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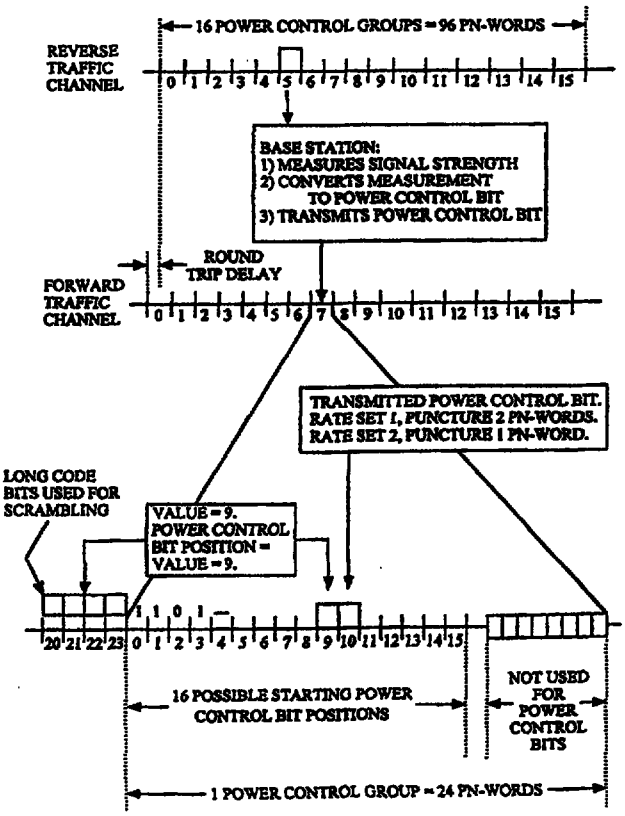
(54) Title: SYNCHRONIZATION OF FORWARD LINK BASE STATION POWER LEVELS DURING HANDOFF BETWEEN BASE STATION SECTORS IN A MOBILE RADIO COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

(57) Abstract

A method and apparatus for controlling the transmit power levels of first and second base station transceivers, wherein the first and second base station transceivers are respectively associated with first and second sectors of a cell. The received signal strength of a communication signal arriving at the mobile station is initially determined. A power control value that is based on the received signal strength is then transmitted from the mobile station to the first and second base station transceivers. A first received power control value is next generated by attempting to receive the transmitted power control value at the first base station transceiver, and a second received power control value is generated by attempting to receive the transmitted power control value at the second base station transceiver. A common transmit power value is calculated at a base station controller for the first and second base station tranceivers when the first and second received power control values are unequal. The communication signal is then transmitted from the first and second base station transceivers in accordance with the common transmit power value.