building blocks illustrating the implementation of specified functions and relationships thereof. The boundaries of these functional building blocks have been arbitrarily defined herein for the convenience of the description. Alternate boundaries may be defined so long as the specified functions and relationships thereof are appropriately performed.

What is claimed is:

1. A communication device, comprising:

- a first multiplexer configured to select between first and second oscillator signals to provide a first output signal;
- a first mixer configured to mix the first output signal with either a first amplified signal associated with a first antenna or a second amplified signal associated with a second antenna;
- a second multiplexer configured to select between the first and second oscillator signals to provide a second output signal; and
- a second mixer configured to mix the second output signal with either a third amplified signal associated with the first antenna or a fourth amplified signal associated with the second antenna.

2. The communication device of claim 1, wherein the first and second multiplexers are configured to select between the first and second oscillator signals based on an operating mode of the communication device.

3. The communication device of claim 2, wherein the operating mode is:

- a first Multiple-input Multiple-output (MIMO) communication mode utilizing the first oscillator signal to downconvert a first frequency band,
- a second MIMO communication mode utilizing the second oscillator signal to downconvert a second frequency band, or
- a third MIMO communication mode including a Carrier Aggregation (CA) configuration, the third MIMO communication mode utilizing the first oscillator signal to downconvert the first frequency band and the second oscillator signal to downconvert the second frequency band.

4. The communication device of claim 1, further comprising a processor, wherein:

- during a first Multiple-input Multiple-output (MIMO) communication mode utilizing a first frequency band, the processor is configured to:
 - control the first and second multiplexers to output the first oscillator signal as the first output signal and the second output signal, respectively;
 - control inputs of the first mixer such that the first mixer mixes the first amplified signal with the first output signal; and
 - control inputs of the second mixer such that the second mixer mixes the fourth amplified signal with the second output signal;
- during a second MIMO communication mode utilizing a second frequency band, the processor is configured to:
 - control the first and second multiplexers to output the second oscillator signal as the first output signal and the second output signal, respectively;

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control the inputs of the first mixer such that the first mixer mixes the second amplified signal with the first output signal; and
 control the inputs of the second mixer such that the second mixer mixes the third amplified signal with the second output signal; and
 during a third MIMO communication mode including a Carrier Aggregation (CA) configuration that utilizes both the first and second frequency bands, the processor is configured to:
 control the first multiplexer to output the first oscillator signal as the first output signal;
 control the second multiplexer to output the second oscillator signal as the second output signal;
 control the inputs of the first mixer such that the first mixer mixes to mix the first amplified signal with the first output signal; and
 control the inputs of the second mixer such that the second mixer mixes to mix the third amplified signal with the second output signal.

5. The communication device of claim 1, further comprising:
 a first low-noise amplifier (LNA) configured to generate the first amplified signal based on a first signal associated with the first antenna;
 a second LNA configured to generate the second amplified signal based on a second signal associated with the second antenna;
 a third LNA configured to generate the third amplified signal based on a third signal associated with the first antenna; and
 a fourth LNA configured to generate the fourth amplified signal based on a fourth signal associated with the second antenna.

6. The communication device of claim 5, comprising:
 a diplexer configured to connect the first antenna to the first LNA via a first signal path and to the third LNA via a third signal path, and to generate the first and third signals based on a first input signal received via the first antenna; and
 a switching module configured to selectively connect the second antenna to the second LNA via a second signal path and to the fourth LNA via a fourth signal path based on an operating mode of the communication device.

7. The communication device of claim 6, comprising:
 a first duplexer in the first signal path configured to filter the first signal and provide the filtered first signal to the first LNA, and to filter a transmit signal and provide the filtered transmit signal to the first antenna, wherein the first duplexer is associated with a first frequency band;
 a first surface acoustic wave (SAW) filter module configured to filter the second signal and provide the filtered second signal to the second LNA, the first SAW filter module being associated with a second frequency band;
 a second duplexer in the third signal path configured to filter the third signal and provide the filtered third signal to the third LNA, and to filter the transmit signal and provide the filtered transmit signal to the first antenna, wherein the second duplexer is associated with the second frequency band; and
 a second SAW filter module configured to filter the fourth signal and provide the filtered fourth signal to the fourth LNA, the second SAW filter module being associated with the first frequency band.

8. The communication device of claim 7, wherein the first and second multiplexers are configured to selectively output

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the first and second oscillator signals based on an operating mode of the communication device;
 wherein the switching module is configured to selectively connect the second antenna to the second LNA via the second signal path and to the fourth LNA via a fourth signal path based on the operating mode of the communication device; and
 wherein the communication device is configured to selectively activate the first, second, third, and fourth LNAs based on the operating mode of the communication device.

9. The communication device of claim 8, wherein the operating mode of the communication device is:
 a first Multiple-input Multiple-output (MIMO) communication mode utilizing the first oscillator signal to downconvert a first frequency band,
 a second MIMO communication mode utilizing the second oscillator signal to downconvert a second frequency band, or
 a third MIMO communication mode including a Carrier Aggregation (CA) configuration, the third MIMO communication mode utilizing the first oscillator signal to downconvert the first frequency band and the second oscillator signal to downconvert the second frequency band.

10. The communication device of claim 6, wherein the operating mode is:
 a first Multiple-input Multiple-output (MIMO) communication mode utilizing a first frequency band,
 a second MIMO communication mode utilizing a second frequency band, or
 a third MIMO communication mode including a Carrier Aggregation (CA) configuration, the third MIMO communication mode utilizing the first and second frequency bands.

11. The communication device of claim 5, wherein the communication device is configured to selectively activate the first, second, third, and fourth LNAs based on an operating mode of the communication device.

12. The communication device of claim 11, wherein the operating mode includes:
 a first Multiple-input Multiple-output (MIMO) communication mode utilizing a first frequency band,
 a second MIMO communication mode utilizing a second frequency band, and
 a third MIMO communication mode including a Carrier Aggregation (CA) configuration, the third MIMO communication mode utilizing the first and second frequency bands.

13. A method, comprising:
 selecting between a first oscillator signal and a second oscillator signal to provide a first output signal based on which of three different Multiple-input Multiple-output (MIMO) communication modes a communication device is operating in;
 mixing the first output signal with either a first amplified signal associated with a first antenna or a second amplified signal associated with a second antenna based on which of the three different MIMO communication modes the communication device is operating in;
 selecting between the first oscillator signal and the second oscillator signal to provide a second output signal based on which of the three different MIMO communication modes the communication device is operating in; and
 mixing the second output signal with either a third amplified signal associated with the first antenna or a fourth amplified signal associated with the second antenna

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based on which of the three different MIMO communication modes the communication device is operating in.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the three different MIMO communication modes comprise:

- a first MIMO communication mode utilizing the first oscillator signal to downconvert a first frequency band,
- a second MIMO communication mode utilizing the second oscillator signal to downconvert a second frequency band, and
- a third MIMO communication mode including a Carrier Aggregation (CA) configuration, the third MIMO communication mode utilizing the first oscillator signal to downconvert the first frequency band and the second oscillator signal to downconvert the second frequency band.

15. A communication device, comprising:

- a first multiplexer configured to select between a first oscillator signal and a second oscillator signal to provide a first output signal based on which of three different Multiple-input Multiple-output (MIMO) communication modes a communication device is operating in;
- a first mixer configured to mix the first output signal with either a first amplified signal associated with a first antenna or a second amplified signal associated with a second antenna based on which of the three different MIMO communication modes the communication device is operating in;
- a second multiplexer configured to select between the first oscillator signal and the second oscillator signal to provide a second output signal based on which of the three different MIMO communication modes the communication device is operating in; and
- a second mixer configured to mix the second output signal with either a third amplified signal associated with the first antenna or a fourth amplified signal associated with the second antenna based on which of the three different MIMO communication modes the communication device is operating in.

16. The communication device of claim 15, wherein the three different MIMO communication modes comprise:

- a first MIMO communication mode utilizing the first oscillator signal to downconvert a first frequency band,
- a second MIMO communication mode utilizing the second oscillator signal to downconvert a second frequency band, and
- a third MIMO communication mode including a Carrier Aggregation (CA) configuration, the third MIMO communication mode utilizing the first oscillator signal to downconvert the first frequency band and the second oscillator signal to downconvert the second frequency band.

17. The communication device of claim 16, further comprising a processor, wherein based on the communication device operating in the first MIMO communication mode, the processor is configured to:

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control the first and second multiplexers to output the first oscillator signal as the first output signal and the second output signal, respectively;

control inputs of the first mixer such that the first mixer mixes the first amplified signal with the first output signal; and

control inputs of the second mixer such that the second mixer mixes the fourth amplified signal with the second output signal.

18. The communication device of claim 17, wherein based on the communication device operating in the second MIMO communication mode, the processor is configured to:

control the first and second multiplexers to output the second oscillator signal as the first output signal and the second output signal, respectively;

control the inputs of the first mixer such that the first mixer mixes the second amplified signal with the first output signal; and

control the inputs of the second mixer such that the second mixer mixes the third amplified signal with the second output signal.

19. The communication device of claim 18, wherein based on the communication device operating in the third MIMO communication mode, the processor is configured to:

control the first multiplexer to output the first oscillator signal as the first output signal;

control the second multiplexer to output the second oscillator signal as the second output signal;

control the inputs of the first mixer such that the first mixer mixes the first amplified signal with the first output signal; and

control the inputs of the second mixer such that the second mixer mixes the third amplified signal with the second output signal.

20. The communication device of claim 16, further comprising a processor, wherein:

based on the communication device operating in the first MIMO communication mode, the processor is configured to control the first and second multiplexers to output the first oscillator signal as the first output signal and the second output signal, respectively;

based on the communication device operating in the second MIMO communication mode, the processor is configured to control the first and second multiplexers to output the second oscillator signal as the first output signal and the second output signal, respectively; and

based on the communication device operating in the third MIMO communication mode, the processor is configured to control the first multiplexer to output the first oscillator signal as the first output signal and control the second multiplexer to output the second oscillator signal as the second output signal.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 9,270,303 B2
APPLICATION NO. : 14/144043
DATED : February 23, 2016
INVENTOR(S) : Kahrizi et al.

Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Title Page

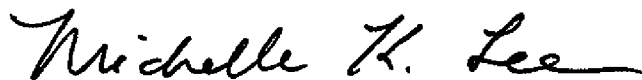
Item (72), Inventors, please replace “Masound” with --Masoud--.

In the Claims

Column 17, line 17, please replace “mixer mixes to mix the” with --mixer mixes the--.

Column 17, line 20, please replace “second mixer mixes to mix the” with --second mixer mixes the--.

Signed and Sealed this
Twenty-sixth Day of July, 2016



Michelle K. Lee
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office