Disk Management and File Systems

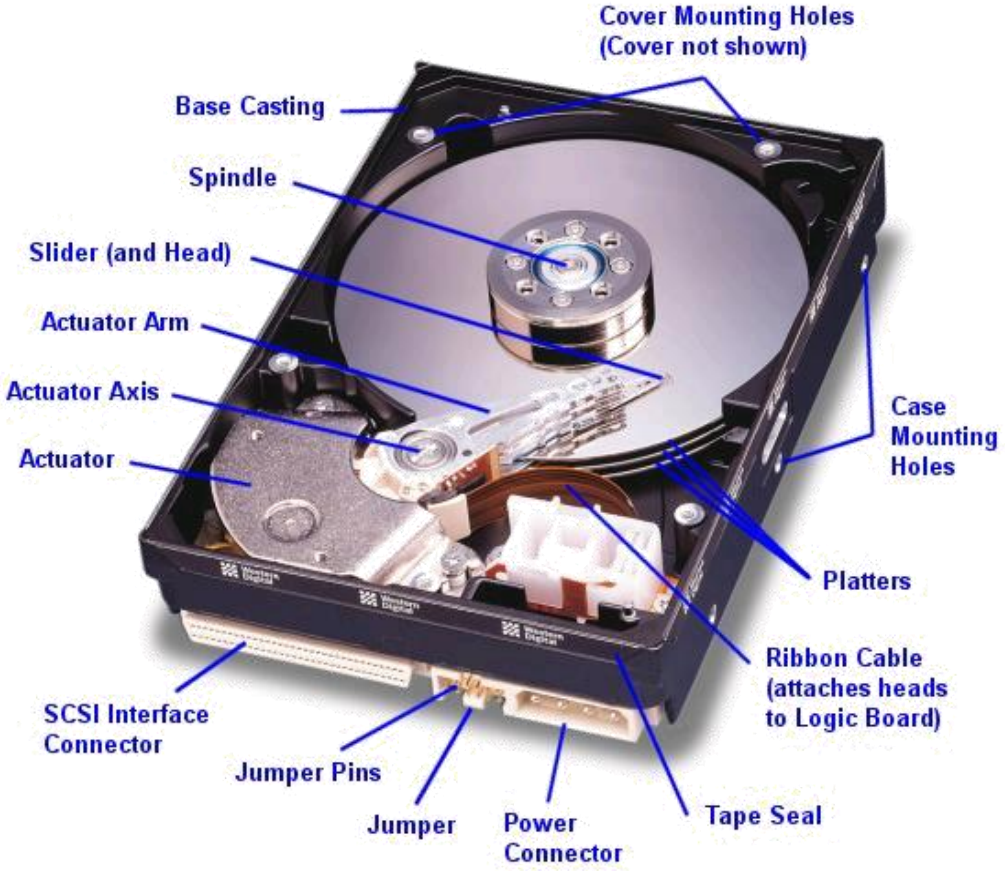
http://inst.eecs.berkeley.edu/~cs162

Goals for Today

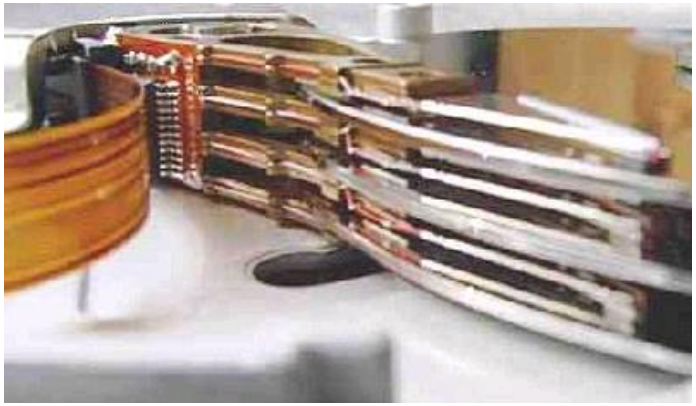
- Disk Performance
  - Hardware performance parameters

Note: Some slides and/or pictures in the following are adapted from slides ©2005 Silberschatz, Galvin, and Gagne. Many slides generated from my lecture notes by Kubiatowicz.

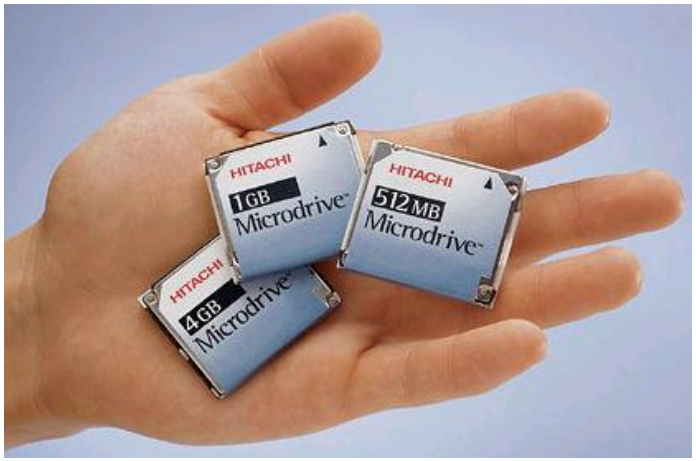
Hard Disk Drives



Western Digital Drive
http://www.storagereview.com/guide/

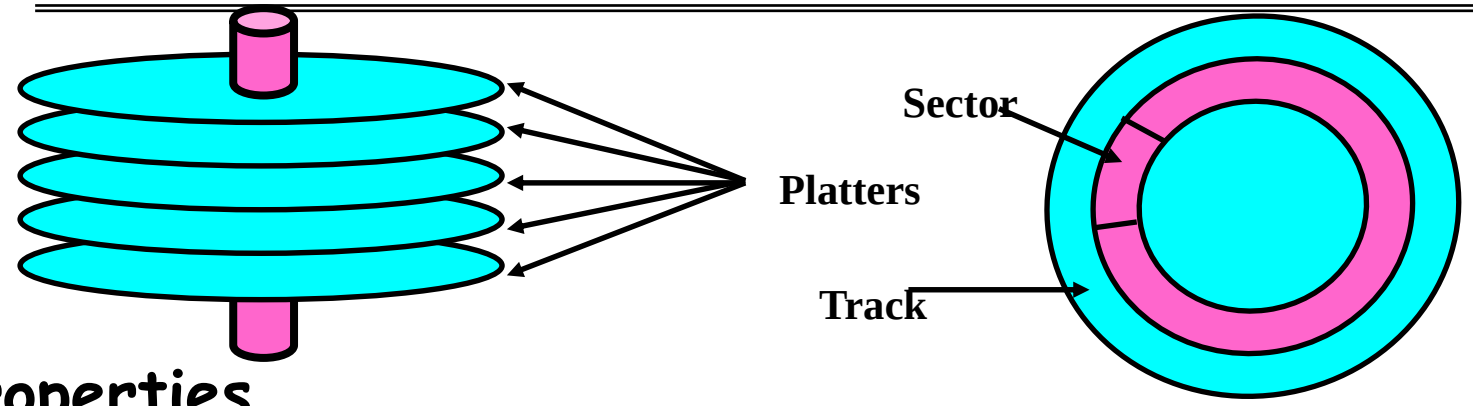


Read/Write Head
Side View



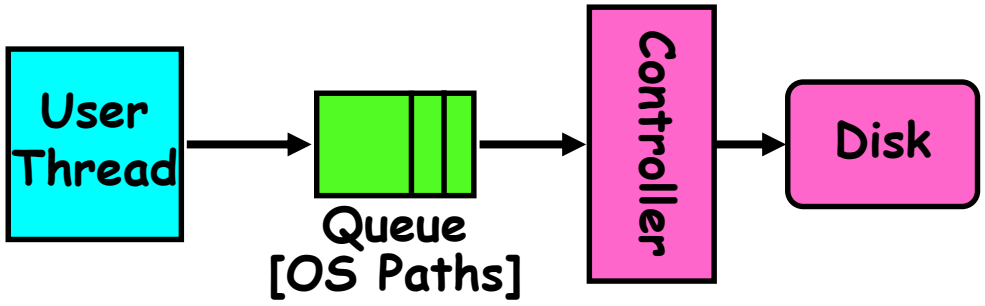
IBM/Hitachi Microdrive

Properties of a Hard Magnetic Disk

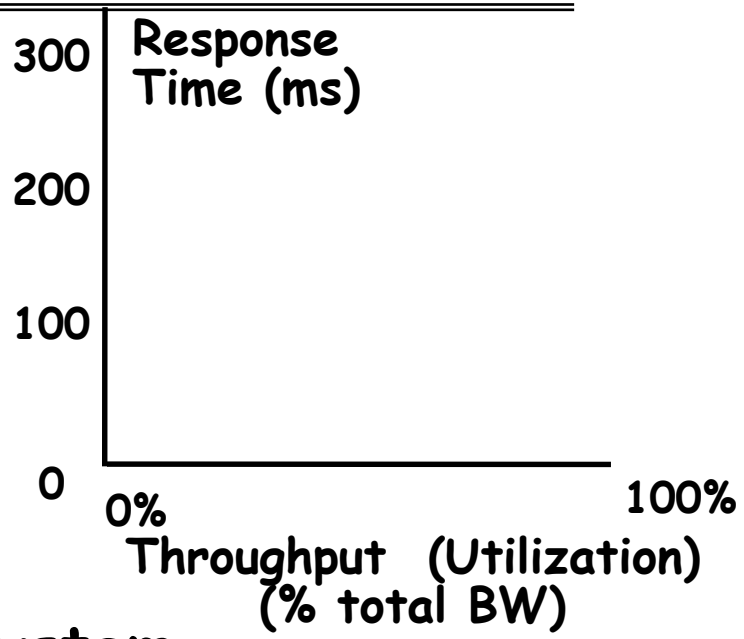


- Properties
  - Independently addressable element: sector
    - » OS always transfers groups of sectors together—"blocks"
  - A disk can access directly any given block of information it contains (random access). Can access any file either sequentially or randomly.
  - A disk can be rewritten in place: it is possible to read/modify/write a block from the disk
- Typical numbers (depending on the disk size):
  - 500 to more than 20,000 tracks per surface
  - 32 to 800 sectors per track
    - » A sector is the smallest unit that can be read or written
- Zoned bit recording
  - Constant bit density: more sectors on outer tracks
  - Speed varies with track location

Disk I/O Performance

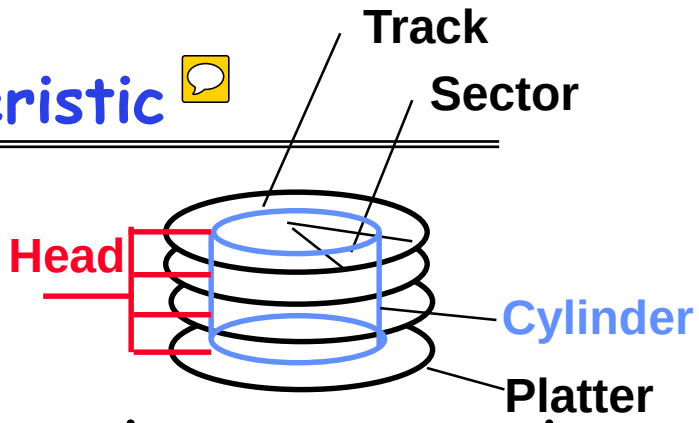


Response Time = Queue+Disk Service Time

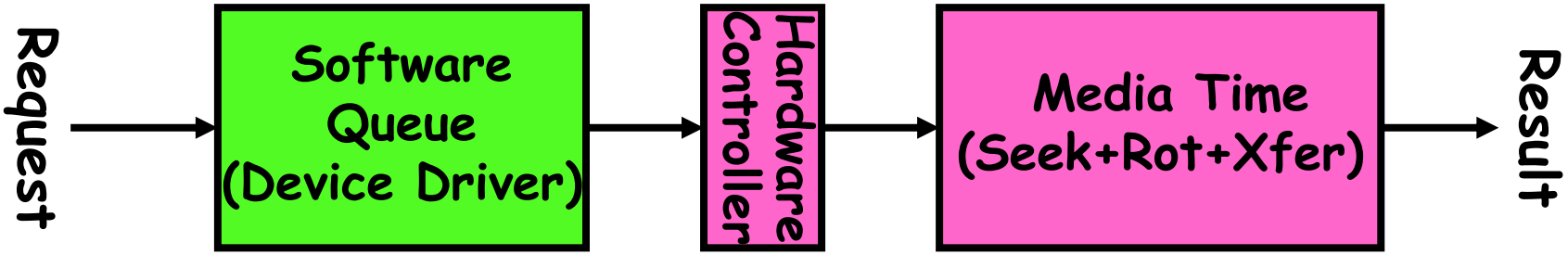


- Performance of disk drive/file system
  - Metrics: Response Time, Throughput
  - Contributing factors to latency:
    - » Software paths (can be loosely modeled by a queue)
    - » Hardware controller
    - » Physical disk media
- Queuing behavior:
  - Can lead to big increases of latency as utilization approaches 100%

Magnetic Disk Characteristic



- Cylinder: all the tracks under the head at a given point on all surface
- Read/write data is a three-stage process:
  - Seek time: position the head/arm over the proper track (into proper cylinder)
  - Rotational latency: wait for the desired sector to rotate under the read/write head
  - Transfer time: transfer a block of bits (sector) under the read-write head
- Disk Latency = Queueing Time + Controller time + Seek Time + Rotation Time + Xfer Time



- Highest Bandwidth:
  - Transfer large group of blocks sequentially from one track

Typical Numbers of a Magnetic Disk

- Average seek time as reported by the industry:
  - Typically in the range of 8 ms to 12 ms
  - Due to locality of disk reference may only be 25% to 33% of the advertised number
- Rotational Latency:
  - *Most* disks rotate at 3,600 to 7200 RPM (Up to 15,000RPM or more)
  - Approximately 16 ms to 8 ms per revolution, respectively
  - An average latency to the desired information is halfway around the disk: 8 ms at 3600 RPM, 4 ms at 7200 RPM
- Transfer Time is a function of:
  - Transfer size (usually a sector): 512B – 1KB per sector
  - Rotation speed: 3600 RPM to 15000 RPM
  - Recording density: bits per inch on a track
  - Diameter: ranges from 1 in to 5.25 in
  - Typical values: 2 to 50 MB per second
- Controller time depends on controller hardware
- Cost drops by factor of two per year (since 1991)

Disk Performance

- Assumptions:
  - Ignoring queuing and controller times for now
  - Avg seek time of 5ms, avg rotational delay of 4ms
  - Transfer rate of 4MByte/s, sector size of 1 KByte
- Random place on disk:
  - Seek (5ms) + Rot. Delay (4ms) + Transfer (0.25ms)
  - Roughly 10ms to fetch/put data: 100 KByte/sec
- Random place in same cylinder:
  - Rot. Delay (4ms) + Transfer (0.25ms)
  - Roughly 5ms to fetch/put data: 200 KByte/sec
- Next sector on same track:
  - Transfer (0.25ms): 4 MByte/sec
- Key to using disk effectively (esp. for filesystems) is to minimize seek and rotational delays

Disk Tradeoffs

- How do manufacturers choose disk sector sizes?
  - Need 100-1000 bits between each sector to allow system to measure how fast disk is spinning and to tolerate small (thermal) changes in track length
- What if sector was 1 byte?
  - Space efficiency – only 1% of disk has useful space
  - Time efficiency – each seek takes 10 ms, transfer rate of 50 – 100 Bytes/sec
- What if sector was 1 KByte?
  - Space efficiency – only 90% of disk has useful space
  - Time efficiency – transfer rate of 100 KByte/sec
- What if sector was 1 MByte?
  - Space efficiency – almost all of disk has useful space
  - Time efficiency – transfer rate of 4 MByte/sec

Summary

- I/O Controllers: Hardware that controls actual device
  - Processor Accesses through I/O instructions or load/store to special physical memory
- Notification mechanisms
  - Interrupts
  - Polling: Report results through status register that processor looks at periodically
- Disk Performance:
  - Queuing time + Controller + Seek + Rotational + Transfer
  - Rotational latency: on average $\frac{1}{2}$ rotation
  - Transfer time: spec of disk depends on rotation speed and bit storage density