ABSTRACT OF THE DISKLOSURE

A method and circuit for generating a focus error signal (FE) of an optical pickup (12) that receives light beam reflections from an optical disk (11) to impinge on a photodiode array (40) includes detecting respective signals produced by photodiodes (A, B, C, and D) of the photodiode array (40) arranged in four quadrants with respect to the light beam whose position is to be determined. Voltages from a first diagonal pair (A,C) of the photodiodes (40) are summed to produce a first signal sum. Voltages from a second diagonal pair (B,D) of the photodiodes (40) are summed to produce a second signal sum. The second signal sum is subtracted (74) from the first signal sum to produce a subtracted signal sum. The first and second signal sums are added (73) to produce an added signal sum. The subtracted signal sum is divided (76) by the added signal sum to produce a focus error signal. The signals are top envelope detected (64-67) either before or after the summing. The circuit results in the reduction or elimination of variances in the tracking error signal from affecting the focus error signal.

This Sheet Has Been Replaced