

# Magnetic Disk | Practice Problems | COA

📁 Computer Organization and Architecture

## Magnetic Disk in Computer Architecture-

Before you go through this article, make sure that you have gone through the previous article on [Magnetic Disk](#).



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We have discussed-

- Magnetic disk is divided into platters which are further divided into tracks and sectors.
- Read / write head is a mechanical arm that is used to write to and read from the disk.
- Various important formulas.

In this article, we will discuss practice problems based on magnetic disk.

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## **PRACTICE PROBLEMS BASED ON MAGNETIC DISK-**

### **Problem-01:**

Consider a disk pack with the following specifications-  
16 surfaces, 128 tracks per surface, 256 sectors per track and 512 bytes per sector.

Answer the following questions-

1. What is the capacity of disk pack?
2. What is the number of bits required to address the sector?
3. If the format overhead is 32 bytes per sector, what is the formatted disk space?
4. If the format overhead is 64 bytes per sector, how much amount of memory is lost due to formatting?
5. If the diameter of innermost track is 21 cm, what is the maximum recording density?
6. If the diameter of innermost track is 21 cm with 2 KB/cm, what is the capacity of one track?
7. If the disk is rotating at 3600 RPM, what is the data transfer rate?
8. If the disk system has rotational speed of 3000 RPM, what is the average access time with a seek time of 11.5 msec?

### **Solution-**

Given-

- Number of surfaces = 16
- Number of tracks per surface = 128
- Number of sectors per track = 256
- Number of bytes per sector = 512 bytes

### **Part-01: Capacity of Disk Pack-**

Capacity of disk pack

= Total number of surfaces x Number of tracks per surface x Number of sectors per track x Number of bytes per sector

=  $16 \times 128 \times 256 \times 512$  bytes



=  $2^{28}$  bytes

= 256 MB

## **Part-02: Number of Bits Required To Address Sector-**

Total number of sectors

= Total number of surfaces x Number of tracks per surface x Number of sectors per track

=  $16 \times 128 \times 256$  sectors

=  $2^{19}$  sectors

Thus, Number of bits required to address the sector = 19 bits

## **Part-03: Formatted Disk Space-**

Formatting overhead

= Total number of sectors x overhead per sector

=  $2^{19} \times 32$  bytes

=  $2^{19} \times 2^5$  bytes

=  $2^{24}$  bytes

= 16 MB

Now, Formatted disk space

= Total disk space – Formatting overhead

= 256 MB – 16 MB

= 240 MB

#### **Part-04: Formatting Overhead-**

Amount of memory lost due to formatting

= Formatting overhead

= Total number of sectors x Overhead per sector

=  $2^{19} \times 64$  bytes

=  $2^{19} \times 2^6$  bytes

=  $2^{25}$  bytes

= 32 MB

#### **Part-05: Maximum Recording Density-**

Storage capacity of a track

= Number of sectors per track x Number of bytes per sector

=  $256 \times 512$  bytes

=  $2^8 \times 2^9$  bytes

=  $2^{17}$  bytes

$$= 128 \text{ KB}$$

Circumference of innermost track

$$= 2 \times \pi \times \text{radius}$$

$$= \pi \times \text{diameter}$$

$$= 3.14 \times 21 \text{ cm}$$

$$= 65.94 \text{ cm}$$

Now, Maximum recording density

$$= \text{Recording density of innermost track}$$

$$= \text{Capacity of a track} / \text{Circumference of innermost track}$$

$$= 128 \text{ KB} / 65.94 \text{ cm}$$

$$= 1.94 \text{ KB/cm}$$

### **Part-06: Capacity Of Track-**

Circumference of innermost track

$$= 2 \times \pi \times \text{radius}$$

$$= \pi \times \text{diameter}$$

$$= 3.14 \times 21 \text{ cm}$$

$$= 65.94 \text{ cm}$$

Capacity of a track

$$= \text{Storage density of the innermost track} \times \\ \text{Circumference of the innermost track}$$

$$= 2 \text{ KB/cm} \times 65.94 \text{ cm}$$

$$= 131.88 \text{ KB}$$

$$\cong 132 \text{ KB}$$

## **Part-07: Data Transfer Rate-**

Number of rotations in one second

$$= (3600 / 60) \text{ rotations/sec}$$

$$= 60 \text{ rotations/sec}$$

Now, Data transfer rate

= Number of heads x Capacity of one track x Number of rotations in one second

$$= 16 \times (256 \times 512 \text{ bytes}) \times 60$$

$$= 2^4 \times 2^8 \times 2^9 \times 60 \text{ bytes/sec}$$

$$= 60 \times 2^{21} \text{ bytes/sec}$$

$$= 120 \text{ MBps}$$

## **Part-08: Average Access Time-**

Time taken for one full rotation

$$= (60 / 3000) \text{ sec}$$

$$= (1 / 50) \text{ sec}$$

$$= 0.02 \text{ sec}$$

$$= 20 \text{ msec}$$

Average rotational delay

$$= 1/2 \times \text{Time taken for one full rotation}$$

$$= 1/2 \times 20 \text{ msec}$$

$$= 10 \text{ msec}$$

Now, average access time

= Average seek time + Average rotational delay + Other factors

$$= 11.5 \text{ msec} + 10 \text{ msec} + 0$$

$$= 21.5 \text{ msec}$$

## **Problem-02:**

What is the average access time for transferring 512 bytes of data with the following specifications-

- Average seek time = 5 msec
- Disk rotation = 6000 RPM
- Data rate = 40 KB/sec
- Controller overhead = 0.1 msec

## **Solution-**

Given-

- Average seek time = 5 msec
- Disk rotation = 6000 RPM
- Data rate = 40 KB/sec
- Controller overhead = 0.1 msec

## **Time Taken For One Full Rotation-**

Time taken for one full rotation

$$= (60 / 6000) \text{ sec}$$

$$= (1 / 100) \text{ sec}$$

$$= 0.01 \text{ sec}$$

$$= 10 \text{ msec}$$

## **Average Rotational Delay-**

Average rotational delay

$$= 1/2 \times \text{Time taken for one full rotation}$$

$$= 1/2 \times 10 \text{ msec}$$

$$= 5 \text{ msec}$$

### **Transfer Time-**

Transfer time

$$= (512 \text{ bytes} / 40 \text{ KB}) \text{ sec}$$

$$= 0.0125 \text{ sec}$$

$$= 12.5 \text{ msec}$$

### **Average Access Time-**

Average access time

$$= \text{Average seek time} + \text{Average rotational delay} + \\ \text{Transfer time} + \text{Controller overhead} + \text{Queuing delay}$$

$$= 5 \text{ msec} + 5 \text{ msec} + 12.5 \text{ msec} + 0.1 \text{ msec} + 0$$

$$= 22.6 \text{ msec}$$

### **Problem-03:**

A certain moving arm disk storage with one head has the following specifications-

- Number of tracks per surface = 200
- Disk rotation speed = 2400 RPM
- Track storage capacity = 62500 bits
- Average latency = P msec
- Data transfer rate = Q bits/sec

What is the value of P and Q?



## **Solution-**

Given-

- Number of tracks per surface = 200
- Disk rotation speed = 2400 RPM
- Track storage capacity = 62500 bits

## **Time Taken For One Full Rotation-**

Time taken for one full rotation

$$= (60 / 2400) \text{ sec}$$

$$= (1 / 40) \text{ sec}$$

$$= 0.025 \text{ sec}$$

$$= 25 \text{ msec}$$

## **Average Latency-**

Average latency or Average rotational latency

$$= 1/2 \times \text{Time taken for one full rotation}$$

$$= 1/2 \times 25 \text{ msec}$$

$$= 12.5 \text{ msec}$$

## **Data Transfer Rate-**

Data transfer rate

= Number of heads x Capacity of one track x Number of rotations in one second

$$= 1 \times 62500 \text{ bits} \times (2400 / 60)$$

$$= 2500000 \text{ bits/sec}$$

$$= 2.5 \times 10^6 \text{ bits/sec}$$

Thus,  $P = 12.5$  and  $Q = 2.5 \times 10^6$

### **Problem-04:**

A disk pack has 19 surfaces and storage area on each surface has an outer diameter of 33 cm and inner diameter of 22 cm. The maximum recording storage density on any track is 200 bits/cm and minimum spacing between tracks is 0.25 mm. Calculate the capacity of disk pack.

### **Solution-**

Given-

- Number of surfaces = 19
- Outer diameter = 33 cm
- Inner diameter = 22 cm
- Maximum recording density = 200 bits/cm
- Inter track gap = 0.25 mm

### **Number Of Tracks On Each Surface-**

Number of tracks on each surface

= (Outer radius – Inner radius) / Inter track gap

= (16.5 cm – 11 cm) / 0.25 mm

= 5.5 cm / 0.25 mm

= 55 mm / 0.25 mm

= 220 tracks

### **Capacity Of Each Track-**

Capacity of each track

= Maximum recording density x Circumference of innermost track

= 200 bits/cm x (3.14 x 22 cm)

= 200 x 69.08 bits

= 13816 bits

= 1727 bytes

### **Capacity Of Disk Pack-**

Capacity of disk pack

= Total number of surfaces x Number of tracks per surface x Capacity of one track

= 19 x 220 x 1727 bytes

= 7218860 bytes

= 6.88 MB

### **Problem-05:**

Consider a typical disk that rotates at 15000 RPM and has a transfer rate of  $50 \times 10^6$  bytes/sec. If the average seek time of the disk is twice the average rotational delay and the controller's transfer time is 10 times the disk transfer time. What is the average time (in milliseconds) to read or write a 512 byte sector of the disk?

### **Solution-**

Given-

- Rotation speed of the disk = 15000 RPM
- Transfer rate =  $50 \times 10^6$  bytes/sec

- Average seek time = 2 x Average rotational delay
- Controller's transfer time = 10 x Disk transfer time

### **Time Taken For One Full Rotation-**

Time taken for one full rotation

$$= (60 / 15000) \text{ sec}$$

$$= 0.004 \text{ sec}$$

$$= 4 \text{ msec}$$

### **Average Rotational Delay-**

Average rotational delay

$$= 1/2 \times \text{Time taken for one full rotation}$$

$$= 1/2 \times 4 \text{ msec}$$

$$= 2 \text{ msec}$$

### **Average Seek Time-**

Average seek time

$$= 2 \times \text{Average rotational delay}$$

$$= 2 \times 2 \text{ msec}$$

$$= 4 \text{ msec}$$

### **Disk Transfer Time-**

Disk transfer time

$$= \text{Time taken to read or write 512 bytes}$$

$$= 512 \text{ bytes} / (50 \times 10^6 \text{ bytes/sec})$$

$$= 10.24 \times 10^{-6} \text{ sec}$$

$$= 0.01024 \text{ msec}$$

### **Controller's Transfer Time-**

Controller's transfer time

$$= 10 \times \text{Disk transfer time}$$

$$= 10 \times 0.01024 \text{ msec}$$

$$= 0.1024 \text{ msec}$$

### **Average Time To Read Or Write 512 Bytes-**

Average time to read or write 512 bytes

= Average seek time + Average rotational delay + Disk transfer time + Controller's transfer time + Queuing delay

$$= 4 \text{ msec} + 2 \text{ msec} + 0.01024 \text{ msec} + 0.1024 \text{ msec} + 0$$

$$= 6.11 \text{ msec}$$

### **Problem-06:**

A hard disk system has the following parameters-

- Number of tracks = 500
- Number of sectors per track = 100
- Number of bytes per sector = 500
- Time taken by the head to move from one track to another adjacent track = 1 msec
- Rotation speed = 600 RPM

What is the average time taken for transferring 250 bytes from the disk?

## **Solution-**

Given-

- Number of tracks = 500
- Number of sectors per track = 100
- Number of bytes per sector = 500
- Time taken by the head to move from one track to another adjacent track = 1 msec
- Rotation speed = 600 RPM

## **Average Seek Time-**

Average seek time

= (Time taken by the head to move from track-1 to track-1 + Time taken by the head to move from track-1 to track-500) / 2

= (0 + 499 x 1 msec) / 2

= 249.5 msec

## **Time Taken For One Full Rotation-**

Time taken for one full rotation

= (60 / 600) sec

= 0.1 sec

= 100 msec

## **Average Rotational Delay-**

Average rotational delay

= 1/2 x Time taken for one full rotation

= 1/2 x 100 msec

= 50 msec

### **Capacity Of One Track-**

Capacity of one track

= Number of sectors per track x Number of bytes per sector

= 100 x 500 bytes

= 50000 bytes

### **Data Transfer Rate-**

Data transfer rate

= Number of heads x Capacity of one track x Number of rotations in one second

= 1 x 50000 bytes x (600 / 60)

= 50000 x 10 bytes/sec

=  $5 \times 10^5$  bytes/sec

### **Transfer Time-**

Transfer time

= (250 bytes /  $5 \times 10^5$  bytes) sec

=  $50 \times 10^{-5}$  sec

= 0.5 msec

### **Average Time Taken To Transfer 250 Bytes-**

Average time taken to transfer 250 bytes

= Average seek time + Average rotational delay +  
Transfer time + Controller overhead + Queuing delay

= 249.5 msec + 50 msec + 0.5 msec + 0 + 0

= 300 msec

### **Problem-07:**

A hard disk has 63 sectors per track, 10 platters each with 2 recording surfaces and 1000 cylinders.

The address of a sector is given as a triple (c, h, s) where c is the cylinder number, h is the surface number and s is the sector number. Thus, the 0th sector is addressed as (0,0,0), the 1st sector as (0,0,1) and so on.

### **Part-01:**

The address <400, 16, 29> corresponds to sector number-

1. 505035
2. 505036
3. 505037
4. 505038

### **Part-02:**

The address of 1039 sector is-

1. <0, 15, 31>
2. <0, 16, 30>
3. <0, 16, 31>
4. <0, 17, 31>

### **Solution-**



**Know this Concept?**

In general, when counting of items is started from 0, then-

- For any item-n, number 'n' specifies the number of items that must be crossed in order to reach that item.

**Example-**

If counting is started from 0, then-

- To reach cylinder-5, the number of cylinders that must be crossed = 5 cylinders
- To reach surface-5, the number of surfaces that must be crossed = 5 surfaces
- To reach sector-5, the number of sectors that must be crossed = 5 sectors

To solve this question, we assume there is only one track on each surface.

**Part-01:**

We have to calculate the sector number for the address <400, 16, 29>

**Step-01:**

To reach our desired cylinder, we have to cross 400 cylinders.

Total number of sectors that are crossed in 400 cylinders

= Number of cylinders x Number of surfaces per cylinder x Number of tracks per surface x Number of sectors per track

$$= 400 \times (10 \times 2) \times 1 \times 63$$

$$= 504000$$

Now, after crossing 400 cylinders (cylinder-0 to cylinder-399), we are at cylinder-400.

### **Step-02:**

To reach our desired surface, we have to cross 16 surfaces.

Total number of sectors that are crossed in 16 surfaces

= Number of surfaces x Number of tracks per surface x Number of sectors per track

$$= 16 \times 1 \times 63$$

$$= 1008$$

Now, after crossing 16 surfaces (surface-0 to surface-15) in cylinder-400, we are at surface-16.

### **Step-03:**

To reach our desired sector, we have to cross 29 sectors.

Now, after crossing 29 sectors on surface-16 of cylinder-400, we are at sector-29.

Thus

Total number of sectors that are crossed

$$= 504000 + 1008 + 29$$

= 505037

Thus,

- After crossing 505037 sectors, we are at sector-505037.
- So, required address of the sector is 505037.
- Option (C) is correct.

## **Part-02:**

We have to find the address of the sector-2039.

Let us check all the options one by one.

### **Option-A:**

For the address <0, 15, 31>, the sector number is-

$$\text{Sector number} = 0 + (15 \times 1 \times 63) + 31 = 976$$

### **Option-B:**

For the address <0, 16, 30>, the sector number is-

$$\text{Sector number} = 0 + (16 \times 1 \times 63) + 30 = 1038$$

### **Option-C:**

For the address <0, 16, 31>, the sector number is-

$$\text{Sector number} = 0 + (16 \times 1 \times 63) + 31 = 1039$$

### **Option-D:**

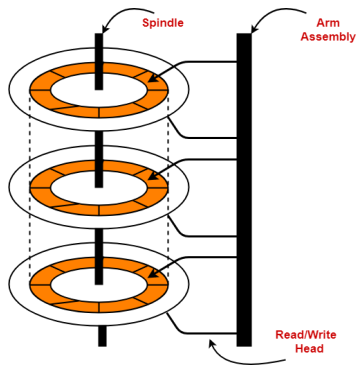
Sector number =  $0 + (17 \times 1 \times 63) + 31 = 1102$

Thus, Option (C) is correct.

**Next Article- [Addressing Modes](#)**

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**Article Name** Magnetic Disk | Practice Problems  
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**Description** Practice Problems based on  
Magnetic Disk in Computer  
Architecture. Magnetic disk  
formulas- Seek time, Rotational  
Latency, Disk Transfer Rate,  
Recording Density etc. are used.

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