

RECEIVER NOISE ESTIMATION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0001] The invention relates to digital communications. More particularly, the invention relates to noise estimation in a communication receiver.

Description of the Related Art

[0002] Wireless communication systems are widely deployed to provide various types of communication such as voice, data, and so on. These systems may be based on code division multiple access (CDMA), time division multiple access (TDMA), or some other modulation techniques. A CDMA system provides certain advantages over other types of systems. For example, a CDMA system provides increased system capacity.

[0003] A CDMA system may be designed to support one or more CDMA standards such as (1) the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)/Electronic Industries Association (EIA) "TIA/EIA-95-B Mobile Station-Base Station Compatibility Standard for Dual-Mode Wideband Spread Spectrum Cellular System" (the IS-95 standard), (2) the standard offered by a consortium named "3rd Generation Partnership Project" (3GPP) and embodied in a set of documents including Document Nos. 3G TS 25.211, 3G TS 25.212, 3G TS 25.213, and 3G TS 25.214 (the W-CDMA standard), (3) the standard offered by a consortium named "3rd Generation Partnership Project 2" (3GPP2) and embodied in a set of documents including "C.S0002-A Physical Layer Standard for cdma2000 Spread Spectrum Systems," the "C.S0005-A Upper Layer (Layer 3) Signaling Standard for cdma2000 Spread Spectrum Systems," and the "C.S0024 cdma2000 High Rate Packet Data Air Interface Specification" (the cdma2000 standard), and (4) some other standards.

[0004] A communication system **100** is shown in Figure 1 as a CDMA wireless phone system. The communication system **100** has one or more base stations, **110a** and **110b**, here shown as antenna systems typical of a wireless phone system.

Although only two base stations **110a**, **110b** are shown, it is understood that the communication system **100** may support any number of base stations. Each base station **110a**, **110b** provides coverage for a corresponding cell **120a**, **120b**. The coverage areas or cells **120a**, **120b** supported by the two base stations **110a**, **110b** are shown to be overlapping. However, it is understood that where more than one base station is supported in the communication system **100**, the cells supported by each base station may or may not overlap. Additionally, the cells of any three or more base stations may have some common coverage areas or may be mutually exclusive.

[0005] Since the operation of the communication system **100** within each cell is substantially identical, the discussion will focus on the operation within a single cell. A base station **110a** supports coverage over a corresponding cell **120a**. There may be one or more Mobile Stations (MS) **130a**, **130b**, within the cell **120a** simultaneously communicating with the base station **110a**. The MS **130a**, **130b** are shown as portable phones but it is understood that the MS **130a**, **130b** may be portable phones, mobile phones operating within vehicles, fixed position phones, wireless local loop phones, or any other type of communication device. The base station **110a** communicates to each MS **130a**, **130b**, over a forward link channel and each MS **130a**, **130b** communicates to the base station **110a** over a reverse link channel. The communication links may be over a continuously active channel or may allow for DTX. The base station **110a** also communicates with a Base Station Controller (BSC) **150** that provides the communication link to a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) not shown.

[0006] The CDMA standards provide specific details concerning the generation of the various channels supported on each of the forward and reverse links. Typical generation of a forward traffic channel and a forward pilot channel are shown, respectively, in the functional block diagrams of Figure 2 and Figure 3.

[0007] Forward traffic channel generation is shown in the functional block diagram of Figure 2. The figure shows a generalized functional depiction of Forward Traffic channel generation. Forward channels may not all be generated identically with the block diagram shown in Figure 2. Data to be transmitted on the forward traffic channel is coupled to a convolutional encoder **204**. The convolutional encoder **204** is used to provide Forward Error Correction (FEC). The constraint length and rate of the convolutional encoder **204** may vary according to the particular standard and

configuration of the communication system. Alternatively, a turbo encoder may substitute for the convolutional encoder **204** in systems that provide for turbo encoding.

[0008] The output of the encoder **204**, whether convolutional or turbo, is coupled to an interleaver **208**. The forward link signal is interleaved at the BS in order to lessen the effects of a burst of errors that may be caused, for example, by a fast signal fade due to destructively combining multipaths at a receiver front end. Interleaving the symbols before transmission and deinterleaving after reception causes bursts of errors to be spread out in time and to appear to the decoder as if they were random errors. Interleaving is typically performed on a frame basis when block interleaving is performed. The output of the interleaver **208** is coupled to a first input of a first modulo two adder **210**.

[0009] A long PN code generator **230** generates a pseudo random noise sequence based on a pseudo noise sequence masked in part by an electronic serial number of the specific MS for which the data is intended. The unique output from the long PN code generator **230** is coupled to a first decimator **232** used to reduce the rate of the signal from the long PN code generator **230** to coincide with the symbol rate output from the interleaver **208**. The output of the first decimator **232** is coupled to a second input of the first modulo two adder **210**. The output of the first modulo two adder **210** represents the interleaved data scrambled by the PN sequence. The scrambled output of the first modulo two adder **210** is then coupled to a first input of a multiplexer (MUX) **220**.

[0010] A single bit output from a Power Control section **224** is provided as a second input to the MUX **220**. The power control bit is punctured onto the scrambled data symbols and is used within a closed power control to instruct the MS to increase or decrease its transmit power. The location of the punctured bit is pseudo randomly determined using the long PN sequence.

[0011] The pseudo random sequence output from the first decimator **232** is coupled to an input of a second decimator **234**. The second decimator **234** further reduces the rate of the PN sequence to a desired power control puncture rate. The PN sequence output from the second decimator **234** is coupled to a control input of the MUX **220**. Thus, the PN sequence provided at the control input to the MUX **220** directs the MUX **220** to puncture the power control bit into the scrambled data symbols in a pseudo random location.

[0012] The output of the MUX 220 is coupled to an input of a second modulo two adder 240 used in the direct spreading of the data symbols. A Walsh code generator 242 provides a single Walsh code sequence, that is assigned to the particular Traffic Channel, to a second input of the second modulo two adder 240. The second modulo two adder 240 directly spreads each input symbol with the provided Walsh code. If the Walsh code length is sixty-four, the second modulo two adder 240 outputs a sequence of sixty four chips for each input symbol. The output from the second modulo two adder 240 is the modulo two sum of the Walsh code with the symbol and thus, sixty four chips are outputted in the time span of a single symbol.

[0013] The spread output from the second modulo two adder 240 is provided to two parallel paths that are used to generate the in phase (I) and quadrature (Q) signal components. Alternatively, as in some radio configurations of CDMA 2000, the symbols may be Quadrature Phase Shift Keyed and separate in phase and quadrature symbols may be provided to corresponding I and Q signal paths. The output of the second modulo two adder 240 is coupled to an in phase adder 252. The name of the adder denotes the function of adding the signals in the in phase path and does not denote functionality with respect to any specific phase of the signal. An Offset I PN generator 262 is coupled to a second input of the in phase adder 252. The output of the in phase adder 252 represents the in phase data signal and is coupled to a filter (not shown) and a modulator (not shown) for generation of the in phase (I) modulated signal.

[0014] Similarly, the output of the second modulo two adder 240 is coupled to an input of a quadrature adder 254. An Offset Q PN generator 264 is coupled to a second input of the quadrature adder 254. The output of the quadrature adder 254 represents the quadrature data signal and is coupled to a filter (not shown) and quadrature modulator (not shown) for generation of the quadrature (Q) modulated signal.

[0015] The Offset I and Q PN generators, 262 and 264, are short PN sequences used to isolate one cell or sector from another. The offset enables reuse of the Walsh codes in every sector.

[0016] The Pilot Channel can be viewed as a special case of Traffic Channel generation. The Pilot Channel is used to provide a receiver with time, phase, and signal strength information. It is not intended to carry user data. Typical Pilot Channel generation is shown in Figure 3.

[0017] Referring to **Figure 3**, all zeros are provided as the input to the Pilot Channel Generator **300**. The Pilot Channel carries no information on it. The all zeros input is coupled to a first input of a modulo two adder **310**. A Walsh code generator **320** is coupled to a second input of the modulo two adder **310**. The modulo two adder **310** normally operates to spread the input signal by the Walsh code. However, the Walsh code used for the Pilot Channel is the zero Walsh code. Thus, the output of the modulo two adder **310** still represents all zeros. The symbols used in the Pilot Channel are Bi-Phase Shift Keyed unlike the alternatives available for forward traffic generation. Only an in phase (I) signal component is represented by all zeros. There is no Q signal component. Thus, the same symbols are routed to both the I and Q signal paths for generation of the QPSK chips. This signal is coupled to a first input of an in phase adder **352**. An Offset I PN generator **362** is coupled to a second input on the in phase adder **352**. The output of the in phase adder **352** represents the I Pilot data that, when modulated, represents the I Pilot signal.

[0018] The output of the modulo two adder **310** is also coupled to a first input of a quadrature adder **354**. An Offset Q PN generator **364** is coupled to a second input of the quadrature adder **354**. The output of the quadrature adder **354** represents the Q Pilot data that, when modulated, represents the Q Pilot signal.

[0019] The Offset I and Q generators, **352** and **354**, are the same short PN sequences used in the forward traffic generation and are used to isolate one sector from another. A receiver may recover the short PN offset used in Traffic Channel generation by recovering the short PN offset from the Pilot Channel.

[0020] The differences in Traffic Channel and Pilot Channel generation allow a receiver to implement different configurations for extracting the desired information from the respective channels. In addition to extracting information contained in each channel, the receiver may also generate signal metrics in order to assist in closed loop power control. A typical metric used by a receiver in closed loop power control is energy per bit to noise power ratio (E_b/N_t). The receiver measures or estimates an energy per bit value as well as a noise power value in order to calculate the ratio. A signal energy value may be calculated as part of the signal demodulation processing. However, the implementation of a noise power estimator may take various configurations. When the receiver is implemented as a rake receiver having a plurality of fingers, demodulated

signals are coherently combined from each of the fingers. A noise power estimate needs to take into account the statistics of the processing of the received signals. Ideally, the statistics of the noise estimate processing track the statistics of the received signal processing. When the statistics of the noise estimate processing do not track those of the signal processing erroneous signal metrics may result. What is needed is a noise power estimation implementation that provides an accurate measurement of the received noise power over all receiver operating conditions.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0021] Novel techniques for noise power estimation in a Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) receiver are disclosed. A noise estimate of a received channel may be made by demodulating a received signal using an empty code or Walsh channel. The noise estimate may also be made by demodulating the Pilot signal in systems where potentially all Walsh codes are assigned to active channels. Where the channels are quadrature phase modulated, and a signal is comprised of an in phase symbol component and no quadrature symbol component, the noise estimator may take advantage of the Pilot channel configuration by demodulating only the quadrature component of the Pilot channel. The noise estimator demodulates the Pilot using signal processing stages that statistically track the signal processing performed on traffic channels. The statistics of the processing performed in the noise estimate closely track the statistics of the signal processing performed on the traffic channels.

[0022] The receiver may be implemented on the Forward Link or the Reverse Link of a communication system. The method and apparatus for noise power estimation may be implemented in a mobile station, base station, or base station controller. Where the receiver calculates a signal magnitude as part of a signal metric, the noise estimator may be configured to calculate a noise magnitude. Where the receiver calculates a signal energy as part of a signal metric, the noise estimator may be configured to calculate a noise energy.

[0023] A method of noise estimation may include demodulating a received signal on an empty code channel and calculating a noise estimate from the resulting demodulated signal. A method of noise estimation may also include calculating a cross product of a received Pilot signal to generate a demodulated Pilot signal, then calculating

an energy of the demodulated signal and accumulating the calculated energy over a frame. When a receiver is implemented as a rake receiver, the noise estimation method may include calculating a cross product of a received Pilot signal in a plurality of fingers of the rake receiver in order to generate demodulated Pilot signals in each of the plurality of fingers. The method also includes time aligning the demodulated signals from each of the fingers in corresponding plurality of deskew buffers, then summing the time aligned demodulated signals from the deskew buffers to generate a composite demodulated signal.

[0024] A communication device having a noise estimator may include means for demodulating a received signal on an empty code channel and means for calculating a noise estimate from the demodulated signal. Another embodiment of a noise estimator may include means for calculating a cross product of a received Pilot signal in a plurality of fingers of a rake receiver to generate a demodulated Pilot signal in each of the fingers. The noise estimator also includes means for time aligning the demodulated signals in corresponding deskew buffers and means for summing the time aligned demodulated signals from the plurality of deskew buffers to generate a composite demodulated signal. Another embodiment of a noise estimator may include a receiver adapted to demodulate a received signal using an empty Walsh code and a noise calculator adapted to generate an output comprising a noise estimate. The noise estimator also includes an accumulator adapted to sum the output of the noise calculator over a predetermined period of time, such as a frame.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0025] The features, objects, and advantages of the invention will become more apparent from the detailed description set forth below when taken in conjunction with the drawings in which like reference characters identify correspondingly throughout and wherein:

[0026] Figure 1 is a functional diagram of a CDMA wireless communication system.

[0027] Figure 2 is a block diagram of Forward Traffic Channel generation.

[0028] Figure 3 is a block diagram of Forward Pilot Channel generation.

[0029] Figure 4 is a block diagram of a CDMA receiver.

- [0030] Figure 5 is a block diagram of Signal Energy Estimator.
- [0031] Figure 6 is a block diagram of a Noise Power Estimator.
- [0032] Figure 7 is a block diagram of a Signal Energy Estimator.
- [0033] Figure 8 is a block diagram of a Pilot Noise Power Estimator.
- [0034] Figure 9 is a flow chart of a noise power estimation algorithm.
- [0035] Figure 10 is a flow chart of a noise power estimation algorithm.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

[0036] A receiver implementation may make implementation of a particular noise power estimator a preferable choice because only minimal design changes will need to be implemented and the processing capabilities of the receiver will not be heavily burdened by the noise power estimator. The noise power estimator described below takes into account the receiver structure in order to ease implementation of the noise power estimator. Additionally, the noise power estimator takes into account the operating conditions of the receiver such that an accurate noise power estimate is made for all conditions.

[0037] **Figure 4** shows a functional block diagram of a CDMA receiver **400** implementing a noise power estimator. The receiver **400** may represent one half of a transceiver such as may be used in a wireless phone operating in a system that is compliant with the CDMA 2000 standard. Alternatively, all or portions of the receiver **400** may be implemented in a Base Station (BS) or Base Station Controller (BSC). A data signal that is modulated at a BS in accordance with the forward link signal standards is transmitted to the receiver **400**. An antenna **402** at the front end of the receiver **400** interfaces the receiver **400** to the wireless communication link. The received signal at the output of the antenna **402** is coupled to a Radio Frequency (RF)/analog section **410**. The RF/analog section **410** is used to tune the receiver **400** to a specific assigned frequency band, downconvert the received signal to a lower frequency signal, filter the signal, and amplify the signal. The output of the RF/analog section **410** is an analog signal that is at a low Intermediate Frequency (IF) or at baseband. The processed analog signal is then coupled to an Analog to Digital Converter (ADC) **412** where the signal is sampled and

converted to a digital representation. The digitized output of the ADC **412** is coupled to a rake receiver **420**.

[0038] The rake receiver **420** gets its name from its internal structure. Within the rake receiver **420** there are multiple fingers **424a-424c** that track different copies of the desired signal. The different path lengths used by the signal when it traverses from the BS to the receiver **400** produce multiple copies of the desired signal. The differing multipaths produce replicas of the desired signal that are slightly offset in time from one another. The rake receiver **420** capitalizes on the ability of a CDMA system to differentiate between small time differences of received signals by assigning each finger **424a-424c** of the rake receiver **420** to a different time delayed copy of the desired signal. A searcher **422** is used to constantly search the digitized signal for strong signal paths. The searcher **422** may assign a signal from a particular signal path to a particular finger **424a-424c** depending on the signal strength from that particular signal path. The path assignments are continually updated as the received signal changes. Thus, each finger **424a-424c** is assigned a time offset copy of the same signal that is assigned to the other fingers. Although only three fingers **424a-424c** are shown in the rake receiver **420**, the actual number of fingers may vary according to the desires and design constraints of the receiver designer.

[0039] Ideally, each finger **424a-424c** is assigned to a multipath signal that is not correlated to any other multipath signal assigned to any other finger **424a-424c**. However, there are conditions where the multipath signals assigned to separate fingers **424a-424c** will be correlated. One condition where multipath signals assigned to two different fingers **424a-424b** may correlate is where the multipath signals merge due to changes in the multipaths. A first finger **424a** may be assigned to a first multipath signal that corresponds to a first path length from a transmitter to the receiver **400**. A second finger **424b** may be assigned to a second initially uncorrelated multipath signal that corresponds to a second path length from the transmitter to the receiver **400**. Each of the fingers **424a-424b** continues to track the respective multipath signals until the searcher **422** changes the finger assignment. However, as the receiver **400** moves its location or antenna **402** orientation, the multiple path lengths change along with the corresponding multipath signals. It is conceivable that the path length, and thus multipath signal, tracked by the first finger **424a** may at some point merge with the path length and

corresponding multipath signal tracked by the second finger **424b**. The fingers **424a-424b** are no longer uncorrelated when the first and second path lengths produce a signal time offset that is smaller than a minimum discernable time offset. A noise estimator that uses signals from the fingers **424a-424c** should account for the possibility of correlated signals. When the signals in the fingers **424a-424c** are correlated, the noise is also correlated.

[0040] A noise power estimator may be implemented into the receiver **400**, as described further below, for estimating the received noise using the received Pilot Channel that is present in Forward Link signals, and that may be present in some implementations of the Reverse Link. The noise power estimator uses the rake receiver **420** to demodulate the Pilot signal as if it were a Traffic Channel. The demodulated signal represents noise because the Pilot is not modulated with data. Demodulating the Pilot Channel as if it were a Traffic Channel allows the noise estimator to account for the possibility of correlated noise signals in multiple fingers **424a-424c**.

[0041] Each finger **424a-424c** determines the time offset between its assigned signal and a time reference. The finger **424a-424c** makes the time alignment determination by correlating its assigned multipath signal to a time reference signal. The correlation also is used to despread the signal assigned to the finger **424a-424c**. After making the time alignment determination, the finger **424a-424c** writes the despread signal values to a corresponding buffer **426a-426c**. The despread signal values written into the corresponding buffers **426a-426c** represent time aligned versions of the same desired signal. Thus, the time aligned contents of the buffers **426a-426c** may be coherently combined in a summer **428**. Because noise is generally not correlated over the various time alignments assigned to the fingers **424a-424c**, the noise does not coherently combine in the summer **428**. Thus, the rake receiver **420** increases the desired signal to noise ratio by time aligning and coherently summing the time offset versions of the desired signals that are produced by multipath. The output of the rake receiver thus represents an aligned signal.

[0042] The coherently combined output from the rake receiver **420**, representing the aligned signal, is coupled to a deinterleaver **430**. The deinterleaver **430** performs block deinterleaving on the received symbols to rearrange the symbols to the

order they were in prior to interleaving at the BS. The deinterleaved symbols are then coupled to the input of a decoder **440**.

[0043] The symbols are decoded in a manner consistent with the encoding process used in the BS. As noted earlier, the different channels on the forward link may use different types of Forward Error Correction (FEC). Some channels, like the F-SCH, may use different types of FEC depending on the particular radio configuration. Symbols on F-SCH may be convolutionally encoded or turbo encoded depending on the supported radio configuration.

[0044] The receiver **400** implements a convolutional decoder, such as a Viterbi decoder, as the decoder **440** when the symbols are convolutionally encoded and the receiver **400** implements a turbo decoder as the decoder **440** when the symbols are turbo encoded. The decoded bits that are output from the decoder **440** may also include other signal quality indicators such as parity bits or Cyclic Redundancy Check (CRC) bits.

[0045] The output of the decoder **440** is coupled to a Re-encoder **460**. The decoding process may be much more computationally intensive than the encoding process. This is because the decoder makes decisions as to the probability of each bit while the encoder entails a fairly straightforward computation. Therefore, re-encoding the decoded bits and comparing the re-encoded symbols to the received symbols may be used to generate an error metric. The decoded bits that are output from the decoder **440** are re-encoded using the same FEC algorithm used in the BS. Thus, the Re-encoder **460** performs convolutional encoding if the decoder **440** performed Viterbi decoding and the Re-encoder **460** performs turbo encoding if the decoder **440** performed turbo decoding.

[0046] The Re-encoder **460** provides the re-encoded data to a Symbol Error Rate (SER) check detector **470**. The SER detector **470** receives the re-encoded symbols from the re-encoder **460** and an estimate of the received symbol data at the input to the decoder **440**. The SER detector **470** compares the re-encoded symbols to the estimate of the received symbol data and counts the number of discrepancies between the re-encoded symbol data and the received symbol data. In addition to any CRC bits, the SER values help provide a determination of whether the frame has errors.

[0047] The output of the decoder **440** may also be provided to a user interface (not shown), another signal processing stage (not shown), or to another functional block

within the receiver **400** or a transceiver (not shown) for which the receiver **400** is a part. The additional decoder **440** output routing possibilities are not shown for purposes of clarity.

[0048] A processor **480** coupled to memory **490** may be used to provide processing power or control for various blocks within the receiver **400**. The processor **480** may control the analog gain of various amplifier stages in the RF/analog stage **410** as part of an Automatic Gain Control (AGC) loop. The processor **480** may generate Walsh codes or timing references used in the rake receiver **420** or may be used to provide the coherent summing function **428**. The interconnections of the processor **480** to the various stages and the corresponding functions of the interconnections are provided only as examples and are not intended to be an exhaustive list of the interconnections or functions of the processor **480**.

[0049] The receiver also determines closed loop power control metrics in addition to recovering the desired signal. As noted above, a typical metric used by a receiver in closed loop power control is energy per bit to noise power ratio (E_b/N_t). The receiver may calculate or estimate a received energy or magnitude as the numerator of the ratio.

[0050] **Figure 5** shows a functional block diagram of a signal energy estimator **500**. The estimator **500** determines an energy of a Traffic channel by calculating a magnitude based on the power control bits punctured into the data in the Traffic Channel generation process. It may be convenient to use the punctured power control bits because they are not affected by frame rate changes. The punctured power control bits have an energy that is greater than an energy of a full rate traffic bit because of the way that the power control bits are defined in the CDMA standards. One power control bit is punctured into the signal every Power Control Group (PCG). The signals are despread and aligned in the rake receiver. The aligned signals are stored in deskew buffers to allow coherent combining from multiple fingers. Thus, for a single finger, an I deskew buffer **502** and a Q deskew buffer **504** are used to hold the time aligned symbols. An output of the I deskew buffer **502** is coupled to a first input of a first summer **510**. An output of a Q deskew buffer **504** from the same finger is coupled to a second input of the first summer **510**. The data from the deskew buffers, **502** and **504**, are gated such that only the aligned power control bits are provided to the first summer **510**. A controller

(not shown) that is able to determine the position of the power control bits can be used to strobe the power control bits out of the deskew buffers, **502** and **504**, to the first summer **510**. The power control bits output from the I and Q deskew buffers, **502** and **504**, should represent the same bit, such that the sum will reinforce the value. The output of the first summer **510** is coupled to a first input of a second summer **530**. Similarly summed I and Q power control bits from other fingers **520** are already time aligned with the power control bit output from the first summer **510**. In this instance, the other fingers track signals from the same cell that the first finger tracked. The respective outputs from the summers of other fingers are also coupled to inputs on the second summer **530**. Although only a single line is shown connecting the summed power control bits from the other fingers **520** to the second summer **530**, it is understood that the number of signals summed may equal a number of fingers. Where the rake receiver implements three fingers as shown in the embodiment of **Figure 4**, the summed power control bits from two other fingers could be coupled to the second summer **530**. A controller (not shown) coupled to each finger deskew buffer may further qualify the output from the buffer. The controller may exclude the outputs from fingers where the signal tracked by the finger is not sufficiently strong enough to have a high confidence in the power control bit value.

[0051] The output of the second summer **530** is a coherent sum of the power control bits from each of the fingers. The output of the second summer **530** is coupled to an absolute value generator **540** where a magnitude of the sum is calculated. The output of the absolute value generator **540** is coupled to an input of an accumulator **550**. The magnitude of a summed power control bit from other cells is calculated in another cell absolute value generator **544** if there are any fingers tracking signals directed to the receiver that originate from other cells. The number of absolute value generators could equal the number of fingers to correspond with the situation where each finger in the rake receiver is tracking a signal from a different cell. The outputs from the other cell absolute value generators **544** are also coupled to inputs on the accumulator **550**. The other cell absolute value generators do not contribute when the fingers do not track signals from other cells.

[0052] The accumulator **550** sums all of the input values over a period of time. It is convenient to use the time span of a single frame when the receiver is a CDMA receiver. There are sixteen power control groups within a single frame. Thus, the

accumulator **550** sums the outputs from the absolute value generators, **540** and **544**, over sixteen calculations. The output of the accumulator **550** represents an accumulated power control bit magnitude.

[0053] The power control metric energy per bit to noise power ratio (E_b/N_t) also requires a measurement or estimate of a noise power. **Figure 6** shows a functional block diagram of a noise power estimator **600**. In a first finger, an initial finger noise estimate **602** is made using the despread Pilot signal by first high pass filtering each quadrature signal component to remove any DC component within the signal. Then each quadrature component is squared and summed with the other squared quadrature component. Thus, in a first finger, an initial finger noise estimate **602** is provided as $\text{Pilot_Noise_I}^2 + \text{Pilot_Noise_Q}^2$. The output of the initial finger noise estimate **602** is coupled to a first input of a multiplier **610**.

[0054] A finger Pilot energy estimate **604** is made by summing the squares of the quadrature signal components (I and Q) of the Pilot signal tracked in the individual finger. Thus, for a first finger, the finger Pilot energy estimate **604** is represented by $\text{Pilot_filt_I}^2 + \text{Pilot_filt_Q}^2$, where Pilot_filt_I and Pilot_filt_Q represent, respectively, band limited in phase and quadrature components of the Pilot signal tracked by the finger. The output of the finger Pilot energy estimate **604** is coupled to a second input of the multiplier **610**. The output of the multiplier **630** is a noise power estimate in the particular finger.

[0055] The noise power estimate from the finger is coupled to a summer **630**. Similarly calculated noise power estimates from other fingers **620** are coupled to corresponding inputs on the summer **630**. The summer **630** adds up all the noise power estimates at its input. The output from the summer **630** is a composite noise power estimate for the signal incident on the receiver. The output of the summer **630** is coupled to a scaling block **640** where the value is scaled by a constant. The scaling block **640** may scale the noise power estimate by a fractional value to reduce the magnitude of the value that must be represented. The scaling block **640** may not be implemented in all noise power estimator **600** configurations or may be incorporated in other blocks within the estimator. Alternatively, the output from the summer **630** may not be scaled but, instead, the noise power estimator **600** implements a larger bit width to represent the larger signal at the output of the summer **630**.

[0056] The output of the scaling block **640** is coupled to a filter **650** to bandlimit the noise estimate and remove any undesirable frequency components that may result from previous signal processing. The filter may be any type of filter that is suitable for the purpose. A digital filter may be preferable where the noise estimator **600** is implemented digitally. A digital filter implementation may include Infinite Impulse Response (IIR) or Finite Impulse Response (FIR) type filters. The output of the filter **650** is coupled to an accumulator **660**. The accumulator **660** sums the noise power estimates over a frame as was done for the estimate in the signal energy estimator **500**. The time span for the noise power estimate accumulation is chosen to coincide with the accumulation period chosen for the signal, although such tracking is not a requirement.

[0057] **Figure 7** shows a functional block diagram of an alternative signal energy estimator **700** that may be used for channels that do not carry power control bits. As discussed earlier, the CDMA 2000 standard allows for several radio configurations. There may be many channels simultaneously operating in a Forward or Reverse Traffic channel. Channels such as the Forward Supplemental Channel (F-SCH) may not carry power control bits. Thus, the signal energy estimator **500** shown in **Figure 5** may not be the ideal implementation.

[0058] The signal energy estimator **700** shown in **Figure 7** estimates the signal energy directly from the despread symbols. A coherently combined in phase (I) signal from the I deskew buffers **702** is coupled to a first absolute value generator **712**. The first absolute value generator **712** calculates the magnitude of the signal and couples that magnitude to a first input of a summer **720**. Similarly, a coherently combined quadrature phase (Q) signal from corresponding Q deskew buffers **704** is coupled to an input of a second absolute value generator **714**. The second absolute value generator **714** calculates the magnitude of the combined Q signal and couples that magnitude to a second input of a summer **720**. The summer **720** adds the combined I and Q signals at its inputs and couples the summed output to a first accumulator **730**. The first accumulator **730** accumulates the summer **720** output over a period of a single Power Control Group. The number of symbols that are accumulated in a single Power Control Group may vary according to the Walsh length used to spread the symbol at the transmitter. Spreading the symbols with a shorter Walsh length may result in a larger number of symbols per Power Control Group.

[0059] The output from the first accumulator **730** is coupled to a truncation block **740**. The truncation block **740** represents an optional block that is not necessary but will likely be included in any design that has a limited amount of resources. Truncation minimizes the total number of bits representing a number, and thus, the amount of resources (e.g. bus width, register size, memory space) that are required to support the number of bits. The truncation block **740** may truncate a fixed number of bits from the input signal or may truncate a number of bits that varies depending on operating conditions within the receiver. The truncation block **740** may truncate a number of bits that varies according to the Walsh code length used to initially spread the symbols. As discussed earlier, the number of symbols in a Power Control Group may vary depending on the Walsh code length. Thus, the number of symbols that contribute to the accumulator **730** sum may also depend on the Walsh code length. If it is assumed that the symbol energy is approximately the same regardless of the Walsh code length, then the magnitude of the sum output from the accumulator **730** will be larger when a shorter Walsh code length is used. The larger magnitude results because the accumulator **730** sums a greater number of symbols over the same Power Control Group period. The truncation block **740** may then truncate a larger number of bits for a shorter Walsh code length. As an example, the truncation block **740** may truncate two bits when the Walsh code length is eight or fewer chips, one bit when the Walsh length is sixteen or thirty two, and zero bits for longer Walsh lengths.

[0060] The truncated output from the truncation block **740** is coupled to an input of a second accumulator **750**. The second accumulator **750** accumulates the signal energy estimate over the period of a frame. Where a frame is composed of sixteen Power Control Groups, the second accumulator **750** sums sixteen consecutive outputs from the truncation block **740**. The accumulated output is the signal energy estimate derived using the quadrature signal components of received symbols.

[0061] The signal energy estimators, **500** and **700**, shown respectively in Figures 5 and 7 provide a signal energy estimate that is coherently combined among fingers. For example, let a signal in a first finger be modeled as $r_1 = S + n_1$ and a signal in a second finger be modeled as $r_2 = S + n_2$. Here, S represents the signal component and n_1 and n_2 represent the noise components in the respective fingers. The signal energy

estimate uses a coherent combination of the two fingers. Thus, the signal energy estimate is proportional to the expected value, $E\{r_1 + r_2\}^2$, which is proportional to $4S^2$.

[0062] However, the noise estimator 600 shown in Figure 6 does not coherently combine the noise from multiple fingers when making the noise power estimate. In particular, the I and Q noise estimates from each finger are individually squared and scaled prior to being combined with similarly calculated values from the other fingers. Non-coherent noise combination does not create any issues in the majority of situations. The noise in the multiple fingers is assumed to be uncorrelated. However, non-coherent noise combination may create problems when the signals in multiple fingers are correlated. As was discussed earlier, signals in multiple fingers of the rake receiver may be correlated under certain conditions. The noise in the fingers is correlated when the signals are correlated.

[0063] The noise power estimator 600 of Figure 6 may underestimate the noise power when the signals in multiple fingers are correlated. Using the same signal model presented above for two fingers, the noise power estimate is proportional to $Var\{r_1\} + Var\{r_2\}$, where $Var\{\}$ represents the variance of a signal. Here, the sum of the two values gives $Var\{n_1\} + Var\{n_2\}$. However, where the signals in the two fingers are correlated and allowed to be identical for the purposes of illustration, a coherent sum of the noise would give as the result $4Var\{n_1\}$.

[0064] A calculated Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR) for non-coherent noise power estimation differs from a SNR for coherent noise power estimation when signals in multiple fingers are correlated. Allowing the signals in two fingers to be identical for purposes of illustration, the signal energy estimate is proportional to $4S^2$ and the non-coherently derived noise power estimate is proportional to $2Var\{n_1\}$. The noise power estimate derived using coherent finger combining is proportional to $4Var\{n_1\}$. The SNR for a combination of identically correlated fingers, $SNR_{f1 + f2}$, should equal the SNR for a single finger, SNR_{f1} . However, it can be seen that the calculated $SNR_{f1 + f2}$ using non-coherent noise power estimation is $2SNR_{f1}$. The SNR is overestimated by a factor of two when there are two fingers tracking identical signals. The calculated SNR metric is thus overestimated when signals in multiple fingers are correlated. The SNR overestimation may have negative effects on closed loop power control and the corresponding received signal quality.

[0065] An alternative method of noise power estimation is to estimate the noise power directly by demodulating an empty Walsh code. Demodulating an empty Walsh code ensures that correlated noise between multiple fingers, if any, will be coherently combined. An empty Walsh code is a code for which no channel is assigned. A system may have Walsh codes for which no channels will be assigned or a Walsh channel may be chosen for which there is no channel assigned during the period of noise power estimation. The Forward Link of CDMA wireless communication systems defined by the TIA/EIA 95 and CDMA 2000 standards potentially uses all of the available Walsh codes. Thus, there are no Walsh codes for which it is guaranteed that no channels will be assigned. Temporarily empty Walsh codes could be used for the noise power estimation as long as the Walsh code is empty for the duration of the noise power calculation. However, if the receiver is implemented in a CDMA MS, the receiver is unable to know when a Walsh code will be assigned to another user. Thus, the receiver may be unable to predict that a particular Walsh code will remain empty for the entire duration of a noise power estimate.

[0066] However, a noise power estimator may take advantage of the manner in which the Pilot Channel is generated. As shown above, the Pilot Channel is modulated with no data and is not scrambled by the long PN code. Thus, although the Pilot Channel has a fixed Walsh code assignment, the Pilot Channel appears to the receiver as an empty Walsh code channel. In particular, it is the quadrature symbol component of the Pilot Channel that is an empty Walsh code channel.

[0067] A functional block diagram of a noise power estimator **800** that is based on demodulating the Pilot Channel as an empty Walsh code is shown in **Figure 8**. The noise power estimator **800** recovers the quadrature component of the Pilot Channel. As discussed earlier, in CDMA 2000 systems, the Pilot Channel may be generated using only in phase (I) symbols and an empty quadrature (Q) symbol component. A received pilot signal is recovered by removing the in phase and quadrature short PN codes. The recovered in phase and quadrature Pilot symbols **802** from a first finger are coupled to a first input of a cross product calculator **820**. The recovered in phase and quadrature Pilot symbols **802** from the finger are also coupled to a filter **810**.

[0068] The filter **810** is used to band limit the recovered Pilot signal in order to remove any undesirable frequency components such as may result from sampling. The

filter **810** may be implemented as an analog or digital filter. If the noise power estimator **800** is implemented digitally it may be preferable for the filter **810** to be a digital filter such as an IIR or FIR filter. The output of the filter **810** is coupled to a second input of the cross product calculator **820**.

[0069] The cross product calculator **820** calculates a cross product of the recovered Pilot and the filtered Pilot, although the result is treated as a scalar and not a vector. Thus, if the recovered Pilot is represented as $(I_{\text{Pilot}}, Q_{\text{Pilot}})$ and the filtered Pilot is represented as $(I_{\text{Pilot_filt}}, Q_{\text{Pilot_filt}})$ then the output of the cross product generator is $(I_{\text{Pilot}} \times Q_{\text{Pilot_filt}} - Q_{\text{Pilot}} \times I_{\text{Pilot_filt}})$. As discussed earlier, the result is a scalar and not a vector. The cross product result is an estimate of the noise power in the signal path tracked by the particular finger because the Pilot Channel is not modulated with any data. The cross product result is coupled to a deskew buffer **830**.

[0070] The deskew buffer **830** operates in the same manner as it does when the finger was tracking a Traffic Channel. The deskew buffer **830** allows the finger to time align the received signal from the particular finger with all other fingers tracking multipath replicas of the same signal. The output from the deskew buffer **830** is coupled to a summer **850**.

[0071] Other fingers in the receiver may also track the Pilot Channel. Each finger recovers corresponding quadrature Pilot signal components, generates a cross product using a filtered Pilot, and time aligns the resultant signal in a deskew buffer. The signal processing of the Pilot Channel performed by any other fingers is represented in block **840**. Each of the other fingers tracking the Pilot channel couples the corresponding deskew buffer output to the summer **850**.

[0072] The summer **850** operates to coherently combine all the outputs from the deskew buffers because the deskew buffers hold time aligned demodulated Pilot data. Thus, if the signal in any of the fingers is correlated, the signals will coherently combine in the summer **850**. Correlated noise tracked by different fingers will thus coherently combine. The output of the summer **850** is coupled to a noise calculator **860**.

[0073] The output of the summer **850** represents a combined noise power estimate derived from the Pilot Channel. As discussed above, the SNR metric calculated for closed loop power control may be incorrectly estimated when the statistics of the noise power estimate do not track the statistics of the signal energy estimate. Coherently

summing the noise estimates from individual fingers contributes significantly to aligning the statistics of the noise power estimate with the statistics of the signal energy estimate. The noise calculator **860** is used to further align the statistics of the noise power estimate with statistics of signal power estimates. The processing performed by the noise calculator **860** differs depending on a calculation performed within the signal energy estimate.

[0074] In one embodiment, the noise calculator **860** calculates the square of the coherent sum. This may be viewed as calculating an energy of the demodulated Pilot noise signal. The embodiment of the noise estimator **800** that calculates the energy of the demodulated Pilot may be used when the signal energy estimate calculates a square of the demodulated signal as an energy. An example of a signal energy estimate that calculates the square of the demodulated signal is an estimator based on a re-encoded symbol energy.

[0075] In another embodiment, the noise estimator **860** calculates an absolute value of the demodulated Pilot noise signal. Calculating the absolute value may be viewed as calculating a magnitude of the signal. The embodiment of the noise estimator **800** that calculates the magnitude of the demodulated Pilot may be used when the signal energy estimate calculates an absolute value of the demodulated signal. The signal energy estimators, **500** and **700**, use absolute values in the calculation of the signal energy estimate. Thus, the noise estimator **800** that uses the absolute value calculation as the noise calculator **860** may provide a noise estimate that has statistics that are closer to the statistics of the signal energy estimator. The output of the noise calculator **860** is coupled to an accumulator **870** that sums the noise estimates over a period of one frame. Thus, the noise estimator **800** is able to coherently sum the noise from multiple fingers, thereby compensating for potential signal correlation among fingers. Additionally, the noise estimator **800** calculates a noise estimate in a manner such that the statistics of the noise estimate closely track the statistics of the signal energy estimate.

[0076] Figure 9 shows a generalized flow chart of a noise estimator **900**. A received Pilot signal is provided to the noise estimator **900**. In an actual implementation a composite received signal may be received from which a Pilot signal would be recovered. The signal applied to the noise estimator **900** represents a recovered Pilot signal following removal of the short PN codes. The noise estimator **900** is able to discern the Pilot

Channel from all other channels due to the orthogonal nature of CDMA signals. The noise estimator **900** first performs Pilot demodulation in block **910**. The noise estimator **900** treats the Pilot signal the same as a data modulated signal such that the noise estimate will have the same statistics as any signal energy estimate. Because the Pilot Channel carries no data, the demodulated signal provides an estimate of noise. Within Pilot demodulation block **910**, multiple fingers may track multipath versions of the Pilot Channel and coherently combine the demodulated noise from each finger.

[0077] Once the Pilot demodulation block **910** is complete, the flow chart proceeds to block **920** where a noise calculation is performed. The noise calculation is performed such that the statistics of the noise estimate will further track the statistics of the signal energy estimate. In one embodiment the noise calculation block **920** calculates an energy of the demodulated signal by squaring the demodulated signal. In another embodiment, the noise calculation block **920** calculates a magnitude of the demodulated signal by taking the absolute value of the demodulated signal. Following the noise calculation block **920**, the flow chart proceeds to an accumulator block **930** where the noise calculation is accumulated over a period of a frame. The output of the accumulator block **930** represents the noise estimate.

[0078] Figure 10 shows a flow chart of an alternative embodiment of a noise estimator **1000**. Again, the noise estimator **1000** is provided a recovered Pilot signal. The recovered Pilot signal is the Pilot Signal that has the short PN codes removed. The noise estimator **1000** initially filters the Pilot signal in block **1010**. The noise estimator **1000** additionally retains an unfiltered version of the Pilot signal. The flow chart next proceeds to block **1020** where a cross product is performed using the unfiltered Pilot and the filtered Pilot signal. The elements of the cross product are treated as if they were scalars rather than vector components. The flow chart next proceeds to block **1030** where a coherent sum of cross products from multiple fingers is calculated. The noise estimator **1000** may include multiple fingers each performing the steps of blocks **1010** and **1020** and providing the results to block **1030** for coherent summing.

[0079] The flow chart next proceeds to block **1040** where a noise calculation is performed. As was performed previously, the noise calculation is performed such that the statistics of the noise estimate will further track the statistics of the signal energy estimate. In one embodiment the noise calculation block **1040** calculates an energy of the

demodulated signal by squaring the demodulated signal. In another embodiment, the noise calculation block **1040** calculates a magnitude of the demodulated signal by taking the absolute value of the demodulated signal. The flow chart next proceeds to block **1050** where the noise calculations are accumulated over a period of a frame. The output from the accumulator block **1050** represents the noise estimate.

[0080] As can be seen from the previous description and accompanying figures, a noise estimate in a CDMA receiver may be calculated in such a manner that the noise estimate takes into account possible correlation between signals in multiple fingers. Additionally, the noise estimate may be calculated in such a manner that the statistics of the noise estimate track the statistics of a signal energy estimate used in the calculation of a SNR metric for closed loop power control.

[0081] Those of skill in the art will understand that information and signals may be represented using any of a variety of different technologies and techniques. For example, data, instructions, commands, information, signals, bits, symbols, and chips that may be referenced throughout the above description may be represented by voltages, currents, electromagnetic waves, magnetic fields or particles, optical fields or particles, or any combination thereof.

[0082] Those of skill will further appreciate that the various illustrative logical blocks, modules, circuits, and algorithm steps described in connection with the embodiments disclosed herein may be implemented as electronic hardware, computer software, or combinations of both. To clearly illustrate this interchangeability of hardware and software, various illustrative components, blocks, modules, circuits, and steps have been described above generally in terms of their functionality. Whether such functionality is implemented as hardware or software depends upon the particular application and design constraints imposed on the overall system. Skilled persons may implement the described functionality in varying ways for each particular application, but such implementation decisions should not be interpreted as causing a departure from the scope of the present invention.

[0083] The various illustrative logical blocks, modules, and circuits described in connection with the embodiments disclosed herein may be implemented or performed with a general purpose processor, a digital signal processor (DSP), an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), a field programmable gate array (FPGA) or other

programmable logic device, discrete gate or transistor logic, discrete hardware components, or any combination thereof designed to perform the functions described herein. A general purpose processor may be a microprocessor, but in the alternative, the processor may be any conventional processor, controller, microcontroller, or state machine. A processor may also be implemented as a combination of computing devices, e.g., a combination of a DSP and a microprocessor, a plurality of microprocessors, one or more microprocessors in conjunction with a DSP core, or any other such configuration.

[0084] The steps of a method or algorithm described in connection with the embodiments disclosed herein may be embodied directly in hardware, in a software module executed by a processor, or in a combination of the two. A software module may reside in RAM memory, flash memory, ROM memory, EPROM memory, EEPROM memory, registers, hard disk, a removable disk, a CD-ROM, or any other form of storage medium known in the art. An exemplary storage medium is coupled to the processor such the processor can read information from, and write information to, the storage medium. In the alternative, the storage medium may be integral to the processor. The processor and the storage medium may reside in an ASIC. The ASIC may reside in a mobile station, base station, or base station controller. In the alternative, the processor and the storage medium may reside as discrete components in a mobile station, base station, or base station controller.

[0085] The previous description of the disclosed embodiments is provided to enable any person skilled in the art to make or use the invention. Various modifications to these embodiments will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art, and the generic principles defined herein may be applied to other embodiments without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Thus, the invention is not intended to be limited to the embodiments shown herein but is to be accorded the widest scope consistent with the principles and novel features disclosed herein.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

CLAIMS

1. A device for noise estimation in a communication device comprising:
means for demodulating a received signal on an empty code channel to produce a demodulated signal; and
means for determining a noise estimate from the demodulated signal.
2. The device of Claim 1, wherein the empty code channel is an empty Walsh code channel.
3. The device of Claim 1, wherein the empty code channel is a Pilot Walsh code channel.
4. The device of Claim 3, wherein the means for demodulating the received signal comprises means for demodulating quadrature phase symbols of the received Pilot signal.
5. The device of Claim 1, wherein the means for determining the noise estimate comprises means for determining a magnitude of the demodulated signal.
6. The device of Claim 5, wherein the means for determining the noise estimate further comprises means for accumulating the magnitude of the demodulated signal over a frame.
7. The device of Claim 1, wherein the means for determining the noise estimate comprises means for determining an energy of the demodulated signal.
8. The device of Claim 7 wherein the means for determining the noise estimate further comprises means for accumulating the energy of the demodulated signal over a frame.

9. The device of Claim 1 wherein the communication device is a CDMA mobile station.

10. The device of Claim 1 wherein the communication device is a CDMA base station.

11. A device for noise estimation in a communication device comprising:
means for calculating a cross product of a received Pilot signal to generate a demodulated Pilot signal;
means for determining an energy of the demodulated Pilot signal; and
means for accumulating the determined energy over a frame to produce a received noise estimate.

12. The device of Claim 11, wherein the means for calculating the cross product comprises means for calculating a cross product of the received Pilot signal with a filtered Pilot signal.

13. A device in a communication device comprising:
means for calculating a cross product of a received Pilot signal in a plurality of fingers of a rake receiver to generate a demodulated Pilot signal in each of the plurality of fingers;
means for time aligning the demodulated signals from each of the plurality of fingers in a corresponding plurality of deskew buffers; and
means for summing the time aligned demodulated signals from the plurality of deskew buffers to generate a composite demodulated signal.

14. The device of Claim 13, further comprising:
means for determining a magnitude of the composite demodulated signal; and
means for accumulating the determined magnitude of the composite demodulated signal over a frame to produce a received noise estimate.

15. The device of Claim 14, wherein the communication device is a CDMA mobile station.

16. The device of Claim 13, further comprising:
means for determining an energy of the composite demodulated signal; and
means for accumulating the determined energy of the composite demodulated signal over a frame to produce a received noise estimate.

17. The device of Claim 16, wherein the communication device is a CDMA mobile station

18. A device for noise estimation in a communication device comprising:
a receiver adapted to demodulate a received signal using an empty Walsh code;
a noise calculator coupled to the receiver adapted to generate an output comprising a noise estimate that is based in part on the demodulated received signal; and
an accumulator adapted to sum the output of the noise calculator over a predetermined period.

19. The device of Claim 18 wherein the receiver comprises:
a plurality of fingers, each finger adapted to demodulate a multipath replica of a desired signal and to provide outputs comprising finger noise components; and
a summer adapted to coherently sum the outputs from each of the plurality of fingers.

20. The device of Claim 19 wherein each of the plurality of fingers comprises:
a cross product generator adapted to calculate a cross product of signals provided at a first input and a second input of the cross product generator to produce a cross product output; and
a deskew buffer adapted to store time aligned cross product outputs from the cross product generator.