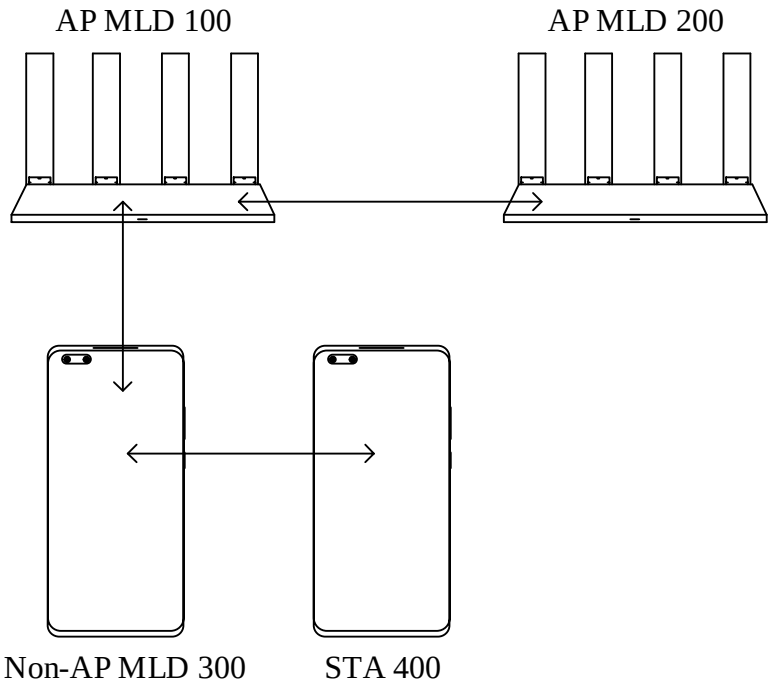


FIG. 1

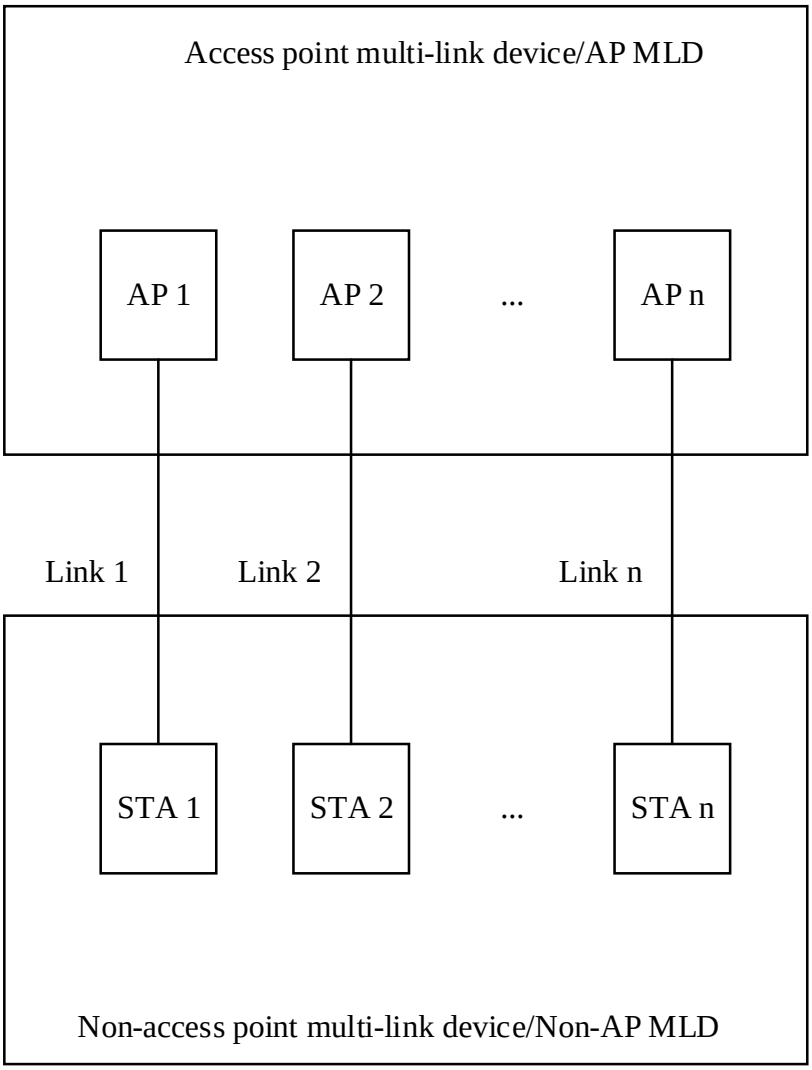

Access point multi-link device/AP MLD
AP 1
AP 2
...
AP n
Link 1
Link 2
Link n
STA 1
STA 2
...
STA n
Non-access point multi-link device/Non-AP MLD

FIG. 2

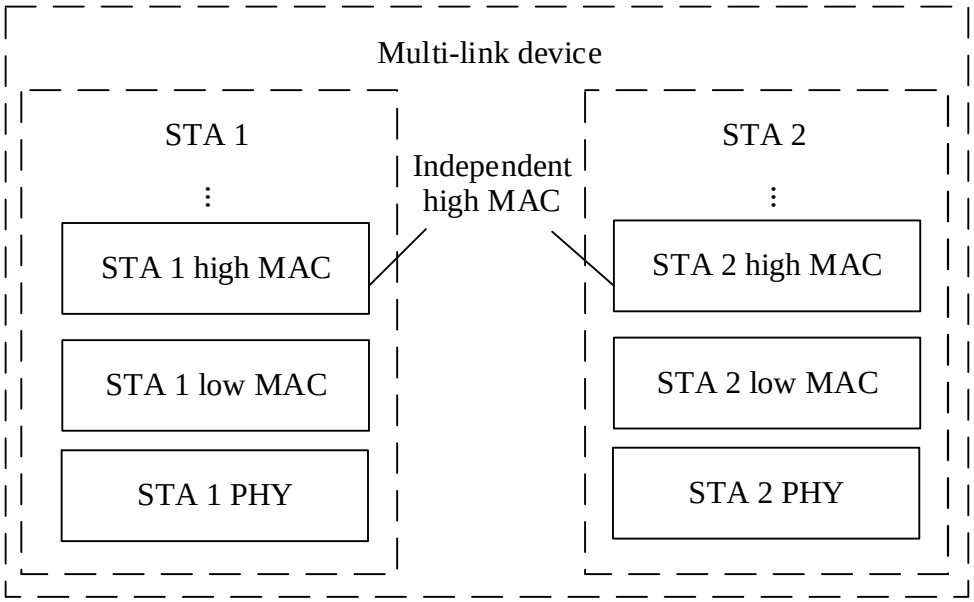

Multi-link device
STA 1
STA 2
Independent high MAC
STA 1 high MAC
STA 2 high MAC
STA 1 low MAC
STA 2 low MAC
STA 1 PHY
STA 2 PHY

FIG. 3a

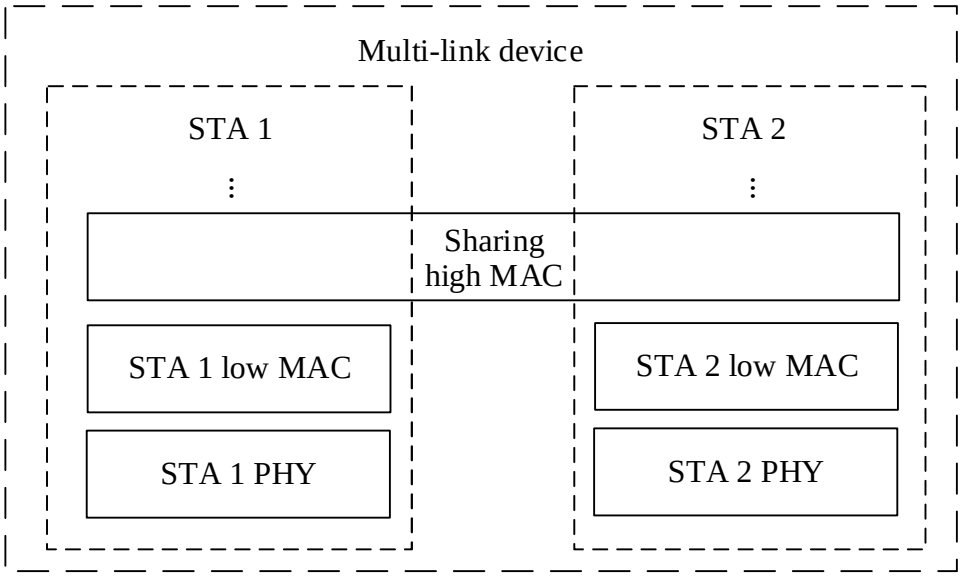

Multi-link device
STA 1
STA 2
Sharing high MAC
STA 1 low MAC
STA 2 low MAC
STA 1 PHY
STA 2 PHY

FIG. 3b

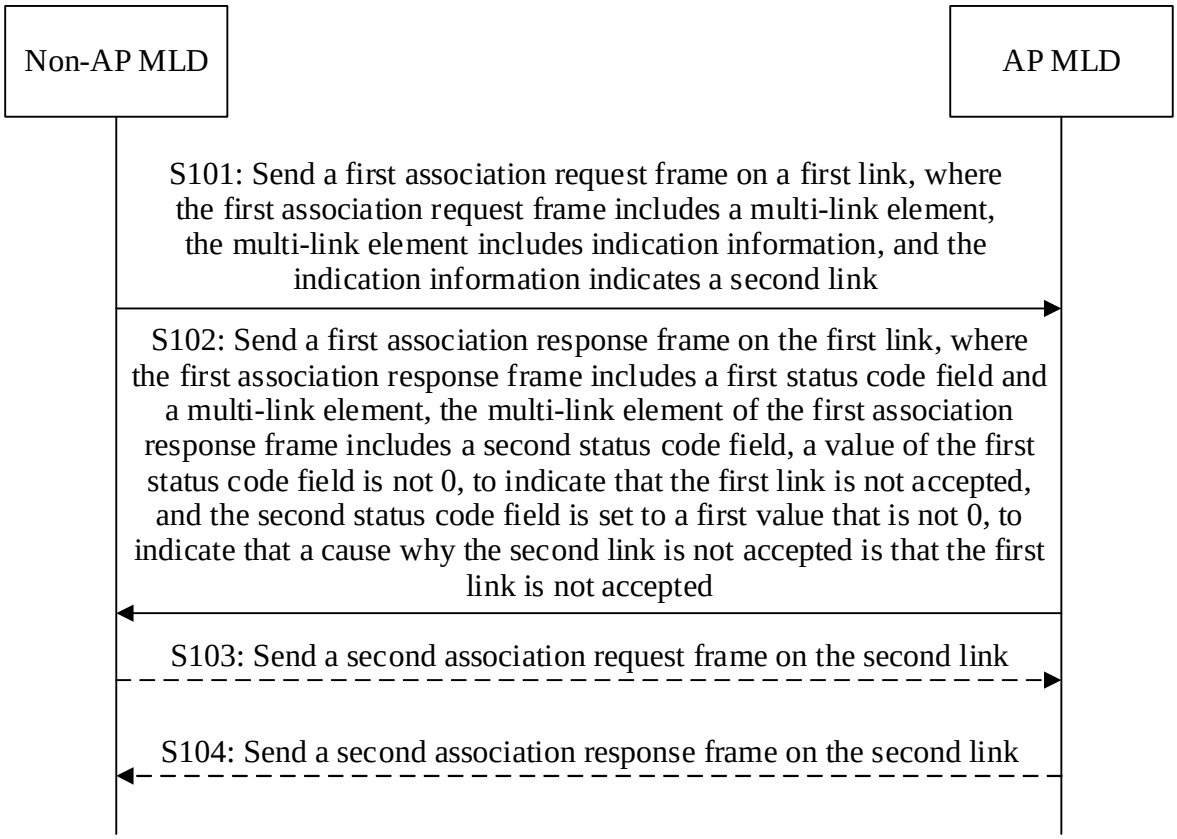

Non-AP MLD
AP MLD
S101: Send a first association request frame on a first link, where the first association request frame includes a multi-link element, the multi-link element includes indication information, and the indication information indicates a second link
S102: Send a first association response frame on the first link, where the first association response frame includes a first status code field and a multi-link element, the multi-link element of the first association response frame includes a second status code field, a value of the first status code field is not 0, to indicate that the first link is not accepted, and the second status code field is set to a first value that is not 0, to indicate that a cause why the second link is not accepted is that the first link is not accepted
S103: Send a second association request frame on the second link
S104: Send a second association response frame on the second link

FIG. 4

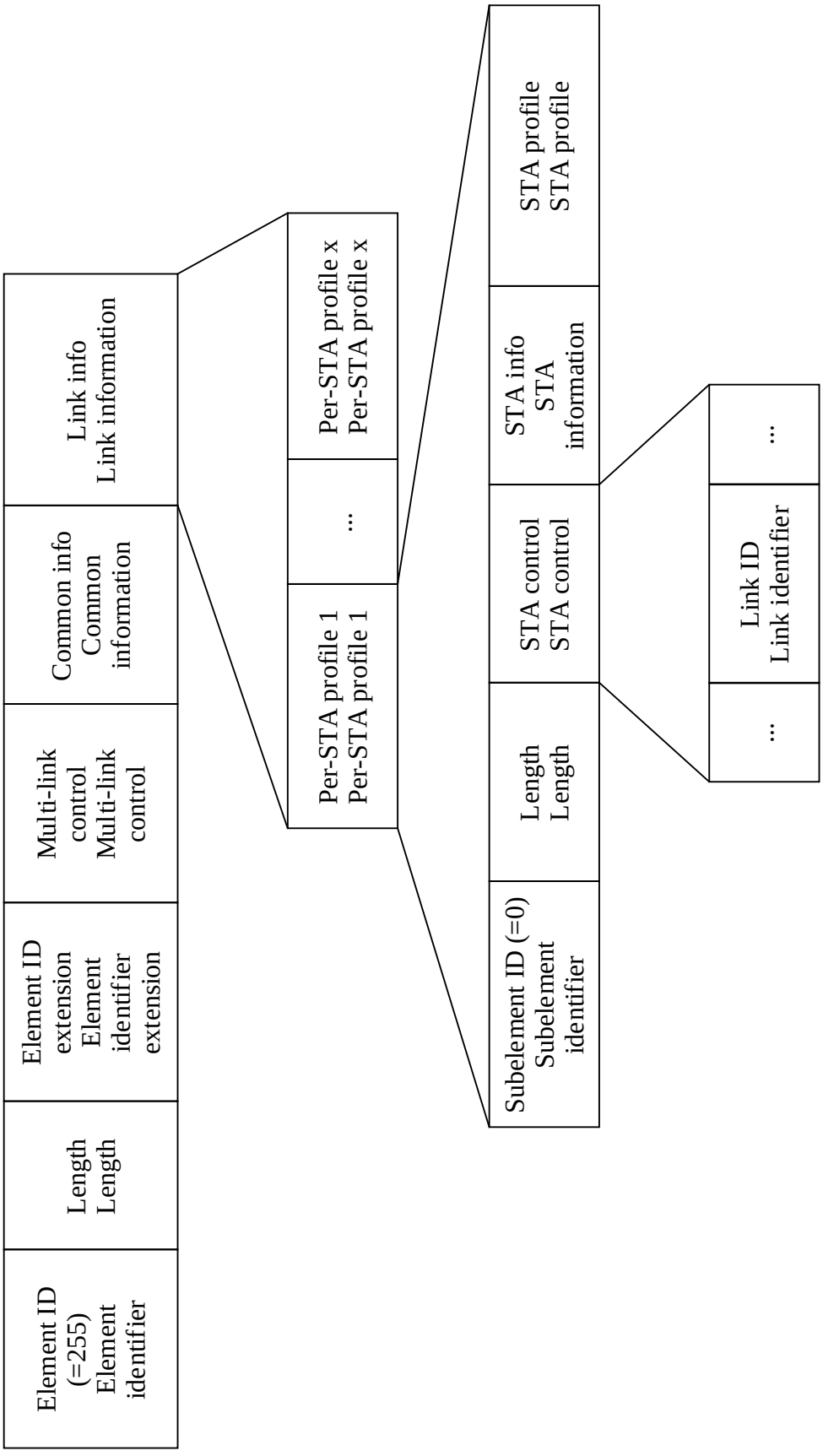

Element ID (=255) Element identifier
Length Length
Element ID extension Element identifier extension
Multi-link control Multi-link control
Common info Common information
Link info Link information
Per-STA profile 1 Per-STA profile 1
...
Per-STA profile x Per-STA profile x
Subelement ID (=0) Subelement identifier
Length Length
STA control STA control
STA info STA information
STA profile STA profile
...
Link ID Link identifier
...

FIG. 5

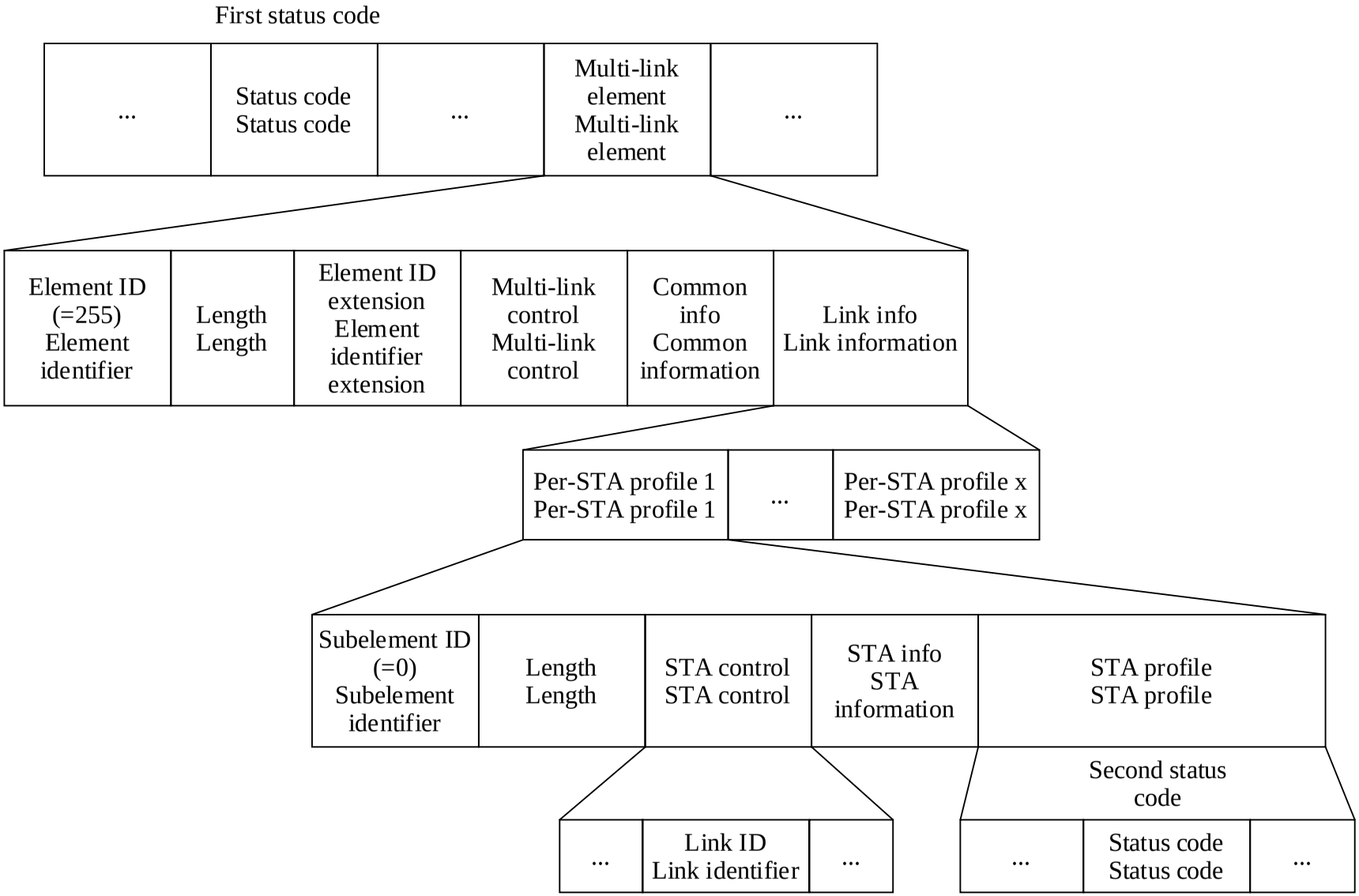

First status code
...
Status code
Status code
...
Multi-link element
Multi-link element
...
Element ID (=255)
Element identifier
Length
Length
Element ID extension
Element identifier extension
Multi-link control
Multi-link control
Common info
Common information
Link info
Link information
Per-STA profile 1
Per-STA profile 1
...
Per-STA profile x
Per-STA profile x
Subelement ID (=0)
Subelement identifier
Length
Length
STA control
STA control
STA info
STA information
STA profile
STA profile
Second status code
...
Link ID
Link identifier
...
...
Status code
Status code
...

FIG. 6

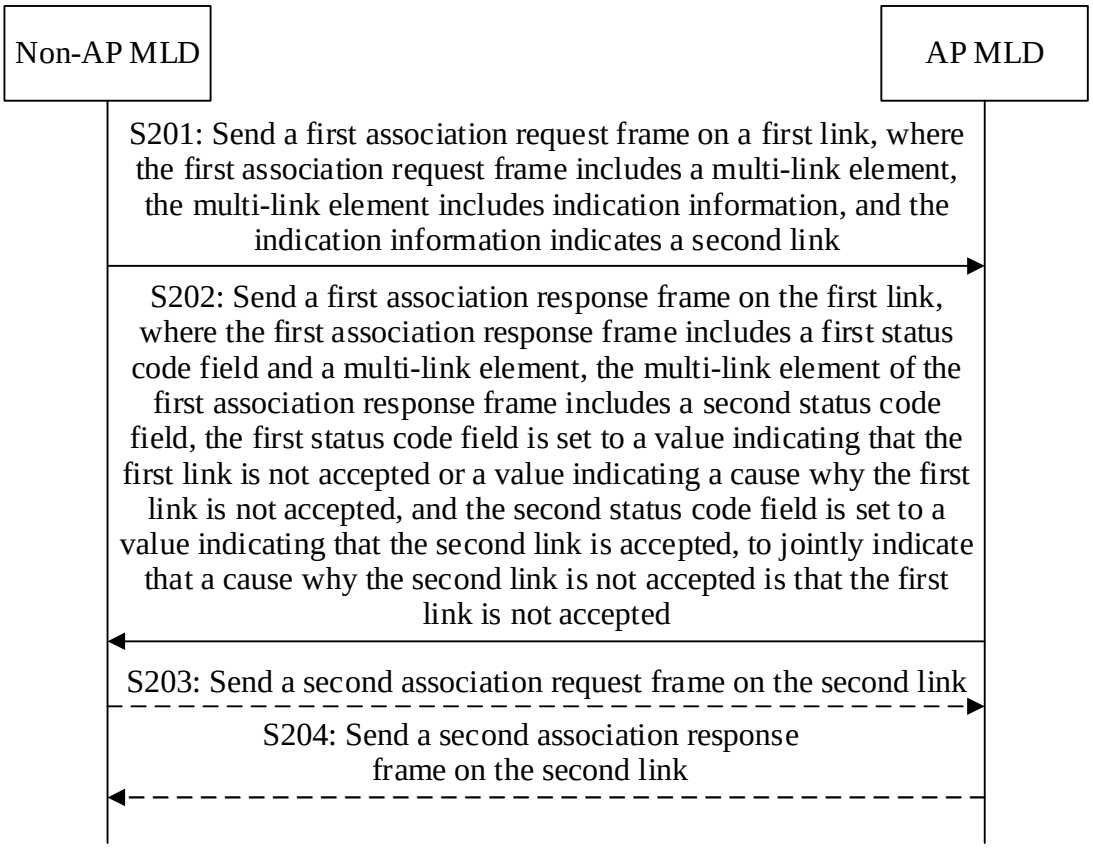

Non-AP MLD
AP MLD
S201: Send a first association request frame on a first link, where the first association request frame includes a multi-link element, the multi-link element includes indication information, and the indication information indicates a second link
S202: Send a first association response frame on the first link, where the first association response frame includes a first status code field and a multi-link element, the multi-link element of the first association response frame includes a second status code field, the first status code field is set to a value indicating that the first link is not accepted or a value indicating a cause why the first link is not accepted, and the second status code field is set to a value indicating that the second link is accepted, to jointly indicate that a cause why the second link is not accepted is that the first link is not accepted
S203: Send a second association request frame on the second link
S204: Send a second association response frame on the second link

FIG. 7

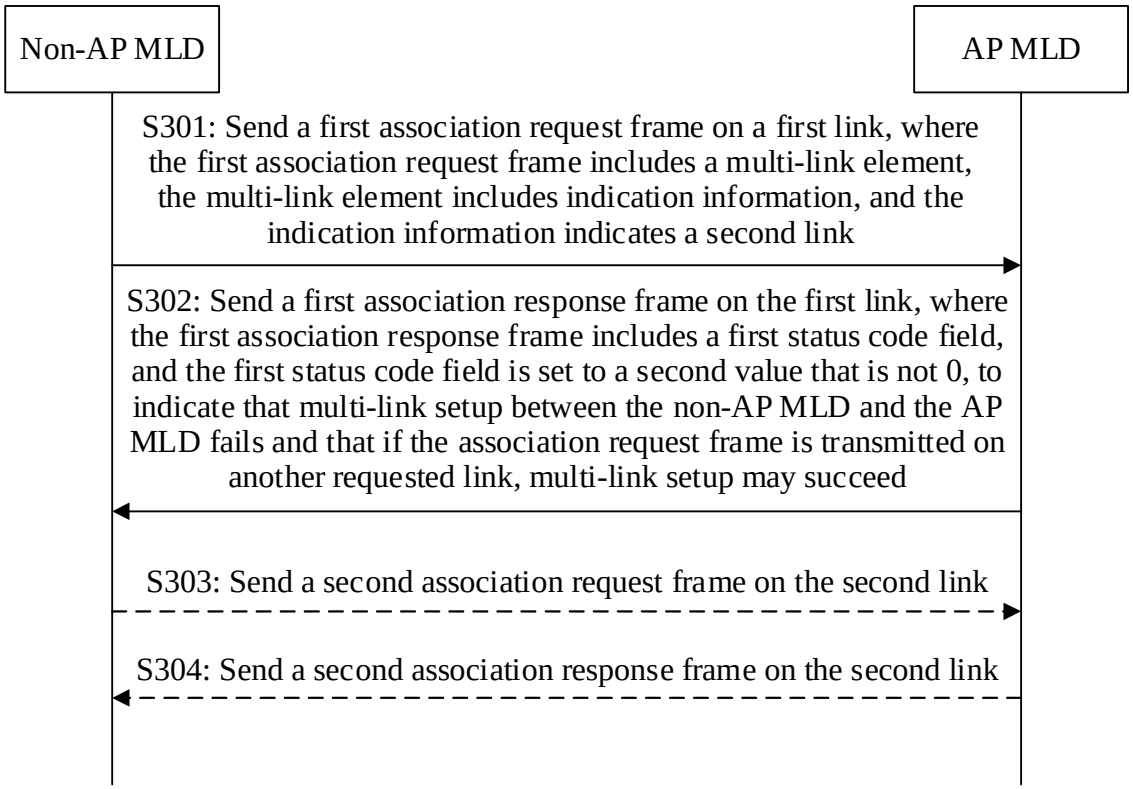

Non-AP MLD
AP MLD
S301: Send a first association request frame on a first link, where the first association request frame includes a multi-link element, the multi-link element includes indication information, and the indication information indicates a second link
S302: Send a first association response frame on the first link, where the first association response frame includes a first status code field, and the first status code field is set to a second value that is not 0, to indicate that multi-link setup between the non-AP MLD and the AP MLD fails and that if the association request frame is transmitted on another requested link, multi-link setup may succeed
S303: Send a second association request frame on the second link
S304: Send a second association response frame on the second link

FIG. 8

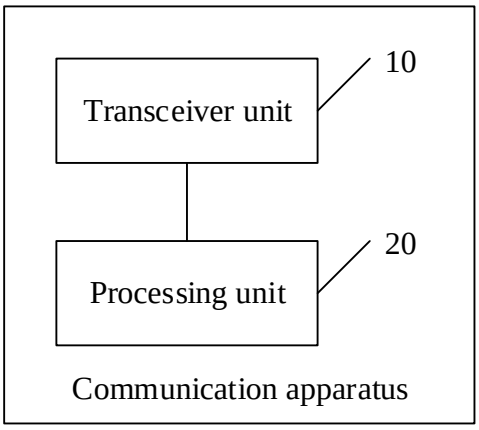

Transceiver unit
10
Processing unit
20
Communication apparatus

FIG. 9

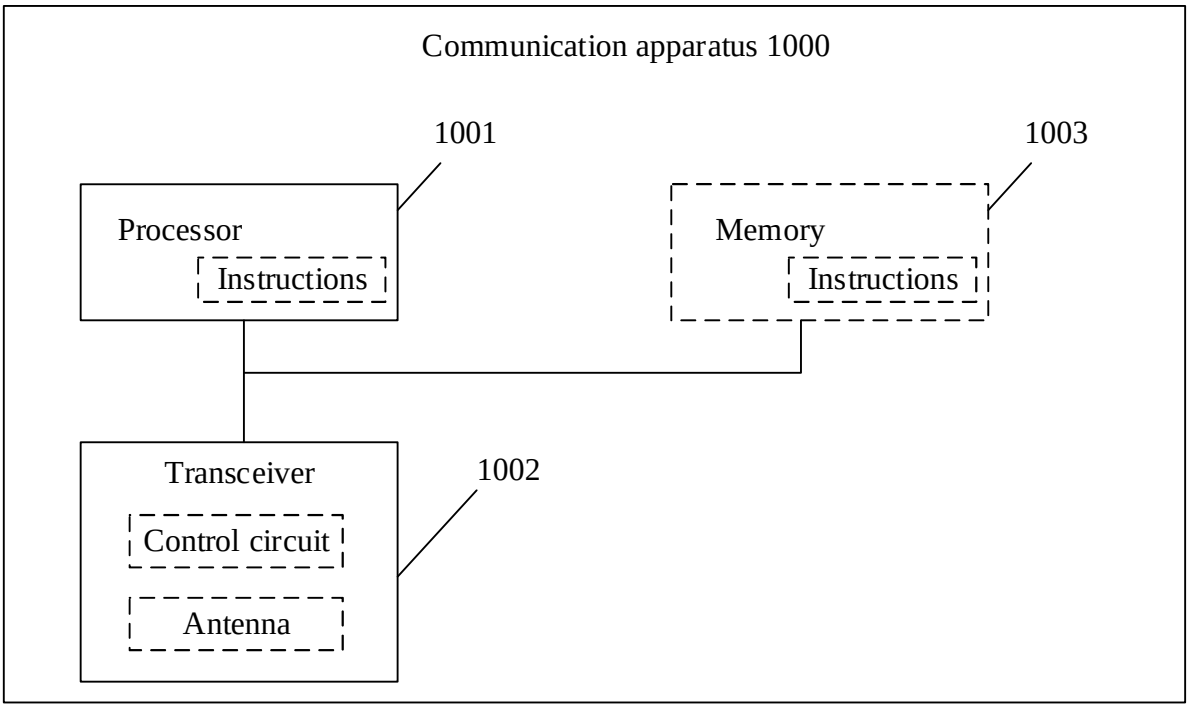

Communication apparatus 1000
1001
Processor
Instructions
1003
Memory
Instructions
Transceiver
1002
Control circuit
Antenna

FIG. 10

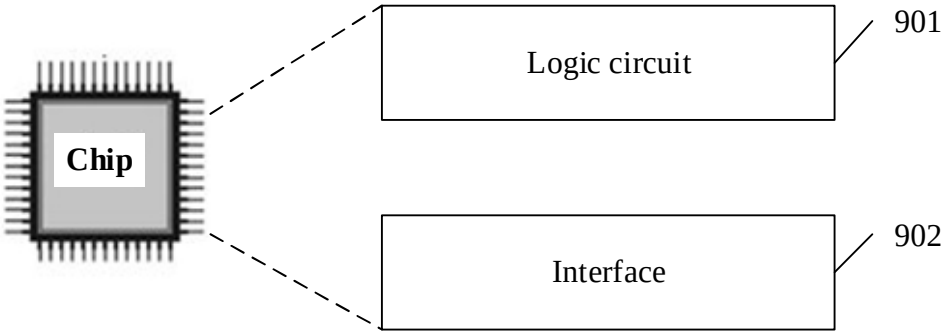

Chip
Logic circuit
901
Interface
902

FIG. 11