SPECIFICATION

RECORDING METHOD AND RECORDING UNIT FOR OPTICAL INFORMATION

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a recording method and a recording unit for an optical disk which records and reproduces information at high speed and with high density by employing an optical means such as a laser beam.

BACKGROUND ART

Techniques for reproducing or recording high-density information by making use of a laser beam are well known and mainly put to practical use as optical disks.

Optical disks can be classified roughly into a read-only type, a write-once read-many type, and a rewritable type.

Read-only types have been put to practical use, for example, as compact disks and laser disks, and write-once read-many and rewritable types have been put to practical use as document files, data files, and so forth.

Furthermore, rewritable optical disks mainly include magneto-optical and phase change types.

Phase change type optical disks take advantage of the fact that a recording layer gives rise to reversible state changes, for example, either between an amorphous state and a crystal state or between a crystal state and a different structural crystal state, by irradiation of a laser beam or the like. That is, at least one of a refractive index or an exhaustion coefficient of a thin film changes by laser light irradiation and performs recording, then the amplitude of the

transmitted or reflected light changes at this portion, and the resultant change in the amount of the transmitted or reflected light which leads to a detecting system is detected and a signal is reproduced. Note that an alloy of Te, Se, In, and Sb is employed mainly as a typical material which gives rise to state changes between an amorphous state and a crystal state.

Also, in phase change type optical disks, 1-beam overwrite can be employed to overwrite a recorded mark. The 1-beam overwrite is a method of recording a new signal while erasing a previously recorded old signal, by modulating a laser power between a recording power and a bias power (also referred to as an erasing power) lower than the recording power by a recording signal and then irradiating onto a signal track. The overwrite itself requires two levels: a recording power level and a bias power level, but if recording, erasion, and reproduction are taken into consideration, there will be required three levels: a recording power level, a bias power level, and a reproducing power level.

For example, in crystalline-amorphous phase change type optical disks, the region irradiated with a recording level is rapidly cooled after melting, whether the original state is amorphous or crystalline, and therefore the region becomes amorphous. The region irradiated with an erasing level rises to more than a crystallizing temperature, so it is crystallized regardless of the original state and a new signal is overwritten.

On the other hand, in a recording reproduction unit for

optical disks, there are mainly two methods of rotating an optical disk: a method (CLV) of rotating a disk so that linear velocities are the same at the inner and outer circumferences of the disk and a method (CAV) of rotating a disk at a constant angular velocity.

For example, in the case where high-speed access is required like data files which are employed in the external memory for computers, CAV is used because it takes time to vary the number of revolutions of the disk. In this case the linear velocity in the circumferential direction of the disk becomes faster at the outer circumference and slower at the inner circumference.

Also, there are two types of recording modulation: mark spacing modulation (also referred to as mark position modulation) and mark length modulation(also referred to as mark edge modulation).

Mark spacing modulation recording varies mark spacing to perform recording and, when reproducing, detects the position of a mark to detect a signal.

Mark length modulation recording records marks with various lengths at various mark spacings and, when reproducing, detects the positions of both ends of a mark to detect a signal. Mark length modulation systems can have high density which is theoretically twice that of mark spacing modulation systems.

Laser recording onto phase change type optical disks is theoretically heat mode recording, so in the case where a long mark is recorded, the trailing end of a mark becomes thicker

than the leading end due to a heat accumulation effect and the mark is distorted in the form of a tear drop, and consequently, a reproduced waveform is also distorted and the positions of both ends of the mark will be shifted.

Therefore, in the aforementioned mark length modulation system, there has been proposed a recording method (also referred to as multi-pulse recording) which constitutes a recording waveform for forming a single record mark by a recording pulse train which consists of a plurality of pulses (for example, Japanese Patent Laid-Open Application No. 3-185628). With this, as compared with a method of recording by a single pulse, the heat that a recording film receives can be controlled, so the configuration of a mark is not asymmetrical with respect to the leading and trailing edges of the mark as in the case of a single pulse, and the mark configuration becomes satisfactory.

However, even in a multi-pulse recording system such as the aforementioned, if mark spacing is narrowed for a high-density requirement, thermal interference will arise between marks and therefore the length or configuration of the mark will be varied.

As a method of improving this, Japanese Patent Laid-Open Application No. 7-129959, for example, has been proposed. In the publication, the amount of thermal interference is predicted and, in the aforementioned multi-pulse recording, the positions of the start portion and the end portion of a recording pulse train are changed by the length of a mark to be recorded and the spacing between marks so that thermal

interference between marks is suppressed and that signal characteristics are made satisfactory.

Also, in 1-beam overwrite there has been provided a recording method which modulates a recording pulse into three stages: a recording power, a bias power, and a power provided immediately after the recording power and lower than the bias power (for example, Japanese Patent Laid-Open Application No. 63-113938).

Furthermore, in multi-pulse recording systems there has also been proposed a recording method which adds laser light irradiation at a power lower than a bias power (for example, Japanese Patent Laid-Open Application No. 6-295440).

Also, there has been proposed a recording method where irradiation time at a cooling power (hereinafter referred to as cooling-power irradiation time) is varied by mark spacing (for example, Japanese Patent Application No. 5-80491).

In the case where light from a light source such as a semiconductor laser, for example, is irradiated to a so-called optical disk (such as an optical disk using a rewritable phase change material) to cause physical state change so that a signal is recorded, the temperature of a recording layer reaches several hundred degrees and a thin film for recording is molten, by heat resulting from the light of the light source.

Therefore, by superposing the number of overwrites, that is, cycling the overwrite many times, signal degradation arises due to thermal damage.

The cause of the signal degradation includes the

destruction of a dielectric layer or a recording layer and a phenomenon called the mass flow of a recording layer. The mass flow is a phenomenon where since a recording layer and its periphery reach high temperature while recording, the substance of the recording layer moves in the direction of a track by performing many cycles and therefore both a thick recording layer and a thin recording layer are produced on the same track. Consequently, the reproduced signal waveform will collapse and a signal cannot be reproduced at that portion. In any event, when the signal degradation due to many cycles is large, the applications of optical disks will be limited by the signal degradation.

Also, in the case where, in an optical disk unit, light is irradiated to cause physical state change by a semiconductor laser, for example, in the case where a signal is recorded in an optical disk employing a rewritable phase change material, the configuration of a recorded mark will vary depending upon the manner in which a recording layer heated by laser light is cooled.

That is, in the case where heat is held internally, a recording layer which was once molten will not be made amorphous but it will be crystallized. Consequently, a recorded mark becomes smaller or is distorted in shape, so the quality of a reproduced signal is degraded.

Then, in the case where a conventional cooling pulse is adopted, the heat staying at the rear end portion of a mark is reduced and therefore it becomes easy to make a record mark amorphous, but in some cases where the cooling speed is

excessively increased at the rear end portion, the amorphous region will be larger than the front end portion of the mark.

Furthermore, there are cases where overwrite characteristics are degraded depending upon the conditions of a cooling power and the irradiation time. This is probably because a recorded mark is excessively enlarged laterally at the rear end and therefore mark distortion is rather caused or an unerased portion arises by overwrite.

In the case where higher-density recording is considered, the symmetry between the front end portion and the rear end portion of a mark is not sufficient, so a jitter, reproduced after overwriting, is large and the quality of a reproduced signal is not sufficient.

Also, in mark spacing modulation recording, by adding a cooling pulse, a large mark is formed and a C/N ratio is increased so that satisfactory signal quality can be realized. Here, the C/N ratio is a ratio between a carrier level and a noise level.

However, depending upon the condition of the cooling power, sometimes overwrite characteristics are degraded. This is probably because a record mark is excessively enlarged in the lateral direction and therefore an unerased portion arises by overwrite.

The present invention provides a recording method and a recording unit which are capable of finely controlling heat cooling conditions at the rear end of a recorded mark so that the mark can be formed into a desired shape, further enhancing the quality of a reproduced signal, and alleviating thermal

damage so that satisfactory cycle characteristics can be obtained.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

A recording method according to the present invention for achieving the aforementioned object is a recording method wherein, in mark length modulation recording and mark spacing modulation recording, after laser light irradiation at recording power, a laser power is reduced to a cooling power lower than a bias power, and after it is held for a predetermined time, the laser power is again raised up to the bias power. In the recording method, laser light irradiation at the bias power is performed between the laser light irradiation at the recording power and the irradiation at the cooling power immediately after the recording power.

Also, for the mark length recording, in a recording method where after laser light irradiation at a multi-pulse, laser power is reduced to a cooling power lower than a bias power and where after it is held for a predetermined time, the laser power is again raised up to the bias power, at least one of cooling-power irradiation time or cooling-power start time is varied according to the length of a mark which is recorded.

Also, in the mark spacing modulation recording, cooling-power start time is varied according to the radius of a disk in CAV mode.

Also, in the mark length modulation recording, at least one of cooling-power irradiation time or cooling-power start time is varied according to the radius of a disk in CAV mode.

Furthermore, in the case where, in mark length modulation recording, a recording pulse train comprises a start edge pulse, an end edge pulse, and pulses which are switched alternately with a cycle less than one cycle of a data clock between the start edge and end edge pulses, laser light irradiation at a bias power is performed after the end edge pulse of the aforementioned recording pulse train, or laser light irradiation at a bias power is performed between the end edge pulse of the aforementioned recording pulse train and the laser light irradiation at a cooling power.

In addition, in the case where, in mark length modulation recording, a recording pulse train comprises a start edge pulse, an end edge pulse, and pulses which are switched alternately with a cycle less than one cycle of a data clock between the start edge and end edge pulses and where the positions of the start edge pulse and the end edge pulse of said recording pulse train are changed in accordance with the length of the record mark and the spacing between the record marks, laser light irradiation time at a bias power is constant, and regardless of the position of the start edge pulse or the end edge pulse of the recording pulse train, the time up to the laser light irradiation which is performed at a cooling power is constant after the start of the laser light irradiation of the end edge pulse of the recording pulse train, the timing of the laser light irradiation start time at the cooling power is based on a clock.

Also, a storage unit for realizing the aforementioned recording method comprises: a start edge pulse generation

circuit which generates a start edge pulse having a constant width at a start edge position of the high period of the data; a burst gate generation circuit which generates a burst gate signal at a middle position of the mark when the high period of the data is long and which generates no burst gate signal when the high period of the data is short; an end edge pulse generation circuit which generates an end edge pulse having a constant width at an end edge position of the high period of the data; a mark/space length detection circuit which generates an nT mark signal including said start edge pulse and said end edge pulse when the high period of the data has n clocks and which generates an mT mark signal including said end edge pulse and said start edge pulse of both edges of the space when the low period of the data has m clocks (where n and m are natural numbers existing in a data string); an encoder which generates a select signal, which is for controlling a start edge selector to be described later and an end edge selector to be described later, from said nT mark signal and said mT mark signal; a cooling-pulse generation circuit which generates a cooling pulse having a constant width from a delayed end edge pulse which is from a programmable end edge delay line to be described later; the start edge selector which selects and outputs one from a plurality of start edge values by said selector signal; a start edge sample/hold circuit which updates a start edge set value output of said start edge selector only when said start edge pulse appears and which holds a previous value when no start edge pulse appears; a programmable start edge delay line

which varies a quantity of delay by the start edge set value of the output of said start edge sample/hold circuit and which outputs a delayed start edge pulse where said start edge pulse is delayed; the end edge selector which selects and outputs one from a plurality of end edge values by said selector signal; an end edge sample/hold circuit which updates an end edge set value output of said end edge selector only when said end edge pulse appears and which holds a previous value when no end edge pulse appears; the programmable end edge delay line which varies a quantity of delay by the end edge set value of the output of said end edge sample/hold circuit and then delays said end edge pulse and which outputs a delayed end edge pulse where said end edge pulse is delayed; a cooling-pulse delay line which varies a quantity of delay of said cooling pulse and outputs a delayed cooling pulse; an AND gate which performs a logical product between said burst pulse and the clock and outputs a burst pulse; an OR gate which performs a logical sum between said delayed start edge pulse, said burst pulse, and said delayed end edge pulse and outputs a recording signal; an inverter which inverts the cooling pulse signal which is from said cooling-pulse delay line; a bias current source which supplies a bias current of a laser diode to be described later; a recording-current source which supplies a recoding current of the laser diode in parallel with said bias current source; a light-reproducing current source which supplies a light reproducing current of the laser diode in parallel with said bias current source; a switch which turns the current of said recording-current source on

and off by said recording current; a switch which turns the current of said bias current source on and off by said cooling pulse signal; and the laser diode which records disk signals driven in parallel by said bias current source, said recording-current source, and said light-reproducing current source.

Also, another storage unit for realizing the aforementioned recording method comprises: a start edge pulse generation circuit which generates a start edge pulse having a constant width at a start edge position of the high period of the data; a burst gate generation circuit which generates a burst gate signal at a middle position of the mark when the high period of the data is long and which generates no burst gate signal when the high period of the data is short; an end edge pulse generation circuit which generates an end edge pulse having a constant width at an end edge position of the high period of the data; a mark/space length detection circuit which generates an nT mark signal including said start edge pulse and said end edge pulse when the high period of the data has n clocks and which generates an mT mark signal including said end edge pulse and said start edge pulse of both edges of the space when the low period of the data has m clocks (where n and m are natural numbers existing in a data string); an encoder which generates a select signal, which is for controlling a start edge selector to be described later and an end edge selector to be described later, from said nT mark signal and said mT mark signal; a cooling-pulse generation circuit which generates a cooling pulse having a constant

width from an end edge pulse which was output from said end edge pulse generation circuit; the start edge selector which selects and outputs one from a plurality of start edge values by said selector signal; a start edge sample/hold circuit which updates a start edge set value output of said start edge selector only when said start edge pulse appears and which holds a previous value when no start edge pulse appears; a programmable start edge delay line which varies a quantity of delay by the start edge set value of the output of said start edge sample/hold circuit and which outputs a delayed start edge pulse where said start edge pulse is delayed; the end edge selector which selects and outputs one from a plurality of end edge values by said selector signal; an end edge sample/hold circuit which updates an end edge set value output of said end edge selector only when said end edge pulse appears and which holds a previous value when no end edge pulse appears; the programmable end edge delay line which varies a quantity of delay by the end edge set value of the output of said end edge sample/hold circuit and then delays said end edge pulse and which outputs a delayed end edge pulse where said end edge pulse is delayed; a cooling-pulse delay line which varies a quantity of delay of the cooling pulse, which is output from said cooling-pulse circuit, and outputs a delayed cooling pulse; an AND gate which performs a logical product between the burst pulse from said burst gate generation circuit and the clock and outputs a burst pulse; an OR gate which performs a logical sum between said delayed start edge pulse, said burst pulse, and said delayed end edge

pulse and outputs a recording signal; an inverter which inverts the delayed cooling-pulse signal which is from said cooling-pulse delay line; a bias current source which supplies a bias current of a laser diode to be described later; a recording-current source which supplies a recoding current of the laser diode in parallel with said bias current source; a light-reproducing current source which supplies a light reproducing current of the laser diode in parallel with said bias current source; a switch which turns the current of said recording-current source on and off by said recording current; a switch which turns the current of said bias current source on and off by said cooling pulse signal; and the laser diode which records disk signals driven in parallel by said bias current source, said recording-current source, and said light-reproducing current source.

Also, in mark length modulation recording, after a recording pulse train for forming a single record mark, there is added a pulse train (hereinafter referred to as a mark's rear end correction pulse train) as a cooling pulse which arranges the configuration of the rear end of a record mark and which differs from the recording pulse train.

Specifically, the mark's rear end correction pulse train irradiates laser light by at least two different powers which include powers smaller than the bias power.

Also, the mark's rear end correction pulse train has a period where the laser light is varied after the recording pulse train and continuously to a power less than either a recording power or a bias power.

Also, between the recording pulse train and the mark's rear end correction pulse train, laser light irradiation is performed with a bias power.

Also, the start time of the mark's rear end correction pulse train and the pulse configuration of the mark's rear end correction pulse train are varied for each length of a record mark.

Also, when an optical disk is rotated at a constant angular velocity, the start time of the mark's rear end correction pulse train and the pulse configuration of the mark's rear end correction pulse train are varied according to the radius of the disk.

According to the optical information recording method of the present invention, the rear end portion of a record mark can be formed into a desired shape and therefore satisfactory reproduced signal characteristics are obtainable. In addition, in accordance with the optical information recording method and the recording unit of the present invention, thermal damage can be considerably alleviated, so satisfactory cycle characteristics are obtainable.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a diagram of a recording waveform used in one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a structural diagram of an optical disk used in one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a diagram of an optical disk unit used in one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a diagram of a recording pulse train used in one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a diagram of a recording waveform used in one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a diagram of a recording waveform used in one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a diagram of a recording waveform used in one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 8 is a diagram of a recording waveform used in one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 9 is a diagram of a recording waveform used in one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 10 is a diagram of a recording waveform used in one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 11 is a block diagram of a disk storage unit used in one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 12 is a signal waveform diagram of each part of the disk storage unit used in one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 13 is a block diagram of a disk storage unit used in one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 14 is a signal waveform diagram of each part of the disk storage unit used in one embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 15 is a diagram of a recording waveform used in one embodiment of the present invention.

(Description of symbols)

1 data

2 start edge pulse

5 burst gate signal

7 end edge pulse

9 2T-mark signal

10 2T-space signal

12 select signal

13 plurality of start edge set values

15 selected start edge set value

18 delayed start edge pulse

19 plurality of end edge set values

21 selected end edge set value

24 delayed end edge pulse

25 clock

26 AND gate

27 burst pulse

28 OR gate

29 recording signal

30 recording-current source

31 bias current source

32 light reproducing current source

33 switch

34 switch

35 laser diode

38 inverter

39 hold start edge set value

41 cooling pulse

42 delayed cooling pulse

43 delayed cooling pulse (inverted)

45 hold end edge set value

36 cooling-pulse generation circuit

37 cooling-pulse delay line

51 substrate

52 first dielectric layer

53 recording layer

54 second dielectric layer

55 reflecting layer

56 protective layer

61 optical disk

62 spindle motor

63 optical head

64 laser drive circuit

65 waveform correction circuit

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

In mark length modulation recording, the recording method of the present invention:

(A) Performs laser light irradiation at a bias power between a recording pulse train and the start of laser light irradiation at a cooling power.

(B) Varies cooling-power irradiation time or laser light irradiation start time which is performed at a cooling power, in accordance with the length of a record mark.

(C) Only when the length of a record mark is shorter than a predetermined length, varies cooling-power irradiation time or laser light irradiation start time which is performed at a cooling power.

(D) Only when the length of a record mark is shorter than a predetermined length, adds a cooling pulse which has a constant cooling-power irradiation time and laser light irradiation start time.

(E) Only when an optical disk is rotated at a constant angular velocity and when a mark less than a predetermined length is recorded in the inner circumferential portion of the disk, adds a cooling pulse.

(F) When an optical disk is rotated at a constant angular velocity, varies cooling-power irradiation time and cooling-power irradiation start time in accordance with the radius of the disk.

Also, in mark spacing modulation recording, the recording method of the present invention:

(G) Performs laser light irradiation at a bias power until the start of laser light irradiation at a recording power and a cooling power.

(H) When an optical disk is rotated at a constant angular velocity, varies cooling-power irradiation start time in accordance with the radius of the disk.

Since the present invention has either structure, it can suppress the asymmetry between the configurations of the front and rear end portions of a mark, form the mark into a desired shape, and realize the satisfactory quality of a reproduced signal.

Then, in the case where, in mark length modulation recording, a recording pulse train comprises a start edge pulse, an end edge pulse, and pulses which are switched

alternately with a cycle less than one cycle of a data clock between the start edge and end edge pulses, the recording method of the present invention:

(I) Performs laser light irradiation at a bias power after the end edge pulse of the aforementioned recording pulse train.

(J) Between the end edge pulse of the aforementioned recording pulse train and the laser light irradiation at a cooling power, performs laser light irradiation at a bias power.

In addition, in the case where, in mark length modulation recording, a recording pulse train comprises a start edge pulse, an end edge pulse, and pulses which are switched alternately with a cycle less than one cycle of a data clock between the start edge and end edge pulses and where the positions of the start edge pulse and the end edge pulse of said recording pulse train are changed in accordance with the length of the record mark and the spacing between the record marks:

(K) Laser light irradiation time at a bias power is constant, and regardless of the position of the start edge pulse or the end edge pulse of the recording pulse train, the time up to the laser light irradiation which is performed at a cooling power is constant after the start of the laser light irradiation of the end edge pulse of the recording pulse train, or the timing of the laser light irradiation start time at the cooling power is based on a clock.

Since the present invention has either structure, the

positions of the start edge pulse and the end edge pulse are changed, whereby a fluctuation in the length of a mark due to thermal interference between record marks is suppressed. Therefore, high-density recording is possible, and at the same time, by making part of a bias level into a cooling power, total energy can be reduced during recording of a thin recording film, and signal degradation due to thermal damage in the case of a multi-cycle can be alleviated and satisfactory cycle characteristics can also be realized.

Also, the storage unit of the present invention comprises: a start edge pulse generation circuit which generates a start edge pulse having a constant width at a start edge position of the high period of the data; a burst gate generation circuit which generates a burst gate signal at a middle position of the mark when the high period of the data is long and which generates no burst gate signal when the high period of the data is short; an end edge pulse generation circuit which generates an end edge pulse having a constant width at an end edge position of the high period of the data; a mark/space length detection circuit which generates an nT mark signal including said start edge pulse and said end edge pulse when the high period of the data has n clocks and which generates an mT mark signal including said end edge pulse and said start edge pulse of both edges of the space when the low period of the data has m clocks (where n and m are natural numbers existing in a data string); an encoder which generates a select signal, which is for controlling a start edge selector to be described later and an end edge selector to be

described later, from said nT mark signal and said mT mark signal; a cooling-pulse generation circuit which generates a cooling pulse having a constant width from a delayed end edge pulse which is from a programmable end edge delay line to be described later; the start edge selector which selects and outputs one from a plurality of start edge values by said selector signal; a start edge sample/hold circuit which updates a start edge set value output of said start edge selector only when said start edge pulse appears and which holds a previous value when no start edge pulse appears; a programmable start edge delay line which varies a quantity of delay by the start edge set value of the output of said start edge sample/hold circuit and which outputs a delayed start edge pulse where said start edge pulse is delayed; a cooling-pulse delay line which varies a quantity of delay of the cooling pulse, which is output from the cooling-pulse generation circuit, and outputs a delayed cooling pulse; the end edge selector which selects and outputs one from a plurality of end edge values by said selector signal; an end edge sample/hold circuit which updates an end edge set value output of said end edge selector only when said end edge pulse appears and which holds a previous value when no end edge pulse appears; and the programmable end edge delay line which varies a quantity of delay by the end edge set value of the output of said end edge sample/hold circuit and then delays said end edge pulse and which outputs a delayed end edge pulse where said end edge pulse is delayed.

(L) By inputting the delayed end edge pulse from the

programmable end edge delay line to this cooling-pulse generation circuit, a cooling pulse is generated.

(M) By inputting the end edge pulse from the programmable end edge delay line to this cooling-pulse generation circuit, a cooling pulse is generated.

Therefore, with the same operation as the aforementioned recording method, the present invention can provide a unit which can reduce total energy during recording of a thin recording film, alleviate signal degradation caused by the thermal damage in the case of a multi-cycle, and have satisfactory cycle characteristics.

Furthermore, in mark length modulation recording, the recording method of the present invention:

(N) After a recording pulse train for forming a single record mark, provides a pulse train as a cooling pulse which irradiates laser light by at least two different powers which include powers smaller than the bias power.

(O) Provides a mark's rear end correction pulse train as a cooling pulse which has a period where, after the laser light irradiation in the recording pulse train, the laser light power is varied continuously to a power less than a bias power.

(P) Between the recording pulse train and the mark's rear end correction pulse train which is as a cooling pulse, performs laser light irradiation by a bias power.

(Q) Varies the start time of the mark's rear end correction pulse train as a cooling pulse or the pulse configuration of the mark's rear end correction pulse train as

a cooling pulse in accordance with the length of a mark to be recorded.

(R) When an optical disk is rotated at a constant angular velocity, varies the start time of the mark's rear end correction pulse train or the pulse configuration of the mark's rear end correction pulse train in accordance with the radial position of the disk.

Since the present invention has either structure, it can suppress the asymmetry between the configurations of the front and rear end portions of a mark, form the mark into a desired shape, and realize the satisfactory quality of a reproduced signal.

The present invention will hereinafter be described in further detail with the drawings and specific embodiments of the present invention.

The structure of a disk used in an embodiment of the present invention will be described with Fig. 2. A dielectric layer, a recording layer, and a reflecting layer are formed on a transparent substrate 51 with a general thin-film formation method such as vacuum deposition or sputtering. On the substrate 51, a first dielectric layer 52, a recording layer 53, a second dielectric layer 54, and a reflecting layer 55 are provided in sequence. Furthermore, there is provided a protective layer 56 attached fast to the reflecting layer 55. Also, even an optical disk with a structure having no reflecting layer 55 or no protective layer 56 is applicable as an optical disk. Laser light for performing recording and reproduction is incident from the side of the substrate 51.

The material of the substrate 51 can use glass, quartz, polycarbonate, or polymethyl methacrylate. Also, the substrate may be a smooth plate or a plate having groove-shaped tracking-guide unevenness on its surface.

The protective layer 56 can use a layer obtained by coating and drying resin dissolved in a solvent or a plate bonded with an adhesive agent.

As a recording layer material which is employed in the recording layer 53, there is well known a chalcogen alloy which changes between an amorphous phase and a crystalline phase. For example, a SbTe system, a GeSbTe system, a GeSbTeSe system, a GeSbTePd system, a TeGeSnAu system, an AgSbTe system, a GeTe system, a GaSb system, an InSe system, an InSb system, an InSbTe system, an InSbSe system, an InSbTeAg and so forth can be used, and also an alloy, including other elements in a range which has no influence on the phase change characteristic or optical characteristics of an alloy of the aforementioned system, can be used.

The dielectric layers 52 and 54 can use SiO_2, SiO, TiO_2, MgO, Ta_2O_5, Al_2O_3, GeO_2, Si_3N_4, BN, AlN, SiC, ZnS, ZnSe, ZnTe, PbS, or a mixture of these.

The reflecting film 55 can use a material mainly comprised of metal material such as Au, Al, Cu, Cr, Ni, and Ti, or a mixture of these, and furthermore, the film 55 can use a dielectric multilayered film having a large reflectance at a predetermined wavelength.

Among the aforementioned materials, a disk used in the following embodiments of the present invention employs a

substrate having a polycarbonate signal recording track with a size of ϕ130 mm, and on the substrate, a ZnS-SiO_2 mixed film was formed to a thickness of 1300Å as a first dielectric layer by sputtering.

Also, the composition of the recording layer of a disk used in the following embodiments 1 and 2 is $Ge_{22}Sb_{24}Te_{54}$, and the composition of the recording layer of a disk used in embodiments 3 through 18 is $Ge_{21}Sb_{26}Te_{53}$. The recording layer was formed to a thickness of 250Å, and a ZnS-SiO_2 mixed film was formed to a thickness of 200Å as a second dielectric layer. For the reflecting layer, an Al film was formed to a thickness of 1500Å by sputtering. And, a polycarbonate protective film was provided on the reflecting layer.

Now, for an optical disk unit employed in all embodiments of the present invention to be described later, a description will be made with Fig. 3. An optical disk 61 is attached to a spindle motor 62 and is rotatable. An optical head 63 uses a semiconductor laser as a light source and forms a laser spot on the optical disk by a collimator lens and an objective lens.

The semiconductor laser is driven by a laser drive circuit 64, but in the case where a signal is recorded, the waveform of an input signal is corrected by a waveform correction circuit 65, and then the corrected signal is input to the laser drive circuit 64.

In general, in terms of cost it is undesirable to make the waveform correction circuit intricate. Hence, for waveform correction, it is considered to be beneficial to vary a pattern which is as simple as possible. For example, it is

beneficial not to vary the recording waveforms for all mark lengths but to vary only the recording waveform for a predetermined mark length.

A configuration of a specific recording pulse train used in an embodiment is shown in Fig. 4. However, in the recording pulse trains A through D of Fig. 4, there are shown typical recording pulse trains used when, in mark length modulation recording, a 6T mark is recorded.

Note that in the mark length modulation recording of the embodiments of the present invention, there are shown the results which were all performed when the first power of laser light is taken to be a recording power, the second power is taken to be a bias power, and the lowest power of a mark's rear end correction pulse train as a cooling power or a cooling pulse is taken to be a reproducing power. Thus, if the first power is taken to be a recording power, the second power a bias power, and the lowest power a reproducing power, it will be desirable because particularly the structure of the waveform correction circuit can be simplified, but the powers of the laser light which are applied to the present invention are not limited to this. It is a matter of course that if the first power is a power greater than a recording power and the second power is a power lower than at least the first power and if the lowest power is a power lower than either the second power or the bias power, the powers can be freely set.

In Fig. 4 the recording pulse train A, in order to form a record mark, is a recording pulse train constituted by a start edge pulse, consisting of the first power 1.5T of laser light,

and a pulse where the first and second powers are alternately switched at cycles of 0.5T. The T used herein denotes a clock.

The recording pulse train B, in order to form a record mark, is a recording pulse train constituted by a start edge pulse consisting of the first power 1.0T of laser light, a pulse where the first and second powers are alternately switched at cycles of 0.5T, and an end edge pulse consisting of the first power 1.0T.

The recording pulse train C has the same structure as the recording pulse train B, and according to the length of a mark to be recorded and the front and rear spacings of the mark, the positions of the start edge pulse and the end edge pulse of the recording pulse train are changed.

The recording pulse train D, in order to form a record mark, is a recording pulse train constituted by a pulse where the first and second powers of laser light are alternately switched at cycles of 0.5T.

Note that it is a matter of course that the pulse width (start edge pulse width, end edge pulse width, pulse width between start edge and end edge pulses, pulse width of the recording pulse train in the case of the recording pulse train D, etc.) of a recording pulse train which adapts to the present invention is not limited to those shown in Fig. 4 but can be freely set.

Also, in Fig. 5 there is shown a configuration of a specific recording waveform adopted in embodiments of the present invention in the case where, in mark spacing modulation recording, a cooling pulse is added.

An input waveform A is an example of a (2, 7) modulation method. The width of a mark in this case is 0.5T. Here, there is shown the case where mark spacings are 2.0T, 3.5T, and 1.5T.

A recording waveform E is the case of recording the input waveform A, and the recording pulse width is 0.25T.

A recording waveform F is the case of recording the input waveform A, and a cooling power level is irradiated immediately after irradiation of a recording power. The width of the recording pulse is 0.25T and the cooling-power irradiation time is 0.25T.

A recording waveform G is the case of recording the input waveform A. After irradiation of a recording power level, irradiation at a bias power level is performed, and then irradiation a cooling power level is performed. The width of the recording pulse is 0.25T, the cooling-power irradiation time is 0.25T, and the cooling-power start time is 0.25T.

Also, in Fig. 1 there is shown a configuration of a specific recording waveform adopted in embodiments of the present invention in the case where, in mark length modulation recording, a cooling pulse is added. In Fig. 1 there is shown the case where the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 is employed.

An input waveform B is an example of the input waveform of an EFM (Eight to Fourteen Modulation) signal. EFM modulation modulates data by a combination of signals having lengths of 9 kinds between 3T and 11T. The T used herein means a clock.

A recording waveform H is the case of recording the input waveform B and is the case where no cooling pulse is added.

A recording waveform I is a recording waveform where a cooling pulse is added in the case of recording the input waveform B. Regardless of the length of an immediately prior mark, the cooling-power irradiation time and the cooling-power start time are set to constant values (0.5T and 0) and are added.

A recording waveform J is a recording waveform where a cooling pulse is added in the case of recording the input waveform B. Regardless of the length of an immediately prior mark, the cooling-power irradiation time and the cooling-power start time are set to constant values (0.5T and 0.25T) and are added.

The present invention will hereinafter be described in further detail with specific embodiments.

(Embodiment 1)

In this embodiment a description will be made of the case where, in mark spacing modulation, laser light irradiation at a bias power has been performed between laser light irradiations at recording and cooling powers.

For the evaluation conditions of an optical disk, the wavelength of the laser light is 680 nm and the numerical aperture (NA) of the objective lens of the optical head used for the recording and reproduction of the recording unit is 0.55. For (2, 7) modulation, clock T is set so that the shortest mark pitch becomes 2.1 μm. By 1-beam overwrite, recording is performed 100 times, and a reproduced signal is

differentiated and peak detection is performed. The jitter value, σsum/Tw (%), of the detected signal was measured. Here, σ is the jitter standard deviation and Tw is the window width of the detecting system. The linear velocity is 6.0 m/s.

On this disk, for signal recording ,a recording power ,where the C/N ratio saturates when a single frequency where mark pitch becomes 2.1 μm is recorded, is taken to be a recording power , and the power of the center value of a power margin ,where the erasion rate exceeds -20 dB in the case where the signal where the signal of the mark pitch is overwritten with a signal frequency equivalent to mark pitch 5.6 μm , is set and taken to be a bias power.

The recording waveforms used in this embodiment and jitters are shown in Tables 1 and 2, respectively.

[Table 1]

Recording waveform	1-1	1-2	1-3
Cooling-power irradiation time	0T	0.25T	0.25T
Cooling-power start time	0T	0T	0.20T

[Table 2]

Recording waveform	1-1	1-2	1-3
Jitter	10.5%	9.2%	8.5%

The recording waveform 1-1 of Table 1 is the case where no cooling pulse is added, like the recording waveform E of Fig. 5. The recording waveform 1-2 is the case where a cooling pulse is added immediately after laser light irradiation at a recording power, like the recording waveform F of Fig. 5. However, the cooling-power irradiation time at that time is 0.25T. Also, the recording waveform 1-3 is the

case where irradiation at a bias power is performed after irradiation at a recording power and, thereafter, irradiation at a cooling power is performed, like the recording waveform G of Fig. 5. However, the cooling-power irradiation time at that time is 0.25T and the cooling-power start time is delayed by 0.20T after the end of irradiation at a recording power.

From Table 2, for the case of the recording waveform 1-1, the jitter has gotten worse in comparison with other recording waveforms. For the case of the recording waveform 1-2, the jitter has been improved as compared with the recording waveform 1-1 but is worse in comparison with the recording waveform 1-3. That is, for the recording waveform 1-3 of the present invention where the cooling-power start time was delayed, the jitter is improved in comparison with other recording waveforms.

As described above, the recording where jitters are small becomes possible by delaying the start of a cooling pulse in mark spacing modulation.

In this embodiment, while the case of the reproducing power has been taken as an example of a cooling power, similar results were also obtained for the case where a cooling power is between a bias power and a laser-off level.

(Embodiment 2)

In this embodiment a description will be made of the case where an optical disk is rotated at a constant angular velocity and where, when recording is performed in mark spacing modulation, cooling-power start time is varied according to the radius of the disk.

For the evaluation conditions, the number of revolutions of the disk is constant (1500 rpm). For a (2, 7) modulation signal, clock T is varied so that the shortest mark pitch becomes 2.1 μm at all times. By 1-beam overwrite, recording is performed 100 times, and the jitter value, σsum/Tw (%), was measured at the positions when the radius of the disk is at 23, 30, 37, 43, 50, and 57 mm. Here, σ is the jitter standard deviation and Tw is the window width of the detecting system. The linear velocities at the respective radii are about 3.6, 4.7, 5.8, 6.8, 7.9, and 9.0 m/s. Note that the disk and the other measurement conditions are the same as the embodiment 1.

The recording waveforms used in this embodiment and jitters are shown in Tables 3 and 4, respectively.

[Table 3]

Recording waveform	2-1	2-2	2-3
Cooling-power irradiation time	0T	0.30T	0.30T
Cooling-power start time	0T	0T	0.10T

[Table 4]

Radius	Recording waveform 2-1	Recording waveform2-2	Recording waveform 2-3
23 mm	14.1%	10.5%	11.2%
30 mm	12.2%	9.7%	10.5%
37 mm	11.3%	9.3%	9.8%
43 mm	10.5%	9.4%	8.9%
50 mm	10.8%	10.0%	9.2%
57 mm	11.4%	10.7%	9.7%

The recording waveform 2-1 of Table 3 is the case where no cooling pulse is added, like the recording waveform E of Fig. 5. The recording waveform 2-2 is the case where laser light irradiation at a cooling pulse is performed after laser

light irradiation at a recording power, like the recording waveform F of Fig. 5. However, the cooling-power irradiation time at that time is 0.30T. Also, the recording waveform 2-3 is the case where irradiation at a bias power is performed after irradiation at a recording power and, thereafter, irradiation at a cooling power is performed, like the recording waveform G of Fig. 5. However, the cooling-power irradiation time at that time is 0.30T and the cooling-power start time is after 0.10T after the end of irradiation at a recording power.

From Table 4, for the case of the recording waveform 2-1, the jitter has gotten worse at the inner and outer circumferences of the disk in comparison with other recording waveforms. In the case of the recording waveform 2-2, the jitter has been improved at the inner circumferential portion of the disk. Also, in the case of the recording waveform 2-3, the jitter has gotten worse at the inner circumferential portion of the disk in comparison with the recording waveform 2-2, but the jitter has been improved at the outer circumferential portion of the disk in comparison with the other recording waveforms.

From the foregoing, as in the present invention, like that recording waveform 2-2, for example, is applied at the inner circumferential portion of the disk and that recording waveform 2-3, for example, is applied at the outer circumferential portion of the disk, by employing a recording waveform which quickens cooling-power start time at the inner circumferential portion of the disk, satisfactory recording of

a reproduced jitter becomes possible.

As described above, in the case where an optical disk is rotated at a constant angular velocity, the recording where jitters are small over the entire circumference of the disk becomes possible by quickening the cooling-power start time at the inner circumferential portion of the disk.

In this embodiment, as with the embodiment 1, while the results have been shown for the case where a cooling power is a reproducing power, it is a matter of course that similar results are obtainable for the case where a cooling power is between a bias power and a laser-off level.

(Embodiment 3)

In this embodiment a description will be made of the case where, in mark length modulation, laser light irradiation at a bias power has been performed between laser light irradiations at recording and cooling powers.

For the evaluation conditions of the optical disk, the wavelength of the laser light is 680 nm and the NA of the objective lens of the optical head used for the recording and reproduction of the recording unit is 0.55. For the 8-14 modulated (EFM modulated) input signal, clock T is set so that the shortest mark length becomes 0.90 μm. By 1-beam overwrite, recording is performed 100 times, and the jitter value, σsum/Tw (%), of the zero-cross point of the reproduced signal between 3T and 11T was measured. Here, σsum is the standard deviation of the total of jitters between 3T and 11T and Tw is the window width of the detecting system. The linear velocity is 4.0 m/s.

On this disk, for signal recording, a recording power, where the C/N ratio saturates when a single frequency where mark length becomes 0.9 μm is recorded, is taken to be a recording power, and the power of the center value of a power margin, where the erasion rate exceeds -20 dB in the case where the signal of the 3T mark is overwritten with a signal frequency equivalent to 11T, is set and taken to be a bias power.

The recording waveforms used in this embodiment and jitters are shown in Tables 5 and 6, respectively.

[Table 5]

Recording waveform	Mark length	3T	4T	5T	6T	7T	8T	9T	10T	11T
3-1	Cooling-power irradiation time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
	Cooling-power start time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
3-2	Cooling-power irradiation time	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T
	Cooling-power start time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
3-3	Cooling-power irradiation time	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T
	Cooling-power start time	0.20 T	0.20 T	0.20 T	0.20 T	0.20 T	0.20 T	0.20 T	0.20 T	0.20 T

[Table 6]

Recording waveform	3-1	3-2	3-3
Jitter	11.6%	9.6%	9.2%

In Table 5, the cooling-power irradiation time and the cooling-power start time, in the case where marks with each mark length of between 3T and 11T are recorded, are shown every 3 kinds of recording waveforms.

In this embodiment the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 was employed.

The recording waveform 3-1 of Table 5 is the case where no cooling pulse is added, like the recording waveform H of Fig. 1. The recording waveform 3-2 is the case where laser light irradiation at a cooling power is performed immediately after a recording pulse train, like the recording waveform I of Fig. 1. However, the cooling-power irradiation time at that time is constant (0.5T) regardless of mark lengths 3T through 11T. Also, the recording waveform 3-3 is the case where irradiation at a bias power is performed immediately after a recording pulse train and, thereafter, irradiation at a cooling power is performed, like the recording waveform J of Fig. 1. However, the cooling-power irradiation time at that time and the cooling-power start time are 0.5T and 0.2T regardless of mark length.

From Table 6, for the case of the recording waveform 3-1, the jitter has gotten worse in comparison with other recording waveforms. In the case of the recording waveform 3-2, the jitter has been improved in comparison with the recording waveform 3-1. On the other hand, in the recording waveform 3-

3 of the present invention where the cooling-power start time is delayed, the symmetry between the front end and rear end portions of a mark is controlled more satisfactorily, so the jitter has become smaller in comparison with other recording waveforms.

As described above, the recording where jitters are small becomes possible by putting laser light irradiation at a bias power between the laser light irradiations of the recording and cooling powers.

In this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the cooling-power is a light reproducing power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the cooling power is between 0 and a power smaller than a bias power.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the second power of a recording pulse train is a bias power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the second power is greater than 0 and less than a recording power.

Also, in this embodiment, while the case of the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 has been shown as a recording pulse train, similar results were also obtained for the cases of the recording pulse trains B, C, and D of Fig. 4.

(Embodiment 4)

In this embodiment a description will be made of the case where only cooling-power irradiation time has been varied according to the length of a mark to be recorded.

The respective recording waveforms and jitters are shown in Tables 7 and 8, respectively. Note that the measurement

conditions are the same as the embodiment 3.

In Table 7, the cooling-power irradiation time and the cooling-power start time, in the case where marks with each mark length of between 3T and 11T are recorded, are shown every 4 kinds of recording waveforms.

In this embodiment the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 was employed.

The recording waveform 4-1 of Table 7 is the case where no cooling pulse is added, like the recording waveform H of Fig. 1. The recording waveform 4-2 is the case where cooling-power irradiation time is constant (0.10T) regardless of mark length and where the cooling-power irradiation time is immediately after a recording pulse train, like the recording waveform I of Fig. 1. Also, the recording waveform 4-3 is the case where irradiation at a cooling power is performed immediately after a recording pulse train, like the recording waveform I of Fig. 1. However, the cooling-power irradiation time at that time is 0.50T, which is longer than the recording waveform 4-2. Furthermore, the recording waveform 4-4 is the case where irradiation at a cooling power is performed immediately after a recording pulse train, like the recording waveform I of Fig. 1. The cooling-power irradiation time becomes longer as mark length becomes shorter.

[Table 7]

Recording waveform	Mark length	3T	4T	5T	6T	7T	8T	9T	10T	11T
4-1	Cooling-power irradiation time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
	Cooling-power start time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
4-2	Cooling-power irradiation time	0.10 T	0.10 T	0.10 T	0.10 T	0.10 T	0.10 T	0.10 T	0.10 T	0.10 T
	Cooling-power start time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
4-3	Cooling-power irradiation time	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T
	Cooling-power start time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
4-4	Cooling-power irradiation time	0.50 T	0.45 T	0.40 T	0.35 T	0.30 T	0.25 T	0.20 T	0.15 T	0.10 T
	Cooling-power start time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T

[Table 8]

Recording waveform	4-1	4-2	4-3	4-4
Jitter	11.6%	10.3%	9.6%	7.5%

From Table 7, in the case of the recording waveform 4-1, the jitter has gotten worse in comparison with other recording waveforms. In the case of the recording waveforms 4-2 and 4-3, the jitter has been improved in comparison with the recording

waveform 3-1 but is a bad value in comparison with the recording waveform 4-4.

On the other hand, in the recording waveform 4-4 of the present invention where the cooling-power start time becomes longer as a record mark length becomes shorter, the symmetry between the front end and rear end portions of a mark is controlled more satisfactorily for each mark length, so the jitter value has been considerably improved in comparison with other recording waveforms.

As described above, the recording where jitters are small becomes possible by varying the cooling-power irradiation time in accordance with a record mark length.

In this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the cooling power is a light reproducing power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the cooling power is between 0 and a power smaller than a bias power.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the second power of a recording pulse train is a bias power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the second power is greater than 0 and less than a recording power.

Also, in this embodiment, while the case of the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 has been shown as a recording pulse train, similar results were also obtained for the cases of the recording pulse trains B, C, and D of Fig. 4.

(Embodiment 5)

In this embodiment a description will be made of the case where cooling-power irradiation time has been varied according

to the length of a mark only when the mark length is shorter than a predetermined mark length.

The respective recording waveforms and jitters are shown in Tables 9 and 10, respectively. Note that the measurement conditions are the same as the embodiment 3.

[Table 9]

Recording waveform	Mark length	3T	4T	5T	6T	7T	8T	9T	10T	11T
5-1	Cooling-power irradiation time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
	Cooling-power start time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
5-2	Cooling-power irradiation time	0.50 T	0.45 T	0.40 T	0.35 T	0.30 T	0.30 T	0.30 T	0.30 T	0.30 T
	Cooling-power start time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
5-3	Cooling-power irradiation time	0.50 T	0.45 T	0.45 T	0.45 T	0.45 T	0.45 T	0.45 T	0.45 T	0.45 T
	Cooling-power start time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T

[Table 10]

Recording waveform	5-1	5-2	5-3
Jitter	11.6%	8.3%	10.0%

In Table 9, the cooling-power irradiation time and the cooling-power start time, in the case where marks with each mark length of between 3T and 11T are recorded, are shown

every 3 kinds of recording waveforms.

In this embodiment the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 was employed.

The recording waveform 5-1 of Table 9 is the case where no cooling pulse is added, like the recording waveform H of Fig. 1. The recording waveform 5-2 is the case where immediately after irradiation of a recording pulse train, irradiation of a cooling power is varied only when mark length is shorter than mark length having 3T through 6T, like the recording waveform I of Fig. 1, and is the case where cooling-power irradiation time is made longer as a record mark length becomes shorter. Also, the recording waveform 5-3 is the case where cooling-power irradiation time is longer only when mark length is at 3T and where a cooling power is added immediately after irradiation of a recording pulse train.

From Table 10, in the case of the recording waveform 5-1, the jitter has gotten worse in comparison with other recording waveforms. On the other hand, in the case of the record mark lengths of 3T through 6T according to the present invention, in the recording waveform 5-2 where the cooling-power start time is made longer as the mark length becomes shorter, the jitter has been improved in comparison with the recording waveform 5-1.

Also, in the recording waveform 5-3 where cooling-power irradiation time is added only when the record mark length according to the present invention is at 3T, the jitter is larger in comparison with the recording waveform 5-2 but has been improved in comparison to the recording waveform 5-1.

As described above, the recording where jitters are small becomes possible by varying and adding the cooling-power irradiation time only when a record mark length is less than a predetermined record mark length. This recording waveform simplifies the structure of a recording circuit and is considered to be better in terms of cost.

In this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the cooling power is a light reproducing power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the cooling power is between 0 and a power than a bias power.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the second power of a recording pulse train is a bias power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the second power is greater than 0 and less than a recording power.

Also, in this embodiment, while the case of the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 has been shown as a recording pulse train, similar results were also obtained for the cases of the recording pulse trains B, C, and D of Fig. 4.

(Embodiment 6)

In this embodiment a description will be made of the case where cooling-power irradiation time is constant regardless of mark length and where only cooling-power start time has been varied according to the length of a mark to be recorded.

The respective recording waveforms and jitters are shown in Tables 11 and 12, respectively. Note that the measurement conditions are the same as the embodiment 3.

[Table 11]

Recording waveform	Mark length	3T	4T	5T	6T	7T	8T	9T	10T	11T
6-1	Cooling-power irradiation time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
	Cooling-power start time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
6-2	Cooling-power irradiation time	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T
	Cooling-power start time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
6-3	Cooling-power irradiation time	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T
	Cooling-power start time	0.40 T	0.40 T	0.40 T	0.40 T	0.40 T	0.40 T	0.40 T	0.40 T	0.40 T
6-4	Cooling-power irradiation time	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T
	Cooling-power start time	0T	0.05 T	0.10 T	0.15 T	0.20 T	0.25 T	0.30 T	0.35 T	0.40 T

[Table 12]

Recording waveform	6-1	6-2	6-3	6-4
Jitter	11.6%	9.6%	10.0%	8.0%

In Table 11, the cooling-power irradiation time and the cooling-power start time, in the case where marks of each mark length of between 3T and 11T are recorded, are shown every 4 kinds of recording waveforms. In this embodiment the

recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 was employed.

The recording waveform 6-1 of Table 11 is the case where no cooling pulse is added, like the recording waveform H of Fig. 1. The recording waveform 6-2 is the case where immediately after irradiation of a recording pulse train, irradiation of a cooling power is performed, like the recording waveform I of Fig. 1. However, the cooling-power irradiation time is 0.5T regardless of the length of a mark to be recorded. Also, the recording waveform 6-3 is the case where after irradiation of a recording pulse train, irradiation at a bias power is performed and, thereafter, irradiation at a cooling power is performed, like the recording waveform of Fig. 1. However, the cooling-power irradiation time is 0.50T and the cooling-power start time is 0.4T. The times are constant regardless of the length of a mark to be recorded. Furthermore, for the recording waveform 6-4, as with the recording waveform 6-3, the cooling-power irradiation time is 0.50T and constant regardless of mark length, but the cooling-power start time is quickened as the length of a mark becomes shorter.

From Table 12, in the case of the recording waveform 6-1, the jitter has gotten worse in comparison with other recording waveforms. In the case of the recording waveforms 6-2 and 6-3, the jitter has been improved in comparison with the recording waveform 6-1. On the other hand, in the recording waveform 6-4 of the present invention where the cooling-power start time is quickened as the length of a mark becomes shorter, the jitter becomes even smaller in comparison to other recording

waveforms.

As described above, the recording where jitters are small becomes possible by varying the cooling-power irradiation time in accordance with the length of a mark to be recorded.

In this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the cooling power is a light reproducing power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the cooling power is between 0 and a power less than a bias power.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the second power of a recording pulse train is a bias power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the second power is greater than 0 and less than a recording power.

Also, in this embodiment, while the case of the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 has been shown as a recording pulse train, similar results were also obtained for the cases of the recording pulse trains B, C, and D of Fig. 4.

(Embodiment 7)

In this embodiment a description will be made of the case where cooling-power irradiation time is constant and where cooling-power start time has been varied according to the length of a mark only when the mark length is shorter than a predetermined mark length.

The respective recording waveforms and jitters are shown in Tables 13 and 14, respectively. Note that the measurement conditions are the same as the embodiment 3.

In Table 13, the cooling-power irradiation time and the cooling-power start time, in the case where marks with each

mark length of between 3T and 11T are recorded, are shown every 3 kinds of recording waveforms. In this embodiment the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 was employed.

The recording waveform 7-1 of Table 13 is the case where no cooling pulse is added, like the recording waveform H of Fig. 1. The recording waveform 7-2 is the case where after irradiation of a recording pulse train, irradiation at a bias power is performed and then irradiation at a cooling power is performed, like the recording waveform J of Fig. 1. Also, in the case where the length of a mark to be recorded has 3T through 6T, the cooling-pulse start time is quickened as the length of the mark becomes shorter. However, the cooling-power irradiation time is 0.50T and constant regardless of mark length.

[Table 13]

Recording waveform	Mark length	3T	4T	5T	6T	7T	8T	9T	10T	11T
7-1	Cooling-power irradiation time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
	Cooling-power start time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
7-2	Cooling-power irradiation time	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T
	Cooling-power start time	0.00 T	0.05 T	0.10 T	0.15 T	0.20 T	0.20 T	0.20 T	0.20 T	0.20 T
7-3	Cooling-power irradiation time	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T	0.50 T

	Cooling-power start time	0.00 T	0.20 T	0.20 T	0.20 T	0.20 T	0.20 T	0.20 T	0.20 T	0.20 T

[Table 14]

Recording waveform	7-1	7-2	7-3
Jitter	11.6%	8.4%	9.0%

Also, the recording waveform 7-3 is the case where a cooling pulse is performed immediately after irradiation of a recording pulse train, only when a mark with 3T is recorded, and where cooling-power start time is constant (0.20T) when a mark having 4T through 11T is recorded.

From Table 14, in the case of the recording waveform 7-1, the jitter has gotten worse in comparison with other recording waveforms. On the other hand, in the case of the mark having lengths of 3T through 6T according to the present invention, for the recording waveform 7-2 where the cooling-pulse start time is quickened as the length of the mark becomes shorter, the jitter has been improved in comparison to the recording waveform 7-1. Also, in the recording waveform 7-3 of the present invention where cooling-power start time is quickened only when the mark length has 3T, the jitter is larger in comparison with the recording waveform 7-2 but has been improved in comparison to the recording waveform 7-1.

As described above, the recording where jitters are small becomes possible by varying and adding the cooling-power start time only when the length of a mark is less than a predetermined mark length. This recording waveform simplifies

the structure of a recording circuit and is considered to be better from the side of cost.

In this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the cooling power is a light reproducing power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the cooling power is between 0 and a power less than a bias power.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the second power of a recording pulse train is a bias power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the second power is greater than 0 and less than a recording power.

Also, in this embodiment, while the case of the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 has been shown as a recording pulse train, similar results were also obtained for the cases of the recording pulse trains B, C, and D of Fig. 4.

(Embodiment 8)

In this embodiment a description will be made of the case where a cooling pulse with both a constant cooling-power irradiation time and a constant cooling-power start time is added only when a mark shorter than a predetermined length is recorded.

The respective recording waveforms and jitters are shown in Tables 15 and 16, respectively. Note that the measurement conditions are the same as the embodiment 3.

[Table 15]

Recording waveform	Mark length	3T	4T	5T	6T	7T	8T	9T	10T	11T
8-1	Cooling-power irradiation time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
	Cooling-power start time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
8-2	Cooling-power irradiation time	0.43 T	0.43 T	0.43 T	0.43 T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
	Cooling-power start time	0.08 T	0.08 T	0.08 T	0.08 T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
8-3	Cooling-power irradiation time	0.43 T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
	Cooling-power start time	0.08 T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T

[Table 16]

Recording waveform	8-1	8-2	8-3
Jitter	11.6%	8.7%	9.8%

In Table 15, the cooling-power irradiation time and the cooling-power start time, in the case where marks with each mark length of between 3T and 11T are recorded, are shown every 3 kinds of recording waveforms. In this embodiment the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 was employed.

The recording waveform 8-1 of Table 15 is the case where no cooling pulse is added, like the recording waveform H of Fig. 1. The recording waveform 8-2 is the case where only

when the length of a mark to be recorded is between 3T and 6T, irradiation at a bias power is performed after irradiation of a recording pulse train, and then irradiation at a cooling power is performed, like the recording waveform J of Fig. 1. However, when mark length is between 3T and 6T, a cooling pulse with both a cooling-power irradiation time of 0.43T and a cooling-power start time of 0.08T is added. Also, the recording waveform 8-3 is the case where a cooling pulse with both a constant cooling-power irradiation time of 0.43T and a constant cooling-power start time of 0.08T is added only when the length of a mark to be recorded is 3T.

From Table 16, in the case of the recording waveform 8-1, the jitter has gotten worse in comparison with other recording waveforms. On the other hand, in the case of the recording waveform 8-2 of the present invention, where a cooling pulse with a constant cooling-pulse width and a constant start time is added only when a mark less than a predetermined mark length is recorded, the jitter has been improved in comparison to the recording waveform 8-1. Also, in the recording waveform 8-3 of the present invention where a cooling pulse is added only when a mark with a shortest mark length is recorded, the jitter is worse in comparison with the recording waveform 8-2 but has been improved in comparison to the recording waveform 8-1.

As described above, the recording where jitters are small becomes possible by adding a cooling pulse having a constant pulse width and a constant start time only when a mark less than a predetermined mark length is recorded. This recording

waveform simplifies the structure of a recording circuit and is considered to be better from the side of cost.

In this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the cooling power is a light reproducing power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the cooling power is between 0 and a power smaller than a bias power.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the second power of a recording pulse train is a bias power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the second power is greater than 0 and less than a recording power.

Also, in this embodiment, while the case of the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 has been shown as a recording pulse train, similar results were also obtained for the cases of the recording pulse trains B, C, and D of Fig. 4.

(Embodiment 9)

In this embodiment a description will be made of the case where an optical disk is rotated at a constant angular velocity and where a cooling pulse is added only when a mark less than a predetermined mark length is recorded.

For the evaluation conditions, the number of revolutions of the disk is 1000 rpm). For an EFM signal, clock T is varied so that the shortest mark pitch becomes 0.9 μm at all times. By 1-beam overwrite, recording is performed 100 times, and the jitter value, σsum/Tw (%), of the zero-cross point of a reproduced signal between 3T and 11T was measured at the positions where the radius of the disk is at 23, 30, 37, 43, 50, and 57 mm. Here, σ is the jitter standard deviation and

Tw is the window width of the detecting system. Also, the linear velocities at the respective radii are about 2.4, 3.1, 3.9, 4.5, 5.2, and 6.0 m/s. Note that the other measurement conditions are the same as the embodiment 3.

The respective recording waveforms and jitters are shown in Tables 17 and 18, respectively.

In Table 17, the cooling-power irradiation time and the cooling-power start time, in the case where marks with each mark length of between 3T and 11T are recorded, are shown every 3 kinds of recording waveforms.

In this embodiment the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 was employed. The recording waveform 9-1 of Table 17 is the case where no cooling pulse is added, like the recording waveform H of Fig. 1.

[Table 17]

Recording waveform	Mark length	3T	4T	5T	6T	7T	8T	9T	10T	11T
9-1	Cooling-power irradiation time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
	Cooling-power start time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
9-2	Cooling-power irradiation time	0.43 T	0.43 T	0.43 T	0.43 T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
	Cooling-power start time	0.08 T	0.08 T	0.08 T	0.08 T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
9-3	Cooling-power irradiation time	0.43 T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
	Cooling-power start time	0.08 T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T

[Table 18]

Radius	Recording waveform 9-1	Recording waveform 9-2	Recording waveform 9-3
23 mm	14.0%	11.5%	12.8%
30 mm	13.3%	9.8%	10.8%
37 mm	11.8%	9.0%	10.0%
43 mm	10.9%	10.5%	10.7%
50 mm	11.4%	12.2%	11.8%
57 mm	12.3%	13.4%	12.5%

The recording waveform 9-2 is the case where, only when a mark with a length of 3T through 6T is recorded, irradiation at a bias power is performed after irradiation of a recording pulse train and then irradiation at a cooling power is performed, like the recording waveform J of Fig. 1. However, the

cooling-power irradiation time is 0.30T and the cooling-power start time is 0.08T, so the times are uniform. Also, in the case where a mark with 7T through 11T is recorded, a cooling pulse is not added. Also, the recording waveform 9-3 is the case where a cooling pulse is not added except for a mark having 3T, like the recording waveform H of Fig. 1. However, only when a mark with 3T is recorded, the cooling-power irradiation time is 0.43T and the cooling-power start time is 0.08T.

From Table 18, in the case of the recording waveform 9-1, the jitter has gotten worse particularly at the inner circumference of the disk in comparison with other recording waveforms. On the other hand, in the case of the recording waveform 9-2 where a cooling pulse was added when a short mark is recorded, the jitter has been improved at the inner circumferential portion of the disk in comparison with the recording waveform 9-1. Also, in the case of the recording waveform 9-3 where a cooling pulse was added when a 3T mark is recorded, the jitter has been improved at the inner circumferential portion of the disk. Therefore, for example, for the inner circumferential portion at a radius of 37 mm or up to 43 mm, the recording waveforms 9-2 and 9-3 can be employed, and for the outer circumferential portion than that, the recording waveform 9-1 can be used.

As in the present invention, by employing the recording waveform 9-2 or 9-3 at the inner circumferential portion of the disk and the recording waveform 9-1 which does not add a cooling pulse at the outer circumferential portion, a

satisfactory jitter is obtainable at any radius of the disk.

As described above, in the case where an optical disk is rotated at a constant angular velocity, a cooling pulse is added only when a mark shorter than a predetermined mark length is recorded on the inner circumferential portion of the disk inside a predetermined radius, whereby the recording where jitters are small becomes possible at any radius of the disk. This recording waveform simplifies the structure of a recording circuit and is considered to be better from the side of cost.

In this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the cooling power is a light reproducing power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the cooling power is between 0 and a power smaller than a bias power.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the second power of a recording pulse train is a bias power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the second power is greater than 0 and less than a recording power.

Also, in this embodiment, while the case of the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 has been shown as a recording pulse train, similar results were also obtained for the cases of the recording pulse trains B, C, and D of Fig. 4.

(Embodiment 10)

In this embodiment a description will be made of the case where an optical disk is rotated at a constant angular velocity and where cooling-power irradiation time and cooling-power start time are varied according to the radius of the

disk.

The respective recording waveforms and jitters are shown in Tables 19 and 20, respectively. Note that measurement conditions are the same as the embodiment 9.

In Table 19, the cooling-power irradiation time and the cooling-power start time, in the case where marks with each mark length of between 3T and 11T are recorded, are shown every 3 kinds of recording waveforms.

In this embodiment the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 was employed.

The recording waveform 10-1 of Table 19 is the case where no cooling pulse is added, like the recording waveform H of Fig. 1. The recording waveform 10-2 is the case where irradiation at a cooling power is performed after irradiation of a recording pulse train, like the recording waveform I of Fig. 1. However, the cooling-power irradiation time varies depending on the length of a mark to be recorded, and the cooling-power irradiation time has become longer as a mark becomes shorter.

[Table 19]

Recording waveform	Mark length	3T	4T	5T	6T	7T	8T	9T	10T	11T
10-1	Cooling-power irradiation time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
	Cooling-power start time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
10-2	Cooling-power irradiation time	0.50T	0.45T	0.40T	0.35T	0.30T	0.25T	0.20T	0.15T	0.10T
	Cooling-power start time	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T	0T
10-3	Cooling-power irradiation time	0.50T	0.50T	0.50T	0.50T	0.50T	0.50T	0.50T	0.50T	0.50T
	Cooling-power start time	0T	0.05T	0.10T	0.15T	0.20T	0.25T	0.30T	0.35T	0.40T

[Table 20]

Radius	Recording waveform 10-1	Recording waveform 10-2	Recording waveform 10-3
23 mm	14.0%	11.5%	11.3%
30 mm	13.3%	10.2%	10.4%
37 mm	11.8%	8.0%	8.3%
43 mm	10.9%	9.9%	10.4%
50 mm	11.4%	11.9%	12.2%
57 mm	12.3%	13.5%	14.2%

Also, the recording waveform 10-3 is the case where after irradiation of a recording pulse train, irradiation at a bias power is performed and then irradiation at a cooling power is performed, like the recording waveform J of Fig. 1. However, the cooling power irradiation time is 0.50T, and the cooling-

power start time varies depending on the length of a mark to be recorded, and is quickened as the mark becomes shorter.

From Table 20, in the case of the recording waveform 10-1, the jitter has gotten worse at the inner circumference of the disk in comparison with other recording waveforms. On the other hand, in the case where the recording waveform 10-2 was employed, the jitter has been improved at the inner circumferential portion of the disk in comparison with the recording waveform 10-1, but the jitter has conversely gotten worse at the outer circumferential portion. Also, in the case where the recording waveform 10-3 was employed, the jitter has been improved at the inner circumferential portion of the disk in comparison with the recording waveform 10-1, but the jitter has conversely gotten worse at the outer circumferential portion. Therefore, for an region inside a predetermined radius, for example, for the inner circumferential portion of the disk up to 43 mm, the recording waveforms 10-2 and 10-3 can be employed, and for the outer circumferential portion than that, the recording waveform 10-1 can be used.

As in the present invention, the recording waveform 10-2 or 10-3 is employed at the inner circumferential portion of the disk and also the recording waveform 10-1 is employed at the outer circumferential portion from the point of simplifying a recording circuit, whereby a satisfactory jitter is obtainable at any radius of the disk.

As described above, in the case where an optical disk is rotated at a constant angular velocity, in the inner circumferential portion of the disk the cooling-power

irradiation time is extended as the length of a mark becomes shorter, or cooling-power start time is quickened, whereby the recording where jitters are small becomes possible at any radius of the disk.

In this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the cooling power is a light reproducing power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the cooling power is between 0 and a power smaller than a bias power.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the second power of a recording pulse train is a bias power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the second power is greater than 0 and less than a recording power.

Also, in this embodiment, while the case of the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 has been shown as a recording pulse train, similar results were also obtained for the cases of the recording pulse trains B, C, and D of Fig. 4.

(Embodiment 11)

A description will be made of the case where mark's rear end correction pulse trains, which serve as various cooling pulses, have been added immediately after a recording pulse train.

In this embodiment the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 was employed. Then, various mark's rear end correction pulse trains were added immediately after the recording pulse train. Measurement conditions are the same as the embodiment 3.

Various recording waveforms used in this embodiment will be described with Fig. 6. In the figure there are shown

typical recording waveform patterns used when a mark with a length of 6T is recorded.

Recording waveform 11-1 is the case where a mark's rear end correction pulse train is not added.

Recording waveform 11-2 is a recording waveform where immediately after a recording pulse train, laser light is irradiated for a period of 0.5T with a light reproducing power. After the irradiation, laser light irradiation is performed with a bias power.

Recording waveform 11-3 is a recording waveform where immediately after a recording pulse train, power is reduced down to an intermediate level between a bias power and a light reproducing power and then laser light is irradiated for a period of 0.25T. Immediately after the irradiation, the power is reduced down to the light reproducing power and then there is added a mark's rear end correction pulse train where laser light is irradiated for a period of 0.25T. Thereafter, laser light irradiation is performed with a bias power.

Recording waveform 11-4 is a recording waveform where immediately after a recording pulse train, laser light is irradiated for a period of 0.15T with a power higher than a bias power by 2 mW. Immediately after the irradiation, there is added a mark's rear end correction pulse train where laser light is irradiated for a period of 0.35T with a light reproducing power. Thereafter, laser light irradiation is performed with a bias power.

Recording waveform 11-5 is a recording waveform where immediately after a recording pulse train, laser light is

irradiated for a period of 0.2T with a light reproducing power. Immediately after the irradiation, laser light is irradiated for a period of 0.1T with a bias power. Immediately after the irradiation, there is added a mark's rear end correction pulse train where laser light is irradiated for a period of 0.2T with a light reproducing power. Thereafter, laser light irradiation is performed with a bias power.

Recording waveform 11-6 is a recording waveform where immediately after a recording pulse train, power is continuously reduced from a bias power to a light reproducing power for a period of 0.2T and where there is added a mark's rear end correction pulse train where laser light is irradiated for a period of 0.3T with a light reproducing power. Thereafter, laser light irradiation is performed with a bias power.

Recording waveform 11-7 is a recording waveform where immediately after a recording pulse train, power is continuously reduced from a bias power to a light reproducing power for a period of 0.25T. After the reduction, there is added a mark's rear end correction pulse train where power is continuously increased from a light reproducing power to a bias power for a period of 0.25T. Thereafter, laser light irradiation is performed with a bias power. The respective recording waveforms are shown in Table 21 and also the jitter values after 100 overwrite operations are shown in Table 21.

[Table 21]

Recording waveform	Jitter

Recording waveform 11-1	11.6%
Recording waveform 11-2	9.6%
Recording waveform 11-3	7.8%
Recording waveform 11-4	8.4%
Recording waveform 11-5	8.7%
Recording waveform 11-6	8.0%
Recording waveform 11-7	8.4%

From Table 21, as in the recording waveform 11-2, in the case where the laser light irradiation, performed with a reproducing power (also referred to as a cooling power) lower than a bias power, is added as a mark's rear end correction pulse, the jitter value after 100 overwrite operations has been improved in comparison with the recording waveform 11-1.

On the other hand, as in the present invention, in the recording waveforms 11-3, 11-4, 11-5, 11-6, and 11-7 where a mark's rear end correction pulse train is added, the symmetry between the front end portion and the rear end portion of the mark is controlled satisfactorily, so the jitter has further been improved in comparison with the recording waveform 14-2.

As described above, the recording, where jitters are satisfactory after 100 overwrite operations, becomes possible by adding a mark's rear end correction pulse train after a recording pulse train.

In this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the power of the mark's rear end correction pulse train is varied in two stages, it is a matter of course that similar results are also obtainable for the case where the aforementioned power is varied in three or more stages.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the cooling power is a light reproducing power,

similar results were also obtained for the case where the cooling power was set between 0 and a power smaller than a bias power.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the second power of a recording pulse train is a bias power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the second power is greater than 0 and less than a recording power.

(Embodiment 12)

Next, a description will be made of the case where laser light irradiation is performed between a recording pulse train and a mark's rear end correction pulse train by a bias power.

In this embodiment the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 was employed. Also, measurement conditions are the same as the embodiment 11.

Various recording waveforms used in this embodiment will be described with Fig. 6. In the figure there are shown typical recording waveform patterns used when a mark with a length of 6T is recorded.

Recording waveform 12-1 is the same recording waveform as the recording waveform 11-3 of the embodiment 11.

On the other hand, the recording waveform 12-2 of the present invention, where laser light irradiation is performed between a recording pulse train and a mark's rear end correction pulse train by a bias power, is a recording waveform where after a recording pulse train, laser light is irradiated for a period of 0.2T with a bias power. After the irradiation, the power is reduced to a power between a bias

power and a reproducing power and then laser light is irradiated for a period of 0.25T. Immediately after the irradiation, the power is reduced to the reproducing power and then laser light is irradiated for a period of 0.25T. Thereafter, laser light irradiation is performed with the bias power.

The respective recording waveforms are shown in Table 22 and also the jitter values after 100 overwrite operations are shown in Table 22.

[Table 22]

Recording waveform	Jitter
Recording waveform 12-1	7.8%
Recording waveform 12-2	7.2%

From Table 22, as in the present invention, in the recording waveform 12-2, where laser light irradiation is performed between a recording pulse train and a mark's rear end correction pulse train by a bias power, the symmetry between the front end portion and the rear end portion of the mark is satisfactory, so the jitter has further been improved in comparison with the recording waveform 12-1.

As described above, the recording, where jitters are satisfactory after 100 overwrite operations, becomes possible by performing laser light irradiation between a recording pulse train and a mark's rear end correction pulse train by a bias power.

In this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the power of the mark's rear end correction pulse train is varied in two stages, it is a matter of course that similar

results are also obtainable for the case where the aforementioned power is varied in three or more stages. Also, similar results are obtainable for the case of a mark's rear end correction pulse train having a period where after a recording pulse train, laser light is continuously varied to a power smaller than a bias power.

Also, in this embodiment, while the case of the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 has been shown as a recording pulse train, similar results were also obtained for the cases of the recording pulse trains B, C, and D of Fig. 4.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the cooling power is a light reproducing power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the cooling power was set between 0 and a power smaller than a bias power.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the second power of a recording pulse train is a bias power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the second power is greater than 0 and less than a recording power.

(Embodiment 13)

Next, a description will be made of the case where a mark's rear end correction pulse train is added to various recording pulse trains.

Various recording waveforms used in this embodiment will be described with Fig. 8. In the figure there are shown typical recording waveform patterns used when a mark with a length of 6T is recorded. Note that measurement conditions

are the same as the embodiment 11.

The recording pulse train of each of recording waveforms 13-1, 2, and 3 is the aforementioned recording pulse train B of Fig. 4.

The recording waveform 13-1 is the case where a mark's rear end correction pulse train is not added.

The recording waveform 13-2 is a recording waveform where immediately after a recording pulse train, laser light is irradiated for a period of 0.5T with a light reproducing power. After the irradiation, laser light irradiation is performed with a bias power.

The recording waveform 13-3 is a recording waveform where immediately after a recording pulse train, power is reduced down to an intermediate level between a bias power and a light reproducing power and then laser light is irradiated for a period of 0.25T. Immediately after the irradiation, the power is reduced down to the light reproducing power and then there is added a mark's rear end correction pulse train where laser light is irradiated for a period of 0.25T. Thereafter, laser light irradiation is performed with a bias power.

Each of recording waveforms 13-4, 5, and 6 is the aforementioned recording pulse train C of Fig. 4.

The recording waveform 13-4 is the case where no mark's rear end correction pulse train is added.

The recording waveform 13-5 is the case where immediately after a recording pulse train, laser light is irradiated for a period of 0.5T with a light reproducing power. After the irradiation, laser light irradiation is performed with a bias

power.

The recording waveform 13-6 is the case where immediately after a recording pulse train, the same mark's rear end correction pulse train as the recording waveform 13-3 is added. Thereafter, laser light irradiation is performed with a bias power.

Each of recording waveforms 13-7, 8, and 9 is the aforementioned recording pulse train D of Fig. 4.

The recording waveform 13-7 is the case where no mark's rear end correction pulse train is added.

The recording waveform 13-8 is the case where immediately after a recording pulse train, laser light is irradiated for a period of 0.5T with a light reproducing power. After the irradiation, laser light irradiation is performed with a bias power.

The recording waveform 13-9 is the case where immediately after a recording pulse train, the same mark's rear end correction pulse train as the recording waveform 13-3 is added. Thereafter, laser light irradiation is performed with a bias power.

The respective recording waveforms are shown in Table 23 and also the jitter values after 100 overwrite operations are shown in Table 23.

[Table 23]

Recording waveform	Jitter
Recording waveform 13-1	11.0%
Recording waveform 13-2	9.4%
Recording waveform 13-3	7.8%
Recording waveform 13-4	10.0%

Recording waveform 13-5	8.1%
Recording waveform 13-6	7.0%
Recording waveform 13-7	12.1%
Recording waveform 13-8	10.5%
Recording waveform 13-9	8.9%

From Table 23, as in the recording waveform 13-2, in the case where, immediately after a recording pulse train, laser light irradiation is performed with a light reproducing power, the jitter value after 100 overwrite operations has been improved in comparison with the recording waveform 13-1.

On the other hand, as in the present invention, in the recording waveforms 13-3 where a mark's rear end correction pulse train is added, the jitter is smaller in comparison with the recording waveform 13-2. Thus, for the recording pulse train B of Fig. 4, in the case where a mark's rear end correction pulse train is added, the symmetry between the front end portion and the rear end portion of the mark is better, so the jitter has been improved.

Likewise, for the recording pulse trains C and D of Fig. 4, in the case where a mark's rear end correction pulse train is added, the symmetry between the front end portion and the rear end portion of the mark is better, so the jitter has been improved.

As described above, the recording, where jitters are satisfactory after 100 overwrite operations, becomes possible by adding a mark's rear end correction pulse train to the recording pulse trains B, C, and D.

In this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the power of the mark's rear end correction pulse train is varied in two stages, it is a matter of course that similar

results are also obtainable for the case where the aforementioned power is varied in three or more stages. Also, similar results are obtainable for the case of a mark's rear end correction pulse train having a period where after a recording pulse train, laser light is continuously varied to a power smaller than a bias power.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the cooling power is a light reproducing power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the cooling power was set between 0 and a power smaller than a bias power.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the second power of a recording pulse train is a bias power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the second power is greater than 0 and less than a recording power.

(Embodiment 14)

Next, a description will be made of the case where the mark's rear end correction pulse train start time is varied according to the length of a mark to be recorded.

In this embodiment the measurement conditions are the same as the embodiment 11. Also, in this embodiment the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 was employed.

Various recording waveforms used in this embodiment will be described with Table 24.

[Table 24]

Mark length	Start time of a mark' rear end correction pulse train after a recording pulse train

	Recording waveform 14-1	Recording waveform 14-2
3T	0T	0T
4T	0T	0.1T
5T	0T	0.2T
6T	0T	0.3T
7T	0T	0.4T
8T	0T	0.5T
9T	0T	0.6T
10T	0T	0.7T
11T	0T	0.8T

Recording waveform 14-1 is a recording waveform where, immediately after a recording pulse train, power is reduced down to an intermediate level between a bias power and a light reproducing power regardless of the length of a mark to be recorded and then laser light is irradiated for a period of 0.25T. Immediately after the irradiation, the power is reduced down to the light reproducing power and then laser light is irradiated for a period of 0.25T. Thereafter, laser light irradiation is performed with a bias power.

Recording waveform 14-2 has the same mark's rear end correction pulse train as the recording waveform 14-1. The start time of the mark's rear end correction pulse train is 0.8 when a mark with a length of 11T is recorded. As the mark length becomes shorter, the start time is quickened 0.1T at a time. When a mark with a length of 3T is recorded, a mark's rear end correction pulse train is added immediately after a recording pulse train. Thereafter, laser light irradiation is performed with a bias power.

The respective recording waveforms are shown in Table 25 and also the jitter values after 100 overwrite operations are shown in Table 25.

[Table 25]

Recording waveform	Jitter
Recording waveform 14-1	7.8%
Recording waveform 14-2	6.7%

From Table 25, as in the present invention, in the recording waveform 14-2, where the mark's rear end correction pulse train start time is varied according to the length of a mark, the symmetry between the front end portion and the rear end portion of the mark has gotten better, so the jitter has further been improved in comparison with the recording waveform 14-1.

As described above, the recording, where jitters are satisfactory after 100 overwrite operations, becomes possible by varying the mark's rear end pulse train start time in accordance with the length of a mark to be recorded.

In this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the power of the mark's rear end correction pulse train is varied in two stages, it is a matter of course that similar results are also obtainable for the case where the aforementioned power is varied in three or more stages. Also, similar results are obtainable for the case of a mark's rear end correction pulse train having a period where after a recording pulse train, laser light is continuously varied to a power smaller than a bias power.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the cooling power is a light reproducing power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the cooling power is between 0 and a power smaller than a bias power.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the second power of a recording pulse train is a bias power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the second power is greater than 0 and less than a recording power.

Also, in this embodiment, while the case of the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 has been shown as a recording pulse train, similar results were also obtained for the cases of the recording pulse trains B, C, and D of Fig. 4.

(Embodiment 15)

Next, a description will be made of the case where the pulse configuration of a mark's rear end correction pulse train is varied according to the length of a mark to be recorded.

In this embodiment a recording pulse train (the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4) was employed. Also, measurement conditions are the same as the embodiment 11.

Various recording waveforms used in this embodiment will be described with Fig. 9. Note that in the recording waveform 15-1 of Fig. 9 there is shown a typical recording pattern used when a mark with a length of 6T is recorded. Also, in the recording waveform 15-2 there are shown recording patterns used when, among marks with lengths of 3T through 11T, the marks with lengths of 3T through 5T, 10T and 11T are recorded.

The recording waveform 15-1 is the same as the recording waveform 11-3 of the embodiment 11.

The recording waveform 15-2 is a recording waveform where, immediately after a recording pulse train, the power is varied

so as to be smaller as the length of a mark becomes shorter. Specifically, when the 3T mark is recorded, the power is set to a light reproducing power, and when the 4T mark is recorded, the power is set to a power greater than the light reproducing power by 1/8 of the power between a bias power and the light reproducing power. Thus, as the mark length becomes longer, the power is increased. Laser light is irradiated with the power for a period of 0.25T. Immediately after the irradiation, the power is reduced down to the light reproducing power and then there is added a mark's rear end correction pulse where laser light is irradiated for a period of 0.25T. Thereafter, laser light irradiation is performed with a bias power.

The respective recording waveforms are shown in Table 26 and also the jitter values after 100 overwrite operations are shown in Table 26.

[Table 26]

Recording waveform	Jitter
Recording waveform 15-1	7.8%
Recording waveform 15-2	6.4%

From Table 26, as in the recording waveform 15-2 of the present invention, in the recording waveform where the configuration of the mark's rear end correction pulse train start time is varied according to the length of a mark to be recorded, the jitter value after 100 cycles has been improved in comparison with the recording waveform 15-1.

As described above, by varying the pulse configuration of the mark's rear end pulse train start time in accordance with

the length of a mark to be recorded, the symmetry between the front and rear ends of the disk becomes better and therefore the recording where the quality of a reproduced signal is satisfactory becomes possible.

In this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the power of the mark's rear end correction pulse train is varied in two stages, it is a matter of course that similar results are also obtainable for the case where the aforementioned power is varied in three or more stages. Also, similar results are obtainable for the case of a mark's rear end correction pulse train having a period where after a recording pulse train, laser light is continuously varied to a power smaller than a bias power.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the cooling power is a light reproducing power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the cooling power is between 0 and a power smaller than a bias power.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the second power of a recording pulse train is a bias power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the second power is greater than 0 and less than a recording power.

Also, in this embodiment, while the case of the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 has been shown as a recording pulse train, similar results were also obtained for the cases of the recording pulse trains B, C, and D of Fig. 4.

(Embodiment 16)

Next, a description will be made of the case where an optical disk is rotated at a constant angular velocity and where the start time of a mark's rear end correction pulse train is varied according to the radial position of a disk.

Also, the number of revolutions of the disk is 1000 rpm, and for an EFM signal, clock T was varied so that the shortest mark length becomes μm at all times.

In this embodiment the same recording pulse train as the embodiment 11 (the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4) was employed.

Various recording waveforms used in this embodiment will be described with Table 27.

[Table 27]

Recording waveform	Start time of a mark's rear end correction pulse train after a recording pulse train	
16-1	---	
16-2	0T	
16-3	Inner circumference	0T
	Middle circumference	0.2T
	Outer circumference	0.5T

Recording waveform 16-1 is the case where no mark's rear end correction pulse train is added.

Recording waveform 16-2 is the same as the recording waveform 11-3 of the embodiment 11.

Recording waveform 16-3 also has the same mark's rear end correction pulse train as the recording waveform 11-3 of the embodiment 11, but as in the present invention, the start time of the mark's rear end correction pulse train is made shorter as the radial position of the disk gets closer to the inner

circumferential side. Specifically, when the radius of the disk is between 23 and 34 mm, a mark's rear end correction pulse train is added immediately after a recording pulse train. When it is between 35 and 46 mm, the start time of the mark's rear end correction pulse train is delayed by 0.2T, and When it is between 47 and 57 mm, the start time of the mark's rear end correction pulse train is delayed by 0.5T.

The respective recording waveforms are shown in Table 28 and also the jitter values after 100 overwrite operations are shown in Table 28. Note that measurements were made at each radius when the inner circumference is 26 mm, the middle circumference is 38 mm, and the outer circumference is 50 mm. Also, the respective linear velocities at the radii are about 2.7, 4.0, and 5.2 m/s.

Also, the other measurement conditions are the same as the embodiment 11.

[Table 28]

Recording waveform	Jitter		
	Inner circumference	Middle circumference	Outer circumference
16-1	13.5%	11.6%	11.4%
16-2	9.0%	7.8%	9.3%
16-1	9.0%	6.7%	8.0%

From Table 28, in the recording waveform 16-1, the jitter becomes worse because heat stays indoors, but if a mark's rear end correction pulse train is added like the recording waveform 16-2, no heat stays indoors and therefore the jitter value after 100 overwrite operations has been improved over the entire circumference of the disk.

On the other hand, as in the present invention, in the recording waveform 16-3 where the start time of the mark's rear end correction pulse train start time is varied according to the radial position of the mark, thermal control has been finely performed at the middle and outer circumferential portions, so the jitter has further been improved.

As described above, the recording, where jitters are satisfactory after 100 overwrite operations, becomes possible by varying the start time of the mark's rear end pulse train in accordance with the radial position of the disk.

In this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the power of the mark's rear end correction pulse train is varied in two stages, it is a matter of course that similar results are also obtainable for the case where the aforementioned power is varied in three or more stages. Also, similar results are obtainable for the case of a mark's rear end correction pulse train having a period where after a recording pulse train, laser light is continuously varied to a power smaller than a bias power.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the cooling power is a light reproducing power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the cooling power is between 0 and a power smaller than a bias power.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the second power of a recording pulse train is a bias power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the second power is greater than 0 and less than a

recording power.

Also, in this embodiment, while the case of the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 has been shown as a recording pulse train, similar results were also obtained for the cases of the recording pulse trains B, C, and D of Fig. 4.

(Embodiment 17)

Next, a description will be made of the case where an optical disk is rotated at a constant angular velocity and where the pulse configuration of a mark's rear end correction pulse train is varied according to the radial position of a disk.

In this embodiment the same recording pulse train as the embodiment 11 (the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4) was employed.

Also, measurement conditions is the same as the embodiment 16.

Various recording waveforms used in this embodiment will be described with Fig. 10. In the figure there are shown typical recording patterns used when a mark with a length of 6T is recorded. Also, in the recording waveform 17-2 there are shown recording waveforms used at the inner, middle, and outer circumferences of the disk.

The recording waveform 17-1 is constant in the configuration of a mark's rear end correction pulse train regardless of the radial position of the disk, and the recording waveform is the same as the recording waveform 11-3 of the embodiment 11.

The recording waveform 17-2 is a recording waveform where,

immediately after a recoding pulse train, the power of the mark's rear end correction pulse train is varied so as to become smaller as the radial position of the disk gets closer to the inner circumferential side. Specifically, when the radius is between 23 and 34 mm, the power after the recording pulse train is set to a power higher than a light reproducing power by 1 mW, when the radius is between 35 and 46 mm, the power is set to between a bias power and a light reproducing power, and when the radius is between 47 and 57 mm, the power is set to a power lower than a bias power by 1 mW. With the power, laser light is irradiated for a period of 0.25T. Immediately after the irradiation, the power is reduced down to the light reproducing power and then there is added a mark's rear end correction pulse where laser light is irradiated for a period of 0.25T. Thereafter, laser light irradiation is performed with a bias power.

The respective recording waveforms are shown in Table 29 and also the jitter values after 100 overwrite operations are shown in Table 29.

[Table 29]

Recording waveform	Jitter		
	Inner circumference	Middle circumference	Outer circumference
17-1	9.0%	7.8%	9.3%
17-2	8.1%	7.8%	7.9%

From Table 29, the symmetry between the front end portion and the rear end portion of the mark is better at the inner and outer circumferential portions for the recording waveform 17-2 of the present invention where, immediately after a

recoding pulse train, the power of the mark's rear end correction pulse train is varied so as to become smaller as the radial position of the disk gets closer to the inner circumferential side. Therefore, the jitter has been improved in comparison with the recording waveform 17-1.

As described above, the recording, where jitters are satisfactory after 100 overwrite operations, becomes possible by varying the pulse configuration of the mark's rear end pulse train in accordance with the radial position of the disk.

In this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the power of the mark's rear end correction pulse train is varied in two stages, it is a matter of course that similar results are also obtainable for the case where the aforementioned power is varied in three or more stages. Also, similar results are obtainable for the case of a mark's rear end correction pulse train having a period where after a recording pulse train, laser light is continuously varied to a power smaller than a bias power.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the cooling power is a light reproducing power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the cooling power is between 0 and a power smaller than a bias power.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the second power of a recording pulse train is a bias power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the second power is greater than 0 and less than a recording power.

Also, in this embodiment, while the case of the recording pulse train A of Fig. 4 has been shown as a recording pulse train, similar results were also obtained for the cases of the recording pulse trains B, C, and D of Fig. 4.

(Embodiment 18)

Among the cases of the present invention, the operation in the case where the time between the end edge pulse of a recording pulse train and the start of laser light irradiation which is performed with a cooling power is constant will first be described with a block diagram of a disk recording unit of Fig. 11 and the signal waveform diagram of each part of Fig. 12.

In this embodiment, data 1 is PWM data (Fig. 12a) having a high period and a low period which are two or more cycles of a clock in the length of clock unit. The high period of the data is recorded on a disk in correspondence with a mark, and the low period is recorded in correspondence with space.

Also, each width of a start edge pulse 3 and an end edge pulse 7 is assumed to be one cycle of the clock, and the width of a single burst pulse 27 is assumed to be a half cycle of the clock.

The width of a cooling pulse is taken to be a half cycle of the clock, and the time between the end edge pulse of a recording pulse train and the start of laser light irradiation which is performed with a cooling power is also taken to be a half cycle of the clock.

Furthermore, a mark/space length detection circuit 8 detects the space length at which the thermal interference

between marks arises with high-density recording and also detects the mark/space length at which peak shift arises due to the frequency characteristic of a reproduction system.

In this embodiment it is assumed that the shortest 2T mark and 2T space, which exist in a data string to be recorded, are detected.

First, in a start edge pulse generation circuit 2, the start edge pulse 3 with a width of one cycle of the clock is generated at the start edge portion of the high period of the data 1 (Fig. 12b).

In a burst gate generation circuit 4, a burst gate signal 5 with a length of the mark length reduced by three clocks is generated at the intermediate position of the mark. Note that when the mark length is 3 clocks or less, no burst gate signal is generated (Fig. 12c).

In an end edge pulse generation circuit 6, the end edge pulse 7 with a width of one cycle of the clock is generated at the end edge portion of the high period of the data 1 (Fig. 12e).

In a mark/space length detection circuit 8 detects data having a two-clock width, that is, a 2T mark and a 2T space. When a 2T mark appears, a 2T-mark signal 9 with a two-clock width is generated so as to include the start edge pulse and the end edge pulse of the 2T mark (Fig. 12f). When a 2T space appears, a 2T-space signal 10 with a four-clock width is generated so as to include the end edge pulse and the start edge pulse of both edges of the 2T space (Fig. 12g).

In an encoder 11, the attributes of the start edge pulse

3 and the end edge pulse 7 are determined by the 2T-mark signal 9 and the 2T-space signal 10, and a select signal 12 is output. That is, data with both a 3T mark or more and a 3T space or more is referred to as "normal." Data with both a 3T mark or more and a 2T space is referred to as 2Ts. Data with both a 2T mark and a 3T space or more is referred to as 2Tm. Data with both a 2T mark and a 2T space is referred to as 2Ts - 2Tm. Thus, the data is classified into 4 kinds of attributes (Fig. 12h).

Next, in a start edge selector 14, a single start edge set value is selected by the selector signal 12 from a plurality of start edge set values 13, that is, a start edge set value during "normal," a start edge set value during 2Ts, a start edge set value during 2Tm, and a start edge set value during 2Ts - 2Tm, and then a selected start edge set value 15 is output.

In a start edge sample/hold circuit 16, only when the start edge pulse 3 appears, updating is performed, and when the start edge pulse 3 does not appear, a previous value is held and a held start edge set value 39 is output (Fig. 12i).

Then, in a programmable start edge delay line 17, the start edge pulse 3 is output as a start edge delay pulse 18 after the delayed time of a value based on the held start edge set value 39 (Fig. 12j).

Similarly, in an end edge selector 20, a single end edge set value is selected from a plurality of end edge set values 19 by the select signal 12, and a selected end edge set value 21 is output. In an end edge sample/hold circuit 22, only

when the end edge pulse 7 appears, updating is performed, and when the end edge pulse 7 does not appear, a previous value is held and a held end edge set value 45 is output (Fig. 12k).

Then, in a programmable end edge delay line 23, the end edge pulse 7 is output as a delayed end edge pulse 24 after the delayed time of a value based on the held end edge set value 45 (Fig. 12l).

Now, a description will be made of the output of a delayed cooling pulse signal.

In a cooling pulse generation circuit 36, a cooling pulse is generated at the rise timing of the delayed end edge pulse by the amount of the half cycle of the clock (Fig. 12n).

In a cooling pulse delay line 37, a cooling pulse 41 which is output from the cooling pulse generation circuit 36 is delayed by a constant quantity, and a cooling pulse signal 42 is output (Fig. 12o).

The cooling pulse 42 is passed through an inverter 38 and is output as a delayed cooling pulse signal 43 where a high and a low were inverted (Fig. 12p).

Furthermore, in an AND gate 26, a logical product is taken between the aforementioned burst gate signal 5 and the clock 25, and a burst pulse 27 is generated (Fig. 12m).

In an OR gate 28, a logical sum is taken between the delayed start edge pulse 18 and the burst pulse 27, and a recording signal 29 is generated.

A laser diode 35 is biased by a generating light current source 32 so that the diode 35 emits a reproducing light power for a phase change type optical disk.

A bias level current source 31 and a recording level current source 30 are provided in parallel with the reproducing light current source 32, and if the current of the recording level current source 30 is turned on or off by a switch 33 and if the bias level current source 31 is turned on or off by a switch 34, the drive current of the laser diode 35 can be switched between three currents: a recording level current, a bias level current, and a reproducing light level current.

That is, by controlling the aforementioned recording signal 29 with this switch 33 and the delayed cooling pulse signal 43 with the switch 34, laser light can be emitted while switching the laser diode 35 with the recording power, the bias power, and the cooling power. With an optical head having the laser diode 35 incorporated therein, marks and spaces are formed on a phase change type optical disk by a recording method where a cooling pulse is added (Fig. 12q).

Next, the fabrication method of the delayed cooling pulse signal in the case where the timing of the start of the light irradiation at a cooling power is based on a clock will be described with the block diagram of the disk unit of Fig. 13 and the signal waveform diagram of each part of Fig. 14.

In this case, a cooling pulse 48 is output from the cooling pulse generation circuit 46 at the same timing as the rise of the end edge pulse that was output from the end edge pulse generation circuit 6 (14f).

The cooling pulse delay line 37 outputs a cooling pulse delayed by a constant quantity of delay (Fig. 14o).

The other operational principles are the same as the aforementioned.

With a sequence of operations described above, the disk storage unit in this embodiment adds laser light irradiation at a cooling power and respectively changes the positions of the start and end edges of a mark in accordance with the length of the mark to be recorded and the front and rear space lengths of the mark, whereby the mark and the space can be recorded in correspondence with data.

In this embodiment, while (1-7) RLL code signal recording has been assumed and in the mark/space length detection circuit there has been shown 4 patterns consisting of a 2T mark and a 2T space which are the shortest inverted spacings and a mark and a space which are greater than 2T, data can be further classified into a mark and a space which are greater than 3T, whereby the positional precision of the edges of each mark can be enhanced.

Also, while the start edge pulse and the end edge pulse has been taken to be a 1T width and the burst pulse a 0.5T width, it is also possible to select an optimum pulse width in accordance with the relative velocity between a recording film (or a storage medium) and an optical spot.

Also, although the cooling pulse width has been assumed to be 0.5T which is a constant value, total energy can also be further reduced by varying the pulse with in accordance with mark length and mark spacing.

For the evaluation conditions of an optical disk, the wavelength of the laser light is 680 nm and the NA of the

objective lens of the optical head used for the recording and reproduction of the recording unit is 0.55. For a (1-7) RLL signal, clock T is set so that the shortest mark length becomes 0.60 μm. The jitter value σsum/Tw (%) of the zero-cross point of a reproduced signal between 2T and 8T, when recorded, was measured. Here, σsum is the standard deviation of the sum of jitters between 2T and 8T, and Tw is the window width of the detecting system. The linear velocity is 4.0 m/s.

On this disk, for signal recording, the recording power, where the C/N ratio saturates when a single frequency where the length of a mark becomes 0.6 μm is recorded, is taken to be a recording power. The power of the center value of the power margin, where the erasion rate exceeds -20 dB when the 2T mark is overwritten with a single frequency corresponding to 7T, is set and taken to be a bias power.

The cycle characteristic of the disk was judged by the number of cycles where the jitter value σsum/Tw (%) of the zero-cross point of a reproduced signal between 2T and 8T is less than 13%.

With Fig. 15, the recording waveforms used in this embodiment will be described. In the figure there are shown typical recording waveform patterns used when a 7T mark is recorded. For recording waveforms 18-1 through 18-3, the recording pulse train B of Fig. 4 is employed, and for recording waveforms 18-4 through 18-7, the recording pulse train C of Fig. 4 is employed.

The recording waveform 18-1 is a recording pulse train where the width of the start edge pulse is 1.0T and the width

of the end edge pulse is 1.0T and where between the start edge and end edge pulses, laser light is irradiated alternately for a period 0.5T with the second power and for a period 0.5T with the first power. In this case no cooling pulse is added.

The recording waveform 18-2 is the case where immediately after the end edge pulse of the recording pulse train, a cooling pulse having an irradiation time of 0.5T at a cooling power is added to the aforementioned recording waveform 18-1 regardless of the length of a mark to be recorded.

The recording waveform 18-3 is the case where a cooling pulse is added to the aforementioned recording pulse 18-1. The cooling pulse is a pulse where the irradiation time at a cooling power is 0.5T regardless of the length of a mark to be recorded and where the time between the fall of the end edge pulse of the recording pulse train and the start of the laser light irradiation which is performed with a cooling power is constant like 0.5T.

The recording waveform 18-4 is the case where the positions of the start edge pulse and the end edge pulse of the recording pulse train are changed according to the length of the mark recorded with the recording waveform 18-1 and the front and rear spacings of the mark and where no cooling pulse is added.

The recording waveform 18-5 is the case where immediately after the end edge pulse of the recording pulse train, a cooling pulse having an irradiation time of 0.5T at a cooling power is added to the aforementioned recording waveform 18-4 regardless of the length of a mark to be recorded.

The recording waveform 18-6 is the case where a cooling pulse is added to the aforementioned recording pulse 18-4. The cooling pulse is a pulse where the irradiation time at a cooling power is 0.5T regardless of the length of a mark to be recorded and where the time between the fall of the end edge pulse of the recording pulse train and the start of the laser light irradiation which is performed with a cooling power is constant like 1.5T.

The recording waveform 18-7 is the case where a cooling pulse is added to the aforementioned recording pulse 18-4. The cooling pulse is a pulse where the irradiation time at a cooling power is 0.5T regardless of the length of a mark to be recorded and where the irradiation start at a cooling power is delayed than the rise of the end edge pulse of a sub-pulse (a pulse between the start edge pulse and the end edge pulse) by a constant quantity such as 2.5T. That is, in this case the start time of the cooling pulse irradiation is based on a clock.

The respective recording waveforms, the jitter values after 100 overwrite operations, and the number of cycles where a jitter value is less than 13% are shown in Table 30.

[Table 30]

Recording waveform	Jitter after 100 cycles	Number of cycles satisfying jitter < 13%
18-1	10.3%	300,000
18-2	9.0%	800,000
18-3	7.5%	800,000
18-4	7.3%	500,000
18-5	6.9%	1,000,000
18-6	6.3%	1,100,000
18-7	6.4%	1,100,000

From Table 30, as in the present invention, in the recording waveform 18-2 where the cooling pulse is added, thermal damage has been improved in comparison with the recording waveform 18-1 where no cooling pulse is added, so the number of cycles satisfying jitter < 13% has been satisfactory.

Also, as in the recording waveform 18-3, by performing laser light irradiation by a 0.5T bias power after the recording pulse train, the symmetry between the front edge portion and the rear edge portion of the mark is controlled more satisfactorily, so the jitter has become smaller in comparison with the recording waveform 18-2.

In addition, even in the case where the positions of the start edge pulse and the end edge pulse of the recording pulse train are changed according to the length of a mark to be recorded and the front and rear spacings of the mark, thermal damage has been improved for the recording waveform 18-5 where the cooling pulse is added as in the present invention, in comparison with the recording waveform 18-4 where no cooling pulse is added. Therefore, the number of cycles satisfying

jitter < 13% has been satisfactory.

Furthermore, in the case where the positions of the start edge pulse and the end edge pulse of the recording pulse train are changed according to the length of a mark to be recorded and the front and rear spacings of the mark, the configuration of the mark can be more controlled than the case where the positions are not changed, so the jitter has become smaller.

Moreover, as in the recording waveforms 18-6 and 18-7 of the present invention, irradiation at a bias power is performed between the end edge pulse of the recording pulse train and the laser light irradiation which is performed with a bias power, whereby both the jitter value after 100 cycles and the number of cycles satisfying jitter < 13% are improved, and satisfactory values are obtainable in comparison with the recording waveform 18-5 where immediately after the recording pulse train, laser light irradiation is performed with a cooling power.

As described above, the laser light irradiation at a bias power is put between the end edge portion of the recording pulse train where laser light irradiation is performed with a cooling power and the laser light irradiation which is performed with a cooling power, whereby the jitter value after 100 cycles is improved and satisfactory recording become possible even when a multi-cycle is performed.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the cooling power is a light reproducing power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the cooling power is between 0 and a power smaller than a bias

power.

Also, in this embodiment, while there has been shown the case where the second power of a recording pulse train is a bias power, similar results were also obtained for the case where the second power is greater than 0 and less than a recording power.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

According to the recording method of the present invention, a fluctuation in the length of a mark due to the thermal interference between marks is suppressed and the symmetry between the front end portion and the rear end portion of the mark becomes better. Therefore, the mark can be formed into a desired shape, the high-density requirement for optical disks can be met, and an enhancement in the quality of a reproduced signal can be realized even in the case where a method of rotating a disk is constant in angular velocity. Also, signal degradation due to thermal damage in the case of a multi-cycle can be alleviated and satisfactory cycle characteristics can be realized.



CLAIMS

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1. In an optical information recording method which switches and irradiates laser light having a plurality of powers onto an optical storage medium having a thin storage film which changes reversibly between optically recognizable states, and which overwrites a digital signal having modulated pulse widths by employing a light beam, the optical information recording method wherein, in the case where a record mark is formed by irradiating laser light by a recording waveform which has a recording pulse train, comprising a plurality of pulses where said laser light is modulated between a first power previously set to a power greater than a recording power for recording said thin storage film and a second power previously set to a power lower than said first power, and which also has, after said recording pulse train, a cooling pulse which irradiates laser light by a cooling power lower than a bias power where the laser light power is less than said recording power,

said recording waveform has a period where the power of the laser light varies by stages or continuously between the fall edge of an end edge pulse of said recording pulse train and said cooling power.

2. In an optical information recording method which switches and irradiates laser light having a plurality of powers onto an optical storage medium having a thin storage film which changes reversibly between optically recognizable states, and which overwrites a digital signal having modulated

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pulse widths by employing a light beam, the optical information recording method wherein, in the case where a record mark is formed by irradiating laser light by a recording waveform which has a recording pulse train, comprising a plurality of pulses where said laser light is modulated between a first power previously set to a power greater than a recording power for recording said thin storage film and a second power previously set to a power lower than said first power, and which also has, after said recording pulse train, a cooling pulse which irradiates laser light by a cooling power lower than a bias power where the laser light power is less than said recording power,

laser light irradiation at said bias power is performed between said recording pulse train and said cooling pulse.

3. In an optical information recording method which switches and irradiates laser light having a plurality of powers onto an optical storage medium having a thin storage film which changes reversibly between optically recognizable states, and which overwrites a digital signal having modulated pulse widths by employing a light beam, the optical information recording method wherein, in the case where a record mark is formed by irradiating laser light by a recording waveform which has a recording pulse train, comprising a plurality of pulses where said laser light is modulated between a first power previously set to a power greater than a recording power for recording said thin storage film and a second power previously set to a power lower than said first power, and which also has, after said recording

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pulse train, a cooling pulse which irradiates laser light by a cooling power lower than a bias power where the laser light power is less than said recording power,

either laser light irradiation start time at said cooling power with respect to an end point of said recording pulse train or laser light irradiation time at said cooling power is varied according to the length of said record mark.

4. The optical information recording method as set forth in claim 3, wherein said laser light irradiation time at said cooling power is made longer when a short record mark is recorded than when a long record mark is recorded.

5. The optical information recording method as set forth in claim 3, wherein said laser light irradiation start time at said cooling power is quickened when a short record mark is recorded than when a long record mark is recorded.

6. In an optical information recording method which switches and irradiates laser light having a plurality of powers onto an optical storage medium having a thin storage film which changes reversibly between optically recognizable states, and which overwrites a digital signal having modulated pulse widths by employing a light beam, the optical information recording method wherein, in the case where a record mark is formed by irradiating laser light by a recording waveform which has a recording pulse train, comprising a plurality of pulses where said laser light is modulated between a first power previously set to a power greater than a recording power for recording said thin storage film and a second power previously set to a power lower than

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said first power, and which also has, after said recording pulse train, a cooling pulse which irradiates laser light by a cooling power lower than a bias power where the laser light power is less than said recording power,

either laser light irradiation start time at said cooling power with respect to an end point of said recording pulse train or laser light irradiation time at said cooling power is varied only when the length of said record mark is less than a predetermined length.

7. In an optical information recording method which switches and irradiates laser light having a plurality of powers onto an optical storage medium having a thin storage film which changes reversibly between optically recognizable states, and which overwrites a digital signal having modulated pulse widths by employing a light beam, the optical information recording method wherein, in the case where a record mark is formed by irradiating laser light by a recording waveform which has a recording pulse train, comprising a plurality of pulses where said laser light is modulated between a first power previously set to a power greater than a recording power for recording said thin storage film and a second power previously set to a power lower than said first power, and which also has, after said recording pulse train, a cooling pulse which irradiates laser light by a cooling power lower than a bias power where the laser light power is less than said recording power,

a laser light irradiation period at said bias power is provided between said recording pulse train and the laser

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light irradiation which is performed at said cooling pulse;

laser light irradiation start time at said cooling power with respect to an end point of said recording pulse train and laser light irradiation time at said cooling power are set to predetermined times, respectively; and

only when the length of said record mark is less than a predetermined length, laser light irradiation is performed at said cooling power.

8. The optical information recording method as set forth in claim 7, wherein, only when the length of said record mark is shortest, laser light irradiation at said cooling power is performed.

9. In an optical information recording method which switches and irradiates laser light having a plurality of powers onto an optical storage medium having a thin storage film which changes reversibly between optically recognizable states, and which overwrites a digital signal having modulated pulse widths by employing a light beam, the optical information recording method wherein, in the case where a record mark is formed by irradiating laser light by a recording waveform which has a recording pulse train, comprising a plurality of pulses where said laser light is modulated between a first power previously set to a power greater than a recording power for recording said thin storage film and a second power previously set to a power lower than said first power, and which also has, after said recording pulse train, a cooling pulse which irradiates laser light by a cooling power lower than a bias power where the laser light

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power is less than said recording power,

said optical storage medium is rotated and driven at a constant angular velocity; and

in a region of said optical storage medium inside at least a predetermined radius, when the length of said record mark is shorter than a predetermined length, it is selected either whether laser light irradiation start time at said cooling power level with respect to an end point of said recording pulse train is quickened or whether laser light irradiation time at said cooling power level is lengthened.

10. In an optical information recording method which switches and irradiates laser light having a plurality of powers onto an optical storage medium having a thin storage film which changes reversibly between optically recognizable states, and which overwrites a digital signal having modulated pulse widths by employing a light beam, the optical information recording method wherein, in the case where a record mark is formed by irradiating laser light by a recording waveform which has a recording pulse train, comprising a plurality of pulses where said laser light is modulated between a first power previously set to a power greater than a recording power for recording said thin storage film and a second power previously set to a power lower than said first power, and which also has, after said recording pulse train, a cooling pulse which irradiates laser light by a cooling power lower than a bias power where the laser light power is less than said recording power,

said optical storage medium is rotated and driven at a

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constant angular velocity;

only when the length of said record mark is less than a predetermined length, laser light irradiation start time at said cooling power with respect to an end point of the laser light irradiation at said recording power and laser light irradiation time at said cooling power are set to predetermined times, respectively; and

in a region of said optical storage medium inside at least a predetermined radius, only when the length of said record mark is shorter than a predetermined length, laser light irradiation is performed at said cooling power.

11. The optical information recording method as set forth in claim 10, wherein, only when the length of said record mark is shortest, laser light irradiation at said cooling power is performed.

12. In an optical information recording method which switches and irradiates laser light having a plurality of powers onto an optical storage medium having a thin storage film which changes reversibly between optically recognizable states, and which overwrites a digital signal having modulated pulse widths by employing a light beam, the optical information recording method wherein:

a record mark is formed by irradiating laser light by a recording waveform which has a recording pulse train comprising a plurality of pulses where said laser light is modulated between a first power previously set to a power greater than a recording power for recording said thin storage film and a second power previously set to a power lower than

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said first power;

immediately after said recording pulse train, there is added a cooling pulse comprising a pulse train constituted by laser light which has at least two different powers where the laser light power is less than said first power; and

at least one of the pulse train of said cooling pulse is a power smaller than a bias power.

13. In an optical information recording method which switches and irradiates laser light having a plurality of powers onto an optical storage medium having a thin storage film which changes reversibly between optically recognizable states, and which overwrites a digital signal having modulated pulse widths by employing a light beam, the optical information recording method wherein:

a record mark is formed by irradiating laser light by a recording waveform which has a recording pulse train comprising a plurality of pulses where said laser light is modulated between a first power previously set to a power greater than a recording power for recording said thin storage film and a second power previously set to a power lower than said first power; and

there is added a cooling pulse having a structure which has a period where the laser light is varied immediately after said recording pulse train and where the laser light is continuously varied to a power less than either said second power or a bias power.

14. The optical information recording method as set forth in claim 12, wherein

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said cooling pulse is constituted by previously set third and fourth powers of the laser light;

said third power is a power greater than said fourth power and smaller than either said second power or said bias power;

immediately after said recording pulse train, laser light irradiation at said third power is performed; and

immediately after said laser light irradiation at said third power, laser light irradiation at said fourth power is performed.

15. The optical information recording method as set forth in claim 12, wherein

said cooling pulse is constituted by previously set fifth and sixth powers of the laser light;

said fifth power is a power greater than said bias power and said sixth power is a power smaller than said bias power;

immediately after said recording pulse train, laser light irradiation at said fifth power is performed; and

immediately after said laser light irradiation at said fifth power, laser light irradiation at said sixth power is performed.

16. The optical information recording method as set forth in claim 12, wherein

said cooling pulse is constituted by previously set seventh, eighth, and ninth powers of the laser light;

said seventh power and said ninth power are both smaller than said eighth power and are powers smaller than either said second power or said bias power;

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immediately after said recording pulse train, laser light irradiation at said seventh power is performed;

immediately after said laser light irradiation at said seventh power, laser light irradiation at said eighth power is performed; and

immediately after said laser light irradiation at said eighth power, laser light irradiation at said ninth power is performed.

17. The optical information recording method as set forth in claim 13, wherein said cooling power has both a period where the laser light is varied immediately after said recording pulse train and continuously to a power smaller than either said second power or said bias power and a period where from said power smaller than either said second power or said bias power, the laser light power is varied continuously to either said second power or said bias power.

18. The optical information recording method as set forth in any of claims 12 through 17, wherein between said recording pulse train and said cooling pulse, laser light irradiation is performed by either said second power or said bias power.

19. The optical information recording method as set forth in any of claims 12 through 17, wherein either cooling-power start time or the pulse configuration of said cooling pulse is varied according to the length of the record mark.

20. The optical information recording method as set forth in any of claims 12 through 17, wherein, when said optical storage medium is rotated at a constant angular

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velocity, either cooling-power start time or the pulse configuration of said cooling pulse is varied according to a radial position of said optical storage medium.

21. The optical information recording method as set forth in any of claims 1 through 20, wherein

said record mark is formed by irradiating laser light by the recording pulse train constituted by a plurality of pulses modulated between the previously set first and second powers; and

said recording pulse train irradiates said first power, which is constant, at the start edge of said recording pulse train and alternately switches and irradiates the laser light having said first and second powers at a portion other than the start edge of said recording pulse train with a cycle less than one cycle of a data clock.

22. The optical information recording method as set forth in any of claims 1 through 20, wherein

said record mark is formed by irradiating laser light by the recording pulse train constituted by a plurality of pulses where the laser light is modulated between the previously set first and second powers; and

said recording pulse train alternately switches and irradiates the laser light having said first and second powers with a cycle less than one cycle of a data clock.

23. An optical information recording method wherein:

a record mark is formed by irradiating laser light by a recording pulse train constituted by a plurality of pulses where laser light is modulated between previously set first

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and second powers;

said recording pulse train irradiates said first power, which is constant, at the start edge and the end edge of said recording pulse train when said first power of said laser light is greater than said second power, and between the start edge and the end edge of said recording pulse train, said recording pulse train alternately switches and irradiates said first power and said second power with a cycle less than one cycle of a data clock; and

immediately after said recording pulse, laser light irradiation is performed with a cooling power which is a power lower than a bias power where the laser light power is less than said recording power.

24. The optical information recording method as set forth in claims 23, wherein said recording pulse train is a recording pulse train which changes positions of the start edge and the end edge of said recording pulse train in accordance with the length of the record mark and the spacing between the record marks.

25. The optical information recording method as set forth in any of claims 1 through 20, wherein

said record mark is formed by irradiating laser light by the recording pulse train constituted by a plurality of pulses modulated between the previously set first and second powers; and

said recording pulse train irradiates said first power, which is constant, at the start edge and the end edge of said recording pulse train, and between the start edge and the end

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edge of said recording pulse train, said recording pulse train alternately switches and irradiates said first power and said second power with a cycle less than one cycle of a data clock.

26. The optical information recording method as set forth in any of claims 1 through 20, wherein

said record mark is formed by irradiating laser light by the recording pulse train constituted by a plurality of pulses modulated between the previously set first and second powers;

said recording pulse train irradiates said first power, which is constant, at the start edge and the end edge of said recording pulse train, and between the start edge and the end edge of said recording pulse train, said recording pulse train alternately switches and irradiates said first power and said second power with a cycle less than one cycle of a data clock; and

said recording pulse train changes positions of the start edge and the end edge of said recording pulse train in accordance with the length of the record mark and the spacing between the record marks.

27. The optical information recording method as set forth in claim 26, wherein

between said recording pulse train and the laser light irradiation which is performed at said cooling power, laser light irradiation at said bias power is performed; and

the time between the start of the laser light irradiation at the end edge pulse of said recording pulse train and the start of the laser light irradiation at said cooling power is constant.

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28. The optical information recording method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the timing of the start of the laser light irradiation at said cooling power is based on the clock.

29. An optical information storage unit which is a disk storage unit which records a high period of data onto a disk in correspondence with a mark and records a low period of the data in correspondence with a space between marks, the optical information storage unit comprising:

a start edge pulse generation circuit which generates a start edge pulse having a constant width at a start edge position of the high period of the data;

a burst gate generation circuit which generates a burst gate signal at a middle position of the mark when the high period of the data is long and which generates no burst gate signal when the high period of the data is short;

an end edge pulse generation circuit which generates an end edge pulse having a constant width at an end edge position of the high period of the data;

a mark/space length detection circuit which generates an nT mark signal including said start edge pulse and said end edge pulse when the high period of the data has n clocks and which generates an mT mark signal including said end edge pulse and said start edge pulse of both edges of the space when the low period of the data has m clocks (where n and m are natural numbers existing in a data string);

an encoder which generates a select signal, which is for controlling a start edge selector to be described later and an

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end edge selector to be described later, from said nT mark signal and said mT mark signal;

a cooling-pulse generation circuit which generates a cooling pulse having a constant width from a delayed end edge pulse which is from a programmable end edge delay line to be described later;

the start edge selector which selects and outputs one from a plurality of start edge values by said selector signal;

a start edge sample/hold circuit which updates a start edge set value output of said start edge selector only when said start edge pulse appears and which holds a previous value when no start edge pulse appears;

a programmable start edge delay line which varies a quantity of delay by the start edge set value of the output of said start edge sample/hold circuit and which outputs a delayed start edge pulse where said start edge pulse is delayed;

the end edge selector which selects and outputs one from a plurality of end edge values by said selector signal;

an end edge sample/hold circuit which updates an end edge set value output of said end edge selector only when said end edge pulse appears and which holds a previous value when no end edge pulse appears;

the programmable end edge delay line which varies a quantity of delay by the end edge set value of the output of said end edge sample/hold circuit and then delays said end edge pulse and which outputs a delayed end edge pulse where said end edge pulse is delayed;

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a cooling-pulse delay line which varies a quantity of delay of said cooling pulse and outputs a delayed cooling pulse;

an AND gate which performs a logical product between said burst pulse and the clock and outputs a burst pulse;

an OR gate which performs a logical sum between said delayed start edge pulse, said burst pulse, and said delayed end edge pulse and outputs a recording signal;

an inverter which inverts the cooling pulse signal which is from said cooling-pulse delay line;

a bias current source which supplies a bias current of a laser diode to be described later;

a recording-current source which supplies a recoding current of the laser diode in parallel with said bias current source;

a light-reproducing current source which supplies a light reproducing current of the laser diode in parallel with said bias current source;

a switch which turns the current of said recording-current source on and off by said recording current;

a switch which turns the current of said bias current source on and off by said cooling pulse signal; and

the laser diode which records disk signals driven in parallel by said bias current source, said recording-current source, and said light-reproducing current source.

30. An optical information storage unit which is a disk storage unit which records a high period of data onto a disk in correspondence with a mark and records a low period of the

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data in correspondence with a space between marks, the optical information storage unit comprising:

a start edge pulse generation circuit which generates a start edge pulse having a constant width at a start edge position of the high period of the data;

a burst gate generation circuit which generates a burst gate signal at a middle position of the mark when the high period of the data is long and which generates no burst gate signal when the high period of the data is short;

an end edge pulse generation circuit which generates an end edge pulse having a constant width at an end edge position of the high period of the data;

a mark/space length detection circuit which generates an nT mark signal including said start edge pulse and said end edge pulse when the high period of the data has n clocks and which generates an mT mark signal including said end edge pulse and said start edge pulse of both edges of the space when the low period of the data has m clocks (where n and m are natural numbers existing in a data string);

an encoder which generates a select signal, which is for controlling a start edge selector to be described later and an end edge selector to be described later, from said nT mark signal and said mT mark signal;

a cooling-pulse generation circuit which generates a cooling pulse having a constant width from an end edge pulse which was output from said end edge pulse generation circuit;

the start edge selector which selects and outputs one from a plurality of start edge values by said selector signal;

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a start edge sample/hold circuit which updates a start edge set value output of said start edge selector only when said start edge pulse appears and which holds a previous value when no start edge pulse appears;

a programmable start edge delay line which varies a quantity of delay by the start edge set value of the output of said start edge sample/hold circuit and which outputs a delayed start edge pulse where said start edge pulse is delayed;

the end edge selector which selects and outputs one from a plurality of end edge values by said selector signal;

an end edge sample/hold circuit which updates an end edge set value output of said end edge selector only when said end edge pulse appears and which holds a previous value when no end edge pulse appears;

the programmable end edge delay line which varies a quantity of delay by the end edge set value of the output of said end edge sample/hold circuit and then delays said end edge pulse and which outputs a delayed end edge pulse where said end edge pulse is delayed;

a cooling-pulse delay line which varies a quantity of delay of the cooling pulse, which is output from said cooling-pulse circuit, and outputs a delayed cooling pulse;

an AND gate which performs a logical product between the burst pulse from said burst gate generation circuit and the clock and outputs a burst pulse;

an OR gate which performs a logical sum between said delayed start edge pulse, said burst pulse, and said delayed

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end edge pulse and outputs a recording signal;

an inverter which inverts the delayed cooling-pulse signal which is from said cooling-pulse delay line;

a bias current source which supplies a bias current of a laser diode to be described later;

a recording-current source which supplies a recoding current of the laser diode in parallel with said bias current source;

a light-reproducing current source which supplies a light reproducing current of the laser diode in parallel with said bias current source;

a switch which turns the current of said recording-current source on and off by said recording current;

a switch which turns the current of said bias current source on and off by said cooling pulse signal; and

the laser diode which records disk signals driven in parallel by said bias current source, said recording-current source, and said light-reproducing current source.

31. In an optical information recording method which switches and irradiates laser light having a plurality of powers onto an optical storage medium having a thin storage film which changes reversibly between optically recognizable states, and which overwrites a digital signal having modulated pulse widths by employing a light beam, the optical information recording method wherein:

a record mark is formed by irradiating laser light by a recording waveform which comprises pulses where said laser light is modulated between at least three powers: a recording

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power which records said thin storage film, a bias power lower than said recording power, and a cooling power lower than said bias power;

the laser light is irradiated between said record marks by said bias power; and

a laser light irradiation period at said bias power is provided between the laser light irradiation at said recording power and the laser light irradiation at said cooling power.

32. In an optical information recording method which switches and irradiates laser light having a plurality of powers onto an optical storage medium having a thin storage film which changes reversibly between optically recognizable states, and which overwrites a digital signal having modulated pulse widths by employing a light beam, the optical information recording method wherein:

a record mark is formed by irradiating laser light by a recording waveform which comprises pulses where said laser light is modulated between at least three powers: a recording power which records said thin storage film, a bias power lower than said recording power, and a cooling power lower than said bias power;

the laser light is irradiated between said record marks by said bias power;

a laser light irradiation period at said bias power is provided between the laser light irradiation at said recording power and the laser light irradiation at said cooling power; and

laser light irradiation start time at said cooling power

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with respect to an end point of said recording power is varied according to a radial position of said optical storage medium.

33. The optical information recording method as set forth in claim 32, wherein, the irradiation start time at said cooling power is quickened in a region of said optical storage medium inside at least a predetermined radius than in a region outside said predetermined radius.

34. In an optical information recording method which switches and irradiates laser light having a plurality of powers onto an optical storage medium having a thin storage film which changes reversibly between optically recognizable states, and which overwrites a digital signal having modulated pulse widths by employing a light beam, the optical information recording method wherein, in the case where a record mark is formed by irradiating laser light by a recording waveform which has a recording pulse train, comprising a plurality of pulses where said laser light is modulated between a first power previously set to a power greater than a recording power for recording said thin storage film and a second power previously set to a power lower than said first power, and which also has, after said recording pulse train, a cooling pulse which irradiates laser light by a cooling power lower than a bias power where the laser light power is less than said recording power,

said recording waveform has a period where the power of the laser light varies by stages or continuously between said cooling power and said bias power.

35. In an optical information recording method which

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switches and irradiates laser light having a plurality of powers onto an optical storage medium having a thin storage film which changes reversibly between optically recognizable states, and which overwrites a digital signal having modulated pulse widths by employing a light beam, the optical information recording method wherein, in the case where a record mark is formed by irradiating laser light by a recording waveform which has a recording pulse train, comprising a plurality of pulses where said laser light is modulated between a first power previously set to a power greater than a recording power for recording said thin storage film and a second power previously set to a power lower than said first power, and which also has, after said recording pulse train, a cooling pulse which irradiates laser light by a cooling power lower than a bias power where the laser light power is less than said recording power,

said cooling pulse comprises a pulse train having a plurality of pulses where said bias power and said cooling power are alternately repeated and formed.



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ABSTRACT

Hitherto, when optical information is recorded, there has arisen the problem that the rear end of a mark is rapidly cooled and therefore the mark's rear end becomes large and a reproduced jitter is unsatisfactory and that signal degradation occurs due to thermal damage caused by performing a multi-cycle. Therefore, in mark length modulation recording, laser light irradiation at a bias power is performed between a recording pulse train, which adds a mark's rear end correction pulse train to a recording pulse train, and the laser light irradiation at a cooling power or the mark's rear end correction pulse train. Furthermore, cooling-power irradiation start time, cooling-power irradiation width, and the configuration of the mark's rear end correction pulse train are varied in accordance with the length of a record mark. Also, in CAV mode, cooling-power irradiation time and cooling-power start time are varied according to the radius of a disk. Furthermore, in the case where the recording pulse train comprises a start edge pulse, an end edge pulse, and pulses between the start edge and end edge pulses, laser light irradiation at the bias power is performed between the recording pulse train, where laser light irradiation at the cooling power is performed, and the cooling power. Moreover, in the case where, in the recording pulse train, the laser light irradiation start time is varied according to the length of the mark and the space between the marks, the timing of the laser light irradiation start time at the cooling power is

performed based on the quantity of delay of the end edge pulse or a clock.

FIG.1

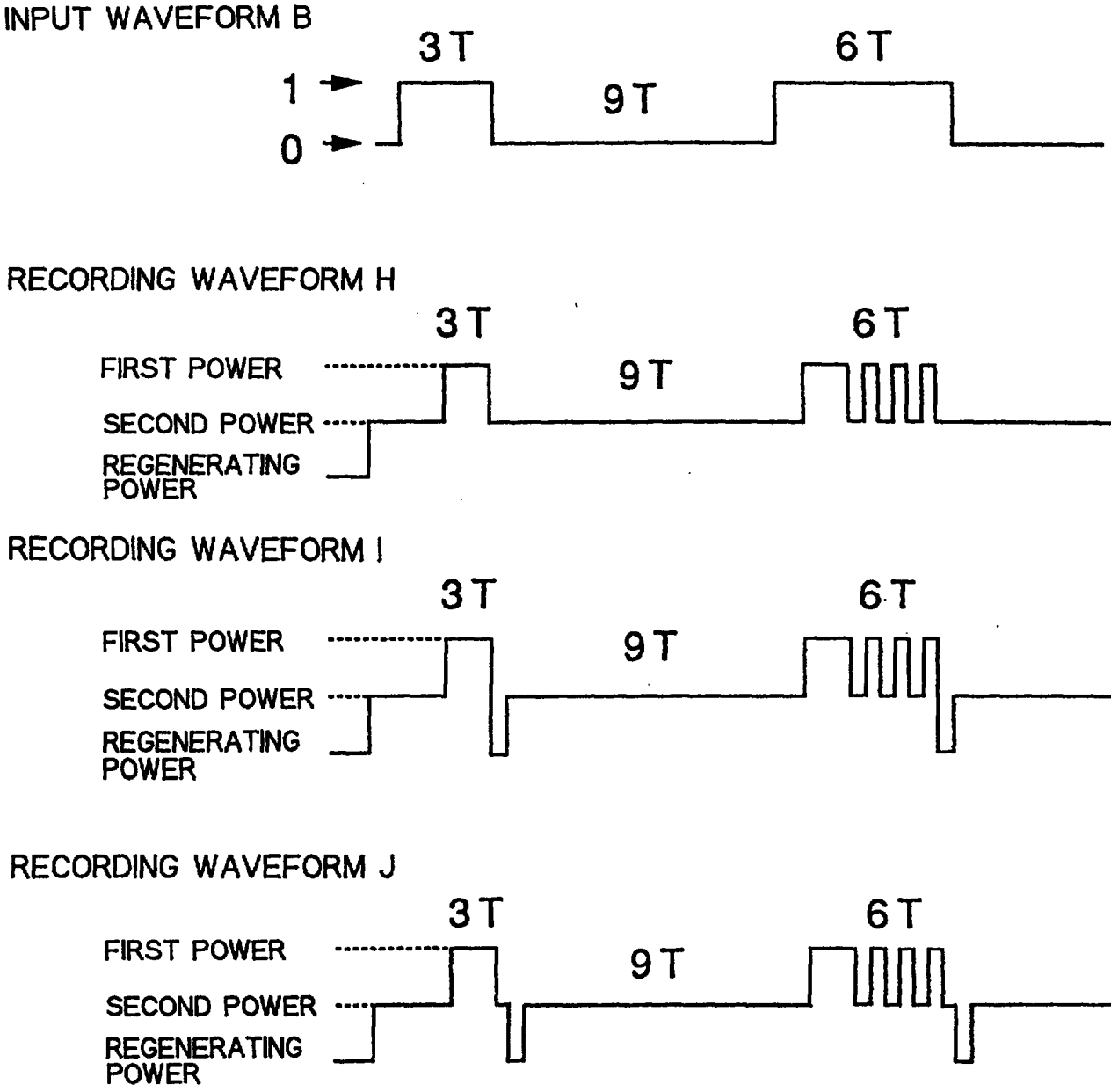

INPUT WAVEFORM B
3T
6T
1
9T
0
RECORDING WAVEFORM H
3T
6T
FIRST POWER
9T
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
RECORDING WAVEFORM I
3T
6T
FIRST POWER
9T
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
RECORDING WAVEFORM J
3T
6T
FIRST POWER
9T
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER

FIG. 2

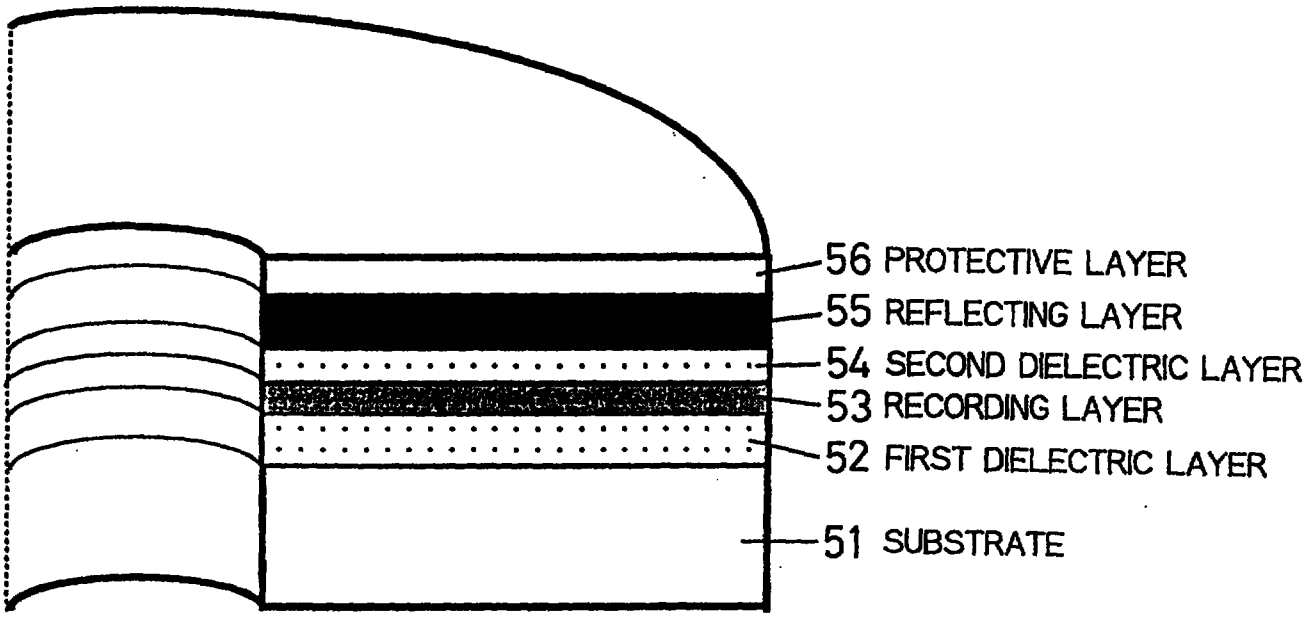

56 PROTECTIVE LAYER
55 REFLECTING LAYER
54 SECOND DIELECTRIC LAYER
53 RECORDING LAYER
52 FIRST DIELECTRIC LAYER
51 SUBSTRATE

FIG.3

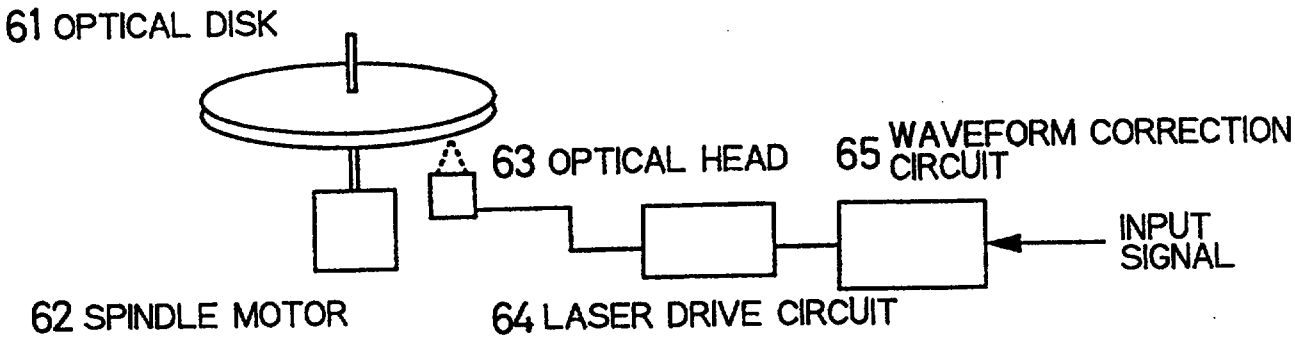

61 OPTICAL DISK
63 OPTICAL HEAD
65 WAVEFORM CORRECTION CIRCUIT
INPUT SIGNAL
62 SPINDLE MOTOR
64 LASER DRIVE CIRCUIT

FIG. 4

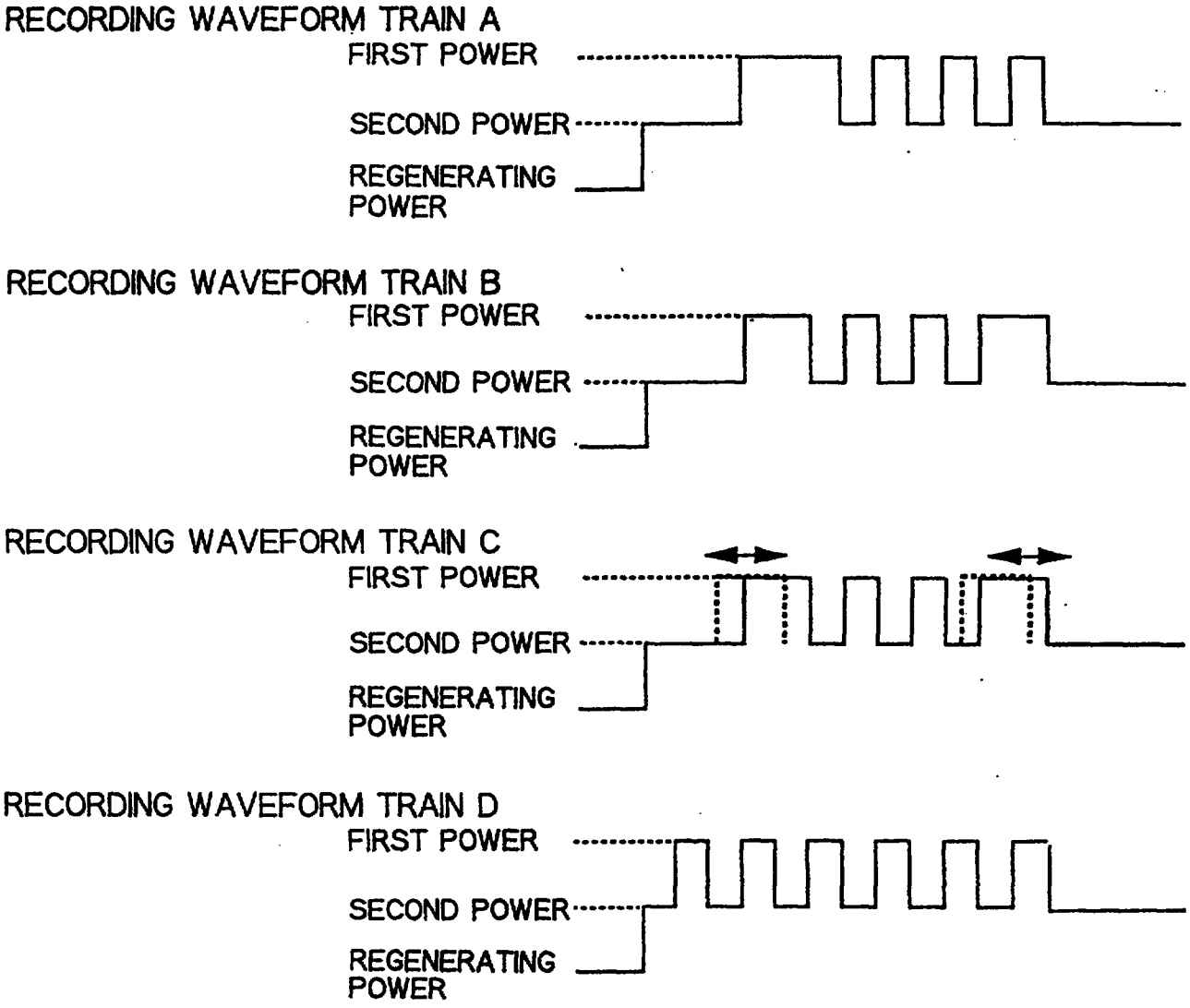
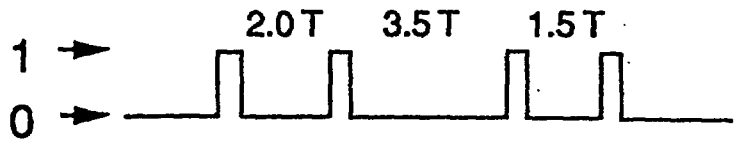
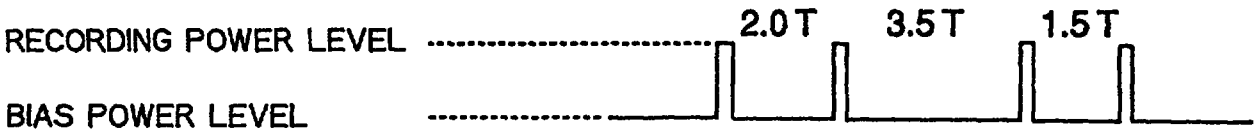

RECORDING WAVEFORM TRAIN A
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
RECORDING WAVEFORM TRAIN B
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
RECORDING WAVEFORM TRAIN C
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
RECORDING WAVEFORM TRAIN D
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER

FIG. 5

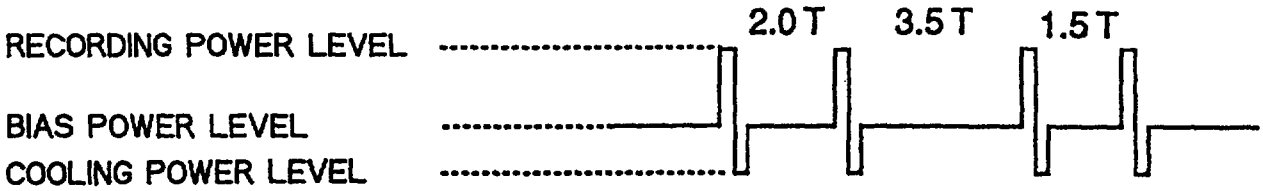
INPUT WAVEFORM A



RECORDING WAVEFORM E



RECORDING WAVEFORM F



RECORDING WAVEFORM G

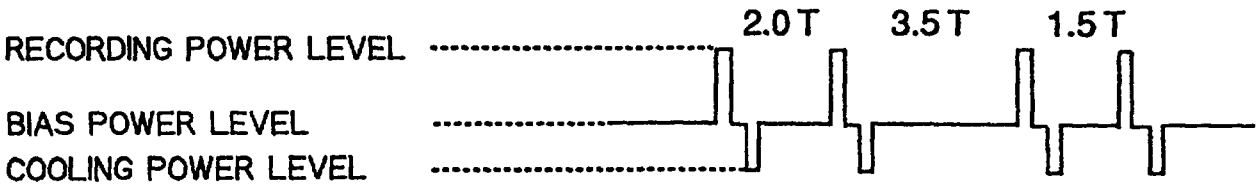
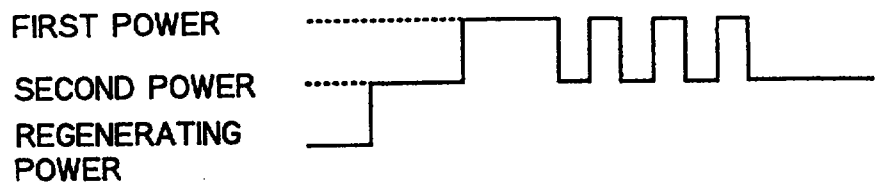
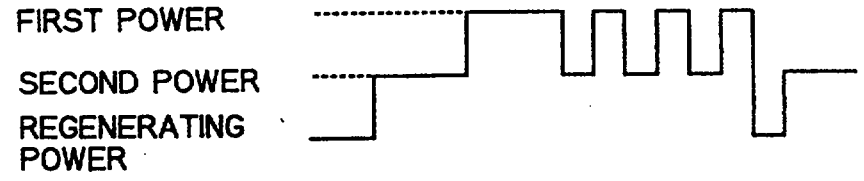


FIG.6

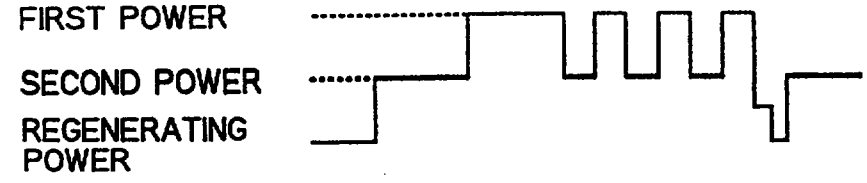
RECORDING WAVEFORM 11-1



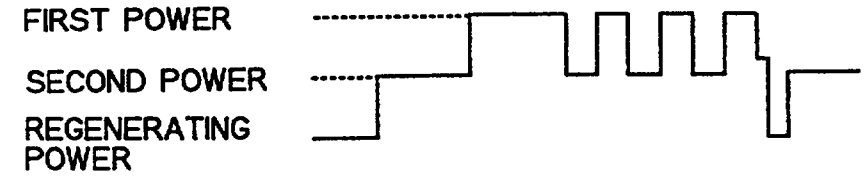
RECORDING WAVEFORM 11-2



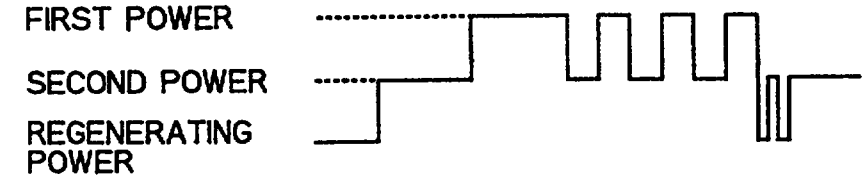
RECORDING WAVEFORM 11-3



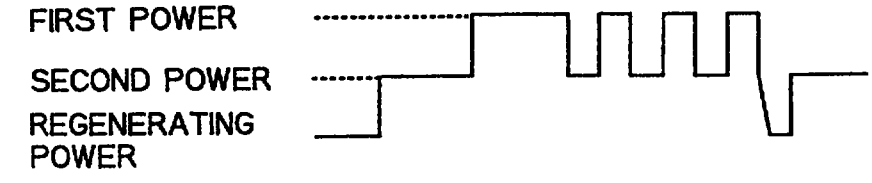
RECORDING WAVEFORM 11-4



RECORDING WAVEFORM 11-5



RECORDING WAVEFORM 11-6



RECORDING WAVEFORM 11-7

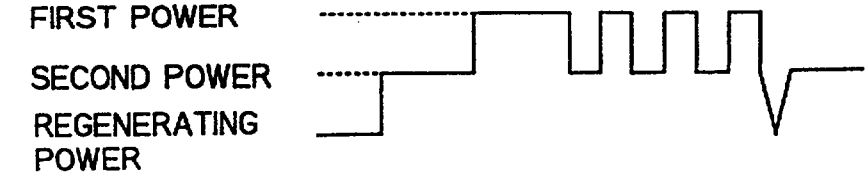


FIG. 7

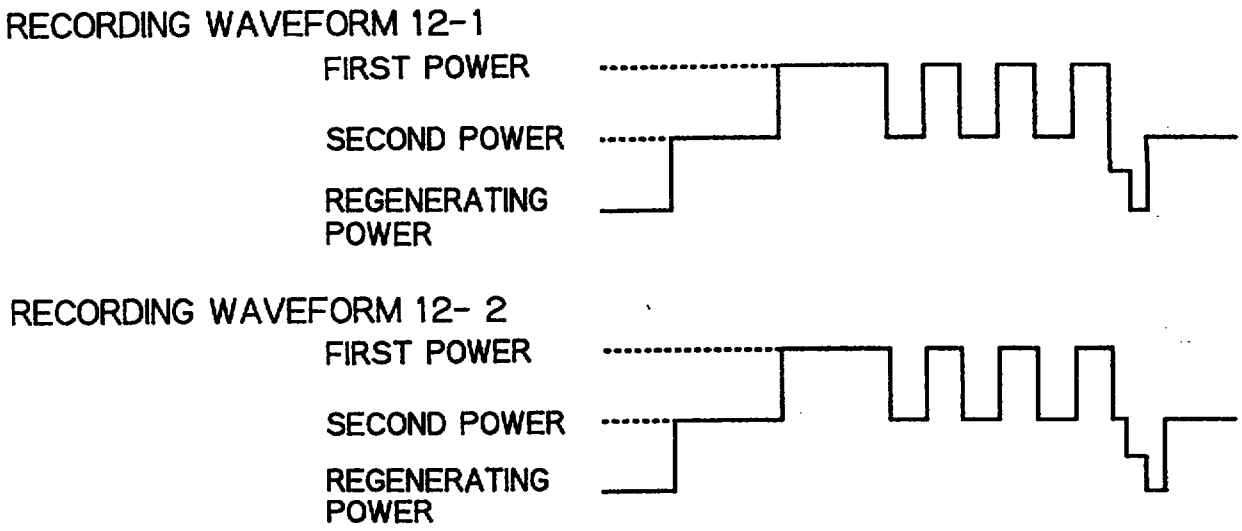

RECORDING WAVEFORM 12-1
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
RECORDING WAVEFORM 12- 2
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER

FIG.8

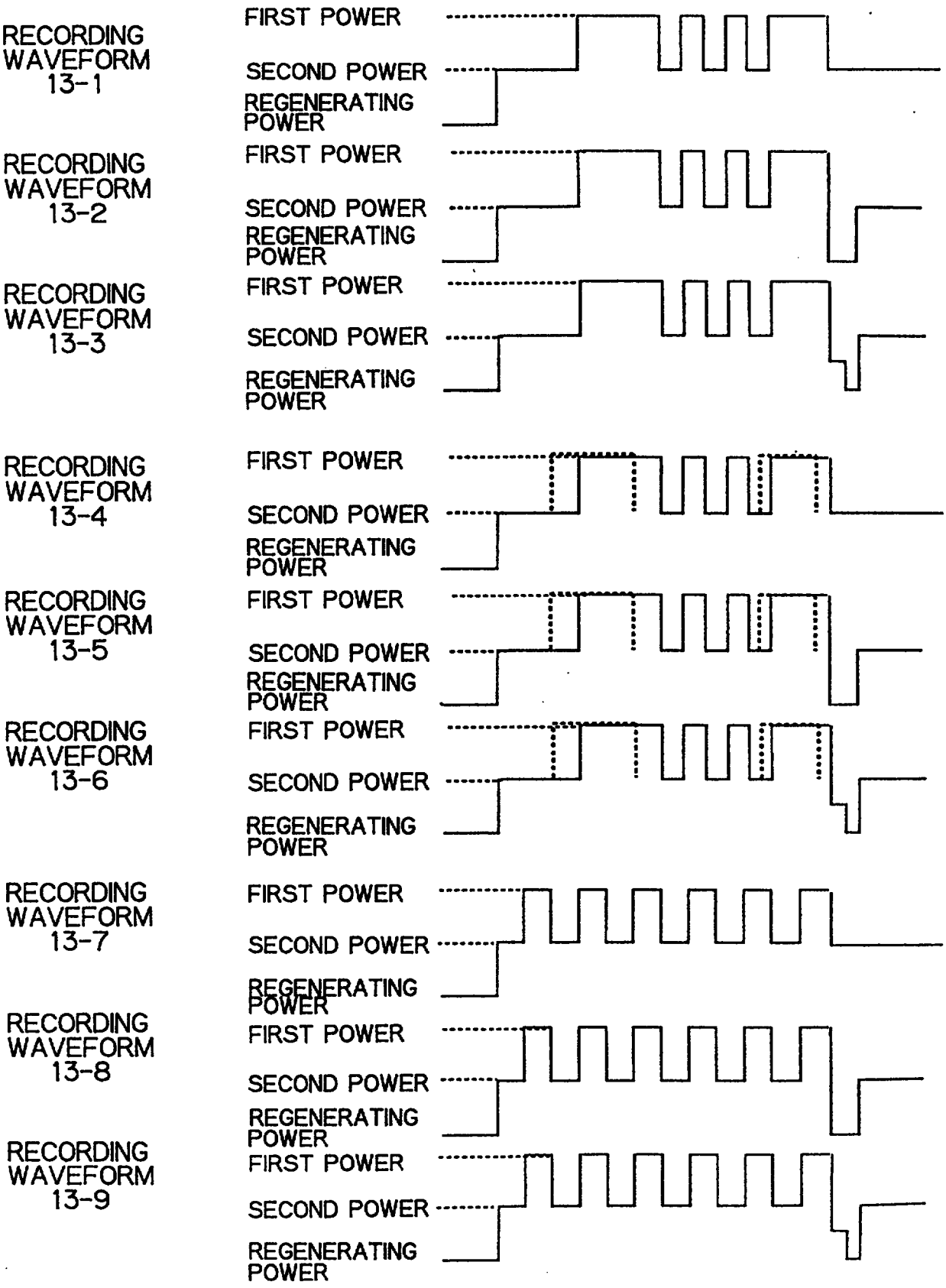

RECORDING WAVEFORM 13-1
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
RECORDING WAVEFORM 13-2
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
RECORDING WAVEFORM 13-3
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
RECORDING WAVEFORM 13-4
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
RECORDING WAVEFORM 13-5
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
RECORDING WAVEFORM 13-6
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
RECORDING WAVEFORM 13-7
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
RECORDING WAVEFORM 13-8
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
RECORDING WAVEFORM 13-9
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER

FIG.9

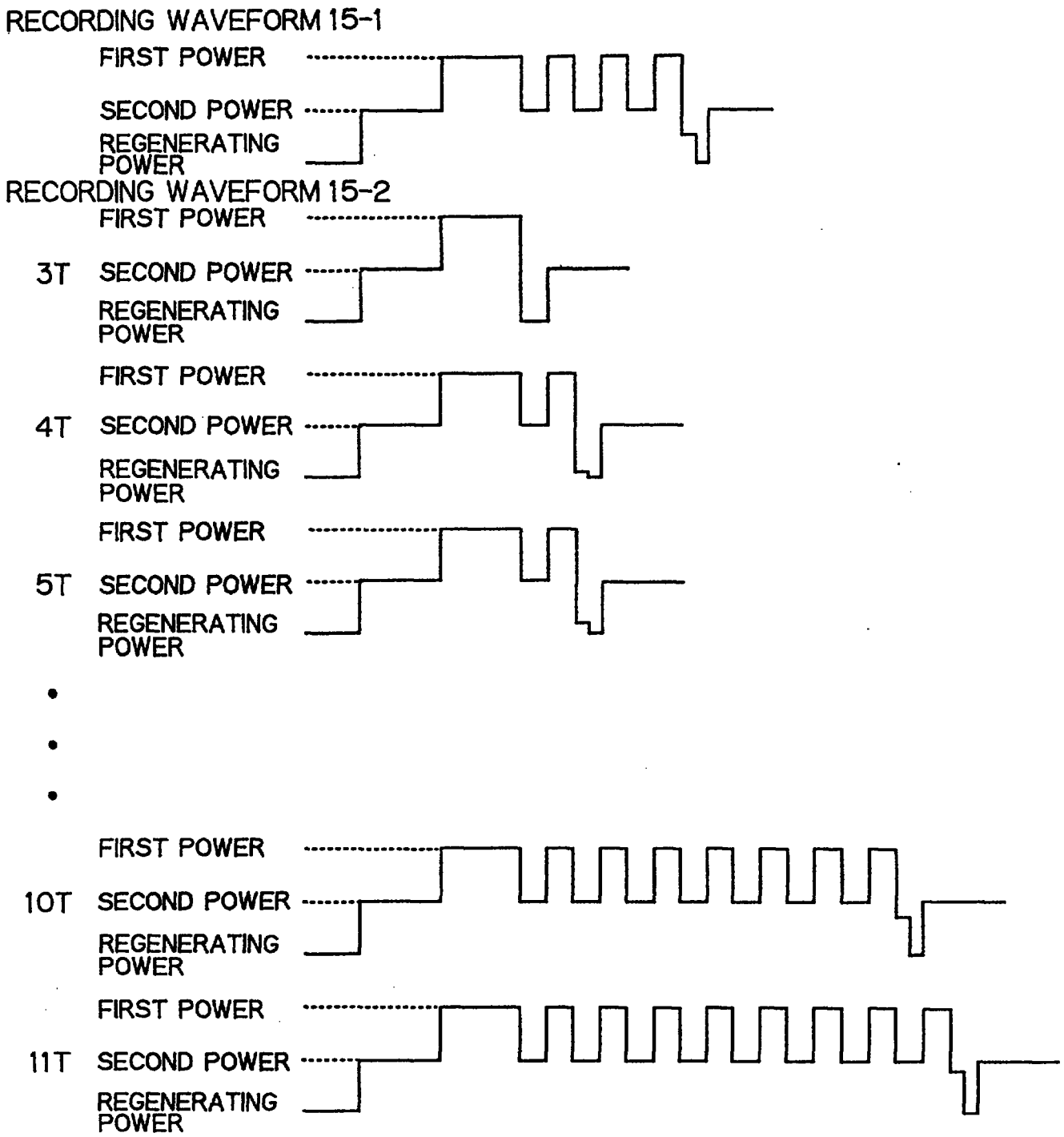
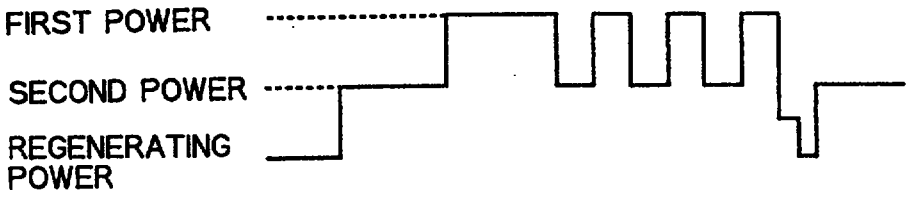

RECORDING WAVEFORM 15-1
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
RECORDING WAVEFORM 15-2
FIRST POWER
3T
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
FIRST POWER
4T
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
FIRST POWER
5T
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
FIRST POWER
10T
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
FIRST POWER
11T
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER

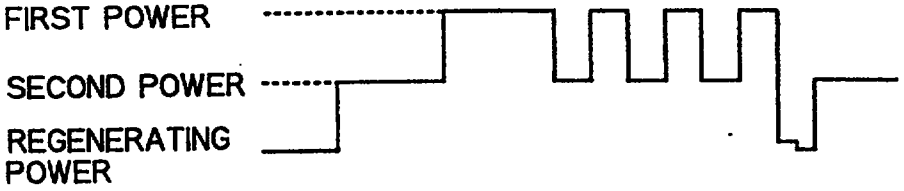
FIG.10

RECORDING WAVEFORM 17-1

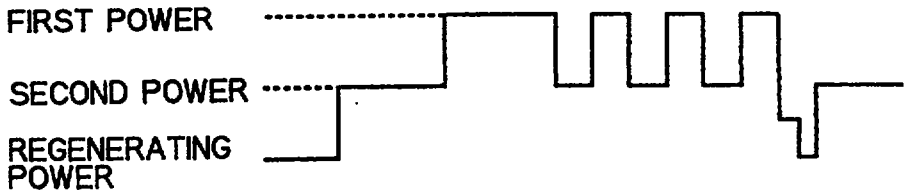


RECORDING WAVEFORM 17-2

INNER CIRCUMFERENCE



MIDDLE CIRCUMFERENCE



OUTER CIRCUMFERENCE

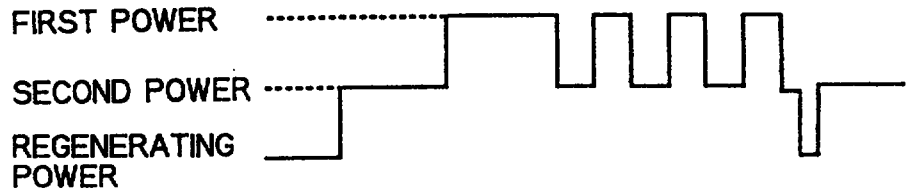


FIG. 11

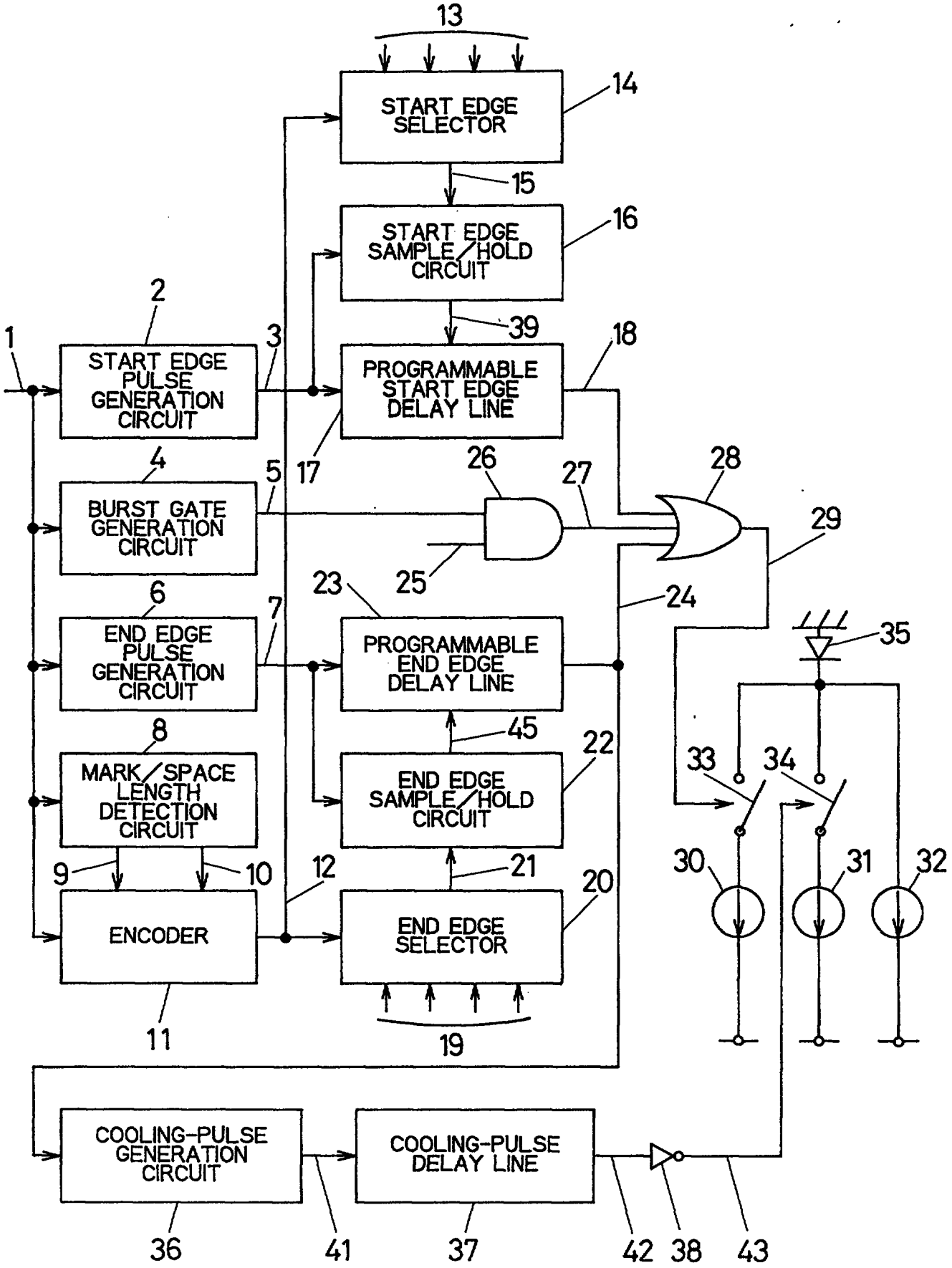

13
START EDGE SELECTOR
14
15
START EDGE SAMPLE/HOLD CIRCUIT
16
39
PROGRAMMABLE START EDGE DELAY LINE
18
1
2
START EDGE PULSE GENERATION CIRCUIT
3
17
4
BURST GATE GENERATION CIRCUIT
5
26
27
28
29
25
23
24
6
END EDGE PULSE GENERATION CIRCUIT
7
PROGRAMMABLE END EDGE DELAY LINE
35
8
45
22
MARK/SPACE LENGTH DETECTION CIRCUIT
END EDGE SAMPLE/HOLD CIRCUIT
33
34
30
31
32
9
10
12
21
20
ENCODER
END EDGE SELECTOR
11
19
COOLING-PULSE GENERATION CIRCUIT
COOLING-PULSE DELAY LINE
36
41
37
42
38
43

FIG.12

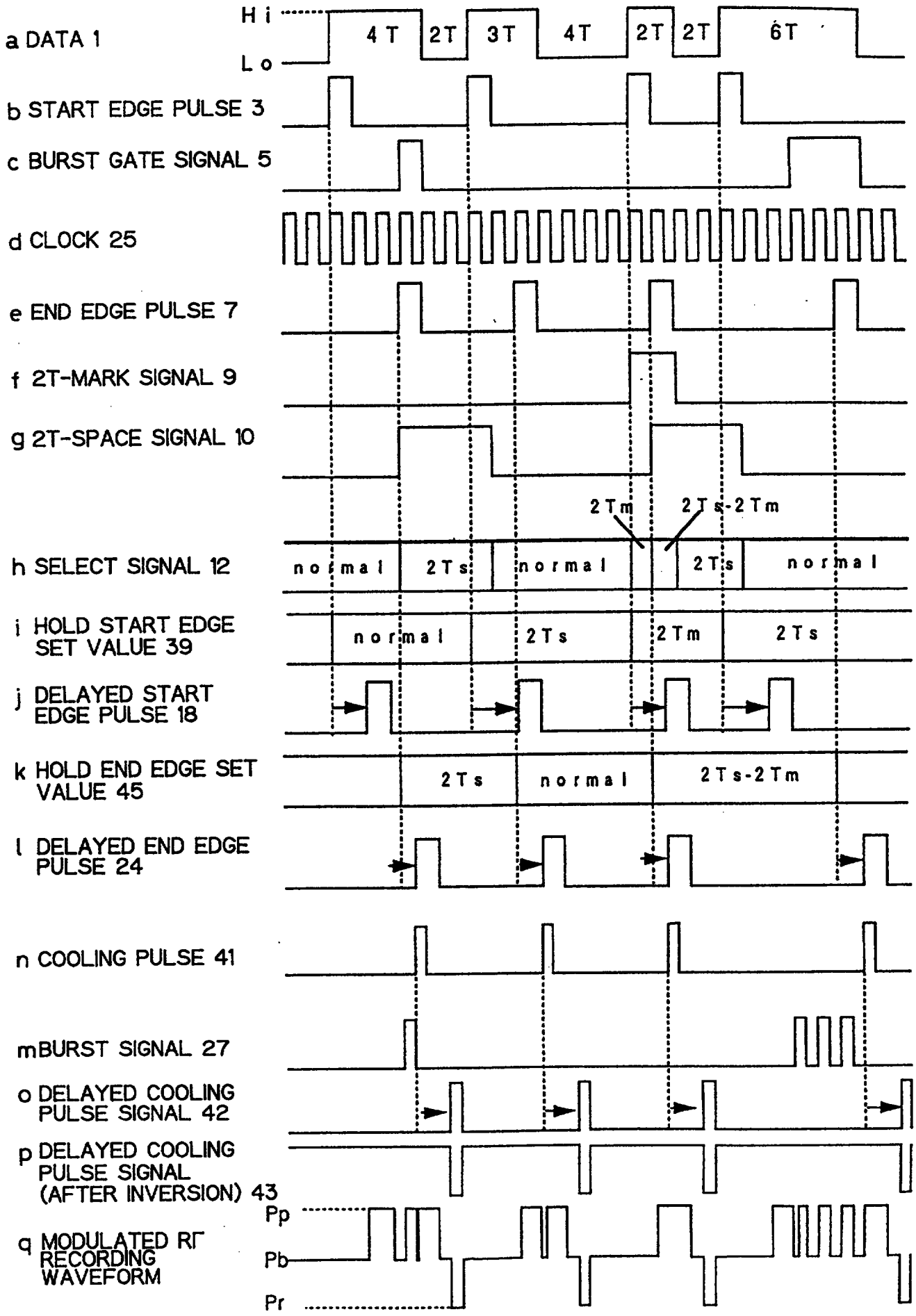

a DATA 1
Hi
Lo
4T
2T
3T
4T
2T
2T
6T
b START EDGE PULSE 3
c BURST GATE SIGNAL 5
d CLOCK 25
e END EDGE PULSE 7
f 2T-MARK SIGNAL 9
g 2T-SPACE SIGNAL 10
2Tm
2Ts-2Tm
h SELECT SIGNAL 12
normal
2Ts
normal
2Ts
normal
i HOLD START EDGE SET VALUE 39
normal
2Ts
2Tm
2Ts
j DELAYED START EDGE PULSE 18
k HOLD END EDGE SET VALUE 45
2Ts
normal
2Ts-2Tm
l DELAYED END EDGE PULSE 24
n COOLING PULSE 41
mBURST SIGNAL 27
o DELAYED COOLING PULSE SIGNAL 42
p DELAYED COOLING PULSE SIGNAL (AFTER INVERSION) 43
q MODULATED RF RECORDING WAVEFORM
Pp
Pb
Pr

FIG. 13

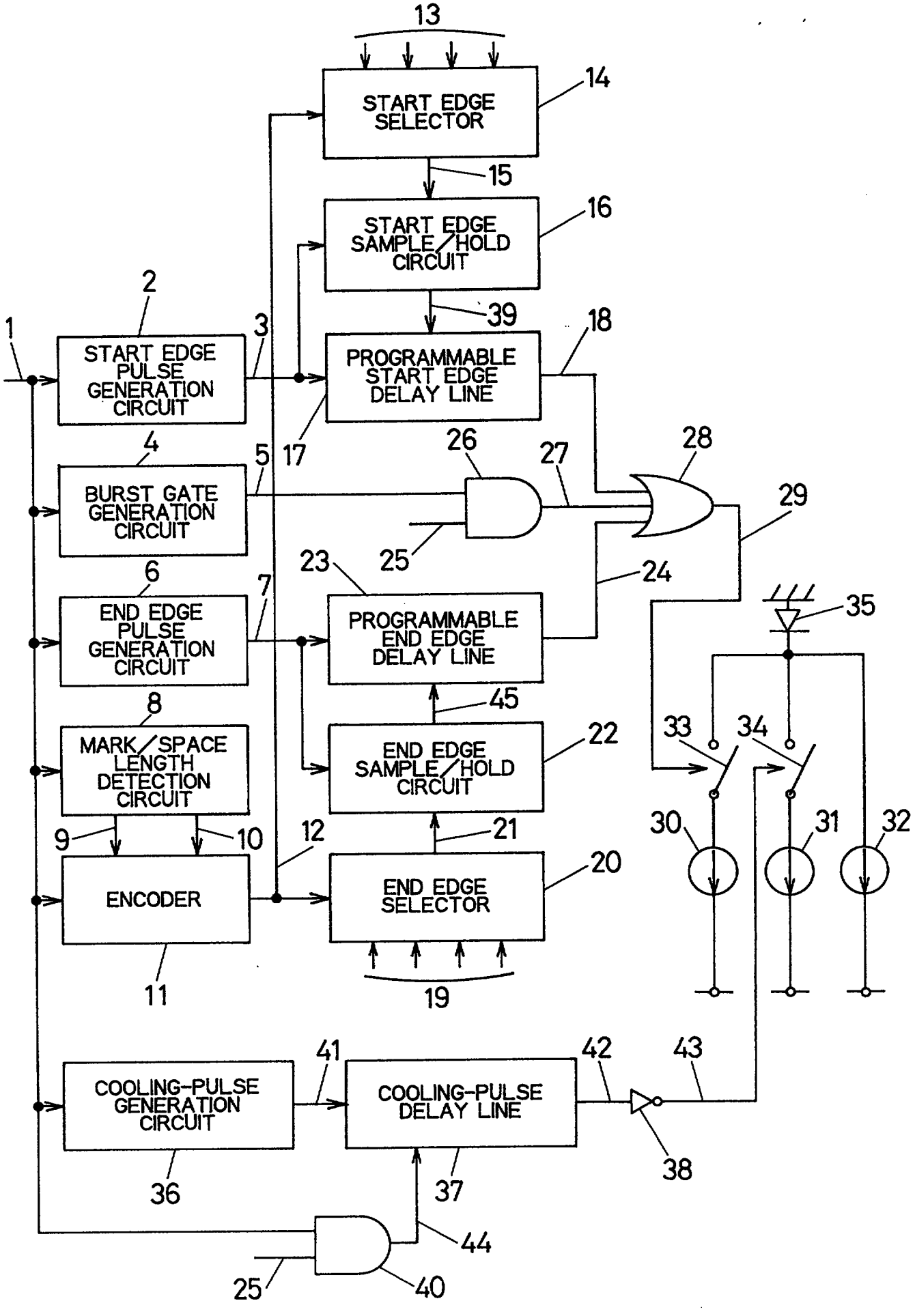

13
START EDGE SELECTOR
14
15
START EDGE SAMPLE/HOLD CIRCUIT
16
39
PROGRAMMABLE START EDGE DELAY LINE
18
1
2
START EDGE PULSE GENERATION CIRCUIT
3
17
4
BURST GATE GENERATION CIRCUIT
5
26
27
28
29
25
23
24
6
END EDGE PULSE GENERATION CIRCUIT
7
PROGRAMMABLE END EDGE DELAY LINE
35
45
8
MARK/SPACE LENGTH DETECTION CIRCUIT
END EDGE SAMPLE/HOLD CIRCUIT
22
33
34
9
10
12
21
30
31
32
ENCODER
END EDGE SELECTOR
20
11
19
41
42
43
COOLING-PULSE GENERATION CIRCUIT
COOLING-PULSE DELAY LINE
38
36
37
44
25
40

FIG. 14

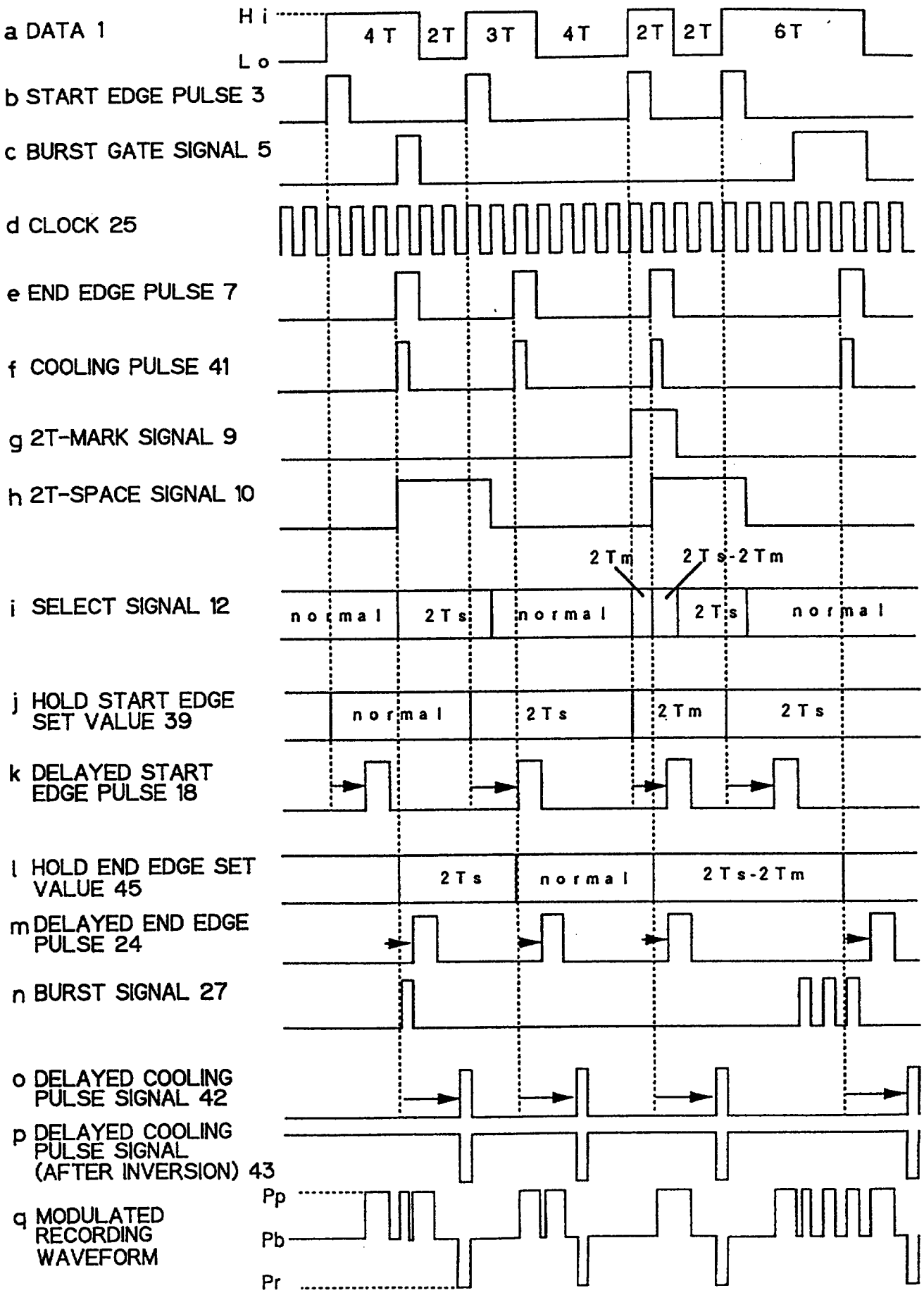
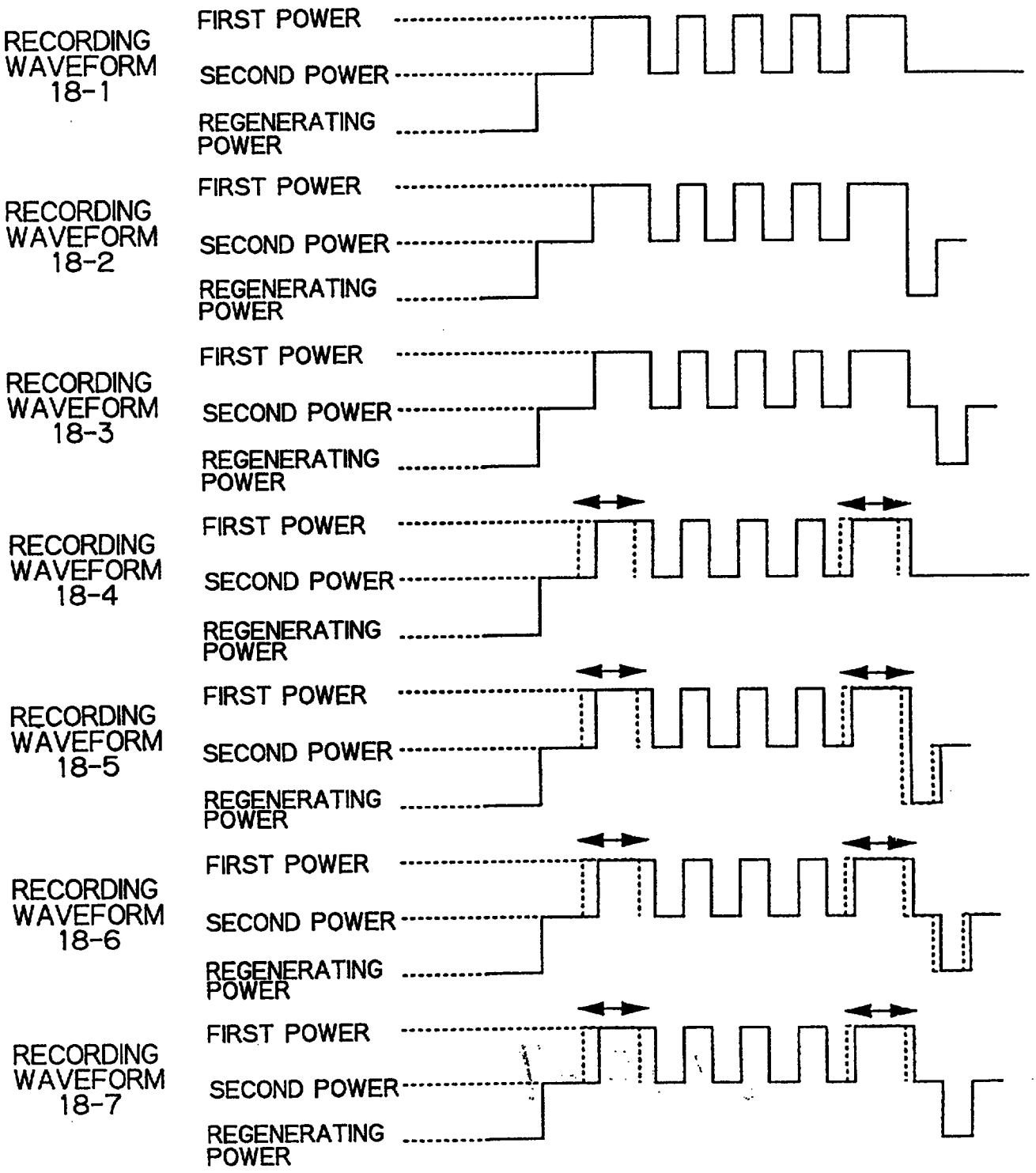

a DATA 1
Hi
Lo
4T
2T
3T
4T
2T
2T
6T
b START EDGE PULSE 3
c BURST GATE SIGNAL 5
d CLOCK 25
e END EDGE PULSE 7
f COOLING PULSE 41
g 2T-MARK SIGNAL 9
h 2T-SPACE SIGNAL 10
2Tm
2Ts-2Tm
i SELECT SIGNAL 12
normal
2Ts
normal
2Ts
normal
j HOLD START EDGE SET VALUE 39
normal
2Ts
2Tm
2Ts
k DELAYED START EDGE PULSE 18
l HOLD END EDGE SET VALUE 45
2Ts
normal
2Ts-2Tm
m DELAYED END EDGE PULSE 24
n BURST SIGNAL 27
o DELAYED COOLING PULSE SIGNAL 42
p DELAYED COOLING PULSE SIGNAL (AFTER INVERSION) 43
q MODULATED RECORDING WAVEFORM
Pp
Pb
Pr

FIG.15


RECORDING WAVEFORM 18-1
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
RECORDING WAVEFORM 18-2
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
RECORDING WAVEFORM 18-3
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
RECORDING WAVEFORM 18-4
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
RECORDING WAVEFORM 18-5
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
RECORDING WAVEFORM 18-6
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER
RECORDING WAVEFORM 18-7
FIRST POWER
SECOND POWER
REGENERATING POWER

REPLACEMENT SHEET
08 APR 1999

What is claimed is:

1. An optical information recording method by which a modulated signal is recorded, by switching laser light between a plurality of powers on an optical recording medium having a thin recording film that exhibits a reversible change between optically recognizable states, comprising the steps of:

modulating said laser light between a preset first power having power equal to or higher than a recording power used for recording on said thin recording film, and a preset second power having power lower than said first power, to form a recorded mark using a recording pulse train,

applying a cooling pulse after said recording pulse train, said cooling pulse having a cooling power lower than a bias power which is set lower than said recording power, and

varying said laser light power during a period starting from the moment an end pulse in said recording pulse train begins to fall until said cooling power is reached.

2. An optical information recording method according to claim 1, wherein the step of varying the laser light power includes one of varying the laser light power incrementally and varying the laser light power continuously.

3. An optical information recording method according to claim 1, wherein

* C L M S *

REPLACEMENT SHEET
08 APR 1999

said preset first power is applied at the start portion of said recording pulse train and, for portions other than the start portion of said recording pulse train, said laser light is switched alternately between said first power and said second power at intervals of time equal to or shorter than one data clock period.

4. An optical information recording method according to claim 1, wherein said laser light is switched alternately between said first power and said second power at intervals of time equal to or shorter than one data clock period.

5. An optical information recording method according to claim 1, wherein said preset first power is applied at the start and end portions of said recording pulse train and, for portions between the start and end pulses in said recording pulse train, said laser light is switched alternately between said first power and said second power at intervals of time equal to or shorter than one data clock period.

6. An optical information recording method according to claim 1, wherein said preset first power is applied at the start and end portions of said recording pulse train and, for portions between the start and end pulses in said recording pulse train, said laser light is switched alternately between said first power and said second power at intervals of time equal to or shorter than one data clock period, and the start and end portions of said recording pulse train are displaced in position in accordance with recorded mark length and recorded mark spacing.

7. An optical information recording method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of:

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REPLACEMENT SHEET
08 APR 1999

applying laser radiation with said bias power between said recording pulse train and laser radiation with said cooling power,

wherein the time from the start of laser radiation at the end pulse of said recording pulse train to the start of the laser radiation with said cooling power is fixed.

8. An optical information recording method according to claim 6, wherein timing to start the laser radiation with said cooling power is based on a clock.

9. An optical information recording method by which a modulated signal is recorded, by switching laser light between a plurality of powers on an optical recording medium having a thin recording film that exhibits a reversible change between optically recognizable states, comprising the steps of:

modulating said laser light between a preset first power having power equal to or higher than a recording power used for recording on said thin recording film, and a preset second power having power lower than said first power, to form a recorded mark using a recording pulse train,

applying a cooling pulse after said recording pulse train, said cooling pulse having a cooling power lower than a bias power which is set lower than said recording power, and

* C L M S *

REPLACEMENT SHEET
08 APR 1999

driving said optical recording medium for rotation with a constant angular velocity,

wherein in an area of said optical recording medium at least inside a designated radius, at least one of the start time of laser radiation with said cooling power relative to the end of said recording pulse train is advanced and the duration of laser radiation with said cooling power is extended when said recorded mark is shorter than a predetermined length.

10. An optical information recording method by which a modulated signal is recorded, by switching laser light between a plurality of powers on an optical recording medium having a thin recording film that exhibits a reversible change between optically recognizable states, comprising the steps of:

modulating said laser light between a preset first power having power equal to or higher than a recording power used for recording on said thin recording film, and a preset second power having power lower than said first power, to form a recorded mark using a recording pulse train,

applying a cooling pulse after said recording pulse train, said cooling pulse having a cooling power lower than a bias power which is set lower than said recording power,

driving said optical recording medium for rotation with a constant angular velocity, and

* C L M S *

REPLACEMENT SHEET
08 APR 1999

setting the start time of laser radiation with said cooling power relative to the end of laser radiation with said recording power and the duration of laser radiation with said cooling power to a predetermined value only when said recorded mark is not longer than a predetermined length.

wherein in an area of said optical recording medium at least inside a designated radius, laser radiation with said cooling power is applied only when said recorded mark is not longer than the predetermined length.

11. An optical information recording method according to claim 10, wherein laser radiation with said cooling power is applied only when said recorded mark is of a minimum length.

12. An optical information recording method by which a modulated signal is recorded, by switching laser light between a plurality of powers on an optical recording medium having a thin recording film that exhibits a reversible change between optically recognizable states, comprising the steps of:

modulating said laser light between a preset first power having power equal to or higher than a recording power used for recording on said thin recording film, and a preset second power using power lower than said first power, to form a recorded mark using a recording pulse train, and

applying a cooling pulse train immediately after said recording pulse

* C L M S *

REPLACEMENT SHEET
08 APR 1999

train, said cooling pulse train having pulses formed with laser light having at least two different powers each lower than said first power, at least one pulse in said cooling pulse train being formed with a power lower than a bias power.

13. An optical information recording method according to claim 12, wherein when said optical recording medium is rotated at a constant angular velocity, at least one of the start time of the cooling pulse application and the pulse shape of said cooling pulse is varied in accordance with a radius position on said optical recording medium.

14. An optical information recording method according to claim 12,

wherein said cooling pulse is formed with a preset third power and a preset fourth power of laser light, said third power being set higher than said fourth power and lower than one of said second power and said bias power, and further comprising the steps of:

applying laser radiation with said third power immediately following said recording pulse train, and

applying laser radiation with said fourth power immediately following said laser radiation with said third power.

15. An optical information recording method according to claim 12, wherein said cooling pulse is formed with a preset fifth power and a preset sixth power of laser

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REPLACEMENT SHEET
0 8 APR 1999

light, said fifth power being set higher than said bias power and said sixth power set lower than said bias power, and further comprising the steps of:

applying laser radiation with said fifth power immediately following said recording pulse train, and

applying laser radiation with said sixth power immediately following said laser radiation with said fifth power.

16. An optical information recording method according to claim 12, wherein said cooling pulse is formed with a preset seventh power, a preset eighth power, and a preset ninth power of laser light, said seventh power and said ninth power both being set lower than said eighth power and lower than one of said second power and said bias power, and further comprising the steps of:

applying laser radiation with said seventh power immediately following said recording pulse train,

applying laser radiation with said eighth power, and

applying laser radiation with said ninth power.

17. An optical information recording method according to claim 12, wherein at least one of the start time of the cooling pulse application and the pulse shape of said cooling pulse is varied in accordance with recorded mark length.

* C L M S *

REPLACEMENT SHEET
0 8 APR 1999

18. An optical information recording method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of applying laser radiation with one of said second power and one of said bias power between said recording pulse train and said cooling pulse.

19. An optical information recording method by which a modulated signal is recorded, by switching laser light between a plurality of powers on an optical recording medium having a thin recording film that exhibits a reversible change between optically recognizable states, comprising the steps of:

modulating said laser light between a preset first power having power equal to or higher than a recording power used for recording on said thin recording film, and a preset second power having power lower than said first power, to form a recorded mark using a recording pulse train,

applying a cooling pulse after said recording pulse train, said cooling pulse having a cooling power lower than a bias power which is set lower than said recording power, and

varying at least one of the start time of laser radiation with said cooling power relative to the end of said recording pulse train and the duration of laser radiation with said cooling power in accordance with the length of said recorded mark.

20. An optical information recording method according to claim 19, wherein the duration of laser radiation with said cooling power is made longer when recording

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REPLACEMENT SHEET
08 APR 1999

a short mark than when recording a long mark.

21. An optical information recording method according to claim 19, wherein laser radiation with said cooling power is started earlier when recording a short mark than when recording a long mark.

22. An optical information recording method by which a modulated signal is recorded, by switching laser light between a plurality of powers on an optical recording medium having a thin recording film that exhibits a reversible change between optically recognizable states, comprising the steps of:

modulating said laser light between a preset first power having power equal to or higher than a recording power used for recording on said thin recording film, and a preset second power having power lower than said first power, to form a recorded mark using a recording pulse train,

applying a cooling pulse after said recording pulse train, said cooling pulse having a cooling power lower than a bias power which is set lower than said recording power, and

varying at least one of the start time of laser radiation with said cooling power relative to the end of said recording pulse train and the duration of laser radiation with said cooling power only when said recorded mark is not longer than a predetermined length.

* C L M S *

REPLACEMENT SHEET
08 APR 1999

23. An optical information recording method comprising the steps of:

forming a recorded mark by laser radiation with a recording pulse train having a plurality of pulses modulating laser light between a preset first power and a preset second power,

applying said preset first power at start and end portions of said recording pulse train when said first power of said laser light is higher than said second power,

switching said laser light alternately between said first power and said second power at intervals of time equal to or shorter than one data clock period for portions between the start and end pulses in said recording pulse train, and

applying laser radiation immediately following said recording pulse train, the laser radiation having a cooling power lower than a bias power which is set lower than a recording power.

24. An optical information recording method according to claim 23, wherein the start and end portions of said recording pulse train are displaced in position in accordance with recorded mark length and recorded mark spacing.

25. An optical information recording method by which a modulated signal is recorded, by switching laser light between a plurality of powers on an optical recording medium having a thin recording film that exhibits a reversible change between

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REPLACEMENT SHEET
08 APR 1999

optically recognizable states, comprising the steps of:

modulating said laser light between a preset first power having power equal to or higher than a recording power used for recording on said thin recording film, and a preset second power having power lower than said first power, to form a recorded mark using a recording pulse train,

applying a cooling pulse after said recording pulse train, said cooling pulse having a cooling power lower than a bias power which is set lower than said recording power,

applying laser radiation with said bias power during a period between said recording pulse train and laser radiation with said cooling power,

setting the start time of laser radiation with said cooling power relative to the end of said recording pulse train and the duration of laser radiation with said cooling power to a predetermined value, and

applying laser radiation with said cooling power only when said recorded mark is not longer than a predetermined length.

26. An optical information recording method according to claim 25, wherein laser radiation with said cooling power is applied only when said recorded mark is of a minimum length.

* C L M S *

REPLACEMENT SHEET
08 APR 1999

27. An optical information recording method by which a modulated signal is recorded, by switching laser light between a plurality of powers on an optical recording medium having a thin recording film that exhibits a reversible change between optically recognizable states, comprising the steps of:

modulating said laser light between a preset first power having power equal to or higher than a recording power used for recording on said thin recording film, and a preset second power having power lower than said first power, to form a recorded mark using a recording pulse train, and

applying a cooling pulse immediately after said recording pulse train, said cooling pulse containing a period during which said laser light is continuously varied immediately following said recording pulse train, until reaching a power lower than either said second power or a bias power.

28. An optical information recording method according to claim 27, wherein said cooling pulse contains a period during which said laser light is continuously varied immediately following said recording pulse train, until reaching a power lower than one of said second power and said bias power, and a period during which said laser light power is continuously varied from the power lower than one of said second power and said bias power, until reaching said one of said second power and said bias power.

29. A disk recording apparatus for recording optical information on a disk with a Hi period of data as a mark and a Lo period of data as a space, comprising:

CLMS

REPLACEMENT SHEET
08 APR 1999

~~a start pulse generating~~ circuit for generating a start pulse of prescribed duration at a start position of the Hi period of data;

a burst gate generating circuit for generating a burst gate signal at a middle position of the mark when the Hi period of data is long, and for not generating a burst gate signal when the Hi period of data is short;

an end pulse generating circuit for generating an end pulse of prescribed duration at an end position of the Hi period of data;

a mark/space length detection circuit for generating an nT mark signal in such a manner as to contain said start pulse and said end pulse when the Hi period of data is n clocks long, and for generating an mT space signal in such a manner as to contain said end pulse and said start pulse at both ends of the space when the Lo period of data is m clocks long (where n and m are natural numbers existing in data train);

an encoder for generating a select signal for controlling a start value selector and an end value selector (described hereinafter) from said nT mark signal and said mT space signal;

a cooling pulse generating circuit for generating a cooling pulse of prescribed duration from a delayed end pulse output from an end value programmable delay line hereinafter described;

* C L M S *

REPLACEMENT SHEET
08 APR 1999

a start value selector for selecting one value from among a plurality of start set values in accordance with said select signal, and for outputting the thus selected start set value;

a start value sample-and-hold circuit for updating the start set value supplied from said start value selector only when said start pulse has arrived, and for holding a previous value otherwise;

a start value programmable delay line for delaying said start pulse by varying an amount of delay in accordance with the start set value output from said start value sample-and-hold circuit, and for outputting the thus delayed start pulse;

an end value selector for selecting one value from among a plurality of end set values in accordance with said select signal, and for outputting the thus selected end set value;

an end value sample-and-hold circuit for updating the end set value supplied from said end value selector only when said end pulse has arrived, and for holding a previous value otherwise;

an end value programmable delay line for delaying said end pulse by varying an amount of delay in accordance with the end set value output from said end value sample-and-hold circuit, and for outputting the thus delayed end pulse;

a cooling pulse delay line for outputting a delayed cooling pulse by

* C L M S *

REPLACEMENT SHEET
08 APR 1999

varying an amount of delay to be introduced in said cooling pulse;

an AND gate for ANDing said burst gate signal and clock, and thereby outputting a burst pulse;

an OR gate for ORing said delayed start pulse, said burst pulse, and said delayed end pulse, and thereby outputting a recording signal;

an inverter for inverting the cooling pulse signal output from said cooling pulse delay line;

a bias current source for supplying a bias current to a laser diode hereinafter described;

a recording current source, connected in parallel with said bias current source, for supplying a recording current to the laser diode hereinafter described;

a read beam current source, connected in parallel with said bias current source, for supplying a read beam current to the laser diode hereinafter described;

a switch for turning on and off the current from said recording current source in accordance with said recording signal;

a switch for turning on and off the current from said bias current source in accordance with said cooling pulse signal; and

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REPLACEMENT SHEET
0 8 APR 1999

a laser diode for recording a disk signal driven by said bias current source, said recording current source, and said read beam current source in parallel.

30. A disk recording apparatus for recording optical information on a disk with a Hi period of data as a mark and a Lo period of data as a space, comprising:

a start pulse generating circuit for generating a start pulse of prescribed duration at a start position of the Hi period of data;

a burst gate generating circuit for generating a burst gate signal at a middle position of the mark when the Hi period of data is long, and for not generating a burst gate signal when the Hi period of data is short;

an end pulse generating circuit for generating an end pulse of prescribed duration at an end position of the Hi period of data;

a mark/space length detection circuit for generating an nT mark signal in such a manner as to contain said start pulse and said end pulse when the Hi period of data is n clocks long, and for generating an mT space signal in such a manner as to contain said end pulse and said start pulse at both ends of the space when the Lo period of data is m clocks long (where n and m are natural numbers existing in data train);

an encoder for generating a select signal for controlling a start value

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REPLACEMENT SHEET
08 APR 1999

selector and an end value selector (described hereinafter) from said nT mark signal and said mT space signal;

a cooling pulse generating circuit for generating a cooling pulse of prescribed duration from the end pulse output from said end pulse generating circuit;

a start value selector for selecting one value from among a plurality of start set values in accordance with said select signal, and for outputting the thus selected start set value;

a start value sample-and-hold circuit for updating the start set value supplied from said start value selector only when said start pulse has arrived, and for holding a previous value otherwise;

a start value programmable delay line for delaying said start pulse by varying an amount of delay in accordance with the start set value output from said start value sample-and-hold circuit, and for outputting the thus delayed start pulse;

an end value selector for selecting one value from among a plurality of end set values in accordance with said select signal, and for outputting the thus selected end set value;

an end value sample-and-hold circuit for updating the end set value supplied from said end value selector only when said end pulse has arrived, and for holding a previous value otherwise;

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REPLACEMENT SHEET
0 8 APR 1999

an end value programmable delay line for delaying said end pulse by varying an amount of delay in accordance with the end set value output from said end value sample-and-hold circuit, and for outputting the thus delayed end pulse;

a cooling pulse delay line for outputting a delayed cooling pulse by varying an amount of delay to be introduced in the cooling pulse output from said cooling pulse generating circuit;

an AND gate for ANDing said burst gate signal, output from said burst gate generating circuit, and clock, and thereby outputting a burst pulse;

an OR gate for ORing said delayed start pulse, said burst pulse, and said delayed end pulse, and thereby outputting a recording signal;

an inverter for inverting the delayed cooling pulse signal output from said cooling pulse delay line;

a bias current source for supplying a bias current to a laser diode hereinafter described;

a recording current source, connected in parallel with said bias current source, for supplying a recording current to the laser diode hereinafter described;

a read beam current source, connected in parallel with said bias current

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REPLACEMENT SHEET
08 APR 1999

source, for supplying a read beam current to the laser diode hereinafter described;

a switch for turning on and off the current from said recording current source in accordance with said recording signal;

a switch for turning on and off the current from said bias current source in accordance with said cooling pulse signal; and

a laser diode for recording a disk signal driven by said bias current source, said recording current source, and said read beam current source in parallel.

31. An optical information recording method by which a modulated signal is recorded, by switching laser light between a plurality of powers on an optical recording medium having a thin recording film that exhibits a reversible change between optically recognizable states, comprising the steps of:

modulating said laser light between at least three powers, including a recording power used for recording on said thin recording film, a bias power lower than said recording power, and a cooling power lower than said bias power, two successive recorded marks being separated by a space formed by radiation with said bias power, to form a recorded mark using a recording waveform having one pulse, and applying laser radiation with said bias power between laser radiation with said recording power and laser radiation with said cooling power.

32. An optical information recording method by which a modulated signal is

REPLACEMENT SHEET
08 APR 1999

recorded, by switching laser light between a plurality of powers on an optical recording medium having a thin recording film that exhibits a reversible change between optically recognizable states, comprising the steps of:

modulating said laser light between at least three powers, including a recording power used for recording on said thin recording film, a bias power lower than said recording power, and a cooling power lower than said bias power, two successive recorded marks being separated by a space formed by radiation with said bias power, to form a recorded mark using a recording waveform having one pulse, and

applying laser radiation with said bias power between laser radiation with said recording power and laser radiation with said cooling power,

wherein the start time of the laser radiation with said cooling power relative to the end of the laser radiation with said recording power is varied in accordance with a radius position on said optical recording medium.

33. An optical information recording method according to claim 32, wherein in an area of said optical recording medium at least inside a designated radius, the radiation with said cooling power is started earlier than in an area outside said designated radius.

34. An optical information recording method by which a modulated signal is recorded, by switching laser light between a plurality of powers on an optical recording medium having a thin recording film that exhibits a reversible change between

C - L M S *

REPLACEMENT SHEET
08 APR 1999

optically recognizable states, comprising the steps of:

modulating said laser light between a preset first power having power equal to or higher than a recording power used for recording on said thin recording film, and a preset second power having power lower than said first power, to form a recorded mark using a recording pulse train, and

applying a cooling pulse immediately after said recording pulse train, said cooling pulse having a cooling power lower than a bias power which is set lower than said recording power,

wherein a period is provided during which said laser light power is varied incrementally or continuously from said cooling power, until said bias power is reached.

35. An optical information recording method by which a modulated signal is recorded, by switching laser light between a plurality of powers on an optical recording medium having a thin recording film that exhibits a reversible change between optically recognizable states, comprising the steps of:

modulating said laser light between a preset first power having power equal to or higher than a recording power used for recording on said thin recording film, and a preset second power having power lower than said first power, to form a recorded mark using a recording pulse train, and

REPLACEMENT SHEET
0 8 APR 1999

applying a cooling pulse immediately after said recording pulse train, said cooling pulse having a cooling power lower than a bias power which is set lower than said recording power,

wherein said cooling pulse is formed as a train of plurality of pulses generated by switching said laser light alternately between said bias power and said cooling power.

36. An optical information recording method by which a modulated signal is recorded, by switching laser light between a plurality of powers on an optical recording medium having a thin recording film that exhibits a reversible change between optically recognizable states, comprising the steps of:

modulating said laser light between a preset first power having power equal to or higher than a recording power used for recording on said thin recording film, and a preset second power having power lower than said first power, to form a recorded mark using a recording pulse train,

applying a cooling pulse after said recording pulse train, said cooling pulse having a cooling power lower than a bias power which is set lower than said recording power, and

applying laser radiation with said bias power between said recording pulse train and said cooling pulse.

