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Jitter Model and Signal Processing Techniques for Pulse Width Modulation Optical Recording

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ABSTRACT

This paper discusses a jitter model and signal processing techniques for data recovery in Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) optical recording. In PWM, information is stored through modulating sizes of sequential marks alternation in magnetic polarization or in material structure. Jitter, defined as the deviation from the original mark size in the time domain, will result in error detection if it is excessively large. This paper takes a new approach in data recovery by first using a high speed counter clock to convert time-marks to amplitude-marks, and uses signal processing techniques to minimize jitter according to the jitter model. The signal processing techniques include motor speed and intersymbol interference equalization, differential and additive detection, and differential and additive modulation.

1 Introduction

Optical data storage is built upon many disciplines. Through the applications of these disciplines, storage densities and access speeds have been improved significantly [1]. In addition to the results that have provided shorter wavelength laser diodes, lighter optical heads, and better understanding of media, the use of signal processing techniques is also important in extracting information from noisy signals. As a result, this paper will study how data can be modulated, demodulated, detected, and demodulated to achieve higher density storage.

Background

Since the magneto-optical (MO) and phase change media have only two different polarizations or states, information can be stored only through modulating marks alternation in polarization or state. In this paper, pulse width modulation (PWM) is considered where marks of variable size according to the input signal are recorded.

In detecting a readback signal, the peak detection technique is commonly used [2][3]. That is, a signal of peaks at mark boundaries is first generated by a differentiator if necessary. To recover the original signal, a time window is used to decide whether a peak fails into or not. The time window is generally derived from the readback signal by a phase locked loop (PLL) [4].

Approach of This Paper

In this paper, a different approach is taken in recovering the original signal. First, mark boundaries are detected by methods such as the peak detection method described above. In the second step, instead of using the time window method, a high speed counter clock is used to quantize the mark size between two adjacent mark boundaries, as depicted in Figure 1. The counter output generates an integer number proportional to the time mark. In other words, this quantization step transforms the readback signal from time marks to amplitude marks, and signal processing techniques are subsequently used.

There are two important advantages of this quantization approach. First, it converts a time-mark signal to an amplitude-mark signal. As a result of this conversion, time domain noise (jitter) is at the same time converted to amplitude-domain noise, which allows us to perform signal processing in the amplitude domain. Another advantage of this approach is it provides a flexible and integrated implementation of various equalization, detection, and demodulation algorithms. This will become clear in the subsequent discussion.

One disadvantage of this approach is the added quantization error in the quantization step. However, if the clock is fast enough, this quantization error is negligible. For example, if the clock period is one nsec and mark sizes are multiples of this nsec, we have the signal to noise ratio $S/N = \frac{1}{\text{Mark Width}} = 50 \times$ for calculation, see (3) for example.

Jitter, defined as the total deviation away from the original mark size by all possible causes, is the time domain noise, similar to the amplitude noise in an amplitude modulated signal. There are various sources that contribute to the total jitter. This paper will establish a jitter model that translates all jitter sources into the total jitter, and study how the jitter can be reduced by signal processing.

Figure 1: Quantization of Time Marks to Amplitude Marks

2 Jitter Model

This section describes a jitter model based on which equalization, detection, and modulation techniques are described in the following sections. Although the model is not yet completely verified experimentally, it is formulated according to recent experiment and simulation studies [5]-[8].

1 If we assume the disk linear velocity is 4 m/sec, this 100 nsec time unit corresponds to 400 nm mark width. For a system using (4) RLL code, the minimum mark size is 1.2 μm. If we compare this with a typical diffraction limit at 1 μm, this 100 nsec is a reasonable assumption.

2 In optical recording, since there are many sources causing mark size deviation, jitter is also defined differently. For example, in peak detection, the deviation of a mark boundary is called peak shift [3], and jitter is one of the causes due to random noise. In this paper, for simplicity, jitter is the total result of all deviation causes, and each cause will be described in detail in the jitter model.
where each jitter component has its similar counterpart described in the write process. Specifically,

\[ W_r' = W_r - \delta_3' - \delta_{3+1}' \]  

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1. Noise jitter due to random receiver noise

2. Peak shift jitter due to laser beam width fluctuation in the read process.

3. ISI jitter in the read process. Physically, this ISI jitter is due to the convolution of the laser beam width with a written mark size. The time mark read out will depend on the mark size recorded.

Including the motor speed jitter, we have

\[ T_j = \left( \frac{V_a}{V_s} \right) T_r + \frac{\Delta v}{v_s} \sim \frac{1}{V_s} \sum \xi - \xi_i 

where \( \Delta v/v \approx (\Delta v'/v'_s) + (\Delta v''/v''_s) \) and \( \xi = \xi + \xi_i = \xi_{\text{motor}} + \xi_{\text{medium}} + \xi_{\text{receiver}}, \xi_2 = \xi_3 + \xi_4, \xi_1 = \xi_2 + \xi_3. \) For convenience, we call \( \xi_1 \) the noise jitter, \( \xi_2 \) the bit shift jitter, and \( \xi_3 \) the ISI jitter.

### 3 Equalization Techniques

The objective of equalization discussed in this section is to restore the original mark size \( T_r \) from \( T_j' \).

1. Write Velocity Jitter Correction

The term \( T_j \Delta v_w \) in Eq. (2.1) is the jitter caused by velocity fluctuation and is proportional to \( T_r \). In time-window-based peak detection systems where mark sizes are not quantized, this \( T_j \)-proportional jitter is not important since it can be compensated easily by a phase lock loop (PLL) in the read process. However, when time marks are quantized and converted into amplitude marks, it is more difficult to use a PLL. In the following we explain how velocity fluctuation can be compensated by using the servo voltage in the disk drive.

A circuit that removes motor speed jitter is depicted in Fig. 3. In the figure, a voltage signal \( v(t) \) that is proportional to the linear velocity of the disk with respect to the laser head is sent to an integrator. If the integrator is reset to zero at time \( t_0 \), the voltage output \( U_i(t_{i+1}) \) of the integrator equals the spatial mark \( W_r' \) at time \( t_{i+1} \), and the comparator output changes from "0" to "1." This transition will reset the integrator, change the JK Flip-Flop state from on to off, and turn off the laser diode. Similar operation repeats from time \( t_{i+1} \) to \( t_{i+2} \).

![Figure 3: Circuit for Write Process Compensation](image-url)
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With this compensation, the mark size is given by:

\[ r^2 = n_i^2 = \xi_i^2 - \xi_j^2. \]

(iii). Read Process Equalization

The equalization in the receiver consists of two steps, as shown in Figure 4. The first step is to reduce the ISI jitter \( r^2 \). In this way, the ISI is to subtract each \( r^2 \) by an amount of \( r^2 \), where \( r^2 = \xi_i^2 - \xi_j^2 \). The second step is to correct the jitter variation, the following detection techniques are used to make detection insensitive to this jitter.

Neglecting the second order effect \( \Delta r^2 \), and combining Eqs. (2.4) and (3.11) we have:

\[ T_j^2 = \frac{1}{T_j^2} \left[ T_j^2 + \frac{1}{L_i^2} \Delta T_i + \frac{1}{L_j^2} \Delta T_j \right] \]

The second step is to correct the motor speed jitter in the read process. To accomplish this, we also use the motor servo voltage signal to estimate the quantity \( \Delta V_j^2 \), based on which we have:

\[ T_j^2 = \frac{1}{T_j^2} \left[ T_j^2 + \frac{1}{L_i^2} \Delta V_i + \frac{1}{L_j^2} \Delta V_j \right] \]

After these two steps, jitter that is left includes only \( \Delta r^2 \) and \( \Delta V_j \). The first one is purely random and has no correlation with adjacent ones. The second one is slowly varying and alternating in sign as a function of \( j \). Instead of equalizing this second jitter directly, the following detection techniques are used to make correct detection insensitive to this jitter.

4 Detection Techniques

The first method to recover the original mark size \( S_j \) from \( T_j^2 \) is called the Differential Interleaving Detection (DID). If we subtract \( T_j^2 \) from \( T_j^2 \), the difference is:

\[ \Delta T_j = \left( \frac{1}{T_j^2} - \frac{1}{T_j^2} \right) \approx \left( \frac{V_c}{V_c} \right) (T_j - T_j^2) = \frac{1}{V_c} \left( \xi_i^2 - \xi_j^2 \right). \]

where the term \( \xi_i^2 - \xi_j^2 \) is of second order and maybe neglected because of the strong positive correlation between \( \xi_i^2 \) and \( \xi_j^2 \).

\[ T_j \] in Eq. (4.1) has only the random jitter. Comparing this with Eq. (3.3), this technique has a 3db power penalty. However, we may use maximum likelihood sequence detection (MLSD) to detect each \( T_j \) in a sequence of \( T_j, \Delta T_j, \Delta T_j, \Delta T_j, \ldots \) to avoid this penalty. With this differential interleaving method, if the two mark sizes \( T_j \) and \( T_j \) are predefined, subsequent \( T_j \)'s can all be obtained from the differential terms.

In the case that the \( T_j \)'s are modulated by some kind of data, straightforward detection may have an error propagation problem. To solve this, a post-modulation method called Differential Interleaving Modulation (DIM) can be used as described in the next section.

The second method to recover the original mark size can also be called the Additive Interleaving Detection (AID). This method first adds the two adjacent mark sizes read. That is:

\[ S_j = \frac{T_j + S_j}{2}. \]

Again, the term \( \xi_i^2 - \xi_j^2 \) is of second order and neglected.

From the detected \( S_j, T_j, S_j, \ldots \), the \( \xi_j^2 \) term can all be recovered if the first \( T_j \) is predefined. This method has the same error propagation problem as DIM. If written marks are modulated according to \( S_j \), instead of \( T_j \), the problem completely removed, and this post-modulation is called Additive Interleaving Modulation (AIM).

5 Modulation Techniques

For a given modulation code that translates an input message into a sequence of mark sizes \( S_j \), the objective of the postmodulation DIM or AIM is to translate \( S_j \) into \( T_j \) so that the detection either \( \Delta T_j \) or \( S_j \) can be used directly to recover the original \( S_j \) without any error propagation. Without loss of generality, \( V_c = V_0 \) is assumed in the following discussion.

(1). Differential Interleaving Modulation

For a given modulation code, assume each mark generates satisfies the following condition:

\[ 0 \leq S_{min} \leq S_j \leq S_{max}. \] (5.1)

For DIM, we first define the initial values \( T_j \) and \( T_{j+1} \), and subsequent \( T_j \)'s after \( T_j \) and \( T_{j+1} \) are defined as follows:

\[ T_j + T_{j+1} = \begin{cases} T_j + S_j, & \text{if } T_j + S_j \leq T_{max}, \\ T_j + S_j - T_{max} - T_{min} - 1, & \text{if } T_j + S_j > T_{max}. \end{cases} \] (5.2)

where \( T_{min} \leq T_j \leq T_{max} \) for each \( j \).

To make the modulation rule self-consistent when \( T_j \equiv T_{max} \) and \( S_j \equiv S_{max} \), from the second part of Eq. (5.2), we need:

\[ S_{max} + T_{min} - 1 \leq T_{max} \leq S_{max} + T_{max} - S_{min} - 1. \] (5.3)

By subtracting \( T_j \) on both sides of Eq. (5.2), we have:

\[ -T_j \leq T_j^2 - T_j^2 = \begin{cases} S_j, & \text{if } T_j + S_j \leq T_{max}, \\ S_j - T_{max} - T_{min} - 1, & \text{if } T_j + S_j > T_{max}. \end{cases} \] (5.4)

We note that if \( T_j + S_j \leq T_{max} \) is true in recording, \( -T_j \leq T_j^2 - T_j^2 \) is true. If \( T_j + S_j \leq T_{max} \), by Eq. (5.3), \( -T_j \leq T_j^2 - T_j^2 = S_j - T_{max} - T_{min} - 1 \leq 0 \) is true.

Therefore:

\[ -T_j \leq T_j^2 - T_j^2 = \begin{cases} S_j, & \text{if } -T_j \leq S_{min}, \\ S_j - T_{max} - T_{min} - 1, & \text{if } -T_j \leq T_{max}. \end{cases} \] (5.5)

As a result, the differential pre-demodulation rule is:

\[ \text{Differential Pre-Demodulation Rule}. \]

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6 Simulation Examples

This section examines how data recovery is improved by using the signal processing techniques discussed earlier. To have a quantitative performance evaluation, we use the mark error rate (MER) as the criterion, which is defined as the ratio of the number of misdetected marks to the total number of input marks.

In the following subsections, we first describe three different sets of the statistical parameters that are used in the computer simulation programs. These three sets are used to describe three different jitter scenarios. Next, we describe five different detection methods based on which MER is calculated. In simulation, each MER is obtained at a given signal to noise ratio (SNR) where SNR is defined as

\[
SNR = \frac{\text{Unit Mark Size}}{\text{RMS Jitter of } \varepsilon_0} = \frac{\Delta T V_c}{\sqrt{\langle \varepsilon_0^2 \rangle} - \mu_{\varepsilon_0} + \sigma_{\varepsilon_0}}
\]

where \( \Delta T \) is the unit of time. From this definition, we see that SNR here only includes noise jitter. At the end we will discuss the simulation results.

6.1 Statistical Parameters

In simulation, time mark sizes are \( r \Delta T \), where \( \Delta T \) is chosen to be 100 nanoseconds. And it is uniformly distributed between \( -\Delta T \) and \( +\Delta T \). But not exactly. The disk linear velocity is set at 4.0 m/sec in both write and read process. For simplicity, the velocity fluctuation in the write process is assumed to be zero in all simulation cases (or assuming the velocity correction has been done perfectly). Three different sets of parameters are selected to cover the following scenarios:

1. All velocity jitter, bit shift jitter, and ISI are significant.

In this scenario, read velocity fluctuation range is set to be 0.1 m/sec, or 10% of the mean velocity. Velocity is maintained to be slowly varying within a time mark period.

Bit shift jitter (\( \sigma_2 \)) is set to have a mean shift 200 nm, representing approximately 20% of the laser beam width (assuming the diffraction limit is 1 μm) and the fluctuation of the shift is ±60 nm, or approximately ±6% of the laser beam width. The bit shift jitter is also maintained to be slowly varying in a time mark period.

ISI jitter is assumed to be essentially a linear function of the time mark written. The proportional constant is chosen to be 0.05 in this scenario. The detection performance is shown in Figure 5.

2. Only bit shift jitter is significant.

In this scenario, velocity jitter is set to zero and the ISI jitter is reduced from 0.08 in scenario 1 to 0.02. Other parameters are the same as those in scenario 1. The detection performance is shown in Figure 6.

3. Only ISI is significant.

In this scenario, velocity jitter is set to zero and the bit shift jitter is reduced from ±60 nm in scenario 1 to ±10 nm, or ±1% of the laser beam width. Other parameters are maintained to be the same as in scenario 1. The detection performance is shown in Figure 7.

6.2 Detection Methods

Five detection methods are used in simulation. They are:

1. Basic Detection.

The basic detection method is based on threshold detection and uses no equalization other than compensating the average bit shift term \( \sigma_2 \). That is, for each detected mark size \( \varepsilon_0 \), we subtract \( 2\varepsilon_0/V_c \) if \( j \) is even and add the same amount if \( j \) is odd.

2. Basic Detection plus ISI Equalization.

In addition to the average bit shift compensation, this second detection method utilizes the ISI jitter.

3. Basic Detection plus ISI and Velocity Equalization.

In addition to the basic detection and ISI equalization, this detection method equalizes velocity fluctuation.


This detection method equals ISI and velocity fluctuation, but it does not cancel bit shift jitter in the rudimentary way of method 1. Instead, it uses the better differential detection method.
6.3 Discussion

From the results, we may make the following observations:

1. The basic detection method is not an effective detection method if the noise jitter is dominated by other jitter. As shown in Figures 5 to 7, MER cannot be effectively improved by increasing SNR. This indicates the importance of equalization.

2. Methods 2 and 3 perform almost the same if velocity fluctuation does not exist. These two methods perform equally as well as the DID and AID methods when gaussian noise dominates (SNR < 12) (even better than DID).

3. Differential detection performs better than the three detection methods and is approximately 3 dB poorer than additive detection. This is what we predicted before. But interestingly, when SNR is greater than 25 dB, DID reaches an error floor if bit shift jitter is significant (see Figures 5, 6). We do not see the similar floor when only ISI jitter is important (Figure 7). This error floor is likely due to the second order jitter effect that we have neglected and this effect does not appear in the case of AID. When noise jitter dominates (SNR < 12 in Figures 5-7), DID is not better than the other methods because of the extra 3 db penalty.

4. Additive detection performs better in all cases, especially when all sources of jitter are important or when bit shift jitter is not negligible (see Figures 5-7).

7 Conclusions

This paper has introduced a jitter model and a quantization approach, based on which signal processing techniques in equalization, detection, and modulation were used to obtain better data recovery. From the simulation examples illustrated, we found that additive detection plus velocity and ISI equalizations performed best. Its smaller SNR to obtain the same mark error rate means smaller sizes can be recovered and consequently a higher density can be achieved.

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References


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