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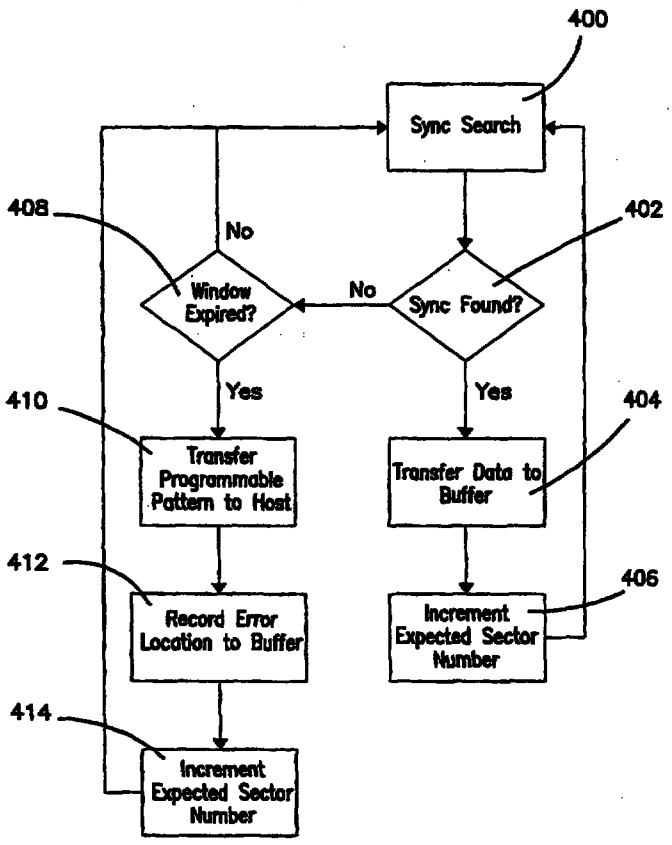
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(54) Title: AUDIO-VISUAL DISK DRIVE OPTIMIZED FOR RESPONSE TO AN UNDETECTED SYNCHRONIZATION FIELD



(57) Abstract: Herein is described a method and apparatus for optimizing a disc drive for audio-visual data storage and retrieval by responding to a certain read-time error in a manner that preserves data flow. In response to a read-time error in which a synchronization field associated with a given sector on a disc is undetected, the disc drive responds by transferring a fill pattern of bits or a return status to the host microprocessor so as to indicate the error, and allow the disc drive to continue attempting to seek subsequent synchronization fields. The fill pattern of bits may be chosen so as to minimize the negative impact of processing the unread data by down-stream audio-visual equipment. The aforementioned behavior is a departure from the traditional sequential paradigm of a conventional disc drive. The new behavior preserves data flow, a quality important to audio-visual drives.

WO 00/79537 A1