



US 20120219284A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**  
**Nian**

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2012/0219284 A1**  
(43) **Pub. Date: Aug. 30, 2012**

(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
PROCESSING TANDEM CONNECTION  
MONITORING LEVEL**

**Publication Classification**

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**H04B 10/08** (2006.01)

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **398/25**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

(21) Appl. No.: **13/258,412**

The disclosure discloses a method for processing a Tandem Connection Monitoring (TCM) level, which comprises: obtaining a route of a service which needs to be configured TCM, obtaining a TCM segment on the route of the service, determining a TCM segment which needs to be configured from the obtained TCM segment, and allocating a TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured according to a segment relationship between the TCM segment which needs to be configured and a configured TCM segment. The disclosure further discloses an apparatus for processing a TCM level. By means of the disclosure, a TCM level can be automatically allocated for a TCM segment and environment of multiple network applications can be applicable.

(22) PCT Filed: **Sep. 10, 2010**

(86) PCT No.: **PCT/CN2010/076790**

§ 371 (c)(1),  
(2), (4) Date: **May 9, 2012**

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Nov. 13, 2009 (CN) ..... 200910237171.5

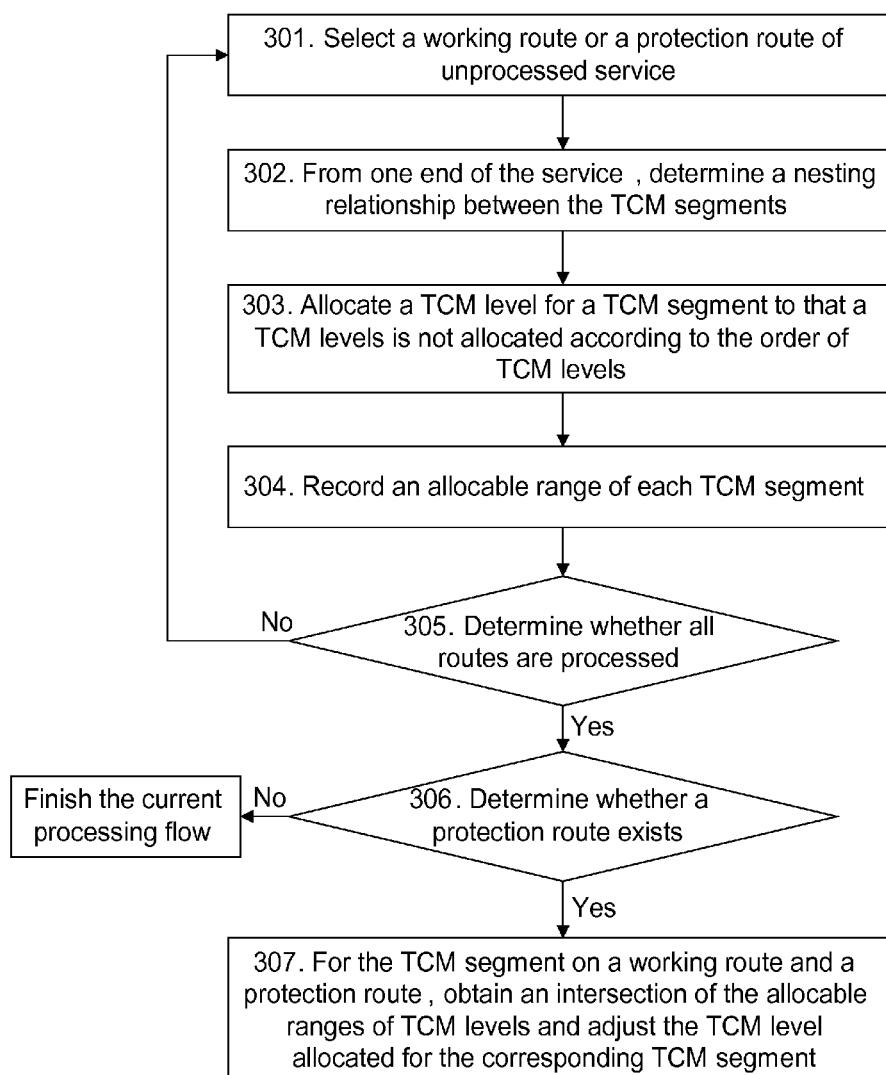
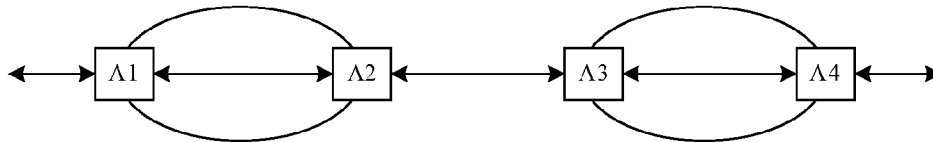
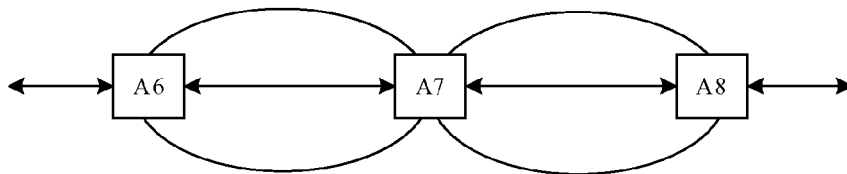


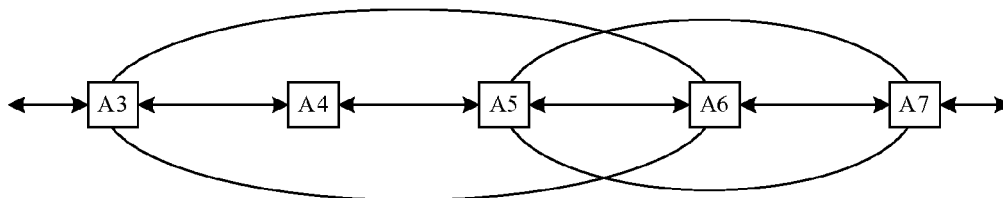
Fig. 1



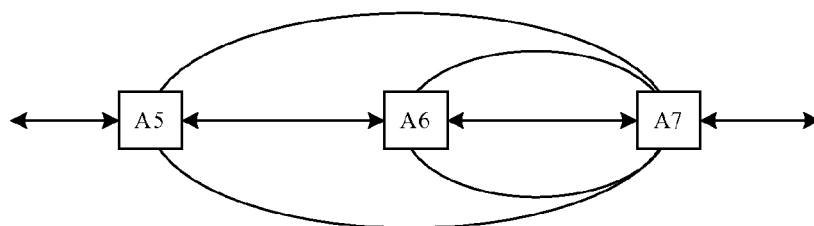
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Fig. 2

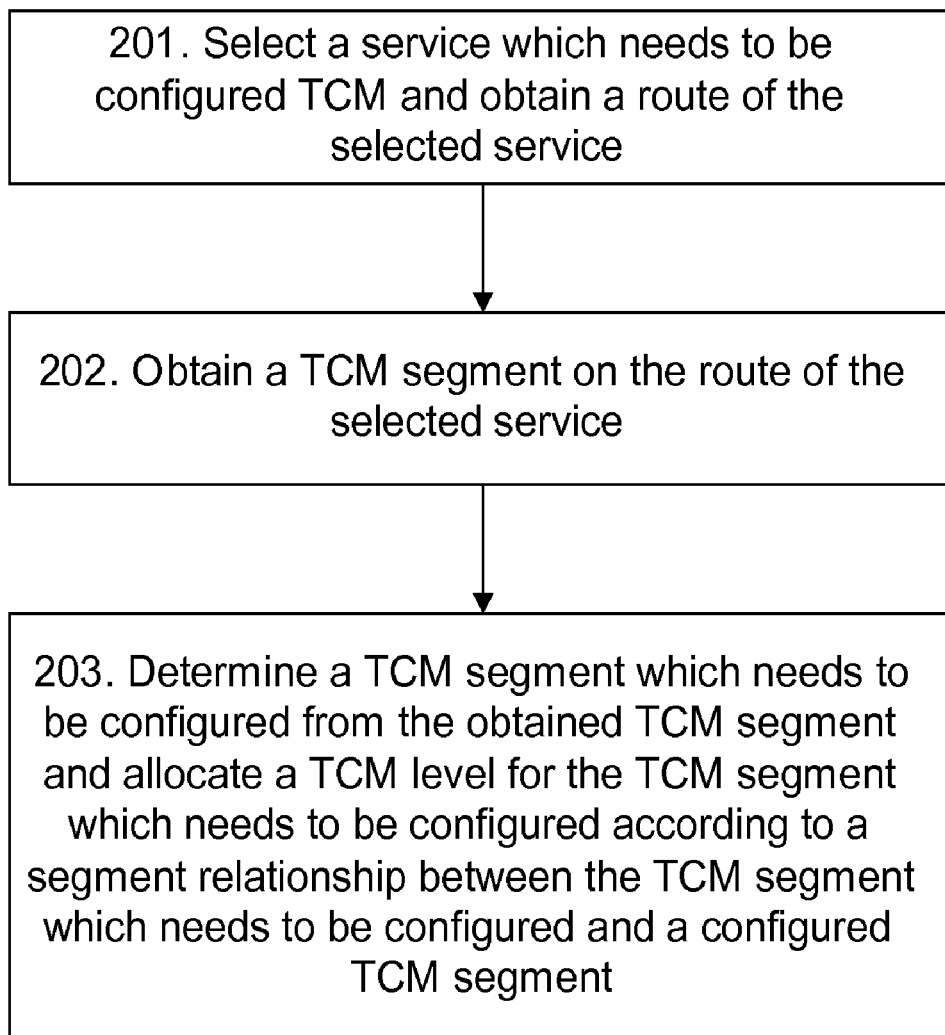
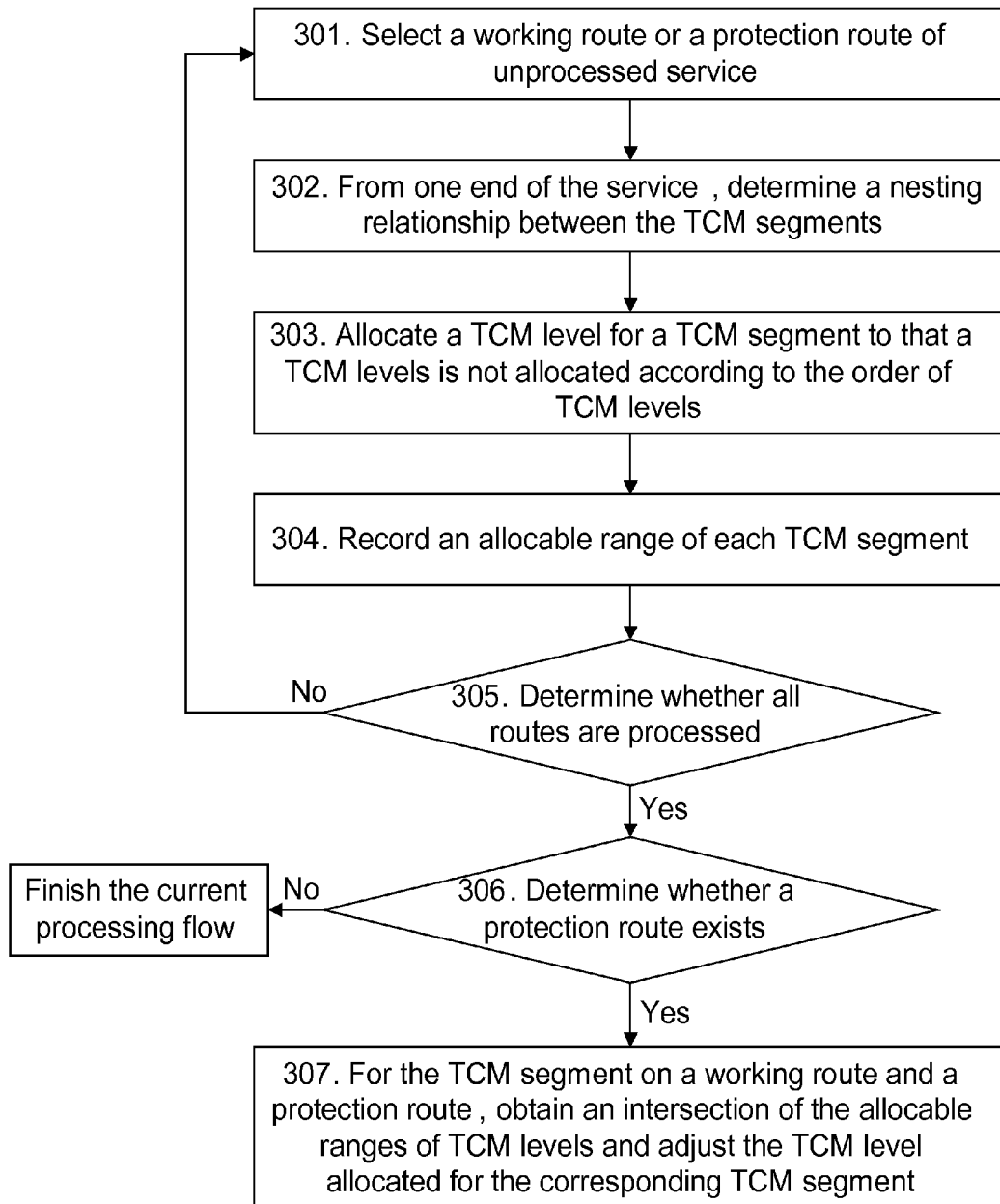
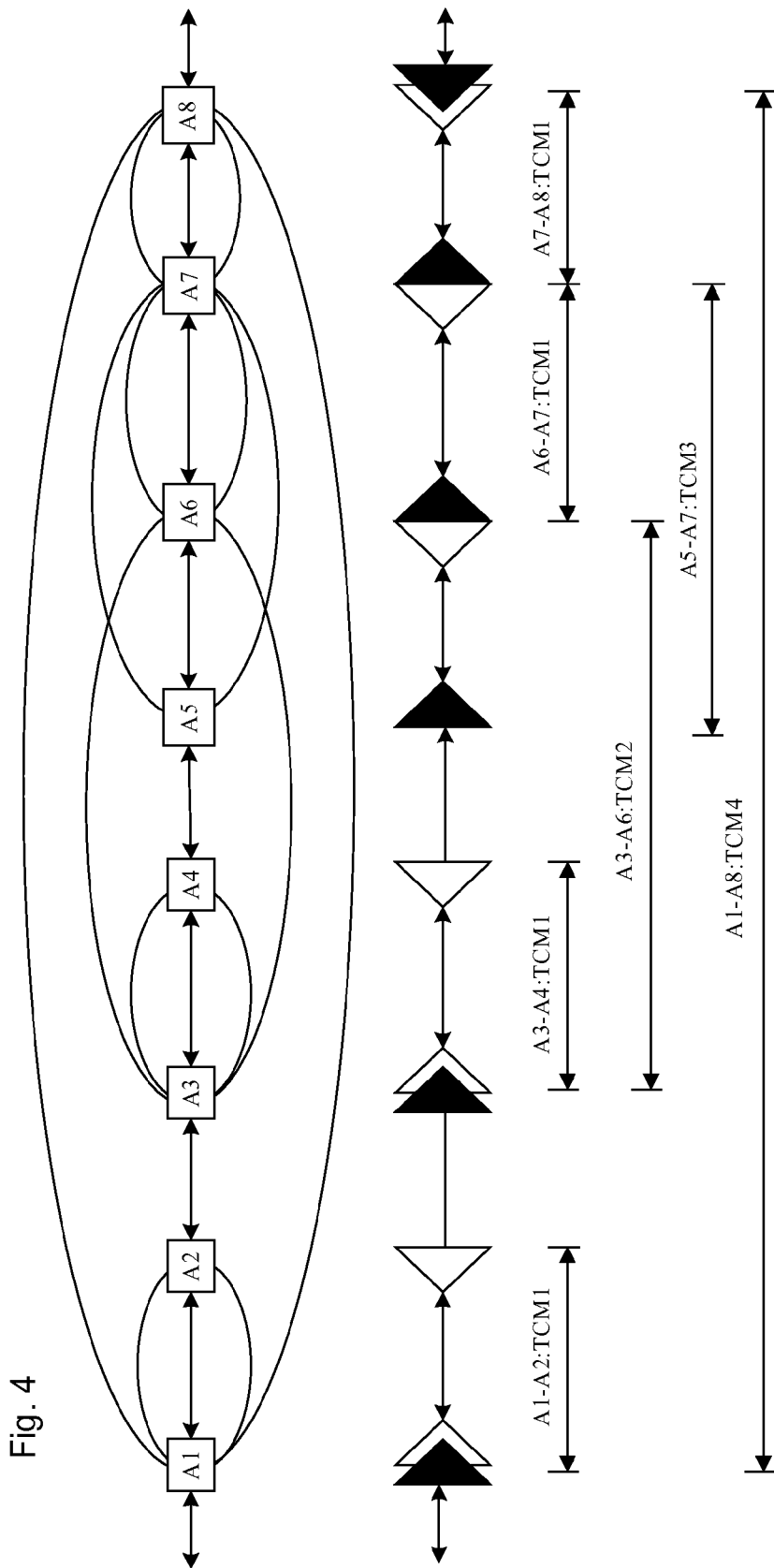


Fig. 3





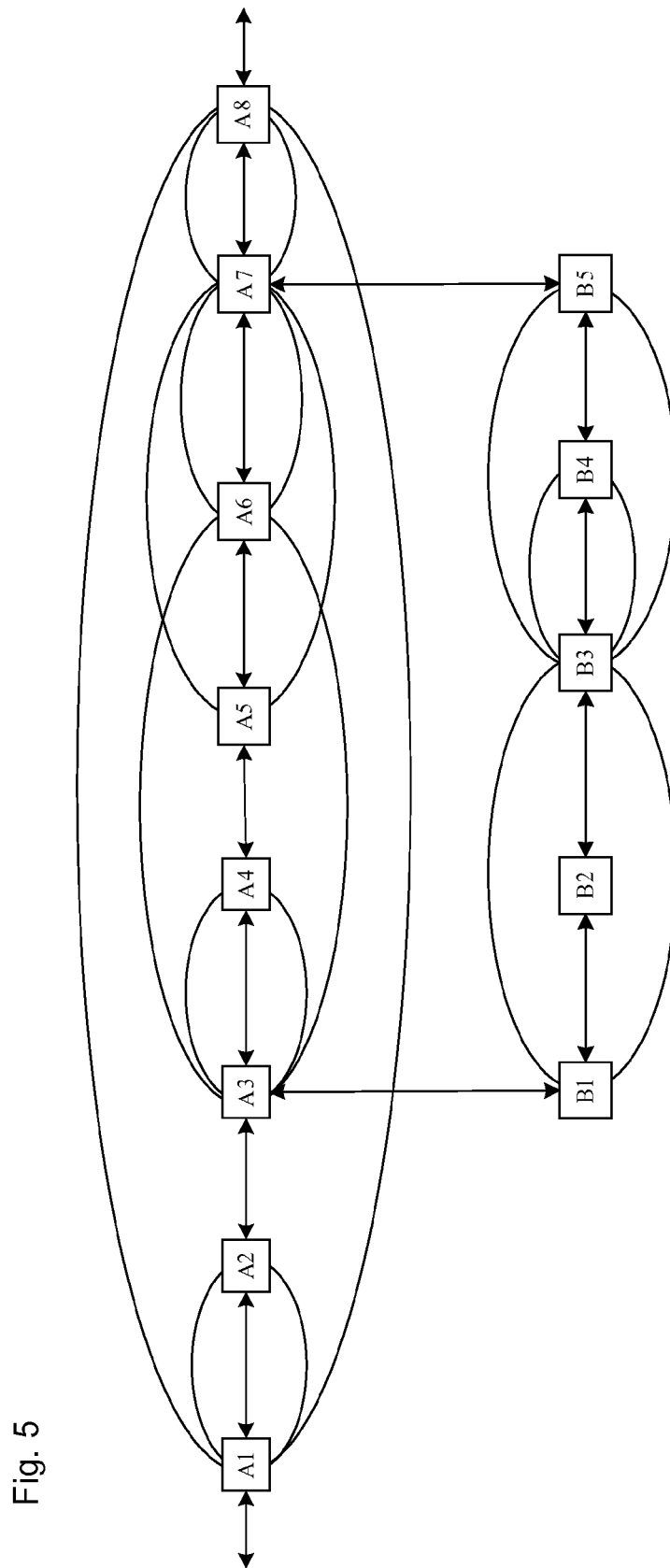


Fig. 5

## METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING TANDEM CONNECTION MONITORING LEVEL

### TECHNICAL FIELD

**[0001]** The disclosure relates to the technology of tandem connection monitoring in an optical communication network, and in particular to a method and an apparatus for processing a tandem connection monitoring level.

### BACKGROUND

**[0002]** At present, an Optical Transport Network (OTN) is the trend of evolution from a transmission network to an all-optical network, and is a new-generation digital and optical transmission system specified by a series of proposals from the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), such as G.872, G.709, G.798 and the like, in which ITU-T G.709 describes related Tandem Connection Monitoring (TCM) functions of the OTN system.

**[0003]** In view of frame structure and overhead of the OTN, the frame structure of the OTN is mainly divided into three layers: Optical Transform Unit (OTU), Optical Data Unit (ODU) and Optical Payload Unit (OPU) layers. In the ODU layer, six levels of TCM OverHead (OH) can be defined, including a Track Tracking Identifier (TTI) for monitoring a sublayer, a Bit Interleaved Parity with length of 8 (BIP-8), a Backward Defect Indicator (BDI), a Backward Error Indicator (BEI), a State domain (STAT) configured to identifying whether a current signal is a maintenance signal, a Backward Inserting Alignment Error (BIAE) and the like, which can perform monitoring of continuity, connectivity and signal quality.

**[0004]** The TCM is mainly applied in two aspects: monitoring the maintenance signal and protecting a network level of the sublayer, and the multi-level TCM is one of the characteristics of the OTN and can greatly increase monitoring capability of service segment. Specifically, the six-level TCM can be implemented by nesting, overlapping and connecting, so that any segment can achieve to be monitored when ODUk connection bridges multiple optical networks or management domains. For example, a service may bridge multiple subnetworks or operators, at this moment, the TCM can be set at a network segment of each subnetwork or a zone managed by each operator, and such TCM is separate due to a different level. This characteristic of the OTN can perform performance monitoring of each zone on one path to improve capability of managing a network.

**[0005]** In the prior art, the level of the TCM is generally designated by a user in a network management system, which can be implemented in the case of a network of small scale and simple networking environment. However, with increase of network scale, a problem occurs very easily in a manual designation in the case of increased network segments to be monitored and a complex relationship between the network segments to be monitored.

**[0006]** To solve the problem occurring in the manual designation, a method of automatically allocating TCM is further proposed in a technology, which specifically comprises: configuring a domain or a range of a domain which needs to be monitored by using TCM in a network, determining ODU services which need to be monitored by using the TCM, and automatically allocating the TCM according to a path of the ODU service and the configured domain to enable or disable

the TCM of each level. However, the present method has some disadvantages as following:

**[0007]** 1) actual service networking environment is not taken into account and not suitable for network application in the actual environment; for example, service during actual networking is generally under protection, and insertion of TCM needs to consider working service and protection service including protection route, and even preset restoration route if it is in the environment of an Automatically Switched Optical Network (ASON); and

**[0008]** 2) the level of the TCM is calculated only according to the division of a subnetwork or a domain instead of segment point of view and analysis of a relationship between segments, resulting in decrease of management flexibility of the TCM level, incapability of generating a TCM segment according to an existing configuration, and incapability of processing the case that a division is not performed according to the domain; for example, in environment of a multilevel network management system, if a lower network management system does not divide a TCM segment according to the domain, the TCM segment cannot be automatically generated in the prior art.

### SUMMARY

**[0009]** In view of the above problems, the main purpose of the disclosure is to provide a method and an apparatus for processing a Tandem Connection Monitoring (TCM) level, which automatically allocates a TCM level for a TCM segment and are suitable for environment of multiple network applications.

**[0010]** To achieve the above purposes, the technical solution of the disclosure is realized as follows.

**[0011]** The disclosure provides a method for processing a TCM level, which comprises:

**[0012]** obtaining a route of a service which needs to be configured TCM, and obtaining a TCM segment on the route of the service; and

**[0013]** determining a TCM segment which needs to be configured from the obtained TCM segment, and allocating a TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured according to a segment relationship between the TCM segment which needs to be configured and a configured TCM segment.

**[0014]** In the above solution, the step of obtaining the route of the service which needs to be configured TCM may comprise: designating a name of the service which needs to be configured TCM; and querying route information of the service according to the designated name of the service.

**[0015]** In the above solution, the method may further comprise: after obtaining the TCM segment on the route of the service and before determining the TCM segment which needs to be configured, automatically generating a TCM segment between an insertion point of the TCM and a monitoring point of the TCM according to a TCM configuration of existing service when a TCM segment that is not obtained exists and data with TCM configured is available.

**[0016]** In the above solution, the step of allocating the TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured may comprise: first allocating a TCM level for a TCM segment that does not nest or overlap other segment according to an order of TCM levels, and then allocating a TCM level for a TCM segment nesting or overlapping other segment when all the other segments have been allocated TCM levels, until the TCM levels are allocated for all the TCM segments.

**[0017]** In the above solution, the method may further comprise: before allocating the TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured, calculating an available TCM level according to the existing TCM configuration of the service;

**[0018]** accordingly, the step of allocating the TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured may further comprise: allocating the calculated available TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured.

**[0019]** In the above solution, the method may further comprise: after allocating the TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured, recording an allocable range of each TCM segment.

**[0020]** In the above solution, the method may further comprise: when determining that a protection route exists, obtaining an intersection of allocable ranges of TCM levels for a TCM segment on a working route and the protection route, and adjusting the TCM level allocated for the corresponding TCM segment.

**[0021]** In the above solution, the route of the service may comprise a working route, a protection route, a preset restoration route. The segment relationship may comprise segment nesting, segment overlapping, segment connecting, segment isolating.

**[0022]** The disclosure further provides an apparatus for processing a TCM level, which comprises: a service route obtaining module, a TCM segment determining module and a TCM level allocating module, wherein

**[0023]** the service route obtaining module is configured to obtain a routes of a service which needs to be configured TCM;

**[0024]** the TCM segment determining module is configured to obtain a TCM segment on the route of the service and determine a TCM segment which needs to be configured from the obtained TCM segment; and

**[0025]** the TCM level allocating module is configured to allocate a TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured according to a segment relationship between the TCM segment which needs to be configured and a configured TCM segment.

**[0026]** In the above solution, the apparatus may further comprise: a storing module configured to record an allocable range of each TCM segment.

**[0027]** In the above solution, the apparatus may further comprise: a judging module configured to judge whether all routes are processed and determine whether a protection route exists.

**[0028]** In the above solution, the apparatus may further comprise: a TCM level adjusting module configured to adjust an allocable range of the TCM level of the corresponding TCM segment according to an intersection of an allocable range of a TCM level of a working route and an allocable range of a TCM level of a protection route when the service has the working route and the protection route.

**[0029]** The method and the apparatus for processing a TCM level provided by the disclosure obtain a route of service needing to be configured TCM, obtain a TCM segment on the route of the service, determine a TCM segment needing to be configured from the obtained TCM segment, and allocate a TCM level for the TCM segment needing to be configured according to a segment relationship between the TCM segment needing to be configured and a configured TCM segment. In this way, both an allocation of a TCM level for a

designated TCM segment and an allocation of TCM levels for all TCM segments can be implemented.

**[0030]** The method of the disclosure can process an allocation of a TCM level for service having a protection route or a preset restoration route without configuring a subnetwork or a TCM configuration domain, so that the disclosure is applicable to an application of various actual networking environments, and has stronger adaptability and wider application range.

**[0031]** When performing TCM, the disclosure can determine a TCM segment needing to be configured according to a route of service and automatically obtain a TCM level of the TCM segment needing to be configured according to a segment relationship between the TCM segment needing to be configured and a configured TCM segment, so that difficulty of network maintenance can be reduced and occurrence of failure can be decreased in the case of complex networking or complex segment relationship of TCM.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

**[0032]** FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram showing a relationship among various TCM segments in service according to one embodiment of the disclosure;

**[0033]** FIG. 2 is a schematic flowchart showing an implementation of a method for processing a TCM level according to the disclosure;

**[0034]** FIG. 3 is a schematic flowchart showing an implementation of a method for processing a TCM level according to an embodiment of the disclosure;

**[0035]** FIG. 4 is a schematic diagram showing a principle of implementing TCM level management without service protection according to the disclosure; and

**[0036]** FIG. 5 is a schematic diagram showing a principle of implementing TCM level management with service protection according to the disclosure.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**[0037]** The basic idea of the disclosure is: obtaining a route of a service which needs to be configured TCM, and obtaining a TCM segment on the route of the service; determining a TCM segment which needs to be configured from the obtained TCM segment, and allocating a TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured according to a segment relationship between the TCM segment which needs to be configured and a configured TCM segment.

**[0038]** Here, the route of the service comprises a working route and a protection route, and further comprises a preset restoration route when applied in an ASON.

**[0039]** The TCM segment refers to a segment monitored by the TCM, including a start point and an end point, between two service nodes in the service which needs to be configured the TCM. The configured TCM segment is a TCM segment to which a TCM level is configured, which comprises a start point identifier, an end point identifier, information of the configured TCM level, and information of overhead; and the TCM segment which needs to be configured is a TCM segment to which a TCM level is not configured, which only comprises a start point identifier of the TCM segment and an end point identifier of the TCM segment.

**[0040]** The segment relationship between the TCM segments comprises four types: segment nesting, segment overlapping, segment connecting and segment isolating, as shown in FIG. 1 (a) to FIG. 1 (d); wherein



**[0041]** the segment isolating refers to that the terminal points of two segments are independent respectively, as shown in FIG. 1 (a), the terminal points of a segment A1:A2 and the terminal points of a segment A3:A4 are independent respectively;

**[0042]** the segment connecting refers to that a shared terminal point exists and a nesting relationship does not exist between two segments, as shown in FIG. 1 (b), a segment A6:A7 and a segment A7:A8 share a terminal point A7 and has not a nesting relationship;

**[0043]** the segment overlapping refers to that, in two segments, one of the start point or the end point of one segment is nested by the other segment, and an intersection exists between the segments, at this moment, according to a service direction, a previous segment overlaps a next segment, where the previous segment is called an overlapped segment and the next segment is called an overlapping segment; as shown in FIG. 1 (c), an intersection exists between a segment A3:A6 and a segment A5:A7, resulting in segment overlapping, wherein the segment A3:A6 is called the overlapped segment and the segment A5:A7 is called the overlapping segment; and

**[0044]** the segment nesting refers to that, in two segments, both the start point and the end point of one segment are nested in the other segment, at this moment, according to the service direction, a previous segment is called as nested by a next segment; as shown in FIG. 1 (d), a segment A5:A7 nests a segment A6:A7, wherein the segment A6:A7 is called a nested segment and the segment A5:A7 is called a nesting segment.

**[0045]** Generally, the segment connecting and the segment isolating do not affect a allocation of a TCM level; and a segment may have many segment relationships, and segment relationships thereof affecting the TCM level should be allocated completely.

**[0046]** A method for processing a TCM level of the disclosure is shown in FIG. 2, which comprises the following steps.

**[0047]** Step 201: selecting a service which needs to be configured TCM, and obtaining a route of the selected service.

**[0048]** Here, the step of selecting the service is designating a name of the service which needs to be configured TCM; and the step of obtaining the route of the service refers to: querying route information of the service which comprises information of a service node through which the service pass according to the designated name of the service, and determining a segment relationship between TCM segments with assistance of the route information of the service after obtaining the route information of the service, wherein the terminal points of the TCM segments definitely belong to the nodes through which the service pass, i.e., the route of the service.

**[0049]** Step 202: obtaining a TCM segment on the route of the selected service, and if a TCM segment that is not obtained exists and data with TCM configured is available, automatically generating a TCM segment between an insertion point of TCM and a monitoring point of TCM according to TCM configuration of existing service.

**[0050]** Here, the step of obtaining the TCM segment can refer to: obtaining all the existing TCM segments on the route of the service, or obtaining a designated TCM segment, and the configured TCM segment can be obtained from an existing system. For example, a Network Management System (NMS) can obtain a TCM segment configured by an Element Management System (EMS) from the EMS.

**[0051]** The existing service is a subnetwork connection; and the step of generating the TCM segment refers to: in an environment of a multilevel network management system, a lower network management system does not divide a TCM segment according to domain, and an upper network management system automatically generates a TCM segment according to a TCM insertion point and a TCM level; generally, a TCM insertion point and a monitoring point are paired and on a route of service, additionally using a TCM level and TCM overhead, so that a TCM segments can be generated automatically, and how to generate the TCM segment in detail is the prior art, which is not further described in detail here.

**[0052]** Step 203: determining a TCM segment which needs to be configured from the obtained TCM segment, and allocating a TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured according to a segment relationship between the TCM segment which needs to be configured and the configured TCM segment.

**[0053]** Here, the determination of the TCM segment which needs to be configured can refer to: designating one or more TCM segment(s) to which a TCM level is not configured; the segment relationship comprises segment connecting, segment isolating, segment nesting and segment overlapping; and the TCM level is usually allocated from small to large or from large to small.

**[0054]** The process of the method for processing a TCM level will be described with reference to FIG. 3 and FIG. 4 hereinafter, and, in this embodiment, it is assumed that all TCM segments need to be configured.

**[0055]** Step 301: selecting a working route or a protection route of an unprocessed service.

**[0056]** Here, the step of selecting the route refers to: selecting the whole route of one service, and as shown in FIG. 4, the route of the service comprises eight service nodes: A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7 and A8; the working route of the service is: A1↔A2↔A3↔A4↔A5↔A6↔A7↔A8; and when the protection route is selected, it means that the selection is from the start point of the service to the end point of the service and through one segment of the protection route between them, and as shown in the FIG. 5, the protection route of the selected service is: A1↔A2↔A3↔B1↔B2↔B3↔B4↔B5↔A7↔A8.

**[0057]** Step 302: from one end of the service, determining a nesting relationship between the TCM segments.

**[0058]** In the embodiment, the nesting relationship is determined in the direction from the start point to the end point, so that the determination is started from the start point. Usually, a segment relationship between TCM segments is related to a service direction, and a different service direction causes a different segment relationship of the TCM segments based on unidirection. Information of other segments of segment nesting or segment overlapping is organized to segment information as a list of information of nesting segment or overlapping segment of the TCM segments.

**[0059]** Step 303: allocating a TCM level for a TCM segment to that a TCM level is not allocated according to the order of TCM levels.

**[0060]** Here, the step of allocating the TCM level usually comprises: first allocating a level for a TCM segment that does not nest or overlap other segment, and then allocating a level for a TCM segment nesting or overlapping other segment when all the other segments have been allocated TCM levels, until the TCM levels are allocated for all the TCM segments.

**[0061]** The order of the TCM levels can be either from small to large or from large to small. For a TCM segment nesting or overlapping other segment, the allocated TCM level should be less or greater than all TCM segments nested or overlapped by the TCM segment.

**[0062]** In the step, when the TCM level cannot be allocated, the current processing flow is finished.

**[0063]** Taking FIG. 4 as an example, a segment relationship between TCM segments in FIG. 4 is specifically shown in table 1:

TABLE 1

TCM segment	Nesting segment	Segment relationship
A1:A2	None	Segment isolating
A3:A4	None	Segment isolating
A6:A7	None	Segment connecting
A7:A8	None	Segment connecting
A3:A6	A3:A4	Segment nesting
A5:A7	A6:A7	Segment nesting
	A3:A6	Segment overlapping
A1:A8	A1:A2	Segment nesting
	A3:A4	Segment nesting
	A6:A7	Segment nesting
	A7:A8	Segment nesting
	A3:A6	Segment nesting
	A5:A7	Segment nesting

**[0064]** In the direction from the start point of the service to the end point of the service, a TCM level is allocated for a TCM segment that is not allocated a TCM level in the direction from A1 to A8 in this embodiment. This is a cycle operation, and an object allocated each time is a TCM segment with the segment relationship of segment isolating or segment connecting, or is a TCM segment nesting or overlapping other segment when the other segment is allocated a TCM level. TCM segments that are not nested or overlapped, i.e., those with the segment relationship of segment isolating or segment connecting, such as A1:A2, A3:A4, A6:A7 and A7:A8, are found at first. In this embodiment, it is assumed that the TCM levels are allocated from small to large.

**[0065]** The result after the first processing is listed in table 2:

TABLE 2

TCM segment	Nesting segment	Segment relationship	TCM level
A1:A2	None	Segment isolating	1
A3:A4	None	Segment isolating	1
A6:A7	None	Segment connecting	1
A7:A8	None	Segment connecting	1
A3:A6	A3:A4	Segment nesting	Not allocated
A5:A7	A6:A7	Segment nesting	Not allocated
	A3:A6	Segment overlapping	
A1:A8	A1:A2	Segment nesting	Not allocated
	A3:A4	Segment nesting	
	A6:A7	Segment nesting	
	A7:A8	Segment nesting	
	A3:A6	Segment nesting	
	A5:A7	Segment nesting	

**[0066]** After the TCM segments that are not nested or overlapped are allocated, TCM segments nesting or overlapping other segment when the other segment is allocated a TCM level are found, such as A3:A6 and A5:A7. Since a TCM level has been allocated for a TCM segment A3:A4 nested by

A3:A6, and the TCM level is 1, the TCM level of A3:A6 must be greater than 1; likewise, TCM levels have been allocated for the TCM segment A6:A7 nested by A5:A7 and the TCM segment A3:A6 overlapped by A5:A7, and the TCM levels are 1 and 2 respectively, so that the TCM level of A5:A7 must be greater than 2.

**[0067]** The result after the second processing is listed in table 3:

TABLE 3

TCM segment	Nesting segment	Segment relationship	TCM level
A1:A2	None	Segment isolating	1
A3:A4	None	Segment isolating	1
A6:A7	None	Segment connecting	1
A7:A8	None	Segment connecting	1
A3:A6	A3:A4	Segment nesting	2
A5:A7	A6:A7	Segment nesting	3
	A3:A6	Segment overlapping	
A1:A8	A1:A2	Segment nesting	Not allocated
	A3:A4	Segment nesting	
	A6:A7	Segment nesting	
	A7:A8	Segment nesting	
	A3:A6	Segment nesting	
	A5:A7	Segment nesting	

**[0068]** After the allocation continues to be performed according to the same principle, the result after the third processing is listed in table 4:

TABLE 4

TCM segment	Nesting segment	Segment relationship	TCM level
A1:A2	None	Segment isolating	1
A3:A4	None	Segment isolating	1
A6:A7	None	Segment connecting	1
A7:A8	None	Segment connecting	1
A3:A6	A3:A4	Segment nesting	2
A5:A7	A6:A7	Segment nesting	3
	A3:A6	Segment overlapping	
A1:A8	A1:A2	Segment nesting	4
	A3:A4	Segment nesting	
	A6:A7	Segment nesting	
	A7:A8	Segment nesting	
	A3:A6	Segment nesting	
	A5:A7	Segment nesting	

**[0069]** In the embodiment, it is assumed that all the TCM segments need to be configured, that is, no TCM level is used, and in an actual application, if another TCM level is been allocated before one TCM level is allocated for a TCM segment which needs to be configured, before step 303, the method further comprises: calculating an available TCM level according to an existing TCM configuration of the service; accordingly, the step of allocating the TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured specifically comprises: allocating the calculated available TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured. For example, the calculated available TCM levels are 3 to 6 according to the existing TCM configuration of the service, and then the TCM levels allocated for the TCM segments which need to be configured are in the range of 3 to 6, wherein the service can be a subnetwork connection.

[0070] Step 304: recording an allocable range of each TCM segment;

[0071] here, the allocable range refers to the TCM level currently allocated for the current TCM segment to 6. For example, the allocable range of A1:A2, A3:A4, A6:A7 and A7:A8 is 1 to 6; the allocable range of A3:A6 is 2 to 6; the allocable range of A5:A7 is 3 to 6; and the allocable range of A1:A8 is 4 to 6.

[0072] Step 305: determining whether all the routes are processed, if yes, executing step 306; otherwise, executing step 301;

[0073] when the protection route is processed, the allocable range available thereof is only recorded for a TCM segment to which a TCM level is allocated.

[0074] Step 306: determining whether the protection route exists, if yes, executing step 307; otherwise, finishing the current processing flow;

[0075] here, the protection route is identified by route information of service.

[0076] Step 307: for the TCM segment which is in a working route and a protection route, obtaining the intersection of the allocable ranges of TCM levels, and adjusting the TCM level allocated for the corresponding TCM segment.

[0077] In combination with FIG. 4 and FIG. 5, a segment A1:A8 has a working route and a protection route, but the allocable range of the working route and that of the protection route are different. In the working route, the allocable range of the TCM segment A1:A8 is 4 to 6; and in the protection route, the allocable range of TCM segment A1:A8 is 3 to 6; then, the intersection of both is obtained, and the allocable range is finally adjusted to: 4 to 6.

[0078] Service with reference to FIG. 4 is two-way service, but an actual allocation of TCM levels is processed in one-way mode. It is processed from one direction first, and then it is processed from the other direction. A segment relationship between TCM segments is obtained from A1, and for the relationship of segment overlapping, the TCM segment whose start point is located ahead is overlapped, and the other TCM segment overlaps other segment; for example, A5:A7 overlaps A3:A6.

[0079] FIG. 5 is a schematic diagram showing the principle of implementing TCM segments when service is protected in the disclosure, as shown in FIG. 5, service has a protection route from B1 to B5 between service nodes A3 and A7. Due to the presence of B1 to B5, when the service is switched, the actual TCM route is a service route through B1 to B5; since TCM segment A1:A8 is over B1 to B5, an allocation of TCM levels of the TCM segment A1:A8 needs still to take an allocation of TCM levels within the route from B1 to B5 into account, and the intersection of the allocation ranges of TCM levels of the working route and protection route is taken.

[0080] Taking FIG. 5 as an example, a segment relationship between TCM segments in FIG. 5 is specifically shown in table 5, which comprises TCM segments on the working route and the protection route:

TABLE 5

TCM segment	Nesting segment	Segment relationship
A1:A2	None	Segment isolating
A3:A4	None	Segment isolating
A6:A7	None	Segment connecting
A7:A8	None	Segment connecting

TABLE 5-continued

TCM segment	Nesting segment	Segment relationship
A3:A6	A3:A4	Segment nesting
A5:A7	A6:A7	Segment nesting
	A3:A6	Segment overlapping
B1:B3	None	Segment connecting
B3:B4	None	Segment connecting
B3:B5	B3:B4	Segment nesting
A1:A8	A1:A2	Segment nesting
	A3:A4	Segment nesting
	A6:A7	Segment nesting
	A7:A8	Segment nesting
	A3:A6	Segment nesting
	A5:A7	Segment nesting
	B1:B3	Segment nesting
	B3:B4	Segment nesting
	B3:B5	Segment nesting

[0081] When the service is switched, the actual TCM route is the protection route through B1 to B5, and the segment relationship between all TCM segments on the protection route is listed in table 6:

TABLE 6

TCM segment	Nesting segment	Segment relationship
A1:A2	None	Segment isolating
B1:B3	None	Segment connecting
B3:B4	None	Segment connecting
B3:B5	B3:B4	Segment nesting
A7:A8	None	Segment connecting
A1:A8	A1:A2	Segment nesting
	B1:B3	Segment nesting
	B3:B4	Segment nesting
	B3:B5	Segment nesting
	A7:A8	Segment nesting

[0082] The result after the first processing is listed in table 7:

TABLE 7

TCM segment	Nesting segment	Segment relationship	TCM level
A1:A2	None	Segment isolating	1 (unchanged, not related to a protection link)
B1:B3	None	Segment connecting	1
B3:B4	None	Segment nesting	1
B3:B5	B3:B4	Segment nesting	Not allocated
A7:A8	None	Segment connecting	1 (unchanged, not related to the protection link)
A1:A8	A1:A2	1	Not allocated
	B1:B3	1	
	B3:B4	1	
	B3:B5	Not allocated	
	A7:A8	1	

**[0083]** The result after the second processing is listed in table 8:

TABLE 8

TCM segment	Nesting segment	Segment relationship	TCM level
A1:A2	None	Segment isolating	1 (unchanged, not related to the protection link)
B1:B3	None	Segment connecting	1
B3:B4	None	Segment nesting	1
B3:B5	B3:B4	Segment nesting	2
A7:A8	None	Segment connecting	1 (unchanged, not related to the protection link)
A1:A8	A1:A2	1	Not allocated
	B1:B3	1	
	B3:B4	1	
	B3:B5	Not allocated	
	A7:A8	1	

**[0084]** The result after the third processing is listed in table 9:

TABLE 9

TCM segment	Nesting segment	Segment relationship	TCM level
A1:A2	None	Segment isolating	1 (unchanged, not related to the protection link)
B1:B3	None	Segment connecting	1
B3:B4	None	Segment nesting	1
B3:B5	B3:B4	Segment nesting	2
A7:A8	None	Segment connecting	1 (unchanged, not related to the protection link)
A1:A8	A1:A2	1	3
	B1:B3	1	
	B3:B4	1	
	B3:B5	2	
	A7:A8	1	

**[0085]** When a TCM level is allocated in the case of a protection route, only the TCM level of the TCM segment, for example, A1:A8, of the working route affected by an insertion TCM level of the protection route is adjusted. In combination with two cases that a protection route exists and the protection route does not exist, the configurable TCM level of the TCM segment A1:A8 over the protection route is 4, and the allocable range thereof is 4 to 6.

**[0086]** To implement the above method, the disclosure further provides an apparatus for processing a TCM level, which comprises: a service route obtaining module, a TCM segment determining module and a TCM level allocating module, wherein

**[0087]** the service route obtaining module is configured to obtain a route of a service which needs to be configured TCM;

**[0088]** the TCM segment determining module is configured to obtain a TCM segment on the route of the service and determine a TCM segment which needs to be configured from the obtained TCM segment; and

**[0089]** the TCM level allocating module is configured to allocate a TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be

configured according to a segment relationship between the TCM segment which needs to be configured and a configured TCM segment.

**[0090]** Here, the route of the service comprises a working route and a protection route, and further comprises a preset restoration route when applied in an ASON; the segment relationship comprises: segment nesting, segment overlapping, segment connecting and segment isolating; and the TCM levels are from small to large or from large to small.

**[0091]** Furthermore, the apparatus further comprises a storing module configured to record an allocable range of each TCM segment.

**[0092]** Furthermore, the apparatus further comprises a judging module configured to judge whether all routes are processed and determine whether a protection route exists; accordingly, the TCM level allocating module allocates a TCM level of a TCM segment which needs to be configured on the working route when the protection route does not exist, and allocates TCM levels of TCM segments which need to be configured on the working route and the protection route when the protection route exists.

**[0093]** Furthermore, the apparatus further comprises a TCM level adjusting module configured to adjust an allocable range of the TCM level of the corresponding TCM segment according to an intersection of an allocation range of a TCM level of a working route and an allocable range of a TCM level of the protection route when service has the working route and the protection route.

**[0094]** The above are only preferred embodiments of the disclosure and not intended to limit the scope of protection of the disclosure, and any modification, equivalent replacement, improvement and the like within the spirit and principle of the disclosure shall fall within the scope of protection of the disclosure.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for processing a Tandem Connection Monitoring (TCM) level, comprising:

obtaining a route of a service which needs to be configured TCM, and obtaining a TCM segment on the route of the service; and

determining a TCM segment which needs to be configured from the obtained TCM segment, and allocating a TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured according to a segment relationship between the TCM segment which needs to be configured and a configured TCM segment.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of obtaining the route of the service which needs to be configured TCM comprises: designating a name of the service which needs to be configured TCM; and querying route information of the service according to the designated name of the service.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising: after obtaining the TCM segment on the route of the service and before determining the TCM segment which needs to be configured, automatically generating a TCM segment between an insertion point of the TCM and a monitoring point of the TCM according to a TCM configuration of existing service when a TCM segment that is not obtained exists and data with TCM configured is available.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of allocating the TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured comprises: first allocating a TCM level for a TCM segment that does not nest or overlap other segment

according to an order of TCM levels, and then allocating a TCM level for a TCM segment nesting or overlapping other segment when all the other segments have been allocated TCM levels, until the TCM levels are allocated for all the TCM segments.

5. The method according to claim 4, further comprising: before allocating the TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured, calculating an available TCM level according to the existing TCM configuration of the service;

accordingly, the step of allocating the TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured further comprises: allocating the calculated available TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured.

6. The method according to claim 4, further comprising: after allocating the TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured, recording an allocable range of each TCM segment.

7. The method according to claim 4, further comprising: when determining that a protection route exists, obtaining an intersection of allocable ranges of TCM levels for a TCM segment on a working route and the protection route, and adjusting the TCM level allocated for the corresponding TCM segment.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the route of the service comprises a working route, a protection route, a preset restoration route.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the segment relationship comprises segment nesting, segment overlapping, segment connecting, segment isolating.

10. An apparatus for processing a Tandem Connection Monitoring (TCM) level, comprising: a service route obtaining module, a TCM segment determining module and a TCM level allocating module, wherein

the service route obtaining module is configured to obtain a routes of a service which needs to be configured TCM; the TCM segment determining module is configured to obtain a TCM segment on the route of the service and determine a TCM segment which needs to be configured from the obtained TCM segment; and

the TCM level allocating module is configured to allocate a TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured according to a segment relationship between the TCM segment which needs to be configured and a configured TCM segment.

11. The apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising: a storing module configured to record an allocable range of each TCM segment.

12. The apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising: a judging module configured to judge whether all routes are processed and determine whether a protection route exists.

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of allocating the TCM level for the TCM segment which needs

to be configured comprises: first allocating a TCM level for a TCM segment that does not nest or overlap other segment according to an order of TCM levels, and then allocating a TCM level for a TCM segment nesting or overlapping other segment when all the other segments have been allocated TCM levels, until the TCM levels are allocated for all the TCM segments.

17. The method according to claim 3, wherein the step of allocating the TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured comprises: first allocating a TCM level for a TCM segment that does not nest or overlap other segment according to an order of TCM levels, and then allocating a TCM level for a TCM segment nesting or overlapping other segment when all the other segments have been allocated TCM levels, until the TCM levels are allocated for all the TCM segments.

18. The method according to claim 16, further comprising: before allocating the TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured, calculating an available TCM level according to the existing TCM configuration of the service;

accordingly, the step of allocating the TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured further comprises: allocating the calculated available TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured.

19. The method according to claim 17, further comprising: before allocating the TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured, calculating an available TCM level according to the existing TCM configuration of the service;

accordingly, the step of allocating the TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured further comprises: allocating the calculated available TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured.

20. The method according to claim 16, further comprising: after allocating the TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured, recording an allocable range of each TCM segment.

21. The method according to claim 17, further comprising: after allocating the TCM level for the TCM segment which needs to be configured, recording an allocable range of each TCM segment.

22. The method according to claim 16, further comprising: when determining that a protection route exists, obtaining an intersection of allocable ranges of TCM levels for a TCM segment on a working route and the protection route, and adjusting the TCM level allocated for the corresponding TCM segment.

23. The method according to claim 17, further comprising: when determining that a protection route exists, obtaining an intersection of allocable ranges of TCM levels for a TCM segment on a working route and the protection route, and adjusting the TCM level allocated for the corresponding TCM segment.

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