

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A cellular radio telephone system employs discontinuous transmission and reception of speech signals to conserve receiver processing resources. A frame structure is imposed on digitized speech data to divide the data into units of fixed transmission time. When no active speech is present for the entire duration of a frame, transmission of that frame of data is inhibited. At the receiver, decoding of received bits is performed to determine correlation with a defined set of code words. If no correlation is found after the first few received bits of a frame, due to the absence of active speech data, decoding is discontinued for the remainder of the frame's duration. This approach frees up the receiver's resources for other tasks, such as decoding of other received signals. Frames of data from different sources are transmitted with a defined time alignment to enable the receiver to remain synchronized in the absence of transmitted data. The frames associated with different sources are staggered relative to one another, to distribute processing loads at the receiver.

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