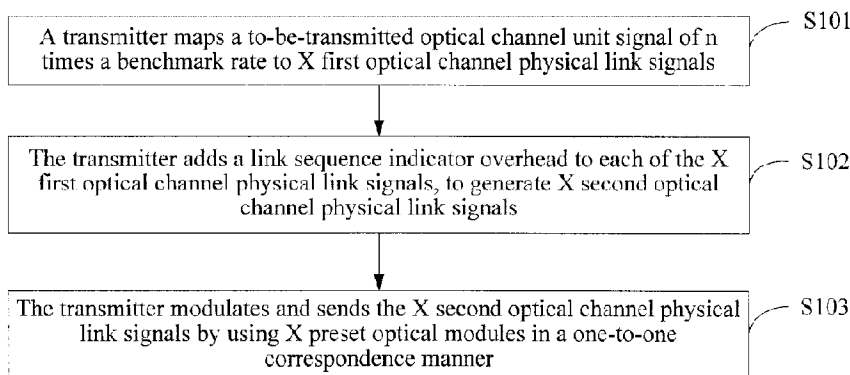




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$$\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$$

(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

Embodiments of the present invention relate to the field of optical communications technologies, and provide a signal sending and receiving method, an apparatus, and a system, so as to resolve a problem of high-cost transmission of optical channel unit signals of different rates. The method includes: mapping a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate to X first optical channel physical link signals, where a rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate, $n \geq 2$, $X \geq 2$, $m_i \geq 1$, and (see above formula); adding a link sequence indicator overhead to each of the X first optical channel physical link signals, to generate X second optical channel physical link signals; and modulating and sending the X second optical channel physical link signals by using X preset optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner.

ABSTRACT

Embodiments of the present invention relate to the field of optical communications technologies, and provide a signal sending and receiving method, an apparatus, and a system, so as to resolve a problem of high-cost transmission of optical channel unit signals of different rates. The method includes: mapping a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate to X first optical channel physical link signals, where a rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate, $n \geq 2$, $X \geq 2$, $m_i \geq 1$, and $\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$; adding a link sequence indicator overhead to each of the X first optical channel physical link signals, to generate X second optical channel physical link signals; and modulating and sending the X second optical channel physical link signals by using X preset optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner.

SIGNAL SENDING AND RECEIVING METHOD, APPARATUS, AND SYSTEM

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to the field of optical communications technologies, and in particular, to a signal sending and receiving method, an apparatus, and a system.

BACKGROUND

[0002] An Optical Transport Network (OTN) is a core technology of a transport network. The OTN has rich operation administration and maintenance (OAM, Operation Administration and Maintenance) capabilities, a strong Tandem Connection Monitoring (TCM) capability, and an out-of-band Forward Error Correction (FEC) capability, and can implement flexible scheduling and management of large-capacity services.

[0003] The OTN standardization system defines four Optical channel Transport Unit (OTU) of fixed line rates: an OTU1, an OTU2, an OTU3, and an OTU4, whose line rate levels are respectively 2.5 Gbit/s, 10 Gbit/s, 40 Gbit/s, and 100 Gbit/s, that is, gigabits per second. The four OTUs respectively correspond to four Optical channel Data Units (ODU) of same rate levels: an ODU1, an ODU2, an ODU3, and an ODU4. The four ODUs respectively correspond to four Optical channel Payload Units (OPU) of same rate levels: an OPU1, an OPU2, an OPU3, and an OPU4.

[0004] With development of applications such as the Internet and cloud computing, information traffic in a network increases exponentially. This requires that the OTN provide more available bandwidth, and the OTN needs to develop to higher transfer rates, for example, 400 gigabits per second (Gb/s) or 1 TGb/s.

[0005] Currently, the International Telecommunication Union-Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is formulating an OTUC_n (where C is a roman numeral for 100, and n is a positive integer) interface for beyond-100G OTN applications. The OTUC_n interface can provide an electrical interface processing capability of an n*100 G rate. An OTUC_n frame consists of n OTU subframes. The OTUC_n frame is managed and monitored as

one signal, and provides a network management function at an optical channel transport unit level. Correspondingly, there are an ODUCn and an OPUCn of a rate of $n \times 100$ G. An ODUCn overhead is added to an OPUCn frame to form an ODUCn frame, and a Frame Alignment (FA) overhead and an OTUCn overhead are added to the ODUCn frame to form an OTUCn frame. After the OTUCn frame is modulated by an optical module matching a rate corresponding to the OTUCn frame, a serial OTUCn bit data flow is formed, and the serial OTUCn bit data flow is sent by using one way of optical fiber.

[0006] In the prior art, the ODUCn needs to be mapped to an OTUCn having a same rate as the ODUCn, and the OTUCn can be sent only after being modulated by an optical module at a same rate as the OTUCn. Therefore, to send ODUCns of different rates, optical modules of different rates need to be used to perform modulation. Further, in the prior art, to send optical channel unit signals of different rates, optical modules of different rates need to be used to perform modulation. This results in high network costs.

SUMMARY

[0007] Embodiments of the present invention provide a signal sending and receiving method, an apparatus, and a system, so as to resolve a problem of high network costs due to a need to use optical modules of different rates to perform modulation when optical channel unit signals of different rates are sent.

[0008] To achieve the foregoing objective, the following technical solutions are used in the embodiments of the present invention.

[0009] According to a first aspect, an embodiment of the present invention provides a signal sending method, where the method includes:

mapping a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate to X first optical channel physical link signals, where a rate of the first optical channel

physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate, $n \geq 2$, $X \geq 2$, $m_i \geq 1$, and $\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$;

adding a link sequence indicator overhead to each of the X first optical channel physical link signals, to generate X second optical channel physical link signals, where the link sequence indicator overhead of each first optical channel physical link signal is used to

indicate an order of the first optical channel physical link signal, and a rate of the second optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate; and

modulating and sending the X second optical channel physical link signals by using X preset optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner.

[0010] In a first possible implementation manner of the first aspect, the mapping a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate to X first optical channel physical link signals includes:

dividing the to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate into X preset groups; and

mapping X groups of optical channel unit subframe signals to the X first optical channel physical link signals in a one-to-one correspondence manner and in a preset mapping manner, where the preset mapping manner is bit synchronous mapping or asynchronous mapping.

[0011] With reference to the first aspect or the first possible implementation manner of the first aspect, in a second possible implementation manner of the first aspect, before the modulating and sending the X second optical channel physical link signals by using X preset optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner, the signal sending method further includes:

performing forward error correction FEC encoding processing on the X second optical channel physical link signals.

[0012] With reference to any one of the first aspect or the first possible implementation manner of the first aspect or the second possible implementation manner of the first aspect, in a third possible implementation manner of the first aspect, each of the X first optical channel physical link signals has a different m_i ; or

any j of the X first optical channel physical link signals have a same m_i , where $2 \leq j \leq X$.

[0013] With reference to any one of the first aspect or the first possible implementation manner of the first aspect to the third possible implementation manner of the first aspect, in a fourth possible implementation manner of the first aspect, if the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an optical channel data unit ODUK_n signal of n times the benchmark rate, the first optical channel physical link signal is a first optical channel transport

unit OTUK_{m_i} signal.

[0014] According to a second aspect, an embodiment of the present invention provides a signal receiving method, where the method includes:

receiving X second optical channel physical link signals by using X optical modules, where a rate of the second optical channel physical link signal is m_i times a benchmark rate, m_i≥1, and X≥2;

separately extracting a link sequence indicator overhead of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals, to obtain X first optical channel physical link signals, where the link sequence indicator overhead of each second optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of a first optical channel physical link signal that corresponds to the second optical channel physical link signal, and a rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate; and

demapping the X first optical channel physical link signals, to obtain an optical

channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate, where n≥2, and $\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$.

[0015] In a first possible implementation manner of the second aspect, the demapping the X first optical channel physical link signals, to obtain an optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate includes:

demapping the X first optical channel physical link signals in a preset demapping manner, to obtain X groups of optical channel unit signals, where the preset demapping manner is bit synchronous demapping or asynchronous demapping, and a rate of each group of optical channel unit signals is m_i times the benchmark rate; and

combining the X groups of optical channel unit signals, to generate the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate.

[0016] With reference to the second aspect or the first possible implementation manner of the second aspect, in a second possible implementation manner of the second aspect, before the separately extracting a link sequence indicator overhead of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals, to obtain X first optical channel physical link signals, the method further includes:

performing forward error correction FEC decoding on the X second optical channel physical link signals.

[0017] With reference to any one of the second aspect or the first possible implementation manner of the second aspect or the second possible implementation manner of the second aspect, in a third possible implementation manner of the second aspect, each of the X second optical channel physical link signals has a different m_i ; or

any j of the X second optical channel physical link signals have a same m_i , where $2 \leq j \leq X$.

[0018] With reference to any one of the second aspect or the first possible implementation manner of the second aspect to the third possible implementation manner of the second aspect, in a fourth possible implementation manner of the second aspect, if the second optical channel physical link signal is a second optical channel transport unit OTUK m_i signal, the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an optical channel data unit ODUK n signal of n times the benchmark rate.

[0019] According to a third aspect, an embodiment of the present invention provides a transmitter, including:

a mapping unit, configured to map a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate to X first optical channel physical link signals, where a rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate, $n \geq 2$, $X \geq 2$, $m_i \geq 1$, and

$$\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n ;$$

an overhead addition unit, configured to add a link sequence indicator overhead to each of the X first optical channel physical link signals obtained through mapping by the mapping unit, to generate X second optical channel physical link signals, where the link sequence indicator overhead of each first optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of the first optical channel physical link signal, and a rate of the second optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate;

a modulation unit, configured to modulate, by using X preset optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner, the X second optical channel physical link signals generated by the overhead addition unit; and

a sending unit, configured to send the X second optical channel physical link signals modulated by the modulation unit.

[0020] In a first possible implementation manner of the third aspect, the transmitter

further includes a grouping unit, where

the grouping unit is configured to divide the to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate into X preset groups; and

the mapping unit is specifically configured to map the X groups of optical channel unit signals obtained through division by the grouping unit to the X first optical channel physical link signals in a one-to-one correspondence manner and in a preset mapping manner, where the preset mapping manner is bit synchronous mapping or asynchronous mapping.

[0021] With reference to the third aspect or the first possible implementation manner of the third aspect, in a second possible implementation manner of the third aspect, the transmitter further includes an encoding unit, where

the encoding unit is configured to: before the modulation unit modulates the X second optical channel physical link signals by using the X preset optical modules in the one-to-one correspondence manner, perform forward error correction FEC encoding processing on the X second optical channel physical link signals generated by the overhead addition unit.

[0022] With reference to any one of the third aspect or the first possible implementation manner of the third aspect or the second possible implementation manner of the third aspect, in a third possible implementation manner of the third aspect, each of the X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate has a different m_i ; or

any j of the X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate have a same m_i , where $2 \leq j \leq X$.

[0023] With reference to any one of the third aspect or the first possible implementation manner of the third aspect to the third possible implementation manner of the third aspect, in a fourth possible implementation manner of the third aspect, if the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an optical channel data unit ODUK $_n$ signal of n times the benchmark rate, the first optical channel physical link signal is a first optical channel transport unit OTUK $_m$ signal.

[0024] In a fourth aspect, an embodiment of the present invention provides a receiver, including:

a receiving unit, configured to receive X second optical channel physical link signals by using X optical modules, where a rate of the second optical channel physical link

signal is m_i times a benchmark rate, $m_i \geq 1$, and $X \geq 2$;

an extraction unit, configured to separately extract a link sequence indicator overhead of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals received by the receiving unit, to obtain X first optical channel physical link signals, where the link sequence indicator overhead of each second optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of a first optical channel physical link signal that corresponds to the second optical channel physical link signal, and a rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate; and

a demapping unit, configured to demap the X first optical channel physical link signals obtained by the extraction unit, to obtain an optical channel unit signal of n times the

benchmark rate, where $n \geq 2$, and
$$\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$$
.

[0025] In a first possible implementation manner of the fourth aspect, the demapping unit is specifically configured to demap the X first optical channel physical link signals in a preset demapping manner, to obtain X groups of optical channel unit signals, where the preset demapping manner is bit synchronous demapping or asynchronous demapping, and a rate of each group of optical channel unit signals is m_i times the benchmark rate; and

the receiver further includes a combination unit, where

the combination unit is specifically configured to combine the X groups of optical channel unit subframe signals obtained by the demapping unit, to generate the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate.

[0026] With reference to the fourth aspect or the first possible implementation manner of the fourth aspect, in a second possible implementation manner of the fourth aspect, the receiver further includes a decoding unit, where

the decoding unit is configured to: before the extraction unit separately extracts the link sequence indicator overhead of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals, to obtain the X first optical channel physical link signals, perform forward error correction FEC decoding on the X second optical channel physical link signals received by the receiving unit.

[0027] With reference to any one of the fourth aspect or the first possible implementation manner of the fourth aspect or the second possible implementation manner of the fourth

aspect, in a third possible implementation manner of the fourth aspect, each of the X second optical channel physical link signals has a different m_i ; or

any j of the X second optical channel physical link signals have a same m_i , where $2 \leq j \leq X$.

[0028] With reference to any one of the fourth aspect or the first possible implementation manner of the fourth aspect to the third possible implementation manner of the fourth aspect, in a fourth possible implementation manner of the fourth aspect, if the second optical channel physical link signal is a second optical channel transport unit OTUK m_i signal, the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an optical channel data unit ODUKn signal of n times the benchmark rate.

[0029] According to a fifth aspect, an embodiment of the present invention provides a signal transmission system, including the transmitter described above and the receiver described above.

[0029a] According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a signal sending method, comprising: mapping a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate to X first optical channel physical link signals, wherein a rate of each of the X first optical channel physical link signals is m_i times the benchmark rate, $n \geq 2$, $X \geq 2$,

$m_i \geq 1$, and $\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$, n, X, and m_i are positive integers, the to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate is an optical transport unit (OTUKn) signal and each of the X first optical channel physical link signals is a forward error correction (FEC) frame; adding a link sequence indicator overhead to each of the X first optical channel physical link signals, to generate X second optical channel physical link signals, wherein the link sequence indicator overhead of each first optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of the first optical channel physical link signal, and a rate of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals is m_i times the benchmark rate; and sending the X second optical channel physical link signals by using X optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner, wherein a rate of each of the X optical modules corresponds to a rate of each of the X optical channel physical link signals.

[0029b] According to still another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a signal receiving method, comprising: receiving X second optical channel physical link

signals by using X optical modules, wherein a rate of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals is m_i times a benchmark rate, $m_i \geq 1$, and $X \geq 2$, m_i and X are positive integers, and each of the X second optical channel physical link signals is a forward error correction (FEC) frame, and a rate of each of the X optical modules corresponds to a rate of each of the X second FEC frames; separately extracting a link sequence indicator overhead of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals, to obtain X first optical channel physical link signals, wherein the link sequence indicator overhead of each second optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of a first optical channel physical link signal that corresponds to the second optical channel physical link signal, and a rate of each of the X first optical channel physical link signals is m_i times the benchmark rate; and demapping the X first optical channel physical link signals, to obtain an optical channel unit

signal of n times the benchmark rate, wherein $n \geq 2$, and $\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$, and n is a positive integer, and the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an optical transport unit (OTUKn) signal.

[0029c] According to yet another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a transmitter, comprising: a mapping unit, configured to map a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate to X first optical channel physical link signals, wherein a rate of each of the X first optical channel physical link signals is m_i times the

benchmark rate, $n \geq 2$, $X \geq 2$, $m_i \geq 1$, and $\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$, wherein n, X, and m_i are positive integers, the to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate is an optical transport unit (OTUKn) signal and each of the X first optical channel physical link signals is a forward error correction (FEC) frame; an overhead addition unit, configured to add a link sequence indicator overhead to each of the X first optical channel physical link signals obtained through mapping by the mapping unit, to generate X second optical channel physical link signals, wherein the link sequence indicator overhead of each first optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of the first optical channel physical link signal, and a rate of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals is m_i times the benchmark rate; a modulation unit, configured to modulate, by using X preset optical modules

in a one-to-one correspondence manner, the X second optical channel physical link signals generated by the overhead addition unit, wherein a rate of each of the X optical modules corresponds to a rate of each of the X optical channel physical link signals; and a sending unit, configured to send the X second optical channel physical link signals modulated by the modulation unit.

[0029d] According to a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a receiver, comprising: a receiving unit, configured to receive X second optical channel physical link signals by using X optical modules, wherein a rate of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals is m_i times a benchmark rate, $m_i \geq 1$, and $X \geq 2$, m_i and X are positive integers, each of the X second optical channel physical link signals is a forward error correction (FEC) frame, and a rate of each of the X optical modules corresponds to a rate of each of the X second FEC frames; an extraction unit, configured to separately extract a link sequence indicator overhead of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals received by the receiving unit, to obtain X first optical channel physical link signals, wherein the link sequence indicator overhead of each second optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of a first optical channel physical link signal that corresponds to the second optical channel physical link signal, and a rate of each of the X first optical channel physical link signals is m_i times the benchmark rate; and a demapping unit, configured to demap the X first optical channel physical link signals obtained by the extraction unit, to obtain an optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate, wherein $n \geq 2$, and $\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$, and n is a positive integer, and the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an optical transport unit (OTUKn) signal.

[0029e] According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a signal transmission system, comprising a transmitter and a receiver as described herein.

[0030] The embodiments of the present invention provide signal sending and receiving methods, an apparatus, and a system. After a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate is mapped to X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, a link sequence indicator overhead is added to each first optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate of the X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, to generate X second optical channel physical link

signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, where $n \geq 2$, $X \geq 2$, $m_i \geq 1$, $m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_i + \dots + m_X = n$, and the link sequence indicator overhead of each first optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of the first optical channel physical link signal, and then the X second optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate are modulated and sent by using X preset optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner.

[0031] By means of the solutions, an optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate is no longer mapped to a first optical channel physical link signal of a same rate as the optical channel unit signal, but is mapped to X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate. The rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate, and $m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_i + \dots + m_X = n$. Therefore, the rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is less than the rate of the optical channel unit signal. That is, in the present invention, the optical channel unit signal is decomposed into X low-rate signals.

Subsequently, the X low-rate signals are modulated and sent by using X preset optical modules. By means of the present invention, X existing low-rate optical modules can be used to modulate X signals, and an optical module that matches a rate corresponding to an optical channel unit signal is no longer used for modulation, thereby reducing network costs when optical channel units of different rates need to use optical modules of different rates to perform modulation.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0032] To describe the technical solutions in the embodiments of the present invention or in the prior art more clearly, the following briefly describes the accompanying drawings required for describing the embodiments or the prior art. Apparently, the accompanying drawings in the following description show merely some embodiments of the present invention, and a person of ordinary skill in the art may still derive other drawings from these accompanying drawings without creative efforts.

[0033] FIG. 1 is a schematic structural diagram of an OTUCn frame in the prior art;

[0034] FIG. 2 is a first schematic structural diagram of a transfer device according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0035] FIG. 3 is a schematic flowchart of a signal sending method according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0036] FIG. 4 is a first schematic diagram of a signal mapping procedure according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0037] FIG. 5 is a schematic diagram of a frame structure of an OTUCn signal after overhead information is added according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0038] FIG. 6 is a schematic flowchart of a signal receiving method according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0039] FIG. 7 is a first schematic flowchart of a signal sending and receiving method according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0040] FIG. 8 is a second schematic flowchart of a signal sending and receiving method according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0041] FIG. 9 is a second schematic diagram of a signal mapping procedure according to

an embodiment of the present invention;

[0042] FIG. 10 is a third schematic diagram of a signal mapping procedure according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0043] FIG. 11 is a fourth schematic diagram of a signal mapping procedure according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0044] FIG. 12 is a first schematic diagram of a frame structure of an OTUC1 signal after overhead information is added according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0045] FIG. 13 is a second schematic diagram of a frame structure of an OTUC1 signal after overhead information is added according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0046] FIG. 14 is a third schematic diagram of a frame structure of an OTUC1 signal after overhead information is added according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0047] FIG. 15 is a first schematic structural diagram of a transmitter according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0048] FIG. 16 is a second schematic structural diagram of a transmitter according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0049] FIG. 17 is a first schematic structural diagram of a receiver according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0050] FIG. 18 is a second schematic structural diagram of a receiver according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0051] FIG. 19 is a second schematic structural diagram of a transfer device according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

[0052] FIG. 20 is a schematic structural diagram of a signal transmission system according to an embodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

[0053] The following clearly and completely describes the technical solutions in the embodiments of the present invention with reference to the accompanying drawings in the embodiments of the present invention. Apparently, the described embodiments are merely some but not all of the embodiments of the present invention.

[0054] In the specification, claims, and accompanying drawings of the present invention,

the terms "first", "second", "third", "fourth", and so on are intended to distinguish between different objects but not to indicate a particular order. In addition, the terms "comprising", "including", or any other variant thereof, are intended to cover a non-exclusive inclusion. For example, a process, a method, a system, a product, or a device that includes a series of steps or units is not limited to the listed steps or units, but optionally further includes an unlisted step or unit, or optionally further includes another inherent step or unit of the process, the method, the product, or the device.

[0055] In the following description, specific details such as a particular system structure, an interface, and a technology are set forth in an illustrative but not a restrictive sense to make a thorough understanding of the present invention. However, a person skilled in the art should know that the present invention may be practiced in other embodiments without these specific details. In other cases, detailed descriptions of well-known apparatuses, circuits, and methods are omitted, so that the present invention is described without being obscured by unnecessary details.

[0056] In addition, the term "and/or" in this specification describes only an association relationship for describing associated objects and represents that three relationships may exist. For example, A and/or B may represent the following three cases: Only A exists, both A and B exist, and only B exists. In addition, the character "/" in this specification generally indicates an "or" relationship between the associated objects.

[0057] The ITU-T Standardization Sector is formulating an OTUC_n interface for beyond-100 G OTN applications. The OTUC_n interface can provide an electrical interface processing capability of a rate of $n \times 100$ G. As shown in FIG. 1, an OTUC_n frame includes n OTU subframes (in FIG. 1, # n is used to indicate the n^{th} OTU subframe), each OTU subframe has four rows and 3824 columns, an FA OH is a frame alignment overhead byte, used to provide a frame synchronization alignment function, and an OTU OH is an OTUC_n overhead byte.

[0058] The FA OH is divided into two parts: a frame alignment signal (FAS, Frame Alignment Signal) and a Multiframe Alignment Signal (MFAS). The FA OH includes seven bytes in total from the first row and the first column to the first row and the seventh column. The FAS is located in the first row and the first column to the first row and the sixth column. The MFAS is located in the first row and the seventh column.

[0059] The OTU OH includes seven bytes in total from the first row and the eighth column to the first row and the fourteenth column. The OTU OH includes three parts: Multiframe Alignment Signal (SM), General Communications Channel (GCC), and Reserved for Future International Standardization (RES). The RES is a reserved position, and is currently stipulated to be all 0s. The SM is section overhead monitoring. SM overhead information includes at least a Trail Trace Identifier (TTI), a Bit Interleaved Parity 8(BIP-8), a Backward Defect Indication (BDI), and a Backward Error Indication and Backward Incoming Alignment Error (BEI/BIAE).

[0060] The OTUC_n frame is used managed and monitored as one signal, provides a network management function at an optical channel transport unit level, and mainly carries an OTUC_n overhead at a position of an OTU OH of the first OTU subframe. Correspondingly, there is an ODU_{Cn} of a rate of $n*100$ G, a frame structure of the ODU_{Cn} may be considered to include n ODU subframes (in FIG. 1, # n is used to indicate the n^{th} ODU subframe), and each ODU subframe has four rows and 3824 columns. A frame alignment overhead FA and an OTUC_n overhead are added to an ODU_{Cn} frame to form an OTUC_n frame. After the OTUC_n frame is modulated by an optical module matching a rate corresponding to the OTUC_n frame, a serial OTUC_n bit data flow is formed, and the serial OTUC_n bit data flow is sent by using one way of optical fiber.

[0061] Although the OTUC_n interface provides an electrical interface capability of a multi-rate level of $n*100$ G, actually, because of diversity of the rate of the electrical interface, various types of optical modules matching the rate corresponding to the electrical interface are required. This greatly increases network costs. In actual networking, it is impossible to have so many optical modules of different rate types that can be used.

[0062] Specifically, in the prior art, the ODU_{Cn} needs to be mapped to an OTUC_n of a same rate, and the OTUC_n needs to be first modulated by an optical module matching a rate corresponding to the OTUC_n, and then can be sent. Therefore, to send ODU_{Cn}s of different rates, optical modules of different rates need to be used. For example, a transmitter encapsulates, by means of bit synchronization, an ODU_{C4} of 400 G in an OTUC₄, and adds an OTUC₄ overhead to form an optical transport unit OTUC₄. Subsequently, the transmitter modulates, by using an optical module of 400 G, the OTUC₄ onto a single-carrier or multiple-carrier signal, and sends the OTUC₄ by using a same optical fiber.

[0063] For the problem in the prior art of high-cost transmission of optical channel data units ODUCns of different rates, the embodiments of the present invention provide signal sending and receiving methods, an apparatus, and a system. Multiple low-rate optical modules are used to implement transmission of an OTN signal of a higher rate.

[0064] FIG. 2 shows a transfer device according to an embodiment of the present invention. As shown in FIG. 2, the transfer device includes a transceiver 30 and a processor 31. The processor 31 may be a single-core or multi-core central processing unit, or an application-specific integrated circuit, or one or more integrated circuits configured to implement this embodiment of the present invention. The processor 31 includes a framing processing module 310, an ODSP (Optical Digital Signal Processor, optical digital signal processor) chip 311, and an optical module 312. Specifically, the ODSP chip 311 may be an independent function module, or may be integrated into the optical module 312. Specifically, the framing processing module 310 may be a chip for implementing data framing. The framing processing module 310 may map to and encapsulate in X first optical channel physical link signals a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate, and adds a link sequence indicator overhead, to form X second optical channel physical link signals. The framing processing module 310 may further demap the received X second optical channel physical link signals to obtain the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate. The ODSP chip 311 is configured to complete modulation and demodulation processing of a signal, and is configured to enhance a link error code tolerance capability, or perform other related processing. The optical module 312 is configured to complete optical-to-electrical conversion. Specifically, before the X second optical channel physical link signals are sent, the optical module 312 may convert an electrical signal into an optical signal, and may convert the optical signal into an electrical signal after receiving the X second optical channel physical link signals.

Embodiment 1

[0065] This embodiment of the present invention provides a signal sending method. As shown in FIG. 3, the method includes the following steps.

[0066] S101. A transmitter maps a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times

a benchmark rate to X first optical channel physical link signals.

[0067] A rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark

rate, $n \geq 2$, $X \geq 2$, $m_i \geq 1$, and $\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$.

[0068] S102. The transmitter adds a link sequence indicator overhead to each of the X first optical channel physical link signals, to generate X second optical channel physical link signals.

[0069] The link sequence indicator overhead of each first optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of the first optical channel physical link signal, and a rate of the second optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate.

[0070] S103. The transmitter modulates and sends the X second optical channel physical link signals by using X preset optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner.

[0071] It should be noted that the benchmark rate in this embodiment of the present invention may be 100 G, or may be 40 G. This is not specifically limited in this embodiment of the present invention.

[0072] Optionally, if the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an optical channel data unit ODUK_n signal of n times the benchmark rate, the first optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate is a first optical channel transport unit OTUK _{m_i} signal of m_i times the benchmark rate. K is a level of an ODU or a level of an OTU, K is a positive integer, and a value of K is not specifically limited in this embodiment of the present invention.

[0073] For example, if the benchmark rate is 100 G, the ODUK_n signal is an optical channel data unit ODUC_n signal of a rate of $n \cdot 100$ G, and the OTUK _{m_i} signal is an optical channel transport unit OTUC _{m_i} signal of a rate of $m_i \cdot 100$ G, where C is a roman numeral for 100, and n and m_i are both positive integers.

[0074] Optionally, if the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an optical channel payload unit OPUK_n signal of n times the benchmark rate, the first optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate is a first optical channel transport unit OTUK _{m_i} signal of m_i times the benchmark rate. Similarly, K is a level of an OPU or a level of an OTU, K is a positive integer, and a value of K is not specifically limited in this embodiment of the present invention.

[0075] For example, if the benchmark rate is 100 G, the OPUK_n signal is an optical channel payload unit OPUC_n signal of a rate of $n*100$ G, and the OTUK_{m_i} signal is an optical channel transport unit OTUC_{m_i} signal of a rate of m_i*100 G, where C is a roman numeral for 100, and n and m_i are both positive integers.

[0076] Optionally, if the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an optical channel transport unit OTUK_n signal of n times the benchmark rate, the first optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate is an FEC frame whose payload area is an OTUK_{m_i} of m_i times the benchmark rate. Similarly, K is a level of an OTU, K is a positive integer, and a value of K is not specifically limited in this embodiment of the present invention.

[0077] For example, if the benchmark rate is 100 G, the OTUK_{m_i} signal is an optical channel transport unit OTUC_{m_i} signal of a rate of m_i*100 G, and the OTUK_n signal is an OTUC_n signal of a rate of $n*100$ G, where C is a roman numeral for 100, and n and m_i are both positive integers.

[0078] By performing S101, a transmitter maps a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate to X first optical channel physical link signals.

[0079] Optionally, as shown in FIG. 4, the method for mapping, by the transmitter, the to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal to the X first optical channel physical link signals is: dividing, by the transmitter, the to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate into X preset groups; and mapping, by the transmitter, the X groups of optical channel unit signals to the X first optical channel physical link signals in a preset mapping manner.

[0080] Preferably, the method for dividing, by the transmitter, the to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate into X preset groups is: dividing, by the transmitter, n optical channel unit subframes in a frame structure of the to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate into X preset groups.

[0081] Specifically, the transmitter divides the n optical channel unit subframes into X groups according to a quantity of the preset optical modules and a bearer rate of the preset optical modules.

[0082] The preset mapping manner in this embodiment of the present invention is bit synchronous mapping or asynchronous mapping.

[0083] Specifically, if the first optical channel physical link signal includes m_i first optical channel physical link subframes, the transmitter maps, in the preset mapping manner, m_i optical channel unit subframes in a frame structure of the p^{th} group of optical channel unit subframe signals to m_i first optical channel physical link subframes in a frame structure of the p^{th} first optical channel physical link signal, where $X \geq p \geq 1$.

[0084] Specially, if $m_i=1$, the frame structure of the p^{th} group of optical channel unit subframe signals includes only one optical channel unit subframe, and the frame structure of the p^{th} first optical channel physical link signal includes only one first optical channel physical link subframe. The transmitter directly maps the one optical channel unit subframe to the first optical channel physical link subframe in the frame structure of the first optical channel physical link signal.

[0085] Preferably, the preset mapping manner in this embodiment of the present invention is bit synchronous mapping. For example, the bit synchronous mapping manner in this embodiment of the present invention is a bit synchronous mapping procedure (BMP, Bit Synchronous Mapping Procedure).

[0086] Further, the preset mapping manner in this embodiment of the present invention may be an asynchronous mapping manner. It should be noted that if the transmitter uses the asynchronous mapping manner, corresponding overhead information is generated in an asynchronous mapping process.

[0087] For example, the asynchronous mapping manner in this embodiment of the present invention is a Generic Mapping Procedure (GMP), and overhead information generated in the asynchronous mapping process is C_{nd} and C_m . For specific explanations of C_{nd} and C_m , refer to the G.709 protocol.

[0088] It should be noted that regardless whether the transmitter uses the bit synchronous mapping manner or the asynchronous mapping manner, in a mapping process, a ratio of mapping granularities used by the groups of optical channel unit subframe signals is the same as a ratio of quantities of optical channel unit subframes included by the groups of optical channel unit subframe signals.

[0089] Optionally, the method for mapping, by the transmitter, the to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal to the X first optical channel physical link signals is: mapping, by the transmitter, the to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal to an optical channel physical

link signal of a same rate as the to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal; and dividing, by the transmitter, the optical channel physical link signal of a same rate as the optical channel unit signal into X preset groups.

[0090] In this embodiment of the present invention, m_i of all the X second optical channel physical link signals may be the same, may be different, or may be partially the same. That is, any j of the X second optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate have a same m_i , where $2 \leq j \leq X$.

[0091] By performing S102, the transmitter adds a link sequence indicator overhead to each of the X first optical channel physical link signals, to generate X second optical channel physical link signals.

[0092] The link sequence indicator overhead of each first optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of the first optical channel physical link signal. That is, the link sequence indicator overhead of each first optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate a sequence number of the current first optical channel physical link signal in the X first optical channel physical link signals.

[0093] Specifically, the transmitter first performs link sequence numbering processing on the X first optical channel physical link signals. Then, the transmitter respectively and synchronously adds link sequence numbers of the X signals to the link sequence indicator overheads of all the X first optical channel physical link signals.

[0094] Specifically, the transmitter adds the link sequence indicator overhead to an overhead range of the frame structure of each first optical channel physical link signal; or the transmitter adds the link sequence indicator overhead to a frame header of the frame structure of each first optical channel physical link signal.

[0095] Specifically, if the first optical channel physical link signal is a first optical channel transport unit OTUK m_i signal, the transmitter adds the link sequence indicator overhead to an overhead range of a frame structure of each first optical channel transport unit OTUK m_i signal. If the first optical channel physical link signal is a FEC frame, whose payload area is an OTUK m_i of m_i times the benchmark rate, the transmitter adds the link sequence indicator overhead to the frame header of the frame structure of each first optical channel physical link signal.

[0096] Further, the transmitter may further add an extended multiframe indicator overhead

and a link group indicator overhead to each of the X first optical channel physical link signals. The extended multiframe indicator overhead is used to indicate a transmission delay, and the link group indicator overhead is used to indicate whether the X first optical channel physical link signals have a same source. A receiver can determine, according to the link group indicator overhead, whether the X first optical channel physical link signals are sent by a same transmitter.

[0097] Further, the transmitter further adds first overhead information to each of the X first optical channel physical link signals.

[0098] The first overhead information is used to indicate link bandwidth adjustment of the X first optical channel physical link signals, and the first overhead information includes at least a link bandwidth adjustment request, a link bandwidth adjustment response, and a link member status indication. If a link bandwidth of the X first optical channel physical link signals does not meet a requirement, the link bandwidth of the X first optical channel physical link signals may be adjusted according to the first overhead information.

[0099] Further, if the first optical channel physical link signal is the first optical channel transport unit OTUK_{m_i} signal, the frame structure of the first OTUK_{m_i} signal includes m_i OTUK_{m_i} subframes. The transmitter further adds a subframe sequence indicator overhead (OTUK ID, OTUK Identifier) to each of X first OTUK_{m_i} signals, where the OTUK ID is used to indicate an order of m_i OTU subframes in each first OTUK_{m_i} signal.

[0100] Specially, if m_i=1, an OTUK ID and a link sequence indicator overhead of each first optical channel transport unit OTUK1 signal both indicate an order of the first optical channel transport unit OTUK1 signal in the X first OTUK_{m_i} signals. Therefore, the OTUK ID may substitute for the link sequence indicator overhead.

[0101] Optionally, the transmitter performs overall numbering on all the X OTUK1 signals as 1, 2, ..., and X, and respectively and synchronously adds the X numbers to link sequence indicator overheads of all the X OTUK1 signals, but no longer adds any OTUK ID.

[0102] Further, if the first optical channel physical link signal is the first optical channel transport unit OTUK_{m_i} signal, the transmitter further separately generates and adds link segment monitoring overhead information SM to each of the X second optical channel transport unit OTUK_{m_i} signals.

[0103] Further, the transmitter adds a frame header indication overhead FAS to each of the

X second optical channel transport unit OTUK_{m_i} signals. That is, a pattern 0xf6f62828 is added to the first row and the second to the fifth columns of each OTU subframe. For specific information of the pattern 0xf6f62828, refer to the existing protocol.

[0104] Further, the transmitter further adds a Logical Lane Marker (LLM) to each of the X second optical channel transport unit OTUK_{m_i} signals. The LLMs are used as markers for multiple logical channels. LLMs of all subframes in the frame structure of each second optical channel transport unit OTUK_{m_i} signal are the same. An initial value of an LLM is 0, values of all LLMs are in ascending order, and a value range of the LLM is 0 to 239.

[0105] For example, if the first optical channel physical link signal is a first optical channel transport unit OTUC_{m_i} signal, after adding a link sequence indicator overhead to each OTUC_{m_i}, the transmitter generates a second OTUC_{m_i} signal.

[0106] As shown in FIG. 5, the link sequence indicator overhead (SQ ID, Sequence Identifier) in the frame structure of the second OTUC_{m_i} signal is located in the first row and the 14th column of the first OTU subframe of the OTUC_{m_i}. The SQ ID is indicated in a multiframe manner. Specifically, the SQ ID is indicated by 32-frame multiframe. When the multiframe indicates that bits 3-7 of an MFAS are 0s, a value at the position is the link sequence indicator overhead. The SQ ID is indicated by 256-frame multiframe. When bits 0-7 of an MFAS are 0s, a value at the position is the link sequence indicator overhead.

[0107] An Extended Multi-frame Identifier (MFI_EX) is located in the first row and the 14th column of the OTU subframe of the OTUC_{m_i}, and is used to indicate a transmission delay. The MFI_EX is indicated in a multiframe manner. Manner 1: Specifically, the MFI_EX is indicated by 32-frame multiframe. When the multiframe indicates that bits 3-7 of an MFAS are 0s, a value at the position is the extended multiframe indicator overhead. An initial value of the MFI_EX is 0, and the value is increased by 1 every 32-frame multiframe, until the value is increased to 255. Subsequently, the value changes to 0 again in a next 32-frame multiframe. The MFI_EX is indicated by 256-frame multiframe. When bits 0-7 of an MFAS are 0s, a value at the position is the extended multiframe indicator overhead. An initial value of the MFI_EX is 0, and the value is increased by 1 every 256-frame multiframe, until the value is increased to 255. Subsequently, the value changes to 0 again in a next 256-frame multiframe.

[0108] In addition, in FIG. 4, the frame structure of the second OTUC_{m_i} signal further

includes a Control Command (CTRL), a link bandwidth adjustment response (RSA, Respond Acknowledge), a link group indicator overhead (GID, Group Identification), a link member status indication (MSF, Member Status Field), and cyclic redundancy check information (CRC8, Cyclic Redundancy Check-8 bits).

[0109] The CTRL is used to indicate a specific operation (for example, increasing or decreasing) of link bandwidth adjustment of the X first optical channel physical link signals. The RSA is used to respond to the CTRL, and a destination of the RSA is the transmitter. The GID is used to indicate whether the X first optical channel physical link signals have a same source. The MSF is used to indicate a current status of each signal of the X first optical channel physical link signals. The CRC8 is used to store check information after 8-bit cyclic redundancy check is performed on CTRL, RSA, GID, and MSF overhead area information.

[0110] Further, by performing S103, the transmitter modulates and sends the X second optical channel physical link signals by using X preset optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner.

[0111] Specifically, the transmitter modulates the q^{th} ($X \geq q \geq 1$) second optical channel physical link signal by using the q^{th} preset optical module, and sends the modulated q^{th} ($X \geq q \geq 1$) second optical channel physical link signal by using the q^{th} optical fiber.

[0112] The transmitter modulates the q^{th} third optical channel physical link signal based on the q^{th} preset optical module, to generate one or more optical carrier signals. Subsequently, the transmitter sends the one or more optical carrier signals by using the q^{th} optical fiber.

[0113] Further, before the transmitter modulates the X second optical channel physical link signals by using the X preset optical modules in the one-to-one correspondence manner, the transmitter performs forward error correction FEC encoding processing on the X second optical channel physical link signals. In the process of performing forward error correction FEC encoding processing on the X second optical channel physical link signals by the transmitter, FEC overhead information needs to be added.

[0114] The transmitter performs FEC encoding processing on the X second optical channel physical link signals, and adds the FEC overhead information, so that a link error code correction capability can be enhanced, and a generated third optical channel physical link signal can be made closer to the bearer rate of the preset optical modules.

[0115] For example, Table 1 shows rates before and after FEC processing is performed on

ODU4, OTU4, and OTUC1.

[0116] If n OTUC1s are transferred by using OTU4 optical modules, and the transmitter selects RS (544, 514) to perform FEC encoding on an OTUC1, a rate of the OTUC1 after the encoding is:

$$99.5328 \times 239 / 226 \times 544 / 514 = 111.401609 \text{ Gbit/s}$$

[0117] Further, the transmitter adds an FEC frame header and an idle bit to construct an FEC frame signal, so that a final rate is equal to an OTU4 rate.

[0118] For example, a constructed FEC frame has 4096 rows, and each row has 5440 bits. A frame header of the FEC frame has 1285 bits, and the 1285 bits are the first 1285 bits in the first row. The FEC check information is placed in the last 300 bits of each of the first row to the 4096th row. A stuffing area has 75610 bits in total (where from the first row to the 3465th row, 20 bits of stuffing are added to each row; and from the 3466th to the 4096th row, 10 bits of stuffing are added to each row), and the remaining is a payload area, used to place an OTUC1 signal. An FEC frame constructed in this manner has the following final rate:

$$99.5328 \times 239 / 226 \times 544 / 514 \times (5140 \times 4096) /$$

$$((5140 \times 4096) - 1285 - 75610) = 111.8099808 \text{ Gbit/s}, \text{ where}$$

111.8099808 Gbit/s is approximately equal to a rate of the OTU4, 111.809973568 Gbit/s.

[0119] Further, if the first optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate in this embodiment of the present invention is a FEC frame, whose payload area is an OTUK m_i of m_i times the benchmark rate, the FEC frame constructed by the transmitter has the following final rate:

$$99.5328 \times 239 / 226 \times 544 / 514 \times (5140 \times 4096) / ((5140 \times 4096) - 1280) \\ = 111.4083825 \text{ Gbit/s}$$

[0120] In such an application scenario, an optical module of 100 G needs to be capable of supporting such a rate.

Table 1

	Without FEC	With FEC
ODU4	104.794445815 Gbit/s (239/227 × 99.5328 Gbit/s)	-
OTU4	-	111.809973568 Gbit/s (255/227 × 99.5328 Gbit/s)
OTUC1	105.258138053 Gbit/s (239/226 × 99.5328 Gbit/s)	-

[0121] This embodiment of the present invention provides a signal sending method. After mapping a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate to X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, a transmitter adds a link sequence indicator overhead to each first optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate of the X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, to generate X second optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, where $n \geq 2$, $X \geq 2$, $m_i \geq 1$, $m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_i + \dots + m_X = n$, and the link sequence indicator overhead of each first optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of the first optical channel physical link signal, and then the transmitter modulates and sends the X second optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate by using X preset optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner.

[0122] By means of this solution, an optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate is no longer mapped to a first optical channel physical link signal of a same rate as the optical channel unit signal, but is mapped to X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate. The rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate, and $m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_i + \dots + m_X = n$. Therefore, the rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is less than the rate of the optical channel unit signal. That is, in the present invention, the optical channel unit signal is decomposed into X low-rate signals. Subsequently, the X low-rate signals are modulated and sent by using X preset optical modules. By means of the present invention, X existing low-rate optical modules can be used to modulate X signals, and an optical module that matches a rate corresponding to an optical channel unit signal is no longer used for modulation, thereby reducing network costs when

optical channel units of different rates need to use optical modules of different rates to perform modulation.

[0123] Further, if the optical channel unit signal is an optical channel data unit ODUK_n signal, and the benchmark rate is 100 G, the ODUK_n signal in this embodiment of the present invention is an optical channel data unit ODUC_n signal of a rate of $n \times 100$ G. In such an application scenario, the present invention can reduce network costs for sending ODUC_ns of different rates.

Embodiment 2

[0124] As shown in FIG. 6, this embodiment of the present invention provides a signal receiving method, including the following steps.

[0125] S201. A receiver receives X second optical channel physical link signals by using X optical modules.

[0126] A rate of the second optical channel physical link signal is m_i times a benchmark rate, $m_i \geq 1$, and $X \geq 2$.

[0127] S202. The receiver separately extracts a link sequence indicator overhead of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals, to obtain X first optical channel physical link signals.

[0128] The link sequence indicator overhead of each second optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of a first optical channel physical link signal that corresponds to the second optical channel physical link signal, and a rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate.

[0129] S203. The receiver demaps the X first optical channel physical link signals, to obtain an optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate, where

$$n \geq 2, \text{ and } \sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n.$$

[0130] It should be noted that the benchmark rate in this embodiment of the present invention may be 100 G, or may be 40 G. This is not specifically limited in this embodiment of the present invention.

[0131] In this embodiment of the present invention, m_i of all the X second optical channel

physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate may be the same, may be different, or may be partially the same. That is, any j of the X second optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate have a same m_i , where $2 \leq j \leq X$.

[0132] Optionally, if the second optical channel physical link signal is a second optical channel transport unit $OTUKm_i$ signal, the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an optical channel data unit $ODUKn$ signal of n times the benchmark rate. K is a level of an ODU or a level of an OTU. K is a positive integer, and a value of K is not specifically limited in this embodiment of the present invention.

[0133] For example, if the benchmark rate is 100 G, the $ODUKn$ signal is an optical channel data unit $ODUCn$ signal of a rate of $n*100$ G, and the $OTUKm_i$ signal is an optical channel transport unit $OTUCm_i$ signal of a rate of m_i*100 G, where C is a roman numeral for 100, and n and m_i are both positive integers.

[0134] Optionally, if the second optical channel physical link signal is a second optical channel transport unit $OTUKm_i$ signal, the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an optical channel payload unit $OPUKn$ signal of n times the benchmark rate. Similarly, K is a level of an OPU or a level of an OTU, K is a positive integer, and a value of K is not specifically limited in this embodiment of the present invention.

[0135] For example, if the benchmark rate is 100 G, the $OPUKn$ signal is an optical channel payload unit $OPUCn$ signal of a rate of $n*100$ G, and the $OTUKm_i$ signal is an optical channel transport unit $OTUCm_i$ signal of a rate of m_i*100 G, where C is a roman numeral for 100, and n and m_i are both positive integers.

[0136] Optionally, if the second optical channel physical link signal is a FEC frame whose payload area is an $OTUKm_i$ of m_i times the benchmark rate, the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an optical channel transport unit $OTUKn$ signal of n times the benchmark rate. Similarly, K is a level of an OTU, K is a positive integer, and a value of K is not specifically limited in this embodiment of the present invention.

[0137] For example, if the benchmark rate is 100 G, the $OTUKm_i$ signal is an optical channel transport unit $OTUCm_i$ signal of a rate of m_i*100 G, and the $OTUKn$ signal is an $OTUCn$ signal of a rate of $n*100$ G, where C is a roman numeral for 100, and n and m_i are both positive integers.

[0138] By performing S201, a receiver receives X second optical channel physical link

signals by using X optical modules.

[0139] Specifically, the receiver receives M optical carrier signals by using X optical fibers, where at least one optical carrier signal is received by using each optical fiber, and $M \geq X \geq 2$. The receiver demodulates the M optical carrier signals by using X preset optical modules, to obtain the X second optical channel physical link signals, where a rate of the second optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate, $m_i \geq 1$, and $X \geq 2$.

[0140] Specifically, if a frame structure of the second optical channel physical link signal includes multiple second optical channel physical link subframes, the transmitter identifies a frame header of each second optical channel physical link subframe in each second optical channel physical link signal, and performs frame header alignment and sorting processing on all the subframes.

[0141] Further, if the second optical channel physical link signal is the second OTUK m_i signal, the transmitter identifies frame header overheads carried by m_i second OTU subframes in a frame structure of each second OTUK m_i signal. (For each OTU subframe, the transmitter determines a frame header of each OTU subframe by identifying a special pattern of a frame header overhead FAS), and frame header alignment processing is performed on the m_i second OTU subframes of the second OTUK m_i signal.

[0142] By performing S202, the receiver separately extracts a link sequence indicator overhead of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals, to obtain X first optical channel physical link signals.

[0143] The link sequence indicator overhead of each second optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of a first optical channel physical link signal that corresponds to the second optical channel physical link signal.

[0144] Further, the receiver may further separately extract an extended multiframe indicator overhead and a link group indicator overhead of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals. The extended multiframe indicator overhead is used to indicate a transmission delay, and the link group indicator overhead is used to indicate whether the X first optical channel physical link signals have a same source.

[0145] Specifically, the receiver extracts the link sequence indicator overhead in each second optical channel physical link signal, and aligns the link sequence indicator overheads.

[0146] Further, the receiver identifies a link sequence number of each first optical channel

physical link signal according to a link sequence indicator, and performs resorting processing on the X first optical channel physical link signals, to generate X first optical channel physical link signals.

[0147] It should be noted that an order of performing the resorting processing and the alignment processing is not limited in this embodiment of the present invention.

[0148] By performing S203, the receiver demaps the X first optical channel physical link signals, to obtain an optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate, where $n \geq 2$, and

$$\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$$

[0149] Specifically, the receiver demaps the X first optical channel physical link signals in a preset demapping manner, to obtain X groups of optical channel unit signals, where the preset demapping manner is bit synchronous demapping or asynchronous demapping, and a rate of each group of optical channel unit signals is m_i times the benchmark rate.

[0150] Preferably, the preset demapping manner in this embodiment of the present invention is bit synchronous demapping.

[0151] Further, the preset demapping manner in this embodiment of the present invention may be asynchronous demapping. It should be noted that if the receiver uses the asynchronous demapping manner, to demap the X first optical channel physical link signals to X groups of optical channel unit subframe signals, before the asynchronous demapping, the receiver first needs to extract mapping overhead information.

[0152] Specifically, all subframes in a frame structure of the X groups of optical channel unit signals maintain frame alignment, and a frame structure of each group of optical channel unit subframe signals includes m_i optical channel unit subframes.

[0153] Further, the receiver combines the X groups of optical channel unit signals, to generate the optical channel unit signal.

[0154] Further, before S202 is performed, the receiver may further perform forward error correction FEC decoding on the X second optical channel physical link signals.

[0155] This embodiment of the present invention provides a signal receiving method. After receiving X second optical channel physical link signals of m_i times a benchmark rate by using X optical modules, a receiver separately extracts a link sequence indicator overhead of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals, to obtain X first optical channel

physical link signals, where $m_i \geq 1$, $X \geq 2$, and the link sequence indicator overhead of each second optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of a first optical channel physical link signal that corresponds to the second optical channel physical link signal, and then the receiver demaps the X first optical channel physical link signals, to obtain an optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate, where $n \geq 2$, and $m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_i + \dots + m_X = n$.

[0156] By means of this solution, after performing related processing on the received X second optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, the receiver obtains X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, and the receiver obtains the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate by demapping the X first optical channel physical link signals. The rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate, and $m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_i + \dots + m_X = n$. Therefore, the rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is less than the rate of the optical channel unit signal. That is, the rate of the second optical channel physical link signal is less than the rate of the optical channel unit signal. In this way, the receiver demodulates M optical carrier signals by using X existing low-rate optical modules, and no longer uses an optical module that matches a rate corresponding to the optical channel unit signal to perform demodulation, thereby reducing network costs when optical channel units of different rates need to use optical modules of different rates to perform demodulation.

[0157] Further, if the optical channel unit signal is an optical channel data unit ODUK n signal, and the benchmark rate is 100 G, the ODUK n signal in this embodiment of the present invention is an optical channel data unit ODUC n signal of a rate of $n \times 100$ G. In such an application scenario, the present invention can reduce network costs for sending ODUC n s of different rates.

Embodiment 3

[0158] As shown in FIG. 7, this embodiment of the present invention provides a signal sending and receiving method, including the following steps.

[0159] S301. A transmitter maps a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate to X first optical channel physical link signals.

[0160] A rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark

rate, $n \geq 2$, $X \geq 2$, $m_i \geq 1$, and $\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$.

[0161] S302. The transmitter adds a link sequence indicator overhead to each of the X first optical channel physical link signals, to generate X second optical channel physical link signals.

[0162] S303. The transmitter performs forward error correction FEC encoding processing on the X second optical channel physical link signals.

[0163] S304. The transmitter modulates, by using X preset optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner, the X second optical channel physical link signals on which FEC encoding processing has been performed, to generate M optical carrier signals, and sends the M optical carrier signals by using X optical fibers.

[0164] S305. The receiver demodulates the M optical carrier signals by using the X preset optical modules, to obtain the X second optical channel physical link signals.

[0165] A rate of the second optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate, $m_i \geq 1$, and $X \geq 2$.

[0166] S306. The receiver performs FEC decoding on the X second optical channel physical link signals.

[0167] S307. The receiver separately extracts a link sequence indicator overhead of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals on which FEC decoding has been performed, to obtain the X first optical channel physical link signals.

[0168] The link sequence indicator overhead of each second optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of a first optical channel physical link signal that corresponds to the second optical channel physical link signal, and a rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate.

[0169] S308. The receiver demaps the X first optical channel physical link signals, to obtain the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate, where

$n \geq 2$, and $\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$.

[0170] It should be noted that the benchmark rate in this embodiment of the present

invention may be 100 G, or may be 25 G. This is not specifically limited in this embodiment of the present invention.

[0171] In this embodiment of the present invention, m_i of all the X second optical channel physical link signals may be the same, may be different, or may be partially the same. That is, any j of the X second optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate have a same m_i , where $2 \leq j \leq X$.

[0172] Optionally, if the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an optical channel data unit ODUK n signal of n times the benchmark rate, the first optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate is a first optical channel transport unit OTUK m_i signal of m_i times the benchmark rate. K is a level of an ODU or a level of an OTU, K is a positive integer, and a value of K is not specifically limited in this embodiment of the present invention.

[0173] For example, if the benchmark rate is 100 G, the ODUK n signal is an optical channel data unit ODUK n signal of a rate of $n*100$ G, and the OTUK m_i signal is an optical channel transport unit OTUK m_i signal of a rate of m_i*100 G, where C is a roman numeral for 100, and n and m_i are both positive integers.

[0174] Optionally, if the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an optical channel payload unit OPUK n signal of n times the benchmark rate, the first optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate is a first optical channel transport unit OTUK m_i signal of m_i times the benchmark rate. Similarly, K is a level of an OPU or a level of an OTU, K is a positive integer, and a value of K is not specifically limited in this embodiment of the present invention.

[0175] For example, if the benchmark rate is 100 G, the OPUK n signal is an optical channel payload unit OPUK n signal of a rate of $n*100$ G, and the OTUK m_i signal is an optical channel transport unit OTUK m_i signal of a rate of m_i*100 G, where C is a roman numeral for 100, and n and m_i are both positive integers.

[0176] Optionally, if the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an optical channel transport unit OTUK n signal of n times the benchmark rate, the first optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate is an FEC frame whose payload area is an OTUK m_i of m_i times the benchmark rate. Similarly, K is a level of an OTU, K is a positive integer, and a value of K is not specifically limited in this embodiment of the present

invention.

[0177] For example, if the benchmark rate is 100 G, the OTUK_{m_i} signal is an optical channel transport unit OTUC_{m_i} signal of a rate of m_i*100 G, and the OTUK_n signal is an OTUC_n signal of a rate of n*100 G, where C is a roman numeral for 100, and n and m_i are both positive integers.

[0178] S301 to S304 in this embodiment of the present invention are the same as the method described in Embodiment 1, and details are not described herein again.

[0179] S305 to S308 in this embodiment of the present invention are the same as the method described in Embodiment 2, and details are not described herein again.

[0180] This embodiment of the present invention provides a signal sending and receiving method. After mapping a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate to X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, a transmitter adds a link sequence indicator overhead to each first optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate of the X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, to generate X second optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, where n≥2, X≥2, m_i≥1, m₁+m₂+...+m_i+...+m_X=n, and the link sequence indicator overhead of each first optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of the first optical channel physical link signal, and then the transmitter modulates and sends the X second optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate by using X preset optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner.

[0181] By means of this solution, an optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate is no longer mapped to a first optical channel physical link signal of a same rate as the optical channel unit signal, but is mapped to X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate. The rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate, and m₁+m₂+...+m_i+...+m_X=n. Therefore, the rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is less than the rate of the optical channel unit signal. That is, in the present invention, the optical channel unit signal is decomposed into X low-rate signals. Subsequently, the X low-rate signals are modulated and sent by using X preset optical modules. By means of the present invention, X existing low-rate optical modules can be used to modulate X signals, and an optical module that matches a rate corresponding to an optical channel unit signal is no longer used for modulation, thereby reducing network costs when

optical channel units of different rates need to use optical modules of different rates to perform modulation.

[0182] Further, if the optical channel unit signal is an optical channel data unit ODUK_n signal, and the benchmark rate is 100 G, the ODUK_n signal in this embodiment of the present invention is an optical channel data unit ODUC_n signal of a rate of $n \times 100$ G. In such an application scenario, the present invention can reduce network costs for sending ODUC_ns of different rates.

Embodiment 4

[0183] In the present invention, if an optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate is an optical channel data unit ODUK_n signal of n times the benchmark rate, a first optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate is a first optical channel transport unit OTUK _{m_i} signal of m_i times the benchmark rate. If an optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate is an optical channel transport unit OTUK_n signal of n times the benchmark rate, a first optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate is a FEC frame whose payload area is an OTUK _{m_i} of m_i times the benchmark rate. If an optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate is an optical channel payload unit OPUK_n signal of n times the benchmark rate, a first optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate is a first optical channel transport unit OTUK _{m_i} signal of m_i times the benchmark rate. If the benchmark rate is 100 G, the ODUK_n signal is an optical channel data unit ODUC_n signal of a rate of $n \times 100$ G, the OTUK _{m_i} signal is an optical channel transport unit OTUC _{m_i} signal of a rate of $m_i \times 100$ G, the OTUK_n signal is an OTUC_n signal of a rate of $n \times 100$ G, and the OPUK_n signal is an optical channel payload unit OPUC_n signal of a rate of $n \times 100$ G.

[0184] In this embodiment of the present invention, a signal sending and receiving method is described by using an example in which the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an ODUC_n signal, and the first optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate is a first OTUC _{m_i} signal.

[0185] As shown in FIG. 8, this embodiment of the present invention provides a signal sending and receiving method, including the following steps.

[0186] S401. A transmitter maps a to-be-transmitted ODUC_n signal to X first OTUC_{m_i} signals, where

$$n \geq 2, X \geq 2, m_i \geq 1, \text{ and } \sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n.$$

[0187] Preferably, a method for mapping, by a transmitter, a to-be-transmitted ODUC_n signal to X first OTUC_{m_i} signals is: dividing, by the transmitter, n ODU subframes in a frame structure of the ODUC_n signal into X preset groups according to a quantity of preset optical modules and a bearer rate of the preset optical modules, where each group of ODU subframes includes m_i ODU subframes; and mapping, by the transmitter in a preset mapping manner, X groups of ODUC_{m_i} subframe signals that each include m_i ODU subframes to X first OTUC_{m_i} signals.

[0188] The preset mapping manner in this embodiment of the present invention is bit synchronous mapping or asynchronous mapping.

[0189] For example, as shown in FIG. 9, the transmitter maps an ODUC₄ to four first OTUC₁ signals. As shown in FIG. 10, the transmitter maps an ODUC₄ to two first OTUC₂ signals. As shown in FIG. 11, the transmitter maps an ODUC₄ to two first OTUC₁ signals and one first OTUC₂ signal.

[0190] S402. The transmitter adds a link sequence indicator overhead to each of the X first OTUC_{m_i} signals, to generate X second OTUC_{m_i} signals.

[0191] The link sequence indicator overhead of each first OTUC_{m_i} signal is used to indicate an order of the first OTUC_{m_i} signal. That is, the link sequence indicator overhead of each first OTUC_{m_i} signal is used to indicate a sequence number of the current first OTUC_{m_i} signal in the X first OTUC_{m_i} signals.

[0192] Specifically, the transmitter first performs link sequence numbering processing on the X first OTUC_{m_i} signals. Then, the transmitter respectively and synchronously adds link sequence numbers of the X first OTUC_{m_i} signals to the link sequence indicator overheads of all the X first OTUC_{m_i} signals.

[0193] Further, the transmitter adds the link sequence indicator overhead to an overhead range of a frame structure of each first OTUC_{m_i} signal; or

adds the link sequence indicator overhead to a frame header of a frame structure of each first OTUC_{m_i} signal.

[0194] Specifically, the transmitter adds the link sequence indicator overhead to the overhead range of the frame structure of each first OTUC_{m_i} signal.

[0195] Further, the transmitter may further add an extended multiframe indicator overhead and a link group indicator overhead to each of the X first OTUC_{m_i} signals. The extended multiframe indicator overhead is used to indicate a transmission delay, and the link group indicator overhead is used to indicate whether the X first OTUC_{m_i} signals have a same source. A receiver can determine, according to the link group indicator overhead, whether the X first OTUC_{m_i} signals are sent by a same transmitter.

[0196] Further, the transmitter further adds first overhead information to each of the X first OTUC_{m_i} signals.

[0197] The first overhead information is used to indicate link bandwidth adjustment of the X first OTUC_{m_i} signals, and the first overhead information includes at least a link bandwidth adjustment request, a link bandwidth adjustment response, and a link member status indication. If a link bandwidth of the X first OTUC_{m_i} signals does not meet a requirement, the link bandwidth of the X first OTUC_{m_i} signals may be adjusted according to the first overhead information.

[0198] Further, the transmitter further adds a subframe sequence indicator overhead OTUK ID to each of the X first OTUC_{m_i} signals, where the OTUK ID is used to indicate an order of m_i OTU subframes in each first OTUC_{m_i} signal.

[0199] Specially, if m_i=1, the OTUK ID may substitute for the link sequence indicator overhead.

[0200] Further, the transmitter further separately generates and adds link segment monitoring overhead information SM to each of the X second OTUC_{m_i} signals.

[0201] Further, the transmitter adds a frame header indication overhead FAS to each of the X second OTUC_{m_i} signals. That is, a pattern 0xf6f62828 is added to the first row and the second to the fifth columns of each OTU subframe. For specific information of the pattern 0xf6f62828, refer to the existing protocol.

[0202] Further, the transmitter further adds a logical lane marker LLM to each of the X second OTUC_{m_i} signals. The LLMs are used as markers for multiple logical channels. LLMs of all subframes in a frame structure of each second OTUC_{m_i} signal are the same. An initial value of an LLM is 0, values of all LLMs are in ascending order, and a value range of the LLM is 0 to 239.

[0203] For example, using a first OTUC1 signal as an example, a frame structure of the second OTUC1 signal is shown in FIG. 12, FIG. 13, or FIG. 14.

[0204] In FIG. 12, a GID is a group marker of an OTUC1-X. An OTUC ID may be placed in the first row and the first column of an OTUC frame, or may be placed in the first row and the 14th column of an OTUC frame. The OTUC ID is indicated in a multiframe manner. When MFAS=1, a value of the OTUC ID is placed at the position, where X OTUC1s respectively correspond to values 1, 2, ..., and X. In this scenario, the OTUC ID may substitute for a function of a link sequence indicator overhead SQ ID, that is, the OTUC ID is the link sequence indicator overhead.

[0205] In FIG. 13, a GID is a group marker of an OTUC1-X. An OTUC ID may be placed in the first row and the first column of an OTUC frame, or may be placed in the first row and the 14th column of an OTUC frame. The OTUC ID is indicated in a multiframe manner. When MFAS=1, a value of the OTUC ID is placed at the position, where X OTUC1s respectively correspond to values 1, 2, ..., and X. In this scenario, the OTUC ID may substitute for a function of a link sequence indicator overhead SQ ID, that is, the OTUC ID is the link sequence indicator overhead.

[0206] Second overhead information includes a PHY MAP Request, a PHY MAP Active, or the like. A function of each overhead field is described as follows.

[0207] PHY MAP Request: 256 bits. One bit corresponds to one OTUC1, and the zeroth to the 255th bits respectively correspond to the first to the 256th OTUC1. The PHY MAP Request is used for an increase request indication or a decrease request indication in an OTUC1-X bandwidth adjustment process. When the value changes from 0 to 1, it indicates an increase request. When the value changes from 1 to 0, it indicates a decrease request.

[0208] PHY MAP Active: 256 bits. One bit corresponds to one OTUC1, and the zeroth to the 255th bits respectively correspond to the first to the 256th OTUC1. The PHY MAP Active is used for a response in an OTUC1-X bandwidth adjustment process. When the value is 1, it indicates that a corresponding increase or decrease request is agreed to be performed. Otherwise, the value is 0.

[0209] CRC8: 8 bits, used to store check information after 8-bit cyclic redundancy check is performed on the foregoing overhead area information.

[0210] In FIG. 14, an overhead carrying manner of the second OTUC1 signal is different

from those in FIG. 12 and FIG. 13. A Generic Framing Procedure (GFP) frame packet encapsulation manner is used for overhead carrying and transfer. First, the transmitter encapsulates some overheads in a GFP frame, and then transfers the GFP frame by using a GCC0 overhead channel of an OTUC1. In this case, the GFP frame includes a core frame header (four bytes), a payload frame header (four bytes, PTI=101, and encapsulation is performed by selecting a GFP communication management frame), a payload area (36 bytes, used to encapsulate a corresponding overhead of an OTU1-X), and a check area (CRC32). For a definition of the GFP frame, refer to a specific definition in the standard ITU-T G.7041.

[0211] Overheads encapsulated in the GFP frame include a GID, an MSID, CTRL, RAS, and an MSF. The GID is a group marker of the OTUC1-X. The MSID (Member Sequence ID) is an OTUC1 member sequence number in the OTUC1-X, equivalent to a function of the link sequence indicator overhead SQ, and a value of the MSID is 1, 2, ..., or X. For the remaining CTRL, RAS, MSF, or the like, a function of each overhead field is similar to that described in FIG. 4.

[0212] S403. The transmitter performs FEC encoding processing on the X second OTUC_{m_i} signals.

[0213] S404. The transmitter modulates, by using X preset optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner, the X second OTUC_{m_i} signals on which FEC encoding processing has been performed, to generate M optical carrier signals, and sends the M optical carrier signals by using X optical fibers.

[0214] S405. A receiver demodulates the M optical carrier signals by using the X preset optical modules, to obtain the X second OTUC_{m_i} signals.

[0215] A rate of the second OTUC_{m_i} signal is m_i times a benchmark rate, m_i≥1, and X≥2.

[0216] S406. The receiver performs FEC decoding on the X second OTUC_{m_i} signals.

[0217] S407. The receiver separately extracts a link sequence indicator overhead of each of the X second OTUC_{m_i} signals on which FEC decoding has been performed, to obtain the X first OTUC_{m_i} signals.

[0218] The link sequence indicator overhead of each second OTUC_{m_i} signal is used to indicate an order of a first optical channel physical link signal that corresponds to the second optical channel physical link signal.

[0219] S408. The receiver demaps the X first OTUC_{m_i} signals, to obtain the ODUc_n

signal, where

$$n \geq 2, \text{ and } \sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$$

[0220] This embodiment of the present invention provides a signal sending and receiving method. After mapping a to-be-transmitted ODU_{Cn} signal to X first OTUC_{m_i} signals, a transmitter adds a link sequence indicator overhead to each of the X first OTUC_{m_i} signals, to generate X second OTUC_{m_i} signals, where $n \geq 2$, $X \geq 2$, $m_i \geq 1$, $m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_i + \dots + m_X = n$, and the link sequence indicator overhead of each first OTUC_{m_i} signal is used to indicate an order of the first OTUC_{m_i} signal, and then the transmitter modulates and sends the X second OTUC_{m_i} signals by using X preset optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner.

[0221] By means of this solution, an ODU_{Cn} signal is no longer mapped to an OTUC_n signal of a same rate as the ODU_{Cn} signal, but is mapped to X first OTUC_{m_i} signals. A rate of the first OTUC_{m_i} signal is m_i times a benchmark rate, and $m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_i + \dots + m_X = n$, and therefore the rate of the first OTUC_{m_i} signal is less than the rate of the ODU_{Cn} signal. That is, in the present invention, the ODU_{Cn} signal is decomposed into X low-rate signals. Subsequently, the X low-rate signals are modulated and sent by using X preset optical modules. By means of the present invention, X existing low-rate optical modules can be used to modulate X signals, and an optical module that matches a rate corresponding to an optical channel unit signal is no longer used for modulation, thereby reducing network costs when optical channel units of different rates need to use optical modules of different rates to perform modulation.

Embodiment 5

[0222] This embodiment of the present invention provides a transmitter 1. As shown in FIG. 15, the transmitter 1 includes:

a mapping unit 10, configured to map a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate to X first optical channel physical link signals, where a rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate, $n \geq 2$, $X \geq 2$, $m_i \geq 1$,

and $\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$;

an overhead addition unit 11, configured to add a link sequence indicator overhead

to each of the X first optical channel physical link signals obtained through mapping by the mapping unit 10, to generate X second optical channel physical link signals, where the link sequence indicator overhead of each first optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of the first optical channel physical link signal, and a rate of the second optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate;

a modulation unit 12, configured to modulate, by using X preset optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner, the X second optical channel physical link signals generated by the overhead addition unit 11; and

a sending unit 13, configured to send the X second optical channel physical link signals modulated by the modulation unit 12.

[0223] Further, as shown in FIG. 16, the transmitter 1 further includes a grouping unit 14, where

the grouping unit 14 is configured to divide the to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate into X preset groups.

[0224] Further, the mapping unit 10 is specifically configured to map the X groups of optical channel unit signals obtained through division by the grouping unit 14 to the X first optical channel physical link signals in a one-to-one correspondence manner and in a preset mapping manner, where the preset mapping manner is bit synchronous mapping or asynchronous mapping.

[0225] Further, as shown in FIG. 16, the transmitter 1 further includes an encoding unit 15, where

the encoding unit 15 is configured to: before the modulation unit 12 modulates the X second optical channel physical link signals by using the X preset optical modules in the one-to-one correspondence manner, perform forward error correction FEC encoding processing on the X second optical channel physical link signals generated by the overhead addition unit 11.

[0226] Further, each of the X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate has a different m_i ; or

any j of the X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate have a same m_i , where $2 \leq j \leq X$.

[0227] Further, if the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an

optical channel data unit ODUK_n signal of n times the benchmark rate, the first optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate is a first optical channel transport unit OTUK _{m_i} signal of m_i times the benchmark rate.

[0228] This embodiment of the present invention provides a transmitter, which mainly includes a mapping unit, an overhead addition unit, a modulation unit, and a sending unit. After mapping a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate to X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, the transmitter adds a link sequence indicator overhead to each first optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate of the X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, to generate X second optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, where $n \geq 2$, $X \geq 2$, $m_i \geq 1$, $m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_i + \dots + m_X = n$, and the link sequence indicator overhead of each first optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of the first optical channel physical link signal, and then the transmitter modulates and sends the X second optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate by using X preset optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner.

[0229] By means of this solution, an optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate is no longer mapped to a first optical channel physical link signal of a same rate as the optical channel unit signal, but is mapped to X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate. The rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate, and $m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_i + \dots + m_X = n$. Therefore, the rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is less than the rate of the optical channel unit signal. That is, in the present invention, the optical channel unit signal is decomposed into X low-rate signals. Subsequently, the X low-rate signals are modulated and sent by using X preset optical modules. By means of the present invention, X existing low-rate optical modules can be used to modulate X signals, and an optical module that matches a rate corresponding to an optical channel unit signal is no longer used for modulation, thereby reducing network costs when optical channel units of different rates need to use optical modules of different rates to perform modulation.

[0230] Further, if the optical channel unit signal is an optical channel data unit ODUK_n signal, and the benchmark rate is 100 G, the ODUK_n signal in this embodiment of the present invention is an optical channel data unit ODUC_n signal of a rate of $n * 100$ G. In such an application scenario, the present invention can reduce network costs for sending ODUC_ns of

different rates.

Embodiment 6

[0231] This embodiment of the present invention provides a receiver 1. As shown in FIG. 17, the receiver 1 includes:

a receiving unit 20, configured to receive X second optical channel physical link signals by using X optical modules, where a rate of the second optical channel physical link signal is m_i times a benchmark rate, $m_i \geq 1$, and $X \geq 2$;

an extraction unit 21, configured to separately extract a link sequence indicator overhead of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals received by the receiving unit 20, to obtain X first optical channel physical link signals, where the link sequence indicator overhead of each second optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of a first optical channel physical link signal that corresponds to the second optical channel physical link signal, and a rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate; and

a demapping unit 22, configured to demap the X first optical channel physical link signals obtained by the extraction unit 21, to obtain an optical channel unit signal of n times

the benchmark rate, where $n \geq 2$, and $\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$.

[0232] Further, the demapping unit 22 is specifically configured to demap the X first optical channel physical link signals in a preset demapping manner, to obtain X groups of optical channel unit signals, where the preset demapping manner is bit synchronous demapping or asynchronous demapping, and a rate of each group of optical channel unit signals is m_i times the benchmark rate.

[0233] Further, as shown in FIG. 18, the receiver 1 further includes a combination unit 23, where

the combination unit 23 is specifically configured to combine the X groups of optical channel unit subframe signals obtained by the demapping unit 22, to generate the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate.

[0234] Further, as shown in FIG. 18, the receiver 1 further includes a decoding unit 24,

where

the decoding unit 24 is configured to: before the extraction unit 21 separately extracts the link sequence indicator overhead of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals, to obtain the X first optical channel physical link signals, perform forward error correction FEC decoding on the X second optical channel physical link signals received by the receiving unit.

[0235] Further, each of the X second optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate has a different m_i ; or

any j of the X second optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate have a same m_i , where $2 \leq j \leq X$.

[0236] Further, if the second optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate is a second optical channel transport unit OTUK m_i signal of m_i times the benchmark rate, the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an optical channel data unit ODUK n signal of n times the benchmark rate.

[0237] This embodiment of the present invention provides a receiver, which mainly includes a receiving unit, an extraction unit, and a demapping unit. After receiving X second optical channel physical link signals of m_i times a benchmark rate by using X optical modules, the receiver separately extracts a link sequence indicator overhead of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals, to obtain X first optical channel physical link signals, where $m_i \geq 1$, $X \geq 2$, and the link sequence indicator overhead of each second optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of a first optical channel physical link signal that corresponds to the second optical channel physical link signal, and then the receiver demaps the X first optical channel physical link signals, to obtain an optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate, where $n \geq 2$, and $m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_i + \dots + m_X = n$.

[0238] By means of this solution, after performing related processing on the received X second optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, the receiver obtains X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, and the receiver obtains the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate by demapping the X first optical channel physical link signals. The rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate, and $m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_i + \dots + m_X = n$. Therefore, the rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is less than the rate of the optical channel unit

signal. That is, the rate of the second optical channel physical link signal is less than the rate of the optical channel unit signal. In this way, the receiver demodulates M optical carrier signals by using X existing low-rate optical modules, and no longer uses an optical module that matches a rate corresponding to the optical channel unit signal to perform demodulation, thereby reducing network costs when optical channel units of different rates need to use optical modules of different rates to perform demodulation.

[0239] Further, if the optical channel unit signal is an optical channel data unit ODUK n signal, and the benchmark rate is 100 G, the ODUK n signal in this embodiment of the present invention is an optical channel data unit ODUC n signal of a rate of $n \times 100$ G. In such an application scenario, the present invention can reduce network costs for sending ODUC n s of different rates.

Embodiment 7

[0240] This embodiment of the present invention provides a transfer device. As shown in FIG. 19, the transfer device includes a transceiver 30, a processor 31, a memory 32, and a system bus 33, where

the transceiver 30, the processor 31, and the memory 32 are connected to and communicate with each other by using the system bus 33.

[0241] The processor 31 may be a single-core or multi-core central processing unit, or an application-specific integrated circuit, or one or more integrated circuits configured to implement this embodiment of the present invention.

[0242] The memory 32 may be a high-speed Random Access Memory (RAM), and may be a non-volatile memory, for example, at least one magnetic disk storage.

[0243] Specifically, the transfer device in this embodiment of the present invention may be a sending device, or may be a receiving device. The transfer device may map a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate to X first optical channel physical link signals, perform related processing on the X first optical channel physical link signals, and send the processed X first optical channel physical link signals. Alternatively, the transfer device may demap received X second optical channel physical link signals to obtain an optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate.

[0244] Specifically, the processor 31 is configured to map a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate to X first optical channel physical link signals, where a rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate,

$$n \geq 2, X \geq 2, m_i \geq 1, \text{ and } \sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n; \text{ and}$$

configured to add a link sequence indicator overhead to each of the X first optical channel physical link signals, to generate X second optical channel physical link signals, where the link sequence indicator overhead of each first optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of the first optical channel physical link signal, and a rate of the second optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate; and

configured to modulate the X second optical channel physical link signals by using X preset optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner.

[0245] Specifically, the transceiver 30 is configured to send the X second optical channel physical link signals modulated by the processor 31.

[0246] Further, the processor 31 is specifically configured to divide the to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate into X preset groups; and

specifically configured to map the X groups of optical channel unit signals to the X first optical channel physical link signals in a one-to-one correspondence manner and in a preset mapping manner, where the preset mapping manner is bit synchronous mapping or asynchronous mapping.

[0247] Further, the processor 31 is further configured to: before modulating the X second optical channel physical link signals by using the X preset optical modules in the one-to-one correspondence manner, perform forward error correction FEC encoding processing on the X second optical channel physical link signals.

[0248] Further, each of the X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate has a different m_i ; or

any j of the X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate have a same m_i , where $2 \leq j \leq X$.

[0249] Further, if the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an optical channel data unit ODUK n signal of n times the benchmark rate, the first optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate is a first optical channel transport

unit OTUK_{m_i} signal of m_i times the benchmark rate.

[0250] Further, if the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an optical channel payload unit OPUK_n signal of n times the benchmark rate, the first optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate is a first optical channel transport unit OTUK_{m_i} signal of m_i times the benchmark rate.

[0251] Further, if the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an optical channel transport unit OTUK_n signal of n times the benchmark rate, the first optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate is an FEC frame whose payload area is an OTUK_{m_i} of m_i times the benchmark rate.

[0252] Further, if the benchmark rate is 100 G,
the ODUK_n signal is an optical channel data unit ODUC_n signal of a rate of n*100 G, the OTUK_{m_i} signal is an optical channel transport unit OTUC_{m_i} signal of a rate of m_i*100 G, and the OTUK_n signal is an OTUC_n signal of a rate of n*100 G.

[0253] Further, the transceiver 30 is further configured to receive X second optical channel physical link signals by using X optical modules, where a rate of the second optical channel physical link signal is m_i times a benchmark rate, m_i≥1, and X≥2.

[0254] Further, the processor 31 is further configured to separately extract a link sequence indicator overhead of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals, to obtain X first optical channel physical link signals, where the link sequence indicator overhead of each second optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of a first optical channel physical link signal that corresponds to the second optical channel physical link signal, and a rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate; and

configured to demap the X first optical channel physical link signals, to obtain an

optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate, where n≥2, and $\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$.

[0255] Further, the processor 31 is specifically configured to demap the X first optical channel physical link signals in a preset demapping manner, to obtain X groups of optical channel unit signals, where the preset demapping manner is bit synchronous demapping or asynchronous demapping, and a rate of each group of optical channel unit signals is m_i times the benchmark rate; and

specifically configured to combine the X groups of optical channel unit subframe

signals, to generate the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate.

[0256] Further, the processor 31 is further configured to: before separately extracting the link sequence indicator overhead of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals, to obtain the X first optical channel physical link signals, perform forward error correction FEC decoding on the X second optical channel physical link signals received by the transceiver 30.

[0257] This embodiment of the present invention provides a transfer device. After mapping a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate to X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, the transfer device adds a link sequence indicator overhead to each first optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate of the X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, to generate X second optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, where $n \geq 2$, $X \geq 2$, $m_i \geq 1$, $m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_i + \dots + m_X = n$, and the link sequence indicator overhead of each first optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of the first optical channel physical link signal, and then the transfer device modulates and sends the X second optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate by using X preset optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner.

[0258] By means of this solution, an optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate is no longer mapped to a first optical channel physical link signal of a same rate as the optical channel unit signal, but is mapped to X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate. The rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate, and $m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_i + \dots + m_X = n$. Therefore, the rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is less than the rate of the optical channel unit signal. That is, in the present invention, the optical channel unit signal is decomposed into X low-rate signals. Subsequently, the X low-rate signals are modulated and sent by using X preset optical modules. By means of the present invention, X existing low-rate optical modules can be used to modulate X signals, and an optical module that matches a rate corresponding to an optical channel unit signal is no longer used for modulation, thereby reducing network costs when optical channel units of different rates need to use optical modules of different rates to perform modulation.

[0259] Further, if the optical channel unit signal is an optical channel data unit ODUK n signal, and the benchmark rate is 100 G, the ODUK n signal in this embodiment of the present

invention is an optical channel data unit ODU_{Cn} signal of a rate of $n \cdot 100$ G. In such an application scenario, the present invention can reduce network costs for sending ODU_{Cn}s of different rates.

Embodiment 8

[0260] This embodiment of the present invention provides a signal transmission system. As shown in FIG. 20, the system includes the transmitter 3 that has any one of the foregoing features and the receiver 4 that has any one of the foregoing features.

[0261] This embodiment of the present invention provides a signal transmission system. After mapping a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate to X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, a transmitter adds a link sequence indicator overhead to each first optical channel physical link signal of m_i times the benchmark rate of the X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, to generate X second optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate, where $n \geq 2$, $X \geq 2$, $m_i \geq 1$, $m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_i + \dots + m_X = n$, and the link sequence indicator overhead of each first optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of the first optical channel physical link signal, and then the transmitter modulates and sends the X second optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate by using X preset optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner.

[0262] By means of this solution, an optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate is no longer mapped to a first optical channel physical link signal of a same rate as the optical channel unit signal, but is mapped to X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate. The rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is m_i times the benchmark rate, and $m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_i + \dots + m_X = n$. Therefore, the rate of the first optical channel physical link signal is less than the rate of the optical channel unit signal. That is, in the present invention, the optical channel unit signal is decomposed into X low-rate signals. Subsequently, the X low-rate signals are modulated and sent by using X preset optical modules. By means of the present invention, X existing low-rate optical modules can be used to modulate X signals, and an optical module that matches a rate corresponding to an optical channel unit signal is no longer used for modulation, thereby reducing network costs when optical channel units of

different rates need to use optical modules of different rates to perform modulation.

[0263] Further, if the optical channel unit signal is an optical channel data unit ODUK_n signal, and the benchmark rate is 100 G, the ODUK_n signal in this embodiment of the present invention is an optical channel data unit ODUC_n signal of a rate of $n \times 100$ G. In such an application scenario, the present invention can reduce network costs for sending ODUC_ns of different rates.

[0264] It may be clearly understood by a person skilled in the art that, for the purpose of convenient and brief description, division of the foregoing function modules is taken as an example for illustration. In actual application, the foregoing functions can be allocated to different function modules and implemented according to a requirement, that is, an inner structure of an apparatus is divided into different function modules to implement all or some of the functions described above. For a detailed working process of the foregoing system, apparatus, and unit, reference may be made to a corresponding process in the foregoing method embodiments, and details are not described herein again.

[0265] In the several embodiments provided in this application, it should be understood that the disclosed system, apparatus, and method may be implemented in other manners. For example, the described apparatus embodiment is merely exemplary. For example, the module or unit division is merely logical function division and may be other division in actual implementation. For example, a plurality of units or components may be combined or integrated into another system, or some features may be ignored or not performed. In addition, the displayed or discussed mutual couplings or direct couplings or communication connections may be implemented by using some interfaces. The indirect couplings or communication connections between the apparatuses or units may be implemented in electronic, mechanical, or other forms.

[0266] The units described as separate parts may or may not be physically separate. Parts displayed as units may or may not be physical units, and may be located in one position or may be distributed on a plurality of network units. Some or all of the units may be selected according to actual needs to achieve the objectives of the solutions of the embodiments.

[0267] In addition, functional units in the embodiments of the present invention may be integrated into one processing unit, or each of the units may exist alone physically, or two or more units are integrated into one unit. The integrated unit may be implemented in a form of

hardware, or may be implemented in a form of a software functional unit.

[0268] A person of ordinary skill in the art may understand that all or some of the steps of the method embodiments may be implemented by a program instructing relevant hardware. The program may be stored in a computer readable storage medium. When the program runs, the steps of the method embodiments are performed. The foregoing storage medium includes: any medium that can store program code, such as a ROM, a RAM, a magnetic disk, or an optical disc.

[0269] The foregoing descriptions are merely specific embodiments of the present invention, but are not intended to limit the protection scope of the present invention. Any variation or replacement readily figured out by a person skilled in the art within the technical scope disclosed in the present invention shall fall within the protection scope of the present invention. Therefore, the protection scope of the present invention shall be subject to the protection scope of the claims.

CLAIMS:

1. A signal sending method, comprising:

mapping a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate to X first optical channel physical link signals, wherein a rate of each of the X first optical channel

5 physical link signals is m_i times the benchmark rate, $n \geq 2$, $X \geq 2$, $m_i \geq 1$, and $\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$, n, X, and m_i are positive integers, the to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate is an optical transport unit (OTUKn) signal and each of the X first optical channel physical link signals is a forward error correction (FEC) frame;

10 adding a link sequence indicator overhead to each of the X first optical channel physical link signals, to generate X second optical channel physical link signals, wherein the link sequence indicator overhead of each first optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of the first optical channel physical link signal, and a rate of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals is m_i times the benchmark rate; and

15 sending the X second optical channel physical link signals by using X optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner, wherein a rate of each of the X optical modules corresponds to a rate of each of the X optical channel physical link signals.

2. The signal sending method according to claim 1, wherein the mapping a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate to X first optical channel physical link signals comprises:

20 dividing the to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate into X preset groups; and

mapping the X groups of optical channel unit signals to the X first optical channel physical link signals in a one-to-one correspondence manner and in a preset mapping manner, wherein the preset mapping manner is bit synchronous mapping or asynchronous mapping.

25 3. The signal sending method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein before the sending the X second optical channel physical link signals by using X optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner, the signal sending method further comprises:

performing FEC encoding on the X second optical channel physical link signals.

4. The signal sending method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein

each of the X first optical channel physical link signals has a different m_i ; or
 any j of the X first optical channel physical link signals have a same m_i , wherein $2 \leq j \leq X$.

5 5. The signal sending method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, the signal sending method further comprises: adding a link group indicator to each of the X first optical channel physical link signals, the link group indicator is used to indicate whether the X first optical channel physical link signals have a same source.

6. A signal receiving method, comprising:

10 receiving X second optical channel physical link signals by using X optical modules, wherein a rate of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals is m_i times a benchmark rate, $m_i \geq 1$, and $X \geq 2$, m_i and X are positive integers, and each of the X second optical channel physical link signals is a forward error correction (FEC) frame, and a rate of each of the X optical modules corresponds to a rate of each of the X second FEC frames;

15 separately extracting a link sequence indicator overhead of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals, to obtain X first optical channel physical link signals, wherein the link sequence indicator overhead of each second optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of a first optical channel physical link signal that corresponds to the second optical channel physical link signal, and a rate of each of the X first optical channel physical link signals is m_i times the benchmark rate; and

demapping the X first optical channel physical link signals, to obtain an optical channel

20 unit signal of n times the benchmark rate, wherein $n \geq 2$, and $\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$, and n is a positive integer, and the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an optical transport unit (OTUKn) signal.

25 7. The signal receiving method according to claim 6, wherein the demapping the X first optical channel physical link signals, to obtain an optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate comprises:

demapping the X first optical channel physical link signals in a preset demapping manner, to obtain X groups of optical channel unit signals, wherein the preset demapping manner is bit synchronous demapping or asynchronous demapping, and a rate of each group of optical channel unit signals is m_i times the benchmark rate; and

combining the X groups of optical channel unit signals, to generate the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate.

8. The signal receiving method according to claim 6 or 7, wherein before the separately extracting a link sequence indicator overhead of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals, to obtain X first optical channel physical link signals, the method further comprises:

performing FEC decoding on the X second optical channel physical link signals.

9. The signal receiving method according to any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein each of the X second optical channel physical link signals has a different m_i ; or any j of the X second optical channel physical link signals have a same m_i , wherein $2 \leq j \leq X$.

10. The signal receiving method according to any one of claims 6 to 9, wherein the signal receiving method further comprises: extracting a link group indicator to each of the X second optical channel physical link signals, the link group indicator is used to indicate whether the X first FEC optical channel physical link signals have a same source.

11. A transmitter, comprising:

a mapping unit, configured to map a to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate to X first optical channel physical link signals, wherein a rate of each of the X first optical channel physical link signals is m_i times the benchmark rate, $n \geq 2$, $X \geq 2$,

$m_i \geq 1$, and $\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$, wherein n, X, and m_i are positive integers, the to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times a benchmark rate is an optical transport unit (OTUKn) signal and each of the X first optical channel physical link signals is a forward error correction (FEC) frame;

an overhead addition unit, configured to add a link sequence indicator overhead to each of the X first optical channel physical link signals obtained through mapping by the mapping unit, to generate X second optical channel physical link signals, wherein the link sequence indicator overhead of each first optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of the first optical channel physical link signal, and a rate of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals is m_i times the benchmark rate;

a modulation unit, configured to modulate, by using X preset optical modules in a one-to-one correspondence manner, the X second optical channel physical link signals

generated by the overhead addition unit, wherein a rate of each of the X optical modules corresponds to a rate of each of the X optical channel physical link signals; and

a sending unit, configured to send the X second optical channel physical link signals modulated by the modulation unit.

5 12. The transmitter according to claim 11, wherein the transmitter further comprises a grouping unit, wherein

the grouping unit is configured to divide the to-be-transmitted optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate into X preset groups; and

10 the mapping unit is specifically configured to map the X groups of optical channel unit signals obtained through division by the grouping unit to the X first optical channel physical link signals in a one-to-one correspondence manner and in a preset mapping manner, wherein the preset mapping manner is bit synchronous mapping or asynchronous mapping.

13. The transmitter according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the transmitter further comprises an encoding unit, wherein

15 the encoding unit is configured to: before the modulation unit modulates the X second optical channel physical link signals by using the X preset optical modules in the one-to-one correspondence manner, perform FEC encoding on the X second optical channel physical link signals generated by the overhead addition unit.

14. The transmitter according to any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein

20 each of the X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate has a different m_i ; or

any j of the X first optical channel physical link signals of m_i times the benchmark rate have a same m_i , wherein $2 \leq j \leq X$.

25 15. The transmitter according to any one of claims 11 to 14, wherein the overhead addition unit is further configured to add a link group indicator to each of the X first optical channel physical link signals, the link group indicator is used to indicate whether the X first optical channel physical link signals have a same source.

16. A receiver, comprising:

30 a receiving unit, configured to receive X second optical channel physical link signals by using X optical modules, wherein a rate of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals is m_i times a benchmark rate, $m_i \geq 1$, and $X \geq 2$, m_i and X are positive integers, each of

the X second optical channel physical link signals is a forward error correction (FEC) frame, and a rate of each of the X optical modules corresponds to a rate of each of the X second FEC frames;

5 an extraction unit, configured to separately extract a link sequence indicator overhead of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals received by the receiving unit, to obtain X first optical channel physical link signals, wherein the link sequence indicator overhead of each second optical channel physical link signal is used to indicate an order of a first optical channel physical link signal that corresponds to the second optical channel physical link signal, and a rate of each of the X first optical channel physical link signals is m_i times the benchmark rate; and

a demapping unit, configured to demap the X first optical channel physical link signals obtained by the extraction unit, to obtain an optical channel unit signal of n times the

benchmark rate, wherein $n \geq 2$, and $\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$, and n is a positive integer, and the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate is an optical transport unit (OTUKn) signal.

15 17. The receiver according to claim 16, wherein

the demapping unit is specifically configured to demap the X first optical channel physical link signals in a preset demapping manner, to obtain X groups of optical channel unit signals, wherein the preset demapping manner is bit synchronous demapping or asynchronous demapping, and a rate of each group of optical channel unit signals is m_i times the benchmark

20 rate; and

the receiver further comprises a combination unit, wherein

the combination unit is specifically configured to combine the X groups of optical channel unit subframe signals obtained by the demapping unit, to generate the optical channel unit signal of n times the benchmark rate.

25 18. The receiver according to claim 16 or 17, wherein the receiver further comprises a decoding unit, wherein

the decoding unit is configured to: before the extraction unit separately extracts the link sequence indicator overhead of each of the X second optical channel physical link signals, to obtain the X first optical channel physical link signals, perform FEC decoding on the X second optical channel physical link signals received by the receiving unit.

30

19. The receiver according to any one of claims 16 to 18, wherein each of the X second optical channel physical link signals has a different m_i ; or any j of the X second optical channel physical link signals have a same m_i , wherein $2 \leq j \leq X$.

20. The receiver according to any one of claims 16 to 19, wherein the signal receiving method further comprises: extracting a link group indicator to each of the X second optical channel physical link signals, the link group indicator is used to indicate whether the X first FEC optical channel physical link signals have a same source.

21. A signal transmission system, comprising the transmitter according to any one of claims 11 to 15 and the receiver according to any one of claims 16 to 20.

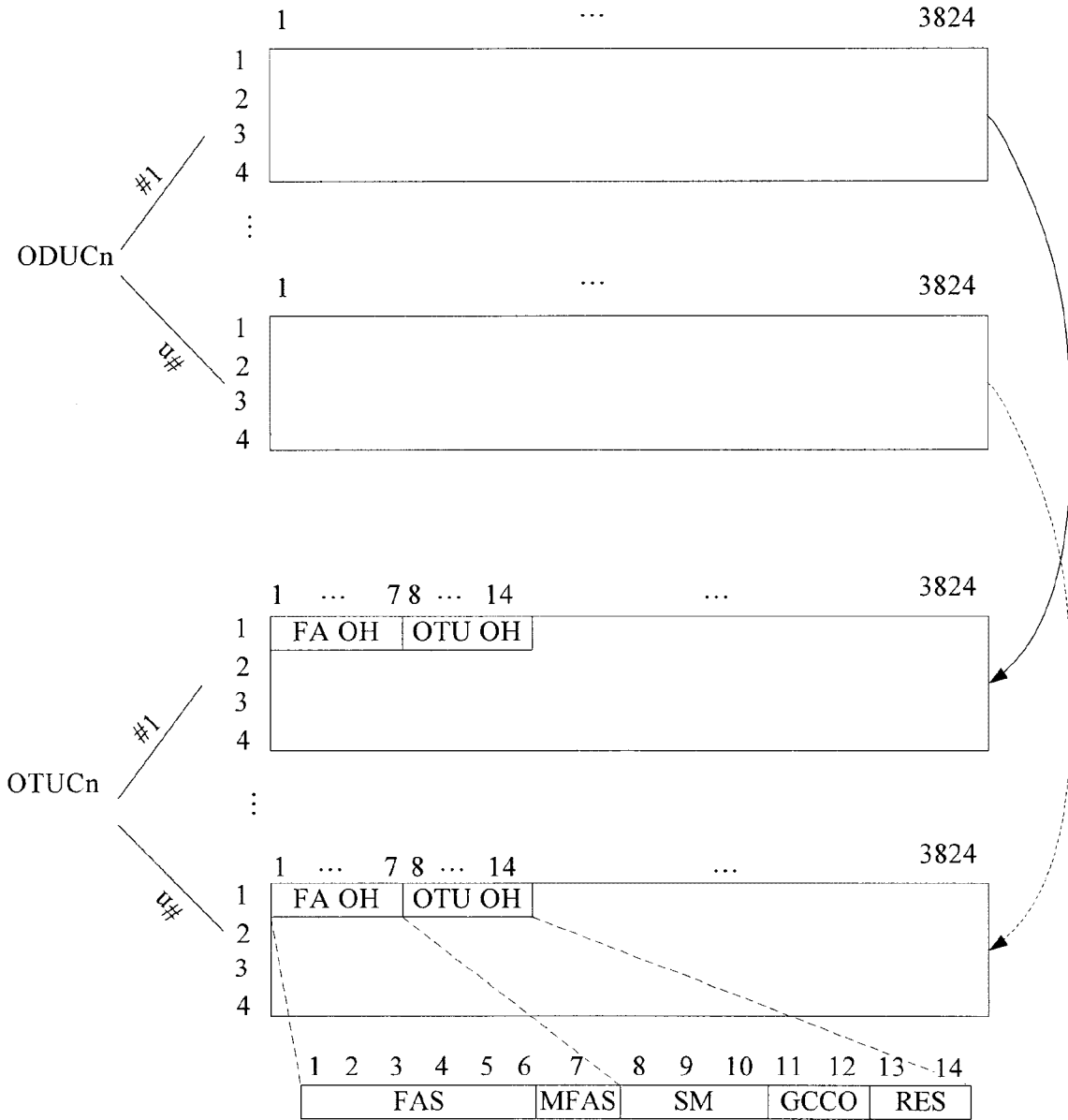


FIG. 1

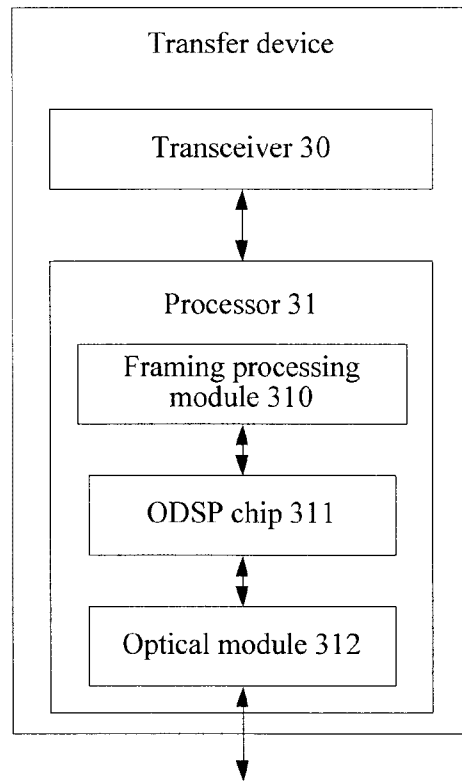


FIG. 2

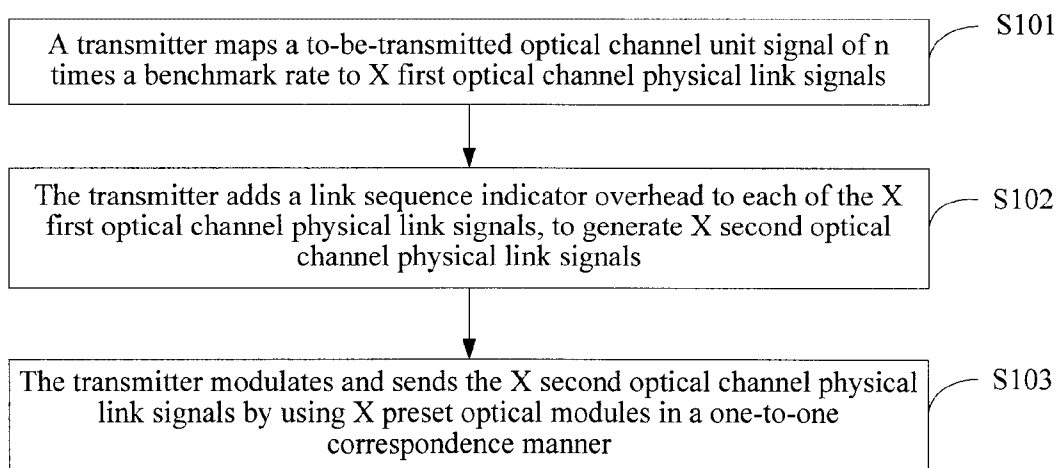


FIG. 3

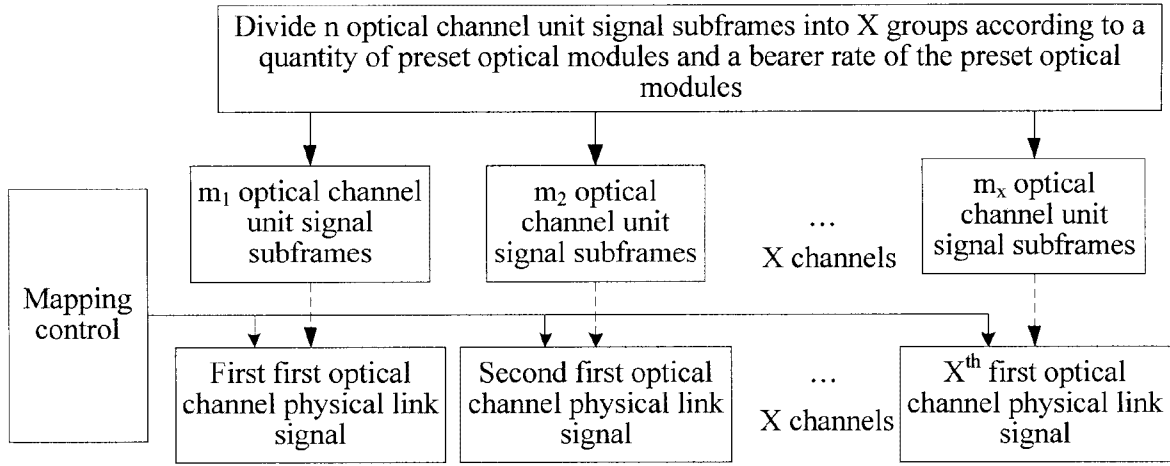
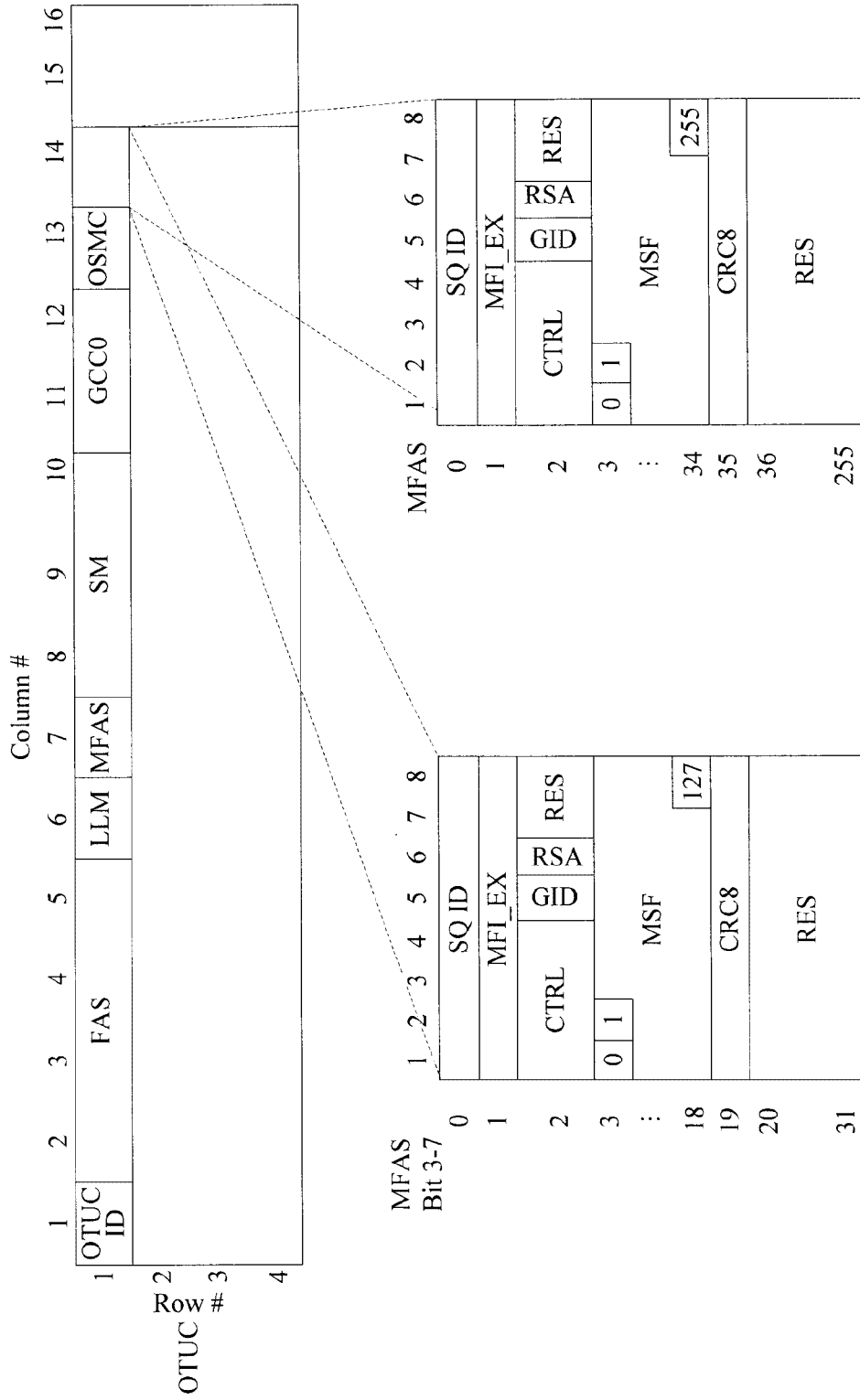


FIG. 4



Manner 2

FIG. 5

Manner 1

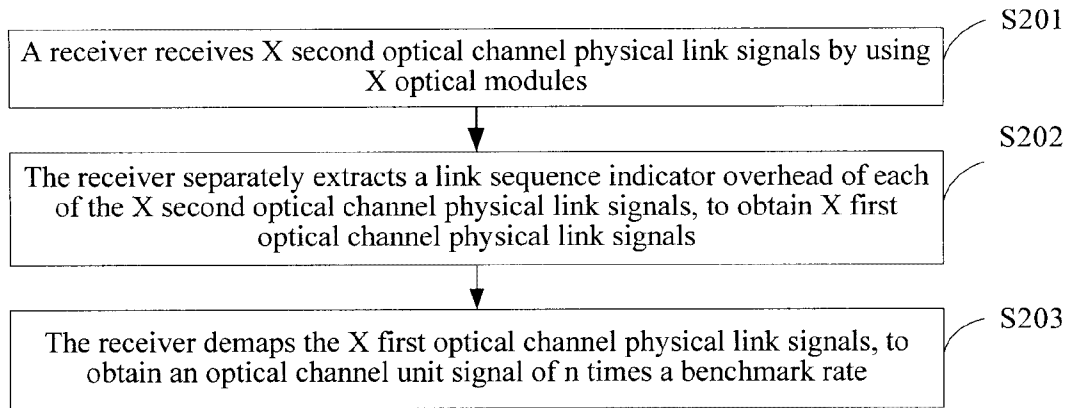


FIG. 6

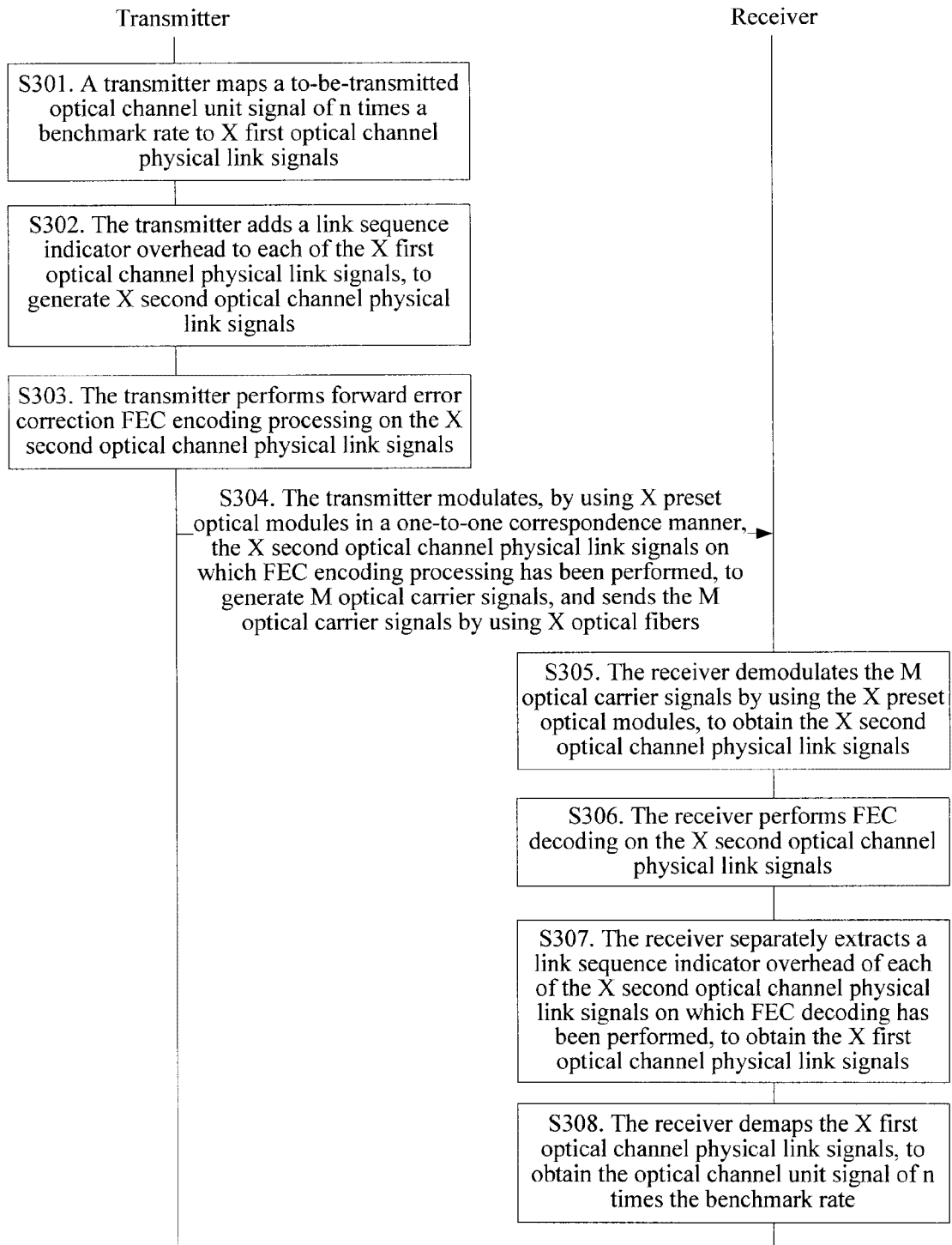


FIG. 7

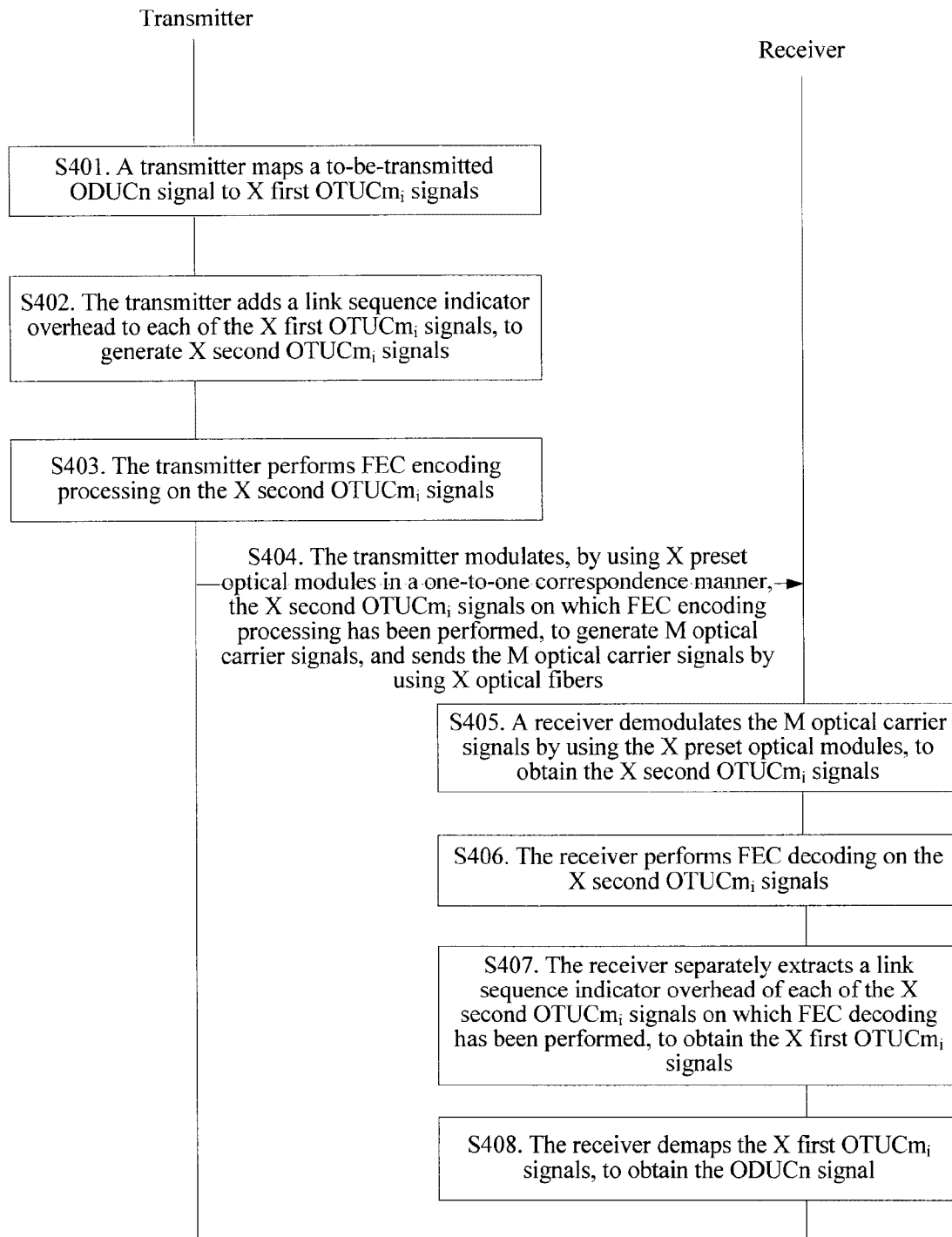


FIG. 8

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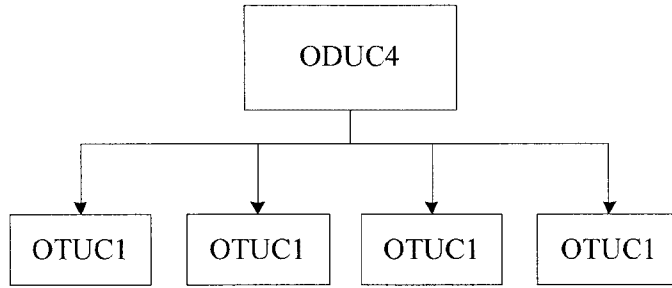


FIG. 9

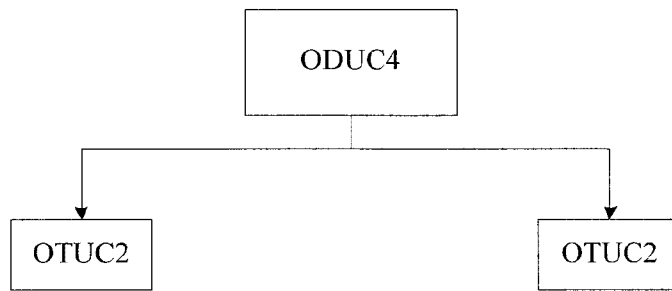


FIG. 10

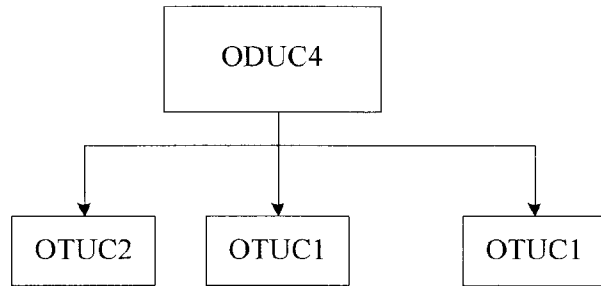


FIG. 11

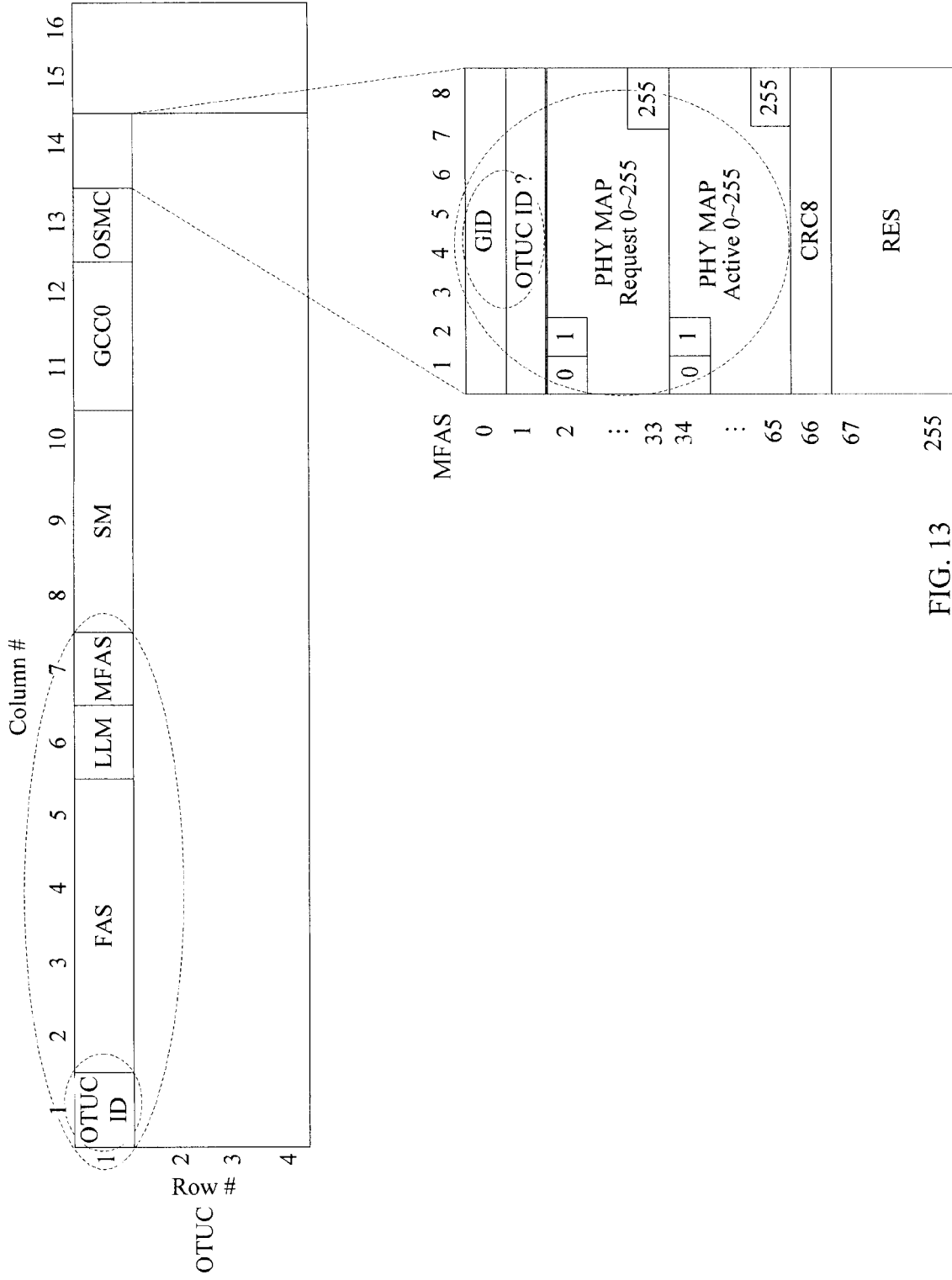


FIG. 13

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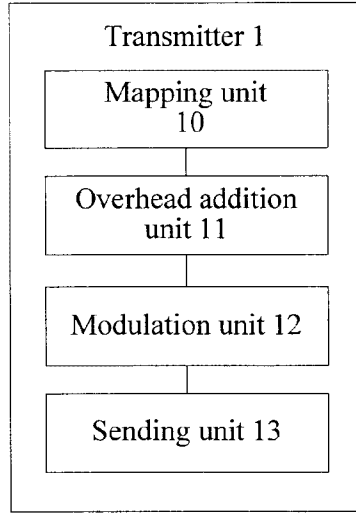


FIG. 15

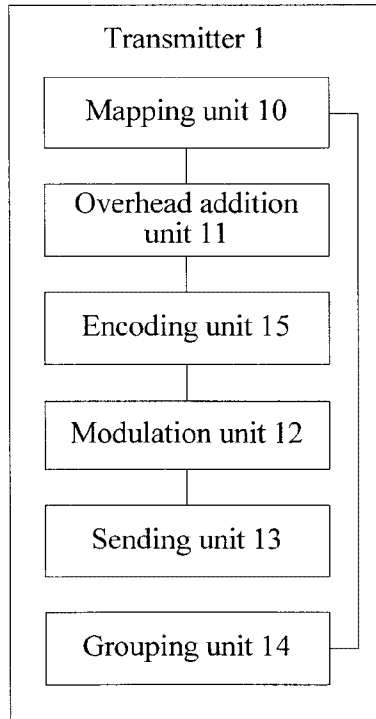


FIG. 16

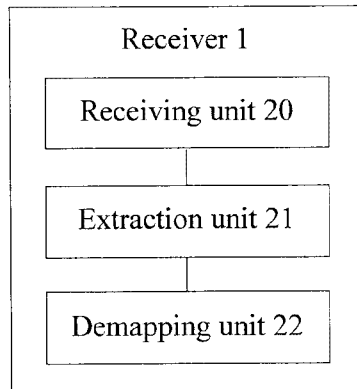


FIG. 17

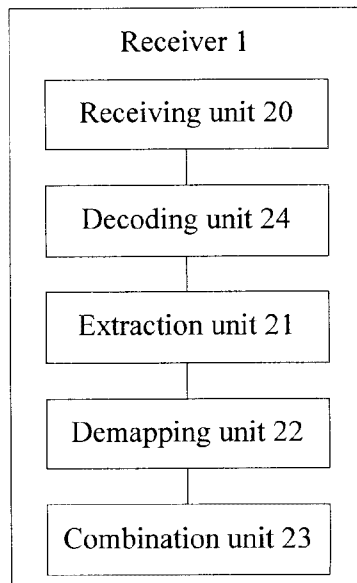


FIG. 18

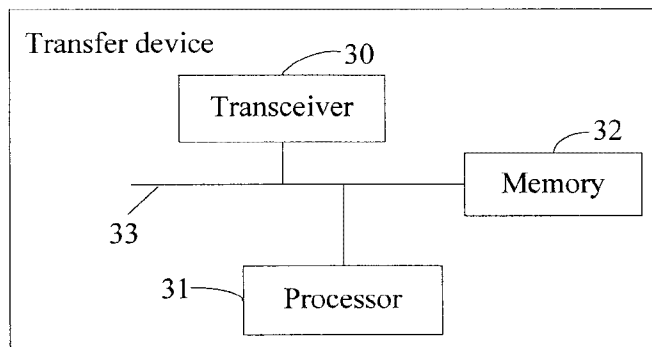


FIG. 19

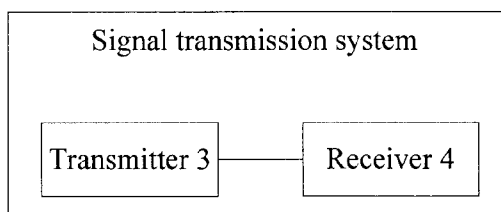
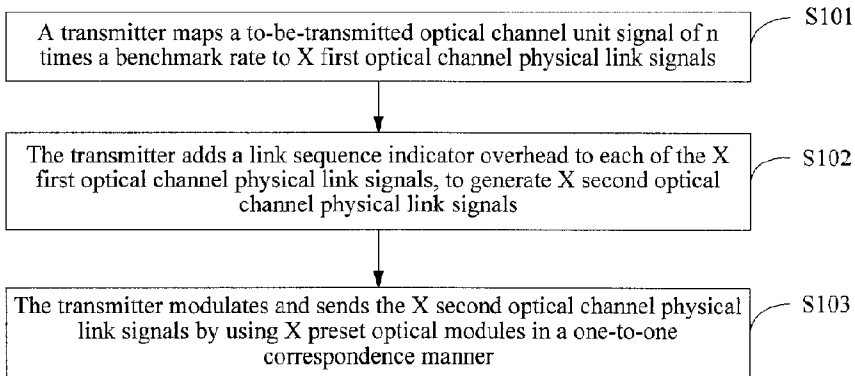


FIG. 20



$$\sum_{i=1}^X m_i = n$$