



US005659526A

United States Patent [19]

[11] Patent Number: **5,659,526**

Lewis

[45] Date of Patent: **Aug. 19, 1997**

[54] **OPTICAL SEEKING APPARATUS WITH TRACK CROSSING SIGNAL GENERATION USING A CORRECTED TRACKING ERROR SIGNAL HAVING A CONSTANT AMPLITUDE DURING PERIODS OF DATA**

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[75] Inventor: **David E. Lewis**, Black Forest, Colo.

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[73] Assignee: **Discovision Associates**, Irvine, Calif.

225877 6/1994 Taiwan .

[21] Appl. No.: **473,867**

Primary Examiner—Thang V. Tran
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Ronald J. Clark; Robert T. Braun; Paul M. Thyfault

[22] Filed: **Jun. 7, 1995**

[57] ABSTRACT

Related U.S. Application Data

An apparatus for moving an optical head from an initial track to a target track on a storage medium and generating a track crossing signal is disclosed. The apparatus comprises a sensor for measuring the reflectivity level from a storage medium, a preamplifier for generating a data signal, a tracking error signal generator responsive to the reflectivity level for deriving a tracking error signal, a track/hold selector to direct the tracking error signal generator to generate a corrected tracking error signal of a constant amplitude for a predetermined period of time based on the data signal, and a track crossing signal generator based on the corrected tracking error signal for deriving a track crossing signal indicating the crossing of an information track by the optical head.

[62] Division of Ser. No. 418,723, Apr. 7, 1995.

[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **G11B 7/09**

[52] U.S. Cl. **369/44.28; 369/44.34; 369/54**

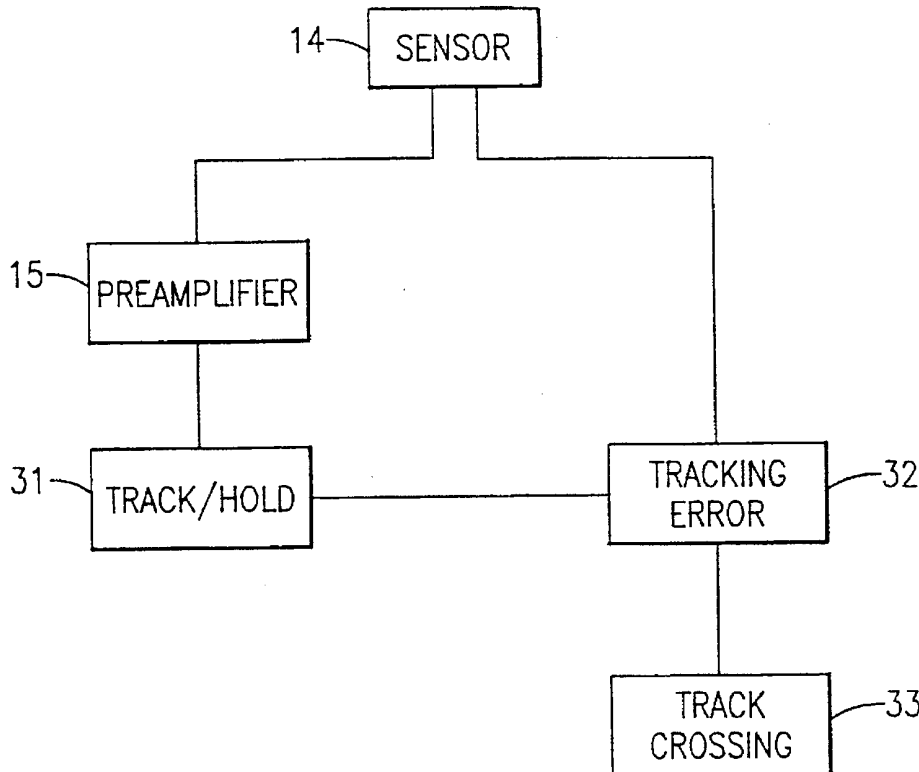
[58] Field of Search 369/44.28, 44.29, 369/44.26, 44.32, 44.34, 32, 54, 44.35; 360/77.03, 78.05, 78.06

[56] References Cited

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5 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



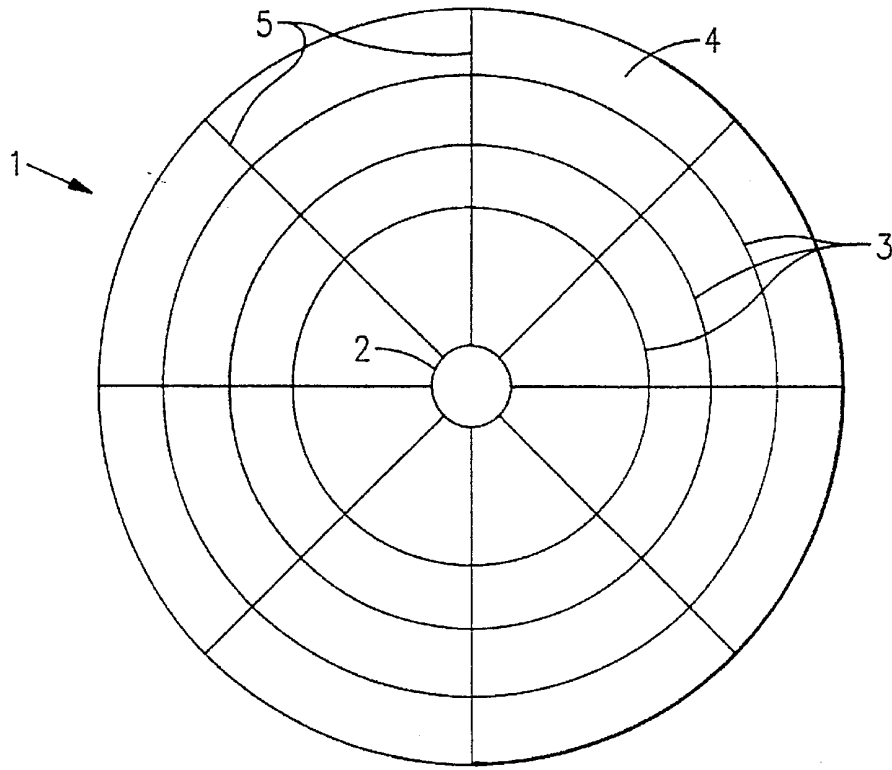


FIG. 1

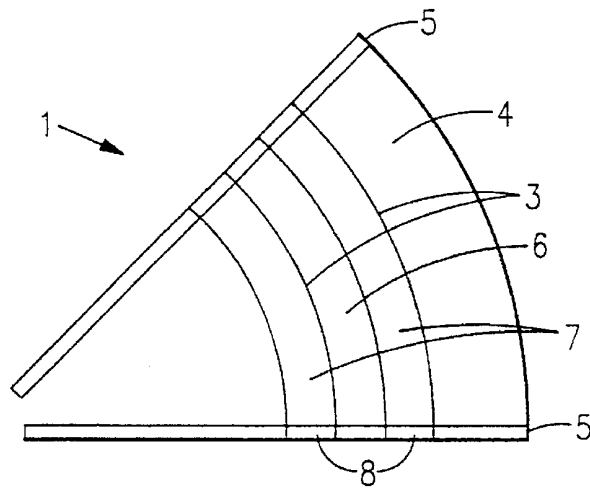


FIG. 2

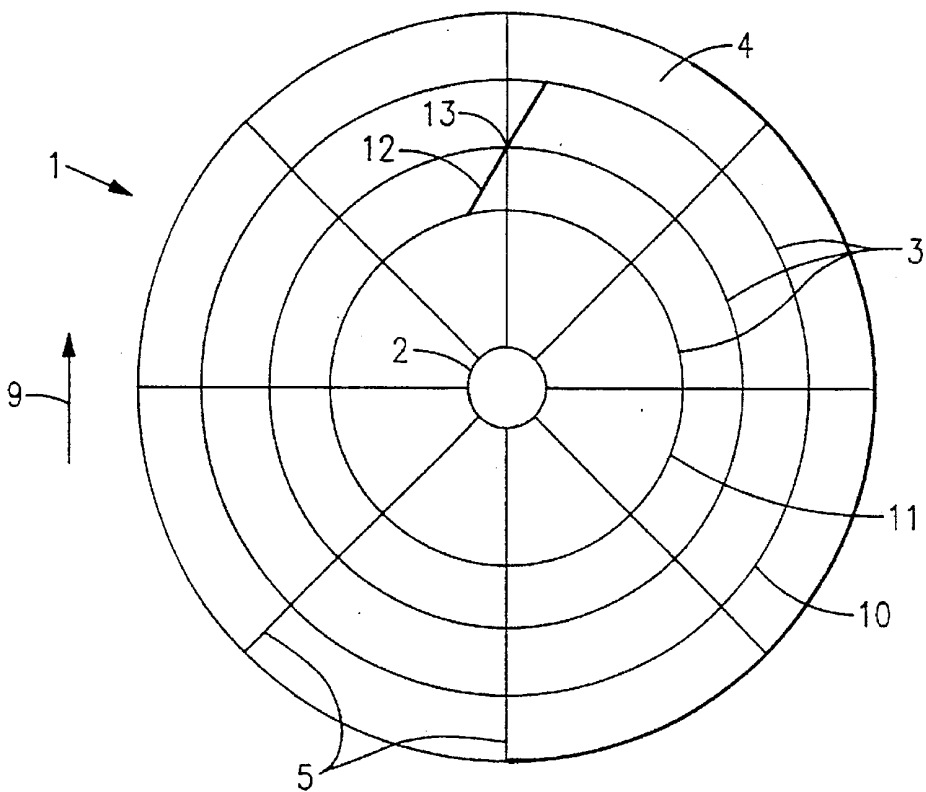


FIG. 3

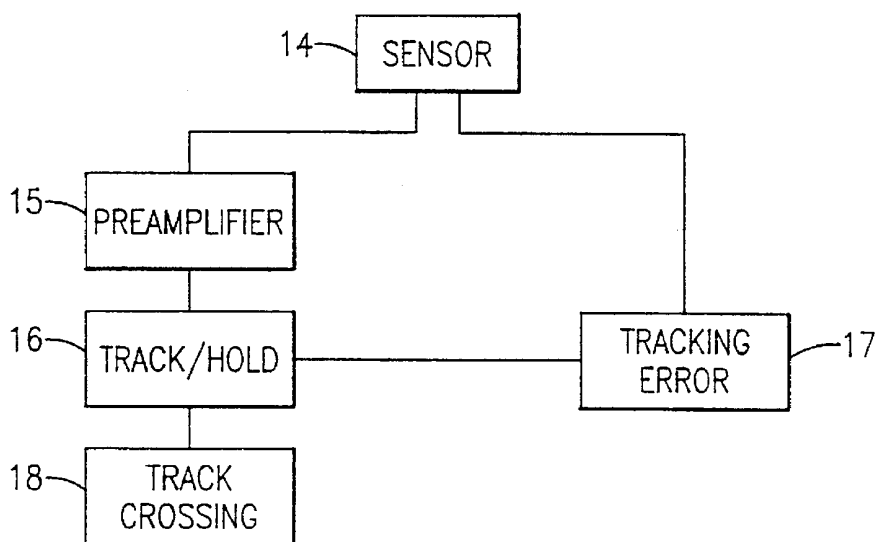


FIG. 4

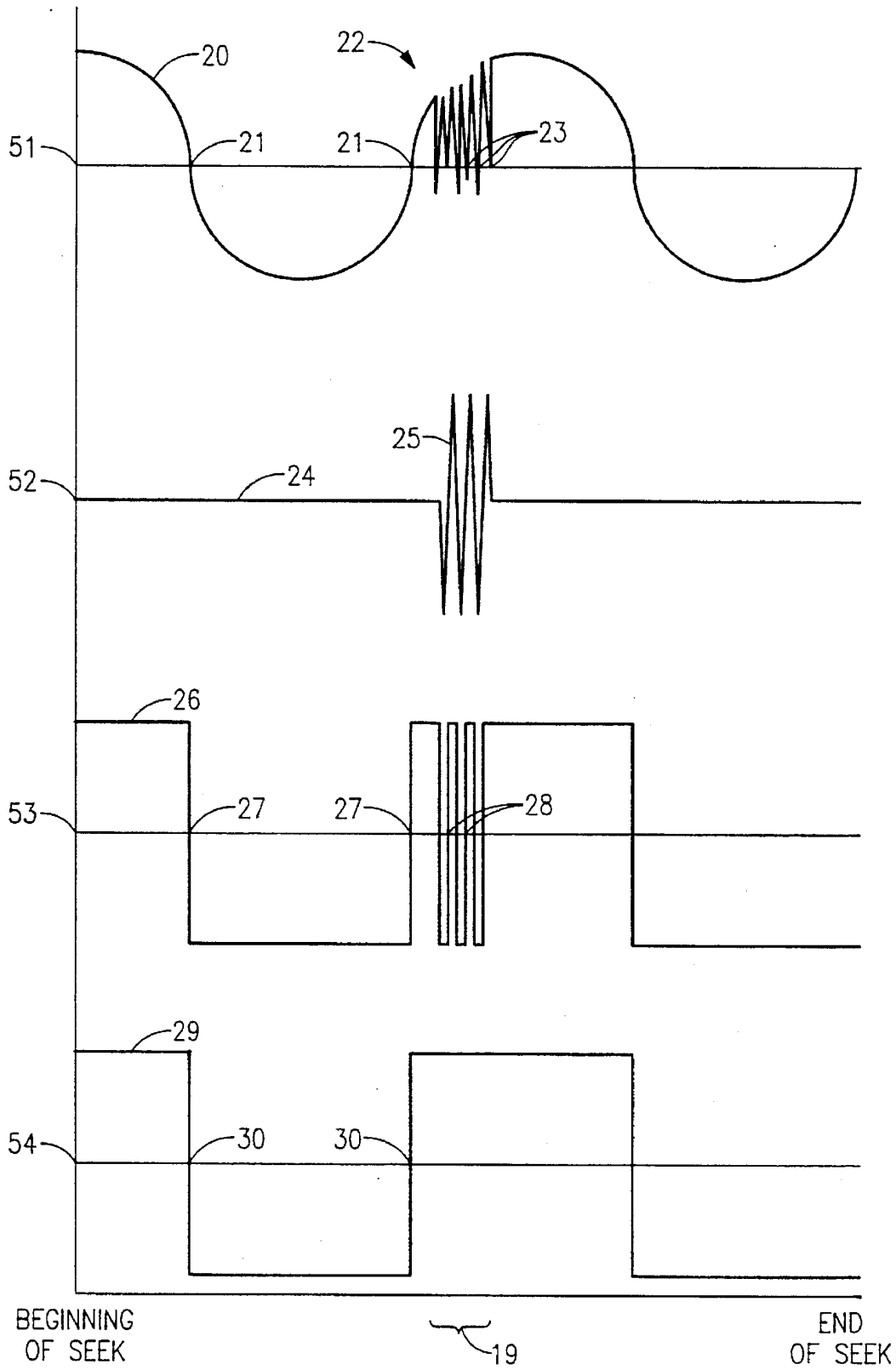


FIG.5

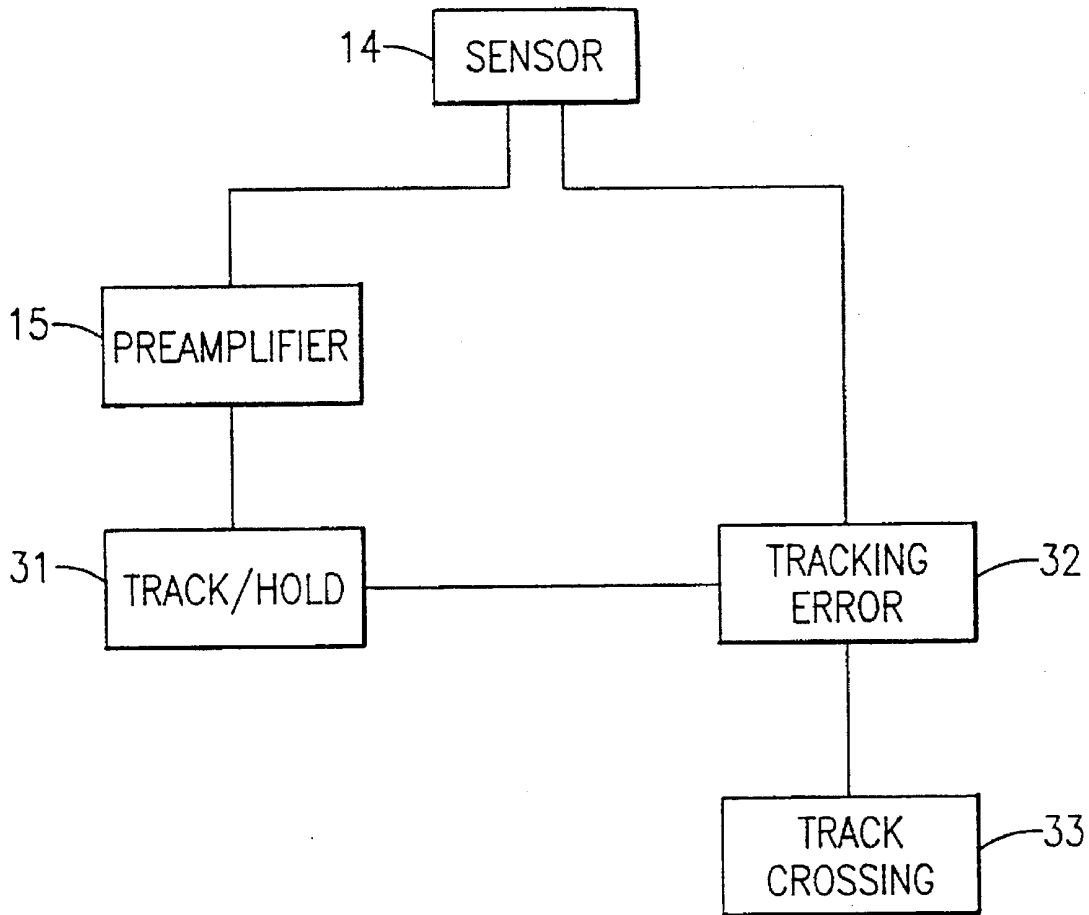


FIG. 6

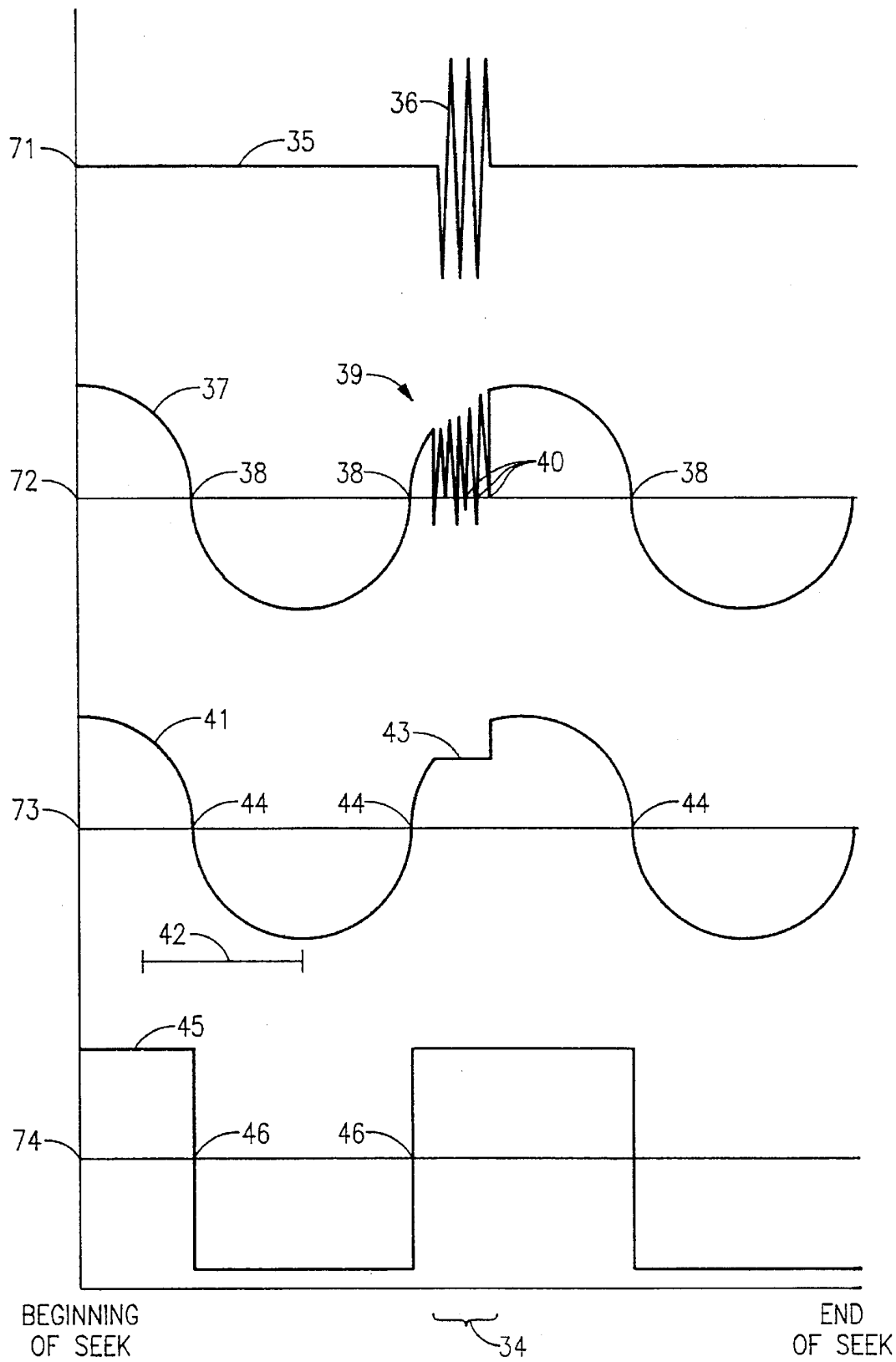


FIG. 7

**OPTICAL SEEKING APPARATUS WITH
TRACK CROSSING SIGNAL GENERATION
USING A CORRECTED TRACKING ERROR
SIGNAL HAVING A CONSTANT AMPLITUDE
DURING PERIODS OF DATA**

This is a division of application Ser. No. 08/418,723,
filed Apr. 7, 1995.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to optical systems, and, in particular,
to seeking by an optical head in an optical system.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BACKGROUND ART

Certain types of storage media have constant reflectivity
levels in the data storage areas. Data differentiation may be
accomplished by phase comparison or other suitable meth-
ods. Other areas on the storage media, such as headers, may
have differing reflectivity levels.

In seeking from one track to another, a track crossing
number is determined. The track crossing number indicates
the number of tracks to be crossed in seeking from an initial
track to a target track. When the seek is performed, an actual
track crossing count is kept, indicating the number of tracks
crossed so far. When the actual track crossing count equals
the track crossing number, the seek is finished and the target
track has been reached.

In prior art systems, the actual track crossing count could
be derived from the tracking error signal. However, if the
path of a seek crossed the areas having differing reflectivity
levels, the tracking error signal would erroneously indicate
that a track had been crossed. Therefore, if the actual track
crossing count relied on the tracking error signal, it would
equal the track crossing number before the target track had
been reached, causing undershoot of the seek and requiring
either another seek or a seek correction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A method is disclosed for moving an optical head from an
initial track to a target track on a storage medium. The total
number of tracks to be crossed is determined, and the optical
head is moved toward the target track. A reflectivity level of
light from the storage medium is measured, and a tracking
error signal is derived from the reflectivity level. The
tracking error signal has both true and false indicators of
track crossings. A data indicator signal is derived from the
reflectivity level, having indicator points corresponding to
the false indicators of track crossings. A track count number
is incremented for each true indicator of a track crossing,
and the optical head is stopped when the track count number
equals the total number of tracks to be crossed. Another
method is disclosed whereby a track count signal is gener-
ated from the tracking error signal and the data indicator
signal. The track count signal indicates track crossings
corresponding to the true track crossing indicators in the
tracking error signal. An apparatus is disclosed comprising
a sensor for measuring the reflectivity level from a storage
medium, a tracking error signal generator for generating a
tracking error signal, a preamplifier for generating a data
signal, a track crossing signal generator responsive to the
tracking error signal, and a track/hold selector responsive to
the data signal to direct the track crossing signal generator
to generate a track crossing signal without the false track
crossing indicators from the tracking error signal. A second
apparatus is disclosed comprising a sensor for measuring the

reflectivity level from a storage medium, a preamplifier for
generating a data signal, a tracking error signal generator
responsive to the reflectivity level for deriving a tracking
error signal, a track/hold selector to direct the tracking
error signal generator to generate a signal of constant amplitude
for a predetermined period of time based on the data signal,
and a track crossing signal generator responsive to the
tracking error signal for deriving a track crossing signal
indicating the crossing of an information track by the optical
head.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a generalized representation of a storage medium
adaptable for use with the invention.

FIG. 2 is an enlargement of a portion of the storage
medium shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a generalized representation of a storage medium
adaptable for use with the invention, showing the path
traveled by the optical head during a seek.

FIG. 4 is a generalized representation of one embodiment
of the invention.

FIG. 5 is a generalized plot of waveforms generated by
one embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 6 is a generalized representation of another embodi-
ment of the invention.

FIG. 7 is a generalized plot of waveforms generated by
another embodiment of the invention.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE
PREFERRED EMBODIMENT**

Referring to exemplary FIG. 1, there is shown a gener-
alized representation of a storage medium 1 adaptable for
use with the invention. The storage medium 1 has a center
2 and data is recorded thereon in information tracks 3
concentric about the center 2. The information tracks 3 may
be arranged in a spiral about the center 2. Data is further
arranged in sectors 4 separated by radial (or non-radial)
sector headers 5.

Referring to exemplary FIG. 2, there is shown an enlarge-
ment of a portion of the storage medium 1 shown in
exemplary FIG. 1. Intertrack regions 6 are located concen-
trically between consecutive information tracks 3. Data may
be recorded in segments 7 where the information tracks 3
intersect the sectors 4. Additionally, there is data in header
segments 8 where the information tracks 3 intersect the
radial (or nonradial) sector headers 5. This data in the header
segments 8 is either embossed or otherwise not modifiable
by the optical system.

Referring to exemplary FIG. 3, there is shown a gener-
alized representation of the storage medium 1 shown in
exemplary FIG. 1. Additionally, the storage medium 1 is
rotating about the center 2 in the direction indicated by
arrow 9. To perform a seek from an initial information track
10 to a target information track 11, an optical head (not
shown) will travel on a path 12 relative to the storage
medium 1. In traveling along the path 12, the optical head
(not shown) will cross radial sector headers 5 at intersection
points 13.

Referring to exemplary FIG. 4, there is shown one
embodiment of the invention. The apparatus comprises a
sensor 14 for detecting a reflectivity level of light reflected
from the storage medium 1. The sensor 14 passes the
reflectivity level to a preamplifier 15. The preamplifier 15
generates a data signal which is indicative of changes in the
reflectivity level in response to data located in the informa-

tion tracks 3. The preamplifier 15 may contain a high pass filter, through which the data signal is passed. The preamplifier 15 then passes the data signal to a track/hold selector 16.

The sensor 14 also passes a signal representing a returning optical pattern to a tracking error signal generator 17. Tracking error can be, and usually is, generated by split or quad detectors. Quad sum detectors (outputting the sum signal of the quad detectors) for servos can also generate track crossing indications. As shown in FIGS. 5 and 7, a "bipolar" signal, generated by split detectors in push pull represents the pattern produced by interference fringes. The tracking error signal generator 16 derives a tracking error signal. The tracking error signal indicates changes in the reflectivity level both in response to data located in the information tracks 3 and in response to the optical head (not shown) crossing an information track 3. The tracking error signal generator 17 then passes the tracking error signal to the track/hold selector 16.

The track/hold selector 16 generates a control signal in response to the data signal. The track/hold selector 16 then passes the control signal and the tracking error signal to a track crossing signal generator 18. The track crossing signal generator 18 creates a track crossing signal in response to the tracking error signal. The track crossing signal is a generally a square waveform corresponding to the tracking error signal. The control signal directs the track crossing signal generator 18 to ignore the portions of the tracking error signal corresponding to portions of the data signal indicating changes in the reflectivity level in response to data located in the information tracks 3. The track crossing signal generator 18 thus generates a track crossing signal indicating changes in the reflectivity level in response to the optical head (not shown) crossing an information track 3.

In operation, a seek is performed from the initial track 10 to the target track 11. A track crossing number is generated, which is equal to the number of tracks between the initial track 10 and the target track 11. The optical head (not shown) is moved from the initial track 10 toward the target track 11. The embodiment of the invention, as described above, responds to light reflected off the storage medium 1 to generate a track crossing signal. A track crossing counter (not shown) counts the number of changes in the reflectivity level indicated in the track crossing signal. When the track crossing counter equals the track crossing number, the optical head (not shown) has reached the target track 11.

Referring to exemplary FIG. 5, there are shown the waveforms of the signals created by components of the above-described embodiment. Each of the waveforms is plotted against time on the horizontal axis, with the beginning of the seek at the left and the end of the seek at the right. The time segment 19 indicates a point when the optical head (not shown) is crossing a header segment 8.

In line 51, there is shown a waveform 20 of the tracking error signal generated by the tracking error signal generator 17. The waveform 20 has zero crossings 21 indicating that the optical head (not shown) has crossed an information track 3. The waveform segment 22 during the time segment 19 shows that the reflectivity level changes in response to data within the header segment 8. Because the waveform segment 22 has zero crossings 23, the tracking error signal, if not corrected, would generate a false track crossing counter number, causing the optical head (not shown) to stop seeking before reaching the target track 11.

In line 52, there is shown a waveform 24 of the data signal generated by the preamplifier 15. The waveform 24 plots the

sum reflectivity level from the storage medium 1. As shown, the waveform 24 is relatively flat except at a waveform segment 25 during the time segment 19 where data within the header segment 8 may cause changes in the sum reflectivity level. The data signal therefore indicates the time segment 19 by the waveform segment 25.

In line 53, there is shown a waveform 26 of an uncorrected track crossing signal generated by a track crossing signal generator according to the prior art. The waveform 26 has zero crossings 27 corresponding to the zero crossings 21 of the waveform 20 of the tracking error signal. However, the waveform 26 also has zero crossings 28 corresponding to the zero crossings 23 of the waveform 20 of the tracking error signal. These zero crossings 28, however, are not indicative of the optical head (not shown) crossing an information track 3. A track crossing counter is based on the number of zero crossings 27, 28 in the waveform 26 of the track crossing signal generator. However, using the waveform 26 from line 53, the track crossing counter would be inaccurate because there would be no differentiation between zero crossings 27 indicating that an information track 3 is crossed and zero crossings 28 responsive to data in the header segments 8.

In line 54, there is shown a waveform 29 of a corrected track crossing signal generated by the track crossing signal generator 18 according to the invention. The track crossing signal generator 18 only generates a zero crossing 30 when both of the following conditions are satisfied. First, the waveform 20 of the tracking error signal must indicate a zero crossing 21. Second, the waveform 24 of the data signal must not indicate that data from the header segment 8 is causing the zero crossing 23. If both conditions are satisfied, the track crossing signal generator 18 generates a zero crossing 30. Therefore, a track crossing counter can count the number of zero crossings 30 in the waveform 29 of the track crossing signal to determine the number of information tracks 3 the optical head (not shown) has crossed.

Referring to exemplary FIG. 6, there is shown a second embodiment according to the invention. The apparatus comprises a sensor 14 for detecting a reflectivity level of light reflected from the storage medium 1. The sensor passes the reflectivity level to a preamplifier 15. The preamplifier 15 generates a data signal which is indicative of changes in the reflectivity level in response to data located in the information tracks 3. The preamplifier 15 may contain a high pass filter, through which the data signal is passed. The preamplifier 15 then passes the data signal to a track/hold selector 31.

The track/hold selector 31 generates a control signal in response to the data signal. The track/hold selector 31 generates a control signal in response to the data signal. The track/hold selector 31 passes the control signal to a tracking error signal generator 32. The sensor 14 also passes the reflectivity level to the tracking error signal generator 32.

The tracking error signal generator 32 generates a tracking error signal in response to the reflectivity level from the sensor 14 and in response to the control signal from the track/hold selector 31. When the data signal does not indicate that changes in the reflectivity level are in response to data located in the information tracks 3, the control signal directs the tracking error signal generator 32 to generate the tracking error signal in a standard manner known in the art. However, when the data signal indicates that changes in the reflectivity level are in response to data located in the information tracks 3, the control signal directs the tracking error signal generator 32 to generate a flat waveform for a

short period of time. The tracking error signal generator 32 then passes the tracking error signal to a track crossing signal generator 33.

The track crossing signal generator 33 generates a track crossing signal, which is a square waveform from the tracking error signal. The track crossing signal indicates the number of changes in the reflectivity level indicated in the tracking error signal. A track crossing counter (not shown) counts the number of changes in the reflectivity level indicated in the track crossing signal. When the track crossing counter equals the track crossing number, the optical head (not shown) has reached the target track 11.

Referring to exemplary FIG. 7, there are shown the waveforms of the signals created by components of the second above-described embodiment. Each of the waveforms is plotted against time on the horizontal axis, with the beginning of the seek at the left and the end of the seek at the right. The time segment 34 indicates a point when the optical head (not shown) is crossing a header segment 8.

In line 71, there is shown a waveform 35 of the data signal generated by the preamplifier 15. The waveform 35 plots the sum reflectivity level from the storage medium 1. As shown, the waveform 35 is relatively flat except at a waveform segment 36 during the time segment 34 where data within the header segment 8 may cause changes in the sum reflectivity level. The data signal therefore indicates the time segment 34 by the waveform segment 36.

In line 72, there is shown a waveform 37 of an uncorrected tracking error signal generated by a tracking error signal generator according to the prior art. The waveform 37 has zero crossings 38 which correspond to changes in the reflectivity level in response to the optical head (not shown) crossing an information track 3. The waveform also has a waveform segment 39 corresponding to the time segment 34 when the optical head (not shown) is crossing a header segment 8. The waveform segment 39 plots indicates changes in the reflectivity level in response to data within the header segment 8. The waveform segment 39 has zero crossings 40 which correspond to those changes. A track crossing signal created from this waveform 37 would appear similar to the waveform 26 in line 53 of exemplary FIG. 5, and could not be relied on accurately by a track crossing counter.

In line 73, there is shown a waveform 41 of a corrected tracking error signal generated by the tracking error signal generator 32. The waveform 41 is generated as follows. When the changes in the reflectivity level are low frequency, the tracking error signal generator 32 generates a tracking error signal in the standard manner known in the art. This is represented by a waveform segment 42. However, when the tracking error signal generator 32 detects a higher frequency change in the reflectivity level, corresponding to the waveform segment 39 in line 72, the tracking error signal generator 32 looks at the data signal represented by the waveform 35 in line 71. If the data signal is not flat, as in the waveform segment 36, the tracking error signal generator 32 generates a flat waveform segment 43 at the amplitude of the tracking error signal just prior to the detection of the high frequency changes in the reflectivity level. Once the changes in the reflectivity level return to a lower frequency, the tracking error signal generator 32 returns to generating the tracking error signal in the standard manner.

The waveform 41 of the corrected tracking error signal has zero crossings 44 indicating that the optical head (not

shown) has crossed an information track 3. Unlike the waveform 37 in line 72 of the uncorrected tracking error signal, the waveform 41 in line 73 of the corrected tracking error signal does not have zero crossings during the time segment 34 corresponding to the zero crossings 40. Therefore, the number of zero crossings 44 in the waveform 41 accurately indicates the number of information tracks 3 crossed by the optical head (not shown).

In line 74, there is shown a waveform 45 of a track crossing signal generated by the track crossing signal generator 33. The waveform 45 is a square waveform of the waveform 41 of the corrected tracking error signal generated by the tracking error signal generator 32. The waveform 45 of the track crossing signal has zero crossings 46 corresponding to the zero crossings 44 in the waveform 41 of the tracking error signal. Therefore, a track crossing counter can count the number of zero crossings 46 in the waveform 45 of the track crossing signal to determine the number of information tracks 3 the optical head (not shown) has crossed.

It will be obvious to one skilled in the art that modifications to the above description of the invention may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. The scope of the invention, therefore, is indicated by the appended claims rather than the above description.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for moving an optical head from an initial track to a target track on a storage medium having data arranged in tracks thereon, comprising:

a sensor for measuring a reflectivity level of light from said storage medium;

a preamplifier responsive to said reflectivity level for generating a data signal, wherein said data signal indicates changes in said reflectivity level in response to said data;

a tracking error signal generator responsive to said reflectivity level for deriving a tracking error signal having first zero crossings and second zero crossings;

a track/hold selector responsive to said data signal for directing said tracking error signal generator to generate a corrected tracking error signal of a constant amplitude for a predetermined period of time when said data signal indicates changes in said reflectivity level in response to the data; and

a track crossing signal generator based on said corrected tracking error signal, for deriving a digital track crossing signal having zero crossings corresponding to only said first zero crossings.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said preamplifier contains a high pass filter through which said data signal is passed.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a track crossing counter responsive to said digital track crossing signal for counting said second zero crossings.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, 2, or 3 wherein said sensor comprises a split detector for measuring said reflectivity level.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, 2, or 3 wherein said sensor comprises a quad detector for measuring said reflectivity level.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Page 1 of 2

PATENT NO. : 5,659,526
DATED : August 19, 1997
INVENTOR(S) : David E. Lewis

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

On the title page, item [56], insert the following References:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

<u>PATENT NUMBER</u>	<u>ISSUE DATE</u>	<u>PATENTEE</u>
4,232,201	11/04/80	Canino
4,406,000	09/20/83	Shoji et al.
4,414,655	11/08/83	Shoji et al.
4,627,038	12/02/86	Abed et al.
4,706,133	11/10/87	Giddings
4,727,532	02/23/88	Giddings
4,751,692	06/14/88	Giddings
5,210,731	05/11/93	Katumata
5,351,222	09/27/94	Ikeda et al.
5,197,054	03/23/93	Harada
4,484,319	11/20/84	Koishi et al.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Page 2 of 2

PATENT NO. : 5,659,526

DATED : August 19, 1997

INVENTOR(S) : David E. Lewis

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

**FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED
FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION**

<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Country or Patent Office</u>
7,900,180	04/24/84	Brazil
435,646	07/03/91	Europe
479,473	04/08/92	Europe

Signed and Sealed this
First Day of December, 1998

Attest:



BRUCE LEHMAN

Attesting Officer

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks