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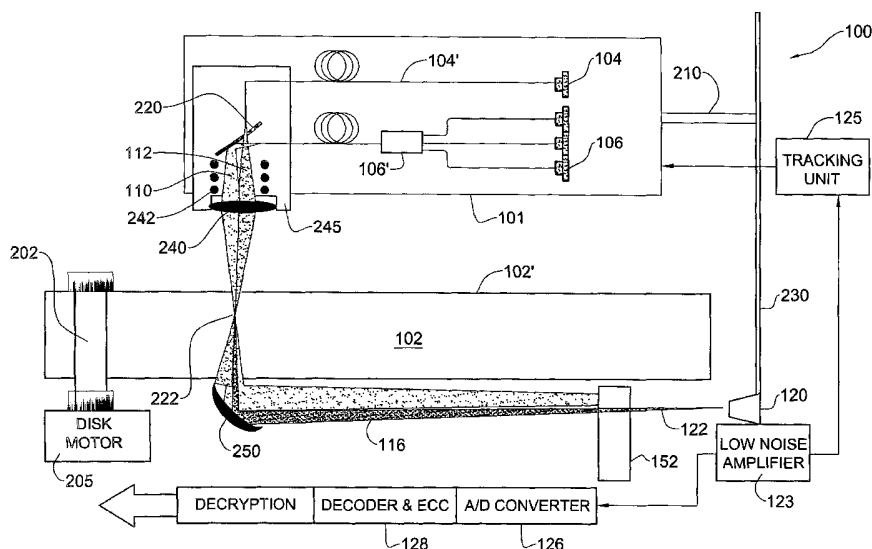
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[Continued on next page]

- (54) Title:** METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR RETRIEVING INFORMATION FROM A 3D STORAGE MEDIUM



- (57) Abstract:** A method and apparatus for retrieving information from a three dimensional storage medium uses a three dimensional storage medium having an active medium capable of exhibiting first and second states, a data unit being represented by the ratio between the concentration of the first and second states in a given volume portion of the medium and a data sequence is represented by a sequence of data units. The active medium is irradiated with light as to concentrate light flux through a volume portion of the storage medium so as to generate in the volume portion a detectable non-linear optical response characteristic of the concentration ratio, which is detected and used for tracking.



— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G11B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 009 065 A (GLUSHKO BORIS A ET AL) 28 December 1999 (1999-12-28)	1,11,12, 17,18, 20, 28-31, 33,34
Y	the whole document	2-9,15, 16,19
X	US 6 291 132 B1 (LEVICH EUGENE BORIS ET AL) 18 September 2001 (2001-09-18)	1,11,14, 17,18, 20, 28-31, 33,34
	the whole document	
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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