

ECE 571 – Advanced Microprocessor-Based Design Lecture 30

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Announcements

- HW#10 was posted, ARM+Intel readings
- Will respond to topics, don't forget related work in Project update
- Busy week with Supercomputing and Demosplash



Disk Storage – History

- First disk, IBM, 1950s (size of two refrigerators, 3.75MB), oxide was similar to paint used on golden gate bridge, 1s access time
- At the time already had tape
- Disk vs Disc (usually magnetic vs optical)
- PATA/SATA/SCSI/USB



Magnetic Storage

- Magnetism to store onto drives
- Non-volatile
- Historical
 - Wire recording (early 1900s)
 - Magnetic tape (analog, 1928)
 - Magnetic drum – story of Mel
 - Core memory, Core rope
 - Twistor? Bubble memory?



Disk Storage – Terminology

- Originally CHS (cylinder/head/sector)
- Now LBA (logical block access)
- Constant linear velocity (mostly CDs) – same speed no matter where track is. More data on outer tracks
- Constant angular velocity – HDD and FDD
- Audio/Video disks often one big spiral track, hard disks usually separate tracks



Magnetism

- Magnetic domains. Start out random, but can be arranged by external field to line up, making much stronger field.
- This is not a minimal energy config, but very stable
- Temperature can cause to disappear, at Curie point



Hard Disk

- Rigid disk, spinning
Originally aluminum, now more exotic
- Two motors
 - spindle (spins)
 - 4200 to 15k rpm, consumer often 5400 or 7200 Which is better 5400 or 7200? 7200 faster, 5400 quieter and lower-power. Western digital causing issues 2020 by having "5400 class" drives that were actually 7200. why is that a problem?



- Want: low vibration, low noise
- Minimal wobble. Causes Non-Repeatable Runout (NRRO) (NRRO means not centered over track) causing track mis-registration (TMR)
- Used to have ball bearings, but hard to make them that good. Recently use fluid dynamic bearings.
- Constant angular velocity, though recent (since 90s) zone bit recording (store more on outer rim)
To keep from being really complex, it's not per track but a bunch of different zones, each with different density



- actuator (move arm)
 - Linear or rotary
 - Arm moved using voice coil (stepper motor on old) NIB (niobium Iron Boron) high-flux magnet, coil (sort of like speaker coil) rapidly moves in magnetic field



Reading/Writing

- Read/write head
- Close over surface of disk, often nanometers. Any dirt bad.
- N/S polarity, read as 0/1
- Hard to read 0 or 1, easier to measure transition, so encoding used. This means write a sector at a time, not possible to change an individual bit. NRZI encoding. FM/MFM Run-length limited (RLL) codes
- Magnetic “domains” of grains that can be aligned



- Magnetic dipole forming magnetic field
- Prior to 2005 or so these were horizontal and parallel
- These days, perpendicular (see silly movie)
- Originally iron(III) oxide, now cobalt-based
- Need to resist self-demagnetization
- Writing
 - Early used electromagnet to both read/write
 - Metal in Gap (MIG) and thin film heads later
 - Magnetoresistance
 - Spintronics, “Giant” magnetoresistance
 - Modern, separate read/write heads (close to each



other) read is magneto-resistance, write thin-film inductive

- write-wide read-narrow
- Guard band on either side to keep from bleeding (affects directly TPI)
- “servo” or how to find the track
- A DSP takes the signal from the read head and converts to digital



High Density

- Roughly follow Moore's Law?



Problems with High Density

- superparamagnetic trilemma involving grain size, grain magnetic strength and ability of the head to write
- Data can be lost for thermal reasons
- “superparamagnetic limit”
- Platters covered in two parallel magnetic layers, separated by 3 atoms of ruthenium. Magnetized in opposite directions.
- Perpendicular recording
- exchange spring media



Error Handling

- Without error checking, error of 1 in 10^5 which is pretty high
- ECC, Reed-Solomon Coding
- With ECC drops to 1 in 10^{14} which is better, but more like one per petabyte or so
- Takes up space, 1TB disk might have 93GB of ECC
- Newer, LDPC (low-density parity check)
- Reserve pool, remap bad sectors. SMART
- Sector slipping, sector sparing



- Primary vs Grown defects



Other Disasters

- Head crash (park first)
“Landing zone” to park head at power off, needs to be able to spin up with it parked
- Air density – has a filter letting outside air in, stops working at high altitudes
- Physical shock – accelerometer to auto-park heads
- Just noise or vibration, playing loud music can slow speed you get
- Entire disk crash – in old days large glass or metal



platters spinning near speed of sound, shrapnel if break



Security

- can you recover a drive that is over-written?
- Overwritten with zeros? Alternating zeros and ones? random?
- Do you need to shred/melt the drive?
- Problem with wear leveling/error where might leave behind old data in places that won't get erased



Ways to Increase Performance

- Helium – less turbulence and friction, can pack tighter
- Perpendicular
- Shingling
- Heat-assisted magnetic recording
- Microwave-assisted magnetic recording
- Two-dimensional magnetic recording
- Bit-pattern recording
- Giant-magnetoresistance



Formatting and 4k Transition

- Low-level. Logical blocks. Delimited by markers start, end, ECC, space to allow for timing
- Traditionally 512B but by moving to 4k can reduce percentage dedicated to the delimiters (though have to be backwards compatible)
- High-level format is just putting filesystem onto the blocks
- Interesting backwards compatibility issues and Linux drama when this first came out



Form Factor

- Capacity – 1GB (10^{**9}) vs 1GiB (2^{**30})
- Desktop – 60GB - 4TB, 5400 - 10k rpm
- Mobile – smaller in size and space, usually spin slower 5400 or 7200
- Enterprise – fast, often 10k or 15k. Sometimes smaller platters (2.5) for faster seek time
- Consumer – often slower, more shock resistant



Performance

- Response time vs Throughput
- Seek time – time to get head to block of interest
Fast drives today, 4ms
- Rotational latency – head seeks to right track but has to wait for block to spin by
15k – 2ms, 7200 – 4ms, 5400 – 5ms
- Bits per second – 2010, 7200rpm drive 1Gb/s, depends on which track, rpm,
SATA can send about 3Gb/s with 10-bit encoding

