ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Individual information signals encoded with a common block error-correction code are assigned a unique scrambling mask, or signature sequence, taken from a set of scrambling masks having selected correlation properties. The set of scrambling masks is selected such that the correlation between the modulo-2 sum of two masks with any codeword in the block code is a constant magnitude, independent of the mask set and the individual masks being compared. In one embodiment, when any two masks are summed using modulo-2 arithmetic, the Walsh transformation of that sum results in a maximally flat Walsh spectrum. For cellular radio telephone systems using subtractive CDMA demodulation techniques, a two-tier ciphering system ensures security at the cellular system level by using a pseudorandomly generated code key to select one of the scrambling masks common to all of the mobile stations in a particular cell. Also, privacy at the individual mobile subscriber level is ensured by using a pseudorandomly generated ciphering key to encipher individual information signals before the scrambling operation.

This Sheet Has Been Replaced