

ABSTRACT

A character recognition apparatus detects a character height direction range as a range in a character height direction perpendicular to a character width direction in a character string from an object image which is a gray-scale image and in which the character string is picked up that contains a plurality of characters arranged in a character width direction, and detects a character width direction range as a range in the character width direction in which characters of the character string are arranged, from the object image. Also, the character recognition apparatus determines a character center candidate range for each character of the character string as an area which contains a center of the character height direction range in the character height direction and contains a center of the character width direction range in the character width direction in the object image, and sets a plurality of rectangular character candidate areas in which an intersection of diagonal lines coincides with each point of the character center candidate range. Also, the character recognition apparatus carries out character recognition processing to each of a part of the plurality of character candidate areas of the object image, and acquiring a character recognition result for each of the plurality of character candidate areas to each of characters of the character string, and determines a character recognition result for each character of the character string from the character recognition results of the plurality of character candidate areas.