Arcetri Technical Report SKA Project Series

Commands and Setting for CSP

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Abstract

During the normal set-up and programming of the many elements and sub-element of SKA it arises the necessity to program many parameter and to execute different commands. During the development of CSP.LMC prototype we designed a flexible schema to implement such functionality inside the TANGO Control paradigm used in SKA Control and Monitor. We sketch here our implementation proposal and analyse few use cases.

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1 Structure

The CSP.LMC prototype we developed, in its overall structure, follow as closely as possible the physical structure of CSP, adding some abstract-related classes as the Capability ones. Its logical components are illustrated in [Figure 1.](#page-1-0)

Apart from the overall structure, the CSP.LMC prototype is composed by a number of specialized classes which share a common basic structure. In particular they all share the SKA CSP Guidelines status/state variable (see [Appendix 1 : Mapping between SKA State and Mode and Tango state\)](#page-20-0) implementing only the relevant ones. These classes belongs to few families:

- 1. Master classes, which manage a physical component and report its status and telemetry
- 2. Capability classes, which manage a logical component and report its status
- 3. LMC classes, which handles the command and monitoring of local LMC hardware
- 4. Alarm classes which manage alarms, up to complex behaviour as grouping, masking and censoring

Figure 1: Logical structure of CSP.LMC prototype

2 Proposed Set/Command bundle

Our proposal for the set-up of a SKA component is based on a container approach. Consequently it can be implemented using progressively more complex structure.

In its simplest form we can only set a number of attributes on a single node, while in its most complex form it can perform the setting of a large number of parameters on a hierarchy of node and can execute commands on specific nodes.

We propose to implement a single command on all nodes. Let's call it *setParam*. This command behaviour is completely defined by a single self-describing text parameter. Let's assume a Json format for this parameter, but other formats can be easily implemented. In the present Tango implementation this string parameter can be passed along as command parameter. In future, we expect to exploit the the proposed TANGO REST interface.^{[1](#page-2-0)}

The program handling of a Json string can became trivial by means of the numerous library implementations available for all TANGO programming languages^{[2](#page-2-1)}.

It its simplest form *setParam* command just set different attributes to specific values In this case :

```
{
       "scanTime": "34.12", \frac{1}{2} // scan (integration) time
       "beamBw": "2", 
       "accelerationRange" : "0", 
       "DispersionMeasure": "300",...
}
```
In a more complex implementation, the attributes values can be specified also for lower level devices:

```
"CSP" : {
       "scanTime": "34.12", \frac{1}{2} // scan (integration) time
       "beamBw": "2", …
}
"PSS": {
       "accelerationRange" : "0", 
       "DispersionMeasure": "300",...
}
```
In the most complete implementation, attribute setting can be mixed with command execution on a hierarchy of devices. Examples of this approach can be found as the possible implementation of uses cases in the following sections. A particularly suggestive example can be found in section [3.16.](#page-15-0)

¹ Such approach is different and, in SKA case, more efficient than the SetParameters command. For the selfdescribing nature of Json coding error risk is reduced and also there is no more the necessity to transfer always ALL parameters

² As an example, using C++/nlohmann implementation, [\(https://github.com/nlohmann/json\)](https://github.com/nlohmann/json), one can simply write: json j; j["scanId"]=34; j["sourceName"]="CrabPulsar";

3 Execution of Settings.

We analyse some setting commands. For brevity we put many commands in the same json packet (par [3.1\)](#page-3-0). To have meaningful error reports it should be a good practice to put a single action on each command.

As an alternative approach, we can implement elementary commands for each action to be sent separately (cfr par [3.4\)](#page-6-0).

3.1 Commands to initialize sub-array(s) – Slave SubArrays elementary commands

This use case is analysed using the most complete form of *setParam* command. Here we use two different calls.

```
Command: createSubArray From: TM Destination: CSP.LMC (cspMaster).
Argument: Json String { 
"activationTime": "10:30:00", // should be a Unix time
"sourceId": "TM",
"commandId" : "123456", // identifies this execution
"createSubArray": { // init 
      "subArrayId": "0",
      "antennasList": "0,1,2,3,4,10,100",
      "creationDate": "20160310 10:30:00",
       "administrativeMode": "enabled",
       "observingMode": "0", // idle
}
Command: createSubArray From: TM Destination: CSP.LMC (cspMaster).
Argument: Json String { 
"activationTime": "10:30:00", // should be a Unix time
"sourceId": "TM",
"commandId": "123457", // identifies this execution
"createSubArray": { // init 
      "createSubArray": { // we do not assume a single device 
             "subArrayId": "1",
             "antennasList": "10,11,12,13,14,20,100", // generate an error on 100!
             "creationDate": "20160310 10:30:00",
             "administrativeMode": "enabled",
             "observingMode": "0", // idle
       }
}
```
3.2 Details of Execution

Here we will display the execution of the command above, split among the different LMC components.

3.3 Discussion

This command assumes 16 Tango devices for subArrays. These devices are very simple (slave implementation).

In this scenario the CSP createSubArray command programs both SubArray and Antennas structures. This command is executed directly.

The conflict exception on antenna 100 will be raised by CSP.Master device.

In this approach each command receives its commandId from TM.

Figure 2: SubArray Initialization flow of operations. Errors in red, Capabilities in purple.

3.4 Command to initialize sub-array(s) – Slave SubArrays Compounded Commands

In this analysis we have defined a general container command *setParam* which accept as argument a json string containing setting of parameters or commands to be executed on local or lower level servers.

```
Command: setParam From: TM Destination: CSP.LMC (cspMaster).
Argument: Json String { 
"activationTime": "10:30:00", // should be a Unix time
"sourceId": "TM",
"commandId" : "123456", // identifies this execution
"CSP" : { 
       "createSubArray": { // init 
             "subArrayId": "0",
             "antennasList": "0,1,2,3,4,10,100",
             "creationDate": "20160310 10:30:00",
             "administrativeMode": "enabled",
             "observingMode": "0", // idle
             "commandId" : "123456/1", // identifies this execution
       }
      "createSubArray": { // we assume a single device 
             "subArrayId": "1",
             "antennasList": "10,11,12,13,14,20,100", // generate an error on 100!
             "creationDate": "20160310 10:30:00",
             "administrativeMode": "enabled",
             "observingMode": "0", // idle
             "commandId" : "123456/2", // identifies this execution
       }
}
}
```
3.5 Details of Execution

Here we will display the execution of the command in section [Error: Reference source not found](#page-6-1) split in the execution in the various software components.

3.6 Discussion

This command assumes 16 Tango devices for subArrays which are very simple (slave implementation).

In this scenario the CSP createSubArray command programs both SubArray and Antennas structures.

The conflict exception on antenna 100 will be raised by CSP.Master device.

This approach implements a single 'container' command (setParam) which acts as spawner for the CSP createSubArray commands (and many more).

In this approach each sub-command receives its commandId from TM.

3.7 Command to allocate beams to SubArrays

In this analysis we have defined a general container command *setParam* which accept as argument a json string containing setting of parameters or commands to be executed on local or lower level servers.

```
Command: setParam From: TM Destination: CSP.LMC (cspMaster).
Argument: Json String { 
"activationTime": "10:31:00", // should be a Unix time
"sourceId": "TM",
"commandId" : "123456", // identifies this execution
"CSP" : { 
      "allocateBeams": { // init 
             "beamsType": "PSS",// it can be PSS, PST and VLBI
             "subArrayId": "0",
             "beamsCount": "5",
             "creationDate": "20160310 10:31:00",
             "commandId" : "123456/1", // identifies this execution
       }
}
}
```
3.8 Details of Execution

Here we will display the execution of the command in section [Error: Reference source not found](#page-8-0) split in the execution in the various software components.

3.9 Discussion

This command assumes 16 Tango devices for subArrays which are very simple (slave implementation) as is assumed a simple PssBeams Capability device.

In this scenario the CSP allocateBeams command programs both SubArray and PssBeams structures.

This approach implements a single 'container' command (setParam) which acts as spawner for the CSP allocateBeams commands (and many more).

In this approach each sub-command receives its commandId from TM.

Proposal: the acknowledges for a command are sent to TM, while the acknowledges for subcommands are handled by CSP.

Figure 3: Graphic flow of beam allocation operations. Error handling in red, Capabilities in purple and SubDevices in green

3.10 Command to remove an antenna from a sub-array

In this analysis we have defined a general container command *setParam* which accept as argument a json string containing setting of parameters or commands to be executed on local or lower level servers.

```
Command: setParam From: TM Destination: CSP.LMC (cspMaster).
Argument: Json String { 
"activationTime": "10:30:00", // should be a Unix time
"sourceId": "TM",
"commandId" : "123456", // identifies this execution
"CSP" : { 
      "removeAntennas": { // init 
             "subArrayId": "0",
             "antennasList": "0,1",
             "creationDate": "20160310 10:30:00",
             "commandId" : "123456/1", // identifies this execution
      }
}
}
```
3.11 Details of Execution

Here we will display the execution of the command in section [Error: Reference source not found](#page-11-0) split in the execution in the various software components.

3.12 Discussion

This command assumes 16 Tango devices for subArrays which are very simple (slave

implementation).

In this scenario the CSP removeAntennas command programs both SubArray and Antennas structures.

This approach implements a single 'container' command (setParam) which acts as spawner for the CSP createSubArray commands (and many more).

In this approach each sub-command receives its commandId from TM. The same analysis apply to the command addAntennas.

Proposal: the acknowledges for a command are sent to TM, while the acknowledges for subcommands are handled by CSP.

Figure 4: Fow of remove Antenna execution. Capabilities in purple, Errors in red.

3.13 Set up of an image observation

In this analysis we have defined a general container command *setParam* which accept as argument a json string containing setting of parameters or commands to be executed on local or lower level servers.

```
Command: setParam From: TM Destination: CSP.LMC (cspMaster).
Argument: Json String { 
"activationTime": "10:31:00", // should be a Unix time
"sourceId": "TM",
"commandId" : "123456", // identifies this execution
"CSP" : { 
       "GlobalValues": { // init of internal variable common to all subsystems
              "subArrayId": "5",
              "ObservingMode": "1", // imaging
              "commandId" : "123456/1", // identifies this execution
       }
}
"CBF.Master": {
        "setSubArray":{ // specialized command
              "subArrayId": "5", // in the fifth slot we host subArray 5
              "ObservingMode" : "1", // imaging (this will be updated automatically?)
              "scanId": "AB45-34", // We store scanId for subArray 5
              "scanTime": "34.12", \frac{1}{2} // scan (integration) time
              "subArrayObsMode": "1", // imaging
              "programming Parameters" : \{ \ldots \} // hardware related parameters
              "commandId" : "123456/2", // identifies this execution 
       }
}
}
```
3.14 Details of Execution

Here we will display the execution of the command in section [Error: Reference source not found](#page-13-0) split in the execution in the various software components.

3.15 Discussion

This command assumes 16 Tango devices for subArrays which are very simple (slave implementation) as is very simple also the PssBeams Capability device.

In this scenario the CSP execute only the CSP portion of the command, and spawn to each subelement specified the relative section. A 'global' setParam section can be implemented in order to send the same command/set to all sub-devices.

This approach implements a single 'container' command (setParam) which acts as spawner for the CSP allocateBeams commands (and many more). Inside CSP the Sub arrays parameteres are internally stored as an array of classes. Selected values of these classes can be accessed as array attributes of Tango numerical types.

Proposal: the acknowledges for a command are sent to TM, while the acknowledges for subcommands are handled by CSP. In this approach each sub-command receives its commandId from TM.

Successful acknowledge execution of command 123456 depends on success of commands 123456/1 and 123456/2.

The global ObservingMode update is the result of succesful update od this observing mode on both sub-element.

3.16 Set up of a PSS observation

In this approach we have defined a general container command *setParam* which accept as argument a json string containing setting of parameters or commands to be executed on local or lower level servers.

```
Command: setParam From: TM Destination: CSP.LMC (cspMaster).
Argument: Json String { 
"activationTime": "10:31:00", // should be a Unix time
"sourceId": "TM",
"commandId": "123456", // identifies this execution
"GlobalValues": { // init of internal variables common to all subsystems
       "subArrayId": "4",
       "ObservingMode": "2", // PSS
       "scanId": "AB45-34", \frac{1}{2} // We store scanId for subArray 4
       "numberOfBeams": "500"
}
\sqrt{\text{cS}}P" : {
       // CSP specific parameters
       "PSSBeamID" : ["AB45-34/1", "AB45-34/2", … "AB45-34/500"] // 500 values
       "PSSPointingCoord" : [ … ] // 500 values
       "PSSDestinationAddress" : ["10.1.1.1:4000", … "10.1.50.10:4000"] // 500 values
}
"CBF.Master": {
        "setSubArray":{ // specialized command
              "scanTime": "34.12", \frac{1}{2} // scan (integration) time
              "subArrayObsMode": "2", // PSS
              "numberOfChannels": "4096", // PSS
              "beamBw": "2", // PSS
              "bitPerSample": "8", // PSS
              "Filter Banks Parameters" : \{ \ldots \} // many hardware related parameters
              "Delay Model Parameters" : { … }, 
              "commandId" : "123456/2", // identifies this execution 
       }
       "setBeams":{ // specialized command
              "numberOfChannels": "4096", 
              "PSSBeamID" : ["AB45-34/1", "AB45-34/2", … "AB45-34/500"] // 500 values 
              "Beam Ponting Parameters" : \{ \ldots \}, // many hardware related parameters
              "commandId" : "123456/3", // identifies this execution 
       }
}
"PSS.Master": {
        "setSubArray":{ // specialized command
              "subArrayId": "4", // in the fourth slot we host subArray 4
              "scanTime": "34.12", \frac{1}{2} // scan (integration) time
              "subArrayObsMode": "2", // PSS
              "beamBw": "2", 
              "accelerationRange" : "0", 
              "DispersionMeasure": "300",
              "programming Parameters" : \{ \ldots \} // many hardware related parameters
              "commandId" : "123456/4", // identifies this execution 
       }
```

```
 "setBeams":{// specialized command
              "beamBw": "2", 
              "accelerationRange" : "0", 
              "DispersionMeasure": "300",
              "PSSBeamID" : ["AB45-34/1", "AB45-34/2", … "AB45-34/500"] // 500 values
              "programming Parameters" : { … } // many hardware related parameters
              "commandId" : "123456/5", // identifies this execution 
       }
}
\left\{ \right\}
```
3.17 Details of Execution

Here we will display the execution of the command in section [3.16](#page-15-0) split in the execution in the various software components.

3.18 Discussion

This command assumes 16 Tango devices for subArrays which are very simple (slave implementation) as is very simple also the PssBeams Capability device.

In this scenario the CSP execute only the CSP portion of the command, and spawn to each subelement specified the relative section. A 'global' setParam section can be implemented in order to send the same command/set to all sub-devices.

This approach implements a single 'container' command (setParam) which acts as spawner for the CSP allocateBeams commands (and many more). Inside CSP the Sub arrays parameteres are internally stored as an array of classes. Selected values of these classes can be accessed as array attributes of Tango numerical types.

The global ObservingMode update is the result of succesful update od this observing mode on both sub-element.

In this approach each sub-command receives its commandId from TM.

Proposal: the acknowledges for a command are sent to TM, while the acknowledges for subcommands are handled by CSP.

Successful acknowledge execution of command 123456 depends on success of commands 123456/1, 123456/2, 123456/3, 123456/4.

At the end of scan the Beam-PSS and CBF automatically mark free the allocated resources, (can be implemented by an event handler inside CSP-Master).

Figure 5: Flow of operations for set-up of a PSS Observation.

Appendix 1 : Mapping between SKA State and Mode and Tango state

In SKA environment there are some variables which define the global status of each Element. The main internal variable is the Operating State which has a direct mapping to the Tango State attribute.

The full list of SKA status variable is:

- Control Mode:
- Operational Mode;
- Administrative State/Operating State;
- Health State;
- Usage State;
- Simulated State;
- Sub-array State: this is applicable for sub-arrays only. It assumes only a sub-set of the Operational State values, so it can be implement in the same way as Operational State.

Here we propose a schema for the implementation of SKA status as Tango attributes.

Operating State (SKA) versus State (Tango) attributes.

In Tango, there are two variables which refer to the logical state of the device (State) and a string description of the current state value (Status). In SKA the corresponding value has the name of Operational State.

SKA Operational State has eight possible values, while Tango state has 14 possible values.

In [Table 1](#page-21-0) we propose a possible mapping between the SKA values to the nearest Tango ones.

We have two possible alternatives:

- 1. To implement the Operational State as a DevState Tango type. This approach guarantees the availability of the Tango State Machine, a facility to allow/deny the execution of commands when the Element is in a particular state.
- 2. To implement the Operational State as a Tango *short* type attribute. At present, we are going to implement into the CSP.LMC prototype.

This choice permits the use the same SKA values for this attributes, using the $C++11$ way of enum declaration but, at the same time, we loses the Tango State Machine functionality.

Table 1: Possible correspondence between SKA Operating State and Tango State.

Status and Mode variables

In the SKA framework, beside the Operating State, there are 6 others main variables which describe the basic properties of an Element (and, lower level entities). We propose to implement them as Tango attributes of *short* type. The other alternative is to use the more natural enum types. We believe, however, that this feature, recently added to Tango 9, don't fit well to our scope.

As support to this choice we note that the ObservingMode attribute has to be implemented as a bitmask type, because several types of observations can be done in parallel. So the overall observing status is the combination of different values. The Tango enum type can assume only consecutive values, so it can't be used to represent the value of a mask.

Another problem arise as Tango enum type cannot be declared as Array. In the CSP there are many examples of device whose instances should be handled in parallel, so we definitively needs array of enum.

Moreover, the Tango developers strongly suggest the use of Pogo as code generator of a Tango Device. We have verified that Pogo still handles enum type attributes in a way unsuitable for our purposes.

Table 2: Proposed status variable

Table 3: Synopsis of proposed mapping of SKA Status and Mode variable to Tango Attributes.

Appendix 2: Investigate beams/capabilities

Here we try to investigate how the PSSBeams Capability and the PSS-Resources on PSS Master overlap in their description attributes.

The PSSBeams Capability is, for us, only a more organized way of seeing the elementary components of the PSS. For this reason we suggest to implement the PSSBeam Capability as a Tango Device that only reports information.

We discuss the Mid scenario, while the Low case can be extrapolated.

One PSS node can process from 2 to up 12 CBF-beams.

N PSS.MID nodes with their M parallel data processing pipeline form the $N * M = 1500$ PSS-Resources.

256 FPGA boards of the CBF.MID can form up to 1536 CBFBeams used by the PSS.MID.

A resource at PSS level corresponds to a single software data pipeline processing data coming from the associated CBF-beam.

Each PSS-Resource is identified by:

- a name corresponding to the Tango device name (running on a PSS node).
- an IP Address-port combination for data input
- a SDP IP Address-port combination for output products.
- A symbolic name, for instance: Node_RR_PCX where RR is the rack, PC is the PC sequential number, and X is the pipeline identifier

After initialization, the CBF.LMC and PSS.LMC communicate to CSP.LMC (asynchronously or on CSP.LMC direct request, TBD) the list with their available resources.

The association PSS-resource \rightarrow CBF-beam is done by the CSP.LMC when, on TM request, it is asked to allocate a number of PSS resources to a sub-array.

This association represents what we call a PSSBeam.

Our plan is to implement the PSSBeams Capability as a single Tango Device that exports towards the Tango Clients a limited set of attributes (HealthState, ProgressStatus, …) and implements, as private attributes, 1500 instances of a PSSBeam Class which collects all the basic information to fully describe the PSSBeams Capability, as for example the table with the complete association between the PSS-Resources and the CBFBeams.

In our view, this device is comparable to an up-to-date register containing all the needed information about the PSSBeams.

The PSSBeams Capability Tango Device communicates with:

• CSP.LMC: PSSBeam Capability device works as a client. The CSP can read the Health Status of the PSS Beams and can ask the list with the association between PSSResourcess-CBF.Beams.

- CBF.LMC: the PSSBeam Capability device subscribes on it a number of attributes (HealthState of the FPGA boards) to get the updated value of the CBFBeams.
- PSS.LMC: the PSSBeam Capability device subscribes on it a number of attributes (HealthState of the PSSBeams and/or PSS Beams node, pipeline data processing progress...) to get the updated value of the PSSBeams.

