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(54) Title: EQUIVALENT HOME ID FOR MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS

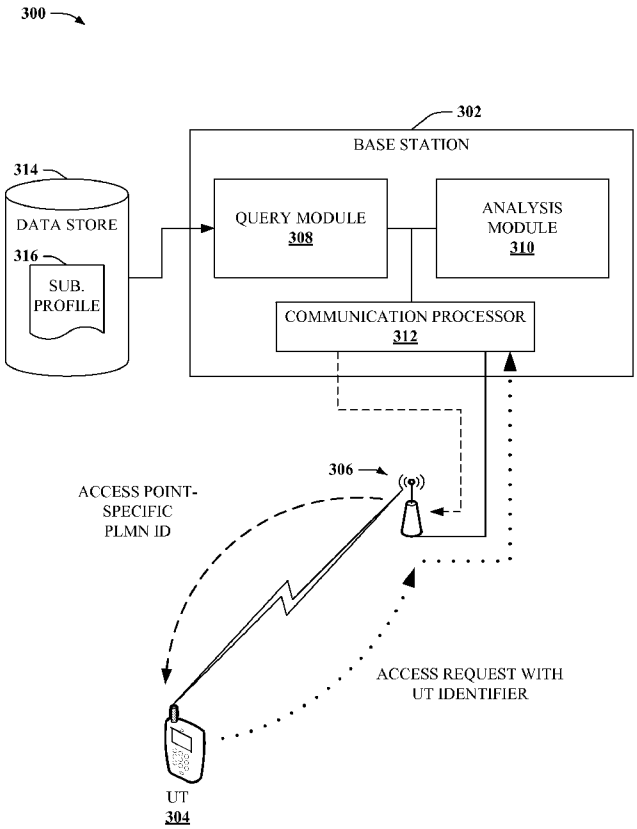


FIG. 3

(57) Abstract: Facilitating user terminal (UT) access to wireless networks having disparate types of base stations (BSs) is described herein. By way of example, a distinct identifier (ID) can be reserved for a particular type of network access point (e.g., restricted or general access, full or fractional re-use, transmit power, cell size, etc.). The distinct ID can be broadcast by such access points, identifying the access point type. In some aspects, the distinct ID can be unicast to a terminal that is within a predetermined region of the network. Thus, at least within such region, the terminal can be directed to search for or handoff to a preferred type of access point (such as a home Node B). In such aspects, by providing regional-specific access, the subject disclosure can significantly reduce overhead signaling outside a home region where a home or preferred access point is expected to be found.

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