Mobile Cellular Communications (5G)

I. Objectives

The objectives of this laboratory are:

- Identify configuration parameters required for the different components
- Understand the main procedures in a mobile cellular (5G) at the control and data planes by running opensource implementations of the main components

II. Duration

This laboratory should last 2h30.

III. Used tools

This laboratory will use:

- a) An opensource implementation of a 5G Core: Free5GC [free5Gcore]
- b) A gNB and UE opensource implementation: UERANSIM [ueransim]
- c) A VirtualBox VM with both components already installed in the laboratory PCs
- d) Wireshark also installed in the laboratory PCs

The VM is also available via SSH at port 2222 for user 'ubuntu' (e.g. 'ssh -p 222 ubuntu@localhost', from the hosting machine); password is 'ubuntu' for users 'ubuntu' and root.

IV. Network diagram

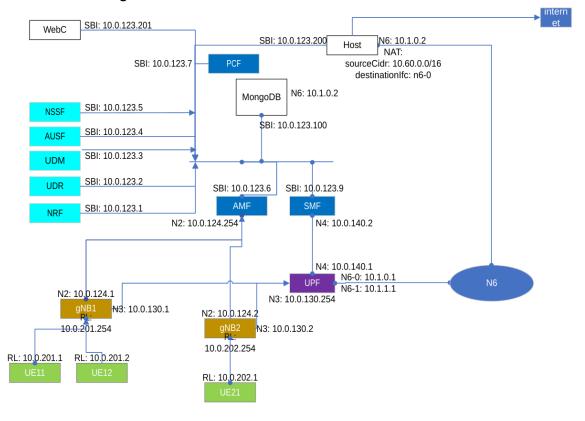


Figure 1: Network diagram

Notes:

- 1. 5G Core components are represented by dark and light blue boxes, gNBs by brown boxes and UEs by green boxes
- 2. With UERANSIM, the 5G-NR radio interface ('Radio Link') is emulated over UDP between the UEs (11, 12 and 21, green boxes) and the gNBs (gNB1 and gNB2) they are connected to.
- 3. IP addresses:
 - a. 10.0.123.0/24: SBI; Core components, Web Console and DB (control plane)
 - b. 10.0.124.0/24: N2 interfaces (control plane)
 - c. 10.0.130.0/24: N3 interfaces (data plane)
 - d. 10.0.140.0/24: N4 interfaces (control plane)
 - e. 10.0.20[1|2].0/24: radio interfaces emulation
 - f. 10.1.[1|2].0/24: N6 DNNs (data plane)
- 4. Via the 'Host', emulated UEs can reach the Internet A *hosts* file has been added to Wireshark (/root/.config/wireshark) for IP addresses resolution so that Wireshark presents components' names instead of IP addresses and you can better interpret the messages exchange (see that file contents in Annex F at the end).
- 5. The shown MongoDB in the diagram component serves as persistent data repository for the other components while the network is running.

V. Procedure

During the laboratory execution (VirtualBox Virtual Machine), the 5G network components will be started and stop following this order:

5G Network: 5G Core (2) -> gNB1 (3.3) -> gNB2 (3.5) ->
 UEs creation: -> UE provisioning at the 5G Core (4.2) ->
 UEs start: -> UE11 (4.4) -> UE12 (5.5) -> UE21 (5.7) ->

4. Stop the system: -> UEs, gNBs and 5G Core (8.1 and 8.3)

Linux Namespaces are used to have each of the nine 5GC Network Functions (AMF, AUSF, NRF, NSSF, PCF, SMF, UDM, UDR, UPF) running inside its own namespace [konrad]. This allows the usage of Wireshark (shall be started with 'sudo') to capture traffic packets exchanged between any two NF, on their own interfaces (you will next figure when selecting capturing interfaces after 5G Core components have been started).

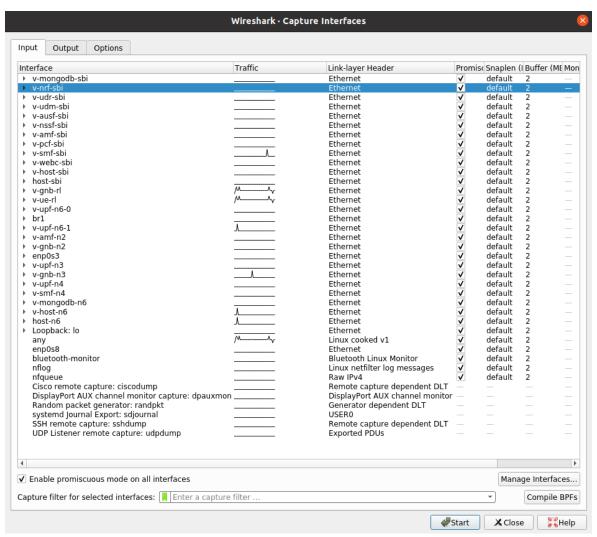


Figure 2: Logical interfaces as seen in Wireshark, after 5G Core start

1. Configurations analysis

- 1) Analyse the yaml configuration files in the list below (1.1.a), located in folder ~/5GLab/netns5g/config (you may open them with the File Manager) and search for the listed configuration parameters in 1.1.b.
 - a. Files:
 - i. 5G Core: amfcfg.yaml, smfcfg.yaml, upfcfg.yaml
 - ii. 5G RAN: free5gc-gnb1.yaml, free5gc-gnb2.yaml
 - iii. 5G UEs:
 - free5gc-ue11.yaml
 - free5gc-ue12-sl1.yaml, free5gc-ue12-sl2.yaml
 - free5gc-ue21.yaml
 - b. Parameters:
 - i. MCC and MNC

001 and ?

ii. NR Cell Identities and TACs

0x00000010, ? and?

iii. Supported slices at gNB1 and gNB2 (SST+SD)

Slice1: 0x1 and ?; Slice2: ? and 0x112233

iv. Supported DNN

internet

V. List of SUPIs (UE11, UE12 and UE21)

imsi-00101000000011, imsi-00101000000012 and imsi-0010100000002

2. 5GC start

- 1) Open a terminal window
- Change to directory (~5GLab/netns5g) containing the scripts needed to setup and run the 5G environment
- 3) Initialize environment (create the namespaces and the virtual interfaces)
 - ~/5GLab/netns5G\$ sudo ./5Gsetup.sh

(check its contents; it enables routing, creates nat and forwarding rules, stops firewalling and calls another script that creates the ns and links)

4) Check created namespaces and connecting links

~/5GLab/netns5G\$ sudo ip netns – lists created namespaces

16 namespaces, numbered 0 to 15, one for each of the components shown in the figure above, except the 'Host'

~/5GLab/netns5G\$ sudo ip link – lists created links

33 links are listed, numbered 0 to 57

5) Start a Wireshark capture in the interface 'br1' (this will capture all the traffic; you can start other Wireshark instances at specific interfaces, e.g. 'v-amf-sbi')

~/5GLab/netns5G\$ sudo wireshark &

6) Start the 5G Core (free5gc)

~/5GLab/netns5G\$ sudo ./5Gstart.sh

At this point 5G Core Network Functions have started, each in its own namespace.



Observe the script output and identify the order by which 5G Core components have been started.

Order: NRF, UDR, UDM, AUSF, NSSF, AMF, PCF, UPF, SMF, WebUI

Observe the successive interactions with NRF; what is that for?

To register against the NRF (remember the NRF role)

Related the order appear with the existing inter dependencies.

7) Stop the capture and identify the involved protocols (to facilitate it, order the capture by the 'Protocol' column by pressing the respective column top); which of those are specific 5G Core protocols?

Protocols: ARP, HTTP2, ICMPv6, MDNS, PFCP, TCP 5G protocols: PFCP and, indirectly, HTTP2

8) Identify the dialogs for the 5G protocols (suggestion: apply a display filter to those protocols and chech the involved entities)

HTTP2: NRF and all the others, as origin or destination PFCP: SMF and UPF

3. gNBs start

- 1) Open a (new) terminal window/tab
- 2) (re)Start Wireshark and start capturing in interface br1 (do not stop wireshark until the end of this section, step 3.7)

\$ sudo wireshark

Capture -> Options -> select 'br1'

3) From the same directory, start the first gNB (gNB1)

~/5GLab/netns5G\$./GNB1start.sh

- 4) In the live Wireshark capture, observe/note the following:
 - a. Repeat the identification of the involved protocols and the specific 5G ones

```
All: ARP, NGAP, SCTP, SSL and TCP 5G: NGAP, SCTP
```

- b. The SCTP connection setup and later the exchanged heartbeats (suggestion: filter the displayed packets by identified 5G protocols)
- c. Identify the involved entities

```
NGAP: gNB1-N2 and AMF-N2 SCTP: gNB1-N2 and AMF-N2
```

- d. Detail to the maximum extent, in the Packet Details window, the NGsetupRequest and NGsetupResponse messages (with mouse right button in 'Packet Details', select 'Expand Subtres'); Confirm observed values with the ones obtained from the configuration files analysis
- 5) Start the second gNB (gNB2)

```
~/5GLab/netns5G$ ./GNB2start.yaml
```

6) In the live Wireshark compare the new *NGsetupRequest* and *NGsetupResponse* messages with previous ones (gBN1) (suggestion: apply a display filter for the NGCP protocol only and order the capture by the 'Info' column and then move the two pairs of captured packets)

Cell identifiers and the supported slices are different between the two cells

7) Observe the logs in the screen (Core, gNB1 and gNB2) and logfiles in: ~/5GLab/netns5g/logs (suggestion: use the 'Files' application to see and open the most recent files, the ones generated until now, executing this 5G Lab)

4. UE creation, registration and default PDU creation

- 1) Open the Free5GC Web Console from the web browser:
 - a. http://10.0.123.201:5000
 - b. credentials: 'admin'/'free5gc'
- 2) Create the 3 UEs from the table below ('New Subscriber'; see screen capture in the Annexes):

	UE11	UE12	UE21
PLMN ID (MCC/MNC)	00101	00101	00101
SUPI (IMSI)	0010100000000 11	00101000000001 2	001010000000021
SST/SD	1/010203 (sl1)	1/010203 (sl1)	1/010203 (sl1)
		2/112233 (sl2)	
DNN	internet	internet	internet
UL/DL AMBR	10/20 Mbps	100/200 Mbps	1/2 Mbps
5QI	9	9	9
Note	Will connect to gNB1	Will connect to gNB1	Will connect to gNB2

Notes:

- 1) Only change the parameters shown in the table and if required
 - a. do not change: Authentication method, K*, Operator Code Type, Operator Code Value*, and SQN*)
 - b. you may search and interpret the other parameters.
- 2) In the Free5GC "New Subscriber" form, delete the second appearing S-NSSAI (Single Network Slice Selection Assistance Information) and the second DNN ('internet2')
- 3) Restart Wireshark, keeping the capture in the same interface ('br1')
- 4) Start the first UE (UE11)
 - ~/5GLab/netns5G\$./UE11start.yaml

- 5) Observe the states the UE went through, during the process; observe the other messages and its sequence
- 6) Observe the creation of the new TUN interface ('uesimtun0'); in a new terminal window, you can check the creation of this interface in namespace 'ue11' and note its IP address (10.60.0.2, in the example)
 - ~/5GLab/netns5G\$ sudo ip netns exec ue11 ip addr

This interface will be used to exchange the traffic via the 5G network.

 Order the Wireshark displayed capture by 'Protocol' (press the respective column name) and list the relevant protocols

ARP, HTTP2/NAS-5GS, HTTP2/NAS-5GS/NGAP, HTTP2/NGAP, NGAP/NAS-5GS, PFCP. SCLP. SSL. SSLv2. TCP. UDP

- 7) Go to 'Statistics' and select 'Conversations' in Wireshark, order by 'IPv4 24' and enable 'Name resolution'; observe the 5G dialogs, ordering by 'Address A' and 'Address B'
- 8) Apply a Display Filter to see just NGAP, SCTP and PFCP protocols ("ngap or pfcp or sctp")
 - Identify the involved 5G control functions (IP addresses are already translated to the functional entity interface, according to the diagram above); identify the dialogs UE-AMF, AMF-SMF, SMF-UPF and their sequence
 - b. Observe the sequence of exchanged messages, looking into their details in the Packet Details window (see, for instance, the 'PFCP Session Establishment Request' and compare with message 'PFCP Session Modification Request')
 - c. You may filter the display of messages by protocol and pair of entities, filtering the protocol and their IP addresses (e.g. for HTTP2 between AMF and AUSF: "ip.addr==10.0.123.4 and ip.addr==10.0.123.6) and http2")

5. Connectivity

- 1) Start a Wireshark capture in the interface 'upf-n3' and another capture in the interface 'upf-n6-0'
- 2) Apply a Display Filter to see protocols GTP and ICMP
- 3) In a terminal window, start a ping to 8.8.8.8 from UE11

~/5GLab/netns5G\$ sudo ip netns exec ue11 ping 8.8.8.8 -I uesimtun0

- 4) Analyse, in the Wireshark Packet Details, the GTP encapsulation
 - Observe the Tunnel Endpoint IDentifier (TEID) in both directions of the communication
- 5) In a new Terminal Window/Tab, Start UE12 ~/5GLab/netns5G\$./UE12start-sl1.yaml (check the contents of file ./config/free5gc-ue12-sl1.yaml)
- 6) Make a ping from UE11 to UE12

~/5GLab/netns5G\$ sudo ip netns exec ue11 ping <U12 IP addr> -I uesimtun0

- Analyse the observed GTP packets
- 8) Make a ping from UE12 to UE21 and observe the exchanged packets at the UPF

6. QoS

- 1) Open a new terminal window
- 2) Start an iperf3 server at the DNN

```
$ iperf3 -s
```

3) Check the TUN interface name and assigned IP address

\$ sudo ip netns exec ue11 ip addr

4) Start an iperf3 client at UE11 towards the server instance and register the achieved bandwidth in the UL and DL directions

```
$ sudo ip netns exec ue11 iperf3 -c 10.1.0.2 -B <ue11 IP address> -- uplink
$ sudo ip netns exec ue11 iperf3 -c 10.1.0.2 -R -B <ue11 IP address> -- downlink
```

5) Repeat previous measurements with the other two UEs (UE12 and UE21) and compare the results

7. Slicing

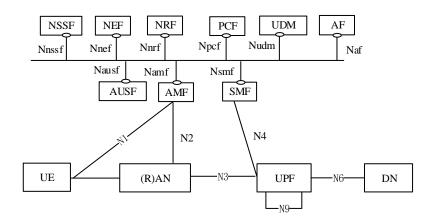
- 1) Stop UE12 (Ctrl-C)
- 2) Restart UE12, now in the second slice (2/112233) with a new configuration file and check the results ~/5GLab/netns5G\$./UE12start-sl2.yaml (check the contents of file ./config/free5gc-ue12-sl2.yaml)
- 3) Observe the newly assigned IP address; what are the changes?
- 4) Make a ping from UE11 to UE12, now in different slices and observe the exchanged packets at the UPF; Is there connectivity?
 - a. Check routing at the UPF namespace
 - \$ sudo ip netns exec upf ip route
 - b. Add a new route in the UPF namespace\$ sudo ip netns exec upf ip route add 10.61.0.0./24 dev upfgtp
- 5) Repeat the ping above.

8. Stop and reset the environment

- 1) Stop the the UEs, gNB nodes (Ctrl-C), and the 5G Core
- 2) Wait for final processes to close (this takes some seconds, ending with "NRF terminated")
- 3) Delete the namespaces
 - ~/5GLab/netns5G\$ sudo ./5Gcleanup.sh

Anexes

A. 5G System architecture



B. Example procedure

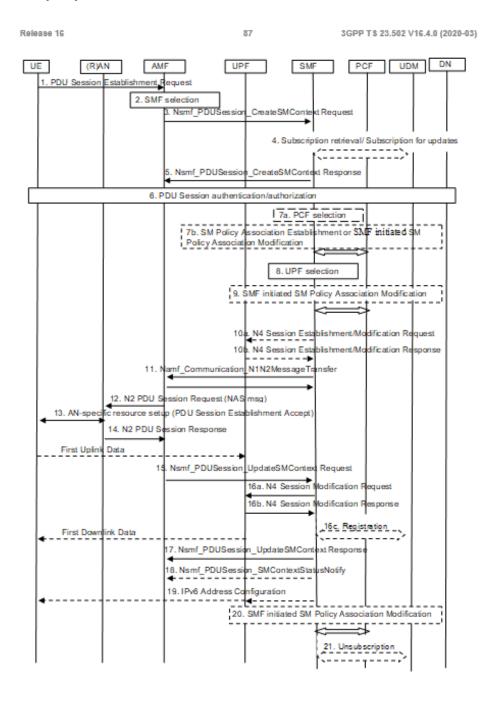
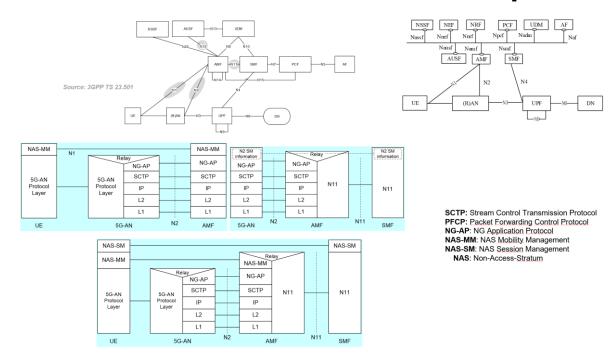


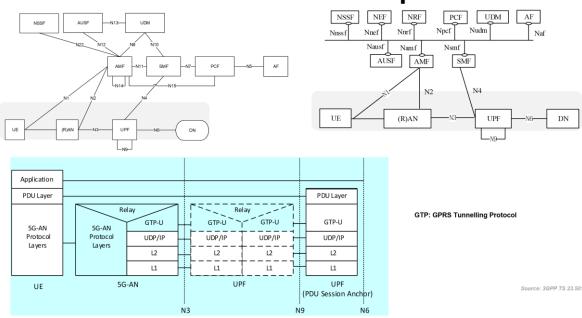
Figure 4.3.2.2.1-1: UE-requested PDU Session Establishment for non-roaming and roaming with local breakout

C. 5G Protocol stacks

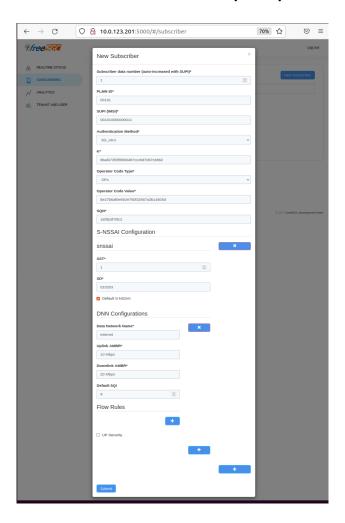
Protocol stacks - control plane



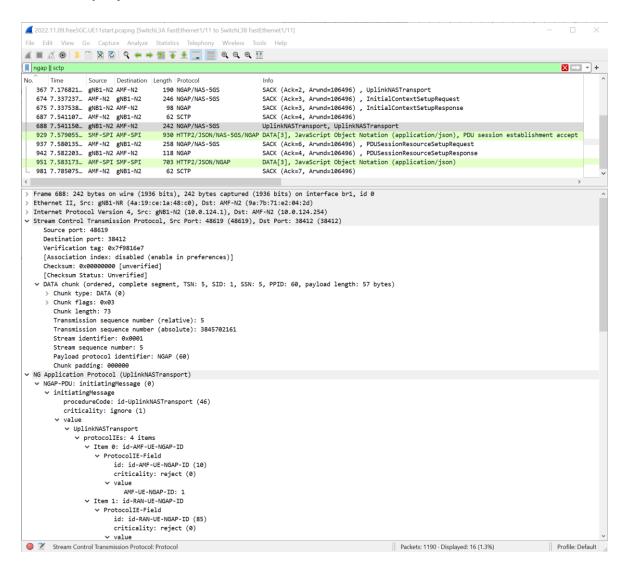
Protocol stacks - user plane



D. Free5GC New Subscriber creation form (UE11)



E. Example of capture with Wireshark, with addresses resolution and display filter



```
Frame 937: 258 bytes on wire (2064 bits), 258 bytes captured (2064 bits) on interface brl, id 0 Ethernet II, Src: AMF-N2 (9a:7b:71:e2:04:2d), Dst: gNB1-NR (4a:19:ce:1a:48:c0)
Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: AMF-N2 (10.0.124.254), Dst: gNB1-N2 (10.0.124.1)
Stream Control Transmission Protocol, Src Port: 38412 (38412), Dst Port: 48619 (48619)
NG Application Protocol (PDUSessionResourceSetupRequest)
              ν NGAP-PDU: initiatingMessage (θ)
                      NGMY-PUU: initiating/wessage (e)

vinitiating/wessage

procedureCode: id-PDUSessionResourceSetup (29)

criticality: reject (0)

value

> PDUSessionResourceSetupRequest

✓ protocolIEs: 4 items
✓ Item 0: id-AMF-UE-NGAP-ID
                                                                     ✓ ProtocolIE-Field
id: id-AMF-UE-NGAP-ID (10)
criticality: reject (0)
                                                            value

AMF-UE-NGAP-ID: 1

V Item 1: id-RAN-UE-NGAP-ID
                                                                       ProtocolIE-Field
  id: id-RAN-UE-NGAP-ID (85)
  criticality: reject (0)
                                                             value
RAN-UE-NGAP-ID: 1

✓ Item 2: id-PDUSessionResourceSetupListSUReq

    ProtocolIE-Field
    id: id-PDUSessionResourceSetupListSUReq (74)
    criticality: reject (0)

→ PDUSessionResourceSetupListSUReq: 1 item

                                                                                                   v Item 0

→ PDUSessionResourceSetupItemSUReq

                                                                                                                   PDUSessionResourceSetupItemSUReq
pDUSessionRD: 1

> pDUSessionRMS-PDU: 7e82cad24c2ae27e0e68010e432e0101c21100e0901000631310101ff090606001406000a...

> Non-Access-Stratum 565 (NAS)PDU

> Security protected NAS 565 message

Extended protocol discriminator: 56 mobility management messages (126)

0000 ... = Spare Half Octet: 0

... 0010 = Security headen type: Integrity protected and ciphered (2)

Message authentication code: 0xcad24c2a

Sequence number: 2
                                                                                                                                                           Sequence number: 2
                                                                                                                                                Encrypted data

✓ s-NSSAI

                                                                                                                       sST: 01
sD: 010203

pDUSessionResourceSetupRequestTransfer: 0000040082000990c01312d0020989680008b000a01f00a0082fe00000001008600010000...

▼ PDUSessionResourceSetupRequestTransfer

→ protocolIEs: 4 items

                                                                                                                                                  protocolars: a 'terobusessionAggregateMaximumBitRate

> ProtocolIE-Field
id: id-PDUSessionAggregateMaximumBitRate (130)
    criticality: reject (0)

y value

y PDUSessionAggregateMaximumBitRate

y PDUSessionAggregateMaximumBitRate

y value

y PDUSessionAggregateMaximumBitRate

y value

y value

y PDUSessionAggregateMaximumBitRate

y value

y value

y PDUSessionAggregateMaximumBitRate

y value

y 
                                                                                                                                                  ➤ PDUSessionAggregateNavinumBitRate
pDUSessionAggregateNavimumBitRateDL: 20000000bits/s
pDUSessionAggregateNavimumBitRateUL: 10000000bits/s
➤ Item 1: id-UL-NGU-UP-TNLInformation
➤ ProtocolTE-Field
id: id-UL-NGU-UP-TNLInformation (139)
                                                                                                                                                                               criticality: reject (0)
                                                                                                                                                                              value

V UPTransportLayerInformation: gTPTunnel (0)

Y gTPTunnel

TransportLayerAddress: 0a0082fe [bit length 32, 0000 1010 0000 0000 1000 0010 1111 1110 decimal value 167805694]

TransportLayerAddress (IPv4): 10.0.130.254 (10.0.130.254)
                                                                                                                                                                                                         gTP-TEID: 00000001

✓ Item 2: id-PDUSessionType

                                                                                                                                                                    ProtocolIE-Field
id: id-PDUSessionType (134)
criticality: reject (0)

√ value

                                                                                                                                                  value
   PUDSessionType: ipv4 (0)
v Item 3: id-QosFlowSetupRequestList
v ProtocolIE-Field
   id: id-QosFlowSetupRequestList (136)
   criticality: reject (0)

√ value

    ✓ QosFlowSetupRequestList: 1 item
    ✓ Item 0

                                                                                                                                                                                                   V QosFlowSetupRequestItem
qosFlowIdentifier: 9
v qosFlowLevelQosParameters
                                                                                                                                                                                                                   qosFiouN.evelQosParameters
v qoscharacteristics: nonDynamic5QI (0)
v nonDynamic5QI
fiveQI: 9
allocationAndRetentionPriority
priorityLevelARP: 15
pre-emptionCapability: shall-not-trigger-pre-emption (0)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       pre-emptionVulnerability: not-pre-emptable (0)
                                                             v Item 3: id-UEAggregateMaximumBitRate
v ProtocolTE-Field
id: id-UEAggregateMaximumBitRate (110)
criticality: ignore (1)

∨ UEAggregateMaximumBitRate

                                                                                                           uEAggregateMaximumBitRateDL: 2000000000bits/s
uEAggregateMaximumBitRateUL: 1000000000bits/s
Show packet bytes
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      Close Help
```

F. Hosts file

#5G Core 10.0.123.1 10.0.123.2 10.0.123.3 10.0.123.4 10.0.123.5 10.0.123.6 10.0.123.7 10.0.123.9 10.0.123.100 10.0.123.201	
10.0.124.254 10.0.124.1 10.0.124.2	AMF-N2 gNB1-N2 gNB2-N2
10.0.140.2 10.0.140.1	SMF-N4 UPF-N4
#5G dataplane 10.1.0.1 10.1.0.1	UPF-N6 Host-N6
#RAN1 10.0.201.1 10.0.201.2 10.0.201.254	UE11-NR UE12-NR gNB1-NR
#RAN2 10.0.202.1 10.0.202.254	UE11-NR gNB1-NR

G. Useful links

- Free5GC:
 - o [free5Gcore] https://www.free5gc.org/
 - o [free5gcwiki] https://github.com/free5gc/free5gc/wiki
 - [konrad] https://github.com/konradkar2/netns5g
- UERANSIM:
 - o [ueransim] https://github.com/aligungr/UERANSIM/wiki
- 3GPP
 - o [3gpp] https://www.3gpp.org