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(71) Applicant: SEAGATE TECHNOLOGY, INC. [US/US]; 920 Disc Drive, P.O. Box 66360, Scotts Valley, CA 95067-0360 (US).

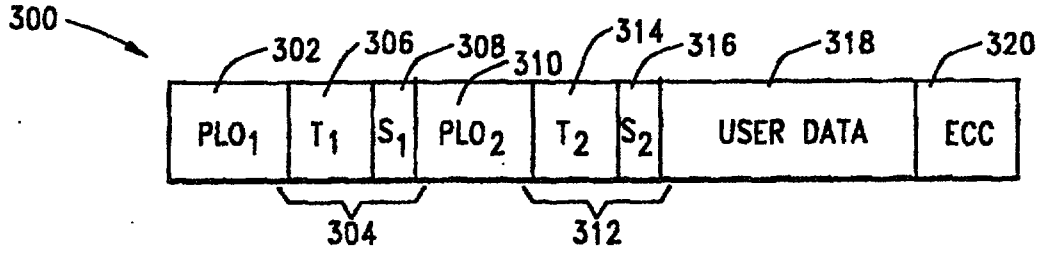
(72) Inventors: DU, Ke; Number 49, 532 North Rockwell, Oklahoma City, OK 73127 (US). CRONCH, Robert, D.; 2609 East Sweetbriar, Edmond, OK 73034 (US). BURNS, Kenneth, R.; 5631 Hyland Greens Drive, Bloomington, MN 55437 (US). RUB, Bernardo; 6608 Scandia Road, Edina, MN 55439 (US).

(74) Agents: McCARTHY, Randall, K.; McCarthy, Free & McCarthy, Suite 250, 101 Park Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73102 (US) et al.

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(54) Title: REDUNDANT SYNCHRONIZATION FIELDS TO IMPROVE DISC DRIVE READ PERFORMANCE



(57) Abstract

An apparatus and method are disclosed for reducing the effects of thermal asperities and other anomalous conditions on disc drive read operations. An improved format for a data block (300, 400) is provided having first and second sync fields (308, 316, 408, 412) in which sync patterns are stored, the first and second sync fields being separated by a selected distance within the data block. The sync pattern of the second sync field enables synchronization of a disc drive read channel (160) to the user data in the data block when the read channel fails to be synchronized by the sync pattern of the first sync field. In one embodiment, control information used by the read channel to prepare for receipt of the user data is stored in control fields (310, 314) between the first and second sync fields; in an alternative embodiment, a portion of the user data is stored in a data field (410) between the first and second sync fields.