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(71) Applicant: SEAGATE TECHNOLOGY, INC. [US/US]; 920 Disc Drive, Scotts Valley, CA 95066 (US).

(72) Inventors: WILDE, Jeffrey, P.; 18555 Mountain View Avenue, Los Gatos, CA 95030 (US). TSELIKOV, Alexander; 3803 Darwin Drive #265, Fremont, CA 94555 (US). ZHANG, Yongwei; 1504 Woodmeadow Court, San Jose, CA 95131 (US). IZRAELIAN, Viatcheslav; 5950 Bathurst Street #903, North York, Ontario M2R 1Y9 (CA). HEANUE, John, F.; 5468 Felter Road, San Jose, CA 95132 (US). GRAY, George, R.; 14180 Flagstone Terrace, Apple Valley, MN 55124 (US). HURST, Jerry, E., Jr.; 1784 Marcy Lynn Court, San Jose, CA 95124 (US).

(74) Agents: DE GUZMAN, Arnold et al.; Fenwick & West LLP, Two Palo Alto Square, Palo Alto, CA 94306 (US).

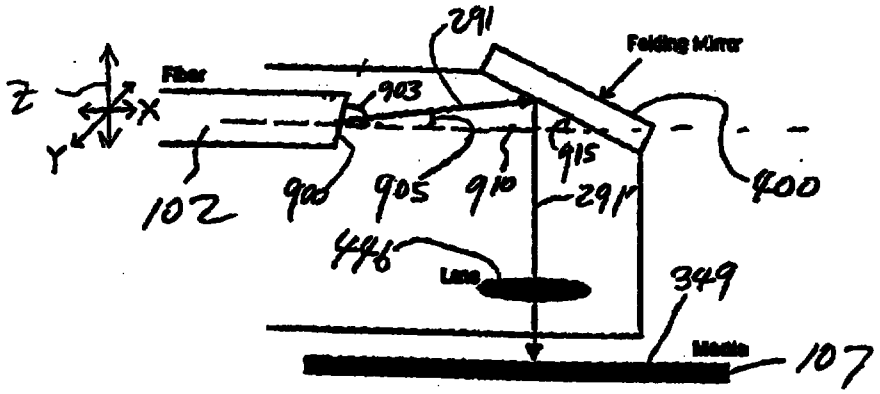
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(54) Title: OPTICAL DATA STORAGE SYSTEM WITH MEANS FOR REDUCING NOISE FROM SPURIOUS REFLECTIONS



(57) Abstract

An optical data storage system utilizes optical fibers for transfer of information to and from storage media. The storage media comprise magneto–optical storage disks. The optical fibers are low–birefringence optical fibers. As compared with conventional approaches, a polarization state conveyed by the optical fiber is accurately reproduced with reduced noise. Various noise reduction techniques are provided by substantially decreasing or eliminating spurious reflections (or the effects thereof) at end faces and of an optical fiber. In particular, various techniques, such as index matching, a cover slip method, laser modulation, or angle polishing, may be used to eliminate spurious reflections (or the effects thereof) at the front end face of the optical fiber. Various techniques, such as angle cleaving, index matching, or multi–mode fiber splicing, may be used to eliminate spurious reflections (or the effects thereof) at the back end face of the optical fiber.