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(54) EMBEDDED CONTROLLER ARCHITECTURE FOR A MODULAR OPTICAL NETWORK, AND METHODS AND APPARATUS THEREFOR

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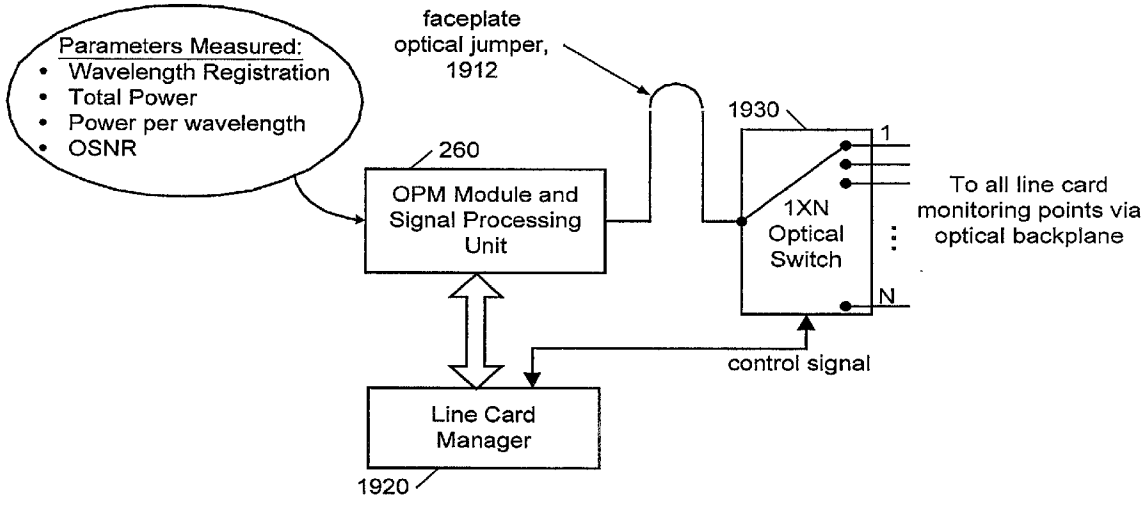
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **709/226**; 709/230

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A Line Card Manager (LCM) architecture for use at an optical switch in an optical communications network. A LCM with a dedicated processor is provided for different line cards at the switch. The LCM includes a first interface, such as a connector to the line card, for receiving monitored parameters from the line card, and a processor that executes software for determining when an event such as a fault should be set, e.g., when a monitored parameter is out of range. The LCM has a second interface to a local area network at the switch for reporting the event to a Node Manager, which manages the LCM. The LCM is preferably a removable plug-in module of the line card to allow easy upgrades and maintenance. The LCM includes generic software for managing different types of line cards.



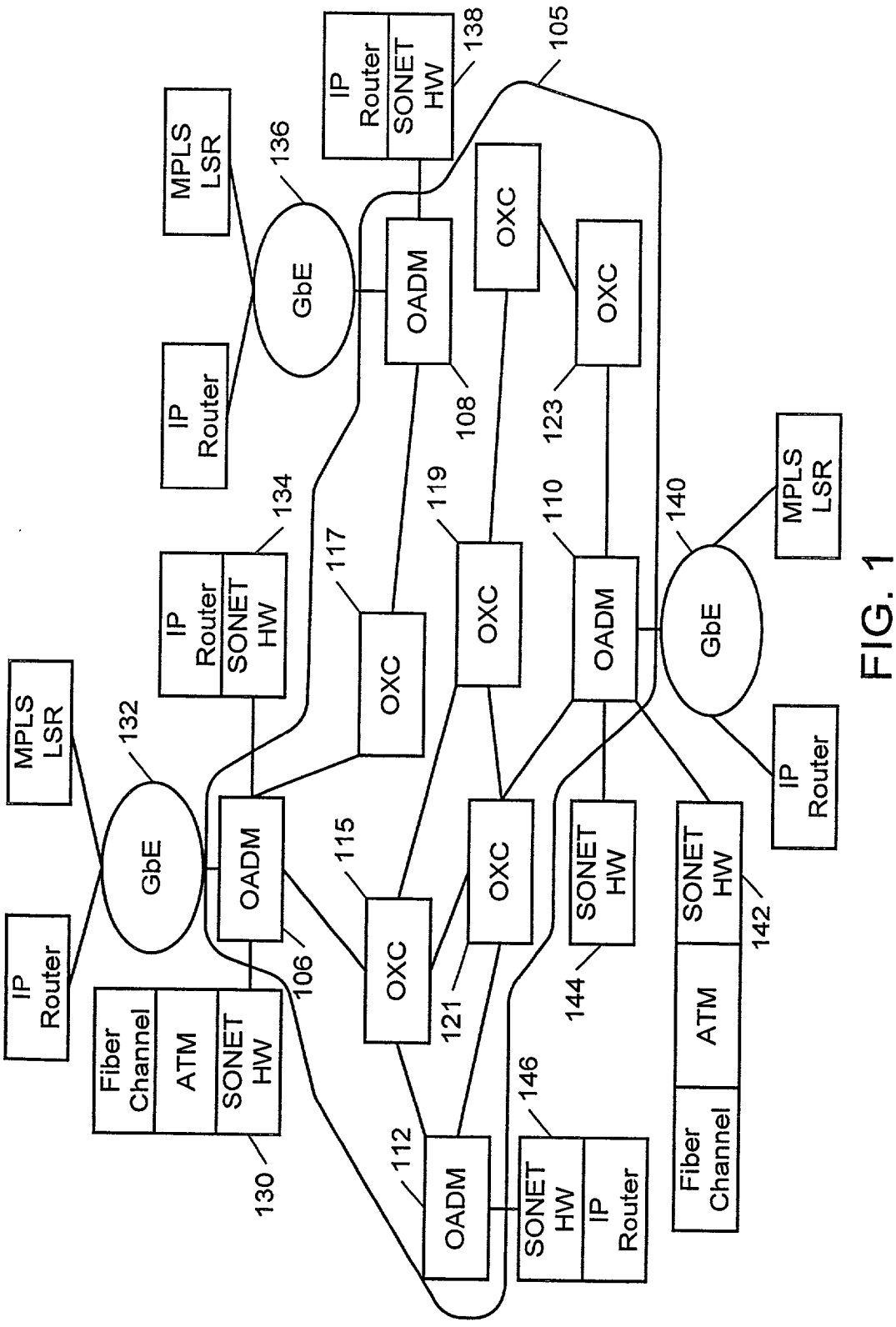

MPLS LSR
IP Router
GbE
132
IP Router
SONET HW
134
MPLS LSR
136
IP Router
SONET HW
138
105
OADM
108
OXC
OXC
123
OXC
117
OXC
119
OADM
110
GbE
140
MPLS LSR
IP Router
OADM
106
Fiber Channel
ATM
SONET HW
130
OXC
115
OXC
121
SONET HW
144
SONET HW
ATM
Fiber Channel
142
OADM
112
SONET HW
IP Router
146

FIG. 1

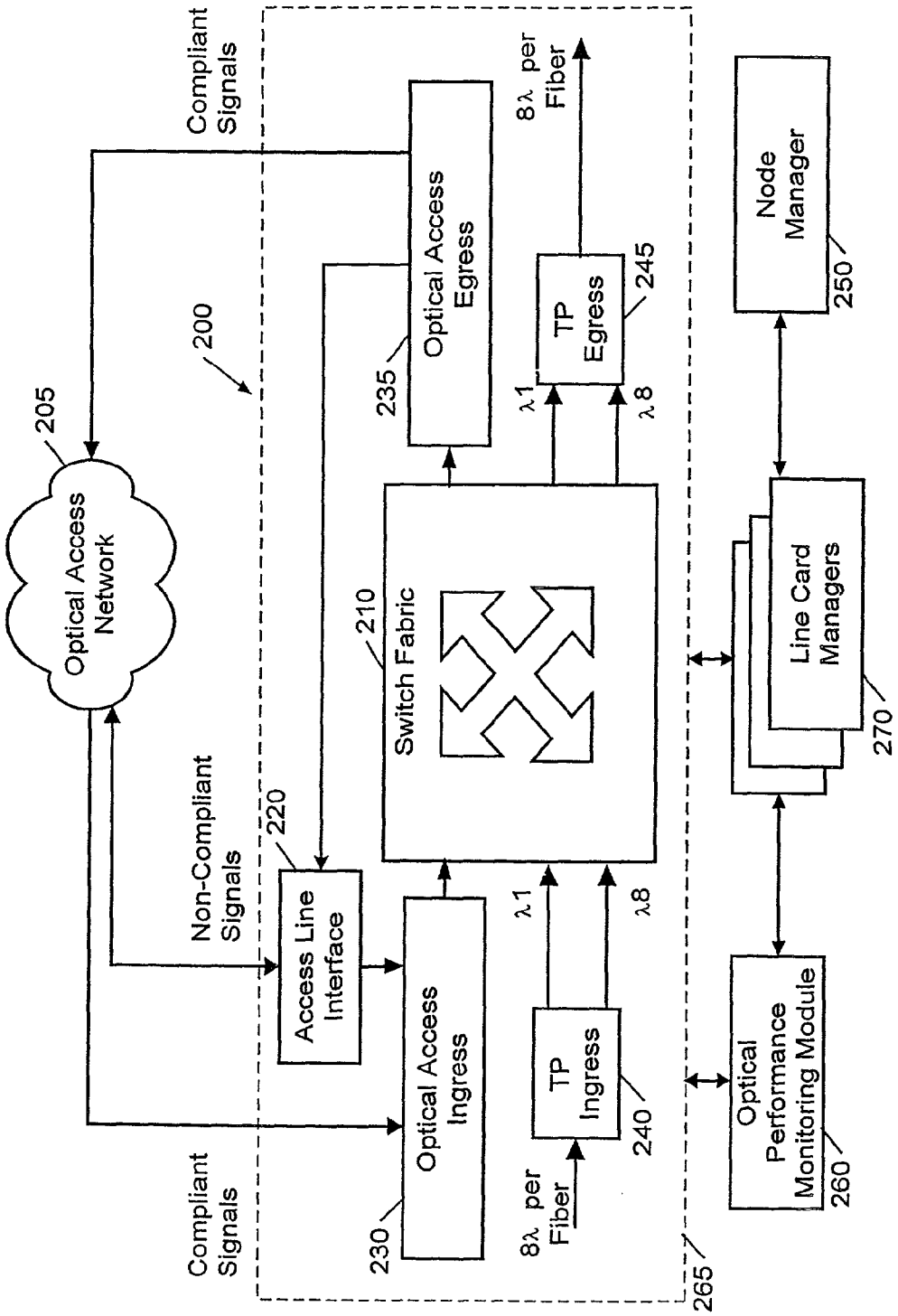

Optical Access Network
205
200
Compliant Signals
Non-Compliant Signals
Compliant Signals
Optical Access Egress
235
8λ per Fiber
TP Egress
245
λ1
λ8
Switch Fabric
210
Access Line Interface
220
Optical Access Ingress
230
TP Ingress
240
8λ per Fiber
265
Node Manager
250
Line Card Managers
270
Optical Performance Monitoring Module
260

FIG. 2

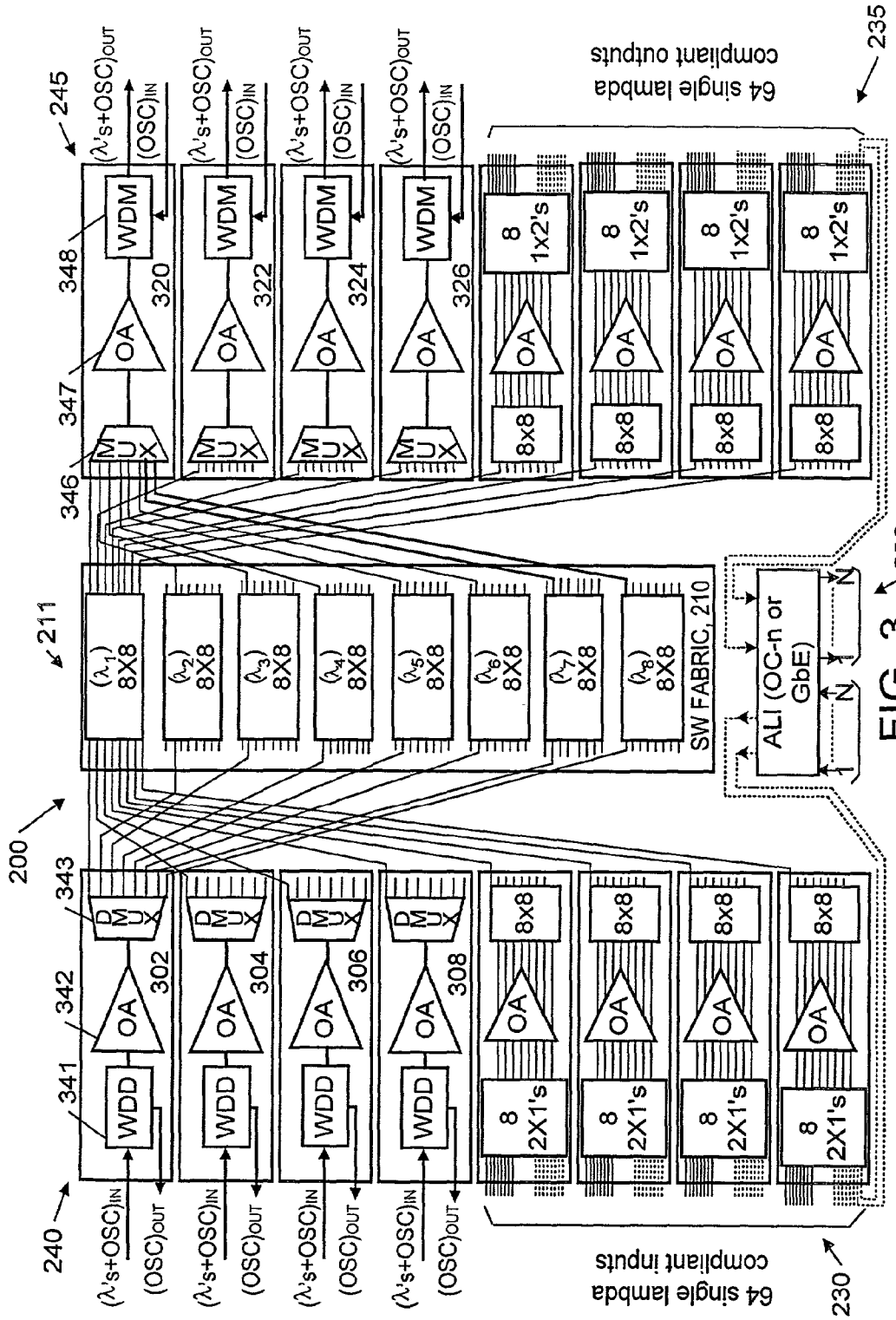

200
211
220
230
235
240
245
64 single lambda compliant inputs
64 single lambda compliant outputs
SW FABRIC, 210
ALI (OC-n or GbE)
WDD
WDM
OA
DMUX
MUX
8x8
8 2X1's
8 1x2's
341
342
343
346
347
348
302
304
306
308
320
322
324
326

FIG. 3

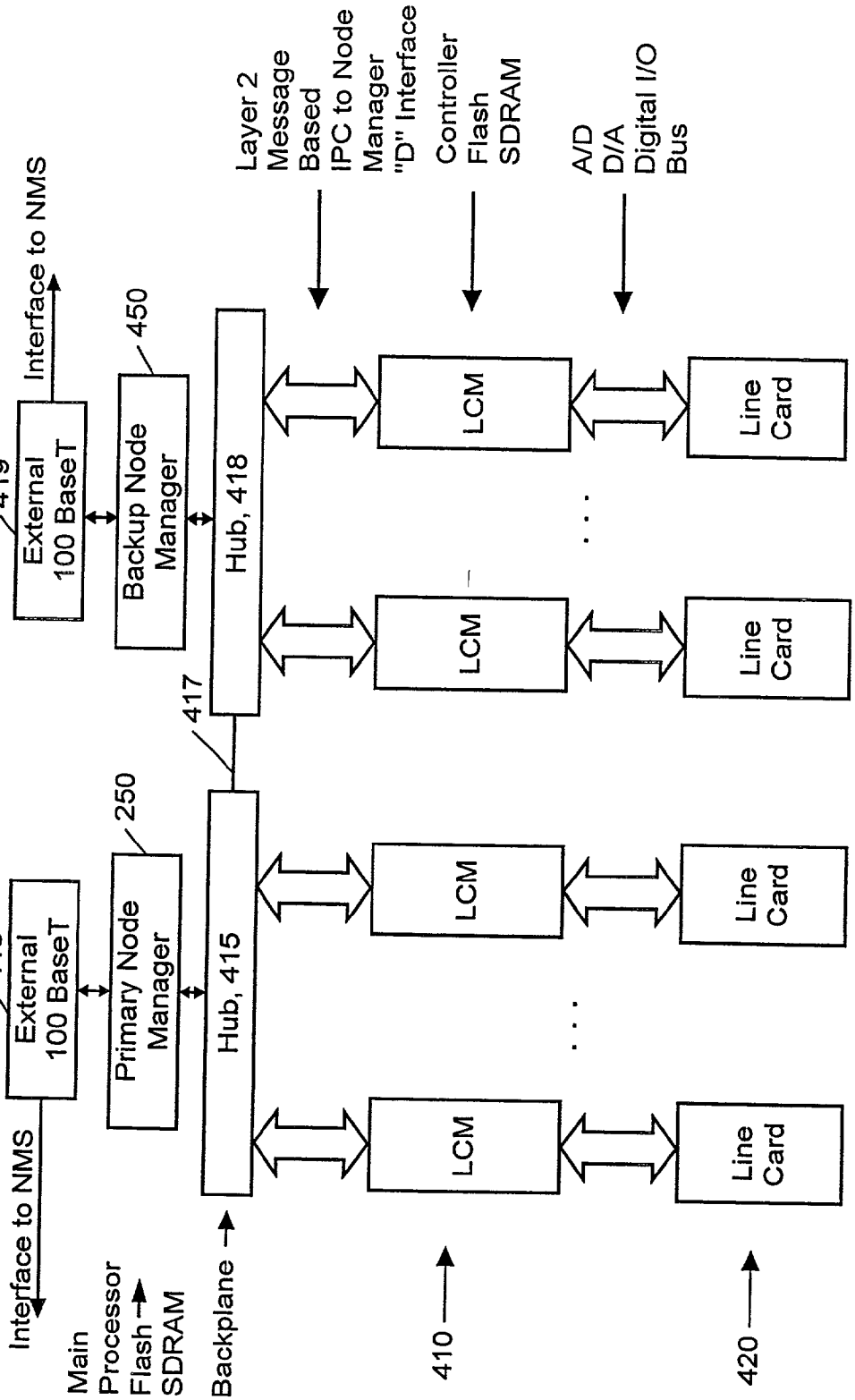

Layer 2 Message Based IPC to Node Manager "D" Interface
Controller Flash SDRAM
A/D D/A Digital I/O Bus
Interface to NMS
419
External 100 BaseT
Backup Node Manager
450
Hub, 418
LCM
Line Card
LCM
Line Card
417
250
416
External 100 BaseT
Primary Node Manager
Hub, 415
LCM
Line Card
LCM
Line Card
Interface to NMS
Main Processor Flash SDRAM
Backplane
410
420

FIG. 4

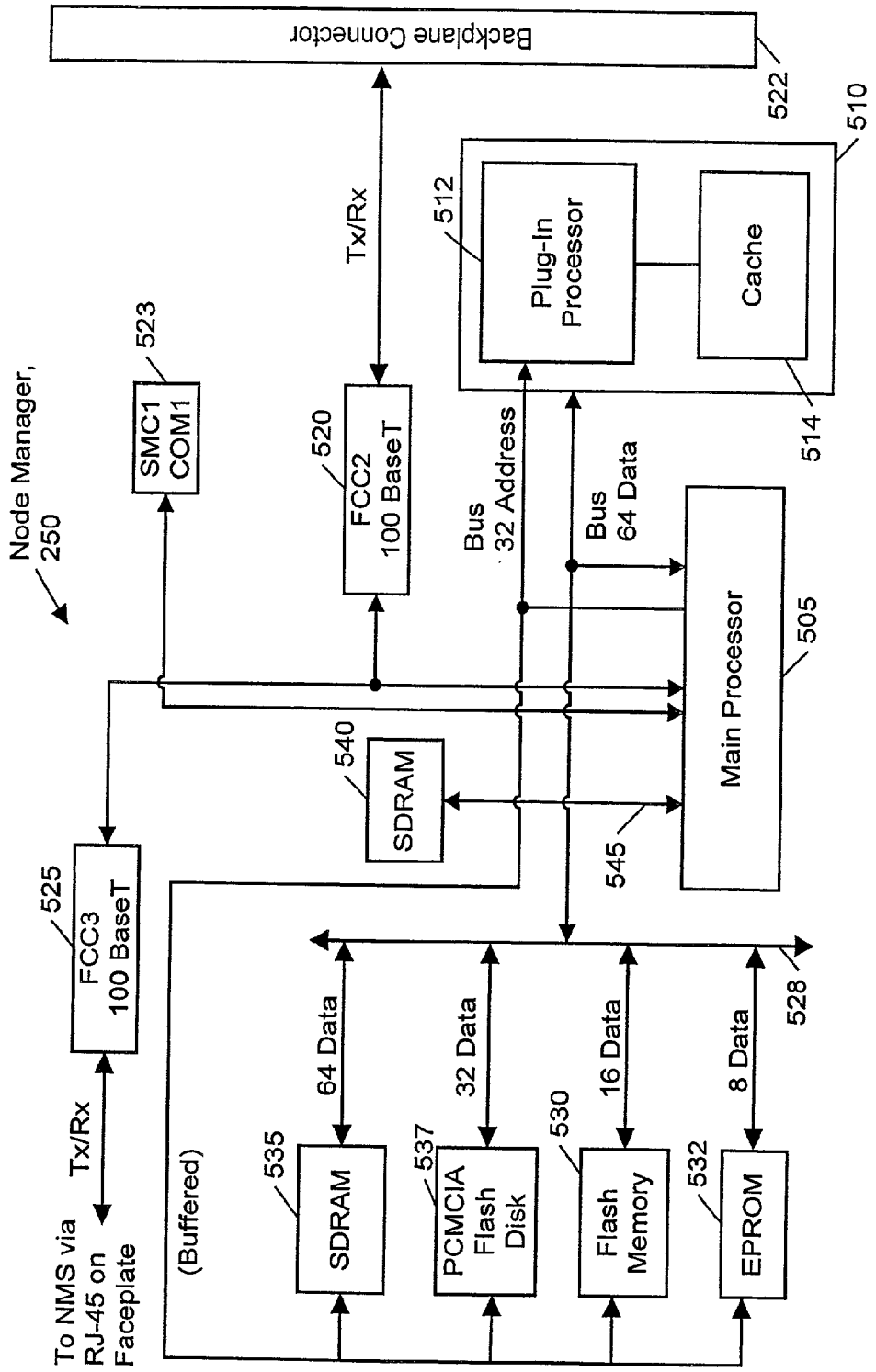

Backplane Connector
522
510
Tx/Rx
512
Plug-In Processor
Cache
514
523
SMC1 COM1
520
FCC2 100 BaseT
Bus 32 Address
Bus 64 Data
Node Manager, 250
Main Processor
505
540
SDRAM
545
525
FCC3 100 BaseT
64 Data
32 Data
16 Data
8 Data
528
Tx/Rx
(Buffered)
535
SDRAM
537
PCMCIA Flash Disk
530
Flash Memory
532
EPROM
To NMS via RJ-45 on Faceplate

FIG. 5

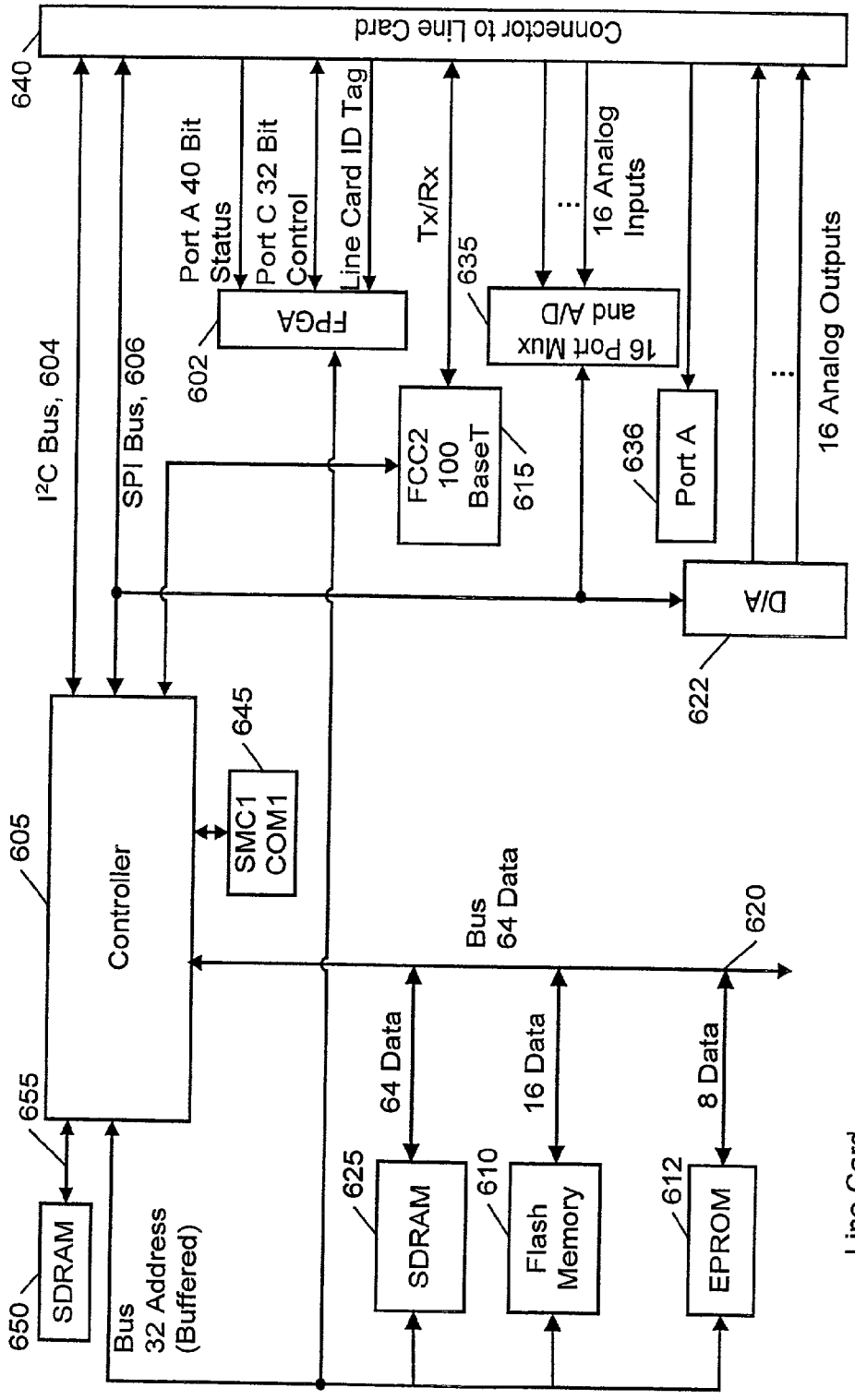

Connector to Line Card
640
I²C Bus, 604
SPI Bus, 606
Port A 40 Bit Status
Port C 32 Bit Control
Line Card ID Tag
Tx/Rx
635
16 Analog Inputs
16 Analog Outputs
FPGA
602
16 Port Mux and A/D
FCC2 100 BaseT
615
636
Port A
D/A
622
Controller
605
SMC1 COM1
645
Bus 64 Data
620
64 Data
16 Data
8 Data
655
650
SDRAM
Bus 32 Address (Buffered)
625
SDRAM
610
Flash Memory
612
EPROM
Line Card Manager, 600

FIG. 6

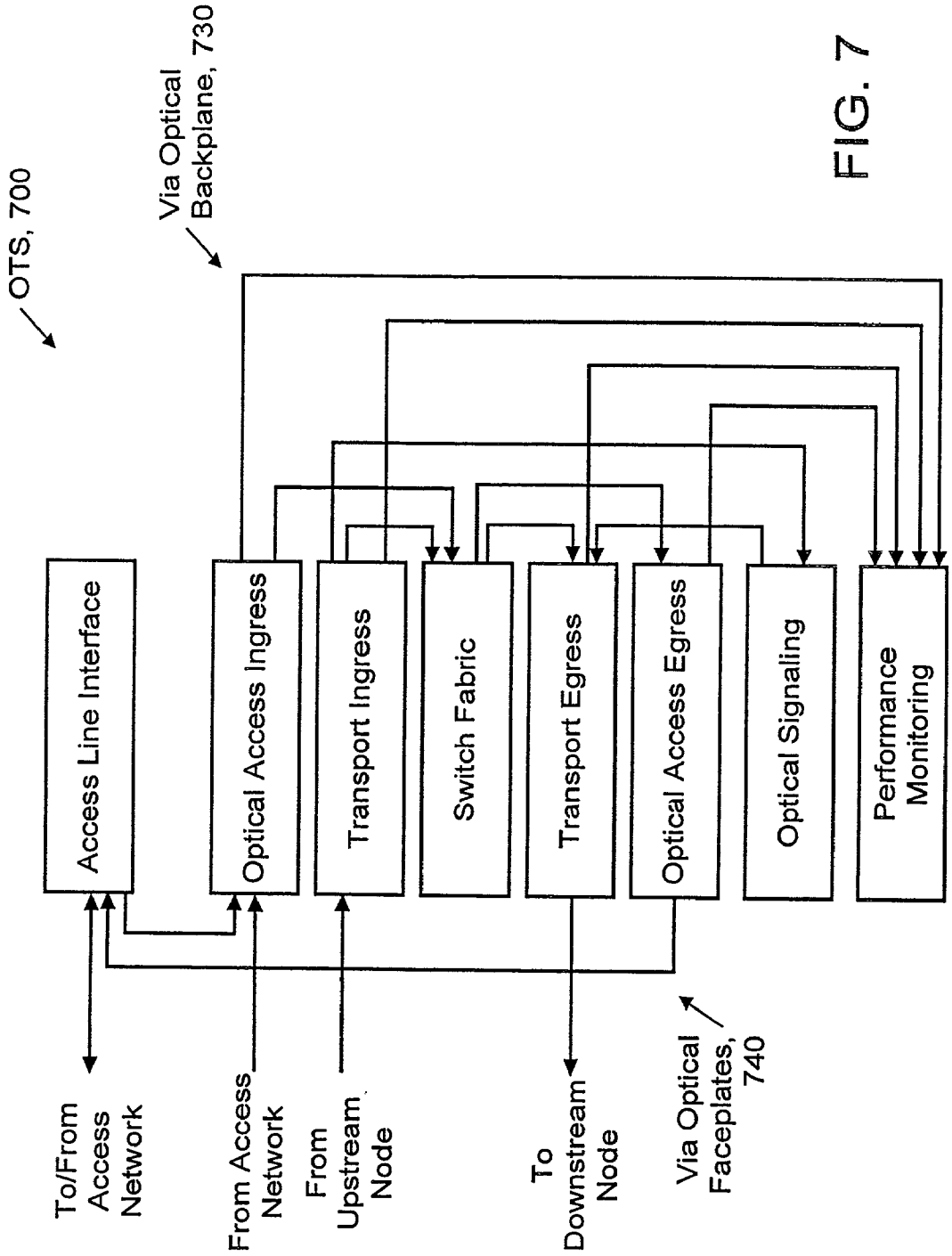

OTS, 700
Via Optical Backplane, 730
Access Line Interface
Optical Access Ingress
Transport Ingress
Switch Fabric
Transport Egress
Optical Access Egress
Optical Signaling
Performance Monitoring
To/From Access Network
From Access Network
From Upstream Node
To Downstream Node
Via Optical Faceplates, 740

FIG. 7

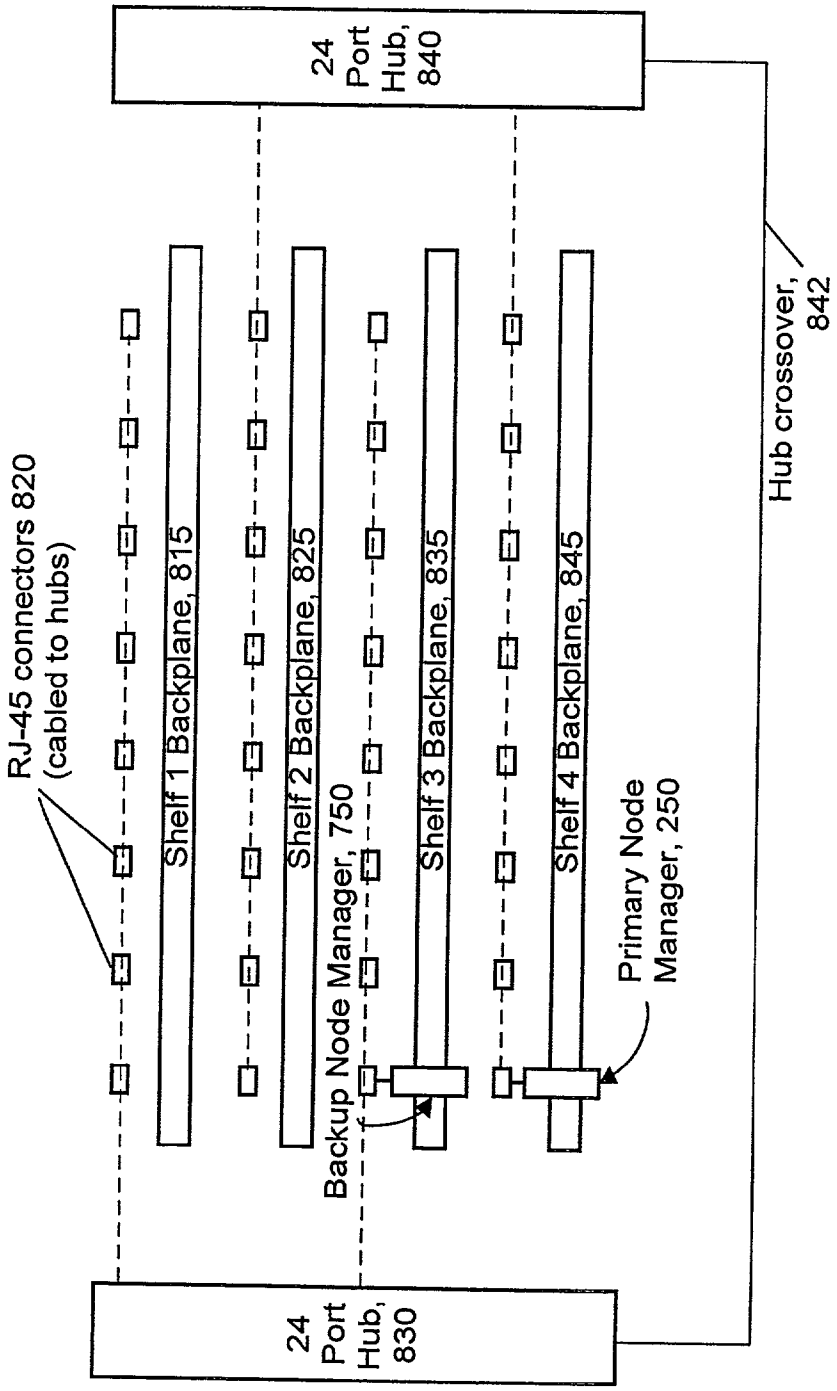

24 Port Hub, 840
Hub crossover, 842
RJ-45 connectors 820 (cabled to hubs)
Shelf 1 Backplane, 815
Shelf 2 Backplane, 825
Shelf 3 Backplane, 835
Shelf 4 Backplane, 845
Backup Node Manager, 750
Primary Node Manager, 250
24 Port Hub, 830

FIG. 8

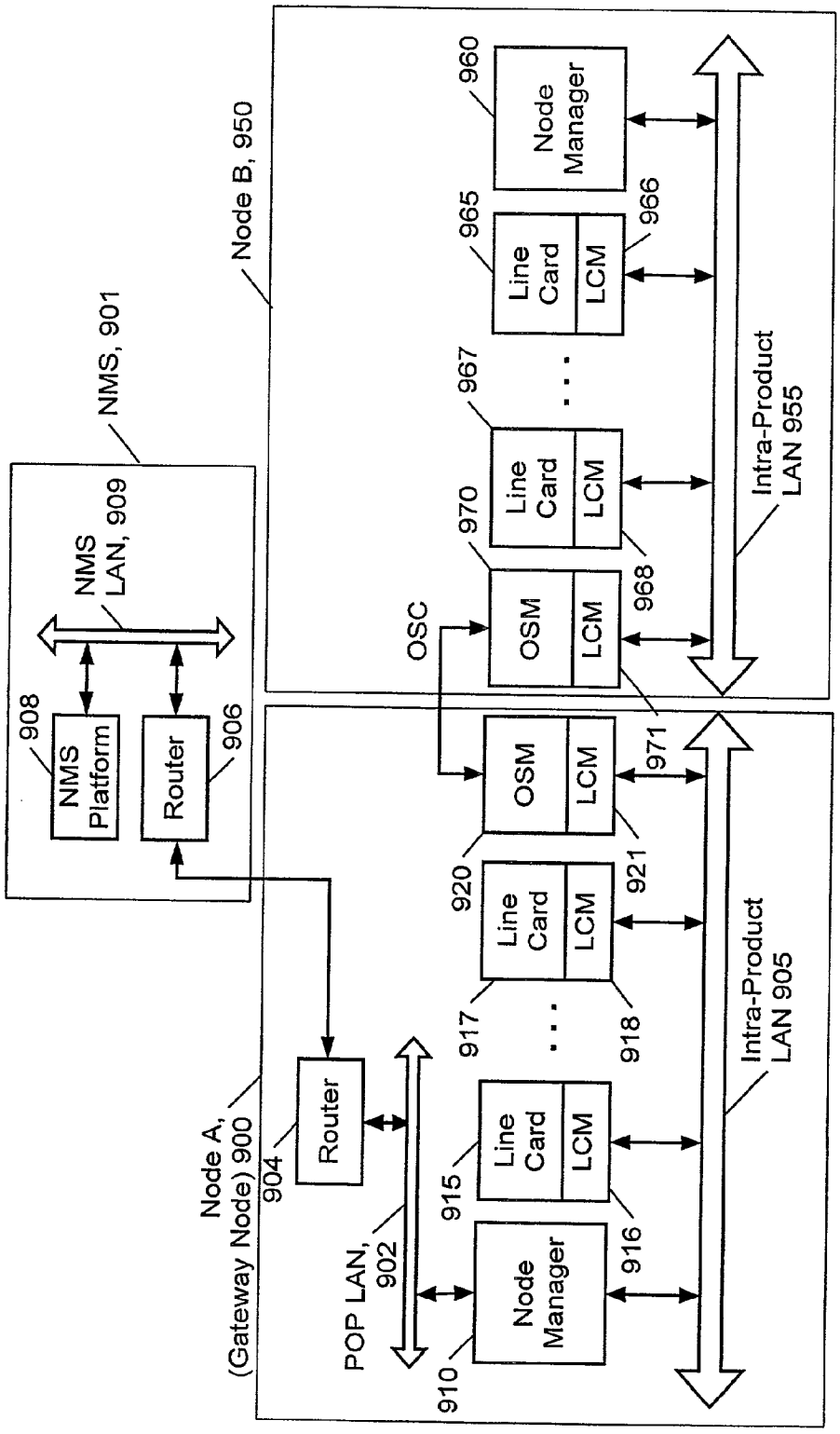

NMS, 901
NMS LAN, 909
NMS Platform
908
Router
906
Node A, (Gateway Node) 900
Router
904
POP LAN, 902
Node Manager
910
Line Card
LCM
915
916
917
918
OSM
LCM
920
921
971
OSC
Intra-Product LAN 905
Node B, 950
Node Manager
960
Line Card
LCM
965
966
967
970
968
Intra-Product LAN 955

FIG. 9

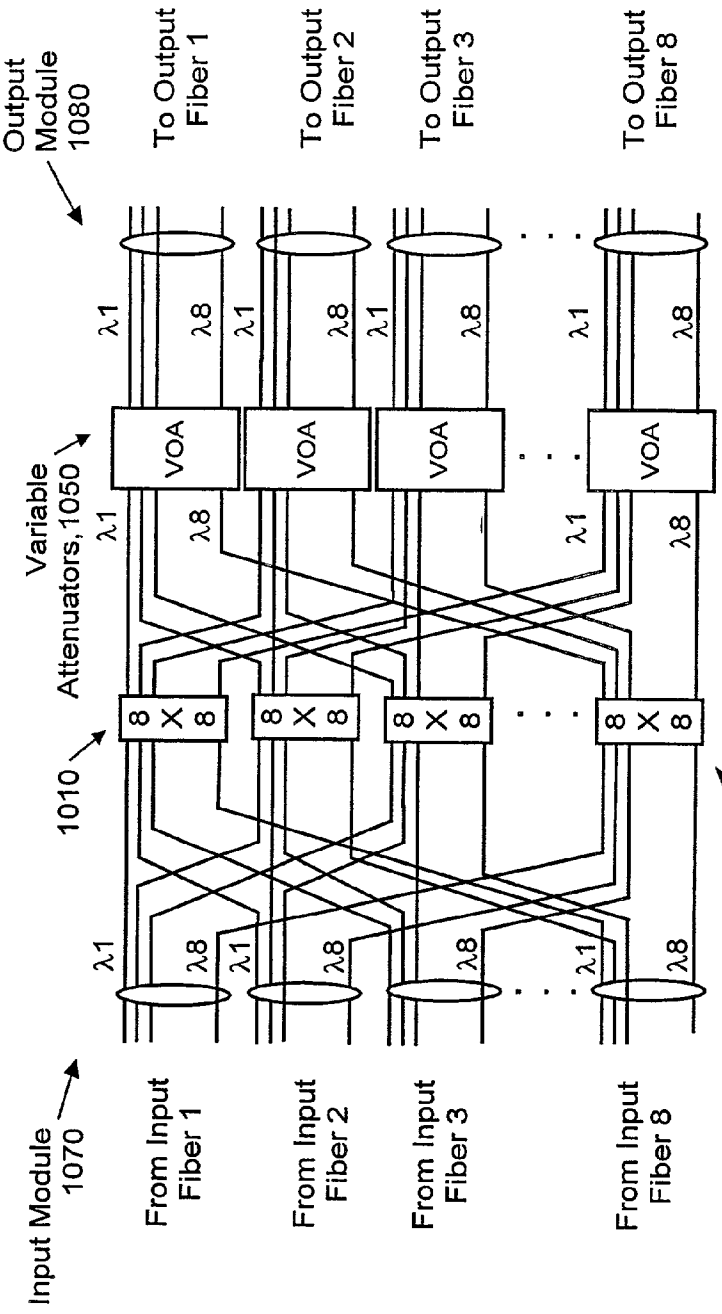

Output Module 1080
To Output Fiber 1
To Output Fiber 2
To Output Fiber 3
To Output Fiber 8
λ1
λ8
VOA
Variable Attenuators, 1050
8 X 8
1010
Optical Switch Fabric, 210
Control signal from Node Manager
Input Module 1070
From Input Fiber 1
From Input Fiber 2
From Input Fiber 3
From Input Fiber 8

FIG. 10

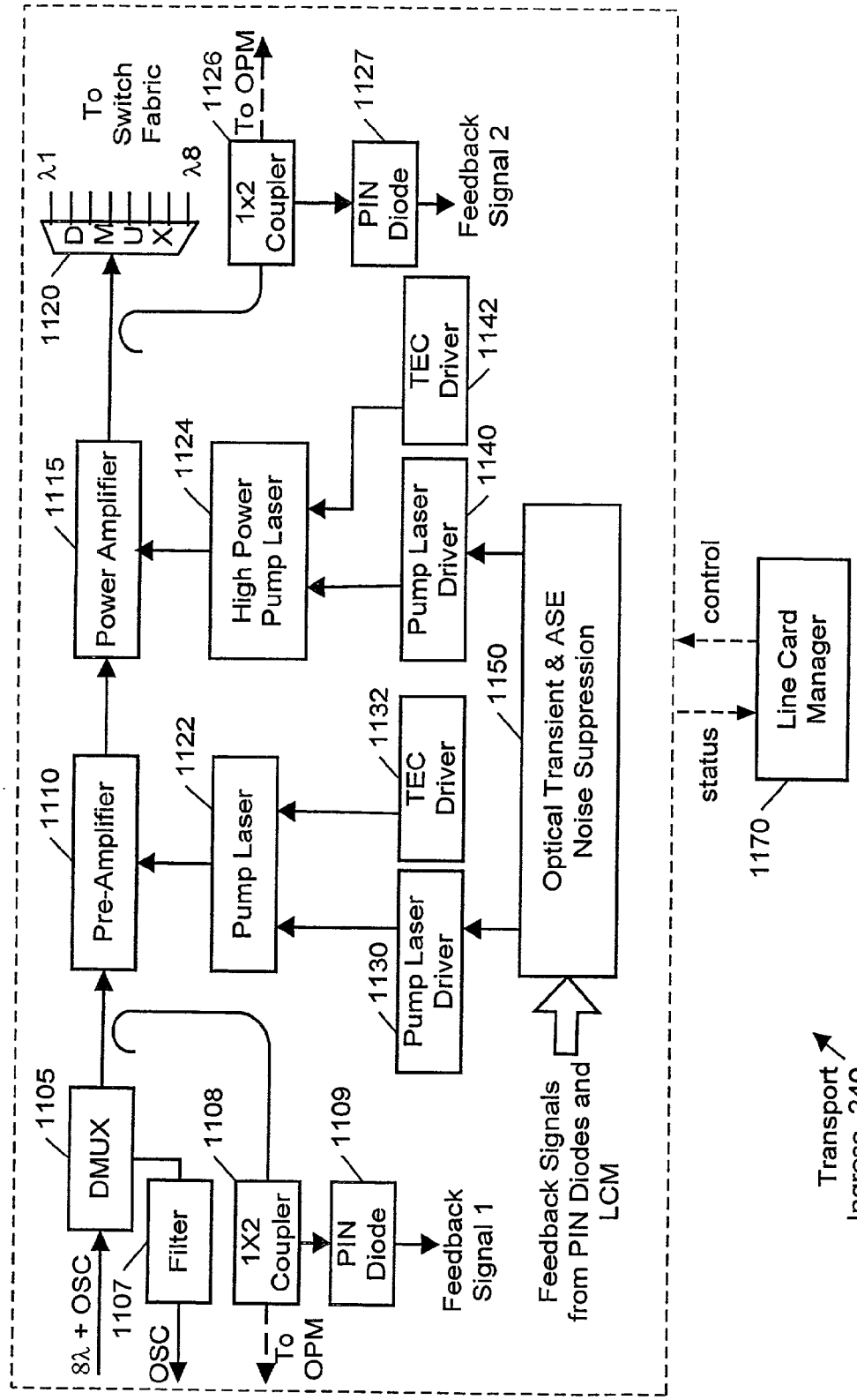

Transport Ingress, 240
8λ + OSC
1107
OSC
1105
DMUX
1108
Filter
1109
1X2 Coupler
To OPM
PIN Diode
Feedback Signal 1
1110
Pre-Amplifier
1122
Pump Laser
1132
TEC Driver
1130
Pump Laser Driver
Feedback Signals from PIN Diodes and LCM
1150
Optical Transient & ASE Noise Suppression
1115
Power Amplifier
1124
High Power Pump Laser
1140
Pump Laser Driver
1142
TEC Driver
1120
DMUX
λ1
λ8
To Switch Fabric
1126
1x2 Coupler
To OPM
1127
PIN Diode
Feedback Signal 2
status
control
1170
Line Card Manager

FIG. 11

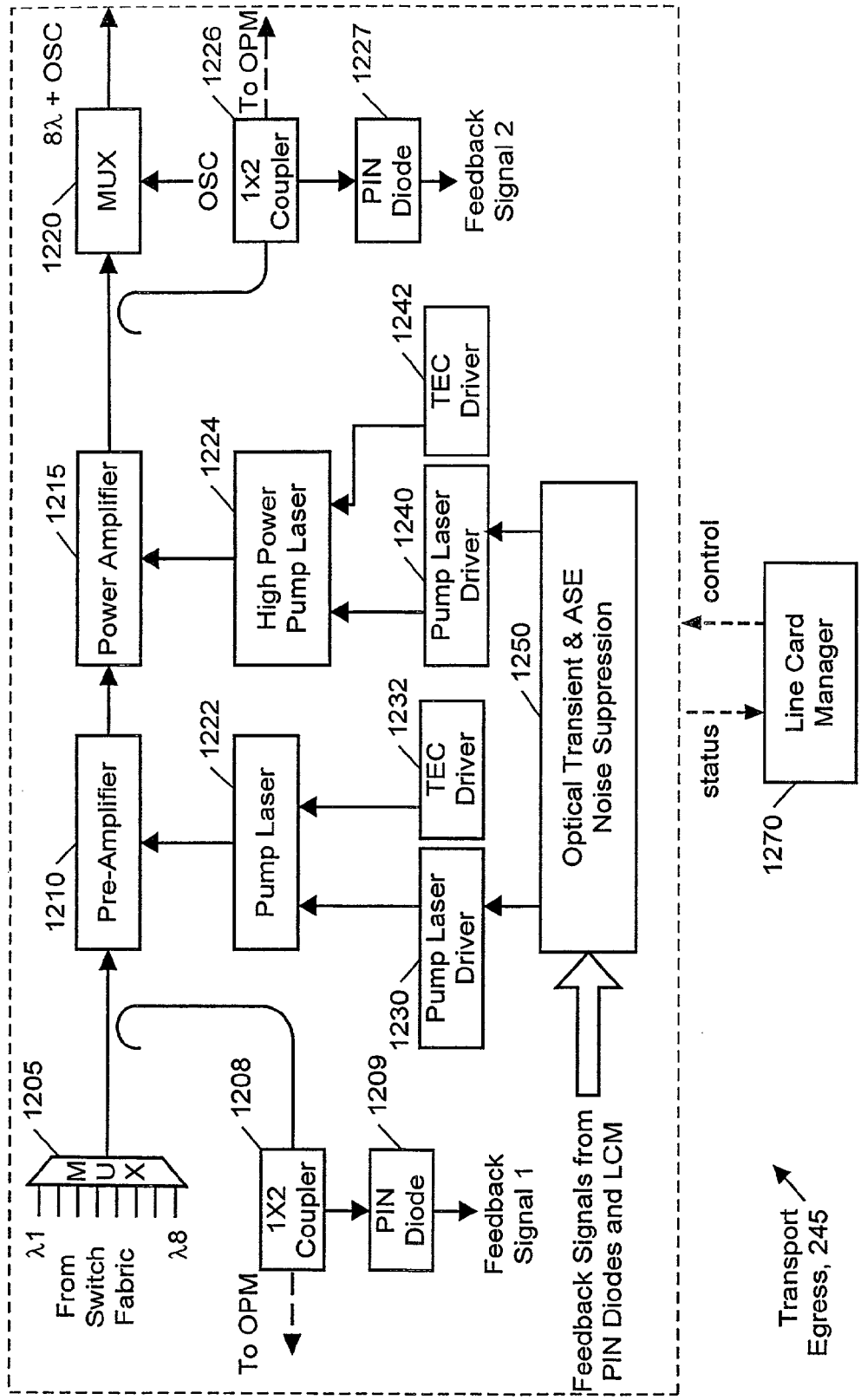

λ1
From Switch Fabric
λ8
1205
MUX
1220
8λ + OSC
OSC
1226
To OPM
1x2 Coupler
1227
PIN Diode
Feedback Signal 2
1242
TEC Driver
1224
High Power Pump Laser
1240
Pump Laser Driver
1215
Power Amplifier
1210
Pre-Amplifier
1222
Pump Laser
1232
TEC Driver
1250
Optical Transient & ASE Noise Suppression
1230
Pump Laser Driver
1208
1X2 Coupler
1209
PIN Diode
Feedback Signal 1
To OPM
Feedback Signals from PIN Diodes and LCM
control
status
1270
Line Card Manager
Transport Egress, 245

FIG. 12

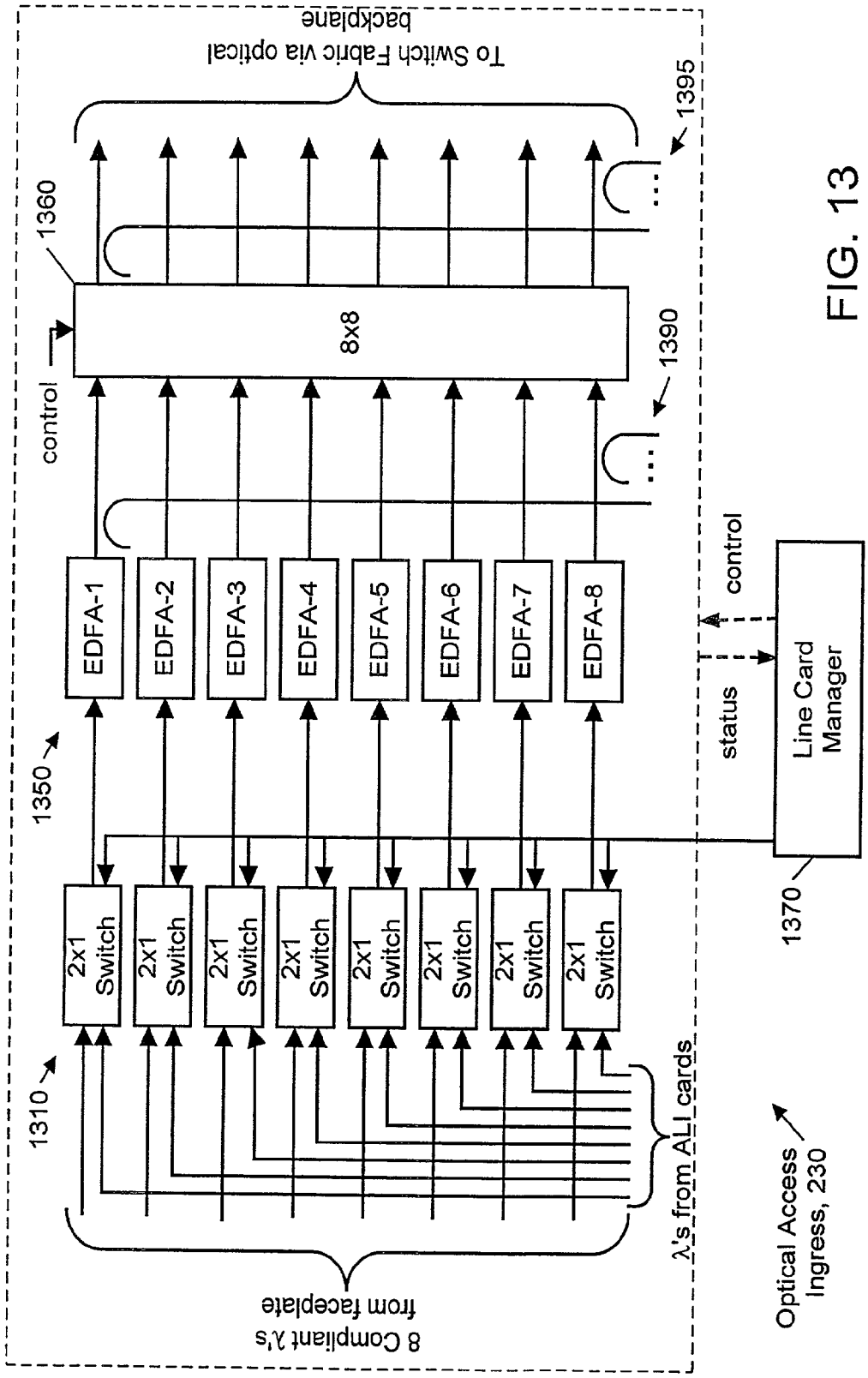

To Switch Fabric via optical backplane
1395
1360
8x8
1390
control
EDFA-1
EDFA-2
EDFA-3
EDFA-4
EDFA-5
EDFA-6
EDFA-7
EDFA-8
1350
2x1 Switch
1310
8 Compliant λ's from faceplate
λ's from ALI cards
status
control
Line Card Manager
1370
Optical Access Ingress, 230

FIG. 13

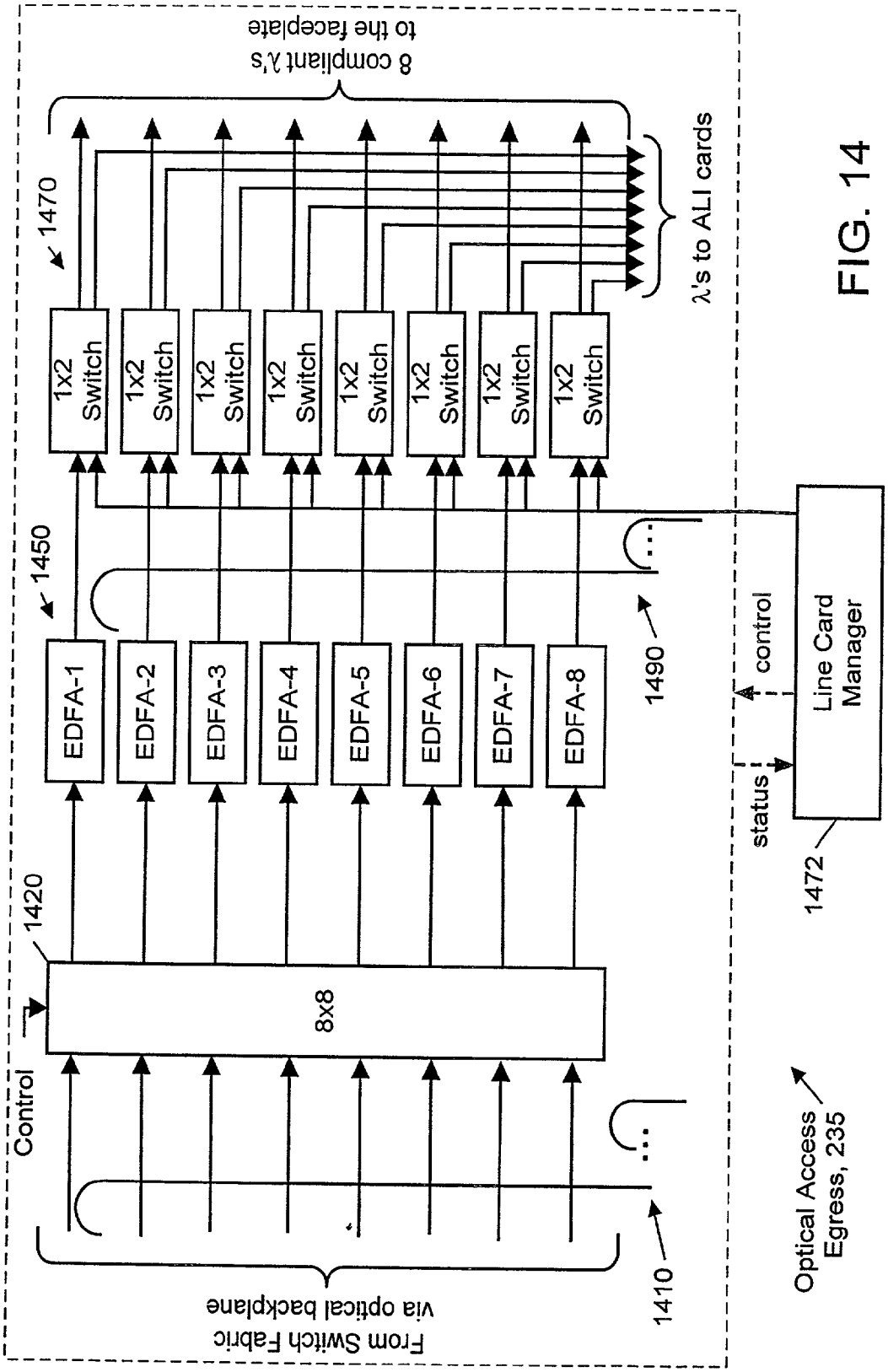

8 compliant λ's
to the faceplate
1470
λ's to ALI cards
1x2 Switch
1x2 Switch
1x2 Switch
1x2 Switch
1x2 Switch
1x2 Switch
1x2 Switch
1x2 Switch
1450
EDFA-1
EDFA-2
EDFA-3
EDFA-4
EDFA-5
EDFA-6
EDFA-7
EDFA-8
1490
control
status
Line Card Manager
1472
1420
8x8
Control
From Switch Fabric
via optical backplane
1410
Optical Access Egress, 235

FIG. 14

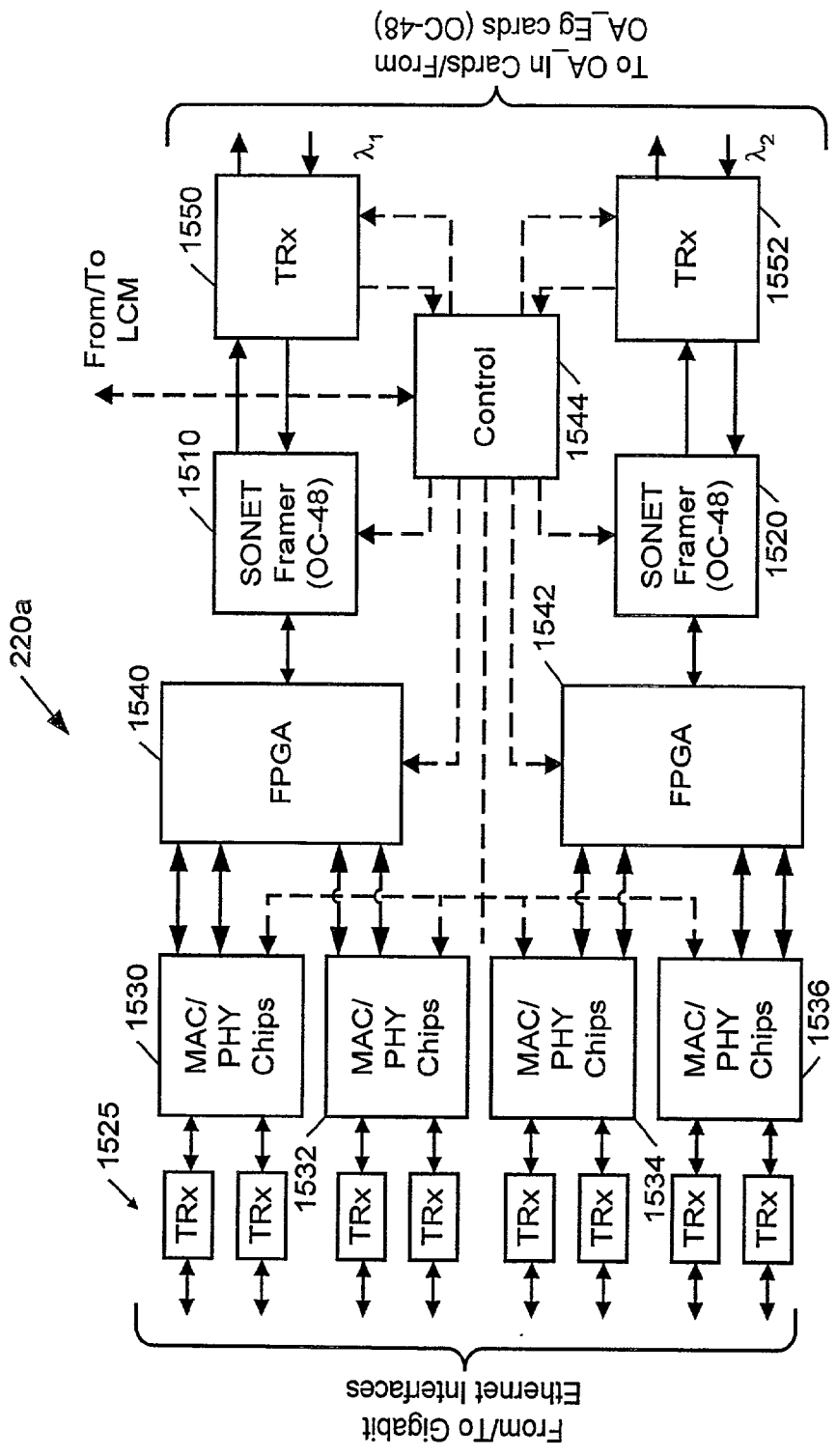

To OA_In Cards/From OA_Eg cards (OC-48)
From/To LCM
220a
1550
TRx
λ_1
1552
TRx
λ_2
Control
1544
1510
SONET Framer (OC-48)
1520
SONET Framer (OC-48)
1542
1540
FPGA
FPGA
1530
MAC/ PHY Chips
MAC/ PHY Chips
MAC/ PHY Chips
MAC/ PHY Chips
1536
1525
1532
1534
TRx
From/To Gigabit Ethernet Interfaces

FIG. 15

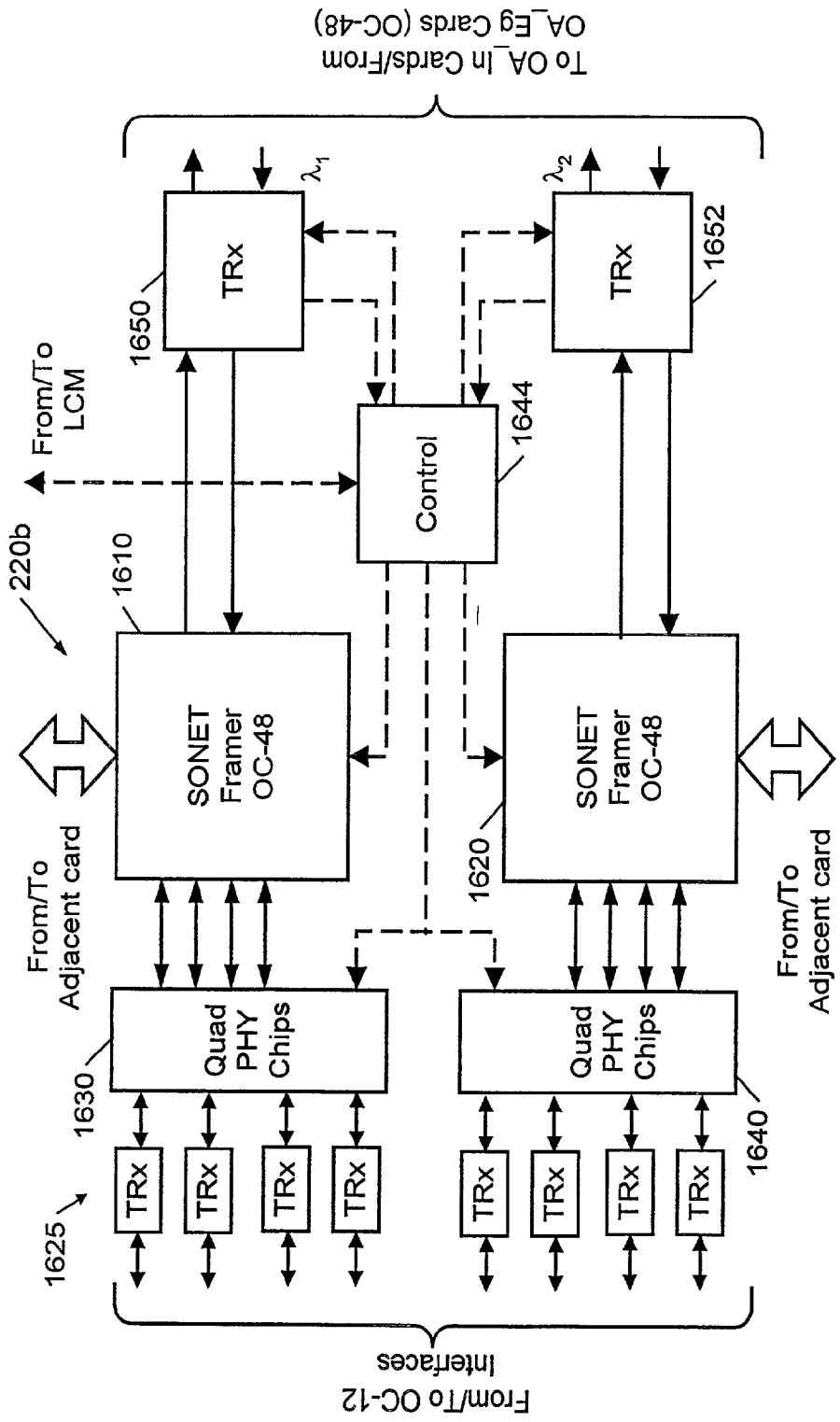

To OA_In Cards/From
OA_Eg Cards (OC-48)
λ_1
λ_2
TRx
1650
TRx
1652
From/To
LCM
Control
1644
220b
1610
SONET
Framer
OC-48
SONET
Framer
OC-48
1620
From/To
Adjacent card
From/To
Adjacent card
Quad
PHY
Chips
Quad
PHY
Chips
1630
1640
1625
TRx
TRx
TRx
TRx
TRx
TRx
TRx
TRx
From/To OC-12
Interfaces

FIG. 16

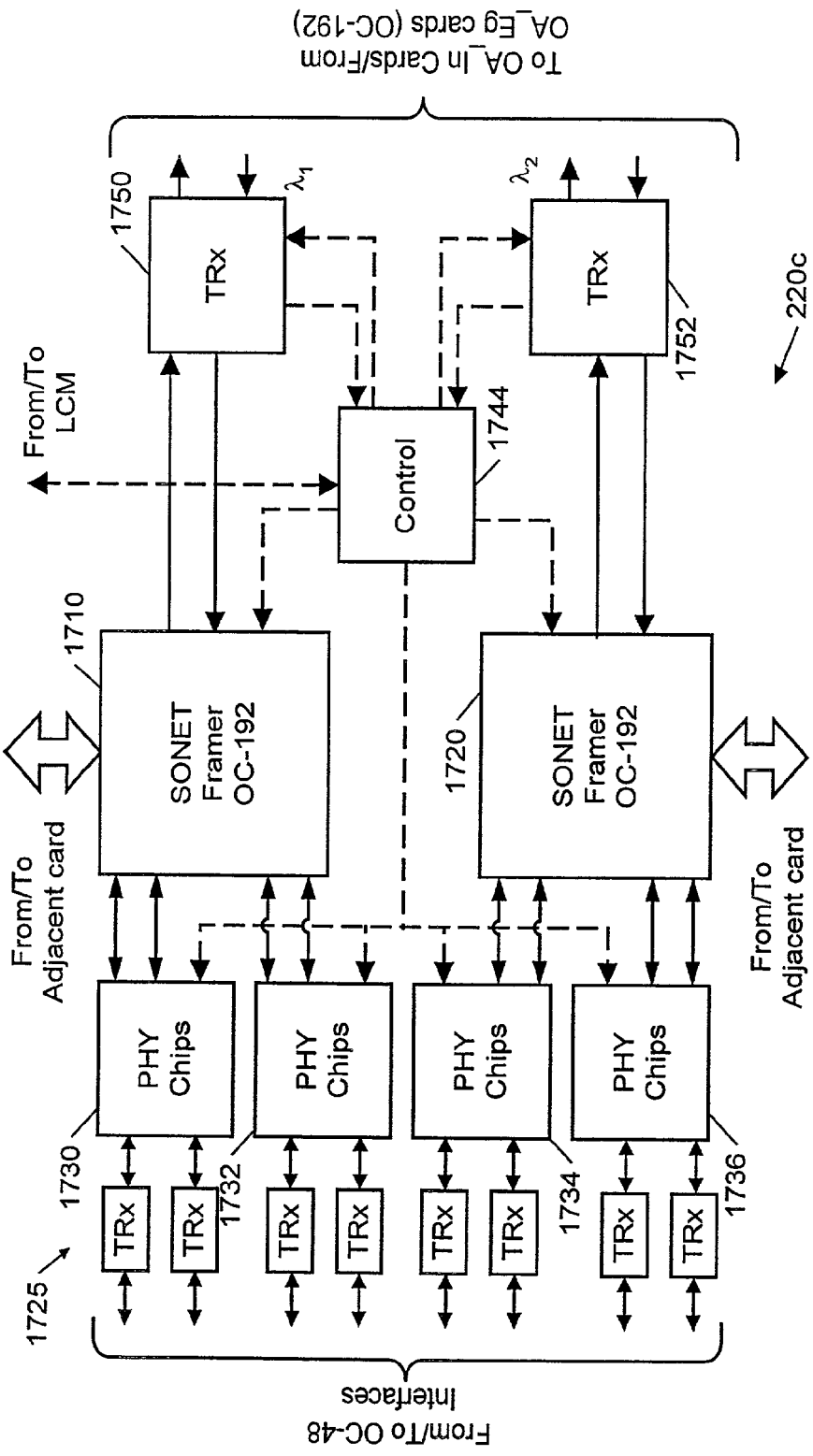

To OA_In Cards/From
OA_Eg cards (OC-192)
1750
TRx
λ_1
λ_2
TRx
1752
220c
From/To
LCM
Control
1744
1710
SONET
Framer
OC-192
1720
SONET
Framer
OC-192
From/To
Adjacent card
From/To
Adjacent card
PHY
Chips
PHY
Chips
PHY
Chips
PHY
Chips
1730
1732
1734
1736
TRx
1725
From/To OC-48
Interfaces

FIG. 17

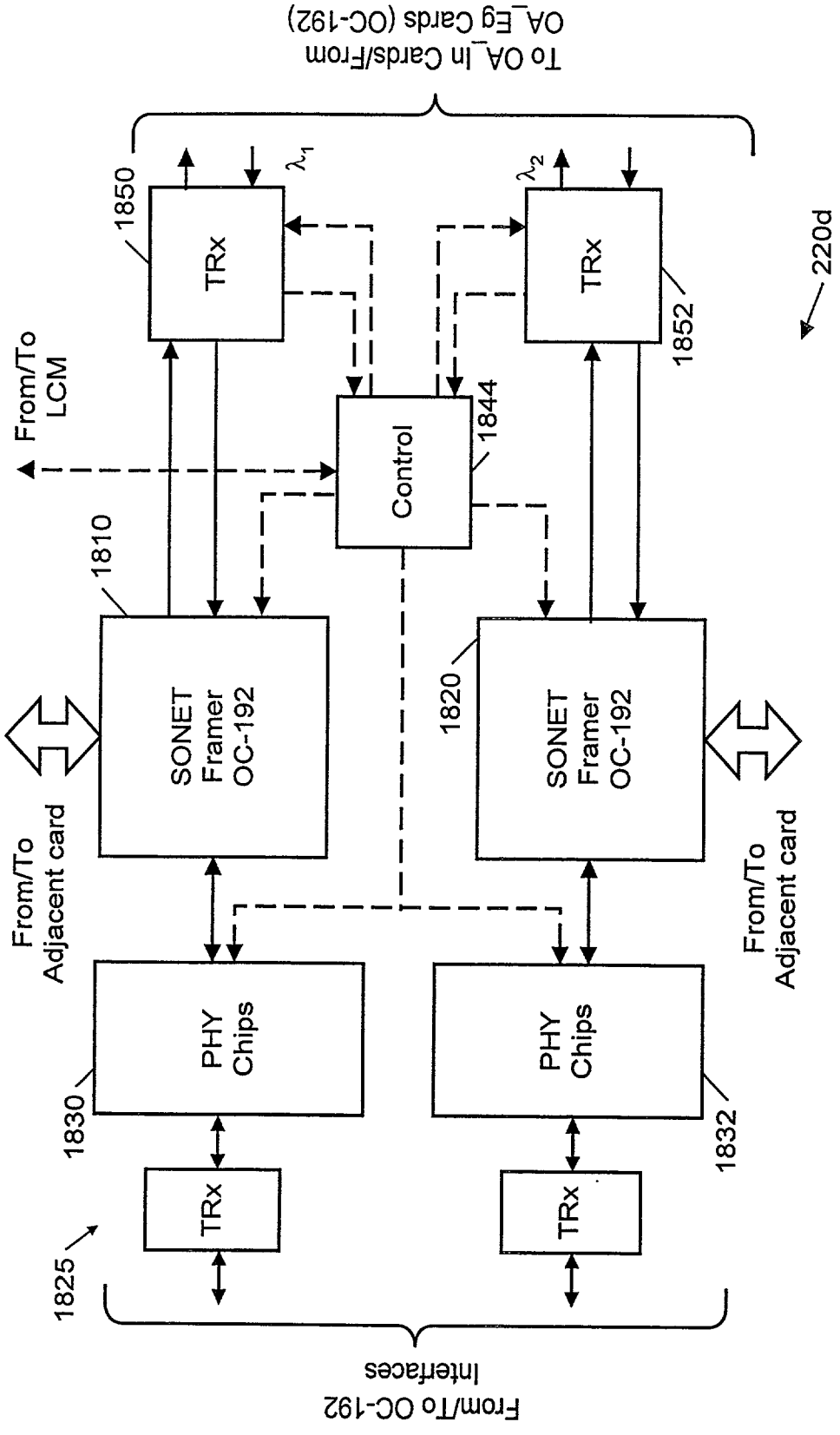

To OA_In Cards/From
OA_Eg Cards (OC-192)
1850
TRx
λ_1
λ_2
TRx
1852
220d
From/To
LCM
Control
1844
1810
SONET
Framer
OC-192
1820
SONET
Framer
OC-192
From/To
Adjacent card
From/To
Adjacent card
PHY
Chips
PHY
Chips
1830
1832
TRx
TRx
1825
From/To OC-192
Interfaces

FIG. 18

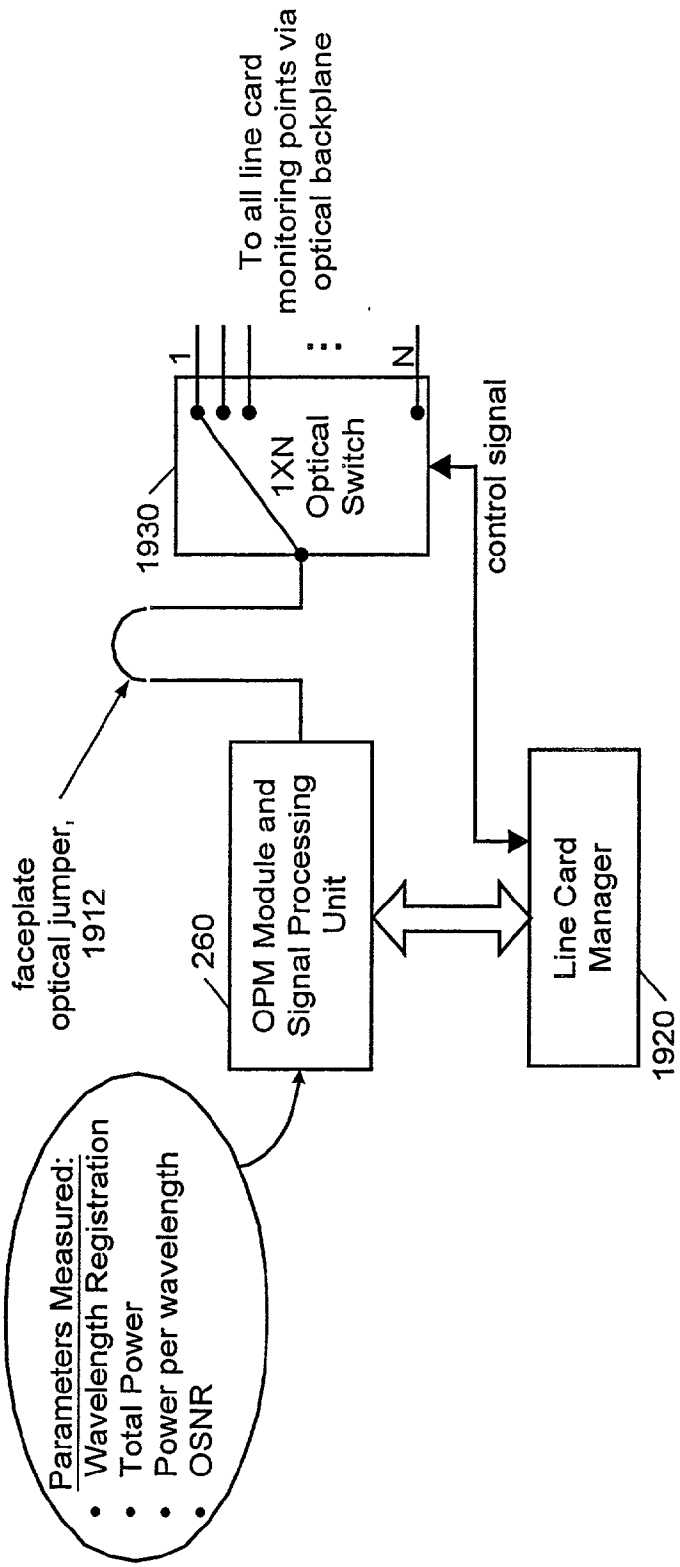

To all line card monitoring points via optical backplane
1
N
1930
1XN Optical Switch
control signal
faceplate optical jumper, 1912
260
OPM Module and Signal Processing Unit
Line Card Manager
1920
Parameters Measured:
Wavelength Registration
Total Power
Power per wavelength
OSNR

FIG. 19

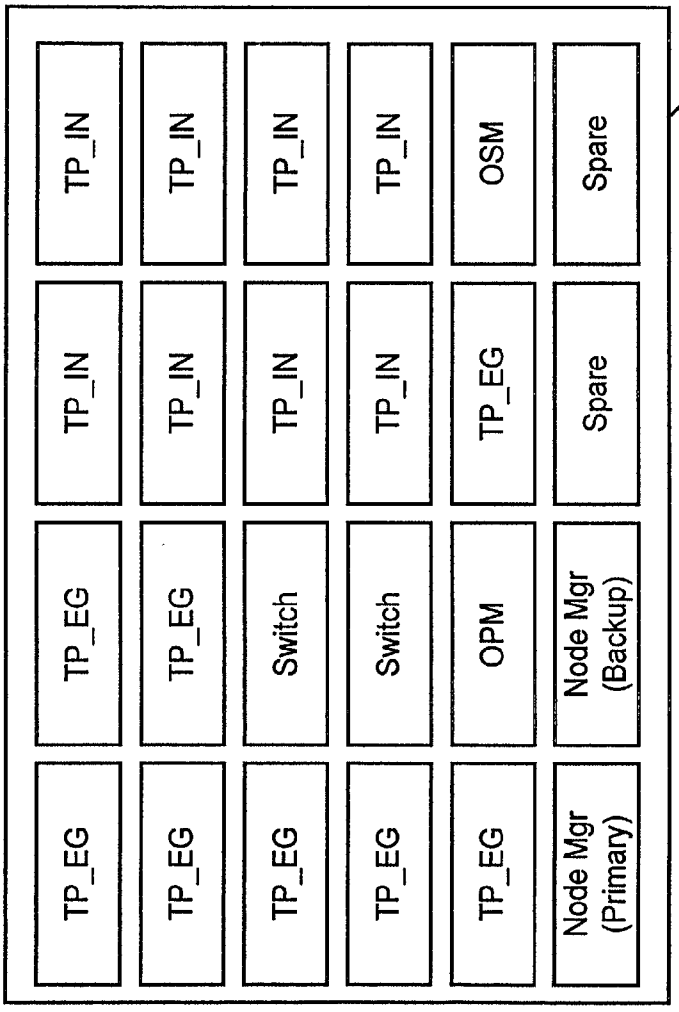

2000
TP_IN
TP_IN
TP_IN
TP_IN
OSM
Spare
TP_IN
TP_IN
TP_IN
TP_IN
TP_EG
Spare
TP_EG
TP_EG
Switch
Switch
OPM
Node Mgr (Backup)
TP_EG
TP_EG
TP_EG
TP_EG
TP_EG
Node Mgr (Primary)

FIG. 20

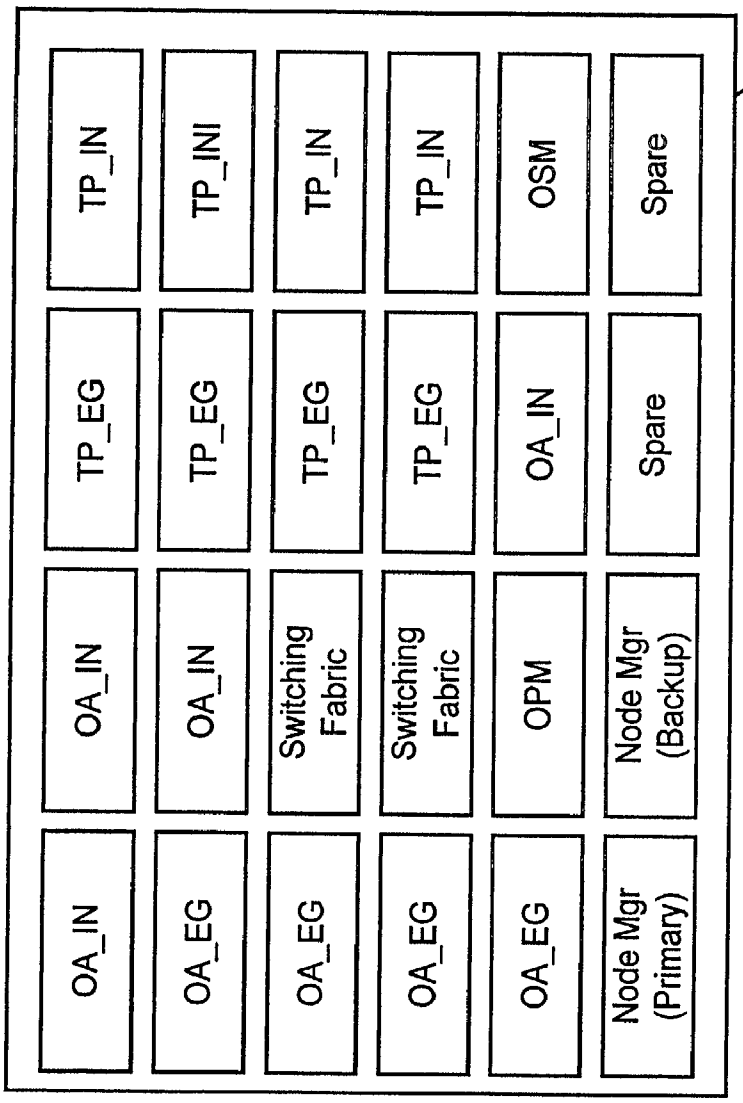

2100
TP_IN
TP_INI
TP_IN
TP_IN
OSM
Spare
TP_EG
TP_EG
TP_EG
TP_EG
OA_IN
Spare
OA_IN
OA_IN
Switching Fabric
Switching Fabric
OPM
Node Mgr (Backup)
OA_IN
OA_EG
OA_EG
OA_EG
OA_EG
Node Mgr (Primary)

FIG. 21

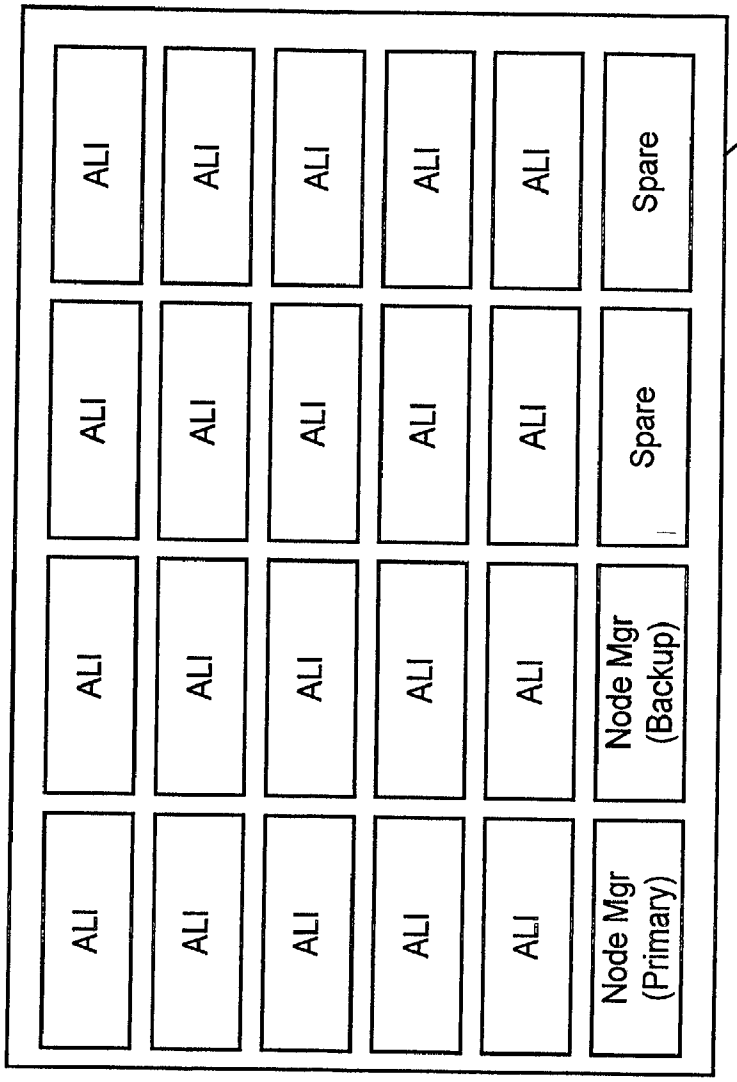

ALI
ALI
ALI
ALI
ALI
Spare
ALI
ALI
ALI
ALI
ALI
Spare
ALI
ALI
ALI
ALI
ALI
Node Mgr (Backup)
ALI
ALI
ALI
ALI
ALI
Node Mgr (Primary)
2200

FIG. 22

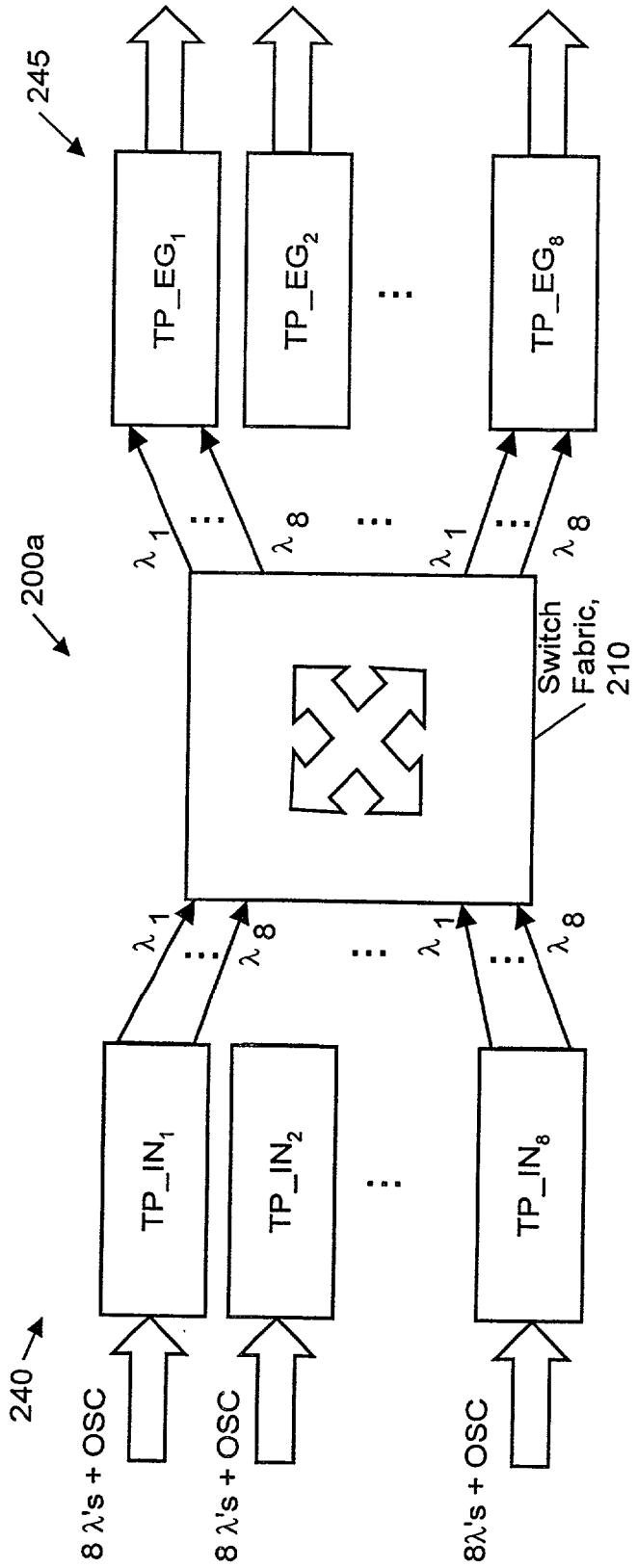

245
TP_EG1
TP_EG2
TP_EG8
λ 1
λ 8
200a
Switch Fabric, 210
240
TP_IN1
TP_IN2
TP_IN8
8 λ's + OSC
8 λ's + OSC
8λ's + OSC

FIG. 23

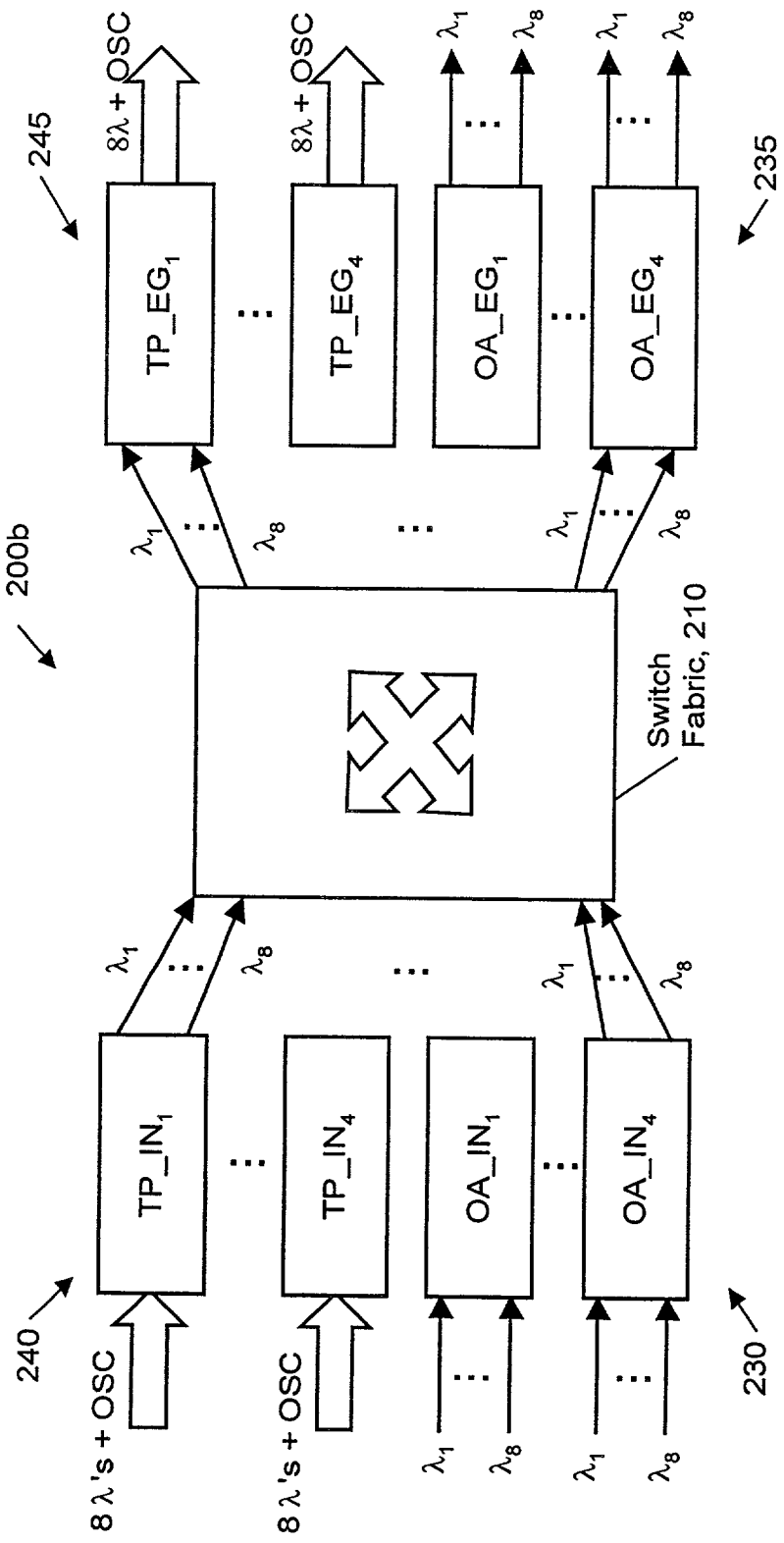

245
235
200b
240
230
8λ + OSC
TP_EG1
TP_EG4
OA_EG1
OA_EG4
λ1
λ8
Switch Fabric, 210
TP_IN1
TP_IN4
OA_IN1
OA_IN4
8 λ's + OSC

FIG. 24

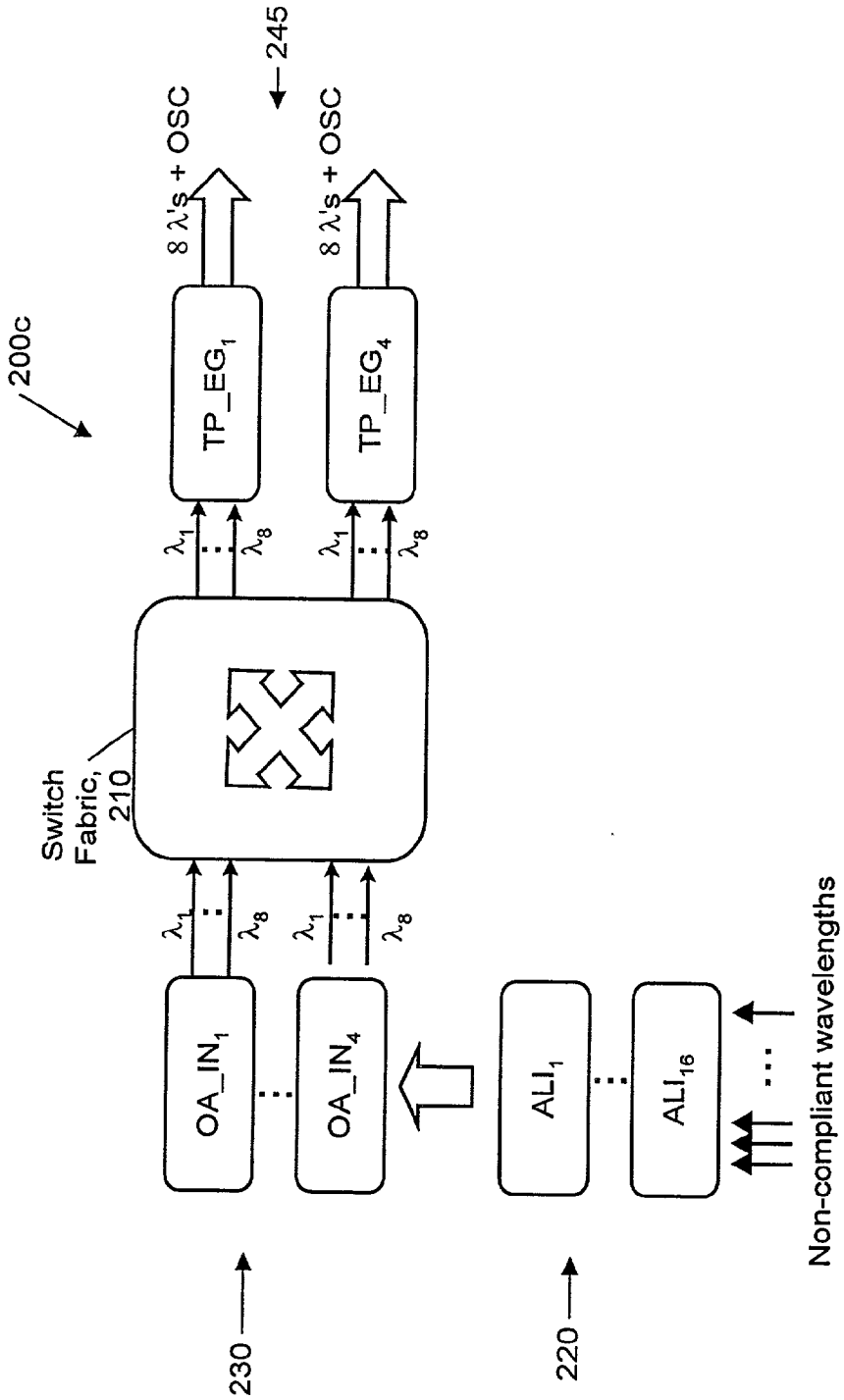

245
8 λ's + OSC
8 λ's + OSC
200c
TP_EG1
TP_EG4
λ1
λ8
Switch Fabric, 210
OA_IN1
OA_IN4
ALI1
ALI16
Non-compliant wavelengths
230
220

FIG. 25

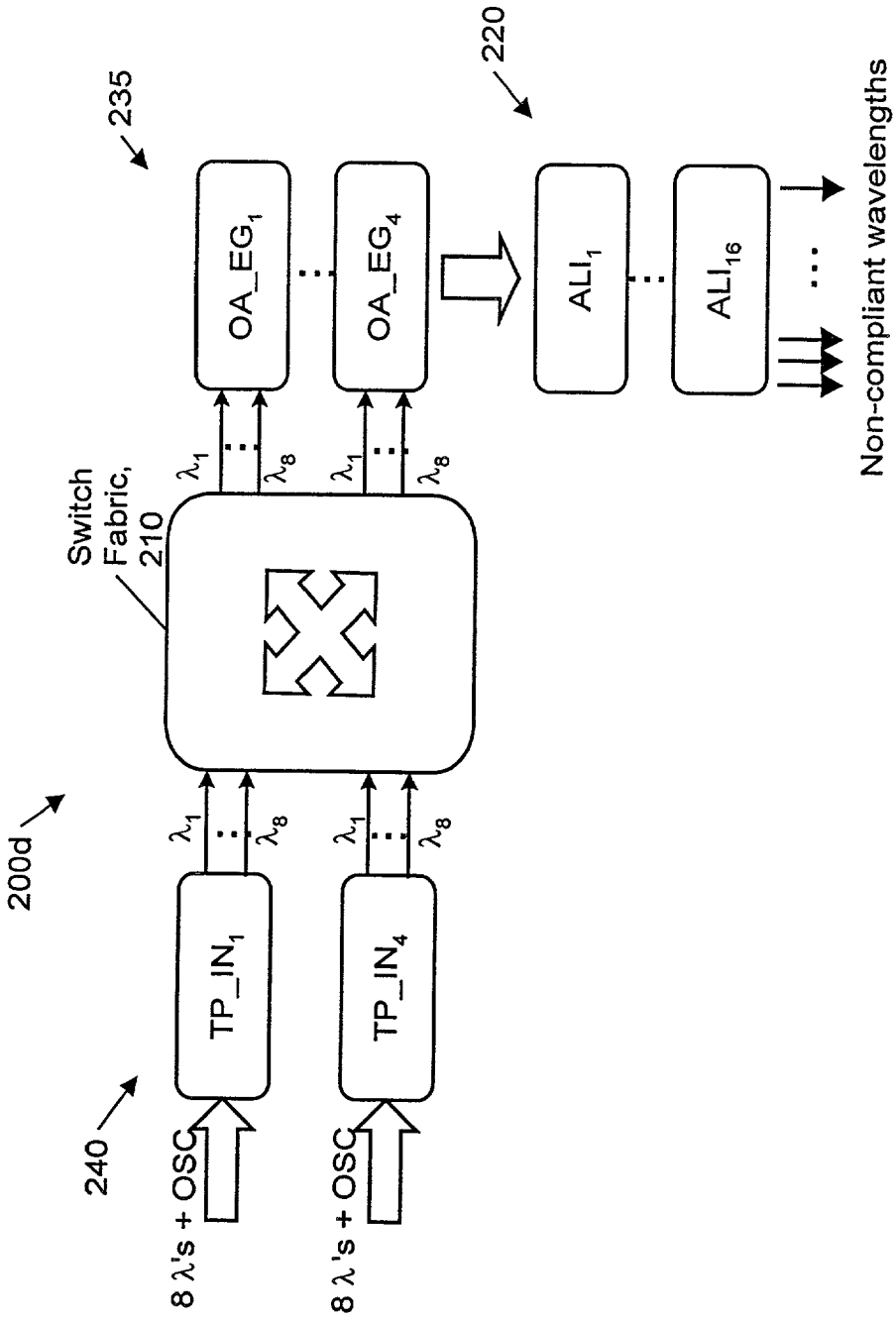

200d
240
8 λ's + OSC
8 λ's + OSC
TP_IN1
TP_IN4
λ1
λ8
Switch Fabric, 210
235
OA_EG1
OA_EG4
220
ALI1
ALI16
Non-compliant wavelengths

FIG. 26

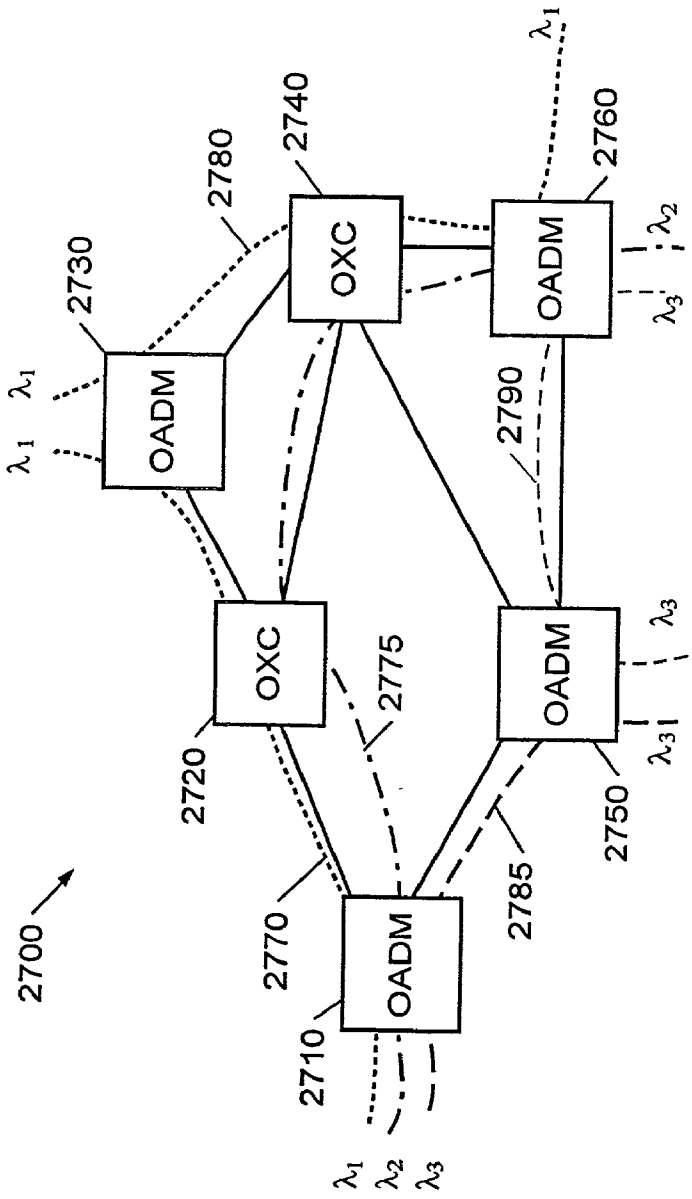

2700
2710
2720
2730
2740
2750
2760
2770
2775
2780
2785
2790
OADM
OXC
OADM
OXC
OADM
OADM
λ1
λ2
λ3
λ1
λ1
λ2
λ3
λ3
λ3
λ1
λ2
λ3

FIG. 27

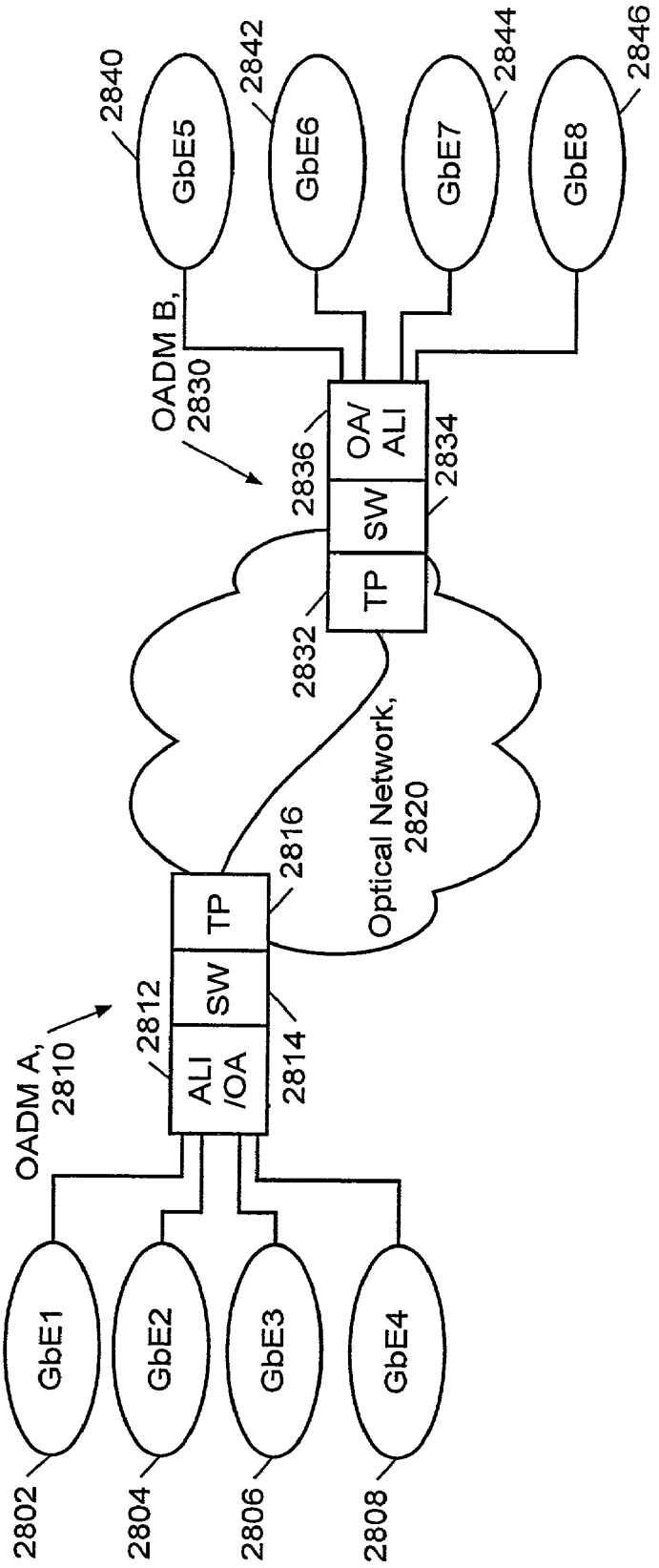

GbE1
GbE2
GbE3
GbE4
2802
2804
2806
2808
OADM A,
2810
2812
ALI
/OA
SW
TP
2814
2816
Optical Network,
2820
2832
TP
SW
OA/
ALI
2834
2836
OADM B,
2830
2840
GbE5
2842
GbE6
2844
GbE7
2846
GbE8

FIG. 28

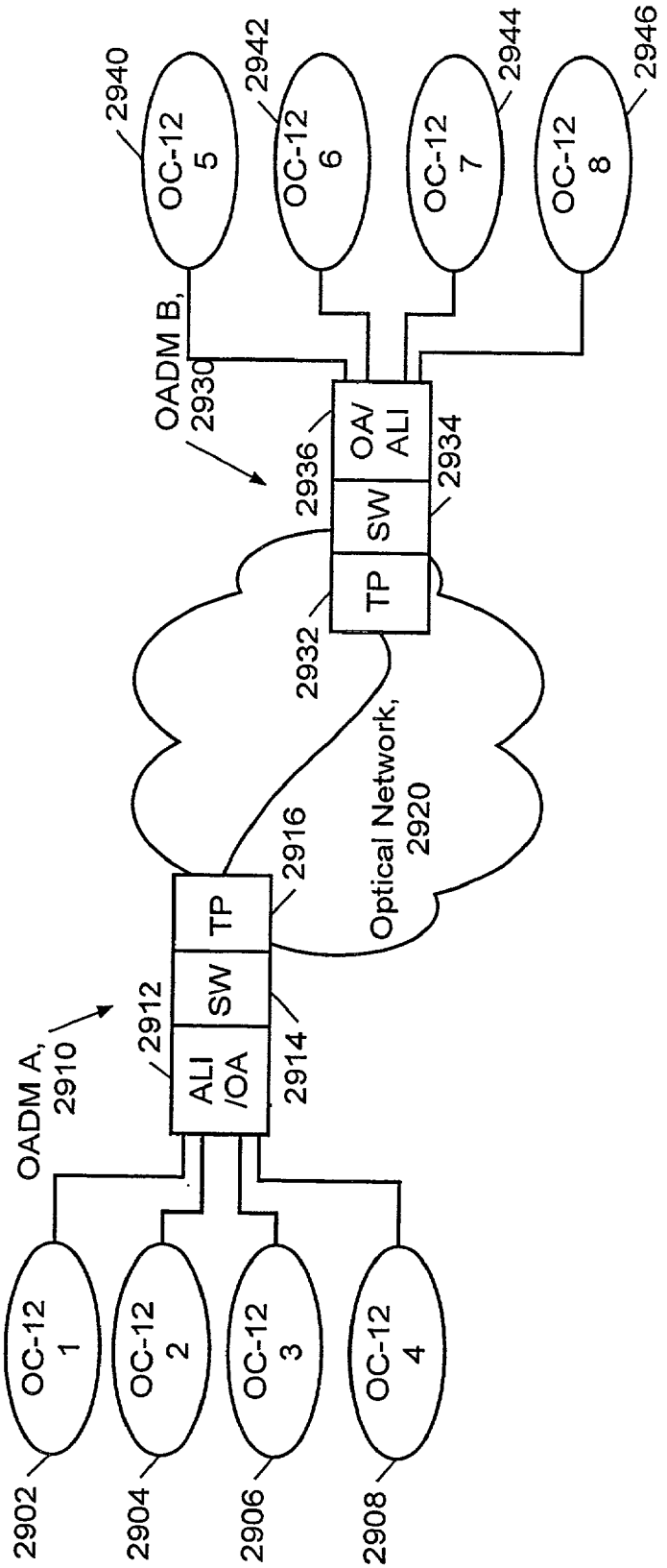

OADM A,
2910
2912
ALI
/OA
SW
TP
2914
2916
OADM B,
2930
2936
OA/
ALI
SW
TP
2934
2932
Optical Network,
2920
OC-12
1
OC-12
2
OC-12
3
OC-12
4
OC-12
5
OC-12
6
OC-12
7
OC-12
8
2902
2904
2906
2908
2940
2942
2944
2946

FIG. 29

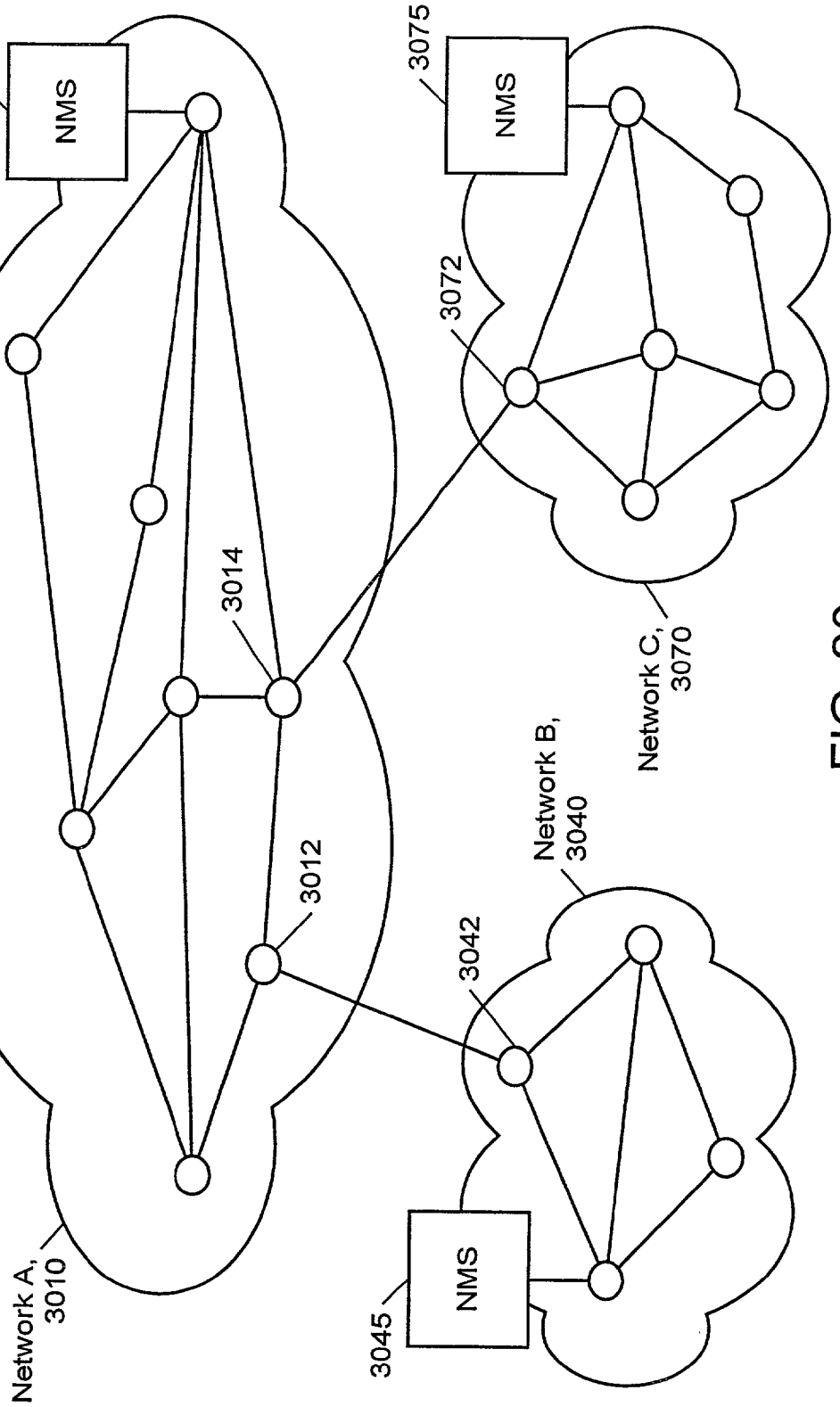

3015
NMS
3075
NMS
3072
3014
3012
3042
Network B,
3040
Network C,
3070
Network A,
3010
3045
NMS

FIG. 30

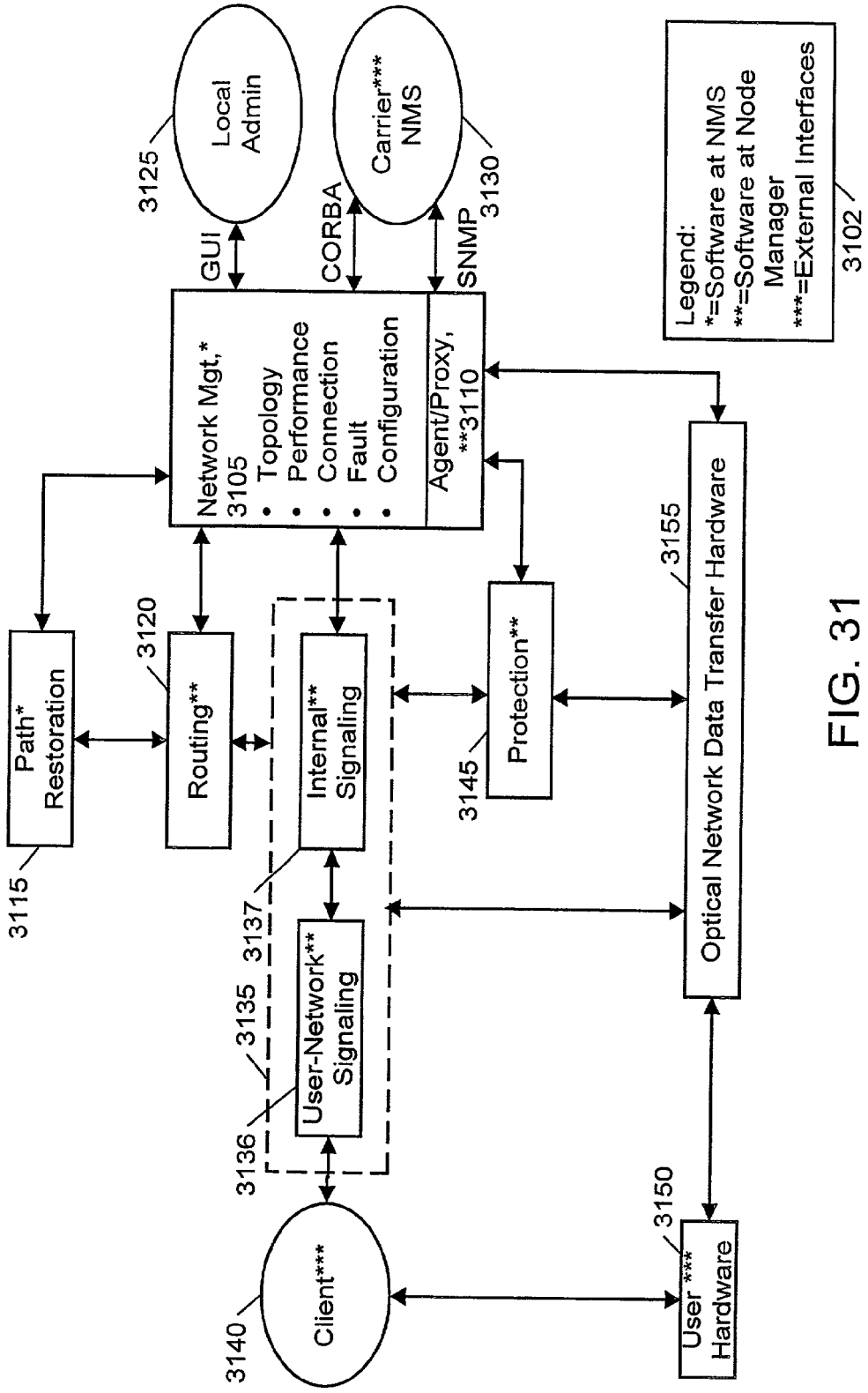

Local Admin
3125
Carrier*** NMS
3130
GUI
CORBA
SNMP
Legend:
*=Software at NMS
**=Software at Node Manager
***=External Interfaces
3102
Network Mgt.,*
3105
• Topology
• Performance
• Connection
• Fault
• Configuration
Agent/Proxy, **3110
Path* Restoration
3115
3120
Routing**
Internal** Signaling
3137
Protection**
3145
3155
Optical Network Data Transfer Hardware
User-Network** Signaling
3135
3136
Client***
3140
User *** Hardware
3150

FIG. 31

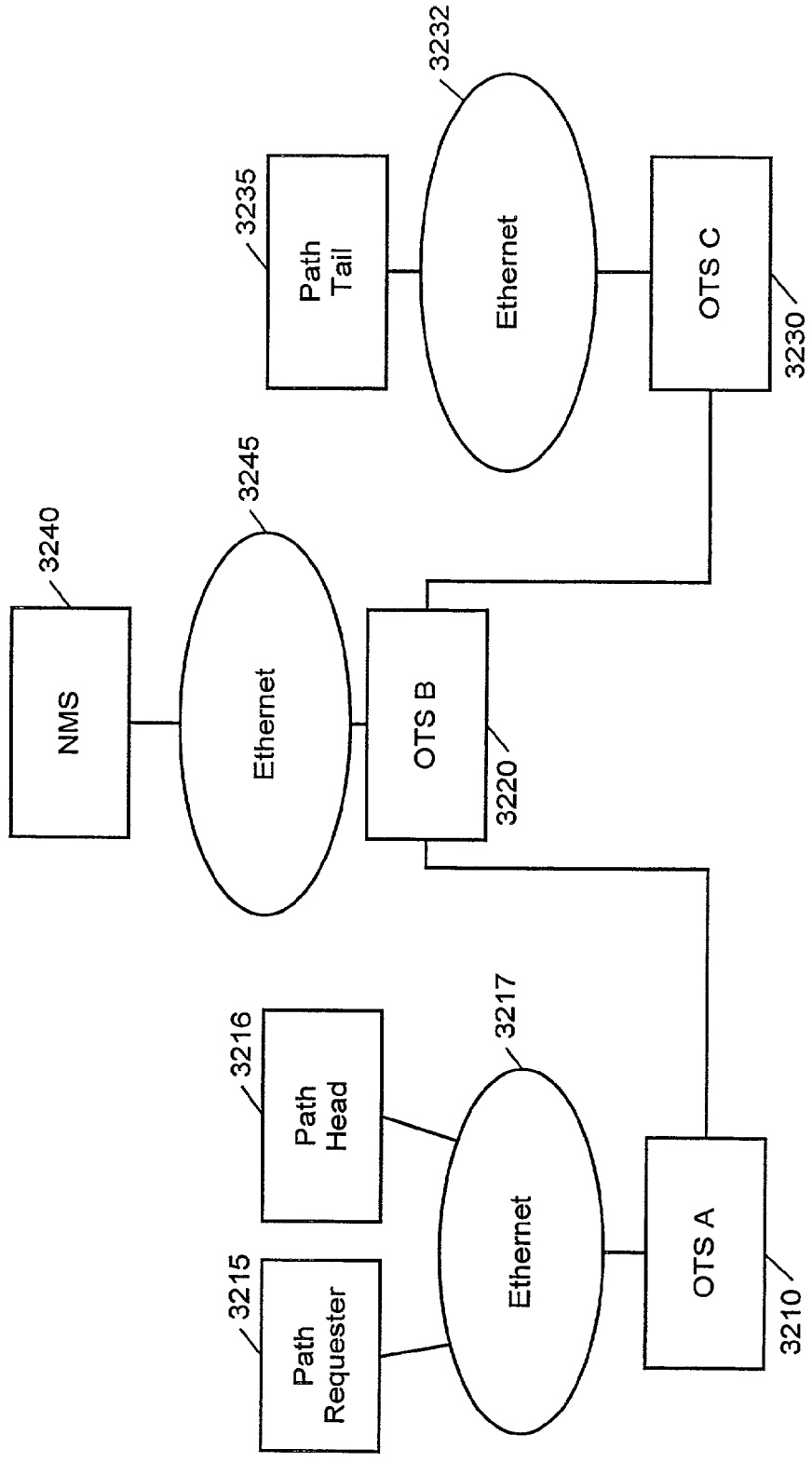

3232
3235
Path Tail
Ethernet
OTS C
3230
3245
3240
NMS
Ethernet
OTS B
3220
3216
Path Head
3217
3215
Path Requester
Ethernet
OTS A
3210

FIG. 32

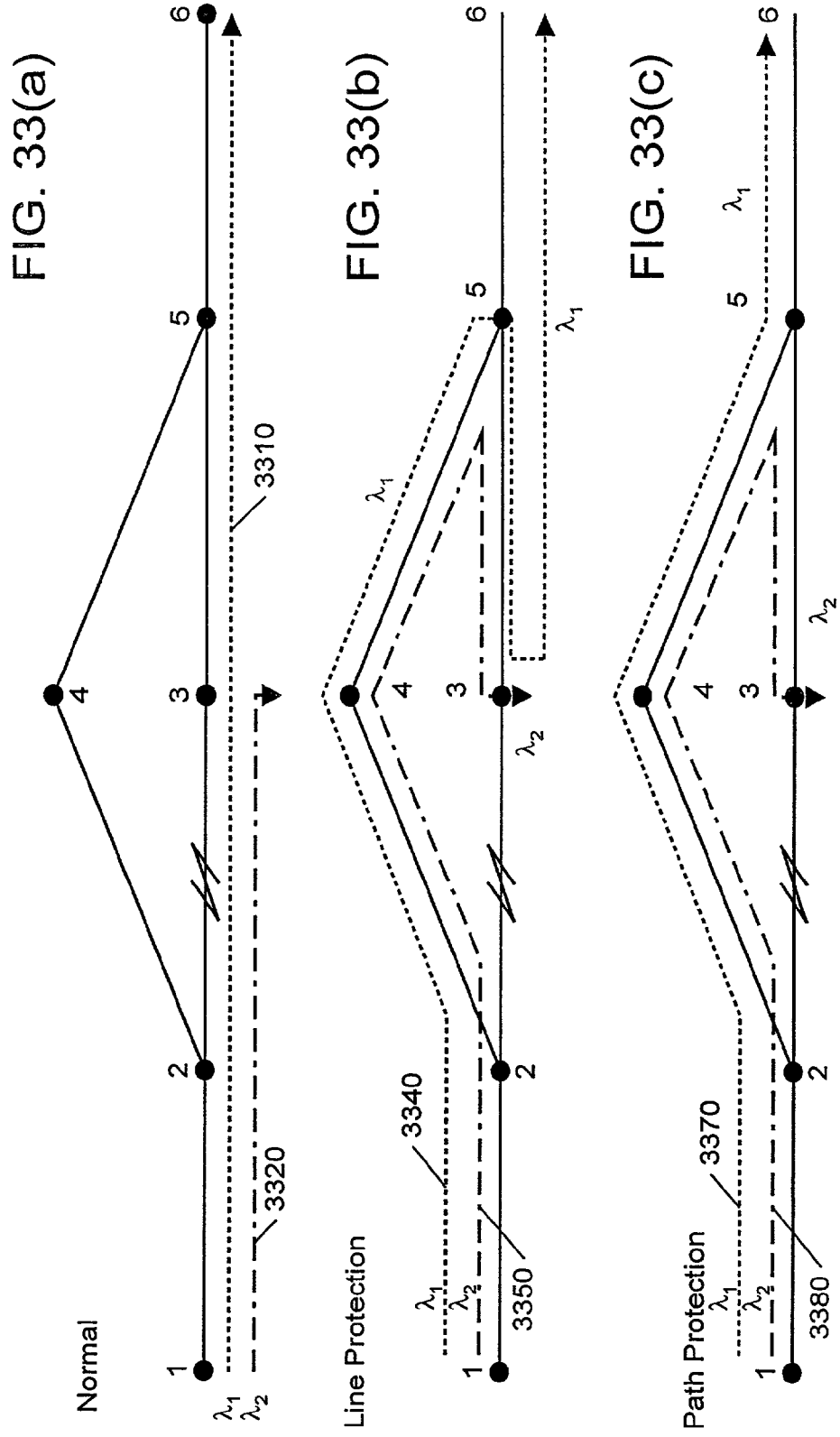


FIG. 33(a)
Normal
1
2
3
4
5
6
3310
3320
λ_1
λ_2
FIG. 33(b)
Line Protection
3340
3350
FIG. 33(c)
Path Protection
3370
3380

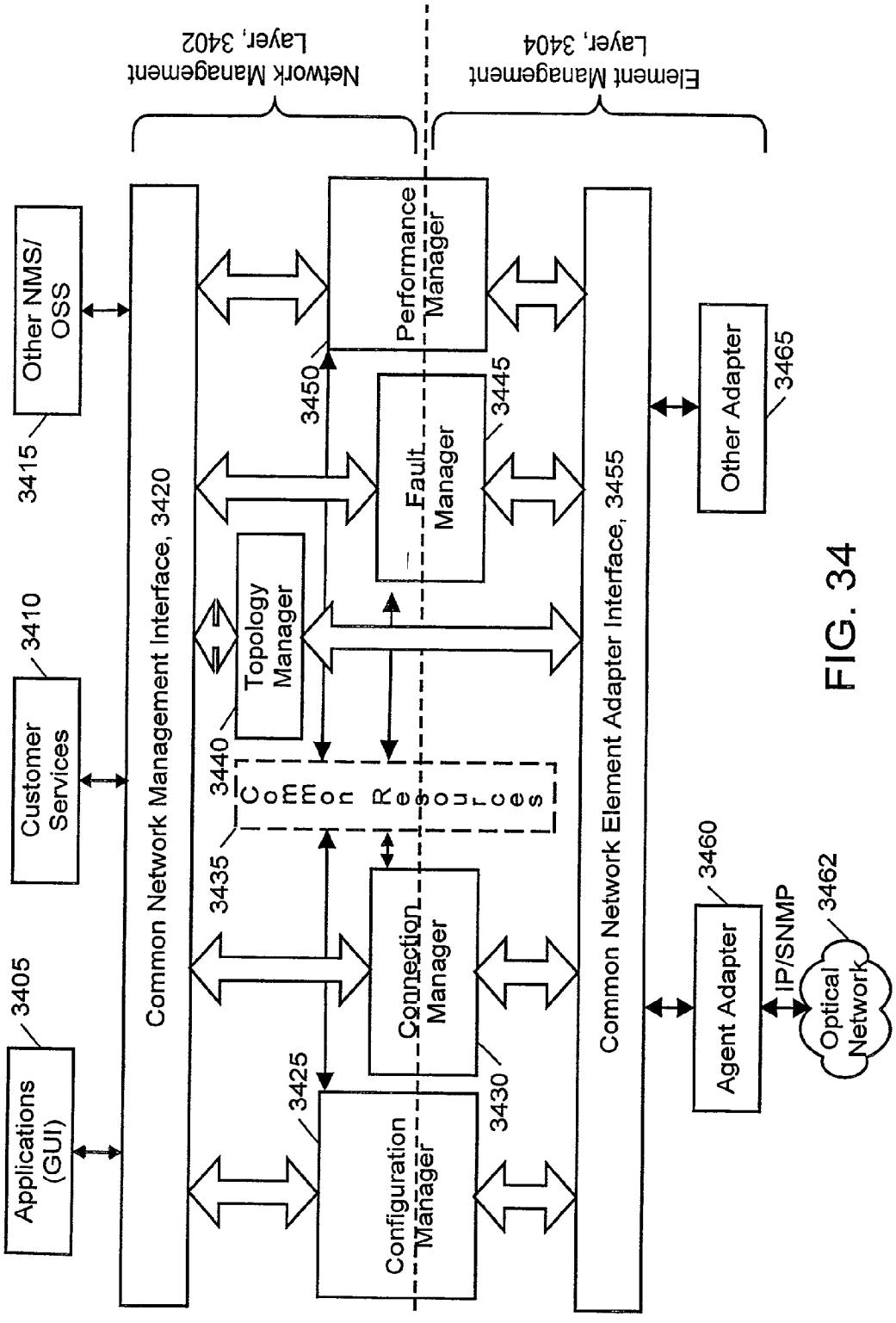

Network Management Layer, 3402
Element Management Layer, 3404
Other NMS/ OSS
3415
Applications (GUI)
3405
Customer Services
3410
Common Network Management Interface, 3420
Performance Manager
3450
Fault Manager
3445
Topology Manager
3440
Common Resources
3435
Connection Manager
Configuration Manager
3425
3430
Common Network Element Adapter Interface, 3455
Other Adapter
3465
Agent Adapter
3460
IP/SNMP
Optical Network
3462

FIG. 34

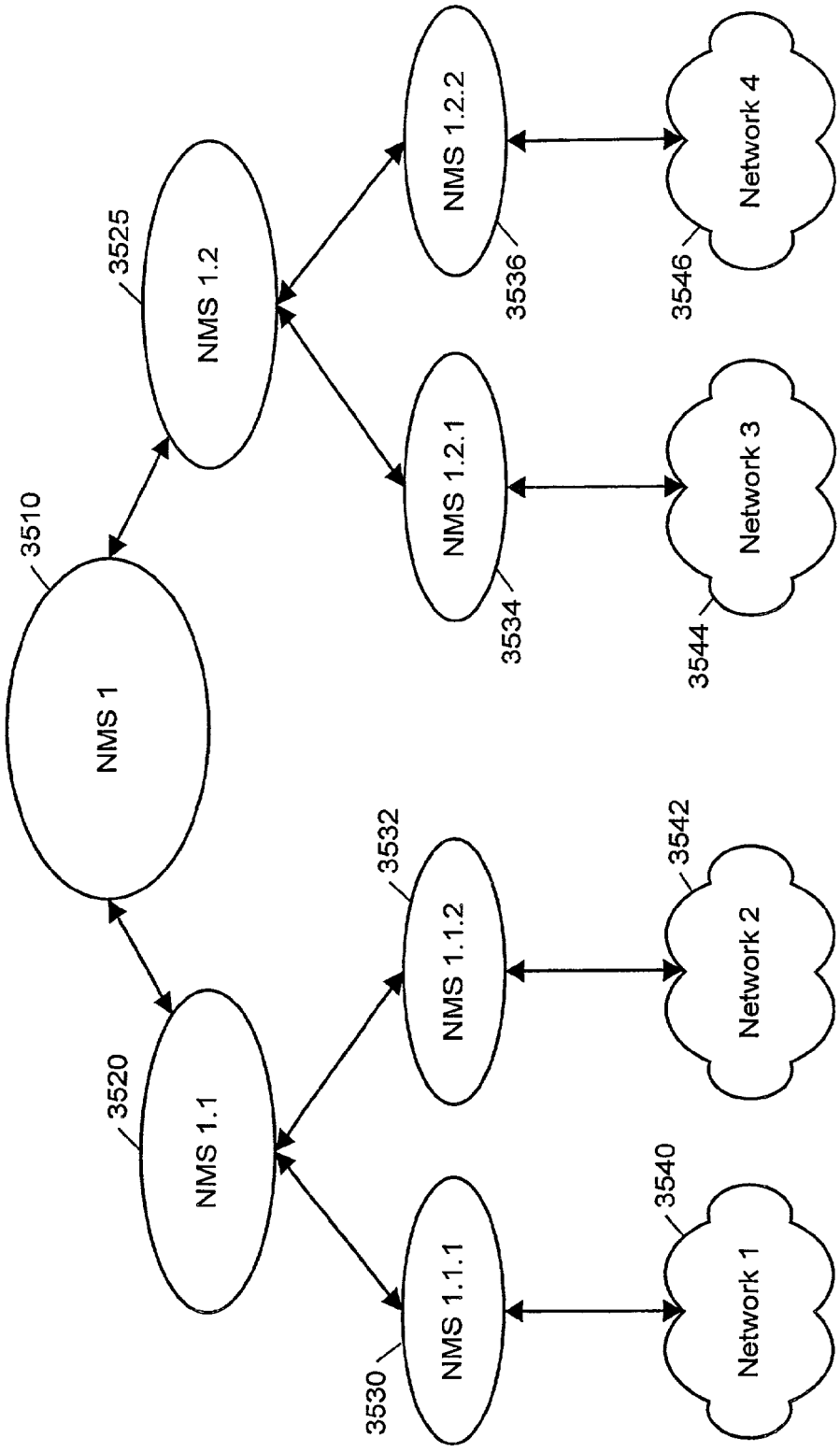

NMS 1
3510
NMS 1.1
3520
NMS 1.2
3525
NMS 1.1.1
3530
NMS 1.1.2
3532
NMS 1.2.1
3534
NMS 1.2.2
3536
Network 1
3540
Network 2
3542
Network 3
3544
Network 4
3546

FIG. 35

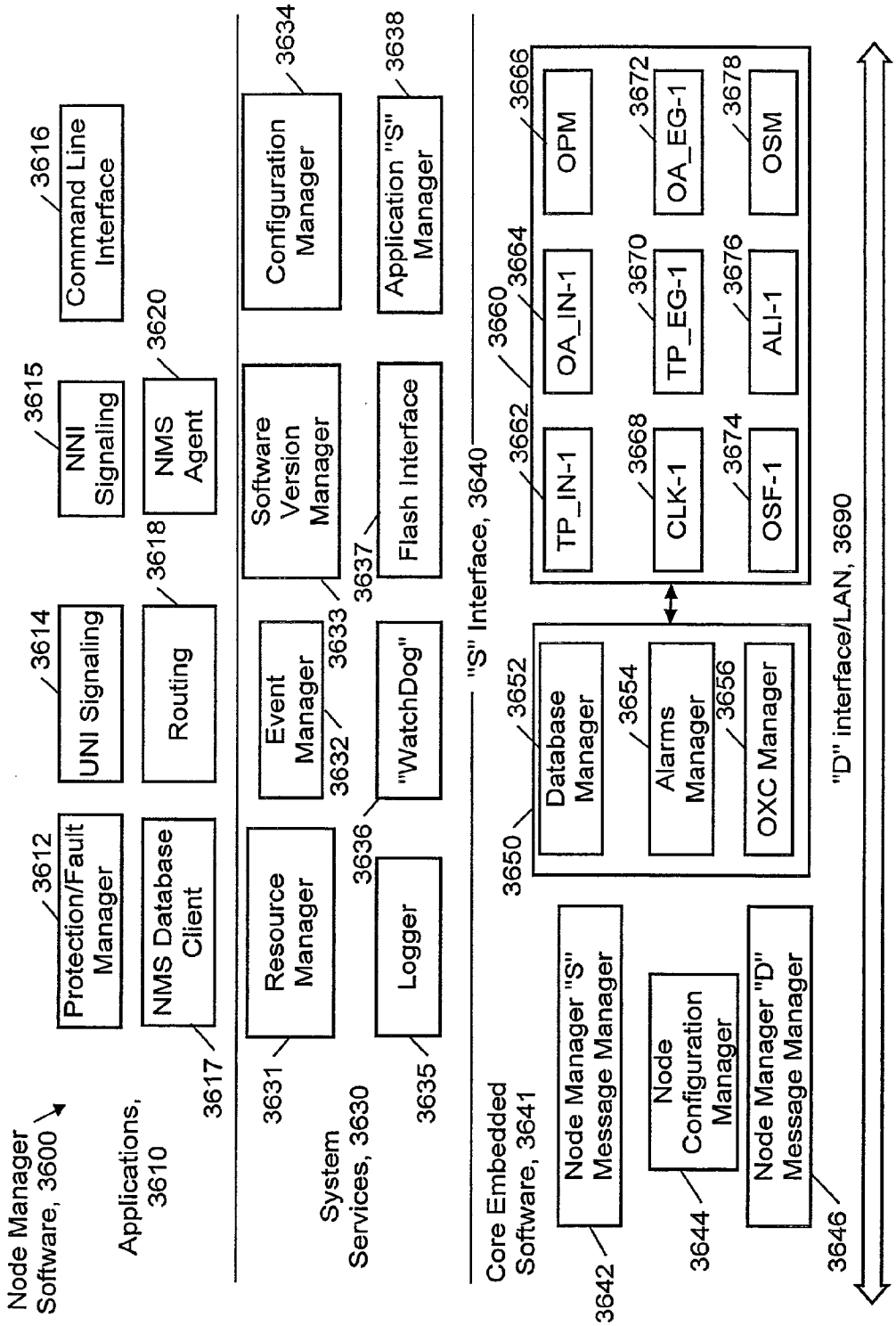

Node Manager Software, 3600
Applications, 3610
3612
Protection/Fault Manager
3614
UNI Signaling
3615
NNI Signaling
3616
Command Line Interface
3617
NMS Database Client
3618
Routing
3620
NMS Agent
System Services, 3630
3631
Resource Manager
3632
Event Manager
3633
3634
Configuration Manager
3636
Logger
"WatchDog"
3637
Flash Interface
Software Version Manager
3638
Application "S" Manager
"S" Interface, 3640
Core Embedded Software, 3641
3642
Node Manager "S" Message Manager
3644
Node Configuration Manager
Node Manager "D" Message Manager
3646
3650
3652
Database Manager
3654
Alarms Manager
3656
OXC Manager
3660
3662
TP_IN-1
3664
OA_IN-1
3666
OPM
3668
CLK-1
3670
TP_EG-1
3672
OA_EG-1
3674
OSF-1
3676
ALI-1
3678
OSM
"D" interface/LAN, 3690

FIG. 36

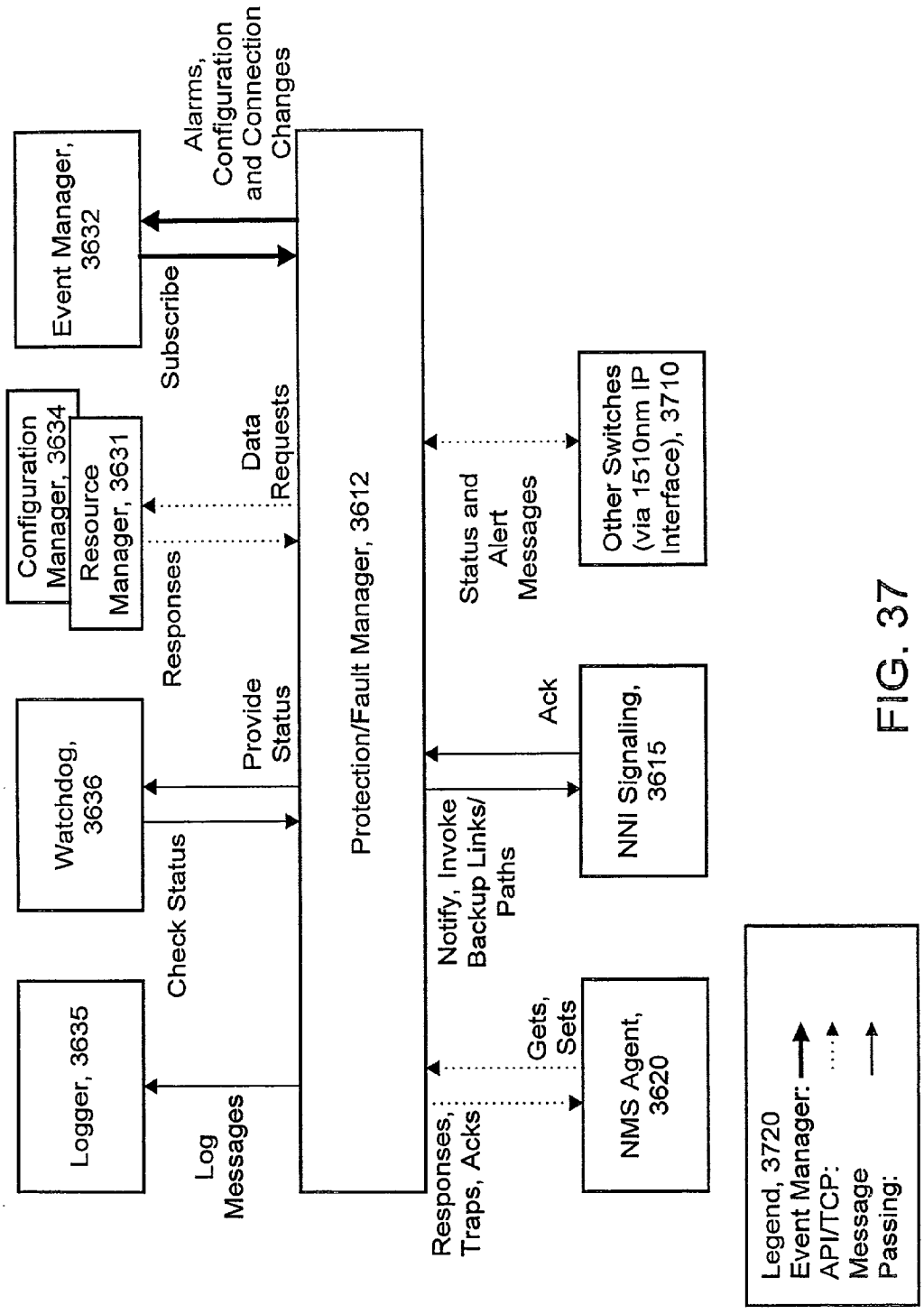

Event Manager, 3632
Alarms, Configuration and Connection Changes
Subscribe
Configuration Manager, 3634
Resource Manager, 3631
Data Requests
Responses
Watchdog, 3636
Provide Status
Check Status
Logger, 3635
Log Messages
Protection/Fault Manager, 3612
Status and Alert Messages
Other Switches (via 1510nm IP Interface), 3710
Ack
NNI Signaling, 3615
Notify, Invoke Backup Links/ Paths
Gets, Sets
NMS Agent, 3620
Responses, Traps, Acks
Legend, 3720
Event Manager:
API/TCP:
Message Passing:

FIG. 37

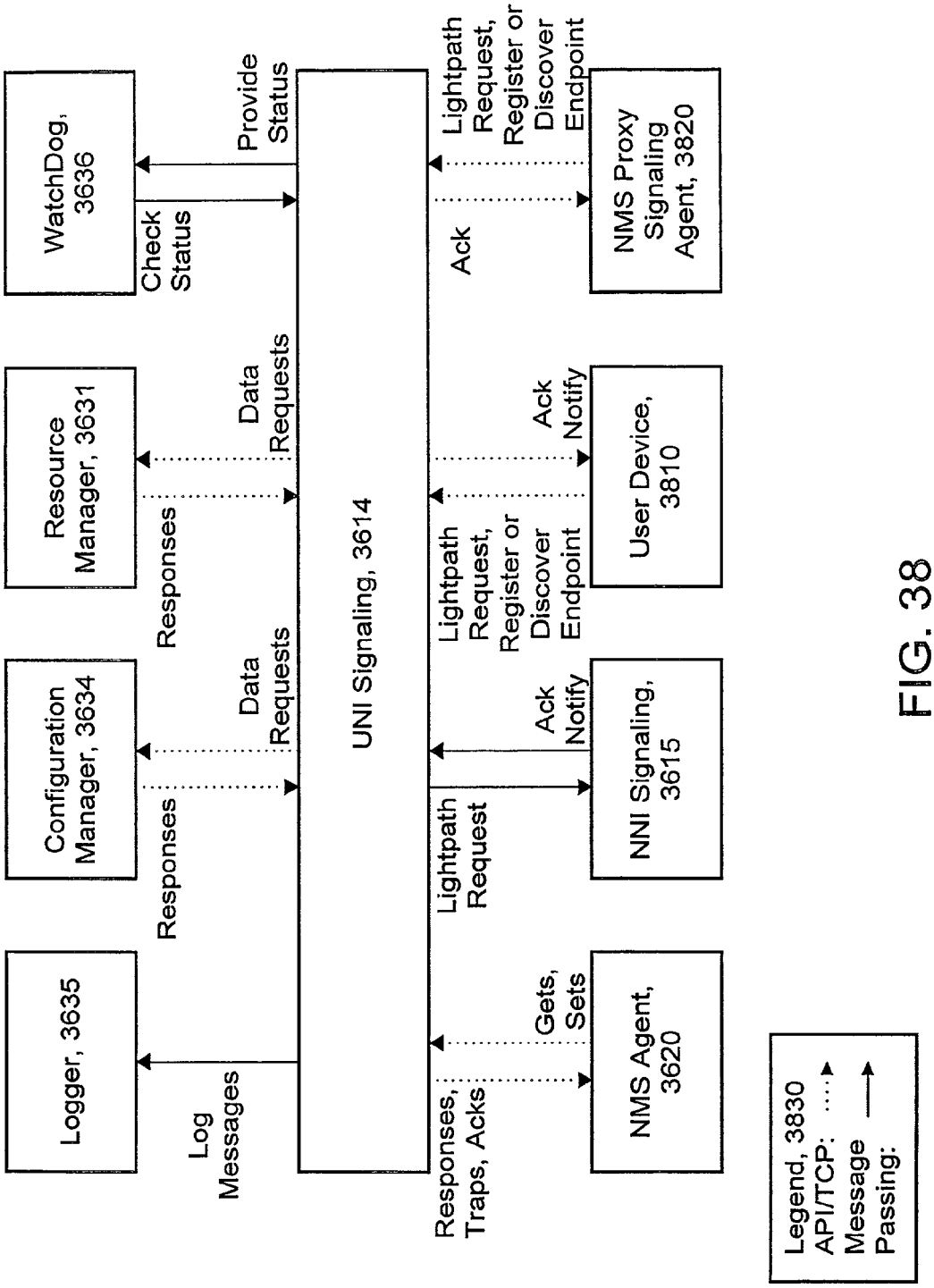

WatchDog, 3636
Resource Manager, 3631
Configuration Manager, 3634
Logger, 3635
UNI Signaling, 3614
NMS Proxy Signaling Agent, 3820
User Device, 3810
NNI Signaling, 3615
NMS Agent, 3620
Provide Status
Check Status
Data Requests
Responses
Log Messages
Lightpath Request, Register or Discover Endpoint
Ack
Ack Notify
Lightpath Request
Gets, Sets
Responses, Traps, Acks
Legend, 3830
API/TCP:
Message Passing:

FIG. 38

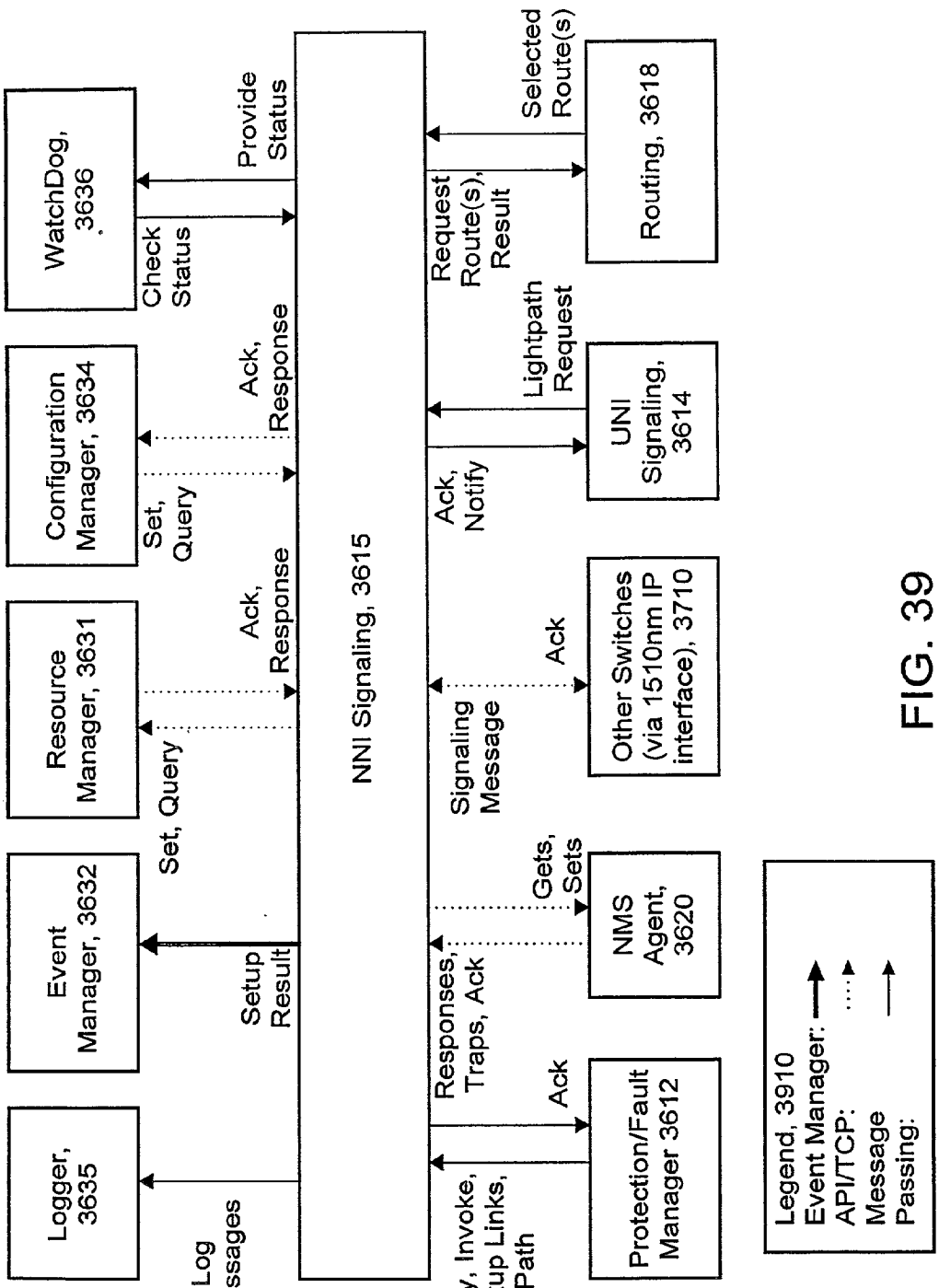

WatchDog, 3636
Configuration Manager, 3634
Resource Manager, 3631
Event Manager, 3632
Logger, 3635
NNI Signaling, 3615
Routing, 3618
UNI Signaling, 3614
Other Switches (via 1510nm IP interface), 3710
NMS Agent, 3620
Protection/Fault Manager 3612
Provide Status
Check Status
Ack, Response
Set, Query
Ack, Response
Set, Query
Selected Route(s)
Request Route(s), Result
Lightpath Request
Ack, Notify
Signaling Message
Ack
Gets, Sets
Responses, Traps, Ack
Ack
Setup Result
Log Messages
Notify, Invoke, Backup Links, Path
Legend, 3910
Event Manager:
API/TCP:
Message Passing:

FIG. 39

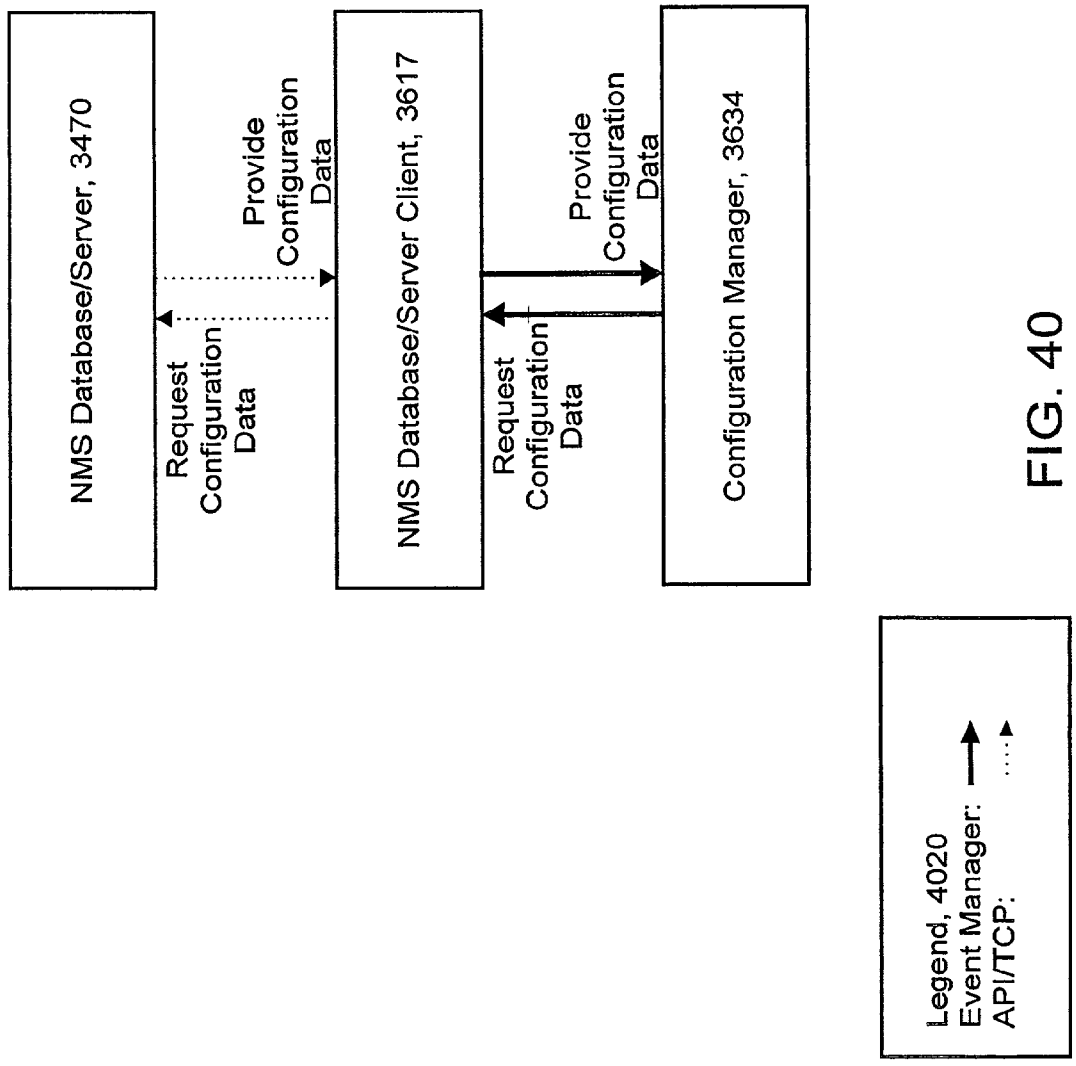

NMS Database/Server, 3470
Request Configuration Data
Provide Configuration Data
NMS Database/Server Client, 3617
Request Configuration Data
Provide Configuration Data
Configuration Manager, 3634
Legend, 4020
Event Manager:
API/TCP:

FIG. 40

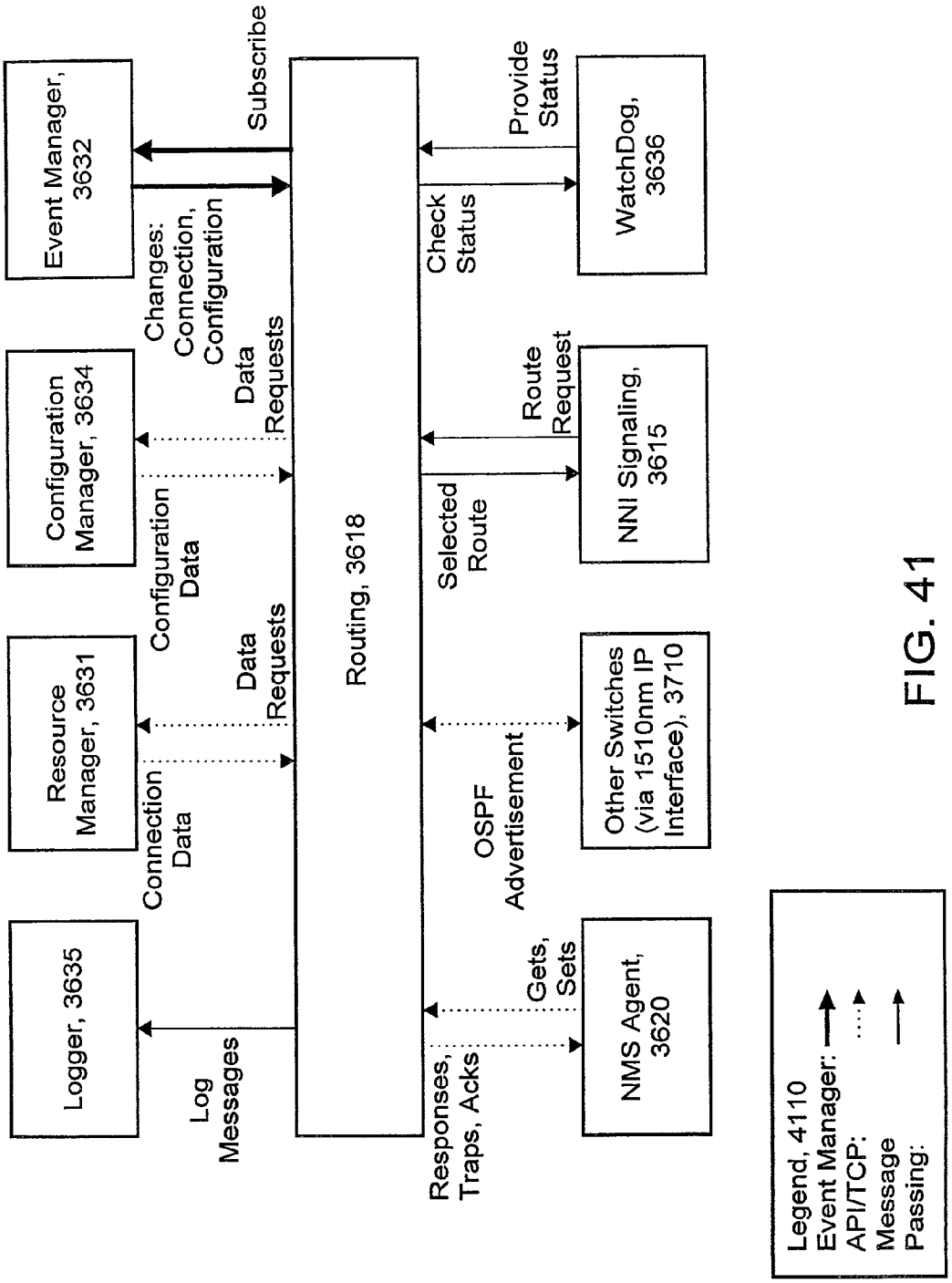

Event Manager, 3632
Subscribe
Changes: Connection, Configuration
Data Requests
Configuration Manager, 3634
Configuration Data
Data Requests
Resource Manager, 3631
Connection Data
Log Messages
Logger, 3635
Routing, 3618
Check Status
Provide Status
WatchDog, 3636
Route Request
Selected Route
NNI Signaling, 3615
OSPF Advertisement
Other Switches (via 1510nm IP Interface), 3710
Gets, Sets
Responses, Traps, Acks
NMS Agent, 3620
Legend, 4110
Event Manager:
API/TCP:
Message Passing:

FIG. 41

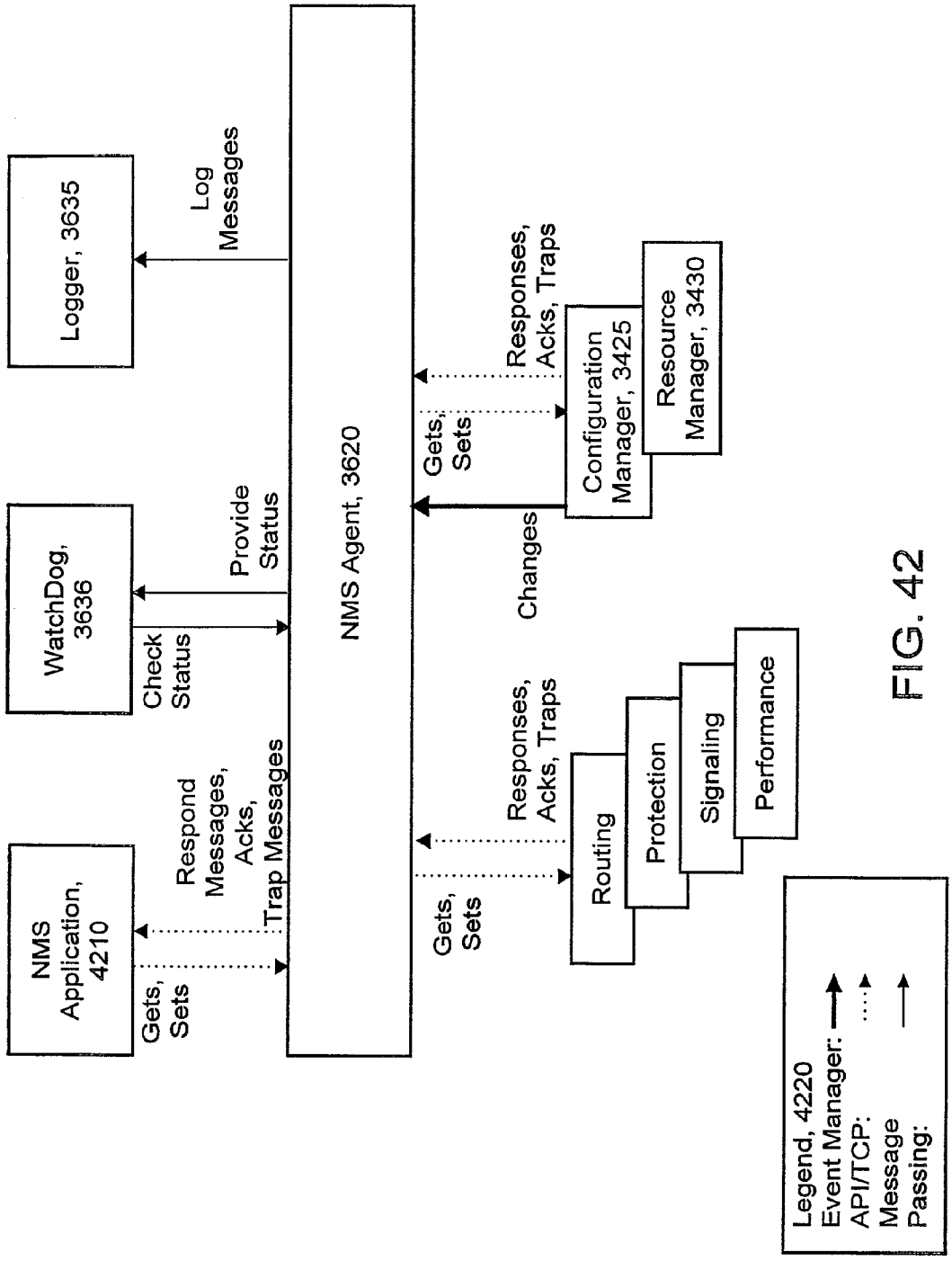

Logger, 3635
Log Messages
WatchDog, 3636
Provide Status
Check Status
NMS Application, 4210
Respond Messages, Acks, Trap Messages
Gets, Sets
NMS Agent, 3620
Gets, Sets
Responses, Acks, Traps
Configuration Manager, 3425
Resource Manager, 3430
Changes
Gets, Sets
Responses, Acks, Traps
Routing
Protection
Signaling
Performance
Legend, 4220
Event Manager:
API/TCP:
Message Passing:

FIG. 42

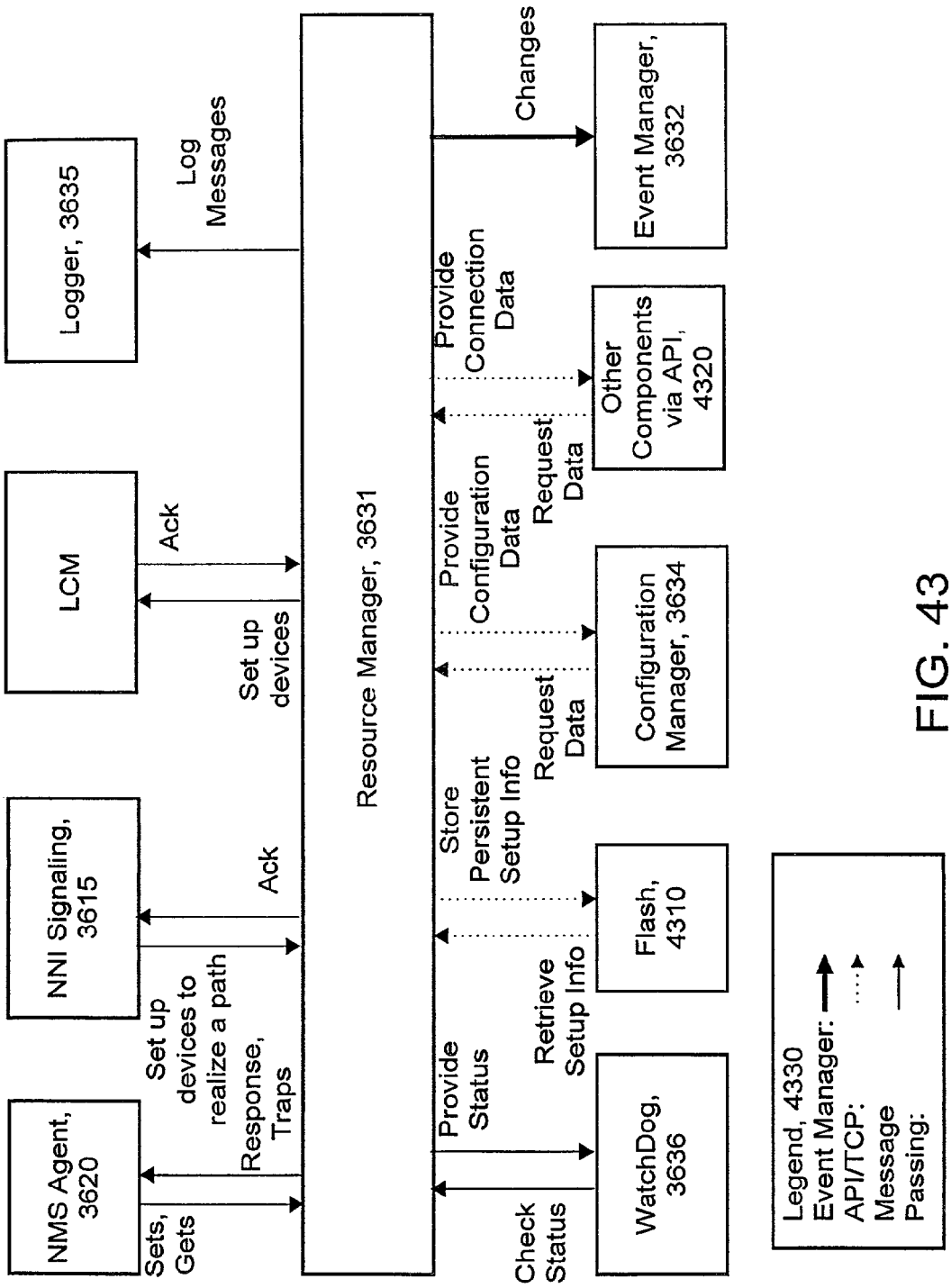

Logger, 3635
Log Messages
LCM
Ack
Set up devices
Resource Manager, 3631
Provide Connection Data
Changes
Event Manager, 3632
Other Components via API, 4320
Request Data
Provide Configuration Data
Configuration Manager, 3634
NNI Signaling, 3615
Ack
Store Persistent Setup Info
Request Data
Flash, 4310
Set up devices to realize a path
Response, Traps
Provide Status
Retrieve Setup Info
NMS Agent, 3620
Sets, Gets
Check Status
WatchDog, 3636
Legend, 4330
Event Manager:
API/TCP:
Message Passing:

FIG. 43

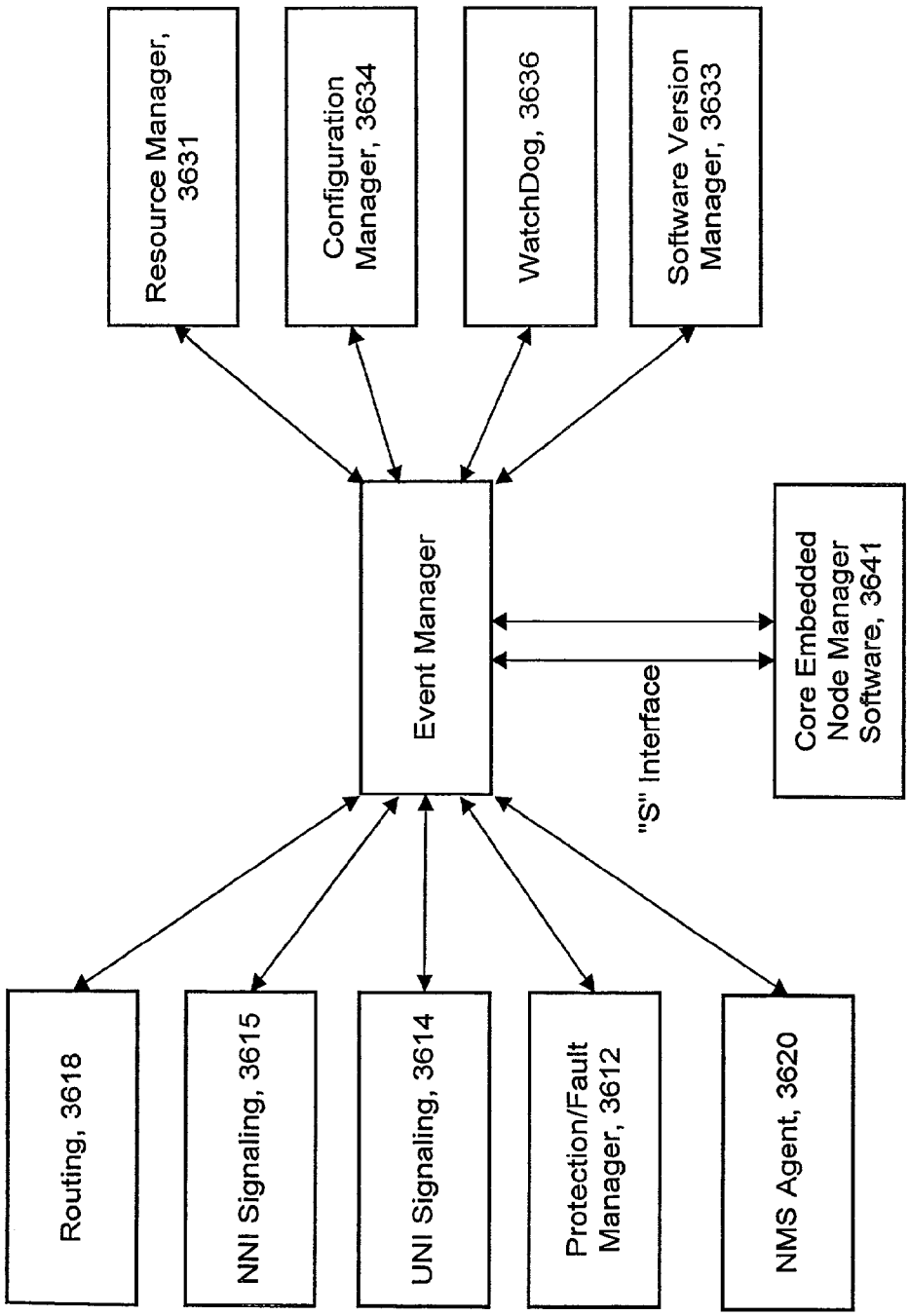

Resource Manager, 3631
Configuration Manager, 3634
WatchDog, 3636
Software Version Manager, 3633
Event Manager
"S" Interface
Core Embedded Node Manager Software, 3641
Routing, 3618
NNI Signaling, 3615
UNI Signaling, 3614
Protection/Fault Manager, 3612
NMS Agent, 3620

FIG. 44

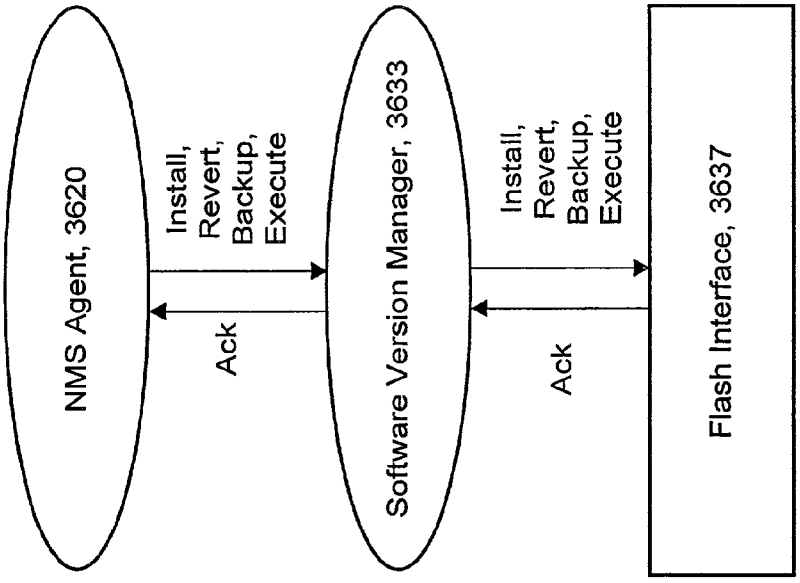

NMS Agent, 3620
Install, Revert, Backup, Execute
Ack
Software Version Manager, 3633
Install, Revert, Backup, Execute
Ack
Flash Interface, 3637

FIG. 45

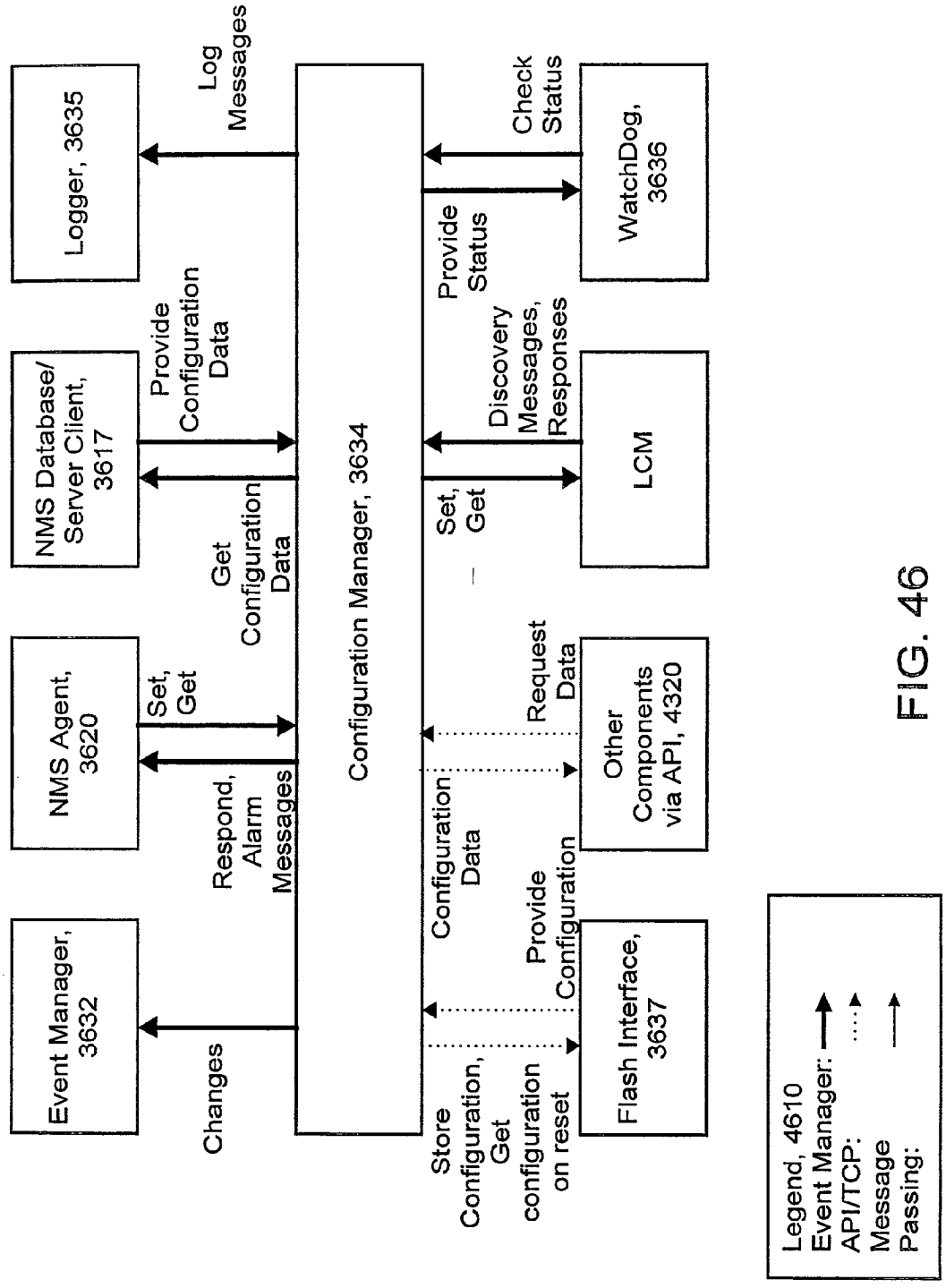

Logger, 3635
Log Messages
NMS Database/ Server Client, 3617
Provide Configuration Data
Get Configuration Data
NMS Agent, 3620
Set, Get
Respond, Alarm Messages
Event Manager, 3632
Changes
Configuration Manager, 3634
Store Configuration, Get configuration on reset
Provide Configuration
Configuration Data
Request Data
Other Components via API, 4320
Flash Interface, 3637
Set, Get
Discovery Messages, Responses
LCM
Provide Status
Check Status
WatchDog, 3636
Legend, 4610
Event Manager:
API/TCP:
Message Passing:

FIG. 46

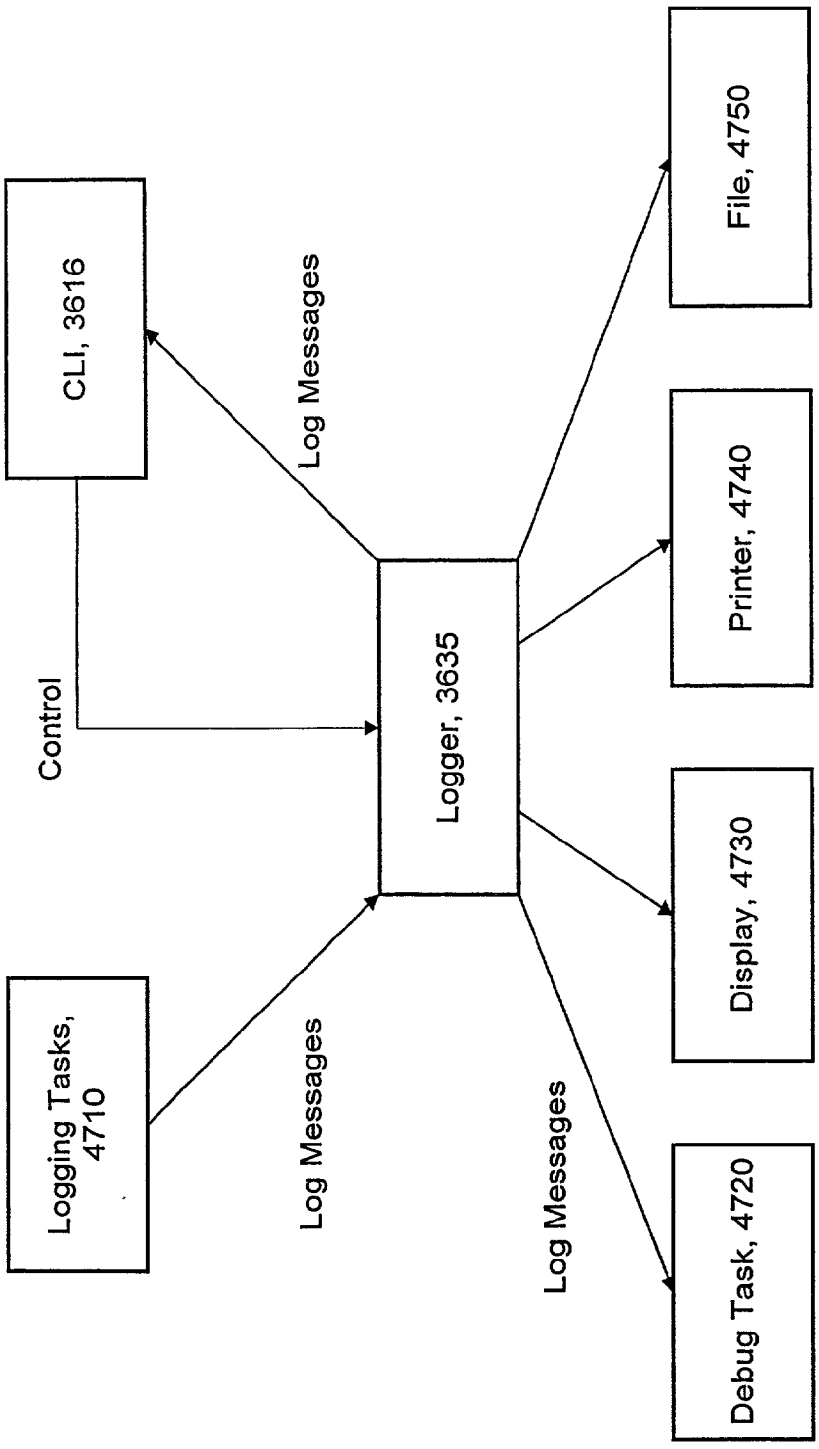

CLI, 3616
Log Messages
File, 4750
Printer, 4740
Control
Logger, 3635
Display, 4730
Logging Tasks, 4710
Log Messages
Log Messages
Debug Task, 4720

FIG. 47

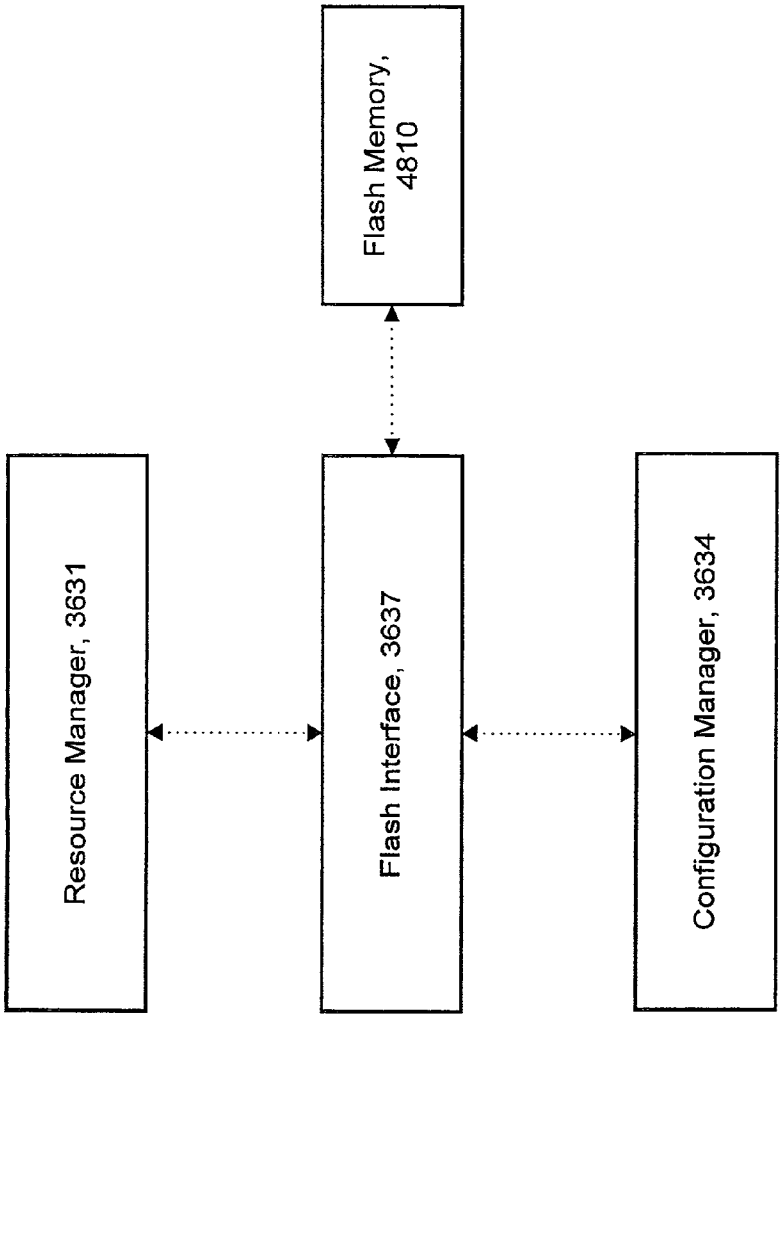

Flash Memory, 4810
Resource Manager, 3631
Flash Interface, 3637
Configuration Manager, 3634
Legend, 4820
API/TCP:

FIG. 48

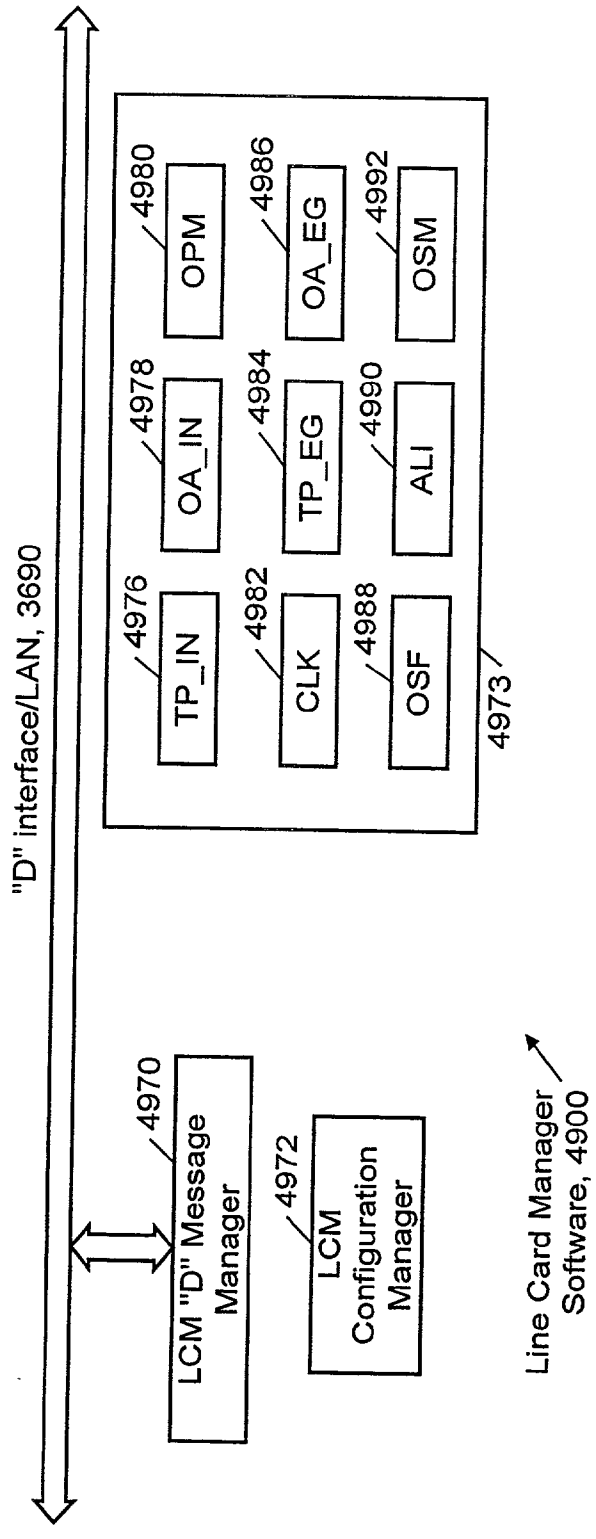

"D" interface/LAN, 3690
4970
LCM "D" Message Manager
4972
LCM Configuration Manager
Line Card Manager Software, 4900
4973
4976
TP_IN
4978
OA_IN
4980
OPM
4982
CLK
4984
TP_EG
4986
OA_EG
4988
OSF
4990
ALI
4992
OSM

FIG. 49

EMBEDDED CONTROLLER ARCHITECTURE FOR A MODULAR OPTICAL NETWORK, AND METHODS AND APPARATUS THEREFOR

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a control architecture for line cards that are located at optical switches in an optical communications network.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Fiber optic and laser technology have enabled the communication of data at ever-higher rates. The use of optical signals has been particularly suitable for use over long haul links. Moreover, recently there has been a push to integrate optical signals into metro core and other networks. Conventional approaches use switches (i.e., network nodes) that receive an optical signal, convert it to the electrical domain for switching, then convert the switched electrical signal back to the optical domain for communication to the next switch. Moreover, while some all-optical switches have been developed that avoid the need for O-E-O conversion, they possess many limitations, such as their being time consuming and difficult to configure or re-configure.

[0003] Additionally, conventional network infrastructures have other disadvantages, such as inflexibility, inefficient bandwidth utilization, fixed bandwidth connections, and hardware that provide overlapping functions.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] It is an object of the invention to provide a line card manager architecture for managing line cards at an optical switch in an optical communications network.

[0005] It is an object of the invention to provide a line card manager architecture that provides local control of each line card.

[0006] It is an object of the invention to provide a line card manager architecture that executes commands received from a node manager level in a multi-tiered control hierarchy that includes a line card manager level for managing individual line cards in an optical switch/node, a node manager level for managing multiple line cards in an optical switch/node, and a network management system level for managing multiple optical switches/nodes in a network.

[0007] It is an object of the invention to provide a line card manager architecture that provides digital and analog control and monitoring of line cards.

[0008] It is an object of the invention to provide a line card manager architecture that sends monitored parameters and events such as faults to the node manager of the associated optical switch. For example, the line card manager layer may observe laser current consumption over a period of time. When the current consumption eventually exceeds a threshold, the line card layer informs the node manager layer, and it reacts accordingly, e.g., by sending an alarm to the network management system.

[0009] It is an object of the invention to provide a line card manager architecture that communicates with its node manager via a message-passing interface.

[0010] It is an object of the invention to provide a line card manager architecture that provides a dedicated processor for each of multiple line cards at an optical switch.

[0011] It is an object of the invention to provide a line card manager architecture that uses a processor that is capable of multi-tasking multiple sense-and-control processes for a line card.

[0012] It is an object of the invention to provide a generic line card manager architecture that can manage multiple types of line cards.

[0013] It is an object of the invention to provide a line card manager architecture that stores software for managing a line card in non-volatile memory.

[0014] It is an object of the invention to provide a line card manager architecture that automatically identifies a line card type.

[0015] In one aspect of the invention, a management architecture is provided for use at an optical switch in an optical network. The architecture includes a line card manager for managing an associated line card at the optical switch. In particular, the line card manager includes: (a) a first interface for receiving monitored parameter values from the line card, (b) processing resources for setting an event regarding the line card when criteria for setting the event is met by the monitored parameter values, and (c) a second interface for communicating the event to a node manager at the optical switch that manages the line card manager.

[0016] In another aspect of the invention, a management architecture for use at an optical switch in an optical network includes a number of respective line card managers for managing respective line cards at the optical switch. Each line card manager includes: (a) a first interface for receiving monitored parameter values from the respective line card, (b) processing resources for setting an event regarding the respective line card when criteria for setting the event is met by the monitored parameter values, and (c) a second interface for communicating the event to a node manager at the optical switch. Moreover, the node manager manages each of the respective line card managers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0017] The invention is illustrated in the figures of the accompanying drawings, which are meant to be exemplary, and not limiting, in which like references are intended to refer to like or corresponding structures, and in which:

[0018] **FIG. 1** illustrates an all-optical network architecture in accordance with the present invention;

[0019] **FIG. 2** illustrates a logical node architecture in accordance with the present invention;

[0020] **FIG. 3** illustrates an optical transport switching system hardware architecture in accordance with the present invention;

[0021] **FIG. 4** illustrates a control architecture for an OTS in accordance with the present invention;

[0022] **FIG. 5** illustrates a single Node Manager architecture in accordance with the present invention;

[0023] **FIG. 6** illustrates a Line Card Manager architecture in accordance with the present invention;

[0024] **FIG. 7** illustrates an OTS configuration in accordance with the present invention;

[0025] **FIG. 8** illustrates backplane Ethernet hubs for an OTS in accordance with the present invention;

[0026] **FIG. 9** illustrates the operation of a control architecture and Optical Signaling Module in accordance with the present invention;

[0027] **FIG. 10** illustrates an optical switch fabric module in accordance with the present invention;

[0028] **FIG. 11** illustrates a Transport Ingress Module in accordance with the present invention;

[0029] **FIG. 12** illustrates a Transport Egress Module in accordance with the present invention;

[0030] **FIG. 13** illustrates an Optical Access Ingress module in accordance with the present invention;

[0031] **FIG. 14** illustrates an Optical Access Egress module in accordance with the present invention;

[0032] **FIG. 15** illustrates a Gigabit Ethernet Access Line Interface module in accordance with the present invention;

[0033] **FIG. 16** illustrates a SONET OC-**12** Access Line Interface module in accordance with the present invention;

[0034] **FIG. 17** illustrates a SONET OC-**48** Access Line Interface module in accordance with the present invention;

[0035] **FIG. 18** illustrates a SONET OC-**192** Access Line Interface module in accordance with the present invention;

[0036] **FIG. 19** illustrates an Optical Performance Monitoring module in accordance with the present invention;

[0037] **FIG. 20** illustrates a physical architecture of an OTS chassis in an OXC configuration in accordance with the present invention;

[0038] **FIG. 21** illustrates a physical architecture of an OTS chassis in an OXC/OADM configuration in accordance with the present invention;

[0039] **FIG. 22** illustrates a physical architecture of an OTS chassis in an ALI configuration in accordance with the present invention;

[0040] **FIG. 23** illustrates a full wavelength cross-connect configuration in accordance with the present invention;

[0041] **FIG. 24** illustrates an optical add/drop multiplexer configuration with compliant wavelengths in accordance with the present invention;

[0042] **FIG. 25** illustrates an optical add multiplexer configuration in accordance with the present invention;

[0043] **FIG. 26** illustrates an optical drop multiplexer configuration in accordance with the present invention;

[0044] **FIG. 27** illustrates an example data flow through optical switches, including add/drop multiplexers and wavelength cross-connects, in accordance with the present invention;

[0045] **FIG. 28** illustrates Gigabit Ethernet networks accessing a managed optical network in accordance with the present invention;

[0046] **FIG. 29** illustrates SONET networks accessing a managed optical network in accordance with the present invention;

[0047] **FIG. 30** illustrates a hierarchical optical network structure in accordance with the present invention;

[0048] **FIG. 31** illustrates a system functional architecture in accordance with the present invention;

[0049] **FIG. 32** illustrates network signaling in accordance with the present invention;

[0050] FIGS. **33**(*a*)-(*c*) illustrate a normal data flow, a data flow with line protection, and a data flow with path protection, respectively, in accordance with the present invention;

[0051] **FIG. 34** illustrates a high-level Network Management System functional architecture in accordance with the present invention;

[0052] **FIG. 35** illustrates a Network Management System hierarchy in accordance with the present invention;

[0053] **FIG. 36** illustrates a Node Manager software architecture in accordance with the present invention;

[0054] **FIG. 37** illustrates a Protection/Fault Manager context diagram in accordance with the present invention;

[0055] **FIG. 38** illustrates a UNI Signaling context diagram in accordance with the present invention;

[0056] **FIG. 39** illustrates a NNI Signaling context diagram in accordance with the present invention;

[0057] **FIG. 40** illustrates an NMS Database/Server Client context diagram in accordance with the present invention;

[0058] **FIG. 41** illustrates a Routing context diagram in accordance with the present invention;

[0059] **FIG. 42** illustrates an NMS Agent context diagram in accordance with the present invention;

[0060] **FIG. 43** illustrates a Resource Manager context diagram in accordance with the present invention;

[0061] **FIG. 44** illustrates an Event Manager context diagram in accordance with the present invention;

[0062] **FIG. 45** illustrates a Software Version Manager context diagram in accordance with the present invention;

[0063] **FIG. 46** illustrates a Configuration Manager context diagram in accordance with the present invention;

[0064] **FIG. 47** illustrates a Logger context diagram in accordance with the present invention;

[0065] **FIG. 48** illustrates a Flash Interface context diagram in accordance with the present invention; and

[0066] **FIG. 49** illustrates a Line Card Manager software process diagram in accordance with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0067] Embodiments of the present invention will now be described in detail with reference to the accompanying figures.

[0068] A Glossary is provided at the end of the following description, wherein certain terms and acronyms are defined.

[0069] Note that while relevant discussion is found throughout the detailed description, the invention is discussed particularly in sections **4**, **24** and **25**.

[0070] 1. OTS Overview

[0071] The present invention provides for an all optical configurable switch (i.e., network node or OTS) that can operate as an optical cross-connect (OXC) (also referred to as a wavelength cross-connect, or WXC), which switches individual wavelengths, and/or an optical add/drop multiplexer (OADM). The switch is typically utilized with a Network Management System also discussed herein.

[0072] As an all-optical switching system, the switch of the present invention operates independently of bit rates and protocols. Typically, the all-optical switching, between inputs and outputs of the OTS, is achieved through the use of Micro-Electro-Mechanical System (MEMS) technology. Moreover, this optical switch offers an on-demand λ switching capability to support, e.g., either SONET ring based or mesh configurations.

[0073] The OTS also provides the capability to achieve an optimized network architecture since multiple topologies, such as ring and mesh, can be supported. Thus, the service provider can tailor its network design to best meet its traffic requirements. The OTS also enables flexible access interconnection supporting SONET circuits, Gigabit Ethernet (GbE) (IEEE 802.3z), conversion from non-ITU compliant optical wavelengths, and ITU-compliant wavelength connectivity. With these interfaces, the service provider is able to support a broad variety of protocols and data rates and ultimately provide IP services directly over DWDM without SONET equipment. The OTS further enables a scalable equipment architecture that is provided by a small form factor and modular design such that the service provider can minimize its floor space and power requirements needs and thereby incrementally expand its network within the same footprint.

[0074] **FIG. 1** illustrates an all-optical "metro core" network architecture that utilizes the present invention in accordance with a variety of configurations.

[0075] OTS equipment is shown within the optical network boundary **105**, and is designed for deployment both at the edges of a metro core network (when operating as an OADM), and internally to a metro core network (when operating as an OXC). For example, the OTSs at the edge of the network include OADMs **106**, **108**, **110** and **112**, and the OTSs internal to the network include WXCs **115**, **117**, **119**, **121** and **123**. Each OTS is a node of the network.

[0076] External devices such as SONET and GbE equipment may be connected directly to the optical network **105** via the edge OTSs. For example, SONET equipment **130** and **134**, and GbE equipment **132** connect to the network **105** via the OADM **106**. GbE **136** and SONET **138** equipment connect to the network via OADM **108**. GbE **140** and SONET equipment **142** and **144** connect to the network via OADM **110**. SONET equipment **146** connects to the network via OADM **112**. The network architecture may also support other network protocols as indicated, such as IP, MPLS, ATM, and Fibre Channel operating over the SONET and GbE interfaces.

[0077] **FIG. 2** depicts a logical node architecture **200**, which includes an Optical Switch Fabric **210**, Access Line Interface **220**, Optical Access Ingress **230**, Optical Access Egress **235**, Transport Ingress **240**, and Transport Egress **245** functions. These functions (described below) are implemented on respective line cards, also referred to as optical circuit cards or circuit packs or packages, that are receivable or deployed in a common chassis. Moreover, multiple line cards of the same type may be used at an OTS to provide scalability as the bandwidth needs of the OTS grow over time.

[0078] A Node Manager **250** and Optical Performance Monitoring (OPM) module **260** may also be implemented on respective line cards in the chassis. Node Manager **250** typically communicates with the rest of the OTS **200** through a 100 BaseT Ethernet internal LAN distributed to every line card and module and terminated by the Line Card Manager module **270** residing on every line card. Alternatively, a selectable 10/100 BaseT connection may be used. OPM **260** is responsible for monitoring optical hardware of OTS **200**, and typically communicates its findings to the Node Manager **250** via the internal LAN and the OPM's LCM. The Node manager may process this performance information to determine whether the hardware is functioning properly. In particular, based on the OPM information, the Node Manager may apply control signals to the line cards, switchover to backup components on the line cards or to backup line cards, set alarms for the NMS, or take other appropriate action.

[0079] Each of the line cards, including the OPM **260** and the line cards that carry the optical signals in the network, shown within the dashed line **265**, are controlled by respective LCMs **270**. The Node Manager **250** may control the line cards, and receive data from the line cards, via the LCMs **270**.

[0080] Being interfaced to all other cards of the OTS **200** via the internal LAN and LCMs, the Node Manager **250** is responsible for the overall management and operation of the OTS **200** including signaling, routing, and fault protection. The responsibility for telemetry of all control and status information is delegated to the LCMs. There are also certain local functions that are completely abstracted away from the Node Manager and handled solely by the LCMs, such as laser failsafe protection. Whenever a light path is created between OTSs, the Node Manager **250** of each OTS performs the necessary signaling, routing and switch configuration to set up the path. The Node Manager **250** also continuously monitors switch and network status such that fault conditions can be detected, isolated, and repaired. The OPM **260** may be used in this regard to detect a loss of signal or poor quality signal, or to measure signal parameters such as power, at any of the line cards using appropriate optical taps and processing circuitry. Three levels of fault recovery may be supported: (1) Component Switchover—replacement of failed switch components with backup, (2) Line Protection—rerouting of all light paths around a failed link; and (3) Path Protection—rerouting of individual light paths affected by a link or node failure. Component Switchover is preferably implemented within microseconds, while Line Protection is preferably implemented within milli-seconds of failure, and Path Restoration may take several seconds.

[0081] The all-optical switch fabric **210** is preferably implemented using MEMS technology. However, other optical switching components may be used, such as lithium

niobate modules, liquid crystals, bubbles and thermo-optical switching technologies. MEMS have arrays of tiny mirrors that are aimed in response to an electrostatic control signal. By aiming the mirrors, any optical signal from an input fiber (e.g., of a transport ingress or optical access ingress line card) can be routed to any output fiber (e.g., of a transport egress or optical access egress line card).

[0082] The Optical Access Network **205** may support various voice and data services, including switched services such as telephony, ISDN, interactive video, Internet access, videoconferencing and business services, as well as multicast services such as video. Service provider equipment in the Optical Access Network **205** can access the OTS **200** in two primary ways. Specifically, if the service provider equipment operates with wavelengths that are supported by the OTS **200** of the optical network, such as selected OC-n ITU-compliant wavelengths, it can directly interface with the Optical Access (OA) ingress module **230** and egress module **235**. Alternatively, if the service provider equipment is using a non-compliant wavelength, e.g., in the 1310 nm range, or GbE (or 10 GbE), then it accesses the OTS **200** via an ALI card **220**. Advantageously, since a GbE network can be directly bridged to the OTS without a SONET Add/Drop Multiplexer (ADM) and a SONET/SDH terminal, this relatively more expensive equipment is not required, so service provider costs are reduced. That is, typically, legacy electronic infrastructure equipment is required to connect with a SONET terminator and add-drop multiplexer (ADM). In contrast, these functions are integrated in the OTS of the present invention, resulting in good cost benefits and a simpler network design. In other words, because the GbE physical layer is a substitute for the SONET physical layer, and because there is no reason to stack two physical layers, the SONET equipment would be redundant. Table **1** summarizes the access card interface parameters associated with each type of OA and ALI card, in some possible implementations.

TABLE 1

Protocol	Data Rate	Card Type	External Ports	Internal Ports
ITU-Compliant SONET	OC-12	OA	8 OC-12	8 OC-12
	OC-48	OA	8 OC-48	8 OC-48
	OC-192	OA	8 OC-192	8 OC-192
Non-Compliant SONET	OC-12	ALI	8 OC12 Input	2 OC48 Output
			8 OC12 Output	2 OC48 Input
	OC-48	ALI	8 OC48 Input	2 OC192 Output
			8 OC48 Output	2 OC192 Input
	OC-192	ALI	2 OC192 Input	2 OC192 Output
			2 OC192 Output	2 OC192 Input
Gigabit Ethernet	1 Gbps	ALI	8 GbE Input	2 OC48 Output
			8 GbE Output	2 OC48 Input

[0083] The OTS can interface with all existing physical and data-link layer domains (e.g., ATM, IP router, Framne relay, TDM, and SONET/SDH/STM systems) so that legacy router and ATM systems can connect to the OTS. The OTS solution also provides the new demand services, e.g., audio/video on demand, with cost-effective bandwidth and efficient bandwidth utilization.

[0084] The OTS **200** can be configured, e.g., for metro and long haul configurations. In one possible implementation, the OTS can be deployed in up to four-fiber rings, up to four fiber OADMs, or four fiber point-to-point connections. Each OTS can be set to add/drop any wavelength with the maximum of sixty-four channels of local connections.

[0085] 2. Hardware Architecture

[0086] **FIG. 3** illustrates an OTS hardware architecture in accordance with the present invention. The all-optical switch fabric **210** may include eight 8×8 switch elements, the group of eight being indicated collectively as **211**. Each of the eight switch elements is responsible for switching an optical signal from each of eight sources to any one of eight outputs.

[0087] Generally, selected outputs of the TP ingress cards **240** and OA ingress cards **230** are optically coupled by the switching fabric cards **210** to selected inputs of the TP egress cards **245** and/or OA egress cards **235**. The optical coupling between cards and the fabric occurs via an optical backplane, which may comprise optical fibers. Preferably, the cards are optically coupled to the optical backplane when they are inserted into their slots in the OTS bay such that the cards can be easily removed and replaced. For example, MTP™-type connectors (Fiber Connections, Inc.) may be used. This allows easy troubleshooting and upgrading of cards. Moreover, each line card may connect to an RJ-45 connector when inserted into their slots.

[0088] Moreover, each TP ingress and OA ingress card has appropriate optical outputs for providing optical coupling to inputs of the switch fabric via the optical backplane. Similarly, each TP egress and OA egress card has appropriate optical inputs for providing optical coupling to outputs of the switch fabric via the optical backplane. With appropriate control signals, the switching fabric is controlled to optically couple selected inputs and outputs of the switch fabric card, thereby providing selective optical coupling between outputs of the TP ingress and OA ingress cards, and the inputs of the TP egress and OA egress cards. As a result, the optical signals carried by the outputs of TP ingress and OA ingress cards can be selectively switched (optically coupled) to the inputs of the TP egress and OA egress cards.

[0089] In the example configuration shown in **FIG. 3**, the transport ingress module **240** includes four cards **302**, **304**, **306** and **308**, each of which includes a wavelength division demultiplexer (WDD), an example of which is the WDD **341**, for recovering the OSC, which may be provided as an out-of-band signal with the eight multiplexed data signals (λ's).

[0090] An optical amplifier (OA), an example of which is the OA **342**, amplifies the optical transport signal multiplex, and a demux, an example of which is the demux **343**, separates out each individual wavelength (optical transport signal) in the multiplex. Each individual wavelength is provided to the switch fabric **210** via the optical backplane, then switched by one of the modules **211** thereat. The outputs of the switch fabric **210** are provided to the optical backplane, then received by either a mux, an example of which is the mux **346**, of one of the transport egress cards **320**, **322**, **324** or **326**, or an 8×8 switch of one of the OA egress cards **235**. At each of the TP egress cards, the multiplexer output is amplified at the associated OA, and the input OSC is multiplexed with data signals via the WDM. The multiplexer output at the WDM can then be routed to another OTS via an optical link in the network. At the OA

egress cards **235**, each received signal is amplified and then split at 1×2 dividers/splitters to provide corresponding outputs either to the faceplate of the OA egress cards for compliant wavelengths, or to the ALI cards via the optical backplane for non-compliant wavelengths. Note that only example light paths are shown in **FIG. 3**, and that for clarity, all possible light paths are not depicted.

[**0091**] The ALI cards perform wavelength conversion for interfacing with access networks that use optical signals that are non-compliant with the OTS. As an example, the ALI card receives non-compliant wavelength signals, converts them to electrical signals, multiplexes them, and generates a compliant wavelength signal. Two optical signals that are output from the ALI card **220** are shown as inputs to one of the OA_In cards **230** to be transmitted by the optical network, and two optical signals that are output from one of the OA_Eg cards **235** are provided as inputs to the ALI cards **220**. N total inputs and outputs (e.g., N=4, two inputs and two outputs) may be input to, or output from, the ALI cards **220**.

[**0092**] The OSC recovered at the TP ingress cards, namely OSC_{OUT}, is processed by the Optical Signaling Module (OSM) of the OTS using an O-E conversion. The OSM generates a signaling packet that contains signaling and route information, and passes it on to the Node Manager. The OSM is discussed further below, particularly in conjunction with **FIG. 9**. If the OSC is intended for use by another OTS, it is re-generated by the OSM for comnmunication to another OTS and transmitted via, e.g., OSC_{IN}. Or, if the OSC is intended for use only by the present OTS, there is no need to relay it to a further node. Alternatively, OSC_{IN} could also represent a communication that originated from the present OTS and is intended for receipt, e.g., by another node. For a group of nodes operating under the control of an NMS, typically only one of the nodes acts as a gateway to the shared NMS. The other nodes of the group communicate with the NMS via the gateway node and communication by the other nodes with their gateway node is typically also accomplished via the OSC.

[**0093**] **FIG. 4** illustrates a control architecture for an OTS in accordance with the present invention. The OTS implements the lower two tiers of the above described three-tier control architecture typically without a traditional electrical backplane or shelf controller. Moreover, the OTS has a distributed architecture, which results in maximum system reliability and stability. The OTS does not use a parallel backplane bus such as Compact PCI or VME bus because they represent a single point of failure risk, and too much demand on one shared element is a performance risk. Instead, the invention preferably provides a distributed architecture wherein each line card of the OTS is outfitted with at least one embedded controller referred to as a LCM on at least one daughter board, with the daughter boards communicating with the node's single Node Manager via a LAN technology such as 100 BaseT Ethernet and Core Embedded Control Software.

[**0094**] In particular, the LCM may use Ethernet layer **2** (L2) datagrams for communication with the Node Manager, with the Node Manager being the highest-level processor within an individual OTS. The Node Manager and all OTS line cards plug into a 100 BaseT port on one or more hubs via RJ-45 connectors to allow electronic signaling between LCMs and the Node Manager via an internal LAN at the OTS. In a particular embodiment, two twenty-four port hubs are provided to control two shelves of line cards in an OTS bay, and the different hubs are connected by crossover cables. For example, **FIG. 4** depicts LCMs **410** and associated line cards **420** as connected to hubs **415** and **418**, which may be 24-port 100 BaseT hubs. The line cards may perform various functions as discussed, including Gigabit Ethernet interface (a type of ALI card), SONET interface (a type of ALI card), TP ingress, TP egress, optical access ingress, optical access egress, switching fabric, optical signaling, and optical performance monitoring.

[**0095**] Moreover, while only one Node Manager is required, the primary Node Manager **250** can be provided with a backup Node Manager **450** for redundancy. Each Node Manager has access to the non-volatile data on the LCMs which help in reconstructing the state of the failed node manager. The backup Node Manager gets copies of the primary node manager non-volatile store, and listens to all traffic (e.g., messages from the LCMs and the primary Node Manager) on all hubs in the OTS to determine if the primary has failed. Various schemes may be employed for determining if the primary Node Manager is not functioning properly, e.g., by determining whether the primary Node Manager **250** responds to a message from an LCM within a specified amount of time.

[**0096**] In particular, the hubs **415** and **418** are connected to one another via a crossover **417** and additional hubs may also be connected in this manner. See also **FIG. 8**. In terms of the OTS bay, every shelf connects to a 100 BaseT hub. This use of an Ethernet backplane provides both hot-swappability of line cards (i.e., removal and insertion of line cards into the OTS bay when optical and/or electrical connections are active), and totally redundant connections between the line cards and both Node Managers. Moreover, if the node is a gateway, its primary Node Manager communicates with the NMS, e.g., via a protocol such as SNMP, using 100 BaseT ports **416**, **419**. Alternatively, selectable 10/100 BaseT may be used. RJ-45 connectors on the faceplate of the Node Manager circuit pack may be used for this purpose.

[**0097**] The Node Manager and Line Card Manager are described further, below.

[**0098**] 3. Node Manager Module

[**0099**] **FIG. 5** illustrates a single Node Manager architecture **250** in accordance with the present invention. An OTS with primary and backup Node Managers would have two of the architectures **250**.

[**0100**] The Node Manager executes all application software at the OTS, including network management, signaling, routing, and fault protection functions, as well as other features.

[**0101**] As discussed above, each Node Manager circuit pack has a 100 BaseT network connection to a backplane hub that becomes the shared medium for each LCM in the OTS. Additionally, for a gateway OTS node, another 100 BaseT interface to a faceplate is provided for external network access.

[**0102**] The Node Manager Core Embedded Software performs a variety of functions, including: i) issuing commands to the LCMs, ii) configuring the LCMs with software,

parameter thresholds or other data, iii) reporting alarms, faults or other events to the NMS, and iv) aggregating the information from the LCMs into a node-wide view that is made available to applications software at the Node Manager. This node-wide view, as well as the complete software for each LCM controller, are stored in flash memory **530**. The node- or switch-wide view may provide information regarding the status of each component of the switch, and may include, e.g., performance information, configuration information, software provisioning information, switch fabric connection status, presence of alarms, and so forth. Since the node's state and the LCM software are stored locally to the node, the Node Manager can rapidly restore a swapped line card to the needed configuration without requiring a remote software download, e.g., from the NMS.

[**0103**] The Node Manager is also responsible for node-to-node communications processing. All signaling messages bound for a specific OTS are sent to the Node Manager by that OTS's optical signaling module. The OSM, which has an associated LCM, receives the OSC wavelength from the Transport Ingress module. The incoming OSC signal is converted from optical to electrical, and received as packets by the OSM. The packets are sent to the Node Manager for proper signaling setup within the system. On the output side, out-going signaling messages are packetized and converted into an optical signal of, e.g., 1310 nm or 1510 nm, by the OSM, and sent to the Transport Egress module for transmission to the next-hop OTS. The Node Manager configures the networking capabilities of the OSM, e.g., by providing the OSM with appropriate software for implementing a desired network communication protocol.

[**0104**] The Node Manager may receive remote software downloads from the NMS to provision itself and the LCMs. The Node Manager distributes each LCM's software via the OTS's internal LAN, which is preferably a shared medium LAN. Each LCM may be provisioned with only the software it needs for managing the associated line card type. Or, each LCM may be provisioned with multi-purpose software for handling any type of line card, where the appropriate software and/or control algorithms are invoked after an LCM identifies the line card type it is controlling (e.g., based on the LCM querying its line card or identifying its slot location in the bay).

[**0105**] In one possible implementation, the Node Manager uses a main processor **505**, such as the 200MHz MPC 8255 or MPC8260 (Motorola PowerPC microprocessor, available from Motorola Corp., Schaumburg, Ill.), with an optional plug-in module **510** for a higher power plug-in processor **512**, which may be a RISC CPU such as the 400 MHz MPC755. These processors **505**, **510** simultaneously support Fast Ethernet, 155 Mbps ATM and 256 HDLC channels. However, the invention is not limited to use with any particular model of microprocessor. Moreover, while the plug-in module **510** is optional, it is intended to provide for a longer useful life for the Node Manager circuit pack by allowing the processor to be upgraded without changing the rest of the circuit pack., The Node Manager architecture is intended to be flexible in order to meet a variety of needs, such as being a gateway and/or OTS controller. The architecture is typically provided with a communications module front end that has two Ethernet interfaces: 1) the FCC**2** channel **520**, which is a 100 BaseT to service the internal 100 BaseT Ethernet hub on the backplane **522**, and, for gateway nodes, 2) the FCC**3** channel **525**, which is a 100 BaseT port to service the NMS interface to the outside. The flash memory **530** may be 128 MB organized in a x16 array, such that it appears as the least significant sixteen data bits on the bus **528**. See the section entitled "Flash Memory Architecture" for further information regarding the flash memory **530**.

[**0106**] The bus **528** may be an address and data bus, such as Motorola's PowerPC 60x. The SDRAM **535** may be 256 MB organized by sixty-four data bits. An EPROM **532** may store start up instructions that are loaded into the processor **505** or **512** via the bus **528** during an initialization or reset of the Node Manager. A PCMCIA Flash disk **537** also communicates with the bus **528**, and is used for persistent storage, e.g., for storing long term trend data and the like from monitored parameters of the line cards. A warning light may be used so that the Flash disk is not inadvertently removed while data is being written to it. Preferably, to prevent tampering, the non-volatile memory resources, such as the Flash disk, are designed so that they cannot be removed while the Node Manager card is installed on the OTS backplane.

[**0107**] Additionally, there is a SDRAM **540** (e.g., having 4 MB) on the local bus **545**, which is used to buffer packets received on the communications module front-end of the main processor **505**. The local bus **545** may carry eighteen address bits and thirty-two data bits.

[**0108**] Flexibility is promoted if the core microprocessor (such as is possible with Motorola's PowerPC 603e core inside the MPC8260) **505** can be disabled, and the plug-in processor **512** can be installed on the bus **528**. Such plug-in processor **512** can be further assisted with an L**2** backside cache **514**, e.g., having 256 KB. It is expected that a plug-in processor can be used to increase the performance of the Node Manager **505** by more than double. As an example, the plug-in processor **512** may be any fixture type of RISC processor that operates on the 60x bus. The processor **505** yields the bus to, and may also align its peripherals to, the more powerful plug-in processor **512**. In addition to providing a general purpose path for upgradability of the Node Manager, the plug-in processor is also useful, e.g., for the specific situation where the OTS has had line cards added to it and the main processor **505** is therefore no longer able to manage its LCMs at a rate compatible with the desired performance characteristics of the optical networking system.

[**0109**] A serial port **523** for debugging may also be created.

[**0110**] In summary, the Node Manager provides NMS interface and local node management, as well as providing signaling, routing and fault protection functions (all using the Node Manager's application software), provides real-time LCM provisioning, receives monitored parameters and alarms/faults from each LCM, aggregates monitored parameters and alarms/faults from each line card into a node-wide view, processes node-to-node communication messages, provides remote software download capability, distributes new software to all LCMs, is expandable to utilize a more powerful CPU (through plug-in processor **512**), such as of RISC design, is built on a Real-Time Operating System (RTOS), provides intra-OTS networking support (e.g., LAN connectivity to LCMs), and provides node-to-node networking support.

[0111] 4. Line Card Manager Module

[0112] **FIG. 6** illustrates a Line Card Manager architecture **600** in accordance with the present invention. As discussed above, the LCM modules may be provided as daughter boards/plug-in modules that plug into the respective line cards to control each line card in the OTS. The LCMs offload local processing tasks from the Node Manager and provide continued line card support without any interruptions in the event the Node Manager fails (assuming no backup is available, or the backup has also failed), or the communication path to the Node Manager is not available. That is, even if the control path is lost, the user data paths are still active. The line card state and data are stored until the Node Manager is back in service. This is made possible by the loosely coupled distributed architecture which allows the LCM to act independently of the Node Manager whenever necessitated by failure of the Node Manager. The parameters which keep the line card active are kept locally on the LCM, thus allowing the line card to act independently of the Node Manager for a time. The Node Manager can be replaced while the OTS continues to function.

[0113] The line cards which an LCM **600** may control include any of the following: switch fabric, TP_IN, TP_EG, OA_IN, OA_EG, OSM, OPM, or ALI cards (acronyms defined in Glossary).

[0114] The LCM daughter board is built around an embedded controller/processor **605**, and contains both digital and analog control and monitoring hardware. LCMs typically communicate with the Node Manager via the OTS internal LAN. The LCM receives commands from the Node Manager, such as for configuring the line cards, and executes the commands via digital and analog control signals that are applied to the associated line card. The LCM gathers from its line card digital and analog feedback and monitored parameter values, and may periodically send this information to the Node Manager, e.g., if requested by the Node Manager. The LCM also passes events such as faults/alarms and alerts to the Node Manager as they occur. These values and all provisioning data are kept in an in-memory snapshot of the line card status.

[0115] Preferably, the LCM stores this snapshot and a copy of the software that is currently running the LCM in its non-volatile (e.g., flash) memory **610** to allow rapid rebooting of the LCM. Specifically, when the LCM powers up, it loads the software from the non-volatile memory **610** into SDRAM **625**, and then begins to execute. This avoids the need for the LCM to download the software from the Node Manager via the OTS internal LAN each time it starts up, which saves time and avoids unnecessary traffic on the internal OTS LAN. The software logic for all line cards is preferably contained in one discrete software load which has the ability to configure itself based on the identity of the attached line card as disclosed during the discovery phase of LCM initialization. The type of line card may be stored on an EEPROM on the line card. The LCM queries the EEPROM through the I^2C bus to obtain the identifier.

[0116] See the section entitled "Flash Memory Architecture" for further information regarding the flash memory **610**.

[0117] The LCM can also receive new software from the Node Manager via the OTS internal LAN and store it in the flash memory **610**. It is desirable to have sufficient non-volatile memory at the LCM to store two copies of the software, i.e., a current copy and a backup copy. In this way, a new software version, e.g., that provides new features, could be stored at the LCM and tested to see if it worked properly. If not, the backup copy (rollback version) of the previous software version could be used.

[0118] The Node Manager delegates most of the workload for monitoring and controlling the individual line cards to each line card's local LCM. This reduces the central point of failure threat posed by a centralized architecture, increasing the probability that the optical network can keep functioning, even if levels of control above the LCM (i.e., the Node Manager or NMS) were to suffer a failure. Distributed architectures also scale better since, as each line card is added, at least one dedicated processor daughter board (i.e., the LCM) is added to control it. In one possible implementation, the controller **605** is the 200 MHz Motorola MPC8255 or MPC8260. However, the invention is not limited to use with any particular model of microprocessor. The controller **605** may have a built-in communications processor front-end, which includes an Ethernet controller (FCC2) **615** that connects to the Node Manager via the internal switch LAN. In the embodiment shown, this connection is made via the line card using an RJ-45 connector. Other variations are possible.

[0119] The flash memory **610** may be 128 MB organized in x16 mode, such that it appears as the least significant sixteen data bits on the bus **620**, which may be Motorola's 60x bus. The SDRAM **625** may be 64 MB organized by sixty-four data bits. An A/D converter **635**, such as the AD7891-1 (Analog Devices, Inc., Norwood, Mass.) includes a 16 channel analog multiplexer into a 12 bit A/D converter. A D/A converter **622**, which may be an array of four "quad" D/A converters, such as MAX536's (Maxim Integrated Products, Inc., Sunnyvale, Calif.), provides sixteen analog outputs to a connector **640**, such as a 240-pin Berg Mega-Array connector (Berg Electronics Connector Systems Ltd, Herts, UK). The LCMs and line cards preferably adhere to a standard footprint connect scheme so that it is known which pins of the connector are to be driven or read. Essentially, a telemetry connection is established between the LCM and the line card via the connector **640**.

[0120] Advantageously, since the LCM can be easily removed from its line card instead of being designed into the line card, it can be easily swapped with an LCM with enhanced capabilities, e.g., processor speed and memory, for future upgrades.

[0121] The LCM daughter board removeably connects to the associated line card via a connector **640**. A serial port **645** for debugging may be added. For the MPC8255 or MPC8260, such a serial port **645** may be constructed from port D (SMC1). There is typically a 4 MB SDRAM **650** on the Local Bus **655**, which is used to buffer packets received on the communications module front-end of the controller **605**. Port A **636** receives a latch signal.

[0122] A serial bus known as a Serial Peripheral Interface SPI **606** is specialized for A/D and D/A devices, and is generated by the controller **605**. It is a three-wire SPI for transmitted data, received data, and clock data that may be used with the more complicated line cards that have many registers and inputs/outputs. Examples of such more com-

plicated line cards may be the OC-n and GbE ALI cards and the switching fabric line cards. Essentially, the SPI **606** provides an interface that allows a line card to communicate directly with the controller **605**. The SPI **606** may carry analog signals to the line card via the D/A **622**, or receive analog signals from the line card via the A/D **635**.

[**0123**] The FPGA **602** provides a 40-bit status read only register for reading in signals from the line card, and a 32 bit read/write control register for reading/writing of control signals from/to the line card. These registers may be addressed via a GPIO on the connector **640**. The FPGA **602** also receives an 8-bit line card ID tag that identifies the location of the line card within the OTS (i.e., slot, shelf and bay) since certain slots are typically reserved for certain line card types. The slot locations are digitally encoded for this purpose. Alternatively, or in addition, the type of line card could be identified directly regardless of the slot, shelf and bay, e.g., by using a serial number or other identifier stored on the line card and accessible to the LCM, e.g., via an I^2C bus **604**. This bus enables the communication of data between the controller **605** and the connector **640**. In particular, the bus **604** may be part of a GPIO that receives information from a line card, including the bay, shelf and slot, that identifies the line card's position at the OTS.

[**0124**] The controller **605** may receive a hard reset signal from the Node Manager, e.g., via the Ethernet controller (FCC**2**) **615**, which clears all registers and performs a cold boot of the system software on the LCM, and a soft reset signal, which performs a warm boot that does not interfere with register contents. The soft reset is preferred for preserving customer cross connect settings.

[**0125**] To fulfill the mission of the Node Manager as an abstraction/aggregation of the LCM primitives, the LCM is preferably not accessible directly from the customer LAN/WAN interfaces.

[**0126**] An EPROM **612**, e.g., having 8 KB, may store instructions that are loaded into the processor **605** via the bus **620** during an initialization or reset of the LCM.

[**0127**] The microcontroller **605** typically integrates the following functions: 603e core CPU (with its non-multiplexed 32 bit address bus and bidirectional 64 bit data bus), a number of timers (including watchdog timers), chip selects, interrupt controller, DMA controllers, SDRAM controls, and asynchronous serial ports. The second fast communication channel (FCC**2**) 100 BaseT Ethernet controller is also integrated into the Communications Processor Module functions of the controller **605**. The microcontroller may be configured for 66 Mhz bus operation, 133 Mhz CPM operation, and 200 Mhz 603e core processor operation.

[**0128**] In summary, the line card manager module provides local control for each line card, executes commands received from the Node Manager, provides digital and/or analog control and monitoring of the line card, sends monitored parameters and alarms/faults of the line card to the Node Manager, provides an embedded controller with sufficient processing power to support a RTOS and multitasking, and provides Intra-OTS networking support.

[**0129**] 5. OTS Configuration

[**0130**] **FIG. 7** illustrates an OTS configuration in accordance with the present invention.

[**0131**] The OTS **700** includes an optical backplane **730** that uses, e.g., optical fibers to couple optical signals to the different optical circuit cards (line cards). Preferably, specific locations/slots of the chassis are reserved for specific line card types according to the required optical inputs and outputs of the line card. Moreover, the optical backplane **730** includes optical connections to optical links of the optical network, and, optionally, to links of one or more access networks.

[**0132**] Furthermore, while one of each line card type is shown, as noted previously, more than one line card of each type is typically provided in an OTS configuration.

[**0133**] Each of the optical circuit cards (specifically, the LCMs of the cards) also communicates via a LAN with the Node Manager to enable the control and monitoring of the line cards.

[**0134**] The optical inputs and outputs of each card type are as follows:

[**0135**] ALI—inputs an from access network link and OA egress cards; outputs to an access network link and OA ingress cards;

[**0136**] OA ingress cards—inputs from an access network link and ALI cards; outputs to switching fabric cards and OPM cards;

[**0137**] OA egress cards—inputs from switching fabric cards; outputs to ALI cards, OPM cards, and an access network link;

[**0138**] TP ingress cards—inputs from an optical network link; outputs to switching fabric cards and OPM cards;

[**0139**] TP egress cards—inputs from switching fabric cards; outputs to an optical network link and OPM cards;

[**0140**] Switch fabric cards—inputs from OA ingress cards and TP ingress cards; outputs to OA egress cards and TP egress cards;

[**0141**] OSM—inputs from TP ingress cards; outputs to TP egress cards; and

[**0142**] OPM—inputs from TP ingress cards, TP egress cards, OA ingress cards, and OA egress cards (may monitor additional cards also).

[**0143**] 6. Interconnected Backplane Ethernet Hubs

[**0144**] **FIG. 8** illustrates backplane Ethernet hubs for an OTS in accordance with the present invention. The OTS may use standard Ethernet hub assemblies, such as 24-port hubs **830** and **840**, to form the basis of inter-processor communication (i.e., between the Node Manager and the LCMs). Each hub assembly **830**, **840** may have, e.g., twenty-four or more ports, whereas the corresponding shelf backplanes (**815**, **825**, **835**, **845**, respectively) typically have, e.g., 6-8 ports. A number of connectors, two examples of which are denoted at **820**, are provided to enable each line card to connect to a hub. The connectors may be RJ-45 connectors. The dashed lines denote a conceptual electrical connection from the connectors **820** to one or more of the hubs. Typically, each connector **820** is connected individually to a hub. For example, the connectors for shelf **1** (**815**) and shelf **3** (**835**) may connect to hub **830**, while the connectors for shelf **2** (**825**) and shelf **4** (**845**) may connect to hub **840**. Moreover, a crossover cable **842**, which may be

a cable such as 100 BaseT media, may connect the two hubs such that they are part of a common LAN. Other variations are possible. For example, a single hub may be used that is sized large enough to connect to each line card in the OTS bay.

[0145] In this arrangement, the backup Node Manager **750** shadows the primary Node Manager **250** by listening to all traffic on the internal OTS backplane hubs (the shared media LAN), to determine when the primary Node Manager ceases to operate. When such a determination is made, the backup Node Manager takes over for the primary Node Manager **750**.

[0146] 7. Optical Signaling Module

[0147] **FIG. 9** illustrates the operation of a control architecture and OSM in accordance with the present invention. The OSM provides an IP signaling network between switches for the interchange of signaling, routing and control messages. A gateway node **900** can interact with other networks, and includes an intra-product (internal to the OTS) LAN **905**, which enables communication between the Node Manager **910** and the LCMs, such as LCM **916** and the associated line card **915**, . . . , LCM **918** and the associated line card **917**, and LCM **921** and the associated line card **920**, which is an OSM. An example non-gateway node **950** similarly includes an intra-product LAN **955**, which enables communication between its Node Manager and the LCMs, such as LCM **966** and the associated line card **965**, . . . , LCM **968** and the associated line card **967**, and LCM **971** and the associated line card **970**, which is an OSM.

[0148] The OSC wavelength from the Transport Ingress module is extracted and fed into the optical signaling module (OSM). For example, assume the network topology is such that the node A **900** receives the OSC first, then forwards it to node B **950**. In this case, the extracted OSC wavelength from the OSM **920** is provided to the OSM **970**. The incoming OSC wavelength from node A **900** is converted from optical to electrical and packetized by the OSM **970**, and the packets are sent to the Node Manager **960** for proper signaling setup within the system. On the output side of Node B **950**, outgoing signaling messages are packetized and converted into an optical signal by OSM **970** and sent to the Transport Egress module for the next-hop OTS. Note that the OSC connection shown in **FIG. 9** is logical, and that the OSC typically propagates from TP card to TP card where it is added to TP_Eg by the outgoing OSM and extracted from TP_In by the inbound OSM.

[0149] **FIG. 9** shows the inter-operation of the Node Manager, LCMs, and the OSM in the OTS. The interconnection of the NMS **901** with the OTS/node **900** via routers **904** and **906** is also shown. In particular, the node **900** communicates with the NMS **901** via a POP gateway LAN **902**, an NMS platform **908** via an NMS LAN **909** and the routers **904** and **906**. Thus, in addition to the OSC, which enables the NMS to provide optical signals to each node, an electrical signaling channel enables a gateway node to communicate with the NMS.

[0150] Each Node Manager at each OTS typically has three distinct network interfaces: 1) a 100 BaseT interface to the intra-OTS LAN, 2) a 100 BaseT interface to remote NMS platforms, and 3) an out-of-band optical signaling channel (OSC) for node-to-node communications. OTSs that act as gateways to the NMS, such as node A **900**, may use the 100 BaseT interface, while non-gateways nodes, such as node B **950**, need not have this capability. Advantageously, the service provider's LAN is separated from the OTS LAN for more efficient traffic handling. Layer **3** (**L3**) IP routing over the OSC provides nodes without gateway connectivity access to nodes that have such Gateway capability. **L3** here refers to the 3rd layer of the OSI model, i.e., the network layer.

[0151] Moreover, there are three different levels of messaging-related software on the OTS Node Manager. First, an NMS connects to application software on the Node Manager through the Node Manager NMS agent. Second, an "S" (services) message interface provides an abstraction layer for connecting Node Manager application software to a collection of Core Embedded Control software services, on the Node Manager, that serves to aggregate information sent to, or received from, the LCMs. Third, a "D" (driver) message interface connects the aggregating software of the Node Manager to the LCMs.

[0152] 8. Optical Switch Fabric Module

[0153] **FIG. 10** illustrates an optical switch fabric module architecture **210** in accordance with the present invention. The OSF module **210** may be designed using 8×8 MEMS modules/chips **1010** as switching elements. The switching is done in the optical domain, and no O/E/O conversions are involved. All inputs to a switching element carry one wavelength (i.e., one optical signal as opposed to a multiplex of optical signals), thus enabling wavelength level switching. Moreover, each optical output of every switching element goes through a variable optical attenuator (VOA) **1050**, which may be part of the switch fabric card, to equalize the power across all the wavelengths being subsequently multiplexed into one fiber. The switch fabric **210** is designed in a modular and scalable fashion so that it can be easily configured from a small-scale system to a large-scale system depending on the system configuration requirements.

[0154] The switch fabric **210** may receive optical inputs from an input module **1070** such as a transport ingress card and/or an optical access ingress card. The switch fabric provides the corresponding optical outputs to designated ports of an output module **1080**, such as a transport egress card and/or an optical access egress card. Note that, for clarity of depiction in **FIG. 10**, only example light paths are shown.

[0155] In summary, the optical switch module provides wavelength-level switching, individually controllable signal attenuation of each output, interconnection to other modules via the optical fiber backplane, power level control management for ensuring that the power of the signal that is output between switches is acceptable, and path loss equalization for ensuring that all channels have the same power. The optical switch module may also use an inherently very low cross-talk switch fabric technology such as MEMS, typically with a 2-D architecture, have a modular architecture for scalability with **8x8** switch modules, and provide digital control of the MEMS fabric with electrostatic actuation.

[0156] 9. Optical Transport Modules

[0157] The optical transport module (or "TP" module) is a multiplexed multi-wavelength (per optical fiber) optical interface between OTSs in an optical network. For configu-

ration and network management, this transport module supports in-band control signals, which are within the EDFA window of amplification, e.g., 1525-1570 nm, as well as out-of-band control signals. For the out-of-band channel, the OTS may support a 1510 nm channel interface. The OTS uses two primary types of transport modules: Transport Ingress **240** (**FIG. 11**) and Transport Egress **245** (**FIG. 12**).

[**0158**] In summary, the optical transport module provides demultiplexing of the OSC signal (ingress module), multiplexing of the OSC signal (egress module), optical amplification (ingress and egress modules) which may use low noise optical amplification and gain flattening techniques, demultiplexing of the multi-wavelength transport signal (ingress module), multiplexing of the individual wavelength signals (egress module). The optical transport module may also provide dynamic suppression of optical power transients of the multi-wavelength signal. This suppression may be independent of the number of the surviving signals (i.e., the signals at the transport ingress module that survive at the transport egress module—some signals may be egressed due to drop multiplexing), and independent of the number of the added signals (i.e., the signals added at the transport egress module that are not present at the transport ingress module—these signals may be added using add multiplexing). The optical transport module may also provide dynamic power equalization of individual signals, wavelength connection to the optical switch fabric via the optical backplane, and pump control.

[**0159**] **FIG. 11** shows the architecture for the Transport Ingress module **240**. The module includes a demultiplexer **1105** to recover the OSC, an EDFA pre-amplifier **1110**, an EDFA power amplifier **1115**, a demultiplexer **1120** to demultiplex the eight wavelengths from the input port, and pump lasers **1122** and **1124** (e.g., operating at 980 nm).

[**0160**] Additionally, a filter **1107** filters the OSC before it is provided to the OSM. A coupler **1108** couples a tapped pre-amplified optical signal to the OPM, and to a PIN diode **1109** to provide a first feedback signal. In particular, the PIN diode outputs a current that represents the power of the optical signal. The OPM may measure the power of the optical signal (as well as other characteristics such as wavelength registration), typically with more accuracy than the PIN diode. The tap used allows monitoring of the multi-wavelength signal and may be a narrowband coupler with a low coupling ratio to avoid depleting too much signal power out of the main transmission path. Similarly, a coupler **1126** couples a tapped amplified optical signal to the OPM, and to a PIN diode **1127** to provide a second feedback signal. Moreover, the pump laser **1122** is responsive to a pump laser driver **1130** and a TEC driver **1132**. Similarly, the high-power pump laser **1124** is responsive to a pump laser driver **1140** and a TEC driver **1142**. Both pump laser drivers **1130** and **1140** are responsive to an optical transient and amplified spontaneous emission noise suppression function **1150**, which in turn is responsive to the feedback signals from the PIN diodes **1109** and **1127**, and control signals from the LCM **1170**. A DC conversion and filtering function may be used to provide local DC power.

[**0161**] The LCM **1170** provides circuit parameters and control by providing control bits and receiving status bits, performs A/D and D/A data conversions as required, and communicates with the associated Node Manager via an Ethernet or other LAN.

[**0162**] In particular, the LCM **1170** may provide control signals, e.g., for pump laser current control, laser on/off, laser current remote control, TEC on/off, and TEC remote current control. The LCM **1170** may receive status data regarding, e.g., pump laser current, backface photocurrent, pump laser temperature, and TEC current.

[**0163**] **FIG. 12** shows the architecture of the Transport Egress module **245**, which includes a multiplexer **1205** to multiplex the eight wavelengths from the switch fabric, an EDFA Pre-amplifier **1210**, an EDFA Power amplifier **1215**, a multiplexer **1220** to multiplex the eight wavelengths and the OSC, and pump lasers **1222** and **1224** (e.g., operating at 980 nm).

[**0164**] Analogous to the transport ingress module **240**, the transport egress module **245** also includes a coupler **1208** that couples a tapped pre-amplified optical signal to the OPM module, and to a PIN diode **1209** to provide a first feedback signal, e.g., of the optical signal power. Similarly, a coupler **1226** couples a tapped amplified optical signal to the OPM module, and to a PIN diode **1227** to provide a second feedback signal. Moreover, the pump laser **1222** is responsive to a pump laser driver **1230** and a TEC driver **1232**. Similarly, the high-power pump laser **1224** is responsive to a pump laser driver **1240** and a TEC driver **1242**. Both pump laser drivers **1230** and **1240** are responsive to an optical transient and amplified spontaneous emission noise suppression function **1250**, which in turn is responsive to feedback signals from the PIN diodes **1209** and **1227**, and the LCM **1270**. A DC conversion and filtering function may be used to provide local DC power.

[**0165**] The LCM **1270** operates in a similar manner as discussed in connection with the LCM **1170** of the TP ingress module.

[**0166**] 10. Optical Access Modules

[**0167**] The optical access module **230** provides an OTS with a single wavelength interface to access networks that use wavelengths that are compliant with the optical network of the OTSs, such as ITU-grid compliant wavelengths. Therefore, third party existing or future ITU-grid wavelength compliant systems (e.g. GbE router, ATM switch, and Fibre Channel equipment) can connect to the OTS. The optical access modules are generally of two types: Optical Access Ingress **230** (**FIG. 13**) for ingressing (inputting) one or more signals from an access network, and Optical Access Egress **235** (**FIG. 14**) for egressing (outputting) one or more signals to an access network. The ITU grid specifies the minimum spacing and the actual wavelengths of the individual wavelengths in a WDM system.

[**0168**] Various functions and features provided by the optical access modules include: optical amplification, connection to the optical switch fabric to route the signal for its wavelength provisioning, ITU-Grid wavelength based configuration, re-configuration at run-time, direct connectivity for ITU-grid based wavelength signals, local wavelength switching, and direct wavelength transport capability.

[**0169**] **FIG. 13** shows the architecture of the Optical Access Ingress module **230**, which includes EDFAs (EDFA-**1**, . . . , EDFA-**8**) **1350**, 2×1 switches **1310** and 8×8 optical (e.g., MEMS) switch **1360**.

[**0170**] In particular, each 2×1 switch receives a compliant wavelength (λ) from the faceplate and from the output of an

ALI card via the optical backplane. In a particular example, eight compliant wavelengths from the outputs of four ALI cards are received via the optical backplane. The LCM **1370** provides a control signal to each switch to output one of the two optical inputs to an associated EDFA.

[**0171**] The LCM **1370** operates in a similar manner as discussed in connection with the TP ingress and egress modules.

[**0172**] Taps **1390** are provided for each of the signals input to the switch **1360** to provide monitoring points to the OPM via the optical backplane. Similarly, taps **1395** are provided for each of the output signals from the switch **1360** to obtain additional monitoring points for the OPM via the optical backplane.

[**0173**] In particular, the performance of the optical signals is monitored, and a loss of signal detected. Each wavelength passes through the optical tap **1390** and a 1×2 optical splitter that provides outputs to: (a) a 8×1 optical coupler to provide a signal to the OPM via the optical backplane, and (b) a PIN diode for loss of signal detection by the LCM **1370**. The OPM is used to measure the OSNR and for wavelength registration. The wavelengths at the taps **1395** are provided to a 8×1 optical coupler to provide a signal to the OPM via the optical backplane. The optical taps, optical splitters and 8×1 optical coupler are passive devices.

[**0174**] **FIG. 14** shows the architecture of the Optical Access Egress module **235**. The module **235** includes EDFAs (EDFA-**1**, . . . , EDFA-**8**) **1450**, 1×2 switches **1470** and 8×8 optical (e.g., MEMS) switch **1420**.

[**0175**] In particular, the optical switch **1420** receives eight optical inputs from a switch fabric module **210**. Taps **1410** and **1490** provide monitoring points for each of the inputs and outputs, respectively, of the switch **1420** to the OPM via the optical backplane. The optical signals from the switch fabric are monitored for performance and loss of signal detection as discussed in connection with the Optical Access Ingress module **230**.

[**0176**] The LCM **1472** provides control signals to the switches **1470** for outputting eight compliant wavelengths to the faceplate, and eight compliant wavelengths to the input of four ALI cards via the optical backplane. The LCM **1472** operates in a similar manner as discussed previously.

[**0177**] 11. Access Line Interface Modules

[**0178**] This O/E/O convergent module is a multi-port single wavelength interface between the switching system and legacy access networks using non-compliant wavelengths, e.g., around 1300 nm. The ALI module/card may be provided as either a GbE interface module **220***a* (**FIG. 15**) or SONET OC-n module. For example, **FIG. 16** shows the ALI module configured as an OC-**12** module **220***b*, **FIG. 17** shows the ALI module configured as an OC-**48** module **220***c*, and **FIG. 18** shows the ALI module configured as an OC-**192** module **220***d*. Other OC-n speeds may also be supported. In FIGS. **15-18**, the solid lines denote transport data flow, and the dashed lines denote control data flow.

[**0179**] Referring to **FIG. 15**, the GbE module **220***a* provides dual data paths, each of which accepts four GbE signals, and multiplexes them to a single OC-**48** signal. In the other direction, the module accepts an OC-**48** signal and demultiplexes it into four GbE signals in each of the two paths.

[**0180**] The GbE module **220***a* includes SONET framers **1510** and **1520** that handle aggregation and grooming from each GbE port. The SONET framers may use the Model S**4083** or Yukon chips from Advanced Micro Circuits Corporation (AMCC) of Andover, Mass. The module **220***a* aggregates two or more GbE lines into each SONET framer **1510**, **1520**, which support OC-**48** and OC-**192** data rates. The module **220***a* also performs wavelength conversion to one of the ITU-grid wavelengths. For each of the modules **220***a*-**220***d*, the desired ITU-grid wavelength is configured at initial path signaling setup.

[**0181**] For scheduling the use of OA bandwidth to support multiple legacy access networks, a variety of scheduling algorithms may be used when the aggregate bandwidth of the ALI inputs is greater than that of the ALI output. Such algorithms are typically performed by FPGAs **1540** and **1542**. For example, one may use round robin scheduling, where the same bandwidth is allocated to each of the GbE interfaces, or weighted round robin scheduling, where relatively more bandwidth is allocated to specified GbE interfaces that have a higher priority.

[**0182**] The MAC/PHY chips **1530**, **1532**, **1534**, **1536** communicate with GbE transceivers, shown collectively at **1525**, which in turn provide O-E and E-O conversion. MAC, or Media Access Control, refers to processing that is related to how the medium (the optical fiber) is accessed. The MAC processing performed by the chips may include frame formatting, token handling, addressing, CRC calculations, and error recovery mechanisms. The Physical Layer Protocol, or PHY, processing, may include data encoding or decoding procedures, clocking requirements, framing, and other functions. The chips may be AMCC's Model S2060. The module **220***a* also includes FPGAs **1540**, **1542** which are involved in signal processing, as well as a control FPGA **1544**. The FPGAs **1540**, **1542** may be the Model XCV300 from Xilinx Corp., San Jose, Calif. Optical transceivers (TRx) **1550** and **1552** perform O-E and E-O conversions. In an ingress mode, where optical signals from an access network are ingressed into an OTS via the an ALI card, the MAC/PHY chips **1530**-**1536** receive input signals from the GbE transceivers **1525**, and provide them to the associated FPGA **1540** or **1542**, which in turn provides the data in an appropriate format for the SONET framers **1510** and **1520**, respectively. The SONET framers **1510** or **1520** output SONET-compliant signals to the transceivers **1550** and **1552**, respectively, for subsequent E-O conversion and communication to the OA_In cards **230** via the optical backplane.

[**0183**] In an egress mode, where optical signals are egressed from the all optical network to an access network via the OTS, SONET optical signals are received from the optical access egress cards **235** at the transceivers **1550** and **1552**, where O-E conversion is performed, the results of which are provided to the SONET framers **1510** or **1520** for de-framing. The de-framed data is provided to the FPGAs **1540** and **1542**, which provide the data in an appropriate format for the MACIPHY chips **1530**-**1536**. The MAC/PHY chips include FIFOs for storing the data prior to forwarding it to the GbE transceivers **1525**.

[**0184**] The control FPGA **1544** communicates with the ALI card's associated LCM, and also provides control signals to the transceivers **1550** and **1552**, FPGAs **1540** and

1542, SONET framers **1510** and **1520**, and MACIPHY chips **1530-1536**. The FPGA **1544** may be the Model XCV150 from Xilinx Corp.

[**0185**] In summary, the ALI modules may include module types **220***a*-**220***c*, having: 16 physical ports (8 input and 8 output) of GbE, OC-**12**, or OC-**48**, and four physical ports (two input and two output) of OC-**192**. Module **220***d* has four physical ports on either end. The ALI modules may support OC-**12** to OC-**192** bandwidths (or faster, e.g., OC-**768**), provide wavelength conversion, e.g., from the 1250-1600 nm range, to ITU-compliant grid, support shaping and re-timing through O-E-O conversion, provide optical signal generation and amplification, and may use a wavelength channel sharing technique.

[**0186**] See **FIG. 28** for additional related information.

[**0187**] **FIGS. 16, 17** and **18** show the architecture of the OC-**12**, OC-**48**, and OC-**192** access line interface cards, respectively. See also **FIG. 29** for additional related information.

[**0188**] **FIG. 16** shows an OC-**12** module **220***b*, which aggregates four or more OC-**12** lines into each SONET framer **1610** or **1620**, which support OC-**48** data rates.

[**0189**] In an optical ingress mode, Quad PHY functions **1630** and **1640** each receive four signals from OC-**12** interfaces via transceivers, shown collectively at **1625**, and provide them to corresponding SONET framers **1610** and **1620**, respectively. The SONET Framers may use AMCC's Model S4082 or Missouri chips. The Quad PHY functions may each include four of AMCC's Model S3024 chips. The SONET framers **1610** and **1620** provide the data in frames. Since four OC-**12** signals are combined, a speed of OC-**48** is achieved. The framed data is then provided to optical transceivers **1650** and **1652** for E-O conversion, and communication to the optical access ingress cards **230** via the optical backplane. The SONET framers **1610** and **1620** may also communicate with adjacent ALI cards via an electrical backplane to receive additional input signals, e.g., to provide a capability for switch protection mechanisms. The electrical backplane may comprise a parallel bus that allows ALI cards in adjacent bays to communicate with one another. The electrical backplane may also have a component that provides power to each of the cards in the OTS bay.

[**0190**] In an optical egress mode, optical signals are received by the transceivers **1650** and **1652** from the OA_Eg cards and provided to the SONET framers **1610** and **1620** following O-E conversion. The SONET framers **1610** and **1620** provide the signals in a format that is appropriate for the Quad PHY chips **1630** and **1640**.

[**0191**] The control FPGA **1644** communicates with the ALI card's associated LCM, and also provides control signals to the transceivers **1650** and **1652**, SONET framers **1610** and **1620**, and Quad PHY chips **1630** and **1640**.

[**0192**] **FIG. 17** shows an OC-**48** module **220***c*, which aggregates two or more OC-**48** lines into each SONET framer **1710** and **1720**, which support OC-**192** data rates.

[**0193**] In an optical ingress mode, PHY chips **1730**, **1732**, **1734** and **1736** each receive two signals from OC-**48** interfaces via transceivers **1725** and provide them to corresponding SONET framers **1710** and **1720**, respectively. The SONET framers **1710** and **1720** provide the signals in frames. Since four OC-**48** signals are combined, a speed of OC-**192** is achieved. The signals are then provided to optical transceivers **1750** and **1752** for E-O conversion, and for communication to optical access ingress cards **230** via the optical backplane. The SONET framers **1710** and **1720** may also communicate with adjacent ALI cards.

[**0194**] In an optical egress mode, optical signals are received by the optical transceivers **1750** and **1752** from optical access egress cards and provided to the SONET framers **1710** and **1720** following O-E conversion at the transceivers **1650**, **1652**. The SONET framers **1710** and **1720** provide the signals in a format that is appropriate for the OC-**48** interfaces. The formatted optical signals are provided to the OC-**48** interfaces via the PHY chips **1730**-**1736**. Moreover, dedicated ports may be provided, which obviate MAC processing.

[**0195**] The FPGA **1744** communicates with the ALI card's associated LCM, and also provides control signals to the transceivers **1750** and **1752**, SONET framers **1710** and **1720**, and PHY chips **1730-1736**.

[**0196**] **FIG. 18** shows an OC-**192** module **220***d*, which provides one OC-**192** line into each SONET framer **1810**, **1820**, which support OC-**192** data rates.

[**0197**] In an optical ingress mode, PHY chips **1830** and **1832** each receive a signal from OC-**192** interfaces via transceivers **1825** and provide it to corresponding SONET framers **1810** and **1820**, respectively, which provide the signals in frames. The signals are then provided to optical transceivers **1850** and **1852** for E-O conversion, and communicated to OA_In cards **230** via the optical backplane. The SONET framers **1810** and **1820** may also communicate with adjacent ALI cards.

[**0198**] In an optical egress mode, optical signals are received by the optical transceivers **1850** and **1852** from the OA_Eg cards and provided to the SONET framers **1810** and **1820** following O-E conversion. The SONET framers **1810** and **1820** provide the signals in a format that is appropriate for the OC- **192** interfaces. The formatted signals are provided to the OC-**192** interfaces via the PHY chips **1830** and **1832**.

[**0199**] The FPGA **1844** communicates with the ALI card's associated LCM, and also provides control signals to the transceivers **1850** and **1852**, SONET framers **1810** and **1820**, and PHY chips **1830** and **1832**.

[**0200**] 12. Optical Performance Monitoring Module

[**0201**] Referring to **FIG. 19**, the Optical Performance Monitoring (OPM) module **260** is used for several activities. For example, it monitors the power level of a multi-wavelength signal, the power level of a single wavelength signal, and the optical signal-to-noise ratio (OSNR) of each wavelength. It also measures wavelength registration. Each incoming wavelength power variation should be less than 5 dB and each out-going wavelength power variation should be less than 1 dB.

[**0202**] In particular, the OPM acts as an optical spectrum analyzer. The OPM may sample customer traffic and determine whether the expected signals levels are present. Moreover, the OPM monitoring is in addition to the LCM monitoring of a line card, and generally provides higher resolution readings. The OPM is connected through the

optical backplane, e.g., using optical fibers, to strategic monitoring points on the line cards. The OPM switches from point to point to sample and take measurements. Splitters, couplers and other appropriate hardware are used to access the optical signals on the line cards.

[0203] The OPM module and signal processing unit **260** communicates with a LCM **1920**, and receives monitoring data from all the line card monitoring points from a 1xN optical switch **1930** via the optical backplane of the OTS. A faceplate optical jumper **1912** allows the OPM module and signal processing unit **260** and the optical switch **1930** to communicate. A conversion and filtering function may be used to provide local DC power.

[0204] The LCM **1920** (like all other LCMs of a node) communicates with the Node Manager via the intra-node LAN.

[0205] In summary, the OPM supports protection switching, fault isolation, and bundling, and measures optical power, OSNR of all wavelengths (by sweeping), and wavelength registration. Moreover, the OPM, which preferably has a high sensitivity and large dynamic range, may monitor each wavelength, collect data relevant to optical devices on the different line cards, and communicate with the NMS (via the LCM and Node Manager). The OPM is preferably built with a small form factor.

[0206] 13. OTS Chassis Configurations

[0207] The OTS is designed to be flexible, particularly as a result of its modular system design that facilitates expandability. The OTS is based on a distributed architecture where each line card has an embedded controller. The embedded controller performs the initial configuration, boots up the line card, and is capable of reconfiguring each line card without any performance impact on the whole system.

[0208] **FIG. 20** illustrates a physical architecture of an OTS chassis or bay (receiving apparatus) in an OXC configuration **2000** in accordance with the present invention. There may be two OTS Node Manager circuit packs in each OTS node, namely a primary and a backup. Each of these circuit packs corresponds to Node Manager **250** of **FIG. 2**. In the example configuration of **FIG. 20, a** total of twenty-two circuit packs/line cards are provided in receiving locations or slots of the bay, with two of those twenty-two circuit packs being OTS Node Manager cards. An OTS is typically designed to provide a certain number of slots per shelf in its bay. Based upon the number of shelves, provision is made for up to a certain number of total circuit packs for the bay, such as, for example, twenty-four circuit packs in a bay, to allow for different configurations of OTS to be constructed. Communication to or from the bay is via the OTS Node Manager.

[0209] **FIG. 21** shows a fully configured OTS **2100** in a OXC/OADM configuration. **FIG. 22** shows a fully configured ALI card bay **2200**.

[0210] Optical cables in an OTS are typically connected through the optical backplane to provide a simple and comprehensive optical cable connectivity of all of the optical modules. In addition to providing for the LAN, the electrical backplane handles power distribution, physical board connection, and supports all physical realizations with full NEBS level **3** compliance. Note that since "hot" plugging of cards into an OTS is often desirable, it may be necessary to equip such cards with transient suppression on their power supply inputs to prevent the propagation of powering-up transients on the electrical backplane's power distribution lines.

[0211] In one approach to managing the complexity of the optical backplane, locations or slots in the OTS bay may be reserved for specific types of line cards since the required optical coupling of a line card depends on its function, and it is desirable to minimize the complexity of the optical fiber connections in the optical backplane.

[0212] Each of the optical circuit cards also has a connection to an electrical backplane that forms the LAN for LCM-Node Manager communications. This connection is uniform for each card and may use an RJ-45 connector, which is an 8-wire connector used on network interface cards.

[0213] The OTS is flexible in that it can accommodate a mix of cards, including Optical Access and Transport line cards. Thus, largely generic equipment can be provided at various nodes in a network and then a particular network configuration can be remotely configured as the specific need arises. This simplifies network maintenance and provides great flexibility in reconfiguring the network. For example, the OTS may operate as a pure transport optical switch if it is configured with all cards are transport cards (**FIG. 20**), e.g., eight transport ingress (TP_In) cards and eight transport egress cards (TP_Eg). Moreover, each TP_In card has one input port/fiber and each TP_Eg card has one output port/fiber. In a particular implementation, each port/fiber supports eight wavelength-division multiplexed λ's, along with the OSC.

[0214] The OTS may operate as an Add/Drop terminal if it is configured with ALI, OA, and TP cards (**FIGS. 21 and 22**). A wide range of configurations is possible depending on the mix of compliant and non-compliant wavelengths supported. For example, a typical configuration might include sixteen ALI cards for conversion of non-compliant wavelengths, four OA_In cards, four OA_Eg cards, four TP_In cards, and four TP_Eg cards. Note that since the ALI cards provide wavelength conversion in this embodiment, no wavelength conversion need be performed within the optical fabric. However, wavelength conversion within the optical fabric is also a possibility as the switch fabric technology develops.

[0215] Moreover, the OTS is scalable since line cards may be added to the spare slots in the bay at a later time, e.g., when bandwidth requirements of the network increase. Furthermore, multiple OTS bays can be connected together to further expand the bandwidth-handling capabilities of the node and/or to connect bays having different types of line cards. This connection may be realized using a connection like the ALI card-to-OA card connection via the optical backplane.

[0216] Having now discussed the different types of modules/line cards and the OTS chassis configurations, some features of the OTS when configured as a OXC or OADM are summarized in Table 2 in terms of Access Line Interface, Transport/Switching, and Management functions. Since the OADM can be equipped with transport cards (TP_In and TP_Eg), it performs all of the functions listed, while the

dedicated OXC configuration performs the switching/transport and management functions, but not the ALI functions.

[0217] For example, the Node Manager or NMS may control the OTS to configure it in the OXC or OADM modes, or to set up routing for light paths in the network.

TABLE 2

Product Feature	OADM	OXC
Access Line Interface	X	
Adding/dropping of wavelengths	X	
Grooming of optical signals	X	
Non-ITU-compliant wavelength conversion	X	
Optical Signal Generation—odulation (Timing/Shaping)	X	
Switching/Transport		
Multiplexing and demultiplexing of multi-wavelength signals into individual wavelengths	X	X
Cross-connection of the individual wavelengths	X	X
Amplification of optical signals	X	X
Protection switching of wavelengths	X	X
Dynamic power equalization of the optical signals	X	X
Dynamic suppression of optical power transients of the multi-wavelength signal	X	X
Management		
Performance monitoring of wavelengths	X	X
Operations and maintenance capabilities to support TMN	X	X

[0218] 14. System Configurations

[0219] In an important aspect of the invention, each OTS can be used in a different configuration based on its position within an optical network. In the optical cross-connect (OXC) configuration, the input transport module, the switch fabric and the output transport module are used. **FIG. 23** shows the modules used for the OXC configuration. In particular, the OTS **200***a* includes the TP_In modules **240** and the TP_Eg modules **245**. Each TP_In card may receive one fiber that includes, e.g., eight multiplexed data channels and the OSC. Similarly, each TP_Eg card outputs eight data channels in a multiplex and the OSC on an associated fiber.

[0220] **FIG. 24** shows the modules used for the OADM configuration when the incoming optical signals are compliant, e.g., with the ITU grid. In this case, the access line modules are not needed since the wavelengths are input directly from the access network to the OA_In cards. Here, the OTS **200***b* includes the TP_In modules **240**, the TP_Eg modules **245**, the OA_In modules **230**, and the OA_Eg modules **235**. Note that the OA_In and OA_Eg cards are typically provided in pairs to provide bidirectional signaling.

[0221] **FIGS. 25 and 26** show the OTS configurations when non-compliant wavelengths are used. The non-compliant wavelengths may include, e.g., eight OC-**12** wavelengths and eight OC-**48** wavelengths. In **FIG. 25**, in an add only multiplexing configuration, the OTS **200***c* uses the ALI modules **220** for converting the non-compliant wavelengths to compliant wavelengths, e.g., using any known wavelength conversion technique. The OA_In modules **230** receive the compliant wavelengths from the ALIs **220** and provide them to the switch fabric **210**. The switched signals are then provided to the TP_Eg modules **245** for transport on optical fibers in the optical network. Note that, typically, bidirectional signaling is provided to/from the access network via the ALI cards. Thus, the processes of **FIGS. 25 and 26** may occur at the same time via one or more ALI cards.

[0222] In **FIG. 26**, in a drop-only multiplexing configuration, the OTS **200***d* includes the TP_In module **240** for receiving the optical signal via the optical network, the OA_Eg modules **235** for receiving the optical signals from the switch **210**, and the ALI modules **220** for converting the compliant wavelengths to non-compliant wavelengths for use by the access network. The non-compliant wavelengths may be provided as, e.g., eight OC-**12** wavelengths and eight OC-**48** wavelengths.

[0223] For concurrent add and drop multiplexing of non-compliant signals, the ALI modules both provide inputs to the OA In modules **230**, and receive outputs from the OA_Eg modules **245**.

[0224] Similarly, any concurrent combination of the following is possible: (a) inputting OTS-compliant signals from one or more access networks to the OA_In modules, (b) inputting non-OTS-compliant signals from one or more access networks to the ALI modules, (c) outputting signals, which are both OTS- and access-network compliant, from the OA_Eg modules to one or more access networks, and (d) outputting signals, which are OTS-compliant but non-compliant with an access network, to the ALI modules.

[0225] 15. Transparent Data Transfer

[0226] A primary service enabled by the present invention is a transparent circuit-switched light path. Compared to conventional services, these flows are distinguished by a large quantity of bandwidth provided, and a setup time measured in seconds.

[0227] **FIG. 27** shows a simple example of wavelength adding, dropping, and cross-connection. Generally, in an example network **2700**, light paths are terminated at the OADMs **2710**, **2730**, **2750** and **2760** (at edge nodes of the network **2700**), and switched through the OXCs **2720** and **2740** (at internal nodes of the network **2700**). When no wavelength conversion is performed in the OXCs, the same wavelength carrying the light path is used on all links comprising the light path, but the wavelength can be reused on different links. For example, $\lambda 1$ can be used in light paths **2770** and **2780**, $\lambda 2$ can be used in light path **2775**, and $\lambda 3$ can be used in light paths **2785** and **2790**.

[0228] From a user perspective, this transparent data transfer service is equivalent to a dedicated line for SONET services, and nearly equivalent to a dedicated line for GbE services. Since the OTS operation is independent of data rate and protocol, it does not offer a Quality of Service in terms of bit error rate or delay. However, the OTS may monitor optical signal levels to ensure that the optical path signal has not degraded. Also, the OTS may perform dynamic power equalization of the optical signals, and dynamic suppression of optical power transients of the multi-wavelength signal independently of the number of the surviving signals, and independently of the number of the added signals. The OTS may thus measure an Optical Quality of Service (OQoS) based on optical signal-to-noise ratio (OSNR), and wavelength registration.

[0229] Table 3 provides a summary of transparent data transfer functions performed by the OTS for each type of interface. The simplest case is the receipt of a compliant OC-**12**/**48** signal by the Optical Access module.

TABLE 3

Line Interface	Functions
Compliant Optical (SONET) GbE	Channel Multiplexing/Demultiplexing Signal Amplification Switching/Cross-Connection Packet Multiplexing/Demultiplexing Aggregation/Grooming SONET Framing Modulation/Demodulation O-E Conversion on input E-O Conversion on output Channel Multiplexing/Demultiplexing Signal Amplification Switching/Cross-Connection
Non-compliant Optical Waveforms	O-E-O translation from non-compliant wavelength (e.g., 1310 nm) Aggregation/Grooming Retiming/Reshaping Channel Multiplexing/Demultiplexing Signal Amplification Switching/Cross-Connection

[0230] The signal shaping and timing may be performed on the ALI cards using on-off keying with Non-Return-to-Zero signaling.

[0231] In one possible embodiment, eight compliant waveforms are supported based on the ITU-specified grid, with 200 Ghz or 1.6 nm spacing, shown in Table 4. These are eight wavelengths from the ITU grid.

TABLE 4

Wavelength #	Wavelength registration
1	1549.318 nm
2	1550.921 nm
3	1552.527 nm
4	1554.137 nm
5	1555.750 nm
6	1557.366 nm
7	1558.986 nm
8	1560.609 nm

[0232] For compliant wavelengths received on the OA modules, the received signal is optically amplified and switched to the destination.

[0233] For non-compliant wavelengths, signals are converted to electrical form and are groomed. If the current assignment has several lower rate SONET input streams, e.g., OC-**12**, going to the same destination, the ALI can groom them into one higher rate stream, e.g., OC-**48**. After being switched to the destination port, the stream is multiplexed by a TP module onto a fiber with other wavelengths for transmission. Moreover, for non-compliant wavelengths, the OTS performs a wavelength conversion to an ITU wavelength, and the stream is then handled as a compliant stream. Conversion of optical signals from legacy networks to ITU-compliant wavelengths listed in Table **4** may be supported.

[0234] **FIG. 28** illustrates Gigabit Ethernet networks accessing a managed optical network in accordance with the present invention.

[0235] The GbE interface supports the fiber media GbE option, where the media access control and multiplexing are implemented in the electrical domain. Therefore, the flow is somewhat different from SONET. The GbE packetized data streams are received as Ethernet packets, multiplexed into a SONET frame, modulated (initial timing and shaping), and converted to a compliant wavelength. After the compliant wavelengths are formed, they are handled as compliant wavelength streams as described above.

[0236] The following example clarifies how Ethernet packets are handled. GbE**12802**, GbE**22804**, GbE**32806**, GbE**42808**, GbE**52840**, GbE**62842**, GbE**72844** and GbE**82846** are separate LANs. Typically, each of the active ports are going to a different destination, so dedicated wavelengths are assigned. If two or more GbE ports have the same destination switch, they may be multiplexed onto the same wavelength. In this example, each of four GbE ports are transmitted to the same destination (i.e., OADM B **2830**) but to separate GbE LANs (GbE**1** is transmitted to GbE**5**, GbE**2** is transmitted to GbE**6**, etc.). The client can attach as many devices to the GbE as desired, but their packets are all routed to the same destination.

[0237] In this case, the processing flow proceeds as follows. First, the OADM A **2810** receives GbE packets on GbE**12802**, GbE**22804**, GbE**32806**, and GbE**42808**. The OADM A **2810** performs O-E conversion and multiplexes the packets into SONET frames at the ALI/OA function **2812**. OADM A **2810** performs the E-O conversion at the assigned A, also at the ALI/OA function **2812**. The resulting optical signal is switched through the switch fabric (SW) **2814** to the transport module (egress portion) **2816**, and enters the network **2820**. The optical signal is switched through the optical network **2820** to the destination switch at OADM B **2830**. At the OADM B **2830**, the optical signal is received at the transport module (ingress portion) **2832**, and switched through the switch fabric **2834** to the OA_Eg/ALI function **2836**. The OADM B **2830** extracts the GbE packets from the SONET frame at the OA/ALI function **2836**. Finally, the OADM B **2830** demultiplexes the packets in hardware at the OA/ALI function **2836** to determine the destination GbE port and transmits the packet on that port.

[0238] Since the ALI **2812** in the OADM A **2810** may receive packets on different ports at the same time, the ALI buffers one of the packets for transmission after the other. However, appropriate hardware can be selected for the ALI such that the queuing delays incurred are negligible and the performance appears to be like a dedicated line.

[0239] Note that, in this example, all GbE ports are connected to the same ALI. However, by bridging the Ethernets, the service provider can configure the traffic routing within the GbE networks to ensure that traffic going to the same destination is routed to the same input GbE port on the optical switch. Multiplexing GbE networks attached to different ALIs is also possible.

[0240] Refer also to **FIG. 15** and the related discussion.

[0241] The QoS in terms of traditional measures is not directly relevant to the optical network. Instead, the client (network operator) may control these performance metrics. For example, if the client expects that the GbE ports will have a relatively modest utilization, the client may choose to assign four ports to a single OC-**48**λ operating at 2.4 Gbps (assuming they all have the same destination port). In the worst case, the λ channel may be oversubscribed, but for the most part, its performance should be acceptable.

[0242] However, some QoS features can be provided on the GbE ALI cards. For example, instead of giving all of GbE streams equal priority using round robin scheduling, weighted fair queuing may be used that allows the client to specify the weights given to each stream. In this way, the client can control the relative fraction of bandwidth allocated to each stream.

[0243] Similarly, for ATM, the client may be operating a mix of CBR, VBR, ABR, and UBR services as inputs to the OADM module. However, the switching system does not distinguish the different cell types. It simply forwards the ATM cells as they are received, and outputs them on the port as designated during setup.

[0244] **FIG. 29** shows an example of interconnectivity of the optical network with OC-**12** legacy networks. Other OC-n networks may be handled similarly. Refer also to FIGS. **16-18** and the related discussions. The example shows four OC-**12** networks **2902**, **2904**, **2906** and **2908**, connected to the optical network **2920** through the OC-**12** ALI card **2912**. Similarly, four OC-**12** networks **2940**, **2942**, **2944** and **2946** are connected to the OC-**12** ALI card **2936** at the OADM B **2930**.

[0245] In the example, the processing flow proceeds as follows. First, the OADM A **2910** receives packets on OC-**121** (**2902**), OC-**122** (**2904**), OC-**123** (**2906**), and OC-**124** (**2908**). The OADM A **2910** multiplexes the packets into SONET frames at OC-**48** at the ALI/OA module **2912** using TDM. For compliant wavelengths, OC-n uses only the OA portion, not the ALI portion. For non-compliant wavelengths, the ALI is used for wavelength conversion, through an O-E-O process, then the OA is used for handling the newly-compliant signals. The resulting optical signal is switched through the switch fabric (SW) **2914** to the transport module (egress portion) (TP) **2916**, and enters the network **2920**. The optical signal is switched through the optical network **2920** to the destination switch at OADM B **2930**. At the OADM B **2930**, the optical signal is received at the transport module (ingress portion) **2932**, and switched through the switch fabric (SW) **2934** to the OA/ALI function **2936**. The OADM B **2930** extracts the packets from the SONET frame at the OA/ALI function **2936**. The OADM B **2930** demultiplexes the packet in hardware at the OA/ALI function **2936** to determine the destination port, and transmits the packet on that port.

[0246] 16. Routing and Wavelength Assignment

[0247] The routing block **3120** of **FIG. 31** refers to a Routing and Wavelength Assignment (RWA) function that may be provided as software running on the NMS for selecting a path in the optical network between endpoints, and assigning the associated wavelengths for the path. For implementations where the OTS does not provide wavelength conversion, the same wavelength is used on each link in the path, i.e., there is wavelength continuity on each link.

[0248] A "Light Wave OSPF" approach to RWA, which is an adaptive source based approach based on the Open Shortest Path First (OSPF) routing as enhanced for circuit-switched optical networks, may be used. Developed originally for (electrical) packet networks, OSPF is a link state algorithm that uses link state advertisement (LSA) messages to distribute the state of each link throughout the network. Knowing the state of each link in the network, each node can compute the best path, e.g., based on OSPF criteria, to any other node. The source node, which may be the Node Manager associated with the path tail, computes the path based on the OSPF information.

[0249] OSPF is particularly suitable for RWA since it is available at low risk, e.g., easily extended to support traffic engineering and wavelength assignment, scalable, e.g., able to support large networks using one or two levels of hierarchies, less complex than other candidate techniques, and widely commercially accepted.

[0250] Several organizations have investigated the enhancement of OSPF to support optical networks and several alternative approaches have been formulated. The major variation among these approaches involves the information that should be distributed in the LSA messages. As a minimum, it is necessary to distribute the total number of active wavelengths on each link, the number of allocated wavelengths, the number of pre-emptable wavelengths, and the risk groups throughout the networks. In addition, information may be distributed on the association of fibers and wavelengths such that nodes can derive wavelength availability. In this way, wavelength assignments may be made intelligently as part of the routing process. The overhead incurred can be controlled by "re-advertising" only when significant changes occur, where the threshold for identifying significant changes is a tunable parameter.

[0251] Furthermore, the optical network may support some special requirements. For example, in the ODSI Signaling Control Specification, the client may request paths that are disjoint from a set of specified paths. In the Create Request, the client provides a list of circuit identifiers and request that the new path be disjoint from the path of each of these paths. When the source node determines the new path, the routing algorithm must specifically exclude the links/switches comprising these paths in setting up the new path.

[0252] It is expected that the light paths will be setup and remain active for an extended period of time. As a result, the incremental assignment of wavelengths may result in some inefficiency. Therefore, it may improve performance to do periodic re-assignments.

[0253] 17. Flash Memory Architecture

[0254] Flash memory is used on all controllers for persistent storage. In particular, the Node Manager flash memory may have 164 Mbytes while LCM flash memories may have 16 Mbytes. The Intel 28F128J3A flash chip, containing 16 Mbytes, may be used as a building block. Designing flash memory into both controllers obviates the need for ROM on both controllers. Both controllers boot from their flash memory. Should either controller outgrow its flash storage, the driver can be modified to apply compression techniques to avoid hardware modifications.

[0255] The flash memory on all controllers may be divided into fixed partitions for performance. The Node Manager may have five partitions, including (1) current version Node Manager software, (2) previous version (rollback) Node Manager software, (3) LCM software, (4) Core Embedded software data storage, and (5) application software/data storage

[0256] The LCM may have 3 partitions, including (1) LCM software, (2) previous version (rollback) LCM software, and (3) Core Embedded software data storage.

[0257] The flash memory on both the Node Manager and LCM may use a special device driver for read and write access since the flash memory has access controls to prevent accidental erasure or reprogramming.

[0258] For write access, the flash driver requires a partition ID, a pointer to the data, and a byte count. The driver first checks that the size of the partition is greater than or equal to the size of the read buffer, and returns a negative integer value if the partition is too small to hold the data in the buffer. The driver then checks that the specified partition is valid and, if the partition is not valid, returns a different negative integer. The driver then writes a header containing a timestamp, checksum, and user data byte count into the named partition. The driver then writes the specified number of bytes starting from the given pointer into the named partition. The flash driver returns a positive integer value indicating the number of user data bytes written to the partition. If the operation fails, the driver returns a negative integer value indicating the reason for failure (e.g., device failure).

[0259] For read access, the flash driver requires a partition ID, a pointer to a read data buffer, and the size of the data buffer. The driver checks that the size of the read buffer is greater than or equal to the size of the data stored in the partition (size field is zero if nothing has been stored there). The driver returns a negative integer value if the buffer is too small to hold the data in the partition. The driver then does a checksum validation of the flash contents. If checksum validation fails, the driver returns a different negative integer. If the checksum validation is successful, the driver copies the partition contents into the provided buffer and return a positive integer value indicating the number of bytes read. If the operation fails, the driver returns a negative integer value indicating the reason for failure (e.g., device failure).

[0260] 18. Hierarchical Optical Network Structure

[0261] The all-optical network architecture is based on an open, hierarchical structure to provide interoperability with other systems and accommodate a large number of client systems.

[0262] **FIG. 30** depicts the hierarchical structure of the all-optical network architecture for a simple case with three networks, network A **3010**, network B **3040** and network C **3070**. Typically, a network is managed by a three-tiered control architecture: i) at the highest level a leaf NMS manages the multiple OTSs of its network, ii) at the middle level each OTS is managed individually by its associated Node Manager, and iii) at the lowest level each line card of a node (except the Node Manager) is managed by an associated Line Card Manager.

[0263] The nodes, such as nodes **3012**, **3014**, **3042** and **3072** depict the optical switching hardware (the OTSs). Moreover, network A **3010** and network B **3040** communicate with one another via OTSs **3012** and **3042**, and network A **3010** and network C **3040** communicate with one another via OTSs **3014** and **3072**. In this example, each network has its own NMS. For example, network A **3010** has an NMS **3015**, network B **3040** has an NMS **3045**, and network C **3070** has an NMS **3075**.

[0264] When multiple NMSs are present, one is selected as a master or root NMS. For example, the NMS **3015** for Network A **3010** may be the root NMS, such that the NMSs **3045** and **3075** for Networks B and C, respectively, are subservient to it.

[0265] Each NMS includes software that runs separate and apart from the network it controls, as well as NMS agent software that runs on each Node Manager of the NMS's network. The NMS agent software allows the each NMS to communicate with the Node Managers of each of its network's nodes.

[0266] Moreover, each NMS may use a database server to store persistent data, e.g., longer-life data such as configuration and connection information. The database server may use LDAP, and Oracle® database software to store longer-life data such as configuration and connection information.

[0267] LDAP is an open industry standard solution that makes use of TCP/IP, thus enabling wide deployment. Additionally, a LDAP server can be accessed using a web-based client, which is built into many browsers, including the Microsoft Explorer® and Netscape Navigator® browsers. The data can be stored in a separate database for each instance of a network, or multiple networks can share a common database server depending on the size of the network or networks. As an example, separate databases can be provided for each of networks A, B and C, where each database contains information for the associated network, such as connection, configuration, fault, and performance information. In addition, the root NMS (e.g., NMS **3015**) can be provided with a summary view of the status and performance data for Networks B and C.

[0268] The hierarchical NMS structure is incorporated into the control architecture as needed.

[0269] 19. System Functional Architecture

[0270] The functionality provided by the OTS and NMS, as well as the external network interfaces are shown in **FIG. 31**. As indicated by the legend **3102**, the path restoration **3115** and network management **3105** functionalities are implemented in the NMS, while the routing **3120**, signaling **3135** including user-network signaling **3136** and internal signaling **3137** (internal to the network), agent/proxy **3110**, and protection **3145** are real-time functionalities implemented in the Node Manager.

[0271] External interfaces to the optical network system include: (1) a client system **3140** requesting services, such as a light path, from the optical network via the UNI protocol, (2) a service provider/carrier NMS **3130** used for the exchange of management information, and (3) a hardware interface **3150** for transfer of data. An interface to a local GUI **3125** is also provided.

[0272] The client system **3140** may be resident on the service provider's hardware. However, if the service provider does not support UNI, then manual (e.g., voice or email) requests can be supported. Light path (i.e., optical circuit) setup may be provided, e.g., using a signaled light path, a provisioned light path, and proxy signaling. In particular, a signaled light path is analogous to an ATM switched virtual circuit, such that a service provider acts as UNI requester and sends a "create" message to initiate service, and the Optical Network Controller (ONC) invokes NNI signaling to create a switched lightpath. A provisioned lightpath is analogous to an ATM permanent virtual circuit

(PVC), such that a service provider via the NMS requests a lightpath be created (where UNI signaling is not used), and the NMS commands the switches directly to establish a lightpath. The NMS can also use the services of a proxy signaling agent to signal for the establishment of a lightpath.

[0273] The service provider/carrier NMS interface **3130** enables the service provider operator to have an integrated view of the network using a single display. This interface, which may be defined using CORBA, for instance, may also be used for other management functions, such as fault isolation.

[0274] The local GUI interface **3125** allows local management of the optical network by providing a local administrator/network operator with a complete on-screen view of topology, performance, connection, fault and configuration management capabilities and status for the optical network.

[0275] The control plane protocol interface between the service provider control plane and the optical network control plane may be based on an "overlay model" (not to be confused with an overlay network used by the NMS to interface with the nodes), where the optical paths are viewed by the service provider system as fibers between service provider system endpoints. In this model, all of the complexities of the optical network are hidden from the user devices. Thus, the routing algorithm employed by the optical network is separate from the routing algorithms employed by the higher layer user network. The internal optical network routing algorithm, internal signaling protocols, protection algorithms, and management protocols are discussed in further detail below. The all-optical network based on the OTS may be modified from the "overlay model" architecture to the "peer model" architecture, where the user device is aware of the optical network routing algorithm and the user level. The optical network and user network routing algorithms are integrated in the "peer model" architecture.

[0276] 20. Internal Network Signaling

[0277] 20.1 Protocol Description

[0278] The Internal Signaling function **3137** of **FIG. 31** uses a Network-Network Interface (NNI) protocol for internal network signaling or for signaling between private networks. The NNI may be specified by extending the UNI protocol (ATM Forum 3.1 Signaling Protocol) by specifying additional messages fields, states, and transitions. UNI is a protocol by which an external network accesses an edge OTS of the optical network.

[0279] For example, the NNI may include a path Type-Length-Value field in its "create" message. It may also have to support a crankback feature in case the setup fails. The major requirements for the NNI are listed below.

Capability	Description
Create light path	Normal and crankback
Modify light path	Change bandwidth parameters
Disjoint light path	Establish light path disjoint from specified existing light paths
Destroy light path	Teardown channel
Failure Recovery	Link or node failure
Traffic Pre-emption	Terminate low priority traffic in case of failure
Backup	Establish pre-defined backup links
NMS Interface	Set MIB variables
External Network Interface	Backbone Network Interconnection

[0280] 20.2 Signaling Subnetwork (OSC)

[0281] The primary function of the signaling network is to provide connectivity among the Node Managers of the different OTSs. An IP network may be used that is capable of supporting both signaling as well as network management traffic. For signaling messages, TCP may be used as the transport protocol. For network management, either TCP or UDP may be used, depending upon the specific application.

[0282] **FIG. 32** depicts an example of a signaling network having three OTSs, OTS A (**3210**), OTS B (**3220**), and OTS C (**3230**), an NMS **3240** that communicates with OTS B **3220** (and all other OTSs via OTS B) via an Ethernet **3245**, a path requester **3215** and path head **3216** that communicate with the OTS A **3210** via an Ethernet **3217**, and a path tail **3235** that communicates with the OTS C **3230** via an Ethernet **3232**. The path requester **3215**, path head **3216** and path tail **3235** denote client equipment that is external to the all-optical network. The internal signaling network may use the OSC within the optical network, in which case the facilities are entirely within the optical network and dedicated to the signaling and management of the optical network. The OSC is not directly available to external client elements.

[0283] Each Node Manager may have its own Ethernet for local communication with the client equipment. Also, a gateway node may have an additional Ethernet link for communication with the NMS manager if they are co-located. The signaling network has its own routing protocol for transmission of messages between OTSs as well as within an NMS. Moreover, for fail-safe operation, the signaling network may be provided with its own NMS that monitors the status and performance of the signaling network, e.g., to take corrective actions in response to fault conditions, and generate performance data for the signaling network.

[0284] 21. Protection/Restoration Flow

[0285] Referring to the Path Restoration function **3115** and Protection function **3145** of **FIG. 31**, the all-optical network may provide a service recovery feature in response to failure conditions. Both line and path protection may be provided such that recovery can be performed within a very short period of time comparable to SONET (<50 ms). In cases where recovery time requirements are less stringent, path restoration under the control of the NMS may provide a more suitable capability.

[0286] Moreover, for SONET clients, client-managed protection may be provided by allowing the client to request disjoint paths, in which case the protection mechanisms utilized by the client are transparent to the optical network. The recovery capability may include **1:1** line protection by having four optical fibers between OTSs—a primary and a backup in each direction. When a link or node fails, all paths

in the affected link are re-routed (by pre-defined links) as a whole (e.g., on a line basis) rather than by individual path (e.g., on a path basis). While this is less bandwidth efficient, it is simpler to implement than path protection and is equivalent to SONET layer services. The re-routing is predefined via Network Management in a switch table such that when a failure occurs, the re-routing can be performed in real-time (<50 ms per hop).

[0287] Path protection re-routes each individual circuit when a failure occurs. Protection paths may be dedicated and carry a duplicate data stream (1+1), dedicated and carry a pre-emptable low priority data stream (1:1), or shared (1:N).

[0288] FIGS. **33**(*a*)-(*c*) compare line and path protection where two light paths, shown as λ_1 and λ_2, have been setup. **FIG. 33**(*a*) shows the normal case, where two signaling paths are available between nodes "1" and "6" (i.e., path **1-2-4-5-6** and path **1-2-3-5-6**). λ_1 traverses nodes **1-2-3-5-6** in travelling toward its final destination, while λ_2 traverses nodes **1-2-3** in travelling toward its final destination.

[0289] **FIG. 33**(*b*) shows the case where line protection is used. In particular, consider the case where link **2-3** fails. With line protection, all channels affected by the failure are re-routed over nodes **2-4-5-3**. In particular, λ_1 is routed from node **5-3**, and then back from **3-5-6**, which is inefficient since λ_1 travels twice between nodes "3" and "5", thereby reducing the availability of the **3-5** path for backup traffic.

[0290] **FIG. 33**(c) shows the case where path protection is used. With path protection, the light paths λ_1 and λ_2 are each routed separately in an optimum way, which eliminates the inefficiency of line protection. In particular, Aλ_1 is routed on nodes **1-2-4-5-6**, and λ_2 is routed on nodes **1-2-4-5-3**.

[0291] Moreover, the backup fiber (here, the fiber between nodes **2-4-5**) need not be used under normal conditions (**FIG. 33**(*a*)). However, pre-emptable traffic, e.g., lower priority traffic, may be allowed to use the backup fiber until a failure occurs. Once a failure occurs, the pre-emptable traffic is removed from the backup fiber, which is then used for transport of higher-priority traffic. The client having the lower-priority traffic is preferably notified of the preemption.

[0292] Protection and restoration in large complex mesh networks may also be provided. Protection features defined by the ODSI, OIF, and IETF standards bodies can also be included as they become available.

[0293] Protection services can also include having redundant hardware at the OTSs, such as for the Node Manager and other line cards. The redundancy of the hardware, which may range from full redundancy to single string operation, can be configured to meet the needs of the service provider. Moreover, the hardware can be equipped with a comprehensive performance monitoring and analysis capability so that, when a failure occurs, a switch over to the redundant, backup component is quickly made without manual intervention. In case of major node failures, traffic can be re-routed around the failed node using line protection.

[0294] 22. Network Management System Software

[0295] The Network Management System is a comprehensive suite of management applications that is compatible with the TMN model, and may support TMN layers **1** to **3**. Interfaces to layer **4**, service layer management, may also be provided so that customer Operational Support Systems (OSSs) as well as third party solutions can be deployed in that space.

[0296] The overall architecture of the NMS is depicted in **FIG. 34**. The Element Management Layer **3404** corresponds to layer **2** of the TMN model, while the Network Management Layer **3402** components correspond to layer **3** of the TMN model. The functions shown are achieved by software running on the NMS and NMS agents at the Node Managers.

[0297] A common network management interface **3420** at the Network Management Layer provides an interface between: (a) applications **3405** (such as a GUI), customer services **3410**, and other NMSs/OSSs **3415**, and (b) a configuration manager **3425**, connection manager **3430**, **3440**, fault manager **3445**, and performance manager **3450**, which may share common resources/services **3435**, such as a database server, which uses an appropriate database interface, and a topology manager **3440**. The database server or servers may store information for the managers **3425**, **3430**, **3445** and **3450**. The interface **3420** may provides a rich set of client interfaces that include RMI, EJB and CORBA, which allow the carrier to integrate the NMS with their systems to perform end-to-end provisioning and unify event information. Third-party services and business layer applications can also be easily integrated into the NMS via this interface. The interface **3420** may be compatible with industry standards where possible.

[0298] The GUI **3405** is an integrated set of user interfaces that may be built using Java (or other similar object oriented) technology to provide an easy-to-use customer interface, as well as portability. The customer can select a manager from a menu of available GUI views, or drill down to a new level by obtaining a more detailed set of views.

[0299] The customer services may include, e.g., protection and restoration, prioritized light paths, and other services that are typically sold to customers of the network by the network operator.

[0300] The "other NMSs"**3415** refer to NMSs that are subservient to a root NMS in a hierarchical optical network structure or an NMS hierarchy. The OSSs are switching systems other than the OTS system described herein.

[0301] The configuration manager **3425** provides a switch level view of the NMS, and may provide functions including provisioning of the Node Managers and LCMs, status and control, and installation and upgrade support. The configuration manager **3425** may also enable the user, e.g., via the GUI **3405**, to graphically identify the state of the system, boards, and lower level devices, and to provide a point and click configuration to quickly configure ports and place them in service. The configuration manager may collect switch information such as IP address and switch type, as well as card-specific information such as serial number and firmware/software revision.

[0302] The connection manager **3430** provides a way to view existing light path connections between OTSs, including connections within the OTS itself, and to create such connections. The connection manager **3430** supports simple cross connects as well as end-to-end connections traversing the entire network. The user is able to dictate the exact path of a light path by manually specifying the ports and cross connects to use at an OTS. Or, the user may only specify the

endpoints and let the connection manager set up the connection automatically. Generally, the endpoints of a connection are OA ports, and the intermediate ports are TP ports. The user may also select a wavelength for the connection. The types of connections supported include Permanent Optical Circuit (POC), Switched Optical Circuit (SOC), as well as Smart Permanent Optical Circuit (SPOC). SOC and SPOC connections are routed by the network element routing and signaling planes. SOC connections are available for viewing only.

[0303] The topology manager **3440** provides a NMS topological view of the network, which allows the user to quickly determine, e.g., via the GUI **3405**, all resources in the network, including links and OTSs in the network, and how they are currently physically connected. The user can use this map to obtain more detailed views of specific portions of the network, or of an individual OTS, and even access a view of an OTS's front panel. For instance, the user can use the topological view to assist in making end-to-end connections, where each OTS or subnet in the path of a connection can be specified. Moreover, while the topology manager **3440** provides the initial view, the connection manager **3430** is called upon to set up the actual connection.

[0304] The fault manager **3445** collect faults/alarms from the OTSs as well as other SNMP-compliant devices, and may include functions such as alarm surveillance, fault localization, correction, and trouble administration. Furthermore, the fault manager **3445** can be implemented such that the faults are presented to the user in an easy to understand way, e.g., via the GUI **3405**, and the user is able to sort the faults by various methods such as device origination, time, severity, etc. Moreover, the faults can be aggregated by applying rules that are predefined by the network administrator, or customer-defined.

[0305] The performance manager **3450** performs processing related to the performance of the elements/OTSs, as well as the network as a whole. Specific functionalities may include performance quality assurance, performance monitoring, performance management control, and performance analysis. An emphasis may be on optical connections, including the QoS and reliability of the connection. The performance manager **3450** allows the user to monitor the performance of a selected port of channel on an OTS. In particular, the performance manager may display data in real-time, or from archived data.

[0306] These managers **3425**, **3430**, **3445** and **3450** may provide specific functionality and share information, e.g., via Jini, and using an associated Jini server. Moreover, the manager may store associated data in one or more database servers, which can be configured in a redundant mode for high availability.

[0307] Furthermore, a common network management interface **3455** at the Element Management Layer provides an interface between: (a) the configuration manager **3425**, connection manager **3430**, fault manager **3445** and performance manager **3450**, and (b) an agent adapter function **3460** and an "other adapter" function **3465**. The agent adapter **3460** may communicate with the OTSs in the optical network **3462** using SNMP and IP, in which case corresponding SNMP agents and IP agents are provided at the OTSs. The SNMP agent at the OTSs may also interface with other NMS applications. SNMP is an industry standard interface that allows integration with other NMS tools. The interface from the NMS to the OTS in the optical network **3462** may also use a proprietary interface, which allows greater flexibility and efficiency than SNMP alone. The other adapter function **3465** refers to other types of optical switches other than the OTSs described herein that the NMS may manage.

[0308] In summary, the NMS provides a comprehensive capability to manage an OTS or a network of OTSs. A user-friendly interface allows intuitive control of the element/OTS or network. Finally, a rich set of northbound interfaces allows interoperability and integration with OSS systems.

[0309] Moreover, the NMS may be an open architecture system that is based on standardized Management Information Bases (MIBs). At this time, ODSI has defined a comprehensive MIB for the UNI. However, additional MIBs are required, e.g., for NNI signaling and optical network enhancements to OSPF routing. The NMS of the present invention can support the standard MIBs as they become available, while using proprietary MIBs in areas where the standards are not available.

[0310] The NMS may be implemented in Java (or similar object oriented) technology, which allows the management applications to easily communicate and share data, and tends to enable faster software development, a friendlier (i.e., easier to use) user interface, robustness, self-healing, and portability. In particular, Java tools such as Jini, Jiro, Enterprise Java Beans (EJB), and Remote Method Invocation (RMI) may be used.

[0311] RMI, introduced in JDK **1.1**, is a Java technology that allows the programmer to develop distributed Java objects similar to using local Java objects. It does this by keeping separate the definition of behavior, and the implementation of the behavior. In other words, the definition is coded using a Java interface while the implementation on the remote server is coded in a class. This provides a network infrastructure to access/develop remote objects.

[0312] The EJB specification defines an architecture for a transactional, distributed object system based on components. It defines an API that that ensures portability across vendors. This allows an organization to build its own components or purchase components. These server-side components are enterprise beans, and are distributed objects that are hosted in EJB containers and provide remote services for clients distributed throughout the network

[0313] Jini, which uses RMI technology, is an infrastructure for providing services in a network, as well as creating spontaneous interactions between programs that use these services. Services can be added or removed from the network in a robust way. Clients are able to rely upon the availability of these services. The Client program downloads a Java object from the server and uses this object to talk to the server. This allows the client to talk to the server even though it does not know the details of the server. Jini allows the building of flexible, dynamic and robust systems, while allowing the components to be built independently. A key to Jini is the Lookup Service, which allows a client to locate the service it needs.

[0314] Jiro is a Java implementation of the Federated Management Architecture. A federation, for example, could

be a group of services at one location, i.e., a management domain. It provides technologies useful in building an interoperable and automated distributed management solution. It is built using Jini technology with enhancements added for a distributed management solution, thereby complementing Jini. Some examples of the benefits of using Jiro over Jini include security services and direct support for SNMP.

[0315] **FIG. 35** illustrates an NMS hierarchy in accordance with the present invention. Advantageously, scalability may be achieved via the NMS hierarchical architecture, thus allowing a networks from a few OTSs to hundreds of OTSs to still be manageable and using only the processing power of the necessary number of managing NMSs. In such an architecture, each NMS instance in an NMS hierarchy (which we may also refer to as "manager"), manages a subset of OTSs (with the "root" NMS managing, at least indirectly through its child NMSs, all the OTSs managed by the hierarchy). For example, NMS **1 (3510)** manages NMS **1.1 (3520)** and NMS **1.2 (3525)**. NMS **1.1 (3520)** manages NMS **1.1.1 (3530)**, which in turn manages a first network **3540**, and NMS **1.1.2 (3532)**, which in turn manages a second network **3542**. NMS **1.2 (3525)** manages NMS **1.2.1 (3534)**, which in turn manages a third network **3544**, and NMS **1.2.2 (3536)**, which in turn manages a fourth network **3546**. Each instance of the NMS in the hierarchy may be implemented as shown in **FIG. 34**, including having one more database servers for use by the managers of the different functional areas.

[0316] The number of OTSs that an NMS instance can manage depends on factors such as the performance and memory of the instance's underlying processor, and the stability of the network configuration. The hierarchy of NMS instances can be determined using various techniques. In the event of failure of a manager, another manager can quickly recover the NMS functionality. The user can see an aggregated view of the entire network or some part of the network without regard to the number of managers being deployed.

[0317] One feature of multiple NMSs controlling multiple networks is the robustness and scalability provided by the hierarchical structure of the managing NMSs.. The NMSs form a hierarchy dynamically, through an election process, such that a management structure can be quickly reconstituted in case of failure of some of the NMSs. Furthermore, the NMS provide the capability to configure each OTS and dynamically modify the connectivity of OTSs in the network. The NMS also enables the network operators to generate on-the-fly statistical metrics for evaluating network performance.

[0318] 23. Node Manager Software

[0319] The control software at the OTS includes the Node Manager software and the Line Card Manager software. As shown in **FIG. 36**, the Node Manager software **3600** includes Applications layer software **3610** and Core Embedded System Services layer **3630** software running on top of an operating system such as VxWorks (Wind River Systems, Inc., Alameda, Calif.). The LCM software has Core Embedded System Services device drivers for the target peripheral hardware such as the GbE and OC-n SONET interfaces.

[0320] The Applications layer **3610** enables various functions, such as signaling and routing functions, as well as node-to-node communications. For example, assume it is desired to restore service within 50 msec for a customer using a SONET service. The routing and signaling functions are used to quickly communicate from one node to another when an alarm has been reported, such as "the link between Chicago and New York is down." So, the Applications software **3610** enables the nodes to communicate with each other for selecting a new route that does not use the faulty link.

[0321] Generally, to minimize the amount of processing by the Applications software **3610**, information that is used there is abstracted as much as possible by the Core Embedded Software **3641** and the System Services **3630**.

[0322] In particular, the Applications layer **3610** may include applications such as a Protection/Fault Manager **3612**, UNI Signaling **3614**, NNI Signaling **3615**, Command Line Interface (CLI) **3616**, NMS Database Client **3617**, Routing **3618**, and NMS agent **3620**, each of which is described in further detail below.

[0323] The System Services layer software **3630** may include services such as Resource Manager **3631**, Event Manager **3632**, Software Version Manager **3633**, Configuration Manager **3634**, Logger **3635**, Watchdog **3636**, Flash Memory Interface **3637**, and Application "S" Message Manager **3638**, each of which is described in further detail below.

[0324] The Node Manager's Core Embedded Control Software **3641** is provided below an "S" interface and the System Services software **3630**.

[0325] 23.1 Node Manager Core Embedded Software

[0326] The Node Manager Core Embedded software **3641** is provided between the "S" interface **3640** and the "D" interface **3690**. The "D" (drivers) message interface **3690** is for messages exchanged between the LCMs and the Node Manager via the OTS's internal LAN, while the "S" (services) message interface **3640** is for messages exchanged between the application software and the Core Embedded software on the Node Manager.

[0327] Generally, these managers ensure that inter-process communication can take place. In particular, the Node Manager "D" message manager **3646** receives "D" messages such as raw Ethernet packets from the LCM and forwards them to the appropriate process. The Node Manager "S" Message Manager **3642** serves a similar general function: providing inter-process communication between messages from the System Services layer **3630** and the Node Manager Core Embedded software. The inter-process communication provided by the "S" Interface is typically implemented quite differently from the "D" Interface since it is not over a LAN but within a single processor. These interfaces, which may use, e.g., header files or tables, are described further in the section entitled "Node Manager Message Interfaces."

[0328] Below the "S" interface **3640**, the Node Manager's Core Embedded software further includes a Node Configuration Manager **3644**, which is a master task for spawning other tasks, shown collectively at **3660**, at the Node Manager, and may therefore have a large, complex, body of code. This manager is responsible for managing the other Node Manager processes, and knows how to configure the system, such as configuring around an anomaly such as a line card

removal or insertion. Moreover, this manager **3644** determines how many of the tasks **3662**, **3664**, **3666**, **3668**, **3670**, **3672**, **3674**, **3676** and **3678** need to be started to achieve a particular configuration.

[**0329**] The tasks at the Node Manager Core Embedded software are line card tasks/processes for handling the different line card types. These include a TP_IN task **3662**, an OA_IN task **3644**, an OPM task **3666**, a clock task **3668**, a TP_EG task **3670**, an OA_EG task **3672**, an OSF task **3674**, an ALI task **3676** and an OSM task **3678**. The "−1" notation denotes one of multiple tasks that are running for corresponding multiple line cards of that type when present at the OTS. For example, TP_IN-**1** represents a task running for a first TP_IN card. Additional tasks for other TP_IN cards are not shown specifically, but could be denoted as TP_IN-**2**, TP_IN-**3**, and so forth.

[**0330**] Managers, shown collectively at **3650**, manage resources and system services for the line card tasks. These managers include a Database Manager **3652**, an Alarms Manager **3654**, and an Optical Cross Connect (OXC) Manager **3656**.

[**0331**] In particular, the Database Manager **3652** may manage a database of non-volatile information at the Node Manager, such as data for provisioning the LCMs. This data may include, e.g., alarm/fault thresholds that are to be used by the LCMs in determining whether to declare a fault if one of the monitored parameters of the line cards crosses the threshold. Generally, the Database Manager **3652** manages a collection of information that needs to be saved if the OTS fails/goes down—similar to a hard disk. As an example of the use of the Database Manager **3652**, when the OTS is powered up, or when a line card is inserted into a slot in the OTS bay, the associated LCM generates a discovery packet for the Node Manager to inform it that the line card is up and exists. This enables the line cards to be hot swappable, that is, they can be pulled from and re-inserted into the slots at any time. After receiving the discovery packet, the Node Manager uses the Database manager **3652** to contact the database to extract non-volatile data that is needed to provision that line card, and communicates the data to the LCM via the OTS's LAN. The Node Manager's database may be provided using the non-volatile memory resources discussed in connection with **FIG. 5**.

[**0332**] The Alarms Manager **3654** receives alarm/fault reports from the LCMs (e.g., via any of the tasks **3660**) when the LCMs determine that a fault condition exists on the associated line card. For example, the LCM may report a fault to the Alarms Manager **3654** if it determines that a monitored parameter such as laser current consumption has crossed a minimum or maximum threshold level. In turn, the Alarms Manager **3654** may set an alarm if the fault or other anomaly persists for a given amount of time or based on some other criteria, such as whether some other fault or alarm condition is present, or the status of one or more other monitored parameters. Furthermore, the presence of multiple alarms may be analyzed to determine if they have a common root cause. Generally, the Alarms Manager **3654** abstracts the fault and/or alarm information to try to extract a story line as to what caused the alarm, and passes this story up to the higher-level Event Manager **3632** via the "S" interface **3640**.

[**0333**] Using the push model, the Event Manager **3632** distributes the alarm event to any of the software components that have registered to receive such an event. A corrective action can then be implemented locally at the OTS, or at the network-level.

[**0334**] The OXC Manager **3656** makes sense of how to use the different line cards to make one seamless connection for the customer. For example, using a GUI at the NMS, the customer may request a light path connection from Los Angeles to San Francisco. The NMS decides which OTSs to route the light path through, and informs each OTS via the OSC of the next-hop OTS in the light path. The OTS then establishes a light path, e.g., by using the OXC Manager **3656** to configure an ALI line card, TP_IN line card, OA_EG line card, a wavelength, and several other parameters that have to be configured for one cross connect. For example, the OXC Manager **3656** may configure the OTS such that port **1** on TP_IN is connected to port **2** on TP_OUT. The OXC Manager **3656** disassembles the elements of a cross connection and disseminates the relevant information at a low level to the involved line cards via their LCMs.

[**0335**] 23.2 System Services

[**0336**] 23.2.1 Resource Manager

[**0337**] The Resource Manager **3631** performs functions such as maintaining information on resources such as wavelengths and the state of the cross-connects of the OTS, and providing cross-connect setup and teardown capability. In particular, the Resource Manager performs the interaction with the switch hardware during path creation, modification, and termination. The context diagram of the Resource Manager is shown in **FIG. 43**. The legend **4330** indicates whether the communications between the components use the Event Manager, an API and TCP, or message passing. The Resource Manager is responsible for setting up network devices upon receiving requests from the NMS Agent (in case of provisioning) or the Signaling component (for a signaled setup). The Resource Manager provides an API that enables other components **4320** to obtain current connection data. Also, the Resource Manager obtains configuration data via an API provided by the Configuration Manager.

[**0338**] For the provisioned requests, which may be persistent, the associated parameters are stored in flash memory **4310**, e.g., via the Flash interface **3637**, which may be DOS file based. Upon reset, the Resource Manager retrieves the parameters from flash memory via the Flash Interface and restores them automatically.

[**0339**] For signaled requests, which may be non-persistent, the associated parameters may be stored in RAM at the Node Manager. Upon reset, these lightpaths must be re-established based on user requests, or other switches could re-establish them.

[**0340**] The Resource Manager component also logs all relevant events via the Logger, updates its MIB, and provides its status to the Watchdog component.

[**0341**] 23.2.2 Event Manager

[**0342**] The Event Manager **3632** receives events from the Core Embedded system software **3641** and distributes those events to high level components (e.g., other software components/functions at the System Services **3630** and Applications **3610**). It is also used for communication between

high level components in cases where the communication is one-way (as opposed to request/response). **FIG. 44** depicts its context diagram.

[**0343**] The Event Manager sends events to components based on their registrations/subscriptions to the events. That is, in an important aspect of the push model of the present invention, components can subscribe/unsubscribe to certain events of interest to them. Any application that wants to accept events registers with the Event Manager **3632** as an event listener. Moreover, there is anonymous delivery of events so that specific destinations for the events do not have to be named. For example, when something fails in the hardware, an alarm is sent to whoever (e.g., which application) has registered for that type of alarm. Advantageously, the sender of the alarm does not have to know who is interested in particular events, and the receivers of the events only receive the types of events in which they are interested. The OTS software architecture thus uses a push model since information is pushed from a lower layer to a higher layer in near real-time.

[**0344**] The Event Manager may be used as a middleman between two components for message transfer. For example, a component A, which wants to send a message X to another component B, sends it to the Event Manager. Component B must subscribe to the message X in order to receive it from the Event Manager.

[**0345**] In particular, the event library software (EventLib) may include the following routines:

[**0346**] EventRegister( )—register for an event to get an event message when the event occurs;

[**0347**] EventUnRegister( )—un-register for an event; and

[**0348**] EventPost( )—post an event.

[**0349**] These routines return ERROR when they detect an error. In addition, they set an error status that elaborates the nature of the error.

[**0350**] Normally, high-level applications, e.g. signaling, routing, protection, and NMS agent components, register for events that are posted by Core Embedded components, such as device drivers. High-level components register/un-register for events by calling EventRegister( )/EventUnRegister( ). Core Embedded components use EventPost( ) to post events.

[**0351**] The Event Dispatcher may be implemented via POSIX message queues for handling event registration, un-registration, and delivery. It creates a message queue, ed_dispQ, when it starts. Two priority levels, high and low, are supported by ed_dispQ. When a component registers for an event by calling EventRegistero, a registration event is sent to ed_dispQ as a high priority event. Event Dispatcher registers the component for that event when it receives the registration event. If the registration is successful an acknowledgment event is sent back to the registering component. A component should consider the registration failed if it does not receive an acknowledgment within a short period of time. It is up to the component to re-register for the event. A component may register for an event for multiple times with the same or different message queues. If the message queue is the same, later registration will over-write earlier registration. If the message queues are different, multiple registrations for the same event will co-exist, and events will be delivered to all message queues when they are posted.

[**0352**] Furthermore, event registration may be permanent or temporary. Permanent registrations are in effect until cancelled by EventUnRegister( ). EventUnRegister( ) sends a un-register event (a high priority event) to ed_dispQ for Event Dispatcher to un-register the component for that event. Temporary registrations are cancelled when the lease time expired. A component may pre-maturely cancel a temporary registration by calling EventUnRegister( ). If the un-registration is successful, an acknowledgment event is delivered to the message queue of the component.

[**0353**] When a component uses EventPost( ) to post an event, the posted event is placed in ed_dispQ, too. An event is either a high priority or a low priority event. To prevent low priority events from filling up ed_dispQ, the low priority event is not queued when posted if ed_dispQ is more than half full. This way, at least half of ed_dispQ is reserved for high priority events. Event Dispatcher delivers an event by moving the event from ed_dispQ to the message queues of registered components. So, a component must create a POSIX message queue before registering for an event and send the message queue name to the Event Dispatcher when it registers for that event. Moreover, a component may create a blocking or non-blocking message queue. If the message queue is non-blocking, the component may set up a signal handler to get notification when an event is placed in its message queue.

[**0354**] If the message queue of a component is full when Event Dispatcher tries to deliver an event, the event is silently dropped. Therefore, components should ensure there is space in its message queue to prevent an event from being dropped.

[**0355**] 23.2.3 Software Version Manager

[**0356**] The Software Version Manager (SVM) **3633** is responsible for installing, reverting, backing up and executing of software in the Node Manager and LCMs. Its context diagram is depicted in **FIG. 45**. The SVM maintains and updates software on both the Node Manager and the LCMs by keeping track of the versions of software that are used, and whether a newer version is available. Generally, different versions of Node Manager software and LCM software can be downloaded remotely from the NMS to the Node Manager from time to time as new software features are developed, software bugs are fixed, and so forth. The Node Manager distributes the LCM software to the LCMs. The SVM keeps a record of which version of software is currently being used by the Node Manager and LCMs.

[**0357**] In particular, the SVM installs new software by loading the software onto flash memory, e.g., at the Node Manager. The SVM performs backing up by copying the current software and saving it on another space on the flash memory. The SVM performs the reverting operation by copying the back up software to the current software. Finally, the SVM performs the execution operation by rebooting the Node Manager or the LCMs.

[**0358**] In particular, for installation, the SVM receives an install command from the NMS agent that contains the address, path and filename of the code to be installed. The SVM may perform a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) operation

to store the code into its memory. Then, it uses the DOS Flash interface services **3637** to store the code into the flash memory. In performing the backup operation for the Node Manager software, the SVM receives the backup command from the NMS agent. The SVM uses the DOS Flash interface to copy the current version of the code to a backup version. In the revert operation for the Node Manager software, the SVM receives the revert command from the NMS agent and uses the DOS Flash interface to copy the backup version of the software to the current version.

[**0359**] The Node Manager software is executed by rebooting the Node Manager card.

[**0360**] The Installation, reverting, backing up and executing operations can also be performed on the software residing on the line cards. In particular, for installation, the software/firmware is first "FTPed" down to the Node Manager's flash memory. Then, the new firmware is downloaded to the line card. This new code is stored in the line card's flash memory. The new code is executed by rebooting the line card.

[**0361**] 23.2.4 Configuration Manager

[**0362**] The Configuration Manager **3634** maintains the status of all OTS hardware and software components. Its context diagram is shown in **FIG. 46**. The legend **4610** indicates whether the communications between the components use the Event Manager, an API and TCP, or message passing. During the first OTS system boot up, the Configuration Manager obtains the desired configuration parameters from the database/server (or possibly a configuration file) at the NMS. The LCMs are responsible for monitoring the status of the line cards. When a line card becomes active, it immediately generates a Discovery message that the LCM for each optical card forwards to the Event Manager **3632** that is running on the Node Manager. The Configuration Manager receives these messages by subscribing to them at the Event Manager. It then compares the stored configuration versus the reported configuration. If there is a difference, the Configuration Manager sets the configuration according to the stored data by sending a message to the LCM via the Event Manager and S-Interface. It also reports an error and stores the desired configuration in the Node Manager's flash memory.

[**0363**] When the system is subsequently re-booted, the operation is identical, except the desired configuration is stored in flash memory.

[**0364**] The LCMs are configured to periodically report a status of their optical line cards. Also, when a device fails or has other anomalous behavior, an event message such a fault or alarm is generated. The Configuration Manager receive these messages via the Event Manager, and issues an event message to other components. Moreover, while not necessary, the Configuration Manager may poll the LCMs to determine the line card status if it is desired to determine the status immediately.

[**0365**] If the configuration table in the Node Manager's flash memory is corrupted, the Configuration Manager may request that the database/server client gets the information (configuration parameters) via the database/server, which resides in the NMS host system. After configuring the devices, the Configuration Manager posts an event to the Event Manager so that other components (e.g., NMS Agent and the Resource Manager) can get the desired status of the devices.

[**0366**] The desired configuration can be changed via CLI or NMS command. After the Configuration Manager receives a request from the NMS or CLI to change a device configuration, the Configuration manager sends an "S" message down to the LCMs to satisfy the request. Upon receiving the acknowledge message that the request was carried out successfully, the Configuration Manager sends an acknowledgement message to the requester, stores the new configuration into the database service, logs a message to the Logger, and post an event via the Event Manager.

[**0367**] Moreover, the NMS/CLI can send queries to the Configuration Manager regarding the network devices'configurations. The Configuration Manager retrieves the information from the database and forwards them to the NMS/CLI. The NMS/CLI can also sends a message to the Configuration Manager to change the reporting frequency or schedule of the device/line card.

[**0368**] 23.2.5 Logger

[**0369**] The Logger **3635** sends log messages to listening components such as debugging tasks, displays, printers, and files. These devices may be directly connected to the Node Manager or connected via a socket interface.

[**0370**] The Logger's context diagram is shown in **FIG. 47**. The Logger is controlled via the CLI, which may be implemented as either a local service or remote service via Telnet.

[**0371**] The control may specify device(s) to receive the Logging messages (e.g., displays, files, printers—local or remote), and the level of logging detail to be captured (e.g., event, error event, parameter set).

[**0372**] 23.2.6 Watchdog

[**0373**] The Watchdog component **3638** monitors the state ("health") of other (software) components in the Node Manager by verifying that the components are working.

[**0374**] 23.2.7 Flash Memory Interface

[**0375**] A Disk Operating System (DOS) file interface may be used to provide an interface **3637** to the flash memory on the Node Manager for all persistent configuration and connection data. Its context diagram is depicted in **FIG. 48**. The legend **4820** indicates that the components communicate using an API and TCP. The Resource Manager **3631** and Configuration Manager **3634** access the Flash Memory **4810** as if it were a DOS File System. Details of buffering and actual writing to flash are vendor-specific.

[**0376**] 23.2.8 Application "S" Message Manager

[**0377**] The Application "S" Message Manager receives messages from the Node Manager's Core Embedded software, also referred to as control plane software.

[**0378**] 23.3 Applications Layer

[**0379**] 23.3.1 Protection/Fault Manager

[**0380**] The primary function of the Protection/Fault Manager component is to respond to alarms by isolating fault conditions and initiating service restoration. The Protection/Fault Manager isolates failures and restores service, e.g., by providing alternate link or path routing to maintain a con-

nection in the event of node or link failures. As depicted in **FIG. 37**, the Protection/Fault Manager interfaces with the Logger **3635**, WatchDog **3636**, Resource Manager **3631**, Configuration Manager **3634**, Event Manager **3632**, NMS Agent **3620**, NNI Signaling **3615** and Other Switches/OTSs **3710**. The legend **3720** indicates the nature of the communications between the components. The Protection/Fault Manager subscribes to the Event Manager to receive events related to the failure of links or network devices. When the Protection/Fault Manager receives a failure event and isolates the cause of the alarm, it determines the restorative action and interacts with the appropriate application software to implement it. If there is problem isolating or restoring service, the problem is handed over to the NMS for resolution.

[**0381**] Some service providers may elect to perform their own protection by requesting two disjoint paths. With this capability, the service provider may implement 1+1 or 1:1 protection as desired. When a failure occurs, the service provider can perform the switchover without any assistance from the optical network. However, the optical network is responsible for isolating and repairing the failure.

[**0382**] Using the Event Manager, the Protection/Fault component also logs major events via the Logger component, updates its MIB, and provides its status to the Watchdog component. It also updates the Protection parameters in the shared memory.

[**0383**] 23.3.2 UNI Signaling

[**0384**] The Signaling components includes the User-Network Interface (UNI) signaling and the internal Network-Network Interface (NNI) signaling. The primary purpose of signaling is to establish a lightpath between two endpoints. In addition to path setup, it also performs endpoint Registration and provides a Directory service such that users can determine the available endpoints.

[**0385**] The UNI signaling context diagram is depicted in **FIG. 38**. The UNI uses both message passing and APIs provided by other components to communicate with other components. The legend **3830** indicates whether the communications between the components use an API and TCP, or message passing.

[**0386**] The UNI component provides a TCP/IP interface with User devices **3810**, e.g., devices that access the optical network via an OTS. If the User Device does not support signaling, a NMS proxy signaling agent **3820** resident on an external platform performs this signaling.

[**0387**] When a valid "create lightpath" request is received, the UNI invokes the NNI to establish the path. In addition to creating a lightpath, users may query, modify or delete a lightpath.

[**0388**] The UNI Signaling component **3614** obtains current configuration and connection data from the Configuration and Resource Managers, respectively. It logs major events via the Logger component, updates its MIB used by the SNMP Agent, and provides a hook to the WatchDog component to enable the WatchDog to keep track of its status.

[**0389**] 23.3.3 NNI Signaling

[**0390**] The NNI signaling component **3615**, depicted in **FIG. 39**, performs the internal signaling between switches in the optical network, e.g., using MPLS signaling. The legend **3910** indicates whether the communications between the components use the Event Manager, an API and TCP, or message passing.

[**0391**] As discussed, requests for service to establish a lightpath between two endpoints may be received over the UNI from an external device or a proxy signaling agent. Upon receipt of the request, UNI signaling validates the request and forwards it, with source and destination endpoints, to the NNI signaling function for setup. Source-based routing may be used, in which case NNI must first request a route from the Routing component **3618**. Several options are available, e.g., the user may request a path disjoint from an existing path.

[**0392**] The Routing component **3618** returns the selected wavelength and set of switches/OTSs that define the route. Then, the NNI signaling component requests the Resource Manager **3631** to allocate the local hardware components implementing the path, and forwards a create message to the next switch in the path using TCP/IP over the OSC.

[**0393**] Each OTS has its local Resource Manager allocate hardware resources to the light path. When the path is completed, each OTS returns an acknowledgment message along the reverse path confirming the successful setup, and that the local hardware will be configured. If the attempt failed due to unavailability of resources, the resources that had been allocated along the path are de-allocated. In order for other components (other than UNI, e.g., Routing) to learn if an attempt if the path setup was successful, the NNI distributes (posts) a result event using the Event Manager **3632**.

[**0394**] Moreover, the NNI Signaling component **3615** obtains current configuration data from the Configuration Manager **3634**, and connection data from the Resource Manager **3631**. It also logs major events via the Logger component **3635**, updates its MIB used by the SNMP Agent, and provides a hook to the WatchDog component **3636** to enable the WatchDog to keep track of its status.

[**0395**] 23.3.4 Command Line Interface

[**0396**] The CLI task **3616**, an interface that is separate from the GUI interface, provides a command-line interface for an operator via a keyboard/display to control or monitor OTSs. The functions of the CLI **3616** include setting parameters at bootup, entering a set/get for any parameter in the Applications and System Services software, and configuring the Logger. The TL-**1** craft interface definition describes the command and control capabilities that are available at the "S" interface. Table 5 lists example command types that may be supported.

TABLE 5

TL-1 Craft Command List

Craft Command	Parameters	Description
Rtrv-alm	Type, slot, severity	Retrieve alarm messages
Rtrv-crs	Type, port	Retrieves cross connect information
Rtrv-eqpt OTS node	Address-id	Retrieves the equipage (configuration) of the
Rtrv-hist	Start, end	Retrieves the event history

TABLE 5-continued

TL-1 Craft Command List

Craft Command	Parameters	Description
Rtrv-ali	Port, wavelength, mode	Retrieves the ALI port parameters
Rtrv-node	N/A	Retrieves OTS node parameters
Rtrv-pmm	Slot, port, wavelength	Retrieves the performance monitor meas.
Rtrv-port	Port	Retrieves per port performance measurements
Rtrv-prot-sws	Port	Retrieves path protection connections
Set-ali	Out-port, in-port, mode	Sets ALI port parameters
Set-node	Id, date, time, alm-delay	Sets OTS node parameters
Set-port	Port, wavelength, thresh	Sets port and wavelength thresholds

[0397] 23.3.5 NMS Database Client

[0398] Optionally, an NMS database client **3617** may reside at the Node Manager to provide an interface to one or more database servers at the NMS. One possibility is to use LDAP servers. Its context diagram is depicted in **FIG. 40**. As shown, the database/server client **3617** interacts with the NMS's database server, and with the Configuration Manager **3634**. Upon request from the Configuration manager, the database client contacts the server for configuration data. Upon receiving a response from the server, the client forwards the data to the Configuration Manager. The legend **4020** indicates whether the communications between the components use the Event Manager, or an API and TCP.

[0399] Since the Configuration Data is stored in the Node Manager's flash memory, the database client may be used relatively infrequently. For example, it may be used to resolve problems when the stored configuration is not consistent with that obtained via the LCM's discovery process.

[0400] Moreover, there may be primary and backup database servers, in which case the client keeps the addresses of both servers. If the primary server does not function, after waiting for a pre-determined period, the client forwards the request to the backup server.

[0401] Moreover, when the Configuration Manager makes changes to its configuration table, the Configuration Manager posts an event to the Event Manager. The Event Manager forwards the event to the NMS Agent, which in turn forwards the event to the NMS application. The NMS application recognizes the event and contacts the server to update its table.

[0402] 23.3.6 Routing

[0403] The Routing Component **3618** computes end-to-end paths in response to a request from the NNI component. The context diagram, **FIG. 41**, depicts its interfaces with the other components. The legend **4110** indicates whether the communications between the components use the Event Manager, an API and TCP, or message passing.

[0404] The Routing Component, which may implement the OSPF routing algorithm with optical network extensions, is invoked by the NNI Signaling component at the path source during setup. Routing parameters are input via the SNMP Agent.

[0405] Routing is closely related to the Protection/Fault Manager. As part of the protection features, the Routing component may select paths that are disjoint (either link disjoint or node and link disjoint as specified by signaling) from an existing path.

[0406] Moreover, as part of its operation, the Routing component exchanges Link State Advertisement messages with other switches. With the information received in these messages, the Routing component in each switch maintains a complete view of the network such that it can compute a path.

[0407] 23.3.7 NMS Agent

[0408] The embedded NMS Agent **3620** provides the interface between NMS applications **4210** (e.g., configuration, connection, topology, fault/alarm, and performance) and the Applications resident on the Node Manager. The NMS agent may use SNMP and a proprietary method. **FIG. 42** shows the context diagram of the NMS Agent. The legend **4220** indicates whether the communications between the components use the Event Manager, an API and TCP, or message passing. The NMS Agent operates using a "pull model"—all of the SNMP data is stored locally with the relevant component (e.g., UNI, NNI, Routing, Protection). When the NMS Agent must respond to a Get request, it pulls the information from its source.

[0409] The NMS Agent receives requests from an NMS application and validates the request against its MIB tables. If the request is not validated, it sends an error message back to the NMS. Otherwise, it sends the request using a message passing service to the appropriate component, such as the Signaling, Configuration Manager, or Resource Manager components.

[0410] For non-Request/Response communications, the NMS agent may subscribe to events from the Event managers. The events of interest include the "change" events posted by the Resource Manager, Configuration Manager and the UNI and NNI components, as well as messages from the LCMs. Upon receiving events from the Event Manager or unsolicited messages from other components (e.g., Signaling), the NMS Agent updates its MIB and, when necessary, sends the messages to the NMS application using a trap.

[0411] 24. Line Card Manager Software

[0412] **FIG. 49** illustrates a Line Card Manager software architecture in accordance with the present invention.

[0413] In the OTS control hierarchy, the LCM software **4900** is provided below the "D" interface **3690**, and generally includes a Core Embedded control layer to provide the data telemetry and I/O capability on each of the physical interfaces, and an associated operating system that provides the protocols (e.g., TCP/IP) and timer features necessary to support real-time communications. The LCM software **4900**, which may run on top of an operating system such as VxWorks, includes an LCM "D" Message Manager **4970** for sending messages to, and receiving messages from, the Node Manager "D" Message Manager **3646** via the "D" interface **3690**. This manager **4970** is an inter-process communication module which has a queue on it for queuing messages to the Node Manager. An LCM Configuration Manager **4972** is a master process for spawning and initial-

izing all other LCM tasks, and performs functions such as waking up the LCM board, configuring the LCM when the system/line card comes up, and receiving voltages and power.

[0414] The LCM line card tasks **4973** include tasks for handling a number of line cards, including an TP_IN handler or task **4976**, an OA_IN handler **4978**, a OPM handler **4980**, a clock (CLK) handler **4982**, a TP_EG handler **4984**, an OA_EG handler **4986**, an OSF handler **4988**, an ALI handler **4990**, and an OSM handler **4992**. Here, the line card handlers can be thought of as being are XORed such that when the identity of the pack (line card) is discovered, only the corresponding pack handler is used. Advantageously, the LCM software **4900** is generic in that it has software that can handle any type of line card, so there is no need to provide a separate software load for each LCM according to a certain line card type. This simplifies the implementation and maintenance of the OTS. Alternatively, it is possible to provide each LCM with only the software for a specific type of line card.

[0415] Each of the active line card handlers can declare faults based on monitored parameters that they receive from the respective line card. Such faults may occur, e.g., when a monitored parameter is out of a pre-set, normal range. The line card handlers may signal to the customer that fault conditions are present and should be examined in further detail, by using the Node Manager and NMS.

[0416] Moreover, the line card handlers use push technology in that they push event information up to the next layer, e.g., the Node Manager, as appropriate. This may occur, for example, when a fault requires attention by the Node Manager or the NMS. For example, a fault may be pushed up to the Alarms Manager **3654** at the Node Manager Core Embedded Software, where an alarm is set and pushed up to the Event manager **3632** for distribution to the software components that have registered to receive that type of alarm. Thus, a lower layer initiates the communication to the higher layer.

[0417] The clock handler **4982** handles a synchronizing clock signal that is propagated via the electrical backplane (LAN) from the Node Manager to each LCM. This is necessary, for example, for the line cards that handle SONET signals and thereby need a very accurate clock for multiplexing and demultiplexing.

[0418] Generally speaking, the LCM performs telemetry by constantly collecting data from the associated line card and storing it in non-volatile memory, e.g., using tables. However, only specific information is sent to the Node Manager, such as information related to a threshold crossing by a monitored parameter of the line card, or a request, e.g., by the NMS through the Node Manager, to read something from the line card. A transparent control architecture is provided since the Node Manager can obtain fresh readings from the LCM memory at any time.

[0419] The Node Manager may keep a history log of the data it receives from the LCM.

[0420] 25. Node Manager Message Interfaces

[0421] As mentioned, the Node Manager supports two message interfaces, namely the "D" Message Interface, which is for messages exchanged between the LCMs and the Node Manager, and the "S" Message interface, which is for messages exchanged between the application software and the Core Embedded system services software on the Node Manager.

[0422] 25.1 "D" Message Interface Operation

[0423] The "D" message interface allows the Node Manager to provision and control the line cards, retrieve status on demand and receive alarms as the conditions occur. Moreover, advantageously, upgraded LCMs can be connected in the future to the line cards using the same interface. This provides great flexibility in allowing baseline LCMs to be fielded while enhanced LCMs are developed. Moreover, the interface allows the LCMs and Node Manager to use different operating systems.

[0424] The Core Embedded Node Manager software builds an in-memory image of all provisioned data and all current transmission-specific monitored parameters. The Node Manager periodically polls each line card for its monitored data and copies this data to the in-memory image in SDRAM. The in-memory image is modified for each alarm indication and clearing of an alarm, and is periodically saved to flash memory to allow rapid restoration of the OTS in the event of a system reboot, selected line card reboot or selected line card swap. The in-core memory image is organized by type of line card, instance of line card and instances of interfaces or ports on the type of line card. Each LCM has a local in-memory image of provisioning information and monitored parameters specific to that board type and instance.

[0425] The "D" message interface uses a data link layer protocol (Layer **2**) that is carried by the OTS's internal LAN. The line cards and Node Manager may connect to this LAN to communicate "D" message using RJ-45 connectors, which are standard serial data interfaces. A "D" Message interface dispatcher may run as a VxWorks task on the LCM. The LCM is able to support this dispatcher as an independent process since the LCM processor is powerful enough to run a multi-tasking operating system. The data link layer protocol, which may use raw Ethernet frames (including a destination field, source field, type field and check bits), avoids the overhead of higher-level protocol processing that is not warranted inside the OTS. All messages are acknowledged, and message originators are responsible for retransmitting a message if an acknowledgement is not received in a specified time. A sniffer connected to the OTS system's internal LAN captures and display all messages on the LAN. A sniffer is a program and/or device that monitors data traveling over a network. The messages should be very easy to comprehend.

[0426] Preferably, all messages are contained in one standard Ethernet frame payload to avoid message fragmenting on transmission, and reassembly upon receipt. Moreover, this protocol is easy to debug, and aids in system debugging. Moreover, this scheme avoids the problem of assigning a network address to each line card. Instead, each line card is addressed using its built-in Ethernet address. Moreover, the Node Manager discovers all line cards as they boot, and adds each line card's address to an address table.

[0427] This use of discovery messages combined with periodic audit messages obviates the need for equipage leads (i.e., electrical leads/contacts that allow monitoring of cir-

cuits or other equipment) in the electrical backplane, and the need for monitoring of such leads by the Node Manager. In particular, when it reboots, an LCM informs the Node Manager of its presence by sending it a Discovery message. Audit messages are initiated by the Node Manager to determine what line cards are present at the OTS.

[0428] 25.1.1 "D" Interface Message Types

[0429] The following message types are defined for the "D" interface.

[0430] READ Message Pair—Used by the Node Manager to retrieve monitored parameters from the LCMs. The Node Manager sends Read Request messages to the LCMs, and they respond via Read Acknowledge messages.

[0431] WRITE Message Pair—Used by the Node Manager to write provisioning data to the LCMs. The Node Manager sends Write Request messages to the LCMs, and they respond via Write Acknowledge messages.

[0432] ALARM Message Pair—Used by the LCM to inform the Node Manager of alarm conditions. A LCM sends an Alarm message to the Node Manager indicating the nature of the alarm, and the Node Manager responds with an Alarm Acknowledge message.

[0433] DISCOVERY message (autonomous)—Used by the LCM to inform the Node Manager of its presence in the OTS when the line card reboots. The Node Manager responds with a Discovery Acknowledge message.

[0434] AUDIT message—Used by the Node Manager to determine what line cards are present in the OTS. The LCM responds with a Discovery Acknowledge message.

[0435] 25.1.2 "D" Interface Message Definitions

[0436] Tables 6-11 define example "D" message interface packets. Note that some of the messages, such as the "discovery" and "attention" messages, are examples of anonymous push technology since they are communications that are initiated by a lower layer in the control hierarchy to a higher layer.

TABLE 6

Instruction Codes in LCM to Node Manager Packets

Code (hex)	Name	Description
60	Discovery	first packet sent after power-up
61	attention	sending alarm and data
11	data	sending data requested
31	ack	acknowledge data write packet
36	nack	error - packet not accepted

[0437]

TABLE 7

LCM originated "Discovery" Packet

Function	Size (16-bit words)	Description
Dest. address (Node Manager)	3	hex FF:FF:FF:FF:FF:FF
Source address (LCM)	3	hex <OTS LCM MAC PREFIX>: pack pos. ID
protocol key	1	hex BEEF
sw process tag	2	initially 0, after time-out 1
instruction	1	hex 0060
pack type	1	pack type, version, serial number
data size	1	hex 0000

[0438]

TABLE 8

LCM originated "Attention" Packet

Function	Size (16-bit words)	Description
Dest. address (Node Manager)	3	Node Manager MAC address from received packet
Source address (LCM)	3	hex <OTS LCM MAC PREFIX>: pack position ID
Protocol key	1	hex BEEF
Sw process tag	2	initially 0, after time-out 1
Instruction	1	hex 0061
Pack type	1	pack type, version, serial number
Data size	1	number of 16-bit data words to follow
ADC measures	16	last measured values of analog inputs
Limit select	1	16 limit select bits in use
Alarm mask	1	16 alarm mask bits in use
Status reg.	4	64 pack status bits
Status reg. level select	4	64 status alarm level select bits
Status reg. mask	4	64 status alarm mask bits in use
ADC attn bits	2	16 analog limit exception bits
Status attn bits	4	64 status exception bits
Device results	32	control and results registers

[0439]

TABLE 9

LCM "Response" Packet

Function	Size (16-bit words)	Description
Dest. address (Node Manager)	3	Node Manager address from received packet
Source address (LCM)	3	hex <OTS LCM MAC PREFIX>: pack position ID
Protocol key	1	hex BEEF
Sw process tag	2	copied from request packet
Instruction	1	see Table 8
Address	1	copied from request packet
Data size	1	number of 16-bit data words to follow
Data	n	payload

[0440]

TABLE 10

Instruction Codes in Node Manager to LCM Packets

Code (Hex)	Name	Description
50	First ack	acknowledging the "Discovery" packet
51	Alarm ack	acknowledging "Attention" packet
01	Read	read data from address indicated
02	Write	write data to address indicated
03	Wsw	write switch
15	Bitwrite	bit position to change: where mask word bit = 1 data to write: data word
41	Reload	causes re-loading the MPC8255 microcontroller from EPROMs
42	Soft reset	causes "soft reset" of the pack
43	Hard reset	causes "hard reset" of the pack

[0441]

TABLE 11

Node Manager - originated packets

Function	Size (16-bit words)	Description
Dest. address (Node Manager)	3	hex <OTS LCM MAC PREFIX> : pack pos. ID
Source address (LCM)	3	MAC address of OTS Node Manager
Protocol key	1	hex BEEF
sw process tag	2	sequence number
Instruction	1	see Table 8
Address	1	LCM register, or other valid on-pack location
data size	1	number of 16-bit data words to follow
Data	n	payload

[0442] 25.2 "S" Message Interface

[0443] The "S" message interface of the Node Manager provides the application layer software with access to the information collected and aggregated at the "D" message interface. Information is available on the Core Embedded software side (control plane) of the "S" message interface by line card type and instance for both read and write access. An example of read access is "Get all monitored parameters for a particular line card instance." An example of write access is "Set all control parameters for a specific line card instance." Performance can be increased by not supporting Gets and Sets on individual parameters.

[0444] For example, these messages may register/deregister an application task for one or more alarms from all instances of a line card type, provide alarm notification, get all monitored parameters for a specific line card, or set all control parameters for a specific line card.

[0445] The "S" message interface is an abstraction layer: it abstracts away, from the application software's perspective, the details by which the lower-level Node Manager software collected and aggregated information. While providing an abstract interface, the "S" Message Interface still provides the application layer software with access to the aggregated information and control obtained from the hardware via the "D" Message Interface, and from the Node Manager state machines. Moreover, the "S" interface defines how the TL-**1** craft interface is encoded/decoded by the Node Manager. The TL-**1** craft interface definition describes the command and control capabilities that are available at the "S" interface. See section 23.3.4, entitled "Command Line Interface."

[0446] The application software using the "S" Message interface may run as, e.g., one or more VxWorks tasks. The Core Embedded software may run as a separate VxWorks task also. To preserve the security afforded by the RTOS to independent tasks, the "S" Message Interface may be implemented using message queues, which insulates both sides of the interface from a hung or rebooting task on the opposite side of the interface. As for the LCM, this division of the Node Manager software into independent tasks is possible because the Node Manager is powerful enough to run a multi-tasking operating system. Therefore, the present inventive control architecture utilizes the presence of a multi-tasking operating system at all three of its levels: LCM, Node Manager and NMS. This multi-tasking ability has been exploited at all levels of control to produce a system that is more modularized, and therefore more reliable, than prior approaches to optical network control.

[0447] 26. Example OTS Embodiment

[0448] Summary information of an example embodiment of the OTS is as follows:

Optical Specs:	
Wavelength capacity:	64 wavelength channels
Fiber wavelength density:	8 wavelengths
Data rate:	Totally transparent
Physical topology:	Point-to-Point
Lightpath topology:	Point-to-Point
Wavelength spacing:	200 GHz (ITU-grid)
Optical bandwidth (channels):	C and L bands
Wavelength protection:	Selectable on a per lightpath basis

[0449] Optical Modules:

[0450] (i) Optical transport Modules

[0451] (ii) Optical switching module

[0452] (iii) Optical add/drop module

[0453] (iv) Optical performance monitoring module

[0454] Access Line Interface Modules:

[0455] Optical line interface cards: GbE, OC-n/STM-n

[0456] (i) 16-ports (8 input & 8 output) OC-**12** line card

[0457] (ii) 16-ports (8 input & 8 output) OC-**48** line card

[0458] (iii) 16-ports (8 input & 8 output) Gigabit Ethernet line card

[0459] (iv) 4-ports (2 input and 2 output) OC-**192** line card

[0460] Optical Signaling Module:

[0461] 4-Ports using Ethernet Signaling

[0462] Support IP, Ethernet Packets

Node Manager:	
Processors:	MPC8260, MPC755
SDRAM:	256 MB upgradable to 512 MB
Flash Memory:	64 Mbytes
Ethernet Port:	100 BaseT with Auto-Sensing
Ethernet Hubs:	OEM assembly 10 ports, 1 per shelf
Serial Port:	1 EIA 232-D Console Port
Software Upgrades:	Via remote download
Line Card Manager:	
Processor:	MPC8260
SDRAM:	64 MB upgradable to 128 MB
Flash Memory:	16 Mbytes
Ethernet Port:	100 BaseT with Auto-Sensing
Serial Port:	1 EIA 232-D Console Port
Software Upgrades:	Via local download

[0463] Backplanes:

[0464] Optical backplane

[0465] Electrical backplane

[0466] Ethernet LAN interconnecting Node Manager and LCMs

[0467] Chassis

[0468] The OTS system's chassis is designed in a modular fashion for a high density circuit pack. Two stacks of sub-rack systems may be used.

[0469] 27. Glossary

A/D	Analog-to-Digital
ABR	Available Bit Rate
ADM	Add-Drop Multiplexer
ALI	Access Line Interface
API	Application Programming Interface
ATM	Asynchronous Transfer Mode
CBR	Constant Bit Rate
CIT	Craft Interface Terminal
CORBA	Common Object Request Broker Architecture
DAC	Digital-to-Analog Converter
DMA	Direct Memory Access
DWDM	Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing
EDFA	Erbium Doped Fiber Amplifier
EJB	Enterprise Java Beans
EEPROM	Electrically Erasable PROM
EPROM	Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory
FCC	Fast Communication Channel
Gbps	Giga bits per second
GbE	Gigabit Ethernet
GPIO	General Purpose Input-Output (interface)
GUI	Graphical User Interface
HDLC	High-Level Data Link Control
IETF	Internet Engineering Task Force
I^2C	Inter Integrated Circuit (bus)
IP	Internet Protocol
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
JDK	Java Development Kit (Sun Microsystems, Inc.)
L2	Level 2 (cache) or Layer 2 (of OSI model)
LCM	Line Card Manager
LDAP	Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (IETF RFC 1777)
LSR	Label Switch Router

-continued

MAC	Medium Access Control (layer)
MB	Megabyte
MEMS	Micro-Electro-Mechanical System
MIB	Management Information Base
MPC	Motorola ® PowerPC (microprocessor)
MPLS	Multi Protocol Label Switching
NEBS	Network Equipment Building Standards
NMS	Network Management System
nm	Nanometers
OA	Optical Access Or Optical Amplifier
OA_Eg	Optical Access Egress
OA_In	Optical Access Ingress
OADM	Optical Add Drop Multiplexer
OC-n	Optical Carrier—specifies the speed (data rate) of a fiber optic network that conforms to the SONET standard. "n" denotes the speed as a multiple of 51.84 Mbps, such that OC – 12 = 622.08 Mbps, OC – 48 = 2.488 Gbps, etc.
ODSI	Optical Domain Service/System Interconnect
OEO	Optical To Electrical To Optical (conversion)
OEM	Original Equipment Manufacturer
OPM	Optical Performance Monitoring Module
OSC	Optical Signaling Channel
OSF	Optical Switch
OSI	Open Standards Interconnection
OSM	Optical Signaling Module
OSNR	Optical Signal To Noise Ratio
OSPF	Open Shortest Path First
OSS	Operational Support Systems
OTS	All-Optical Transport Switching System
OXC	Optical Cross Connect
PCI	Peripheral Component Interconnect
PCMCIA	Personal Computer Memory Card International Association
PHY	Physical (layer)
PIN	Photo Intrinsic
POP	Point Of Presence
PVC	Permanent Virtual Circuit
QoS	Quality of Service
RISC	Reduced Instruction Set Computer
RMI	Remote Method Invocation
RWA	Routing and Wavelength Assignment
RTOS	Real-Time Operating System
Rx	Receiver
SDH	Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (Networks)
SDRAM	Synchronous Dynamic Random Access Memory
SerDes	Serializer/Deserializer
SMC	Shared Memory Cluster
SNMP	Simple Network Management Protocol
SONET	Synchronous Optical Network
SPI	Special Peripheral Interface
STM	Synchronous Transport Mode
SW	Software or Switch
TCP	Transmission Control Protocol
TDM	Time Division Multiplexing
TMN	Telecommunication Management Network (an ITU-T standard)
TP	Trunk Port/Transport
TP_Eg	Transport Egress
TP_In	Transport Ingress
Tx	Transmitter
UBR	Unspecified Bit Rate
VBR	Variable Bit Rate
VME	VersaModule Eurocard (bus)
WAN	Wide Area Network
WDD	Wavelength Division Demultiplexer
WDM	Wavelength Division Multiplexer
WXC	Wavelength Cross Connect

[0470] Accordingly, it can be seen that the present invention provides a line card manager architecture for use at an optical switch in an optical communications network. A line card manager with a dedicated processor is provided for each line card. The line cards include access line interface cards, transport ingress cards, transport egress cards, optical access ingress cards, optical access egress cards, switching

fabric cards, optical performance measurement cards, and optical signaling cards. The line card manager includes an interface for receiving monitored parameters from a line card, a memory for storing the values, and a controller for processing the values to determine if an event such as a fault should be set, e.g., when a monitored parameter is out of range, as indicated by a threshold crossing. The event is reported to a node manager, which manages the different line card managers. A local area network may be used at the optical switch to allow the LCMs and Node Manager to exchange messages. The line card manager may apply control signals to the line card on its own or at the direction of the node manager. The line card manager is preferably a removable plug-in module or daughter board of the line card to allow easy upgrades and maintenance.

[0471] While the invention has been described and illustrated in connection with preferred embodiments, many variations and modifications as will be evident to those skilled in this art may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, and the invention is thus not to be limited to the precise details of methodology or construction set forth above as such variations and modification are intended to be included within the scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A management architecture for use at an optical switch in an optical network, comprising:

a line card manager at the optical switch for managing an associated line card at the optical switch;

said line card manager comprising:

(a) a first interface for receiving monitored parameter values from the line card;

(b) processing resources for setting an event regarding the line card when criteria for setting the event is met by the monitored parameter values; and

(c) a second interface for communicating the event to a node manager at the optical switch that manages the line card manager.

2. The architecture of claim 1, wherein:

the event comprises a fault regarding the line card.

3. The architecture of claim 1, wherein:

the monitored parameter values comprise at least one of digital and analog parameter values.

4. The architecture of claim 1, wherein:

the line card manager is adapted to communicate the monitored parameter values to the node manager via the second interface.

5. The architecture of claim 1, wherein:

the processing resources are adapted to execute commands received from the node manager via the second interface.

6. The architecture of claim 1, wherein:

the second interface comprises an interface to a local area network at the optical switch that allows the line card manager to communicate with the node manager.

7. The architecture of claim 6, wherein:

the local area network uses a shared medium.

8. The architecture of claim 1, further comprising:

non-volatile memory resources at the line card manager for storing software that is executable by the processing resources for use in managing the line card.

9. The architecture of claim 8, wherein:

the line card is managed by the stored software at the line card manager without requiring software to be downloaded from the Node Manager.

10. The architecture of claim 8, wherein:

the software is loaded from the non-volatile memory resources to the processing resources upon initialization of the line card manager.

11. The architecture of claim 1, further comprising:

non-volatile memory resources at the line card manager for storing a current version and a backup version of software that is executable by the processing resources for use in managing the line card.

12. The architecture of claim 1, further comprising:

a status register at the line card manager for receiving the monitored parameter values from the line card via the first interface.

13. The architecture of claim 1, wherein:

the line card comprises one of a transport ingress line card, transport egress line card, optical access ingress line card, optical access egress line card, access line interface card, switching fabric line card, optical performance monitoring line card, and optical signaling line card.

14. The architecture of claim 1, wherein:

the processing resources comprise a microprocessor for setting the event.

15. The architecture of claim 1, wherein:

the line card manager is provided as a removable plug-in module of the line card.

16. The architecture of claim 1, wherein:

the processing resources are provided with software by the node manager via the second interface; and

the software is executable by the processing resources for use in managing the line card.

17. The architecture of claim 1, further comprising:

memory resources at the line card manager for storing the monitored parameter values.

18. The architecture of claim 1, wherein:

the line card manager is provided with a threshold level by the node manager via the second interface for setting the event when the monitored parameter values cross the threshold level.

19. The architecture of claim 1, wherein:

the processing resources are adapted to apply control signals to the line card via the first interface.

20. The architecture of claim 19, wherein:

the control signals comprise at least one of digital and analog control signals.

21. The architecture of claim 19, further comprising:

a control register at the line card manager for applying the control signals to the line card.

22. The architecture of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one additional line card manager for managing a respective line card at the optical switch;

said additional line card manager comprising:

(a) a first interface for receiving respective monitored parameter values from the respective line card;

(b) processing resources for setting a respective event regarding the respective line card when criteria for setting the respective event is met by the respective monitored parameter values; and

(c) a second interface for communicating the respective event to the node manager at the optical switch;

wherein the node manager manages each of the line card managers.

23. The architecture of claim 22, wherein:

each line card manager provides local control of its respective line card.

24. The architecture of claim 22, wherein:

the respective line card managers communicate via their respective second interfaces with the node manager via a common local area network.

25. A management architecture for use at an optical switch in an optical network, comprising:

line card manager means at the optical switch for managing an associated line card at the optical switch;

said line card manager means comprising:

(a) means for receiving monitored parameter values from the line card;

(b) means for setting an event regarding the line card when criteria for setting the event is met by the monitored parameter values; and

(c) means for communicating the event to a node manager at the optical switch that manages the line card manager means.

26. The architecture of claim 25, further comprising:

at least one additional line card manager means for managing an associated line card at the optical switch;

said additional line card manager means comprising:

(a) means for receiving respective monitored parameter values from the respective line card;

(b) means for setting a respective event regarding the respective line card when criteria for setting the respective event is met by the respective monitored parameter values; and

(c) means for communicating the respective event to the node manager at the optical switch;

wherein the node manager manages each of the respective line card manager means.

27. A method for managing an optical switch in an optical network, comprising:

receiving, at a line card manager at the optical switch, monitored parameter values from an associated line card at the optical switch;

setting an event regarding the line card when criteria for setting the event is met by the monitored parameter values; and

communicating the event to a node manager at the optical switch that manages the line card manager.

28. The method of claim 27, further comprising:

pushing data regarding the line card from the line card manager up to the node manager when the data requires attention by the node manager.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein:

the event is set when the monitored parameter values cross a threshold level.

30. The method of claim 27, further comprising:

receiving, at the line card manager, a line card identifier from the line card for use in identifying a type of the line card.

31. The method of claim 30, further comprising:

providing the line card manager with software for managing a plurality of different types of line cards; and

using a portion of the software for controlling the associated line card according to the received line card identifier.

32. The method of claim 30, wherein:

the type comprises one of a transport ingress line card, transport egress line card, optical access ingress line card, optical access egress line card, access line interface card, switching fabric line card, optical performance monitoring line card, and optical signaling line card.

33. The method of claim 27, further comprising:

multi-tasking, at the line card manager, multiple sense-and-control processes for the line card.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein:

each of the processes involves at least one of monitoring and controlling a corresponding function of the line card.

35. The method of claim 27, further comprising:

receiving, at at least one additional line card manager, respective monitored parameter values from respective associated line cards;

setting an event regarding the respective line card when criteria for setting the event is met by the respective monitored parameter values; and

communicating the event to the node manager;

wherein the node manager manages each of the respective line card managers.

* * * * *