ABSTRACT:

"A method of estimating the clearance between a read/write transducer head and a magnetic recording disk"

A method of detecting variations in a clearance distance between a magnetic read/write transducer and a magnetic recording disk having a clearance detection burst recorded thereon, the clearance detection burst comprising at least two groups of bit patterns having different transition densities, the method comprising the steps of: obtaining a readback signal from the at least two groups of bit patterns, the readback signal being sensitive to variations in the clearance; detecting the amplitude of the readback signal of a first group; detecting the amplitude of the readback signal of a second group; comparing the amplitudes of the readback signals from the at least two groups of bit patterns to provide an indication of a variation in the clearance.

[Figure 8]