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Packet Data Convergence Protocol (PDCP) specification (3GPP TS 38.323 version 17.5.0 Release 17)

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1 Scope

The present document provides the description of the Packet Data Convergence Protocol (PDCP).

2 References

The following documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of the present document.

- References are either specific (identified by date of publication, edition number, version number, etc.) or non-specific.
- For a specific reference, subsequent revisions do not apply.
- For a non-specific reference, the latest version applies. In the case of a reference to a 3GPP document (including a GSM document), a non-specific reference implicitly refers to the latest version of that document *in the same Release as the present document*.

[1]	3GPP TR 21.905: "Vocabulary for 3GPP Specifications".
[2]	3GPP TS 38.300: "NG Radio Access Network; Overall description".
[3]	3GPP TS 38.331: "NR Radio Resource Control (RRC); Protocol Specification".
[4]	3GPP TS 38.321: "NR Medium Access Control (MAC) protocol specification".
[5]	3GPP TS 38.322: "NR Radio Link Control (RLC) protocol specification".
[6]	3GPP TS 33.501: "Security Architecture and Procedures for 5G System ".
[7]	IETF RFC 5795: "The RObust Header Compression (ROHC) Framework".
[8]	IETF RFC 3095: "RObust Header Compression (ROHC): Framework and four profiles: RTP, UDP, ESP and uncompressed".
[9]	IETF RFC 4815: "RObust Header Compression (ROHC): Corrections and Clarifications to RFC 3095".
[10]	IETF RFC 6846: "RObust Header Compression (ROHC): A Profile for TCP/IP (ROHC-TCP)".
[11]	IETF RFC 5225: "RObust Header Compression (ROHC) Version 2: Profiles for RTP, UDP, IP, ESP and UDP Lite".
[12]	3GPP TS 36.321: "Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA) Medium Access Control (MAC) protocol specification".
[13]	3GPP TS 23.287: "Architecture enhancements for 5G System (5GS) to support Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) services".
[14]	3GPP TS 33.536: "Security Aspect of 3GPP Support for Advanced V2X Services".
[15]	IEEE Standard 802.3 TM -2018: "Ethernet".
[16]	3GPP TS 24.587: "Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) services in 5G System (5GS), Stage 3".
[17]	3GPP TS 33.401: "3GPP System Architecture Evolution (SAE); Security Architecture".
[18]	3GPP TS 23.304: "Proximity based Services (ProSe) in the 5G System (5GS)".
[19]	IETF RFC 1951: "DEFLATE Compressed Data Format Specification version 1.3".

[20]	IETF RFC 3485: "The Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) and Session Description Protocol (SDP)
	Static Dictionary for Signaling Compression (SigComp)".

[21] IETF RFC 1979: "PPP Deflate Protocol".

[22] 3GPP TS 38.351: "NR; Sidelink Relay Adaptation Protocol (SRAP) Specification".

3 Definitions and abbreviations

3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the terms and definitions given in TR 21.905 [1] and the following apply. A term defined in the present document takes precedence over the definition of the same term, if any, in TR 21.905 [1].

AM DRB: a data radio bearer which utilizes RLC AM.

AM MRB: an MRB associated with at least one AM RLC bearer for PTP transmission.

Broadcast MRB: a radio bearer configured for MBS broadcast delivery.

DAPS bearer: a bearer whose radio protocols are located in both the source gNB and the target gNB during DAPS handover to use both source gNB and target gNB resources.

MBS Radio Bearer: a radio bearer that is configured for MBS delivery.

Multicast MRB: a radio bearer configured for MBS multicast delivery.

Non-split bearer: a bearer whose radio protocols are located in either the MgNB or the SgNB to use MgNB or SgNB resource, respectively.

NR sidelink communication: AS functionality enabling at least V2X communication as defined in TS 23.287 [13] and ProSe communication (including ProSe non-Relay and UE-to-Network Relay communication) as defined in TS 23.304 [18], between two or more nearby UEs, using NR technology but not traversing any network node.

NR sidelink discovery: AS functionality enabling ProSe non-Relay Discovery and ProSe UE-to-Network Relay discovery for Proximity based Services as defined in TS 23.304 [18] between two or more nearby UEs, using NR technology but not traversing any network node.

NR sidelink transmission: any NR Sidelink-based transmission, including both transmission for NR sidelink discovery and transmission for NR sidelink communication.

PDCP data volume: the amount of data available for transmission in a PDCP entity.

Split bearer: in dual connectivity, a bearer whose radio protocols are located in both the MgNB and the SgNB to use both MgNB and SgNB resources.

Split secondary RLC entity: in dual connectivity, the RLC entity other than the primary RLC entity which is responsible for split bearer operation. If the PDCP entity is associated with two RLC entities, the split secondary RLC entity is the RLC entity other than the primary RLC entity. If the PDCP entity is associated with more than two RLC entities, the split secondary RLC entity is configured by upper layers.

UM DRB: a data radio bearer which utilizes RLC UM.

UM MRB: an MRB associated with only RLC UM.

3.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in TR 21.905 [1] and the following apply. An abbreviation defined in the present document takes precedence over the definition of the same abbreviation, if any, in TR 21.905 [1].

AM Acknowledged Mode

ARP	Address Resolution Protocol
CID	Context Identifier
DAPS	Dual Active Protocol Stack
DRB	Data Radio Bearer carrying user plane data
EHC	Ethernet Header Compression
FIFO	First In First Out
gNB	NR Node B
HFN	Hyper Frame Number
IETF	Internet Engineering Task Force
IP	Internet Protocol
MAC	Medium Access Control
MAC-I	Message Authentication Code for Integrity
MBS	Multicast/Broadcast Services
MRB	MBS Radio Bearer
MTCH	MBS Traffic Channel
PDCP	Packet Data Convergence Protocol
PDU	Protocol Data Unit
RB	Radio Bearer
RFC	Request For Comments
RLC	Radio Link Control
ROHC	RObust Header Compression
RRC	Radio Resource Control
RTP	Real Time Protocol
SAP	Service Access Point
SCCH	Sidelink Control Channel
SDU	Service Data Unit
SLRB	Sidelink Radio Bearer carrying NR sidelink communication or NR sidelink discovery
SN	Sequence Number
SRAP	Sidelink Relay Adaptation Protocol
SRB	Signalling Radio Bearer carrying control plane data
STCH	Sidelink Traffic Channel
TCP	Transmission Control Protocol
UDC	Uplink Data Compression 138 323 V17.5.0 (2023-07)
UDP	http://user Datagram Protocol atalog/standards/sist/8b3171cc-7737-41d4-ac9a-
UE	User Equipment 2a09142/etsi-ts-138-323-v17-5-0-2023-07
****	***

4 General

UM U2N

X-MAC

4.1 Introduction

The present document describes the functionality of the PDCP.

Unacknowledged Mode

UE-to-Network

Computed MAC-I

4.2 Architecture

4.2.1 PDCP structure

Figure 4.2.1-1 represents one possible structure for the PDCP sublayer, and Figure 4.2.1-2 represents one possible structure for the PDCP sublayer used in L2 U2N relay case; they should not restrict implementation. The figures are based on the radio interface protocol architecture defined in TS 38.300 [2].

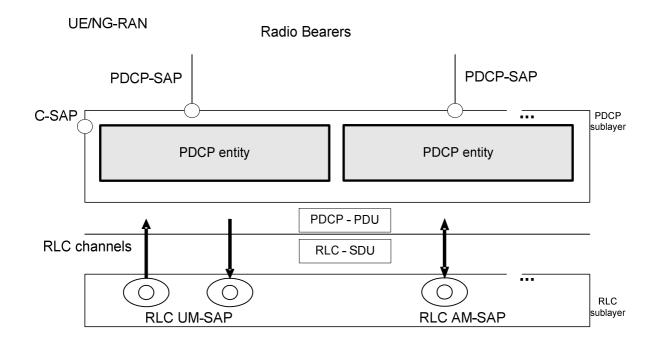


Figure 4.2.1-1: PDCP layer, structure view (normal)

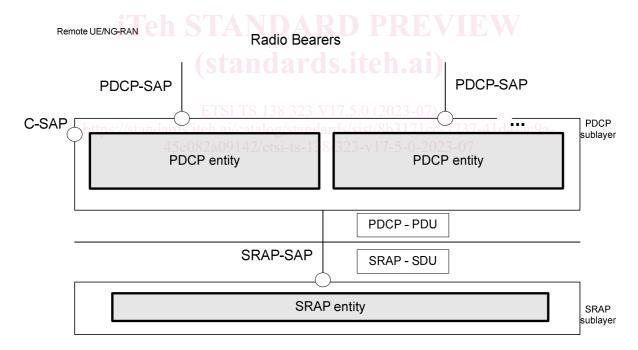


Figure 4.2.1-2: PDCP layer, structure view (L2 U2N relay)

The PDCP sublayer is configured by upper layers TS 38.331 [3]. The PDCP sublayer is used for RBs mapped on DCCH, DTCH, MTCH, SCCH, and STCH type of logical channels. The PDCP sublayer is not used for any other type of logical channels.

Each RB (except for SRB0 for Uu interface) is associated with one PDCP entity. Each PDCP entity is associated with one, two, three, four, six, or eight RLC entities depending on the RB characteristic (e.g. uni-directional/bi-directional or split/non-split) or RLC mode:

- For split bearers, each PDCP entity is associated with two UM RLC entities (for same direction), four UM RLC entities (two for each direction), or two AM RLC entities;

- For RBs configured with PDCP duplication, each PDCP entity is associated with N UM RLC entities (for same direction), 2 × N UM RLC entities (N for each direction), or N AM RLC entities, where 2 <= N <= 4;
- For DAPS bearers, each PDCP entity is associated with two UM RLC entities (for same direction, one for source and one for target cell), four UM RLC entities (two for each direction on source cell and target cell), or two AM RLC entities (one for source cell and one for target cell);
- For UM MRBs, each PDCP entity is associated with one UM RLC entity (for MTCH or for downlink DTCH), two UM RLC entities (one for MTCH and one for downlink DTCH, or one for downlink DTCH and one for uplink DTCH), or three UM RLC entities (one for MTCH, one for downlink DTCH, and one for uplink DTCH);
- For AM MRBs, each PDCP entity is associated with one AM RLC entity (for downlink DTCH and uplink DTCH), or one UM RLC entity (for MTCH) and one AM RLC entity (for downlink DTCH and uplink DTCH);
- Otherwise, each PDCP entity is associated with one UM RLC entity, two UM RLC entities (one for each direction), or one AM RLC entity.

For the case of L2 U2N relay, all PDCP entities are associated with one SRAP entity.

4.2.2 PDCP entities

The PDCP entities are located in the PDCP sublayer. Several PDCP entities may be defined for a UE. Each PDCP entity is carrying the data of one radio bearer. A PDCP entity is associated either to the control plane or the user plane depending on which radio bearer it is carrying data for.

Figure 4.2.2-1 represents the functional view of the PDCP entity for the PDCP sublayer; it should not restrict implementation. The figure is based on the radio interface protocol architecture defined in TS 38.300 [2].

For split bearers and DAPS bearers, routing is performed in the transmitting PDCP entity.

A PDCP entity associated with DRB can be configured by upper layers TS 38.331 [3] to use header compression or uplink data compression (UDC). A PDCP entity associated with MRB can be configured by upper layers TS 38.331 [3] to use header compression. In this version of the specification, the robust header compression protocol (ROHC), the Ethernet header compression protocol (EHC) and UDC are supported. Each header compression protocol is independently configured for a DRB/MRB.

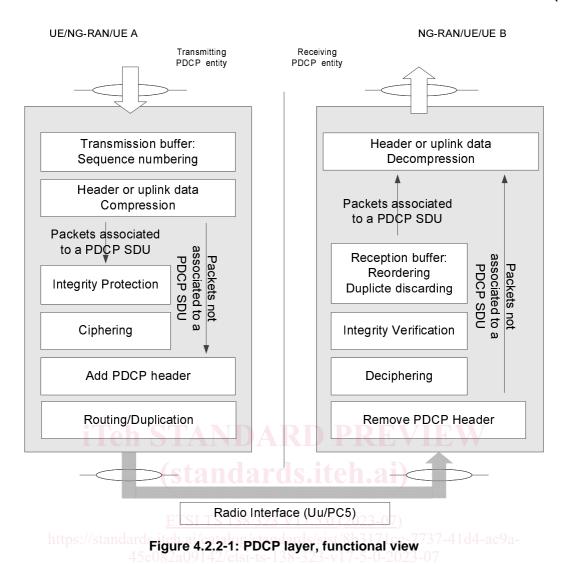


Figure 4.2.2-2 represents the functional view of the PDCP entity associated with the DAPS bearer for the PDCP sublayer; it should not restrict implementation. The figure is based on the radio interface protocol architecture defined in TS 38.300 [2].

For DAPS bearers, the PDCP entity is configured with two sets of security functions and keys and two sets of header compression protocols.

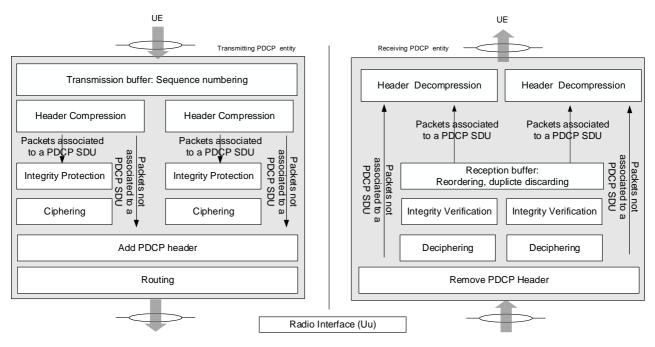


Figure 4.2.2-2: PDCP layer associated with DAPS bearer, functional view

4.3 Services

4.3.1 Services provided to upper layers

The PDCP layer provides its services to the RRC or SDAP layers. The following services are provided by PDCP to upper layers:

- transfer of user plane data;
- transfer of control plane data; 82a09142/etsi-ts-138-323-v17-5-0-2023-07
- header compression;
- uplink data compression;
- ciphering;
- integrity protection.

The maximum supported size of a PDCP SDU is 9000 bytes. The maximum supported size of a PDCP Control PDU is 9000 bytes.

4.3.2 Services expected from lower layers

A PDCP entity expects the following services from lower layers per RLC entity (for a detailed description see TS 38.322 [5]):

- acknowledged data transfer service, including indication of successful delivery of PDCP PDUs;
- unacknowledged data transfer service.

A PDCP entity expects the following service from SRAP entity (for a detailed description see TS 38.351 [22]), if the PDCP entity is associated with an SRAP entity:

- data transfer.

4.4 Functions

The PDCP layer supports the following functions:

- transfer of data (user plane or control plane);
- maintenance of PDCP SNs;
- header compression and decompression using the ROHC protocol;
- header compression and decompression using the EHC protocol;
- uplink data compression and decompression using the UDC protocol;
- ciphering and deciphering;
- integrity protection and integrity verification;
- timer based SDU discard;
- for split bearers and DAPS bearer, routing;
- duplication;
- reordering and in-order delivery;
- out-of-order delivery;
- duplicate discarding.

5 Procedures

5.1 PDCP entity handling

5.1.1 PDCP entity establishment

When upper layers request a PDCP entity establishment for a radio bearer for Uu or PC5 interface; or for NR sidelink communication for groupcast and broadcast or for sidelink SRB4, when receiving the first PDCP PDU, and there is not yet a corresponding PDCP entity, the UE shall:

- establish a PDCP entity for the radio bearer;
- set the state variables of the PDCP entity to initial values;
- follow the procedures in clause 5.2.

NOTE: The receiving PDCP entity of sidelink SRB0 and sidelink SRB1 is established same as NR sidelink groupcast and broadcast.

5.1.2 PDCP entity re-establishment

When upper layers request a PDCP entity re-establishment, the UE shall additionally perform once the procedures described in this clause for Uu or PC5 interface. After performing the procedures in this clause, the UE shall follow the procedures in clause 5.2.

When upper layers request a PDCP entity re-establishment, the transmitting PDCP entity shall:

- for UM DRBs and AM DRBs, reset the ROHC protocol for uplink and start with an IR state in U-mode (as defined in RFC 3095 [8] and RFC 4815 [9]) if *drb-ContinueROHC* is not configured in TS 38.331 [3];