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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS TO REDUCE SIGNALING OVERHEAD IN THE PRESENCE OF NETWORK OVERLOAD CONDITION

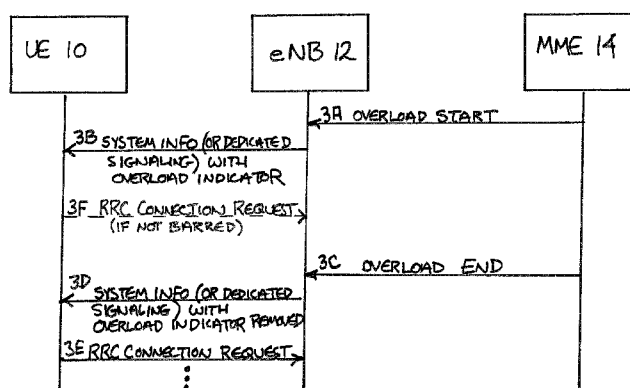


FIGURE 3

(57) Abstract: A method includes, in response to receiving an overload start indication from a network node, composing and sending first signaling to at least one user equipment to indicate that an overload condition exists for the network node and, in response to receiving an overload end indication from the network node, composing and sending second signaling to the at least one user equipment to indicate that the overload condition no longer exists. A further method includes receiving at a user equipment first signaling from a network access node that indicates that an overload condition exists for a network node and abstaining from making a network access attempt until receiving second signaling from the network access node that indicates that the overload condition no longer exists for the network node. Corresponding apparatus and computer programs are also disclosed.