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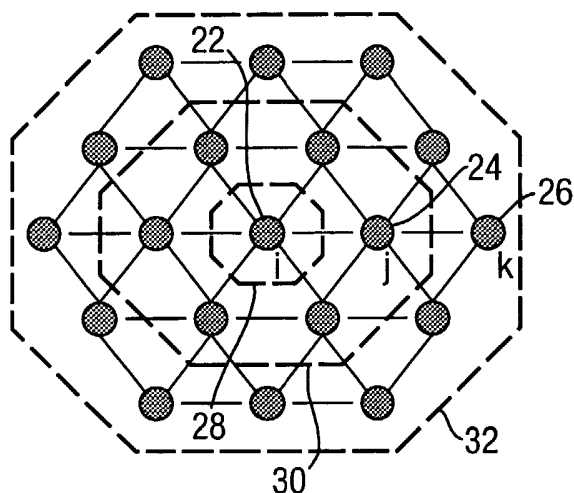
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(54) Title: COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a method of, computer programs for and apparatus adapted to operate a communications network to determine membership of a group of access nodes of the communications network with which there is a relatively high probability that a mobile node will be associated after the mobile node has been associated with a first access node, access nodes being linked to other access nodes via data communications links, the method comprising: a) detecting characteristics of relationships between access nodes; b) operating the communications network to determine membership of the group in dependence on the detected characteristics.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H04L29/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 H04L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GHAI R ET AL: "A PROTOCOL FOR SEAMLESS COMMUNICATION IN A PICOCELLULAR NETWORK" SERVING HUMANITY THROUGH COMMUNICATIONS. SUPERCOMM/ICC. NEW ORLEANS, MAY 1 - 5, 1994, INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATIONS (ICC), NEW YORK, IEEE, US, vol. 1, 1 May 1994 (1994-05-01), pages 192-196, XP000438908	1-3, 7-15, 17, 18
A	page 193, left-hand column, line 31 -page 193, right-hand column, line 5	16
X	EP 0 835 034 A (LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES INC) 8 April 1998 (1998-04-08)	1,2, 10-15
A	column 4, line 37 -column 5, line 4 column 10, line 37 -column 11, line 16	16

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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			EP 0835034 A2	08-04-1998
			JP 3096668 B2	10-10-2000
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