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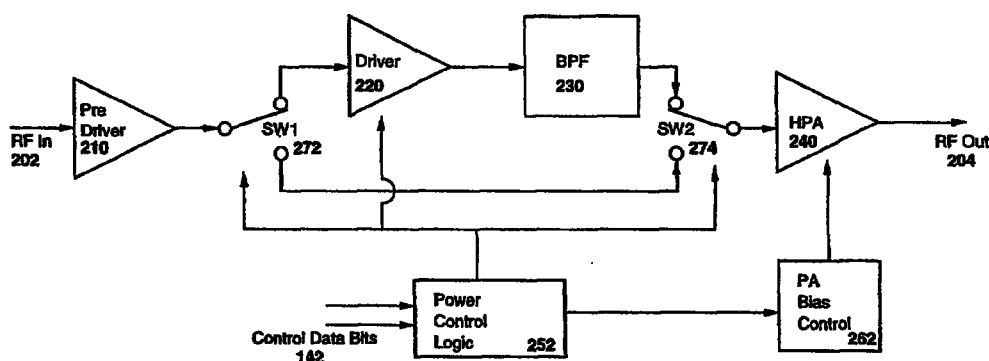
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(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for RF amplification of a transmit signal within a wireless phone. The amplifier chain is composed of three parts, a pre-driver (202), a bypassable driver amp (220), and a power amp (240). The configuration of the amplifier chain is adjusted in real time to optimize power consumption for a given output power requirement. At low output power levels the driver amp (220) is bypassed and the power amp (240) is provided a low bias current. At medium output power levels the driver amp (220) is bypassed and the power amp (240) is biased at a moderate current. When high output power is required the driver amp (220) is utilized and the power amp (240) is provided a high bias current. The driver amp (220) is shut down when in the bypassed state. The result of implementing this amplifier configuration is an increase in the efficiency of the transmit amplifier. The increase in amplifier efficiency results in increased talk times for battery powered wireless phones.