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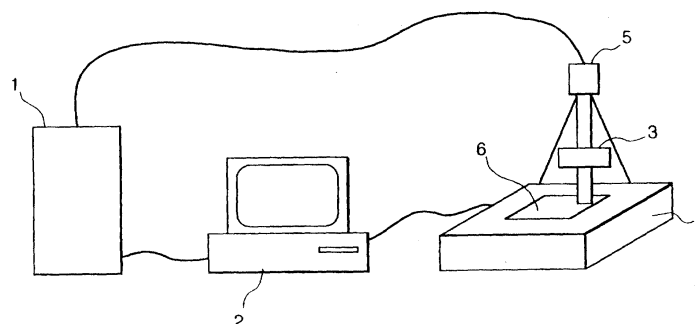
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(54) **Method and apparatus for measuring the amount of discharged ink, printing apparatus, and method of measuring the amount of ink discharged in the printing apparatus**

(57) A method of instantly measuring the amount of ink discharged from a nozzle. The method of measuring the amount of discharged ink includes: a line pattern forming step of forming a line pattern by discharging ink from an ink-jet printhead; a first image-sensing step of sensing the line pattern by an image sensing device; a second image-sensing step of sensing a portion other than the line pattern by the image sensing device; a density calculating step of calculating density of each pixel

of the line pattern by dividing the luminance value of the portion sensed in said second image-sensing step by the luminance value of the line pattern sensed in said first image-sensing step and calculating a common logarithm; an integrating step of integrating the density of each pixel of the entire line pattern calculated in said density calculating step; and an ink-discharge-amount determining step of obtaining the amount of discharged ink on the basis of the integrated density calculated in said integrating step.

FIG. 1





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 26 March 1999	Examiner Meulemans, J-P
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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