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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REDUCING CO-CHANNEL INTERFERENCE

(57) Abstract

The amount of co-channel interference which occurs for any given time slot in a cellular communication system can be reduced by distributing or averaging out the co-channel interference to other time slots. This averaging out results from the staggering of control and traffic signals for a given time slot wherein the staggering is relative to the same time slot in the same frequency channel at neighboring clusters of cells. If a transmitter is on a satellite which transmits to the various clusters, the method and apparatus prevents an interfering signal from interfering with the entire time slot. The inventive method and apparatus requires synchronization of the control and traffic signal transmission to the clusters relative to each other so that the amount of delay introduced while staggering the time slots can be predicted and controlled.

