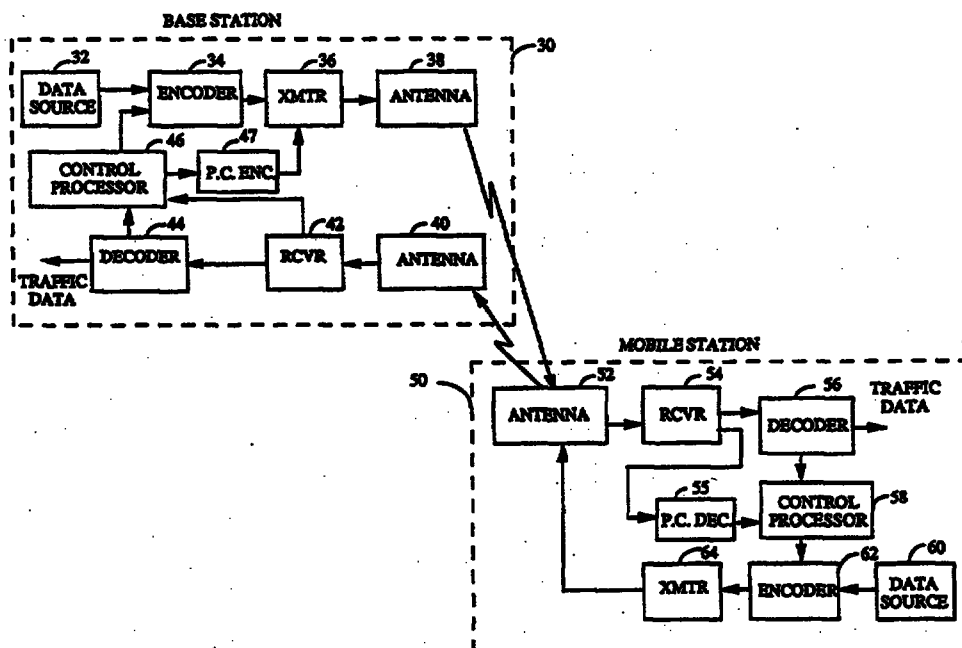




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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING POWER IN A VARIABLE RATE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

A method and an apparatus for controlling transmission power in a variable rate communication system. A base station (30) monitors the reverse link signal transmitted from a mobile station (50). Base station (30) determines whether mobile station (50) should increase or decrease its power based either upon frame error rates detected by a decoder (44) or by the level of received signal power detected at a receiver (42). In response to this analysis, a control processor (46) generates a power control signal and transmits this signal to mobile station (30).