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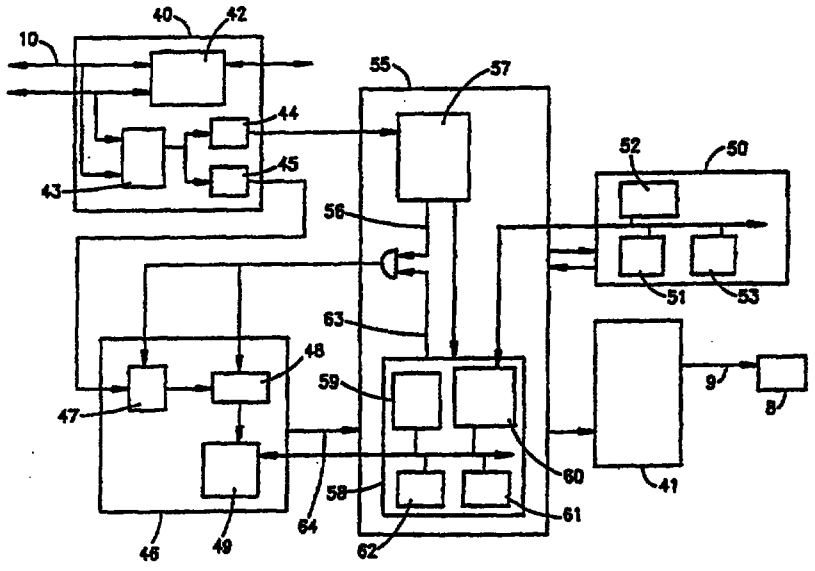
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(54) Title: *METHOD OF DETECTING AND ISOLATING DEFECTIVE SERVO BURSTS*



(57) Abstract

A method to determine defective servo bursts written on a recording medium. Position data portions (10) include servo bursts (22) providing position error information retrieved by servo control system (2) having servo gate enabling signal (56). First likely defective burst is identified by reading each burst (22), measuring corresponding position error information and comparing to an acceptable range. While first likely burst retrieval is disabled, position error information from subsequent bursts is measured. If acceptable, the first likely burst becomes the first confirmed burst. If not, bursts before the first likely burst are selectively disabled and measured until a skipped burst is concluded as a first confirmed burst. While first confirmed burst retrieval is disabled, subsequent bursts are measured to find a second likely burst. By selectively disabling retrieval of a second likely burst and measuring, a second confirmed burst is determined. Then the first and second confirmed defective bursts are permanently marked.