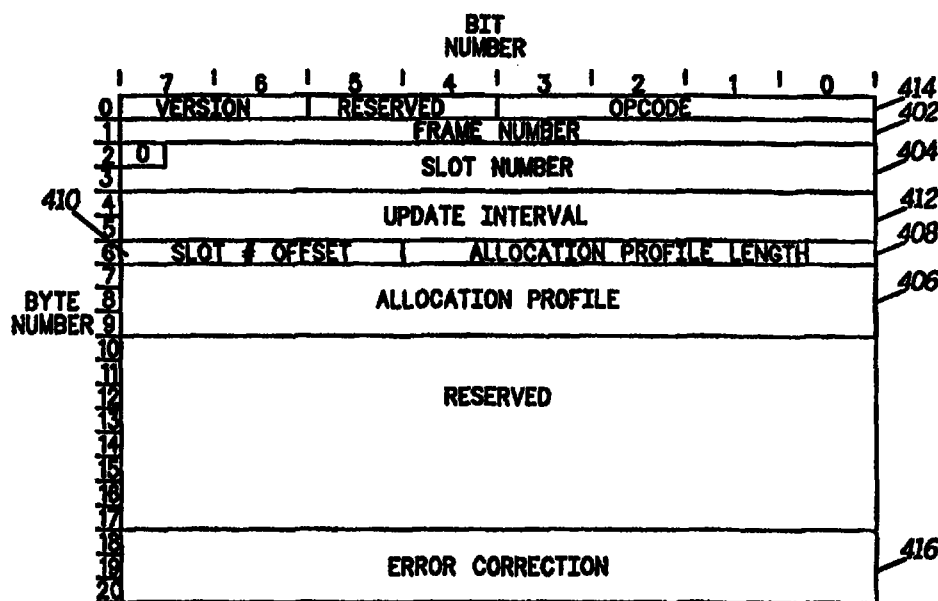


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(71) Applicant: MOTOROLA INC. [US/US]; 1303 East Algonquin Road, Schaumburg, IL 60196 (US).			
(72) Inventors: BLANCHETTE, Jeffrey, J.; 195 N. Middleton Avenue, Palatine, IL 60067 (US). WILSON, Timothy, J.; 4200 Oaksberry Lane, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008 (US). STANAWAY, J., Chris; 1268 Edinburgh Court, Wheaton, IL 60187 (US).			
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(54) Title: METHOD FOR ACCESSING AND PROVIDING ACCESS TO A PACKET CHANNEL

400

(57) Abstract

A communications system (100) has a TDMA signal (110) accessed by one or more mobile stations (104). The TDMA signal carries both circuit switched and packet data service. A packet channel is defined within a packet data frame (208) by assigning time slots not used by other services during the packet data frame to the packet channel. A packet data seed channel (204) is used to anchor the packet channel and steer a mobile station to the packet channel. In the packet data seed channel a dynamic allocation protocol (DCAP) slot (206) appears and carries the packet channel slot assignments for the next occurring packet data frame.