

US00RE43938E

(19) **United States**
(12) **Reissued Patent**
Park et al.

(10) **Patent Number:** **US RE43,938 E**
(45) **Date of Reissued Patent:** **Jan. 22, 2013**

(54) **DEVICE AND METHOD FOR COMPENSATING FOR PHASE DISTORTION IN BASE STATION OF OFDMA-BASED CELLULAR SYSTEM**

(75) Inventors: **Youn-Ok Park**, Daejeon (KR);
Young-Hoon Kim, Daejeon (KR)

(73) Assignee: **Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute**, Daejeon (KR)

(21) Appl. No.: **12/779,426**

(22) Filed: **May 13, 2010**

Related U.S. Patent Documents

Reissue of:

(64) Patent No.: **7,372,893**
Issued: **May 13, 2008**
Appl. No.: **10/691,084**
Filed: **Oct. 21, 2003**

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

May 23, 2003 (KR) 2003-0032932

(51) **Int. Cl.**
H04B 1/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **375/147**; 370/319; 370/335; 370/337;
370/344; 370/347; 370/441; 370/442; 370/445;
375/148; 375/260; 375/349

(58) **Field of Classification Search** None
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,646,632 A * 7/1997 Khan et al. 342/375
6,628,673 B1 * 9/2003 McFarland et al. 370/481
2002/0097669 A1 * 7/2002 Kim 370/208
2003/0063558 A1 * 4/2003 Kim 370/208
2004/0076239 A1 * 4/2004 Yu et al. 375/260

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

WO WO 01/50674 A1 7/2001

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Jan-Jaap Van De Beek, et al., "A Time and Frequency . . . for Multiuser OFDM"; IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications, vol. 17, No. 11, Nov. 1999, pp. 1900-1914.

Andrea M. Tonello, et al., "On the Effect of Time and Frequency Offsets . . . Systems"; Proceedings of ICT 2000, Acapulco, May 22-25, 2000, pp. 614-618.

R. Nogueroles et al., "Improved Performance of a Random OFDMA Mobile Communication System", Vehicular Technology Conf., 1998, VTC 98, 48th IEEE vol. 3, May 18-21, 1998, pp. 2502-2506 vol. 3.

Sari, H. et al., "An Analysis of Orthogonal Frequency-Division Multiple Access", 1997 IEEE, pp. 1635-1639.

Zou, H., et al., "An Integrated OFDM Receiver for High-Speed Mobile Data Communications", 2001 IEEE, pp. 3090-3094.

Speth, M., et al., "Frame synchronization of OFDM systems in frequency selective fading channels", 1997 IEEE, pp. 1807-1811.

Hazy, L., et al., "Synchronization of OFDM Systems Over Frequency Selective Fading Channels", 1997 IEEE, pp. 2094-2098.

P802.16a—Draft Amend to IEEE Std for Local & Metropolitan Area Networks, Part 16: Air Interface for Fixed Broadband Wireless Access Systems—Medium Access Control Modifications & Add'l Physical Layer Specs for 2-11 GHz, 2002 IEEE, pp. i-xxii, 1-309.

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner — David C. Payne

Assistant Examiner — Adolf Dsouza

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — NSIP Law

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Disclosed is a device and method for compensating for phase distortions in a base station of an OFDMA-based cellular system. The method comprises receiving OFDM symbols from a plurality of mobile stations, canceling a symbol guard interval using a reference timing signal, and performing an FFT (fast Fourier transform) process on the OFDM symbols; dividing the OFDM symbols that have undergone FFT processing into subchannel groups of the mobile stations; restoring phases of the OFDM symbols divided into subchannel groups; and performing channel estimation and equalization on the restored OFDM symbols for each mobile station to thereby perform a demodulation process.

17 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

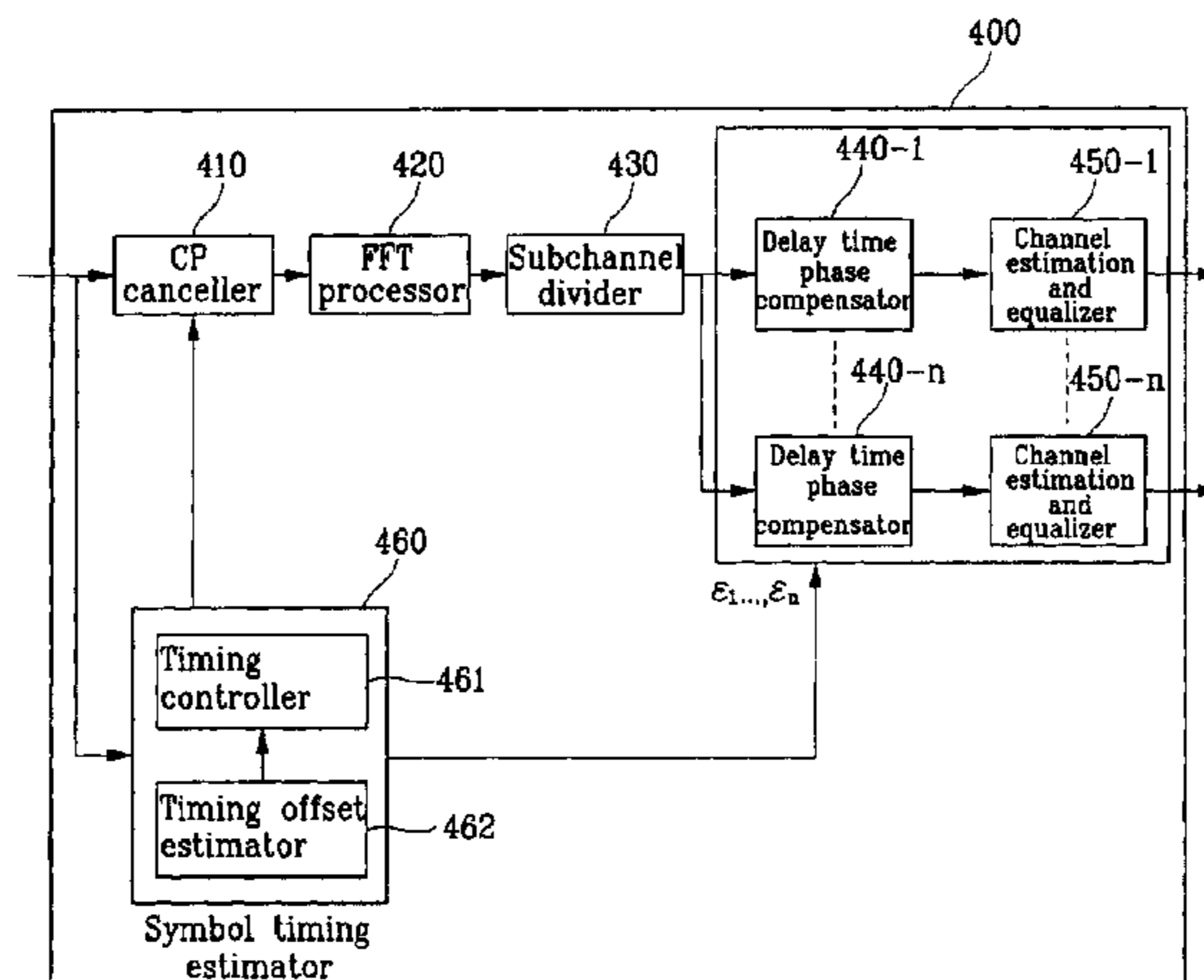


FIG. 1

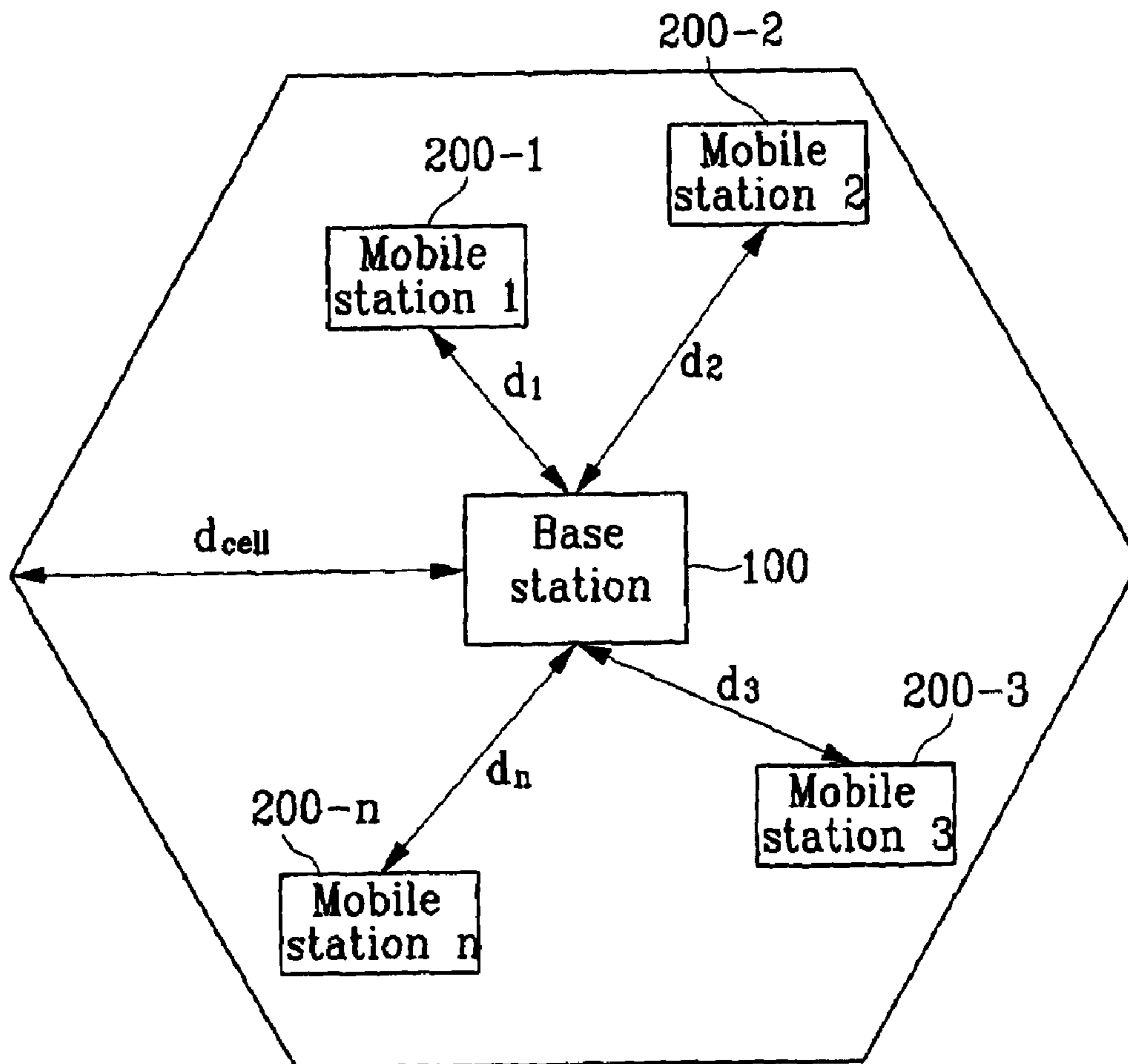


FIG. 2

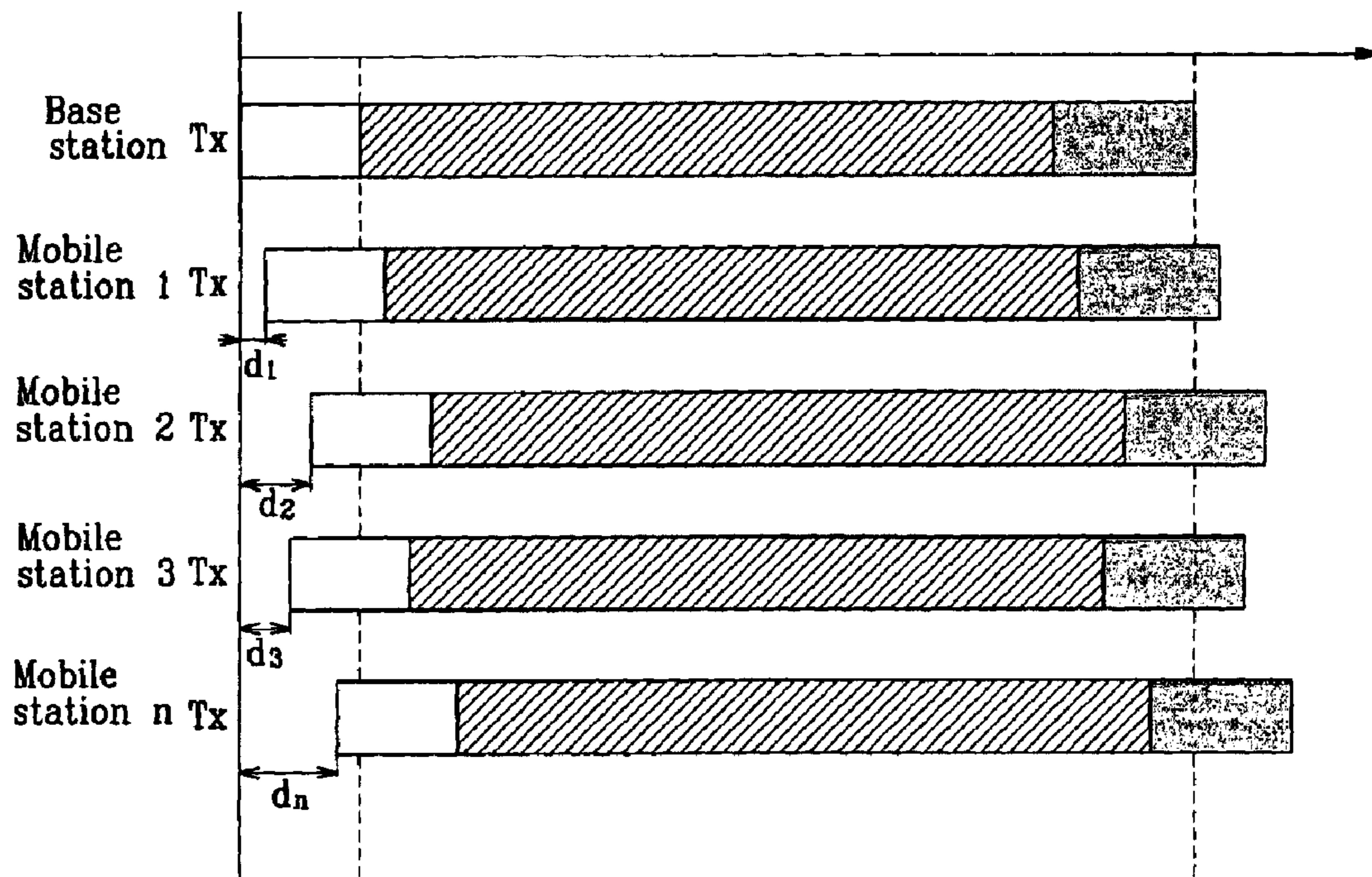


FIG. 3

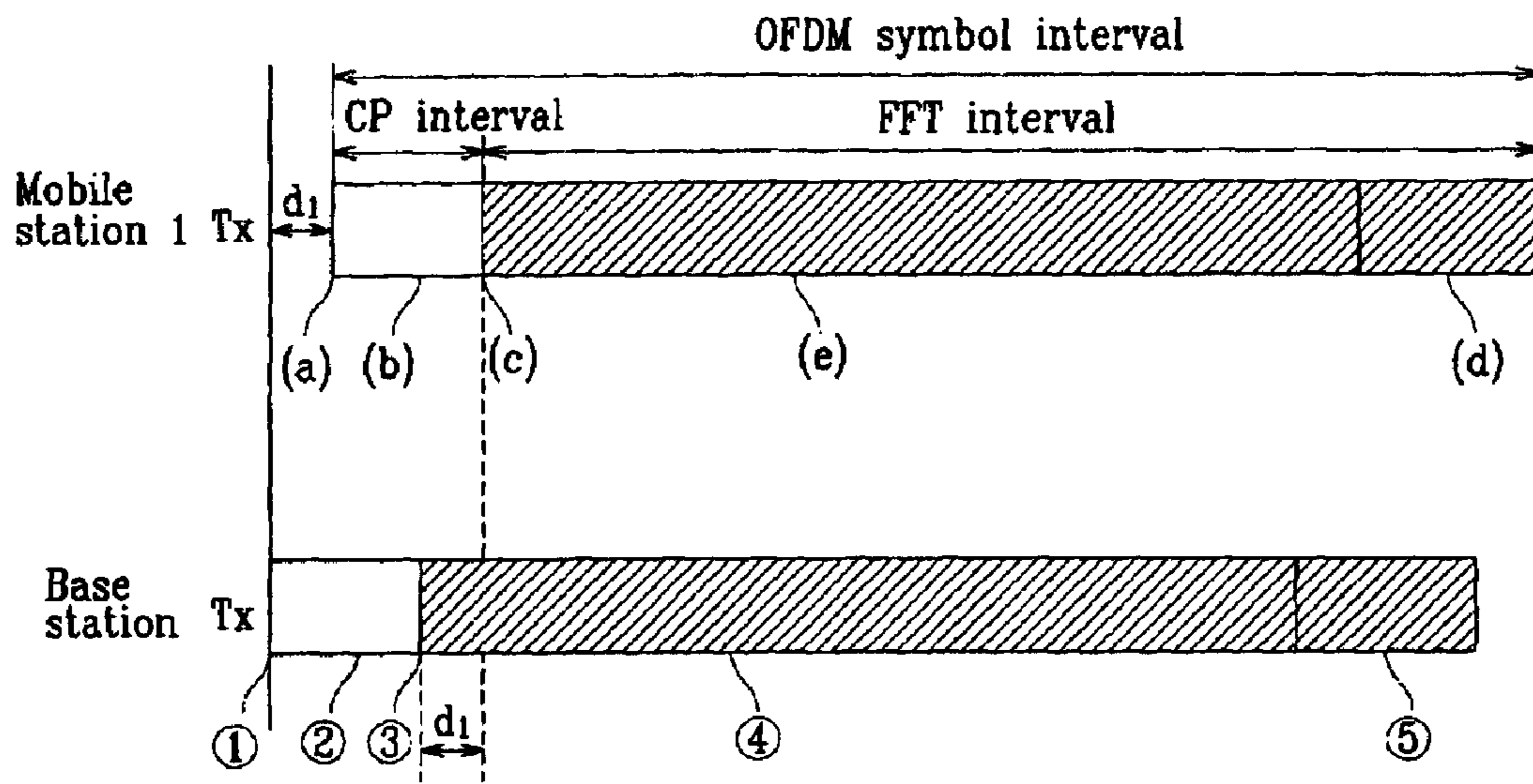


FIG. 4

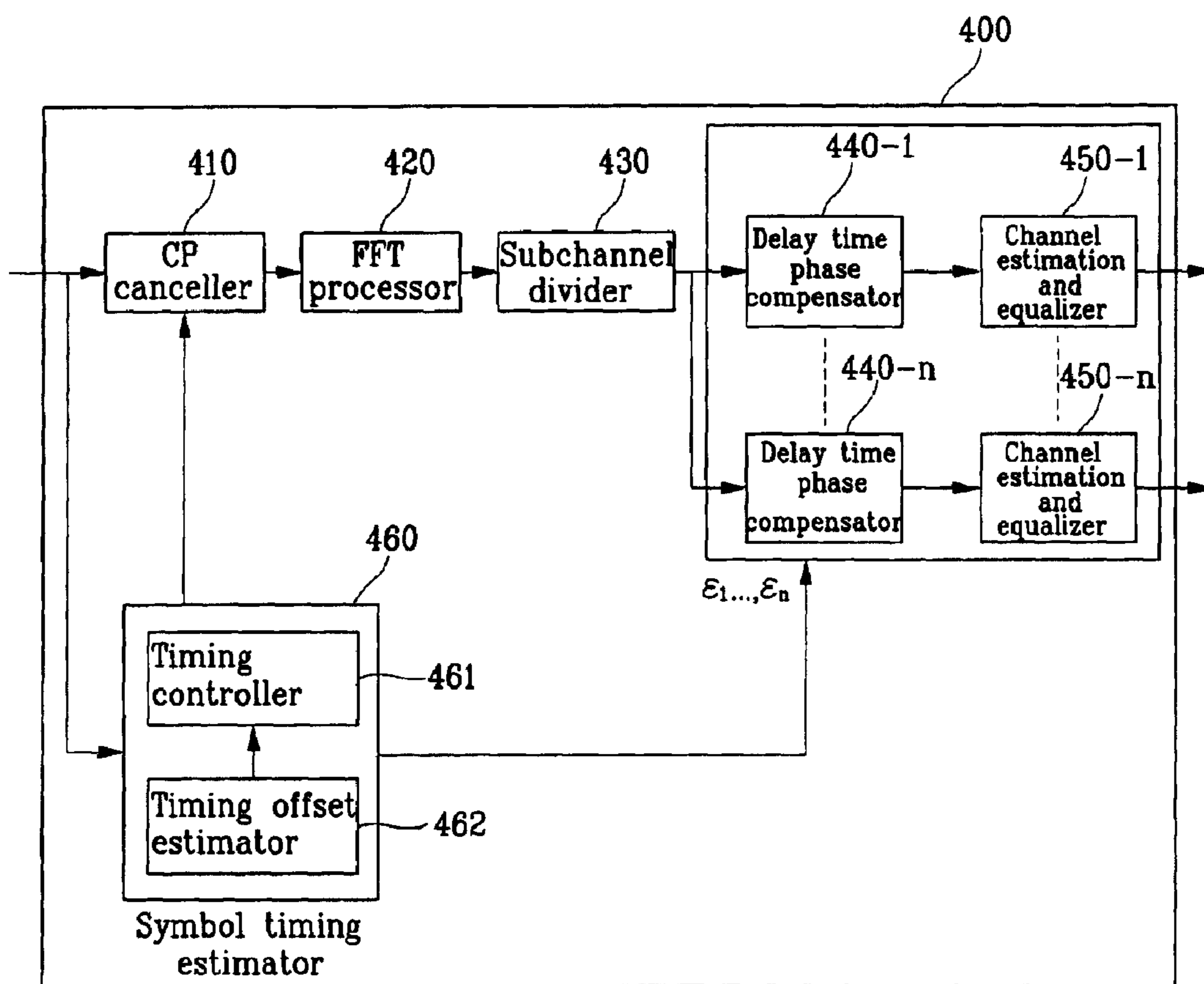
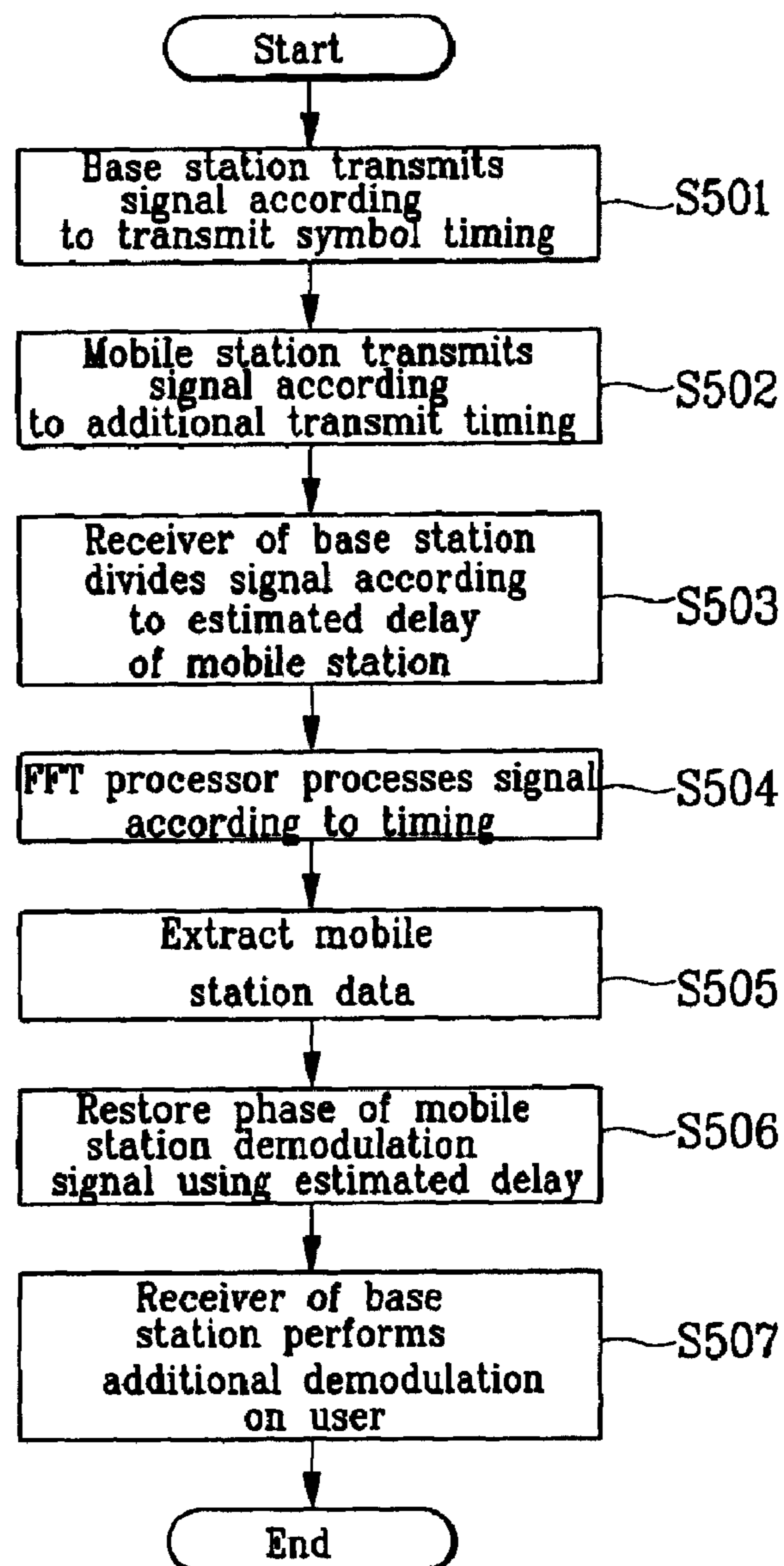


FIG. 5



1

**DEVICE AND METHOD FOR
COMPENSATING FOR PHASE DISTORTION
IN BASE STATION OF OFDMA-BASED
CELLULAR SYSTEM**

Matter enclosed in heavy brackets [] appears in the original patent but forms no part of this reissue specification; matter printed in italics indicates the additions made by reissue.

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATION

This application claims priority to and the benefit of Korea Patent Application No. 2003-32932 filed on May 23, 2003 in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, the content of which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(a) Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a device and method for compensating for phase distortions in a base station of an OFDMA (orthogonal frequency division multiple access) based cellular system. More specifically, the present invention relates to a device and method for compensating for phase distortions in a base station of an OFDMA-based cellular system, in which the device and method allow multiple access in the uplink of the OFDMA-based cellular system.

(b) Description of the Related Art

Following developments in next-generation mobile communication systems, many methods have been proposed for providing various services including high-quality and high-speed multimedia services. However, the deterioration in performance caused by multipath fading channels in mobile communication environments has become serious impediments to realizing such services.

Therefore, many techniques for overcoming the deterioration in performance caused by multipath fading have been developed and used. A drawback of these techniques, however, is that although they minimize such performance deterioration, the techniques require the design of a complex receiver.

The OFDMA method has been suggested for easily solving the problem of deterioration in performance caused by multipath fading by using a simple demodulator.

In the OFDMA method, a total of N subcarriers are divided into groups in a single OFDM symbol and in such a manner that the subcarriers are not repeated, and one of the divided groups (or subchannels) is allocated to each mobile station user.

In the OFDMA method, each mobile station loads data to a subcarrier in the group and transmits the data during a predetermined time frame in the reverse link case. Since the subcarriers included in the subchannel allocated to users who stay in a single cell belong to a single OFDMA symbol, it is necessary for a base station receiver to perform synchronization between each of the subchannels received from the mobile station. That is, in order to perform accurate demodulation, it is necessary that the base station receiver perform the same FFT (fast Fourier transform) at the same symbol timing.

Hence, OFDMA flexibly processes various services for the multitude of requests made by users, but results in the deterioration of performance compared to other multi-user access methods when the multiple users are not synchronized in the uplink.

2

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an advantage of the present invention to provide a device and method for compensating for phase distortions in a base station of an OFDMA-based cellular system, in which the device and method simply and stably demodulate data of mobile station users at a base station receiver without performing an additional synchronization process between the mobile station users in the reverse link.

In one aspect of the present invention, a method for compensating for phase distortions in a base station of an OFDMA-based cellular system comprises (a) receiving OFDM symbols from a plurality of mobile stations, canceling a symbol guard interval using a reference timing signal, and performing an FFT (fast Fourier transform) process on the OFDM symbols; (b) dividing the OFDM symbols that have undergone FFT processing into subchannel groups of the mobile stations; (c) restoring phases of the OFDM symbols divided into subchannel groups; and (d) performing channel estimation and equalization on the restored OFDM symbols for each mobile station to thereby perform a demodulation process.

In another aspect of the present invention, in a device for compensating for phase distortions of OFDM symbols received from a plurality of mobile stations in a base station of an OFDMA based cellular system, a phase distortion compensator in the base station of the OFDMA based cellular system comprises a symbol guard interval canceller for canceling a symbol guard interval of the OFDM symbols of the plurality of mobile stations received at the base station; an FFT (fast Fourier transform) processor for performing an FFT process on the OFDM symbols with the cancelled symbol guard interval; a subchannel divider for extracting subchannels allocated to each mobile station from the OFDM symbols that have undergone the FFT process; a symbol timing estimator for estimating a time delay between a timing of each OFDM symbol received from the mobile station and a reference symbol timing of the base station; a delay time phase compensator for compensating for phase distortions of the OFDM symbols of the mobile stations of the subchannels extracted by the subchannel group divider by using the delay time estimated by the symbol timing estimator; and a channel estimation and equalizer for performing distortion correction of the OFDM symbols of the mobile stations of the subchannels compensated by the delay time phase compensator, the distortion correction being performed according to an amplitude and a phase resulting from a signal channel of the mobile station.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of the specification, illustrate an embodiment of the invention, and, together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention:

FIG. 1 shows a block diagram of a reverse link in an OFDMA-based cellular system;

FIG. 2 shows transmit timing signals received at a base station connected to mobile stations of FIG. 1, and shows also transmit timing signals of the base station;

FIG. 3 shows an OFDM symbol configuration, and a relation between a transmit timing signal of a base station and a transmit timing signal of a mobile station;

FIG. 4 shows a block diagram of a phase distortion compensator in a base station of an OFDMA-based cellular system according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 5 shows an operational flowchart for a phase distortion compensation method in a base station of an OFDMA-based cellular system according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In the following detailed description, only the preferred embodiment of the invention has been shown and described, simply by way of illustration of the best mode contemplated by the inventor(s) of carrying out the invention. As will be realized, the invention is capable of modification in various obvious respects, all without departing from the invention. Accordingly, the drawings and description are to be regarded as illustrative in nature, and not restrictive.

FIG. 1 shows a block diagram of a reverse link in an OFDMA-based cellular system.

Referring to FIG. 1, n mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n** in an OFDMA-based cellular system are respectively required to have delay times of d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n with respect to a transmit symbol timing of the base station **100** in order to transmit data to the base station **100** through a reverse link.

The transmit timing of the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n** and of the base station **100** have the relation as described below.

FIG. 2 shows transmit timing signals received at a base station connected to mobile stations of FIG. 1, and shows also transmit timing signals of the base station.

Referring to FIG. 2, if it is assumed that a receiver of the base station **100** has acquired a symbol timing of the first mobile station **200-1**, symbol timing errors between the mobile stations **200-2** through **200-n** and the mobile station **200-1** are generated even though the receiver of the base station **100** synchronizes its own timing with respect to the symbol timing received from the first mobile station **200-1**. Therefore, the data of other mobile stations are distorted, and overall performance deterioration occurs because of the distortion.

The degree of interference is described below.

FIG. 3 shows an OFDM symbol configuration, and a relation between a transmit timing signal of a base station and a transmit timing signal of a mobile station.

In particular, FIG. 3 shows an OFDM symbol configuration between a receiver of the base station **100** and the first mobile station **200-1** that initially acquires the symbol timing.

The receiver of the base station **100** accurately estimates a starting point (a) of the OFDM symbol of the first mobile station **200-1** so as to successfully demodulate a signal of the first mobile station **200-1**, and adds a pre-established symbol guard interval (b) (referred to as a CP, or cyclic prefix hereinafter) to the estimated starting point (a) to find an FFT starting point (c).

When the receiver of the base station **100** performs an FFT process on the data in an FFT interval (d) beginning from the found FFT starting point (c) to extract data allocated to a subchannel of the corresponding first mobile station **200-1**, the result is that the signal of the first mobile station **200-1** is successfully demodulated.

If, instead of using the symbol timing of the first mobile station **200-1**, the reference timing (1) of the base station **100** is regarded as a symbol sync of the first mobile station **200-1** to demodulate the same, the characteristics of distortions caused by timing errors are altered according to the delay time d_1 of the first mobile station **200-1**. When the symbol timing of the first mobile station **200-1** is actually provided in the CP (2) of FIG. 3, it is influenced by Equation 1.

$$Y_{l,k} = X_{l,k} H_{l,k} e^{-j2\pi k d_1 / N} + W_{l,k} \quad \text{Equation 1}$$

where $Y_{l,k}$ is a demodulation signal, $H_{l,k}$ is a transmit signal, $W_{l,k}$ is a multipath fading channel of the k -th sub-carrier of the l -th OFDM symbol in the frequency domain, and N is a size of the FFT.

When the symbol timing of the mobile station is outside the CP (2), phase distortion, and subcarrier interference and ISI (inter symbol interference) allocated to other mobile stations are generated at the demodulated data as given in Equation 2.

$$Y_{l,k} = e^{j2\pi \epsilon k / N} \alpha(\epsilon) X_{l,k} H_{l,k} + n_{l,k,\epsilon} + W_{l,k} \quad \text{Equation 2}$$

where ϵ is a relative delay time between the base station reference timing and the mobile station, $n_{l,k,\epsilon}$ is an interference between the ISI and inter subcarrier interference, and

$$\alpha(\epsilon) = \sum_i |h_i(t)|^2 \frac{N - \epsilon_i}{N}$$

is an attenuation term of a symbol. Therefore, symbol timing errors of each of the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n** may occur in the CP (2) or the FFT intervals (4) and (5), and accordingly, different distortions occur.

An OFDMA-based cellular system for preventing distortions will now be described.

FIG. 4 shows a block diagram of a phase distortion compensator in a base station of an OFDMA-based cellular system according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 4, the phase distortion compensator **400** of the base station **100** of the OFDMA-based cellular system comprises a CP canceller **410**, an FFT processor **420**, a subchannel divider **430**, delay time phase compensators **440-1** through **440-n**, channel estimation and equalizers **450-1** through **450-n**, and a symbol timing estimator **460**. The phase distortion compensator **400** is a device provided in the receiver of the base station **100**, with a plurality of phase distortion compensators **400** being provided therein for each of the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n**. For illustration purposes, only one of the phase distortion compensators **400** is shown in the drawing.

The symbol timing estimator **460** comprises a timing controller **461** and a timing offset estimator **462**.

The phase distortion compensator **400** performs phase distortion compensation of the OFDM symbol received from the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n**. The receiver of the base station **100** processes the signal compensated by the phase distortion compensator **400**.

The CP canceller **410** cancels a CP (b) of the OFDM symbol provided from all the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n** and received at the base station **100**, and the FFT processor **420** demodulates the CP-cancelled OFDM symbol for all the subchannels.

The subchannel divider **430** divides the signal demodulated by the FFT processor **420** into respective mobile station data by using a specific tone which is used by each mobile station **200-1** through **200-n** for data modulation.

The timing offset estimator **462** of the symbol timing estimator **460** estimates delay times of base station transmit symbol timings of the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n**, and groups together the mobile stations with distributed delay times for a predetermined duration of time. The timing controller **461** generates a first reference time R_1 by using a symbol timing of the mobile station with the shortest delay in the group, and converts delay times of the mobile stations belonging to the group into relative delay times ϵ_1 through ϵ_n by using the reference time R_1 in the calculation of the relative

5

delay times ϵ_1 through ϵ_n . That is, the relative delay times ϵ_1 through ϵ_n are found using Equation 3.

$$\epsilon_i = d_i - R_1 \quad \text{Equation 3}$$

where ϵ_i is a relative delay time of the i -th mobile station and d_i is a time delay of the i -th mobile station.

The phase distortion compensator **400** demodulates a signal received from the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n** based on the base station reference time R_1 . Distortion of the demodulation data caused by the symbol timing errors of the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n** belonging to each of the groups generates phase errors as given in Equation 1. This will now be described in detail.

Referring to FIG. 3, the symbol starting point (a) of the first mobile station **200-1** is delayed by ϵ_1 beginning at the base station OFDM symbol start (1). Therefore, when the base station reference time R_1 is established based on the mobile station with the shortest delay time of the first group, the timing errors of all the mobile stations belonging to the corresponding group are generated in the CP. Accordingly, signals of the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n** have a phase distortion corresponding only to a difference between the base station transmit symbol timing and the symbol timings of the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n** as evident from Equation 1. The result of this is that the phase distortion on the respective subchannels belonging to the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n** can be accurately restored if the relative delay times ϵ_1 through ϵ_n can be accurately estimated.

The symbol timing estimator **460** performs grouping of all the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n** within a cell as described above, and generates a base station reference timing and a relative delay time for the phase distortion compensator **400** so that the phase distortion compensator **400** may perform accurate phase distortion compensation.

In addition, the symbol timing estimator **460** estimates relative delay times of each of the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n** by applying specific modulated codes to preambles of the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n**.

The delay time phase compensators **440-1** through **440-n** restore a distorted phase of the data of the corresponding mobile station according to the relative delay time estimated by the symbol timing estimator **460**. Restoration is performed as shown in Equation 4 by a degree corresponding to the level of phase distortion indicated in Equation 1. Equation 4

$$\hat{X}_{l,k} = Y_{l,k} e^{j2\pi k \delta_l / N}$$

The channel estimation and equalizers **450-1** through **450-n** perform channel estimation on the restored data signals of each of the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n**, and equalizes channel-estimated signals to thereby normally process the signals.

According to the above-described method, since the receiver of the base station requires no additional synchronization process between the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n** by the phase distortion compensator **400** and dynamically operates according to delay time distributions of the mobile stations within the cell, the design of the receiver need not be complicated.

A sync distortion compensation method in the OFDMA-based cellular system according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be described.

FIG. 5 shows an operational flowchart for a phase distortion compensation method in a base station of the OFDMA-based cellular system according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 5, the base station **100** transmits a signal according to an established transmit symbol timing in step

6

S501. The mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n** then acquire transmit symbol timings delayed by a predetermined time from the base station **100**, and transmit data to the receiver of the base station **100** by applying each of the transmit symbol timings through the reverse link in step **S502**. The OFDM symbols from the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n** received at the receiver of the base station **100** have their phase distortion compensated for through the phase distortion compensator **400** of the receiver of the base station **100**, and the receiver of the base station **100** processes residual data of the signal that has undergone phase distortion compensation.

The symbol timing estimator **460** of the base station **100** estimates a delay time of each mobile station, groups together the mobile stations that are provided within a given time interval, and calculates a reference timing signal for each group and a relative delay with respect to the reference timing in step **S503**.

The CP controller **410** of the phase distortion compensator **400** cancels a CP of the OFDM symbol received from the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n** according to the reference timing signal of the base station **100** obtained in step **S503**, and the FFT processor **420** performs an FFT process on the CP-cancelled OFDM symbol from the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n** in step **S504**. Therefore, without performing any precise control of the symbol timing of the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n**, the phase distortion compensator **400** is able to perform FFT processes on the OFDM symbol received through the reverse link from the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n** according to a receive symbol timing of the base station **100**.

The subchannel divider **430** divides the OFDM symbol that has undergone FFT processing in step **S504** into subchannel groups of the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n** in step **S505**. Next, in step **S506**, the symbol timing estimator **460** measures delay times of the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n**, and the delay time phase compensators **440-1** through **440-n** compensate for the phases of the signals of the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n** by using the delay time estimated by the symbol timing estimator **460**.

The channel estimation and equalizers **450-1** through **450-n** perform an additional demodulation process on the phase-compensated signals of the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n** to thereby complete phase distortion compensation in step **S507**.

In the additional demodulation process, channel estimation and equalization are performed to reduce residual distortion by adding a pilot for channel estimation of the subchannel groups of each of the mobile stations **200-1** through **200-n**.

As described above, the phase distortion compensation device and method in a base station of the OFDMA-based cellular system requires no additional synchronization between mobile stations in a multi-user environment and in the reverse link of the OFDMA, and demodulates the data between multi-users without the use of a complicated design of the base station receiver. Further, the present invention can be applied to a system for synchronization between the mobile stations.

While this invention has been described in connection with what is presently considered to be the most practical and preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiment, but, on the contrary, is intended to cover various modifications and equivalent arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for compensating for phase distortions in a base station of an OFDMA (orthogonal frequency division multiple access) based cellular system, comprising:

- (a) receiving OFDM (orthogonal frequency division multiplexing) symbols from a plurality of mobile stations;
- (b) grouping the plurality of the mobile stations according to a predetermined duration of time, and generating a reference timing signal for each group and relative delay times among the mobile stations;
- (c) canceling a symbol guard interval using the reference timing signal, and performing an FFT (fast Fourier transform) process on the OFDM symbols;
- (d) dividing the OFDM symbols that have undergone FFT processing into subchannel groups of the mobile stations;
- [(d)] (e) restoring phases of the OFDM symbols divided into subchannel groups based on the estimation of the relative delay times among the mobile stations; and
- [(e)] (f) performing channel estimation and equalization on the restored OFDM symbols for each mobile station to thereby perform a demodulation process.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein as to the reference timing signal, predetermined mobile stations with delay times shorter than a predetermined time are formed into the group, and the reference timing signal for decoding mobile station signals of this group is generated.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the reference timing signal is obtained based on the delay time of one of the mobile stations with the shortest delay time within the group.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the FFT process in (a) is performed according to a reference symbol timing of the base station.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein in (e), the phase distorted OFDM symbols of the mobile stations are restored by the relative delay times calculated based on a difference between a delay time of the base station and a reference time resulting from the reference timing signal.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein (f) comprises performing channel estimation and equalization to reduce residual distortions.

7. In a device for compensating for phase distortion of OFDM symbols received from a plurality of mobile stations in a base station of an OFDMA (orthogonal frequency division multiple access) based cellular system, a phase distortion compensator in the base station of the OFDMA-based cellular system, comprising:

- a symbol guard interval canceller for canceling a symbol guard interval of the OFDM symbols of the plurality of mobile stations received at the base station, the symbol guard interval canceller to cancel the symbol guard time using a reference time;
- an FFT (fast Fourier transform) processor for performing an FFT process on the OFDM symbols with the cancelled symbol guard interval;
- a subchannel divider for extracting subchannels allocated to each mobile station from the OFDM symbols that have undergone the FFT process;
- a symbol timing estimator for grouping the plurality of the mobile stations according to a predetermined duration of time, and generating the reference timing signal for each group and estimating the relative delay times among the OFDM symbols received from the mobile stations;
- a delay time phase compensator for compensating for phase distortions of the OFDM symbols of the mobile stations of the subchannels extracted by the subchannel

group divider by using the relative delay times estimated by the symbol timing estimator; and

a channel estimation and equalizer for performing distortion correction of the OFDM symbols of the mobile stations of the subchannels compensated by the delay time phase compensator, the distortion correction being performed according to an amplitude and a phase resulting from a signal channel of the mobile station.

8. The device of claim 7, wherein the symbol timing estimator further comprises:

a timing offset estimator for estimating delay times of the mobile stations with respect to a transmit symbol timing of the base station; and

a timing controller for grouping together the mobile stations according to the delay times of the mobile stations estimated by the timing offset estimator, obtaining the reference time using a symbol timing of the mobile station with the shortest delay time in each group, and obtaining the relative delay times by using the reference time].

9. A method for compensating for phase distortions in a base station of an orthogonal frequency division multiple access based cellular system, comprising:

receiving orthogonal frequency division multiplexing symbols from a plurality of mobile stations having a respective delay time;

grouping the plurality of the mobile stations according to a predetermined duration of time, and generating a reference timing signal for each group and relative delay times of the mobile stations;

removing a symbol guard interval using the reference timing signal, and processing the orthogonal frequency division multiplexing symbols; and

grouping the orthogonal frequency division multiplexing symbols that have undergone processing into subchannel groups of the mobile stations.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

restoring phases of the orthogonal frequency division multiplexing symbols grouped into subchannel groups based on the estimation of the relative delay times among the mobile stations; and

performing channel estimation and equalization on the restored orthogonal frequency division multiplexing symbols for each mobile station to thereby perform a demodulation process.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein as to the reference timing signal, predetermined mobile stations with delay times shorter than a predetermined time are formed into the group, and the reference timing signal for decoding mobile station signals of this group is generated.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the reference timing signal is obtained based on the delay time of one of the mobile stations with the shortest delay time within the group.

13. A phase distortion compensator in the base station of an orthogonal frequency division multiple access based cellular system, comprising:

a symbol guard interval canceller for canceling symbol guard intervals of orthogonal frequency division multiplexing symbols of a plurality of mobile stations received at the base station, the symbol guard interval canceller to cancel the symbol guard intervals using a reference time;

a processor for processing the orthogonal frequency division multiplexing symbols;

a subchannel grouper for extracting subchannels allocated to each mobile station from the orthogonal frequency division multiplexing symbols that have undergone processing; and

a symbol timing estimator for grouping the plurality of the mobile stations according to a predetermined duration of time, and generating the reference timing signal for each group and estimating the relative delay times of the orthogonal frequency division multiplexing symbols received from the mobile stations.

14. *The phase distortion compensator of claim 13, further comprising:*

a delay time phase compensator for compensating for phase distortions of the orthogonal frequency division multiplexing symbols of the mobile stations of the subchannels extracted by the subchannel grouper by using the relative delay times estimated by the symbol timing estimator.

15. *The phase distortion compensator of claim 14, further comprising:*

a channel estimation and equalizer for performing distortion correction of the orthogonal frequency division multiplexing symbols of the mobile stations of the subchannels compensated by the delay time phase compensator, the distortion correction being performed according to an amplitude and a phase resulting from a signal channel of the mobile station.

16. *The phase distortion compensator of claim 15, wherein as to the reference timing signal, predetermined mobile stations with delay times shorter than a predetermined time are formed into the group, and the reference timing signal for decoding mobile station signals of this group is generated.*

17. *The phase distortion compensator of claim 16, wherein the reference timing signal is obtained based on the delay time of one of the mobile stations with the shortest delay time within the group.*

* * * * *