

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ACCOMMODATING A
VARIABLE NUMBER OF COMMUNICATION CHANNELS IN A
SPREAD SPECTRUM COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

5

Abstract of the Invention

10 A method and apparatus is provided for transmitting spread spectrum signals. The transmitter (242) receives data symbols (214). Subsequently, the transmitter (242) splits (244) each particular set of two received data symbols (214) into a first and second array of data symbols (252, 254) according to either of two algorithms. The first algorithm includes providing both data symbols (214) of the particular
15 set to the first and second array of data symbols (252, 254) and the second algorithm includes providing one of the data symbols (214) of the particular set to the first array of data symbols (252) and the other of the data symbols (214) of the particular set to the second array of data symbols (254). Subsequently, the transmitter (242) determines
20 particular channels to transmit the first and second array of data symbols (252, 254) by spreading (232, 234) the first and second array of data symbols (252, 254) with a predetermined length Walsh code (216). The transmitter (242) accommodates a variable number of data channels by selecting a particular algorithm from a group consisting essentially of a
25 first algorithm and a second algorithm and setting the predetermined length Walsh code (216) in response to the particular algorithm selected.

FIG. 3 accompanies this abstract.