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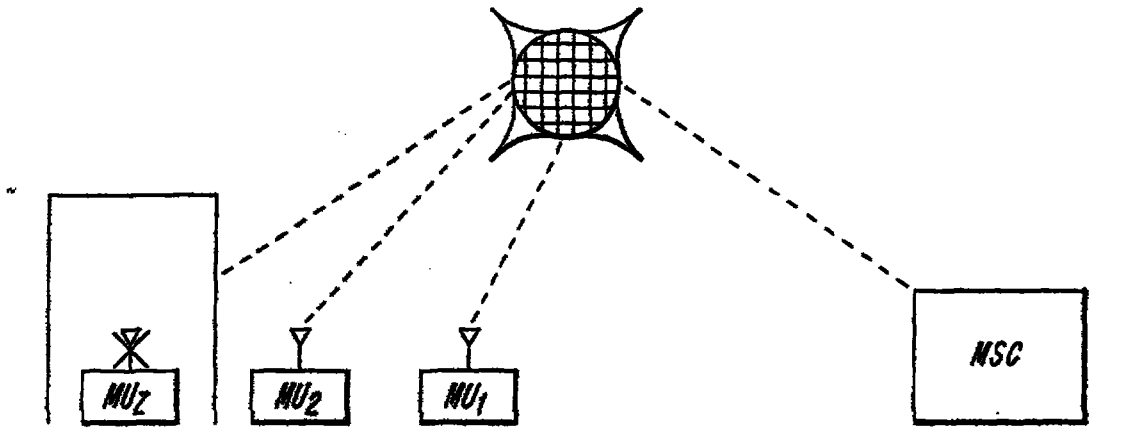
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(57) Abstract

A method and system for increasing the signal margin of a radiocommunication link to provide a short message service which is reliable, even under non-ideal conditions. According to the method, short alphanumeric messages can be transmitted over the broadcast control channel of a digital radiocommunication link, or another communication channel consisting of one or more slots from successive frames in a TDMA communication link. An increase in transmission power is used in combination with repetition to increase effective signal margin without complications in the mobile unit design, significant delay, or co-channel interference. Where a more significant increase in signal margin is desired, when a longer message is required, or for voice messages, the message may be stored and the mobile unit alerted of the message.

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