

TRANSMITTAL OF HEARTBEAT SIGNAL AT A LOWER LEVEL THAN
HEARTBEAT REQUEST

ABSTRACT

A communication system, such as a wireless CDMA system, detects markers with fewer errors by having field units (55) transmit the markers at different power levels (e.g., 9 dB for one marker and 11 dB for another marker). The difference in power levels of the markers allows the base station (110) to identify the request markers using alternative criteria with a low probability of error, where the alternative criteria may include comparing the markers to respective energy level thresholds, monitoring occupancy of time slots, occupancy of mutually exclusive code channels, or combinations thereof. For example, in one particular embodiment, a request marker, which is generally a high priority marker, is transmitted with higher power, which improves the probability of detection and reduces the probability of false detection of the request marker.

Figure 2