

US Patent & Trademark Office

Patent Public Search | Text View

United States Patent	12395730
Kind Code	B2
Date of Patent	August 19, 2025
Inventor(s)	Sugita; Atsushi

Accessory apparatus and imaging apparatus

Abstract

An accessory apparatus is connectable to an imaging apparatus along with an interchangeable lens apparatus. The accessory apparatus includes an accessory communication unit configured to provide a communication channel to and from the imaging apparatus, an operation member allowing an operation by a user, and an accessory control unit configured to communicate with the imaging apparatus via the accessory communication unit. The accessory control unit notifies the imaging apparatus of a communication request according to detection of the operation of the operation member, and repeats transmitting operation state information indicating an operation state of the operation member to the imaging apparatus from when the communication request is notified to when an end of the operation is detected.

Inventors:	Sugita; Atsushi (Kanagawa, JP)
Applicant:	CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA (Tokyo, JP)
Family ID:	1000008762686
Assignee:	CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA (Tokyo, JP)
Appl. No.:	18/316459
Filed:	May 12, 2023

Prior Publication Data

Document Identifier	Publication Date
US 20230283895 A1	Sep. 07, 2023

Foreign Application Priority Data

JP	2017-107961	May. 31, 2017
JP	2018-096870	May. 21, 2018

Related U.S. Application Data

continuation parent-doc US 15992356 20180530 US 10873691 20201222 child-doc US 17096047
division parent-doc US 17096047 20201112 US 11689802 child-doc US 18316459

Publication Classification

Int. Cl.: H04N23/66 (20230101); G03B17/14 (20210101); G03B17/18 (20210101); H04N23/663 (20230101)

U.S. Cl.:

CPC H04N23/663 (20230101); G03B17/14 (20130101); G03B17/18 (20130101); H04N23/66 (20230101);

Field of Classification Search

CPC: H04N (23/663); H04N (23/66); G03B (17/14); G03B (17/18)

References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Patent No.	Issued Date	Patentee Name	U.S. Cl.	CPC
5877811	12/1998	Ryunosuke et al.	N/A	N/A
11689802	12/2022	Sugita	348/211.99	G03B 17/14
2005/0158044	12/2004	Masataka	N/A	N/A
2012/0033955	12/2011	Okada	N/A	N/A
2012/0044407	12/2011	Murashima	N/A	N/A
2012/0099004	12/2011	Shibuno	N/A	N/A
2012/0105711	12/2011	Kudo et al.	N/A	N/A
2013/0022348	12/2012	Hasuda et al.	N/A	N/A
2013/0028590	12/2012	Hasuda	N/A	N/A
2013/0051780	12/2012	Takahata	N/A	N/A
2013/0141609	12/2012	Watazawa	N/A	N/A
2014/0184893	12/2013	Imafuji	N/A	N/A
2016/0037050	12/2015	Irie	N/A	N/A
2017/0187945	12/2016	Ikeda	N/A	N/A
2017/0192209	12/2016	Yamahiro	N/A	N/A
2018/0224720	12/2017	Pan et al.	N/A	N/A
2018/0348475	12/2017	Sugiyama	N/A	N/A

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Patent No.	Application Date	Country	CPC
102375303	12/2011	CN	N/A
102457679	12/2011	CN	N/A
102890392	12/2012	CN	N/A
103209296	12/2012	CN	N/A
104104866	12/2013	CN	N/A
105446060	12/2015	CN	N/A

04-350611	12/1991	JP	N/A
06-003582	12/1993	JP	N/A
2003-057742	12/2002	JP	N/A
2003-202623	12/2002	JP	N/A
2006-171392	12/2005	JP	N/A
2007-017746	12/2006	JP	N/A
2013-097352	12/2012	JP	N/A
2012/131794	12/2011	WO	N/A
2017/068912	12/2016	WO	N/A

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

A European Search Report issued on Oct. 15, 2018, a which is enclosed, that issued in the corresponding European Patent Application No. 18175175.1. cited by applicant

A European Office Action, issued on Jun. 4, 2020, a which is enclosed, that issued in the corresponding European Patent Application No. 18175175.1. cited by applicant

A Jul. 7, 2020 Japanese Office Action, a which is enclosed with an English Translation, that issued in Japanese Patent Application No. 2018096870. cited by applicant

A Jun. 17, 2020 Chinese Office Action, a which is enclosed with an English Translation, that issued in Chinese Patent Application No. 201810540052.6. cited by applicant

A Sep. 23, 2022 Chinese Office Action, a which is enclosed with an English Translation, that Issued in Chinese Patent Application No. 202110674180.1. cited by applicant

The Aug. 1, 2023 Japanese Office Action, a which is enclosed without an English Translation, that issued in Japanese Patent Application No. 2022-136265. cited by applicant

Primary Examiner: Ye; Lin

Assistant Examiner: Bhuiyan; Fayez A

Attorney, Agent or Firm: Cowan, Liebowitz & Latman, P.C.

Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION (1) This application is a divisional of application Ser. No. 17/096,047, filed Nov. 12, 2022, which is a continuation of application Ser. No. 15/992,356, filed May 30, 2018, which issued as U.S. Pat. No. 10,873,691 on Dec. 22, 2020, the entire disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Disclosure

(1) The present disclosure relates to an imaging (camera) system including an imaging apparatus (hereinafter, referred to as a camera main body) and an interchangeable lens apparatus (hereinafter, referred to as an interchangeable lens) which can communicate with each other, and an accessory apparatus such as an adapter apparatus (hereinafter, referred to as an adapter) which is arranged between the camera main body and the lens.

Description of the Related Art

(2) In an interchangeable lens camera system, a camera main body and an interchangeable lens transmit and receive data to/from each other via a communication system. To implement imaging processing and image recording of high image quality and responsiveness, and smooth imaging controls including an aperture control and a focus control, large capacity and highly real-time data

communication needs to be performed.

(3) An adapter, such as a wide converter and a teleconverter (extender), may be mounted between the camera main body and the interchangeable lens. The adapter may include an operation member allowing a user to operate for performing a lens control, such as an aperture control and a focus control. Like the interchangeable lens, such an adapter also needs to communicate with the camera main body. The camera system therefore needs a communication system in which the camera main body can perform one-to-many communication with the interchangeable lens and the adapter to allow highly real-time data communication (i.e., imaging control).

(4) Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2006-171392 discusses a camera system which corrects a change in optical parameters due to an adapter if the adapter is mounted between a camera main body and an interchangeable lens. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2013-097352 discusses a camera system in which a camera main body is allowed to associate an arbitrary function with an operation member provided on an interchangeable lens.

(5) In both the camera systems discussed in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open Nos. 2006-171392 and 2013-097352, the camera main body and the interchangeable lens only perform one-to-one communication therebetween. If the adapter includes an operation member, highly real-time imaging control is therefore difficult to be implemented. In the camera system discussed in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2013-097352, the camera main body constantly monitors operation information about the operation member of the interchangeable lens. If constant monitoring of the adapter is added thereto, a communication wait can occur easily, impairing the real-timeness of the data communication.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

(6) The present disclosure is directed to providing a camera system which allows one-to-many communication of a camera main body with an interchangeable lens and an accessory apparatus such as an adapter, so that highly real-time imaging control can be performed by using an operation member provided on the accessory apparatus.

(7) According to an aspect of the present disclosure, an accessory apparatus is connectable to an imaging apparatus. The accessory apparatus includes an accessory communication unit configured to provide a communication channel to and from the imaging apparatus, an operation member allowing an operation by a user, and an accessory control unit configured to communicate with the imaging apparatus via the accessory communication unit. The accessory communication unit notifies the imaging apparatus of a communication request according to detection of the operation of the operation member, and repeats transmitting operation state information indicating an operation state of the operation member to the imaging apparatus from when the communication request is notified to when an end of the operation is detected.

(8) According to another aspect of the present disclosure, an imaging apparatus is one to which an accessory apparatus including an operation member allowing an operation by a user is connectable. The imaging apparatus includes a camera communication unit configured to provide a communication channel to and from the accessory apparatus, and a camera control unit configured to communicate with the accessory apparatus via the camera control unit. The camera control unit receives a communication request notified by the accessory apparatus according to detection of the operation of the operation member, and repeats requesting operation state information indicating an operation state of the operation member from the accessory apparatus from when the communication request is received to when operation end information indicating an end of the operation is received.

(9) An imaging system including the foregoing accessory apparatus, an interchangeable lens apparatus, and the imaging apparatus also constitutes another aspect of the present disclosure.

(10) According to yet another aspect of the present disclosure, a communication control method is applied to an accessory apparatus connectable to an image apparatus, the accessory apparatus providing a communication channel to and from the imaging apparatus and including an operation

unit allowing an operation by a user. The communication control method includes causing the accessory apparatus to notify the imaging apparatus of a communication request according to detection of the operation of the operation member, and causing the accessory apparatus to repeat transmitting operation state information indicating an operation state of the operation member to the imaging apparatus from when the communication request is notified to when an end of the operation is detected.

(11) According to yet another aspect of the present disclosure, a communication control method is applied to an imaging apparatus to which an accessory apparatus including an operation member allowing an operation by a user is connectable and which provides a communication channel to and from the accessory apparatus. The communication control method includes causing the imaging apparatus to receive a communication request notified by the accessory apparatus according to detection of the operation of the operation unit, and causing the imaging apparatus to repeat requesting operation state information indicating an operation state of the operation member from the accessory apparatus from when the communication request is received to when operation end information indicating an end of the operation is received from the accessory apparatus.

(12) A communication control program serving as a computer program for causing a computer of an accessory apparatus or an imaging apparatus to perform processing according to the foregoing communication control methods also constitutes an aspect of the present disclosure.

(13) Further features of the present disclosure will become apparent from the following description of exemplary embodiments with reference to the attached drawings.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a configuration of a camera system according to one or more aspects of the present disclosure.

(2) FIG. 2A is a diagram illustrating a communication pass for first communication between a camera main body (camera microcomputer), an interchangeable lens (lens microcomputer), and an adapter (adapter microcomputer) according to one or more aspects of the present disclosure. FIG. 2B is a diagram illustrating a communication pass for second communication between a camera main body (camera microcomputer), an interchangeable lens (lens microcomputer), and an adapter (adapter microcomputer) according to one or more aspects of the present disclosure. FIG. 2C is a diagram illustrating communication waveforms in the second communication according to one or more aspects of the present disclosure.

(3) FIG. 3 is a diagram illustrating a communication format according to the first exemplary embodiment.

(4) FIG. 4A is a diagram illustrating communication waveforms in broadcast communication according to one or more aspects of the present disclosure. FIG. 4B is another diagram illustrating communication waveforms in broadcast communication according to one or more aspects of the present disclosure.

(5) FIG. 5 is a diagram illustrating communication waveforms in peer-to-peer (P2P) communication according to one or more aspects of the present disclosure.

(6) FIG. 6 is a diagram illustrating communication waveforms during switching of communication modes according to one or more aspects of the present disclosure.

(7) FIG. 7A is a flowchart illustrating processing of the camera main body in broadcast communication according to one or more aspects of the present disclosure. FIG. 7B is a flowchart illustrating processing of the interchangeable lens and the adapter in broadcast communication according to one or more aspects of the present disclosure.

(8) FIG. 8A is a flowchart illustrating processing of the camera main body in P2P communication

according to one or more aspects of the present disclosure. FIG. 8B is a flowchart illustrating processing of the interchangeable lens and the adapter in P2P communication according to one or more aspects of the present disclosure.

(9) FIG. 9 is a diagram illustrating a control sequence according to an operation of an operation member of the adapter according to one or more aspects of the present disclosure.

(10) FIG. 10 is a diagram illustrating a control sequence according to the operation of the operation member of the adapter according to one or more aspects of the present disclosure.

(11) FIGS. 11A and 11B are flowcharts each illustrating processing of the adapter according to one or more aspects of the present disclosure.

(12) FIGS. 12A and 12B are flowcharts illustrating processing of the camera main body according to one or more aspects of the present disclosure.

(13) FIG. 13 is a flowchart illustrating processing of the interchangeable lens according to one or more aspects of the present disclosure.

(14) FIG. 14 is a diagram illustrating a control sequence according to an operation of an operation member of the adapter according to one or more aspects of the present disclosure.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

(15) Exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure will be described below with reference to the drawings.

(16) FIG. 1 illustrates a configuration of an imaging system (hereinafter, referred to as a camera system) including an imaging apparatus (hereinafter, referred to as a camera main body) **200** which is a first exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure, an interchangeable lens **100**, and an adapter apparatus (hereinafter, referred to simply as an adapter) **300** which serves as an intermediate accessory apparatus. The camera main body **200** according to the present exemplary embodiment can be used in a state where both the interchangeable lens **100** and the adapter **300** are mounted.

(17) As an example, FIG. 1 illustrates a camera system in which one adapter **300** is mounted between the camera main body **200** and the interchangeable lens **100**. A plurality of adapters can be coupled and mounted between the camera main body **200** and the interchangeable lens **100**.

(18) In the camera system according to the present exemplary embodiment, the camera main body **200**, the interchangeable lens **100**, and the adapter **300** communicate with each other by using a plurality of communication methods. The camera main body **200**, the interchangeable lens **100**, and the adapter **300** transmit control commands and data (information) via respective first communication units. The first communication units support a plurality of communication methods each, and can select optimum communication methods for various situations by switching to the same communication methods in synchronization with each other according to the type of data to be communicated and the purpose of communication.

(19) The camera system according to the present exemplary embodiment includes a channel for performing communication via second communication units of the camera main body **200** and the interchangeable lens **100**, aside from the channel for performing communication via the respective first communication units of the camera main body **200**, the interchangeable lens **100**, and the adapter **300**.

(20) A more specific configuration of the interchangeable lens **100**, the camera main body **200**, and the adapter **300** will initially be described.

(21) The interchangeable lens **100** and the adapter **300** are mechanically and electrically connected via a mount **400** which is a coupling mechanism. Similarly, the adapter **300** and the camera main body **200** are mechanically and electrically connected via a mount **401** which is a coupling mechanism. The interchangeable lens **100** and the adapter **300** obtain power supply from the camera main body **200** via power supply terminal units (not illustrated) provided on the mounts **400** and **401**. Power needed for the operation of various actuators to be described below, a lens microcomputer **111**, and an adapter microcomputer **302** is thus supplied. The interchangeable lens

100, the camera main body **200**, and the adapter **300** communicate with each other via communication terminal units (not illustrated) provided on the mounts **400** and **401**.

(22) The interchangeable lens **100** includes an imaging optical system. The imaging optical system includes a field lens **101**, a magnification lens **102**, and an aperture unit **114** in order from an object OBJ side. The magnification lens **102** provides magnification. The aperture unit **114** adjusts the amount of light. The imaging optical system further includes an image stabilization lens **103** which reduces (corrects) image vibrations, and a focus lens **104** which performs focus adjustment.

(23) The magnification lens **102** and the focus lens **104** are held by lens holding frames **105** and **106**, respectively. The lens holding frames **105** and **106** are guided to be movable in an optical axis direction (illustrated by a broken line in the diagram) by a not-illustrated guide shaft, and driven in the optical axis direction by stepping motors **107** and **108**. The stepping motors **107** and **108** move the magnification lens **102** and the focus lens **104**, respectively, in synchronization with drive pulses.

(24) The image stabilization lens **103** reduces image vibrations due to camera shakes by shifting in directions orthogonal to the optical axis of the imaging optical system.

(25) The lens microcomputer **111** is a lens control unit which controls the operation of various parts in the interchangeable lens **100**. The lens microcomputer **111** receives control commands and transmission request commands transmitted from the camera main body **200** via a lens first communication unit **112** which includes a lens communication interface circuit. The lens microcomputer **111** performs lens control corresponding to the control commands, and transmits lens data corresponding to the transmission request commands to the camera main body **200** via the lens first communication unit **112**.

(26) The lens microcomputer **111** outputs drive signals to a zoom drive circuit **119** and a focus drive circuit **120** to drive the stepping motors **107** and **108** in response to magnification- and focusing-related commands among the control commands. The lens microcomputer **111** thereby performs zoom processing for controlling a magnification operation of the magnification lens **102** and autofocus (AF) processing for controlling a focus adjustment operation of the focus lens **104**.

(27) The aperture unit **114** includes aperture blades **114a** and **114b**. The states (positions) of the aperture blades **114a** and **114b** are detected by a Hall element **115**. An output from the Hall element **115** is input to the lens microcomputer **111** via an amplification circuit **122** and an analog-to-digital (A/D) conversion circuit **123**. The lens microcomputer **111** outputs a drive signal to an aperture drive circuit **121** to drive an aperture actuator **113** based on the signal input from the A/D conversion circuit **123**. A light amount adjustment operation of the aperture unit **114** is thereby controlled.

(28) The lens microcomputer **111** further drives an image stabilization actuator (for example, voice coil motor) **126** via an image stabilization drive circuit **125** according to camera shakes detected by a vibration sensor (not illustrated), such as a vibration gyro provided inside the interchangeable lens **100**. Image stabilization processing for controlling a shift operation (image stabilization operation) of the image stabilization lens **103** is thereby performed.

(29) The interchangeable lens **100** further includes a manual operation ring (electronic ring) **130** which can be operated to rotate by a user, and a ring rotation detector **131**. For example, the ring rotation detector **131** includes a photointerrupter which outputs a two-phase signal according to the rotation of the manual operation ring **130**. The lens microcomputer **111** can detect the amount (including direction) of rotation operation of the manual operation ring **130** by using the two-phase signal. The lens microcomputer **111** can notify the camera microcomputer **205** of the amount of rotation operation of the manual operation ring **130** via the lens first communication unit **112**.

(30) An example of the adapter **300** is an extender for changing a focal length. The adapter **300** includes a magnification lens **301** and an adapter microcomputer **302**. The adapter microcomputer **302** is an adapter control unit (accessory control unit, also referred as a communication control unit) which controls the operation of various parts in the adapter **300**. The adapter microcomputer

302 receives control commands and transmission request commands transmitted from the camera main body **200** via an adapter first communication unit (accessory communication unit) **303** which includes a communication interface circuit. The adapter microcomputer **302** performs adapter control corresponding to the control commands, and transmits adapter data corresponding to the transmission request commands to the camera main body **200** via the adapter first communication unit **303**. In the present exemplary embodiment, the adapter **300** is described to be an extender. The adapter **300** can be a wide converter for changing the focal length, or a mount converter for changing a flange back length.

(31) Like the interchangeable lens **100**, the adapter **300** includes an adapter operation ring (electronic ring) **310** serving as an operation member that can be operated to rotate by the user, and a ring rotation detector **311**. Like the ring rotation detector **131** of the interchangeable lens **100**, the ring rotation detector **311** includes, for example, a photointerrupter which outputs a two-phase signal according to the rotation of the adapter operation ring **310**. The adapter microcomputer **302** can detect the amount (including direction) of rotation operation of the adapter operation ring **310** by using the two-phase signal. The adapter microcomputer **302** can notify the camera microcomputer **205** of the amount of rotation operation of the adapter operation ring **310** via the adapter first communication unit **303**.

(32) The adapter **300** can include an operation member other than the adapter operation ring **310**. Examples include a switch, a button, and a touch panel. The adapter **300** can include a plurality of operation members.

(33) The camera main body **200** includes an image sensor **201**, an A/D conversion circuit **202**, a signal processing circuit **203**, a recording unit **204**, a camera microcomputer **205**, and a display unit **206**. Examples of the image sensor **201** include a charge-coupled device (CCD) sensor and a complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor (CMOS) sensor.

(34) The image sensor **201** photoelectrically converts an object image formed by the imaging optical system in the interchangeable lens **100** and outputs an electrical signal (analog signal). The A/D conversion circuit **202** converts the analog signal from the image sensor **201** into a digital signal. The signal processing circuit **203** performs various types of image processing on the digital signal from the A/D conversion circuit **202** to generate a video signal. The signal processing circuit **203** also generates focus information indicating a contrast state of the object image (focus state of the imaging optical system) and brightness information expressing an exposure state from the video signal. The signal processing circuit **203** outputs the video signal to the display unit **206**. The display unit **206** displays the video signal as a live view image which is used to check composition and a focus state.

(35) The camera microcomputer **205** (also referred as a communication control unit) serving as a camera control unit controls the camera main body **200** according to inputs from camera operation members including a not-illustrated imaging instruction switch and various setting switches. The camera microcomputer **205** transmits control commands related to the magnification operation of the magnification lens **102** to the lens microcomputer **111** via a camera first communication unit **208**, which includes a communication interface circuit, according to the operation of a not-illustrated zoom switch. The camera microcomputer **205** further transmits control commands related to the light amount adjustment operation of the aperture unit **114** according to the brightness information and the focus adjustment operation of the focus lens **104** according to the focus information to the lens microcomputer **111** via the camera first communication unit **208**. The camera microcomputer **205** transmits transmission request commands for obtaining control information and state information about the interchangeable lens **100** to the lens microcomputer **111** according to need. The camera microcomputer **205** further transmits transmission request commands for obtaining control information and state information about the adapter **300** to the adapter microcomputer **302**.

(36) Next, a communication pass constructed between the camera main body **200** (camera

microcomputer **205**), the interchangeable lens **100** (lens microcomputer **111**), and the adapter **300** (adapter microcomputer **302**) for communication via at least two of a camera first communication unit **208**, an adapter first communication unit **303**, and a lens first communication unit **112** will be described with reference to FIG. 2A. The communication of this communication pass is referred to as first communication. The camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** perform communication by using signal lines (channels) connected via the foregoing communication terminal units provided on the mounts **400** and **401**.

(37) The signal lines include a signal line (first signal line; corresponding to a signal transmission channel) CS for transmitting a signal for communication control, and a signal line (second signal line; corresponding to a data communication channel) DATA for data communication.

(38) The signal line CS is connected to the camera microcomputer **205**, the adapter microcomputer **302**, and the lens microcomputer **111**. The camera microcomputer **205**, the adapter microcomputer **302**, and the lens microcomputer **111** can thus detect high and low which are states of the signal line CS. The signal line CS is pull-up connected to a not-illustrated power supply in the camera main body **200**. The signal line CS can be connected (open-drain connected) to ground GND via a ground switch **1121** in the interchangeable lens **100**, a ground switch **2081** in the camera main body **200**, and a ground switch **3031** in the adapter **300**.

(39) With such a configuration, the camera microcomputer **205**, the adapter microcomputer **302**, and the lens microcomputer **111** can set the signal line CS to low by turning on (connecting) the ground switches **2081**, **1121**, and **3031**, respectively. The camera microcomputer **205**, the adapter microcomputer **302**, and the lens microcomputer **111** can set the signal line CS to high by turning off (disconnecting) the ground switches **2081**, **1121**, and **3031**, respectively. Details of signals for communication control (instructions and notifications) to be transmitted through the signal line CS and output processing thereof will be described below.

(40) The signal line DATA is a single-wired bidirectional data communication line that can be used by switching the transmission direction of data. The signal line DATA can be connected to the lens microcomputer **111** via an input/output changeover switch **1122** in the interchangeable lens **100**, and can be connected to the camera microcomputer **205** via an input/output changeover switch **2082** in the camera main body **200**. The signal line DATA can also be connected to the adapter microcomputer **302** via an input/output changeover switch **3032** in the adapter **300**. The microcomputers **111**, **205**, and **302** each include a CMOS type data output unit for transmitting data and a CMOS type data input unit for receiving data (neither of which is illustrated). The microcomputers **111**, **205**, and **302** can select whether to connect the signal line DATA to the data output units or the data input units by switching the respective input/output changeover switches.

(41) In transmitting data, the camera microcomputer **205**, the adapter microcomputer **302**, and the lens microcomputer **111** each set their input/output changeover switch so that the signal line DATA is connected to the data output unit. In receiving data, the camera microcomputer **205**, the adapter microcomputer **302**, and the lens microcomputer **111** each set their input/output changeover switch so that the signal line DATA is connected to the data input unit. Details of input/output changeover processing of the signal line DATA will be described below.

(42) While FIG. 2A illustrates an example of the communication circuit, other communication circuits can be used. For example, a communication circuit can be configured so that the signal line CS is pull-down connected to GND in the camera main body **200**, and can be connected to a not-illustrated power supply via the ground switch **1121** of the interchangeable lens **100**, the ground switch **2081** of the camera main body **200**, and the ground switch **3031** of the adapter **300**. A communication circuit can be configured so that the signal line DATA is constantly connected to the data input units in the interchangeable lens **100**, the camera main body **200**, and the adapter **300**, and the connection/disconnection between the signal line DATA and the data output units can be switched by using switches.

(43) The communication circuit can include a configuration other than that of the communication

circuit illustrated in FIG. 2A as long as broadcast communication and peer-to-peer (P2P) communication to be described below can be performed.

(44) Next, a communication pass constructed between the camera main body **200** (camera microcomputer **205**), the interchangeable lens **100** (lens microcomputer **111**), and the adapter **300** (adapter microcomputer **302**) will be described with reference to FIG. 2B. The communication of this communication pass is referred to as second communication.

(45) Second communication LCLK terminals **1420a**, **2420a**, **3420a**, and **3421a** functioning as terminals of a clock line LCLK output from the camera second communication unit **242** which is configured to perform a clock synchronous communication are respectively included in the second communication contact point groups **1420**, **2420**, **3420**, and **3421**. In addition, similarly, second communication DCL terminals **1420b**, **2420b**, **3420b**, and **3421b** functioning as terminals of a data line DCL output from the camera second communication unit **242** of the clock synchronous communication are included. Furthermore, similarly, second communication DLC terminals **1420c**, **2420c**, **3420c**, and **3421c** functioning as terminals of a data line DLC output from the lens second communication unit **142** of the clock synchronous communication are included.

(46) As illustrated in FIG. 2B, the clock line LCLK and the data line DCL are pulled up in the interchangeable lens **10**. In addition, the clock line LCLK and the data line DLC are pulled up in the camera main body **100**.

(47) The clock line LCLK, the data line DCL, and the data line DLC in the intermediate accessory **300** short-circuited between the second communication contact point groups **3420** and **3421**, and the second communication contact point groups **3420** and **3421**. In other words, signals communicated via the clock line LCLK, the data line DCL, and the data line DLC just pass through the intermediate accessory **300**.

(48) FIG. 2C illustrates waveforms of the clock line LCLK, the data line DCL, and the data line DLC when the second communication is performed. The camera second communication unit **242** on the camera side outputs a clock to the clock line LCLK and also outputs 8-bit data of B7 to B0 to the data line DCL in synchronism with rise of the signal level of the clock line LCLK.

(49) Similarly, the lens second communication unit **142** on the lens side outputs 8-bit data of B7 to B0 to the data line DLC in synchronism with the rising signals of the clock line LCLK. Furthermore, the camera second communication unit **242** on the camera side receives the 8-bit data of B7 to B0 of the data line DLC in synchronism with the rise of the signal level of the clock line LCLK.

(50) Similarly, the lens second communication unit **142** on the lens side receives the 8-bit data of B7 to B0 of the data line DCL in synchronism with the rise of the signal level of the clock line LCLK. With the above-described processing, the camera second communication unit **242** on the camera side and the lens second communication unit **142** on the lens side can mutually exchange the communication data. When the second communication unit **114** on the lens side receives the 8-bit data of B7 to B0 of the data line DCL, the lens second communication unit **142** performs LOW output of the clock line LCLK for a Tbusy time and thereafter cancels the LOW output. Herein, the Tbusy time is a time when the interchangeable lens **10** processes the received data. A configuration is adopted in which, after the data transmission, the camera the camera second communication unit **242** on the camera side does not perform the data transmission until the clock line LCLK changes from LOW to HIGH. With the signal control, it is possible to perform a flow control of the second communication. When the above-described processing is repeated, it is possible to transmit the data between the camera second communication unit **242** on the camera side and the lens second communication unit **142** on the lens side by the second communication.

(51) Herein, the second communication can be realized by the same communication method as the second communication, a bi-directional asynchronous communication method, a master/slave method, a token passing method, or the like.

(52) [Communication Data Format]

(53) Next, the format of communication data exchanged between the camera main body **200** (camera microcomputer **205**), the interchangeable lens **100** (lens microcomputer **111**), and the adapter **300** (adapter microcomputer **302**) will be described with reference to FIG. 3. This communication data format is common to broadcast communication and P2P communication to be described below. The following description deals with a communication data format for the case of performing asynchronous communication in which a communication speed to be used for communication between the microcomputers is determined in advance, and the microcomputers perform transmission and reception at a communication bitrate according to the determination.

(54) Initially, in a non-transmission state in which data transmission is not performed, the signal level is maintained at high. To notify the data reception side of a start of data transmission, the signal level is then set to low for a one-bit period. This one-bit period will be referred to as a start bit ST. Next, one byte of data is transmitted in an eight-bit period from the second to ninth bits. The data has a bit array of most significant bit (MSB)-first format, which starts at most significant data D7, followed by data D6, data D5, . . . , data D1, and ends with least significant data D0. One-bit parity information PA is added at the tenth bit. Finally, the signal level is set to high for the period of a stop bit SP which indicates the end of the transmission data. This ends the one-frame period starting at the start bit ST.

(55) While FIG. 3 illustrates an example of the communication data format, other communication data formats can be used. For example, the bit array of the data can be in a least significant bit (LSB)-first format, nine bits in length, or without the addition of parity information PA. Communication data formats can be switched between broadcast communication and P2P communication.

(56) [Broadcast Communication]

(57) Next, broadcast communication will be described with reference to FIGS. 4A and 4B. The broadcast communication is one-to-many communication in which one of the camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** transmits data to the other two at the same time (i.e., simultaneous transmission). Such a broadcast communication is performed by using the signal line CS and the data line DATA. A communication mode in which broadcast communication is performed may be referred to as a broadcast communication mode.

(58) FIG. 4A illustrates signal waveforms in broadcast communication performed between the camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302**. For example, a case in which the adapter microcomputer **302** performs broadcast communication to the camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111** in response to broadcast communication from the camera microcomputer **205** to the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** will be described.

(59) In **401**, the camera microcomputer **205**, which is a communication master, initially starts a low output to the signal line CS to notify the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302**, which are communication slaves, of a start of broadcast communication. In **402**, the camera microcomputer **205** outputs data to be transmitted to the data line DATA.

(60) In **403** and **404**, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** start a low output to the signal line CS at timing when the start bit ST input from the signal line DATA is detected. Since the camera microcomputer **205** has already started the low output to the signal line CS, the signal level of the signal line CS does not change at this point in time.

(61) In **405**, the camera microcomputer **205** finishes outputting up to the stop bit SP, and cancels the low output to the signal line CS. The lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** receive the data input from the signal line DATA up to the stop bit SP, and then analyze the received data and perform internal processing associated with the received data. In **406** and **407**, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** get ready to receive next data, and then cancel the low output to the signal line CS. As described above, the signal level of the signal

line CS becomes high if the camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** all cancel the low output to the signal line CS. The camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** can thus each check that the signal level of the signal line CS becomes high after the cancellation of the low output to the signal line CS. By checking that the signal level of the signal line CS becomes high, the camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** each can determine that the current communication processing is ended and the microcomputers are ready to perform next communication.

(62) In **411**, the adapter microcomputer **302** checks that the signal level of the signal line CS has returned to high, and starts a low output to the signal line CS to notify the camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111** of a start of broadcast communication.

(63) In **412**, the adapter microcomputer **302** outputs data to be transmitted to the signal line DATA. In **413** and **414**, the camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111** start a low output to the signal line CS at timing when the start bit ST input from the signal line DATA is detected. Since the adapter microcomputer **302** has already started the low output to the signal line CS, the signal level propagating the signal line CS does not change at this point in time. In **415**, the adapter microcomputer **302** finishes outputting up to the stop bit SP, and cancels the low output to the signal line CS. Meanwhile, the camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111** receive the stop bit SP input from the signal line DATA, and then analyze the received data and perform internal processing associated with the received data. In **416** and **417**, the camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111** get ready to receive next data, and then cancel the low output to the signal line CS.

(64) Above explanation can be applied to the case of the lens microcomputer **111** performing broadcast communicating with the camera microcomputer **205** and the adapter microcomputer **302**, in reply to the broadcast communication from the camera microcomputer **205** to the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302**.

(65) That is, after the lens microcomputer **111** outputting data to be transmitted to the signal line DATA, the lens microcomputer **111** cancels the low output to the signal line DATA. The next communication is able to be start, when signal level of the signal line DATA changes back to high level, by the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** canceling the low output to the signal line DATA when receiving the stop bit SP input from the signal line DATA.

(66) FIG. **4B** also illustrates signal waveforms in broadcast communication performed between the camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302**.

Here, an example where the lens microcomputer **111** notifies the camera microcomputer **205** of a start of broadcast communication will be described. In this example, the adapter microcomputer **302** performs broadcast communication to the camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111** in response to broadcast communication from the camera microcomputer **205** to the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302**.

(67) In **421**, the lens microcomputer **111** initially starts a low output to the signal line CS to notify the camera microcomputer **205** and the adapter microcomputer **302** of a start of broadcast communication. In other words, the adapter microcomputer **302** notifies the communication request by change of the signal level of the signal line data. In **422**, the camera microcomputer **205** detecting that the signal level of the signal line CS becomes low starts a low output to the signal line CS. Since the lens microcomputer **111** has already started the low output to the signal line CS, the signal level of the signal line CS does not change at this point in time.

(68) In **423**, the camera microcomputer **205** outputs, corresponding to the communication request notified via the signal line CS, data to be transmitted to the signal line DATA. In **424**, the adapter microcomputer **302** starts a low output to the signal line CS at timing when the start bit ST input from the signal line DATA is detected. Since the camera microcomputer **205** has already started the low output to the signal line CS, the signal level of the signal line CS does not change at this point

in time.

(69) In **425**, the camera microcomputer **205** finishes outputting up to the stop bit SP, and cancels the low output to the signal line CS. Meanwhile, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** receive up to the stop bit SP input from the signal line DATA, and then analyze the received data and perform internal processing associated with the received data. In **426** and **427**, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** get ready to receive next data, and then cancel the low output to the signal line CS. As described above, the signal level of the signal line CS becomes high if the camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** all cancel the low output to the signal line CS. The camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** can thus each check that the signal level of the signal line CS becomes high after the cancellation of the low output to the signal line CS. By checking that the signal level of the signal line CS becomes high, the camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** each can determine that the current communication processing is ended and the microcomputers are ready to perform next communication.

(70) In **431**, the adapter microcomputer **302** checks that the signal level of the signal line CS has returned to high, and starts a low output to the signal line CS to notify the camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111** of a start of broadcast communication. In other words, the adapter microcomputer **302** notifies the communication request by change of the signal level of the signal line data. In **432**, the adapter microcomputer **302** outputs data to be transmitted to the data signal DATA. In **433** and **434**, the camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111** start a low output to the signal line CS at timing when the start bit ST input from the signal line DATA is detected. Since the adapter microcomputer **302** has already started the low output to the signal line CS, the signal level of the signal line CS does not change at this point in time.

(71) In **435**, the adapter microcomputer **302** finishes outputting up to the stop bit SP, and cancels the low output to the signal line CS. Meanwhile, the camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111** receive up to the stop bit SP input from the signal line DATA, and then analyze the received data and perform internal processing associated with the received data. In **436** and **437**, the camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111** get ready to receive next data, and then cancel the low output to the signal line CS.

(72) In the example of FIG. 4B, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302**, which are communication slaves, start broadcast communication. At the point in time (**421**) when a low output to the signal line CS is started, the camera microcomputer **205**, i.e., the communication master, is unable to determine which the signal line CS is set to low by, the lens microcomputer **111** or the adapter microcomputer **302**. The camera microcomputer **205** therefore needs to communicate with both the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** to check whether the microcomputers have started the broadcast communication (whether the microcomputers have made a communication request).

(73) The lens microcomputer **111** or the adapter microcomputer **302** may output low to the signal line CS to start broadcast communication at timing when the camera microcomputer **205** outputs low to the signal line CS to start broadcast communication. In such a case, the camera microcomputer **205** is unable to detect that the lens microcomputer **111** or the adapter microcomputer **302** outputs low to the signal line CS. In this case, whether the communication request have been made or not cannot be distinguished. The camera microcomputer **205** can therefore be configured to issue a permission notification for permitting the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302**, i.e., the communication slaves, to start broadcast communication. Therefore, the lens microcomputer **111** or the adapter microcomputer can notify the communication request by outputting low to the signal line CS again, if the camera microcomputer would not start communication even after elapse of predetermined time period.

(74) As described above, the signal transmitted by the signal line CS in broadcast communication

functions as a signal for indicating a start (execution) of broadcast communication and that the broadcast communication is in process.

(75) While FIGS. 4A and 4B illustrate an example of broadcast communication, other broadcast communications can be performed. For example, data to be transmitted by a single broadcast communication may be one-byte data as illustrated in FIGS. 4A and 4B, or two- or three-byte data. The broadcast communication can be one-way communication from the camera microcomputer 205, which is the communication master, to the lens microcomputer 111 and the adapter microcomputer 302, which are communication slaves.

(76) [P2P Communication]

(77) Next, P2P communication performed between the camera main body 200 (camera microcomputer 205), the interchangeable lens 100 (lens microcomputer 111), and the adapter 300 (adapter microcomputer 302) will be described. The P2P communication is one-to-one communication (individual communication) in which the camera main body 200, which is the communication master, designates (selects) a partner (specific accessory apparatus) to communicate from between the interchangeable lens 100 and the adapter 300, which are communication slaves, and transmits and receives data to/from only the designated communication slave. The P2P communication is performed by using the signal line DATA and the signal line CS. A communication mode in which P2P communication is performed may be referred to as a P2P communication mode.

(78) As an example, FIG. 5 illustrates the waveforms of signals of P2P communication to be exchanged between the camera microcomputer 205 and the lens microcomputer 111 which is designated as the communication partner. The lens microcomputer 111 transmits two bytes of data to the camera microcomputer 205 in response to transmission of one byte of data from the camera microcomputer 205. Processing for switching the communication modes (broadcast communication mode and P2P communication mode) and processing for designating the communication partner of P2P communication will be described below.

(79) In 501, the camera microcomputer 205 which is the communication master initially outputs data to be transmitted to the signal line DATA. In 502, the camera microcomputer 205 finishes outputting up to the stop bit SP and then starts a low output to the signal line CS. In 503, the camera microcomputer 205 gets ready to receive next data, and then cancels the low output to the signal line CS. The lens microcomputer 111 detects the low signal input from the signal line CS, and then analyzes received data input from the signal line DATA and performs internal processing associated with the received data. In 504, the lens microcomputer 111 checks that the signal level of the signal line CS has returned to high, and then outputs two bytes of data to be transmitted to the signal line DATA in succession. In 505, the lens microcomputer 111 finishes outputting up to the stop bit SP of the second byte, and then starts a low output to the signal line CS. In 506, the lens microcomputer 111 gets ready to receive next data, and then cancels the low output to the signal line CS.

(80) The adapter microcomputer 302, which is not designated as the communication partner of P2P communication, outputs no signal to the signal line CS or the signal line DATA.

(81) As described above, the signal transmitted by the signal line CS in P2P communication functions as a notification signal for indicating an end of data transmission and a wait request for next data transmission.

(82) While FIG. 5 illustrates an example of P2P communication, other P2P communications can be performed. For example, data can be transmitted through the signal line DATA byte by byte. Data can be transmitted in units of three bytes or more.

(83) [Processing for Switching Communication Modes and Processing for Designating Communication Partner]

(84) Next, the processing for switching the communication modes and the processing for designating the communication partner of P2P communication will be described with reference to

FIG. 6. FIG. 6 illustrates the waveforms of signals to be exchanged between the camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** during the switching of the communication modes and the designation of the communication partner. The communication partner of P2P communication is designated by broadcast communication. As an example, a case where the camera microcomputer **205** designates the adapter microcomputer **302** as the communication partner of P2P communication, and P2P communication of one-byte data from the camera microcomputer **205** and P2P communication of one-byte data from the adapter microcomputer **302** are performed will be described. Subsequently, the camera microcomputer **205** designates the lens microcomputer **111** as the communication partner of P2P communication, and P2P communication of two-byte data from the camera microcomputer **205** and P2P communication of three-byte data from the lens microcomputer **111** are performed.

(85) In **601**, the camera microcomputer **205** which is the communication master initially performs broadcast communication by the procedure described in FIG. 4A. Slave designation data for designating the partner to communicate with the camera microcomputer **205** in the next P2P communication is notified by this broadcast communication. Based on the slave designation data received by the broadcast communication, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** which are the communication slaves each determine whether the microcomputer itself is designated as the communication partner of P2P communication. In **602**, the communication modes of the camera microcomputer **205** and the designated communication slave are switched from the broadcast communication mode to the P2P communication mode according to the determination result. Here, the adapter microcomputer **302** is designated as the communication partner. In **603**, the camera microcomputer **205** and the adapter microcomputer **302** therefore perform transmission and reception of data therebetween in the next P2P communication according to the procedure described in FIG. 5. Here, the camera microcomputer **205** transmits one-byte data to the adapter microcomputer **302**, and then the adapter microcomputer **302** transmits one-byte data to the camera microcomputer **205**.

(86) If the P2P communication between the camera microcomputer **205** and the adapter microcomputer **302** ends, the camera microcomputer **205** can designate again, by broadcast communication, a communication partner to communicate with by P2P communication. In **604**, to designate the lens microcomputer **111** as the communication partner of the next P2P communication, the camera microcomputer **205** sets the lens microcomputer **111** as the slave designation data and performs broadcast communication by the procedure described in FIG. 4A. In **605**, the adapter microcomputer **302** ends the P2P communication in response to the broadcast communication, and at the same time, the communication modes of the camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111** are switched to the P2P communication mode. If the broadcast communication is not performed here, the P2P communication between the camera microcomputer **205** and the adapter microcomputer **302** continues.

(87) In the next P2P communication, the camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111** perform transmission and reception of data therebetween according to the procedure described in FIG. 5. In **606**, the camera microcomputer **205** transmits two-byte data to the lens microcomputer **111**, and then the lens microcomputer **111** transmits three-byte data to the camera microcomputer **205**.

(88) As described above, the communication partner of P2P communication can be designated by broadcast communication. The broadcast communication and the P2P communication can be switched at the same time.

(89) [Communication Control Processing]

(90) Next, communication control processing performed between the camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** will be described. Processing in the broadcast communication mode will initially be described with reference to the flowcharts of FIGS. 7A and 7B. FIG. 7A illustrates broadcast transmission processing performed by the camera

microcomputer **205**. FIG. 7B illustrates broadcast reception processing performed by the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302**. As an example, processing in which the camera microcomputer **205** performs broadcast communication to the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** is illustrated here. The camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302**, which are a computer each, perform the present processing and other processing to be described below according to a communication control program serving as a computer program.

(91) If an event to start broadcast communication occurs, then in step **S700** of FIG. 7A, the camera microcomputer **205** turns on (connects) the ground switch **2081** to set the signal line CS to low. The lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** are thereby notified of a start of broadcast communication. An example of the event is that the camera microcomputer **205** requests data transmission of the lens microcomputer **111** or the adapter microcomputer **302**. Another example of the event is that the lens microcomputer **111** or the adapter microcomputer **302** outputs low to the signal line CS to request a start of broadcast communication. Receiving the notification of a start of broadcast communication, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** start the broadcast reception processing described in FIG. 7B.

(92) In step **S701**, the camera microcomputer **205** operates the input/output changeover switch **2082** to connect the signal line DATA to the data output unit. In step **S702**, the camera microcomputer **205** transmits data by using the signal line DATA. If the transmission of all the data is completed, the processing proceeds to step **S703**. The number of bytes of data to be transmitted and received here is not limited if the numbers of bytes recognized by the camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** are the same.

(93) In step **S703**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether the data transmitted in step **S702** is a bidirectional command including transmission from the lens microcomputer **111** or the adapter microcomputer **302**. In a case where the data is not a bidirectional command (NO in step **S703**), the processing proceeds to step **S704**. In a case where the data is a bidirectional command (YES in step **S703**), the processing proceeds to step **S705**.

(94) In step **S704**, to indicate that the communication processing is ended, the camera microcomputer **205** cancels the low output to the signal line CS by turning off (disconnecting) the ground switch **2081**. The processing proceeds to step **S715**.

(95) In step **S705**, the camera microcomputer **205** connects the signal line DATA to the data input unit by operating the input/output changeover switch **2082**. In step **S706**, to indicate that the communication processing is ended, the camera microcomputer **205** cancels the low output to the signal line CS by turning off (disconnecting) the ground switch **2081**.

(96) In step **S707**, the camera microcomputer **205** waits until the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** complete data reception, i.e., until the signal line CS becomes high. In a case where the signal line CS is high (YES in step **S707**), the processing proceeds to step **S708**.

(97) In step **S708**, the camera microcomputer **205** waits until data is transmitted from the lens microcomputer **111** or the adapter microcomputer **302**, i.e., until the signal line CS becomes low. In a case where the signal line CS is low (YES in step **S708**), the processing proceeds to step **S709**.

(98) In step **S709**, the camera microcomputer **205** permits data reception from the signal line DATA. In step **S710**, the camera microcomputer **205** waits until the start bit ST is detected on the signal line DATA. In a case where the start bit ST is detected (YES in step **S710**), the processing proceeds to step **S711**.

(99) In step **S711**, to indicate that communication processing is underway, the camera microcomputer **205** starts a low output to the signal line CS by turning on (connecting) the ground switch **2081**. In step **S712**, the camera microcomputer **205** waits until all the data is received. In a case where the reception of all the data is completed (YES in step **S712**), the processing proceeds to step **S713**. The number of bytes of data to be transmitted and received here is not limited, either, if the numbers of bytes recognized by the camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**,

and the adapter microcomputer **302** are the same.

(100) In step **S713**, the camera microcomputer **205** prohibits data reception from the signal line DATA. In step **S714**, to indicate that the communication processing is ended, the camera microcomputer **205** cancels the low output to the signal line CS by turning off (disconnecting) the ground switch **2081**. In step **S715**, the camera microcomputer **205** waits until the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** complete data reception, i.e., until the signal line CS becomes high. In a case where the signal line CS is high (YES in step **S715**), the processing proceeds to step **S716**.

(101) In step **S716**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether the lens microcomputer **111** or the adapter microcomputer **302** is designated as the communication partner of P2P communication by the data transmission of step **S702**. In a case where either one of the microcomputers is designated as the communication partner (YES in **S716**), the processing proceeds to step **S717**. If not (NO in step **S716**), the camera microcomputer **205** ends the broadcast transmission processing with the broadcast communication mode maintained.

(102) In step **S717**, the camera microcomputer **205** enters the P2P communication mode and ends the broadcast transmission processing.

(103) In FIG. 7B, if the signal line CS becomes a low level during communication standby in the broadcast communication mode or the P2P communication mode, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** recognize the low level as the notification of a start of broadcast communication. The lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** then start the broadcast reception processing.

(104) In step **S720**, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** permit data reception from the signal line DATA. In step **S721**, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** determines whether the start bit ST is received from the signal line DATA. In a case where the start bit ST is not received (NO in step **S721**), the processing proceeds to step **S722**. In a case where the start bit ST is received (YES in step **S721**), the processing proceeds to step **S724**. Here, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** enter the broadcast communication mode if their own communication mode is the P2P communication mode.

(105) In step **S722**, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** determine whether the signal line CS is high. In a case where the signal line CS is high (YES in step **S722**), the processing proceeds to **S723** to end the broadcast reception processing. In a case where the signal line CS is not high (NO in step **S722**), the processing returns to step **S721** to continue to wait for the reception of the start bit ST.

(106) In step **S723**, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** prohibit data reception from the signal line DATA, and end the broadcast reception processing.

(107) In step **S724**, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** enter the broadcast communication mode if their own communication mode is the P2P communication mode. In step **S725**, to indicate that the communication processing is underway, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** start a low output to the signal line CS by turning on (connecting) the ground switches **1121** and **3031**.

(108) In step **S726**, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** wait until all the data is received. In a case where the reception of all the data is completed (YES in step **S726**), the processing proceeds to step **S727**. The number of bytes of data to be received here is not limited, either, if the numbers of bytes recognized by the camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** are the same.

(109) In step **S727**, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** prohibit data reception from the signal line DATA. In step **S728**, to indicate that the communication processing is ended, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** cancel the low output to the signal line CS by turning off (disconnecting) the ground switch **1121** and **3031**.

(110) In step **S729**, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** each determine

whether the data received in step S725 is a bidirectional command representing transmission from itself. In a case where the data is a bidirectional command representing transmission from itself (YES in step S729), the processing proceeds to step S730. In a case where the data is not a bidirectional command representing transmission from itself (NO in step S729), the processing proceeds to step S735.

(111) In step S730, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** wait until the other microcomputer completes data reception, i.e., until the signal line CS becomes high. In a case where the signal line CS is high (YES in step S730), the processing proceeds to step S731.

(112) In step S731, to issue notification of a start of broadcast communication, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** set the signal line CS to low by turning on (connecting) the ground switches **1121** and **3031**. In step S732, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** connect the signal line DATA to their data output units by operating the input/output changeover switches **1122** and **3032**.

(113) In step S733, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** transmit data by using the signal line DATA. If the transmission of all the data ends, the processing proceeds to step S734. The number of bytes of data to be received here is not limited, either, if the numbers of bytes recognized by the camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** are the same.

(114) In step S734, to indicate that their own data transmission processing is ended, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** cancel the low output to the signal line CS by turning off (disconnecting) the ground switches **1121** and **3031**.

(115) In step S735, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** wait until the other microcomputers complete data reception, i.e., until the signal line CS becomes high. In a case where the signal line CS is high (YES in step S735), the processing proceeds to step S736.

(116) In step S736, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** each determine whether the microcomputer is designated as the communication partner of P2P communication by the data received from the camera microcomputer **205** in step S726. In a case where the microcomputer is designated (YES in step S736), the processing proceeds to step S737. In a case where the microcomputer is not designated (NO in step S736), the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** end the broadcast reception processing with the broadcast communication mode maintained.

(117) In step S737, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** permit data reception from the signal line DATA. In step S738, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** enter the P2P communication mode and end the broadcast reception processing.

(118) By the foregoing broadcast transmission and reception processing, data communication using broadcast communication from the camera microcomputer **205** to the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** can be implemented.

(119) Next, processing in the P2P communication mode will be described with reference to the flowcharts of FIGS. **8A** and **8B**. FIG. **8A** illustrates P2P transmission processing performed by the camera microcomputer **205**. FIG. **8B** illustrates an example of P2P reception processing which is performed by the adapter microcomputer **302** designated as the communication partner of P2P communication by the camera microcomputer **205**. P2P reception processing similar to that of FIG. **8B** is performed if the lens microcomputer **111** is designated as the communication partner of P2P communication.

(120) If an event to start P2P communication occurs, then in step S800, the camera microcomputer **205** operates the input/output changeover switch **2082** to connect the signal line DATA to the data output unit. In step S801, the camera microcomputer **205** transmits data. If the transmission of all the data is completed, the processing proceeds to step S802. The number of bytes of data to be transmitted here is not limited if the numbers of bytes recognized by the camera microcomputer

205 and the adapter microcomputer **302** are the same.

(121) In step **S802**, the camera microcomputer **205** starts a low output to the signal line CS by turning on (connecting) the ground switch **2081**. The camera microcomputer **205** thereby notifies the adapter microcomputer **302** of the completion of the data transmission by P2P communication. Receiving the notification, the adapter microcomputer **302** starts the P2P reception processing described in FIG. **8B**.

(122) In step **S803**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether the data transmitted in step **S802** is a bidirectional command including data transmission from the adapter microcomputer **302**. In a case where the data is not a bidirectional command (NO in step **S803**), the processing proceeds to step **S804**. In a case where the data is a bidirectional command (YES in step **S803**), the processing proceeds to step **S805**.

(123) In step **S804**, to detect that the adapter microcomputer **302** completes data reception, the camera microcomputer **205** cancels the low output to the signal line CS by turning off (disconnecting) the ground switch **2081**. The processing proceeds to step **S809**.

(124) In step **S805**, the camera microcomputer **205** connects the signal line DATA to the data input unit by operating the input/output changeover switch **2082**. The processing proceeds to step **S806**.

(125) In step **S806**, to detect that the data transmission from the adapter microcomputer **302** is completed, the camera microcomputer **205** cancels the low output to the signal line CS by turning off (disconnecting) the ground switch **2081**. The processing proceeds to step **S807**.

(126) In step **S807**, the camera microcomputer **205** waits until the data transmission from the adapter microcomputer **302** is completed, i.e., until the signal line CS becomes low. In a case where the signal line CS is low (YES in step **S807**), the camera microcomputer **205** determines that the data transmission from the adapter microcomputer **302** is completed, and the processing proceeds to step **S808**. The number of bytes of data to be received here is not limited, either, if the numbers of bytes recognized by the camera microcomputer **205** and the adapter microcomputer **302** are the same.

(127) In step **S808**, the camera microcomputer **205** analyzes the data received from the signal line DATA. In step **S809**, the camera microcomputer **205** waits until the signal line CS becomes high. In a case where the signal line CS is high (YES in step **S809**), the camera microcomputer **205** determines that the current P2P communication is completed, and the processing proceeds to step **S810**.

(128) In step **S810**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether to start broadcast communication at the next communication. In a case where broadcast communication is to be started (YES in step **S810**), the processing proceeds to step **S811**. In a case where P2P communication is to be continued (NO in step **S810**), the camera microcomputer **205** ends the P2P transmission processing with the P2P communication mode maintained.

(129) In step **S811**, the camera microcomputer **205** enters the broadcast communication mode and ends the P2P transmission processing.

(130) In step **S820** of FIG. **8B**, the adapter microcomputer **302** analyzes the data received from the signal line DATA. In step **S821**, the adapter microcomputer **302** waits until the signal line CS becomes high, i.e., until the processing of step **S804** or **S806** is completed. In a case where the signal line CS is high (YES in step **S821**), the processing proceeds to step **S822**.

(131) In step **S822**, the adapter microcomputer **302** determines whether the received data analyzed in step **S820** is a bidirectional command including data transmission from the adapter microcomputer **302**. In a case where the data is not a bidirectional command (NO in step **S822**), the processing proceeds to step **S823**. In a case where the data is a bidirectional command (YES in step **S822**), the processing proceeds to step **S824**.

(132) In step **S823**, to notify the camera microcomputer **205** of the completion of data reception, the adapter microcomputer **302** starts a low output to the signal line CS by turning on (connecting) the ground switch **3031**. The processing then proceeds to step **S828**.

(133) In step **S824**, the adapter microcomputer **302** connects the signal line DATA to the data output unit by operating the input/output changeover switch **3032**. In step **S825**, the adapter microcomputer **302** transmits data by using the signal line DATA. If the transmission of all the data is completed, the processing proceeds to step **S826**. The number of bytes of data to be transmitted here is not limited if the numbers of bytes recognized by the camera microcomputer **205** and the adapter microcomputer **302** are the same.

(134) In step **S826**, the adapter microcomputer **302** starts a low output to the signal line CS by turning on (connecting) the ground switch **3031**. The adapter microcomputer **302** thereby notifies the camera microcomputer **205** of the completion of the data transmission by P2P communication.

(135) In step **S827**, the adapter microcomputer **302** connects the signal line DATA to the data input unit by operating the input/output changeover switch **3032**. The processing proceeds to step **S828**.

(136) In step **S828**, to notify the camera microcomputer **205** of the completion of P2P communication, the adapter microcomputer **302** cancels the low output to the signal line CS by turning off (disconnecting) the ground switch **3031**. In step **S829**, to detect that the camera microcomputer **205** completes P2P communication, the adapter microcomputer **302** waits until the signal line CS becomes high. In a case where the signal line CS is high (YES in step **S829**), the adapter microcomputer **302** ends the P2P reception processing.

(137) By the processing described above, data transmission using P2P communication from the camera microcomputer **205**, which is the communication master, to the adapter microcomputer **302**, which is a communication slave, can be performed.

(138) [Control According to Operation of Operation Member of Adapter]

(139) Next, imaging communication processing (communication control method) performed between the camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** to implement imaging control using the adapter operation ring **310** according to the present exemplary embodiment will be described with reference to FIG. **9**. As an example, a case where the interchangeable lens **100** is connected to the camera main body **200** via one adapter **300** as illustrated in FIGS. **1** and **2** will be described. In such an example, the camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** perform broadcast communication and P2P communication therebetween by using the signal line CS and the signal line DATA. The camera microcomputer **205** then receives operation state information to be described below about the adapter operation ring **310** from the adapter microcomputer **302**, and controls the driving of the aperture unit **114** (hereinafter, referred to as aperture driving) in the interchangeable lens **110** via the lens microcomputer **111**.

(140) According to the operation of the adapter operation ring **310**, the camera microcomputer **205** can control the driving of the magnification lens **102** and the focus lens **104** in the interchangeable lens **100**, change a Tv value (exposure time) and an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) speed in the camera main body **200**, or select a setting menu.

(141) In **900**, the adapter microcomputer **302** detects a rotation operation of the adapter operation ring **310** (hereinafter, referred to as a ring operation) by the user, and starts the present processing. If the adapter microcomputer **302** detects a start of the ring operation through a change in the output of the ring rotation detector **311** illustrated in FIG. **1**, then in **901**, the adapter microcomputer **302** starts sampling the operation state information about the adapter operation ring **310**

(hereinafter, referred to as ring operation state information). Examples of the ring operation state information include an operation amount (rotation amount) including an operation direction (rotation direction) of the adapter operation ring **310**, an accumulated value of the operation amount, an operation speed, and an operation acceleration. Any of these can be used as the ring operation state information. In the present exemplary embodiment, the accumulated value of the operation amount and the operation speed are sampled as the ring operation state information.

(142) In **902**, to notify the camera microcomputer **205** of a start of the ring operation, the adapter microcomputer **302** requests the camera microcomputer **205** to start broadcast communication by a

low output (**421**) to the signal line CS illustrated in FIG. 4B before said notification. In other words, the adapter microcomputer **302** transmits a communication request to the camera microcomputer **205**.

(143) When receiving the communication request from the adapter microcomputer **302**, the camera microcomputer **205** starts broadcast communication. At this point in time, the camera microcomputer **205** is unable to determine which the communication request is transmitted from, the lens microcomputer **111** or the adapter microcomputer **302**. The factor (reason or event) of the communication request is not known, either. The camera microcomputer **205** therefore needs to inquire of each of the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** about the factor of the communication request (hereinafter, referred to as a communication request factor). In the present exemplary embodiment, in **903**, the camera microcomputer **205** initially designates the lens microcomputer **111** as the communication partner of P2P communication by using broadcast communication (**604**) illustrated in FIG. 6. The order of inquiries about the communication request factor can be the adapter microcomputer **302** first. If the lens microcomputer **111** is previously known to not output a communication request for broadcast communication, the camera microcomputer **205** does not need to inquire of the lens microcomputer **111** about the communication request factor.

(144) In **904**, the camera microcomputer **205** inquires of the lens microcomputer **111** about a communication request factor by using P2P communication of FIG. 5 via the signal line DATA, and receives the communication request factor from the lens microcomputer **111** via the signal line DATA. In this example, the lens microcomputer **111** transmits information indicating the absence of the communication request factor to the camera microcomputer **205** since the communication request is not output by the lens microcomputer **111**. By the P2P communication, the camera microcomputer **205** checks that the communication request is not output by the lens microcomputer **111**. In **905**, the camera microcomputer **205** designates the adapter microcomputer **302** as the communication partner of P2P communication by using broadcast communication (**601**) illustrated in FIG. 6. In **906**, the camera microcomputer **205** inquires of the adapter microcomputer **302** about a communication request factor by using P2P communication of FIG. 5 via the signal line DATA (transmits third data), and receives the communication request factor (fourth data) from the adapter microcomputer **302** via the signal line DATA. In this example, the communication request is output by the adapter microcomputer **302**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** transmits information indicating that the communication request factor is a start of a ring operation (hereinafter, referred to as ring operation start information).

(145) By the camera microcomputer **205** receiving ring operation start information from the adapter microcomputer **302**, the camera microcomputer **205** can determine the following facts: the communication request factor is start of a ring operation and the communication request is transmitted by the adapter microcomputer **302** is determined.

(146) When receiving the ring operation start information from the adapter microcomputer **302**, the camera microcomputer **205** obtains the foregoing ring operation state information from the adapter microcomputer **302**. For that purpose, in **907**, the camera microcomputer **205** initially designates the adapter microcomputer **302** as the communication partner of P2P communication by using broadcast communication (**601**) illustrated in FIG. 6. This broadcast communication does not need to be performed if the communication mode of the adapter microcomputer **302** is the P2P communication mode. In **908**, by using P2P communication, the camera microcomputer **205** requests the adapter microcomputer **302** to transmit the ring operation state information (first data) (i.e., transmission of second data) and receives the ring operation state information from the adapter microcomputer **302**. To transmit next ring operation state information, the adapter microcomputer **302** resets the ring operation state information inside at the point in time when the ring operation state information is transmitted. For example, the adapter microcomputer **302** resets the accumulated value of the operation amount of the adapter operation ring **310** to zero.

(147) Subsequently, the camera microcomputer **205** repeats the designation of the adapter microcomputer **302** by broadcast communication (**601**) and the reception of the ring operation state information from the adapter microcomputer **302** by P2P communication (**908**) at predetermined periods until ring operation end information to be described below is received. The camera microcomputer **205** can thereby obtain the latest ring operation state information at each predetermined period.

(148) In **909**, the camera microcomputer **205** receiving the ring operation state information transmits an aperture drive request to the lens microcomputer **111** based on the ring operation state information. Either of broadcast communication and P2P communication can be used for the aperture drive request. The aperture drive request can be sent from the camera second communication unit **242** of the camera microcomputer **205** and received by the lens second communication unit **142** of the lens microcomputer **111**. In other words, communication between the camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111** regarding aperture drive and communication between the camera microcomputer **205** and the adapter microcomputer **302** regarding ring operation are each performed by different communication passes. This enables to rise real-timeness of data communication. The camera microcomputer **205** transmits the aperture drive request to the lens microcomputer **111** each time when the ring operation state information is received. However, the transmission periods of the aperture drive request to the lens microcomputer **111** can be different from the reception periods of the ring operation state information. For example, the reception periods of the ring operation state information can be set to be shorter than the transmission periods of the aperture drive request to the lens microcomputer **111**. If the reception periods of the ring operation state information are set to be long, the accumulated value of the operation amount may overflow depending on the duration of the reception periods. The transmission periods of the aperture drive request to the lens microcomputer **111** need to depend on the periods of AE control. The adapter microcomputer **302** and the camera microcomputer **205** both can perform more appropriate processing by controlling the transmission periods of the aperture drive request to the lens microcomputer **111** and the reception periods of the ring operation state information to respective appropriate periods as described above.

(149) To implement favorable aperture driving with respect to the user operation on the adapter operation ring **310**, smooth and non-intermittent, continuous aperture driving is desired for the sake of moving image quality, in addition to aperture driving in proportion to the operation amount (accumulated value) and the operation speed of the adapter operation ring **310**. In the present exemplary embodiment, the camera microcomputer **205** transmits a target Av value (target aperture value) and an aperture drive speed to the lens microcomputer **111** as an aperture drive request. Based on the received target Av value and aperture drive speed, the lens microcomputer **111** updates the target Av value and the aperture drive speed retained as internal information while driving the aperture unit **114**. The lens microcomputer **111** performs continuous aperture driving according to the updated target Av value and aperture drive speed. By repeating such an operation at constant periods, the lens microcomputer **111** can perform aperture driving without a stop. If aperture driving is stopped, intermittent changes in brightness can affect the image quality of a moving image. In contrast, if the aperture unit **114** is continuously driven, the brightness changes smoothly and a moving image of higher quality can be obtained. A stop of aperture driving and the time needed to resume aperture driving from a state in which the aperture driving is stopped can be reduced by continuously driving the aperture unit **114**.

(150) Suppose that the transmission period of the aperture drive request from the camera microcomputer **205** is T , and the accumulated value of the operation amount of the adapter operation ring **310** in a period between the previous transmission to the next transmission of the aperture drive request is Cnt . Suppose also that a coefficient α represents the amount of aperture driving for one Cnt , and Δt is a margin time for the lens microcomputer **111** to update the target Av value and the aperture drive speed while driving the aperture unit **114**. The setting of the margin

time Δt enables aperture driving without a stop even if the transmission of the aperture drive request is delayed due to reasons such as a high microcomputer load and a tight communication band. Here, the camera microcomputer **205** calculates the target Av value and the aperture drive speed by the following equations (1) and (2):

Target Av value=previous target Av value+(Cnt $\times\alpha$) (1), and

Aperture drive speed=(Cnt $\times\alpha$)/(T $+\Delta t$). (2)

(151) The foregoing equations (1) and (2) are just examples, and the target Av value and the aperture drive speed can be calculated by using other calculation formulas. The camera microcomputer **205** can transmit information other than the target Av value or the aperture drive speed to the lens microcomputer **111** as the aperture drive request.

(152) In **910**, the adapter microcomputer **302** detects an end of the operation of the adapter operation ring **310** from that the output of the ring rotation detector **311** remains unchanged for more than a predetermined time, and stores ring operation end information indicating the end of the ring operation into the ring operation state information. The end of the ring operation can be detected by a method different from the foregoing one.

(153) In **911**, the camera microcomputer **205** receives the ring operation state information from the adapter microcomputer **302**. The ring operation state information received here includes the ring operation end information. The camera microcomputer **205** ends the subsequent periodic acquisition of the ring operation state information based on the ring operation end information. In **912**, the camera microcomputer **205** transmits the aperture drive request to the lens microcomputer **111** based on the accumulated value of the operation amount and the operation speed of the adapter operation ring **310**, included in the ring operation state information last received, and then ends the periodic transmission of the aperture drive request.

(154) Next, ring operation start processing performed by the adapter microcomputer **302** in the foregoing imaging communication processing will be described with reference to the flowchart of FIG. **11A**. The adapter microcomputer **302** starts the present processing when a start of a ring operation is detected. In step **S1101**, to notify the camera microcomputer **205** of the start of the ring operation, the adapter microcomputer **302** sets the ring operation start information as a communication request factor into an internal transmission buffer. The adapter microcomputer **302** then transmits a communication request for broadcast communication to the camera microcomputer **205**. The communication request factor (ring operation start information) set in the internal transmission buffer is transmitted to the camera microcomputer **205** by P2P communication to be described below.

(155) In step **S1102**, the adapter microcomputer **302** samples the ring operation state information. In step **S1103**, the adapter microcomputer **302** determines whether the ring operation is ended. In a case where the ring operation is not ended (NO in step **S1103**), the processing returns to step **S1102**. In a case where the ring operation is ended (YES in step **S1103**), the adapter microcomputer **302** stores the ring operation end information into the ring operation state information in the internal transmission buffer, and ends the present processing.

(156) Ring operation P2P communication processing performed by the adapter microcomputer **302** in the foregoing imaging communication processing will be described with reference to the flowchart of FIG. **11B**. The adapter microcomputer **302** starts the present processing when designated as the communication partner of P2P communication by the camera microcomputer **205**.

(157) In step **S1111**, the adapter microcomputer **302** analyzes data received from the camera microcomputer **205** by P2P communication. In step **S1112**, the adapter microcomputer **302** determines whether the data received from the camera microcomputer **205** is a transmission request for a communication request factor. If so (YES in step **S1112**), the processing proceeds to step **S1113**. If not (NO in step **S1112**), the processing proceeds to step **S1114**.

(158) In step **S1113**, the adapter microcomputer **302** transmits the communication request factor

(ring operation start information) set in the internal transmission buffer in step S1101 to the camera microcomputer 205, and ends the present processing. The communication request factor in the internal transmission buffer is reset after the transmission.

(159) In step S1114, the adapter microcomputer 302 determines whether the received data is a transmission request for ring operation state information (operation state transmission request). If so (YES in step S1114), the processing proceeds to step S1115. If not (NO in step S1114), the processing proceeds to step S1117.

(160) In step S1115, the adapter microcomputer 302 transmits the ring operation state information sampled and set in the internal transfer buffer in step S1102 to the camera microcomputer 205. In step S1116, the adapter microcomputer 302 resets the accumulated value of the operation amount in the ring operation state information, and ends the present processing. The adapter microcomputer 302 can transmit the correct operation amount to the camera microcomputer 205 by resetting the accumulated value of the operation amount.

(161) In step S1117, the adapter microcomputer 302 performs P2P communication processing other than the transmission of the communication request factor or the ring operation state information on the camera microcomputer 205, and ends the present processing. Examples of the P2P communication processing other than the transmission of the communication request factor or the ring operation state information include processing for transmitting information specific to the adapter 300, such as the presence or absence of an operation member on the adapter 300, a minimum period (minimum time interval) at which the ring operation state information can be transmitted, and the optical magnification of the adapter 300. A reception request from the camera microcomputer 205 may be included. For example, a request to start or stop the sampling of the ring operation state information can be included. In the present exemplary embodiment, the camera microcomputer 205 requests the minimum period at which the ring operation state information can be transmitted of the adapter microcomputer 302 and receives the minimum period from the adapter microcomputer 302 when the camera main body 200 is activated with the adapter 300 mounted.

(162) Next, communication request factor check processing performed by the camera microcomputer 205 in the foregoing imaging communication processing will be described with reference to the flowchart of FIG. 12A. The communication request factor check processing is processing for checking the factor of the communication request output by either the lens microcomputer 111 or the adapter microcomputer 302.

(163) In step S1201, the camera microcomputer 205 receiving the communication request transmits a transmission request for a communication request factor to the lens microcomputer 111 by P2P communication, and obtains the communication request factor from the lens microcomputer 111.

(164) In step S1202, the camera microcomputer 205 analyzes the communication request factor obtained in step S1201, and determines whether the broadcast communication is requested by the lens microcomputer 111. In a case where the broadcast communication is requested by the lens microcomputer 111 (YES in step S1202), the camera microcomputer 205 ends the present processing procedure. In a case where the broadcast communication is not requested by the lens microcomputer 111 (NO in step S1202), the processing proceeds to step S1203.

(165) In step S1203, the camera microcomputer 205 transmits a transmission request for a communication request factor to the adapter microcomputer 302 by P2P communication, obtains the communication request factor from the adapter microcomputer 302, and ends the present processing.

(166) Ring operation state information acquisition processing performed by the camera microcomputer 205 in the foregoing imaging communication processing will be described with reference to the flowchart of FIG. 12B. In step S1211, the camera microcomputer 205 determines whether it currently is the timing to obtain the ring operation state information from the adapter microcomputer 302. In a case where the camera microcomputer 205 determines that it currently is

the timing to obtain the ring operation state information from the adapter microcomputer **302** (YES in step **S1211**), the processing proceeds to step **S1212**. In a case where the camera microcomputer **205** determines it currently is not the timing to obtain the ring operation state information from the adapter microcomputer **302** (NO in step **S1211**), the processing proceeds to step **S1213**.

(167) In step **S1212**, the camera microcomputer **205** transmits a transmission request for the ring operation state information (operation state transmission request) to the adapter microcomputer **305** by P2P communication, and obtains the ring operation state information from the adapter microcomputer **305**.

(168) In step **S1213**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether it is the timing to perform aperture driving. In a case where the camera microcomputer **205** determines that it is the timing to perform aperture driving (YES in step **S1213**), the processing proceeds to step **S1214**. In a case where the camera microcomputer **205** determines that it is not the timing to perform aperture driving (NO in step **S1213**), the processing proceeds to step **S1215**.

(169) In step **S1214**, the camera microcomputer **205** transmits an aperture drive request to the lens microcomputer **111**. The processing proceeds to step **S1215**.

(170) In step **S1215**, the camera microcomputer **205** analyzes the ring operation state information obtained from the adapter microcomputer **302**. In a case where the ring operation end information is included in the ring operation state information (YES in step **S1215**), the present processing ends. In a case where the ring operation end information is not included in the ring operation state information (NO in step **S1215**), the processing returns to step **S1211**.

(171) Next, P2P communication processing performed by the lens microcomputer **111** in the foregoing imaging communication processing will be described with reference to the flowchart of FIG. **13**. In step **S1311**, the lens microcomputer **111** designated as the communication partner of P2P communication by the camera microcomputer **205** analyzes the data received from the camera microcomputer **205**.

(172) In step **S1312**, the lens microcomputer **111** determines whether the received data is a transmission request for a communication request factor. In a case where the lens microcomputer **111** determines that the received data is a transmission request for a communication request factor (YES in step **S1312**), the processing proceeds to step **S1313**. In a case where the lens microcomputer **111** determines that the received data is not a transmission request for a communication request factor (NO in step **S1312**), the processing proceeds to step **S1314**.

(173) In step **S1313**, the lens microcomputer **111** transmits the communication request factor set in the internal transmission buffer to the camera microcomputer **205**, and ends the present processing procedure. The communication request factor set in the internal transmission buffer is reset after the transmission.

(174) In step **S1314**, the lens microcomputer **111** performs P2P communication processing other than the transmission of the communication request factor on the camera microcomputer **205**, and ends the present processing procedure. Examples of the P2P communication processing other than the transmission of the communication request factor include the transmission of specific information about the interchangeable lens **100**, such as the presence or absence of an operation member on the interchangeable lens **100**, operation state information about the operation member, a minimum period at which the operation state information can be transmitted, and a focal length and other optical information. A reception request from the camera microcomputer **205** can be included. For example, an aperture drive request and a focus lens drive request can be included.

(175) According to the processing of the present exemplary embodiment, the camera microcomputer **205** does not need to periodically perform communication to notify the adapter microcomputer **302** whether a start of a ring operation can be detected. This can reduce communication and the processing of the camera microcomputer **205** when the user is not making a ring operation.

(176) The adapter microcomputer **302** requests broadcast communication of the camera

microcomputer **205** according to a ring operation by the user. Broadcast communication can thus be started with a time lag smaller than in a case where the camera microcomputer **205** performs communication to notify the adapter microcomputer **302** whether (a start and an end of) a ring operation can be detected and whether ring operation state information can be sampled. In other words, this enables highly real-time, favorable aperture driving corresponding to (in proportion to) the user operation on the adapter operation ring **310** provided on the adapter **300** which is connected between the camera main body **200** and the interchangeable lens **100**.

(177) Next, a second exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure will be described. A camera system according to the present exemplary embodiment has a similar configuration to that of the first exemplary embodiment. In the present exemplary embodiment, the camera main body **200**, the interchangeable lens **100**, and the adapter **300** share information indicating whether the interchangeable lens **100** and the adapter **300** include an operation member and information indicating a possible transmission period of operation state information about such operation members. For that purpose, in the present exemplary embodiment, either one of the interchangeable lens **100** and the adapter **300** that includes an adapter operation ring **310** serving as an operation member (here, the interchangeable lens **100** includes no operation member) is checked for a communication request factor first, and the possible transmission period of the information is made variable.

(178) FIG. **10** illustrates imaging communication processing performed between the camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** to implement imaging control using the adapter operation ring **310** according to the present exemplary embodiment. Again, a case where the interchangeable lens **100** is connected to the camera main body **200** via one adapter **300** as illustrated in FIGS. **1** and **2** will be described as an example. In such an example, the camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** perform broadcast communication and P2P communication therebetween by using the signal line CS and the signal line DATA. The camera microcomputer **205** receives ring operation state information to be described below from the adapter microcomputer **302**. The camera microcomputer **205** controls driving of the aperture unit **114** (aperture driving) in the interchangeable lens **100** via the lens microcomputer **111**.

(179) In **1000**, the camera system is initially activated to start the present processing. In **1001**, to inquire of the adapter microcomputer **302** as to specific information about the adapter **300**, the camera microcomputer **205** designates the adapter microcomputer **302** as the communication partner of P2P communication by using broadcast communication (**601**) illustrated in FIG. **6**. The specific information about the adapter **300** (hereinafter, referred to as adapter specific information) includes whether an operation member such as the adapter operation ring **310** is included, and a possible transmission period of ring operation state information. The adapter specific information can include optical information about an optical magnification as an extender and information indicating the presence or absence of a magnification lens capable of driving.

(180) In **1002**, by using P2P communication, the camera microcomputer **205** requests the adapter microcomputer **302** to transmit the adapter specific information, and receives the adapter specific information from the adapter microcomputer **302**. The camera microcomputer **205** can thereby check that the adapter **300** includes the adapter operation ring **310**, and find out the possible transmission period of the ring operation state information (hereinafter, referred to as ring information possible transmission period).

(181) In **1003**, to inquire of the lens microcomputer **111** as to specific information about the interchangeable lens **100**, the camera microcomputer **205** designates the lens microcomputer **111** as the communication partner of P2P communication by using broadcast communication (**604**) illustrated in FIG. **6**.

(182) In **1004**, by using P2P communication, the camera microcomputer **205** requests the lens microcomputer **111** to transmit the specific information about the interchangeable lens **100**

(hereinafter, referred to as lens specific information), and receives the lens specific information from the lens microcomputer **111**. The camera microcomputer **205** can thereby check that the interchangeable lens **100** includes no operation member.

(183) In **1005**, the adapter microcomputer **302** detects a ring operation by the user. In **1006**, the adapter microcomputer **302** starts sampling the ring operation state information. The ring operation state information is similar to that of the first exemplary embodiment.

(184) In **1007**, to notify (before notifying) the camera microcomputer **205** of a start of the ring operation, the adapter microcomputer **302** requests the camera microcomputer **205** to start broadcast communication by a low output (**421**) to the signal line CS illustrated in FIG. **4B**. In other words, the adapter microcomputer **302** transmits a communication request to the camera microcomputer **205**.

(185) The camera microcomputer **205** receiving the communication request from the adapter microcomputer **302** has checked by the foregoing processing that the interchangeable lens **100** includes no operation member and the adapter **300** includes the adapter operation ring **310**. The camera microcomputer **205** therefore inquires a communication request factor of the adapter microcomputer **302** first. The camera microcomputer **205** can thus detect a start of operation of the adapter operation ring **310** earlier. In **1008**, the camera microcomputer **205** designates the adapter microcomputer **302** as the communication partner of P2P communication by using broadcast communication (**601**) illustrated in FIG. **6**.

(186) In **1009**, by using the P2P communication of FIG. **5**, the camera microcomputer **205** inquires of the adapter microcomputer **302** via the signal line DATA about the communication request factor. Then, the camera microcomputer **205** receives the communication request factor (ring operation start information) from the adapter microcomputer **302** via the signal line DATA. Since the communication request factor and the fact that the communication request is transmitted by the adapter microcomputer **302** are determined by above procession, the camera microcomputer **205** does not need to inquire of the lens microcomputer **111** about the communication request factor afterward.

(187) In **1010**, to obtain the ring operation state information from the adapter microcomputer **302**, the camera microcomputer **205** designates the adapter microcomputer **302** as the communication partner of P2P communication by using broadcast communication (**601**) illustrated in FIG. **6**. This broadcast communication does not need to be performed if the communication mode of the adapter microcomputer **302** is the P2P communication mode. In **1011**, by using P2P communication, the camera microcomputer **205** requests the adapter microcomputer **302** to transmit the ring operation state information, and receives the ring operation state information from the adapter microcomputer **302**. Like the first exemplary embodiment, to transmit next ring operation state information, the adapter microcomputer **302** resets the ring operation state information inside at the point in time when the ring operation state information is transmitted.

(188) The camera microcomputer **205** sets a request period based on the ring information possible transmission period received from the adapter microcomputer **302** upon activation (**1002**). The camera microcomputer **205** subsequently repeats the designation (**1010**) of the adapter microcomputer **302** and the reception (**1011**) of the ring operation state information from the adapter microcomputer **302** at the request periods until ring operation end information is received. The camera microcomputer **205** can thereby obtain the latest ring operation state information at each request period.

(189) The information about the ring information possible transmission period includes a minimum period and a maximum period at which the adapter microcomputer **302** can transmit the ring operation state information. The camera microcomputer **205** sets the request period within the range of the minimum and maximum periods. For example, if the operation amount and/or the operation speed of the adapter operation ring **310** is high, the request period is set to a shorter one to enable more sensitive imaging control (aperture control). On the other hand, if the operation

amount and/or the operation speed is low, unnecessary communication can be suppressed by setting the request period to a longer one. The method for setting the request period is not limited thereto. In the present exemplary embodiment, the adapter microcomputer **302** transmits the ring information possible transmission period to the camera microcomputer **205**. The ring operation state information can thus be obtained at appropriate request periods even if the adapter **300** is connected to the camera main body **200** for the first time (the adapter **300** is unknown to the camera microcomputer **205**).

(190) In **1012**, the camera microcomputer **205** transmits an aperture drive request to the lens microcomputer **111** based on the obtained ring operation state information. As also described in the first exemplary embodiment, neither of broadcast communication and P2P communication can be used for the aperture drive request. The camera microcomputer **205** transmits the aperture drive request to the lens microcomputer **111** each time the ring operation state information is received. However, the transmission periods of the aperture drive request to the lens microcomputer **111** can be different from the reception periods of the ring operation state information.

(191) The camera microcomputer **205**, the adapter microcomputer **302**, and the lens microcomputer **111** subsequently perform similar processing to that of the first exemplary embodiment, including the reception (**1013**) of the ring operation end information and the corresponding processing (**1014** and **1015**) by the camera microcomputer **205**.

(192) In the foregoing imaging communication processing, the camera microcomputer **205** obtains the ring information possible transmission period as the specific information about the adapter **300** in advance. The camera microcomputer **205** can thus request the adapter **300** to transmit the ring operation state information at appropriate request periods. This enables imaging control of even higher real-timeness corresponding to (in proportion to) the user operation on the adapter operation ring **310** provided on the adapter **300** which is connected between the camera main body **200** and the interchangeable lens **100**.

(193) According to the foregoing exemplary embodiments, one-to-many communication of the camera main body **200** with the interchangeable lens **100** and the adapter **300** is enabled to perform highly real-time, favorable imaging control using the adapter operation ring **310** provided on the adapter **300**.

(194) Next, a third exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure will be described. A camera system according to the present exemplary embodiment has a similar configuration to that of the first exemplary embodiment. In the present exemplary embodiment, the camera main body **200** allows or forbid the lens unit **100** and adapter **300** to perform broadcast communication.

(195) FIG. **14** illustrates imaging communication processing performed between the camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** to implement imaging control using the adapter operation ring **310** according to the present exemplary embodiment. Explanation regarding processing common with FIG. **10** is skipped.

(196) In **906**, after recognizing that transmission of the communication request is performed by the adapter microcomputer **302** and that the communication request factor is ring operation, the camera microcomputer **205** transmits forbidden information forbidding the communication request from adapter microcomputer **302** (**1401**).

(197) In **911**, after determination of the end of the ring operation, the camera microcomputer **205** transmits allowance information allowing the communication request from adapter microcomputer **302** (**1402**).

(198) The processing of the present exemplary embodiment not only enables highly real-time, favorable imaging processing using the adapter operation ring **310** provided on the adapter **300** which is connected between the camera main body **200** and the interchangeable lens **100**, but also enables preventing interruption by following communication request while the camera microcomputer **205** and the adapter microcomputer **303** are performing communication triggered by communication request transmitted from the adapter **300** beforehand, even when a different

communication request factor has occurred to the adapter **300**. This leads to reducing frequency of the communication and lighten the occupation of communication band.

Other Embodiments

(199) In the foregoing first exemplary embodiment, the camera microcomputer **205** can perform communication to notify the adapter microcomputer **302** whether (a start and an end of) a ring operation can be detected and whether ring operation state information can be sampled. This can reduce unnecessary communication and the processing of the adapter microcomputer **302** in an imaging situation in which aperture driving is not needed. In such a case, the adapter microcomputer **302** can transmit only the operation amount in step **S1115**. The camera microcomputer **205** determines a start and an end of a ring operation based on the operation amount. For example, if the operation amount becomes greater than 0, the camera microcomputer **205** determines that a ring operation is started. For example, if the operation amount becomes greater than 0 and then returns to 0, the camera microcomputer **205** can determine that the ring operation is ended. If an operation amount of 0 is detected a predetermined number of times or more, after detection of start of the ring operation, the camera microcomputer **205** can determine that the ring operation is ended.

(200) In the foregoing exemplary embodiments, information indicating whether the ring operation is ended can be transmitted along with the information about the operation state of the manual operation ring **130** (for example, operation amount). In such a case, for example, if the ring operation is not ended, information indicating that the ring operation is not ended is transmitted along with the operation amount of the manual operation ring **130**.

(201) In the foregoing exemplary embodiments, the processing to be performed on the adapter **300** has been described. If accessories other than the adapter **300** (including the interchangeable lens **100**) include an operation ring, similar effects to those of the foregoing exemplary embodiments can be obtained by performing similar processing.

(202) In the foregoing exemplary embodiments, the processing of FIGS. **9** and **10** is described to be performed via the first communication units of the camera main body **200**, the interchangeable lens **100**, and the adapter **300**. However, the camera system can be configured to not use the communication via the lens first communication unit **112** and the adapter first communication unit **303**. In such a case, for example, **903** and **904** of FIGS. **9** and **1003** and **1004** of FIG. **10** can be omitted. Aperture drive requests to be transmitted from the camera microcomputer **205** to the lens microcomputer **111** are transmitted by communication via a camera second communication unit **242** and a lens second communication unit **142**. In other words, the communication via the first communication units is used for the camera **200** and the adapter **300** to communicate, and the communication via the second communication units is used for the camera **200** and the interchangeable lens **100** to communicate. The camera system can be configured to not include a channel for performing communication via the lens first communication unit **112** and the adapter first communication unit **303** in the first place. In such a case, only P2P communication can be performed in FIGS. **9** and **10** without broadcast communication.

(203) The exemplary embodiments described above are just typical examples, and various changes and modifications can be made to the exemplary embodiments in practicing the present disclosure.

(204) Embodiment(s) of the present disclosure can also be realized by a computer of a system or apparatus that reads out and executes computer executable instructions (e.g., one or more programs) recorded on a storage medium (which may also be referred to more fully as a 'non-transitory computer-readable storage medium') to perform the functions of one or more of the above-described embodiment(s) and/or that includes one or more circuits (e.g., application specific integrated circuit (ASIC)) for performing the functions of one or more of the above-described embodiment(s), and by a method performed by the computer of the system or apparatus by, for example, reading out and executing the computer executable instructions from the storage medium to perform the functions of one or more of the above-described embodiment(s) and/or controlling

the one or more circuits to perform the functions of one or more of the above-described embodiment(s). The computer may comprise one or more processors (e.g., central processing unit (CPU), micro processing unit (MPU)) and may include a network of separate computers or separate processors to read out and execute the computer executable instructions. The computer executable instructions may be provided to the computer, for example, from a network or the storage medium. The storage medium may include, for example, one or more of a hard disk, a random-access memory (RAM), a read only memory (ROM), a storage of distributed computing systems, an optical disk (such as a compact disc (CD), digital versatile disc (DVD), or Blu-ray Disc (BD)™), a flash memory device, a memory card, and the like.

(205) While the present disclosure has been described with reference to exemplary embodiments, the scope of the following claims are to be accorded the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and equivalent structures and functions.

(206) This application claims the benefit of Japanese Patent Application Nos. 2017-107961, filed on May 31, 2017, and 2018-096870, filed on May 21, 2018 which are hereby incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

Claims

1. An accessory apparatus connectable to an imaging apparatus, the accessory apparatus comprising: an operation member configured to allow an operation by a user; a first communication line configured to communicate with the imaging apparatus and a second communication line, which is different from the first communication line, configured to communicate with the imaging apparatus; at least one processor; and at least one memory coupled to the at least one processor storing instructions that, when executed by the at least one processor, cause the at least one processor to function as a communication control unit configured to change a signal level of the second communication line from a first signal level to a second signal level different from the first signal level, wherein the communication control unit is configured: after receiving a data indicating a communication partner of the imaging apparatus and first data that are transmitted via the first communication line after the change in the signal level of the second communication line to the second signal level, to transmit second data via the first communication line; and after receiving third data that is transmitted via the first communication line after transmitting the second data, to transmit fourth data via the first communication line, and wherein the communication control unit is configured to transmit information about an operation amount of the operation member by transmitting the fourth data.
2. The accessory apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first data indicates a transmission request of a reason for the change of the signal level of the second communication line to the second signal level.
3. The accessory apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second data indicates that the operation on the operation member.
4. The accessory apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the third data indicates a transmission request of an operation amount of the operation member.
5. The accessory apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the fourth data indicates an operation state of the operation member.
6. An imaging apparatus to which an accessory apparatus is connectable along with an interchangeable lens apparatus, the accessory apparatus including an operation member allowing an operation by a user, the imaging apparatus comprising: a first communication line configured to communicate with the accessory apparatus and a second communication line, which is different from the first communication line, configured to communicate with the accessory apparatus; at least one processor; and at least one memory coupled to the at least one processor storing instructions that, when executed by the at least one processor, cause the at least one processor to

function as a communication control unit configured: to transmit a data indicating a communication partner of the imaging apparatus and first data via the first communication line after a change in a signal level of the second communication line from a first signal level to a second signal level different from the first signal level, and after receiving second data that is transmitted via the first communication line after transmitting the first data, to transmit third data via the first communication line, and wherein the communication control unit is configured to receive information about an operation amount of the operation member by receiving fourth data that is transmitted via the first communication line after transmitting the third data.

7. The imaging apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the first data indicates a transmission request of a reason for the change of the signal level of the second communication line to the second signal level.

8. The imaging apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the second data indicates that the operation on the operation member.

9. The imaging apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the third data indicates a transmission request of an operation amount of the operation member.

10. The imaging apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the fourth data indicates an operation state of the operation member.

11. A control method of an accessory apparatus connectable to an imaging apparatus, the accessory apparatus including an operation member allowing an operation by a user, a first communication line configured to communicate with the imaging apparatus, and a second communication line, which is different from the first communication line, configured to communicate with the imaging apparatus, the control method comprising: changing of a signal level of the second communication line from a first signal level to a second signal level different from the first signal level, after receiving a data indicating a communication partner of the imaging apparatus and first data that are transmitted via the first communication line after the change in the signal level of the second communication line to the second signal level, transmitting second data via the first communication line, and after receiving third data that is transmitted via the first communication line after transmitting the second data, transmitting the fourth data, and wherein transmitting information about an operation amount of the operation member by transmitting the fourth data.

12. A control method of an imaging apparatus to which an accessory apparatus is connectable along with an interchangeable lens apparatus, the accessory apparatus including an operation member allowing an operation by a user, the imaging apparatus including a first communication line configured to communicate with the accessory apparatus and a second communication line, which is different from the first communication line, configured to communicate with the accessory apparatus, the control method comprising: transmitting a data indicating a communication partner of the imaging apparatus and first data via the first communication line after a change in a signal level of the second communication line from a first signal level to a second signal level different from the first signal level, after receiving second data that is transmitted via the first communication line after transmitting the first data, transmitting third data via the first communication line, and receiving information about an operation amount of the operation member by receiving fourth data that is transmitted via the first communication line after transmitting the third data.
