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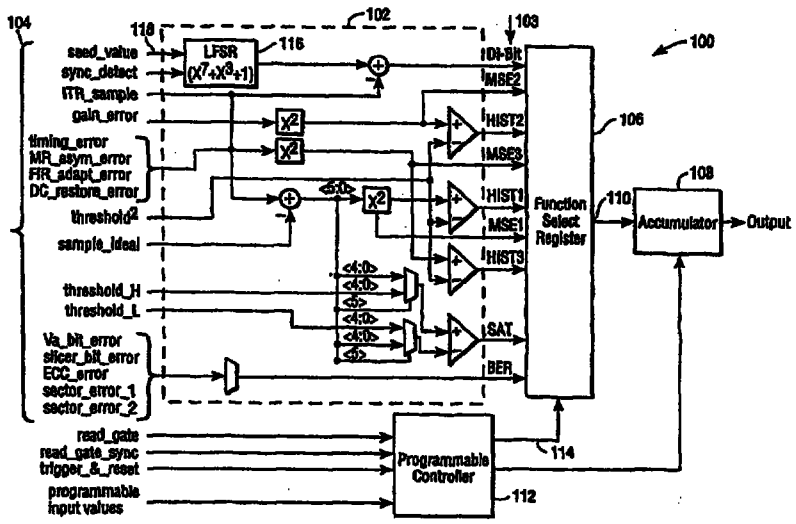
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(54) Title: ACCUMULATING READ CHANNEL PERFORMANCE DATA



(57) Abstract

Systems and methods for accumulating data relating to the performance of one or more components of a read channel are described. In one aspect, a programmable channel quality monitor is operable to accumulate performance data corresponding to a recorded test data sequence spanning two or more data sectors of the magnetic medium. The channel quality monitor preferably is incorporated in a disk drive system. A method of accumulating performance data from a read channel also is described. In accordance with this inventive method, an original test data pattern is written to multiple data sectors of the magnetic medium. The original test pattern is read from the multiple data sectors of the magnetic medium to produce a readback test pattern. In this method, performance data relating to a comparison of the original test pattern and the readback test pattern is accumulated.