



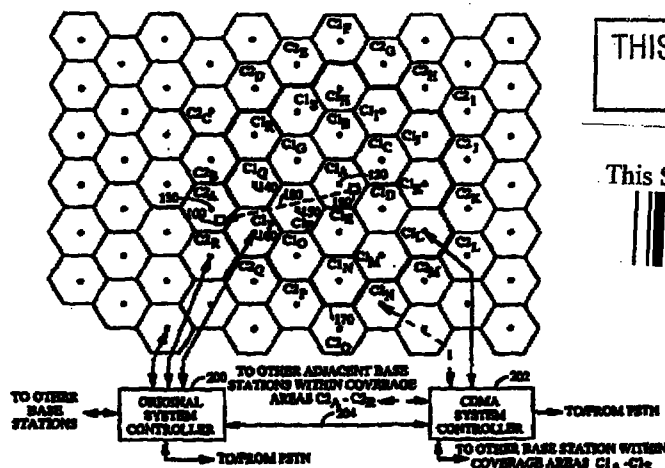
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MOBILE UNIT ASSISTED CDMA TO ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM HARD HANDOFF

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(57) Abstract

A method and apparatus for providing a reliable means to perform handoff from a code division multiple access (CDMA) system using a pilot signal to an alternative access technique system. Simple pilot box circuitry (350) is added to a set of border base stations ($C2_A - C2_R$). The border base stations ($C2_A - C2_R$) are base stations which operate only in the alternative access technique and which have coverage areas which are contiguous with coverage areas of CDMA operation base stations. The mobile unit monitors for the pilot signal from the border base stations ($C2_A - C2_R$) in the same manner as it monitors for pilot signals from the CDMA operation base stations ($C1_A - C1_Z$). When the mobile unit detects the pilot signal corresponding to a border base station ($C2_A - C2_R$), it notifies a system controller (202) in accordance with standard operation. The system controller (202) is aware that the pilot signal corresponds to a border base station ($C2_A - C2_R$) and thus triggers a hard handoff process to the alternative access technique system in response thereto.