ABSTRACT

In a magnetic recording playback device, since minimum redundant bytes required for satisfying a target error rate are added, redundant bytes to be added more than necessary are reduced, whereby overwrite of the drive due to the redundant bytes is reduced.

The size of redundant bytes to be added in a formatter block 6 is varied, according to the defect condition or electric characteristic of a medium 11 on which data are to be written, or the electric characteristics of a write head for writing the data and an MR head for reproducing the written data.