

## Theory: SSTF (Shortest Seek Time First) Disk Scheduling Algorithm

### ◆ Definition

SSTF is a disk scheduling algorithm that **selects the disk I/O request closest to the current head position**. It reduces the total seek time compared to FIFO, but **does not guarantee fairness** (some requests may starve).

### ◆ How SSTF Works

1. Start from the **initial head position**.
2. Calculate the **absolute distance** between the current head position and each pending request.
3. Select the **closest request** (minimum seek time).
4. Move the head to that position.
5. Mark that request as **completed** and repeat until all requests are processed.

### ◆ Advantages

- Better performance than FCFS (less head movement)
- Reduces average seek time

### ◆ Disadvantages

- May lead to starvation
  - More complex to implement than FCFS
- 

## Code Explanation (Line by Line)

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

• stdio.h is for input/output functions like printf, scanf
• stdlib.h is used for abs() function (absolute value)
```

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```
int main() {
    int n, i, current, total = 0;
    int requests[100], done[100] = {0};

    • n = number of disk requests
    • requests[] stores the request positions (track numbers)
    • done[] marks whether a request is already processed (0 = pending, 1 = done)
    • current = current head position
    • total = total head movement
```

---

```
printf("Enter number of disk requests: ");
scanf("%d", &n);
```

Asks user how many disk requests exist.

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```
printf("Enter disk requests: ");
for (i = 0; i < n; i++)
    scanf("%d", &requests[i]);
```

Reads the **sequence of disk requests** from user input.

---

```
printf("Enter initial head position: ");
scanf("%d", &current);
```

Reads **starting position of disk head**.

---

```
printf("\nSSTF Disk Scheduling:\n");
printf("Sequence: %d", current);
```

Displays the start of output and prints the initial head position.

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### Main Logic (SSTF Searching Loop)

```
for (int count = 0; count < n; count++) {
```

Loop runs **n times**, processing one request per iteration.

---

```
int minDist = 9999, pos = -1;
```

- minDist stores minimum seek distance (initialized to large value)
  - pos stores index of nearest request
- 

```
for (i = 0; i < n; i++) {
    if (!done[i]) {
        int distance = abs(current - requests[i]);
        if (distance < minDist) {
            minDist = distance;
            pos = i;
        }
    }
}
```

```
    pos = i;  
}  
}  
}  


- Checks every unfinished request
- Computes distance from current head position
- Selects request with minimum distance



---


```

```
total += minDist; // Add movement  
current = requests[pos]; // Move head  
done[pos] = 1; // Mark request as completed
```

```
printf(" -> %d", current);

- Adds seek distance to total
- Moves head to selected track
- Marks request as completed
- Prints movement sequence



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```

```
printf("\nTotal head movement: %d\n", total);  
return 0;  
}
```

Final output: total seek time