

DOT MATRIX PRINTER AND METHOD FOR STORING
AND RETRIEVING BIT MAP DATA

ABSTRACT

A bit map data generator section (11) prepares bit map data on the basis of data received from a host computer. A null-series removal section (12) removes data series of null from the bit map data. A data compressor compresses (13) the remaining bit map data using a plurality of different compression modes. A comparator (14) compares the sizes of the compressed data produced by the different compression modes. Of the compressed data, the compressed data of the smallest size is stored in a RAM (17) by a register section (15). When the supplemental character data is printed out, the compression mode by which it was compressed is discriminated by a compression mode discriminator (18). The data is transferred to a compressed-data restoring section (19) corresponding to the discriminated compression mode, and then to a null-series restoring section (20). The null-series restoring section restores (20) the data into the original bit map data, that is, the bit map data before compressed.

FIGURE 2