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DISC DRIVE HAVING CHARGE FEEDBACK DRIVEN MICROACTUATOR

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to data storage systems and, more particularly
5 to the use of microactuators in a disc drive head positioning apparatus.

Disc drive data storage systems use rigid discs which are coated with a
magnetizable medium for storage of digital information in a plurality of circular,
concentric data tracks. The discs are mounted on a spindle motor which causes the
discs to spin and the surfaces of the discs to pass under respective disc head sliders.
10 The sliders carry transducers which write information to and read information from
the disc surfaces. The slider and transducer are often together referred to as a "head".
Each slider is supported by a track accessing arm and a suspension. The track
accessing arms move the sliders from track to track across the surfaces of the discs
under the control of electronic servo control circuitry for track following operations

15 The suspension connects the track accessing arm to the slider. The suspension
provides a preload force through a relatively rigid load beam which forces the slider
toward the disc surface. Additionally, the suspension is flexible in the slider pitch and
roll directions to allow the slider to follow the disc topography. This pitch and roll
flexibility is obtained from a gimbal structure, which can be integral with the load
20 beam or a separate piece part that is welded to the load beam.

Microactuators have been proposed for providing "fine" position control of
the slider and transducer in disc drive servo systems. These microactuators have been
positioned at various locations along the suspension or between the suspension and
the head. Microactuated suspensions often use piezoelectric devices, which exhibit a
25 change in length with a change in an applied voltage. This change in length is used
to move the slider and transducer relative to the disc surface. However,
piezoelectric devices are also known to exhibit hysteresis when driven with a
voltage control driver. Hysteresis is particularly troublesome in disc drive servo

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terminal of the position control output and has a control terminal which is coupled to the amplifier output.

The disc drive head positioning apparatus can further include a charge reset circuit, which has a charge reset command input, and first and second switches. The reset command input receives a reset signal having an active state and an inactive state. The first switch is coupled between the position control input and the charge driver circuit and has a closed state when the reset signal is in the inactive state and an open state when the reset signal is in the active state. The second switch is coupled across the microactuator and has an open state when the reset signal is in the inactive state and a closed state when the reset signal is in the active state.

The disc drive head positioning apparatus can further include an error feedback circuit coupled between the charge feedback output and the position command input. The error feedback circuit includes an integrator, an error correction circuit and a summing element. The integrator integrates the charge feedback output for a selected time period and generates an integrator output that represents the charge delivered to the piezoelectric microactuator. The error correction circuit is coupled to the integrator output and to the position control input and is adapted to generate a correction signal that represents a comparison between a commanded displacement of the piezoelectric microactuator corresponding to the position command signal and an actual displacement of the piezoelectric microactuator corresponding to the integrator output. The summing element sums the position command signal and the correction signal to generate a corrected position command signal that is applied to the driver circuit. The error correction circuit can further include an offset control input, wherein the correction signal is adjustable through the offset control input.

In an alternative embodiment, the charge feedback circuit includes a reference capacitor and a voltage feedback amplifier. The reference capacitor is coupled in series with the piezoelectric microactuator, between first and second terminals of the position control output, and forms a reference node therebetween.

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FIG. 2 is a block diagram of the disc drive illustrating servo control circuitry, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a top plan view showing a microactuated suspension in the disc drive having a pair of laterally spaced strips of piezoelectric material.

5 FIG. 4 is a graph illustrating displacement of a typical piezoelectric material versus input voltage.

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of a piezoelectric crystal.

FIG. 6 is a diagram of a head position control loop according to one embodiment of the present invention.

10 FIG. 7 is a schematic diagram of a microactuator controller, which uses charge feedback control, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 8 is a schematic diagram of a differential driver circuit used in the microactuator controller shown in FIG. 7, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

15 FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram of a charge feedback driver, which mirrors the charge from a reference capacitor into a piezoelectric crystal, according to an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 10 is a schematic diagram of a charge feedback driver, according to another alternative embodiment of the present invention.

20 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a disc drive 100 in which the charge feedback driver of the present invention is useful. Disc drive 100 includes a housing with a base 102 and a top cover (not shown). Disc drive 100 further includes a disc pack 106, which is mounted on a spindle motor (not shown) by a disc clamp 108. Disc
25 pack 106 includes a plurality of individual discs which are mounted for co-rotation about central axis 109. Each disc surface has an associated head 110 which is mounted to disc drive 100 for communication with the disc surface. In the example shown in FIG. 1, heads 110 are supported by suspensions 112 which are in turn attached to track accessing arms 114 of an actuator 116. The actuator shown in

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Actuator 116 includes base 170 which supports the plurality of track accessing arms 114. Each of the track accessing arms 114 is coupled to at least one of the suspensions 112, which supports a head 110 proximate to a corresponding disc surface for accessing data within the tracks on the disc surface. Each suspension 112 is
5 coupled to at least one microactuator 130 for finely positioning head 110 within a desired track on the disc surface. The control function for microactuators 130 can be implemented within drive controller 140, servo control processor 142 or a separate microactuator controller 146, as shown in FIG. 2. Microactuator controller 146 can be mounted with the electronic circuitry 128 (shown in FIG. 1) within the disc drive
10 housing, on actuator 116, or in-situ with each of the microactuators.

During operation, drive controller 140 receives a command signal from the host system over bus 155 which indicates that a certain portion of one or more of discs 162 are to be accessed. In response to the command signal, drive controller 140 provides servo control processor 142 with a position signal, which indicates a
15 particular cylinder over which actuator 116 is to position suspensions 112 and their associated heads. Servo control processor 142 converts the position signal into an analog signal which is amplified by power amplifier 144 and is provided to actuator 116. In response to the analog position signal, actuator 116 positions suspensions 112 and their associated heads over the desired cylinder.

20 Drive controller 140 also places preamplifier 148 in a read mode and indicates which read head or heads the data will be read from. The selected read head generates a read signal containing data which was encoded on the disc surface. Preamplifier 148 amplifies the read signal and provides it to data and clock recovery circuit 150. Data and clock recovery circuit 150 recovers data from the read signal and provides the data
25 to error detection circuit 152. Circuit 152 detects whether any errors have occurred in the data read back from the disc. Correctable errors are corrected by error detection circuit 152 and are provided to drive controller 140 over bus 156 in a known manner. Alternatively, correctable errors can be corrected by drive controller 140, or a combination of both drive controller 140 and error detection circuit 152

piezoelectric elements can be located within spring region 182, at distal end 180, on gimbal 185 or between gimbal 185 and the read/write head. Also, the piezoelectric elements can be used with various different suspension configurations.

A difficulty experienced with piezoelectric microactuators in disc drive servo systems has been that the piezoelectric material used in these microactuators exhibit hysteresis. FIG. 4 is a graph 163 illustrating displacement of a typical piezoelectric material along axis 164 versus input voltage along axis 165. Each ellipse 166 corresponds to displacement versus amplitude for a fixed peak-to-peak amplitude sign wave input voltage. The hysteresis shown in FIG. 4 limits the accuracy at which a typical microactuator employing piezoelectric crystals can position head 110.

To limit hysteresis in microactuator 130, microactuator controller 146 (shown in FIG. 2) uses a charge feedback driver for controlling the charge delivered to the piezoelectric material within microactuator 130, rather than simply controlling the voltage applied to the microactuator. FIG. 5 is a perspective view of a piezoelectric crystal 198. Crystal 198 has three orthogonal axes, labeled "1", "2" and "3". Piezoelectric crystal 198 can be modeled as follows:

$$\Delta\lambda = d_{31} V_{PZT} \quad \text{Eq. 1}$$

where $\Delta\lambda$ represents the change in length (along the 1-1 axis) of piezoelectric crystal 198, V_{PZT} represents the voltage applied across piezoelectric crystal 198 at terminals 167 and 168 (along the 3-3 axis), and d_{31} is a proportionality constant generally given in picometers per volt for displacement across the 1-1 axis in response to an electric field applied across the 3-3 axis. Other types of piezoelectric material can also be used, such as materials having a d_{33} proportionality constant. It is known that this relationship is not accurate because it does not predict hysteresis. A more accurate model would be:

$$\Delta\lambda = K_{31} Q_{PZT} \quad \text{Eq. 2}$$

where K_{31} (or " K_p ") is a proportionality constant in meters per Coulomb indicating displacement along the 1-1 axis in response to the charge Q_{PZT} across the 3-3 axis.

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Microactuator 130 is coupled across position control output nodes 208 and 210. Microactuator 130 has a piezoelectric element with a capacitance C_{PZT} and a parallel leakage resistance R_{PZT} . The current flowing through the capacitance C_{PZT} is labeled I_{PZT} .

5 Microactuator controller 146 receives the position command signal V_{PC} on input 200, which is a voltage having a magnitude and polarity indicative of a desired head position. A summing element 212 receives the position command voltage V_{PC} on sum input 214 and sums the position command voltage V_{PC} with a correction voltage V_{CORR} received on sum input 216 to generate a corrected position command
10 voltage V_{CPC} on sum output 218. The corrected position command voltage is passed to charge feedback driver 202 through reset switch S1, which is normally closed.

Charge feedback driver 202 includes a charge driver circuit 220 and a charge feedback circuit 222. Charge driver circuit 220 includes operational amplifier 224, differential driver circuit 226, pull-up circuit 228 and pull-down circuit 230.

15 Operational amplifier 224 has a non-inverting input, which is coupled to reset switch S1, and an inverting input coupled to charge feedback circuit 222 for receiving a charge feedback voltage V_{CFB} . Operational amplifier 224 compares V_{CFB} with V_{CPC} and generates an error voltage on output 232. The error voltage is applied to input 234 of differential driver circuit 226, which generates pull-up and
20 pull-down control signals 236 and 238 that are applied to pull-up circuit 228 and pull-down circuit 230, respectively. Pull-up circuit 228 is coupled between positive voltage supply terminal +VDD and node 240 for sourcing current I_{PZT} through node 240. Pull-down circuit 230 is coupled between node 240 and negative voltage supply terminal -VSS for sinking circuit I_{PZT} from node 240. Node 240 is coupled to
25 position control output node 208, through sensing resistor R_S . The magnitude and polarity of current I_{PZT} determines the charge stored on capacitance C_{PZT} of piezoelectric microactuator 130 and thus the position of the head (not shown) that is actuated by microactuator 130.

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V_{CPC} and thereby control the charge on the piezoelectric element of microactuator 130.

In one embodiment, I_{PZT} is selected to have a maximum amplitude of ± 0.1 Amps, $R_5 = 10.0$ Ohms, $R_1 = R_4 = 82.5K$ Ohms, $R_2 = R_3 = 7.5K$ Ohms, $A_v = 12.0$ and $V_{CFB} = \pm 12$ volts, for example. Other circuit values and driving currents can be used in alternative embodiments. Charge feedback circuit 222 is merely one example of a feedback circuit that can be used with the present invention. Other feedback circuits can also be used for generating a feedback signal which is representative of the charge delivered to and from microactuator 130.

Charge reset circuit 204 includes charge reset input 254, reset control circuit 250, reset switch S1, resistor R5 and pull-down circuit 252. Reset circuit 204 enables the charge stored on capacitance C_{PZT} to be selectively reset to zero through a reset command QRESET received on charge reset input 254. Reset control circuit 250 supplies a switch control signal 255 to reset switch S1 such that switch S1 is closed when QRESET is inactive and open when QRESET is active. Reset control circuit 250 also supplies reset control signals 256 and 258 to pull-down circuit 252. Pull-down control circuit 252 includes transistors Q1-Q4, which act as a switch for selectively shorting voltage V_{PZT} to ground terminal GND (i.e. shorting output nodes 208 and 210). Reset control signal 256 is coupled to the base of transistor Q1, and reset control signal 258 is coupled to the base of transistor Q4. The collector of transistor Q1 is coupled to positive voltage supply terminal +VDD, and the emitter of transistor Q1 is connected to the base of transistor Q2. The emitter of transistor Q2 is connected to ground terminal GND, and the collector of transistor Q2 is coupled to position control output node 208. Similarly, the collector of transistor Q4 is coupled to negative voltage supply terminal -VSS, and the emitter of transistor Q4 is coupled to the base of transistor Q3. The collector of transistor Q3 is coupled to position control output node 208, and the emitter of transistor Q3 is coupled to ground terminal GND. The voltage V_{PZT} on node 208 is anticipated to

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charged. The selected integration time is based on the time constant of the piezoelectric element. The actual head position H_p (i.e. displacement of microactuator 130) can then be calculated as a function of the time integral of the charge feedback voltage V_{CFB} and then compared with the desired head position
 5 represented by the position command voltage V_{PC} . Since,

$$\frac{1}{R_s} \int V_{CFB} dt = \int I_{PZT} dt = Q_{PZT}, \quad \text{Eq. 7}$$

the actual head position H_p can be calculated from the relation,

$$H_p = K_{PZT} Q_{PZT} = \frac{K_{PZT}}{R_s} \int V_{CFB} dt \quad \text{Eq. 8}$$

10 Once integrator 260 has finished integrating V_{CFB} , integrator 260 feeds the time integral of V_{CFB} to error correction/comparator circuit 262 and does not further update the measurement until the next reset. Error correction/comparator circuit 262 calculates the actual head position H_p based on the equation above. Circuit 262 also receives the position command voltage V_{PC} from input 200. Since
 15 the position command voltage V_{PC} represents a predetermined displacement of the piezoelectric element, circuit 262 converts V_{PC} into a commanded displacement length by multiplying the voltage by a predetermined factor. Circuit 262 then compares the commanded displacement length with the actual displacement length represented by H_p and generates an error correction voltage V_{CORR} based on the
 20 difference. The error correction voltage V_{CORR} is applied to sum input 216 and added to the position command voltage V_{PC} to generate the corrected position command voltage V_{CPC} .

Error correction voltages can be determined for a number of command position amplitudes. These error correction voltages can be made at convenient
 25 times and temperatures. In one embodiment, error correction/comparison circuit 262 further includes an offset input 266 which is added to the error correction signal. Offset input 266 can represent a desired offset that may vary depending upon

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operational amplifiers, transistors and component values can be used in alternative embodiments, and other driver configurations can be used for supplying current to piezoelectric microactuator 130 as a function of a control voltage or current.

In the embodiment shown in FIGS. 7-8, charge feedback control is accomplished by controlling the current delivered to the piezoelectric element in microactuator 130. In an alternative embodiment, charge feedback control is accomplished by controlling the charge on a reference capacitor and then “mirroring” the charge on to the piezoelectric element, generally by passing the same charging current through the piezoelectric element.

FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram of a charge feedback driver 300 using one technique for mirroring the charge from a reference capacitor. The same reference numerals are used in FIG. 9 as were used in FIGS. 7-8 for the same or similar elements. Driver 300 includes operational amplifier 224, charge driver circuit 220, piezoelectric microactuator 130, reference capacitor C_{REF} , at reference numeral 301, and voltage scaling circuit 302. Piezoelectric microactuator 130 is coupled in series with reference capacitor C_{REF} between position control output nodes 208 and 210 (i.e. ground terminal GND). The charging current I_{PZT} indicated by arrow 307 driven through piezoelectric microactuator 130 is substantially equal to the reference current I_{REF} , indicated by arrow 308, through reference capacitor C_{REF} , as long as the input leakage current I_{LEAK} , indicated by arrow 309, of amplifier 224 is negligible.

The charge delivered to reference capacitor C_{REF} is given by,

$$Q_{REF} = C_{REF} V_{CPC} = \int I_{REF} dt \quad \text{Eq. 9}$$

The charge delivered to piezoelectric microactuator 130 is given by,

$$Q_{PZT} = \int I_{PZT} dt \quad \text{Eq. 10}$$

$$= \int (I_{REF} + I_{LEAK}) dt \quad \text{Eq. 11}$$

$$= \int I_{REF} dt + \int I_{LEAK} dt \quad \text{Eq. 12}$$

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As long as the leakage current I_{LEAK} at node 315 is small (and also leakage current of piezoelectric crystal is small and well controlled), the charge on reference capacitor C_{REF} will accurately represent the charge on the piezoelectric crystal.

In summary, one aspect of the present invention relates to a disc drive head
5 positioning apparatus 100 which includes a head 110, a suspension 112 which supports the head 110, a piezoelectric microactuator 130 which is operatively coupled to the suspension 112, and a charge feedback driver 202 which is operatively coupled to the piezoelectric microactuator 130.

In one embodiment, the charge feedback driver 202 includes a position
10 command input 200 for receiving a position command signal V_{PC} , a position control output 208, 210, a charge driver circuit 220 and a charge feedback circuit 222. The position control output 208, 210 is coupled across the piezoelectric microactuator 130. The charge driver circuit 220 is coupled between the position command input 200 and the position control output 208, 210. The charge feedback
15 circuit 222 has a charge feedback input 241 coupled to the position control output 208, 210 and a charge feedback output 242 coupled to the charge driver circuit 220. The charge feedback circuit 222 is adapted to sense charge Q_{PZT} delivered to the microactuator 130 through the position control output 208, 210.

The charge feedback circuit 222 can include a current sensing resistor R_s ,
20 which is coupled in series with the position control output 208, 210 and forms the charge feedback input 241, and a differential voltage measurement circuit, which is coupled across the current sensing resistor R_s and has a voltage feedback output V_{CFB} which is coupled to the charge feedback output 242.

The driver circuit 220 includes an operational amplifier 224, U4, U5, a pull-
25 up transistor Q5 and a pull-down transistor Q6. The operational amplifier has first and second amplifier inputs which are coupled to the position command input 200 and the charge feedback output 242, respectively, and an amplifier output 236, 238. The pull-up transistor Q5 is coupled to a first terminal 208 of the position control output and has a control terminal which is coupled to the amplifier output 236.

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In an alternative embodiment, the charge feedback circuit 300 includes a reference capacitor C_{REF} 301, and a voltage feedback amplifier 224. The reference capacitor C_{REF} is coupled in series with the piezoelectric microactuator 130, between first and second terminals 208, 210 of the position control output, and forms a
5 reference node 303 therebetween. The voltage feedback amplifier 224 has a non-inverting input coupled to the position command input 200, an inverting input coupled to the reference node, and an output coupled to the driver circuit 220.

In another alternative embodiment, the charge feedback circuit 310 includes a voltage feedback amplifier 224 and a current mirror 311. The voltage feedback
10 amplifier 224 has an inverting input, a non-inverting input coupled to the position command input 200, and an output coupled to the driver circuit 220. The current mirror 311 has first and second legs 312, 314, wherein the first leg 312 is coupled in series with a reference capacitor C_{REF} across the position control output 208, 210, the second leg 314 is coupled in series with the microactuator 130 across the
15 position control output 208, 210, and the inverting input is coupled to a reference node 315 between the reference capacitor C_{REF} and the first leg 312.

Another aspect of the present invention relates to a method of controlling radial position of a head 110 relative to a storage medium 162 in a disc drive 100. The method includes supporting the head 110 relative to the storage medium 162,
20 and receiving a position command signal V_{PC} indicative of a commanded radial position for the head 110. Based on the position command signal V_{PC} , a microactuator drive signal I_{PZT} is generated and used to vary an actual radial position of the head 110 through a piezoelectric microactuator 130. A representation of the charge Q_{PZT} delivered to the piezoelectric microactuator 130 by the drive signal is
25 measured, and the microactuator drive signal I_{PZT} is varied based on the measured representation of the charge Q_{PZT} .

Another aspect of the present invention relates to a disc drive head positioning apparatus 100, which includes a head 110 and a microactuator 130. The microactuator 130 controls a radial position of the head 110 relative to a storage

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A disc drive head positioning apparatus comprising:
a head;
a suspension which supports the head;
a piezoelectric microactuator which is operatively coupled to the suspension;
and
a charge feedback driver which is operatively coupled to the piezoelectric microactuator.
2. The disc drive head positioning apparatus of claim 1 and further comprising a charge reset circuit which is coupled to the piezoelectric microactuator.
3. The disc drive head positioning apparatus of claim 1 wherein the charge feedback driver comprises:
a position command input for receiving a position command signal;
a position control output which is coupled across the piezoelectric microactuator;
a charge driver circuit which is coupled between the position command input and the position control output; and
a charge feedback circuit which has a charge feedback input coupled to the position control output and a charge feedback output coupled to the charge driver circuit and is adapted to sense charge delivered to the microactuator through the position control output.
4. The disc drive head positioning apparatus of claim 3 wherein the charge feedback circuit comprises:
a current sensing resistor which is coupled in series with the position control output and forms the charge feedback input; and
a voltage measurement circuit which is coupled across the current sensing resistor and has a voltage feedback output which is coupled to the

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an integrator which integrates the charge feedback output for a selected time period and generates an integrator output that represents the charge delivered to the piezoelectric microactuator;

an error correction circuit which is coupled to the integrator output and to the position control input and is adapted to generate a correction signal that represents a comparison between a commanded displacement of the piezoelectric microactuator corresponding to the position command signal and an actual displacement of the piezoelectric microactuator corresponding to the integrator output; and

a summing element which sums the position command signal and the correction signal to generate a corrected position command signal that is applied to the driver circuit.

9. The disc drive head positioning apparatus of claim 8 wherein the error correction circuit has an offset control input and the correction signal is adjustable through the offset control input.

10. The disc drive head positioning apparatus of claim 3 wherein the charge feedback circuit comprises:

a reference capacitor coupled in series with the piezoelectric microactuator, between first and second terminals of the position control output, and forming a reference node therebetween; and

a voltage feedback amplifier comprising a non-inverting input coupled to the position command input, an inverting input coupled to the reference node, and an output coupled to the driver circuit.

11. The disc drive head positioning apparatus of claim 3 wherein the charge feedback circuit comprises:

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- the varying step (f) comprises amplifying the drive signal based on a difference between the feedback voltage and a voltage representative of the position command signal.
15. The method of claim 14 and further comprising:
- (g) integrating the feedback voltage for a selected time period to generate an integrated feedback voltage;
 - (h) generating a correction signal based on a comparison between the commanded radial position indicated by the position command signal and an actual radial position of the head corresponding to the integrated feedback voltage; and
 - (i) summing the correction signal with the position command signal to generate a corrected position command signal, wherein the generating step (c) comprises generating the microactuator drive signal based on the corrected position command signal.
16. The method of claim 15 and further comprises:
- (j) adjusting the correction signal based on temperature.
17. The method of claim 15 and further comprises:
- (j) adjusting the correction signal based on the commanded radial position.
18. The method of claim 12 wherein:
- the varying step (d) comprises applying the drive signal through a series connection of the piezoelectric microactuator and a reference capacitor;
 - the measuring step (e) comprises measuring a reference voltage developed across the reference capacitor; and
 - the varying step (f) comprises amplifying the drive signal based on a difference between the reference voltage and a voltage representative