This Sheet Has Been Replaced



ABSTRACT

MULTIPLE TONAL RANGE IMAGE PROCESSING SYSTEM

A host computer (10) converts an entered gray scale image (31) into a raster image (39) expressing multiple tonal ranges, using an intermediate spot pattern determined in advance. Here, the intermediate spot pattern (37) is a spot pattern composed of pixels which can take only binary value densities with information indicating tonal ranges embedded in the manner of arrangement of the pixels in the spot pattern. Therefore, this raster image logically expresses a large number of tonal ranges which cannot be actually expressed with pixels in binary value densities. A printer (20) receives this raster image from the host computer and converts the intermediate spot pattern in this raster image into an output spot pattern which can assume tertiary values or more in density, thereby printing out a half-tone image actually expressing multiple tonal ranges.

Fig. 8