



PSA-defined standard metadata (in red)

IGPIM - psa_ingress_parser_input_metadata_t
 IGIM - psa_ingress_input_metadata_t
 IGOM - psa_ingress_output_metadata_t
 EGPIM - psa_egress_parser_input_metadata_t
 EGIM - psa_egress_input_metadata_t
 EGOM - psa_egress_output_metadata_t
 EGDIM - psa_egress_deparser_input_metadata_t

User-defined metadata (in green)

IGH - ingress headers
 IGM - ingress metadata
 EGH - egress headers
 EGM - egress metadata
 NM - normal metadata for unicast and multicast packets
 RESUBM - resubmit metadata
 RECIRCUM - recirculate metadata
 CI2EM - ingress-to-egress clone packet metadata
 CE2EM - egress-to-egress clone packet metadata

Notes on parameters with direction 'inout'

IGOM, EGOM - input for Ingress/Egress because all conforming PSA implementations must initialize a specified subset of the fields of this struct before Ingress/Egress processing begins, e.g. drop=false. See PSA spec for which fields, and initial values.

IGH, EGH, IGM, EGM are inout for Ingress and Egress because we want parsers to be able to assign values to them before Ingress/Egress start, and we want the modified values to pass through to the deparsers.

IGH, EGH - inout for the deparsers, not because the data goes anywhere else after the deparser is complete, but because direction 'in' in P4_16 prevents you from modifying a parameter inside of the control, and we wanted to permit the deparser code to update header checksums, e.g. for IPv4 headers, inside of the deparser code. If P4_16 had a direction that meant "input only, but you are allowed to modify your copy locally", we would have used that for headers into the deparsers.

IGM, EGM - inout for the parsers, I believe because we wanted to allow some PSA implementations to initialize the user-defined metadata (some or all of the fields) for the developer, without requiring them to initialize everything themselves in P4 code.