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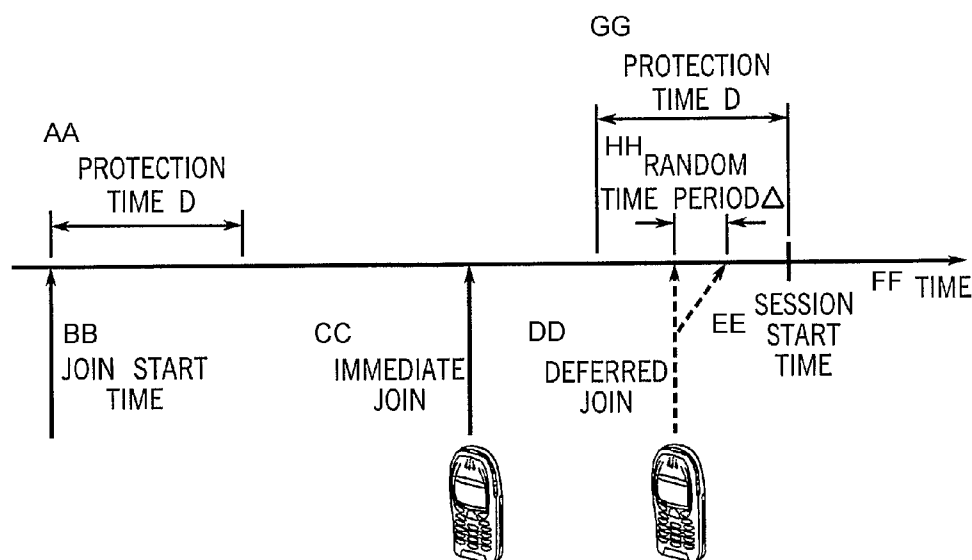
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR USING SCALABLE SESSION INITIATION AND TERMINATION IN MOBILE BROADCAST/MULTICAST SERVICES



(57) **Abstract:** An improved system and method for scheduling Join or Leave operations in a MBMS system. When a Join operation or a Leave operation is initiated by user equipment, it is determined whether the current time is within a protection period. If the current time is within a protection period, a first random time is calculated and an operation message is scheduled for transmission at the first random time. If the current time is outside of a protection but within an allowed period, the operation message is scheduled for immediate transmission. If the current time is outside of a protection and outside of the allowed period, a second random time is calculated and the operation message is scheduled to be sent at the second random time.

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