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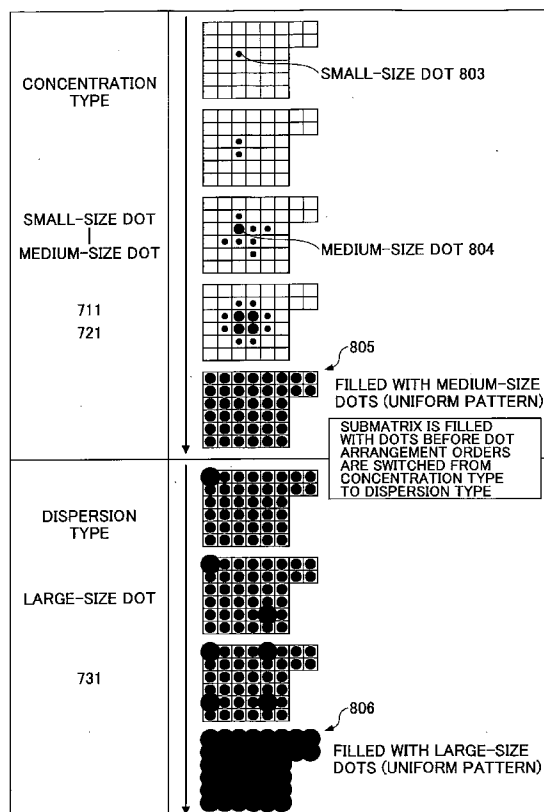
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(54) Title: DITHER MATRIX, IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, STORAGE MEDIUM, IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS, AND IMAGE FORMING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A disclosed dither matrix is used in halftone processing for converting input image data having M input halftone levels into output image data having N ($M > N > 2$) output halftone levels. In the halftone processing, a concentration type dither matrix is used as the dither matrix when an input halftone level is within a range of input halftone levels corresponding to an output halftone level that is lower than a predetermined threshold level T ($N > T > 1$), and a dispersion type dither matrix is used as the dither matrix when the input halftone level is within a range of input halftone levels corresponding to an output halftone level that is equal to or higher than the predetermined threshold level T.

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