

Steps to connect to network

UE states

QoS Model

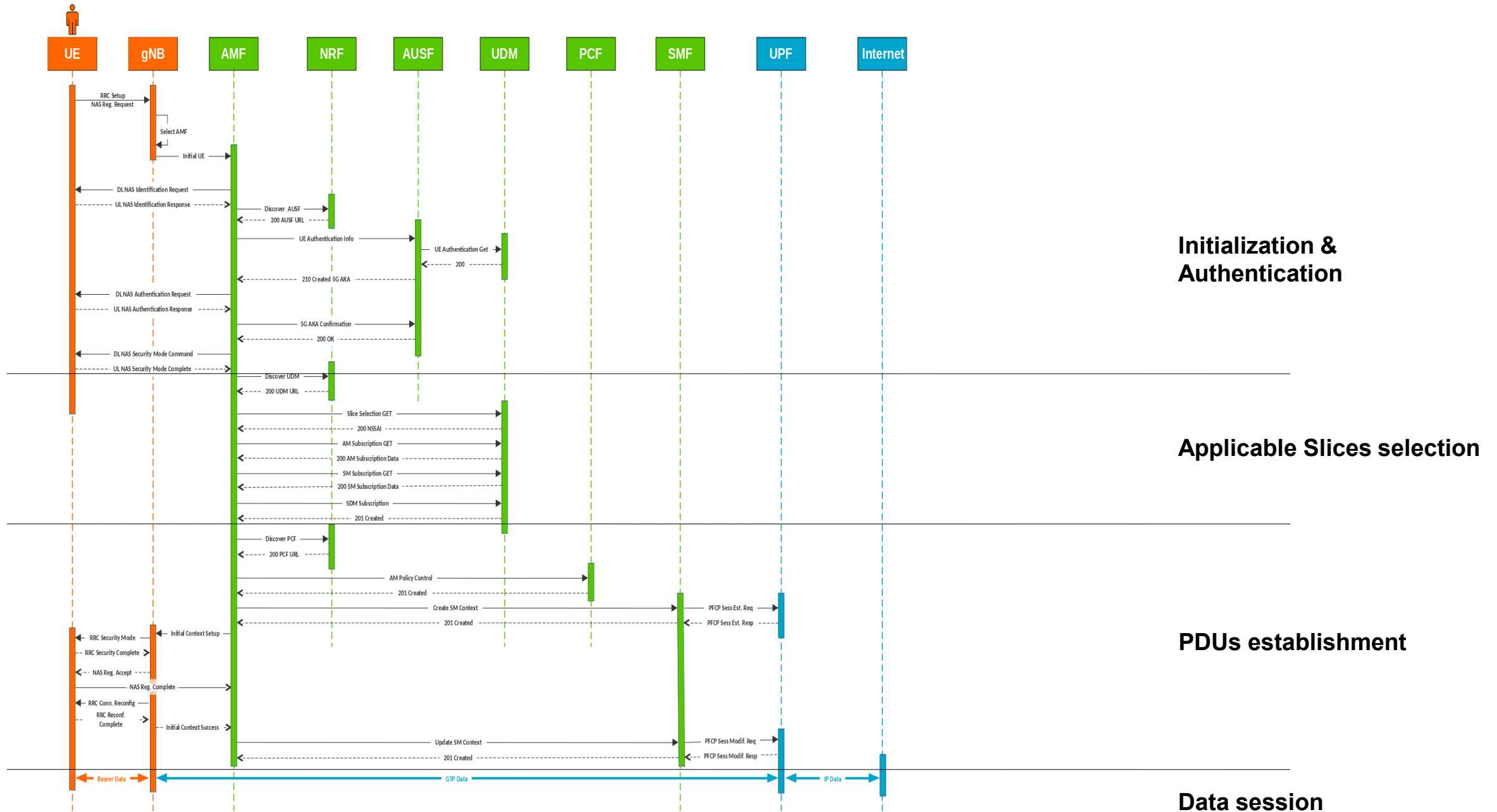
Main 5G PDU Procedures

5G Core Procedures

3GPP, TS 23.502, “Procedures for the 5G System (5GS)”

4 System procedures
4.1 General
4.2 Connection, Registration and Mobility Management procedures
4.3 Session Management procedures
4.4 SMF and UPF interactions
4.5 User Profile management procedures
4.6 Security procedures
4.7 ME Identity check procedure
4.8 RAN-CN interactions
4.9 Handover procedures
4.10 NG-RAN Location reporting procedures
4.11 System interworking procedures with EPC
4.12 Procedures for Untrusted non-3GPP access
4.12a Procedures for Trusted non-3GPP access
4.12b Procedures for devices that do not support 5GC NAS over WLAN access
4.13 Specific services
4.14 Support for Dual Connectivity
4.15 Network Exposure
4.16 Procedures and flows for Policy Framework
4.17 Network Function Service Framework Procedure
4.18 Procedures for Management of PFDs
4.19 Network Data Analytics
4.20 UE Parameters Update via UDM Control Plane Procedure
4.21 Secondary RAT Usage Data Reporting Procedure
4.22 ATSSS Procedures
4.23 Support of deployments topologies with specific SMF Service Areas
4.24 Procedures for UPF Anchored Data Transport in Control Plane CIoT 5GS Optimisation
4.25 Procedures for NEF based Non-IP Data Delivery
4.26 Network Function/NF Service Context Transfer Procedures
4.27 Procedures for Enhanced Coverage Restriction Control via NEF

1. **Connection, Registration and Mobility Management procedures**
2. **Session Management**
 1. **PDU Session Establishment**
 2. **PDU Session Modification**
 3. **PDU Session Release**
 4. **Session continuity, service continuity and UP path management**
3. **Handover procedures**



Steps to achieve a data connection (PDU session)

1. Power-On and Initialization (UE)

- **Hardware Boot-Up:** Initializes baseband processor, RF front-end, memory, sensors, and GNSS
- **USIM Access:** Reads SUPI, PLMN lists, access class info, and subscription data
- **Protocol Stack Initialization:** Activates NR Layer 1–3, NAS, and RRC layers

2. PLMN Selection (UE ↔ gNB)

- **Automatic or Manual:** UE selects a *Public Land Mobile Network* (PLMN) either autonomously or via user input
- **SIB1 Decoding:** UE reads broadcast PLMN info from *System Information Block 1*
- **Forbidden PLMN Check:** Skips previously failed networks
- **Roaming and Access Barring:** Evaluates roaming permissions and barred cells

3. Frequency and Cell Search (UE ↔ gNB)

- **Frequency Scan:** UE scans supported NR bands for *Synchronization Signal Blocks* (SSBs)
 - *Stored List Search (SLS):* Uses previously stored frequencies
 - *Blind Search (DBS):* Scans all bands if no prior info is available
- **SSB Detection/Decoding:** UE detects *Synchronization Signal Blocks* (PSS, SSS, PBCH) to identify cell identity and timing

Steps to achieve a data connection (PDU session)

4. Cell Selection and Synchronization (UE ↔ gNB)

- **MIB and SIB Decoding:** UE decodes *Master Information Block* and other SIBs for cell configuration
- **Cell Suitability Check:** Determines if the cell is acceptable and suitable for camping
- **Initial Cell Selection:** Chooses the best cell based on signal strength and configuration

5. Random Access Procedure (RACH, Random Access Ch.) (UE ↔ gNB)

- UE performs contention-based access to establish initial connection
 - **MSG1:** PRACH (*Physical RACH*) Preamble (UE → gNB)
 - **MSG2:** *Random Access Response* (RAR) (gNB → UE)
 - **MSG3:** *RRC Connection Request* (UE → gNB)
 - **MSG4:** *RRC Connection Setup* (gNB → UE)
 - **RRC Connection Setup Complete** (UE → gNB)
- **Timing Advance and Resource Allocation:** gNB assigns uplink resources and timing correction

Steps to achieve a data connection (PDU session)

6. Registration and Authentication (UE ↔ gNB ↔ AMF)

- **Initial NAS Registration Request** (UE → AMF via gNB); UE sends identity and registration info to 5G Core (5GC)
 - Includes UE identity (SUCI), capabilities, and registration type.
- **Authentication Request / Response** (AMF ↔ UE)
 - Based on AKA (Authentication and Key Agreement) using USIM.
- **Security Mode Command / Complete** (AMF ↔ UE)
 - Mutual authentication and ciphering/integrity protection are established
 - Establishes ciphering and integrity protection
- **Registration Accept / Complete** (AMF ↔ UE)
 - UE is now registered with the 5G Core

7. PDU Session Establishment (UE ↔ gNB ↔ AMF ↔ SMF ↔ UPF)

- **Session Request:** UE requests a *Protocol Data Unit* (PDU) session for data connectivity
 - **NAS: PDU Session Establishment Request** (UE → AMF)
 - Includes desired DNN, S-NSSAI, and session type
- **SM Procedures:** Session Management configures QoS, IP address, and bearer setup
 - **Radio Resources Management:** Activate Dedicated Bearer (UE ↔ gNB)
 - **IP Address Assignment:** UE receives IP address from the 5GC (SMF)

8. IP Connectivity Achieved

- **Data Flow Enabled:** UE can now send/receive IP packets over the 5G network, via the UPF
- DNS resolution, internet access, and app traffic begin
- **Application Layer Access:** Internet services, apps, and cloud resources become available

This structured process ensures the UE is authenticated, resources and policies are provisioned, and the data path is configured end-to-end for secure and efficient 5G traffic

UE states in 5G: *Radio Resources Control (RRC)*

The three RRC states

They define the UE's connection status, power usage, and mobility management within the network.

RRC_IDLE: the UE does not have an RRC connection and is in its lowest power-saving mode

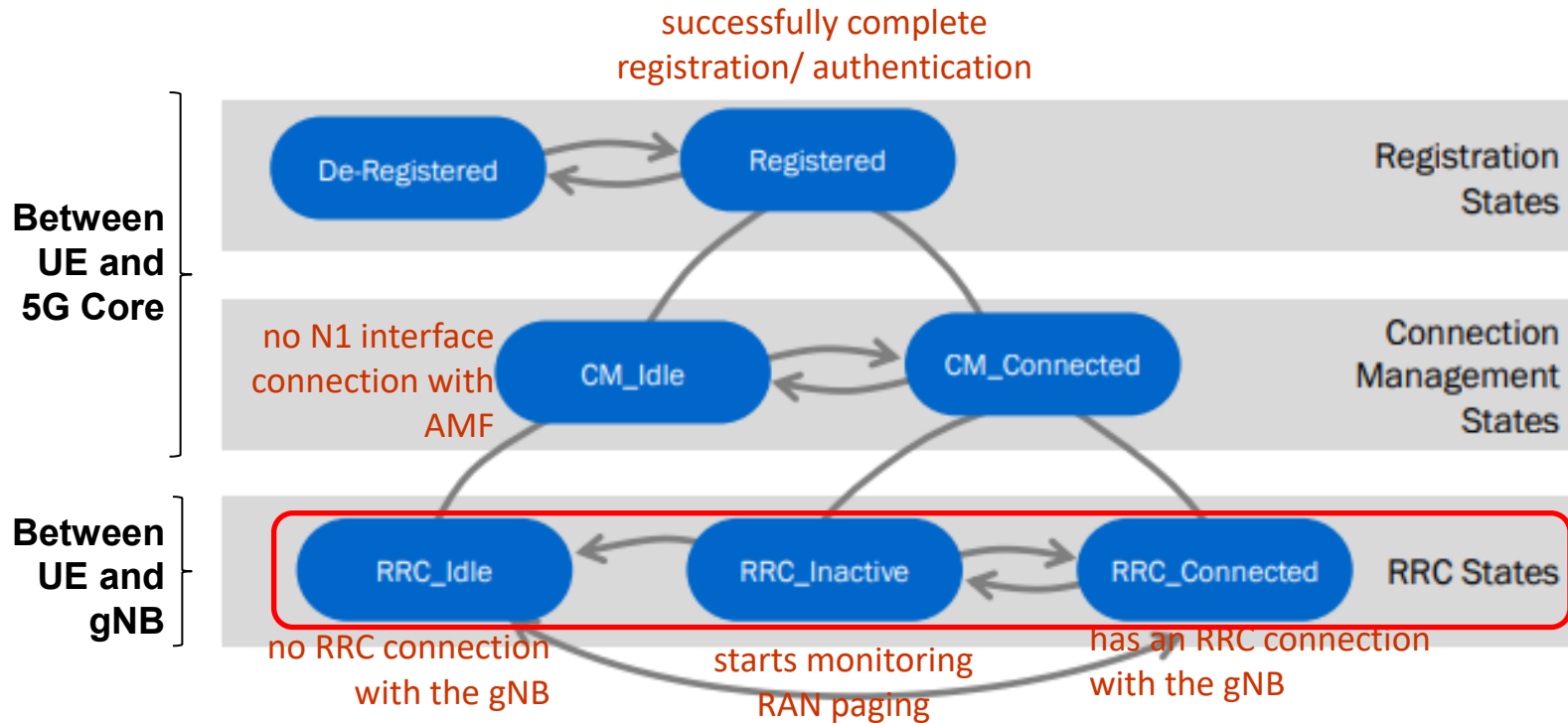
- It monitors a paging channel and can perform cell reselection independently
- Mobility is controlled by the UE, and its location is known only at the level of a large *Tracking Area (TA)*

RRC_INACTIVE: This power-saving state is unique to 5G

- Allows the UE to minimize power consumption by entering a dormant mode while keeping a stored context with the network
- Enables a very fast and efficient return to the connected state when needed, reducing latency and signaling overhead

RRC_CONNECTED: the UE has an active connection and can send and receive data

- It is constantly monitored by the network, and its mobility is controlled by the RAN
- This state provides the highest performance but consumes the most power



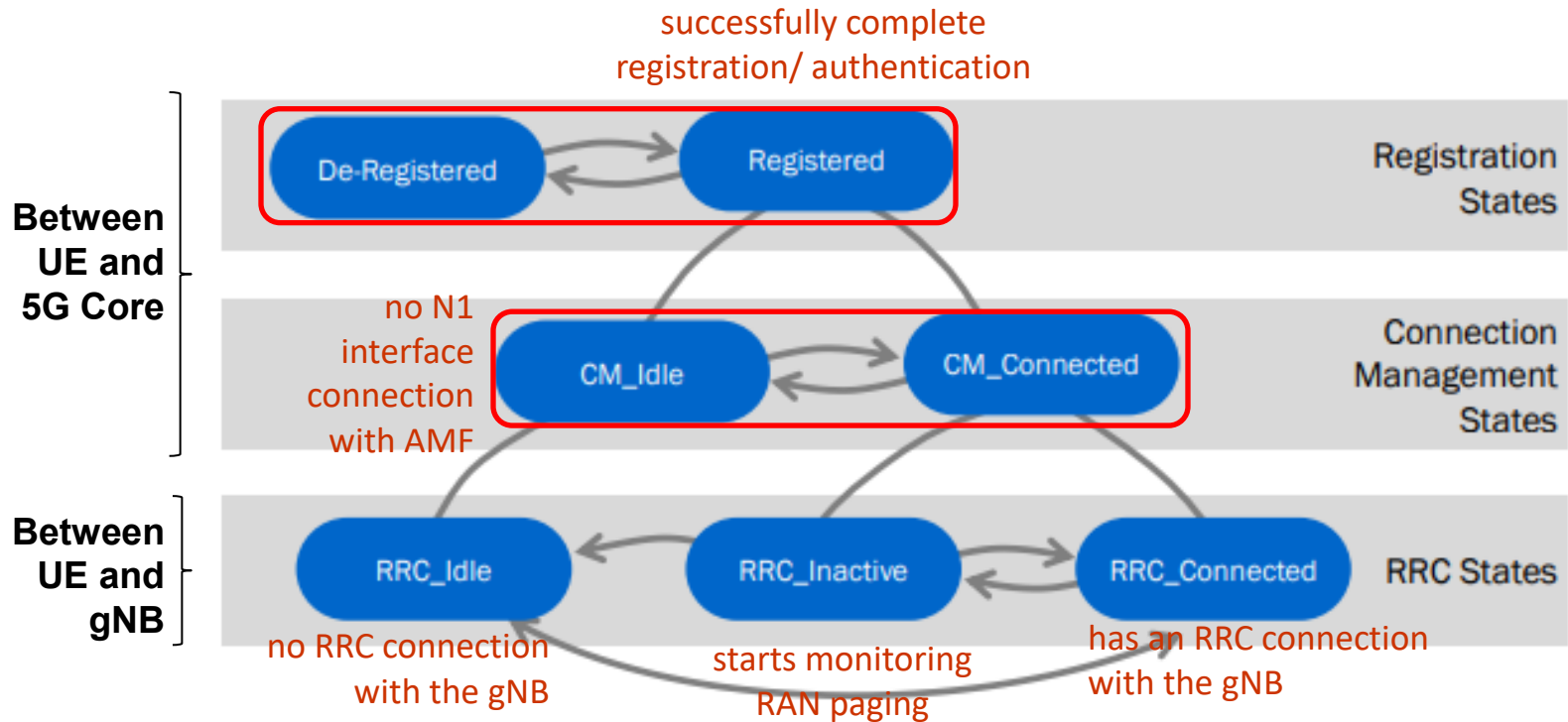
UE states in 5G: *Registration and Connections Mgmt* (RM & CM)

Connection Management (CM) states

- **CM_IDLE**: no *Non-Access Stratum* (NAS) connection with the core network
- **CM_CONNECTED**: with an active NAS connection (A UE in RRC_INACTIVE is still seen as being in CM_CONNECTED by the core network)

Registration Management (RM) states

- **RM-DEREGISTERED**: not registered with the 5G Core Network
- **RM-REGISTERED**: successfully authenticated and registered



RRC State transitions

- **Initial connection:** When the UE powers on, it starts in RRC_IDLE. It moves to RRC_CONNECTED via an "RRC Connection Setup" procedure.
- **From CONNECTED to INACTIVE:** If the UE has low data activity, the network can command it to transition to RRC_INACTIVE using an RRCRelease message.
- **From INACTIVE to CONNECTED:** The UE can resume its connection quickly by sending an RRCResumeRequest message, which uses its stored context.
- **From INACTIVE to IDLE:** This can happen if the resume procedure fails or the network releases the connection.

5G QoS

PDU Sessions and QoS Flows

PDU Sessions

- For each UE, the 5G Core Network (5GC) establishes one or more Protocol Data Unit (PDU) sessions for connectivity to a data network

QoS Flows

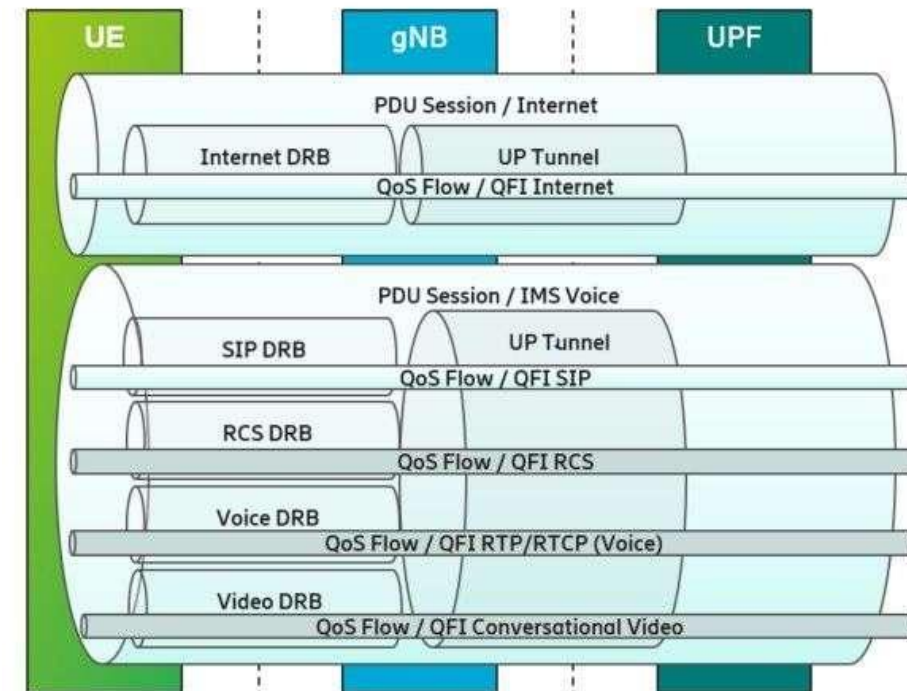
- Within a PDU session, one or more QoS Flows can exist, grouping packets with the same quality of service (QoS) requirements
- QoS flows are **Guaranteed Bit Rate** (GBR) or **non-GBR**
- The 5GC (UPF) and the UE use packet filters (based on IP addresses, port numbers, etc.) to map uplink and downlink traffic to the appropriate QoS Flow
- Each packet is marked with its unique *QoS Flow Identifier* (QFI) in the encapsulation header over the N3 interface (between gNB and UPF)
- A QoS Flow associated with the default QoS rule is required to be established for a PDU Session and remains established throughout the lifetime of the PDU Session; this QoS Flow should be a Non-GBR QoS Flow

Service Data Flows (SDF)

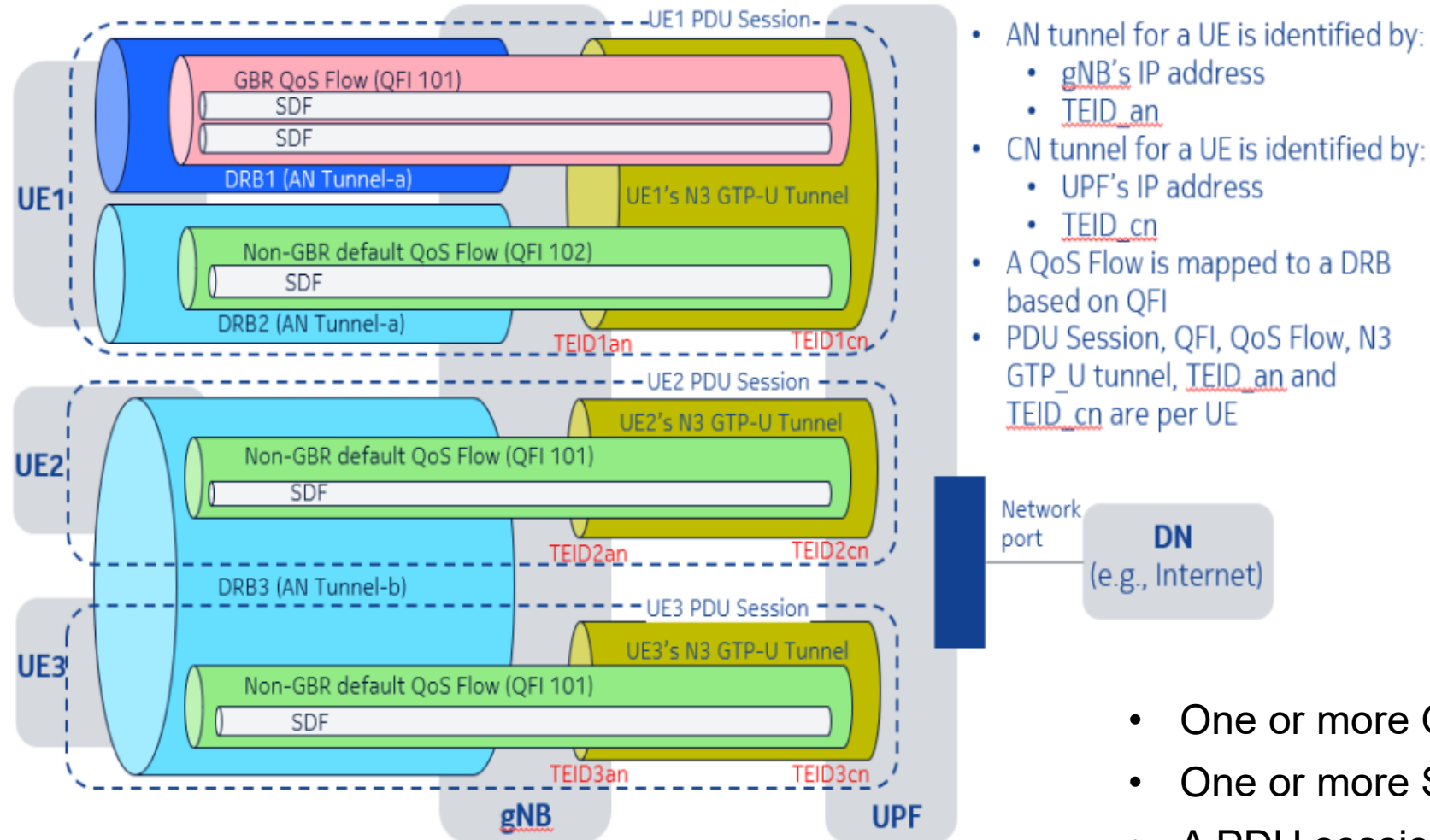
- Flow of packets which represent a service being delivered to a subscriber

Data Radio Bearers (DRBs)

- The RAN decides how to map the QoS Flows to DRBs over the radio interface (Uu)
- They are configured to meet specific quality of service (QoS) requirements; A DRB serves packets with the same packet forwarding treatment
- Multiple QoS Flows with the same forwarding requirements can be multiplexed onto a single DRB



PDU Sessions, QoS Flows and Service Data Flow



- AN tunnel for a UE is identified by:
 - gNB's IP address
 - TEID_an
- CN tunnel for a UE is identified by:
 - UPF's IP address
 - TEID_cn
- A QoS Flow is mapped to a DRB based on QFI
- PDU Session, QFI, QoS Flow, N3 GTP_U tunnel, TEID_an and TEID_cn are per UE

- One or more QoS Flow per PDU Session
- One or more SDF per QoS Flow
- A PDU session with multiple DRB
- A DRB shared by different PDU Sessions

SDF

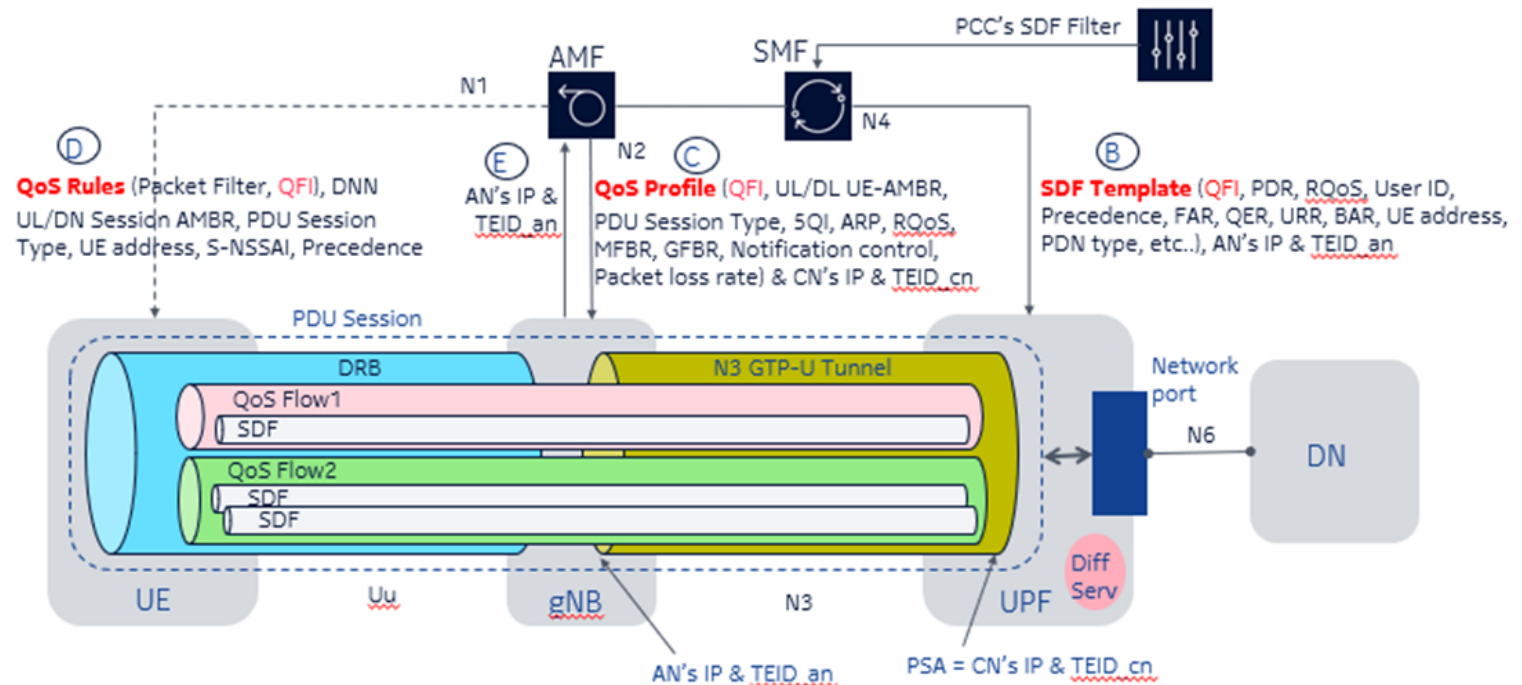
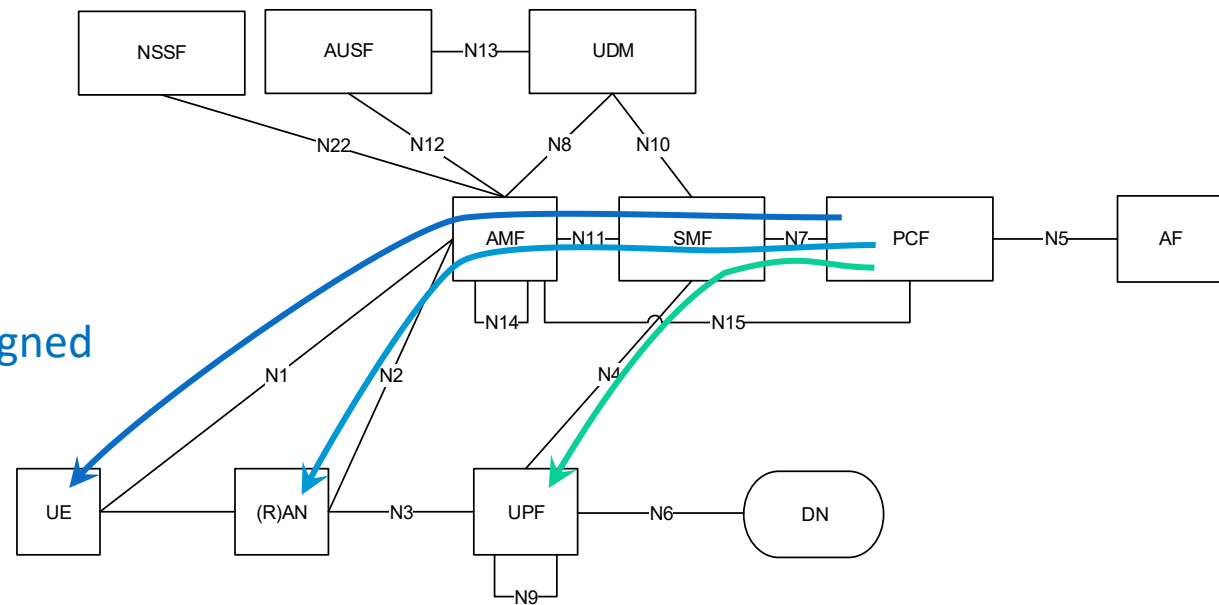


QoS Model: PCF role

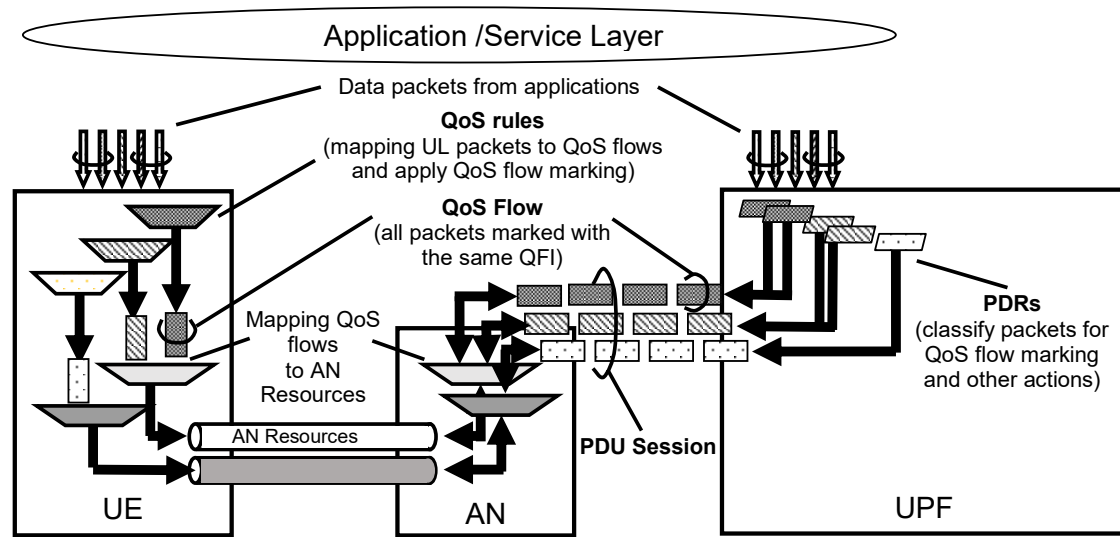
Policy Control

- The PCF manages and enforces QoS policies, interacting with the SMF to ensure consistent prioritization across the network based on the assigned 5QI values

- SDF Identification:** The SMF receives a PCC rule from PCF that defines an SDF
- PDR Creation:** The SMF creates one or more PDRs based on the PCC rule and installs them on the UPF, using PFCP
- Packet Classification:** When packets arrive at the UPF, they are matched against the PDRs
- QER Application:** The PDR for the matching SDF will include a QER that specifies the QoS treatment for that flow
- QoS Enforcement:** The UPF uses the QER to enforce the QoS, ensuring that the packet receives the correct quality of service treatment, such as being mapped to the correct QoS flow with the correct QFI

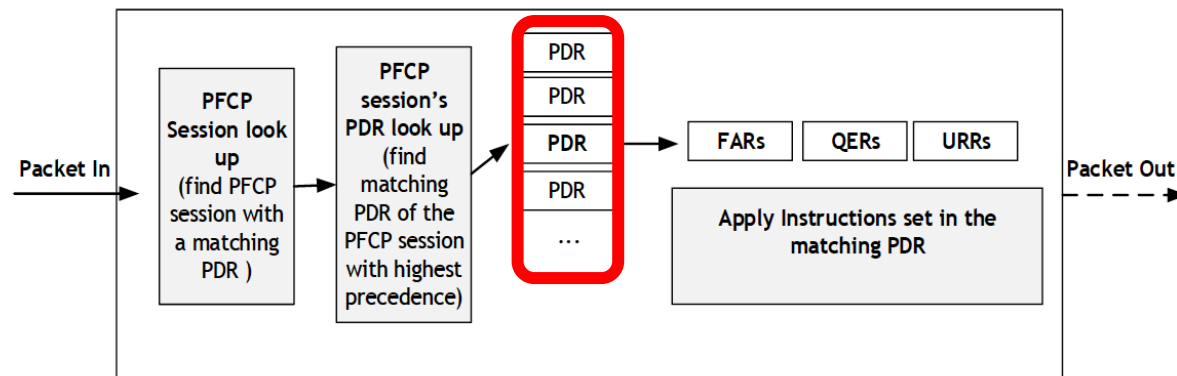


QoS Model

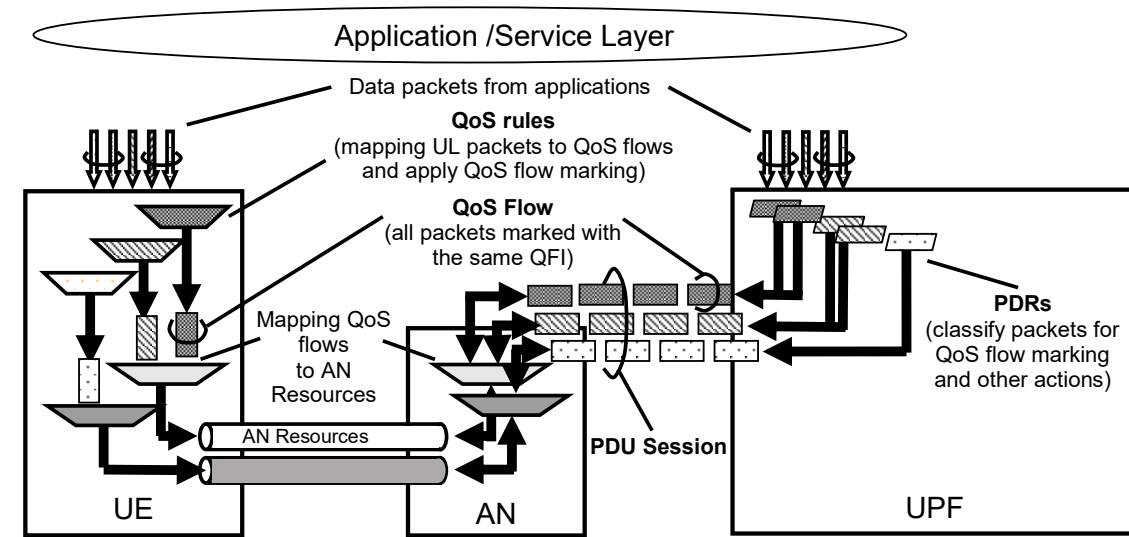


Packet Detection Rule (PDR)

- Instructs the UPF how to detect incoming user data traffic (PDUs) and how to classify the traffic
- The PDR contains Packet Detection Information (e.g., IP filters) used in the traffic detection and classification
- There are separate PDRs for uplink and downlink

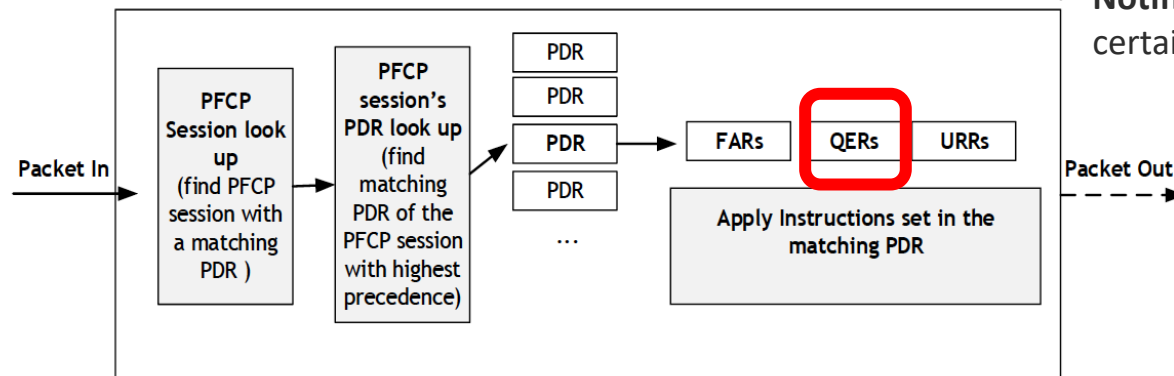


QoS Model



QoS Enforcement Rule (QER): This rule contains information on how to enforce QoS, e.g., bit rate parameters.

- **5G QoS Identifier (5QI):** identifies a specific set of QoS characteristics
- **Allocation and Retention Priority (ARP):** determine the priority of a QoS flow for allocation and retention during network congestion
- **Guaranteed Flow Bit Rate (GFBR):** guaranteed bit rate
- **Maximum Flow Bit Rate (MFBR):** The maximum bit rate that can be delivered
- **Packet Delay Budget (PDB):** maximum allowable delay for a data packet, applicable to GBR QoS flows
- **Packet Error Rate (PER):** maximum acceptable error rate for a data packet
- **Maximum Data Burst Volume (MDBV):** maximum amount of data that can be transmitted in a single burst; relevant for delay-critical GBR flows
- **Conform/Exceed Actions:** Actions to take when a data flow is within or exceeds the defined bit rate, such as conforming, exceeding, or discarding packets.
- **Flow Action:** action to be taken on a flow, which can include discarding uplink or downlink packets or terminating the flow
- **Notification Control:** Controls whether the user plane should be notified of certain events, such as exceeding a specific bit rate.



5G QoS parameters

The QoS profile of a QoS flow contains QoS parameters:

- For each QoS flow:
 - A *5G QoS Identifier* (5QI)
 - An *Allocation and Retention Priority* (ARP)
- In case of a GBR QoS flow only:
 - *Guaranteed Flow Bit Rate* (GFBR) for both uplink and downlink
 - *Maximum Flow Bit Rate* (MFBR) for both uplink and downlink
 - *Maximum Packet Loss Rate* for both uplink and downlink
- In case of Non-GBR QoS only:
 - *Reflective QoS Attribute* (RQA): the RQA, when included, indicates that some (not necessarily all) traffic carried on this QoS flow is subject to reflective quality of service (RQoS) at NAS

Standardized 5QI to QoS characteristics mapping

5QI Value	Resource Type	Priority Level	Packet Delay Budget	Packet Error Rate	Default Averaging Window	Example Services
1	GBR	20	100 ms	10^{-2}	TBD	Conversational Voice
2		40	150 ms	10^{-3}	TBD	Conversational Video (Live Streaming)
3		30	50 ms	10^{-3}	TBD	Real Time Gaming, V2X messages
4		50	300 ms	10^{-6}	TBD	Non-Conversational Video (Buffered Streaming)
65		7	75 ms	10^{-2}	TBD	Mission Critical user plane Push To Talk voice (e.g., MCPTT)
66		20	100 ms	10^{-2}	TBD	Non-Mission-Critical user plane Push To Talk voice
75		25	50 ms	10^{-2}	TBD	V2X messages
5	Non-GBR	10	100 ms	10^{-6}	N/A	IMS Signalling
6		60	300 ms	10^{-6}	N/A	Video (Buffered Streaming) TCP-based (e.g., www, e-mail, chat, ftp, p2p file sharing, progressive video, etc.)
7		70	100 ms	10^{-3}	N/A	Voice, Video (Live Streaming) Interactive Gaming
8		80	300 ms	10^{-6}	N/A	Video (Buffered Streaming) TCP-based (e.g., www, e-mail, chat, ftp, p2p file sharing, progressive video, etc.)
9		90			N/A	
69		5	60 ms	10^{-6}	N/A	Mission Critical delay sensitive signalling (e.g., MC-PTT signalling)
70		55	200 ms	10^{-6}	N/A	Mission Critical Data (e.g. example services are the same as QCI 6/8/9)
79		65	50 ms	10^{-2}	N/A	V2X messages
					N/A	

Authentication and registration

5G Authentication

- Primary authentication:
 - Mutual authentication between the UE and the network and provide keying material that can be used between the UE and the serving network in subsequent security procedures
 - There can be a secondary authentication, delegated to third parties (external networks)
- 5G introduces new authentication methods:
 - 5G-AKA (*Authentication and Key Agreement*)
 - EAP-AKA' (*Extensible Authentication Protocol*), for integration with other non-3GPP access networks
- Goals:
 - Stronger security
 - Improved privacy (e.g. SUPI protection)
 - Support for 3GPP and non-3GPP access

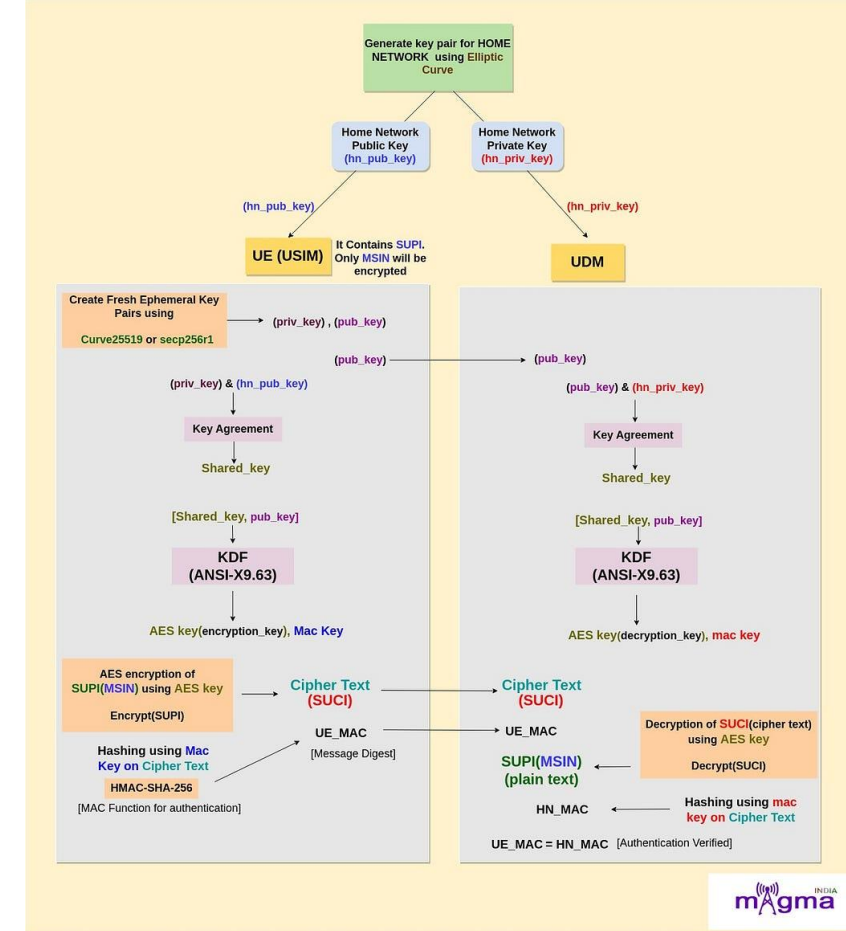
5G Security Features

- Mutual authentication (UE ↔ Network)
- SUPI never exposed in cleartext
 - SUPI (*Subscription Permanent Identifier*) = permanent identity
 - SUCI (*Subscription Concealed Identifier*) = encrypted SUPI
 - SUCI ensures SUPI is never exposed over the air
 - Prevents IMSI-catcher style attacks
- Authentication anchored in home network

Enhancements over previous generations

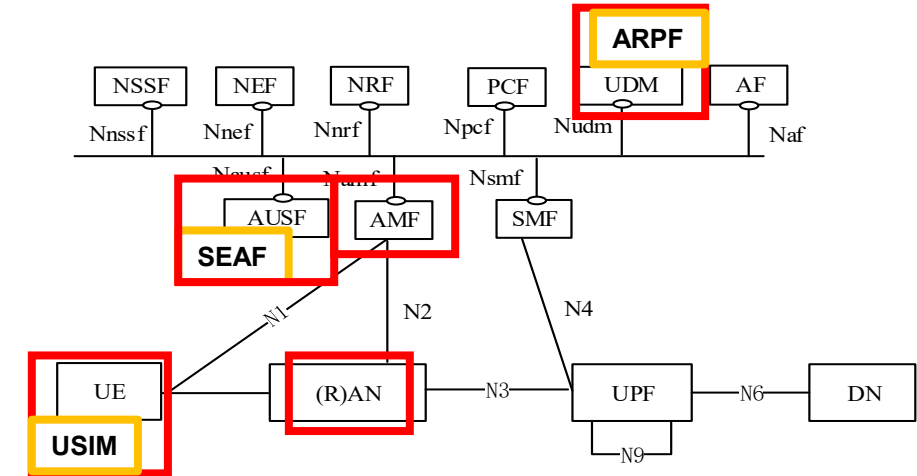
The 5G AKA process represents an improvement over older generations, particularly 4G:

- **Decentralized Authentication:** 5G distributes security functions across the network, reducing single points of failure and improving resilience
- **Home Network Control:** The home network plays a more active role in authentication decisions, improving oversight
- **Subscriber Privacy:** 5G encrypts the user's permanent identifier (SUPI) into a concealed identifier (SUCI), which prevents location tracking



Key Entities in 5G Authentication

- UE (User Equipment)
 - USIM (*Universal Subscriber Identity Module*)
- gNB (5G *Base Station*)
- AMF (*Access & Mobility Management Function*)
- AUSF (*Authentication Server Function*)
 - SEAF (*Security Anchor Function*)
- UDM (*Unified Data Management* / subscriber database)
 - ARPF (*Authentication Credential Repository and Processing Function*)



5G Security Parameters : K, OP/OPc, SQN

Key cryptographic components used in the 5G-AKA process to verify the user's identity and derive session keys

Crucial for preventing fraud and ensuring network and user data integrity

- **K (Subscriber's Secret Key)**

Long-term cryptographic key (128 or 256 bit) shared exclusively between the subscriber's USIM and the home network's UDM database

Root of trust from which all other session-specific keys are derived

- **OP (Operator Code)**

Operator identifier, used in combination with K and other parameters to generate authentication data

In previous generation, was often shared among all subscribers on a network, which was a security risk

- **OPc (Derived Operator Code)**

Derived, subscriber-specific operator code calculated by combining the original OP and the secret key K, used in Milenage and TUAK algorithms

Improves security by preventing attackers from using a single compromised key to attack multiple users

- **SQN (Sequence Number)**

Counter stored on both the USIM and in the home network's database, used during keys generation

Used to prevent replay attacks, where an attacker re-sends old authentication messages to impersonate a legitimate user

The image shows a web browser window displaying the 'New Subscriber' form in the Free5GC management interface. The browser address bar shows '10.0.123.201:5000/#/subscriber'. The form is divided into several sections. A yellow dashed box highlights the 'Subscriber data number (auto-increased with SUPI)*' field (value: 1), the 'PLMN ID*' field (value: 00101), the 'SUPI (IMSI)*' field (value: 001010000000011), the 'Authentication Method*' dropdown (selected: 5G_AKA), the 'K*' field (value: 8baf473f2f8fd09487cccbd7097c6862), the 'Operator Code Type*' dropdown (selected: OPc), the 'Operator Code Value*' field (value: 8e27b6af0e692e750f32667a3b14605d), and the 'SQN*' field (value: 16f3b3f70fc2). Below this, the 'S-NSSAI Configuration' section shows 'snssai' and 'SST*' (value: 1). The 'DNN Configurations' section shows 'Data Network Name*' (value: internet), 'Uplink AMBR*' (value: 10 Mbps), 'Downlink AMBR*' (value: 20 Mbps), and 'Default SQI' (value: 9). At the bottom, there is a 'Flow Rules' section with a '+', a 'UP Security' checkbox, and another '+'. A 'Submit' button is at the very bottom. The background of the interface shows a sidebar with 'REALTIME STATUS', 'SUBSCRIBERS', 'ANALYTICS', and 'TENANT AND USER' options, and a 'Log out' button in the top right corner.

Free5GC subscriber creation example

Authentication process

- 1. UE sends SUCI to AMF
- 2. AMF → AUSF → UDM: Authentication request
- 3. UDM generates Authentication Vectors (AV)

The home network's *Authentication Credential Repository and Processing Function* (ARPF), part of the UDM, uses the keys K and OPc, along with the SQN, to generate a set of *Authentication Vectors* (AV)

- 4. AUSF sends challenge to UE

The serving network sends a *RANdom challenge* (RAND) and an *Authentication Token* (AUTN) to the *User Equipment* (UE), which contains the USIM

- 5. UE verifies and responds with RES*

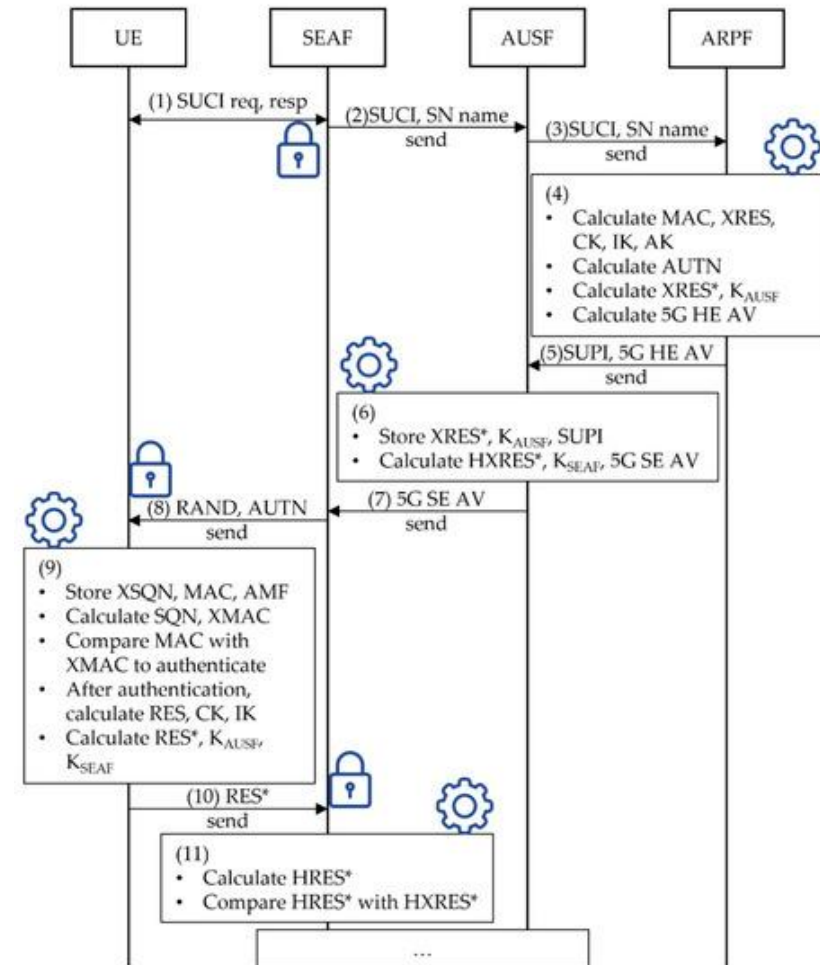
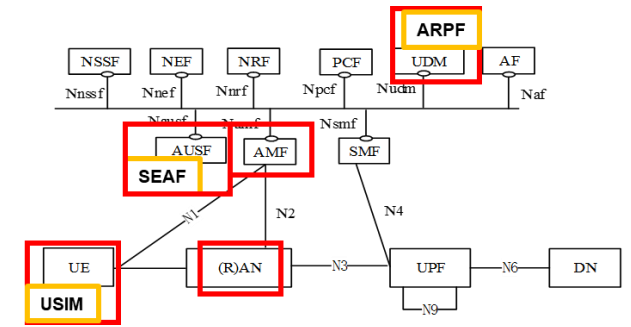
The USIM uses its stored K, OPc, and SQN, along with the RAND and AUTN, to compute a response. It also checks that the network is legitimate

If the verification is successful, the UE sends the calculated response back to the network.

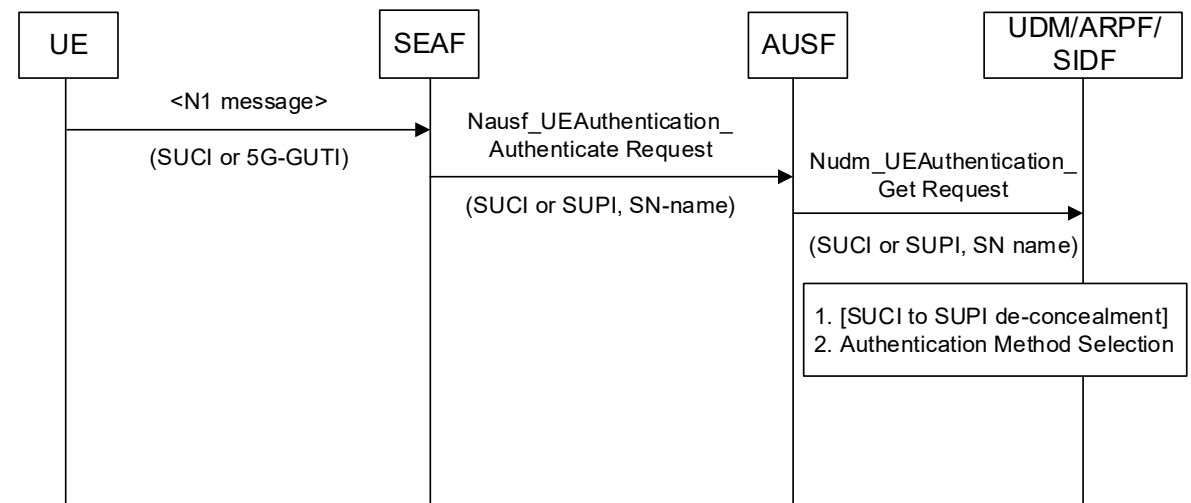
- 6. AUSF compares RES* with XRES*
- 7. Authentication success → Kseaf key derived

Both the network and UE then use the results of the AKA process to derive a new set of session-specific keys for encrypted communication

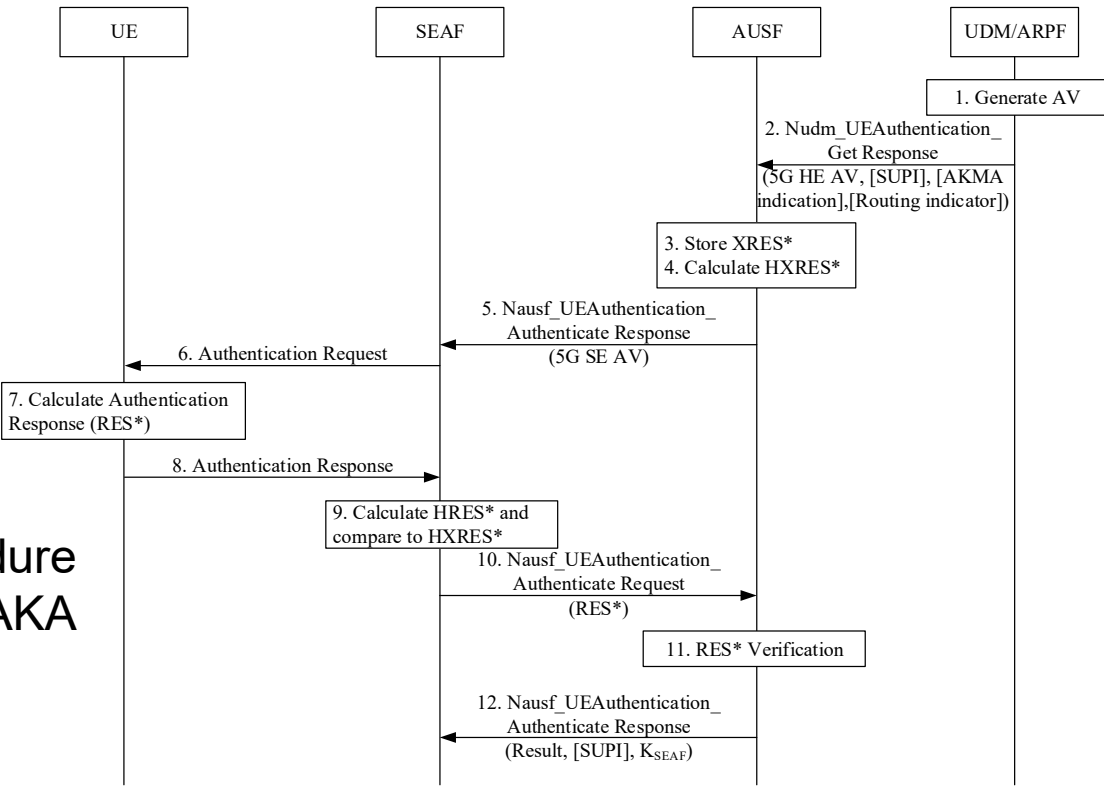
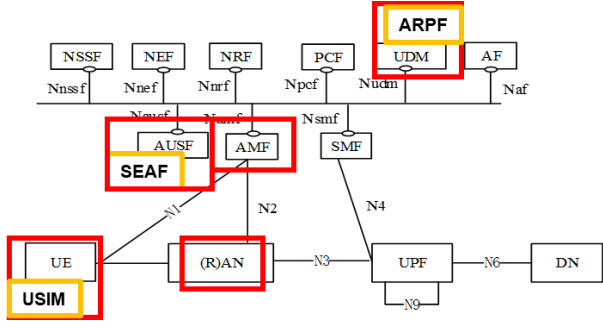
- 8. Security context established (KAMF, KNASint, KNASenc, ...)



Authentication process

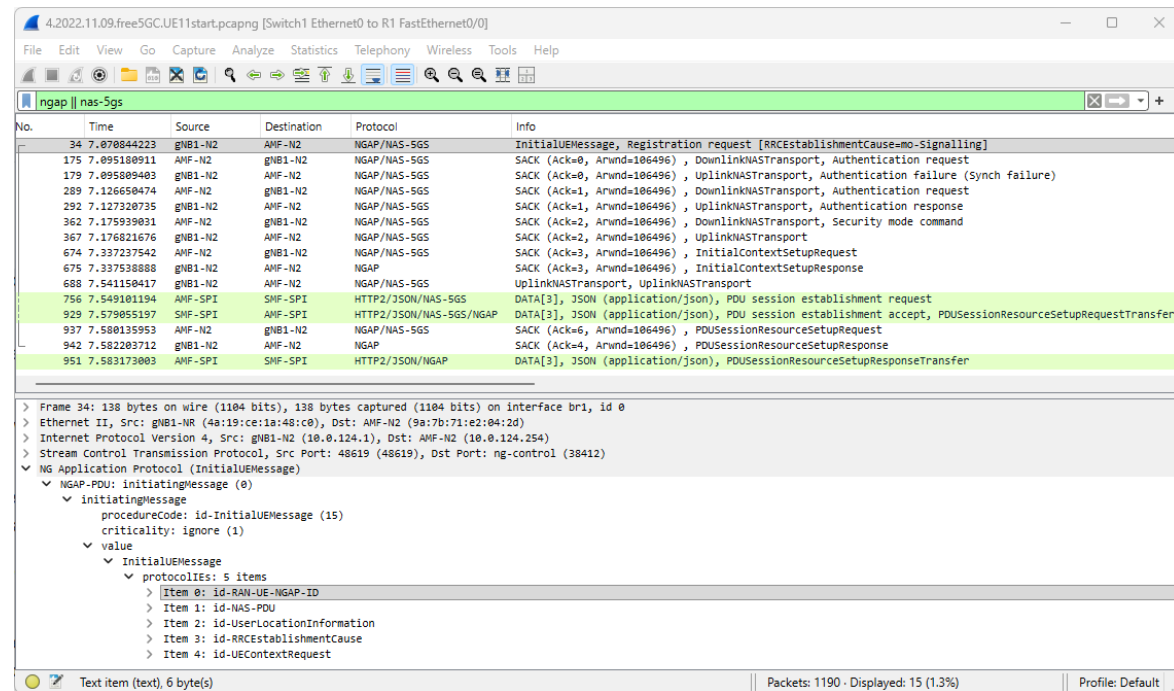


Initiation of authentication procedure and selection of authentication method



Authentication procedure for 5G AKA

5G-AKA Authentication Flow



The image shows a Wireshark packet capture of a 5G-AKA authentication flow. The top pane displays a list of 15 packets. The second pane shows the details of the selected packet (No. 34), which is an InitialUEMessage, Registration request [RRCEstablishmentCause=mo-Signalling]. The third pane shows the packet bytes.

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Info
34	7.070844223	gNB1-N2	AMF-N2	NGAP/NAS-SGS	InitialUEMessage, Registration request [RRCEstablishmentCause=mo-Signalling]
175	7.095100911	AMF-N2	gNB1-N2	NGAP/NAS-SGS	SACK (Ack=0, Arwnd=106496), DownlinkNASTransport, Authentication request
179	7.095809403	gNB1-N2	AMF-N2	NGAP/NAS-SGS	SACK (Ack=0, Arwnd=106496), UplinkNASTransport, Authentication failure (Synch failure)
289	7.126650474	AMF-N2	gNB1-N2	NGAP/NAS-SGS	SACK (Ack=1, Arwnd=106496), DownlinkNASTransport, Authentication request
292	7.127320735	gNB1-N2	AMF-N2	NGAP/NAS-SGS	SACK (Ack=1, Arwnd=106496), UplinkNASTransport, Authentication response
362	7.175939831	AMF-N2	gNB1-N2	NGAP/NAS-SGS	SACK (Ack=2, Arwnd=106496), DownlinkNASTransport, Security mode command
367	7.176821676	gNB1-N2	AMF-N2	NGAP/NAS-SGS	SACK (Ack=2, Arwnd=106496), UplinkNASTransport
674	7.337237542	AMF-N2	gNB1-N2	NGAP/NAS-SGS	SACK (Ack=3, Arwnd=106496), InitialContextSetupRequest
675	7.337538888	gNB1-N2	AMF-N2	NGAP	SACK (Ack=3, Arwnd=106496), InitialContextSetupResponse
688	7.541150417	gNB1-N2	AMF-N2	NGAP/NAS-SGS	UplinkNASTransport, UplinkNASTransport
756	7.549101194	AMF-SPI	SMF-SPI	HTTP2/JSON/NAS-SGS	DATA[3], JSON (application/json), PDU session establishment request
929	7.579055197	SMF-SPI	AMF-SPI	HTTP2/JSON/NAS-SGS/NGAP	DATA[3], JSON (application/json), PDU session establishment accept, PDU session resource setup request transfer
937	7.580135953	AMF-N2	gNB1-N2	NGAP/NAS-SGS	SACK (Ack=6, Arwnd=106496), PDU session resource setup request
942	7.582283712	gNB1-N2	AMF-N2	NGAP	SACK (Ack=4, Arwnd=106496), PDU session resource setup response
951	7.583173003	AMF-SPI	SMF-SPI	HTTP2/JSON/NGAP	DATA[3], JSON (application/json), PDU session resource setup response transfer

Frame 34: 138 Bytes on wire (1104 bits), 138 Bytes captured (1104 bits) on interface br1, id 0
Ethernet II, Src: gNB1-NR (4a:19:ce:1a:46:c0), Dst: AMF-N2 (9a:7b:71:e2:04:2d)
Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: gNB1-N2 (10.0.124.1), Dst: AMF-N2 (10.0.124.254)
Stream Control Transmission Protocol, Src Port: 48619 (48619), Dst Port: ng-control (38412)
NG Application Protocol (InitialUEMessage)
NGAP-PDU: initiatingMessage (0)
initiatingMessage
procedureCode: id-InitialUEMessage (15)
criticality: ignore (1)
value
InitialUEMessage
protocolIEs: 5 items
Item 0: id-RAN-UE-NGAP-ID
Item 1: id-NAS-PDU
Item 2: id-UserLocationInformation
Item 3: id-RRCEstablishmentCause
Item 4: id-UEContextRequest

5G AKA ‘synch failure’ (21) refers to a specific authentication failure in the 5G network, triggered when the UE's SIM (USIM) detects that the SQN) is out of sync during the AKA process

5G-AKA Authentication Flow

The image displays a Wireshark network traffic capture of a 5G-AKA authentication flow. The capture is on the interface 'ngap || nas-5gs'. The packet list shows several frames, with frame 292 (127328735) being the focus of the detailed view.

Packet List:

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Info
34	7.070844223	gNB1-N2	AMF-N2	NGAP/NAS-SGS	InitialUEMessage, Registration request [RRCEstablishmentCause=mo-Signalling]
175	7.095180911	AMF-N2	gNB1-N2	NGAP/NAS-SGS	SACK (Ack=0, Arwnd=106496), DownlinkNASTransport, Authentication request
179	7.095809403	gNB1-N2	AMF-N2	NGAP/NAS-SGS	SACK (Ack=0, Arwnd=106496), UplinkNASTransport, Authentication failure (Synch failure)
289	7.126650474	AMF-N2	gNB1-N2	NGAP/NAS-SGS	SACK (Ack=1, Arwnd=106496), DownlinkNASTransport, Authentication request
292	7.127328735	gNB1-N2	AMF-N2	NGAP/NAS-SGS	SACK (Ack=1, Arwnd=106496), UplinkNASTransport, Authentication response
362	7.175939031	AMF-N2	gNB1-N2	NGAP/NAS-SGS	SACK (Ack=2, Arwnd=106496), DownlinkNASTransport, Security mode command
367	7.176821676	gNB1-N2	AMF-N2	NGAP/NAS-SGS	SACK (Ack=2, Arwnd=106496), UplinkNASTransport
674	7.337337647	AMF-N2	gNB1-N2	NGAP/NAS-SGS	SACK (Ack=2, Arwnd=106496), InitialContextSetupRequest

Detailed View of Frame 292:

Frame 292: 146 bytes on wire (1168 bits), 146 bytes captured (1168 bits) on interface br1, id 0
> Ethernet II, Src: gNB1-NR (4a:19:ce:1a:48:c0), Dst: AMF-N2 (9a:7b:71:e2:04:2d)
> Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: gNB1-N2 (10.0.124.1), Dst: AMF-N2 (10.0.124.254)
> Stream Control Transmission Protocol, Src Port: 48619 (48619), Dst Port: ng-control (38412)
✖ NG Application Protocol (UplinkNASTransport)
 ✖ NGAP-PDU: InitiatingMessage (0)
 ✖ InitiatingMessage
 procedureCode: id-UplinkNASTransport (46)
 criticality: ignore (1)
 ✖ value
 ✖ UplinkNASTransport
 ✖ 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
 ✖ 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-NAS-PDU
 ✖ ProtocolIE-Field
 id: id-NAS-PDU (38)
 criticality: reject (0)
 ✖ value
 ✖ NAS-PDU: 7e00572d10b63c441c9ba6c84537d6b33821d57f1f
 ✖ Non-Access-Stratum 5GS (NAS)PDU
 ✖ Plain NAS 5GS Message
 Extended protocol discriminator: 5G mobility management messages (126)
 0000 = Spare Half Octet: 0
 0000 = Security header type: Plain NAS message, not security protected (0)
 Message type: Authentication response (0x57)
 ✖ Authentication response parameter
 Element ID: 0x2d
 RES: b63c441c9ba6c84537d6b33821d57f1f
 ✖ Item 3: id-UserLocationInformation

5G-AKA Authentication Flow

4.2022.11.09.free5GC.UE11start.pcapng [Switch1 Ethernet0 to R1 FastEthernet0/0]

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ngap || nas-5gs

No.	Time	Source
34	7.070844223	gNB1-N2
175	7.095180911	AMF-N2
179	7.095809403	gNB1-N2
289	7.126650474	AMF-N2
292	7.127320735	gNB1-N2
362	7.175939031	AMF-N2
367	7.176821676	gNB1-N2
674	7.337237542	AMF-N2
675	7.337538888	gNB1-N2
688	7.541150417	gNB1-N2
756	7.549101194	AMF-SPI
929	7.579055197	SMF-SPI
937	7.580135953	AMF-N2
942	7.582283712	gNB1-N2
951	7.583173003	AMF-SPI

> Frame 34: 138 Bytes on wire (1104)
 > Ethernet II, Src: gNB1-NR (4a:19:ce:1a:48:c0), Dst: AMF-N2 (9a:7b:71:e2:04:2d)
 > Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: gNB1-N2 (10.0.124.1), Dst: AMF-N2 (10.0.124.254)
 > Stream Control Transmission Protocol, Src Port: 48619 (48619), Dst Port: ng-control (38412)
 > NG Application Protocol (InitialUEMessage)
 > NGAP-PDU: InitiatingMessage (0)
 > InitiatingMessage
 > procedureCode: id-uplinkNAS-Transport (46)
 > criticality: ignore (1)
 > value
 > uplinkNAS-Transport
 > 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
 > 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-NAS-PDU
 > ProtocolIE-Field
 > id: id-NAS-PDU (38)
 > criticality: reject (0)
 > value
 > NAS-PDU: 7e00572d10b63c441c9ba6c84537d6b33821d57f1f
 > Non-Access-Stratum SGS (NAS) PDU
 > Plain NAS 5GS Message
 > Extended protocol discriminator: 5G mobility management messages (126)
 > 0000 = Spare half octet: 0
 > 0000 = Security header type: Plain NAS message, not security protected (0)
 > Message type: Authentication response (0x57)
 > Authentication response parameter
 > Element ID: 0x2d
 > RES: b63c441c9ba6c84537d6b33821d57f1f
 > Item 3: id-UserLocationInfo-Access-Info

4.2022.11.09.free5GC.UE11start.pcapng [Switch1 Ethernet0 to R1 FastEthernet0/0]

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ngap || nas-5gs

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Info
34	7.070844223	gNB1-N2	AMF-N2	NGAP/NAS-5GS	InitialUEMessage, Registration request [RACEstablishmentCause=...
175	7.095180911	AMF-N2	gNB1-N2	NGAP/NAS-5GS	SACK (Ack=0, Arwnd=106496), DownlinkNAS-Transport, Authentication...
179	7.095809403	gNB1-N2	AMF-N2	NGAP/NAS-5GS	SACK (Ack=0, Arwnd=106496), UplinkNAS-Transport, Authentication...
289	7.126650474	AMF-N2	gNB1-N2	NGAP/NAS-5GS	SACK (Ack=1, Arwnd=106496), DownlinkNAS-Transport, Authentication...
292	7.127320735	gNB1-N2	AMF-N2	NGAP/NAS-5GS	SACK (Ack=1, Arwnd=106496), UplinkNAS-Transport, Authentication...
362	7.175939031	AMF-N2	gNB1-N2	NGAP/NAS-5GS	SACK (Ack=2, Arwnd=106496), DownlinkNAS-Transport, Security mod...
367	7.176821676	gNB1-N2	AMF-N2	NGAP/NAS-5GS	SACK (Ack=2, Arwnd=106496), UplinkNAS-Transport
674	7.337237542	AMF-N2	gNB1-N2	NGAP/NAS-5GS	SACK (Ack=2, Arwnd=106496), InitialContextSetupRequest

> Frame 292: 146 bytes on wire (1168 bits), 146 bytes captured (1168 bits) on interface br1, 0
 > Ethernet II, Src: gNB1-NR (4a:19:ce:1a:48:c0), Dst: AMF-N2 (9a:7b:71:e2:04:2d)
 > Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: gNB1-N2 (10.0.124.1), Dst: AMF-N2 (10.0.124.254)
 > Stream Control Transmission Protocol, Src Port: 48619 (48619), Dst Port: ng-control (38412)
 > NG Application Protocol (UplinkNAS-Transport)
 > NGAP-PDU: InitiatingMessage (0)
 > InitiatingMessage
 > procedureCode: id-uplinkNAS-Transport (46)
 > criticality: ignore (1)
 > value
 > uplinkNAS-Transport
 > 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
 > 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-NAS-PDU
 > ProtocolIE-Field
 > id: id-NAS-PDU (38)
 > criticality: reject (0)
 > value
 > NAS-PDU: 7e00572d10b63c441c9ba6c84537d6b33821d57f1f
 > Non-Access-Stratum SGS (NAS) PDU
 > Plain NAS 5GS Message
 > Extended protocol discriminator: 5G mobility management messages (126)
 > 0000 = Spare half octet: 0
 > 0000 = Security header type: Plain NAS message, not security protected (0)
 > Message type: Authentication response (0x57)
 > Authentication response parameter
 > Element ID: 0x2d
 > RES: b63c441c9ba6c84537d6b33821d57f1f
 > Item 3: id-UserLocationInfo-Access-Info

RES (nas-eps.emm.res), 16 byte(s)

Packets: 1190 - Display

4.2022.11.09.free5GC.UE1start.pcapng [Switch1 Ethernet0 to R1 FastEthernet0/0]
File Edit View Go Capture Analyze Statistics Telephony Wireless Tools Help
ngap || nas-5gs

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Info
34	7.070844223	gNB1-N2	AMF-N2	NGAP/NAS-5GS	InitialUEMessage, Registration request [RRCEstablishmentCause=mo-Signalling]
175	7.095180911	AMF-N2	gNB1-N2	NGAP/NAS-5GS	SACK (Ack=0, Arwnd=106496), DownlinkNASTransport, Authentication request
179	7.095809403	gNB1-N2	AMF-N2	NGAP/NAS-5GS	SACK (Ack=0, Arwnd=106496), UplinkNASTransport, Authentication failure (Synch failure)
289	7.126650474	AMF-N2	gNB1-N2	NGAP/NAS-5GS	SACK (Ack=1, Arwnd=106496), DownlinkNASTransport, Authentication request
292	7.127320735	gNB1-N2	AMF-N2	NGAP/NAS-5GS	SACK (Ack=1, Arwnd=106496), UplinkNASTransport, Authentication response
362	7.175939031	AMF-N2	gNB1-N2	NGAP/NAS-5GS	SACK (Ack=2, Arwnd=106496), DownlinkNASTransport, Security mode command
367	7.176821676	gNB1-N2	AMF-N2	NGAP/NAS-5GS	SACK (Ack=2, Arwnd=106496), UplinkNASTransport
674	7.337237542	AMF-N2	gNB1-N2	NGAP/NAS-5GS	SACK (Ack=3, Arwnd=106496), InitialContextSetupRequest
675	7.337538888	gNB1-N2	AMF-N2	NGAP	SACK (Ack=3, Arwnd=106496), InitialContextSetupResponse

> Frame 362: 126 bytes on wire (1008 bits), 126 bytes captured (1008 bits) on interface br1, 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: ng-control (38412), Dst Port: 48619 (48619)
▼ NG Application Protocol (DownlinkNASTransport)
 ▼ NGAP-PDU: initiatingMessage (0)
 ▼ initiatingMessage
 procedureCode: id-DownlinkNASTransport (4)
 criticality: ignore (1)
 ▼ value
 ▼ DownlinkNASTransport
 ▼ protocolIEs: 3 items
 > Item 0: id-AMF-UE-NGAP-ID
 > Item 1: id-RAN-UE-NGAP-ID
 ▼ Item 2: id-NAS-PDU
 ▼ ProtocolIE-Field
 id: id-NAS-PDU (38)
 criticality: reject (0)
 ▼ value
 ▼ NAS-PDU: 7e0327bcf36f007e005d02004f0f0f0e1360100
 ▼ Non-Access-Stratum 5GS (NAS)PDU
 ▼ Security protected NAS 5GS message
 Extended protocol discriminator: 5G mobility management messages (126)
 0000 = Spare Half Octet: 0
 0011 = Security header type: Integrity protected with new 5GS security context (3)
 Message authentication code: 0x27bcf36f
 Sequence number: 0
 ▼ Plain NAS 5GS Message
 Extended protocol discriminator: 5G mobility management messages (126)
 0000 = Spare Half Octet: 0
 0000 = Security header type: Plain NAS message, not security protected (0)
 Message type: Security mode command (0x5d)
 ▼ NAS security algorithms
 0000 = Type of ciphering algorithm: 5G-EA0 (null ciphering algorithm) (0)
 ... 0010 = Type of integrity protection algorithm: 128-SG-IA2 (2)
 0000 = Spare Half Octet: 0
 ▼ NAS key set identifier - ngKSI
 0... = Type of security context flag (TSC): Native security context (for KSIAMF)
 000 = NAS key set identifier: 0
 > UE security capability - Replayed UE security capabilities
 ▼ IMEISV request
 1110 = Element ID: 0xe-
 0... = Spare bit(s): 0x00
 001 = IMEISV request: IMEISV requested (1)
 > Additional 5G security information

Type of integrity protection algorithm (nas-5gs.mm.nas_sec_algo_ip), 4 bit(s)
Packets: 1190 - Displayed: 15 (1.3%)
Profile: Default

Milenage algoritim

A set of cryptographic algorithms standardized by ETSI for 3G and 4G mobile networks, which uses AES (Rijndael) encryption

Key Derivation: K, along with other inputs like a **random challenge (RAND)**, is used in the MILENAGE functions (f1 to f5) to produce CK, IK, and other keys. This hierarchical structure prevents the compromise of lower-level keys (like CK and IK) from compromising the higher-level master key (K)

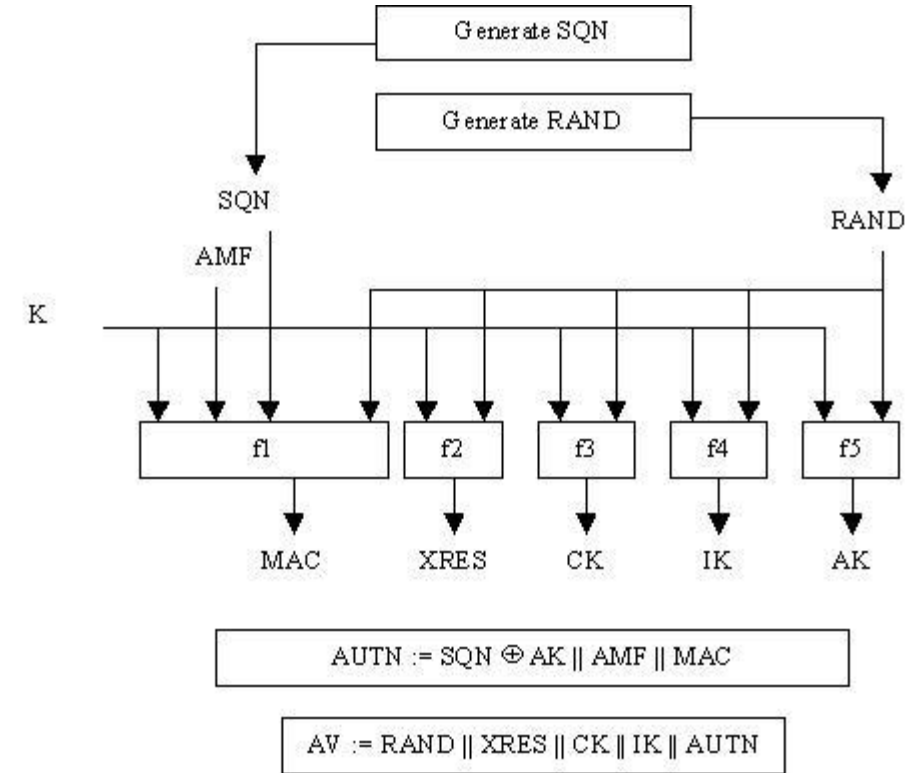
K (Subscriber Key): The master secret key shared between the user's SIM and the network's home network

MAC (Message Authentication Code): 64-bit code that is used in mobile network security for authenticating a network

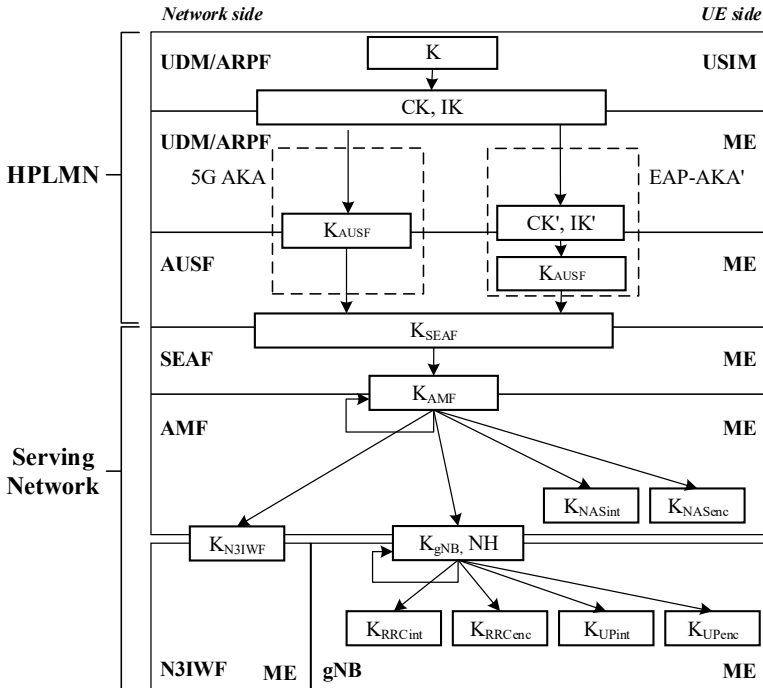
CK (Confidentiality Key): A 128-bit key used to encrypt data to ensure privacy

IK (Integrity Key): A 128-bit key used to protect data from being altered during transmission, ensuring its integrity

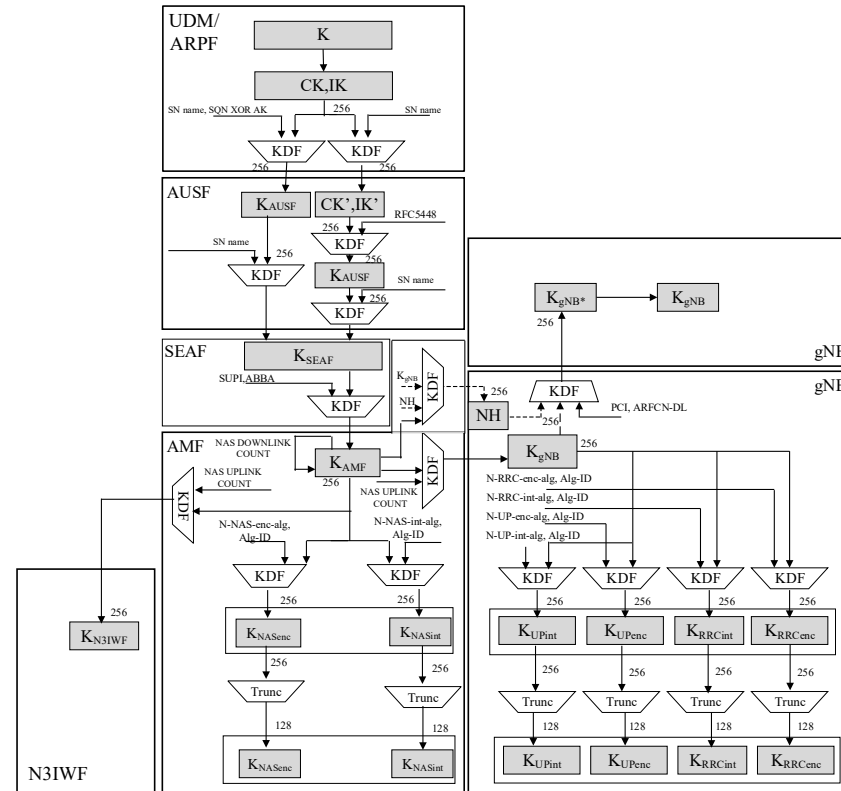
AK (Anonymity Key): a 48-bit value generated by the HN to hide the SQN



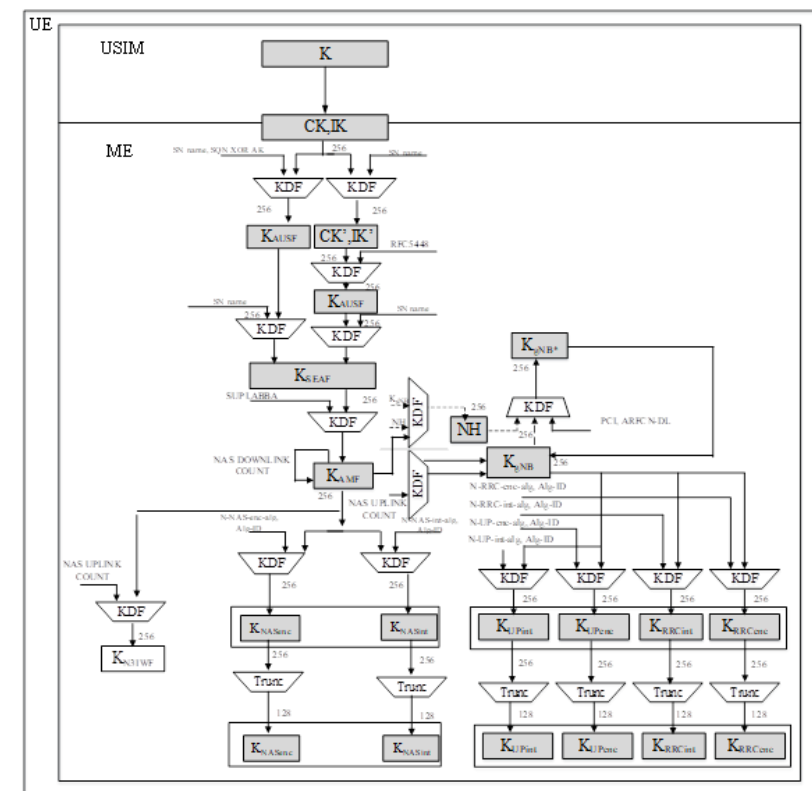
Keys generation from K



3GPP, TS 33.501, Figure 6.2.1-1: Key hierarchy generation in 5GS



3GPP, TS 33.501, Figure 6.2.2-1: Key distribution and key derivation scheme for 5G for network nodes



**3GPP, TS 33.501, Figure 6.2.2-2:
Key distribution and key derivation scheme
for 5G for the UE**

CK: Cipher Key
IK: Integrity Key

PDU establishment

PDU Sessions definition

A PDU Session establishment may correspond to:

- a UE initiated PDU Session Establishment procedure
- a UE initiated PDU Session handover between 3GPP and non-3GPP
- a UE initiated PDU Session handover from EPS (4G) to 5GS
- a Network triggered PDU Session Establishment procedure; a trigger is sent to an Application in the UE, which initiated the PDU Session establishment

The **UE always initiate PDU Sessions** → requests access to a specific DNN, via a specific Slice

- S-NSSAI guides the network to select the **right Network Slice**
- The network Slice partially determines **how traffic is handled** (QoS, latency, etc.)
- The DNN routes the session to the **correct external data network**

The PDU Session is the actual data tunnel, carrying traffic with slice-specific policies

An initial default PDU Session is established; additional ones are established on demand, whenever existing ones do not fulfill requirements for new QoS Flows

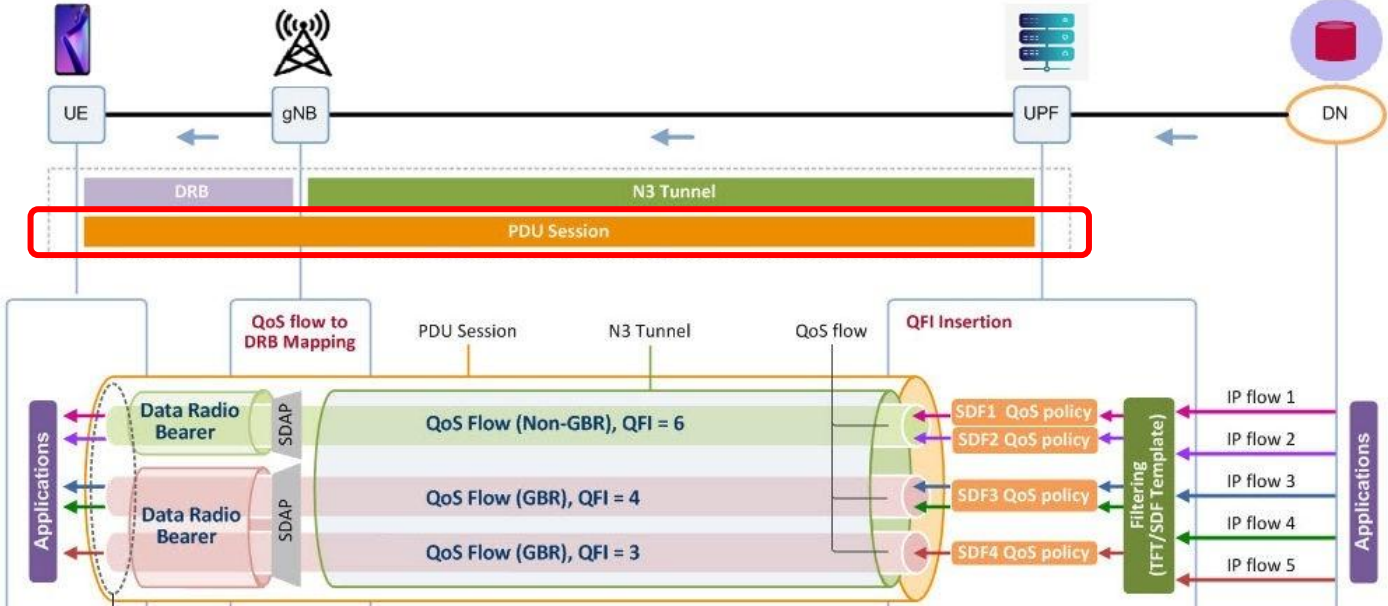
A PDU Session can support different types of data units, known as PDU types; the main PDU types are:

- **IPv4**: Supports only IPv4 addressing for user data
- **IPv6**: Supports only IPv6 addressing for user data
- **IPv4v6**: Supports both IPv4 and IPv6 addressing simultaneously
- **Unstructured**: Used for services that do not require IP addressing, such as Ethernet or non-IP data
- **Ethernet**: Supports Ethernet frames, enabling services like enterprise LAN connectivity over 5G

PDU session

A PDU (**Protocol Data Unit**) session in 5G is the logical connection between a UE (**User Equipment**) and the Data Network (**DN**) through the 5G Core, via a suitable **Slice**. It enables data transfer for services like Internet access or private applications.

- PDU characterization parameters:



Parameter	Description
PDU Session Identifier	A unique ID for the PDU session between the User Equipment (UE) and the 5G network
S-NSSAI (Single-Network Slice Selection Assistance Information)	Identifies the specific network slice the PDU session belongs to. It's composed of the Slice/Service Type (SST) and Slice Differentiator (SD).
DNN (Data Network Name)	The name of the data network (e.g., an internet service provider) the PDU session provides connectivity to
PDU Session Type	The type of data the session will carry, such as IPv4, IPv6, IPv4v6 (dual-stack), Ethernet, or unstructured data
SSC Mode (<i>Service and Session Continuity</i>)	Defines how sessions are handled (how the user plane anchor point of the PDU session is managed throughout its lifecycle) when the UE moves between different network access points.
User Plane Security Information	Indicates whether user-plane traffic will be ciphered and have its integrity protected
Quality of Service (QoS)	5QI (5G Quality of Service Identifier) : determines the QoS characteristics, including Guaranteed Bit Rate (GBR), Non-Guaranteed Bit Rate (non-GBR), and Delay Critical GBR
PDU Session Establishment Request Parameters	Depending on the session, other parameters like UE capabilities and DNS information

PDU Sessions call flow

5G NAS-SM (*Session Management*) is responsible for setting up and managing (establishment, modification, deletion) the PDU session for user-plane connectivity between UE and Data Networks

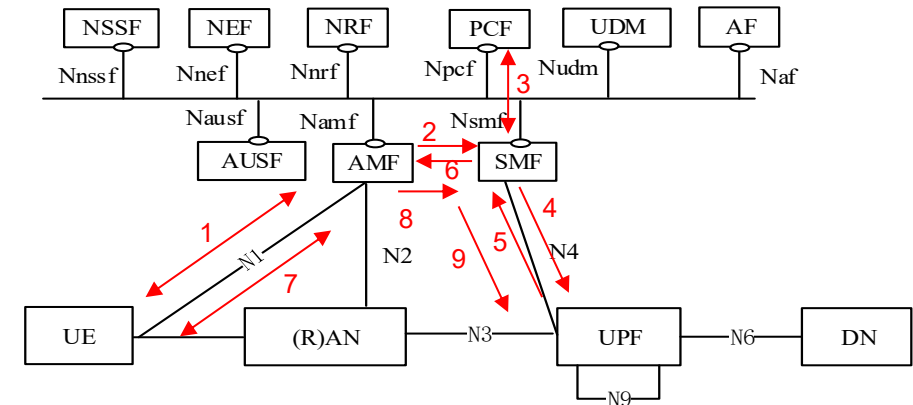
- UE to SMF

Other protocols involved:

- PFCP (between SMF and UPF)
- HTTP/2 & JSON (SBA entities: AMF, SMF, PCF)

Requires interactions between:

1. UE
2. gNB
3. AMF
4. PCF
5. SMF
6. UPF



5G-AKA Authentication and initial PDU Session establishment Flow

