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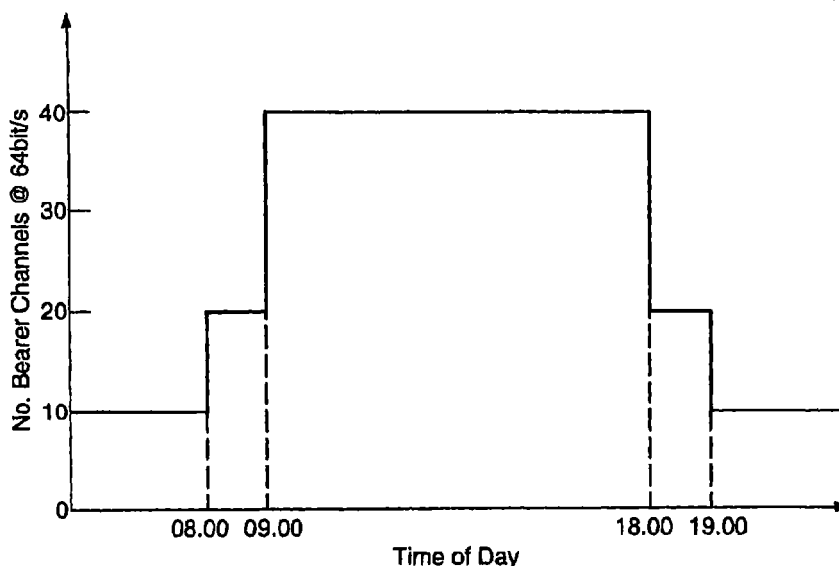
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY** [GB/GB]; 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ (GB).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **BALE, Melvyn, Christopher** [GB/GB]; 23 Digby Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 3NB (GB). **HARRISON, Juan, Richard** [GB/GB]; 56 Second Avenue, Billericay, Essex CM12 9PP (GB).
- (74) Agent: **LIDBETTER, Timothy, Guy, Edwin**; BT Group Legal Services, Intellectual Property Dept., Holborn Centre, 8th floor, 120 Holborn, London EC1N 2TE (GB).
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(57) Abstract: In a broadband communications network, bandwidth is allocated to bearer channels for a circuit connected service, such as narrowband telephony. The allocated bandwidth is changed automatically as a function of time so as to track expected changes in demand for bearer channels. When the number of allocated channels falls from its peak value, then at the access node some of the channels may be marked as blocked.

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