(12) PATENT APPLICATION **(11)** Application No. **AU 200061270 A1**
(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE

(54) Title
Method and apparatus for supporting multiple mobile address schemes using object-oriented programming techniques

(51)[7] International Patent Classification(s)
H04Q 007/38

(21) Application No: **200061270** (22) Application Date: **2000.09.22**

(30) Priority Data

(31) Number	(32) Date	(33) Country
09410012	**1999.09.30**	**US**

(43) Publication Date : **2001.04.05**
(43) Publication Journal Date : **2001.04.05**

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METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUPPORTING MULTIPLE MOBILE ADDRESS SCHEMES USING OBJECT-ORIENTED PROGRAMMING TECHNIQUES

Abstract

A method and apparatus are disclosed that support multiple mobile address types using object-oriented programming techniques. A mobile address object class supports the creation of mobile (160) address objects. The mobile address object class includes the test-and-branch code that supports each mobile address type. A CPA Mobile Address (CPAMA) class allows mobile address information to be stored in CPAMA objects (550) in a uniform manner. The CPA Mobile Address (CPAMA) class provides the address retrieval functionality to map the stored mobile address information to a suitable format. The CPAMA class provides a set of constructors to create and initialize its data members using an appropriate format, such as an access channel format or an ANSI International Mobile Station Identifier (IMSI) format, and a set of destructors to de-initialize objects before they are destroyed. The address information can be extracted from a CPAMA object using a set of member functions. Member functions to test equality and to assign one mobile address object to another are also provided.

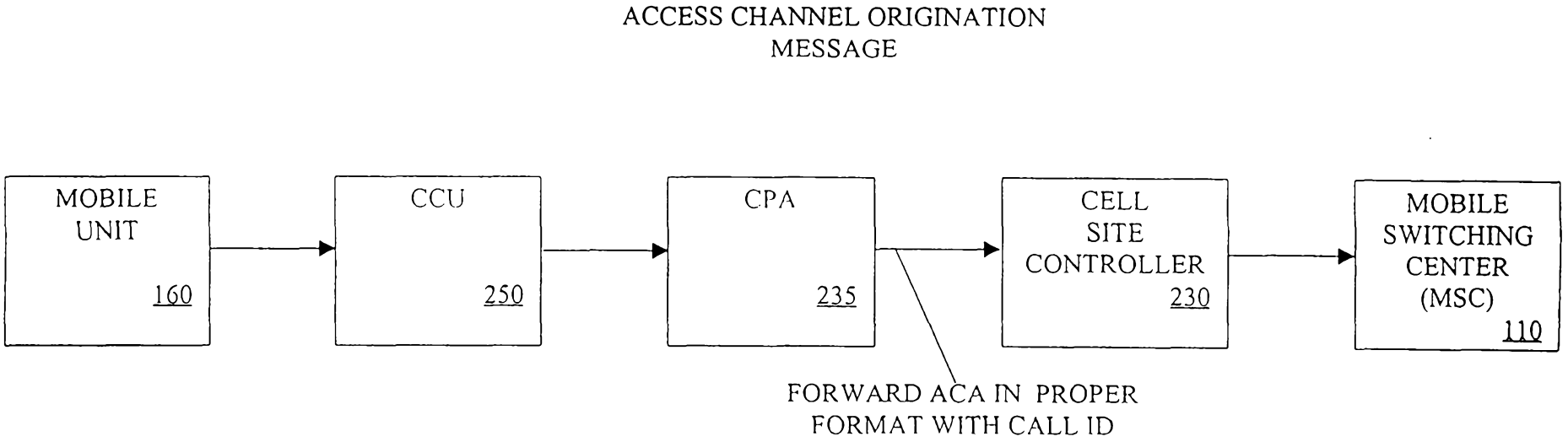

ACCESS CHANNEL ORIGINATION MESSAGE
MOBILE UNIT 160
CCU 250
CPA 235
CELL SITE CONTROLLER 230
MOBILE SWITCHING CENTER (MSC) 110
FORWARD ACA IN PROPER FORMAT WITH CALL ID

FIG. 3

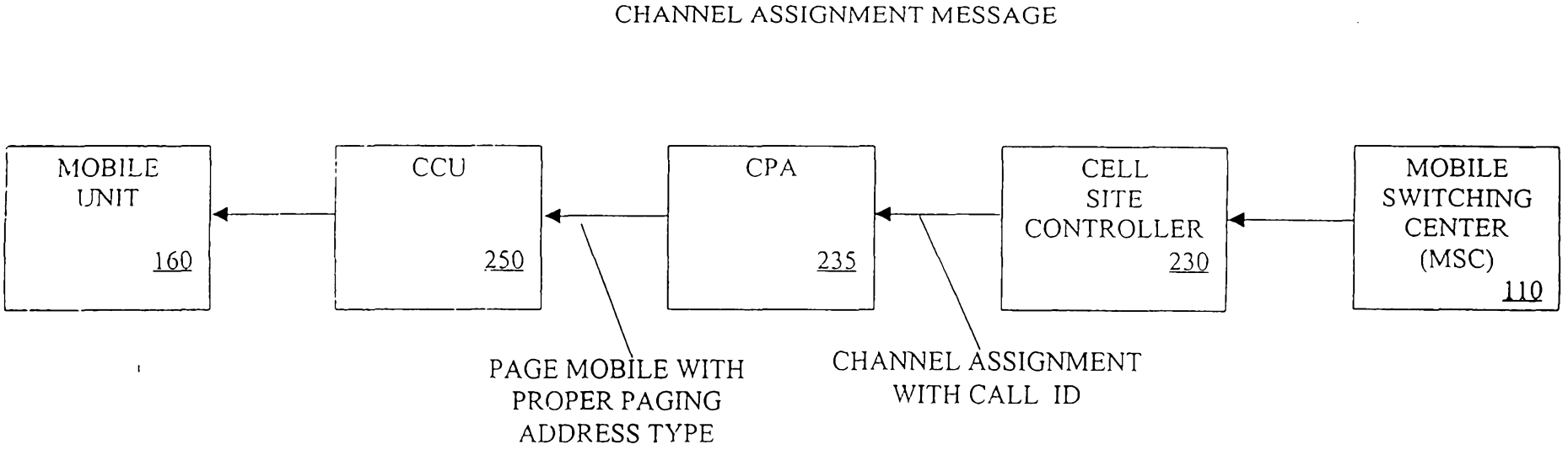

CHANNEL ASSIGNMENT MESSAGE
MOBILE UNIT 160
CCU 250
CPA 235
CELL SITE CONTROLLER 230
MOBILE SWITCHING CENTER (MSC) 110
PAGE MOBILE WITH PROPER PAGING ADDRESS TYPE
CHANNEL ASSIGNMENT WITH CALL ID

FIG. 4

S&F Ref: 523317

AUSTRALIA

PATENTS ACT 1990

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

FOR A STANDARD PATENT

ORIGINAL

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Invention Title:	Method and Apparatus for Supporting Multiple Mobile Address Schemes Using Object-oriented Programming Techniques

The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to me/us:-

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUPPORTING MULTIPLE MOBILE ADDRESS SCHEMES USING OBJECT-ORIENTED PROGRAMMING TECHNIQUES

Field Of The Invention

The present invention relates generally to wireless communication systems, and more particularly, to methods and apparatus for translating mobile addresses in such wireless communication systems.

Background Of The Invention

Wireless communication networks are increasingly being utilized to transfer information, such as data, voice, text or video information, among communication devices. A number of technologies and protocols have been proposed or suggested to maximize the utilization of the available bandwidth in a wireless communication network. Code division multiple access (CDMA) techniques, for example, have been employed in many digital wireless communication systems to permit a large number of system users to communicate with one another. CDMA networks were initially designed to carry voice traffic between a mobile receiver unit and a base station.

Many communication systems utilizing code division multiple access (CDMA) comply with the IS-95 standard, adopted by the Telecommunication Industry Association (TIA). Under the IS-95 standard, a communication system substantially eliminates co-channel interference on the forward link from a base station or cell site to a mobile receiver unit by modulating the information signals with Walsh orthogonal function sequences. A more detailed discussion of the IS-95 standard is provided in "Mobile Station-Base Station Compatibility Standard for Dual-Mode Wideband Spread Spectrum Cellular System," Telecommunication Industry Association Doc. No. TIA/EIA/IS-95 (1993), incorporated by reference herein.

The mobile receiver unit is typically identified on the wireless communication network using a mobile address. In a given wireless communication network, however, a number of heterogeneous network technologies may be involved, each with potentially different mobile address types. Thus, a number of different mobile address types may need to be supported. The increasing diversity of network elements in such wireless communication network provides additional challenges for network managers that attempt to manage network resources in a uniform manner. Currently, the call processing software that utilizes mobile addresses must explicitly determine the mobile address type by performing a series of hard-coded "test-and-branch" statements. Once the appropriate mobile address type is identified, by satisfying a corresponding test, a series of type-specific processing steps are then performed. Thus, each time a new mobile address type is added to a given wireless communication network, the software must be updated in various places.

A need exists for a cross-platform mobile address plan. A further need exists for a method and apparatus that support multiple mobile address types using object-oriented programming techniques. Yet another need exists for a method and apparatus that can record and deliver multiple mobile addresses in a desired format. Finally, a need exists for an object-oriented approach that allows the diverse mobile address types of different manufacturers to be maintained using a uniform set of commands and functions.

Summary Of The Invention

Generally, a method and apparatus are provided that support multiple mobile address types using object-oriented programming techniques. A mobile address object class supports the creation of mobile address objects. The test-and-branch code that supports each of the specific mobile address types is now provided as part of the functions provided by the mobile address object class.

According to one aspect of the invention, a CPA Mobile Address (CPAMA) class allows mobile address information received from a mobile unit on an access channel to be stored in CPAMA objects in a uniform manner. The CPA Mobile Address

(CPAMA) class provides the address retrieval functionality to map the stored mobile address information to a suitable format to be sent to a mobile switching center (MSC), or to address a mobile unit over the paging channel.

The CPAMA class provides a set of constructors to create and initialize its data members using an appropriate format, such as an access channel format or an ANSI International Mobile Station Identifier (IMSI) format. In addition, the CPAMA class provides a set of destructors to de-initialize objects before they are destroyed. The address information can be extracted from a CPAMA object using a set of member functions. In order to retrieve information pertaining to an address object, the user of the class can request the information from the CPAMA object using the class member functions. The CPAMA class also provides a member function ("= =") to test equality of two CPAMA objects and a member function ("=") to assign one mobile address object to another.

A more complete understanding of the present invention, as well as further features and advantages of the present invention, will be obtained by reference to the following detailed description and drawings.

Brief Description Of The Drawings

FIG. 1 illustrates a wireless network environment in which the present invention may operate;

FIG. 2 is a schematic block diagram of the base station of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 illustrates the processing of an origination message (request for a channel) from a mobile unit on an access channel in the wireless network environment of FIG. 1, in accordance with the present invention.;

FIG. 4 illustrates the processing of a channel assignment message from a mobile switching center (MSC) to a mobile unit on a paging channel in the wireless network environment of FIG. 1, in accordance with the present invention.;

FIG. 5 illustrrates the representation of each call as a finite state machine that includes, among other things, a CPAMA object in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 6 illustrates a pair of specifications for two illustrative constructors in the CPAMA class that create and initialize CPAMA objects in a desired format; and

FIG. 7 illustrates a set of specifications for illustrative member functions in the CPAMA class that manipulate and extract the data contained in an CPAMA object.

Detailed Description

FIG. 1 illustrates the wireless network environment in which the present invention may operate. While the present invention is illustrated in the context of a CDMA wireless network, the present invention may be implemented in other wireless networks as well, including TDMA networks, as would be apparent to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Generally, the present invention provides a method and apparatus that support multiple mobile address types using object-oriented programming techniques. According to one feature of the present invention, an object class is provided to support the creation of mobile address objects. Thus, the present invention relieves an application of the responsibility of maintaining mobile addresses. According to another feature of the present invention, the test-and-branch code that supports each of the specific mobile address types is provided as part of the functions provided by the mobile address object class. In this manner, from the perspective of the application software, the test-and-branch code is replaced by a function call to the mobile address object. Thus, modifications to an existing mobile address type or the addition of a new mobile address type can be implemented by changing only the functions provided by the mobile address object class.

As shown in FIG. 1, and discussed further below, call processing software on the base station 120, provides a CPA Mobile Address (CPAMA) class that allows mobile address information that is received from the mobile unit 160 on the access channel to be stored in CPAMA objects in a uniform manner. In addition, the CPA Mobile Address (CPAMA) class provides the address retrieval functionality to map the stored mobile

address information to a suitable format to be sent to the mobile switching center (MSC) 110, or to address a mobile unit 160 over the paging channel. The base station call processing software that provides the CPA Mobile Address (CPAMA) class may be embodied, for example, as the AutoPlex™ software, commercially available from Lucent Technologies Inc. of Murray Hill, NJ, as modified herein to provide the features and functions of the present invention.

The CPAMA class provides a set of constructors, discussed below in a section entitled "Class Constructors," to create and initialize its data members using an appropriate format, such as access channel or ANSI International Mobile Station Identifier (IMSI). The CPAMA class stores both an access channel address type (for the access channel) and paging channel address type (for the paging channel). In addition, the CPAMA class provides a set of destructors to de-initialize objects before they are destroyed. As discussed below in a section entitled "Member Functions," a CPAMA object is created and passed around within the software and the address information is extracted from the CPAMA object using the member functions of the class. Thus, the user of the class does not need to know a particular mobile address value, or how the mobile address is stored. In order to retrieve information pertaining to an address object, the user of the class can request the information from the CPAMA object using the class member functions. In the illustrative embodiment, the class has the functionality to retrieve mobile address information in the following formats: access channel mobile address, paging channel mobile address, min1/min2/esn mobile address or an ANSI-formatted IMSI address.

Since it is often desired to know if one mobile address if the same address as another mobile address, without having to know what the address types are, the present invention provides a member function ("= =") in the mobile address object class to test equality of two CPAMA objects. In addition, the present invention provides a member function ("=") in the mobile address object class to assign one mobile address object to another.

FIG. 2 illustrates the wireless network environment of FIG. 1 in further detail. Specifically, FIG. 2 illustrates the various sub-systems that comprise the base station 120, including a cell site controller 230, a CDMA cluster controller (CCC) 240 and a CDMA channel unit (CCU) 250. For a detailed discussion of these sub-systems, see, for example, "AUTOPLEX System 1000 CDMA Product Overview," AT&T Document No. 401-614-010 (Dec. 1994), commercially available from AT&T Customer Information Center, Indianapolis, IN. According to a feature of the present invention, the CCC page/access sub-system 235 of the CDMA cluster controller (CCC) 240 provides the CPAMA class functionality. As discussed further below in conjunction with FIGS. 3 and 4, the CCC page/access system (CPA) 235 processes call-processing messages (i) received on the access channel from the mobile unit 160 for the mobile switching center (MSC) 110, and (ii) received from the mobile switching center (MSC) 110 destined for the mobile unit 160 on the paging channel.

MESSAGE PROCESSING

FIG. 3 illustrates the processing of an origination message (request for a channel) from the mobile unit 160 on the access channel. As shown in FIG. 3, the origination message is initially received from the mobile unit 160 at the base station 120 by the CDMA channel unit (CCU) 250. The CCC page/access system (CPA) 235 then receives the origination message and extracts the access channel address (ACA). The CCC page/access system (CPA) 235 then stores the ACA in a CPAMA object, in accordance with the present invention. Thereafter, the CCC page/access system (CPA) 235 can forward the origination message, together with a call identifier, with the ACA in the proper format using the member functions of the CPAMA class. The illustrative implementation supports two ACA types that can be provided to the cell site controller 230 on the access channel, namely, a min1/min2/esn mobile address type or an ANSI-formatted IMSI address type. The call identifier allows the channel assignment that is subsequently received in a channel assignment message, discussed below in conjunction with FIG. 4, to be associated with the proper mobile unit 160.

FIG. 4 illustrates the processing of a channel assignment message from the mobile switching center (MSC) 110 to the mobile unit 160 on the paging channel. As previously indicated, the channel assignment message has an associated call identifier that is used by the CCC page/access system (CPA) 235 to associate the received channel assignment with the proper mobile unit 160. Thus, the CCC page/access system (CPA) 235 will receive the channel assignment message and perform a database look-up and identify the CPAMA object that was previously established for the mobile unit 160 (and that can be identified using the call identifier). Once identified, the appropriate CPAMA object identifies the proper paging address type to utilize for the mobile unit 160. For example, the CPMA object may indicate that channel assignment message should be sent via the CDMA channel unit (CCU) 250 to the mobile unit 160 on the paging channel with the electronic serial number (ESN) as the paging address type.

Similarly, for an inbound call to a mobile unit 160, the cell site controller 230 will generate a page message with the appropriate min1/min2/esn mobile address type or an

ANSI-formatted IMSI address type. The CPA 235 will extract the mobile address and create a CPAMA object for the call. In addition, the CPA 235 will forward a page message to the mobile unit 160 with the appropriate paging address type.

As shown in FIG. 5, the CCC page/access system (CPA) 235 represents each call as a finite state machine 520 identified by a call identifier field 510 that points to the FSM 520. The FSM 520 contains a CPAMA object 550 associated with the call. The CPAMA object 550, like all members of the CPAMA class, has four data members, namely, the ACA, ACA type, paging address type and valid entry flag associated with each call. As previously indicated, the ACA value identifies the access channel address that was assigned to the call and received from the mobile unit 160. The ACA type identifies the format of the ACA value. The paging address type identifies the address format that must be utilized to page the mobile unit 160 associated with the call on the paging channel. For example, under the IS-95 standard, the ACA type consists of an IMSI and an ESN value, while the paging address type is an ESN value. Finally, the valid entry flag indicates if the CPAMA object contains valid address information.

CLASS CONSTRUCTORS

As previously indicated, the CPAMA class provides a set of constructors to create and initialize its data members using an appropriate format, such as access channel or ANSI International Mobile Station Identifier (IMSI). The format of the mobile address that is received from the mobile unit 160 or in a message from the cell site controller 230 will determine the particular constructor that is utilized to create and initialize the CPAMA object for the call.

FIG. 6 illustrates a pair of specifications for two illustrative constructors that create and initialize CPAMA objects in a desired format. Generally, the constructors create the CPAMA object with an appropriate format. In the illustrative implementation, the CCC page/access system (CPA) 235 supports the creation and initialization of CPAMA objects using a first constructor, set forth in section 610, when the ACA is to be stored as an access mobile address, or a second constructor, set forth in section 650,

when the ACA is to be stored in an ANSI IMSI format. Thereafter, the CPAMA object will manage all access to the mobile information contained in the object.

MEMBER FUNCTIONS

As previously indicated, a CPAMA object is passed around within the software and the address information is extracted from the CPAMA object using the member functions of the class. Generally, the member retrieval functions read the CPAMA object in a certain way, and can provide the mobile address in the appropriate format for the recipient. Thus, the user of the class does not need to know a particular mobile address value, or how the mobile address is stored. In order to retrieve information pertaining to an address object, the user of the class can request the information from the CPAMA object using the class member functions. The CPAMA class also provides a member function ("= =") to test equality of two CPAMA objects and a member function ("=") to assign one mobile address object to another without the user needing to now how it is done.

FIG. 7 illustrates a set of specifications for illustrative member functions that manipulate and extract the data contained in an CPAMA object. In the illustrative implementation, the CCC page/access system (CPA) 235 supports four getAddress functions. A first function, set forth in section 710, retrieves the mobile address information in the ACA format. A second getAddress function, in section 715, retrieves a mobile address to be used for communications to the mobile unit 160 on the paging channel. Additional getAddress functions retrieve an access address in an access channel format (min1/min2/esn) or ANSI IMSI format for call processing messages destined for the cell site controller 230, in sections 720 and 725, respectively. In addition, two functions are provided in sections 730 and 735, respectively, for returning the access channel address type or paging channel address type. Additional functions, set forth in records 740, 745 and 750, respectively, are provided to return the valid entry flag, set the valid entry flag and to set the paging address type. Finally, the member function ("= ="), set forth in section 760, tests equality of two CPAMA objects and the member function ("="), set forth in section 770, assigns one mobile address object to another.

It is to be understood that the embodiments and variations shown and described herein are merely illustrative of the principles of this invention and that various modifications may be implemented by those skilled in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention.

~~Claims:~~ The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A method for supporting a plurality of mobile address types in a wireless communication network, comprising the steps of:

defining a mobile address object class that allows said plurality of mobile address types to be processed in a uniform manner; and

providing a set of constructors associated with said mobile address object class that allow said mobile address information to be stored in a mobile address object in one of a plurality of formats.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein one of said constructors stores said mobile address information as an access mobile address.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein one of said constructors stores said mobile address information in an ANSI IMSI format.

4. A method for supporting a plurality of mobile address types in a wireless communication network, comprising the steps of:

defining a mobile address object class that allows said plurality of mobile address types to be processed in a uniform manner; and

providing a set of member functions associated with said mobile address object class that allow mobile address information to be retrieved from mobile address objects in said mobile address object class in a desired format.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein one of said member functions retrieves mobile address information in an access channel mobile address format.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein one of said member functions retrieves mobile address information in a min1/min2/esn format.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein one of said member functions retrieves mobile address information as an ANSI-formatted IMSI address.

8. The method of claim 4, wherein one of said member functions retrieves mobile address information indicating an access channel address type.

9. The method of claim 4, wherein one of said member functions retrieves mobile address information indicating a paging channel address type.

10. A method for supporting a plurality of mobile address types in a wireless communication network, comprising:

providing a mobile address object class that allows said plurality of mobile address types to be processed in a uniform manner, wherein said mobile address object class provides a set of class constructors that allow said mobile address information to be stored in a mobile address object in one of a plurality of formats.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein one of said constructors stores said mobile address information as an access mobile address.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein one of said constructors stores said mobile address information in an ANSI IMSI format.

13. A method for supporting a plurality of mobile address types in a wireless communication network, comprising:

providing a mobile address object class that allows said plurality of mobile address types to be processed in a uniform manner, wherein said mobile address object class provides a set of member functions that allow mobile address information to be retrieved from mobile address objects in a desired format.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein one of said member functions retrieves mobile address information in an access channel mobile address format.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein one of said member functions retrieves mobile address information in a min1/min2/esn format.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein one of said member functions retrieves mobile address information as an ANSI-formatted IMSI address.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein one of said member functions retrieves mobile address information indicating an access channel address type.

18. The method of claim 13, wherein one of said member functions retrieves mobile address information indicating a paging channel address type.

19. A system for supporting a plurality of mobile address types in a wireless communication network, comprising:

a memory for storing computer readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to:

provide a mobile address object class that allows said plurality of mobile address types to be processed in a uniform manner, wherein said mobile address object class provides a set of class constructors that allow said mobile address information to be stored in a mobile address object in one of a plurality of formats.

20. A system for supporting a plurality of mobile address types in a wireless communication network, comprising:

a memory for storing computer readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to:

provide a mobile address object class that allows said plurality of mobile address types to be processed in a uniform manner, wherein said mobile address object

class provides a set of member functions that allow mobile address information to be retrieved from mobile address objects in a desired format.

21. A method for supporting a plurality of mobile address types in a wireless communication network, comprising the steps of:

defining a mobile address object class that allows said plurality of mobile address types to be processed in a uniform manner; and

storing said mobile address information in a mobile address object in one of a plurality of formats using an appropriate constructor associated with said mobile address object class.

22. A method for supporting a plurality of mobile address types in a wireless communication network, comprising the steps of:

defining a mobile address object class that allows said plurality of mobile address types to be processed in a uniform manner; and

retrieving mobile address information in a desired format from mobile address objects in said mobile address object class using a set of member functions associated with said mobile address object class.

23. A method for supporting a plurality of mobile address types, said method being substantially as described herein in relation to any one embodiment with reference to Figs. 1 - 7.

24. A system for supporting a plurality of mobile address types, said system being substantially as described herein in relation to any one embodiment with reference to Figs. 1 - 7.

DATED this Thirteenth Day of September, 2000

Lucent Technologies Inc.

Patent Attorneys for the Applicant

SPRUSON & FERGUSON

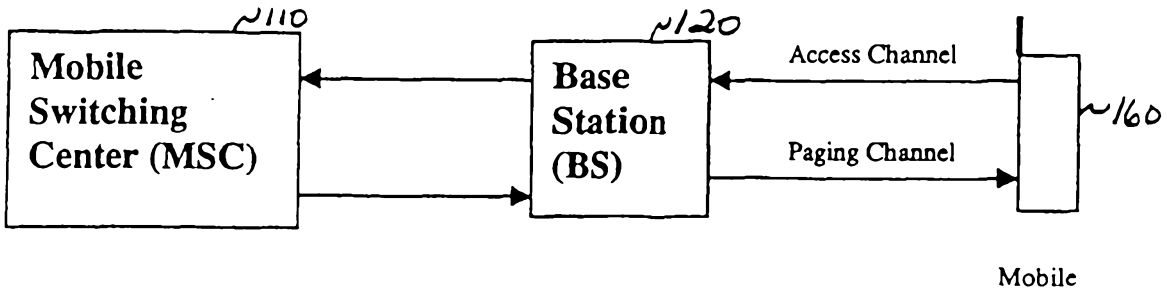

110
120
Mobile Switching Center (MSC)
Base Station (BS)
Access Channel
Paging Channel
160
Mobile

FIG. 1

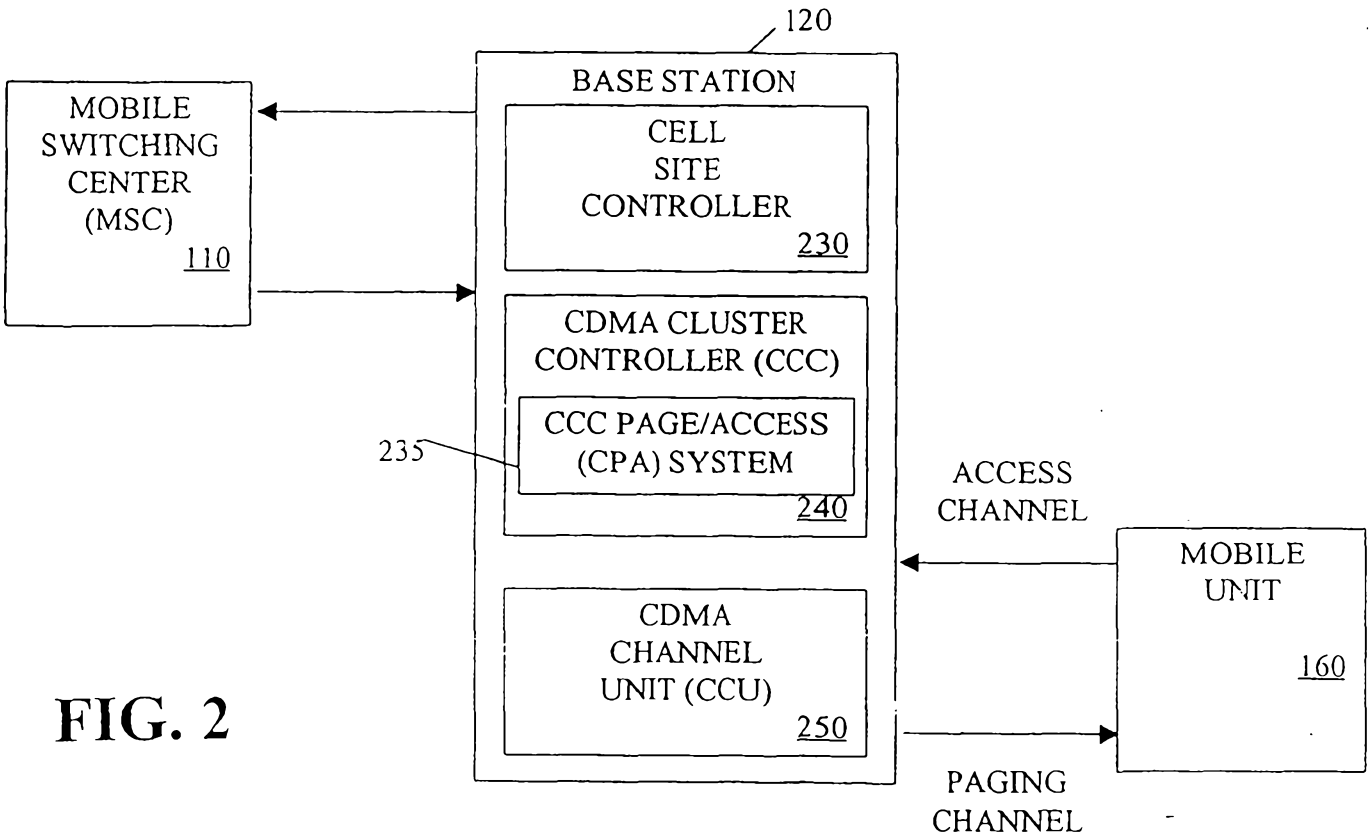

120
BASE STATION
MOBILE SWITCHING CENTER (MSC) 110
CELL SITE CONTROLLER 230
CDMA CLUSTER CONTROLLER (CCC)
CCC PAGE/ACCESS (CPA) SYSTEM 240
235
CDMA CHANNEL UNIT (CCU) 250
ACCESS CHANNEL
PAGING CHANNEL
MOBILE UNIT 160

FIG. 2

ACCESS CHANNEL ORIGINATION MESSAGE

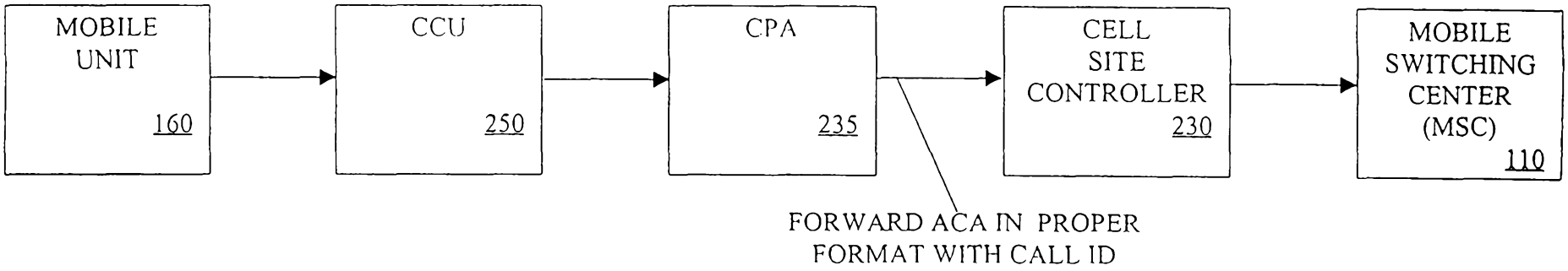


FIG. 3

CHANNEL ASSIGNMENT MESSAGE

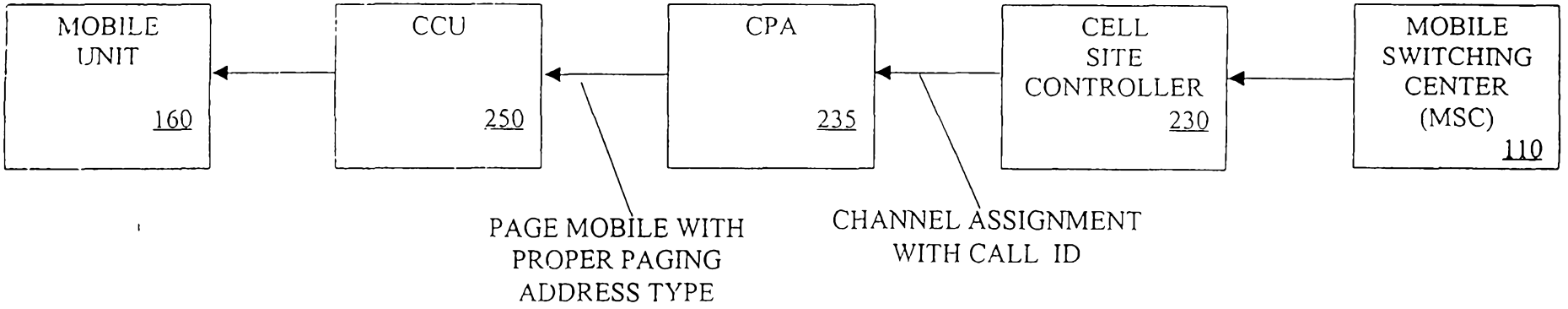


FIG. 4

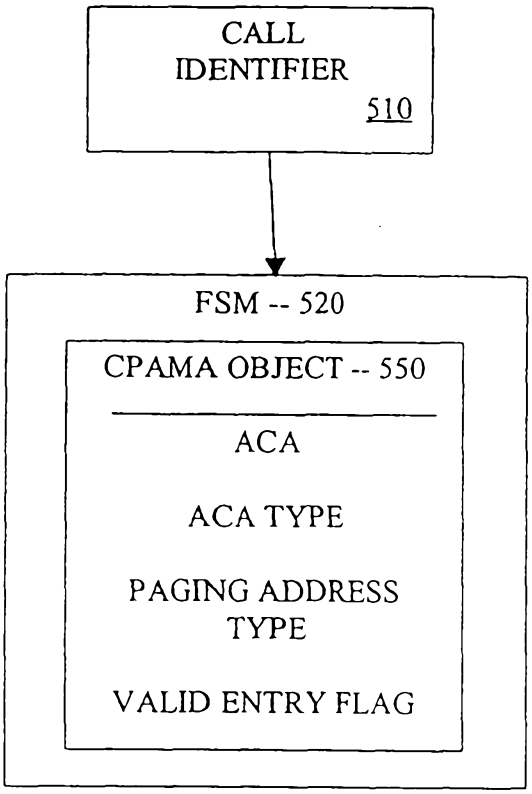


FIG. 5

610
```
CPAMobileAddress(
const ACCESS_ADDR_TYPE& access_addr,     // in: access mobile address
UCHAR a_type,                            // in: mobile address type
UCHAR imsi_act                           // in: IMSI active flag
);
```

650
```
CPAMobileAddress(
IFIMSIDATA& imsi_addr,                   // in: ANSI-41 imsi mobile address
UCHAR imsi_len                           // in: IMSI length
);
```

FIG. 6

```
BOOLEAN
getAddress(                              // retrieves access channel address
ACCESS_ADDR_TYPE& access_addr,           // in/out: access mobile address
UCHAR& a_type                            // out: access address type
) const;

BOOLEAN
getAddress(                              // retrieves mobile address to be used
                                         // to communicate with the mobile over
                                         // the paging channel
PAGE_ADDR_TYPE& page_addr,               // in/out: page mobile address
UCHAR& p_type                            // out: paging address type
) const;

BOOLEAN
getAddress(                              // retrieves mobile address to be used
                                         // to send up to the RCC (min1/min2/esn)
cp_min_esn_addr_type&   min_esn
) const;

BOOLEAN
getAddress(                              // retrieves an IMSI mobile address in
                                         // ANSI-41 format, to send to the RCC
IFIMSIDATA& imsi_addr,                   // in/out: ANSI-41 imsi mobile address
UCHAR& imsi_len                          // in/out: IMSI length
) const;

inline
UCHAR
getAccessAddressType(                    // returns access channel address type
) const
{
        return d_access_addr_type;
}

inline
UCHAR
getPagingAddressType(                    // returns paging channel address type
) const
{
        return d_paging_addr_type;
}

inline
BOOLEAN
isValidAddress(                          // returns d_valid_entry flag, which is used
                                         // to indicate if d_mobile_address contains
                                         // valid address information
) const
{
        return d_valid_entry;
}

inline
void
invalidateAddress(                       // sets d_valid_entry flag to FALSE
)
{
        d_valid_entry = FALSE;
}

BOOLEAN
setPagingAddressType(                    // sets paging address type


UCHAR p_type
);

BOOLEAN
operator == (                            // compares the CPAMobileAddress object passed to
                                         // it, with 'this' CPAMobileAddress object
const CPAMobileAddress& other_addr       // in: other CPAMobileAddress object
);

CPAMobileAddress&
operator = (                             // assigns class data members to data members of the
                                         // object passed to it as parameter
const CPAMobileAddress& addr
);

//      ------  FRIENDS:
//      none
```

FIG. 7