

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PREDICTING A HEAD CRASH IN A DISC DRIVE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A head crash in a hard disc drive is predicted by periodically
measuring a head-disc contact energy level on an actuator arm
supporting the head and identifying a predetermined change in the
energy level between at least two energy level measurements. The head-
disc contact energy level is measured by a positioning microactuator on
10 the actuator arm, and comparing that energy level to a threshold
established during an earlier or selected contact start-stop cycle. A
circuit is coupled to the microactuator and is periodically operable to
identify a magnitude of contact energy. An indicator is coupled to the
circuit and responsive to the representations to indicate presence of
15 symptoms of an impending crash.

Figure 2