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METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REDUCING TRACK SWITCH LATENCY IN A DISK DRIVE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a ultra high density, multiple-disk drive, track switches within a cylinder of tracks as well as track switches to tracks on other cylinders both require a movement of the head stack actuator. Track switching latency in such a disk drive is reduced by overlapping pre-movement portions of the track switching process with the data transfer operation of the currently active recording head. In addition, post-movement portions of the track switching process are overlapped with the movement of the heads so that the next selected read/write head may begin a data transfer operation immediately upon arrival at the next track. Further, the pre-movement and post-movement portions of the track-switch process may be overlapped with low displacement movement of the read/write heads relative to the currently active track or the next track.

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