RECORDING MEDIUM FOR STORING START POSITION INFORMATION FOR EACH ZONE AND METHOD FOR MANAGING DATA USING THE INFORMATION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the field of optical recording media, and more particularly, to a disc for storing information of start positions for each zone after initialization or reinitialization of the recording medium, which has a spare area for defect management of a group formed of a plurality of zones, and to a method for managing data using the information.

2. Description of the Related Art

A disc is divided into zones so that inexactness of recording due to a change in speed of a spindle and deterioration of a search speed, which occur in a constant linear velocity (CLV) method are suppressed, and a zoned constant linear velocity (ZLCV) method is used to obtain a higher recording density than that obtained by a constant angular velocity (CAV) method.

A recordable and/or rewritable disc managed by a predetermined method for managing defects may have a defective area, which can be detected through a certification process, when the disc is initialized. In order to manage the defects, physical sector numbers for indicating physical position on the disc and logical sector numbers for recording and managing a file by a file system, are separately managed. Logical sector numbers are sequentially given to record and reproduce a file by a file system, in areas other than areas which are not used for recording a file, such as a lead-in area or a guard area for adjusting the change of speed at a boundary between zones, and an area where defects are

generated. A file is recorded on a disc and reproduced from the disc using logical sector numbers according to the file system, and a recording and/or reproducing apparatus receives a logical sector number from the file system as a position to be recorded and/or reproduced, and then searches for a physical sector number corresponding to the logical sector number to perform recording and/or reproduction.

When a reproducing apparatus makes an error in calculation of the logical sector number, the file is recorded in a physically wrong area, so that the file cannot be read by another reproducing apparatus. Also, the file overlaps with the recorded data, so that previous recorded data is spoiled.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

To solve the above problems, it is an object of the present invention to provide a recording medium which is divided into a plurality of zones by a method for controlling the speed for each zone such as a zoned constant linear velocity or a zoned constant angular velocity, and information on the start position of each zone is stored after initialization or reinitialization of the recording medium which forms a group from a plurality of zones and has a spare area for defect management.

It is another objective of the present invention to provide a method for managing data on the basis of the start position information of each zone recorded on the disc, to minimize damage of data due to errors in calculation of the start logical sector number generated by recording and/or reproducing apparatuses which are different from each other and ensure stable recording and/or reproducing of data.

Accordingly, to achieve the first object, there is provided a recording medium comprised of a plurality of zones in order to manage defects, wherein the plurality of zones form a group, and a spare area

for replacing defects for the group is allocated, and start position information for each zone is stored in a predetermined area.

To achieve the second object, there is provided a method for managing data for a reproducing only apparatus in which a plurality of zones form a group to manage defects of the disc, a spare area for replacing defects for the group is allocated, and start position information for each zone is stored in a predetermined area, comprising the steps of: reading start position information, which is stored in the predetermined area, for each zone; and accessing data on the basis of the read start position information and reproducing the accessed data.

To achieve the second object, there is provided a method for managing data for a recording and reproducing apparatus in which a plurality of zones forms a group to manage defects of the disc, a spare area for replacing defects of the group is allocated, and the start position information for each zone is stored in a predetermined area, comprising the steps of: reading the start position information for each zone, which is stored in the defect management area; calculating the start position information for each zone on the basis of primary defect list information; and performing reading and writing of data when the read start position information is identical to the calculated start position information.

Also, the method further comprises step of reading data on the basis of the start position information stored in the predetermined area when the read start position information is not identical to the calculated start position information.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above objectives and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent by describing in detail preferred embodiments thereof with reference to the attached drawings in which:

FIG. 1 shows the relationship between the one-dimensional structure of a typical disc having the size of the DVD-RAM standard version 1.0 and the start logical number of each zone;

FIG. 2 shows a change of the start logical sector number of each zone caused by slipping replacement in the disc, which has a group formed of a plurality of zones, to aid understanding of the present invention;

FIG. 3 shows a change of the starting position of data is recorded by the miscalculated logical sector number in the structure of the disc of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 shows an example of the structure of a table which includes information on the start position for each zone in a defect management area according to the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a flowchart of an embodiment of a data management method for a reproducing only apparatus according to the present invention; and

FIG. 6 is a flowchart of an embodiment of a data management method for a recording and reproducing apparatus according to the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In order to manage defects on a general recordable and/or rewritable disc, slipping replacement, for skipping defects without providing logical sector numbers to the defects, is used for defects (primary defects) generated upon initialization of the disc, and linear replacement for replacing error correction code (ECC) blocks of an erroneous zone with normal blocks in a spare area, and is used for defects (secondary defects) generated during use of the disc.

That is, slipping replacement is used to minimize a reduction in the recording or reproduction speed due to defects, in which a logical sector number is provided to a sector which is determined to be

defective during a certification process for inspecting defects of a disc when the disc is initialized. Here, the logical sector number is provided to a sector next to the defective sector, that is, data is recorded or reproduced by skipping a sector where a defect is generated during recording or reproduction. Here, an actual physical sector number is shifted by the sector number designated by skipping the defective sector. Such a shifting-backwards phenomenon is solved by using the same number of sectors in a spare area located at the end portion of a recording area (a group or a zone) as the number of defects in the recording area. According to the specifications, the position of a defective sector replaced by slipping replacement is prescribed to be recorded in a primary defect list (PDL) in a defect management area (DMA) on a disc.

Slipping replacement cannot be used for a defect which is generated while a disc is being used. When a defective portion is disregarded or skipped, discontinuity is introduced into the logical sector numbering, which means that slipping replacement violates file system rules. Thus, linear replacement is used for defects generated during use of the disc, in which an ECC block including a defective sector is replaced by an ECC block existing in a spare area. The location of the defective ECC block replaced by linear replacement is prescribed to be recorded in a secondary defect list (SDL) in a defect management area on a disc. When linear replacement is used, logical sector numbering is not interrupted. However, when there is a defect, the positions of sectors on a disc are discontinuous, and real data for a defective ECC block exists in a spare area.

Meanwhile, a digital versatile disc random access memory (DVD-RAM) according to the DVD-RAM standard version 1.0 includes a plurality of groups each having a user area and a spare area which are constant in each zone. That is, FIGS. 1A and 1B one-dimensionally show a logical area and a physical area on part of a disc, respectively,

where each zone of the physical area includes a guard area, a user area, a spare area, and a guard area which are sequentially arranged. That is, reference numerals 101, 102, 103, 104 and 105 denote a user area, a spare area, a guard area, defective sectors and a spare area replaced by slipping replacement, respectively. The guard area 103 is a buffering area for preventing driving from becoming unstable due to the differences in rotation speed between zones, and is allocated at the start and the end positions of each zone.

In a conventional method for managing defects, a group is formed of one zone, and a spare area is allocated at the end of each group. Each group is managed as defect management area. Also, FIG. 1B shows the shifting-backwards phenomenon in which a logical sector number is shifted backwards by slipping replacement. However, when spare areas are arranged in each zone, the shifting phenomenon of a logical sector number ends at the spare area of the corresponding zone and the start logical sector number of the next zone is predetermined without being affected by the number of defects as shown in FIG. 1A. Thus, the start logical sector numbers of each of the groups are predetermined by a standard so that when data on the disc is read, the start logical sector numbers for each zone may not be separately managed to search for the corresponding zone.

However, the start logical sector number of each group is designated as described above. Thus, when defects in a group are managed by slipping replacement, slipping replacement must be performed only within a corresponding group. In order to replace defects generated in a corresponding group using the slipping replacement, the number of defective sectors that are slipped must be less than the number of usable sectors in a spare area of the corresponding group. Thus, a restriction that a large defect generated in a group must be processed within the same group limits the maximum size of a defect that can be replaced by slipping replacement.

If the size of defects to be replaced by slipping replacement is greater than the size of a spare area in a corresponding group, a spare area in another group must be used by linear replacement. However, when linear replacement is used, defects are managed not in units of sectors but in units of ECC blocks, that is, in units of 16 sectors. Thus, a spare area of 16 sectors is required to process one defective sector, which degrades the efficiency of defect management. Also, a standard size of a spare area for defect management is predetermined, so that a spare area of the predetermined size must also be allocated in applications to which defect management using linear replacement cannot be applied, such as real time recording. Therefore, the efficiency of area utilization of a disc is degraded.

To solve these problems, there is proposed a method for managing defects in which a group is formed of a plurality of zones and a spare area is allocated at the start portion of the group and/or the end thereof.

When a group is formed of a plurality of zones, the start logical sector number for each zone depends on the number of defects. Particularly, when a spare area exists at the position in which the group starts, the slipping replacement must be performed backwards, to thereby complicate calculation in initialization. Particularly, slipping replacement causes misalignment of the start sector of an ECC block at a start position of a zone, so that a fragmented ECC block is located at the zone boundary. When sectors which cannot form an ECC block at a boundary between zones are skipped to prevent the fragmented ECC blocks of each zone, calculation of the start logical sector number with respect to each zone becomes more complicated.

That is, FIGS. 2A and 2B show a logical area and a physical area of a disc in which a plurality of zones form a group, a spare area for slipping replacement is allocated at the group, and the start logical sector number of each zone is changed. Each zone includes guard

area, a user area, and a guard area, and a spare area 204 for a group is allocated at the end portion of the group. Reference numerals 201, 202 and 203 denote a user area, a guard area and defective sectors, respectively.

When a zone #0 (first zone) has no defects, the logical sector number which is allocated as the start logical sector number of a zone #1 (the second zone) is m+1, and when there are no defects, the start logical sector number of a third zone is n+1, and when a defect is generated in each zone during initialization, the start logical sector number is shifted backwards by an amount equal to the number of the defective sectors.

That is, as shown in FIG. 2B, when the number of defective sectors in the zone #0 is **i**, the logical sector numbers are shifted backwards by **i**. If there are no defects, as shown in FIG. 2A, the final logical sector number allocated to the zone #0 is **m**, however, the final logical sector number allocated to the first zone according to the number **i** of defective sectors is **m-i**.

Thus, in the DVD-RAM standard version 1.0, when the size of a user area allocated to the first zone is **m** sectors, the start logical sector number of the zone #1 starts from **m+1**, but when each zone has no spare area, the start logical sector number of the next zone is shifted by **i** as shown in FIG. 2B so that the start logical sector number of the zone #1 is **m-i+1**.

In the next zone (zone #2), when the number of defects generated from the start of the group to the same zone (zone #2) is **j**, the start logical sector number is shifted to **n-j+1**. At this time, i and j may further include an additional spare area for preventing the start position of the ECC block from misaligning at each boundary between each zone due to a defective sector, i.e., for skipping the remaining sectors which cannot form an ECC block at the end of each zone.

Thus, the start logical sector number for each zone is shifted backwards by the additional spare area.

Here, the spare area 204 may be allocated at the end portion of a group or the start portion thereof. When the spare area 204 is allocated at the start portion of group, reverse slipping replacement is performed, which complicates calculation of the start logical sector number for each zone. In reverse slipping replacement, the slipping replacement is performed in reverse and the remaining sectors which cannot form an ECC block, which is generated at a boundary between zones after the slipping replacement, are reallocated at the final portion of the zone, which complicates calculation.

Also, when the file system is generally recorded at a portion where the logical sector number of the disc starts, the spare area is positioned at the start portion of the group, and the calculation is wrong, the file system cannot be read due to the forward shifting of the logical sector number.

Thus, when defects are managed in the group forming a plurality of zones, the start logical sector number for each zone is changed so that the recording and/or reproducing apparatus must calculate the start logical sector number for each zone to perform normally recording and/or reproduction of a disc. Meanwhile, in order to read the disc in a a reproducing only apparatus such as DVD-ROM reproducing apparatus and/or a DVD player, the start logical sector numbers for each zone of the disc must be read, so that the size of the firmware of the reproducing apparatus is increased.

FIGS. 3A and 3B show the case of change of the start logical sector number of a zone when a complicated start logical sector number is wrongly calculated in a predetermined portion due to errors in designing a recording and/or reproducing apparatus or a software bug of a firmware. When the calculation of the logical start positions of zones is complicated, and thus calculation of the start logical sector of

zones is wrong in a predetermined portion due to errors of software of a microcomputer which controls initialization of the reproducing apparatus, a normal position of FIG. 3B of the physical area corresponding to a position of FIG. 3A of the logical area of the file in a zone #K, which is 301, may be 302.

As shown in FIG. 3B, a zone 303 where logical sector numbers overlap, a zone 304 where the logical sector number is wrong, or a zone 305 where the logical sector number is not designated, may be generated. In particular, zones 303 and 305 can be easily found, but zone 304 cannot be easily found by any corresponding reproducing apparatus. In the drive system having wrong calculation, wrong positions may be recorded or a normally recorded portion cannot be read due to wrong calculation of the start logical sector number.

When the file is abnormally recorded, and a wrong recorded disc is recorded and/or reproduced wrongly in a normal recording and/or reproducing apparatus, or a normally recorded disc is managed in a recording and/or reproducing apparatus in which the start logical sector number is wrongly calculated, the file may be wrongly read and written. In particular, when the defect management area is allocated to the start position of the group, slipping replacement is performed in reverse so that the first position of the logical sector number may be wrong, where the file system cannot be read.

To solve the above problem, when the start logical sector numbers for each zone are determined after slipping replacement on initialization or reinitialization, the start logical sector numbers for each zone are stored in a disc definition structure (DDS) area of the defect management area. That is, as shown in FIG. 4A, the start logical sector numbers for each zone are recorded in the DDS area using a recording item of 4 bytes. Here, RBP shows a relative byte position, and start logical sector numbers for 35 zones from a reserved 256th byte position of the DDS area can be allocated in unit of 4 bytes, as an example.

FIG. 4B denotes the structure of the DDS where the start logical sector numbers of 4 byte for each zone are stored, where the start logical sector numbers are recorded in 24 bits and the remaining bits are reserved.

When a disc on which the start logical sector numbers for each zone are recorded is read or written in another recording and/or reproducing apparatus, the following operations may be performed.

The reproducing only apparatus requires no calculation of the start logical sector numbers. This is because the recording and/or reproducing apparatus records data on the basis of the wrong start logical sector number even though the start logical sector number recorded in the DDS area is wrong, and thus the reproducing only apparatus must read data on the basis of the stored start logical sector number. Thus, it is securest to read data with reference to the start logical sector number recorded in the DDS area without complicated calculation and regardless of wrong calculation of the start logical sector number recorded in the DDS area. Thus, the reproducing apparatus requires no algorithm for calculating the complicated start logical sector number to thereby simplify the firmware.

That is, in the reproducing only apparatus, as shown in the flowchart of FIG. 5, the start logical sector number for each zone stored in the DDS area is read (S101), and data is accessed based on the read start logical sector number to be produced (S102).

Meanwhile, when the disc is installed in a recording and reproducing apparatus, the start logical sector number of the DDS area is read, but the start logical sector number is calculated on the basis of PDL information of the defect management area. If the recorded information is consistent with the information obtained by calculation, the apparatus performs normal recording and reproduction, and if not, the apparatus only reads data on the basis of the start logical sector information recorded on the disc. This is because the data of the disc is

recorded on the basis of the start logical sector number which is stored in the DDS area for each zone. Also, it is securest not to record additional data until it is determined which information is wrong. Thus, information must not be recorded on the disc until it is determined why the start logical sector number of the disc is inconsistent and a proper action is performed.

That is, in the recording and reproducing apparatus, as shown in the flowchart of FIG. 6, the start logical sector number for each zone stored in the DDS area is read (S201), and the start logical sector number for each zone is calculated on the basis of the PDL information of the defect management area (S202). Then, it is determined whether the start logical sector numbers read in step 201 are identical to the start logical sector numbers calculated in step 202 (S203), and if so, normal data read and write operations are performed (S204). If not, the fact that the disc has an error is informed (S205), data is read on the basis of the start logical sector number stored in the DDS area (S206), and no data is recorded on the disc until the error is cleared by a fixing tool (S207).

As described above, the start logical sector number corresponding to the start position information for each zone is stored in the defect management area so that the reproducing only apparatus requires no algorithm to calculate the complicated start logical sector number.

Also, when the stored information is inconsistent correspond to the calculated start position information for each zone, damage of data due to errors of calculation of the start logical sector number generated by recording and reproducing apparatuses which are different from each other, using the stored start position information for each zone, is minimized and stability of the recorded data is increased.

CLAIMS:

1. A recording and/or reproducing apparatus to record and/or reproduce data to and/or from zones of a recording medium, with the recording medium has a spare area for defect management for a group including a plurality of the zones, with the spare area being at an end of the group, the apparatus comprising:

a pickup unit operable to read an information area of the recording medium, the information area having start position information for each of the zones of the group, the start position information including, for each zone, a corresponding start logical sector number, wherein, for each of the plurality of zones, the start logical sector number recorded in the start position information is different; and

a controller operable to perform defect management by using the spare area to replace a defective area in the zones of the group to manage defects at a group level.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the controller accesses the data by:

accessing first data recorded in a first one of the zones according to a first one of the start logical sector numbers recorded in the read start position information; and

accessing second data from a second one of the zones other than the first one of the zones according to a second one of the start logical sector numbers recorded in the read start position information.