



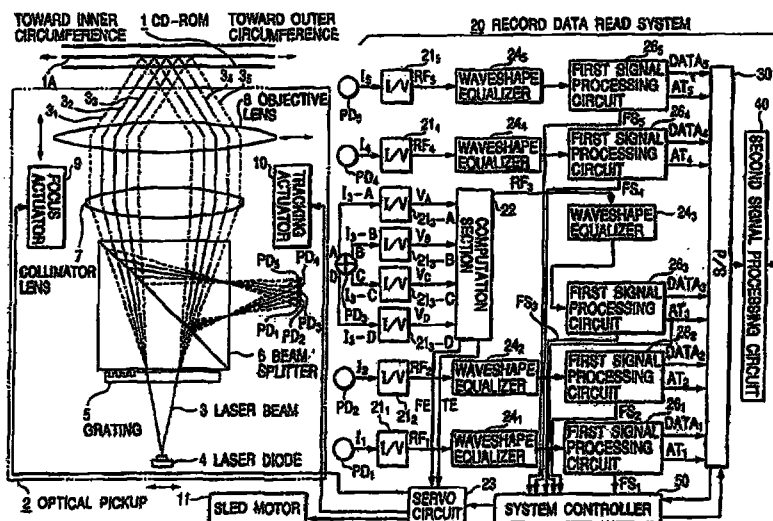
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(54) Title: MULTIBEAM OPTICAL DISK READOUT METHOD AND APPARATUS



(57) Abstract

In a CD-ROM readout system wherein five adjacent tracks of a CD-ROM (1) are separately illuminated by the five light beams (31-35) of an optical pickup (2), in which a recorded data readout system simultaneously reads the recorded data of the separate tracks by detecting the received light outputs of the returned beams, and outputs the data in the sequence in which it was recorded; for example, if the data from the light beam (35), becomes unreadable by the recorded data readout system, the system will read the recorded data using the remaining four light beams, (31-34). This readout is performed in recurring operations in which data is read for approximately one revolution of the CD-ROM (1); then, after there are no longer any gaps in the [combined] data read out by light beams (31-34) the pickup is track-jumped forward by approximately two tracks. At this point the recorded data is again read for one revolution, and the process repeats.