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CMUX protocol learning summary

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When I first started contacting CMUX at the beginning of five months ago, I searched a lot of materials and documents on the Internet. At that time, I thought that I understood the protocol quite well, but now that I have forgotten what I learned before, I take this opportunity to review it. But the core of CMUX protocol is to learn its frame structure. This article refers to the following documents:

- CMUX-User-Guide
- CMUX protocol document
- Huawei Serial Multiplexing Reference Manual

Stop talking nonsense, let's look at CMUX.

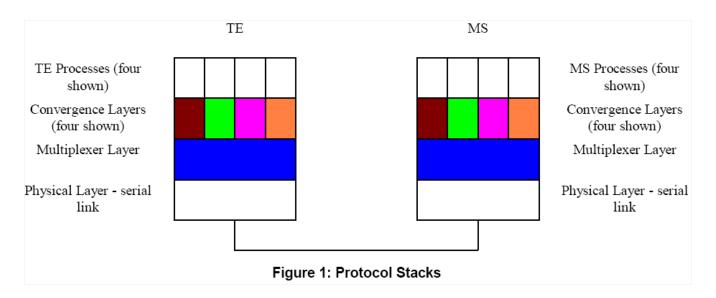
1. What is CMUX

CMUX refers to serial port multiplexing. The multiplexer mode of the serial port is to enable a serial interface to transmit data to four different client applications.

In actual applications, a physical serial port can only transmit one upper-layer application data stream within a certain period of time. What if there are multiple data streams to be sent at the same time? Except accessing multiple UARTs Is there another way?

The function of the CMUX protocol is to use a physical serial port at the bottom to provide multiple logical serial ports to the upper system, and each logical serial port corresponds to a data link connection (DLC). In this way, multiple sessions can exist simultaneously on a serial interface, such as voice, FAX, data, SMS, GPRS, USSD, etc. This is particularly advantageous when a fax/data/GPRS call is in progress, for example the control module or the use of SMS services can be done through additional channels without disturbing the data flow; no need to access the second UART.

The multiplexing protocol provides the ability to virtualize multiple parallel logical communication channels on a single physical communication channel. It is generally used between TE (Terminal Equipment) and MS (Mobile Station). In the meantime, TE is equivalent to the AP side of a smart phone, and MS is equivalent to the MODEM side of a smart phone. The following figure shows a typical protocol hierarchy:



The blue part is the MUX multiplexing layer, which uses the physical serial port link at the bottom to send and receive data, and at the same time provides several logically independent transceiver channels to the upper layer (four logical channels are provided in the figure above, indicated by different colors). Each logical channel is created independently and can have software flow control. In actual use, the MUX on the TE side initiates a channel establishment request to the MUX on the MS side, setting channel parameters, etc., which is the active party; the MUX on the MS side waits for the service request from the TE side and provides corresponding services according to its own capabilities. In other words, the roles of the two are asymmetrical.

Each channel between the TE terminal and the MS terminal is called a DLC link, and they are established independently of each other. The data transmission adopts the 8BIT character Start-Stop method for transmission, and the data interaction between the two parties uses the frame structure defined later.

2. Start CMUX mode

Usually send AT+CMUX command to GPRS module to activate multiplexing, the command format is:

Parameter Description:

```
1 mode: Specify the multiplexing mode, the GTM900 module must be set to1.
2 0 Basic option
3 1 Advanced option
1 subset: Specify frame type, set to GTM900 module0.
2 0 UIH frames used only
3 1 UI frames used only
4 2 I frames used only
5 Default value:0
port_speed: Specify the transmission rate
3 1 9 600 bit/s
4 2 19 200 bit/s
5 3 38 400 bit/s
6 4 57 600 bit/s
7 5 115 200 bit/s
8 6 230 400 bits/s
1 N1: Maximum frame size
3 1- 32768
4 Default value: basic mode is 31 (advanced mode is 64)
1 T1: Confirmation time, the unit is 10ms.
3 1-255
4 Default value: 10 (ie 100 ms)
1 N2: Maximum number of retransmissions
3 0-100
4 Default value: 3
```

```
T2: The response time of the control channel, the unit is 10ms

2

3

4 2-255

Default value: 30 (ie 300 ms)

Note: T2 must be greater than T1.
```

```
1 k: Serial port size, used for advanced mode with error recovery.
2 1-7
3 Default value: 2
```

3. CMUX frame structure

There are three operation modes for multiplexing: basic mode, advanced mode with error recovery function, and advanced mode without error recovery function (see GSM 07.10 protocol for details). Different GPRS modules also support different modes.

mark	address	control	length	information	check	mark
1 byte	1 byte	1 byte	1 or 2 bytes	Integer bytes	1 byte	1 byte
0xF9 or 0x7e	DLCI value	Frame type		I frame, UI frame, UIH frame	CRC	0xF9 or 0x7E

Among them, the frame type can be divided into Control frame with Information frame.

CMUX passed by both parties *Control frame* Negotiation is used to construct and tear down virtual links, and the control frames are as follows:

SABM: Create DLC

UA: Response to SABM frame or DISC frame

DM: When the link is not successfully established, the response to the received DISC command

DISC: Notify the peer to tear down the link and send a DISC frame on DLCO, which is equivalent to exiting the MUX function

Information frame:

UIH\UI\I: These three are information frames, which are frames that carry data to be transmitted.

Each bit in each byte such as tag, address, control, length, etc. represents different information. For details, please refer to the Huawei serial multiplexing manual, which is used for each bit of each Byte in the CMUX frame structure. Detailed introduction.

4. CMUX practical application

Frame structure of basic mode

The frame structure of the basic mode is as follows:

标记	地址	控制	长度	信息	校验	标记
1字节	1字节	1字节	1或2字节	整数个字节	1字节	1字节

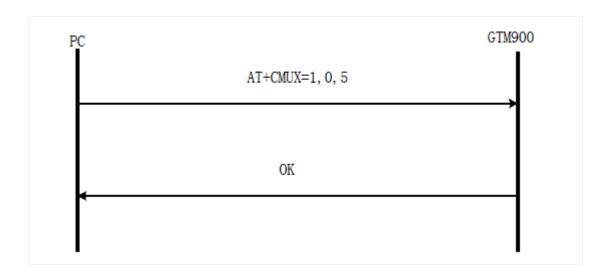
Frame structure in advanced mode

The frame structure of advanced mode is as follows:

标记	地址	控制	信息	校验	标记
1字节	1字节	1字节	整数个字节	1字节	1字节

Note: The advanced mode has no length field.

①Start business

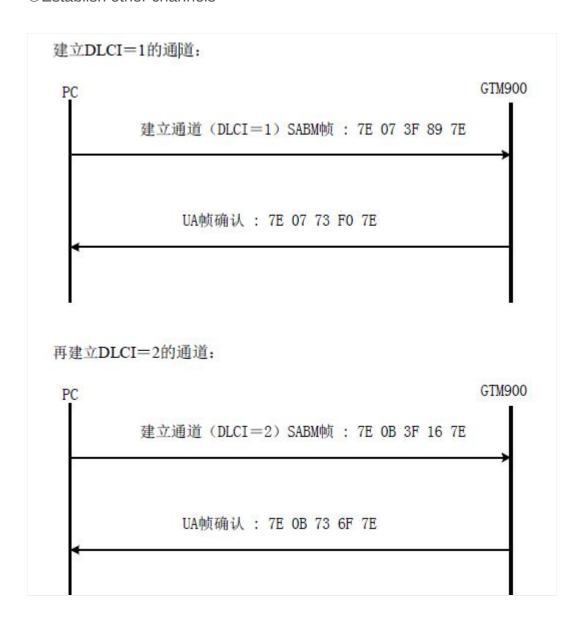


②Establish a control channel

After starting multiplexing, then a control channel (DLCI=0) needs to be established to control the multiplexing parameters.



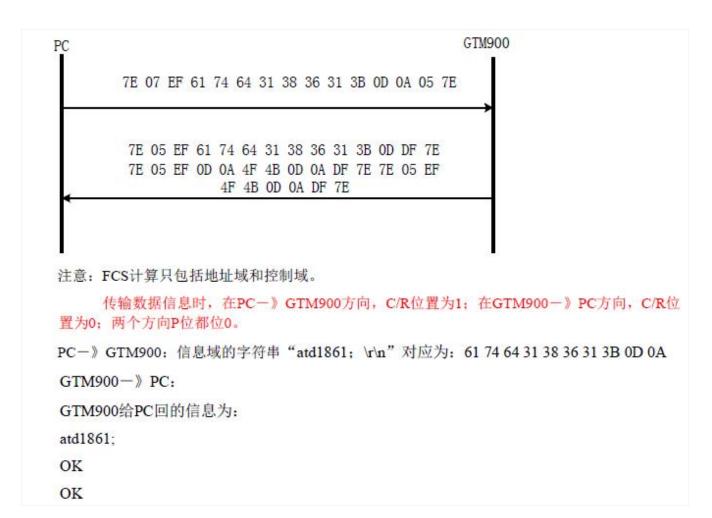
③Establish other channels



Transfer data

After the logical channel is established, UIH can be used for data transmission. The following describes the data transmission method, using the channel with DLCI=1 to transmit data as an example, other channels are similar.

For example, to transmit AT commands, directly pack the string "atd1861;\r\n" into the information field of the UIH frame, as shown below:



⑤ Release business

Release the channel with DLCI=1:



Release the channel with DLCI=2:



abnormal situation:

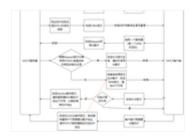


6 Close business

Releasing the channel with DLCI=0 is equivalent to closing the multiplex service and returning to the AT command mode under normal conditions.



Intelligent Recommendation



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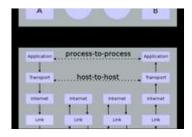
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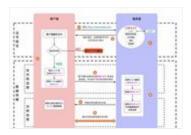
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