ABSTRACT

A read/write head of the invention comprises a slider 2 provided with an electromagnetic transducer element (or an optical module) 1, an actuator 4, and a suspension 3. The actuator 4 comprises a fixed part 43, a movable part 44, and at least two beam members for coupling them together. The beam members have a displacement generating means 41 that elongates and contracts by inverse piezoelectric effect or electrostrictive effect. The fixed part 43 is fixed to the suspension 3, and the movable part 44 is fixed to the slider 2. Upon the elongation and contraction of the displacement generating means 41, the displacement generating means 41 deflects and the movable part 44 displaces linearly, circularly or rotationally with respect to the fixed part 43, and the electromagnetic transducer element 1 displaces in a linear or circular orbit, so that the electromagnetic transducer element 1 intersects recording tracks. In the actuator 4, the fixed part 43, movable part 44 and beam members are formed as an integrated single piece by providing a hole and/or a cutout in a sheet-like member constructed of a piezoelectric or electrostrictive material. The actuator of the structure illustrated is used for the positioning of a direction intersecting recording tracks. In this case, the total sum of voltages applied on the displacement generating means is controlled in such a manner that it is constant at any time, thereby controlling position fluctuations of the electromagnetic transducer element in the direction vertical to the recording medium surface.