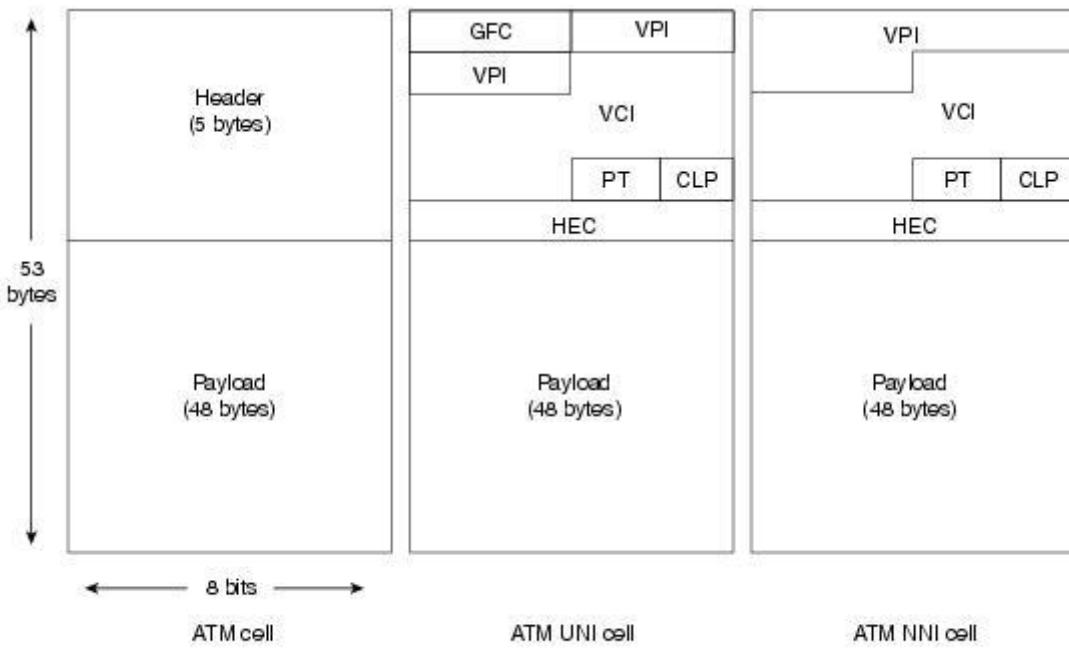


ATM Cell Header Formate

ATM CELL HEADER FORMAT:

An ATM cell header can be one of two formats: UNI or NNI. The UNI header is used for communication between ATM endpoints and ATM switches in private ATM networks. The NNI header is used for communication between ATM switches. Figure shows an ATM Cell, ATM UNI Cell, and ATM NNI Cell Header Each Contain 48 Bytes of Payload depicts the basic ATM cell format, the ATM UNI cell header format, and the ATM NNI cell header format.



ATM Cell Header Fields

In addition to GFC and VPI header fields, several others are used in ATM cell header fields. The following descriptions summarize the ATM cell header fields illustrated in the above figure:

- **Generic Flow Control (GFC)-** Provides local functions, such as identifying multiple stations that share a single ATM interface. This field is typically not used and is set to its default value of 0 (binary 0000).

- **Virtual Path Identifier (VPI)**-In conjunction with the VCI, identifies the next destination of a cell as it passes through a series of ATM switches on the way to its destination.
- **Virtual Channel Identifier (VCI)**-In conjunction with the VPI, identifies the next destination of a cell as it passes through a series of ATM switches on the way to its destination.
- **Payload Type (PT)**-Indicates in the first bit whether the cell contains user data or control data. If the cell contains user data, the bit is set to 0. If it contains control data, it is set to 1. The second bit indicates congestion (0 = no congestion, 1 = congestion), and the third bit indicates whether the cell is the last in a series of cells that represent a single AAL5 frame (1 = last cell for the frame).
- **Cell Loss Priority (CLP)**-Indicates whether the cell should be discarded if it encounters extreme congestion as it moves through the network. If the CLP bit equals 1, the cell should be discarded in preference to cells with the CLP bit equal to 0.
- **Header Error Control (HEC)**-Calculates checksum only on the first 4 bytes of the header. HEC can correct a single bit error in these bytes, thereby preserving the cell rather than discarding it.

Source:

<http://datacombasic.blogspot.in/search/label/ATM%20Cell%20Header%20Format>