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eCoMP:a usecase of the unified radio and optical control architecture draft-zhang-ccamp-ecomp-00

#### Abstract

This document specifies a usecase, called enhanced coordinated multipoint (eCoMP), for integreting radio and optical networks. It focus on the fronthaul flexibility that allows "any-RRH\_A to any-BBU\_A" connection to improve the eCoMP service performance. The procedure of the usecase is based on the unified radio and optical control archtecture, and an extended OpenFlow protocol is introduced to realize the procedure.

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#### 1. Introduction

The eCoMP exploits the fronthaul flexibility by dynamically reconfiguring the lightpath, which is to reassociate coordinated RRH\_As (connected to different BBU\_As) with a single BBU\_A. With the benefits of flexibility, an RRH\_A can choose a proper BBU\_A for a specific purpose. In order to achieve agile RRU\_A and BBU\_A mapping, a flexible optical fronthaul network is required, in which the lightpath between the BBU\_A and RRU\_As can be reconfigured.

To realize the eCoMP service, radio and optical resources should be jointly allocated, and radio and optical network devises should to be simutaneusly controlled. This memo introduces a mechanism to achieve agile RRU\_A and BBU\_A mapping in a SDN-enabled radio and optical control architecture. The procedure of eCoMP contains the following steps: 1) Radio controller(Radio-C) obtains the current radio resource information via an extended OFP message, and calculate new RRH\_A and BBU\_A mappings for maximizing the intra-BBU eCoMP ratio. 2) Transport controller (Transport-C) obtains the current transport resource information via an extended OFP message, and calculate the corresponding lightpaths for the new RRH\_A and BBU\_A mappings. 3) eCoMP reconfigures the BBU\_A according to the result of new RRH\_A and BBU\_A mappings. 4) eCoMP reconfigures lightpath between the new RRU\_A and BBU\_A pairs.

# 2. Requirements Language

The key words are "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL".

# 3. Terminology

This memo uses the following terms :RRU\_A, BBU\_A, TN\_A, Radio-C, Transport-C.

#### 4. Motivation

The RAN architecture towards mobile 5G and beyond is undergoing a fundamental evolution, which brings optics into the radio world. Fronthaul is a new segment that leverages on the advantages of

optical communication for RAN transport. However, the current fronthaul architecture shows a fixed connection between an RRH\_A and a BBU\_A, which leads to inefficient resource utilization.

To solve these problem, the "any-to-any" correspondence between RRU\_As and BBU\_As is becomming more and more important. The agile RRU\_A and BBU\_A mapping can be reached through lightpath reconfiguration. However, it is hard to realize dynamic RRU-BBU reassociation because of the independent control of radio and optical networks.

Therefore, this memo give a usecase to realize the eCoMP by joint allocation radio and optical resources in an unified control plane.

#### 5. Overview of eCoMP

#### 5.1. Problem

Because the eCoMP service is realized by the lightpath reconfiguration, a communication protocol between BBU\_A and RRU\_A is needed. The communication protocol is designed specifically for communications between a BBU\_A and a controller.A controller may use the communication protocol to send a lightpath reconfiguration request to a BBU\_A, and the BBU\_A may reply with a set of reconfigured lightpaths if the lightpaths satisfying the set of constraints.

# 5.2. New Messages

The communication protocol operates over TCP, which fulfills the requirements for reliable messaging and flow control without further protocol work.

This memo define the following new communication protocol messages for eCoMP:

Controller Request Message for RRU Feature (RRU\_Feature\_Req): A message sent by a Controller to a RRU to request RRU Feature which contains RRU\_ID and RRU\_IP. A Controller MUST send RRU Feature request message to a RRU at initialization phase to get the information about traffic load, wavelength and corresponding BBUs. The details of RRU\_Feature\_Req message is described in Section 6.1.

RRU Reply Message for RRU Feature (RRU\_Feature\_Rep): A message sent by a RRU to a Controller to reply specific RRU\_Feature\_Req message, which contains the features of the RRUs, such as traffic load and corresponding BBUs. A RRU sends RRU Feature reply message if and

only if it received related RRU\_Feature\_Req message. The details of RRU\_Feature\_Rep message is described in Section 6.2.

Controller Request Message for TN Feature (TN\_Feature\_Req): A message sent by a Controller to a TN to request TN Feature which contains node\_ID and node\_IP. A Controller MUST send TN Feature request message to a TN at initialization phase to get the information about port ,wavelength and switch status. The details of TN\_Feature\_Req message is described in Section 6.3.

TN Reply Message for RRU Feature (TN\_Feature\_Rep): A message sent by a TN to a Controller to reply specific TN\_Feature\_Req message, which contains the features of the TNs, such as port ,wavelength and switch status. A TN sends TN Feature reply message if and only if it received related TN\_Feature\_Req message. The details of TN\_Feature\_Rep message is described in Section 6.4.

Controller Request Message to BBU\_A for Lightpath Reconfiguration (BBU\_A\_Mod): A message sent by a Controller to a BBU\_A to request lightpath reconfiguration which contains BBU\_ID, node\_IP and BBU status. A Controller MAY send lightpath reconfiguration request message to a BBU\_A at any time as long as it consideres this operation necessary. The details of BBU\_A\_Mod message is described in Section 6.11.

BBU\_A Reply Message for Lightpath Reconfiguration (BBU\_A\_Rep): A message sent by a BBU\_A to a Controller to reply specific BBU\_A\_Mod message, which contains the configuration results of BBU\_As. A BBU\_A sends lightpath reconfiguration reply message if and only if it received related BBU\_A\_Mod message. A BBU\_A\_Rep message can contain either a set of reconfigurated lightpaths if the request can be satisfied, or a negative reply if not. The negative reply may indicate the reason why the lightpaths can not be reconfigurated. The details of BBU\_A\_Rep message is described in Section 6.12.

Controller Request Message to TN\_A for Lightpath Reconfiguration (TN\_A\_Mod): A message sent by a Controller to a TN\_A to request lightpath reconfiguration which contains BBU\_ID, node\_IP , port, wavelength and switch status. A Controller MAY send lightpath reconfiguration request message to a TN\_A at any time as long as it consideres this operation necessary. The details of TN\_A\_Mod message is described in Section 6.9.

TN\_A Reply Message for Lightpath Reconfiguration (TN\_A\_Rep): A message sent by a TN\_A to a Controller to reply specific TN\_A\_Mod message, which contains the configuration results of TN\_As. A TN\_A sends lightpath reconfiguration reply message if and only if it received related TN\_A\_Mod message. A TN\_A\_Rep message can contain

either a set of reconfigurated lightpaths if the request can be satisfied, or a negative reply if not. The negative reply may indicate the reason why the lightpaths can not be reconfigurated. The details of TN\_A\_Rep message is described in Section 6.10.

#### 5.3. Normal Communication Procedure

# 5.3.1. Initialization Phase

The initialization phase consists of two subphases and each subphase two successive steps.

In the first subphase, the two steps are (described in a schematic form in Figure 1:

- 1) Establishment of a TCP connection (3-way handshake) between the RRU\_A and the Controller.
- 2) Establishment of a session over the TCP connection.

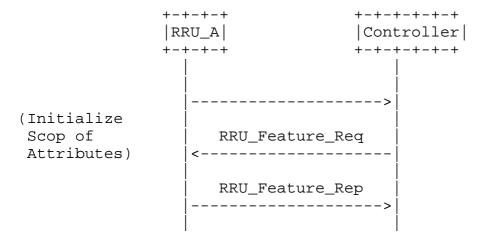


Figure 1: Initialization Phase between the RRU\_A and the Controller

Once the TCP connection is established, the Controller and the RRU\_A initiate session establishment during which various session parameters are negotiated. The Controller sends a RRU\_A Feature request to the RRU(RRU\_Feature\_Req message).

Details about the RRU\_Feature\_Req message can be found in Section 6.1.

After received the RRU\_Feature\_Req message, the RRU send a RRU\_Feature\_Rep message including the features of the RRUs, such as traffic load, corresponding BBU\_As and potentially other detailed

capabilities and policy rules that specify the conditions under which path computation requests may be sent to the Controller.

Details about the RRU\_Feature\_Rep message can be found in Section 6.2.

Similarly, in the second subphase, the two steps are (described in a schematic form in Figure 2:

- 1) Establishment of a TCP connection (3-way handshake) between the TN A and the Controller.
- 2) Establishment of a session over the TCP connection.

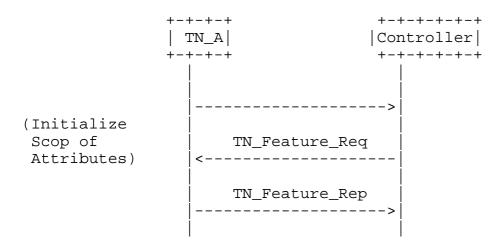


Figure 2: Initialization Phasebetween the TN\_A and the Controller

Once the TCP connection is established, the Controller and the TN\_A initiate session establishment during which various session parameters are negotiated. The Controller sends a RRU Feature request to the TN\_A (TN\_Feature\_Req message).

Details about the TN\_Feature\_Req message can be found in Section 6.3.

After received the TN\_Feature\_Req message, the TN\_A send a TN\_Feature\_Rep message including the features of the TN\_As, such as traffic load, corresponding TN\_A and potentially other detailed capabilities and policy rules that specify the conditions under which path computation requests may be sent to the Controller.

Details about the TN\_Feature\_Rep message can be found in Section 6.4.

# 5.3.2. Lightpath Reconfiguration Request Sent by a Controller to a BBU\_A

Once a Controller has sucessfully established a session with one or more BBU\_As, if a lightpath reconfiguration event is triggered that requires the reconfiguration of a set of lightpaths, the controller first selects one or more BBU\_As.

Once the Controller has selected a BBU\_A, it sends a BBU\_A\_Mod message to the BBU\_A. Each request is uniquely identified by a tp-id number and Controller-BBU\_A address pair. The process is shown in Figure 3.

Details about the BBU\_A\_Mod message can be found in Section 6.11.

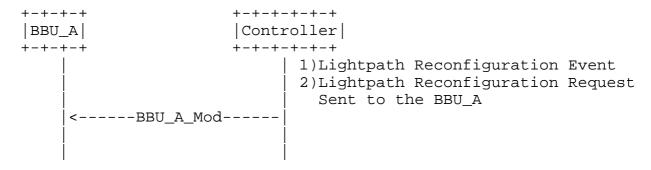


Figure 3: Lightpath Reconfiguration Request to BBU\_A

# 5.3.3. Lightpath Reconfiguration Request Sent by a Controller to a TN\_A

Once a Controller has sucessfully established a session with one or more TN\_As, if a lightpath reconfiguration event is triggered that requires the reconfiguration of a set of lightpaths, the controller first selects one or more TNs.

Once the Controller has selected a BBU\_A, it sends a TN\_Mod message to the TN\_A. Each request is uniquely identified by a tp-id number and Controller-TN address pair. The process is shown in Figure 4.

Details about the TN\_Mod message can be found in Section 6.9.

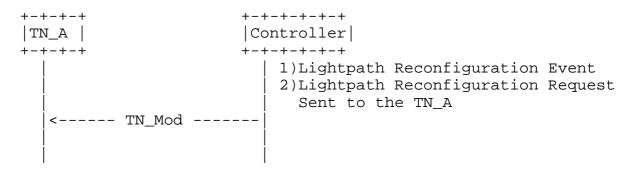


Figure 4: Lightpath Reconfiguration Request to TN\_A

# 5.3.4. Lightpath Reconfiguration Reply Sent by a BBU\_A to a Controller

After receiving a lightpath reconfiguration request from a Controller, the BBU\_A triggers a lightpath reconfiguration, If the BBU\_A manages to reconfigure a lightpath satisfies the set of required constraints, the BBU\_A returns the result to the requesting Controller. The process is shown in Figure 5.

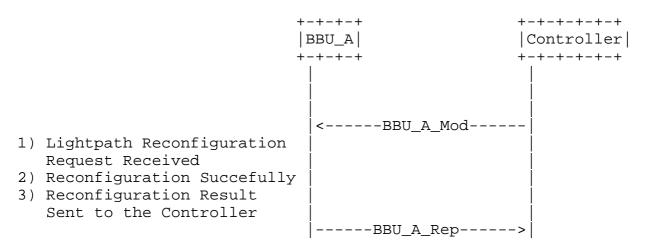


Figure 5: Lightpath Reconfiguration Reply (Success) from BBU\_A

However, if no lightpath could be found that satisfies the set of constraints. In this case, a BBU\_A may provide the set of constraints that led to the lightpath reconfiguration failure. Upon receiving a negative reply, a Controller may decide to resend a modified request or take any other appropriate action. The process is shown in Figure 6.

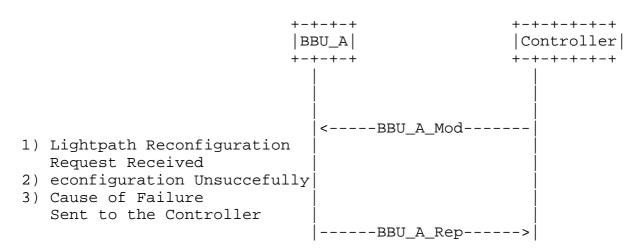


Figure 6: Lightpath Reconfiguration Reply (Failure) from BBU\_A

Details about the BBU\_A\_Rep message can be found in Section 6.12.

# 5.3.5. Lightpath Reconfiguration Reply Sent by a TN\_A to a Controller

After receiving a lightpath reconfiguration request from a Controller, the TN\_A triggers a lightpath reconfiguration, If the TN\_A manages to reconfigure a lightpath satisfies the set of required constraints, the TN\_A returns the result to the requesting Controller. The process is shown in Figure 7.

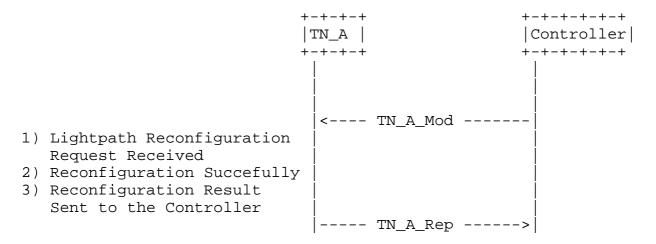


Figure 7: Lightpath Reconfiguration Reply (Success) from TN\_A

However, if no lightpath could be found that satisfies the set of constraints. In this case, a TN\_A may provide the set of constraints that led to the lightpath reconfiguration failure. Upon receiving a negative reply, a Controller may decide to resend a modified request or take any other appropriate action.' The process is shown in Figure 8

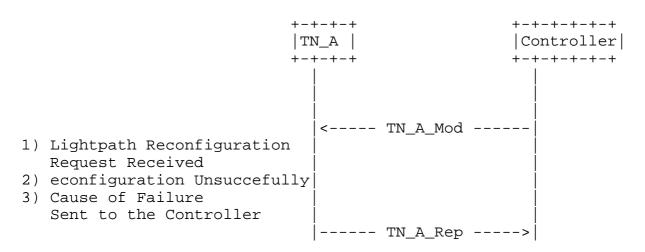


Figure 8: Lightpath Reconfiguration Reply (Failure) from TN\_A

Details about the TN\_A\_Rep message can be found in Section 6.10.

6. the communication protocol Messages for eCoMP

The communication protocol Messages for eCoMP consists of a common header followed by a variable-length body made of a set of objects. For each message type, rules are defined that specify the set of objects that the message can carry.

6.1. The RRU\_Feature\_Req message

6.2. The RRU\_Feature\_Rep message

```
<RRU_Feature_Rep Message> ::= <Common Header>
                                     <RRU-feature-reply>
  Where:
      <RRU-feature-reply> ::= <RRU-information>
                              <RRU-feature>
      <RRU_information> ::= <RRU-ID>
                             <RRU-IP>
      <RRU-feature> ::= <target_BBU_ID>
                        <eCoMP_status>
                        <eCoMP_flow>
                        <total flow>
                        <wavelength>
6.3. The TN_Feature_Req message
      <TN_Feature_Req message> ::= <Common Header>
                                   <TN-information>
  Where:
      <TN_information> ::= <node-ID>
                            <node-IP>
6.4. The TN_Feature_Rep message
      <TN_Feature_Rep Message> ::= <Common Header>
                                   <TN-feature-reply>
  Where:
      <TN-feature-reply> ::= <TN-information>
                             <TN-feature>
      <TN_information> ::= <node-ID>
                           <node-IP>
      <TN-feature> ::= <port>
                       <switch-status>
                       <wavelength>
6.5. The BBU_Feature_Req message
```

```
<BBU_Feature_Req message> ::= <Common Header>
                                   <BBU-information>
  Where:
      <BBU_information> ::= <BBU-ID>
                            <BBU-IP>
6.6. The BBU_Feature_Rep message
      <BBU_Feature_Rep Message> ::= <Common Header>
                                   <BBU-feature-reply>
  Where:
      <BBU-feature-reply> ::= <BBU-information>
                             <BBU-feature>
      <BBU_information> ::= <BBU-ID>
                           <BBU-IP>
      <BBU-feature> ::= <load-status>
                       <wavelength>
                       <eCoMP-status>
6.7. The RRU_A_Mod message
      <RRU_A_Mod message> ::= <Common Header>
                             <Controller-reconfiguration-request>
  Where:
      <Controller-reconfiguration-request> ::= <RRU-ID>
                                               <node-IP>
                                               <eCoMP_status>
6.8. The RRU_A_Rep message
      <RRU A Rep message> ::= <Common Header>
                             <Controller-reconfiguration-reply>
      <Controller-reconfiguration-reply> ::= <RRU-ID>
                                             <node-IP>
                                             <RRU-config-reply>
6.9. The TN_A_Mod message
```

```
<TN_A_Mod message> ::= <Common Header>
                             <Controller-reconfiguration-request>
  Where:
      <Controller-reconfiguration-request> ::= <TN-ID>
                                                <node-IP>
                                                <TN-feature>
      <TN-feature> ::= <port>
                        <switch-status>
                        <wavelength>
6.10. The TN_A_Rep message
      <TN_A_Rep message> ::= <Common Header>
                             <Controller-reconfiguration-reply>
  Where:
      <Controller-reconfiguration-reply> ::= <TN-ID>
                                              <node-IP>
                                              <TN-config-reply>
6.11. The BBU_A_Mod message
      <BBU_A_Mod message> ::= <Common Header>
                              <Controller-reconfiguration-request>
  Where:
      <Controller-reconfiguration-request> ::= <BBU-ID>
                                                <node-IP>
                                                <eCoMP-status>
6.12. The BBU_A_Rep message
      <BBU_A_Rep message> ::= <Common Header>
                              <Controller-reconfiguration-reply>
  Where:
      <Controller-reconfiguration-reply> ::= <BBU-ID>
                                              <node-IP>
                                              <BBU-config-reply>
7. Object Formats
```

A object carried within a communication protocol messages for eCoMP, which consists of one or more 32-bit words with a common header.

# 7.1. Initialization Phase Object

# 7.1.1. RRU feature request TLV

0 1	2	3					
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 0 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 0 1 2	3 4 5 6 7 0 1 2 3	4 5 6 7				
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+		-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-	-+-+-+-+				
version	type=40	Message Length	ı				
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+		-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-	-+-+-+-+				
xid							
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-							
RRU_ID							
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-							
RRU_IP							
+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-							

Figure 9: RRU feature request TLV format

The common header consists of version, type and message length.

Version (8 bits): The version number. Current version is version 1.

Type (8 bits): A number indicates the message type. The "RRU\_Feature\_Req" message is the type 40.

Message Length (16 bits): Total length of the message including the common header, expressed in bytes.

The RRU\_Feature\_Req object body consists of the hardware id (xid), RRU id(RRU\_ID) and RRU ip (RRU\_IP).

# 7.1.2. TN feature request TLV

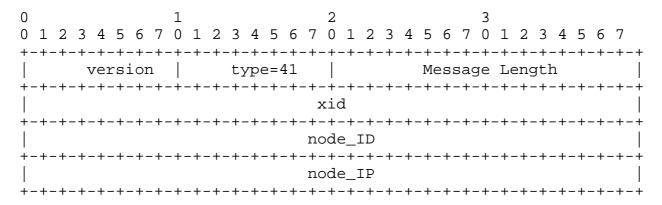


Figure 10: TN feature request TLV format

The common header is similar with the RRU feature request object. The "TN\_Feature\_Req" message is the type 41.

The TN\_Feature\_Req object body consists of the hardware id (xid), node id(node\_ID) and node ip (node\_IP).

# 7.1.3. BBU feature request TLV

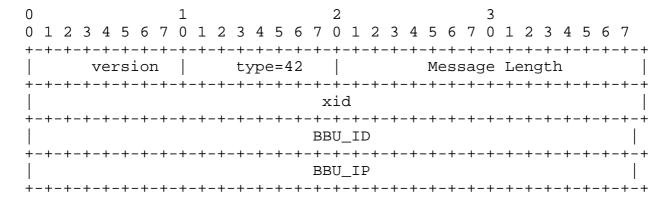


Figure 11: BBU feature request TLV format

The common header is similar with the BBU feature request object. The "BBU\_Feature\_Req" message is the type 42.

The TN\_Feature\_Req object body consists of the hardware id (xid), BBU id(BBU\_ID) and BBU ip (BBU\_IP).

# 7.1.4. RRU feature reply TLV

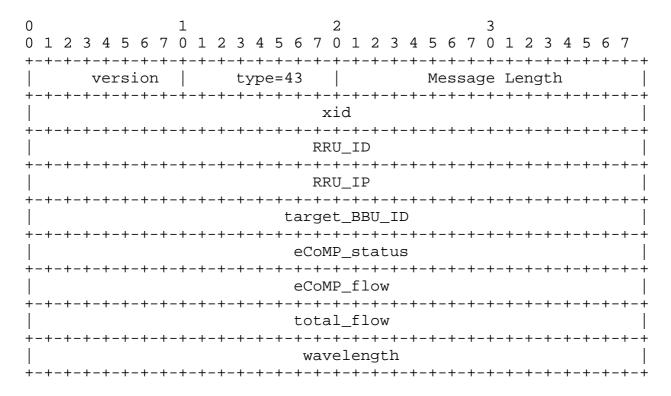


Figure 12: RRU feature reply TLV format

The common header is similar with the RRU feature request object. The "RRU\_Feature\_Rep" message is the type 43.

The RRU\_Feature\_Rep object body consists of the hardware id (xid), RRU id(RRU\_ID), RRU ip (RRU\_IP), target BBU ID, eCoMP status, eCoMP\_flow, total flow, wavelength.

The eCoMP\_status is used to report the status of eCoMP. Two values are currently defined: "1" is a intra-BBU eCoMP state while "0" is a inter-BBU eCoMP state.

# 7.1.5. TN feature reply TLV

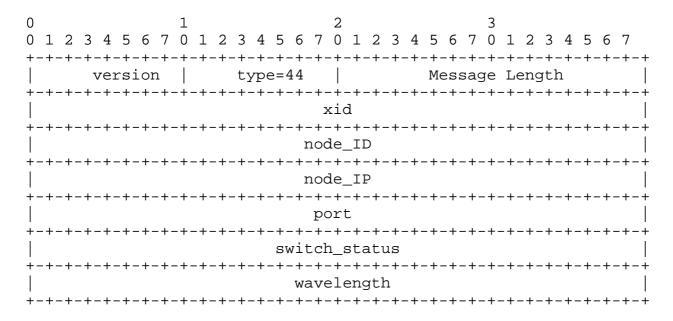


Figure 13: TN feature reply TLV format

The common header is similar with the RRU feature request object. The "TN\_Feature\_Rep" message is the type 44.

The TN\_Feature\_Rep object body consists of the hardware id (xid), node id(node\_ID), node ip (node\_IP),port, switch\_status and wavelength.

# 7.2. BBU feature reply TLV

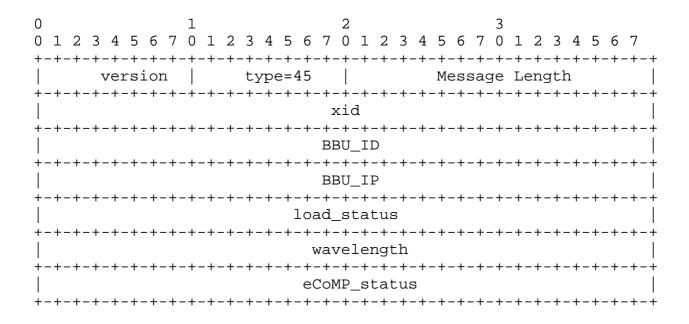


Figure 14: BBU feature reply TLV format

The common header is similar with the RRU feature request object. The "RRU\_Feature\_Rep" message is the type 45.

The RRU\_Feature\_Rep object body consists of the hardware id (xid), BBU id(BBU\_ID), BBU ip (BBU\_IP), load status, wavelength, eCoMP status.

The eCoMP\_status is used to report the status of eCoMP. Two values are currently defined: "1" is a intra-BBU eCoMP state while "0" is a inter-BBU eCoMP state.

- 7.3. Lightpath Reconfiguration Phase Object
- 7.3.1. RRU modification request TLV

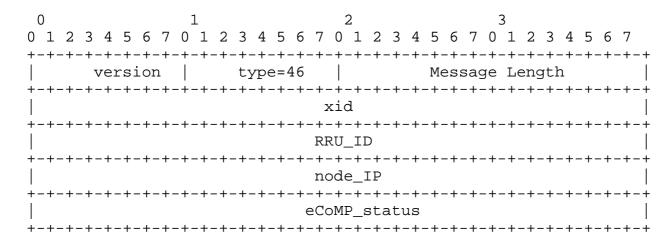


Figure 15: RRU modification request TLV format

The common header is similar with the RRU feature request object. The "RRU\_A\_Mod" message is the type 44.

The RRU\_A\_Mod object body consists of the hardware id (xid), RRU id(RRU\_ID), RRU ip (node\_IP) and eCoMP status(eCoMP\_status).

# 7.3.2. TN modification request TLV

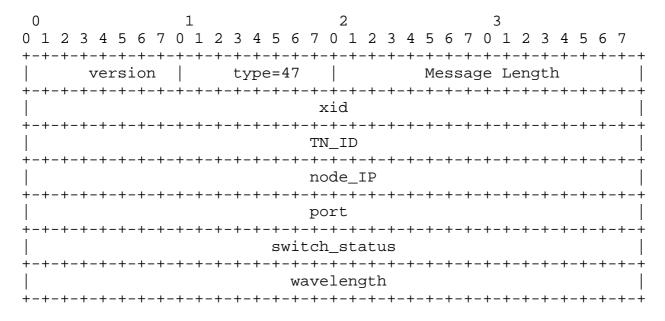


Figure 16: TN modification request TLV format

The common header is similar with the RRU feature request object. The "TN\_A\_Mod" message is the type 47.

The TN\_A\_Mod object body consists of the hardware id (xid), TN id(TN\_ID), node ip (node\_IP), port, switch\_status and wavelength.

# 7.3.3. BBU modification request TLV

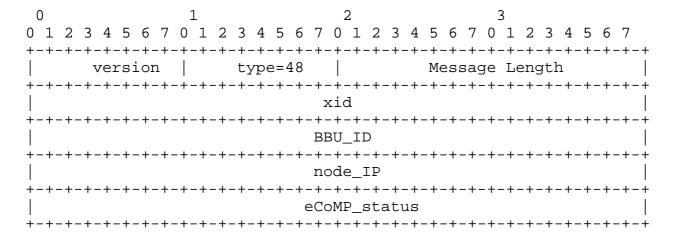


Figure 17: BBU modification request TLV format

The common header is similar with the RRU feature request object. The "BBU\_A\_Mod" message is the type 48.

The BBU\_A\_Mod object body consists of the hardware id (xid), BBU id(BBU\_ID), node ip (node\_IP) and eCoMP status(eCoMP\_status).

# 7.3.4. RRU modification reply TLV

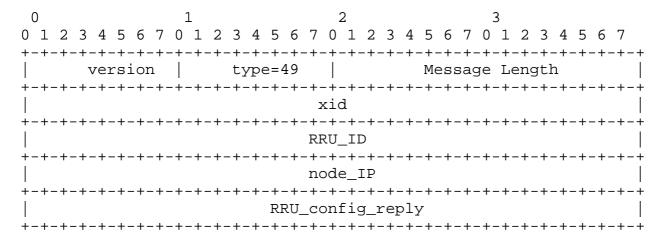


Figure 18: RRU modification reply TLV format

The common header is similar with the RRU feature request object. The "RRU\_A\_Rep" message is the type 49.

The BBU\_A\_Mod object body consists of the hardware id (xid), RRU id(RRU\_ID), node ip (node\_IP) and BBU configuration reply(RRU\_config\_reply).

The RRU\_config\_reply is used to report the result of RRU configuration. Two values are currently defined: "1" is a successful state while "0" is a failure state.

# 7.3.5. TN modification reply TLV

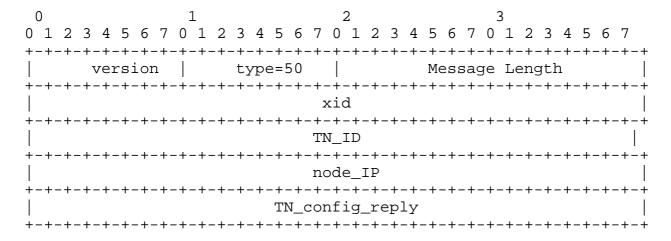


Figure 19: TN modification reply TLV format

The common header is similar with the RRU feature request object. The "TN\_A\_Rep" message is the type 50.

The TN\_A\_Mod object body consists of the hardware id (xid), TN id(TN\_ID), node ip (node\_IP) and TN configuration reply(TN\_config\_reply).

The TN\_config\_reply is used to report the result of TN configuration. Two values are currently defined: "1" is a successful state while "0" is a failure state.

# 7.3.6. BBU modification reply TLV

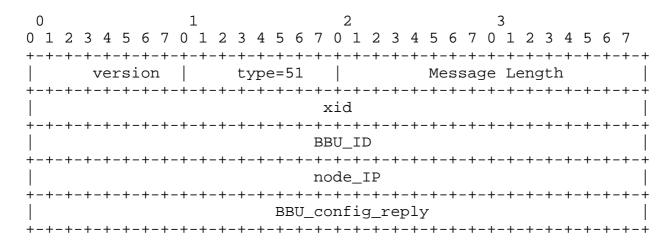


Figure 20: BBU modification reply TLV format

The common header is similar with the RRU feature request object. The "BBU\_A\_Rep" message is the type 51.

The BBU\_A\_Mod object body consists of the hardware id (xid), BBU id(BBU\_ID), node ip (node\_IP) and BBU configuration reply(BBU\_config\_reply).

The BBU\_config\_reply is used to report the result of BBU configuration. Two values are currently defined: "1" is a successful state while "0" is a failure state.

# 8. Acknowledgments

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