

A cellular radio system comprises radio base stations (A, B, C), each having an allocated number of radio channels. Each radio base station is connected to the rest of the network (BSC, MSC) by a branched network (5, 7a, 7b, etc.). At the branch point H an intermediate switch is provided for connecting channels in the trunk portion (5) to channels in the branches (7a, 7b, etc.). The capacity of the trunk link (5) is less than the total capacity of the base stations (and of their associated branch links (7a, 7b, 7c)). At times when one or more of the base stations (A, B, C) have surplus capacity, that capacity is disabled so that the capacity of the trunk link (5) is not exceeded. The capacity of each base station (A, B, C) may be varied according to predicted or actual demand, provided that the total (non-disabled) capacity of the base stations (A, B, C) does not exceed that of the trunk link (5).