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ABSTRACT

TRANSDUCER HEAD SKEW ARRANGEMENT FOR DISK DRIVE SYSTEM

A transducer head skew arrangement used in a multiple disk drive data storage system is provided. The disk drive unit includes a plurality of magnetic disk surfaces mounted for simultaneous rotation about an axis. A first sequence of servo information tracks are arrayed on a dedicated servo disk surface. At least one servo reference track is written on each data disk surface for storing servo reference information. The servo reference track (R0) is written on a first data disk (18) surface aligned with a predefined servo information track (22) on the dedicated servo disk (20) surface. Then servo reference tracks (R1-R13) are sequentially written on each successive consecutive data disk (18) surface progressively offset radially from the last written servo reference track. A plurality of data information tracks for storing data are disposed at predetermined positions relative to the servo reference track on each the data disk surface. A servo transducer head is mounted for movement in a radial direction across the first dedicated servo information for reading servo information; and a plurality of data transducer heads are mounted for movement with the servo transducer head in a radial direction across the disk surfaces for reading the servo reference tracks and for reading and/or writing data to the data information tracks.

The distance moved by transducer heads for a cylinder switch is the same distance moved for each head switch, so that track-to-track seek time is minimized without requiring any additional time delay for each head switch. An

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overall data transfer rate increases for every data transfer accessing more than one data cylinder.

Fig. 3