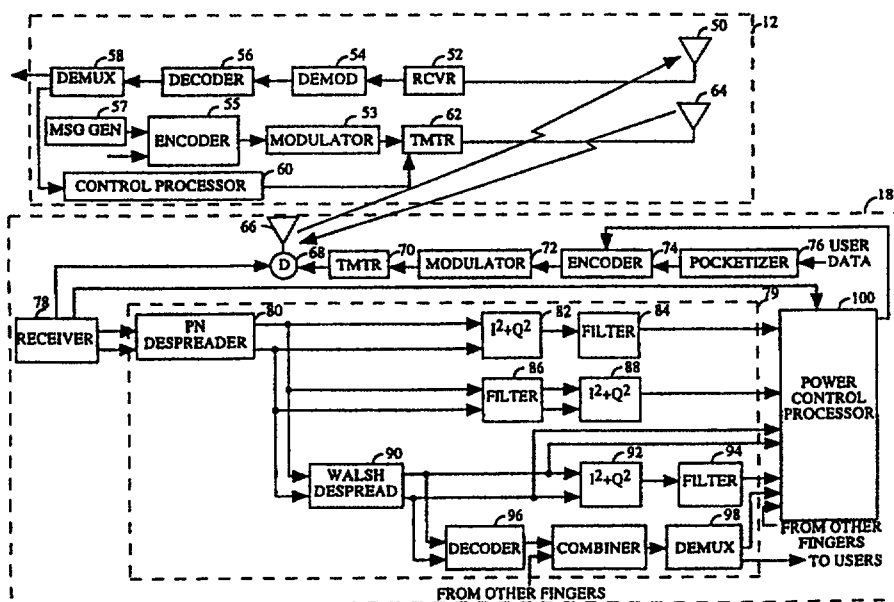




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(54) Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MEASURING LINK QUALITY IN A SPREAD SPECTRUM COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**



**(57) Abstract**

The present invention is a method and apparatus for providing a received signal quality metric which is optimally designed to control the transmission power of a transmitter in a closed loop power control system. The present invention is described in the context of a spread spectrum communication system but it is equally applicable to other types of communication systems. In the present invention, the power control system is described for controlling the power of transmissions from a base station to a mobile station, referred to as forward link transmissions.

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