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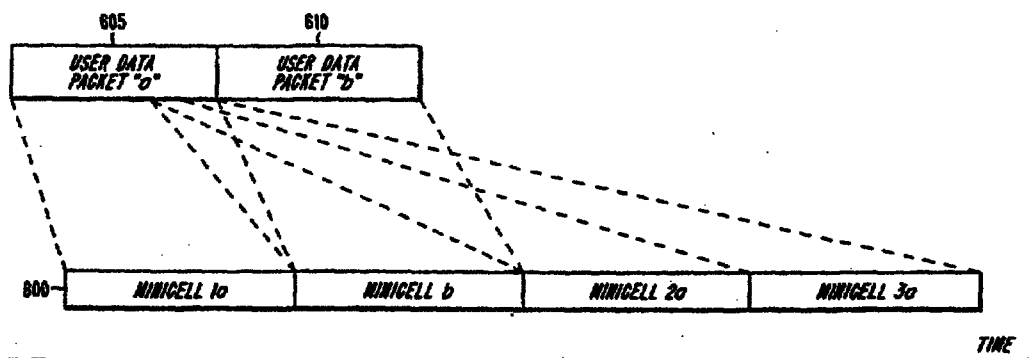


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(54) Title: **MULTIPLEXING OF VOICE AND DATA MINICELLS**



(57) Abstract

Segmenting, multiplexing and transporting user data packets in a telecommunication system that employs Asynchronous Transfer Mode can be accomplished more effectively by assigning a transmission priority code to each segmented user data packet based on the type of data contained therein. Data that is highly sensitive to transmission delays (e.g., voice data) will be assigned a high priority, while data that is less sensitive to transmission delays (e.g., signal strength measurement data) will be assigned a lower priority. When the user data packet segments are assembled into segment minicells and multiplexed into the ATM cell stream, those with the highest priority will be inserted first so that they experience the least amount of transmission delay.