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(54) **A method of controlling base station transmitting power during soft handoff**

Verfahren zur Sendeleistungsregelung von Basisstationen während sanften Weiterreichens

Procédé de commande de la puissance d'émission des stations de base pendant une commutation douce

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## Description

**[0001]** This invention relates to CDMA cellular radio systems, particularly to controlling the power level at which several base stations transmit to a mobile station that is in soft handoff among the several base stations.

**[0002]** Cellular code-division multiple access (CDMA) radio systems, wherein mobile stations operate within "cells" whose outlines are determined by base transceiver stations (BTS's), are limited by interference. It is thus highly desirable to reduce interference. To limit overall interference, power control is employed in which mobile stations and base stations instruct each other to raise or lower their transmitting power so that sufficient, but not excessive, power is employed on forward and reverse links.

**[0003]** Depending on a mobile station's position within a cell and on the terrestrial features in the vicinity, a mobile station may be in communication with one or more BTS's. In Fig. 1, Mobile station 60 is assumed to be in communication with BTS's 40 and 50 both, over forward links 46 and 56 respectively, and over reverse links 47 and 57 respectively.

**[0004]** Forward link power control has two aspects: an open loop aspect and a closed loop aspect. The open loop aspect is used to compensate for the effect of distance variations and shadowing which are usually reciprocal on both links. The multipath fading conditions, however, are independent on the forward and the reverse links, and so the mobile station has to tell the base station how to adjust its power to compensate for fading. When the received energy-per-bit over noise density ( $E_b/N_0$ ) from the base station is high (or low), the mobile station sends a power control command (PC) every power control group (slot) asking the base station to decrease (or increase) its transmitted power. The power control command is sent at a fixed rate ( $T_p$ ). Typical rates in third generation (3G) CDMA systems are 800 or 1600 power control commands per second.

**[0005]** A power control command is currently sent once during each "power control group" (A power control group is also referred to as a "slot"). The power control command may be a single bit (one state connoting increase and the other connoting decrease) or it may be a multibit command to allow changing the power by different steps.

**[0006]** Fig. 1 depicts portions of a conventional CDMA network. The CDMA network is a portion of the public switched telephone network (PSTN) 10. Connected to the PSTN 20 is a mobile telephone switching office (MTSO) 20. Connected to MTSO 20 is base station controller (BSC) 30, which in turn connects to BTS 40 and BTS 50. BTS's 40 and 50 are equipped with antennas 45 and 55 respectively, which transmit and receive radio signals in an area located between them and generally comprising a cell.

**[0007]** Handoff procedures are employed for passing a mobile user from one base station to another. A mobile station is said to undergo a hard handoff if it disconnects

its transmission with the current base station and initiates transmission with a new base station. If the mobile station can communicate simultaneously with two or more base stations it is said to be in soft handoff. Soft handoff is one of the advantages that CDMA cellular systems have over other cellular systems like frequency-division multiple access (FDMA). Mobile station 60 of Fig. 1 is in soft handoff, since it is in communication with two BTS's (40 and 50).

**[0008]** Typically, a mobile station roaming in a cell can be in soft handoff a large percentage of the time. During soft handoff the mobile station is receiving from two or more base stations. These base stations combine the signal received from the mobile station to decode the data. The mobile station also combines the signals received from the different base stations and accordingly issues a single power control command that all the base stations should follow.

**[0009]** In the conventional scheme, the mobile station sends power control commands at the same rate (i.e., one command during each power control group) when it communicates with a single base station as it does when it is in soft handoff, as depicted in Figure 2. This is known as fast power control, and is useful for tracking the changes in the communication channel due to multipath fading.

A mobile station enters soft handoff when the signals received from at least two base stations are within a certain strength margin and thus gain is achievable by combining these signals (diversity gain). If the power levels of the signals are significantly different, the gain from diversity is lost. Also, if one base station starts transmitting at a high power level compared to the power level of the other base station, interference is increased which reduces the system capacity. The base stations will keep transmitting at comparable power levels if the power control commands transmitted by the mobile station can be received without error.

**[0010]** In practice, however, error-free reception of the power control commands is unusual. The power commands are sent uncoded to avoid the delay associated with coding; hence, even when there is a good connection between the mobile station and the BTS, the error is about 5%. If the connection is weaker, the error rate can be significantly higher. Erroneous reception of the power control commands at the base stations can result in their transmitting at markedly different power levels. This results in a loss in the diversity gain that soft handoff could provide. It further can result in increasing the interference ("noise floor") perceived by other mobile stations which reduces the overall capacity of the CDMA system.

**[0011]** In conventional systems, the mobile station uses the same method to issue the power control commands when it is communicating with a single base station (i.e., not in soft handoff) and when it is communicating with more than one base station (i.e., in soft handoff). However, the two situations should be dealt with differently. When the mobile sends a single power control command to the several base stations, one or more of the base stations may receive this command in error. This

results in that base station transmitting at a different power level than the other base stations. This results in a loss of diversity gain that we get from soft handoff and can also increase the interference in the system, which reduces the capacity. There is thus a need to improve the reliability of transmission of power control commands from a mobile station involved in soft handoff.

**[0012]** WO 98/49785 (QUALCOMM INC) describes a method for sending power control commands in a CDMA system when a mobile station is in soft handoff involving delaying the transmission of power control bits.

**[0013]** An embodiment of the present invention includes a method of sending power control commands in a CDMA cellular radio system from a mobile station to multiple base stations with which the mobile station is in soft handoff. The method includes the mobile station receiving a signal from each of the base stations. The mobile station repeatedly determines a power control command based upon the received signals and sends each power control command during a plurality of power control groups.

**[0014]** Preferably, the sending of the power control command during a plurality of power control groups comprises transmitting said power control command during each of said plurality of power control groups.

**[0015]** Advantageously, the method further includes synchronizing transmission power levels of the base stations after some other number of power control groups.

**[0016]** Another embodiment of the invention includes a computer program element comprising computer program code means arranged to make a mobile station execute procedure to perform the steps of the above method.

**[0017]** Still another embodiment of the invention includes an apparatus for sending power control commands in a CDMA cellular radio system from a mobile station to a plurality of base stations with which the subscriber unit is in soft handoff. The apparatus comprises means for receiving a signal from each of said base stations, means, coupled to said means for receiving, for determining a power control command based upon said received signals, and means for sending said power control command during a plurality of power control groups, preferably by transmitting said power control command during each of said plurality of power control groups.

**[0018]** An embodiment of the invention includes a radiocommunication mobile station incorporating an apparatus as defined hereabove for sending power control commands in a CDMA cellular radio system.

**[0019]** Still another embodiment of the invention includes a method of controlling transmission power of a base station in a CDMA cellular radio system, said base station being in communication with at least one mobile station. The method comprises receiving a plurality of copies of a power control command from said mobile station during a plurality of power control groups, and combining said plurality of copies to form one command for adjusting transmission power of said base station to-

wards said mobile station. A computer program element comprising computer program code means arranged to make a base station execute procedure to perform the steps of such method is also provided.

**[0020]** Another embodiment of the invention includes an apparatus for controlling transmission power of a base station in a CDMA cellular radio system, said base station being in communication with at least one mobile station. The apparatus comprises means for receiving a plurality of copies of a power control command from said mobile station during a plurality of power control groups, means for combining said plurality of copies to form one command, and means for adjusting transmission power of said base station towards said mobile station based on said one command. A radiocommunication base station incorporating such an apparatus for a controlling transmission power thereof in a CDMA cellular radio system is also provided.

**[0021]** The present invention advantageously provides a system for improving the reliability of transmission of power control commands from a mobile station to the base stations with which it is involved in a soft handoff.

**[0022]** Further, the present invention improves diversity gain in CDMA systems.

**[0023]** Also, the present invention beneficially reduces interference and thus increases overall capacity of CDMA systems.

**[0024]** The invention will next be described in connection with certain exemplary embodiments; however, it should be clear to those skilled in the art that various modifications, additions and subtractions can be made without departing from the scope of the claims.

**[0025]** The invention will be more clearly understood by reference to the following detailed description of an exemplary embodiment in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

- Fig. 1 (prior art) is a high-level block diagram of a portion of a CDMA cellular system with a mobile station in soft handoff;
- Fig. 2 (prior art) illustrates conventional methods of sending power control commands from a mobile station in a CDMA cellular system;
- Fig. 3 illustrates the method of the present invention of sending power control commands from a mobile station in a CDMA cellular system; and
- Fig. 4 plots the performance of several methods of sending power control commands including the method of the present invention.

**[0026]** This invention relates to power control commands sent during soft handoff. In overview, instead of sending one power control command during each power control group, the present invention proposes to send a power control command over multiple power control groups. This method provides more error protection to the power control commands and reduces the rate at which base stations adjust their power. This configuration

also reduces the deviation between the transmission powers of the base stations and allows more time for a central controller to balance the base station transmission powers.

**[0027]** In order to maintain compatibility with conventional power control, the mobile station may send the power control commands at the same rate ( $T_P$ ), determined according to the data frame duration and the number of slots per frame. Those skilled in the art will recognize that the rate could be such that the system is not backward compatible and still fall within the scope of the invention.

**[0028]** However, a mobile station in soft handoff sends a power control command over several slots instead of sending a power control command over a single slot. This is shown in Figure 3. Each base station involved in soft handoff can change its power level every  $n$  slots, rather than every slot.

**[0029]** Sending the power control command over  $n$  slots may take several different forms. It is possible to repeat the command each slot. In this case, the power command can be decoded after receiving each slot and then all the  $n$  decoded copies are combined to form one command, or the decoding of the power command can be done only once after receiving all  $n$  slots. However, in accordance with the invention, a portion of the command is sent during each slot so that it takes  $n$  slots to send the entire power control command. An advantage of this latter method is that the command may be coded into a multi-bit code and a portion of the multi-bit code sent each slot. It is also possible to combine these two methods such that one or more portions of a power control command are sent multiple times and the entire power control command may thus be sent multiple times spread over multiple slots.

**[0030]** Distributing one power control command over several slots results in reducing the error rate of the commands. Another advantage of reducing the control rate (i.e. once every  $n$  slots compared to once per slot) is reducing the deviation between the transmission power levels of the base stations since the base stations adjust their powers less often.

**[0031]** The present invention keeps the transmitted powers, of the base stations involved in a soft handoff, close to one another in magnitude. By way of example, assume the mobile station is in soft handoff with two base stations (although those skilled in the art appreciate that the number of base stations can be greater than two). The mobile station typically (although not necessarily) sends power control commands at a rate of 1600 commands/sec. The mobile station combines the signals from the two base stations using a RAKE receiver and accordingly determines a single power control command that both base stations should follow. In practice, some of these power control bits are received in error at a base station depending on the quality of the reverse link between the mobile station and the specific base station. By way of example, a frame error rate for both links is

assumed to be 1%. Under this assumption, the difference in the transmitted power from the two base stations is considered for four different cases:

1- The mobile issues a power command every power control group. Base stations' transmitted powers are not synchronized.

2- The mobile issues a power control command every power control group. Base stations' transmitted powers are synchronized every 10 frames based on the quality of the reverse link.

3- The mobile issues a single power control command every 4 power control groups. (This is an embodiment of the invention with  $n$  equal to 4.) Base stations' transmitted powers are synchronized every 10 frames based on the quality of the reverse link.

4- The mobile issues a power control command every power control group. Base stations' transmitted powers are synchronized every 2 frames based on the quality of the reverse link.

**[0032]** Assuming base station 40's (Fig. 1) transmitted power to be  $x$  and base station 50's transmitted power to be  $y$ ,  $z$  is defined to be  $|x-y|$ .

**[0033]** Fig. 4 shows the complementary cumulative distribution function of  $z$  for the four above-mentioned cases. Clearly, case 1 needs to be ameliorated in order to retain the benefits anticipated from the use of soft handoff. Synchronizing the base stations (under control of BSC 30 (Fig. 1) according to reports from base stations 40 and 50) every few frames does help in reducing the difference in the transmitted powers. However, this is inherently a slow process because of the necessary signaling and can require many frames. A considerable reduction in the difference in the transmitted powers is obtained by applying the present invention (case 3). The results in case 3 are better than case 4 even though case 3 employs fewer synchronizations.

**[0034]** Those skilled in the art realize that specific numbers discussed in the above cases and examples are exemplary and not limiting and that the invention may be used in configurations representing a broad range of design choices. It will thus be seen that the invention efficiently attains the embodiments set forth above, among those made apparent from the preceding description. The invention improves the reliability of transmission of power control commands from a mobile station involved in soft handoff.

**[0035]** In particular, the invention provides a system for improving the reliability of transmission of power control commands from a mobile station to the base stations with which it is involved in a soft handoff. The invention further provides improvement of diversity gain in CDMA systems. The invention further reduces interference and thus increases overall capacity of CDMA systems. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the configurations depicted in Figures 3 and 4 provide these improvements.

**[0036]** By way of summary, a mobile station in a CDMA

cellular radio system transmits a possibly unique power control command every power control group time when the mobile station is in contact with a single base station. When the mobile station is in soft handoff (in communication with two or more base stations simultaneously), however, the mobile station sends the same power control command for several power control group times, thus reducing the probability of receiving an erroneous power control command at a base station. The base stations synchronize their power levels periodically according to a predetermined number of power control command groups, resulting in more optimum base station power transmission levels, in turn resulting in a reduction in system noise and an increase in system capacity.

**[0037]** It will be understood that changes may be made in the above construction, and in the foregoing sequences of operation, without departing from the scope of the invention. It is accordingly intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawings be interpreted as illustrative rather than in a limiting sense. The present invention can, for example, be realized in the form of a computer program product supporting code modules that enable operation according to the present invention. Indeed, the program code could be provided to equipment by way of an over-the-air or wireline download of a Java Applet or the like.

## Claims

1. A method of sending power control commands in a CDMA cellular radio system from a mobile station (60) to a plurality of base stations (40, 50) with which the mobile station is in soft handoff, comprising:
  - said mobile station receiving a signal from each of said base stations;
  - repeatedly determining, in said mobile station, a power control command based upon said received signals; and
  - sending each power control command during a plurality of power control groups.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein sending said power control command during a plurality of power control groups comprises transmitting said power control command during each of said plurality of power control groups.
3. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising synchronizing transmission power levels of the base stations (40, 50) after another plurality of power control groups.
4. A computer program element comprising computer program code means arranged to make a mobile station (60) execute procedure to perform the steps of any one of the preceding claims.
5. The computer program element of claim 4, embodied on a computer readable medium.
6. Apparatus for sending power control commands in a CDMA cellular radio system from a mobile station (60) to a plurality of base stations (40, 50) with which the mobile station is in soft handoff, the apparatus comprising:
  - means for receiving a signal from each of said base stations;
  - means, coupled to said means for receiving, for repeatedly determining a power control command based upon said received signals; and
  - means for sending each power control command during a plurality of power control groups.
7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said means for sending comprises transmitting means for transmitting said power control command during each of said plurality of power control groups.
8. A radiocommunication mobile station (60) incorporating an apparatus as claimed in claim 6 or 7 for sending power control commands in a CDMA cellular radio system.
9. The station of claim 8, configured to receive a signal from each of said base stations (40, 50), and further comprising a processor configured to determine a power control command based upon said received signals.
10. A method of controlling transmission power of a base station (40, 50) in a CDMA cellular radio system, said base station being in communication with at least one mobile station (60), the method comprising:
  - receiving a plurality of copies of a power control command from said mobile station during a plurality of power control groups; and
  - combining said plurality of copies to form one command for adjusting transmission power of said base station towards said mobile station.
11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said plurality of power control groups comprises n successive slots, n being an integer greater than one, and wherein the transmission power of said base station (40, 50) towards said mobile station (60) is adjusted every n slots.
12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the step of combining the plurality of copies of a power control command comprises decoding once the power control command after receiving the n slots of said plurality of power control groups.

13. The method according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the step of combining the plurality of copies of a power control command comprises decoding each copy and then combining the decoded copies to form said one command. 5
14. A computer program element comprising computer program code means arranged to make a base station (40, 50) execute procedure to perform the steps of any one of claims 10 to 13. 10
15. The computer program element of claim 14, embodied on a computer readable medium.
16. Apparatus for controlling transmission power of a base station (40, 50) in a CDMA cellular radio system, said base station being in communication with at least one mobile station (60), the apparatus comprising: 15
- means for receiving a plurality of copies of a power control command from said mobile station during a plurality of power control groups;
  - means for combining said plurality of copies to form one command; and
  - means for adjusting transmission power of said base station towards said mobile station based on said one command. 20
17. The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said plurality of power control groups comprises n successive slots, n being an integer greater than one, and wherein the means for adjusting transmission power are arranged to adjust transmission power of said base station (40, 50) towards said mobile station every n slots. 25
18. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the means for combining the plurality of copies of a power control command comprise means for decoding once the power control command after receiving the n slots of said plurality of power control groups. 30
19. The apparatus according to claim 16 or 17, wherein the means for combining the plurality of copies of a power control command comprise means for decoding each copy and means for combining the decoded copies to form said one command. 35
20. A radiocommunication base station (40, 50) incorporating an apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 16 to 19 for controlling a transmission power thereof in a CDMA cellular radio system. 40

## Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren zum Senden von Leistungssteuerbefehl-

len in einem zellularen CDMA-Funksystem von einer Mobilstation (60) zu einer Mehrzahl von Basisstationen (40, 50), mit denen sich die Mobilstation im Soft-Handoff-Zustand befindet, welches umfasst:

- die Mobilstation empfängt ein Signal von jeder der Basisstationen;
- in der Mobilstation wird ein Leistungssteuerbefehl basierend auf den empfangenen Signalen wiederholt bestimmt; und
- jeder Leistungssteuerbefehl wird während einer Mehrzahl von Leistungssteuergruppen gesendet.

2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, bei welchem das Senden des Leistungssteuerbefehls während einer Mehrzahl von Leistungssteuergruppen beinhaltet, dass der Leistungssteuerbefehl während jeder der Mehrzahl von Leistungssteuergruppen gesendet wird. 20
3. Verfahren nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, welches weiter das Synchronisieren von Sendeleistungspegeln der Basisstationen (40, 50) nach einer weiteren Mehrzahl von Leistungssteuergruppen beinhaltet. 25
4. Computerprogrammelement, welches eine Computerprogrammcodeeinrichtung beinhaltet, die angeordnet ist, eine Mobilstation (60) zu veranlassen, eine Prozedur zur Durchführung der Schritte eines der vorhergehenden Ansprüche auszuführen. 30
5. Computerprogrammelement nach Anspruch 4, das auf einem computerlesbaren Medium realisiert ist. 35
6. Vorrichtung zum Senden von Leistungssteuerbefehlen in einem zellularen CDMA-Funksystem von einer Mobilstation (60) zu einer Mehrzahl von Basisstationen (40, 50), mit denen sich die Mobilstation im Soft-Handoff-Zustand befindet, wobei die Vorrichtung beinhaltet: 40
- eine Einrichtung zum Empfangen eines Signals von jeder der Basisstationen;
  - eine Einrichtung, welche mit der Empfangseinrichtung verbunden ist, um einen Leistungssteuerbefehl basierend auf den empfangenen Signalen wiederholt zu bestimmen; und
  - eine Einrichtung zum Senden jedes Leistungssteuerbefehls während einer Mehrzahl von Leistungssteuergruppen. 45
7. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 6, bei welcher die Einrichtung zum Senden eine Sendeeinrichtung aufweist, welche den Leistungssteuerbefehl während jeder der Mehrzahl von Leistungssteuergruppen sendet. 50

8. Funkkommunikations-Mobilstation (60), welche eine Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 6 oder 7 beinhaltet, welche Leistungssteuerbefehle in einem zellularen CDMA-Funksystem sendet.

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9. Station nach Anspruch 8, die konfiguriert ist, um ein Signal von jeder der Basisstationen (40, 50) zu empfangen, und weiter einen Prozessor aufweist, der konfiguriert ist, um einen Leistungssteuerbefehl basierend auf den empfangenen Signalen zu bestimmen.

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10. Verfahren zum Steuern einer Sendeleistung einer Basisstation (40, 50) in einem zellularen CDMA-Funksystem, wobei sich die Basisstation in Kommunikation mit mindestens einer Mobilstation (60) befindet und wobei das Verfahren umfasst:

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- Empfangen einer Mehrzahl von Kopien eines Leistungssteuerbefehls von der Mobilstation während einer Mehrzahl von Leistungssteuergruppen; und
- Kombinieren der Mehrzahl von Kopien, um einen einzigen Befehl zum Anpassen der Sendeleistung der Basisstation zur Mobilstation zu bilden.

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11. Verfahren nach Anspruch 10, bei welchem die Mehrzahl von Leistungssteuergruppen  $n$  aufeinander folgende Schlitze aufweist, wobei  $n$  eine Ganzzahl größer als 1 ist, und wobei die Sendeleistung der Basisstation (40, 50) zur Mobilstation (60) nach jeweils  $n$  Schlitzen angepasst wird.

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12. Verfahren nach Anspruch 11, bei welchem der Schritt des Kombinierens der Mehrzahl von Kopien eines Leistungssteuerbefehls beinhaltet, dass der Leistungssteuerbefehl einmal dekodiert wird, nachdem die  $n$  Schlitze der Mehrzahl von Leistungssteuergruppen empfangen wurden.

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13. Verfahren nach Anspruch 10 oder 11, bei welchem der Schritt des Kombinierens der Mehrzahl von Kopien eines Leistungssteuerbefehls beinhaltet, dass jede Kopie dekodiert wird und dann die dekodierten Kopien kombiniert werden, um den einen einzigen Befehl zu bilden.

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14. Computerprogrammelement, welches eine Computerprogrammcodeeinrichtung beinhaltet, die angeordnet ist, um zu bewirken, dass eine Basisstation (40, 50) eine Prozedur zur Durchführung der Schritte nach einem der Ansprüche 10 bis 13 ausführt.

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15. Computerprogrammelement nach Anspruch 14, das auf einem computerlesbaren Medium realisiert ist.

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16. Vorrichtung zur Steuerung der Sendeleistung einer

Basisstation (40, 50) in einem zellularen CDMA-Funksystem, wobei sich die Basisstation in Kommunikation mit mindestens einer Mobilstation (60) befindet und wobei die Vorrichtung aufweist:

- eine Einrichtung zum Empfangen einer Mehrzahl von Kopien eines Leistungssteuerbefehls von der Mobilstation während einer Mehrzahl von Leistungssteuergruppen;
- eine Einrichtung zum Kombinieren der Mehrzahl von Kopien, um einen einzigen Befehl zu erzeugen; und
- eine Einrichtung zum Anpassen der Sendeleistung der Basisstation zu der Mobilstation basierend auf dem einen einzigen Befehl.

17. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 16, bei welcher die Mehrzahl von Leistungssteuergruppen  $n$  aufeinander folgende Schlitze aufweist, wobei  $n$  eine Ganzzahl größer als 1 ist, und wobei die Einrichtung zur Anpassung der Sendeleistung angeordnet ist, um die Sendeleistung der Basisstation (40, 50) zur Mobilstation (60) nach jeweils  $n$  Schlitzen anzupassen.

18. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 17, bei welcher die Einrichtung zum Kombinieren der Mehrzahl von Kopien eines Leistungssteuerbefehls eine Einrichtung aufweist, welche dazu dient, den Leistungssteuerbefehl einmal zu dekodieren, nachdem die  $n$  Schlitze der Mehrzahl von Leistungssteuergruppen empfangen wurden.

19. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 16 oder 17, bei welcher die Einrichtung zum Kombinieren der Mehrzahl von Kopien eines Leistungssteuerbefehls eine Einrichtung zum Dekodieren jeder Kopie und eine Einrichtung zum Kombinieren der dekodierten Kopien aufweist, um den einen einzigen Befehl zu bilden.

20. Funkkommunikations-Basisstation (40, 50), die eine Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 16 bis 19 zur Steuerung einer Sendeleistung von dieser in einem zellularen CDMA-Funksystem beinhaltet.

## Revendications

1. Procédé pour envoyer des commandes de contrôle de puissance dans un système radio cellulaire CDMA à partir d'une station mobile (60) vers une pluralité de stations de base (40, 50) avec lesquelles la station mobile est en transfert intercellulaire sans coupure comprenant :

- la réception par ladite station mobile d'un signal de chacune desdites stations de base ;
- la détermination répétée, dans ladite station mobile, d'une commande de contrôle de puis-

- sance basée sur lesdits signaux reçus ; et  
- l'envoi de chacune desdites commandes de contrôle de puissance pendant une pluralité de groupes de contrôle de puissance.
2. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'envoi de ladite commande de contrôle de puissance pendant une pluralité de groupes de contrôle de puissance comprend la transmission de ladite commande de contrôle de puissance pendant chacun de ladite pluralité de groupes de contrôle de puissance.
3. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, comprenant en outre la synchronisation des niveaux de puissance de transmission des stations de base (40, 50) après une autre pluralité de groupes de contrôle de puissance.
4. Élément de programme informatique comprenant un moyen de code de programme informatique agencé de manière à ce qu'une station mobile (60) exécute la procédure pour effectuer les étapes de l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes.
5. Élément de programme informatique selon la revendication 4, incorporé à un support lisible par un ordinateur.
6. Dispositif pour envoyer des commandes de contrôle de puissance dans un système radio cellulaire CDMA à partir d'une station mobile (60) vers une pluralité de stations de base (40, 50) avec lesquelles la station mobile est en transfert intercellulaire sans coupure, le dispositif comprenant :
- un moyen de réception d'un signal de chacune desdites stations de base ;
  - un moyen, couplé audit moyen de réception, de détermination répétée d'une commande de contrôle de puissance basée sur lesdits signaux reçus ; et
  - un moyen d'envoi de chaque commande de contrôle de puissance pendant une pluralité de groupes de contrôle de puissance.
7. Dispositif selon la revendication 6, dans lequel ledit moyen d'envoi comprend un moyen de transmission pour transmettre ladite commande de contrôle de puissance pendant chacun de ladite pluralité de groupes de contrôle de puissance.
8. Station mobile (60) de radiocommunication incorporant un dispositif tel que revendiqué dans la revendication 6 ou 7 pour envoyer des commandes de contrôle de puissance dans un système radio cellulaire CDMA.
9. Station selon la revendication 8, configurée pour recevoir un signal de chacune desdites stations de base (40, 50), et comprenant en outre un processeur configuré pour déterminer une commande de contrôle de puissance sur la base desdits signaux reçus.
10. Procédé pour contrôler la puissance de transmission d'une station de base (40, 50) dans un système radio cellulaire CDMA, ladite station de base étant en communication avec au moins une station mobile (60), le procédé comprenant :
- la réception d'une pluralité de copies d'une commande de contrôle de puissance en provenance de ladite station mobile pendant une pluralité de groupes de contrôle de puissance ; et
  - la combinaison de ladite pluralité de copies pour former une commande pour ajuster la puissance de transmission de ladite station de base vers ladite station mobile.
11. Procédé selon la revendication 10, dans lequel ladite pluralité de groupes de contrôle de puissance comprend n intervalles de temps successifs, n étant un entier supérieur à un, et dans lequel la puissance de transmission de ladite station de base (40, 50) vers ladite station mobile (60) est ajustée tous les n intervalles de temps.
12. Procédé selon la revendication 11, dans lequel l'étape de combinaison de la pluralité de copies d'une commande de contrôle de puissance comprend de décoder une fois la commande de contrôle de puissance après réception des n intervalles de temps de ladite pluralité de groupes de contrôle de puissance.
13. Procédé selon la revendication 10 ou 11, dans lequel l'étape de combinaison de la pluralité de copies d'une commande de contrôle de puissance comprend le décodage de chaque copie et ensuite la combinaison des copies décodées pour former ladite une commande.
14. Élément de programme informatique comprenant un moyen de code de programme informatique agencé de manière à ce qu'une station de base (40, 50) exécute la procédure pour effectuer les étapes de l'une quelconque des revendications 10 à 13.
15. Élément de programme informatique selon la revendication 14, incorporé à un support lisible par un ordinateur.
16. Dispositif pour contrôler la puissance de transmission d'une station de base (40, 50) dans un système radio cellulaire CDMA, ladite station de base étant en communication avec au moins une station mobile (60), le dispositif comprenant :

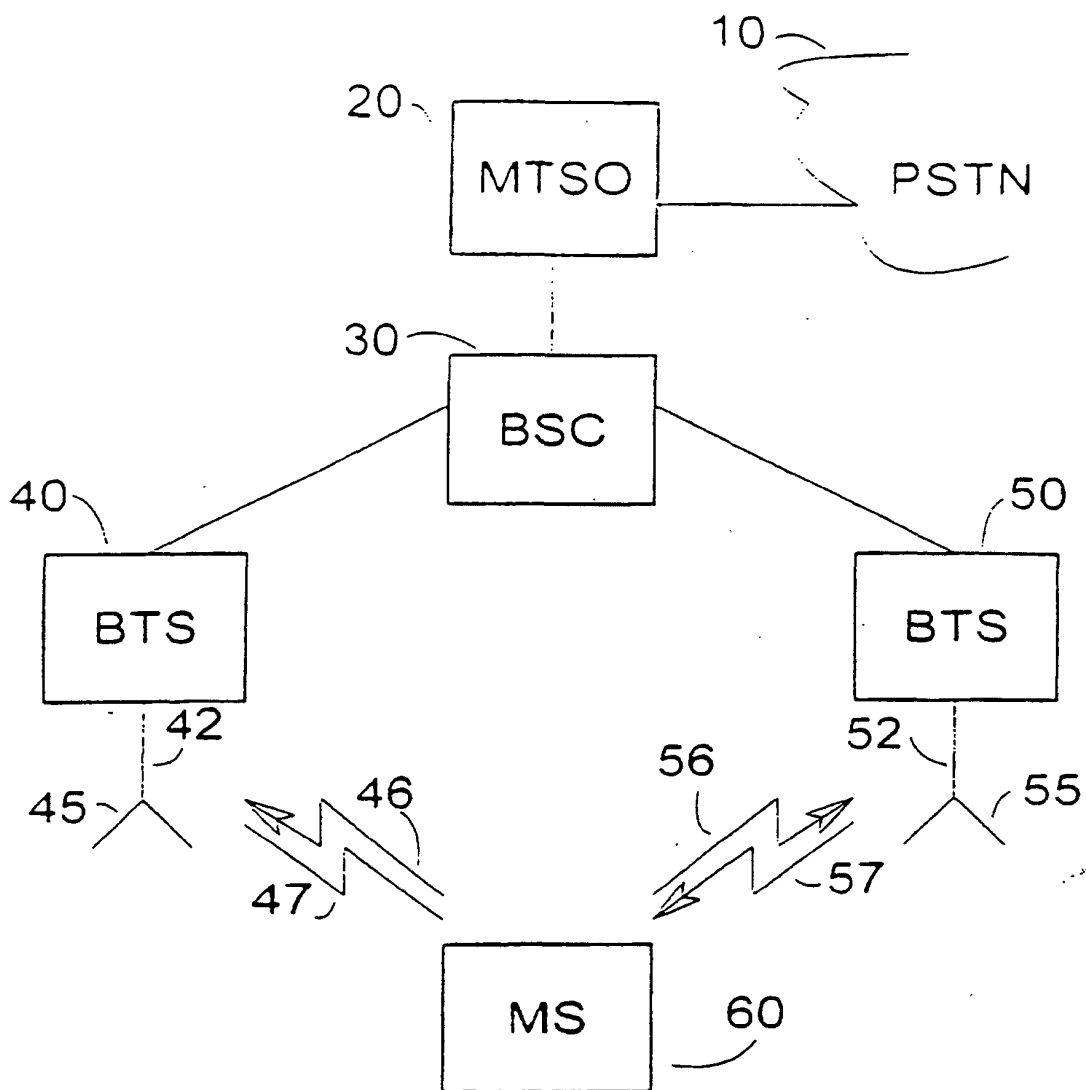


- un moyen de réception d'une pluralité de copies d'une commande de contrôle de puissance en provenance de ladite station mobile pendant une pluralité de groupes de contrôle de puissance ; 5
  - un moyen de combinaison de ladite pluralité de copies pour former une commande ; et
  - un moyen d'ajustement de la puissance de transmission de ladite station de base vers ladite station mobile sur la base de ladite une commande. 10
- 17.** Dispositif selon la revendication 16, dans lequel ladite pluralité de groupes de contrôle de puissance comprend n intervalles de temps successifs, n étant un entier supérieur à un, et dans lequel le moyen d'ajustement de la puissance de transmission est agencé de manière à ajuster la puissance de transmission de ladite station de base (40, 50) vers ladite station mobile tous les n intervalles de temps. 15 20
- 18.** Dispositif selon la revendication 17, dans lequel le moyen de combinaison de la pluralité de copies d'une commande de contrôle de puissance comprend un moyen pour décoder une fois la commande de contrôle de puissance après réception des n intervalles de temps de ladite pluralité de groupes de contrôle de puissance. 25
- 19.** Dispositif selon la revendication 16 ou 17, dans lequel le moyen de combinaison de la pluralité de copies d'une commande de contrôle de puissance comprend un moyen pour décoder chaque copie et un moyen pour combiner les copies décodées pour former ladite une commande. 30 35
- 20.** Station de base (40, 50) de radiocommunication incorporant un dispositif tel que revendiqué dans l'une quelconque des revendications 16 à 19 pour contrôler une puissance de transmission de celle-ci dans un système radio cellulaire CDMA. 40

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**Fig. 1**  
Prior Art

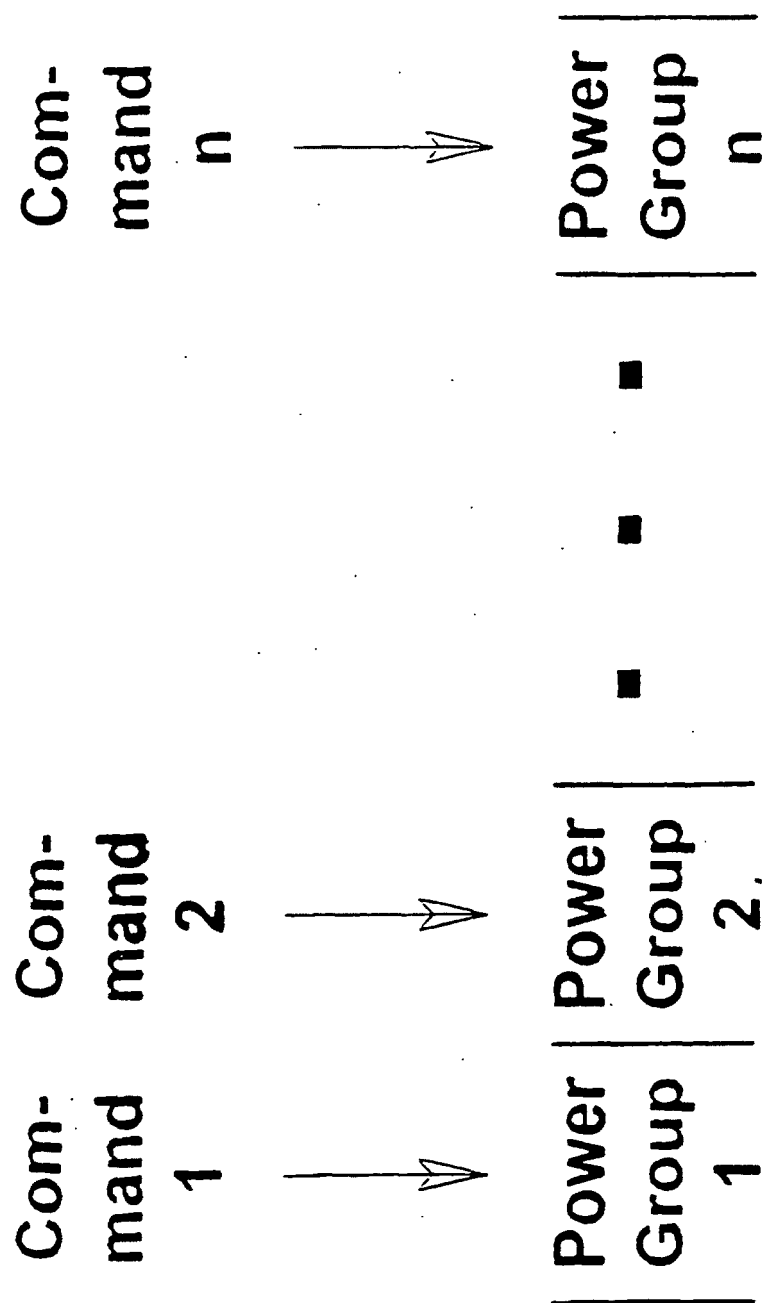


Fig. 2  
Prior Art

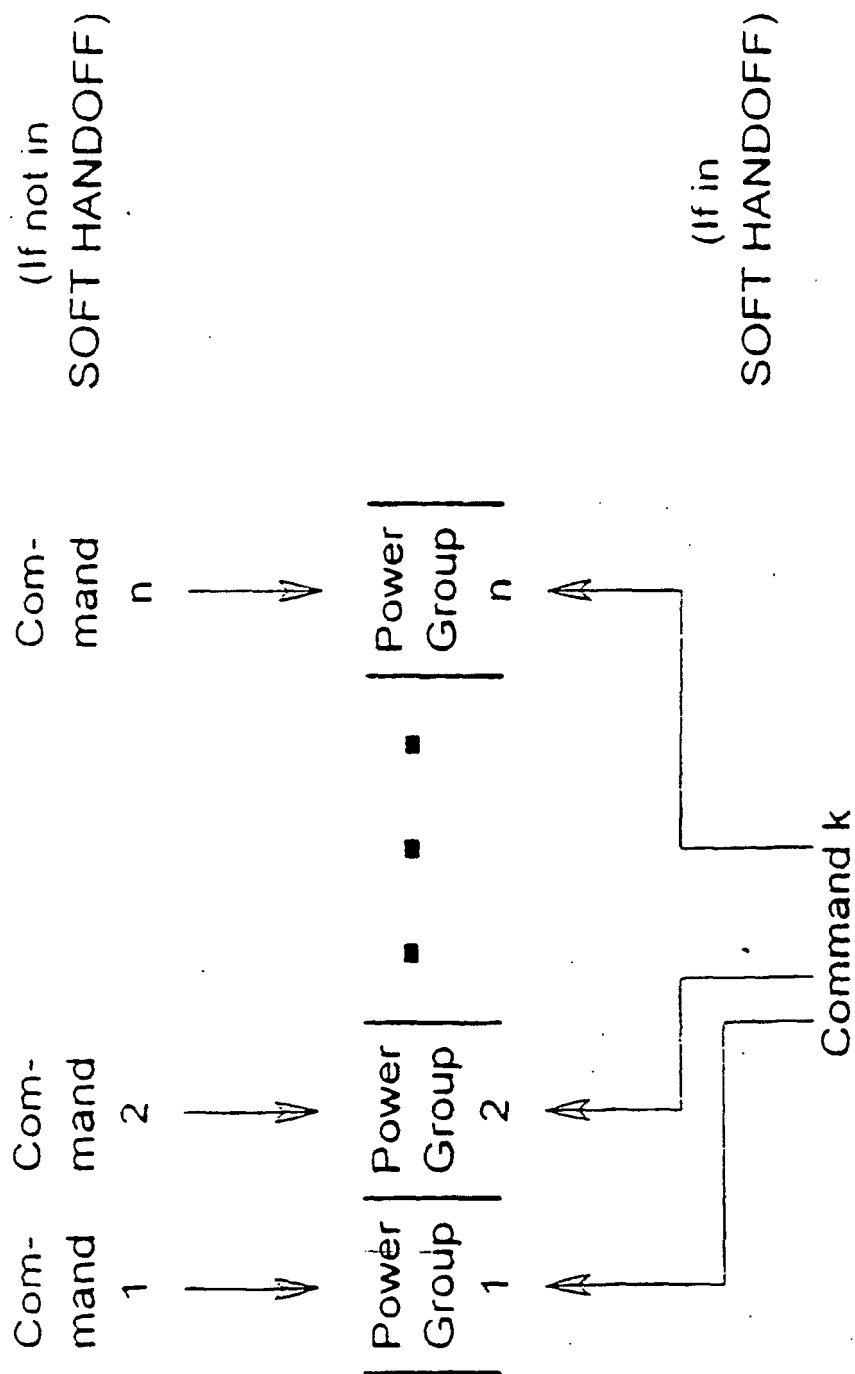


Fig. 3

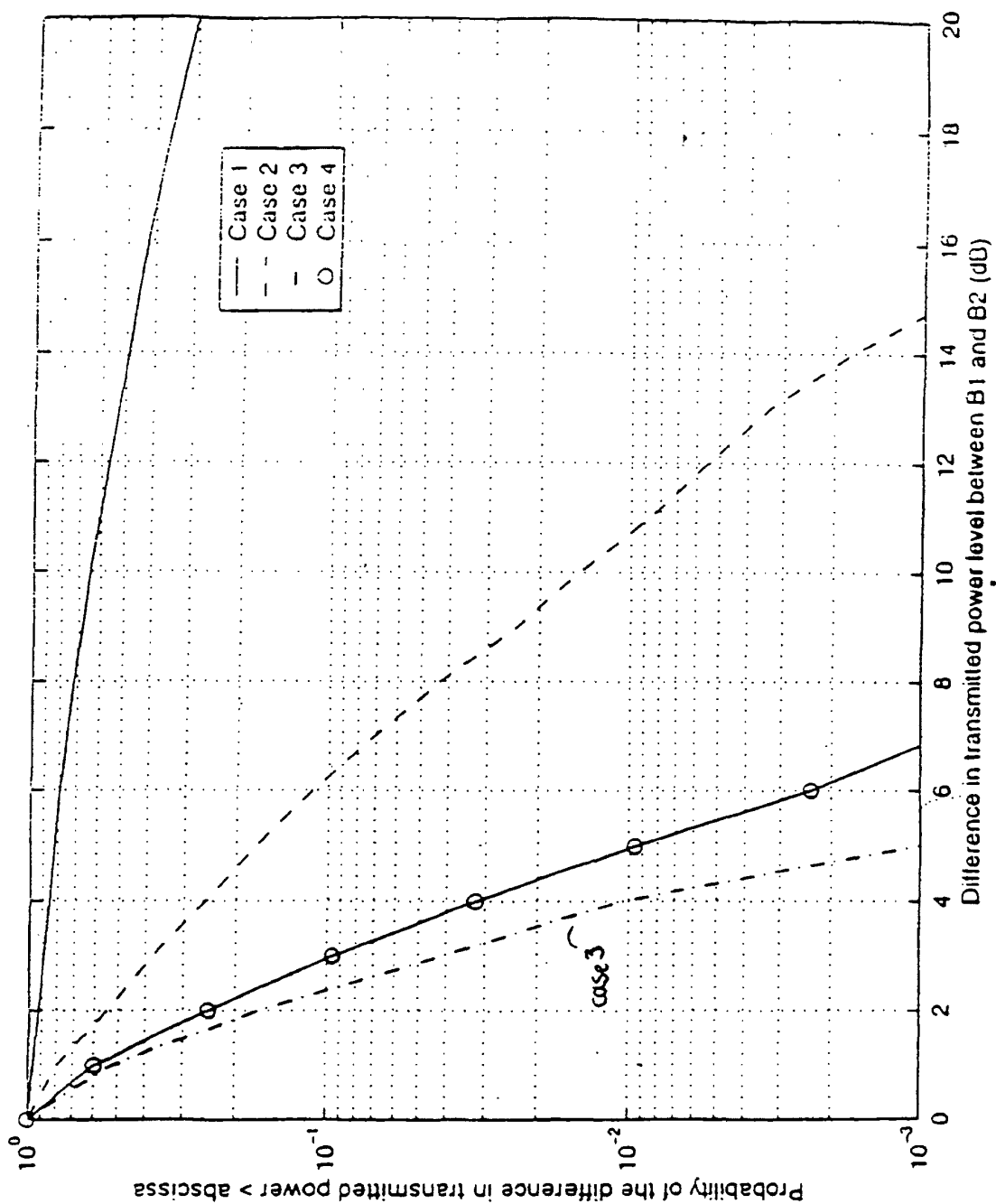


FIG. 4