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I, Shayna Himelfarb, hereby certify that the document "JP Publication Application No. 2002-318342" is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a true and accurate translation from Japanese into English.

Shayna Himelfarb

Sworn to before me this May 26, 2022

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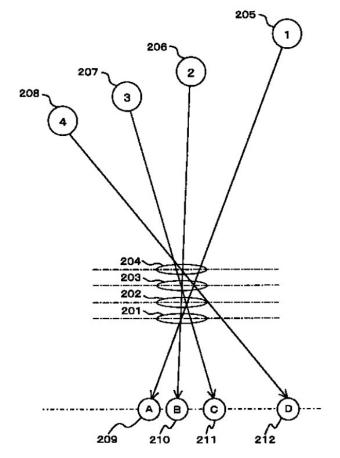
(54) (Title of the invention) Camera and image capture method therefor

(57) (Abstract)

(Problem) To provide a camera and camera image capture method which allow anyone to easily take a photograph of obliquely arranged objects such that all the objects are in focus.

(Means for solving) The object field of a camera is divided into multiple blocks 205 through 208, distance measurement is performed on each block, and the lens is moved to positions 201 through 204 such that the object image is focused for blocks 209 through 212 on the exposure surface corresponding to said blocks in accordance with the distance measurement results.

Explanatory diagram of the principles of the present invention (part 1)



(Scope of patent claims)

(Claim 1) A camera characterized in that it comprises:

an image capture optical system;

a distance measurement area changing means for changing the area in which distance measurement is performed in an object field;

an exposure area changing means for changing the area in which exposure is performed on an exposure surface in conjunction with changing of the distance measurement area by said distance measurement area changing means;

a distance measurement means for performing distance measurement in each distance measurement area changed to by said distance measurement area changing means; and

a focus adjustment means for adjusting said image capture optical system to a focused state in accordance with the results of distance measurement by said distance measurement means.

(Claim 2) A camera characterized in that it comprises:

an image capture optical system;

a distance measurement area changing means for changing the area in which distance measurement is performed in an object field;

an exposure area changing means for changing the area in which exposure is performed on an exposure surface in conjunction with changing of the distance measurement area by said distance measurement area changing means;

a distance measurement means for performing distance measurement in each distance measurement area changed to by said distance measurement area changing means; and

an exposure surface moving means for moving the exposure surface in the direction of the optical axis of said image capture optical system in accordance with the results of distance measurement by said distance measurement means.

(Claim 3) A camera as set forth in Claim 1 or 2,

characterized in that said exposure area changing means moves a slit in a direction orthogonal to the optical axis of said image capture optical system over said exposure surface.

(Claim 4) A camera as set forth in Claim 1,

characterized in that changing of distance measurement area by said distance measurement area changing means, changing of exposure area by said exposure area changing means, distance measurement by said distance measurement means and focusing by said focus adjustment means are carried out continuously.

(Claim 5) A camera as set forth in Claim 2,

characterized in that changing of distance measurement area by said distance measurement area changing means, changing of exposure area by said exposure area changing means, distance measurement by said distance measurement means and moving by said exposure surface moving means are carried out continuously.

(Claim 6) A camera image capture method characterized in that an object field of a camera is divided into multiple slit-shaped blocks, distance measurement is performed on each block, and a focusing process is performed on blocks of an exposure surface corresponding to said blocks in accordance with the results of the distance measurement.

(Detailed description of the invention)

(Technical field of the invention) The present invention relates to a camera, such as a silver halide film camera or digital camera, especially to a camera capable of focusing on obliquely arranged objects such that all the objects are in focus, without a need of tilting.

(0002)

(Prior art) When capturing an image of obliquely arranged objects, in order to take a photograph in which the entire picture is focused, there is the technique of reducing aperture to increase depth of field, or the technique of using camera/lens tilting in the case of a camera or lens that has tilting functions. (0003)

(Problem to be solved by the invention) However, if aperture is reduced to increase the depth of field, the shutter speed becomes relatively slower, so there is a risk of blurring. Furthermore, in the case of a camera or lens with a tilting function, it is necessary to visually confirm the tilting and the operation requires advanced technical skill, and such cameras and lenses are by nature expensive and cannot be said to be something that just anybody can use.

(0004) The present invention was made in light of such circumstances and has the purpose of providing a camera and camera image capture method which make it possible for anybody to take a photograph of obliquely arranged objects such that all the objects are in focus.

(0005)

(Means for solving the problem) To achieve the aforesaid purpose, in the present invention, a camera is configured as indicated under (1) through (5) below, and a camera image capture method is configured as indicated under (6) below.

(0006) (1) A camera comprising: an image capture optical system; a distance measurement area changing means for changing the area in which distance measurement is performed in an object field; an exposure area changing means for changing the area in which exposure is performed on an exposure surface in conjunction with changing of the distance measurement area by said distance measurement area changing means; a distance measurement means for performing distance measurement in each distance measurement area changed to by said distance measurement area changing means; and a focus adjustment means for adjusting said image capture optical system to a focused state in accordance with the results of distance measurement by said distance measurement means.

(0007) (2) A camera comprising: an image capture optical system; a distance measurement area changing means for changing the area in which distance measurement is performed in an object field; an exposure area changing means for changing the area in which exposure is performed on an exposure surface in conjunction with changing of the distance measurement area by said distance measurement area changing means; a distance measurement means for performing distance measurement in each distance measurement area changing means; and an exposure surface moving means for moving the exposure surface in the direction of the optical axis of said image capture optical system in accordance with the results of distance measurement by said distance measurement means.

(0008) (3) A camera as set forth under (1) or (2) above, wherein said exposure area changing means moves a slit in a direction orthogonal to the optical axis of said image capture optical system over said exposure surface.

(0009) (4) A camera as set forth under (1) above, characterized in that changing of distance measurement area by said distance measurement area changing means, changing of exposure area by said exposure area changing means, distance measurement by said distance measurement means and focusing by said focus adjustment means are carried out continuously.

(0010) (5) A camera as set forth under (2) above, wherein changing of distance measurement area by said distance measurement area changing means, changing of exposure area by said exposure area changing means, distance measurement by said distance measurement means and moving by said exposure surface moving means are carried out continuously.

(0011) (6) A camera image capture method wherein an object field of a camera is divided into multiple slit-shaped blocks, distance measurement is performed on each block, and a focusing process is performed on blocks of an exposure surface corresponding to said blocks in accordance with the results of the distance measurement. (0012)

(Embodiments for carrying out the invention) Embodiments for carrying out the present invention will be described in detail below by using embodiment of a camera. It should be noted that the present invention is not limited in form to a device and can also be carried out in the form of a method as supported by the description of the embodiment.

(0013)

(Embodiment) <Principle of operation> First, the operation principle of the "camera" of the embodiment will be described with reference to FIG. 1 through FIG. 4. FIG. 1 is a drawing illustrating the relationship between object, lens and exposure surface in a camera with tilting function. There are four objects 101, ① through ④, which are arranged obliquely in relation to the lens 102. Images of these objects ① through ④ pass through the lens 102 and are formed on the exposure surface 103, but since the distance between each object and the lens 102 varies from object to object, the locations to be focused on, from A to D, are likewise arranged obliquely to the lens 102. This state represents a state where the lens 102 and the exposure surface 103 are not made parallel, in other words, where they are focused on the exposure surface 103 by making use of tilting.

(0014) Conversely, if the lens and the exposure surface are parallel, not all the objects will normally come into focus as-is. Thus, the distance between the lens and the exposure surface is changed to bring each object into focus, as shown by the schematic diagram in FIG. 2. Here, the lens position is moved from 201 to 204. Namely, when exposing the object 205, the lens is placed at position 201, whereupon the image is formed at position 209. Furthermore, when exposing the object 206, the lens is advanced to position 202. The image is then exposed at position 210. For objects 207, 208, the lens position is then similarly moved to 203, 204, and an image is formed at positions 211, 212 correspondingly. The line on which these images are arranged is a line perpendicular to the optical axis of the lens. Namely, the obliquely arranged objects all come into focus while the lens and exposure surface remain parallel.

(0015) Moving the lens in this manner makes it possible to focus on obliquely arranged objects, but if the entire exposure surface is remained to open in such time period, the overall photograph will become blurry, so it is necessary to take a partial area from the exposure surface and to move that area. When capturing an image of objects arranged horizontally at different distances from the camera, it is necessary to provide a vertical slit and move it in the left-right direction in front of the exposure surface so as to match the movement of the lens.

(0016) Next, the situation of focusing will be considered from the standpoint of the exposure surface. When capturing an image of four

people arranged obliquely, the lens should be positioned at four locations according to the distance of each object of the four people, as shown in FIG. 3. Namely, when capturing an image of person 301, distance measurement is performed on area 305 within the exposure surface and the lens is moved accordingly. Subsequently, when an image of persons 302 through 304 are captured, distance measurement is performed on areas 306 through 308 and the lens is moved accordingly, and then image capture should be performed, but two problems arise. One is that the exposure area needs to be limited every time when moving the lens, and another is that the lens needs to be moved continuously. Furthermore, in the event when four parts' image are captured with each part in focus as shown in FIG. 3, then it will be in a situation such as four-fold exposure, and in this situation image capture cannot be carried out without accurate recognition of the each object of the four parts, which is not a realistic approach.

(0017) Thus, in the present embodiment, the area in which distance measurement is performed is used as the area in which exposure is performed, and the lens is moved on the basis of the results of the distance measurement. This is illustrated in FIG. 4, where 401 is the entire exposure surface. 402 is a slit in front of the exposure surface. Only the area of this slit 402 is exposed. Exposure is performed by moving this slit 402 in the left-right direction. The area of this slit 402 is also used as the distance measurement area. Namely, distance measurement is performed on the object field corresponding to the area of this slit 402, the lens is moved on the basis of the results of this distance measurement to achieve focus, and at the same time, the area of the slit 402 is exposed. Moving slit 402 continuously makes it possible to take a photograph such that the entire surface of the exposure surface 401 is in focus.

(0018) <System configuration of camera> FIG. 5 is a block diagram illustrating the system configuration of the camera of the present embodiment. In FIG. 5, data obtained through distance measurement with an autofocus sensor AFS 501 is sent to a central processing unit CPU 502. The CPU 502 operates a lens driving motor LMOT 503 to move the lens L504 to a position where focus is achieved. At the same time, it operates a slit driving motor SMOT 505 to move the slit 506 to the exposure position in focus. As a result, an image of the object is formed on the exposure surface

(0019) The instructions executed by the CPU 502 are based on a program stored in ROM 510. RAM 511 is a component for storing the work, etc. necessary when the CPU 502 executes calculation processing.

(0020) A display DISP 508 displays various information of the camera during operation, and a key operation section KEY 509 serves as a component by means of which a human inputs instructions to the camera via the operation keys of the camera.

(0021) 512 is a bus line BL, which connects the above devices to perform exchange of information.

(0022) It should be noted that either an active or a passive sensor may be used as AFS 501, and distance measurement in the aforementioned distance measurement area is performed on the basis of known techniques.

(0023) <Image capture processing> The processing involved when the shutter is depressed to capture an image will be described on the basis of the flow chart of FIG. 6. This processing flow is stored in ROM 510 in the form of a program. This processing starts when the shutter button is depressed.

First, in step 601 (labeled in the drawing as S601; same hereinafter), the position on the image frame (object field) on which distance measurement is to be performed first is initialized. The area in which distance measurement is to be performed is always a portion of the entire image frame that is to be imaged, so the position thereof on the image frame is determined first. For example, if the area on which distance measurement is to be performed is vertically elongated, this may be positioned at the rightmost side of the image frame. Next, proceeding to step 602, the position of the slit on the exposure surface is also initialized. This position must be made to correspond to the distance measurement position described above. When the distance measurement area is at the right end of the image frame, the exposure surface will be on the opposite left end, so the slit is made to correspond to this position.

(0024) Next, proceeding to step 603, actual distance measurement to the object is performed within the distance measurement area described above. Proceeding to step 604, driving of the lens is performed on the basis of the results of distance measurement and the image of the object is focused on the exposure surface. Furthermore, proceeding to step 605, the shutter is opened and exposure of the exposure surface is performed. If distance measurement, lens driving, the subsequently described distance measurement area movement process and slit movement are performed continuously, the shutter may be left open until completion.

(0025) Next, proceeding to step 606, the distance measurement area is moved. Furthermore, in step 607, the slit of the exposure surface is similarly moved.

(0026) Proceeding to step 608, it is determined whether the entire image capture area has been exposed or not, and if exposure has been completed for the entire area, the process is moved to step 609, the shutter is closed, and image capture is completed. If image capture has not been completed, the process is returned to the distance measurement processing of step 603 and the above process is repeated.

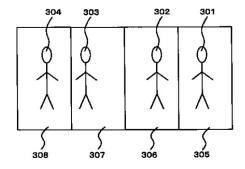
(0027) Either a conventional silver halide film or the CCD of a digital camera may be placed on the exposure surface of this camera.

(0028) As explained above, it is possible to perform exposure with suitable focus in any area by driving the lens for each distance measurement area.

(0029) <Modifications> In the above-described embodiment, for example as shown in FIG. 1, a case was envisioned where the objects are arranged obliquely, but a photograph in which the objects are in focus can be taken through the processing described

(FIG. 3)

Explanatory diagram of the principles of the present invention (part 2)



above also in cases as shown in FIG. 7, where the objects 701, 702 are arranged in a circular arc in relation to the camera 703.

(0030) In the embodiment described above, a vertically elongated slit was moved in the left-right direction to perform image capture of objects arranged in the left-right direction, but depending on the objects, there may be cases where the distance to such object differs in the vertical direction. This may be a case, for example, as shown in FIG. 8, where a short tree 802 in front, a taller tree 803 slightly farther away, and a mountain 804 in the distance overlap in the vertical direction in relation to the camera 801, and one wishes to focus on all of these. For this case, a scheme should be employed wherein the area in which distance measurement is performed is made elongated in the left-right direction and the slit in front of the exposure surface is also made elongated in the left-right direction. A scene to be captured is shown in FIG. 9, where in order to bring the short tree 802 in front, the taller tree 803 slightly farther away and the mountain 804 in the distance into focus, the slit 901 should be made horizontal and moved in the up-down direction.

(0031) Furthermore, in the embodiment described above, the lens was moved according to the results of distance measurement, but the invention is not limited to this and may also employ an arrangement wherein the lens position is fixed and the exposure surface is moved in the direction of the optical axis to achieve focus. (0032)

(Effect of the invention) According to the present invention, as described above, it becomes possible for anyone to easily take photographs in which objects located at different distances are all in focus.

(Brief description of the drawings)

(FIG. 1) A drawing illustrating the relationship between objects, lens and exposure surface

(FIG. 2) Explanatory diagram of the principles of the present invention (part 1)

(FIG. 3) Explanatory diagram of the principles of the present invention (part 2)

(FIG. 4) Explanatory diagram of the principles of the present invention (part 3)

(FIG. 5) Block diagram illustrating the system configuration of an embodiment

(FIG. 6) Flow chart illustrating the operation of an embodiment

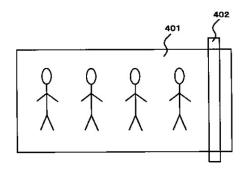
(FIG. 7) Drawing illustrating an example of objects

(FIG. 8) Drawing illustrating an example of objects

(FIG. 9) Drawing illustrating slit orientation and movement direction when capturing an image of the objects of FIG. 8

(FIG. 4)

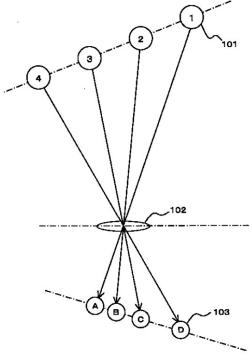
Explanatory diagram of the principles of the present invention (part 3)

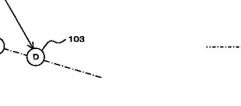


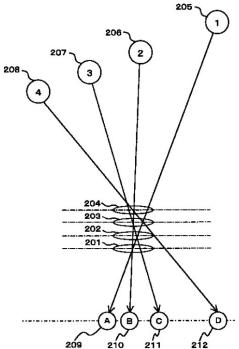
(FIG. 1)

(FIG. 2)

Explanatory diagram of the principles of the present invention (part 1)



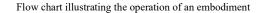


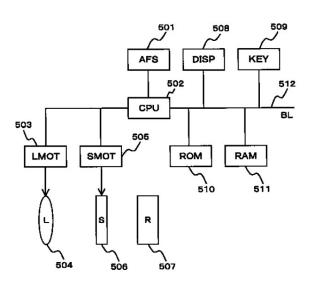


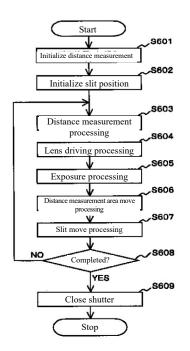
Block diagram illustrating the system configuration of an embodiment

(FIG. 5)

(FIG. 6)







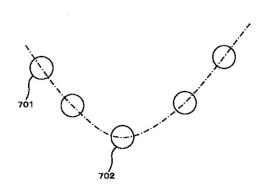
(6)

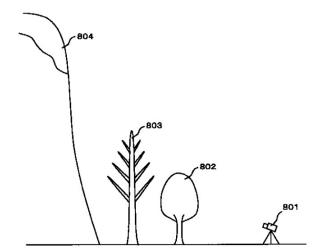
(FIG. 7)

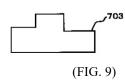
(FIG. 8)

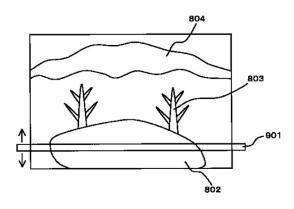
Drawing illustrating an example of objects

Drawing illustrating an example of objects









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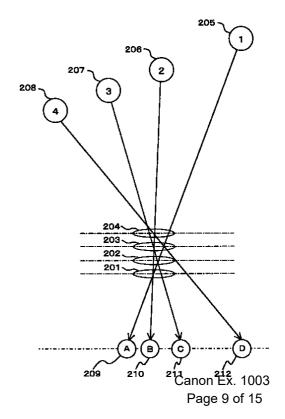
(54) 【発明の名称】 カメラおよびその撮影方法

(57)【要約】

【課題】 誰でも簡単に斜めに並んだ被写体等に対し全てピントが合うような写真が撮れるカメラ,カメラの撮影方法を提供する。

【解決手段】 カメラの被写界を複数のブロック205ないし208に分けて各ブロック毎に測距を行い、その測距結果に応じて前記各ブロックに対応する露光面におけるブロック209ないし212に対し、被写体像が合焦するように、レンズを201ないし204の位置に移動する。

本発明の原理説明図(その1)



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 撮影光学系と、

被写界における測距する範囲を変更する測距範囲変更手段と、

前記測距範囲変更手段による測距範囲の変更に連動して 露光面における露光する範囲を変更する露光範囲変更手 段と、

前記測距範囲変更手段で変更した各測距範囲において測 距を行う測距手段と、

前記測距手段で測距した結果に応じて前記撮影光学系を 合焦状態に調整する合焦調整手段と、を備えたことを特 徴とするカメラ。

【請求項2】 撮影光学系と、

被写界における測距する範囲を変更する測距範囲変更手段と、

前記測距範囲変更手段による測距範囲の変更に連動して 露光面における露光する範囲を変更する露光範囲変更手 段と、

前記測距範囲変更手段で変更した各測距範囲において測 距を行う測距手段と、

前記測距手段で測距した結果に応じて前記露光面を前記 撮影光学系の光軸方向に移動する露光面移動手段と、を 備えたことを特徴とするカメラ。

【請求項3】 請求項1または2記載のカメラにおいて、

前記露光範囲変更手段は、前記露光面上を前記撮影光学 系の光軸方向に直交する方向にスリットを移動するもの であることを特徴とするカメラ。

【請求項4】 請求項1記載のカメラにおいて、

前記測距範囲変更手段による測距範囲の変更、前記露光 範囲変更手段による露光範囲の変更、前記測距手段によ る測距、および前記合焦調整手段による合焦を連続的に 行うことを特徴とするカメラ。

【請求項5】 請求項2記載のカメラにおいて、

前記測距範囲変更手段による測距範囲の変更、前記露光 範囲変更手段による露光範囲の変更、前記測距手段によ る測距、および前記露光面移動手段による移動を連続的 に行うことを特徴とするカメラ。

【請求項6】 カメラの被写界を複数のスリット状のブロックに分けて各ブロック毎に測距を行い、その測距の結果に応じて前記各ブロックに対応する露光面におけるブロックに対する合焦処理を行うことを特徴とするカメラの撮影方法。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、銀塩フィルムカメラ,デジタルカメラ等のカメラに関し、特に、あおりを必要とせずに斜めに並んだ被写体等に対して全てピントを合わせることができるカメラに関するものである。

[0002]

【従来の技術】斜めに並んだ被写体を撮影する場合、画面全体にピントの来た写真を撮る為には、絞り込んで被写界深度を強くするか、あるいはあおり機能付きのカメラまたはレンズならばあおりを利用する手法がある。

[0003]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら、被写界 深度を強くするため絞り込むとシャッタスピードが相対 的に遅くなり、ぶれる危険性がある。一方あおり機能付きカメラまたはレンズは、あおりを目で確認しなければ ならず、また操作に高度なテクニックが必要であり、そもそも、これらのカメラやレンズは高価で一般的に誰でも使用可能とは言えない。

【0004】本発明は、このような状況のもとでなされたもので、誰でも簡単に斜めに並んだ被写体等に対し全てピントが合うような写真が撮れるカメラ,カメラの撮影方法を提供することを目的とするものである。

[0005]

【課題を解決するための手段】前記目的を達成するため、本発明では、カメラを次の(1)ないし(5)のとおりに構成し、カメラの撮影方法を次の(6)のとおりに構成する。

【 0 0 0 6 】 (1) 撮影光学系と、被写界における測距する範囲を変更する測距範囲変更手段と、前記測距範囲変更手段による測距範囲の変更に連動して露光面における露光する範囲を変更する露光範囲変更手段と、前記測距範囲変更手段で変更した各測距範囲において測距を行う測距手段と、前記測距手段で測距した結果に応じて前記撮影光学系を合焦状態に調整する合焦調整手段と、を備えたカメラ。

【 0 0 0 7 】 (2) 撮影光学系と、被写界における測距する範囲を変更する測距範囲変更手段と、前記測距範囲変更手段による測距範囲の変更に連動して露光面における露光する範囲を変更する露光範囲変更手段と、前記測距範囲変更手段で変更した各測距範囲において測距を行う測距手段と、前記測距手段で測距した結果に応じて前記露光面を前記撮影光学系の光軸方向に移動する露光面移動手段と、を備えたことを特徴とするカメラ。

【0008】(3)前記(1)または(2)記載のカメラにおいて、前記露光範囲変更手段は、前記露光面上を前記撮影光学系の光軸方向に直交する方向にスリットを移動するものであるカメラ。

【0009】(4)前記(1)記載のカメラにおいて、前記測距範囲変更手段による測距範囲の変更、前記露光範囲変更手段による露光範囲の変更、前記測距手段による測距、および前記合焦調整手段による合焦を連続的に行うカメラ。

【0010】(5)前記(2)記載のカメラにおいて、前記測距範囲変更手段による測距範囲の変更、前記露光範囲変更手段による露光範囲の変更、前記測距手段による測距、および前記露光面移動手段による移動を連続的Canon Ex. 1003

に行うカメラ。

【0011】(6)カメラの被写界を複数のスリット状のブロックに分けて各ブロック毎に測距を行い、その測距の結果に応じて前記各ブロックに対応する露光面におけるブロックに対する合焦処理を行うカメラの撮影方法。

[0012]

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の実施の形態をカメラの実施例により詳しく説明する。なお、本発明は、装置の形に限らず、実施例の説明に裏付けられて方法の形で実施することもできる。

[0013]

【実施例】 動作原理 まず、実施例である"カメラ"の動作原理を図1ないし図4を参照して説明する。図1はあおり付きカメラにおける被写体,レンズ,露光面の関係を示す図である。被写体101は から まで4つ、レンズ102に対して斜めに並んでいる。これらの被写体 ないし の像がレンズ102を経由すると露光面103に結像するわけであるが、被写体とレンズ102との距離が被写体によって異なるので、焦点を結ぶ位置はAからDまでとやはリレンズ102に対して斜めに並ぶ。この状態は、レンズ102と露光面103を平行にしない状態、すなわち、あおりを利用し露光面103に合焦させた状態を示す。

【0014】これに対し、レンズと露光面が平行な場合は、通常このままでは全ての被写体に対しピントが来ない。そこでレンズと露光面の距離を変えて、被写体毎にピントが来る様にした模式図が図2である。ここではレンズの位置を201から204迄移動させている。即ち、205の被写体を露光する場合はレンズは201の位置にすると、209の位置に像を結ぶ。又206の被写体を露光する場合はレンズは202の位置に前進させる。すると像は210の位置に露光する。以下同様に207,208の被写体に対して、レンズの位置を各々203,204に移動させると、これに対応して211,212の位置に像を結ぶ。これらの像の並んだ線はレンズの光軸に垂直な線となる。即ち、レンズと露光面が平行なまま、斜めの被写体全てに対してピントが来ている事になる。

【0015】このようにレンズを移動させる事により、 斜めの被写体に対してピントを合わせることが出来る が、露光面をその間、全て開放しておくと全体にぼけた 写真になるので、露光面は一部分の範囲を切り取ってそ の範囲を移動させる必要がある。カメラからの距離が互 いに異なる水平に並んだ被写体を撮影する場合は、縦方 向のスリットを用意し、レンズの移動に合わせて、露光 面前で左右に移動させる必要がある。

【0016】次に、露光面から合焦の様子を見てみる。 斜めに並んだ4人の人物を撮影する時、図3のようにレンズを4人の各被写体の距離に応じた4箇所に位置させ ればよい。即ち301の人物を撮影する時は露光面の内305の範囲を測距してレンズを移動させる。以下302から304の人物を撮影する度に、306から308の範囲を測距してレンズを移動させて撮影すれば良い訳であるが、2つの問題が生じる。1つは露光範囲をレンズを移動させる度に限定させなければならない事、もう一つはレンズは連続的に移動させなければならない事である。また図3の様に4つの部分を各々ピントが合う様に撮影すると4重露光のような事になってしまい、この場合、4つの部分の各被写体を正確に認識できなければ実行出来ない。これは現実的な手法ではない。

【0017】そこで、本実施例では、測距する範囲と露光する範囲を一致させ、測距の結果でレンズを移動させるようにする。図4にその様子を示したが、401が露光面全体である。402は露光面の前のスリットである。このスリット402の範囲だけが露光する。このスリット402の範囲はそのまま測距の範囲に対し、このスリット402の範囲に対応を移動させる事により、である。すなわち、このスリット402の範囲に対応する被写界を測距し、その測距の結果でレンズを移動にというわけである。このスリット402の範囲を露光に移動させる事により、露光面401の全面にピントが合った写真が撮れるというわけである。

【0018】 カメラのシステム構成 図5は、本実施例のカメラのシステム構成を示すブロック図である。図5において、オートフォーカスセンサAFS501で測距したデータは中央処理装置CPU502に送られる。CPU502はレンズ駆動モータLMOT503を動作させ、レンズL504をピントの合う位置まで移動させる。同時にスリット駆動モータSMOT505を動作させ、焦点の合う露光位置までスリット506を移動させる。その結果露光面に被写体像を結像させる。

【 0 0 1 9 】 C P U 5 0 2 の実行する命令は R O M 5 1 0 に格納されたプログラムによる。 R A M 5 1 1 は C P U 5 0 2 が演算処理を実行する際に必要なワーク等を記憶する部分である。

【 0 0 2 0 】表示器 D I S P 5 0 8 は操作中のカメラの 各種情報を表示し、キー操作部 K E Y 5 0 9 はカメラの 操作キーを通してカメラに人間が指示を行なう部分である。

【 0 0 2 1 】 5 1 2 はバスライン B L であり、以上のデバイスを結んで情報のやりとりを実行する。

【0022】なお、AFS501としては、アクティブ、またはパッシブのセンサを用い、公知の技術により前述の測距範囲における測距を行う。

【0023】 撮影における処理 シャッタを押して撮影する際の処理過程を、図6のフローチャートで説明する。 この処理の流れはプログラムとしてROM510 に格納されている。シャッタボタンを押すとこの処理が Canon Ex. 1003 走り出す。まずステップ601(図ではS601と表記する、以下同様)で最初に測距すべき画面(被写界)上の位置を初期設定する。測距する範囲は常に撮影される全画面の一部であるから、最初にその画面上の位置を決めるわけである。例えば、測距する範囲が縦長の場合は画面の最も右側に位置させるようにする。次に、ステップ602に移り、露光面のスリットの位置も初期化する。但し、これは前述した測距位置に対応させなければならない。測距範囲が画面の右端である場合は、露光面は反対の左端であるから、スリットはこの位置に対応させる。

【0024】つぎに、ステップ603に移り、前述した 測距範囲で実際に被写体までの測距を行なう。ステップ604に移り、測距の結果からレンズの駆動を行ない露 光面に被写体像を合焦させる。更に、ステップ605に 移り、シャッタを開け露光面に露光させる。測距とレン ズ駆動と後述する測距範囲移動処理とスリット移動を連 続的に行なう場合は、以後終了するまでシャッタは開け っぱなしで構わない。

【 0 0 2 5 】次に、ステップ6 0 6 に移り、測距範囲を移動させる。またステップ6 0 7 で露光面のスリットもやはり移動させる。

【0026】ステップ608に移り、撮影範囲の全てにわたって露光したか否か判別し、全て終了したらステップ609に移り、シャッタを閉じて撮影は完了する。撮影が未完の場合は再度ステップ603の測距処理に戻り、以上の処理を繰り返す。

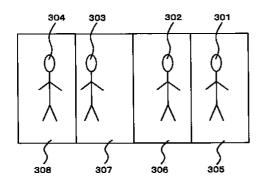
【0027】本カメラの露光面には、従来の銀塩方式のフィルムを置いても良いし、デジタルカメラのCCDを置いても良い。

【0028】以上で測距範囲毎にレンズを駆動してどの 範囲においても、適切なピントで露光することが出来 る。

【0029】 変形 前記実施例では、例えば図1に示した様に、被写体が斜めに並んでいる場合を想定した

【図3】

本発明の原理説明図(その2)



が、図7に示す様に、カメラ703に対して被写体70 1,702が円弧状に並んでいる場合でも、前述した処理で各被写体にピントを合わせた写真を撮る事が可能である。

【0030】前記実施例では左右に並んだ被写体に対して、縦長のスリットを左右に走らせて撮影する様にしたが、被写体によっては縦方向に距離の異なる場合がある。例えば図8に示した様に、カメラ801に対して手前の低い木802、少し離れた背の高い木803、遠くの山804が縦方向に重なっている場合で、全てにピントを合わせたい場合等である。そのときは測距する範囲を左右に長くして、露光面の前のスリットも左右に長くする方式にすれば良い。図9に撮影される景色を示したが、手前の低い木802、少し離れた背の高い木803、遠くの山804までピントを合わせる為に、スリット901を水平にして上下に移動させれば良い。

【0031】また、前記実施例では、測距結果に応じて、レンズを移動しているが、これに限らず、レンズ位置を固定し、露光面を光軸方向に移動して焦点を合わせる方式を採用しても良い。

[0032]

【発明の効果】以上説明したように、本発明によれば、 誰でも簡単に、距離の異なる位置にある被写体に対し全 てピントが合う写真をとることができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】 被写体とレンズと露光面の関係を示す図

【図2】 本発明の原理説明図(その1)

【図3】 本発明の原理説明図(その2)

【図4】 本発明の原理説明図(その3)

【図5】 実施例のシステム構成を示すブロック図

【図6】 実施例の動作を示すフローチャート

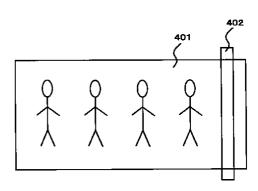
【図7】 被写体の例を示す図

【図8】 被写体の例を示す図

【図9】 図8の被写体を撮影する場合のスリットの向き,移動方向を示す図

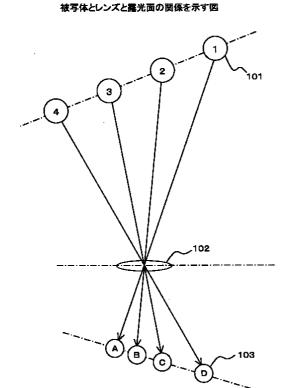
【図4】

本発明の原理説明図(その3)



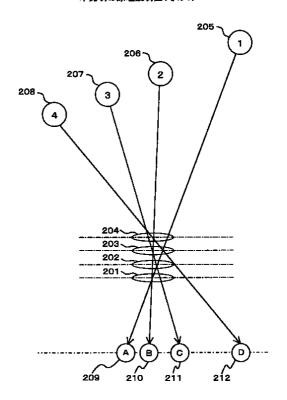
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【図1】



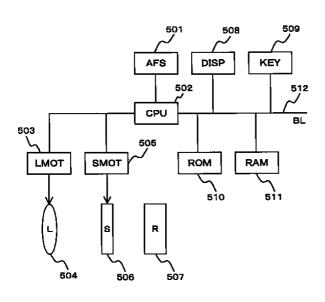
本発明の原理説明図(その1)

【図2】



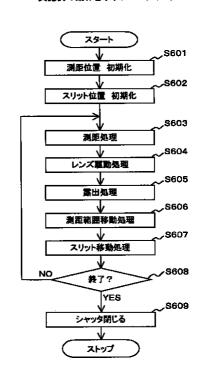
【図5】

実施例のシステム構成を示すブロック図



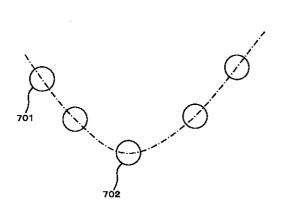
【図6】

実施例の動作を示すフローチャート

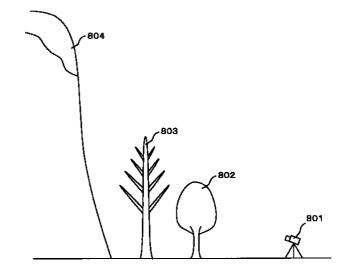


【図7】

被写体の例を示す図



被写体の例を示す図



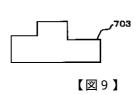
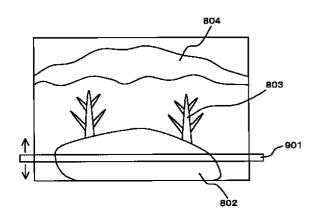


図8の被写体を撮影する場合のスリットの向き、移動方向を示す図



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