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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The handover control method for use in a mobile communication system changes a handover
5 method according to an overlapping zone residence
time of a mobile station by ranking three handover
methods for the mobile station including a gateway
handover method, a base station controller path
extension handover method, and a radio link path
10 extension handover method in association with how
long the overlapping zone residence time of the
mobile station is, and by selecting one handover
method that corresponds to the overlapping zone
residence time of the mobile station. When either
15 the gateway handover method or the base station
controller path extension handover method is
selected for use, the handover method selects a
handover path of which load on the system is minimum
among the handover paths that can be employed by the
20 selected handover method.