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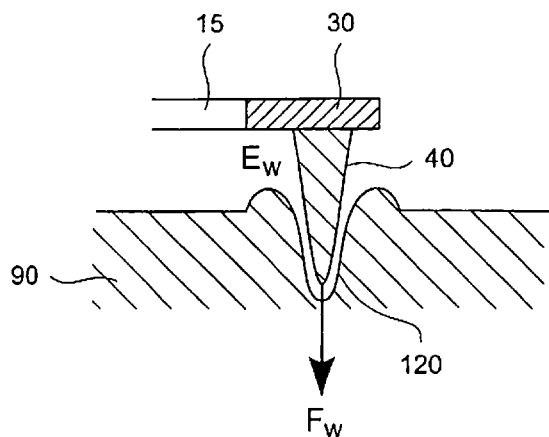
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(54) Title: **MICCHANICAL DATA PROCESSING**



(57) Abstract: Described is a method for erasing data recorded in a data storage device in which a data bit (120) is written onto a surface (90) by applying a first combination of energy (E_w) and force (F_w) to the surface via a tip (40) to form a pit in the surface representative of the data bit by local deformation of the surface. The method comprises applying a second combination of energy (E_e) and force via the tip to pre recorded deformations of the surface to be erased to substantially level the surface.



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