A convergence broadcasting transmission of fixed 4K UHD and mobile HD services through a single terrestrial channel by employing FEF multiplexing technique in DVB-T2

Jong Gyu Oh 1 · Yong Ju Won 1 · Jin Sub Seop Lee 1 · Joon Tae Kim 1

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Abstract Recently, a convergence broadcasting transmission for providing fixed 4K ultrahigh-definition (UHD) and mobile high-definition (HD) services through a single terrestrial channel is investigated by employing multiple-physical layer pipe (M-PLP) multiplexing and transmission technologies in digital video broadcasting (DVB)-second-generation terrestrial (T2) systems, and the scalable high-efficiency video coding (SHVC) technique. The M-PLP technique employs different code rates and constellation points for each layer of data and multiplexes differently encoded layers of data into a single frame, with no change of the inverse fast Fourier transform (IFFT) and cyclic prefix (CP). However, the IFFT size should be increased, and the CP size should be decreased for the 4K UHD layer while the opposite is true for the HD layer. Another aspect is that HD layer data are more important than 4K UHD layer data for reliable SHVC decoding, and thus the IFFT size should be decreased and the CP size should be increased for the HD layer to be robust to channel situations. In this paper, the possibility of a terrestrial fixed 4K UHD and mobile HD convergence broadcasting service through a single channel employing the future extension frame (FEF) multiplexing technique is examined. FEF multiplexing technology can be used to adjust the IFFT and CP size for each layer, whereas M-PLP multiplexing technology cannot. We described the convergence broadcasting service scenario and proposed a transmission system structure by employing FEF and transmission technologies in DVB-T2 systems. Available transmission parameters are extracted and the reception performance of the transmission parameters is examined using computer simulations. From the results, for the 6 and 8 MHz bandwidths, reliable reception of both fixed 4K UHD and mobile HD layer data can be achieved under a static and fast fading multipath channel.

Keywords Digital convergence broadcasting transmission systems · 4K UHD · Mobile HD · FEF · DVB-T2

1 Introduction

Worldwide transition from analog to digital broadcasting has now been completed, and the need to study next-generation standards for ultrahigh-definition (UHD) broadcasting, as well as broadcasting and communication convergence systems, is rapidly growing. In November 2011, the future of broadcast television (FoBTV) committee, consisting of 14 organizations including the advanced television systems committee (ATSC), digital video broadcasting (DVB), European broadcasting union (EBU), and electronics and telecommunications research institute (ETRI), was established with a focus on the development of future broadcasting systems. Among these, a consortium of European terrestrial broadcasting service providers, worldwide commercial product makers, and set-top box makers organized themselves as hybrid broadcast broadband television (HbbTV) to develop convergence broadcasting [1,2]. In Japan, hybridcast for the 8K super Hi-vision scenario was demonstrated at the NHK 2014 Open House, and a fixed integrated services digital broadcasting (ISDB)—terrestrial (T) and mobile
one-segment broadcasting services—has been provided in the same radio frequency (RF) channel.

Accordingly, a project that aims to develop convergence broadcasting and monitoring systems that provide optimized and high-quality broadcasting services for both fixed and mobile receivers by employing broadcasting and communication networks was recently initiated in Korea [6, 7]. In [6], a convergence broadcasting transmission for providing fixed 4K UHD and mobile HD services through a single terrestrial channel is investigated by employing multiple-physical layer pipe (M-PLP) multiplexing and transmission technologies in DVB-second generation terrestrial (T2) systems [8], and the high efficiency video coding (HEVC)–scalable HEVC (SHVC) technique [9, 10]. The required data rate when employing the latest SHVC technology was estimated, and the available transmission parameters for 4K UHD and HD convergence broadcasting were designed for the proposed transmission systems. The reception performance of the available transmission parameters was then examined by finding the threshold of visibility (TOV).

The M-PLP technique, which was considered in [6], employs different code rates and constellation points for each layer of data and multiplexes differently encoded layers of data into a single frame, with no change of the inverse fast Fourier transform (IFFT) and cyclic prefix (CP), which is used as a guard interval, sizes within a frame. However, the FFT size should be increased, and the CP size should be decreased for the 4K UHD layer, which assumes a static multipath channel with a long delay path, while the opposite is true for the HD layer, which assumes a very fast fading mobile channel. Another aspect is that HD layer data are more important than 4K UHD layer data for reliable SHVC decoding, and thus the IFFT size should be decreased and the CP size should be increased for the HD layer to be robust to channel situations. Recently, the DVB-T2 Lite profile using future extension frame (FEF) multiplexing technologies has been introduced [8] through which adjustment of the IFFT and CP size for each layer can be achieved. Therefore, both the possibility and the reception performance of a terrestrial 4K UHD and HD convergence broadcasting transmission through a single channel is examined by employing the FEF technique instead of the M-PLP technique, which is considered in [6]. In this paper, it is shown that reliable reception of fixed 4K UHD and mobile HD convergence broadcasting can be achieved through 6 and 8 MHz terrestrial channel under targeted channel situations by employing the FEF multiplexing technique.

The rest of the paper is structured as follows. First, the convergence broadcasting service scenario, which can provide fixed 4K UHD and mobile HD broadcasting through a single terrestrial channel and (optionally) 8K UHD by combining terrestrial broadcasting and communication channels, is described, and transmission requirements for the SHVC technique are forecast for convergence broadcasting in Sect. 2. In Sect. 3, a convergence broadcasting transmission system for providing fixed 4K UHD and mobile HD services by employing the M-PLP technique and TOVs of its available transmission parameters are briefly summarized. Section 4 presents the FEF multiplexing technique and a convergence broadcasting transmission system structure for fixed 4K UHD and mobile HD services through a terrestrial single channel by employing FEF and transmission technologies in DVB-T2 systems. Section 5 presents available transmission parameters to transmit 4K UHD and HD convergence broadcasting through a single 6 and 8 MHz bandwidth channel by employing a convergence broadcasting transmission structure is given. In addition, the reception performance of the available transmission parameters under additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN), static Brazil-D, and time-varying typical urban (TU)-6 channels to find the TOVs. Finally, conclusions and proposals for future work are given in Sect. 6.

## 2 Terrestrial fixed 4K UHD and mobile HD convergence broadcasting through a single channel

### 2.1 Terrestrial fixed 4K UHD and mobile HD convergence broadcasting service scenario through a single channel

In Korea, terrestrial fixed high-definition (HD) broadcasting services are provided by employing ATSC 8-vestigial side band (VSB) systems [3] through 6 MHz bandwidth, while mobile digital multimedia broadcasting (DMB) services are provided using modified Eureak-147 systems [4, 5] through 1.536 MHz bandwidth with quarter video graphics array (QVGA) (320 × 240) resolution, as shown in Fig. 1. However, low-resolution DMB systems do not satisfy consumer needs, and currently viewers prefer mobile broadcasting services based on mobile communication long-term evolution (LTE) systems. In addition, the transmission technologies in ATSC 8-VSB systems were developed in the 1990s. Consequently, the required data rate for UHD broadcasting services may not be achieved through their use. Furthermore, each bandwidth channel is allocated for mobile fixed and broadcasting services. Therefore, convergence broadcasting systems that can provide both terrestrial fixed UHD and high-resolution mobile broadcasting services through a single channel are needed.

Figure 2 shows a conceptual diagram of the terrestrial fixed 4K UHD and mobile HD convergence broadcasting service through a single channel. By employing a scalable video coding (SVC) compression technique, three types of data layers are acquired from original 8K UHD video: 8K UHD enhanced layer (EL), 4K UHD EL, and HD base layer.
Fig. 1  Terrestrial fixed HD and mobile DMB broadcasting services, systems, and problems in Korea

Fig. 2  Conceptual diagram of terrestrial 4K UHD and HD convergence broadcasting service through a single channel

(BL) video data. At terrestrial broadcasting stations, the 4K UHD EL and HD BL video data are transmitted through a single channel using convergence broadcasting systems. The mobile viewers then selectively receive HD BL video data, while the fixed receivers get both 4K UHD EL and HD BL video data for 4K UHD broadcasting. Optionally, if the fixed receivers are connected to a communication network, 8K UHD EL video data from the communication network and 4K UHD EL and HD BL video data from the broadcasting network are combined to provide an 8K UHD broadcasting service. In short, a communication network is used for delivering 8K UHD additional data, and a broadcasting network is used for delivering HD base and 4K UHD additional data. Notice that no mobile network (e.g., long-term evolution, 3G network) is used for delivering any data. In our study, we focused on convergence broadcasting systems for the transmission of 4K UHD EL and HD BL video data through a terrestrial broadcasting channel.

Therefore, high-quality fixed 4K UHD and mobile HD convergence broadcasting services can be provided instead of conventional fixed HD and mobile DMB broadcasting services through a single terrestrial channel by employing a single transmission system as shown in Fig. 3. From the results, it is evident that high spectral efficiency can be achieved using a single channel and a single transmission system.

2.2 Video compression technique and transmission requirement for convergence broadcasting

To examine the possibility of using a terrestrial 4K UHD and HD convergence broadcasting service, the transmission availability of the compressed 4K UHD EL and HD BL data rate through a single terrestrial channel needs to be examined.

The compression ratio of the H.264 video compression technique is 50% higher than that of the MPEG-2 technique, but the SVC of H.264 shows a reduction in coding efficiency and an increase in problems related to hardware complexity.
The HEVC technique, for which standardization has been completed recently, is a next-generation video compression technique following H.264 that aims at a maximum compression ratio increase of 50% over H.264. HEVC can handle the ultrahigh-resolution and picture video content of UHDTV broadcasting times, and employs various techniques such as wide resolution, increased bit depth, losses codec, and scalable coding [9].

Among these techniques, SHVC focuses on lowering implementation complexity to solve the high complexity problem of the scalable coding technique in H.264 [10]. A concept diagram of SHVC is shown in Fig. 4. By employing SHVC, two types of compressed video data are acquired from the original raw video source: UHD EL video data and HD BL video data. While an HD video can be played by decoding HD BL data, a full UHD video can only be played by decoding both UHD EL and HD BL video data via SHVC. Owing to low hardware complexity and high coding efficiency, SHVC is the best choice for the video compression technique of convergence broadcasting services.

As shown in Fig. 5, when considering the worst case scenario and real-time encoding, the compressed data rate when employing the state-of-the-art HEVC encoder is expected to be 25 Mbps for a single 4K UHD video and 7 Mbps for a single HD video. With the employment of SHVC, the maximum decrease in the rate of approximately 16.5% [10] and in the average data rate of approximately 15% is achieved for 4K UHD EL video data compared to single 4K UHD video data. Thus, the compressed data rate would be 21.25 Mbps
for 4K UHD EL video data, whereas the HD BL video data rate remains the same (i.e., 7 Mbps). If the performance of a real-time encoder is improved or non-real-time video data are used for transmission, the required data rate used in this study would decrease.

3 Terrestrial 4K UHD and HD convergence broadcasting transmission through a single channel by employing M-PLP technique

3.1 DVB-T2 terrestrial broadcasting transmission systems and M-PLP technique

The DVB-T2 system [8] is the European second-generation terrestrial digital broadcasting transmission system. Standardization of this system was completed in 2009, and broadcasting services employing DVB-T2 systems are currently in operation in Europe. DVB-T2 systems are based on the orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) technique [12], and adopt the low-density parity check (LDPC) [13] and Bose–Chaudhuri–Hocquenghem (BCH) [14, 15] concatenated channel codes, quadrature phase shift keying (QPSK)-256 quadrature amplitude modulation (QAM) constellation, and various sizes of FFT, CP, and PPs (pilot patterns) to maximizing the data transmission capacity, as shown in Table 1. Various interleaving techniques, such as bit, cell, time and frequency interleaving, rotation constellation

| Transmission technology | Transmission mode |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Channel coding          | LDPC & BCH        |
| Code rate               | 1/2, 3/5, 2/3, 3/4, 4/5, 5/6 |
| Constellation           | QPSK, 16QAM, 64QAM, 256 QAM |
| Guard interval          | 1/4, 19/256, 1/8, 19/128, 1/16, 1/32, 1/128 |
| FFT size                | 1K, 2K, 4K, 8K, 16K, 32K |
| Pilot mode              | PP1–PP8           |
The M-PLP multiplexing technique is employed in DVB-T2 systems to multiplex and transmit multiple layer broadcasting service signals. Different layers of PLP data are encoded and modulated according to each code rate and constellation point, and then multiplexed into a single frame for transmission. For example, PLP 0 data are encoded by the 3/4 code rate and modulated by 16-QAM to provide a standard definition (SD) broadcasting service, while PLP 1 data are encoded by the 4/5 code rate and modulated by 64-QAM for the HD broadcasting service. M-PLP data are multiplexed into a single frame and transmitted under the same channel conditions as shown. Under the same channel conditions, SD broadcasting data transmitted in the PLP0 layer are more robust against channel errors than HD broadcasting data in PLP 1 owing to the lower code rate and constellation point. Therefore, each receiver selectively acquires PLP layer data depending on the channel conditions.

Figure 6 shows the DVB-T2 transmission frame when the M-PLP technique is employed for the scenario of the previous example, and each block shows an OFDM symbol. The CP is omitted for convenience, but it is added to all OFDM symbols except the P1 symbol. The transmission frame is composed of P1, P2, and data OFDM symbols. Note that the FFT and CP sizes of OFDM symbols in a transmit frame do not change, and P1 and P2 symbols are used to carry additional system information. The P1 symbol is positioned at the start of the transmission frame, and its length is always $2048 \times T$ (elementary period [8]) regardless of the FFT size. P2 symbols follow the P1 symbol and are used for carrying system information. The number of P2 symbols ($N_{p2}$) depends on the FFT size as shown in Table 45 of [8], and $N_{p2}$ is 2 when the FFT size is 8192. The data OFDM symbols are located after the P1 and P2 symbols, and the number of data OFDM symbols ($L_{data}$) is configurable. The number of active subcarriers in an data OFDM symbol ($C_{data}$), which is used for real data transmission, varies depending on the combination of the extension transmission mode, FFT size, and scattered pilot pattern as shown in Table 48 of [8].

A scattered pilot pattern can also be selected by a combination of the FFT and guard interval size as shown in Table 58 of [8]. Thus, 40% of active subcarriers are used for PLP1 data transmission, and 60% are used for PLP2 data transmission.

3.2 Structure of a convergence broadcasting transmission system by employing M-PLP multiplexing technique

Figure 7 shows a terrestrial single channel fixed 4K UHD and mobile HD convergence broadcasting transmission system structure employing M-PLP multiplexing and transmission technologies in DVB-T2 systems. 4K UHD EL and HD BL video data are acquired by the SHVC encoder, and data of each layer are channel-encoded at different code rates. After channel encoding, data of each layer are interleaved and modulated by each PLP layer. After PLP layer processing, the two sets of PLP data and additional system information data are multiplexed into a single transmission frame by employing the M-PLP multiplexing technique. The single transmission frame is composed of a P1 symbol consisting of 2048 subcarriers; several P2 symbols whose size is dependent on the FFT size of the OFDM symbol; data subcarriers, which are used for transmission of data from the two PLP layers. After the two PLP layers are multiplexed into a single transmission frame, frequency interleaving and OFDM symbol modulation are applied, and then the signals are transmitted after OFDM modulation through a single terrestrial channel. At the receiver side, synchronization and channel equalization are achieved over the OFDM symbol level from the received signal. After frequency deinterleaving, the received frame is demultiplexed into two PLP layers, and decoding is achieved for each layer. The fixed receiver uses data from both decoded layers for 4K UHD video play, while mobile viewers selectively use decoded HD base video data for HD play.

Figure 8 shows the single transmission frame structure when the FFT size is 8192, 60% of active subcarriers are used for transmission of 4K UHD EL data, and 40% of active subcarriers are used for transmission of HD BL data. The P1 symbol is positioned at the start of the transmission frame,
and its length is always $2048 \times T$ regardless of the FFT size. $N_{p2}$ is 2 when the FFT size is 8192, and the number of data OFDM symbols is $L_{\text{data}}$.

### 3.3 Available transmission parameters and reception performance by computer simulations

In [6], available transmission parameters obtained by employing the proposed transmission structure are designed for a 6 and 8 MHz bandwidth channel, and the reception performance is analyzed under AWGN and TU-6 channels to find the TOVs. The common computer simulation conditions are listed in Table 2, and the requirements for designing the available transmission parameters are listed in Table 3. The available transmission parameters for each 6 and 8 MHz bandwidth channel and the corresponding TOVs are shown as in Tables 4, 5, 6 and 7, respectively.

From the results in [6], for the 6 MHz bandwidth, reliable reception of HD layer data could be achieved when the receiver velocity was at a maximum of 140 km/h and no higher, owing to the bandwidth limit. When the bandwidth was extended to 8 MHz, reliable reception of both 4K UHD and HD layer data was achieved under a very fast fading multipath channel.
Table 3 Requirements for designing the available transmission parameters

| Parameter                                              | 4K UHD EL data portion in a frame | HD BL data portion in a frame | Maximum length of a frame | Elementary period $T$ for 6 MHz bandwidth | Elementary period $T$ for 8 MHz bandwidth |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
|                                                        | 60%                               | 40%                           | 250 ms [8]                | 7/48 $\mu$s [8]                          | 7/64 $\mu$s [8]                          |

If extended transmission mode is available by FFT size, extended transmission mode is applied.

Table 4 Available transmission parameters for 6 MHz bandwidth by employing M-PLP multiplexing technique (4K UHD EL layer: 256 QAM, HD BL layer: 16 QAM)

| Parameter                              | Numbers |
|----------------------------------------|---------|
| Total data rate (bps)                  | 28,439,336, 29,344,584, 28,949,373 |
| 4K layer data rate (bps)               | 21,329,502, 22,234,750, 21,712,029 |
| HD layer data rate (bps)               | 7,109,834, 7,109,834, 7,237,343 |
| 4K layer code rate                     | 4/5, 5/6, 5/6 |
| HD layer code rate                     | 4/5, 4/5, 4/5 |
| FFT size                               | 8,192, 8,192, 8,192 |
| CP size                                | 1/128, 1/128, 1/32 |
| Pilot mode                             | PP7, PP7, PP7 |
| Number of symbols a                    | 200, 200, 200 |
| Frame length (ms)                      | 243.51, 243.51, 249.16 |
| Extended mode                          | Yes, Yes, Yes |
| Frame closing symbol                   | No, No, No |

4 Terrestrial 4K UHD and HD convergence broadcasting transmission through single channel by employing FEF technique

While different layers of PLP data are encoded and modulated according to their corresponding code rates and constellation points and then multiplexed into a single frame for transmission by employing the M-PLP multiplexing technique considered in [6], the FFT and CP sizes in a transmission frame may not be changed for each PLP layer. However, the FFT size should be increased, and the CP size should be decreased for the 4K UHD layer which assumes a static multipath channel with a long delay path, while the opposite is true for the HD layer which assumes a very fast fading mobile channel. Further, HD layer data are more important than 4K UHD layer data for reliable SHVC decoding, and thus the FFT size should be decreased and the CP size should be increased for the HD layer to be robust to channel situations. Recently, the DVB-T2 Lite profile using FEF multiplexing technologies has been introduced [8], through which adjustment of the FFT and CP size for each layer can be achieved. However, the frequencies of the P1 and P2 symbols are increased, and the data transmission efficiency obtained by employing the FEF technique is lower than the efficiency obtained by employing the M-PLP technique. In addition, there are no limitation on the bit rate when employing M-PLP technique and it is the big advantage enabling a flexible service scenario.

4.1 FEF multiplexing technique and DVB-T2 Lite profile

The FEF multiplexing technique is adopted to make it possible to extend the DVB-T2 standard. As shown in Fig. 9, a single superframe is composed of periodical parts that contain a number of T2 frames and a single FEF frame in the FEF technique. In 2011, a DVB-T2 Lite profile obtained by employing FEF was added to the DVB-T2 standard as Annex-I, and conventional T2 transmission details are stored in the T2-Base profile. In the DVB-T2 Lite profile, two additional code rates are added, and the FEC frame size is limited to 16200 bits to take into account a mobile situation. Details of the DVB-T2 Lite profile are given in Table 8.

The usage condition of the constellation rotation technique depending on the combination of the code rate and the constellation point in the DVB-T2 Lite profile is given in Table I.4 of [8], and the scattered pilot pattern depending on the combination of the FFT and the guard interval sizes in the DVB-T2 Lite profile is given in Table I.5 of [8].

Figure 10 shows the superframe structure, which is composed of the T2-Base and T2-Lite transmission frames, and Fig. 11 shows the transmission frame structure of T2-Base.

Table 5 TOV of available transmission parameters for 6 MHz bandwidth

| Parameter no. | 4K UHD layer | HD layer |
|---------------|--------------|----------|
|               | AWGN (dB)    | TU-6 (40 km/h) (dB) | TU-6 (60 km/h) (dB) | AWGN (dB) | TU-6 (70 km/h) (dB) | TU-6 (140 km/h) (dB) |
| 1             | 20.8         | 26.6      | 30.8       | 9.9       | 15.6 | 20.3 |
| 2             | 21.8         | 28.6      | 41.8       | 9.9       | 15.6 | 20.3 |
| 3             | 21.8         | 28.6      | 41.8       | 10.6      | 16.7 | 31.5 |
Table 6 Available transmission parameters for 8 MHz bandwidth by employing M-PLP multiplexing technique (4K UHD EL layer: 256 QAM, HD BL layer: 16 QAM)

| Parameters                              | Numbers             |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total data rate (bps)                   | 30,318, 345         |
| 4K layer data rate (bps)                | 23,101, 054         |
| HD layer data rate (bps)                | 7,217, 290          |
| 4K layer code rate                      | 4/5                 |
| HD layer code rate                      | 3/4                 |
| FFT size                                | 1024                |
| CP size                                 | 1/8                 |
| Pilot mode                              | PP2                 |
| Number of symbolsa                      | 1900                |
| Frame length (ms)                       | 243.51              |
| Extended mode                           | No                  |
| Frame closing symbol                    | Yes                 |

Table 7 TOV of available transmission parameters for 8 MHz bandwidth

| Parameter no. | 4K UHD layer | HD layer |
|---------------|--------------|----------|
|               | AWGN (dB)    | TU-6 (70 km/h) | TU-6 (140 km/h) | TU-6 (210 km/h) |
| 1             | 20.9         | 26.4      | 26.2              | 26.1            |
| 2             | 20.9         | 25.4      | 25.8              | 26.3            |
| 3             | 19.5         | 24.2      | 24.0              | 24.3            |
| 4             | 20.9         | 26.8      | 27.9              | X               |
| 5             | 19.5         | 24.3      | 24.6              | 28.1            |

Fig. 9 A DVB-T2 transmission frame structure employing FEF technique
and T2-Lite profile data, where each block shows an OFDM symbol. The CP is omitted for convenience, but it is added to all OFDM symbols except the P1 symbol. The FFT size for T2-Base is 32,768 and that for T2-Lite is 2048. The number of consecutive T2-Base frames in a single T2-Base superframe (T2-Base FEF_INTERVAL) is 3, and the number of consecutive T2-Lite frames in a single T2-Lite superframe (T2-lite FEF_INTERVAL) is 1. Each Base and Lite superframe must be composed of more than two Base or Lite frames, the P1 symbol is positioned at the start of the transmission frame, and its length is always 2048 × T regardless of the FFT size.

P2 symbols occur after the P1 symbol and are used for conveying system information. The numbers of Base P2 symbols (Np2_base) and Lite P2 symbols (Np2_lite) depend on the FFT sizes of each profile as in Table 2. Thus, Np2_base is 1 and Np2_lite is 8. Data OFDM symbols occur after the P2 symbols, depending on the number of data OFDM symbols of each profile (Ldata_base and Ldata_lite).

Base and Lite signals of the foregoing frame structure can be acquired selectively at the receiver by decoding the S1 field information carried by the P1 symbol, as given in Table 18 of [8]. Fixed and mobile receivers first decode the P1 symbol of each transmission frame, and selectively receive a signal appropriate for their channel situation.

### Table 8 Transmission modes and technologies in DVB-T2 Lite profile

| Channel code rate | FEC           | LDPC and BCH, 16,200 bits only |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Constellation     |               | QPSK, 16QAM, 64QAM, 256QAM     |
| Guard interval    |               | 1/4, 19/256, 1/8, 19/128, 1/16, 1/32, 1/128 |
| FFT size          |               | 2K, 4K, 8K, 16K                |
| Pilot mode        |               | PP1–PP7                        |
| Maximum length    |               | 1 S (250 ms for T2-Base profile) |

### 4.2 Terrestrial 4K UHD and HD convergence broadcasting transmission system through single channel by employing FEF multiplexing technique

In Sect. 2.2 and [6], the estimated data rates for transmitting 4K UHD EL data and HD BL data are 25.25 Mbps and 7 Mbps, respectively, for convergence broadcasting through a single terrestrial channel. However, when the M-PLP multiplexing technique is employed for convergence broadcasting systems in [6], the minimum FFT size of the available transmission parameters for a 6 MHz bandwidth channel is restricted to 8192, and code rates for the two layers are
somewhat high. In addition, the data transmission efficiency obtained by employing the FEF technique is rather low compared to that obtained by employing the M-PLP technique. As a result, it is difficult to design the available transmission parameter that can achieve the estimated data rates in Sect. 2.2 by employing the FEF technique for 6 MHz bandwidth. Thus, in this study, we design available transmission parameters for different required data rates for each 6 and 8 MHz bandwidth channel. Lowering the data rate can degrade video quality, but the data rate for a 6 MHz bandwidth channel is decreased by 15% compared to the estimated data rate in Sect. 2.2 by considering of lowering sampling rate, frame rate and improving real-time SHVC encoder performance. For an 8 MHz bandwidth channel, the estimated data rate in Sect. 2.2 is applied. The estimated data rates are summarized in Table 9.

Meanwhile, there is no data rate restriction in using FEF multiplexing technique, the DVB-T2 Lite profile restricts a maximum data rate to 4 Mbit/s [8]. Therefore, the estimated data rate in this paper may not meet the requirement of DVB-T2 Lite profile. However, in this paper, we focus on examining the possibility and the reception performance of a terrestrial 4K UHD and HD convergence broadcasting transmission through a single channel by employing the FEF multiplexing technique and transmission technology in DVB-T2 systems (Lite profile is included in DVB-T2 systems), and do not restrict the purpose of our study to following DVB-T2 Lite profile. In addition, if the performance of a real-time encoder is improved or non-real-time video data are used for transmission, the estimated data rate used would decrease and may meet the requirement of DVB-T2 Lite profile.

Table 9 Required transmission data rate of each 4K UHD and HD layer for 6 and 8 MHz bandwidth

| Bandwidth (MHz) | Layer | 4K UHD layer | HD layer |
|----------------|-------|--------------|----------|
| 8              | 21.25 Mbps | 7 Mbps |
| 6              | 18.0625 Mbps (15% decreased than the data rate in 8 MHz) | 5.95 Mbps (15% decreased than the data rate in 8 MHz) |

The data rate of each layer depends on the transmission mode (constellation point, code rate, FFT and CP size, pilot mode, the number of subcarriers, the number of active subcarriers, the portion of system information, etc.) [8]. The available parameters for 6 MHz bandwidth to meet the requirements in Table 10 are shown in Table 11.

In DVB-T2 systems, the number of cases of transmission parameter combinations (e.g., constellation, code rate, FFT size, and pilot pattern, etc.) are numerous. Thus, we first set the conditions of Table 10, and found the combination of transmission parameters using a computer program loop. When using a computer program loop, every combination of the constellation, code rate, FFT size, CP size, pilot pattern, number of data OFDM symbols in a frame, FEF Interval for each 4K UHD BL and HD BL were changed, and bit rates of each layer were examined whether to meet the required data rate in Table 9.

As the results, it was found that the required data rate (Sect. 2.2) could be met when 256 QAM was used for 4K...
Table 10 Requirements for designing the available transmission parameters for 6 MHz bandwidth

| Requirement                                | Value       |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 4K UHD EL data portion in a frame          | 60%         |
| HD BL data portion in a frame              | 40%         |
| Maximum length of a frame                 | 250 ms [8]  |
| Elementary period $T$ for 6 MHz bandwidth  | 7/48 $\mu$s [8] |

Note: If extended transmission mode is available by FFT size, extended transmission mode is applied.

UHD EL data and 16 QAM for HD BL data with detailed parameters in Table 11. A channel environment for 4K UHD EL is a static multipath channel with a long delay path. Thus, for 4K UHD ELPs (enhanced layer profiles) of all transmission parameters, the FFT size is 32,768, which is the largest; the CP size is 1/128, which is the smallest; the code rate is 5/6, which is the highest; the pilot pattern is PP7 to maximize the data transmission rate. Although the CP size is 1/128, the FFT size is 32,768, and the guard interval is 32,768/128 $\times T = 32.33 \mu s$, which is sufficiently long. On the contrary, in HD base layer profiles (BLPs), the FFT size is smaller and the CP size is longer than in 4K UHD EL profiles to cope with the fast-fading multipath channel, and code rates are also lower than in 4K UHD EL. In addition, PP 2, 4, and 5, which transmit more pilots than PP 6, 7, and 8, are selected. The FEF interval for 4K UHD ELP, $\text{FEF\_INTERVAL}_4K$, is set to 3, and the FEF interval for HD ELP, $\text{FEF\_INTERVAL\_HD}$, is set to 1. Note that each Base and Lite superframe must be composed of more than two Base or Lite transmission frames [8]. Thus, a 4K UHD layer superframe consists of three successive 4K UHD transmission frames and a consecutive HD transmission frame, and an HD layer superframe consists of two consecutive portions of one HD transmission frame and three successive 4K UHD transmission frames.

To calculate the transmission data rate from the transmission parameters, the FFT and CP size, the number of data OFDM symbols, the number of total carriers and active carriers depending on the PP, and the FEF interval for each layer profile should be considered. Figures 13 and 14 show the structure of a superframe and the transmission frames for each layer profile on a No. 2 transmission parameter in Table 11. The number of subcarriers of the P1 symbol, $K_{p1}$, for each layer transmission frame is fixed at 2048 regardless of the FFT size. The FFT size for 4K UHD ELP, $K_{\text{FFT\_4K}}$, is 32,768, and the number of P2 symbols for 4K UHD ELP,
### Table 11  Available transmission parameters for 6 MHz bandwidth by employing FEF multiplexing technique (4K UHD layer: 256 QAM, HD layer: 16 QAM)

| Parameter                      | 1          | 2          | 3          | 4          |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                               | Base<sup>a</sup> | Lite<sup>b</sup> | Base<sup>a</sup> | Lite<sup>b</sup> | Base<sup>a</sup> | Lite<sup>b</sup> | Base<sup>a</sup> | Lite<sup>b</sup> |
| Total bit rate (bps)          | 25,093,671 | 24,996,827 | 24,295,492 | 24,138,097 |
| Bit rate (bps)                | 19,065,495 | 6,028,176  | 18,912,877 | 6,083,948  |
| Code rate                     | 5/6        | 3/4        | 5/6        | 3/5        |
| FFT size                      | 32,768     | 4096       | 32,768     | 4096       |
| CP size                       | 1/128      | 1/8        | 1/128      | 1/32       |
| Pilot pattern                 | PP7        | PP2        | PP7        | PP7        |
| Num. of syms<sup>c</sup>      | 15         | 290        | 14         | 290        |
| Frame length (ms)             | 77.3       | 197.8      | 72.5       | 186.8      |
| FEF interval                  | 3          | 1          | 3          | 1          |

<sup>a</sup> 4K UHD EL (256 QAM)—Base profile, extended mode  
<sup>b</sup> HD BL (16 QAM)—Lite profile  
<sup>c</sup> Number of data OFDM symbols in a frame

**Fig. 13** A superframe structure depending on No. 2 transmission parameter in Table 11

**Fig. 14** A transmission frame structure depending on No. 2 transmission parameter in Table 11
For HD BLP, the FFT size, $K_{FFT-HD}$, is 4096; the number of P2 symbols, $N_{p2-HD}$, is 4; the CP size is 1/16; the number of data OFDM symbols in an HD transmission frame, $N_{data-HD}$, is 290. Therefore, the number of total subcarriers in an HD transmission frame, $K_{frame-HD}$, can be written as in (2).

$$K_{frame-HD} = K_{P1} + (N_{p2-HD} + N_{data-HD}) \left( K_{FFT-HD} + \frac{K_{FFT-HD}}{16} \right)$$

$$= 2048 + (4 + 290) \times \left( 4096 + \frac{4096}{16} \right)$$

$$= 1,215,367.$$ (2)

A 4K UHD layer superframe consists of three successive 4K UHD transmission frames and a consecutive HD transmission frame. Thus, the number of total subcarriers in a 4K UHD layer superframe, $K_{SF}$, is written as in (3) by applying an elementary period ($T$), and the length of a 4K UHD layer superframe, $T_{SF}$, is written as in (4).

$$K_{SF} = K_{frame-4K} \times 3 + K_{frame-HD} \times 1$$

$$= 497,408 \times 3 + 1,281,536 \times 1 = 2,773,760.$$ (3)

$$T_{SF} = K_{SF} \times T = 2,773,760 \times (7/48 \times 10^{-6} \text{s})$$

$$= 404.506667 \text{ms}.$$ (4)

For 4K UHD ELP, a frame closing symbol, which transmits more pilots than a normal data OFDM symbol and is the last data OFDM symbol in a transmission frame, is not used by a combination of the FFT size and a PP as in Table 64 of [8]. The number of active subcarriers in a data OFDM symbol for 4K UHD ELP, $C_{data-4K}$, is 27,404 owing to usage of PP7 as in Table 48 of [8]. For HD BLP, a frame closing symbol is used as in Table 64 of [8], and $N_{data-HD}$ is 290. Thus, an HD layer transmission frame consists of 289 normal data OFDM symbols and 1 frame closing symbol. The number of active subcarriers in a data OFDM symbol for HD BLP, $C_{data-HD}$, is 3234 owing to usage of PP4 as in Table 48 of [8], and the number of active subcarriers in a frame closing symbol, $C_{fc-HD}$, is 2831 as in Table 50 of [8]. Therefore, in a 4K UHD layer superframe, the number of total active subcarriers for 4K UHD ELP, $C_{frame-4K}$, is calculated as in (5) and the number of total active subcarriers for HD ELP, $C_{frame-HD}$, is calculated as in (6).

$$C_{frame-4K} = C_{data-4K} \times N_{data-4K}$$

$$= 27,404 \times 14 \times 3 = 1,150,968.$$ (5)

$$C_{frame-HD} = \{(C_{data-HD} \times (N_{data-HD} - 1)) + (C_{fc-HD} \times 1)\} \times FEF_{INTERVAL_HD}$$

$$= \{(3234 \times 289) + (2831 \times 1)\} \times 1$$

$$= 937,457.$$ (6)

From (3) to (6), for a duration of approximately 404 ms, we know that 4K UHD EL data are transmitted by 1,150,968 subcarriers, and HD BL data are transmitted by 937,457 subcarriers. Thus, the number of transmitted active subcarriers for 4K UHD ELP per second, $C_{frame-4K/s}$, is calculated as in (7), and the number of transmitted active subcarriers for HD BLP per second, $C_{frame-HD/s}$, is calculated as in (8), respectively.

$$C_{frame-4K/s} = \frac{C_{frame-4K}}{T_{SF}}$$

$$= \frac{1,150,968}{404.506667 \text{ms}}$$

$$= 2,843.63 \text{subcarriers/s}.$$ (7)

$$C_{frame-HD/s} = \frac{C_{frame-HD}}{T_{SF}}$$

$$= \frac{937,457}{404.506667 \text{ms}}$$

$$= 2,296.44 \text{subcarriers/s}.$$ (8)

### Table 12 Computer simulation environmental conditions

| Channel environment | AWGN, Brazil-D, and TU-6 channel |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Channel estimation method using pilot symbol | Least-square method [16] |
| Channel interpolation method in frequency domain | Cubic-spline interpolation method [17] (the number of pilot symbols for interpolation: 12 symbols) |
| Channel interpolation method in time domain | Linear interpolation [18] |
| Center frequency | 476 MHz (digital TV channel No. 14 in Korea) |

### Table 13 TU-6 channel profile

| Tap number | Delay (µs) | Power (dB) | Fading model |
|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1          | 0.0        | -3.0       | Rayleigh     |
| 2          | 0.7        | 0.0        | Rayleigh     |
| 3          | 0.5        | -2.0       | Rayleigh     |
| 4          | 1.6        | -6.0       | Rayleigh     |
| 5          | 2.3        | -8.0       | Rayleigh     |
| 6          | 5.0        | -10.0      | Rayleigh     |
Table 14 Brazil-D channel profile

| Tap number | Delay (µs) | Power (dB) | Fading model |
|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1          | 0.15       | -0.1       | Static       |
| 2          | 0.63       | -3.8       | Static       |
| 3          | 2.22       | -2.6       | Static       |
| 4          | 3.05       | -1.3       | Static       |
| 5          | 5.86       | 0          | Static       |
| 6          | 5.93       | -2.8       | Static       |

Using (7), the data rate of 4K UHD ELP, $R_{4KUHD}$, can be calculated by employing 256 QAM constellation and 5/6 code rate as,

$$R_{4KUHD} = C_{frame-4K/s} \times 8 \times \frac{53,840}{64,800} \approx 18,912,877 \text{ bps}.$$  

Similarly, using (8), the data rate of HD BLP, $R_{HD}$, can be calculated by employing 16 QAM constellation and 2/3 code rate as,

$$R_{HD} = C_{frame-HD/s} \times 4 \times \frac{10,632}{16,200} \approx 6,083,948 \text{ bps}. $$  

Using the available transmission parameters, the reception performance was analyzed using computer simulations under the environmental conditions shown in Table 12. The TU-6 channel profile listed in Table 13 is employed for computer simulations, and the Rayleigh fading channel model is implemented by the method described in [19]. In Table 14, the Brazil-D channel profile employed for the computer simulations is listed, and a static fading channel is assumed. Note that the decoding of the received system information and receiver synchronization was assumed to be ideal.

Figures 15, 16, 17 and 18 show the bit error rate (BER) performance versus the carrier-to-noise ratio (CNR) of transmission parameter Nos. 1–4 in Table 11 for 6 MHz bandwidth under AWGN, Brazil-D channel for 4K UHD ELP, and TU-6 channel for HD BLP. The TOV performance of the available transmission parameters is summarized in Table 15. The TOV data indicate both a reception performance of less than $3 \times 10^{-6}$ BER [20] and the limit of reliable broadcasting performance at the transmission system level. In general, a...
Fig. 16 BER performances of 4K UHD and HD layer transmission (No. 2 transmission parameter, 6 MHz bandwidth).

Fig. 17 BER performances of 4K UHD and HD layer transmission (No. 3 transmission parameter, 6 MHz bandwidth).
**Table 15** TOV performances of available transmission parameters for 6 MHz bandwidth

| Parameter no | 4K UHD ELP | HD BLP |
|--------------|------------|--------|
|              | AWGN       | TU-6 (70 km/h) | TU-6 (140 km/h) | TU-6 (210 km/h) |
| 1–4          | 21.8       | 12.8    | 14.3           | 14.4           |
| 1            | 9.9        | 11.0    | 12.3           | 12.2           |
| 2            | 8.4        | 9.1     | 10.0           | 10.5           |
| 3            | 7.0        | 9.3     | 11.2           | X              |

**Table 16** Requirements for designing the available transmission parameters for 8 MHz bandwidth

| Requirement                                      | 60% | 40% |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 4K UHD EL data portion in a frame                |     |     |
| HD BL data portion in a frame                    |     |     |
| Maximum length of a frame                        | 250 ms [8] |     |
| Elementary period $T$ for 6 MHz bandwidth         | 7/64 µs [8] |     |

Note: If extended transmission mode is available by FFT size, extended transmission mode is applied.
with the multipath channel compared to the performance under AWGN. However, reliable reception of 4K UHD EL data can be achieved under indoor environments, which is assumed in the static Brazil-D channel. For HD BLP, the TOVs are in the range of 9.1–14.4 dB when the velocity of the receiver is 70, 140, and 210 km/h, and reliable reception of HD BL data can be achieved under the fast-fading mobile channel. However, for No. 4 transmission parameter, proper reception of HD BL data when the velocity of the receiver is 210 km/h is not possible owing to the limitation of the large FFT size (8,192). It is noteworthy that the TOV of No. 3 transmission parameter is lower than that of No. 1 and No. 2 transmission parameters. When the FFT sizes of No. 1–3 transmission parameters are the same, the TOV performance of No. 3 transmission parameter can be improved by employing PP7, which transmits smaller pilots than PP2 or 4, and by lowering the code rate to 3/5.

In Europe, 8 MHz bandwidth is allocated for terrestrial channels, and the extension of this bandwidth is currently being discussed among governments, broadcasters, and mobile service providers globally. In addition, previously in Sect. 4.2, we assumed the data rate for a 6 MHz bandwidth channel is decreased by 15% compared to the estimated data rate in Sect. 2.2 to overcome the limit of 6 MHz bandwidth. However, the estimated data rate in Sect. 2.2 can be applied to the 8 MHz bandwidth channel, and high-quality 4K UHD and HD broadcasting services can be provided.

Thus, the available transmission parameters were redesigned for the 8 MHz bandwidth channel. The available parameters for 8 MHz bandwidth that meet the requirements in Table 16 are listed in Table 17.

Table 17 Available transmission parameters for 8 MHz bandwidth

| Parameter | 1 Base<sup>a</sup> | 1 Lite<sup>b</sup> | 2 Base<sup>a</sup> | 2 Lite<sup>b</sup> | 3 Base<sup>a</sup> | 3 Lite<sup>b</sup> | 4 Base<sup>a</sup> | 4 Lite<sup>b</sup> |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Total bit rate (bps) | 29,012,926 | 29,523,782 | 29,839,890 | 29,870,920 | 22,357,368 | 22,369,552 | 22,369,552 | 21,994,129 |
| Bit rate (bps) | 21,325,164 | 7,347,699 | 21,994,129 | 7,178,923 | 22,357,368 | 7,125,997 | 22,357,368 | 7,144,651 |
| Code rate | 4/5 | 3/5 | 4/5 | 2/3 | 4/5 | 3/5 | 4/5 | 2/3 |
| FFT size | 32,768 | 2048 | 32,768 | 2048 | 32,768 | 4096 | 32,768 | 4096 |
| CP size | 1/128 | 1/8 | 1/128 | 1/4 | 1/128 | 1/8 | 1/128 | 1/4 |
| Pilot pattern | PP7 | PP2 | PP7 | PP1 | PP7 | PP2 | PP7 | PP1 |
| Num. of symc | 12 | 600 | 14 | 600 | 13 | 298 | 13 | 298 |
| Frame length (ms) | 47.18 | 153.4 | 54.40 | 170.4 | 50.79 | 152.4 | 54.4 | 164.8 |
| FEP interval | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 |

<sup>a</sup>4K UHD enhanced layer (256 QAM)—Base profile, extended mode
<sup>b</sup>HD base layer (16 QAM)—Lite profile
<sup>c</sup>Number of data OFDM symbols in a frame

Using the available transmission parameters, the reception performance was analyzed using computer simulations under the environmental conditions given in Table 12. Note that the decoding of the received system information and receiver synchronization were assumed to be ideal.

Figures 19, 20, 21 and 22 show the BER performance versus CNR of transmission parameters No. 1–4 in Table 17 for 8 MHz bandwidth under AWGN, Brazil-D channel for 4K UHD ELP, and TU-6 channel for HD BLP. The TOV performance of the available transmission parameters is summarized in Table 18.

Under a static Brazil-D channel, the TOV of 4K UHD ELP is 20.9 dB, and a performance degradation of 4.3 dB occurred with the multipath channel compared to the performance under AWGN. However, reliable reception of 4K UHD EL data can be achieved under indoor environments for 8 MHz bandwidth as well as for 6 MHz bandwidth. For
Fig. 19 BER performances of 4K UHD and HD layer transmission (No. 1 transmission parameter, 8 MHz bandwidth)

Fig. 20 BER performances of 4K UHD and HD layer transmission (No. 2 transmission parameter, 8 MHz bandwidth)
Fig. 21 BER performances of 4K UHD and HD layer transmission (No. 3 transmission parameter, 8 MHz bandwidth)

Fig. 22 BER performances of 4K UHD and HD layer transmission (No. 4 transmission parameter, 8 MHz bandwidth)
HD BLP, the TOVs are all in the range 10.1–12.9 dB when the velocity of the receiver is 70, 140, and 210 km/h, and reliable reception of HD BL data can be achieved under the fast-fading mobile channel. For No. 2 and 4 transmission parameters, each CP size is set to be longer than each CP size of No. 1 and 3 transmission parameters by increasing each code rate, and the TOV performance for No. 2 and 4 transmission parameters is lower than that for No. 1 and 3 transmission parameters, respectively. The guard intervals of HD BLP for all transmission parameters are enough for the longest delay path of the TU-6 channel. However, in the long delay channel compared to TU-6, the TOV performance for No. 2 and 4 can be higher than that for No. 1 and 3 transmission parameters.

6 Conclusion

As a part of a project, which aims to develop convergence broadcasting and monitoring systems that provide optimized and high-quality broadcasting services for both fixed and mobile receivers based on broadcasting and communication networks, the possibility and the performance of a terrestrial fixed 4K UHD & mobile HD convergence broadcasting service through a single channel employing the FEF multiplexing technique in DVB-T2 systems are examined in this paper. By employing an FEF multiplexing technique instead of M-PLP multiplexing technique, convergence broadcasting, which is appropriate to channel situations of both fixed & mobile receiver and layered transmission, can be achieved. By computer simulations, it is shown that reliable reception of fixed 4K UHD & mobile HD convergence broadcasting can be achieved through 6 & 8 MHz terrestrial channel under targeting channel situations. In addition, when the bandwidth is extended to 8 MHz, high-quality convergence broadcasting services can be provided.

By achieving this work, it is shown that commercial level convergence broadcasting through terrestrial broadcasting and communication network can be provided to consumers with the development of associate protocol based on MPEG media transport (MMT), network layer systems, and monitoring systems are finished.

Recently, a layer division multiplexing (LDM) technique is focused as one of the key feature that makes the standard unique of ATSC 3.0 systems. LDM splits the total transmission power into two components (layers) that overlap in frequency (upper and lower layers), and it enables the use of a single RF channel for delivering high-capacity services to fixed receivers and low-complexity robust services to mobile receivers [21]. Thus, for future work, by employing LDM techniques in ATSC 3.0 systems, the possibility and the performance of a terrestrial fixed 4K UHD & mobile HD convergence broadcasting service through a single channel should also be examined.

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