

In a communication system subject to variations in channel quality, transmit power control is used to reduce the variations in received signal quality. If the channel quality degrades to such an extent that a high transmit power would be required to ensure good received signal quality, the transmit power is decreased and is not increased until the channel quality recovers sufficiently to enable an acceptable transmit power level to be used. While the power is at the decreased level, transmission of a data block may continue, or may be suspended, with the data block being truncated if the whole block has not been transmitted by the end of the time period available for transmission of the data block.