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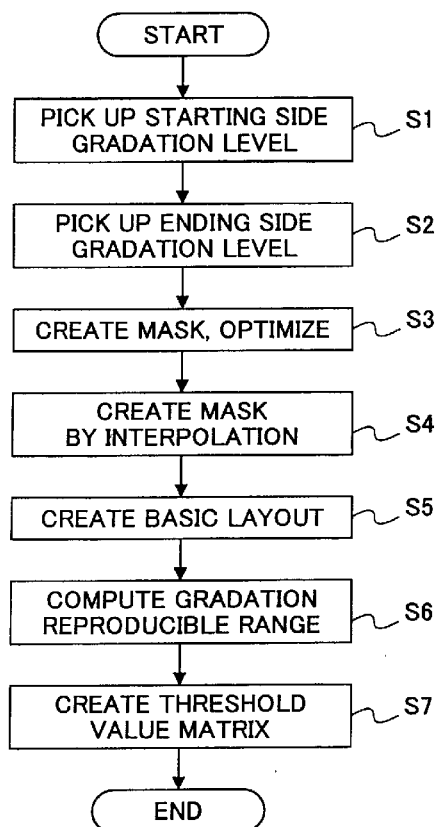
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(57) Abstract: ABSTRACT A threshold matrix creating method creates threshold value matrixes for quantizing multi-level image data into three or more valued data in order to represent halftone by ON and OFF states of a plurality of kinds of dots. The method includes a first stage which determines a threshold value layout order of the threshold value matrixes for binarizing the multi-level image data in order to represent the halftone by ON and OFF states of one kind of dot, and a second stage which creates each of threshold value matrixes for quantizing the multi-level image data into three or more valued data, according to the threshold value layout order determined by the first stage.

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