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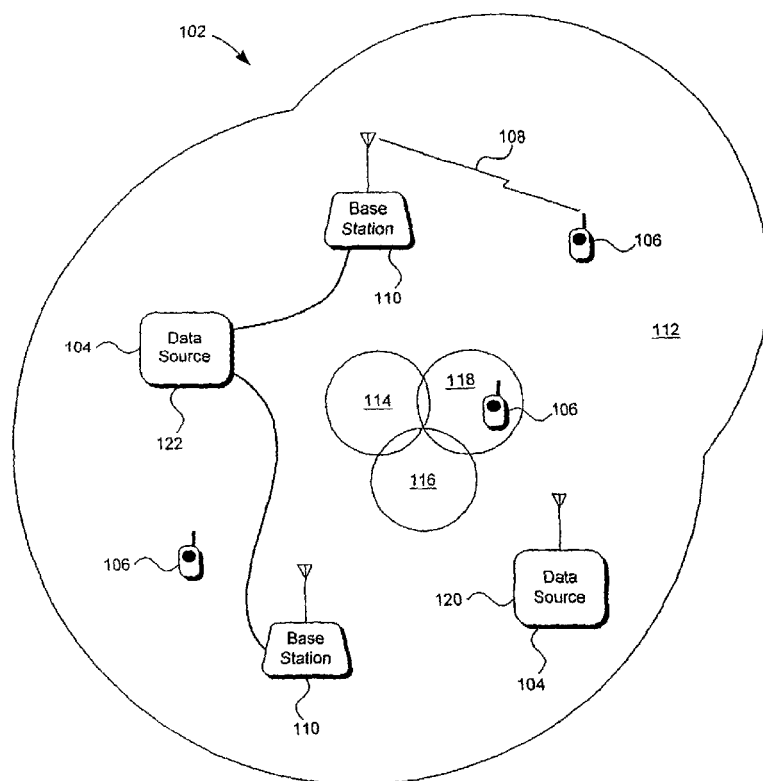
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(54) Title: DATA SOURCE HAND-OFF IN A BROADCAST-BASED DATA DISSEMINATION ENVIRONMENT



(57) Abstract: A method, system, and apparatus for handing-off data receivers (106) in a broadcast-based data dissemination environment. Data receiver (106) handoff is carried out between data sources (104) in different data cells (112) broadcasting information of the same category. Furthermore, data cell (112) ranges are based on geographic regions rather than signal strength coverage. Generally, the hand-off process involves acquiring the current receiver location of the data receiver (106) and comparing the receiver location with a current data cell (112) range. If the current receiver location is outside the current data cell range, a hand-off controller (202) searches for a new data source (104) encompassing the current receiver location coordinates and having an associated data topic matching the current topic. Once a new data source (104) is found, the handoff controller (202) subscribes the data receiver to the new data source.



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